

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

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

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

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

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

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

This compilation of Peter's work will ease searches throughout all the files for specific subjects, such as comic books, movies, plays, etc.

The compilation starts at March, 1985, when Peter migrated from a typewriter to a computer to develop the information each month. For the sake of conserving the size of the file, images have been removed. This file only contains text. To access the files with images included, go to <http://redcircledc.org/index.php?id=39>

Clicking on the date below will take you to that section of the file.

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March 1985 #2

1. Computer, meet readers. Readers, meet computer. For those who care, it's a mixed system: Leading Edge CPU, Leading Edge highresolution monochrome monitor, IBM PC keyboard, Volkswriter Deluxe software, and Epson RX-80 printer. For those who really care, I'll be glad to send you my essay on "How I Bought My Computer".
2. Agatha Christie's PARTNERS IN CRIME (D5856a, D5857a, D4873b) has been published in a new edition (New York: Berkley Books, June 1984; 230 pp., \$2.95), with a new cover tied to the television series on "Mystery!"
3. Ted Schulz reports that Waldenbooks has a mystery book club, with a newsletter "Crime Times," and there is a S'ian cipher in "The Deep Waters" column in the first issue. Check your local shop. Ted also spotted (at Crown Books) GREAT MAGAZINE COVERS OF THE WORLD, by Patricia France Kerz (New York: Abbeville Press, 1982; \$65.00 discounted to \$29.95); one of the covers is the Aug. 1904 issue of the American edition of The Strand Magazine (non-S'ian), attributed (incorrectly) to Sydney [*sic*] Paget.
4. The "Dinner with Sherlock Holmes" at the Dickens Inn in Philadelphia on Mar. 10 went very well, with more than 100 people on hand for the festivities (60+ S'ians, and the rest Dickensians, Victorians, or regular patrons of the Inn). The Master's Class is planning to make this an annual event, and if you'd like to be on the mailing list, write to Gideon D. Hill, 1810 South Rittenhouse Square #207, Philadelphia, PA 19103.
5. Hammacher Schlemmer (147 East 57th Street, New York, NY 10022; 800-368-3584) offers "The Classic Syphon" at \$54.50 postpaid (\$24.50 for a box of 40 refill cartridges); a cylindrical gasogene, 14" high, one-quart capacity, heavy Czechoslovakian crystal encased in chrome-plated mesh, and a handsome item.
6. Reported by Jerry Margolin: MURDER SHE WROTE: THE MURDER OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, a novelization by James Anderson (New York: Avon Books, Apr. 1985; 208 pp., \$2.95) of the pilot episode of the television series. SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE GOLDEN BIRD, by Frank Thomas (Pinnacle Books, Apr. 1985; 3rd printing, with new cover). "Ms. Found in Cruet Set," by Sharon Farber, in Amazing Science Fiction Magazine, Jan. 1985; an amusing parody.
7. It's hard to imagine that any of you failed to watch the premiere episode of the Jeremy Brett series, and Vincent Price's introduction, in which he quoted from Edgar W. Smith. So: from what piece was Price quoting?
8. THE SHERLOCK HOLMES ENCYCLOPEDIA, by Orlando Park (New York: Avenel Books, 1985; 205 pp., cloth, \$3.98 at Waldenbooks) is a new (discount) edition of D4261a.
9. THE ILLUSTRATED SHERLOCK HOLMES (New York: Clarkson N. Potter, 1985; 808 pp., \$6.95) is a new edition of THE ILLUSTRATED SHERLOCK HOLMES TREASURY published by Avenel Books in 1984, and it is by far the best value-for-money facsimile edition of the public-domain Canon. Contents: "Stud" (illos by Hutchinson); "Sign" (illos by Townsend); ADVENTURES, MEMOIRS, "Houn", RETURN, "Wist", and "Bruc" (from the Strand), and a fine frontispiece portrait of the Literary Agent by Modeste Stein.

March 1985 #3

10. A bit more on the British television film "The Masks of Death" (broadcast on Dec. 23, 1984, on Channel 4): I may have incorrectly credited this to the BBC, but Channel 4 is independent and the film was made by Tyburn Productions. There will be a review of the film in the summer 1985 issue of the SHJ, but in the meantime Nicholas Utechin reports that it was rather disappointing, with script and performances in general falling rather short of expectations. "Cushing was nice as an inevitably elderly Holmes and it was nice to see Sir John Mills add Watson to his distinguished list of performances."
11. Anyone flying Northwest Orient or Western Airlines should check out the earphone entertainment. One of the channels has an interview with Ely M. Liebow on Sherlock Holmes' London.
12. Reported by Ron De Waal: "On T. S. Eliot & Sherlock Holmes," by Frank Zingrone, in The Idler, Feb. 1985 (Box 280, Station E, Toronto, Ont. M6H 4E2, Canada; \$2.25); on Eliot's debt to Holmes.
13. New "Sherlockian Shopping" sales list from US-2 (563 Clinton Road, Paramus, NJ 07652); new items include S'ian pens, bookmarks, and stained-glass suncatchers.
14. SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE TREASURE TRAIN, by Frank Thomas (New York: Pinnacle Books, Mar. 1985; 241 pp., \$2.95); a third pastiche in the series that includes SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE GOLDEN BIRD (1979) and SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE SACRED SWORD (1980), with the same echoes of James Bond and Daddy Warbucks, and considerable derring-do.
15. Reported by Ron De Waal: MURDER MOST FOUL (London: Octopus Books, 1984; \$9.50); contents include "Bosc". BAEDEKER'S LONDON (London: The Automobile Association, 1984; 182 pp., \$11.95 at B. Dalton); a pocket guide, with a separate map of London, that includes (p. 28) a quotation from "Stud". CHAPTER & HEARSE: SUSPENSE STORIES ABOUT THE WORLD OF BOOKS, edited by Marcia Muller and Bill Pronzini (New York: William Morrow, 1985; \$18.95); contents include August Derleth's "The Adventure of the Spurious *Tamerlane*". THE GREAT EGG MYSTERY, by Margaret A. Hartelius (New York: Scholastic Inc., 1985; 24 pp., \$2.95); Hilda Hound, the great detective, in S'ian costume, helps Dilly Duck find her missing eggs.
16. Len Deighton's BERLIN GAME is out in paperback (New York: Ballantine Books, Jan. 1985; 344 pp., \$4.50); minor S'ian allusions on pp. 335-336, and otherwise a fine novel of espionage and suspense.
17. The first appearance of Logan Clendening's "My Personal Recollections of Sherlock Holmes" (D1960a) in the winter 1937 issue of The University Review from the University of Kansas City is still available, for \$12.00 postpaid, from back-issue dealer John T. Zubaal, 2969 West 25th Street, Cleveland, OH 41113.
18. In case you've heard a rumor that "Mystery!" has decided to purchase only the first seven of the programs in the Jeremy Brett series (as I heard at the studios of WETA-TV when The Red Circle answered the telephones for their pedge drive), the rumor isn't true. "Mystery!" has purchased the second set of six programs, and they will air here some time in 1986.

March 1985 #4

19. Berkley Books is reprinting its paperbacks of the Canon with new covers, adding a panel reading "Now a PBS television MYSTERY! presentation" -- I've seen ADVENTURES (31st printing, Dec. 1984), HOUN (29th printing, Dec. 1984), and CASEBOOK (27th printing, Mar. 1985).
20. Published but not yet seen: Christopher Redmond's IN BED WITH SHERLOCK HOLMES (Toronto: Simon & Pierre, 1985; 208 pp., \$29.95); "a discussion of the sexual elements in the Sherlock Holmes stories and in Conan Doyle's own life." Simon & Pierre are also planning fall publication of Andy and Bill Paton's SHERLOCK HOLMES ABC (64 pp., \$9.95 in paper); "a very special book to introduce the great detective and the characters in his stories, suitable for 10 and up." The publisher's address is Box 280, Adelaide Street Postal Station, Toronto, Ont. M5C 2J4, Canada.
21. A new S'ian cartoon by Pat Anderson in Playboy, Apr. 1985, p. 191 (tax time again, so it's the usual "I find your deductions amazing, Holmes").
22. Mark M. Hime (Biblioctopus, Idyllwild, CA 92349) still has THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (first edition, first state, near fine, in dustjacket; the only known copy), and it's still available for \$25,000.

23. THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, adapted by Malvina G. Vogel, illustrated by Brendan Lynch (New York: Playmore Inc., 1983; 238 pp., \$1.25 discounted to \$0.59 at Woolworth's); contains "RedH", "Spec", and "Copp" in a "Moby Books" paperback in the series that already includes SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE CASE OF THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES.
24. And one more item on the already-refuted rumor about "Mystery!" not purchasing more than seven programs from the new Brett series. According to Nancy Mills' article about Brett (Atlanta Journal and Constitution, Mar. 10, 1985), he is married to Joan Wilson, who produces "Mystery!" for WGBH-TV in Boston. Intriguing to imagine her telling her husband that his series isn't good enough for her to purchase all the episodes.
25. Biblio-query from Paulette Greene, about the "G. Washington Coffee" radioshow premiums: SHERLOCK HOLMES (D700a) and THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (D104a). Were there any other titles in the series?
26. There *was* a 1984 Gaslight Award for excellence in S'ian research and writing, announced at the dinner of The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes in January. The award, and the \$100 prize, went to Susan Rice for her article on "Woman's Place in the Holmes" in the winter 1983 issue of Baker Street Miscellanea.
27. The autumn 1984 issue of Baker Street Miscellanea is at hand, with a fine article by Philip A. Shreffler on "The Higher Criticism: Quo Vadimus?" and a warning of an impending increase in the subscription price (now \$6.00 a year, from The Sciolist Press, Box 2579, Chicago, IL 60690).
28. "Organisasjonen ledes av en mann, den 80 ar gamle Dr. Julian Wolff, med myndig og lett diktatorisk hand," writes Per Egil Hegge in his long and well-illustrated article about the BSI annual dinner, in the Mar. 2 issue of A-Magasinet, the weekly magazine of the [Oslo] Aftenposten.

April 1985 #1

29. One of the recent innovations in children's toy stores is the personalized book, in which the recipient is written into the story. If you have someone who's willing to spring for \$16.45 (it's better to have someone else do it, to preserve the surprise), the address to write to for an order blank is FAO Schwarz, 745 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10222, and the book to order is THE MYSTERY OF SCENTED MOUNTAIN. The order blank is needed to supply the biographical details. And the book has S'ian artwork.
30. Reported by Ron De Waal: ALFRED HITCHCOCK'S HAUNTED HOUSEFUL (New York: Random House, 1985; \$2.95 at B. Dalton); a new paperback edition of D218a (contents include "RedH"). THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE SPECKLED BAND AND MYSTERY OF THE SECOND STAIN, starring Gielgud and Richardson (San Francisco: The Mind's Eye, 1983; \$6.98 at B. Dalton); an audio cassette. THE ENGLISH PUB, by Andy Whipple and Rob Anderson (New York: Viking, 1985; 111 pp., \$25.00); with 185 full-color photographs, including one of the sign for Whitbread's "Sherlock Holmes".
31. Jeremy Brett helped publicize his new television series at a "reception for Holmes fans" in New York on Mar. 27; a UPI photo in the New Orleans Times-Picayune/Stater-Item on Mar. 29 showed Brett examining Marvin P. Epstein's manuscript of "The Priory School".
32. Book-of-the-Month Records is offering audio cassettes to non-members of the Book-of-the-Month Club, including a four-cassette set of Basil Rathbone's recordings (presumably the readings he did for Caedmon) at \$22.95 plus \$1.75 shipping (Sherlock Holmes #51-6670); Camp Hill, PA 17012 (800-345-8600 ext. 46), and they take plastic.
33. SHERLOCK HOLMES COMEDY TRILOGY, by Dick Charlton, is a collection of three new one-act juvenile (extremely juvenile) plays published by Contemporary Drama Service (Box 7710-T9, Colorado Springs, CO 80933); "preview" copies are \$1.75 each (minimum order three copies) plus shipping, and a catalog is available.
34. Sports report: the Memphis State Tigers made it to the semi-finals and lost, but their starting forward, Baskerville Holmes, was honored as their most valuable player in the game.
35. Did anyone receive "visit interesting Pittsburgh" letters from students at the Milliones Middle School there? I got two of them, and haven't the slightest idea where they got my name and address (no mention of The Red Circle in the letters, or Sherlock Holmes).
36. Further to my earlier comment about our non-denominated "D" stamps and postal stationery not being valid for mail to foreign countries, Chris Redmond notes that a lot of this mail is arriving in Canada. The USPS headquarters reports that Universal Postal Union regulations require that foreign mail carry denominated postage, but some years ago the U.S. and Canada agreed not to worry about this ("you handle ours, and we'll handle yours") -- but if an energetic U.S. postal clerk knows about the UPU regulations and doesn't know about the agreement with Canada, the clerk will return D-stamped mail to the sender.

April 1985 #2

37. Catalog at hand from a book dealer asking \$10.00 for a copy of my 1973 BSI dinner souvenir THE TITULAR INVESTITURES (D2865b). I still have extras, and if anyone wants one the price is \$0.44 postpaid.
38. HI, THIS IS SYLVIA. I CAN'T COME TO THE PHONE RIGHT NOW, SO WHEN YOU HEAR THE BEEP, PLEASE HANG UP. That's the title of a book by Nicole Hollander (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1983); not about telephone-answering machines, but there is a S'ian cartoon on pp. 52-53.
39. Many PBS television stations worked hard to promote the Jeremy Brett series in the March issues of their monthly magazines for members, and one of the best efforts seen so far came from the Delaware Valley, with a two-page article by Scott Bond and Sherry Rose-Bond and a color cover reprinting the rarely seen artwork by J. Allen St. John from the Feb. 13, 1949, issue of the Chicago Sunday Tribune's Magazine of Books. If copies are still available, the address is Applause, WHY, 150 North 6th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106.
40. In his introduction to the Jeremy Brett version of "The Naval Treaty," Vincent Price mentions other actors who have played the role of Sherlock Holmes: Sir John Gielgud, Sir Cedric Hardwicke, Sir Ralph Richardson, George C. Scott, and John Barrymore. Which of these actors is not known to have played the role?
41. Reported by Ron De Waal: FALLET MED DE DOLDA SKATTERNA [THE CASE OF THE HIDDEN TAXES], a 14-page political pamphlet opposing the Labor government's tax system, illustrated in color with drawings of Holmes and Watson; available from Naringslivets Ekonomifakta, Hovslagaregatan 5, 111 48 Stockholm, Sweden.
42. Check your local Safeway. Their house brand milk (Lucerne) carton has deerstalker-and-magnifying-glass artwork for their "Be a Tooth SLEUTH" (as in Start Learning to End Unhealthy Tooth Habits) campaign during National Children's Dental Health Month. What with different sizes of cartons and different colors for different kinds of milk, the number of collectible variants guarantees healthy teeth for completists.
43. Compliments to Bob Burr, who was the first to identify the source of Vincent Price's quotation from Edgar W. Smith in the introduction to the first of the Brett television programs (March 85 #2). It was Smith's editorial "The Implicit Holmes" in the BSJ, Apr. 1946, pp. 111-112.
44. Reported by Dick Lesh: Rathbone films ("Woman in Green," "Secret Weapon," and "Terror by Night") on videocassettes at \$12.60 each at K-Mart. And offers by Edward Hamilton (Falls Village, CT 06031) of SHERLOCK HOLMES ESQ. AND JOHN H. WATSON M.D., by Orlando Park (\$2.98); MURDER INK, by Dilys Winn (4th printing, cloth, \$2.98); THE PRIVATE LIFE OF DR. WATSON, by Michael Hardwick (\$2.98); plus \$3.00 shipping per order.

45. There is a report of a videocassette of "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970 film starring Robert Stephens) at \$59.95 from Key Video, 1298 Prospect Avenue, La Jolla, CA 92037; this is the first time the film has been reported from a commercial distributor.

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46. SHERLOCK HOLMES IN THE DEERSTALKER, by Terence Mustoo and Doug Flack (Hornchurch: Ian Henry Publications, 1985; 48 pp., £3.50 from the publisher, 38 Parkstone Avenue, Hornchurch, Essex RM11 3LW, England); a two-act parody of both the Canon and the music halls.
47. Reported by The Illustrious Clients: The "Nuts and Bolts Sherlock Holmes" with magnifying glass and pipe (\$6.95 from Bit O'Norway & Pewter Palace, Van Buren House, Nashville, IN 47448).
48. HAWKSHAW THE DETECTIVE AND SHERLOCKO THE MONK AND OTHERS IN DETROIT, by Gus Mager, researched and indexed by Walter E. Young (Westland: The Stalker Press, 1984; 57 pp., \$5.95 postpaid from the publisher, 32542 Sandra Lane, Westland, MI 48185); a brief history of Mager, and a detailed index to its appearances in the Detroit newspapers, but only a scanty sampling of the artwork.
49. IN BED WITH SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Christopher Redmond (Toronto: Simon & Pierre, 1984; 207 p., \$29.95 Canadian from the publisher, Box 280, Adelaide Street Postal Station, Toronto, Ont. M5C 2J4, Canada); neither prurient nor titillating, nor about the sexual habits of Sherlock Holmes (despite the title), the book is an excellent examination of the sexual attitudes brought to the Canon by its author and by its readers, including many S'ian scholars.
50. "The Tunbridge Teatime Terror" is the title of a Sherlock Holmes Mystery Weekend scheduled by The Men on the Tor at the Hotel Stamford Plaza (1701 Summer Street, Stamford, CT 06905) on May 17-19, 1985; \$350.00 per person, including room, meals, and the assorted events.
51. Newt Williams notes, and quite correctly, that THE ILLUSTRATED SHERLOCK HOLMES (March 85 #2) contains "Wist" and "Bruc" from some source other than The Strand Magazine; the stories have been re-set, and there are no illustrations.
52. BEASTMARKS, by A. A. Attanasio (Willimantic: Mark V. Ziesing, 1984; 120 pp., \$25.00 signed, \$13.95 trade edition, from the publisher, Box 806, Willimantic, CT 06226); seven stories of philosophical fantasy, including "Sherlock Holmes and Basho" (6 pp.).
53. According to an update on Steven Spielberg's "Young Sherlock Holmes" in Cinefantastique (May 1985), the story involves the construction of a flying machine by Holmes and Watson, used to soar over London in pursuit of an arch criminal. Special effects are the work of ILM [Industrial Light & Magic, the people who did "Star Wars"] and include a hallucinogenic sequence in which inanimate objects come to life, via stop-motion animation and mechanical effects, to plague one of the main characters.
54. THE SHERLOCK HOLMES ENCYCLOPEDIA, by Orlando Park (New York: Avenel Books, 1985; 305 pp., cloth, \$3.98 at Waldenbooks); a discount edition of D4261a.
55. Granada's London office reports that the second series of "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" will be broadcast in Britain starting on July 2, 1985, and that "there is talk of a third series."
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April 1985 #4

56. More postal peculiarities. The postage rate from the U.S. to Canada is no longer exactly the same as the U.S. domestic rate. The cost of the first ounce is still the same (22 cents), but additional ounces to Canada (and Mexico) cost 18 cents each, not 17 cents.
57. Academic Industries (Box 509, West Haven, CT 06516) has a long list of \$1.95 paperbacks in their "Pocket Classics" series, two of which are THE GREAT ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES and THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, new editions of the Pendulum Press comic-strip adaptations (D4697b and D4699b).
58. "A Concert of the Music Enjoyed by Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson" was presented at The Arts & Letters Club of Toronto on Apr. 17, 1985; the biographical and program notes (10 pp.) by L. David St. C. Skene-Melvin are available for \$5.00 postpaid from Ann's Books and Mostly Mysteries, 225 Carlton Street, Toronto, Ont. M5A 2L2, Canada.
59. Sheldon Wesson, the poet laureate of The Red Circle, reported (in prose) to the scion in 1983 on the results of his assessment of the Canon, and his 12-page monograph on "The Sherlockian Triviality Index" is now available for \$1.00 postpaid; his address is 1003 North Vail Street, Alexandria, VA 22304.
60. SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE SACRED SWORD, by Frank Thomas (New York: Pinnacle Books, May 1985, 4th printing, with new cover; 240 pp., \$2.95).
61. Sherlock Holmes is "intensely prejudiced, often bad-tempered, irritable with the people who might look to him for a little kindness, capable of a quite unmerited snub, grossly self-indulgent, arrogant, self-opinionated, and decidedly touchy about trivialities," said Vincent Price in his postscript to the PBS broadcast of "The Blue Carbuncle". From whom was he quoting?
62. Additional details at hand from Thomas L. Drucker (Dept. of Liberal Studies, University of Wisconsin-Extension, Madison, WI 53703) about the Sherlockian workshop on July 20-21, 1985: talks by Emily Auerbach, Thomas Drucker, E. N. Feltskog, David Hammer, Robert W. Hahn, Daniel P. King, Brad Kjell, Ely Liebow, Gayle Lange Puhl, Chris Redmond, J. W. Scheideman, Wayne Smida, David Skene-Melvin, Herbert Tinning, Joseph Wiesenfarth, and Robert A. Zimmerman, plus a gala dinner and three theatrical presentations.
63. Some of the Rathbone videocassettes are also reported (at \$19.95 each) at Waldenbooks.
64. The Apr. 22, 1985, issue of Newsweek had a cover story on "The Big Thrill: Mystery Writers Are Making a Killing," with passing mentions of SH, a photograph of Otto Penzler and his library, and "Houn" in critic David Lehman's list of his ten favorite crime novels of the 20th century.
65. The German boom continues with SHERLOCK HOLMES (Berlin: Verlag Das Neue Berlin, 1985; 415 pp., DM18.00); translations of 15 stories, an Afterword by Alice Berger, and modernist illustrations by Klaus Ensikat. The book was printed in the German Democratic Republic; is there any other known East German edition of the Canon?
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66. Reported by Ron De Waal: "The Landscapes of Sherlock Holmes," by Yi-Fu Tuan, Journal of Geography, Mar.-Apr. 1985 (National Council for Geographic Education, Macomb, IL 61455; \$6.00); one of the papers presented at the Sept. 1984 workshop in Minneapolis.
67. Compliments to Ann Byerly for knowing the source for Vincent Price's postscript statement about Holmes: Michael Harrison's preface to BEYOND BAKER STREET: A SHERLOCKIAN ANTHOLOGY (1976, p. xv).
68. Betty Pierce notes that it's worthwhile searching the discount tables for THE DICTIONARY OF IMAGINARY PLACES, by Alberto Manguel and Gianni Guadalupi (New York: Macmillan, 1980; \$24.95); the listings include Camford, Fulworth, Uffa, and Baskerville Hall.
69. A number of scion publications have reported on the BSI annual dinner, but none so concisely as the April 1985 issue of The Hansom Wheels' newsletter THE PINK 'UN: "They had the usual recording of the 150 verses of 'We Never Speak of Aunt Clara' sung by James Montgomery, plus a 50-verse sequel sung by his son. Isaac Asimov sang the same song he had sung last year when he thought he was going to die, and he also told a joke about a horse."
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70. The Blind German Mechanics, a new scion attempting to remedy the sad lack of attention paid to the life and accomplishments of Moriarty's notorious chief of staff, has begun publication of SHIKARI: WRITINGS OF COLONEL SEBASTIAN MORAN. The first volume is a 14-page pamphlet reprinting excerpts from HEAVY GAME OF THE WESTERN HIMALAYAS (1881), and the second will be devoted to THE ASSASSINATION DIARY; each pamphlet costs \$1.00 postpaid from Wally Conger, 146-A North Canyon Boulevard, Monrovia, CA 91016.
71. There's a new "Collection of Mystery Classics" (from Bantam Books, 666 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10103), in "elegant leatherette" bindings, on "archival-quality acid-free" paper, with special new introductions to "intensify your mystery-reading enjoyment," at \$9.95 plus shipping per month (or \$24.95 plus shipping per month for the deluxe edition in genuine leather bindings) -- and "Houn" will be included, eventually. The books in the photograph are of such uniform size that they may be paperbacks. Late news: the intro to "Houn" is by John Bennett Shaw.
72. The 1985 Weekend with Sherlock Holmes and John Bennett Shaw will be held on Aug. 9-11 at Stevens Technical Institute in Hoboken, N.J. John expects registration will cost \$85.00, including a Saturday banquet, with air-conditioned rooms \$50.00 double and \$40.00 single. He is now rounding up the usual suspects for speakers and panels, and a brochure should be ready for mailing in May. You can get on the mailing list by writing to Herbert P. Tinning, 601 Gregory Avenue, Weehawken, NJ 07087.
73. Thanks to Mark W. Erdrich for Christopher Joyce's article on "The Detective from the Laboratory" in the November 15, 1984, issue of New Scientist; a lengthy discussion of the Home Office's new computer, which is called the Home Office (Large) Major Enquiry System. The FBI's counterpart is the Violent Crime Apprehension Program, and VICAP is certainly a far less imaginative name than HOLMES.

April 1985 #6

74. What's the connection between Sherlock Holmes and Claus von Bulow? Claus von Bulow, now on trial for the second time for the attempted murder of his wife Sunny von Bulow, has a new "love interest," 47-year-old Andrea Reynolds, tall and Hungarian-born, who tends to get noticed, according to a long article in the Apr. 29 issue of New York, even though the defense lawyers are said to have told her to stay away from the courthouse. "Partly it is the clothing ... partly it is the figure ... partly it is the unmistakable aura that she is one formidable babe." Years ago, von Bulow, then single, used to play cards with Andrea and her second husband, wealthy French businessman Pierre Frottier, and more recently Andrea and her third husband, television producer Sheldon Reynolds, were regulars at von Bulow's side during his first trial, when Sheldon Reynolds was said to be working on the movie story of von Bulow's case. Andrea and Sheldon Reynolds filed divorce papers last year, and Sheldon Reynolds has complained that "my friend Claus, he stole my wife." And (finally) Sheldon Reynolds produced the "Sherlock Holmes" television series with Ronald Howard in 1954 and with Geoffrey Whitehead in 1981.
75. Jeremy Brett, by the way, is on view in New York, in a revival of Frederick Lonsdale's 1923 comedy "Aren't We All?" at the Brooks Atkinson Theatre, with Claudette Colbert, Rex Harrison, Lynn Redgrave, and George Rose.
76. The winter 1985 issue of The Armchair Detective has the "Spy" caricature of William Gillette on the cover, and a two-page report by Ann Byerly on "The Doings at Dubuque" in 1984 (she's in the photograph, providing musical accompaniment to the riverboat rendition of "Aunt Clara").
77. A MATTER OF TIME, by Glen Cook (New York: Ace Science Fiction Books, Apr. 1985; 268 pp., \$2.95) is a minor S'ian item (passing references only) and an entertaining time-travel mystery novel.
78. Reported by Andrew Jay Peck: a gray sweatshirt with the S'ian caricature by Gerry Gersten, \$16.00 plus shipping, from the Quality Paperback Book Club (Middletown, PA 17057).
79. Andy also has a bibliographic query on the souvenir booklet for the Royal Shakespeare Company revival of Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" in the U.S.: how many versions are there? It's the \$2.00 booklet with the white-swan-on-blue at the top of the front cover. There is one version (purchased at the Broadhurst in April 1975) with Wood as Holmes and Locke as Moriarty in the cast list on the left-hand center page and a four-page insert for the cast with Horgan as Holmes and Revill as Moriarty. And there are two versions with Neville as Holmes and Revill as Moriarty in the cast list on the left-hand center page; the inside covers are printed in sepia in one (presumed to be earlier), and in black in the other. And there's a version for the tour with Nimoy as Holmes in 1976. Any others?
80. Reported by Ron De Waal: a new British edition of THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES (Hamlyn, £985; 1,083 pp., £4.95).
81. THE SIGN OF FOUR: A SHERLOCK HOLMES MURDER DOSSIER, edited by Simon Goodenough (Boston: Little, Brown, 1985; \$19.95); the third in the series, and well-executed as usual.

May 85 #1

82. There have been questions about the August 9-11 Weekend with Sherlock Holmes and John Bennett Shaw in Hoboken, mostly from people asking, "why Hoboken?" One possible answer is recourse to the list of famous people who have received degrees from Stevens Institute of Technology, the latest being Frank Sinatra, who will receive an honorary doctorate in engineering on May 23. "It was his parents' intention and his own early dream to attend Stevens Institute of Technology and become an engineer," said Sinatra representative recently, "One could say that the honorary degree to be awarded will make that youthful ambition a reality." We are awaiting confirmation of a rumor that Sinatra will return in August to speak on "The Portrayal of Ethnic Italians in the Canon".
83. Playboy's "Coming Attractions" (June 1985, p. 40) describes Paramount's "Young Sherlock Holmes" as a "romance-mystery in which the youthful English shamus begins his lifelong friendship with Dr. Watson, falls in love and solves a mystery involving the supernatural."
84. Michael Harrison's many non-S'ian books are not only well written, but also out of print and hard to find; the latest catalog from Gravesend Books (Box 235, Pocono Pines, PA 18350) offers a number of them.
85. Bill Rabe, founder of The Mrs. Hudson Breakfast and originator of The Commonplace Book, is planning a new eight-page newsletter, The Agony Column, to be issued bimonthly beginning in February 1986; its purpose will be to provide timely announcements of meetings and publications, and to offer a written substitute for the oral debate of S'ian theses. An abbreviated sample issue and subscription form are available from W. T. Rabe, 909 Prospect, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.
86. According to an interview with Granada Television International's managing director Barrie Heads (Electronic Media, Apr. 18, 1985), "We will make seven more Sherlock Holmes stories, then I think we will stop." So I guess we can expect a total of 20 stories. Heads also said that in 1984 Granada Television exported 3,300 program hours from 157 different productions to 71 countries; the best sellers were "Jewel in the Crown" and "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes". The second series, by the way, will consist of "Gree", "Resi", "Norw", "Copp", "RedH", and "Fina". And Charles Gray, who was a fine Mycroft in "The Seven-Per-Cent Solution", will repeat the role in "Gree".
87. Dawn Addams died on May 7 -- she played the part of Doreen in Ronald Howard's "The Case of the Careless Suffragette" (D5529a).
88. Reported: Martin Gardner's "The Irrelevance of Conan Doyle" (D2108b) is collected in Gardner's SCIENCE: GOOD, BAD AND BOGUS (Buffalo: Prometheus Books, 1981).

89. Rick Hacker reports that his THE ULTIMATE PIPE BOOK (with discussion of SH's smoking habits) is going into a third printing, and is still \$17.95 in pipe and tobacco stores (including the Tinder Box chain), and he will be happy autograph your copy if you send him the book and \$2.00 for return shipping or a stamped-and-addressed return mailer; his address is Box 634, Beverly Hills, CA 90213.

May 85 #2

90. Reported by Dick Lesh: "Touring Sherlock's London," by Murray Shaw, with color photos and a map, in American Way, Apr. 16, 1985 (American Airlines, Box 619616, MD 3A61, DFW Airport, TX 75261; \$2.00). SHERLOCK HOLMES IN AMERICA, by Bill Blackbeard, discounted at \$6.95 (or two for \$8.00) plus \$2.60 shipping per order, by Publishers Central Bureau, One Champion Avenue, Avenel, NJ 07001. And a number of new items discounted by Edward Hamilton (Falls Village, CT 06031); his catalogs sound worth while for things like the Goodenough murder dossier version of A STUDY IN SCARLET at \$4.95.
91. Reported by Marsha Pollak: DONALD DUCK: 50 YEARS OF HAPPY FRUSTRATION (HP Books, 1984); with a photograph (p. 59) showing Mickey and Goofy in deerstalkers from "Lonesome Ghosts". CLASSICS TO READ ALOUD TO YOUR CHILDREN, by William F. Russell (Crown, 1984; 351 pp., \$13.95); contents include "Spec" with notes. SECRETS OF SOFTWARE DEBUGGING, by Truck Smith (TAB, 1984; \$21.95); cover artwork has man in S'ian costume. INTERNATIONAL DICTIONARY OF FILMS & FILMMAKERS, Vol. 1, ed. by Christopher Lyon (Macmillan, 1984; \$50.00); with entry (pp. 427-428) for "Sherlock Jr." ANNO'S HAT TRICKS, by Akihiro Nozaki and Mitsumasa Anno (Philomel Books, 1985; \$11.95); advertisement shows character in S'ian costume.
92. Otto Penzler celebrated the Mystery Writers of America's Edgar Awards with an all-day signing party on May 11 at The Mysterious Bookshop, with authors including Dorothy Salisbury Davis, Stanley Ellin, William L. DeAndrea, and Stuart M. Kaminsky -- and there's a section of S'iana in his latest sales list -- 129 West 56th Street, New York, NY 10019. The cover price of The Armchair Detective goes up to \$6.00 with issue 18:3 (summer 1985), but the subscription price stays at \$20.00 for four issues (same address); Otto writes that issue 18:4 will have a color cover of Jeremy Brett and an interview.
93. Reported by Gideon Hill: four two-hour audiocassette sets in the Listen for Pleasure series: THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (D4671b, read by Hugh Burden), THE SIGN OF FOUR (read by Tony Britton), A STUDY IN SCARLET (read by Tony Britton), and THE LOST WORLD (read by James Mason), available for \$13.95 each (plus \$1.50 shipping) from Robin's Book Store (attn: special orders), 1837 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103; they take plastic. Two full-color posters (14x36 in. and 27x41 in.) for the Cushing film of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (D5161a), \$75.00 each plus shipping from Cinemonde, 1916 Hyde Street, San Francisco, CA 94109; they take plastic.
94. WHAT HAPPENED TO SHERLOCK HOLMES? THE LEGEND OF WILSON/THE AMAZING ATHLETE, by Terence White/Prince (Marina del Rey: Seagull Publishing Co., 1984; 100 pp., \$9.95) is a pastiche with a thoroughly rejuvenated Holmes in 1927, subsisting on royal jelly, a wide variety of health foods, and a regimen of strict exercise; available from the publisher (add \$2.00 for shipping) at 2915 Stanford Avenue #7, Marina del Rey, CA 90291.
95. Reported: THE ADVENTURES OF INSPECTOR LESTRADE, by M. J. Trow (Macmillan, £7.95); a pastiche "with the bold inspector one of the best policemen in London and Holmes a shambling amateur being wrecked by drugs," a first novel written by Trow because "he was annoyed at the way Inspector Lestrade has always been depicted as one of the world's losers."
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May 85 #3

96. "I am a reader and writer of mystery stories who thinks that the works of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle are a monument to boredom. A pox, I say, on the posturing Holmes and the goggle-eyed Watson. Anathema to The Baker Street Irregulars, that unholy gang of worshipers at the shrine of Sherlock. The next time they drink a toast to him, may their wine turn to sarsaparilla in the glass!" Stanley Ellin goes on to give reasons for the low esteem in which he holds the Canon, in his contribution to WRITING MYSTERY AND CRIME FICTION, edited by Sylvia K. Burack (Boston: The Writer, 1985; 208 pp., \$12.95), a collection that also includes P. D. James' warmer appreciation of the "sense of place" created in the descriptions of the sitting room at 221B. The publisher's address is: 120 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116.
97. If you'd like to meet Jeremy Brett, try Philadelphia on June 24, when he will be featured at a gala dinner-dance benefit for WHY (the local PBS station) -- only \$175 a person for the evening.
98. Chester Gould, creator of Dick Tracy, died on May 11. In 1976 he received the "Baker Street Tankard Award," awarded by Hugo's Companions to the one "who thirsts after justice for justice's sake." In THE GREAT DETECTIVES, edited by Otto Penzler (Boston: Little, Brown and Co., 1978, p. 239), Gould says that "because Sherlock Holmes is the greatest detective of them all, I decided to make Tracy look like Holmes: straight aquiline nose, square chin, generally sharp features."
99. Correction to last month's item on the Hoboken workshop. John Bennett Shaw says that requests for additional information should be sent to Herbert P. Tinning at 80 Pine Street, Millburn, NJ 07041.
100. I've had a letter from someone who is researching the sinking of the Loch Ness Monster -- the prop that sank in Loch Ness when they were making "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970). Does anyone have any stills or publicity photographs that show the Billy Wilder version of "Nessie"?
101. Reported: THE TULPA, by J. N. Williamson, a Tower Books paperback in 1981, now reissued by Leisure Books; an occult novel in which a number of characters are thinly disguised S'ian dignitaries (including the author). THE LUNATIC FRINGE, by William L. DeAndrea, a Mysterious Press paperback reprint; a fine mystery-history (Teddy Roosevelt), with a minor reference to the Canon.
102. Flier at hand for the workshop on "Sherlock Holmes: Science and Literature" in Madison on July 20-21; registration \$40.00 (excluding dinner and accommodations), with July 1 registration deadline. Write to University of Wisconsin-Extension, Dept. of Liberal Studies, 610 Langdon Street, Madison, WI 53706.
103. "... his main interests at the time were wimilar to those of most other teen-agers or sub-teen-agers: baseball (he worked partime selling popcorn a the Senators' stadium); pulp magazines--he read the Sherlock Holmes stories too; acting grown up; and girls," writes Derek Jewell in DUKE: A PORTRAIT OF DUKE ELLINGTON (New York: W. W. Norton & Co., 1980, p. 27); discovered by Ann Byerly.
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May 85 #4

104. "The Building of a Sherlock Holmes Collection," by Peter L. Stern, in AB Bookman's Weekly, May 6, 1985; a detailed description of Marvin P. Epstein's collection, currently offered for sale by Pepper & Stern. The magazine also has an ad by The Arion Press (460 Bryant Street, San Francisco, CA 94107) for a new limited edition of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, illustrated by Michael Kenna with photographs of the English moors (no price given, but prospectus available).
105. Martin Gardner's essay "On the Irrelevance of Conan Doyle" (D2108b) was reprinted, with a postscript, in Gardner's SCIENCE: GOOD, BAD AND BOGUS (Buffalo: Prometheus Books, 1981; 412 pp., \$18.95), a collection of similar critical discussions of pseudoscience; the book is still in print.
106. THE SHERLOCK HOLMES QUIZ AND PUZZLE BOOK, by Nigel Bartlett (Bristol: Abson Books, 1985; 44 pp., £2.50); a collection of Canonical quizzes, word searches, and crossword puzzles (the publisher's address is: Abson, Wick, Bristol BS15 5TT, England).
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107. Four more stories (Yell, Stoc, Glor, Fina) read by Robert Hardy are available in a two-cassette set as MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Argo, SAY 177, £5.95); these are not the older dramatizations (D5566a-D5569a). Four other stories were issued last year as THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES.
108. "Now, the detective's chief business is to provoke talk, and then to test its sincerity . . . the people whose loquaciousness is most precious to him are domestic servants . . . give me the detective who has a special talent for worming himself, without exciting suspicion, into the confidence of a caretaker, and under-valet, or a chambermaid, and I will make you a present of Sherlock Holmes." The author, who presumably had not read the Canon carefully, is M. Alphonse Bertillon, in an article on "Does 'Raffles' Exist? Or, The Myth of the Gentleman Burglar" (Strand, Oct. 1913).
109. Carole Naddeo reports a second source for a videocassette of "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970): Movies Unlimited, 6736 Castor Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19149; \$59.95 (catalog #04-1789).
110. Reported by Ron De Waal: HORSE & PONY STORIES, edited by Janet Barber (London: Cathy Books, 1985; \$4.95 at Waldenbooks); contents include "Silv" (first published by Sundial Books, 1979). SECRET PASSIONS, SECRET REMEDIES: NARCOTIC DRUGS IN BRITISH SOCIETY, 1820-1930, by Terry M. Parssinen (Philadelphia: Institute for the Study of Human Issues, 1983; 243 pp., \$17.50); with a synopsis of "Twis" (pp. 63-64); address for ISHI is 3401 Science Center, Philadelphia, PA 19104.
111. Karen and Bill Palmer, proprietors of the restaurant Bogie's (249 West 26th Street, New York, NY 10001), now also have Bogie's Murderous Mystery Tours. Their first two efforts are a "Murder at Sea" mystery during a 7-day cruise on the SS Bermuda Star out of New York on Sept. 28, 1985, with Chris Steinbrunner as one of the special guests (contact Susan Rice, Gramercy Travel System, 444 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10022); and a "Murder at the Grand" weekend, Oct. 25-28, 1985, at Mackinac Island's Grand Hotel (possibly the only interesting thing in Michigan that wasn't invented by Bill Rabe).

June 1985 #1

112. The Apr. 1985 issue of Metropolitan Toronto Library Board News has considerable S'ian content, including an illustration of the Frederic Dorr Steele original artwork for "Bruc" ("It was a nice equipment for a respectable citizen") donated to the MTL by Peter A. Lemiski. Available free from the MTL (attn: Janice McNabb), 789 Yonge Street, Toronto, Ont. M4W 2G8, Canada.
113. That imperfect copy of Beeton's Christmas Annual for 1887 is still available from Serendipity Books (1790 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94709) for \$18,000 (rear cover, portion of spine, and two leaves of ads in facsimile). "Not a rare book," says the catalog, as "Lew David Feldman let the world know he had, and sold, three copies in day."
114. Plan ahead. The first 1986 S'ian seminar to be announced is "Sherlock Holmes: His Place in the Genre of Criminous Literature and the Works of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle," to be presented by The Bootmakers of Toronto on June 19-22 at Trinity College, University of Toronto. Requests for further details can be sent to David Skene-Melvin, 225 Carlton Street, Toronto, Ont. M5A 2L2, Canada.
115. Reported by Janice McNabb: TWELVE ENGLISHMEN OF MYSTERY, edited by Earl F. Bargainnier (Bowling Green: Bowling Green University Popular Press, 1984); an anthology of essays on authors from Wilkie Collins to Simon Brett (and not including ACD), with mentions of SH in Barrie Hayne's "A. E. W. Mason" and Nancy Ellen Talburt's "H. C. Bailey".
116. THE ZENDA VENDETTA, by Simon Hawke (New York: Ace Science Fiction Books, May 1985; 206 pp., \$2.95); a time-travel novel, with the Time Commandos (heros) confronting the Timekeepers (villains) in Anthony Hopes' Ruritania. S'ian only in the presence in the Time Commandos' commander's private museum of the Jezail bullet removed from Watson's shoulder and sent by him to the commander, who was at Maiwand in the guise of Murray.
117. Richard Greene died on 1 June in London, ending an acting career that included more than 40 feature films and the role of Robin Hood in a long series on British television. In 1939 he was the studio's newest romantic lead when he played Sir Henry Baskerville in the Twentieth Century-Fox film and received top billing the cast and in the publicity.
118. Travelers London-bound might consider a two-hour walk "In the Footsteps of Sherlock Holmes" conducted on Saturday mornings by Streets of London (32 Grovelands Road, London N13 4RH; price is about \$2.20, and there are a number of other non-S'ian tours).
119. "Sherlock Holmes and the Baskerville Curse" (67 minutes) and "Sherlock Holmes and the Sign of Four" (48 minutes) are animations produced by Burbank Films (Australia) and marketed here on videocassette by Pacific Arts Video Records at \$59.95 each. Peter O'Toole (who was once considered for the lead in "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes") provides the voice of Sherlock Holmes. The animation is well above Saturday-morning-TV standards, but both stories are simplified (no boots are stolen at the Northumberland Hotel, for example), and slow and talky. Recommended only for rental viewing.

June 1985 #2

120. BIALOSKY'S BIG MYSTERY, by Anne Kostick, illustrated by Jerry Joyner (Racine: Western Publishing Co., 1985, \$4.95); Bialosky is a deerstalked bear in this children's "Golden Lift-and-Look Book".
121. Bouchercon XVI ("Murder by the Bay Returns") will be at the Sir Francis Drake in San Francisco, Oct. 25-27, with three-track programming, "The California Crime Novel" as guest of honor (Joe Gores, Joseph Hansen, and Collin Wilcox), and a session on "Sherlock Holmes v. A. Conan Doyle" -- their mailing-list address is Box 6202, Hayward, CA 94540.
122. Gideon Hill reports you can still obtain copies of back issues of Transactions & Studies of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia. The July 1978 issue (\$5.00) had four S'ian articles (D5956b, D5963b, D5994b, D6005b) and the Dec. 1979 issue (\$8.00) had a four-page reply to D5956b). Their address is 19 South 22nd Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103.
123. Stabur Graphics (23301 Meadow Park, Detroit, MI 48239) continues its S'ian line with a full-color 16x24" poster reprinting the Harvey Kurtzman cover from Mad #7 (Oct.-Nov. 1953); \$5.00 (or \$25.00 signed by Kurtzman) plus \$2.75 shipping, or \$70.00 (signed and framed) plus \$5.00 shipping; they take plastic.
124. Prospectus at hand from The Arion Press (460 Bryant Street, San Francisco, CA 94107) for their deluxe edition of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, and it is indeed deluxe, designed by Andrew Hoyem, with 50 photographs by Michael Kenna and "text corrected by Terry Milne, collating the first English and American editions with the first serial publication," in an edition of 400 copies, at \$300.00. There is also a poster available at \$10.00. This is the second of their "mystery classics," the first being their 1983 edition of THE MALTESE FALCON. My friends in the fine-press world give Hoyem mixed reviews (at one point he was sort of the successor to the Grabhorns, but now he has considerable competition from presses that are better, and his book designs are sometimes quite unattractive), but the book will be sent on approval with refundable payment, so you have an escape hatch. And you can get a free copy of the poster with your purchase if you spot "the misstatement of fact embedded in the prospectus" (the misstatement, in the first sentence on the third page of the prospectus, should be readily apparent to any Sherlockian).

125. "The Goonies" according to one review, "is an artfully crafted movie, thrumming with energy and sometimes wit, and utterly uninvolved for anyone over the age of 12." Producer Steven Spielberg and screenwriter Chris Columbus are also involved in Paramount's "Young Sherlock Holmes" now in production in England.
126. "The Tunbridge Teatime Terror" offered an entertaining weekend for participants at the Hotel Stamford Plaza's mystery weekend on May 17-19, with arrangements by Tyke and Teddie Niver, who eventually revealed themselves to be Holmes and Watson ("Watson couldn't take off the wig and bosom," Holmes explained smoothly to N.Y. Daily News reporter Gus Dallas, "because they were stuck on with super stickum"). An Agatha Christie weekend is planned for Oct. 11-13, and the hotel's address is 2701 Summer Street, Stamford, CT 06905.

June 1985 #3

127. There are two of John Ruyle's Pequod Press books available that have some S'ian content. GASTROPODS AND OTHER POEMS (1983, 36 pp., clothbound, \$25.00) has "Sherlock, This Is Stupid Stuff" (revised from its appearance in The Vermissa Herald) and "On the Terrace" (a memorial to Dean W. Dickensheet). BATS: PARENTHETICAL POEMS (1985, 36 pp., clothbound, \$30.00) has "To Vincent Starrett" (revised from its appearance in 221B OR NOT 221B?). His address is 521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707.
128. Reported: a French film under production from Umberto Eco's THE NAME OF THE ROSE, screenplay by Jean-Jacques Annaud and Alain Godard, being filmed in both French and English versions. Anyone have more information on this?
129. Newt Williams suggests that Pablo Sarasate's recordings of his own works may make him the only musician in the Canon who work has been preserved for our later enjoyment. Any other candidates?
130. Mary Cannon's "Booked & Printed" column in the July 1985 issue of Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine is a two-page appreciation of the Canon, followed by reviews of recent S'iana.
131. Can anyone identify the first appearance of Ogden Nash's poem "The Spring Sitting"? It was collected in THE OGDEN NASH POCKET BOOK (New York: Pocket Books, 1944), and includes the couplet "I'd rather be boiled in oil than work, /I'd rather read Conan Doyle than work."
132. "Doctor Arthur Conan Doyle's Patients in Fact and Fiction," by Alvin E. Rodin and Jack D. Key, in Medical Heritage, Mar.-Apr. 1985, pp. 80-98; a comparison of ACD's practice with his Canonical and non-Canonical stories.
133. William A. Barton offers apologies to those who ordered copies of the "Sherlockian Trivia" supplement and "The Play's Afoot" booklet back in January; he has had horrendous problems with the printer, and hopes to be back on track before too long. Bill will include a modest S'ian bonus with shipments to those who do not lose patience, and refunds are available to those who do (in which case please send him a copy of your cancelled check); if your check has *not* been cashed, please let him know. Bill's address is Box 26290, Indianapolis, IN 46226.
134. The USPS stamp program for 1986 includes a number of S'ian (well, sort of S'ian) issues: commemoratives honoring T. S. Eliot (creator of Macavity) and Vilhjalmur Stefansson (D2051b), and a regular stamp honoring Bret Harte (creator of Hemlock Jones).
135. Reported by Mel Ruiz: "The Mis-Adventures of Sheerluck Homes: The Mystery of the Creepy Hack Writer" (cassette P302), a parody of old-time radio, available for \$3.98 (plus \$1.40 shipping), from Adventures in Cassettes, Dept. S-610, 1401-B West River Road North, Minneapolis, MN 55411.
136. "Love Match Was 'Elementary' for Holmes Enthusiasts," according to the press release from the St. Olaf College News Service. The enthusiasts are St. Olaf College reference librarian J. Randolph Cox and Metropolitan Toronto Library assistant curator Janice McNabb, and the nuptials are planned for this fall.

June 1985 #4

137. The Northeast Victorian Studies Association will sponsor a conference on "Victorian Work and Workers" at Yale University on Apr. 18-20, 1986. Program information available from Prof. Mary Davis, Dept. of English, Albertus Magnus College, New Haven, CT 06511 (and from me, if it turns out there is S'ian content).
138. The 34th running of The Silver Blaze will be held at Belmont Race Track in New York on Sept. 13, 1985. Cost is \$40.00 (including transportation from and to The Players); contact Thomas L. Stix, Jr., Box 96, Norwood, NJ 07648.
139. Reported by Marsha Pollak: THE SEARCH FOR KING PUP'S TOMB, by Jim and Mary Razzi, with pictures by Ted Enik (Bantam/Skylark, 1985, \$2.25); the latest adventure of Sherlock Bones and Scotson, battling Professor Morty-Mutty. THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, read by Richard Green, on seven 90-minute cassettes (\$10.50 rental, \$56.00 purchase new, \$31.50 purchase used) from Books on Tape (Box 7900, Newport Beach, CA 92660).
140. The fruits of Evelyn Herzog's recent visit to London include: SHERLOCK HOLMES AT THE 1902 FIFTH TEST, by Stanley Shaw (London: W. H. Allen, 1985; £8.95); a new pastiche. TRUE CHARACTERS: REAL PEOPLE IN FICTION, by Alan Bold and Robert Giddings (Longman Pocket Companion Series, 1984; £3.95); with a one-page entry on Dr. Joseph Bell and Sherlock Holmes. SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE DANCING MEN, a comic-strip adaptation by D. K. Swan (Longman Structural Reader, 1978; L0.55). 221B BAKER STREET: THE MASTER DETECTIVE GAME (H. P. Gibson & Sons, Littlers Close, London SW19; £8.50); the British version of D3957b. Garnier & Co. (37 Strode Road, London NW10 2NP, England) make plaques, pocket mirrors, and keyrings with the Baker Street Underground and the Baker Street W1 street sign motifs. The souvenir stock at The Sherlock Holmes in Northumberland Street includes ashtrays (£2.50), keyrings (£1.00), and T-shirts (£4.50). Baker Street Estates are estate management and property consultants at Sherlock Holmes House, 28 Baker Street, London W1M 1DF; their business card has a S'ian emblem. Plus note of mention of Sherlock Holmes in the lyrics of "Bang Bang," a rock and roll song by Pierre Robinson, as well as mention of Sherlock Holmes' dog (in the nighttime) on p. 14 of Barbara Hambly's ISHMAEL (Pocket Books, May 1985, \$3.50), the latest Star Trek novel.
141. Flier at hand for this year's weekend with John Bennett Shaw on Aug. 9-11, 1985; \$85.00 including the Saturday night banquet. Contact address is: Sherlock Holmes Workshop, Office of the President, Stevens Institute of Technology, Castle Point, Hoboken, NJ 07030.
142. SHERLOCK HOLMES IS ALIVE!, by Kiyoshi Tanaka (Tokyo: Nova Publishing, 1984), is the first primer on Japanese S'iana, including a history of Japanese translations of the Canon, a S'ian who's who, a list of world-wide S'ian societies, courses for various school levels, and much more, all in Japanese (265 pp. with illos by Tanaka and Pagnet); \$7.00 plus \$2.00 surface shipping or \$4.00 airmail shipping, from Kiyoshi Tanaka, 8-7 Baba cho, Isogo-ku, Yokohama City, Kanagawa, Japan 235.
143. Does anyone know anything about a five-minute radio series "Roger Ramjet"? In one (undated) episode he helps Armlock Hurts and Dr. Whatsis foil Professor Mayoryorty's theft of Scotland Yard.

July 1985 #1

144. Assorted S'iana in print in England: A PUZZLE FOR SHERLOCK HOLMES (D5095b), by Robert Newman (London: Transworld/Carousel, 1981; 169 pp., L0.85). THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES: A SHERLOCK HOLMES MURDER DOSSIER, edited by Simon Goodenough (Exeter: Webb & Bower, 1984; £9.95). THE SIGN OF FOUR: A SHERLOCK HOLMES MURDER DOSSIER, edited by Simon Goodenough (Exeter: Webb & Bower, 1985; £9.95). THE

ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, the 13 stories in the first and second Granada series, with a cover photograph of Brett and Burke (London: Granada, 1984; 365 pp., £7.95).

145. I occasionally hear from people who have had problems with mail-order dealers of various sorts, the problems involving not receiving merchandise ordered, not receiving refunds for merchandise incorrectly sent, and not receiving any response to enquiries. While it is possible for one enquiry (or a response) to be lost in the mails, lack of response to a second enquiry may indicate that the dealer isn't paying attention to you. And there is a very effective way to get the dealer's attention: write a letter to the postmaster at the appropriate city, giving a factual explanation of the problem and saying that you would like to file a complaint against the dealer for fraudulent use of the mails. Standard post-office procedure is to contact the dealer, requesting an explanation, and mail-order dealers tend to pay close attention to letters from postal inspectors.
146. Responding to requests on how one obtains a copy of the new Bantam Books edition of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (with new introduction by John Bennett Shaw), one possibility is responding to the advertisement in the July issue of The Dial (the magazine published for some PBS stations). There's no obligation other than payment for THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES when it arrives.
147. Has anyone visiting London noticed the "Sherlock Holmes Centa" on Baker Street, near Paddington Street? David H. Galerstein spotted it on a map of London from the British Tourist Office; the Centa is apparently a movie theater, but I don't recall hearing of it before.
148. "Selected Cases of Sherlock Holmes" (Spec, Gree, SixN) on two 90-minute cassettes, narrated by Grover Gardner; \$19.95 plus \$2.50 shipping from Audio Book Contractors, Box 40115, Washington, DC 20016.
149. "A Castle in Connecticut" by Caroline Crosson, in Amtrak Express, June-July 1985; on Gillette's home and interests (PPI Publications, Box O, Huntington, NY 11743). Reported by Gideon D. Hill, who also notes the appearance by Meiringen and Reichenbach Falls on the "Traveler's Guide to the Alps" insert map in the April 1985 issue of National Geographic.

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150. "Detectiverse: The Beggar" by William C. Thomas (EQMM, Sept. 1985), is his second appearance in the magazine, with his second poetic tribute to "Twis" (the first was "Detectiverse: The Bar of Gold" in EQMM, Aug. 1983). Thomas continues his intriguing practice of not mentioning the title of the story or the detective in his poems.
151. "The Red Leech" by Maryam Wade (Mike Shayne Mystery Magazine, July 1985) is a grade C+ pastiche.
152. John Bennett Shaw reports that a Los Angeles advertising agency is searching for a Sherlockian who owns a Honda. If you qualify, the firm is Needham Harper Worldwide Agency, and you can call collect and ask for Judy at 213-208-5000 extension 266. I'm sure there's no connection, but some time ago Ted Schulz sent in an item from the San Francisco Chronicle on a literary vanity license plate reading BSKRVLS that was seen on a Honda. See BJS, Mar. 1984, p. 61.
153. The promotion for Martha Grimes' newest Richard Jury mystery, HELP THE POOR STRUGGLER (Little, Brown and Co.), notes that "You'll find him gently interrogating a colorful cast of suspects in manor houses and pubs (including the pub of the title) around bleak Dartmoor, where the Hound of the Baskervilles once bayed." Richard Jury fans can let me know if there's actually a reference to the Hound in the book.
154. Yet another ocean cruise for mystery fans (not the one mentioned May 85 #4): a "Murder Overboard" trip to Bermuda on the Queen Elizabeth 2, from New York on Sept. 2-7, 1985. The mystery will be planned by David Landau of Murder to Go, and Evan Hunter (Ed McBain) will be on hand. Cheapest fare is \$695 for an inside cabin, and the most expensive is \$9,320 for a luxury split level apartment suite. Flier available from Cunard, 555 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10017.
155. Reported by Dick Lesh: POLYPHONIC MOTETS OF LASSUS on an excellent very hi-fi German recording, \$25.00 from George Tobias, 1306 Skylark Drive, Omaha, NE 68144. Also: SHERLOCK BEEFO UNCOVERS THE MYSTERY OF THE 5TH QUARTER, a 16-page illustrated pamphlet published by the South Dakota Cow Belles (members of the South Dakota Beef Council), free from Mrs. Harold B. Anderson, Highmore, SD 75345.
156. A while back (January 85 #5) I recommended BIGELOW ON HOLMES (D1932b), the splendid index to the Writings Upon the Writings edited by Donald A. Redmond. I still recommend it, but the instructions for ordering are slightly different: the cost is \$16.05 (Canadian) postpaid, and if your check is on an American bank you should use the current exchange rate to convert to U.S. dollars. Order from the Metropolitan Toronto Library (789 Yonge Street, Toronto M4W 2G8, Canada).
157. It took a while to track this down, and it turns out to be non-S'ian, but: THE CASE OF THE KIDNAPPED DOG, by Ron van der Meer (London: Macmillan's Children's Books, 1983), is a "do-it-yourself pop-up book" (no cutting, no gluing, but you get to put it together) in which the detective is Hercules Watson. Available from Merrimack Publishers Circle (47 Pelham Road, Salem, NH 03079) for \$9.95.

July 1985 #3

158. SELECTED CASES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES includes three cases (SPEC, GREE, and SIXN), quietly and faithfully read by Grover Gardner. The boxed set of two 90-minute audio cassettes is available from Audio Book Contractors (Box 40115, Washington, DC 20016) for \$19.95 (plus \$2.50 shipping).
159. Ron De Waal reports four of the Rathbone/Bruce films on videocassette at \$19.95 each, at B. Dalton stores. And Lewis Gardner's adaptation "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Sussex Vampire", reprinted from Scholastic Scope (D4385b) in SCOPE ENGLISH ANTHOLOGY, edited by Stephen M. Lewin and Allene Feldman (New York: Scholastic Book Services, 1983); the SBS address is 730 Broadway, New York, NY 10003.
160. Scott and Sherry Rose Bond have returned from their trip to Baker Street (in Manchester, at the Granada studio) and a visit with producer (now executive producer) Michael Cox, who confirmed the rumor that David Burke will not play Watson in the third set of seven programs. Burke is now under contract to the Royal Shakespeare Company, and the new Watson will be Edward Hardwicke, son of Sir Cedric Hardwicke (who also played the role, on radio). The third set of programs, now considered to be the second series, will be called "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" and will start with "The Empty House", continuing with "The Six Napoleons", "The Second Stain", "The Man with the Twisted Lip", "The Abbey Grange", and (probably) "The Priory School" (and Cox wasn't sure what the seventh story would be). [For those who have forgotten, the first set of programs consisted of Scan, Danc, Nava, Nava, Soli, Croo, Spec, and Blue, and the second set has Gree, Resi, Norw, Copp, RedH, and Fina.]
161. Sherry also noted the death this month of Joan Wilson, wife of Jeremy Brett and the WGBH-TV (Boston) producer responsible for "Masterpiece Theatre" and "Mystery!"
162. THE FRIENDS OF BOGIE'S RETURN TO BAKER STREET is the second audio cassette produced by the inspired crew who have provided dramatic entertainment at the January dinners of The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes. This time their proposition is that Holmes was a jack-of-all-trades, and master of none, presenting him as a travel agent, poet, and veterinarian, among other potential occupations. The 30-minute cassette is available for \$9.00 postpaid from ZPPR Productions, 34 Gansevoort Street, New York, NY 10014. An earlier cassette, THE FRIENDS OF BOGIE'S AT BAKER STREET, is also available at the same price.

163. Gunnar E. Sundin has set a July 29 publication date for his SHERLOCK'S LONDON TODAY: A WALKING TOUR OF THE LONDON OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, with routes for 11 tours, identifications of 400 S'ian sites, and 100 photographs and maps; \$19.00 postpaid from Sherlock's Bookshop, 492 South First Avenue, Des Plaines, IL 60016. His set of four 17x22" maps of VICTORIAN LONDON (handsomely reproduced from a set produced by the Weekly Dispatch in 1861) is still available (\$13.95 postpaid), along with a new 360-item sales list of S'iana.

164. Bruce R. Beaman (Box 745, Stevens Point, WI 54481) is offering a number of S'ian items; send him a #10 SASE for a copy of his sales list.

July 1985 #4

165. All the residents at 221 Baker Street were blessed with Scottish names, according to John T. Kerr (president of the Kerr Family Association), with Holmes being a sept name of the Home Family in the eastern Borders, thus providing the connection for an article on Holmes, Watson, Mrs. Hudson, Dr. Bell, and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in the May 1985 issue of The Border Line: Newsletter of the Kerrs and Carrs. The KFA address is Box 8868, Durham, NC 27707.
166. ANNO'S HAT TRICKS, by Akihiro Nozaki and Mitsumasa Anno (New York: Philomel Books, 1985; 44 pp., \$11.95) is S'ian only for its cover artwork and minor interior illos, but it's a charming and imaginative explanation of binary logic for children (and I venture to predict that some parents will have to concentrate in order to keep up with their kids).
167. A subscriber (who did not request anonymity, but will receive it anyway) reports a button reading "No shit . . . Sherlock" sold by the Button-Up Co., 1202 East Maple, Troy, MI 48083 (price not known). It's all too easy to make buttons to order with do-it-yourself kits, of course, and there are probably more varieties around than there are different T-shirts.
168. There's a new paperback edition of Martha Grimes' THE MAN WITH A LOAD OF MISCHIEF (Dell, \$3.50), the first of her series about Inspector Jury; the book has a couple of allusions to the Canon, but the deerstalkered man on the cover of the 1982 paperback is missing from this one.
169. Sherlock Snoopy is featured on a 9x12" portfolio cover (for students, I guess), manufactured for Butterfly Originals for Plymouth Inc., Bellmawr, NJ 08031 (price not known).
170. "A Weekend in Toronto with Sherlock Holmes" is the official title of the seminar mentioned earlier (June 85 #1), to be sponsored by The Bootmakers of Toronto at Trinity College, University of Toronto, June 19-22, 1986. An agenda flier is available, and mailing-list requests should be sent to: SH86, 225 Carlton Street, Toronto, Ont. M5A 2L2, Canada.
171. "When a Doctor Turns to Crime", by Ely M. Liebow, in Chicago Medicine, June 7, 1985 (Chicago Medical Society, 515 North Dearborn Street, Chicago, IL 60610; \$1.00); a two-page article on Conan Doyle as a doctor.
172. There have been a number of mentions in the press of a modern version of "The Lost Special", reported by Pravda on June 2, 1985. "A train consisting of 28 freight cars with crushed rock left the Tomashgorodsky factory on June 24, 1983," Pravda said, "It left, but it didn't arrive." And by the time the Soviet bureaucracy finished its investigation, it was impossible to solve the mystery, "since all the documents concerning shipments were kept for only one year and then destroyed." "Even Sherlock Holmes from Baker Street in London could have lost his way in the paper labyrinth," Pravda suggested.
173. Herb Tinning is the source for the only recent news from Elstree Studios, a quip from Regina Nadelson in European Travel & Life (May-June 1985) on the possibility that Steven Spielberg's "Young Sherlock" will be called "E.T. Goes to Eton".
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July 1985 #5

174. Ron De Waal reports a revised edition of Julian Symons' BLOODY MURDER: FROM THE DETECTIVE STORY TO THE CRIME NOVEL (D898b) (New York: Viking, 1985; \$£4.95). In his chapter on "The Case of Sherlock Holmes", Symons suggests that "the tone of mock-scholarly facetiousness" in the Writings About the Writings "must make them rank high among the most tedious pieces of their kind ever written."
175. "The Baskerville" is a new London restaurant, near Baker Street Station across from Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum, according to Jon Burroughs of The Illustrious Clients.
176. Donald A. Redmond continues his research on "Sherlock Holmes Among the Pirates: The Sign of Four 1890-1930" and would be interested in hearing from owners of editions of "Sign" published by Hovenden Co. (New York), Human Life Publishing Co. (Boston), and I. M. Ottenheimer (Baltimore), and TALES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES from Orange Judd Co. (New York). Don's address is 178 Barrie Street, Kingston, Ont. K7L 3K1, Canada.
177. A TOUCH OF THE CLASS, edited by Michael H. Kean and published by The Master's Class of Philadelphia in 1981, is one of the better scion anthologies; 94 pp., illustrated, and still available for \$13.50 postpaid from Victoria M. Robinson, 299 Summit House, West Chester, PA 19382.
178. THE STORY OF MR. GEORGE EDALJI, by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, edited and with an Introduction by Richard and Molly Whittington-Egan (London: Grey House Books, 1985; 124 pp., £15.00 postpaid from the publisher, 12A Lawrence Street, Chelsea, London SW3, England) (or £18.00 postpaid for the 100 numbered copies signed by the editors); far more than a reissue of the rare pamphlet published by ACD in 1907 reprinting his two-part article from the Daily Telegraph, this book also includes a later three-part article on his "Special Investigation" and, published for the first time, the full text of his "Statement of the Case" against the man he believed was the prime suspect in the Great Wyrley outrages.
179. Wally Conger reports that a police officer is called "a Sherlock Holmes" and that the famous barkless dog is mentioned in Ross Thomas' new novel BRIARPATCH. And S'ian references in L. Neil Smith's SF novel THE NAGASAKI VECTOR, which features a sleuthing coyote with a marked resemblance to Philip Jose Farmer's "Ralph von Wau Wau".
180. Reported: ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE, by Don Richard Cox (New York: Frederick Ungar Publishing Co., 1985; \$13.95); presumably a biography. DETECTIVE AND MYSTERY FICTION: AN INTERNATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY OF SECONDARY SOURCES, by Walter Albert (Madison: Brownstone Books, 1985; 779 pp., \$60.00); I believe this is essentially non-S'ian, based on Albert's operating assumption that our world is more than adequately covered by Ron De Waal.
181. Lenny Picker reports that James Moriarty is one of the defense lawyers in "U.S. v. Badalamenti", an organized crime case popularly known as the "Pizza Connection". I am reminded of one of the more inspired titles for a federal law, which is now known mainly by its acronym: RICO. Fans of Edgar G. Robinson will need no reminder of who Rico was, and RICO is the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act.
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July 1985 #6

182. The Sherlock Holmes Centa in Baker Street is indeed a movie theater (July 85 #1), but I still don't know where the word "centa" comes from. The "London Map" is nicely done, and available from the British Tourist Authority, Literature Distribution Center, 25-15 50th Street, Woodside, NY 11377.
183. Reported by Ron De Waal: SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE CASE OF DR. FREUD, by Michael Shepherd (New York: Tavistock Publications, 1985; 30 pp.); an essay based on the 1984 Squibb History of Psychiatry lecture, delivered at the Institute of Psychiatry, London, in June 1984 (the publisher's address is 733 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10017). And "A Double-Barrelled Detective Story" by Mark Twain (D6128a), in Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine, Sept. and Oct. 1985.
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184. TV Guide reports that "Sherlock Holmes and the Baskerville Curse" (the Australian animated film featuring Peter O'Toole as the voice of Holmes) will be shown on Showtime cable TV on Aug. 2 and Aug. 8.
185. Dr. Alvin E. Rodin reports that one of the papers at the May meeting of the American Osler Society was "A Modern Version of Osler's Bedside Library," detailing the results of a survey of the favorite books and authors of society members. Sir William Osler led the list, followed by Harvey Cushing (who wrote a biography of Osler); the Bible was third, William Shakespeare was fourth, and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was fifth, "far outdistancing such authors as Hemingway, Mark Twain, Maugham, Kipling, Camus, Poe, Conrad, Defoe, etc."
186. What was the lowest depth to which Conan Doyle ever sunk, during his long literary career? See page 275 in the Apr. 1886 issue of Cassell's Family Magazine, and the picture of two girls and a boy in a yacht; the picture was sent to Conan Doyle with a commission to write a story to match it. The result was "Touch and Go: A Midshipman's Story", and the assessment of it is by Conan Doyle himself, recorded by P. G. Wodehouse in some hitherto unpublished notes auctioned at Sotheby's last year. See "New P.G. Wodehouse Material" by Richard Osborne, in Encounter, July-Aug. 1985, at hand from Steven Rothman.
187. Steve and Summer Canyon arrived in London on July 22, according to a report from Jon Lellenberg, and the continuing sequence will obviously be of interest to S'ians.

August 1985 #1

188. SHERLOCKIAN ESOTERICA is an aptly named 60-minute audio cassette compiled by William R. Smith in 1980, with contents ranging from classic contributions by Red Smith and William S. Baring-Gould to material as new as one of Isaac Asimov's melodious appearances at a BSI annual dinner. The cost is \$8.00 postpaid, and Bill's address is 15 West Hillcrest Avenue, Havertown, PA 19083.
189. "The three most memorable men of the twentieth century so far are Winston Churchill, Adolf Hitler and Sherlock Holmes," according to Alistair Cooke, quoted by Jeremy Brett in an interview in the summer 1985 issue of The Sherlock Holmes Journal.
190. The SHJ also reports a S'ian chess set with pieces 2 to 3 inches high, sculpted in wax and cast in polyester resin, at £30 from A. Payn, 80 Osborne Road, Hornchurch, Essex, England. And many S'ian references in DELIGHTFUL MURDER: A SOCIAL HISTORY OF THE CRIME STORY, by Ernest Mandel (Pluto Press, £3.95).
191. I haven't seen tins of the Danish "Baker Street No. 221B" pipe tobacco in stores recently, but there is a source mentioned in the July 1985 issue of The Tonga Times: Anne Neely, 1804 Spring Lane, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301; a 2-oz tin costs \$5.80 postpaid. And the House of Nisbet "Sherlock Holmes" bear doll (14") is available for \$69.95 from Dollsville Dolls, 373 South Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs, CA 92262. And a search "for that Pondicherry Lodge look" ends at Laura Ashley shops, with a new Indian-look print called Pondicherry. The Tonga Times is the quarterly newsletter for miniaturist members of The Mini-Tonga Scion Society; \$3.50 a year from Dee Snyder, 8440 Nashua Drive, Lake Park, FL 33418.
192. "Some letters display a simple navete," according to Julia Reynolds, in an article on Holmes' secretary Sue Brown, in My Weekly, Sept. 10, 1984, "like the enquiry from a midshipman in the US Naval Academy who wrote, 'Dear Sherlock Holmes. We have just completed a study of your mysteries in our "Detectives in Fiction" course and I wonder if you would be so kind as to let me know what is your favourite mystery--from a purely logical point of view, of course. I enclose one dollar to cover postage.'" It's nice to know that our future admirals are being exposed to literature, but one does wonder about the teacher . . .
193. "I realized that no one had ever done original shows from Conan Doyle," Jeremy Brett told Judy Klemesrud (N.Y. Times, May 26, 1985). "The one exception was Basil Rathbone in 'The Hound of the Baskervilles.'" Brett also said that the Granada series has been sold to 42 countries, and that the third set of seven episodes will be filmed this fall. "And then I hang my pipes up," he said with a smile.
194. Yet another criminous Moriarty, reported by Paul C. Merz: W. Patrick Moriarty, an Orange County businessman, pleaded guilty to seven counts of fraud as part of a plea-bargain agreement with the government, and then testified against a bank official charged with conspiring with Moriarty in an alleged money-laundering scheme. But the federal jury in Los Angeles voted for acquittal. "They flat didn't believe the man," said an observer, "I would love to defend anybody with Moriarty as a complaining witness."

August 1985 #2

195. Owners of Douglas Norman's THE GHOST OF THE WIZARD OF OZ will welcome the appearance of his new collection THE SIGN OF THE FORESKIN (Watsonville: The Iron Dyke Co., 1985); the 24-page collection of limericks is available from his Agent, Mr. John Ruyle (521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707); \$27.50 (signed by the author and bound in discreet cloth) or \$12.50 (garish paper wrappers). The prospectus (Loomings from The Pequod Press, a collector's item in its own right) pronounces the book to be "unmitigated smut, the kind that makes even old Baron Dowson himself recoil in horror."
196. Julian Symons' harsh judgement of the Writings About the Writings in the 1972 edition of BLOODY MURDER: FROM THE DETECTIVE STORY TO THE CRIME NOVEL (D898b) is missing from the chapter on Sherlock Holmes in the revised edition (New York: Viking, 1985; 261 pp., \$14.95), but his appreciation of the Canon itself is unchanged: "Certainly what needs to be stressed today is something that should be a cliché, and unhappily is not: that if one were choosing the best twenty short detective stories ever written, at least half a dozen of them would be about Sherlock Holmes."
197. Vagabond Travel (665 North Plankinton Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53203) has scheduled a motor coach tour "In the Footsteps of Sherlock Holmes" from Sept. 27 to Oct. 6 at \$679.50 a person, and it's an interesting itinerary: Milwaukee, Chicago (dinner with the local S'ians), Cleveland (ditto), the Vermessa Valley and Pocono Pines (Gravesend Books) and New York (dinner with the local S'ians at Bogie's), Mystic Seaport and Gillette Castle, Hyd Park (FDR Library), Rochester (screening of the Barrymore "Sherlock Holmes" at Eastman House), Niagara Falls and Toronto (the Metropolitan Toronto Library and dinner with the local S'ians at Sherlock's on Sheppard), Detroit (a final dinner with the local S'ians), and back to Milwaukee. Robert W. Hahn will be providing commentary throughout the tour.
198. Rupert Holmes, the author of a musical adaptation of "The Mystery of Edwin Drood" that will open in Central Park on Aug. 21, was the subject of a major interview in the Washington Post (yes, Washington shuts down in August, so there's hardly anyone here worth interviewing), and the Post's photograph of Holmes shows a "Sherlock Holmes Faces Death" poster in the background. We await a report from any of our New York correspondents on possible S'ian references in the musical.
199. A SHORT ACCOUNT OF COX & CO. AT CHARING CROSS is a carefully researched 30-page monograph by James O. Duval, published in 1981 and still available for \$5.00 postpaid from Jim at 72 Merrimack Street, Penacook, NH 03303.
200. Gale Sondergaard died on Aug. 14. She won an Oscar for best supporting actress for "Anthony Adverse" (1936) and was nominated for "Anna and the King of Siam" (1946), but is best known in the S'ian world for her fine performance as Adrea Spedding in "Spider Woman" (1944).

201. THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES in Bantam's "Collection of Mystery Classics" at hand, nicely printed and bound, with a six-page introduction by John Bennett Shaw; \$9.95 plus \$1.94 shipping, and as far as I know you can get it only by signing up for their series (Box 958, Hicksville, NY 11802) and then cancelling if you don't want the non-S'ian titles to follow.
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August 1985 #3

202. Hoboken. You've all seen the agenda (on the back of the Red Circle's announcement in the last mailing, in case you haven't got round to reading the last mailing yet), so I won't go into detail on everything. About 140 on hand for the festivities (from 17 states and 2 Canadian provinces, according to one report), which makes it the largest ever of John Bennett Shaw's workshops. And it was one of the best-run, with great credit due to Herb Tinning, who was featured in the spring issue of the Stevens alumni bulletin in a photograph showing Herb swinging from a vine in Ecuador, and Bob Thomalen. Two local newspapers sent reporters to the workshop on Friday afternoon, resulting in front-page coverage on Saturday (not much is happening in Hoboken, now that Dr. Sinatra has departed), and an AP reporter was on hand as well (please send me copies of any wire-service reports you may see).
203. ZDF Television crew was on hand from Mainz to film the Saturday dinner, and they will eventually air a major documentary on Sherlock Holmes and the Sherlockian Phenomenon. They had already filmed a special SHSOL meeting in London in July, and left Hoboken in hot pursuit of John for more filming in Santa Fe. Julian and Eleanor Wolff were at the dinner, and Julian awarded an Investiture ("The St. Pancras Case") to Michael Hardwick, and there were so many toasts and so much associated entertainment that John cancelled his evening lecture to avoid interfering with the usual room parties.
204. Edith Meiser reminisced with great affection about the actors who played Holmes and Watson in her radio series (one of the nicest things about the workshop was the presence of many Manhattanites who never get to some of John's more far-flung sites). George Fletcher talked about the history (past, present, and future) of the BSJ, proudly displaying blue-line copies of the March and June 1985 issues. Harlan Umansky's tribute to the artistry of Norman Schatell was notable for a total absence of any slides showing Norman's work, but there was a fine display in one of the other rooms of Norman's splendid ritualistic and anthropological sculptures.
205. Charles A. Meyer won one of John's infamous quizzes with an astounding score of 94 (out of 100), much to John's embarrassment (and much to the despair of some of the other traditional quiz experts who scored the usual 35 or 40). And there were the traditional rumors that John won't have any more workshops, which only means that so far no one has invited him ("Have quizzes, will travel" is John's motto).
206. Extra copies of the workshop packet (with various souvenirs, fliers, pins, etc.) are available for \$6.00 postpaid from Herbert P. Tinning, 80 Pine Street, Millburn, NJ 07041. [N.Y. Times, Aug. 10]
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August 1985 #4

207. Andy Jaysnovitch (6 Dana Estates Drive, Parlin, NJ 08859) the second volume in his series of videocassettes from the 1954 television series starring Ronald Howard and H. Marion Crawford. The new cassette contains "Pennsylvania Gun", "Reluctant Carpenter", "Belligerent Ghost", and "Careless Suffragette", and costs \$29.95 postpaid (be sure to specify VHS or Beta format). The first cassette (with "Eiffel Tower", "Exhumed Client", "Night Train Riddle", and "Harry Crocker") is still available at the same price.
208. Ray Walsh's THE MYCROFT MEMORANDA is now available in an American edition (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1984; 186 pp., \$11.95); Sherlock Holmes yet again in pursuit of Jack the Ripper.
209. Reported: SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE CASE OF DR. FREUD, by Michael Shepherd (New York: Methuen, 1985; \$5.95 in wrappers); "the similarities between Holmes and Freud have been remarked by several observers . . . Shepherd brings together a large body of fact and theory to argue that the association is not fortuitous" (can be ordered direct from the publisher's sales department, 29 West 35th Street, New York, NY 10001).
210. "The Happenstance at Humberstone Hollow" will be an Agatha Christie Weekend ("1929...it started out as a family reunion of the high and mighty from which some never returned...") on Oct. 11-13 at the Hotel Stamford Plaza (2701 Summer Street, Stamford, CT 06905; \$175.00); Tyke and Teddie Niver helped arrange the last mystery weekend at the Stamford Plaza, and may be involved in this one. Tyke and Teddie took a brief vacation from Sherlock's Music, visiting Disneyworld and staying in the "Tonga" section of the Polynesian Village, and report that one of the souvenir shops had a miniature (5x7") pub sign for The Sherlock Holmes (made by the Mini Pub Sign Company, Gosport PO12 3RE, England).
211. There are two variants of the first printing of the first American edition of Dorothy L. Sayers' THE OMNIBUS OF CRIME (New York: Payson and Clarke, 1929) [D182a]; in the first variant the printing on pages [2] and [4] is toward the top of the pages, and in the second variant the printing is toward the bottom of the pages. Comparison with later (Garden City) editions suggests that the first variant has precedence.
212. Dick Lesh, who reported (July 85 #2) on a hi-fi German recording of POLYPHONIC MOTETS OF LASSUS, now reports that the record is sold out. But he can supply a high-quality stereo tape for \$10.00 postpaid, from Richard D. Lesh, 2631 Flintridge Place, Fort Collins, CO 80521. And LITERARY HOUSES: TEN FAMOUS HOUSES IN FICTION, by Rosalind Ashe (New York: Facts on File, 1982) is now available for \$5.98 plus shipping from Publishers Central Bureau (Dept. 357), One Champion Avenue, Avenel, NJ 07131; one of the houses is Baskerville Hall. Also from PCB (Dept. 353): "Mr. Magoo's Storybook" on videocassette at \$16.95 plus shipping; includes D6098b (with Mr. Magoo as Dr. Watson) and three other episodes (Frankenstein, the Count of Monte Criso, and Dick Tracy).
213. Ed McBain's THE HECKLER is back in print (New American Library/Signet paperback, \$2.95), and recommended for its intriguing use of the plot of "RedH".
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August 1985 #5

214. The five programs from Agatha Christie's "Partners in Crime" that aired on PBS-TV at the end of 1984 were only half of the series; ten programs were done in England, including "The Case of the Missing Lady" (which has the most S'ian flavor of all the stories in the book). The ten programs are available on videocassettes (\$24.95 each) from Pacific Arts Video Records, Box 22770, Carmel, CA 93922; they also offer a two-hour videocassette (\$59.95) of "The Secret Adversary" (Christie's novel about Tommy and Tuppence Beresford). And a 67-minute videocassette (\$59.95) of "Sherlock Holmes and the Baskerville Curse" (the Australian animation with Peter O'Toole doing the voice of Holmes); the other three long stories are due for issue soon, along with "Barbara Woodhouse Goes to Beverly Hills" (a 60-minute TV program broadcast by ITV/London on Dec. 30, 1981, with a 4-minute segment on lost-pet detective Sherlock Bones).
215. GUIDE BOOK AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE ASCENT OF HOLMES PEAK, by Richard S. Warner (Tulsa: Perceivers Press, 1985; 16 pp., \$4.00 postpaid from the author, 3168 South Rockford Drive, Tulsa, OK 74105); issued to celebrate the formal dedication of Holmes Peak, located northwest of Tulsa and towering 314 meters above sea level, and the only landmark named in honor of Sherlock Holmes with the official approval of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names. Recommended.
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216. THE ADVENTURE OF THE ECTOPLASMIC MAN, by Daniel Stashower (New York: William Morrow, 1985; 203 pp., \$12.95); yet another long-lost manuscript, setting Sherlock Holmes and Harry Houdini in pursuit of a thief whose crimes threatens both the monarchy and Houdini's reputation. Stashower's style and execution are no match for Watson's, but the story is entertaining.
217. The Heron Classics Series, published in England, includes the complete Canon in six attractive volumes: ADVENTURES (#345), CASE BOOK (#346), HIS LAST BOW and VALL (#347), MEMOIRS and HOUN (#348), RETURN (#349), STUD and SIGN (#350). The books are available from the Strand Book Store, 828 Broadway, New York, NY 10003, at \$2.95 each (plus \$2.00 shipping per order); they take plastic if your order totals at least \$15.00.
218. Flier at hand from Capra Press (Box 2068, Santa Barbara, CA 93120) announcing Nov. 15 as the publication date for Howard Lachtman's SHERLOCK SLEPT HERE: BEING A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE SINGULAR ADVENTURES OF SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE IN AMERICA, WITH SOME OBSERVATIONS UPON THE EXPLOITS OF MR. SHERLOCK HOLMES (\$10.95 postpaid).
219. ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE, by Don Richard Cox (New York: Frederick Ungar, 1985; 251 pp., \$15.50); a survey of ACD's life and literary work, intended for students of literature, about 60% devoted to the Canon and 40% to his other fiction and non-fiction, with detailed plot summaries and some discussion.
220. The March and June 1985 issues of the BSJ exist in actual copies as well as blue-lines, Philip Shreffler reports with a well-deserved sigh of relief, and subscribers should receive them as soon as arrangements for a second-class mailing permit are completed. Non-subscribers can become subscribers by sending \$12.50 to the Fordham University Press, University Box L, Bronx, NY 10458.

August 1985 #6

221. Further to my earlier mention (May 85 #4) of audio-cassette readings from the Canon by Robert Hardy, there are four two-cassette packages, priced at £5.95 each in England, and Hardy does a splendid job; I've seen a few of them in stores here, and am trying to track down the distributor. FOUR SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES (Argo SAY 2) has 3Stu, Suss, Gree, and Chas; MORE SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES (Argo SAY 98) has Dyin, Shos, Musg, and Croo; MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Argo SAY 108) has Yell, Stoc, Glor, and Fina; and THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Argo SAY 109) has Empt, Soli, RedC, and Maza.
222. Helen Heinrich (7 Palfrey Street, Stony Brook, NY 11790) reports plans for a celebration at the Garden City Hotel in Garden City on Long Island on Oct. 19 (with due honors to Sherlock Holmes, of course); write to Helen for a copy of their flier.
223. THE PENGUIN CLASSIC CRIME OMNIBUS, edited by Julian Symons (New York: Penguin Books, 1984; 378 pp., \$5.95), is a fine anthology, with "Copp" and Edward D. Hoch's ingenious pastiche "The Most Dangerous Man" (D5992b).
224. A timely warning from Paul Merz on "The Edison Twins: The Case of the Missing Guitar", a 30-minute TV program scheduled for the Disney Channel on Sept. 1 and 5. "There's a mysterious stranger in town! He has a deerstalker hat, an Inverness cape, and an uncanny ability to solve mysteries." It's elementary that Joseph Bell will be a big help to the Edison twins in unriddling the first two cases in this three-part serial. "The Case of the Odd Job" will air Sept. 21, and you can learn Bell's identity in the third episode, in October.
225. Carol Brener reports in her latest newsletter/saleslist that her special list of S'iana is now available; send SASE to Murder Ink, 271 West 87th Street, New York, NY 10024.
226. Reported by Ron De Waal: one-hour audio cassettes of "Five" (#8869) and "Norw" (#8870), read by Hugh A. Rose; \$8.95 each at Waldenbooks [you may be able to order these on plastic by calling 800-543-1300 operator 390].
227. Reported by John Bennett Shaw: "The Adventures of the Red Leech", a pastiche by Fraser Sherman, in Eldritch Tales #11 (1051 Wellington Road, Lawrence, KS 66044; \$6.00 postpaid).
228. "New York is no place for a civilized man," according to H. L. Mencken. "Nothing good has ever come out of it, and nothing good ever will come out of it. It degrades, it vulgarizes, it dehydrates, it demolishes, it belittles -- it is a sewer, a cesspool, a garbage can. . . All I can say in favor of New York . . . is that it's better than Boston." Other than providing a bit of cheer for most of the readers of these information sheets, there is a S'ian context for the quote, which appears in part IX of "The Clendening Investigation", a continuing series by Jon L. Lellenberg in The Kansas City Daily Journal, the scion newsletter of The Great Alkali Plainsmen, all in honor of one of the more energetic, as well as eccentric, early S'ians.

September 85 #1

229. Discovered by Jon Lellenberg: THE BOOK BOOK, by Steven Gilbar (New York: Bell Publishing Co., 1985); "a compendium of lists, quizzes, and trivia about books," with a number of references to ACD and SH, including "Writing Holmes for Money or Sherlock You Survived: 10 Best". The ten best, according to Gilbar, are: THE CASE OF THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE (Collins); THE EXPLOITS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Doyle and Carr); DR. JEKYLL & MR. HOLMES (Estleman); THE INCREDIBLE SHLOCK HOMES (Fish); SHERLOCK HOLMES OF BAKER STREET (Baring-Gould); THE RETURN OF MORIARTY (Gardner); I, SHERLOCK HOLMES (Harrison); EXIT SHERLOCK HOLMES (Hall); ENTER THE CASE (Hodel and Wright); THE SEVEN PER CENT SOLUTION (Meyer); THE HOLMES-DRACULA FILE (Saberhagen); and THE PRIVATE LIFE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Starrett). The authors, intended to be listed in alphabetical order, aren't; have you spotted five additional mistakes in Gilbar's list?
230. The S'ian gathering at the Garden City Hotel on Long Island on Oct. 19 starts with brunch in the Vanderbilt Room and ends with a tour of historic Garden City, all for \$30.00; there's a deadline of Oct. 1 for reservations, but you might be able to squeeze in; contact Helen Heinrich, 7 Palfrey Street, Stony Brook, NY 11790 (516-751-5054).
231. The program for Bouchercon XVI (in San Francisco, Oct. 25-27) will include The Sherlock Holmes Hour. According to their newsletter: a surprise or two here; perhaps the Master himself will be in attendance to answer questions put to him by the Literary Agent A. C. Doyle.
232. The Heron Classics Series set of the Canon in six volumes (August 85 #5) turns out to be a reprint of THE SHERLOCK HOLMES COLLECTED EDITION from John Murray/Jonathan Cape (D287b), with occasional illustrations added. And three of the volumes (ADVENTURES, CASE BOOK, and MEMOIRS/HOUND) are no longer available from the Strand Book Store. A few years back, Heron advertised the set in seven volumes, but I don't know if it was actually issued in that format.
233. Steven Spielberg's "Young Sherlock Holmes" is reported scheduled for release on Dec. 6. According to Paul Attanasio of the Washington Post, "everyone who's seen it agrees that the Chris Columbus script is a wow."
234. Alvin E. Rodin reports a "Sherlock Mobile Homes" sales office near Dallas. Do you all check for "Sherlock" in the business listings in the new telephone book each year? In addition, of course, to the annual search for a "Garrideb" in the personal listings; is it really possible that there are *no* Garridebs?
235. THE SUPREME ADVENTURE OF INSPECTOR LESTRADE, by M. J. Trow (New York: Stein and Day, 1985; \$14.95); the American edition of a British pastiche "with the bold inspector one of the best policemen in London and Holmes a shambling amateur being wrecked by drugs," a first novel written by Trow because "he was annoyed at the way Inspector Lestrade has always been depicted as one of the world's losers."

236. John E. Carroll reports that Evelyn Ankers died on Aug. 30; she played Kitty in "Sherlock Holmes and the Voice of Terror" (1942) and Naomi Drake in "The Pearl of Death" (1944).

September 85 #2

237. Did everyone spot the five additional mistakes in Gilbar's list of "10 Best"? The correct titles should be THE CASE OF THE PHILOSOPHER'S RING, THE INCREDIBLE SCHLOCK HOMES, ENTER THE LION, and THE SEVEN-PER-CENT SOLUTION. That's four; what about the fifth mistake?
238. The Mind's Eye (Box 6727, San Francisco, CA 94101; 800-227-2020) offers 12 of the 1954 Gielgud/Richardson radio programs on six cassettes for \$29.95 (plus \$3.00 shipping); they take plastic.
239. Pam N. Bentien (42 Garner Street, Cohoes, NY 12047) offers a S'ian notepad, with 50 sheets (that's the illustration, at the left), for \$1.50 postpaid. Can you identify the artist and the case?
240. The SHSOL's 1985 Christmas card will feature "The Cab-Stand Loafer" drawn by H. M. Brock for George R. Sims' book LIVING LONDON. Ten cards with envelopes cost \$7.00 postpaid (checks payable to The Sherlock Holmes Society of London) from Capt. W. R. Michell, The Old Crown Inn, Lopen, South Petherton, Somerset TA13 5JX, England.
241. Waldenbooks has a Waldentapes double-cassette (\$14.95) package of Poul Anderson's THE GUARDIANS OF TIME (D5794a), read by Fred Melamed.
242. "The Adventures of the Red Leech", a pastiche by Fraser Sherman, in Eldritch Tales #11 (1051 Wellington Road, Lawrence, KS 66044; \$6.00) (checks payable to Crispin Burnham).
243. The second edition of Owen Dudley Edwards' THE QUEST FOR SHERLOCK HOLMES (Harmondworth: Penguin Books, 1984; 380 pp., £4.95) has a new two-page author's note correcting a few of the errors in the first edition and suggesting that "it is a pity that such reviewers as disliked the book did not use their space for the discovery and denunciation of these errors instead of merely repeating one another's aesthetic preferences."
244. I've been playing with The Souvenir Edition again, concentrating on A STUDY IN SCARLET; this is the George Newnes edition with the attractive "Egyptian" design on the cover (with or without SOUVENIR EDITION on the title page), and I'd like to hear from people who have copies of A STUDY IN SCARLET, in hopes of identifying additional variants. I know that some of you have copies, and have enclosed a more formal query for you with this mailing; if there are others out there, please let me know. Eventually I will get round to the other titles in The Souvenir Edition, but for now I am interested in A STUDY IN SCARLET.
245. Baker's Plays (100 Chauncy Street, Boston, MA 02111) is now the distributor for Performance Publishing Co., and their latest catalog includes two additional items of interest. R. H. Bibolet's SHERLOCK HOLMES' FIRST CASE (D4463b) is a lively two-act combination of four cases (Musg, Five, Croo, and Copp), and Jurgen Wolff's OLD DETECTIVES NEVER DIE involves an aged Holmes in a one-act comedy for younger actors.
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September 85 #3

246. SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE CASE OF DR. FREUD, by Michael Shepherd (New York: Tavistock/Methuen, 1985; 31 pp., \$5.95); Holmes and Freud are described as "two magi meeting appropriately in the no-man's-land between fact and fiction" in an entertaining monograph based on a lecture at the Institute of Psychiatry in London in 1984.
247. Reported by Ron De Waal: a new edition of ROUND THE FIRE MYSTERIES from Greenhill Books (208 pp., £7.95); this is D831a retitled, with "The Man with the Watches" and "The Lost Special". From Lionel Leventhal Limited, 206 Hampstead High Street, London NW3 1QQ, England. Also: MURDER IN THE FIRST REEL, edited by Bill Pronzini, Charles G. Waugh, and Martin Harry Greenberg, with an Introduction by Isaac Asimov (New York: Avon Books, 1985); contents include "Musg". Also: "RedH" included in LITERATURE: BLUE LEVEL, edited by David W. Foote and Brenda Pierce Perkins (Evanston: McDougal, Littell & Co., 1984); with teacher's manual (McDougal, Littell & Co., Box 1667, Evanston, IL 60204). Also: Michael and Mollie Hardwick's adaptation of "Dyin" (D5243a) and Isaac Asimov's limerick on "Dyin" (D1942b) in CASCADE: CURRICULUM AND WRITING, edited by Richard J. Smith and Max F. Schulz (New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1982); with teachers manual. Also: Olive J. Morley's adaptation of "Seco" (D4501b) in THE WORLD ANTHOLOGY, edited by Robert R. Potter and Roger B. Goodman (New York: Globe Book Co., 1983); address is 50 West 23rd Street, New York, NY 10010.
248. THE AFFAIR OF THE UNPRINCIPLED PUBLISHER, a pastiche by Lawrence Garland reporting on an encounter between Thomas J. Wise and Sherlock Holmes, was published by Oak Knoll Books in 1983 in an attractive hand-printed 21-page pamphlet; copies are still available at \$37.00 postpaid from Paulette Greene, 140 Princeton Road, Rockville Centre, NY 11570.
249. John Keane ("Sherlock Bones") has computerized his business, according to an article in Atari Explorer, summer 1985, and he is now using his Atari 800XL to write a manual that covers the petfinding business from A to Z. "If you'd like to use your electronic Watson to start your own petfinding agency, call Sherlock at 415-788-1137, or use your word processor to write him at: 20 Darrel Place, San Francisco, CA 94133."
250. Geoff Bradley (9 Vicarage Hill, South Benfleet, Essex SS7 1PA, England) has published the first issue of CADS: Crime and Detective Stories, a 56-page fanzine much in the format of Ethel Lindsay's The Mystery Trader and Allen J. Hubin's original version of The Armchair Detective. Catherine Cooke's "A Couple of Minutes from Baker Street" is a report on the collection at the Marylebone Library, and Paulette Greene has a bibliographic query on an unusual variant of MYSTERY (the 1952 anthology that includes a reprint of D4446a). \$3.00 (currency) or \$4.00 (dollar check) for the issue.
251. A newsletter for pipesmokers reports that the Tinder Box chain has been acquired by Vilizan Cigar, U.S. Tobacco Co., and other creditors. "Speculation is that Tinder Box, which moved from a pipe and tobacco shop into other areas, will be brought back into the main stream for tobacco users." Meanwhile, their latest catalog offers the hand-crafted wooden Sherlock Holmes clock (\$185.00) and the hand-carved "Sherlock Holmes/Dr. Watson" pair of meerschaum pipes (\$160.00). Tinder Box, P.O. Box 830, Santa Monica, CA 90406.
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September 85 #4

252. Correcting my report (August 85 #3) on the Hoboken workshop, Michael Hardwick was Investitured as "The Sign of the Four". "The St. Pancras Case" was awarded earlier to James J. De Stefano. And I neglected to mention that Julian made a special award to John Bennett Shaw: the Queen Victoria Medal, produced by the Royal Mint in 1897 for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and awarded only rarely by the BSI.
253. Alvin E. Rodin continues to keep the memory green; on Sept. 20 he was at the University of Manitoba's Department of Pathology, lecturing on "Permeation of Medicine by a Literary Character: Arthur Conan Doyle's Master Detective, Mr. Sherlock Holmes". And Richard L. Kellogg contributed an article on "Heredity and the Great Detective" to the fall 1985 issue of Network: The Newsletter for Psychology Teachers at Two-Year Colleges.
254. It was Dean W. Dickensheet's suggestion, in his speculations "Upon the Victorian Reticence of John H. Watson, M.D." (Baker Street Miscellanea, summer 1980) that Watson's description of the abuse suffered by Beryl Stapleton was "a fine piece of periphrastic obfuscation." A more detailed account is now at hand from J. C. Charles, in "The Ordeal of Beryl Stapleton," a rather graphic seven-page extract from Watson's notes available (to adults only) for \$4.75 postpaid from The Filmoods Co., Box 475, Scarsdale, NY 10583.
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255. Thanks to all who sent copies of the Associated Press Dispatch by Bob McHugh on the Hoboken workshop; it ran on Aug. 11 in the Cleveland Plain Dealer, Dayton Daily News, Marion (Ind.) Chronicle-Tribune, Chicago Sun-Times, Tulsa World, and Galveston Daily News, and on Aug. 15 in the San Francisco Examiner. Any others out there?
256. The Boy's Own Paper, in which a number of Conan Doyle's stories were first published, from 1883 to 1887, had a weekly "Correspondence" column; it did not publish letters from readers, but rather only the editors' answers to those letters. The Feb. 19, 1887, column included this poignant item: "JIM.--Your pigeon is dead by now, so we need not reply. Nursing young pigeons that go light is a thankless task."
257. "It is astonishing how this old and worn-out story, which I must have first read more than 50 years ago, gripped my attention and held it in suspense until I reached the last page . . . I was again under the spell of a master craftsman of the storyteller's art, as I had been when first reading 'The White Company' in my early teens, or when I had to refrain from reading my sister's copy of the 'Last Tales of Sherlock Holmes' for fear of coming upon the passage where Holmes is pushed, apparently to his death, over the cliff by Professor Moriarty." Barbara Tuchman, in the Christian Science Monitor, Aug. 5, 1985.
258. Subscribers have now received the March and June 1985 issues of the BSJ, so if you haven't, you aren't. And if you don't renew for 1985, you won't find out what else editor Shreffler has accomplished. There *is* a December 1984 issue, somewhere, and it will arrive, eventually, and I'm sure that both editor and publisher will appreciate your not cluttering up their mailboxes with anguished enquiries that aren't accompanied by checks for subscription renewals.

September 85 #5

259. Richard Masloski (24 Lannis Avenue, Newburgh, NY 12550) continues to turn out fine Sherlockian sculptures (cast in Hydrocal with bronze patina): his 17" seated Holmes costs \$125.00 (UPS paid); the 12" bust of Holmes costs \$95.00 (UPS paid).
260. Edgar Wallace was a fine writer, as well as one of the most prolific in modern literature, and there is a S'ian connection (he wrote the dialog for the film of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" in 1932). The Edgar Wallace Society publishes a quarterly newsletter which will be of interest to his admirers; membership costs £7.00 (checks to John A. Hogan, 7 Devonshire Close, Amersham, Bucks. HP6 5JG, England).
261. The second set of Granada broadcasts started in England on Aug. 25 with "Copp" and is continuing weekly.
262. "In my opinion, Holmes is one of the truly great comic characters in our literature . . . he is the classic caricature of the Amateur Detective, in whose person the whole art of detection is made ridiculous. I don't believe that Doyle consciously intended this ridicule - and yet it is what makes Holmes lovable and immortal." Christopher Isherwood, in EXHUMATIONS (D2062a).
263. Topics covered in the Victorian Military History Institute's monthly newsletter and quarterly journal range from "the organisation of the British army during this period to the Zulu Wars of South Africa, from the war correspondents who covered 'Queen Victoria's little wars' for the newspapers of the day to the Afghan Wars on India's Northwest Frontier, from the grand strategies to the individuals on all levels," according to a flier recently at hand. Membership in the society costs \$25.00 a year, and a sample issue of its newsletter is available for a 39c SASE sent to Jerry L. Russell, Box 7401, Little Rock, AR 72217.
264. Are you still trying to spot the last mistake in Gilbar's list? There are 12 books on his list of "10 Best".
265. Adaptations of the Canon for young readers require both simple text and striking illustrations, and the combination is not often found. One of the best examples is the "Sherlock Holmes Library" (Empt, Spec, Fina, and RedH), adapted by David Eastman and illustrated by Allan Eitzen in four 32-page books priced at \$2.50 each in the current catalog from Troll Associates, 320 Route 17, Mahwah, NJ 07430.
266. "Lord Mountbatten: The Last Viceroy" is scheduled on Masterpiece Theatre on PBS-TV in Jan. 1986, with two S'ian actors in the cast: Nicol Williamson will play Mountbatten, and Ian Richardson will play Jawaharlal Nehru.

September 85 #6

267. The spring 1985 issue of Baker Street Miscellanea at hand, with much on and by Michael Harrison, and a fine excerpt from Chris Redmond's work-in-progress on ACD's 1894 tour of the United States. \$7.50 a year (quarterly) from The Sciolist Press, Box 2579, Chicago, IL 60690.
268. THE SEARCH FOR KING PUP'S TOMB, by Jim and Mary Razzi, with illustrations by Ted Enik (New York: Bantam Skylark, 1985; 62 pp., \$2.25); Sherlock Bones and his old friend Scotson again, in a pleasant children's book. INSPECTOR KETCHEM'S CRIME BOOK, by Robert Quackenbush (New York: Avon/Camelot, 1984; 48 pp., \$2.25), is only faintly S'ian (one of the 20 short puzzles is "The Hound of Baskerville Mystery").
269. Stein and Day (Scarborough House, Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510) have sent a mailing to scions offering M. J. Trow's THE SUPREME ADVENTURE OF INSPECTOR LESTRADE (September 85 #1) to scion members at a 20% discount (from the \$14.95 retail) on orders placed by Oct. 31; they take plastic.
270. Gerald Shannon has prepared a 5th first day cover for The Prof. Moriarty Memorial Society, with one of this month's commemorative stamps showing horses and a cachet with a Paget illustration. \$1.00 each, plus a #10 SASE, to Shannon at Box 14474, West Allis, WI 53214.
271. James Powell's series of stories about the great detective Ambrose Ganelon has been running for a while in EQMM -- and there's is a new villain in "The Bridge of Traded Dreams" (Dec. 1985): Prof. Moriarty.
272. Chris Caswell (Sherlock's Home, 5614 East Second Street, Long Beach, CA 90803) has a new pewter tie-tack/lapel-pin with SH in high relief (\$6.98), and much more, in his new catalog, available on request.
273. Reported by Richard G. Smith: the Steinbach "Sherlock Holmes" nutcracker (12" high) at \$65.00 in the mail-order catalog from Red Wing Pottery Sales, Red Wing, Minn. (800-328-1115).
274. Rohn Porcelain Inc. (2731 North West Avenue, Elmhurst, IL 60126) is offering a Sherlock Holmes (high-fired, hand-decorated, 9" high including wood base) designed by Ed Rohn at \$155.00 plus \$2.00 UPS; they take plastic, and offer a 10% discount on orders of ten or more. Their promo includes recommendations from Bob Hahn and Tom Joyce.
275. "A Sherlockian Treatment of the Mystery to the Dedication of Shakespeare's Sonnets", by R. F. Fleissner, in Clues: A Journal of Detection, spring-summer 1985 (Bowling Green University Popular Press, Bowling Green, OH 43404).
276. Magico Magazine plans a return to magazine publishing. The Scrapbook was the first venture, with two quarterly issues published in 1980 at \$5.00 an issue (the first issue was limited to 35 copies). Now Kelvin I. Jones has been asked to edit The Sherlockian, a new quarterly that is intended to "offer the highest level of scholarship in addition to quizzes, pastiches and book reviews," and to "rival such well established organs of The Higher Criticism as The Baker Street Journal, Baker Street Miscellanea, and The Sherlock Holmes Journal."

October 1985 #1

277. Anyone interested in truly rustic living might want to try a log home. Details available from Sher-Lock Log Homes, Box 1101, Ellsworth, ME 04605.

278. Roy H. Bobbin's "Maltese Falcon Hunt Society" is now the "Mystery Hunt Society" and the first issue of his quarterly newsletter "Mystery Hunt" presents an overview of the burgeoning mystery weekend craze. A special issue on S'ian activities is in the works. \$10.00 a year; Roy's address is 988 Faris Drive, San Jose, CA 95111.
279. THE PRIVATE EYE CARTOON BOOK, by Marc Bilgrey (New York: Andrion Books, 1985; \$7.00); a collection of amusing cartoons (one S'ian), with a suggestion that Los Angeles is "Cleveland with palm trees." Available from the publisher, 230 Park Avenue #1624, New York, NY 10169.
280. Articles about the 35th birthday of "Peanuts" serve as a reminder of the childhood enthusiasms of Charles M. Schulz. In PEANUTS JUBILEE: MY LIFE AND ART WITH CHARLIE BROWN AND OTHERS (New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1975), Schulz said that "in my high school years, I became a Sherlock Holmes fanatic and used to buy scrapbooks at the local five-and-dime and fill them with Sherlock Holmes stories in comic-book form." And in his contribution to BOOKS I READ WHEN I WAS YOUNG, edited by Bernice Cullinan and M. Jerry Weiss (New York: Avon Books, 1980), Schulz wrote, "When I was a teenager, the three books that gave me the most enjoyment and probably led me on to more reading were the Sherlock Holmes stories, *Beau Geste*, and *Ivanhoe*."
281. Paramount Pictures Corp. has given a hint of its target audience for "Young Sherlock Holmes" in a "Dear Sherlock Holmes fan" letter sent to societies this month. They want to know how many members of your fan club are under 25 years old, and how many over 25 years old.
282. The Santa Teresa Press (Pepper & Stern, Box 2711, Santa Barbara, CA 93120) is planning Dec. 1985 publication of a facsimile of Marvin P. Epstein's manuscript of "The Priory School" accompanied by an original essay by Len Deighton on Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes. 350 numbered copies at \$45.00 (the 26 deluxe lettered copies at \$165.00 are already sold out).
283. Otto Penzler's "Holiday Catalogue" at hand (with a section on S'iana); available from The Mysterious Bookshop, 129 West 56th Street, New York, NY 10019.
284. If you have not received the Sept. 1985 issue of the BSI, you didn't renew your subscription (or you have a malevolent mailman).
285. "Old Baron Dowson has gone on another rampage, this time revealing the secret Ritual Chants of the Tide-waiters of San Francisco Bay," and The Pequod Press is now publishing the true and authentic version of THE TIDE-WAITERS' RITUAL (16 pp.; \$25.00 hardbound, \$10.00 paperbound); order from John Ruyle, 521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707.

October 1985 #2

286. Steven Spielberg is having troubles, according to a report by Marilyn Beck in the San Francisco Examiner (Sept. 19, 1985, forwarded by Ted Schulz). The troubles are "the sort every filmmaker would love to have. He's got three movies scheduled to open within days of each other in December (Paramount's 'Young Sherlock Holmes,' Universal's 'The Money Pit' and Warner Bros.' 'The Color Purple') and is trying convince the studios to spread out the release dates so the flicks don't compete against one another.
287. Ted also reports an interesting real-estate offer at 2151 Sacramento Street in San Francisco: the "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Townhouse" described as one of San Francisco's noteworthy architectural houses. "This luxurious townhouse was built in 1881 and was once occupied by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle," according to the offer; the townhouse has since been converted into three apartments and is available for \$1.3 million. ACD never lived in the house, but he was a visitor, in June 1923, to meet Dr. Albert Abrams, who did live there. Abrams had invented a "radio heterodyne" that he used to detect cancer, syphilis, and other diseases, and ACD was greatly impressed. He discusses his visit to San Francisco, and Abrams, in OUR SECOND AMERICAN ADVENTURE (1924).
288. In case you didn't recognize the dot-matrixing, those were my labels on the sales list you received from Ilene Fauer at US 2 -- and the sales list was labeled and mailed here per my policy of keeping firm control over the mailing list.
289. Andrew Malec's illustrated, 16-page catalog for "Investigating Sherlock Holmes," the traveling exhibit now on tour in Minnesota, is available for \$4.25 postpaid. Checks payable to the University of Minnesota Art Museum and sent to the UMAM, attn: Cori Kulzer, 110 Northrop Auditorium, 84 Church Street SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455.
290. "Sleuth Nero Wolfe, Minus His Author, Takes on a New Case" was the headline in the Wall Street Journal (Oct. 14, 1985) on Steve Weiner's story about the decision by Rex Stout's heirs to authorize a new novel by Robert Goldsborough. The story also touched on other detectives, quoting John Bennett Shaw on S'ian pastiches and parodies: "Many have been dreadful, he says, placing Holmes in the wrong city, century, or state of mind."
291. Foreign Affairs (559 Potter Boulevard, Brightwaters, NY 11718) offers a well-illustrated catalog featuring S'ian collectibles such as sculptures by Richard Masloski and Jay Piersanti, and figurines by Cassin-Scott and Imrie-Risley.
292. The S'ian world benefited greatly from the talents of Orson Welles, who died on Oct. 11. In 1938 he adapted Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" and played the title role in the broadcast on his Mercury Theatre on the Air (D4583b), and in 1954 he was a fine Moriarty in the BBC broadcast of "The Final Problem" (D5338a).
293. Andy Jaysnovitch (6 Dana Estates Drive, Parlin, NJ 08859) continues to expand his sales list of the 1954 Ronald Howard TV shows; a third cassette (with D5525a, D5528a, D5532a, D5542a) is now available for \$32.95 postpaid.

October 1985 #3

294. Videotape alert: "A Cotswold Death" will be broadcast on cable by the Arts & Entertainment Network on Dec. 4 and Dec. 11, 1985. This is a 1981 BBC television program, and Mike Whelan has reported many S'ian references. According to the press sheet: "Ian Richardson plays Inspector Anthony Arrowsmith who bemoans the fact that he is the last in the honoured tradition of gentlemen sleuths. He arrogantly plays 'Sherlock Holmes' to his hapless 'Dr Watson' - the harrassed but capable Detective-Sergeant Baxter (Timothy Spall)."
295. A new aerogram will be issued on Dec. 4, honoring Halley's Comet, Mark Twain, and the centennial of the publication of THE ADVENTURES OF HUCKLEBERRY FINN. There is mention of "a comet vintage" in the Canon (Stoc), and Mark Twain was the author of "The Double-Barrelled Detective Story" (D6128a).
296. Reported by Jim Duval: a S'ian greeting card on p. 41 in a catalog from Current Inc., Express Processing Center, Colorado Springs, CO 80941; it's one in a set of eight cards for \$1.85.
297. SHERLOCK HOLMES AT THE 1902 FIFTH TEST MATCH, by Stanley Shaw (London: W. H. Allen, 1985; 160 pp., £8.95); a pastiche featuring an Australian who arrives in England just in time to become involved, with a credibly drawn Sherlock Holmes, in a mystery connected with one of the most famous matches in the history of cricket (a sport described here, as is traditional, in language as incomprehensible as Frisian or Catalan).
298. "The Mis-Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" is a 30-minute radio series parodying old-time radio, broadcast by WBAI-FM (New York) beginning in 1983; a number of episodes are available at \$5.00 postpaid for each cassette, and list of programs can be requested from Denouement Productions, 1 Michael Avenue, Kendall park, NJ 08824.

299. Great Britain has issued a set of five commemoratives honoring British Film Greats, including David Niven and Charles Chaplin. Neither actor performed in S'ian films, but they did perform in S'ian plays.
300. "Rosemary Herbert is distinguished by having successfully disguised herself as a man in order to attend a full meeting of a Baker Street Irregulars banquet. When the group--to remain unidentified--toasted '*the* woman,' she rose and said, 'Here, here!'--while the company looked on, unaware of the cuckoo in the nest." From the fall 1985 issue of *The Armchair Detective*, whose editor is presumably unaware that there is no toast to *The* Woman at the annual dinner of the BSI (that toast is made during the pre-dinner cocktail hour, when the anteroom is so crowded that it is impossible to sit, much less rise to the occasion). Her interview with Jeremy Brett, published in the same issue (with a color photograph of Brett as Holmes on the cover), is a fine one. TAD is costs \$20.00 a year; 129 West 56th Street, New York, NY 10019.
301. *YOUNG SHERLOCK: THE ADVENTURE AT FERRYMAN'S CREEK*, by Gerald Frow (London: Dragon/Granada Publishing, 1984; 140 pp., £1.50); the second adaptation from the ITV television series. Young Sherlock, now 18, is in Lincolnshire investigating an ancient curse and a modern mystery.

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302. Carole Naddeo reports that Pacific Arts Video now offers all four of the long stories (animated) on videocassettes with Peter O'Toole as the voice of Holmes; distributed by MCA to your local videostores. Carole also reports that Conan Doyle was featured on CBS-TV on Oct. 9 in their 60-second "American Treasury" spot, keyed to the public reaction to his story in Cornhill on the mystery of the Marie Celeste.
303. *ENCYCLOPEDIA OF MYSTERY AND DETECTION*, edited by Chris Steinbrunner and Otto Penzler (San Diego: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1984; 436 pp., \$13.95); a trade paperback reprint of an important reference work (D1861b).
304. Kelvin I. Jones (18 Ross Street, Rochester, Kent ME1 2DF, England) writes that he welcome unsolicited submissions for *The Sherlockian* (September 85 #6); no decision yet on the publication date and price for the magazine.
305. Bowling Green State University Popular Press (Bowling Green, OH 43403) is having an inventory-reduction sale (ending Dec. 30); their list includes John Ball's *THE MYSTERY STORY* (D609b) and Elliot L. Gilbert's *THE WORLD OF MYSTERY FICTION* (D98b) at \$1.00 each, and other mystery titles at similar prices.
306. Canadians are fortunate -- the new Granada series has started there. The series has been announced for Jan. 2, 1986, in the U.S.
307. The 1986 Sherlock Holmes Calendar from *Sherlockian Enterprises* (Frank A. Hoffmann, 734 Richmond Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14222) will honor international Holmesians; \$9.00 postpaid. Calendars for 1982-1985 are still available at \$7.25 each postpaid.
308. More on the "Heron" series (August 85 #5 and September 85 #1): I don't know anyone who ordered the set who got all the volumes, and I'm not sure why, as the people I've heard seem to have received different titles in their short sets. Ron De Waal reports that the set was first issued in 1982 in eight volumes (with *STUD* and *SIGN* in one volume). In the new six-volume issue, *MEMOIRS* and *HOUN* are in one volume, and *HIS LAST BOW* and *VALL* are in one volume, and there are minor differences on the title pages and title-page versos; I don't know if Sheilagh Noble's frontispiece was in the 1982 set.
309. Reported from England: *THE FURTHER ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES*, edited by Richard Lancelyn Green (Penguin, £2.50); a selection of the best S'ian pastiches. *LETTERS TO SHERLOCK HOLMES*, edited by Richard Lancelyn Green (Penguin, £4.95, in November); a selection of letters from the Abbey files. *LETTERS TO THE PRESS*, by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, edited by John Michael Gibson and Richard Lancelyn Green (Secker & Warburg, £15.00, in November).
310. A-1 Adventure Travel (1099 Bower Hill Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15243) is advertising an excursion to England "In the Footsteps of Sherlock Holmes" on Mar. 13-24, 1986. Eight nights in London, one night at Moretonhampstead Manor in Dartmoor ("the reputed Baskerville Hall"), etc.
311. The Firesign Theater's record of *THE GIANT RAT OF SUMATRA* (D4635b) is listed (#1369446) in the latest catalog from Barnes & Noble (126 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10011); \$6.98 plus \$2.50 shipping.

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312. "Victorian Work and Workers" will be the theme of the Northeast Victorian Studies Association's twelfth annual conference at Yale University's Center for British Art on April 18-20, 1986. Additional info available from Mary Davies, English Dept., Albertus Magnus College, 700 Prospect Street, New Haven, CT 06511.
313. *THE SHERLOCK HOLMES CROSSWORD*, by Albert and Julian Rosenblatt (St. Paul: Norwegian Explorers, 1985; 24 pp., \$15.00 cloth/signed, \$10.00 cloth, \$4.00 paper); the story of the famous SRL puzzle, and of some of the first members of the BSI, entertainingly told.
314. *THE PLAY'S AFOOT!* is a collection of three two-act comedies written by William A. Barton for *The Illustrious Clients*; 48 pp., \$8.00 postpaid from the author, Box 26290, Indianapolis, IN 46226.
315. Reported by Brian MacDonald: *THE LAST STRAW*, by Lynn Johnston (Andrews, McMeel & Parker, 1985, \$6.95 in paper); a collection of "For Better or For Worse" cartoons, with two S'ian on p. 58. *Starlog*, Nov. 1985, with items on "Young Sherlock Holmes" (pp. 10, 51), Christopher Lee (p. 33), and Peter Cushing (pp. 89-92); \$6.00 from their back issues dept., 475 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016.
316. Reported by Bob Burr: Simon & Schuster videotapes of the Granada series at \$39.95 each: "Scan" and "Spec" in November, "Blue" and "Danc" in February. And a brief article on SH on p. 211 of the *OLD FARMER'S ALMANAC*.
317. Carol Ensley (3174 Glendale Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90039) offers S'ian T-shirts (\$12.00) and sweat shirts (\$25.00), handsomely hand-painted in full color from her designs or yours; write for a flier.
318. The Oct. 24 broadcast of "America" (the ABC television magazine show) included a six-minute segment on "Sherlock Holmes Takes Over America" with a short clip from "Young Sherlock Holmes" and a longer interview with John B. Shaw from Albuquerque. The obviously fake books behind John during his interview lend some credence to an earlier suggestion by Jon L. Lellenberg that the world-famous Shaw collection is in fact an expert "trompe l'oeil" wall painting.
319. *CLIENT'S CASE-NOTES*, the 1983 anthology published by *The Illustrious Clients*, contains an entertaining assortment of articles, pastiches, and poems written by members of the scion. 58 pp., clothbound, \$16.75 postpaid, and copies are still available from its editor, Brian R. MacDonald, R.R. 3, Box 281, Fairland, IN 46126.
320. Further to my earlier (August 85 #5) mention of Pacific Arts' videocassettes of the "Partners in Crime" television series, I neglected to mention the minor S'ian allusions in two of the programs. "The Affair of the Pink Pearl" begins with Tommy attempting to use the methods of Sherlock Holmes, but switching to the methods of Dr. Thorndyke. And in "Finessing the King" (on TV, but not in the book), Tommy and Tuppence go to a fancy-dress ball dressed as Watson and Holmes. Not having seen "The Case of the Missing Lady" (not broadcast in the U.S.), I don't know how much S'ian flavor was carried over from the book to television).

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321. Reported by Ron De Waal: a new edition of THE WORLD'S GREATEST SHERLOCK HOLMES QUIZ (D4009b), by Dale Copps (San Francisco: Sleuth Publications, 1985; 127 pp., \$5.00). YOU CAN FOOL ALL OF THE PEOPLE ALL THE TIME, by Art Buchwald (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1985; \$16.95); includes "The Great Media Mystery" (a column that ran in the Washington Post on Aug. 30, 1984, as "Dallas Detective"). CHAPLIN: HIS LIFE AND ART, by David Robinson (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1985; 792 pp., \$24.95); with commentary on "The Painful Predicament of Sherlock Holmes" and "Sherlock Holmes" (in which Chaplin played Billy and his brother Sidney played Count Von Stalberg during the 1903-04 tour), and an appendix on "The Tours of 'Sherlock Holmes' 1903-1906".
322. "Sherlock Holmes of 221-B Baker Street" by Roy Nuhn, in Hobbies, Oct. 1985; a 4-page article on S'ian collectibles. Reported: SHERLOCK SLEPT HERE, by Howard Lachtman (\$9.95 from Capra Press in November): a discussion of ACD's American tours and the American aspects of his stories.
323. HARDCOVER, by Wayne Warga (New York: Arbor House, 1985; 274 pp., \$15.95; a mystery thriller set in the world of the modern antiquarian bookseller, where the collectibles include Adrian Goldstone's copy of the 1888 Ward Lock first edition of A STUDY IN SCARLET.
324. I've mentioned (July 85 #4) the new paperback printing of Martha Grimes' THE MAN WITH A LOAD OF MISCHIEF. Compulsive completists will rush to their local paperbackers for a copy of Dell's "free! take one!" sampler, a 2-in-1 volume containing excerpts from five novels by Robert Barnard and five novels by Martha Grimes; the excerpt from THE MAN WITH A LOAD OF MISCHIEF is, of course, the chapter that starts with a S'ian allusion.
325. THE MYSTERY AND SUSPENSE ENGAGEMENT CALENDAR 1986, compiled by Basil Santoine (Pittstown: Main Street Press, 1985; \$7.95) contains some 18 S'ian and semi-S'ian citations for various dates.
326. "The Guns of Sherlock Holmes" by Garry James and Scott McMillan (D2529b) has been reprinted in the 1986 Guns & Ammo Annual.
327. The Cremona Fiddlers of Williamsburg are working on their plans for the 1987 "Weekend with John Bennett Shaw and Sherlock Holmes" -- targeted for William & Mary in August. Will the Sage of Santa Fe be idle in 1986?
328. "Kit and Kitty: From Haverford to Frankford" by Steven Rothman, in Horizons, summer 1985; a pleasant and informed discussion of KITTY FOYLE and Christopher Morley.
329. Bob Thomalen reports that more than 200 people signed up for Tyke Niver's "The Happenstance at Humberstone Hollow" mystery weekend at the Hotel Stamford Plaza this month -- with the cast of characters including Thomalen as Inspector Poirot ("more like Inspector Clouseau than Charles Boyer"), and Chris Steinbrunner as family solicitor Sir Ellsworth Rainey.
330. Tom Clancy's THE HUNT FOR RED OCTOBER is now out in paperback (Berkley, \$4.50); it's a fine book, though non-S'ian (except for its demonstration of how far we've come since the days of the Bruce-Partington plans).

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331. The Aug. 1985 issue of Bias Line, a newsletter for costumers and technicians, has detailed discussion and patterns for "A Coat for Sherlock Holmes" as well as an article on S'ian costume by Bobby Ann Loper; \$2.00 from CosTume Tech, 140 Glendale #243, Lakeland, FL 33803.
332. Reported by Ev Herzog: animation cels, signed by Chuck Jones, including Daffy Duck as Holmes (\$575.00) and Porky Pig as Watson (\$350.00), at T.R.'s (780 Seventh Avenue, New York, NY 10019); these are new issues in limited editions (200 each) rather than originals. Jerry Margolin reports the same cels at \$245 each from Gallery Lainzberg in Cedar Rapids (800-553-9995). And Walt Disney Productions reports that "Basil of Baker Street" is scheduled for summer 1986 release; production cels from that film will be available from Disney in late summer 1986.
333. The Sherlock Snoopy portfolio covers (July 85 #4) are no longer available from the firm, but you get one for \$2.00 postpaid from Gideon D. Hill, 1810 South Rittenhouse Square #207, Philadelphia, PA 19103. Gideon also reports that the miniature pub sign for The Sherlock Holmes (August 85 #4) is included in the sales brochure from London Pipe & Gift Shop, 43803 North 15th Street West, Lancaster, CA 93534 (\$6.95 plus shipping). And that there's a new Sherlock teddy bear (17" high, jointed, nicely detailed) available for \$43.00 from Louise Ranker, 3131 Mulberry Street, Toledo, OH 43608. And that single copies of the July-Aug. 1985 issue of Pet Care Report (with S'ian artwork) are available free from Purina (800-251-4039) (800-255-1330 in Tennessee). And for sewing S'ians: plans for a Sherlock bear in MAKING BEARS (#GP-475), by Nancy Sutherland-Holmes; \$5.98 postpaid from Gich Publishing Co., 9 Studebaker, Irvine, CA 92718. And Eric G. Anderson's article on "American Kings and Their Castles" (including William Gillette), in Private Practice, Aug. 1985 (Box 12489, Oklahoma City, OK 73157; single copies free).
334. Reported: "The Case of the Gring's Mill Goblin" by Thomas R. Dulski, in Analog, Dec. 1985; Oliver Wendell Baker and Dexter Woodside (previously in "The Case of the Chemist's Cache" in the Jan. 4, 1982, issue). I have given up trying to understand magazine publishing; on Nov. 9 the Dec. issue of Analog has already been pulled from the newsstands, replaced by the mid-Dec. issue.
335. "Mrs. Hudson Stays for Tea" by Gilbert Youmans, and "Detectiverse: Prologue in Baker Street" by Phyllis White, in EQMM, Jan. 1986, as the magazine's annual birthday tribute.
336. "About the same time was published another historical romance of the second class (for to nothing short of Sir Walter shall we give a first-class in this department), 'Micah Clarke,' by Mr. Conan Doyle." Sir James Matthew Barrie, in his essay "Q." in AN AULD LICHT MANSE AND OTHER SKETCHES, first published in 1893 and reprinted in 1970 (Freeport: Books for Libraries Press); also discovered by the MTL.
337. Reported by the Metropolitan Toronto Library: NOTABLE QUOTES, by Leigh Rubin (Panaorama City: Rubes Publications, 1981; \$6.00) and AMUSING ARRANGEMENTS (ditto, 1985); cartoon books, each with one S'ian cartoon (publisher's address is 14447 Titus Street, Panorama City, CA 91402).

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338. Herman Herst Jr.'s THE COMPLEAT PHILATELIST (an explanation of the perils, pitfalls, and pleasures of stamp collecting), now in its third printing, is available (114 pp., paper, \$6.25 postpaid) from the author (Box 1583, Boca Raton, FL 33429). Also a few autographed copies of his out-of-print NASSAU STREET (his reminiscences about his career as a stamp dealer), at \$9.95. Neither is S'ian (his S'ian pastiche "Dirty Pool" is in STORIES TO COLLECT STAMPS BY), but both are entertaining.
339. Announcement at hand for the 33rd Annual William Gillette Memorial Luncheon at the Old Homestead in New York on Jan. 10, 1986; this is well-attended, and reservations are required; if you're not on Lisa McGaw's mailing list, you can write to her at 15 Willow Terrace Apts., Chapel Hill, NC 27514.
340. Another item on the agenda for the birthday festivities is Otto Penzler's annual Open House at The Mysterious Bookshop (129 West 56th Street) on Jan. 10, from 11:00 to 6:00; S'ians and their guests are most welcome, and there is as usual the possibility of S'ian authors on hand to sign their books.
341. The Master's Class will meet at 4:30 pm on Jan. 12, for drinks, dinner, and a program featuring the Philadelphia Savoy Company and papers on the theme of G&S and SH; the meeting will end in time to make the last trains to New York and Washington. Details available from Gideon D. Hill, 1810 South Rittenhouse Square #207, Philadelphia, PA 19103.
342. Roger Johnson reports that Granada is now filming "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" with Jeremy Brett and Edward Hardwicke. The seven programs will be "Empt", "Twis", "Prio", "Reig", "Abbe", "Seco", and "Musg".

343. John E. Stephenson and Ronald Lies have founded a new scion called Poor Bibliophiles International, and plan to publish *The Little Bookshop* at the Corner of Church Street Journal; details available from Stephenson (535 West Easter Place, Littleton, CO 80210).
344. Jerry Margolin (3556 S.E. Stark, Portland, OR 97214) would appreciate hearing from anyone who can identify a character named "Mrs. Rundle" in any of Conan Doyle's works.
345. The Nov. 1985 issue of *Starlog* (475 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016; \$3.95) has a number of minor items: ad and promotional photograph for "Young Sherlock Holmes"; S'ian refs in articles on Farmer, Lee, Spielberg, and Cushing; and refs to "The Lost World" in articles on Harryhausen and O'Brien. And an ad for back issues including #7 (full-page color photo of Robby the Robot in S'ian costume) (reprint, \$5.00 postpaid) and #11 (article about "The Prisoner") (\$4.50 postpaid). And an ad for a videocassette of "The Prisoner: The Girl Who Was Death" (the episode in which Patrick McGoohan appears in S'ian costume); \$39.95 plus \$2.55 UPS from *Starlog Video Shopper* (same address).
346. Reported by Jim Duval: S'ian graphics in an 8-page pamphlet "Sherlock and the Crystal Clear Solution" (promoting Acrylite insulating windows) from Cyro Industries, Woodcliff Lake, NJ 07675.
347. It's official: the second Granada series starts on PBS-TV on Jan. 2, 1986.

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348. *MURDER IN THE FIRST REEL*, edited by Bill Pronzini, Charles G. Waugh, and Martin Harry Greenberg, with an Introduction by Isaac Asimov (New York: Avon Books, 1985; 344 pp., \$3.25); ten short stories on which films have been based, including "Musg" (source for "Sherlock Holmes Faces Death").
349. Yet another source for video of the 1954 Ronald Howard series: Video Specialists International (182 Jackson Street, Dallas, PA 18612) offers 10 cassettes (\$29.95 each plus shipping) with 2 programs each (according to my notes, 27 of the 39 programs are now available from various video sources).
350. Bill Barton reports that there are six copies left of *THE PLAY'S AFOOT*, his collection of three two-act comedies written for *The Illustrious Clients* (48 pp., \$8.50 postpaid, from William A. Barton, Box 26290, Indianapolis, IN 46226). And Dec. 31 is the deadline for orders for *THE FINAL PABLUM*, his next play (\$3.50 postpaid). Bill is also planning to publish a *VICTORIAN ADVENTURE* role-playing game and a *GAMER'S GUIDE TO VICTORIAN LONDON* supplement; send an SASE to Winterhawk Games/Paranoia Unlimited (same address) for details.
351. More philatelic S'iana: on May 22 the U.S. will issue four miniature sheets (9 stamps in each sheet) showing all deceased U.S. presidents; Lincoln is mentioned in the Canon, and Roosevelt and Truman were members of the BSI, and Hoover had Gillette to lunch in the White House . . .
352. There are three known issues of the Heritage Club edition of *THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES*: 1952, 1957, and 1971. How can the three issues be distinguished? There are two known issues of the Heritage Club's newsletter *Sandglass for THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES*: "Number I:17" (1952) and "Number IR:17" (1957). Was there a third issue of the newsletter in 1971? Can it be distinguished from the 1957 issue?
353. The November issue of *Communication* (the monthly newsletter from *The Pleasant Places of Florida*) offers a set of four S'ian hi-ball glasses (\$15.00 postpaid), and the scion's latest publication *DIRTY POOL AND PHILATELIC PHILANDERING*, a 24-page pamphlet with a reprint of Herman Herst Jr.'s 1966 pastiche "Dirty Pool" and a well-illustrated investigation of Sherlockian philately (\$5.00 postpaid); for a copy of the newsletter, send a #10 SASE to Ben Wood, 4408 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach, FL 33510. Ben also reports a column of S'ian puns in the Dec. 1985 issue of *Games*.
354. "The Yellow Globe" (billed as a Charlie Chan Mystery Weekend of Murderous, Mischievous Intrigues) will be the next event (Feb. 14-16, 1986) at the Hotel Stamford Plaza (2701 Summer Street, Stamford, CT 06905).
355. According to Howard Lachtman's report (*Stockton Record*, Nov. 3) on Bouchercon, "there was even a celebration of 'Sherlock Holmes in San Francisco' that came complete with a contemplative bust of the Great Detective, a reading of a Sherlockian sonnet by Mrs. Anthony Boucher, and a local real estate agency's offering (at \$1.3 million) of a Frisco town-house in which Sir Arthur Conan Doyle acutally came to tea in 1923. Ideal for the collector who has everything." Bouchercon in Baltimore in 1986, and in Minneapolis in 1987.

November 85 #4

356. What with trade screenings for exhibitors, and special invitational screenings, and preview screenings, many of you have probably already seen "Young Sherlock Holmes" (which will be opening on or about Dec. 4 in every American city that has electricity), so I won't say much about it except that I thought it great fun, and well executed for its target audience. There were some familiar faces, heavily disguised in the case of Nigel Stock (Mr. Waxflatter, Elizabeth's uncle), who has played Watson in the BBC TV shows with Douglas Wilmer and Peter Cushing, and in his own one-man show "221B" on tour in Britain. Patrick Newell (Bentley Bobster, the first murder victim) is Blessington in "The Resident Patient" in the Granada series (not yet broadcast in the U.S.), and he played Lestrade in Sheldon Reynolds' second TV series (and he was "Mother" in "The Avengers").
357. One of the better recent comments on the film is from the Dec. 1985 issue of *American Film*: "Making a movie about the famous detective and his pal Watson meeting as prep-school classmates makes a lot of sense once you realize that (a) movies with adults in the leads may win Oscars but play to half-empty theaters, and (b) most of today's (young) moviegoers probably think Sherlock is Larry Holmes's weird brother."
358. Reported by Mark Erdrich: *BERLIN FUGUE*, by J. C. Winters (Avon, \$3.95); an espionage thriller ("good airplane reading") with S'ian allusions.
359. Michael Innes' *THE MYSTERIOUS COMMISSION*, a suspense novel with pleasantly S'ian overtones, is back in print from Penguin Books (1985; 192 pp., \$3.50).
360. Newt Williams reports, in the Nov. 1985 issue of *The Camden House Journal*, on a source for well-made deerstalkers: Hatterdashery (attn: Michael Loeffler), 1862 East Shelby Street, Seattle, WA 98112.
361. *THE HOLMESIAN FEDERATION* #6, edited by Signe Landon (14985 256th Street SE, Issaquah, WA 98027; 86 pp., \$3.50 postpaid) presents more cross-over pastiches, from *Star Trek* to *Doctor Who*.
362. Reported by Ron De Waal: *THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES*, adapted with comprehension exercises (New Delhi: Vikas Publishing House, 1985); available from *Advent Books*, 141 East 44th Street, New York, NY 10017. "Sherlock Holmes' Christmas Goose" adapted (from "Blue") by Paul T. Nolan, in *Plays*, Dec. 1985 (120 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116; \$3.00). *TREASURY OF GREAT SHORT STORIES* (Minneapolis: Amaranth Press, 1985; \$10.95 at B. Dalton); contents include "Spec".
363. Reported by Gideon Hill: four audio cassettes from *Discourses* (Lawn Cottage, Camden Park, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 4TN, England) with two each of the eight Hardy/Stock dramatizations (D5566a-D5569a); £5.50 each postpaid. *Celestial Arts/Ten Speed Press* (Box 7327, Berkeley, CA 94707; 800-841-2665) offers the "Beyond 221B" poster (D2238b) and a reproduction of the one-sheet for "Spider Woman" at \$3.50 each plus shipping.
364. *THE NAGASAKI VECTOR*, by H. Neil Smith (New York: Ballantine Books, 1983; 242 pp., \$2.75); science fiction, with minor S'ian allusions.

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365. SHERLOCK SLEPT HERE, by Howard Lachtman (Santa Barbara: Capra Press, 1985; 174 pp., \$9.95); accurately subtitled as "a brief history of the singular adventures of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in America, with some observations upon the exploits of Mr. Sherlock Holmes," with a summary of the highlights of ACD's four visits to the U.S., comments about the American aspects of the Canon, and a reprint of "Nobl".
366. Lachtman uses the word "paltry" to describe the £25 Conan Doyle accepted for "A Study in Scarlet" -- and that's the conventional wisdom: Conan Doyle didn't receive very much for the story. But -- that's 500 shillings, and "one of the most expensive hotels" charged Frank Moulton 8 shillings a day for a room in 1886, and that's 62.5 days. How many of today's fledgling authors would refuse an offer for their first book of the cash equivalent of a room for 62 days at one of the most expensive hotels in London?
367. Announcement at hand for the Jan. 10 dinner of The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes at Keen's; if you're not on the mailing list, contact Evelyn A. Herzog (235 West 15th Street #4B, New York, NY 10011) -- and if you want to attend and haven't made your reservation already, it might be best to phone (212-929-3527).
368. Reported by Richard Wein, in the 1985 J. C. Penney Christmas catalog: an etched-glass pipe cabinet, 15x3x20 inches, solid mahogany with glass door etched with portrait of SH, \$24.99.
369. The spring 1985 issue of the Rex Stout Journal at hand, with discussion of the S'ian connection in Ken Darby's "The Genius of Nero Wolfe"; \$7.00 a year (two issues) from John McAleer, 121 Follen Road, Lexington, MA 02173. John is also ready to publish QUEEN'S COUNSEL: CONVERSATIONS WITH RUTH STOUT about her brother; \$8.00 postpaid, and the printing run will cover only prepaid orders.
370. Reported by John Kerr, in the latest catalog from Publishers Central Bureau (One Champion Avenue, Avenel, NJ 07001): a boxed Sandy Hook Records \$4.98 audio cassette of the 1939 Rathbone broadcast of "The Bruce-Partington Plans" and the 1948 broadcast of "Mr. Chameleon" (see D5554a); discounted prices on the three Murray Hill record sets (D4653a, D4655a, and MORE SHERLOCK HOLMES ADVENTURES with 9 of the 1954 Gielgud broadcasts); and a \$7.99 set of three audio cassettes of the Murray Hill MORE SHERLOCK HOLMES ADVENTURES.
371. "Roses and the Arts: A Humanistic and Horticultural Engagement" is the title of a conference at Central State University in Wilberforce, Ohio, on May 8, 1986, with one of the four sessions on "The Sherlockian Background of Eco's *The Name of the Rose*." Details available from Robert F. Fleissner (367 East Cassilly Street, Springfield, OH 45503); Bob also forecasts a book ANATOMY OF A BEST SELLER about Eco's book.
372. "Were I a schoolmaster in possession of wealth, and about to found a library for boys, my corner-stone should be a large mass of the works of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: *The White Company*, *Micah Clarke*, *Brigadier Gerard* (the best), and *Sherlock Holmes*." Andrew Lang, in his monthly column in Longman's Magazine, Apr. 1903.

December 1985 #2

373. "I often argue," writes Stephen Jay Gould, in THE FLAMINGO'S SMILE; REFLECTIONS IN NATURAL HISTORY (New York: W. W. Norton, 1985), "that the best test for legends is the extent of their seepage into popular culture. In *Sherlock Holmes and the Spider Woman* (1944), one of the innumerable, yet wonderful, Rathbone-Bruce anachronisms that pit Holmes against Hitler and assorted enemies, Holmes unmasks an entomologist *poseur* (and murderer of the true scientist) by catching several subtle fallacies in his speech. The phony calls terraria 'glass cages,' but then really gives himself away when he says of black widow spiders: 'They eat their mates, I'm told.' Holmes responds: 'You said you were told the black widows eat their mates. Any scientist would know it.'" Gould doubts the existence of sexual cannibalism (citing a recent study of matings in Chinese praying mantises in which no female ever decapitated or ate a male), and is persuaded that it is a phenomenon without proven examples. Discovered by Dick Rutter.
374. The item at right is from John Harris' list of Christmas books (The Atlantic, Dec. 1985).
375. "Revenge from Reichenbach," reads the London headline, reported by Bob Burr (Plugs & Dottles, Dec. 1985). The Sherlock Holmes Hotel ("named after the famous fiddling detective and coke-head") will gain a main entrance on Baker Street by demolishing the Ristorante Moriarti.
376. "Expect Baskerville Holmes to reach his full potential and earn national acclaim this season," predicts Anson Mount in the Jan. 1986 issue of Playboy, rating Memphis State as 1st in the Metro Conference and 15th in the nation's college basketball teams.
377. "Pitdown Man Hoaxer's Identity Revealed" is the headline in the [London] Daily Telegraph (Nov. 4, 1985). Glyn Daniel and Peter Costello have determined that the hoaxer was Samuel Woodhead, close friend of Charles Dawson. Costello has an article about his investigation in the Nov. issue of Antiquity (see December 85 #4).
378. Crime Times (the Waldenbooks Mystery Club Newsletter) generally has some S'ian mention in every issue, and it's worth checking at your local shop; there's a short quiz on "Sherlockiana" in the Nov. 1985 issue.
379. "Shades of Old Sleuth and Sherlock Holmes," wrote Jack London in PEOPLE OF THE ABYSS (1903). See D4021a, D2172b, and D2173b for more information on the Sherlockian aspects of Jack London, whose portrait appears on the 2c stamp to be issued on Jan. 11 in the Great Americans Series.
380. Movies Unlimited (6736 Castor Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19149; 800-523-0823) has many more S'ian cassettes than "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" mentioned earlier (May 85 #4), according to Ron De Waal. Their catalog (with a small portrait of SH on the cover) costs \$5.95.

December 1985 #3

381. Thanks to Paul Herbert for information on how to distinguish the three issues of the Heritage Press edition of THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (November 85 #3). In the first issue [1952], the Steele illustration ("The key to the riddle was in my hands") appears (incorrectly) f.p. 610; in the second issue [1957] and third issue [1971], that illustration appears (correctly) f.p. 620. In the third issue, the Heritage Club device appears above the copyright notice on the title-page verso; there is no device in the first and second issues.
382. YOUNG SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Alan Arnold (New York: Pocket Books, Dec. 1985; 207 pp., \$2.95); an uninspired novelization of the film.
383. Reported from England: THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA, by Gaston Leroux (W. H. Allen, £9.95); Peter Haining's introduction includes two brief essays from S'ian journals suggesting that SH might have been involved. THE WINE LISTS, ed. by Robert Joseph (Guinness Books); includes Stanley MacKenzie's list of Canonical references to wines. Ms. C. J. Martin (Woodlea, Lancaster Lane, Parbold, near Wigan, Lancs. WN8 7AA) offers pencil or ink sketches copied from the Paget illos in the Strand; £9.00 and up.
384. ZEN NUDISM, by John Ruyle (Berkeley: Pequod Press, 1985; \$30.00 cloth, \$15.00 paper); "the author displays all the range and vigor that have made his work blaze across his generation like the comet Kohoutek" (one of the 26 short poems is "Pickwick & Sherlock"). John's 1986 plans include a new adventure of Turlock Loams, and new editions of THE ADVENTURE OF THE SOLEDAD CYCLIST and THE ADVENTURE OF THE FIVE BUFFALO CHIPS, and his address is 521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707.
385. THE MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE OF RAGSBY, written and illustration by Barbara Alexander (San Diego: Oak Tree Publications, 1985; 32 pp., \$8.95); a nice children's book, with two dogs (dressed as Sherlock Bones and Dr. Whatsit) rescuing a kidnapped teddy bear.
386. Reported by Ron De Waal: SCIENTIFIC ROMANCE IN BRITAIN 1890-1950, by Brian Stableford (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1985; 372 pp., \$29.95); a history of British science fiction, with a 7-page section on ACD. MY LIFE IN PICTURES, by Charles Chaplin (London: Peering Books, 1985; 320 pp.,

- \$12.99); a reissue of D4235b). And three Dell paperback reissues, Dec. 1985, with new covers: ALFRED HITCHCOCK'S GAMES KILLERS PLAY (D5613a), DEATH CAN BE BEAUTIFUL (D4744b), and BOYS AND GHOULS TOGETHER (D4749b).
387. Anne Baxter died on Dec. 12. She played Irene Adler in the 1984 British television film "The Masks of Death" (with Peter Cushing as Holmes).
388. Cerebro Lithographs (Box 1221, Lancaster, PA 17603) has a number of labels from the Sherlock Holmes Rum-Soaked Crooks cigar boxes: the two versions of the small (4-inch) label at \$8.00 and \$6.00, the large label (\$7.00), and the top sheet (\$1.50); plus \$1.50 shipping if your order is under \$25.00, and they take plastic.
389. Reported by Carole Naddeo: A PERSONAL FINANCE GUIDE FOR YUPPIES, EX-HIPPIES AND QUIET '50S FOLKS, a S'ian marketing pamphlet available (free) from Chang Labs, 5300 Stevens Creek Boulevard, San Jose, CA 95129.

December 1985 #4

390. The Dec. 1984 issue of the BSJ was mailed early this month, and it is reported that only a few subscribers sent their copies back to Fordham with complaints that it was the wrong issue. The Dec. 1985 issue was mailed shortly thereafter, accompanied by well-justified sighs of relief from editor Philip Shreffler and publisher George Fletcher.
391. Never believe that there's nothing new to be discovered in the Sherlock Holmes stories. Who was Rodger Presbury?
392. "Valley of Fear" (presumably the Australian animation with Peter O'Toole as Sherlock Holmes) is scheduled ten times on Showtime cable, on Jan. 2, 6, 17, 21, 26, and 29. And the latest word from PBS-TV is that "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes, Part II" will start on Feb. 13, 1986.
393. Peter Costello's article "The Piltdown Hoax Reconsidered" is in the Nov. 1985 issue of Antiquity (King's Hedges Road, Cambridge CB4 2PQ, England; £5.00); it's a preview of Costello's book, to be published next year, and Costello has uncovered a great deal of evidence indicating that the cuprit was Samuel Allinson Woodhead.
394. Bogie's Murderous Mystery Tours is planning "Murder by the Letter" at the Parker House in Boston on June 27-29, 1986; the cast (and possibly the victims) will include eminent Sherlockians Noel and Leslie Novel. Details available from Dreamjourneys, 516 Bloomfield Ave., Montclair, NJ 07042.
395. Reported by Jon Lellenberg: THE ENGLISH PUB, by Rob Anderson (Viking; 111 pp., \$25.00); the review in Time (Dec. 16) featured a color photo of the sign from The Sherlock Holmes.
396. A copy of the program for Bouchercon XVI at hand, with a reprint of Anthony Boucher's sonnet "San Francisco to Sherlock Holmes" (D4416a); I don't know if extra copies are available, but you can write to chairman Bryan Barrett, Box 6202, Hayward, CA 94540.
397. Renegade Press (apparently a comic-book publisher) is planning a Sherlock Holmes series to begin in Mar. 1986 with "The Beryl Coronet" (text from the Canon and artwork by Dan Day); the series will be black-and-white and bimonthly at \$1.70. I've no further information; if anyone has an address for Renegade Press, please let me know.
398. Credit Donald A. Redmond for the discovery of Rodger Presbury. He was the counterfeiter shot by Killer Evans, in the original periodical appearances of "The Three Garridebs" in 1924 and 1925. Presbury appears as Rodger Prescott in THE CASE-BOOK OF SHERLOCK HOLMES in 1927.
399. Query: who owns "Bengis copy A" of the 1902 Souvenir Edition of A STUDY IN SCARLET? The Souvenir Edition is the one in blue cloth, with Egyptian design stamped in gold, and this copy is the one dated 1902 on the title page, with Bengis' penciled notes on the front flyleaf. I need some bibliographic information not included in Bengis' published description.
400. Gilles Daigle and Patricia Helik (275 Manse Road #55, West Hill, Ont. M1E 4X8, Canada) are preparing to create a computerized concordance of the Canon; suggestions and comments welcome.

January 1986 #1

401. The most important news from the annual dinner was Julian Wolff's announcement that he was retiring from the leadership of The Baker Street Irregulars (having held the job longer than anyone else, Julian said, he decided to be the first to get out alive), and that he was handing over the reins to Thomas L. Stix, Jr. And Tom's first official act, as the new Wiggins of the BSI, was his announcement that Julian will continue as our Commissionaire Emeritus. Tom's address is 34 Pierson Avenue, Norwood, NJ 07648.
402. Nancy Pond (daughter of Walter Pond) was The Woman, honored at the BSI pre-dinner cocktail party and by The Women at dinner at the National Arts Club. The BSI dinner featured the traditional agenda, including Philip R. Brogdon's fine toast to Sherlock Holmes as Watson's, and our, best friend. John Bennett Shaw displayed, explained, and defended a life mask of Sherlock Holmes, apparently taken by M. Oscar Meunier, and Isaac Asimov doubled as tenor and baritone in a Canonical parody of Gilbert and Sullivan (Holmes was a much better musician than Sullivan, said Asimov, who then demonstrated his conclusions by singing some of Gilbert's songs set to different music chosen by Holmes).
403. Irregular Shillings were awarded to Eric Beckman (Stapleton), David L. Hammer (Major-General Stoner), Joseph Fink (The Martyrdom of Man), John Constable (The Crooked Man), Robert E. Robinson (The Hansom Cab), Gordon R. Speck (Colonel James Barclay), Bob Bisio (Shinwell Johnson), Richard B. Shull (An Actor and a Rare One), Barton A. Eberman (The Hound of the Baskervilles), James P. Suszynski (The Dying Detective), Don Werby (Old Abrahams), C. Paul Martin (Dr. Leslie Armstrong), Andrew Malec (The Strange Old Book Collector), and Steven Rothman (The Valley of Fear). And Two-Shilling Awards were given to Chris Steinbrunner, Henry T. Folsom, John B. Koelle, Edward F. Clark, William P. Schweickert, Philip A. Shreffler, and Theodore G. Schulz.
404. Other Friday events were The Martha Hudson Breakfast at the Algonquin, The William Gillette Luncheon at the Old Homestead, Otto Penzler's open house at The Mysterious Bookshop, The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes at Keen's, the post-dinners gathering at Keen's, and the post-Keen's gathering at the Notre Dame suite at the Royalton. The ASH dinner agenda included Sherry Rose-Bond's poetic history of the Adventuresses, a slide show by Helen E. Heinrich, and a new Sherlockian performance by The Friends of Bogie's.
405. Saturday's events included Julian and Eleanor Wolff's reception at the Grolier Club (on Julian's 81st birthday), and a Sherlockian invasion of Bogie's (enlivened by an attempted robbery in the parking lot across the street). On Sunday south-bound travelers dined in Philadelphia with The Master's Class at the Franklin Inn Club, where Daniel S. Knight assembled a group of devoted Savoyards for some authentic Victorian musicalities.
406. Press coverage was liberal, starting with the N.Y. Times on Jan. 5 (an appreciative article by BSI Karl E. Meyer), continuing with the N.Y. Post on Jan. 10 (a long article by Marilyn Stasio with a sidebar by Chris Steinbrunner), and ending with the Washington Post on Jan. 11 (an article filed from their New York bureau with quotes from Christian Steinbrunner, Andrew Peck, Jon Welenberg, and others).

January 1986 #2

407. THE BOZZ CHRONICLES is an intriguing bi-monthly from Epic Comics, with Bozz being an extremely alien time traveler in London in the latter half of the 19th century. Nothing S'ian in the 1st issue (Dec. 1985), but Bozz appears in a deerstalker and cloak in the 2nd issue (Feb. 1986), and Jerry Margolin has been informed by someone in the field that a future issue will be more S'ian. Marvel Comics Group, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016; \$1.50 an issue.

408. Those Hare-Krishna look-alikes in the Egyptian temple in "Young Sherlock Holmes" were Hare Krishnas, according to an item in the Dec. 1985 issue of *Mademoiselle*. "Their peanut-butter cookies were quite tasty," according to Nicholas Rowe. And Alan Cox noted that director Levinson "had to keep telling them to scowl. Hare Krishnas have the most peaceful expression I've ever seen." Confirmation in the *Young Sherlock Holmes Official Souvenir Magazine* (\$2.95 at bookshops), with plot synopsis, photographs, design sketches, etc.; published by Ira Friedman, Inc., 10 Columbus Circle #1300, New York, NY 10019. There is also *YOUNG SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE STORYBOOK*, adapted by Peter Lerangis (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1985; \$7.95), with lots of color photos. And an album of the soundtrack music (MCA-6159; \$7.98) (there's also a cassette, of course). And the film is featured in *Scholastic Scope* (Nov. 29, 1985); \$2.25 for the teachers' edition; 730 Broadway, New York, NY 10003.
409. The *Armchair Detective* (winter 1986) has William A. S. Sarjeant's six-page report on "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes in Minnesota" (John Bennett Shaw told the gathering that "Sherlock" was the trade-name of a type of chastity belt), and Louis Phillips' "The President on Baker Street" (a one-page summary, uncredited, of Edgar W. Smith's *A BAKER STREET FOLIO*).
410. The *Promised Valley Playhouse* in Salt Lake City had a new production of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" from Oct. 17 to Nov. 9, 1985, and the program had a full-color S'ian cover illo; Ron De Waal has extra copies (no charge), and his address is: The Libraries, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO 80523.
411. Aljean Harmetz's long article on Michael D. Eisner ("The Man Re-animating Disney") in the *N.Y. Times Magazine* (Dec. 29, 1985) includes a large color illo from "Basil of Baker Street" (due for release this summer).
412. Sherlockian philatelists can put last year's Sinclair Lewis stamp and this year's Jack London stamp on the same album page. In 1910 Lewis proposed to London a series of stories about the World Police, to be unified by a central character, the Man of the World Police. "He need not--should not, and, with you writing, would not--be in the least like Sherlock Holmes, but Holmes offers suggestions, nevertheless," Lewis wrote. Cited from *THE MAN FROM MAIN STREET: A SINCLAIR LEWIS READER* (New York: Random House, 1953, p. 124) by Robert L. Coard in his article "Sinclair Lewis, Max Gottleib, and Sherlock Holmes" (*Modern Fiction Studies*, autumn 1985, p. 565-571), at hand from Robert F. Fleissner.
413. Avon has reissued *EARTHMAN'S BURDEN*, by Poul Anderson and Gordon R. Dickson (D5795a) with a new cover (189 p., \$2.95); their "Adventure of the Misplaced Hound" is still one of the best SF/SH items in print.

January 1986 #3

414. Paulette Greene (140 Princeton Road, Rockville Centre, NY 11570) offers *THE LAST CASE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES*, a new pastiche by Trevor H. Hall ("Dr. Hall pieces together the puzzle of Ivy Johnson Bull's life with the assistance of Sherlock Holmes's only son, Dr. S. J. H. M. V. Holmes-Adler, F.R.S."); \$31.50 postpaid.
415. "I'm not interested in money," said Gaby Goldscheider to a reporter from *The Times* (Nov. 30, 1985) in a discussion of her new Sherlock Holmes Book Club of Great Britain (32 Hornton Street, Kensington W8). The article is on "Keeping the Books in Profit" in the paper's "Family Money" section, and discusses the investment value of S'ian. The club is open from Thursday to Saturday, sometimes Sunday, with coffee served, but only by appointment (01-937-7311).
416. For those who have not yet visited all of the places visited by Sherlock Holmes, the Smithsonian Resident Associates Travel Program offers two guided tours of Tibet, in June and September, with stops in Shannan, Gyantze, Xigaze, and Lhasa. There was no Baedeker's Handbook for Tibet in the 1890s, but if there had been it surely would have included a warning note similar to the Smithsonian's: "In addition to an ambitious travel program in each city, you will be traveling great distances over rugged terrain at high altitudes and through undeveloped areas with few amenities. This is an exciting opportunity for Associates fully prepared to meet the challenges of a rugged environment."
417. It is unlikely that SH's articles and monographs were actually written as scientific papers, but he certainly agreed with the advice ("be exacting and unemotional") offered by Michael J. Katz in *ELEMENTS OF THE SCIENTIFIC PAPER* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1985; 130 p., \$20.00 cloth, \$6.95 paper); Katz's "step-by-step guide for students and professionals" uses appropriate Canonical quotations as headings for three chapters.
418. General Gordon is no longer considered to be the unmitigated hero that he was when his portrait was newly framed by Watson, and we're a year late, since the centenary of Gordon's death at Khartoum was celebrated on Jan. 26, 1985, but ... Jack Kerr reports Denis Judd's article on "Gordon of Khartoum: The Making of an Imperial Martyr" in the Jan. 1985 issue of *History Today*. Another article was "The Enigma of Chinese Gordon" by Donovan Fitzpatrick, in *MD* (Nov. 1985). It would appear, from the lack of any citation by Ron De Waal, that there has never been a S'ian article about Gordon (an opportunity, obviously, for the militarists in our ranks). If you'd like to see the last letter Gordon ever wrote, it's in the May 1892 issue of *The Strand Magazine*, in the "Illustrated Interview" with Lord Wolseley.
419. There's a discount edition of *A STUDY IN SCARLET: A SHERLOCK HOLMES MURDER DOSSIER* (London: Peerage Books, 1985; \$7.98); printed as a book, without the wedding ring and other clues found in the first edition. Also *SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE COMPLETE ILLUSTRATED SHORT STORIES* (London: Chancellor Press, 1985; 986 p., \$7.99); all the short stories, with some but not all of the illustrations from the Strand. The books are reported so far only in Coles bookshops in the U.S.; Peerage Books and Chancellor Press have the same London address as Octopus Books (perhaps an appropriate name).

January 1986 #4

420. Who wrote the first short story ever published in *Punch*?
421. "Young Sherlock Holmes" opened in Australia on Dec. 19, with mildly enthusiastic reviews, and two weeks later was being advertised as "Young Sherlock Holmes: The Pyramid of Fear". And one review included Alan Cox's description of how his hallucination scene was filmed, with the reviewer's comment, "previous screen Watsons have endured many things in the course of their relationship with Holmes, but lying stretched out on a studio floor being attacked by puppet pastries has not been one of them." All this from Derham Groves, who happily announces that he and Ping are now proud parents of son Huey, born on Dec. 30.
422. "You can depend on a woman for anything except constancy. Not that I disapprove of women, except when they attempt to function like domestic animals. When they stick to the vocations for which they are best adapted, such as chicanery, sophistry, self-advertisement, cajolery, mystification, and incubation, they are sometimes superb creatures." (Nero Wolfe, quoted by Ken Darby in his *Lakeside Talk* at the Bohemian Grove in July 1983.)
423. Barbara Iris Ulan (aka A Tangled Skein) offers a made-to-order first edition for dyed-in-the-wool S'ians: a hand-loomed V-neck pullover vest emblazoned with a portrait of SH, with background mouse-colored (light grey to tan, dependent on the breed) and motif in scarlet, priced at \$45 to \$75 according to size. For an illustrated flier with full details, send a #10 SASE to Barbara at 165 East 35th Street #10-I, New York, NY 10016.
424. The final official definite formal announcement from PBS' "Mystery!" is that "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" will air beginning Feb. 6. The cases, in order, will be "Gree", "Resi", "Norw", "Copp", "RedH", and "Fina".

425. The first short story published in Punch appeared in the Jan. 3, 1900, issue: "The Debut of Bimbashi Joyce" by Arthur Conan Doyle. I've not seen this noted before; credit the back of the dust jacket for T. S. Blakeney's SHERLOCK HOLMES: FACT OR FICTION?
426. "A Genuine Monster" is the title of Edward R. Ricciuti's article in the Jan. 1986 issue of Audubon about *Cyanea capillata* (with mention of the Canonical "Lion's Mane"). Reported by Richard G. Smith, who also notes a suggestion in Glamour (Jan. 1986): "Burrow into a fluffy comforter (buy one for less at a January white sale) and brave the spine-tingling chill of a Sherlock Holmes mystery. January 6 is the famous sleuth's birthday."
427. Filming for the \$18 million movie of Umberto Eco's "The Name of the Rose" has ended on location at a 12th century monastery near Frankfurt, and the company is moving to Rome, according to Time (Jan. 6, 1986). William of Baskerville is played by Sean Connery. F. Murray Abraham (of "Chariots of Fire") also has a role, according to earlier reports.
428. I occasionally see reports, or reports of reports, that the Abbey National Building Society has moved away from Baker Street (to Brighton, among other places. Not to worry -- on Oct. 7, 1985, Jeremy Brett (as Sherlock Holmes) unveiled a bronze plaque honoring the detective at 221B Baker Street, where Abbey still maintains its head offices.

January 1986 #5

429. "Autumn in Baker Street" is scheduled for Oct. 11-12, 1986, at Bear Mountain, N.Y., combining "scholarship with friendship, emotion with reason, and explication with participation." A flier is available from Bob Thomalen, 69 Glen Road, Eastchester, NY 10709.
430. Reported by John Bennett Shaw: THE READER'S ANTHOLOGY, edited by Robert R. Potter, with a dramatization of "Sherlock Holmes and the Speckled Band" by Alice Delman (with illustrations, notes, and a Teacher's Resource Manual); Globe Book Co., 50 West 23rd Street, New York, NY 10010. Also (same publisher): THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (D650a) in a new (1984) edition with illustrations by Nat Glattauer. THE SHOPS AND INNS OF LONDON, including The Sherlock Holmes, in a 655-piece jigsaw puzzle, 18 by 25 in., \$10.00, available from Adam York, Hanover, PA 17331.
431. The Hounds of the Baskerville (sic) are celebrating the Vincent Starrett Centennial Year during 1986; if you'd like to be on their mailing list, write to Robert J. Mangler, 103 Broadway, Wilmette, IL 60091.
432. "The matter seems to me to be of such importance that I grudge every day that passes without something having been done to bring it to realization," wrote Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in a letter published in The Times (Mar. 11, 1913). The "matter" was the Channel Tunnel, which he supported for many years, and in another letter in The Times (Dec. 9, 1922) he suggested that "in money alone it is impossible to compute how much was wasted by our insane policy of obstructing the boring of the tunnel in pre-war days."
433. Wally Conger advises fans of the 1984 movie "The Adventures of Buckaroo Banzai" that The Banzai Institute (c/o Twentieth Century-Fox, Box 900, Beverly Hills, CA 90213) offers free membership in the official Buckaroo Banzai Fan Club: The Blue Blaze Irregulars.
434. Ron De Waal reports an interesting pairing of epigraphs in Irving Wallace's THE SEVENTH SECRET (New York: E. P. Dutton, 1986): "Though a good deal is too strange to be believed, nothing is too strange to have happened" (Thomas Hardy) and "When you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth" (Sir Arthur Conan Doyle).
435. Also reported by Ron De Waal: THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES. THE MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, illustrated by Ian Beck (London: Octopus Books, 1985; 348 p., \$5.98 at B. Dalton); with THE CELEBRATED CASES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES as half-title. THE WORKS OF SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE, frontispiece by Modeste Stein (London: Longmeadow Press, 1985; xxiv+808 p., \$14.95 at Waldenbooks); almost the same as the earlier Avenel Books edition (Stud through Bruc), with an additional Introduction by Patricia Horan. And a large deerstalker and magnifying glass on a 4-page pamphlet on SURVIVING SEC SCRUTINY: SECURITIES PRACTICE, from Callaghan & Co., 3201 Old Glenview Road, Wilmette, IL 60091.
436. Ferret Fantasy (27 Beechcroft Road, London SW17 7BX, England), losing some storage facilities, is offering some publications at half price, including MY EVENING WITH SHERLOCK HOLMES (a 1981 collection of early parodies compiled by Richard Lancelyn Green and John Gibson); \$12.50 per copy postpaid for orders of five or more copies, deadline Mar. 1, 1986.

January 1986 #6

437. John Hawkesworth has earned acclaim for a long list of television series, from "Upstairs, Downstairs" through "Danger UXB" and "The Flame Trees of Thika" to "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" but his first major success, for which he won a Screenwriters Guild Award, was his work on series of Conan Doyle series broadcast by BBC-2 in 1967.
438. THE ADVENTURE OF THE SMILING JUDGE, a new pastiche by Mary Fantina "from the papers of Sherlock Holmes," has Holmes describing Watson's successful solution of a case during the Great Hiatus; the 19-page pamphlet is \$3.00 postpaid from the May Press, 32 Old Army Road, Bernardsville, NJ 07924.
439. "The overall look of the picture, the feeling that you have about the film's visuals--that's the function of a production designer," explains Norman Reynolds in an interview in Starlog (Feb. 1986) Reynolds was the production designer for "Young Sherlock Holmes," and he certainly did a fine job. "We built quite a big set on the backlot, which was cobbled streets and period buildings. I looked for London locations, but it has become very difficult now. Many buildings have been demolished, and there's very little in the way of cobbles left. And if you do find a piece of cobbled street, there are yellow lines and parking meters and venetian blinds and modern drapes and TV aerials. So, finally, we built a section of London that worked for the film." The school was another challenge: "We couldn't find a public school that had everything we wanted, so we went to Eton for some scenes, and to Belvoir Castle for others. We also used Radley College in Oxford, Radcliffe Camera and Brasenose College in Oxford --all integrated into one, as the same school. And it works, too--it has the best of all those places."
440. A new, and more detailed, flier at hand for "A Weekend in Toronto with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes" on June 19-22, 1986. Write to The Bootmakers of Toronto, 225 Carlton Street, Toronto, Ont. M5A 2L2, Canada.
441. "Upstairs, Downstairs" fans will welcome the news that fourteen episodes are available on videocassette (\$43.90 each postpaid) from Corinth Video, 410 East 62nd Street, New York, NY 10021 (800-221-4720).
442. "Lord Mountbatten: The Last Viceroy" has started on PBS-TV, with two Sherlockian actors in the cast: Nicol Williamson as Mountbatten, and Ian Richardson as Nehru.
443. The facsimile of Marvin P. Epstein's manuscript of THE ADVENTURE OF THE PRIORY SCHOOL is at hand, introduced and signed by Len Deighton, and well produced and highly recommended (90 p., \$48.95 postpaid from Pepper & Stern, Box 2711, Santa Barbara, CA 93120). Not only is the book the closest most of us will get to owning a manuscript, it's also a fine way to see how a story is written (and rewritten). And there are several places where new light will be shed on identifications of people and places.
444. I believe that all of you have now received a copy of my seasonal souvenir ("ICH HABE DIE EHRE IHNEN DOKTOR MORS VORZUSTELLEN!"), either at the birthday festivities in New York or enclosed with this mailing. If I've missed anyone, let me know.

February 1986 #1

445. Anthony Boucher's THE CASE OF THE BAKER STREET IRREGULARS (D5834a) has been reprinted in paperback (New York: Carroll & Graf, 1986; 252 p., \$3.95), with Otto Penzler's intro from the 1980 Gregg Press edition; a fine book, and recommended.
446. It's not S'ian, as far as I know, but fans of Dorothy L. Sayers may be interested in THE LORD PETER WIMSEY COMPANION, by Stephan P. Clark; \$49.95 postpaid from The Mysterious Bookshop (129 West 56th Street, New York, NY 10019), according to a review in Playboy (Apr. 1986).
447. I've had one request for an address for the Culture Press, publisher of Robert T. Weidaw's THE CHRONOLOGION (December 85 #2). A careful examination of John Harris' reviews of "Christmas Books" in the Atlantic (Dec. 1985) suggests that all of the books are ghosts.
448. Bantam has issued a "Win a Mystery Weekend!" booklet to promote their computer game SHERLOCK HOLMES IN "ANOTHER BOW" (you don't need a computer or their game to solve the mystery). Available, according to Bantam, at all stores that carry the game, and but not directly from Bantam Books (the store also gets a prize if you win).
449. Reported by John Bennett Shaw: the current catalog from Scholastic Inc. (Box 7502, Jefferson City, MO 65102), with (new) THE RED-HEADED LEAGUE AND OTHER MYSTERY PLAYS, including "RedH" (D4383b) and "Bery" (D4353b), and (old) THE ADVENTURE OF THE SPECKLED BAND AND OTHER PLAYS (D4450b); \$2.95 each. Also mention of ACD in SCOPE ENGLISH ANTHOLOGIES on p. 32.
450. The Newcastle Mint (6512 Belgrave, Garden Grove, CA 92645) has announced "The Sherlock Holmes 100 Year Commemorative Art Medal Collection" 72 art medals, 3 cm. in diameter, minted in pure gold on fine pewter (\$20.00 each) or in pure silver (\$30.00 each) to be issued monthly beginning in March, in an edition strictly limited to 1,500 numbered sets, with a subscription deadline of Feb. 15, 1986. The announcement was received Jan. 31, along with a letter offering additional brochures and saying that they will be happy to extend the Feb. 15 deadline, so I assume that there's still plenty of time for people to sign up for this \$1,440.00 (or \$2,160.00) collection.
451. Sherry-Rose Bond and Scott Bond reported on their trip to Manchester and the Granada studio "In Search of Sherlock Holmes" in a long article in the Feb. 1986 issue of Applause (KHYY-TV, 2300 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103).
452. Forecast by St. Martin's Press in June: THE QUALLSFORD INHERITANCE: A MEMOIR OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, FROM THE PAPERS OF EDWARD PORTER JONES, HIS LATE ASSISTANT, by Lloyd Biggle, Jr. (256 p., \$15.95).
453. Daniel Thomas' MAD HATTER SUMMER, which I heartily recommend (BSJ June 1985 and BSM spring 1985), has been discounted at \$2.95 in the Feb.-Mar. 1986 bargain-books catalog from Edward R. Hamilton.
454. Newton M. Williams died on Jan. 28, and it's a sad loss indeed. He was a good friend to The Occupants of the Empty House and to many others, and an enthusiastic Sherlockian.

February 1986 #2

455. Sound Track Album Retailers (Box 7, Quarryville, PA 17568) is closing out FAMOUS DETECTIVE HOLMES (Muramatsu ANL 1018), the Japanese soundtrack from a cartoon from the studio that did "The Adventure of Sherlock Hound" (that was on HBO in Nov. 1983); \$16.95 plus shipping, and they take plastic.
456. Jack Kerr (216 Laurel Building, King & Frazer Roads, Malvern, PA 19355) offers free photocopies of reviews of "Young Sherlock Holmes" from the Wall Street Journal (Dec. 5, 1985) and Time Magazine (Dec. 9, 1985).
457. Dr. Steven Wagner, owner of the "Life Mask of Sherlock Holmes" displayed and discussed at the 1986 BSI annual dinner, has been persuaded to have copies made from the original (which has been identified as the work of M. Oscar Meunier of Grenoble); copies of the moulage, with a detailed description, will cost \$40.00 including UPS delivery, and orders may be placed with John Bennett Shaw, 1917 Fort Union Drive, Santa Fe, NM 87501.
458. Waldenbooks is selling "Bearlock Holmes" (the 10-in. Sherlockian teddy bear) at \$19.95 (plus \$2.50 shipping if by mail); they take plastic. Waldenbooks, attn: Marketing-Mystery Club, Box 1084, Stamford, CT 06904.
459. The British broadcast of the second Granada series generated some comment in the press. Nancy Banks-Smith, in the Guardian, noted that we (and Watson) have only Holmes' word for Moriarty being "anything but a perfectly respectable professor kind to dumb students and meticulous in his tax returns." Holmes, however, "is clearly off his head," she writes, and wonders how many innocent lives must have been saved by Watson's habit of abandoning his patients at a word from Holmes. Watson "seems to use his head solely to stop his ears banging together," she concludes. John Naughton, in The Listener, suggested in one review that "David Burke as Watson continued to be as useful as a hatstand in a Turkish bath," and in another that "whether one likes it or not, however, Mr. Brett's rendition of the character has now reached the point where it might almost be called an interpretation, and enshrined in American PhD dissertations. In contrast, David Burke's portrayal of Watson as a well-intentioned pair of short planks laid end to end, though hilarious, has been much more conventional."
460. Frank Langella is returning to the role of Sherlock Holmes, according to an item in the N.Y. Times (Jan. 31, 1986), in "Sherlock's Last Case" forecast for Broadway in October. The 1974 Charles Marowitz play (D4468b) was revised for production in Los Angeles in 1984. Langella will be remembered as a fine Holmes in the 1981 HBO telecast of Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes". The BSI birthday festivities in 1979 included a Thursday-night theater party for "The Crucifer of Blood" -- if Langella's play is a success, perhaps some energetic New Yorker will make similar arrangements for 1987.
461. "Young Sherlock Holmes" received one Oscar nomination, for best visual effects. Also nominated in that category were "Cocoon" and "Return to Oz". The film is reported to have cost \$16 million, \$1 million under budget. And Toronto Star film reviewer Ron Base had a sarcastic suggestion for a sequel: Sherlock Holmes goes back to the future, encounters a cute little alien creature, and defeats an evil shark.

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462. The Granada series earned considerable praise for its fidelity to the Canon, even though some liberties were taken (such as the early introduction of Watson in "The Crooked Man"). But the changes rung on "The Greek Interpreter" were a thorough disappointment.
463. Paula Salo's THE SHERLOCK HOLMES MOTHER GOOSE, illustrated by Larry Marty (Burbank: Sherlock in L.A. Press, 1985; 26 p., \$10.00) contains Canonical matches for 16 short nursery rhymes (including one that begins, "Hickory, Dickory, Doc./Your brother's watch was in hock."); available from the publisher (2712 Scott Road, Burbank, CA 91504).
464. Ron De Waal reports that B. Dalton has the \$7.98 discount edition of the Simon Goodenough murder dossier of A STUDY IN SCARLET published in book form (January 86 #3).
465. Thanks to Al Rosenblatt for a correction: F. Murray Abraham, forecast in the film of "The Name of the Rose" (January 86 #4), won his Oscar in "Amadeus" (not "Chariots of Fire").
466. Gideon Hill reports being told by a Disney publicist that the studio is concerned by the poor box-office performance of "Young Sherlock Holmes" and has decided to change the title of "Basil of Baker Street" to something "less Sherlockian."

467. The spring 1986 catalog from Historical Products (Box 220, Cambridge, MA 02238) includes the usual assortment of T-shirts, sweatshirts, tote bags, etc., all available with their Steele portrait of Holmes or their Canonical quotation ("I abhor the dull routine of existence. I crave for mental exaltation.") And their calendar notes the Canonical event that occurred on Apr. 27, 1890.
468. Sherlock Holmes was on television in the U.S.S.R. in 1985, not in the Granada series, but rather in a Soviet series (presumably "Priklyucheniya Sherloka Kholm'sa i Doktora Vatsona", the series that was launched from Lenfilms Studios in Leningrad in 1979). The series is well produced, according to a report in the London Daily Star (July 23, 1985), except for errors such as "the occasional glimpse through the Baker Street chimney pots of the grand, soaring architecture of the Winter Palace, once the home of the Tsars of all Russia and the spot where the Russian Revolution got under way with a vengeance."
469. "I don't know if you share my growing conviction that Conan Doyle was not a dog man," Nancy Banks-Smith wrote in the Guardian (Aug. 26, 1985). "A dog has only to raise its handsome head in Doyle to have its brains blown out. The Hound of the Baskervilles (as large as a small lioness) got five barrels in the flank from Holmes. The mastiff in The Copper Beeches (as large as a calf) was as affable a dog as ever wagged its tail ingratiatingly at a cameraman (straight between the ears) and what about Watson's bull pup? When he first met Holmes Watson mentioned he owned a bull pup (size unspecified) because these things can be accounted a flaw in a fellow lodger. 'Oh, that's all right,' said Holmes 'with a merry laugh.' Ha Ha indeed. Do we ever see hair or hide of that dog again? We do not. Undoubtedly it fell victim to Holmes's reckless target practice in Baker Street."

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470. Michael Cox, producer of the Granada series, responded to Nancy Banks-Smith's query, in a letter to the Guardian (Aug. 29), suggesting that she has "reopened one of the great Sherlockian mysteries: what became of Watson's bull-pup?" Cox notes Jack Tracy's statement that "To keep a bull-pup, in Anglo-Indian slang, means to have fits of quick temper." But there are no bull-pups in Partridge to support this view, according to Cox, "so Holmes remains suspected of foul play." The Anglo-Indian (actually army) slang was identified by Jacques Barzun (D1547b).
471. New "interactive fiction" computer games mentioned in the Feb. 1986 issue of American Libraries, from Codewriter (5605 West Howard, Niles, IL 60648): CASEBOOK OF HEMLOCK SOAMES 1 & 2 and CASEBOOK OF HEMLOCK SOAMES 3 & 4 (both for Atari), and SHERLOCK HOLMES RETURNS (for Commodore); \$19.95 each.
472. Len Lawson (1206 Notre Dame Court, Livermore, CA 94550) is using his Corona (IBM PC compatible) and dBASE III to compile a data base of SH and ACD periodical appearances, and wonders if there are others doing similar work. Is there a Sherlock Holmes bulletin board? Is anyone interested in one?
473. I have found a source for BOZZ CHRONICLES #1, the comic book mentioned earlier (January 86 #2), and other comics as well, at reasonable prices: Mindbridge Ltd., 4351 Ebenezer Road, Baltimore, MD 21236.
474. Gerald Weissmann's "The Game Is Afoot, or Holmes and Watson at Bellevue" (Discover, Mar. 1986) at hand from Ely Liebow. "William Goldring told a group of us that perhaps we could learn as much about clinical medicine from Sir Arthur Conan Doyle as from Cabot and Adams (our somber textbook of physical diagnosis)," Weissmann writes of his student days. And he notes that the Holmes legend is based on the premise that diagnostic skills can be taught: "Watson's slow progress over time is painful, but inevitable. He's the true patron saint of the medical student."
475. "Young Sherlock Holmes" screenwriter Chris Columbus interviewed Billy Wilder for American Film (Mar. 1986). Discussing "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes", Wilder said, "I should have been more daring, but unfortunately, the son of Conan Doyle was there. I had wanted to make Holmes a homosexual. . . That's why he is on dope, you know. Look, we have been freed now from the Green Office of the Johnson Office or that stupid thing. In many respects, it's terrifying, because now any idiot and any pornographer can do anything. But for the ones who are a little bit discriminating, who do it delicately, a grand new thing is opened. But that was after Private Life. Just the saddest thing about [the film] is that it was a waste of a year and a half of my life."
476. More info on the schoolbooks reported (January 86 #5) from the Globe Book Co. (50 West 23rd Street, New York, NY 10010). THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES is a revised 3rd ed. of D650a, with new illos but without the radio adaptation of "Lion" (\$5.83). THE WORLD ANTHOLOGY, edited by Robert R. Potter and Roger G. Goodman, has Olive J. Morley's dramatization of "Seco" (\$16.78, with student's workbook at \$2.94 and teacher's resource manual at \$2.50). THE READER'S ANTHOLOGY, edited by Robert R. Potter, has Alice Delman's dramatization of "Spec" (same prices). Shipping extra, and you can call 800-221-7994.

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477. A tantalizingly incomplete report from a non-Sherlockian that "Young Sherlock Holmes" has appeared with a different title raises the possibility that Paramount has test-marketed the film with a new title that might have more appeal to movie audiences. Does anyone have more information on this?
478. Jim Duval reports that the Quality Paperback Book Club (Camp Hill, PA 17012) is offering members a \$7.85 set of two 10-ounce ceramic mugs with portraits of Sigmund Freud and Sherlock Holmes (the Gersten caricatures).
479. Jorge Luis Borges' poem "Sherlock Holmes" (translated by Richard Outram) is in Descant #51 (winter 1985-86); this is the magazine's mystery issue, at \$12.00 (P.O. Box 314, Station P, Toronto, Ont. M5S 2S8, Canada).
480. THE SHERLOCK HOLMES ABC BOOK, by Andy and Bill Paton, with a Foreword by Bob Coghill (Toronto: Simon & Pierre, 1985; 64 p., \$9.95 Canadian); prepared for young readers by young authors (the Patons are teenagers), with Canonical artwork and relevant discussion for each letter of the alphabet (from "Adler" to "Zoo"), and nicely done.
481. Bernie O'Heir reports that the "Young Sherlock Holmes" one-sheet is available for \$8.00 (plus \$2.50 shipping) from Movie Poster Service, Box 517, Canton, OK 73724.
482. "An Afternoon with Sherlock Holmes and Conan Doyle" is scheduled for Mar. 22 at WSU in Dayton, Ohio. Details available from Dr. A. E. Rodin, Wright State University Medical School, Box 927, Dayton, OH 45401.
483. Chris Redmond (125 Lincoln Road #1101, Waterloo, Ont. N2J 2N9, Canada) offers copies of THE TALE OF COPPERELLA, a well-executed 8-page pamphlet ("wherein are related the adventures of a sweet young lady, and also the doings of a noted detective") issued in Oct. 1985; \$2.00 (U.S.) postpaid.
484. Does anyone have Microsoft Windows? This is one of the new "alternative operating environments," and it displays a series of icons at the bottom of the monitor to indicate which applications programs are memory-resident utilities; one of the icons is a Sherlockian silhouette, according to an illo in the Feb. 25, 1986, issue of PC Magazine, but I have no idea what it indicates. For those who don't "talk tekkie," there's some new computer software that uses a little picture of Sherlock Holmes to show you that it can do something, but I don't yet know what.
485. Barbara J. Raheb (P.O. Box "O", Tarzana, CA 91356) is offering the complete set of her CHRONICLES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (45 miniature volumes) in a 1740 Chippendale wood cabinet, at \$525.00.

486. And a flier at hand from Peter E. Melonas (Baker Street Enterprises, 1726A Sycamore Square Mall, Memphis, TN 38134) offering his S'ian posters.
487. If you're going to be in Chicago this spring, Ely M. Liebow will be presiding over one of the Lyceum Seminars at the Newberry Library, giving ten weekly lectures on "The Fiction of Arthur Conan Doyle" beginning on Mar. 25.

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488. Hascom Publishers (Box 1396, Provo, UT 84603) has sent a flier offering THE SECRET CONAN DOYLE CORRESPONDENCE, by Leslie Vernet Harper, at \$6.95 pre-publication (it's scheduled for Apr. 15); Arthur Conan Doyle, Jacques Futrelle, Nellie Bly, Emma Goldman, and Teddy Roosevelt trying to prevent the assassination of Arthur Balfour.
489. I don't know how many newspapers have special Valentine's Day "personal" sections, but they're worth checking. Norman Davis reports an "I.A. Forever. S.H." in the Chicago Sun-Times this year (and occasionally) in past years. And the Washington Post usually has one to Irene Adler with a thoroughly non-S'ian message in a non-Canonical code.
490. And a hearty raspberry to Vincent Price's script-writer for claiming (in the introduction to Granada's "The Copper Beeches") that William Gillette introduced the Holmesian calabash. There's no evidence for this, photographic or otherwise; Gillette used a curved wooden pipe.
491. Forecast for April: SON OF HOLMES, by John T. Lescroart (New York: Donald I. Fine, 223 p., \$15.95; bon vivant Auguste Lupa, the son of Sherlock Holmes and an opera star, makes his detecting debut in France in World War I. According to the publisher's publicity, the author attended a Martha Hudson dinner in Arlington, Mass., fifteen years ago, "and never recovered from the experience."
492. A new saleslist/newsletter at hand from Carol Brener (Murder Ink, 271 West 87th Street, New York, NY 10024), reporting that Daniel Stashower's THE ADVENTURE OF THE ECTOPLASMIC MAN is one of the nominees for the Mystery Writers of America's Edgar for best first novel by an American (their awards dinner is May 9 in New York). She offers LETTERS TO SHERLOCK HOLMES, edited by Richard Lancelyn Green (highlights of correspondence to Holmes), at \$6.00 (this is a Penguin paperback which I've not yet seen), and forecasts (March) DELL BOOK OF QUIZZES & PUZZLES FOR LITERATURE LOVERS, by Lane & Bartlett ("an Anglophile's Eden" with a Holmes section), at \$7.00, and (May) Michael Hardwick's SHERLOCK HOLMES: MY LIFE AND CRIMES at \$9.00 (presumably a trade paperback), and (June) Stashower's ECTOPLASMIC MAN in paperback at \$3.50, and (July) paperback reprints of John Dickson Carr's NINE WRONG ANSWERS at \$3.50 and Anthony Boucher's NINE TIMES NINE (not in De Waal, but it has many S'ian references) at \$5.00.
493. The March issue of Dial has a nice color photo of Holmes and Moriarty on location in Switzerland for the Granada version of "The Final Problem".
494. Wally Conger reports that a videocassette of the 1937 film "Silver Blaze" is available at \$19.95 at Waldenbooks and B. Dalton (and from Kartes Video Communications, 10 East 106th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46280).
495. Mycroft's Isolated CoMpanions are planning their Ninth Annual 125th Birthday Bash for Sherlock Holmes in Cleveland on May 17, 1986. Additional information available from Dwight J. McDonald, 1711 Cypress Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44109.
496. There are now 80 people on the info-sheets mailing list. And why not, suggests Norman Davis: Sherlockians invented "trivial pursuit."

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497. A bibliographic query. Please check your older copies of A STUDY IN SCARLET. I am trying to find copies published by Ward, Lock & Co. (in any binding) in which the publishing history (after the title page) ends with a 1901 printing of the Third Edition. If you have such a copy, please send me a photocopy of the publishing history, and of page xvii. Eventually this will help sort out the Souvenir Edition of A STUDY IN SCARLET. And maybe I can figure out the other three titles in the Souvenir Edition before the end of the century.
498. Simon & Schuster Video has finally announced their videocassettes of the Granada series, with three cases (SCAN, SPEC, and BLUE) to be issued on Mar. 26 at \$39.95 each.
499. The Jan.-Feb. 1986 issue of the Metropolitan Toronto Library Board News celebrates the founding of The Bootmakers of Toronto ("now the largest active Sherlock Holmes society meeting regularly in North America") and the Library's acquisition of the rare pamphlet with Conan Doyle's speech to the Edinburgh Burns Club in 1901. If you'd like to see 1971's beardless Cam Hollyer, the MTLB address is 789 Yonge Street, Toronto M2W 2G8, Canada.
500. Reported by John Stephenson: "The Case of the New Pipe Smoker" (a small S'ian pamphlet), at Walgreen's or other pipe stores handling Dr. Grabow pipes. Video Classics (Box 10069, Burbank, CA 91505) is offering 18 of the 1954 Ronald Howard TV programs (and some other S'ian items) at \$9.99 each. "Splash Briefs" (Regal Way, Faringdon, Oxfordshire SN7 7BX, England) with a S'ian figure gazing through a magnifying glass, captioned "It's got to be here somewhere" (nylon, one size fits all, £1.35).
501. Movie Poster Service (Box 517, Canton, OK 73724), who offered (February 86 #5) the one-sheet for "Young Sherlock Holmes", write that they have older material and ask for want lists.
502. The Feb. 1986 issue of Nutshell News has an article on one-inch-scale dolls (including SH) made by Debbie Olsen (Nostalgia by the Inch, 4205 36th Avenue Drive West, Bradenton, FL 33505); send a #10 SASE for her flier.
503. Reported from Toronto: WHATEVER HAPPENED TO LADY CHATTERLY'S LOVER?, by Martin Levin (Kansas City: Andrews, McMeel & Perker, 1985), with a page on what really happened after the Reichenbach battle ("the Norton divorce was a messy cause celebre..."). THE BENIGN HUMORISTS, by Richard S. Carlson (Archon Books, 1975), with discussion of Wodehouse and Conan Doyle in the chapter on "Benign Humor and Escape Literature".
504. The first issue (Feb. 1986) of The Agony Column has appeared, with Bill Rabe's perceptive response to complaints from Canonical purists that "Young Sherlock Holmes" can't be any good because we know that Holmes and Watson first met at St. Bart's: how did Holmes greet Watson at St. Bart's? "How are you? You have been to Afghanistan, I perceive." Not an opening gambit with a stranger, Bill suggests. The Agony Column (8 pp.) will be published quarterly at \$5.00 a year; W. T. Rabe, 909 Prospect, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783. And The Old Soldiers of Baker Street of the Two Saults (Old SOB'S) will meet on May 26-29 at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island ("the Miami Beach of the north," Bill once claimed).

March 1986 #2

505. "Many historical references to the origins of forensic science, even to ancient times, exist in the vast literature of humanity. It was not, however, until Sir Arthur Conan Doyle with intriguing foreshadowing suggested the use of scientific crime detection methods, through his fictional character Sherlock Holmes, that modern forensic science began its development. Holmes applied principles of serology, fingerprinting, firearm identification, and questioned document examination long before these techniques and their utilization were to be recognized and accepted in modern investigation." Yale H. Caplan, in his editorial on "Justice in the Forensic Sciences" in the Journal of Forensic Sciences (Jan. 1986).
506. John T. Lescroart's SON OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (New York: Donald I. Fine, 1986; 233 p., \$15.95) is S'ian only in its occasional references to the parentage and inherited abilities of the protagonist: Auguste Lupa. He is a large man, partial to yellow shirts, beer, and gourmet meals, and this tale of war-time espionage and murder in France in 1915 is more a tribute to the Neronian Canon than to ours.

507. Reported by John Bennett Shaw: a long article, with color illus, on "Young Sherlock Holmes" in *American Cinematographer*, Mar. 1986 (ASC Holding Corp., 1782 North Orange Drive, Hollywood, CA 90028; \$2.95). A S'ian story by J. N. Williamson in *Espionage Magazine*, Apr. 1986 (Box 1184, Teaneck, NJ 07666; \$2.50). Minor S'ian refs in James L. Swauger's *PETROGLYPHS OF OHIO* (Athens: Ohio University Press, 1984). A series of "Soundscape" audio cassette/slide programs (including one on "Sherlock Holmes: The Legend and the Stories") from Heritage International (3 Richard Court, Alston Road, Barnet, Herts. EN5 4EZ, England); £12.00 plus £5.50 shipping.
508. New sales list at hand from Ilene Fauver (US 2, 563 Clinton Road, Paramus, NJ 07652) with S'ian aprons, baseball cards (no, not the one featuring John Bennett Shaw), and much more.
509. Ray Milland, who died on Mar. 10, was once scheduled to direct and star in a movie about Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. "The Mystery Man" was to be the next picture at Republic, Louella O. Parsons announced in March 1955. Based on an original story by Marty Rackin, the film was to deal with ACD's early life as a medical student and to emphasize his interest in the spirit world rather than his family life.
510. *LETTERS TO SHERLOCK HOLMES*, edited by Richard Lancelyn Green (Harmondsworth: Penguin Books, 1985; 235 p., \$6.95); a representative selection from Holmes' mail (still about 700 letters a year to 221B Baker Street), and while many are prosaic requests for autographs and photographs, the variety of the correspondence (and correspondents) is fascinating.
511. I'm still exploring the six (or perhaps seven) variants of the Heritage Club set of the Sherlock Holmes stories. Does anyone have the Heritage Club prospectuses offering the 35th and 36th series?
512. Andy Jaysnovitch (6 Dana Estates Drive, Parlin, NJ 08859) now offers four videocassettes, each with four programs from the 1954 Ronald Howard series (\$29.95 per cassette plus \$3.00 shipping); send for his flier.

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513. Trevor H. Hall's *THE LAST CASE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* at hand: a 50-page monograph combining his interest in the haunting of Borley Rectory ("the most haunted house in England," according to the late Harry Price) and in Sherlock Holmes, Hall discusses Holmes' attitudes toward marriage and women and uses a pastiche format (Dr. Holmes-Adler, the Cambridge scientist, is Holmes' son) to present new information about Ivy Johnson Bull, the wife of the Rector of Borley. \$31.50 postpaid from Paulette Greene, 140 Princeton Road, Rockville Centre, NY 11570.
514. Reported by Brian MacDonald: *SHERLOCK HOLMES: SELECTED STORIES* (D736a) in a new edition from Avenel Book (\$3.95 at Waldenbooks). A S'ian cartoon on the back cover of *MAD'S AL JAFFEE FREAKS OUT* (Warner, \$2.95). *HOPPOPOTAMUS PLAYS DETECTIVE* (Wuzzles Collector Series #5); a stuffed wuzzle with a small laminated booklet showing Hoppopotamus in S'ian costume. And a deerstalkered fox in the closing credits of the TV show "Crazy Like a Fox".
515. Forecast in Britain: Alan Arnold's novelization *YOUNG SHERLOCK HOLMES* (Grafton Books, £1.95). *YOUNG SHERLOCK HOLMES STORY BOOK* (Grafton Books, £2.95). Terrance Dicks' *THE DISAPPEARING DIPLOMAT* (Blackie, £6.50) and reissues of Dicks' *THE MISSING MASTERPIECE* (D5267b) and *THE CINEMA SWINDLE* (same). Simon Goodenough's dossier of *THE VALLEY OF FEAR* (Webb & Bower, £9.95). Robert Bloch's *NIGHT OF THE RIPPER* (Robert Hale, £9.95). Allen Sharp's "choose-your-own-plot" *SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE MEYRINGEN PAPERS* (Cambridge University Press, £1.95). And in progress: Peter's Haining's history of Sherlock Holmes on television.
516. And there are some British editions already in print: *SHERLOCK HOLMES THROUGH TIME AND SPACE*, edited by Asimov/Greenberg/Waugh (Severn House, £8.95); Ellery Queen's *QUEEN'S QUORUM* (Greenhill, £15.00); Dilys Winn's *MURDER INK* (Souvenir, £10.95); and *ALFRED HITCHCOCK'S YOUR SHARE OF FEAR* with August Derleth's "The Adventure of the Intarsia Box" (Severn House, £8.95).
517. Reported by Jerry Margolin: S'ian cover and dramatization "The Red-Headed Club" in *Scholastic Sprint* (Jan. 10, 1986); 730 Broadway, New York, NY 10003; \$1.00. A deerstalkered teddy-bear alien in *Escape to the Stars #4* (1985); a small-press comic published by Visionary Graphics, Box 4760, College Station, TX 77844; \$1.25.
518. *LETTERS TO THE PRESS*, by Arthur Conan Doyle, edited by John Michael Gibson and Richard Lancelyn Green (Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 1986; 377 p., \$19.95); the third in the series (the others being *UNCOLLECTED STORIES* and *ESSAYS ON PHOTOGRAPHY*), and not yet published in Britain. It's a fine selection of ACD's letters to newspapers and magazines, running the gamut of topics from well-known (Edalji, Slater, spiritualism, politics) to the less-known (baseball, censorship, speed traps).
519. Dick Lesh reports that on Mar. 8 his PBS station broadcast a one-hour show "The Many Faces of Sherlock Holmes" (hosted by Christopher Lee). The program was produced by Avery Productions (they also do "The Golden Years of Television"). At least one PBS station (Washington) has decided not to buy the program from the network ("quality not up to our standards"). Has the program aired anywhere else other than Fort Collins?

March 1986 #4

520. Reported by Jack Kerr: Publishers Central Bureau (One Champion Avenue, Avenel, NJ 07131) is now offering the 12 records of the soundtracks of the Rathbone Universal films at \$3.98 each (or all 12 for \$36.00); obviously little demand, now that the VCR is so prevalent.
521. Plan ahead. John Bennett Shaw ("our favorite all-round Sherlockian," according to Senex Junior) will return to Stanford University for a week of Holmesian fun and games, August 16-23, 1987.
522. And when should we commemorate the birth of Sherlock Holmes? Stanley MacKenzie, interviewed in London by UPI, notes that spring 1986 is the real centenary, because *A STUDY IN SCARLET* was written in March and April 1886.
523. Jerry Margolin reports that the latest word from Disney is that July 25 will be the release date for "The Great Mouse Detective" (that's their new non-Sherlockian title for "Basil of Baker Street").
524. "American criticism today is like telephoning long distance and having someone under the age of five answer the phone," Gregory McDonald said last year at a crime writers' luncheon in New York. The quote is in the first issue of *Mysterious News* (Feb. 1986), a 16-page magazine to be issued five times a year (and available to direct-mail customers of *The Mysterious Press*, 129 West 56th Street, New York, NY 10019); non-S'ian, well produced, and informative.
525. Reported by Jon Lellenberg: G. Cabrera Infante's *HOLY SMOKE* (New York: Harper & Row, 1986; 329 p., \$16.95); a compendium of cigar lore and literature, according to the review in the *N.Y. Times* (Feb. 7, 1986), with discussion of Holmes' monograph on the difference between various types of cigar ash.
526. The Longman's "Heritage of Literature" series includes the nine volumes of the Canon and *THE LOST WORLD*, added to their list in 1979 and 1980 in a uniform paperback format, and still in print in England at £1.00 to £1.95 a volume. The S'ian volumes are reprints of the Murray/Cape edition, without the Introductions but with two new general introductions and back-of-the-book notes.
527. "Young Sherlock Holmes" was nominated for an Oscar for best visual effects, but "Cocoon" was the winner in that category.

528. Reported by Ron De Waal: DETECTIVES A TO Z, edited by Frank D. McSherry, Jr., Martin Greenberg, and Charles G. Waugh (New York: Bonanza Books, 1985; \$7.95); contents include "Copp".
529. ROUND THE FIRE MYSTERIES (London: Greenhill Books, 1985; 207 pp.; £7.95) is a facsimile reprint (except for the title) of ROUND THE FIRE STORIES (with "The Man with the Watches" and "The Lost Special").
530. Bruce Williamson's "The Year in Movies" in Playboy (May 1986) includes mention of Nicholas Rowe ("best young Spielberg"), but unless I missed it, they never reviewed the film -- which has opened in Britain as "Young Sherlock Holmes and the Pyramid of Fear".
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April 1986 #1

531. A new series of "Active Books" audiocassettes includes SHERLOCK HOLMES, with an Introduction and four stories (Scan, RedH, Iden, and Musg) ably read by William Barker. The two-cassette package costs \$9.95, from Dercum Press, Box 1425, West Chester, PA 19380.
532. A few copies of the scarlet "Silver Blaze Necktie" are still available for \$11.95 postpaid, from Thomas L. Stix, Jr., 34 Pierson Avenue, Norwood, NJ 07648. And a reminder that the Silver Blaze at Belmont will be held on Sept. 12; write to Tom if you'd like to receive the announcement.
533. ACD's signature is not uncommon, on books or short notes, but letters with significant content are seldom available. One such letter, non-S'ian, is nevertheless of interest: writing to Harry Houdini in the spring of 1920, ACD suggests that Houdini's astonishing escapes from sealed containers are achieved by dematerialization ("my reason tells me that you have this wonderful power, for these is no alternative"). The three-page letter, quoted at length (though not entirely correctly) by Ernst and Carrington in HOUDINI AND CONAN DOYLE (D2106b, p. 99), is being offered in a mail auction closing on Dec. 1, by Gregory B. Edmonds, Box 2741, Columbia, SC 29202.
534. John Ruyle (521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707) is celebrating the 15th anniversary of the first appearance of the great Turlock Loams with a new Crow's Foot Edition of THE ADVENTURE OF THE FIVE BUFFALO CHIPS (D5154b), revised and with a new Preface; \$28.50 cloth, \$13.50 paper.
535. Correction (thanks to Mendax Major): the report on the 1987 festivities planned at Stanford (March 86 #4) came from Senex Senior, not Senex Junior. There is as yet no confirmation of the rumor that the Stanford agenda will include a lubricious discussion by MM and SS of the Sherlockian references in the poetry of Petrarch.
536. "Come to the Parker House in Boston for the auction of a rare Sherlockian document. But be careful! Death has the highest bid!" That's the promo for the "Murder by the Letter" weekend scheduled by Bogie's Murderous Mystery Tours on June 27-29. Details available from Stevens Travel Management, 432 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016 (800-223-1028).
537. Everything has a S'ian connection, people suggest . . . "By the Sword Divided" now on PBS' "Masterpiece Theatre" is adapted from a novel by Mollie Hardwick.
538. Planning has begun for a "Final Problem" tour from England to Switzerland in late April and early May of 1987, with Scott Bond and Sherry Rose-Bond as escorts. Details available from Trade Winds Travel, 21 South 5th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106.
539. THE CONTENTS OF A LUMBER-ROOM: A CATALOGUE OF THE SHERLOCK HOLMES COLLECTION (City of Westminster: Department of Leisure Services, 1986; 95 p., £7.00 postpaid from the Marylebone Library, Marylebone Road, London NW1 5PS, England). The collection at Marylebone, the only public collection in Britain, was housed in a solitary bookcase 20 years ago, but in recent years it has expanded considerably; Catherine Cooke's introduction discusses both the Abbey House exhibition and the collection itself.
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April 1986 #2

540. Ted Schulz reports that the Video Classics series of \$9.99 cassettes of the 1954 Ronald Howard series (March 86 #1) has two programs on each of the 18 cassettes; thus 36 of the 39 programs are available. For compulsive completists, "Christmas Pudding" (D5532a) is available on one of the Andy Jaysnovich cassettes, but I have no record of anyone offering "Texas Cowgirl" (D5513a) and "Violent Suitor" (D5534a). Video Classics is at Box 10069, Burbank, CA 91505; Andy Jaysnovich is at 6 Dana Estates Drive, Parlin, NJ 08859.
541. Reported by John Stephenson: British paperback reprints (from W. H. Allen) of John Gardner's THE RETURN OF MORIARTY and THE REVENGE OF MORIARTY. Also: VOICES 1870-1914, by Peter Vansittart (New York: Avon Books), with a section of quotes from ACD and SH. Also that Rick's Movie Graphics (1105 North Main Street #3E, Gainesville, FL 32601) sells the press kit for "Young Sherlock Holmes" (with 18 stills) for \$25.00.
542. Forecast by Roger Johnson from England: BRIGADE: THE FURTHER ADVENTURES OF INSPECTOR LESTRADE, by M. J. Trow (Macmillan, May, £8.50); a sequel to THE ADVENTURES OF INSPECTOR LESTRADE. And filming in progress on "The Abbot's Cry" with Peter Cushing and John Mills, a Tyburn Films sequel to "The Masks of Death" (1984 on British television).
543. Rick Hacker (Box 634, Beverly Hills, CA 90213) offers a sepia-photograph poster (8.5 x 11 in.) showing SH smoking a calabash while reading THE ULTIMATE PIPE BOOK; \$7.50 postpaid.
544. Forecast for May: a trade paperback edition of Michael Hardwick's SHERLOCK HOLMES: MY LIFE AND CRIMES (New York: Henry Holt & Co.; 208 p., \$8.95). And a trade paperback of Robert Bloch's THE NIGHT OF THE RIPPER from Doubleday, with a cameo appearance by ACD.
545. Bouchercon XVII will be held at the Sheraton Inner Harbor in Baltimore on Oct. 10-12, with Donald E. Westlake as guest of honor. Regular membership costs \$25.00 (higher after July 1), and supporting membership costs \$10.00 (you can upgrade to regular if you want to attend). Bouchercon XVII is being run by Gail Larson, The Butler Did It, 10449A Green Mountain Circle, Columbia, MD 21044.
546. The acting script for Charles Marowitz's play "Sherlock's Last Case" (due on Broadway this fall with Frank Langella as Holmes) is available from Dramatists Play Service (440 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016) for \$3.35. Also available (same price): Dennis Rosa's "Sherlock Holmes and the Curse of the Sign of Four" (D4521b) and F. Andrew Leslie's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (D4481b). Book-rate postage is 95c per order.
547. Add Paul B. Smedegaard to your list of Sherlockian politicians. In his first try for public office, he won election to the city council in Racine, Wis., this month. "I felt all along it would be a very close election," the new alderman said of his 487-to-430 victory.
548. A second set of programs from Agatha Christie's "Partners in Crime" starts on "Mystery!" on PBS-TV on May 1, and "The Case of the Missing Lady" will air on May 15. This is the most S'ian of the published stories.
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April 1986 #3

549. There's a large-print edition of ELLERY QUEEN'S LOST LADIES (the collection includes Robert L. Fish's "The Adventure of the Disappearance of Whistler's Mother"); 512 p., \$15.95 from the publisher: John Curley & Associates, Box 37, South Yarmouth, MA 02664.
550. Jim Duval reports that the Gibson/Green UNCOLLECTED STORIES BY ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE is discounted at \$4.98 (plus \$2.95 postage) by Publishers Central Bureau (Dept. 410, One Champion Avenue, Avenel, NJ 07001; a fine book, with many seldom-seen stories by ACD, and a number identified for the first time as having been written by him).
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551. M. A. Dabritz, whose 3" bronze statue of Holmes sold out quickly in 1980, now offers a pair of figures (Holmes with magnifying glass examining a walking stick, and Watson with bowler hat and Gladstone bag) as a \$95.00 set on a cherrywood base that can hold a Cross pen and pencil set (\$29.00 extra); shipping is \$4.50. Additional details from A Cast of Characters, 1631 S.E. Main Street, Portland, OR 97214.
552. The Midwest Chapter of the Mystery Writers of America, noting that 1986 is the 100th anniversary of the birth of Vincent Starrett (winner of the MWA's Grand Master Award), and that his grave in Chicago is unmarked, is raising funds to provide a marker for the grave. Contributions to the Starrett Memorial Fund are welcome, and checks may be sent to MWA Midwest, Box 8, Techny, IL 60082.
553. Gideon Hill reports that the Apr. 15 episode of the TV game show "The \$25,000 Pyramid" had a category "Holmes Sweet Holmes" with instructions to name items in a Sherlock Holmes movie; the list consisted of pipe, London, butler, laboratory, clue, Watson, and mansion. They've used the category before, according to my notes, with a somewhat different list. And here's my own question for S'ian cinemaphiles: of the 12 Rathbone-Bruce films in the Universal series, how many have a laboratory? and how many have a butler?
554. The April issue of The Agony Column at hand from W. T. Rabe (909 Prospect, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783) with much of interest, including Bill's warning that "subscriptions of those who fail to contribute over a three-year period will be discontinued and refunded pro-rata." And news of David L. Hammer's new Gasogene Press, announcing plans to publish FOR THE SAKE OF THE GAME, the sequel to his THE GAME IS AFOOT; "it seems important, says Dave, "that there be a Sherlockian press which will be publishing rather than reprinting."
555. A bit of Hollywood gossip (from Forbes, Apr. 28): Sidney Ganis, who worked for George Lucas, has moved to Paramount as marketing chief. Paramount "prays it hit bottom last Christmas when both major holiday releases bombed. One, 'Young Sherlock Holmes,' a Steven Spielberg presentation, had seemed particularly promising. But knowledgeable observers say it wasn't marketed properly--many Americans thought it was a foreign film."
556. There is a new pair of hand-painted wall plaques, of Holmes and Watson, from Bossom in England. \$35.00 each postpaid from R. Jack Davis (Davis and Son, Long Leaf Mall, Wilmington, NC 28403).

April 1986 #4

557. "He is the King of Bohemia, and he reigns over a world of red herrings and black eyes, trench coats and shallow graves, and butlers who did it and maidens who won't," according to Jerry Schmetterer, in an article about Otto Penzler in the Mar. 1986 issue of On the Avenue. What would do if he found himself in Sussex one day and met Sherlock Holmes? "I would ask him to autograph a first edition of The Hound of the Baskervilles." Nominees and winners of awards from the Mystery Writers of America will be honored at Otto's MWA Open House Party at the Mysterious Bookshop (129 West 56th Street in New York) on May 10 from 11:00 to 7:00, with many authors on hand to autograph their books.
558. Mike Shayne Mystery Magazine ceased publication with the August 1985 issue, according to Edward D. Hoch's column in the spring 1986 issue of The Armchair Detective; if you didn't notice, it was probably because the magazine had no proper distribution in recent years, but it did publish occasional S'ian items.
559. And on p. 214 of the new TAD, Louis Phillips quotes a story from THE PROPERTY BASKET, the autobiography of the English actor Robert Speaight: "Only a few years ago I was one of a rather large dinner-party in Minneapolis. We sat at different tables, and when the meal was over a tall and rather melancholy figure came over to me from the other side of the room. He was a very distinguished physicist who had won the Nobel Prize for the discovery of Cortisone. 'Do you see anything odd in my appearance?' he asked. He seemed to be impeccably and conventionally dressed, and I replied that I could see nothing odd about him at all. 'My tie,' he persisted. I looked closer and discerned what might have been the emblems of a hat and a pipe woven into the silk. 'The Sherlock Holmes Society,' he went on. 'I have made all my important scientific discoveries by applying the methods of Sherlock Holmes.'"
560. Reported by Ron De Waal: a new edition (New York: Bell Publishing Co., 1986; 160 p., \$3.98 at B. Dalton) of Ruth Lake Tepper's THE SHERLOCK HOLMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE BOOK (D3929b). Large-print editions of THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES and THE MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES from North Books, Box 337, Peace Dale, RI 02883; \$18.00 each in cloth, or \$14.00 in paper.
561. It was Philip S. Hench who was wearing the Sherlock Holmes Society of London's tie; he won the Nobel Prize for Physiology and Medicine in 1950. And it's his Sherlockian collection that is now at the Wilson Library at the University of Minnesota.
562. If you don't have Bill Blackbeard's SHERLOCK HOLMES IN AMERICA (and you ought to), it's available for \$14.75 postpaid from Chris Voigt, 2600 East Main Street, Lot 33, Merrill, WI 54452.
563. "The Piltdown Problem Solved", by Charles S. Blinderman, presents yet another explanation of the Piltdown Hoax, in the Feb.-Mar. 1986 issue of the Journal of Irreproducible Results (Box 234, Chicago Heights, IL 60411; \$1.50) (or \$5.90 a year for 5 issues). The JIR (the official organ of the Society for Basic Irreproducible Research) has been described as "the funniest thing to happen to science since Archimedes ran naked through the streets of Syracuse."

May 1986 #1

564. Rex Stout's DEATH TIMES THREE (New York: Bantam Books, 1985; 213 p., \$3.50) presents three previously uncollected Nero Wolfe novellas, with an introduction by John J. McAleer (one of the stories is published for the first time, an event which McAleer suggests "is on a par only with the discovery of an eightieth Sherlock Holmes story").
565. The S'ian references in part 4 and part 6 of "Charters & Caldicott" on "Mystery!" on PBS-TV are also in the novelization by Stella Bingham (New York: Penguin Books, 1986; 180 p., \$3.95).
566. There's a paperback reprint of Daniel Stashower's Holmes-and-Houdini pastiche THE ADVENTURE OF THE ECTOPLASMIC MAN (New York: Penguin Books, 1986; 203 p., \$3.50).
567. New to me (at a local charity book sale) and possibly still in print: TANTALIZING LOCKED ROOM MYSTERIES, edited by Asimov/Waugh/Greenberg (New York: Walker and Co., 1982; 303 p.); contents include "Spec".
568. Wally Conger reports an article in the Los Angeles Times (Apr. 20) on Frank Langella's plans for "Sherlock's Last Case" on Broadway this fall. Staging the play will cost \$850,000, according to Langella, and "it's hard to ask people to come up with thousands of dollars that they could lose in 24 hours. But already we've got two-thirds of the money."
569. Reported: discussion of SH in one of the essays in Anthony Burgess' BUT DO BLONDES PREFER GENTLEMEN?: HOMAGE TO QUERT YUIOP AND OTHER WRITINGS (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1986; 589 p., \$24.95).
570. Reported by John Stephenson: a paperback reprint of John Dickson Carr's THE NINE WRONG ANSWERS (D5849a) from Ingram in June. And a computer game "Baker Street Detective" (for Apple and Commodore 64) at \$9.95 from Artworx Software Co., 150 North Main Street, Fairport, NY 14450.

571. "Young Sherlock Holmes: The Pyramid of Fear" went into general release in Britain on Mar. 14, receiving mixed reviews. The other major release in that week was a new movie starring John Cleese, and it was that movie that received major attention from most reviewers.
572. Reported by Jerry Margolin: a paperback reprint of William Kozwinkle's TROUBLE IN BUGLAND (Boston: David R. Godine, 1986; \$9.95); for those who didn't get the 1983 first edition, it's a collection of S'ian mysteries featuring Inspector Mantis and Doctor Hopper, with imaginative illos by Joe Servello.
573. Reported: THE DANCING MEN, by Duncan Kyle (Collins, 1986); a mystery novel with no S'ian connection except the title.
574. Thimbles have become the fourth leading world-wide collectible this century, according to Thimble News. And Francesca China makes two thimbles honoring Holmes and Watson, imported by Heirloom Editions, 25100 South Normandie Avenue, Harbor City, CA 90710. Their wholesale price is \$11.00 each (minimum order \$100.00), or they will be happy to tell you who your local Heirloom Editions retailer is.
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May 1986 #2

575. "Detektivgeschichten" is a weekly television series broadcast by ZDF in Germany, and on Feb. 22 the program was a Kulturdokumentation uber den Meisterdetektiv Sherlock Holmes," showing the 1985 Hoboken workshop, John Bennett Shaw and his collection, London and a meeting of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London, the Reichenbach and some British Sherlockians re-enacting the battle, and the nearby "Moriarty" pub.
576. ALIMENTARY ALERT! The Fourth Irregular Quinquennial Holmesian Dinner will be held at the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, N.Y., on May 16, 1987. More information will be available, eventually, from Albert M. Rosenblatt, Box 221B, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569; write to him to ask to be put on his mailing list for a formal announcement. By the time you read this, it is possible that no rooms will be available at the Beekman Arms in Rhinebeck (914-876-7077). An acceptable alternative is the new Montgomery Inn at 67 Montgomery Street, Rhinebeck, NY 12572 (914-876-3311).
577. THE QUALLSFORD INHERITANCE: A MEMOIR OF SHERLOCK HOLMES FROM THE PAPERS OF EDWARD PORTER JONES, HIS LATE ASSISTANT, by Lloyd Biggle, Jr. (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1986; 246 p., \$15.95); a new pastiche, and a fine one. A member of the original Baker Street irregulars until he was 16 years old, Jones asked Holmes to be taken on as an apprentice detective, and by 1900 had become a valued assistant; this is Jones' story, of a case that brought him and Holmes to the Romney Marshes, fraught with mystery and danger. Holmes is thoroughly credible, the mystery appropriate, and the book well written.
578. "The Great Mouse Detective" opens nationwide on July 2, according to Walt Disney Pictures. "The mysterious kidnapping of a master toymaker sets into motion the most entertaining comic caper of all time as the great mouse detective Basil matches wits with his old rival, the villainous Professor Ratigan." Vincent Price provides the voice for the criminal genius ("a character whose large ego is matched only by his aptitude for crime, Ratigan is embarrassed by his rodent origins and prefers to think of himself as a large mouse rather than the rat he actually is"). The studio publicity notes that "a new story was meticulously crafted using the characters from Eve Titus' popular children's book, Basil of Baker Street," but the 38-page pressbook carefully avoids mention of S*****k H****s. The voice of Basil is provided by the British actor Barrie Ingham, who played Dr. John Thornkyke in "The Moabite Cipher" in the television series "The Rivals of Sherlock Holmes" broadcast in Britain in 1971 and in the U.S. in 1972 (that credit is not mentioned in the pressbook, of course). Music by Henry Mancini, with three songs: "The World's Greatest Criminal Mind" (an upbeat music-hall melody in which Ratigan's thugs salute their infamous leader while cavorting merrily in a spirited parody of a Busby Berkeley number), "Goodbye, So Soon" (a sardonic ballad in which Vincent Price demonstrates a fine vocal range while describing the longstanding relationship between the two rivals), and "Let Me Be Good to You" (written and sung by Melissa Manchester, a zesty number in delivered in high style by a chanteuse in a sleazy river-front pub where Basil and Dawson go in search of Ratigan). And . . . at the very end of the long list of credits, well after the "breakdown and inbetween artists" and "ink & paint supervisors," there is a list of "additional voice talents" that includes Basil Rathbone (Sherlock Holmes) and Laurie Main (Watson).
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May 1986 #3

579. The twelfth (and final) episode in The Adventures of Turlock Loams is A SCANDAL IN BULIMIA, fresh from the Pequod Press and priced at \$28.50 (cloth) or \$13.50 (paper) postpaid from John Ruyle, 521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707. "The shrewd detective once again uncovers a monstrous scheme by his elusive nemesis Coroner Sandals, the John Bennett Shaw of crime."
580. "Harlan Ellison's Watching" in the July 1986 issue of Fantasy & Science Fiction is a long essay on "Young Sherlock Holmes", which Ellison describes as "109 minutes of just simply awful, lamebrained and inept crapola from the team that brought you Gremlins." Ellison also has some kind things to say about the Sacred Writings ("the adventures we read over and over from our first thrilling exposure to the canon till that final rereading of 'The Adventure of the Retired Colourman' moments before we go to meet Sir Arthur in person on the other side"), and will continue his discussion in his column in the Aug. 1986 issue of F&SF.
581. Reported: a going-out-of-business sale by Sherlockian Enterprises (Frank A. Hoffmann, 734 Richmond Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14222), closing out his stock of T shirts, calendars, brass plaques, leather items, and such.
582. Martin Gabel died on May 22. He played Moriarty in the 1964 musical "Baker Street" (D5166a).
583. BAKER STREET DETECTIVE, by David Fogel, is a new computer adventure game from Artworx Software Co., 150 North Main Stret, Fairport, NY 14450 (\$9.95 for Apple or Commodore 64). "You are Sherlock Holmes, the world's greatest detective, and you have just been presented with two new mysteries to solve. In the case of A Wasted Winess, Inspector Lastrade asks you to investigate the mysterious death of the government's star witness during an extortion trial. In the Scourge of the Executioner, you try to find a link between the murder of a bank president, and a bank robber who wears an executioner's hood."
584. SHERLOCK HOLMES'S LONDON: FOLLOWING THE FOOTSTEPS OF LONDON'S MASTER DETECTIVE, by Tsukasa Kobayashi, Akane Higashiyama, and Masaharu Uemura (San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 1986; 128 p., \$14.95). This is the American edition of A PICTORIAL RECORD OF SHERLOCK HOLMES'S LONDON, published in Japan in 1984 and reported with considerable enthusiasm here recently. "S'ians who fail to acquire this volume will inevitably be exposed as lacking both sense and sensibility" (BSJ, Dec. 1986).
585. Vilhjalmur Stefansson, one of five Arctic explorers honored by a set of commemorative stamps issued on May 28, was a friend and admirer of ACD. "In his home Conan Doyle is not merely a sturdier Watson and a kinder Holmes," Stefansson wrote (D2051b). "He is also a gentler Sir Nigel and a mellow blend of all the host of his nobler characters."
586. Robert Burchfield has finished editing the four-volume, 5,750-page Oxford English Dictionary Supplement, and one of the new entries under "wonder" is "wonder-woman," cited from the example "A wonder-woman in every way." The citation is credited to A. Conan Doyle and appears in the Canon. Who was the wonder-woman?
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June 1986 #1

587. HOLY SMOKE, by G. Cabrera Infante (New York: Harper & Row, 1985; 329 p., \$16.95), is a fascinating, humorous, and expert discussion of the history of cigars (and cigarettes and pipes), with occasional references to the Canon.
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588. "Violet de Merville, young, rich, beautiful, accomplished, a wonder-woman in every way," was the description given by Sir James Damery (Illu), and now found in the Oxford English Dictionary Supplement.
589. Recommended by Dick Lesh: THE UNIFORMS OF THE WORLD'S GREAT ARMIES: 1700 TO THE PRESENT, edited by I. T. Schick, with many British Victorian uniforms in full color (item #20659); originally \$24.50, discounted to \$2.95 (plus \$3.00 shipping per order) from Edward R. Hamilton, Falls Village, CT 06031.
590. Reported from Britain by Roger Johnson: Granada's "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" (seven programs with Jeremy Brett and Edward Hardwicke) will be broadcast beginning in July. Baskerville's is a new restaurant, with extensively S'ian decor, in Alsopp Place, near the London Planetarium. Published: SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE MEIRINGEN PAPERS, by Allen W. Sharp, a choose-your-own adventure in the "Storytrail" series (Cambridge University Press, £1.25); SHERLOCK HOLMES AT THE 1902 FIFTH TEST, by Stanley Shaw, a paperback reprint of his cricket pastiche (Star, £1.95). Forecast: MICHAEL HARDWICK'S COMPLETE NEW GUIDE TO SHERLOCK HOLMES (Weidenfeld & Nicholson); a revised edition of THE SHERLOCK HOLMES COMPANION. And a heavily illustrated centenary volume by A. J. Eyles (John Murray).
591. The latest issue of Communication at hand from The Pleasant Places of Florida, with the latest offers from Baker Street Emporium, including all 13 of the Granada "Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" on 3 VHS cassettes at \$20.00 (value for money indeed). Write to The Reverend Dr. Benton Wood, 4408 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach, FL 33510.
592. Arion Press (460 Bryant Street, San Francisco, CA 94107) has announced their next limited edition: Raymond Chandler's THE BIG SLEEP, at \$425. Copies of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES are still available (at \$300), or you can wait for the trade edition (\$16.50) announced for fall 1986 by North Point Press.
593. LAST LAUGHS, edited by Gregory McDonald (New York: Mysterious Press, 1986; \$16.95); the MWA annual, with Edward D. Hoch's "The Most Dangerous Man" (D4992b).
594. BUT DO BLONDES PREFER GENTLEMEN? HOMAGE TO QWERT YUIOP AND OTHER WRITINGS, by Anthony Burgess (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1986; 608 p., \$24.95), is a massive collection of his literate essays and book reviews, including his review of Owen Dudley Edwards' THE QUEST FOR SHERLOCK HOLMES.
595. Vilhjalmur Stefansson, honored by a commemorative stamp issued on May 28, was a friend and admirer of ACD. "In his home Conan Doyle is not merely a sturdier Watson and a kinder Holmes . . . he is also a gentler Sir Nigel and a mellow blend of all the host of his nobler characters." (D2051b).

June 1986 #2

596. Sherlock Holmes Security Inc. was one of the 17 companies in Florida and Alabama seized by the government on May 30 in a federal undercover drug bust targeted against a \$1 billion cocaine ring that imported nearly four tons of the drug into the U.S. in the past four years. The company, where much of the planning for the operation occurred, was owned by Henry Edsel Holmes, who was one of 30 people arrested and charged with violations of the "drug kingpin" statute.
597. Gasogene Press (Box 1041, Dubuque, IA 52004) will publish FOR THE SAKE OF THE GAME: BEING A FURTHER STUDY OF THE ENGLAND OF SHERLOCK HOLMES in July at \$22.95 (plus \$2.00 shipping); this is the second volume of David L. Hammer's researches. Gasogene (which is David L. Hammer) will reprint his first volume, THE GAME IS AFOOT, in 1986, and has also scheduled two books by Michael Harrison: LONDON BY GASLIGHT (reprint) and SHERLOCKIAN MEMORIES (new).
598. I suspect this won't be much help to fanatic collectors, but: Smucker's Plush Toy Offer (Box 935, Medina, OH 44258) offers a 14-inch Disney's The Great Mouse Detective "Basil" Plush Toy in return for \$12.95 and front labels from two 18-ounce jars of Smucker's jams/jellies/preserves and a special coupon that was included in a newspaper insert here, with a deadline of Aug. 31. It is of course possible that the toy will also appear in toy stores.
599. CASES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES is a new black-and-white comic book published by Renegade Press (3908 East 4th Street, Long Beach, CA 90814). The first issue (May 1986) has the full text of "Bery" copiously illustrated by Dan Day, who has used Rathbone and Bruce as his models but often seems more concerned with art than with accuracy. Six issues are planned, with the second devoted to "Danc" and then new stories. Cover price is \$1.70, or you can order direct (\$2.00, or \$7.00 for a six-issue subscription).
600. Tom Dunn (20-37 120th Street, College Point, NY 11356) is publishing a second printing of Book I of The Pipe Smoker's Ephemeris, at \$50.00. Book I is a fully indexed, 541-page, cloth-bound reprint of the first 15 years (spring 1965 through autumn 1979) of TPSE, Tom's massive irregular newsletter for The Universal Coterie of Pipe Smokers, whose ranks include many S'ians who over the years have indulged in much S'ian commentary. TPSE is a true labor of love, mailed free for the asking to anyone who expresses an interest (financial contributions welcome, but not required).
601. The Candy Cruncher is a small pamphlet for children, with text by Anna L. Carlson and illustrations by Diana Wynne showing "Candy Cruncher" in S'ian garb while pursuing his quarry (\$1.95 from PMG International, 1104 Summit Avenue #100-B, Plano, TX 75074).
602. Reported by Brian MacDonald: a computer named Sherlock in OPERATION SHERLOCK #1
603. THE A.1. GANG, by Bruce Coville (Signet paperback, \$2.25). Holmes Mouse and Watson Mouse in four "Adams Wood" mysteries by Stewart Cowley (Derrydale Books/Crown, \$2.00 each); the titles are WHO STOLE THE MIRROR, WHO SPILLED THE PAINT, WHO STOLE THE PRIZE, and WHO ATE THE CAKE. And THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Collier paperback, \$4.95) with a new cover illo by Richard Ross.

June 1986 #3

604. The Bettmann Archive is offering portraits of 65 historical personalities, including Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, printed from original negatives. The portraits cost \$45.00 each (plus \$6.95 shipping), and their illustrated brochure costs \$1.00. Bettmann Originals, 136 East 57th Street, Dept 1B, New York, NY 10022.
605. John Bennett Shaw will hold two Sherlock Holmes workshops next year: July 24-26 at William & Mary College in Virginia, and Aug. 16-23 at Stanford University in California. Write to Ray Betzner (124 Wickre Street, Williamsburg, VA 23185) to join the mailing list for the July event.
606. A few minor items: a deerstalker as a clue in the cover-quiz on "famous doctors" (Games, June 1986); a S'ian reference in one panel of a parody on "Moon-Fighting" (Mad, July 1986); a S'ian panel in "The Last of the Hollywood 'B' Movies" (Giant History of Cracked, Oct. 1986).
607. Reported by John Stephenson: DETECTIVE ARTHUR SEE-A-WORD PUZZLES (Western Publishing Co., \$1.29); Detective Arthur in S'ian costume, in a Golden Book for children.
608. Holmes and Watson appear on the box containing the LONDON MURDER MYSTERY GAME (Buffalo: Tuco, 1985; \$10.00), a role-playing party game for four to eight players, but not among the actual characters, which include Shanda Lear, Onda Mayke, Philip de Glass, and Vic Tim.
609. "The alarm clock beside Bisker's bed called him to his daily life at halfpast five... Striking a match, he lit the hurricane lamp standing on the wooden kerosene case beside the bed. Then he took up one of two pipes, in the bowl of which had been compressed the dried 'dottles' taken during the previous day from the other pipe. Bisker was a connoisseur in the art of nicotine poisoning, and he favoured an extra-strong dose before rising in the

- mornings, to be followed with mere ordinary doses during the day. To avoid wasting time, the special dose was loaded into the pipe overnight." Discovered by Evelyn Herzog in Arthur Upfield's *THE DEVIL'S FOOTSTEPS* (a 1946 Napoleon Bonaparte mystery).
610. Jorge Luis Borges died on June 14. His translation "La Liga de los Cabezas Rojas" was first published in 1943, and reprinted in the July 1947 issue of the *BSJ*, and his poem "Sherlock Holmes" was published in the winter 1985-86 issue of *Descant*.
611. *THE ADVENTURE OF THE ECTOPLASMIC MAN*, by Daniel Stashower, was nominated for the Mystery Writers of America's Edgar for best first novel, but the winner in that category was *WHEN THE BOUGH BREAKS*, by Jonathan Kellerman.
612. The musical "Baker Street" is seldom seen, but it will run Aug. 12-31 at the Berea Summer Theatre at Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, Ohio. Mrs. Hudson's Lodgers are planning a theatre party on Aug. 16; details available from Tom Stetak, 15529 Diagonal Road, La Grange, OH 44050.
613. More plans for next year: The Sherlock Holmes Society of London will make a "Pilgrimage to Switzerland" from Apr. 30 to May 9, 1987; details available from Cdr. G. S. Stavert, 3 Outram Road, Southsea, Hants. PO5 1QP, England.
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June 1986 #4

614. There are, of course, still a few months in 1987 without any already-announced S'ian activity, but I'm sure there will be more in store. So far: *BSI* annual dinner in New York (Jan. 9), *SHSOL* excursion to Switzerland (Apr. 30-May 9), *CIA* dinner in Hyde Park (May 16), *JBS* at William & Mary (July 24-26), *JBS* at Stanford (Aug. 16-23).
615. The next chapbook from *The Pleasant Places of Florida* will include Duane Damon's new pastiche "The Adventure of the Wolf's Head Stick" and an excerpt from David Kahn's book *THE CODEBREAKERS*; \$2.00 postpaid prepublication (July 4) and then \$2.50, from Ben Wood, 4408 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach, FL 33510.
616. The latest sales list from Video Specialists International (182 Jackson Street, Dallas, PA 18612) includes two VCR cassettes filled with longunavailable items ranging from "Sherlock Holmes Baffled" (1900) and "The Mystery of the Leaping Fish" (1916) to "The Singular Case of the Plural Green Mustache" (1964) and "The Celebrated Archives of Mr. Sherlock Holmes" (1970).
617. Atlanta is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the publication of *GONE WITH THE WIND*, and one article notes that while author Margaret Mitchell didn't get involved in the casting battles which were waged over the movie, she did have a favorite for the role of Rhett Butler: Basil Rathbone. "Frankly, my dear Watson . . ."
618. Reported by Bob Thomalen: an "inside joke" in the film "Back to School", in which Rodney Dangerfield, having decided to get a college degree, argues with his business professor, saying, "Now look, Sherlock . . ." The joke is that the business professor is played by Paxton Whitehead, who played Sherlock Holmes on stage in "The Crucifer of Blood" (1978).
619. Nigel Stock died on June 22 in London. In 1983 Nicholas Utechin called him "the best Dr. Watson of his generation in the media," and the praise was well-deserved. He played Watson in two BBC television series (with Douglas Wilmer in 1964-65 and Peter Cushing in 1968), on four phonograph records (with Robert Hardy in 1970-71), and in his one-man tour in "221B" (1983). He also recorded readings from the Canon for BBC radio in 1969 and 1976-77.
620. And more news from Britain, reported by Roger Johnson: *SHERLOCK HOLMES MEETS ANNIE OAKLEY*, a new pastiche by Stanley Shaw (W. H. Allen, £9.95); his *SHERLOCK HOLMES AT THE 1901 FIFTH TEST MATCH* appeared in 1985. *THE TELEVISION SHERLOCK HOLMES*, by Peter Haining (W. H. Allen, £14.95, in Aug.); heavily illustrated in color and black-and-white. And *THE SHERLOCKIAN*, the quarterly journal edited by Kelvin I. Jones, will debut in Aug.
621. Baskerville Holmes, the forward for the Memphis State basketball team, has been drafted. By Milwaukee, in the second round of the NBA draft. For those who tuned in late, it is reported that his mother has liked the 1939 Rathbone film, and saw it again not long before he was born.
622. Reported by Russ Geoffrey: *221B BAKER STREET*, another computer adventure game (Atari, Commodore, Apple); \$29.95 from Intellicreations, 19808 Nordhoff Place, Chatsworth, CA 91311.
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July 1986 #1

623. If you've been wondering why PBS-TV hasn't shown reruns of "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes", it may be that they paid for only one airing. The series started on USA cable on June 27.
624. Flier at hand for *The Silver Blaze* at Belmont on Sept. 12. This will be the 35th running of the race, and Dorothy and Tom Stix will be handing over the reins to their successors at the end of the festivities. Details from Thomas L. Stix, Jr., 34 Pierson Avenue, Norwood, NJ 07648.
625. "He shows quite remarkable talent in planning the capture of mice, little birds, and insects," Violet Hunter said of Edward Rucastle (Copp). In 1985 Britain issued a set of five stamps honoring the centenary of the Royal Entomological Society of London. Three of the stamps show insects mentioned in the Canon; can you identify the contexts?
626. Add another event to next year's calendar: *Sherlockon II*, at the Marriott Hotel in Torrance, Calif., on Mar. 13-15, 1987, sponsored by *The Blustering Gale(s)* from the South-West. Details from *Sherlockon II*, Box 1226, Lawndale, CA 90260.
627. Rumored: a new publisher for the *Solar Pons* pastiches by Basil Copper: reissues of the four volumes published by Pinnacle, plus two volumes that died with Pinnacle.
628. *TV Guide* (July 5) reports on plans for "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" as a TV-movie/pilot on CBS. "It seems that back in the old days, the evil Moriarty tricked Holmes into ingesting bubonic plague bacteria--whereupon Holmes had his companion Dr. Watson freeze and hide him in Watson's country home until a cure could be found. Cut to the present: Watson's American great-granddaughter discovers the detective and thaws him out." This has been in the works since 1981, when it was reported as written and produced by Bob Shane (in consultation with Michael Hodel, Sean Wright, and Nancy Senter) and the Aaron Spelling organization for an ABC-TV movie-of-the-week; later that year the project was suspended when, according to Hodel, Spelling demanded more changes in the second draft than Shayne was prepared to make. And (from a later press report) Kevin Connor ("North and South II") will direct, with shooting to start on July 21, for broadcast next season.
629. "Victorian Pleasures: Food, Fun, and Games" will be the theme of the next conference of the Northeast Victorian Studies Association, on May 1-3, 1987, at Wheaton College in Norton, Mass. Details available from Earl E. Stevens, Dept. of English, Rhode Island College, Providence, RI 02908. They have also issued a call for papers, which should be sent to Prof. Judith Wilt, Dept. of English, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA 02167.
630. Forecast: *WELCOME TO AMERICA, MR. SHERLOCK HOLMES: ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE'S 1894 LECTURE TOUR*, by Christopher Redmond, due this fall from Simon & Pierre (P.O. Box 280, Adelaide Street Postal Station, Toronto, Ont. M5C 2J4, Canada); write to the publisher to enroll on their mailing list.
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July 1986 #2

631. Forecast: a series of ten DANGER MOUSE books from Little, Brown and Co. in October, at \$3.95 each. They are also offering a life-sized Danger Mouse costume to stores planning in-house appearances and autographings, and posters and badges. The books are a spin-off from the British 10-minute cartoon series, first broadcast in Britain in 1981 and showing here on the Nickelodeon cable channel. "Dangermouse, the world's greatest detective, and his faithful assistant, Penfold, the world's most obvious coward, operate from a letterbox on Baker Street, helping their boss, Colonel K, solves crimes that range from exploding custard that is taking over the world to a weather machine run amok."
632. MORE WHO'S WHO ON SESAME STREET (Racine: Western Publishing Co., c1982, 99c) is a new coloring book, with one page devoted to Sherlock Hemlock.
633. Add Tim Pigott-Smith to the short list of actors who have portrayed both Holmes and Watson. He played Holmes in a BBC Radio 4 broadcast of "Vall" on May 24. And he played Watson in the Royal Shakespeare Company's revival of Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes". How many others on that short list can you identify?
634. Pause for a moment to consider how many books have been written and published, and how many subjects there might be that have never been dignified by such treatment. However short the list might be, the count is now reduced by one. Encountered in a recent dealer's catalog: THE MUCK MANUAL: FOR THE USE OF FARMERS. A PRACTICAL TREATISE ON THE CHEMICAL PROPERTIES, MANAGEMENT, AND APPLICATION OF MANURES, by Frederick Falkner (London: John Murray, 1846); a new edition, with a glossary of chemical terms, and an index.
635. SHERLOCK HOLMES THROUGH TIME AND SPACE, edited by Isaac Asimov, Martin Harry Greenberg, and Charles G. Waugh, first published in 1984, is now available in a trade paperback (New York: Bluejay Books, 1985; 355 p., \$8.95); a fine anthology of S'ian tales from the fields of fantasy and science fiction.
636. THE YOUNG DETECTIVE'S HANDBOOK, by William Vivian Butler (Boston: Atlantic Monthly Press, 1981; 144 p., \$4.95); with S'ian references in text and illustrations.
637. Flier at hand from Mostly Mysteries (225 Carlton Street, Toronto, Ont. M5A 2L2, Canada), offering the original artwork for one of Gus Mager's 1924-25 "Sherlocko" cartoon strips, at \$1,500.
638. "PLEASE GIVE THE YARD A CALL, WATSON." presents Gar Donnelson's exploration of the use of the telephone in the Canon. The well-illustration pamphlet (10 p., \$2.50 postpaid) is available from its author, at 430 Steinway Road, Lincoln, NE 68505.
639. James C. Cleary's THE BUTLER OF HURLSTONE: A COMPARISON OF SOURCES, first published in the Sept. 1982 issue of Prescott's Press and now expanded and annotated, presents some startling (and occasionally scandalous) discoveries in the personal journals of Richard Brunton (16 p., \$4.95 postpaid from the author, at 28 Pengilly Drive, New Rochelle, NY 10804).

July 1986 #3

640. "Sherlock Holmes I read now with the same pleasure as I did then, and am contently finding myself in good company. T. S. Eliot once told me that he thought The Speckled Band one of the great short stories in the English language, and as I recalled to him the classic opening chapters of The Hound of the Baskervilles his slow, his slightly sepuchral, voice completed the quotation: 'Mr. Holmes, they were the footsteps of a gigantic hound.'" From THE PROPERTY BASKET, by Robert Speaight (Collins and Harwill Press, 1970), quoted by Louis Phillips in the summer 1986 issue of The Armchair Detective.
641. The same issue of TAD has "A Conversation with John Gardner" by Joseph E. Bitowf, in which Gardner comments on his Moriarty series. \$20.00 a year; 129 West 56th Street, New York, NY 10019.
642. William Passen (1955). Donald McDonough (1976). David Pearce (1977). Three Investitured members of The Baker Street Irregulars, without known addresses. Can anyone offer help, or a clue?
643. Nessiteras rhombopteryx, perhaps the most famous of Scotland's tourist attractions, and its counterpart Belua aquatica champlainsiensis in Lake Champlain, have been the targets for much research, but it should be noted that there is a Loch Ness Monster, assembled in the loch and abandoned there when it sank during filming of "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" in 1969. "Nessie's Movie Double" is one of the chapters in a new book by Joseph W. Zarzynski, who suggests that "possibly one day Sherlock Holmes devotees in their ever-active quest for Sherlock Holmes memorabilia, may launch an expedition to locate and retrieve Billy Wilder's creation. MONSTER WRECKS OF LOCH NESS AND LAKE CHAMPLAIN (111 p., \$9.95 postpaid), is available from M-Z Information, Box 2129, Wilton, NY 12866.
644. "I'm hoping to have one more stab at Holmes," Peter Cushing said in a recent interview. "Now he's very old and tottering around with his bees. But it's a good script. If I can only stagger through Holmes--he never stops talking and moves with such speed. I thought, 'Oh, crikey. Roller skates please, props.'" He's referring to "The Abbot's Cry" (the sequel to the 1984 British television film "The Masks of Death"), and the new film will also have Rex Harrison, Nanette Newman, Patrick McGoohan, and Trevor Howard ("None of us are in the first flush of youth," Cushing noted).
645. According to a newspaper report forwarded by Jerry Margolin, not long after the title of the film "Basil of Baker Street" was changed, "some little imp posted a memo on the Disney animation department's bulletin board, with the department chief's name affixed, announcing the renaming of all the studio's animated classics in the mundane style of the latest film. 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs' became 'Seven Little Men Help a Girl', 'Alice in Wonderland' became 'The Girl in the Imaginary World', and 'The Wooden Boy Who Became Real' was the improved version of, well you get the idea. Studio execs were not amused, but then studio execs are the kind of people who come up with titles like 'The Great Mouse Detective'."
646. Chris Redmond (125 Lincoln Road #1101, Waterloo, Ont. N2J 2N9, Canada) has extra copies of several issues of BAKER STREET PAGES (D4187a and D4188a), 50c each or offered in trade; if your run is incomplete, write to him.

July 1986 #4

647. "I'm going on the premise that he is not the Sherlock Holmes, but almost an identical personality in today's world, only instead of sparks of intuition he uses scientific means to solve his cases." That's Richard Matheson's description of "The Evidence Never Lies", a TV pilot for Lorimar about the work of Prof. Leon MacDonald, "the country's greatest criminalist."
648. The "Mystery Classics" series of Hear-a-Book audio cassettes includes 35 of the tales, read with enthusiasm and style by Hugh A. Rose or Leonard Sloane. The cassettes cost \$4.95 (no shipping charge for readers of the BSI), and a list of titles is available from Westlake House, 31220 LaBaya Drive #110, Westlake, CA 91362.
649. There's a press report that a distributor is "dusting off" the 1954 Ronald Howard series, pasting the episodes into TV movies for next season.
650. Credit Rich Koelle for discovering the accompanying article in the Philadelphia Inquirer. And credit Jack Koelle for identifying the Canonical connection, quoting the London Standard (in Sign): "The prompt and energetic action of the officers of the law shows the great advantage on such occasions of a single vigorous and masterful mind."

651. More news on the grand gourmet S'ian dinner at the Culinary Institute of America on May 16, 1987. Rooms at the Beekman Arms (914-876-7077) are being filled quickly. The dinner will be black tie, and the price \$50.00 a person. Checks payable to Albert M. Rosenblatt, whose address is Box 221B, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569.
652. Reported by Ron De Waal: "The Adventure of the Mnemonic Norwegian" by Robert W. Hahn, in Alfred Hitchcock's *Mystery Magazine*, Sept. 1986. "Mickey Mouse and the Seven Ghosts" in Walt Disney's *Mickey Mouse* #219 (Oct.) and #220 (Nov. 1986). *THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES*, with an afterword by Frederick Busch (New York: New American Library, 1986; 251 p.); Signet Classic paperback.
653. ALFRED HITCHCOCK'S A MYSTERY BY THE TALE (anthology #22, fall 1986, \$3.50) has a reprint of Penelope Wallace's "The World According to Uncle Albert". The story begins, "My uncle was mad about Sherlock Holmes," and continues, "I'd once pointed out to him that there were other crime writers. It was like telling a religious bigot that there were other churches."
654. Flier at hand for "Autumn in Baker Street" at Bear Mountain on Oct. 11-12. Philip Brogdon will be one of the speakers, lecturing on "A Look at Black Detectives, with an Emphasis on Practitioners of the Sherlockian-Deductive Method, Including a Look at Individual Detectives Who Are Prohibited from Using the Sherlockian Method, Either Because of Personality Conflict or for Other Reasons." Write to Robert E. Thomalen, 69 Glen Road, Eastchester, NY 10709.

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655. More on the new version of the 1954 "Sherlock Holmes" series with Ronald Howard, reported by Marsha Pollak from an ad in *Variety*: "a major host will recreate the spirit of Baker Street" and the series will be re-released, partly in color, in 90-minute and two-hour formats, in the fall of 1987. Whitehall Productions, Ltd., distributed by R. T. Donnelly Enterprises, 21588 Rambla Vista Drive, Malibu, CA 90265.
656. Marsha also spotted an item about Rupert Holmes, who wrote the music and script for the musical "The Mystery of Edwin Drood" (which won five Tony awards). Rupert Holmes is really David Goldstein, "a man who loves to drink Rupert Knickerbocker beer and an avid fan of ace sleuth Sherlock Holmes," according to the *Dallas Times Herald* (June 3, 1986).
657. "You mean these Baker Street societies and all that. Grown men being silly. I can't say that I've had time to read any of the stories. When I do get time for reading, which isn't often, I prefer an improving book."
658. That's the reply of Miss Lemon, secretary to Hercule Poirot in *HICKORY DICKORY DOCK*, when asked if she is acquainted with *THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES*. And that, in turn, is from "Some Canonical Traces in the Detective Works of Agatha Christie", by David McGowan, in the summer 1986 issue of *The Sherlock Holmes Journal*, which also contains Jessica McMahon's interview with Edward Hardwicke, Jeremy Brett's new Watson.
659. *Fantomas*, described by his latest publisher as a character so sinister that he makes Professor Moriarty look like a common shoplifter, created a sensation when he first appeared in France in 1911, launching a series of sequels and films that were highly popular and that are now almost totally unknown. An English translation of *FANTOMAS*, the first of the series written by Marcel Allain and Pierre Souvestre, has been reprinted (New York: William Morrow and Co., 1986; 324 p., \$17.95), offering an introduction to one of the true criminals in literature. There is nothing S'ian about the book (Inspector Juve is intelligent and tenacious, but *Fantomas* always escapes), but the novel is a stylish presentation of a long-forgotten era.
660. "The Great Mouse Detective" is an enjoyable film -- favorable reviews so far from the N.Y. *Times* and the *Washington Post*, as well as from a few smaller papers -- and it ranked #9 on the *Associated Press* list of the ten top-grossing films for the weekend of July 4-6 with an estimated gross of \$3.2 million, and #10 for the weekend of July 11-13, with an estimated gross of \$3.4 million. For comparison, "Karate Kid Part II" was #1 both weekends with grosses of \$6.3 and \$6.7 million. For the weekend of July 18-20, "Aliens" led the list, with a gross of \$10.0 million, and "The Great Mouse Detective" didn't make the top ten.
661. Tyke Niver reports that the Military Collectors Guild (906 South Main Street, St. Charles, MO 63301) offers a number of items for Canonical militarists, including John S. Farmer's *THE REGIMENTAL RECORDS OF THE BRITISH ARMY* (\$18.95) and a regimental badge for the Fifth Northumberland Fusiliers (\$15.00). And J. Blades & Co. (Box 503, Carmel-by-the-Sea, CA 93921) offers a good selection of regimental neckties (not to be worn when traveling in the British Isles, of course, as "we would not want to be responsible for any unsuspecting American being branded a bounder and a cad by an outraged, but otherwise civil, Briton").

July 1986 #6

662. The Hounds of the Baskerville (sic) have confirmed some of their plans for the commemoration of the Vincent Starrett centennial: an exhibit of Starrett books and papers at the Cultural Center of the Chicago Public Library in October, with reading from Starrett's works on the afternoon of Oct. 24; a symposium on Starrett as writer, newspaperman, and Sherlockian, at the Newberry Library on the afternoon of Oct. 25; and a dedication of a memorial to Starrett at Graceland Cemetery on Oct. 26. Contact: Robert J. Mangler, 103 Broadway, Wilmette, IL 60091.
663. The answer to the philatelic challenge: "I, my old housekeeper, and my bees have the estate all to ourselves," Holmes wrote (Lion). The bufftailed bumble bee (*Bombus terrestris*), one of Britain's commonest bumble bees, undoubtedly was one of the inhabitants of Holmes' retirement estate in Sussex; the Canon also includes mention of bee-farming (Seco) and bee culture (Last), but these are, perhaps, more likely to refer to honey bees than to bumble bees. Britain's largest beetle, the stag beetle (*Lucanus cervus*), is a prime target for collectors; "He was pinned like a beetle on a card," was Stanley Hopkins' description of Peter Carey (Blac). And old Sherman said of his slow-worm that "It keeps the beetles down." (Sign) With two different references to beetles in the recorded cases, it is of course appropriate that there are two different beetles in the set; the seven-spotted lady bird (*Coccinella septempunctata*) is also a beetle.
664. And another philatelic item: The British film industry was honored with a set of five stamps issued in 1985, and two of the stamps show actors who not only appeared in S'ian plays, but also may have played the same part.
665. Charles Chaplin, shown in a photograph by Lord Snowden, was Billy in touring productions of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" from 1903 to 1906, and with Gillette himself in "The Painful Predicament of Sherlock Holmes" in London in 1905. David Niven, photographed by Cornel Lucas, is far less famous as a S'ian actor, but he wrote in his autobiography *THE MOON IS A BALLOON* (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1972) that during his final term at Sandhurst he "found time to produce a couple of concerts and to play the juvenile lead in *The Speckled Band*."
666. *THE HOUNDS OF THE VATICAN; OR, HOLMES'S LAST BOW*, by G. Randolph Holms (New York: Vantage Press, 1986; 130 p., \$10.95) reveals what the world's greatest consulting detective has been doing since he solved the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in Edmund Aubrey's *SHERLOCK HOLMES IN DALLAS*; the story involves malevolent Freemasonry, echoes of the film "Murder by Decree", a conspiracy against both church and state, and the eventual destruction of world order. G. Randolph Holms is a pseudonym, concealing the identities of three "international merchant bankers" who use an Elizabethan (II, not I) Holmes to present their own views on the catastrophe which civilization now faces.
667. Reported: *SHERLOCK'S LOGIC*, by William Neblett (University Press of America, 1986; 290 p., \$26.50 cloth, \$11.25 paper); SH's grandson attempts to solve a murder mystery in the first third of the book, with the rest devoted to an exposition of elementary logic.

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668. Walt Disney's Mickey Mouse (and three other Disney comic book titles) are now issued by Gladstone Publishing (Box 2206, Scottsdale, AZ 85252); I've been told that Gold Key went bankrupt, causing a six-year drought that has only now ended. "Mickey Mouse and the Seven Ghosts" is in Mickey Mouse #219 (Oct.), #220 (Nov.), and #221 (Dec.). The story is a rerun of the daily strips that began on Aug. 7, 1936; Mickey, Goofy, and Donald are the Acme Detective Agency, with Goofy deerstalkered and calabashed.
669. THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, with an Afterword by Frederick Busch (New York: New American Library, 1986; 251 p., \$2.25); Signet Classic edition of "the only full-length Holmes novel," according to the back-jacket blurb.
670. Reported: "Sherlock Holmes Meets Dracula" (a new comedy with Tony Randall as Holmes and Sid Caesar as the Count) is now being filmed on location in Transylvania.
671. The second annual Sherlock Holmes dinner at the Dickens Inn in Philadelphia will be held on Sept. 21, 1986. Details available from Gideon D. Hill, 1810 South Rittenhouse Square #207, Philadelphia, PA 19103.
672. And another report on "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" planned for CBS-TV: Sherlock Holmes (frozen and revived) will be played by British stage star Michael Pennington, and Jane Watson by Margaret Collins (who was on "Foley Square").
673. Reported by Andrew Jay Peck. The Granada series "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" will be broadcast by PBS on "Mystery!" beginning on Feb. 5, 1987. And Paramount has released a videocassette (\$24.95) of the 1970 film "The Molly Maguires" (non-Sherlockian, but of course with strong echoes of "The Valley of Fear").
674. John E. Stephenson reports that the Holmes and Watson ceramic thimbles, made by Francesca China and imported by Heirloom Editions, are available from Sherlock's Home, 5614 East Second Street, Long Beach, CA 90803; \$22.98 each or \$42.00 for the pair, plus \$1.75 shipping.
675. ADVENTURING IN ENGLAND WITH DOCTOR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: ENCOUNTERS WITH SHERLOCK HOLMES, DISCIPLES AND MEDICINE, by Alvin E. Rodin and Jack D. Key (Beavercreek: KeyRod Literary Enterprises, 1986; 121 p., \$13.50 postpaid from the publisher, 3041 Maginn Drive, Beavercreek, OH 45385); a journal of Rodin's second trip to England, furthering his crusade to rescue Conan Doyle's medical reputation from the widely-held belief that he was a failed physician who turned to literature.
676. Advertised: THE RED-HEADED LEAGUE, with illustrations by Sidney Paget, the second in a series of miniature editions from The Press of Arden Park (861 Los Molinos Way, Sacramento, CA 95864); \$35.00. A SCANDAL IN BOHEMIA, issued in 1984, was nicely done.
677. Reported: Basil Rathbone's autobiography IN AND OUT OF CHARACTER (D5092a), reprinted by Buccaneer Books (Box 168, Cutchogue, NY 11935); price not known.
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August 1986 #2

678. "Holmes is still a master at deduction, but he has yet to master the culture and technology of the 1980s," according to a CBS-TV press release forwarded by Ted Schulz. "Holmes is thrown by (and sometimes into) everything from swimming pools to airplanes to disposable." That's "The Return of Sherlock Holmes," again, and don't ask what it is that's supposed to be disposable. The film-for-TV stars Michael Pennington and Margaret Colin, supported by Lila Kaye, Barry Morse, and Connie Booth. Connie Booth played Mrs. Hudson and Francine Moriarty in "The Strange Case of the End of Civilisation as We Know It" (1977), and Barry Morse played Holmes on the Canadian television program "Magic Shadows" (1975).
679. Bill Barton reports that his role-playing game CTHULHU BY GASLIGHT has been published by Chaosium Inc. (Box 6302, Albany, CA 94706; \$22.00 postpaid), and that it has a scenario "The Yorkshire Horrors" that is based on Baring-Gould's suggestion that Holmes was involved in a case there in 1896.
680. BRIGADE: FURTHER ADVENTURES OF INSPECTOR LESTRADE, by M. J. Trow (London: Macmillan, 1986; 219 p., £8.50); a sequel to THE ADVENTURES OF INSPECTOR LESTRADE (1985, with an American edition as THE SUPREME ADVENTURE OF INSPECTOR LESTRADE). The basic premise is that Lestrade was much maligned in the Canon, and he once again demonstrates his expertise at detection, disguise, and amorous dalliance; the humor is broad and occasionally slapstick, with a cast of cameo characters that extends from Kaiser Wilhelm to an infant Basil Rathbone.
681. Television viewers may remember a 1985 "60 Minutes" report on BBC Radio, and mention of the fact that one of the buildings occupied by the BBC is the old Langham Hotel ("where Sherlock Holmes once met Moriarty," according to Morley Safer). Roger Johnson now cites a report in the London Standard that the BBC, having failed to demolish the Langham Hotel, is now preparing to sell that venerable edifice. There are three mentions of the Langham in the Canon, and you can look them up in Tracy's ENCYCLOPAEDIA SHERLOCKIANA.
682. The latest news from Rhinebeck is that the Beekman Arms is now fully booked for the weekend of May 16, 1987. Other motels and inns in Rhinebeck and Hyde Park are listed in the flier that will be mailed to those who send in reservations for the C.I.A. dinner (black tie, \$50.00 a person, checks to Albert M. Rosenblatt, Box 221B, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569). Al judiciously warns that the dinner will surely be over-subscribed, and that reservations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. He also recommends a re-reading of A STUDY IN SCARLET, and reports that an excellent description of the Third Quinquennial Sherlock Holmes Alimentary Festival will be found in Beverly Wolov's review in the Sept. 1982 issue of the BSJ.
683. Albert and Julia Rosenblatt's THE SHERLOCK HOLMES CROSSWORD (reviewed BSJ, Mar. 1986) is not, as I had heard, out of print; copies in wrappers are still available at \$4.00 (from the Norwegian Explorers, 1473 Fulham Street, Saint Paul, MN 55108), and it's a fine book.
684. The Arion Press \$300 limited edition of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (reviewed BSJ, Dec. 1985) has been reprinted in a trade edition at \$16.50. The new edition is a smaller book (reduced about 20%), and the publisher is North Point Press, 850 Talbot Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94706.
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August 1986 #3

685. "My God!" cried John Nieminski, "What a blind beetle I have been!" And so did Hall Pycroft (Stoc), adding a third beetle reference to last month's list. John also wonders if David Niven played some other part in "The Speckled Band" than Billy, who, certainly a juvenile, and a lead of sorts, was surely too young for even a young Niven. John suggests that the play might have been adapted from ACD's version, with Niven playing the cheetah or the baboon, in roles beefed up for the occasion. Perhaps, but there's another possibility: Niven in drag in the role of Enid Stonor, given the exclusion of the fair sex from the ranks at Sandhurst. After all, there's a precedent, what with Holmes appearing in drag in "The Mazarin Stone".
686. And on to this month's philatelic item: a portrait (by A. Ramsey) of George III, King of Great Britain and Ireland (1760-1820), issued this year in the Australian Bicentennial series. It was Holmes who said (Nobl) that "I am one of those who believe that the folly of a monarch and the blundering of a minister in far-gone years will not prevent our children from being some day citizens of the same world-wide country under a flag which shall be a quartering of the Union Jack with the Stars and Stripes." The monarch was George III. I don't know of a stamp honoring the blundering minister.
687. The [Lowell, Mass.] Sunday Sun has been running the comic strip "Walt Disney's Treasury of Classic Tales: The Great Mouse Detective" and by July 13 (the first strip I've seen), Ratigan was making his balcony appearance with the robot Queen.
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688. Chris Caswell, who is Sherlock's Home (5614 East 2nd Street, Long Beach, CA 90803) confirms that he stocks the Holmes & Watson thimbles (August 86 #1), as well as S'ian chess sets, and reports that he is expecting a shipment of S'ian spoons and pipe-holders. Write for his catalog.
689. And back to the world of comic books. Cases of Sherlock Holmes #2 (July 1986) has "Danc" illustrated by Dan Day (who provides barely veiled but firm buttocks on Elsie Cubitt); the next issue will have a pastiche (The Vourdalak) by Gordon Derry. The Bozz Chronicles #1 was marginally S'ian, and non-S'ian in #2-5. If your home town is sufficiently civilized to have a shop specializing in comic books, I recommend a visit, if only to browse titles such as "Boris the Bear Slaughters the Teenage Radioactive Black Belt Mutant Ninja Critters".
690. Seen in a discount bookstore: A STUDY IN SCARLET: A SHERLOCK HOLMES MYSTERY (adapted by Nigel Flynn) and THE SIGN OF FOUR: A SHERLOCK HOLMES MYSTERY (adapted by Richard Widdows), with illustrations from the Burbank Films (Peter O'Toole as the voice of Holmes) animations (New York: Gallery Books, 1985; 56 p., \$3.98 each). There were four animations, so "Houn" and "Vall" may be along eventually.
691. Also discounted (at \$2.98): THE LUNATIC FRINGE, by William L. DeAndrea (New York: M. Evans and Co., 1980); a well-written mystery, with one minor reference to the Canon.

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692. Copies of THE FOURTH CAB (D887b) and THE BEST OF THE CABS (a 1980 selection from the three earlier anthologies) are still available (\$7.50 each postpaid) from J. Devereux deGozzaldi, 79 Frankland Road, Hopkinton, MA 01748; both books contain fine contributions by members of The Speckled Band of Boston.
693. Lenny Picker reports that Frank Langella wants Denholm Elliott as Watson in this fall's Broadway production of "Sherlock's Last Case". "Now on-screen with 'A Room with a View'" (according to the newspaper item), Elliott was Stapleton in the 1978 Cooke-Moore film "The Hound of the Baskervilles" and Dr. Mortimer in the 1983 Richardson-Churchill TV film of "The Hound of the Baskervilles".
694. Nominations have been announced for the Bouchercon XVII "Anthony" awards, with "Young Sherlock Holmes" one of five candidates for "best movie" -- the others are "Blood Simple", "Fletch", "Jagged Edge", and "Witness". There is a new address for Bouchercon XVII (The Butler Did It, 2020 North Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21218) and the convention is Oct. 10-12.
695. Reported: references to ACD, SH, and the Hound in Ray Bradbury's new novel MURDER IS A LONELY BUSINESS (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, \$15.95).
696. Stanley MacKenzie (64 Bassett Road, London, W.10, England) has celebrated the centenary of the publication of the first Sherlock Holmes story with a splendid commemorative postcard that shows D. H. Friston's frontispiece, a photograph of ACD, and (in full and glorious color) the cover of Beeton's Christmas Annual; the cost of the cards (postpaid by surface mail) is \$6.00 for ten, \$48.00 for 100, and \$84.00 for 200.

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697. There is very little published information on The Sherlock Holmes Society (the predecessor of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London), one interesting exception being Maurice Campbell's address to the SHSOL on Jan. 5, 1967, which was reprinted in the SHJ (D4528a). The SHS held its first dinner on June 6, 1934, and Dick Sheppard, then a Canon of St. Paul's was elected President. "He was chosen because of his services in persuading Conan Doyle to resume the publication of Holmes' Adventures on an I Zingari cricket tour. The persuasion, I was told, took the form of sitting on Doyle as he lay on a sofa after lunch until the promise had been given."
698. "To test a trivial theory that none of the many millions who bought, borrowed, or otherwise acquired the number-one international best-seller of the early eighties had ever actually read it in its entirety, I spoke with some people to whom that book is presumably dearest--namely, those who were spending \$20 million to film it." That's the lead in Robert Katz's article in American Film, Sept. 1986, on "The Name of the Rose" -- although Katz, who was on location in Italy when the monastery was torched, didn't get to interview too many of the people working on the film.
699. Reported by John Bennett Shaw: SAM THE DETECTIVE AND THE ALEF BET MYSTERY, a beginning Hebrew reader written and illustrated by Amye Rosenberg (New York: Behrman House, 1980); with Sam being a Sherlockian bear.
700. A helpful reader has supplied leads for two of the three "missing" members of the BSI, but I'm still trying to find William Passen (1955). I also need leads for Terry Belanger (1968), Berth Lindfors (1968), Russell L. Merritt (1960), and Peter A. Ruber (1964), who aren't where we thought they were. Please let me know if you have any helpful hints.
701. Andy Peck has sent an item from the May 1986 issue of Manhattan Inc., with a report on Michael King of King World (the television syndicators, who distribute "Wheel of Fortune" and "Jeopardy!"). "We bought the Basil Rathbone Sherlock Holmes movies and 'The Guns of Will Sonnet' and 'Branded' for \$5 million from Leo Gutman," King told the interviewer.
702. Bret Harte, author of the parody "The Stolen Cigar Case" (D5920a), will be honored on the \$5.00 stamp to be issued in 1987 in the Great Americans Series. William D. Jenkins has discussed some Canonical echoes of Harte's work (D2583a).
703. Reported by Ron De Waal: THE BOOK OF THE SLEUTH: FOURTEEN CLASSIC TALES OF MYSTERY & SUSPENSE, edited by Alan K. Russell (Poole: New Orchards, 1986; 380 p., \$7.98 at Waldenbooks); contents include "Spec" and "Prio". And four "Basil of Baker Street" items (Racine: Western Publishing Co., 1986): DISNEY'S THE GREAT MOUSE DETECTIVE (Golden Look-Look Books, 24 p., \$1.50); DTGMD: BASIL'S GREAT ESCAPES (Golden Look-Look Book, 24 p., \$1.50); DTGMD: A COLOR AND ACTIVITY BOOK (Golden Book, 60 p., \$0.99); DTGMD: A COLORING BOOK (Golden Book, 60 p., \$0.99).
704. Can anyone supply a mailing address for Different Worlds Magazine? I've had a report that the July-Aug. 1986 issue has an article on Solar Pons, and the Library of Congress doesn't have an address for the magazine.

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705. Oh to be in England, now that April's here . . . if it's April 1911, when the Strand published an interesting advertisement:

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706. It's a rising market for Conan Doyle manuscripts. "The autograph of Conan Doyle's uncollected story 'A Regimental Scandal' just made its lower estimate of £4,000 to a private buyer," according to a press report on an auction at Christie's on May 29. You can read the story in UNCOLLECTED STORIES, the collection edited by John Michael Gibson and Richard Lancelyn Green.
707. Reported by James O. Duval: THE DELL BOOK OF QUIZZES AND PUZZLES FOR LITERATURE LOVERS: CROSSWORDS, NAME GAMES, QUIZZES, AND WORD SEARCH PUZZLES TO CHALLENGE AND DELIGHT ADMIRERS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE, THE BRONTE SISTERS, SHERLOCK HOLMES AND JANE AUSTEN, by Maggie Lane and Nigel Bartlett (Dell, 1986, \$6.95), with a S'ian section by Bartlett.
708. If you've never been to the New York bookshop Murder Ink, you can see Carol Brener (and her cat Clouseau) on the cover of the Nov. 1986 issue of EQMM.
709. "Lite Reading" is the head on the N.Y. Times comments on a Workman cassette tape that will dispense "Ten Classics in Ten Minutes" -- and the Times has responded by offering a whole library in one minute. One of the books in their library is THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, summarized by the

- Times as: "Dog scares heir, heir hires Holmes, detective meets dog, heir spared, Watson tells all, o'er moor and fen." (And that's considerably longer than their summary of Toynbee's *THE STUDY OF HISTORY*: "What rises, falls.")
710. T. S. Eliot's enthusiasm for Sherlock Holmes is well known (see July 86 #3) (and BJS, Sept. 1985, p. 188, and the many items bibliographed by Ron De Waal); he was honored by this year's "literary arts" commemorative, issued on Sept. 26.
711. Granada's "Return of Sherlock Holmes" was widely reviewed in the British press, with reports of plans for a fourth series to be filmed in 1987, with six more stories (for a total of 26). Brett's feelings toward Holmes have changed, according to one interview: "He used to complain that the role was turning him into a recluse, but these days, to his surprise, he enjoys playing him." "I now want to do all the stories," Brett said, "there are 34 more! I couldn't have imagined that a year ago." In another interview Brett explained that the series "has proved so popular in America that Sherlock Holmes societies have been formed." "I went to a convention in the U.S. and was the only one dressed normally," he added, "all the men and women were wearing deerstalkers and smoking pipes. It is a great cult over there."
712. "William Gillette: A Connecticut Yankee and the American Stage" was shown to The Red Circle on Aug. 29, and it's a splendid production. The 30-minute documentary includes an appreciative narration, a long interview with Helen Hayes, an impersonation of the actor (by Garrett Walters), and Gillette himself (in the Fox Movietone interview filmed at Seventh Sister). Available on videocassette (\$50.00 postpaid) from Connecticut Heritage Productions, 46 Bretton Road, Middletown, CT 06457.
713. Reported: Sherlock Hemlock in "The Mysterious Stranger" in *THE SESAME STREET TREASURY, VOLUME 2*, in supermarkets and such.

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714. The SHSOL Christmas card (see BJS, Sept. 1986, p. 189 for the photograph of the Brixton Road) will cost \$7.00 for a packet of ten, postpaid by airmail; checks (payable to The Sherlock Holmes Society of London) can be sent to Capt. W. R. Michell, The Old Crown Inn, Lopen, South Petherton, Somerset TA13 5JX, England.
715. Bill Goodrich has supplied a swarm of beetles to add to the three noted earlier: "what a blind beetle I have been" (Prio), "I was such a blind beetle" (Card), the "beetle-ridden, mouldy old coffin of a Chin China coaster" (Glor), a "beetling crag" (Stud), and a "beetling forehead" (Houn). Bill's "reference guide" to the 1960 Doubleday edition of the Canon (revised from the earlier appearance in BSM #1-24) will be published by Gasogene Press.
716. *GREENWICH KILLING TIME*, by Kinky Friedman (New York: William Morrow/Beech Tree Books, 1986; 196 p., \$13.95); a new murder mystery, with a number of minor S'ian allusions.
717. Forecast: *SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE CASE OF THE RALEIGH LEGACY*, a pastiche by L. B. Greenwood, from Atheneum in Nov. (192 p., \$12.95). *POTBOILERS: THREE BLACK COMEDIES* (including *SHERLOCK'S LAST CASE*, by Charles Marowitz), from Marion Boyars Publishers in Sept. (192 p, \$18.00 cloth, \$9.95 paper).
718. *ELEMENTARY, MY DEAR WATSON: THE SHERLOCK HOLMES CENTENARY*, by Graham Nown, from Salem House in Dec. (\$19.95). *THE HISTORICAL ROMANCES*, by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, a two-volume set from New Orchard/Sterling, on the discount tables.
719. A new (and revised) Crows Foot Edition of *THE ADVENTURE OF THE SOLEDAD CYCLIST* (D5162b) been published by John Ruyle (Pequod Press, 521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707); \$28.50 (cloth) or \$13.50 (paper).
720. The Canon is now widely available in Britain, and in a variety of formats. World International Publishing has issued six of the stories (BOSC, FIVE, COPP, REDH, SPEC, and SILV) in individual volumes with attractive covers and appropriate interior illustrations, priced at 75p each.
721. Lenny Picker reports that he was told by a Lorimar Pictures executive that the Peter Cushing TV film "The Masks of Death" will be broadcast here before the end of the year.
722. *THE MYTHOLOGY OF THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES*, by Kelvin I. Jones, first published in the Sept. 1982 issue of *Wheelwrightings*, has been reissued as a separate 12-pp. pamphlet (\$5.50 postpaid from the author, 18 Ross Street, Rochester, Kent. ME1 2DF, England). Kelvin's plans for a continuation of the series include *THE GEOGRAPHY OF THE HOUND* and *THE PSYCHOLOGY OF THE HOUND*. He is also editing the magazine *THE SHERLOCKIAN*, with the first issue announced for October.
723. And here's a bibliographic discovery: P. J. Pirages (Box 504, McMinnville, OR 97128) offers the first 48 numbers of *The Strand Magazine*, in single issues (for \$3,500). One number marked "Special Reprint", two others "Second Edition", and one "Third Edition". I have never seen a copy of the *Strand* with such markings.

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724. "Many of the skills portrayed by the fictional character Sherlock Holmes and the skills used by the early American scouts and trappers can be developed by the modern investigator," Colorado private investigator Nelson K. Jennett told more than 100 delegates from 17 countries at the 61st annual convention of the World Association of Detectives this month in Singapore. He recommended "reading the scene as Sherlock Holmes would, being on the lookout for the small traces of physical evience which were overlooked by the criminal and often overlooked even by the seasoned investigators."
725. The 35th running of The Silver Blaze, at Belmont on Sept. 12, was a fine occasion, with record attendance (more than 80). Richard A. Wein received an Investiture ("Silver Blaze") from Julian Wolff, and Dorothy Stix received a Queen Victoria medal from Julian in recognition of all the work she has done in making arrangements for the race. Stephen L. Stix and Richard A. Wein will be in charge of The Silver Blaze in future years.
726. *SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE MASQUERADE MURDERS*, by Frank Thomas (Los Angeles: Medallion Books, 1986; 250 p., \$2.95); murder and financial chicanery, investigated by an energetic Holmes and a sharp-shooting Watson.
727. The seven stories in Granada's new series "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" are: Empt, Prio, Seco, Musg, Abbe, Twis, and SixN. At least five of the stories have been broadcast in Canada; I've seen some of them, and the high quality of the series continues. Edward Hardwicke is fine as Watson, though I think David Burke was a bit better (a stronger actor); on the other hand, Hardwicke didn't have all that much to do on the programs I've seen so far. Granada, having already announced plans to do a fourth series with six more stories, now hopes to start filming in October on a two-hour version of "The Sign of Four".
728. "Clue: Movies, Murder, and Mystery!" was a one-hour special on CBS-TV on Sept. 17, with a number of S'ian bits and pieces, but there wasn't anything special about this uninspired collage of clips, stills, and dull comment by Martin Mull. But the "Read More About It" public service announcement that followed the program did have Mickey Spillane recommending *THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF MYSTERY & DETECTION*, by Chris Steinbrunner and Otto Penzler.

729. If anyone encounters The Crowborough Edition with the signed limitation page missing from Vol. 1, the page was recently offered for \$100 by Tollett and Harman (175 West 75th Street, New York, NY 10023). God help us. It's bad enough when someone removes a signature or inscription from a book in order to paste it into an autograph album, but some sort of special torment should be reserved for anyone responsible for felony libricide.
730. Older items reported by John Bennett Shaw: THE FIRESIDE BOOK OF CARDS, edited by Jacoby and Morehead (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1957), with the text of "Empt" in the section on whist. A SECOND COMPANION TO MURDER, by Spencer Shaw (New York: Knopf, 1962), with a chapter on Oscar Slater and several pages on Conan Doyle.
731. "Young Sherlock Holmes" has been issued on videocassette by Paramount Home Video (\$79.95).

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732. An 8-page "Profile: Arthur Conan Doyle" by Mike Ashley, and ACD's "Lot No. 249" are in the winter 1986 issue of Night Cry (Montcalm Publishing Co., 800 Second Avenue, New York, NY 10017; \$2.95).
733. Reported by Ron De Waal: THE VICTORIAN SHORT STORY: DEVELOPMENT AND TRIUMPH OF A LITERARY GENRE, by Harold Orel (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1986; 213 p., \$29.95); with 3 pages on the SH stories and a Paget illo.
734. MANNEN PA KLIPPAN, by H. Paul Jeffers (Hoganas: Bra Deckare, 1986; 230 p.); a Swedish translation of MURDER MOST IRREGULAR.
735. THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Michael Hardwick (London: Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 1986; 255 p., £12.95); similar in approach to Hardwick's THE SHERLOCK HOLMES COMPANION, but with greater emphasis upon the stories (and a better introduction to the Canon). Forecast by St. Martin's Press in 1987.
736. THE SHERLOCK HOLMES LETTERS, edited by Richard Lancelyn Green (London: Secker & Warburg, 1986; 266 p, £14.95); a spectacular collection, beginning with the 1887 reviews of A STUDY IN SCARLET and continuing with a fine selection of letters, articles, and comment published in newspapers and magazines, and with the usual perceptive commentary by Green. Forecast by the University of Iowa Press in 1987.
737. The Six Napoleons have published the first issue of THE PLUM IN THE PUDDING (the scion's 40th anniversary seemed a decent occasion on which to publish a magazine), edited by Stephen J. Cribari (Mercantile Bank Building #612, 2 Hopkins Plaza, Baltimore, MD 21201); well designed and typeset, with three good articles; \$3.00 postpaid (or \$5.00 a year for at least two issues).
738. There's still time to take advantage of "a unique opportunity in the heart of London's West End" (according to an advertisement in the Wall Street Journal on Sept. 12), purchase of "an island site of 1.65 acres to include the former Langham Hotel" (August 86 #2). The offer is freehold, for sale by tender, and the closing date is Nov. 28. Contact Richard Ellis, Berkeley Square House, London W1X 6AN, England.
739. "The Name of the Rose" is off and running, in limited distribution. The good news: it's an enjoyable film, with splendid atmosphere and fine acting by Sean Connery and Christian Slater (in the Holmes and Watson roles). The bad news: there have been many deletions (after all, the film is only two hours and fifteen minutes long), and a few changes, and all those who have been hoping that seeing the movie would allow them to pretend to have read the book, won't be able to get by with that subterfuge. Reported to have cost \$20 million, the film will not, I think, be a box office success; they have kept all the sex (but of course there wasn't much of that in the book) and they have left out a lot of the violence. They have also left out some of the Sherlockian material.
740. Reviews so far have been luke-warm, with each reviewer finding something to praise as well as something to complain about. "As always, Connery makes a decent detective," wrote Rita Kemply in her review in the Washington Post, "but he lacks the eccentric authority of a Basil Rathbone or Sidney Toler's mystical Charlie Chan. Forgive me father, but I don't care who dunit."

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741. THE BUTLER DID IT, SINGING is a two-act "musical spoof" based on Tim Kelly's 1977 play "THE BUTLER DID IT" (D4453b), with book by Tim Kelly, music by Arne Christiansen, and lyrics by Ole Kittleson; the musical retains the character Peter Flimsey ("he's in the Sherlock Holmes school), but it's a fringe item. Baker's Plays, 100 Chauncy Street, Boston, MA 02111; \$4.05 postpaid.
742. THE QUALLSFORD INHERITANCE: A MEMOIR OF SHERLOCK HOLMES FROM THE PAPERS OF EDWARD PORTER JONES, HIS LATE ASSISTANT, by Lloyd Biggle, Jr., paragraphed earlier (May 86 #2) includes a statement that: "The characters of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. John Watson are based on the creations of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Obviously, this book was not written by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Further, it has not been sponsored or authorized by the estate or heirs of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle or by any person or company licensed by them." The book was scheduled for publication on June 30, but was delayed until last month, when an apologetic advertisement was published in the Sept. 5 issue of Publishers Weekly.
743. Reported: BASIL OF BAKER STREET, by Eve Titus (Pocket Books/Archway, \$2.50); a movie tie-in with Disney artwork on the cover. THE FOURTH MAD DECLASSIFIED PAPERS ON SPY VS. SPY, by Prohias (Warner); with a S'ian panel in "The Model Detective".
744. 221 "A" Baker Street Associates (Box 351453, Los Angeles, CA 90035) has announced a two-record set with two of the 1945 Rathbone radio broadcasts ("The Unfortunate Tobacconist" and "The Paradol Chamber") at \$27.50 postpaid (with a \$2.50 rebate to members of Sherlockian societies after Mar. 15, 1987, if you order before that date). There has been a mailing to scions, and you can write to the company for more information.
745. Reported by John Bennett Shaw: THE SESAME STREET TREASURY in supermarkets, with Sherlock Hemlock in Vol. II, and on the endpapers in all volumes. Sherlock Hemlock also in Sesame Street Magazine, Oct. 1986.
746. It has taken much longer than I thought it would, but the personal-computer world now has a calendar program that is useful to Sherlockians. There are many programs around that will tell you the day of the week for any date in the 20th century, but they won't work for the 19th century because the programmers couldn't quite handle the fact that 1900 wasn't a leap year. Now there is POP-CAL, an elegant little pop-up calendar that will handle everything from Jan. 1583 to Dec. 9999. The program was published in PC Magazine (Oct. 14), and can be downloaded from PC-IRS (212-696-0360).
747. My thanks to those who have sent addresses or leads for those missing members of the BSI -- and the list of those who are still missing is now much shorter: Bernth Lindfors (1968), William Passen (1955), and Peter A. Ruber (1964).

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748. Reported by Jackie Geyer: the (British) Catalpa Press series by Rodney Engen on "The Artist and the Critic" includes RICHARD DOYLE as its second title, with more than 150 illustrations (including some in color); "attention is given to his relationship with the rest of his gifted artistic family, including his nephew, Arthur Conan Doyle," according to the flier from Books of Wonder (132 Seventh Avenue, New York, NY 10011), and the book costs \$49.95.
749. Gideon Hill reports that animation cels from "The Great Mouse Detective" are available (\$185.00 each) from Pam Martin (Cel-ibration, 45 Salem Lane, Little Silver, NJ 07739). And that there was a six-part "With Crime in Mind" series in the British Medical Journal in 1980 on six crime writers who use medical details in their stories, with occasional S'ian references; photocopies available from Gideon (1810 South Rittenhouse Square #207, Philadelphia, PA 19103) in return for a 66c SASE.

750. Playhouse Video (part of CBS/Fox) has issued videocassettes of Rathbone's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" and "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" at \$29.98. The films have long been available from other companies, but since these are Fox issues they have presumably been struck from the master negatives or prints (which is not necessarily the case with cassettes from other companies).
751. For those who collect non-S'ian books that use the titles of SH stories, there's THE DANCING MEN, by Duncan Kyle (New York: Holt, 1986; 256 p., \$16.95); it's a political thriller. Can anyone name another book in this category? In the "close, but no cigar" category, there are THE CRIMSON CIRCLE, by Edgar Wallace (1922); THE SCARLET CIRCLE, by Jonathan Stagge (1943); WISTERIA COTTAGE, by Robert M. Coates (1948); COPPER BEECH, by Ariadne Thompson; and THE DANCING MAN, by P. M. Hubbard (1971).
752. Forecast: THE ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES, edited by William S. Baring-Gould (from Clarkson N. Potter in Dec., one vol. in a slipcase, \$55.00).
753. The 1987 birthday festivities will include a reception on Saturday, Jan. 10, from 3:00 to 5:00 pm, at 24 Fifth Avenue. The reception will be open to all Sherlockians and their friends, and will honor Julian and Eleanor Wolff. Open bar, with hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, and tickets cost \$20.00 a person until Dec. 15 (\$25.00 a person thereafter and at the door). Your check, payable to The Baker Street Irregulars, should be sent to Robert E. Thomalen, 69 Glen Road, Eastchester, NY 10709.
754. Reported by Jerry Margolin: IT'S A MYSTERY, CHARLIE BROWN and THE GREAT MOUSE DETECTIVE (book-and-cassette sets, \$5.98 each) and FREDDIE THE DETECTIVE (record album with Walter R. Brooks' Freddie the pig on the cover, \$9.98), from Victor Hotho & Co., Box 9738, Fort Worth, TX 76107.
755. MYSTERY READER'S WALKING GUIDE: LONDON, by Alzina Stone Dale and Barbara Sloan Hendershott (Lincolnwood: Passport Books, 1987; 294 p., \$16.95); there are other detectives, and while SH is not neglected, he is only one of many whose associations with London addresses and buildings are noted in the eleven walks in this guide for those who would also like to follow in the footsteps of such as Alleyn, Ghote, Halley, Poirot, and Wimsey.

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756. Frank Thomas' pastiche SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE MASQUERADE MURDERS (September 86 #2) is not available in book stores, but Medallion Books (5455 Wilshire Boulevard #1700, Los Angeles, CA 90036) has kindly offered to send a copy of the book, without charge, to S'ians who are not members of Medallion's book club.
757. Bouchercon XVII in Baltimore was enjoyable, and there were more than 400 people there (considerably more than we had in Washington in 1980). The Friday night entertainment was "Stage Fright" -- presented by "The Sherlock Holmes of Thought" (aka Michael Elliott, aka Elliott M. Black of the Hounds of the Baskerville) -- mentalism and magic with a S'ian theme. The only other S'ian item of any significance was the Saturday evening panel on "Castles in the Air" -- a discussion of television by a panel that included Bob Shayne, who screened a short videotape segment from a rough cut of the new CBS television film "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" -- Sherlock Holmes, having been revived in London and visited Boston, is in a hotel disco bar in Seattle (where he fails to understand a bar girl's proposition) -- Holmes then returns to his room, where he is confronted by an unfriendly FBI agent (whose karate is more than a match for Holmes' jujitsu), and the FBI agent is then murdered in the hallway by a mysterious stranger (who neglects to murder Holmes and bathrobed Jane Watson). Shayne told me that the program will air this spring, and if CBS has any sense, they won't give critics an advance screening. Bouchercon XVIII will be in Minneapolis, masterminded by Steve Stilwell and Becky Reineke (write to Box 2747, Loop Station, Minneapolis, MN 55402, to enroll on their mailing list) and Bouchercon XIX will probably be in Los Angeles (San Diego was competing, but only Los Angeles had a con suite with free drinks).
758. Gayle Lange Puhl's line of S'ian jewelry, displayed and sold at the 1986 workshop in Toronto, is available by mail, and a price list is offered by Reighard Pottery, 32 West Main Street, Evansville, WI 53536.
759. Two people have quoted the report on the report of the reprint edition of Basil Rathbone's IN AND OUT OF CHARACTER (August 86 #1), but have announced the book as published rather than reported. Having received no reply to my query to Buccaneer Books, I can only note that this would not be the first time that a reported Buccaneer edition has not been published, and suggest that people note my use of the word "reported" -- I have no objection if others quote from these carefully anonymous info sheets, but it's better if you're accurate. Later: Mel Ruiz reports that he has heard from Buccaneer that the book is not yet ready.
760. THE MYSTERY AND SUSPENSE ENGAGEMENT CALENDAR 1987, compiled by Basil Saintoine (Pittstown: Main Street Press, 1986; \$7.95), has many references to Sherlock Holmes and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.
761. Gideon Hill reports that Peter Cushing's "The Masks of Death" was broadcast on Prism cable in June 1986. It's also now available on videocassette, at \$59.95, from Karl-Lorimar Home Video (17942 Cowan Avenue, Irvine, CA 92714) or your local video store.
762. Gideon also reports that an hour of the polyphonic motets of Lassus was broadcast on Oct. 19 by Minnesota Public Radio.

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763. A bibliographic query on the first printing of THE OMNIBUS OF CRIME, edited by Dorothy L. Sayers (New York: Payson & Clarke Ltd., 1929) [D182a]: I have seen copies with the list of other books by Sayers on page [2] positioned toward the top of the page, or toward the bottom. Is either variant a first issue? I have also seen copies of the dust jacket with and without "Read em and Creep! Christopher Morley" overprinted in white. Is either variant a first issue?
764. Payn (80 Osborne Road, Hornchurch, Essex RM11 1HE, England) has sculpted an attractive Sherlockian chess set, cast in antiqued polyester resin (Holmes/king and bobby/pawn are shown at left). Cost: £45.00 postpaid, with payment by international money order.
765. WALK, DON'T DIE: HOW TO STAY FIT, TRIM AND HEALTHY WITHOUT KILLING YOURSELF, by Fred A. Stutman of The Sons of the Copper Beeches, includes a report on "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jangled Jogger" (\$18.95 cloth or \$9.95 paper, from Medical Manor Books, 3501 Newbery Road, Philadelphia, PA 19154).
766. "Elementary, my dear Watson," said Sherlock Holmes. Not in the Canon, as all true S'ians know. But: where did Sherlock Holmes first utter that famous phrase? One possibility is the William Gillette play "Sherlock Holmes", but not in any of the versions of the script published during Gillette's lifetime. The phrase does appear (in Act II, Scene 2, on page 53) in the Royal Shakespeare Company acting edition published by Samuel French in 1976, but that version was revised for the RSC production, and it is likely that the phrase was inserted for the revival, because by then everyone knew that Holmes said it. So: who was the first Holmes to say, "Elementary, my dear Watson"?
767. The Pleasant Places of Florida have issued a small 1987 calendar (three months per page, with S'ian illos, and a list of red-letter days at the end); \$2.50 postpaid from Ben Wood, 4408 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach, FL 33510. This will likely be the only 1987 S'ian calendar.
768. If you would like to live in the "real" Baskerville Hall, you now have two opportunities, according to an article in the Oct. 16, 1986, issue of the London Standard. Brook Manor, the home of the infamous Richard Cabell, has been put up for sale for £150,000. And if you prefer Hayford Hall (see Howard Brody's article in the Dec. 1979 issue of the BSJ), it's available for £300,000.

769. "I'll tell you what art is," Arthur Conan Doyle wrote to Robert Barr in 1894. "It is to do that which you set out to do. Start to make a man laugh, and make him laugh, and that's art." From a collection of 21 autograph letters offered (for \$5000) by David L. Holmes (230 South Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102).

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770. "Admirers of the exploits of the great detective Sherlock Holmes and his colleague Dr. Watson will particularly enjoy a visit to the Sherlock Holmes pub in Northumberland Avenue since Sir Arthur Conan Doyle lived in the fine 18th century building and wrote many of his stories there." That's one of the stops on "The London Pub-a-round," an evening entertainment offered by The Britainshrinkers (10 Queen Street, Mayfair, London W1, England), from a brochure forwarded by Ted Schulz.
771. THE SECRET CONAN DOYLE CORRESPONDENCE, edited by Leslie Vernet Harper [a pseudonym of Charles Youngblood] (Provo: Hascom Publishers, 1986; 212 pp., \$11.95 postpaid from the publisher, Box 1396, Provo, UT 84603). Both mystery novel and exposition of the Mormon faith, based on the journals and correspondence of Samuel Harper, a British detective forced into exile in the U.S. because of his knowledge of the identity of Jack the Ripper. Harper's later adventures involved Jacques Futrelle, Nellie Bly, "Red Emma" Goldman, and Arthur Balfour, and a meeting with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, an old friend with whom Harper has long corresponded on a "Dear Arthur" and "Dear Sam" basis, and with whom Harper has had lengthy conversations at the Diogenes Club.
772. Steven T. Doyle (3209 East 10th Street #8C, Bloomington, IN 47401) reports that he is editing The Sherlock Holmes Review, a new quarterly (\$8 a year), and is soliciting material for the first issue, due Dec. 1986/Jan. 1987.
773. Pamela Granovetter and Karen Thomas McCallum have compiled A SHOPPING LIST OF MYSTERY CLASSICS (including, of course, all nine volumes of the Canon), with a listing of specialist dealers; the 96-page booklet allows users to mark titles as read, wanted, and owned, and is available for \$5.35 postpaid from The Copperfield Press, 306 West 11th Street, New York, NY 10014.
774. Brochure at hand for the "Final Problem Tour" (Apr. 22-May 9, 1987) to England and Switzerland, escorted by Scott and Sherry Rose Bond (contact Trade Winds Travel, 21 South 5th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106).
775. ATTENTA: there will be Sherlockian articles in Fortune (Nov. 24) and in Smithsonian (December); both magazines should be on the newstands by mid-November.
776. Reported by Ron De Waal: ALFRED HITCHCOCK: TALES OF TERROR, edited by Eleanor Sullivan (New York: Galahad Books, 1986; \$8.99); contents include August Derleth's "The China Cottage".
777. One of the more unusual formats for the Canon is intended for travelers: short stories printed on single sheets of paper, folded map-style to pocket size. There are three volumes available, with twelve stories in each volume, and one of the stories is "The Red-Headed League". A flier is available from Tales for Travellers, 333 Randolph Street, Napa, CA 94559.
778. A couple of minor children's items in a series of "Who Did It Sticker Mysteries" (with an owl in S'ian costume as series logo) from Scholastic Inc. (730 Broadway, New York, NY 10003): THE GREAT EGG MYSTERY, by Margaret Hartelius, has Dilly Duck in S'ian costume, and THE HIDE-AND-SEEK MYSTERY, by Judy Waltham, has only the series logo; \$2.95 each.
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779. Two new videocassettes, reported by Maureen Green: MISTER MAGOO ...MAN OF MYSTERY (including "Sherlock Holmes" with Magoo as Watson), from Paramount Home Video; and WHEN LONDON WALKED IN TERROR (vol. 1 of "Leonard Nimoy Goes in Search of...", with "In Search of...Sherlock Holmes"), from U.S.A. Home Video.
780. New catalog at hand from Historical Products (Box 220, Cambridge, MA 02238) with the usual T-shirts, sweatshirts, totebags, aprons, and cloth calendars featuring historical personalities (including a Steele portrait of SH) and interesting quotations (ditto).
781. Roger Johnson reports a new edition (expanded and revised) of Alexander Kelly's JACK THE RIPPER: A BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE (D2251b); available for £7.95 from Elaine Dunningcliff, AALSED Publications Officer, Woodhall Library, Cole Green Lane, Welwyn Garden City, Herts., England.
782. "Holmes for the Holidays" at hand from US 2 (563 Clinton Road, Paramus, NJ 07652); a new sales list of S'iana, including holiday cards, stuffed bears, aprons, buttons, notepads, baseball cards, and much else.
783. Anthony Boucher's NINE TIMES NINE, a Sister Ursula and locked-room mystery (with many S'ian references) first published in 1940 (as by H. H. Holmes), has been reissued in paperback (New York: International Polygonics, 1986; 255 p., \$4.95).
784. The advertisement below is from the Oct. 1901 issue of the American edition of The Strand Magazine. Can you identify the source of the Conan Doyle quotation?
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785. "Holmes is the triumph of Victorian postivism in his cerebral performances," suggests Stefano Tani," but is at the same time decadent in his habits, even, finally, his intellectual habits, since he contrasts markedly with the gentle and essentially intelligent humanist Watson." Tani's THE DOOMED DETECTIVE: THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE DETECTIVE NOVEL TO POSTMODERN AMERICAN AND ITALIAN FICTION (Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 1984; 183 p., \$18.95) concentrates on the development of the "anti-detective novel," with discussion of Umberto Eco's THE NAME OF THE ROSE as an important example of the genre.
786. "The Sherlock Holmes" is open for business at 1650 Bourbon Street in Edmonton, Alberta -- it's a division of Tippling House Limited, so one can assume drinks are available, but I don't know about dinner.
787. Reported by Jack Kerr: minor S'ian references (p. 177, 265) in CORONER AT LARGE, by T. Noguchi (Pocket Books).
788. SAM THE DETECTIVE AND THE ALEF BET MYSTERY, by Amye Rosenberg (New York: Behrman House, 1980; 64 p., \$3.95), features an imaginative S'ian bear assisting children in learning Hebrew; you can order from the publisher at 235 Watchung Avenue, West Orange, NJ 07052.
789. John Nieminski has responded to my query (October 86 #2) about non-S'ian books with S'ian titles, with some additional titles listed in Allen J. Hubin's CRIME FICTION, 1749-1980: A COMPREHENSIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY (Garland, 1984) (a book without which, John suggests, no self-respecting mystery fan or S'ian trivialist should be): A CASE OF IDENTITY, by Leonard Brain (Hale, 1970); A CASE OF IDENTITY, by Richard Marsh (U.S. title of THE TWICKENHAM PEERAGE, Methuen, 1902); THE CROOKED MAN, by Shelley Smith [pseud. of Nancy H. Bodington] (Harper, 1952, American title of MAN ALONE, Collins, 1952); THE EMPTY HOUSE, by Michael Gilbert (Hodder, 1978; Harper, 1979); THE EMPTY HOUSE, by Francis Grierson (Butterworth, 1933; Appleton, 1934); THE EMPTY HOUSE, by Irina Karlova (Hurst, 1944); THE VALLEY OF FEAR, by John Creasey (Long, 1943); THE VALLEY OF FEAR, by Robin Gar (Millifont, 1935); THE VALLEY OF FEAR, by Francis Addington Symonds (Amalgamated Press, 1921); and THE YELLOW FACE, by William
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- Murray Graydon (Amalgamated Press, 1921). And there is the Ellery Queen short story "The Three Students" (Playboy, 1971, and EQMM, Nov. 1973). The two books from Amalgamated Press, John notes, feature Sexton Blake, the Baker Street detective.
790. VIDEOTAPER ALERT! "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" (with Michael Pennington as Sherlock Holmes and Margaret Colin as Jane Watson) will be broadcast by CBS-TV on Sunday, Dec. 28, from 9:00 to 11:00 pm.
791. Avram Davidson's pastiche "The Singular Incident of the Dog on the Beach" is in Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine, Dec. 1986.
792. "Sherlock Holmes and the Red-Headed League" is a new musical adaptation performed by Theatreworks/USA (131 West 86th Street, New York, NY 10024; 202-595-7500), and scheduled for their theater in New York Jan. 24-Feb. 1, 1987. And at Lisner Auditorium in Washington on Mar. 10, 1987, and at the Bardavon 1869 Opera House in Poughkeepsie on Mar. 22, 1987. And they'll be happy to accept bookings elsewhere.
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793. SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE CASE OF THE RALEIGH LEGACY, by L. B. Greenwood (New York: Atheneum, 1986; 184 p., \$13.95); a welcome exception to the general rule that most S'ian pastiches are at best only poor imitations of the recorded cases.
794. Reported by Lenny Picker: Batman and Robin and Sherlock Holmes scheduled in Detective Comics #572 (the 50th anniversary issue of the comic).
795. "In Search of Sherlock Holmes" is one of the London walks described in a booklet sponsored by the Wimpy Food chain. A free copy of "Wimpy Walks" is available from the British Tourist Authority, 40 West 57th Street, New York, NY 10019. For those who don't speak British, "wimpy" is a British trade name for a hamburger.
796. The S'ian "Wimpy Walk" ends in Northumberland Street at The Sherlock Holmes, "where it is said a certain Mr. Conan Doyle resided for a time in an hotel on the very same site." There is a similar statement in the flier for "The London Pub-a-round" (October 86 #5). A faithful reader (who is an expert on Conan Doyle's various residences) has asked me to refrain from reporting such statements without noting that there is no evidence that Conan Doyle lived or resided in Northumberland Street.
797. "William Gillette: A Connecticut Yankee and the American Stage" (the fine 30-minute documentary paragraphed September 86 #1) is available on videocassette (\$50.00 postpaid) and on 16mm film (\$600.00 purchase and \$50.00 rental) from Connecticut Heritage Productions, 46 Bretton Road, Middletown, CT 06457.
798. Flier at hand from Frank A. Hoffmann (734 Richmond Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14222) announcing his Sherlock Holmes Calendar for 1987 (Sherlockian Ladies Edition) at \$9.00 postpaid. The flier also includes items from Phase 2 of his Sherlockian Enterprises close-out sale.
799. A postscript to my report (October 86 #3) on Bouchercon XVII: "Young Sherlock Holmes" (one of the nominees for best movie in the "Anthony" awards) did not win ("Witness" was the first choice in the fan voting). But the Private Eye Writers of America have their own "Shamus" awards, and the vote for best first P.I. novel went to Wayne Warga's HARDCOVER, which has minor S'ian allusions.
800. THE HISTORICAL NOVELS (Poole: New Orchard Editions, 1986; 1112+1176 p., \$19.95) (distributed here by Sterling Publishing Co.) is a welcome reprint of the two-volume collection published by John Murray in 1931 and 1932. Contents: THE WHITE COMPANY, SIR NIGEL, THE EXPLOITS OF BRIGADIER GERARD, ADVENTURES OF GERARD, MICAH CLARKE, THE REFUGEEES, RODNEY STONE, and Lady Doyle's 1931 preface.
801. British news from Roger Johnson: production on "The Abbot's Cry" (the BBC's second Peter Cushing TV film) has been postponed until March because John Mills (Dr. Watson) is appearing in a West End play. Granada will begin production on "The Sign of Four" in January or February, and a fourth series of short stories (including "Wisteria Lodge" and probably "Silver Blaze") is planned for 1987-88.
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802. Some paperback reprints from Britain: SHERLOCK HOLMES AT THE 1902 FIFTH TEST, by Stanley Shaw (London: W. H. Allen/Star Book, 1986; 160 p., £1.95). TEN YEARS BEYOND BAKER STREET, by Cay Van Ash (London: Futura, 1985; 436 p., £2.50). THE RETURN OF MORIARTY, by John Gardner (London: W. H. Allen/Star Book, 1983; 383 p., £2.50). THE REVENGE OF MORIARTY, by John Gardner (London: W. H. Allen/Star Book, 1984; 306 p., £2.25). And a hardcover British edition: SHERLOCK HOLMES THROUGH TIME AND SPACE, edited by Isaac Asimov, Martin Harry Greenberg, and Charles G. Waugh (London: Severn House, 1985; 355 p., £9.95).
803. I have seen a videocassette of "The Masks of Death" (the BBC's first Peter Cushing TV film), and I think it rates a passing grade. Holmes and Watson versus the Germans, just before The Great War, with Anne Baxter as Irene Adler, and Ray Milland and Gordon Jackson in supporting roles.
804. Danger Mouse (the world's number one crime fighter) and his faithful assistant Penfold first appeared in 1981 in a British television cartoon series created by Brian Cosgrove and Mark Hall; the series can also be seen here on cable television (Nickelodeon), and Little, Brown and Co. have issued a series of children's picture books, paperbacks, and lift-the-flap books featuring the intrepid mouse and his hamster friend, who live in a secret hideaway beneath an ordinary London mailbox on Baker Street.
805. Thanks to eagle-eyed Wilfrid de Freitas for spotting an announcement in the personal columns of The Times (Oct. 29): "CHALLENGER - Pterosaurs sighted Matto Grosso - Expedition departs October 30. Room for two more guns - Summerlee." And a second announcement (Nov. 3): "STEPHEN - I thought I could trust your discretion. Yet there it is in print in Room Too More Guns: the intriguing history of the Personal Columns of The Times published for all to see. I'll never speak to you again. M." One might suspect that the two announcements are a subtle advertisement for a new book, which will surely be of interest to those who share Sherlock Holmes' enthusiasm for the agony columns.
806. Also an advertisement in the Nov. 2 issue of The Sunday Times: "SHERLOCK Holmes lived nearby this Edwardian 3 bed gnd flr flt close Baker St. 116 yrs £130,000."
807. Reported by Ron De Waal: Sherlock Hemlock in THE CASE OF THE MISSING DUCKIE (Racine: Western Publishing Co., 1980; 24 p.). And the same story in SESAME STREET STORY LAND: A SELECTION OF FAVORITE SESAME STREET STORIES (New York: Western Publishing Co., 1986; \$12.95).
808. In the current catalog from Fearon Teacher Aids (David S. Lake Publishers, 19 Davis Drive, Belmont, CA 94022): I.M.A. BOOKSNOOP'S AMAZING, ASTOUNDING, ASTONISHING LIBRARY SKILLS KIT, by Elaine Prizzi and Jeanne Hoffman (128 p., \$10.95), with S'ian cover art. MINDSTRETCHERS: LEVEL TWO: WHO DONE IT?, by Pat Carr and Steve Tracy (\$1.95) also has S'ian artwork.
809. SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE'S CELEBRATED CASES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (London: Octopus Books, 1986; 318 p., £6.95) contains 18 stories, each with one of Sidney Paget's illos from The Strand Magazine; the book also has 12 new full-color illos by the modern British artist Graham Ward.
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810. A while back I mentioned (February 86 #1) The Newcastle Mint's offer of "The Sherlock Holmes 100 Year Commemorative Art Medal Collection" limited to 1,500 numbered sets and consisting of 72 art medals to be issued monthly in pure gold on fine pewter (\$20.00 each) or in pure silver (\$30.00 each). According to the latest issue of the Grimpen Mire Gazette, delivery actually did start in mid-March, dispelling the suspicion of many that no one would be silly enough to order the set.
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811. Raymond L. Holly's article "The Bee-Farmer and the Priest: Sherlock Holmes and Father Brown" appeared in the Aug. 1986 issue of *Telicom* (Journal of the International Society for Philosophical Enquiry); copies available (\$2.00 postpaid) from Bob Birch, Box 2364, Falls Church, VA 22042.
812. You may have noticed the recent press reports about Jeffrey Archer, the deputy chairman of the Conservative Party in Britain, who resigned when a newspaper caught him paying off a prostitute ("We know no spectacle so ridiculous as the British public in one of its periodic fits of morality," Thomas Macaulay once suggested). Jeffrey Archer is also a novelist, and was reported to have been hired by Steven Spielberg (or Paramount) to translate Chris Columbus' script for "Young Sherlock Holmes" into British.
813. The weekend celebration of Sherlock Holmes' birthday seems to have stabilized, since there are no new events that I know about. But there are, as usual, many items on the agenda.
814. Friday begins with the Martha Hudson Breakfast at 9:00 at the Hotel Algonquin, at 59 West 44th Street; no reservations required. Then the William Gillette Luncheon at 12:00 at the Old Homestead, at 56 Ninth Avenue (Lisa McGaw, 15 Willow Terrace Apartments, Chapel Hill, NC 27514). And then the dinners for The Baker Street Irregulars at 24 Fifth Avenue, and for The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes at the Club 1407 Restaurant, at 1407 Broadway (Evelyn A. Herzog, 235 West 15th Street #4B, New York, NY 10011).
815. Otto Penzler's annual open house at The Mysterious Bookshop (129 West 56th Street) is also on Friday, from 11:00 to 6:00; S'ians and their guests are most welcome, and there is as usual the possibility of S'ian authors on hand to sign their books.
816. On Saturday there will be a reception, honoring Julian and Eleanor Wolff and open to all S'ians and their friends, from 3:00 to 5:00 pm, at 24 Fifth Avenue. Open bar, with hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, and tickets cost \$20.00 a person until Dec. 15 (\$25.00 a person thereafter and at the door). Checks, payable to The Baker Street Irregulars, should be sent to Robert E. Thomalen, 69 Glen Road, Eastchester, NY 10709. And, although the gathering is not formally scheduled, it is likely that a many Sherlockians will dine on Saturday evening at Bogie's (249 West 26th Street).
817. On Sunday, southbound travelers (and others) are welcome at the annual dinner of The Master's Class at the Franklin Inn Club in Philadelphia (Victoria M. Robinson, 299B Summit House, 1450 West Chester Pike, West Chester, PA 19382).

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819. *THE EVIDENCE NEVER LIES: THE CASEBOOK OF A MODERN SHERLOCK HOLMES*, by Alfred Allan Lewis (New York: Dell, 1987; 258 p., \$7.95), describes the career and some of the important cases of criminalist Herbert Leon MacDonell, a modern specialist in bloodstain evidence, fingerprint identification, and firearms identification and ballistics; his expertise in interpreting evidence has served his clients well.
820. Reported by Brad Keefauver: *THE BEST OF TREK #11*, edited by Walter Irwin and G. B. Love (Signet paperback), with Patricia Dunn's "A Problem of Identity: Was Holmes a Vulcan?"
821. It occurs to me to suggest that there are still a few months in 1987 that do not yet have a S'ian event of international or national significance, in case anyone wants to plan one.
- A. January. 6: Sherlock Holmes Society of London centenary dinner, in London.
 - B. January. 9: Baker Street Irregulars annual dinner, and The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes dinner, in New York.
 - C. Mar. 13-15: *Sherlockian II: A Second Holmes-Coming*, in Torrance (Sherlockon, Box 1226, Lawndale, CA 90260).
 - D. Mar. 14: *The Relationship Between Arthur Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes: A Centennial Symposium*, at Wright State University (Dr. Alvin E. Rodin, Wright State University School of Medicine, Box 927, Dayton, OH 45401).
 - E. May 16: Holmes Centennial Dinner at the Culinary Institute of America, in Hyde Park.
 - F. Apr. 22-May 9: "Final Problem" Tour from England to Switzerland (Trade Winds Travel, 21 South 5th Street, Philadelphia, PA 10106).
 - G. Apr. 30-May 9: Sherlock Holmes Society of London Pilgrimage to Switzerland (Cdr. G. S. Stavert, 3 Outram Road, Southsea, Hants. PO5 1QP, England).
 - H. July 24-26: John Bennett Shaw workshop, at the College of William & Mary (Ray Betzner, 2906 Richard Pace South, Williamsburg, VA 23185).
 - I. Aug. 16-23: John Bennett Shaw workshop, at Stanford University (Theodore G. Schulz, 17 Mount Lassen Drive, San Rafael, CA 94903).
 - J. Sept. 12-22: a medical history conference based in London, directed by Alvin E. Rodin, with emphasis on Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes (Nicholas Dewey, BCM, Box Dewey, London, WC1N 3XX, England).
 - K. Sept. 19-20: Autumn in Baker Street, at Bear Mountain (Robert E. Thomalen, 69 Glen Road, Eastchester, NY 10709).
 - L. Sept. (date uncertain): *The Silver Blaze*, at Belmont (Richard A. Wein, 65 Briarwood Lane, Plainview, NY 11803).

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822. Peter Cushing's *AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY* (London: Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 1986; 157 p., £9.95) gives only passing mention to his various appearances as Sherlock Holmes, but it is an entertaining account of the actor's life and career.
823. Thanks to Paul Merz for an advance warning: Gary Larson's newspaper cartoon "The Far Side" will be Sherlockian on Dec. 5.
824. Discovered by Richard Wein: *THE WORLD'S 72 TOUGHEST GOLF HOLES*, by Tom Hepburn and Selwyn Jacobson (Los Angeles: Price/Stern/Sloan, 1984; \$19.95 at B. Dalton); one of the selections is The Morialta Golf Club's 5th hole (dubbed "Sheer Luck"), with an appropriately S'ian description.
825. *SHERLOCK HOLMES: A CENTENARY CELEBRATION*, by Allen Eyles (London: John Murray, 1986; 144 p., £10.95) (New York: Harper & Row, 1986; 144 p., \$22.50); a survey of "the first hundred years of the Sherlock Holmes phenomenon," with spectacular illos: full-color reproductions of eight of Steele's covers for *Collier's*, some of the more artistic covers from later issues of the *Strand*, theater posters and lobby cards, and stills from films and television, plus much more material in black and white.
826. In case you didn't do the arithmetic, £10.95 at the current conversion rate (\$1.42) is \$15.55 (and that's 69% of \$22.50). Twenty years ago if a book was published simultaneously in Britain and the U.S., the British edition was about 60% cheaper; then things evened out, but now the discount seems to be back.
827. For the completist S'ian philatelist, the USPS has re-engraved the 1983 1c coil stamp showing an 1880s omnibus (BSJ, Dec. 1983, p. 248). The new and slightly different version will be shipped to post offices in December .
828. Reported by Andrew Jay Peck: *SHERLOCK HOLMES SAVED GOLF*, a second S'ian golf book by Bob Jones (Box 582, Pebble Beach, CA 93953; \$12.00 postpaid).
829. Marilyn Wellemeyer's article on "Pursuing a Mysterious Passion" in the Nov. 24 issue of *Fortune* discussed passionate mystery collectors, and included mention (and a photograph) of Tyke Niver, as well as an address for queries about joining S'ian societies. So far there have been twelve requests.
830. Sotheby's auction in London on Dec. 18 will include a "group of papers relating to Conan Doyle," including "a letter by the literary agent A.S. Watt, to Lady Doyle, detailing tangled negotiations with MGM for the filming of Sherlock Holmes stories (1937)." First I've heard of MGM considering a series.

831. Tyke Niver reports a catalog of regimental and old school ties available from Ben Silver Neckties Limited (149 King Street, Charleston, SC 29401), including the tie for Edinburgh University at \$28.00 (in case you'd like to wear ACD's old school tie).
832. "I went out to Charing Cross, to see Major-general Harrison hanged, drawn, and quartered; which was done there, he looking as cheerful as any man could do in that condition." Samuel Pepys, in his Diary.

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833. "Even as a small child I dreamed of going on faraway expeditions to collect insects and other animals. This book set my imagination on fire, and I was thereafter a nesiophile, a lover of islands, the concrete symbols of new worlds awaiting exploration. The compulsion was one of the mental factors that led me in later years to develop (with Robert H. MacArthur) the theory of island biogeography, which has become an influential part of ecology." The book is THE LOST WORLD, cited by Edward O. Wilson in THE HARVARD GUIDE TO INFLUENTIAL BOOKS: 113 DISTINGUISHED HARVARD PROFESSORS DISCUSS THE BOOKS THAT HAVE HELPED TO SHAPE THEIR THINKING, edited by C. Maury Devine, Claudia M. Dissel, and Kim D. Parrish (New York: Harper & Row, 1986; 300 p., \$18.95).
834. ATTENTA: on Dec. 3 I was informed by the Hotel Royalton that they are not accepting reservations for the birthday weekend, because the hotel will be closed at the end of 1986, for total renovation. They may be open in early January, I was told, "but don't count on it." Those who have already made reservations at the Royalton may or may not have received a later warning from the hotel. Verbum sap., as the saying goes.
835. All is not lost, however. Mary Ellen Rich, of The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes, works for Stevens Travel (212-696-4300 or 800-223-1028), and she is arranging for alternate accommodations for Sherlockians who don't want to take a chance at the Royalton.
836. Spotted by Betty Pierce: Jeremy Brett, in the Henry Fonda film of "War and Peace" (cast as Nicholas, an officer in red uniform and funny wig).
837. Reported by Chris Caswell, from Disneyland, on the recently renovated Mr. Toad ride, in the window of a London building: Sherlock Holmes' profile. Watch for it near the end of the ride, Chris warns.
838. Chris also notes that regardless of the quality of the recent TV show "Clue: Movies, Murder, and Mystery!" (Sept. 17 on CBS-TV), the program was filmed to a large extent in his bookshop Sherlock's Home, even showing their British facade and awning.
839. Videocassettes reported by Paul Martin from Video Yesteryear (Box C, Sandy Hook, CT 06482): "The Copper Beeches" (1912) and "The Man with the Twisted Lip" (1922), both silent with music score, correct projection speed; and "The Triumph of Sherlock Holmes" (1935).
840. "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" (scheduled by CBS-TV for Dec. 28) was, as you now know, a non-return. CBS announced early in December that the show was being preempted by the two-hour pilot for "Outlaws" (a new series that will start on Jan. 3). The latest news is that "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" will air on Jan. 10, at 9:00 pm.
841. Lenny Picker (119 81st Avenue, Kew Gardens, NY 11415) lacks only one of the Jeremy Brett programs ("Fina"), and would appreciate hearing from anyone who can lend an off-the-air tape of the show for copying.
842. Lenny also reports that a new collection of Basil Copper's Solar Pons pastiches is scheduled next year from Academy Chicago Publishers.

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843. Reported by Ron De Waal: THE GREAT MOUSE DETECTIVE (New York: Random House, 1986; 42 p., \$5.95); Disney's Wonderful World of Reading #55. THE ART OF MYSTERY & DETECTIVE STORIES, by Peter Haining (Secaucus: Chartwell Books, 174 p., \$9.98); a reissue of MYSTERY! (D708b). THE VICTORIAN SHORT STORY: DEVELOPMENT & TRIUMPH OF A LITERARY GENRE, by Harold Oreil (Cambridge University Press); with Paget's battle at the Reichenbach on the cover, and discussion ("By the 1890s, when Arthur Conan Doyle began his Sherlock Holmes stories in The Strand, the Victorian short story had become a commercially lucrative art-form, and probably the most popular literary product of the late Victorian age.") THE CELEBRATED CASES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Minneapolis: Amaranth Press, 1986; xxiv+808 p., \$12.95 at B. Dalton); foreword by Donald Flannell Friedman, and the public-domain stories (Stud through Bruc).
844. 221B BAKER ST.: A GRAPHICS MYSTERY ADVENTURE (Chatsworth: Datasoft/Intelli-Creations, 1986; \$29.95); a computer game (with 30 cases), based on the board game (D3957b). A second casebook, with 30 more cases and a second disk, costs \$14.95. Commodore 64/128 and Apple II versions are available now, and an Atari version is due next month; an IBM version (graphics card required) is expected in the spring. At your neighborhood software shop, or from IntelliCreations, 19808 Nordhoff Place, Chatsworth, CA 91311.
845. The Nov. 1986 issue of Mysterious News at hand from The Mysterious Press, 129 West 56th Street, New York, NY 10019; 16 pages of articles by and about their authors and their books, and a subscription is free for the asking.
846. SHERLOCKIAN POEMS ON VARIOUS OCCASIONS, by John Ruyle (521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707), is the latest Pequod pressing, with 16 poems (old and new); "owing to the omission of smut, prices are the same as for our other books of poetry" (\$30.00 cloth, and \$15.00 paper).
847. Reported by Roger Johnson (and confirmed by Andy Peck): a colorized version of "Sherlock Holmes and the Secret Weapon" on videocassette at \$29.95 from Hal Roach Studios (their address is 1600 North Fairfax Avenue, Hollywood, CA 90046).
848. THE ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES, edited by William S. Baring-Gould (New York: Clarkson N. Potter, 1986; 1,536 p., \$55.00); a new one-volume edition, sturdily bound and boxed ("It is the nearest thing to a complete encyclopaedia of Sherlockiana that we have," Julian Wolff suggested in the BSJ when the "Annotated" was first published 20 years ago, and the description is still thoroughly correct).
849. Richard R. Rutter's article "'There Shall Be No Monthly Meetings': An Introduction to the Baker Street Irregulars" ran in the Oct. 1986 issue of Imprint (The Publication of the Associates of the Stanford University Libraries); \$7.50 postpaid (checks payable to Stanford University) from Imprint, C. H. Green Library, Stanford, CA 94305.
850. Presumably you have all seen Fred Strebeigh's article "To his modern fans, Sherlock is still worth a close look" in Smithsonian (Dec. 1986). Some of its readers' letters will be published in the Feb. 1987 issue. And the article will be digested and reprinted in Reader's Digest (Mar. 1987).

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851. I continue to receive enquiries from the press about what Sherlockians plan to do to celebrate the centennial of the publication of the first Sherlock Holmes story. Please let me know if you hear of events that weren't on the list in the November information sheets.
852. There's a "Sherlock Holmes Pub" music box (hand-made in England), six inches high, with a Reuge Swiss Musical Movement (that plays "There is a tavern in the town"), priced at \$78.50 (shipping extra). Illustrated flier available from Precious Little (Helen Wesson, 1003 North Vail Street, Alexandria, VA 22304).
853. The Edgar Wallace Society is as devoted to its hero as we are to ours, and has just published issue #72 of its newsletter "The Crimson Circle" (£6.00 a year for membership and subscription, and the editor is John A. Hogan, 7 Devonshire Close, Amersham, Bucks. HP6 5JG, England).
854. And The August Derleth Society is celebrating the end of its tenth year of celebrating the many-faceted literary career of the creator of Solar Pons. Membership, including their quarterly newsletter, costs \$5.00 a year (to Frank Attix, 3333 Westview Drive, Madison, WI 53713).

855. "Her face appeared in a picture frame in a Baker Street set for a TV series, identified as none other than Irene Adler, always 'the woman' for Sherlock Holmes," according to an interview with Vincent Price in the Washington Post. That's Vincent Price's wife, Coral Browne, and I assume that her picture was used in the Boston set for Price's introduction, rather than in the Manchester set for the 221B interior.
856. SHERLOCK CHICK'S FIRST CASE, by Robert Quackenbush (New York: Parents Magazine Press, 1986); a new children's book.
857. Another 1987 tour, reported by Mel Ruiz: Connoisseur Tours present "a unique trip for Sherlock Holmes buffs through the districts in England where the world's most remarkable detective pursued his remarkable career, with John T. Morse, professor of physiology at Berkeley and noted Sherlock Holmes scholar," July 23-Aug. 4. Flier from Directions Unlimited, 344 Main Street, Mount Kisco, NY 10549.
858. Mel also reports that Buccaneer Books reports that their edition of Basil Rathbone's IN AND OUT OF CHARACTER has "no available date set." The book was published in 1962, so the first term of copyright extends through 1990 (in case they're waiting for the book to go into the public domain).
859. "BITTE RUFEN SIE SCOTLAND YARD AN, WATSON" is the German edition of Gar Donnelson's monograph on Canonical telephones and telephoning. \$2.95 postpaid from Gar Donnelson, 430 Steinway Road, Lincoln, NE 68505.
860. More comic books. The Renegade Press CASES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES #4 (November 86) has "SixN" (and the next issue will have "Engr"). DETECTIVE COMICS #572 (March 87) celebrates the 50th anniversary of the magazine, with a story about Sherlock Holmes. Gladstone's WALT DISNEY'S MICKEY MOUSE #224 (March 87) and #225 (April 87) has a deerstalked Dippy (later known as Goofy) in a reprint of "The Crazy Crime Wave" from the 1933 daily strips.

December 1986 #4

861. There aren't many Sherlockian stamps on the U.S. schedule for 1987, but Jan. 26 is the issue date for the commemorative honoring the 150th anniversary of Michigan statehood. The stamp shows a white pine, the official Michigan state tree. And there's a Canonical reference to the lumber camps of Michigan . . .
862. There will be a "Sherlock Holmes Mystery Weekend" in Bridgeport, Conn., Feb. 13-15, 1987, with the mystery and other entertainment devised by Murder by Invitation (a firm with which Bob Thomalen is involved in various roles and disguises); details from the Bridgeport Hilton Hotel, 1070 Main Street, Bridgeport, CT 06604.
863. Richard G. Smith reports an announcement in the Dec.-Jan. 1987 issue of British Heritage, of a planned special section on SH (presumably in the Feb.-Mar. 1987 issue).
864. Reported from England by Roger Johnson: ROOM TWO MORE GUNS, by Stephen Winkworth (Allen & Unwin, £10.95); a history of the personal columns in The Times ("of marginal but considerable S'ian interest," according to Roger). There have been major improvements at the Sherlock Holmes Hotel in Baker Street: the frontage and ground floor have been completely altered, with new S'ian decorations (including the inverness and deerstalker now worn by the commissioner), and handsome bronze busts and figurines on sale. And Leslie Bricusse (who wrote "Pickwick") is reported to have written a SH musical, to feature Robert Powell as Holmes and William Rushton as Watson.
865. Someone will receive a pleasant Christmas present: the manuscript of "The Adventure of the Mazarin Diamond" [that's the original title] went to auction at Christie's in New York on Dec. 19, with an estimated price of \$20,000-25,000. The 19-page manuscript was first reported in 1970, when it was auctioned at Sotheby's in London for £400 to Lew David Feldman, who sold it in 1972 to Miss Melissa Kalt (from whom it has now gone to auction at Christie's). And (later) I have been informed that the manuscript sold for \$45,000 to Mark Hime, the California dealer/collector.
866. The winter 1986 issue of The Sherlock Holmes Journal at hand, with news of plans for a Sherlock Holmes Museum, including a reconstruction of the sitting-room at 221B Baker Street, at Meiringen in Switzerland. Part of the museum should be open in time for the spring 1987 tour by the SHSOL.
867. The SHJ also reports that were 10.4 million viewers tuned in when the Granada version of "The Empty House" was broadcast in the U.K. in July (that's 18.2 percent of the 57 million people in the U.K.). In this country the weekly Nielsen ratings measure TV households (87.4 million); in the third week of December, 35.1 percent watched "The Cosby Show" (#1) and 19.1 percent watched "Highway to Heaven" (#20).
868. A pleasant discovery by Jerry Margolin: Gallery Lainzberg, the leading specialist in animation cels. They offer production cels (actually used in the film) from "The Great Mouse Detective" (\$195.00) and limited-edition cels by Chuck Jones of Sherlock Daffy and Watson Porky (\$295.00 each), and a full-color catalog is available; their address is 200 Guaranty Building, 3rd Avenue and 3rd Street SE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52401.

January 1987 #1

869. The birthday festivities were, as usual, both hectic and enjoyable, with pre-weekend publicity starting on Jan. 4 with a long piece by Anthony Burgess in the N.Y. Times Book Review, followed by an Associated Press dispatch in the N.Y. Times and the Washington Post, a brief mention in USA Today, and other items as yet unseen.
870. The BSI bid an unfond farewell to the Regency Hotel (and its \$6 drinks), and moved to the ballroom at 24 Fifth Avenue, where Edith Meiser was *The* Woman, honored at the BSI pre-dinner cocktail party and by *The* Women at dinner at the National Arts Club.
871. The BSI observed the usual traditions (highlighted by Albert M. Rosenblatt managing to rhyme POSSLQ in his poetic toast to Mrs. Hudson) and welcomed foreign guests Ake Runnquist from Sweden and Kiyoshi Tanaka from Japan, and Thomas L. Stix, Jr., formally introduced the BSI's other officers, John Bennett Shaw (Simpson) and Robert E. Thomalen (Cartwright). James C. Cleary presented a polished and well-illustrated slide show on Sherlock Holmes and Sherlockians, Norman M. Davis fervently defended The Chicago Four (those much-maligned Canonical Chicagoans), Steven Rothman reported on the history of the BSI necktie and his discovery of Helen Hare Cain (the Betsy Ross of the BSI), William D. Jenkins discussed pastiches and parodies, and Chris Steinbrunner reminisced about long-past and more recent annual dinners.
872. Irregular Shillings were awarded to Ray Betzner (The Agony Column), Robert C. Burr (The Rascally Lascar), T. Michael Kaylor (*Practical Handbook of Bee Culture*), George R. Skornickel, Jr. (Heidegger), Kiyoshi Tanaka (The Japanese Cabinet), Edward J. Vatzka (A Typical American Advertisement), and Richard S. Warner (High Tor). Two-Shilling Awards were given to Walter Klinefelter and Ezra Wolff.
873. And there were other Friday gatherings: The Martha Hudson Breakfast at the Algonquin, The William Gillette Memorial Luncheon at the Old Homestead, Otto Penzler's open house at The Mysterious Bookshop, the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes' dinner at the Club 1407, and impromptu festivities in the sixth-floor wein-celler at the Dumont Plaza. At the ASH dinner, Patricia Guy reported on Canonical wines, Marina Stajic and Eileen Katz reenacted an interview between Mary Morstan and her gynecologist, and The Friends of Bogie's presented their newest inventions.
874. Saturday's events featured the cocktail party honoring Julian and Eleanor Wolff. The brief formal agenda featured Ezra Wolff's poetic report on the annual dinner, a presentation to Julian Wolff by George Fletcher, an award of a gilded Queen Victoria Medal to Eleanor Wolff in recognition of her long service as the BSI's most devoted camp-follower, and Isaac Asimov's new Sherlockian song (this year to the tunes of "Yankee Doodle" and "Der Tannenbaum"). Many Sherlockians then dined at Bogie's, whence some departed for their hotels and homes in time to view the CBS television movie "The Return of Sherlock Holmes". And on Sunday south-bound travelers dined in Philadelphia with The Master's Class at the Franklin Inn Club.

875. I have updated my listing of Investitured Irregulars, Two-Shilling Awards, and *The* Women. \$1.00 postpaid for a print-out.

January 1987 #2

876. THE COMPLETE ILLUSTRATED SHERLOCK HOLMES (Ware: Omega Books, 1986; 1,116 p., £20.00) has all 60 stories, 58 reprinted in facsimile from the Strand (with all the illos); "Stud" and "Sign" are unfortunately not reprinted in facsimile from their first appearances in print, and one can only hope that an enterprising publisher will eventually offer THE COMPLETE ORIGINAL SHERLOCK HOLMES.
877. Too late for last month's mailing: "The Real Adventures of Sherlock Jones and Proctor Watson" premiered on KMTF-TV (Fresno) on Jan. 4, 1987. This is a PBS ten-episode half-hour children's series using puppets to portray "the 30-inch-high detective and his canine companion" who help their human friends in a variety of escapades; it's not a networked show, so check with your local PBS station to see if or when it might be broadcast.
878. "Young Sherlock Holmes" was possibly perceived to have done better in Britain than in the U.S. At least Disney were willing to title their film "Basil, the Great Mouse Detective" when it opened in Britain in Oct. 1986 (to favorable notice in the press).
879. The "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Townhouse" at 2151 Sacramento Street in San Francisco, advertised at \$1.3 million (Oct. 85 #2), has finally been sold, "for just under a million," according to Herb Caen's column in the San Francisco Chronicle (Dec. 19, 1986).
880. John D. MacDonald died recently. Interviewed by Ed Hirshberg (in the 1979 Writer's Yearbook), MacDonald was asked if Travis McGee might be a better detective if he were "more committed--like Sherlock Holmes, for example, who never thinks of anything else but just concentrates completely on his job." "I think a total commitment of the hero--*really* total commitment --equals boredom," MacDonald replied. "Sherlock Holmes is too much of a smartass anyway--too many peculiarities, too much celebration."
881. The Greek Interpreters of East Lansing celebrated their 40th anniversary in 1985 by publishing a history of the scion; THE GREEK INTERPRETERS includes their scion reports and a joint pastiche, all reprinted from the BSJ, and is available for \$5.00 postpaid from Howard Brody, 2726 Fontaine Trail, Holt, MI 48842.
882. ELEMENTARY MY DEAR WATSON, by Graham Nown (Topsfield: Salem House, 1986; 143 p., \$19.95); an illustrated celebration of the centenary, concentrating on the Canon and ACD's S'ian career, and the criminals and detectives to be found in the Victorian underworld.
883. Sterling E. Lanier's giant-rat pastiche "A Father's Tale" (D5042b) is reprinted in THE CURIOUS QUESTS OF BRIGADIER FFELLOWES (West Kingston: Donald M. Grant, 1986; 254 p., signed by author and artist, \$30.00); a fine collection of Lanier's stories, illustrated by Ned Dameron (available from the publisher, West Kingston, RI 02892).
884. Check the discount tables for 33 BY ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE, edited by Gibson and Green, offered at \$7.98 in a new catalog from Publishers Central Bureau (One Champion Avenue, Avenel, NJ 07001); it's a reissue of the 1984 Doubleday edition of UNCOLLECTED STORIES.
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January 1987 #3

885. ACD's poem "The Athabasca Trail" was written during his Canadian tour in 1914, and published widely in newspapers before its appearance in the Apr. 1915 issue of Cornhill Magazine. Chris Redmond (125 Lincoln Road #1101, Waterloo, Ont. N2J 2N9, Canada) would appreciate hearing from anyone who knows of early appearances of the poem.
886. THE LITTLE, BROWN BOOK OF ANECDOTES, edited by Clifton Fadiman (Boston: Little Brown 1985), includes anecdotes (non-S'ian) about Joseph Bell, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Paul Gore-Booth, Ronald Knox, Christopher Morley, and Rex Stout. During his days in the Foreign Office, Gore-Booth once received an urgent cable from the Middle East: "Ruler has died suddenly. Please advise." Gore-Booth replied: "Hesitate to dogmatize, but suggest burial."
887. Reported by Bob Burr (Plugs & Dottles, Jan. 1987): Baskerville Holmes, former Memphis State starter, pleaded innocent to a charge he roughed up a former girlfriend on his wedding day.
888. Copies of THE SHSF FANTHOLOGY 2 (D1929a) and THE SHSF FANTHOLOGY 3 (D1930a) are still available from Ruth Berman (2809 Drew Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55416); postpaid prices are \$1.50 for D1929a, \$2.00 for D1930a, and \$3.00 for both. Ruth also reports that her S'ian story "Professor and Colonel" will be in MATH IS STRANGE, an anthology edited by Rudy Rucker and due from Arbor House in May.
889. THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (New York: Bantam Books, 1985; 266 p., \$2.50) has the 13 stories dramatized by Granada in the first two series, an interesting Introduction by Jacques Barzun, and striking modern graphics on the cover. THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (New York: Penguin Books, 1987; 181 p., \$3.50) has the 7 stories in the third Granada series, and is the authorized tie-in to the series (with the poster art-work on the cover).
890. Discovered by Ev Herzog: THE CURSE OF BATTERSLEA HALL, written by Richard Brightfield and illustrated by Ted Enik (New York: Bantam Books, 1984; 118 p., \$1.95); a "choose your own adventure" children's book with a friendly hound named Baskerville and a deerstalkered (though non-S'ian) protagonist. THE MUMMY (Loughborough: Ladybird Books, 1985; 51 p., \$2.13); ACD's "Lot No. 249" retold for children by Raymond Sibley and illustrated by Angus McBride. MONSTERS YOU NEVER HEARD OF, by Daniel Cohen (New York: Pocket Books/Archway, 1986; 101 p., \$2.50); with passing mention of the Hound of the Baskervilles in the chapter on "Demon Dogs".
891. For completists: the 2nd printing of Lloyd Biggle's pastiche THE QUALLSFORD INHERITANCE (May 86 #2 and October 86 #1) is a true variant, containing proper acknowledgement to Dame Jean for permission to use the Sherlock Holmes characters. The press run was also much smaller than for the 1st printing.
892. Andy Jaysnovitch (6 Dana Estates Drive, Parlin, NJ 08859) now offers six videocassettes, each with four of the 1954 Ronald Howard TV program (and three more cassettes are in the works); write to Andy for details.
893. For miniaturists seeking a bear-skin rug, a golden pince-nez, a Persian slipper, or a dried snake-skin: a flier at hand from Shirley (9269 Mission Gorge Road #113, Santee, CA 92071).
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January 1987 #4

894. Mike Ashley (4 Thistlebank, Walderslade, Chatham, Kent ME5 8AD, England) is working on a biography and bibliography of Algernon Blackwood, and wonders if anyone has noticed the Canonical echoes in Blackwood's stories "The Nemesis of Fire" and "The Camp of the Dog". There is no De Waal citation for Blackwood, and one item cited by Green/Gibson; if you know of any other connections with SH or ACD, please let Mike know.
895. Reported by Lenny Picker: Rolland Smith (co-host of the new CBS-TV "Morning Program") has named his son Conan, after ACD. Marvel's MUPPET BABIES #13 features "The Casebook of Kermlock Holmes" with Kermit as Holmes, Fozzie as Watson, and Miss Piggy as the Client. Academy Chicago will publish the unedited version of Basil Copper's THE DOSSIER OF SOLAR PONS in March (Copper says that Pinnacle took great liberties with their 1979 edition). And Medallion Books will publish Frank Thomas' SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE MISSING MASTERPIECES (this summer, according to Medallion).
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896. REFLECTIONS ON A SCANDAL IN BOHEMIA, illustrated by Jeff Decker, with an Introduction by Jack Tracy (New York: Magico Magazine, 1986; 98 p., \$20.00); a good anthology, with reprints of the story and essays by Christ, Jones, and Montgomery, and new material by Green, Johnson, Kean, Keefeauver, MacDonald, and Shreffler. SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE ORIGINS OF PSYCHOLOGY, by Richard L. Kellogg, with an Introduction by John Bennett Shaw (New York: Magico Magazine, 1986; 90 p., \$15.95); a collection of older articles and new essays. THE EXPLOITS OF BILLY THE PAGE, by Willoughby Lane (New York: Magico Magazine, 1986; 57 p., \$15.95); a collection of short pastiches, in each of which a celebrated Baker Street detective is moderately involved (the detective is unnamed, but can hardly be confused with Sexton Blake). And the first issue of Magico Magazine has also appeared, edited by Kelvin I. Jones and with articles by Hardwick, Johnson, Hunt, Kean, and Healy; \$3.50 (Magico's address is Box 156, New York, NY 10002).
897. Richard Lancelyn Green, in his essay on the manuscript in REFLECTIONS ON A SCANDAL IN BOHEMIA, reports a solution to the mystery of the second "resting hand" used by Conan Doyle on seven pages of the ms. The second hand has been identified by Adrian Conan Doyle as that of Conan Doyle's sister.
898. For Sherlockian philatelists: I have a small supply of coil pairs of the new re-engraved version of the 1-cent "omnibus" stamp, and the precancelled version of the 4.9-cent "buckboard" stamp, and an even smaller supply of the unprecancelled version of the 4.9-cent "buckboard" stamp. If you need these items, let me know and I'll enclose them with the next mailing.
899. THE ULTIMATE ALPHABET AND WORKBOOK, by Mike Wilks (New York: Henry Holt, 1986; \$22.45), is an interesting concept: 26 detailed paintings, showing 7,777 objects beginning with the relevant letters; the workbook lists 12,000 possible objects (the person correctly identifying the most objects will win \$15,000). The workbook lists "deer-stalker" and "detective" (the deerstalker is not particularly well-drawn, and the detective not found).
900. "Inside and Outside Sherlock Holmes: A Rhapsody" by Kim Herzinger, in Shenandoah (The Washington and Lee University Review), 1986, v. 36. n. 3, is an enthusiastic investigation of the importance of Sherlock Holmes and the Canon. Box 722, Lexington, VA 24450; \$3.50.

January 1987 #5

901. Caedmon (1995 Broadway, New York, NY 10023) offers SHERLOCK HOLMES ADVENTURES (Blue, SixN, and Blan) performed by John Wood on a two-cassette set (\$14.95). Their catalog also lists THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES performed by Nicol Williamson (\$14.95 on cassettes, \$19.98 on records), Walter Brooks' FREDDY THE DETECTIVE performed by Pat Carroll on one cassette (\$8.95), the four S'ian recordings by Basil Rathbone, and a number of T. S. Eliot's S'ian items.
902. Reported by Dana Richards: "Alphamagic Squares" by Lee C. F. Sallows, in Abacus (fall 1986), refers to (and shows the first page of) THE ORIGIN OF TREE WORSHIP, a privately printed 19th-century work of scholarship devoted to a study of Druidical practices and the spread of the yew cult among Celtic and Germanic peoples in pre-Christian Europe; the book was privately published in 1887, and apparently misplaced in 1888, but a copy (presumed unique) was recently discovered during a reorganization of bookshelves at the British Library.
903. Dana also reports that Milton Bradley's VCR game CHUTES AND LADDERS has a scenario with Sherlock Holmes and Dottie Watson (not in Canonical costume). And that there is a Canonical reference in Arthur C. Clarke's THE SONGS OF DISTANT EARTH (Del Ray, 1986, p. 189).
904. THE SHERLOCK HOLMES LETTERS, edited by Richard Lancelyn Green (Iowa City: University of Iowa Press; 266 p., \$19.95); a spectacular collection, beginning with the 1887 reviews of A STUDY IN SCARLET and continuing with a fine selection of letters, articles, and comment published in newspapers and magazines, and with the usual perceptive commentary by Green. Their special offer is \$15.95 plus \$1.50 shipping if your order is received by Mar. 15, and the press' address is Iowa City, IA 52242.
905. "Sherlock Holmes and Cleveland, Ohio" will be sponsored by Mrs. Hudson's Lodgers on Nov. 7 (details available from The Stetaks, 15529 Diagonal Road, La Grange, OH 44050).
906. An illustrated flier at hand from Tahtsa Ventures Inc. (Box 931, Burns Lake, B.C. V0J 1E0, Canada), offering a Sherlock Holmes Commemorative Tobacco Humidor in a limited edition of 500, at \$195.00 postpaid.
907. There was a bit of post-birthday publicity from New York: on Jan. 10 the National Public Radio series "Weekend Edition" ran a six-minute report taped at the Algonquin on Friday morning (with interviews with Lellenberg, Byerly, Peck, Herzog, Stix, Davis, and Shaw), and Herbert Mitgang's article (also based on Friday-morning interviews) ran in the N.Y. Times on Jan. 17.
908. Reported by Tyke Niver: THE ROYAL NORTHUMBERLAND FUSILIERS (a history of the regiment), by Basil Peacock; \$15.00 plus \$1.25 shipping, from Owen D. Kubik, 3474 Clar-Von Drive, Dayton, OH 45430. COLLECTING: THE PASSIONATE PASTIME, by Susanna Johnston and Tim Beddow (Harper & Row, 1986); with a well-illustrated chapter on the SH room created by Richard Lancelyn Green.
909. And a bisque porcelain miniature of Mickey in S'ian costume, \$9.95 plus \$1.50 shipping from The Disney Miniature Collectors Club (The Disney Collection, Box 1797, Sherman Turnpike, Danbury, CT 06816), *if* you're a member of the club and sign up for their monthly shipments.

January 1987 #6

910. On Jan. 23 the "CBS News Nightwatch" program included a 17-minute segment on Sherlock Holmes, with Lem Tucker interviewing Robert Parker, Dorothy Salisbury Davis, and Nicholas Meyer; the three authors took the subject seriously, but Tucker didn't. For those who have never heard of the program, it's the one you watch if you can't get to sleep and can't stand any of the late-late-night movies. I have an off-the-air cassette, and copies will be available, eventually.
911. "For the Love of Holmes" by Derek Nelson, in MD, Jan. 1987, is a long article about Sherlockian doctors, from Gray Chandler Briggs on, with a group photograph taken at a meeting of The Master's Class in Philadelphia (in which Drs. Hill, Smith, and Kean are featured).
912. Haffmans Verlag AG (Hubenstrasse 19, CH-8057 Zurich, Switzerland) are continuing with their translations of the Canon, the latest being DAS TAL DER ANGST (DM 28.00), with explanatory notes by Hans Wolf.
913. According to an article in the Chicago Tribune (Nov. 14, 1986), cited by John Stephenson, "The Great Mouse Detective" has been banned in Norway as unsuitable for children under 12 (it was approved for all audiences in neighboring Finland, Sweden, and Denmark). Disney plans to issue a subtitled videocassette for Norwegians.
914. 1001 MIDNIGHTS: THE AFICIONADO'S GUIDE TO MYSTERY AND DETECTIVE FICTION, by Bill Pronzini and Marcia Muller (New York: Arbor House, 1986; 879 p., \$39.95), is a splendid reference work, offering essay-reviews of the best, most important, and most interesting titles in the genre; the Canon is carefully considered (by Edward D. Hoch), and the authors of pastiches and parodies are not neglected, but the real value of the book is in its broad coverage of the field.
915. An auction at Sotheby's in London in July 1986 included two letters from Conan Doyle, dated Dec. 29, 1892, and Jan. 6, 1893, to Mr. Cargill, apparently a graphologist, thanking him for providing ACD with ideas for an episode in a Sherlock Holmes story, and expressing some trepidation at writing to him

"for fear you should discern imbecility in the dots of my i's, or incipient brain softening in my capitals." The story? "I would like now to give Holmes *a torn slip of a document*, and see how far he could reconstruct both it and the writers of it."

916. "Sleight of Hand" is a new mystery thriller scheduled to open at the Cort Theatre in New York, with three weeks of previews beginning Apr. 6. The author is John Pielmeier ("Agnes of God") and the stars are Harry Groener ("Cats") and Jeffrey DeMunn ("K2"), and the premise involves both magic and mystery ("an amateur magician performs a new trick with fatal consequences bought one day in advance, cost \$15 the 1st week, \$20 the 2nd week, and \$25 the 3rd week).
917. The first issue of The Sherlock Holmes Review (edited by Steven T. Doyle, quarterly at \$8.00 a year, 3209 East 10th Street #8C, Bloomington, IN 47401) has 28 p., and contributions from Harry How (reprint), Spencer W. Kennedy (on the ms. of "RedC"), Stafford G. Davis (on the literary influence of ACD), Robert F. Fleissner (on Holmes and Frankenstein).
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February 1987 #1

918. More on Lee C. F. Sallows' article on "Alphamagic Squares" (January 87 #5) in Abacus (fall 1986 and winter 1987): it's a two-part article (with a color photograph in the first part showing the first page of THE ORIGIN OF TREE WORSHIP), and there will be a letter to the editor and a reply by Sallows in the next issue, expanding on the Sherlockian significance of THE ORIGIN OF TREE WORSHIP as the foundation-stone in the development of the alphamagic formulas. Abacus: The Magazine for Computer Professionals is published quarterly (\$26.00 a year, or \$6.50 each for single issues) by Springer-Verlag (175 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10010).
919. All subscribers should now have a copy of my seasonal souvenir for the birthday festivities, received during the New York weekend, or with the January or February info sheets; if you've been neglected, let me know.
920. The commemorative honoring the 150th anniversary of Michigan statehood (December 86 #4) was issued on Jan. 26.
921. David Hammer reports "Elementary, My Dear Gillette", a one-page article by Susan Corbett in Country Life (Jan. 8, 1987); mainly contemporary reviews of Gillette's play.
922. Reported by Paul Merz: Baker Street Bar & Grill, a restaurant in Fresno, Calif., with a thoroughly S'ian menu. And by Mel Ruiz: "Topper Returns" (1940) on videocassette from Video Classics, Box 10069, Burbank, CA 91505 (box shows Topper with deerstalker and calabash in his role as ghost detective); and "The CM-37 Mystery" (a filmstrip set with "Spec", "Bosc", "Scan", and "Copp") from Society for Visual Education, 1345 West Diversey Parkway, Chicago, IL 60614.
923. Announced by KeyRod Literary Enterprises (3041 Maginn Drive, Beavercreek, OH 45385): THE APHORISMS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Jack D. Key and Alvin E. Rodin (52 p., \$8.95 postpaid); 200 aphorisms containing the epitome and essence of Holmes' wit and wisdom.
924. SONTEX (Apartado 35435, Barcelona, Spain) offers "2 Stories of Sherlock Holmes" (an audio cassette with "Dyin" and "Chas" read in simplified English, accompanied by a booklet with the text) at \$8.50 (they take American checks and plastic).
925. We're still trying to find a few long-unheard-from members of the BSI -- please let me know if you have any clues to the whereabouts of Alvin E. Blomquist (1955), William Passen (1955), Peter A. Ruber (1964), and Bernth Lindfors (1968).
926. STARRETT VS. MACHEN: A RECORD OF DISCOVERY AND CORRESPONDENCE, published by Michael Murphy at his Autolytus Press in 1977, was not widely distributed. Vincent Starrett was Arthur Machen's earliest supporter in the U.S., but in 1924 Starrett and Covici-McGee were accused of pirating two of Machen's books; Starrett refuted the charge, and his correspondence with Machen is presented here along with Starrett's writings on the subject. Non-S'ian (except for Machen's thanks for a copy of THE UNIQUE HAMLET); copies are available from Pepper & Stern (Box 2711, Santa Barbara, CA 93120) at \$20.00 (or \$30.00 for the deluxe issue with hand-marbled edges).
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February 1987 #2

927. Discovered by Ev Herzog: Stephen DiLauro's article about Paul Davis (who did the poster and tie-in paperback covers for the Granada series) in the Jan. 1987 issue of American Artist (1515 Broadway, New York, NY 10036; \$2.25). And a rock group called "They Might Be Giants" (samples of their non-S'ian music can be heard on their dial-a-song number, 718-387-6992). And KEATON COMEDIES: A TOBY BRADLEY ADVENTURE, by Harold D. Sill, Jr. (Reading: Addison Wesley, 1977); a children's book in which Toby is time-transported to 1924, and helps Buster Keaton film "Sherlock Jr."
928. The February issue of Smithsonian has four letters to the editor, with compliments, complaints, and explication occasion by Fred Streibigh's December 1986 article on SH and S'ians.
929. Signe Landon (14985 256th Avenue SE, Issaquah, WA 98027) has announced THE HOLMESIAN FEDERATION #7 (with five S'ian stories) for this month, at \$4.00 postpaid. Back issues are also available.
930. Ladbroke's Sherlock Holmes Hotel (Baker Street, London W1M 1LB) is selling figurines of Holmes (6" head and shoulders) and Watson (10") at £35.00 each; no photo or other info available.
931. Reported: THE QUALLSFORD INHERITANCE, by Lloyd Biggle, Jr., in a three-in-one volume from the Detective Book Club (Roslyn, NY 11576) -- I don't know if the DBC sells single volumes, but they're seen at all the charity sales.
932. Forecast: AN INTRODUCTION TO THE DETECTIVE STORY, by LeRoy L. Panek, with discussion of ACD, in May from the Popular Press (Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH 43403). SON OF HOLMES, by John T. Lescroart, in March from Leisure Books (240 p., \$3.25).
933. In the supermarkets: THE GREAT MOUSE DETECTIVE (#12555) and THE GREAT MOUSE DETECTIVE: BASIL'S GREAT ESCAPES (#12556); Golden Look-look Books (Racine: Western Publishing Co., 1986; \$1.50 each).
934. More on 33 BY ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE (January 87 #2), the reissue of the 1984 Doubleday edition of UNCOLLECTED STORIES, edited by Gibson and Green: it's published by Avenel Books and distributed by Outlet Books.
935. George Locke, proprietor of Ferret Fantasy, has written (as Ayresome Johns) a mystery novel called PATTERN OF TERROR, in which one of the characters is a fanatical Holmes collector, seeking a rare, important, and possibly unique Sherlock Holmes book (a proof copy of first British edition of THE MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, with "Card" included). No publisher has been found yet, but hard-bound photocopies of the 82,000-word typescript can be purchased for \$60.00 plus shipping (27 Beechcroft Road, Upper Tooting, London SW17 7BX, England).
936. Reported by Jack Kerr: six of the Granada programs ("Spec", "Scan", "Soli", "Blue", "Nava", "Danc") on VHS cassettes (\$39.95 each) from Signals, Box 70870, Saint Paul, MN 55170 (800-424-9424); these are the Paramount/Simon and Schuster cassettes, presumably also available at your local videostore. A special section on SH (and a S'ian cover) in the Feb.-Mar. 1987 issue of British Heritage (Box 8200, Harrisburg, PA 17105; \$3.50).
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937. Marjorie Weinman Sharmat is continuing her "Nate the Great" series (children's books with Nate generally in S'ian costume in the illos by Marc Simont); NATE THE GREAT AND THE MISSING KEY, NATE THE GREAT AND THE SNOWY TRAIL, and NATE THE GREAT AND THE STICKY CASE (49 p. each) are announced for March from G. P. Putnam's Sons at \$10.95 each.
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938. Gar Donnelson continues his explorations of Sherlock Holmes's world with 'YOUR BEER SHOULD BE EXCELLENT', a new monograph discussing the beer, breweries, and public houses mentioned in the Canon. The well-illustrated pamphlet (22 pp., \$3.50 postpaid) is available from its author, at 430 Steinway Road, Lincoln, NE 68505.
939. Dell is continuing its paperback reissues of Alfred Hitchcock collections (\$2.95, each with one of August Derleth's Solar Pons pastiches): BOYS AND GHOULS TOGETHER (D4749b), GAMES KILLERS PLAY (D5613a), and SKULL SESSION (D5663a).
940. Reported by Andy Peck: a "Mark of the Hound Holmesian Sweatshirt" (hound footprints and the appropriate Canonical quote); \$25.00 plus \$2.50 shipping from Murder by the Book, 1574 Pearl Street, Denver, CO 80210.
941. Ann E. Whetstone's "Bloody Collections" in Scott Stamp Monthly, Feb. 1987, discusses mystery stories that involve philately (with mention of August Derleth's "The Adventure of the Penny Magenta") and photographs of the Nicaraguan set honoring Interpol; Box 828, Sidney, OH 45365; \$3.00.
942. Reported by John Stephenson: DETECTIVE MICKEY MOUSE (New York: Golden Books 1985); Little Golden Book #100-58. I THINK THAT IT IS WONDERFUL AND OTHER POEMS FROM SESAME STREET (New York: Golden Books); Little Golden Book #109-9, with Sherlock Hemlock in "A Silly Mystery. BIG MAX, by Kin Platt (New York: Harper & Row); a reissue of D6171a. THE GREAT MOUSE DETECTIVE READ-A-LONG BOOK AND TAPE (Disneyland/Vista Records, Burbank, CA 91521); also available with book and record. PSYCHOLOGY, by David G. Myers (New York: Worth Publishers, 1986); a textbook with a one-sentence quote from the Canon (publisher's address is 33 Irving Place, New York, NY 10003). DEADLY ERNEST, by Daniel Lynch (Zebra Books, \$3.95), with a fictional medical examiner who is a Sherlock Holmes fan. A S'ian flier from the Bureau of Business Practice, Waterford, CT 06386. A S'ian "Detective Kit" brochure from the American Society of Personnel Administration, 606 North Washington Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. And "A New Day Dawning: An Interview with Dan Day" [Day is the artist for the Renegade Press S'ian comic book series] in The Comics Journal, Sept. 1986; 4359 Cornell Road, Agoura, CA 91301; \$2.95.
943. John also reports THE TRIUMPH OF SHERLOCK HOLMES [the 1935 Wontner film] and THE "SILENT" MR. SHERLOCK HOLMES ["The Copper Beeches" (1912), "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle" (1927), and "The Man with the Twisted Lip" (1922)]; videocassettes, \$29.95 each, from Video Yesteryear, Box C, Sandy Hook, CT 06482. Note: Video Specialists International (182 Jackson Street, Dallas, PA 18612) has this material, and more, on two longer cassettes.
944. And that the soundtrack of "Young Sherlock Holmes" was nominated for a Grammy for best instrumental composition.

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945. Gary Lovisi's RELICS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES is a 52-page pamphlet concentrating on relatively recent ephemera, with reproductions of cartoons, advertising artwork, magazine covers, and theater programs, as well as brief comments on newspaper, magazine, and fanzine articles. \$3.00 postpaid from Gryphon Books, Box 209, Brooklyn, NY 11228.
946. A minor change in dates for the John Bennett Shaw workshop at Stanford, now Aug. 16-23, 1987. A detailed flier will be available in April from Bruce R. Parker, Stanford University Medical Center S-058, Stanford, CA 94305.
947. Reported by Ron De Waal: "Sherlock Holmes Is Dying" [a dramatization of "Dyin"], by Paul T. Nolan, in Plays: The Drama Magazine for Young People, Nov. 1986 (8 Arlington Street, Boston, MA 02116).
948. The manuscript of "The Adventure of the Mazarin Diamond" is now available for \$75,000 from Mark Hime (Idyllwild, CA 92349); the auction price at Christie's (December 86 #4) was \$49,500 (including the 10% house commission).
949. Royal Doulton Limited is celebrating the centenary with a new edition of their 1973 "Sleuth" character jug (that's the one with the handle formed by the pipe and magnifying glass); the new edition is 18 cm high, with Holmes in scarlet coat and brown hat, 5,000 copies commissioned by and available only from Lawleys by Post (Swift House, Liverpool Road, Newcastle, Staffs. ST5 9JJ, England). £19.50 plus £1.50 shipping, and they take (and ask that American customers use) credit cards.
950. DARK BANQUET: A FEAST OF TWELVE GREAT GHOST STORIES, edited by Lincoln Child (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1985; 255 p., \$15.95), includes ACD's "The Horror of the Heights".
951. Reported: WHAT I TELL YOU THREE TIMES IS FALSE, by Samuel Holt, from Tor Books in February (\$14.95); "an actor-turned-detective joins a group of actors-portraying-detectives -- Sherlock Holmes, Miss Jane Marple, and Charlie Chan -- as they attempt to protect themselves from, and find the identity of, a killer in their midst."
952. Peter E. Melonas offers a new "Duel at Reichenbach Falls" print (16x20"), \$7.50 postpaid from the Sherlock Holmes Tobacco and Mystery Shop, 1726A Sycamore Square Mall, Memphis, TN 38134; write for a flier.
953. According to the Walt Disney Company's 1986 annual report, "24 artfully crafted books based on Basil of 'The Great Mouse Detective' sold half the initial one-million-volume run soon after release" in France.
954. Different Worlds Magazine, a bimonthly covering the world of adventure games, had Michael Szymanski's discussion of "The Adventures of Solar Pons" in the July-Aug. 1986 issue, and Dave and Frankie Arneson's "Sherlock Holmes & the Baby" (a new case for the game SHERLOCK HOLMES: CONSULTING DETECTIVE) in the Nov.-Dec. 1986 issue. 2814 19th Street, San Francisco, CA 94110; \$3.00 an issue, or \$15.00 a year.
955. The Feb. 2, 1987, issue of People had a five-page celebration of the centenary, with a fine assortment of photos of Sherlockian actors.

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956. "Fox's 'The Name of the Rose,' if regarded as an art film, did well in sophisticated markets. But since it was a big-budget picture, it has to be considered a flop. It was not a Fox-financed film, but a pick-up in which Fox invested several million dollars plus distribution and marketing costs. The studio may make some money back on ancillaries, but it's too bad Fox didn't have the foreign rights: the film is making a killing in Europe." Anne Thompson, in the San Francisco Examiner, Dec. 15, 1986, spotted by Ted Schulz.
957. "Conan Doyle is probably the world's most ripped-off writer, but none of the copycats has ever replicated the Victorian London that lives these books." Martin Levin, in the San Mateo Times, Dec. 20, 1986, also spotted by Ted. THE CLERICHEWS OF PAUL HORGAN (Middletown: Wesleyan University Press, 1985; 112 p., \$15.95 cloth, \$8.95 paper) includes one S'ian verse, accompanied by a portrait of Holmes by Joseph Reed.
958. I've had a request for a current source for deerstalkers, which I've seen in a catalog from the Deerskin Trading Post, 119 Foster Street, Peabody, MA 01960 -- are there other sources?
959. Art Ronnie (Columbia Pictures Television, 3300 Riverside Drive, Burbank, CA 91505) has a sales list offering copies of Sherlockian film and television scripts (at \$10.00 or \$5.00 each), plus some audio tapes and books.
960. Participants at the "Sherlock Holmes in Minnesota" conference in 1984 received some nice collectibles, including two 12-pp. booklets now offered to the public: E. W. McDiarmid's THE REAL SHERLOCK HOLMES (an examination of Adrian Conan Doyle's campaign promoting his father as the model for Sherlock Holmes) and James P. Shannon's "A FIXED POINT IN A CHANGING WORLD" (a discussion of Philip S. Hench and his collection); \$3.50 each

postpaid. Also available: Andrew Malec's THE FREDERIC DORR STEELE MEMORIAL COLLECTION (a well-illustrated 20-pp. pamphlet published in 1987 to commemorate the acquisition of the collection by the Univ. of Minnesota (\$4.50 postpaid). All three items can be ordered from Special Collections, Univ. Libraries, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455.

961. Ely M. Liebow, joining Northeastern Illinois University's celebration of its 25th anniversary, will lecture in Chicago on Mar. 19 on "The Birth of Sherlock Holmes--Without Benefit of Anesthesia." Ely also discovered a 1961 LP recording of "King Richard the Second" with cast including Jeremy Brett as Thomas Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, and Edward Hardwicke as Duke of Surrey, Green, and Second Herald. The cast also included John Gielgud, Leo McKern, and Keith Michell, all of whom have appeared in Sherlockian drama -- Gielgud and Michell as Holmes, and McKern played . . .
962. Bouchercon XVIII will be held on Oct. 9-11 in Minneapolis, with Lawrence Block as guest of honor and Steve Stilwell in charge of the convention; registration is \$25 until July 1, then \$35, or \$10 for supporting members (Box 2747, Loop Station, Minneapolis, MN 55402).
963. The latest publication of The Pleasant Places of Florida is Bill Ward's SONNETS BY THE MAJOR (24 p., \$5.00 postpaid from the PPOF, 4408 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach, FL 33510).

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964. Sir Hugh Carleton Greene died on Feb. 19. He was a journalist in print and radio, and director-general of the BBC from 1960 to 1969. He wrote the Introduction to the Murray/Cape edition of A STUDY IN SCARLET (D697b), and edited four anthologies in his "Rivals of Sherlock Holmes" series (D4943b-D4946b).
965. The Swiss National Tourist Office (Swiss Centre, New Coventry Street, London W1V 8EE, England) has sent an 18-page detailed announcement of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London's "Pilgrimage to Switzerland" from Apr. 30 to May 9. The cost of the tour is £530, there are still a few places open, and anyone interested should contact the SNT0 quickly (their London telephone number 01-734-1921).
966. David Susskind died on Feb. 22. His two-hour syndicated television series "The David Susskind Show" included a program on "Sherlock Holmes Is Alive and Well" in which Susskind attempted to interview Nicholas Meyer, Samuel Rosenberg, Albert M. Rosenblatt, and John Bennett Shaw; the program was taped on Dec. 3, 1974, and apparently first aired on Dec. 27, 1974. I hope that there's a tape preserved somewhere, but I don't know of one; it was a fascinating show, with Susskind's poorly prepared questions occasionally bluntly ignored by his guests.
967. Fred Strebeigh's "The Greatest Detective Who Never Lived" (digested from Smithsonian, Dec. 1986) is in the Mar. 1987 issue of Reader's Digest.
968. Cait Murphy's "The Game Is Still Afoot", a long and perceptive article on S'ian scholarship, is in the Mar. 1987 issue of The Atlantic.
969. The second issue of THE PLUM IN THE PUDDING at hand, handsomely produced and well edited, with contributions by five Baltimore S'ians. \$5.00 a year from Stephen J. Cribari, Mercantile Bank Building #612, 2 Hopkins Plaza, Baltimore, MD 21201.
970. There's a color photograph of members of The Master's Class of Philadelphia in Derek Nelson's article "For the Love of Holmes" in MD Magazine, Jan. 1987; 30 East 60th Street, New York, NY 10022; \$3.75.
971. Reported by John Bennett Shaw: Judith Conway's DETECTIVE TRICKS YOU CAN DO, (Troll Associates, 1986); boy, girl, and dog in S'ian costume throughout. Troll Associates are at 320 Route 17, Mahwah, NJ 07430.
972. John Dickson Carr's PANIC IN BOX C, reissued in paperback (New York: Carroll & Graf, 1987; 273 p., \$3.50) is a fine murder mystery featuring Dr. Gideon Fell, and an early (and not irrelevant) mention of Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes".
973. Peter Loffredo, creator of the fine film about William Gillette (September 86 #1 and November 86 #2), reports a reduction in the price for 16mm color prints, to \$395.00. Videocassettes are still \$50.00; orders to Connecticut Heritage Productions, 46 Bretton Road, Middletown, CT 06457. John T. Lescoart's Neronian pastiche SON OF HOLMES has been reprinted in paperback (New York: Leisure Books, 1986; 256 p., \$3.25).

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974. Donald A. Redmond's SHERLOCK HOLMES: A STUDY IN SOURCES is listed in the discount catalog from University Press Books in America (Columbia Univ. Press, 136 South Broadway, Irvington, NY 10533); the book is item XT3919, the price is \$14.95 plus \$3.00 shipping, and they take plastic.
975. Flier at hand from Gaslight Publications (112 East Second, Bloomington, IN 47401; plastic accepted) announcing ON THE SCENT WITH SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Walter Shepherd (85 p., \$14.95 plus \$1.00 shipping); a new work, though with the same title as Shepherd's 1978 book.
976. Samuel Holt's WHAT I TELL YOU THREE TIMES IS FALSE (New York: Tor Books, 1987; 249 p., \$14.95) is an entertaining murder mystery in which the sleuths (and suspects) include actors noted for portraying Miss Marple, Charlie Chan, and -- Sherlock Holmes.
977. "Nate the Great" is a deerstalkered young detective who stars in a pleasant series of children's books by Marjorie Weinman Sharmat, with illos by Marc Simont. There are now nine NATE THE GREAT titles, published by Coward-McCann, and seven of the books are also available in paperback from Dell.
978. A more detailed forecast: THE QUALLSFORD INHERITANCE, by Lloyd Biggle, Jr., in paperback from Penguin in June at \$3.95.
979. Some British items, reported by Andrew Jay Peck: A STUDY IN SCARLET, adapted by Michael Hardwick (recording on BBC tape, £5.50); ARTHUR AND THE BELLYBUTTON DIAMOND, by Arthur Coren (recording on Talking Tape TTC/KO5); CASEBOOK OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, read by Robert Hardy (Argo); THE SPECKLED BAND, read by Donald Pickering (Pickwick PTB601); YOUNG SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE PYRAMID OF FEAR (read-along cassette by Rainbow Communications, £1.99); BASIL OF BAKER STREET, by Eve Titus (Knight, £1.50); BASIL AND THE PYGMY CATS, by Eve Titus (Hodder & Stoughton, £2.95); THE MURDER OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by James Anderson (Star paperback, £1.95); THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES AND OTHER PLAYS, by Michael and Mollie Hardwick (John Murray, LI.75); SHERLOCK HOLMES (Gillette), adapted by Tim Kelly (Hanbury Plays, £2.50); SHERLOCK MEETS THE PHANTOM, by Tim Kelly (Hanbury Plays, £2.30); SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE DEVIL'S FOOT, edited by Peter Haining (Severn House, £6.95); THE COMIC CROOKS, by Terrance Dicks (Blackie, £6.50).
980. "A Study in Scarlet: The HemoQuant Assay for Occult Fecal Blood" is an article in the Feb. 1987 issue of Communique [Mayo Medical Laboratories] (Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN 55905), reporting on a new procedure in which iron is removed from heme, which is non-fluorescing, to yield porphyrins, which do fluoresce in ultraviolet light. The fluorescence is scarlet, thoroughly appropriate for a procedure that meets most of the requirements of the "Sherlock Holmes" test.
981. The Dramatic Publishing Co. (Box 109, Woodstock, IL 60098) offers four S'ian scripts: THE INCREDIBLE MURDER OF CARDINAL TOSCA, by Alden Nowlan and Walter Learning (\$3.50); THE VERY GREAT GRANDSON OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Bill Majeski (\$3.50); THE RED HOUSE MYSTERY, by Ruth Sergel from Milne's book (\$3.50); and THE FAMILY JEWELS, by Andy Gregg (\$1.75). THE FAMILY JEWELS is a one-act play about the famous detective Shirley Holmes.

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982. "When Edward J. Perkins became a lowly staff assistant in the Foreign Service 15 years ago, he took to rereading all the Sherlock Holmes detective stories that had fascinated him in the past," according to an article by Juan Williams in The Washington Post Magazine (Mar. 1, 1987). "But this time

he didn't read just for pleasure. He studied Holmes. In the great detective he saw a character who knew how to use logic and cunning to foil his adversaries. Perkins had his own adversaries to worry about--the Ivy League white males who dominated the State Department." Perkins is now the U.S. ambassador in South Africa.

983. Reported by John Bennett Shaw: DETECTIVE TRICKS YOU CAN DO, written by Judith Conaway and illustrated by Renzo Barto (Mahwah: Troll Associates, 1986; 47 pp.), with the young detectives in Sherlockian costume. Troll is at 100 Corporate Drive, Mahwah, NJ 07430. THE RAINBOW BEARS GIANT STORY COLORING BOOK, by Nancy Lee Fuller, is giant indeed (17x22"); Pepper, one of the five Rainbow Bears, appears in S'ian costume (Stoneway, Box 548, Southeastern, PA 91399; \$1.50).
984. Flier at hand for "A Centenary Adventure in England with Dr. Arthur Conan Doyle and Mr. Sherlock Holmes" (BCM, Box Dewey, London WC1N 3XX, England); the conference will be Sept. 12-20, in and around London, with Dr. Alvin E. Rodin as tour leader.
985. Further to the earlier report (July 86 #4) of plans for a reissue of the 1954 Ronald Howard television series, the new series will be called the "Sherlock Holmes Trilogies" and will consist of thirteen 90-minute movies, available for television, cable, and home video. Patrick Macnee will be host and narrator, filmed at Edinburgh Studios on a 19th-century set with the assistance of Richard Lancelyn Green. No release date as yet.
986. Reported from Britain by Roger Johnson: Granada's "The Sign of Four" is scheduled for broadcast at Christmas, and there will be a "Sherlock Holmes Centenary Season" at the National Film Theatre in December. M. J. Trow's third pastiche, LESTRADE AND THE HALLOWED HOUSE, was published by Macmillan in Jan. (£8.95). Peter Haining's new collection, SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE CREEPING MAN, is due from Severn House in Mar. (£8.95). Allen Sharp's third "storytrail" book, SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE CASE OF THE DANCING BEES, is due from Cambridge University Press in Apr. (£1.50). Tsukasa Kobayashi's SHERLOCK HOLMES' LONDON has been published by B. A. Seaby (£10.95). John Buxton Hilton's new Inspector Brunt mystery, SLICKENSIDES, features two mysterious characters calling themselves Holmes and Watson, competing with Brunt to investigate a disappearance in a village in Derbyshire in 1911 (Collins, £8.95). ACD's THE MYSTERY OF CLOOMBER and THE GREAT SHADOW are due from Greenhill in Mar. Edward R. Hamilton (Falls Village, CT 06031) has three items of interest in his 2/20/87 discount-book sales list: CHAPLIN: HIS LIFE AND ART, by David Robinson (#51064), a massive biography with detailed coverage of Chaplin's appearances as Billy (\$5.95); ROGER MOORE, by Paul Donovan (#91073), a biography with minor discussion of "Sherlock Holmes in New York" (\$3.95); and ARTHUR C. CLARKE'S WORLD OF STRANGE POWERS, by John Fairley and Simon Welfare (#31430), with references to ACD's interest in spiritualism (\$7.95). Add \$3.00 per order for shipping.

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987. Reported by Lenny Picker: unabridged audio cassettes of THE ADVENTURES (read by Patrick Tull) and THE MEMOIRS (read by Alex Spencer) due from Recorded Books (620 West 26th Street, New York, NY 10001) in April (\$39.95 for each set of seven cassettes); their catalog also lists the four long stories. Robert Goldsborough's second Nero Wolfe pastiche DEATH ON DEADLINE (with a story involving Lon Cohen and the Gazette) due from Bantam in April.
988. Princess Nina Mdivani Conan Doyle Harwood died on Mar. 3 in London. Nina was *The* Woman at the cocktail party before the BSI annual dinner in 1975, and contributed an Introduction to the 1975 reprint of TALES OF TERROR AND MYSTERY (D329b), but she was not (as at least one obituary suggests) the last of the royal Georgian clan of Mdivani. They were Georgian, but they weren't royal; Alice-Leone Moats, in THE MILLION DOLLAR STUDS (New York: Delacorte Press, 1977), gives considerable attention to Nina's brothers, all of whom married rich Americans, and little to Nina, who married Denis Conan Doyle and then Anthony Harwood. Nina (as Baskervilles Investments Limited) for a time controlled the Conan Doyle literary estate.
989. Further to my note (October 86 #2) about non-S'ian books that use the titles of SH stories, Dick Lesh notes that Rathbone's film "Dressed to Kill" (1946) was matched by "Dressed to Kill" (1980). Well, yes, and there's the double bill of "Spider Woman" and "Kiss of the Spider Woman" . . .
990. Dick also reports that Rathbone's "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" is available on videocassette at \$29.95 from Diversions (Box 1834, Newark, NJ 07101). Also the old Murray Hill three-record sets at \$7.99 each: THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES/THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (film soundtracks), SHERLOCK HOLMES: TALES FROM BAKER STREET (6 Rathbone radio shows), and MORE SHERLOCK HOLMES ADVENTURES (6 Gielgud radio shows). Add \$3.50 shipping per order.
991. The British post office plans to issue at least one stamp booklet honoring SH in 1987 -- the booklet covers will be S'ian, not the stamps (there have been many such thematic booklet covers in recent years) -- and a flier at hand from Henry Murray (Arlington Supplies, P.O. Box 143, London N13 4XN, England) offers the booklet at \$2.50 and a first day cover at \$6.95, as well as their own commemorative cover (postmarked Jan. 8) honoring ACD as a Mason at \$4.65. Add \$1.00 shipping per order.
992. Per my query (February 87 #5) on sources for deerstalkers, the only current report is a local one: available for \$25.00 from Hats in the Belfry, 1237 Wisconsin Avenue, Washington, DC 20007.
993. Andy Warhol died in February. According to Chris Steinbrunner (THE FILMS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, 1978), "as far back as 1972 pop artist Andy Warhol was reported to be teamed with Rex Reed in an 'underground' variant of the Sherlock Holmes saga, with Reed also playing Watson; this has yet to reach the screen."
994. Ron De Waal has tracked down the comic book MUPPET BABIES (387 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016; \$0.75); issue #13 (May 1987) has Kermlock Holmes in "The Strange Case of the Missing Mermaid Costume".

March 1987 #4

995. Albert M. Rosenblatt ("known as Albie to friends," according to the N.Y. Times) has been sworn in as New York State's chief administrative judge. He will administer a court system that has an annual budget of \$800 million, about 2,000 judges, and 12,000 other employees, and disposed of more than three million cases in 1986 (that's ten times the total dispositions in federal courts in all 50 states). Al intends to continue his S'ian interests, and impressed the N.Y. Times reporter by correctly naming all four of the long stories.
996. Flier at hand from artist Stefanie K. Hawks (Box 50453, Knoxville, TN 37950) offering S'ian prints, postcard, and stationery.
997. The Mystery Writers of America nominees for best motion picture screenplay include "The Great Mouse Detective" and "The Name of the Rose" -- the Edgar winners will be announced on May 8. "The Name of the Rose" is available on videocassette (Embassy Home Entertainment, \$79.95). And a bit of trivia: F. Murray Abraham, who won an Oscar for "Amadeus" and then played Bernardo Gui, the inquisitor, in "The Name of the Rose", began his screen career in a S'ian film: "They Might Be Giants", in which he played the Usher.
998. Harlan Ellison was in Toronto for a lecture on Feb. 8, according to an article at hand from Cam Hollyer. Ellison suggested that those in search of success must read and re-read only one essential book: the collected Sherlock Holmes stories. "They teach you deductive logic. They teach you observation. They teach you to see what is going on around you. The more you see, the more you understand. And the quicker and cleverer you are at spotting and reading people and things, the less you can be manipulated."

999. Videotaper alert: "Young Sherlock Holmes" will be on The Movie Channel on Apr. 10, 12, and 15.
1000. If your PBS station was pledge-driving on Mar. 12, you may not have seen the Vincent Price end-of-the-program piece if the station substituted a plea for donations (unless you also watched the repeat daytime broadcast); Price commented on the interesting increase in Holmes' fee, and announced that in the next program Holmes will be involved with the Mafia.
1001. Forecast (for November, from Villard Books): THE REVENGE OF THE HOUND, by Michael Hardwick, with illos by Steranko. Villard hopes that the book will be "the first in a series of Sherlock Holmes novels, in the same vein as John Gardner's extremely successful series of 007 novels," according to Villard's editorial director Peter Gethers, quoted in Publishers Weekly.
1002. THE ADVENTURE OF BLUE PETER, by John Ruyle, is the first episode in the long-anticipated Memoirs of Turlock Loams; a welcome addition to the Turlockian Canon, and finely printed, as usual, at The Pequod Press. \$28.50 (cloth) or \$13.50 (paper), from John Ruyle, 521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707.
1003. Reported from London: a new pub sign at The Sherlock Holmes (the real pub sign, not a souvenir), with a new Holmes resembling Peter Cushing. No mention of when the new sign was installed, or how many S'ians have visited the pub without observing the change.
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1004. Found by Mel Ruiz: "Buster Keaton Scrapbook" on videocassette from Prestige Home Theatre, with two 30-minute TV shows: "This Is Your Life" and "The Detective" (from a short-lived series starring Keaton, broadcast in the early 50s; in this episode "Buster is a sleuth, the likes of which Sherlock Holmes never saw"). Mel reports that the detective is Sam Spade, but Keaton does use a magnifying glass, and has a bloodhound named Watson. I have no idea what series this is from, but it might be "Life with Buster Keaton", a series syndicated in 1951 or 1952; according to the TV reference books, the series consisted primarily of reedited Keaton shorts from the 1930s and 1940s, plus comedy vignettes in which he played "a man struggling to cope with life's endless problems."
1005. Dick Rutter, now resident in Germany, reports a source for two items: the nutcracker (30 cm high, at left, about \$45.00) and a "Rauchermann" in which one can burn incense (25 cm high, at right, about \$25.00); shipping extra, VISA accepted, and you can order from Walter H. Hirschmann, Am Stadtwald 8, 8489 Eschenbach/Opf, West Germany.
1006. A new sales list received from Ilene Fauer at US 2 (563 Clinton Road, Paramus, NJ 07652); the new items include centennial note pads and magnets.
1007. There's a series called "Mad Movies with the L.A. Connection" on cable (Nickelodeon); they do parodies of old movies, and two of the programs are based on Rathbone's "Secret Weapon" and "Dressed to Kill". Please let me know if you tape these or any other S'ian programs in the series.
1008. Copies of the S'ian multi-color 14x24" poster for Sherlockon II, held this month in Torrance, are available for \$3.00 postpaid from Sherlock in L.A. Press, 2712 Scott Road, Burbank, CA 91504.
1009. "It is true that Holmes sometimes confused induction with deduction, and that he came to the incredible conclusion that there is as much wisdom in Hafiz as there is in Horace. And to speak plainly, he did on a few occasions express an unhealthy interest in continental philosophy. But he made no other mistakes, and what is the very last importance, he defeated a man whose treatise on the binomial theorem has had a European vogue." Marvin Levich, in "Bookmarks: the Return of Metaphysics, and of Sherlock Holmes" in the spring 1987 issue of Reed: The Quarterly of Reed College (3203 S.E. Woodstock Boulevard, Portland, OR 97202); forwarded by Jerry Margolin.
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March 1987 #6

1010. The Mysterious Bookshop's spring catalog at hand, with a S'iana section. Also the spring issue of Mysterious News, with a short article by Len Deighton and news about Mysterious Press books (100 planned for 1987); the address for both is 129 West 56th Street, New York, NY 10019. The press is also co-sponsoring a day-long mystery-fiction conference on May 16; details available from Jerry Weiss, Dept. of English, Jersey City State College, 2039 Kennedy Bouevard, Jersey City, NY 17305.
1011. Reported by Andy Peck: a "Sherlock Holmes Centennial Collection" of audio tapes of 12 Rathbone/Bruce radio shows, \$26.90 from The Source, Box 795232, Dallas, TX 75379.
1012. Reported by Roger Johnson: filming of Granada's "Sign" is almost complete. In Sept. they will start on the fourth (and final) series (according to Michael Cox, the new shows "almost certainly" will be "Devi", "Bruc", "Silv", "Wist", and a two-part "Houn").
1013. "The Adventure at the Crossroads" is a Sherlockian mystery weekend set for Apr. 10-12 at the Vintners Inn (4350 Barnes Road, Santa Rose, CA 95401).
1014. "The Many Faces of Sherlock Holmes" (the one-hour television special with Christopher Lee as host), broadcast here and there in 1986, is reported available on videocassette at \$79.95 (sorry, company not known).
1015. Reported from England: a S'ian commemorative plate from Caverswall China Ltd., Berry Hill Road, Stoke-on-Trent, England.
1016. In case your PBS television station didn't broadcast "The Real Adventures of Sherlock Jones and Proctor Watson" (January 87 #2), here's a sample:
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April 1987 #1

1017. Reported by Brian R. MacDonald: SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE'S CELEBRATED CASES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (see November 86 #3), with 18 stories and 12 new color plates by Graham Ward (London: Octopus Books, 1986; 318 p., \$9.98 at B. Dalton). RUNNING AND BEING: THE TOTAL EXPERIENCE, by Dr. George Sheehan (Warner paperback, \$6.95); the chapter on "Racing" has S'ian artwork. BIALOSKY AND THE BIG PARADE MYSTERY, by Justine Koman with illos by Tom Cooke (Big Little Golden Book #10262; \$1.19); with a deerstalkered teddy bear.
1018. THE CLASSIC ILLUSTRATED SHERLOCK HOLMES (Stamford: Longmeadow Press, 1987; 636 p., \$7.95) is on the discount tables at Waldenbooks. The book is a new issue of THE COMPLETE ORIGINAL ILLUSTRATED SHERLOCK HOLMES (D270b) and THE ORIGINAL ILLUSTRATED SHERLOCK HOLMES published by Castle Books in 1976 and 1980, with all the stories illustrated by Sidney Paget, in facsimile from The Strand Magazine, with a new color jacket illustration by Eric Kincaid.
1019. Reported by Paul Merz: a 12-page article by Frank D. McConnell on ACD and SH and "Detecting Order Amid Disorder" in the Wilson Quarterly, spring 1987 (600 Maryland Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20024; \$5.00). "What Arthur Conan Doyle did 100 years ago was not simply to invent one of the imperishable figures in the history of English literature but also to provide a form of storytelling, a way of thinking, that has been of inestimable value throughout this troubled century. Only the entrenched snobs of academic criticism should be able, at this date, to ignore the importance of the form and its creator. To most readers, recognition of that importance is, as the Master himself was fond of saying, elementary."
1020. Paul also reports Michael Finch's G. K. CHESTERTON (Harper & Row, \$18.95); a new biography blurbed as drawing upon recently discovered material (letters, poems, and a Sherlock Holmes story) to give a very different picture of a major literary figure.
1021. The New York International Antiquarian Book Fair (Apr. 2-4) featured sales and exhibitions celebrating the centenary and (according to the ad spotted by Tom Stix), an informal talk by Gahan Wilson on "The Enduring Influence of Sherlock Holmes."
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1022. Also from Tom is Enid Nemy's column in the N.Y. Times (Mar. 27, 1987) about Sherlock Holmes' search for Dr. Watson. Frank Langella's search, that is. Langella has everything needed for his \$1 million production of Charles Marowitz's "Sherlock's Last Case" except a Watson. The play, described as "an exploration of ego and envy, as well as a thriller," is scheduled in Washington (June 19-July 25) before opening on Broadway.
1023. At hand from Alan R. Kaplan is the Oregon State Bar Bulletin (Aug.-Sept. 1986), with Rathbone and Bruce on the cover and as frontispiece to Teresa Carp's article on "Hiring a Legal Investigator". 1776 S.W. Madison Street, Portland, OR 97205; \$2.00.
1024. The Franklin Library (Franklin Center, PA 19091) is launching the "Franklin Library of Mystery Masterpieces" with 50 monthly titles at \$14.50 each plus shipping; one of the titles, according to a recent advertisement, will be GREAT CASES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES.
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April 1987 #2

1025. "To say that MI5, the British Secret Service, was and remains the mastermind behind the Piltdown hoax is to provoke outrage by readers of decent sensibilities," Charles J. Blinderman suggested in an article in the Journal of Irreproducible Results (Feb.-Mar. 1986). But he also concluded that "only the British Government could have had a motive sufficient for the initiation of this hoax and the resources to carry it out so comprehensively." Blinderman has now addressed the matter more seriously, in his new book THE PILTDOWN INQUEST (Buffalo: Prometheus Books, 1986; 261 p., \$22.95); his work is carefully researched, and his book is written with style and humor. His chapter on Conan Doyle (hardly a serious candidate as culprit, according to Blinderman) is, unfortunately, written as a S'ian pastiche, and Blinderman is not an accomplished pasticheur.
1026. The Journal of Irreproducible Results, I should add, has been described (accurately) as "the funniest thing to happen to science since Archimedes ran naked through the streets of Syracuse." Box 234, Chicago Heights, IL 60411; \$5.90 for five issues.
1027. The latest mail-order catalog (749M) from Barnes & Noble (126 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10011) offers THE CONAN DOYLE STORIES (76 tales in a reissue from the 1929 John Murray edition) at \$6.95, and videocassettes of six of the Granada programs (Scan, Blue, Spec, Danc, Nava, Soli) at \$29.95 each.
1028. Bantam's two-volume paperback edition of SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE COMPLETE NOVELS AND STORIES is finally in the bookstores (\$4.95 each volume), with an Introduction by Loren D. Estleman, who fervently defends Dr. Watson against his detractors.
1029. LESTRADE AND THE HALLOWED HOUSE (Macmillan, £8.95), the third novel in M. J. Trow's series about Lestrade, received an approving review in Punch.
1030. Michael Hardwick's SHERLOCK HOLMES: MY LIFE AND CRIMES (BSJ June 85) has been issued as a trade paperback (New York: Henry Holt, 1986; 208 p., \$7.95). Hardwick's THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO SHERLOCK HOLMES (BSJ March 87) has been published in an American edition (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1986; 255 p., \$16.95).
1031. Reported by Dana Richards: SEVEN CLUES TO THE ORIGIN OF LIFE: A SCIENTIFIC DETECTIVE STORY (BSJ March 87) has been reissued in wrappers (Cambridge Univ. Press). THE ANNOTATED INNOCENCE OF FATHER BROWN, by G. K. Chesterton, annotated by Martin Gardner, has a lengthy comparison of Father Brown and Sherlock Holmes (Oxford Univ. Press, 1987; an American edition due soon).
1032. SLICKENSIDES, by John Buxton Hilton (London: William Collins, 1987; 164 p., £8.95), is an interesting murder mystery set in Derbyshire in 1911; the detective, Inspector Brunt, sorts through the local suspects as well as two London outsiders who appear to be (but aren't) Holmes and Watson.
1033. THE CRIMSON CIRCLE is the 24-page newsletter of The Edgar Wallace Society (write to John A. Hogan, 7 Devonshire Close, Amersham, Bucks. HP6 5JG, England; membership including subscription is £6.00). And the newsletter often has S'ian material; the Feb. 1987 issue reprints Wallace's "Sherlock Holmes on the Cambridge" (D5224b).
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April 1987 #3

1034. I have completed work on the computer file of Sherlockian societies (407 societies, including 181 active societies). The numbers will change, of course, as the file is revised. A print-out (37 pages) with names of all societies, and contact names and addresses for all active societies, is available for \$2.50 postpaid. Labels are available for mailings to active societies, at \$10.00 a run.
1035. Sound Track Album Retailers has a new address (Box 487, New Holland, PA 17557), and their latest catalog relists the record of "Young Sherlock Holmes" (MCA 6159) at \$9.95; shipping extra, and they take plastic.
1036. The Occupants of the Empty House have just published the 100th issue of The Camden House Journal, their monthly newsletter (and there are only a few other scions with that fine a track record). At the end of 1986 they also published BEEMAN'S CHRISTMAS ANNUAL, a 28-page pamphlet with articles and artwork by members; copies are still available for \$3.00 postpaid from William R. Cochran, 517 North Vine Street, DuQuoin, IL 62832.
1037. The "Sherlock Holmes Centennial Collection" (March 87 #6) has six cassettes with twelve of the Rathbone/Bruce radio shows, from "The Bruce-Partington Plans" (1939) to "The Night Before Christmas" (1945), on high-quality recordings; \$31.90 postpaid from The Source, Box 795232, Dallas, TX 75379.
1038. Kiyoshi Tanaka brought a few copies of his 1987 Sherlockian calendar to the birthday festivities in New York, and it is a handsome production, with an attractive full-page illustration by Kiyoshi for each month. Copies are still available from Kiyoshi Tanaka, 8-7 Babacho, Isogo-ku, Yokohama City, Kanagawa 235, Japan, for \$10.00 postpaid; please send currency, not checks (Japanese banks charge even more for foreign checks than British banks do.)
1039. Dr. N. Joel Ehrenkranz discussed "A. Conan Doyle, Sherlock Holmes, and Murder by Tropical Infection" in a 4-page article in Reviews of Infectious Diseases, Jan.-Feb. 1987; reprints may still be available from the author (1295 N.W. 14th Street, suite M, Miami, FL 33125).
1040. Chris Caswell (Sherlock's Home, 4137 East Anaheim Street, Long Beach, CA 90804) reports that he stocks deerstalkers, as well as bowlers for Watson and genuine helmets for your local bobby; write for details.
1041. The Easton Press (47 Richards Avenue, Norwalk, CT 06857) is planning a deluxe three-volume COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES 100TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION at \$37.50 postpaid per volume; this will be a reissue of the Heritage Press edition, bound in leather, with full-color Steele frontispieces.
1042. At hand from Charles Shields: "Adventures of a Young Balzac", an article by Michael Murphy on Vincent Starrett's newspaper career in Chicago, in the spring 1987 issue of Inland: The Magazine of the Middle West (Inland Steel Co., 30 West Monroe Street, Chicago, IL 60603).
1043. THE HOLMESIAN FEDERATION #7 (February 87 #2) at hand, with Tina Rhea's "Pax de Deux" (Sherlock and Irene post-Reichenbach), four other pastiches, and some fine illos by Stefanie Hawks; 91 p., \$4.00 postpaid from Signe Landon (14985 256th Avenue SE, Issaquah, WA 98027).
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April 1987 #4

1044. 1988 will be the centenary of Jack the Ripper's bloody visits to Whitechapel, and Alexander Kelly has revised and expanded his JACK THE RIPPER: A BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE (D2251b); it's an expert review of who's written what about Saucy Jack, and available for £7.95 from the Association of Assistant Librarians, 55a Lordship Lane, East Dulwich, London SE22 8EP, England.
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1045. The Renegade Press comic CASES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES #6 (Mar. 1987) has "The Resident Patient" with more of Dan Day's artwork. Six issues may indeed be the longest recorded run of a S'ian comic book.
1046. Flier at hand for "Fiddling Around with Sherlock Holmes" (also known as the "Centennial Weekend with John Bennett Shaw") at the College of William and Mary on July 24-26, 1987; write to Ray Betzner (2906 Richard Pace South, Williamsburg, VA 23185).
1047. MERCENARIES, SPIES & PRIVATE EYES is a boxed-set role-playing game from Sleuth Publications (689 Florida Street, San Francisco, CA 94110), with a 124-page rulebook, 32-page adventure, character sheets, and dice; \$20.00. The game is much like Dungeons & Dragons, requiring a game-master to run (and invent) the scenario, which might be Victorian London, with Holmes, Watson, and Moriarty as three of the many possible characters.
1048. Erratum (March 87 #3): Princess Nina Mdivani Conan Doyle Harwood died on Feb. 18 in London, I am informed by a reliable reader.
1049. The Quality Paperback Club (Camp Hill, PA 17011-9968) has again offered its members its Sherlock Holmes sweatshirt (with the caricature by Gerry Gersten), at \$16.00. I'm not sure that it's available to non-members, however. If you'd like to join the club (right now you get three books for \$1.00, with no further purchase obligation), Andrew Jay Peck (24 Fifth Avenue #829, New York, NY 10011) will be happy to supply details.
1050. GREAT CASES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES is a "Best Loved Audiobooks" two-cassette package from Random House/Reader's Digest (\$14.95), with four cases (Twis, RedH, Spec, Blue) capably read by Robert Lindsay; the text of the stories follows the 1966 Reader's Digest Association book (D687a).
1051. Scholastic Voice (Mar. 23, 1987) has much S'ian, including "The Speckled Band" adapted for radio by the Hardwicks, "The Last of Sherlock Holmes" by Tim Kelly, and an interview with Tim Kelly. 730 Broadway, New York, NY 10003; \$2.25 for the Teachers' Edition.
1052. The Feb. 1987 issue of Tourist in London Magazine (a courtesy hotel and in-flight magazine) has Michael Mahoney's two-page article on "Sherlock Holmes' London" and a S'ian color cover; Lee Publications, 98 Plashet Road, London E13 0RQ, England.
1053. Richard D. Lesh (2631 Flintridge Place, Fort Collins, CO 80521) has found a few copies of the handsome medal issued by The Maiwand Jezails in 1980 to commemorate the centenary of the Battle of Maiwand. The medal (BSJ September 1982, photo on p. 191) is silver-plate over bronze, green ribbon, \$30.00 postpaid and insured.

April 1987 #5

1054. Has anyone done any research on M. Oscar Meunier of Grenoble? Donald A. Redmond (SHERLOCK HOLMES: A STUDY IN SOURCES, 1982, p. 111) notes a Belgian engraver named Jean-Baptiste Meunier, born in 1821, and the firm of Henri Meunier & Co., artists' colourmen, in the Earl's Court Road. But there was also the Belgian sculptor Constantin Meunier, who exhibited in several Salons des Beaux-Arts in Paris, including one in 1893; he was favored by Siegfried Bing (the inventor of "art nouveau"). Another of Bing's artists was James Ensor, a Belgian who was a member of the XX Group in 1902; it is in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" that Holmes "was entirely absorbed in the pictures of the modern Belgian masters."
1055. THE BEST OF SHERLOCK HOLMES is a four-cassette package presenting careful readings of four cases (RedH, Iden, Musg, Twis); \$15.99 from the Great American Gift Co., 33 Portman Road, New Rochelle, NY 10801.
1056. Some British news, via Roger Johnson: the Folio Society (202 Great Suffolk Street, London, SE.1, England) will publish their new edition of "Houn" (with illos by Edward Bawden) in August. Tyburn Productions plans to start production "within the next few months" on "The Abbot's Cry" (with Peter Cushing and John Mills). That's Entertainment records will issue an album of Patrick Gowers' music from the Granada series.
1057. Here's another one of those "name an actor" questions: name a professional actor who has played both Billy and Watson. The answer is on the next page, so don't wait to think about it.
1058. We've had Sherlock Holmes musicals, and a Sherlock Holmes ballet. Now John Bennett Shaw reports "The Hound of the Baskervilles" presented in dance, mime, and music by the National Tap Dance Company in Toronto on Mar. 29.
1059. Also from John is a newspaper report: "For the past two years, a Tokyo sleuth calling himself Doctor Yu has headed a firm named Sherlock Holmes Japan, which will locate your lost love for you, very discreetly, and give you the details you want." The cost is \$120 in Tokyo, \$140 in the rest of Japan, plus a \$45 bonus if the search is successful (they claim a 99% success rate), and the company is taking in about \$1,350,000 a year.
1060. Flier at hand for Bouchercon XVIII (Murder in the North Country) at the Ritz Hotel in Minneapolis, Oct. 9-11. Lawrence Block will be guest of honor, and there will be a full day of alternate S'ian programming, with John Bennett Shaw, to celebrate the centenary. The address is Box 2747, Loop Station, Minneapolis, MN 55402; registration is \$25.00 until July 1, \$35.00 thereafter, and \$10.00 for supporting membership.
1061. In the course of my research for the list of Sherlockian societies, I have found 12 inactive societies for which we have no information on who the founder or contact was. I would appreciate hearing from anyone who knows anything about: The Boulevard Assassins of Paris, The Boulevard Assassins of Suburban Detroit, The Cascade Canoneers, The Deal-Top Monographers, The Lion's Mane of Grand Rapids, The Puzzled Squires of Downey, The Resident Patients of Montana State University, The Retired Colourmen of Essex, The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Canonical Criminals, The Sons of Sherlock Holmes, The Students in Terror, or The West of Tokyo Interpreters.

April 1987 #6

1062. COLLECTING: THE PASSIONATE PASTIME, by Susanna Johnston and Tim Beddow (New York: Harper & Row, 1986; 136 p., \$24.95), is a fascinating book, based on interviews with British collectors and fully illustrated with color photographs. One of the collectors is Richard Lancelyn Green, who has created a Sherlock Holmes room at Poulton Hall.
1063. Reported by Tom Stix: Xavier Roberts Collectors Dispatch, winter 1987, with an illustrated story "The Case of the Black Feather" featuring Cabbage Patch doll Otis Lee in S'ian costume. The magazine is published by the BabyLand General Hospital, 19 Underwood Street, P.O. Box 714, Cleveland, GA 30528; \$3.00.
1064. "Sherlock Holmes and the Poirot Connexion" is a new pastiche by Julian Symons, in the Apr. 1987 issue of The Illustrated London News; the color cover by Paul Slater is better than the pastiche.
1065. Chris Redmond's WELCOME TO AMERICA, MR. SHERLOCK HOLMES (his report on ACD's 1894 visit) is now announced for publication this spring. Additional information available from Simon and Pierre, P.O. Box 80, Adelaide Street Postal Station, Toronto, Ont. M5C 2J4, Canada.
1066. The professional actor who has played both Billy and Watson is Christian Slater, who played Billy (with Frank Langella as Holmes) in the 1981 HBO television version of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes", and Adso of Melk (with Sean Connery as William of Baskerville) in the 1986 film "The Name of the Rose".
1067. THE COPPERFIELD CHECKLIST OF MYSTERY AUTHORS, edited by Pamela Granovetter and Karen Thomas, follows the format of A SHOPPING LIST OF MYSTERY CLASSICS (BSJ March 87); ACD is one of the 100 authors, with 25 titles listed. The 128-page book is available for \$7.00 postpaid from The Copperfield Press, 306 West 11th Street, New York, NY 10014.
1068. The British stamp booklet (March 87 #3) honoring "Stud" was issued on Apr. 14, and will be followed by three more (dates not set) honoring "Houn", "Spec", and "Fina".

1069. Our circulation department, noting that every mailing this year has been six pages, calculates that the cost of printing and mailing requires an increase in the subscription price, to \$8.00 a year. Editorial departments never argue with circulation departments, of course, so future renewals will be at the new price.

May 1987 #1

1070. "The Jewel in the Crown" is back on PBS-TV, starting May 24. Ronald Merrick is played by Tim Pigott-Smith, who played Dr. Watson in the Royal Shakespeare Company's revival of "Sherlock Holmes". And there are minor references to Sherlock Holmes in episodes 12 ("The Moghul Room") and 13 ("Pandora's Box").
1071. There will be more Sherlockian stamps issued this year than I predicted. A pane of 50 different stamps showing North American wildlife will be issued on June 13. The animals include a bighorn sheep and a bison, to name only two specifically American animals found in the Canon. And there are many more candidates, if you're willing to stretch a bit (the badger and the rabbit in "Sign" probably weren't American, nor the foxes in "Houn", and there are others). The pane might make an interesting visual quiz.
1072. And a commemorative honoring New Jersey statehood will be issued on July 15. I trust you all know who was born in New Jersey . . .
1073. And a postal card honoring the 150th anniversary of John Deere's invention of the self-scouring steel plow will be issued on May 22. Howard Garrideb advertised "steam and hand plows" but may not have meant anything that old.
1074. David G. Kirby (Rupert Books, 59 Stonefield, Bar Hill, Cambridge CB3 8TE, England) has issued a colorful centenary catalog ("A Century of Scarlet") with book offers, color photographs, and eight color illustrations for the story by David Cory; the catalog costs \$4.00 postpaid by airmail.
1075. Question #1
1076. What was the name of the first novel written by Conan Doyle?
1077. Laboromnia (15 Wallingford Avenue, London W10 6QA, England) has a color flier showing items in their centenary collection (busts in bronze or ceramic, plates, a mug, and a thimble); their American agent is Robert C. Hess (559 Potter Boulevard, Brightwaters, NY 11718).
1078. Pedro J. Saavedra's short S'ian poem "Detectiverse: Wiggins" is in the May 1987 issue of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine.
1079. Richard D. Lesh (2631 Flintridge Place, Fort Collins, CO 80521) offers high-quality stereo audio cassettes made from his high-fidelity Austrian phonograph record of "The Polyphonic Motets of Roland de Lassus" (Mons 1532, Les Larmes de St. Pierre, Academy of St. Martin in the Fields Choir, Cambridge University, 45 minutes); \$10.00 postpaid.
1080. Dick also reports that Publisher's Central Bureau (One Champion Avenue, Avenel, NJ 07131) offers a new videocassette: "100 Years of Sherlock Holmes" (60 minutes, black-and-white, \$19.95). According to the catalog, "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's famous sleuth is the focus of this compilation covering the filmed history of Holmes and Watson. Holmes has thrilled fans for one hundred years and this memorable collector's piece will satisfy anyone's interest." No other information available as yet.
1081. And Dick reports that on May 2 the syndicated TV series "Entertainment Tonight" included a 10-minute segment on the centenary, with film of ACD and an interview with Sherlock Holmes' secretary Sue Brown.

May 1987 #2

1082. The latest issue of the August Derleth Society Newsletter (winter-spring 1987) has a fine article by Michael Harrison on "Derleth: My Fellow Duke" (both were dukes of the Caribbean kingdom of Redonda, and surely are still regarded as such by those who deny Great Britain's subsequent claim of sovereignty over the island). The newsletter is published quarterly by the August Derleth Society and edited by Richard H. Fawcett, 61 Teecomwas Drive, Uncasville, CT 06382; \$5.00 a year.
1083. In a letter to the editor of Stamps (May 2, 1987), Robert Boos reports a new production error in two recent episodes of the Granada series: mail inspected or received by Holmes bears a Penny Black stamp, unlikely to be used in the late nineteenth century. I think that "unlikely" is the key word here: the penny black (1840) was superceded by a penny red (1864), and there were new one-penny stamps issued in 1880 and 1881 with a new design.
1084. Question #2
1085. What was the name of the second novel written by Conan Doyle?
1086. THE QUALLSFORD INHERITANCE, by Lloyd Biggle, Jr., is now out in paperback (New York: Penguin Books, 1987; 278 pp., \$3.95); it's one of the better pastiches (BSJ December 86).
1087. The Woods-Runner (the official meeting place and magazine of Unicorn Hunters International) generally reflects many if not most of the varied interests of its soon-to-retire (but never retiring) general manager Bill Rabe. It's published quarterly at \$3 a year by Lake Superior State College (Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783); the next issue (#59) will include "Letters about Sherlock" (excerpts from The Agony Column).
1088. The two-record album with two of the Rathbone/Bruce radio broadcasts from "The New Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (October 86 #1) is a fine production, with high-quality recordings of "The Unfortunate Tobacconist" (30 April 45) and "The Paradol Chamber" (21 May 45), interesting commentary by Ben Wright (who played Holmes in a later series), an informative booklet on "Sherlock Holmes on American Radio", and handsome album decorations. The scripts were written by Denis Green and Anthony Boucher, and the album is a limited edition (3,000 copies), available for \$27.50 postpaid from 221 "A" Baker Street Associates, Box 351453, Los Angeles, CA 90035-998.
1089. Peter Melonas reports that the first issue of Pipefinder portrays Sherlock Holmes searching for the perfect pipe; available free from Pipefinder, Box 721288, Houston, TX 77272.
1090. Colin Blakely died on May 7. He was a fine Watson in Billy Wilder's "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes", and one of his last appearances was in the British television series "Paradise Postponed".
1091. Peter Haining's THE TELEVISION SHERLOCK HOLMES (London: W. H. Allen, 1986; 224 pp., £14.95) is now available at B. Dalton stores for \$24.95; it's the third printing, indicating that the book has been successful, and with reason: half of the book is a discussion of Sherlock Holmes and Sherlockian television pre-Granada, and half of the book is devoted to the Granada series. Both sections are profusely illustrated, with much color, and the book is up-to-date through the first twenty Granada programs. Recommended.

May 1987 #3

1092. A brief report on the sale of John Michael Gibson's collection on Apr. 24-25 at the California Book Auction Galleries: it was great fun, according to the auction staff and to people who were there. The sale total for the 2,007 lots was about \$94,000 (including the 10% buyer's premium), and all lots were sold (there were no reserves). There were about 175 bidders (about half of them by mail, with a few people bidding by telephone), and the collectors apparently did better than the dealers: almost all of the "high spots" (such as the sets of first editions and the long runs of The Strand Magazine) went to collectors.

1093. Rudy Rucker has edited MATHENAUTS: TALES OF MATHEMATICAL WONDER (New York: Arbor House, 1987; 300 pp., \$18.95 cloth, \$9.95 paper); the book includes Ruth Berman's "Professor and Colonel", a pleasant speculation about a meeting between two of the Moriarty brothers.
1094. Reported by Helen Heinrich: Daniel Pinkwater's THE SNARKOUT BOYS & THE AVODCADO OF DEATH (BSJ March 84) and THE SNARKOUT BOYS & THE BACONBURG HORROR (BSJ June 85) are now available as Signet Vista paperbacks (160 pp., \$2.25 and \$2.50). Also a new expanded edition of the Signet Classic paperback THE SHERLOCK HOLMES MYSTERIES (BSJ March 85) now with 22 stories (\$3.50).
1095. The Washington Post reports from the Cannes Film Festival that "Night of the Comet" director Thom Eberhardt will be behind the cameras for "The Impostor of Baker Street", a \$10 million comedy-adventure with the intriguing premise that the bumbling Dr. Watson was actually the brains behind Sherlock Holmes. One reference book summarizes "Night of the Comet" as "world comes to an end, leaving only a couple of California valley girls behind!"
1096. Question #3
1097. What was the name of the third novel written by Conan Doyle?
1098. Reported from Britain: Hesketh Pearson's CONAN DOYLE (D3956a) has been reissued in paper covers by Unwin Hyman at £6.95.
1099. Reported by Jack Kerr: M. J. Trow's THE SUPREME ADVENTURE OF INSPECTOR LESTRADE (BSJ March 86) in paperback (Stein and Day, \$13.95).
1100. Monsignor Thomas A. Whelan ("The Vatican Cameos") died on Apr. 21. One of the early members of The Six Napoleons, he was born in Baltimore and had ten generations of ancestors in Maryland.
1101. I don't know of any S'ian references in books by Elizabeth Linington (aka Lesley Egan, Anne Blaisdell, Egan O'Neill, and Dell Shannon), but there is a newsletter for her fans; sample copy available from Rinehart S. Potts, 1223 Glen Terrace, Glassboro, NJ 08028.
1102. John T. Lescroart's RASPUTIN'S REVENGE (New York: Donald I. Fine, 1987; 285 pp., \$17.95) is his second novel about Auguste Lupa, who was first seen in last year's SON OF HOLMES, a Neronian pastiche that was only inferentially Sherlockian. In RASPUTIN'S REVENGE we find Auguste Lupa (whose passport is in the name of John Hamish Adler Holmes) in St. Petersburg in 1916, trying to solve a complicated series of murders, accused of espionage, rescued by his father, and eventually successful in solving the mystery.

May 1987 #4

1103. Fanny Butcher died on May 14 in Chicago at the age of 99. She worked at the Chicago Tribune for 50 years, including 40 years as literary editor, and of course she knew Vincent Starrett well, and found occasion to write about him (as well as about Sherlock Holmes) in her own Sunday column "The Literary Spotlight" -- in which, on Jan. 16, 1955, she reported that "the story that Doyle called his hero Holmes after Oliver Wendell Holmes was his own invention, Starrett now admits."
1104. In case you weren't paying attention, the three questions are: What was the name of the first novel written by Conan Doyle? What was the name of the second novel written by Conan Doyle? What was the name of the third novel written by Conan Doyle? The answers will be given next month, when I will also recognize those who submit correct answers on their first attempts.
1105. Terry Carr died on Apr. 7. There were S'ian stories in two collections he edited: THE BEST SCIENCE FICTION OF THE YEAR NO. 1 (D4825b) and UNIVERSE 5 (D5244b).
1106. Chris Redmond reports another non-Sherlockian book with a Sherlockian title: Lauri Lewin's NAKED IS THE BEST DISGUISE: MY LIFE AS A STRIPPER (London: Pandora, 1984).
1107. On May 7 the syndicated TV series "PM Magazine" (and "Evening Magazine") included a 6-minute segment from London on the centenary, with clips from some of the Rathbone films, views of the exterior of The Sherlock Holmes, and interviews with Stanley MacKenzie and Sue Brown.
1108. A brief report, from Andrew Jay Peck, on a few of the awards by the Mystery Writers of America at their annual dinner on May 9 in New York. Michael Gilbert (D691b, D1825b) won this year's Grand Master Award. The Edgar for best motion picture went to "Something Wild" (the nominees included "The Great Mouse Detective" and "The Name of the Rose").
1109. The Fourth Irregular Quinquennial Holmesian Dinner was a splendid affair, with some 160 people gathered hungrily at the Culinary Institute of America on May 16. The centenary of the publication of "A Study in Scarlet" was celebrated with Afghan hors d'oeuvres, followed by an international buffet that ranged from London to Cleveland. The festivities included wining and dining and toasting at the CIA, post-prandial conversation at the Beekman Arms, and The Norwegian Named Sigerson Commemorative Syttende Mai Pancake Breakfast at the Rhinebeck Fire House. CIA master chef Fritz Sonnenschmidt received the BSI's Two-Shilling Award for his continuing services to the cause, and Al and Julie Rosenblatt were awarded a joint Queen Victoria Medal for their imaginative celebration of the centenary of the publication of the first Sherlock Holmes story. It was pleasantly coincidental that the spring 1987 issue of the county magazine Dutchess included a major article on Judge Albert Rosenblatt "at work and at play" (Al is learning to play the clarinet, and Julie thinks "it's wonderful that he's learning to play after all these years . . . as long as you don't have to hear him").
1110. Plan ahead: the Fifth Irregular Quinquennial Holmesian Dinner has been announced for May 4, 1991, by way of honoring the centenary of the fateful meeting at the Reichenbach.

May 1987 #5

1111. The American Booksellers Association gathered in Washington on May 23-26, and it was an impressive gathering: more than 1,000 exhibitors, more than 20,000 people registered, and god knows how many books, current and planned. Some plans were of particular interest:
1112. Mysterious Press: THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, leather-bound, with 12 color plates and more than 50 line drawings by Frederic Dorr Steele, and an introduction by Andrew Malec (Nov., 320 pp., \$25.00); an American edition of Julian Symons' 1979 biography CONAN DOYLE: PORTRAIT OF AN ARTIST (Nov., 160 pp., \$15.95).
1113. Carroll & Graf: THE NEW ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: ORIGINAL STORIES BY EMINENT MYSTERY WRITERS, edited by Martin Harry Greenberg and Carol-Lynn Rossel Waugh (Oct., 324 pp., \$18.95); HOUND DUNIT, edited by Isaac Asimov, Martin Harry Greenberg, and Carol-Lynn Rossel Waugh, with "Silver Blaze" and Rex Stout's "A Dog in the Daytime" (Sept., 256 pp., \$15.95); a reprint of John Dickson Carr's 1949 biography THE LIFE OF SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE (Oct., 310 pp., \$8.95 paper); H. R. F. Keating's CRIME & MYSTERY: THE 100 BEST BOOKS, a survey that includes "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (Nov., 220 pp., \$15.95).
1114. St. Martin's Press: THE SPECKLED BAND, illustrated by Paul Morrissey, in a new "Night Lights" children's series with glow-in-the-dark clues (Oct., 32 pp., \$6.95); an American edition of John Buxton Hilton's SLICKENSIDES (March 87 #2) (Oct., 176 pp., \$13.95).
1115. International Polygonics: a reprint of Herbert Brean's WILDERS WALK AWAY (Oct., 250 pp., \$4.50 paper). Their fall 1987 trade catalog has a nice S'ian color cover by Roger Roth, and they gave me their extras (not enough for everyone, unfortunately); if you would like one, send me \$1.00 to cover mailing costs.

1116. Iron Crown Enterprises (distributed by the Berkley Publishing Group): a series of "Sherlock Holmes Solo Mysteries" similar to Allen Sharp's choose-your-own-plot "Storytrails" series for Cambridge University Press. There are 8 titles planned, starting with Gerald Lientz's MURDER AT THE DIOGENES CLUB (Sept., 160 pp., \$2.95 paper).
1117. Academy Chicago: THE DOSSIER OF SOLAR PONS, by Basil Copper, is at the printer now, to be followed by THE FURTHER ADVENTURES OF SOLAR PONS (Aug., 208 pp., \$15.95 cloth, \$5.95 paper); these are revised editions of the paperback collections originally published by Pinnacle, and the series will eventually include some new stories.
1118. Donald I. Fine: according to an unofficial report, John T. Lescroart is considering (but has not yet written) a third novel, which may be even more Sherlockian (and less Neronian) than this year's RASPUTIN'S REVENGE.
1119. Sleuth Publications: ADVENTURES BY GASLIGHT (June, \$15.00), the newest supplement to their game SHERLOCK HOLMES: CONSULTING DETECTIVE. Their supplements are now free-standing (you don't need the original game), and their catalog includes older supplements, a chess set, and other S'ian books; 689 Florida Street, San Francisco, CA 94110.

May 1987 #6

1120. I can't remember who it was who wanted a current address for Ward, Lock and Company; it's now Ward Lock Limited, 8 Clifford Street, London, W1X 1RB, England (but they have no copies left of Beeton's Christmas Annual for 1887, or any records from the old days).
1121. "The Year of the Reader" is being celebrated in various ways, including a handsome color poster with quotations and illustrations (by John Hyatt) from famous books, including "The Blue Carbuncle". The poster (30x22 in.) costs \$5.50 postpaid from: Year of the Reader, 870 Market Street #919, San Francisco, CA 94102.
1122. Listen for Pleasure (One Colomba Drive, Niagara Falls, NY 14305) still has the three two-cassette packages with readings of "Houn" (D4671b, read by Hugh Burden) and "Stud" and "Sign" (each read by Tony Britton), as well as "The Lost World" (read by James Mason); \$14.95 each. All four titles are now also available in "read-along" packages that include the cassettes, a transcript book in easy-to-read type, and a teacher's guide; \$29.95 each.
1123. An interesting phenomenon observed at the ABA convention was the growth of the "graphic novel" (book-length, with expert full-color artwork and often adult themes). One of the more intriguing, and amusing, graphic novels is GREENBERG THE VAMPIRE, by J. M. DeMatteis and Mark Badger (New York: Marvel Comics Group, 1986; 70 pp., \$6.95); a non-S'ian story "about the undead, the living dead, sin, redemption, the magic of love... and the healing power of chicken soup."
1124. In a more serious vein (sorry about that), there is DRACULA: A SYMPHONY IN MOONLIGHT AND NIGHTMARES, by Jon J. Muth (also Marvel, 1986, \$6.95), with a striking and sensuous extension of the Bram Stoker novel.
1125. Getting back to S'iana, Sherlock Hemlock and his dog Watson appear in A BIRD'S BEST FRIEND, a Sesame Street "book 'n' tape" set (Racine: Western Publishing Co., 1987).
1126. G. K. Chesterton admired Sherlock Holmes, but he disapproved of the Higher Criticism. "The real inference is that Sherlock Holmes really existed and that Conan Doyle never existed," he wrote in 1935. "If posterity only reads these latter books, it will certainly suppose them to be serious. It will imagine that Sherlock Holmes was a man. But he was not; he was only a god." Best known today for his detective stories, Chesterton was far more than an author of fiction; G. K. CHESTERTON, a new biography by Michael Finch (San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1986; 369 pp., \$18.95), concentrates on his personality and personal life, rather than on his writings. But the book contains a pleasant surprise for S'ians: the first page, reproduced in facsimile, of "The Case of the Vanishing Car", written by Chesterton for a young neighbor and friend who had run her father's car off the road.
1127. The Apr. 27 issue of AB Bookman's Weekly was their annual "special crime, law, and mystery issue" with a S'ian cover and four articles, including one on "Sherlockians Commemorate the Centenary of 'The Master'" by Gretchen Falk, a member of the staff of the California Book Auction Galleries. Copies of the issue are available for \$10.00 from AB Bookman's Weekly, Box AB, Clifton, NJ 07015.

June 1987 #1

1128. The three questions were: What was the name of the first novel written by Conan Doyle? What was the name of the second novel written by Conan Doyle? What was the name of the third novel written by Conan Doyle? And the answers are: The name of the first novel written by Conan Doyle was THE NARRATIVE OF JOHN SMITH (written in 1883 and lost in the post on its first journey to a publisher), the second was THE FIRM OF GIRDLESTONE (written in 1884-85 and published in 1890), and the third was A STUDY IN SCARLET (written in 1886 and published in 1887). THE NARRATIVE OF JOHN SMITH is mentioned by Hesketh Pearson (CONAN DOYLE: HIS LIFE AND ART, 1943, p. 74-75). There was only one (and incorrect) response to the query.
1129. A BIRD'S BEST FRIEND (May 87 #6) is also available as a Golden Press Book (Racine: Western Publishing Co., 1986); a Sesame Street story by Trish Sommers about Sherlock Hemlock and his dog Watson.
1130. A possible answer to my bibliographic query (October 86 #4) on the two variants of the first printing of Dorothy L. Sayers' THE OMNIBUS OF CRIME (New York: Payson and Clarke, 1929): the trade variant has the list of other books by Sayers on page [2] and the copyright statement on page [4] positioned toward the bottom of the pages, and the dust jacket has an overprinted statement "Read em and Creep! Christopher Morley" in white ink and in Morley's handwriting. The Book-of-the-Month Club variant has the list of other books by Sayers and the copyright statement positioned toward the top of the pages, and the dust jacket does not have the overprinted statement.
1131. Reports from the European press, and from participants, indicate that the SHSOL tour to Switzerland was a great success. "Each stop along the trek elicited a stirring welcome by the local town band, a march through the streets to the city hall, a speech by the mayor, and an obligatory glass of wine," according to Dick and Joanne Rutter. "Our days in Switzerland are remembered as being either one-, two-, or three-mayor days." Dick also reports another source for the S'ian nutcracker and "Rauchermann" (March 87 #5): Music Box Plaza, Bahnhofstrasse 23-A, CH-3800 Interlaken, Switzerland (Cindy Egger, the manager, is from San Diego).
1132. Reported: THE ANNOTATED INNOCENCE OF FATHER BROWN, edited by Martin Gardner (New York: Oxford University Press, 1987; 274 pp., \$18.95); Gardner's theory is that Sherlock Holmes, according to the Canon, performed vital secret tasks for the Vatican, and there must have been a go-between . . .
1133. Reported by Don Pollock: mention of SH, and a short quiz, in the Apr. 1987 issue of Previews (a video-store hand-out).
1134. In 1977 there was a massive advertising campaign for the Dodge Diplomat, using SH in print and TV promotion, and Dodge dealers displayed life-size cardboard figures of SH, one of which is now offered for \$150 (shipping extra) by Jean G. Weidner, 113 Holly Hill Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15237.
1135. According to Pravda, quoted in an Agence France-Presse report in the San Francisco Examiner (Apr. 29), at hand from Al Rodin: Vitaly Solomin, who has played Watson in a SH series on Soviet television, is now director of a Moscow theater called Detective. The theater will specialize in detective plays, by authors such as Poe, Conan Doyle, Christie, and Simenon.

June 1987 #2

1136. PRISONERS OF THE NIGHT, edited by Alayne Gelfand, is "an adult anthology of erotica, intrigue, fright, allure, and vampirism," with 156 pp. of prose and poetry. Holmes and Watson make brief appearances in Tina Rhea's stories "Alteration" and "Darkness". Available for \$15.00 from MKASHEF Enterprises, Box 368, Poway, CA 92064-0005.
1137. Compliments to Cleveland. The only press report seen so far on the CIA dinner was in the Cleveland Plain Dealer on May 23, by Gus Dallas, who worked for the Plain Dealer as a police reporter some 30 years ago. The article concentrates on the Cleveland connection, of course, and includes a large photograph of Stafford Davis and Mike Kean, who do not appear to be connected to anything other than the buffet line.
1138. THE OXFORD SOLUTION, at hand from Herb Tinning, uses S'ian artwork in a pamphlet explaining why one should participate in the Oxford Health Plans (23 Old Kings Highway South, Darien, CT 06820).
1139. A few items of interest in the new catalog from Barnes & Noble (126 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10011-5666), and presumably on discount tables at other stores: NEVER TO BE TAKEN ALIVE: A BIOGRAPHY OF GENERAL GORDON, by Roy MacGregor-Hastie (195 pp., \$5.98); THE ANGLO-BOER WARS: THE BRITISH AND THE AFRIKANERS, 1812-1902, by Micheal Barthorp (176 pp., \$16.95); CHAPLIN: HIS LIFE AND ART, by David Robinson (792 pp., \$6.95), with details on his performances as Billy in the Gillette plays.
1140. Reported by John Stephenson: "They Might Be Giants" (D5165a) now available on video cassette (MCA Home Video) at \$59.95. A "Sherlock Holmes Mystery Journey" to England, Oct. 14-27 (flier available from Book Sleuth Mystery Books, 2501 West Colorado Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO 80904). Hound of the Baskervilles bookends from Signals (Box 70870, St. Paul, MN 55170).
1141. BIALOSKY AND THE BIG PARADE MYSTERY, by Justine Korman, illustrated by Tom Cooke (Racine: Western Publishing Co., 1986); a Big Little Golden Book, with Bialosky the bear in S'ian costume again.
1142. Brig. John Doyle, the son of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's younger brother Innes, died in May, at the age of 73. He joined the Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry in 1933, and served in India, Burma, and Malaya, and with the Allied Landing Forces in Europe, and received the OBE for his long and distinguished military career.
1143. THE GREAT COVER-UP: THE MYSTERY OF THE NON-HEALING WOUND is a promotional pamphlet (for Squibb's DuoDerm dressing) with a S'ian pastiche. ConvaTec (attn: Nina Rossi), Box 4000, Princeton, NJ 08543-4000.
1144. Betty Pierce reports that Peter Haining reports that his THE TELEVISION SHERLOCK HOLMES (May 87 #4) will be revised and expanded for a new edition due in 1988.
1145. The first issue (May-June 1987) of Pipe Finder at hand, with a S'ian logo. It's intended as an "advertiser for the pipe collector" and the first issue has advertisements but no articles. Box 721288, Houston, TX 77272; \$10.00 a year for six issues.

June 1987 #3

1146. Reported by Dana Richards: the spring 1987 issue of Abacus, with comment on Lee Sallows' earlier article on Alphamagic Squares (January 87 #5 and February 87 #1). A letter from one Duncan Ross (Popes Court, Fleet Street, London) discusses some of the identifications of THE ORIGIN OF TREE WORKSHIP made by S'ian scholars in the past, and suggests that the photograph published with Sallows' article is "a calculated, if colourful, counterfeit." Sallows replies at length, describing the "popular conviction that Mr. Sherlock Holmes is to be construed as a fictional creation of the writer A. C. Doyle" as a belief whose "obstinate persistence in these days when every kind of pseudoscientific rigmarole finds eager embrace is only a sad reflection of the misguided cynicism of our times," and suggesting that the author of THE ORIGIN OF TREE WORKSHIP was actually a mathematician well known to readers of the Canon.
1147. THE BAKER STREET DOZEN: SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE'S THIRTEEN FAVORITE SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES, EACH ACCOMPANIED BY AN ESSAY BY A PROMINENT SHERLOCKIAN, ALONG WITH VARIOUS INTERLUDES, CURIOSITIES & MISCELLANEA, edited by Pj Doyle and E. W. McDiarmid (Chicago: Congdon & Weed, 1987; 352 pp., \$15.95), has been announced for October, and the publisher has a mail-order flier (180 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60601).
1148. Dick Lesh reports that a videocassette of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1959, with Peter Cushing) is available for \$29.95 (plus \$3.50 per order for shipping) from Publishers Central Bureau (One Champion Avenue, Avenel, NJ 07131). I assume that this is the CBS/Fox Video cassette (first issued at \$69.95), and that it is also now available at the lower price at your local video shops.
1149. Reported by John Bennett Shaw: DELIGHTFUL MURDER: A SOCIAL HISTORY OF THE CRIME STORY, by Ernest Mandel (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1984) (printed London: Pluto Press, 1984); with many references to Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes. SABERHAGEN: MY BEST, by Fred Saberhagen (New York: Baen Books/Pocket Books, 1987); with his 1980 pastiche "The Adventure of the Metal Murderer".
1150. Philip A. Shreffler (11333 Big Bend Boulevard, St. Louis, MO 63122) would like to hear (quickly) from people who have photographs taken at the CIA dinner, for possible use in the BSJ.
1151. "The Other Victorians and Victorian Others" will be the theme of the next conference of the Northeast Victorian Studies Association, on Apr. 15-17, 1988, at the University of Scranton in Scranton, Pa. Additional details available from Earl E. Stevens (Dept. of English, Rhode Island College, Providence, RI 02864), and papers may be submitted to Michael Brooks (Dept. of English, West Chester University, West Chester, PA 19383).
1152. Herman Herst, Jr. (Box 1583, Boca Raton, FL 33429-0494) is one of the best of the philatelic writers; there are no S'ian stories in his MORE STORIES TO COLLECT STAMPS BY and THE COMPEAT PHILATELIST, but they're fun to read. \$8.75 each postpaid, or \$16.00 the pair, autographed. And his FORENSIC PHILATELY is a fine account of one of the most famous philatelic trials in history (with several 1890s stamp dealers convicted at the Old Bailey and sentenced to hard labor); \$9.50 postpaid.

June 1987 #4

1153. Tina Rhea (3-E Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770) has employed Fontastic Plus to devise a new Ridling Thorpe font for the Macintosh computer, in case you own a Mac and want to write letters using the dancing men cipher. The cipher is complete, in the version displayed by Schenck (BSJ, Apr. 1955), with the flagged (end-of-the-word) letters obtained using the shift key. The font is available in 18-point (1822 bytes) for Macwrite and Macpaint, and 36-point (5494 bytes) for Macpaint. Tina will supply both fonts, and a note on how to use them, free of charge, in return for an initialized Mac diskette (single-sided or double-sided) and return postage; if you do not have Font/DA Mover, put a System file on the diskette and she will insert the fonts.
1154. The new owners will maintain "the very special atmosphere that has made the Algonquin all that it is today," according to Ben Bodne, who denied four months ago that the hotel was about to be sold. The new owners are Caesar Park Hotels International Inc., a Brazilian subsidiary of the Aoki Corp. of Tokyo, and the sale price was \$29 million for the 200-room hotel. Bodne noted that "throughout its 85-year history, the Algonquin has maintained a civilized atmosphere, reminiscent of a fine English inn." The new owners will operate the hotel much as it has been, according to one

- report "with an eye toward the exclusive end of the market." We will now pause to consider whether ordering in Portuguese or Japanese will be of assistance in persuading waiters to bring breakfast at future meetings in honor of Sra. Hudson.
1155. Al and Julie Rosenblatt's 20-page souvenir menu for "An Evening in Scarlet" at the Culinary Institute of America on May 16 was handsomely devised, designed, and produced, with illustrations, annotations and explanations, and copies are available for those who wish to see what they missed. The cost is \$15.00 postpaid, and checks may be sent to: Peter E. Blau, 3900 Tunlaw Road NW #119, Washington, DC 20007-4830.
1156. The autumn 1986 issue of The Gazette: The Journal of the Wolfe Pack (just published) has Marvin Kaye's article "From Zeck to Moriarty to Wild" in which Kaye traces both Zeck and Moriarty back to Jonathan Wild (mentioned in "Vall"). Kaye notes that Henry Fielding's novel about Wild was the basis for Edwin Justus Mayer's black comedy "Children of Darkness", staged many years ago at the Circle in the Square in New York with George C. Scott in the title role. And that gives Scott a thoroughly remote claim to have played both Holmes and Moriarty. Which leads to the question: Orson Welles played both Holmes and Moriarty on radio; who played both roles on stage?
1157. The Hawkshaw Press, a "freshly grown tentacle of the Pequod octopus," has announced "UNCLE WALT" & SHERLOCK HOLMES, reprinting for the first time two S'ian "prose rhymes" by Walt Mason, whom George Ade once called "the high priest of horse sense." Orders may be sent to: John Ruyle, 521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707; \$27.50 cloth or \$12.50 paper.
1158. "The Baker Street Ir-rag-ulars" are a series of original soft sculptures created by Patricia Nead Elrod (4800 Kilpatrick Avenue, Fort Worth, TX 76107), including a number of imaginative Canonical characters (ranging from Sherlock Holmes to a giant rat), and special-request commissions are welcome. Send a #10 SASE (39c) for a copy of her catalog.

June 1987 #5

1159. "Sherlock Holmes at 100: A Special Program Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Master Detective of Baker Street" will be held at UCLA on July 11, with Arthur M. Axelrad as moderator and a program featuring Jon Breen, John Ball, Karen A. Krone, Audrey Peterson, Robert G. Steele, William Barry, Sean Wright, Ira Fistel, Leslie Klinger, Barbara Cooper, Ronnie James, and Bob Shayne. Flier available from Box 24901, Dept. K, UCLA Extension, Los Angeles, CA 90024.
1160. Reported by Paul Merz: Edward Wellen's story "Voiceover" (originally in SHERLOCK HOLMES THROUGH TIME AND SPACE) (BSJ March 85 and December 86) is now in TIN STARS, edited Asimov/Greenberg/Waugh (Signet, \$3.95); an anthology of robot/law enforcement stories.
1161. Reported by Ron De Waal: THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (London: Octopus Books, 1987; 195 pp., \$3.98 at B. Dalton). "Communicator Oversees Sherlock Holmes Affairs" (on Sue Brown, with a cover photo taken at the Sherlock Holmes Museum at the Holiday Inn on Union Square), in Communication World, May 1987; Communication World/ABC, 870 Market Street #940, San Francisco, CA 94102.
1162. The Apr. 1987 issue of Magazine litteraire contains a 50-page section on "Sherlock Holmes: Le dossier de Conan Doyle" with a handsome color cover and contributions (all in French) by Robert Louit, Francis Lacassin, Simone Arous, Graham Greene, Guillermo Carrera Infante, Rene Reouven, Christine Jordis, Umberto Eco, Jean-Baptiste Baronian, Arthur Conan Doyle, Basil Rathbone, Jacques Baudou, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Francois Landon, Anthony Burgess, and Jacques Meunier; a few are reprints-in-translation, but most are new. The cover price is 24.00 F, and the address of the magazine is 40 rue des Saints-Peres, 75007 Paris, France. Daedalus Books (2260 25th Place NE, Washington, DC 20018) is a remainder house, and their spring 1987 catalog includes Conan Doyle's THE EDINBURGH STORIES (Salem House; 86 pp., \$3.98 plus \$3.00 shipping per order). This was first published by Polygon Books in Edinburgh in 1981, and contains "The Field Bazaar" and four other items with Edinburgh connections, as well as an Introduction by Owen Dudley Edwards.
1163. Recently seen but not new: LORD DARCY, by Randall Garrett (Garden City: Nelson Doubleday, n.d.; 600 pp.); a Science Fiction Book Club three-in-one edition, with TOO MANY MAGICIANS (D4934b), "The Napoli Express" (with passing mention of Michael Kurland's THE INFERNAL DEVICE), and "A Case of Identity" (S'ian only by title).
1164. "Analmentary, my dear Watson!" is the theme of the newest S'ian porno video "Who Came in the Back Door", produced by Paradise Visuals and starring John Leslie (with calabash in the advertisement), Gail Force, Shana McCullough, and Joey Silvera; 83 minutes, \$54.95 from Video Specialists International, 182 Jackson Street, Dallas, PA 18612.
1165. THE NEW ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, edited by Martin Harry Greenberg and Carol-Lynn Rossel Waugh (May 87 #5), due from Carroll & Graf in October, will be a major item, with 25,000 copies in the first printing; it's a collection of new stories by mystery writers such as John Gardner, Dorothy B. Hughes, Stuart Kaminsky, Jon Breen, Joyce Harrington, and Peter Lovesey.

June 1987 #6

1166. "The Edison Twins" is a 70-minute videocassette now available from RCA/Columbia Pictures Home Video. In Sept. 1985 it was aired as a three-part Disney Channel miniseries, featuring "a mysterious stranger who has a deerstalker hat, and Inverness cape, and an uncanny ability to solve mysteries." He's Joseph Bell (played by Gillie Fennic), the son of Dr. Joe Bell, the model for Sherlock Holmes.
1167. "Sherlock Holmes on Broadway" is a Theatre Collection exhibition at the New York Public Library at Lincoln Center, though Aug. 11, celebrating the centenary with a display of theater programs, photographs, and memorabilia.
1168. Charles Marowitz's "Sherlock's Last Case" began previews at the Kennedy Center in Washington on June 23, opening on July 1 and closing on Aug. 1, with Frank Langella (Holmes) and Donal Donnelly (Watson). The publicists ask, "If Holmes is the victim...*who* will solve the crime?" Langella is also co-producer (the budget is now \$1.2 million and rising, according to a recent interview). "Something happens to Holmes in this play that has never happened to him before," Langella hints, "and as a result we see all the familiar characters in an entirely new light."
1169. Reported by Jack Kerr: minor S'ian references in MURDER ON CAPITOL HILL, by Margaret Truman (Warner paperback, \$3.50).
1170. Reported by Richard Wein: the Renegade Press comic book CASES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES has been extended to at least 12 issues (issue #7 is in the stores).
1171. LONDON BY GASLIGHT 1861-1911, by Michael Harrison (Dubuque: Gasogene Press, 1987; 197 pp., \$25.95 postpaid), revised and expanded from the long-out-of-print 1963 edition, is a delightful exploration of an age in which S'ians have long found refuge. Michael Harrison, as always, has many tales to tell, and tells them splendidly. Available from the publisher (Box 1041, Dubuque, IA 52001-1041).
1172. Kelvin I. Jones (18 Ross Street, Rochester, Kent ME1 2DF, England) has announced A SHERLOCK HOLMES DICTIONARY for publication this fall in a signed and limited edition. It will be "a complete etymological guide to the less familiar words and phrases" in the Canon, with word derivations, Canonical references, and literary parallels, and you can reserve a copy by writing to Kelvin.
1173. Flier at hand from the Quinlan Press (131 Beverly Street, Boston, MA 02114) promoting THE OFFICIAL SHERLOCK HOLMES TRIVIA BOOK, by Richard T. Ryan (200 pp., \$7.95).

1174. THE QUEST FOR SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: THIRTEEN BIOGRAPHERS IN SEARCH OF A LIFE, edited by Jon L. Lellenberg, has been announced by Southern Illinois University Press for Nov. (232 pp., \$19.95); the book presents critiques of the autobiographies and biographies.
1175. "Centenary, my Dear Watson" (the 26-page pamphlet with the itinerary of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London tour) is available (along with some colorful tourist brochures) from Meiringen-Haslital, 3860 Meiringen, Berner Oberland, Switzerland.
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July 1987 #1

1176. A Canadian brewery, impressed by the Granada series, plans to open a chain of pubs, each called "Sherlock Holmes" and each being based on a different story, according to a report in the Derbyshire Times (May 22). Havenplan's Architectural Emporium, supplier of fittings for the Granada sets, will furnish the pubs.
1177. The deluxe three-volume COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES 100TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION (April 87 #3) has been published, and it's handsomely done. The publisher reports that it will not be in print much longer (they've had good response from their mailings to collectors of leather-bound books as well as to Sherlockians), so if you're considering a purchase it might be well not to wait much longer. It's \$37.50 postpaid per volume, and they take plastic; The Easton Press (47 Richards Avenue, Norwalk, CT 06857).
1178. Forecast: SKULLDUGGERY, by Peter Marks, in Aug. from Carroll & Graf, \$17.95; a mystery novel dealing with the Piltown hoax. "Although parts of his plot might seem outlandish (a scene between Arthur Conan Doyle and Oscar Wilde takes place in a homosexual brothel), Marks gracefully achieves the reader's willing suspension of disbelief," Publishers Weekly reports.
1179. Corrigendum: the report (June 87 #1) that there was only one (and incorrect) response to the query about the first three novels written by Conan Doyle neglected the pre-publication experiment: Jon L. Lellenberg did know the correct answer. He has not, however, admitted knowing where the missing novel might be.
1180. Arnold Korotkin (12 Glenwood Road, Upper Montclair, NJ 07043-1941) has announced SHERLOCKIAN TIDBITS, an "irregular newsletter containing cartoons, ads, graphics, magazine articles, newspaper clippings, book reviews, general resources, and curios." Frequency irregular, cost \$2.00 postpaid per issue. The first issue at hand, with 11 photocopied pages.
1181. The July 1987 issue of Changing Times covers S'ian events in some detail in its section "Your Questions Answered" (with some nice artwork by Joe Gast).
1182. There were, of course, many articles in the European press about the tour to Switzerland by The Sherlock Holmes Society of London (there are some photographs in the summer 1987 issue of the Sherlock Holmes Journal). One of the press reports noted that Victor Hamilton, of Belfast, participated as "Wilson, the Notorious Canary Trainer." At the turn of the century the word "canary" had various unsavoury meanings, according to the article, and Hamilton carried a piece of cuttlefish and a spray of millet to make it quite clear that his canaries were of the feathered variety. A "canary" was a harlot in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, according to a dictionary of slang consulted by Jon Lellenberg. And a "canary" was a female thief by the end of the 19th century, according to Michael Harrison. No wonder Wilson was notorious.
1183. Reported (and recommended) by John Bennett Shaw: "The Sherlock Holmes Centenary Brasses" (a collection of ceramic-centered commemorative horse brasses depicting Holmes, Watson, Moriarty, and Lestrade); £6.50 for each brass, or £22.00 for the four-brass martingale. A flier is available from British Brassware, 24 Mill Lane, Camelford, Cornwall, England.
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July 1987 #2

1184. "Sherlock's Last Case" is great fun, thoroughly untraditional in its approach, well acted, and staged with great imagination. Frank Langella does a fine job in the title role, and I hope that the play will still be running on Broadway during the birthday festivities (it opens in New York on or about Aug. 13). Charles Marowitz is the author, and the acting script is available from Dramatists Play Service (440 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016) for \$3.35 (plus \$0.95 shipping); the play has some interesting twists and surprises, and you are urged to avoid reading the script before seeing the play.
1185. A "Sherlock Holmes Seminar in Rogers Park" will be held in Chicago on Oct. 28 and 31, featuring speakers from the Chicago scions. Contact Norman M. Davis, 1263 West Pratt Boulevard, Chicago, IL 60626.
1186. Paperback Speller is a new software package for the IBM PC and compatibles (with more than 60,000 words in the spelling-checker dictionary); the box portrays Holmes and Watson ("Amazing...it detects and corrects spelling errors. It's elementary, my dear Watson"). \$39.95 from Paperback Software (2830 Ninth Street, Berkeley, CA 94710) or your local software shop.
1187. Forecast: THE BERENSTAIN BEARS AND THE MISSING HONEY, by Stan and January Berenstain, in November from Random House at \$1.95 (or \$5.99 in library binding); the bears are in S'ian costume.
1188. "The Second Hundred Years: A Sherlock Holmes Centennial Weekend" is the eighth annual program presented by The Six Napoleons and The Carlton Club at the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore on Nov. 14 (10:00 to 4:00) and Nov. 15 (2:00-4:00). Details available from Robert S. Katz, 1190 West Northern Parkway #924, Baltimore, MD 21210.
1189. Reported by Dick Lesh: Vincent Starrett's BOOKS ALIVE (D2220a), the 1969 Books for Libraries Press edition (\$5.95), and M. J. Trow's THE SUPREME ADVENTURE OF INSPECTOR LESTRADE (\$3.95), in the latest catalog from Edward J. Hamilton, Falls Village, NY 06031 (add \$3.00 shipping per order). Reported by Dave Galerstein: A BOOK OF DAYS FOR THE LITERARY YEAR, edited by Neal T. Jones (Thames & Hudson, 485 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10017); the dates include the births of Holmes and Watson, and the birth and death of Conan Doyle.
1190. Reported by Bill Nadel: Comics Revue #21 (in the comic shops in August) will reprint the entire 1985 Steve Canyon "Baker Street Adventure" (with an introduction by Bill); I don't know the cover price, but if you can't find the magazine, their address is Box 1762, Wayne, NJ 07470.
1191. Also from Bill: the Aug. 1987 issue of London Calling (published by the BBC World Service) has SH on the cover, Steve Weinman's article "A Study in Devotion", and reports on two "Sherlock Holmes" broadcasts by Gillian Gray on Aug. 2 and Aug. 9, a repeat (from 1986) two-part dramatization of "The Valley of Fear" (with Tim Pigott-Smith and Andrew Hilton) on Aug. 9 and Aug. 16, a repeat (from 1974) of "A Study in Scarlet" (with Robert Powell and Dinsdale Landen) on Aug. 23, and a two-part dramatization of Charles Marowitz's "Sherlock's Last Case" on Aug. 31 and Sept. 7; the magazine's address is P.O. Box 76, Bush House, Strand, London WC2B 4PH, England.
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July 1987 #3

1192. Paul Herbert reports that his dust-jacket copy of THE OMNIBUS OF CRIME (June 87 #1) has the trade-variant book and an dust jacket without the Morley overprint; his copy was bought at a flea-market sale, suggesting that it was not a dealer's "made-up" copy. But: my copy of the BOMC edition, with the BOMC pamphlet laid in, was also bought at a charity sale. Paul also mentions having seen the book in a boxed edition, which I'd not heard of before.
1193. Walter Klinefelter ("The British Barque *Sophy Anderson*") died on July 4. He was a true bibliophile and a fine writer, on S'ian and other subjects, and one of the few who submitted correct solutions to the Morley crossword puzzle in The Saturday Review in 1934.
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1194. Kyle Richeson notes that Nicholas Rowe's Sherlock Holmes is left-handed in "Young Sherlock Holmes" and wonders which other actors played a left-handed Sherlock Holmes.
1195. Video Specialists International (182 Jackson Street, Dallas, PA 18612) offers a videocassette with two programs ("The Luckless Gambler" and "The Body in the Case") from the 1981 series starring Geoffrey Whitehead and Donald Pickering; \$21.00 postpaid.
1196. "The Molly Maguires" (1970), with Sean Connery (Jack Kehoe), Richard Harris (James McParlan), Frank Finlay (Police Captain Davies), and Samantha Eggar (Mary), will be shown by The Movie Channel on Aug. 17.
1197. The Grosvenor Hotel (formerly the Dutch Americana) in Orlando (near Disney World) has been purchased by Don Werby (proprietor of S. Holmes Esq. in San Francisco); the 630-room hotel is being renovated and redecorated, and will reopen soon with S'ian bars and restaurant, and a S'ian museum.
1198. Charles Pogue's new S'ian play "The Ebony Ape" will be performed at The Opera House in Lexington, Ky., on Sept. 10-13 and 17-20. Pogue is not a new-comer to the S'ian world: he wrote the screenplays for the 1983 TV films of "Houn" and "Sign" (with Ian Richardson as Holmes).
1199. Ben Wood has announced the latest round-robin pastiche by members of The Pleasant Places of Florida. MYSTERY OF THE PALE-ONTOLOGIST OF MELTDOWN costs \$2.50 postpaid from Baker Street Designs, 1397 22nd Street North, St. Petersburg, FL 33713.
1200. Reported by John Stephenson: Robert Lee Hall's THE KING EDWARD PLOT in a paperback reprint from Critic's Choice (\$3.50); this 1980 mystery novel features Frederick Wigmore (form Hall's EXIT SHERLOCK HOLMES) and his own Baker Street Irregulars.
1201. Forecast: a new edition of A. A. Milne's THE RED HOUSE MYSTERY (D5083b) from Dell in August (\$3.50).
1202. Reported by Roger Johnson: SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE COMPLETE ILLUSTRATED NOVELS (Chancellor Press, £5.95). THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, read by Peter Emmens, in a six-hour audiocassette pack (Eloquent Reels, Alhampton, Castle Cary, Somerset BA4 6PZ, England; £12.95).

July 1987 #4

1203. Reported: Gerald Weissmann's article "The Game Is Afoot, or Holmes and Watson at Bellevue" (on the relevance of the Canon to medical training) reprinted (from Discover, Mar. 1986) in his new book THEY ALL LAUGHED AT CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS: TALES OF MEDICINE AND THE ART OF DISCOVERY (Times Books, \$17.95).
1204. Flier at hand for "A Sherlockian Seminar with John Bennett Shaw" at Stanford University, Aug. 19-23, presented by The Scowrers and Molly Maguires of San Francisco and The Knights of the Gnomon of Redwood City. The program promises lectures, movies, documentaries, panel discussions, and social events (including a Sherlockian Singalong "and as many informal gatherings as your liver can tolerate"), and details are available from Bruce R. Parker, Stanford Medical Center S-058, Stanford, CA 94305.
1205. William A. Barton's CTHULHU BY GASLIGHT (BSJ March 87) won the H. G. Wells Award for best role-playing supplement of 1986 at the recent Origins convention. Bill also reports that there will some S'ian material in the Victorian section of Steve Jackson Gaines' GURPS HORROR BOOK, due in game stores soon.
1206. Flier at hand for The Silver Blaze at Belmont Park, N.Y., on Sept. 18. Write to Stephen L. Stix, Route 1, Box 452, Markleville, IN 46056. And for "Autumn in Baker Street" at Bear Mountain, N.Y., on Sept. 19-20. Write to Robert E. Thomalen, 69 Glen Road, Eastchester, NY 10709.
1207. Martin Gardner's THE ANNOTATED INNOCENCE OF FATHER BROWN (New York: Oxford University Press, 1987; 274 pp., \$18.95) is a delightful exploration of the first of the collections of G. K. Chesterton's stories about the "little priest" who is regarded by Gardner as the second most famous mystery-solver in English literature. Gardner notes that "Chesterton was as careless with his details as Dr. Watson, and as many curious questions can be asked about the priest as about Holmes." Many of those questions are answered in the annotations, which do not neglect the Sherlockian aspects of the stories. The suggestion, reported in a review in the May 18 issue of Time (June 87 #1), that Father Brown was the go-between in Holmes' secret tasks for the Vatican is not Gardner's, but was invented by Time's reviewer.
1208. The second British stamp booklet honoring Sherlock Holmes was issued on July 14. Henry Murray (Arlington Supplies Ltd., P.O. Box 143, Palmers Green, London N13 4XN, England) has a new flier offering both booklets, first day covers, other British items, the Turks & Caicos Islands stamps, and non-philatelic material from two recent British plays.

July 1987 #5

1209. Reported by Ron De Waal: SHERLOCKIANA 1987: SHERLOCK HOLMES 1887-1987, edited by Gian Franco Orsi (Milano: Rosa & Nero, 1986; 383 pp.); an anthology with translations of older material and new commentary (the publisher is Edizioni Rosa & Nero, Diapress Srl., Via Madre Cabrini 9, Milano, Italy). MURDER AND MORAL DECAY IN VICTORIAN POPULAR LITERATURE, by Beth Kalikoff (Ann Arbor: UMI Research Press, 1986; 193 pp., \$39.95); the prologue and chapter 9 (p. 157-168) are primarily devoted to crime in Stud, Sign, Five, Fina, and Veil. A BAKER'S STREET DOZEN (San Francisco: Mind's Eye, 1987); a six-cassette package with 12 of the Gielgud radio programs (\$24.95 at Waldenbooks).
1210. Reported by Ev Herzog: two S'ian items in Marc Bilgrey's THE SCIENCE FICTION CARTOON BOOK (Andrion Press, 128 East 56th Street, New York, NY 10022; \$8.25 postpaid).
1211. Smithsonian Radio has a 30-minute program on National Public Radio, and on Aug. 16 at 9:00 pm the broadcast will include a segment on Sherlock Holmes.
1212. DISGUISES IN THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: AN ILLUSTRATED ANALYSIS OF THIRTY DISGUISES FROM THE WRITINGS OF ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE, by Alvin E. Rodin and Jack D. Key (Beavercreek: KeyRod Literary Enterprises, 1987; 51 pp., \$12.00), is an examination of various impersonations (including the photo of ACD as Challenger). Available from the publisher (3041 Maginn Drive, Beavercreek, OH 45385) for \$13.00 postpaid.
1213. Announced by Fairleigh Dickinson University Press (440 Forsgate Drive, Cranbury, NJ 08512): DIAGNOSIS AND DETECTION: THE MEDICAL ICONOGRAPHY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Pasquale Accardo (144 pp., \$23.50). The author "has determined to rescue Holmes and Watson from the historicism, psychologism, and armchair pseudoanalysis in which they have become entangled."
1214. Stanley MacKenzie (64 Bassett Road, London W.10, England) still has copies of his colorful commemorative postcard (August 86 #4 and BSJ December 86); the postpaid price is \$6.00 for ten, \$48.00 for 100, and \$84.00 for 200.
1215. Reported from London: Baskerville's Restaurant, with S'ian fliers, at 2 Allsop Place, NW1 (opposite the Planetarium).
1216. James F. Brewer ("Josiah Brown") died in July. Fitz was one of the earliest members of The Six Napoleons, and his professorial humor and scholarship were long a highlight of their meetings.
1217. SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE COMPLETE ILLUSTRATED NOVELS (London: Chancellor Press, 1987; 496 pp.) is a companion volume to SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE COMPLETE ILLUSTRATED SHORT STORIES (BSJ June 87). The novels, not reprinted in facsimile, nevertheless include most of the fine illustrations by George Hutchinson, F. H. Townsend, Sidney Paget, and Frank Wiles.

1218. WHO'S WHO IN SHERLOCK HOLMES: A COMPLETE AND HANDY REFERENCE TO THE GREAT DETECTIVE'S EVERY CASE, by Scott M. Bullard and Michael Leo Collins (New York: Taplinger, 1980; 251 pp., \$14.95 cloth, \$7.95 paper) is available again. It also covers the where and what, with entries (keyed to THE ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES) on people, places, restaurants, and much more.

July 1987 #6

1219. Jack Lescoulie died on July 22. He worked with Dave Garroay on the first "Today" show broadcast by NBC-TV in 1952, and retired from the program in 1967. On May 22, 1963, the program included an interview with Julian Wolff and a reading of a passage from "The Hound of the Baskervilles" with Lescoulie as Watson and Hugh Downs as Holmes.
1220. Tyke and Teddie Niver report that July 24 was "Sherlock Holmes Day" in Connecticut, per an official statement from Gov. William A. O'Neill.
1221. THE CASE OF THE MYSTERIOUS PEANUT: A BOOK FOR YOU TO COLOR is a six-page pamphlet in which Sherlock, the Peanut Detective, is assigned to find out all about the peanut, and determines that "peanuts are liked by nearly everyone." Copies may be available from Growers' Peanut Food Promotions, Box 1709, Rocky Mount, NC 27801-1709.
1222. "Fiddling Around with Sherlock Holmes" at the College of William and Mary at Williamsburg on July 24-26 was a splendid centennial celebration, with more than 200 on hand for the workshop. Ray Betzner and John Lanzalotti and the rest of The Cremona Fiddlers were thoroughly efficient in handling the details, both usual and unusual, and John Bennett Shaw proclaimed the gathering to have been the best of his 18 workshops. The formal sessions ranged from the ridiculous to the sublime (but will be listed in the order in which they were actually presented): "The Sherlock Holmes Cult at 100" (John Bennett Shaw); "Saxe-Coburg Square: The Definitive Identification" (John Lanzalotti); "Sherlock Holmes and the First Cocaine Epidemic" (David Musto); "The Adventure of the Detected Detective: Sherlockian Allusions in James Joyce's *Finnegans Wake*" (William Jenkins); "Hell Must Look Something Like That: The Vermissa Valley, Then and Now" (Edward Vatz); "A Sherlock-ian Poetry Reading" (Philip Brogdon); a panel discussion on Holmesian art, book collecting, and starting a scion society (S. Kate Hawks, Peter Blau, and Ray Betzner); "Let a Woman in Your Life: The Women in Conan Doyle's Life and Works" (Ely Liebow); "Why Netley" (Robert Katz); and "O To Be in England: A Tour of Sherlockian Haunts" (Charles Henry).
1223. John Bennett Shaw's quizzes were as ingenious (or malicious) as always, the winning entries for the literary contest were pleasantly imaginative, and the Saturday evening banquet featured a new performance by The Friends of Bogie's, Sherlockian toasts, and Sherlockian folk songs.
1224. The huckster rooms were full of hucksters hawking, and there were some new items of interest. Carole Logan (Latimer's, 5 Raglan Avenue, Toronto, Ont. M6C 2K5, Canada) has a new catalog of S'ian sweatshirts, mugs, postcards, and other material. Robert J. Stek (Box 315, Tolland, CT 06084) has a flier giving details on his plans to offer "The Computerized Canon" at the end of the year in standard ASCII format (readable by IBM, Macintosh, or computers) on 15 floppy disks for about \$50.00.
1225. And Gael Stahl of the Tennessee Municipal League announced that Gov. Ned McWherter had issued an official proclamation that the "people of Tennessee commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of Sherlock Holmes' first appearance in print.
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August 1987 #1

1226. THE BEST OF TREK #11, edited by Walter Irwin and G. B. Love (New York: New American Library/Signet, 1986; 204 pp., \$2.95), is collection of material from Trek: The Magazine for Star Trek Fans; the contents include Patricia Dunn's "A Problem of Identity: Was Holmes a Vulcan?" (she votes "no" in a rebuttal to Paul Schwartz's "A Theory of Relativity" in THE BEST OF TREK #4).
1227. THE SHERLOCK HOLMES MYSTERIES: 22 STORIES BY SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE, with an Introduction by Frederick Busch (New York: New American Library/Signet, 1987; 533 pp., \$3.50), is an "expanded edition" billed as including "all the stories on PBS-TV" (yes, all 20 stories, plus "Bosc" and "Five"); the Introduction is the same as in the 1985 edition that had 16 stories.
1228. Reported by Tyke Niver: an article by Thomas L. Drucker on "Sherlock Holmes and Victorian Mathematics" in the May 1987 issue of Dickinson Magazine (Dickinson College, Carlisle, PA 17013-2896).
1229. SABERHAGEN: MY BEST, by Fred Saberhagen (New York: Baen Books, 1987; 311 pp., \$2.95), includes "The Adventure of the Metal Murderer" (a pastiche first published in the Jan. 1980 issue of Omni).
1230. MYSTERY OF THE WINDY MEADOW, written by Ski Michaels and illustrated by Allen Atkinson (Mahwah: Troll Associates, 1986; 48 pp., \$1.95), is a children's book featuring Detective Duck in S'ian costume.
1231. Guy Averill's article "Did You Remark the Postmarks?" (British Philatelic Bulletin, June 1987) discusses the philatelic aspects of the Canon and shows the first two of the four booklet covers honoring the centenary. British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT, U.K.
1232. THE SCIENCE FICTION CARTOON BOOK, by Marc Bilgrey (New York: Andrion Books, 1986; 104 pp.), contains one (minor) S'ian cartoon. His earlier collections THE SHERLOCK HOLMES CARTOON BOOK and THE PRIVATE EYE CARTOON BOOK (with one S'ian cartoon) are also still in print. \$7.00 each, plus \$1.25 shipping, from Andrion Books, 128 East 56th Street, New York, NY 10022.
1233. ELEMENTARE, SIGNOR PRESIDENTE (DIECI ANNI DOPO), by Laura Grimaldi and Marco Tropea (Milano: Arnoldo Mondadori Editore, 1987; 226 pp., 18,000 lira) is a satiric sequel to their earlier ELEMENTARE, SIGNOR PRESIDENTE (D523b). Hercule Poirot, Father Brown, Inspector Maigret, Nero Wolfe, and (of course) Sherlock Holmes are involved.
1234. It was coincidental, but certainly neatly timed for the John Bennett Shaw workshop in July: the summer 1987 issue of Colonial Williamsburg includes Luis Marden's article "The Adventure of the Copper Plates" in which he invokes the spirit of Sherlock Holmes in describing the discovery of some important aids to the reconstruction of Colonial Williamsburg. Media Relations Department (attn: Sondra Rose), Drawer C, Williamsburg, VA 23187.
1235. Reported by Allen Mackler: a detective in S'ian costume on the cover of the MASTER DETECTIVE SET ("here's everything a child needs to become an amazing Super Sleuth who unearths clues, identifies suspects, and solves crimes!"), advertised at \$22.50 by The Paragon, Westerly RI 02891.
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August 1987 #2

1236. If you've not been able to find the new one-volume edition of William S. Baring-Gould's THE ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES in a bookstore, it's available direct from Crown Publishing Inc., Dept. 571, 54 Engelhard Avenue, Avenel, NJ 07001; \$59.05 postpaid, and they take plastic.
1237. CBS/Fox Video is advertising its "Five Star Collection" of "the best in Sci-Fi" -- including videocassettes of "The Empire Strikes Back", "The Day the Earth Stood Still", "Rollerball", and Peter Cushing's 1959 "The Hound of the Baskervilles".
1238. SKULLDUGGERY, by Peter Marks (New York: Carroll & Graf, 1987; 284 pp., \$17.95), offers an imaginative and fictional solution to the Piltdown mystery, with all of the major protagonists involved in a tale of ambition, sex, blackmail, violence, and betrayal. Arthur Conan Doyle is one of those protagonists, portrayed with some sympathy, but Marks makes several quite elementary mistakes, both in his account of the famous 1889 dinner in London at which Lippincott's agent J. M. Stoddart commissioned Wilde's THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY and Conan Doyle's THE SIGN OF THE FOUR, and in something as simple as the name of Conan Doyle's home in Crowborough.
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1239. THE GAME IS AFOOT: A TRAVEL GUIDE TO THE ENGLAND OF SHERLOCK HOLMES was the first of David L. Hammer's fine guided tours through the London and English countryside of the Canon (BSJ March 84), and it is now available again in a second printing in paper covers: \$15.95 postpaid from Gasogene Press, Box 1041, Dubuque, IA 52001.
1240. MURDER AT THE DIOGENES CLUB, by Gerald Lientz (New York: Berkley Books, 1987; 160 pp., \$2.95), is the first of a series of "Sherlock Holmes Solo Mysteries" devised by Iron Crown Enterprises. The reader is a cousin of Dr. Watson, assisting Holmes in two "solve-it-yourself" cases involving considerable page-turning as decisions are made about where to go and whom to question and what to ask. THE BLACK RIVER EMERALD, by Peter Ryan, is the second in the series, with the reader a schoolboy accused of the theft of the emerald. The concept is interesting, but the method is perhaps too simple for adult Sherlockians, since most of the decisions to be made are essentially irrelevant to the solutions; there are no dead ends, and all decision paths lead to the same solution. John D. Rummel, series editor for Iron Crown Enterprises, informs me that the format is known as a "flipbook" and that the books are primarily intended for 13-to-19-year-old males, the "core readers" for such gamebooks.
1241. THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, in an unabridged reading by Peter Emmens, is available in a four-cassette package from Eloquent Reels, Alhampton, Castle Cary, Somerset BA4 6PZ, England; \$34.00 postpaid. The reading is carefully done, with a fine variety of accents.
1242. Now that the Iran/Contra hearings have ended, it seems appropriate to note one of the many Sherlockian connections: the many references to the search for a "smoking pistol" (a phrase which non-Sherlockians presumably thought originated with the Watergate hearings). "Phrase from Sherlock Haunts Reagan" was the headline on one newspaper's publication of a column by W. Dale Nelson that moved on the AP wire on June 18, 1987, giving proper credit to the Canon for the first appearance of the phrase.

August 1987 #3

1243. A MEDLEY OF MURDERS is a new audiocassette set from Audio Book Contractors (Box 40115, Washington, DC 20016); \$23.50 for three cassettes with five unabridged stories, including "Silver Blaze" read by Grover Gardner. The company also offers "Selected Cases of Sherlock Holmes" on two cassettes (BSJ December 85) at \$19.95 and "The Hound of the Baskervilles" on four cassettes at \$24.50.
1244. The Pequod Press has announced W IS WATSON, a centennial alphabet by John Ruyle, with 26 new verses ranging the alphabet "from the Atkinson brothers to Zion, with a bow to Eddie, the cockroach kid, along the way." \$29.00 (cloth) or \$14.00 (paper) from John Ruyle, 521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707.
1245. Mike Whelan reports that the videocassette "100 Years of Sherlock Holmes" available from Publisher's Central Bureau at \$19.95 (May 87 #1) is just two of the 1954 Ronald Howard television shows.
1246. Reported by Roger Johnson: LESTRADE AND THE LEVIATHAN, by M. J. Trow (Macmillan, £8.95); the fourth in the series of pastiches.
1247. MURDER AND MORAL DECAY IN VICTORIAN POPULAR LITERATURE, by Beth Kalikoff (Ann Arbor: UMI Research Press, 1986; 193 pp., \$39.95), discusses the portrayal of murder in the Victorian age, from the street literature of 1830 to the fiction of 1900 (including the Sherlock Holmes stories); the book offers an informed survey of a genre that by the end of the century had become "an emblem of moral decay" reflecting a loss of faith in divine justice and a world in which "all roads lead to crime."
1248. The postal card honoring the 150th anniversary of John Deere's invention of the self-scouring steel plow was issued May 22. Howard Garrideb advertised "steam and hand plows" but may not have meant anything quite that old.

August 1987 #4

1249. "Your credentials look excellent from where I sit; wherefore, welcome to the BSI." Thus wrote Vincent Starrett to Russell McLaughlin on Sept. 11, 1945, in a letter reprinted by Bill Rabe in the June 1987 issue of The Agony Column, recalling an age when things were thoroughly informal as well as thoroughly irregular.
1250. Henry and Linda Berkowitz (Endless Mountains Crafts, R.D. 1, Box 793, Sabinsville, PA 16943) offer a Sherlock Holmes wooden jointed doll, 12" high, at \$34.75 postpaid; you can specify colors desired.
1251. Stefan Kanfer (the magazine's staff Sherlockian) had an appreciative essay on "The Game Is Still Afoot" in the Aug. 17 issue of Time.
1252. The Sherlock Holmes Review has announced its second issue (spring 1987) at \$2.50, and plans for a third (double) issue (fall 1987) at \$5.00. 3209 East 10th Street #8-C, Bloomington, IN 47401.
1253. IMMORTAL SLEUTH: SHERLOCKIAN MUSINGS AND MEMORIES, by Michael Harrison, is his newest exploration of the Canon, and the book offers its readers a fine example of how entertaining and instructive he is, in his public lectures and in his private conversations; his essays range from a discussion of the Baker Street wardrobe and furnishings ("The Many-Suited Sherlock") to a proposal that Watson's arrival at Bart's was not unexpected by Holmes ("That 'Path Lab' Meeting"), and the best of his tales are those in which he draws on his own memories of a fondly depicted Edwardian age. \$25.95 postpaid from the Gasogene Press, Box 1041, Dubuque, IA 52004-1041).
1254. John B. Taylor (Box 804, Midlothian, TX 76065) offers S'ian books, jewelry, prints (the Douglas West watercolors that are sold at The Sherlock Holmes in London), and authentic police equipment (Bobbies' whistles, handcuffs, and truncheons). Send a #10 SASE for his sales list.
1255. Mrs. Hudson's Lodgers have a flier ready on their plans for "A Centenary Celebration: The Cleveland Connection" on Nov. 7. The festivities will include a ceremony at the Cleveland Police Museum, a day of lectures and films at the Cleveland Public Library, and a Jacob W. Schmitt Memorial Dinner at Kiefer's Restaurant. Details available from Tom and Ruth Stetak, 15229 Diagonal Road, Nickel Plate, La Grange, OH 44050.
1256. A videotaper alert from Paul C. Merz: Cinemax cable will broadcast color versions of two Rathbone films in September: "Sherlock Holmes and the Secret Weapon" on Sept. 6, 19, 23, 29, and "Terror by Night" on Sept. 3, 6, 15, 19, 30.

August 1987 #5

1257. David Kirby (Rupert Books, 59 Stonefield, Bar Hill, Cambridge CB3 8TE, England) is offering sets of 8x10" prints (\$40.00) and note-cards (\$7.00) with the eight color illustrations by David Cory that appeared in the spring 1987 catalog from Rupert Books.
1258. "In 'Sherlock's Last Case,' the writer Charles Marowitz and accomplices have so completely diminished Victorian England's most beloved detective that one leaves the play wishing its title were a promise rather than merely an idle threat." N.Y. Times reviewer Frank Rich had much more to say about the play, but none of his comments were in any way complimentary.
1259. Pennsylvania is mentioned twice in the Canon (in "RedH" and "Vall"), and the new commemorative honors the 200th anniversary of statehood for Pennsylvania.
1260. "Murder on the Essex Express" (featuring Bulldog Drummond) on Sept. 12 is the next mystery excursion by The Valley Railroad Company (Box 452, Essex, CT 06426); \$85.00 a person, including dinner.
1261. FANTOMAS, by Marcel Allain and Pierre Souvestre (BSJ December 86) is now in paperback (Ballantine, 327 pp., \$3.95).

1262. By way of confirming the latest rumor: yes, THE NEW ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: ORIGINAL STORIES BY EMINENT MYSTERY WRITERS, edited by Martin Harry Greenberg and Carol-Lynn Rossel Waugh (the anthology of new stories due from Carroll & Graf this fall), will include a contribution by Stephen King. The book will have an initial printing of 25,000 copies, and it has been selected by The Mystery Guild as its main offering for November .
1263. In case you're still wondering where the "smoking pistol" appears in the Canon, it's in "Glor" (as noted in 1978 by William Safire in SAFIRE'S POLITICAL DICTIONARY).
1264. Reported: a new issue of Doubleday's one-volume THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES, with new dust jacket, \$17.95.
1265. Judy Harkison's article "'A Chorus of Groans,' Notes Sherlock Holmes" in the Sept. 1987 issue of Smithsonian explores the history of the "personals" (and begins and ends with quotations from the Canon).
1266. Jack Davis (Davis and Son, Long Leaf Mall, Wilmington, NC 28403) distribute the Mini Pub Signs, including a 5" x 7" rendition of the sign for The Sherlock Holmes (\$8.95 plus shipping). Also the hand-painted Bosson wall plaques of Holmes and Watson (\$52.00 each, plus shipping).
1267. Reported by Mel Ruiz: a videocassette of the 1974 cartoon "It's a Mystery, Charlie Brown" (with Snoopy as Sherlock); from Kartes Video Communications, Box 68881, Indianapolis, IN 46278 (or your local video shop).
1268. "An Evening with Sherlock Holmes and Otto Penzler" will be the title of a lecture for the Friends of the N.Y. Public Library later this year; I don't know the date, but you can call their Volunteer Office (212-930-0654).

August 1987 #6

1269. Cereal collectors alert: boxes of Total now have a "Murder, She Wrote" contest, with one of the prizes being a vacation for two in Sherlock Holmes' London. Completists will, of course, want all three box sizes. And can store them with the 1984 Post Alpha-Bits boxes that had a portrait of Alfie in a deerstalker, promoting their "Alfie Solve the Mystery Sweepstakes".
1270. Bret Harte, shown on the new \$5 regular issue, is the author of the parody "The Stolen Cigar Case" (D5920a). William D. Jenkins has discussed the relationships between Harte's ballad "The Letter" and "The Noble Bachelor" (D2538a).
1271. Discovered by Paul C. Merz: the Apr.-June 1987 issue of Pipe Smoker, with a color cover showing a S'ian pipe hand-carved by Steve Waddell. The pipe includes a small magnifying glass fitted into the shank; the glass can be used to view a micro-dot embedded in the stem, and the micro-dot shows "the four famous clues" Holmes used to solve the murder mystery in "A Study in Scarlet" The magazine is published by Pipe Collectors International, Box 22085, Chattanooga, TN 37422; \$2.00.
1272. Robert Lee Hall's THE KING EDWARD PLOT, first published in 1980, is now available in paperback (New York: Critic's Choice, 1987; 280 pp., \$3.50). The mystery novel features Frederick Wigmore (who first appeared in 1977 in Hall's EXIT SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE GREAT DETECTIVE'S FINAL DAYS), and his own Baker Street Irregulars; Wigmore moved into 221B Baker Street in 1906, and now investigates a murder at the Diogenes Club.
1273. "New York Is Book Country" (the annual street fair on Fifth Avenue between 48th and 57th Streets) will be held on Sept. 20, celebrating the 200th anniversary of the U.S. Constitution and the centenary of Sherlock Holmes. "There's No Face Like Holmes" is the motto of Foul Play Mystery Books, which will offer a Spot-the-Sherlock contest in the form of a ten-foot picture concealing ten silhouettes of Holmes, and there will be a fair-wide mystery created for the event by William L. DeAndrea.
1274. Further to the discussion of Granada's postal production error in "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" (May 87 #2), the envelopes shown bearing a "penny black" are the one opened by James Wilder in "The Priory School" (dated 1901 by Baring-Gould) and the one from Neville St. Clair to his wife in "The Man with the Twisted Lip" (dated 1887 by Baring-Gould). The "penny black", issued in 1840, was replaced by the "penny red" in 1841; slightly different designs for the "penny red" were issued in 1864 and 1880, and a completely different design (in lilac) was issued in 1881. It was Robert Boos who noted the error (in Stamps, May 2, 1987); C. C. M. Pawson, of the British Post Office, has replied (in Stamps, Aug. 22, 1987) that with more than 70 million penny blacks having been printed, "it seems quite possible that Holmes should receive a portion of his mail bearing these stamps." Well, it might be possible, but it would be highly improbable. Theron Wierenga, an authority on older postage uses, informs me that "the chances are probably one in a million," and notes that in this country, for example one almost never sees stamps of the Civil War issue used in the 1890s. But Granada still merits excellent grades for accuracy: this is only the third production error anyone has noted in the series.

September 1987 #1

1275. Recently seen on a supermarket bookshelf: SESAME SEASONS (CTW/Golden Books, 61 pp., \$3.98); with Sherlock Hemlock on the cover and inside. And MORE WHO'S WHO ON SESAME STREET (CTW Golden Books, \$0.99); a coloring book with Sherlock Hemlock inside.
1276. Reported by Mel Ruiz: THE INVENTORY OF 221B BAKER STREET, LOCATED AT S. HOLMES, ESQUIRE, a 12-page booklet of text and photographs describing the recreation of the sitting-room in San Francisco; available for \$4.00 from Charlotte Erickson, 571 Kingsley Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94301.
1277. And TALES OF SCOTCHLAND YARD, BY SHERLOCK HOMES is the "title" of a ceramic liquor decanter, made to resemble a leatherbound book, advertised at \$40.00 by Casual Living, Kent Road, Box 1078, New Milford, CT 06776; add \$5.45 for shipping, and they take plastic.
1278. Reported: a trade paperback of John Dickson Carr's THE LIFE OF SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE, from Carroll & Graf at \$8.95.
1279. The 90-minute BBC radio adaptation of "A Study in Scarlet" broadcast in 1974, with Robert Powell as Holmes (D4557b), is available on cassette (catalog number ZCF 501) from the BBC World Information Centre and Shop (P.O. Box 76, Bush House, Strand, London WC2B 4PH, England) for £5.99 plus 25% shipping outside the U.K. (they take Visa, Access, and Mastercard).
1280. AN INTRODUCTION TO THE DETECTIVE STORY, by LeRoy Lad Panek (Bowling Green: Bowling Green State University Popular Press, 1987; 214 pp., \$22.95 cloth, \$11.95 paper); a textbook survey of the genre, with a chapter on "Doyle".
1281. Bjarne Nielsen has announced plans to publish THE GREAT NORTHERN ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, a fully-illustrated history (in Danish and English) of the series of films made by Nordisk from 1908 to 1911. The book will have about 100 pages, and will cost 365.00 Kr (about \$52.00) postpaid; details available from Pinkerton, Nansensgade 68, 1366 Kobenhavn K, Denmark.
1282. Comics Revue #21 (July 87 #2) is now in the shops, with a reprint of the entire 1985 Steve Canyon "Baker Street Adventure" and an introduction by William Nadel. Manuscript Press, Box 1762, Wayne, NJ 07470; \$3.50.
1283. Doubleday has honored the centenary with a new printing of its one-volume edition of THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES (\$17.95), in a new multi-color dust jacket that proudly announces that there have been "over half a million copies sold." This edition is still the standard for most American readers of the Canon, and it has been a steady seller: at the end of 1960 (the year in which this edition first appeared), Doubleday announced that "since 1938 close to 375,000 customers have bought this book," and the additional sales average about 8,000 copies a year.
1284. And if you want a Sherlockian "inflation indicator," the 1960 Doubleday one-volume edition was priced at \$4.95.

1285. John Huston died on Aug. 28, after a brilliant career as director and actor. None of the obituaries seen so far have mentioned his appearance as Prof. Moriarty in "Sherlock Holmes in New York" (1976).

September 1987 #2

1286. Ruth Brandon's THE SPIRITUALISTS: THE PASSION FOR THE OCCULT IN THE NINETEENTH AND TWENTIETH CENTURIES, first published in 1983, is now available in a trade paperback (Buffalo: Prometheus Books, 315 pp., \$14.95); the book includes considerable discussion of Conan Doyle.
1287. "Sherlock Holmes and the Hands of Othello" is a new play by Alex Simmons, scheduled at the Westbeth Theater Center at 151 Bank Street in New York, from Sept. 30 to Oct. 25, 1987.
1288. Reported by Carol-Lynn Rossel Waugh: "Sherlock Gus" is a new teddy bear, designed by Linda Spiegel (of the Bearly There Company), 13" tall, jointed, with deerstalker, cape, and pipe. Available for \$75.00 postpaid from Stuf'd 'n Stuff, 10001 Westheimer, Dept. F, Houston, TX 77042 (they take plastic).
1289. Congratulations to Ronald B. De Waal, who will receive this year's Colorado Library Association Literary Award, honoring his career as the Humanities Librarian at Colorado State University as well as his S'ian bibliographies.
1290. Chris and Kate Redmond were on tour in August, lecturing in Chautauqua on "The Stately Holmes of England" and investigating the vineyards in upstate New York, where they discovered a wine called "Aunt Clara" (white, sweet, fruity) available from the Lakeshore Winery, 5132 Route 89, Romulus, NY 14541.
1291. More information on the "Evening with Sherlock Holmes" at the N.Y. Public Library (August 87 #5): the date is Nov. 18 (at 6:00 pm), the cost is \$10.00, and Otto Penzler will provide "a multi-media biographical journey," with film segments and slides as well as a talk. Call 212-930-0654 for details on how to join the Friends of the N.Y. Public Library.
1292. FREDDY THE DETECTIVE (D6166a) and THE COLLECTED POEMS OF FREDDY THE PIG (D5259b) are only two of the entertaining series of books written by Walter R. Brooks, and FREDDY THE DETECTIVE is still in print (Alfred A. Knopf, \$9.99 cloth, \$3.95 paper). The Friends of Freddy, founded in 1984, have held a convention and have been featured in an article in the Dec. 1986 issue of the New York Air inflight magazine Skylines, and now have more than 180 members and publish The Bean Home Newsletter as an irregular quarterly. Membership dues are \$9.50 for the current 8 issues, or \$19.00 for the first sixteen issues; the membership director is Kevin W. Parker, 3-E Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770.
1293. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London's 1987 Christmas card "would appear to depict Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson showing great ingenuity in the pursuit of criminals during exceptionally severe weather." \$8.00 (postpaid by airmail) for a packet of ten cards; checks should be payable to The Sherlock Holmes Society of London, and sent to Capt. W. R. Michell, The Old Crown Inn, Lopen, South Petherton, Somerset, TA13 5JX, England.
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September 1987 #3

1294. There were about 100 people at the Stanford workshop in August, which was marred only by John Bennett Shaw's being unable to attend because illness prevented his traveling to the festivities. Ron Fish reports that Bruce Parker and Ted Schulz and their cohorts provided fine arrangements and an interesting agenda, which included presentations by Steve Rothman (on "Christopher Morley and Sherlock Holmes: A Study in Enthusiasm"), Mike Kean ("Once Moor with Feeling: Suggestions for Further Research into 'The Hound of the Baskervilles'"), Howard Lachtman ("Sir Arthur by the Golden Gate, with Observations on 'The Noble Bachelor'"); and Bill Haurert ("The History of English Prosody Through Sherlock Holmes"). Don Werby (the proprietor of S. Holmes, Esq.) announced that his company is now operating the Grosvenor Hotel in Orlando (near Disney World) and that the Sherlock Holmes room there will be finished soon.
1295. Tyke and Teddie Niver were featured in the color cover story on "Spotlight: Sherlock's Music" in the Apr. 1987 issue of Musical Merchandise Review, which paid proper attention to the Sherlockian background for their music business. Magazine address: 210 Boylston Street, Chestnut Hill, MA 02167.
1296. And Tyke reports that K-Mart has a TEDDY BEARS 1988 CALENDAR with the May picture showing Holmes and Watson at 221B.
1297. Further to Mike Whelan's report (August 87 #3) that the videocassette "100 Years of Sherlock Holmes" available from Publisher's Center Bureau at \$19.95 (May 87 #1) is just two of the 1954 Ronald Howard television shows, Russ Geoffrey reports that the cassette he saw had a variety of older material, even though it came in the same box used for volume 1 of the Ronald Howard series.
1298. At hand from its editor, Kelvin I. Jones: the 2nd issue of THE SHERLOCKIAN (49 pp.). The contents include articles by Ray Betzner ("Whatever Happened to Baby Rucastle?"), Robert F. Fleissner ("A Sherlockian Treatment of the Mystery of the Dedication to Shakespeare's Sonnets", reprinted from Clues, spr-sum 1985), and Walter P. Armstrong, Jr. ("The Rhetoric of Sherlock Holmes"); \$4.95 postpaid from Magico Magazine, Box 156, New York, NY 10002.
1299. Joseph W. Zarzynski's article "Nessie's Movie Double" is accompanied by Jonathan Haddon's long critique of Billy Wilder's "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" in the inaugural issue of Strange Magazine, a new journal devoted to Fortean studies. Magazine address: Box 2246, Rockville, MD 20852; \$3.95 (or \$14.95 for four issues).
1300. The flood of pastiches and parodies has not hidden the Canon completely: the 1986 Golden Pen Awards (for the best in books for young adults), chosen by a committee of 12-to-18-year-olds at the Spokane Public Library, gave first place for mysteries to THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (with Christie's AND THEN THERE WERE NONE in second place).
1301. Discovered by Jack Koelle: LION IN THE VALLEY, by Elizabeth Peters (New York: Atheneum, 1986) (New York: Tor Books, 1987; 310 pp., \$3.95); an amusing mystery novel set in Egypt in 1895, featuring archaeologist Amelia Peabody Emerson in an adventure in which she encounters a lean, hawk-nosed, private investigator named (or who claims to be named) Tobias Gregson.
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September 1987 #4

1302. Leon and Leonie Holmes, proprietors of the Holmes Winery (P.O. Box 59, Mount Pleasant, S.A. 5235, Australia), have sent a flier offering their Sherlock Holmes Port and Dr. Watson Claret: \$25.00 (U.S.) postpaid for one bottle of each wine, or \$32.00 (U.S.) postpaid for a gift pack that also includes two wine glasses decorated with their S'ian emblem. Thirsty Canadians may wish to emigrate: "Unfortunately we are unable to post wine to Canada due to government regulations."
1303. Jack Koelle sends an item for the "nothing new under the sun" department (from the Philadelphia Inquirer, Aug. 30).
1304. Reported by Jerry Wachs: Holmes and Moriarty playing on the same team: they're both on the active list for this year's Kansas City Chiefs.
1305. Chris Caswell (Sherlock's Home, 4137 East Anaheim, Long Beach, CA 90804) offers a handsome 3" pewter pipe-tamper with a bust of Holmes (and it's an attractive display item for non-smokers); \$20.70 including UPS shipping.
1306. The Press of Arden Park (861 Los Molinos Way, Sacramento, CA 95864) has announced the third in its series of S'ian miniature books. A CASE OF IDENTITY is 129 pp., 2.25 x 2.75 in., hardbound with two-color jacket, illustrations by Sidney Paget. \$38.50 postpaid.
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1307. Leah D. Frank, senior editor of Broadway Play Publishing (357 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011), writes that they would be interested in seeing unpublished Sherlock Holmes plays, suggesting that "we would prefer that any play have had a production and had the kinks worked out, but that is not absolutely necessary."
1308. Owners of The Folio Society's editions of THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1958) and THE LOST WORLD (1977) are already familiar with the Society's high standards for its books, and their new edition of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES is no exception, with an enthusiastic Introduction by Julian Symons and cover decorations and six lino-cuts by British graphic artist Edward Bawden. The book costs \$24.00 and is available only to members of the Society; membership requirements are four titles a year, from the current list or the lengthy back-list, and their address is 198 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10013.
1309. The two-volume set of Conan Doyle's THE HISTORICAL NOVELS (BSJ June 87) is available at \$17.95 in the latest mail-order catalog from Barnes & Noble (126 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10011).

September 1987 #5

1310. Due in October: THE REVENGE OF THE HOUND, by Michael Hardwick, illustrated by Steranko (New York: Villard Books, 1987; 318 pp., \$17.95); a new pastiche from the author of PRISONER OF THE DEVIL, THE PRIVATE LIFE OF DR. WATSON, and SHERLOCK HOLMES: MY LIFE AND CRIMES. This story is set in the summer of 1902, with Watson engaged to be married (for the third time), recuperating from the wound inflicted by "Killer" Evans, and joining Holmes in investigating the sudden appearance of a gigantic and ferocious hound on Hampstead Heath. The case eventually involves Oliver Cromwell and King Edward, with a climax at Highgate Cemetery, and the style is well up to Hardwick's standards.
1311. DIAGNOSIS AND DETECTION: THE MEDICAL ICONOGRAPHY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Pasquale Accardo (Cranbury: Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 1987; 139 pp., \$23.50), is based on the author's assumption that Conan Doyle was "a writer of mediocre talent who had the innocence and luck to combine certain mythic elements to produce a viable modern hero." Accardo, confessing to "an aversion for detective fiction," analyzes the "mythic structure" of the Canon and its relationship to earlier literary archetypes that range from Dupin and Lecoq to D'Artagnan and Don Quixote. He also suggests that "few modern versions of the Sherlock Holmes myth have come closer to catching the spirit of the original" than James Goldman's "They Might Be Giants".
1312. The city of Edinburgh has been derelict in failing to honor her famous sons, according to Councillor James S. Tait. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, born at 11 Picardy Place, is honored only by a plaque erected by the owners of a hotel that stands near the site (another plaque, donated in 1949 by the Edinburgh Evening News, is now in a museum). 11 Picardy Place is now a traffic circle, due for alteration soon, and the Edinburgh District Council have decided to invite internationally famous sculptor Eduardo Paolozzi, another native son, to prepare a new design for the center of the traffic circle. Councillor Tait called on the council to ask Paolozzi to base his design on the "clear logic and subtle perspicacity of Sherlock Holmes as a tribute to Sir Arthur."
1313. "Case of the Sherlock Holmes Forgery Is Cracked" was the headline on the story in The Guardian (Aug. 1) about a copy of the first edition of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, with original dust jacket, that was scheduled for auction later that month in London. Copies in dust jacket, according to the article, "are excessively rare and are worth perhaps £10,000." But the dust jacket on this copy was identified by Richard Lancelyn Green as a forgery: the color of both ink and paper were wrong, printing details were incorrect, and "the fake wrapper has been suitably though not expertly aged and torn, with corners singed and edges rubbed with sandpaper."
1314. SHERLOCK HOLMES IN DENMARK: A CHECK-LIST OF DANISH EDITIONS OF THE CANON AND THE WRITINGS ABOUT THE WRITINGS IN DENMARK, by Bjarne Nielsen (Copenhagen: Antiquariat Pinkerton, 1987; 66 pp., 100 Kr postpaid from the publisher, Nansensgade 66, 1366 Kobenhavn K, Denmark), demonstrates how popular Sherlock Holmes has been in Denmark, from the first translation of the Canon in 1893 through the present. There are 446 items listed, and annotated in English, of which 400 are "writings about the writings," and the book includes reproductions of illustrations by many of the Sherlockian artists in Denmark.

September 1987 #6

1315. The Silver Blaze at Belmont went very well, thanks to Stephen and Kim Stix and Richard Wein and Cynthia Drottman, with more than 70 people on hand for drinks at The Players and luncheon at the track on Sept. 18. One lucky S'ian cashed two different daily double tickets, while others, as might be expected, managed not to win a single bet.
1316. And Bob Thomalen's "Autumn in Baker Street" at Bear Mountain on Sept. 19-20 was, according to all reports, a pleasant gathering, with special mention going to an *ad lib* and *ad hoc* song fest masterminded by Charlie Adams.
1317. Chris and Kate Redmond (125 Lincoln Road #1101, Waterloo, Ont. N2J 2N9, Canada) are planning "A Sherlockian Hallowe'en Weekend in a Victorian Village" at Chautauqua, N.Y., Oct. 30 and Nov. 1, 1987. Write for details (the deadline for reservations is Oct. 24).
1318. The Franklin Library (Franklin Center, PA 19091) is launching a series of "Mystery Masterpieces" at \$17.95 each plus sales tax and \$1.95 shipping. The first volume will be GREAT CASES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, 483 pp., with 19 cases and specially commissioned illustrations; apparently not a reissue of their 1977 collection THE BEST OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (D259b).
1319. Flier at hand from William S. Dorn (2120 South Monroe Street, Denver, CO 80210), announcing plans to publish BEETON'S CHRISTMAS ANNUAL 1987, price about \$10.00, with contents including "The Blue Carbuncle" and two new pastiches, all with new illustrations, commentaries, and a glossary.
1320. THE NEW ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: ORIGINAL STORIES BY EMINENT MYSTERY WRITERS, edited by Martin Harry Greenberg and Carol-Lynn Rossel Waugh (New York: Carroll & Graf, 1987; 345 pp., \$18.95), is a fine celebration of the centenary. The authors range from eminent to first-time-in-print, their stories include both pastiche and parody, prosaic and metaphysical, and only one of the pieces is a reprint. Some of the writers (such as Michael Harrison and John Gardner) are well known in the Sherlockian world, while others (such as Lillian de la Torre, Joyce Harrington, Dorothy B. Hughes, Stephen King, and Peter Lovesey) are new to the Sherlockian genre. The quality of the work is pleasantly high, and some of the authors have been thoroughly imaginative in their approach to the Canon. Recommended.
1321. "The Final Problem" was published in the Dec. 1893 issue of *The Strand Magazine*, triggering the now-well-known protests from readers. According to William S. Baring-Gould, in THE ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES (v. 1, p. 15): "There will be only a temporary interval in the Sherlock Holmes stories," the editors of the *Strand* rather hysterically hastened to assure their readers. "A new series will commence in an early number. Meanwhile, powerful detective stories will be contributed by other eminent writers." This is the only mention I've ever seen of such a rash promise. Can anyone cite when and where that statement was published?
1322. SHERLOCKIAN TRIVIA, by Dana Richards, presents an ingenious generic trivia supplement, with a box of Q&A cards in six categories (Characters, Plots, Geography, Holmes and Watson, Apocrypha and Beyond, and Miscellaneous) that can be substituted for those in your own Trivia game. \$18.95 postpaid from Magico Magazine, Box 156, New York, NY 10002-0156.

October 1987 #1

1323. Still more on the videocassette "100 Years of Sherlock Holmes" available from Publisher's Central Bureau at \$19.95 (May 87 #1). Length: one hour. Contents: "The Case of the Screaming Bishop" (1944 cartoon), "The Limejuice Mystery" (1930 marionettes), "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle" (1927 newsreel), trailers for seven Basil Rathbone films, lead-in for the Ronald Howard series (1954), trailer for the Peter Cushing "Hound" (1959), and "The Copper Beeches" (1912).
1324. "Born in New Jersey in the year 1858." The 200th anniversary of statehood for New Jersey was honored by a commemorative issued on Sept. 11.
1325. Forecast for next spring (from Books of Wonder, 132 Seventh Avenue, New York, NY 10011): THE WHITE COMPANY, by Arthur Conan Doyle, illustrated by N. C. Wyeth; a facsimile of the 1922 edition published by the Cosmopolitan Publishing Co.
1326. Reported by Ron De Waal (both available from Blackwell's): SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE DEVIL'S FOOT: FURTHER CASES OF THE WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS DETECTIVE, selected and introduced by Peter Haining (London: Severn House, 1986; 117 pp., \$11.26); five cases (Glor, Card, Devi, Chas, Lion). THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, with Introduction by P.G. (London: Collins, 1986; 252 pp., \$6.40).
1327. Reported by David Galerstein: THE COMPLETE ILLUSTRATED SHERLOCK HOLMES, published by Omega Books (see BSJ June 87, p. 122), is available for \$20.00 postpaid from Roy Bloom Limited (attn: Steven Pagomenos), 81 Goswell Road, London EC1V 7ER, England. The book has all 60 stories, with all but "Stud" and "Sign" reprinted in facsimile from the Strand.
1328. THE BAKER STREET DOZEN: SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE'S THIRTEEN FAVORITE SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES, EACH ACCOMPANIED BY AN ESSAY BY A PROMINENT SHERLOCKIAN, ALONG WITH VARIOUS INTERLUDES, CURIOSITIES & MISCELLANEA, edited by Pj Doyle and E. W. McDiarmid (New York: Congden and Weed, 1987; 354 pp., \$16.95), is based upon the list of twelve best stories compiled by ACD in 1927 (with the addition of one more story for truly honest weight), and the essays range widely, from Bliss Austin's examination of the challenge presented by ACD to the readers of The Strand Magazine, to Dame Jean Conan Doyle's memories of life at Crowborough while the last of the Canon was being written. Two of the essays are of special interest to Sherlockian scholars: Derham Groves' discussion of a hitherto-unconsidered aspect of the architecture of Hurlstone, and Richard Lancelyn Green's discovery of the origins of the handwriting analysis undertaken at Reigate. The book also contains an up-to-date list of the Sherlockian societies.
1329. Reported by Bill Barton: the Chaosium game CTHULHU BY GASLIGHT (BSJ March 87) won the Gamer's Choice Award for Best Role Playing Accessory of 1986 at the GEN CON game convention in Milwaukee, and is one of three finalists for an award from the Society of Independent Game Manufacturers. And Bill has a new game, "GURPS Horror" (\$11.95 postpaid from Steve Jackson Games, Box 18957, Austin, TX 78760); according to Bill, GURPS is the Generic Universal Role Playing System, and the game includes most of his old "Gamer's Guide to Victorian London" plus game statistics for Holmes and Moriarty.

October 1987 #2

1330. The 1st Bangalore Pioneers have announced a "Crime Contest" open to all Sherlockians, inviting suggestions as to how Col.
1331. Sebastian Moran might have succeeded in his attempt to assassinate Sherlock Holmes, had he only chosen a different method. A copy of the rules and regulations is offered by the scion (4800 Kilpatrick Avenue, Fort Worth, TX 76107); the deadline for entries is Nov. 30.
1332. Reported by Mel Ruiz: the Hal Roach Studio colorized versions of "Terror by Night" and "Sherlock Holmes and the Secret Weapon" are distributed by Video Cassette Sales, 270 Oser Avenue, Happaug, NY 11788; Mel found them priced at \$9.95 at K-Mart.
1333. THE OFFICIAL SHERLOCK HOLMES TRIVIA BOOK, by Richard T. Ryan (Boston: Quinlan Press, 1987; 205 pp., \$7.95); an imaginative collection of quizzes, with the questions ranging from elementary to expert (and there are only a few minor errors), and with a section on artists and actors that is up-to-date through Frank Langella and "Sherlock's Last Case".
1334. Roger Lancelyn Green died on Oct. 8. His literary interests ranged widely, and his 1946 TELLERS OF TALES was the first serious treatment of children's stories as literature. He was one of the early members of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London, and shared his Sherlockian enthusiasms with his son Richard.
1335. A STUDY IN SOUTHSEA: FROM BUSH VILLAS TO BAKER STREET, by Geoffrey Stavert (Portsmouth: Milestone Publications, 1987; 192 pp., £9.95), is a carefully researched, well-written, and fully illustrated study of Dr. Arthur Conan Doyle's life and career in Southsea from 1882 to 1890, and his brief return visit in 1896. Stavert has lived in Southsea for 30 years, and he presents a fine picture of the city where Conan Doyle was both doctor and author, and of his family, friends, and associates. Available from the publisher (62 Murray Road, Horndean, Hants. PO8 9JL, England) for \$16.50 plus \$2.50 surface or \$7.00 airmail; they take plastic.
1336. THE DOSSIER OF SOLAR PONS, by Basil Copper (Chicago: Academy Chicago, 1987; 278 pp., \$15.95 cloth, \$5.95 paper), a collection of six new stories first published in 1979 as a continuation of the Pontine Canon written by August Derleth. Copper has edited the text to remove some of the American usages that crept into the earlier edition, and the stories are pleasant tributes to both Derleth and Pons.
1337. BATS IN THE BELFRY: A JOYOUS EVOCATION OF ARCHITECTURAL ECCENTRICITY, by David Young (Newton Abbot: David & Charles, 1987; 104 pp., £6.95), is aptly described by its subtitle; the book has sections on architectural jokes, eccentric homes, follies, and other strange structures, including Richard Cabell's tomb at Buckfastleigh (with a brief discussion of its connection with "The Hound of the Baskervilles").
1338. SLICKENSIDES, by John Buxton Hilton (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1987; 164 pp., \$13.95), is an interesting murder mystery set in Derbyshire in 1911; the detective, Inspector Brunt, sorts through the local suspects as well as two London outsiders who appear to be (but aren't) Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson.

October 1987 #3

1339. "Baker Street on Delancey Place: One Hundred Years of Sherlock Holmes" is the title of the exhibit at The Rosenbach Museum in Philadelphia, opening Dec. 1. One of the nicer items on display will be the manuscript of "The Empty House".
1340. THE RAGGED SHAW: THE MASTER SLEUTH QUIZBOOK, by John Bennett Shaw, with an entertaining (and not too libelous) Introduction by Ely Liebow (Dubuque: Gasogene Press, 1987; 112 pp., \$16.95 postpaid from the publisher, Box 1041, Dubuque, IA 52004), is perhaps best regarded as a demonstration of the reason most Sherlockian quizzes are so boring: questions that can be answered by anyone who has a perfect memory are not really challenging. Something more is required. Imagination and inspiration and a sense of humor, not to mention an ability to match the quizmaster's pernicious word-play, are all essential for achieving the most modest scores in these quizzes, which have been collected from the archives of the workshops and society meetings whose participants have enjoyed these confrontations with the Sage of Santa Fe. Recommended.
1341. The J. Paul Getty Museum in Malibu has purchased James Ensor's "Entry of Christ in Brussels" (1888), described by the museum's director as "the museum's most important painting" and an important precursor of surrealism and expressionism. Ensor was a member of the XX Group at the time

- of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (when Watson noted that Holmes "was entirely absorbed in the pictures of the modern Belgian masters"). See H. R. F. Keating's *SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE MAN AND HIS WORLD*, 1979, p. 90-91, for more discussion of Ensor and the XX Group.
1342. Eugene and Eleanore Stovall (Olympic Pin Collectors, 3387 Jordan Road, Oakland, CA 94602) issued four different pins for the Stanford workshop, at \$5.00 each; other designs are planned by the end of the year.
1343. Washington's PBS television station did not show "The Greek Interpreter" in the recent re-run of the Granada series (because there wasn't room in the Thursday "Mystery!" schedule for all of the shows before PBS networked the new "Strong Poison". WGBH has said that they do not intend to show "Gree" in the near future, and I would greatly appreciate hearing from anyone who has a VHS standard-speed cassette of "The Greek Interpreter" that I can borrow. WGBH also reported that six episodes from the Granada series are now available on commercial cassettes, with more to follow.
1344. Reported by Jack Kerr: *SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GRAPHIC NOVEL*, by Bill Barry, is a reprint of the three stories that ran as newspaper comic strips in 1976. \$8.95 plus shipping (\$2.50 UPS or \$1.00 USPS), from Bill Barry Enterprises, 329 Harvey Drive, Glendale, CA 91206. And *THE NEW ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES*, in full color, is planned for next spring.
1345. *SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE LONDON ZOO MYSTERY*, by W. Lane, with illustrations by Jeff Decker (New York: Magico Magazine, 1987; 56 pp., \$15.95); a short pastiche involving P. T. Barnum and Jumbo, whose disappearance from the London Zoo in 1882 is investigated, and solved, by Sherlock Holmes.

October 1987 #4

1346. The Oct. 1987 issue of *The Tonga Times* at hand from The Mini-Tonga Scion Society, with a long article on what must be the ultimate miniature: a reproduction by Julian L. Biggers, Jr., of three floors of 221 Baker Street at 1/144 scale (that's twelve feet to the inch). The newsletter costs \$3.00 a year for two issues, and is published by Dee Snyder (8440 Nashua Drive, Lake Park, FL 33418).
1347. Glenn Close has received fine reviews for her performance in the new film "Fatal Attraction" -- and some of you may remember her from an earlier performance in a Sherlockian role. Which one?
1348. Graham Nown's *ELEMENTARY MY DEAR WATSON* (BSJ June 87) was a recent dividend selection from the Book-of-the-Month Club.
1349. Donald K. Pollock (79 Paul Gore Street #1, Boston, MA 02130) has several extra copies of the recent edition of *THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES*, with illustrations by Edward Bawden, published by The Folio Society, which he offers "to sell at cost, or better yet, to trade."
1350. Reported by Roger Johnson: a stone-and-resin Sherlock Holmes chess set offered by Michael and Mary Ernest (No. 9 Gifts & Games, 9 Steep Hill, Lincoln LN2 1LT, England); £60.75 plus shipping. The recommended board is £26.55 plus shipping.
1351. Glenn Close played Irene St. Claire in Paul Giovanni's play "The Crucifer of Blood" in its 1978 productions in Buffalo and New York.
1352. Cal Witt (1156 West Avenue #J-7, Lancaster, CA 93534) has a new sales list offering Sherlockian and Scotland Yard collectibles.
1353. Reported by John Bennett Shaw: Amye Rosenberg's *SAM THE DETECTIVE AND THE ALEF BET MYSTERY* (BSJ March 87) is available for \$4.95 from Roth Booksellers, 9427 West Pico Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90035.
1354. Flier at hand from Mel Wacks (Numismarketing Associates, 5189 Jefferdale Avenue, Woodland Hills, CA 91364) previewing their advertisement in the Dec. issue of the *BSJ* for a Sherlockian art medal created by sculptor Marika Somogyi in sterling silver (\$99.50) or solid gold (\$995.00).
1355. "Young Sherlock Holmes" will be broadcast on cable by The Movie Channel in November in its "VCR Theater" at 3:00 am. Check local listings for dates.
1356. Flier at hand for "Sherlock Holmes: A Centennial Symposium" at Indiana University in Bloomington on Dec. 12-13. Saturday speakers will include Michael Cox (executive producer of the Granada series), Don Gray (IU professor of Victorian Studies), Joel Silver (Lilly Library), Jack Tracy, Alvin E. Rodin, Steven T. Doyle (editor of *The Sherlock Holmes Review*, which is sponsoring the symposium), and Don Curtis (president of *The Illustrious Clients*); there will be a dinner on Saturday (\$13.00) and a lecture and exhibit on Sunday at the Lilly Library. The deadline for registration (\$15.00) is Nov. 30, and additional information is available from the Indiana University Conference Bureau, Indiana Memorial Union L-9, Bloomington, IN 47405 (812-335-4661).

October 1987 #5

1357. The Christmas 1987 catalog from Historical Products (Box 220, Cambridge MA 02238) is dedicated to the centenary, but their product offers unfortunately still include only the Steele portrait of Holmes or the Sherlockian quotation, on T-shirts, sweatshirts, totebags, aprons, and calendars.
1358. Reported by John Bennett Shaw, from the *Albuquerque Tribune*: maze-running is the latest pastime in Japan, with hordes of Japanese lining up to pay about \$3.00 to run through any of 18 commercial mazes around the country, including a Sherlock Maze in Osaka. Information available from the Japan National Tourist Organization, 630 Fifth Avenue #2101, New York, NY 10111.
1359. Also from John is letter-to-the-editor of the *Royal Oak (Mich.) Daily Tribune* (July 18, 1987). Non-Sherlockian, but too good not to reprint.
1360. Reported by Carole Naddeo: a stamp-size gummed label with a photograph portrait of Rathbone, at \$2.00 for 150, from Micro, Box 38644, Los Angeles, CA 90038; they offer a long list of film, television, music, and sports stars.
1361. Reported by Ron De Waal: *AT THE TRACK: A TREASURY OF HORSE RACING STORIES*, edited by Richard Peyton (New York: Bonanza Books, 1986; \$7.98 at Waldenbooks); contents include "Silver Blaze". "The Red-Headed League" (an adaptation by Nancy B. Thum), in *Plays: The Drama Magazine for Young People*, Nov. 1987 (120 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116).
1362. *Correction*: Ted Schulz reports that *THE INVENTORY OF 221B BAKER STREET, LOCATED AT S. HOLMES, ESQUIRE* (September 87 #1) costs \$6.00 postpaid, from Charlotte Erickson, 571 Kingsley Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94301; this is a 12-page booklet of text and photographs describing the recreation of the sitting-room in San Francisco.
1363. Flier at hand from Willis G. Frick (32126 Via Viente, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675) announcing "Sherlocktron" (a computerized remote bulletin board for Sherlockians) at 714-661-2192. This is an electronic bulletin board with lists of societies, publications, and commercial offers, and a message section where people can leave messages with questions, comments, etc. You need a computer to participate, of course, and a modem (300 or 1200 Baud, 8 bits, no parity, 1 stop bit), and there is no system fee or access charge. You can reach Willis (rather than his computer) during west-coast business hours at 714-368-6914.
1364. Electronic bulletin boards are widespread in the world of computers -- in the world of business they are used for electronic mail (that's how Col. Oliver North and Adm. John Poindexter exchanged all those memos you heard about during the Iran/Contra hearings), in the world of computer freaks they are used for exchanging movie stars' telephone credit card numbers and access codes for breaking into corporate computers. Between those extremes the bulletin boards are used to exchange more mundane information.

October 1987 #6

1365. John Ruyle has published *A IS FOR ADLER*, the latest in his series of S'ian alphabets ("in its pawky pages you will find old friends like Billy, Baron Dowson, and Harraway, and such exotic locales as Sumatra and Pernambuco"); \$28.00 cloth or \$13.00 paper, from John at 521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707.
1366. Flier at hand from The Travel Group, 116A Park Avenue South, Winter Park, FL 32789, announcing "The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes' London" (including a tour of London led by Stanley MacKenzie, and a visit to Conan Doyle's home at Undershaw), Mar. 24-Apr. 1, 1988.
1367. Flier at hand from Thomas W. Campbell (The Bloombury Square Collection, 5701 Hedgemoor Drive, Raleigh, NC 27612) announcing a S'ian multi-color cloisonne pin commemorating the centenary. \$8.95 until Nov. 15, and \$12.95 after Nov. 15.
1368. Reported: a long article with color illustrations, on Sherlock Holmes and Sherlockians, by William Ecenbarger in the Oct. 15 issue of the American Airlines in-flight magazine *American Way*, Box 619616 (MD 3D08), Dallas/Fort Worth Airport, TX 75261.
1369. The 1989 commemorative stamp in the Great Americans Series will honor Johns Hopkins, the 19th century merchant, banker and investor, and philanthropist who gave \$7 million to fund a hospital, university, and medical school in Baltimore. There is a Sherlockian connection (of course).
1370. Flier at hand from Scotland Yard Books, 556 Green Bay Road, Winnetka, IL 60093, offering a series of four note-card designs with Paget illustrations from "Silver Blaze".
1371. Reported by Delia Vargas: a recent issue (#37) of *Grands Ecrivains* devoted to Conan Doyle; all in French, and the address is 99 rue d'Amsterdam, Paris 75008, France.
1372. Chris Caswell (Sherlock's Home, 4137 East Anaheim Street, Long Beach, CA 90804) had a book-signing party for Michael Hardwick, honoring his new *THE REVENGE OF THE HOUND* with signed copies, 500 of which have a commemorative bookplate issued for the occasion by Sherlock's Home. Copies may still be available, at \$20.45 postpaid.
1373. The third British stamp booklet honoring Sherlock Holmes was issued this month, with an illustration of "The Speckled Band".

November 1987 #1

1374. We will be celebrating Sherlock Holmes' 134th birthday on Friday, Jan. 8, with the now-traditional festivities, and a possible addition: "Sherlock's Last Case" (the Charles Marowitz play with Frank Langella as Holmes), may still be running at the Nederlander Theater (208 West 41st Street), and I recommend the play to anyone who is willing to accept considerable deviation from the Canon. The box-office telephone number is 212-246-0102, tickets cost \$22.00 to \$32.50 (they take plastic), and performances are scheduled Tuesday through Saturday at 8:00, Wednesday and Saturday at 2:00, and Sunday at 3:00.
1375. Mary Ellen Rich has found, and recommends, the Shoreham Hotel, at 33 West 55th Street; their rate is \$59 (single), \$72.00 (double), \$96.00 (triple), and \$120 (quad), and the telephone number is 212-247-6700. Also the Salisbury Hotel, at 123 West 57th Street (between 6th and 7th Avenues); their rate is \$69.00 per room, and the telephone numbers are 800-223-0680 and 212-246-1300. Another possibility is the Wellington Hotel, on 7th Avenue at 55th Street; their rate is \$85.00 (single) and \$95.00 (double), and the telephone number is 212-247-3900.
1376. Friday begins with the Martha Hudson Breakfast at 9:00 at the Hotel Algonquin, at 59 West 44th Street; no reservations required. Then the William Gillette Luncheon at 12:00 at the Old Homestead, at 56 Ninth Avenue (Lisa McGaw, 15 Willow Terrace Apartments, Chapel Hill, NC 27514). And then the dinners for The Baker Street Irregulars at 24 Fifth Avenue, and for The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes at 6:00 at Garvin's Restaurant, at 19 Waverly Place, south of 8th Street and one block east of Washington Square Park (Evelyn A. Herzog, 235 West 15th Street, #4B, New York, NY 10011). Space is limited at the Gillette luncheon and the ASH dinner, and early reservations are requested.
1377. Otto Penzler's annual open house at The Mysterious Bookshop (129 West 56th Street) is also on Friday, from 11:00 to 6:00; all Sherlockians and their guests are welcome to attend, and there is as usual the possibility that Sherlockian authors will be on hand to sign their books.
1378. On Saturday there is The Baker Street Irregulars' reception, open to all Sherlockians and their friends, from 2:30 to 5:00 pm, at 24 Fifth Avenue, at 9th Street. Open bar, with hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, and tickets cost \$20.00 a person until Dec. 15 (\$25.00 a person thereafter and at the door). Checks, payable to The Baker Street Irregulars, should be sent to Robert E. Thomalen, 69 Glen Road, Eastchester, NY 10709. And, although not formally scheduled, it is likely that many Sherlockians will go on to dine on Saturday evening at Bogie's (249 West 26th Street).
1379. On Sunday, southbound travelers (and others) are welcome at the annual dinner of The Master's Class at 4:00 at the Franklin Inn Club at St. James and Camac Streets in Philadelphia (Victoria M. Robinson, 299B Summit House, 1450 West Chester Pike, West Chester, PA 19382). The exhibition on "One Hundred Years of Sherlock Holmes" (items on display will include the manuscript of "The Empty House") at the Rosenbach Museum & Library (2010 Delancey Place) will be open from 11:00 to 4:00 on Sunday afternoon. Note: the museum may be crowded, since this will be the last day of their Maurice Sendak exhibit (which you might also wish to see).

November 1987 #2

1380. The Sherlockian connection for Johns Hopkins, who will be honored by a commemorative stamp in 1989, was proposed by Christopher Morley in "Was Sherlock Holmes an American?" (SRL, July 21, 1934). "But all have wondered just what Holmes was doing between the time he left the university and his taking rooms in Montague Street," he wrote. "My own thought is that the opening of the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore in 1876, and the extraordinary and informal opportunities offered there for graduate study, tempted him across the water."
1381. Bouchercon XVIII ("Murder in the North Country!") in Minneapolis on Oct. 9-11 offered a Saturday-afternoon session devoted to Sherlock Holmes; according to the program, the agenda included "Nordiske film series: New Discoveries" (Bjarne Nielsen), "Dr. Arthur Doyle's Patients in Fact and Fiction" (Jack Key), "The Timeless Sherlock Holmes" (P.J. Doyle, E. W. McDiarmid, and Ely Liebow), "The Phenomenon of Sherlock Holmes: Societies, Collecting and Scholarship" (Philip Shreffler, Bjarne Nielsen, J. Randolph Cox, and Janice McNabb Cox), and "The Game Continues" (a slide presentation with Audrey Hammer). Copies of the program, with a fine tribute to John Nieminski, are available for \$5.00 postpaid from Steven A. Stilwell (2333 Minneapolis Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55406).
1382. One of the Bouchercon souvenirs was JOHN NIEMINSKI: SOMEWHERE A ROSCOE, selected and edited by Ely Liebow and Art Scott as a tribute to John. The 61-page chapbook offers a fine selection (including some S'ian items) from John's literate and amusing contributions to DAPA-EM (that's the mysteryfan amateur press), and is available for \$6.95 postpaid from Brownstone Books, 407 Jefferson Street, Madison, IN 47250.
1383. Brownstone has also published TAD-SCHRIFT: TWENTY YEARS OF MYSTERY FANDOM IN THE ARMCHAIR DETECTIVE, edited by J. Randolph Cox, with contributions by Sherlockian fans but no specifically S'ian content; \$12.95 postpaid.
1384. Bouchercon XIX will be held in San Diego on Oct. 7-9, 1988, and sponsored by Phyllis Brown. To enroll on the mailing list, write to Bouchercon XIX, Grounds for Murder, 2707 Congress Street, San Diego, CA 92110.

1385. The Dec. 1987 issue of Playboy has a Sherlockian cartoon by Gahan Wilson (p. 210). Also a Potpourri item (p. 223) on THE ULTIMATE PIPE VIDEO (the world's first pipe-smoking-and-collecting VHS video tape), produced by Rick Hacker (Box 634, Beverly Hills, CA 90213); I haven't seen the cassette, but his earlier THE ULTIMATE PIPE BOOK had Sherlockian content.
1386. A new catalog at hand from Gallery Lainzberg (200 Guaranty Building, Cedar Rapids, IA 52401) (800-553-9995); they specialize in production cels from animated films, including "The Great Mouse Detective" (\$195 to \$225).
1387. SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GRAPHIC NOVEL, by Bill Barry (Glendale: CB Publications, 1987, 74 pp., \$8.95), is a welcome reprint of the fine comic strip that ran in some papers in 1976 and 1977. There are three stories ("The Hound of the Baskervilles", "A Portrait in Red", and "A Study in Scarlet"), with a new and well-illustrated "Walking Tour of London". The book is available from Bill Barry Enterprises, 329 Harvey Drive, Glendale, CA 91206 (add \$2.50 for UPS or \$1.00 for book-rate mail).
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November 1987 #3

1388. Reported by Brian R. MacDonald: deerstalkered Goofy on box and in "Lonesome Ghosts" reel in MICKEY MOUSE & FRIENDS "gift set" with 3-D viewer and three reels (\$6.95-9.95 at toy and discount stores). SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE RALEIGH LEGACY, by L. B. Greenwood (St. Martin's Press paperback, \$2.95). S'ian cartoon (twice) in GIANT CRACKED #47 (BOOK OF SHUT UPS!), winter 1988, \$2.75.
1389. Julian Symons' "Did Sherlock Holmes Meet Hercule -----?" is in EQMM, mid-Dec. 1987 (reprinted from Illustrated London News, Apr. 1987). And Frank Langella is Sherlock Holmes on the cover of the Jan. 1988 issue.
1390. The computerized list of Sherlockian societies seems to be in pretty good shape (the query in the Sept. 1987 issue of the BSJ did not uncover any missing societies). There are now 432 societies on the list, including 217 active societies (153 geographical, 12 professional, and 52 other); the 41-page print-out for all societies is available from me at \$2.50 postpaid, and we also offer mailing labels for the contacts for active societies for commercial use at \$10.00 postpaid.
1391. Roger Johnson reports that "The Abbot's Cry" (the sequel to "The Masks of Death") will go into production next year, according to a letter from Peter Cushing, but with Ian Richardson as Holmes. Cushing has retired (the time has come to "nail my toupee to the wall," he wrote), but he is continuing his autobiography (the second volume, PAST FORGETTING, with much about Sherlock Holmes, will be published next spring).
1392. Roger also reports plans for another project, tentatively titled "Sherlock and Me", with Michael Caine as Holmes and Ben Kingsley as Watson.
1393. "The Endearing Cult of Sherlock Holmes" received a two-page tribute in the Nov. 16 issue of Maclean's (777 Bay Street, Toronto. Ont. M5W 1A7, Canada; \$1.75), with photographs of four dignitaries: Rathbone, Langella, Conan Doyle, and Cameron Hollyer.
1394. Flier at hand detailing the Metropolitan Toronto Library's centenary celebrations, which will include an exhibition ("Crime After Crime: Sherlock Holmes to Benny Cooperman") from Dec. 4 to Feb. 15, a series of lectures and films, a book-launching party in honor of Christopher Redmond's WELCOME TO AMERICA, MR. SHERLOCK HOLMES on Dec. 13, and a murder mystery game on Jan. 22. Write to MTL Public Relations, 789 Yonge Street, Toronto, Ont. M4W 2G8, Canada.
1395. WELCOME TO AMERICA, MR. SHERLOCK HOLMES is a detailed account of Conan Doyle's first trip to the United States in 1894, to be published by Simon & Pierre (Box 280, Adelaide Street Postal Station, Toronto, Ont. M5C 2J4, Canada) at \$19.95 (Canadian); no charge for shipping prepaid orders.
1396. "Sherlock Holmes in America" (excerpted from Andrew Malec's Introduction to the new Mysterious Press edition of THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES) is in the winter 1987 issue of Mysterious News, the quarterly published by the Mysterious Press, 129 West 56th Street, New York, NY 10019; no charge. And there is a section of in-print Sherlockiana in the latest catalog from the Mysterious Bookshop (same address).
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November 1987 #4

1397. "Star Trek: The Next Generation" was slightly Sherlockian in the episode broadcast on Nov. 7 (or thereabouts, since the series is syndicated), and videotapers can watch for the repeat of "Lonely Among Us" (the Enterprise, while escorting aliens to the planet Parliament, encounters an energy cloud that seizes control of the minds of the crew and alters their behavior). Discussing the mystery with Commander William Riker (Jonathan Frakes) and Lt. Commander Data (Brent Spiner), Captain Jean-Luc Picard (Patrick Stewart) mentions "the immortal Sherlock Holmes" and Data then studies the Sherlock Holmes stories and begins smoking a calabash, leading to more discussion of Sherlock Holmes.
1398. Reported by Ron De Waal: I THINK I DON'T REMEMBER, by Art Buchwald (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1987; \$16.95), with "The Crime of the Century" (p. 292-294), in which Holmes and Watson discuss the Iran/Contra affair.
1399. Micro (Box 38644, Los Angeles, CA 90038) offers "picture stamps" at \$2.00 for 150, or \$3.00 for 300 ("any star, any group, 21,000 in stock"), but their Basil Rathbone "picture stamp" isn't all that great.
1400. ROOM TWO MORE GUNS: THE INTRIGUING HISTORY OF THE PERSONAL COLUMN OF THE TIMES, by Stephen Winkworth (London: George Allen & Unwin, 1986; 263 pp., £10.95), is a fascinating study of the "agony column" from their origins in 1785 to the present day, with a chapter on the use of the personal column by Sherlock Holmes, and by Conan Doyle (who advertised in 1901 asking for the loan of officers' letters dealing with certain Boer War battles).
1401. THE QUEST FOR SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: THIRTEEN BIOGRAPHERS IN SEARCH OF A LIFE, edited by Jon L. Lellenberg, with a foreword by Dame Jean Conan Doyle (Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 1987; 232 pp., \$19.95), is an examination of how (and how well or how poorly) Conan Doyle and his biographers have described his life and career. The contributors are all knowledgeable about Conan Doyle (often more knowledgeable than those who wrote the biographies), and the book is recommended as an excellent guide to the many, and frequently unreliable, biographies. If the quest for Sir Arthur Conan Doyle is, as the book's epilogue suggests, still incomplete, the commentaries collected here provide a fine summary of what we do know now. Available from the publisher (Box 3697, Carbondale, IL 62902); add \$1.50 shipping per order, and they take plastic.
1402. The results of my bibliographic investigation of the Souvenir Edition of A STUDY IN SCARLET have now been published, in the summer 1987 issue of Baker Street Miscellanea, and I guess it is time to start investigating the next title. Owners of copies of the Souvenir Edition of THE SIGN OF FOUR are invited to request a copy of my one-page questionnaire listing the points of interest that will (I hope) identify the variants.
1403. SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE COMPLETE NOVELS AND STORIES, the two-volume Bantam edition with Introduction by Loren Estleman (BSJ September 87), is now available in a "deluxe gift-box edition" (in a rather flimsy box) at \$9.90; the two volumes are second printings (the printing code at bottom of title-page verso ends with "2" rather than "1").
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November 1987 #5

1404. Sherlockian pianists might wish to consider owning a Sherlock Manning piano (available from Sherlock's Music, 976 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield, CT 06109). Tyke Niver reports that the pianos are above average in quality, and priced at about \$2,700 (plus shipping and handling), and he welcomes enquiries.
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1405. BEETON'S CHRISTMAS ANNUAL 1987 (Denver: Pencil Productions, 1987) is an 80-page tribute to the original, with a reprint of "The Blue Carbuncle" and two new pastiches by Ian Malcolm Earls, plus brief commentaries and a glossary, and new illustrations by C. Woolery. In the new stories, Holmes uses a Babbage calculating engine to foil Moran, and investigates a forged accusation against Charles Parnell. Available from William S. Dorn (2120 South Monroe Street, Denver, CO 80210) for \$11.95 postpaid.
1406. Thomas W. Campbell (The Bloomsbury Square Collection, 7474 Creedmoor Drive #221B, Raleigh, NC 27612) writes that the deadline has been extended to Dec. 31 for ordering his S'ian multi-color cloisonne pin at the issue price of \$8.95 postpaid. Volume discounts are also offered in his flier.
1407. Guernsey's (236 East 73rd Street, New York, NY 10021) (212-794-2280) will be auctioning "a great portion" of Forrest J. Ackerman's collection of science fiction, fantasy, and horror on Dec. 12-13 (the catalog costs \$20.00 postpaid). I visited Forrie this year, and his collection is truly spectacular. I saw nothing of Sherlockian significance, but he has many stills and other print material from the two film versions of "The Lost World" and one of the flying-reptile models created by Willis H. O'Brien for the 1925 version of "The Lost World" (and a similar model from "King Kong"). The flying reptile could, of course, be of S'ian significance in view of the appearance of the Dutch steamship Friesland in both THE LOST WORLD and "The Norwood Builder".
1408. The musical "Baker Street" is experiencing a modest revival, with at least three productions in the last year or so, the most recent being at the Gonzaga College High School in Washington this month. The show is licensed by Tams-Witmark Music Library (560 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10022), in a version somewhat less elaborate than the one presented on Broadway (as might be expected), but it is thoroughly enjoyable when presented by an enthusiastic and competent cast and crew, as it was here. It is well worth recommending to any local theatrical group that does musicals (and of course that's the only way the current generation of Sherlockians will get to see it).
1409. Reported by Herb Tinning: "Silver Blaze" (the 1977 television film starring Christopher Plummer) is now available on videocassette, from Coronet/MTI Film & Video [distributors for Learning Corporation of America], 108 Wilmot Road, Deerfield, IL 60015 (800-621-2131), priced at \$99.00 (obviously aimed at institutions rather than individuals).
1410. The Nov. 20 catalog of discount and remainder books from Edward R. Hamilton (Falls Village, CT 06031) includes THE GREAT DETECTIVES: SEVEN ORIGINAL INVESTIGATIONS, by Julian Symons (\$10.95); THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SCRAPBOOK, by Peter Haining (\$6.95); and THE SUPREME ADVENTURE OF INSPECTOR LESTRADE, by M. J. Trow (\$3.95).

November 1987 #6

1411. At hand from John Bennett Shaw is Raleigh Trevelyan's article on "Life Among the Lifers: Return to the Andamans After 59 Years" (Country Life, May 28, 1987). Trevelyan, who was born at Port Blair in the Andaman Islands, where his father was in command of the garrison, returned to find that "the Andamanese are now reduced to a pathetic 24, having been decimated long ago by syphilis and measles." The Jarawas are still dangerous, however, and "one splendidly defiant offshoot on North Sentinel Island greets intruders with showers of poisoned arrows." The Onges are also dwindling in numbers: "they chew leaves that make their breath so fearful that even bees flee in terror."
1412. Reported by Brad Keefauver: 1985/1986 MOVIE SONGBOOK (Columbia Pictures Publications, \$7.95) includes the love theme from "Young Sherlock Holmes" and has the movie logo on the cover.
1413. Local posts are among the more interesting of philatelic sidelines. Once allowed to carry mail only where the U.S. post office didn't, they are now free to operate anywhere, and some of them have issued Sherlockian labels from time to time. The Yeti Post, founded in May 1965, commemorated the centenary with a Sherlockian issue on Jan. 8, and you can obtain Yeti Post service (with one of the labels) by sending a SASE to G. H. Palmer, 111 Apache Avenue, 1000 Oaks, CA 91362.
1414. According to the January 1988 issue of Playboy (p. 227), Dunhill of London have celebrated the centenary with a limited-edition briar calabash-style pipe with sterling-silver mounting, in a leather-covered bookcase. \$750.
1415. P. Moran (Harpies Bizarre, Box 854, Kendall Square, Cambridge, MA 02142) offers "The Women's Holmes Companion" (a calendar for 1988, featuring Holmesian and Victorian women of note and notoriety); \$10.00.
1416. Roger Johnson reports SUPERNATURAL STORIES OF SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE, edited by Peter Haining (Foulsham, £12.95), and THE CASE OF THE FINAL CURTAIN, by Arthur Conan Doyle (Longman, £1.10), and paperback editions of THE GIANT RAT OF SUMATRA, by Richard L. Boyer (Grafton, £2.95) and EXIT SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Robert Lee Hall (Grafton, £2.95).
1417. Reported by Jack Kerr: IN THE RING: A TREASURY OF BOXING STORIES, edited by Martin H. Greenberg (\$8.98 at Waldenbooks); contents include Conan Doyle's "The Croxley Master".
1418. Dana Richards reports "The Lost Special" included in DEATH LOCKED IN, a collection edited by Douglas G. Greene and Robert C. S. Adey (New York: International Polygonics, 1987).
1419. DEATH AT APPLIEDORE TOWERS, by Gerald Lientz (New York: Berkley Books, 1987; \$2.95) is the third in the "Solo Mysteries" series. The mystery will not present any difficulty for anyone who already knows who did what to Charles Augustus Milverton, but for those who don't, there is a challenge: this time it is possible to fail to solve the case.
1420. Demographic Systems Inc. (325 Hudson Street, New York, NY 10013) uses S'ian artwork in its promotion for "Sherlock" (a multi-level merge/purge system).

December 1987 #1

1421. Further to my query (September 87 #6) about the statement by the editors of the Strand that "there will be only a temporary interval in the Sherlock Holmes stories," Richard Lancelyn Green notes that Eric Quayle (THE COLLECTOR'S BOOK OF DETECTIVE FICTION, 1972, p. 67-68) quotes a similar statement from page 82 in the July 1892 issue, when the editors reported that "we are glad to be able to announce that there is to be only a temporary interval in the publication of these stories," and that "Mr. Conan Doyle is now engaged upon writing a second series, which will be commenced in an early number." But: this was at the end of the Adventures, not at the end of the Memoirs. Baring-Gould and Quayle indicate that they are quoting, not paraphrasing, a statement by the editors; Quayle has the July 1892 date, but Baring-Gould does not.
1422. Flier at hand from Dan and Ann Brasier (Holmes by Hall, Box 221B, Flushing, MI 48433) for a new "Master Sleuth Teapot" (from the Hall China Co., in porcelain, 12 inches high), priced at \$79.95 plus \$4.00 shipping. Irene Handl died on Nov. 29; she played Mrs. Hudson in the movie "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970).
1423. Sherlock Holmes is mentioned in passing in John S. Rapp's article on "Forensic Geology and a Colusa County Murder" in California Geology, July 1987 (address: 1516 Ninth Street, 4th floor, Sacramento, CA 95814; \$1.00).
1424. Ron De Waal reports: a new edition of THE ILLUSTRATED SHERLOCK HOLMES TREASURY (New York: Chatham River Press, 1987; 808 pp., \$12.95, in "genuine bonded leather"); first published by Avenel Books in 1984. And: TUNE IN YESTERDAY ON CASSETTE: SHERLOCK HOLMES (New Rochelle:

Great American Audio Corp., 1987); five cassettes in a box, with four Sherlock Holmes programs (\$17.95 at Waldenbooks). And: VCR 221B BAKER STREET (Clarksdale: VCR Enterprises, 1987; \$45.95 at Waldenbooks); this is a video version of the board game 221B BAKER STREET, with a ten-episode videotape (with Stuart Devenie as Holmes and Gerald Bryan as Watson) and accessories for playing the game. And: MASTER DETECTIVE SET (Rockaway, Natural Science Industries, 1987; \$20.95); police ident-i-kit, fingerprint kit, real 110 camera, secret messages and codes, disguises, and instructions (by John H. Watson, M.D.), with a photograph of Sherlock Holmes on the cover. And: SELECTIONS FROM THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (New York: Chatham Audio Classics, 1987; \$15.95 at B. Dalton); four stories (Scan, RedH, Five, Blue) narrated by Ed Simone on three cassettes, plus a booklet.

1425. Alas -- Frank Langella closed "Sherlock's Last Case" on Dec. 6. According to my count, there were 13 preview and 124 regular performances. I've been told that toward the end of the run the theater was selling less than 45 percent of capacity.

December 1987 #2

1426. The Torists International, S.S., one of the newer societies, is celebrating its first anniversary, and offers its Sherlockiansilhouette insignia on baseball and ski caps, jackets, lapel pins, tie bars, money clips, and key rings. A flier is available to anyone sending a SASE to Anthony J. Citera, 6625 North Crawford, Lincolnwood, IL 60646.
1427. Wilton M. Krogman died on Nov. 4. He was a noted anthropologist, and wrote on "Sherlock Holmes as an Anthropologist" (Scientific Monthly, Mar. 1955) and on "Anthropology in THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES" (BSJ, Sept. 1970).
1428. Reported in Coin World (Nov. 18): an "overstruck cent" commemorating the centenary, available from Larry Hall, Box 771, Morgan, UT 84050; two for \$1.00 and a SASE.
1429. I THINK I DON'T REMEMBER, by Art Buchwald (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1987; 350 pp., \$16.95), has reprints of two of his Sherlockian columns: "Magnificent Obsession" (pp. 103-106, reprinted from Mar. 27, 1986) with an illustration by Steve Mendelson, and "The Crime of the Century" (pp. 292-294, reprinted from Dec. 16, 1986).
1430. David L. Hammer reports that the Dunhill of London commemorative pipe (November 87 #6) has been offered by Henry Sotheran Ltd. (attn: Michael Silverman, 2 Sackville Street, Piccadilly, London W1X 2DP, England) at £324.50 plus postage. A bit cheaper than the \$750 price in Playboy).
1431. Discovered by Al Rodin: POCKET COMPANION QUOTATION GUIDE (Harlow: Longman Group, 1983), with four annotated quotations from the Canon, and one from Eliot's "Macavity: The Mystery Cat".
1432. WILDERS WALK AWAY (New York: International Polygonics, 1987; 219 pp., \$4.95), was Herbert Brean's first mystery novel, first published in 1948, and it is a fine story (with quotes from the Canon as chapter headings) about a Vermont family whose members have been vanishing into thin air since the days of the Revolution.
1433. Catalogue Five from The 19th Century Shop (1047 Hollins Street, Baltimore, MD 21223) offers (and reproduces) a pencil-on-paper portrait of Sherlock Holmes by Rene Magritte ("related to Magritte's well-known cover for the London Gallery *Bulletin*, done in 1938"); price \$12,500.
1434. Cox & Co. of New England offer a new lapel pin, showing (appropriately) the battered tin dispatch-box, in silver, gold, and white. \$6.00 postpaid from James O. Duval, 72 Merrimack Street, Penacook, NH 03303.
1435. "Mr. Rossi's Dreams" is a 76-minute Italian animation (c1983 by Bruce Bozzetto Film), broadcast earlier this year on the Disney Channel. If you see it listed again, it's worth taping: Rossi imagines himself as a series of heroes such as Tarzan, an astronaut, Zorro, and Sherlock Holmes (in a 9-minute sequence about "The Case of the Murderous Milkman").
1436. Reported by Andrew Jay Peck: THE RAG DOLL MURDER, by H. Paul Jeffers (New York: Ballantine Books, 1987; \$2.95) has many Sherlockian references, with a major clue being a dog that did nothing in the nighttime.

December 1987 #3

1437. Reported by Ron De Waal: THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (San Francisco: The Mind's Eye); a reissue of the 1975 Jabberwocky audiocassette (D4702b) with Richard Lewis as Holmes (\$5.95 at B. Dalton). August Derleth's "The Adventure of the Red Leech" reprinted in ALFRED HITCHCOCK'S THE SHADOW OF SILENCE (New York: Davis Publications, 1987; \$3.50); Alfred Hitchcock's Anthology #24. THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (San Francisco: The Mind's Eye); six audio cassettes, each with two of the Gielgud/Richardson radio shows (\$5.95 each at B. Dalton).
1438. Larry D. Hall (Box 771, Morgan, UT 84050) offers overstruck cents honoring the centenary, priced at two for \$1.00 and a SASE (four coins can be mailed for 22 cents postage). New dies have been used to overstrike the front and back of new pennies, and they make attractive souvenirs.
1439. Further to the report (September 87 #5) of the attempt by District Councillor James Tait to commemorate Conan Doyle in Edinburgh, a plaque (inscribed "Arthur Conan Doyle lived here 1876-1880") was unveiled at 23 George Square on Nov. 20.
1440. Dean Morrissey's full-page color illustrations are a fine enhancement to the "Night Lights" edition of THE SPECKLED BAND (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1987; 32 pp., \$6.95); an element in each of the illustrations has been overprinted with phosphorescent ink.
1441. Granada has begun production on another series of programs in "The Return of Sherlock Holmes", beginning with "Silver Blaze" (filmed on location in Cheshire, Lancashire, Yorkshire, and Bangor-on-Dee) and "The Devil's Foot" (filmed on location in West Cornwall). It is in Granada's "The Devil's Foot" that Holmes abandons cocaine: "We have decided, with the blessing of Conan Doyle's daughter, that he should kick cocaine," Jeremy Brett told a newspaper reporter, "I am seen dropping the syringe into the sea at Kynance and covering it with sand."
1442. According to another reporter, Brett has announced that he has commissioned his own play involving Sherlock Holmes, which he intends to take on a world tour next year, with the first stop in New Zealand.
1443. The Glasgow Herald was "the first paper of note" to review "A Study in Scarlet", according to a report by Ken Wright in (of course) the Glasgow Herald (Oct. 24, 1987). On Dec. 17, 1887, their reviewer wrote: "He is a wonderful man is Mr. Sherlock Holmes."
1444. Visitors to Clyro in Herefordshire (near the Welsh border) are welcome at The Baskerville Arms (formerly The Swan until, as legend has it, Conan Doyle stayed in the village while writing "The Hound of the Baskervilles"); the hotel owners are also proud of Sooty, their Great Dane "of ferocious and terrifying aspect but, thankfully, daft as a brush with customers."

December 1987 #4

1445. As has been reported widely, HOLMES is now providing invaluable assistance to the British police (this HOLMES, of course, being a computer called the Home Office Large Major Enquiry System). According to Computer Weekly (Sept. 24, 1987), HOLMES is now "old technology" and plans are afoot for a successor, to be named in honor of Sherlock Holmes' brother. But so far they have not been able to devise a suitable name for which MYCROFT is an acronym. Any suggestions?
1446. Further to the report (November 87 #3) of the new film starring Michael Caine and Ben Kingsley, ITC Entertainment has started shooting in the Lake District on a "clever comedy" called "The Imposter of Baker Street" (or "Sherlock and Me", depending on the newspaper). Michael Caine plays a

little-known actor hired by Dr. Watson to play the part of the Holmes inadvertently created by Watson, who has attributed his own successes in crime detection to the fictitious sleuth, and finds himself forced to take desperate measures when the Queen's Envoy insists that Holmes be enlisted to prevent the dastardly Moriarty pulling off a scheme that threatens the very existence of the British Empire. Nigel Davenport and Peter Cook also appear in the film, which is budgeted at \$10 million and scheduled for release at the end of 1988. Caine will also play Inspector Frederick Abberline next year in a television program to be produced by Thames TV.

1447. And yet another news item from Britain: Sue Brown has retired from her post as Sherlock Holmes' secretary, after five years on the job. Nikki Caparn is the new secretary, and in her spare time is communications assistant in the public relations department of the Abbey National Building Society.
1448. The first (summer 1987) issue of Baker Street Gazette at hand from Baker Street Publications (Box 994, Metairie, LA 70004; \$3.00 an issue, or \$10.00 a year for four issues). It's a 78-page magazine with reprints from the press, pastiches, advertisements for S'ian collectibles, and contributors that include Susan Beasley (on collecting), Michael B. Murphy (on the propaganda aspects of the war-time Universal films), Walter P. Armstrong (on the official entry of the word "grimpen" into the language), and Rick Lai (on Canonical echoes in John Buchan's works).
1449. Historical Products (Box 220, Cambridge, MA 02238) now offers their Steele portrait of Sherlock Holmes (as well as their other historical notables) on buttons and magnets at \$3.25 each (minimum order of three) plus \$1.50 for shipping; plastic accepted.
1450. Color flier at hand from Bob Hess (559 Potter Boulevard, Brightwaters, NY 11718) offering three new 13-inch figurines of Holmes, Watson, and Moriarty (\$69.00 each in hand-painted clay, or \$59.00 each in unpainted white bone china); commissioned by Sleuth Publications Ltd. in Liverpool.
1451. Reported by John A. Hogan, editor of The Crimson Circle (the newsletter of The Edgar Wallace Society): EDGAR WALLATZE: DER FROSCH MIT DER GLATZE, by Wolfgang G. Fienhold (Munich: Goldmann Verlag, 1986; 90 pp., DM 7.80); a parody (loosely based on "The Fellowship of the Frog"), featuring Sir Edgar (head of Scotland Yard), with an appearance by Alfred Holmes, of Manderley Manor, Baskerville (where are found the frozen bodies of "Mary Shellby, Rex Stout, Agatha Christie, Doyle, Chandler, Poe...").

December 1987 #5

1452. Discovered by Jon Lellenberg: BRITAIN: THE QUEEN, CRICKET, SHERLOCK HOLMES, AND OTHER THINGS INDUBITABLY BRITISH (Philadelphia: Running Press, 1987; 175 pp., \$22.50); edited by Norman Kolpas and profusely illustrated, with most of the photographs in full color. Sherlock Holmes appears in Tim Heald's two-page article on "Unconventional Sleuths". Available for \$24.00 postpaid from the publisher (125 South 22nd Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103).
1453. Quotations from the Canon appear as chapter headings in the TSO EXTENSIONS PRIMER published by IBM in Sept. 1987. This is a 156-page explanation of IBM's Time Sharing Option Extensions (described by IBM as "an option of the MVS operating system that allows users to interactively share computer time and resources"). Completists can consult their IBM representatives to see about getting a copy of the primer (and, presumably, a computer system on which to interactively share computer time and resources).
1454. Keith Paulison ("Mr. John Scott Eccles") died on July 20. He was one of the early members of The Scandalous Bohemians of New Jersey.
1455. Sean M. Wright and The Non-Canonical Calabashes of Los Angeles suggest that you plan ahead, for a tour of England to celebrate the centenary of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES in Sept. and Oct. 1989.
1456. THE LADIES HOLMES COMPANION: A CALENDAR FOR 1988 has arrived from Harpies Bizarre. Compiled by Pat Moran, Evelyn Herzog, Mary Ellen Rich, and Linda Patterson (and available for \$10.00 postpaid from the publisher, Box 854, Kendall Square, Cambridge, MA 02142), the calendar honors ladies Canonical and non-Canonical, ranging from Fanny Brice ("I may be a bad woman, but I'm awful good company") to Mrs. Patrick Campbell ("marriage is the deep, deep peace of the double bed after the hurly-burly of the chaise longue").
1457. More news from Phyllis Brown about Bouchercon XIX, scheduled for Oct. 7-9, 1988, in San Diego. The guest of honor will be Charlotte MacLeod, the toastmaster will be Robert Barnard, and the fan guest of honor will be Bruce Taylor. There will be three-track programming, and the dealer room (30 dealers at 48 tables) is already sold out. Early registration (through Feb. 15) is \$25.00 (then \$30.00, and \$35.00 at the door if registration has not been closed); supporting membership is \$10.00 (you receive the program book, signed by guests of honor and many of the participating authors). Write to Bouchercon XIX, c/o Grounds for Murder, 2707 Congress Street, San Diego, CA 92110.
1458. THE SHERLOCK HOLMES MYSTERY MAP (Los Angeles: Aaron Blake, 1987; \$4.95) is nicely done: the 26-by-21-inch folded sheet displays maps of England and London, Canonical illustrations by Jim Wolnick, all in color, and a border message in dancing men (with one minor error). The map is part of a series that includes THE RAYMOND CHANDLER MYSTERY MAP OF LOS ANGELES, THE ERNEST HEMINGWAY ADVENTURE MAP OF THE WORLD, and THE IAN FLEMING THRILLER MAP. The publisher's address is 9854 Vidor Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90035.
1459. Reported: CRIME AND MYSTERY: THE 100 BEST BOOKS, by H.R.F. Keating (New York: Carroll & Graf, 1987; 219 pp., \$15.95); not yet seen, so I don't know which (if any) of the Canonical titles are included.

December 1987 #6

1460. The French have not neglected the centenary: Le Monde published a long article by Christilla Pelle-Dou%l on Dec. 18 celebrating "L'homme qui tua Conan Doyle" with an interview with Anthony Howlett and a discussion of Sherlock Holmes' world-wide admirers. "'Les Américains sont un peu trop fanatiques,' soupire M. Howlett, qui pleure encore l'adhésion de Winston Churchill aux Baker Street Irregulars, bien avant l'apparition de la société anglaise." The article also lists many of the Sherlockian societies, including "la Société des patients négligés du docteur Watson," "Le Tra-la-la-lira-lira lay," "les Aristocrates célibataires," "la Société des femmes qui attendent un mari holmesian," "les Plongeurs de la falaise de Reichenbach," and "le Club des violons de Crémone," most of which seem to sound much more dignified in French.
1461. Just issued in Britain by That's Entertainment Records: SHERLOCK HOLMES, an evocative recording of music composed and conducted by Patrick Gowers for the Granada television series. There are 19 tracks (including "Old Sherman's Dog Toby" and "River Chase" from "The Sign of Four"), and the album jacket is nicely decorated with color scenes from the series. The recording is available on a stereo record (TER 1136), compact disc (CDTER 1136), and cassette (ZCTER 1136). No word yet on an American distributor, but it's well worth tracking down from your British correspondents.
1462. Herman Beerman has given his Sherlock Holmes collection to the Athenaeum of Philadelphia (on East Washington Square); the Athenaeum will have a S'ian exhibition from Jan. 4 to Feb. 4.
1463. The BBC had much to say about Sherlock Holmes in December, with six pages of articles accompanying a fine Sherlockian cover on the Dec. 5-11 issue of Radio Times, which included a "Sherlock Holmes Competition" offering five first-prize six-night Swiss holidays "at the comfortable Sherpa Hotel at Meiringen close by the infamous falls" to those who answer correctly six rather elementary questions (including one about Holmes and one about Conan Doyle) and who provide the best answers (no more than 20 words) to the tiebreaker: "If Sherlock Holmes were practising today, which 20th century invention would help him most, and why?"

1464. On Dec. 6, BBC Radio 4 rebroadcast Susan Marling's 40-minute report on The Sherlock Holmes Society of London's tour to Switzerland. On Dec. 8, the BBC-2 television series "Food and Drink" featured an interview with Mrs. Hudson, who demonstrated Sherlock Holmes' favorite recipe for plum duff. On Dec. 11, BBC-2 aired Basil Rathbone's "The Hound of the Baskervilles", and their television series "Out of Court" had Holmesian touches ("*The Hound of the Baskervilles* may be fictional, but for more than 300 children mauled by savage dogs every year, the horror is all-too-real").
1465. And the 70-minute documentary "The Case of Sherlock Holmes" was broadcast by BBC-2 on Dec. 10, produced by David Pearson and narrated by Tim Pigott-Smith, with discussion of the world-wide devotion exemplified by the annual re-dedication (if that's the proper term) of the Memorial Moriarty Manure Pile. This marked the 16th annual assembly in Moriarty; according to American press reports, Keith Jameson was unable to supply droppings from his pet iguana, but there was enough exotic excrement from the coyote and longhorn steer to bid farewell to the spirit of Professor Moriarty.

January 1988 #1

1466. The birthday festivities were, as always, both hectic and enjoyable, and this year the celebration began informally on the preceding Saturday, when the first far-flung Sherlockian collector deplaned in New York in a quest for book shops that might have treasures passed over by the locals.
1467. On Jan. 8, by way of formal proceedings, the BSI returned to the ballroom at 24 Fifth Avenue, where Maureen Green of Toronto was *The* Woman, toasted by Michael F. Whelan and honored at the BSI pre-dinner cocktail party and by *The* Women at dinner at the National Arts Club.
1468. The BSI observed the usual traditions, with agenda items including: Isaac Asimov's tuneful toast ("The Battle Hymn of Mrs. Watson"), Ray Betzner's reading of the Musgrave ritual, Richard Shull's dramatic reading of Christopher Morley's "In Memoriam Sherlock Holmes", a nine-minute tape recording of William Gillette as Sherlock Holmes (discovered last year by Peter E. Blau), W. T. Rabe's report on "The Missing Page, or Whatever Happened to Watson's Billet Doux?" (mentioned in "Houn"), David L. Hammer's suggestive discussion of Violet Hunter, and Robert S. Katz's identification of acute septicemic melioidosis as the disease the dying detective wasn't dying from.
1469. Irregular Shillings were awarded to Philip R. Brogdon ("John Sanger"), James C. Cleary, Jr. ("Howard Garrideb"), William R. Cochran ("Murray"), Carey Cummings ("An Irish Secret Society"), Charles A. Meyer ("Adolph Meyer"), Alan C. Olding ("Cooee"), Mel Ruiz ("Jack Douglas"), and Burt Woldur ("The Third Pillar from the Left"). Two-Shilling Awards were given to Jon L. Lellenberg and Robert E. Thomalen.
1470. Other Friday gatherings included The Martha Hudson Breakfast at the Hotel Algonquin, The William Gillette Memorial Luncheon at the Old Homestead, Otto Penzler's open house at the Mysterious Bookshop, the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes' dinner at Garvin's Restaurant, and impromptu partying in the Hunchback of Notre Dame suite at the Hotel Iroquois.
1471. The ASH dinner was devoted to celebrating the twentieth anniversary of the founding of The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes by the intrepid group that besieged Cavanaugh's Restaurant (an event that was headlined the next day as "Baker Street Sextet in Picket Line Protest"), and to enthusiastic tributes to Evelyn A. Herzog, who may or may not have provided a detailed explanation of the ASH war-cry ("Snake! Snake!").
1472. Saturday's cocktail party at 24 Fifth Avenue offered a performance by The Friends of Bogie's of Loren D. Estleman's "Dr. and Mrs. Watson at Home" from THE NEW ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES; Jon L. Lellenberg's announcement of plans for a round-robin Sherlockian novel (with a basic scenario proposed by a BSI committee, chapters to be written by a succession of mystery authors, and the mystery to be solved in the final chapter by Isaac Asimov); and Ezra Wolff's traditional poetic greetings. And on Sunday south-bound travelers dined in Philadelphia with The Master's Class at the Franklin Inn Club, where members of the Wilmington cast performed excerpts from their production of "The Incredible Murder of Cardinal Tosca".

January 1988 #2

1473. Another plug for the remainder-books catalog from Edward R. Hamilton (Falls Village, CT 06031): his new catalog (Dec. 28) includes Art Buchwald's "YOU *CAN* FOOL ALL OF THE PEOPLE ALL OF THE TIME" (Putnam, 1985, \$3.95); reprints his Aug. 30, 1984, Sherlockian column "The Great Media Mystery". Also: John Sladek's BLACK AURA (Walker, 1979 cloth, \$2.95; and Walker, 1983 paper, \$1.95); a Thackery Phin mystery with many S'ian allusions. Also: Peter Haining's THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SCRAPBOOK (Crescent, 1986, \$6.95); new cover and jacket artwork (for completists), and value-for-money (for those who don't already have the book).
1474. Forecast for March: all 14 of the Rathbone/Bruce feature films will be released on videocassette by Key Video (a division of CBS/Fox video) at \$19.98 each (suggested retail). I've been told that the cassettes will be made from the set of masters assembled by Leo Gutman, which means high quality, and there will be an added feature I've not heard of before on videocassettes: the films will be closed-captioned for hearing-impaired viewers who have the decoders used with television sets.
1475. The request (December 87 #4) for a name to match the acronym MYCROFT for the Home Office's new computer system has produced a suggestion from Jim Cleary: Major Yard Computer for Recovery, Organization, Filing, and Tabulation. Any other proposals?
1476. BSI annual dinner addenda: Bill Rabe also reported on his Oct. 1987 visit to Meiringen, where the natives apparently refuse to admit that there never was a hotel called the Englischerhof (or a Peter Steiler, the elder). At the Rossli, chosen many years ago as the best candidate by The Old Soldiers of Baker Street, who installed a commemorative plaque in the hotel bar in 1952, Bill found that the new proprietors were delighted, after some years, to learn why visitors to the bar had been taking photographs of each other in front of the plaque (and then leaving without buying any beer). Bill was told that the Rossli, now in need of restoration, will be rebuilt and renamed as the Englischerhof, where frameable or hangable mementos donated contributed by Sherlockian societies or individual Sherlockians will be on display. Contributions may be sent to W. T. Rabe, 1204 Davitt Street, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.
1477. One of my discoveries during the birthday festivities was Pipeworks & Wilke at 16 West 55th Street, New York, NY 10019 -- pipesmokers tend to be drawn to pipe shops that have "sale" signs prominently displayed -- and their signed photograph of Basil Rathbone led to some discussion, and the news that their Blend 515 (described in their flier as "exotic tobaccos aged in rare Jamaica rum: smooth, mild, with a delightful aroma") was Rathbone's favorite tobacco when he lived in New York and used to walk down from his apartment on Central Park South, accompanied by his Irish wolfhound, to buy the tobacco. Blend 515 costs \$6.70 (4 oz.) or \$11.90 (8 oz.) or \$21.75 (16 oz.); add \$3.50 shipping for orders under 2 lbs. The mail-order address is Pipeworks & Wilke, R.R. 1, Box 275, Shaftsbury, VT 05262.
1478. The shop also offered two pipes from the Peterson "Sherlock Holmes" series that carries a sterling silver band marked with the well-known profile -- \$125.00 for a bent briar and \$100.00 for a sand-blasted bent briar (less 25% if their sale is still continuing).

January 1988 #3

1479. There seems to have been no media coverage of Sherlock Holmes' birthday in 1988 (in contrast to the flood of press reports last year to launch the centenary), but there were some nice coincidental items: Jack Ziegler had a Sherlockian cartoon in the Jan. 11 issue of the New Yorker, and

- cartoonist Tom Batiuk added another series of "Sherlock Holmes' Secret Cases" to his "Funky Winterbean" newspaper comic strip (I have seen the panels for Jan. 4-9, and would appreciate hearing from anyone who has panels from other dates).
1480. There is still time to plan for a trip to Tulsa to participate in the "Holmes Peak Volksmarch" on Feb. 27. Sponsored by the Green County Wander-Freunde (an affiliate of the American Volkssporting Association), the Volksmarch will be a ten-kilometer hike around and up Holmes Peak. A special medallion commemorating this "Holmes Peak Expedition" will be awarded to those who complete the hike, and Dick Warner (Head Sherpa of the Holmes Peak Preservation Society) notes that avid collectors of S'iana "will either have to come to Tulsa and make the hike or find a Germanic-looking person who has made the hike and mug him for his medallion."
1481. THE ADVENTURE OF THE FAIRFAX UMPIRE, the latest exploit of Turlock Loams, is now being printed at the Pequod Press. "Devotees of the grotesque & absurd are urged to order now," from John Ruyle, 521 Vincent Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707; \$29.50 (cloth) or \$14.50 (paper).
1482. The United States honored the 200th anniversary of Georgia's statehood with a commemorative issued Jan. 6. The design by Greg Harlin shows Atlanta's distinctive skyline rising behind the lush image of a live oak (according to the USPS press release). Georgia is mentioned in "The Five Orange Pips" and Atlanta in "The Yellow Face".
1483. THE SHERLOCK HOLMES COLLECTION: THE GREAT DETECTIVE AND HIS CREATOR, by Charles Hall (Edinburgh: Charles Hall Productions, 1987; 100 pp., £10.95), is a splendid gathering of pictorial material drawn from all areas of Sherlockiana, mostly British but also including unusual items such as stills from Danish, German, and Czech films, and Soviet television. Available from the publisher (12 Paisley Terrace, Edinburgh EH8, Scotland, United Kingdom); add £5.00 for airmail shipping (or £7.00 for two copies); payment requested by international money order.
1484. The Saturday Review, in whose pages the world first learned of the BSI, is now defunct. The May-June 1986 issue was the last one published, and the magazine was sold last year to Bob Guccione, who apparently wanted only the mailing list -- not to expand the circulation of Penthouse, however, as former subscribers to SR are now receiving copies of Omni, whose masthead lists Guccione as publisher, editor in chief, and design director. It is perhaps only coincidental that the lead story in the first issue of Omni received was blurb-ed on the cover as "Sex and Love: How Dinosaurs Did It!"
1485. Check your supermarkets and drugstores for LIGHTS CAMERA MICKEY, a box of 200 3-oz. Dixie bathroom cups (\$1.89 here); there are ten different designs on the cups, and one design shows "Inspector Mickey" in S'ian costume.

January 1988 #4

1486. The winter 1987 issue of the Sherlock Holmes Journal is at hand, accompanied by a splendid 64-page centenary supplement devoted to A STUDY IN SCARLET. I assume that everyone sufficiently fanatic to subscribe to these information sheets also subscribes to the BSJ, BSM, and SHJ; those who do not will be dismayed at the report that the SHJ's special supplement was published only for SHJ subscribers.
1487. Another reason for subscribing to the BSJ, BSM, and SHJ is that I don't use this grapevine for items (such as John Michael Gibson's new facsimile of Beeton's Christmas Annual) announced for the first time in those journals.
1488. Plan ahead: this year's "Autumn in Baker Street" is scheduled for Oct. 8-9 at Bear Mountain, N.Y. The mailing list for announcements is maintained by Robert E. Thomalen, 69 Glen Road, Eastchester, NY 10709.
1489. Bogie's Murderous Mystery Tours have scheduled a tour to England, June 20 to July 3, 1988, with space for 30 people ("starting off in London, we will travel around the country, spend a day on the Orient Express, and try to survive for three nights at 'Baskerville Hall'"). Details available from Bogie's Restaurant, 249 West 26th Street, New York, NY 10001.
1490. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London will visit Switzerland again on Sept. 8-12, 1988, for the unveiling of the Sherlock Holmes statue in Meiringen, and a crossing of the Gemmi Pass.
1491. Plan farther ahead: while John Bennett Shaw has no plans for a workshop in 1988, there is a possibility of a sea-going workshop on a cruise liner in 1989. The workshop has two unofficial working titles: "Ship of Fools" and "No Ship, Sherlock".
1492. Reported by Andrew Jay Peck: David G. Kirby (Rupert Books, 59 Stonefield, Bar Hill, Cambridge CB3 8TE, England) offers a leather-bound, inscribed, limited (30 copies) variant of A CENTURY OF SCARLET: A CENTENARY CATALOGUE (£25.00). Also: SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE KENT RAILWAYS, by Kelvin Jones (£8.95). Also: the British (O'Mara) imprint of the Steele-illustrated Mysterious Press edition of THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (£12.00).
1493. There's a Sherlockian panel in "The Last of the Hollywood 'B' Movies" in Cracked Collectors' Edition (30 Years of Cracked) #74 (April 88), reprinted from Giant Cracked #45 (October 86).
1494. I have updated my listing of Investiture Irregulars, Two-Shilling Awards, and *The* Women. \$1.00 postpaid for a print-out.
1495. Scarlet in Gaslight #1 (Nov. 1987) is the first in a new comic-book series, from Martin Powell (writer), Seppo Makinen (artist), and Wayne R. Smith (editor), with Sherlock Holmes engaged in a battle against Count Dracula. Published monthly by Eternity Comics (2635 Lavery Court #11, Newbury Park, CA 91320); \$1.95.
1496. Discovered by Steve Rothman: a S'ian verse in the poem "Cats and Dogs" in Christopher Isherwood's PEOPLE ONE OUGHT TO KNOW (1982), remaindered at \$2.98 at Barnes & Noble (but not in their current mail-order catalog).

January 1988 #5

1497. Granada's "The Sign of Four" was broadcast in Britain on Dec. 29, 1987, and was favorably received by the reviewers. One passage from Nancy Banks-Smith's review in the Guardian (Dec. 30) is worth quoting: "The Sign of Four is one of those Conan Doyle stories in which a gentleman returns from India with a terrible secret and a temper to match. In extreme cases he may also have a swamp adder, a gibbon, and a mongoose. He then proceeds to live in unparalleled grandeur in Norwood of all places, surrounded by brass bibelots, gongs, tiger skins, and, of course, rajah's carbuncles. At some point he will open a letter and fall back in his chair with a frightful shriek as if he had just received the phone bill and the gibbon had been ringing home. In fact, he is living in mortal terror of three Sikhs, a peg-legged convict, and a three-foot cannibal with a two-foot blow pipe, and who, to be fair to the man, would not? You think I am making this up. I am not. Conan Doyle made it up. Address all complaints to Dr. Watson at 221b Baker Street."
1498. Granada has completed location work for "Silver Blaze" and "The Devil's Foot", and filmed on location in Cheshire and Yorkshire for "Wisteria Lodge" in Nov. and Dec. 1987; "The Bruce-Partington Plans" is next on the schedule, to be followed by "The Hound of the Baskervilles", and the next series is scheduled for broadcast in Britain in the fall of 1988.
1499. GRANADA COMPANION NUMBER ONE: A SHERLOCK HOLMES ALBUM is a well-produced 40-page celebration of both the centenary and the Granada series, with an introduction by Vincent Price, articles by Kenneth Harris, and a splendid assembly of color photographs of the principals, supporting players, sets, and scenery. Recommended, and available for \$11.95 (U.S.) postpaid from Sundial International, 16 Queen Elizabeth Boulevard, Etobicoke, Ont. M8Z 1L8, Canada.

1500. Reported by Ed Vatz: the "Sherlock Holmes Walking Stick" (D3392b) is still available from Boserup House of Canes and Walkingsticks (1636 Westwood Boulevard, P.O. Box 24156, Los Angeles, CA 90024) with bronze or silvertone handles on ebony or rosewood at \$135.00 and on Dymondwood (composed of various hardwoods, with several finishes) at \$95.00; they take plastic.
1501. THE FURTHER ADVENTURES OF SOLAR PONS, by Basil Copper (Chicago: Academy Chicago, 1987; 250 pp., \$14.95 cloth, \$4.95 paper), is a collection of four new stories first published in 1979 as a continuation of the Pontine Canon written by August Derleth. This is the second volume in Academy Chicago's reprint series; Copper has edited the text to remove some of the American usages that crept into the earlier edition, and the stories are pleasant tributes to both Derleth and Pons.
1502. SHERLOCK HOLMES MEETS THE SUSSEX VAMPIRE, AND OTHER CASES OF THE WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS DETECTIVE, selected and introduced by Peter Haining (London: Armada/Fontana, 1986; 159 pp., £1.75), is a reprint of the 1981 paperback first edition, with six cases ("Spec", "Gree", "Fina", "Empt", "Suss", and "Fina"), with six illustrations by an unidentified artist.
1503. An illustrated flier at hand from Carolyn Senter (Knitting Pretty, Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219) offering handcrafted merino wool scarves in various colors, in four different Sherlockian designs, at \$45.00 each.

January 1988 #6

1504. "Holmes Away from Home" was an exhibition, assembled with the energetic help of Derham Groves ("Black Jack of Ballarat") at the State Library of Victoria in Melbourne from Dec. 7 to Jan. 31, honoring both Sherlock Holmes and Conan Doyle. The commemorative 56-page catalog (same title) is a true collectible, with contents including an Introduction by Tom Stix and articles by Richard Hughes, Jr., about his father (who founded The Baritsu Chapter of the BSI), by Derham Groves about early Australian productions of Sherlockian drama, and by Alec H. Chisholm about Conan Doyle's visit to Australia in 1920 and 1921. Copies of the catalog are available (from Sherlock Holmes Exhibition, attn: Jenni Boon, State Library of Victoria, 328 Swanston Street, Melbourne, Vic. 3000, Australia) for AU\$14.00 postpaid (or AU\$85.00 postpaid for a limited edition of 50 specially-bound copies with an signed original etching of the cover art by Leslie Sprague).
1505. Reported by Ron De Waal: COMIC CRIME, ed. by Earl F. Bargainier (Bowling Green: Bowling Green State Univ. Popular Press, 1987; 195 pp. \$28.95 cloth, also available in paper); with many references and a chapter by Barrie Hayne on "The Comic in the Canon: What's Funny About Sherlock Holmes?"
1506. Joseph J. Eckrich (7793 Keswick Place, St. Louis, MO 63119) is trying to ascertain how many copies there might be of the numbered American variant of the BSI facsimile of BEETON'S CHRISTMAS ANNUAL (which bears a red-ink limitation statement stamped on the title page); my copy is number 118, and Joe would appreciate hearing from anyone whose copy bears a higher number.
1507. WHITE CHAPPEL, SCARLET TRACING, by Iain Sinclair (Uppingham: Goldmark, 1987; 210 pp.), is a novel involving antiquarian-book dealers, Jack the Ripper, and a hitherto-unknown first issue of A STUDY IN SCARLET. It's an interesting book, with atmosphere much more important than narrative, and the imagery is powerful and often unpleasant. Available for £12.50 from Rupert Books, 59 Stonefield, Bar Hill, Cambridge CB3 8TE, England.
1508. A preview (of sorts): John Thaw, who stars as Inspector Morse on "Mystery!" in February, will be seen (eventually) as Jonathan Small in Granada's "The Sign of Four".
1509. "We are not amused" is without doubt the most-often quoted statement by Queen Victoria. What was it that did not amuse Her Majesty?
1510. VCR 221 B BAKER STREET is the new VHS video game (\$44.00 suggested retail) from VCR Enterprises, and it's nicely done. Based on the 1974 board game (D3957b), the video game follows the same format, with players following the clues in a race to be first with the solutions to ten mysteries. The VCR game includes a two-hour videocassette produced with humor, ingenuity, and broad acting appropriate to a game. Each of the ten games takes about an hour to play (Watson tells you to stop the tape at appropriate points to pursue the clues), and the overall concept is an interesting one. The game is seldom stocked by video stores, and is more likely to be found in toy or discount chains (where it may be in either the consumer electronics or the toy departments). Try: Toys R Us, Kaybee, K-Mart, Target, Waldenbooks, and Macy's. Also catalogs: Sears, Best, J. C. Penney, and Consumers Catalog Center.

February 1988 #1

1511. EXPO '98: SHERLOCK HOLMES IN OMAHA, by Berkley Forsythe (Omaha: Simmons-Boardman Books, 1987; 173 pp., \$5.95), brings Holmes and Watson to the great Trans-Mississippi Exposition, engaged to prevent the assassination of President McKinley (in which they are of course successful). The style is American, rather than Canonical, and there is plenty of swash and buckle, and some pawky humor on Watson's part. Available from the publisher (1809 Capitol Avenue, Omaha, NE 68102) (800-228-9670, and they take plastic).
1512. "We are not amused" (January 88 #6) was Queen Victoria's critical pronouncement on Gilbert and Sullivan's "H.M.S. Pinafore" in 1878, according to Joe Brown in an article in the Washington Post (Jan. 10, 1988).
1513. CRIME & MYSTERY: THE 100 BEST BOOKS, by H. R. F. Keating (London: Xanadu, 1987; 219 pp., £9.95) (New York: Carroll & Graf, 1987; 219 pp., \$15.95), presents two pages of perceptive commentary on each of his selections, which extend from Edgar Allan Poe's TALES OF MYSTERY AND IMAGINATION (1868) to P. D. James' A TASTE FOR DEATH (1986). ACD is represented twice, by THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES and THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES.
1514. According to an article in the Hampshire Chronicle (Dec. 18, 1987), the Winchester Preservation Trust is planning to erect a plaque at the Black Swan Buildings in Winchester, the site of the Black Swan Hotel where Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson lunched with Violet Hunter in "The Copper Beeches."
1515. Housekeeping: I wound up with an extra of January 88 #5-6. This may be my printer's mistake, but if someone didn't receive that sheet, let me know.
1516. More housekeeping: according to my records, all my subscribers should have received my 1988 seasonal souvenir ("THE DELIRIOUS DREAM OF A DISORDERED BRAIN..."), either at the birthday festivities or with my January 88 mailing. If I missed someone, please let me know.
1517. British sculptor John Doubleday, whose life-size bronze statue of Sherlock Holmes will be unveiled at Meiringen on Sept. 10, led the four-man British team competing at the World Snow Festival in Switzerland at the end of January. The competition involved creating a sculpture out of a 16-foot cube of ice and snow, within a two-day period, according to the Jersey Evening Post (Jan. 21, 1988), and this year the British team chose Sherlock Holmes as their theme. The team's main concern, according to the article, was the lack of snow and the unusually high temperatures for this year's season, which may account for the lack of news about who won the contest.
1518. "Sherlock Holmes was left without a clue yesterday on his most embarrassing case: his own," according to the Glasgow Daily Record (Feb. 3, 1988). A sneak thief broke into a caravan [that's British for trailer] while Jeremy Brett was filming in Liverpool for the new Granada series, and stole a bag containing Brett's cheque book, silver-gilt watch, Conan Doyle stories, and three address books. One wonders if that book of stories was Brett's own annotated copy of the Canon, and whether the sneak thief realizes what the most valuable item in the bag was.

February 1988 #2

1519. Original issues of Collier's are not easy to find, and a new edition of THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (New York: Mysterious Press, 1987; 304 pp., \$25.00) offers a welcome opportunity to see Frederic Dorr Steele's fine illustrations, both color and black-and-white, and to read Andrew Malec's knowledgeable Introduction. The black-and-white art, unfortunately, is frequently overinked, obscuring the careful detail that can be as important in Steele's work as the strength of his portraits of Holmes and others in the Canon, but the volume is a good substitute for the original issues.
1520. The fine recording (by That's Entertainment Records) of the music composed by Patrick Gowers for the Granada television series (December 87 #6) will be released in the U.S. by Varese Sarabande Records (13006 Saticoy Street, North Hollywood, CA 91605); you can order direct, and the postpaid price is \$9.98 for the LP or the cassette, and \$15.98 for the compact disk.
1521. "Mention the name Sherlock Holmes to half a dozen men of Kent and you will be met with a puzzled stare," Kelvin I. Jones suggests in SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE KENT RAILWAYS (Rainham: Meresborough Books, 1987; 72 pp., £8.95). One might hope that in the centenary year Sherlock Holmes' fame would have spread even to Kent, but Jones, himself a man of Kent, has used his local expertise to investigate and identify the sites and surroundings of the six Canonical cases that are set in the county. The book is available in the U.S. from Magico Magazine (Box 156, New York, NY 10002), as is the third issue (46 pp.) of The Sherlockian, a journal edited by Jones.
1522. "It was just as well that his prairie training had given Jefferson Hope the ears of a lynx," according to the Canon. A North American lynx (*Lynx canadensis*), also called the Canadian lynx, is shown on a stamp issued this year by Can-Canada, but this may not be the lynx whose ears were donated to Hope. The lynx found in Utah and Nevada, according to biologists, would be a different North American lynx (*Lynx rufus*), which is the bobcat shown on the U.S. stamp issued last year. A good article on the Canadian lynx will be found in the February issue of Smithsonian Magazine.
1523. "Among booksellers whose clients have more clearly defined tastes, the hands-down favorite tapes are old-time radio shows and anything having to do with Sherlock Holmes," according to a report on mystery-tape sales in the Jan. 15 issue of Publishers Weekly.
1524. It took a while to confirm, but the bisque porcelain miniature (3 inches high) of Mickey Mouse in Sherlockian costume (January 87 #5) is indeed the first in a monthly series from The Disney Miniature Collectors Club (The Disney Collection, Box 1797, Sherman Turnpike, Danbury, CT 06816) when you join the club. The miniatures (including the Sherlockian Mickey Mouse) each cost \$11.45 postpaid until you cancel your membership.
1525. THE BERENSTAIN BEARS AND THE MISSING HONEY, by Stan and January Berenstain (New York: Random House, 1987; 32 pp., \$1.95), is a "First Time Reader" with Brother and Sister Bear and their Cousin Fred in deerstalkers ("there's no case too hard, no case too tough, for the Bear Detectives and their hound dog, Snuff!").

February 1988 #3

1526. GREAT CASES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (483 pp., bound in full leather) is the first volume in the monthly series of 50 titles in the "Franklin Library of Mystery Masterpieces" (April 87 #1 and September 87 #6). The book contains 19 of the 26 stories from the Franklin Library's THE BEST OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (D259b), with five new illustrations by Mitchell Hooks and a rear section reprinting many of Julian Wolff's Sherlockian maps. GREAT CASES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES is their free introductory offer, but succeeding volumes will each cost \$32.00 postpaid unless you cancel your subscription. The Franklin Library's address is Franklin Center, PA 19091.
1527. "FOR SALE: Sir Arthur Conan Doyle built this house and lived there for 10 years, writing his Sherlock Holmes tales. Now in use as small hotel (14 rooms), with his monogram still on the gate and family crest in the foyer, it lies on three acres in beautiful town only 45 minutes from London." Write to Charles Bridger, "Little Witches," Fir Way, Grayshott, Hindhead, Surrey GU26 6JQ, England, if you're interested in purchasing a thoroughly Sherlockian *pied-a-terre* for your visits to Britain (there is still time, presumably, since the advertisement is from the Jan. 27, 1988, issue of the Princeton Alumni Weekly). The house is Undershaw, designed by and built for Conan Doyle, and he lived there from 1897 until he moved to Windlesham in 1907. David L. Hammer gives a fine description of the house in his FOR THE SAKE OF THE GAME (Gasogene Press, 1986).
1528. The U.S. has issued a set of four stamps showing domestic cats. And there are four mentions of domestic cats in the Canon. I won't identify them, since they can be found easily in Jack Tracy's THE ENCYCLOPAEDIA SHERLOCKIANA. You might, however, wish to try your hand at identifying a fifth cat mentioned in the Canon, one that is *not* cited by Tracy. Lions, tigers, lynxes, cheetahs, and ladies allusively named Catherine or Kate or Kitty will not be accepted as correct answers.
1529. Edward Wellen's pastiche "Voiceover" (which first appeared in 1984 in SHERLOCK HOLMES THROUGH TIME AND SPACE) has been reprinted in TIN STARS: ISAAC ASIMOV'S WONDERFUL WORLDS OF SCIENCE FICTION #5, edited by Isaac Asimov, Martin H. Greenberg, and Charles G. Waugh (New York: New American Library/Signet, 1986; 351 pp., \$3.95).
1530. Renegade Press is reported to be aiming for wider distribution of its comic book CASES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, with plans for having issue #12 (March 88) available in B. Dalton bookstores.
1531. The Disney Channel broadcast the Christopher Plummer version of "Silver Blaze" (D4608b) three times in February, and may have plans for March as well (the authorized videocassette costs a dismaying \$99.00 from Learning Corporation of America). The Disney Channel also started weekly Sunday broadcasts of the Granada series on Feb. 21.

February 1988 #4

1532. What sort of anthology would include contributions by Damon Runyon, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, and Harlan Ellison? SOLVED! FAMOUS MYSTERY WRITERS ON CLASSIC TRUE-CRIME CASES, edited by Richard Glyn Jones (London: Xanadu, 1987; 317 pp., £11.95), offers a fine selection, ranging from Runyon's splendid newspaper reporting on the Snyder-Judd murder trial to Ellison's speculations on Jack the Ripper, and including Conan Doyle's "The Case of Mr. George Edalji". The book also includes a report by F. Tennyson Jesse on "The Trial of Madeleine Smith" with two uncredited portraits from the Illustrated London News, whose courtroom artist for the trial was Charles Altamont Doyle (see the letter by Herman Herst, Jr., in the BSJ, Mar. 1983, p. 41).
1533. Australia celebrated its bicentennial on Jan. 25, according to an article in the N.Y. Times (spotted by Jon L. Lellenberg). The celebration included melon-seed spitting competitions, a coal-shoveling championship, and a contest to see who can shout "cooee" the loudest.
1534. This year's British set honoring the 200th anniversary of the Linnean Society includes a stamp portraying a Bewick's swan (*Cygnus columbianus*). There are two mentions of swans in the Canon (in "The Abbey Grange" and "The Copper Beeches"), though stamps from Western Australia and Australia, where the black swan was first discovered, certainly would be a more appropriate match for "The Copper Beeches".
1535. "The bicycle craze seems to me to be only in its infancy," Dr. A. Conan Doyle suggested in the May 1895 issue of Demorest's Family Magazine, "for probably in time we shall witness the spectacle of our business men going to their offices mounted on the bicycle, instead of using the tramways." ON YOUR BICYCLE: AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF CYCLING, by James McGurn (New York: Facts on File, 1987; 208 pp.), was written "in the belief that the role of cycling in the social history of the Western World has been sadly underestimated," and the book includes a photograph of Conan Doyle

and his wife Louise on their tricycle at their home in South Norwood, and a caption with mention of Sherlock Holmes' expertise with cycle tyres. "Tricycling," McGurn notes, "was taken up by older, less athletic members of the respectable professions, and was favoured by clergymen and doctors."

1536. Reported by Andrew Jay Peck, from the Hollywood trade press: Orion Pictures has acquired the North American distribution rights for "Sherlock and Me" (with Michael Caine and Ben Kingsley), and expects delivery of the print in July, in which case the film could open this fall. Nigel Davenport, who will play the Chancellor of the Exchequer, was seen as Conan Doyle in the 1972 television series "The Edwardians" (D4603b).
1537. James A. Linen, former publisher of Time and president of Time Inc., died on February 1. On June 20, 1949, Time reported (D1681b) on the decision by the British postal authorities to assign the address 221B Baker Street to the London Mystery Magazine, and to deliver Sherlock Holmes' mail to LMM editor Michael Hall. On Aug. 1, Linen reported proudly in "A Letter from the Publisher" (D1682b) that Hall had received more than 300 airmail letters and was now wondering what would happen when the boat mail began to arrive.

February 1988 #5

1538. The videocassette of "The Masks of Death" (1984, with Peter Cushing) now costs only \$19.95 (marked down from \$79.95) from Lorimar Home Video, 5959 Triumph Street, Commerce, CA 90040 (800-323-5275). And the videocassette of "It's a Mystery, Charlie Brown" (D4614b) costs \$11.95 from Kartes Video Communications, Box 68881, Indianapolis, IN 46268 (800-331-1387). Both firms take plastic.
1539. The success of the Granada series in Britain has launched a new series of tie-in paperbacks in 1987 from Grafton Books, each with a different color cover photograph. Available so far: A STUDY IN SCARLET (£2.50), THE SIGN OF FOUR (£2.50), and THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (£2.95).
1540. German translations of the Canon continue to appear in attractive editions, including the series from Haffmans Verlag (Hubenstrasse 19, CH-8057 Zurich, Switzerland). Their latest is SHERLOCK HOLMES' BUCH DER FALLE (DM 34.00), with a cover illustration from "Der Mann mit dem geduckten Gang".
1541. Hugh Leonard's play "The Mask of Moriarty" was first produced during the Dublin Theatre Festival in 1985, with Tom Baker as Sherlock Holmes, and again in Leicester in 1987, with Geoffrey Palmer in the lead role. Ake Runnquist, who saw the play in Dublin, reported (in BSM, spring 1986) that it was "a clever mixture of genuine, faithfully absorbed Sherlockian atmosphere and cultural satire shading into outright burlesque, rocking the pedestal of the Master's bust back and forth in a rhythm that grew wilder and wilder." The script, accompanied by "A Playwright's Diary" in which Leonard gives an entertaining account of the birth and development of the play, is now available from Brophy Books (108 Sundrive Road, Dublin 12, Ireland) at £5.95 plus postage.
1542. My computer managed to garble part of the carefully stored copy for this issue of the information sheets (I'd admit that I managed to do that, if I had even the slightest idea of how it happened). Making a back-up copy of a garbled file gives you two copies of the garbled file. I refuse to admit there's anything important reported here, let alone missing, but tell me if there's something I was supposed to report, and haven't.

February 1988 #6

1543. COMIC CRIME, edited by Earl F. Bargainnier (Bowling Green: Bowling Green State University Popular Press, 1987; 195 pp.), examines the use of comedy in crime fiction. That use has a long history: according to H.R.F. Keating, Wilkie Collins once gave as his formula for success the simple advice, "Make 'em laugh, make 'em weep, make 'em wait." Barry Hayne's essay on "The Comic in the Canon: What's Funny About Sherlock Holmes?" examines the comedic aspects of the stories, suggesting that "the Holmes Saga is fundamentally comic rather than tragic."
1544. British sculptor Malcolm Cooper has created a miniature series of "Great British Pubs" (about six inches high), including an attractive reproduction of "The Sherlock Holmes". The series is distributed in the U.S. by John Hine North American Limited (Box 8048, Blaine, WA 98230); they do not sell at retail, but you can call (800-663-8855) and ask who your local retailer is. The pub should cost from \$100 to \$110.
1545. THE CROWN VS. DR. WATSON, by Gerald Lientz, and THE DYNAMITERS, by Milt Creighton, are the 4th and 5th in the series of "Sherlock Holmes Solo Mysteries" devised by Iron Crown Enterprises (New York: Berkley Books, 1988; \$2.95 each). In THE CROWN VS. DR. WATSON the reader is a former member of the BSI, trying in early 1894 (without the assistance of Sherlock Holmes) to solve a murder in which the principal suspect is Dr. Watson. The authors now provide dead-end trails to trap the unwary, and there are at least two more titles planned for the series.
1546. Great Britain has issued the fourth and last in its series of booklets with covers commemorating the centenary of Sherlock Holmes' first appearance in print. It is interesting to note that the Royal Mail offers a discount for volume: the £1.00 booklet contains stamps worth £1.03.

March 1988 #1

1547. John Thaw, who starred in "Inspector Morse" on "Mystery!" and who plays Jonathan Small in Granada's "The Sign of Four" (no word yet on the PBS-TV broadcast schedule) also appeared as Lieutenant Holst in "The Sensible Action of Lieutenant Holst" in the 1971 television series "The Rivals of Sherlock Holmes" -- and it would be nice indeed to see that series again, on the air or on videocassette. John Neville as Dr. John Thorndyke, Robert Stephens as Max Carados, Roy Dotrice as Simon Carne, Donald Pleasance as Carnacki, Douglas Wilmer as Prof. Augustus S. F. X. Van Dusen, Charles Gray as Eugene Valmont, Robin Ellis as Charlie Dallas, Derek Jacobi as William Drew, and many more fine actors, including Peter Barkworth as Martin Hewitt (you'll see Barkworth again, as Colonel Ross in Granada's "Silver Blaze").
1548. The six stories issued in Britain by World International Publishing (BSJ March 87) have now been published here in one volume (SHERLOCK HOLMES), with the same interior illos (New York: Exeter Books, 1987; 285 pp., \$3.98).
1549. Forecast: SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE CASE OF SABINA HALL, the second pastiche by L. B. Greenwood (author of SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE CASE OF THE RALEIGH LEGACY), from Simon and Schuster in June (\$16.95). THE LITERATURE OF CRIME AND DETECTION: AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY, by Waltraud Woeller and Bruce Cassiday, from Crossroads/Continuum in March (220 pp., \$24.50). THE NEW ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, an audio cassette reissue of the double LP album (May 87 #2) with two 1945 Rathbone/Bruce radio broadcasts, from 221A Baker Street Associates (via Simon & Schuster) in June (\$9.95). SKULLDUGGERY, by Peter Marks (August 87 #2), a paperback reprint from Carroll & Graf in August (\$4.50).
1550. Ian Charnock's article on "The Elements of Holmes" in Police Review (Dec. 18, 1987) celebrated the centenary with a discussion of the police methods in the Canon, suggesting that the last word must be left with Inspector Lestrade: "He appears with Holmes in 13 cases and is wrong every time, but on one memorable occasion he leaves Holmes speechless." The occasion, of course, is the conclusion to "The Six Napoleons" which was handled nicely, you will recall, by Jeremy Brett and Colin Jeavons in the Granada series. The magazine's address is 14 St. Cross Street, London EC1N 8FE, England (L0.50).
1551. "The African Horror Stories of Conan Doyle", in the June 1987 issue of Westindian Digest, is an interesting discussion, not of Conan Doyle's fiction but rather of the impact of THE CRIME OF THE CONGO, both in 1909 and more recently: the article notes that excerpts from THE CRIME OF THE CONGO were published in Russian in Pravda in Dec. 1964 and in Inostrannaya Literatura in Feb. 1965, after the assassination of Patrice Lumumba. In a second

article, on "Holmes at a Hundred", Nicholas Cole reports on the celebration of the centenary. The magazine is published from Tower House, 139-149 Fonthill Road, London N4 3HF, England (L0.50).

1552. I saw but I did not observe: THE FURTHER ADVENTURES OF SOLAR PONS, by Basil Copper (Chicago: Academy Chicago, 1987) (January 88 #5), is a collection of four stories, but the four stories in the reprint are not the same stories contained in the 1979 Pinnacle Books edition with the same title.

March 1988 #2

1553. The winter 1988 issue of The Armchair Detective includes a two-page "Report from 221B Baker Street", by Sherry Rose-Bond and Scott Bond, with a lively report on their "Adventure of the Final Problem" tour through Europe in 1987. Their Sherlockian column will appear regularly in TAD, which is published quarterly at \$20.00 a year (129 West 56th Street, New York, NY 10019). The same issue has Marvin Lachman's review of ROSS MACDONALD'S INWARD JOURNEY, edited by Ralph B. Sipper (New York: Mysterious Library, 1987; \$8.95); the book includes "The Scene of the Crime" (a paper Macdonald delivered at the University of Michigan in 1954), in which (in an almost obscene reference, according to Lachman) Macdonald compares Sherlock Holmes to Himmler and Beria (part of Macdonald's idea that detection is an ignoble profession).
1554. Bjarne Nielsen (Antikvariat Pinkerton, Nansensgade 66, 1366 Kobenhavn K, Denmark) is continues to extend his interesting series of Sherlockiana. The latest is PINKERTON 22 (in Danish), with 40 pages of Sherlockian essays by Danish and Swedish writers (25 kroner). Earlier items still available include Henry Lauritzen's MY DEAR WATSON, translated into English (33 pp., 100 KR); Bjarne's EN STUDIE I RODT, in Danish (12 pp., 40KR); and Bjarne's SHERLOCK HOLMES IN DENMARK, a checklist of Danish editions of the Canon and Danish writings about the writings (66 pp., 80KR).
1555. Charles Edward Pogue's connections with Sherlock Holmes began in 1980, when he played Mordecai Smith in the Charlton Heston/Jeremy Brett production of "The Crucifer of Blood" in Los Angeles. He also wrote the screenplays for the 1983 Ian Richardson films "The Hound of the Baskervilles" and "The Sign of Four", and his new play "The Ebony Ape" was produced in Lexington, Ky., in Sept. 1987. If you'd like to see the show ("a Sherlock Holmes play of Victorian horror and bizarre mystery"), you might suggest that your local theater company contact Pogue (c/o Hotspur, Inc. (2729 Westshire Drive, Hollywood, CA 90068).
1556. The 37th running of The Silver Blaze at Belmont will be held on Saturday, Sept. 24. If you would like to be on the mailing list, write to Richard A. Wein, 65 Briarwood Lane, Plainview, NY 11803.
1557. Richard also reports that a black-and-white poster (16x24 in.) is available from the 1987 production of "The Ebony Ape" (March 88 #2). \$6.00 postpaid from the Actors' Guild of Lexington, Box 22517, Lexington, KY 40522.
1558. The Fourth International Crime Writers Congress will be held in New York, May 9-13, 1988, with events running from an opening reception hosted by the Mysterious Press at the N.Y. Public Library on May 9 to a cocktail party hosted by the Mystery Guild at Gracie Mansion on May 13 (and including the Edgar Awards Banquet on May 12). Detailed information available from the Mystery Writers of America (attn: Congress), 236 West 27th Street #600, New York, NY 10001).
1559. I know of few Sherlockian societies that have handy-dandy fliers intended to offer neophytes an explanation of how our strange world works. One of the best I've seen is the Informational Issue of Plugs & Dottles, published by The Hansoms of John Clayton. If you would like a copy, send a #10 SASE to Robert C. Burr, 4010 Devon Lane, Peoria, IL 61614.

March 1988 #3

1560. Formal announcement at hand from the Swiss National Tourist Office (Swiss Centre, New Coventry Street, London W1V 8EE, England) of the next tour to Switzerland, on Sept. 8-12, to celebrate the unveiling of the life-size statue of Sherlock Holmes in the main square of Meiringen. Victorian costume required, as now seems to be traditional for Sherlockian group-visits to Switzerland.
1561. Reported by Brian R. MacDonald: a one-page article on Sherlock Holmes in the December 87/January 88 issue of Heritage (\$4.50). SCARLET IN GASLIGHT #2 (Eternity Comics, \$1.95). SHERLOCK HOLMES (Firebird, \$7.99); a computer game (at Waldenbooks). MYSTERY OF THE MAGICIAN, by Elizabeth Howard (Random House, \$3.95); a 16-year-old girl with a passion for Holmes is involved in a mystery about Houdini. RETURN OF MORIARTY, by John Gardner (Berkley, \$3.50); a reprint with a new cover. B MOVIES, by Don Miller (Ballantine, \$4.95); with some text and one photo of Holmes.
1562. The Metropolitan Toronto Reference Library celebrated the centenary with an exhibition that opened on Dec. 4 and closed on Feb. 15. There are extra copies of the 18-page catalog (CRIME AFTER CRIME: SHERLOCK HOLMES TO BENNY COOPERMAN), and you can send your request to Cameron Hollyer, Metropolitan Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street, Toronto, Ont. M4W 2G8, Canada.
1563. Reported by Don Pollock: "The Measurement of Meaning: Sherlock Holmes in Pursuit of the Marlboro Man", by Eduardo G. Camargo, in MARKETING AND SEMIOTICS, edited by Jean Umiker-Sebeok (Mouton, 1987).
1564. It is unlikely, though not impossible, that as many books about Jack the Ripper will be published in 1988 as there were about Sherlock Holmes in 1987, but the best book about Jack the Ripper is already in print: THE COMPLETE JACK THE RIPPER, by Donald Rumbelow (London: W. H. Allen, 1987; 305 pp., £14.95). First published in 1975 (D2255b), the book has now been revised and expanded for a second edition. Why is it the best book about Jack the Ripper? Donald Rumbelow is a City of London police officer who has had access to all the official files on the case. And he is a fine writer. And, perhaps most important, he does not attempt to identify Jack the Ripper. What he does, and does well, is present all of the facts and discuss all of the theories, pointing out how each of the theorists has suffered from ignorance or neglect of those facts. Rumbelow also offers brief coverage of suggestions by Conan Doyle and Dr. Joseph Bell, and of relevant Sherlockian pastiches, but the real value of the book lies in his careful analysis of the facts and fantasies about Jack the Ripper.
1565. Jack the Ripper will also be on American television this year, according to a newspaper report forwarded by Ted Schulz. The four-part mini-series from Thames Television (which Michael Caine will make after he finishes work on the film "Sherlock and Me") has been purchased by CBS for \$6.1 million.
1566. THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA is in print as well as on Broadway, in a paperback reprint of Gaston Leroux's novel (London: W. H. Allen/Star Book, 1986; 265 pp., £2.95), with a Foreword by Peter Haining and reprints of two articles about the Phantom's Sherlockian connections: David M. Rush's "Holmes and the Opera Ghost" (D4170a) and Barbara Goldfield's "Sherlock Holmes Meets the Living Corpse" (D4158a).

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1567. Billy Wilder's "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970) is one of the more interesting Sherlockian films, because of the imagination of the man who conceived and directed it, and because the uncut and unreleased version of the film continues to be the focus of a search by those who want to see the realization of a work that is now available only in copies of the production script. BILLY WILDER IN HOLLYWOOD, by Maurice Zolotow (New York: Limelight Editions, 1987; 396 pp., \$12.95), was first published in 1977 (D4227b) and has been revised and expanded for a second edition; the

book presents an appreciative examination of Wilder's life and career, as well as a valuable account of the history of his contribution to Sherlockian cinema.

1568. Paxton Whitehead, who played Holmes in "The Crucifer of Blood" (D4430b), can be seen as Albert, the butler, in the syndicated television series "Marblehead Manor". Another new syndicated series called "T and T" stars Mr. T (formerly of the A-Team) as a lawyer-detective, wearing (in the print advertisements, anyway) a deerstalker.
1569. LOST WORLDS IN TIME, SPACE AND MEDICINE: THE SCIENCE FICTION OF ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE, by Alvin E. Rodin and Jack D. Key (Beavercreek: KeyRod Literary Enterprises, 1988; 102 pp., \$15.95 postpaid), is an examination of five novels and ten short stories in the genre, including two Canonical tales, with illustrations reprinted from the first magazine appearances (and a fine contemporary portrait of Prof. William Rutherford, who was acknowledged by Conan Doyle as a source for Prof. Challenger). Two earlier titles are still available: ADVENTURING IN ENGLAND WITH DOCTOR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE, by Rodin and Key (BSJ March 87), \$13.00 postpaid; and APHORISMS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Key and Rodin (BSJ September 87), \$7.95 postpaid. The publisher's address is 3041 Maginn Drive, Beavercreek, OH 45385.
1570. The Valley Railroad (Railroad Avenue, Essex, CT 06426) has two mystery excursions planned this year: "Murder on the 20th Century Limited" on May 14, featuring Pam and Jerry North (New York, 1946); and "Adventure Aboard the Aberdonian Arrow" on Sept. 10, featuring Sherlock Holmes (England and Scotland, 1889). The Valley Railroad is a nicely restored steam line in the Connecticut Valley, where some years ago The Cornish Horrors chartered the train for a meeting that included Chris Steinbrunner's thoroughly appropriate on-board screening of "Terror by Night".
1571. A British report from Roger Johnson: PAST FORGETTING, by Peter Cushing (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £9.95); the second volume of his autobiography, with much about his S'ian films. THE REVENGE OF THE HOUND, by Michael Hardwick (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £10.95); the British edition. SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE EMINENT THESPIAN, by Val Andrews (Ian Henry, £8.25, due in March). THE KENTISH MANOR MURDERS, by Julian Symons (Macmillan, £9.95, due in April); a sequel to A THREE-PIPE PROBLEM. MY DEAREST HOLMES, by Rohase Piercy (Gay Men's Press, £3.95, due in April). THE NEW ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, edited by Martin Harry Greenberg (Arlington, £11.95, due in April); the British edition.
1572. Dawn Williams (Schweinfurt American Elementary School, APO New York, 09033) is offering to sell her Sherlock Holmes and Conan Doyle collection: about 70 books, plus Strand and Windsor magazines. Write for her list.

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1573. WRITERS FOR CHILDREN: CRITICAL STUDIES OF THE MAJOR AUTHORS SINCE THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY, edited by Jane M. Bingham (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1988; 661 pp., \$90.00), is a massive work, with critical essays and bibliographies on 84 important authors in the genre. Mary Weichsel Ake's seven-page discussion of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle concentrates on the Canon, with mention of some of the better imitators, including Walter Brooks, Robert Quackenbush, Eve Titus, and Robert Newman. Available from the publisher (800-257-5755); shipping \$3.00 extra.
1574. Reported by Ron De Waal: SILENT MAGIC: REDISCOVERING THE SILENT FILM ERA, by Ivan Butler (New York: Ungar, 1988; 208 pp., \$24.95); attractively printed and illustrated, with comments on some of the Sherlockian silents.
1575. BAKER STREET PORTRAITS has emerged from the Pequod Press bindery, with 36 pages and 25 Sherlockian "four-second snapshot" quatrains, some new and some selected from earlier alphabet books, all reset in 24-point Type Roman ("although it is only a naive domestic type without any breeding, we are sure you will be amused by its presumption"). Order from John Ruyle, 521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707; \$28.00 cloth or \$14.00 paper.
1576. THE HOLIDAY ADVENTURES OF ACHBAR, by Barbara Sofer, illustrated by Nina Gaalen (Rockville: Kar-Ben Copies, 1983; 63 pp., \$4.95 postpaid), is a children's book in which Achbar the mouse (in deerstalker) helps solve "The Rosh Hashannah Riddle" and other mysteries involving Jewish holidays. The publisher is at 6800 Tildenwood Lane, Rockville, MD 20852 (800-452-7236), and they take plastic.
1577. Charlotte Erickson's 14-page checklist of SHERLOCK HOLMES IN THE COMIC BOOKS (1985) is still available (\$3.00 postpaid), as is the 12-page illustrated INVENTORY OF 221B BAKER STREET, LOCATED AT S. HOLMES, ESQUIRE (October 87 #5) (\$6.00 postpaid). Order from Charlotte Erickson, 726 Sutter Street, Palo Alto, CA 94303.
1578. Our S'ian grapevine is truly world-wide: the miniature of "The Sherlock Holmes" (February 88 #6) was first reported from Germany, by Richard R. Rutter, who provided the photograph.
1579. A new three-page flier at hand from Ilene Fauer (US2, 563 Clinton Road, Paramus, NJ 07652), with an ever-expanding list of "Sherlockian Shopping" that includes many intriguing items (such as a yellow-diamond "Sherlockian on Board" sign for the rear window of your car).
1580. THE NEW ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: ORIGINAL STORIES BY EMINENT MYSTERY WRITERS, edited by Martin Harry Greenberg and Carol-Lynn Rossel Waugh, was well-received when it was published here last year, and it is now available in a British edition (London: Arlington Books, 1988; 345 pp., £11.95), with a new dust jacket with a Sherlockian portrait by Slatter-Anderson.
1581. Videocassettes reported from Coronet/MTI Film & Video, 108 Wilmot Road, Deerfield, IL 60015-9925 (800-621-2132): "My Dear Uncle Sherlock" (D4619b) at \$79.00; "Mr. Magoo: Man of Mystery" (includes D6098b) at \$24.95; and "Sherlock Holmes Series" (the four Australian animations with Peter O'Toole) at \$19.95 each.

March 1988 #6

1582. "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who invented Sherlock Holmes, believed so firmly in the power of thought that he always said that if he walked down the road saying: 'I am the Prime Minister! I am the Prime Minister!' people would look at him and say: 'There is the Prime Minister!' I asked his son Dennis, who was a friend of mine, if this was true and he said: 'I once asked my father if I said I was invisible whether I would be.' 'What did your father reply?' I enquired. 'He said: "No one would notice you!"'" From GROWING OLDER, GROWING YOUNGER, by Barbara Cartland (New York: Dodd, Mead & Co., 1984).
1583. Marvin P. Epstein ("Count Negretto Sylvius") died on Mar. 22. He was an enthusiastic collector, first of detective fiction in general, and then concentrating on Sherlockiana, seeking out the rare and unusual: first editions in dust jackets, original artwork, the manuscript of "The Priory School", and kinescope film of the 1957 "Odyssey" television program about the BSI. He sold much of his collection in 1985, but continued to collect (it was Marv who purchased the splendid copy of Beeton's that came onto the market last year), demonstrating that a true collector can never retire.
1584. The Cleveland Convention Center will be the site of the International Superman Exposition on June 16-19, and on June 18 there will be a parade with the theme of "Legends" -- and Mrs. Hudson's Lodgers of Cleveland will join the parade with a float honoring the legendary detective Sherlock Holmes. Additional information available from The Stetaks, 15529 Diagonal Road, Nickle Plate, La Grange, OH 44050.
1585. The cover story on Superman in Time (Mar. 14) quotes Harlan Ellison's estimate that there are only five fictional creations known in practically every part of the earth: Tarzan, Sherlock Holmes, Mickey Mouse, Robin Hood, and Superman.

1586. Reported: CARTOON MOVIE STARS: DAFFY (a videocassette in a yellow box with Daffy Duck in sunglasses on the cover, from Warner Brothers at \$14.95); the cartoons include "The Great Piggy Bank Robbery" (1945), with Daffy as "Duck Twacy" and with a brief caricature of Basil Rathbone as Sherlock Holmes. Advertised at \$14.95 (#786885 VHS and #786887 Beta) by Publishers Central Bureau (catalog 338), One Champion Avenue, Avenel, NJ 07001.
1587. Britain's intelligence agencies do not trust each other, according to a report from Reuter in the Washington Post (Mar. 18). Lord Carver, who commanded the armed services in the 1970s, said during a debate in the House of Lords on secret-service recruitment and enforcement of the lifetime vow of secrecy made by intelligence agents that in his dealings with intelligence agencies he found an "obsession with secrecy" that resulted in a lack of cooperation. And, he added, he had come across many amateurish intelligence officers: "Their work sometimes savored of Sherlock Holmes, Richard Hannay, Bulldog Drummond, or even James Bond."
1588. The spring 1986 issue of the Rex Stout Journal at hand, with Marvin Kaye's "From Zeck to Moriarty to Wild" (based on a lecture at the Third Nero Wolfe Assembly in New York on Dec. 5, 1981); the RSJ is edited and published by John McAleer (Mount Independence, 121 Follen Road, Lexington, MA 02173) and costs \$7.50 a year (two issues).

April 1988 #1

1589. SHERLOCK HOLMES MEETS ANNIE OAKLEY, by Stanley Shaw (London: W. H. Allen, 1986; 158 pp., £9.95), involves Holmes and Watson with Annie Oakley, Frank Butler, Arizona John Burke, some Royal Russians, and Princess Victoria in 1887, during the London appearance of Buffalo Bill Cody's Wild West Show. It's a pleasant pastiche, by the author of SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE 1902 FIFTH TEST MATCH (BSJ March 86), and probably still in print; British books tend to stay in print far longer than American books (which sometimes seem to be remaindered a week after publication), and that's why I occasionally report on older British items.
1590. Silent screen star Colleen Moore died on Jan. 25. She starred with John Barrymore in "The Lotus Eaters" and with Wallace Beery in "So Big", and owned one of the world's grandest doll houses, with a library that includes on its shelves a miniature book signed by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.
1591. Cases of Sherlock Holmes #12 ("The Adventure of Silver Blaze") is now out from Renegade Press (2705 East 7th Street, Long Beach, CA 90804). Almost all back issues are available (\$2.00 each), and you can subscribe to the comic book (\$13.00 a year for 6 issues, or \$25.00 for 12 issues).
1592. I can't remember (or find) a report on a Sherlock Holmes plate from The Bradford Exchange, but they have announced that the plate "has now been discontinued because of production difficulties."
1593. "Hey Kids! Be a Winner! Help Fight M.S.!" The Multiple Sclerosis Readathon campaign is still using the dog in Sherlockian costume, seen most recently on Flav-o-Rich milk cartons.
1594. MIHU THE DETECTIVE AND THE MYSTERY OF THE BLUE BUDGIE, by Chaiky Halpern (Jerusalem: Feldheim Publishers, 1987), is the second title in a series of children's books featuring MiHu in Sherlockian costume (the first was MIHU THE DETECTIVE AND THE MYSTERY OF THE MISSING CHAMATZ in 1979). Both titles are available from Philipp Feldheim Publishers, 200 Airport Executive Park, Spring Valley, NY 10977; \$2.50 each, postpaid.
1595. MY DEAREST HOLMES, by Rohase Piercy (London: Gay Men's Press, 1988; 142 pp., £3.95), is an intriguing book: it is homosexual in its intellectual and emotional approach, but it is neither erotic nor pornographic. It is a two-part pastiche, with the first half presenting Watson's account of a new case in 1887, and the second offering a thoroughly revised report on the events that preceded and followed the fateful journey to the Reichenbach.
1596. The new 25-cent envelopes, with printed return address, are available for \$136.90 per box of 500 #10 envelopes (which is value for money, considering the cost of envelopes and the nuisance of sticking on your own postage and return labels). You can get an order form at your local post office, or by writing to the Stamped Envelope Agency, Williamsburg, VA 16693-0500.
1597. People writing to Canada should keep in mind that the U.S. postal service has retaliated against the Canadian postal service's decision to charge more for letters to the U.S. than for letters within Canada. Letters from the U.S. to Canada now cost 30 cents for the first ounce, plus 22 cents for each additional ounce (compared to 25 cents and 20 cents within the U.S.).

April 1988 #2

1598. The current catalog from Audio Editions (Box 998, Burlingame, CA 94011) has six two-cassette sets at \$16.95 each: THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (read by Hugh Burden) (D4671b), A STUDY IN SCARLET (Tony Britton), THE SIGN OF FOUR (Tony Britton), FOUR SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES (Robert Hardy), MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (four stories, Robert Hardy), and THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (four stories, Robert Hardy). Shipping extra, and they take plastic (800-231-4261).
1599. Other audio cassettes are listed in the current catalog from Books on Tape, Box 7900, Newport Beach, CA 92658 (800-626-3333); they take plastic. Read by Richard Green: THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, on ten 90-minute cassettes (\$15.50 rental/\$56.00 purchase); and THE MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, on eight 60-minute cassettes (\$14.50/\$64.00). Jimcin recordings read by Walter Covell: A STUDY IN SCARLET, on five 60-minute cassettes (\$11.50/\$40.00); THE SIGN OF THE FOUR, on five 60-minute cassettes (\$11.50/ \$40.00); THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, on six 60-minute cassettes (\$12.50/ \$48.00); THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, on eight 90-minute cassettes (\$15.50/\$64.00). Jimcin recording of short stories read by Walter Covell, Walter Zimmerman, Jack Benson, and Cindy Hardin on sixteen single cassettes (\$9.95 each, purchase only). Read by Basil Rathbone: SHERLOCK HOLMES SOUNDBOOK [presumably the Caedmon set], on four cassettes (\$29.95 purchase only). Read by Hugh Burden: THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES [presumably D4671b], on two cassettes (\$13.95 purchase only).
1600. More audio cassettes: FAMOUS CASES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (D4689b) on six cassettes, read by John Brewster (\$39.95) from Listening Library, One Park Avenue, Old Greenwich, CT 06870.
1601. Catalog at hand from Opportunities for Learning (20417 Nordhoff Street, Chatsworth, CA 91311) with an assortment of school materials, including a filmstrip-on-videocassette (\$96.00) of ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (four cases adapted by David Eastman and illustrated by Allan Eitzen, published as booklets by Troll Associates in 1982), a computer game for Commodore or Apple (\$49.95) called SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE MASTERS OF MYSTERY, and book-and-audiocassette sets of Canonical titles and association items such as Marjorie Weinman Sharmat's NATE THE GREAT (D5335b) and NATE THE GREAT AND THE MISSING KEY, and Stan and January Berenstain's THE BEAR DETECTIVES.
1602. Other filmstrip-audiocassette packages in current catalogs: THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (\$55.00), THE RED-HEADED LEAGUE (\$32.00), and THE SPECKLED BAND (\$32.00) from Listening Library, 1 Park Avenue, Old Greenwich, CT 06870. SHERLOCK HOLMES CLIFFHANGERS (\$139.95), SHERLOCK HOLMES' GREATEST CASES (\$139.95) and THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SPELLBINDERS (\$139.95) from Spoken Arts, Box 289, New Rochelle, NY 10802. SHERLOCK HOLMES' GREATEST CASES (\$139.95), UNSOLVED MYSTERIES (\$179.00), and READING COMPREHENSION SKILLS (using S'ian artwork, \$159.00) from Society for Visual Education, 1345 Diversey Parkway, Chicago, IL 60614 (800-621-1900).

1603. Two more filmstrips-on-cassette: CLASSIC CHARACTERS (includes "RedH", \$99.00) from Society for Visual Education, 1345 Diversey Parkway, Chicago, IL 60614 (800-621-1900); and ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (four stories, \$96.00) from Charles Clark Co., 170 Keyland Court, Bohemia, NY 11716 (800-247-7009).
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April 1988 #3

1604. Reported from Encyclopaedia Britannica Educational Corp., 425 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611 (800-554-9862): sound filmstrips of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (\$39.00) and "Scenes from The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (\$39.00); these appear to be adaptations of the Classic Comics versions. And a sound filmstrip or videocassette of "The Adventure of the Speckled Band" (\$39.00).
1605. Reported by Tyke Niver: a special limited edition (only 15,000 copies) of a miniature group from "The Great Mouse Detective" (showing Basil, Dawson, and Olivia), from The Disney Collection, Sherman Turnpike, Danbury, CT 06816; \$57.50 postpaid.
1606. Further to the report (February 88 #1) on the World Snow Festival in Switzerland: the S'ian entry (a 20-foot-high seated statue of Holmes) came in second in the popular judging (the German team won, with a huge ski boot), and placed fifth in the official judging (the Swiss team won, with an abstract of ten arches representing each decade of winter sports).
1607. And the Japan Times reported (Feb. 6) that a massive sculpture of Sherlock Holmes was one of 285 statues displayed at the Snow Festival in Sapporo.
1608. The blurb reads: "Story of the Crime Which Was Carried Out With the Hope of an Honest Achievement--The Book That Described the Wolf and the Lamb, and Its Sequel--Pursuit of the Gang That Was Set to Work to Protect the Future Happiness of a Woman--Famous Detective Confesses to an Inclination to Compound a Felony." Which Sherlock Holmes story does this describe?
1609. DAS ZEICHEN DER VIER is the latest in the series of new German translations of the Canon from Haffmans Verlag (February 88 #5). The new volume costs DM 26.00 and is available from the publisher (Hubenstrasse 19, CH-8057 Zurich, Switzerland).
1610. New paperback reprints: THE GIANT RAT OF SUMATRA (D4847b), by Richard L. Boyer (London: Grafton Books, 1987; 256 pp., £2.95). SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE CASE OF THE RALEIGH LEGACY, by L. B. Greenwood (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1987; 184 pp. \$2.95). THE RETURN OF MORIARTY (D4931b with new cover art), by John Gardner (New York: Berkley Books, 1988; 290 pp., \$3.50).
1611. Check your local supermarket bookshelves for a new Little Golden Book: DETECTIVE MICKEY MOUSE (Racine: Western Publishing Co., 1985); Mickey in S'ian costume.
1612. Reported by Ron De Waal: "Sherlock Holmes Centenary" in TWENTIETH-CENTURY LITERARY CRITICISM: ARCHIVE VOLUME (VOL. 26), edited by Dennis Poupard (Gale Research Co., 1988; \$92.00), with 63 pp. of excerpts from criticism by Baring-Gould, Hardwick, Roberts, Eyles, Nordon, Starrett, and others (available from the publisher at Book Tower, Detroit, MI 48226).
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April 1988 #4

1613. The spring 1988 issue of the I/R Newsletter offers a new group of four unpainted 54-mm figures (Holmes, Watson, Mrs. Hudson, and Wiggins) at \$5.95 each. I/R is Imrie/Risley Miniatures (Box 89, Burnt Hills, NY 12027); their earlier (summer 1983) offering of four different figures (Holmes, Watson, Moriarty, and Lestrade, at \$5.95 each) and a three-figure grouping of Holmes, Watson, and the Hound of the Baskervilles (\$14.95) are still available. Helen Imrie also was the artist for the fine Holmes and Watson figurines in pewter (D4883a).
1614. An unofficial report from PBS-TV: "The Sign of Four" is not included in their spring schedule (through July 7), nor in their schedule of summer repeats (through Aug. 25), but they expect to repeat the six programs in "The Return of Sherlock Holmes".
1615. Reported by Jerry Margolin: a Sherlockian-films theme issue of Files Magazine, published by Pop Cult Inc./New Media Inc., 11586 Vimyrd, Granada Hills, CA 91344; \$6.95.
1616. The spring 1988 catalog at hand from The Mysterious Bookshop, with a section of in-print S'iana. 129 West 56th Street, New York, NY 10019.
1617. The Longman Classics series (Harlow: Longman, 1987) now includes two volumes of stories, adapted for younger readers, each with 58 pp., three stories, study questions, and color photographs from the Granada series. THREE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Spec, Five, and Bery) is a new edition of D322b and costs £1.30. THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (SixN, Norw, and Gold) costs £1.20.
1618. Mel Ruiz reports that The House of Canes and Walking Sticks (January 88 #5) has moved to 5628 Vineland Avenue, North Hollywood, CA 91601 (818-769-4007); they have no bronze heads left, and only one aluminum one, and it will take at least six months to get new stock.
1619. GOOD OLD INDEX, by William D. Goodrich (Dubuque: Gasogene Press, 1988; 247 pp., \$29.95 postpaid from the publisher, Box 1041, Dubuque, IA 52004-1041), is an expanded version of the "Sherlock Holmes Reference Guide" published from 1975 through 1980 in the first 24 issues of Baker Street Miscellanea, and it is welcome indeed. Keyed to the 1960 (and still current) edition of THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES, the new index covers far more ground than Jay Finley Christ's AN IRREGULAR GUIDE TO SHERLOCK HOLMES OF BAKER STREET (which was keyed to Doubleday's 1936 edition of the Canon), offering not only an exhaustive listing of the people, places, and objects to be found in the Sacred Writings, but also a wide-ranging selection of categories that will be as indispensable to serious scholars as to people desperately trying to recall the Canonical reference to the cock pheasant that appears on the new 25-cent postage stamp that was issued on Apr. 29.
1620. "The newest attraction in the Walt Disney World Village will always remain a mystery," according to an advertisement in the Wall Street Journal (Apr. 4) for the Grosvenor Resort, which is featuring its Sherlock Holmes Museum in its Baskerville's Restaurant. Call 800-624-4109 for a hotel brochure. The Grosvenor Resort is a 630-room hotel purchased last year by Don Werby (proprietor of S. Holmes Esq. in San Francisco).
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April 1988 #5

1621. The Apr. 15 discount-books catalog from Edward R. Hamilton (Falls Village, CT 06031) has some new bargains: THE DANCING MEN, by Duncan Kyle (non-S'ian except for the title) at \$2.95; YOU CAN FOOL ALL OF THE PEOPLE ALL THE TIME, by Art Buchwald (with one of his S'ian columns) at \$3.95; THE CLERIHEWS OF PAUL HORGAN (with a S'ian clerihow) at \$3.95; A CHILD OF THE CENTURY, by Ben Hecht (his autobiography, with mention of his admiration for SH) at \$9.95; THE ENCYCLOPAEDIA SHERLOCKIANA, by Jack Tracy (a new reprint from Avenel) at \$7.95; SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE LONG STORIES (a Galley Press reprint of the John Murray edition) at \$7.95.
1622. Milton Caniff died on Apr. 3. He created the comic strips "Terry and the Pirates" and "Steve Canyon" (and included a S'ian dream sequence in the "Steve Canyon" strip from July 21 through Oct. 8, 1985). When William Gillette's first "farewell tour" in "Sherlock Holmes" played at the Hartman Theater in Columbus, Ohio, Caniff was studying for a fine arts degree at Ohio State University and working for the Columbus Dispatch, where his portrait of Gillette as Holmes was published on Apr. 4, 1930.
1623. Our circulation department reports that the increase in postage costs has been offset by a slightly lower rate from our printer, and that our annual subscription price will remain at \$8.00 for six or more pages a month of whatever gossip I find appropriate. However: the printout (now 44 pages) of the file of Sherlockian societies will now cost \$2.75 postpaid.
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1624. Super-VHS (the high-fidelity and high-priced new VCR generation) will soon have some pre-recorded videocassettes available, with ten tapes to be produced by Super Source Video in San Francisco.
1625. Two of the tapes will be "Sherlock Holmes and the Secret Weapon" and "Dressed to Kill" (because those films, like the other eight, are in the public domain).
1626. I.A.L. Diamond, who won an Oscar for his screenplay for "The Apartment", died on Apr. 21. He worked with Billy Wilder on many of his films, including "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970), on which Diamond shared the screenplay credit with Wilder.
1627. There's a good article about the "Take a Bite out of Crime" public-service campaign in the April issue of Smithsonian. The name of the dog was chosen in a contest in which the most frequent suggestion was "Shure-lock Bones" -- but the winner was "McGruff".
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April 1988 #6

1628. SILENT MAGIC: REDISCOVERING THE SILENT FILM ERA, by Ivan Butler (New York: Ungar, 1988; 208 pp., \$24.00), is an entertaining commentary, with splendid photographs, by an enthusiast who saw his first film in 1915. His discussion includes "A Study in Scarlet" (1914), "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1921), "Sherlock Holmes" (1922), "The Fires of Fate" (1923), "Sherlock Jr." (1924), and "The Lost World" (1925).
1629. "Sherlock Holmes Inspects the Hamlet Spectre", by Archibald W. Harris III [Robert F. Fleissner], combines a Sherlockian pastiche with Shakespearean scholarship, in the premier issue of the Shakespeare Inc. Quarterly (\$25.00 a year from Shakespeare Inc., Box 3955, Rockefeller Center Station, New York, NY 10185).
1630. I receive occasional requests for a source for in-print British books: try Blackwell's (Broad Street, Oxford OX1 3BQ, England); they provide good service, and you can open an account, or they'll take plastic (Mastercard or Visa).
1631. The Sherlock Holmes Society of Australia has issued a handsome lapel pin, with a silhouette of Holmes superimposed on an outline map of Australia. \$10.00 (US) postpaid from Alan C. Olding, P.O. Box 13, Stirling, S.A. 5152, Australia.
1632. Brad Keefe reports a delightful discovery at Toys R Us: a Glow-in-the-Dark Slithering Snake for use in show-and-tell discussions of "The Speckled Band". Four inches of plastic snake on a three-foot rod, price \$1.38, and "the best part is, if you wonder how the snake got back up, all you have to do is turn the stick over."
1633. The spring 1988 issue of Three Rivers News (published by the Carnegie Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, 4724 Baum Boulevard, Pittsburgh, PA 15213) reports on the availability of the Canon on recorded cassettes and disks and in large-print and Braille books. Also available on recorded disks are Conan Doyle's BEYOND THE CITY, THE DOINGS OF RAFFLES HAW, TALES OF TERROR AND MYSTERY, and UNCOLLECTED STORIES: THE UNKNOWN CONAN DOYLE. The National Library Service (run by the Library of Congress) now includes more than 160 regional and subregional libraries.
1634. There were two brief clips from "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" in the Billy Wilder retrospective that preceded his receiving the Irving G. Thalberg award during the Oscar ceremonies on Apr. 12.
1635. British comedian Kenneth Williams died on Apr. 15. He played Sir Henry Baskerville in the film of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1978), with Peter Cook and Dudley Moore.
1636. The blurb (April 88 #3) was for "The Three Gables" (in the Washington Sunday Star on Feb. 13, 1927).
1637. Granada's "The Devil's Foot" was broadcast in Britain on Apr. 6, 1988, with Jeremy Brett's "new" Holmes. Three more one-hour shows ("Silver Blaze", "Wisteria Lodge", and "The Bruce-Partington Plans") followed, with "The Hound of the Baskervilles" due in two parts this fall.
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May 1988 #1

1638. ON THE SCENT WITH SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Walter Shepherd (Bloomington: Gaslight Publications, 1987; 85 pp., \$15.95 postpaid from the publisher, 112 East Second, Bloomington, IN 47401), is an imaginative description of the London of Sherlock Holmes, and Holmes himself, as evoked by the scents and sounds of his era. The book is an expansion of the first two chapters of a volume by Shepherd published in 1978, with the same title.
1639. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's enthusiasm for sport extended to cricket, and his "The Story of Spedegue's Dropper" has been included in THE BOUNDARY BOOK: SECOND INNINGS, edited by Leslie Frewin (London: Pelham Books, 1986; 384 pp., £14.95). The story is to some extent autobiographical: in MEMORIES AND ADVENTURES he tells how he was once bowled by A. P. Lucas with just such a "dropper" and concludes, "I spent the rest of the day wondering gloomily what I ought to have done--and I am wondering yet."
1640. More Sherlockian philately: the new 25-cent stamps were designed by Chuck Ripper and feature a cock pheasant on the stamp and the booklet cover (which was also designed by Ripper).
1641. Further to the report (March 88 #2) on handy-dandy fliers intended to offer neophytes an explanation of how our strange world works, The Bootmakers of Toronto also offer a well-produced brochure. If you want a copy, send a #10 SASE (US postage is OK) to Chris Redmond, 125 Lincoln Road #1101, Waterloo, Ont. N2J 2N9, Canada.
1642. "Sherlock Holmes & the Law" is the theme of an exhibition at the Harvard Law School Library from Apr. 21 through June 30, 1988, and there are some nice items on display, including Beeton's Christmas Annual for 1887 and the manuscript of "The Three Students" (both on loan from the Houghton Library). Justice Albert M. Rosenblatt was on hand for the opening festivities, which included his lecture on "A Study in Crimson".
1643. A preliminary (but thoroughly detailed) program at hand for the "Homage to Sherlock Holmes" pilgrimage to Switzerland on Sept. 8-12. The party will cross the Gemmi Pass, visiting the melancholy Daubensee (an inexplicable incident may or may not occur), and Meiringen (where a bronze life-sized statue of Sherlock Holmes will be unveiled, and Hans Kuenzler's "Sherlock Holmes March" will receive its world premiere), and other S'ian locales. The tour is being organized by the Swiss National Tourist Office, and you can obtain more information about the tour from the SNTO, Swiss Center, New Coventry Street, London W1V 8EE, England.
1644. Check your neighborhood pet shop for a soft vinyl-nontoxic Dogtoy made by Petland (Chillicothe, OH 45601): THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, by A Collie Dog, in the shape of an octavo book, for about \$6.00.
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May 1988 #2

1645. Granada seems a bit more determined to abandon Sherlock Holmes when they finish "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (which will make a total of 28 hours of tape and film), but Jeremy Brett intends to continue in the role on stage in the play he has commissioned. According to press reports, he hopes to persuade Edward Hardwicke to play Watson in the play, "and there is talk of a big screen movie."
1646. Granada's "The Musgrave Ritual" was one of five nominees for an Edgar from the Mystery Writers of America for "best mystery television series segment" in 1987, with the winner to be announced at the MWA annual dinner on May 12. No word yet on who won.
1647. And Granada has completed location work on "The Hound of the Baskervilles". The Hound will be played by an 18-month-old fawn-colored Great Dane named "Khan". And how will Granada provide a "ghastly, glowing green" Hound? With a custom-made black-nylon body stocking.
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1648. Still more news from the British press: Jeremy Paul (who dramatized some of the Granada series, and who is writing the play in which Jeremy Brett hopes to tour) and John Hawkesworth have a new project in mind. "One thing we'd love to do is make a series about Conan Doyle himself," Jeremy Paul told a reporter, "I think he would make a fascinating series." Paul wrote the "Conan Doyle" program in the TV series "The Edwardians" that was broadcast in Britain in 1972 and in the U.S. in 1974 (D4603b), "but I couldn't really do him justice in so little time." Hawkesworth also considers Conan Doyle a fascinating man: "He was the sort of chap who would play cricket in the morning, ski during the afternoon, and write a Sherlock Holmes story in the evening."
1649. UNSOLVED! CLASSIC TRUE MURDER CASES, edited by Richard Glyn Jones (New York: Peter Bedrick, 1988; 286 pp., \$7.95), ranges from Dorothy Sayers on "The Murder of Julia Wallace" to James Thurber on "The Hall-Mills Affair", and includes Alexander Woollcott's "The Elwell Case" (first published in Look in 1940 and reprinted in LONG, LONG AGO in 1943), in which Woollcott begins by paying tribute to Sherlock Holmes and ends by suggesting that the unidentified murderer of Elwell "also has it upon his conscience that he brought into this world one of the most irritating detectives in the whole library of criminous fiction." (No, it isn't Sherlock Holmes.)
1650. Gallery Lainzberg (200 Guaranty Building, 3rd Avenue and 3rd Street SE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52401) (800-553-9995) are still offering production cels from "The Great Mouse Detective" (\$385.00 each for the good ones).
1651. Reported by Emory M. Lee: a set of four "funny cars" made in Italy by ESCI with four characters (Holmes, Watson, Mrs. Hudson, and Moriarty) from the Japanese/Italian "Sherlock Hound" cartoons. "Sherlock Holmes" (#0046) can be ordered from Franklin's Diecast Miniatures, 1008 Doon Village Road, Kitchener, Ont. N2P 1A5, Canada; \$34.00 postpaid for the set (or \$8.50 each), and they take plastic.
1652. The 37th running of The Silver Blaze at Belmont will be on Saturday, Sept. 24 (cost \$45.00). If you would like to be on the mailing list, contact Stephen L. Stix, R.R. 1, Box 452, Markleville, IN 46056 (317-533-4443).

May 1988 #3

1653. Robert A. Heinlein, who died on May 7, was a truly splendid science-fiction writer ("*the* great grandmaster of the field," according to Isaac Asimov). "The Moon Is a Harsh Mistress" (D5930a), which won a Hugo award at the World Science Fiction Convention in 1966, features a computer named Mycroft and has many S'ian references, and Holmes, Watson, Challenger, and Conan Doyle are among the many incidental characters in his 1980 novel THE NUMBER OF THE BEAST.
1654. Sheridan Haynes, the hero of Julian Symons' A THREE PIPE PROBLEM (D5202b), now has a second mystery to solve, in THE KENTISH MANOR MURDERS (London: Macmillan, 1988; 191 pp., £9.95). This time the famous Sherlockian actor is involved with international criminals, a reclusive millionaire hidden from the world in his own "Castle Baskerville" on Dartmoor, and the longlost manuscript of an unpublished Sherlock Holmes novel. An entertaining book, written with style and humor.
1655. Reported by Tyke Niver: The Collectors Guild (1625 Bathgate Avenue, Bronx, NY 10457) is offering a lithograph by Carle Vernet (1758-1836) entitled "Hunting Scene in Fontainebleu" (#84-DC532) for \$286.00 (or \$35.75 a month for eight months), plus \$19.95 shipping. Carle Vernet was Sherlock Holmes' great-grandfather.
1656. English Faire (701 East Bay Street, Charleston, SC 29403) offers a colorful full-size (24x32") reproduction of a "Sherlock Holmes" pub sign (not the design used by The Sherlock Holmes in London) for \$240.00. A sales list is available (they have many pub and shop signs), and you can request a color photograph of the "Sherlock Holmes" pub sign.
1657. Reported by Bob Katz: "The Double Lives of Ellery Queen" is the title of an exhibit at the Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Columbia University, to which the Ellery Queen papers were recently donated. The exhibit is open from 9 to 5 weekdays, in the Kempner Exhibition Room on the sixth floor of Butler Library, until July 6. No word yet on whether there's anything Sherlockian in the exhibit.
1658. Videotaper alert: "Time After Time" (1979) will be shown by The Movie Channel on June 14. Nicholas Meyer directed the film, which has Jack the Ripper using H. G. Wells' time machine to flee to modern San Francisco, followed by H. G. Wells, who poses as a detective, choosing a pseudonym that modern police will hardly recognize: Sherlock Holmes. Keep a sharp eye on the girl's apartment toward the end of the film: I *think* that the out-of-focus yellow poster is the "Frog of the Baskervilles" poster.
1659. Randall Garrett died on Dec. 31. His TOO MANY MAGICIANS (D4934b) is a fine alternate-universe novel with many pleasant Sherlockian allusions.
1660. A BAKER STREET GALLERY follows in the footsteps of BAKER STREET PORTRAITS from the Pequod Press, with 27 new quatrains by John Ruyle celebrating characters that range from Black Peter to Sir Cathcart Soames, set in an unusual type called Freak (when it was introduced in 1889) but now called Bamboo in an as-yet-unsuccessful effort to increase its popularity. The book is available from the author, 521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707; \$29.00 cloth, or \$14.00 paper.

May 1988 #4

1661. SKETCHES OF YOUNG COUPLES, WITH AN URGENT REMONSTRANCE TO THE GENTLEMEN OF ENGLAND (BEING BACHELORS OR WIDOWERS), ON THE PRESENT ALARMING CRISIS was published in 1840 and is in no way Sherlockian. However: the "present alarming crisis" was the possibility that in 1840, encouraged by Queen Victoria's recent announcement of her engagement (with the rather forceful expression, "It is my intention to ally myself with Prince Albert of Saxe Coburg and Gotha") and by the fact that 1840 was a leap year, the young ladies of England, would rise up and demand matrimony of all eligible young men. "Unless the excited female populace be speedily checked and restrained in their lawless proceedings," the alarmed author warned, "most deplorable results must ensue therefrom, among which may be anticipated a most alarming increase in the population of the country." Offered at \$950 in a recent dealer's catalog, and the price reflects the identify of the anonymous author: Charles Dickens.
1662. On May 23 the postal service issued a stamp commemorating the 200th anniversary of statehood of one of the Carolinas ("The Ku Klux Klan . . . rapidly formed local branches in different parts of the country, notably in Tennessee, Louisiana, the Carolinas, Georgia, and Florida.")
1663. Daws Butler died on May 18. He was the voice of Yogi Bear, Huckleberry Hound, Quick Draw McGraw, and many other Hanna-Barbara characters, and he also worked with Stan Freberg. According to Ron Haydock's DEERSTALKER!, Butler provided the voice for the Watson character in the Canadian television series "Professor Lightfoot and Dr. Twiddle" (1953), which featured Jerry Courneya's trained chimpanzees (Courneya was going to call his series "Sherlock Holmes" or "Chimplock Holmes", but when the Conan Doyle estate threatened to make trouble, he changed the title and the names of the lead characters). "It was absolutely weird, but funny, seeing a chimp walking around his apartment with a deerstalker on his head and playing a violin, while another chimp sat in an armchair reading a newspaper and in voiceover narration started telling you about one of their adventures."
1664. The Quality Paperback Book Club (Camp Hill, PA 17012) continues to find new uses for the Gerry Gersten caricature of Holmes, the latest being on the face of their Sherlock Holmes watch, offered to members at \$14.95 in their June 1988 flier.

1665. NATE THE GREAT AND THE FISHY PRIZE, written by Marjorie Weinman Sharmat and illustrated by Marc Simont (New York: Dell Books, 1988; 48 pp., \$2.50), is the latest (and eighth) in the series of pleasant children's books about the deerstalkered young detective available from Dell in paperback.
1666. Sharida Rizzuto (Baker Street Gazette, Box 994, Metairie, LA 70004) reports that they're ready to publish the second issue, and that they are paying a modest fee for submissions: one cent a word for 1,500-word articles, and up to \$5.00 for artwork.
1667. People have been asking for an address for the Gay Men's Press, publishers of Rohase Piercy's MY DEAREST HOLMES (April 88 #1). You can reach them at P.O. Box 247, 15 Overbury Road, London N15 6RW, England).
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May 1988 #5

1668. FILES MAGAZINE: FOCUS ON SHERLOCK HOLMES, by John Peel (Granada Hills: Pop Cult, 1987; 54 pp., \$6.95), is a heavily illustrated discussion of Holmes on stage, screen, and TV, with chapters about topics such as Basil Rathbone, the musical "Baker Street", and the film "The Great Mouse Detective". The illustrations, unfortunately, are only decorative, since none of them have captions and many are unrelated to the accompanying text (I have no idea why a photograph of Frank Lloyd Wright is included in the chapter on "The Great Mouse Detective") (or, for that matter, why it is included in a discussion of Sherlock Holmes). Order from the publisher, 11586 Vimy Road, Granada Hills, CA 91344.
1669. Bliss Austin ("The Engineer's Thumb") died on May 25. He was one of the first generation of The Baker Street Irregulars, attending the 1944 annual dinner and receiving his Investiture (then called an "Adventure in Membership") at the 1945 annual dinner. He was an enthusiastic collector, and a fine scholar and speaker, and a good friend to many of us.
1670. Reported: a facsimile reprint (from the 1922 edition) of Conan Doyle's THE WHITE COMPANY, with 16 color illustrations by N. C. Wyeth, \$20.00 postpaid from Books of Wonder, 132 Seventh Avenue, New York, NY 10011.
1671. Eternity Comics (2635 Lavery Court #11, Newbury Park, CA 91320) reports that their "Scarlet in Gaslight" series will end with #4 (due in June); #2 and #3 are out of stock, but #1 and #4 each cost \$2.50 postpaid. All four issues will be repackaged as a Graphic Novel, available in August at \$9.00 postpaid. And their new "Sherlock Holmes" monthly series will debut in June, reprinting the 1954-56 Meiser/Giacioia comic strips, at \$2.50 each postpaid (unfortunately, no subscriptions available).
1672. DER MANN DES SCHRECKENS, by Nicholas Meyer (D5079b), has been reprinted in paperback (Munchen: Wilhelm Heyne Verlag, 1985; 219 pp., DM 6.80).
1673. And about that cock pheasant (May 88 #1). How many of you quickly guessed "The Gloria Scott"? Sorry, that's a hen pheasant. "I would never have overlooked such a cock pheasant as that," Holmes told Watson in "The Three Garridebs".
1674. Chris Redmond also offers the new edition of his "Handy Sherlock Holmes Reference Guide" listing the cases, title abbreviations, publication dates, and beginning page numbers in the THE ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES. Send a #10 SASE (US postage OK) to Chris at 125 Lincoln Road #1101, Waterloo, Ont. N2J 2N9, Canada.
1675. Scheduled at the Kennedy Center in Washington from Sept. 7 to Oct. 9: Fritz Weaver and Noel Harrison in Ken Ludwig's "Sullivan & Gilbert" (according to the promotion, "this charming, humorous, and often moving stage portrait of the rocky relationship between the gentle composer Sir Arthur Sullivan and the short-tempered wordsmith William Gilbert is peppered with rousing songs from the duo's most famous works"). Fritz Weaver played Sherlock Holmes in the 1964 musical "Baker Street" (D5166a). And Ken Ludwig is a Washington playwright whose "Dramatic License" (a mystery drama in which William Gillette solves a murder at his castle in Connecticut) was produced in 1983 in Milford, N.H., and in 1985 in Cleveland.
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May 1988 #6

1676. "There'll always be a Musgrave . . ." Sir Richard Musgrave, a 66-year-old Irish baronet, is facing criminal charges in Charlottesville, Va., accused of supervising the killing hundreds of federallyprotected hawks and owls on the estate of billionaire John W. Kluge. Kluge brought Musgrave to the U.S. to establish an English-style hunting preserve on Kluge's 5,000-acre estate. The hawks and owls, and (it would appear) some neighbors' dogs, were killed to protect the pheasants raised for use in the weekend "shoots" at Albemarle Farms.
1677. Discovered by Richard R. Rutter: Gli Albi Orient Express (a series of highquality Italian comic books) has two Sherlockian issues (Le Avventure di Sherlock Holmes): #27 (July 1987) with "Scan" and "Iden", and #30 (Jan. 1988) with "RedH" and "Bosc", well-drawn by Giancarlo Berardi and Giorgio Trevisan. Published by Edizioni L'Isola Trovata, via Ferruccio 15, 20145 Milano, Italy; €6,500 (#27) and €7,000 (#30).
1678. The 15-cent postal card, based on an original painting by Bart Forbes, is the first in an "America the Beautiful" series. Bison are mentioned in the Canon, as are buffalo, but those buffalo, presumably, were Cape buffalo rather than Buffalo Bill's buffalo.
1679. If you missed the Easton Press three-volume deluxe THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES 100TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION (July 87 #1), you can try again: the set was advertised in Smithsonian (May 1988), and I doubt that they would advertise if they hadn't gone to a second printing. It's a reissue of the Heritage Press edition, with color frontispieces, and handsomely produced; \$37.50 postpaid per volume, and they take plastic (Easton Press is at 47 Richards Avenue, Norwalk, CT 06857).
1680. There is no shortage of cabs in Boston, at least for The Speckled Band, which has now published THE FIFTH CAB, a new collection of articles and pastiches by members of the Band, with appropriate illustrations by Judith deFour Love. THE FIFTH CAB is available for \$40.00 (cloth) or \$15.00 (paper) postpaid, from J. Devereux deGozzaldi, Graystone Farm, 79 Frankland Road, Hopkinton, MA 01748. Copies of THE FOURTH CAB (1976) and THE BEST OF THE CABS (1980) are also available for \$7.50 (paper) each, postpaid.
1681. L. B. Greenwood's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE CASE OF THE RALEIGH LEGACY (1986) was one of the better recent novel-length pastiches, and her new SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE CASE OF SABINA HALL (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1988; 192 pp., \$16.95) is a fine sequel. Once again, the mystery is both appropriate and interesting, and the style and characterizations are consistent.
1682. The Southern Illinois University Press (Box 3697, Carbondale, IL 62902) is offering a 20% discount on THE QUEST FOR SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: THIRTEEN BIOGRAPHERS IN SEARCH OF A LIFE, edited by Jon L. Lellenberg (\$15.96) and THE BEST SCIENCE FICTION OF ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE, edited by Charles G. Waugh and Martin H. Greenberg (\$13.56). The deadline is June 15, and you must order two or more books to get the discount; \$2.00 shipping per order, and they take plastic.
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June 1988 #1

1683. ADVENTURES BY GASLIGHT is the latest supplement to the Sleuth Publications game SHERLOCK HOLMES CONSULTING DETECTIVE. You will need some items from the original game (or the earlier free-standing supplements THE MANSION MURDERS and THE QUEEN'S PARK AFFAIR) in order to play the new supplement, which was written by Jacques and Nadine Thiriat and originally published by Jeux Descartes in 1986 in Paris as L'AFFAIRE DE L'OISEAU DE PAPIER. Translated by Catherine Theilen, ADVENTURES BY GASLIGHT involves travel to Paris to solve an international mystery set in May 1889. The game is available for \$14.95 (plus \$2.00 shipping) from Sleuth Publications, 689 Florida Street, San Francisco, CA 94110 (they take plastic).
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1684. SHERLOCK HOLMES CONSULTING DETECTIVE is indeed international now: the game (and some supplements) have been translated into German (SHERLOCK HOLMES CRIMINAL-CABINET), French (SHERLOCK HOLMES DETECTIVE CONSEIL), Japanese, Swedish, and Italian. The addresses (for fanatics) are: Franckh Kosmos, Pfizerstrasse 5-7, D-7000 Stuttgart 1, Germany; Jeux Descartes, 5 rue de la Baume, 75008 Paris, France; Futami Shobo, 1-21-11 Otawa, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 112, Japan; and Avehtyrstel, Frihamnen, S-10056 Stockholm, Sweden. No address yet for the Italian version.
1685. Roy K. Preece, Jr. (The Village Bookshelf, 746 Amherst Road NE, Box 708, Massillon, OH 44648) is offering some material from the early days of the BSI: the menu of the 1934 annual dinner (\$150), and three letters to a Dr. Creighton Barker, from Gray Chandler Briggs (\$100), from Vincent Starrett (\$200), and from Frederic Dorr Steele (\$200). "Mr. Vincent Starrett and I had a conversation a few weeks ago, standing at the bar of The Players," Steele wrote to Barker in 1935. "I find in my wallet your address in Mr. Starrett's handwriting, but for reasons which you are at liberty to guess, I am not quite certain of the import of the conversation." Write to Roy for details.
1686. John E. Stephenson, in *The Call of the Hunt*, mentions Howard Einbinder's mention of Baker Street Tea, available from the Baker Street Tea Co., Box 62, Little Silber, NJ 07739. And Ida Tucker's report that at the end of the film "Oxford Blues" (now on HBO), Rob Lowe tries on a deerstalker and cape. And a wire-service report that Granada's "The Musgrave Ritual" won an Edgar from the Mystery Writers of America for "best mystery television series segment", and that Vincent Price won an Edgar for "contributions to the world of mystery".
1687. Sir Richard Musgrave (May 88 #6) was found guilty of conspiring to kill hawks and owls to protect the English-style game-shooting on an estate in Virginia. "I guess I'll be the first criminal in the family since Charles I," said Sir Richard, who also explained that his title results from the "political shenanigans" of a Tory forefather. He was fined \$9,500 and given a suspended two-year prison sentence.
1688. Those who ordered the Franklin Library edition of GREAT CASES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (February 88 #2) are by now aware of how persistent the Franklin Center marketing operation is: I have been receiving an average of one new offer a week from the Franklin Mint for their various collectibles.

June 1988 #2

1689. Recommended by Richard Wein: John English Gifts, 6 Princes Arcade, Piccadilly, London SW1Y 6DS, England, is a reliable source for "The Sherlock Holmes" in Malcolm Cooper's miniature series of "Great British Pubs" (February 88 #6); price £45.95 less 15% VAT plus postage and insurance at cost. Also for three Bosson wall plaques (Moriarty is new); price £15.75 each, less 15% VAT plus postage and insurance at cost. Richard reports that the postage and insurance are about equal to the VAT; and the firm takes plastic.
1690. Also discovered by Richard Wein: WHEN PEOPLE PUBLISH: ESSAYS ON WRITERS AND WRITING, by Frederick Busch (Iowa City: Iowa University Press, 1986); the contents include "Holmes's Occupation" (somewhat revised from Busch's "Introduction" to the 1985 Signet Classic paperback THE SHERLOCK HOLMES MYSTERIES).
1691. Roger Johnson reports from England that Michael Cox reports that Granada's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will probably be broadcast there on Aug. 31. "Granada would willing make some more two-hour-long films if I could find the stories," Cox told Roger. "There is 'The Valley of Fear', of course, although it's not easy to adapt. Any ideas among the pastiches?" Cox will welcome suggestions at The Coach House, One Oak Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 2BL, England.
1692. Julian Symons' THE KENTISH MANOR MURDERS (May 88 #3) now has an American edition (New York: Viking, 1988; 191 pp., \$15.95). Sheridan Haynes, the hero of Symons' A THREE PIPE PROBLEM (D5202b), has a new mystery to solve; this time the famous Sherlockian actor is involved with international criminals, a reclusive millionaire hidden from the world in his own "Castle Baskerville" on Dartmoor, and the long-lost manuscript of an unpublished Sherlock Holmes novel. An entertaining book, written with style and humor.
1693. W. Kenneth Lane ("Wilson Hargreave, of the New York Police") died in Feb. 1988.
1694. The third issue of *The Plum in the Pudding* at hand from The Six Napoleons, dedicated to the late James F. Brewer (and with an article by Fitz, who was one of the best Sherlockian lecturers as well as one of the least-published Sherlockian authors, this article being, as far as I know, his first time in print in the Sherlockian press). The journal is well produced, with 52 pages, and costs \$4.00 from John Nichols, Box 6324, Annapolis, MD 21401.

June 1988 #3

1695. The Antiquarian Booksellers International has opened in gallery 48 at the Place des Antiquaires at 125 East 57th Street, New York, NY 10022. Paulette Greene will be maintaining a special Sherlock Holmes section for visiting book-hunters, and you can call (212-751-5450) to see what the opening hours are.
1696. Reported by Charles A. Meyer: Beeman Precision Arms (3440 Airway Drive, Santa Rosa, CA 95401) is offering the Beeman/Harper Air Cane, manufactured by Harper Classic Guns Ltd. Overall length is 34 inches, with a 22-inch barrel; weight is 1 pound; power source is a Saxby-Palmer pneumatic pump; calibre is .22 or .25; and price is \$495. According to an article in *Guns & Ammo* (July 1988), this air-gun is extremely accurate, and as powerful as many cartridge firearms. In a larger calibre (19th century versions fired bullets approximately double the diameter of these pellets, at about the same velocity), this weapon would inspire a justified fear of air-guns.
1697. Flier at hand from the Bloomsbury Square Collection (7474 Creedmoor Road #221B, Raleigh, NC 27612) offering a new S'ian pin and a new S'ian mug.
1698. An auction at Sotheby's (34-35 New Bond Street, London W1A 2AA, England) on July 20-21 has some interesting Conan Doyle items, including a fragment of an autograph letter signed "Ever your boy, Arthur" to his mother in 1894, refusing to sign himself "Sherlock Holmes", with an autograph letter signed from Mary J. E. Doyle (the author's mother) to Mrs. Croft explaining that "My son will not sign 'Sherlock Holmes'--he is really too particular!" In his letter to his mother, Conan Doyle wrote: "What would I think if I saw that Scott (to compare great with small) had signed a letter 'Brian de Bois Guillbert'. He would sink points in my estimation." Another auction lot contains two pipes (GBD "New Era") owned by Conan Doyle, from the estate of the late Princess Mdivani.
1699. Reported by Jack Kerr: a reprint of MRS. BEETON'S VICTORIAN COOKBOOK, by Isabella Beeton (Topsfield, Mass.: Salem House), at \$24.95.
1700. Catalog #23 from West's Booking Agency (Box 406, Elm Grove, WI 53122) has a large section of S'iana, including a copy of Edgar W. Smith's APPOINTMENT IN BAKER STREET, inscribed "To Alexander Woolcott--In appreciation of work as a Baker Street Irregular," signed by Smith, and dated Jan. 3, 1939 [not the date of the annual dinner]. If you would like to know the facts about Alexander Woolcott and the BSI and the Dec. 1934 dinner, see Robert Keith Leavitt's article on "The Origin of 221B Worship" (BSJ, Dec. 1961). Edgar W. Smith "was too high-minded to believe ill of anybody," Leavitt suggests, noting that Smith did not join the BSI until 1938.
1701. I have added some additional muscle to my computer, so that I can work with large documents more quickly, and do some other things more efficiently. For those who "talk techie" (and I know there are a few of you out there), my Leading Edge model M (vintage 1985) now has a 30-MB hard disk, with a RAMpage! 2-MB expansion board, configured with AST software to provide a 2-MB RAM disk, and everything seems to be working

well. Volkswriter 3 is my word-processor, and I use PC-File+ for my mailing lists and the BSI file of Sherlockian societies, and I also have Norton Utilities Advanced Edition and Norton Commander, all of which I recommend enthusiastically.

June 1988 #4

1702. SOLVED! FAMOUS MYSTERY WRITERS ON CLASSIC TRUE-CRIME CASES, edited by Richard Glyn Jones (February 88 #4) now has an American edition (New York: Peter Bedrick Books, 1987; 317 pp., \$15.95). The book offers a fine selection, ranging from Runyon's splendid newspaper reporting on the Snyder-Judd murder trial to Ellison's speculations on Jack the Ripper, and including Conan Doyle's "The Case of Mr. George Edalji". The book also includes a report by F. Tennyson Jesse on "The Trial of Madeleine Smith" with two uncredited portraits from the Illustrated London News, whose courtroom artist for the trial was Charles Altamont Doyle (see the letter by Herman Herst, Jr., in the BSJ, Mar. 1983, p. 41).
1703. The U.S. Postal Service is planning to issue a stamp honoring Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy, designed by caricaturist Al Hirshfeld, probably in the continuing "performing arts" series. The USPS is negotiating for use of the comedians' names (yes, that sort of thing is protected under the laws governing trade marks), but we may get an Elvis Presley stamp first. Stan Laurel appeared in Sherlockian costume in "The Sleuth" (1925), and Laurel and Hardy wore deerstalkers in "Do Detectives Think?" (1927), "The Big Noise" (1944), and (possibly) "The Dancing Masters" (1943).
1704. Marjorie Weinman Sharmat's Nate the Great is enjoying summer on the beach and detecting again, with his faithful dog Sludge, in NATE THE GREAT AND THE BORING BEACH BAG (New York: Coward-McCann, 1987; 48 pp., \$10.95).
1705. Discovered by Brad Keefauver: a handsome promotional flier, with S'ian theme and design, produced by Blackpool Design, 102 Suffolk Street #2-B, New York, NY 10002. Copies available on request from the firm (attn: A. R. Miller).
1706. L. B. Greenwood's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE CASE OF SABINA HALL (May 88 #6) will be the June selection from the Detective Book Club.
1707. It's still possible to make discoveries in out-of-the-way places: a copy of TAMERLANE & OTHER POEMS, written "By a Bostonian" and published in 1827, was found not too long ago by an amateur book-collector in a bin of old pamphlets on fertilizers and farm machinery in an antiques barn in New Hampshire, and purchased for \$15. The book went to auction this month at Sotheby's in New York, and a Manhattan book dealer paid \$198,000 for it. "A Bostonian" was Edgar Allan Poe, and it was his first book, and there are reported to be only twelve known copies. Sherlockian book-collectors, one assumes, dream of finding *two* copies of Beeton's Christmas Annual, so the copy in better condition can be kept, and the other sent to auction.
1708. "Sherlock Holmes in the Antarctic" is not the title of the series now being repeated on "Masterpiece Theatre" on PBS-TV (the series is actually "The Last Place on Earth"), but . . . Sverre Anker Ousdal (Roald Amundsen) did play Sherlock Holmes in Nils Nordberg's translation of Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" at the Nationaltheatret in Oslo in 1980.
1709. Jeremy Brett's Sherlock Holmes *will* return to "Mystery!" on PBS-TV on July 14, when "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" begins repeats, starting with "The Empty House". But no word yet on a schedule for "The Sign of Four" or the next four stories that have already been broadcast in Britain.
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June 1988 #5

1710. "Once the Soviet Union erased our nuclear advantage, it was free to exploit its own massive superiority in conventional forces. Like Sherlock Holmes's dog that did not bark, the critical clue to understanding the importance of nuclear superiority in the case of Afghanistan was the threat the United States could not make." Found by Samuel E. Fry on page 76 of 1999: VICTORY WITHOUT WAR, by Richard M. Nixon (1988). As far as I know, this is his only published reference to the Canon. But in an article in New York Magazine (June 9, 1980), Julie Baumgold quoted Nixon as saying, "I don't care for novels, and mysteries bore me except on TV, and since Holmes is off, what is there?"
1711. Gerald Shannon (Box 14474, West Allis, WI 53214) is preparing a first day cover for the 25c "Love" stamp to be issued on July 4. The new stamp will feature a rose, and the cachet will show an appropriate Paget illustration. The covers cost \$1.00 each, plus a #10 SASE, and you are advised to order quickly because the number of covers will be limited. You can expect delivery in three to four weeks (because the USPS takes a while to return the serviced first day covers).
1712. Euston Films continues location work on "Jack the Ripper" (a four-hour £4-million television film) in which Michael Caine stars as Insp. Frank Abberline, "the real-life detective who led the investigation and on whom, supposedly, Conan Doyle based Sherlock Holmes" (according to a report in the Surrey Comet).
1713. A pleasant discovery by Don Pollock: L.R.G. Crandon's "Obituary Note" for Conan Doyle in the Aug. 1930 issue of Psychic Research (the journal of the American Society for Psychical Research). The six-page article is more than a mere "note" (Crandon's wife was the medium Margery), and one of Crandon's stories involves the private seance that Margery held at ACD's home in Buckingham Palace Mansions in Dec. 1923: "Later that evening, Sir Arthur with his large good-humored smile, pointed to an 'original' picture of Sherlock Holmes and Moriarty falling off the precipice and said, 'The world used to think that I had a keen enough brain!'" The picture is surely the original of Paget's frontispiece for "The Final Problem" (which I wistfully inspected at the House of Ed Dieff many years ago). Does anyone know where the picture is now?
1714. THE BEST CRIME STORIES OF THE 19TH CENTURY, edited by Isaac Asimov, Charles G. Waugh, and Martin H. Greenberg (New York: Dembner Books, 1988; 325 pp., \$16.95), offers "The Red-Headed League" as part of an interesting display of what Asimov calls "the slow turn from the clever and daring criminal to the clever and daring detective." But the "notes about the authors" at the back of the book should be read only for amusement: "In 1891, the editors of *The Strand Magazine*, impressed by Doyle's first Sherlock Holmes novel, *A Study in Scarlet* (1882), commissioned him to write a series featuring the same character."
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June 1988 #6

1715. Reported: BAKER STREET DETECTIVE, an all-text solitaire computer game for Macintosh computers, from Artworx, 1844 Penfield Road, Penfield, NY 14526; \$17.95.
1716. And one more Granada item: Jeremy Brett has indeed made many changes in his portrayal of Holmes in the yet-to-be-seen-here programs, including a new hair style. But here's what Brett and Hardwicke look like in "The Hound of the Baskervilles", in a photograph taken by Kathryn White of The Northern Musgraves during location work in Liverpool in April.
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July 1988 #1

1717. WHEN PEOPLE PUBLISH: ESSAYS ON WRITERS AND WRITING, by Frederick Busch (Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 1986; 163 pp., \$19.95), presents a collection of thoughtful essays on Dickens, Melville, Joyce, Hemingway, and Conan Doyle. "Holmes's Occupation" is revised from its first appearance as an Afterword in THE SHERLOCK HOLMES MYSTERIES (New American Library/Signet, 1985 and 1987).
1718. Announcement at hand for the 37th running of The Silver Blaze at Belmont Park in New York on Sept. 24: \$45.00 including luncheon at the track and transportation from and to The Players. The reservation deadline is Sept. 10. Contact: Stephen L. Stix, Route 1, Box 4352, Markleville, IN 46056.
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1719. This year Australia and Great Britain celebrated the bicentennial of Australia by issuing a joint set of commemoratives, and one of the stamps shows W. G. Grace, the great British cricketer. ACD wrote an appreciation of Grace for *The Times* (Oct. 17, 1915), later revised and expanded for the *Strand* (July 1927), and discussed Grace in "Some Recollections of Sport" in the *Strand* (Sept. 1909 and June 1924) and *MEMORIES AND ADVENTURES*.
1720. "Enter the hushed and mysterious world of Sherlock Holmes as you step onto the set of 221b Baker Street," promises the flier for the Granada Studios Tour, forwarded by Scott and Sherry Rose Bond. The Tour is "located at the heart of Granadaland in City Centre Manchester" and will open on July 20, 1988 ("subject to completion of building programme"). Monday to Sunday until Oct. 2, and then Wednesday to Sunday until Mar. 27, 1989, and the cost is £5.50. Baker Street is not the only item included (you can also sit on the Back Benches of the life-size Houses of Parliament set from the "First Among Equals" series, ride an Edwardian tram from the "Lost Empires" series, stroll along Downing Street, and enjoy a relaxing drink at *The Rover's Return* on "Coronation Street"). It is not absolutely clear from the flier that this is a made-to-order-for-tourists attraction similar to the Universal Studios tour, but there's no suggestion in the flier that any part of the tour might be closed while Granada does production work. The flier is available from Granada Studios Tour, Manchester M60 9EA, England.
1721. Tekna Productions (2 & 3 Moores Place, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4AG, England), the firm that produced the eight color prints and four greeting cards for the City of Westminster Libraries, has launched "The 221B Collection" (and is planning to offer all of Sidney Paget's illustrations as color prints). And the prints are handsome indeed, on heavy stock and quite suitable for framing. Six stories from *THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* are now available: "Empt", "Norw", "Danc", "Soli", and "Blac" (each with seven prints) cost £13.50 each, and "Prio" (with nine prints) costs £16.00, all postpaid.
1722. Jerry Margolin reports that there are Sherlockians reasons to see "The Dead Pool" (the new "Dirty Harry" film): there is a framed portrait of Sherlock Holmes on the wall in the office of Capt. Donnelly (Harry Callahan's boss), and the villain is killed with a weapon reminiscent of "The Adventure of Black Peter".

July 1988 #2

1723. If you haven't been able to get the fine recording (by That's Entertainment Records) of the music composed by Patrick Gowers for the Granada television series (December 87 #6 and February 88 #2) the LP record is listed in the July catalog (item 155) from Sound Track Album Retailers (Box 487, New Holland, PA 17557; the price is \$12.95 plus \$2.00 shipping, and they take plastic).
1724. A spokesman for WGBH-TV has announced that "The Sign of Four" (and the remaining shows in the Granada series) *will* be broadcast, in the 1988-89 season of "Mystery!", according to a report in the first (summer 1988) issue of *Anglofile*, a new eight-page journal devoted to British film and television. *Anglofile* costs \$10.00 a year for six issues, from the Goody Press, Box 33515-S, Decatur, GA 30033.
1725. The Canon contains mentions of a moss-rose and a sulphur rose, as well as rosebushes and rose-water. The rose on the new "Love" stamp has not been identified by the postal service (but we may yet hear from the botanical experts).
1726. *DRUID'S BLOOD*, by Esther M. Freisner (New York: New American Library/Signet, 1988; 279 pp., \$3.50), is an amusing and entertaining alternate-universe fantasy novel in which sleuth Brihtric Donne and his chronicler John H. Weston battle evil magicians in a Britain ruled by a Druid monarchy. The book echoes the Canon thoroughly, and carries one of the more imaginative back-cover blurbs: "Victoria, queen of the realm, the mightiest mage in the British Isles, and one of the lustiest women Dr. John H. Weston had ever had the pleasure to companion beneath the covers, was in desperate trouble."
1727. Barbara Woodhouse, who believed that no dog was untrainable, and who made "Walkies!" a watchword among dog-owners, died on July 9. Cartoonists in Britain (especially on the pages of *Punch*) did not overlook the possibility of a Woodhouse-Baskerville association, and her 1981 ITV television program "Barbara Woodhouse Goes to Beverly Hills" included a four-minute segment on John Keane (the lost-pet detective Sherlock Bones).
1728. Plan ahead: "The Death and Life of Sherlock Holmes" (a two-act play written by Suzan L. Zeder) was first performed in Louisville in Feb. 1987. There have been productions in Lancaster, Pa. (with Orson Bean as the villains) (yes, plural) and in Seattle, and the play has now been scheduled by the National Technical Institute for the Deaf in Rochester, N.Y., on Oct. 27-30 (\$4.00 a ticket). The box office opens on Oct. 17 (716-475-6254), and the address is Box 9887, Rochester, NY 14623.
1729. Ben Wood, who has long described himself as an amiable and simple-minded nonconformist clergyman, has announced that he retiring, and moving from parish to Parrish -- he and Joan will arrive in Parrish, Fla., on Aug. 10, and their new address will be: Box 740, Ellenton, FL 34222 (813-776-2078).
1730. Reported by four faithful reporters: an article by Ed Hulse on "Sherlock Holmes" in the July 1988 issue of *Video Review*, with a list of his ten "greatest cases" on video (Rathbone scores four out of the ten). The magazine address is 902 Broadway, New York, NY 10010; \$1.95.

July 1988 #3

1731. ZPPR Productions (34 Gansevoort Street, New York, NY 10014) has issued its first catalog, which includes four different S'ian audio cassettes by The Friends of Bogie's (\$8.95 each plus \$2.00 per order for shipping). The group has performed for enthusiastic audiences both in New York and as far afield as Washington and Williamsburg, and the audio cassettes are the next best thing to being there.
1732. Sherlock Holmes has traveled widely, with occasional visits to the Land of Oz, as recorded by Vincent Ward and Jay Delkin in "The Adventure of the Missing Belt" (D5225b). Delkin's next story, "The Adventure of the Missing Ozma", appeared in the 1984 issue of *Oziana*, published by The International Wizard of Oz Club and still available (\$1.00 postpaid) from Fred M. Meyer, 220 North Eleventh Street, Escanaba, MI 49829.
1733. David Fogel's *BAKER STREET DETECTIVE* is a text-only computer game (Artworx, 1985), now available for Macintosh (as well as for Apple), with two cases ("A Wasted Witness" and "The Scourge of the Executioner"); you choose your clue-locations, collect clues, and decide when to take a quiz on each case, and the computer compares your score to Sherlock Holmes' and gives you the solution. Available at your local computer shop, or from Artworx, 1844 Penfield Road, Penfield, NY 14526; \$17.95.
1734. Joshua Logan, one of Broadway's greatest directors, died on July 12. His biggest hits included "South Pacific", "Annie Get Your Gun", and "Mister Roberts", and it is interesting to consider what the musical "Baker Street" would have been like if he had directed it. And he might have: Alexander Cohen signed Joshua Logan as director in Aug. 1963, but Harold Prince took over the job in Jan. 1964.
1735. The first issue (June) of the new "Sherlock Holmes" comic book at hand from Eternity Comics, with a reprint of the first half of "The Problem of Thor Bridge" from the fine 1954 comic strip written by Edith Meiser and drawn by Frank Giacoia. This is a monthly series, with no subscriptions available, but if your local comic shop doesn't stock the title, you can order from Eternity Comics, 1355 Lawrence Drive #212, Newbury Park, CA 91320; \$1.95.
1736. The joint set of commemoratives (July 88 #1) with the portrait of W. G. Grace includes another stamp, with portraits of William Shakespeare and John Lennon, both of whom have Sherlockian connections, but the portrait of Lennon is too small to show with any clarity here. There is, however, a

respectable substitute: the stamp issued in 1988 by West Germany. John Lennon wrote the parody (later adapted for the stage) "The Singularge Experience of Miss Anne Duffield" (D6007a and D4479b), which features Shamrock Womlbs and Doctored Whopper.

1737. If you would like to have four of the hideous Steinbach Sherlock Holmes nutcrackers (March 87 #5), they are imported from G. A. Westphal by Zeiger Enterprises (621-625 Prospect Street, Trenton, NJ 08618) and is in their current catalog (item 2349) at \$50 (their minimum order is \$200). If you would like to have just one, contact Chris Caswell (Sherlock's Home, 4137 East Anaheim Street, Long Beach, CA 90804).

July 1988 #4

1738. Reported by Jim Zunic: "Dinosaurs Alive!" is a new exhibit at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pittsburgh (through Sept. 25), with six "moving and roaring" dinosaurs (computer-controlled and created by the Dinamation International Corp.). "Dinosaur Times" (a free four-page hand-out at the exhibit) has a small deerstalked dinosaur with an article on "What We Know and Don't Know About Dinosaurs". As well as a question: when does a paleontologist need a tow truck? The address for the Carnegie is 4400 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213.
1739. The latest news from Hollywood is that we will not be able to see Michael Caine and Ben Kingsley in "Sherlock and Me". According to a report in the Washington Post (July 15), the film's title has been changed to "Without a Clue".
1740. "The Mysterious Affair at Great Orme Street" is an entertaining essay in which Chris Redmond examines the affair of Mr. Fairdale Hobbs. Copies available on request (with a #10 SASE) (U.S. postage OK) from Chris at 125 Lincoln Road #1101, Waterloo, Ont. N2J 2N9, Canada.
1741. A new sales list at hand from Images of Sherlock Holmes (5005 Bryant Avenue South #117, Minneapolis, MN 55419), with an extensive run of single issues of the BSJ, plus posters and buttons.
1742. H. M. Levy, founder of The Consulting Detectives of Long Island, is also president of the Gamers Alliance (an international network of gamers), and it is understandable that the spring 1988 issue of Gamers Alliance Report includes reviews of three Sherlockian items: SHERLOCK: THE RIDDLE OF THE CROWN JEWELS (the Infocom computer game), SHERLOCK HOLMES SOLO MYSTERIES (the Iron Crown book series), and VCR 221B BAKER STREET (the video game). Send \$5.00 to H. M. Levy (Box 197, East Meadow, NY 11554) for a copy of the magazine and membership information.
1743. There is Sherlockian flavor in William C. Thomas' new poem ("Detectiverse: Case Clothed") in the Sept. 1988 issue of EQMM.
1744. DOCTORS: TALES FROM MEDICAL LIFE (London: Greenhill Books, 1988; 172 pp., £9.50) is the latest in a series of reprints of Conan Doyle's older works. This volume contains the nine medical stories from ROUND THE RED LAMP and his Preface, in which he suggests that these tales "may startle the reader out of his usual grooves of thought, and shock him into seriousness."
1745. When does a paleontologist need a tow truck? When he sees a *Tyrannosaurus rex*.
1746. The summer 1988 issue of The Book Collector at hand from England, with Nicolas Barker's report on the Copenhagen Book Fair (which he describes as "one of the more pleasant and civilised backwaters on the increasingly frenetic international Book Fair circuit"). "The prize for originality and single-minded enthusiasm must go to Messrs 'Pinkerton', a Danish firm specialising exclusively in Sherlock Holmes and detective fiction," Barker suggests. "Their display case had everything except the 'worm unknown to science' which as all Sherlockians know, was found in a matchbox by the side of a corpse whose face was marked by a rictus of ineffable terror."
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July 1988 #5

1747. Thanks to Ev Herzog for a different (and more authoritative) explanation of what it was that did not amuse Queen Victoria (February 88 #1). According to Alan Hardy (QUEEN VICTORIA WAS AMUSED, 1976, pp. 5-12), Her Majesty was first quoted in print as saying "We are not amused!" in Arthur Beavan's POPULAR ROYALTY, published at the time of the Diamond Jubilee. The target of her comment was the Hon. Alexander Yorke, groom-in-waiting during the last sixteen years of her reign, and his version of the incident, told to his niece, was published in 1968: "During a dinner party at Windsor, Alick was sitting next to a German to whom he told a slightly risqué story. The German guffawed so loudly that the Queen asked Alick to tell her what had caused such mirth. Alick thereupon repeated the story and received the classic snub."
1748. Grafton Books is continuing its series of tie-in paperbacks with color cover photographs from the Granada series (February 88 #5), the latest at hand being THE VALLEY OF FEAR (£2.50).
1749. DETECTIVE FICTION: A COLLECTION OF CRITICAL ESSAYS, edited by Robin W. Winks (Woodstock: Foul Play Press, 1988; 301 pp., \$11.95), was first published in 1980 and is now available in a revised and expanded edition. The book is a fine collection of commentary by experts (including Auden, Barzun, Knox, Sayers, Symons, and Wilson), and although the emphasis of the collection is on "twentieth-century views," intended for readers who are "exploring for the first time the body of critical literature," Sherlock Holmes is not neglected.
1750. A new flyer at hand for Stefanie K. Hawks' fine artwork on stationery, greeting cards, postcards, and prints. Write to S. K. Hawks, Box 9486, Knoxville, TN 37940.
1751. Our circulation department extends a warm welcome to the deluge of new subscribers (eleven so far) who responded to Philip Shreffler's gracious recommendation in the June issue of the BSJ. For the benefit of those new readers, we have a few standing offers (all prices postpaid): the 12-page list of Investitured Irregulars, Two-Shilling Awards, and *The* Women costs \$1.00; and the 45-page list of the Sherlockian societies (with names and addresses for contacts for the active societies) costs \$2.75; and the run of mailing labels for the active societies costs \$10.00. And Al and Julie Rosenblatt's splendid 20-page souvenir menu for "An Evening in Scarlet" at the Culinary Institute of America on May 16, 1987, handsomely devised, designed, and produced, with illustrations, annotations and explanations, is also available for \$15.00.
1752. Lenny Picker (119 81st Avenue, Kew Gardens, NY 11415) would like to hear from anyone interested in participating in a mock inquest on the Jack the Ripper case, to be held in November in New York City by way of celebrating the centenary of Saucy Jack's outrages.
1753. Tourists in Britain have long been able to use a fine series of guidebooks produced jointly by the Automobile Association and the Ordnance Survey, and the 16th in the series, covering Devon and Exmoor, is of special interest: the section on Dartmoor includes appropriate discussion of Holmes and the Hound of the Baskervilles.
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July 1988 #6

1754. Thanks to Bob Katz for news of the arrest on Mar. 2 of six people who are now facing federal conspiracy charges in Baltimore in connection with an estimate \$10 million cocaine ring that was based in Perry Hall, Md. One of the six people was David Deigert, the owner of Sherlock's Pub, which police said was the drug ring's major distribution center (the pub was seized, along with Deigert's home, by federal agents). A police spokesman explained that seizure of the property was intended to prevent selling the property to raise money that might be used for bail, or for seed money to finance a continuation of the drug operation. A visit to Sherlock's Pub some years ago revealed that it was more of a tavern than a pub, with an appropriate sign outside and a display shelf of S'iana behind glass inside. No one, at the time, suggested that controlled substances might be available.
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1755. Douglas West, an American artist who lives in Walkhampton on the edge of Dartmoor, is concerned that there is no memorial to Sherlock Holmes on the moors. "He's as much of an asset to this area as Sir Francis Drake, and yet we do nothing about it," he told a reporter recently. Noting that members of the SHSOL will be travelling to Switzerland later this year to erect a memorial to Holmes at the Reichenbach, he suggested that "it would be better to have a memorial down here," and asked "why put something up at the Falls, which is where Conan Doyle wanted to kill off the character?"
1756. Prints of Douglas West's S'ian watercolors, sold at The Sherlock Holmes in London, are also available from John B. Taylor (Box 804, Midlothian, TX 76065); send a #10 SASE for his sales list.
1757. BBC Radio 4 broadcast a new version of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" in two 60-minute episodes, on May 27 and June 3, with Roger Rees and Holmes and Crawford Logan as Watson. One reviewer (Nigel Andrew in The Listener on June 2) noted that Sherlockian actors now face a problem: "It is one thing to labour in the shadow of the definitive radio Holmes--Carleton Hobbs--but we are now in the age of Jeremy Brett, and all Sherlocks are inevitably going to be judged against his impossible standard," he wrote, suggesting that "doing Holmes today is about on a par with opening as Henry V while Olivier's film was still on general release."
1758. "Holmes and the Ripper" is a new play by Brian Clemens, based on Stephen Knight's JACK THE RIPPER: THE FINAL SOLUTION, now touring Britain with Francis Matthews as Holmes and Frank Windsor as Watson, with the producers hoping to bring the play to London. Since the film "Murder by Decree" was also based on Knight's book, the play holds few surprises for Sherlockians.

August 1988 #1

1759. The latest issue (spring 1988) of The Pipe Smokers' Ephemeris is unique in containing 58 pages and only a few quite minor mentions of Sherlock Holmes, a situation that arises because all of the Sherlockian material is being held for the next issue. The Ephemeris is an irregular publication for pipe smokers, available without charge (though contributions are gratefully accepted) from Tom Dunn (20-37 120th Street, College Point, NY 11356).
1760. One of those minor mentions is a handsome poster (21 x 32 inches) promoting National Pipe Smoker's Week (Mar. 13-20), available from the Retail Tobacco Dealers of America (attn: Malcolm Fleischer), The Atrium, 55 Maple Avenue, Rockville Centre, NY 11570.
1761. Reported from England: THE SUPERNATURAL TALES OF SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE, edited by Peter Haining (Foulsham, £12.95). And a British edition of HOUND DUNNIT, edited by Isaac Asimov, Martin Harry Greenberg, and Carol-Lynn Rossel Waugh (Robson, £10.95); a collection that includes "Silver Blaze" and Rex Stout's allusional "The Dog in the Daytime".
1762. Paul S. Clarkson ("The Red Leech") died on June 30, after a long illness. He was one of the founders (Napoleon II) of The Six Napoleons of Baltimore, and Gasogene I of the scion, and a fine Sherlockian: he received his BSI Investiture in 1956, and the Two-Shilling Award in 1976.
1763. SEINE ABSCHIEDSVORSTELLUNG is the latest (and last) addition to the nine-volume series of new German translations of the Canon from Haffmans Verlag (February 88 #5 and April 88 #3). The new volume costs DM 30.00 and is available from the publisher (Hubenstrasse 19, CH-8057 Zurich, Switzerland).
1764. "The Great Mouse Detective" was, as I recall, pulled from theaters after grossing \$20 million in eight weeks in 1986, considered to be a box-office failure. Perhaps it was: Disney's current reissue of "Bambi" grossed \$25 million in two-and-a-half weeks. "Bambi" is, by the way, a beautiful film and a splendid demonstration of the skill of the Disney animators. You may, of course, wish to find a small child to use as an excuse to see the film. If necessary, rent one.
1765. Richard and Cynthia Wein have visited the Walt Disney World Village and The Grosvenor Resort and its Baskervilles restaurant (which is fully decorated with reproductions of S'ian artwork) and the reproduction of the sittingroom (which is rather cramped). The restaurant's menu is called the Baker Street Gazette Journal, with the front page full of error-filled articles based on items in Peter Haining's THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SCRAPBOOK. The hotel address is: Walt Disney World Village, Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830.
1766. Further to our report (July 88 #6) on the demise of Sherlock's Pub in Perry Hall, Md., it should be noted that this is not the only S'ian establishment to have run afoul of the laws controlling the sale of cocaine. The Baker Street Restaurant & Pub in Greeley, Colo., had the same problem in 1977.
1767. Since The Practical, But Limited, Geologists dined at that restaurant in Nov. 1976, there may be only one Sherlockian who can boast (if that's the proper word) of having visited both of these now-vanished S'ian landmarks.

August 1988 #2

1768. While waiting for someone to discover a Canonical connection for the two presidential candidates, or a Canonical reference in one of their political speeches, it should be noted that Michael Dukakis does have a Sherlockian connection: he was a classmate, at Harvard Law School, of Judge Albert M. Rosenblatt.
1769. But other politicians, of course, are not neglecting Sherlock Holmes. Tom O'Day has provided a Congressional Record report that Rep. Dennis E. Eckart (D-OH) discussed "George Bush: A Man of Absence" on Aug. 3, suggesting that "When the critical decisions are being made--on whether to veto the defense bill or Grove City, on arms sales to the Ayatollah, on the failed drug war --George Bush is noticeably absent, always. Like Groucho Marx singing 'I'm afraid I must be going', like Monty Python screaming 'run away', like the dog that didn't bark; like invisible ink; like Claude Raines or the invisible rabbit 'Harvey'."
1770. It's not necessary to travel to Britain and Switzerland to find important Sherlockian sites marked by commemorative plaques. At hand from Bob Katz is an article by Joan Barbato in the Morris County Daily Record (July 24), about the plaque affixed to the outer wall of 221B Baker Street, now a guest cottage on property owned by Herbert Epstein, but formerly the office and official address of Edgar W. Smith in Morristown, N.J. Baker Street is a lane off Lake Road, and when Edgar discovered that the lane had no name he obtained township and post office approval for the address.
1771. The proprietor of The Pequod Press is in no danger of being accused of using cold type: BAKER STREET BABYLON is now available, hot on the heels of A BAKER STREET GALLERY. BAKER STREET BABYLON is described as a "Conanical chorea" of 25 new Sherlockian quatrains inspired by a fit of scholarship or creative frenzy, or perhaps both. Available from John Ruyle, 521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707; \$29.00 (cloth) or \$14.00 (paper).
1772. THE BAKER STREET READER: CORNERSTONE WRITINGS ABOUT SHERLOCK HOLMES, edited by Philip A. Shreffler and published in 1984, is a fine anthology of what one reviewer called "the essential issues of historical hagiography." And it is now available at a discount (until Oct. 31) from the Greenwood Press, 88 Post Road West, Box 5007, Westport, CT 06881; \$19.95 plus \$2.00 shipping (and they take plastic). Recommended.
1773. Ken Greenwald of 221 "A" Baker Street Associates writes that their next reissue of hitherto-unavailable Rathbone-Bruce radio shows will be an audio cassette with "The Viennese Strangler" and "The Notorious Canary Trainer" (distributed by Simon and Schuster and available in Nov. 1988 at \$9.95). As with their 1987 record album, these will be 1945 broadcasts from scripts by Denis Green and Anthony Boucher, and there will be new

introductions by series producer Glenhall Taylor. Ken has also written a book of pastiches based on 13 of the Green-Boucher radio scripts, with publication planned in mid-1989.

1774. Scott and Sherry Rose Bond will teach a four-week course ("Elementary, My Dear Holmes!") for the Community College of Philadelphia on Wednesday evenings beginning Sept. 28. Registration information available from the CCP, 1700 Spring Garden Street, Philadelphia, PA 19130 (215-751-8380).

August 1988 #3

1775. The identification, by Humphrey Morton and The Milvertonians of Hampstead, of Appledore Towers as "The Logs" (built in 1868 by J. S. Nightingale on the edge of Hampstead Heath) is sufficiently official to be recognized in THE STREETS OF HAMPSTEAD: A SURVEY OF THEIR ORIGINS AND NAMES, THEIR HISTORIC HOUSES AND FAMOUS RESIDENTS, compiled by Christopher Wade and published in 1972 by the High Hill Press for the Camden History Society. "The original residence," the guidebook suggests, "is thought to be the setting of the Sherlock Holmes story about the dastardly Charles Augustus Milverton."
1776. Check your jigsaw-puzzle shops. Paul Herbert reports two puzzles, titled LONDON and THE VICTORIAN AGE, each with 1,000 pieces and including a small picture of Holmes, and priced at \$41.75. The company is Mandolin Puzzles (9 Elia Street, London N1 8DE, England), and their catalog costs £1.00.
1777. Melissa Ennis (4627 South 36th Street, Arlington, VA 22206) offers made-to-order deerstalkers in genuine Harris tweed wool (heathery brown, gray, green, or blue) at \$42.50 postpaid, and (for those heading for the tropics) in non-Canonical cotton (khaki or houndstooth check) at \$32.50 postpaid. Write to Melissa for a copy of her flier.
1778. Orion Pictures reports that "Without a Clue" will open "wide" on Oct. 21, probably in theaters that are now showing Orion's "Married to the Mob" (and if you go to see "Married to the Mob" you may also get to see the trailer for "Without a Clue") (which is the new title for "Sherlock and Me").
1779. Spotted by Jon Lellenberg in Publishers Weekly (Aug. 5, 1988): "Sherlock and Me", an audio novelization by Bennett Cohen, read by Ben Kingsley on two cassettes (3 hours), \$14.95, due in September from Dove Books on Tape (12711 Ventura Boulevard #250, Studio City, CA 91604); the cassette title may, of course, be changed to match the new name of the film.
1780. The extensive Sherlockian collection of the late Robert R. Patrick (cofounder of The Trained Cormorants of Los Angeles County) is available for purchase, preferably as a single collection, according to Don Hardenbrook, who is assisting Mrs. Patrick with the sale; a 27-page description of the collection is available from Don Hardenbrook, 7208 Premium Street, Long Beach, CA 90808.
1781. Flier at hand from Timothy E. Liebe (212 West 91st Street #720, New York, NY 10024) for "That's Elementary!" (a videocassette of The Friends of Bogie's at Baker Street in Sherlockian performance); \$33.00 postpaid in VHS or Beta.
1782. Plans for John Bennett Shaw's sea-going workshop on a cruise liner are now firmly afoot (or adeck, if you want to be precise). The unofficial titles ("Ship of Fools" and "No Ship, Sherlock") have been rejected, and "Shaw at Sea" will be held on the S.S. Galileo, sailing from New York on Sunday, July 23, 1989, bound for Bermuda, and returning on Friday, July 28. The outside-cabin price is \$725 per person (exclusive of gratuities, shore excursions, baggage handling, and "purchases of a personal nature such as shag or champagne"), and a flier is available from Mary Ellen Rich (Lifeco Travel, 845 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10022).

August 1988 #4

1783. The Valley Railroad (Box 542, Essex, CT 06426) (203-767-0103) has scheduled an "Adventure Aboard the Aberdonian Arrow" on Sept. 10, featuring Sherlock Holmes in an on-the-rails mystery excursion that will cost \$85.00 a person (including dinner at O'Brannigan's in Old Saybrook). The Valley Railroad is a nicely restored steam line in the Connecticut Valley, where some years ago The Cornish Horrors chartered the train for a meeting that featured Chris Steinbrunner's appropriate on-board screening of Basil Rathbone's "Terror by Night".
1784. Delia Vargas reports a Sherlockian silhouette on the inside of the front cover of the Aug. 1988 issue of Travel & Leisure -- people who charge their vacations on their American Express cards often get the magazine.
1785. Computerized Sherlockiana is ready for the next step: CD-ROM. That's an abbreviation for Compact Disc-Read Only Memory, a technology that uses a compact disc (similar to the audio discs), and a special player and an adapter card that allows your computer to read text and artwork from the disc. One disc will hold 550 megabytes (equivalent to about 1,200 floppy disks) (or about 250,000 pages of text). And CMC ReSearch, a company in Denver, is preparing to use the new technology to make medical journals available on CD-ROM. Their first test-version disc will include THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES (full text, indexed, from Bob Stek's floppy-disk version), MEDICAL CASEBOOK OF DOCTOR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE (the 1984 book written by Alvin E. Rodin and Jack D. Key), and artwork (illustrations by Sidney Paget and others). Many libraries have CD-ROM players (BOOKS IN PRINT, the Grolier Encyclopedia, and the Oxford English Dictionary are a few of the books that have been published on CD-ROM discs).
1786. Alan Napier died on Aug. 8. He began his career with the Oxford Players in England, along with Lawrence Olivier and John Gielgud, acted on stage in London and New York, and went to Hollywood in 1939, starring in movies that included "The Invisible Man Returns", "The Cat People", and "Lassie Come Home". In 1949 he starred as Sherlock Holmes in a 30-minute version of "The Adventure of the Speckled Band" broadcast by NBC-TV. And he then went on to true fame as Alfred, the butler, in the "Batman" television series.
1787. The second issue of Anglofile continues its detailed coverage of British television, films, and books, with brief reports on Sherlockiana (books, audio, and video), and a report that "Mystery!" will begin its next season of PBS-TV on Sept. 1 with Roy Marsden as Inspector Dalgliesh in "Cover Her Face" (meaning that we will be waiting at least until October for the new Sherlock Holmes programs). The eight-page journal costs \$10.00 a year for six issues, from the Goody Press, Box 33515, Decatur, GA 30033.
1788. Anglofile also reports that Thames TV is producing "Charlie the Kid", the story of Charlie Chaplin's childhood in South London. Joe Geary will play Chaplin from ages 11 to 15, from which we might infer that we will see him as Billy (he first played the role in Saintsbury's touring production of the Gillette play, opening at the Pavilion Theatre in London in July 1903).
1789. Incidental intelligence: Mel Martin, who will appear with Marsden in "Cover Her Face", played Alice Faulkner in the Royal Shakespeare Company revival of Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" in Washington and New York in 1974-1975.

August 1988 #5

1790. The Six Napoleons and The Carlton Club will present their ninth annual "Weekend with Sherlock Holmes" at the Enoch Pratt Free Library (at 400 Cathedral Street) in Baltimore on November 19 and 20, with the festivities beginning at 10:00 am on Saturday and at 2:00 pm on Sunday. The schedule includes the usual series of short papers, a slide show, a dramatic presentation, and a screening of Basil Rathbone's "The Hound of the Baskervilles". As usual, there will be no charge for admission.

1791. More philatelic roses for the Sherlockian botanists (the Canon contains mentions of a moss-rose and a sulphur rose, as well as rosebushes and rose-water. The roses on the new "Love" stamp (for use on two-ounce letters) have not been identified by the postal service.
1792. Jean Upton (102 Woodland Road, Wyncote, PA 19095) offers "The Baker Street Folio" at \$29.00 postpaid. Eight Sherlockian prints, on heavy stock, and an illustrated flier is available from Jean.
1793. The new stamp honoring the 200th anniversary of statehood for New York also has Canonical connections, since there are many references to New York City, as well as Brooklyn, Buffalo, Long Island, and Palmyra.
1794. Spoken Arts (Box 289, New Rochelle, NY 10802) issued its first S'ian filmstrip-audiocassette set for grades 5-12 in 1977, and now three sets are available (each with four cases) at \$139.95 per set. SHERLOCK HOLMES CLIFFHANGERS is a good example of how the Canon can be used to stimulate class discussion, and some thinking by students: there is a teacher's guide, and the four stories (Musg, Prio, Norw, Iden) are adapted by Beth Meacham and dramatized on the cassettes, and illustrated by Al Wenzel on the filmstrips.
1795. A new flier at hand from Chris Caswell (Sherlock's Home, 4137 East Anaheim Street, Long Beach, CA 90804), offering a wide variety of Sherlockian collectibles.
1796. TRAVEL ALBERTA WITH SHERLOCK HOLMES is a twenty-page pamphlet prepared by Gerald F. O'Hara for those who wish to follow Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's 1914 trail through the province. Available from Gerry at 3912 - 115A Street, Edmonton, Alta. T6J 1R1, Canada; no charge.
1797. Mailing at hand from Peter E. Melonas (Sherlock Holmes Tobacco and Mystery Shop, 1726-A Sycamore Square Mall, Memphis, TN 38134), offering Sherlockian posters, prints, pipes, buttons, and other collectibles, including the VHS video game VCR 221 B BAKER STREET (January 88 #6).
1798. "The Oprah Winfrey Show" broadcast on July 12 was devoted to "Fictional Personalities" and included an appearance by Sean Wright ("real-life Sherlock Holmes"). The transcript (#W477) is available for \$3.00 from Journal Graphics (267 Broadway, New York, NY 10007), and includes Sean's statement that "John Kennedy was a member here in Chicago of the Hounds of the Baskervilles."

August 1988 #6

1799. The Christopher Morley Knothole Association held a dinner in Glen Head, N.Y., on Aug. 23, with a menu that included soup (Lippincott Stockpot) and ribs (Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Missing Rib). The CMKA does fine work in keeping an eye on The Knothole (the rustic cabin where Morley wrote many of his stories and essays), and in generating interest in his work; membership costs \$10.00 a year (the CMKA's address is: Bryant Library, Paper Mill Road, Roslyn, NY 11576).
1800. The N.Y. Times Book Review will publish its first annual "Crime/Mystery" feature on Oct. 9, presenting "reviews, essays, excerpts, and interviews" (and, possibly, a mention of Sherlock Holmes).
1801. Roger Johnson reports that Jeremy Brett and Edward Hardwicke will open in Jeremy Paul's play "The Secret of Sherlock Holmes" in Guildford on Aug. 30, moving to Richmond on Sept. 17. This is the play that Brett commissioned from Paul, who dramatized three of the programs in the Granada series, and the "Conan Doyle" program in the 1972 series "The Edwardians". Late news: the play will open at Wyndham's Theatre in London on Sept. 22.
1802. HARRINGTON'S CANONICAL INDEX, compiled and published by Hugh T. Harrington (1634 Sherwood Avenue NW, Massillon, OH 44646; 133 pp., \$22.00 postpaid), is a selective concordance as well as an index, keyed to the 1961 Doubleday edition. Page numbers (but not case names) are given for all occurrences of the words and phrases selected for the concordance.
1803. AS VIDAS PARALELAS DE SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Joel Lima (Lisboa: Livros do Brasil, 1987; 326 pp., \$15.00 postpaid from the author, Largo do Mastro 29-3, Porta D, 1100 Lisboa, Portugal) is an interesting anthology devoted to "The Parallel Lives of Sherlock Holmes", and it will undoubtedly do much to generate additional enthusiasm for the Canon among Portuguese readers. The book has 208 pp. of comment by Lima on Conan Doyle and on the Canon, followed by translations of parodies and pastiches and commentary that range from "The Field Bazaar" to the exchange between Rex Stout and Julian Wolff on Watson's gender. A second volume will be published this year.
1804. Images of Sherlock Holmes (5005 Bryant Avenue South #117, Minneapolis, MN 55419) has a new sales list, with some VHS cassettes and an announcement of a 1989 Sherlockian calendar.
1805. "Britannia's waves of bitter and stout flowed unabated" on Aug. 22, the Associated Press reported, with a bit of exaggeration. But the licensing laws imposed in 1915 have been changed, and pubs, wine bars, and hotel bars are no longer required to stop serving alcohol between 3:00 and 5:30 pm on weekdays. The Sherlock Holmes, by way of celebrating the longer opening hours, began serving traditional afternoon cream teas ("scones, strawberry jam, the works"). The pub will be "more of a coffee shop in the afternoon than a drinking house," said manager John Williams.
1806. Ann Byerly reports that Random House has purchased the Crown Publishing Group, which includes Avenel, Castle, and the many other imprints of the Outlet Book Co., as well as Publishers Central Bureau. The purchase is expected to be completed by Sept. 30, and Random House will then be the largest trade-book publishing company in the United States.

September 1988 #1

1807. "The 9.5% Solution" is the slogan on a 15x34-inch Sherlockian poster advertising the "Family Education Loan" offered by the Massachusetts Education Loan Authority. Copies may still be available from the MELA, 711 Atlantic Avenue, Boston, MA 02111.
1808. It was at the third pillar from the left outside the Lyceum Theatre that Mary Morstan was directed to meet her unknown benefactor, and an argument is now raging in London over the future of the historic but now-derelict theater. According to a report by Andrew Billen in The Times (July 20, 1988), the London Residuary Body (the successor to the Greater London Council) has sold a 150-year lease on the building to a company that plans to turn the Lyceum into a London version of the Paris Lido (a "tits and bum" cabaret, one angry opponent suggested). Proposals to restore the building to theater use, including one from Andrew Lloyd-Webber's Really Useful Company, were rejected by the London Residuary Board, who accepted a highest-bid lease offer reported to be as high as £9 million. The present building, which dates from 1904, is not the one that Holmes and Watson visited with Mary Morstan, but the site is certainly an important one to Sherlockians. It was also at the old Lyceum, then managed by Henry Irving, that William Gillette gave 213 performances as Sherlock Holmes in 1901-02, and it was the theater where Irving appeared in six different productions of Conan Doyle's play "Waterloo" from 1895 to 1902.
1809. Kyle Richeson reports that THE SECRET FILES OF SOLAR PONS will be the third volume of Solar Pons pastiches by Basil Copper to be published by Academy Chicago in paperback (\$5.95), with old stories revised from their original appearances in the Pinnacle paperbacks. SOME UNCOLLECTED CASES OF SOLAR PONS will follow, and Copper is working on two more volumes of new stories.
1810. Kyle also reports that Great Britain now has its first mystery-specialist bookshop: Murder One, at 23 Denmark Street (off Charing Cross Road). The shop will stock both current and out-of-print titles, as well as magazines, posters, and video.

1811. Miriam Jordan died on Dec. 4. She made her stage debut in London in 1927, came to the United States, in 1929 was offered a contract by the Fox Film Corp. -- and she played Alice Faulkner in "Sherlock Holmes" (1932).
1812. Delia Vargas reports that Eugene Commander (Little Thumb's Connoisseur Pipe Rack, 311 Main Street, West Dennis, MA 02670) sells shag tobacco (and has a Sherlockian sketch on the cover of his flier).
1813. THE NEW ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES was a big seller for Carroll & Graf last year, according to Herman Graf, and the book also saw a "tremendous" amount of overseas sales. There will be a trade paperback this fall.
1814. Ray Eames died on Aug. 21. She and her husband Charles Eames (who died in 1978) were talented designers, perhaps most famous for their "Eames Chair". They also designed the Sherlockian puppet show "The Singular Case of the Plural Green Mustache" for the IBM Pavilion at the 1964-65 New York World's Fair, and produced the film of the puppet show; the film is available from Video Specialists International (182 Jackson Street, Dallas, PA 19612) in the video cassette "Sherlock Holmes: The Later Years".

September 1988 #2

1815. If you were unable to find a copy of Frank Thomas' pastiche SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE MASQUERADE MURDERS (BSJ March 87), I now have a supply available at \$6.00 postpaid. These copies surely hold some sort of distance record: when Medallion Books went out of business, their stock was sold to a discounter who shipped it off to Australia, whence my supply has now been shipped back. That's at least 18,000 miles by air, and much more by sea (which is how they traveled). Some copies are the second printing; let me know if you would prefer one of these (a second printing is less glamorous, but in this case also less common).
1816. MYSTERIES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, adapted by Judith Conaway and illustrated by Lyle Miller, has three stories (Spec, RedH, Blue) and was first published in 1982; it's now available as a "Step-Up Classic Chiller" with a new cover (New York: Random House, 1988; 95 pp., \$1.95).
1817. Keep an eye on your PBS-TV stations for 13 "lost episodes" of "Upstairs, Downstairs" that were aired in Britain but not in the United States. Five of the episodes were filmed in black-and-white because of a strike by the cameramen, and the other eight were considered then to be too shocking for American audiences, who are now apparently sophisticated enough to accept some rather risqué plot elements. In "The Magic Casements", one of the eight suppressed episodes, Lady Marjorie commits adultery with a British army officer. And in one of the "downstairs" scenes, Mr. Hudson (Gordon Jackson), tells the gossiping servants: "You ought to start an agency for minding other people's business! You'd have Sherlock Holmes beat any day!"
1818. Marina Stajic reports that the snack-packs available for purchase SAS flights include "Mysterielada" (described by the airline as "400 gram segt godis att njuta av medan du funderar over 10 sega gator pa asken. Knepig, knapigt tidsfordriv pa planet och i hemmet.") "Mysterielada" is a box of candy, with an elephant in Sherlockian costume on the top of the box, and some children's games on the bottom.
1819. Forecast: an OLD POSSUM'S BOOK OF PRACTICAL CATS CALENDAR/DIARY FOR 1989, illustrated by Edward Gorey, \$9.00; perhaps with a portrait of Macavity.
1820. Reported by Bob Burr: a colored poster of "Slylock Fox" (from the Sunday children's cartoon) is available from Bob Weber, Jr., Box 96, Green Farms, CT 06436. North Point Press, which issued the \$17.50 reprint of the Arion Press fine-press edition of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, now offers a paperback for \$10.95. THE ROYAL FLUSH (Sherlock Holmes Solo Mystery #7) will be the last in the series from Berkley/Iron Crown.
1821. Reports persist that Basil Rathbone's autobiography IN AND OUT OF CHARACTER has been reprinted by Buccaneer Books. The publisher has written to me: "Sorry, still no reprint schedule."
1822. Lenny Picker reports a Publishers Weekly report that Limelight Editions is planning to reprint Basil Rathbone's IN AND OUT OF CHARACTER. Limelight published the revised and expanded 1987 edition of Maurice Zolotow's BILLY WILDER IN HOLLYWOOD, and their books are distributed by Harper & Row, so I have far more hopes of seeing the Rathbone autobiography from Limelight than from Buccaneer Books.

September 1988 #3

1823. 30 DUKE STREET: LA PENULTIMA AVVENTURA DI SHERLOCK HOLMES, by John R. Watson (Milano: Edizione Rosa & Nero, 1987; 142 pp., £16,000), is a new pastiche. "I protagonisti: Sherlock e Mycroft Holmes, Alfred e Mary Dunhill, John Watson, Winston Churchill, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle e signora, Bill Carter, l'ispettore Lestrade, il barone von Bork, una misteriosa signora in rosso..." Publisher's address: via Madre Cabrini 9, Milano, Italy.
1824. In MEMORIES AND ADVENTURES, Conan Doyle mentions "a townlet in Shropshire which rejoiced in the extraordinary name of Ruyton-of-the-eleven-towns," where he spent four months in 1878 as an unpaid medical-student assistant to a Dr. Elliot. "It was not big enough to make one town," he wrote, "far less eleven," but the town is still there, and so is the house in which he lived. RUYTON XI TOWNS: UNUSUAL NAME, UNUSUAL HISTORY, by Yoland Brown (Studley: Brewin Books, 1988; 166 pp., £7.95), discusses his stay in Ruyton and includes a photograph of Cliffe House; the book is available for £8.75 postpaid from the publisher (Doric House, Church Street, Studley, Warwickshire B80 7LG, England).
1825. Copies of John Michael Gibson's facsimile of BEETON'S CHRISTMAS ANNUAL are now arriving in the mail, and it is a truly handsome production. The delay (caused by Gibson's insistence on high quality) was thoroughly justified by the quality that was achieved.
1826. By way of response to questions on how to distinguish a facsimile from an original, the covers are easy to identify: the photographic process used for the cover of the facsimile has a constant pattern of tiny dots that is seen most easily in the white areas of the cover, while the engraved cover of the original lacks these dots. It is, however, possible that text and advertising pages from a facsimile might be used to "make good" a defective copy of an original. One should remember that Latin is used for *caveat emptor* because the warning dates from the days of ancient Rome, and at the price of an original of BEETON'S CHRISTMAS ANNUAL, the only defense against fraud is your own expertise, the reputation of the dealer, a demonstrable provenance, and laboratory testing of the paper and ink.
1827. At hand from Richard R. Rutter: DAS SHERLOCK-HOLMES-BUCH, edited by Martin Compart (Frankfurt am Main: Ullstein, 1987; 116 pp., DM 9.80); a centenary celebration, with sections on "Der Mythos Sherlock Holmes", "Die Sherlock-Holmes-Bibliographie", and "Sherlock Holmes in audiovisuellen Medien".
1828. And SHERLOCK ARISTOTELES is the title of the German translation (Goldmann Verlag, 1988) of Margaret Doody's ARISTOTLE DETECTIVE (1978).
1829. Nikki Caparn, Sherlock Holmes' new secretary at the Abbey National Building Society, is getting plenty of publicity, including an article in Pravda in Dec. 1987. She is using new stationery, and has a new eight-page pamphlet to send to people who write to Sherlock Holmes.
1830. Secretary of Education William J. Bennett recently issued recommendations for a model elementary-school curriculum, including a suggested reading list. "Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" was included in the recommendations for grades 7 and 8.

September 1988 #4

1831. "Sherlock!", a new musical with music and lyrics by Leslie Bricusse, was first rumored in 1975, and scheduled (but not produced) at the Chichester Festival Theatre in 1987. Now Bricusse's "Sherlock Holmes" is announced for the Northcott Theatre in Exeter from Oct. 18 to Nov. 19, with Ron Moody as Holmes.
1832. Sherlock Holmes will be the sixth doll in a "Folk Heroes" series designed by Annalee Thorndike for members of the Annalee Doll Society. Membership costs \$19.95, and the doll will cost \$129.50 postpaid, and a color brochure is available from the society (Box 1137, Meredith, NH 03253).
1833. Sherry Baker (in *Omni*, May 1988) quotes the Tehran newspaper *Kayhan* for a report on the discovery in Iran of giant rats that weigh an average of 26 pounds and are killing and devouring cats. Some of the rats have unusually long legs and hop like kangaroos.
1834. There are still many readers whose first true reading-for-pleasure was in the pages of the pulp magazines, which are now hard-to-find collectibles, both for their vividly-colored covers, and for first or early appearances by many distinguished authors. Detective Story Magazine, first published in 1915, was the earliest detective pulp, followed by hundreds of other titles, and the stories in those magazines have been indexed in *MYSTERY, DETECTIVE, AND ESPIONAGE FICTION: A CHECKLIST OF FICTION IN THE U.S. PULP MAGAZINES, 1815-1974*, by Michael L. Cook and Stephen T. Miller (New York: Garland, 1988; two vols., 1,183 pp., \$102 postpaid from the publisher, at 136 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016). The result is a fine reference work, for collectors and researchers, and our own special interests have not been neglected: Solar Pons first appeared in the Feb. 1929 issue of *Dragnet*, and Conan Doyle's "Some Personalia About Sherlock Holmes" was quickly reprinted (as "An Intimate Study of Sherlock Holmes") in 1918 in *Detective Story Magazine*. Future volumes in the series will cover sports, war, adventure, science fiction, fantasy, and other categories.
1835. A new "Holmes for the Holidays" sales list at hand from Ilene Fauer (US 2, 563 Clinton Road, Paramus, NJ 07652), with S'ian address books, holiday cards, story buttons, and items from past lists.
1836. Also a flier from Scotland Yard Books (556 Green Bay Road, Winnetka, IL 60093), showing their new Sherlockian bookplates, with four different Sidney Paget designs.
1837. Lenny Picker reports (from the N.Y. Times, Aug. 12) that George MacDonald Fraser (author of the "Flashman" novels) is adapting Dumas' "Twenty Years After" for a film "The Return of the Musketeers" (as a sequel to "The Three Musketeers" and "The Four Musketeers") -- and that he is adapting "The Lost World" for a new television version.
1838. Also from Lenny: *THOSE WHO WALK THE NIGHT*, a novel by Barbara Hambly about vampires in Sherlock Holmes' London, is forecast from Del Rey in November .
1839. And (for those who thought they recognized Lucretia Venucci in the Granada version of "The Six Napoleons"): Marina Sirtis also plays Deanna Troi, the half-human empath, in "Star Trek: The Next Generation".

September 1988 #5

1840. *SPIES AND SLEUTHS: MYSTERY, SPY AND SUSPENSE FILMS ON VIDEOCASSETTE* (Evanston: Cinebooks, 1988; 211 pp., \$8.95) offers a Foreword by Michael Caine and synopses, lists of cast and credits, and appraisals of more than 400 films, from "The Cat and the Canary" (1927) to "The Big Easy" (1987); 17 Sherlockian films, from "A Study in Scarlet" (1939) to "Young Sherlock Holmes" (1985) are included. Available from the publisher (900 Grove Street, Evanston, IL 60201).
1841. Econo-Clad Books (Box 1777, Topeka, KS 66601) is promoting its books with a 35x22-inch calendar-poster ("1988-89 School Year: We've Got You Covered"); with a photograph of a student in Sherlockian costume.
1842. Admirers of Dr. Fatso's accounts of the adventures of Turlock Loams who have been eagerly awaiting the stories of the frail codger, the Muscatel ritual, and the frying detective are waiting still, but *THE ADVENTURE OF THE CHEESEMONGER'S BARK* has been announced by the Pequot Press (\$29.50 cloth or \$14.50 paper, from John Ruyle, 521 Vincent Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707). For the benefit of new readers, these are witty parodies, and the books are fine examples of the best of fine-press printing in the Sherlockian world, published in editions that sometimes exceed 100 copies.
1843. A new illustrated catalog at hand from Carolyn Senter (Classic Specialties, Box 10958, Cincinnati, OH 45219), showing her knitted Sherlockian scarves, sweaters, and neckties.
1844. My copy of the "Trilogy Dinner" issue of Ellery Queen's *THE MISADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* has Nathan L. Bengis' pencilled note that there were five printings of the book: Mar. 1944, Apr. 1944, May 1944, Oct. 1944, and Feb. 1945. I have not seen or heard of a copy from any of the last three printings; does anyone have one? It is not all that unusual, of course, for a later printing to be much scarcer than a first printing.
1845. "The Latter Day Saints were as busy as the bees whose hive they have chosen for their emblem," and the honeybee (**Apis mellifera**) appears on our new coil stamp.
1846. *MYSTERIOUS SEA STORIES*, edited by William Patrick (New York: Dell, 1987; 246 pp., \$3.50), is a fine collection of tales by master story-tellers in a long-neglected genre. Conan Doyle's contribution is "J. Habakuk Jephson's Statement", and W. Clark Russell, one of Watson's favorites, is represented by "A Bewitched Ship".
1847. *FREDDY THE DETECTIVE AND SELECTED POEMS OF FREDDY THE PIG*, by Walter R. Brooks, performed by Pat Carroll on an audio cassette (New York: Caedmon, 1982; \$9.98); contents include "Freddy's First Case" and "Vacation Song", and the cover art by Allan Eitzen shows Freddy in Sherlockian costume.
1848. Reported: *RASPUTIN'S REVENGE*, by John T. Lescroart, a paperback reprint from Leisure Books, \$3.50. This sequel to *SON OF HOLMES* brings Auguste Lupa (whose passport is in the name of John Hamish Adler Holmes) to St. Petersburg in 1916, attempting to solve a complicated series of murders, accused of espionage, rescued by his father, and eventually successful in solving the mystery.

September 1988 #6

1849. The spring 1988 issue of *The Gazette: The Journal of The Wolfe Pack* is a theme issue concentrating on Nero Wolfe's birth and heritage, with (as might be expected) considerable discussion and debate about John D. Clark's proposal that Sherlock Holmes and Irene Adler had some connection to the blessed event. The address for *The Wolfe Pack* is Box 822, Ansonia Station, New York, NY 10023, and membership costs \$20.00 a year (I don't know what single issues of *The Gazette* cost).
1850. At last: a broadcast schedule for the new Granada series on PBS-TV: "The Sign of Four" in two parts on Oct. 27 and Nov. 3, "The Devil's Foot" on Nov. 10, "Silver Blaze" on Nov. 17, "The Bruce-Partington Plans" on Nov. 24, "Wisteria Lodge" on Dec. 1, and "The Hound of the Baskervilles" on Dec. 8 (possibly in two parts concluding Dec. 15).
1851. A videotaper-alert from Richard Wein: "Murder, She Wrote" will begin on USA cable on Oct. 3. If the programs run in their original order, the first one will be "The Murder of Sherlock Holmes".

1852. The Arion Press limited edition of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, with photographs by Michael Kenna, was first published in 1985 at \$300.00 (BSJ December 85), and reprinted in a trade edition in 1986 at \$16.50 by North Point Press. A new edition, in paper covers, will be available in October for \$10.95 from the publisher (850 Talbot Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94706).
1853. Further to the list of Sherlockian audio cassettes (April 88 #2), Martha Irish reports that THE CASE BOOK OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (four stories, Robert Hardy) is also available from Audio Editions (Box 998, Burlingame, CA 90411) (800-231-4261); \$16.95 plus shipping, and they take plastic. And Audio Book Contractors (Box 40115, Washington, DC 20016) offers THE EXPLOITS OF BRIGADIER GERARD on six cassettes (\$29.95 purchase or \$9.95 rental, plus \$2.50 shipping).
1854. DEATH LOCKED IN, edited by Douglas G. Greene and Robert C. S. Adey (New York: International Polygonics, 1987; 553 pp., \$12.95), is a fine anthology of locked-room mysteries (a genre that is much older than the detective story), and the selection includes "The Lost Special" (with an "amateur reasoner of some celebrity" whose thoroughly Sherlockian comments have led to the story's listing in our Apocryphal Canon).
1855. International Polygonics also offers two 1988 reprints. ROCKET TO THE MORGUE, by Anthony Boucher (173 pp., \$4.95), is a novel (first published in 1942) of "sudden death in the science-fiction set," about the murder of a Great Author's son who bears a striking resemblance to Adrian M. Conan Doyle; the book contains many thinly-veiled Canonical and Conanical references. THE TRACES OF BRILLHART (D4852b), by Herbert Brean (221 pp., \$4.95), is a novel (first published in 1960) of "suspense, detection, and a curious immortality," with relevant Canonical quotations used as section headings.
1856. Reported by Jack Kerr: THE BRITISH ARMY ON CAMPAIGN: 1882-1902, by Michael Barthorp, in Osprey's "Men at Arms" series (\$8.95), with a color plate showing an officer of the 2nd Battalion of the Northumberland Fusiliers on the North West Frontier in 1888.

October 1988 #1

1857. Blackhawk Video was recently purchased by Lorimar, and is now The Blackhawk Catalog (5959 Triumph Street, Commerce, CA 90040) (800-826-2295), and their latest catalog includes two marginally Sherlockian "Our Gang" films: "Rushin' Ballet" (1937) and "Hide and Shriek" (1938). Also the serial "Daredevils of the Red Circle" (1939), which, except for its title, has absolutely no Canonical connection.
1858. A non-Sherlockian friend reports recently riding in a taxi driven by a man who said that there were only four people in the Sherlock Holmes stories who smoked pipes. Who were they?
1859. Reported by Jim Duval (from Comic Shop News): the new four-part comic-book series from Eternity begins in Dec. 1988. "A Case of Blind Fear" (written by Martin Powell and drawn by Seppo Makinen, who did "Scarlet in Gaslight") is "Holmes' most deadly case yet," according to Powell, with the detective battling the Invisible Man.
1860. Bouchercon XX will be held in Philadelphia, presumably in Oct. 1989. If you would like to be on the mailing list, write to Jay and Deen Kogan, 242 Delancey Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106.
1861. Charles Addams died on Sept. 29, ending a career that began when he sold his first cartoon to the New Yorker in 1935. The news serves as a reminder of the days when people listened to radio for something more than news and mood music, and Charles Addams gave readers of Life an artistic preview of nine radio mysteries scheduled for Feb. 15, 1948. The mysteries included the "Sherlock Holmes" series, with John Stanley and Alfred Shirley featured in a script by Edith Meiser about a case in which "a dog howls for its dead mistress as the women's brother conceals her body." The illustration was published in the Feb. 16, 1948, issue of Life. And the program was "The Adventure of Shoscombe Old Place".

October 1988 #2

1862. Taxi drivers are not always experts. There are at least seven people named in the Canon who smoked pipes (as you may have discovered from the entry for "tobacco" in Jack Tracy's THE ENCYCLOPAEDIA SHERLOCKIANA). Sherlock Holmes, of course. And Dr. Watson. John Straker smoked a pipe ("Silver Blaze"), as did Grant Munro ("The Yellow Face"). Isa Whitney smoked opium ("The Man with the Twisted Lip"). Thaddeus Sholto smoked a hookah ("The Sign of the Four"). And Peter Carey owned a tobacco pouch ("Black Peter"). But: who is the eighth person named in the Canon who appears to have smoked a pipe?
1863. Harpies Bizarre are offering their second "Women's Holmes Companion" (a calendar for 1989, featuring Holmesian and Victorian women of note and notoriety). The calendar costs \$8.95 postpaid from P. Moran, Box 854, Kendall Square, Cambridge, MA 02142.
1864. The Franklin Library (Box 10250, Des Moines, IA 50380) is still promoting their "Mystery Masterpieces", with GREAT CASES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES as their free introductory offer (but succeeding volumes will cost \$19.90 postpaid unless you cancel your subscription). GREAT CASES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (483 pp.) contains 19 of the 26 stories from the Franklin Library's THE BEST OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (D259b), with five new illustrations by Mitchell Hooks and a rear section reprinting many of Julian Wolff's Sherlockian maps. You may recall earlier mentions of the series (April 87 #1 and September 87 #6 and February 88 #3), when the price was \$32.00 postpaid for succeeding volumes; this time there is no mention of full-leather binding. The promotion does, however, mention the Franklin Mystery Gazette ("a fascinating newsletter filled with mystery memorabilia, trivia, quizzes, quotes, and all sorts of intriguing surprises"), which will be sent free to all subscribers.
1865. RASPUTIN'S REVENGE: THE FURTHER STARTLING ADVENTURES OF AUGUSTE LUPA--SON OF HOLMES, by John T. Lescroart (New York: Leisure Books, 1987; 285 pp., \$3.50), is a paperback reprint of the sequel to SON OF HOLMES. Lupa (with a passport in the name of John Hamish Adler Holmes) is in St. Petersburg in 1916, investigating a series of murders, accused of espionage, rescued by his father, and eventually successful in solving the mystery.
1866. I've had one report of a copy of the third printing of THE MISADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, and one copy of the fourth printing, but none of the fifth printing. Since the history of the book is still not known to everyone: in 1945, after MISADVENTURES had been published, despite Adrian's strenuous but futile objections, Fred Dannay discovered that his agent had failed to obtain full permission to reprint the Sherlockian material that had been included in 1941 in 101 YEARS' ENTERTAINMENT (D3215a). When Dannay told Adrian Conan Doyle about this unintentional infringement, Adrian threatened a lawsuit over 101 YEARS' ENTERTAINMENT unless Dannay agreed to suppress MISADVENTURES, and Dannay was forced to agree. And in later editions of 101 YEARS' ENTERTAINMENT (starting with the Garden City reprint in 1945), a Nick Carter story has been substituted for the Sherlockian material.
1867. Discovered by Sherry Rose-Bond: a "Sherlock" thimble, hand-painted bone china, modeled after the pipe-in-the-ear character jugs, \$14.95, on p. 13 of the current catalog from Gimbel & Sons Country Store, Box 57, Boothbay Harbor, ME 04538.

October 1988 #3

1868. Jim Browner ("The Cardboard Box") is the eighth person named in the Canon who appears to have smoked a pipe. Not because the cardboard box was a "yellow, half-pound honeydew box," since Browner could, after all, have found the box anywhere. There is, however, much better evidence. What is that better evidence?

1869. There is an audio version of the new film "Without a Clue", adapted by Bennett Cohen and read by Ben Kingsley, in a boxed two-cassette set, with playing time of 2 hours, 40 minutes, available from Dove Books on Tape (12711 Ventura Boulevard #250, Studio City, CA 91640); \$14.95 postpaid. Kingsley does a fine job with Watson and the other characters (including Michael Caine's occasional drunken cockney); I've not yet seen the film, which went to final edit after the adaptation was read and recorded, and it may well be that there are interesting differences between the film and the audio version.
1870. Roger Johnson reports from England: "Direct from Jeremy Brett is the news that four more hour-long Sherlock Holmes plays are planned by Granada TV for 1989, with Brett and Edward Hardwicke."
1871. The new catalog from The Mind's Eye (Box 6727, San Francisco, CA 94101) includes their new "BBC Audio Collection", which includes a two-cassette set from the "Sherlock Holmes Series" with Carlton Hobbs and Norman Shelley (RedH, Scan, Spec, Chas) at \$14.95. Mind's Eye still offers six cassettes (each with two broadcasts from the Gielgud/Richardson series) at \$7.95 each (or \$35.00 for the complete set), and one cassette with "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (read by Richard Lewis and Rick Cimino) at \$7.95.
1872. There's a new edition of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (New York: Portland House Illustrated Classics, 1988; 249 pp., \$9.98); basically a reprint of the first American edition, bound in bright blue-green cloth, with eight additional color illustrations by Sergio Martinez (nicely done) and a new Foreword by Ellen Dreyer. Portland House is a division of dilithium Press, and the book is distributed by Crown Publishers, so you can look for it on the discount tables.
1873. Jack Kerr has sent a video catalog from Viewfinders (Box 1665, Evanston, IL 60204) (800-342-3342), a company that is essentially a mail-order retailer of other companies' cassettes, at list price plus shipping, and the catalog suggests that "Viewfinders can supply virtually any videocassette that is currently available" -- a service that might be useful to those who do not have a neighborhood video shop, let alone one that has a wide selection or that is willing to special-order cassettes on request.
1874. OLD POSSUM'S BOOK OF PRACTICAL CATS CALENDAR FOR 1989 (Orlando: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1988; \$8.95) is really an engagement book, with full-page illustrations by Edward Gorey (reprinted from the 1982 paperback), two for Macavity: The Mystery Cat, and two for Gus: The Theatre Cat.
1875. Gunnar E. Sundin (Sherlock's Bookshop, 492 South First Avenue, Des Plaines, IL 60016) has a new catalog, offering reproductions of vintage Sherlockian maps and a poster for a 1912 production of "The Speckled Band", and his SHERLOCK'S LONDON TODAY: A WALKING TOUR OF THE LONDON OF SHERLOCK HOLMES.

October 1988 #4

1876. The better evidence for Jim Browner being a pipe-smoker is in The Strand Magazine: the Sidney Paget portrait of Jim Browner shows him smoking a pipe. D. Martin Dakin seems to be the only person to have mentioned this in print (in A SHERLOCK HOLMES COMMENTARY).
1877. The Oct. 1988 issue of The Robb Report (proudly subtitled "the magazine for connoisseurs") has a five-page article by Chris Caswell on Sherlockian collectibles, with many color illustrations, including a full-page front cover of Beeton's Christmas Annual. And another article about Wilderness Travel of Berkeley, Calif. (800-247-6700 or 415-548-0420), and their offer of a 20-day "Journey to the Lost World" (Mount Roraima in Venezuela) for \$1,990 plus airfare. The magazine's address is: One Acton Place, Acton, MA 01720; \$6.00.
1878. BASIL OF BAKER STREET, by Eve Titus (New York: Pocket Books/Minstrel, 1988; 112 pp., \$2.50), is a new trade-paperback edition, with new color cover art by Judith Sutton.
1879. Douglas Elliott's THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE MISSING LINK: ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE AND PILTDOWN MAN is a 36-page monograph that examines the evidence and summarizes the arguments (for and against) launched by John Hathaway Winslow's blunt announcement in 1983 that Conan Doyle was the perpetrator of the hoax. Available from The Bootmakers of Toronto, 47 Manor Road West, Toronto, Ont. M5P 1E6, Canada; \$4.50 postpaid.
1880. A four-page sales list of Sherlockiana (more than 250 items, plus issues of the BSJ) is available from Jim De Stefano, 231 Jericho Turnpike, New Hyde Park, NY 11040.
1881. The Afghanistan Perceivers, who have in the past installed commemorative plaques honoring Murray, the Faithful Orderly (in Watson, Okla.), and Charlie Chaplin as Billy the Pageboy (in the Mayo Hotel in Tulsa), have joined forces with The Great Alkali Plainsmen and The Arkansas Valley Investors on a third plaque honoring Sherlock Holmes (in Altamont, Kans., where the mayor proclaimed July 23 to be "Sherlock Holmes Day").
1882. Our new postal card shows the Hearst Castle at San Simeon. William Randolph Hearst owned at least three Sherlock Holmes manuscripts, but I don't know whether they were actually kept in the library at San Simeon. The three manuscripts were bought at auction in 1923: "Charles Augustus Milverton" (\$70), "The Missing Three-Quarter" (\$130), and "The Valley of Fear" (\$275). The three manuscripts were sold to Scribner's in 1940 (as was the manuscript of "The Abbey Grange", which may have been purchased by Hearst at a different auction in 1923 for \$105).
1883. Those who more-or-less fondly remember the Royalton Hotel in New York can now stop by for a visit, since it is now open again, with restaurant, bar, snack bar ("a sushi bar without sushi"), library, game room, and furniture and interior architecture by Philippe Starck (described as the 39-year-old reigning superstar of French design). "We'll even offer homemade hot chocolate to make you feel comfortable," said one of the owners.

October 1988 #5

1884. The Sept. 1988 issue of Canadian Holmes is at hand, with much about Jack the Ripper, including a reprint from the July 4, 1894, issue of the [Portsmouth] Evening News of an article on "'Jack the Ripper.' How 'Sherlock Holmes' Would Have Tracked Him." "Dr. Conan Doyle," the article reports, "in an interview with an American journalist, has explained how 'Sherlock Holmes' would have set about the work of tracking the notorious Whitechapel miscreant." Does anyone know of a published report of that interview in an American newspaper or magazine in 1894?
1885. THE NEW ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, edited by Martin Harry Greenberg, is now available in a trade-paperback edition (New York: Carroll & Graf, 1988; 345 pp., \$8.95). The anthology was one of the landmarks of the centenary year (September 87 #6), with authors ranging from eminent to first-time-in-print, and it is recommended for its examples of how good an imaginative pastiche or parody can be.
1886. Broadway playwright Edward Chodorov died on Oct. 9. He wrote, produced, or directed many plays (including "Those Endearing Young Charms" and "Oh Men! Oh Women!") and films (including "The Hucksters" and "The Story of Louis Pasteur"), and in 1941 he wrote a Sherlock Holmes play ("My Dear Watson") based on "A Scandal in Bohemia" and with appearances by Moriarty and A. Conan Doyle. Norman Schatell researched the play, which was commissioned New York producer Saint Suber (with encouragement from Denis Conan Doyle). The rights were acquired by Oscar Serlin, and then by Otto L. Preminger, and there were hopes for the play in 1942, but it was not produced (Basil Rathbone, Brian Aherne, and Philip Merivale were considered for the role of Holmes, and Nigel Bruce and Melville Cooper as Watson). "Adrian has read the Edward Chodorov play and is 'disgusted' with it," Basil Rathbone wrote to Vincent Starrett in 1951 (when Ouida Rathbone was working on her play). "He has absolutely forbidden its production."

1887. Richard D. Lesh (620 Mathews Street #208, Fort Collins, CO 80524) has found a few copies of the handsome medal issued by The Maiwand Jezails in 1980 to commemorate the centenary of the Battle of Maiwand. The medal (photograph in the BSI, Sept. 1982, p. 191) is silver-plate over bronze, green ribbon, \$30.00 postpaid and insured. And his "cinderella" souvenir sheet honoring the fatal battle costs \$1.50 postpaid.
1888. The University of Minnesota Library continues to expand its collection, with its latest acquisition being the "Starrett Collection", which includes an apparently complete collection of Starrett's books, pamphlets, and other ephemera, and his correspondence.
1889. Some of the university's Sherlockian publications are still available (from The Norwegian Explorers, 1473 Fulham Street, St. Paul, MN 55108; all prices postpaid) and of interest: MOULDING THE IMAGE: WILLIAM GILLETTE AS SHERLOCK HOLMES (1983), by Andrew Malec (an illustrated exhibition catalog; 16 pp., \$3.00); A FIXED POINT IN A CHANGING WORLD (1984), by James P. Shannon (discussion of Philip S. Hench and his collection; 12 pp., \$3.00); THE FREDERIC DORR STEELE MEMORIAL COLLECTION (1987), by Andrew Malec (an illustrated description; 20 pp., \$3.00). Also: a decorative poster from the running of The Silver Blaze Cup at Canterbury Downs in Aug. 1988 (\$5.00). And: HOLMES AWAY FROM HOME (1988), the Australian exhibition catalog (56 pp., \$5.00).
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October 1988 #6

1890. John Ruyle has made a Sherlockian discovery in the works of John Kendrick Bangs: a quotation from Holmes in the preface to the "Biographical Edition" of THE HOUSE-BOAT ON THE STYX (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1899). The nine-page preface offers "Some Comments upon the Asbestos Edition Published by Gutenberg, Plantin, & Caxton, of Cimmerica", and the comment by Sherlock Holmes is: "I fail to detect any humor in it, but give me time. I have a clew."
1891. My report on John Michael Gibson's facsimile of BEETON'S CHRISTMAS ANNUAL (September 88 #3) failed to include the fact that copies are still available, from David Kirby (Rupert Books, 59 Stonefield, Bar Hill, Cambridge CB3 8TE, England). Postpaid prices: \$252.00 for the limited edition signed by Dame Jean Conan Doyle, or \$49.50 for the regular edition.
1892. Reported: trade-paperback edition of THE PRIVATE LIFE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Vincent Starrett (New York: Mysterious Press, 1988; \$8.95).
1893. Hot Plates (Box 3167, Ogden UT 84409) offers "replica license plates" (full size, in plastic with raised printing) for any of the 50 states (but these are not a substitute for legal plates on your car), custom-made with up to ten characters, with frame, protective cover, and display stand/wall hanger -- for \$18.95 postpaid to Sherlockians. Write for their flier.
1894. A nine-minute recording of William Gillette as Sherlock Holmes, which was made in 1936 and was the source for the two-minute excerpt issued by The National Vocarium in 1939, was discovered in 1987 and played for The Baker Street Irregulars at the 1988 annual dinner. The recording has now been digitally re-mastered and is available on cassette from Paul Singleton (523 Central Avenue, Bethpage, NY 11714) for \$6.00 postpaid (or \$7.00 to Canada or \$9.00 to other countries). Write to Paul for a flier, or the cassette.
1895. Animation art seems to be one of the more popular collectibles now -- not cels from recent films such as "The Great Mouse Detective" (because there is no shortage of such material), but rather cels from older films such as "Fantasia" (because few cels were saved). A collection of early material was sold at Christie's in New York in 1986, and prices were spectacular: \$24,200 for a cel from the first Mickey Mouse color cartoon ("The Band Concert", 1935) and \$30,800 for a cel showing the wicked witch in "Snow White". And there are companies catering to this market, such as Supercels (1440 Kennedy Causeway, North Bay Village, FL 33141), seeking both sellers and buyers. Fortunately (or unfortunately, depending on one's point of view) there are no Sherlockian characters in "Fantasia" or "Pinocchio".
1896. The Langham Hotel, mentioned three times in the Canon, was used for many years by BBC Radio and then offered for sale (September 86 #4). Now 125 years old, the Langham will be a hotel again: a £50 million facelift is underway for Hilton International.
1897. Visitors to London will soon also be able to visit Nevill's Baths (the "Northumberland Avenue establishment" where Holmes and Watson indulged their weakness for the Turkish bath). The building, in Charing Cross, is now a branch of Barclay's bank, and the baths' splendid dome, covered for years by a false ceiling, is being uncovered and restored.
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October 1988 #7

1898. TEN YEARS BEYOND BAKER STREET: SHERLOCK HOLMES MATCHES WITS WITH THE DIABOLICAL DR. FU MANCHU, by Can Van Ash (New York: Harper & Row/Perennial Library, 1988; 436 pp., \$4.95), was first published in 1984, and the paperback reprint is a welcome arrival. Nayland Smith is mysteriously missing from his London flat, and Dr. Petrie turns to Sherlock Holmes for assistance, providing an account of their pursuit of Fu Manchu, diabolical as ever, through London and Wales. The book is well constructed and well written by Van Ash, a friend of Sax Rohmer and co-author of his biography MASTER OF VILLAINY, and the portrayal of the protagonists is both consistent and in character in this successful combination of the worlds of Sherlock Holmes and Fu Manchu.
1899. I recommend Michael Harrison's PAINFUL DETAILS (London: Max Parrish, 1962) to those interested in Victorian scandals ("painful details" was the phrase used by British newspapers when the details were such as might offend the readers) and to those suffering from the nominal-coincidence syndrome. One of the fascinating scandals discussed at length in Harrison's book is the legal dispute that followed the death of the 5th Duke of Portland in 1854. The dispute eventually resulted in a criminal suit, in which the prosecutor was one Athelney-Jones, KC. Those who wish to conclude that Athelney-Jones was the model for the Canonical Inspector Athelney Jones should note that Athelney-Jones was a KC, not a QC: the trial occurred in 1907, many years after "The Sign of the Four" was published.
1900. Jeremy Brett still has reservations about his suitability for the role of Sherlock Holmes. "Robert Stephens was very good in that rather damaged film by Billy Wilder," Brett told a reporter for the [London] Independent. "I liked Christopher Plummer. And I think I've seen the next Sherlock Holmes: Daniel Day-Lewis. Rathbone had everything: the timbre, and coldness, the logic, and the danger. But the one I would like to have seen was John Wood, who played him for the RSC; from what I heard I would guess that he was the magnesium flame of Holmes." We hope to hear more from Britain on just who Daniel Day-Lewis is, and what he's done.
1901. "Someone said, aren't you scared of being typecast?" Brett also told the reporter. "And I said, 'if you're going to be typecast, you might as well be typecast as a genius.'" Jeremy Brett and Edward Hardwicke have received enthusiastic reviews (both from the press and from Sherlockians) in the new play "The Secret of Sherlock Holmes" in London. According to an interview with Brett in the N.Y. Times, the play has been so successful in London that the run has been extended into January, and "probably through March." Brett also promised that the play is "certainly coming to Broadway," but it may not open here until late 1989 or early 1990.
1902. Reviews of Granada's version of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" were not as enthusiastic. "Beware of local legends" might be a good warning for the press: a columnist for the [Cornwall] Western Morning News reported on an interview with Patrick Holman, who lives at Yarnar Farm, which lies between Bovey Tracey and Haytor, and his comment on learning that the program had been filmed in Yorkshire. "They should have filmed it here,"
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Holman said. "This is where they made the first Hound picture with Basil Rathbone in 1936. That's the local legend." Well, the Rathbone "Hound" was filmed in 1939, and entirely in a Hollywood studio.

October 1988 #8

1903. John Ball ("The Oxford Flier") died on Oct. 15, after more than thirty years as a Sherlockian, first in Philadelphia (where he was a Master Copper-Beech-Smith of The Sons of the Copper Beeches) and then in Encino (where he was Lighthousekeeper of The Trained Cormorants). His Investiture, awarded by Edgar W. Smith in 1960, reflected John's work in the aviation industry. His first published mystery was IN THE HEAT OF THE NIGHT, which won an Edgar from the Mystery Writers of America in 1965 for best first novel, and another in 1967 for best motion picture. And he was a marvelous host, modestly displaying the *real* Maltese falcon (the jade statue that gave Dashiell Hammett an idea for a mystery novel), and taking at least one visitor on an aerial tour of Los Angeles area (courtesy of the county police helicopter patrol).
1904. Herman Abromson ("Lord Cantlemere") also died this month. He was an avid admirer of Christopher Morley, president of the Long Island Book Collectors and the Christopher Morley Knothole Association, and a splendid bibliophile (his collection included many unique items, not the least of which was the manuscript for "In Memoriam" introduction to THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES).
1905. Michael Caine's film "Without a Clue" opened officially on Oct. 21, and his television series "Jack the Ripper" began on Oct. 21. "I think it's fine," Caine told one interviewer, "I'll get them whether they go out or stay in." I won't review "Without a Clue" here, since I assume that you all have seen the film (or will, when it is released overseas). The cast includes some familiar faces: Nigel Davenport (Lord Smithwick, Chancellor of the Exchequer), who played Conan Doyle in the 1972 television series "The Edwardians" (D4603b), and Peter Cook (Greenhough, of The Strand Magazine) who played Sherlock Holmes in the 1978 film "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (D4336b).
1906. But (for those who did not see Caine's "Jack the Ripper" mini-series), I will report that the opening and closing announcements avoided all of the promotional puffery about a solution based on newly-available official files. Only a few of the usual suspects were omitted, and Jack turned out to be Sir William Gull (suffering from *dementia praecox*), assisted by John Netley (wearing a deerstalker when driving the coach on their villainous nightly excursions). No mention of Sherlock Holmes, or Conan Doyle.
1907. Further to the mention (September 88 #1) of Britain's first mystery-specialist bookshop (Murder One, at 23 Denmark Street, off Charing Cross Road), Gideon Hill reports an added attraction: designer Mark Roberts' convincing and artistically executed life-size model of Sherlock Holmes.
1908. The autumn issue of Anglofile at hand, with reports on the Brett play, the new Granada series, and the death of actor Roy Kinnear in September in Spain, after falling from a horse during filming of Richard Lester's "The Last Return of the Four Musketeers". Kinnear was a fine comic, and played Moriarty's assistant in Gene Wilder's "The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes' Smarter Brother" (1975) and Ethel Seldon in Peter Cook's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1978). Anglofile costs \$12.00 a year for six issues (Box 33515, Decatur, GA 30033).
1909. There are now 149 people on our mailing list. Time to start thinking about hiring a dog to lick the envelopes . . .
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November 1988 #1

1910. "Mr. Universe has come a long way since the first contest, judged by Arthur Conan Doyle and glittering with strong men and novelty acts," according to a report in the [London] Sunday Times (Sept. 11). And the long way appears to be a long way down, since the Mr. Olympia contest seems to have taken over as the world's premier body-building title. The article gives no more information about Conan Doyle's participation, but it is true that he was a friend and admirer of Eugen Sandow, and was a judge at the Sandow Physical Culture Demonstration at the Royal Albert Hall on Sept. 14, 1901. The Mr. Universe contest would appear to claim some descent from that event.
1911. We reported earlier (February 88 #3) on the availability of Undershaw (the house designed by and built for Conan Doyle, where he lived from 1897 until he moved to Windlesham in 1907). Now we have news of the offer of Grayswood Beeches, described as a "compact country house" with six bedrooms, five reception rooms, conservatory, tennis court, and paddock, in three acres of ground. It was this house (then named Greyswood Beeches) that Conan Doyle rented (according to John Dickson Carr) from May 1896 until construction of Undershaw was completed in Oct. 1897. Offers over £650,000 are invited by Prudential Property Services, Haslemere.
1912. Our circulation department renews its welcome to the new subscribers (now 25) who responded to Philip Shreffler's recommendation in the June issue of the BSJ. For the benefit of the newest readers, we repeat our standing offers (all prices postpaid): the 11-page list of Investitured Irregulars, Two-Shilling Awards, and *The* Women (\$1.00); the 49-page list of the S'ian societies, with names and addresses for contacts for the active societies, (\$2.75); and the run of mailing labels for the active societies (\$10.00).
1913. Al and Julie Rosenblatt's splendid 20-page souvenir menu for "An Evening in Scarlet" at the Culinary Institute of America on May 16, 1987, handsomely devised, designed, and produced, with many illustrations, annotations and explanations, is also available (\$15.00), as is the Frank Thomas pastiche SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE MASQUERADE MURDERS (\$6.00).
1914. Canada's 1988 postal issues include a set of four stamps honoring the centenary of the Canadian Kennel Club, and one of the stamps shows a Newfoundland dog (there are two mentions of Newfoundlands in the Canon). Our thanks to Ray Rawlings for a copy of the stamp.
1915. The Sept. issue of The Camden House Journal (published by The Occupants of the Empty House) includes "Another Look at the Diogenes Club", in which Bart Simms notes the existence of another unusual London club: Pratt's, named in honor of Nathaniel Pratt, steward to the seventh Duke of Beaufort. Pratt died in 1859, but the club still exists, in two basement rooms which are decorated with stuffed salmon, the head of a rhinoceros, a soapstone Buddha, and a set of elephant testicles converted into a tantalus.
1916. Lysette Anthony, who played a damsel in distress both in Michael Caine's "Without a Clue" and in Michael Caine's "Jack the Ripper" is also on view in the Dec. 1988 issue of Playboy ("Miss Anthony, hot actress and brash Brit, loves to shock the home-town folks with her body English").
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November 1988 #2

1917. We will celebrate Sherlock Holmes' 135th birthday on Friday, Jan. 6 (which, by pleasant coincidence, *is* his birthday), with the now-traditional festivities in New York. Friday begins with the Martha Hudson Breakfast at 9:00 am at the Algonquin Hotel, at 59 West 44th Street; no reservations required. The William Gillette Luncheon begins at noon at the Old Homestead, at 56 Ninth Avenue (Lisa McGaw, 15 Willow Terrace Apartments, Chapel Hill, NC 27514). At 6:00 pm The Baker Street Irregulars will meet at 24 Fifth Avenue, at 9th Street; and The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes at Garvin's Restaurant, at 19 Waverly Place, south of 8th Street, one block east of Washington Square Park (Evelyn A. Herzog, 235 West 15th Street, #4B, New York, NY 10011). Space will be limited at the Gillette luncheon and the ASH dinner, and early reservations are requested. We are advised that the ASH have booked the basement nightclub at Garvin's until 3:00 am, which will allow post-dinners celebrants to postpone braving the elements almost until breakfast.
1918. Mary Ellen Rich has recommended the Shoreham Hotel, at 33 West 55th Street; weekend rates are \$75 (single), \$84.00 (double), \$120.00 (two-room suite); their telephone number is 212-247-6700. Also: the Salisbury Hotel, at 123 West 57th Street (between 6th and 7th Avenues); the rate is \$75.00
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a room, and their telephone numbers are 800-223-0680 and 212-246-1300. And another possibility: the Iroquois Hotel, at 49 West 44th Street; the rates are \$75 (single), \$85 (double), and \$95-\$125 (triple); and the telephone number is 212-840-3080. Mary Ellen also warns about non-optional extras: \$2.00 a day occupancy tax, 8.25% state tax, and 5% city tax.

1919. Otto Penzler's annual open house at The Mysterious Bookshop (129 West 56th Street) is also on Friday, from 11:00 to 6:00; all Sherlockians and their guests are welcome to attend, and there is as usual the possibility that Sherlockian authors will be on hand to sign their books.
1920. On Saturday there is The Baker Street Irregulars' reception, open to all Sherlockians and their friends, from 2:30 to 5:00 pm, at 24 Fifth Avenue, at 9th Street. Open bar, with hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, and tickets cost \$20.00 a person until Dec. 15 (\$25.00 a person thereafter and at the door). Checks, payable to The Baker Street Irregulars, should be sent to Robert E. Thomalen, 69 Glen Road, Eastchester, NY 10709.
1921. And, although not formally scheduled, it is likely that many Sherlockians will go on to dine on Saturday evening at Bogie's (249 West 26th Street). On Sunday, southbound travelers (and others) will be welcome at the annual dinner of The Master's Class, which will start at 4:30 at the Franklin Inn Club at St. James and Camac Streets in Philadelphia (ending early to allow people to catch the last train out of town). The meeting will include a silent auction (for those who wish to buy or sell S'iana) and details are available from Victoria M. Robinson, 299-B Summit House, 1450 West Chester Pike, West Chester, PA 19382.
1922. Delia Vargas reports that a new exhibit "From Queen to Empress: Victorian Dress, 1837-1877" will open at the Metropolitan Museum of Art (at Fifth Avenue at 82nd Street) in mid-December, probably continuing through the birthday festivities).

November 1988 # 3

1923. More background on "Without a Clue" (from various papers): Gary Murphy and Larry Strawther wrote their script in 1983, with John Cleese in mind for the role of Holmes/Kincaid. Serious work began in 1986, with Chevy Chase and John Candy under consideration as Holmes, but Michael Caine was quickly cast in the role. Suggestions for Watson included Joan Rivers, Sean Connery, and Danny De Vito, with producer Marc Stirdivant and director Thom Eberhardt insisting on Ben Kingsley. And if you've been wondering where you've seen saw Paul Freeman (Moriarty), he played the villainous archeologist Belloq in "Raiders of the Lost Ark".
1924. Further to the mention (October 88 #7) of Jeremy Brett's suggestion that Daniel Day-Lewis is "the next Sherlock Holmes," Lenny Picker and Carole Naddeo and Rosemary Michaud report that Day-Lewis can be seen in "A Room with a View" (Cecil), "My Beautiful Launderette" (Johnny, the gay street punk), "The Unbearable Lightness of Being" (Tomas), "The Bounty", and "Stars and Bars".
1925. Lenny Picker also quotes a Los Angeles Times report (Oct. 23) that there may be a sequel to "Without a Clue" if (according to Michael Caine) the film's gross reaches \$50 million. The working title for the new script is "Still No Clue".
1926. Also at hand from Carole Naddeo is a flier from George J. Goodstadt, Inc. (80 Post Road East, Westport, CT 06880) offering a limited-edition signed lithograph by Al Hirschfeld: "Stars of the Playhouse" shows twenty worldfamous stars who have appeared at the Westport Playhouse since it opened in 1931. The caricatures include Basil Rathbone (as Sherlock Holmes), and the cost is \$600 (after Jan. 1989 the price will be \$750). I believe that the caricature of Rathbone is a new one (since I have no record of anything by Hirschfeld when Rathbone's play was produced in 1953). I also believe that Rathbone's play went straight from Boston to New York, and that Rathbone was at the Westport Playhouse in some other role.
1927. It is not necessary to travel to Manchester to visit Sherlock Holmes' Baker Street: Mike Bershad reports that the Universal Studios Tour in Hollywood has a new "Streets of the World" section that includes an exterior for a Sherlock Holmes movie set.
1928. The 1988 "Holiday Catalogue" at hand from the Mysterious Bookshop (129 West 56th Street, New York, NY 10019), with a section of Sherlockiana; also the fall 1988 issue of Mysterious News, with articles by and about Mysterious Press authors.
1929. Jack Tracy's new (autumn 1988) catalog (16 pages) at hand from Gaslight Publications (626 North College Avenue, Bloomington, IN 47404), with Jack's explanation of his own Great Hiatus, offers of in-print Sherlockiana (from Gaslight and other publishers), and news of future Gaslight titles.
1930. In an interview in the San Francisco Sunday Chronicle (Oct. 23), Jeremy Brett suggested that Sherlockians will be tantalized by the ending of his play "The Secret of Sherlock Holmes" because it actually works as far as the Canon is concerned. "We don't do anything that goes against Doyle," Brett said, "we just bend the willow a little." Brett also said that after bringing the play to New York he hopes to do it for television as well.

November 1988 #4

1931. QUEEN MARY'S DOLLS' HOUSE, by Mary Stewart-Wilson, with photographs by David Cripps (London: The Bodley Head, 1988; 192 pp., £15.00) provides a splendid tour of the magnificent 40-room dolls' house designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens for Queen Mary in the 1920s and now displayed at Windsor Castle. The new color photographs of the rooms and contents are spectacular, and the photographs of the Library show both the fine leather binding and the title page of Conan Doyle's contribution: his pastiche "How Watson Learned the Trick".
1932. "Give me liberty or give me...death!" will be the slogan for Bouchercon XX in Philadelphia on Oct. 6-8, 1989. Membership is \$25.00 through Dec. 31, and \$40.00 thereafter (if available), and the Bouchercon XX address is: Box 59345, Philadelphia, PA 19102-9345. That "if available" may not be an idle warning: Bouchercon XIX in San Diego closed its membership at 900 during the summer, and its organizers estimated that membership would have reached 2,000 if there had been no restrictions.
1933. And all students of American history will know, of course, who it was who delivered that patriotic announcement -- and perhaps, that the announcement was not made in Philadelphia. But (without looking it up), do you know the name of the city where the announcement *was* made?
1934. The Bouchercon XIX program included an announcement for "Malice Domestic" at the Sheraton Northwest Washington on Apr. 21-23, 1989. "Join us for tea and crumpets, malice and murder . . . a celebration of crime in the grand tradition of Agatha Christie, Ellery Queen, and Dorothy L. Sayers," their announcement suggests. The organizers are Mary Morman, Terry Adams, Gerry Letteney, and Barbara Mertz, and they are planning a smaller (about 300 people) convention concentrating on "cozy domestic" and "country house" mysteries and authors. Registration is \$60.00 (including a Saturday night banquet), and the address is Box 1753, Frederick, MD 21701. The Sheraton Northwest Washington, by the way, is in Maryland.
1935. I've now received a report of a copy of the 5th printing of Ellery Queen's THE MISADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (September 88 #5 and October 88 #2) -- that's at least one copy of all five printings, where things will rest, unless and until someone reports a copy of a 6th printing . . .
1936. Plan ahead: the 22nd California International Antiquarian Book Fair will be held on Feb. 10-12, 1989, at the Crystal Court, San Francisco Concourse, 8th and Brannan Streets, in San Francisco. Sherlockiana will be one of the featured subjects, and there will be more than 130 dealers attending.
1937. Women's Day (Nov. 22) has an advertisement "Just for Women!" for the Troll Book Club, with a four-books-for 99-cents introductory offer from a list of books of interest to women, including WHAT TO DO WHEN HE WON'T CHANGE, HOW TO HAVE GREAT LEGS AT ANY AGE, WEIGHT WATCHERS FAVORITE RECIPES, DR. SPOCK ON PARENTING, and Michael Hardwick's THE REVENGE OF THE HOUND.

1938. SHERLOCK HOLMES PREPARES FOR THE FINAL PROBLEM is a 22-page pastiche by Rolf John Canton, a member of the Norwegian Explorers, with the story set in modern times, starting from Minneapolis. Available from the author (5501 Portland Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55417; \$5.00 postpaid).

November 1988 #5

1939. A "Sale of English Literature and History" at Sotheby's (34-35 New Bond Street, London W1A 2AA, England) on Dec. 15 will have the manuscript of ACD's non-Sherlockian poem "A Forgotten Tale" (estimated at £1,500-£2,000), and a lot consisting of two of his pipes (GBD "New Era") from the estate of the late Princess Mdivani (estimated at £500-£600).
1940. "I have tried to be as accurate as possible," Jon L. Lellenberg alleges in his introductory Author's Note to his THE GREAT ALKALI PLAINSMEN OF GREATER KANSAS CITY: SILVER ANNIVERSARY HISTORY, then noting quickly that "when the archives were inconclusive, or memories were vague, I have tried to err on the side of fantasy." Readers of the illustrated account of the scion's first 25 years will be able to judge whether there is any justification for the suggestion (by a non-resident non-Sherlockian) that the only successful citizens of Kansas City have been who were able to leave the city, and that the only interesting events in Kansas City have been inspired by visitors. Copies of the 98-page HISTORY are available (\$10.90 postpaid) from Jon L. Lellenberg, 635 North Armistead Street, Alexandria, VA 22312.
1941. Ted Schulz reports that Tsukasa Kobayashi and Akane Higashiyama returned to Japan from the unveiling of the statue of Sherlock Holmes in Meiringen just in time to prepare for a similar ceremony on Oct. 9: the unveiling in Karuizawa on Oct. 9 of Yoshinori Sato's statue of Sherlock Holmes (shown in a photograph taken by Kae Nobuhara). And Yuichi Hirayama reports that there were more than 150 Sherlockians at the ceremony (many of them in costume), and that Karuizawa was chosen as the site because the city was the home of the late Ken Nobuhara, one of the earliest translators of the Canon into Japanese.
1942. Yuichi Hirayama also reports that the "Sherlock Holmes Solo Mysteries" are now being published in Japan by Hobby Japan, translated by Yaeko Sakurai. The series is also published in Germany (by Thienemann, translated "aus dem Amerikanischen" by Hans Bangerter) (first time I recall anyone making that distinction so formally). I've also heard that the "Amerikanischen" series ended after seven volumes.
1943. "The Return of Sherlock Holmes Tour" to Switzerland and England, led by Scott Bond and Sherry Rose-Bond, is scheduled for June 10-24, 1989. This is a sequel to their "Final Problem Tour" in 1987, and the 1989 itinerary includes Meiringen, London, and Dartmoor, a trip on the "Orient Express" (now, alas, only a one-day excursion beginning and ending in London), and tickets for the West End production of "The Phantom of the Opera". A detailed brochure (with artwork by Scott Bond) is available from Geographics Travel & Tours, 21 South 5th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106.
1944. A new catalog at hand from Gallery Lainzberg (300 Guaranty Building, Cedar Rapids, IA 52401). They specialize in production cels and animation art, and their coverage includes "The Great Mouse Detective", "Aristocats", and "Mickey's Christmas Carol" (the latter two with deerstalkered characters).
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November 1988 #6

1945. Leo Sauvage ("Victor Savage") died on Oct. 30. A journalist and author, he was the N.Y. correspondent for Le Figaro from 1950 to 1975, and then the drama critic for the New Leader. His book LES AMERICAINS was a best-seller in France, and his most recent S'ian articles appeared in the Mar. 1983 and Dec. 1984 issues of the BSJ. At the time of his death he was working on a new book, SHERLOCKIAN HERESIES.
1946. Sheilah Graham died on Nov. 18, and was described in her obituary in the Washington Post as "a child of the London slums whose wit, will and comely smile helped her to reign in Hollywood as one of the film capital's chief gossip columnists and who also held a place in American literature as the lover of F. Scott Fitzgerald." According to an interview in the Washington Post in 1986, when Graham met Fitzgerald in 1937 (at a party celebrating her engagement to the Marquess of Donegall), Fitzgerald asked her how many lovers she'd had. "I said eight as a round number. He was shocked." And the reporter politely noted that "As to whether eight was an exaggeration or an overestimate, she won't say."
1947. Kenneth McQuage (Shoscombe Old Place, 9806 Hilltop Drive, Baltimore, MD 21234) offers an illustrated flier giving details on what may well be the world's first Sherlockian weathervane: a 14-by-7-inch silhouette in black-finished sand-cast aluminum, modeled after the Hurlstone weathervane in the Granada version of "The Musgrave Ritual" (\$25.00 for the ornament, \$40.00 for the ornament and arrow, or \$70.00 for the full weathervane and mounting apparatus; shipping extra).
1948. Ben Wood reports that the St. Alban's Stamp Mission (Box 1268, Anna Maria, FL 34216) is offering older mint commemorative postage stamps for 10% less than face value: \$5.00 buys \$5.50, \$10.00 buys \$11.00, \$25.00 buys \$27.50, and \$50.00 buys \$55.00, all postpaid to people who want to make their mail more colorful. Checks payable to St. Alban's Mission.
1949. THE ADVENTURE OF THE FRAIL CODGER, in which Turlock Loams comes to grips with T. G. Waffles in the 16th case recorded by Dr. Fatso, follows hot on the heels of THE ADVENTURE OF THE CHEESEMONGER'S BARK (September 88 #5) from the Pequod Press (\$29.50 cloth or \$14.50 paper, from John Ruyle, 521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707).
1950. Reported by Jerry Margolin: CRIMES AT CHRISTMAS, edited by Jack Adrian (Equation, 1988, £14.95), a "beautifully illustrated" British anthology that includes reprints of Peter Todd's "Herlock Sholmes's Christmas Case" (D4957b) and "The Secret in the Pudding Bag" (D4965b).
1951. A new item for video collectors: "Der Mann, der Sherlock Holmes war" (the 1937 film starring Hans Albers) is available (in German) for \$42.00 from International Historic Films (Box 29035, Chicago, IL 60629).
1952. Benny Green is always a fine source for Sherlockian comment, in the pages of Punch and elsewhere. In his review in Punch (Oct. 13, 1982) of the Tom Baker "The Hound of the Baskervilles" he suggests that "We were all raised to believe that Holmes not only lived but was alive and well in California, employed as a contract player at Universal Studios, and diverting attention from himself by masquerading as Basil Rathbone."
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December 1988 #1

1953. An additional item for the list of birthday festivities: "Double Bill" at the Prometheus Theater is an off-off-Broadway production, offers Russell McLauchlin's "Teatime in Baker Street" (D5551a) and director Fred Fondren's adaptation of "Sherlock Holmes: A Case of Identity", scheduled to close on Sunday, Jan. 8. The theater is at 239 East 5th Street, New York, NY 10003 (477-8689); tickets cost \$8.00; performances are Thursday through Saturday at 8:00, and Sunday at 3:00. Fondren wrote, directed, and played Holmes in "Sherlock Holmes and the Warburton Conspiracy" (1981) and "Sherlock Holmes Embattles Count Dracula" (1983).
1954. John Carradine died on Nov. 27. His roles on stage and screen ranged from Hamlet to Dracula, and he made more than 200 films, beginning in 1930 with a bit part in "Tol'able David". His more important films included "Bride of Frankenstein", "Stagecoach", "Grapes of Wrath", and "The Hound of the Baskervilles" in 1939 (as Barryman, the butler, renamed by the studio to avoid confusion with a much more famous Barrymore).
1955. Writer-composer-lyricist Leslie Bricusse first worked on "musicalising Sherlock Holmes" in the late 1960s, when he wrote a first-draft screenplay and some songs for MGM's never-produced film of the musical "Baker Street". Then there were reports of plans for a stage version in 1975, with Rex
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- Harrison under consideration as Holmes. And again in 1987, with Robert Powell as Holmes. "Sherlock Holmes: The Musical" opened, at long last, at the Northcott Theatre in Exeter, for a one-month run, with Ron Moody (who is perhaps best known for his performance as Fagin in the stage and film versions of Lionel Bart's "Oliver!") as Holmes. And there are now reports that the musical will open in London in February or March 1989.
1956. The Bear Detectives wear their deerstalkers again in THE BERENSTAIN BEARS AND THE MANSION MYSTERY, by Stan and January Berenstain (New York: Happy House Books/Random House, 1987; 20 pp., \$2.99). THE BERENSTAIN BEARS LEARN ABOUT STRANGERS, PLUS THE BERENSTAIN BEARS AND THE DISAPPEARING HONEY is a new videocassette from Random House Home Video (30 minutes, \$14.95); The Bear Detectives wear their deerstalkers in the second story, which is adapted from the book THE BERENSTAIN BEARS AND THE MISSING HONEY.
1957. "Sherlock Holmes and the Red-Headed League" is a musical adaptation for children, presented by Theatreworks/USA with energy and imagination. The show first toured in 1987, and is now planning another tour. The show is recommended for Sherlockians of all ages, and their schedule is: Mar. 19 (Red Bank, NJ); Mar. 25 (Grants, NM); Mar. 30 (Yuma, AZ); Apr. 1 (Santa Cruz, CA); Apr. 4 (San Luis Obispo, CA); Apr. 8 and 15 (Pasadena, CA); Apr. 19-20 (Yakima, WA); Apr. 22 (Sand Point, ID); Apr. 24-28 (Olympia, WA); Apr. 29 (Takoma, WA); May 6 (Coquille, OR); May 7 (Eugene, OR); May 8 (Pocatello, ID); and May 11 (Casper, WY). Let me know if you would like additional details.
1958. British news, via Geoffrey Stavert and Roger Johnson: on Dec. 16 Whitbread will launch a new Sherlock Holmes pub, in Summerhill Road, Coseley, West Midlands. Coseley is either new or small enough to be missing from all my guides to Britain, but Birmingham is the largest city in West Midlands.

December 1988 #2

1959. Further to the report (September 88 #3) on Yoland Brown's book RUYTON XI TOWNS: UNUSUAL NAME, UNUSUAL HISTORY and her discussion of Conan Doyle's residence in the town in 1878, Mrs. Brown will be happy to provide bed-and-breakfast for touring S'ians at Brownhill House, where "the many countryside and historic attractions of Shropshire and North Wales are within easy reach." A brochure is available from Mrs. Brown at Brownhill House, Ruyton XI Towns, Shrops. SY4 1LR, England.
1960. If you're traveling to Devon, you might consider Fox's Earth, one of six hotels featured in full color in Mary Moore Mason's "To the Manor Born" in the winter 1987 issue of Country Inns/Bed & Breakfast (discovered by Pattie Brunner). Fox's Earth is the new name for Lewtrenchard Manor, a 1620 stone manor house that was the ancestral home for the Baring-Gould family (one of the many folk tales collected by the Rev. Sabine Baring-Gould concerned the "whisk hounds, which were heard in the stormy nights careening across our wild moor lands"). There are ten rooms, rates are £50 to £75 a night, and the address is Lewdown, near Okehampton, Devon EX20 4PN, England.
1961. A repeat plug for the catalogs of discount and remainder books from Edward R. Hamilton (Falls Village, CT 06031). His 11/25/88 catalog includes a new Octopus one-volume reprint (#241350) of David Niven's fine autobiographies (with mention of his performance in "The Speckled Band" at Sandhurst, and some fine stories about Rathbone and Bruce and other Hollywood friends) THE MOON'S A BALLOON and BRING ON THE EMPTY HORSES (632 pp., \$7.95), and older items such as John T. Lescroart's SON OF HOLMES (\$3.95), Michael Hardwick's SHERLOCK HOLMES: MY LIFE AND CRIMES (\$3.95), and Art Bourgeois's THE MYSTERY LOVER'S COMPANION (311 pp., \$5.95).
1962. A report from Carole Naddeo, via John Stephenson, on Harlan Ellison, who was recently at a literature conference in Durango, where he explained to the students that the secret to his success as a writer was "to read THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES, because the stories teach how to observe and use logic . . . in short, how to think."
1963. Sir Richard Musgrave's conviction on conspiracy charges (May 88 #6 and June 88 #1) has received wider circulation in Henry Hurt's article "Slaughter at Albemarle Farms" in the Nov. issue of Reader's Digest (more than 28 million copies in 15 languages bought monthly, according to the cover blurb), but without mention of his illustrious ancestors. Musgrave, found guilty by a Virginia jury of conspiracy to slaughter more than 300 protected hawks and owls, paid a \$15,000 fine in crisp \$100 bills and quickly left the country.
1964. SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE MYSTERIOUS FRIEND OF OSCAR WILDE, by Russell Brown (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1988; 176 pp., \$14.95), is another long-lost manuscript, "based on and incorporating the writings of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Oscar Wilde" (one sixth of the book, according to Brown, consists of passages taken from the published works). The mystery begins with Oscar Wilde's visit to Baker Street in 1895, and exposes Holmes and Watson to the homosexual world of London. There is far more talk than action, and Wilde has the better lines (he was, after all, better than Holmes at epigrams). And there are a few surprises, including the suggestion that Langdale Pike had a second career, as Charles H. E. Brookfield, the actor and author of the Sherlockian parody "Under the Clock".

December 1988 #3

1965. A recent donation from the Magic Empire Packaging and Handling Education Corp. to the library at the University Center at Tulsa was acknowledged with a letter that noted that "it is particularly interesting that the donation be made in honor of James Browner, a pioneer in the packaging field -- an appropriate choice from this generous organization." Credit Dick Warner, head sherpa of The Holmes Peak Preservation Society, for the imaginative choice of honoree.
1966. Catalog #6 at hand from Jeffrey Cisewski (Images of Sherlock Holmes, 5005 Bryant Avenue South #117, Minneapolis, MN 55419), offering film posters, books, back issues of Canadian Holmes and the BSJ, and a 1989 calendar.
1967. The Torists International, S.S., have begun planning for a "1989 Canonical Convocation and Caper" for Chicago Sherlockians (and anyone else who wishes to participate) in Door County, Wisconsin, on Sept. 15-17. Details will be available from Donald B. Izban, 5334 Wrightwood, Chicago, IL 60639.
1968. We assume that all readers of these ephemeral paragraphs also receive the three major Sherlockian periodicals: The Baker Street Journal, The Sherlock Holmes Journal, and Baker Street Miscellanea. Those who have been unable to subscribe to the SHJ will welcome the news that:
1969. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London's membership list, closed for a brief period because of a flood of applications sparked by the centenary, is now open again. Full membership (minimum age 16) costs \$20 a year. Associate membership (SHJ only) costs \$15 a year. Half-price (full or associate) to members younger than 21. Applications to the society's honorary secretary, Cdr. Geoffrey S. Stavert, 3 Outram Road, Southsea, Hants. PO5 1QP, England.
1970. Scott Bond's fine Sherlockian artwork (illustrated above) is available on a colorful cannister, 8 inches high, \$10.00 postpaid, from Stogies, c/o Mel Marmer, 4712 Richards Road, Melrose Park, PA 19126. And on his "Greetings from Baker Street" postcards, \$6.00 a dozen postpaid, from Scott Bond, 519 East Allens Lane, Philadelphia, PA 19119.
1971. Craig Bowlsby's two-act S'ian play "The Hound of London" was performed in Canada in Sept. 1987, and the script has now been published (accompanied by five non-S'ian short stories) by Intrepid Productions, 2451 Prince Edward Street, Vancouver, B.C. V5T 3M7, Canada (65 pp., \$4.50 postpaid). Billed as a "mystery comedy" (and achieving a pleasant mixture of the two), the play reunites (briefly) Sherlock Holmes and Irene Adler Norton.

December 1988 #4

1972. The two-record album released last year (May 87 #2) with two 1945 Rathbone/Bruce broadcasts ("The Paradol Chamber" and "The Unfortunate Tobacconists") with introductions and commentary by Ben Wright, an informative booklet on "Sherlock Holmes on American Radio", and handsome album decorations, is still available from 221 "A" Baker Street Associates (Box 351453, Los Angeles, CA 90035-998) at \$27.50 postpaid. The same two broadcasts (without the booklet and decorations) are available on an audio cassette distributed by Simon and Schuster to book stores (\$9.95). There is also a second cassette (also \$9.95) in the stores, with "The Notorious Canary Trainer" and "The Viennese Strangler" (introductions and commentary by Glenhall Taylor). The transfers are from the original transcription disks, in splendid high-fidelity. If you can't find the cassettes in the bookstores, they are also available (\$11.95 each postpaid) from 221 "A" Baker Street Associates.
1973. And there will be more programs available next year: 26 cassettes, each with two programs from the 1945-46 season and an introduction by someone involved either with the radio series or with Sherlock Holmes. There will be a major promotion through American Express, with a flier in their May 1989 billing, offering the cassettes on a subscription basis. And Bantam Books is planning an April release for a book with 13 mysteries, adapted by Ken Greenwald from the radio scripts by Denis Green and Anthony Boucher, and illustrations by Alfredo Alcala (who did the artwork for the original record album).
1974. 221 "A" Baker Street Associates also welcomes suggestions, comments, and queries on their work, but request that you send an SASE if you want an answer.
1975. Robert S. Gellerstedt (1035 Wedgewood Drive, Fayetteville, GA 30214) offers a HyperCard version of Edgar W. Smith's APPOINTMENT IN BAKER STREET for use on the Apple Macintosh. \$5.00 postpaid for the 800K disk (foreign airmail \$3.00 extra). APPOINTMENT IN BAKER STREET was Edgar's first Sherlockian publication, from his Pamphlet House in 1938, subtitled "a repertory of the characters, one and all, who walked and talked with Sherlock Holmes." His "headline biographies" of those characters are delightful, and he includes more people than his subtitle suggests ("The original Hugo," Edgar notes in his closing essay, "was even remoter from the scene in time than he was in distance, but he is still as much a living character in the chronicles as the dainty Mary Morstan").
1976. THE TOTALLY TASTELESS JOKES OF MORIARTY, published by The Voices of the Whispering Knights (28 pp. of limericks, cartoons, and other Sherlockian humor) is available from Kyle Richeson, Box 1354, Calhoun, GA 30701; \$3.50 postpaid.
1977. Simon Hawke's THE ZENDA VENDETTA (June 85 #1) contained a minor Sherlockian reference, but his THE DRACULA CAPER (New York: Ace Books, 1988; 212 pp., \$3.50), the latest in his "Time Wars" series, is far more relevant. His account of the Time Commandos' battle against a time-traveling villain who has introduced genetically engineered werewolves and vampires into London in 1894 is imaginative, and the characters encountered in the story include Arthur Conan Doyle, Oscar Wilde, Bram Stoker, and H. G. Wells.
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December 1988 #5

1978. STRANGE STUDIES FROM LIFE AND OTHER NARRATIVES: THE COMPLETE TRUE CRIME WRITINGS OF SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE, edited by Jack Tracy (Bloomington: Gaslight Press, 1988; 104 pp., \$17.20 postpaid from the publisher, 626 North College Avenue, Bloomington, IN 47404) offers three "strange studies from life" and Peter Ruber's fine introduction from his 1963 reprint of the stories, three earlier reports, and Conan Doyle's later suggestion that psychic science might be used to solve or prevent crimes. Conan Doyle planned to write twelve stories for the "strange studies from life" series in 1901, and it would be interesting to see which mysteries he would have chosen, if he had not turned his attention to a story about a spectral hound and a family curse in Dartmoor.
1979. Our list of Sherlockian societies still includes a few societies known only by name, and I would appreciate hearing from anyone who has any information on who was the contact for: The Boulevard Assassins of Paris, The Boulevard Assassins of Suburban Detroit, The Cascade Canoneers, The Deal-Top Monographers, The Lion's Mane of Grand Rapids, The Puzzled Squires of Downey, The Resident Patients of Montana State University, The Retired Colourmen of Essex, The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Canonical Criminals, The Sons of Sherlock Holmes, The Students in Terror, and The West of Tokyo Interpreters.
1980. Edward J. Rohn's new sculpture of "Dr. John H. Watson" (in high-fired fine porcelain, hand-decorated, 9 inches high including wood base) is available for \$225.00 from Rohn Sculptured Porcelain Inc., 273 North West Avenue, Elmhurst, IL 60126. His earlier (September 85 #6) sculpture of "Sherlock Holmes" is also still available for \$155.00 (with a 10% discount offered to readers of this newsletter), and both sculptures are shown in the photograph below.
1981. And mint copies of the colorful "Sherlock Holmes" cigar-box label (4 by 4 inches), shown above, are available for \$7.00 from Cerebro, Box 1221, Lancaster, PA 17603.
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December 1988 #6

1982. FATAL FASCINATION: WHERE FACT MEETS FICTION IN POLICE WORK, by Phil and Karen McArdle (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1988; 228 pp., \$8.95), has the expected passing mentions of Sherlock Holmes and Conan Doyle, and an interesting story, reported from Long Beach in the Sept. 21, 1907, issue of the Oakland Tribune: "Through the efforts of Sir A. Conan Doyle, creator of Sherlock Holmes, Frank Sharp, formerly of Oakland, but now living in Santa Ana, and working for a small salary on the Pacific Electric Railway, will come into a great fortune. Sharp left Wales, his native land, many years ago, and when he came to America ceased to communicate with his British relatives, some of whom were very wealthy, and the lost track of him. Finally death claimed one who had not forgotten the young man, and who appears to have bequeathed his entire estate to Sharp. All efforts to locate him proved futile and finally Doyle was prevailed on to take the case. He traced Sharp to this section, and yesterday City Marshal Young was surprised when he received a neat letter bearing the detective-doctor's crest and signature, asking him to get Sharp's exact address. He succeeded in doing so during the day and the information is already in the mail. It would be interesting know by what process he followed the movements of Sharp to this section."
1983. "Star Trek: The Next Generation" kindly alerted viewers that the following week's program would be Sherlockian, and I trust you all were able to see the episode "Elementary, Dear Data" in syndication on Dec. 9-11. If you didn't, Cdr. Data and Lt. Geordi La Forge decided to spend some rest-andrecreation time the holodeck, in Victorian London, as Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson, battling a computer-generated Professor Moriarty. Ron Fish (55 Brooklawn Circle, New Haven, CT 06515) has generously offered to lend his videocassette to anyone who did miss the program, and doesn't want to wait for the re-run.
1984. One more item for the list (and it is a short one, to their credit) of the anachronisms in the Granada series: the prison surgery that rendered Selden tractable and harmless. And it is an example of why people who attempt to "improve" the Canon should consult experts, such as William D. Jenkins, who notes that the surgical technique known as the prefrontal lobotomy, used to control episodes of violent behavior in psychotic patients, was developed in 1936, by the Portuguese neurosurgeon Antonio Moniz.
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1985. A new Sherlockian society, and a new pin: The Harpooners of the Sea Unicorn (Michael E. Bragg, Box 799, St. Charles, MO 63302) offer a harpoon tie-tack (pewter finish) for \$10.00, and a tie-bar (brass finish) for \$15.00.
1986. "A Holmesian Mystery" was the headline over a letter in the N.Y. Times on Dec. 20 (and quoted here in full). "My husband and I have been utterly confused by some of the Sherlock Holmes stories in the series recently shown on public television in New York City, especially 'Wisteria Lodge', 'Silver Blaze', and 'The Hound of the Baskervilles'. Going back to read these stories, which are among my favorites, I found that vital details had been omitted from the television dramatizations of them. I wonder whether the Baker Street Irregulars were as baffled as we were and found anything amiss in them." The writer of the letter was Margaret Truman Daniel, who included a mention of Sherlock Holmes in her novel MURDER ON CAPITOL HILL, whose father was an enthusiastic Sherlockian, and a member of the BSI.
1987. Peter E. Blau, 7103 Endicott Court, Bethesda, MD 20817-4401, blau7103@comcast.net

January 1989 #1

1988. The weather for this year's birthday festivities was rather reasonable, it would appear, since there were no reports of people marooned in airports by the Friday snowstorm. The weekend was launched informally in 1988, with one far-flung collector arriving in late December in search of items that might have been overlooked by locals, but the first formal event was, as usual, the Martha Hudson Breakfast at the Hotel Algonquin on Friday, when Bishop Rabe's campaign against simony yielded a pleasantly social, rather than commercial, gathering.
1989. Our visitors from distant shores included Dr. Tsukasa Kobayashi, president of the Japan Sherlock Holmes Club, and his wife Akane Higashiyama, authors of the splendid A PICTORIAL RECORD OF SHERLOCK HOLMES'S LONDON (published here in 1986 as SHERLOCK HOLMES'S LONDON). They represented their society on the 1987 and 1988 tours of Switzerland, and their contributions to our literature in Japan now total 26 books of essays and translations of the Canon and the Writings About the Writings. The Japan Sherlock Holmes Club, which was launched in 1977 with only two members (Dr. and Mrs. Kobayashi), now has 1,200 members and is the largest Sherlockian society in the world.
1990. The William Gillette Luncheon at the Old Homestead was well-attended, as was Otto Penzler's open house at the Mysterious Bookshop, and the Algonquin offered a safe haven in its lobby for Sherlockians whose conversations may well have bewildered the few non-Sherlockians present. The new management of the Algonquin, obviously realizing that Benchley, Thurber, and Woollcott will not be returning, ensured a warm welcome for the birthday celebrants, and its hospitality may include a special rate for next year's weekend (we will be celebrating Sherlock Holmes' 136th birthday on January 12, 1990).
1991. The Baker Street Irregulars gathered for dinner at 24 Fifth Avenue, where Karen L. Johnson was *The* Woman, toasted by Bob Thomalen at the pre-dinner cocktail party (and by *The* Women at their annual dinner at the National Arts Club). The BSI dinner agenda included (non-traditionally) all of the traditional toasts, Joe Fink's fervent defense of Tonga on behalf of the DDL (the Dwarf Defense League), Al Rosenblatt's presentation of a special "Murray Award" (for heroism under fire) to Bob Thomalen, Philip Shreffler's illustrated series of "Lessons in Canonical Villainy", and Jon Lellenberg's report on the current (and possibly future) Canonical content of the Oxford English Dictionary. Irregular Shillings were awarded to Andrew Joffe ("Sir Charles Halle"), M. Kenneth McQuage ("The Plumstead Marshes"), Richard M. Caplan ("Dr. Jackson"), Brad A. Keefauver ("Winwood Reade"), Alvin E. Rodin ("Palmer"), Jack D. Key ("Pritchard"), and Tsukasa Kobayashi ("Baritsu").
1992. The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes gathered at Garvin's Restaurant to celebrate their collective 21st birthday with toasts and presentations by Cynthia Wein (on Canonical ladies), Nora Myers (on what her students knew, or didn't know, about Sherlock Holmes), Delia Vargas (as the still-unknown lady at Appledore Towers), and Ann Byerly (on some new examples of literary osmosis). The ASH were joined eventually by many of the BSI for the postdinner festivities scheduled at the Paradise (a basement disco), where the noise level soon drove most of the Sherlockian celebrants back to the bar at Garvin's.

January 1989 #2

1993. Saturday's cocktail party at 24 Fifth Avenue honored *The* Women, and 15 of the 29 ladies were present for the formal toast to those who had, as Sherlock Holmes once suggested, placed themselves in the power of a band of rascals. The Queen Victoria Medal was awarded to Edith Meiser, the BSI's first Commissionaire's Award (a complete portfolio of the original Sherlockian maps prepared by Julian Wolff) was presented to Enola Stewart of Gravesend Books for her signal contributions to keeping green the memory, and Susan Rice and Ezra Wolff offered their rhymed reports on Friday's festivities.
1994. Saturday evening there was a performance of two Sherlockian one-act plays at the Prometheus Theatre, which had been booked in its entirety (40 seats) for Sherlockians. On Sunday, south-bound travelers dined in Philadelphia with The Master's Class at the Franklin Inn Club, where Jean Upton reported on "The Secret of Sherlock Holmes" and on her visit with Jeremy Brett and Edward Hardwicke in London.
1995. For some Sherlockians the weekend offered an opportunity for a nostalgic visit to Scribner's Book Store, scheduled to close on Jan. 22. The ten-story Scribner building, at 597 Fifth Avenue, is a designated New York City landmark for its delightful Beaux Arts facade, and was the headquarters for the publishing company from 1913 until 1984. And the book store itself is a Sherlockian landmark, since it was there that David A. Randall presided over Scribner's Rare Book Department for twenty-one years and assisted many of the very early collectors. His 1943 catalog (D3732a), which offered (to cite only a few of its treasures) five Canonical manuscripts and two copies of Beeton's Christmas Annual, is the best-known though certainly not the only example of how much so many owed to Scribner's.
1996. Some of those attending the birthday celebrations were assisted by "John H. Watson", a carefully anonymous Sherlockian who presides over the John H. Watson Fund, now in its second year and intended to offer financial aid to Sherlockians (membership in the BSI or the ASH is not required) who might otherwise be unable to participate in the festivities. Contributions to the Fund can be made by check, payable to John H. Watson, and mailed to him, c/o Thomas L. Stix, Jr. (34 Pierson Avenue, Norwood, NJ 07648).
1997. The souvenirs included fliers for Sherlockian illustrator/cartoonist Jeff Decker's "Personal (But Slightly Irregular) Baker Street Canonizers" -- personalized full-color artwork per commission -- and you can request the flier from Jeff at R.D. #1, Box 2175, Jonestown, PA 17038.
1998. Another flier announced plans for SHERLOCK HOLMES BY GAS-LAMP: HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FIRST FORTY YEARS OF THE BAKER STREET JOURNAL, edited by Philip A. Shreffler. The book is scheduled for March 1989 (425 pp., \$22.50 plus \$1.50 shipping) and can be ordered now from the Fordham University Press, Box 6525, Ithaca, NY 14850 (they take plastic).
1999. I have revised the 11-page list of Investitured Irregulars, Two-Shilling Awards, and *The* Women (\$1.00 postpaid). And the 50-page list of the 478 Sherlockian societies, with names and addresses for 262 active societies costs \$3.00 postpaid. Checks to Peter E. Blau, 3900 Tunlaw Road NW #119, Washington, DC 20007.

January 1989 #3

2000. Umberto Eco's new novel *FOUCAULT'S PENDULUM*, published in Italy in October, has already sold 400,000 hard-cover copies, and will be published in an English translation by Harcourt Brace Jovanovich this fall. According to an interview with Eco in the N.Y. Times (Dec. 13, 1988), forwarded by Ted Schulz, has no reference to Sherlock Holmes. Eco's *THE NAME OF THE ROSE* has now sold 9 million copies in 24 languages, and Eco is not bothered a bit by the suggestion that most of those 9 million copies have not been read. "When someone speaks of G.U.B., great unread books, I'm in great company," he said. "Few people have entirely read 'The Magic Mountain' or 'Finnegans Wake' or Proust."
2001. Further to Jeremy Brett's statement (quoted October 88 #7) that Daniel Day-Lewis might be "the next Sherlock Holmes," here is a photograph (from Pattie R. Brunner) of the actor, as seen in "The Unbearable Lightness of Being".
2002. Charlotte Erickson (726 Sutter Street, Palo Alto, CA 94303) has revised and expanded her 1985 checklist of *SHERLOCK HOLMES IN THE COMIC BOOKS*; \$8.00 postpaid.
2003. Charlotte also reports that The Churchills ("Professional Muggers"), Box 327, Somerset, CA 95684, offer handcrafted clay caricature mugs of Holmes (resembling Rathbone) and Watson (a cross between Bruce and Burke) for \$16.00 each (plus 10% handling).
2004. At hand from Samuel E. Fry: a catalog from the J. Peterman Company (257 Midland Avenue, Lexington, KY 40507), offering "The Baker Street Coat" (with military collar and removable shoulder cape) in 100% Melton wool, navy or black or charcoal grey, with black satin lining, men's sizes 38 through 48, \$520.00 including shipping.
2005. "I particularly like to sit in the comfortable chair that was once owned by Lewis Carroll . . . and I have a chair that was Charles Dickens's, and a fold-up desk that once belonged to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle . . . I got that at a London auction, along with Conan Doyle's pipe, which--as a pipe smoker --I can truly appreciate." Irving Wallace, interviewed by Shirley Lee for the Franklin Mint's magazine *Almanac* (Jan.-Feb. 1989).
2006. Andrew G. Fusco (220 Pleasant Street, Morgantown, WV 26505) is disposing of some of his Sherlockian duplicates, both early and late; write to him for his 11-page sales list.
2007. Cinderella philately: the Howard Local Post issued a "Sherlock Holmes Old Radio" local stamp some years ago, and copies are still available for \$0.25 (and an SASE) from Howard DuBose, River Runner's Emporium, 201 Albemarle Street, Durham, NC 27701.
2008. Gary K. Thaden sends news of a new play: "Sherlock Holmes and the Baker Street Irregulars" (written by Thomas W. Olson) will be presented by the Children's Theatre Company in Minneapolis from Feb. 10 through Apr. 15. The Norwegian Explorers (Special Collections, Wilson Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) are planning a theater party (no date yet), or you can call the theater box office (612-874-0400).

January 1989 #4

2009. Admiration for Sherlockian costume is not universal, at least among those who have worn it while stalking deer or other noncriminous quarry. "Avoid however, the so-called deer-stalker's cap, which is an abomination; its peaked brim giving no protection whatsoever to the eyes when facing the sun quartering, a position in which many shots must be taken." Theodore Roosevelt, in the third paragraph of his appendix to *THE WILDERNESS HUNTERS* (1893), reported by Richard D. Lesh.
2010. *LABYRINTHS OF REASON: PARADOX, PUZZLES AND THE FRAILTY OF KNOWLEDGE*, by William Poundstone (New York: Doubleday, 1988; 274 pp., \$18.95), explores the question of how we actually know that anything is true, using old and new paradoxes to demonstrate just how frail that knowledge can be. One chapter of the book presents a series of puzzles, offered by Watson to Holmes, by way of showing the relationship between puzzles and paradoxes. Poundstone quotes Sherlock Holmes' suggestion that "in solving a problem of this sort, the grand thing is to be able to reason backward," but readers of the book will soon discover why paradoxes have fascinated philosophers for centuries: in a paradox, there is no tenable hypothesis that yields a solution, and reasoning yields only contradictions.
2011. Tyke Niver reports that a catalog from the House of Tyrol (Box 909, Gateway Plaza, Cleveland, GA 30528) offers the Bosson wall plaques (Holmes, Watson, and Moriarty) at \$58.00 each (see June 88 #2 for an illustration of these handsome items).
2012. Gary Westmoreland has forwarded news of the Queen's birthday honors, which included an award of the CBE (Companion of the Order of the British Empire) to Michael Holroyd, the literary biographer, whose discussion of Hesketh Pearson's biography of Conan Doyle for a 1977 BBC radio program was both perceptive and annoying to Adrian. Ian Richardson, who played Holmes in two television films, also received the CBE, and the OBE (Officer of the Order of the British Empire) was awarded to Peter Cushing, who has played Holmes in films and on television, and to Penelope Keith, who was seen as the receptionist at the massage parlour in the 1978 film "The Hound of the Baskervilles".
2013. Peter Marks' *SKULLDUGGERY* (August 87 #2) has been reprinted in paperback (New York: Carroll & Graf, 1988; 284 pp., \$4.50); this is an imaginative and fictional solution to the Piltown mystery, and Conan Doyle is portrayed (with some sympathy, despite several elementary factual mistakes) as one of the protagonists.
2014. A newspaper survey of 100 film critics reports that "The Thin Blue Line" appeared most often on their lists of ten best films in 1988, followed by "Bull Durham" and "Who Framed Roger Rabbit". More than 200 films received at least one "best" vote, including "Without a Clue" (which appeared on the list prepared by Chuck Davis of *The Daily Oklahoman*).
2015. Does anyone know the name and address of the company that made (or sold) a "Signature Collection" of commemorative plates with artwork by Mitchell Hooks, with one plate showing Holmes and (possibly) another showing Watson? Kyle Richeson (Box 1354, Calhoun, GA 30701) would like to find (and buy) one of the plates showing Watson.

January 1989 #5

2016. *THE WANDERINGS OF A SPIRITUALIST* was Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's account of his trip to Australia and New Zealand, with his wife and children, first published in 1921 and reprinted in 1988 in a paperback facsimile of the first American edition by Ronin Publishing Inc. (Box 1035, Berkeley, CA 94701; 299 pp., \$8.95). Conan Doyle described his book as a "go-as-you-please style of narrative," by way of warning readers who have no interest in spiritualism, but it is an entertaining report on what he saw and did, as well as on his beliefs.
2017. *THE LADIES HOLMES COMPANION: A CALENDAR FOR 1989* was on view during the birthday festivities. This is the second calendar from Harpies Bizarre, with new S'ian artwork and legible S'ian and non-S'ian daily notes. \$8.95 postpaid from P. Moran, Box 854, Kendall Square, Cambridge, MA 02142.
2018. "The next I heard of Frank was that he was in Montana, and then he went prospecting in Arizona." (Nobl) Our newest commemorative honors the 100th anniversary of statehood for Montana, with a painting by Charles M. Russell that features the artist himself, and a new postal card in the "America the Beautiful" series is based on Bart Forbes' original painting of the Sonora Desert in Arizona.
2019. Robert Newman died on Dec. 7. He wrote for radio (he was in charge of the radio portion of FDR's 1944 re-election campaign) and television (episodes of "Search for Tomorrow" and "Peyton Place"), and then turned to books for young readers. *THE CASE OF THE BAKER STREET IRREGULAR*

(D5095b) had as its protagonist a 14-year-old boy who meets both the irregulars and Sherlock Holmes in a well-written mystery that made excellent use of the Canonical characters.

2020. Paul D. Herbert reports that the Forbes Magazine Gallery at 60 Fifth Avenue in New York (not far from the site of the BSI cocktail party, for future reference) had (and may still have) a display of toy soldiers from the Malcolm Forbes collection. Part of the display is a military parade by a village green, where Holmes and Watson are among the onlookers.
2021. RED JACK, edited by Martin H. Greenberg, Charles G. Waugh, and Frank D. McSherry, Jr. (New York: DAW Books, 1988; 333 pp., \$3.95), is an anthology of some of the better fiction about Jack the Ripper. The contents include a welcome reprint (in its entirety) of Ellery Queen's A STUDY IN TERROR (D6065a); this is a novelization of the film, with an added ending and a new solution.
2022. At hand from Andrew G. Fusco: a mail-order flier from Sherlock's of Chapel Hills (Chapel Hills Mall, 1710 Briargate Boulevard, Colorado Springs, CO 80920), offering a series of Sherlockian pipe-tobacco blends.

January 1989 #6

2023. Marc Lovell's THE SPY WHO FELL OFF THE BACK OF A BUS (New York: Doubleday, 1988; 181 pp., \$12.95) is the twelfth in a series of amusing mystery novels about British secret agent Appleton Porter, whose six-foot-seven-inch height makes his spy missions a bit difficult. In his latest case he is sent to a book-collectors' convention in Cannes, to find, authenticate, and suppress a document that threatens his nation's prestige: a one-hundred-page holograph manuscript by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, in which he attacks the most famous Englishman of all time: Sherlock Holmes.
2024. Peter J. Crupe reports that the Triton Gallery (323 West 45th Street, New York, NY 10036) offers a poster (42x58") from the Royal Shakespeare Company production of "Sherlock Holmes" for \$45.00. Also a poster (14x22") from "Sherlock's Last Case" for \$12.00. Their number for credit-card orders is 800-626-6674.
2025. At least one person attending the birthday festivities and staying at the Shoreham Hotel was charged more than the rates reported here (November 88 #2), apparently because those rates were neither requested nor confirmed when the reservation was made. It is quite unfortunate that many businesses, including airlines and hotels, offer special rates, but only to those who request those special rates, and it is always wise, when reservations are made, to ask if there are special rates, and to confirm that you are going to receive the rates you expect. If there are others who had problems with the Shoreham, I would suggest that you write to Gerry O'Connor, the hotel's reservations manager, pointing out to her that you stayed at the hotel on a weekend, and that you believe that you should have been charged only the weekend rate.
2026. EVERYBODY'S FAVORITE DUCK, by Gahan Wilson (New York: Mysterious Press, 1988; 202 pp., \$15.95), is delightfully indescribable, but Wilson's way with words is as antic as with his cartoonist's pen, and just as enjoyable. The book pits three thoroughly vicious villains, including the Professor (yes, *that* Professor) against Enoch Bone and his assistant John Weston (draw your own conclusions) in a modern-day adventure that is a tribute to as well as a parody of the more picaresque pulps. Recommended.
2027. Robert C. Hess (559 Potter Boulevard, Brightwaters, NY 11718) offers a new lapel pin, in full-color enamel with gold trim, of the "Sherlock Holmes" cigarette card from the Turf cigarette series; \$17.00 postpaid. Bob also offers a four-page sales list of collectibles (SASE appreciated), and an illustrated flier for the Laboromnia collectibles from Britain, including plates, mugs, statues, clocks, watches, thimbles, and neckties.
2028. "The Return of Sherlock Holmes Tour" to Switzerland and England, led by Scott Bond and Sherry Rose-Bond, is scheduled for June 10-24. This is a sequel to their 1987 "Final Problem Tour", and a detailed brochure (with artwork by Scott Bond) is available from Geographics Travel & Tours, 21 South 5th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106.
2029. Brian and Charlotte Erickson will go on-line with a new bulletin board for computerized Sherlockians in the San Francisco Bay area on Feb. 1. 221BBS operates from 6:30 to 9:30 pm PST, Sunday through Thursday, at 415-329-1703 (8 bits, no parity, 1 stop bit, 300/1200/2400 BAUD).

January 1989 #7

2030. NAMING THE ROSE: ESSAYS ON ECO'S THE NAME OF THE ROSE, edited by M. Thomas Inge (Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 1988; 206 pp., \$27.50), is a collection of scholarly essays intended as an exploration of the cultural significance and literary contexts of Umberto Eco's novel, whose English translation was a best-seller both in hardcover (more than 500,000 copies) and in paperback (more than 1.3 million copies). The Sherlockian aspects of Eco's medieval mystery are not neglected, and Eco's own comments (in his "Prelude to a Palimpsest") are of particular interest for their warning to present and future interpreters of his work: "In several of the essays in this book I found brilliant, possible readings my novel," Eco notes, "readings I cannot absolutely challenge because they are rooted in the text and of which I became aware only by reading the readings of my readers."
2031. The "Wonderworks" press release for "Young Charlie Chaplin" at hand from Paul C. Merz. This is a three-part series from Thames Television, to be broadcast by PBS-TV on Feb. 11, 18, and 25, and the cast list has Shaughan Seymour as Saintsbury, allowing inference that we will see Chaplin as Billy (he first played the role in Saintsbury's touring production of the William Gillette play, opening at the Pavilion Theatre in London in July 1903).
2032. Reported: THE MACINTOSH HOLMES COMPANION (the Apple Macintosh version of the MS-DOS computerized Canon), on five 800K disks, in MacWrite 5.0 format, with public-domain software and shareware, for \$59.95 plus \$3.00 shipping. Details available from Baker Street Software, Box 2712, Santa Clara, CA 95055. The Macintosh graphics capability provides the full-text version of the Canon, including drawings, maps, and dancing men.
2033. New hand-painted sculptures available from Keith Chrimes (112 Cramlington Road, Great Barr, Birmingham B42 2EG, England): metal figures (70mm) of Holmes and Watson (£12.00 each), and a resin wall plaque (110mm) of Holmes (£15.00).

January 1989 #8

2034. A pair of stories in the Lancashire Evening Post on Nov. 30, 1988 (possibly published side-by-side to allow readers to draw inferences that the paper didn't want to specify) reports on two traditions at one of Conan Doyle's schools: Stonyhurst will admit girls to its sixth form in this year, "after 400 years as an all-male preserve." Stonyhurst, however, has no plans to end its tradition of giving "six of the best to bad-behaved pupils." Stonyhurst head teacher Giles Mercer defended the school's tradition, noting that "We do what we think is right and best for our own circumstances." Corporal punishment in state schools was abolished by Parliament in 1987, but the law does not cover more than 550 independent schools, of which 27 still cane their students.
2035. The new mail-order catalog from Barnes & Noble (126 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10011) offers Martin Gardner's THE ANNOTATED INNOCENCE OF FATHER BROWN (\$6.95) and Richard Lancelyn Green's LETTERS TO SHERLOCK HOLMES (\$2.98), so we will likely also see these titles on the remainder tables.
2036. Sherlock Hemlock is included in COOKIE MONSTER COLORING BOOK and BIG BIRD COLORING BOOK, two oversize (15 by 20 inches) Golden Book coloring books from Western Publishing Co. Scout your local toy stores.

2037. Forecast: THE LOST WORLD & THE POISON BELT (300 pp., \$8.95) in June from Chronicle Books (275 5th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103), according to a catalog at hand from Allen Mackler.
2038. Whitbread's new Sherlock Holmes pub (December 88 #1) is now open, in Summerhill Road in Coseley, near Wolverhampton, which is about 13 miles northwest of Birmingham in the West Midlands. Brian Moriarty, trade-quality manager for Whitbread's, was at the opening ceremonies.
2039. Bill Majeski has written a sequel to THE VERY GREAT GRANDSON OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (D4497b). Sherwood Holmes is featured again in a new two-act high-school comedy, SHERLOCK HOLMES' GREAT GRANDSON GOES HOLLYWOOD, available for \$3.95 (plus \$1.25 shipping) from the Dramatic Publishing Co., Box 109, Woodstock, IL 60098.
2040. Plans progress for "the ultimate Sherlockian seminar at sea" from New York to Bermuda and back, July 23-28, 1989, arranged by Poor Little Rich Girl Travels and Chandris Fantasy Cruises. John Bennett Shaw reports that he and Dorothy are recovering nicely from last year's doctoring, and expect to be on board for the festivities. Details on the cruise are available from Mary Ellen Rich, 52 West 56th Street, New York, NY 10019 (212-757-0881).
2041. There are Canonical echoes in Phyllis Ann Karr's mystery story "Murder with an Artist's Rag" (featuring Senior Sergeant Rosemary Lestrade, a police detective in the late 21st century) in Space & Time #75 (winter 1989). Space & Time is a 120-page fanzine published by Gordon Linzner, 138 West 70th Street #4-B, New York, NY 10023; \$5.00.
2042. According to my records, my 1989 seasonal souvenir ("SARASATE PLAYS AT THE ST. JAMES'S HALL THIS AFTERNOON..."), should have reached all subscribers, either during the birthday festivities, or since, or with this mailing. If I missed someone, please let me know.

February 1989 #1

2043. "The vogue for Sherlock Holmes . . . simply swept the country. . . . In more recent years Sherlock Holmes has become the center of a cult, with a considerable literature, clubs, and a serio-comic bibliophilic scholarship of amazing proportions." Frank Luther Mott, in GOLDEN MULTITUDES: THE STORY OF BEST SELLERS IN THE UNITED STATES (New York: Macmillan, 1947), noted by Gayle T. Harris. Those proportions are far more amazing, of course, more than forty years later.
2044. In my discussion of the Queen's birthday honors (January 89 #4) I reported that Michael Holroyd's discussion of Hesketh Pearson's biography of Conan Doyle for a 1977 BBC radio program had annoyed Adrian -- who, as I neglected to remember, died in 1970. Holroyd's 1977 broadcast did report in some detail on Adrian's battles with Pearson, who was asked by the BBC to give a radio talk to celebrate the centenary of Conan Doyle's birth. Adrian threatened to retaliate against the BBC by withholding permission to broadcast any of Conan Doyle's protected works, and the BBC surrendered.
2045. A sales list at hand from Ilene and Corey Fauer (US 2, 563 Clinton Road, Paramus, NJ 07652) announces their going-out-of-business sale and offers discounts on their buttons, cards, bumper stickers, notepaper, T-shirts, signs, and other Sherlockian material.
2046. The Pequod Press, waiting impatiently for the next memoir of Turlock Loams, has turned to its resident poet, who has prepared a new collection of S'ian quatrains. BAKER STREET BOUILLABAISSE is available from John Ruyle, 521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707; \$29.50 in cloth or \$14.50 in wrappers.
2047. The Walt Disney animation of "The Wind in the Willows" is available on a 34-minute videocassette from Walt Disney Home Video. First seen in 1949 as part of the film "The Adventures of Ichabod and Mr. Toad", "The Wind in the Willows" is narrated by Basil Rathbone (who mentions Sherlock Holmes in his introduction) and shows Ratty in a deerstalker and Mole in a bowler.
2048. The Master's Class of Philadelphia are planning to combine their spring meeting with the fourth annual "Dinner in Baker Street" Victorian buffet at the Dickens Inn on Apr. 30. Details available from Victoria M. Robinson, 299-B Summit House, 1450 West Chester Pike, West Chester, PA 19382.
2049. Spotted by Samuel C. Fry in THE GENTLEMEN'S CLUBS OF LONDON, by Anthony Lejeune and Malcolm Lewis (London: Macdonald and Jane's, 1979) (New York: Dorset Press, 1984): the description of The American Club at 95 Piccadilly includes Holmes' warmly Anglo-American comments from "The Noble Bachelor". The book also includes, without comment, the Canon's description of the Diogenes Club.
2050. Dr. De Lamar Gibbons uses Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson to present some of the logical deductions in THEIR SECRETS: WHY THE NAVAHO INDIANS NEVER GET CANCER. His conclusion is that "the Navahos do not get cancer because they ignorantly obey some very fundamental health rules that most of us have ignorantly disobeyed," and his book (124 pp., \$10.00 postpaid) is available from the Academy of Health, Box 497, Lava Hot Springs, ID 83246.

February 1989 #2

2051. Lawrence Garland's THE AFFAIR OF THE UNPRINCIPLED PUBLISHER is still available from Oak Knoll Books (414 Delaware Street, New Castle, DE 19720) at \$30.00 (plus \$2.50 shipping). This pastiche account of an encounter between Thomas J. Wise and Sherlock Holmes was Oak Knoll's fine-press Christmas book for 1983; 22 pp. in stiff wrappers.
2052. The Land Press (South Lodge, East Heath Road, London NW3 1BL, England) has announced a new limited edition of THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, with all of the Sidney Paget illustrations from The Strand Magazine, a hitherto unpublished full-page frontispiece portrait of Holmes by Paget, and custom leather binding with four different designs available. The cost is \$2,000 a copy, and the publisher offers a full-color prospectus with illustrations of the handsome designs for the binding and of the Paget frontispiece.
2053. The winter 1989 issue of The Armchair Detective has a "Report from 221B Baker Street" by Sherry Rose-Bond and Scott Bond, scattered Sherlockian reviews and other references, and an fine article by G. Michael Doogan on Dashiell Hammett's army service in Alaska during World War II, with (page 88) a photograph showing Hammett and the staff of the base newspaper The Adakian, including (at lower left) Luther L. Norris.
2054. Sir William Stephenson, who was involved with the Baker Street Irregulars during World War II, died on Jan. 31. His wartime career in British secret intelligence was described (with great verve and some mistakes) in William Stevenson's A MAN CALLED INTREPID: THE SECRET WAR (D3600b). Stephenson's Baker Street Irregulars were the Special Operations Executive, which was headquartered in Baker Street and had two functions: training people for sabotage and subversion behind enemy lines, and supervising the liaison between Britain's war effort and the underground resistance movements in enemy-occupied countries. Bickam Sweet-Escott's BAKER STREET IRREGULAR (London: Methuen, 1965) is a good source for information about the SOE.
2055. Basil Rathbone's autobiography IN AND OUT OF CHARACTER, published in 1962 and long out-of-print, has been reissued as a trade-paperback (New York: Limelight Editions, 1989; 278 pp., \$10.95). Rathbone suggested in the Preface that he was a frustrated writer, but his book needed no apology, and the new edition will be welcomed by a new generation of Sherlockians, as well as by older generations frustrated by the difficulty of finding a copy of the first edition in book-dealers' catalogs. That scarcity is, of course, one indication of the quality of the book (people who have copies tend to keep them), and new readers will quickly learn that Rathbone was a fine writer. He discusses his Sherlockians films, and the radio series, and his

play, with honesty and humor, and those qualities also apply to his comments on his many friends and fellow actors, and on his long career on stage and screen. Recommended.

2056. RICHARD DOYLE AND HIS FAMILY was the 76-page catalog for an exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum in 1983-84, with many illustrations (some in full color) of paintings and drawings by many members of the family, which included Richard's brother (Charles Altamont Doyle) and nephew (Sir Arthur Conan Doyle). And it was spotted by readers (more eagle eyed than I) in a recent catalog of discount/remainder books offered by Edward J. Hamilton, Falls Village, CT 06031; item 536067, \$4.95.
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February 1989 #3

2057. One of the nice things about living in a big city is the chance to see 70mm films with six-track Dolby sound, such as the newly restored 216-minute version of "Lawrence of Arabia" (1962). The film was (and now is again) splendid. One can find S'ian connections for almost any film, of course, but this cast includes an actor who has played Watson: at the end of the film, in Damascus, the angry British medical officer is H. Marion Crawford, who was Watson to Ronald Howard's 1954 television Holmes.
2058. One of the souvenirs distributed during the birthday festivities was Glenn Shea's list of French, German, Italian, Spanish, and Swedish editions of the Canon and other Sherlockian books available from Schoenhof's Foreign Books, 76-A Mount Auburn Street, Cambridge, MA 02138. Write to Schoenhof's for a copy of the list.
2059. The film may not have lasted long in the theaters, but the music survives: Andrew Jay Peck reports a performance of Bruce Broughton's score for "Young Sherlock Holmes" by the Greensboro (N.C.) Symphony Orchestra on Jan. 29.
2060. Reported: a third audio cassette from Simon and Schuster, with two more of the Rathbone/Bruce radio shows: "The April Fool's Adventure" (Apr. 1, 1946) and "The Uneasy Easy Chair" (Apr. 13, 1946).
2061. The Mar. 1989 issue of Analog Science Fiction/Science Fact may still be on the newsstands: Harry Turtledove's story "Nothing in the Night-Time" has some pleasant Canonical echoes.
2062. Historian Barbara Tuchman died on Feb. 6. In 1985 she reported that as a teenager her favorite reading was historical novels, including Alexandre Dumas and Conan Doyle's THE WHITE COMPANY, "whose central figure did not equal the Musketeers, but the events carried the story, especially the dramatic siege of the castle by the fierce rebellious peasants--a scene I have never forgotten." And it was in 1985 that she re-read THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, noting that it "astonishing how this old and worn-out story, which I must have first read more than 50 years ago, gripped my attention and held it in suspense until I reached the last page." Story is the source and the bloodstream of literature, she suggested, adding that "with seeming ease Conan Doyle could achieve the goal of every writer's desire--to enthrall the reader by the written word."
2063. Further to my recommendation of Gahan Wilson's EVERYBODY'S FAVORITE DUCK (January 89 #6), Otto Penzler offers the first edition, inscribed (or simply signed, if you prefer) with an original Sherlockian cartoon by the author, on copies ordered through The Mysterious Bookshop (129 West 56th Street, New York, NY 10019); \$15.95 plus \$3.00 shipping. Otto also reports that ENGLISH COUNTRY HOUSE MURDERS, a new collection edited by Thomas Godfrey for The Mysterious Press (\$17.95), includes "The Abbey Grange" and James Miles' new S'ian story (written for the collection) "The Worcester Enigma".
2064. Michael Hardwick's THE REVENGE OF THE HOUND is now available in paperback (New York: Pinnacle Books, 1989; 347 pp., \$3.95); a gigantic and ferocious hound appears on Hampstead Heath, and Holmes and Watson investigate a case that involves Oliver Cromwell and King Edward, with a climax at Highgate Cemetery.
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February 1989 #4

2065. Check the discount tables for HOUND DUNNIT, edited by Isaac Asimov, Martin H. Greenberg, and Carol-Lynn Rossel Waugh (New York: Carroll & Graf, 1987); it's a collection of mysteries that involve dogs, including "Silver Blaze", Barry Perowne's "Raffles on the Trail of the Hound", and Rex Stout's "A Dog in the Daytime".
2066. THE QUEST FOR SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: THIRTEEN BIOGRAPHERS IN SEARCH OF A LIFE, edited by Jon L. Lellenberg (November 87 #4) is available through Apr. 30 from the Southern Illinois University Press for \$14.62 plus \$3.00 shipping; #1384 in the current catalog, they take plastic, and the telephone number for credit-card orders is 800-444-8525 ext 950. The book is a fine guide to the many, and frequently unreliable, biographies.
2067. Videotaper alert (for Jeremy Brett fans): "My Fair Lady" will be broadcast on cable by The Movie Channel at 4:00 pm on March 26.
2068. It is possible that one of Michael Harrison's most important virtues is the eloquence that he inspires in others: the 1988 issue of Beeman's Christmas Annual contains six tributes from Sherlockians he met on his tours of the United States. The 24-page pamphlet is available from William R. Cochran, 517 North Vine Street, DuQuoin, IL 62832; \$5.00 postpaid.
2069. THE CHRISTMAS MURDERS, edited by Jonathan Goodman (London: Sphere Books, 1988; 208 pp., £2.99), is an anthology of accounts of murders committed during the Christmas season (murders of "the old-fashioned sort," suggests the editor nostalgically, because "most present-day murderers give murder a bad name"); the contents include Conan Doyle's report on "The Case of Oscar Slater" (1912).
2070. Research proceeds on the Souvenir Edition of THE SIGN OF FOUR, for a report similar to the one on A STUDY IN SCARLET in the summer 1987 issue of BSM. Owners of copies of THE SIGN OF FOUR bound in green or blue cloth with the attractive Egyptian-motif design are invited to request a copy of my one-page questionnaire listing the points of interest identifying the variants.
2071. "Facts . . . how facts obscure the truth. I may be silly--in fact, I'm off my head--but I never could believe in that man--what's his name, in those capital stories?--Sherlock Holmes." Basil Grant is the Mycroftian figure in G. K. Chesterton's story "The Tremendous Adventures of Major Brown", and Grant's younger brother Rupert is in many respects a parody of Sherlock Holmes, in that story and five more, collected in THE CLUB OF QUEER TRADES (1905) and now available in a welcome trade-paperback reprint (New York: Dover Publications, 1987; 146 pp., \$4.95). The reprint also offers all of Chesterton's artful illustrations (not included in the first American ed.), and a perceptive introduction by Martin Gardner.
2072. Thayer Cumings ("His Last Bow") died on Feb. 19. A senior executive in the advertising world (vice president and director of Batten Barton Durstine & Osborne) and a member of The Five Orange Pips as well as the BSI, his many contributions to our literature appeared in the BSJ from 1946 to 1958, in THE BEST OF THE PIPS (1955), and in his own collection SEVEN ON SHERLOCK (1968).
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February 1989 #5

2073. Fans of Margery Allingham's books can look forward to seeing "Campion" on "Mystery!" this autumn; Peter Davison will play Albert Campion, and Brian Glover will play his ex-con cockney manservant Magersfontein Lugg. Vincent Price will end his long tenure as the host of "Mystery!" at the end of this season. Pacific Arts Video has dropped the price of its videocassettes of the four Australian animations (with Peter O'Toole as Holmes) to \$19.95 each. All this news from the fifth issue of Anglofile (Box 33515, Decatur, GA 30033; \$12.00 a year).
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2074. News from Britain: Jeremy Brett has told an interviewer that "The Secret of Sherlock Holmes" will run at Wyndham's Theatre until September, when the play will move to Birmingham and then to Manchester, and while they are in the North, Granada will begin work on the next Sherlock Holmes series.
2075. Sherlockians on tour in Britain should not neglect the Brambletye Hotel in Forest Row, Surrey. The hotel honors its appearance in the Canon with a wall display of Sherlockian theater posters, and the hotel's bar is named in honor of Black Peter.
2076. "Young Charlie Chaplin" (on "Wonderworks" on PBS-TV) did show Chaplin as Billy in H. A. Saintsbury's touring company of the Gillette play, in the second episode, broadcast on Feb. 18. But the time sequence in the series was compressed: Chaplin's father did die in 1901, but Chaplin first played with Saintsbury in July 1903 (in "Jim, A Romance of Cockayne" and then in the Gillette play). Chaplin was hired by Gillette to play Billy in Oct. 1905 (in "The Painful Predicament of Sherlock Holmes" and then in "Sherlock Holmes"), and that's when he first met Marie Doro. Chaplin's mother was institutionalized twice, first in May 1903 and again in Mar. 1905. The best biography of Charlie Chaplin (well-written and reliable) is CHAPLIN: HIS LIFE AND ART, by David Robinson (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1985).
2077. "The Hound of the Baskervilles, by A Collie Dog" (a soft vinyl dog toy in the shape of a book) is still to be found in some pet shops. It is made by Vo-Toys Inc., Harrison, NJ 07029 (item 491) but they sell only wholesale; you could ask a neighborhood pet shop to find out who the local distributor for Vo-Toys is, and order for you.
2078. Bill Nadel reports hearing of the recent death of Frank Giacoia, who drew the fine Sherlock Holmes comic strip that ran in the N.Y. Herald Tribune from 1954 through 1956 (D6196a and D5818b).
2079. Videotaper alert: "An Appointment with Sherlock Holmes" will be broadcast in syndication in April, generally on independent television stations, on different dates in different cities. Marketed by Multimedia Entertainment, the three-hour program has colorized versions of two Rathbone/Bruce films ("Secret Weapon" and "Woman in Green"). A second program (with "Dressed to Kill" and "Terror by Night") will be available in the fall.
2080. Robert C. Hess (559 Potter Boulevard, Brightwaters, NY 11718) offers copies of Charles Hall's book THE SHERLOCK HOLMES COLLECTION: THE GREAT DETECTIVE AND HIS CREATOR (January 88 #3) at \$27.00 postpaid. It's a 100-page gathering of pictorial material, mostly British but also including unusual items such as stills from Danish, German and Czech films, and Soviet television.

February 1989 #6

2081. THE LITERATURE OF CRIME AND DETECTION: AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY FROM ANTIQUITY TO THE PRESENT, by Waltraud Woeller and Bruce Cassidy (New York: Ungar, 1988; 215 pp., \$24.50), was first published in Germany in 1984. The revised American edition offers an extended survey, from the 5th century BC (Aeschylus and Sophocles) to the 1980s (Joe Gores and Elmore Leonard); Sherlock Holmes and Conan Doyle are not neglected, but the real strength of the book is in its coverage of the genre in countries such as Switzerland, Germany, France, Czechoslovakia, Japan, Sweden, and the Soviet Union.
2082. Four words in the English language end in "gry". Two are angry and hungry. What are the other two? I'm not sure why anyone would pose that question to Ann Landers, or why she would run it in her syndicated advice column, but one of her readers recommended that she consult "the best authority on words in the United States," which turned out to be George H. Scheetz, head of the public library in Sioux City, Iowa -- and one of the founders of The Hansoms of John Clayton as well as the first editor of the scion's journal Wheelwrightings. George offered a list of 48 words ending in "gry", almost all of which Ann Landers rejected as being too obscure or too foreign, as well as not being included in any of the seven dictionaries she uses. But she reported (Jan. 31) that there are five acceptable candidates in the Oxford English Dictionary, the other three being aggry, meagry, and puggry.
2083. "Then the buckboards," said Sherlock Holmes, commenting on the rather unusual assortment of agricultural machinery advertised by Howard Garrideb. The U.S. Postal Service reports that a buckboard can be seen in Wendell Minor's design for our new commemorative honoring the 100th anniversary of North Dakota statehood. According to sharp-eyed philatelists, it's a farm wagon, not a buckboard (a proper philatelic buckboard is shown in the BSJ, Sept. 1985, p. 189). But Howard Garrideb's advertisement also mentioned farmers' carts, so you can take your pick and still be Canonical.
2084. Two more philatelic items, from Canada, show a red fox and a grizzly bear. There are many mentions of foxes in the Sherlock Holmes stories, including the description of Lady Frances Carfax as "a stray chicken in a world of foxes" and of "Mortimer Tregennis, with the foxy face," but there is only one mention of a grizzly bear ("The clumsy grizzly bear lumbers through the dark ravines" in "A Study in Scarlet").
2085. Check to see if your doctor gets MD magazine, and is willing to surrender the Feb. 1989 issue, which has an article on "Doctoring the Evidence", by William B. Ober. The article is a Canonically illustrated revision of his classic investigation of "The Dying Detective" (D2365a).
2086. Reported by Vivian Heisler: Jeremy Brett played the title role in "Macbeth" on stage in Los Angeles in 1981 (with Pipe Laurie as Lady Macbeth), and there is a videocassette available. Brett fans can check the local shops.

March 1989 #1

2087. The third audio cassette with two 1946 Rathbone/Bruce broadcasts "The April Fool's Day Adventure" and "The Uneasy Easy Chair" with introductions and comments by Mary Green (the wife of Denis Green, who shared writing credit with Anthony Boucher) has been released (\$9.95). Fans frustrated by poor distribution of the cassettes will welcome the news that the sales campaign through American Express is underway, with 26 cassettes in the series. The first two cassettes are offered free (with a \$2.95 charge for shipping and handling), and then they will ship three cassettes every two months (\$29.95 plus \$2.95).
2088. Videotaper alert: Betty Pierce reports that Granada's "The Final Problem" and "The Empty House" will be broadcast by the Disney Channel on Apr. 2, by way of beginning their run of "The Return of Sherlock Holmes".
2089. And some more information on "An Appointment with Sherlock Holmes" (the three-hour package due in syndication on independent television stations in April). It's open for broadcast in a four-week window (Apr. 3 through Apr. 30), and will have 18 two-minute commercial breaks (it's a barter package, with your local stations allowed to sell one minute in each of the breaks). The program will have colorized versions of "Secret Weapon" and "Woman in Green" (with Eli Wallach as host); I've seen a promotional cassette, and the colorization is, I fear, pretty much the washed-out standard for such work. A second program will be open for broadcast later this year (Nov. 24 through Dec. 23), with "Dressed to Kill" and "Terror by Night".
2090. Richard Armour, the splendid poet and satirist, died on Feb. 28. He wrote more than 6,000 items of humorous poetry and prose, including the poems "On Last Looking into Watson's Holmes" (BSJ, Apr. 1946) and "Ban: Hungary Has Banned Sherlock Holmes" (The New Leader, Mar. 9, 1953; and BSJ, Jan. 1954).

2091. National Pipesmokers' Week was celebrated on March 12-19, and Rick Hacker (the author of THE ULTIMATE PIPE BOOK) reports that participating Tinder Box International shops had (and may well still have) Sherlockian buttons, offered free to any Sherlockian who asks for one. A poster may also be available. While in London in January, Rick presented Jeremy Brett with the British Pipesmoker of the Year Award.
2092. Herb Tinning reports a new and imaginatively named business in New Jersey:
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March 1989 #2

2093. Sherlockians seeking centenaries to celebrate in 1989 can, of course, turn to the Canon: it was a busy year for Holmes, with Baring-Gould dating six of the recorded cases in 1889, as well as several of the unrecorded cases and other important events such as the marriage of John H. Watson to Mary Morstan. But there are also some significant 50th anniversaries to be celebrated this year. It was in 1939 that "The Hound of the Baskervilles" and "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" were released by Twentieth Century-Fox, and Edith Meiser's radio series "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" began, all with Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce in roles that provided them with an opportunity that all too few actors have had: to create an archetype. They were not the first actors to portray Holmes and Watson, certainly, but they were the first to do so in an age when modern technology made their films and radio broadcasts so widely available that their characters became accepted standards. The fact that those standards were not necessarily accurate, especially in the case of Nigel Bruce (who nevertheless did a splendid job with the role that was written for him), does not diminish the effect that their portrayals had on their audiences.
2094. This year's running of The Silver Blaze at Belmont in New York will be held on Saturday, Sept. 23. If you would like to be on the mailing list, write to Stephen L. Stix, Route 1, Box 452, Markleville, IN 46056.
2095. A CASE OF BLIND FEAR #1 (Jan. 1989) is now in the comic-book shops. This is the first issue of Eternity's four-part sequel to SCARLET IN GASLIGHT, and has Sherlock Holmes involved in tracking down The Invisible Man. And SHERLOCK HOLMES #7 (Jan. 1989) is also available, continuing Eternity's reprints of the Meiser/Giacoia newspaper comic strips; the series has now run through their pastiches, and is doing Canonical stories, starting with "A Scandal in Bohemia". CASES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES #14 (July 1988) seems to have been the last issue from Renegade.
2096. Further to the report (February 89 #6) from Ann Landers that George H. Scheetz is "the best authority on words in the United States," Bob Burr reports that George has issued a clarification, suggesting that he is rather only the best authority on words ending in "gry". So there's no need to send George questions such as: how many words are there in English that contain all of the vowels, in correct order?
2097. Forecast for April: Julian Symons' A THREE-PIPE PROBLEM, a trade-paperback reprint by Penguin, \$4.95. Also: Eve Titus' BASIL AND THE LOST COLONY, a trade-paperback reprint by Minstrel/Pocket Books, \$2.50.
2098. It would appear that the curse of the Baskervilles has not yet been laid to rest. At hand from Mel Ruiz is a report that Peter Cushing is now in the hospital for treatment of a fractured leg. He was cycling last month near his home at Whitstable in Kent, and was knocked off his bicycle by a pack of hounds.
2099. Beth Kalikoff's MURDER AND MORAL DECAY IN VICTORIAN POPULAR LITERATURE (August 87 #3) has been reissued by the UMI Research Press in paperback (193 pp., \$19.95); it's a scholarly discussion of the portrayal of murder during the Victorian age, from the street literature of 1830 to the fiction of 1900 (including the Sherlock Holmes stories).
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March 1989 #3

2100. 1989 is also the 50th anniversary of the film "The Wizard of Oz". There have been four Oz pastiches involving The Great Detective published in the magazine Oziana, but there is a much earlier connection between the creator of Oz and Sherlock Holmes, in "The King of Gee-Whiz" (a three-act "musical extravaganza"), written by L. Frank Baum and Emerson Hough, registered for copyright in 1905 but apparently never produced. At the end of the play, Willie Cook, a fat missionary, emerges from a cannibal kettle to declare that he is none other than Sherlock Holmes. See Anthony Boucher's article in the BSJ (July 1959) for more details on the show.
2101. Fred Stone and David Montgomery starred in the musical version of "The Wizard of Oz" in 1902, and in 1906 they appeared in Victor Herbert's "The Red Mill" as Con Kidder and Kid Conner, impersonating Holmes and Watson, and "The Red Mill" included the earliest known use of the line, "Quick, Watson, the needle." William Gillette is reported to have told Stone, after Gillette saw "The Red Mill", that he would probably have to learn to dance for his next portrayal of Holmes. Richard R. Rutter has reported on this at greater length in Shadows of the Gnomon (July 1981), as has Daniel P. Mannix in The Baum Bugle (summer 1981 and autumn 1981).
2102. "An Abraham Lincoln keyed to base uses instead of high ones would give some idea of the man," reads the description of J. Neil Gibson in "Thor Bridge". Abraham Lincoln is shown on a 90-cent stamp issued in 1869 and reprinted on a commemorative honoring the World Stamp Expo (to be held in Washington later this year).
2103. Viewers of "The Last Place on Earth" on PBS-TV last year (June 88 #4) will recall the huge tonnage of supplies that Capt. Scott took with him on his ill-fated attempt to be the first man to reach the South Pole. The hut on Cape Evans, from which Scott staged his expedition, was preserved and can still be visited, as it was recently by Paul Brown, who reported in The Guardian (Feb. 15, 1989) that "by Scott's bunk was THE GREEN FLAG AND OTHER STORIES OF WAR AND SPORT by A. Conan Doyle, labelled inside the flyleaf 'British Antarctic Expedition 1910'."
2104. Herb Tinning reports a variant edition of "The Hound of the Baskervilles by A Collie Dog" (February 89 #5). His copy, acquired in London, has a "Good Boy Press" publisher's imprint on the spine and a sales tag noting that it was "made specially for Armitages in Taiwan" (there's no publisher's imprint on the spine of mine, which was "made in U.S.A."). Compulsive collectors can write to Armitage Bros., Colwick, Nottingham, England.
2105. It doesn't take long for most movies to appear in the video shops: Andrew Jay Peck reports an advertisement from Orion Home Video announcing May 25 as the "street date" for "Without a Clue". The price will be \$89.95.
2106. Mark W. Erdrich (49 Kings Lacey Way, Fairport, NY 14450) is interested in the use of Sherlockian artwork or themes in advertisements for computers and other electronic wonders. Please send him photocopies if you encounter such items.
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March 1989 #4

2107. Leslie Bricusse's "Sherlock Holmes: The Musical" (with Ron Moody as Holmes) had a one-month run in Exeter last year (December 88 #1), and will open at the Cambridge Theatre in London on April 24. The Daily Mail reported (Feb. 25) that Michael Caine and "top Hollywood mogul" Aaron Spelling are two of the backers of the £1.25 million production.
2108. Julian Symons' A THREE-PIPE PROBLEM (D5202b) has been reissued by Penguin in their trade-paperback "classic crime" series (192 pp., \$4.95).
2109. Georgia was one of the "different parts of the country" in which the Ku Klux Klan formed local branches ("The Five Orange Pips"). Georgia's Okefenokee Swamp is shown in the painting by Bart Forbes used on the new postal card in the "America the Beautiful" series.
2110. "Rosenblatt Back on the Bench," according to the headline on an article in the New York Law Journal, at hand from Andy Peck. Our congratulations to Al Rosenblatt, who was appointed by Governor Cuomo to be a justice of the appellate division. Al has been serving as the chief administrative judge,
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and will now "turn his attention from case-disposition statistics, computer networks, and fencing with the legislature over court budgets, back to the search-and-seizure issues, contract interpretation and state constitutional arguments he left behind nearly two years ago."

2111. An older item to watch for (discovered by John B. Taylor): THE CASE OF THE FELON'S FIDDLE: A MCGURK MYSTERY, by E. W. Hildick (New York: Macmillan, 1982); one of a series for younger readers, with McGurk imagining that he is Sherlock Holmes as he and his friends attempt to solve a mystery.
2112. Reported by Dana Richards: GARDNER'S WHYS & WHEREFORES, by Martin Gardner (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1989); a collection of Gardner's recent writings. "Did Sherlock Holmes Meet Father Brown?" is a review of Bayer's SOME NOTES ON A MEETING AT CHISHAM, reprinted from BSM (winter 1984) with a new postscript.
2113. And there's a Sherlockian cover on the Mar.-Apr. 1898 "special edition" of Games (marked for newsstand display until Apr. 25).
2114. Poor Little Rich Girl Travels and Chandris Fantasy Cruises report that the demand for deluxe cabins on the S.S. Galileo for "the ultimate Sherlockian seminar at sea" from New York to Bermuda and back, July 23-28, 1989, has exhausted the supply, and that the remaining standard accommodations are selling briskly. The deadline for reservations is Apr. 23, and details on the cruise are available from Mary Ellen Rich, 52 West 56th Street, New York, NY 10019 (212-757-0881).
2115. A two-cassette set from the BBC Audio Collection is being marketed here by The Mind's Eye (Box 6727, San Francisco, CA 94101) and available in some stores at \$14.95. "Sherlock Holmes: Vol. 1" has four of the Hobbs/Shelley programs ("Spec", "Chas", "Scan", and RedH"). The Mind's Eye charges \$3.50 for shipping and handling, and their toll-free number is 800-227-2020.

March 1989 #5

2116. We try to avoid vague reports, but vague is all there is on this one: The BBC World Service has made, and will broadcast (sometime) a long interview with Jeremy Brett about Sherlock Holmes and the television series and the play. Their monthly magazine London Calling may (or may not) be helpful in providing a more specific warning.
2117. Catalog at hand from Gary Lovisi (Gryphon Publications, Box 209, Brooklyn, NY 11228), announcing a new printing of his pamphlet (52 pp., \$4.00) RELICS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (BSJ September 87) and his new bibliography SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE GREAT DETECTIVE IN PAPERBACK; the latter title will be a revised and expanded edition (100+ pp., \$19.95 cloth or \$9.95 paper) of his SHERLOCK HOLMES: 50 YEARS OF THE GREAT DETECTIVE IN PAPERBACK (BSJ March 84).
2118. Another mail-order source for audio cassettes (S'ian and otherwise): Audio Editions (Box 6930, Auburn, CA 95604) offers the first two of the "221A"
2119. Rathbone/Bruce reissues (\$9.95 each); three two-cassette packages read by Robert Hardy (each with four stories, \$16.95); three more with long stories ("Houn", "Sign", "Stud") read by Hugh Burden or Tony Britton (each \$16.95). They take plastic, and their phone number is 800-231-4261.
2120. The 13-hour dramatization of Len Deighton's "Game, Set and Match" has begun on "Mystery!" on PBS-TV, and there may well be Sherlockian references in the series: in the books, KGB colonel Lenin was an admirer of the Sherlock Holmes stories. Mel Martin, who plays Fiona Samson, was Alice Faulkner in the Royal Shakespeare Company's revival of Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" in Washington and New York in 1974 and 1975.
2121. The latest mail-order catalog from Barnes & Noble (126 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10011) offers (item 1262336) the Galley Press edition of THE CONAN DOYLE STORIES (\$9.95) and (item 1546977) the Doubleday one-volume edition of THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES (\$12.95). Both are bargains, and THE CONAN DOYLE STORIES is especially recommended: it's a collection of 76 fine examples of ACD's skills as a teller of tales, reprinted from the 1956 John Murray edition (the stories are non-S'ian, except for the apocryphal "The Lost Special" and "The Man with the Watches").
2122. Brian MacDonald reports: THE MYSTERIOUS PROWLER and THE FORGOTTEN TREASURE, by Francis Carfi Matranga, published by Victor Books and featuring Nina, also known as "Lady Sherlock Holmes" (\$5.00 each from Heavenly Blessings, 210 North Jefferson, Martinsville, IN 46151).
2123. Also from Brian: "The Case of the Colorful Disappearing Eggs: An Intriguing Egg Decorating Kit" (an 8-inch-square box) with Harelock Holmes and Dr. Wabbitson on the cover and inside (where they are joined by Bunny-Arity). \$1.79 at discount and drugstores, and possibly still available (item #1724) from the manufacturer (Easter Unlimited, Carle Place, NY 11514).
2124. The British government has suggested that Britain's six largest brewers be required to sell many of their "tied pubs" -- one of which is Whitbread's "The Sherlock Holmes" in London. There are about 45,000 "tied pubs" in Britain (and about 37,000 "free houses"), and the government has proposed that no brewer be allowed to own more than 2,000 pubs. If the proposal is adopted, Whitbread would be required to sell more than 4,000 of its pubs.

March 1989 #6

2125. The Jan. 1989 issue of the August Derleth Society Newsletter reprints Peter Ruber's "A Weekend with August Derleth" (his introduction to the 1965 Candlelight Press edition of PRAED STREET PAPERS), with some additional comment. Membership in the society includes their quarterly newsletter, and costs \$5.00 a year. The society also has just published REMEMBERING DERLETH, a 112-page booklet of Derlethiana (including two pages about The Praed Street Irregulars) at \$7.00 postpaid. Membership dues and orders for the booklet (membership is not required) can be sent to the society, c/o Herb Attix, 3333 Westview Lane, Madison, WI 53713.
2126. Reported by John Bennett Shaw: TAUCHNITZ INTERNATIONAL EDITIONS IN ENGLISH 1841-1955, by William B. Todd and Ann Bowden (New York: Bibliographical Society of America, 1988; \$75.00), with discussion (pp. 412, 919, 941) of John's library and his four Tauchnitz editions of the Canon once owned by the Czarina. And listings of the many Tauchnitz editions of ACD's works.
2127. Star Trek: The Official Fan Club Magazine #65 has a color cover and other photographs of Brent Spiner playing Lt. Cdr. Data playing Sherlock Holmes, as seen on "Elementary, Dear Data" on "Star Trek: The Next Generation" in Dec. 1988. The magazine costs \$3.00 postpaid from Star Trek: The Official Fan Club, Box 11100, Aurora, CO 80011.
2128. It appears that the markets for videocassettes differ in Britain and the U.S., if prices for new releases are any indication. Granada's "Houn" and "Sign" are available in Britain at a suggested retail price of £9.99 each (that's \$16.88). It might be that the rental market in Britain is so small that companies ignore that segment, concentrating instead on direct sales. But it is also possible that cassettes of television programs are priced low because so many people have already recorded the programs off-the-air.
2129. Those who carefully examined Jeff Decker's fine cartoon in the BSJ (December 88) will have noticed the Adventuress asking, "How many B.S.I.'s does it take to screw in a lightbulb?" We will be happy to publish the best suggestions for a response to this question.
2130. For those who are not familiar with this sort of exchange, the format goes: How many folk singers does it take to screw in a light bulb? Two: one to change the bulb and one to write a song about how good the old light bulb was. Or: how many consultants does it take to change a light bulb? I'll have an estimate for you a week from Monday.

2131. Brian and Charlotte Erickson (726 Sutter Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94303) have announced a new edition of THE INVENTORY OF 221B BAKER STREET (October 87 #5); this is a booklet of text and photographs describing the recreation of the sitting-room in San Francisco, and the cost is \$8.00 postpaid.
2132. Illustrated sales list at hand from Chuck Kovacic (18307 Burbank Boulevard #49, Tarzana, CA 91356), offering full-color reproductions of Sherlockiana such as a lobby card for the Rathbone/Bruce "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes", the "Spy" caricature of William Gillette for Vanity Fair, the Turf cigarette cards from Boguslavski, and the 1914 advertisement for Postum. Chuck also offers a handsome new four-color lapel pin honoring The Hound of the Baskervilles.

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2133. It's not all that easy to find "The Hound of the Baskervilles, by A. Collie Dog" (a soft vinyl dog toy in the shape of a book), without worrying about the fact that there are at least three variants. Tom Stix reports that you can order from Plaza Pet World, 91 Closter Plaza, Closter, NJ 07624 (\$6.00 postpaid); this is the "made in Spain" variant.
2134. It wasn't all that long ago that the Motion Picture Association of America was campaigning hard against the VCR, because it was such a threat to the movie business, but MPAA president Jack Valenti has changed his mind. "The more a person watches movies on a VCR, the more that person is drawn to view a movie in a theater," Valenti has concluded, based on studies that show that movie attendance has increased along with VCR sales. In 1971, movie attendance was 800 million admissions, and in 1988 admissions neared 1.1 billion, with box-office revenues at an all-time high of \$4.4 billion.
2135. Dame Ngaio Marsh, shown on a stamp in a set issued this year to honor New Zealand authors, wrote a fine series of mystery novels about Inspector (and later Superintendent) Roderick Alleyn, and echoed the Canon from time to time, as in GRAVE MISTAKE (1978).
2136. Joseph J. Eckrich (7793 Keswick Place, St. Louis, MO 63119) offers a seven-page sales list of Sherlockian books.
2137. Andrea (formerly Mrs. Sheldon) Reynolds is planning to marry in July -- but her new husband won't be Claus von Bulow. According to the [London] Daily Mail (Mar. 13), Andrea will marry Shaun Plunket, heir to a title dating from the early nineteenth century, when one of his ancestors was Lord Chancellor of Ireland.
2138. More news from Hollywood: "Without a Clue" had a box-office gross of more than \$8 million, as of Dec. 20, 1988 -- far less than the cost of the film, which thus is a commercial failure so far.
2139. The new edition of THE INVENTORY OF 221B BAKER STREET (October 87 #5) has 21 pages and is available for \$8.00 postpaid from Brian and Charlotte Erickson (726 Sutter Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94303); this is a booklet of text and photographs describing the recreation of the sitting-room in San Francisco.
2140. "Sherlock Holmes and the Weather", by Randall S. Cerveney and Sandra W. Brazel, is the lead article in the Apr. 1989 issue of Weatherwise (4000 Albemarle Street NW, Washington, DC 20016; \$3.50). The article deals with Holmes and an observer and forecaster of the weather, and there's a fine color cover by Ron Blalock.
2141. THE BEST HORROR STORIES OF ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE, edited by Frank D. McSherry, Martin H. Greenberg, and Charles G. Waugh (Chicago: Academy Chicago, 1989; 294 pp., \$6.95), has an Introduction by McSherry and 13 of Conan Doyle's fine tales in this genre. Many of the stories will be familiar, but one of them ("The Silver Hatchet") was first published in 1883 and has, I believe, been reprinted only twice before in this century.

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2142. Frank Morley, in LITERARY BRITAIN: A READER'S GUIDE TO ITS WRITERS AND LANDMARKS (New York: Harper & Row, 1980, p. 31), suggests that "it was on that footway of Hungerford Bridge, on the black rain-drenched equinoctial night in September 1887, that Sherlock Holmes allowed the young John Openshaw to be intercepted and lured to death on the Embankment, as five orange pips had fatefully foretold." In the Canon it is the Waterloo Bridge. Does anyone know of any discussion, by Morley or others, on why it would have been the Hungerford Bridge?
2143. Charles Higham, author of THE ADVENTURES OF CONAN DOYLE, has written a new biography. In CARY GRANT: THE LONELY HEART (Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1989; 358 pp., \$18.95), Higham and co-author Roy Moseley claim that Grant had homosexual affairs with Randolph Scott and Howard Hughes.
2144. "Many thanks for the remarks in which I am sure that you are quite right," Conan Doyle wrote to Captain Charles Low from Undershaw. "I stupidly mixed up Vernon with Venables. If there is ever a reprint I shall see to that." Conan Doyle lived at Undershaw from 1897 to 1907. There is no Vernon or Venables in the Canon: can anyone suggest a non-Canonical reference?
2145. David L. Hammer (Gasogene Press, Box 1041, Dubuque, IA 52004) offers a new sales-list for Gasogene's in-print and upcoming titles.
2146. British news from Roger Johnson: Peterson of Dublin introduced a "Sherlock Holmes" briar pipe in 1987 (seen selling for \$100 to \$125 in a New York pipe shop in Jan. 1988), and is now offering a "Baskerville" pipe; there will be others in the series, to be issued at six-month intervals. And a list of Granada-related Sherlockiana is available from Judith M. Naylor, Merchandise Manager, Granada Studio Tours, Manchester, M60 9EA, England).
2147. Christopher Roden (Grasmere, 35 Penfold Way, Dodleston, Chester CH4 9ML, England) is preparing for the official launching of The Arthur Conan Doyle Society on May 22 (Sir Arthur's birthday). He plans to publish a journal twice a year, supplemented by a regular newsletter, and you can write to him for a copy of his publicity flier. Membership outside the U.K. will cost £10.00 a year (plus £4.50 a year if airmail is desired).
2148. The seventh annual "Autumn in Baker Street" will be held at Bear Mountain, N.Y., on Oct. 7-8, 1989. Robert E. Thomalen (69 Glen Road, Eastchester, NY 10709) will be happy to send you a copy of this year's flier.
2149. "A Tourist Guide to the London of Sherlock Holmes" (D1889b), a collection of Charles O. Merriman's fine articles in the SHJ, has been reprinted by The Sherlock Holmes Society of London; \$6.50 postpaid (checks payable to the Society) from Capt. W. R. Michell, The Old Crown Inn, Lopen, South Petherton, Somerset TA13 5JX, England.
2150. "They Might Be Giants" is the title of an album of rock music recorded by "They Might Be Giants" and issued by Bar-None Records in 1986 (and still available on tape and records). There's nothing S'ian about the recording, except for the title of the group, which was taken by John Flansburgh and John Linnell (who *are* "They Might Be Giants") from the name of the George C. Scott film.

April 1989 #3

2151. A clipping from the Cleveland Plain Dealer, at hand from Tom and Ruthann Stetak, reveals that there is a Cleveland Club of Washington, founded in 1957, with membership requirements as strict as those of some S'ian societies. "To join, a prospective member has to have been born in Cleveland, raised in Cleveland, graduated from a Cleveland university, lived in Cleveland, flown over Cleveland in an airplane, know how to spell Cleveland, or generally agree to the principles of the club (which have never been spelled out)."

2152. Tom and Ruthann also report that there is a minor Sherlockian connection for the new film "Major League": the deerstalkers that Tom and Ruthann wore in the stadium when the long-shots were taken of the 65,000 spectators.
2153. American Express has shipped the first two cassettes in its subscription series (March 89 #1) covering the 26 cassettes to be issued by 221A Baker Street Associates (each with two programs from the Rathbone/Bruce radio series). The two cassettes are the same as those already available in stores (though with different packaging). Tom Galbo has had a letter from Ken Greenwald of 221 "A" Baker Street Associates, explaining some of the problems they have had with distribution through the Waldenbooks and B. Dalton chains, and noting that the chains are gearing up to do better (in June Waldenbooks will have a special counter display of the first four cassettes), but the chains will have one new cassette every three months. American Express, however, will be releasing three new cassettes every two months; their subscription series is available only to card-holders, but if you (or a friend) are a card-holder, the toll-free number for orders is 800-528-8000. Ken Greenwald also notes that the contents of the first cassette (with "The Unfortunate Tobacconist" and "The Paradol Chamber") are not exactly the same as on the LP record album: one of the commercials has been deleted from the cassette, and Ben Wright's introduction is shorter (this was done to preserve the collector's-item status of the LP album).
2154. THE FORGOTTEN TREASURE is one of four titles in a series of "Nina Christina Mysteries" by Frances Carfi Matranga (Wheaton: Victor Books, 1986); Nina is a modern twelve-year-old, known to her friends and family as "Lady Sherlock Holmes" as she solves a pleasant suburban mystery.
2155. Adela Holzer, who was one of the producers of the New York production of the Royal Shakespeare Company's revival of Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" in 1974, seems to be unable to stay out of jail. In 1979 she was convicted of swindling a group of investors out of \$2.3 million, and served two years in the women's state prison at Bedford Hills. Now she's in a cell on Rikers Island, unable to raise \$1 million in bail, while awaiting trial on charges of cheating a new set of investors out of more than \$7 million.
2156. The Society's summer tour will be a visit to Cambridge, and the guidebook will be available to those who cannot join the tour; \$17.50 postpaid (and checks again payable to the Society) from Jonathan McCafferty, 5 Jonathan Court, Windmill Road, Chiswick, London W4 1SA, England.
2157. Travelers to London might wish to request a copy of the brochure offered by City Walks of London (9/11 Kensington High Street, London W8 5HP, England); their walking tours include "The Sherlock Holmes Trail of Mystery".

April 1989 #4

2158. Eternity Comics has published SHERLOCK HOLMES CASEBOOK #1 and #2 (both dated Mar. 1989), reprinting the 1961 comic books NEW ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (D6189a and D6190a), omitting the page about Sir Arthur Conan Doyle that appeared inside the back cover of D6189a and adding a new page on "Sherlock Holmes' London Haunts" that I don't recall seeing before. How times change: the 1961 comic books (all in color) cost 15 cents each on the stands, while the 1989 comic books (in black and white except for the cover) cost \$2.25 each at your local comic-book shop.
2159. John Woolford's long article on "Sherlock Holmes" in the Apr. 1989 issue of the Scott Stamp Monthly is well illustrated (photographs show the 1984 set from Turks & Caicos Islands and covers from two of the recent British stamp booklets). Box 828, Sidney, OH 45365; \$3.00.
2160. Frances Steloff died on Apr. 15, at the age of 101. In 1920 she founded the Gotham Book Mart in New York and made her store a gathering place for authors and their readers. "Wise men fish here" was the slogan she chose for her bookshop, and one of those wise men was Christopher Morley, who discovered the shop in 1931, and spent many hours helping with publicity and other business matters (such as writing a set of dunning verses to be sent to delinquent customers). When Frances Steloff was arrested in 1935, charged with selling obscene literature (the Random House edition of Andre Gide's autobiography), Morley came to her defense, in his "Bowling Green" column in the Saturday Review of Literature, and Morley's column was quoted by the judge when he dismissed the case. The Gotham Book Mart continues in business (at 41 West 47th Street), and is well worth a visit.
2161. THE ANNOTATED INNOCENCE OF FATHER BROWN, edited by Martin Gardner, was a delightful exploration of the first collection of Chesterton's stories about the "little priest" (and the annotations do not neglect the S'ian aspects of the stories). First published at \$18.95 (July 87 #4), the book is now discounted at \$4.95 (item 839825) in the April catalog from Edward R. Hamilton (Falls Village, CT 06031).
2162. Reported by Michael McClure: the comic book WEB OF SPIDERMAN (#50, May 1989) has (page 40) a panel in which Spidey explains how he used "an old Sherlock Holmes story" to solve a mystery.
2163. Sheldon Wesson's THE SHERLOCKIAN TRIVIALITY INDEX is an ingenious analysis of the Canon, proposed to The Red Circle in 1983 and privately published in 1985, and now available as an attractive miniature book (2.0 by 2.3 inches) from The Press of Ward Schori, 2716 Noyes Street, Evanston, IL 60201. The volume is a fine small-press production, bound in suede, and costs \$30.00 postpaid.
2164. Further to the paragraph (March 89 #5) on the adaptation of Len Deighton's "Game, Set & Match" on "Mystery!" on PBS, Mike Kean has reminded me of his article on "Deighton's Spies and Sherlock" in Wheelwrightings (Jan. 1987). It was KGB colonel Stinnes who admired the Sherlock Holmes stories, and Samson called him Lenin. The actor who played Stinnes in the television series didn't look at all like Lenin, and the Sherlockian exchange was omitted from the television script. There was a lesser S'ian exchange in the book MEXICO SET, but the series will probably skip that, too.

April 1989 #5

2165. The Basil Rathbone Collection" is a 101-minute videocassette with some interesting older television material not otherwise available: "A Christmas Carol" (with Rathbone as Ebenezer Scrooge), "The Christopher Program" (a religious talk show with Rathbone as guest), "I the Leader" (with Rathbone as the leader of a gang of criminals), "The Stones Began to Move" (with Rathbone as a scientist who helps to solve the riddle of the pyramids), and a two-and-a-half-minute commercial Rathbone made for the Prudential Insurance Co. There are also theatrical previews for three of Rathbone's films, including "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (this is the only S'ian item in the collection, but it's an international version without dialog, allowing voice-overs to be added in other languages). The cassette (VHS only, on TDK High Standard tape) can be ordered from George Stover, Cinemacabre Video, Box 10005, Baltimore, MD 21285 (\$24.95 plus a \$2.00 shipping charge). TDK Extra High Grade tape is available on request, for an additional \$2.00.
2166. Renegade's comic-book series has resumed after a hiatus: CASES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES #15 (Sept. 1988) is on the stands, with "The Adventure of Charles Augustus Milverton" (and "The Adventure of the Solitary Cyclist" announced for the next issue).
2167. The Pequod Press is "relentlessly moving on" with plans to complete Dr. Fatso's memoirs of Mr. Turlock Loams, and announces THE ADVENTURE OF THE CARDBOARD LOX, available from John Ruyle, 521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707; \$29.50 cloth or \$14.50 paper.
2168. Reported by Bob Burr: the 1888 first edition of A STUDY IN SCARLET offered for sale by a dealer at last month's New York Antiquarian Book Fair, priced at \$40,000. I don't know whether it was sold, but that's the highest price I know of for any item of published Sherlockiana (and only one manuscript has ever changed hands at a price higher than \$40,000).
2169. Alert readers of the television schedules were the only ones to have any advance warning of the new Sherlockian episode in the "Alfred Hitchcock Presents" series broadcast on cable by the USA Network on Apr. 22, since there seems to have been no advance warning. "My Dear Watson" (filmed

in Toronto in Oct. 1989) featured Brian Bedford (Sherlock Holmes) and Patrick Monckton (Dr. Watson) in a 30-minute story marred by ridiculous casting, costumes, sets, and script. The best part of the show was the introduction by Alfred Hitchcock, colorized, wearing a deerstalker, and blowing bubbles from his calabash pipe.

2170. Hitchcock's introduction was obviously taken from one of the old black-and-white shows in the original "Alfred Hitchcock Presents" series. But which one? There's no mention of a Sherlockian introduction in the series in my notes, but surely some Sherlockian was watching back in the old days.
2171. The New Playwrights' Network (35 Sandringham Road, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK10 1QB, England) has published two new Sherlockian scripts. THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SOLUTION (£4.40 postpaid) is a two-act drama by Peter Hartley that was performed on tour in England by the Spare Parts Theatre Company in the summer of 1986. THE PRIVATE LIVES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (£1.75 postpaid) is a one-act comedy by Michael Lambe.
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April 1989 #6

2172. April having only three weeks this year (I was in San Antonio one week of the month for a geology convention and the spring dinner of The Practical, But Limited, Geologists), there is a shortage of news, allowing room to reprint of one of the more unusual S'ian advertisements, noted by Eileen Katz in the June 1988 issue of Female Patient.
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May 1989 #1

2173. The new "Sherlock Holmes: The Musical" has opened at the Cambridge Theatre in London. The two reviews seen so far are decidedly unenthusiastic, with suggestions that "one reels away aghast from this Kamikaze concoction of misdirected endeavour" (Jack Tinker, in the Daily Mail), and that Ron Moody as Holmes "is never concerned with understatement and his obvious contempt for Inspector Lestrade and even his bovine Watson eventually makes one long for another Reichenbach Falls into which he can be pushed" (Milton Shulman, in the Evening Standard).
2174. Jerry Margolin reports that his new address (as of June 16) will be 10007 S.W. Quail Post Road, Portland, OR 97219-6368.
2175. Jennie C. Paton (206 Loblolly Lane, Statesboro, GA 30458) would appreciate hearing from anyone who sees Sherlockian television commercials, so that she can try to obtain copies for her television archives. The information she needs is the name of the company doing the advertising, the date and time the commercial was broadcast, and the name (or channel) and address of the television station.
2176. Reported by Connie Steffan: a Nerds coloring book (from Marvel Books) with "Case of the Fading Nerds" and Nerdslock Combs and his friend Dr. Whatsit. Nerdslock Combs appears in Sherlockian costume in full color on the cover, and you (or your kids) get to do your own coloring on the inside pages.
2177. A new comic book reported by Tim O'Connor: BAKER STREET #1 (Mar. 1989) from Caliber Press (31162 West Warren, Westland, MI 48135; \$1.95); a punk-rocker Sherlockian adventure (without Holmes and Watson) set in an alternate but still present-day London. And a mention (possibly a forecast) of SHERLOCK HOLMES: STUDY IN SCARLET from Innovation (no address; \$5.95).
2178. Further to the mention of Frances Carfi Matranga's THE FORGOTTEN TREASURE (April 89 #3), the suggested retail price is \$4.50, and I am advised by the publisher that they will be discontinuing the book soon. The publisher is Victor Books, 1825 College Avenue, Wheaton, IL 60187.
2179. The May 1 issue of New York magazine was their special issue "The New Guide to Living in New York" with one of the articles giving brief notes on "Buff Groups", which included the Baker Street Irregulars, listed after the Mark Twain Association of New York and before the Count Dracula Fan Club.
2180. Paulette Greene (140 Princeton Road, Rockville Centre, NY 11570) is plans to retire from the book business, and wants to sell her entire stock as one lot: about 4,000 mystery and detective books and reference works, and about 600 Sherlockian books, including her own three privately-published titles. Contact Paulette for details.
2181. Wilfrid de Freitas reports that the Grosvenor Resort at Disney World is offering "Sherlock Holmes Mystery Weekends" on Sept. 2-4 and Nov. 17-19. The cost is \$299 per person and covers meals, rooms, a day at Epcot center, two cocktail parties (one with Watson and the other with Holmes). Call 800-624-4109 for additional information.
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May 1989 #2

2182. The Northeast Victorian Studies Association will hold its 16th annual conference at Princeton University on Apr. 20-22, 1990, and the topic will be "Disguises, Dreams, and Deceptions". If you'd like to submit a paper, write to Dr. L. M. Shires, English Department, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY 13210. If you'd like to attend the conference, contact Prof. Earl E. Stevens, Rhode Island College, Providence, RI 02908.
2183. A new catalog at hand showing production cels, cartoon artwork, and special editions offered by Gallery Lainzberg (200 Guaranty Building, Cedar Rapids, IA 52401) (800-5533-9995). "Sleuthing II" is a new Friz Freleng limited edition (FF-38) with Inspector Clouseau and a deerstalkered Pink Panther (\$395.00).
2184. The BSI's chaplain is publishing again: The Bohemian Scandal Sheet is his new newsletter, "published periodically and edited irregularly," and the first issue is now available. There is no charge for the newsletter: all you need do is write to Ben Wood (Box 740, Ellenton, FL 34222) and ask for a subscription, and then write to him again at least once a year.
2185. The March 1989 issue of Philatelie Quebec has an intriguing article (in French) by Bruce Holmes, showing postage stamps keyed to the 21 Canonical references to saints (including references to the Virgin Mary, the Angel Gabriel, and the Devil). Editions Phibec, 4545 avenue Pierre-de-Coubertin, Montreal, Quebec H1V 3R2, Canada; (CA)\$3.00.
2186. Penny Fabb (4 Oldacres, Maidenhead, Berks., SL6 1XJ, England) offers a matched pair of 90-mm. hand-painted metal figurines of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson for £44.00 postpaid (or £40.00 if payment is made in sterling).
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May 1989 #3

2187. George F. Burrows ("Dr. Grimesby Roylott") died on Apr. 10, and his Associated Press obituary noted that he "was described as a talented oddball whose passions ranged from social justice to Sherlock Holmes." He was a member of The Speckled Band of Boston for many years, serving as its Herpeton, and he received his Investiture in 1964. He was a founding member of the American Civil Liberties Union, an early president of the Community Church of Boston (the first church to demand a fair trial for Sacco and Vanzetti), and a New Deal Democrat. He was also a university policeman at Harvard for twenty years, and during a riot in the 1960s was bitten on the leg by a Radcliffe student. "I'm lucky she wasn't taller," he later remarked.
2188. Further to the news (December 88 #3) of the reopening of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London's membership list, the Society has now switched to a two-tier entry system: new applicants will start as associate members (\$15.00 a year) who will receive the SHJ and who can attend meetings as guests of full members. As vacancies occur, associate members will be promoted to full membership (\$20.00 a year), receiving also announcements of meetings and other activities. Applications should be sent to the Society's honorary secretary, Cdr. Geoffrey S. Stavert, 3 Outram Road, Southsea, Hants. PO5 1QP, England.
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2189. Forecast for July: THE BOOK OF THE DEAD, by Robert Richardson (St. Martin's Press, \$14.95). "When the owner of an unpublished Sherlock Holmes manuscript by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle is murdered, Augustus Maltravers turns to the only expert who can solve this crime--Holmes himself."
2190. Ames Johnston ("The Missing Three-Quarter") died on April 17. In 1947 he was one of the founders of The Sons of the Copper Beeches, and in 1959 he was one of the editors of the society's anthology LEAVES FROM THE COPPER BEECHES, to which he contributed a nostalgic description of "The London of the Canon".
2191. Planning by Deen and Jay Kogan continues for Bouchercon XX in Philadelphia on Oct. 6-9: there will be "only" three panel tracks, beginning on Friday morning, and the dealers' room will open at noon on Friday. The guest of honor will be Simon Brett, creator of the actor-sleuth Charles Paris, and the program is expected to give some emphasis to "performance" mystery. Advance registration reached 600 last month, it is reported, and it thus seems likely that (as happened last year in San Diego), registration will close before the convention opens. Registration costs \$40.00 (Bouchercon XX, Box 59345, Philadelphia, PA 19102).
2192. Bouchercon XXI will be in London, at King's College, on Sept. 21-23, 1990, arranged by Marion and Robin Richmond, owners of Ming Books UK (1 Penrose Avenue, Carpenders Park, Watford, Herts. WD1 5AE, England). This will be the first Bouchercon to be held outside the U.S., and the Richmonds note that the World Science Convention will be held in the Hague, Sept. 7-9, and the Agatha Christie Festival in Torbay, Devon, Sept. 14-16, 1990. Details on registration, hotels, an airline package, European and British tours, and a play competition (the best play submitted will be awarded £1,000 and performed at the convention) will be available later this year, but you can write to the Richmonds now to get on their mailing list.

May 1989 #4

2193. Garry James' article on "Sherlock Holmes' Snubby" is a detailed discussion (with many illustrations) of the Webley Metropolitan Police revolver, in the Guns & Ammo Complete Guide to Pocket Pistols, Apr. 1989 (8490 Sunset Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90069; \$2.95). Also still available is the 1986 Guns & Ammo Annual (\$6.95), which includes "The Guns of Sherlock Holmes", by Garry James and Scott McMillan; this is a revised version, also well-illustrated, of their earlier article (D2529b).
2194. Pattie R. Brunner (3019 Fire Weed Court, Florissant, MO 63031) would like to hear from anyone who knows of currently available Sherlockian needlework patterns or counted cross-stitch charts (and from anyone willing to share copies of patterns or charts that aren't currently available).
2195. Reported by Joe Eckrich: THEY NEVER SAID IT, by Paul F. Boller, Jr., and John George (New York: Oxford University Press, 1989; 159 pp., \$15.95), notes (p. 47) that "Elementary, my dear Watson" doesn't appear in the Sherlock Holmes stories. They attribute the quote to Basil Rathbone; can anyone identify an earlier appearance?
2196. Thom Utecht notes a magazine advertisement for "Little Sherlock" ("a clever little boy who thinks he's the world's greatest sleuth"): an 11-inch hand-crafted bisque porcelain doll by artist Kathy Barry-Hippensteel, in a new "Born to be Famous" collection, for \$87.00 (plus \$2.44 shipping plus state sales tax). Details available from The Ashton-Drake Galleries, 212 West Superior Street, Chicago, IL 60610, with a June 30 deadline for orders.
2197. Reported by Emory Lee: the May-June 1989 issue of Philip Morris Magazine (120 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10017) has a two-page article by Raymond Schuessler on "Tobacco Stamps: Quite a Collection" with color illustrations including the Nicaraguan issue showing Sherlock Holmes with his pipe. And a U.S. commemorative showing Franklin D. Roosevelt, who was a member of the BSI as well as a cigarette-smoker.
2198. Emory also reports some Sherlockian items discounted at B. Dalton (and thus probably available at other chains): THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, with the fine Frederick Dorr Steele artwork (Mysterious Press, \$9.98); THE BAKER STREET DOZEN, ed. by Pj Doyle and E. W. McDiarmid (Congden & Weed, \$8.98); and SHERLOCKIAN LIMERICKS, by Isaac Asimov (Mysterious Press, \$2.98); and THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES (Doubleday, \$12.95).
2199. SCARLET IN GASLIGHT: AN ADVENTURE IN TERROR (Newbury Park: Eternity Comics, 1988; \$7.95) is a trade-paperback one-volume collection of the four comic books written by Martin Powell and drawn by Seppo Makinen; the book also contains a Foreword by Powell, an Afterword by Makinen, and eight pages of Makinen's preliminary sketches. Eternity also reports that their SHERLOCK HOLMES series will run for 23 issues, reprinting all of the Giacoia strips; they will also issue six-issue collections as trade paperbacks, with the first one due in July. Their SHERLOCK HOLMES CASEBOOK series had only two issues (since there were only two in the original series from Dell). And they are working on a new one-volume collection, tentatively scheduled for December, of a Sherlock Holmes strip from the 1930s (presumably the strip by Leo O'Mealia).

May 1989 #5

2200. More excerpts from reviews of "Sherlock Holmes: The Musical": "Unpretentious, modest, often very funny, *Holmes* could bring considerable pleasure to audiences seeking refuge from the pomposity of contemporary musicals" (Mark Steyn, in the Independent). And: "a vacuous evening of unrelenting jollity and the kind of showbiz cliches everyone hoped had gone out of fashion 20 years ago" (Charles Spencer, in the Daily Telegraph). And: "This is an elaborate production, starting well with the exciting battle of the Reichenbach Falls, enjoyably staged. But I fear it may meet the fate of *Edwin Drood*. The thrills fade and it turns into a corny parody of Conan Doyle -- who has surely been parodied enough" (D.A.N. Jones, in the Sunday Telegraph).
2201. The Players, for many years the gathering place for Sherlockians attending The Silver Blaze in New York, celebrated its 100th anniversary last month, according to a wire-service report, and welcomed the club's first female members (Helen Hayes, Mary Tyler Moore, and Lauren Bacall were among those honored).
2202. "What sounds like a good buy is the first English edition of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (1902) listed at \$3 by Norman Alexander Hall, 67 Union St., Newton Center, Mass." (as reported by P. E. G. Quercus in his "Trade Winds" column in The Saturday Review, Mar. 4, 1939). Fifty years ago Christopher Morley could include this sort of item in his column, which also noted: "It amused sardonic Old Q. to learn from the Argus Bookshop, Chicago, that there is now a 'Variorum Edition' of Mark Twain's *1601*, edited by Franklin J. Meine. Old Ben Abramson, equally sardonic, remarks in his circular that 'for purity of text, this volume is unapproachable.'"
2203. And more comic-book news: Renegade's CASES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES #15, now in the shops, will be the last issue from Renegade, because the comic book is going to another company. Renegade will send refunds to its subscribers, and information on the other company when it's available. The new company is Northstar, based in Blue Island, Ill., and they intend to have #16 in print in August. We will report again when there's more information.
2204. Jennie Paton has discovered a source for rental of some of the older S'ian films, which is pleasant news for societies that are too large to gather around a VCR and a television set. The Em Gee Film Library (6924 Canby Avenue #103, Reseda, CA 91335) offers "The Copper Beeches" (1912), "The Dying Detective" (1921), "The Devil's Foot" (1921), and "The Man with the Twisted Lip" (1921) for \$8.50 each; "Sure-Locked Homes" (1926) and "Slick Sleuth" (1926) for \$5.00 each; "The Mystery of the Leaping Fish" (1916) for \$12.50; "Burstup Homes Murder Case" (1913) for \$10.00; "Biograph

- Primitives #1 (with the 1900 "Sherlock Holmes Baffled") and "The Case of the Screaming Bishop" (1944) for \$6.00 each; and "The Sleuth" (1925) for \$7.50.
2205. Jennie has also found a source for a videocassette (\$24.95) of "Sherlock Jr." (1924): Facets Video, 1517 West Fullerton Avenue, Chicago, IL 60614 (800-331-6197). This is a Buster Keaton film, and it's a fine one, even though it is S'ian almost only by title: Keaton plays a projectionist who falls asleep and dreams that he has walked into the film being shown in the theater; he plays a brilliant sleuth, and there are some truly splendid special effects in the film.
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2206. Mohamed Bazzi, president of The Young Sherlockians of Jackson Heights (a society founded last year at the Joseph Pulitzer Intermediate School), plans to publish The Sherlockian Tabloid, beginning in October and featuring the work of the scion's members. The magazine will cost \$3.00 an issue, and can be ordered from Mohamed Bazzi, 80-08 35th Avenue #5-F, Jackson Heights, NY 11372 (checks payable to I.S. 145 Queens).
2207. "Frank here and I met in '84, in McQuire's Camp, near the Rockies, where pa was working a claim," Hattie Doran Moulton explained. The new postal card in the "America the Beautiful" series shows Bart Forbes' original painting of the Rocky Mountains.
2208. River Oaks Travel (800-223-7174) is offering a series of one-week tours (leaving every Sunday from July 16 to Aug. 20) called "The Pub Package" tied to Malcolm Cooper's series of miniature sculptures of "Great British Pubs" (one of which is The Sherlock Holmes). Texans and Canadians can call 713-526-1960. The cover of their brochure shows The Sherlock Holmes.
2209. Judy Wolfsohn (9554 S.W. 82nd Street, Miami, FL 33173) offers the first volume of her SHERLOCK HOLMES WORDSEARCH PUZZLES, with 25 puzzles, and answers (\$9.50 postpaid).
2210. Reported by Michael McClure: Spiderman continues to show that he reads the Canon. The comic book WEB OF SPIDERMAN (#53, Aug. 1989) has (page 16) a passing reference to a deerstalkered detective.
2211. Film posters seem to have become the new target for speculative collecting. "What's new is that doctors and lawyers are buying big-ticket items to put in a portfolio," according to dealer Edwin Neal, quoted in the N.Y. Times (May 22). "They say, 'I want to spend \$25,000. You tell me what to buy.'" At a recent auction in New York, a poster for "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (1939) sold for \$4,000. The same auction included a jockey shirt worn by James Cagney in "Yankee Doodle Dandy" (\$4,500) and a copy of GONE WITH THE WIND signed by most of the cast (\$20,000).
2212. Reported by John Ruyle: THE MUMMY, OR RAMSES THE DAMNED, by Anne Rice (New York: Ballantine Books, 1989, 436 pp., \$11.95 in paper covers) is dedicated to Arthur Conan Doyle (among others). Anne Rice wrote THE VAMPIRE LESTAT and INTERVIEW WITH THE VAMPIRE, and her new book is dedicated to ACD "for his great mummy stories 'Lot No. 249' and 'The Ring of Thoth'." She has also written (as A. N. Roquelaure) three volumes of erotica, and although there's nothing unusual about a mainstream author working in that genre, she's the first I've seen to list such books on the "also by" page.
2213. Henry Brandon, Washington correspondent for The Sunday Times, was one of the earliest journalists to use a Sherlockian motif in reporting on the Watergate break-in (D2284b), so early, in fact, that he (among many others) still thought of it as a minor event with no political significance. He mentions his Sherlockian column in the Watergate chapter in his memoirs: SPECIAL RELATIONSHIPS (New York: Atheneum, 1989; 436 pp., \$24.95).

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2214. THE BAKER STREET DOZEN, edited by Pj Doyle and E. W. McDiarmid, has been reissued as a trade paperback (New York: Contemporary Books/Congdon & Weed, 1989; 354 pp., \$9.95). Originally published in 1987 (October 87 #1), the book contains ACD's favorite Sherlock Holmes stories, plus essays by Sherlockian scholars and an afterword by Dame Jean Conan Doyle. The paperback actually is a collectible new edition, with a new page of acknowledgements and new commentary on "The Priory School" by the editors in place of the earlier contribution by George Fletcher.
2215. There are six "Inspector Puzzle Mini-Mysteries" in a series of children's puzzle books written by Patricia Lakin Koenigsberg and illustrated by Marc Nadel, with Inspector Puzzle in S'ian costume (Mahwah: Watermill Press, 1988; 32 pp., \$1.50 each). Titles: THE CASE OF THE DISAPPEARING DINOSAURS, THE MYSTERIOUS SPACE CHASE, THE GREAT JUNGLE BUNGLE, THE CASE OF THE RUNAWAY TIME MACHINE, THE MYSTERY OF THE MISSING MICROCHIP, and THE SECRET OF THE SINISTER SEA VILLAIN.
2216. Brian and Charlotte Erickson are adding a file of National Holmesian Events for Traveling Sherlockians to their computerized bulletin board, and anyone planning a trip can call the bulletin board to see what's happening where. And societies are, of course, encouraged to send advance notice of meetings to the Ericksons, either by mail (725 Sutter Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94303) or directly to the bulletin board (415-329-1703). Information needed: date and time and place of the meeting, society name, and contact name, address, and telephone number.
2217. When discussing whether movies such as "Young Sherlock Holmes" and "Without a Clue" were successful at the box office (each grossed about \$16 million in eight weeks), it can be instructive to see how real success is measured: "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade" did \$5.6 million on its first day in the theaters, and \$46.9 million in its first six days.
2218. Cartoonist Dik Browne died on June 6, after a long career as an advertising artist (he created the Bird's Eye bird and Chiquita Banana, and redesigned the Campbell Soup kids) and as a cartoonist ("Hi and Lois" and "Hagar the Horrible"). He was the only cartoonist ever to have received the National Cartoonists Society's Reuben Award for two different comic strips. This Sherlockian "Hi and Lois" cartoon was first published on Jan. 17, 1985.

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2219. The second shipment of Rathbone/Bruce audio cassettes has been shipped by American Express: three cassettes, with a shelf box that will hold thirteen cassettes. The programs are "The April Fool's Day Adventure" and "The Uneasy Easy Chair" (duplicating the cassette already in bookstores), "The Headless Monk" and "The Demon Barber" (with comments by Ben Wright), and "The Amateur Mendicant Society" and "The Vanishing White Elephant" (with comments by Ben Wright). The subscription series is only available to American Express card-holders (and surely you know someone who is a card-holder, if you aren't), the cost is reasonable (\$2.95 shipping for the first two cassettes, and \$29.95 plus \$2.95 shipping for the next three cassettes, with a new shipment every two months), and the toll-free number for orders is 800-528-8000.
2220. If you are a card-holder and didn't receive a promotional flier, there's a reason: I have heard that American Express did a test mailing, to only one million card-holders, to see what the response would be. They were hoping for a one-percent response (10,000 subscriptions to the series), but they are reported to have received only 2,000 orders, and to be considering not continuing the subscription series. If you are at all interested in these cassettes, you would be wise to subscribe, no matter how long the series actually runs, considering how difficult it is to find the cassettes in the chain bookstores.
2221. And there is an alternative to the American Express subscription series and to buying the cassettes in bookstores: you can buy direct from Simon and Schuster (800-678-2677). The price is \$9.95 per cassette, plus \$2.95 per order for shipping, so the overall cost is higher, and it would appear that cassettes will be available only at the bookstore schedule (one cassette every three months).

2222. A CASE OF BLIND FEAR #2 (April 89) has been published by Eternity Comics: the comic-book series has Sherlock Holmes in pursuit of the Invisible Man, with Irene Adler and Prof. Challenger involved in the battle.
2223. Vilhjalmur Stefansson was one of five Arctic explorers honored by the U.S. Postal Service three years ago (June 86 #1), and he has now been honored by Canada with a stamp showing Stefansson on the Arctic ice (the rather modernistic design is by Frederick Hagan). Stefansson knew and admired ACD. "In his home Conan Doyle is not merely a sturdier Watson and a kinder Holmes," Stefansson wrote in 1922 (D2051b). "He is also a gentler Sir Nigel and a mellow blend of all the host of his nobler characters."
2224. Further to Jennie Paton's report (May 89 #5) that "Sherlock Jr." (1924) is available from Facets Video, the company has returned her check, because "a current rights dispute has removed the tape from distribution."
2225. Reported from Britain: MURDER WILL OUT: THE DETECTIVE IN FICTION FROM POE TO THE PRESENT, by T. J. Binyon (Oxford University Press, 192 pp., £15.00); "illustrates how the character of the detective has often overshadowed its creator." And a paperback reprint of Michael Dibdin's THE LAST SHERLOCK HOLMES STORY [D4891b] (Faber, 192 pp., £3.99).
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2226. Another plug for the mail-order catalog from Signals (Box 70870, St. Paul, MN 55170): this is a subsidiary of WGBH in Boston, and they offer video-cassettes of six programs from the Granada series, the recording of music from the series, and the well-illustrated book SHERLOCK HOLMES: A CENTENARY CELEBRATION, as well as many other items tied to public television.
2227. Scott Bond reports that registration for Bouchercon XX in Philadelphia is now closed, having reached its limit of 1,000. Those who were wise enough to have registered already can plan to attend the Sherlockian session on Saturday afternoon.
2228. Gary Lovisi's RELICS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (February 87 #4) is now available in an expanded second edition (56 pp.), concentrating on mostly recent ephemera, with brief comments on newspaper, magazine, and fanzine articles, as well as reproductions of advertising artwork, magazine covers, theater programs, and cartoons. Order from Gryphon Books, Box 209, Brooklyn, NY 11228; \$4.00 postpaid. Gary also reports that his PAPERBACK PARADE #8 (also \$4.00) has an article on "The Non-Sherlockian Paperbacks of Arthur Conan Doyle" by Roy G. James (six pages, with reproductions of some of the covers).
2229. "The whole story concerning the politician, the lighthouse, and the trained sea gulls" is not exactly the theme of Bart Forbes' design for the new "seashore" postal card, but it shows Cape Hatteras Light in North Carolina. North Carolina is also mentioned in the Canon as the locale of the Anderson murders, and the K.K.K. had branches in the Carolinas.
2230. The latest issue of Anglofile at hand, with a report that Granada's "The Devil's Foot" won an Edgar for best episode in a television series at the 1989 annual dinner of the Mystery Writers of America ("The Musgrave Ritual" won a similar Edgar last year). In Anglofile's own British Entertainment Awards, Jeremy Brett was voted the best television actor, and "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" tied for best television series (with "All Creatures Great and Small"). Anglofile covers British television, stage, film, and video, and is published bi-monthly by the Goody Press, Box 33515, Decatur, GA 30033 (\$10.00 a year).
2231. Travelers to Edinburgh who seek out the Conan Doyle pub will find that it has been renamed: it is now the Cafe a la Ronde. We do not know whether the pub's rather scanty Doylean decorations have been retained.
2232. But Conan Doyle *is* remembered in Edinburgh. There is a plaque on the wall of a hotel near Conan Doyle's birthplace at 11 Picardy Place, and another at 23 George Square, where he lived from 1876 to 1880. Nothing came of the plans to commission sculptor Eduardo Paolozzi to design a memorial to Conan Doyle in the center of the traffic circle where 11 Picardy Place once stood (September 87 #5), but the Edinburgh Evening News now reports that the Edinburgh branch of the Federation of Master Builders want to commemorate their 50th anniversary (in 1991) by donating a statue of Sherlock Holmes to the city. The bronze statue is expected to cost £35,000.
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June 1989 #4

2233. "The Agent must keep on Sh'lockin'," reports the proprietor of the Pequod Press, announcing a new episode from the memoirs of Turlock Loams. THE NAPA VALLEY MYSTERY offers Dr. Fatso's revelation of the malefic consequences of the sinister researches of Victor Gravenstein, a young botanist from Calistoga, and the book is available from John Ruyle, 521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707; \$29.50 cloth, \$14.50 paper.
2234. Johns Hopkins (1795-1873) was a 19th-century merchant, banker and investor, and philanthropist, who gave \$7 million to fund a hospital, university, and medical school in Baltimore, and there has been a proposal for a Canonical connection. "But all have wondered just what Holmes was doing between the time he left the university and his taking rooms in Montague Street," Christopher Morley suggested in his essay "Was Sherlock Holmes an American?" (Saturday Review of Literature, July 21, 1934). "My own thought is that the opening of the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore in 1876, and the extraordinary and informal opportunities offered there for graduate study, tempted him across the water." Bradbury Thompson designed our new \$1.00 regular issue.
2235. A report from the 1989 convention of the American Booksellers Association (never again to be held in Washington, unless a new convention center is built, because the one we have now is too small): the next twelve months are unlikely to be considered "The Year of the Book" by Sherlockians, since L. B. Greenwood's new pastiche SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE THISTLE OF SCOTLAND (due in October from Simon and Schuster) appears to be the only new book planned by a commercial publisher.
2236. We are, however, entering the age of audio: according to one publisher's statistics, more than three million portable audio-cassette players are used by consumers today in the United States, and more than 70% of all new cars sold in the United States in 1988 came equipped with audio-cassette players. In S'ian audio, Simon and Schuster are pleased with sales of their continuing series of Rathbone-Bruce radio shows from the 1940s, Dove Books on Tape is releasing A TREASURY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: A COLLECTION OF SEVEN GREAT STORIES read by Ben Kingsley on four cassettes, Great American Audio Corp. has THE BEST OF SHERLOCK HOLMES VOL. II with four stories read (by an unidentified reader) on four cassettes, and Dercum Press is ready to issue THE SIGN OF THE FOUR read by William Barker on four cassettes.
2237. Caedmon has nothing new planned, but will repackage earlier audio material (Basil Rathbone's SHERLOCK HOLMES SOUNDBOOK, Nicol Williamson's THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, and John Wood's SHERLOCK HOLMES' ADVENTURES. Academy Chicago is preparing the third volume in their series of trade-paperback reprints of Basil Copper's Solar Pons pastiches. Troll Associates will release four video cassettes with SHERLOCK HOLMES' MOST THRILLING CASES at \$14.95 each (these are the Australian animations of Stud, Sign, Houn, and Vall, with Peter O'Toole as Holmes). Eternity is working on collections of their comic-book reprints of the 1950s comic strips, aiming for bookstore sales. And Iron Crown Enterprises confirmed that their series of "Sherlock Holmes Solo Mysteries" ended with seven titles in the U.S. (enthusiasm for choose-your-own-ending game-books has waned here), but there is an eighth title in the series in some foreign translations (we will report further on this when more information is available).
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2238. Another variant of Doubleday's THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES has appeared. The one-volume "Dorset Press Edition" is similar to the standard Doubleday edition (1960), but was published by Marboro Books to be sold only by B. Dalton and Barnes & Noble, at \$12.95 (discounted from \$18.95). The main distinguishing point is the statement on the title-page verso: "This edition published by Dorset Press, a division of Marboro Books Corporation, by arrangement with Doubleday, a division of Bantam Doubleday Dell Publishing Group Inc. 1988 Dorset Press." Other points: the endpapers are plain white; the binding is brown paper-covered boards with a facsimile signature of A. Conan Doyle in gold on the front cover, quarter black cloth with spine lettered in gold; and the jacket is yellow, brown, and black on much glossier stock than the earlier tan, brown, and black jacket.
2239. William B. Lemar, an energetic member of The Maiwand Jezails, died in May. He was a civil engineer, and had retired from the Army with the rank of colonel, triggering an interest in military history (S'ian and otherwise) that involved considerable correspondence with Brigadier (ret'd.) Flashman.
2240. "The Adventures at the Atheneum Club" is the title of a Sherlock Holmes Mystery Weekend scheduled at Roselawn House (part of the Donald Gordon Centre at Queen's University) in Kingston, Ontario, on Aug. 25-27, 1989. The weekend is arranged by a company specializing in English Murder Mystery Weekends, the cost is \$289 a person, and further information is available from Whodunnit Inc., 173 Camden Road, Napanee, Ont. K7R 1E1, Canada.
2241. Loren Estleman's SHERLOCK HOLMES VS. DRACULA (D4907b) is back in print, in a new printing of the Penguin paperback (214 pp., \$3.95).
2242. Marjorie Weinman Sharmat's "Nate the Great" series of children's book has another entry: NATE THE GREAT STALKS STUPIDWEED (Dell Yearling paperback, \$2.95) features the deestalkered young detective in a botanical mystery.
2243. SHERLICK HOUND AND THE VALENTINE MYSTERY, by Kelly Goldman and Ronnie Davidson, is a pleasant children's mystery, with attractive illustrations by Don Madden (Niles: Albert Whitman, 1989; 40 pp., \$7.95).
2244. There may be more Sherlockian audio in store for American listeners: Clive Brooks, who has written a series of stories read by Nick Girdler on Radio Solent in England, reports that they may eventually be available here. And his book SHERLOCK HOLMES REVISITED, with twelve stories, is to be published next spring. A demonstration cassette reveals that his stories are written and read with fine style.
2245. Gunnar E. Sundin, an active Sherlockian in Chicago, died on June 12. His SHERLOCK'S LONDON TODAY (BSJ March 86) is a fine guide-book for visitors to the London of Sherlock Holmes, and his four-sheet reprint of the Weekly Dispatch's 1861 Map of London is a valuable resource for researchers.
2246. Plan ahead: Nov. 12-19 will be National Children's Book Week, and Nov. 15 will be National Young Reader's Day, celebrated by the Library of Congress and by local libraries. Sherlockians and their societies might wish to use the occasion as an opportunity to help libraries to encourage young readers to read a good detective story.

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2247. Gary Thaden has forwarded an American reprint of a report from The Observer [London] on a proposal to renumber Baker Street so that the present No. 239 will become No. 221B. "The devilish mind behind the plot is that of John Aidiniantz, an entrepreneur" who recently placed an advertisement in Country Life: "Investor/sleeping partner required with \$4 million. World famous London landmark for sale. May suit titled person with cultural and historical interests." Aidiniantz notes that No. 239 has 17 steps leading up to the first floor, and says that he wants to set up a Sherlock Holmes Center, with a reconstruction of the sitting-room, museum, and library. The Westminster City Council announced that it will consider Aidiniantz's request, which has met with objections from the Abbey National Building Society ("we have looked after Mr. Holmes for so long that to us he is a real person") and by the Sherlock Holmes Society of London ("the location of the house where the detective lived is probably the most vexed question in the whole of the Holmes saga"). One might wonder when someone will get round to asking Aidiniantz whether the interior of No. 239, along with the 17 steps, is original, or was rebuilt after the WW2 bombing that gutted almost all of Baker Street.
2248. Travelers to France might want to plan an itinerary that includes Avignon, where, on a road between the Hotel Mercure (outside of town) and the old city, one will find the "Pub Sherlock Holmes".
2249. Judson Philips died on Mar. 7, ending a writing career that spanned fifty years. As Hugh Pentecost he wrote the short story "My Dear Uncle Sherlock" (D6051), which was later televised (D4619b), and he was the author of a truly memorable opening line for a story: "Believing in ghosts is not at all difficult. If you are one."
2250. John Pryce Figurines (132 Brookfield Road, The Acorns, Welshpool, Powys, United Kingdom) offers hand-painted figurines (5 in. high) of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson at £10.25 each.

June 1989 #7

2251. Hy Gardner died on June 17. He wrote a Broadway gossip column for the N.Y. Herald Tribune from 1951 until the paper ceased publication in 1966, and then wrote a syndicated gossip column. He also was a member of the original celebrity panel on the television program "To Tell the Truth". In 1965 Gardner provided the introduction for the WFUV-FM radio broadcast by The Priory Scholars of "The Sinister London of Sherlock Holmes" (adaptations by Chris Steinbrunner of "The Man with the Twisted Lip" and "Charles Augustus Milverton").
2252. SHERLOCK HOLMES: TWO COMPLETE ADVENTURES is a new (1989) semi-miniature book (2.75 x 3.25 in., 153 pp.) with "Five" and "Blue" (and with the title SHERLOCK HOLMES: THREE COMPLETE ADVENTURES on the dust jacket); \$4.95 in bookstores (\$7.45 postpaid from the Running Press, 125 South 22nd Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103).
2253. Plan ahead: "The Bimetallic Colloquium" will be held in Montreal on June 15-17, 1990. The weekend event will be held at McGill University, under the sponsorship of the local Sherlockian society (The Bimetallic Question), and additional information is available from Wilfrid de Freitas, Box 883, Stock Exchange Tower, Montreal H4Z 1K2, Canada.
2254. John Bryan's JAMES BOND: DID HE REALLY LIVE TWICE? (Domino Books, 1989, 130 pp., £6.95) is an examination of the echoes and parallels between the Canon (and the Rathbone films) and the saga of James Bond (in print and on film); Bryan concludes that the echoes and parallels are more than coincidental. The publisher's address is Springfield Court, New Castletown Road, Douglas, Isle of Man, Great Britain.
2255. The Eternity reprints (as SHERLOCK HOLMES CASEBOOK) of the Dell comic books NEW ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES reveal that there are variants of Dell #1245 (D6190a). Eternity has reprinted the page "Sherlock Holmes' London Haunts" from the inside back cover of their original copy of Dell #1245, which also exists with a full-page advertisement for Kellogg's OKs on the inside back cover.
2256. John H. Jenkins, the colorful Texas antiquarian book dealer, was shot to death on Apr. 16, leaving law-enforcement authorities, friends, and family arguing about whether his death was suicide or murder. His autobiography AUDUBON AND OTHER CAPERS: CONFESSIONS OF A TEXAS BOOKMAKER was published in 1976, the same year in which the John H. Jenkins Award for Bibliography, funded by Jenkins and Union College to mark his participation in an FBI sting operation that resulted in the recovery in 1971 (from Mafia thieves) of a volume of Audubon's BIRDS OF AMERICA stolen from the college library, was given to Ron De Waal for his THE WORLD BIBLIOGRAPHY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES AND DR. WATSON.

2257. The silver cigarette case inscribed "From Sherlock Holmes 1893" presented by Arthur Conan Doyle to Sidney Paget on the occasion of his wedding will be auctioned at Sotheby's in London on July 20, accompanied by a one-page letter from Conan Doyle to Paget, arranging to meet him in London, in one lot estimated at £1,500-2,000. The cigarette case was last seen at auction on July 24, 1980, when it went for £1,500 to A. K. Shiel of Edinburgh (who had earlier in the sale purchased the letter for £200).

June 1989 #8

2258. The personal essay may indeed be a vanishing literary art form, despite occasional appearances in periodicals such as the BSJ (where a fine essay by Bill Schweickert will be found in the June issue). Christopher Morley was a masterful essayist, in era when essays were widely read and enjoyed, and George Fletcher has assembled a splendid selection in CHRISTOPHER MORLEY'S NEW YORK (New York: Fordham University Press, 1988; 377 pp., \$19.95), along with a warm tribute by Morley's friend Bill Hall. There is a section of essays on The Three Hours for Lunch Club in the early 1920s (when it was far more philosophical and much less social than it was to become later in the decade after Morley had joined the founders of the Saturday Review of Literature). And the 1949 essay "On Belonging to Clubs" may surprise those who do not know, or have forgotten, just how informal an organization The Baker Street Irregulars once was.
2259. THE LIGHT IS DARK ENOUGH is a 36-page booklet prepared for this month's "Cambridge Expedition" by The Sherlock Holmes Society of London, edited by Jonathan McCafferty and offering a series of essays and illustrations of the Cantabridgean aspects of the Canon. The cost of the booklet is £8.00 (or \$17.50) postpaid from Jonathan McCafferty, 5 Jonathan Court, Windmill Road, Chiswick, London W4 1SA, England (checks payable to the Society).
2260. If the Kroger chain of supermarkets is in your area, check the egg section: Jennie Paton reports that their "symbol of eggcellence" egg cartons show an egg with deerstalker and magnifying glass.
2261. Chris Steinbrunner has a new address: Golden Hill HCC, 2028 Bridgeport Avenue, Milford, CT 06460 (203-877-0371).
2262. Oliver Bruhns' PRACTICAL HANDBOOK OF SIR A. CONAN DOYLE'S LITERARY WORKS PUBLISHED IN GERMANY, WITH SOME OBSERVATIONS UPON SHERLOCK HOLMES IN PASTICHE is a 74-page checklist of German Sherlockiana ranging from SPATE RACHE (the earliest translation, in 1902) to SHERLOCK'S SPURNASENSCHULE (EIN SESAMSTRASSEN-BUCH). The checklist is in German, with a Preface in English, and with artwork by Richard Gutschmidt (the earliest known German artist to illustrate the stories). It is available (postpaid airmail) from Oliver Bruhns (Kathe-Kollwitz-Weg 10, 2400 Lubeck 1, West Germany) for DM 10.00 (in currency or by international money order or bank draft); if you pay with a US dollar check, the cost is \$8.50.
2263. Sherlockians traveling on British Airways should not neglect the in-flight entertainment, which includes a Sherlockian "Play of the Month" in their headphone repertoire. These are 30-minute dramatizations from the Canon, adapted by Grant C. Eustace and recorded by Daedalus Productions, with Roy Marsden (Sherlock Holmes) and John Moffatt (Dr. Watson). They are nicely done, and faithful to the Canon, and there are 24 programs in the series (which began in 1987). Daedalus hopes to be able to release the series on audio cassettes eventually.
2264. A TREASURY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Dove Books on Tape) is a new four-cassette package with seven stories (Scan, RedH, Twis, Croo, Card, Copp, SixN) read by Ben Kingsley, who does a good job with his characterizations (and better with the supporting roles than with Holmes and Watson). In bookstores or direct from Dove (800-345-9945).
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July 1989 #1

2265. Press Harvard Magazine has a "Chapter and Verse" department ("a correspondence corner for not-so-famous lost words"), and in the May-June 1989 issue ran a query asking for Canonical authority for Christopher Morley's reference in his introduction to THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES to Sherlock Holmes having had earlier lodgings in Montague Street. There were more than 30 replies to the query, including one from David Musto on behalf of the Yale Sherlock Holmes Society, and the answer appeared in the July-August issue. Not all the queries are literary: the current issue also asks for the words to a song about "My Little Papaya Tree" (sung to the tune of "The Twelve Days of Christmas") once heard on the radio.
2266. Julian Symons' Sheridan Haynes pastiche THE KENTISH MANOR MURDERS is now available in paperback (New York: Penguin Books, 1989; 191 pp., \$3.95).
2267. THE ROAD TO KHARTOUM: A LIFE OF GENERAL CHARLES GORDON, by Charles Chenevix Trench, first published by Norton in 1978, has been reissued as a trade paperback by Carroll and Graf (320 pp., \$10.95), and will be of interest to those who recall Watson's newly-framed picture of Gordon.
2268. Bernie O'Heir reports that recent one-sheet movie posters are available from Jerry Ohlinger (242 West 14th Street, New York, NY 10011): "Murder by Decree" (\$30.00), "Young Sherlock Holmes" (\$15.00), and "Without a Clue" (\$10.00). Shipping costs per order are \$3.00 (UPS) and \$4.00 (USPS).
2269. John Bennett Shaw reports a handsome Sherlockian ring, designed and hand-crafted by Roger Worland (Touchstone Jewellery, 49 Bouldrewood Road, Benfleet, Essex SS7 5UA, England) in solid 14-carat gold. The ring costs £125.00 postpaid, including insurance and U.S. import duty. Mr. Worland has designed lapel pins for The Northern Musgraves and The Arthur Conan Doyle Society, and welcomes commissions from other societies.
2270. Eve Titus' BASIL AND THE LOST COLONY (New York: Pocket Books/Minstrel, 1989; 96 pp., \$2.50), is the second in a series of new trade-paperback editions, with new color cover art by Judith Sutton.
2271. Jim Backus, who provided the voice for the nearsighted Mr. Quincy Magoo, died on July 3. In a 1964 sequence for the television series "Mr. Magoo's Storybook" (D6098b), Backus played Magoo as Dr. Watson, and the episode is available on the videocassette "Mr. Magoo...Man of Mystery" (Paramount Home Video).
2272. Paulette Greene, still preparing for her move to Florida, invites queries from anyone interested in a nine-room English Tudor house, with a slate roof and five bedrooms, in a nice part of Long Island: 140 Princeton Road, Rockville Centre, NY 11570.
2273. Reported: WONDER BEARS TREASURE CHEST OF FUN (four books to read and color, for children ages 4-8) with a Wonder Bear in S'ian costume on the cover (Mahwah: Troll Associates, \$4.95).
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July 1989 #2

2274. A bibliographic query: I have seen two copies, in dust jacket, of Blakeney's SHERLOCK HOLMES: FACT OR FICTION? (London: John Murray, 1932) with a laid-in promotional flier for Bell's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND DOCTOR WATSON: A CHRONOLOGY OF THEIR ADVENTURES. Wondering whether this is more than mere coincidence, I would appreciate hearing from anyone who has a copy of Blakeney's book, letting me know whether or not the book is in dust jacket, and whether or not the book includes the laid-in flier.
2275. Kate Karlson Redmond has found some new S'ian items: authentic HOLMES neckties (\$15.00), lapel pins (\$4.00), and mechanical pencils (\$2.00), all with an appropriate silhouette and a HOLMES inscription. This HOLMES is the Home Office Large Major Enquiry System, a computerized case-management data-base system designed in Britain and used for "major-incident investigations" there and now in Toronto. Prices are in US dollars

- and include postage, and orders can be sent to Sgt. David A. Reinhardt, 76 Lord Simcoe Drive, Bramalea, Ont. L6S 5G6, Canada. The necktie is navy blue with white HOLMES design (and a red maple leaf to show you're not advertising the British system).
2276. Ben Wright died in July. British by birth, he arrived in Hollywood in 1946, and was a splendid radio actor. In the 1946-47 season he appeared in various roles in the ABC series "The New Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (D5463a) and on one occasion, when Tom Conway was ill, replaced Conway as Holmes. On Feb. 12, 1949, he played the detective (Inspector Collins) in an adaptation of "The Lost Special" in the CBS series "Escape", and in the 1949-50 season he played Holmes in the ABC series "Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (D5466a). In 1977 he was cast as Watson in "The Sherlock Holmes Radio Theatre", a series planned by KIIS (Los Angeles); only seven programs were recorded, and the series was never broadcast. Ben Wright recorded the introduction for the record album "The New Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" produced by 221A Baker Street Associates in 1986, and his introductions and comments can also be heard on three of the 221A audio cassettes distributed by Simon and Schuster.
2277. The 221A audio cassettes have also had some nice publicity. On June 23 the ABC series "The Radio Show" included a one-hour segment in which Tom Snyder interviewed Glenhall Taylor and Harry Bartell (with some discussion of the Rathbone/Bruce series, and much more about old-time radio in general), and on July 9 the television series "Entertainment This Week" included a fourminute segment on Leonard Maltin's visit to a recording session for new introductions for future cassettes. And a long story on the series, in the Chicago Tribune (July 2), reports that the first cassette in the series has sold an estimated 25,000-30,000 copies in the first three months (I think that estimate may be highly optimistic, but only 10,000 copies is regarded as a best-seller for an audio cassette).
2278. Rick Hacker reports that THE ULTIMATE PIPE BOOK (May 85 #1) is scheduled for a second (revised) edition in September (with discussion of Sherlock Holmes' smoking habits), and that the summer 1989 issue of Carey's Club News has an article (with a photograph) about his presentation of the Pipe Smoker of the Year Award to Jeremy Brett. Carey's Club is a mail-order pipe-and-tobacco club, and the address (attn: Denise Drumm) is 7245 Whipple Avenue NW, North Canton, OH 44720.

July 1989 #3

2279. Duncan Kyle's political thriller THE DANCING MEN is now on the remainder tables at \$1.98. The book is non-Sherlockian, except for the title, but it is possible to put together an interesting collection of such books, which might include A CASE OF IDENTITY (by Leonard Brain and by Richard Marsh), THE CROOKED MAN (by Shelley Smith), THE EMPTY HOUSE (by Michael Gilbert, by Francis Grierson, and by Irina Karlova), THE VALLEY OF FEAR (by John Creasey, by Francis Addington Symonds, and by Robin Gar), and THE YELLOW FACE (by William Murray Graydon). There are also THE CRIMSON CIRCLE (by Edgar Wallace), THE SCARLET CIRCLE (by Jonathan Stagge), COPPER BEECH (by Ariadne Thompson), WISTERIA COTTAGE (by Robert M. Coates), and THE DANCING MAN (by P. M. Hubbard). Many of these titles were reported by the late John Nieminski (November 86 #1). Can anyone add to the list?
2280. One of my correspondents notes that Americans and British use different formats for writing dates: 12-25-88 (American) and 25-12-88 (British). It doesn't make much difference when it's Christmas, but a date written as 07-01-88 can be confusing. Does anyone know why the formats differ, and how they evolved? What formats are used in other countries?
2281. SHERLOCK HOLMES BY GAS-LAMP: HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FIRST FOUR DECADES OF THE BAKER STREET JOURNAL, edited by Philip A. Shreffler (New York: Fordham University Press, 1989; 423 pp., \$22.50), demonstrates in many ways why the world of Sherlockians is so interesting. For an older generation it serves as a reminder of how important the BSJ has been to those who played the Sherlockian game, and for younger Sherlockians it offers fine examples of the wit and intelligence and devotion that have been and still are brought to that game by those who play it in the traditions of its inventors. The book offers an informative and appreciative account of the history of the BSJ, and a thoroughly successful selection that cannot have been easy to make. Recommended.
2282. 26 programs from the Granada series are now available on video cassette in Britain, on 16 cassettes at £9.99 each, according to the current program for "The Secret of Sherlock Holmes" at Wyndham's Theatre. The British use PAL format, so the cassettes won't play on American or Japanese machines (which use NTSC format); only the first six programs have been issued here.
2283. Mel Blanc died on July 10, after more than fifty years of providing voices for many of the most popular cartoon characters on film and television (and the sound of the wheezing Maxwell automobile on Jack Benny's radio series). His characters included Daffy Duck and Porky Pig, and he is heard in the films "The Great Piggy Bank Robbery" (1945) and "Deduce, You Say!" (1956).
2284. GRANADA COMPANION NUMBER ONE: A SHERLOCK HOLMES ALBUM is the 40-page album published by Karizma in 1987, with an introduction by Vincent Price, and articles by Kenneth Harris, plus many color photographs of actors, sets, and scenery, now available for \$7.95 postpaid from Ming Books, 225 South 18th Street #1502, Philadelphia, PA 19103; they take Visa and Mastercard.
2285. There's nothing Sherlockian about the latest nutritional advisory, but it's a fascinating idea: don't eat or drink anything advertised on television. It it was good for you, they wouldn't have to spend all that money to get you to buy it.

July 1989 #4

2286. SHERLOCK HOLMES: A STUDY IN SCARLET is a new "graphic novel" (\$5.95) with "A Study in Scarlet" (adapted by James Stenstrum, and illustrated by Noly Panaligan) and "The Singular Case of the Anemic Heir" (written by William B. Dubay and Kevin Duane, and illustrated by Anton Caravana). If it's not stocked by your local comic-book shop, the publisher is Innovation Books, 3622 Jacob Street, Wheeling, WV 26003.
2287. Laurence Olivier died on July 11. He was a great actor, both in leading roles and as a supporting character, on stage and screen and television, including a bewildered and persecuted Professor Moriarty in the film "The Seven-Per-Cent Solution" (1976). He was honored by his fellow-actors and his country (he had received a life peerage), and his ashes will be buried in Westminster Abbey.
2288. The fifth audio cassette in the 221A series, already shipped to those who subscribed to the series through American Express, will be in book stores in August (or you can order from Simon & Schuster at 800-678-2677). The cassette (\$9.95) has "The Amateur Mendicant Society" (Apr. 2, 1945) and "The Vanishing Elephant" (Oct. 8, 1945), both available for the first time since they originally aired.
2289. At hand from Gary Westmoreland is a wire service report with welcome news that Peter Cushing says he has "confounded science in his fight against cancer and now has a clean bill of health." His prostate cancer is in remission and he is less dependent on medication: "I was on so many pills for so long, I was in danger of becoming a drug addict." A 90-minute TV documentary on Cushing was broadcast in Britain on June 4.
2290. Troll Associates continue to add S'ian titles to their series of "Watermill Classics" paperbacks, which now includes ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES and THE BEST OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1980, each with six stories), THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (1980), GREAT DETECTIVE STORIES (1986, with "Bosc" and four stories by other authors), THE SIGN OF FOUR (1987), and A STUDY IN SCARLET (1987). The books have appropriate color covers and cost \$1.95 each, and the publisher is Watermill Press, 100 Corporate Drive, Mahwah, NJ 07430.

2291. Hirotaka Ueda's continuing "EQ Sherlockiana" column began in the Mar. 1980 issue of the bimonthly Japanese edition of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine, and the first 49 columns, each with an imaginative Sherlockian sketch by the author, have now been collected in SHERLOCK HOLMES DAIHAKURANKAI (ISBN 4-489-00262-9), published in 1988 by Tokyo Tosho (2-5-22, Suido, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 112, Japan) (Y2,800).
2292. Further to the report (June 89 #1) on the file of National Holmesian Events for Traveling Sherlockians maintained by Brian and Charlotte Erickson in their computer, their correct address is: 726 Sutter Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94303.
2293. Studio Gallery Decorative Editions (50 Caledonian Road, Kings Cross, London N1 9DP, England) offers a "Portrayals of Sherlock Holmes" bone-china plate (in two sizes) with portraits of nineteen actors who have portrayed Holmes. The prices (postpaid by surface mail) are £22.00 (27.5 cm) and £18.00 (20.5 cm), with payment in sterling required. An illustrated flier is available.
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July 1989 #5

2294. David L. Hammer's THE 22ND MAN: IN RE SHERLOCK HOLMES: GERMAN AGENT (Gasogene Press, 1989; 125 pp., \$15.95), is an entertaining extrapolation of his earlier articles on Sherlock Holmes' ancestry and on the possibility that Holmes was a German secret agent before and during the Great War. Hammer's sense of style and place and humor, already known to readers of his S'ian travel books, are all present in this account, with an added point-counterpoint exchange with Jon L. Lellenberg reprinted from the BSJ. The publisher's address is Box 1041, Dubuque, IA 52004.
2295. News from Britain: the Crowborough Cross, an old coaching pub near Conan Doyle's home at Windlesham, is being refurbished, and part of the pub will be renamed The Conan Doyle Rooms. Malcolm Frame, a local admirer of Conan Doyle, hopes to fill the rooms with photographs and memorabilia.
2296. Dick Rutter, our far-flung European correspondent, reports that "Holmes Investigation" is a firm of private detectives in Turin, Italy, staffed entirely by women (except for Bubu, the office dog).
2297. A new mailing at hand from Peter E. Melonas, offering Sherlockian prints, posters, T-shirts, deerstalkers, audio, and the reissue of Rathbone's IN AND OUT OF CHARACTER. If you're not already on his mailing list, you can write to him at the Sherlock Holmes Tobacco Shop, 1726-A Sycamore Square Mall, Memphis, TN 38134.
2298. Himan Brown, who created the radio mystery series "The Inner Sanctum" in the 1930s, was inducted into the Emerson Radio Hall of Fame in June. In 1977 he produced and directed the "CBS Radio Mystery Theater" (which ran for more than five years and included at least a dozen Canonical stories and, in 1980, a fine "Nightmare in Gillette Castle" with Kevin McCarthy as both William Gillette and Sherlock Holmes). And at Bouchercon in New York in 1977 he presented a fine talk on "How I Invented Radio Mystery", with an interesting demonstration of sound effects from radio's early days.
2299. Elizabeth Peters, who has written five fine mysteries about Egyptologist Amelia Peabody Emerson, has an intriguing story in the anthology SISTERS IN CRIME, edited by Marilyn Wallace (New York: Berkley Books, 1989; 306 pp., \$3.95). "The Locked Tomb Mystery" is set in ancient Egypt, in the days of the pharaoh Nebmaatre, and the mystery is solved with careful Sherlockian deduction by the sage and scholar Amenhotep Sa Hapu, with the assistance of his friend Wadjsen.
2300. Elizabeth Peters' five mystery novels about Amelia Peabody Emerson, set in Victorian England and Egypt and written with style and humor, are CROCODILE ON THE SANDBANK (1975), THE CURSE OF THE PHARAOHS (1981), THE MUMMY CASE (1985), LION IN THE VALLEY (1986), and THE DEEDS OF THE DISTURBER (1988). THE CURSE OF THE PHARAOHS opens with the death of Sir Henry Baskerville ("of the Norfolk Baskervilles, not the Devonshire branch of the family") during an excavation in Egypt (two members of his staff are epigrapher Karl von Bork and photographer Charles Milverton). THE MUMMY CASE offers two passing allusions to the Canon. LION IN THE VALLEY includes an appearance by a lean, hawk-nosed, private investigator named (or claiming to be named) Tobias Gregson. And THE DEEDS OF THE DISTURBER ends with a pleasant echo from the Canon.
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July 1989 #6

2301. There's a new commercial videocassette: "Sherlock Hound in Tales of Mystery" from Celebrity Home Entertainment (\$39.95 suggested retail in your neighborhood video store). This is the first release in the United States of the series co-produced by TMS (Japan) and RAI (Italy), and the cassette (not yet seen) probably contains four tales. One of the tales was broadcast here by HBO in 1983, and many are available on cassettes in Britain, and they are nicely done: the stories are amusing, the characters are all dogs, and the animation is first-rate (as usual from Japan).
2302. Further to the report (March 89 #5) on the British government's proposal that Britain's six largest brewers be required to sell most of their "tied pubs" (Whitbread's "The Sherlock Holmes" in London is one of them), an uproar of outraged protest has forced the government into an embarrassed surrender. The protesters included the Bishop of Truro, who argued in the House of Lords that the pub "has served local needs as nothing else has, including the church," and compared the possible loss of the nation's pubs to the dissolution of the monasteries.
2303. The third running of The Silver Blaze at Canterbury Downs in Shakopee will be held on Aug. 26 (near Minneapolis). Contact: Bruce E. Southworth, 822 South 2nd Street, Stillwater, MN 55082.
2304. "Sherlock Holmes: The Musical" closed on July 8, after a run of about 11 weeks at the Cambridge Theatre in London, not even close to the record for the shortest run for a Sherlockian stage production (that record is held by Basil Rathbone's "Sherlock Holmes", which closed after only 3 performances at the New Century Theatre in New York in 1953). "Baker Street" (the first major Sherlockian musical) ran for about 39 weeks at the Broadway Theatre in New York in 1965.
2305. Further to the report (June 89 #8) on the guide-book for the Sherlock Holmes Society of London's tour of Cambridge, a similar visit was made to Oxford in 1988, and a few copies of the 1988 guide-book (A STUDY IN DARK BLUE) are still available for \$16.80 postpaid, from Mrs. Margaret Bird, 193 Richmond Road, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey KT2 5DD, England.
2306. The Norwegian Explorers have a new lapel pin, nicely executed in multi-color enamel. The price is \$5.00 and you can order from The Norwegian Explorers, Special Collections, Wilson Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455.
2307. The N.Y. Times Book Review celebrated summer vacations by asking several writers what character (or characters) in fiction or history they would most like to travel with, and why. Stephen King chose Sherlock Holmes: "It would be fascinating to view American life through his deductive eyes." And David Mamet wanted to take a long train journey with Mrs. Lecount (the archvillain in the Wilkie Collins novel "No Name"): "She is, in my estimation, the most despicable and the smartest fiend ever to trouble the reading public. She sees through every disguise, foresees and nullifies every strategy. She is self-interest without shame, an artist of the ego. She makes Professor Moriarty seem, at best, naughty."
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August 1989 #1

2308. The silver cigarette case inscribed "From Sherlock Holmes 1893" presented by Arthur Conan Doyle to Sidney Paget on the occasion of his wedding went to auction at Sotheby's in London on July 20, accompanied by a one-page letter from Conan Doyle to Paget, arranging to meet him in London, in one lot estimated at £1,500-2,000. The new owner (as yet unidentified) paid £12,000 for the lot, according to Bob Hess. The cigarette case was last seen at auction on July 24, 1980, when it went for £1,500 to A. K. Shiel of Edinburgh (who had earlier in the sale purchased the letter for £200).
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2309. News from Britain: a new edition of Conan Doyle's MEMORIES AND ADVENTURES has been published by Oxford University Press (£5.95).
2310. "Sherlock Holmes: The Musical" may have had a relatively short run at the Cambridge Theatre in London, but the show may go on elsewhere, according to the musical's author, Leslie Bricusse, who told the Daily Mail: "We've had an offer to take our entire London production to Japan, where I'm told they go crazy for Holmes!"
2311. Cinemacabre #7 (fall 1988) includes a long interview by Bernie O'Heir with Reginald LeBorg, who has directed many fine horror and fantasy films, and discusses his work with Basil Rathbone (on non-Sherlockian films). The cost is \$4.35 postpaid, from Cinemacabre, Box 10005, Baltimore, MD 21285.
2312. A new catalog of animated-film artwork at hand from Gallery Lainzberg (200 Guaranty Building, Third Avenue & Third Street SE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52401) (800-553-9995); production cels from "The Great Mouse Detective" are still available (\$425), and a limited-edition cel showing a deerstalkered Pink Panther (\$395).
2313. Repeating (from July 89 #4) (because these special-offer prices apply only to enquiries received before the end of September): Studio Gallery Decorative Editions (50 Caledonian Road, Kings Cross, London N1 9DP, England) offers a "Portrayals of Sherlock Holmes" bone-china plate (in two sizes) with portraits of nineteen actors who have portrayed Holmes. The prices (postpaid by surface mail) are £22.00 (27.5 cm) and £18.00 (20.5 cm), with payment in sterling required. An illustrated flier is available.
2314. News from Los Angeles: the new host of the PBS-TV series "Mystery!" will be Diana Rigg.
2315. R. Dana Batory and William A. S. Sarjeant are the authors of a five-page article on "Sussex *Iguanodon* Footprints and the Writing of *The Lost World*" in DINOSAUR TRACKS AND TRACES, edited by David D. Gillette and Martin G. Lockley (Cambridge University Press, 1989; \$59.50). Their article notes the discovery in 1909 of dinosaur footprints near Conan Doyle's home, and discusses the development (and scientific accuracy) of his story.
2316. Discovered by Ely Liebow: ALEFBET POP-UP AND STORY BOOK, by Sol Scharfstein (Hoboken: KTAV Publishing House, 1984; \$10.95 postpaid); one page features Sherlock Sholom (the world's smartest detective) foiling his nemesis Dr. Tippish. The publisher's address is Box 6249, Hoboken, NJ 07030.

August 1989 #2

2317. Ken Greenwald reports that WBAI-FM (the New York outpost of the Pacifica network) is planning to broadcast about three hours of Sherlockian programming on Sept. 10 or 17, with the schedule to include the symposium on "Sherlock Holmes on American Radio" recorded at Sherlockon II in Torrance, Calif., in 1987, and live interviews with some of the people involved with producing the 221A audio cassettes.
2318. Readers who have seen earlier issues of these mailings will no doubt have noticed that The Spermaceti Press is using a new printer. The stalwart Epson RX-80 has been replaced by a Panasonic KX-P1124 that can pretend it is a typewriter, and do fairly well at it. It is also possible to print on single sheets of paper or on envelopes without taking the fan-fold paper out of the machine, and there are some other nice features, such as being able to change the printer's configuration using a control panel located on the front of the machine (rather than dip switches).
2319. For those of you who do not use computers and do not know why the absence of dip switches is a nice feature, the reason is that the personal computer was invented and designed by people who like to take things apart and mess around with the innards. They used tiny "dual in-line package" switches to set printers to do italics or graphics, and to decide whether to advance the paper automatically, and other things like that, and in order to change the settings it was necessary to take the printer apart. It did not take long for people who don't like to take things apart to point out that this arrangement is rather annoying, but it took quite a while for the designers to take the hint.
2320. Rex Harrison, who was considered for the role of Sherlock Holmes in the early stages of planning for both the musical "Baker Street" and the Leslie Bricusse musical, received a knighthood from Queen Elizabeth in July.
2321. The Library of Congress is running a series honoring "The Films of 1939", including "The Saint in London". "What Basil Rathbone is to Sherlock Holmes, so George Sanders is to Leslie Charteris' reformed master thief Simon Templar," the program notes suggest. "Sanders infuses this 'B' film character with so much of his casual, amoral brilliance that he suggests what A. Conan Doyle's Moriarity might be like if he decided to take a hiatus from Holmes and match wits with the criminal class for a while."
2322. THE LAST BOOKMAN (D4625a), the fine tribute to Vincent Starrett published by Peter A. Ruber in 1968, is not seen all that often in dealer's catalogs. Fred Mende (1214 Tarrington Avenue, Charlotte, NC 28205) offers two copies, in mint condition with slightly worn dust jackets, at \$37.00 each postpaid.
2323. An illustrated flier at hand for a new Sherlockian T-shirt, from Judith A. Culligan, 120 West Pacific Street, Appleton, WI 54911. Also a report that a letter to her at that address was returned, marked "doesn't live here any more." If anyone knows where she does live now, please let me know.
2324. PREMIER POPS: HENRY MANCINI is a new audio cassette (Denon CC-72320), also available as a CD (Denon CO-2320): Mancini conducts the Royal Philharmonic Pops Orchestra in selections from his own music, including the main title from "The Great Mouse Detective".

August 1989 #3

2325. A bibliographic query about George Annand's dust-jacket artwork and endpaper "A Map of Sherlock Holmes's London" used in the first edition of THE BOYS' SHERLOCK HOLMES (D657a). First printing: light green cloth (decorated in blue), plain white endpapers, dated 1936 on the title page, stated as "first edition" on the title-page verso with the code "L-L" [Nov. 1936]. Later printing: white dust-jacket (decorated in red and black with design by Annand), light green cloth (decorated in dark green), white endpapers (with the Annand map in black), no date on the title page, no edition statement on the title-page verso but with the code "C-I" [Mar. 1959]. Does anyone have a copy of the first printing with Annand's dustjacket and map, or with any other dust-jacket and plain white endpapers? Does anyone have a copy of a later printing, with a code other than "C-I" (with or without the dust-jacket and map)?
2326. The second edition of THE BOYS' SHERLOCK HOLMES (D658a) has red endpapers (with the Annand map in white), and the title-page verso code "G-L" [July 1961]. The dust-jacket design is not by Annand, and at least one later printing of the second edition is known, coded I-Q [Sept. 1966].
2327. Scott and Sherry Rose Bond, who met Jeremy Brett during their "Return of Sherlock Holmes Tour" in June, report that Brett has interesting plans after "The Secret of Sherlock Holmes" closes in December and after he and Hardwicke make six new programs for Granada. They will revive the play at the end of 1990 and bring it to the United States for a one-year tour, starting on the west coast and working eastward. And when that tour ends, Granada executive producer Michael Cox (who is planning to leave Granada) and Granada art designer Mike Grimes and Brett and Hardwicke will make a full-length Sherlock Holmes film (from the Canon, Brett said, because he will never, never appear in a pastiche). On the other hand:
2328. Joan Kerins reports that Jeremy Brett, in a BBC radio interview broadcast on July 18, said that his "breathing's gone" because he has to smoke so much on stage, and "pigeon" his chest to achieve Holmes' long, thin look. He also said that he had decided to stop playing Holmes "altogether" come Christmas. However: it has also been reported, by someone who has dined with Brett, that he smokes much more off-stage than on.

2329. In what year was "The Sign of Four" first published?
2330. Plan ahead: the 1990 celebration of Sherlock Holmes's birthday will be held on Friday, January 12, 1990. And the Hotel Algonquin has arranged, at the request of Tom Stix, for a limited number of rooms (\$140 a room, single or double occupancy). To take advantage of the offer, call the Algonquin at 800-548-0345 to make reservations, telling them that you are attending the Sherlock Holmes weekend.
2331. THE BOOK OF THE DEAD, by Robert Richardson (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1989; 192 pp., \$14.95), is a pleasant murder mystery set in today's Lake District and tied to a Sherlock Holmes story written in 1894 and published by Conan Doyle in an edition of only ten copies, all of which he presented to his godson as a christening present. The pastiche is included in the novel, and shows more imagination and style (the author is English) than many others in the genre.
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August 1989 #4

2332. "OCLC" is an abbreviation well-known to librarians, and the Online Computer Library Center is a cooperative computerized data base that now has more than 20 million entries in its Online Union Catalog. An article on the "Top 100 Authors in the OCLC Database" in the May-June 1988 issue of the OCLC Newsletter listed Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in that ranking, as #38 (with Jules Verne as #37 and Horace as #39). You are invited to pause for a moment to guess who the first five authors might be.
2333. Additional research by the OCLC staff has revealed that in 1988 there were 2,594 entries for Conan Doyle as an author, in various languages, editions, and formats, ranging from his contribution to Grant Allen's HILDA WADE: A WOMAN WITH TENACITY OF PURPOSE (1900) to Darryl F. Zanuck's "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (1939). The database entries represent cataloging by member libraries who thought the item they had was different enough from extant records to warrant a new entry in the OCLC, so there is occasional duplication among the entries, but the listing is a fascinating display and a fine demonstration of how useful such a database can be to librarians.
2334. And the first five authors in the top 100? William Shakespeare (with more than 15,000 entries), Charles Dickens, Sir Walter Scott, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, and Aristotle.
2335. In what year was "The Sign of Four" first published? It is well known that "The Sign of the Four" appeared in Lippincott's Monthly Magazine in Feb. 1890, and that "The Sign of Four" was serialized in The Bristol Observer in May, June, and July 1890, but there is an authoritative report that the story was first published earlier than 1890. Unfortunately, no copy of the first appearance of "The Sign of Four" has been found, as is the case with the first appearance of "A Study in Scarlet" that preceded the reprint in Beeton's Christmas Annual for 1887. Credit Michael J. Halm, editor of The Norbury Chronicle (the newsletter of The Holmesian Studies Special Interest Group) for observing the statement by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (and surely Sir Arthur should be regarded as an authority), in the Mar. 1927 issue of The Strand Magazine and in his preface to THE CASE BOOK OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, that "Holmes made his debut in *A Study in Scarlet* and in *The Sign of Four*, two small booklets which appeared between 1887 and 1889."
2336. Ben Wood, the BSI's chaplain, editor and publisher of The Bohemian Scandal Sheet, and enthusiastic philatelist, hopes to start a "Holmes on Stamps" study unit in the American Topical Association. Ten members of the ATA are needed for official status, and ATA members are invited to write to Ben at Box 740, Ellenton, FL 34222.
2337. John Ruyle, feverishly buttering his parsnips at the Pequod Press, has announced the latest case in Dr. Fatso's continuing memoirs of Turlock Loams. THE MUSCATEL RITUAL is available from the publisher, at 521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707; \$30.00 (cloth) or \$15.00 (paper).
2338. Gaston Leroux's THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA, with a Foreword by Peter Haining and reprints of two articles about the Phantom's Sherlockian connections, by David M. Rush (D4170a) and Barbara Goldfield (D4158a), published earlier in Britain (March 88 #3), is available here in a cloth-bound discount edition (New York: Dorset Press, 1988; 264 pp., \$4.98).
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August 1989 #5

2339. MCA Home Video is planning to expand its list of Abbott-and-Costello films, and next month will issue a \$19.95 cassette of their 1942 film "Who Done It?" Abbott and Costello played radio writers involved in a murder case, and appeared in Sherlockian costume in publicity stills and advertisements (though not in the film). The only Sherlockian aspect of the film is the statement by one of the other actors that "I could devise a murder that would baffle even Sherlock Holmes."
2340. Further to the report (July 89 #6) on the new videocassette "Sherlock Hound in Tales of Mystery" from Celebrity Home Entertainment: if your local video shop doesn't know where the company is, the address is 6320 Canoga Avenue, 17th floor, Box 4112, Woodland Hills, CA 91365.
2341. Marjorie Weinman Sharmat's Nate the Great is enjoying summer on the beach and detecting again (though without his usual deerstalker), in NATE THE GREAT AND THE BORING BEACH BAG (New York: Dell, 1989; 48 pp., \$2.95).
2342. Kilgore Trout's VENUS ON THE HALF-SHELL, first published in 1975, is again available, in a new paperback edition (New York: Bantam, 1988; 178 pp., \$3.95), with a new introduction by Philip Jose Farmer, who wrote the book with permission from Kurt Vonnegut. There's a Sherlockian connection (a complicated Sherlockian connection): Kilgore Trout is a sad-sack sciencefiction author who appears in three of Vonnegut's books (and VENUS ON THE HALF-SHELL is mentioned in Vonnegut's GOD BLESS YOU, MR. ROSEWATER. In Farmer's version (the only published version) of VENUS ON THE HALF-SHELL, the hero is Simon Wagstaff, who admires the work of Jonathan Swift Somers III. And Jonathan Swift Somers III has written two stories of interest to Sherlockians: "A Scarlet Study" (D4915b) and "The Doge Whose Barque Was Worse Than His Bight" (D4913b). There is, however, one link missing from the circular chain: Ralph von Wau Wau, the protagonist in Somers' stories, was going to write a story about a writer named Shorter Vondergut, but Kurt Vonnegut and Philip Jose Farmer had a falling-out, and the story was never written. Farmer's new introduction explains who Jonathan Swift Somers I and Jonathan Swift Somers II were, and much much more.
2343. A new sales list at hand from David L. Hammer for the titles in print and scheduled from the Gasogene Press. If you are not already on his mailing list, you can write to him at Box 1041, Dubuque, IA 52004.
2344. Plan well ahead: Bouchercon XXI will be held on Sept. 21-23, 1990, at Kings College in London, and will include (according to a recent announcement) visits to the Black Museum, the Ripper's London, and the haunts of Sherlock Holmes. Details on advance discount membership and discount air travel are available from Ming Books, 225 South 18th Street #1502, Philadelphia, PA 19103 (or from Bouchercon XXI, 1 Penrose Avenue, Carpenders Park, Watford, Herts. WD1 5AE, England).
2345. Further to the report from the American Booksellers Association convention on the "Sherlock Holmes Solo Mysteries" (June 89 #4), Iron Crown Enterprises reports that the first five titles have been published in translation in Germany, Japan, Spain, Italy, France, and Sweden. THE LOST HEIR, by Milt Creighton (the eighth and last title in the series), was not published in the United States, but will appear, eventually, in Germany and Japan.
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August 1989 #6

2346. On Oct. 2, 1987, the National Library of Medicine held a fine symposium on "Images of the Health Professions in the Popular Arts" (in honor of the centennial of the National Institutes of Health), and one of the participants was Dr. David F. Musto, who gave an interesting lecture on "The Physician in the Mystery Story: The Case of John H. Watson, M.D.". The lecture is now available on VHS on interlibrary loan (use the lecture title and call number WZ 330 VC #6 1987), and your local library can write to the National Library of Medicine, Collection Access Section, 8600 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20894. You can also ask your librarian to copy the cassette for you (the cassette was produced by an agency of the U.S. government, and thus is not protected by copyright).
2347. Andrew Fusco reports that Bill Rabe appeared on the "Today" show on NBC-TV on August 4, offering a guided tour of the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island (where Bill is the official island historian). The tour included a visit to the hotel's presidential suite, in which no president has yet stayed.
2348. Reported by Tom Stix: Sherlock Hemlock solves "The Mystery of the Missing Muffins" in ON MY WAY WITH SESAME STREET: MY ABC'S. This is the first in a new fifteen-volume series published by Children's Television Workshop/Funk & Wagnalls and available in supermarkets.
2349. Further to the report (July 89 #2) on the second (revised) edition of Rick Hacker's THE ULTIMATE PIPE BOOK, the book is due in tobacco and pipe shops in mid-September, priced at \$19.95. If you would like an autographed copy, write to Rick Hacker, Box 634, Beverly Hills, CA 90213 (\$23.00 postpaid). The book will have a detailed description of Sherlock Holmes' pipe-smoking habits, photographs of some of the rarest Sherlockian commemorative pipes, and a dedication to Holmes and to Rick's wife (in that order).
2350. MURDER ON CUE: VOLUME 1, edited by Eleanor Sullivan (New York: Walker, 1989; 322 pp., \$19.95), is an anthology of stories (including "The Red-Headed League") that have been adapted for the stage, screen, radio, and television. The book is the hard-cover edition of ELLERY QUEEN'S MEDIA FAVORITES (summer 1988).
2351. Plan ahead: The Sherlock Holmes Society of London will visit Switzerland from Apr. 26 to May 5, 1991, to celebrate the centenary of the battle at the Reichenbach, with participation restricted to members of the Society.
2352. A new reconstruction of the sitting-room at 221B, for which Tony Howlett has already begun assembling Holmesian material, will be officially opened in the Sherlock Holmes Museum in Meiringen on May 4.
2353. The Swiss pilgrimage does conflict, unfortunately, with the Fifth Irregular Quinquennial Holmesian Dinner at the Culinary Institute of America, which is also scheduled for May 4, 1991. But you have plenty of time to decide which commemoration you wish to attend.
2354. "Without a Clue" is now available on commercial videocassette from Orion Home Video, but if you don't want to pay \$89.95 for the cassette, you can wait a few months and tape the film off-the-air from The Movie Channel or Showtime, which will be broadcasting the film on cable later this year.

September 1989 #1

2355. The Reader's Digest has launched a new series of "Best Loved Books for Young Readers" consisting of 16 volumes reprinted by Choice Publishing and available in Safeway supermarkets (and presumably in other chains). THE ADVENTURES OF TOM SAWYER is their loss-leader, priced at 99c and packaged with a free 32-page parent's guide (which has one uninteresting page about Sherlock Holmes). Other titles in the series cost \$3.49, and one of them is GREAT CASES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, a reprint of D687a (but with only two of Guy Deel's nice illustrations).
2356. "Sherlock Holmes and the Development of Scientific Methodology in Criminal Investigation" is the title of a symposium that will be held by the Pacific Section of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in June 1990 at the University of California (Davis). If you would like to present a paper or attend the meeting, write to Brian and Charlotte Erickson, c/o Harraway, VV 341, Mount Eden, CA 94557.
2357. Charlotte Erickson has published a second edition (revised and extended) of her checklist of "Sherlock Holmes in the Comic Books" (now 48 pp., \$12.00 postpaid from Charlotte at their new address: 1920 Marich Way, Mountain View, CA 94040). The new telephone number for the Erickson's electronic bulletin board 221BBS is 415-949-1734.
2358. "I have a wonderful superstitious love of mystery." (James Boswell) "I am lost without my Boswell." (Sherlock Holmes). It was in 1944 that Lillian de la Torre began her fine series of stories, with the great Samuel Johnson as her Holmes and James Boswell as her Watson. Four paperback collections of the stories have been published by International Polygonics, and they offer a nice mix of mystery and history: DR. SAM: JOHNSON, DETECTOR (1983); THE DETECTIONS OF DR. SAM: JOHNSON (1984); THE RETURN OF DR. SAM: JOHNSON, DETECTOR (1985); and THE EXPLOITS OF DR. SAM: JOHNSON, DETECTOR (1987). And there is a Canonical echo in "Murder Lock'd In" (in THE RETURN OF DR. SAM: JOHNSON, DETECTOR).
2359. Sherlock Hemlock is *not* owned by Walt Disney Co. Disney's acquisition of Henson Associates (at an estimated price of \$100 million) (but less costly than Epcot Center, according to Disney chairman Michael Eisner) affects the Muppets, and Kermit, but not the other Sesame Street characters, which are owned by Children's Television Workshop.
2360. The postmaster general says that the postal service is going to ask for higher postal rates, which will probably take effect in 1991. Have postal rates ever gone down in this century? Yes: in 1919 the first-class letter rate went from 3c to 2c. Some other incidental information: the postal service handled 160.4 billion pieces of mail in 1988, or about 640 pieces of mail per person. That's fewer than 3 pieces a day. Sherlockians are (of course) above average.
2361. An advertisement at hand from Robert Brosch Archival Photography (14845 Anne Street, Allen Park, MI 48101), offering color-photograph reproductions of posters and lobby cards from Rathbone's S'ian films (\$4.00 for 8x10, \$7.00 for 11x14, \$25.00 for 16x20, plus shipping). Send SASE for details.

September 1989 #2

2362. During a visit to Nebraska, Basil Rathbone participated in the official opening of the John H. Watson Reading Room at the Wayne State Library on Nov. 5, 1965, and a recording of the proceedings is now available on a 19-minute audio cassette. The recording will be of interest only to fanatic collectors, since it has a very brief speech by Rathbone, followed by considerable chit-chat (some intelligible) by Bill Rabe, John Bennett Shaw, Fred Kelly, George John, Dick Lesh, and other members of The Maiwand Jezails. You can order the cassette from Richard D. Lesh, 620 Mathews Street #208, Fort Collins, CO 80521; \$5.00 postpaid.
2363. Charles Norman's poem "A Study in Mauve" (D4466a) has been reprinted from the BJS as a nicely designed and printed pamphlet from the Bartlett Press (20 Bartlett Road, Middletown, RI 02840); \$25.00 postpaid.
2364. Fred Saberhagen's THE HOLMES-DRACULA FILE (D5167b) has been reissued in a new paperback edition with new cover art by Glenn Hastings (New York: Tor Books, 1989; 249 pp., \$3.95).
2365. Thanks to those who responded to the query (July 89 #3) about the different formats for writing dates: 12-25-88 (American) and 25-12-88 (British). We have received no explanation about when the different formats evolved, or why, but one correspondent notes that the British format is also used in much of Europe, and that it is more logical, since the progression is from the smallest to the largest unit. Joel Lima also reports that there is a third format (88-12-25) that has been formally approved by the European Economic Community and adopted by some of its members, including Portugal.

2366. Joel Lima also asks for help in identifying the source of an illustration showing Baskerville Hall. The uncredited artwork appeared in the first Portuguese translation of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (1907). Can anyone recall if, when, or where the artwork might have appeared earlier?

September 1989 #3

2367. Holmes and Watson have been bitmapped, and are now available in the MacNet graphics library (this is a 50% reduction, and they will look better at 100%). Translation: you need a Macintosh computer and a modem and a laser printer to use the artwork.
2368. Thanks also to those who responded to the bibliographic query (July 89 #2) about the promotional flier for Bell's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND DOCTOR WATSON: A CHRONOLOGY OF THE ADVENTURES found laid-in with some copies of Blakeney's SHERLOCK HOLMES: FACT OF FICTION? (London: John Murray, 1932). The results are not conclusive, but it appears likely that all copies of the book were first sold with the flier: most copies reported with dust jacket also have the flier, and it is reasonable to assume that original owners who were careful enough to preserve the dust jacket would also preserve the flier.
2369. On or about Aug. 1, James J. Kilpatrick discussed Conan Doyle's use of the word "disillusionize" (in "Reig") in his syndicated column on "The Writer's Art", mentioning having commented on the usage "a few weeks ago." His next report noted that "I have heard from Holmesians from Florida to Hawaii," and that "I now know more about the matter than I really wanted to know," and that "disillusionize" appears in the British versions of the story (it is "disillusion" in the American versions). His column on language does not run in Washington, and I would appreciate a copy of the column with his earliest comments (some time before Aug. 1).
2370. Gay Southworth discovered, and Dave Galerstein photographed (in case proof positive is needed) a Barnes & Noble store display that had the Sherlock Holmes radio series in the non-fiction section of their audio shelves.
2371. THE LOST WORLD & THE POISON BELT is a new trade-paperback (San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 1989; 250 pp., \$8.95), offering the first two Challenger stories with an introduction by science-fiction writer William Gibson and cover art by Martha Mueller (based on one of the fine illustrations Harry Rountree did for THE LOST WORLD). Chronicle is planning a second volume, with three more Challenger stories, next spring.
2372. Ollie North has had his day(s) in court, but it has only now come to our attention that he was far from the first person to have shredded documents. One early instance, in the year 1349 but recorded much later ("with his own hands he had shredded those august documents"), will be found in SIR NIGEL (1906). The usage is cited in the OXFORD ENGLISH DICTIONARY.
2373. News from Britain, courtesy of Roger Johnson: a British edition of Esther Friesner's alternate-universe pastiche DRUID'S BLOOD (July 88 #2) has been published by Headline (£3.50). Glen Petrie's THE DORKING GAP AFFAIR: A MYCROFT HOLMES ADVENTURE will be published in September by Bantam Press (£12.95). Charles Viney's SHERLOCK HOLMES IN LONDON will be published September by Equation (£12.95). And the News of the World has reported on plans for a new film: "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Missing Santa Claus", with David Bowie as Holmes and Gene Kelly as Santa.

September 1989 #4

2374. A STUDY IN BANKING: AN INVESTIGATION OF THE RELATIONSHIP OF MR. SHERLOCK HOLMES WITH HIS BANK offers an imaginative discussion by James Cuthbertson (himself a banker, now retired) of the detective's dealings with the Hampshire Banking Company from 1871 until 1914 (by which time it had been renamed the Capital and Counties Bank). The pamphlet (27 pages) is available from the author (5 Meadow View Close, Wareham, BH20 4JQ, England), and the postpaid prices are £3.75 (surface) or £5.00 (air) if paid in sterling, or \$5.00 (surface) or \$10.00 (air) if in currency.
2375. John Newton (Box 471, Claymont, DE 19703) (office: 302-594-1594) offers a copy of "Conan Doyle Speaking" (D5559a), the recording made in May 1930 and issued by His Master's Voice later that year as #C-1983. The phonograph record is in excellent condition and the price is \$325.00 plus shipping.
2376. Another item available from Sgt. David A. Reinhardt (76 Lord Simcoe Drive, Bramalea, Ont. L6S 5G6, Canada): this lapel pin (US\$4.00 postpaid) for the Home Office Large Major Enquiry System is based on a similar lapel pin made for the Canadian National Railway Police (who bear the responsibility for the thoroughly non-Sherlockian handlebar mustache).
2377. THE COMPLETE PROFESSOR CHALLENGER stories is available from Barnes & Noble (577 pp., \$9.95); this is probably a reprint of THE PROFESSOR CHALLENGER STORIES published by John Murray in 1952. Also: DETECTIONARY (D1860b) at \$5.98, and the 1988 "Dorset Press" edition of THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES at \$12.95. Add \$4.00 per order for shipping, and the address for Barnes & Noble is 126 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10011.
2378. Jeremy Brett and Edward Hardwicke are now touring in their play "The Secret of Sherlock Holmes" and one-week runs are scheduled in Bradford, Croydon, Hull, Guildford, Cardiff, Chichester, Birmingham, Aberdeen, Brighton, Manchester, and Bath (where they are scheduled to close on Dec. 16).
2379. Reported by Ted Friedman: THE SPIES AND DETECTIVES CUT AND COLOR BOOK, with an adaptation of "The Blue Carbuncle" and a cut-out-and-assemble model of the sitting-room (Crown/Chatham River, 1989; 48 pp., \$3.98 at Waldenbooks).
2380. MINI-MYSTERIES FEATURING MICKEY MOUSE AND FRIENDS includes one illustration of Mickey in Sherlockian costume (New York: Western Publishing Co., 1989; \$1.75 at B. Dalton shops).
2381. Eagle-eyed Dave Galerstein has spotted a Watsonian error (actually due to our compositor's careless thumb) in our earlier report on the potential conflict in 1991. The correct dates are Apr. 26 to May 5, 1991, for the Swiss visit by The Sherlock Holmes Society of London, and May 4, 1991, for the Fifth Irregular Quinquennial Holmesian Dinner at the Culinary Institute of America.
2382. Further to the report on the appearance of H. Marion Crawford in the film "Lawrence of Arabia" (February 89 #3), I am now informed there is an additional connection, in the newly restored version: in some scenes the voice of the late Jack Hawkins was supplied by Charles Gray, who has played Mycroft on screen and television.

September 1989 #5

2383. The editor blithely assumes that readers of this newsletter are also subscribers to The Baker Street Journal, and the editor will continue editing on that assumption (even though it is only about 90% correct), and will refrain from repeating news that has already appeared in the BSJ, which (for the benefit of the 10%) costs \$15.00 a year, from the Fordham University Press, University Box L, Bronx, NY 10458.
2384. Aware, however, that the limit on membership in The Sherlock Holmes Society of London means that some of you may not be able to receive their mailings, the editor will report that the society's Christmas card for 1989 shows a British soldier alone on the first Christmas Even of the Second Afghan War, thinking of those left behind, his family, and of the festivities usual in Britain. Ten cards and envelopes cost \$9.00 postpaid (airmail) and you can send your checks to Capt. W. R. Michell, The Old Crown Inn, Lopen, South Petherton, Somerset, TA13 5JX, England.
2385. International travelers might wish to check the duty-free shops for "Black Peter": a new liquor-loaded licorice candy from the Finnish company Chymos.

2386. The script for SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE GIANT RAT OF SUMATRA, a two-act "Victorian musical spoof, with book by Tim Kelly and music and lyrics by Jack Sharkey, is available from Baker's Plays, 100 Chauncy Street, Boston, MA 02111; \$5.25 postpaid.
2387. At long last (and priced at \$9.98 at Waldenbooks): THE LOST ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Ken Greenwald, based on the original radio plays by Denis Green and Anthony Boucher (Mallard Press/BDD Promotional Book Co.); 13 stories based on Rathbone/Bruce radio broadcasts.
2388. TV Guide had about 16.3 million subscribers at the end of 1988, and they don't take subscriptions for more than one year. That means they get 16.3 million checks a year. At six days a week, 52 weeks a year, that's 52,244 envelopes to open each day.
2389. Some philatelic Sherlockiana: Czechoslovakia issued a stamp earlier this year to honor Charlie Chaplin, who appeared as Billy in William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" and "The Painful Predicament of Sherlock Holmes". And we appear to be seeing North Carolina everywhere, in June on the "seashore" postal card, and last month on a new postal card, with Bart Forbes' design showing a scene in the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains. With a more direct reference to North Carolina (where the Anderson murders occurred), there is a new commemorative honoring the 200th anniversary of statehood, designed by Bob Timberlake and showing the state flower, the dogwood.
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September 1989 #6

2390. The Brambletye Hotel in Forest Row, one of the few hotels to appear in the Canon under its own name, has a new owner. Mr. Millar writes that the hotel is decorated with Sherlockian memorabilia, and that some of the rooms have been named after Canonical characters. The new restaurant, named The Deerstalker, will open in October. We can only hope that the Black Peter Bar still adjoins the hotel (a photograph of the hotel and the bar will be found in David L. Hammer's THE GAME IS AFOOT).
2391. I've finally had a brief report, via Ted Schulz, from someone who has gone on the Universal Studios tour during a visit to Los Angeles. The tour area includes Victorian London, where one will find a sign for "Sherlock Holmes, Consulting Detective" outside a shop (which sells nothing Sherlockian).
2392. Further to the report (February 89 #2) on the new edition of THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES from the Land Press, with a hitherto unpublished full-page frontispiece portrait of Holmes by Sidney Paget, bound in leather with your choice of four different designs (price \$2,000): Don Pollock reports that the prospectus is now also available from their American agent, Priscilla Juvelis (150 Huntington Avenue #SD-L, Boston, MA 02115).
2393. One page from the manuscript of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is offered in catalog 25 from Pepper & Stern (1980 Cliff Drive #224, Santa Barbara, CA 93109) at \$20,000.
2394. Sherlockians touring Cape Cod in the vicinity of West Hyannisport may wish to try the Copper Beech Inn -- a bed-and-breakfast establishment featured in Insider (Sept.-Oct. 1989) and noted by Richard Wein.
2395. "Bearlock Holmes" is now available from the North American Bear Company (attn: Advertising Department), 401 North Wabash #500, Chicago, IL 60611 (\$66.00 plus \$2.50 shipping).
2396. Fred A. Stutman, who included Sherlock Holmes in WALK, DON'T DIE: HOW TO STAY FIT, TRIM AND HEALTHY WITHOUT KILLING YOURSELF (October 86 #4), has now returned to Holmes in WALK TO WIN: THE EASY 4-DAY DIET AND FITNESS PLAN, which has a chapter on "The Mystery of the Walking Men".
2397. The book is available from Medical Manor Books, 3501 Newberry Road, Philadelphia, PA 19154 (\$19.95 cloth, \$10.95 paper).
2398. Visitors to Canada will find Sherlock Holmes in the post offices there, in a flier promoting Canada Post's new bar-coded registered mail and security mail services. Wilfrid de Freitas reports that there is also a poster.
2399. Only two copies (both from the second printing) remain from the earlier supply of the well-traveled paperback (and only) edition of Frank Thomas' SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE MASQUERADE MURDERS. \$6.00 postpaid from: The Spermaceti Press, 3900 Tunlaw Road NW #119, Washington, DC 20007-4830
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October 1989 #1

2400. The Abbey National Building Society is in the news, but not because of their providing secretarial services for Sherlock Holmes. Their plans to go public were far from problem-free, as reported by the Sunday Telegraph on Aug. 13: "Conan Doyle's hero would surely have relished a case in which 365,000 share certificates -- enough to fill several lorries -- worth £150 million have disappeared into thin air, mysterious fire have broken out and there are mutterings of blackmail and commercial rivalry. All it lacks is a dog that didn't bark in the night." The missing shares represent from 10 to 15 percent of the issue, and Abbey National and Lloyd's Bank are now at work, trying to find out what went wrong.
2401. Other news from Britain: a modern-day Hound of the Baskervilles is on the rampage in Wales, where residents of Clyro believe that their legend of the Black Dog of Hergest provided the source for the Sherlock Holmes story (and where the local pub, The Baskerville Arms, boasts a stone hound squatting outside on the porch). Dozens of sheep have been killed on a near-by farm ("their throats were torn and their insides ripped out"), and there have been reports of howling, carried on the wind, down the valley.
2402. The Sherlock Holmes Society of Australia offers its own Christmas card for 1989, showing the convict ship *Success* ("whose early career paralleled that of the *Gloria Scott*"). US\$20.00 for ten, or US\$12.00 for five, postpaid with envelopes, and you can order from Alan Olding, P.O. Box 12, Stirling, S.A. 5152, Australia.
2403. Sterling Lanier's THE CURIOUS QUESTS OF BRIGADIER FFELLOWES, was published in 1986 (January 87 #2) and includes his giant-rat pastiche "A Father's Tale" (D5042b); the book is a collection of Lanier's stories, illustrated by Ned Dameron, signed by the author and artist, and still available (\$30.00) from the publisher: Donald M. Grant, Box 187, Hampton Falls, NH 03844.
2404. The Royalton, which many Sherlockian visitors to New York will remember as an inexpensive alternative to the Hotel Algonquin, is still an alternative, but no longer inexpensive. According to their rate card, at hand from Al Rosenblatt, single rooms cost \$190-\$285 a night, double rooms \$215-\$310, and the weekend rate (for Friday and Saturday) is \$140 a night (the same as the special Sherlockian rate announced by the Algonquin for the January birthday festivities). The Royalton's toll-free number is 800-635-9013.
2405. 2AM is a nicely-produced quarterly fanzine devoted to horror, fantasy, and science fiction, with a column ("The Dark Corner") by J. N. Williamson. In the fall 1989 issue Jerry recalls his early adventures as the founder of The Illustrious Clients of Indianapolis and as a teen-aged editor of three anthologies that are now S'ian cornerstones. \$5.95 postpaid (or \$19.00 a year) from Gretta M. Anderson, Box 6754, Rockford, IL 61125.
2406. Check your grocery-store cereal shelves for packages of Honey Nut Cheerios: television commercials for the cereal have a Sherlockian theme, tied to a game on the packages, which display a deerstalkered honey bee. And Yoplait yogurt has a give-away game on containers that display a small Sherlockian silhouette on the front.
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October 1989 #2

2407. The first issue of "Holmes for the Holidays" is at hand, with attractive color covers by Bob Weber, Jr. (creator of "Slylock Fox") and 12 pages of stories and puzzles designed for young Sherlockians. The magazine, edited by Michael W. McClure, will be published five times a year by the Chester Baskerville Society, 1415 Swanwick Street, Chester, IL 62233, and costs \$5.00 a year.
2408. Bouchercon XX in Philadelphia was nicely arranged and well-attended, with about 1,300 people on hand for the festivities, which included a Saturdayafternoon Sherlockian session arranged by Scott and Sherry Rose Bond. The program book included a warm tribute to Anthony Boucher, written by Lenore Glen Offord, with due attention to his Sherlockian interests.
2409. For those who wish to plan ahead, Bouchercon XXI will be held in London on Sept. 21-23, 1990 (the organizers are Marion and Robin Richmond, 1 Penrose Avenue, Carpenders Park, Watford, Herts. WD1 5AE, England). And Bouchercon XXII will be held in Pasadena on Oct. 11-13, 1991 (Len and June Moffatt, 2334 Beach Avenue, Venice, CA 90291). Bouchercon XXIII will probably be in Boston in 1992, and Milwaukee is plans to bid for Bouchercon XXIV in 1993.
2410. And there are a growing number of regional gatherings, such as the second "Malice Domestic" convention in Washington on Apr. 6-8, 1990 (details are available from Box 701, Herndon, VA 22070), and the first annual Midwestern Mystery & Suspense Convention in Omaha on May 26-28, 1990 (Little Professor Book Center, Baker's Square, 13455 West Center Road, Omaha, NE 68144).
2411. The First International Holmesian Games, held in Seattle on Sept. 16 and arranged by The Sound of the Baskervilles, opened with Hugo Baskerville's Wild Midnight Pursuit (entrants, at the cry, "The Dame's Afoot," joined Hugo and his evil pack to chase a designated chaste yeoman's daughter across the moor) and closed with Dr. Watson's Quick Resuscitation Drill (entrants, with the aid of a funnel and a flask of Dr. Watson's universal specific, gave funnel-to-mouth injections to designated supine patients: speed and accuracy of aiming funnel were judged). The program for the games, it should be noted, did specify a chaste yeoman's daughter, rather than a yeoman's chaste daughter.
2412. Sherlockian philately: Philadelphia is mentioned in two of the Canonical tales, and a new postal card, designed by Bart Forbes, shows an aerial view of Philadelphia's Independence Hall. Another postal card, also designed by Bart Forbes, shows the Inner Harbor in Baltimore (where, Christopher Morley once suggested, the extraordinary and informal opportunities offered for graduate study when Johns Hopkins University opened in 1876 attracted Sherlock Holmes across the water).

October 1989 #3

2413. One new book, omitted from the Christmas list sent with the announcement of the December meeting of The Red Circle, is the American edition (to be published in November) of Charles Viney's SHERLOCK HOLMES IN LONDON (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1989; 168 pp., \$24.95). It is a delightful book, with more than 200 sepia-toned contemporary photographs, accompanying appropriate quotations from the Canon. Recommended.
2414. Edgar P. Smith ("The Smith-Mortimer Succession Case") died on Oct. 10. He was the son of Edgar W. Smith, and his contributions to the cause included two fine sculptures: the "Statuette of Sherlock Holmes" (D4888a) and the reproduction (as by E. Pichard) of the "Oscar Meunier Bust of Sherlock Holmes" in 1959 (D4887a).
2415. American Express has shipped the third installment of the Simon & Schuster audio cassettes to subscribers, bringing the total number of cassettes to eight. The new programs are "Colonel Warburton's Madness", "The Iron Box", "The Limping Ghost", "The Girl with the Gazelle", "The Out of Date Murder", and "The Waltz of Death", and the cassettes have introductions by Phyllis White (Mrs. Anthony Boucher) and Ben Wright. I don't know whether American Express card-holders can still subscribe to the series, but their toll-free telephone number is 800-528-8000. Nor do I know if you can now purchase all eight cassettes directly from Simon & Schuster, but their toll-free number is 800-687-2677.
2416. In response to queries occasioned by people's inability to find copies of Ken Greenwald's THE LOST ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (the collection of adaptations of 13 of the Rathbone/Bruce radio scripts), the publisher is Mallard Press, an imprint of BDD Promotions Book Co. (666 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10103). That's the address of Bantam Books, which is owned by BDD (which also owns Barnes & Noble, and B. Dalton). My guess is that the book has been published to go directly to the bargain-books tables and shelves at Barnes & Noble, and B. Dalton, and that it will turn up eventually there and at other stores and at mystery-specialist bookshops. When I hear of a shop that offers the book by mail-order, I will report again.
2417. More philately (Doylean rather than Sherlockian): the set of four stamps, designed by John Gurche and showing prehistoric reptiles: *Tyrannosaurus*, *Pteranodon*, *Stegosaurus*, and *Brontosaurus*. One USPS press release refers to "four extinct dinosaurs" (from which we might infer that the USPS knows of some dinosaurs that aren't extinct), but one of the reptiles was not a dinosaur (*Pteranodon*). The USPS has also been criticized by scientists who know that the name *Brontosaurus* was preempted a few years ago, when it was determined that the first the person to describe the animal used the name Apatosaurus. According to Edward D. Malone, which of these reptiles lived in "The Lost World"?

October 1989 #4

2418. "Moriarty Free After 29 Months in U.S. Prison" was the headline on a story from the Los Angeles Times (Nov. 4, 1988), at hand from Gary Westmoreland, reporting the release of W. Patrick Moriarty after serving 29 months of a five-year prison sentence on charges of political corruption. Moriarty was an Orange County businessman, according to an earlier report (August 85 #1), who pleaded guilty to seven counts of fraud as part of a plea-bargain agreement with the government, and then testified against a bank official charged with conspiring with Moriarty in an alleged money-laundering scheme. But the federal jury in Los Angeles voted for acquittal. "They flat didn't believe the man," said an observer, "I would love to defend anybody with Moriarty as a complaining witness."
2419. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's praise for the Parker Duofold ("I have at last met my affinity in pens") was used in an advertisement in the Saturday Evening Post (Feb. 7, 1931), and now in a new advertisement in Fortune (Oct. 16), New Yorker (Oct. 16), Life (Nov.), and Time (Nov. 6).
2420. The Mind's Eye (Box 6727, San Francisco, CA 94101) offers a profusion of audio cassettes, including some of the Hobbs/Shelley and Gielgud/Richardson broadcasts, and the cover of their 1989-90 catalog is a striking full-color cover portrait of Sherlock Holmes by Bruce Wolfe.
2421. Michael Dibdin won the Gold Dagger Award from the Crime Writers Association in 1988, and his British publishers have celebrated with a new edition of THE LAST SHERLOCK HOLMES STORY (D4891b), another attempt to solve the mystery of Jack the Ripper (London: Faber and Faber, 1989; 192 pp., £3.99).
2422. Of the four prehistoric reptiles shown on the new set of stamps (October 89 #3), only the stegosaur is named by Edward D. Malone in "The Lost World".
2423. An American book club (Mystery Guild) edition of Robert Richardson's THE BOOK OF THE DEAD (August 89 #3) has been published by St. Martin's Press, and it is easily distinguished: the trade edition is bound in black, with a first-edition statement on the title-page verso; and the book-club edition is bound in gray, without the first-edition statement (and with a book-club-edition statement on the front flap of the dust jacket).

2424. There have been more (and conflicting) reports on Jeremy Brett's plans. Andy Solberg reports that WGBH-TV (Boston) reports that "Mystery!" has purchased six more programs from Granada, and that the play has closed and that Granada is now making the programs, which will be shown here in the 1990-1991 season. Paul Singleton reports that Granada will begin work on the new series in 1990, and that the programs will be Bosc, Chas, Thor, Lady, and Vall (two parts), and that Brett will then take the play on tour, opening on the west coast of the United States in December 1991.
2425. Paul's report is certainly more accurate, since the play is now on tour in the provinces. And if you would like to have more news and reviews of Sherlockian stage, screen, radio, and television, you will enjoy reading *The Third Pillar: A Newsletter for Thespian Pursuits in Sherlockiana*, a quarterly newsletter edited and published by Paul Singleton (523 Central Avenue, Bethpage, NY 11714); the first issue (Sept. 1989) is available, and the cost is \$3.00 a year.

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2426. "A Woman of Mystery" is an eight-page monthly newsletter edited and published by Amy Lubelski for Agatha Christie fans, and a recent Sherlock Holmes Special Issue gives careful attention to the many parallels and echoes found in Christie's work. Subscriptions cost \$30.00 a year, and a single issue costs \$3.00, and the newsletter's address is Box 1616, Canal Street Station, New York, NY 10013.
2427. Charles Kovacic (18307 Burbank Boulevard #49, Tarzana, CA 91356) has a new illustrated sales list, offering Sherlockian pins, watches, bookplates, postcards, Christmas tree ornaments, posters, and reproductions of older lobby cards and other artwork.
2428. *A ROSE BY ANOTHER NAME: A SURVEY OF LITERARY FLORA FROM SHAKESPEARE TO ECO*, by Robert F. Fleissner (West Cornwall: Locust Hill Press, 1989; 164 pp., \$24.00), is a collection of essays on literary roses, their symbolism, and their connections, noting intriguing examples as disparate as Rosa Budd in "The Mystery of Edwin Drood" and Rosebud in "Citizen Kane". And the Canon is not neglected: in one of the essays Fleissner discusses the roses, and the detectives, in "The Moonstone" and "The Naval Treaty". The publisher's address is Main Street, West Cornwall, CT 06796.
2429. "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (a concert version of "The Hound of the Baskervilles") was commissioned by Richard Hartshorne from Jon Deak some years ago, and performed by Hartshorne in Washington this month during a concert by the Apple Hill Chamber Players. The composition is for double bass and six voices (all provided by Hartshorne, who quickly changes hats to show who's speaking), and it is thoroughly imaginative and amusing. An audio cassette (with two other pieces) is available (\$10.00 postpaid) from Richard Hartshorne, Apple Hill Chamber Players, East Sullivan, NH 03445.
2430. *THE DICTIONARY OF IMAGINARY PLACES*, by Alberto Manguel and Gianni Guadalupi (San Diego: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1987; 454 pp., \$16.95), was first published in 1980 and is now available in an expanded edition, and it is a splendid gazetteer, with maps and charts by James Cook and illustrations by Graham Greenfield. Due attention is given to Conan Doyle's works, and the dictionary has entries for Atlantis, Baskerville Hall, Camford, Challenger Field, Fulworth, Maple White Land, and Uffa.

October 1989 #6

2431. Bill Rabe reports that he still offers copies of *VOICES FROM BAKER STREET I, II AND III*, the landmark four-record boxed album issued some years ago (December 83 #3), with new pressings of VFBS I and II and two new records of "sounds to deduce by" (all accompanied by careful annotations and explanations). The cost is \$40.00 postpaid, and you can order from W. T. Rabe, 1204 Davitt Street, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783. And you should, if you don't have the album already, because it is a splendid collection of the aural history of the world of Sherlockians.
2432. The fall 1989 issue of *Anglofile* includes a long interview with Tom Baker, whose roles have included Rasputin and Pope Leo X. "I'm always getting twisted priests or Sherlock Holmes," Baker notes. "I mean, look what a nutcase he is. He's one of the great comic creations of the last century. I've played him twice, actually." *Anglofile* publishes six issues a year (\$12.00), and the address is Box 33515, Decatur, GA 30333.
2433. Anthony Quayle died on Oct. 20. He began his acting career as a straight man to a music-hall comedian, and his first serious stage role was a small part in a production of "Robin Hood" in 1931. His long career included films and television, and a knighthood in 1985. In his Sherlockian films he played Dr. Murray in "A Study in Terror" (1965) and Sir Charles Warren in "Murder by Decree" (1979).
2434. Alvin T. Retzlaff (1 South Federal Street #811, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866) is planning to publish a Sherlockian cookbook, and will be happy to hear from individuals or societies who wish to submit their favorite recipes, or who wish additional information.
2435. Jerry Margolin reports a new item Sherlockian from Gallery Lainzberg (200 Guaranty Building, Cedar Rapids, IA 52401) (800-5533-9995): a limited-edition cel by Bob Clampett showing Daffy (as Duck Twacy) and Sherlock Holmes in a scene from "The Great Piggy Bank Robbery" (1945). The price is \$425. Also a limited-edition cel showing Daffy (in S'ian costume) and Yosemite Sam (in cowboy costume) in a western saloon. This is not from any known film, and the price is \$475.
2436. An eight-page Sherlockian sales list (books and other items) at hand from Chris and Beth Caswell at Sherlock's Home, 4137 E. Anaheim Street, Long Beach, CA 90804.
2437. Six programs in the Granada series (Blue, Danc, Nava, Scan, Soli, and Spec) have long been available from Simon & Schuster at \$29.95 each, but they've now been discounted to \$14.95 each (plus \$5.00 per order for shipping) by Facets Video, 1517 West Fullerton, Chicago, IL 60614 (800-331-6197) -- and it's likely that the same discount is now available elsewhere, because MPI Home Video has started issuing programs from the series: Copp, Croo, Fina, Gree, Norw, RedH, and Resi (\$24.95 each), and Houn and Sign (\$34.95 each).
2438. *THE BLACK SCHOOL*, by J. N. Williamson (New York: Dell, 1989; 273 pp., \$3.50), is the latest of Jerry's horror novels to include characters who are familiar with the Sherlock Holmes stories.

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2439. As expected, Ken Greenwald's *THE LOST ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* (with stories based on the Rathbone/Bruce radio scripts) is offered by Barnes & Noble in their new mail-order catalog (941M-217B), at \$9.98. It is item 1609049, shipping costs \$4.00 per order, they take plastic, and the address is 126 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10011. It has also now been reported at Waldenbooks here and there, and it will be widely distributed in the bookstore chains, through perhaps only a few copies in each store.
2440. *THE LOST ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* is also available from Once Upon a Crime (604 West 26th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55405), for \$9.98 plus \$2.50 shipping. And from The Mysterious Bookshop (129 West 56th Street, New York, NY 10019, for \$10.00 plus \$3.00 for shipping (they take plastic). And from Gaslight Publications (626 North College Avenue, Bloomington, IN 47404, for \$9.95 plus \$1.50 for shipping (they take plastic).
2441. California book dealer Mark Hime was at the Santa Monica Bookfair in Oct., offering some interesting items: a good copy of the first separate edition of *A STUDY IN SCARLET* (\$35,000), a mint first edition of *THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* (\$10,000), and a very fine first edition of *THE VALLEY OF FEAR* in dust jacket (\$17,500).

2442. The first five stories in Eternity's comic-book reprints of the 1954 comic strips by Edith Meiser and Frank Giacoia have been reissued as SHERLOCK HOLMES: BOOK ONE (Newbury Park: Malibu Graphics, 1989; 140 pp., \$29.95 cloth or \$17.95 paper), with a foreword by Tom Mason and an introduction by Jim Korkis.
2443. Wallace Laboratories (A Division of Carter-Wallace, attn: Joe Conti, Box 1001, Cranbury, NY 08512) have issued a series of five promotional fliers (under the general title "A Successful Team Solves Another Case") with short Sherlockian pastiches promoting cough-and-cold medicines Rynatan and Tussi-Organidin.
2444. Ron De Waal writes that he is recovering from his accident -- he was hit by a car while jogging, and hospitalized for four weeks -- he's now feeling better, though with one leg still in a full cast, and you can send get-well cards and letters to him at 638 Twelfth Avenue, Salt Lake City, UT 84103.
2445. "SHERLOCK HOLMES.--Any persons thinking themselves capable of filling a post in a Modern Inquiry Office, which requires qualifications of the nature indicated in Dr. A. Conan Doyle's well-known stories, are requested to send testimonials, etc., which will be treated as confidential, to ----- Office." We are indebted to Joel Lima for the advertisement, in an unnamed Scottish newspaper, quoted in a letter in Tit-Bits (Nov. 26, 1892), asking "Should Detectives Be Specially Educated?" Tit-Bits was a weekly magazine published by George Newnes, and at the time was reprinting "The Sign of Four" as a serial. The editor had earlier acknowledged to readers that the story had already been published as a book, noting however that "it was done at a time when the great Sherlock Holmes had not made the brilliant reputation which now surrounds his name, and the sale was not of a very general character."

November 1989 #2

2446. Baskerville Hall is again available for purchase. Brook Manor, home of the infamous Richard Cabell, was offered three years ago for £150,000 (October 86 #4), and the house is again on the market, with offers of more than £600,000 being sought. The present owners rewired the house and added central heating and new bathrooms, using the house for bed and breakfast on a small scale, and the estate agents have suggested that the ten-bedroom property could be adapted as a small hotel or guesthouse.
2447. For those who want the British (and true first) edition of Charles Viney's SHERLOCK HOLMES IN LONDON (October 89 #3), it differs only in the publisher's imprint and is published by Equation in London (£14.95).
2448. Peter Haining's THE TELEVISION SHERLOCK HOLMES (London: W. H. Allen, 1986; 224 pp., £14.95) is still available in the United States, distributed by Lyle Stuart (\$24.95). Half of the book is a discussion of Sherlock Holmes and S'ian television pre-Granada, and the other half is devoted to the first twenty Granada programs, and both sections are profusely illustrated, with much color. Recommended.
2449. James O. Duval (72 Merrimack Street, Penacook, NH 03303) offers a ceramic Christmas-tree ornament, with Holmes on one side and Watson on the other, with a ribbon for hanging on a tree and a pedestal holder for display on a shelf. The price is \$17.00 postpaid.
2450. Classic Specialties (Box 19058Y, Cincinnati, OH 45219) has an illustrated sales list offering their knit-wear and other Sherlockian items.
2451. Robert Quackenbush's DETECTIVE MOLE AND THE HALLOWEEN MYSTERY was published in 1981, with Detective Mole in Sherlockian costume, and it's now out in a large paperback from Little Simon/Simon & Schuster (\$3.95).
2452. The mid-Dec. issue of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine has a nicely S'ian cover, H. R. F. Keating's Sherlockian story "A Snaking Suspicion", and an enthusiastic editor's note about Sherlockians and Sherlockiana.
2453. The series of red paperback volumes published by Edgar W. Smith in the 1950s, offering the Sherlockians of those days reprints of rare classics and some of Edgar's own fine writing, has been succeeded by a new "BSI archival series" that will focus on the early (and not so early) days of The Baker Street Irregulars. "DEAR STARRETT--"/"DEAR BRIGGS--" is the first volume in the new series, and it is a fascinating collection of correspondence between Gray Chandler Briggs and Vincent Starrett in the early 1930s, carefully transcribed by John Nieminski and annotated by Jon L. Lellenberg. Briggs was an early enthusiast, rescuing the surviving original artwork from Frederic Dorr Steele's discard-box, and traveling in 1921 to London, where he was the first to identify a location for 221B Baker Street. He offered great assistance and encouragement to Starrett, who was then writing the essays that were to be published as THE PRIVATE LIFE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, and their letters offer an intriguing picture of a time when the cornerstones of the Writings About the Writings were still being quarried. The book is available from the Fordham University Press, Box 6525, Ithaca, NY 14850 (800-666-2211), and costs \$20.95 postpaid, and they take plastic. Recommended.

November 1989 #3

2454. The Sherlock Holmes in London is far from the only feature of Whitbread's, which also has a "spirits division", according to a Wall Street Journal article (Oct. 19) at hand from Bruce Southworth. But Whitbread won't have the spirits division much longer, because it's up for sale. Whitbread & Co., it turns out, owns Laphroaig single-malt whiskey, Beefeaters gin, a branch that distributes Cutty Sark whiskey in the U.S., and the Atlas Peak Vineyard in the Napa Valley. Whitbread plans to focus on its brewing interests and its newer hotel, liquor store, and restaurant businesses in Europe and North America.
2455. And Bruce Southworth has a new address: 2600 West 86th Street, Bloomington, MN 55431 (612-888-6324).
2456. Further to earlier reports on Jeremy Brett's forward planning, earlier this year he told backstage-visitor Jean Upton that the Booth Theater in New York has been booked for "The Secret of Sherlock Holmes" for the spring of 1991.
2457. Sherlock Holmes Society of London member Winston Plows found a novel way to raise money for the Talking Book Library of the Royal National Institute for the Blind: a sponsored three-week 1,000-mile bicycle ride (on a 1955 Raleigh Roadster) from Montpelier to Baker Street. "Holmes certainly made the journey from Montpelier," Plows said, "but it is only my theory that he did it by bicycle."
2458. Quoting from Philip Purser's review (in the [London] Daily Mail, Sept. 1, 1988) of the Granada version of "The Hound of the Baskervilles": "[Jeremy Brett's] balance of arrogance, conceit, charm and even a little genuine concern is absolute. And Edward Hardwicke made the most of Dr. Watson's occupation of centre stage, giving a creditable impersonation of George Bush finding himself in charge at the White House."
2459. Reported by Jack Kerr: CHEMISTRY AND CRIME: FROM SHERLOCK HOLMES TO TODAY'S COURTROOM, edited by Samuel M. Gerber (BSJ March 84) is still available from the American Chemical Society in cloth (\$19.95) and paper (\$14.95). Their address is West End Station Box 57136, Washington, DC 20037 (800-227-5558), and they take plastic.
2460. Further to our report (September 89 #4) on James Cuthbertson's monograph A STUDY IN BANKING: AN INVESTIGATION OF THE RELATIONSHIP OF MR. SHERLOCK HOLMES WITH HIS BANK, that report was not quite correct as to the price of the pamphlet, which costs (postpaid) \$8.00 (by surface mail) or \$10.00 (by airmail) if (and only if) payment is made in currency (not checks). The banking industry (in this country as well as in Britain) imposes heavy surcharges for converting checks drawn in foreign currencies, making small checks impractical for small transactions. Mr. Cuthbertson's address is: 15 Meadow View Close, Wareham, Dorset BH20 4JQ, England.

2461. Jack Tracy reports that "The Adventures of Ichabod and Mr. Toad" will run on the Disney Channel through Dec. 15. This is the 1949 film, offering the Disney animations of "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" and "The Wind in the Willows" (narrated by Basil Rathbone, who mentions Sherlock Holmes in his introduction, and with Ratty in deerstalker and Mole in bowler).

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2462. "The bird smelled like the inside of a cow," notes Stuart D. Strahl, an ornithologist who has written extensively about the hoatzin, a bird found in the jungles of Venezuela and so far the only one known that digests its food in the same way that cows, sheep, and other ruminants do. The bird's name is pronounced WAT-sin or wat-SEEN, and that accounts for the headline "Alimentary, My Dear Hoatzin" on an article in Science News (Oct. 21), at hand from Douglas C. Zinn.
2463. Nikki Caparn, who has served as Sherlock Holmes' secretary for four years, is planning to retire, according to a report in the N.Y. Times (Nov. 5). One of the letters she has answered was from a man who wrote that the only dispute he and his wife had ever had was over whether Sherlock Holmes had actually existed. The writer wanted the argument settled, even if it ended in divorce. "We never say he never existed," Miss Caparn noted.
2464. THE PERFECT MURDER: A STUDY IN DETECTION, by David Lehman (New York: Free Press/Macmillan, 1989; 242 pp., \$19.95), is a welcome addition to the long list of all-too-often boring studies of the detective story: the author has obviously enjoyed the books he has read and written about, and his comments on the genre are original and entertaining. THE PERFECT MURDER *ought* to be a widely-used textbook, since it is an effective antidote to the lectures given by the many academics who are not quite persuaded that the detective story is neither literature nor important.
2465. Further to last month's news (October 89 #6) that additional programs from the Granada series are being issued by MPI Home Video, Rosemary Michaud reports that the programs are not complete, apparently because they have been cut down to fit a 50-minute format (it is possible that the cassettes have been made from the shorter versions broadcast by USA cable).
2466. The Victorian Villa Guesthouse (601 North Broadway Street, Union City, MI 49094) is a pleasantly and carefully restored 1876 house where the current owners offer thirteen Sherlockian mystery weekends a year, and a detailed brochure on their 1990 schedule.
2467. Videotaper alert: on Jan. 1, 1990, your local stations will air a repeat of "Divorce Court" program #842, which first aired in syndication on Nov. 9. The program is "Holmes vs. Holmes" and involves a man who is obsessed with Sherlock Holmes and appears in court dressed as his hero, accompanied by a friend dressed as Dr. Watson. His villainous wife won't put up with this nonsense, of course. Tune in on Jan. 1 to see whether the judge grants the divorce (unless your local station preempts the show for sports or parade coverage).
2468. "An Appointment with Sherlock Holmes" (the colorized versions of "Sherlock Holmes and the Secret Weapon" and "Woman in Green" broadcast in April, with Eli Wallach as host) has a sequel: colorized versions of "Dressed to Kill" and "Terror by Night". Check your local schedules to see which independent station will air the program, and when (the "window" closes on Dec. 23).
2469. And "Animal Crackers" will be broadcast on cable on The Movie Channel in December. This 1933 Marx Brothers film has a bit of Sherlockian dialog. Also on The Movie Channel: "My Fair Lady" (with a youthful Jeremy Brett).
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November 1989 #5

2470. We will celebrate Sherlock Holmes' 136th birthday on Friday, Jan. 12, with the now-traditional festivities in New York. Friday begins with the Martha Hudson Breakfast at 9:00 am at the Algonquin Hotel, at 59 West 44th Street; no reservations are required. The William Gillette Luncheon begins at noon at the Old Homestead, at 56 Ninth Avenue, at 14th Street (Susan Rice, 125 Washington Place #2-E, New York, NY 10014). At 6:00 pm The Baker Street Irregulars will meet at 24 Fifth Avenue, at 9th Street; and The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes at Garvin's Restaurant, at 19 Waverly Place, south of 8th Street, one block east of Washington Square Park (Evelyn A. Herzog, 235 West 15th Street #4-B, New York, NY 10011). Space will be limited at the Gillette luncheon and the ASH dinner, and early reservations are requested.
2471. Otto Penzler's annual open house at The Mysterious Bookshop (129 West 56th Street) is also on Friday, from 11:00 to 6:00; all Sherlockians and their guests are welcome to attend, and there is as usual the possibility that Sherlockian authors will be on hand to sign their books.
2472. There will be a new event on Saturday: from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm a posse of purveyors will be selling a variety of Sherlockiana on the second floor of the Algonquin Hotel (56 West 44th Street).
2473. On Saturday afternoon The Baker Street Irregulars will hold their annual reception, open to all Sherlockians and their friends, from 2:30 to 5:00 pm, at 24 Fifth Avenue, at 9th Street. The reception will honor a group of contemporary Sherlockian artists and will feature a display of their works. There will be an open bar, with hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, and tickets cost \$25.00 a person. Your checks, payable to The Baker Street Irregulars, should be sent to Robert E. Thomalen, 69 Glen Road, Eastchester, NY 10709.
2474. Lee Shackleford's new two-act play "Holmes and Watson", which premiered at the University of Alabama in Birmingham in May, will be produced in New York in January, with the author playing Sherlock Holmes, at the Theater at St. Peter's Church, City Corp. Center, 54th Street at Lexington. The play opens Jan. 4 and closes Jan. 14, with performances Tuesday through Sunday evenings, and extra matinees on Saturdays and Sundays. The theater has 150 seats, the box office telephone is 212-688-6022 (if there's no answer, keep trying), tickets cost \$20.00 each, and they are alleged to take plastic. There are no plans for a formal S'ian theater party on the evening of Jan. 13, so travelers from afar are advised to make their own reservations.
2475. On Sunday, southbound travelers (and others) will be welcome at the annual dinner of The Master's Class, which will start at 4:00 at the Franklin Inn Club at St. James and Camac Streets in Philadelphia (ending early to allow people to catch the last train out of town). Details are available from Victoria M. Robinson, 299-B Summit House, 1450 West Chester Pike, West Chester, PA 19382.
2476. Mary Ellen Rich has again kindly provided a list of hotels (reported on the next page) that offer reasonable (as defined by New York landlords) rates, along with a warning about non-optional extras: \$2.00 a day occupancy tax, 8.25% state tax, and 5% city tax. If you are arriving on Thursday, it is important to confirm that the weekend-package rates include Thursday.
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2477. Hotels in New York: Century-Paramount, 235 West 46th Street (212-764-5500); \$80.00 single. Henry Hudson, 353 West 57th Street (212-265-6100); \$70.00 single. Roosevelt, 45 East 45th Street (800-223-1870); \$85.00 room. Salisbury Hotel, 123 West 57th Street (800-223-0680); \$85.00 room (FR-SA). Shoreham, 33 West 55th Street (212-247-6700); \$75.00 single. And another possibility: Iroquois Hotel, 49 West 44th Street (800-332-7220); \$65.00 single, \$75.00 double, \$100.00 suite (ask for Connie).
2478. The manuscript of "The Three Garridebs" (22 pages, signed on the first and last pages) will be offered at Christie's in London on Dec. 6, presumably sent to auction by Mrs. Adrian Conan Doyle, who is the recorded owner. The estimate by Christie's is £20,000-30,000.
2479. And an auction of "English Literature and History" at Sotheby's in London on Dec. 14, will have two items of interest. Estimated at £600-800 is the collar of the prototype of the Hound of the Baskervilles (a large black leather collar with studs and buckles, about 20 inches in circumference, with an
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attached metal plate engraved "'Derby the Devil' presented by Jerome K. Jerome to A. Conan Doyle, Undershaw, Hindhead"); it belonged for many years to a Surrey family who lived near ACD's home at Undershaw, and by family tradition "Derby the Devil" was the huge mastiff which inspired the Hound of the Baskervilles, hence the point of Jerome's presentation to ACD. And the second item (estimated at £3,000-4,000) is Sherlock Holmes' dressing gown (the dressing gown owned by Sidney Paget and apparently used as the model for six illustrations); it was displayed at The Sherlock Holmes until 1979, and sold at Sotheby's in 1980 for £450 (the dressing gown is in dog-toothed tweed with a light-brown checked pattern, and is described as "patched and rather moth-eaten").

2480. Air-guns have not been taken all that seriously since the long-gone days of Von Herder and Straubenzee, but may seem to be making a comeback, as reported in an article in the Wall Street Journal (Sept. 13) about the air-guns made by the Beeman Precision Arms of Santa Rose, Calif. Comparing Beemans to the tiny and cheaply made Red Ryders of our youth is, the article suggests, "like comparing a Mercedes to a moped." And on Apr. 27-30 the Sixth World Air-Gun Championships were held in Sarajevo, honored by a stamp issued by Yugoslavia.
2481. Can anyone supply a current address for Dan Baker (no longer at Box 221B in Cecilia), John Comstock, Carley Cat Herd, William L. Russell, Joseph F. Taggard, or Jerry Tucker?
2482. John Ruyle reports that the Pequod Press survived the Loma Prieta quake, and that the presses are still rolling. Newly available are DOYLE A LA CARTE ("23 new quatrains that attempt to broaden the mere Canonical into the Conanical") and THE PRENATAL ENTREATY (the 20th adventure of Turlock Loams). Each book costs \$30.00 (cloth) or \$15.00 (paper), from the author (521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707). Readers who have only recently discovered the artistically designed and printed Pequod pressings can ask John about earlier books (a few copies are still available of some titles).

November 1989 #7

2483. Dick Warner, who is Head Sherpa of the Holmes Peak Preservation Society, reports that the Oklahoma Historical Society has now approved the manufacture and installation of an official Oklahoma Roadside Marker for Holmes Peak, and that the marker (to be cast in aluminum, five feet tall, with an appropriate explanatory inscription) will be located by the side of a highway near the peak as soon as the Holmes Peak Preservation Society provides the funds for the marker, which will cost about \$1,200. Dick hopes that 60 Sherlockians will be willing to contribute \$20 each (or smaller or larger amounts) to help honor the only geographical feature in the U.S. named in honor of Sherlock Holmes, and you are invited to send your checks to Dick Warner, 3168 South Rockford Drive, Tulsa, OK 74105.
2484. Further to the report on the Reader's Digest series of "Best Loved Books for Young Readers" (September 89 #1), their reprint of GREAT CASES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES has all eight of Guy Deel's fine illustrations from D687a, as noted by an observant Tom Stix, who also reports that at his local supermarket the Sherlockian title in the series is in short supply, offering continuing evidence for the popularity of the Master.
2485. THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES is now available on CD-ROM, produced by CMC ReSearch and marketed by Professional Solutions, 21777 Ventura Boulevard #226, Woodland Hills, CA 91364 (800-677-1725), discounted to \$90.00 (plus \$5.00 shipping) until the end of 1988 (the price will be \$99.00 next year), and they take plastic. CD-ROM is an abbreviation for Compact Disc-Read Only Memory, a technology that uses a compact disc (similar to an audio disc), and a special player and an adapter card that allows your computer to read text and artwork from the disc. There are now an estimated 300,000 CD-ROM players in use (many libraries have them, and BOOKS IN PRINT, the GROlier ENCYCLOPEDIA, and the OXFORD ENGLISH DICTIONARY are a few of the books that have been published on CD-ROM discs). The CD-ROM version of THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES is based on Bob Stek's floppy-disk version, and also contains the MEDICAL CASEBOOK OF DOCTOR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE (the 1984 book written by Alvin E. Rodin and Jack D. Key), some medical poetry, and Sherlockian artwork (by Sidney Paget and Betty Wells).
2486. International Polygonics' fine reprints of long-out-of-print mystery writers include Jonathan Latimer, whose MURDER IN THE MADHOUSE (1934) was the first in a series featuring William Crane, a hard-boiled detective who is both humorous and occasionally incompetent. Latimer moved to Hollywood shortly before the war, writing screenplays for films such as "The Glass Key", "The Big Clock", and "The Night Has a Thousand Eyes", and for the "Perry Mason" television series. An earlier book, THE SEARCH FOR MY GREATUNCLE'S HEAD (1937), was a departure from his hard-boiled series, offering a country-house murder mystery, a college-professor hero, and pleasantly Sherlockian allusions. Both titles were reissued in 1989 as trade paperbacks (\$7.95).
2487. Reported from Britain: CONAN DOYLE AND THE SPIRITS: THE SPIRITUALIST CAREER OF SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE, by Kelvin I. Jones (Aquarian Press, 256 pp., £8.99). NINETEENTH-CENTURY SUSPENSE: FROM POE TO CONAN DOYLE, edited by Clive Bloom (Macmillan, 139 pp., £8.95); focusing on "The Parasite" and "The Lost World". And a Sherlockian pastiche "Murder to Music" in Anthony Burgess' new collection THE DEVIL'S MODE (Hutchinson, £12.95).

November 1989 #8

2488. Carl H. Anderson ("The Resident Patient") died on Nov. 20. He was an early member of the BSI, and in 1947 he was one of the founders of The Sons of the Copper Beeches (the second meeting of the Sons was at his house in Penn Valley, amidst the copper beeches that surrounded his home). He was an enthusiastic collector and an ardent Sherlockian, and in 1982 he received the BSI's Two-Shilling Award.
2489. More real-estate news from Britain: the historic Lustleigh railway station, advertised as having been filmed for "The Hound of the Baskervilles", was offered for sale in June, with an asking price of £230,000. The building was part of the line from Bovey Tracey to Moretonhampstead, and dates from the 1860s; it was closed in the 1960s and purchased by a man who renovated the building, which is now a five-bedroom bungalow which still preserves the 250-foot railway platform. The Sherlockian connection should be viewed with some skepticism, however, since an article reports that the station was filmed for the Basil Rathbone film, and that's thoroughly unlikely: the 1939 movie was filmed in its entirety on a Hollywood set.
2490. January 6 (appropriately) will be the publication date of Ben Wood's new THE PHILATELIC & NUMISMATIC HOLMES (40 pp., \$5.00 postpaid pre-publication and \$6.00 afterward). Ben's address is Box 740, Ellenton, FL 34222.
2491. American Express has shipped the fourth set of three Simon & Schuster audio cassettes to subscribers, bringing the total number of cassettes to eleven. The new programs are "A Scandal in Bohemia", "The Second Generation", "In Flanders Field", "The Eyes of Mr. Leyton", "The Telltale Pigeon Feathers", and "The Indiscretion of Mr. Edwards", and the cassettes have introductions by Peggy Webber, Ben Wright, and series announcer Harry Bartell. American Express card-holders may still be able to subscribe to the series (their toll-free telephone number is 800-528-8000), and you may be able to buy all eleven cassettes directly from Simon & Schuster (800-687-2677).
2492. William Berner (Box 31175, San Francisco, CA 94131) offers a six-page sales list of older and newer Sherlockian books and periodicals, at reasonable prices. Bill asks that you send a #10 SASE.
2493. A CATALOGUE OF CRIME, by Jacques Barzun and Wendell Hertig Taylor (D3696a) has been published in an enlarged edition (New York: Harper & Row, 1989; 922 pp., \$50.00).

2494. Robert Lewis Taylor's *W. C. FIELDS: HIS FOLLIES AND FORTUNES*, a splendid biography of a fascinating man, was first published in 1949 and has been out-of-print for many years. It has been reissued as a trade paperback (St. Martin's Press, \$9.95), and includes an account of Fields' appearance as Sherlock Baffles in "The Ham Tree" in New York in 1905 and on tour in 1906 and 1907.
2495. Robert Harling's long-running play "Steel Magnolias" is now a movie, with an all-star cast, including Shirley MacLaine as Ouiser. In the play (and possibly in the movie), Ouiser says, "Sis Orelle is so dumb. She thinks Sherlock Holmes is a subdivision."

December 1989 #1

2496. The "Batman" book-and-record set first issued in 1976 (D4644b) has been reissued, according to Tim O'Connor, presumably to take advantage of the enthusiasm for the new movie. One of the two stories in the set is "The Mystery of the Scarecrow Corpse" (involving Batman and Inspector Derek Holmes), and it costs \$10.00 to \$15.00 at local toy and record stores.
2497. Further to the news (June 89 #6) of plans by entrepreneur John Aidiniantz to set up a Sherlock Holmes Center on Baker Street, the Marylebone Mercury has reported (Nov. 9) that the Westminster City Council has granted permission to turn the derelict three-story building at No. 239 into a Sherlock Holmes Museum. Aidiniantz has founded the Sherlock Holmes International Society, and claims that the house is the genuine No. 221B, saying that as a museum it can be restored to its former glory "as a Victorian lodging house with a housekeeper and two maids to welcome visitors." The house was bought for the society for £500,000 "by an anonymous titled woman" and Aidiniantz said that it should be open to the public on Jan. 6.
2498. Scottish Images (Box 160133, Sacramento, CA 95816) offers an illustrated catalog that includes a series of Marlborough military models from Wales. These are 54mm alloy-metal hand-painted figures sculpted by Frank and January Scroby, and Holmes and Watson are available at \$19.95 each.
2499. There are two minor variants of *SHERLOCK HOLMES: BOOK ONE* (Newbury Park: Malibu Graphics, 1989), the reissue of the first five stories in Eternity's comic-book reprints: the cover's lettering *SHERLOCK HOLMES* in yellow is embossed on some copies, and not embossed on others.
2500. *NINETEENTH-CENTURY SUSPENSE: FROM POE TO CONAN DOYLE*, edited by Clive Bloom and first published in Britain, is now available in the U.S. (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1988; 139 pp., \$35.00). The book is a collection of nine essays of modern psychoanalytical literary criticism, including essays by Anne Cranny-Francis on "Arthur Conan Doyle's *The Parasite*: The Case of the Anguished Author" and by Howard Davies on "*The Lost World*: Conan Doyle and the Suspense of Evolution".
2501. There's a mustached detective in Sherlockian costume on the box of "Math Blaster Mystery", a computerized teaching aid aimed at grades 5-12, and available for \$34.99 (IBM or Apple) from Egghead Discount Software (22011 S.E. 51st Street, Issaquah, WA 98027) and (presumably) other software distributors.
2502. Kathy Cabanyog (daughter-in-law-elect of Ted Schulz) discovered this Sherlockian memo pad (100 sheets) in Phoenix. It's made by Sangamon (Taylorville, IL 62568), the sheets are 4 x 6 in., and the footprint design continues down the full sheet.

December 1989 #2

2503. Kathy Barry-Hippensteel's "Little Sherlock" doll ("a clever little boy who thinks he's the world's greatest sleuth") was advertised earlier (May 89 #4) with a June 30 deadline for orders, but it was widely advertised again in TV Guide at the end of October. It was split-edition advertising, so if your local edition of TV Guide didn't run the ad, write to the Ashton-Drake Galleries (212 West Superior Street, Chicago, IL 60610) and ask for more information. It's a mawkish 11-inch hand-crafted bisque porcelain doll in their "Born to be Famous" collection, and will be issued at \$87.00 (plus \$2.44 shipping and state sales tax). And if you've postponed ordering, there's no great hurry, since they will take orders until the end of 1990, with a limit of two dolls per customer. One does wonder a bit, whether there's going to be any increase in value after this "limited edition" closes, since anyone who really wants one of the dolls will already have two of them.
2504. The 1954 television series "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (with Ronald Howard and H. Marion Crawford) has many admirers, despite the sometimes silly scripts, and those who have watched the syndicated package now on the air here-and-there may not be aware that the original opening credits and atmospheric music have been edited out of the syndicated package. Andy Jaysnovitch (6 Dana Estates Drive, Parlin, NJ 08859) offers 36 of the 39 programs on nine videocassettes, and will be happy to send you a list of the programs available (one cassette costs \$33.00 postpaid, and there is a discount offered if more than one cassette is ordered).
2505. An interesting portrait of Sherlock Holmes, by John Tyburn, is available in full-page size (8.5 x 11 in.) for \$23.00 postpaid from Kate Karlson, at 329 Marion Avenue, Endwell, NY 13760.
2506. Reported by Michael McClure: *SOUNDS AROUND*, a Sesame Street "talking book" from Playskool (\$15.99): Sherlock Hemlock is included, with a soundtrack announcing "There's Sherlock Hemlock!" and "Sherlock loves mysteries!"
2507. Art Buchwald appears in a deerstalker on the dust jacket of (and in the ads for) his new book *WHOSE ROSE GARDEN IS IT ANYWAY?* (G. P. Putnam's Sons).
2508. Further to the report (September 89 #6) on The Brambletye Hotel in Forest Row (East Sussex RH18 5EZ, England), a photograph in the new hotel brochure confirms that the Black Peter Bar is still very much a feature of the establishment. The brochure, with S'ian decorations, also mentions that Holmes and Watson once had rooms there.
2509. Peter Haining's *THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SCRAPBOOK* (D709b) is still available on the discount shelves and tables, in the 1986 edition from Crescent Books, at \$5.98. This edition has new cover and jacket artwork (for completists), and value-for-money (for those who don't already have the book).

December 1989 #3

2510. *A WOMAN'S PLACE IN THE CANON: BEING A REFERENCE SOURCE FOR ALL FEMALE NAMES MENTIONED OR INFERRED THROUGHOUT THE CANON WITH COMMENTS ABOUT EACH* (Hudson's Crony Press, 1989) is a carefully-researched tribute to the fair sex, including victims, heroines, monarchs, clients, villainesses, goddesses, and others, all computerized and annotated in a 73-page monograph available for \$9.00 postpaid from Jennie C. Paton (206 Loblolly Lane, Statesboro, GA 30458).
2511. Sherlockian visitors to England can visit Riding Thorp Manor (or Ridling Thorp Manor, depending on which edition of the Canon you have), if you're willing to settle for the house used by Granada in its version of "The Dancing Men". Leighton Hall in Yealand Conyers, north of Carnforth in Lancashire is open to the public from May to September, and the house now also features a mini-exhibition about Jeremy Brett and Sherlock Holmes.
2512. Can anyone identify the source (recent or not-so-recent) for a published report of a "Sherlock Holmes Cocktail" or a "Mycroft Holmes Cocktail"?
2513. Bill Smith has 116 issues of *The Baker Street Journal* available for sale, from the late Carl Anderson's library. Issues are available from 1946 to the present, the cost is \$5.00 per issue, and the money will go to Andy's estate. Orders will be filled on a first-come first-served basis, and you can send your want-list to Bill Smith (15 West Hillcrest Avenue, Havertown, PA 19083); you'll be billed when your copies are shipped.

2514. A flier at hand from Timothy E. Liebe (212 West 91st Street #720, New York, NY 10024) for "That's Elementary!" (a new videocassette of The Friends of Bogie's at Baker Street in Sherlockian performance); the cassette features Andrew Joffe, Sarah Montague, Paul Singleton, and Henry Enberg, and costs \$33.00 postpaid (VHS only).
2515. Check your discount toy stores for 100-piece SHERLOCK HOLMES jigsaw puzzles showing scenes from the "Sherlock Hound" animations. The puzzles are made by Schmidt Spiel+Freizeit (Eching, W. Germany), and Tom and Ruthann Stetak and Paul Herbert have found two of them (Schmidt Puzzle 02812 and 02813) in stories in Ohio; a third puzzle may exist, but has not been located.
2516. Arthur Conan Doyle's early interest in spiritualist phenomena, his eventual conversion to Spiritualism as a religion, and his long campaigns on behalf of his cause, were all discussed and energetically defended by his first biographer, John Lamond (CONAN DOYLE: A MEMOIR, 1931), but they have been essentially ignored or treated with mild embarrassment by most of his later biographers. But Conan Doyle himself was never embarrassed by disbelief or ridicule (and he encountered much of that), and his belief in Spiritualism should not be ignored by anyone who is interested in the man whose stories and books have given and still give so much pleasure to so many. Kelvin I. Jones' DOYLE AND THE SPIRITS: THE SPIRITUALIST CAREER OF SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE (Wellingborough: Aquarian Press, 1989; 256 pp., £8.99) is a biography that focuses on Conan Doyle as a Spiritualist, using Conan Doyle's books, stories, and articles, as well as reports from Spiritualist newspapers and magazines, and the archives of the Society for Psychical Research. While there are a few minor errors in the book, Jones offers a detailed look at what Conan Doyle believed to be the most important aspect of his life.

December 1989 #4

2517. Ben Wood's new THE PHILATELIC & NUMISMATIC HOLMES is nicely done: 40 pages of illustrations and notes on stamps showing Holmes, Conan Doyle, and many Canonical items, plus a reprint of Arthur Pierce's "Was Sherlock Holmes a Stamp Collector?" (D4217a), and more illustrations and notes on Canonical coins. The cost is \$5.00 postpaid until Jan. 6, and Ben's address is Box 740, Ellenton, FL 34222.
2518. Peter Crupe reports that the Gillette-as-Holmes cigar label appears on p. 228 of Joe Davidson's THE ART OF THE CIGAR LABEL (Secaus: Wellfleet Press, 1989; \$29.99).
2519. Further to the rather confused report (October 89 #3) about BDD Promotions Book Co., I'll try again. BDD Inc. is the parent company that owns B. Dalton and Barnes & Noble. BDD (as in Bantam/Doubleday/Dell) Promotions Book Co. publishes bargain books that often wind up on the bargain tables and in the discount catalogs, as is the case with Ken Greenwald's THE LOST ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, which was published by the BDD imprint Mallard Press. Simple as ABC, or whatever . . .
2520. Jennie Paton has found a source that actually does have a videocassette of "Sherlock Jr." (1924). This is a Buster Keaton film, and it's a fine one, even though it is S'ian almost only by title: Keaton plays a projectionist who falls asleep and dreams that he has walked into the film being shown in the theater; he plays a brilliant sleuth, and there are some truly splendid special effects in the film. You can it order from Movies Unlimited, 6736 Castor Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19149 (800-523-0823); the cassette is item 539004V in their winter catalog, the cost is \$24.95 plus \$4.00 shipping, and they take plastic.
2521. "Worst of them all, Rowsby Woof, is the great rat spirit, the giant of Sumatra, the curse of Hamelin." The quote was discovered by Elizabeth Burns, in Richard Adams' WATERSHIP DOWN.
2522. The latest issue (autumn 1989) of The Pipe Smoker's Ephemeris is an interim issue, intended to tide readers over until the 25th anniversary issue is published in 1990, and the only Sherlockian content is an illustration by John Bogнар. TPSE is an irregular quarterly edited and published by Tom Dunn, 20-37 120th Street, College Point, NY 11356, for pipe-smokers and tobacco-lovers, and there is no charge the mailings (although Tom welcomes contributions, financial and otherwise, from his readers).
2523. Lisa McGaw ("Mrs. Hudson") died on December 22, and she will be missed by all those who have enjoyed the William Gillette Memorial Luncheons over the years. It was in 1964 that Clifton Andrew asked Lisa to continue the long tradition of luncheon gatherings that he had started at Keen's Chop House in the 1940s, when only a few out-of-town Sherlockians attended (and when the luncheon was not yet named in honor of Gillette), but by the 1960s the affairs were much grander (and the cost had risen to \$8.00, including tax, tip, and open bar). She received her BSI Investiture in 1982.
2524. Plan well ahead: the Culinary Institute of America has confirmed May 4, 1991, for the Sherlock Holmes Dinner that will commemorate the battle at the Reichenbach.

December 1989 #5

2525. THE STORY OF THE SEPULCHRE: THE CABELLS OF BUCKFASTLEIGH AND THE CONAN DOYLE CONNECTION, by Susan Cabell Djabri, provides a detailed account of the family, including the third Richard Cabell (who was happily married though unpopular in Devon) and his daughter Elizabeth (who at the age of 15 inherited the Cabell estates and at the age of 35 married Sir John D'Oyly) (and who, when her husband died, discovered that she was one of his two widows). The 16-page pamphlet is available from the author (32 Ernie Road, Wimbledon Common, London SW20 0HJ, England), the price is £2.00 (\$4.00 in currency will be both acceptable and convenient), and the proceeds will be used to repair the Cabell family tomb, "now in a sad state of dilapidation."
2526. More (and as usual, different) news of Granada's plans for the next Jeremy Brett series, on which work is now scheduled to start in March: according to Michael Cox (as reported by Roger Johnson), the programs will be Bosc, Cree, Illu, Lady, Shos, and Thor. A few months ago (October 89 #4) the six programs were to be Bosc, Chas, Lady, Thor, and Vall (two parts).
2527. WINTER'S CRIMES 21, edited by Hilary Hale (London: Macmillan, 1989; 352 pp., £11.95), is the latest volume in a annual series of fine anthologies of previously unpublished stories. This year Colin Dexter (author of the "Inspector Morse" series) has turned his hand to Sherlockian pastiche in "A Case of Mis-identity" (in which he also offers an amusing analysis of the Canonical case that Holmes may or may not have solved correctly).
2528. TALES FOR A WINTER'S NIGHT (Chicago: Academy Chicago, 1989; 207 pp., \$4.95) has eight of ACD's non-Sherlockian stories, reprinted from ROUND THE FIRE STORIES. Two apocryphal tales ("The Man with the Watches" and "The Lost Special") are included, along with a pleasant reminder of the suggestion by Jacques Barzun and Wendell Hertig Taylor (in A CATALOG OF CRIME) that the stories in this collection "are worth reading even around a radiator."
2529. Vincent Brosnan (Sherlock in L.A., 1741 Via Allena, Oceanside, CA 92056) has issued a new catalog, dedicated to the late Robert R. Patrick and offering many treasures from his collection, as well as other Sherlockiana and a section of Jack-the-Ripper material. The catalog, which also has a tribute to Patrick by Don Hardenbrook, and a hitherto-unpublished S'ian parody by Patrick, costs \$2.00 postpaid.
2530. The latest postal cards in the "America the Beautiful" series designed by Bart Forbes honor New York City, showing the Manhattan skyline and the 59th Street or Queensborough Bridge (which connects New York with Long Island, where Mr. Leverton investigated a mystery), and Washington, with a night-time view of the U.S. Capitol.

December 1989 #6

2531. Sherlockian scholars have discussed, and occasionally debated, the sexuality and gender of Sherlock Holmes for many years, and C. Alan Bradley and William A. S. Sarjeant have now explored the subject in considerable detail, carefully avoiding the "let's be outrageous" approach taken in the past by most who have considered the possibility that Holmes was not what he appeared to be. In *MS. HOLMES OF BAKER STREET: THE TRUTH ABOUT SHERLOCK HOLMES* (Dubuque: Gasogene Press, 1989; 262 pp., \$19.95) the authors present a careful and well-written examination of the evidence that Sherlock Holmes was female, twice pregnant, and possibly once a mother. The publisher's address is Box 1041, Dubuque, IA 52001; \$22.45 postpaid.
2532. A thick full-color catalog at hand from Levin Pipes International (RFD 1, Box 565, West Hill Road, Craftsbury, VT 05826) offering a wide range of pipes, accessories, and tobacco. One full page shows the first two pipes, in various sizes and finishes, in the "Sherlock Holmes Classic Collection" from Peterson of Dublin. The pipes range in cost from \$99.95 to \$119.95, and they take plastic.
2533. The Universal Postal Union met in Washington last month, and apparently decided nothing of immediate importance. But there were some statistics announced, including the fact that the total world mail volume in 1988 was 401 billion pieces of mail, of which 40% was handled by the U.S. That's 160.4 billion pieces of mail, more than 600 pieces per person in the U.S.
2534. L. B. Greenwood's *SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE THISTLE OF SCOTLAND* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1989; 205 pp., \$17.95) is the third in her series of well-written novel-length pastiches and, as with *SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE CASE OF THE RALEIGH LEGACY* and *SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE CASE OF SABINA HALL*, it presents Holmes and Watson with a case that is interesting (rather than merely fantastic). Greenwood is one of the very few modern writers whose style and characterizations are consistent with the Canon, and her books are a pleasant antidote to the dullness of most Sherlockian imitations.
2535. Lenny Picker reports (from the N.Y. Daily News) that Edward Woodward and John Hillerman will be Holmes and Watson in a two-hour CBS-TV television film "Napoleon of Crime" that will begin production in England in February. It's not clear who's which, but Woodward ("The Equalizer") played Watson in John Kane's "Murder, Dear Watson" at the Churchill Theatre in Bromley in 1983, and Hillerman ("Magnum, P.I.") will remember the Canon from a 1984 episode of that series called "Holmes Is Where the Heart Is".
2536. There's a new comic strip called "Norb" (described by Steve Rothman as being in the vein of the old "Popeye" or "Barnaby"), drawn by Tony Auth (editorial cartoonist for the Philadelphia Inquirer) and written by Daniel M. Pinkwater (author of *THE SNARKOUT BOYS & THE AVOCADO OF DEATH* and *THE SNARKOUT BOYS & THE BACONBURG HORROR*, both of which have S'ian echoes). The strip is thoroughly literate (and apparently in some trouble on that account), with frequent S'ian allusions. And Steve reports that Daniel Pinkwater's *FISHWHISTLE*, a collection of essays published this summer, includes "My Layde Nicotine", in which he explains that he started smoking a pipe due to Sherlock Holmes.

January 1990 #1

2537. The birthday celebration in New York was enjoyable, but there wasn't much of any real interest, so I'll just proceed with the usual notes and such.
2538. Alan Hale, Jr., died on Jan. 2. He appeared in 65 movies, but was best known as The Skipper in the 1960s television series "Gilligan's Island". In the episode "Up at Bat", Gilligan was bitten by a bat, and thinking it was a vampire bat, was afraid that he would turn into a vampire. While searching for the bat, to determine whether it was a vampire bat or a fruit bat, Hale appeared as Colonel Watney, and Russell Johnson (The Professor) as Inspector Sherlock.
2539. Further to the report (September 89 #3) from the News of the World on plans for a new film "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Missing Santa Claus" (with David Bowie as Holmes and Gene Kelly as Santa), the story hasn't made news anywhere else. And David Bowie is now reported (more reliably) to be ready to begin work this summer on a film of "Mandrake the Magician". If you've been to the movies recently you may have seen pre-previews of "Dick Tracy" (with Warren Beatty in the title role). But I doubt that the copy-cattng will last long enough for anyone to get round to "Sherlocko the Monk".
2540. The second issue of "Holmes for the Holidays" has arrived, and the magazine deserves another plug as a fine item for younger Sherlockians or for any children who ought to be younger Sherlockians. There are attractive color covers by Bob Weber, Jr. (creator of "Slylock Fox") and 12 pages of stories and puzzles, and it's value-for-money at \$5.00 a year for five issues. The magazine, edited by Michael W. McClure (1415 Swanwick Street, Chester, IL 62233), is published by the Chester Baskerville Society.
2541. Plan ahead: Hugo's Companions and The Hounds of the Baskervilles (sic) are planning a day-long celebration on May 5, at and near the Newberry Library in Chicago, of the centennial of Christopher Morley's birth. Information is available from Charley Shields, 142 Utah, Frankfort, IL 60423.
2542. The first Sherlockian publication of the year would appear to be *TAILS OF THE GIANT RATS: SHERLOCKIAN MUSING BY THE GIANT RATS OF MASSILLON*, edited by Hugh T. Harrington and Roy K. Preece, Jr. (Massillon: Village Bookshelf, 1990; 60 pp., \$7.50 postpaid from the publisher, Box 708, Massillon, OH 44648; and plastic is accepted). It's a professionally-produced anthology of essays, articles, and poetry, and nicely done.
2543. Gordon Jackson died on Jan. 14. Best known as Angus Hudson, the butler on "Upstairs, Downstairs", his acting career included many roles on stage and screen, including Inspector Alec MacDonald in the Peter Cushing television film "The Masks of Death" (1984).
2544. Terry-Thomas died on Jan. 8. Born Thomas Terry Hoar Stevens, he used the name Thomas Terry for stage roles until he discovered that people thought he was related to the actress Ellen Terry. Then he reversed the names and inserted a hyphen as a tribute to the gap in his teeth, which became his trademark in a long career that included the role of Dr. Mortimer in the Cook/Moore film version of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1978).

January 1990 #2

2545. Actually, the birthday festivities were quite interesting, as always. The formal proceedings opened on Friday, in the Oak Room at the Hotel Algonquin, with the Mrs. Hudson Breakfast, sponsored for many years first by The Old Soldiers of Baker Street (The Old SOBs) and then by The Old Soldiers of Baker Street of the Two Saults (The Old SOBs3), a scion society of the BSI and of the Unicorn Questers of Mackinac Island. This was Bill Rabe's last year as New York's representative of Mrs. Hudson, and Tom and Ruthann Stetak will be handling the arrangements for the breakfast in future years.
2546. Susan Rice presided over the annual William Gillette Luncheon at the Old Homestead, where the agenda included a tribute to the late Lisa McGaw, and a performance by The Friends of Bogie's of an excerpt from Gillette's play "Sherlock Holmes". Otto Penzler's open house at the Mysterious Book Shop was also well-attended, and book-hunters who visited Murder Ink found that shop under the management of its new owner, Jay Pearsall, who purchased the business from Carol Brener last November.

2547. The Baker Street Irregulars gathered for dinner at 24 Fifth Avenue, where Eleanor Sullivan was *The* Woman, toasted by Philip Shreffler and honored both for her editorship of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine and for her many years of ensuring appearances of fine Sherlockian stories in the magazine and in the EQMM anthologies.
2548. The BSI dinner agenda included many if not most of the usual traditions, and some events that will never be traditional. Some (but not all) of the presentations were toasts by Bjarne Nielsen (to Doc Holliday's brother, Dr. Watson) and Bob Katz (a second and possibly now-annual toast to the second Mrs. Watson), and reports by Al Rodin (on Joseph Bell, testicles, sex, and syphilis), George Fletcher (on copyrights and copywrongs), Jon Lellenberg (on the BSI archival history project), David Musto (on his role in founding a S'ian society at the Great Wall Station in the Antarctic), Ed Vatz (on the Canonicity of "The Blanched Soldier"), and Al Rosenblatt in occasional falsetto (on Sherlock Holmes' amorous walks).
2549. Two-Shilling Awards (for extraordinary devotion to the cause beyond the call of duty) were given to Dick Lesh and Bill Rabe, and posthumously to Lisa McGaw, who had accepted her invitation to the annual dinner and had hoped to be able to attend. Irregular Shillings were presented to Charles Adams ("The Winter Assizes at Norwich"), Allen Mackler ("Sarasate"), Austin McLean ("The London Library"), Fred Page ("The Arcadia Mixture"), Milton Perry ("Nathan Garrideb"), Don Pollock ("The *Anthropological Journal*"), and Tom Stetak ("The Head of the Police at Cleveland"). And Robbie Burr was on hand to receive his Irregular Ha'penny and an Investiture ("The Trap Door") in The Baker Street Irregulars.
2550. John Bennett Shaw, marooned in Santa Fe by a slight stroke, did not deliver "Simpson's Simplistic Summarized Statement" (a report on some of the more unusual correspondence he has received, and responded to, as the secretary of the BSI), but he firmly intends to do so next year. John spent a total of 32 hours in the hospital, and is now at home on prescribed medication (one aspirin a day), and is recovering rapidly, and he will appreciate getwell cards and any other mail he doesn't need to answer.

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2551. The Adventureesses of Sherlock Holmes also gathered on Friday evening, at Garvin's Restaurant, with presentations (again, the list is far from inclusive) by Tina Rhea (on Sherlock Holmes' nanny), Sue Dahlinger (on what Watson read during the Great Hiatus), and Peggy Henry (on Canonical landladies), and a performance by Karen Johnson and the Six Pips (Minus Two) of a series of Moriarty folk songs.
2552. On Saturday morning a crowd of Sherlockian vendors and customers gathered in the Oak Room at the Algonquin, with a wide variety of books and other collectibles available. And the Saturday afternoon cocktail party at 24 Fifth Avenue honored seven Sherlockian artists, with a display of original art. The Commissionaire's Award (a complete portfolio of Julian Wolff's original Sherlockian maps, awarded for conspicuously extraordinary and signal contributions to keeping green the memory) was presented to Henry Lauritzen, and accepted on Henry's behalf by Bjarne Nielsen, who managed to persuade a thoroughly reluctant Jon Lellenberg to sing, as an additional tape-recorded tribute to Henry, a chorus of "Aunt Clara". Awards of The Queen Victoria Medal were also made *in absentia*, to Dorothy Beverly West and Katherine McMahan, the only survivors of the early Sherlockians who solved the "Sherlock Holmes Crossword" published by Christopher Morley in the Saturday Review of Literature in 1934. Susan Rice reported poetically on the ASH dinner, and Al Rosenblatt similarly on the BSI dinner, and the performances ended with an auction of three pieces of original artwork from the exhibit, with the proceeds going to the Dr. John H. Watson Fund.
2553. The Dr. John H. Watson Fund offers financial assistance to Sherlockians (membership in the BSI or the ASH is not required) who might otherwise be unable to participate in the weekend's festivities. A carefully anonymous John H. Watson presides over the fund and welcomes contributions, which can be made by check payable to John H. Watson and mailed (without any return address) to Dr. Watson, c/o Thomas L. Stix, Jr., who will happily forward the checks unopened. Tom's address: 34 Pierson Avenue, Norwood, NJ 07648.
2554. On Saturday evening many S'ians gathered off-off-Broadway at the Theatre at Saint Peter's Church to see Lee Shackleford's play "Holmes & Watson" (with the author and Glenn Alan Gardner in the title, and only, roles). The play is an interesting exploration of the relationship between Holmes and Watson after Holmes' return from the Great Hiatus, and was well-received at its premiere at the University of Alabama in Birmingham last May, and at its ten-day run in New York.
2555. On Sunday, south-bound travelers dined in Philadelphia with The Master's Class at the Franklin Inn Club, where Ruthann Stetak reported in graphic detail on notable Victorian murderesses.
2556. A revised 11-page list of Investitured Irregulars, Two-Shilling Awards, and *The* Women is now available, for \$1.00 postpaid (checks to Peter E. Blau, 3900 Tunlaw Road NW #119, Washington, DC 20007). Also available (same address) is the 54-page list of the 507 Sherlockian societies, with names and addresses for the 293 active societies, at \$3.25 postpaid. A run of address labels for the 256 individual contacts (recommended for those who wish to avoid making duplicate mailings to people who are contacts for more than one society) costs \$10.00 postpaid.

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2557. SHERLOCK HOLMES' LONDON: FOLLOWING THE FOOTSTEPS OF LONDON'S MASTER DETECTIVE, by Tsukasa Kobayashi, Akane Higashiyama, and Masaharu Uemura, published in Japan in 1984 and in an American edition in 1986, has been reissued in a second printing (San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 1986; 128 p., \$16.95), and it is recommended highly for its fine color photography of the S'ian aspects of modern London, and for the older photographs and illustrations of the London that Sherlock Holmes knew.
2558. Eternity Comics has finished its comic-book mini-series A CASE OF BLIND FEAR (four issues with its version of Sherlock Holmes versus the Invisible Man), and is reported ready to begin another mini-series about Sherlock Holmes and the War of the Worlds. In the meantime, Eternity has launched a much more interesting series called SHERLOCK HOLMES OF THE '30S reprinting the old strips drawn by Leo O'Mealia (see D5840b and D5841b). And Eternity is continuing its series of reprints of the Frank Giacoia SHERLOCK HOLMES strips (#19 has been published, with a total of 26 issues planned).
2559. Owners of "DEAR STARRETT--"/"DEAR BRIGGS--" (the first volume in the BSI Archival Series) (November 89 #2) will also enjoy the 1989 issue of The Beeman's Christmas Annual, which is devoted to Gray Chandler Briggs, with seven fine articles about the first S'ian to follow Sherlock Holmes's footsteps and discover the actual location of 221B Baker Street. The 32-page pamphlet also has a photograph of Briggs, and is available from William R. Cochran, 517 North Vine Street, DuQuoin, IL 62832; \$5.00 postpaid.
2560. And further to the item (December 89 #6) about the new comic strip "Norb" here's a sample (from the San Francisco Examiner, Dec. 5 and 6, 1989):

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2561. A flier at hand with details about The Bimetallic Colloquium to be held at McGill University in Montreal on June 15-17 (there's a ten-percent discount if you register by Feb. 28). Speakers will include Mark Alberstat, Patrick Campbell, Cameron Hollyer, Chris Redmond, Barbara Rusch, and Peter Wood, with Roger Johnson as an added entry, and you can request more details from The Bimetallic Question, Box 883 Stock Exchange Tower, Montreal, Quebec H4Z 1K2, Canada.

2562. In response to queries about how to find copies of Peter Haining's THE TELEVISION SHERLOCK HOLMES (November 89 #2): the British edition, from W. H. Allen, is distributed here by Lyle Stuart and priced at \$24.95. And Lyle Stuart is part of the Carol Publishing Group (600 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10022). The book is also available from the Mysterious Bookshop (129 West 56th Street, New York, NY 10019) for \$35.50 postpaid, and they take plastic.
2563. Members of the Baker Street Irregulars, real or otherwise, are not seen all that often on network television, so the episode of "Dear John" broadcast by NBC-TV on Jan. 24 was a pleasant surprise, with Gordon Clapp playing BSI Dave Travis. TV Guide's synopsis: "Kirk expects to hunt snow bunnies when he takes John along on a free ski weekend, but he's left in the cold when John befriends a fellow Sherlock Holmes buff."
2564. Robert F. Fleissner's article "No Ghosts Need Apply" discussing a possible connection between "The Empty House" and Algernon Blackwood's ghost story "The Empty House" appeared in Studies in Weird Fiction #6 (fall 1989). The magazine is available for \$6.00 postpaid from the Necronomicon Press, 101 Lockwood Street, West Warwick, RI 02893.
2565. Responding to the query (December 89 #3) about cocktails, Steve Rothman readily identified a letter titled "Sherlock Holmes and Cocktails" (and signed by "Charing Cross") that appeared in Christopher Morley's column "The Bowling Green" in the Saturday Review of Literature (Jan. 6, 1934): "Will not the Hotel Duane on Madison Avenue, which you say is frequented by Sherlock Holmes's publishers, invent a Sherlock Holmes cocktail in honor of the birthday? I will offer the 2-volume edition of the Complete Stories as a prize for the most appropriate formula.--Of course there should really be two; the *Sherlock* and the *Mycroft*. What a subtle and softly influential philtre the *Mycroft* would have to be!" In an addendum to the letter Morley wrote that "I like Mr. Cross's suggestion about the cocktail, and will be pleased to forward for his judgment any suggested formulae." Suggestions must have been received, but none are to be found in the pages of the SRL. Does anyone know if someone else followed up on this elsewhere? "You see, my image of Sherlock isn't me," Jeremy Brett recently explained at a gathering of media journalists in Hollywood this month. "My image, I think, is a kind of cross between Ben Kingsley and Al Pacino...with a touch of George Hamilton thrown in." Brett, who started playing Holmes in 1983, also said that "it's now '90 and the trouble is that I'm finding him easier to play, which is not a good thing." Brett, accompanied by Peter Davison (Campion), David Suchet (Hercule Poirot), John Thaw (Inspector Morse), and Rebecca Eaton (producer for WGBH-TV), were celebrating (and promoting) the tenth anniversary of "Mystery!"

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2566. THE LIGHT IS DARK ENOUGH is a 36-page booklet prepared for last year's "Cambridge Expedition" by The Sherlock Holmes Society of London, edited by Jonathan McCafferty and offering a series of essays and illustrations of the Cantabrigdean aspects of the Canon (June 89 #3). The booklet costs \$20.00 postpaid (checks payable to the Society), and you can order from Jonathan McCafferty, 5 Jonathan Court, Windmill Road, Chiswick, London W4 1SA, England.
2567. Gideon Hill reports that Granada's "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" is now being broadcast by the Armed Forces Network to West Germany, Belgium, Holland, and the United Kingdom (and anyone who has an NTSC-format VCR will be able to watch the shows). The series is also likely to run later this year on Southern European Broadcasting and the Pacific Broadcasting System. The military networks don't pay royalties, and that's why it often takes a long time for them to obtain access to series and television films.
2568. Other news from the comic-book world: Jerry Margolin reports that Northstar has now issued a hardbound edition (in slipcase, at \$29.99) of its earlier paperback collection reprinting the first four issues of CASES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES series, with artwork by Dan Day. And Caliber's BAKER STREET series set in punk-world London, with many echoes from the Canon, is continuing (#4 has been published). There are also Canonical echoes in HELLBLAZER #23, published by DC Comics in Oct. 1989.
2569. The fine catalog of the Vincent Starrett exhibit at the University of Minnesota Library was distributed in New York as one of the birthdayfestivities souvenirs, and it is also available on request (and without charge) from Austin McLean, Wilson Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455.
2570. The Forbes Magazine Galleries are at 62 Fifth Avenue (at 12th Street), and open from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Tuesday through Saturday, which is neatly convenient for those heading for the Saturday cocktail party at 24 Fifth Avenue during the birthday festivities in New York. One of the splendid exhibits features 12,000 toy soldiers (selected from more than 100,000 in the Forbes collection), and one of the displays shows a military parade, complete with spectators, who include Holmes and Watson.
2571. Sherlock Holmes' new secretary at 221b Baker Street is Tony Harries, who succeeds Nikki Caparn, who retired from the post last year (November 89 #4).
2572. L. B. Greenwood's second novel-length pastiche SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE CASE OF SABINA HALL (May 88 #6) is now available in paperback (New York: Pocket Books, 1989; 190 pp., \$3.95). And Esther M. Friesner's alternate-universe fantasy novel DRUID'S BLOOD (July 88 #2) is available in a British paperback (London: Headline, 1989; 279 pp., £3.50).
2573. According to my records, my 1990 seasonal souvenir ("EL DETECTIVE SHERLOCK HOLMES") should have reached all subscribers, either during the birthday festivities, or since, or with this mailing. If I missed someone, please let me know.

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2574. Harrison H. Schmitt, the former astronaut and former U.S. senator from New Mexico, was in Tulsa at the end of January to speak at the Tulsa Press Club and to dine with the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, and to ascend Holmes Peak, where he was honored for his naming Sherlock Crater on the Moon, which in turn inspired the naming of Holmes Peak (which is the only geographic feature officially honoring Sherlock Holmes on the Earth).
2575. The annual dinner of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London generated press reports about "The Case of the Identical Addresses", discussing plans by John Aidiniantz for his Sherlock Holmes Museum at 239 Baker Street (June 89 #6 and December 89 #1). According to the Evening Standard (Jan. 8), the museum will be established above the Martins restaurant now on the ground floor at 239, and Aidiniantz says that his museum will be stocked with memorabilia such as the phosphorescent paint used on the fangs of the Hound of the Baskervilles, the emerald tie-pin given to Holmes by Queen Victoria, and Holmes' "private papers". Aidiniantz also reported that the Westminster Council has given permission for him to call the address of the museum 221B, but the Post Office said that mail for Sherlock Holmes is still being sent to the Abbey National Building Society ("Letters are delivered to the address on the envelope."). The Sherlock Holmes International Society has only half-a-dozen members, Aidiniantz acknowledged, but "that will increase hugely when we open."
2576. Collectors of finely written, composed, and printed Sherlockiana are well aware of the fine work done by John Ruyle at his Pequod Press, from which, in occasional intervals when the ink has dried on printings of John's poems and of Dr. Fatso's memoirs, issue irregular items such as the small folder which offered New Year's greetings from the Iron Dyke Co., reprinted here with permission and thanks.

February 1990 #2

2577. Travelers to England may want to visit the Blue Orchid disco in Croydon. According to a report in local papers in Oct., the site of the Blue Orchid was once the Greyhound Hotel, "featured by famous author Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in one of his novels." The report does not, however, mention the name of the novel.
2578. THE DEVIL'S MODE, a collection of stories by Anthony Burgess, published last year in Britain (November 89 #7), is now reported in an American edition (New York: Random House, 1990; 290 pp., \$18.95). One of the stories is a Sherlockian pastiche "Murder to Music".
2579. The catalog for the 8th annual Oxford and Cambridge University Vacations offers "The Light upon the Moor" (examining "the techniques and development of two great English mystery writers, and the special locations in England which inspired them"). The two great mystery writers are Agatha Christie and Arthur Conan Doyle, with six days at university and five days in Devon. The Oxford dates are July 8-18, and the Cambridge dates are Aug. 12-22. The catalog is available from University Vacations, International Building, 9602 N.W. 13th Street, Miami, FL 33172 (800-792-0100).
2580. Martin Gardner's "The Irrelevance of Conan Doyle" (D2108b) was collected (with a postscript) in his SCIENCE: GOOD, BAD AND BOGUS (1981), which is now available in paper covers (Buffalo: Prometheus Books, 1990; 412 pp., \$15.95).
2581. An older item, just discovered: SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE JEWEL & OTHER SHORT PLAYS, by M. Choksi, with illustrations by Dolly Biswas (Bombay: Orient Longman, 1983; 158 pp.), is a collection of five adaptations for sixthgrade students, part of a series of Sangam English Supplementary Readers intended to help students who are learning English. "Sherlock Holmes and the Jewel" is an adaptation of "The Blue Carbuncle", and the booklet is available for \$3.95 postpaid from Apt Books, 141 East 44th Street #511, New York, NY 10017.
2582. S'ian philatelist Bruce Holmes has assembled two topical mini-collections, one of stamps showing saints mentioned in the Canon (10 pp.), and the other showing stamps keyed to the Canon for each letter of the alphabet (15 pp.). Bruce offers high-quality photocopies of "Sherlockian Saints" (\$10.00) and of "Sherlockian Letters" (\$15.00); both prices are US\$ postpaid, and his address is 64 Maple Circle, Dollard des Ormeaux, Quebec N9B 1E5, Canada.
2583. They Might Be Giants, a rock group consisting of John Flansburgh and John Linnell, took their name from the George C. Scott film, and their first album was "They Might Be Giants" (Bar/None), issued in 1986 (April 89 #2). Their second album was "Lincoln" (Bar/None), and they have now moved to a major record company for their third album, "Flood" (Elektra).
2584. THE MISADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, edited by Sebastian Wolfe (London: Xanadu, 1989; 247 pp., £3.99), is a paperback collection reprinting some of the better burlesques, parodies, and pastiches. Of the 14 stories, only one is to be found in Ellery Queen's collection (of which Wolff was unaware when he chose the name for his collection, and one is a new pastiche ("The Affair of the Midnight Midget", by Ardath Mayhar).

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2585. The late Bliss Austin's splendid collection of Sherlock Holmes and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, bequeathed to his children and to Lehigh University, will be sold at auction this spring by silent sealed-bid auction. Bidding can be flexible: for individual lots, for combinations of lots, and for the entire collection, and the collection will be available for inspection and offers at the Linderman Library on Apr. 16-29 (viewing is by appointment only, and the appointment times can include evenings and weekends). A detailed description of the material is now available (\$5.00 postpaid, checks payable to Lehigh University Libraries), as is a formal announcement of the sale with details on the procedures to be followed. If you are interested, contact Dr. Philip A. Metzger at Linderman Library 30, Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA 18015 (215-758-4506).
2586. Bliss' copy of Beeton's Christmas Annual (signed by Vincent Starrett and by Frederic Dannay) and his manuscript of "The Valley of Fear" will not be included in the auction at Lehigh, as they have been sent to Sotheby's for sale later this year, and his manuscript of "Memories and Adventures" was bequeathed to Mount Holyoke College. But even without these three items, the collection is still one of the best ever assembled: almost all of the first editions of the Canon (some in dust jackets), The Strand Magazine in British and American issues, many other early magazines and newspapers, and extremely rare material from the early days of The Baker Street Irregulars are only some of the treasures that were to be found on Bliss' shelves.
2587. STUDIES IN SCARLET (Dubuque: Gasogene Press, 1989; 199 pp., \$19.95) is an anthology of essays originally intended to accompany a centenary edition of "A Study in Scarlet" planned by the Daedalus Press, and the contributors (who include John Ball, David L. Hammer, Michael Harrison, John Bennett Shaw, and Philip A. Shreffler) have not limited their discussions to the centenary story. The book also has fine illustrations by Kiyoshi Tanaka, and can be ordered (\$22.45 postpaid) by mail from the Gasogene Press (Box 1041, Dubuque, IA 52001).
2588. A belated George Washington's Birthday to all, since we don't celebrate his actual birthday any more, just President's Day. But: on what date in 1731 was George Washington actually born?
2589. I am still pursuing my research on THE BOY'S SHERLOCK HOLMES, edited by Howard Haycraft (D657a, D264b, and D266b), and I would greatly appreciate hearing about copies owned by anyone who has not already responded to my earlier queries.
2590. Further to the search for recipes for the Sherlock and Mycroft cocktails (December 89 #3 and January 90 #5), the first response to "Charing Cross" was a letter from "Gasogene" in "The Bowling Green" in the Saturday Review of Literature (Jan. 20, 1934), suggesting that "whatever beverage your Holmes-and-Watson club chooses for its ceremonial luncheon, it had better not be the wine of Beaune," because "the good Doctor told us that Beaune at lunch made him irritable." Ted Friedman also notes that H. R. Stahl proposed, in a letter in "The Bowling Green" (Feb. 3, 1934), that one ingredient of the Mycroft cocktail would surely be "pollinaris water", which will be found in O. Henry's story "Lost Blend". But we still need a complete recipe for one or both of the cocktails.

February 1990 #4

2591. "The Avengers: The Curious Case of the Countless Clues" (from the 1968 one-hour television series starring Patrick Macnee and Linda Thorson, and with Peter Jones as Sir Arthur Doyle) is available from Discount Video (10792 Belleville Road, Belleville, MI 48111) in VHS only for \$12.99 plus \$2.00 shipping. The episode is not really Sherlockian, nor Doylean, but there are occasional echoes. And if you're an "Avengers" fan, Discount Video has many other episodes available, with Honor Blackman and Diana Rigg as well as Linda Thorson.
2592. The first issue of The Sherlockian Tabloid, edited by Mohamed Bazzi for The Young Sherlockians of New York (based at the Joseph Pulitzer Intermediate School in Jackson Heights), is a 16-page slick-paper anthology of articles, pastiches, and puzzles, and available (\$3.00 postpaid) from the editor, at 80-08 35th Avenue #5-F, Jackson Heights, NY 11372.
2593. The manuscript of "The Three Garridebs" was sold at auction at Christie's in London in December (November 89 #6), and purchased by Mark Hime for £44,000 (that's about \$72,600 and does not include the 10% buyer's premium). The manuscript was recently offered by Hime's firm Bibliotopus at the California Book Fair for \$155,000. Other items offered by Bibliotopus included A STUDY IN SCARLET in the first printing of the first book edition (\$35,000), a complete run of first printings of Classics Comics/Illustrated (\$20,000), and a complete run of Topps' Football Cards (\$38,000).

2594. E. Christian Mattson (300 East Joppa Road #A-9, Towson, MD 21204) offers his illustrated catalog (with a color cover showing a handsome copy of the first edition of THE HOUND OF BASKERVILLES) of early and recent S'iana (\$3.50 postpaid, refundable on purchase).
2595. Recently seen: SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE EMINENT THESPIAN, by Val Andrews (Romford: Ian Henry, 1988; 110 pp., £8.95). The eminent thespian is actor William Gillette, in London in the spring of 1901 starring in his play "Sherlock Holmes" (which in this pastiche seems to have been based on the 1939 film "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes"). For the record, Gillette opened his London run of "Sherlock Holmes" at the Lyceum in Sept. 1901, some months after, rather than before, the coronation of Edward VII.
2596. Rick Hacker's Celebrity Cards have proved quite successful: of the four Sherlockian designs in the series, three have sold out (SHC-183, SHC-284, SHN-184), but one is still available (SHC-184); the price is \$8.50 for a box of ten cards with envelopes, and the address is Box 634, Beverly Hills, CA 90213. A four-page sales list with color illustrations of all 20 cards in the series is also available, for \$2.00 postpaid.
2597. Rick also reports that the Apr. issue of Playboy has a brief item on the Peterson "Sherlock Holmes" pipe set in the Potpourri section.
2598. The third issue of Prescott's Press (New Series), edited by Warren Randall for The Three Garridebs, was published in Sept. 1989, with 40 pages, and is devoted to "The Speckled Band", offering articles, alternative solutions devised for a contest set by 1st Bangalore Pioneers, and a discussion of the helodermitid *Sampoderma* (described and illustrated for the first time in 1956 in the Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History).

February 1990 #5

2599. Robert Barr, writing as Luke Sharp, was the author of one of the earliest Sherlockian parodies, published in May 1892 issue of The Idler as "Detective Stories Gone Wrong: The Adventures of Sherlaw Kombs" (D5816a). And George W. Locke has discovered a second interesting item: "The Adventure of the Second Swag", also by Barr, as Sharp, in the 1904 volume of The Idler. According to Locke's synopsis, the story is set at Doyle's Hindhead home, Undershaw, to which Sir George Newnes, publisher of The Strand, has come to pay the pieces of gold owing to Doyle for his resurrection of Sherlock Holmes. All goes smoothly, until Holmes himself arrives, intent on securing his cut... A pamphlet reprint of the story is available for £15 (or \$25) from Ferret Fantasy, 27 Beechcroft Road, Upper Tooting, London SW17 7BX, England.
2600. Julian Wolff died on February 12. Julian's first formal contribution to the Sherlockian world was a set of maps produced in 1940 (in the minutes of the 1941 annual dinner of the BSI, Edgar W. Smith noted that Julian was "cartographer extraordinary to the cult" and in 1942 he had been promoted to "cartographer royal"), and he received his Investiture ("The Red-Headed League") in 1944. When Edgar died in 1960, Julian volunteered to serve as editor of the BSJ and as Commissionaire of the BSI, continuing as editor for 17 years and as the only officer of the BSI for 26 years. He received the Two-Shilling Award in 1968, and a special Golden Sovereign in 1973, and many of his friends contributed to a *festschrift* issue of the BSJ published in June 1986, recommended to those who wish to know more about the energy and wit that Julian contributed to the Sherlockian world. In Sept. 1973 Julian attended a meeting of The Red Circle of Washington, and discovered that the Washington chapter of the International Wizard of Oz Society was meeting at the same restaurant. After stopping by for a drink with friends in that group, he returned to report that people were meeting in another room, talking about Dorothy and the Scarecrow and the Tin Woodsman as if they were real people. "They're crazy," Julian noted mildly.
2601. There has been no formal suggestion about a charity to which contributions might be sent in memory of Julian, but a fine proposal by Francine Swift is the Dr. John H. Watson Fund, which offers financial assistance to S'ians (membership in the BSI or the ASH is not required) who might otherwise be unable to participate in the weekend's festivities. A carefully anonymous John H. Watson presides over the fund and welcomes contributions, which can be made by check payable to John H. Watson and mailed (without any return address) to Dr. Watson, c/o Thomas L. Stix, Jr., who will happily forward the checks unopened. Tom's address: 34 Pierson Avenue, Norwood, NJ 07648.
2602. Linda King offers an illustrated sales list of color photographs of Jeremy Brett and Edward Hardwicke taken backstage in London, Cardiff, and Bath, and onstage at the last night of "The Secret of Sherlock Holmes" in London. Prices range from £1.25 (4"x6") to £12.00 (20"x30"), and Linda's address is 39 Rolleston Park, Shrewton, Salisbury, Wilts. SP3 4DU, England).
2603. THE CASE OF THE INFERNAL NONSENSE, edited by Dean Clark for the Afghanistan Perceivers, is an anthology of pastiches, essays, and debate (the latter about the true identity of Billy the page), with some fine illustrations by Ed Stadler (113 pp., \$10.00 postpaid from R. Dean Clark, c/o S.E.G., Box 702740, Tulsa, OK 74170).

February 1990 #6

2604. Further to the report (January 90 #3) on the birthday festivities, the seven S'ian artists whose original artwork was displayed at the cocktail party on Saturday afternoon were: Jeff Decker, Stefanie K. Hawks, Henry Lauritzen, Charles A. Meyer, Laura Parker, the late Norman Schatell, and Kiyoshi Tanaka.
2605. John E. Stephenson reports another source for deerstalkers: Johnson Smith Co., Box 25500, Bradenton, FL 34206. Their price is \$13.95.
2606. Issue number 23 of The Tantalus at hand from the Pequod Press, with hints of titles of cases as yet unrecorded by Dr. Fatsos about his friend Turlock Loams, and an announcement of BAKER STREET OR BUST, the latest collection of Sherlockian quatrains composed by Baron Dowson, the chief helmsman of the Pequod. The book is available from John Ruyle, 521 Vincent Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707; \$30.00 cloth or \$15.00 paper.
2607. The ninth annual Wright State Symposium, with considerable Sherlockian and Doylean content, will be held on Mar. 10-11 in Dayton. Additional details are available from Al Rodin, 3041 Maginn Drive, Beavercreek, OH 45385.
2608. Canada's new stamp showing a timber wolf is Canonical, what with seven mentions of wolves in six of the stories. It was Sherlock Holmes who said (in "A Study in Scarlet") that "I am one of the hounds and not the wolf."
2609. Tekna Productions (2 & 3 Moores Place, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4AG, England), the firm that produced eight color prints and four greeting cards for the City of Westminster Libraries, and "The 221B Collection" of color prints from THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (July 88 #1), has a new set of eight color prints of Sidney Paget's illustrations from THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, for £13.50 postpaid. The prints are handsomely produced, on heavy stock and suitable for framing, and an illustrated flier is available from Tekna.
2610. MATCH WITS WITH SHERLOCK HOLMES is a series of four children's books, for ages 8-11, each with two stories from the Canon, adapted by Murray Shaw and illustrated by George Overlie (Minneapolis: Carolrhoda Books, 1990). The adaptations and illustrations are splendid, and the books are well produced in attractive reinforced library bindings. The books cost \$9.95 each (or \$39.80 for the set) postpaid from the publisher, at 241 First Avenue North, Minneapolis, MN 55401 (800-328-4929).
2611. Carolrhoda Books is also sponsoring a mystery-writing contest for students in grades 4-6, encouraging students to read one of the four books and then write a Sherlock Holmes mystery of their own (Murray Shaw will select the grand prize-winner, whose story will be published by Carolrhoda). Contest packages are available from Carolrhoda to teachers, librarians, and anyone else who would like to organize a preliminary round at the local level.

2612. Further to the report (January 90 #5) on The Bimetallic Colloquium at McGill University in Montreal on June 15-17, the speakers will also include Beth Greenwood. A flier is available from The Bimetallic Question, Box 883 Stock Exchange Tower, Montreal, Quebec H4Z 1K2, Canada.

February 1990 #7

2613. Earlier (February 90 #3) I asked, "on what date in 1731 was George Washington actually born?" George Washington was born on Feb. 11, 1731, well before the British, in 1752, adopted the Gregorian calendar in all of their possessions, including the American colonies. The change resulted in a loss of eleven days, and Feb. 11 became Feb. 22. For those who think that Washington was born in 1732 rather than 1731, he was indeed born in 1731: the change to the Gregorian calendar also involved shifting the start of the new year from Mar. 25 to Jan. 1, so Feb. 11, 1731, is now considered to have been Feb. 22, 1732, even if it wasn't.
2614. The Mar. 1990 issue of Esquire has a nice essay by John Berendt on "The Slipper" (based on an interview with Stanley MacKenzie).
2615. Another plug for the discount-book catalogs from Edward R. Hamilton (Falls Village, CT 06031): his latest catalog offers the Mysterious Press edition of THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (published at \$25.00) for \$6.95, Michael Hardwick's THE REVENGE OF THE HOUND (published at \$17.95) for \$4.95, and THE ORIGINAL ILLUSTRATED SHERLOCK HOLMES (a facsimile reprint of all the stories illustrated by Sidney Paget) for \$6.95.
2616. The Great Alkali Plainsmen are planning a "Holmes on the Range" convention in Kansas City on Labor Day weekend (Sept. 1-3), with an agenda that will include "special guests, films, dramatic entertainment, curious incidents, games afoot, super conversations, hucksters galore, and much more." There will also be a competition to find the most knowledgeable scion society, with John Bennett Shaw as quizmaster and Jon L. Lellenberg and Philip A. Shreffler as judges, and all Sherlockian societies have been invited to send teams of "three of your finest Canonical experts" to compete in the "gawdawful Shaw arena" in Kansas City. Additional information is available from Stan Carmack, 10517 East 71st Terrace, Raytown, MO 64113.
2617. Apropos of nothing in particular, an item in the Washington Post (Jan. 25) notes that veteran actress Shelley Winters isn't easily intimidated, and cites a report in Premiere magazine. When the upcoming film "Awakenings" was being cast recently, Robert De Niro requested that Winters play the role of his mother. Someone--no one will admit to it--insisted that she read for the part. The actress arrived to meet with the casting director. After a moment of silence, she reached into her satchel and pulled out an Oscar, which she placed on the desk. Then she reached in and pulled out another, placing it next to the first. Finally she said, "Some people think I can act. Do you still want me to read for this part?" "No, Miss Winter," came the reply. She got the part . . .
2618. Sherlock Holmes meets H. P. Lovecraft, and Cthuhlu, in SHERLOCK HOLMES IN THE ADVENTURE OF THE ANCIENT GODS, a pastiche written by Ralph Vaughan and first published in 1983 in Holmesian Federation #4. The story has now been reissued as a 38-page pamphlet, with new illustrations by Earl Geier, and available from Gryphon Books, Box 209, Brooklyn, NY 11228; \$5.00 postpaid.
2619. This year's "Canonical Convocation" for Chicago Sherlockians (and anyone else who wishes to participate) will be held in Door County, Wisconsin, on Sept. 14-16. Additional information is available from Donald B. Izban, 5334 Wrightwood, Chicago, IL 60639.
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February 1990 #8

2620. If you know any librarians who are going to attend the annual conference of the American Library Association in Chicago, you might let them know about the next meeting of The Sub-Librarians Scion of the BSI in the ALA, on June 24. Details are available from Marsha Pollak, Sunnyvale Public Library, 665 West Olive, Sunnyvale, CA 94086.
2621. Further to the report (June 89 #3) on the Edinburgh branch of the Federation of Master Builders' plans to commemorate their 50th anniversary in 1991 by donating a statue of Sherlock Holmes to the city, sculptor Gerald Laing has completed work on the clay model. The eight-foot statue, to be cast in bronze, will be installed (on a six-foot base) in Picardy Place, where Conan Doyle was born in 1859. The photograph is from the Edinburgh Evening News, which reports that the Master Builders have cleared a £3,500 profit on a fund-raising boxing event, but are still well short of the the £35,000 cost of the statue, and that they will welcome contributions sent to their appeal fund at 30 Richmond Terrace in Edinburgh.
2622. Dr. and Mrs. Arthur Liebman (18 Meadow Lane, Roslyn Heights, NY 11577) offer a flier for their mystery-lover's tour of England "in the footsteps of Sherlock, Agatha, and Dracula," July 29-Aug. 12, 1990.
2623. Yet another alphabet-soup report on BDB Corp. and BDD Promotions Book Co. (December 89 #4): BDB Corp. (which owns B. Dalton and Barnes & Noble) has agreed to purchase the Doubleday Book Shops (40 outlets nationwide) from the West German company Bertelsmann AG, which owns Doubleday (and the BDD Promotions Book Co.).
2624. And, for those whose newspapers don't carry Doug Marlette's "Kudzu" comic strip, here's the one that ran on February 6:
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March 1990 #1

2625. The Mini-Tonga Scion Society is back in action, and The Tonga Times is back in print with issue #24 and an interesting article by Brian Jackson on his research on the floor plan of 221 Baker Street. The society is for keepers and creators of Sherlockian miniatures: for information on membership, send a #10 SASE to Dee Snyder, 8440 Nashua Drive, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418.
2626. The British Museum in London has organized an exhibition on "Fake: The Art of Deception" (from Mar. 9 to Sept. 2), including a Conan Doyle display: the Cottingley Fairy photographs, on loan from The Brotherton Library at Leeds University.
2627. American Express has shipped the fifth installment of the Simon & Schuster audio cassettes to subscribers, bringing the total number of cassettes to fourteen (far more than are available in stores). I don't know whether American Express card-holders can still subscribe to the series, but their toll-free telephone number is 800-528-8000. The first ten cassettes are available directly from Simon & Schuster, but their toll-free number is 800-687-2677.
2628. At hand from Gary Westmoreland is news of for Granada's "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes", which was selected by the editors of the Associated Press as one of the eleven best television miniseries and specials of the 1980s, and singled out as one of the decade's bright spots by Robert Goldberg in the Wall Street Journal.
2629. We all know (or we all should know by now) that the phrase "Elementary, my dear Watson" does not appear in the Canon. But (one of my correspondents has asked): when *was* the phrase first used, and by which author or actor?
2630. "Hero bloodhound Sherlock sniffs out kidnapped newborn" (according to the N.Y. Post, in a report at hand from Marlene Aig). On Feb. 3 a three-day-old infant was kidnapped from St. John's Hospital in Brooklyn by a woman posing as his mother, in a case solved with the assistance of Sherlock, a 95-pound member of the local police department's canine unit.
2631. The Sherlockian "Garfield" was used in the Washington Times (first spotted on Feb. 22) in a promotion for a Newspaper in Education Week workshop for teachers "eager to enhance their curriculum through the use of the newspaper as an innovative learning tool."
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2632. Further to the further report (February 90 #6) on the seven Sherlockian artists whose original artwork was displayed at the cocktail party on Saturday afternoon, Ruthann Stetak was the first to remind me that the seven were actually nine: Scott Bond, Jeff Decker, Stefanie K. Hawks, Henry Lauritzen, Charles A. Meyer, Laura Parker, the late Norman Schatell, Kiyoshi Tanaka, and Jean Upton.

March 1990 #2

2633. Plan ahead: "The Final Problem Workshop: Conan Doyle's Revenge" will be held at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg on June 14-16, 1991. The workshop will be masterminded by Ray Betzner and The Cremona Fiddlers, whose fine workshop "Fiddling Around with Sherlock Holmes" was held in Williamsburg in July 1987. Other S'ian events already scheduled for 1991 are the Sherlock Holmes Society of London's pilgrimage to Switzerland, Apr. 26-May 5, and the Sherlockian dinner at the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park on May 4.
2634. Rathbone's (your friendly tavern with excellent food), at 1702 Second Avenue, near 88th Street, in New York, has a nicely S'ian logo.
2635. The Friends of Bogie's at Baker Street do not restrict their dramatics to S'ian programs. Disguised as ZPPR Productions, Henry Enberg, Mickey Fromkin, Andrew Joffe, Sarah Montague, Dore Nash, Susan Rice, and Paul Singleton can be heard on National Public Radio, which airs their series "Visit New Grimston, Anyway". Another series ("Little Chills") will start in April, presenting original short dramas of mystery, suspense, or otherworldly themes. Your local NPR station can tell you if and when the series will be broadcast, and mail-order cassettes are available from ZPPR Productions, 34 Gansevoort Street, New York, NY 10014.
2636. The Mar. 1990 issue of Smithsonian has an instructive one-page essay by Jim Lehrer (associate editor of the "MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour") on the pleasures of collecting (Lehrer describes himself as a world-class collector of depot signs and other memorabilia). Collectors, Lehrer suggests, are not odd. "We are merely possessed with a need to collect certain things that some people might consider odd."
2637. Gary Larson's "The Far Side" cartoon "Buddy's Dream" (about the Parakeet of the Baskervilles), which ran in newspapers on Dec. 5, 1986, was reprinted in THE PREHISTORY OF THE FAR SIDE: A 10TH ANNIVERSARY EXHIBIT (Kansas City: Andrew and McMeel, 1989).
2638. M. J. Trow has written six books about Inspector Sholto Lestrade, offering a new and more sympathetic look at the oft-maligned detective portrayed in the Canon, writing with humor (sometimes slapstick and often punning) and pleasant ingenuity. The books, published by Macmillan in England, are THE ADVENTURES OF INSPECTOR LESTRADE (1985), BRIGADE: FURTHER ADVENTURES OF INSPECTOR LESTRADE (1986), LESTRADE AND THE HALLOWED HOUSE (1987), LESTRADE AND THE LEVIATHAN (1987), LESTRADE AND THE BROTHER OF DEATH (1988), and LESTRADE AND DEATH (1988), and LESTRADE AND THE RIPPER (1988). The first book has been published by Stein & Day in the U.S. as THE SUPREME ADVENTURE OF INSPECTOR LESTRADE (1985), and there is a possibility that others in the series will also be published here.
2639. The National Council for Research on Women is sponsoring "Spend an Evening with Women of Mystery" at Saint Bartholomew's Episcopal Church at Park Avenue and 51st Street in New York on Apr. 27, with more than 30 of the country's leading mystery writers taking part. Tickets cost \$75.00 (or \$90.00 at the door), and further information is available from Mary Ellen Capek, NCRW, 47-49 East 65th Street, New York, NY 10021.
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March 1990 #3

2640. Michael Stewart, who served twice as Great Britain's foreign secretary in the 1960s, died on Mar. 10. It was Stewart who gave approval for plans by his permanent undersecretary, Sir Paul Gore-Booth, to impersonate Sherlock Holmes during the 1968 trip to Switzerland by the Sherlock Holmes Society of London. And when some members of the press and public criticized the impersonation as undignified and unsuitable for a senior civil servant, it was Stewart who noted mildly that Sir Paul was in no danger of being fired. "I have every sympathy with him," Stewart said, adding that "I'm a great Sherlock Holmes enthusiast myself. I often pick up a book, though I am not a member of the Sherlock Holmes Society."
2641. Yet another S'ian logo, discovered by Kathy Cabanyog (Ted Schulz's daughter-in-law-elect) at the Sands Hotel in Las Vegas.
2642. The reviews of Umberto Eco's new book FOUCAULT'S PENDULUM suggest that it is even more challenging to the reader than his THE NAME OF THE ROSE (and so far there has been no mention of anything Sherlockian about FOUCAULT'S PENDULUM). But the book is certainly imaginative: a review (also at hand from Ted Schulz) notes that two of the main characters in the book have started a School for Comparative Irrelevance, teaching such skills as potiosection (the art of slicing soup) and tetrapylotomy (the art of splitting a hair four ways).
2643. Check your local PBS-TV listings for "The Power of Algebra", a series of ten 15-minute programs produced by Louisiana Public Broadcasting in 1989 and intended to help eighth and ninth-grade students in mastering various algebra concepts. The programs include amusing animated segments featuring Holmes and Watson.
2644. Ron De Waal's bibliographies of foreign translations of the Canon run from Afrikaans to Uzbek, but there is now an addition to his list: Pig-Latin. ETHAY ADVENTUREAY OFAY ACKBLAY ETERPAY, translated and published last year by Kevin Reed as a 30-page pamphlet, is available for \$12.45 postpaid from Sherlock's Home, 4137 East Anaheim Street, Long Beach, CA 90804.
2645. One of the more unusual scion-society pins shows Popeye in S'ian costume, honoring his birth in Chester, Ill., where he was created by Elzie Segar in 1929. The six-color enameled pin is available for \$7.00 postpaid from The Chester Baskerville Society, 1415 Swanwick Street, Chester, IL 62233.
2646. Further to the report (December 89 #6) on the two-hour CBS-TV television film "Napoleon of Crime" (with Edward Woodward as Holmes and John Hillerman as Watson), a new report by Marilyn Beck (forwarded by Emory Lee) says that the film has a new title ("Hands of a Murderer"), that production work will end this month, and that the program will be broadcast in May during the "sweeps" (when the networks compete hardest for good Nielsen ratings. The cast and crew survived the hurricane-force winds that plagued England in recent weeks, and Woodward said that despite adventures in getting to the set, "production is a romp." And Lenny Picker reports that Anthony Andrews (who was Sebastian Flyte in "Brideshead Revisited") will play Moriarty.
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March 1990 #4

2647. Julian Symons' biography CONAN DOYLE: PORTRAIT OF AN ARTIST (reprinted by the Mysterious Press in 1987 at \$15.95) has been remaindered at \$3.99 at Crown (and presumably at other bargain outlets). First published in 1979 in Britain, the book is relatively short (137 pp.), well-written though with some factual errors, and profusely illustrated (and with some photographs and other material not available elsewhere); unfortunately, illustrations published in color in the first edition appear only in black-and-white in the reprint.
2648. Check the dog-food shelves in your supermarkets for boxes of Milk-Bone Flavor Snacks displaying a "win \$10,000 in gold" promotion on the front: the back of the box has Sherlock Bones and details on how to solve "The Case of the Vanishing Flavor Snacks" (and on how you might win one of the one thousand Sherlock Bones T-shirts).
2649. It will be interesting to see if any S'ian manages to win one of the T-shirts, since this may well be the first limited-edition S'ian collectible for which luck rather than lucre is the controlling factor: regardless of how many times a compulsive collector enters the contest, there's no guarantee of winning one.
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2650. Paramount has set Apr. 27 as the release date for "Tales from the Darkside: The Movie" (with Deborah Harry, James Remar, Christian Slater, and Rae Dawn Chong), billed as a collection of stories by Stephen King, Michael McDowell, and Arthur Conan Doyle. Christian Slater was Adso of Melk in "The Name of the Rose" (1986). And Lenny Picker reports that Paramount reports that "Lot No. 249" is the Conan Doyle story used in the film.
2651. Victoria Robinson reports some additional television news (from the Los Angeles Times, Mar. 11): plans for a four-hour version of "The Lost World" (with Oliver Reed as Challenger and Donald Pleasence as Summerlee).
2652. MagicImage Film Books (740 South 6th Avenue, Absecon, NJ 08201) specializes in publishing horror-film shooting scripts, with photographs and production information, priced at \$19.95, and they are planning to publish Rathbone's Sherlock Holmes films in the same format. Not immediately, however: "The Scarlet Claw" is scheduled for late 1991, with others to follow.
2653. Videotaper alert: according to the late winter 1989 issue of Anglofile, CBS-TV added "The Prisoner" to its Thursday late-night lineup starting on Feb. 1 (actually in the early hours of Feb. 2), following the Pat Sajak show. But not in Washington, where we get "Hawaii Five-O" in that time slot. If you do get "The Prisoner" you might want to record episode 15 ("The Girl Who Was Death"), since Patrick McGoohan appears in Sherlockian costume in that program. And Anglofile is a 12-page newsletter published six times a year for fans of British stage, screen, television, and music (the latest issue includes interviews with Leo McKern and Peter Davison). \$12.00 a year from The Goody Press, Box 33515, Decatur, GA 30033.

March 1990 #5

2654. Sherlockian gourmets, gourmands, chefs, cooks, and collectors who have been searching for copies of the cookbook DINING WITH SHERLOCK HOLMES will welcome the just-published second edition (New York: Fordham University Press, 1989; 287 pp., \$18.95). DINING WITH SHERLOCK HOLMES, by far the best of the Sherlockian cookbooks, has now been improved by its authors, Julia C. Rosenblatt and Frederic H. Sonnenschmidt, who have added a new preface and a long appendix on "Sherlock Holmes at the C.I.A.: The Quinquennial Dinners". The appendix includes some additional recipes (which have not been added to the index), and the book is recommended as a fine example of the pleasures to be found in the world (and especially the dining rooms) of Sherlock Holmes. Fordham takes plastic, and has a tollfree number (800-666-2211), and charges \$2.50 for shipping.
2655. More Sherlockian artifacts: sterling-silver key rings and pipe tampers, priced at \$50.00 each, can be ordered from Marty Pulvers (Sherlock's Haven, Four Embarcadero Center, San Francisco, CA 94111).
2656. The new movie "The Handmaid's Tale" has received mixed reviews, but it does feature three Sherlockian actors: Robert Duvall (the Commander) was Watson in the film "The Seven-Per-Cent Solution" (1976), Natasha Richardson (Kate) was Violet Hunter on TV in Granada's "The Copper Beeches" (1985), and Victoria Tennant (the Headmistress) was Helen Stoner on TV in the Sheldon Reynolds' version of "The Speckled Band" (1981).
2657. A variety of Sherlockiana published by the Marylebone Library is available by mail: Catherine Cooke's 95-page booklet THE CONTENTS OF A LUMBER-ROOM: A CATALOGUE OF THE SHERLOCK HOLMES COLLECTION (£7.00), a set of eight tinted prints from Sidney Paget's illustrations (£8.00), a set of four full-color greeting cards (£5.30), and a set of five black-and-white greeting cards (£4.00). Prices are postpaid to the U.S., and payment in sterling is requested, payable to the City of Westminster (dollar checks should include an extra L0.80 to cover exchange commission). Orders can be sent to the City of Westminster, attn: Leisure Services (14th floor), Westminster City Hall, Victoria Street, London SW1E 6QP, England.
2658. More information at hand on the second "Canonical Convocation" for Chicago Sherlockians (and anyone else who wishes to participate), which will be held in Door County, Wisconsin, on Sept. 14-16. The agenda is interesting and imaginative, and a detailed schedule is available from Donald B. Izban (5334 Wrightwood, Chicago, IL 60639).
2659. The energetic efforts of Jack Tracy and Bill Goodrich have made it rather difficult to devise interesting Canonical challenges that cannot be solved by referring to THE ENCYCLOPAEDIA SHERLOCKIANA or GOOD OLD INDEX. But one such challenge was devised by Chris Redmond and included in "A Patrickian Puzzler for St. Sherlock's Day 1990": Sherlock Holmes said the potato was completely different. From what other vegetable, and as different as what? Neither Tracy nor Goodrich have reported this reference to the potato. And you will find no mention of this particular reference by Julie Rosenblatt and Fritz Sonnenschmidt in DINING WITH SHERLOCK HOLMES.

March 1990 #6

2660. At hand from Gary Westmoreland is a press release announcing plans by Harmony Gold and Klondike Films to produce "The Golden Years of Sherlock Holmes" starting in the fall of 1990, with Christopher Lee as Holmes and Patrick Macnee as Watson, and "major guest stars" making cameo appearances, to be filmed in "spectacular original settings all over the world." The first program is to be a four-hour miniseries "Sherlock Holmes: The Incident at Victoria" (which takes place on a train journey from Capetown to Cairo, with a stopover at the Victoria Falls Hotel), and this will be followed by a second four-hour miniseries "Sherlock Holmes: The Merry Widow" (which will take Holmes and Watson across Europe). And then there will be 22 one-hour adventures, each following a new case. It is not entirely clear how much of the filming for the first mini-series will be on location, in view of the fact that there is not now, nor ever has been, a railroad line from Capetown to Cairo.
2661. Harry Alan Towers, who produced the Gielgud/Richardson radio series for the BBC in 1954, is president of Klondike Film Productions Ltd. and will be executive producer for the new series. Christopher Lee was Holmes in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1959) and "Sherlock Holmes und das Halsband des Todes" (1963), and Mycroft in "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970). And Patrick Macnee was Watson in "Sherlock Holmes in New York" (1976).
2662. There is also a possibility of long-range good news for radio fans: "A Tale of Two Cities" (produced in Britain by Independent Radio Drama Productions and now running as a serial on National Public Radio) will give you an idea of current work by a company that has a new stereo Sherlock Holmes series under consideration, and Andy Trudeau, senior producer at NPR, hopes to be able to air the series.
2663. And there's more television news, this time involving "Tyburn Productions vs. Conan Doyle": the [London] Times reports that a lawsuit by Tyburn, who produced the Peter Cushing television film "The Masks of Death" (1984) and have planned to make a sequel ("The Abbot's Cry"), and who had sued last year in Britain seeking a ruling that Dame Jean has no control over the characters, was unsuccessful. The court ruled that it had no jurisdiction over the still-extant copyright in the United States.
2664. There *are* people who read the words in Playboy, rather than just look at the pictures. Dave Galerstein reports that "Miss February" in 1976 was named Laura Lyons, and that she is also on display in the Jan. 1977 issue.
2665. Robert C. Hess (529 Potters Boulevard, Brightwaters, NY 11718) has a new sales list, offering Sherlockian theater programs, film posters, statues, dolls, plates, umbrellas, and other collectibles.
2666. Ray Goulding died on March 24. Ray Goulding and his partner Bob Elliott created "The Bob and Ray Show" in the late 1940s, and their gentle and offbeat humor delighted generations of radio and television fans. VINTAGE BOB AND RAY, issued by Genesis Records in 1973, has twenty items from their early radio days, including "The Adventures of Sherlock Sage" (featuring the renowned sleuth and his uncomplicated sidekick, Dr. Clyde).

April 1990 #1

2667. News from Japan: THE INTERNATIONAL ILLUSTRATED SHERLOCK HOLMES (with 742 illustrations and 59 photographs from the Granada series), edited by John Bennett Shaw, Tsukasa Kobayashi, and Akane Higashiyama, has been published by Kodan-sha (Kyoritsuikaikan 4-6-19, Kohinata, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 112), and the price is ¥2,000; the book is a massive collection showing how the Canon has been illustrated over the years, and in various countries. And Kiyoshi Tanaka's translation of Charles Viney's SHERLOCK HOLMES IN LONDON has been published by JICC Shuppan at ¥2,900, in soft covers and with a smaller page size than the original edition.
2668. And the Japan Sherlock Holmes Club's newsletter Baker Street News reports that the owner of the manuscript of "The Dancing Men" is offering it for sale, for ¥48 million (that's about \$300,000); the manuscript has 53 pages, and was donated by Conan Doyle to the Red Cross in 1918 and sold at auction in London for ten guineas. The current owner is an unidentified American lady.
2669. The question posed last month (March 90 #5) noted that Sherlock Holmes said the potato was completely different, and asked from what other vegetable, and as different as what? Sherlock Holmes' statement (in "The Sign of the Four") was, "To the trained eye there is as much difference between the black ash of a Trichinopoly and the white fluff of bird's-eye as there is between a cabbage and a potato." Not all of the Canonical indexes ignore the two vegetables: both are listed in Hugh T. Harrington's HARRINGTON'S CANONICAL INDEX, which is available from The Village Bookshelf, Box 708, Massillon, OH 44648 (\$22.00 postpaid).
2670. And Chris Redmond, who devised the query, notes that on Nov. 10, 1979, the Saturday Review asked readers to define the difference between a cabbage and a potato. One of the entries was a poem that began: "Both are plants and both are food--/ Simple facts, widely understood./ But boiled, roasted, or fried,/ Only cabbage smells like something that died."
2671. A political (though non-Sherlockian) question, occasioned by the fact that George Bush was serving as vice president when he was elected president. How many other serving vice presidents have been elected president? And who were they? No need to look this up in an almanac, as the answer will be given below.
2672. Alan C. Olding (P.O. Box 13, Stirling, S.A. 5151, Australia) offers copies of a bold yellow bumper sticker (shown here in reduced size): US\$10 for five bumper stickers (payment in currency requested).

April 1990 #2

2673. Robert L. Fish's "Schlock Homes" parodies are modern classics that delighted readers of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine from 1960 to 1981, and they are now again available from Gaslight Publications in SCHLOCK HOMES: THE COMPLETE BAGEL STREET SAGA. And the saga is indeed complete: 23 of the stories were collected in THE INCREDIBLE SCHLOCK HOMES (1966) and THE MEMOIRS OF SCHLOCK HOMES (1974), but nine additional stories were previously appeared only in EQMM; this collection has all the stories, with an attractive dust-jacket illustration by Joseph Mahler. Gaslight's address is 626 North College Avenue, Bloomington, IN 47404, and the price of the book is \$31.45 postpaid (plastic accepted).
2674. Also available from Gaslight, in the "Conan Doyle Centennial Series", is A DUET WITH AN OCCASIONAL CHORUS, with an Afterword by Peter E. Blau (\$18.45 postpaid). First published in 1899, A DUET is a romance (it was described by Conan Doyle as "an attempt to draw the quiet humours of domestic life, as a contrast to my stories of action") and often quite autobiographical, and this edition also contains two chapters published for the first time in an American edition of the book. And Gaslight's spring 1990 catalog offers many other titles from Gaslight and other publishers.
2675. German interest in Sherlockiana continues apace, as noted by Dick Rutter. SHERLOCK HOLMES UND DAS GEHEIMNIS DER SACHERTORTE, a pastiche by Gerhardt Totschinger, was published by Langen Muller in 1988. SHERLOCK HOLMES UND DIE KRONJUWELEN, a translation of Val Andrews' pastiche SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE EMINENT THESPIAN, was published by Knauer in 1989. And NOBEL MORDER, published by Bastei-Lubbe in 1989, is a collection of stories selected by the Swedish Academy of Detection and published in England in 1981 as CRIME WAVE; the collection includes "Das Backerdutzend in der Baker Street", a pastiche by Arthur Douglas (a pseudonym of D. A. Moreton).
2676. And we are delighted to report that Chris Steinbrunner is now at home in Queens (52-52 82nd Street, Middle Village, NY 11379).
2677. Spring fever rages at the Pequod Press, which has announced publication of THE ADVENTURE OF THE FRYING DETECTIVE, in which Turlock Loams matches wits with the shadowy Gene Moriautry. Available from John Ruyle, 521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707; \$30.00 (cloth) or \$15.00 (paper).
2678. Bud Grace's "Ernie" is a relatively new comic strip in the Washington Post, where this one appeared in Apr. 3.

April 1990 #3

2679. At hand from Jean Upton is a flier for "The 7% Convention: A Sherlock Holmes Event" to be held at the Shepperton Moat House Hotel (in Middlesex) on Aug. 25-26, offering talks, films, competitions, and other entertainment. The organizer, Jane Sayle, is a Member of Council of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London, and Douglas Wilmer will attend, and Edward Hardwicke and Jeremy Paul may be able to participate. Details are available from Jane Sayle, 6 Bramham Moor, Hillhead, Fareham, Hampshire PO14 3RU, England.
2680. Further to earlier reports (October 89 #4 and December 89 #5) on the next Granada series ("The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes"), British press reports state that production will begin soon on "Lady Frances Carfax". The five other stories will be "The Illustrious Client", "Shoscombe Old Place", "Thor Bridge", "The Creeping Man", and "The Boscombe Valley Mystery".
2681. More news from Britain: a Baker Street nightclub has opened in Grimsby (on the northeastern coast of England, not far from Hull). According to owner Reza Daryan, the nightclub is "aimed at the over-21's who are looking for rather more sophisticated entertainment," and has an adjoining Victorianstyle bar called Sherlock's.
2682. NATE THE GREAT AND THE MUSICAL NOTE, by Marjorie Weinman Sharmat and Craig Sharmat (New York: Coward-McCann, 1990; 48 pp., \$11.95), is the latest in the continuing series of amusing children's books about a young detective. As usual, Nate appears in a deerstalker in Marc Simont's illustrations.
2683. There are politicians aplenty on postage stamps (including Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Harry Truman, both members of the BSI), as well as quite a few lighthouses (five of them in our newest stamp booklet, with one more on the cover of the booklet). But philatelic trained cormorants are more difficult, though not impossible, to locate. Sherlockian philatelists will now have a brief respite, as far as U.S. stamps are concerned: the next item scheduled is a postal card honoring Niagara Falls, due in September.
2684. A political (though non-Sherlockian) question, occasioned by the fact that George Bush was serving as vice president when he was elected president. How many other serving vice presidents have been elected president? And who were they? No need to look this up in an almanac, as the answer will be given below.
2685. Errors found in this newsletter are not, despite suggestions from eagleeyed readers, published in order to find out whether anyone actually reads the newsletter. M. J. Trow has indeed written six books about Inspector Sholto Lestrade (March 90 #2), and the title LESTRADE AND DEATH (1988) is a

ghost. And Christopher Lee did not play Holmes in the 1959 film "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (March 90 #6): Lee was Sir Henry Baskerville, and Holmes was played by Peter Cushing.

April 1990 #4

2686. American Express Merchandise Services has told subscribers to the series of Rathbone/Bruce radio shows on audiocassettes that "the producer of these tapes has informed us that due to a manufacturing problem the remaining twelve tapes in the series are out of production." The fifth shipment (with cassettes 12-14) will be the last from American Express. Ken Greenwald of 221A Baker Street Associates reports that the only problem is that fewer than 2,000 people subscribed to the series, and American Express wasn't interested in continuing it. But 221A (and Simon and Schuster) will continue with distribution to bookstores (five of the first seven cassettes are on the national best-seller list), through the entire series of 26 cassettes (and possibly more).
2687. Further to the report (March 90 #4) on plans for a new four-hour television mini-series of "The Lost World" (with Oliver Reed as Challenger and Donald Pleasance as Summerlee), this is to be a joint production by Harmony Gold and Klondike Films, who are also planning to produce "The Golden Years of Sherlock Holmes" (March 90 #6), and Lucy and Luiz Carlos Barreto of Brazil (who produced "Dona Flor and Her Two Husbands" and "Bye Bye Brazil"). Work on the mini-series is to begin this summer, with shooting on location in Brazil, Luxembourg, and Yugoslavia.
2688. At hand from Ely Liebow is the first issue of Sleuth & Statesman, which is "a quarterly communique to friends and patrons of Winston & Holmes," with Sherlockian content and some genial promotion for their pipes, cigars, and accessories. You can write to Winston & Holmes at 138 Cumberland Street, Toronto, Ont. M5R 1A6, Canada.
2689. Thanks to a far-flung and sharp-eyed bargain-hunter on the west coast, I can offer three mint-condition copies of the boxed one-volume edition of William S. Baring-Gould's THE ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES, published by Crown in 1986 at \$55.00. My price is \$40.00 each, plus shipping, and the offer stands until the copies are gone. Call (202-338-1808) or send a post card, but don't send a check until you know you were in time with your order.
2690. Three serving vice presidents were elected president: John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and Martin Van Buren. There were other serving vice presidents who became president (but were not elected) when their predecessors died in office or resigned, and Richard M. Nixon was not serving as vice president when he was elected president.
2691. "The Case of the Colorful Disappearing Eggs: An Intriguing Egg Decorating Kit" (an 8-inch-square box) with Harelock Holmes and Dr. Wabbitson on the cover and inside (where they are joined by Bunny-Arity) was found in the discount and drugstores again this Easter. First reported last year (March 89 #5), the kit has a variant this year: the box now lists the ingredients (per government regulations), and the kit contains ten (rather than six) "disappearing paper eggs that change into beautiful egg coloring."
2692. THE NEW ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: ORIGINAL STORIES BY EMINENT MYSTERY WRITERS, edited by Martin Harry Greenberg and Carol-Lynn Rossel Waugh, did well in its hard-cover British edition (March 88 #5), and is now available as a trade paperback (London: Arlington Books, 1990; 345 pp., £7.95), with the same cover portrait of Sherlock Holmes by Slatter Anderson.
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April 1990 #5

2693. In case you are curious but haven't asked (some readers have), the "hologram" envelopes used for these mailings were issued by the US postal service as one of the many philatelic items intended to help pay for "World Stamp Expo 89" (a massive exposition held in Washington in 1989). Local post offices generally don't stock this sort of thing (nor do they have all the commemoratives, postal cards, and envelopes issued during the past twelve months). But the USPS Philatelic Sales Division (Box 9997, Washington, DC 20265) will be glad to send you a color-illustrated catalog for mail orders (they take plastic, and there's a minimum 50-cent shipping charge for orders from the catalog).
2694. The "hologram" envelopes cost 30 cents each (or \$136.00 for a box of 500), but note that these are #9 envelopes, slightly smaller than the usual #10 envelopes, so you need to be careful when you fold a standard letter sheet. The USPS Stamped Envelope Agency (Williamsburg, PA 16693) will also print your return address on a box of 500 "hologram" envelopes for a total charge of \$139.50 (they charge \$136.90 for a box of 500 return-address regular #10 stamped envelopes).
2695. Charlotte Erickson (1920 Marich Way, Mountain View, CA 94040) will publish cumulative quarterly supplements to the Oct. 1989 edition of her 45-page checklist SHERLOCK HOLMES IN THE COMIC BOOKS. The checklist costs \$12.00 postpaid (\$13.00 in Canada and \$16.00 overseas), and the supplements cost \$3.50 a year (\$4.50 overseas).
2696. Further to the note (March 90 #3) on not yet having received any report of anything Sherlockian about Umberto Eco's FOUCAULT'S PENDULUM, AI Rodin has found an allusional Sherlockian reference, on page 265, where a directory of the world's secret societies (with addresses, postal codes, and phone numbers) is described as including "the Mormons (I read about them in a detective story, too, but maybe they don't exist anymore)."
2697. Gary Thaden reports that Gerry Gersten's caricature of Sherlock Holmes is still in use by the Quality Paperback Club (Camp Hill, PA 17012), on watches (\$19.95), sweatshirts (\$16.00), and mugs (\$7.20 for a set showing Sherlock Holmes and Edgar Allen Poe), and they offer a 20% discount to new members.
2698. "Murder, Myth, and Mystery" is a series of seven-day tours of England, arranged by British Heritage Tours, "looking into the world of some of Britain's most illustrious crime writers" (including, as one might expect, Conan Doyle). Their American agent is John Murray, 235 Post Road West, Westport, CT 06880, or you can write to them at Richmond Place, 125 Boughton, Chester CH3 5BJ, England.
2699. An illustrated flier at hand from Frank J. Vacante for a new full-color deck of Sherlock Holmes playing cards, with 18 original drawings by Jeff Decker. The cards cost \$7.50 for one deck, and \$14.00 for two (plus \$1.50 per deck for shipping), and they can be ordered from Singular Cards, Box 1364, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18703.
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April 1990 #6

2700. Gary Thaden also reports Sherlockian artwork on the cover of THE MAGIC DETECTIVES: JOIN THEM IN SOLVING STRANGE MYSTERIES, by Joe Nickell (115 pp., \$7.95). This is a book for children (ages 9-15), intended to help them learn the techniques of skeptical investigation (of ghosts, UFOs, Bigfoot, and the like), published by Prometheus Books, 700 East Amherst Street, Buffalo, NY 14215 (800-421-0351, plastic accepted).
2701. There's also a S'ian cover illustration (and one inside, on p. 38) in 50 MYSTERIES I CAN SOLVE, by Susannah Brin and Nancy Sundquist (Los Angeles: Price Stern Sloan, 1988; 48 pp., \$2.95).
2702. The Sherlock Holmes Museum has opened in Baker Street, with some publicity (one newspaper article ran under the headline "221b or not 221b?"), and also discussion of the unlikelihood that Sherlock Holmes actually lived at 239 Baker Street (the actual address of the Museum) or at the site now occupied by the Abbey National Building Society (where Tony Harries, now Sherlock Holmes' secretary, says that "we don't object to a museum opening down the street . . . what we object to is him calling it 221b"). And a third-hand report from a visitor notes that the Museum has an entrance
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- fee of £5.00 and contains an exhibit that consists of one display-case, which has led to complaints about "rip-off" and "charlatan" (none of which should be directed at the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, which has carefully avoided any association with the Museum). John Aidiniantz, proprietor of the Museum, has been described in the press as admitting to a mixed career (selling videos to Nigerians, dress-making, being a property agent for Arabs, a music publishers, and a singer's promoter), and as believing he has found a potential pot of gold.
2703. Robert Mauro's 1988 one-act comedy "Sherlock Holmes: 10 Minutes to Doom" is included in his collection TWO-CHARACTER PLAYS FOR STUDENTS ACTORS (with 15 plays, 192 pp.), available from Meriwether Publishing, Box 7710, Colorado Springs, CO 80933 (\$7.95 plus \$2.75 shipping).
2704. Bruce Holmes' attractive topical mini-collection of "Sherlockian Letters" (February 90 #2) has been published (as "L'alphabet selon Sherlock Holmes") in the Mar. 1990 issue of Philatelie Quebec. The magazine is available from Editions Phibec, 4545 avenue Pierre-de-Coubertin, Montreal, Quebec H1V 3R2, Canada; (CA)\$3.00.
2705. For the benefit of those planning to attend the next Sherlockian dinner at the Culinary Institute of America on May 4, 1991, Al Rosenblatt writes that Chuck LaForge, owner of the Beekman Arms, reports that his hotel has a few (but only a few) rooms still open for the weekend. A two-night stay is required, and the telephone number is 914-876-7077. Al also reports that there are many other nice hotels in the area, including the Radisson in Poughkeepsie (about ten minutes from the CIA). The Radisson will accept a one-night reservation (their telephone number is 914-485-5300), and they are offering a special discount to Sherlockians. Finally, eager gourmets and gourmands are warned *not* to try to make reservations for the dinner, since Al is not yet accepting reservations. Readers of this newsletter will learn quickly when Al is ready to accept reservations for the dinner.

May 90 #1

2706. Another stop on a Conan Doyle tour of England: according to the Lancashire Evening Telegraph (Apr. 4), the Eagle and Child (a Matthew Brown pub) at Hurst Green has been refurbished with a Conan Doyle theme, commemorating the author's student days at nearby Stonyhurst College. The decorations include framed stills from Sherlock Holmes films, and Mrs. Hudson's kitchen "will provide an extensive menu in leather-bound holders."
2707. Walter R. Brooks' series of books about "Freddy the Pig" have delighted children for more than fifty years, and FREDDY THE DETECTIVE (D6166a) is again in print (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1987; 264 pp., \$4.95), with a new color cover by Leslie Morrill and a new introduction by Michael Cart.
2708. J. Robert Black's interesting sculptures of Sherlock Holmes, Dr. Watson, and Prof. Moriarty (D3795b) are still available, about 18 inches high, in stoneware (with or without painted skin tones) or in porcelain with black detailing, at \$65.00 each. Also available are pendants on rawhide (\$10.00 each), and plates or plaques (\$18.00 each), and special commissions are also welcome. Write to J. Robert Black, Jr. (1320 Orkney Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48103).
2709. Jack Kerr reports that Eve Titus' BASIL AND THE WILD WEST has been reprinted as a trade paperback (New York: Pocket Books/Minstrel), with new cover art by Judith Sutton. BASIL OF BAKER STREET, BASIL AND THE PYGMY CATS, and BASIL AND THE LOST COLONY are also available in the reprint series.
2710. Ben Wolf ("Vernet, the French Artist") has an apt Investiture: his artwork has graced the covers of the dinner menus of The Sons of the Copper Beeches for many years, and his artistic talents extend well beyond the Sherlockian genre. "Then & Now: Purist Paintings in Retrospect & Recent Watercolors by Ben Wolf" was the title of an exhibition during May at the Newman Galleries in Philadelphia.
2711. A new sales list at hand from Chris and Beth Caswell (Sherlock's Home, 4137 East Anaheim Street, Long Beach, CA 90804), with many in-print books and collectibles such as hand-painted T-shirts honoring Holmes or Moriarty.
2712. Joseph Payne Brennan died on Jan. 28. His stories of mystery and horror were published in Weird Tales and by August Derleth's Arkham House, and his series detective Lucius Leffing owes much to H. P. Lovecraft as well as to Sherlock Holmes (though the stories are not Sherlockian pastiches). THE CASEBOOK OF LUCIUS LEFFING, THE CHRONICLES OF LUCIUS LEFFING, and ACT OF PROVIDENCE are out of print, but THE ADVENTURES OF LUCIUS LEFFING can be ordered from Donald M. Grant, Box 187, Hampton Falls, NH 03844 (\$30.00 signed by Brennan and the book's artist, Luis Ferreira).
2713. Videotaper alert: The Movie Channel will show "Without a Clue" (1988) on June 5 and 30, and "The Black Cat" (1941) on June 20. "The Black Cat" has Basil Rathbone in the cast (as Hartley), and in one scene another character asks, referring to Rathbone, "Who does he think he is--Sherlock Holmes?"

May 90 #2

2714. Kathy Barry-Hippensteel's "Little Sherlock" doll ("a clever little boy who thinks he's the world's greatest sleuth") may turn out to be the most heavily-promoted collectible in the history of Sherlockiana. First advertised (May 89 #4) with a June 30 deadline for orders, it was widely advertised again in TV Guide in Oct. 1989, and most recently in the Apr. 22 issue of Parade Magazine (which is an insert in Sunday editions of newspapers in most major and many minor cities). There is now a one-per-customer limit on this mawkish 11-inch hand-crafted bisque porcelain doll in the "Born to be Famous" collection (last year you could order two of them), and the price is \$87.00 (plus \$2.44 shipping and state sales tax). The latest advertisement says the doll is "now available", but if you've postponed ordering, there's no particular rush, since orders will be taken until the end of 1990 (write to the Ashton-Drake Galleries, 212 West Superior Street, Chicago, IL 60610). As noted earlier (December 89 #2), one might wonder whether there's going to be any increase in value after this "limited edition" closes, since so many people will already have one (if not two) of them.
2715. One example of a high-priced limited-edition collectible that has not shown any increase in value is Al Hirschfeld's signed lithograph "Stars of the Playhouse", which shows twenty world-famous stars who have appeared at the Westport Playhouse since it opened in 1931. The advance price (November 88 #3) was \$600 (increased to \$750 after Jan. 1989), and a "special offering" just at hand still offers the lithograph at \$750 (from George J. Goodstadt, 17 Danbury Road, Ridgefield, CT 06877). One of the twenty caricatures shows Basil Rathbone as Sherlock Holmes, and I believe that it was drawn for this lithograph, since there is no record of a Hirschfeld caricature when the Rathbone play was produced in 1953. Rathbone presumably appeared at the Westport Playhouse in some other role, since his "Sherlock Holmes" went direct from its Boston tryout to Broadway.
2716. Robert Quackenbush has four series of semi-Sherlockian children's books. featuring Detective Mole, Piet Potter, Investigator Ketchem, and Sherlock Chick. SHERLOCK CHICK'S FIRST CASE was published by Parents Magazine Press in 1986, and SHERLOCK CHICK AND THE PEEKABOO MYSTERY in 1987, and they are nicely done.
2717. John and Patricia Kluge, recently newsworthy because of a pending divorce (according to the N.Y. Daily News, Kluge is worth about \$5.2 billion, and is giving his wife their 45-room mansion in Charlottesville as well as the annual interest from \$1 billion), were in 1988 the employers of Sir Richard Musgrave, who was convicted of killing hundreds of federally-protected owls and hawks in order to protect the English-style game-shooting on the Kluge estate (May 88 #6 and June 88 #1 and December 88 #2). "I guess I'll be the first criminal in the family since Charles I," Sir Richard suggested at the time, also noting that his title results from the "political shenanigans" of a Tory forefather.
2718. Robert A. Heinlein's THE MOON IS A HARSH MISTRESS (D5930a) is available as a paperback reprint (New York: Ace Books, 1987; 302 pp., \$3.95); the book is excellent (it won a Hugo award at the World Science Fiction Convention in 1966), and it features a computer named Mycroft, as well as many other Sherlockian references.

May 90 #3

2719. Caliber Press, which publishes the BAKER STREET comic book (I have seen three issues, but there may be as many as five issues with the story "Honour Among Punks"), also issues CALIBER PRESENTS, which has in the Feb. 1990 issue (#9) a pleasantly S'ian story-strip "Elementary My Dear". KATY KEENE COMICS DIGEST MAGAZINE #10 (July 1990) is a smaller magazine (in "The Archie Digest Library"), with Katy Keene in S'ian costume in "The Mystery of the Shabby Shadow". SHERLOCK HOLMES #22 (with the Frank Giacoia strip) and SHERLOCK HOLMES OF THE '30S #4 (with the Leo O'Mealia strip) have been published by Eternity. The four-issue run of Eternity's 1989 mini-series A CASE OF BLIND FEAR (Sherlock Holmes versus the Invisible Man) has been reprinted as a graphic novel (Newbury Park: Malibu Graphics, 1990; \$9.95). And some forecasts, in ADVANCE COMICS (July 1990), at hand from Tim O'Connor: Eternity will soon begin SHERLOCK HOLMES: CASE OF THE MISSING MARTIAN (a four-issue mini-series about the War of the Worlds), and Northstar will publish CASES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: BOOK II (a trade paperback reprinting issues #6-9 with Dan Day's artwork).
2720. The May 1990 issue of Gourmet has a nice article on "Shopping in Bath" with discussion of why the scarlet British fox-hunting coat was for many years call "pink", and who it was the Bath Oliver was named for, and a fine color photograph (on p. 92) of an attractive Sherlockian display of tobacco at the shop of Frederick Tranter.
2721. Linda King (39 Rolleston Park, Shrewton, nr. Salisbury, Wilts. SP3 4DU, England) offers an illustrated flier showing seven designs (with artwork showing Brett and Hardwicke in the Granada series) available as notecards.
2722. A copy of the INTERNATIONAL ILLUSTRATED SHERLOCK HOLMES (edited by John Bennett Shaw, Tsukasa Kobayashi, and Akane Higashiyama) has arrived, and the book is a delightful demonstration of how much fun artists in many countries have had illustrating the Canon over the years, and in a wide variety of styles. The captions appear in both Japanese and English, and there's very little collateral text in Japanese only. The publisher is Kodan-sha (Kyoritsuikaikan 4-6-19, Kohinata, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 112, Japan); the price is Y2,000, and I would guess that many Sherlockian book dealers already have shipments on the way for those who are willing to wait rather than order from Japan.
2723. CBS news correspondent Bruce Morton came up with an ingenious idea for celebrating National Secretary's Week: interviewing a secretary "whose boss won't send flowers, because he never existed." Morton's interview from London, with Sherlock Holmes' secretary Tony Harries, aired on radio and television on Apr. 25, and was spotted by an alert Pj Doyle.
2724. Does anyone have a complete set of videocassettes of the 1981 television series "Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson" (starring Geoffrey Whitehead and Donald Pickering)? And are there any partial holdings, which might allow a complete set of copies to be assembled? Please let me know what you have.
2725. John B. Taylor recommends a new antiquarian book dealer in Britain: David Hadaway (The Old Gallery Bookshop, 125 High Street, Hythe, Kent CT21 5JJ, England) has recently retired from the Metropolitan Police Force, and is specializing in antiquarian and second-hand true crime (with some S'iana).

May 90 #4

2726. At hand from David L. Hammer is a report from Country Life (Mar. 8, 1990) that the Georgian buildings that stand on Baker, Blandford, and George Streets may fall victim to a scheme for building a neo-Georgian block on the site. The owners applied for a demolition order in 1980 and were refused, but a new application has been filed. It is not clear from the article whether the buildings covered by the application are on the west side or the east side of Baker Street: the west side includes no. 31 (suggested by some as the real no. 221), and the east side includes no. 34 (suggested as the real empty house).
2727. Anonymous mailings can present intriguing Sherlockian mysteries, the latest of which involves handsome circular brass pins, decorated with a silhouette of Sherlock Holmes and lettered BSI/ASH CLASS OF '90, received (with thanks to the generous and anonymous donor) by at least two Sherlockians, who would like to know who else might have received similar pins (and, of course, to know whom to thank directly for the nice gifts).
2728. The predicted respite for Sherlockian philatelists (April 90 #3) turns out to be shorter than expected, since a bobcat (*Lynx rufus*) is shown on the \$2.00 definitive to be issued in June. "It was just as well that his prairie training had given Jefferson Hope the ears of a lynx," the Canon reports, and biologists suggest that the lynx found in Utah and Nevada was more likely to be the *Lynx rufus* than the *Lynx canadensis* shown two years ago on a stamp issued by Canada (February 88 #2).
2729. The Christopher Morley Centennial Celebration in Chicago on May 5 went very well, according to all reports, with a total attendance of 130 at the two events. The symposium at the Newberry Library included talks by Warren Scheideman ("Christopher Morley, Forgotten Man of American Letters"), Ely Liebow ("The Poetry of Christopher Morley"), Robert Mangler ("Christopher Morley and the BSI"), Thomas J. Joyce ("Christopher Morley, The Haunted Bookshopper"), and Allen Mackler ("Christopher Morley, Metrophile"), and the dinner at the Forum Hotel featured Anna Lou Ashby ("Christopher Morley: A Birthday Salute". Dr. Ashby is associate curator of printed books at the Pierpont Morgan Library in New York and has written a soon-to-be-published book on Morley's life and works.
2730. A videocassette (VHS only) of highlights from the centennial celebration is available for \$49.95 (they take plastic) from Viscom, 820 North Orleans, Chicago, IL 60610 (800-829-1260).
2731. And the Fordham University Press has followed CHRISTOPHER MORLEY'S NEW YORK (June 89 #8) with CHRISTOPHER MORLEY'S PHILADELPHIA, edited by Ken Kalfus (329 pp., \$19.95). The essays are, as should be expected, delightful (and there is a passing mention of Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes in the essay Morley called "Footnote on Philadelphia Cricket"). Fordham's next Morley collection (to be published in Sept.) will be thoroughly Sherlockian: THE STANDARD DOYLE COMPANY: CHRISTOPHER MORLEY ON SHERLOCK HOLMES, edited and with an introduction by Steven Rothman. The price will be \$19.95, and they take plastic, and there's a \$2.50 charge for shipping (Fordham University Press, Box 6525, Ithaca, NY 14850).

May 90 #5

2732. Helen Cushman is one of the growing number of philatelists seeking stamps that associated with the Canon, and her article "Stamps Illustrate Holmes Mysteries" appeared in Linn's Collector's Guide to Topicals, a supplement in the May 14, 1990, issue of Linns Stamp News (Box 29, Sidney, OH 45365). She also has a continuing series of articles on the subject in The Blotter, published quarterly by the American Topical Association's Law Enforcement Study Unit (study-unit membership unit costs \$5.00 a year, and the contact is Steve O'Connor, Box 858, Vernon, NJ 07642).
2733. And on to a report on the auction of Bliss Austin's collection, which was a fine one indeed. There were 37 bidders, and there were bids on all of the lots (one bidder submitted a "rescue bid" of \$5.00 on every lot), and the total of individual high bids for all lots was \$147,846.75 -- somewhat less than the \$151,000.00 winning bid for the entire collection submitted by a consortium consisting of Daniel Posnansky, Glen S. Miranker, and Peter L. Stern. Some of the Austin material will be offered for resale, and anyone interested in individual items is invited to write to Daniel Posnansky (Box 768, Cambridge, MA 02238).

2734. The highest bid for a single lot was \$31,502 for lot 28 (the first edition of THE MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES in dust jacket), followed by \$16,000 for lot 58 (the first edition of A STUDY IN SCARLET from Ward, Lock & Co.), \$10,151 for lot 1032 (Paget's artwork for "The Red-Headed League"), \$7,006 for lot 1026 (the manuscript page from "The Hound of the Baskervilles"), \$7,006 for lot 3 (the first and second issues of the first American edition of THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, with the second issue in jacket), \$6,050 for lot 35 (the first American edition of THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES in jacket), \$6,006 for lot 58 (another copy of the first edition of A STUDY IN SCARLET), and \$5,000 for lot 23 (the first edition of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, signed by Conan Doyle).
2735. There were three other bidders for the entire collection (the lowest bid was \$60,000), and there were as many as nine bids were submitted on some lots. As might be expected, there was a wide range of bidding for many lots: not counting the \$5.00 rescue bid for every lot, there were low bids of \$41 for lot 28, \$102 for lot 58, \$21 for lot 1032, \$150 for lot 1026, and \$102 for lot 3. And it should be noted that submitting low bids is not necessarily a futile effort: there were only 516 lots on which there was a bid other than the \$5.00 rescue bid.
2736. Lot 1060 (the "large lot of leftovers") was the real sleeper, with bids ranging from \$75 to \$4,125. The lot was described by Lehigh's curator of special collections Philip Metzger as the "I can't stand it any more" lot (a quite understandable reaction, considering the amount of miscellaneous material and the lack of time in which to describe everything in detail), and it included original artwork by Frederic Dorr Steele (a draft sketch for an illustration for "The Hound of the Baskervilles") and his manuscript for "The Adventure of the Murdered Art Editor"), as well as Bliss Austin's correspondence with his fellow-collectors and friends.
2737. Copies of the 44-page sale list and the list of high bids are available, from Philip A. Metzger, Linderman Library 30, Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA 18015 (\$5.00 postpaid).

May 90 #6

2738. Unpublished authors who despair at receiving rejection slips and who are unwilling to pay for publication by a vanity press (such as Vantage Press, which has just been hit by a \$3.5 million judgement in a class-action suit filed on behalf of more than 2,000 authors) might wish to take advantage of the services offered by the Brautigan Library, which has just opened in Burlington, Vt. According to Brad Miner (in the May 14 issue of the National Review), the Brautigan Library is named in honor of author Richard Brautigan, and has only one restriction: everything in the library must be unpublished. Authors can send their manuscripts (and a fee of \$25) to the library, which will bind the work and provide comfortable seating to visiting readers.
2739. The five-page manuscript for Conan Doyle's article "I Pledge My Honour That Spiritualism Is True", published in the Aug. 4, 1928, issue of the [London] Daily Express, is available for \$6,500, from The Scriptorium (attn: Gordon Gushee), Box 1290 Beverly Hills, CA 90213).
2740. Great Britain's post office has issued an imaginative booklet of stamps showing famous smiles. And one of those smiles is that of Stan Laurel, who appeared in Sherlockian costume in the film "The Sleuth" (1925), and with Oliver Hardy, both in deerstalkers, in "Do Detectives Think?" (1927) and "The Big Noise" (1944).
2741. The 31st running of The Silver Blaze Purse at the Arlington International Racecourse will be held on July 22, and those planning a trip to Chicago can obtain more information from Robert W. Hahn, 2707 South 7th Street, Sheboygan, WI 53081.
2742. Carnegie Hall will celebrate its centennial, from Aug. 1990 to May 1991, and has asked for assistance in locating items that might be borrowed for its centennial exhibitions. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle lectured at Carnegie Hall in Apr. 1922 and Apr. 1923 (and discusses his lecture series in OUR AMERICAN ADVENTURE and OUR SECOND AMERICAN ADVENTURE). Gino Francesconi (Corporation Archives, The Carnegie Hall, 881 Seventh Avenue, New York, NY 10019) would like to hear from collectors who have material relating to those lectures at Carnegie Hall.
2743. SHERLOCK HOLMES IN BIRMINGHAM is a carefully-researched 20-page monograph by Paul Lester on the city's connections with Conan Doyle (who lived there) and with the Canon (two of the stories involve Birmingham), available from Protean Pubs, Flat 4, 34 Summerfield Crescent, Edgbaston, Birmingham B16 0ER, England (£2.50 postpaid).
2744. M. J. Trow has a new publisher, and a new title in his amusing series about Insp. Sholto Lestrade. LESTRADE AND THE GUARDIAN ANGEL (London: Constable, 1990; 235 pp., £11.95) offers a thoroughly complicated mystery, some rather nasty murders, a red herring or three, bawdy humor, an encounter with Dr. Watson, and (as usual) a competent-but-clumsy Lestrade.
2745. A new sales list at hand from Classic Specialties (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219), offering Sherlockian prints, paintings, pillows, tapestries, lamps, bellpulls, placemats, and other collectibles.

May 90 #7

2746. On the assumption that everyone saw "Hands of a Murderer" on May 16 (or on a time-shift video recording), there's no need for a review, but it is of interest that Newgate Prison was actually New College at Oxford. Roger Mortimore, editor of The Baker Street News (the newsletter published by The Oxford University Sherlock Holmes Society), also reports that Oxford's Brasenose College was seen in the film "Young Sherlock Holmes" (1985). "Hands of a Murderer" did reasonably well in the Nielsen ratings, averaging a 9.5 rating and a 15 share (that means that 9.5 percent of the sets in the nation's 92,100,000 "television households" were tuned to the show, and 15 percent of the sets that were in use were tuned to the show). The Fox network premiere of the film "Wall Street" broadcast at the same time averaged 4.5/8. The season finale of "Wonder Years" on ABC earlier in the evening averaged 14.1/25, and the season finale of "Jake and the Fatman" (also earlier in the evening on CBS) averaged 9.2/16. The most popular show that week was "America's Funniest Home Videos" (25.2/40), followed by "Cheers" (18.9/31) and "Roseanne" (17.7/28).
2747. "Hands of a Murderer" was co-produced by Yorkshire Television, so British viewers will surely see it soon. However the British have (and we haven't) seen a seven-part children's series broadcast by BBC-1 on Saturday mornings beginning on Mar. 3. "Tales of the Rodent Sherlock Holmes" featured Roland Rat Superstar as Sherlock Holmes and Kevin the Gerbil as Dr. Watson, who were joined in the first episode ("Wilson the Notorious Canary Trainer") by special guest Barbara Windsor (as Irene Wilson, "a glamorous star of the musical theatre who harbours a secret desire to be a serious dramatic actress"). According to a press release at hand from Richard Wein, series producer Steve Haggard said that "Roland Rat is the latest in a long line of distinguished actors to pull on the cloak and deerstalker of the master detective," adding that "he's probably the first to wear sunglasses."
2748. Jim Henson, creator of the Muppets and the lovely world of Sesame Street, died on May 16. His first Muppets, named Wilkins and Wontkins, appeared in Washington in 1957, in commercials made for Wilkins Coffee. Sherlock Hemlock first appeared on Sesame Street on Mar. 17, 1971, and although he was only an occasional visitor rather than a featured player, he was one of Henson's favorites. "I'd use him more," Henson once said, "but our researchers say he's not as educational as some of the others."

2749. The Granada Studios Tour in Manchester had almost a million visitors in its first 18 months, according to the spring 1990 issue of *Anglofile*, which also has an interview with Louise Jameson (who accompanied Doctor Who in "The Talons of Weng-Chiang"). *Anglofile* costs \$12 a year for six issues, from the Goody Press, Box 33515, Decatur, GA 30033.
2750. Jay Pearsall, the new owner of Murder Ink, has issued his first mail-order catalog, with an interview with mystery-author Sue Grafton. The shop has new hours (11:00 to 7:00 Friday through Wednesday, and 11:00 to 10:00 on Thursday), and its address is 271 West 87th Street, New York, NY 10024.
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May 90 #8

2751. "Hands of a Murderer" received mixed reviews in the press, with the best marks going to Anthony Andrews for his bravura version of Professor Moriarty. Almost every reviewer seen so far noted that Edward Woodward was far weaker as Holmes than Jeremy Brett, who now seems to have replaced Basil Rathbone as the official owner of the role. One review said that Jeremy Brett is "also likely to play the master detective on Broadway this year in a revival of Williams Gillette's hoary, 19th-century 'Sherlock Holmes' drama, which Brett starred in last year on the London stage," but that's just a confused reference to the continuing rumors about a tour of "The Secret of Sherlock Holmes".
2752. And there appears to be no truth to another rumor: that the program at "The Bimetallic Colloquium" in Montreal on June 15-17 will be conducted entirely in French.
2753. Andrew Jay Peck reports an advertisement in *Billboard*, announcing plans by Orion Home Video for a June 28 release of "Without a Clue" (1988) on video cassette at \$19.95 (a year ago the price on first release was \$89.95).
2754. It would appear that some S'ians have encountered difficulties in viewing material in the special collections at the N.Y. Public Library. Bernard McTigue (Curator of the Arends Collection and Keeper of Rare Books) has written to Tina Schweitzer explaining that those who wish only to see (but not use) material in the NYPL collections should write to the Office of Special Collections (at Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street, New York, NY 10018) to make an appointment with the appropriate curator. Researchers can gain access to the collections by obtaining a user's card from the same office.
2755. The first flier for Bouchercon XXII has arrived: next year's annual Anthony Boucher Memorial Mystery Convention will be at the Pasadena Hilton on Oct. 11-13, 1991, with Edward D. Hoch as the guest of honor and William Link as the visual-media guest of honor. Bouchercon XXII will be sponsored by the Southern California Institute for Fan Interests, and registration now costs \$35.00 (an increase is due in December). Checks payable to SCIFI, and sent to Bouchercon XXII, 2334 Beach Avenue, Venice, CA 90291.
2756. "Elementary, My Dear Designers" was the headline on an article in *Newsday* (Apr. 3), also at hand from Richard Wein. The report on Fashion Week in New York highlighted the new collection from Rebecca Moses, who "found her inspiration in Sherlock Holmes." As described by fashion reporter Frank DeCaro, this meant "tweedy mid-thigh-length capelet coats, magnifying-glass pendant necklaces, and a model with a saggy-baggy basset hound in tow."
2757. An illustrated flier at hand from Holmes By Hall (Box 221-B, Flushing, MI 48433), offering their porcelain Master Sleuth Teapot (\$79.95) and Holmes Beverage Mug (\$17.95).
2758. Attenta: the announcement for the next meeting of The Red Circle will be mailed with next month's newsletter. The venue has not yet been confirmed, but you can reserve Tuesday, July 17, for an evening with Sherlock Holmes' secretary, Tony Harries.
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June 90 #1

2759. The Easton Press (47 Richards Avenue, Norwalk, CT 06857) is reprinting its deluxe three-volume COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES 100TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION at \$39.45 postpaid per volume (plastic accepted). Originally issued in 1987 and reprinted in 1988 (at \$37.50 postpaid per volume), the set is a reissue of the Heritage Press edition, leather-bound, with a different full-color frontispiece by Frederic Dorr Steele in each volume. It's a handsome set, with the Canonical text edited by Edgar W. Smith for the Limited Editions Club, and with fine illustrations by Paget, Steele, and others.
2760. And, since I've already had queries about whether the set is worth getting, a bit of history: the basic text was edited by Edgar W. Smith, who also selected the illustrations, for the Limited Edition Club and published in a nine-volume set in the early 1950s, with a series of fine introductions by notable Sherlockians, and some illustrations done by Steele as publicity for the film of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1939). Later in the 1950s (and again in the 1970s) the Heritage Press issued a three-volume set that included only Vincent Starrett's introduction and Smith's epilogue, and that's what the Easton Press has reprinted, adding the frontispieces and the leather binding. If you have one of the earlier versions, you might not think the new frontispieces and the leather binding worth the price. And the Easton Press set isn't an investment, since thousands of copies have already been sold, with more to come.
2761. Celebrations of Christopher Morley's centennial continue: an exhibition of his letters and manuscripts has opened at the Rosenbach Museum and Library in Philadelphia (through Oct. 7).
2762. The late Nathan L. Bengis was an enthusiastic Sherlockian, and a collector both energetic and imaginative: of all the intriguing areas in which he specialized, perhaps the most interesting was his search for variants of "The Sign of the Four". Eventually he assembled a collection of some 250 variants, and when he sold his collection in 1971, most of those variants went to the Metropolitan Toronto Reference Library, where they have been waiting patiently for a researcher who could use them. Now a researcher has done just that, and the results are fascinating:
2763. SHERLOCK HOLMES AMONG THE PIRATES: COPYRIGHT AND CONAN DOYLE IN AMERICA 1890-1930, by Donald A. Redmond (Westport: Greenwood Press, 1990; 304 pp., \$39.95), offers a careful examination of those variants, and the reasons why there are so many of them. The principal reason is that "The Sign of the Four" was not protected by copyright in the United States and thus could be reprinted by anyone. Those reprints were produced quickly and cheaply, with little attention to fidelity or accuracy, and the corrupt texts have allowed Redmond to establish careful pedigrees, in some cases showing several generations of piracy. Redmond also provides a vivid description of one of the most cut-throat eras in the history of American publishing, and a careful explanation of how books were produced from hand-set type and stereotype plates (which were often used by a succession of publishers), as well as a detailed bibliography that will be of great assistance to collectors wondering who did what, and when, and to whom. The publisher takes plastic (800-225-5800 extension 700).
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June 90 #2

2764. Best-laid-plans department: the local authorities in Halstead (in Essex), noting that they had a road called Holmes Road, proposed to name a nearby road Sherlock Close, but encountered strong opposition from residents of Halstead, who pointed out that Holmes Road had been named to honor a well-known local family, rather than the detective. And the nearby road has been named instead Juniper Close, marking the work done for the town by "the well-known and much-respected Charlie Juniper," according to a report in the *Halstead Gazette* (Apr. 20).
2765. The 39th running of The Silver Blaze at Belmont Park in New York will be held on Sept. 22, and details are available from Stephen L. Stix, R.R. 1, Box 452, Markleville, IN 46056.
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2766. They're authentic, though not quite contemporary with Sherlock Holmes: the old red telephone boxes, designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott and used in Britain for more than 50 years. Now being phased out, they are available from Pilot Developments Ltd. (Fyfield Hall, Fyfield, Ongar, Essex CM5 0SA, England) at prices that start at £300 (in off-street condition). A flier at hand from Martha Irish suggests alternative uses: bookcase, aquarium, cocktail cabinet, shower room, or even an in-house phone box.
2767. Art Lund, a popular baritone in the big-band era whose recording of "Blue Skies" was a long-lasting hit in the 1940s, died on May 31. His singing career began in the late 1930s with the Benny Goodman band, and he later acted on television and in films, including "The Molly Maguires" (1970), in which he played Frazier, leader of the Mollies.
2768. And here's an intriguing Sherlockian passage in Nicolas Freeling's DRESSING OF DIAMOND (Harper & Row 1974/Penguin Books 1976), one of a series of fine suspense novels about the French policeman Henri Castang. The conversation is between Castang and a judge:
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June 90 #3

2769. THE VAMPIRE FILES #1
2770. BLOODLIST (New York: Ace Books, 1990; 200 pp., \$3.50) and THE VAMPIRE FILES #2
2771. LIFEBLOOD (New York: Ace Books, 1990; 202 pp., \$3.50) are the first two in a series of horror novels by P. N. Elrod about Jack Fleming (formerly a reporter and now a vampire) and his private-detective friend Charles Escott (whose name is not the only S'ian echo in the series, which is set in gangland Chicago in the 1930s).
2772. There is some nice inside humor (a reference to the film "Romeo and Juliet" allows Escott to say that "the fellow playing Tybalt seemed to know what he was doing"), and P. N. Elrod is better known in S'ian circles as Patti Nead Elrod (creator of the "Baker Street Irragulars"). The third book in the series (due in Oct.) will be THE VAMPIRE FILES #3
2773. BLOODCIRCLE.
2774. At hand from Mark Erdrich is a flier from What on Earth (25801 Richmond Road, Cleveland, OH 44146), offering a "Sherlock Holmes Pub" T-shirt (\$12.95) and sweatshirt (\$22.95). Shipping costs \$2.00, and they take plastic.
2775. Victoria Robinson has forwarded a report that William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" is being performed this summer at the Weston Playhouse in Weston, Vt., June 28-30, July 1, and 3-8 (plus matinees on July 1 and 8). Christopher Lloyd (of "Back to the Future") stars, and the box-office phone number is 802-824-5288.
2776. Rex Harrison died on June 2. Best known for his performance in the role of Henry Higgins in "My Fair Lady" (he won a Tony for the Broadway show, and an Oscar for the movie version), he began his career with the Liverpool Repertory Company in 1924, playing a young father who had a single line in the play (and, according to the story Harrison often told, he got it wrong: "It's a doctor," he said, "Fetch a baby.>").
2777. Plan ahead: Fred Fondren, proprietor of the Prometheus Theatre in New York, reports that his new play "Sherlock Holmes: The Eclipse Conspiracy" will open in Oct. 1990, with performances Wednesday through Saturday at 8:00 pm. The theater's address is 239 East 5th Street, New York, NY 10003, and the telephone number is 212-477-8689. And it is quite likely that the run will extend through the birthday festivities, including the evening following the BSI cocktail party on Jan. 12.
2778. Ken Greenwald (of 221A Baker Street Associates) reports plans by Simon & Schuster to issue a Christmas package with the first four cassettes of the Rathbone/Bruce radio shows.
2779. Robert S. Gellerstedt, Jr. (1035 Wedgewood Drive, Fayetteville, GA 30214) would like to hear from the owner of Edgar W. Smith's annotated copy of BAKER STREET AND BEYOND (1940). Some of the annotations were trimmed in the BSI reprint (1957). Bob is trying to recapture the complete annotation found on page 40 of the reprint.
2780. Returning to Patti Nead Elrod's inside humor, the actor who "seemed to know what he was doing" in "Romeo and Juliet" (1936) was Basil Rathbone.
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June 90 #4

2781. The Green County WanderFreunde (an affiliate of the American Volkssporting Association) will hold its second "Holmes Peak Volksmarch" on Nov. 18. As in 1988, the Volksmarch will be a ten-kilometer hike around and up Holmes Peak. A special medallion (this time showing Dr. Watson) will be awarded to those (and only to those) who complete the hike. Anyone interested in participating in the Volksmarch should contact Dick Warner (Head Sherpa of the Holmes Peak Preservation Society), at 3168 South Rockford Drive, Tulsa, OK 74105.
2782. Jack Gilford died on June 4. His acting career started in 1934 at an amateur night in the Bronx, and he went on to perform in vaudeville and nightclubs, and in dramatic and comic roles on stage and in television and films, including "They Might Be Giants" (1971), in which he played Wilbur Peabody, the librarian who longed to be the Scarlet Pimpernel.
2783. One of the more interesting reviews (because the reviewer is a good writer) of "Hands of a Murderer" was Marvin Kitman's critique in Newsday (May 15), in which he noted in passing an earlier prediction that "the next L.A.-made Conan Doyle adventure would feature Burt Reynolds as Sherlock, Dom DeLuise as Watson, Loni Anderson as Mrs. 'Udson, and Bert Convy as Moriarty." The Kitman piece was reprinted in The Third Pillar, a newsletter for "thespian pursuits in Sherlockiana," published quarterly (\$3.00) by Paul Singleton, 523 Central Avenue, Bethpage, NY 11714.
2784. Steve Landes, editor of The Arcadia Mixture's newsletter The Fluffy Ash, reports that Russell Brown, author of SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE MYSTERIOUS FRIEND OF OSCAR WILDE, recently spoke at the University of Michigan during Lesbian and Gay Men's Awareness Week (discussing "Sherlock Holmes and the Victorian Woman"). Brown's soon-to-be-published book THE CAPTIVE WOMAN will be the first in a series of "Adventures of Mrs. Hudson" (as told to the son of Harold Stackhurst).
2785. Carol Logan (Latimer's, 706 Euclid Avenue, Toronto, Ont. M6G 2T9, Canada) offers a new illustrated sales list: Sherlockian sweatshirts, T-shirts, mugs, postcards, and Christmas cards.
2786. The "Sherlock Holmes" exhibit mounted by S'ian philatelist Bruce Holmes at the Post Office House in Montreal is now open (and it will run through the end of August), and a special (and official) postmark with a silhouette of Sherlock Holmes is available on mail posted at the exhibit. If you would like to have one of the postmarked covers, send \$1.00 in U.S. currency to Bruce Holmes, 64 Maple Circle, Dollard des Ormeaux, Quebec N9B 1E7, Canada.
2787. There was considerable publicity in the press this month about a new book about the Piltdown hoax. Photographs of ACD were prominently displayed in many of the stories, but this time he's not the alleged culprit. Frank Spencer, a professor of anthropology at Queens College in New York, has reviewed all the evidence and investigated all the suspects, and accuses Sir Arthur Keith, a well-respected anatomist who was conservator of the Hunterian Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons, as the mastermind who prepared the forged fossils that Charles Dawson planted in the quarry at Piltdown. Spencer's book (PILTDOWN: A SCIENTIFIC FORGERY) is due this fall from the Oxford University Press.
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June 90 #5

2788. Miaowara Tomokato, who first appeared in *THE ADVENTURES OF SAMURAI CAT* (1984) and then in *MORE ADVENTURES OF SAMURAI CAT* (1986), has returned in *SAMURAI CAT IN THE REAL WORLD*, by Mark E. Rogers (New York: Tor/Tom Dougherty, 1989; 128 pp., \$12.95). There is nothing Sherlockian about the series (so far, at any rate), but the concept and execution (both artwork and text) are great fun. Otherwise, the series is extremely hard to describe, but it's worth noting that Rogers apparently has the only known copy of Tomokato's official biography (*CAT OUT OF HELL*, written by William Shirer and A.J.P. Godzilla).
2789. An advertisement in this year's *Mystery Writers Annual* (the program book for the MWA annual dinner) suggests that visitors to Italy might wish to add the country's first mystery-specialist bookshop to their itineraries. La Sherlockiana's address is Piazza S. Nazaro 3, 20122 Milano, Italy, and the telephone number is 02-8059248.
2790. Pj Doyle reports a British reprint in paper covers (from Cassell) of Evelyn Waugh's *RONALD KNOX* (D2636b). It's a fine biography of the man who began our grand game, and available for \$3.98 (plus \$4.00 shipping per order) from Daedalus Books, Box 9132, Hyattsville, MD 20781 (800-395-2665); they take plastic.
2791. Some recent auction prices, from Sotheby's sale this spring of the library of H. Bradley Martin are of interest: the first edition, first issue (from Spencer Blackett) of *THE SIGN OF FOUR* (estimated at \$1,000-1,500) brought \$3,300; the first edition of *THE WHITE COMPANY* (estimated at \$600-900) went for \$4,400; and one lot with a pair of first editions of *THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* and *THE MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* (estimated at \$400-600) sold for \$3,300. The high prices are likely due at least in part to the provenance (Martin was a noted collector of "important English literature") but they also demonstrate the growing interest in Conan Doyle's works.
2792. Otto Penzler, according to a report in the *San Francisco Examiner*, at hand from Ted Schulz, has sold his Mysterious Press imprint to Warner Books, the company that has distributed the Mysterious Press titles in the past. Otto will remain in charge of the imprint, according to Warner.
2793. Travelers to the northwest might wish to attend (or participate in) "The Second Annual International Holmesian Games" in Seattle on Sept. 15. The event is sponsored by The Sound of the Baskervilles, and will open with the traditional re-enactment of Hugo Baskerville's wild midnight pursuit: "At the cry, 'The Dame's Afoot,' Hugo and his evil pack will chase a designated chaste yeoman's daughter across the moor." Contact: Frank Darlington, 141 N.W. 181st Street, Seattle WA 98177.
2794. Tony Harries (Sherlock Holmes' secretary) will be speaking to quite a few societies during his tour of the U.S. His (still tentative) schedule is: Scarsdale (July 13), New York (July 14), Washington (July 17), Cleveland (July 19), Chicago (July 21-22), Nashville (July 23), Memphis (July 25), St. Louis (July 28-29), Denver (Aug. 2), Seattle (Aug. 3), San Francisco (Aug. 11), San Diego (Aug. 16), Los Angeles (Aug. 19), and Toronto (Aug. 21). Vacationing S'ians who would like more details can let me know, and I'll supply contact names and addresses for the various scion dinners.

June 90 #6

2795. Sotheby's paid proper attention to Bliss Austin's material in the catalog for their sale on June 15, inviting bidders to refer to the sale as "6037 Valley" (the description of the manuscript of "The Valley of Fear" filled most of four pages, plus a color frontispiece showing the beginning of the manuscript), and displaying a color photograph of Beeton's *Christmas Annual* on the catalog's back cover. The Beeton's (with a catalog estimate of \$8,000-12,000) brought \$52,000. The manuscript (estimated at \$80,000-120,000) went for \$260,000. Andrew Jay Peck was at the auction, and reports that the winning bids were made by telephone, and were from two different bidders. The prices realized do not include the 10% buyer's premium or the 8.25% New York sales tax, and the fortunate new owners have not yet been identified.
2796. Some readers have asked why prices actually realized are so much higher than the estimates in auction catalogs. Well, sometimes they aren't, as can be seen from newspaper articles on art auctions which report that a particular item failed to meet its estimate. And Sotheby's catalog states that "estimates are guides for prospective bidders and should not be relied upon as representations or predictions of actual selling prices," and that "estimates are determined well in advance of the sale date and are subject to revision." So: start with a basic assumption that it is better to have an advance catalog estimate that is too low, rather than one that is too high (because a sale in which prices fail to meet estimates tends to be regarded as "unsuccessful"). Then: assume that estimates can be, and often are, revised (the catalog also invites bidders to "contact the expert in charge of the sale if you have any questions"). Heavy interest in an item often allows the expert in charge to increase the advance estimate (and serious bidders do tend to consult experts), but the revised estimates are almost never reported. And: competition between eager collectors often drives prices far above advance, or even revised, estimates. It is also important to remember that the goal of the auction house is to achieve the highest possible prices (because the auction house operates on commission), not to make exact predictions, well in advance, of prices realized.
2797. At hand from Andrew Jay Peck is a report on plans to expand the Granada Studios Tour in Manchester. Construction of the first phase will begin this summer, and will include an office development and a 136-room hotel (to be called The Albert and Victoria), which will feature a Brideshead Suite, a Cafe Maigret, and a Sherlock Holmes Bar. The tour area (now 9 acres) will eventually cover 25 acres, and there are hopes of attracting three to five million people a year.
2798. Roger Johnson reports that the Talking Tape Company (Unit 11, Shaftesbury Industrial Centre, The Runnings, Cheltenham GL51 9NH, England) plans to issue three two-cassette packages this fall, each with four of the stories as adapted by Grant Eustace for British Airways (which used one story a month as in-flight entertainment starting in 1987), with Roy Marsden as Holmes and John Moffatt as Watson. Three more packages will be issued in 1991. Roger also reports news from Bert Coules: BBC Radio 4 is planning a weekly series next year, with Clive Merrison as Holmes and Michael Williams as Watson, broadcasting new adaptations of the short stories as 45-minute programs. Merrison and Williams played the same roles in the BBC Radio 4 broadcasts of "A Study in Scarlet" and "The Sign of the Four" in 1989.

June 90 #7

2799. Bookseller Mark Hime, proprietor of Bibliotopus (Idyllwild, CA 92349) died earlier this year, after preparing a catalog that included the first issue of the first book edition of *A STUDY IN SCARLET* (at \$50,000), and a copy of the limited and signed edition of *THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES* published by Doubleday in 1953 (at \$4,000). His last catalog arrived with a delightful tribute to Hime's ardent and irreverent approach to the world of books: *Biblioblivion, or The Ghost of the Octopus* ("an offering of 36 literary relics from the private collection of our late founder"), a list that ranges from "The Bow of Ulysses" to "James Bond's License to Kill" and includes "The Brain of Sherlock Holmes" (human brain, much larger on the left side, preserved in formaldehyde, with a note of provenance from John Watson).
2800. The British magazine *New Scientist* often publishes Sherlockian items, the most recent being John F. Bowers' article on "James Moriarty: A Forgotten Mathematician" (Dec. 23-30, 1989). A photocopy is available (please send a #10 SASE) from Mark W. Erdrich (49 Kings Lacey Way, Fairport, NY 14450).
2801. Gabriel Pustel (Box 1345, Jackson, NJ 08527) is a S'ian philatelist who specializes in meter cancels, and he would appreciate hearing from anyone who knows of other Sherlockian meter cancels.

2802. Further to the report (April 90 #6) on the opening of the Sherlock Holmes Museum at 239 Baker Street, Jean Upton visited the museum this month, and writes that it consists of two rooms with flea-market-quality Victorian furniture, and completely lacks any of Holmes eccentricities such as the jack-knife in the mantelpiece. Proprietor John Aidiniantz charged £3 for a tour (though the museum wasn't technically complete or open for business), but soon intends to start charging £5 for "the same shabby tour." Jean also says that Aidiniantz's lack of knowledge concerning Holmes is immense (he was not aware of the BSJ), and that he is absolutely obsessed with his goal of having the street numbering changed so that he will officially be 221b Baker Street. Jean suggests that Sherlockian visitors to London will do better with a visit to The Sherlock Holmes pub, where "at least the exhibit is free, albeit a bit dusty."
2803. And further to the report (April 90 #3) on "The 7% Convention: A Sherlock Holmes Event" to be held at the Shepperton Moat House Hotel on Aug. 25-26, Jean has sent a flier with details on how to be a non-attending convention supporter. The cost is \$14.00 (surface) or \$18.00 (airmail), which gets you a copy of the program book, which will have a forward by Peter Cushing, an original article by Richard Lancelyn Green, an article on Arthur Wontner by David Stuart Davies, and other material of interest. The price includes a contribution to The Samaritans (the charity the convention is intended to benefit), and checks (payable to The 7% Convention) should be sent to Jane Sayle, 6 Bramham Moor, Hillhead, Fareham, Hampshire PO14 3RU, England.
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June 90 #8

2804. Ben Wood has also been to London, visiting Catherine Cooke at the Marylebone Library and Tony Harries at Abbey National, and reports mildly that the Sherlock Holmes Museum at 239 Baker Street "is well worth passing up." The latest issue of Ben's "Bohemian Scandal Sheet" has a reprint of a Reuters dispatch that mentions that John Aidiniantz will be offering to sell £1,000 shares in his Sherlock Holmes International Society to "investors and Holmes buffs."
2805. Ben also offers a new Sherlockian magnet ("no self-respecting Sherlockian kitchen fridge should be without it") in orange-and-black plastic, with a nice design and lettering, for cost of \$3.50 postpaid (\$5.00 foreign). His address is Box 740, Ellenton, FL 34222.
2806. SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE GREAT DETECTIVE IN PAPERBACK is a 151-page detailed checklist compiled by Gary Lovisi, concentrating on post-1930 material but also including some earlier issues, with many illustrations of cover art, and an introduction by John Bennett Shaw. The coverage includes anything published in paper covers, ranging from the Canon through pastiches and parodies to monographs, and the book offers a fine guide to an interesting area for collectors. The book is available from Gryphon Books, Box 209, Brooklyn, NY 11228; \$19.95 (cloth) or \$9.95 (paper).
2807. Reported: NEWTON'S MADNESS: FURTHER TALES OF CLINICAL NEUROLOGY, by Harold L. Klawans (Harper & Row, \$17.95), with an essay speculating on the cocaine habits of Sigmund Freud and Sherlock Holmes.
2808. Paul Giovanni died on June 17. He played The Boy in the original New York cast of "The Fantasticks", wrote music for theater and films, and wrote mystery plays and a musical. One of those mystery plays was "The Crucifer of Blood", which was produced on Broadway in 1978 and won Giovanni a Tony Award nomination as best director. He was also nominated as best director by the Los Angeles Drama Critics when the play was produced there in 1980, with Charlton Heston as Holmes and Jeremy Brett as Watson.
2809. Welcome television news: Sherlock Holmes will return to "Mystery!" on July 12, when PBS-TV begins a two-part repeat of "The Sign of Four". And "The Devil's Foot" will air on July 26, presumably to be followed by more repeat programs in August.
2810. I've heard that Sherlock Holmes' secretary Tony Harries was interviewed on "Good Morning America" on ABC-TV on June 21, 1990. Did anyone manage to tape the interview off-the-air? And Sherlock Holmes' *other* secretary, Mrs. Riley at 239 Baker Street, was interviewed on the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. radio series "As It Happens" (carried by American Public Radio) on June 20. Does anyone have a tape?
2811. Al and Julie Rosenblatt's splendid 20-page souvenir menu for "An Evening in Scarlet" at the Culinary Institute of America on May 16, 1987, handsomely devised, designed, and produced, with many illustrations, annotations and explanations, is still available for \$16.00 postpaid (checks to Peter E. Blau, at the address below).
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July 1990 #1

2812. Adela Holzer, who was one of the producers of the New York production of the Royal Shakespeare Company's revival of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" in 1974, has been sentenced to four to eight years in state prison after pleading guilty to fraud. In 1979 she was convicted of swindling a group of investors out of \$2.3 million, and served two years in women's state prison at Bedford Hills, N.Y. A new indictment (April 89 #3) charged her with promising investors in non-existent oil and gas properties that their money was guaranteed by the banker David Rockefeller (described by Holzer as her "secret husband" in a similarly non-existent marriage.)
2813. Charlotte Erickson reports that the next mini-series from Eternity Comics will be a reprint of "Sherlock Holmes, Jr." (probably D5873b).
2814. The late Mark Hime isn't. Late, that is. His last catalog (June 90 #7) turns out to be his latest catalog, and he is now reported to be enjoying reading the condolence letters that are arriving in Idyllwild, as well as hoping his customers had as much fun reading the description of his private collection as he did writing it.
2815. Sir James Carreras died on June 9. He was head of Hammer films when the studio launched its series of horror films with "The Curse of Frankenstein" (1956), giving new impetus to the careers of Peter Cushing and Christopher Lee, both of whom were featured in Hammer's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1959). His main concern was that his films should be made quickly and cheaply (once asked to justify a nude scene, Carreras said it saved money on towels), and the popularity of his films, at home and overseas, earned Hammer the distinction of being Britain's most consistently profitable film company.
2816. More than 70 people attended "The Bimetallic Colloquium" in Montreal on June 15-17, with the farthest-flung travelers being Barbara Alder (from British Columbia) and Roger Johnson (from England), and a contingent from south of the border. Copies of the colloquium packet (with the program, attendee list, and a few souvenirs) are available for \$5.00 postpaid from Wilfrid M. de Freitas (Box 1611, Champlain, NY 12919).
2817. Many people dream of finding Captain Kidd's long-lost treasure trove, and S'ians may more reasonably imagine finding a copy of Beeton's Christmas Annual in a neglected attic, but surely the ultimate goal would be a new Sherlock Holmes story: the legendary 61st adventure. "The Case of the Man Who Was Wanted" was, for a time, exactly that sort of phenomenon, and even though the story was eventually proved to be a pastiche, the history of its discovery and publication, and the long and bitter arguments that raged after its publication, is a fascinating one. Jon L. Lellenberg's NOVA 57 MINOR, just published by Gaslight, offers a reprint of Arthur Whitaker's story, and a greatly expanded version of the limited-edition monograph that issued from the Dispatch-Box Press in 1978. Lellenberg draws extensively upon hitherto-unpublished correspondence, and tells a tale that readers will find much more interesting than the pastiche itself. The publisher's address is 626 North College Avenue, Bloomington, IN 47404, and the price is \$17.20 postpaid (plastic accepted).
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2818. The Royal Northumberland Fusiliers' Museum at Alnwick Castle, expanded and refurbished for the summer season, reopened at the end of April with a celebration that included a mock duel between Holmes and Moriarty staged on the castle battlements, by way of commemorating Dr. Watson's service with the regiment in Afghanistan. An article by Tony Jones in the Newcastle Journal (Apr. 13) noted that despite the regiment's claims regarding Watson, Geoffrey Stavert's research indicates that Watson did not actually campaign with the Fifth.
2819. Also in the news from Britain: plans are afoot for a statue of Sherlock Holmes in Baker Street. A six-foot high bronze statue, to be designed by sculptor Vincent Butler, will cost £25,000 and the Abbey National Building Society has already made a large donation to the special Sherlock Holmes Statue Fund, according to an article in the East Anglian Daily Times (May 12). Work is also proceeding on the statue of Sherlock Holmes, designed by Gerald Laing, to be erected next in summer in Edinburgh, on Picardy Place, where Conan Doyle was born in 1859. An article in the Edinburgh Evening News (May 22), reports that the Prince of Wales has been invited to perform the unveiling ceremony, and Cunningham and Co. of Edinburgh, Scotland's oldest hatters, are producing a limited edition of 100 deerstalkers, to retail at £29.95 (including a 10% donation to the £45,000 appeal fund).
2820. Work continues on the new Granada series, with location filming in Chester for "Thor Bridge" and reports of the theft of Sherlock Holmes' pipe from the mantelpiece of the Granada's Manchester set for the sitting room. The cherrywood churchwarden "went missing" earlier this year, when the set was open to tour parties, but an American pipemaker has donated a replacement.
2821. And the Carlton Club, mentioned in two Canonical stories (Gree and Illu), made headline news when the Carlton was bombed on June 25. There were no fatalities, although the explosion could be heard in Parliament, about a mile away, and IRA terrorists were blamed. The club was founded in 1832 by stalwart Tories, and named for Carlton House, the Prince Regent's home, on the site of which the original clubhouse was built. That building was destroyed by German bombs in 1940, and the club found a new home in St. James' Street, where it still serves as the unofficial headquarters of the Conservative Party.
2822. Luci Zahray (685 Marylane Drive, Holland, MI 49423) would like to hear from others who are interested in Sherlockian children's literature. Luci is also a needlework enthusiast, and will be happy to exchange patterns.
2823. Videotaper alert: Rosemary Michaud reports that Arts & Entertainment cable will broadcast Laurence Olivier's "The Merchant of Venice" during August. Jeremy Brett plays Bassanio in the film.
2824. Helen Hare Cain died on June 20. She knew Christopher Morley well, and assisted him with his edition of BARTLETT'S FAMILIAR QUOTATIONS, and in 1949 she became the "Betsy Ross" of the BSI, when Morley praised her as "the most expert and subtle seamstress known" and asked her to create the purple, blue, and mouse necktie that he wore proudly at the 1950 annual dinner. Steve Rothman's article in the March 1987 issue of the BSJ tells the story in considerable and amusing detail.

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2825. Dercum Audio (910 Waltz Road, West Chester, PA 19380) continues to expand its list of unabridged books on audio cassettes, and their new catalog includes three sets from the Canon, all read by William Barker: A STUDY IN SCARLET on four cassettes at \$19.95; SHERLOCK HOLMES (SCAN, REDH, IDEN, and MUSG) on two cassettes at \$14.95; and THE BLUE CARBUNCLE AND OTHER STORIES (BLUE, NOBL, COPP) on two cassettes at \$14.95. Also: Maurice Leblanc's IN PURSUIT OF ARSENE LUPIN (with "Sherlock Holmes Arrives Too Late"), read by David Warner on two cassettes at \$14.95; and Poul Anderson's THE QUEEN OF AIR AND DARKNESS (D4825b), read by Tom Teti on two cassettes at \$14.95. These prices include paper-board boxes, but \$5.00 more per set gets you molded-vinyl library boxes.
2826. Hugh Harrington reports a new restaurant at 2677 Gilchrist Road in Akron, Ohio, so far with only a minimum of Sherlockian decor, but with high hopes on the part of the owners.
2827. Irving Wallace died on June 29. A best-selling author (according to one estimate, his 33 books of fiction and non-fiction have sold more than 194 million copies), his article "The Incredible Dr. Bell" (first published in the Saturday Review of Literature in 1948), was revised and reprinted in his first book, THE FABULOUS ORIGINALS in 1955, and again in THE SUNDAY GENTLEMAN in 1965 with an afterword telling about his battle with Adrian (who denied that there was any connection between Dr. Joseph Bell and Sherlock Holmes). Wallace was also a collector, owning a miniature of the 221B sitting room created by John and Ellen Blauer, and a folding desk that once belonged to Conan Doyle, purchased at a London auction along with one of Conan Doyle's pipes.
2828. Department of detailed non-explanations: a package of plastic sock locks carries the announcement, "This and all Helping Hand products are made to our rigid specifications in the USA, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Korea, Spain, or wherever in the World lies the best consumer value."
2829. A usually reliable source, quoting his own usually reliable source, reports that Christopher Lee and Patrick Macnee are now on location in Zimbabwe, at work on the four-hour television mini-series "Sherlock Holmes: The Incident at Victoria" (March 90 #6).
2830. Jerry Margolin notes that in the film "The Man of a Thousand Faces" (1957), Jimmy Cagney (as Lon Chaney, Sr.) displays a scrapbook with a page showing a sketch of him as Sherlock Holmes. Does anyone know of Lon Chaney, Sr., ever appearing on stage or screen as Sherlock Holmes?
2831. Betty Pierce has forwarded a newspaper report of another famous Moriarty: George Andrews Moriarty, Jr. (1883-1968), who was recently elected to the National Genealogy Hall of Fame. He was a Harvard graduate, a diplomat, and a lawyer, and a founder and first president of the Descendants of the Illegitimate Sons and Daughters of the Kings of England.
2832. Department of further explanations: sock locks are little plastic thing-amabobs that keep pairs of socks together in the washer, dryer, and drawer.

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2833. There is a reward for contributors to the Dr. John H. Watson Fund, which offers financial assistance to S'ians (membership in the BSI or the ASH is not required) who might otherwise be unable to participate in the birthday festivities. A carefully anonymous John H. Watson presides over the fund (which is self-liquidating each year) and welcomes contributions, which should be made by check payable to John H. Watson and mailed (without any return address) to Dr. Watson, c/o Thomas L. Stix, Jr., who forwards the checks unopened. Tom's address is 34 Pierson Avenue, Norwood, NJ 07648. The reward is a S'ian collectible: a printed acknowledgement card, mailed by Dr. Watson from London (the 1989 card was not dated, and this year's card has a printed 1990 date, in case collectors want to pursue all the variants).
2834. Ruthann and Tom Stetak report two rubber stamps available from The Stamp Act (5808 Willow Glen Court, Dayton, OH 45431) at \$4.50 each (plus \$2.00 shipping).
2835. Ruthann and Tom also report that Walt Disney Music (5959 Triumph Street, Commerce, CA 90040) offers a set of ten read-along audio tapes and books (plus a movie poster), that includes "The Great Mouse Detective" and "The Aristocats" (the latter may show Roquefort in S'ian costume) for \$14.90 postpaid.

2836. Robert C. Hess (559 Potter Boulevard, Brightwaters, NY 11718) reports that he has acquired an inscribed copy of Basil Rathbone's autobiography IN AND OUT OF CHARACTER, with a dust jacket in excellent condition, and would like to trade in exchange for Sherlockian statuary or artwork.
2837. Sherlock's Home (4137 East Anaheim Street, Long Beach, CA 90804) offers a set of new Sherlockian notecards with original designs by Michael Hagen. A packet of eight cards (two each of four different designs) with envelopes costs \$12.48 postpaid.
2838. The Pequod Press has announced its latest pressing: BASKERVILLE VISITED, a poetic excursion titled in draft THE DOG IN THE FOG. Copies are available from John Ruyle, 521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707; \$30 (cloth) or \$15 (paper).
2839. The Sherlock Holmes Hotel on Baker Street has a price list offering hotel souvenirs (T-shirts, umbrellas, chocolates, china, and miniatures, etc.), and they accept plastic. Write to Nickolas Mouzakitis, The Sherlock Holmes Hotel, Baker Street, London W1M 1LB, England.
2840. Chris Redmond reports a British review of MYTHS, EMBLEMS, CLUES, by Carlo Ginzburg (Hutchinson, £16.95), a collection of eight essays with recurring preoccupations and themes, such as Hitler's various uses of pagan Germanic mythologies, Freud and lycanthropy, Freud and Sherlock Holmes, and an early 16th-century inquisitorial trial of a witch at Modena. The S'ian essay may be a reprint of Ginzburg's "Clues: Morelli, Freud, and Sherlock Holmes", which was included in the Eco/Sebeok collection THE SIGN OF THREE (1983).
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2841. Jerry Margolin (10007 S.W. Quail Post Road, Portland, OR 97219) offers his full-color poster advertising "The Norwood Builder" in Collier's (1903). The poster measures 11x16" and portrays the cover artwork by Frederic Dorr Steele. Another copy was advertised by Peter L. Stern recently at \$2,000; Jerry is asking \$1,600 for his, and he invites enquiries (home 503-293-7274 or office 503-682-1717 ext 198).
2842. "Starlock Homes. Consulting Detective Astrologer. Absolute confidentiality, free consultation. Phone 419-726-6636." That's a classified advertisement spotted by Tom O'Connor in American Astrology (July 1990).
2843. Eternity Comics has ended its seven-issue mini-series SHERLOCK HOLMES OF THE '30S, reprinting eight of the stories adapted by Leo O'Mealia that ran in newspapers from July 28, 1930, through Feb. 28, 1931. But there might be more stories out there somewhere, since Bliss Austin owned original artwork from an eleventh story ("The Final Problem"). It might be worth checking your local newspaper later on in 1931 to see if the rest of the series can be recovered.
2844. Eternity has also started its four-issue mini-series SHERLOCK HOLMES IN THE CASE OF THE MISSING MARTIAN, written by Doug Murray and drawn by Topper Helmers. Set in 1908, well after the failure of the Martian invasion in 1894, the new story involves Mycroft, Moriarty, Watson's wife Jacqueline, and echoes of Jack the Ripper.
2845. The "New York Magazine Competition" recently requested quatrains, any rhyme scheme, in which a punned familiar name is contained. A runner-up prize was awarded to Elizabeth Fank of Redbank, N.J., for:
- A. No dressing on the salad greens,
 - B. This cafe's hardly royal.
 - C. Ice cream (no spoon) drips on my jeans,
 - D. Sir, are there cone and oil?
2846. The rules require only that the last line end with the punned name, and while we offer no prizes for similar submissions using Canonical names, we will be happy to consider publishing the best of them.
2847. According to an article in the [London] Times (Nov. 8, 1912), Conan Doyle recommended a system of physical culture invented by Lieut. J. P. Muller of the Royal Danish Engineers, noting that no apparatus whatever was required, and that the exercises had the advantage of not being too severe. Earlier he had tried a system that developed the muscles, "but Nature gave us only one banking account, and if we overdraw it in one place we had to underdraw it in another." Conan Doyle said that he found that he put on muscle, but became "stupider and stupider" in the process, so he gave it up and "the muscle melted like butter in the sun."
2848. L. B. Greenwood's third S'ian pastiche, SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE THISTLE OF SCOTLAND, has been reissued in paperback by Pocket Books (\$3.95) with cover art by Tim O'Brien. Greenwood is one of the very few modern writers whose style and characterizations are consistent with the Canon, and her books are a pleasant antidote to the dullness of most S'ian imitations.
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2849. The Speckled Band of Boston is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, and has issued a handsome full-color commemorative poster designed by Mark Faverman. The poster measures 22 by 28 inches and was issued in an edition limited to 185 copies signed by the artist, and is available (unfolded) for \$20.00 postpaid, from J. Devereux deGozzaldi, 79 Frankland Road, Hopkinton, MA 01748.
2850. Charlotte Erickson reports that Denny's Family Restaurants have a give-away comic book with the Flintstone family, all wearing deerstalkers, on the cover, and a story "Sleuth-Goof" that mentions Sherlock Perry and Watson.
2851. WORST CASE SCENARIOS: A COLLECTION OF CARTOONS BY JACK ZIEGLER (New York: Simon and Schuster/Fireside, 1990) reprints his Sherlockian cartoon from the New Yorker (Jan. 11, 1988).
2852. Videotaper alert: "A Study in Terror" on The Movie Channel on Aug. 4.
2853. Kate Karlson, on holiday in southwestern France, discovered Baker Street in Blois: a boutique at 14 rue Beauvoir, with a large street sign displaying the traditional silhouette, and a collection of British merchandise.
2854. The Sherlock Holmes stories "are, and are likely to remain, their author's chief popular success," suggested an editorial in the N.Y. Times Saturday Review of Books and Art (Oct. 3, 1903). "And the stories are all the better for creating a character, for Sherlock Holmes is really a character in British fiction already placed and established. One might say two characters, if the auxiliary Watson were accorded the place which has been claimed for him, we believe by Prof. Brander Matthews, as 'the greatest fool in fiction.'" Was it Brander Matthews who made that comment about Watson? And where and when?
2855. And a cartoon by Samuel C. Rawls (Sept. 16, 1989):
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2856. Heather Owen, co-editor of The Sherlock Holmes Journal, was scheduled to appear on the British television quiz show "\$64,000 Question" on June 22, answering questions on Sherlock Holmes. There has been no report yet on how well she did, but the Yorkshire Evening Post, noting Heather's travels in Victorian costume with The Sherlock Holmes Society of London, said she has "crossed a glacier, been locked in Berne Prison, danced in a hayloft, and eaten breakfast in a jacuzzi."
2857. The trade-paperback WHEN THE WORLD SCREAMED & OTHER STORIES (San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 1990; 233 pp., \$8.95) completes the set begun last year with THE LOST WORLD & THE POISON BELT (September 89 #3). Conan Doyle's novels and stories about Professor Challenger are
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- great fun, and *THE LAND OF MIST* (in the second volume) is particularly interesting: written in 1924 and 1925, the novel presents Challenger as a firm skeptic but eventually a convert to Spiritualism, and it is in many ways autobiographical (as was *THE STARK MUNRO LETTERS*).
2858. Academy Chicago is also extending its list of Conan Doyle paperbacks. Last year they published *THE BEST HORROR STORIES OF ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE* (April 89 #1) and *TALES FOR A WINTER'S NIGHT* (December 89 #5), and now they have added *THE LOST WORLD* (214 pp., \$4.95), the first of the Challenger stories.
2859. And "The Lost World" receives considerable attention in the July 1990 issue of *Holmes for the Holidays*, the artful children's journal edited by Michael W. McClure (1415 Swanwick Street, Chester, IL 62233); \$7.50 for five issues a year.
2860. David H. Galerstein (44 Center Drive, New Hyde Park, NY 11040), spurred by Kathrin Jaeck's article on "The Problem of the German Interpreters" in the June issue of the *BSJ*, wonders how intimate or polite other translators have been in their versions of the Canon. If you have translations, Dave would like to know: the language, the name of the translator, the name of the book or story, the form of "you" used, whether the usage varies from story to story within a book, and any other relevant information.
2861. Philatelic Sherlockiana: on May 15 Sweden honored its beekeeping industry with a booklet pane showing ten different designs (by Ingaliill Axelsson).
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- August 1990 #2
2862. Reported by Richard M. Lackritz: *DUCK EDWING'S MADVENTURES OF ALMOST SUPERHEROES* (Warner, 1990, \$3.95), with the story "The Adventures of Headlock Holmes" (from the diary of Dr. Watsnew), and with Sherlock Holmes on the cover.
2863. Harold L. Klawans, author of the mystery novel *SINS OF COMMISSION* (reviewed in the *BSJ*, Sept. 1987), also has written a series of diagnostic essays, collected as *TOSCANINI'S FUMBLE AND OTHER TALES OF CLINICAL NEUROLOGY* and *NEWTON'S MADNESS: FURTHER TALES OF CLINICAL NEUROLOGY*. The second volume of essays (New York: Harper & Row, 1990; 218 pp., \$17.95) includes "Getting a Kick from Cocaine", an interesting and detailed examination of Sherlock Holmes' addiction, with an identification of the man who was instrumental in introducing Holmes to Sigmund Freud.
2864. Rodney C. Starling (4515 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11235) is seeking an artist who is capable of producing a set of 20 Sherlockian illustrations in color for a new project, "first out of a love of the work for its own sake, and secondly on speculation that the project may very well prove to be enormously profitable."
2865. The Monnaie de Paris, ancient mint to the Emperor Charlemagne, has been in the news recently because of its new memorial coin honoring Marilyn Monroe and showing her in the nude (the first time a French coin has carried a portrait of a celebrity in her birthday suit, according to one newspaper report, since Henry II honored his late mistress thus). This is in no way S'ian (although the famous nude calendar photograph of Marilyn Monroe and an excerpt from "The Sign of the Four" both appeared in the first issue of *Playboy*), but it was the Monnaie de Paris that in 1979 issued a handsome medallion honoring Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.
2866. Bliss Austin's copy of Beeton's Christmas Annual, sold at auction in June at Sotheby's for \$52,000 (June 90 #6), was purchased by Russell H. McMains, a Texas collector.
2867. Pocket Books/Minstrel continues to expand its paperback reissues of the five titles in Eve Titus' "Basil of Baker Street" series. *BASIL IN THE WILD WEST* (96 pp., \$2.75) brings Basil to Moriarty, New Mexico, home of mouse sheriff Bennett Shaw.
2868. Samuel Holt, author of *WHAT I TELL YOU THREE TIMES IS FALSE* (March 87 #1) is now identified as a pseudonym of Donald E. Westlake. The book (New York: Tor Books, 1987) is an entertaining murder mystery in which the sleuths (and suspects) include actors noted for portraying Miss Marple, Charlie Chan, and Sherlock Holmes.
2869. Paulette Greene has moved her book business (to 7152 Via Palomar, Boca Raton, FL 33433), and is now specializing in art books, though continuing her own interest in matters Sherlockian.
2870. Rex Stout's "Watson Was a Lady" (D3360a) and Julian Wolff's "That Was No Lady" (D3370a) have been reprinted in *The Gazette: The Journal of the Wolfe Pack*, winter 1990. The address for The Wolfe Pack is: Box 822, Ansonia Station, New York, NY 10023.

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2871. *THE GLENDOWER CONSPIRACY: A MEMOIR OF SHERLOCK HOLMES FROM THE PAPERS OF EDWARD PORTER JONES, HIS LATE ASSISTANT*, by Lloyd Biggle, Jr. (Tulsa: Council Oak Books, 1990; 423 pp., \$14.95), is a new pastiche, and a good one. As in *THE QUALLSFORD INHERITANCE* (1986), the narrator is a young man who was once a member of the original Baker Street Irregulars and then became a valued assistant to Sherlock Holmes. The new case takes Jones and Holmes to Wales in 1904, and Biggle offers readers a complicated mystery, credible characterizations, and a fine sense of place. The book costs \$16.45 postpaid, and the publisher's address is 1428 South St. Louis, Tulsa, OK 74120 (800-247-8850).
2872. A note for computerized Sherlockians: a friend has sent me a neat little MS-DOS utility that replaces the keyboard codes for "<" and ">" with the proper punctuation marks, so that you can type in upper-case and write things like "U.S.A." and "P.D.Q. Bach" more easily. And you can still recover "<" and ">" (using SHIFT-ALT) if you need them. If you would like a copy, send me a 5.25-inch floppy.
2873. "Lusty Detective" is a 75-minute pornographic videocassette, produced by Mark Curtis in 1987 and distributed by Video Exclusives, in a box that shows a girl wearing a deerstalker (and very little else) and holding a magnifying glass. But the girl is just a model, and does not appear in the video, which has no Sherlockian content.
2874. The 13th annual Kennedy Center Honors will be presented on Dec. 2, and will recognize the life-long artistic achievements of trumpeter Dizzy Gillespie, actress Katherine Hepburn, opera star Rise Stevens, Broadway composer Jule Styne, and film-maker Billy Wilder, who produced and directed "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970).
2875. Further to the report (April 90 #6) on plans for the next Sherlockian dinner at the Culinary Institute of America on May 4, 1991, the Radisson Hotel in Poughkeepsie, about ten minutes from the CIA, is offering a discounted rate of \$75.00 a room; the hotel address is 40 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601, and their phone number is 914-485-5300. Al Rosenblatt is still *not* yet accepting reservations for the dinner itself.
2876. Robert C. Hess (559 Potter Boulevard, Brightwater, NY 11718) offers a new seven-page sales list of Sherlockiana.
2877. *THE SHERLOCK HOLMES COOKBOOK*, by Charles A. Mills (Alexandria: Apple Cheeks Press, 1990; 49 pp., \$3.50 postpaid), offers a brief culinary tour of the Canon, with discussion of food, drink, and clubs, as well as recipes. The publisher's address is 2617 Stirrup Lane, Alexandria, VA 22308.
2878. A report from Britain indicates that Jeremy Brett has just gone into the Guinness Book of Records for playing Sherlock Holmes the greatest number of times on television. Guinness is wrong, of course: Ronald Howard played Holmes in 39 programs in 1954 and 1955, and the Granada series has only 26 programs so far. But as far as I know, the Ronald Howard series was never broadcast in Britain, so the Guinness experts may not be aware of it. Or they may be considering hours rather than programs, in which case Brett is in first place. Now: try your hand at guessing who's in third place.

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2879. Comic-book news: A CALIBER CHRISTMAS #1 (Dec. 1989, \$3.95) includes "A Case of the Blues" (non-Sherlockian, but with the characters from the BAKER STREET series). BAKER STREET (1990, \$14.95) has reprints of all five episodes of "Honour Among Punks", "Elementary My Dear" (from CALIBER PRESENTS #9), and "A Case of the Blues", and some previously unpublished artwork. There is also a report that there will be a "Baker Street" T-shirt with a two-color portrait of Harlequin by Guy Davis.
2880. A new project: an "I hear of Sherlock everywhere" videocassette that will include minor Sherlockian items such as the bits of Sherlockian dialog in "The Jewel in the Crown" (1984) and "Father Dowling Mysteries: The Legacy Mystery" (1990). Other cassettes might be prepared for short kid-vid such as Sherlock Hemlock segments from "Sesame Street", and for Sherlockian commercials, and for Sherlockian news interviews. If you have such items on off-the-air cassettes, please write to Jennie C. Paton (206 Loblolly Lane, Statesboro, GA 30458) and tell her what you have, and the recording speed (SP or SLP or whatever).
2881. Hard on the paws of BASKERVILLE VISITED comes BASKERVILLE REVISITED, the second and final installment of the poetic tribute written by John Ruyle and announced by the Pequod Press. Order from John Ruyle, 521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707; \$30.00 cloth or \$15.00 paper.
2882. Who's in third place among actors who have portrayed Sherlock Holmes the most times on television? Try Peter Cushing: 15 programs in the 1968 BBC series, plus the television film "The Masks of Death" (1984). And if you want to count films later shown on television, you can add "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1959).
2883. Emory Lee reports a new S'ian chess set, produced by "Little Lead Soldiers of England". The hand-painted pewter pieces are 30 mm high, and the set costs \$295.00 with board and case, and it's marketed here by Jim Hillestad, The Toy Soldier, Paradise Falls, R.R. 1, Box 378, Cresco, PA 19326.
2884. IT'S A BIRTHDAY MYSTERY is a personalized book, in which the recipient is written into the story, and there's a teddy bear wearing a deerstalker on the cover. If you have someone who's willing to spring for \$11.95 (it's better to have someone else do it, to preserve the surprise), the address to write to for an order blank is About Me!, 24 Lantern Lane, Norwell, MA NY 10222 (the order blank is needed to supply the biographical details).
2885. As might be expected, the N.Y. Times gave considerable coverage to Conan Doyle's involvement in the Edalji case. One of those articles (unearthed by Jennie Paton) reported (Sept. 8, 1907) that: "Long before he created Sherlock Holmes he met a man at his tailor's who was buying a suit of clothes and seemed to have a strong objection to any material with a stripe in it. According to the story, Sir Arthur at once set the man down as an ex-criminal, and to satisfy himself as to how far his deduction was correct he determined to try to trace the man's history. This was by no means an easy matter, but some months afterward, chancing to visit a convict prison, he saw the man's portrait in the Rogues' Gallery." I've not heard seen this anecdote before, and it's a nice one, but there are grounds for some skepticism: British prisoners wore the broad arrow rather than stripes.

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2886. Another story, tracked by Jennie Paton through the pages of the N.Y. Times, concerns the history of William Gillette's home after he died in 1937, stating in his will that it was his "earnest wish that his property should be owned by someone who would appreciate it. "I would consider it more than unfortunate for me," he wrote, if his home were to be the possession of "some blithering saphead who had no conception of where he is or with what surrounded." When his will was filed for probate in 1938, the castle and grounds were valued at \$65,000 and the railroad at \$3,000. His executor decided to auction the Hadlyme property on Oct. 1, but a hurricane delayed the auction until Oct. 15, when five minutes of bidding ended with a high bid of \$35,000 and a decision by the executor to refuse the bid. According to Brendan Gill's report on the proceedings in the New Yorker (Nov. 26, 1938), the executor later rejected offers as high as \$60,000. And shouldn't have, because in 1943 the property (without the railroad, which had been sold to a nearby amusement park) was sold to the state of Connecticut for \$30,000 -- an attractive bargain for the state, certainly. The decision to make the property a state park has been greatly appreciated by the many Sherlockians who have visited Gillette Castle.
2887. THE 1991 CALENDAR OF 221B BAKER STREET is now available, spiral bound on heavy stock, with Ronald S. White's photographs of the recreation of the sitting-room at S. Holmes, Esq., in San Francisco. Order from Brian and Charlotte Erickson, 1920 Marich Way, Mountain View, CA 94040; \$12.00 each (plus \$5.00 per order for shipping, or \$7.50 for foreign orders).
2888. Mark Erdrich reports a Napoleonic Bee necktie, offered by the Boston Museum of Fine Arts in navy blue with a pattern of laurel in red and stylized bees in gray. Laurel is mentioned many times in the Canon, as are bees, and members of The Six Napoleons will note that the bee (the Emperor's personal crest) has six body parts, and that there are six pairs of laurel leaves. The tie costs \$32.00 plus shipping, and you can order from the museum's catalog sales department, Box 1044, Boston, MA 02120 (800-225-5592).
2889. Mark also reports that Shannon Duty Free Mail Order offers a blackthorn stick (mentioned in "The Abbey Grange") for \$26.50 (plus \$8.00 shipping) and a miniature (by Thingumbobs of Sheffield) of Holmes and Watson and a hansom (6.25 inches high) for \$150.00 (plus \$16.00 shipping). The address for ordering is c/o Aer Lingus/Irish Airlines, Building No. 87, John F. Kennedy Airport, NY 11430 (800-223-6716).

August 1990 #6

2890. Incidental intelligence (according to the Washington Post): the U.S. Postal Service, which handles 40 percent of the world's mail volume, processed 161.6 billion pieces of mail last year. That comes to 643 pieces of mail per person. And, since the USPS had a budget of \$39 billion, the cost was 24.1 cents per piece of mail processed.
2891. Additional incidental intelligence: the semi-official estimated resident population of the United States on June 1, 1990, was 250,630,000. That's based on the 1990 census count, which is already causing some fuss and furor in places (such as the District of Columbia) where the population has dropped (since federal aid is often tied to population counts), and which will cause even more fuss and furor when states are redistricted for the 1992 congressional elections (California could gain as many as eight seats in the House of Representatives, and Florida four, while New York could lose three seats, and many states will lose one or two).
2892. Volume nine of Simon & Schuster's "The New Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" is now in the bookstores, priced at \$9.95, with the Rathbone/Bruce radio versions of "A Scandal in Bohemia" (Dec. 10, 1945) and "The Case of the Second Generation" (Dec. 17, 1945).
2893. Reported by Ron De Waal: FAMOUS & CURIOUS ANIMAL STORIES (New York: Gallery Books/W. H. Smith, 1989; \$6.98), with contents including chapters 13-15 from "The Hound of the Baskervilles".
2894. More news from 239 Baker Street (aka 221 Baker Street): according to an article in Art & Antiques (summer 1990), at hand from Ray de Groat, John Aidiniantz has been knocking out a back wall, and now plans to market the bricks. A recent photograph of the exterior of the front of the building shows a circular blue plaque (similar to the official plaques designating official historical sites) affixed to the second floor and announcing that the building is 221 Baker Street.
2895. And Greta de Groat reports that "I hear of Sherlock everywhere" seems to be the norm in the world of libraries. According to Library Hotline (June 4, 1990), the Miami University Libraries (in Ohio) held a contest to name its new automated system and received more than 675 entries, including LEECH (an acronym for Lazy Employees' Expensive Computer Helper), and selected SHERLOCK (apparently not an acronym) as the winner. On July 16,

Library Hotline noted that the E. H. Butler Library at the State University College in Buffalo held a similar contest, received 288 entries, and also selected SHERLOCK as a name for its system.

2896. Videotaper alert: The Movie Channel will show "The Man of a Thousand Faces" (1957) on Oct. 17 and 27. As noted earlier (July 90 #3) James Cagney (as Lon Chaney, Sr.) displays a scrapbook with a page showing a sketch of him as Sherlock Holmes.

2897. Richard Wein reports that the latest catalog from What on Earth (June 90 #3) also offers a Sherlock Holmes Teapot (\$49.95). The company's address is 25801 Richmond Road, Cleveland, OH 44146.

September 1990 #1

2898. "A fig for Sherlock Holmes! No one really loves Doyle's work because he created and exploited that arch-humbag, that Egyptian Hall man of mystery. The most earnest student of the fourpenny-halfpennyest of magazines barely believes in him or takes him seriously. Our children's children will probably argue that he was a solar myth." [The Academy and Literature, Oct. 24, 1903, in favorable comments on the Author's Edition]

2899. Reported by Ron De Waal: a discount reprint of MURDER FOR CHRISTMAS, edited by Thomas Godfrey and illustrated by Gahan Wilson (New York: Avenel Books, 1989); contents include "The Blue Carbuncle" (the book was first published by The Mysterious Press in 1982). And THE OXFORD BOOK OF ENGLISH DETECTIVE STORIES, edited by Patricia Craig (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1990; \$19.95); contents include "Silver Blaze". An advertisement in the Nov. 1990 issue of EQMM announces a contest for new detective stories in the traditional English style, no longer than 3,000 words, with a deadline of Dec. 15. Entry blanks are available at local bookstores and libraries (or, presumably, from the Oxford University Press, 200 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016). The contest will be judged by P. D. James, and the winner will receive \$500 (and the story will be published in EQMM); the second prize will be "a rare first U.S. edition" of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES.

2900. John Severin's cartoon satire continues to recycle. Super Cracked #4

2901. Super Guys vs. Super Scoundrels (winter 1990-91, \$3.50) has Sherlockian panels in "What Are the Old TV & Movie Detectives Doing Today?" and "The Real Secrets Behind Agent 0007".

2902. General Mills has launched a new breakfast cereal, with television advertisements, newspaper coupons, and directmail samples. Boxes for Undercover Bears Instant Oatmeal (available in a Super Sleuth assortment and a Private Eye pack) feature a trench-coated dog with a magnifying glass, described by Advertising Age (in an article at hand from Richard Wein) as investigating the cereal "a la Sherlock Holmes."

2903. Lenny Picker reports that Len Deighton's new novel SPY SINKER (HarperCollins) includes a new appearance by Erich Stinnes: "He had the generator going and stayed up late reading The White Company. He was a dedicated Sherlock Holmes fan and was persevering with his favorite author's excursion into medievalism." Stinnes' Sherlockian enthusiasm was noted earlier in Deighton's BERLIN GAME and MEXICO SET.

2904. Grant C. Eustace reports that his series of 30-minute audio adaptations of the Sherlock Holmes stories, with Roy Marsden as Holmes and John Moffatt as Watson, available as in-flight entertainment for British Airways passengers beginning in 1987, will be issued on cassettes by The Talking Tape Company (Unit 11, Shaftesbury Industrial Centre, The Runnings, Cheltenham GL51 9NH, England). There will be six two-cassette packages, each with four stories, retailing at about £7.00 per package, but there is no word yet on whether enthusiasts outside Britain will be able to order directly.

September 1990 #2

2905. Delayed news of the auction of "English Literature and History" at Sotheby's in London on Dec. 14 (November 89 #6), which included the collar of the prototype of the Hound of the Baskervilles: a large black leather collar, about 20 inches in circumference, with studs and buckles, and an attached metal plate engraved "'Derby the Devil' presented by Jerome K. Jerome to A. Conan Doyle, Undershaw, Hindhead". The collar belonged for many years to a Surrey family who lived near ACD's home at Undershaw, and by family tradition "Derby the Devil" was the huge mastiff which inspired the Hound of the Baskervilles (hence the point of Jerome's presentation to ACD). Estimated by Sotheby's at £600-800, the collar received a high bid of £2200, according to a report by Nicolas Barker in the spring 1990 issue of The Book Collector.

2906. "Separated at Birth?" is a continuing feature invented by Spy magazine in Dec. 1986, and the title of a collection of matched photographs published by Dolphin/Doubleday in 1988 (and observed by Ann Byerly), which includes: At hand from John Bennett Shaw is an article by Charles Monteith on "Eliot in the Office" in the spring 1990 issue of Grand Street. Monteith joined Faber and Faber as an editor in 1953, and worked with T. S. Eliot for many years. One of the company traditions was the weekly editorial luncheon: "One Wednesday the talk got on to Sherlock Holmes, of whom he was a devotee --the most famous evidence of his devotion are the lines from 'The Musgrave Ritual' used in *Murder in the Cathedral*. As evidence of his continuing enthusiasm, he extracted from his wallet a formidable stack of membership cards from Sherlock Holmes societies all over the United States: the Speckled Band of Cincinnati, the Brooklyn Red-headed League, the Silver Blazes of Minnesota, more than a dozen. 'The old lady,' he said, observing the pile with mild surprise, 'shows her medals.'"

2907. Sherlockian titles are beginning to appear on laserdiscs (the newest and highest-fi video medium): "Sherlock Holmes and the Secret Weapon" (1943), "The Woman in Green" (1945), "Terror by Night" (1946), and "Dressed to Kill" (1946) have been reported by Ted Schulz.

2908. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London now has more details (and new dates) for its Pilgrimage to Switzerland from Apr. 28 to May 6, 1991. Write to: S.H. Swiss Pilgrimage, 7 Bruton Close, Chislehurst, Kent BR7 5SF, England.

September 1990 #3

2909. The University of Iowa Press is offering deep discounts on two fine books: LETTERS TO THE PRESS, edited by John Michael Gibson and Richard Lancelyn Green (a 383-page collection of Conan Doyle's letters to newspapers and magazines on non-Sherlockian topics, published in 1986 at \$29.95) now costs \$3.00, and THE SHERLOCK HOLMES LETTERS, edited by Richard Lancelyn Green (a 272-page collection of Sherlockian letters to the press by others, published in 1987 at \$27.50) now costs \$2.00. Iowa's "big sale" ended on Sept. 15, but they have kindly extended the deadline until Nov. 1 for readers of this newsletter. Orders should be sent to the University of Iowa Press, Publications Order Dept. OH, Iowa City, IA 52246. The minimum order is \$15.00, orders should be prepaid (Mastercard and Visa accepted), shipping is extra (\$2.25 for the first book plus \$0.50 for each additional book), and it is important that you mark your orders "Scuttlebutt".

2910. Videotaper alert: the summer 1990 issue of Anglofile reports that the Arts & Entertainment cable network will begin broadcasting 134 episodes of "The Avengers" on Oct. 6. This will be the first U.S. broadcast of the early shows starring Honor Blackman (some of which I saw on Canadian television in 1965, and still remember fondly), and the A&E broadcasts may include "The Curious Case of the Countless Clues" (1968) with Patrick Macnee and Linda Thorson, and Peter Jones as Sir Arthur Doyle.

2911. Anglofile also reports that Steven Spielberg and Andrew Lloyd Webber are collaborating on a full-length animated film of "Cats" (which presumably will include the infamous Macavity), and that Kingsley Amis (who has items in both volumes of Ron De Waal's bibliographies) was knighted in June. And there's much more on British stage, screen, and television in the bimonthly newsletter (Box 33515, Decatur, GA 30033; \$12.00 a year).

2912. And (in case there's not enough time for an advance warning on the schedule of "Masterpiece Theatre") you should watch for John Mortimer's "Summer's Lease" some time next year. The stars are John Gielgud, Susan Fleetwood, and Rosemary Leach, and when the series was broadcast by the BBC in 1989, one reviewer said that "Sherlock Holmes and Piero della Francesca are the Grey Eminences of the implausible plot; the tale is to be one of mistaken identity, apparently as told by Conan Doyle in Copper Beeches, at the first page of which the book lies open on the double bed."
2913. An organization called "Friends of Mystery" sponsors a series of bi-monthly "Bloody Thursdays" lectures in Portland. On Sept. 27 the speaker ("Anatomy a Crime" was deputy state medical examiner Karen Gunson (who owns two cows named Sherlock Holmes and Agatha Christie). On Jan. 24 the speaker will be Jerry Margolin (on "Collecting Sherlock Holmes").
2914. At hand from Andrew Jay Peck, eagle-eyed reader of The Hollywood Reporter, is a report that Engelbert Humperdinck has been signed to play the opera singer Eberhardt Bohm in the Harmony Gold television mini-series "Sherlock Holmes and the Leading Lady". "The Golden Years of Sherlock Holmes" was announced earlier (March 90 #6) as including "Sherlock Holmes: The Incident at Victoria" and "Sherlock Holmes: The Merry Widow" (with Christopher Lee as Holmes and Patrick Macnee as Watson), but it would appear that there's a new title, and perhaps a new plot, for the mini-series, in which Morgan Fairchild will play Irene Adler, with filming now underway in London.

September 1990 #4

2915. Caliber Press (31162 West Warren Avenue, Westland, MI 48185) publishes the comic book BAKER STREET, and CALIBER PRESENTS #9 and A CALIBER CHRISTMAS (both had related material), and the graphic novel BAKER STREET, and they will be glad to send you a price list of back and current issues if you weren't able to find them at your local shops.
2916. Plan well ahead: plans are afoot (well, at sea) for a second ocean-going seven-day Sherlockian seminar in the spring of 1992, on the MV Horizon, from New York to Bermuda and back. For additional information, write to Holmes on the Horizon, Box 96, Norwood, NJ 07648.
2917. Alden Whitman died on Sept. 4. As a N.Y. Times reporter he pioneered the use of interviews with notable people to prepare their obituaries (he was careful to tell his subjects that he was working on biographical essays, but anyone important enough to be interviewed by Whitman knew what he was doing). From 1964 until he retired in 1976 he wrote hundreds of advance obituaries, including one for Rex Stout (D2793b), and he once suggested that "a good obit has all the characteristics of a well-focused snapshot, the fuller the better." His own obituary in the N.Y. Times had no byline ("it was written by committee," the paper's obituaries editor said, "and it was the third time it had been rewritten").
2918. If you wrote to Jim Hillestad about the "Little Lead Soldiers" chess set (August 90 #4), and haven't received a response, it's because the item had the wrong ZIP code. His correct address is: The Toy Soldier, Paradise Falls, R.R.1, Box 378, Cresco, PA 18326.
2919. THE CAMDEN HOUSE COOKBOOK, compiled by Janet Bensley and Debbie Tinsley from recipes provided by members of The Occupants of the Empty House, is based on the scion's long-standing tradition of pot-luck provisioning at its meetings. The 48-page booklet is available for \$4.50 postpaid from Debbie Tinsley, Box 21, Zeigler, IL 62999.
2920. Jack Kerr reports two discount titles from the Mallard Press, at \$7.95 each: THE BEST CRIME STORIES (contents include "The New Catacomb") and THE BEST HORROR STORIES (contents include "Lot No. 249").
2921. All five of Eve Titus' fine "Basil of Baker Street" titles are now out in paperback from Pocket Books/Minstrel, with new cover art by Judith Sutton (\$2.75 each).
2922. Available (free) from the British Tourist Authority (40 West 57th Street, New York, NY 10019): "The Movie Map: Film & T.V. Locations in Britain". This is an interesting guide to locations in England, Scotland, Wales, and Jersey, including Loch Ness ("The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes"), and there's a photograph of Jeremy Brett and David Burke at the door of 221B on the Granada set at Manchester.
2923. Tony Harries followed in the footsteps of Jill Hutton Nicholson (one of his predecessors as Sherlock Holmes' secretary) in appearing on the syndicated television series "To Tell the Truth" on Sept. 13. They liked him enough to fly him from Toronto to Los Angeles and back to tape his show. Tony was also interviewed by the Cable News Network during his visit to Los Angeles.

September 1990 #5

2924. Reported: THEORY OF PROSE, by Viktor Shklovsky, translated by Benjamin Sher (Dalkey Archive Press, 1990; 216 pp., \$29.95). THEORY OF PROSE, written in 1925 but only now completely translated into English, is one of the landmark explorations of literary theory, and the literature considered includes mystery stories in general, and the Sherlock Holmes stories in particular.
2925. Reported: NEW CRIMES, edited by Maxim Jakubowski (New York: Carroll & Graf, 1990; \$16.95), an anthology that includes M. J. Trow's "It's Clever, But Is It Art?" (a short story starring Lestrade).
2926. Abigail Patience Danforth is a new series detective, in two 1990 Pinnacle paperbacks written by Marian J. A. Jackson: THE PUNJAT'S RUBY (252 pp., \$3.50) and THE ARABIAN PEARL (253 pp., \$3.50). THE PUNJAT'S RUBY brings Miss Danforth, whose hero is Sherlock Holmes, from England (where Conan Doyle suggests that amateur detecting is no career for a young lady), to New York (where she is assisted by William Gillette and a band of Gramercy Park Irregulars), and THE ARABIAN PEARL extends her travels to the American west (with occasional Sherlockian allusions). The time is 1900, and Miss Danforth is a sprightly heroine.
2927. In THE ARABIAN PEARL, Miss Danforth travels west from New York by "private varnish" (a thoroughly pleasant luxury in an era described in some detail by Lucius Beebe in 1959 in his book MANSIONS ON RAILS). John T. Winterich, in his review of the book (SRL, Dec. 5, 1959), included one of Beebe's fine stories, about a Hungarian princess who visited Boston in 1911 and who was provided with a private car by the New Haven Railroad when she left for New York. The private car, unfortunately (and contrary to the usual custom), was not hooked to the rear of the train, but rather sandwiched between a plain-people's Pullman and the diner. When the plain people began to walk through the private car as the only route available if they wanted to eat, the princess was startled but quickly recovered. It was her imposing major domo who contrived to salvage the proprieties: he insisted on getting the name of every invading passenger and properly announcing him.
2928. President Eisenhower is not on record as an admirer of the Sherlock Holmes stories, but in 1954 he cited THE WHITE COMPANY in one of his press conferences (D2591b). And Adrian Conan Doyle called Eisenhower "one of the greatest living authorities" on Sir Arthur. Eddy Gilmore's AP story (D2592b) quoted Adrian as saying that the first book Eisenhower read after his illness in 1959 was SIR NIGEL. Adrian sent Eisenhower a copy of the limited edition of SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE CENTENARY 1859-1959 (D3919a); according to Lewis Nichols (in his column in the N.Y. Times Book Review, May 24, 1959), the 100 copies of the limited edition have a pasted-in signature of Sir Arthur. The U.S. Postal Service will issue a new commemorative honoring Eisenhower on Oct. 13.

September 1990 #6

2929. Eternity Comics has published SHERLOCK JR. #1 (Aug. 90) as the first of a three-issue mini-series reprinting Sidney Smith's "Sherlock Holmes Jr." comic strip (D5873b), which has little Sherlockian relevance other than the title. Smith later achieved more renown as the creator of "The Gumps" for

the [N.Y.] Daily News. The world of comic books also includes Batman, who is much changed from the good old days when Bob Kane wrote and drew the comic strip. Dick Grayson, the original Robin, is dead, and so apparently is his replacement, Jason Todd. DETECTIVE COMICS #618 (July 1990), presents a potential successor, Tim Drake, a member of the Sherlock Holmes Society who likes to watch Basil Rathbone's "Sherlock Holmes" films on television.

2930. Add Norman M. Davis and Linda Crane to the list of Sherlockian romances that began at a meeting of a Sherlockian society. Norm and Linda were married on July 24 at the Victorian Villa Guesthouse in Union City, Mich., in a Sherlockian ceremony that was recorded (from the preliminaries through the wedding dinner) on videotape that was viewed on Aug. 29 by The South Downers, who had provided the venue for the start of it all.
2931. Available from Henry Murray (Arlington Supplies, Box 1102, Barnet, Herts. EN5 5AF, England): a commemorative cover honoring the 60th anniversary of the death of Conan Doyle. The cover carries one of the Conan Doyle stamps issued by the Turks & Caicos Islands in 1984, a Grand Turk postmark dated July 7, 1990, and a cachet with appropriate artwork (\$3.00 each, plus \$1.00 per order for shipping). Arlington also offers a pricelist of the colorful Tekna reprints of the Sidney Paget illustrations.
2932. "A Century of Sherlock Holmes" is the title of an illustrated talk "on the emergence of Holmes and the entertaining tradition that has surrounded him" by Julie Rosenblatt, scheduled for 6:30 pm on Oct. 16 at the Harvard Club in New York.
2933. The summer 1990 issue of Mysterious News at hand from The Mysterious Press (129 West 56th Street, New York, NY 10019), with contributions by and news about the press' authors, and a report on the recent sale of The Mysterious Press to Time Warner ("I'm still in my office," Otto Penzler notes, "more or less running things"). Mysterious News is published quarterly, and is offered without charge.
2934. Reported by David McCallister: DISNEY'S MICKEY MOUSE CARD GAME (a simple "Old Maid" type of match-up game) with large (3.4 x 5.7 inches) cards that show "Detective Mickey" in Sherlockian costume.
2935. Reported by Richard Smith: "The Baker Street Coat" ("the 19th century was an explosion of mechanical inventions and devices: the lawn mower, the automobile, and this handsome, ingeniously removable shoulder cape") in the fall 1990 catalog from the J. Peterman Co., 2444 Palumbo Drive, Lexington, KY 40509. "Sherlock Holmes (and certain of his clients) wore it; Robert E. Lee (and certain of his generals) wore it," the catalog notes, and the price is \$580 postpaid.

October 1990 #1

2936. A brief report from London on Bouchercon XXI, well-arranged by Marion and Robin Richmond on Sept. 21-23: about 1,000 people attended the three days of festivities, with about 80% coming from the United States. Three-track programming, as usual in recent years, and this year there were three full days, from Friday morning through Sunday afternoon. Tony Harries spoke on Friday morning on his experiences as Sherlock Holmes' secretary on Friday morning, and on Saturday afternoon there was a Sherlockian debate arranged by The Sherlock Holmes Society of London. Bouchercon XXII will be held on Oct. 11-13, 1991, at the Pasadena Hilton (advance discount registration is \$35.00, checks payable to SCIFI, and the address is Bouchercon XXII, 2334 Beach Avenue, Venice, CA 90291).
2937. Bouchercon XXIII will be held in Toronto on Oct. 8-11, 1992, at the Royal York Hotel. This will be the first four-day Bouchercon, with Thursday as a "Special Interests Day" in which groups such as the Private Eye Writers of America can hold business meetings, seminars, workshops, etc. Programming will run through Sunday afternoon, followed by a farewell cocktail party ending at 6:00 pm. Registration costs \$50.00 through the end of 1990, and \$60.00 through the end of 1991, and the address is Bouchercon XXIII, Box 23, Station "S", Toronto, Ont. M5M 4L6, Canada. The site for Bouchercon XXIV has not yet been selected.
2938. In response to queries from some readers about the report (August 90 #2) on DUCK EDWING'S MADVENTURES OF ALMOST SUPERHEROES (with "The Adventures of Headlock Holmes" and with Holmes on the cover), I haven't been able to find a copy here either, but the book *does* exist, and is a paperback published by Warner in Apr. 1990 (the ISBN is 0-446-35845-2).
2939. What American magazine has the largest circulation? You are invited to try your hand at listing the top five on the list.
2940. Britain's sharpshooters still honor Conan Doyle's interest in marksmanship, awarding an annual Conan Doyle Trophy. And the sharpshooting is real: the winner this year was Rob Countney, who put every shot into the bull's-eye at a range of 1,000 yards.
2941. A flier at hand for the one-week "Holmes on the Horizon" cruise to Bermuda and back, departing from New York on May 16, 1992. Details are available from Holmes on the Horizon, Box 96, Norwood, NJ 07648.
2942. Authors of short fiction in the 1990s must envy their counterparts in the 1890s, when there were scores of periodicals eager to publish such work, in the mystery field and in others, and one might wonder indeed whether Conan Doyle would have been as successful as a beginning author now as he was a century ago. It is the novel that modern publishers seek, and that most readers seem to prefer, and well-written short fiction is hard to find. But there *are* publishers who do not neglect the short story. Carroll & Graf is one of those publishers, and their American edition of NEW CRIMES (1990, \$16.95) offers some fine examples of tales well told. The anthology was edited by Maxim Jakubowski (proprietor of Murder One in London), and includes M. J. Trow's new Lestrade pastiche "It's Clever, But Is It Art?"

October 1990 #2

2943. Some additional news about the Christopher Lee/Patrick Macnee television mini-series: filming of "Sherlock Holmes and the Leading Lady" (with a teleplay by Bob Shayne and H.R.F. Keating) was to have begun at the end of August in Luxembourg, and the four-hour mini-series is to be available for broadcast in January. According to a press release, Holmes is summoned by the Prime Minister and sent to Vienna in 1910 to solve a mystery involving a stolen explosive device and meetings with the Emperor Franz Joseph and Sigmund Freud. "Holmes and Watson once again find themselves caught up in a web of murder and intrigue. What Holmes never suspects, however, is that the murder will reunite him with the one love of his life, Irene Adler." Irene Adler, as reported earlier, will be played by Morgan Fairchild.
2944. The second mini-series will be "Sherlock Holmes: The Incident at Victoria Falls" (with a teleplay by Bob Shayne based on a story by Gerry O'Hara), with filming scheduled in Zimbabwe. Sherlock Holmes will encounter Lillie Langtry, ex-president Teddy Roosevelt, Giuseppe Marconi, and Lord Roberts of Kandahar, as well as a few fictional characters, suspects, and such.
2945. Richard Carleton Hacker (Box 634, Beverly Hills, CA 90213) offers a series of custom-made and colorful wooden wall signs, at prices ranging from \$50.00 to \$290.00, plus shipping. And his THE ULTIMATE PIPE BOOK (which includes discussion of S'ian pipes and pipe-smoking) is now available in a second, revised edition. Write to Rick for his illustrated flier and order form.
2946. The British post office is reportedly considering making only one mail delivery a day to residences (instead of the current two deliveries), and a columnist in Punch yearns fondly for the days of Sherlock Holmes, when "one could pop a letter into a box and confidently expect that it would reach its destination with a matter of hours." And one would have been quite justified in that confidence, what with the seven deliveries a day in Victorian London. "How the hell did they do it," he wonders.

2947. The American magazine with the largest circulation is Modern Maturity (21.0 million copies), followed by Reader's Digest (16.5 million), TV Guide (16.3 million), National Geographic (10.6 million), and Better Homes & Gardens (8.1 million). Youngsters may not be aware that Modern Maturity is published by the American Association of Retired Persons and goes to all of its members.
2948. Joanne Zahorsky reports that Barnes & Noble now offers five videocassettes, each with two of the 1954 television programs starring Ronald Howard, at \$9.95 each. Their toll-free number is 800-767-7079. As far as I know, Andy Jaysnovich (6 Dana Estates Drive, Parlin, NJ 08859) still offers nine cassettes, each with four programs, but I don't know his current prices.
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October 1990 #3

2949. The "Quotable Quotes" in the Dec. 1954 issue of Reader's Digest include: "It is a great thing to start life with a small number of really good books which are your very own." The quote was attributed to Sherlock Holmes, who, if he ever did say that, was quoting Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. What's the source of the quote?
2950. For completists: Christopher Clausen's article on "Sherlock Holmes, Order, and the Late-Victorian Mind", first published in the Georgia Review (spring 1984), was reprinted in his *THE MORTAL IMAGINATION: ESSAYS ON LITERATURE AND ETHICS* (Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 1986).
2951. A new catalog at hand from Classic Specialties (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219): Sherlockian pillows, stained glass, Christmas ornaments, pendants, desk lamps, and much more.
2952. Gary Thaden notes the appearance of the phrase "No shit, Sherlock" in two mystery novels by Marcel Montecino (*THE CROSS-KILLER*, 1988, and *BIG TIME*, 1990), and wonders where it originated. Probably in a back alley or on a street corner somewhere, but perhaps one of the dictionaries that cites first usages will get round to it eventually. I vaguely recall seeing it back in the 1970s, but haven't been keeping track. Can anyone cite some early usages of the phrase in print?
2953. For those who are pursuing Caliber's "Baker Street" comic-book series, the fall preview issue of Comic Shop News has a color cover with artwork from "Baker Street" (apparently from a "Baker Street" calendar due this month at \$3.95, with twelve new illustrations and a new seven-page feature).
2954. The Norfin Trolls are celebrating their silver anniversary with a special collection that includes "Sherluck" (and "Norfahontas" and "The Wizard of the Norf"). These modern trolls can be found in toy and gift shops, and "Sherluck" retails for \$28.00. If you can't find them, write to EFS Marketing Associates, 164 Central Avenue, Farmingdale, NY 11735, and ask who their local outlet is.
2955. Patti Nead Elrod's *THE VAMPIRE FILES #3*
2956. *BLOODCIRCLE* (New York: Ace Books, 1990; 202 pp., \$3.95) extends her series about Jack Fleming (vampire) and Charles Escott (private detective), with occasional Canonical echoes.
2957. Those who ordered covers with the special Sherlockian postmark honoring the "Sherlock Holmes" exhibit mounted by Bruce Holmes at the Post Office House in Montreal (June 90 #4) now own a demonstration of the power of The Great Detective. The Sherlockian postmark proved so popular (averaging 2,000 a day, rather than the usual 600 a day for previous exhibits) that the staff was overwhelmed by the task of hand-canceling the covers. The authorities have announced that future exhibits will no longer be honored with special postmarks.
2958. Howard Einbinder (349 Broadway, New York, NY 10013) is preparing to sell his collection of Sherlockiana, and will be happy to send a list to those who send him a #10 SASE.
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October 1990 #4

2959. "The plain dressing gown worn by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle while writing the adventures of Sherlock Holmes" was expected to sell for £2,000 at a Nottingham auction, according to brief reports in London newspapers, but it didn't do quite that well when the auction was held on Sept. 25 at Vennett-Smith Auctions of Gotham. The hammer price was \$2,068 (about £1,100), according to an Associated Press report, which noted that the calf-length garment of thick tweed in a light-brown check pattern was offered by a collector and bought by an anonymous telephone bidder. Trevor Vennett-Smith was the auctioneer, and said that Conan Doyle often wore the dressing gown when writing, and that it later belonged to Sidney Paget, who used it as a model in six of his illustrations. Vennett-Smith also said that "We sell only postcards, cigarette cards, and autographs, but we were offered the dressing gown by a good client and we know that anything with a Sherlock Holmes connection always sells." Well, while it may be true that "anything with a Sherlock Holmes connection always sells," one does wonder what the dressing gown would have brought at a major London auction house, and whether the previous owner had any documentation that both Conan Doyle and Paget had owned the dressing gown, and whether one of the major London auction houses would have offered it without such documentation.
2960. Tim O'Connor (Box 1803, Champaign, IL 61824) offers a twoinch black-on-yellow button from The South Downers backed with a pin (\$1.00) or a magnet (\$1.50), and bumper stickers reading "The Game is Afoot" or "Confound Moriarty" in Olde English lettering (\$1.00 each); postage is extra (25c per item, up to \$1.00).
2961. *GOOD NIGHT, MR. HOLMES*, by Carole Nelson Douglas (New York: Tor Books/Tom Dougherty Associates, 1990; 408 pp., \$18.95) is an entertaining and well-written pastiche, telling the story of Irene Adler from her point of view, and expanding considerably on the version given by Watson in the Canon. Irene's story is told by her friend and associate, Penelope Huxleigh, and Irene is as intelligent and resourceful here as in Watson's account. Douglas resolves some of the contradictions in the Canonical story, posing some new problems and hinting that there may be additional stories to be told about the career of Irene Adler.
2962. "It is a great thing to start life with a small number of really good books which are your very own," is the opening sentence of the second chapter of Conan Doyle's "Through the Magic Door" (in Cassell's Magazine, Jan. 1907, and in the book *THROUGH THE MAGIC DOOR*, also published in 1907).
2963. Irregular Productions Ltd. (Box 221, Elmhurst, IL 60126) has issued twelve audiocassettes, each with one of the "twelve best" stories selected by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle for *The Strand Magazine* in 1927 ("The Gloria Scott" has been substituted for "The Dancing Men"). The stories are capably read by Charles Fuller, an actor and a Sherlockian, and cost \$24.50 for each volume of three cassettes, or \$79.80 for four volumes with twelve cassettes.
2964. The latest Pequod pressing is *THE ADVENTURE OF THE GEEK INTERPRETER*, the twenty-second case in the continuing saga of Turlock Loams ("the brilliant and spasmodic sleuth of Quaker Street"). \$35.00 (cloth) or \$15.00 (paper), from John Ruyle, 521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707.
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October 1990 #5

2965. Reported in the current catalog from Barnes & Noble (126 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10011): a VHS videocassette (50 minutes) of "Queen Mary's Dolls' House" ("tour the sumptuous rooms and enchanting garden in this miracle of miniature craftsmanship"). The manuscript of "How Watson Learned the Trick" (D821a) is in one of the bound volumes in the library, but may not be shown in the video tour. The item is number #1666635 (\$29.95, plus \$4.00 shipping, and they take plastic).
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2966. Russell Brown's *SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE MYSTERIOUS FRIEND OF OSCAR WILDE*, first published in 1988 (December 88 #2), has been reissued as a trade paperback (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1990; 176 pp., \$7.95), with new cover art appropriately echoing the style of Aubrey Beardsley. The book is "based on and incorporating the writings of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Oscar Wilde" (one sixth of the book, according to Brown, consists of passages taken from the published works), and exposes Holmes and Watson to the homosexual world of London. As might be expected, Wilde has the better lines (he was, after all, better at epigrams than Holmes).
2967. Charlton Heston, according to a wire service report, was heading to London in October to play Sherlock Holmes in a television film of Paul Giovanni's play "The Crucifer of Blood". Heston was Holmes in the play in Los Angeles in Dec. 1980 and Jan. 1981 (with Jeremy Brett as Watson), and in Mar. 1982 Heston was reported planning a television version for CBS, but the project lapsed -- and has now been revived by Turner Network Television, targeted for broadcast on cable in Aug. 1991.
2968. Scott and Sherry Rose Bond report that Peter Cushing's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1959) and "Murder by Decree" (1979) are discussed in John McCarty's *THE MODERN HORROR FILM*, just published by Citadel (\$15.95).
2969. Those who wish to follow the footsteps of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle might pay a visit Rochester Square in London, where an inscription on the foundation stone of the Rochester Square Spiritual Temple notes that it was laid by Sir Arthur in 1926 (as reported by Alan Coren recently in *The Times*).
2970. Spotted by Al Rosenblatt: *READ 'N COLOR TIMMY TIGER STORIES* (Itasca: Justen Products, 1989; 126 pp., \$5.95), with Timmy Tiger deerstalkered and with a magnifying glass, on the cover and in the story "Timmy Tiger and the Masked Bandit".
2971. Charles Schulz's comic strip "Peanuts" first appeared on Oct. 2, 1950, in seven newspapers, and now runs in 2,300 newspapers in 68 countries. By way of helping to celebrate the 40th birthday of Snoopy and his friends, here's an extract from his first known Sherlockian appearance, on Jan. 28, 1962:

October 1990 #6

2972. James C. Iraldi ("The Blanched Soldier") died in Sept. 1990. Jim was born in 1907, and his introduction to Sherlock Holmes came when his mother read the stories to him in Italian. In 1948 he was one of the founders, with Nathan L. Bengis and Morris Rosenblum, of *The Musgrave Ritualists*, and he received his investiture in *The Baker Street Irregulars* in 1952. Jim was the official photographer of the BSI for many years, and an accomplished musician (an interest reflected in many of his Sherlockian writings, including his 1968 pastiche *THE PROBLEM OF THE PURPLE MACULAS*). He was also an ardent and energetic collector, and in 1974 his collection was purchased by the University of Minnesota Library, providing the foundation for that institution's still-expanding archives.
2973. New British pastiches reported by Roger Johnson: June Thomson's *THE SECRET FILES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* has seven short stories, and is highly recommended by Roger (Constable, £11.95). Glen Petrie's second Mycroft novel is *THE MONSTROUS REGIMENT* (Bantam Press, £12.95), and his first novel, *THE DORKING GAP AFFAIR*, will be reissued in paperback in Dec. (Corgi, £3.50). Clive Brooks' *SHERLOCK HOLMES REVISITED, VOL. 2*, is due in Nov. (Spyglass Books, 23 Sylvan Avenue, Bittern, Southampton SO2 5JW, England; £11.95 plus £4.00 shipping overseas). And Sam Benady's *SHERLOCK HOLMES IN GIBRALTAR* has two short stories and is due in Nov. (Gibraltar Books, 38 Main Road, Gendon, Northampton NN7 1JW, England).
2974. S'ian tourists visiting Paris might consider a stay at the Hotel Vernet, at 25 rue Vernet (near the Arc de Triomphe). The hotel and street presumably are named in honor of one of Sherlock Holmes' ancestors, and Willis Frick reports that rooms cost 1,250 to 1,750 francs, with suites priced at 2,600 francs and up. And how much is that in dollars? At the current conversion rate, about \$245 a night for the cheapest room.
2975. John E. Stephenson reports on a paperback scheduled by Bantam in Jan. 1991: *SAN FRANCISCO KILLS*, by Denny Martin Flinn, will be the first in a series about Spenser Holmes, a San Francisco private detective who is the grandson of Sherlock Holmes.
2976. Reported by Ron De Waal: *THE NEW ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* in a boxed Christmas "audio gift set" with reissues of the first four cassettes (with the first eight programs) of the Rathbone/Bruce radio shows from 221A Baker Street (New York: Simon and Schuster Audioworks, 1990; \$24.98).
2977. Reported by Richard Wein: sweatshirts (\$24.00) and T-shirts (\$14.00) in a new Sherlockian design, in the fall/winter 1990 catalog from Wireless, Box 64222, Saint Paul, MN 55164 (800-669-9999).
2978. Credit recently-fingerprinted Ann Byerly for noticing the S'ian emblem used by Criminal Research Products (Box 408, Conshohocken, PA 19428) on packages of their products. The new and improved version of their fingerprint ink remover towelettes no longer carries the emblem, but it does appear on many of their other (and more expensive) products, in case you'd like to request their catalog.

November 1990 #1

2979. The film "Reversal of Fortune" has been released, with Jeremy Irons (Claus von Bulow), Glenn Close (Sunny von Bulow), Ron Silver (Alan Dershowitz), and Christine Baransky (Andrea Reynolds). In 1979 Andrea, then married to Sheldon Reynolds (who produced the "Sherlock Holmes" television series with Ronald Howard in 1954, and another series with Geoffrey Whitehead in 1981), said that owning the rights to Conan Doyle's work is "like owning an oil well." In 1985 she left her husband to help Claus win his second trial for the attempted murder of his wife. Last year Andrea married the Honourable Shaun Plunket, close friend of the royal family and brother of the Queen's equerry, the late Lord Plunket, but (according to the Nov. 1990 issue of *Vanity Fair*), she has not yet been invited to Buckingham Palace.
2980. Paramount Home Video has announced low-cost (\$14.95 to \$29.95) releases of videocassettes of many of Sean Connery's movies. One of the movies will be "The Molly Maguires" (1970), which while not directly Sherlockian, is based on events featured in the American portion of "The Valley of Fear". Some of the actors (Frank Finley, Samantha Eggar, and Anthony Zerbe) have also appeared in Sherlockian films, and the music is by Henry Mancini, who also worked on "The Great Mouse Detective" and "Without a Clue".
2981. Syd Goldberg reports that Paramount's "Tales from the Darkside: The Movie" (with an adaptation of Conan Doyle's "Lot No. 249") is now available on videocassette at \$89.95. The usual practice is to set high prices for the first release to rental shops, and then to offer titles at lower prices for people who want to buy them.
2982. "We Never Mention Aunt Clara" has long been one of the unofficial anthems of the Baker Street Irregulars, and of the Sherlockian world in general, and it has been for many years just as popular with others who have enjoyed singing and listening to an authentic American folk song. Well, it isn't. And we've been singing it wrong. Old SOB Bill Rabe has tracked down (and interviewed) the creator of Aunt Clara, and discovered much of her history. It is a fascinating history, given in considerable and suitably irreverent detail in *WE ALWAYS MENTION AUNT CLARA*, a new 40-page monograph (with color covers) published by *The Old Soldiers of Baker Street of the Two Saults*. The cost is \$10.00 postpaid (\$11.00 US to Canada,

with additional postage costs charged to other countries), and you can order from W. T. Rabe, 1204 Davitt Street, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

Recommended.

2983. Responding to the query (October 90 #3) about "No shit, Sherlock," Richard B. Tuttle reports that the second edition of Eric Partridge's *A DICTIONARY OF CATCH PHRASES* (1985) gives "no shit!" as a U.S. catch phrase ("apparently dating from the 1930s"), and "no shit, Sherlock!" ("ironic surprise at a very obvious remark") from the 1950s-early 1960s ("hardly less obviously, a reference to Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes").
2984. What on Earth (25801 Richmond Road, Cleveland, OH 44146) continues to add to their S'ian offerings, including T-shirts and sweatshirts (June 90 #3), teapots (August 90 #6), and now a Sherlock Mouse (\$9.95) and a new 8x12-inch Whitbread Pub Sign (\$16.95) which is also featured in a set of four smaller pub-sign coasters (\$14.95); shipping costs extra, and they take plastic.
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November 1990 #2

2985. The second volume in the BSI's archival series is *IRREGULAR MEMORIES OF THE 'THIRTIES*, edited by Jon L. Lellenberg (New York: Baker Street Irregulars, 1990; 267 pp., \$18.95), a fine account of the conception, birth, and nurturing of a rather unorganized organization whose early history, often recorded only accidentally at the time, was far more irregular than it is now. The early records are incomplete, and often in conflict as to what actually happened (perhaps that is only appropriate for the informal whiskey-and-sodality founded by Christopher Morley and his friends), but we are fortunate indeed that so much of the BSI history has been preserved. The book is available from the Fordham University Press, Box 6525, Ithaca, NY 14850 (800-666-2211); shipping costs \$2.00, and they take plastic.
2986. The "Canonical Convocation and Caper" in Door County, Wis., was enjoyable, according to reports from those who attended the festivities, and the next gathering is scheduled for Sept. 13-15, 1991. Detailed information will be available from Donald B. Izban, 5334 Wrightwood Avenue, Chicago, IL 60639.
2987. *THE READER AS DETECTIVE: BOOK I*, edited by Burton Goodman (New York: Amsco School Publications, 1985; 211 pp., \$5.75), includes Goodman's grades 5-7 adaption of "The Speckled Band" (illustrated by John Jones and accompanied by a section of "detection exercises"). A teacher's "answer key" is also available (\$1.50); the company's address is 315 Hudson Street, New York, NY 10013.
2988. *THE STORY OF THE SEPULCHRE: THE CABELLS OF BUCKFASTLEIGH AND THE CONAN DOYLE CONNECTION*, by Susan Cabell Djabri (December 89 #5), provides a detailed account of the family, including the third Richard Cabell (who was happily married though unpopular in Devon) and his daughter Elizabeth (who at the age of 15 inherited the Cabell estates and at the age of 35 married Sir John D'Oyly) (and who, when her husband died, discovered that she was one of his two widows). The 16-page pamphlet is now available here for \$5.00 postpaid, from Gary R. Westmoreland (Route 1, Box 141-A, Lovingson, VA 22949), and the proceeds will be used to repair the Cabell family tomb, "now in a sad state of dilapidation."
2989. "On the Road with Sherlock Holmes" will be the next tour of England led by Sherry Rose-Bond and Scott Bond, beginning in London on May 13, 1991, and touring through England for 13 days. A detailed flier is available from Geographics Travel & Tours, 21 South 5th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106.
2990. "The matter seems to me to be of such importance that I grudge every day that passes without something having been done to bring it to realization," wrote Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in a letter published in *The Times* (Mar. 11, 1913). The "matter" was the Channel Tunnel, which he supported for many years, and in another letter in *The Times* (Dec. 9, 1922) he suggested that "in money alone it is impossible to compute how much was wasted by our insane policy of obstructing the boring of the tunnel in pre-war days." And the Channel Tunnel has at long last been realized: on Oct. 30 a two-inchwide borehole linked the British and French ends. In January the tunnel will be wide enough for a meeting between Prime Minister Thatcher and President Francois Mitterrand, and train traffic is expected to start in 1993. The final cost of the tunnel is expected to be \$14 billion.
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November 1990 #3

2991. Additional news on the Turner Network Television production of Paul Giovanni's "The Crucifer of Blood" with Charlton Heston as Sherlock Holmes: work on the two-hour telefilm began on Oct. 27 at Pinewood Studios in London, and the cast also includes Richard Johnson (Dr. Watson), Edward Fox (Major Alistair Ross), Susannah Harker (Irene St. Claire), Simon Callow (Lestrade), Clive Wood (Jonathan Small), and John Castle (Neville St. Claire). Edward Fox has a previous Canonical credit, having played Dr. Watson in "Dr. Watson and the Darkwater Hall Mystery" (a television program written by Kingsley Amis and broadcast by the BBC in 1974); the pastiche was later published as a short story in the May 1978 issue of *Playboy*.
2992. William C. Haurert ("Ted Baldwin") died on Sept. 25. Bill was a retired teacher of Latin, and toastmaster of The Scowrers and Mollie Maguires, and his obituary in the San Francisco press noted that he was a Sherlockian scholar and versifier as well as a member of the BSI.
2993. *THE 1991 CALENDAR OF 221B BAKER STREET* is still available (and so far the only 1991 Sherlockian calendar), spiral bound on heavy stock, with Ronald S. White's photographs of the recreation of the sitting-room at S. Holmes, Esq., in San Francisco. You can order from Brian and Charlotte Erickson, 1920 Marich Way, Mountain View, CA 94040; \$12.00 each (plus \$5.00 per order for shipping, or \$7.50 for foreign orders).
2994. Prices for movie memorabilia continue to increase: the latest catalog from George Theofiles (Miscellaneous Man, Box 1776, New Freedom, PA 17349) lists a three-sheet poster (41x81") for Rathbone's "The Pearl of Death" (1944) at \$1,050. Christie's has scheduled an auction of "Hollywood Posters" on Dec. 11, and will offer a one-sheet (27x41") for Rathbone's "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (1939), estimated at \$4,000-5,000, and some interesting material for John Barrymore's "Sherlock Holmes" (1922): a full-color onesheet (\$7,000-9,000), a rotogravure one-sheet (\$3,500-4,000), and a set of eight full-color lobby cards (\$3,500-4,000).
2995. Ted Schulz's daughter-in-law-elect Kathy Cabanyog (March 90 #3) is now an official daughter-in-law. Kathy and William Sherlock Schulz were married on Nov. 10 in Phoenix.
2996. Mary Ann Wren reports that John Aidiniantz has a young man on the streets of London, costumed in Inverness cape, deerstalker, and pipe, passing out cards for the Sherlock Holmes Museum.
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November 1990 #4

2997. Carole Nelson Douglas' *GOOD NIGHT, MR. HOLMES* (October 90 #4) will indeed have a sequel, according to an article by Douglas in the Oct.-Dec. 1990 issue of *Mostly Murder*, kindly sent by Richard Wein: *GOOD MORNING, MADAM IRENE* is scheduled by Tor Books in June 1991. *Mostly Murder* is a quarterly tabloid edited by Barbara L. Unger and published by *Mostly Book Reviews* (8300 Douglas Avenue #800, Dallas, TX 75225), and distributed through bookstores (the price is fifty cents an issue).
2998. The Mind's Eye (Box 1060, Petaluma, CA 94953) now offers three volumes of the "BBC Audio Collection" of radio broadcasts starring Carleton Hobbs and Norman Shelley. Each volume has two cassettes and four stories, and the cost is \$14.95 per volume, or \$39.95 for all three volumes (shipping costs extra, and they take plastic). Their catalog also offers six cassettes, each with two of the broadcasts starring John Gielgud and Ralph Richardson, at \$7.95 per cassette (or \$35.00 for all six cassettes).
2999. Sherlock Holmes died on July 20. His obituary was published in the *Norfolk Virginian-Pilot* on July 23, 1990.
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3000. Jack Kerr reports: THE BEST OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: TEST YOUR SKILLS AS A SLEUTH! (a 30-minute videocassette with excerpts from the Granada series), from MPI Home Video at \$9.98. You can order from Fusion Video (800-338-7710); and they also offer many of the complete programs from the series, and there's a \$4.50 charge for shipping.
3001. "Beyond the Books: The Final Problem Centennial Tour" is another vacation package, to Switzerland and England for seven days beginning on May 11, 1991. Details on the tour, designed by members of The Six Napoleons of Baltimore and The Carlton Club, can be obtained from Alexandra Doumani, Roeder Travel Ltd., 9805 York Road, Cockeysville, MD 21030.
3002. Reported by Tim O'Connor: THE ORIGINAL ILLUSTRATED 'STRAND' SHERLOCK HOLMES (New York: Mallard Press, 1990; 1,126 pp., \$19.98), essentially a reprint of THE COMPLETE ILLUSTRATED SHERLOCK HOLMES published in Britain in 1986 by Omega Books (January 87 #2) with all 60 of the stories, the first two with the text only and the other 58 reprinted in facsimile from the magazine with all of the illustrations. Mallard Press is an imprint of BDD Promotional Book Co., a division of Bantam/Doubleday/Dell (Mallard also published Ken Greenwald's THE LOST ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES in 1989). In 1989 it was difficult to order from Mallard (their address is 666 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10103), but the book should have wide distribution on bookstore bargain tables.
3003. Tim has also found a stock of READ 'N COLOR TIMMY TIGER STORIES (October 90 #5) at a discount price, and can supply copies for \$2.00 each postpaid. It is a thoroughly minor item, but those who want copies can send checks to Tim O'Connor, R.R. 1, Box 138-B, Herscher, IL 60941.
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November 1990 #5

3004. The Armchair Detective Library is a hard-cover reprint series from The Mysterious Press, each volume with a new introduction by the author, offered in three different editions; the series now includes the first two of Elizabeth Peters' five mystery novels about Amelia Peabody Emerson, set in Victorian England and Egypt and written with fine style and humor: CROCODILE ON THE SANDBANK (1975), THE CURSE OF THE PHARAOHS (1981). The second title begins with the death of Sir Henry Baskerville ("of the Norfolk Baskervilles, not the Devonshire branch of the family") during an excavation in Egypt (two members of his staff are epigrapher Karl von Bork and photographer Charles Milverton). A catalog of the series is available from the publisher (129 West 56th Street, New York, NY 10019).
3005. Prescott's Press has launched a new line of attractive S'ian pins and magnets, at reasonable prices (\$2.00 to \$4.00 each plus postage) and in sizes larger than the accompanying illustrations. Prescott's Press is also a Sherlockian quarterly (\$10.00 a year); details on all this and more are available from Warren Randall (Box 610, Levittown, NY 11756).
3006. David Rush reports, via John Stephenson, that Harrods, in London, offers a complete Sherlock Holmes outfit for dogs, at a cost of £58. The story in the Daily Mail (Sept. 20) was headlined "Sherlock Bones Dressed to Go Walkies in Style".
3007. Also spotted by Tim O'Connor, at Waldenbooks: DETECTIVE ARTHUR IN THE CASE OF THE MYSTERIOUS STRANGER, by Mary J. Fulton, illustrated by Aurelius Battaglia (Merrigold Press, \$3.50); this children's book, first published by the Golden Press in 1982, features Detective Arthur (D6167a and D5279b) in Sherlockian costume.
3008. The "audio gift set" of THE NEW ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES is now in the stores, with reissues of the first four cassettes (with the first eight programs) of the Rathbone/Bruce radio shows from 221A Baker Street, in a new box and priced at \$24.95. If your local stores don't have it, Simon & Schuster has a toll-free number (800-678-2677), and they take plastic.
3009. MASTERS OF MYSTERY AND DETECTIVE FICTION, by J. Randolph Cox (Salem Press, 1989; 281 pp., \$40.00), was reviewed by Charles Shibuk in the fall 1990 issue of The Armchair Detective as a selective and accessible bibliography of 74 representative mystery writers, and Randy reports that Conan Doyle is one of the masters, with an annotated bibliography that has 35 entries. Randy also reports that he has been asked to update the Conan Doyle entry in the DICTIONARY OF LITERARY BIOGRAPHY for a high-school version to be called the CONCISE DICTIONARY OF LITERARY BIOGRAPHY.
3010. Sterling Lanier's THE CURIOUS QUESTS OF BRIGADIER FFELLOWES, was published in 1986 (January 87 #2) and includes his giant-rat pastiche "A Father's Tale" (D5042b); the book is a collection of Lanier's stories, illustrated by Ned Dameron, signed by the author and artist, and still available (\$30.00) from the publisher: Donald M. Grant, Box 187, Hampton Falls, NH 03844.
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November 1990 #6

3011. Another plug for the 155-minute videocassette (VHS only) of the Christopher Morley centennial celebration in Chicago on May 5. The cassette is professionally edited, and features Charles J. Shields, J. Warren Scheidman, Ely M. Liebow, Robert J. Mangler, Thomas J. Joyce, Allen Mackler, and Anna Lou Ashby in a series of fine presentations about various aspects of Morley's career and writings (and Allen Mackler's "Christopher Morley, Metrophile" is particularly good), and it's available from VISCOM, Box 1243, Oak Park, IL 60610 for \$49.95 (you can call 800-829-1260, and they take plastic).
3012. Jerry Margolin reports on a new comic book scheduled from Comax Productions in Jan. 1991: FRANKENSTEIN: TERROR ON THE MOOR. Sherlock Holmes will be involved, and the comic book will cost \$2.95 (or \$3.95 for a signed edition limited to 1,000 copies).
3013. And Tim O'Connor reports a forecast of an adult comic book: TIMEWANKERS #3, by Stephen Sullivan (\$1.95). "Our intrepid sexual archaeologists journey back in time to Victorian England, and discover that it wasn't as 'prudish' as everyone made it out to be over the years. Timewankers as Holmes and Watson."
3014. Pepper & Stern (1980 Cliff Drive #224, Santa Barbara, CA 93109) have issued their 603-item catalog of "Selections from the Sherlock Holmes Collection of Dr. James Bliss Austin" -- it's a fine catalog, with illustrations of the best items, and prices ranging from \$20 to \$20,000. The catalog costs \$6.00 postpaid to those not already on their mailing list.
3015. A sidebar on the "Elementary, Dear Data" episode in the television series "Star Trek: The Next Generation" (1988), in which Cdr. Data plays Sherlock Holmes in a recreation of Victorian London on the holodeck, and battles a holodeck version of Moriarty: according to an article by Mark A. Altman in Cinefantastique (Sept. 1990), Gene Roddenberry ordered the original ending scrapped. As scripted and shot, Capt. Picard, realizing that Moriarty can leave the holodeck, lies to Moriarty to convince him to relinquish control of the Enterprise. Picard then explains to the crew, "until we know more about one of the most guileful of characters ever imagined, we had better be careful." According to director Rob Bowman, Gene Roddenberry objected to a situation that had Picard lying, and despite suggestions that "this is Moriarty, the baddest fucker in space, we can't have him loose on the ship, he'll take over," Roddenberry ordered the ending dropped from the episode.
3016. Susan E. Dahlinger (30 East Elm Street #11-B, Chicago, IL 60611) announces a new Sherlockian journal, Varieties of Ash, a 60-page semi-annual to be launched during the birthday festivities. Dec. 10 is the deadline for submissions for the first issue, and additional details are available from Susan.
3017. Chris Redmond (125 Lincoln Road #1101, Waterloo, Ont. N2J 2N9, Canada) offers copies of THE TALE OF COPPERELLA, a well-executed 8-page pamphlet ("wherein are related the adventures of a sweet young lady, and also the doings of a noted detective") issued in Oct. 1985; \$5.00 (U.S.)
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postpaid. Chris also has acquired Bliss Austin's run of the Baker Street Journal and now has many duplicates, and will be happy to respond to want-lists.

November 1990 #7

3018. We will celebrate Sherlock Holmes' 137th birthday on Friday, Jan. 11, with the traditional festivities in New York. Friday begins with the Martha Hudson Breakfast at 8:30 am at the Hotel Algonquin, at 59 West 44th Street (The Stetaks, 15529 Diagonal Road, La Grange, OH 44050; \$17.00). The William Gillette Luncheon starts at noon at the Old Homestead, at 56 Ninth Avenue at 14th Street (Susan Rice, 125 Washington Place #2-E, New York, NY 10014; \$27.50). At 6:00 pm The Baker Street Irregulars meet at 24 Fifth Avenue at 9th Street; and The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes at the Hotel Algonquin (Evelyn A. Herzog, 235 West 15th Street #4-B, New York, NY 10011; \$50.00). Early reservations are advised for the breakfast, the luncheon, and the ASH dinner.
3019. Otto Penzler's annual open house at The Mysterious Bookshop (129 West 56th Street) is also on Friday, from 11:00 to 6:00, and there is as usual the possibility that Sherlockian authors will be on hand to sign their books.
3020. On Saturday a posse of purveyors will be selling a variety of Sherlockiana at the Hotel Algonquin, from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. Huckster space is still available (Ray Betzner, 2906 Richard Pace South, Williamsburg, VA 23185); \$25.00 for a half table and \$50.00 for a full table.
3021. On Saturday afternoon The Baker Street Irregulars will hold their annual reception, open to all Sherlockians and their friends, from 2:30 to 5:00 pm, at 24 Fifth Avenue, at 9th Street. There will be an open bar, with hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, and tickets cost \$28.00 a person. Checks payable to The Baker Street Irregulars, should be sent to Robert E. Thomalen, 69 Glen Road, Eastchester, NY 10709.
3022. Fred Fondren's new play "Sherlock Holmes: The Eclipse Conspiracy" opened at the Prometheus Theatre at 239 East 5th Street (212-477-8689) on Nov. 23 and will run through Jan. 12. Performances Wednesday through Saturday at 8:00 pm, and tickets cost \$10.00 (there are as yet no plans for a formal S'ian theater party on the evening of Jan. 12).
3023. And south-bound travelers are herewith warned that The Master's Class will not be meeting in Philadelphia on Sunday, January 13.
3024. Mary Ellen Rich has again kindly provided a list of hotels that offer reasonable (as defined by New York landlords) rates, along with a warning about non-optional extras: \$2.00 a day occupancy tax, 8.25% state tax, 5% city tax, and 5% state tax on rooms costing more than \$99.99. If you are arriving on Thursday, you should confirm that the weekend-package rates include Thursday.
3025. Roosevelt, 45 East 45th Street (800-223-1870); \$75 single or double (ask for the winter special). Iroquois, 49 West 44th Street (800-332-7220); \$65-75 single, \$70-85 double, \$85-145 suites. Shoreham, 33 West 55th Street (212-247-6700); \$75 single, \$84 double (ask for Jeri). Omni Park Central, 870 Seventh Avenue at 56th Street (800-843-6664); a few singles at \$75-95. Journey's End, 3 East 40th Street (800-668-4200); \$115 room (up to four people). Macklowe, 145 West 44th Street (800-622-5569); \$145 single or double. Algonquin, 59 West 44th Street (800-548-0345); \$160 single, \$170 double (no discounts for Sherlockians).

November 1990 #8

3026. "With my umbrella raised to ward off the spitballs of the Baker Street Irregulars, I hereby proclaim that Conan Doyle's prose is nothing but Victorian journalese." Leslie Charteris, in an introduction to G. K. Chesterton's "The Blast of the Book" in MURDER BY EXPERTS, edited by Ellery Queen (New York: Ziff Davis, 1947). It was in 1944 and 1945 that Charteris, using the name Bruce Taylor, worked with Denis Green on scripts for the Rathbone/Bruce radio series (one of those scripts will be found in the Mar. 1986 issue of the BSJ). There are many echoes from the Canon in Charteris' stories, as noted by Dana M. Batory (D2133b).
3027. It was in "The Jolly Undertaker" (Saint Mystery Magazine, Aug. 1963, and reprinted in THE SAINT IN THE SUN in 1963) that the Saint met Dr. Julian D. Corrington, described as "one of the many distinguished intellectuals who have made a whimsical cult of studying the detective writings of Conan Doyle as minutely as a theologian analyzes the scriptures, and often with resultant discoveries which must exert as much graveyard torque on that Master as similar diversions may apply to this chronicler in due time." It should be noted that this meeting was not entirely accidental: Corrington's article on "Baker Street Weather" (D4525a) had appeared a few years earlier in the Saint Detective Magazine (Nov. 1957).
3028. "Sherlock Holmes, Sam Spade, got nothing", child, on me," is part of the lyrics of the song "Searchin'" recorded by The Coasters on an Atco 45-rpm single in 1957 (and reissued on LP collections in later years). Other entertainers have recorded the song, and it is now reported that Kenny Rogers is singing it in his touring stage show with Dolly Parton. Kenny Rogers' version is apparently available on an audiocassette if you attend one of their performances on the tour.
3029. Signe Landon (3800 N.W. Van Buren, Corvallis, OR 97330) has announced plans to publish THE HOLMESIAN FEDERATION #8 early in 1991, with about 120 pp. of cross-over and other Sherlockian fiction, including contributions by Tina Rhea, Stefanie Hawks, Brad Keefauver, and Dana M. Batory; the cost is \$6.00 postpaid. Reprints of issues #1 through #6, and copies of #7, are still available at \$4.00 each postpaid.
3030. Reported by Ron De Waal: a paperback reprint of T. J. Binyon's MURDER WILL OUT: THE DETECTIVE IN FICTION (Oxford Univ. Press, 1990; 166 pp., \$8.95); references to Conan Doyle and Holmes, and a chapter on "The Professional Amateur". And CRIME CLASSICS: THE MYSTERY STORY FROM POE TO THE PRESENT, edited by Rex Burns and Mary Rose Sullivan (New York: Viking Penguin, 1990; 390 pp., \$22.95); contents include Scan and Spec. Ron also reports that Erica Harper is Sherlock Holmes' new secretary at Abbey National.
3031. The 22-page manuscript of "The Three Garridebs" is available again, offered by Mark Hime (Bibliotopus, Idyllwild, CA 92349) for \$155,000 in his new catalog 12. The 177-page manuscript of "The Valley of Fear" (purchased by Hime at Sotheby's earlier this year) has already been sold, and four folio leaves with Conan Doyle's outline, notes, chronology, and a page of dialog not included in the published story (advertised in the catalog for \$45,000) have also now been sold.

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3032. Visitors to Britain may wish to visit the Effingham Park Museum Suite in Surrey, where Peter Agg has 40 classic cars on display. One of them is a gleaming white Mercedes SSK coupe, made in 1929, and previously owned by Denis and Adrian Conan Doyle, who won many races with it before the war. It is now worth about £3 million, according to a newspaper report.
3033. More news from Britain: £420 was the hammer price for a letter written by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle to Dr. Watson. The undated letter was written from the Author's Club, urging Dr. Watson (otherwise unidentified) to become a member. "There are several other candidates for the prototype of Holmes' friend," said auctioneer Simon Bruton, "but as far as is known this is the only one with whom Conan Doyle corresponded, which would seem to put him in a leading position. A manuscript signed by Napoleon brought £320, as did a letter from William Makepeace Thackeray.
3034. One of the newer and more interesting "professional" scion societies is Stimson & Co. Membership is restricted to funeral directors ("Stimsons") and all other Sherlockians ("Company"), and the first issue of the Stimson & Company Gazette has just appeared, with a reprint of John Bennett Shaw's paper on Canonical corpses, an article by Malcolm Payne about the ghost of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, and a contest involving information on

Sherlockian funerary films (two examples are "Terror by Night" and "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes"). Details on the society and the Gazette are available from Michael W. McClure, 1415 Swanwick Street, Chester, IL 62233.

3035. House of Tyrol (Box 909, Alpenland Center, Helen Highway--75 North, Cleveland, GA 30528) offers Steinbach wooden nutcrackers allegedly portraying Dr. Watson and Sherlock Holmes. They're about 12 inches high and cost \$110 each (800-241-5404, and they take plastic).
3036. Richard G. Smith, on tour in Switzerland, found a Sherlock Holmes pub in Stein am Rhein (northeast of Zurich and west of Constance).
3037. One of the many interesting columns in the early years of the Saturday Review of Literature was "The Reader's Guide", conducted by May Lamberton Becker. On July 26, 1930, she mentioned that she received, from a reader in New York, a copy of the Jan. 1930 issue of Secret Orders, published by the Detective Story Club, with a list of 22 "lost tales of Sherlock Holmes." These were, of course, the unrecorded cases, and the Detective Story Club was presumably a book club; does anyone know anything more about the club or about its publication Secret Orders?
3038. Dercum Audio (910 Waltz Road, West Chester, PA 19380) has added THE SIGN OF FOUR to its list of unabridged books on audio cassettes. The story is read in fine style and in varied voices by William Barker on four cassettes (six hours), and the cost of the set is \$19.95.

December 1990 #2

3039. Holmes Peak, officially recognized in 1984 by the U.S. Board on Geographic Names after a long campaign by Richard S. Warner, is now even more official. On Nov. 18 a formal Treaty of Peace and Friendship was signed on Nov. 18 by Geoffrey Standing Bear (assistant principal chief of the Osage Indians) and Stafford G. Davis (representing the Afghanistan Perceivers). The signing took place at the Base Camp, and was witnessed by local Sherlockians and members of the Wander-Freunde, who were in Tulsa for a mass ascent of Holmes Peak, which is located in Osage County in Oklahoma. The Osage Indians still own the mineral rights to the land, and the Holmes Peak Preservation Society has pledged that all future ascents will involve increased exploration efforts on behalf of the tribe.
3040. John Ruyle has thrust his marlon-spike into "The Sign of the Four" and now announces a new collection of "fresh and delightful quatrains," published as LAST TONGA IN LONDON, available (\$35.00 cloth, \$15.00 paper) from the Pequod Press, 521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707.
3041. BBC Radio 4 started a series of "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" on Nov. 7, with "A Scandal in Bohemia" as the first of twelve 45-minute programs to be broadcast weekly in order of original publication. The series features Clive Merrison (Holmes) and Michael Williams (Watson); their versions of "A Study in Scarlet" and "The Sign of the Four" aired in 1989, and the BBC now hopes to do all 60 stories (for the first time ever with the same actors). Andrew Sachs played the King of Bohemia, providing a fine example of how appearances count for little on radio: he played Manuel the waiter in the television series "Fawlty Towers".
3042. Add Roy Dotrice to the list of actors who have portrayed Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. "Young Harry Houdini" is a 93-minute television film, made by the Walt Disney Co. in 1987 from a story by James Orr and Jim Cruickshank (and recently rebroadcast on the Disney Channel). The story is almost entirely fictional, showing 14-year-old Erich Weiss running away from home to join a traveling medicine show, launching his career as a professional magician. Wil Wheaton plays young Erich Weiss in most of the story, but the film begins and ends with conversations between Jeffrey DeMunn (Harry Houdini) and Roy Dotrice (Sir Arthur Conan Doyle).
3043. Roald Dahl died on Nov. 23. His first book was THE GREMLINS (1943), about the tiny people who bedevilled the Royal Air Force, and he became a master of both the macabre and the mystery (he won the MWA Edgar in 1954 and 1959) as well as tales for children, and his later, more bawdy work included MY UNCLE OSWALD (1980), with a brief appearance by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.
3044. "Left Coast Crime: A Western Regional Mystery Conference" will be held on Feb. 15-18, 1991, at the Sir Francis Drake Hotel in San Francisco. The guests of honor will be Marcia Muller and Bill Pronzini, with Bruce Taylor as toastmaster. There's no word yet on whether there will be any S'ian events, but additional information is available from Left Coast Crime, Box 1367, Martinez, CA 94553.
3045. Sherlock, Stock & Barrel Co. (Box 8261, Colorado Springs, CO 80933) has sent a flier offering a variety of Sherlockiana, including honey, an art medal, a door-knocker lapel pin, a paperweight, and a feather duster.

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3046. Norman Cousins died on Nov. 30. He joined the staff of the Saturday Review of Literature in 1939, and was its editor in chief from 1942 to 1977. He was literate and imaginative, and worked hard to ensure that his magazine responded to what he called "the need to make books a part of the world of ideas and issues." Sherlockiana was part of that world, of course, and a more detailed discussion of the SRL will be found in IRREGULAR MEMORIES OF THE 'THIRTIES (November 90 #2).
3047. Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine has joined the birthday festivities with its Jan. 1991 issue, which includes a reprint of Anthony Burgess' pastiche "Murder by Music" (from his 1989 collection THE DEVIL'S MODE) and Gary Alan Ruse's poem "What If, God Forbid, Sherlock Holmes Had Never Lived?"
3048. Discovered by Jennie C. Paton: MICKEY MOUSE SEEK & PEEK GIANT CARD GAME (Racine: Western Publishing Co.; Golden #4865); it's a children's matching game, with 40 large (3.5 x 5.5 in.) cards, and with Mickey in Sherlockian costume on the box and on the 40 cards.
3049. I don't know how many S'ians have laser videodisc players (this is the new high-end video medium and provides the highest fidelity), but there are at least a few S'ian videodiscs: Ron De Waal reports that Pioneer offers Basil Rathbone's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" and "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (\$49.98 each) and four of his Universal films (\$29.98 each), and Ted Schulz reports that Peter Cushing's "The Masks of Death" is available from Image Entertainment.
3050. Frank Spencer's PILTDOWN: A SCIENTIFIC FORGERY (New York: Oxford University Press, 1990; 272 pp., \$24.95) is the latest, and by far the most complete, attempt to identify the perpetrator of the Piltdown Man hoax. Spencer has used lengthy and detailed research by the late Ian Langham in the original archives, and concludes that the culprit was Sir Arthur Keith, conservator of the Hunterian Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons. Spencer offers a history of Piltdown Man, from discovery through exposure, also summarizing and demolishing allegations against other suspects, who include Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, accused by John Hathaway Winslow in 1983. The discussion of Conan Doyle is not lengthy (not unexpected, since Winslow's accusation was thoroughly circumstantial), but Spencer has published for the first time an interesting discovery in Keith's papers: the postcard portrait photograph of Conan Doyle that he sent to Keith, with an invitation to dinner, after they debated spiritualism in a series of articles in the [London] Morning Post in 1925. On the back of the postcard Conan Doyle mentions the "Great 3rd round exhibition contest between the Crowborough Kid and Battling Arty of Lincolns Inn Fields."
3051. Videotaper alert: The Movie Channel will broadcast John Neville's "A Study in Terror" (1965) on Jan. 6 and 18, and Michael Caine's "Without a Clue" (1988) on Jan. 12, 17, 23, and 27.

3052. Further to the report in the Dec. 1990 issue of the BSJ (p. 251) that a copy of Beeton's Christmas Annual is for sale, if you've been had trouble reaching Alan Denner, it's because he has moved. His current address is 328 West 11th Street, New York, NY 10014 (212-989-6625). His copy is not complete, lacking the covers and advertisements, and has been rebound.

December 1990 #4

3053. Arthur Conan Doyle was only one of many authors fascinated by the mystery of the *Mary Celeste* (his solution, which appeared anonymously as "J. Habakuk Jephson's Statement" in the Cornhill Magazine in Jan. 1884, was assumed by some to be a factual report, and by one reviewer to have been written by Robert Louis Stevenson). Sam Benady's SHERLOCK HOLMES IN GIBRALTAR (Grendon: Gibraltar Books, 1990; 48 pp., £2.95), offers two pastiches, one with a new solution (involving Sherlock Holmes, who was on board the vessel), and the other bringing Holmes to Gibraltar to rescue a kidnapped duke. The booklet is distributed by Ashford Buchan & Enright, 1 Church Road, Shedfield, Southampton SO3 2HW, England.
3054. Sherlock Holmes paid fifty-five shillings for his Stradivarius, which was valued at five hundred guineas at the time of "The Cardboard Box". But it would be worth far more now: last month a Stradivarius made in 1720 (toward the end of Stradivari's "golden period") sold for \$1.76 million at auction at Christie's in London.
3055. THE ORIGINAL ILLUSTRATED 'STRAND' SHERLOCK HOLMES (New York: Mallard Press, 1990; 1,126 pp., \$19.98) is a fine volume, and certainly value-for-money. It is an enlarged (by about 18 percent) facsimile reprint from the magazine of its 58 stories with all the illustrations (and well reproduced), and "A Study in Scarlet" and "The Sign of Four" are included (no illustrations) in a carefully matching type face. The book should be widely distributed for the Christmas trade, and will make a splendid present for any Sherlockian.
3056. "Still, I am compelled to say that, for the most part, the Holmes stories are made from materials bought at a kind of nineteenth-century K-Mart, and that without the wondrous appeal of the character of Holmes our estimation of Conan Doyle's talent as a writer would be that he was a sort of *Boy's Life* Marie Corelli, who combined the moral insight of Queen Victoria with the historical precision of Sir Walter Scott." Kim Herzinger, in a 1986 issue of Shenandoah (v. 36, n. 3).
3057. Jerry Margolin offers first editions (without dust jackets) of two mystery novels written by Stanley Hopkins, Jr. (the pseudonym used by Christopher Morley's daughter, Blythe Morley Brennan). MURDER BY INCHES (New York: Harcourt, Brace and Co., 1943) is in fair condition (ex-library) at \$15.00 postpaid, and THE PARCHMENT KEY (1944) is in very good condition at \$25.00 postpaid (Jerry's address: 10007 S.W. Quail Post Road, Portland, OR 97219).
3058. THE STANDARD DOYLE COMPANY: CHRISTOPHER MORLEY ON SHERLOCK HOLMES, edited and with an Introduction by Steven Rothman (New York: Fordham University Press, 1990; 429 pp., \$19.95), is a delightful collection of Morley's many Sherlockian articles, essays, introductions, poems, and notes, gathered by Steve from the Saturday Review of Literature, the BSJ, and other sources. The book also offers a fine demonstration of Morley's energy, imagination, talent, and knowledge: it is astonishing to see how much he wrote, and how often, and how well, keeping in mind that his Sherlockiana was only a small part of his work. One can only wonder how he found the time to read all the books that formed the basis for the "Clinical Notes" that were such an important part of the BSJ, and made it so obvious to so many of us how much fun there was to be found in the world of Sherlock Holmes. Fordham's tollfree number is 800-666-2211; shipping costs \$2.00, and they take plastic.

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3059. THE SECRET FILES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (London: Constable, 1990; 224 pp., £11.95) is a collection of pastiches by June Thomson, a British writer whose series of modern mysteries featuring Inspector Finch was well received by the critics. She has now turned her attention to the world of Sherlock Holmes, offering seven of the unreported cases mentioned only in passing by Watson. Her style is above average, and her plots are generally imaginative (while it is difficult to devise a story involving a politician, a lighthouse, and a trained cormorant that has not been told before, she sheds new light on Mr. Wilson's trained canaries).
3060. Reported from the Bowling Green State University Popular Press (Bowling Green, OH 43403): JOHN DICKSON CARR, by S. T. Joshi (195 pp., \$35.95 cloth or \$17.95 paper); a critical study rather than a biography, and with only passing discussion of Carr's Sherlockiana. Also: FRONT-PAGE DETECTIVE: WILLIAM J. BURNS AND THE DETECTIVE PROFESSION, 1880-1930, by William R. Hunt (222 pp., \$39.95 cloth or \$19.95 paper); possibly with some mention of Burns' meetings with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, but not yet seen.
3061. A comic-book forecast, noted by Richard Wein: Disney Comics is planning a 48-page graphic-novel adaptation of "The Great Mouse Detective" (\$4.95) in Feb. 1991.
3062. And some video-taper alerts, also noted by Richard: "Count Duckula: All in a Fog" (1987) will be rebroadcast on Nickelodeon in Mar. 1991 (this is a 30-minute animated program in which Count Duckula, in an attempt to be a detective, travels to London and encounters Hawkeye Soames and Dr. Potson). And "Alfred Hitchcock Presents: My Dear Watson" (1989) will be rebroadcast on USA cable in Mar. 1991 (also 30 minutes, with Brian Bedford as Holmes and Patrick Monckton as Watson, and with a colorized introduction by Alfred Hitchcock, wearing a deerstalker and blowing bubbles from a calabash pipe). And Arts & Entertainment will broadcast Arthur Wontner's "The Triumph of Sherlock Holmes" (1935) in two parts on Jan. 14 and 21.
3063. New German items reported by Dick Rutter: LESTRADE UND DIE STRUWWELPETERMORDE, by M. J. Trow (Reinbeck: Rowohlt, 1990; DM 9.80); a translation of THE ADVENTURES OF INSPECTOR LESTRADE (1985). LESTRADE UND DER TASMANISCHE WOLF, by M. J. Trow (Reinbeck: Rowohlt, 1990; DM 10.80); a translation of BRIGADE: FURTHER ADVENTURES OF INSPECTOR LESTRADE (1986). SHERLOCK HOLMES UND DIE VERSCHWUNDENE PRINZESSIN, by Val Andrews and Ian Wilkes (Munich: Knaur, 1990; DM 7.80); a translation of SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE DISAPPEARING PRINCESS (Romford: Ian Henry, 1989). EINSTEIN UND SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Alexis Lecaye (Frankfurt: Fischer, 1990); a translation (from the French) of EINSTEIN ET SHERLOCK HOLMES (1989).
3064. Dick also reports that Sherlock Holmes can be seen in a second-floor window at 221B Baker Street at the Universal Studios tour in Hollywood.
3065. Reported by Ron De Waal: THE MYSTERY BOOK OF DAYS, by William Malloy (New York: Mysterious Press, 1990; \$15.95); with many Sherlockian entries and illustrations. And a paperback reprint of ENGLISH COUNTRY HOUSE MURDERS, edited by Thomas Godfrey (New York: Mysterious Press/Warner Books, 1990; \$4.95); first published in 1988 (February 89 #3), the anthology includes "The Abbey Grange" and James Miles' pastiche "The Worcester Enigma".

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3066. A report on the S'ian movie material auctioned at Christie's East on Dec. 11 (November 90 #3): the prices (including 10% buyer's commission) were \$11,550 for the full-color one-sheet for John Barrymore's "Sherlock Holmes" (1922), \$4,180 for the rotogravure one-sheet, \$4,180 for the eight full-color lobby cards, and \$5,500 for the full-color one-sheet for Basil Rathbone's "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (1939).

3067. The Walt Disney Co. has decided not to buy Henson Associates. Negotiations began last year (September 89 #1) with a Disney bid for the Muppets, Kermit, and Miss Piggy (at an estimated price of \$100 million), but other Sesame Street characters owned by the Children's Television Workshop (including Sherlock Hemlock) were not part of the deal. The death of Jim Henson (May 90 #7), and the loss of his creative input, led Disney to reduce its offer, and the negotiations have now ended.
3068. Jon L. Breen does not often review mystery material for children in Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine, but a thoroughly justified exception is his plug in the Feb. 1991 issue for Holmes for the Holidays, which I've mentioned before, and will again: it's published five times a year (\$7.50) by Michael W. McClure (1415 Swanwick Street, Chester, IL 62233) and a fine gift for youngsters who are (or who should be) interested in mysteries, Sherlockian or otherwise.
3069. There's a collectible variant of the semi-miniature book (2.75 x 3.25 in., 153 pp.) SHERLOCK HOLMES: TWO COMPLETE ADVENTURES (June 89 #7). The first printing (with a line on the title-page verso numbered 9 through 1) had a dust jacket incorrectly titled SHERLOCK HOLMES: THREE COMPLETE ADVENTURES; the second printing (with a line numbered 9 through 2) has a dust jacket with the correct title. \$4.95 in bookstores, or \$7.45 postpaid from the Running Press, 125 South 22nd Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103.
3070. The latest issue of the Kansas City Daily Journal (the newsletter of the Great Alkali Plainsmen of Greater Kansas City) reports on the success of this summer's "Holmes on the Range" convention, and plans for a repeat in 1992, and the possibility of a convention in Tulsa in 1994.
3071. Audio Editions (Box 6930, Auburn, CA 95604) (800-231-4261) has issued a new catalog, with listings that include a set of four cassettes with stories from the 1986 Mystery Writers of America anthology LAST LAUGHS (\$24.95); one of the stories on the cassette is Edward D. Hoch's "The Most Dangerous Man" (D4992b). Also eight of the cassettes with the Rathbone/Bruce radio programs (\$9.95 each), FOUR SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES with four stories read by Robert Hardy on two cassettes (\$14.95), and MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES with four stories read by Robert Hardy (\$9.95).
3072. Thoroughly unusual, and amusing: a "Deelites" stuffed dog in Sherlockian costume, in a 13-inch high display box, holding a flashlight that you can turn on and off by wagging his tail. Made by Chosun International in Korea and priced at \$14.99. And I can only recommend that you pester your local toy dealers, because I have no idea who's distributing this line.
3073. Forecast from Pinnacle (fall 1991): THE CAT'S EYE, the third book in Marian J. A. Jackson's amusing series about Abigail Patience Danforth (September 90 #5).

December 1990 #7

3074. The newest anthology from a scion society is THE VIEW-HALLOA: SHERLOCKIAN ESSAYS, edited by Dana Richards (Charlottesville: The Game Is Afoot, 1990; 94 pp., \$9.00 postpaid). The contents include a history of the society and a sample of the society's quizzes, and a series of papers presented at its meetings. The papers are well above average, both in execution and in content, addressing topics such as national and ethnic prejudices in the Canon, governesses in Victorian society, and the Victorian (and Canonical) attitudes toward bereavement. Order from Dana Richards, 1605 Dublin Road, Charlottesville, VA 22903.
3075. A Japanese department store has paid £9,500 to hire an armchair which many of its customers believe was used by Sherlock Holmes, according to press reports from Britain. The chair, "which was found in the lodging house at 221B Baker Street that now houses the Sherlock Holmes Museum", was insured for £100,000 for the two-week trip to Tokyo. Museum marketing director John Aidiniantz told reporters that "many fans still think the fictitious detective is alive."
3076. Mail addressed to 221B Baker Street still goes to the Abbey National Bank, of course, where Sherlock Holmes' new secretary, Erica Harper, answers his correspondence and receives mail intended for the Museum. "We get their letters, which we return to the Post Office marked 'not at this address,'" Erica told a reporter.
3077. Arthur and Joyce Ann Liebman's two-week "Mystery-Lover's Tour of England in the Footsteps of Sherlock, Dracula, and Agatha" last summer will be done twice next year, on May 18-June 1 and June 29-July 13, 1991. Details available from Contemporary Tours, 580 Plandome Road, Manhasset, NY 11030.
3078. An intriguing addition to the list of activities scheduled during the 1991 birthday festivities: the Second Annual International New York Christopher Morley Memorial Walk, organized and guided by kinsprits Allen Mackler and Charley Shields on Thursday, Jan. 10. The walk will convene at 8:45 am in the lobby of the Hotel Algonquin, and will be off and strolling at 9:00 am, with plans to visit six to eight sites of interest to admirers of Morley.
3079. There will be some travel by subway and bus, and possibly taxi (or private car if anyone wants to volunteer to supply one), and lunch at "some midtown beanery," and the tour will end about 4:00 pm. Participants will pay their own expenses, and reservations can be made by message to Allen Mackler at the Hotel Iroquois (212-840-3080) on Wednesday, Jan. 9.
3080. The manuscripts of "The Dying Detective" and "The Lion's Mane" are now at the Marylebone Library in London, on indefinite loan from their present owner. Inherited by Lady Doyle, and then by Denis, the manuscripts were sent to auction in 1966 by Denis' widow (the Princess Mdivani), and bought (for about \$2,000 each) by a private collector whose son has now deposited them at the Library in order to make them available to scholars. Microfilm will be available early in 1991, according to Catherine Cooke.
3081. Mike Kean has forwarded a report (from Frequent Flyer, Dec. 1990) that the Langham Hotel, built in 1865, mentioned in the Canon, and eventually used by the BBC, will reopen as a hotel in Mar. 1991. Hilton International has spent four years and \$180 million restoring the 410-room West End landmark.

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3082. BUSTER BONNY IN BUSTER'S BIG CASE, written by Brad Gilchrist and illustrated by the Guy Gilchrist Studios, is a children's book spun off from the "Tiny Toon Adventures" animated television series, with Buster in Sherlockian costume on the cover and in the story. If you can't find it in your supermarket or book-store children's shelves, the publisher is Longmeadow Press and the distributor is Book Sales Inc. (110 Enterprise Avenue, Secaucus, NJ 07904).
3083. And for older children there is Moira Butterfield's THE USBORNE BOOK OF LONDON (London: Usborne, 1987; 64 pp., \$8.95). It's a nicely illustrated guide to London's past and present, with a section on "Legendary Londoners" (Sherlock Holmes, Charles Dickens, Jack the Ripper, and Dick Whittington), and it's distributed here by EDC Publishing (10302 East 55th Place, Tulsa, OK 74146).
3084. Glen Petrie's THE DORKING GAP AFFAIR: A MYCROFT HOLMES ADVENTURE, first published in 1989, is now available in paperback (London: Corgi Books, 1990; 336 pp., £3.50). Sherlock Holmes, in the 1870s still a student at university, appears only incidentally, and it is Mycroft who battles and outwits the villains. Petrie has devised an interesting plot, and drawn his characters well. The second book in the series, not yet seen, is THE MONSTROUS REGIMENT (London: Bantam Press, 1990; £12.99).

3085. Reported by Rosemary Michaud: the 1991 BOOK LOVERS' CALENDAR, compiled by Elizabeth W. Hill and Martha H. Starr, with the page for January showing a picture of the Sherlock Holmes room at the Metropolitan Toronto Reference Library and two Canonical quotations. The publisher is Starrhill Press, Box 32342, Washington, DC 20007, and the price is \$10.95 postpaid.
3086. The Talking Tape Company Limited (Unit 11, Shaftesbury Industrial Centre, The Runnings, Cheltenham, Glos. GL51 9NH, England) is now issuing audio cassettes of the 30-minute adaptations of 24 of the Canonical tales that offered in-flight entertainment on British Airways beginning in 1987. The dramatizations by Grant Eustace are faithful and careful, and the cast is excellent, with Roy Marsden as Holmes and John Moffatt as Watson. Marsden will be familiar to viewers of PBS-TV ("Inspector Dalgleish", "Goodbye Mr. Chips", and "The Sandbaggers"), and Moffatt has played both Holmes (in a BBC radio version of Loren D. Estleman's "Sherlock Holmes vs. Dracula" in 1981) and Watson (in a BBC radio version of Charles Marowitz's "Sherlock's Last Case" in 1987). There are six cassettes in the series, each with four stories, and the cost per cassette is £7.99 postpaid.
3087. A flier is now available for The Cremona Fiddlers' symposium at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg on June 14-16. Their 1987 symposium had more than 200 participants (and a full house, so don't wait until the last minute to register). Write to Ray Betzner, 2906 Richard Pace South, Williamsburg, VA 23185.
3088. The tenth annual Sherlock Holmes/Arthur Conan Doyle Symposium is scheduled for Mar. 9-10 at Wright State University in Dayton. Details are available from A. E. Rodin, 3041 Maginn Drive, Beavercreek, OH 45385.

January 1991 #1

3089. Travelers to Britain will know how colorful the Bank of England's notes are. They also carry copyright notices (on the new £5 note, at least). One would think that the laws against counterfeiting would cover violation of the copyright on bank notes, but perhaps not.
3090. Editions Claude Lefrancq is issuing a series of attractive 48-page hardcover graphic-novel adaptations and pastiches, including SHERLOCK HOLMES: LA SANGSUE ROUGE [The Red Leech], with a story by Andre-Paul DuchUteau and artwork by Guy Clair. LA BEQUILLE EN ALUMINIUM [The Aluminum Crutch] is scheduled later in the series, and the company's address is 386 chaussee d'Alseberg, 1180 Bruxelles, Belgium.
3091. Videotaper alert: The Movie Channel will show "Duck Soup" (1933) on Feb. 8 and 9. This is a Marx Brothers comedy, with Harpo in Sherlockian costume in one of the early scenes.
3092. Reported by Tim O'Connor: the next issue of Argosy (v. 3, n. 3) (\$4.00 in most comic-book shops) will have a cover portrait of Sherlock Holmes by Steranko, plus a reprint of Ellery Queen's "A Study in Terror" (D6065a). Also: your bookstore bargain tables should have Charles Viney's SHERLOCK HOLMES IN LONDON (\$12.50, discounted from \$24.95) and Ken Greenwald's THE LOST ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (\$4.98, discounted from \$9.98).
3093. Reported by Joe Eckrich: lengthy discussion of Universal's Rathbone/Bruce pictures in UNIVERSAL HORRORS: THE STUDIO'S CLASSIC FILMS, 1931-1946, by Michael Brunas, John Brunas, and Tom Weaver (Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland & Co., 1990; 616 pp., \$45.00). And discount offers in the latest catalog from Edward R. Hamilton (Falls Village, CT 06031): MYSTERY FOR CHRISTMAS, edited by Richard Dalby (New York: Gallery Books, 1990; \$5.98), with Ron Weighell's pastiche "The Case of the Fiery Messengers" (first published by Michael O'Mara in London at £14.95); and CRIME AT CHRISTMAS, edited by Jack Adrian (London: Equation, 1988; \$7.95), with reprints of the Peter Todd pastiches "Herlock Sholmes's Christmas Case" (D4957b) and "The Secret in the Pudding Bag" (D4965b).
3094. An Associated Press report with a Victoria Falls dateline (in the Boston Globe on Dec. 21, 1990) indicates that work is now underway on "Sherlock Holmes and the Incident at Victoria Falls" (with Christopher Lee as Holmes and Patrick Macnee as Watson). "We have brought Holmes to colonial Africa to hobnob with the rich and famous," executive producer Harry Alan Towers said. "We've aged him a little, but otherwise we've taken no liberties." The four-hour television mini-series will be the sequel to "Sherlock Holmes and the Leading Lady" (as yet not scheduled for broadcast).
3095. The winter-autumn 1990 issue of The Pipe Smoker's Ephemeris at hand from Tom Dunn (20-37 120th Street, College Point, NY 11356), with 74 pages of news, comment, correspondence, poetry, fiction, and illustrations about pipes, tobacco, cigars, smoking, and anything else that interests members of Tom's "universal coterie of pipe smokers" (and with more than ten pages of Sherlockiana in this issue). There is no charge for membership or for subscriptions, but Tom welcomes contributions, financial or otherwise.

January 1991 #2

3096. Baskerville Hall (well, at least one of the many candidates) is still on the market. Brook Manor, home of the infamous Richard Cabell, was offered for sale a bit more than a year ago (November 89 #2), with an asking price of £600,000 (the present owners, after rewiring the house and adding central heating and new bathrooms, used the house for bed and breakfast on a small scale, and the estate agents have suggested that the ten-bedroom property could be adapted as a guesthouse or small hotel). £600,000 is still the asking price, but the last time Brook Manor was on the market (October 86 #4), the price was only £150,000.
3097. Bill Barton reports that his new tongue-in-cheek rock 'n' role-playing game "So Ya Wanna Be a Rock 'n' Roll Star?" is not Sherlockian, but does include many S'ian names and references. Available for \$14.95 postpaid from Bill Barton, Box 26290, Indianapolis, IN 46226.
3098. "Mystery!" celebrated its tenth anniversary last year with a poster that shows the series' most popular characters (including Holmes and Watson), drawn by Edward Gorey. The poster (30"x46") is available for \$20.00 plus shipping from Signals, Box 64428, St. Paul, MN 55164 (800-669-5225), and they take plastic.
3099. Reported by John Stephenson: ABBOTT AND COSTELLO: THE CLASSIC COMICS, a comic book published by Malibu Graphics, with Costello in S'ian costume on p. 44.
3100. The Franklin Mint isn't the only company specializing in lengthy series of collectibles: Mike Kean reports that The Teddy Guild (Thistle Mill, Biggar ML12 6LP, Great Britain) has a subscription series of 36 "Famous Teddies". You get two a month (£10.90), and one of them is dressed as Sherlock Holmes (of course). They take plastic, in case anyone wants to subscribe, hoping that Sherlock Holmes won't be in the last monthly shipment.
3101. Studio Gallery Decorative Editions has sent an illustrated flier for their new eight-inch bone-china plate honoring the Sherlock Holmes Public House (that's the pub in London). The price is \$50.00 postpaid, and the address is 50 Caledonian Road, London N1 9DP, England.
3102. Mark Erdrich reports three S'ian rubber stamps available from Stampstastic, 2461 San Diego Avenue (Old Town), San Diego, CA 92110 (800-833-1252); the magnifying-glass design costs \$5.45, and the other two cost \$6.95 each.

January 1991 #3

3103. And yes, the birthday festivities in New York were (as usual) crowded, hectic, interesting, and enjoyable. Thursday is still essentially a day for informal events (such as the Annual International New York Christopher Morley Memorial Walk and the annual meeting of The Pawky Humorists), book-hunting, and sight-seeing, for those who arrive in New York early. The official festivities started Friday, with the Mrs. Hudson Breakfast for more than 50 people, welcomed by Tom and Ruthann Stetak in a new and comfortable venue on the second floor of the Algonquin. Susan Rice presided over

the William Gillette Luncheon at the Old Homestead (also well attended), and Otto Penzler offered hospitality (and Sherlockian books) at his open house at the Mysterious Book Shop.

3104. The Baker Street Irregulars met at 24 Fifth Avenue, where *The* Woman was Joan Wood, who was toasted by Andy Peck during the pre-dinner cocktail party, and then departed to dine at Le Quercy with other ladies who have received that honor. The BSI's annual-dinner agenda included the usual toasts and other traditions, David Musto's account of his visit to the U.S.S.R. and his meeting with a newly-founded scion (The Red-Headed League of Moscow), news of "Aunt Clara" from Bill Rabe (Fred Page and Wayne Swift sang her praises with the original music), papers by Bob Brody (on the future careers of some of the Canonical criminals who escaped justice) and Wayne Swift (on his continuing research on Silver Blaze) and Norman Davis (on Sherlockian handicapping), a presentation by Don Yates of a one-minute version of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (followed by his one-second version of the same story), and an award by Philip Shreffler to Don Redmond (honoring his 21 years of indexing of the BSJ).
3105. Irregular Shillings and Investitures were awarded to Henry Enberg ("John Garrideb"), Steve Tolins ("John Straker"), Joe Moran ("Augustus Moran, C.B."), Charley Shields ("17 King Edward Street"), Glen Miranker ("*The Origin of Tree Worship*"), and Bill Nadel ("Bartholomew Sholto"), and Ely Liebow received a Two-Shilling Award (for extraordinary devotion to the cause beyond the call of duty).
3106. The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes also gathered for dinner on Friday evening, at the Algonquin, where the entertainment included presentations by Ruthann Stetak (on "An American Borgia") and Linda Anderson (offering her suggestion that Sherlock Holmes, during the Great Hiatus, toured with and occasionally substituted for the divine Sarah Bernhardt), and Ann Byerly's rendition of "Aunt Clara" (also to the original music) and "The Contortionist's Daughter" (also written by Bud Willis and his wife, and no more sedate than "Aunt Clara").
3107. On Saturday morning the usual suspects gathered at the Algonquin to buy and sell in the Huckster's Room, and the BSI's afternoon cocktail party at 24 Fifth Avenue included now-traditional poetic reports by Al Rosenblatt and Susan Rice on the Friday dinners, a presentation of the Commissionaire's Award to George Fletcher in recognition of his 16 years of service to the BSI and the BSJ at the Fordham University Press (George now has a new job, as curator at the Pierpont Morgan Library), a spirited Sherlockian auction that raised \$800 for the John H. Watson Fund, and a Canonical fashion show modeled by Cynthia Wein, Joanne Zahorsky, Jean Upton, Ellen Morgenstern, Nancy Klimple, Camille Torrese, Carol Adams, and Maureen Green.

January 1991 #4

3108. Continuing the report on the birthday festivities (and indeed there's more to report) and on Saturday's cocktail party: Tom Stix announced the award of additional Irregular Shillings and Investitures to Edwin V. King ("Captain Arthur Morstan"), Dame Jean Conan Doyle ("A Certain Gracious Lady"), Katherine McMahon ("Lucy Ferrier"), Edith Meiser ("A Fascinating and Beautiful Woman"), Evelyn Herzog ("The Daintiest Thing Under a Bonnet"), Julia Carlson Rosenblatt ("Mrs. Turner"), and Susan Rice ("Beeswing"), and reminded the new Irregulars that all members of the BSI are entitled to attend the BSI's annual dinner.
3109. And on Saturday evening some Sherlockians (but not many, since the theater seats only 40) journeyed far off-off-Broadway to the Prometheus Theatre on East 5th Street to see "Sherlock Holmes: The Eclipse Conspiracy" (produced, directed, and written by Fred Fondren, who also played Holmes). Sherlock Holmes Moriarty's evil plot to gain control of the crystal cross, a long-lost mystic device that will bring civilization to an end by producing an artificial eclipse.
3110. Perhaps the most intriguing item in the Huckster Room during the birthday festivities was a first-of-its-kind \$1.00 "Silver Screen" lottery ticket with a portrait of Sherlock Holmes. You scratch the play area to see if you win from \$1 to \$1,000 or a trip to Hollywood (or nothing, of course). The Western Canada Lottery Corp. runs the show, but guaranteed non-winner tickets are available for \$1.00 each postpaid from Benton Wood, Box 740, Ellenton, FL 34222.
3111. Ben also offers the latest publication from The Pleasant Places of Florida: the SHERLOCKIAN SING-A-LONG, a 24-page spiral-bound collection of music and words adapted by Charles Michael Carroll and Benton Wood. The collection is billed, and quite accurately, as "a goodly batch of Doylean ditties, Baker Street ballads, and Holmesian hummers especially adapted for scion gatherings and Conanical conclaves," and the booklet costs \$6.00 postpaid.
3112. Chris Redmond reports his new address: 523 Westfield Drive, Waterloo, Ont. N2T 2E1, Canada (there's no change in his telephone number).
3113. Keye Luke died on Jan. 12. His first acting role was in Greta Garbo's film "The Painted Veil" and his last was in Woody Allen's just-released "Alice", but he will be remembered best as Lee Chan, Charlie Chan's "Number One Son" in the long series of Warner Oland films in the 1930s. He can be seen in Sherlockian costume in "Charlie Chan on Broadway" (1937).
3114. Reported: THE GREAT DETECTIVE PICTURES, by James Robert Parish and Michael R. Pitts (Metuchen: Scarecrow Press, 1990; 630 pp., \$59.50), with coverage of many Sherlockian films.
3115. Cricket was one of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's favorite sports, and one that was not neglected in his writings (see his fine tribute to W. G. Grace, and his humorous short stories "How the Brigadier Triumphed in England" and "The Story of Spedegue's Dropper"). LORD'S & COMMONS: CRICKET IN NOVELS AND STORIES, edited by John Bright-Holmes (London: Penguin Books, 1990; 352 pp., £7.99), has nothing by Conan Doyle, but offers instead an excerpt from Stanley Shaw's 1985 pastiche SHERLOCK HOLMES AT THE 1902 FIFTH TEST MATCH.

January 1991 #5

3116. Further to the report (December 90 #7) that the Langham Hotel will be reopened in March, Mary Ellen Rich notes in the winter 1990 issue of The Serpentine Muse that each of its suites will be named to honor a renowned past visitor (including Sir Arthur Conan Doyle), and that room 333 reportedly houses a possibly-Canonical ghost. The Serpentine Muse is published by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes, and costs \$6.00 for four issues (Evelyn Herzog, 235 West 15th Street #4-B, New York, NY 10011).
3117. CHUCK AMUCK, by Chuck Jones (New York: Avon Books, 1990; \$12.95) is a fine autobiography of the man responsible for many of the splendid Warner Bros. cartoons, one of which was "Deduce, You Say!" (1956). The book has many illustrations, including a pencil sketch of Dorlock Holmes and Dr. Watkins (on pages 106-107).
3118. Jeremy Brett, very briefly in Washington, reported that the new Granada series will air in Britain in February, and in the United States later in the year, and that he is revising the first act of "The Secret of Sherlock Holmes" and hopes to have the play on tour in the U.S. toward the end of 1991. He was here for Mobil's private dinner party at the State Department to celebrate the 20th anniversary of "Masterpiece Theatre" (other guests included Alistair Cooke, Francesca Annis, Steven Fry, John Hurt, Geraldine James, Hugh Laurie, Ian McShane, Jean Marsh, Keith Michell, Ian Richardson, Diana Rigg, and Simon Williams).
3119. A sampling of the long series of school-boy-magazine parodies written by Charles Hamilton (as Peter Todd) (see D4956b-D4966b) was published as THE ADVENTURES OF HERLOCK SHOLMES (1976), and all 95 of the stories are now available in THE COMPLETE CASEBOOK OF HERLOCK SHOLMES

- (London: Hawk Books, 1989; 287 pp., £9.95). The book may still be available from the Mysterious Bookshop (129 West 56th Street, New York, NY 10019) for \$19.95.
3120. Also available from the Mysterious Bookshop is A SINGULAR SET OF PEOPLE, edited by Marlene Aig and David Galerstein (New York: Magico Magazine, 1990; 127 pp., \$14.95). The book is a fine anthology, presenting (and occasionally reprinting) contributions by an assortment of imaginative Sherlockians who are members of New York scions (or who have attended a meeting of a New York scion, or who may be thinking about doing so).
3121. Glen Petrie's THE MONSTROUS REGIMENT: A MYCROFT HOLMES ADVENTURE (London: Bantam Press, 1990; 304 pp., £12.95) is a sequel to THE DORKING GAP AFFAIR (December 90 #8), and a good one. Sherlock Holmes has left his university, but again appears only incidentally, and it is Mycroft who frustrates a new scheme devised by the villainous Guttman and his evil associates.
3122. Mark Erdrich reports a remotely-Sherlockian discovery for those who think that the type-face designed by John Baskerville in 1757 is relevant: a ten-inch circular battery-powered wall clock with Baskerville numbering and lettering, offered at \$65.00 in a catalog from Williams-Sonoma (Box 7456, San Francisco, CA 94120).
3123. And Mark kindly offers photocopies of Bernard Knight's four-page pastiche "Sherlock Holmes Returns to the Case" (New Scientist, Dec. 24, 1988). Send a #10 SASE to Mark W. Erdrich, 49 Kings Lacey Way, Fairport, NY 104450.
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January 1991 #6

3124. Viktor Shklovsky's THEORY OF PROSE, written in Russian 1925 but only recently completely translated into English, was published last year in cloth binding (\$29.95), and is now available in paper covers (Lisle: Dalkey Archive Press, 1991; 216 pp., \$12.95). Shklovsky's book was a highly-regarded (and thoroughly academic) exploration of literary theory, and the literature considered includes mystery stories in general, and the Sherlock Holmes stories in particular (both from the Canon and from early pastiches). The publisher's address is 5700 College Road, Lisle, IL 60532.
3125. Videotaper alert: Reginald Owen's "A Study in Scarlet" (1933) will air on Arts & Entertainment cable on Feb. 17. No explanation has been offered for the strange disappearance of "The Triumph of Sherlock Holmes" last month.
3126. For those who weren't able to find the discounted one-volume edition of William S. Baring-Gould's THE ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES (now out of print and with no reprint scheduled), Tim O'Connor reports that it is offered (item 623415) by Edward R. Hamilton, Falls Village, CT 06031, at \$29.95 (plus \$3.00 shipping per order).
3127. A flier at hand with news of the tenth annual Sherlock Holmes/Conan Doyle Symposium at Wright State University in Dayton on Mar. 9-10. The speakers will include Martin Arbagi, Jim Booth, Bob Fleissner, Mary Frost-Pierson, Paul Herbert, Jack Key, Roy Pilot, Jim Ravin, Ruthann and Tom Stetak, and John Zamonski, and additional information is available from Al Rodin, 3041 Maginn Drive, Beavercreek, OH 45385.
3128. Late-breaking news on the grand gourmet dinner at the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park on May 4: wine and hors d'oeuvres at 6:30, dinner at 7:30, dress is black tie, the cost is \$80.00 a person (with a maximum of four persons per reservation), names and addresses requested for all those covered by each reservation, checks should be sent (and made payable) to Albert M. Rosenblatt (Box 221-B, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569), first-come first-served (and you are advised to make your reservations quickly), and a self-addressed postal card is requested if you want positive confirmation. The Radisson Hotel in Poughkeepsie (914-485-5300) offers a special rate of \$75.00 a room for those who identify themselves as Sherlockians.
3129. According to my records, my 1991 seasonal souvenir ("LIGHT A CIGAR AND LET ME EXPOUND...") should be in the hands of all subscribers, received during the birthday festivities in New York, or since, or with this mailing. If I missed someone, please let me know.
3130. The new postage rates will require modest increases in prices. Renewals and new subscriptions to the *Scuttlebutt* now cost \$8.50 a year (somewhat higher for subscribers outside the United States). The up-to-date 11-page list of Investitured Irregulars, Two-Shilling Awards, and *The* Women costs \$1.10 postpaid. The 57-page list of 532 Sherlockian societies, with names and addresses for the 315 active societies, costs \$3.55 postpaid. And the run of address labels for 277 individual contacts (recommended for those who wish to avoid making duplicate mailings to people who are contacts for more than one society) costs \$10.25 postpaid.
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February 1991 #1

3131. Ronald Pearsall's SHERLOCK HOLMES INVESTIGATES THE MURDER IN EUSTON SQUARE (Newton Abbot: David & Charles, 1989; 186 pp., £9.95) is less of a pastiche than an example of how authors use Sherlock Holmes as a hook on which to hang their own work: Pearsall starts with a murder in London in 1877 (the body was not found until 1879), and presents his own solution (a rather complicated one, involving depravity, insanity, and the Royal family) in a ten-years-later investigation by Sherlock Holmes.
3132. Reported but not seen: L. B. Greenwood's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE THISTLE OF SCOTLAND was the Detective Book Club selection for Oct. 1989. This variant is probably identifiable only from the dust jacket.
3133. A videotaper alert: Richard Wein reports that Arts & Entertainment has not given up on "The Triumph of Sherlock Holmes" (1935), which is now scheduled for one two-hour showing at 9:00 am on Mar. 16.
3134. Spotted by Jim Vogelsang in Kool-Aid's "Having Kids Times": Walt Disney's "The Great Mouse Detective" will be coming your way this season (but with nothing to indicate just which season).
3135. An article by Enid Rhodes Peschel and Richard E. Peschel ("Sherlock Holmes Foiled by an Opera Star") in the autumn 1990 issue of Opera Quarterly (at hand from Pat Ward) suggests that the contralto Giulia Ravogli might have contributed to the inspiration for the character of Irene Adler. Ravogli made her debut at Covent Garden in Oct. 1890, appearing in male costume as Urbain in "Les Huguenots" and as Orfeo in "Orfeo ed Euridice", and received rave reviews (George Bernard Shaw said that he was "infatuated" with her).
3136. Last year Great Britain issued a set of commemoratives that show the nation's important medals, including the Victoria Cross. The Canonical connection is "Emsworth, the Crimean V.C." in "The Blanched Soldier".
3137. Sherry Rose-Bond reports an advertisement by Home Vision offering six of the MPI Home Video cassettes of Granada's Jeremy Brett series at \$24.95 each (discounted from the regular price of \$29.98). Home Vision, Box 800, Concord, MA 01742 (800-262-8600).
3138. The London Library was founded on May 3, 1841, in two rooms in Pall Mall, with 3,000 books. It has close to a million books today, and is still a private library (a year's subscription costs £80). This year's celebration of its 150th anniversary will include publication of RUDE WORDS, a history of the library by John Wells. It remains to be seen whether the book will mention Dr. Watson's visit to the library to consult with his friend Lomax, the sublibrarian, as recorded in "The Illustrious Client".
3139. Further to the report (January 91 #1) on MYSTERY FOR CHRISTMAS, the anthology edited by Richard Dalby (New York: Gallery Books, 1990; \$5.98), with Ron Weighell's pastiche ("The Case of the Fiery Messengers"), the book also has "The Soldier", a non-S'ian story by Roger Johnson, the British Holmesian.
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February 1991 #2

3140. Sherlockian games are now being developed for home television sets, and at least one of them will be available this spring. According to an article in the Washington Post (Feb. 6), Nintendo (which has 80 percent of the U.S. market for cartridge games) and Sony have agreed to a joint venture that will put video games on compact discs, using the massive storage capacity available on compact discs to offer better sound and image quality, and some digitized video. The Nintendo-Sony machine is expected to be marketed in Japan in 1992 and in the U.S. in 1993, but a similar machine is already available here: the NEC TurboGrafx-16, which is a cartridge machine (\$160 suggested retail) with an add-on machine (\$400 suggested retail) that will play compact discs. And Commodore is ready to market its own CDTV compact-disc machine, which will contain an Amiga 500 computer; the CDTV will be released in late March or early April, and will sell for \$999 suggested retail; the CDTV will run audio discs, game discs, and text discs (the Grolier Encyclopedia and others now being developed for the CDTV). All three of the systems connect to home stereo and television sets rather than to computers.
3141. And ICOM Simulations has developed "Sherlock Holmes, Consulting Detective" (a compact-disc game based on Sleuth Publications' boxed game). The ICOM compact disc has three adventures ("The Mummy's Curse", "The Case of the Mystified Murderess", and "The Case of the Tin Soldier"), presented with text, graphics, and some video. 120 scenes were taped for the video, with 35 actors, and production costs have totaled \$1 million, including \$300,000 for the video shoot. ICOM has already engineered the game in Japanese for Fujitsu, and in Japanese and English for NEC, and ICOM is now engineering a version for Commodore. The NEC version of the game is scheduled for launch in March (\$62 suggested retail). And Jon Lellenberg reports that Commodore is working with a British company that is developing a different game based on the Webb & Bower "dossier" edition of "The Hound of the Baskervilles".
3142. Meetings of The Hansom Wheels of Columbia, S.C., often feature the dramatic efforts of the scion's members, and scripts for five original one-act plays written by Lloyd W. Brown, Jr., in radio format, with broad humor and many fine puns, have now been published as THE UNKNOWN SHERLOCK HOLMES (63 pp., \$15.00 postpaid from the author, 103 Snow Court, Lexington, SC 29073).
3143. Reported by Jack Kerr: volume 10 of the Simon & Schuster Audioworks series of THE NEW ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES is in the shops, with "In Flanders Fields" and "The Eyes of Mr. Leyton" from the Rathbone/Bruce radio series. And Marjorie Weinman Sharmat's NATE THE GREAT AND THE HALLOWEEN HUNT has been published as a Dell Young Yearling paperback (\$2.95).
3144. Reported on audio cassettes: LAST LAUGHS: THE MYSTERY WRITERS OF AMERICA ANTHOLOGY, edited by Gregory McDonald (Dove Books on Tape); nine stories, including Edward D. Hoch's "The Most Dangerous Man" (D4992b) read by John Standing. PARTNERS IN CRIME: THREE VOLUMES (Listen for Pleasure); Agatha Christie's stories (including D5857a) read by James Warwick.
3145. If you do much airmailing to overseas addresses, you can save some money by making note of the new rates: 50 cents for the first half-ounce, 45 cents for the second half-ounce, and 39 cents for additional half-ounces. I've not seen this mentioned in any of the press reports on the new rates.

February 1991 #3

3146. Henry Lauritzen ("The Royal Family of Scandinavia") died on Jan. 30. Henry was devoted to Sherlock Holmes, horse racing, cigars, and brandy, and he was the sparking-plug of the Sherlockians in Denmark for many years. His long series of Christmas annuals reflected his wide-ranging interests and his wonderful sense of humor, and he was one of the truly great Sherlockian artists (his portrait of John Bennett Shaw can be seen on the title page of the Dec. 1990 issue of the BSJ). He received his Irregular Investiture in 1961, the Two-Shilling Award in 1985, and the Commissionaire's Award in 1990.
3147. Reported: THE YEAR'S BEST MYSTERY AND SUSPENSE STORIES, edited by Edward D. Hoch (New York: Walker, 1990; \$18.95), has Elizabeth Peters' "The Locked Tomb Mystery" (set in ancient Egypt, with a mystery solved with careful Sherlockian deduction by the sage and scholar Amenhotep Sa Hapu, with the assistance of his friend Wadjsen). Peters' story was first published in SISTERS IN CRIME (July 89 #5).
3148. Additional comment on our new postal rates, which seem high only until one notes what other countries pay: the domestic rate in Canada is 40 cents (US 35 cents) for 30 grams (1.05 ounces). The rate for international airmail from Canada is 80 cents (US 69 cents) for 20 grams (0.7 ounces).
3149. A new Sherlockian statue ("beautiful," according to John Bennett Shaw) has been sculpted by midwestern artist Tom Beard and cast in bronze (9 inches high, on a walnut base) in an edition of 250 copies. \$415 (plus \$10 shipping) from the Tom Beard Art Studio, 8312 East 104th Terrace, Kansas City, MO 64134).
3150. The Sherlock Holmes Wireless Society has commissioned a one-inch lapel pin that will sell for \$12.00, and the deadline for orders is Mar. 20. Write to Ron Fish (Box 3382, New Haven, CT 06515) for an illustrated flier.
3151. Mary Ann and Ed Rochette (Sherlock, Stock & Barrel, Box 8261, Colorado Springs, CO 80933) have issued a second sales list of Sherlockian honey, statues, T-shirts, and other collectibles.
3152. Anna Conan Doyle died in December in Switzerland. She married Adrian Conan Doyle in 1938, joined him in his travels and on some of his expeditions (he described their hunt for Indian Ocean sharks, in a ship they renamed the *Gloria Scott*, in his 1953 book HEAVEN HAS CLAWS), and after his death in 1970 she was for a time manager of the Conan Doyle Foundation in Geneva.
3153. If your local fast-food shops include Taco Bell, you might see if they have "Taco Man's Mystery House" carry-out bags and small "activity books" that show a deerstalkered Taco Man.
3154. Joanne Zahorsky (5190-3 King's Highway, Saugerties, NY 12477) offers a ten-inch cross-stitched Sherlockian clock (\$35.00), and teddy bears dressed as Sherlock Holmes, Dr. Watson, or Irene Adler (\$35.00), and happily accepts commissions for other teddy bears. Write to Joanne for details.

February 1991 #4

3155. The winter 1991 issue of Anglofile reports that "Doctor Who: The Talons of Weng-Chiang" is now available on videocassette from Playhouse Video at \$19.95 (the 1977 six-part story featured Tom Baker in Sherlockian costume, battling giant rats). "Summer's Lease" will air on "Masterpiece Theatre" beginning May 12 (the 1989 BBC television series has Sherlockian allusions). And a new adventure/comedy film called "Sherlock Holmes' Arcane Adventure" is scheduled to begin filming in Estonia in April (this may be Loren D. Estleman's "Sherlock Holmes vs. Dracula"). Anglofile (six issues) costs \$12.00 a year (Box 33515, Decatur, GA 30033), and offers massive coverage of British television, films, books, and records.
3156. Current poster prices (from Cinemonde, 1932 Polk Street, San Francisco, CA 94109): \$5,500 for a lobby card for "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1939); \$7,000 for a French poster (63x94") for "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (1939); \$750 for a one-sheet (27x41"), and \$950 for a three-sheet (41x81") for "The Pearl of Death" (1944); and \$125 for a lobby still for "Dressed to Kill" (1945).
3157. None of John Bennett Shaw's many S'ian workshops have been directly honored by the U.S. Postal Service, but a postal card was issued last year showing the Memorial Court in the Quadrangle at Stanford University, where John presided over a workshop in 1981 (and where there was a second

- workshop in 1987). The first of John's S'ian workshops was held at Notre Dame in 1977, and the Postal Service plans to issue a new postal card on Oct. 13, showing the Administration Building at the University of Notre Dame.
3158. The Knights of the Gnomon, organized in 1977 (or 1978), have published "An Introductory Handbook" that includes a history of the scion. The 40-page pamphlet is available for \$6.00 postpaid from Richard R. Rutter, 1620 Granada Drive, Burlingame, CA 94010.
3159. The locked-room mystery is practically a forgotten genre, in an era when who and why are generally considered to be more important than how, but Jack Adrian and Robert Adey have assembled a fine anthology of the genre. MURDER IMPOSSIBLE (New York: Carroll & Graf, 1990; 306 pp., \$18.95) was published in Britain as THE ART OF THE IMPOSSIBLE (Xanadu, £14.95), and includes George Locke's short Morlock Tomes parody "A Nineteenth Century Debauch" (previously available only in a 1979 limited edition).
3160. Warren Randall reports that there is one (and only one) S'ian reference in FODOR'S 91 LONDON, appropriately on page 221, where the guidebook discusses The Sherlock Holmes in Northumberland Street.
3161. A spring 1991 catalog at hand from Jack Tracy (Gaslight Publications, 626 North College Avenue, Bloomington, IN 47404), offering S'iana and D'iana from Gaslight and other publishers.
3162. The Beeman's Christmas Annual (1990), published by The Occupants of the Empty House with 33 pp. of Sherlockian studies, is available from William R. Cochran, 517 North Vine Street, DeQuoin, IL 62832 (\$7.00 postpaid).
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February 1991 #5

3163. Those who own David L. Hammer's splendid travel books THE GAME IS AFOOT and FOR THE SAKE OF THE GAME will need no additional recommendation of TO PLAY THE GAME than the news that it has been published (Dubuque: Gasogene Press, 1991; 397 pp., \$39.95 cloth, \$19.95 paper). For newcomers, his third volume deals with the North America of Sherlock Holmes (both the United States and Canada), and with a few more recent Sherlockian sites (such as New Mexico's Moriarty Memorial Manure Pile and Oklahoma's Holmes Peak), and his style is both personal and literate. Recommended, and available from the publisher (Box 1041, Dubuque, IA 52004); add \$2.50 per copy (up to \$5.00 per order) to cover shipping costs.
3164. A new society lapel-pin is available from Watson's Erroneous Deductions, in brass decorated in black and white. \$10.00 postpaid from Dick and Fran Kitts, 35 Van Cortlandt Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10301.
3165. M. J. Trow's LESTRADE AND THE DEADLY GAME (London: Constable, 1990; 224 pp., £11.95) is the latest in his fine series of novels. This one is set in 1908, and Lestrade is now a Superintendent, investigating a series of murders that threaten to disrupt the Olympic Games. As usual, there is plenty of action and broad humor, as well as some fine puns.
3166. A catalog at hand from La Sherlockiana, the Italian mystery-specialist book store (Piazza San Nazaro 3, 20122 Milano, Italy), with a nice assortment of Sherlockiana in Italian (priced in lire, currently about 1,133 lire to the dollar): Alan Arnold's PIRAMIDE DI PAURA (18,000), Isaac Asimov's SHERLOCK HOLMES NEL TEMPO E NELLO SPAZIO (22,000); Edmund Aubrey's SHERLOCK HOLMES A DALLAS (15,000); Henri Cami's LE AVVENTURE DI LUFOCK HOLMES (6,000); Allen Eyles' SHERLOCK HOLMES: ALBUM DEL CENTENARIO (35,000); Laura Grimaldi and Marco Tropea's ELEMENTARE, SIGNOR PRESIDENT (10,000); Michael and Mollie Hardwick's VITA PRIVATA DI SHERLOCK HOLMES (10,000); Alexis Lecaye's MARX E SHERLOCK HOLMES (14,000); Nicholas Meyer's LA SOLUZIONE SETTE PER CENTO (7,000); Rene Reouven's I PASSATEMPI DI SHERLOCK HOLMES (24,000); John R. Watson's 30 DUKE STREET (16,000); and translations of the Canon (16,000 to 60,000) and of Conan Doyle's works, including his autobiography UCCIDERO SHERLOCK HOLMES (20,000).
3167. Reported by Ron De Waal: "Silver Blaze" in GREAT RACING STORIES, edited by Dick Francis and John Welcome (London: W. W. Norton, 1989), and published in the U.S. by Norton in 1990 as THE DICK FRANCIS TREASURY OF GREAT RACING STORIES (\$19.95).
3168. Chatto & Windus was one of the many British publishers that issued "popular editions" priced at sixpence and with striking color covers, and SIXPENNY WONDERFULS: 6D GEMS FROM THE PAST (London: Chatto & Windus, 1985; 69 pp.; £5.95) offers a nicely-illustrated tour of that publisher's contributions to the genre. They published only one of Conan Doyle's books (THE FIRM OF GIRDLESTONE), but Gordon Browne's cover for the six-penny edition receives a well-deserved full-page color illustration. The book may turn up on the discount tables (priced as low as \$2.99), along with THE BEST OF CRIME & DETECTIVE TV, by Max Allan Collins and John Javna (New York: Harmony Books, 1988; 144 pp., \$9.95), with two pages on Sherlock Holmes.
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3169. Mark Hime (of Bibliotopus) had some nice Sherlockian items on display at the San Francisco International Antiquarian Bookfair this month: an inscribed copy of the first American edition (which appeared before the first British edition) of THE VALLEY OF FEAR (\$12,500); the 22-page manuscript of "The Three Garridebs" (\$155,000); and the 177-page manuscript of "The Valley of Fear" (\$525,000).
3170. "It was the worst enemy I had among them all," Jack Douglas said of Ted Baldwin, "one who has been after me like a hungry wolf after a caribou all these years." A recent issue from Canada shows a Peary caribou, and it makes a nice pair with last year's Canadian stamp showing a timber wolf (February 90 #6).
3171. Bruce Holmes (64 Maple Circle, Dollard des Ormeaux, Quebec H9B 1E5, Canada) offers a sales list of Sherlockian collectibles, mostly philatelic, but also including an authentic J-pen nib.
3172. A videotaper alert: Richard Wein reports that "Count Duckula: All in a Fog" will run on Nickelodeon cable at 8:00 am on Mar. 17. "Count Duckula" was a British 30-minute animated series, made by Cosgrove Hall Productions for Thames Television in 1987; in this episode Count Duckula, in an attempt to be a detective, travels to London and meets Hawkeye Soames and Dr. Potson. Richard also reports that "Alfred Hitchcock Presents: My Dear Watson" will be repeated eventually on USA cable, but the repeats are out-of-sequence and he can't confirm a date (if you're desperate, you can call USA cable at 212-408-9100 and ask for programming); filmed in Toronto in 1988 and first aired in 1989, the 30-minute episode features Brian Bedford as Holmes and Patrick Monckton as Watson, but the best part of the show undoubtedly was Hitchcock himself, in a colorized introduction, wearing a deerstalker and blowing bubbles from a calabash pipe.
3173. "Peanuts" is one of the largest-circulation comic strips in the world, and there will be few who did not see the pleasant tribute to "The Hound of the Baskervilles" that ran on Feb. 3. Many newspapers, however, do not run the Sunday strips complete: often an initial "throw-away" panel is omitted to make room for more comics, or advertising, or whatever. For the benefit of victims of this sort of censorship, here's the throw-away panel for Feb. 3:
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March 1991 #1

3174. Tom Haas died on Feb. 21. He helped to found the Weathervane Theatre in Whitefield, N.H., and directed William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" there in 1975, and it was at the Weathervane that his musical "Operetta, My Dear Watson" had its world premiere in 1979. He became artistic director of
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- the Indiana Repertory Theatre in Indianapolis in 1980, reviving his musical in 1982, and directing Charles Marowitz's "Sherlock's Last Case" in 1990. In 1984 there were hopes for a production of "Operetta, My Dear Watson" in New York, and excerpts from the musical were performed for The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes during the birthday festivities.
3175. Spaniels and hounds abound in the Canon, and are shown to nice advantage in a set of stamps issued by Britain this year with paintings by George Stubbs: "King Charles Spaniel" and "Two Hounds in a Landscape".
3176. Flier at hand for the Third Canonical Convocation and Caper in Door County, Wis., on Sept. 13-15. Donald B. Izban (5334 Wrightwood Avenue, Chicago, IL 60639) will be happy to send additional information.
3177. The Baker Street Dispatch, edited and published by Tom Biblewski and Dick Hopkins, is one of the newer S'ian newsletters, offering brief news items, quizzes, and puzzles. It is published six times a year, and there is no charge for subscriptions (though four or five first-class stamps would be welcome), and the address is Box 5503, Toledo, OH 43613.
3178. John Bennett Shaw reports that Libreria Gigamesh has launched a new series of hard-bound Spanish translations of Sherlockiana, with new prefaces or afterwords, priced at 2,600 pesetas each. LAS HAZANAS DE SHERLOCK HOLMES [THE EXPLOITS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Adrian Conan Doyle and John Dickson Carr] has commentary by British bookseller David Kirby, and the next books in the series will be William S. Baring-Gould's SHERLOCK HOLMES OF BAKER STREET and Julian Symons' A THREE PIPE PROBLEM (with commentary by John Bennett Shaw). The publisher's address is Rona de San Pedro 53, 08010 Barcelona, Spain, and payment in Spanish currency is requested.
3179. Thomas G. Kowols reports in the Feb. 1991 issue of The Police Gazette (the newsletter of The Scotland Yarders) that Doctor Who Magazine recently asked its readers who that would most like to see play the Doctor in a series or film. And the winner was Jeremy Brett (who was under consideration for the role in 1987, when the series was revived after an 18-month hiatus).
3180. Reported by Bill Berner and Dick Rutter: a new translation into German by Oliver Bruhns (as WIE ES MIT SHERLOCK HOLMES ZU ENDE GING) of A. Boukhov's pastiche "The End of Sherlock Holmes". Boukhov was a Russian satirist who was forced into exile in 1917, and his pastiche was published in Maurice Dekobra's anthology THE CRIMSON SMILE (London: Laurie, 1929). The German version is a 24-page pamphlet, available for DM 15.00 (\$10.00) from Colonel Stark's German Books, Kathe-Kollwitz-Weg 10, D-2400 Lubeck 1, Germany.

March 1991 #2

3181. The real mystery of "The Mystery of Edwin Drood" is how Charles Dickens intended to complete the story, which was unfinished at the time of Dickens' death. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle discussed the problem with Dickens (via the medium Florizel von Reuter), and was told by Dickens that "Edwin is alive and Chris is hiding him" (see THE EDGE OF THE UNKNOWN, 1930, p. 149-153), and many Sherlockians have tried to solve the mystery (as early as Sept. 1905, when Andrew Lang proposed a pastiche-solution in Longman's Magazine). THE DISAPPEARANCE OF EDWIN DROOD, by Peter Rowland (London: Constable, 1991; 176 pp., £11.99), is an imaginative and amusing approach to the mystery: the novel opens with the arrival of John Jasper at Baker Street in 1894, to ask Sherlock Holmes to prove that Edwin Drood has been murdered, and offers an intriguing exploration and explanation of the problems posed by Dickens.
3182. Switzerland, mentioned in three of the Canonical cases, celebrates its 700th anniversary this year, and a joint issue by Switzerland and the United States (with similar designs on both stamps) shows the Swiss Federal Palace (the Swiss Parliament building in Berne) and the U.S. Capitol in Washington (a city that is also mentioned in the Canon).
3183. August Derleth's talents as a writer extended far beyond his fine stories about Solar Pons, and the August Derleth Society continues to honor his work. Membership costs \$6.00 a year (checks to Herb Attix, 3333 Westview Lane, Madison, WI 53713) and includes a quarterly newsletter; the current issue (Feb. 1991) has Robert W. Hahn's reminiscences about his trip, with four other Chicago Sherlockians, to visit Derleth in Sauk City in 1966.
3184. For the film buffs: GEORGE FLOREY, THE FRENCH IMPRESSIONIST, by Brian Taves (Metuchen: Scarecrow Press, 1987; 438 pp., \$39.50), is a detailed study of one of Hollywood's great film-makers. Florey scripted the original version of "Frankenstein" and directed 65 features, including "Murders in the Rue Morgue", the Marx Brothers' "The Cocoanuts", and Reginald Owen's "A Study in Scarlet" (1933). Taves' discussion of "A Study in Scarlet" can also be found as an article in the spring 1989 issue of The Armchair Detective.
3185. Ron De Waal has sent a copy of the winter 1990 issue of Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought, with a long article by Michael W. Homer on "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: Spiritualism and 'New Religions'". The article covers Conan Doyle religious beliefs, his use of the Mormons in "A Study in Scarlet", and the Mormons' attitudes toward Conan Doyle when he visited Utah in 1923. \$7.00 a copy, from the Dialogue Foundation, University Station (UMC 7805), Logan, UT 84322.
3186. The price of CD-ROM technology has begun to drop to relatively reasonable levels. For the non-computerized, that's "Compact Disc-Read Only Memory" (a compact disc holds as much information as 1,800 floppy disks, and the entire Oxford English Dictionary will fit on one compact disc). The early spring 1991 catalog from DAK Industries (8200 Remmet Avenue, Canoga Park, CA 91304) offers a BSR external CD-ROM drive (compatible with PC, XT, and AT computers) and six compact discs for \$699. One of the compact discs is the "Library of the Future" (which includes THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES).

March 1991 #3

3187. Michael Hardwick ("The Sign of the Four") died on March 6. He became a writer almost by accident (working as a film producer in New Zealand, he was commissioned to write a book about the Royal Visit when Queen Elizabeth visited New Zealand in 1954), and he went on to become a prolific author in many fields. His first Sherlockian work, written with his wife Mollie, was THE SHERLOCK HOLMES COMPANION (1962), and their later joint credits included many adaptations of the Canon for stage, radio, and television. He also wrote fine novel-length pastiches (PRISONER OF THE DEVIL, THE PRIVATE LIFE OF DR. WATSON, SHERLOCK HOLMES: MY LIFE AND CRIMES, and THE REVENGE OF THE HOUND), and when he died he was working on his own Sherlockian memoirs for Gasogene Press. He was a fine raconteur, as many Sherlockians know from his American tours in 1980 and 1985, and he will be missed by his many friends and readers.
3188. Granada's new series of Sherlock Holmes programs made the newspapers in Britain, but the publicity wasn't quite what Granada expected. "Star's fury as TV Times bans Holmes photo" was the headline on one story, which reported that TV Times (the British equivalent of our TV Guide) had spent £10,000 shooting a cover photo for its Feb. 16 issue, and then killed the cover, which was to have shown Sherlock Holmes burning a letter, because (according to Jeremy Brett) "apparently the picture was too downbeat for the Gulf War." TV Times used instead a picture of newly-wed "Coronation Street" star Helen Worth and husband actor Michael Angelis. "I'm very disappointed," Brett said, "because I always said I'd play the part until I had been on the front cover of TV Times."

3189. British newspaper reviews of the new Jeremy Brett series, at hand from Jon Lellenberg, were generally favorable, though not as enthusiastic as for the earlier series. And an article in the Edinburgh Evening News reports that the new statue of Sherlock Holmes will be installed in Picardy Place in May (although the local branch of the Federation of Master Builders has so far raised only two-thirds of the estimated £45,000 cost); Prince Charles and Lady Diana have politely declined to unveil the statue, and the Federation is not optimistic about an invitation sent to the Queen Mother (they are also considering Sean Connery).
3190. Jon also reports SHERLOCK HOLMES: BOOK TWO (Newbury Park: Malibu Graphics, 1991; 132 pp., \$17.95); this is a collection of the second five stories in Eternity's comic-book reprints of the 1954 comic strips by Edith Meiser and Frank Giacoia, edited by Tom Mason and with an Introduction by Jim Korkis and a Foreword by Martin Powell.
3191. Further to reports on the television film of "The Crucifer of Blood" (October 90 #5 and November 90 #3), Gary Westmoreland has heard from TNT that broadcast is now scheduled for Sept. 1991. The two-hour show stars Charlton Heston as Holmes and Richard Johnson as Watson.
3192. Fusion Video (17214 South Oak Park Avenue, Tinley Park, IL 60477) continues to offer 20 programs from the Jeremy Brett series on videocassettes (\$19.98 each for the one-hour programs, and \$39.98 each for the two longer shows), and "The Best of Sherlock Holmes" (the 30-minute cassette of excerpts from the series) at \$9.98; shipping costs \$4.50 per order, and their toll-free number is 800-338-7710. All the cassettes are packaged by MPI Home Video.

March 1991 #4

3193. John Bellairs died on Mar. 8. He was the author of 15 fine children's books, including THE TREASURE OF ALPHEUS WINTERBORN (1978), a non-Sherlockian book that turned Sherlockian when it was adapted for television and broadcast in the "CBS Children's Mystery Theatre" in 1980. The television version starred Keith McConnell as Holmes and Laurie Main as Watson, and is available on videocassette (as "The Clue According to Sherlock Holmes") from Video Gems.
3194. Chaiky Halpern's children's books MIHU THE DETECTIVE AND THE MYSTERY OF THE MISSING CHAMATZ (Jerusalem: Feldheim Publishers, 1979) and MIHU THE DETECTIVE AND THE MYSTERY OF THE BLUE BUDGIE (1987) each feature Mihu in S'ian costume, and Jack Kerr reports that both titles are still available from Philipp Feldheim Inc., 200 Airport Executive Park, Spring Valley, NY 10977 (800-237-7149); \$2.95 each, and they take plastic.
3195. Jack also notes a sesquicentennial conference honoring "Victorian Punch" at the University of London on July 12-13. The list of speakers includes Richard D. Altick on the early days of the magazine, and Anthony Burton on Richard Doyle (ACD's uncle, who created Punch's famous cover). Additional information is available from Michael Slater, Dept. of English, Birkbeck College, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HX, England.
3196. Scott Bond (519 East Allen's Lane, Philadelphia, PA 19119) offers his colorful new Moriarty one-inch lapel pin, for \$11.00 postpaid. Scott's earlier matching pins, one with Holmes and the other with Watson, are also still available at the same price.
3197. Another plug for THE CONAN DOYLE STORIES, still available from Barnes & Noble (#1262336) at \$9.95; this is the Galley Press reprint of the 1956 John Murray edition, with 76 fine examples of ACD's skills as a teller of tales (the stories are non-Sherlockian, except for the apocryphal "The Lost Special" and "The Man with the Watches"). Also available are: Russell Brown's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE MYSTERIOUS FRIEND OF OSCAR WILDE (#1680404) at \$5.98; Ken Greenwald's THE LOST ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (#1609049) at \$9.95; Peter Haining's THE ART OF MYSTERY & DETECTIVE STORIES (#1636893) at \$7.95; Ronald Pearsall's SHERLOCK HOLMES INVESTIGATES THE MURDER IN EUSTON SQUARE (#1685817) at \$7.95; William Neblett's SHERLOCK'S LOGIC (#1688233) at \$7.95; and Michael Shepherd's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE CASE OF DR. FREUD (#1683051) at \$3.98. Their address is 126 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10011; shipping is \$4.00 per order, and they take plastic.
3198. One of the nice things about living on the east coast is that there was time to warn some west-coast Sherlockians to tape "Saturday Night Live" on NBC-TV on Mar. 23 (else we would just wait patiently for a repeat of the show). Jeremy Irons was the guest star, and appeared as Sherlock Holmes in one of the skits. And then won an Oscar on Mar. 25 for his performance as Claus von Bulow in "Reversal of Fortune".
3199. Noted in the spring 1991 catalog from What On Earth: "Brilliant Deduction" T-shirts (\$12.95) and sweatshirts (\$22.95) with a "Sherlock Holmes Tax Service" cartoon by Alan Hutchinson. Their address is 2451 Enterprise East Parkway, Twinsburg, OH 44087, and they take plastic.

March 1991 #5

3200. Diana Rigg, in her introduction to "The Dark Angel" (the 1988 BBC-TV adaptation of Sheridan le Fanu's UNCLE SILAS, broadcast on "Mystery!" by PBS-TV on Mar. 20), stated that "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle lifted the entire plot of 'Uncle Silas' for one of his own books." Diana Rigg was of course working from someone else's script. It would appear to have been M. R. James who first suggested in print, in his Introduction to the World's Classics edition of UNCLE SILAS (1926), that similarities of plot can be found in Conan Doyle's THE FIRM OF GIRDLESTONE.
3201. THE FIRM OF GIRDLESTONE, written in 1884-85 but not published until 1890, was the second novel written by Conan Doyle (THE NARRATIVE OF JOHN SMITH, lost in the mail on its first journey to a publisher, was the first), and Conan Doyle, in MEMORIES AND ADVENTURES, said of THE FIRM OF GIRDLESTONE that "save for occasional patches it is a worthless book, and, like the first book of everyone else, unless he is a great original genius, it was too reminiscent of the work of others." At the end of his career, in his "Preface to the Crowborough Edition" he wrote that THE FIRM OF GIRDLESTONE "stands for that crude and imitative stage through which an undeveloped writer may pass," but the book was included in the Crowborough Edition, and Conan Doyle suggested that "I find that it appeals strongly to a certain type of reader who tunes in to my own mind at that point."
3202. THE FIRM OF GIRDLESTONE is certainly a neglected book (although reprinted by Jack Tracy in 1980), and it is recommended to admirers of Conan Doyle who might wish to see how much or how little he actually owes to le Fanu. It should also be noted that UNCLE SILAS (1864) is not the only book by le Fanu of interest to Sherlockians: another is A LOST NAME (1868), discussed in letters to the Sherlock Holmes Journal by Cornelis Helling (spring 1960) and Sydney C. Roberts (winter 1960). A LOST NAME involves a man who plays the violin for inspiration when alone, who takes cocaine, and whose name is Carmel Sherlock.
3203. There are references to deer in three of the case (Reig, Abbe, and Wist), and our new stamp for the new postcard rate shows an attractive fawn.
3204. Andrew Jay Peck wonders about the fleeting view of Jay Ward and Bill Scott wearing deerstalkers in a photograph briefly shown in the PBS-TV special "Of Moose and Men" honoring Rocky and Bullwinkle. Does anyone know of a Sherlockian connection for the show, or for its creators?
3205. Sherlock Holmes has registered and entered the finals of the 1991 Fiddle Contest to be held in Shelburne, Ontario, on Aug. 10, according to George A. Vanderburgh. There will also be a Shelburne Fiddle Parade, with a float ("London: 1895") for visiting Sherlockians, and additional information is available from George at Box 204, Shelburne, Ont. L0N 1S0, Canada.
3206. A scholarly article by Marty Roth on "Sherlock Holmes and the Madness of Representation", in the summer 1990 issue of the North Dakota Quarterly, begins with a suggestion that Holmes is an "excessive figure" capable of generating "eagerness, study, adoration, fanatic clubs, and cult worship," and continues with an examination of various aspects of Holmes-as-hero. University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, ND 58202; \$5.00.

March 1991 #6

3207. SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS CONSULTING DETECTIVE: BROADCAST AND MOVIE LOG, by Gordon E. Kelley, is a checklist (36 pp.) of S'ian radio, records, television, and films, concentrating on adaptations of the Canonical tales but not ignoring the many pastiches in the long-running American radio series. Available for \$10.00 postpaid from the author, at 8600 University Boulevard, Evansville, IN 47712.
3208. Arthur Liebman, author of THE BIOGRAPHICAL SHERLOCK HOLMES, will offer an "Evening with Sherlock Holmes" at the New School for Social Research in New York at 8:00 pm on May 3. The address is 66 West 12th Street, the cost is \$10.00, and you can register for the evening by calling 212-741-5690.
3209. Andy Peck also reports that the Detective Book Club's three-in-one volume with Lloyd Biggle's THE QUALLSFORD INHERITANCE (February 87 #2) is offered at \$7.99 plus shipping in a list received from Black's Readers Service, Box 404, Roslyn, NY 11576. This may be a members-only offer.
3210. THE HOLMESIAN FEDERATION #8 is a fine addition to the series launched by Signe Landon in 1978; the current issue offers 129 pages of pastiches, tributes, and artwork by old hands (Tina Rhea, Brad Keefauver, Stefanie Hawks, Robert F. Fleissner, and Dana Martin Batory) and new, and it is available for \$6.00 postpaid from Signe Landon Danier, 3800 N.W. Van Buren, Corvallis, OR 97330.
3211. Mark Erdrich reports that Burbank Video has issued 18 cassettes, each with two of the 1954 television shows starring Ronald Howard, and that he has found the cassettes at a local K-Mart priced at \$3.95 each.
3212. Further to the report (February 91 #3) on how high Canadian postal rates are, Don Redmond reports that Canadian post offices also charge a 7% sales tax on purchases up to \$5.00. The tax is imposed on almost everything, and is called a Goods and Services Tax (GST, which many refer to as a Gouge and Screw Tax). Don also reports that many of his correspondents in the U.S. are overpaying postage. It may be a nuisance keeping a supply of different stamps on hand, but your local post office should have free charts showing the new domestic and international rates.
3213. A videotaper alert: Richard Wein reports that USA cable will show "Alfred Hitchcock Presents: My Dear Watson" on Apr. 5. As reported earlier, the best part of the show is the colorized introduction, which has Hitchcock himself, wearing a deerstalker and blowing bubbles from a calabash pipe.
3214. Also: "The Invisible Man" (1933) will be shown on American Movie Classics on Apr. 20; it has been reported that footage from the film (the Invisible Man moves a railway-switch lever) was used at the beginning of "Sherlock Holmes and the Voice of Terror" (1942). AMC will also show "Super-Sleuth" (1937) on Apr. 11 and 26; the film has two bits of Sherlockian dialogue. The Family Channel will air "Sherlock Holmes and the Secret Weapon" (1943) and "Terror by Night" (1946) on Apr. 6. And "Tales from the Darkside: The Movie" (1990) will be shown by HBO on Apr. 14, 16, 20, 25, and 26; one of the episodes in the film is an adaptation of Conan Doyle's "Lot No. 249".

April 1991 #1

3215. Edward Hardwicke, on his 21st birthday, was presented with a bound volume inscribed by many of his father's friends. One of those friends, a famous author, offered some advice: "Don't go on the stage, Edward, you would only be Cedric Hardwicke's son at best." The author was George Bernard Shaw; those who admire Edward Hardwicke's portrayal of Dr. Watson in the Granada series will be glad that he did not heed that advice.
3216. Further to the query (March 91 #5) about the photograph in "Of Moose and Men" showing Jay Ward and Bill Scott wearing deerstalkers, Jerry Margolin asked Skip Craig, editor of the show and a close friend of Ward, and the answer was "Ward and Scott just liked to wear funny hats." But the old shows did have Sherlockian content, as do the newly-released Buena Vista Home Video cassettes ("The Adventures of Rocky and Bullwinkle"). Rosemary Michaud reports that vol. 3 ("Vincent Van Moose") shows a S'ian figure trying to stop the Goof Gas Attack, and vol. 5 ("Le Grande Moose") shows Boris and Natasha dressed as Holmes and Watson, investigating the Box Top Robbery.
3217. Our current 21-cent definitive stamp honors Chester Carlson, one of the great benefactors of modern civilization. Even though he was not known to have been a Sherlockian, there are many of us who benefit from his genius, and it is a pity that very few people know who he was, and what he did.
3218. Denny Martin Flinn's SAN FRANCISCO KILLS (New York: Bantam Books, 1991; 200 pp., \$3.95) begins a new series about Spencer Holmes, a private detective who lives colorfully and eccentrically in San Francisco, and who happens to be the grandson of Sherlock Holmes. The plot is derivative (although not from the Canon), and the style a bit labored. KILLER FINISH, the next in the series, is forecast for Aug. 1991.
3219. Further to earlier reports (May 90 #7 and June 90 #6) on plans to expand the Granada Studios Tour in Manchester, British newspaper articles, at hand from Jon Lellenberg, report that the £1.5-million expansion should be completed and open to visitors at Easter. One of the new features will be a Sherlock Holmes Museum of Criminology, assembled with the assistance of The Arthur Conan Doyle Society and The Northern Musgraves.
3220. Also at hand from Jon is John Russell's review of Granada's "The Problem of Thor Bridge" in the Sunday Express (Mar. 3, 1991), with Russell's complaint that Jeremy Brett's "eerie trance-like state did not change from beginning to end of the sort of preposterous production that must have had Sir Arthur Conan Doyle spinning in his grave." And a letter in the paper on Mar. 10, from Dame Jean Conan Doyle, responding to the suggestion about Sir Arthur: "I think he would have enjoyed both the acting and the production."
3221. And a British press report that the twelve stories in the recent BBC Radio 4 series "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (with Clive Merrison as Holmes and Michael Williams as Watson) are now available on cassettes in the BBC's "Radio Collection". No details on prices or a source, but the cassettes may be available from the BBC World Information Centre and Shop, P.O. Box 76, Bush House, Strand, London WC2B 4PH, England (they take plastic).

April 1991 #2

3222. Carole Nelson Douglas' GOOD NIGHT, MR. HOLMES (October 90 #4) had three printings in hardcover, and will be published by Tor as a paperback in June (\$4.99). A sequel, GOOD MORNING, IRENE, is due from Tor/Tom Doherty in July (374 pp., \$19.95), and offers a new adventure involving Irene Adler Norton, her husband, and Penelope Huxleigh in an entertaining mystery set in Paris and Monte Carlo. Sherlock Holmes appears, from time to time, but it is the adventurous Irene who solves the mystery. To whet your appetite, here's a quote from the jacket blurb: "On the sailor's chest is a tattoo--a tattoo reminiscent of one Irene saw years ago in London, on another sailor's chest, while the corpse lay upon Bram Stoker's dining room table..."
3223. Carole Nelson Douglas is a fugitive from Minnesota (where she was a reporter, feature writer, and editor with the St. Paul Pioneer Press), now living in Fort Worth (where it's warmer), and she has had 22 novels published since her first appeared in 1980. Her genres include science fiction and fantasy (for Del Rey and Tor) and romances (four 1990 romances from Bantam were narrated by Midnight Louie, an 18-pound black alleycat, who will feature in DEAD MATTER, a humorous mystery due next year). The silhouette is her own portrait of Irene Adler Norton, who will appear in at least two more novels now in progress.
3224. Jennie Paton reports that the Sherlock Holmes episode with the near-sighted Mr. Magoo as Dr. Watson (D6098b) is included in the Paramount videocassette "Mr. Magoo's Literary Classics" (\$12.95); probably available at your local video store, but it's also offered by Movies Unlimited, 6736

Castor Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 91949 (800-523-0823). The same episode was issued a few years ago in another Paramount cassette ("Mister Magoo: Man of Mystery").

3225. Jennie also reports that "Greater Than Sherlock Holmes" is included in the videocassette "Films of Stan Laurel Volume 1" (\$24.95) offered by Facets Video, 1517 West Fullerton Avenue, Chicago, IL 60614 (800-331-6197). This is a ten-minute comedy made by Pathe in 1925, with Laurel in Sherlockian costume, released in the U.S. as "The Sleuth" and in France as "Plus fort que Sherlock Holmes".
3226. Reported by Gary Thaden: PETER RABBIT PAPER DOLLS IN FULL COLOR, by Kathy Allert (New York: Dover, 1982 but still in print; \$3.50); with one doll and 28 outfits, one of which is Sherlockian.
3227. Announced by the Opuscula Press: COLLECTING SHERLOCKIANA: AN ESSAY, by John Bennett Shaw, in a 16-page pamphlet with a frontispiece photograph showing the Sage of Santa Fe in his library. Available from the publisher (6307 Forrester Drive, Bradenton, FL 34202) for \$5.50 postpaid (\$7.00 outside the United States).
3228. John Aidiniantz is continuing his efforts to publicize his Sherlock Holmes Museum at 239 Baker Street. According to a recent Reuters dispatch, noted by Barbara Alder, Aidiniantz says that he has secretaries prepared to look up original train timetables for fans who thought Dr. Watson had caught a particular train." Reuters also quoted Erica Harper, who now answers the mail at Abbey National: "We have been replying to fans' letters since 1932

April 1991 #3

3229. Chester Carlson (April 91 #1) invented the photocopier. Anyone who doubts the value of this technology is too young to recall the distant days when purple hectograph masters were the only way one could publish newsletters at a reasonable cost.
3230. Graham Greene died on Apr. 3. He wrote a perceptive Introduction for the Murray/Cape edition of THE SIGN OF FOUR (1974), and, for the Spectator, warm reviews of Rathbone's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1939) and "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (1940), and he recommended Hesketh Pearson's biography CONAN DOYLE: HIS LIFE AND ART (1943), suggesting of Conan Doyle that "we see the large, sturdy, working shoulders, a face so commonplace that it has the effect of a time-worn sculpture representing some abstract quality like Kindness or Patience, but never, one would mistakenly have said, Imagination or Poetry." In his Foreword to Richard Lancelyn Green and John Michael Gibson's A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF A. CONAN DOYLE (1983), Greene noted that he had recently reread "A Study in Scarlet" (in his own copy of Beeton's Christmas Annual), cited a few of the Canonical discrepancies, and suggested that "some of the charm of the story-teller lies in the errors, as though we were listening to someone improvising a story for our amusement by our bedside."
3231. Travelers to Hyde Park for the Culinary Institute of America dinner on May 4 may also wish to attend the traditional (and recently confirmed) Pancake Breakfast at the Rhinebeck Firehouse on May 5.
3232. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle gave a series of lectures about spiritualism at Carnegie Hall in Apr. and May 1922 (filling the 3,500-seat house at each time). Our newest postal card honors the 100th anniversary of Carnegie Hall.
3233. Deer me, Mr. Blau. Deer me!" (as Prof. Moriarty almost said). There are two additional mentions of deer in the Canon (in Vall and Suss), not noted in the report (March 91 #5) on the new postage stamp, but carefully recorded by Hugh T. Harrington in HARRINGTON'S CANONICAL INDEX, available from The Village Bookshelf, Box 708, Massillon, OH 44648 (\$22.00 postpaid).
3234. Trevor Hall died on Mar. 8. In his school-days he was taken to London by his father and introduced to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. He was also taken to see Maskelyne's magic show, and Hall continued an interest in spiritualism and conjuring throughout his life, writing many books on both subjects. He also contributed to Sherlockian scholarship, with books such as SHERLOCK HOLMES: TEN LITERARY STUDIES (1969), THE LATE MR. SHERLOCK HOLMES & OTHER LITERARY STUDIES (1971), SHERLOCK HOLMES AND HIS CREATOR (1977), and his last book was THE LAST CASE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1986), a pastiche in which he used Sherlock Holmes to shed new light on the long-disputed haunting of Borley Rectory.
3235. Reported: THE NIGHT FANTASTIC, edited by Poul and Karen Anderson (New York: DAW Books, 1991; \$4.50); an anthology of fantasy short stories, including Fritz Leiber's "Midnight by the Morphy Watch" (first published in Worlds of If, Aug. 1974), with a passage of imaginary Sherlockian dialogue.

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3236. Geo. Gately's "Heathcliff" has occasionally appeared in S'ian costume in Sunday and daily comic strips, and he has now been spotted by Jack Kerr in full rig on the cover (only) of HEATHCLIFF: THE CAT DETECTIVE (New York: Tor Books, 1991; \$3.50).
3237. Charles Goren died on Apr. 3. A world-famous expert on bridge (he made the cover of Time), he started his widely-read newspaper column about the game in 1944 (and was joined by Omar Sharif as co-author in 1970); the column included occasional mentions of Sherlock Holmes.
3238. "Well, I quite my job so I could work all alone,/Then I changed my name to Sherlock Holmes." Those are two lines from the lyrics of a Bob Dylan song that was banned by the Columbia Broadcasting System from the Ed Sullivan show in 1963, and until now available only on bootleg albums. But times do change, and "Talkin' John Birch Paranoid Blues" (recorded live at Carnegie Hall on Oct. 26, 1963) has been issued by Columbia Records in a authorized collection called THE BOOTLEG SERIES VOLS. 1-3 (RARE AND UNRELEASED) 1961-1991. The collection is available as a three-CD set (C3K-47382) at \$44.99 and as a three-cassette set (C3T-47382) at \$34.99 and on records.
3239. Sean O'Faolain died on Apr. 20. He was an Irish patriot and a member of the IRA in the 1920s, and then turned to writing, becoming world-famous for his short stories. In his essay "Good Night, Sweet Sherlock" (in the Jan. 1975 issue of Playboy) he suggested that "the magic of Sherlock Holmes has faded because crime has caught up with him," and that Holmes "was far too successful to remain persuasive in these all too crime-laden days."
3240. Reported by Jerry Margolin: a new souvenir sheet from the Commonwealth of Dominica that shows "Sherlock Holmes & Dr. Watson watching Brunigline train (built 1888) descending from the Brunig Pass towards Meiringen". It's part of a set showing trains (popular with topical collectors, as well as with small countries that need the money), and there's no need to consult your local stamp dealer (unless you want the complete set): our next issue will tell you how to obtain the souvenir sheet and the first day cover.

April 1991 #5

3241. David Lean died on Apr. 16. He was a magnificent director (his best-known films are "The Bridge on the River Kwai", "Lawrence of Arabia", "Dr. Zhivago" and "A Passage to India"), and his 16 films won 28 Academy Awards, including two Oscars for Lean himself. He was knighted in 1984, and received the American Film Institute's Life Achievement Award in 1990. And he was happy to acknowledge his debt to Sherlock Holmes (and Eille Norwood): "at 17, I sneaked into my first cinema, 'The Hound of the Baskervilles', and it had immediate magic for me."
3242. Robert C. Hess (559 Potters Boulevard, Brightwaters, NY 11718) has a new sales list, with more than a hundred items of Sherlockiana: sculptures, china, artwork, dolls, theatrical postcards and programs and posters, and some books and magazines.
3243. An illustrated flier at hand from Schomberg Miniatures (52 Proctor Road, Schomberg, Ont. L0G 1T0, Canada) offering a set of figures (Sherlock Holmes and four of the Irregulars) sculpted by John Pryce and cast in pewter, with a walnut base (CA\$195.00 plus \$15.00 shipping to the U.S.).

3244. "There was excellent wild-duck shooting in the fens," Sherlock Holmes said (in "The Gloria Scott"). Robert Giusti's portrait of a wood duck appears on our new booklet stamps.
3245. The revised and enlarged edition of A CATALOGUE OF CRIME, by Jacques Barzun and Wendell Hertig Taylor (New York: Harper & Row, 1989; 922 pp., \$50.00), has been remaindered at \$14.98 and at that price is value-for-money, both as a useful reference work to crime fiction and for the authors' often entertaining opinions on the thousands of items considered.
3246. THE ADVENTURE OF THE DOC-CROAKERS' DIRK is the latest round-robin pastiche written by members of The Pleasant Places of Florida (16 pp., and \$4.00 postpaid from Ben Wood, Box 740, Ellenton, FL 34222).
3247. Local guidebooks are often enjoyable, especially when they include a bit of local history. WELCOME TO WOKING, edited by Ray Veasey and Peter Farr, is a fine example, devoting a page to Borough of Woking resident H. G. Wells (who reduced Woking to "a heap of fiery ruins" in THE WAR OF THE WORLDS) and mentioning in passing that "The Naval Treaty" also involves Woking (but not that Frank and Maude Crosse lived and loved in Woking in Conan Doyle's romantic novel A DUET: WITH AN OCCASIONAL CHORUS). Also in the borough is Brookwood Cemetery, opened by the Necropolis & National Mausoleum Company in 1854, and prominently featured in Basil Copper's NECROPOLIS (1980). The 104-page booklet is available from the Woking Borough Council, Gloucester Square, Woking, Surrey GU21 1YL, England; £1.50.
3248. Patti Nead Elrod's THE VAMPIRE FILES #4
3249. ART IN THE BLOOD (New York: Ace Books, 1991; 195 pp., \$3.95) is the latest in her series about Jack Fleming (vampire) and Charles Escott (private detective); the only Canonical echo in this volume is in the title (and the epigraph). THE VAMPIRE FILES #5
3250. FIRE IN THE BLOOD is forecast for June 1991. Her artistic "Baker Street Ir-rag-ulars" (original soft sculptures of Sherlock Holmes, Dr. Watson, and special commissions) are still available: send a #10 SASE for additional information (4800 Kilpatrick Avenue, Fort Worth, TX 76107).

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3251. Readers who are also baseball fans may recall the Sherlockian commercial that aired on CBS-TV at the end of the 1990 season, produced by Brouillard Communications for the American Gas Association and Lennox Gas Furnaces (with Patrick Horgan as Holmes and Sandy Marshall as Watson). The commercial will be broadcast again this year, during the American League and National League playoffs, and during the World Series.
3252. Mentions of the BSI in non-Sherlockian fiction aren't all that common, but Dean Clark has discovered a new one, in Allen Steele's science-fiction novel CLARKE COUNTY, SPACE (New York: Ace Books, 1990; \$4.50).
3253. "A Birthday on Baker Street" and "A Day in the Life of Mr. Sherlock Holmes" are one-act comedies written in 1990 by Mohamad Bazzi, sparking-plug of The Young Sherlockians of New York. Both plays will be performed at the Central Library Auditorium at 89-11 Merrick Boulevard, Jamaica, N.Y., at 1:30 pm on Apr. 3 (admission is free).
3254. Further to Mark Erdrich's report (March 91 #6) that 36 of the 1954 television shows starring Ronald Howard have been issued on 18 cassettes (at \$3.95 per cassette at his local K-Mart), the company named on the cassette sleeves is Video Classics and the name on the cassettes is Burbank Video.
3255. Cynthia Wein (65 Briarwood Lane, Plainview, NY 11803) offers a hand-painted 18x18" needlepoint canvas with a bold portrait of Sherlock Holmes in white, black, and red. The cost of the kit (canvas and yarn) is \$58.00 postpaid, and if you would like to see a color photograph, send an SASE to Cynthia.
3256. Some of the Canadian HOLMES (Home Office Large Major Enquiry System) items (July 89 #2 and September 89 #4) are still available from Sgt. David A. Reinhardt (76 Lord Simcoe Drive, Bramalea, Ont. L6S 5G6, Canada): lapel pins (\$4.00), mechanical pencils (\$2.00), and neckties (\$15.00). The necktie is in navy blue with the white HOLMES design (and a red maple leaf to show you're not advertising the British system). Prices are in U.S. dollars and postpaid.
3257. New comic books: BAKER STREET #7 (from Caliber, \$2.50 and recommended for "mature audiences") continues "Children of the Night" (not Sherlockian but with allusions that include of Chief Inspector Lester Strand and a club called The Baskervilles) and TIMEWANKERS #3 (from Eros, \$2.25 and for very mature audiences, since it's straight porno) has Jonathan Fegly in S'ian costume in Victorian London (but only on the cover).

May 91 #1

3258. FLASHMAN AND THE MOUNTAIN OF LIGHT, by George MacDonald Fraser (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1991; 367 pp., \$22.00), is an account the exploits of Lt. Harry Flashman in the Punjab in 1845 (too early for anything Sherlockian, but it's nice indeed to have another Flashman book after so long a wait). Fraser's "explanatory note" mentions Flashman's "brief excursion, as yet unpublished, to a brawl in Baker Street as far ahead as 1894, when he was in his seventy-second year." That story ("Flashman & the Tiger") has been published, actually, in installments in the [London] Daily Express, Sept. 29-Oct. 3, 1975, but has not yet appeared in a Flashman book.
3259. The Canon has many mentions of eagles, although none of them are described as being bald; our new commemorative honoring U.S. Savings Bonds shows a handsome bald eagle.
3260. Reported (in a British newspaper article received from Jon Lellenberg): SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE HENTZAU AFFAIR, a new pastiche by David Stuart Davies (Ian Henry, £9.95). A second pastiche (THE TANGLED SKEIN) is set for publication next year.
3261. SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT SHERLOCK HOLMES is a 30-page pamphlet offering two new pastiches written by Michael Senuta, and an analysis of the stories in THE CASEBOOK OF SHERLOCK HOLMES. Available from the author (881 Columbine Drive, Barberton, OH 44203) for \$8.00 postpaid.
3262. Some tekkie-talk for computer-literate Sherlockians: DAK Industries (8200 Remmet Avenue, Canoga Park, CA 91304) is a marketer (not a manufacturer), and their summer 1991 catalog offers a Marstek Mars 105 hand-held scanner bundled with an OCR system, for \$150. The OCR system will save a text scan as a Lotus, Microsoft Word, WordPerfect, or WordStar file, or as a plain ASCII file. Marstek claims an accuracy of 99.5%, but DAK suggests that 92% accuracy is more realistic, and that a spelling-checker be run on the file (which should be done in case). This is a real advance on old technology: only a few years ago a decent OCR machine cost thousands of dollars, with accuracy of about 80%.
3263. Ake Runnquist ("Jacob Shafter") died on Apr. 23 in Stockholm. He was for many years senior literary editor for Albert Bonniers Forlag, dealing with both Scandinavian and foreign literature, and carefully ensured that a fine Swedish translation of the Canon remained in print (a three-volume edition was reissued by Bonniers in 1985). His interest in the mystery field was also one of long standing (he and Jorgen Elgstrom collaborated on a SVENSK MORDBOK in 1957), and he was a devoted Sherlockian, attending meetings in Scandinavia and (when he could) in other countries, including the United States, where he received his Investiture at the annual dinner in 1981. A fine example of his warm and gentle humor will be found in his review of a Dublin production of Hugh Leonard's play "The Mask of Moriarty" in Baker Street Miscellanea (spring 1986).
3264. Noted in the summer 1991 catalog from What On Earth: a 10-inch "Sherlock Troll" doll (\$29.95) as well as other older offers. Their address is 2451 Enterprise East Parkway, Twinsburg, OH 44087, and they take plastic.

May 91 #2

3265. Reported by Ely Liebow: READING(S), a freshman reader edited by Geoffrey and Judith Summerfield (New York: Random House, 1989), with excerpts from "A Study in Scarlet" and from Joseph Bell's introduction (retitled here as "How Conan Doyle Learned to Read").
3266. The next "Canonical Convocation and Caper" is scheduled for Sept. 13-15 in Door County, Wis. The guest speakers will include Norman Davis, Elizabeth Kowols, and Alfred A. Levin, and there is much more on the agenda. Donald B. Izban (5334 Wrightwood Avenue, Chicago, IL 60639) will be happy to send more information on request.
3267. There wasn't enough warning to include a videotaper alert in the previous issue, but "Father Dowling Mysteries" on ABC-TV on Apr. 25 handled the appearance of Sherlock Holmes rather nicely. "The Consulting Detective Mystery" undoubtedly will be run again: according to the TV Guide listing, "Dowling (Tom Bosley) doubles his deductive powers while investigating a murder by consulting with his mentor Sherlock Holmes (Rupert Frazer), whom only he can see."
3268. The same problem arose with "Life Goes On" on ABC-TV on Apr. 28, when one of the sub-plots involved two of the kids in a Sherlockian investigation, and in Sherlockian costume. Watch for the repeat: TV Guide said, "Cork and Zoe play Sherlock Holmes and snoop into Tyler's furtive behavior."
3269. For those who missed the shows and don't want to wait for a repeat, "Father Dowling Mysteries" and "Life Goes On" are available on a VHS cassette from Jennie Paton's lending library. Another of her lending-library cassettes has the "Saturday Night Live" segment with Jeremy Irons as Sherlock Holmes (from Mar. 23) and other short items. The arrangement is a lending-library charge of \$5.00 per cassette, and borrowers pay the return postage. Write to Jennie C. Paton, 206 Loblolly Lane, Statesboro, GA 30458.
3270. Maurice Binder died on Apr. 9 in London. He was a graphics arts designer, best known for his splendid title sequences for the James Bond films, but his designs can also be seen in the titles for "Indiscreet" (1958), "The Mouse That Roared" (1959), "The Grass Is Greener" (1960), and "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970).
3271. Returning to "Father Dowling Mysteries", it was noted that Holmes drove a car during the program. Can anyone recall any earlier film or television show in which Holmes drove a car?
3272. The Apr. 1991 issue of The Devonshire Chronicle also at hand, with a nice reprint of the traditionally-seated group photograph from the 1991 annual dinner of the BSI. It's published quarterly for The Chester Baskerville Society's quarterly and the cost is \$4.00 a year, from Michael W. McClure (1415 Swanwick Street, Chester, IL 62233).
3273. DOCTOR WHO: THE SCRIPTS: THE TALONS OF WENG-CHIANG (London: Titan Books, 1989; 154 pp., £3.95), offers Robert Holmes' complete script for the most Sherlockian story in the "Doctor Who" television series, broadcast in 1977 (Tom Baker was in S'ian costume, battling giant rats in Victorian London), accompanied by some interesting background information by John McElroy.

May 91 #3

3274. Reported: GOJIRO, by Mark Jacobson (New York: Atlantic Monthly Press, 1991; \$22.95); a novel about a 500-foot-tall lizard with human intelligence (and if you think you've heard of the lizard before, you have: the 1954 Japanese film "Gojiro" was retitled "Godzilla" for release in the U.S.). According to David Sacks (in the N.Y. Times Book Review), the book is "profoundly strange, often hilarious, but erratic," and seems to have a "submerged allusion" to "Sherlock Holmes and the Secret Weapon".
3275. Sherlockians (and others) who have long yearned to see the uncut three-hour version of Billy Wilder's "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970) will welcome the news that Wilder was quoted in Liz Smith's syndicated column last month as saying that the film is to be restored, edited, and released in all its original glory (as has been done with "Lawrence of Arabia" and "Spartacus").
3276. "Blood-curdling drama" was the phrase Nicholas Utechin used to describe a dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" performed by the Steeple Aston Players in Mar. 1982. And the three-act script, written by Anthony Hinds (the producer of Peter Cushing's 1959 film), is now available from the New Playwrights' Network (35 Sandringham Road, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK10 1QB, England) for £5.45 postpaid (sterling only, please).
3277. Videotaper alert: the 30-minute series "The Collectors" (produced by Oregon Public Television) will have a segment called "Great Characters" (about an imagined meeting of characters such as Mickey Mouse, Howdy Doody, the Star Wars crew, and Sherlock Holmes) that includes a short interview with Jerry Margolin. The program (broadcast in Oregon on Feb. 18) is syndicated, and will be broadcast on Maryland Public Television on June 16 (and repeated on June 22); the series is not networked, so you should check with your local stations for dates and times.
3278. "The Battered Silicon Dispatch Box" is the working title for what will be (eventually) a Hypertext edition of THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES: the text of the stories, with annotations from Baring-Gould's THE ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES, entries from Tracy's THE ENCYCLOPAEDIA SHERLOCKIANA, and anything else that might be appropriate. Hypertext is a computer program that is used to scroll through text, calling up annotations that appear in windows on the screen. A floppy-disk (MS-DOS) test version of "The Red Circle" (annotated from Baring-Gould) is available from George A. Vanderburgh, Box 204, Shelburne, Ont. L0N 1S0, Canada, for US\$5.00 postpaid (make sure you specify whether your drive is 3.5-inch or 5.25-inch).
3279. The Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles have gone Sherlockian. Well, one of them, anyway. Jeff Huddleston's imaginative "Michaelange-Holmes" appears as the centerfold in the Apr. 1991 issue of Holmes for the Holidays, published for young mystery fans by Michael W. McClure (1415 Swanwick Street, Chester, IL 62233); \$7.50 a year for five issues.
3280. Responding to a few queries: Northstar did publish CASES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES #20 (with a 1990 copyright date), with Dan and David Day's art illustrating "The Red-Headed League". #21 has not been seen or reported, and there have been unconfirmed reports that Northstar ended their comic-book series with #20. Northstar's address is 10829 South Western #2-C, Chicago, IL 60643.

May 91 #4

3281. The celebration of the "Reichenbach Centennial" at the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park on May 4 was both delightful and delicious. There were six buffet alcoves in the Great Hall, honoring various countries and cuisines associated with the historic confrontation and its aftermath, and a seventh buffet table offered deserts for those who were still hungry. Al and Julie Rosenblatt and Fritz Sonnenschmidt did a magnificent job with the meal and with its accompaniments, which included a delightful display of Reichenbach artwork (one splendid item being Sidney Paget's original ink-and-wash drawing for one of the illustrations, loaned to the exhibition by Willy Werby).
3282. The evening's agenda also included toasts (traditional and untraditional), an award of the BSI's Queen Victoria Medal to Fritz Sonnenschmidt, and the announcement by Ev Herzog of four new memberships and (imaginatively ashy) investitures in the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes: John Bennett Shaw ("Arcadia"), Peter E. Blau ("Ship's"), Thomas L. Stix, Jr. ("Shag"), and the late William S. Baring-Gould ("The Blue Swirl of His Tobacco Smoke").
3283. Tom Stix was awarded the formal (and ornate) regalia of the Sherlockian Order of the Garter, in recognition of his contributions to the cause, and Al and Julie Rosenblatt received a copy of Dec. 1893 issue of The Strand Magazine (with the first appearance in print of "The Final Problem"), and

- formal greetings were offered to the celebrants at the CIA by the Mayor of Meiringen (and the title of honorary citizen of Meiringen was awarded to Sherlock Holmes).
3284. Extra copies of the artistic 16-page menu are available for those who could not attend the festivities: \$15.00 postpaid from Albert M. Rosenblatt, Box 221-B, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569.
3285. A plug for Mysteries by Mail (Box 679, Boonville, CA 95415): their catalogs offer a wide range of in-print (Sherlockian and other) books, video, and audio, and they have a toll-free number (800-722-0726).
3286. Syd Goldberg reports that one of his British correspondents reports that Granada is planning "Charles Augustus Milverton" as a two-hour special for Christmas, and may do other stories as well. And (according to a story in the Glasgow Daily Record on May 4, reported by Jon Lellenberg) Granada is not concerned about the need to pad out a short story to fill two hours.
3287. The Waterloo Sherlockian Letter is published occasionally by Chris Redmond, offering comment and commentary on whatever comes to Chris' inventive mind. He has no subscription department, but past and current issues (there have been five so far) are available: a dollar or two in U.S. currency will take care of the postage, and his address is 523 Westfield Drive, Waterloo, Ont. N2T 2E1, Canada. Canadians can send postage stamps, Chris advises, since Canada no longer has dollar bills.
3288. The new Sherlockian souvenir sheet from the Commonwealth of Dominica (April 91 #4) is now available from Ben Wood (Box 740, Ellenton, FL 34222). The souvenir (mint) costs \$4.00 postpaid, and the first day cover costs \$5.00 postpaid. I also recommend Ben's own irregular newsletter, The Bohemian Scandal Sheet, which is available from Ben on request and without charge.

May 91 #5

3289. The newly-expanded Granada Studios Tour is now open, with the Sherlock Holmes Museum of Criminology, a visit to the interior set of 221B, and a stroll along Baker Street (and on May 22 a celebration of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's birthday included a half-hour dramatization of the first meeting between Holmes and Watson, and a Sherlockian debate in Granada's version of the House of Commons). A nicely illustrated booklet describing the S'ian and other attractions is available from the Granada Studios Tour, Water Street, Manchester M60 9EA, England.
3290. Klondike Holmes appeared in advertising inserts on May 5, promoting a new "Crack the Klondike Caper" contest in which one of the prizes appears to be a Klondike bear in Sherlockian costume. Details are available on packages of Klondike ice-cream bars, or you can send a SASE to Klondike Caper Rules, Box 8600, Westport, CT 06888.
3291. The spring 1991 issue of Freedom Minnesota, reported by Gary Thaden, has a delightful full-page and full-color Sherlockian illustration by Brian Ajhar (for a non-S'ian article about cholesterol and fat). The publisher is the Physicians Health Plan of Minnesota (Communications Dept.), Box 1587, Minneapolis, MN 55440.
3292. The 25th issue of The Tonga Times (the newsletter of the Mini-Tonga Scion Society) at hand, with news of Sherlockian miniatures, including reprints of Dee Snyder's interesting articles in the program book for the July 1990 N.A.M.E. Houseparty and in the Dec. 1990 issue of Nutshell News. Send a #10 SASE to Dee Snyder, 8440 Nashua Drive, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418.
3293. And the Dec. 1990 issue of Nutshell News is desirable for the fine color photographs of Sherlockian houses and rooms accompanying Dee's article. The address is Box 1612, Waukesha, WI 53187 (800-446-5489), and the issue costs \$3.50 (shipping extra).
3294. Plan ahead: the eleventh annual Sherlock Holmes/Conan Doyle Symposium at Wright State University in Dayton will be held on Mar. 13-15, 1992. The mailing list for the symposium is maintained by Alvin E. Rodin, 3041 Maginn Drive, Beavercreek, OH 45385.
3295. Ann Byerly has a new address: 2600 Tunlaw Road NW #1, Washington, DC 20007 (her telephone number has not changed).
3296. Jon Lellenberg reports that Prodigy (the on-line computer service) will run a Sherlockian game during July. "In London with Sherlock Holmes" will be sponsored by the National Geographic, with Holmes and Watson exploring the geography of London in "The Adventure of the Jubilee Diamond".
3297. Lenore Glen Offord ("The Old Russian Woman") died on Apr. 24. She wrote fine mystery novels in the 1930s and 1940s, and reviewed mysteries for the San Francisco Chronicle for more than 30 years. She was also an ardent Sherlockian, a member of The Scowrers and Mollie Maguires, and the first woman to receive an Investiture in the BSI (from Edgar W. Smith, in 1958); her poetic speculation on her Investiture (in six stanzas, and with eight footnotes) can be found in the anthology WEST BY ONE AND BY ONE (1965).

May 91 #6

3298. John Mortimer's "Summer's Lease" (on "Masterpiece Theatre" on PBS-TV) turned out to be more Sherlockian than predicted (February 91 #4). Those who did not watch the mini-series are urged to wait for the repeat: there is mystery and humor and fine acting, and the theme of "The Copper Beeches" is echoed in the mystery. The first episode also contains a bibliographic mystery: a long shot of Molly starting to read "The Copper Beeches" in a copy of the John Murray edition of THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES is followed by a close-up of the first page of the story in the John Murray edition of SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE COMPLETE SHORT STORIES.
3299. And the cast included two actors who have played Holmes (John Gielgud and Michael Pennington), and one who has played Watson (Dennis Lill). Gielgud starred on radio in "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (1954), Pennington on television in "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" (1987), and Lill on stage in the London production of "The Crucifer of Blood" (1979).
3300. "Autumn in Baker Street" will be held on Nov. 2-3 at the Tarrytown Hilton in Tarrytown, N.Y., according to an announcement sent by Bob Thomalen. The price is \$145 per person (double occupancy) for meals, room, refreshments during the sessions, and an agenda that features Murray Cantor, Bob Hess, Susan Rice, Paul Singleton, Dante Torrese, Jean Upton, Delia Vargas, and Joanne Zahorsky. The hotel is taking reservations now (914-631-5700), and a copy of the announcement is available from Robert E. Thomalen at 69 Glen Road, Eastchester, NY 10709.
3301. Startling Mystery Stories was launched in 1966 by Robert A. W. Lowndes, who published August Derleth's "The Adventure of the Tottenham Werewolf" in the spring 1967 issue, earning Lowndes his "Praed Street Penny" from Luther L. Norris, on which Lowndes reported in his column "The Cauldron" in the fall 1967 issue. Those who were wise enough to preserve this piece of Pontine ephemera in their collections will be pleased to learn that the fall 1967 issue is of interest for more than its editor's column: it also has a story called "The Glass Floor" (the first published work of Stephen King), and it is now priced at \$750 in a catalog just received from Paul Merz (Sandpiper Books, Box 1273, Long Beach, WA 98631). Paul's catalog also includes some Sherlockian material (at reasonable prices).
3302. Forecast for 1992: TALES OF MEDICAL HUMANISM AND VALUES, by Alvin E. Rodin and Jack D. Key; this will be an annotated edition of ACD's ROUND THE RED LAMP, six additional medical short stores, and the text of an address to medical students in 1910. Their earlier MEDICAL CASEBOOK OF ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE, a 506-page examination and discussion of his medical career and the medical aspects of his literary work, is still available from the Krieger Publishing Co., Box 9542, Melbourne, FL 32902 (\$36.00 plus \$4.00 shipping, and they take plastic).

3303. One of the nicest things about traveling in Britain is the wide variety of guidebooks available to the tourist (Sherlockian or otherwise), and a fine example is HIDDEN SUSSEX -- THE TOWNS, by Warden Swinfen and David Arscott (Brighton: BBC Radio Sussex, 1990; 158 pp., £4.95). The book provides an informed survey of the legends and history of towns such as Eastbourne, Horsham, Lewes, and Newhaven (all mentioned in the Canon), and Crowborough (with proper attention to its famous resident Sir Arthur Conan Doyle).

May 91 #7

3304. More news on the Harmony Gold television films with Christopher Lee and Patrick Macnee, which are now being syndicated by All American Television to independent stations in the U.S. "Sherlock Holmes: Incident at Victoria Falls" is open for broadcast as a four-hour special in a four-week window (Feb. 17 through Mar. 15, 1992), and will be followed by "Sherlock Holmes and the Leading Lady" (Apr. 20 through May 17). "Victoria Falls" also stars Jenny Seagrove (who played Mary Morstan in Granada's "The Sign of Four") as Lilly Langtry, and Claude Akins as Teddy Roosevelt. "The Leading Lady" (as reported earlier) also features Morgan Fairchild as Irene Adler, and Engelbert Humperdinck as Eberhardt Bohm.
3305. Three collections of Sherlockiana written by members of The Speckled Band of Boston are still available, from J. Devereux deGozzaldi, Graystone Farm, 79 Frankland Road, Hopkinton, MA 01748 (all prices postpaid): THE FOURTH CAB (1976) and THE BEST OF THE CABS (1980) in paper (\$8.00 each), and THE FIFTH CAB (1988) in cloth (\$40.00) and paper (\$15.00). Also available are Mark Faverman's handsome full-color poster honoring the 50th anniversary of the Band in 1990 (\$20.00) and the society's silk necktie in maroon or navy blue (\$20.00 or two for \$35.00).
3306. The Apr. 1987 issue of the Magazine Litteraire paid tribute to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle with 51 pages of articles and essays, many original, and with some reprint material translated into French. Gerald F. O'Hara now offers THE CONAN DOYLE FILE, with the original material translated into English, for US\$10.00 postpaid; his address is 3912-115A Street, Edmonton, AB T6J 1R1, Canada.
3307. At hand from Paul Singleton is an article from the Sherlock Holmes Gazette about plans to renovate The Sherlock Holmes in Northumberland Street. Work will start in November, and Whitbread expects to spend £500,000 on a new facade and internal alterations that will provide a better viewing area for the recreation of the sitting-room. Landlord Dennis Hough notes that the pub is a favorite with foreign tourists (about 50% from Japan, 30% from the U.S., and 10% from Italy). Another article reports that the Ladbroke Group will spend more than £1 million refurbishing The Sherlock Holmes Hotel in Baker Street. The hotel's 126 bedrooms are to be "themed and redesigned" in Victorian style.
3308. THE MISADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, edited by Sebastian Wolfe and first published in Britain in 1989, has been reprinted here (New York: Citadel Press, 1991; 249 pp., \$16.95 cloth, \$10.95 paper). The anthology reprints some of the better burlesques, parodies, and pastiches (only one of which is to be found in Ellery Queen's anthology, of which Wolfe was unaware when he chose the title for his book), and offers one new pastiche ("The Affair of the Midnight Midget", by Ardath Mayhar).
3309. M. J. Trow's LESTRADE AND THE GIFT OF THE PRINCE (London: Constable, 1991; 208 pp., £12.99) is the ninth in his series about Sholto Lestrade, who has been summoned to Scotland (where a Scotland Yard superintendent lacks any jurisdiction and gets little if any respect) for an investigation of crimes at Balmoral and Glamis. Trow thoroughly libels the Scots (he lives safely on the Isle of Wight, about as far as one can get from Scotland and still be in Britain), and as usual his book is packed with broad humor and puns.
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May 91 #8

3310. Barney Gould, one of San Francisco's most famous press agents, died on May 8. He was an enthusiastic member of the Scowlers and Molly Maguires, and in 1982 wrote a play that used Holmes and Watson to expound Alden Brooks' hypothesis that Shakespeare's plays and sonnets were actually written by Sir Edward Dyer. The play was revised with the help of Peter Donat, and "Sherlock Holmes and the Shakespeare Solution" was staged in Barrie, Ont., in 1986, and in Sunnyvale, Calif., in 1989.
3311. Simon & Schuster Audio's THE NEW ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES #12 is now in the stores, according to Jack Kerr, with the 1945 Rathbone/Bruce radio broadcasts of "The Problem of Thor Bridge" and "The Adventure of the Double Zero" (at this rate there will soon be new issues beyond the 14 cassettes in the subscription series from American Express). Jack also reports that MURDER TAKES A HOLIDAY (New York: Galley Books, 1991; \$6.95 on the discount tables) includes "The Adventure of the Devil's Foot" and Vincent Starrett's (non-Sherlockian) "Food for Sharks".
3312. Reported: SHERLOCK HOUND: DR. WATSON, I PRESUME? (a two-hour videocassette from Celebrity Home Entertainment at \$29.99), with more animations from the amusing Japanese/Italian series.
3313. Ted Bergman's just-published SHERLOCK HOLMES I SVERIGE: EN BIBLIOGRAFI is a careful and detailed examination of Sherlockiana published in Sweden from 1891 to 1990. The 155-page bibliography includes a summary in English of Ted's introduction, and a glossary, and offers a splendid demonstration of the long-standing Swedish interest in the Canon and the Writings About the Writings. Copies are available for \$12.00 (currency only, please) from Ted Bergman, Storkvagen 10, S-181 40 Lidingo, Sweden.
3314. Charles Goodman ("The Stockbroker's Clerk") died this spring. Charlie was Christopher Morley's dentist, a member of the Grillparzer Club in the early 1930s, and the last survivor of those present at the first annual dinner of the BSI in 1934. He contributed to our literature, with three long letters he had received from Sherlock Holmes' dentist, Charles A. Wilson (who noted his gratitude to Edgar W. Smith for an offer of honorary membership in the BSI). Charlie was a founder of The Diogenes Club of New York in 1944 (the club's Lantern of Diogenes Awards, for clarity of Sherlockian scholarship, were given to Christopher Morley, President Harry S. Truman, and others), and he received his Investiture in 1950 and his Two-Shilling Award in 1977.
3315. Howard Einbinder (180 Clinton Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201) reports that many Sherlockian items (books, recordings, comics, and art) are still available from his collection; send a #10 SASE for a copy of his sales list.
3316. Reported: The Sherlock Holmes Gazette, a new quarterly edited by Elizabeth Wiggins and published by Theme Publications, 43 Bowleaze Coveaway, Weymouth, Dorset DT3 6PL, England (\$40.00 year, and they take plastic).
3317. Incidental intelligence: the U.S. Postal Service delivers a total of 166 billion letters, publications, and packages each year, including 52 billion pieces of third-class advertising (known as junk mail to its detractors).
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June 1991 #1

3318. B. L. Reid's THE LIVES OF ROGER CASEMENT (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1976), recently found on a discount table outside a local used-book shop, is a fine biography, and recommended to those who wish to know more (much more) about one of Conan Doyle's contemporaries. Casement and Conan Doyle worked with E. D. Morel in a campaign against atrocities in the Congo (see Conan Doyle's THE CRIME OF THE CONGO), and in June 1910 they dined and went to see a performance of "The Speckled Band". Conan Doyle wrote to Casement in Aug. 1910 about "a sort of wild boy's book" and asked him to send along "anything weird & strange" he had discovered in South America that might be suitable for the book. Casement visited Conan Doyle in 1912, a few months before "The Lost World" began running in The Strand Magazine. And in 1916, after Casement had been convicted and sentenced to death for treason, Conan Doyle circulated a petition urging (unsuccessfully) that Casement's life be spared. In 1936,
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Herbert Spencer Dickey, an American doctor who had known and traveled with Casement in Brazil in 1911, suggested that the infamous "Black Diaries" were a forgery perpetrated by the British government, based on an account of sexual perversions among South American natives, dictated by Dickey to Casement and sent by Casement to Conan Doyle.

3319. Our compliments to John Bennett Shaw, who was on display this spring in Albuquerque in the Jonson Gallery of the University of New Mexico's Art Museum, in an exhibit of "2,000 Years of Contemporary New Mexico Ceramics". The clay-and-mixed-media portrait is 20 inches high and was sculpted by Caryn Ostrowe-Wagner in 1985.
3320. The Scottish art market "appears to have recovered its nerve ahead of the rest of the world," according to an article in the May 4 issue of the [London] Independent, at hand from Jon Lellenberg. At Christie's sale of fine paintings and drawings at Edinburgh's Royal College of Physicians, one of the paintings was "Dancing Round the Moon" (described in the article as "a watercolor of fairies and demons, with the odd policeman and jockey thrown in"), by Charles Altamont Doyle (Sir Arthur's father). Estimated at £3,000 to £5,000, the painting made £9,350 at the auction.
3321. Cameron Hollyer wonders who it was who first used the word "Canon" to refer to *our* Sacred Writings. In SHERLOCK HOLMES: FACT OR FICTION? (1932), T. S. Blakeney refers (p. 40) to S. C. Roberts having refused to dogmatize on the "canonicity" of at least one story, and (p. 43) to one of the stories being outside the limits of Ronald A. Knox's "canon". Was Blakeney the first use "Canon" (or "canon") in our context?
3322. Tom Stix has found that there are two variants of Edgar W. Smith's pamphlet THE NAPOLEON OF CRIME: PROLEGOMENA TO A MEMOIR OF PROFESSOR JAMES MORIARTY, SC. D. (D3582a). Julian Wolff's copy is #7, inscribed by Edgar on Mar. 16, 1953, and has on the front cover only the title THE NAPOLEON OF CRIME. The other variant has the full title on the cover, and several copies are known inscribed by Edgar on Mar. 9, 1953, and with higher numbers (but none lower than #15). If you have a copy numbered lower than #15, please let Tom know the details (his address is 34 Pierson Avenue, Norwood, NJ 07648).

June 1991 #2

3323. Angus Wilson died on May 31. He wrote fiction, biography, and literary criticism, and was made a fellow of the Royal Society of Literature in 1958 (and served as its president from 1982 to 1988). He received a C.B.E. in 1968, and a knighthood in 1980, and his enthusiasm for the Canon is well demonstrated in his Introduction for the 1974 Murray/Cape edition of THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES.
3324. John Mortimer's "Summer's Lease" on "Masterpiece Theatre" (May 91 #6) had no Sherlockian allusions in the third and fourth episodes, but was a fine program nevertheless. There are Canonical references in the book, which is available as a tie-in trade paperback (New York: Penguin Books, 1991; 288 pp., \$8.95); it was first published in Britain and the U.S. in 1988, and a signed edition was published by the Franklin Library.
3325. Spotted by Mary Lellenberg: three thoroughly Sherlockian candlesticks in the summer 1991 issue of Design for Living, the mail-order catalog issued by Bloomingdale's (475 Knotter Drive, Cheshire, CT 06410). The candlesticks are about 13 inches high, and are named (by Bloomingdale's) Lou, Jimmy, and Mike (left to right). They cost \$14.00 each (plus shipping) and Bloomingdale's toll-free number is 800-777-0000 (they take plastic).
3326. The spring 1991 issue of The Compleat Smoker has Alan Smith's long feature article "A Three-Pipe Problem: Pipes, Tobaccos and Sherlock Holmes" (with some nice color illustrations), an original color cover with a Sherlockian theme, and an advertisement (p. 40) for a lithograph portrait of Sherlock Holmes by Warren Prindle. \$6.25 postpaid (Box 7036, Evanston, IL 60201), and a subscription (four issues) costs \$17.50.
3327. Adapting the printed page for film or television is a fascinating process, and published scripts offer a fine opportunity to see how it's done. One such opportunity is Jeremy Paul's excellent 50-page script for Granada's "The Problem of Thor Bridge" (typeset, illustrated, and now available for \$11.50 postpaid from Ian Henry Publications, 20 Park Drive, Romford, Essex RM1 4LH, England). Daniel Massey, who plays J. Neil Gibson, was recently seen on "Mystery!" in "Inspector Morse: Deceived by Flight" as the murderer cricketer Anthony Donn.
3328. According to the latest (spring 1991) issue of Anglofile, the fall season for "Mystery!" has not been confirmed by WGBH-TV, but it is likely to start with a six-part adaptation of P. D. James' "Devices and Desires", with "The Case Book of Sherlock Holmes" next (but it is also possible that only five programs will air this fall, with the sixth held back as a special during a later pledge drive).
3329. "Over My Dead Body!" is a new electronic bulletin board for mystery fans (general, not just Sherlockian). The phone number is 415-893-6707 (N-8-1) and the sysop is Cheri Jung, 1843 Seventh Avenue, Oakland, CA 94606.

June 1991 #3

3330. Coral Browne died on May 29. She was a fine British actress (best known to American audiences as Vera Charles in the film "Auntie Mame"), and in 1974 she married Vincent Price, who arranged for her photograph to appear in a picture frame in a Baker Street set, "identified as none other than Irene Adler, always 'the woman' for Sherlock Holmes." The set was the one used in Boston for her husband's introductions to the Granada television series when it was broadcast on "Mystery!"
3331. Further to the report (May 91 #5) on "In London with Sherlock Holmes" (the game that will run on-line on Prodigy during July), Jack Tracy, who worked as a consultant on the project, reports that after July the game will still be available in the National Geographic archives on Prodigy. There appears to be no way to download the game to a disk.
3332. Jack also reports that progress is being made on planning for CALABASH (an acronym for Canonical Analysis and Logical Arrangement of Baring-Gould's Annotated Sherlock Holmes). This will be a thorough revision of the 1967 book, and will be published on a CD-ROM disc, with Jack as editor-in-chief. Assistance is needed from people who would like to serve as supervising editors and research editors, and volunteers are invited to call Jack at 800-243-1895.
3333. Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine, celebrating its 50th anniversary, has been honoring some of its favorite contributors, and the Aug. 1991 issue of EQMM is dedicated to Robert L. Fish, with reprints of two of his stories, one of which is "The Adventure of the Perforated Ulster" (D5779a).
3334. David Kirby died on June 3. He was the proprietor of Rupert Books, and in the 1980s issued a series of fine Sherlockian catalogs. He also published a set of cards and prints with David Cory's S'ian color artwork, and in 1987 the splendid facsimile of Beeton's Christmas Annual prepared by John Michael Gibson.
3335. "Professor Presbury's Required Reading" is a 12-page list of Sherlockiana (new and used, and including much comic-book material) available from Tim O'Connor (R.R. 1, Box 138-B, Herscher, IL 60941).
3336. Richard Lackritz reports a source for Inverness capes: Texas Body Hangings, 1719 East Main, Nacogdoches, TX 75961. \$225 to \$410 depending on size, and they will be happy to send you a catalog.
3337. Sylvia Porter died on June 5. She began writing a financial column for the N.Y. Post in 1935, and in syndication her column eventually was carried by 450 newspapers with 40 million readers. She was also a devoted Sherlockian and a friend of Thomas L. Stix, Sr., who accompanied her, in a horse-drawn carriage, to the BSI's pre-prandial cocktail party in 1957 and toasted her as *The* Woman.

3338. Gerald Laing's bronze statue of Sherlock Holmes was scheduled for unveiling in Edinburgh in mid-June. According to the Times (May 2), Sherlock Holmes Museum director John Aidiniantz believes London would far more appropriate, and was disappointed by the Royal Fine Art Commission rejected his proposal for a £29,000 statue at the Baker Street underground station.

June 1991 #4

3339. Troy Taylor, who presides over Ferguson's Vampires, and edits and publishes their periodicals *The Peruvian Bird-Bow* and *The Poisoned Arrow*, is also a skillful artist. His illustrated flier, just at hand, welcomes commissions for Sherlockian artwork for journals, books, and society logos, and his address is 436 West William #5, Decatur, IL 62522.
3340. Switzerland was not the only venue for a reenactment of the fateful battle at the Reichenbach, although there were many more onlookers at Meiringen than there were at the Katoomba Cascades, where fifty people gathered for a weekend with the Sherlock Holmes Society of Sydney at the Fairmont Resort in the Blue Mountains of Australia.
3341. Richard Wein has sent a list of audiocassettes available from BBC World Service Mail Order (room LG26 NE), Bush House, Strand, London WC2B 4PH, England. Each volume contains two cassettes and costs £6.17 (plus 40% for shipping to the U.S.), and they take plastic. The volume titles are: "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (Clive Merrison and Michael Williams): vol. 1 (Scan/RedH/Iden/Bosc), vol. 2 (Five/Twis/Blue/Spec), vol. 3 (Engr/Nobl/Bery/Copp). "Sherlock Holmes" (Carlton Hobbs and Norman Shelley): vol. 1 (Scan/RedH/Chas/Spec), vol. 2 (Blue/Silv/Fina/Empt), vol. 3 (Musg/Blac/Bruc/Danc). The BBC has many other non-Sherlockian titles on its list.
3342. Also at hand from Richard Wein is a catalog from Dark House (R.R. 1, Box 140-A, Theilman, MN 55978) offering T-shirts, sweatshirts, greeting cards, tote bags, and buttons with designs that include Sherlockiana (items M-05, S-01 through S-03, and Z-01-4).
3343. The Arts & Entertainment cable channel has purchased rebroadcast rights to the Granada series. "Sherlock Holmes Mysteries" will air weekly beginning on Sept. 30.
3344. "Ignite a candle in Bohemia," suggests Sherlockian sculptress Selma Kamil, who offers the Grand Duke and *The* Woman as a pair of ceramic candle holders (five inches high) for \$100 (painted and glazed) or \$75 (unpainted), plus \$5 for shipping. An illustrated flier is available from Selma (32 Overlook Avenue, Cliffside Park, NJ 07010).
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June 1991 #5

3345. Welcome news for those who have been searching for copies of *THE INTERNATIONAL ILLUSTRATED SHERLOCK HOLMES* (April 90 #1 and May 90 #3): copies are available for \$32.50 from William Berner, 4712 17th Street, San Francisco, CA 94117. The book was edited by John Bennett Shaw, Tsukasa Kobayashi, and Akane Higashiyama, and is a delightful demonstration of how much fun artists in many countries have had illustrating the Canon over the years and in a variety of styles: there are 742 illustrations (and 59 photographs from the Granada series), with captions in both Japanese and English, and there's very little collateral text in Japanese only.
3346. Admirers of Christopher Morley's work will welcome the news that the 1940 film "Kitty Foyle" (with Ginger Rogers and Dennis Morgan) is available on videocassette, from Movies Unlimited, 6736 Castor Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19149 (800-523-0823); \$19.99. Movies Unlimited also offers "Chip 'n' Dale Rescue Rangers: Super Sleuths" (\$12.99) with "Pound of the Baskervilles" (a Sherlockian animation first broadcast in 1989).
3347. Kenneth Ludwig's two-act play "Dramatic License" (about William Gillette) premiered in Milford, N.H., in July 1983 (with Patrick Horgan as Gillette), and it was also produced in Cleveland in 1985. Now titled "Postmortem", it is scheduled at the Leeds Theatre at Brown University in Providence, R.I., on July 9-13 and 16-20, and it is recommended to those who are or might be in the area. The Theatre Department's telephone number is 401-863-3283.
3348. And travelers to New Mexico may wish to attend a workshop and conference on "Sherlock Holmes: Alive and Well in the Hearts of Readers Everywhere!" at Santa Fe Community College on July 25-26, 1991. The list of speakers includes many local Sherlockians (Shaw, Cohen, Dinagar, Dunning, Farrell, Miller, and Stanton), and the College's telephone number is 505-438-1251.
3349. EDGAR W. SMITH'S SHERLOCKIAN DIRECTORIES is a Hypercard computer version of his *APPOINTMENT IN BAKER STREET* (1938) and *BAKER STREET AND BEYOND* (1940), prepared by Bob Gellerstedt and offered for \$5.00 postpaid on a single 800K disk (you will need Macintosh system 6.0.7 and Hypercard 2.0). A 50-page print-out is also available for \$12.00 postpaid, from Bob Gellerstedt, 1035 Wedgewood Drive, Fayetteville, GA 30214.
3350. Further to the query (May 91 #2) on Sherlock Holmes driving cars, Steve and Katlin Hecox and Jennie Paton have remembered that he drove across Arizona on television in "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" (1987), and that Sherlock Hound is often seen driving in the Japanese/Italian animations.
3351. The Baker Street Bar Association will hold its inaugural dinner during the annual meeting of the American Bar Association in Atlanta in August. For details on the dinner, and on the new professional society, contact David R. McCallister, 2804 Quail Hollow Boulevard, Wesley Chapel, FL 33544.
3352. Patrick Campbell reports that the celebration of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's birthday on May 22, at the Granada Studios Tour, was thoroughly enjoyable. The agenda included tours of the sets and the new Museum of Criminology, a performance of David Stuart Davies' play "Fixed Point: The Life and Death of Sherlock Holmes", champagne and an appropriately decorated cake, and a non-Sherlockian debate in Granada's version of the House of Commons.
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June 1991 #6

3353. Williamsburg in late spring is pleasantly warm (compared to the heat wave that many remembered from the last workshop there in July 1987), and Ray Betzner and The Cremona Fiddlers did a fine job this month with this year's version. There were more than a hundred people on hand for the festivities, which featured a nice range of Sherlockian and Doylean presentations, an opportunity to see the 1957 "Odyssey" television program about the Baker Street Irregulars and a promotional video for the Harmony Gold mini-series starring Christopher Lee and Patrick Macnee, and a radio-theater presentation of "The Maltese Carbuncle" (written by Ray and performed by The Cremona Fiddlers Players of the Air). And one of the more interesting T-shirts at the workshop was worn by Ron Fish, who may be the only Sherlockian winner of one of the "Sherlock Bones" T-shirt offered as prizes by Milk-Bone Flavor Snacks last year (March 90 #4).
3354. The London Zoo may close in September, according to an article in the May 19 issue of the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, at hand from Syd Goldberg. The Zoo is run by the Zoological Society of London (and has been since its founding in 1828) and claims to be the oldest and most famous zoo in the world, and has now asked for \$21 million from the British government to keep the Zoo open. And it was known to Sherlock Holmes, who asked (in "Charles Augustus Milverton"): "Do you feel a creeping, shrinking sensation, Watson, when you stand before the serpents in the Zoo?"
3355. Deen and Jay Kogan, who chaired Bouchercon in 1989, have announced a book fair and convention in Philadelphia on Nov. 8-10. The agenda will include panels, workshops, signings, and a dealer's room, and registration costs \$30.00. Details are available from the Mid Atlantic Mystery Book Fair and Convention, c/o Detecto Misterioso Books at Society Hill Playhouse, 507 South 8th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147.
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3356. It's not Sherlockian, but "Northern Exposure" is one of the best series now to be seen (in re-runs) on television. It's on CBS-TV on Mondays at 10:00 pm, and the premise is that it's pay-back time for a young Jewish doctor from Flushing whose medical education has been funded by a grant from the Alaskan state government. Expecting to be working in a modern hospital and living in a condo in Anchorage, he finds himself the only doctor in Cicely, a community so small it hardly qualifies as a town, and he has considerable trouble dealing with the culture shock. The series has excellent stories and fine characters, and is thoroughly enjoyable.
3357. While there seems to be no end to the unrecorded cases of Sherlock Holmes that find their way into print, there have been few attempts to extend the sagas of George Edward Challenger or Etienne Gerard. Nicholas Nye's RETURN TO THE LOST WORLD brings Challenger, Roxton, Summerlee, and Malone back to the Lost World in 1912, in a story that is quite faithful to the humor and style of the characters created by Conan Doyle. Their new discoveries on the plateau extend farther into fantasy than he did in THE LOST WORLD, and the story ends with some blunt moralizing that may seem out-of-place in a simple tale of adventure. RETURN TO THE LOST WORLD (256 pp.) costs £16.45 postpaid (sterling only, please) from Images, Lloyds Bank Chambers, 18 High Street, Upton-upon-Severn, Worcs. WR8 OHD, England.
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July 1991 #1

3358. Canonical chronology is surely one of the more arcane areas of Sherlockian scholarship (and one of the earliest to be explored by those attempting to reconcile and rearrange the Sacred Writings). Almanacs, weather reports, astronomy, and even astrology have been employed to support or rebut a wide range of dates for most of the stories, and still there is little agreement among those who want an answer to the question, "What was the date?" Henry T. Folsom (a Scandalous Bohemian, and Horror Master of the Cornish Horrors) first published THROUGH THE YEARS AT BAKER STREET in 1962, revised it for a second edition in 1964, and now offers a third (and again revised) edition in an 80-page monograph that provides a fine demonstration of how much fun and frustration are involved in deducing correct dates. The cost is \$25.00 postpaid from the Henry T. Folsom, R.R. #1, Box 1413, Randolph, NH 03570.
3359. Further to the query (June 91 #5) about Sherlock Holmes driving automobiles, Jennie Paton suggests a follow-up: which films or television program show Sherlock Holmes riding a horse?
3360. Reported by Jon Lellenberg from the arch-conservative Washington Times: a mention of "Ted Turner, the media Moriarty whose dark one-worldist plots send shivers down the spines of those who still have them." Turner will address a meeting of the Conservative Leadership Conference in Washington in November ; the invitation was issued by Reed Irvine, who noted that Ted Turner's only question was, "Can I bring Jane?"
3361. Also at hand from Jon are articles in the British press on May 13 about the possibility that the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary may be closed. The Royal is Scotland's largest teaching hospital and its former students include Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. "Labour seized on the disclosure -- so far unconfirmed -- as evidence of underfunding and accused Scottish health minister Michael Forsyth of presiding over the 'destruction' of the NHS. Mr. Forsyth fired off an immediate statement indicating he may veto the plan."
3362. And a press report that Stephen Fry and Hugh Laurie, fresh from the success of their second "Jeeves and Wooster" series, are planning a Sherlock Holmes series, with Fry as Holmes and Laurie as Watson. Their first "Jeeves and Wooster" series has already aired on PBS (with Fry as Jeeves and Laurie as Wooster). They have also performed in various roles in the British series "Black Adder" (on some PBS stations), and they can be seen in "A Bit of Fry and Laurie" (on Saturdays on the Bravo cable channel).
3363. Syd Goldberg spotted another passing reference, by William Safire in the N.Y. Times (July 11): "The Professor Moriarty of finance is a Pakistani named Agha Hasan Abedi" (one of the people responsible for the financial shenanigans at the Bank of Credit and Commerce International).
3364. Roger Johnson reports that the Federation of Master Builders in Edinburgh (who are paying for the statue of Sherlock Holmes in Picardy Place, where Conan Doyle was born) are offering commemorative medallions (two inches in diameter, modeled in high relief with a polished gilt finish) for £50 each. Checks can be sent to the Federation of Master Builders (Medal Sales), c/o Ian Baird, 206 Ferry Road, Edinburgh EH6 4QZ, United Kingdom.
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July 1991 #2

3365. Sleuth & Statesman, the newsletter launched by Winston & Holmes last year (April 90 #4), is now a mail-order catalog that offers "smoker's requisites and gentlemen's accessories" and occasional comment on Winston Churchill and Sherlock Holmes. The gentlemen's accessories include Parker Pens, and the accompanying note ("Myth in the Making") suggests that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle wrote his popular mysteries with a Parker pen in the late 1800s. Not quite: the first advertisement by Parker that used Conan Doyle's praise for the Parker Duofold ("I have at last met my affinity in pens") was published in 1931 (and used again in advertisements that ran in magazines in 1989), and Conan Doyle's letter was written from Bignell Wood (the country house that he bought in 1925). Another note suggests that it was William Gillette who first portrayed Sherlock Holmes with a calabash; Gillette did use a curved wooden pipe, but no one has reported any evidence that he used a calabash. The catalog is available from Winston & Holmes at 138 Cumberland Street, Toronto, Ont. M5R 1A6, Canada.
3366. If you enjoy spoken-word audiocassettes, there are plenty to choose from: more than 900 companies and more than 44,500 titles are listed in the 1991 edition of R. R. Bowker's comprehensive catalog ON CASSETTE, according to an item in the N.Y. Times Book Review. Bowker's first edition, published in 1985, listed only 11,500 titles.
3367. Cathy Childs (Sherlock & Co., 11335 Little Patuxent Parkway #433, Columbia, MD 21044) will happily accept commissions for her original Sherlockian (and Watsonian) artwork.
3368. Another plug for the discount-book catalogs from Edward R. Hamilton (Falls Village, CT 06031): his new catalog offers Michael Hardwick's THE REVENGE OF THE HOUND (item 364614) for \$4.95, and Isaac Asimov's SHERLOCK HOLMES THROUGH TIME AND SPACE (item 879452) for \$3.95.
3369. Walt Disney's Goofy Adventures #16 (Sept. 1991 cover date) has a long story ("Sheerluck Goof and the Giggling Ghost of Nottenny Moor") about Sheerluck Goof (Goofy), Dr. Whatsup (Mickey), Chief Inspector Laquacke (Donald), Mrs. Cluckson, and the evil Doctor Mororlessnessy.
3370. Add two Rathbone films to the list of occasions on which Sherlock Holmes can be seen driving an automobile: Hugh Harrington notes that Holmes drives a car while making his getaway from the Nazis in "Sherlock Holmes and the Secret Weapon" (1943). And Lawrence Nepodahl reports that Holmes is at the wheel when he and Watson rendezvous with the Prime Minister of Rovenia in "Pursuit to Algiers" (1954).
3371. An illustrated sales list of Sherlockiana (bookmarks, sweatshirts, aprons, buttons, mugs, bookbags, and personalized bookplates) is available from the Dore Collection (1123 Emerson Street #208, Evanston, IL 60201).
3372. Pixar and Disney have announced a joint venture to produce and distribute one computer-animated feature-length film a year. You have seen Pixar's work: known then as the Lucasfilm Computer Graphics Division, they designed and animated the "stained-glass knight" in "Young Sherlock Holmes" (1985).
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July 1991 #3

3373. Sherlockian touring continues to become more expensive: press reports from London note that St. Paul's Cathedral now requires (rather than asks) visitors to pay an admission charge (but not on Sunday). Mentions of St. Paul's can be found in "The Sign of the Four" and "The Red-Headed League" and in the old and time-honored phrase "robbing Peter to pay Paul" (which dates from the late 16th century, when many of the estates of St. Peter's Cathedral were appropriated to pay for repairs to St. Paul's Cathedral). St. Peter's is mentioned in the Canon, too. In which story? The answer to this question will be given in next month's issue.
3374. Discovered by Tim O'Connor: THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES in a hard-bound comic-strip adaptation by Marion Kimberly (New York: Gallery Books, 1991; 30 pp., \$4.98). This is not a reprint of the old Classic Comics/Classics Illustrated version.
3375. Jennie Paton reports THE GREAT MOUSE DETECTIVE (New York: Gallery Books, 1987; 96 pp.): an attractive large-format book with artwork from the film (in the "Disney Classic Series"), sold by Waldenbooks and B. Dalton (and presumably other stores) for \$6.95.
3376. Sorry about that: the correct toll-free number for Bloomingdale's (June 91 #2) is 800-777-0000. For those who aren't aware of the service, you can call 800-555-1212 to get the directory service for toll-free numbers.
3377. Sherry Rose Bond reports another item that may be of interest to admirers of dancing men: an Italian lamp called the "spider lamp" with four flexible eleven-inch legs (and suction cups at the ends of the legs). The spider lamp is available in red, white, or black, at \$40.00 each (plus shipping), and it's item 1065 in the catalog from Flex Art and Design, Box 7216, San Francisco, CA 94120 (800-547-7778); they take plastic.
3378. Reported: ROUND THE FIRE STORIES (San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 1991; \$9.95) in a trade paperback similar to Chronicle's earlier two volumes with the Professor Challenger stories. The new collection has the apocryphal cases "The Man with the Watches" and "The Lost Special".
3379. Jay Pearsall is moving his mystery bookshop Murder Ink to a new location: 2486 Broadway, New York, NY 10025 (between 92nd and 93rd Streets). And his summer 1991 catalog includes an interview with Elizabeth George, who notes her debt to Conan Doyle.
3380. C. Bryan Gassner, who presides over The Shadows of the Elm at the Arroyo del Oso Elementary School in Albuquerque, N.M., assisted her students in presenting half-hour adaptations of "The Speckled Band" (in 1990) and "The Norwood Builder" (in 1991). The plays were nicely done, and are available on videocassettes (\$7.50 each or \$12.00 for both shows on one cassette, postpaid), with "The Norwood Bloopers" (an assembly of out-takes from both shows) available on request on any cassette at no additional charge. Mrs. Gassner's address is 922 Washington Street SE, Albuquerque, NM 87108).

July 1991 #4

3381. Further to the report (June 91 #3) on "In London with Sherlock Holmes: The Adventure of the Jubilee Diamonds" (the interactive computer game that is now available on Prodigy), the game offers attractive graphics, interesting facts about London, and a fairly elementary mystery to solve. Prodigy is an advertiser-supported on-line service (subscribers pay \$12.95 a month, and there are no other charges).
3382. Further to the report on Anthony Hinds (May 91 #3), he has a Sherlockian credit in addition to producing the film "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1959) and writing the play "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1982). Roger Johnson notes that Hinds (using the pseudonym "John Elder") supplied the story for N. J. Crisp's screenplay for the television program "The Masks of Death" (1984). "John Elder" was Hammer's most prolific scriptwriter, and Michael Carreras (executive producer of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" for Hammer) occasionally used the pseudonym "Henry Younger".
3383. Occasional queries about how one can conveniently order in-print books from Britain suggest that it's time for a repeat explanation. Two companies can supply just about anything in print, and they offer two ways to pay without incurring bank surcharges: you can open an account and pay with a check in your own currency (sent to a bank in your country), or you can authorize a charge against a credit card such as Visa or Mastercard. They are W. & G. Foyle (119-125 Charing Cross Road, London W.C.2, England) and Blackwell's (Broad Street, Oxford, Oxon. OX1 3BQ, England).
3384. Further to the report (June 91 #6) on the London Zoo's financial problems, a later dispatch at hand from Syd Goldberg states that the Zoological Society of London has decided to postpone the closing of the zoo until Sept. 1992, in hopes that funding can be found for a planned conversion of the zoo into a wildlife conservation and education center.
3385. The Sherlock Holmes Gazette is a new quarterly, launched by Andrew Archer (who has been in business for more than 20 years on Park Road, at the top end of Baker Street) and edited by Elizabeth Wiggins. The first issue has 24 pages and is well produced, with articles on the Swiss pilgrimage, the Granada Studios Tour, and the Langham Hotel, an interview with Michael Cox on the Granada series, and much more. According to a report in the British press, the first issue had a print run of 25,000 copies, and copies will be sold at hotels, pubs, and other tourist outlets in London. The next issue is scheduled for Aug. 1, with 32 pages, and an annual subscription costs £12.50 a year in Britain (or £18.00 outside the U.K.); checks should be payable to Theme Publications (they also take plastic), and the address is 43 Bowleaze Coveaway, Preston, Weymouth, Dorset DT3 6PL, England. Note: the £18.00 rate is lower than announced in their first flier, and is available to those who make (or have already made) payment with sterling checks or by credit card.
3386. Others have noted occasional Sherlockian allusions in the writings of John le Carre. Owen Dudley Edwards, in essay in THE QUEST FOR LE CARRE, edited by Alan Bold (London: Vision Press, 1988), offers a possible explanation, from an interview in the Observer (Feb. 3, 1980): le Carre was asked about the "writers who mean the most to you," and responded, "P. G. Wodehouse for rhythm and timing, Conan Doyle for thrust and instant atmosphere."

July 1991 #5

3387. By way of rebuttal to those who suggest that it's all been done before, one can point with enjoyment to Joseph Fink's "not-so-trifling monograph" on the sainted Albert of Bollstadt, in the summer 1991 issue of The Serpentine Muse, published by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes (Evelyn A. Herzog, 235 West 15th Street #4-B, New York, NY 10011; \$6.00 for four issues). And to Rosemary M. Michaud's explorations of the consequences of the rheumatism that afflicted Sherlock Holmes, in the May 1991 issue of Wheelwrightings (Robert C. Burr, 4010 Devon Lane, Peoria, IL 61614; \$20.00 a year for three issues of Wheelwrighting and twelve issues of Plugs & Dottles).
3388. Eleanor Sullivan died on July 12. It was a classified advertisement in the N.Y. Times that brought her to Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine as managing editor in 1970, and she became editor of the magazine after Fred Dannay's death in 1982. She once suggested that Fred Dannay hired her because, when he asked, "How good are you at taking instruction?" she answered, "I went to parochial school." She learned her new job quickly, and she was a fine editor, offering friendship and expertise and helpful advice to hundreds of authors. She also continued Fred's interest in and generosity to the BSI, and was honored as *The* Woman in 1990.
3389. The best things in life are no longer free: according to a report from the Federal Communications Commission, there were 761,849,947 interstate calls for directory assistance in 1990. At 60 cents per call (that's what AT&T charges), that's \$457 million in income for the phone companies.
3390. Hugh T. Harrington (1634 Sherwood Avenue NW, Massillon, OH 44646) is now researching the Sherlockian activities of Clifton Andrew, and would welcome hearing from people who knew or who have information about him.

3391. John Baesch reports that The Sherlock Holmes Hotel in London is planning a theme exhibition later this year, and that Studio Gallery (50 Caledonian Road, Kings Cross, London N1 9DP, England) will be offering jewelry items such as the King of Bohemia's emerald snake ring and a replica of the tie pin presented to Sherlock Holmes by Queen Victoria. The hotel now charges £107.25 for a single, and £127.75 for a double.
3392. The 1991 running of The Silver Blaze at Belmont (in New York) will be held on Sept. 14. Those who would like to attend, and have not yet received the formal announcement, can write to Stephen L. Stix, 10784 South 250 East, Markleville, IN 46056.
3393. For Canadian readers who are wondering who Alden Partridge was: he was born in 1785 in Norwich, Vt., and educated at Dartmouth and the Military Academy at West Point. After teaching at West Point from 1806 to 1817, he returned to Norwich in 1818 to found the American Literary, Scientific and Military Academy. Now called Norwich University, his school was the first civilian educational institution in the United States to offer military training to its students. Partridge died in 1854, and was honored by the post office in 1985 as the spiritual father of the ROTC (the Reserve Officers Training Corps). For American readers who may be wondering why Canadian readers are wondering: a portrait of Alden Partridge appears on the 11-cent stamp that can be used with a 29-stamp to send a 40-cent letter to Canada.

July 1991 #6

3394. Further to the news of Bill Barton's "So Ya Wanna Be a Rock 'n' Roll Star! A Rock 'n' Role-Playing Game" (January 91 #2), Bill now reports that the major Sherlockian sections of the game are available as "Sherlock in Rock: The Adventures of Sherlock & the CDs" (\$6.95 postpaid). Information on this and on other S'ian offers is available (in return for an SASE) from Bill Barton, Box 26290, Indianapolis, IN 46226.
3395. If you would like to know what's in store from 221A Baker Street Associates through the end of 1994, when Simon and Schuster's series of 26 Rathbone/Bruce audiocassettes will end, Lawrence P. Nepodahl (1230 Vienna Boulevard, DeKalb, IL 60115) offers a complete list of the 52 program titles in return for an SASE.
3396. Isaac Bashevis Singer died on July 24. He was a masterful storyteller who wrote all of his stories and novels in Yiddish, and won the Nobel prize for literature in 1978. Not long after receiving the award, Singer recalled his first youthful encounter with literature, in Yiddish storybooks: "When I was about 12 years old I read Sherlock Holmes stories by Conan Doyle.
3397. They impressed me highly, and I immediately decided to become a writer of detective stories. About the same time, Dostoyevsky's 'Crime and Punishment' came out in Yiddish. I didn't understand all of it, but my elation was great. I think that right then I resolved that I must be a Yiddish writer just as Conan Doyle and Dostoyevsky were. It never occurred to me that these were translations."
3398. The 1991 catalog for grades 7-12 from the Perfection Form Co. (spotted by Peter Ashman) offers a Dell paperback of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES in their special cover-craft binding (with teaching aids such as pictures and tests), RETOLD BRITISH CLASSICS (a 1987 anthology with adaptations of "The Speckled Band" and "The Red-Headed League" and with striking illustrations by Clint Hanson), and a colorful poster for "The Speckled Band". Their address is 1000 North Second Avenue, Logan, IA 51546 (800-831-4190).
3399. "Sherlock Holmes Detected in the Arizona State University Libraries" was the theme suggested by Maxine Reneker for an exhibit intended to promote library instruction at ASU in 1989, and "Sherlock Detected" is the title of Rosanna Miller's three-page article explaining the exhibit, spotted by Paul Herbert in the Jan. 1991 issue of College & Research Libraries News. The magazine is available from the Association of College & Research Libraries, 50 East Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611; \$4.50.
3400. Richard Manney's library will be sold by Sotheby's in New York on Oct. 11. His collection is a fine one (he owns the only known Dickens manuscript in private hands), and there will be some important Doyleana in the sale: the manuscript of "The Mazarin Stone", Beeton's Christmas Annual (two pages of advertisements and the rear cover in facsimile), the first printing of the first edition of THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES in dust jacket (the only copy known), inscribed first editions of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES and THE VALLEY OF FEAR, and a first edition of THE LOST WORLD inscribed to Lady Doyle are some of the more interesting items. Hard-bound catalogs will be available from Sotheby's subscription dept. (203-847-0465) in late Sept.

August 1991 #1

3401. The statue of Sherlock Holmes in Picardy Place in Edinburgh was unveiled on June 24 by Geoffrey Chisholm, president of the Royal College of Surgeons, in a ceremony attended by Holmesians such as Shirley Purves, Pam Bruxner, and Stanley MacKenzie. According to The Scotsman, it was Stanley MacKenzie who noticed that the plaque on the statue announces that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was born there on 22 May 1841. The Federation of Master Builders presumably will be able to correct the date to 1859.
3402. The ferocious hound (of the Baskervilles, according to Herb Tinning), is a three-inch black-and-yellow sticker distributed by the postal service in Maplewood, N.J., so that patrons can warn mail carriers.
3403. Further to the forecast (January 91 #1) about the magazine Argosy, issue #3 (Aug. 1991) has been published, with an attractive full-color Sherlockian cover by Steranko and the first half of Ellery Queen's adaptation of "A Study in Terror" illustrated by Alan Weiss. The magazine costs \$4.00 an issue, or \$15.00 for a four-issue subscription (the second half of the story will appear in issue #4); there is an amusing S'ian twist in Bruce Pelz's story "True Profession" in issue #1 (May 1990), available only with a four-issue subscription). Argosy's address is 242 East Third Street, Long Beach, CA 90802; a separate print of the Steranko cover is available on request and without charge (while supplies last) to those who order issue #3 or a four-issue subscription.
3404. Jack Kerr reports: GREAT TALES OF MADNESS & THE MACABRE, edited by Charles Arday (New York: Galahad Books, 1990; \$4.98 on the discount tables); with Conan Doyle's "The Leather Funnel". And a new addition to Marjorie Weinman Sharmat's series: NATE THE GREAT GOES DOWN IN THE DUMPS (Dell, \$2.95).
3405. Travelers to or in California may wish to attend the running of The Silver Blaze at Bay Meadows Race Track in San Mateo on Oct. 20. Contact Bruce R. Parker, Dept. of Radiology, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305.
3406. The Empire Publishing Service (Box 1344, Studio City, CA 91614) is a U.S. source for Sherlockiana published in Britain by Ian Henry: John North's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE GERMAN NANNY and SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE ARABIAN PRINCESS (\$19.95 each), David Stuart Davies' SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE HENTZAU AFFAIR (\$24.95), Val Andrews' SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE EMINENT THESPIAN and SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE BRIGHTON PAVILION MYSTERY (\$19.95 each), and Terence Mustoo's play SHERLOCK HOLMES IN THE DEERSTALKER (\$7.95); shipping is \$4.00 for one book, plus \$1.50 for each additional book. But you might request a sales list from Ian Henry Publications (20 Park Drive, Romford, Essex RM1 4LH, England); they offer more titles directly, at somewhat lower prices, and they accept checks in dollars or sterling.
3407. Donald Girard Jewell's A TROUT IN THE MILK: A MONOGRAPH ON FISH AND FISHING IN THE TIME OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Westminster: Pinchin Lane Press, 1991) is a carefully researched and illustrated 32-page monograph, available from the author (4685 Geeting Road, Westminster, MD 21158) for \$9.95 postpaid.

August 1991 #2

3408. St. Peter's (July 91 #3) *is* mentioned in the Canon. See "The Second Stain" (where Godolphin Street is described as "one of the old-fashioned and secluded rows of eighteenth century houses which lie between the river and the Abbey"). The "Abbey" is Westminster Abbey, and that's where you will find St. Peter's (no longer a cathedral). In 1550 the abbey church of St. Peter, Westminster, was advanced to the dignity of a cathedral by letters patent, but ten years later it was rejoined to the diocese of London, and that's when many of its estates were appropriated to pay for repairs to St. Paul's Cathedral.
3409. Sorry about that: admirers of Alden Partridge (July 91 #5) will not be able to purchase those stamps at post offices, because the postal service took them off sale some time ago. You may, in fact, encounter some difficulty in purchasing any sort of 11-cent stamps, because the only 11-cent stamp now available (and not widely available) is a coil stamp portraying a Stutz Bearcat (which one might assume is a tribute to Aunt Clara, of course).
3410. Catalog #8 at hand from Vinnie Brosnan (Sherlock in L.A., 1741 Via Allena, Oceanside, CA 92056), with 440 items (most of them Sherlockian or Doylean).
3411. Sherlock Holmes' long association with Playboy began with the first issue, which included an excerpt from "The Sign of the Four" (because in those early days Hugh Hefner could afford to publish only public-domain fiction). And the association continues: Holmes and Watson appear in Playboy's Party Jokes in the Sept. 1991 issue.
3412. Further to the query on Sherlock Holmes riding horses (July 91 #1), Hugh Harrington notes additional occasions, in the film "The Copper Beeches" (1912) and in Granada's version of "The Priory School".
3413. Richard Wein sends news of the September schedule for Arts & Entertainment cable: the 1967 British series "The Prisoner" starts on Sept. 19 (Patrick McGoochan appears in Sherlockian costume in the episode "The Girl Who Was Death"), and "Sherlock Holmes Mysteries" (the Granada series) on Sept. 23 (there is a report that A&E has edited the programs to 43 minutes to allow time for more commercials).
3414. Harry Reasoner died on Aug. 6. He was a television and radio newsman for 35 years, mostly with CBS but also, in the 1970s, with ABC. It was on "The Reasoner Report" on ABC radio news on Feb. 12, 1973, that he reported that "Sherlock Holmes Still Lives" and offered a fine tribute to the Master. At one point in his report he acknowledged that "there are those supercilious little people who insist he never existed," adding that "fortunately, there are only a few of that kind around and we can ignore them." Julian Wolff noted in the BSJ that Reasoner (and his listeners) owed much to the writer and producer of the program: Otto Penzler.
3415. Spotted by Jennie Paton: a new edition of SEARCH-A-PICTURE PUZZLES, by Tony Tallarico (first published in 1981), with Sherlockian artwork on the cover and in one of the picture puzzles (Chicago: Kidsbooks; 64 pp., \$1.95).
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August 1991 #3

3416. "Life around here ambles on fairly unexcitingly. This month has slipped by without any work--false starts mainly--and a good deal of dining out that featured a few quite boring evenings. One of the worst occurred this past week when I weakly consented to dinner with... Princess Mdivani.... It seems that she was previously wed to Denis Conan Doyle, the son of the celebrated Arthur, and has now become the heiress to the whole literary estate. She and the husband are determined to rope me into writing a screen play for *The Lost World*, that science-fiction nonsense of Conan Doyle's about Professor Challenger, and as a result I was dragged through two endless evenings. On the second, the Princess insisted on telling my fortune with cards, presumably hoping to foretell that I would do their screenplay. The pasteboards revealed, however, that I was not destined to stay in England. 'You weel only be fulfeeled by movement,' the Princess declared, her nose buried in the cards. 'You are like a table --underneath you are ze real wood, but pipple see only ze veneer on top. Zey mus' penetrate through ze veneer and find ze real you, ze wood underneath.' She was wrong in calling it wood, though--actually, I'd turned to stone." S. J. Perelman, in a letter written from London on Jan. 30, 1972, discovered in DON'T TREAD ON ME: THE SELECTED LETTERS OF S. J. PERELMAN, edited by Prudence Crowther (New York: Viking, 1987).
3417. Spotted by eagle-eyed Jack Kerr in the fall 1991 catalog from Talbots: a nicely Sherlockian hand-knit ramie/cotton sweater (item F39121) available with a red background and in various sizes, for \$114.00 plus shipping. The catalog has full-color photographs (the back of the sweater, not shown here, has a rather unBaskervillean basset hound). The address for Talbots is 175 Beal Street, Hingham, MA 02043 (800-882-5268), and they take plastic.
3418. An Associated Press press dispatch (sent by Rick Smith) reports that the National Farm Medicine Center in Marshfield, Wis., is concerned about the exposure of farmers to skin cancer. The standard baseball caps worn by many modern farmers do not provide adequate protection from the sun, the center believes, and one of the alternatives now being tested is the deerstalker.
3419. To avoid possible confusion about the dates of "Autumn in Baker Street", the event will be held on Nov. 2-3 at the Tarrytown Hilton in Tarrytown, N.Y. The hotel is taking reservations now (914-631-5700), and registration information and a detailed schedule are available from Robert E. Thomalen, 69 Glen Road, Eastchester, NY 10709.
3420. It is tempting to think of some people in the Sherlockian world as truly permanent and perpetual sources of assistance and advice, and one of those people is Cameron Hollyer, who has now officially retired from his post at the Metropolitan Toronto Reference Library, where he has ably served our cause (and theirs) as curator of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection for more than twenty years. His successor is Victoria Gill, who has specialized in British literature at the library since 1983, and whom Cam has described in glowing terms as a member of the Bootmakers and "well up" in Holmes and in detective fiction in general. As might be expected, Cam is not yet totally retired, and will continue as a consultant to the library until Dec. 6.
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August 1991 #4

3421. ZPPR Productions (the radio repertory company whose membership includes performers who occasionally masquerade as The Friends of Bogie's) is known to National Public Radio's listeners for the series "Little Chills", and Susan Rice reports that the series has now been issued on audiocassettes by Dove Audio, and that LITTLE CHILLS #1 contains Andrew Joffe's "Hatrack of Death" (a Sherlockian parody described on the jacket as a delicious, murderous farce: the unlovely host of a bizarre cocktail party is found murdered). The cassette sells for about \$9.00 in bookstores and in the mail-order catalog from Wireless (Box 64422, Saint Paul, MN 55164).
3422. The Folio Society has published THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1958), THE LOST WORLD (1977), and THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (1987), and this year CRIME STORIES FROM THE 'STRAND', edited by Geraldine Beare, and with an introduction by H.R.F. Keating and striking full-page illustrations by David Eccles. The anthology has a good selection of stories (including "A Scandal in Bohemia" and "The Dying Detective"). The book costs \$35.50 and is available only to members of the Society; membership requirements are four titles a year, from the current list or the lengthy back-list, and their U.S. address is Folio Books Ltd., 594 Broadway #806, New York, NY 10012.
3423. The second issue of The Sherlock Holmes Gazette at hand, with 32 pages and nicely done, with a good mix of articles and reports, and a colorful souvenir postcard promoting an exhibition of Deirdre Keetley's artwork at the Sherlock Holmes Hotel in Baker Street. The Gazette reports that
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Granada was to start shooting this month on "The Master Blackmailer" (their new title for the two-hour version of "Charles Augustus Milverton"), with Robert Hardy as Milverton. The Gazette also followed up the report in the Daily Mail (July 91 #1) that Stephen Fry and Hugh Laurie are planning a Sherlock Holmes series, and discovered that neither the actors' agents nor Fry himself know anything about it. The quarterly Sherlock Holmes Gazette costs £18 a year outside the United Kingdom; payment by sterling check or credit card, to Theme Publications, 43 Bowleaze Coveaway, Preston, Weymouth, Dorset DT3 6PL, England.

3424. "What is huge and furry, has vicious fangs, big ears and a long tail, and sings 'My Way'?"
3425. And by way of a another correction to a mistake in an earlier issue (May 91 #7), Gerald F. O'Hara's proper address is 3912-115A Street, Edmonton, Alta. T6J 1R1, Canada, and that's where you can send orders (US\$10.00 postpaid) for a copy of his translation into English of the original material in the Apr. 1987 issue of the Magazine Litteraire, the French magazine which paid warm centenary tribute to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle with a lengthy section of articles and essays.
3426. Jon Lellenberg reports that a facsimile of the 1930 John Murray edition of Conan Doyle's THE EDGE OF THE UNKNOWN has been published in the Time-Life Books subscription series "The Collector's Library of the Unknown". Books in the series cost \$18.95 each to subscribers, and more information can be obtained from Time-Life Books, 777 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.
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August 1991 #5

3427. Rupert Holmes (whose pen name reflects his enjoyment of Rupert Knickerbocker beer and the Canon, and who wrote the imaginative musical "The Mystery of Edwin Drood") will have at least one Sherlockian line in his next musical. "Solitary Confinement" will star Stacy Keach, and is scheduled to begin previews at the Pasadena Playhouse on Nov. 15 and to open officially on Nov. 24.
3428. For those who haven't been paying attention to promotional announcements on PBS-TV: "The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes" will start on "Mystery!" on Nov. 14. The new series will have six programs (though not necessarily in this order): "The Problem of Thor Bridge", "The Disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax", "The Illustrious Client", "The Creeping Man", "The Boscombe Valley Mystery", and "Shoscombe Old Place". This brings the total of stories to 32, with 34 hours of programming (well, about 30 hours if you don't count the introductions), and puts Jeremy Brett well in the lead for the most hours as Holmes on screen or tube.
3429. Jerry Margolin is trying to complete his set of the nine variants of the three titles published by Union Carbide in 1971 (D219b, D231b, and D234b), and now needs only THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES with the Isaac Asimov story on the dust jacket. Anyone who can offer a copy of this variant for sale or trade is invited to write to Jerry at 10007 S.W. Quail Post Road, Portland, OR 97219.
3430. Doug Marlette, creator of the cartoon strip "Kudzu", is also a political cartoonist, and his most recent Sherlockian artwork, received from Paul Singleton, appeared in Newsday on Aug. 11.
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August 1991 #6

3431. Turner Network Television reports that their two-hour broadcast of "The Crucifer of Blood" will debut on TNT cable on Nov. 4, with repeats later in the week. Paul Giovanni's play premiered in Buffalo in 1978 and then ran on Broadway, with Paxton Whitehead (Holmes), Timothy Landfield (Watson), and Glenn Close (Irene St. Clair), and was produced in London in 1979 (with Keith Michell, Denis Lill, and Susan Hampshire). The play was revived in Los Angeles in 1980 (with Charlton Heston and Jeremy Brett), and this was followed by discussions with CBS-TV about a television project with Heston, targeted for the 1982-83 season. There have also been more than 35 productions of the play by local theater companies in the U.S. and Britain. The TNT version will star Charlton Heston, Richard Johnson, and Susannah Harker.
3432. "What is huge and furry, has vicious fangs, big ears and a long tail, and sings 'My Way'?" "The giant rat of Sinatra," according to Roger Johnson, in the May 22 issue of his newsletter The District Messenger.
3433. Visitors to Colorado may wish to see an exhibit of "Magnificent Obsessions" at the Arvada Center for the Arts and Humanities in Arvada (on view through Nov. 24). The exhibit's theme is collectors, collecting, and collections, and it will include Sherlockiana from the collection of John E. Stephenson.
3434. Edward A. Merrill ("Palladio") died on Aug. 14. His Investiture reflects his expertise in architecture, and in that field he was expert indeed. He served as a Colonel in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in World War II, and then joined the firm known eventually as Skidmore, Owings and Merrill, and was resident project engineer for the construction of the Air Force Academy in Colorado. His first Sherlockian project was his article in the BSJ in 1970 on "Holmes and Brunton: Civil Engineers" (for which he won the Morley-Montgomery Award), and he received his Investiture in 1972. He was also an active member of scion societies in San Francisco and Tulsa, and a fine amateur player of the violin and viola, and his continued interest in Musgrave architecture (as well as his fine writing style) is best displayed in his definitive monograph "FOR THE SAKE OF THE TRUST": SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE MUSGRAVE RITUAL (Gaslight Publications, 1982).
3435. The "Mark Trail" cartoon (drawn by Jack Elrod) ran in many papers on Aug. 18. Trail obviously is a better naturalist than he is a speller.
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September 1991 #1

3436. A "Victorian Holmes Weekend" in Cape May, N.J., in Nov. 1990 was successful enough to warrant a repeat, on Nov. 8-11, 1991. According to the flier, at hand from Bob Katz, there will be a Sherlockian mystery ("The Adventure in Cape May") to be solved by those who attend the weekend, and an opportunity to "join Arthur Conan Doyle in his study as he wrestles with the plot to his latest Sherlock Holmes story." Additional details are available from the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts, Box 340, Cape May, NJ 08204.
3437. Jerry D. Flack's MYSTERY AND DETECTION: THINKING AND PROBLEM SOLVING WITH THE SLEUTHS (Englewood: Teacher Ideas Press, 1990; 246 pp., \$21.00) takes an imaginative approach to the use of the mystery genre in teaching gifted students. The Canon receives heavy emphasis, and many of the ideas in the book can easily be used by parents. The publisher's address is Box 3988, Englewood, CO 80155.
3438. The Arthur Conan Doyle Society, launched in 1989, publishes two journals that concentrate (but not exclusively) on the non-Sherlockian aspects of Conan Doyle's career and works: A.C.D. is a more formal journal, averaging about 80 typeset pages with illustrations, and The Parish Magazine is an informal newsletter (four issues each have appeared to date, and all are interesting and well-produced). Surface-mail membership in the society costs £14.00 (or \$24.00) to the U.S., and airmail membership costs £19.00 (\$32.00); the society's founder and editor is Christopher Roden, Grasmere, 35 Penfold Way, Dodleston, Chester CH4 9ML, England.
3439. Milton F. Perry ("Nathan Garrideb") died on Aug. 20. Milt's specialty was regional history, and he was an early member of the Great Alkali Plainsmen distinguished, revealing in Dec. 1966 at a meeting of the society in Tulsa, his discovery that Sherlock Holmes had visited Kansas City in Jan. 1880 and had investigated a mysterious death there (see his article in the June 1976 issue of Baker Street Miscellanea). Milt was curator of the Truman Library and Museum in Independence until 1976, and often discussed the Canon with President Truman. In 1978 Milt launched the restoration of the Jesse James farm, retiring recently after 13 years as curator of the James Museum.
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3440. Elizabeth Peters' sixth mystery novel about Amelia Peabody Emerson will be THE LAST CAMEL DIED AT NOON, to be published in hardcover by Warner Books, and as a main selection of the Mystery Guild, and as an alternate selection of the Literary Guild and the Doubleday Book Club (that's called covering all the bases), and those who have been waiting patiently for three years for an addition to the series will need no additional recommendation. For newcomers: the series is set in Victorian England and Egypt, and is written with style and humor, and the new book may include one or more Sherlockian allusions (as have most of the others in the series).
3441. THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES 100TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION, published by the Easton Press in three volumes in 1987, is a handsome leather-bound reprint (with color frontispieces) of the Heritage Press edition published in 1952 and 1957. Jon Lellenberg reports that the set is again available, at the 1987 price of \$39.45 per volume postpaid; the address of the Easton Press is 47 Richards Avenue, Norwalk, CT 06857, and they take plastic.
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September 1991 #2

3442. It's time for a new plug for the USPS Stamped Envelope Agency, the source for boxes of 500 printed stamped envelopes used for these mailings (you can order up to seven printed lines, and there are no shipping charges). The printed regular #10 stamped envelopes cost \$160.00 a box (that's 32c each); the fancier LOVE envelopes cost \$161.00 a box. Their turn-around time is about three weeks, and order forms are available from the Stamped Envelope Agency, Williamsburg, PA 16693-0500.
3443. "Felon to folk hero: Fugitive's life in S.C." was the headline on an intriguing item in a July issue of USA Today, spotted by Dave Galerstein. Jack Koelle noted a story (with photograph) on "A Cannon on the Loose" in Time (July 29), and Bob Robinson reported far more publicity in the South Carolina papers (as might be expected), and that the fugitive Cannon is no longer loose (if you're nautical) or at large: he was taken into custody again while mowing a lawn.
3444. Bill Berner's supply of THE INTERNATIONAL ILLUSTRATED SHERLOCK HOLMES (June 91 #5) was quickly sold, but he has ordered more copies from Japan. The publisher's shipping costs have increased, and the book now costs \$35.00 postpaid (order from William Berner, 4712 17th Street, San Francisco, CA 94117).
3445. Recorded books appear to be increasingly popular in Britain: a recent newspaper review notes that Random Century Audiobooks has issued a two-cassette set of THE VALLEY OF FEAR, read by Peter Cushing (£7.99).
3446. Further to the report (August 91 #4), the Folio Society has announced that they have decided to close their office in the United States. But they are still in business in Britain, and their address there is 202 Great Suffolk Street, London SE1 1PR, England.
3447. If your local National Public Radio station carries "NPR Playhouse" you may have a chance to hear a new series in October. The likely series title is "Cases of Sherlock Holmes" and there will be eight 30-minute broadcasts: "A Study in Scarlet" (in six parts), plus "A Scandal in Bohemia" and "The Speckled Band", with Edward Petherbridge (who has played Lord Peter Wimsey on "Mystery!") as Sherlock Holmes and David Peart as Dr. Watson.
3448. National Public Radio is also considering acquiring the BBC Radio 4 series that stars Clive Merrison and Michael Williams, if a corporate angel can be found. If you know a generous prospect who might be willing to contribute about \$20,000 to fund the project, the contact is Andy Trudeau, National Public Radio, 2025 M Street NW, Washington, DC 20036 (202-822-2000).
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September 1991 #3

3449. For the completists: the "221A" audiocassettes of the Rathbone/Bruce radio programs distributed by Simon & Schuster are available in stores (there are now 13 cassettes, each with two programs), and in boxed sets (there are now two sets, each with eight programs). The second boxed set (\$24.95) is in the fall 1991 catalog from Wireless (Box 6422, St. Paul, MN 55164), along with lots of other nice things of interest to fans of public radio. The phone number is 800-669-9999, and they take plastic.
3450. One of the truly frustrating aspects of the popularity of Sherlock Holmes is that he so popular in Japan, where almost all of the Writings About the Writings are written and published in Japanese, a language which very few western Sherlockians can read. A welcome exception is THE NEZIRE ZANMAI INTERNATIONAL, an anthology of artwork and articles, all in English. The 32-page booklet has been published by The Men with the Twisted Konjo, and costs \$4.00 (U.S. currency rather than checks, please) postpaid by airmail, from Yuichi Hirayama, 2-10-12 Kamirenjaku, Mitaka-shi, Tokyo 181, Japan.
3451. Gilded Lily Creations (1084 East 250 South, Bountiful, UT 84010) offers a new print (signed and numbered by January Walker) on 14x17-inch high-rag stock, at \$24.00 each, plus \$3.00 per order for shipping.
3452. Comic-book news, reported by Tim O'Connor: Dan Day's series, first published by Renegade Press and then by Northstar (for a total of 20 issues), will continue, from Tome Press (apparently a subsidiary of Caliber). According to the latest issue of Advance Comics, THE ADVENTURE OF THE SPECKLED BAND (\$2.50) is due to ship in November .
3453. Spotted by Tyke Niver: Garry James' well-illustrated article on "Shooting the Guns of Sherlock Holmes" in the Oct. 1991 issue of Handguns for Sport & Defense. James has written about Canonical weaponry in the past, and now reports on his test-firing of a Webley Metropolitan Police revolver and an Adams revolver. The address for the magazine is 8490 Sunset Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90069, and the cover price is \$2.95.
3454. John Crosby died on Sept. 7. He began his career as a journalist with the Milwaukee Sentinel, and moved to the N.Y. Herald Tribune in 1935, where in 1946 he became their radio-television critic and held that job until 1965, winning many awards for achievement in journalism. Reviewing the Ronald Howard series in 1955, Crosby praised its sense of period ("when everything moved a lot more slowly and a private detective could pursue a criminal in a leisurely and gentlemanly way, a refreshing relief from all the punchdrunk Mickey Spillane characters"). But he also noted that the series had received an endorsement from the BSI, and suggested that "All I can say to that is that that mob must have lost some of the old fire . . . in the old days, there would have been shooting from the housetops."
3455. Dick Rutter reports that Microsoft supplies a "Windows Resource Kit" with its Windows 3.0 software. And the "Productivity Pack" includes a section on "Learning Windows" that offers assistance from five historical figures: Einstein, Cleopatra, Merlin, Robin Hood, and Sherlock Holmes.
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September 1991 #4

3456. WHO STOLE MRS. WICK'S SELF-ESTEEM? (reported in the Sept. 1991 issue of In Health and spotted by Herb Tinning) is a 16-page pamphlet offering a story written by Billie Thomas and illustrated by Tom Novak, with Holmes and Watson giving advice on how to develop a positive self-image. \$2.00 postpaid from the National Committee for Prevention of Child Abuse, Public Awareness Department, Box 2866-IH, Chicago, IL 60690.
3457. Harmony Gold and Klondike Films are now in production on "The Lost World" and "Return to the Lost World", and are filming in London and Zimbabwe. The stars are John Rhys-Davies (Challenger) and David Warner (Summerlee), supported by Eric McCormack (Malone), and Tamara Gorski (Jennie Nielson, the beautiful girl who accompanies the expedition). The two mini-series are targeted for release in 1993.
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3458. Spotted by Bob Burr: a forecast of *WHATEVER HAPPENED TO SHERLOCK HOLMES? DETECTIVE FICTION, POPULAR THEOLOGY, AND SOCIETY*, by Robert S. Paul, due from Southern Illinois University Press in Nov. (288 pp., \$24.95). Paul analyzes the genre, and suggests that "the writer of detective fiction, without conscious intent, appeals directly to those moral and spiritual roots of society unconsciously affirmed and endorsed by the readers."
3459. It was Joe Eckrich, rather than Ron Fish, who was seen wearing the Sherlock Bones T-shirt at Williamsburg (June 91 #6). Gary Thaden (who sent in twenty separate entries) also won one of the T-shirts.
3460. The latest sales list from the British publisher Ian Henry includes two new books: *DOCTOR WATSON AND THE INVISIBLE MAN*, a pastiche by Noel Downing, has Langdale Pike and Dr. Watson pursuing Griffin's stolen invisibility formula (£10.95), and Harry Stone's *THE CASEBOOK OF SHERLOCK DOYLE* reports on the many real-life mysteries investigated by Conan Doyle (£15.95). Ian Henry's address is 20 Park Drive, Romford, Essex RM1 4LH, England.
3461. Denny Martin Flinn's *KILLER FINISH* (New York: Bantam Books, 1991; 260 pp., \$3.99) is the second in his series about Spencer Holmes, the San Francisco private detective who is the grandson of Sherlock Holmes and who is in the audience when the magician The Great Gandolfo dies mysteriously during his last performance. This Great Gandolfo is not, however, the grandson of the magician with whom Sherlock Holmes was involved in the 1945 Rathbone/Bruce radio program "The Great Gandolfo".
3462. There are mentions of roses in three of the stories, or four (if you want to count the rose-water in "The Sign of the Four"), or five (if you count *Salvator Rosa*), a total that neatly matches the five roses on a new set of stamps issued by Great Britain.

September 1991 #5

3463. Shooting for "Charles Augustus Milverton" (which will be called "The Master Blackmailer" by Granada) was scheduled from Aug. 19 to Sept. 20 in Manchester and on location in Cheshire, Nottinghamshire, and Derbyshire. Robert Hardy is in the cast, probably in the role of Milverton (and one can only hope that he is Milverton, because he'll be a fine one).
3464. And there's more news about "The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes" on "Mystery!" (beginning Nov. 14): there will be five programs broadcast by PBS-TV: "The Illustrious Client", "The Creeping Man", "The Problem of Thor Bridge", "The Boscombe Valley Mystery", and "Shoscombe Old Place" ("The Disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax" is being held in reserve for broadcast during the Aug. 1992 pledge drives).
3465. And there's good news and bad news about Jeremy Brett: the good news is that he will arrive in New York on Sept. 29 and then tour, promoting the Granada series. The bad news is that the tour schedule is (as we go to press) only tentative (so you should check with your local PBS-TV station to see what's really what, and when). The arrival dates after New York are (or at least may be): Oct. 8 in Los Angeles, Oct. 14 in Dallas, Oct. 17 in St. Louis, Oct. 20 in Atlanta, Oct. 22 in Detroit, Oct. 23 in Philadelphia, Oct. 25 in Washington, Oct. 30 in Boston, Nov. 3 in Cleveland, and Nov. 5 in Chicago.
3466. Alan Wheatley died in Sept. His obituary in the Daily Telegraph noted that Wheatley "combined an air of supercilious self-assurance with a shifty-eyed hint of villainy to make his mark in a variety of roles on both stage and screen," and those roles included Sherlock Holmes, in six Canonical tales broadcast by BBC television in 1951. In 1954 he was on BBC radio as Herr Professor Willi Notenschlager (Holmes' old German teacher of the violin) in "A Tribute to Sherlock Holmes", and in 1963 he played Sherlock Holmes again on BBC radio in "The Man Who Was Sherlock Holmes" (an "investigation into the relationship between the famous detective and his creator" written by Michael and Mollie Hardwick).
3467. Niagara Falls is shown on a new postal card, with an attractive design by Wendell Minor. "'From a drop of water,' said the writer, 'a logician could infer the possibility of an Atlantic or a Niagara without having seen or heard of one or the other.'" (Stud) "I seem to have all Niagara whizzing and buzzing in my ears." (Croo) That's nice imagery, certainly, but: how many other oceans and falls might be inferred from a drop of water? And how much whizzing and buzzing can actually be heard at Niagara Falls?
3468. This year's Christmas card from the Sherlock Holmes Society of London will have a photograph of the sitting room at the new Sherlock Holmes Museum in Meiringen (with brief commentary and the usual greeting). A packet of ten cards costs \$8.50 postpaid, and checks (payable to the Society) can be sent to Capt. W. R. Michell, Old Crown Inn, Lopen, South Petherton, Somerset TA13 5JX, England.
3469. Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson appear (again) in *Playboy's Party Jokes* in the Oct. 1991 issue. The joke, I fear, is no funnier than the last one.

September 1991 #6

3470. They are still called trading cards, apparently, and people may actually trade them still (we certainly did in the days when they came in packs of bubble gum), and "Star Trek" is celebrating its 25th anniversary with a set of 160 cards showing scenes from the original series and from "Star Trek: The Next Generation". And card #38 has a scene from the 1988 program "Elementary, Dear Data" (with Brent Spiner as Holmes and LeVar Burton as Watson). Jonathan Abell reports that some comic-book shops and other outlets break open packs so that complete sets can be assembled, selling the duplicate single cards for modest sums. The distributor of the cards is Impel Marketing Inc., Research Triangle Park, NC 27709.
3471. Watch for newspaper reports in Oct. about the results of the auction of the independent television franchises in Britain. There are 16 ITV franchises (including Granada), and new ten-year licenses will take effect in 1992. According to the latest issue of *Anglofile*, there are rumors that Granada has been outbid, but may nevertheless retain its license because there is a "quality threshold" that winning bidders must also satisfy. But if Granada does lose its license it could operate as an independent production company and might offer "Coronation Street" (its most popular series) to the BBC. *Anglofile* offers the latest entertainment news from Britain, and costs \$12 a year (Box 33515, Decatur, GA 30033).
3472. Al Rosenblatt (whose disclaimer reads, "Honest, I had nothing to do with this!") reports some Sherlockian artwork on a judicial flier.
3473. Deborah W. Sage's *DOGGEREL IN THE NIGHT-TIME* is the newest title published by the Gasogene Press, and it is nicely done, with amusing and imaginative poems, and delightful illustrations by Jeff Decker. The 92-page book (paper covers) is available for \$13.45 postpaid from the publisher (Box 1041, Dubuque, IA 52004).
3474. Sherlock, Stock & Barrel (Box 8261, Colorado Springs, CO 80933) offers a new sales list, with sculptures by Cheryl Harness, medals by Alex Shagin, and a varied assortment of Sherlockian pins.
3475. Does anyone have or know of a publicity photograph or still showing Anna May Wong in the film "A Study in Scarlet" (1933)? I would welcome a photocopy (and if you can help, please don't assume that someone else will be sending me one).
3476. Anvil Cassettes (4 Reed's Corner, Marlborough, Wilts. SN8 2RR, England) are offering *FAVOURITE MUSIC OF SHERLOCK HOLMES*, a new audiocassette (£4.99) that Roger Johnson describes as a "rather speculative" collection of music by Mendelssohn, Tchaikovsky, Brahms, Offenbach, Beethoven, and others (but without anything by Wagner).
3477. Spotted by Al Rosenblatt at a local Grand Union: *CURSIVE WRITING* (a "Golden Step Ahead" activity book) with Sherlockian art on the cover and on p. 26 (Racine: Western Publishing Co., 1990; 32 pp., \$2.25).

September 1991 #7

3478. THE SCOTTISH STUDENTS' SONG BOOK will no longer be published. A report in The Higher: The Times Higher Education Supplement (Aug. 16, 1991), at hand from Chris Redmond, the book was first published in 1891 and was so popular (sales averaged 11,000 copies a year until World War Two) that it was claimed to be one of two books that could be found in every Scottish household (the other being the Bible). But student songs "are no longer in vogue," according to the secretary of the committee that publishes the book (and a shorter edition published in 1982 was banned at Glasgow University on the grounds of racism in songs such as "The Campdown Races"). For many years the song book contained the words and music for Claude Ralston's "Sherlock Holmes" (D4472a), and for "Mush, Mush" (the song whose tune would seem to have been the source of Jim Montgomery's tribute to his, and our, beloved "Aunt Clara").
3479. Reported by John Bennett Shaw: SASSAFRAS HOLMES AND THE LIBRARY MYSTERIES, by Carolmarie Stock, a 61-page pamphlet with a Sherlockian artwork on the cover and Sherlockian characters explaining libraries to youngsters. \$9.95 from the Alleyside Press, Box 889, Hagerstown, MD 21741.
3480. A revival of Christopher Martin's adaptation of "A Study in Scarlet" toured in Britain this year, and the program from the one-week run at the Theatre Royal in Margate included a bit of history, whence comes this excerpt about a meeting in London: "It turned out to be a fruitful dinner party: from it resulted not only Conan Doyle's next Sherlock Holmes masterpiece, The Gang of Four, but also Oscar Wilde's The Picture of Dorian Gray."
3481. Reported by Dick Rutter: AN EXALTATION OF LARKS: THE ULTIMATE EDITION, by James Lipton (Viking, 1991, \$20.00). First published in 1968, and revised in 1977 (and again for the new edition), the book explores "the venereal game" (which is not quite what you may be imagining at the moment). Lipton notes in his introduction that Conan Doyle once played the game, and quotes at length from SIR NIGEL, in which young Nigel demonstrates his knowledge of collective nouns, such as a cete of badgers, a skulk of foxes, etc.
3482. The City of Westminster and the Arthur Conan Doyle Society have joined in publication of a facsimile of the manuscript of "The Dying Detective", with an introduction by Julian Symons and an afterword by Owen Dudley Edwards. The deluxe edition (limited to 100 copies bound in buckram and signed by Symons, Edwards, and Dame Jean Conan Doyle) costs £105 postpaid (\$200 to the U.S.), and the standard edition (bound in paper-covered boards) costs £27.50 postpaid (\$60 to the U.S.). See the enclosed flier for details on where to send your checks.
3483. Michael Harrison ("The Camberwell Poisoning Case") died on Sept. 13. It is tempting to assume that he was known by everyone: those who were his hosts during his visits or in audiences as he reminisced, or who were readers of his many books, Sherlockian and otherwise. He was truly an Edwardian, ably demonstrating the intelligence and the mischievous humor of a long-gone era (and one that he remembered well). His arrival in the world of Sherlockian literature was almost accidental, in 1958, but IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES was a landmark that led to a series of essays, articles, and books that won him the BSI's Two-Shilling Award in 1985 and a legion of readers, present and future, who will be the best memorial he could have wished for.

September 1991 #8

3484. John Gardner ("Moriarty") has written (and continues to write) books other than his continuation of Ian Fleming's series about James Bond, but it is the Bond series that sells best: a recent article in the Times notes that Fleming's series has sold 75 million copies worldwide, while the Gardner sequels have sold 100 million copies.
3485. The Franco-Midland Hardware Company (a British-based international Holmesian correspondence study group) offers an introductory booklet describing their organization, publications and projects. Send \$2.00 (currency only, please) to Philip Weller, 6 Bramham Moor, Hill Head, Fareham, Hampshire PO14 3RU, England.
3486. A new catalog from Bits & Pieces: The Great International Puzzle Collection offers a Sherlockian chess set for \$179.95, and the game 221B BAKER STREET (D3957b) for \$16.95. Shipping is extra; their address is 1 Puzzle Place (B8016), Stevens Point, WI 54481 (800-544-7297); and they take plastic.
3487. An imaginative and amusing soft-sculpture Sherlockian jack-in-the-box was spotted by Jerry Margolin at The Wood Gallery in Newport, Ore. The price is \$73.00 (including shipping), they take plastic, and the toll-free number is 800-359-1419.
3488. Only for the completists: THE HOUSE OF AGATHA MYSTRIE, a three-act comedy-mystery written by Robert A. Allen. The cast of parody detectives includes Sherlucky Holmes, and the 82-page script is available from Baker's Plays, 100 Chauncy Street, Boston, MA 02111 (\$6.00 postpaid).
3489. Carol Nelson Douglas reports that GOOD MORNING, IRENE will be followed by DR. WATSON, I PERCEIVE, due in July 1992.
3490. Reported by Jennie Paton: A COLLECTION OF HAUNTING TALES, including Conan Doyle's "The New Catacomb") on a set of three audiocassettes (Audio Book Contractors, Box 40115, Washington, DC 20016; \$23.50).
3491. Our recent booklet pane honoring comedians was designed by Al Hirschfeld, who has included his daughter Nina's name at least once on each stamp (the postal service waived its long-standing rule against secret marks, because those who recognize his style also tend to look for his trademark "NINA"). Laurel & Hardy, Charlie McCarthy, and Abbott & Costello have all appeared in deerstalkers in films, and Charlie McCarthy also on a souvenir spoon.

October 1991 #1

3492. THE REAL WORLD OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE TRUE CRIMES INVESTIGATED BY ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE, by Peter Costello (London: Robinson, 1991; 235 pp., £14.95) (New York: Carroll & Graf, 1991; 235 pp., \$19.95), offers a wide-ranging examination of ACD's involvement with the police (he was interviewed by a politely-suspicious detective in Southsea in 1885) and his interest in the crimes and criminals of his day. Some of the crimes and criminals will be familiar to those who have read ACD's own books and his biographies, but Costello offers new insight and information on the familiar, and intriguing detail on generally-neglected connections such as ACD's membership in the "Crimes Club" and the club's guided tour in 1905 of the scenes of Jack the Ripper's outrages.
3493. The Dec. 1991 issue of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine has Ellery Queen's script for "The Disappearance of Mr. James Phillimore" (reprinted from THE MISADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES). The script is based on "Mr. Short and Mr. Long" (broadcast by NBC in "The Adventures of Ellery Queen" in 1943); no one has ever reported a recording of the show.
3494. Plan ahead (suggests Bill Rabe): The Old SOB's3 will hold their first "Aunt Clara Singalong" for those at loose ends at 8:00 pm on Thursday, Jan. 9, 1992, at O'Lunney's saloon and restaurant on West 44th Street, a few steps up (or down) from the Algonquin. Sherlockians are invited to wine and dine from a moderately-priced menu, and raise their voices in traditional and unconventional song (led by Hugh O'Lunney's resident folk singer). Bring your own favorite song sheets. No advance payment is required, but it is not a large establishment and a check for \$10.00 for each person in your party, mailed to Mr. O'Lunney (12 West 44th Street, New York, NY 10036), will reserve your table and will be applied to your tab for the evening. Be certain to explain what the check is for (Hugh has a lot on his mind).
3495. Diane Ackerman's A NATURAL HISTORY OF THE SENSES, first published in 1990, is now available in paperback (Vintage, \$11.00); it is an interesting book, with as much philosophy as natural history, and a discussion of the Canon: "We can detect over ten thousand different odors, so many in fact, that our memories would fail us if we tried to jot down everything they represent. In 'The Hound of the Baskervilles,' Sherlock Holmes identifies a

woman by the smell of her notepaper, pointing out that 'there are seventy-five perfumes, which it is very necessary that a criminal expert should be able to distinguish from each other.' A low number, surely. After all, anyone 'with a nose for' crime should be able to sniff out culprits from their tweed, India ink, talcum powder, Italian leather shoes, and countless other scented paraphernalia."

3496. THE GREAT DETECTIVE PICTURES, by James Robert Parish and Michael R. Pitts (Metuchen: Scarecrow Press, 1990; 630 pp., \$59.50), covers both films and television, and in some detail, with essays and quotes from reviews. The focus, however, is on American films and television: Arthur Wontner's 1937 "Silver Blaze" is discussed as "Murder at the Baskervilles" (the title for the American release in 1941), there is only minor discussion of the Jeremy Brett series (which is credited to Thames Television rather than Granada), and there is no listing for Baker's 1982 "The Hound of the Baskervilles".

October 1991 #2

3497. I've now seen a preview videocassette of Charlton Heston's "The Crucifer of Blood" (due to debut on TNT cable on Nov. 4), and I enjoyed it. This won't be a review, since I don't want to ruin some of the surprises for those who aren't familiar with the plot of the play by Paul Giovanni. But I will note that the show is thoroughly melodramatic, in the tradition of the Gillette play, and at times Charlton Heston's resemblance to William Gillette in his later years as Sherlock Holmes was striking.
3498. Michael Pointer's new THE PICTORIAL HISTORY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (160 pp.) is a large book (10x14 in.) packed with illustrations (many in full color) of material owned by Pointer, Richard Lancelyn Green, and Stanley MacKenzie. Pointer's earlier books include THE PUBLIC LIFE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1975) and THE SHERLOCK HOLMES FILE (1976); the text of his new book is more for the general public than for old hands, but the illustrations are thoroughly spectacular, offering a fine survey of early illustrators, stage, screen, radio, television, and advertising both old and new. The British edition is published by the Bison Group (London), and the American edition by the Mallard Press (New York) with a list price of \$19.98.
3499. Spotted by Jackie Geyer in the Oct. 1991 issue of Cat Fancy: a photograph of a Maine Coon brown mackerel tabby named Grand Champion Purricoon Arthur Coonan Doyle.
3500. Capital Holmes has made its society emblem available on button, T-shirts, golf shirts, and sweatshirts. Write to Sheila Vaudrey (2217 Iris Street, Ottawa, Ont. K2C 1B7, Canada) for an illustrated flier with more information on prices, sizes, etc.
3501. John Ruyle is alive and well and versifying, and back on board the Pequod (Press), whence comes an announcement of THE BULL PUP, with 27 "remarkable paraphrastic quartets" devoted to "A Study in Scarlet" (accompanied by a short poem written by Sherlock Holmes himself). The book is available from the author (521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707) for \$35.00 (cloth) or \$15.00 (paper).
3502. The Granada series has indeed been edited for Arts & Entertainment. A&E's version of "A Scandal in Bohemia" had only 49 minutes from Granada, with bits and pieces missing (most noticeably some of the scenes that show Irene being adventurous), and there are frequent appearances of A&E's "bug" (the emblem that is superimposed at the lower right of the screen from time to time, to let you know that you're watching A&E). The PBS-TV versions run 53 minutes, I believe. Of course the good news is that airing the series on the Disney channel, and now on A&E, will allow a far larger audience to see the fine work that Granada has done with Sherlock Holmes.
3503. And we will have an opportunity to see much more of Jeremy Brett on PBS-TV, since he has decided that he would like to do all sixty of the stories, and reports that Mobil is enthusiastic. The bad news, of course, is that that means delay in bringing his play to the United States, but Brett said that "The Secret of Sherlock Holmes" will open at the Brooks Atkinson Theatre in New York on Jan. 12, 1994. Yes: 1994. And Granada recently sold its series for broadcast in the Soviet Union, for a new total of 83 countries.

October 1991 #3

3504. Marian J. A. Jackson's THE CAT'S EYE (New York: Pinnacle Books, 1991; 256 pp., \$3.50) is the third in her series about Abigail Patience Danforth, who continues to ignore Conan Doyle's earlier warning that amateur detecting is no career for a young lady (September 90 #5). Abigail is now in San Francisco in March 1900, involved in the high society of Nob Hill and the much lower society of the Barbary Coast (guided through the latter by Jack London).
3505. "There's no place like Holmes for the holidays" surrounds a gold silhouette of a pipe-smoking Sherlock Holmes on a bright green Christmas tree ornament (diameter 2.5 inches) now available in a limited edition of 250 copies from Rick Hacker (Box 634, Beverly Hills, CA 90213) at \$18.50 postpaid. This is the second annual issue of Rick's ornaments; a few of last year's ornaments (in red, with a gold Santa's pipe and "Happy Holidays, Happy Smoking") are still available at the same price.
3506. According to Christopher Dunkley, in the [London] Financial Times (Feb. 27, 1991), Britain's most popular television series ("Coronation Street") has about 17 million viewers. Mysteries are also popular: "Dalgleish" has 12.6 million, "Poirot" 12.4 million, and "Inspector Morse" 11.2 million. By way of comparison, the season opener of "Murphy Brown" had a Nielsen rating of 23.8 (that's 21.9 million TV households). The United States has about four times the population, so a program as popular as "Coronation Street" is in Britain would have almost 70 million viewers here. And by way of further comparison, the 1990 TV film "Hands of a Murderer" had a 9.5 Nielsen rating (8.7 million TV households); the Niensens for "Mystery!" (and everything else on PBS-TV) are much lower than that.
3507. Our new commemorative honoring the bicentennial of the District of Columbia shows a view down Pennsylvania Avenue toward the Capitol, based on a photograph taken in 1903; this is the view that William Gillette would have seen when he brought his play "Sherlock Holmes" to Washington in Nov. 1900 and in Dec. 1902.
3508. The first formal mailing has arrived from Bouchercon XXIII, which will be held in Toronto on Oct. 8-11, 1992, at the Royal York Hotel. This will be the first four-day Bouchercon, with Thursday as a "Special Interests Day" and a farewell cocktail party on Sunday evening. Margaret Millar will be the guest of honor, Charlotte MacLeod will receive the Bouchercon lifetime achievement award, and Otto Penzler will be the toastmaster at the dinner on Saturday evening. Registration is \$60.00 through the end of 1991, and the address is Bouchercon XXIII, Box 23, Station "S", Toronto, Ont. M5M 4L6, Canada.
3509. SHERLOCK HOLMES ON THE ROOF OF THE WORLD: OR THE ADVENTURE OF THE WAYFARING GOD, by Thos. Kent Miller (Redlands: Rosemill House, 1991; 75 pp., \$4.50), is yet another long-lost manuscript, but this one was written by Leo Vincey (whom some will recall from Rider Haggard's SHE and AYESHA). Accompanied by Horace Holly, Vincey is in Lhasa in 1891, where they meet a Norwegian named Sigerson, who is able to resolve both accusations of murder and the theft of a valuable religious document. Available from the publisher (Box 7692, Redlands, CA 92375) for \$6.00 postpaid.

October 1991 #4

3510. Carolmarie Stock's *SASSAFRAS HOLMES AND THE LIBRARY MYSTERIES* (Hagerstown: Alleyside Press, 1991; 60 pp., \$9.95) offers a pleasant collection of short stories about Sassy Holmes, her best friend Jane Watson, and city librarian Mrs. Hudson, intended to help youngsters learn how to use libraries. There are many Sherlockian allusions, and the book is available from the publisher (Box 889, Hagerstown, MD 21741).
3511. Welcome news for those who are tired of eating Klondike ice-cream bars in hopes of winning a Klondike bear in Sherlockian costume (May 91 #5): John E. Stephenson reports that the bear can also be purchased (\$16.45 plus two proofs of purchase from Klondike six-packs) from Klondike Holmes Bear, 5400 118th Avenue North, Clearwater, FL 34620.
3512. It's not Sherlockian, but gourmets and gourmands (and others) will enjoy *A COOK'S ALPHABET OF QUOTATIONS*, edited by Maria Polushkin Robbins (New York: Dutton, 1991; \$16.95). A sample: "Isn't there any other part of the matzo you can eat?" (Marilyn Monroe).
3513. Dick Rutter suggests that political pundits worrying about atomic devices in the hands of the "breakaway" Soviet republics might recall the Latvian "gentleman" who once threatened the world in a story by Conan Doyle.
3514. Reported by Troy Taylor: Robert McCammon's *BOY'S LIFE* (New York: Pocket Books, 1991; 440 pp., \$21.95); not Sherlockian (but with an appearance by one of Professor Challenger's dinosaurs).
3515. Add one more film to the list of occasions on which Sherlock Holmes can be seen driving an automobile: Jim Vogelsang notes that Holmes is seen at the wheel of the antique car at the end of "Murder by Death" (1976).
3516. The new trade-paperback edition of *ROUND THE FIRE STORIES* (San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 1991; 226 pp., \$9.95) is a fine companion to Chronicle's reprints of *THE LOST WORLD & THE POISON BELT* (September 89 #3) and *WHEN THE WORLD SCREAMED & OTHER STORIES* (August 90 #1). *ROUND THE FIRE STORIES* offers some well-told tales, including the apocryphal cases "The Man with the Watches" and "The Lost Special".
3517. According to a review in *The Higher: The Times Higher Education Supplement* (Sept. 6, 1991), at hand from Chris Redmond, *MANLINESS AND MORALITY: MIDDLE CLASS MASCULINITY IN BRITAIN AND AMERICA, 1800-1940*, edited by J. A. Mangan and James Walvin (Manchester University Press, 1991; 278 pp., £12.95), has an essay by Jeffrey Richards on "Manly Love and Victorian Society" in which the discussion of male love and friendship includes "that paramount sign of the complex but in the end confident nature of late Victorian masculinity, the relationship between Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson." And the reviewer suggests that "the enduring power of this relationship in particular underlines the need for continuing research into masculinity in history."
3518. Reported: the Promotional Services Center (Box 5062, Janesville, WI 53547) is running a "Whodunit?" mystery sweepstakes with a one-week tour of London as the grand prize ("you'll visit Scotland Yard and the haunts of Sherlock Holmes"). Apparently you are sent two packs of "a leading light cigarette" and an opinion-survey card that serves as your entry in the sweepstakes.

October 1991 #5

3519. "There can be only one original of every painting. But this is not true of literature. There is no special virtue in first editions: one would usually prefer to read a later one in which the printing is up to date, the paper has not faded and the author has corrected the errors. All this trade [in rare books and fine bindings] is as deeply boring to people who are interested in literature as it seems to be fascinating to those others who, incapable of literary culture, try to buy the distinction of letters by paying unusual prices for bibliographical rarities. . . . I can assure them that it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a collector of first editions to enter the Kingdom of Literature." Edmund Wilson (1926), quoted by Janet Malcolm in the *New Yorker* (May 6, 1972).
3520. Reported: *THE EXPLOITS OF BRIGADIER GERARD* (Canongate, £4.95), with a new introduction by Owen Dudley Edwards.
3521. The Latvian "gentleman" who once threatened the world in a story by Conan Doyle was the evil Theodore Nemor (in the Professor Challenger story "The Disintegration Machine").
3522. Thanks to those who reported on the pictures of Anna May Wong in "A Study in Scarlet" on p. 43 of Chris Steinbrunner's *THE FILMS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES*. But does anyone have an actual still? And (even better) something showing Mrs. Pike with Sherlock Holmes?
3523. The new pin (enamel on metal) for *The Parallel Case of St. Louis* costs \$12.00 postpaid, from Joseph J. Eckrich (7793 Keswick Place, St. Louis, MO 63119). Joe also offers a six-page sales list of Sherlockiana (send him a #10 SASE).
3524. The bidding at the auction of the library of Richard Manney by Sotheby's in New York demonstrated considerable interest in the more important Doyleana (prices include the 10% buyer's premium): \$82,500 for the manuscript of "The Mazarin Stone"; \$23,100 for Beeton's *Christmas Annual* (with two pages of advertisements and the rear cover in facsimile); \$53,900 for the first printing of the first edition of *THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* in dust jacket (the only known copy of the first printing in a jacket); \$18,700 for an inscribed first edition of *THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES*; \$16,500 for an inscribed first edition of *THE VALLEY OF FEAR*; and \$4,950 for a first edition of *THE LOST WORLD* inscribed to Lady Doyle.
3525. There were some other nice items in the collection of Richard Manney, who had an interest in polar exploration, and owned an unpublished manuscript journal kept by T. Orde-Lees, who had been assigned by the Admiralty to Shackleton's trans-Antarctic expedition in 1914. After the wreck of their ship **Endurance**, the party managed to reach an island, whence Shackleton set off for help, leaving most of the men behind through a bitter winter that reduced them to eating boiled seaweed by the time they were rescued. Some years later, Orde-Lees noted in a typewritten continuation of the journal: "We were faced with starvation. For reasons unknown, disclosed to me some thirty years after, I was the one first on their list to be chosen to give sustenance to my comrades, because I was in better health than any of the others. This is one of the drawbacks of Polar exploration."

October 1991 #6

3526. Richard Wein reports that the new catalog from *The Mind's Eye* (Box 1060, Petaluma, CA 94953) offers a "collector's edition" boxed set with the first 13 audiocassettes (with 26 Rathbone/Bruce radio programs) issued by Simon and Schuster at \$99.35, and an attractive and colorful portrait of Sherlock Holmes by Bruce Wolff on sweatshirts (\$24.95) and T-shirts (\$14.95); they take plastic (800-227-2020). The catalog also has previously-available S'ian radio programs, as does a new catalog from Radiola, Box C, Sandy Hook, CT 06482 (800-243-0987). Richard also reports that Harmony Gold has delayed the air dates for "Sherlock Holmes: Incident at Victoria Falls" (starring Christopher Lee and Patrick Macnee), pending negotiations over release on videocassettes; the Feb. 17/Mar. 15 "window" for local stations has been postponed until May 18/June 14.
3527. Some more auction news: an unsigned typescript of the first three acts of a four-act dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be auctioned by Sotheby's in New York on Dec. 12. Previously owned by Bliss Austin, the typescript is dated Aug. 1902, and was typed at Mrs. Marshall's Typewriting Office in London, an agency that was used by Conan Doyle for typescripts of other plays (Adrian Conan Doyle suggested in a letter to Bliss Austin that the script of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" was "probably discarded by my father as unsuitable.") The auction at Sotheby's will also include a copy of *WANDERINGS OF A SPIRITUALIST* inscribed by Conan Doyle to Houdini.

3528. Further to the discussion of Niagara's "whizzing and buzzing" (September 91 #5), Don Pollock reports a comment by Richard Burton: "I well remember not being able to sleep within ear-shot of Niagara, whose mighty orchestra, during the stillness of the night, seemed to run through a repertoire of oratorios and operas." Burton visited Niagara Falls in 1860.
3529. Reported: Carin Rafferty's romance novel SHERLOCK AND WATSON (Don Mills: Harlequin Temptation, 1991; \$2.99); Sherlockian only by title, and #363 in a subscription series that is also available in bookstores.
3530. Two Sherlockian wall calendars have been announced for 1992, showing dates for the cases taken from Baring-Gould's THE ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES. The calendar available from Mark Alberstat (6258 Payzant Avenue, Halifax, N.S. B3H 2B1, Canada) has Sidney Paget illustrations (US\$10.00 postpaid), and the calendar from Brian and Charlotte Erickson (1029 Judson Drive, Mountain View, CA 94040) offers Ron White's new photographs of the recreation of the sitting-room at the Holiday Inn in San Francisco (\$15.00 postpaid).
3531. James O. Duval's ceramic Christmas Christmas-tree ornaments (November 89 #2) are still available: Holmes on one side and Watson on the other, with a ribbon for hanging on a tree and a pedestal holder for display on a shelf. \$17.50 postpaid, and Jim's address is 72 Merrimack Street, Penacook, NH 03303.
3532. Late-breaking news: the next volume in the series of BSI archival histories edited by Jon L. Lellenberg will be called IRREGULAR RECORDS OF THE EARLY 'FORTIES, due from the Fordham University Press in late November at \$18.95 plus shipping. Procrastinators are warned that last year's volume sold out very quickly; the toll-free number is 800-666-2211, and they take plastic.

November 1991 #1

3533. Readers of the well-written and well-argued chapter on "Brief Writing and Oral Argument in Appellate Practice" in NEW YORK APPELLATE PRACTICE (a book published this year by the New York State Bar Association) may or may not be aware that most of the plaintiffs, defendants, parties, and witnesses have names taken from the Canon. The author of the chapter is Associate Justice Albert M. Rosenblatt, who carefully notes the distinction "between a brief that is either joyful and informative, and one that is dark and incomprehensible."
3534. Donald Houston died on Oct. 13. His acting career began on stage in 1940, and he made his film debut in loincloth and opposite Jean Simmons in "The Blue Lagoon" (1949), and his many later roles included a stalwart Watson in John Neville's "A Study in Terror" (1965).
3535. Further to the report (August 91 #3) on the National Farm Medicine Center's test of the best hat for farmers to wear to reduce their exposure to skin cancer, Bob Brusic and Gary Thaden have sent an Associated Press dispatch on the results. The winner (with 41 points) was a modified baseball cap with a detachable flap that covers the temples, ears, and neck. In second place (with 35 points) was a mesh variation of the deerstalker.
3536. Plan ahead: there will be (at least) two Sherlockian workshops in 1993. The Norwegian Explorers will sponsor a conference on "Sherlock Holmes' Victorian Criminal Classes: Rogues, Rascals, and Ruffians" on June 11-13 (write to: Bruce E. Southworth, 2600 West 86th Street, Bloomington, MN 55431). And The Scowers and Mollie Maguires of San Francisco will hold their Sherlockian weekend at Stanford University on Aug. 5-7 (Charlotte A. Erickson, Box 341, Mount Eden, CA 94557).
3537. Gene Roddenberry died on Oct. 24. Best known as the creator of "Star Trek" (now celebrating its 25th anniversary), he also wrote more than 80 scripts for other television shows, and was head writer for the series "Have Gun, Will Travel". Susan J. Beasley has reported that several years after the original "Star Trek" series ended, Roddenberry wrote the screenplay for a television film that involved Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson in a case that occurred after Holmes' retirement and was intended as a pilot for a series starring Leonard Nimoy as Holmes. Nimoy did not want to do the series, and when Roddenberry approached the Conan Doyle estate he was rudely rebuffed. Roddenberry then changed the names of the lead characters, and the two-hour film "Spectre" was broadcast by NBC-TV on May 21, 1977, with Robert Culp as William Sebastian and Gig Young as Dr. Hamilton.
3538. The Sept. 1991 issue of Canadian Holmes honors Cameron Hollyer, and one of its best features is a reprint of Cam's speech (in Montreal in 1990) about his career and the birth and nurturing of the Arthur Conan Doyle collection at the Metropolitan Toronto Reference Library. It's the sort of thing that make one wish one could have been there, and additional recommendation is required, the Sept. 1991 issue also has Dayna Nuhn McCausland's portrait of a bare-breasted Mary Morstan. Canadian Holmes is a quarterly published by The Bootmakers of Toronto, and costs \$12.00 a year (checks can be sent to Maureen Green, 47 Manor Road West, Toronto, Ont. M5P 1E6, Canada).

November 1991 #2

3539. THE EXPLOITS OF BRIGADIER GERARD (Edinburgh: Canongate, 1991; 188 pp., £4.95) is a fine reprint of the first set of stories about the Brigadier, who was one of best of Conan Doyle's creations. The book also has a new and interesting introduction by Owen Dudley Edwards, and short notes introducing each of the stories.
3540. Irwin Allen died on Nov. 2. Famous in the film industry as "The Master of Disaster" for his work as producer of films that included "The Poseidon Adventure" (1972), "The Towering Inferno" (1974), and "The Swarm" (1978), he also produced, directed, and shared writing credit for "The Lost World" (1960). According to press reports, Allen purchased the rights to Conan Doyle's novel for \$100,000 and hoped to star Gilbert Roland, Victor Mature, and either Trevor Howard or Peter Ustinov (and it would be nice indeed to have seen Ustinov in the role of Challenger).
3541. The manuscript of "The Mazarin Stone" and the copy of Beeton's Christmas Annual sold by Sotheby's last month (October 91 #5) were bought for stock by a British dealer. Potential purchasers are invited to write to Vivienne Rudd at E. Joseph, Booksellers, One Vere Street, London W1M 9HQ, England.
3542. The second issue of Varieties of Ash has arrived, and it is nicely done, with illustrated articles on events (past and present) at the Reichenbach Falls, and other Sherlockian commentary. The magazine is published twice a year, and annual subscriptions cost \$10.00 (from Susan E. Dahlinger, 758 Third Street, Secaucus, NJ 07094).
3543. SHEER LUCK HOLMES is an amusing Australian two-act school musical (script by Simon Denver and music by Ian Dorricott), first performed in Brisbane in 1979 and now in its fifth edition, and available for AU\$10.50 from Peepshow Productions (Bergann Road, Maleny, Queensland 4552, Australia. Shipping is extra (by airmail if requested), and Peepshow will ship with an invoice (to be paid only in Australian dollars, please).
3544. Joan Kerins notes that Daniel Massey (who plays J. Neil Gibson in Granada's version of "Thor Bridge") strongly resembles his father, and suggests that it may not have been mere coincidence that the son of an actor famous for his portrayal of Abraham Lincoln was chosen to play a character described as "an Abraham Lincoln keyed to base uses instead of high ones."
3545. "But the Solar System!" Watson protested (in "A Study in Scarlet"). Our new booklet pane shows the nine planets, and the Moon, by way of honoring the exploration of space. Which of the planets is mentioned elsewhere in the Canon?

November 1991 #3

3546. Roger Johnson reports that Thorley Walters died earlier this year. He was a generally-bewildered Watson, in the tradition of Nigel Bruce, in films with Christopher Lee in "Sherlock Holmes und das Halsband des Todes" (1962) and Douglas Wilmer in "The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes' Smarter Brother" (1965), and on television with Christopher Plummer in "Silver Blaze" (1977). He also played Watson in an uncredited cameo in the film "The Best House in London" (1969), and Major John Sholto on television in "The Sign of Four" (1983).
3547. The Klondike bear in Sherlockian costume (October 91 #4) does exist, and you do not need to solve the ice-cream-bar mystery in order to get one (mine has now arrived): you can send \$16.45 and two proofs of purchase from Klondike six-packs to Klondike Holmes Bear, 5400 118th Avenue North, Clearwater, FL 34620.
3548. The new ten-story Harold Washington Library Center in downtown Chicago is grand indeed, and imaginatively designed, and the largest public library in the world (other libraries are larger but don't allow the public to borrow books). It has about 2 million books (in open stacks except for some fine special collections) and more than 600 staffers (and those that I met were knowledgeable and friendly), and a 400-seat auditorium, and computers that work. And planning is underway for a Sherlock Holmes Center, supported by the local Sherlockians.
3549. LESTRADE AND THE MAGPIE, by M. J. Trow (London: Constable, 1991; 224 pp., £12.99), is the tenth novel in his amusing series about Inspector Sholto Lestrade. The time is 1920, and Lestrade is remarried, reunited with his daughter, retired, and nevertheless thoroughly involved in a mystery that offers the now-traditional opportunities for name-dropping, bawdy humor, and puns. And for those who may have missed the first three titles in the series, CONSTABLE CRIME OMNIBUS 2 (London: Constable, 1991; 630 pp., £7.99) is a paperback omnibus reprint with THE ADVENTURES OF INSPECTOR LESTRADE, BRIGADE: THE FURTHER ADVENTURES OF INSPECTOR LESTRADE, and LESTRADE AND THE HALLOWED HOUSE.
3550. Newly noted audiocassettes: THE LOST WORLD (read by Jack Sonderlicker on six cassettes), THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (read by Gene Engene on six cassettes), and four volumes of SHORT STORIES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (each with six stories read by Tim Behrens on six cassettes). The fidelity is high, the stories are unabridged, the readings are nicely done, and the sets are available for \$33.95 each from Books in Motion, 9212 East Montgomery #501, Spokane, WA 99206 (800-752-3199).
3551. Howard Haycraft ("The Devil's Foot") died on Nov. 11. Howard had a long and distinguished career in publishing (he was president and chairman of the board of the H. W. Wilson Co.), and was best-known in our field as an energetic and enthusiastic critic and editor. His first Sherlockian book was THE BOYS' SHERLOCK HOLMES (1936), and his MURDER FOR PLEASURE: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF THE MYSTERY STORY (1941) was a splendid introduction to the field. He also edited THE ART OF THE MYSTERY STORY (1946), and received an Edgar from the Mystery Writers of America in 1947 (and a special award in 1975 for his many contributions to mystery criticism and scholarship). He received an Investiture in 1950, and the BSI's Two-Shilling Award in 1972.

November 1991 #4

3552. We will celebrate Sherlock Holmes' 138th birthday on Friday, Jan. 10, with the traditional festivities in New York. But the festivities will actually begin on Thursday at 9:00 am in the lobby of the Hotel Algonquin (59 West 44th Street), whence Allen Mackler will lead participants in the annual Christopher Morley Walk, which includes luncheon at McSorley's. Allen can be reached from Tuesday on at the Iroquois Hotel (212-840-3080).
3553. And at 8:00 pm on Thursday the Old SOB's will hold an Aunt Clara Singalong at O'Lunney's saloon and restaurant at 12 West 44th Street. Sherlockians will wine and dine from a moderately-priced menu, and are invited to bring their own favorite song sheets. No advance payment is required, but space is limited and a check for \$10.00 for each person in your party should be sent to Hugh O'Lunney (12 West 44th Street, New York, NY 10036) to reserve your table (the \$10.00 will be applied to your tab for the evening. And be certain to explain what the check is for (Hugh has a lot on his mind).
3554. Friday's schedule will begin with the Martha Hudson Breakfast from 8:30 to 10:30 am in the Oak Room at the Hotel Algonquin at 59 West 44th Street (The Stetaks, 15529 Diagonal Road, La Grange, OH 44050); \$15.00 (checks payable to The Baker Street Irregulars) for a buffet of juice, eggs, oatmeal (back by popular demand), bacon, sausage, muffins, coffee, and tea. The William Gillette Luncheon starts at noon at the Old Homestead at 56 Ninth Avenue at 14th Street (Susan Rice, 125 Washington Place #2-E, New York, NY 10014; \$28.50). Otto Penzler's annual open house at The Mysterious Bookshop (129 West 56th Street) is also on Friday, from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm, and it is as always possible that S'ian authors will be on hand to sign their books.
3555. The Baker Street Irregulars will gather at 6:00 pm at 24 Fifth Avenue at 9th Street, and The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes at 6:00 pm at the Century Cafe at 132 West 43rd Street between Sixth Avenue and Broadway (Evelyn A. Herzog, 360 West 21st Street #5-A, New York, NY 10011; \$50.00). Early reservations are, as in past years, recommended for the breakfast, the luncheon, and the Adventuresses' dinner.
3556. On Saturday a posse of purveyors will be selling a variety of S'iana on the second floor at the Algonquin, from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. Huckster tables are still available (Ray Betzner, 2906 Richard Pace South, Williamsburg, VA 23185); \$30.00 for a half table, and \$60.00 for a full table.
3557. On Saturday afternoon The Baker Street Irregulars will hold their annual reception, open to all Sherlockians and their friends, from 2:30 to 5:00 pm at 24 Fifth Avenue at 9th Street. There will be an open bar, with hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, and tickets cost \$30.00 a person. Checks (payable to The Baker Street Irregulars) should be sent to Robert E. Thomalen, 69 Glen Road, Eastchester, NY 10709.
3558. Mary Ellen Rich has once again kindly provided a list (see the next page) of hotels that offer reasonable (as defined by New York landlords) rates, along with a warning about non-optional extras: \$2.00 a day occupancy tax, 8.25% state tax, 5% city tax, and 5% state tax on rooms costing more than \$99.99. If you plan to arrive on Thursday, it is important to confirm that the weekend-package rates include Thursday.

November 1991 #5

3559. Information on hotels: Algonquin (59 West 44th Street): special Sherlockian rate of \$150 per night per room (single or double) (800-548-0345). Madison Towers (22 East 38th Street): \$99 (single/double) (800-225-4340). Roosevelt (Madison Avenue at 45th Street): \$89 (single/ double) (800-223-1870). Iroquois (49 West 44th Street): \$75 (single) \$85 (double) (800-332-7220). Shoreham (33 West 55th Street): \$75 (single) \$84 (double) (212-247-6700). Rosoffs (147 West 43rd Street, near the Century Cafe): \$50 (single) \$60 (double) (212-869-1212). Washington Square (103 Waverly Place just off Washington Square North, about three blocks from 24 Fifth Avenue): \$52 (single) \$73 (double) (212-777-9515).
3560. Further to the query (November 91 #2) about the planet mentioned in the Canon, it is in "The Bruce-Partington Plans" that Holmes suggests with regard to his brother Mycroft's impending visit to Baker Street that "a planet might as well leave its orbit," and later comments that "Jupiter is descending today." It is, however, possible that it was the god that was descending, rather than the planet. So: which of the other planets is mentioned by name in the Canon?
3561. Reports from Bouchercon .22 in Pasadena suggest that the convention was both enjoyable and hectic. The convention program ran to 100 pages, with Holmesian and Adlerian covers by Stu Shiffman, and the agenda included a panel discussion and a performance of Anthony Boucher's radio play "The Gunpowder Plot", and a presentation by Harry Andruschak on "The Dynamics of an Asteroid" (audiocassettes are available for \$8.50 each

postpaid from On-Site Taping Services, 29318 Quail Run, Agoura Hills, CA 91301. The convention also published a 100-page EDWARD D. HOCH BIBLIOGRAPHY, edited by Mike Nevins and June Moffatt and with a fine introduction by Marv Lachman (\$10.00 postpaid, from SCIFI, Box 8442, Van Nuys, CA 91409).

3562. Plan ahead: Bouchercon XXIII in Toronto on Oct. 8-11, 1992 (Al Navis, Box 23, Postal Station S, Toronto, Ont. M5M 4L6, Canada); Bouchercon XXIV in Omaha in Oct. 1993 (Charles Levitt, Little Professor Book Center, 13455 West Center Road, Omaha, NE 68144); and Bouchercon XXV in Seattle in Oct. 1994 (Thom Walls, Box 1095, Renton, WA 98057). And Bouchercons are no longer the only mysterycons: the second annual western regional mystery conference will be held in San Francisco on Feb. 14-16, 1992 (Left Coast Crime, attn: Donna Rankin, Box 1367, Martinez, CA 94553), Malice Domestic IV will be held in Washington on Apr. 24-26, 1992 (Box 701, Herndon, VA 22070), the third annual midwest mystery and suspense convention will be held in Omaha on May 29-31, 1992 (Little Professor Book Center, 13455 Center Road, Omaha, NE 68144), and the International Crime & Mystery Festival will be held in Nottingham on May 29-June 7, 1992 (Shots in the Dark, attn: Adrian Wootton, Broadway, Broad Street, Nottingham, NG1 3AL, England).
3563. Howard Einbinder (180 Clinton Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201) offers a new five-page sales-list of Sherlockiana.
3564. Suzan L. Zeder's two-act play "The Death and Life of Sherlock Holmes" was first produced in Louisville in 1987, and it has been revived at The Open Eye: New Stagings at 270 West 89th Street in New York. Performances will run through Dec. 15, and you can call 212-679-4143 for reservations.

November 1991 #6

3565. This year's summer-weekend excursion by The Sherlock Holmes Society of London was to Winchester, and the guidebook is a splendid production, with 83 pages of maps, illustrations, and articles by members of the Society. Copies of THE TRI-METALLIC QUESTION cost \$33.00 postpaid (surface mail) from Peter Horrocks (22 Old Buildings, Lincoln's Inn, London WC2A 3UJ, England). And Roger Johnson, who will be briefly in the U.S. in Dec., will have a supply available at \$27.00.
3566. A fine example of the imaginative details in the Granada series occurs in "The Illustrious Client" in the scene that shows the evil Baron turning the pages of his "lust diary" while listening to a recording from an opera. As more than one of my correspondents (more knowledgeable about opera than I) have noted, the aria is the "Catalog Song of Leporello" from Mozart's "Don Giovanni" (in which the Don's servant enumerates his master's conquests).
3567. The eleventh annual Sherlock Holmes/Conan Doyle Symposium at Wright State University in Dayton will be held on Mar. 14-15, 1992. Contact: Alvin E. Rodin, 3041 Maginn Drive, Beavercreek, OH 45385.
3568. "She keeps a quote on her desk from the writer Arthur Conan Doyle: 'Mediocrity knows nothing higher than itself, but talent instantly recognizes genius.'" (from the cover story about Madonna in TV Guide, Nov. 23)
3569. As for the other planet mentioned in the Canon (November 91 #5), it is of course our own. How on Earth could anyone have forgotten that often-used phrase?
3570. A new sales-list of Sherlockiana has arrived from Carolyn and Joel Senter (Classic Specialties, Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45129).
3571. Reported by Erwin Schussel: MURDER AT CHRISTMAS AND OTHER STORIES, edited by Cynthia Manson (New York: Signet, 1991; \$4.99); contents include James Powell's "Death in the Christmas Hour" (reprinted from EQMM, Jan. 1983), in which a murder is solved by a Sherlock Holmes doll.
3572. A new catalog from the Mysterious Bookshop (129 West 56th Street, New York, NY 10019) has a section of S'iana, old and new, and an announcement of a hardcover reprint of Richard L. Boyer's pastiche THE GIANT RAT OF SUMATRA in the Armchair Detective Library (\$19.95).
3573. Yes indeed, times and prices do change. This advertisement was spotted by Ted Schulz in the Sept. 1904 issue of McClure's Magazine. That issue cost 10c on the newsstands (or one-twentieth of the price of an inexpensive room at the Algonquin). Hotels inflate faster than magazines . . .

December 1991 #1

3574. An article by Andrew Blum in the Wall Street Journal (Nov. 22) about the continuing battle over where 221B Baker Street really is quotes Grace Riley (who works for John Aidiniantz) as saying that his Sherlock Holmes Museum has had 25,000 visitors over the last eight months. But: that's more than 100 visitors a day, seven days a week.
3575. A mailing from Ted Schulz includes a reminder that two collections of S'ian golf stories by Bob Jones are still available: SHERLOCK HOLMES, THE GOLFER (1981; 182 pp., \$8.75 postpaid) and SHERLOCK HOLMES SAVED GOLF (1986; 151 pp., \$10.95 postpaid). The tales are nicely told, and interesting even to those who are not avid golfers, and the books can be ordered (inscribed on request) from the author (Box 582, Pebble Beach, CA 93953).
3576. Further to the multi-part question on the Solar System and its planets (November 91), Bob Thomalen was the first to note that Mercury is also mentioned in the Canon (in "The Hound of the Baskervilles"). Yes, but that Mercury was not a planet, but rather a newspaper (the Leeds Mercury).
3577. Spotted by Ralph Hall (and presumably available in supermarkets): TINY TOON ADVENTURES, a box of 100 five-ounce paper Dixie kitchen cups with different designs, one of which shows Babs Bunny in Sherlockian costume.
3578. An article in MACWeek (Nov. 19), at hand from Mark Erdrich, notes that the ICOM Simulations game "Sherlock Holmes, Consulting Detective" (February 91 #2) will soon be available on CD-ROM discs for Macintosh and IBM computers (the game was launched earlier on compact discs that play on NEC and other home video-game machines). The game will retail at \$69.95 and runs 90 minutes, with some 15-frames-per-second quarter-screen video.
3579. Jeremy Brett was interviewed on National Public Radio's "Weekend Edition" on Nov. 17, and John E. Stephenson reports that a printed transcript is available from National Public Radio (Audience Services), 2025 M Street NW, Washington, DC 20036 (mark the envelope "transcript order" at lower left); \$10.00 postpaid.
3580. Plans are afoot for a Michael Harrison Memorial Bench in Palmeira Square, in front of his home in Hove, and donations for this nice project can be sent to Tina Rhea, 3-E Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770.
3581. Tim O'Connor reports that the Pauline Ralph "Sherlock Holmes Pub" music box is still available, from Shannon Duty Free Mail Order (c/o Aer Lingus/Irish Airlines, Building No. 87, John F. Kennedy Airport, NY 11439 (800-223-6716) Ireland) at \$74.00 plus \$13.80 shipping (item LC00604). The music box is six inches high, with a trinket compartment under the roof, and they take plastic.
3582. Jim Vogelsang reports that theaters showing the new Disney film "Beauty and the Beast" are showing a trailer for "The Great Mouse Detective" as one of the coming attractions, and that Basil is now due for a second release in the spring (probably around Easter). Jim also suggests that you keep an eye out for tie-in merchandise at Disney stores at local shopping malls.

December 1991 #2

3583. It would appear that TNT cable broadcast a 15-minute feature on "A Century of Sleuthing" after the premiere of "The Crucifer of Blood" on Nov. 4 -- and did not broadcast the feature after the repeats. I would appreciate hearing from anyone who has an off-the-air recording of "A Century of Sleuthing".
3584. The late winter '92 catalog from DAK Industries (8200 Remmet Avenue, Canoga Park, CA 91304) (800-325-0800) has a Sherlockian cover, promoting their new Portable Tale Spinner, a battery-powered XLP audiocassette machine (\$49.90) that plays 12-hour cassettes, one of which is Scene of the Crime (\$29.90) with unabridged readings of A STUDY IN SCARLET, THE SIGN OF THE FOUR, THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, THE MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, and THE MOONSTONE.
3585. Leslie P. Engelland's THE DESERT GANG MYSTERIES is a collection of stories for young readers, about a young boy whose family moves to Saudi Arabia, where he meets new friends and solves a series of amusing mysteries. The book is Sherlockian only for Marsha Cain's cover art, which is also amusing, showing a Sherlockian camel. \$7.50 plus shipping, from SandScripts, P.O. Box 61279, Riyadh 11565, Saudi Arabia.
3586. An article in the N.Y. Times (Nov. 24), at hand from Syd Goldberg, reports that London's Isle of Dogs is now a mixed-use community administered by the London Docklands Developments Corp., with homes and offices for a couple of hundred thousand Londoners, and a residential theme park -- certainly quite different from the days when Holmes and Watson rounded the Isle of Dogs in pursuit of the dainty Aurora and the Agra Treasure.
3587. BOY'S LIFE, by Robert R. McCammon (New York: Pocket Books, 1991; 440 pp., \$21.95), is a delightful book, presenting the story of a young boy growing up in Zephyr, Alabama, in the 1960s. There is a mystery (with plenty of red herrings and a nice solution), and a passing mention Holmes and Watson, and an appearance by one of the dinosaurs from the Lost World, but the real strength of the book is in its fantasy and humor and (most importantly) in its warm style and splendid characters.
3588. Our congratulations to Ann Byerly, who is engaged to be married (probably in June) to John Marlowe. Ann's new address is 10324 Castlehedge Terrace, Silver Spring, MD 20902 (301-681-5197).
3589. Videotaper alert: Arts & Entertainment cable began broadcasting "In Search of . . ." on Sundays at 6:00 pm (with repeats on Wednesdays at 10:00 pm and Thursdays at 2:00 am). And at some point they may show "In Search of . . . Sherlock Holmes" (1978) [D4622b].
3590. "He looks exactly like a Hound of the Baskervilles," according to Bobbye Crawford, "but he has the most loving, playful temperament." And he is at the moment residing with Bobbye, who is seeking someone who needs a canine companion. A photograph and additional details are available from Bobbye Crawford, 1809 Shelby Avenue, Nashville, TN 37206 (615-228-4789).

December 1991 #3

3591. Selections from MURDER FOR CHRISTMAS, the anthology edited by Thomas Godfrey and published by the Mysterious Press in 1982, have been issued in a four-cassette boxed set of audiocassettes from Dove Books on Tape (\$24.95). One of the stories is "The Blue Carbuncle", read (and nicely read) by John Standing.
3592. There's a Sherlockian excuse (in case anyone needs one) to see the new film "Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country": in the Orlando Sentinel (Dec. 4), an article by Jay Boyar (at hand from Gary Westmoreland) reports that at one point in the film, Spock and the crew of the Enterprise are trying to determine who has attacked a Klingon ship. "When an unlikely solution is proposed, Spock says that an ancestor of his (whom he doesn't name) once remarked that when you eliminate all the impossible solutions, the one that is left, no matter how improbable, is correct." And Nicholas Meyer, who directed and co-wrote the film, confirmed to Boyar that the allusion was a deliberate echo from the Canon. Meyer enjoys seeing the film with preview audiences, he said, "because there are enough Holmes buffs in the audience that people go nuts when that line comes up." Also: the fiendish Klingon General Chang (played by Christopher Plummer), exclaims (elsewhere in the film), "The game's afoot!" (quoting Shakespeare). Where in the Canon does "The game's afoot!" appear?
3593. Roger Johnson reports that The Conan Doyle (Crowborough) Establishment will unveil a memorial to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in Crowborough on May 23, 1992. The society is led by Malcolm Payne, who has done much to ensure that Sir Arthur is remembered in Crowborough, and those who would like to attend the festivities can obtain additional information from Philip Weller (6 Bramham Moor, Hill Head, Fareham, Hants. PO14 3RU, England).
3594. "It is the mute hound that bites the hardest." --Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (at least that's the attribution in an article about radar detectors in Road & Track, at hand from Paul Martin). The quotation isn't from the Canon: can anyone identify the source?
3595. More Sherlockian philately, in a set of stamps issued this year to honor the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Ordnance Survey. The four stamps show the area around the village of Hamstreet in Kent, from maps published in 1816, 1906, 1959, and 1991. The Ordnance maps now cover all of Britain at a scale of one inch to the mile (two centimeters to the kilometer in these metric days), and are as important to travelers now as they were in Sherlock Holmes' time. Ordnance Survey maps are mentioned three times in the Canon (Engr, Prio, and Houn).

December 1991 #4

3596. Additional news on the earlier report that Billy Wilder's "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970) is to be restored and released in an uncut version: Bruce Southworth has noted an interview by Andrew Sarris (in Film Comment, July-Aug. 1991) in which Wilder said that the missing footage does exist, but must be cleared through the Mirisch brothers (who produced the film).
3597. The mail-order catalogs from Barnes & Noble (126 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10011) continue to offer discount and remaindered books, including William Neblett's SHERLOCK'S LOGIC (1985) at \$9.95; a college-level textbook that presents a murder mystery investigated by Sherlock Holmes' grandson, using the mystery to demonstrate and analyze methods of logical reasoning.
3598. DIE KUNST PFEIFE ZU RAUCHEN is the title of the German edition of Richard Carlton Hacker's THE ULTIMATE PIPE BOOK, published here in a second revised edition in 1989 with discussion of Sherlockian pipes and pipe-smoking. The German edition is further revised, with color plates, and a few copies are available for \$55.00 postpaid from Rick (Box 634, Beverly Hills, CA 90213). It should also be noted that the long-stemmed pipe smoked by Jeremy Brett in the latest Granada series was designed by Rick, made by Steve Waddell, and presented to Brett in Jan. 1990.
3599. Our new stamped envelope shows a family of country geese (yes, the gemmiverous goose in the Canon was town-bred, but country-bred geese were available at Breckinridge's stall). Unfortunately the envelope was issued only in the #6 size, so I couldn't use it for this mailing.
3600. Where in the Canon does "The game's afoot!" appear? Nowhere. What Holmes said (in "The Abbey Grange") was "The game is afoot." One Sherlockian scholar has noted that Sherlock Holmes quoted Shakespeare many times, but never exactly correct. But "the game was afoot" in another Canonical story. In which story? And who said that the game was afoot?
3601. Reporting on the auction at Sotheby's in New York on Dec. 12: the copy of first American edition of THE WANDERINGS OF A SPIRITUALIST, inscribed by Conan Doyle to Harry Houdini, sold for \$6,050 (including the 10% buyer's premium). But the unsigned typescript of the first three acts of a four-act dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (estimated at \$15,000-25,000) did not make the reserve and was bought in. Previously owned

by Bliss Austin, the typescript is dated Aug. 1902, and typed at the agency used by Conan Doyle for other plays, but the lack of firm proof that the dramatization was written by Conan Doyle apparently held down the bidding.

3602. A late-breaking report on an addition to the birthday-festivities schedule: "Holmes, Sweet Holmes" will be one of four one-act ballets presented by the Dance Circle Company at the Marymount Manhattan Theatre at 221 East 71st Street (between 2nd and 3rd Avenues) on Jan. 11 (8:00 pm) and Jan. 12 (2:00 pm). "Holmes Sweet Holmes" is an amusing mystery-ballet choreographed and directed by Ernesta Corvino to music by Tchaikovsky, first produced in 1984 and warmly reviewed in the N.Y. Times. Tickets cost \$12.00 (or \$8.00 for students and seniors), and the box-office phone number is 212-924-0077.

December 1991 #5

3603. We learned only recently of the death of Michael L. Cook, in 1988. Michael was an enthusiastic collector and bibliographer: MURDER BY MAIL (1979 and 1983) provided a fine discussion and checklist of the mystery book clubs; MYSTERY, DETECTIVE, AND ESPIONAGE MAGAZINES (1983) included comment on the major Sherlockian journals; MYSTERY FANFARE (1983) was an annotated index to the mystery fanzines; and MYSTERY DETECTIVE, AND ESPIONAGE FICTION (1988) was a massive two-volume checklist of the contents of American pulp magazine from 1915 to 1974. And his contributions to our Sherlockian literature included the Foreword to Sherlock Holmes' PRACTICAL HANDBOOK OF BEE CULTURE (Magico, 1981) and a monograph on THE ANCIENT CURSE OF THE BASKERVILLES (Gaslight, 1984).
3604. THE FILMS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Chris Steinbrunner and Norman Michaels, is not the first of the Sherlockian filmographies, but it was, and is, one of the very best. And it is really Chris Steinbrunner's book, since it is his scholarship and enthusiasm that illuminates his world of Sherlockian films. He gives scant attention to many of the early and long-lost films, but that allows more space for his commentary, and his commentary is often far more interesting than the films themselves. First published in 1978, THE FILMS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES has been reissued as a large trade-paperback (New York: Citadel Press, 1991; 253 pp., \$15.95).
3605. It was Watson who said that "the game was afoot" (in "Wisteria Lodge").
3606. The latest issue of Anglofile reports a new twist on fan-campaigns to keep series on the air: the "Doctor Who Action Committee" is threatening to file a lawsuit against the BBC to force it to resume production. The committee maintains that the BBC, funded by a mandatory television license fee, has a duty to broadcast fee-payers' favorite shows. Anglofile also has a report on the auction of independent television franchises in Britain (September 91 #6): Granada Television won renewal, and Thames Television lost its franchise. Responsible for about a third of ITV's programming (including "Rumpole of the Bailey"), Thames quickly announced that it would become an independent production company, selling programs to everyone (including the BBC). And the magazine has a two-page interview with Jeremy Brett. Anglofile offers the latest entertainment news from Great Britain, and costs \$12.00 a year (Box 33515, Decatur, GA 30333).
3607. Comic-book news: BAKER STREET (Caliber) is now up to #9, with part IV of a story called "Children of the Night" (a non-Sherlockian Jack-the-Ripper echo, but with the same characters that appeared in "Honour Among Punks"). And BAKER STREET GRAFFITI has old and new material, including a reprint of the Sherlockian "Elementary My Dear" from CALIBER PRESENTS #9. Each of the comic books costs \$2.50. And the CALIBER SUMMER SPECIAL (\$3.95) includes a reprint of the opening of "Honour Among Punks" (these are all for "mature" audiences, and are quite graphic, though not porno).
3608. More comic-book news: THE NINE LIVES OF FELIX THE CAT (Harvey) apparently is reprinting old stories from the 1950s. #3 (Feb. 1992) has Felix with a deerstalker on the cover (\$1.25).
3609. Video-taper alert: Tom Baker's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1984) will air on Arts & Entertainment cable in two parts on Jan. 28 and Feb. 4.

December 1991 #6

3610. Reported from Great Britain: DETECTIVE STORIES FROM THE STRAND MAGAZINE and STRANGE TALES FROM THE STRAND MAGAZINE, edited by Jack Adrian and with forewords by Julian Symons (Oxford University Press, 1991; 374 pp., £15.95 each). Honoring the centenary of the founding of The Strand Magazine, the anthologies offer six stories by ACD (three Canonical tales in the first volume, and three non-Sherlockian in the second). The first volume also has Ronald Knox's fine pastiche "The Apocryphal Sherlock Holmes: The Adventure of the First Class Carriage".
3611. SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: INTERVIEWS AND RECOLLECTIONS, edited by Harold Orel (London: Macmillan, 1991; 278 pp., £45.00) (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1991; 278 pp., \$59.95), is an intriguing approach to biography, offering extracts from Conan Doyle's own writings, from interviews with him, and from articles, essays, and autobiographies written by people who knew him. Orel has divided his selections into five sections ("The Years at Edinburgh University"; "Sherlock Holmes"; "The Professional Writer"; "Speaking Out on Public Issues; Sports"; and "Spiritualism"), and has added useful notes to help modern readers to whom many names and references will not be familiar. And although the book is expensive, there are many reasons to recommend it: one is that the selection is a good one, providing first-hand insight into many aspects of Conan Doyle's life and career. Another reason is that the opinions and interpretations are those of the writers, who were closer to Conan Doyle than any of us (whether biographers or admirers) can be today. And (possibly most important) there is much material that will be new, and interesting, to almost anyone who wishes to know more about a man who did so much, and so well.
3612. And an additional philatelic item: the new postal card commemorating the 150th anniversary of the University of Notre Dame, John Bennett Shaw's alma mater, where he presided over a Sherlockian workshop in 1977. The card shows the University's administration building.
3613. "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle had Sherlock Holmes send off to Stanfords for an Ordnance Survey map of Dartmoor to help solve the mystery of the 'Hound of the Baskervilles,'" notes an article on London's "Bookshops for Gadabouts" in the N.Y. Times (Dec. 15), at hand from Syd Goldberg. Founded by Edward Stanford in Covent Garden in 1852, it moved in 1901 to 12-14 Long Acre, where it is still in business, claiming with great pride to be the world's largest map-seller (by stock and range, sales and floor space).
3614. Robert S. Paul's *WHATSOEVER HAPPENED TO SHERLOCK HOLMES? DETECTIVE FICTION, POPULAR THEOLOGY, AND SOCIETY* (Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 1991; 305 pp., \$24.95) is a theological study of the genre, and an examination of how the genre reflects contemporary culture, religion, and ethical standards. Paul begins his study with "Those Eminent Victorians" (and he has consulted Wayne Wall's article on "The Theology of Sherlock Holmes" in the Sept. 1979 issue of the BSI) and concludes with a view of the modern writers, suggesting that a large part of the reading public welcomes a return to detective fiction set in earlier times.

January 1992 #1

3615. Some comic-book news: WITHIN OUR REACH is a graphic-novel-format anthology of Christmas stories published by Star Reach Productions (\$7.95) to benefit the charities Sempervirens and AmFAR, and the contents include one nicely Sherlockian story: "The Season of Forgiveness" (written by Martin Powell, who has written SCARLET IN GASLIGHT and A CASE OF BLIND FEAR for Eternity, and illustrated by Patrick Olliffe).

3616. Carin Rafferty's *SHERLOCK AND WATSON* (Toronto: Harlequin Books, 1991; 221 pp., \$2.99) is a Harlequin Temptation romance (#363); it's a modern story, and Sherlockian only by title, but worth looking for in shops that deal in used paperbacks if you'd like to see how far romance novels have come from the days when Barbara Cartland invented the genre: Callie (aka Doc) Watson is a pool hustler, and Ian Sherlock is on the lam from the law, and there is sex-before-marriage (though it's carefully safe sex).
3617. If your friendly neighborhood comic-book shop carries trading cards, or if you have a friendly neighborhood trading-card shop, look for Walt Disney trading cards distributed by Impel Marketing: Family Portraits #128 shows a scene from "Lonesome Ghosts" (1937), and Favorite Stories #64-72 has 18 scenes from the film, with Mickey and Goofy in deerstalkers.
3618. An interesting excerpt from a judicial opinion: "In the prosecution of the investigation authorized by the letters, a certain Inspector Lestrade . . . determined to interview the accused." Not our Lestrade, unfortunately, but rather an Inspector Lestrade of the French police, who participated in an investigation of an American soldier accused of pushing the queer in France in 1952. Thanks to Al Rosenblatt, who discovered this Inspector Lestrade in a computer data base of opinions by the United States Court of Military Appeals.
3619. Reported by Richard Wein: Michael Hardwick's *THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO SHERLOCK HOLMES* (presumably a reissue of the 1986 edition) forecast by St. Martin's Press in Jan. Also: Peter Rowland's *THE DISAPPEARANCE OF EDWIN DROOD* (the pastiche published by Constable in Britain in 1991) (March 91 #2) forecast by St. Martin's in Feb. Gary Lovisi's *THE LOSS OF THE BRITISH BARK SOPHY ANDERSON* and P. Smith's *THE GREY NUN LEGACY* are new pastiches, with cover art by Frank Hamilton, published as a Gryphon Double Novel (60 pp., \$6.95 postpaid) by Gryphon Publications, Box 209, Brooklyn, NY 11228.
3620. Grace Hopper died on Jan. 1. She joined the Navy in 1943, and retired in 1986 as a rear admiral, and as a legend as a pioneer in the computer world. To cite only one of her achievements, she was leader of the research team that found the first "bug" in a computer: it was a two-inch moth that had interrupted the work of the Mark I at Harvard in 1945.
3621. Reported: Gary Sick's *OCTOBER SURPRISE* (Times Books/Random House, 277 pp., \$23.00) opens with quotations from "Hamlet" and "Sherlock Holmes" (the book details Sick's claims that in 1980 the Reagan campaign made a deal with the Iranian government to delay the release of the American hostages).

January 1992 #2

3622. The National Film Preservation Act of 1988 created a National Film Preservation Board in the Library of Congress, responsible for selecting no more than 25 films a year for the National Film Registry, "based on their historic, cultural, or aesthetic importance." The third list of 25 films, announced in Sept. 1991, included Buster Keaton's fine silent film "Sherlock, Jr." (1924).
3623. The third issue of *Varieties of Ash* is now available, with some excellent "Silver Blaze" scholarship (some serious and some not), an investigation of the Vernets by Jane Morris (whose reference library appears to be unique), and much more. \$10.00 for two issues, from Susan E. Dahlinger, 758 Third Street, Secaucus, NJ 07094.
3624. Thanks to Joan Kerins for last year's German stamp issued to honor the 100th birthday of Hans Albers, showing him in the 1932 film "Der Sieger" [The Winner]. His other well-known films included "Der blaue Engel" (1930) and "Der Mann, der Sherlock Holmes war" (1937).
3625. If you watched "The American Experience: The Quiz Show Scandal" on PBS-TV on Jan. 6, you saw (and heard) an attractive brunette contestant give the answer "Gloria Scott", and you may have wondered whether that might have been in some way Sherlockian. It was: the contestant was Bobbye O'Rourke, who appeared later in the program with her husband, Air Force Capt. Thomas O'Rourke. The O'Rourkes each won \$32,000 on "The \$64,000 Question" in May and June 1956, answering questions on Sherlock Holmes. And "Gloria Scott" was part of the answer to one of the \$128 questions: Who was Holmes' only friend in college? (Name the individual and the story in which he appears.)
3626. And those who watched the Rose Bowl Parade on New Year's Day may have seen the Sherlockian float decorated by the La Canada-Flintridge Tournament of Roses Association. John Farrell has kindly provided the details from the official program: "The Sherlock Hounds are on a mission to discover who stole a piece of cheese and a dog bone, while the culprit mouse makes its getaway with the stolen goods on a satellite float. The dogs are comprised of mums, Pampas grass, Cocoa palm bark, and Cardone puffs, with accents of seeds, spices, statice, and gladiola petals. In total, 35,000 whole flowers, 400 pounds of seeds, and 200 plants are used to create this dog and mouse chase."
3627. "The Master Blackmailer" received quite a bit of advance publicity before the new two-hour version of "Charles Augustus Milverton" was broadcast in Britain on Jan. 2, mainly because of the wooing of Agatha ("Sherlock Shows He's No Holmo!" was the headline in the Sun), and some favorable reviews. Granada has now aired 33 stories for a total of 36 hours in the series, and plans are underway for new shows (one possibility, according to a story in the *Sherlock Holmes Gazette*, is Jeremy Paul's dramatization of "The Red Circle"); three shows will be shot this spring, and three more this fall.
3628. The third issue of the *Sherlock Holmes Gazette* (Nov. 1991-Feb. 1992) has 36 pages and offers much more than coverage of the Granada series; the cost is £18.00 for four issues, and the address is Theme Publications, 43 Bowleaze Coveaway, Weymouth, Dorset DT3 6PL, England (they take plastic).

January 1992 #3

3629. The birthday festivities in New York were (as always) enjoyable and interesting, and blessed by unseasonably mild weather. The informal events on Thursday included the Annual Christopher Morley Walk, a meeting of The Pawky Humorists, and for the first time an Aunt Clara Singalong at O'Lunney's with tributes paid to Aunt Clara in more languages than most people recalled at the close of the event. Friday's schedule included the Mrs. Hudson Breakfast at the Algonquin, where more than 70 people were welcomed by Tom and Ruthann Stetak, who presented a commemorative breakfast tray to Bill Rabe (the founder of the breakfast), and the William Gillette Luncheon at the Old Homestead, where Susan Rice's arrangements featured an excerpt from Gillette's play "Too Much Johnson" performed by Paul Singleton and Andrew and Sarah Montague Joffe. And Otto Penzler offered hospitality (and Sherlockian books) at his open house at the Mysterious Book Shop.
3630. The Baker Street Irregulars gathered at 24 Fifth Avenue, where *The* Woman was Margaret Walsh, who was toasted by Steve Stix during the pre-dinner cocktail party and then departed to dine at the National Arts Club with other ladies who have received that honor. And there were fifteen ladies at the BSI's annual dinner (for the record, on this historic occasion, they were Maureen Green, Evelyn Herzog, Karen Johnson, Kate Karlson, Eleanor O'Connor, Marsha Pollak, Susan Rice, Lloyd Rose, Sherry Rose-Bond, Julie Rosenblatt, Marina Stajic, Ruthann Stetak, Francine Swift, Jean Upton, and Delia Vargas).
3631. The agenda included the usual toasts and other traditions, and Irv Kamil's report on The Asian Travelers (a new Sherlockian society founded last year on the Great Wall of China), introductions of three well-traveled visitors (Jean-Pierre Cagnat from France, and Yuichi Hirayama and Hiroataka Ueda from Japan), Ely Liebow's discussion of the Sherlockian aspects of "The \$64,000 Question" (the 1956 television quiz show), Steve Rothman's

- revelation of a Sherlockian recording by Christopher Morley, Bruce Montgomery's tribute-insong to his Grand Aunt Clara, Ed Vatz's discussion of "The Gloria Scott", and Joe Fink's investigative report on Dr. Watson's marital affairs.
3632. The Two-Shilling Award (for extraordinary devotion to the cause beyond the call of duty) was given to Mike Whelan, and Irregular Shillings and Investitures were presented to Jeff Decker ("Dr. Grimesby Roylott"), Maureen Green ("Kitty Winter"), Michael McClure ("Stimson and Co."), Sherry Rose-Bond ("Violet Hunter"), and Bruce Southworth ("Victor Hatherley").
3633. The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes also dined on Friday evening, at the Century Cafe, where the agenda included a joint toast by Bev and Samantha Wolov to their favorite Canonical child, a tribute by Tina Rhea to the late Michael Harrison, a toast to Canonical doctors by Dr. Marillyne McKay, a report on Sherlock Holmes at the North Pole by Marlene Aig, and a series of songs set to various theme music from "Mystery!"
3634. On Saturday morning the huckster room at the Algonquin was well attended, and so was the Saturday-afternoon cocktail party at 24 Fifth Avenue, where the agenda included poetic reports by Al Rosenblatt and Sarah Joffe on the Friday dinners, a fast-and-furious auction that raised \$610 for the BSI, and a raffle that featured a bottle of Madeira (1934 vintage) donated to the Dr. John H. Watson Fund by Patricia Guy.

January 1992 #4

3635. The cocktail party also featured the presentation of Irregular Shillings and Investitures to Pat Moran ("Patience Moran") and Mary Ellen Rich ("Lady Frances Carfax"). Tom Stix also announced that in December the Investiture of "Pall Mall Gazette" had been awarded to Roger Johnson, and presented the BSI's Queen Victoria Medal to Theresa Thomalen. And on Saturday evening a few die-hard Sherlockians visited the Marymount Manhattan Theatre for a performance of "Holmes, Sweet Holmes" by the Dance Circle Company; choreographed by Ernesta Corvino to music by Tchaikovsky, the ballet offered an amusing finale to the weekend.
3636. The Dr. John H. Watson Fund offers financial assistance to Sherlockians (membership in the BSI or the ASH is not required) who might otherwise be unable to participate in the weekend's festivities. A carefully anonymous John H. Watson presides over the fund and welcomes contributions, which can be made by check payable to John H. Watson and mailed (without any return address) to Dr. Watson, c/o Thomas L. Stix, Jr., who will happily forward the checks unopened. Tom's address: 34 Pierson Avenue, Norwood, NJ 07648.
3637. There's still room on the Sherlockian cruise to Bermuda, departing New York on May 16 and returning on May 23. Bob and Eileen Katz, Mary Ellen Rich, Ed Van der Flaes, and Peg and Chuck Henry will provide some of the deep-sea entertainment, and information is available from Holmes on the Horizon, Box 96, Norwood, NJ 07648.
3638. Delia Vargas notes another source for deerstalkers, in a catalog of "Things You Never Knew Existed" (Johnson Smith Co. Box 2550, Bradenton, FL 34206), in sizes S/M/L/XL at \$14.95.
3639. The sixth volume of Beeman's Christmas Annual is now available (the cost is \$10.00 postpaid, from William R. Cochran, 517 North Vine Street, Du Quoin, IL 62832); published as a well-deserved tribute to Newton M. Williams, the 32-page booklet has reminiscences about Newt from some of his friends, and reprints of some of his own scholarship.
3640. Bruce Southworth reports two new volumes in the MATCH WITS WITH SHERLOCK HOLMES series adapted by Murray Shaw (February 90 #6). Prepared for children aged 8-11, each volume has two Canonical stories (Spec/Suss and Abbe/Bosc now join the series), and splendid illustrations. The books cost \$9.95 each postpaid from the publisher: Carolrhoda Books, 241 First Avenue North, Minneapolis, MN 55401 (800-328-4929).
3641. Charles Marowitz's "Sherlock's Last Case" will be performed at the Cider Mill Playhouse in Endicott, N.Y., on May 14-31, and Kate Karlson proposes a theater party for Sherlockians on May 30. You can contact Kate at 1259 Fowler Place, Binghamton, NY 13903.
3642. Thanks to all who responded to the query (December 91 #2) about "A Century of Sleuthing". For those who did not see the broadcast, it appears to be an 11-minute trailer for "A Crucifer of Blood" and aired at the end of the program on TNT on Nov. 4 (and presumably earlier in Oct. and Nov.). The trailer had bits and pieces of an interview with Charlton Heston, scenes from other early and late Sherlockian films, and some associations items such as Sherlockian glimpses of Abbott and Costello, and Harpo Marx.

January 1992 #5

3643. British Airways is offering a tour called "Light Upon the Moor: Sherlock Holmes" on July 19-29, with six days at Cambridge and five days in Devon. The lecturers will include Stanley MacKenzie, and the accommodations on Dartmoor will be at the Manor House Hotel ("Baskerville Hall" in the 1932 film of the story). Call 800-792-0100 for information.
3644. The Feb. 1992 issue Playboy has yet another (mediocre) Sherlockian item in its "Playboy's Party Jokes" (oh, for those long-ago days when the magazine was publishing stories from the Canon).
3645. The third volume in the BSI's archival series is IRREGULAR RECORDS OF THE EARLY 'FORTIES, edited by Jon L. Lellenberg (New York: Baker Street Irregulars, 1991; 312 pp., \$18.95), bringing the history of the early days into the somewhat more organized years that preceded the Trilogy Dinner in Mar. 1944. Peter B. Spivak has contributed an account of Edgar W. Smith's non-Sherlockian career, and Glen S. Miranker a report on The Pamphlet House, and we are fortunate indeed to be able to read so much of the delightful correspondence among those who graced the Sherlockian scene half a century ago. Available from the Fordham University Press, Box 6525, Ithaca, NY 14850 (800-666-2211); shipping costs \$2.00, and they take plastic.
3646. Plan ahead: there will be (at least) two Sherlockian workshops in 1993. The Norwegian Explorers will sponsor a conference on "Sherlock Holmes' Victorian Criminal Classes: Rogues, Rascals, and Ruffians" on June 11-13 (write to: Bruce E. Southworth, 2600 West 86th Street, Bloomington, MN 55431). And The Scowrers and Mollie Maguires of San Francisco will hold their "Third International Sexennial Sherlockian Seminar and Celebration" at Stanford University on Aug. 4-8 (Charlotte A. Erickson, Box 341, Mount Eden, CA 94557).
3647. A LA RECHERCHE DU CRICKET PERDU, by Simon Barnes (London: Macmillan, 1989; 137 pp., £7.99), is an amusing collection of short pieces about cricket (and more amusing, certainly to those who understand and enjoy the game), as written by famous authors such as Shakespeare, Melville, and Conan Doyle ("The Case of the Masked Captain" opens with: "To Sherlock Holmes, she was always *the* barmaid.").
3648. NEW CRIMES 3, edited by Maxim Jakubowski (New York: Carroll & Graf, 1991; 272 pp., \$18.95), is the latest in his series of anthologies, with Julian Rathbone's "Baz" (about a thoroughly modern Holmes and Watson), and John Dickson Carr's "Another Glass, Watson!" (reprinted from the catalog of The Sherlock Holmes).
3649. THE ADVENTURE OF THE INDOLENT MAID is J. C. Charles' new contribution in the area of adults-only Watsoniana ("the good doctor gives pretty Nancy's bare backside a 'treatment' that, at least temporarily, makes doing her chores more attractive than sitting"); the 14-page pamphlet is available from The Filmoods Co. (Box 475, Scarsdale, NY 10583); \$8.00 postpaid.
3650. Tense Moments: The Magazine of Short Suspense Fiction is planning a special Sherlockian issue, and seeks submissions: stories or articles (no erotica), with a maximum length of 3,000 words. Additional information is available from the magazine's editor, Bob Madia (Box 362, Mokena, IL 60448).

January 1992 #6

3651. Barbara Alder reports that "Sherlock Holmes et la diva" aired on the French channel of the CBC in Nov. 1991 (that's "Sherlock Holmes and the Leading Lady" in French for Canadian viewers). And Jennie Paton notes that Baker & Taylor (who distribute to bookstores) are listing a videocassette of "Sherlock Holmes: The Incident at Victoria Falls" priced at \$89.95. The American distribution company reports that the programs are still available to television stations in the United States, in four-week windows starting May 18 ("Victoria Falls") and Aug. 8 ("Leading Lady").
3652. Which three weekly American periodicals have the largest circulation?
3653. Reported by Ted Friedman (from the Bergen County Record, Jan. 24): William Shatner and Leonard Nimoy hope to interest theatrical producers in "Harry and Arthur" (a new play adapted from an as-yet-unpublished novel BELIEVE, written by Shatner and Michael Tobias). The play is about a fictionalized encounter between Harry Houdini and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, with Shatner as Houdini and Nimoy as Conan Doyle.
3654. "Masterpiece Theatre" is one of the most literary series on television, and Books Britain (2170 Broadway #3327, New York, NY 10024) has an interesting catalog of books on which the shows were based. Most of them are imports, of course, and generally not found in book shops.
3655. Yuichi Hirayama reports that Bob Jones' SHERLOCK HOLMES SAVED GOLF (December 91 #1) was published in Japan as GOLFER: SHERLOCK HOLMES NO SHIN BOUKEN by The Baseball Magazine in 1991 (2,000).
3656. The weekly American periodical with the largest circulation is TV Guide. Next largest is the National Enquirer (3.8 million), followed by the Star (3.2 million). The National Enquirer and the Star are owned by the same company (and the circulation figures do not include people who merely look at the tabloids while waiting in supermarket checkout lines).
3657. The American Volksmarch Association and three local Sherlockian societies will sponsor a "Lady Carfax Memorial Walk" in Black Forest, Colorado, on July 25 (a special souvenir medal will be presented to all who complete the walk). For additional information, send an SASE to The Falcon Wanderers AVA-072, Box 17162, Colorado Springs, CO 80935.
3658. According to my records, my 1992 seasonal souvenir (THE CASTING AWAY OF MRS. LECKS AND MRS. ALESHINE) should be in the hands of all subscribers, received during the birthday festivities in New York, or since, or with this mailing. If I missed someone, please let me know.
3659. And a few commercials: the revised 12-page list of Investitured Irregulars, Two-Shilling Awards, and *The* Women costs \$1.10 postpaid. The 62-page list of 566 Sherlockian societies, with names and addresses for the 334 active societies, costs \$3.55 postpaid. The run of address labels for 290 individual contacts (recommended for those who wish to avoid making duplicate mailings to people who are contacts for more than one society) costs \$10.25 postpaid.
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February 1992 #1

3660. Sherlockian collectors need not be told that there is hardly anything that is not collected by someone. The American Society of Check Collectors has its own journal (now five years old), and The Check Collector (Nov. 1991) has Lee Poleske's article on "Sherlock Holmes and Cheques", illustrated by photographs of checks issued by the Capital & Counties Bank and by Cox & Co. Dues are \$10.00 a year, and the secretary is Charles Kemp (Box 71892, Madison Heights, MI 48071).
3661. The Armchair Detective celebrates its 25th anniversary this year, and the winter 1992 issue is nicely Sherlockian, with Jeremy Brett on the cover and with Edward Hardwicke and Michael Cox in a long interview with Elizabeth Trembley, an amusing pastiche by Sally C. Gunning, and a new "Report from 221B Baker Street" by Sherry Rose-Bond and Scott Bond. \$26.00 a year (129 West 56th Street, New York, NY 10019).
3662. Forecast for April from Gaslight Publications: MEMORIES AND ADVENTURES: THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE, with revisions included in the 2nd edition published in 1930 only in Britain (\$24.95), and MYTH AND MODERN MAN IN SHERLOCK HOLMES: SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE AND THE USES OF NOSTALGIA, by David S. Payne (\$24.95).
3663. Svend Petersen ("The Mazarin Stone") died on Jan. 18. Svend was one of the four founding officers of The Red Circle of Washington in 1949 (and creator of the scion's formal initiation ceremony), and he received his Investiture in 1951. His varied interests included composing puzzles (and he made sure that there were occasional Sherlockian allusions in the "Trans-O-Grams" he contributed to the National Review for many years) and a long-standing and delightful devotion to puns, and he will be missed by his many friends in Washington and elsewhere in the Sherlockian world.
3664. The city of Dundee is celebrating its 800th anniversary, according to press reports at hand from Jon L. Lellenberg: Dundee district councillor Charles Farquhar, dressed in Sherlockian costume, joined Chief Superintendent Ernie Brown of the Tayside Police's central division to celebrate the mention of Dundee in "The Five Orange Pips".
3665. A new sales list at hand from Sherlock's Home (5724 East Second Street, Long Beach, CA 90803), with recent books, games, and memorabilia.
3666. A COMPOUND OF EXCELSIOR (Dubuque: Gasogene Press, 1991; 92 pp., \$10.95) is a carefully-researched and well-written monograph by Susan Rice (who holds the appropriate BSI investiture of "Beeswing") on the whys and wherefores of Sherlock Holmes' retirement years as a bee-keeper on the Sussex Downs. \$13.70 postpaid from the publisher (Box 1041, Dubuque, IA 52004).
3667. Rollin V. Hadley ("Ricoletti of the Club Foot") died on Feb. 2. He was the administrator of the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston from 1963 to 1970, and director from 1970 until his retirement in 1988, and an energetic and enthusiastic collector of Conan Doyle material, including manuscripts, first editions, and letters. A member of The Speckled Band of Boston for many years, he received his Investiture in the BSI in 1956.
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February 1992 #2

3668. Dame Gwen Ffrangcon-Davies died on Jan. 27, two days after her 101st birthday. She was one of the last links with the world of Victorian theater, and made her debut at the age of 20 in a walk-on part in "A Midsummer Night's Dream". She won accolades as the finest Juliet of her generation, opposite John Gielgud as Romeo in 1924, and her last role was her appearance with Jeremy Brett in Granada's "The Master Blackmailer" on British television last month.
3669. THE ANNOTATED NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS, by Martin Gardner (New York: Summit Books, 1991; 253 pp., \$20.00), is a delightful book, offering a detailed history of Clement Clarke Moore's immortal poem, a fascinating collection of sequels and parodies (including William E. Dunning's "An Unusual Visitor in Baker Street", reprinted from the Dec. 1975 issue of the BSJ), and as an epilogue a fine Christmas essay by G. K. Chesterton.
3670. New Sherlockian sales lists at hand from Tim O'Connor (6015 West Route 115, Herscher, IL 60941) and Robert C. Hess (559 Potter Boulevard, Brightwaters, NY 11718) and Howard Einbinder (180 Clinton Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201).
3671. Reported by Ruthann Stetak: a "Sherlock Holmes" greatcoat-styled cape for ladies, in a blend of cream, beige, and gray wool (\$355.00), with matching deerstalker (\$40.00), discounted to about \$166.00 for the ensemble, in a catalog available from Gray Walsh Capes International, 5604 Erik, Amarillo, TX 79106 (800-999-2214).
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3672. If you were watching the winter Olympic Games when the S'ian commercial for Lennox Gas Furnace and the American Gas Association aired, that was Patrick Horgan as Holmes and Sandy Marshall as Watson; the commercial premiered in Oct. 1990 during baseball season, and was repeated in 1991.
3673. And Dave Galerstein notes that one of the spectators for the ice-dancing on Feb. 17 was dressed as Sherlock Holmes (including deerstalker, Inverness cape, and calabash), and that when the camera focussed in on the man, the announcer said, "Of course, that's elementary."
3674. June Thomson's THE SECRET CHRONICLES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (London: Constable, 1992; 203 pp. £12.99) is her second collection of pastiches, with seven more of the unreported cases mentioned only in passing by Watson, and an attempt to resolve the continuing chronological conflict over the date of his marriage to Mary Morstan. As in the first collection (THE SECRET FILES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, published by Constable in 1990), the style is good and the plots imaginative.
3675. The Sherlockian Times is a new combined saleslist-and-newsletter published by Classic Specialties (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219) -- of particular interest are offers of counted cross-stitch Sherlockian patterns.
3676. Reported by Gordon Kelley from the latest mail-order catalog from Signals, 1000 Westgate Drive, St. Paul, MN 55114 (800-669-5225): "Sherlock Holmes Audios" is a boxed collection of eight cassettes, each with two radio shows starring Rathbone/Bruce, Stanley/Shirley, and Langford/Baker. The catalog says that the collection is available only from Signals, but I don't think they have any programs that aren't available elsewhere.
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February 1992 #3

3677. Barbara Alder has confirmed that "Sherlock Holmes et la diva" was indeed broadcast by Radio-Canada (the CBC French television network), in two one-hour episodes, on Dec. 6 and 13, 1991. We will wait patiently, of course, to see whether "Sherlock Holmes and the Leading Lady" gets onto the air in English later this year.
3678. Don Hobbs reports a new (1991) addition to the Canonical series published by the Reader's Digest Association: THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, with new illustrations by David Johnson.
3679. Al and Julie Rosenblatt's splendid 20-page souvenir menu for "An Evening in Scarlet" at the Culinary Institute of America on May 16, 1987, handsomely devised, designed, and produced, with many illustrations, annotations, and explanations, is still available for \$17.00 postpaid (checks to Peter E. Blau, at the Spermaceti Press).
3680. Peter Crupe reports that Joanne Romano (Mystery Lovers Ink, 8 Stiles Road, Salem, NH 03079) offers coffee mugs with a silhouette of Holmes (\$8.95).
3681. There wasn't much advance publicity, but Disney released "The Great Mouse Detective" for the second time on Feb. 14 (retitled "The Adventures of the Great Mouse Detective"). And this time round the newspaper advertisements include the credit line: "Based on the 'Basil of Baker Street' book series by Eve Titus and Paul Galdone."
3682. One reason for the new title for the film may be hopes that some reviewers may not realize that it's a second release. One local paper in Washington describes "The Adventures of the Great Mouse Detective" as "Disney's sequel to 'The Great Mouse Detective'". The film did reasonably well in its first release (earning \$25.3 million in the U.S.), and not all that badly when it opened again on Feb. 14, placing sixth on the list of the ten top-grossing films for the weekend; the estimated weekly gross was \$4.1 million (the top film was the just-released "Wayne's World" with an estimated weekly gross of \$18.1 million).
3683. Bill Vande Water reports that Alex Simmons' play "Sherlock Holmes and the Hands of Othello" (produced at the Westbeth Theatre Centre in New York in 1987) is included in BLACK THUNDER: AN ANTHOLOGY OF CONTEMPORARY AFRICAN AMERICAN DRAMA, edited by William B. Branch (New York: Mentor Books, 1992; \$5.99).
3684. Further to the report on Walt Disney trading cards (January 92 #1), Tom Stix reports that scenes from "Lonesome Ghosts" (1937) are included in a Tyco View-Master 3-D set called "Mickey Mouse and Friends" (one version with a viewer and three reels, and the other version without the viewer).
3685. The winter 1991 issue of The Sherlock Holmes Journal has arrived, honoring the centenary of The Strand Magazine (with a fine interview with Richard Osborne, the last assistant editor of the magazine), and with other news and scholarship. There still is a waiting list for full membership in The Sherlock Holmes Society of London, but associate membership (subscription to two issues of the SHJ) costs \$15.00 a year to the U.S.; write to G. S. Stavert, 3 Outram Road, Southsea, Hants. PO5 1QP, England.
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February 1992 #4

3686. Ian Wolfe died on Jan. 23, at the age of 95. His long career as a character actor began in 1934 (in "The Barretts of Wimpole Street") and ended in 1990 (as The Forger in "Dick Tracy"), and he appeared in more than 150 films and 200 television shows. He was part of the "crew" at Universal and worked in four of their Sherlockian films: as the clerk in the antique store in "Sherlock Holmes in Washington" (1943), as the butler Drake in "The Scarlet Claw" (1944), as Amos Hodder in "The Pearl of Death" (1944), and as the Scotland Yard Commissioner in "Dressed to Kill" (1946). According to Lawrence Nepodahl, Wolfe wrote his own epitaph: "If employers call, tell them 'I'm on location' in some other world."
3687. Jim Duval edited and published 41 issues of The QuarterLy \$tatement for Cox & Co. of New England, and achieved a fine record for a scion journal. The first issue (reprinted), the last issue, and a cumulative index are offered for \$5.00 postpaid (for all three items), from James O. Duval, 72 Merrimack Street, Penacook, NH 03303.
3688. The Noble and Most Singular Order of the Blue Carbuncle have honored the centenary of the publication of their titular story with a commemorative design (about 10 by 12 inches, in red, blue, and black) on white sweatshirts (M/L/XL at \$16.00) and T-shirts (M/L at \$10.00). Checks payable to the NMSOBC should be sent to Champ Vaughan, 3224 S.W. Ridge Drive, Portland, OR 97219.
3689. Northstar's comic-book series CASES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES has been resurrected with a new title, and CHRONICLES OF CRIME & MYSTERY: SHERLOCK HOLMES #1 (Feb. 1992; \$2.25) has "The Speckled Band" (illustrated by Dan Day); their address is 2551 North Clark Street #402, Chicago, IL 60614.
3690. GREAT LAW & ORDER STORIES, edited by John Mortimer (New York: W. W. Norton, 1992; 356 pp., \$25.00), is a fine anthology, with "The Copper Beeches" and an interesting introduction in which Mortimer praises the Howard League for Penal Reform and acknowledges his own debt to the strong and vivid writing and the irresistible plots and characters of the Sherlock Holmes stories (and confesses to having occasionally stolen shamelessly from them).
3691. The six latest Jeremy Brett one-hour shows are listed on cassette at \$24.95 each by The Video Catalog (Box 64428, Saint Paul, MN 55164) (800-733-2232), but only five actually are available: "The Disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax" will not be offered on cassette until after it has been broadcast by PBS-TV later this year. But: Jennie Paton's video lending-library does have a copy of the missing story (there is a charge of \$5.00 per cassette, and borrowers pay return postage). Write to Jennie C. Paton, 206 Loblolly Lane, Statesboro, GA 30458.
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3692. Jack Kerr reports that the Simon & Schuster audiocassettes have now caught up with the subscriptions series of the Rathbone/Bruce radio shows. Volume 15 (with "The Guileless Gypsy" and "The Camberwell Poisoners" and comments by Ben Wright) has just been released to stores.

February 1992 #5-6

3693. This year's Canonical Convocation and Caper in Door County, Wis., will be held on Sept. 18-20. If you would like to be on the mailing list, write to Bernadette Donze (7224 South Kidwell Road, Downers Grove, IL 60516).
3694. Lloyd Rose, who was one of the fifteen ladies present at this year's annual dinner of The Baker Street Irregulars, described the historic event in the Jan. 13 issue of the Washington Post. Her article is copyright 1992 by the Washington Post, and reprinted with permission.
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March 1992 #1

3695. The Washington Post reported (Feb. 26) on a violent dispute between Hindus and Muslims in Hapur, India, where the Hindus objected to plans by Muslims to build on a vacant lot containing a banyan tree inhabited by a five-foot black cobra that was regarded as the reincarnation of Lord Shiva (and that has not been seen since the riot). But while the cobra was in residence, the Hindus chanted and sang, threw money and gold at the tree, and laid out "bowls of milk for the snake to drink" (obviously rejecting the conclusions of the many Sherlockian scholars who claim that snakes don't drink milk).
3696. And another report in the Washington Post reveals that Franz Grillparzer is remembered for more than merely being the subject of Gustav Pollak's *FRANZ GRILLPARZER AND THE AUSTRIAN DRAMA*, a copy of which records the history of The Grillparzer Club (described in considerable detail by George Fletcher in *IRREGULAR MEMORIES OF THE 'THIRTIES*). The Grillparzer Prize (an \$18,500 award envisioned as one of Austria's most prestigious literary honors) was established in 1991 and given to the nation's foremost living author, Peter Handke. But this year's award generated some controversy when the honoree, Hans Lebert, accused the German foundation that funds the prize of seeking the cultural "colonization" of German-speaking Austria.
3697. The new catalog from the Margo Feiden Galleries (75 University Place, New York, NY 10003) offers an Al Hirschfeld lithograph of Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce (26 x 21 inches) for \$500.
3698. Ray Betzner reports (in the latest issue of *The Quarter Note*, published by The Cremona Fiddlers) that Douglas G. Greene recommends John Dickson Carr's *PATRICK BUTLER FOR THE DEFENSE* (1956) as a mystery whose main character was based on Adrian Conan Doyle. And suggests that you attempt to identify another fictional work in which one of the characters was based on Adrian Conan Doyle.
3699. "The Adventures of the Great Mouse Detective" had an estimated \$7.1 million total gross after two weeks. For comparison: "Wayne's World" (released at the same time) had an estimated \$33.5 million gross after two weeks (and did \$9.6 million more in the third week, by which time Basil was no longer on the top-ten list). And Disney's "Beauty and the Beast" had an estimated \$119 million gross after 17 weeks (one can understand why "The Great Mouse Detective" was considered to have been less than successful the first time out, with a total gross of \$25.3 million).
3700. Forecast by Bob Burr: *THE D CASE*, by Carlo Fruttero and Franco Lucentini, from Harcourt Brace Jovanovich in June: Holmes, Marlowe, Maigret, and other great sleuths of fiction convene in Rome to solve the mystery of Dickens' "Edwin Drood".
3701. Another Sherlockian allusion from the Olympics, reported by Ruthann and Tom Stetak: "the bootmaker of Toronto" (that was the announcer's description of a man named Knebil who was one of the figure skaters' favorite bootmaker).
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March 1992 #2

3702. The Pequod Press offers a new collection of Douglas Norman's unusual poetry: *VIOLET HUNTING AND OTHER SHERLOCKIAN PASTIMES* ("a delightful little garland of verse that often smacks of explicit or implicit sex, with some subjects and language once considered taboo, but here handled with the author's usual good taste"). The book is available for \$35.00 (cloth) or \$15.00 (paper) from John Ruyle, 521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707-1521.
3703. Subscriber Kevin S. Moriarty is well aware of his family connections, as demonstrated by the advertisement that will run in his local yellow pages.
3704. News from Carole Nelson Douglas: her *GOOD MORNING, IRENE* will be reissued in paperback by Tor in April, and her third book (*IRENE AT LARGE*) will be published by Tor in June.
3705. The Mar. 1992 issue of *Smithsonian* has Nancy Shute's report on "The Lab Sleuths Who Help Solve Crimes Against Animals" (the staff of the National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory in Ashland, Ore., where scientists combat contraband traffic in wild animals and wildlife parts and products. The historical roots of forensic science can be traced back to sixth-century China, according to the article, which quotes from Richard Saferstein's textbook *CRIMINALISTICS: AN INTRODUCTION TO FORENSIC SCIENCE* (1981): it was Sherlock Holmes who "applied the newly developed principles of serology, fingerprint fingerprinting, firearm identification, and questioned-document examination long before their value was first recognized and accepted by real-life criminal investigators."
3706. Alexander Hvatsky (32 High Street #309, New Haven, CT 06510) offers a sales list for a collection of more than 150 Sherlockian pastiches (to be sold as one lot) in return for an SASE.
3707. The other fictional work that includes a character based on Adrian Conan Doyle is Anthony Boucher's *ROCKET TO THE MORGUE* (first published in 1942 as by H. H. Holmes).
3708. "Medico stooge of drug-taking London private 'tec tells tale of revenge killings in English metropolis. Despite long flash-back and overseas jump to western U.S. deserts, story has merit and author may go far. Readable." An anonymous capsule review of *A STUDY IN SCARLET*, spotted by Jennie Paton in the *Saturday Review of Literature* (Dec. 26, 1936).
3709. Spotted by Bill Ballew: *EACH NEW DAY* (New York: Scribner Laidlaw, 1989); a Scribner Reading Series anthology, with Donald J. Sobol's "The Case of the Broken Window" (with a Sherlockian illustration by Lane Yerkes). The story is adapted from Sobol's *ENCYCLOPEDIA BROWN AND THE CASE OF THE DEAD EAGLES* (1975), which hasn't been seen but may also have a Sherlockian allusion.
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March 1992 #3

3710. You too can be lord of the manor (or something). An advertisement spotted by Gary Westmoreland in the *Wall Street Journal* on Feb. 24 announces that four British lordships (with their associated rights and coats of arms) are available at prices ranging from \$9,500 to \$21,570. The agents are Stamford, Perry and Fitzgerald, and Anthony Fitzgerald-Hill welcomes enquiries in London (his telephone number is 44-71-379-2823).
3711. Heidi Thornberry (Action Graphics, Box 225, Navarre, OH 44662) offers a Sherlockian sweatshirt (screened in green on gray), available in sizes S/M/L/XL (\$18.00) and XXL (\$20.00), plus \$2.00 shipping.
3712. Noted by Ron De Waal: *THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES*, with an afterword by Frederick Busch (New York: Penguin Books/Signet Classic, n.d.); a recent reprint of the 1986 edition, with the same cover art.
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3713. Further to the report (August 91 #5) on the Sherlockian line (about eliminating the impossible ...) in Rupert Holmes' new play "Solitary Confinement": there isn't one. But it *was* in the play, for one or two performances in Pasadena, last November, at the end of the first act, and if you see the play you will know how relevant it was. And I do recommend the play, which is now at the Kennedy Center in Washington, on its way to Broadway: it is written with style and ingenuity, and Stacy Keach is splendid in the lead. I also recommend that you do not read more detailed reviews of the play, because it is next to impossible to discuss it without spoiling some of the many surprises devised by Rupert Holmes.
3714. The Sherlockian collections published by The Illustrious Clients have all been fine additions to the writings about the writings, and THE ILLUSTRIOUS CLIENTS FOURTH CASEBOOK is no exception. Edited by Steven T. Doyle, Mark Allen Gagen, and William A. Barton, and with 122 cloth-bound pages, the new collection offers an excellent variety of subjects, and of authors such as David L. Hammer, Michael Harrison, Tina Rhea, Patricia J. Ward, and Jerry Neal Williamson (whose reminiscences about the founding of the society in the 1940s offer a splendid look at what those early days were like). The book is available from Steven T. Doyle, 540 West Sycamore, Zionsville, IN 46077; \$21.45 postpaid.
3715. Newly listed in a catalog from Barnes & Noble (126 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10011) THE WASTELAND/FOUR QUARTETS, read by T. S. Eliot on a set of two audiocassettes (item 1783653, \$19.00); the set also contains Eliot reading "Macavity: The Mystery Cat" and likely is a reissue of earlier recordings made by Caedmon. One of the "Four Quartets" is "East Coker" (which is of passing interest for Eliot's use of the word "grimpen" (from "The Hound of the Baskervilles").
3716. "I don't claim to be yours truly, S. Holmes. I mean I can't glance at a man and immediately know he is left-handed, constipated, has a red-haired wife, and slices lox for a living." MCNALLY'S SECRET, by Lawrence Sanders (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1992).

March 1992 #4

3717. Reported by Frank Darlington: a new catalog from Radio Spirits (Box 2141, Schiller Park, IL 60176), offering some Sherlockian recordings, including two six-hour sets (\$29.95 each), each set with six stories read by Charles Fuller. The twelve recordings were issued a while back by Irregular Productions (October 90 #4), but the prices are now lower.
3718. The Sherlockian Walking Stick (D3392b) is still available, with the handle modeled on J. Robert Black's artistic statue and the shaft in ebony (\$155) or Dymondwood (\$115), in a catalog from the House of Canes and Walking Sticks, 767 Old Onion Mountain Road, Wilderville, OR 97543 (800-458-5920).
3719. The Ben Silver Collection offers a fine color catalog of regimental and old school ties (some with Sherlockian and Doylean connections, of course). And some of the descriptions are quite intriguing: the 3rd Gordon Highlanders (75th and 92nd Foot) was formed in 1881 by amalgamation of the 75th Stirlingshire Regiment (raised in 1787) and the 92nd Gordon Highlanders (raised in 1794 by the Marquis of Huntly, whose wife, Jean, recruited offering kisses with the King's shilling between her teeth). Their address is 149 King Street, Charleston, SC 29401 (800-221-4671).
3720. Further to the report (February 92 #3) on the Reader's Digest Association's 1991 edition of THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (with fine illustrations by David Johnson and an Afterword by John L. Cobbs): earlier titles in this series are A STUDY IN SCARLET/THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (1986), THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1987), and THE MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1988). Has anyone seen anything for 1989 or 1990?
3721. Noted by Dick Rutter: Ghost River Images (1600 East Roger Road #22, Tucson, AZ 85719) offers ten of the Canonical short stories as paperbound miniature books at \$7.95 each (at 1/6 or 1/12 scales). The firm also offers to print miniature editions of your own work.
3722. Baedeker's guidebooks are an interesting addition to Sherlockian shelves, with their detailed descriptions and splendid maps of the long-gone London that Sherlock Holmes knew so well (and the 1891 guide to Switzerland should not be neglected). William B. O'Neill (11609 Hunters Green Court, Reston, VA 22091) has a fine stock of Baedekers, and will be happy to quote against your want-lists.
3723. A new sales list of Sherlockiana at hand from Howard Einbinder (180 Clinton Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201).
3724. Reported: VICTORIAN GHOST STORIES, edited by Michael Cox and R. A. Gilbert (New York: Oxford University Press, 1992; 497 pp., \$24.95); with ACD's "The Captain of the 'Pole-Star'".
3725. Does anyone know someone who owns a Jaguar that has SHERLOK license plates? More accurately: does anyone know someone who used to own a Jaguar that had SHERLOK license plates? A "CBS Evening News" segment, broadcast on Mar. 9, about "repo men" (as an aspect of the current recession) had a short quote from a man who works for a firm called Sherlock Recovery, and a brief view of the repossession of a Jaguar with SHERLOK plates.

March 1992 #5

3726. The Mystery Writers of America will hold their Edgar Allan Poe Awards Banquet on Apr. 30, and two of the four nominees for an Edgar for "best episode in a television series" are Sherlockian: Granada's "Shoscombe Old Place" (dramatized by Gary Hopkins) and "The Problem of Thor Bridge" (dramatized by Jeremy Paul).
3727. Frank Darlington notes that Educorp Computer Services offers a wide variety of fonts for the Macintosh, including a 12-point Dancing Men font. Their address is 7434 Trade Street, San Diego, CA 92121 (800-843-9797). But you can also contact Tina Rhea, who in 1987 used Fontastic Plus to devise a new Ridling Thorpe font for the Macintosh. The cipher is complete, as devised by Remsen Ten Eyck Schenck (BSJ, Apr. 1955), with flagged (end-of-the-word) letters obtained using the shift key (apparently not available in Educorp's version). Her font is available in 18-point (1822 bytes) for Macwrite and Macpaint, and in 36-point (5494 bytes) for Macpaint, and she offers both of the fonts, and a note on how to use them, free of charge, in return for an initialized Macintosh diskette (single-sided or double-sided) and return postage; if you do not have Font/DA Mover, put a copy of your System file on the diskette and she will insert the fonts. Tina's address is 3-E Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770 (see below for another item available from Tina).
3728. The "country companions" spotted by Dick Rutter in the Jan. 1992 catalog from Wild Wings include a six-inch figurine of a nicely Sherlockian bloodhound, in handcrafted cold cast resin by artist Robert Harrop. The price is \$49.95 plus \$7.00 shipping, and their address is Box 451, Lake City, MN 55041 (800-445-4833).
3729. The Simon & Schuster audiocassette series continues to offer fine opportunities to hear many of the Rathbone/Bruce radio shows not previously available. Vol. 15 is now in the stores (\$11.00) with "The Guileless Gypsy" and "The Camberwell Poisoners" (both from 1946 scripts by Denis Green and Anthony Boucher), and fine commentary by the late Ben Wright. New cassettes will be available every three months.
3730. Gary R. Westmoreland reports that "The Crucifer of Blood" (broadcast on TNT cable in Nov. 1991, with Charlton Heston as Sherlock Holmes) is available on cassette from Movies Unlimited, 6736 Castor Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19149 (800-523-0328). The price is \$89.99 (the usual level for releases aimed at the video-rental market), but the price should come down within a year or so.
3731. Another item at hand from Gary concerns the weekly appearance of Moriarty on television, in the series "Law & Order" (broadcast on Mondays by NBC-TV) this Moriarty is Michael Moriarty, who plays assistant district attorney Ben Stone.

3732. The "Sherlock Holmes, Consulting Detective" compact-disc game developed by ICOM Simulations for video-game systems (February 91 #2) has now been released on a CD-ROM disc for IBM-compatible and Macintosh personal computers (the list price is \$69.95, but the street price is about \$50.00, according to an article at hand from Paul Brundage). The game includes live-action video (15-frames-per-second quarter-screen digitized video) and runs 90 minutes. And ICOM is already halfway through work on a sequel.

March 1992 #6

3733. If you have watched Jeremy Brett's "Sherlock Holmes" series on A&E cable, and have stayed tuned for the next show, you'll know that "Lovejoy" is a good series, too, with Ian McShane doing a fine job in the title role. "Lovejoy" is based on the books by Jonathan Gash, and Gary Thaden notes that THE GREAT CALIFORNIA GAME (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1991; \$19.95) brings Lovejoy to the U.S., and involves him in a search for the long-lost manuscript of Arthur Conan Doyle's first novel, THE NARRATIVE OF JOHN SMITH.
3734. The Bimetallic Question of Montreal and The Reichenbach Irregulars of Switzerland have commissioned the newest memorial to Sherlock Holmes: a bronze plaque to be installed at the Reichenbach Falls in May. There already are two other plaques in the vicinity, at the Restaurant Roessli in Meiringen and at the base station of the Reichenbach funicular tramway, but the new plaque will be at the actual "fearful place" (to the left of the falls, as in the Paget illustration, and across from the natural viewing area to the right of the falls that is more convenient for visitors).
3735. Emory Lee reports that Stone Castle Imports (Box 141, Bardstown, KY 40004) offer Sherlockian miniature figurines (54mm) from firms such as Valiant and Imperial.
3736. Spotted by Jack Kerr: Filmfax (Feb.-Mar. 1992) has good coverage by Gary Coville and Patrick Lucanio of "Jack the Ripper" in print and on film and television (with discussion of Sherlockiana), as well as excellent articles about George Zucco and Lionel Atwill, who gave splendid performances in the Rathbone/Bruce films.
3737. Reported: LOGIC NUMBER PROBLEMS, by Wade H. Sherard III (Palo Alto: Dale Seymour Publications, 1992; 64 pp., \$8.95); a book of problems for students in grades 7-12, with Sherlockian artwork. The publisher's address is Box 10888, Palo Alto, CA 94303 (800-872-1100).
3738. The movie "Champagne for Caesar" (1950) has an S'ian connection, and it is available on videocassette (according to the Movies Unlimited catalog, it is a riotously funny film about a genius, played by Ronald Coleman, who goes on a radio quiz program and takes them for everything they've got; Vincent Price is the show's neurotic sponsor, who hires beautiful Celeste Holm to distract Coleman). According to an article in the Jan. 1989 issue of Cinefantastique (which includes a fine tribute to Vincent Price and a review of his many films), Disney's artists modeled Ratigan in "The Great Mouse Detective" on Price's performance in "Champagne for Caesar".
3739. Jeremy Brett's publicity tour of the United States last year included an appearance at the WETA-TV studios in suburban Washington on Oct. 26, when he spoke and answered questions for about 45 minutes. Tina Rhea recorded the session, and offers an audiocassette for \$5.00 postpaid; her address is 3-E Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770.

April 1992 #1

3740. The plays are old, but the published scripts are new discoveries, and will be of interest to those who pursue Sherlockian drama. THE ADVENTURE OF THE SPECKLED BAND is a two-act adaptation by Tim Kelly, published in 1981, and LADY DITHER'S GHOST is a "musical version of a Sherlock Holmes mystery" by DuMont Howard, published in 1985. The publisher is I. E. Clark, Inc. (Box 246, Schulenburg, TX 78956), and the scripts cost \$3.00 each; the shipping charges are \$1.50 for the first script, and \$2.50 for two to five scripts, and they take plastic if your order is more than \$10.00.
3741. As famous as William S. Baring-Gould is among Sherlockians, he is not the first of that ilk to achieve renown in the literary world. That honor goes to the Rev. Sabine Baring-Gould, who in 1864 wrote the famous hymn "Onward Christian Soldiers" and then a series of books about country legends that include those of the west country in general and of Dartmoor in particular. And there is a Sabine Baring-Gould Appreciation Society, founded in 1989, with a newsletter published three times a year; membership costs £6.00 a year, and you can write to David Shacklock, 2 Carlton Road, Redhill, Surrey RH1 2BX, England.
3742. Members of the original "Star Trek" crew celebrated their 25th anniversary with a photograph made for the American Library Association, spotted by Jennie C. Paton on the cover of American Libraries (Jan. 1992); it is hard to see in this size, but Walter Koenig (who played helmsman Pavel Chekov) is holding a copy of THE ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES. The photo is available as a poster (22 x 28 inches) for \$6.00 (plus \$2.00 shipping) from ALA Graphics, 50 East Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611. Bookmarks also are available (\$7.00 for 200 copies).
3743. The fifth and sixth volumes in the MATCH WITS WITH SHERLOCK HOLMES series are now available, with four stories (Spec/Suss and Abbe/Bosc) nicely adapted by Murray Shaw for children aged 8-11, and attractive illustrations by George Overlie. \$9.95 each (postpaid) from Carolrhoda Books, 241 First Avenue North, Minneapolis, MN 55401 (800-328-4929).
3744. Ben Wood (Box 740, Ellenton, FL 34222) offers a new sales list that includes some of the publications of The Pleasant Places of Florida, and Sherlockian and Doylean stamps issued by Redonda, San Marino, Dominica, Turks & Caicos Is., and Coromo Is.

April 1992 #2

3745. At hand from Jon Lellenberg is an editorial from the [London] Times (Feb. 14, 1992) occasioned by "a deadly plot" to kill off Inspector Morse. Admirers of Morse will be relieved to learn that the plot failed. The plotters were the producers of the television series in which John Thaw plays the title role, and they had hoped that the final episode in the series would have him "bumped off in Bayreuth, no doubt accompanied by the 'Immolation of Brunnhilde' from Morse's beloved 'Götterdämmerung'." Morse's rescuer was Colin Dexter, who created the character and realized that lucrative publishing contracts made Morse worth more alive than dead. "I would not be doing myself any favors by having him killed," Dexter said. "Anyway, I like him." The writer of the editorial, needless to say, noted the parallel with events in the Canon.
3746. Reported from Britain: FROM BOW STREET TO BAKER STREET: MYSTERY, DETECTION AND NARRATIVE, by Martin A. Kayman (Macmillan, 269 pp., £40); a discussion of the development of the genre. THE OXFORD BOOK OF GOTHIC TALES, edited by Christopher Baldick (Oxford Univ. Press, 534 pp., £16.96); the contents include "The Speckled Band".
3747. "Dover Thrift Editions" are an interesting addition to bookstore shelves: trade paperbacks priced at \$1.00, in an move to get good literature into the hands of readers as cheaply as possible. SIX GREAT SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES (New York: Dover Publications, 1992; 107 pp., \$1.00) offers Scan/RedH/Spec/Engr/Fina/Empt and a brief note about Conan Doyle.
3748. Barbara Alder reports that The Sherlock Holmes (the pub in Northumberland Street) will reopen in mid-April (it has been closed for renovations), and that a new Sherlockian souvenir shop has opened across the street from 221B Baker Street.
3749. Forecast from Britain: Theme Publications have announced that they intend to publish David Stuart Davies' THE TANGLED SKEIN: SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE DRACULA AFFAIR on June 30, at £25.00 (postpaid by surface mail). The book will be "an exclusive worldwide limited edition of 500 copies" that "will not be reproduced in this particular form as an English-language version ever again," and the first 50 copies will be signed by the author

- and by Peter Cushing (and allocated on a first-come first-served basis). Copies can be reserved only through paid-in-advance orders (sterling check, cash, or money order), and a detailed flier is available from Theme Publications (43 Bowleaze Coveaway, Weymouth, Dorset DR3 6PL, England).
3750. The Mapleton Stables at Louisville have a new Sherlockian multi-color lapel pin, available for \$9.00 postpaid from Ralph Hall, 2906 Wallingford Court, Louisville, KY 40218.
3751. The Arthur Conan Doyle Society has announced a David Kirby Memorial Essay Competition, with a deadline of Dec. 31, 1992, and prizes of £50 offered in each of two categories: "the life, writings and/or criticism or study of the writings of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle," and "studies in the Sherlockian writings of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle" (pastiche and parodies are excluded). The society also plans a weekend visit to Edinburgh in Mar. 1993, guided by Owen Dudley Edwards. Fliers for both items are available from Christopher Roden, Grasmere, 35 Penfold Way, Dogleston, Chester CH4 9ML, England.
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April 1992 #3

3752. Reported by Ron De Waal: CRIME CLASSICS: THE MYSTERY STORY FROM POE TO THE PRESENT, edited by Rex Burns and Mary Rose Sullivan (New York: Viking Penguin, 1990; 390 pp., \$22.95), has also been published as a trade paperback (New York: Penguin Books, 1991; 390 pp., \$10.95); the contents include "A Scandal in Bohemia" and "The Speckled Band".
3753. W. T. Rabe ("Colonel Warburton's Madness") died on Apr. 4. Bill's genius was perhaps best expressed by his talent in making madness respectable, and he did that in many fields: as chief telephone-book critic for the Detroit newspapers, as Detroit Hatchetman of the Friends of Lizzie Borden, as chief executive officer of Hush Records (providing the records with which Silent Record Week was celebrated each year), as public-relations officer for the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island (the Miami Beach of the North), and in so many ways in the world of Sherlock Holmes. His plaque was the first to be unveiled in Meiringen, and he founded the Martha Hudson Breakfast at the Hotel Algonquin, and as Chief Medical Officer of The Old Soldiers of Baker Street he published two editions of the SHERLOCKIAN WHO'S WHO AND WHAT'S WHAT, a long run of The Commonplace Book, the phonograph records he called VOICES FROM BAKER STREET, and most recently WE ALWAYS MENTION AUNT CLARA. He received his Investiture in 1955, and the BSI's Two-Shilling Award in 1990, and his contributions to Sherlockiana are not yet complete, since his videocassette BAKER STREET NEWSREEL will soon be available to remind us of how much fun he brought to the world he enjoyed so much.
3754. Spotted by Jennie Paton: a sweatshirt (black on gray in S/M/L/XL) offered by The Rare Bear (21 Mill Hill Road, Woodstock, NY 12498) at \$39.95 plus \$5.00 shipping (they take plastic).
3755. The Georgetown Frame Shoppe (1083 Thomas Jefferson Street NW, Washington, DC 20007) has a production cel from "Deduce, You Say" (1956), showing Daffy with a magnifying glass (\$2,000), and a limited-edition cel (1981) signed by artist Chuck Jones and showing Daffy in full Sherlockian costume (\$1,200). And the Old Print Gallery (1220 31st Street NW, Washington, DC 20007) offers an original of the caricature of William Gillette by "Spy" (Leslie Ward) [D4274b], matted and framed (\$1,250).
3756. Further to the report (March 92 #4) on the Sherlockian series published by the Reader's Digest Association, Philip Shreffler reports that THE FURTHER ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES is scheduled for 1993, containing HIS LAST BOW, "The Man with the Watches", "The Lost Special", "The Field Bazaar", "How Watson Learned the Trick", and an afterword by Philip.
3757. Tina Rhea is working on an annotated bibliography of the many books written by Michael Harrison, and would greatly appreciate hearing from anyone who might have copies of BATTERED CARAVANSERAI, THERE'S GLORY FOR YOU!, TRANSIT OF VENUS, A HANSOM TO ST. JAMES'S, COUNT CAGLIOSTRO, and UNDER THIRTY. Her address is 3-E Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770.
3758. Robert C. Hess (559 Potter Boulevard, Brightwaters, NY 11718) is offering "Hawkshaw the Detective" comic strip from 1920s and 1930s Sunday papers, and in a 1943 comic books, plus other newspaper comic-strip material. A sales list is available.
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April 1992 #4

3759. Bill Rabe's BAKER STREET NEWSREEL videocassette is a delightful reminder of the early days of Sherlockian exploration as well as of the days of home movies, in 1951 and 1952, when Lt. Rabe (operating as the photo-analysis section of The Old Soldiers of Baker Street) filmed in England, Belgium, Paris, and Switzerland. Bill relied on a used camera and had no exposure meter, but his fidelity to the Sherlockian spirit was as high then as in later years. His 30-minute excursion into the past is followed by a video transfer of the 10-minute "The Celebrated Archives of Sherlock Holmes" (made to promote "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes") and some interesting audio, including a report on the second running of The Silver Blaze at Aqueduct in Sept. 1953. \$20.00 postpaid from Charm Audio (Box 1291, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783).
3760. The Incessant Trumpet is a pleasant and well-produced eight-page newsletter based on Helen Williams' love of literature, and the Nov.-Dec. 1991 issue is nicely Sherlockian. And available from The Prism (Box 2021, Birmingham, MI 48012); \$3.00.
3761. Michael McClure reports that the just-released videocassette of Disney's "101 Dalmatians" comes with an announcement that the videocassette of "The Great Mouse Detective" will be released this summer.
3762. Discovered by Bill Vande Water: John Peel's WHERE IN THE WORLD IS CARMEN SANDIEGO? (Racine: Western Publishing Co., 1991; 96 pp., \$2.95); a spin-off from the computer game and television series, the book offers four trails to follow hither and yon. And one of the trails leads through Disneyland, where Basil of Baker Street provides a clue.
3763. What on Earth (2451 Enterprise East Parkway, Twinsburg, OH 44087) continues to offer Sherlockiana in its catalogs, such as the Bossons "character wall heads" of Holmes, Watson, and Moriarty (\$63.95 each); the Bearlock Holmes doll (\$74.95); and Tsukasa Kobayashi's SHERLOCK HOLMES'S LONDON (\$16.95).
3764. Jack Davis (Davis and Son, Long Leaf Mall, Wilmington, NC 28403) offers a Sherlock Holmes umbrella or walking stick (the handles are in polyester resin) for \$70.00. Also available: the Bossons busts of Holmes, Watson, and Moriarty (\$65.00 each), deerstalkers (\$25.00), and a Holmes-and-Watson meerscham pipe set (\$65.00). Shipping costs \$5.00, and they accept plastic.
3765. Pattie Brunner notes a report from England that Granada will begin work in April on their next "Sherlock Holmes" program, and that it will be a "The Sussex Vampire" (in a two-hour adaptation). And Pattie reports that Jeremy Brett has not been idle: he plays a small part in the film "Patriot Games" (based on Tom Clancy's book and starring Harrison Ford), expected in the theaters this summer. Pattie also offers a sales list of postcards, mugs, prints, and other items autographed by Jeremy Brett: send an SASE to Pattie at 3019 Fire Weed Court, Florissant, MO 63031.
3766. At hand from Syd Goldberg is a newspaper report that LumiVision has issued a 90-minute laserdisc (\$45.00) with all the surviving footage of "The Lost World" (1925), a trailer, a promotional short, and a demonstration of the stop-motion special effects devised by Willis O'Brien.
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April 1992 #5

3767. "Though not a great zealot of the detective story he knows his Sherlock Holmes, Agatha Christie, Anna Katharine Green, Mary Roberts Rinehart, S. S. Van Dine." From Christopher Morley's long article on "What the President Reads: Notes on a Visit to the White House" in the Saturday Review of
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- Literature (Sept. 24, 1932), spotted by Jennie Paton. The president was Herbert Hoover (who in 1930 had invited William Gillette to luncheon at the White House, when Gillette was in Washington on tour in "Sherlock Holmes").
3768. Isaac Asimov ("The Remarkable Worm") died on Apr. 6. He was a grand master in the world of science fiction (Asimov's Laws of Robotics are now a given for writers in that genre), and he was perhaps more of a master at making science understandable (if the remarkable worm was unknown to science, very little science was unknown to Isaac). Above all, he was imaginative, and that showed as well in his mysteries and in his limericks and in his songs and in his enjoyment of the Canon. His reconstruction of Moriarty's famous essay on "The Dynamics of an Asteroid" was published in BEYOND BAKER STREET in 1976, shortly after Isaac received his Investiture, but it is his S'ian songs and limericks that will be remembered best by those who heard them at our annual dinners and cocktail parties.
3769. A two-hour videocassette of "Sherlock Holmes: The Golden Years: Incident at Victoria Falls" is now in the shops (released by Vestron Video), starring Christopher Lee (Sherlock Holmes), Patrick Macnee (Dr. John Watson), and Jenny Seagrove (Lilly Langtry). The third billing for Jenny Seagrove (who played a memorable Mary Morstan in Granada's "The Sign of Four") is perhaps the best demonstration of how much editing was done for the videocassette version: Lilly Langtry does not appear as a character [yes, she signed her name as Lillie Langtry, and that's not the only mistake in this show].
3770. "Incident at Victoria Falls" also is available from Jennie Paton's lending library, as is Granada's two-hour "The Master Blackmailer". Her address is 206 Loblolly Lane, Statesboro, GA 30458.
3771. Credit Susan Diamond and Allan Devitt for their report on "The Rocketeer" (a film that vanished so fast from the theaters that it already is an inflight movie): the villain, played by Timothy Dalton, is a Nazi fronting as an actor, named Neville St. Clair.
3772. Reported by Brian MacDonald: THE GREAT ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES in a 1990 "Puffin Classics" paperback edition with new cover art (\$2.95). And Anne Perry's RESURRECTION ROW and PARAGON WALK (both from Fawcett Crest at \$4.95 each), featuring Victorian detective Inspector Pitt, and with Pitt in Sherlockian costume on the covers. And THE MUDSOCK MANUSCRIPTS (vol. 1) by Larry A. Reynolds, illustrated by Greg Shelton, with an illustrated story "Hop 'n Burger" in which Perrier the pig plays Holmes (\$12.95 from Larry Reynolds Productions, Box 141, Fishers, IN 46038).
3773. THE HORROR OF THE HEIGHTS & OTHER TALES OF SUSPENSE (San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 1992; 242 pp., \$9.95) is the latest in the company's series of trade-paperback reprints of Conan Doyle's work. The "other tales" are fine ones, and Chronicle offers a fine companion to its earlier reprints of the Professor Challenger series and ROUND THE FIRE STORIES.

April 1992 #6

3774. The Simon & Schuster audiocassette series of the Rathbone/Bruce radio shows has reached vol. 16 (\$11.00) with "The Terrifying Cats" and "The Submarine Caves" (both from 1946 scripts by Denis Green and Anthony Boucher) and new commentary by series announcer Harry Bartell. Of particular interest is the opportunity to hear a new voice as Watson (Eric Snowden replaced a temporarily ailing Nigel Bruce for one of the shows).
3775. A report from an Australian newspaper, quoted by Washington Post columnist Bob Levey: Government chemists in Canberra have isolated a new element--administratium. The heaviest element yet discovered, it consists of one neutron, eight assistant neutrons, 25 vice neutrons, and 256 assistant vice neutrons. Despite its weight, it appears to be completely nonproductive and does not react or produce any real byproducts or end products.
3776. Varšše Sarabande Records (13006 Satcoy Street, North Hollywood, CA 91605) have issued a compact disc (VSD-5359) with Henry Mancini's music for "The Great Mouse Detective" (1986). And Patrick Gower's music for the Granada "Sherlock Holmes" series is still available on cassette (VSC-5221) and on compact disc (VSD-5221). Cassettes cost \$9.98, and compact discs \$15.98; shipping extra (\$3.00 plus \$0.50 each beyond one item); plastic accepted.
3777. Dee Snyder, the founder of The Mini-Tonga Scion Society (for creators and keepers of Sherlockian miniatures) has written to introduce Brian Jackson (the society's new "Islander"), who will be maintaining the registry and publishing the newsletter and keeping the society active; his address is 1500 Crescent Circle #110, Lake Park, FL 33403.
3778. The 22-page manuscript of "The Three Garridebs" is scheduled at auction on May 9 (estimated at \$85,000-100,000) at the Superior Galleries, 9478 West Olympic Boulevard, Beverly Hills, CA 90212 (800-421-0754). The catalog also includes the first printing of the first edition (London, 1888) of A STUDY IN SCARLET (\$9,000-10,000) and a first edition of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (\$1,000-\$1,500).
3779. Michael Hardwick's THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO SHERLOCK HOLMES, first published in 1986, has been reissued as a trade paperback (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1992; 255 pp., \$10.95). The book is similar in approach to his THE SHERLOCK HOLMES COMPANION (1962), but has greater emphasis on the stories; it is a splendid beginners' introduction to the Canon, and no less useful as a general reference work.
3780. Peter Rowland's pastiche THE DISAPPEARANCE OF EDWIN DROOD, published last year by Constable in Britain (March 91 #2), now has an American edition (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1992; 176 pp., \$16.95). The novel opens with the arrival of John Jasper at Baker Street in 1894, to ask Sherlock Holmes to prove that Edwin Drood has been murdered, and offers an intriguing solution to the problems posed by Charles Dickens. It is of passing interest that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was interested in possible solutions to "The Mystery of Edwin Drood" and discussed the story with Dickens (with the help of the medium Florizel von Reuter): Conan Doyle was curious about a solution "from the spirit-pen" of Dickens that had been published in Vermont in 1873, and asked Dickens, "Was the American who finished *Edwin Drood* inspired?" "Not by me," Dickens replied. See THE EDGE OF THE UNKNOWN (1930, p. 149-153).

April 1992 #7

3781. LOGIC NUMBER PROBLEMS, by Wade H. Sherard III (Palo Alto: Dale Seymour Publications, 1987; 64 pp., \$8.95), is an imaginative collection of problems for grades 7-12, with amusing cover and interior Sherlockian artwork by Rachel Gage. The publisher's address is Box 10888, Palo Alto, CA 94303 (800-872-1100).
3782. "Sherlock Holmes in Caracas" is a new 95-minute Venezuelan film, with Jean Manuel Montesinos as Sherlock Holmes and Gilbert Dacournan as Watson, shown at the 32nd International Film Festival in Cartagena, Colombia, on Mar. 13, and reviewed by Paul Lenti in Variety (Mar. 30). "This curiosity owes more to the Firesign Theater's 'Giant Rat of Sumatra' and Monty Python than to Arthur Conan Doyle. Venezuelan filmmaker Juan E. Fresan's English-lingo venture is a self-conscious, low-budget, free-wheeling satirical mess that might possibly find homevideo interest. Title is misleading since this deconstructed Holmes merely passes through Caracas on his way to Maracaibo to aid an old friend who is married to a former Miss Venezuela. Fantastic plot, which emerges late in the film, seems tacked on to give purpose to pic's constant mugging. While weird dealings point to a pagan-worshipping governess, Holmes discovers that the ex-Miss Venezuela is really a vampire who threatens the lives of her children. In between, Holmes discusses his weak characterization, subtitles that draw attention to the sound effects, Watson shooting everything with his

ubiquitous Betacam, and lots of corny costumes and tropical sets. Editing proceeds at a madcap pace, and the 20-gags-a-minute script actually pays off every once in a while."

3783. The Gleniffer Press has published THE THREE STUDENTS in a microbook edition (1.00 x 0.75 inches), typeset and illustrated, at £15.00 or \$30.00 postpaid (U.S. dollar checks acceptable). Their address is 11 Low Road, Castlehead, Paisley, Scotland PA2 6AQ, United Kingdom.
3784. 100 GREAT DETECTIVES, edited and introduced by Maxim Jakubowski (New York: Carroll & Graf, 1991; 255 pp., \$18.95), is the American edition of an fine collection of essays in which famous mystery writers discuss their favorite detectives. H.R.F. Keating examines Sherlock Holmes, and the other essays cover a wide and interesting range of detectives old and new, familiar and sometimes unfamiliar, with most of the writers offering personal essays and enthusiastic tributes rather than mere potted biographies. Simon Brett, to cite only one example, notes that "One of the great things about literature is that it offers the safest sex around," and explains his love-affair with Sue Grafton's Kinsey Millhone.
3785. Donald Girard Jewell's A FEW HOURS TO THE BIRDS: A MONOGRAPH ON BIRDS AND BIRDING IN THE TIME OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Westminster: Pinchin Lane Press, 1991) is the second in his "Sherlock Holmes Natural History Series" (the first volume covered fish and fishing in A TROUT IN THE MILK, and the next will deal with Canonical cats). The 40-page monograph is nicely done, and available from the author (4685 Geeting Road, Westminster, MD 21158) for \$9.95 postpaid.
3786. Dr. Fatso's 23rd and (allegedly) penultimate account of the doings of his shrewd and spasmodic colleague Turlock Holmes is THE HESITANT PATIENT, due this month from the Pequod Press. \$35.00 (cloth) or \$15.00 (paper) from John Ruyle, 521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707.
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April 1992 #8

3787. Sherlockians, meeting formally or informally, sometimes pursue a Canonical version of the game "Twenty Questions" to see how quickly players are able to identify one of the Sherlock Holmes stories. But: what is the smallest set of yes-or-no questions that will identify all the sixty recorded cases? Eight questions would be the theoretical minimum (because sixty-four possibilities will cover the sixty recorded cases). If anyone can devise a set of twenty questions that will serve the purpose, I will be happy to publish such a list (or a shorter one, of course).
3788. Jeremy Brett's fans should check their local television listings: WETA-TV (Washington's PBS-TV station) will rebroadcast his four-part mini-series "Rebecca" beginning on May 7.
3789. J. Raymond Hendrickson ("The Musgrave Ritual") died on Mar. 7. Ray was for many years a professor of classics at Temple University in Philadelphia, and a stalwart member of The Sons of the Copper Beeches. His translation of the Musgrave Ritual into Greek will be found in the Sept. 1966 issue of the BSJ.
3790. Herbert H. Middleton ("Ionides, of Alexandria") died on Apr. 21. Herb was one of the founders of The Sons of the Copper Beeches, in 1947, and as one of the third-generation owners of the Middleton pipe-tobacco company he was an enthusiastic champion of Sherlock Holmes as an inveterate pipe-smoker, and of the many Sherlockians who have shared the great detective's devotion to the briar, cherrywood, and clay.
3791. SHERLOCK HOLMES FOR CHILDREN is a new one-hour audiocassette, offering four stories (Maza/Spec/Musg/Blue) told by Jim Weiss, who does an excellent job of combining narration and dialogue. The stories have been edited for the younger target-audience, but the adaptations are imaginative and retain the excitement of the Canon. The cassette costs \$9.95 (plus \$2.00 shipping), from Greathall Productions, Box 813, Benicia, CA 94510.
3792. It was in "The Stockbroker's Clerk" that Watson compared Sherlock Holmes to a "connoisseur who has just taken his first sip of a comet vintage." And the allusion to a comet vintage has been neglected by most of the Canonical commentators. Well, one of the comet vintages was 1811, and it is a bottle of Lafitte 1811 ("an extremely rare wine that just might hold the secret to eternal youth") that is featured in the new film "Year of the Comet" (with a screenplay by William Goldman, and Penelope Ann Miller, Tim Daly, Louis Jourdan, and Ian Richardson in the lead roles).
3793. Ronald A. Knox, who did so much to invent our own grand game, is also well known for his "decalogue" of rules for writing detective fiction (one of them suggesting that "The stupid friend of the detective, the Watson, must not conceal any thoughts which pass through his mind; his intelligence must be slightly, but very slightly, below that of the average reader"). SINS FOR FATHER KNOX, by Josef Skvorecky (New York: W. W. Norton & Co., 1989), recently reported by Ely Liebow, is a collection of ten stories, each of which violates one of Knox's rules; the reader is challenged not only to identify the murderer but also to decide which rule has been broken.
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May 92 #1

3794. The fourth issue of the Sherlock Holmes Gazette (spring 1992) has 40 pages and continues its coverage of the Granada series (including good background interviews with author Jeremy Paul and costume designer Esther Dean), plus other intriguing reports on items such as a Sherlock Holmes pub at the Gulf Hotel in Bahrain and Boris Yeltsin's admiration for Sherlock Holmes. The address is Theme Publications, 43 Bowleaze Coveaway, Weymouth, Dorset DT3 6PL, England, and the cost is £21.00 for four issues (they take plastic).
3795. Further to the challenge to identify a fictional work in which one of the characters was based on Adrian Conan Doyle, Michael McClure has suggested two additional candidates: Eve Titus' BASIL AND THE LOST COLONY (1964) and BASIL AND THE PYGMY CATS (1971), in which "Lord Adrian" appears.
3796. Michael also reports that the videocassette of "The Great Mouse Detective" will be released on July 17. And he has added another title to the list of periodicals he edits: Slylock Fox and Friends #1 is an eight-page black-and-white reprint (quite suitable for coloring) of a selection of cartoons by Bob Weber, Jr. The reprint was offered in the Sunday comic strip, and they have already had more than 1,300 requests for copies; it costs \$1.00 postpaid, and a set of Slylock Fox stickers is also available for \$2.00, and you can order from Michael W. McClure, 1415 Swanwick Street, Chester, IL 62233.
3797. Eugene Willis died on Jan. 17. He was Bud Willis to family and friends, and it is to Bud Willis and his wife Ruth that we owe "Aunt Clara" (one of the unofficial Sherlockian anthems). Bill Rabe's delightful monograph WE ALWAYS MENTION AUNT CLARA (1990) told the story of how the song was written on Christmas Day in 1936, and of Bud's long battles to convince authorities such as Carl Sandburg that the song was not merely anonymous folklore. Bud knew that the S'ian world had adopted the song, and he was (to quote Bill) "somewhat bemused that after all these years all these people are paying all this attention to his old Auntie."
3798. SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: INTERVIEWS AND RECOLLECTIONS, edited by Harold Orel (published last year by Macmillan in London and St. Martin's Press in New York) (December 91 #6), is now available from St. Martin's at \$35.00 postpaid. The book is an intriguing approach to biography, offering extracts from ACD's own writings, from interviews with him, and from articles, essays, and autobiographies written by people who knew him. Orel has divided his selections into five sections ("The Years at Edinburgh University"; "Sherlock Holmes"; "The Professional Writer"; "Speaking Out on Public Issues; Sports"; and "Spiritualism"), and he has added useful notes to help modern readers to whom many names and references will not be familiar. There are many reasons to recommend the book: one being that the selection is a good one, providing first-hand insight into many aspects of Conan Doyle's life and career. Another is that the opinions and interpretations are those of the writers, who were closer to Conan Doyle than biographers or admirers can be today. And there is much material that will be new and interesting to almost anyone who wishes to know more
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about a man who did so much, and so well. Prepaid orders can be sent to St. Martin's Press (attn: Donelle Gladwin), 175 Fifth Avenue New York, NY 10010.

May 92 #2

3799. "Staff fear for Granada standards after chief executive goes" was the headline on an article in The Times (Feb. 4), at hand from Chris Redmond, about the forced resignation of Granada Television's executive chairman David Plowright, after a disagreement with the head of the parent company, the Granada Group. A letter of protest was signed by 1,000 of Granada Television's staff, and key executives issued statements of concern. The Granada Group, hoping for more profit from its television subsidiary, wants to cut program budgets. Plowright led the recent (and successful) campaign by Granada Television to get its broadcasting license renewed for another ten years; another bidder for the franchise was ready to pay much more than Granada was, but the Independent Television Commission gave great weight to Granada's fine programming in the last decade.
3800. A new catalog at hand from Murder Ink (2486 Broadway, New York, NY 10025): they offer an interesting T-shirt (sizes L and XL only) with Steve Cragg's portrait of Conan Doyle for \$16.96 plus shipping; they take plastic and the tollfree number is 800-488-8123.
3801. The new mail-order catalog from Barnes & Noble (126 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10011) has THE ORIGINAL ILLUSTRATED ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE (#1788256) at \$12.95. And it's in the new catalog from the Strand Book Stone (828 Broadway, New York, NY 10003) at \$7.95 (#21368). Presumably the book will also be found on the bargain tables in book stores. Published by Castle Books in 1980, the book is a 490-page facsimile reprint from The Strand Magazine, with 17 non-Sherlockian short stories, RODNEY STONE, ACD's article on "Life on a Greenland Whaler", and Harry How's "A Day with Dr. Conan Doyle".
3802. The latter-day Avenging Angels, attempting to make amends for the murders committed by an earlier organization using the same name, are planning to install a plaque dedicated to the memory of John and Lucy Ferrier, at or near the Pioneer Trail State Park in Salt Lake City, on Aug. 4. A flier with more information about the plaque, and about the ceremony, is available from Ronald B. De Waal, 638 12th Avenue, Salt Lake City, UT 84103.
3803. A report on the May 9 auction at the Superior Galleries in Beverly Hills: the 22-page manuscript of "The Three Garridebs" was opened at \$87,500, but received no bid and went unsold. The first printing of the first edition of A STUDY IN SCARLET (London, 1888) was sold for \$9,500, and a first edition of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES was sold for \$1,100.
3804. Sherlock Holmes meets Nikola Tesla, and Nyarlathotep, in Ralph Vaughan's fantasy-pastiche SHERLOCK HOLMES IN THE DREAMING DETECTIVE (62 pp., with illustrations by Earl Geier). Available for \$6.95 postpaid from Gryphon Publications, Box 209, Brooklyn, NY 11228.
3805. Heritage Travel Services (800-828-9843) offers a tour of England on Aug. 17-25, arranged for fans of public television: an "Inspector Morse" tour of Oxford, a "Sherlock Holmes" tour of Granada studios, an excursion on The Orient Express, a private tour of Castle Howard ("Brideshead Revisited"), and much more. \$2,495 including round-trip travel on British Airways.

May 92 #3

3806. The First Annual Watsonian Weekend will be held on July 24-26 in and around Arlington Heights (near Chicago), featuring the "Great Agra Treasure Hunt" on July 24, "The Canonical Collegium" and "The Royal Berkshires/Fifth Northumberland Fusiliers Regimental Dinner" on July 25, and the running of "The Silver Blaze" on July 26. Details available from Robert W. Hahn, 2707 South 7th Street, Sheboygan, WI 53081.
3807. "The Sherlock style, modeled here by Fred, is a wool-blend plaid," and it is one-size-fits-all, with a tie under the chin and slots for the ears, and it costs \$14.95. Reported by Mary Ellen Rich, from the spring 1992 catalog from Cats, Cats & More Cats (2 Greycourt Avenue, Chester, NY 10918). Shipping costs \$3.95, and they take plastic.
3808. A packet of illustrated fliers at hand from Peter Melonas (Sherlock Holmes Mystery Bookstore, 4480 Mall of Memphis, Unit 3, Memphis, TN 38118), with offers of T-shirts, dolls, sculptures, and artwork by John Northcross.
3809. As noted earlier (March 92 #5), "Shoscombe Old Place" (dramatized by Gary Hopkins) and "Thor Bridge" (by Jeremy Paul) were two of the four nominees for an Edgar from the Mystery Writers of America for "best episode in a television series." The winning nominee, announced at the MWA annual dinner on Apr. 30, was "Poirot: The Lost Mine". But the Granada series has won Edgars in the past, in 1988 ("The Musgrave Ritual") and in 1989 ("The Devil's Foot").
3810. A repeat plug for the microbook (1.00 x 0.75 inches) edition of THE THREE STUDENTS published by the Gleniffer Press (April 92 #7). It's set in 3-point Times, and well-produced and nicely-bound, and there are now fewer than 50 copies available and the stock won't last long. £15.00 or \$30.00 postpaid (U.S. dollar checks accepted), and the address is 11 Low Road, Castlehead, Paisley, Scotland PA2 6AQ, United Kingdom.
3811. For those who don't yet have everything, Alan C. Olding reports a new set of four miniature hats (Holmes' deerstalker, Watson's top hat, Lestrade's bowler, and a Bobby's helmet) cast in silver by Australian master goldsmith Malcolm Walter. The hats are 18mm to 20mm high, and come with hand-turned ebony hat stands, and cost US\$200 each, or US\$750 for the set. Alan's address is P.O. Box 13, Stirling, S.A. 5152, Australia.
3812. Punch died on Apr. 8, after a long decline in circulation. The magazine's Doylean connection was established in 1843, when Richard Doyle joined their staff as an illustrator. His cover design became the magazine's trademark, and was used virtually unchanged from 1849 to 1956, but he resigned in 1850 in disgust over their anti-papist policy, and was quickly replaced by John Tenniel (who achieved lasting renown when he illustrated ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND in 1864). Punch's first Sherlockian piece was a parody by R. C. Lehmann published on Aug. 12, 1893, and in later years the magazine had hundreds of Sherlockian and Doylean items (including ACD's story "The Debut of Bimbashi Joyce"). According to a brief obit in the Wall Street Journal, spotted by Syd Goldberg, the cover of the last issue showed a dejected Mr. Punch stumbling into the sunset with his friend Judy and dog Toby.

May 92 #4

3813. Manchester, home of Granada Television and its studio tour, has many other claims to fame, according to an article reported by Syd Goldberg in the Philadelphia Inquirer. Manchester boasts more theaters than any city in England outside London, and the fastest-growing airport in Europe, and it has government backing for its bid to host the Olympic Games in the year 2000.
3814. Patrick Tull does an excellent job with unabridged audiocassette recordings of THE SIGN OF FOUR (three cassettes, \$21.95) and THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (five cassettes, \$36.95), offered by Recorded Books, 270 Skipjack Road, Prince Frederick, MD 20678 (800-638-1304). Also available are Tull's THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (seven cassettes, \$49.95) and THE VALLEY OF FEAR (four cassettes, \$29.95), Peter Mesney's A STUDY IN SCARLET (three cassettes, \$21.95), and Alexander Spencer's THE MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (seven cassettes, \$49.95)
3815. For those who don't yet have everything, Alan C. Olding reports a new set of four miniature hats (Holmes' deerstalker, Watson's top hat, Lestrade's bowler, and a Bobby's helmet) cast in silver by Australian master goldsmith Malcolm Walter. The hats are 18mm to 20mm high, and come with hand-turned ebony hat stands, and cost US\$200 each, or US\$750 for the set. Alan's address is P.O. Box 13, Stirling, S.A. 5152, Australia.

3816. I sometimes forget that some subscribers to this newsletter are relatively new subscribers. Jennie C. Paton reports hearing from some people who were puzzled by the mention (April 92 #5) of her lending library for Sherlockian video. She started the library a few years ago to help scions get material to show at meetings, and now has a wide variety of major and minor material available. The charge is \$5.00 per cassette (borrowers pay return postage, and Jennie's address is 206 Loblolly Lane, Statesboro, GA 30458.
3817. Ben B. Bodne died on May 12. Bodne and his wife were on their honeymoon in the 1920s when they discovered the Hotel Algonquin, and shared the dining room with Will Rogers, Douglas Fairbanks Sr., Sinclair Lewis, Eddie Cantor, Gertrude Lawrence, and Beatrice Lillie. He bought the hotel in 1946, and worked hard to maintain its reputation as a meeting place for literary and other celebrities. The Algonquin was sold to a Japanese company in 1987, but Bodne continued to live in the hotel, where (as Jon L. Lellenberg has noted) a table in the lobby was permanently reserved for him.
3818. John Dickson Carr's *THE DOOR TO DOOM AND OTHER DETECTIONS*, first published in 1980, is now available in a trade-paperback second edition (New York: International Polygonics, 1991; 346 pp., \$10.95). The book was edited by Douglas G. Greene, and it is a fine collection of Carr's short stories, parodies, and essays, with an excellent introduction by Greene (who is now working on an authorized biography of Carr). The parodies are Sherlockian (dramatizations of "The Adventure of the Conk-Singleton Papers" and "The Adventure of the Paradol Chamber" that were performed in 1948 and 1949 at the annual meetings of the Mystery Writers of America). One of the essays ("The Grandest Game in the World") was written in 1946 as an introduction for a never-published anthology of the "ten best" mystery novels, and while half of the essay has been published before, it appears in full (and with Carr's appreciation of the Canon) for the first time in this edition.

May 92 #5

3819. Further to the query (April 92 #8) asking for the smallest set of yes-or-no questions that will identify all the sixty recorded cases, Chris Redmond noted that the theoretical minimum is six, rather than eight (the relevant equation is 2 to the nth power rather than n squared). And Chris has supplied a list of questions (more than six, but fewer than twenty), which will not be published this month, in case anyone else is working on the problem.
3820. Reported: MPI Home Video has released the Granada version of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" on laserdisc (\$29.95).
3821. "The Mystery of Edwin Drood" continues to bemuse and bedevil readers who want to know the solution to the unfinished mystery. And an imaginative approach to the problem will be found in *THE D. CASE: THE TRUTH ABOUT THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD*, by Charles Dickens, Carlo Fruttero, and Franco Lucentini (New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1992; 587 pp., \$23.95). First published in Italy in 1989 and now available in English, the book offers an account of events at a Forum on the Completion of Unfinished or Fragmentary Works in Music and Literature, and the deliberations of the participants, who include Lew Archer, Father Brown, Hercule Poirot, Nero Wolfe, and Sherlock Holmes. There is considerable humor, and a surprise ending, and the dust jacket is also of interest, with portraits of Holmes and Watson drawn by Edward Gorey.
3822. Ray Dubberke's *DICKENS, DROOD, AND THE DETECTIVES* (New York: Vantage Press, 1992; 192 pp., \$16.95) is a more scholarly approach to the mystery, based on his suggestion that Dickens concealed his intentions so skillfully that "almost any conclusion one chooses, however farfetched, can be supported by citations from the novel." Dubberke examines the influence of real crimes, criminals, and detectives on Dickens' story, and proposes a solution based on those influences and on other works by Dickens (suggesting in passing that the team of Datchery and Deputy anticipates Sherlock Holmes and his Baker Street Irregulars).
3823. The latest issue of *Anglofile* includes the second half of an interview with Jeremy Brett, an interview with Lysette Anthony ("Without a Clue"), and (as always) the latest news about British television, stage, and screen. The 12-page magazine costs \$12.00 a year for six issues, and their address is Box 33515, Decatur, GA 30333.
3824. Peggy Ann Osborne collects buttons used on clothing, and she is writing a book about them, and hopes that someone can provide some information about an intriguing Sherlockian button she has found. It is a metal button (shown here actual size), with a loop shank, and a bronze-tinted face that shows a silhouette of Holmes with initials that appear to be JTM. If you know anything about the button, please write to her at 2613 Knollwood, Hazel Crest, IL 60429.
3825. "My Trans Am, like Magnum's Ferrari, is about as easy to track as the linseed oil Sherlock Holmes laid down for Toby." The Trans Am belongs to the heroine of Sara Paretsky's new mystery novel *GUARDIAN ANGEL*, and the quote was spotted by Bob Brusic. Presumably there are other uses for linseed oil than keeping baseball gloves in good shape, but laying down trails for Toby wasn't one of them.

May 92 #6

3826. The good news is that a four-hour version of "Sherlock Holmes: Incident at Victoria Falls" (with Christopher Lee and Patrick Macnee) does exist, and has been cleared for more than a hundred markets in the United States. The mini-series may have aired on some stations by now, since the four-week "window" opened on May 18, but Washington viewers will see (and surely tape) the show on WDCA-TV on June 9-10. And it will air on WGN-TV (the Chicago superstation that some cable companies carry) on June 10-11. The bad news, for those who rushed to buy the high-priced two-hour videocassette, is that that version was butchered to fit onto one cassette. The window for the four-hour "Sherlock Holmes and the Leading Lady" opens on Aug. 8 (and it will be broadcast in Washington on Aug. 25-26).
3827. Reported by Paul Brundage: "Sherlock Holmes: Mystery and Murder" is a oneweek tour to England scheduled for September, advertised by the California State Automobile Association Travel Agency (800-352-1955)
3828. Insp. Sholto Lestrade is back, in London in 1895, investigating a series of murders in the Underground, and in the usual difficulties with his superior officers, the general public, and assorted inanimate objects. M. J. Trow's *LESTRADE AND THE DEAD MAN'S HAND* (London: Constable, 1992; 237 pp., £13.99) is the eleventh in his series about Lestrade, and offers an excellent blend of humor and mystery.
3829. "It was all that the girl could do to keep herself in the saddle," says the Canonical account of Lucy Ferrier's first meeting with Jefferson Hope (his saddle also is mentioned in the story). But it is unlikely that either saddle was as ornate as the one shown on the Western Americana stamped envelope, designed by Harry Zelenko and issued on April 10.
3830. *IRENE AT LARGE* (New York: Tor Books, 1992; 320 pp., \$19.95) is Carole Nelson Douglas' third novel about Irene Adler and her friend Penelope Huxleigh, due to be published in July. The book begins with a description of the battle at Maiwand, but the story begins in Paris in 1889. Irene remains as intrepid and adventurous as ever, and the tale is nicely told, with an ending that indicates that a sequel is likely.
3831. Reported by Rosemary Michaud: three Sherlockian references (two to Holmes and one to Hemlock) in Norman Mailer's 1991 spy novel *HARLOT'S GHOST*.
3832. Arts & Entertainment cable is now airing reruns of "Lovejoy" (starring Ian McShane), but a new series of shows started on the BBC on Jan. 12. The 7th program ("Scotch on the Rocks") also stars Edward Hardwicke.

3833. Reported: mention of Sherlock Holmes' forays into London's train tunnels in KING SOLOMON'S CARPET, by Barbara Vine (New York: Harmony Books, 1992; 356 pp., \$19.00). Barbara Vine is a pseudonym used by Ruth Rendell.
3834. Pat Ward reports that the cast of Granada's version of "The Sussex Vampyre" (that's their spelling) will include Roy Marsden, who has starred as Adam Dalgleish on "Mystery!" and was featured in the "Sandbaggers" series.
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June 1992 #1

3835. Harmony Gold (the company that produced the mini-series "Sherlock Holmes: Incident at Victoria Falls") is now at work on "The Lost World" and "Return to the Lost World", and Andrew Jay Peck has noted a report in the Hollywood Reporter (May 14) that Harmony Gold also plan to film "The Poison Belt" and "The Day the Earth Screamed".
3836. Andy also spotted a report in Weekly Variety (same date) about the Family Channel's cable plans for the fall 1993: a new one-hour drama series called "221B Baker Street" involves a wealthy modern American couple who inherit a Victorian house at that address in London and find that people still write to Sherlock Holmes to ask for help. And the American couple, with the help of a twelve-year-old street urchin, solve some of the mysteries. At least that's the concept; the scripts have not been written, but the series will be a co-production with New World Television, which will shoot on location in London).
3837. The "Everyman's Library" editions of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (1982) and THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1983) have been reissued as THE BEST OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (London: J. M. Dent, 1992; 368 pp., £4.99), with a new and perceptive introduction by H. R. F. Keating and cover art showing the "Spy" caricature of William Gillette. The book is distributed in the U.S. by Charles E. Tuttle (28 South Main Street, Rutland, VT 05701), and in the bookstores priced at \$8.95.
3838. Martin A. Kayman's FROM BOW STREET TO BAKER STREET: MYSTERY, DETECTION AND NARRATIVE (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1992; 269 pp., \$45.00) examines in scholarly detail the 19th-century mystery genre, and its eventual focus on detection. Kayman's final chapter deals with the Sherlock Holmes stories, suggesting that in the Canon "the mystery itself is shifted from the crime, its sequel, and even its solution, to the detective's explanation of how he solved it." Kayman also notes the ground-breaking realism of the Canon: it is the power of Holmes' belief in himself and in his world as rational that has made it so easy for so many of his readers to accept him as real.
3839. THE MUDSOCK MANUSCRIPTS, mentioned earlier (April 92 #5), is nicely done. Written by Larry A. Reynolds and illustrated by Greg Sheldon, the stories feature a close-knit family of farm animals, and will be enjoyed by both children and adults. One of the stories ("The Syncopated Sleuths") is a mystery, and Perrier the pig turns detective, in Sherlockian costume and method. The book costs \$12.95 postpaid, from Larry Reynolds Productions, Box 141, Fishers, IN 46038. More stories are planned, including one with even more Sherlockian content and the title "The Hound Is Basking Still".
3840. E. Clark, who publish the scripts for THE ADVENTURE OF THE SPECKLED BAND and THE ADVENTURE OF LADY DITHER'S GHOST (April 92 #1), also publish Richard France's 1974 one-act adaptation of SHERLOCK HOLMES IN THE ADVENTURE OF THE DYING DETECTIVE (D4382b), and a few copies are still available. \$2.00 for the acting script, and \$10.00 for the director's script (giving background information, costume sketches, and staging ideas). Shipping is \$1.50 for the first script, and \$2.50 for two to five scripts; plastic accepted for orders of more than \$10.00; the address is Box 246, Schulenburg, TX 78956.
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June 1992 #2

3841. "Sherlock" is an eponym (a word that can be used to define both the person for whom a thing is or is believed to be named, and the name based on or derived from an eponym). Another eponym is "crapper" (Thomas Crapper was the inventor of the siphonless flushing mechanism used in modern toilets). And when you use the "john" you are indebted to the Rev. Edward Johns, also British, who introduced the "dolphin" toilet to the U.S. at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia in 1876 (according to a recent article spotted by Syd Goldberg in the N.Y. Times).
3842. The CONCISE DICTIONARY OF BRITISH LITERARY BIOGRAPHY is a new eight-volume set (Detroit: Gale Research, 1992; \$395.00), and vol. 5 (LATE VICTORIAN AND EDWARDIAN WRITERS, 1890-1914) has J. Randolph Cox's excellent 24-page entry for Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (updated from the entry Randy wrote for Vol. 70 of the DICTIONARY OF LITERARY BIOGRAPHY (1988)). It's a fine combination of biography, bibliography, and commentary on Conan Doyle's work.
3843. Forecast: new editions of THE EXPLOITS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Adrian Conan Doyle and John Dickson Carr, from Marboro's Dorset Press (for the bargainbook tables), and (with a new introduction by Carr's biographer Douglas G. Greene) in paperback from International Polygonics.
3844. The South Downers have a new membership pin, available in two versions: the beehive is in brown, with a black silhouette of Holmes on a blue background or on a yellow one. The pins cost \$7.50 each (plus \$1.00 shipping per order), and you can order from Richard A. Myhre, 1319 Poplar Court, Homewood, IL 60430.
3845. Ralph Spurrier purchased David Kirby's mailing list from David's widow, and David's customers should have received at least one catalog from Spurrier, who offers a fine selection of old and new Sherlockiana and Doyleana. You can write to him at Post Mortem Books, 58 Stanford Avenue, Hassocks, Sussex BN3 8JH, England.
3846. Further to the report (March 92 #1) on "the bootmaker of Toronto" mentioned in the telecasts of the Olympics, Cliff Goldfarb notes that the man's name is (correctly) John Knebli. Cliff was his next-door neighbor in the 1950s, and remembers seeing champions such as Dick Buttons come to be fitted for first-class skates. Knebli is now in his 80s, and still in business.
3847. Julian Symons' BLOODY MURDER: FROM THE DETECTIVE STORY TO THE CRIME NOVEL is now available in a third and expanded edition (London: Macmillan, 1992; 296 pp., £10.99). His chapter on the Canon retains the enthusiasm he first displayed in 1972 ("Certainly what needs to be stressed today is something that should be a cliché, and unhappily is not: that if one were choosing the best twenty short detective stories ever written, at least half a dozen of them would be about Sherlock Holmes"), but his new "Postscript for the Nineties" offers scant praise for many of the most popular current writers in the genre. Symons also suggested in the first edition that "the tone of mock-scholarly facetiousness" in the Writings About the Writings "must make them rank high among the most tedious pieces of their kind ever written," but he omitted that harsh judgement from both the second edition (1985) and the current one. He calls his book "a record of enthusiasm and occasional disappointment," and it is exactly that, and well-written and interesting.
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June 1992 #3

3848. Robert Morley died on June 3, after a long career as a skillful and witty character actor, and portrayed a memorable Mycroft in the film "A Study in Terror" (1965). He claimed that he learned all about acting in about three months, selling vacuum cleaners door-to-door, and he insisted that he was lazy by nature: "Anyone who works is a fool. I don't work--I merely inflict myself on the public."
3849. Single pages of the manuscript of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (many of which were distributed to booksellers in the United States in 1902, to be used in window displays) are occasionally available for purchase, and one of them (the thirteen page, beginning "This from Hugo Baskerville...") is
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offered for \$25,000 by Joseph M. Maddalena (Profiles in History, 345 North Maple Drive #202, Beverly Hills, CA 90210). Non-Sherlockian Conan Doyle autograph and manuscript material is also available from the company.

3850. William M. Gaines died on June 3. He was a pioneer in the genre of horror comics, publishing series that included *The Vault of Horror* and *Tales from the Crypt* (until Senate hearings on the effect of comics on innocent youth prompted the comic-book industry to impose self-censorship). In the early 1950s he turned his attention to another magazine he founded and published: *Mad*, the first magazine of satire aimed directly at adolescents. Its first Canonical items were "Shermlock Shomes!" and "Shermlock Shomes in The Hound of the Basketballs!" (parodies written by Harvey Kurtzman and drawn by Bill Elder in 1953 and 1954), and more recently the magazine skewered the movie "Young Sureschlock Homely". Gaines made irreverence an institution decades before television series such as "Saturday Night Live" found the same sort of audience and the same sort of success.
3851. Gary Thaden has forwarded a review of Colin Dexter's new *THE JEWEL THAT WAS OURS* (Crown, \$20.00); the book is an adaptation of an Inspector Morse story that was aired on "Mystery!" (about the theft of the Wolvercote Tongue) and includes a comparison of Morse's leaps of logic to those of Mycroft Holmes.
3852. On May 7, at the House of Lords, the Crime Writers Association presented Leslie Charteris with their Diamond Dagger Award ("the supreme accolade in our genre, given in recognition of a superlative career in writing"). Now 85 years old, Charteris shared script-writing credit (using the pseudonym Bruce Taylor) with Denis Green for the Rathbone/Bruce radio broadcasts in 1944 and 1945. And his "Saint" story "The Jolly Undertaker" included as a character Prof. Julian D. Corrington, who (in the story and in real life) had written about some of the scientific aspects of the Canon.
3853. The quarterly magazine *Scarlet Street* continues to offer in-depth coverage of old and new Sherlockian film and television, including interviews with Jeremy Brett, Edward Hardwick, Christopher Lee, and Patrick Macnee, as well as a report on the Granada series by David Stuart Davies. The winter 1992 issue has news (with location photographs) that Patrick Macnee was filmed in Canada in Oct. 1991 in the role of Holmes for a television version of Craig Bowsby's play "The Hound of London" (1987). And Foothill Video (Box 547, Tujunga, CA 91043) advertises a long list of Sherlockian video (\$7.95 per cassette, one of them being Clive Brook's "Sherlock Holmes" (1932) (not previously noted as available on cassette). The magazine is published by R. H. Enterprises, 271 Farrant Terrace, Teaneck, NJ 07666 (\$18.00 a year).

June 1992 #4

3854. The new Arpad Publishing comic-book series *CHRONICLES OF CRIME & MYSTERY: SHERLOCK HOLMES* that began with Dan and David Day's adaptation of "The Speckled Band" (February 92 #4) has competition. Tome Press (a division of Caliber Press) has published the first issue of a new series *CASES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* with Dan and David Day's adaptation of "A Scandal in Bohemia" (spotted by Jack Kerr). The Tome Press comic book actually is a reprint from the *CASES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* series that was published by Renegade in the 1980s (and picked up by Northstar, and then by Arpad). The Tome Press address is 621-B South Main Street, Plymouth, MI 48170.
3855. "This book is dedicated to our children, one son and seven daughters. As Sherlock Holmes said: 'You know my methods, use them!'" The dedication, noted by Rosemary Michaud, is certainly one of the more intriguing uses of a quotation from the Canon: it is in *A CLINICAL GUIDE FOR CONTRACEPTION*, by Leon Speroff and Philip D. Darney (Baltimore: Williams & Wilkins, 1992).
3856. Five postage stamps with designs showing "animals in winter" were issued by Great Britain in Jan., and two of them show a fox and a fallow deer (both foxes and deer are mentioned frequently in the Canon).
3857. A new eight-page catalog (concentrating on S'iana imported from Britain) at hand from Classic Specialties (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219). They are taking reservations now for a new and expanded edition (due this fall) of the splendid *GRANADA COMPANION: A SHERLOCK HOLMES ALBUM* that was published by Karizzma in 1987.
3858. The four-hour television broadcast version of "Sherlock Holmes: The Golden Years: Incident at Victoria Falls" actually runs about three hours and six minutes plus commercials, and Jenny Seagrove does nicely as Lillie Langtry, and railroad-expert John Paton reports that the train seen in the film was not built until the year after King Edward died.
3859. Christopher Roden has moved, and so has The Arthur Conan Doyle Society, and the David Kirby Memorial Essay Competition. The new address is: Ashcroft, 2 Abbotsford Drive, Penyffordd, Chester, Cheshire CH4 0JH, England (close enough to the border with Wales that Penyffordd is pronounced Pennyforth). Christopher was one of the guest speakers at a ceremony in Crowborough in May, when a plaque honoring Sir Arthur was unveiled (we can expect a full report in the next issue of *The Arthur Conan Doyle Society's journal*).
3860. Richard D. Lesh (1205 Lory Street, Fort Collins, CO 80524) has reprinted an amusing early parody: "The Weirdly Thrilling Adventure of the Lost Bathing Suit" was written by L. C. Hopkins and illustrated by Robert J. Dean, and stars Herlock Shomes and Dr. Rotson. The piece was first published in Nov. 1908 in *Uncle Remus's The Home Magazine*, which was founded by Joel Chandler Harris and edited by Julian Harris (Don Marquis, the associate editor, went on to be a respected writer, as well as a long-time associate and friend of Christopher Morley). The reprint, in reduced facsimile, is on high-quality paper and bound in boards, and available from Dick for \$25.00 postpaid.

June 1992 #5

3861. Richard R. Rutter's carefully researched article about "Cyclic Mysteries: Parallel Tracks in the Detective Fiction of L. Frank Baum and Arthur Conan Doyle" was published in the winter 1991 issue of *The Baum Bugle*. The parallels are interesting, and Dick also has noted a few possible instances of literary osmosis. The *Baum Bugle* is published three times a year by The International Wizard of Oz Club; membership is \$10.00 a year, and single issues of the magazine cost \$3.50 (write to Fred M. Meyer, 220 North 11th Street, Escanaba, MI 49829).
3862. Steven T. Doyle reports that the *Sherlock Holmes Review's* third Sherlockian symposium will be held the weekend of Nov. 21-22 at the Omni Severn Hotel in Indianapolis. For more information on the *Sherlock Holmes-SHR Symposium III*, write to Steven at Box 583, Zionsville, IN 46077.
3863. Further to earlier reports (August 91 #3 and November 91 #1) on the National Farm Medicine Center's test of the best hat for farmers to wear to reduce their exposure to skin cancer (in which a mesh variation of the deerstalker took second place), this summer the Asgrow Seed Co. of Kalamazoo will become the nation's first seed company to give away non-traditional caps to farmers. According to a report in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* (sent by Gary Thaden), the mesh stalker isn't one of Asgrow's choices.
3864. A brief note in the British press, at hand from Jon Lellenberg, reported that Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson were expected to arrive by hansom for the official reopening of *The Sherlock Holmes* (the pub in Northumberland Street) on May 22, after a refurbishment that cost £250,000.
3865. Edward D. Hoch's "The Problem of the Vanishing Salesman" (in the Aug. 1992 issue of *EQMM*) is a fine addition to his series of short stories about Dr. Sam Hawthorne, and rings some intriguing changes on the unrecorded case of the disappearance of Mr. James Phillimore.

3866. Fred Fondren died on June 8. An actor, playwright, director, and founder of the Prometheus Theatre, far off-off-Broadway, he wrote and starred in "Sherlock Holmes and the Warburton Conspiracy" at the National Arts Theatre in 1981. At the Prometheus his plays included "Sherlock Holmes Embattles Count Dracula" (1983), "Sherlock Holmes: A Case of Identity" (1988), and "Sherlock Holmes: The Eclipse Conspiracy" (1990).
3867. Reported by Ron De Waal: SHERLOCK HOLMES: TALES FROM BAKER STREET (Sandy Hook: Radio Yesteryear, 1990; a set of four audiocassettes, \$16.95); with eight of the Rathbone/Bruce shows (none of them new discoveries). Available at B. Dalton (and presumably in other chain bookstores).
3868. Further to the report (December 91 #2) about the conversion of the Isle of Dogs into a mixed-use community, the project appears to be encountering serious difficulties: Canary Wharf, a huge complex that includes a 50-story office building (the tallest in Europe), has sought bankruptcy-court protection. The Canary Wharf project has been masterminded since 1987 by Paul Reichmann of Olympia & York, an investment company that is based in Toronto and now faces its own financial problems. An estimated £500 million in additional funding is needed to complete Canary Wharf, and it is quite likely that the full redevelopment of the area will be considerably delayed.
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June 1992 #6

3869. The Northeast Victorian Studies Association will hold its 19th annual meeting at Rhode Island College on Apr. 30-May 2, 1993, and the topic will be "Victorian Waters". If you'd like to submit a paper, write to Prof. Joan Dagle, English Dept., Rhode Island College, Providence, RI 02908. If you'd like to attend the conference, write to Prof. Earl E. Stevens (at the same address).
3870. The latest rumor about the Jeremy Brett series is that Granada has decided to continue making two-hour adaptations, and thus has scrapped plans to use their one-hour scripts for "The Red Circle" and "The Three Garridebs" and at least one other story. And there is as yet no reliable report on which story Granada will do after "The Sussex Vampire" (or "The Sussex Vampyre" or whatever title they decide will be most effective).
3871. Andrew Jay Peck has discovered a necktie with a "Sherlock Fox" pattern (brown fox and green deerstalker) on terelene polyester (specially woven in Switzerland, and more durable than silk), available in navy blue or royal blue. Chipp Custom Clothiers and Furnishers (attn: Paul Winston), 342 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10173-0006; \$24.75 postpaid, and they take plastic.
3872. Reported by Rick Smith: THE OXFORD DICTIONARY OF MODERN QUOTATIONS, edited by Tony Augarde (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1991), has 34 quotations from the writings of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, all from the Canon except one from THE WHITE COMPANY. Bob Dylan has only 11 quotations, and Lillian K. Dykstra just one, but it's an amusing one. Writing to her husband in 1952, about Thomas E. Dewey, she said: "He is just about the nastiest little man I've ever known. He struts sitting down."
3873. If you have been wondering how to use the Canon to predict who is going to be elected president in November, in view of the absence from the Canon of anyone named Bush or Clinton or Perot, it is of interest that one candidate has mentioned Sherlock Holmes. On June 21 many of the major papers started running stories about Ross Perot's apparent fascination with investigations and intrigue. Perot responded angrily, and on June 24 announced that the emerging image of him as a sort of "Sherlock Holmes running around with my magnifying glass" is a concoction of the GOP.
3874. Stuart M. Kaminsky's OPENING SHOTS (Eugene: Mystery Scene Press, 1991) is a 157-page collection of his short stories, including a Sherlockian pastiche "The Final Toast" (reprinted from the 1987 anthology THE NEW ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES). \$4.95 postpaid from the publisher (Box 1227, Eugene, OR 97440).
3875. The list of the smallest set of yes-or-no questions that will identify all the sixty recorded cases will be postponed once again, due to lack of room rather than to lack of response John Bennett Shaw reports that an Italian friend would like to correspond with a S'ian ophthalmologist. If any reader qualifies, or knows someone who does, please write to John (1917 Fort Union Drive, Santa Fe, 87501).
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July 1992 #1

3876. Baker Street is not the only place where enthusiasts argue about who lived where. A recent story by Shari Rudavsky in the Washington Post notes that while a seamstress named Betsy Ross did live in Philadelphia in the 1770s, she enjoyed relative anonymity until the 1870s, when her grandson William Canby began spreading the rumor that she designed the first flag. Nobody paid Canby much attention until a tavern owner posted a sign on his bar, at Ross' address, advertising "The Home of the First American Flag". But even if Betsy Ross had indeed sewn the first flag (historians are not sure who really did), the sign would still be incorrect, because the city renumbered its addresses after Ross' time, and her home actually was down the block. "Hype proved stronger than history," according to Temple University history professor Morris J. Vogel, and the alleged Ross home "becomes the structure where the woman who did not sew the flag did not live."
3877. If you've had trouble finding the graphic-novel-format anthology WITHIN OUR REACH (January 92 #1), with Martin Powell's Sherlockian story "The Season of Forgiveness" (illustrated by Patrick Olliffe), copies are available from Tim O'Connor (6015 West Route 115, Herscher, IL 60941) for \$12.00 postpaid.
3878. The London Zoo (mentioned in "Charles Augustus Milverton") was scheduled to close in Sept. (June 91 #6 and July 91 #4), but there has been a temporary reprieve: the emir of Kuwait has donated £1 million to the Zoo, in thanks for Britain's contribution in the Gulf War, and the Zoo now hopes to remain open through the winter.
3879. Granada's "The Disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax" may (or may not) air on Thursday, Aug. 27, depending on whether your local PBS-TV station does not have a scheduling conflict. And this has been a summer of conflicts, what with the possibility of the political conventions and the Olympics, and whatnot.
3880. The 1992 running of The Silver Blaze at Belmont (in New York) will be held on Sept. 12. Those who would like to attend, and have not yet received the formal announcement, should write to Stephen L. Stix, 10784 South 250 East, Markleville, IN 46056.
3881. The two-hour version of "Sherlock Holmes and the Leading Lady" has reached the video shops, released by Vestron Video, and not recommended either for purchase or for rental, unless you're interested in seeing how it can be possible to edit a third of the material out of a program and still have it tell a reasonable story. The four-hour version due soon on television will make more sense. And it won't cost anything to watch, thanks to all those commercials.
3882. It is always a pleasure to find a Sherlockian scholar making use of modern technology. Brad Keefauver has demonstrated a truly Canonical "passion for definite and exact knowledge" in investigating what really went through the mind of Professor Moriarty as he plummeted to his death at the Reichenbach. The modern technology was bungee-jumping, and the results of the experiment are reported in the July issue of Plugs & Dottles (published monthly at \$10 a year by Robert C. Burr, 4010 Devon Lane, Peoria, IL 61614-7109).
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July 1992 #2

3883. Reported by Paul Martin: the early fall 1992 catalog from the House of Tyrol (Box 909, Alpenland Center, Cleveland, GA 30528) (800-241-5404) has a set of Sherlock Holmes desk accessories in hand-cast English pewter: a letter opener and a magnifying glass at \$36.00 each, or \$69.00 the set. The
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catalog also offers a Steinbach wooden Sherlock Holmes nutcracker (one of the leading contenders for the title of the most hideous Sherlockian artifact) at \$98.00.

3884. FORENSIC GEOLOGY, by Raymond C. Murray and John C. F. Tedrow, has a second edition (Englewood Cliffs: Prentice Hall, 1992; 203 pp., \$52.00), revised to reflect developments in the science since the first edition appeared in 1975. The first chapter ("History--Sherlock Holmes to the Present") notes that the application of geology to criminalistics began, as did many of the other applications of science to this area, with the writings of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, and credits Sherlock Holmes with pointing the way for many of the ideas and techniques now used by forensic scientists.
3885. Reported by John Bennett Shaw: UNREALITY: THE METAPHYSICS OF FICTIONAL OBJECTS (Cornell University Press, \$26.50); with many Sherlockian and Doylean references.
3886. Thanks to Tim O'Connor, there is more information about CASES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, the comic-book series that is now reprinting Dan and David Day's adaptations of the Canonical stories published by Renegade in the 1987 and 1988 (June 92 #4). The reprint series, published by Tome Press (a division of Caliber Press), has new (and more sedate) covers than the originals but offers all the inside artwork. Three issues have appeared, with "Scan" and "Musg" (\$2.50 each) and "Nava" (\$3.50). Their address is 621-B South Main Street, Plymouth, MI 48170.
3887. Georgia Brown died on July 5. She was a splendid singer and actress, best known for her performances on stage as Jenny in ""The Threepenny Opera" and as Nancy in the musical "Oliver!", but she also appeared in two Sherlockian films: as a bawdy barroom singer in "A Study in Terror" (1965) and as Mrs. Freud in "The Seven-Per-Cent Solution" (1976).
3888. The friendship between Harry Houdini and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, and their shared interest in spiritualism, and their eventual bitter arguments about it, is a fascinating story, one that truly deserves a book, rather than the short accounts written by both men, and the brief discussions available in biographies. Sadly, BELIEVE., by William Shatner and Michael Tobias (New York: Berkley Books, 1992; 321 pp., \$5.50), is not that book. The problem, basically, is that they've got so many things wrong. They're wrong about Houdini and Conan Doyle, about their personal lives and their professional lives. And it's not just the minor details that are wrong. Anyone who is even marginally familiar with what Houdini and Conan Doyle did, separately and together, will quickly recognize that this book is fiction. In justice to the authors, they freely acknowledge that in an authors' note, admitting that "most details that might have harbored even a shred of truth have been freely altered, embellished, imagined or altogether invented." As reported earlier (January 92 #6), there also is a script for a play ("Harry and Arthur") that Shatner (as Houdini) and Leonard Nimoy (as Conan Doyle) hope to star in, and they have been trying to find someone interested in producing it.

July 1992 #3

3889. SUPER SLEUTHS (\$12.99 suggested retail) is a commercial videocassette in the "Chip 'n' Dale Rescue Rangers" series from Walt Disney Home Video; one of the two shows on the 44-minute cassette is "Pound of the Baskervilles" (produced in 1989), involving the Rescue Rangers in the search for the will of Howard Baskerville, author (using a pseudonym) of "The Adventures of Sherlock Jones".
3890. Paulette Greene (7152 Via Palomar, Boca Raton, FL 33433) can still supply copies of her Sherlockian publications: Madeleine Stern's SHERLOCK HOLMES RARE BOOK COLLECTOR (1981) and SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE GAME'S A HEAD (1983), signed and in wrappers (\$15.00 each); and Trevor Hall's THE LAST CASE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1986), in boards (\$25.00).
3891. "The Great Mouse Detective" is now out on videocassette, with a list price of \$24.99, and (according to the manager of the Disney shop at a suburban mall here) no plans for tie-in merchandise other than the still-in-print book edition from Gallery Books. The film grossed \$25.3 million when it was first released, and after the second release to theaters earlier this year had a total gross of almost \$40 million. Disney's recent "Beauty and the Beast" grossed \$119 million after only 17 weeks, so one can understand why Disney is down-playing Basil. And if you haven't already bought the cassette at your local video shop, Gary Thaden reports that it's available from Target at \$15.88; they take plastic, and you can call 800-800-8800 to locate their nearest store.
3892. Available from Thomas Biblewski: a chrome-plated lapel pin with a silhouette of Sherlock Holmes. \$9.00 postpaid, from the Baker Street Dispatch, Box 5503, Toledo, OH 43613.
3893. Reported by Ralph Hall (in a local Toys 'R' Us): a set of Norfin Trolls Playing Cards (\$2.99), with the "Sherluck" troll (October 90 #3) on the five of diamonds (from the Fundex-Third Quarter Corp., Indianapolis, IN 46222); and the Geoffrey Magnifier (\$0.99) with Geoffrey in S'ian costume (from the Hingham Corp., Kowloon, Hong Kong).
3894. One of the more amusing aspects of book-collecting is that bookplates, used by collectors to proclaim ownership of their books, have themselves become collectibles (despite claims by purists that bookplates must be affixed to a book if they are to be considered more than mere labels). And it should of course not surprise anyone that there are more than a few Sherlockians who use S'ian bookplates, occasionally commercial productions but far more often specially-commissioned with S'ian themes. Vincent Starrett and Edgar W. Smith were among the earliest S'ians to have their own S'ian bookplates, and their designs (and many more) will be found in SHERLOCKIAN BOOKPLATES, by W. E. Butler (Cambridge: Silent Books, 1992; 57 pp., £8.95). Butler has cast his net widely, in the United States and Britain and on the continent, showing and discussing many examples of how much fun imaginative bookplates can be, and he includes a history of the "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle" ornatelyarmorial bookplate that was used by Adrian Conan Doyle in the books in his library at the Chateau de Lucens (and that has confused modern collectors who may not be aware that the bookplate does not necessarily indicate that a book was owned by Sir Arthur). The publisher's address is: Boxworth End, Swavesey, Cambridge CB4 5RA, England.

July 1992 #4

3895. "His favorite author was Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, but not on account of Sherlock Holmes, with his corpses in the fog, but on the strength of the sunlit pages of THE WHITE COMPANY, a novel of chivalry in which nobody pours boiling oil on anyone, except maybe Saracens, who don't count." From Wilfred Sheed's introduction to THE WORLD OF CHARLES Addams (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1991).
3896. Discovered by Luci Zahray: James F. Jeger (Alice's Looking Glass (Box 974, Saugatuck, MI 49453) handcrafts Sherlock Holmes in stained glass. Designs, sizes, and colors to order, and prices range from \$20 to \$2,000. His latest panel (shown here from a photograph) measures about 22 x 28 inches, and was a commission assignment that cost less than \$700. Jim's phone number is 616-857-2363.
3897. The new reprint of THE EXPLOITS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Adrian Conan Doyle and John Dickson Carr (from Marboro's Dorset Press) is listed at \$6.95 in the new catalog from Barnes & Noble (126 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10011). The catalog also has (\$3.95) Ruth Lake Tepper's THE SHERLOCK HOLMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE BOOK II (published by Norton); with summaries of twelve stories, accompanied by well-crafted puzzles (blurbed as "new" but probably a reprint, since the book was first published in 1979).
3898. Robert C. Hess (559 Potter Boulevard, Brightwaters, NY 11718) has sent his new sales list; statues, comic strips, the Charlie McCarthy Spoon, etc. And Cathy Childs (1510 Lake Drive, Grand Island, FL 32735) offers a flier on her Sherlockian artwork.

3899. Deen and Jay Kogan, who chaired Bouchercon in 1989, will chair the second annual Mid-Atlantic Mystery Book Fair and Convention at the Holiday Inn-Independence Mall in Philadelphia on Nov. 6-8. Advance registration costs \$35.00, and additional information is available from the Kogans at Detecto-Mysterioso Books, 507 South 8th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147.
3900. Caliber's BAKER STREET #10 is now in the comic-book shops (\$2.50), with the finale of the story "Children of the Night" (non-Sherlockian except for the title-page artwork taken from one of Sidney Paget's illustrations for "The Copper Beeches").
3901. For those who missed the earlier report (September 91 #8), there's another source for the imaginative and amusing soft-sculpture Sherlockian jack-in-the-box: Aries Fine American Crafts (attn: Brenda L. Rizzo), Box 1702, Ogunquit, ME 03907; \$70.00 plus shipping.
3902. Further to the report (September 90 #3) that Steven Spielberg and Andrew Lloyd Webber were collaborating on a full-length animated film of "Cats", the latest news is that the two principals could not agree on how to proceed with the project, and that Spielberg's studio in London has laid off most of its staff. So it will be some time, at the very least, before we get to see an animated Macavity.
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July 1992 #5

3903. The summer 1992 issue of The Armchair Detective has a detailed report on the January birthday festivities, by Sherry Rose-Bond and Scott Bond, and a nice tribute by Elizabeth Peters (aka Barbara Mertz and Barbara Michaels) to her series heroine Amelia Peabody Emerson (with an acknowledgement of her debt to the Canon). Quarterly at \$26.00 a year; 129 West 56th Street, New York, NY 10019.
3904. Dee Snyder died on June 16. An avid miniaturist, she was the sparking-plug for The Mini Tonga Scion Society, founded in May 1979 and named in honor of the smallest man in the Canon. Dee was for many years the editor of the society's newsletter (The Tonga Times), and the many creators and keepers of miniature Sherlockian houses, rooms and other displays owe a great debt to Dee for her enthusiasm and energy.
3905. The Simon & Schuster audiocassette THE NEW ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES #17 is in the stores (at \$11.00) with two 1946 Rathbone/Bruce radio shows ("The Living Doll" and "The Disappearing Scientists"). The introductions are by Peggy Webber (who worked on the series), and nicely done.
3906. Forecast by Tim O'Connor (with caution, since many comic books don't keep to firm, or even infirm, schedules): SHERLOCK HOLMES: RETURN OF THE DEVIL #1, in Sept. from Malibu's Adventure Comics (\$2.50); the first of a twopart series by Powell and Makinen. And a fourth CASES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, in Sept. from Caliber's Tome Press (\$2.50); with a reprint of the Days' "The Adventure of the Copper Beeches". And SHERLOCK HOLMES: MYSTERY AND SUSPENSE #1, in July from Northstar's Arpad Publishing (\$2.75); a pastiche written by Joe Gentile and illustrated by Phil Rittenhouse. The last title will be available custom-inscribed by Gentile (and by Rittenhouse if he is back from Japan in time) from AF Books, 47 East Lincoln Highway, Frankfort, IL 60423 (\$3.75 postpaid).
3907. Alistair Cooke will retire from American television at the end of the year. He has been the only host that "Masterpiece Theatre" has ever had in its 22 years on PBS-TV, but he won't be idle: "I've been promising my publisher a book for the past two years and I must get to it. The rest of my declining energies I want to devote to the thing I most love doing: the weekly BBC 'Letter from America.'" Cooke also hosted the television series "Omnibus" on ABC-TV (they aired "The Fine Art of Murder" in 1956, with Dennis Hoey as Sir Arthur Conan Doyle), and he has written a Sherlockian parody "The Case of the November Sun-Tan" (D5869a). And in 1984 Jeremy Brett told Nicholas Utechin: "Alistair Cooke said to me about two years ago, 'The three most memorable men of the twentieth century so far are Winston Churchill, Adolf Hitler, and Sherlock Holmes.'"
3908. It's not too late to register for Bouchercon XXIII, in Toronto on Oct. 8-11 (P.O. Box 23, Station S, Toronto, Ont. M5M 4L6, Canada). Bouchercon XXIV will be in Omaha on Oct. 1-3, 1993 (Little Professor Book Center, 13455 West Center Road, Omaha, NE 68144), and Bouchercon XXV will be in Seattle on Oct. 6-9, 1994 (Box 1095, Renton, WA 98057).
3909. The Gleniffer Press microbook edition of THE THREE STUDENTS (April 92 #7 and May 92 #3) is now sold out, according to a report received by Syd Goldberg, but the proprietors note that "more Sherlock Holmes books are planned."
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July 1992 #6

3910. A bibliographic query: John Bennett Shaw has noted a misprint in the first British edition of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES ("you" for "your" on page 13, line 3), and wonders whether this was caught and corrected (generating a variant in the first edition). Probably not, since the same misprint is found in a "new impression" published from the same plates by John Murray in 1918. But please let me know if anyone has a British issue earlier than 1918 that does not have this misprint.
3911. Spotted by Andrew Jay Peck: a review of ANTICS! AN ALPHABETICAL ANTHOLOGY, written and illustrated by Cathi Hepworth (Putnam, \$14.95; ages 4 and up); there are ants in all the alphabet words (and Holmes and Watson are shown as observ*ant* insects).
3912. The appointment of Tina Brown (now editor of Vanity Fair) as the new editor of The New Yorker got a lot of publicity this month. Her executive editor will be Hendrik Hertzberg, who has been the editor of The New Republic, and who will be returning to The New Yorker, where he was a staff writer from 1969 to 1977. Hertzberg wrote their "Sherlockian Gathering" story (D1919b) about the Culinary Institute of America's grand gourmet dinner in 1976.
3913. The 100th anniversary of Basil Rathbone's birth (in Johannesburg, on June 13, 1992) was commemorated by Robert Osborne in an article in the Hollywood Reporter, picked up by a few newspapers, and it probably would have pleased Rathbone that all the newspaper stories were accompanied by non-Sherlockian photos of him. But as Chris Steinbrunner noted in a tribute, years ago on WOR-TV, Rathbone *was* Sherlock Holmes. And he did "own" the role: how many actors have played the same part on stage, screen, radio, and television, as Basil Rathbone did with Sherlock Holmes?
3914. Chris Redmond (523 Westfield Drive, Waterloo, Ont. N2T 2E1, Canada) offers copies of his THE TALE OF COPPERELLA, a well-written eight-page pamphlet issued in 1985 ("wherein are related the adventures of a sweet young lady, and also the doings of a noted detective"); \$10.00 postpaid. Chris also publishes The Waterloo Sherlockian Letter, to which it is not possible to subscribe (but if you send him one or two dollar bills, he will send some back issues and will try to remember to send you the next one).
3915. Ted Schulz is interested in expanding the list of books dedicated to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Richard Lancelyn Green has recorded eleven such books in an appendix to A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF A. CONAN DOYLE, and Ted has recorded others: A KISS FOR A KINGDOM, by Bernard Hamilton (1899); THE ANDROMEDA STRAIN, by Michael Crichton (1969); RAFFLES OF THE ALBANY, by Barry Perowne (1976); THE DISCONTENTED GHOST, by Scott Corbett (1978); PRISONER OF THE DEVIL, by Michael Hardwick (1980); and THE MUMMY, OR RAMSES THE DAMNED, by Anne Rice (1989). If you know of others, please let Ted know about them (his address is 17 Mount Lassen Drive, San Rafael, CA 94903).
3916. Alfred Drake died on July 25. His fine voice made him a star in musicals on stage, screen, and television, and as president of The Players he not only attended the BSI's annual dinner in 1971, but delivered a paper that Julian Wolff noted revealed Drake to be a real Sherlockian scholar.
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August 1992 #1

3917. Does anyone know anything about The Veiled Lodgers of Minneapolis, Minn.? The June issue of Explorations (the newsletter of the Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota) has a brief report on Allen Mackler's discovery of a small medallion with a portrait of Holmes and the name of the society. If you have any information about such a medallion, or about the society, please write to Allen (324 2nd Street NE, Osseo, MN 55369).
3918. And the Norwegian Explorers offer a flier with preliminary details on their workshop on "Sherlock Holmes's Victorian Criminal Classes" on June 11-13, 1993. Write to the society at: O. M. Wilson Library #466, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455.
3919. Further to the earlier mention (January 92 #6) of Books Britain, their address now is 245 West 104th Street, New York, NY 10025. Their mail-order sales list specializes in books that were sources for "Masterpiece Theatre" and "Mystery!" and many of them are imports not found in book shops.
3920. If you thought that "Sherlock Holmes and the Prince of Crime" (broadcast by CBS-TV on Aug. 1) was familiar, it was: the working title was "Napoleon of Crime" in 1989, changed to "Hands of a Murderer" when it first aired on May 16, 1990. But this time, at least, there was no gap in the broadcast (as there was in 1990).
3921. Mollie Hardwick, who shared credit with her late husband Michael on many of their Sherlockians books and scripts, is a fine writer herself, and has a new mystery series now being published here by Fawcett Crest in paperback.
3922. MALICE DOMESTIC features Doran Fairweather, an antiques dealer who lives in a small village in Kent, and PARSON'S PLEASURE will continue the series this fall.
3923. Pattie Brunner has a reasonably reliable report on which story Granada will do next: a two-hour version of "The Noble Bachelor" (with filming to start in September). At that length they might be able to include some Apaches in Arizona (or New Mexico, if one believes the Sage of Santa Fe). Perhaps on location (and why not: they went to Malta to film the Indian scenes for "The Sign of Four"). Well, in reality distant locations are unlikely, what with Granada's current decision to hold down production costs.
3924. The quarterly magazine Scarlet Street continues to offer fine coverage of the Granada series: the summer 1992 issue includes David Stuart Davies' onlocation report (with photographs) about "The Sussex Vampire" (filmed in the Cotswolds, with Roy Marsden in the supporting cast, playing a character that's not in the Canon), and an interview with Jeremy Paul (who wrote the script). The broadcast title still is not certain: it was "The Vampire of Lamberley" for a while, and then "The Last Vampyre". \$18.00 a year, from R. H. Enterprises, 271 Farrant Terrace, Teaneck, NJ 07666.
3925. The latest catalog from Cerebro (Box 1221, Lancaster, PA 17603) is full of cigar-box labels, including two "Sherlock Holmes" items: an inner-lid label (about 9 x 6 inches) at \$25.00, and an outer label (about 4 inches square) at \$18.00. Their telephone number is 800-695-2235, and they take plastic.

August 1992 #2

3926. Pattie Brunner reports THE DISNEY AFTERNOON, an audio-cassette (Disney 60810-0) with songs from four of their animated television series, including the "Chip 'n' Dale's Rescue Rangers" theme song, which includes a mention of Sherlock Holmes. Also DEEP IN THE JUNGLE, by Joe Scruggs (Shadow Play Records BNS 913) with songs for children, one song being "Aunt Lucy" (which has an imaginative Sherlockian verse).
3927. "Black magic fear as fire destroys the Church of the Baskervilles." That was the headline on a story in the Daily Mail on July 22, reporting on a fire in the 12th-century Holy Trinity church at Buckfastleigh, where the infamous Richard Cabell lived. The vicar is suspicious, according to the paper, because the fire started at the altar, and because his predecessor had once found a couple about to perform a satanic dance after painting a circle on the church floor. Cabell's tomb outside the church, "a place of pilgrimage for Sherlock Holmes fans from all over the world," apparently escaped the conflagration. Additional newspaper reports, supplied by Jon Lellenberg, were a bit less sensationalized.
3928. Spotted by Pat Elrod in Science Fiction Chronicle (May 1992): Avon Books has bought Roger Zelazny's A NIGHT IN THE LONESOME OCTOBER, a fantasy novel with interior illustrations by Gahan Wilson. The book is narrated by a dog who is a companion to someone who may or may not be Jack the Ripper, the action takes place in late-19th-century England, and there are Mummy-like, Dracula-like, and Sherlock Holmes-like characters.
3929. It sometimes seems as though there is a new computer product every week, or at least an announcement one that will be available "real soon now." But Sony's "Data Discman" does exist, in Britain at least: it's a pocket-size "electronic book" that plays 3-inch compact discs and displays text on a small screen. and the list price is £350. One of the first discs available offers 150 books, including the Sherlock Holmes stories.
3930. The "higher criticism" of the early Sherlockians has long been honored, and sought-after by collectors, and occasionally extended by modern scholars. In the latest issue of the Sherlock Holmes Klubben i Danmark's newsletter Sherlockiana (now in its 37th year), Svend Ranild has reprinted a letter from The Times (Jan. 7, 1892): "Sir,--There is much vagueness and confusion on the subject of the higher criticism. The term is freely used and but little understood. On the one side it is gloried in as triumphant; on the other side, it is feared as destructive. Few of those who write about it seem much acquainted with it."
3931. The Sherlock Holmes Memorabilia Company (230 Baker Street, London NW1 5RT, England) offers a handsomely-illustrated catalog of Sherlockiana available in its shop and by mail order. Posters, postcards, pipes, statues, prints, T-shirts, games, mugs, plates, etc. The proprietors owned an estate agency in Baker Street, and used the Sherlockian image in its promotions, and are now in the memorabilia business as well (and they still rent apartments).
3932. Articles about the release of "The Great Mouse Detective" on cassette last month suggest that distributors expect to sell about five million copies at \$24.95 each. The \$124.75 million gross from the cassette will be more than three times the total gross from two releases of the film to theaters.

August 1992 #3

3933. THE BOER CONSPIRACY: A TALE OF WINSTON CHURCHILL AND SHERLOCK HOLMES is a pastiche written by John C. Woods (International Churchill Societies, 1992; 88 pp., \$15.00 postpaid), involving Holmes and Watson in an attempt to thwart an assassination of Winston Churchill, who in 1900 had just returned from South Africa and was about to embark on his political career. Available from the International Churchill Society of the U.S. (attn: Richard M. Langworth), Putney House, Hopkinton, NH 03229.
3934. Cathi Hepworth's imaginative ANTICS! AN ALPHABETICAL ANTHOLOGY (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1992; 30 pp., \$14.95) is an amusing alphabet book for adults as well as for children. Ants are in all the words, and they are appropriately in Sherlockian costume for observ*ant*.
3935. This year's "Autumn in Baker Street" will be held at the Tarrytown Hilton in Tarrytown, N.Y., on Oct. 31 and Nov. 1, and will feature a dinner and a gasfitter's ball (in costume, since it's Halloween), plus the traditional (and some untraditional) speakers and other events. A flier is available from Robert E. Thomalen, 69 Glen Road, Eastchester, NY 10709.
3936. An article in the Wall Street Journal (July 29) reported on problems the Disney Channel is having with some of Disney's older cartoons: a Pecos Bill cartoon from the late 1940s has been edited so that Bill no longer smokes a cigarette, and other "unsuitable" bits have been excised from other films. "The Great Mouse Detective" is scheduled to air soon, but Disney Channel president John Cooke said that no decision had been made so far about what to do about scenes in which Basil smokes his pipe.

3937. A mail-order catalog from Cash's of Ireland (Box 158, Plainview, NY 11803) offers a "Sherlock Holmes Pub" music box ("a delightful reproduction of the real-life pub mentioned in 'The Hound of the Baskervilles'") that opens to play "The First Noel" at \$79.00 plus shipping (item 745706). The toll-free telephone number is 800-223-8100, and they take plastic.
3938. Richard R. Rutter, who has as much fun in the world of Oz as he does in the world of Sherlock Holmes, has prepared a revised and annotated reprint of a pastiche first published in the July 1982 issue of *Shadows of the Gnomon*. THE ANNOTATED ADVENTURE OF THE RYE BALLOONIST (10 pp.) is available from the author (1620 Granada Drive, Burlingame, CA 94010); \$6.00 postpaid.
3939. The summer 1992 issue the *Sherlock Holmes Gazette* (spring 1992) continues the 40-page format, with in-depth coverage of the Granada series, a fine interview with Dame Jean Conan Doyle, a tribute to Basil Rathbone, and a letter from Catherine Cooke reporting on actors (other than Jeremy Brett) who have portrayed Sherlock Holmes being kissed. The publisher is Theme Publications, 43 Bowleaze Coveaway, Weymouth, Dorset DT3 6PL, England, and the cost is £21.00 for four issues (they take plastic).
3940. The Northstar/Arpad comic book SHERLOCK HOLMES: TALES OF MYSTERY & SUSPENSE #1 is now in the shops (\$2.75), with "The Satherwaite Horror" (story by Joe Gentile and art by Phil Rittenhouse). Gentile notes that "the new creative team all hail from the Chicagoland area (the underground Holmes capital of the U.S.)," and promises that in succeeding issues "all your favorites will eventually be making appearances (yes, even Toby the wonder hound)."

August 1992 #4

3941. Brian and Charlotte Erickson (Sherlock's Corner, 1029 Judson Drive, Mountain View, CA 94040) offer their first mail-order catalog, with large and small Sherlockian shadow boxes, jigsaw puzzles, needlepoint and clay ornaments, comic books, and other collectibles.
3942. Some reasonably authoritative statistics: according to the postal service, the USPS handles 540 million pieces of mail a day, delivering to 92 million households and 7 million businesses. According to TV Guide, 98 percent of the households have at least one television set, 77 percent have VCRs, 35 percent have CD players, and 33 percent have computers.
3943. "Yes, I am Sherlock Holmes and you must be my new assistant; your name is Watson, you like to eat Ho-Ho's, you hail from America, you have a drinking problem, you voted for Gerald Ford, your favorite film is 'Shanghai Surprise, you fantasize about Madonna because you've never had any women in your life, and unless I miss my guess, you listen to Barry Manilow,' said Sherlock and I knew right away I'd hate working for him." The author is Bill Bystricky, of Sunnyvale, Calif., and his was the winning entry in the "detective" category in the 10th annual Bulwer-Lytton Fiction Contest, as reported by the Associated Press in May (and spotted by Ray Rawlings).
3944. Donald K. Pollock (19 Putnam Street, Buffalo, NY 14213) welcomes enquiries from anyone interested in purchasing a copy of the Royal Doulton "Sherlock Holmes" Toby Jug that was issued in 1981 to honor the 50th anniversary of Conan Doyle's death.
3945. Plan ahead: WGBH-TV plans to broadcast "The Master Blackmailer" on Mar. 25, 1993, according to their press release (at hand from Craig Moore) for "The Disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax" on Aug. 27. One can only hope that there won't be a political convention ongoing on Mar. 25, 1993 (all of the PBS-TV stations in Washington spent Aug. 27 broadcasting from Houston).
3946. Spotted by Ted Schulz: THE BERENSTAIN BEARS PUZZLES (Racine: Western Publishing, 1991; 64 pp.); A Golden Book, with the front cover showing the Bear Detectives in deerstalkers.
3947. The Sir Arthur Conan Doyle pub in York Place in Edinburgh, gutted by fire 18 months ago, is now being refurbished (according to a newspaper item at hand from Jon Lellenberg). Tennants Taverns hope to be able to reopen the pub in December or early January. Another article reports that there will be a Conan Doyle Exhibition at Haydon, Radstock (near Bath), keyed to his frequent visits to Dunkerton Rectory, where his sister and brother-in-law, the Reverend and Mrs. Angell lived ("The Adventure of Shoscombe Old Place" was written during one of those visits).
3948. And Leslie Bricusse's "Sherlock Holmes: The Musical" (which had a brief run starring Ron Moody in the West End in 1989) will be revived, with Robert Powell as Holmes and Roy Barraclough as Watson. The show will tour for six months starting in Mar. 1993, playing 26 theaters in Britain, and then try the West End again. Powell was supposed to play Holmes in the musical at the Chichester Festival Theatre in 1987, but the production was postponed because he had a conflicting commitment; Barraclough is well-known as the landlord of the Rovers Return in "Coronation Street".

August 1992 #5

3949. Granada's Michael Cox will be a featured guest at the Sherlock Holmes Review's third Sherlockian symposium, which will be held on Nov. 21-22 at the Omni Severn Hotel in Indianapolis, and other speakers listed include Ed Lauterbach, Paul Herbert, Bill Cochran, Ely Liebow, and Tom and Ruthann Stetak. A flier with more information is available from Steven T. Doyle (Box 583, Zionsville, IN 46077).
3950. Dr. Fatso has not yet completed the last chapter of his memoirs of the most spasmodic and tangential man he has ever known, but admirers of the work of the Pequod Press and its proprietor will welcome BYE BYE BIRDY, a new book of quartets (most new, but with a few reprints) devoted to "The Valley of Fear". The cost is \$35.00 (cloth) or \$15.00 (paper), from John Ruyle (521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707-1521).
3951. If you've been having trouble finding the cassette or the compact disc with Patrick Gower's music for the Granada "Sherlock Holmes" series, Andy Fusco reports that both are offered in the latest catalog sent to members of the Musical Heritage Society (Box 1408, Asbury Park, NJ 07712).
3952. And Jon Lellenberg reports that The Folio Society is planning to publish a five-volume set of the Sherlock Holmes short stories in June 1993, with an introduction by Peter Cushing and illustrations by Francis Mosely. Price not yet set, but estimated at \$170 for the set. The society's books are sold only to members, and the address is 202 Great Suffolk Street, London SE1 1PR, England.
3953. Further to the report (June 92 #6) on Stuart Kaminsky's OPENING SHOTS (with a reprint of his Sherlockian pastiche "The Final Toast"), Andrew Jay Peck reports that there also is a hard-cover edition, at \$25.00 (as well as the paperback edition, which costs \$4.95 postpaid). The publisher is Mystery Scene Press, Box 1227, Eugene, OR 97440.
3954. SKEWED SHERLOCK is a delightful collection of Sherlockian essays written by a pseudonymous Miss Violet Hunter (allegedly an elderly lady who lives in somewhat straitened but genteel circumstances in the Hamptons), accompanied by comments and appendices by David L. Hammer, and illustrations by Jeff Decker. The essays are well-written, and occasionally iconoclastic, and the book has just been published by the Gasogene Press, Box 1041, Dubuque, IA 52001-1041 (92 pp., \$15.70 postpaid).
3955. Al Rosenblatt reports that the Fordham University Press edition of DINING WITH SHERLOCK HOLMES, written by Julia Carlson Rosenblatt and Frederic H. Sonnenschmidt, has been discounted, and is now available (item RS2718) for \$13.25 (plus shipping) from Cahill & Co., Box 39, Federalsburg, MD 21632 (800-462-3955); they take plastic. This is the best of all the Sherlockian cookbooks, and recommended. Cahill also offers the current Doubleday onevolume edition of THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES (items AD6896) at \$15.75.

3956. Ralph Hall has reported a series of hardback children's books by Anthony Tallarico, published by Kidsbooks and all with at least one Sherlockian figure in the artwork. The titles include: HUNT FOR HECTOR; WHAT'S WRONG HERE? AT THE MOVIES; LOOK FOR LISA: TIME TRAVELER; WHERE ARE THEY? DETECT DONALD; SEARCH FOR SYLVESTER; and FIND FREDDIE AROUND THE WORLD.

August 1992 #6

3957. Michael R. Pitts has long been an energetic filmographer, and the only reason that his earlier FAMOUS MOVIE DETECTIVES (1979) did not have a separate chapter on Sherlock Holmes was that Ron Haydock's DEERSTALKER! SHERLOCK HOLMES ON SCREEN had just been published. But there is a chapter on Holmes (and a good one) in Pitts' FAMOUS MOVIE DETECTIVES II (Methuchen: Scarecrow Press, 1991; 349 pp., \$47.50), with good coverage of television films as well as theatrical releases, and up-to-date through Michael Caine's "Without a Clue". There are chapters on more than a dozen other detectives, and briefer discussion of many more, and the book will be a fine reference work for those interested in detective films.
3958. Two out of three isn't all that bad. Dave Galerstein spotted a report in USA Today (Aug. 11) on politicians and cormorants (untrained). Protected by a U.S.-Canada migratory bird treaty, double-crested cormorants nesting on Little Galloo Island in Lake Ontario are being blamed for sharp losses by the local fishing industry. State fish-stocking programs are described as just "meals on wheels" for cormorants by a local fishing guide, worried that without controls on the cormorants the lake "will be one big swimming pool." In nearby Ohio, on the other hand, wildlife officials are bragging about the first double-crested cormorant pair to rise young there in more than a century.
3959. Steve Szilagyi's PHOTOGRAPHING FAIRIES (New York: Ballantine Books, 1992; 321 pp., \$18.00) is an imaginative and well-written novel, inspired by the Cottingley fairies and the two young girls whose photographs were earnestly defended by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in England in the 1920s. But Szilagyi's novel is in no way a fictionalized account of the actual events; rather it is firmly based on the assumption that fairies do exist, and it deals with an attempt by an American photographer to demonstrate their existence. The story begins with the photographer in a prison cell, condemned and waiting to be hanged the next day for murder, and offering an account of the events of the previous four months. It was during those four months that he first was shown photographs of fairies, in his London studio, and met Sir Arthur and his daughter Mary in their Psychic Bookshop, and then traveled to rural England in a pursuit that involves him with a fine collection of inventive and amusing characters. It should be noted that Sir Arthur and Mary Conan Doyle are only incidental characters in a work of fantasy, but the fantasy is neatly contrived and well-executed.
3960. Ben Wood has announced publication of SHERLOCKIAN CLIP-ART (41 pp., with 388 illustrations), described as a "handy resource packet" for editors of Sherlockian publications. \$12.50 postpaid from Ben, at Box 740, Ellenton, FL 34222.
3961. The story of the meeting between Arthur Conan Doyle and Charlie Chaplin has been told by many, but the source is never reported. Here is the original, in Conan Doyle's own words, discovered by Jennie Paton in a report in the N.Y. Times (Dec. 7, 1925) about Sir Arthur's speech at the annual dinner of the Savage Club in London the previous evening. "At one theatre," he said, "they had a boy playing the page in 'Sherlock Holmes'. If I had said to him 'we will go halves for all our lives,' I should have made a great deal, for that little boy was Charlie Chaplin." It should be noted that Conan Doyle did not say that he actually had met Chaplin.
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August 1992 #7-8

3962. Further to the query (April 92 #8) about the smallest set of yes-or-no questions that can identify all the sixty recorded stories, it should be noted that the query specified a set (rather than a series) of questions. The distinction is important an important one, since it is impractical (although not impossible) to follow the format actually used in the "Twenty Questions" game, wherein the answers to questions can be taken into account when devising later questions. There are two ways to approach the problem.
3963. One approach (and certainly the easiest one) is based on the titles of the stories (Chris Redmond specifies the commonly-used American short titles, and proposes eleven questions):
- A. Does the story title contain the letter B?
 - B. Does the story title contain the letter C?
 - C. Does the story title contain the letter D?
 - D. Does the story title contain the letter F?
 - E. Does the story title contain the letter L?
 - F. Does the story title contain the letter M?
 - G. Does the story title contain the letter N?
 - H. Does the story title contain the letter O?
 - I. Does the story title contain the letter P?
 - J. Does the story title contain the letter R?
 - K. Does the story title contain the letter V?
3964. This approach is "mechanical" (in that one need know only the titles of the stories, and nothing about the actual cases). And Brad Keefauver proposes an even shorter list of mechanical questions (and his list satisfies the theoretical minimum of six questions):
- A. Abbe, Bery, Blac, Blan, Blue, Bosc, Bruc, Card, Chas, Copp, Cree, Croo, Danc, Devi, Dyin, Empt, Engr, Fina, Five, Glor, Gold, Gree, Houn,
 - B. Iden, Illu, Lady, Last, Lion, Maza, or Miss?
 - C. Abbe, Bery, Blac, Bruc, Card, Chas, Danc, Devi, Dyin, Five, Glor, Gold, Illu, Lady, Last, Musg, Nava, Nobl, RedH, Reig, Resi, Shos, Sign,
 - D. Silv, Stoc, Stud, Suss, 3Stu, Twis, or Vall?
 - E. Abbe, Blac, Blue, Card, Copp, Croo, Danc, Dyin, Engr, Glor, Gree, Iden, Illu, Last, Maza, Nava, Norw, RedC, RedH, Resi, Scan, Sign, SixN,
 - F. Spec, Stoc, Suss, 3Gab, Twis, Veil, or Yell?
 - G. Abbe, Bery, Bosc, Bruc, Card, Croo, Danc, Devi, Fina, Five, Glor, Iden, Lion, Maza, Miss, Musg, Nava, RedC, RedH, Reig, Seco, Shos,
 - H. Sign, Spec, Stoc, Stud, 3Gar, Veil, Wist, or Yell?
 - I. Abbe, Blan, Bruc, Copp, Danc, Dyin, Empt, Fina, Five, Gold, Free, Iden, Last, Miss, Musg, Norw, RedH, Resi, Reti, Seco, Shos, Silv, SixN, Spec, Stoc, Suss, Thor, 3Gar, Vall, or Yell?
 - J. Abbe, Bery, Blan, Blue, Five, Glor, Gold, Gree, Houn, Iden, Illu, Lady, Last, Lion, Maza, Miss, Musg, Nava, Norw, Prio, Stoc, Stud, Thor,
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K. 3Gab, 3Stu, Twis, Vall, Veil, Wist, or Yell?

3965. The set of six questions will work quite efficiently if one also uses the elegant one-page key that Brad has devised and tucked away in his computer, and he has kindly offered to print out and mail the key on request. Write to Brad Keefauver, 1421 West Shenandoah Drive, Peoria, IL 61614.
3966. It would be more elegant, certainly, to have a set of "natural" questions, in which the questions deal with the actual cases, rather than merely with the titles of the stories. And that is not an easy problem to solve, as is demonstrated by the fact that no one (so far) has proposed a list that has only natural questions. The closest approach, again from Brad Keefauver, contains eight questions:
- A. Was the story published before 1904?
 - B. Does the story have a number, color, or proper name in the title?
 - C. Does the main plot involve a murder?
 - D. Does the case occur primarily in London?
 - E. Was an attractive woman involved in the case?
 - F. Does the Christ four-letter code for the title begin with a letter from the first half of the alphabet?
 - G. Does an animal figure prominently in the case?
 - H. Were Lestrade, Forbes, Baynes, Wilson, Coventry, or Bardle on the case?
3967. Well, the second and sixth questions are mechanical, and the first question deals with the dates of publication of the stories, rather than with what happens in the cases, but five of the eight questions do require knowledge of the natural world of the Canon. Brad acknowledges that a couple of his other questions are rather subjective, and that's true indeed. Readers may wish to devise a better set of questions, not necessarily limited to eight, that deal only with the events or places or people or things in the Canon.
3968. And here's a comic strip by Alex Graham from the [London] Daily Mail that was published in the American papers on Mar. 21, 1992):

September 1992 #1

3969. Plan well ahead. "Victorian Sleuth to Modern Hero: The Mysterious Journey of Sherlock Holmes" is the theme of a conference sponsored by The Baker Street Breakfast Club at Bennington College on June 23-26, 1994 (which is, of course, the centenary year of Arthur Conan Doyle's visit to Vermont). Write to Sally Sugarman (Box 407, Shaftsbury, VT 05262) if you would like to be on their mailing list for detailed information.
3970. Jennie C. Paton (206 Loblolly Lane, Statesboro, GA 30458) offers an unused commercial videocassette (from MCA Home Video) of the 1976 film "The Seven-Per-Cent Solution" (ideal for those who aren't satisfied with off-the-air broadcast quality), for \$45.95 postpaid.
3971. Some comic-book forecasts from Tim O'Connor: SHERLOCK HOLMES: RETURN OF THE DEVIL #2, from Malibu's Adventure Comics (\$2.50); the second of a two-part series by Powell and Makinen (the first issue was forecast for Sept.). And THE LAST CASE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES #1, from Magic Comics (\$2.50); the first of a three-part series. And COMICS FOR KIDS #1, from Parody Press (\$2.50); with reprints of the Sunday "Slylock Fox" strips by Bob Weber, Jr. And it is possible that FUNKY WINTERBEAN/LUANN #1, from Parody Press (\$2.50) will reprint some of Tom Batiuk's pun-filled S'ian "Funky Winterbean" strips. Finally, there will be a new printing from Tor Books of Fred Saberhagen's pastiche THE HOLMES-DRACULA FILE (first published in 1978).
3972. The 15th annual Kennedy Center Honors will be presented on Dec. 5, and will recognize the life-long artistic achievements of six performers, including Joanne Woodward, who played Dr. Watson in the film "They Might Be Giants" (1971), and Ginger Rogers, who won an Academy Award for best actress in the role of Kitty Foyle in the 1940 film based on Christopher Morley's novel.
3973. Peter Greenaway, who won considerable critical acclaim for the film "The Cook, the Thief, His Wife and Her Lover", earlier wrote and directed "The Draughtsman's Contract", which was produced by the British Film Institute in association with Channel Four, and starred Anthony Higgins and Janet Suzman. The film was released in 1983 and is available here on cassette from MGM/United Artists, and it is a tale of sexual gamesmanship and murder set in 1649. And, if only to demonstrate how far a Sherlockian net can be cast, the film was made on location at Groombridge Place, and shows to good advantage the house that was the inspiration for Birlstone Manor.
3974. There are solve-the-mystery weekends at hotels, and similar excursions on trains and afloat, and Sherlock Holmes is one of the characters involved in "The Game's Afoot, Mon!" (from Ft. Lauderdale through the Caribbean on the Holland-America Line's M.S. Westerdam on Apr. 24-May 1, 1993). Details are available from Omni Group Cruises, 7033 Sunset Boulevard #214, Hollywood, CA 90028 (800-876-6664).
3975. I can't remember who asked me about a British film called "The Wild and the Willing" (1962), released in the United States in 1964 with the new title "Young and Willing" (and described by Leslie Halliwell as a "watchable sex comedy"); the film wasn't the first in which Jeremy Brett appeared, but he shared billing with John Hurt, Ian McShane, and Samantha Eggar.

September 1992 #2

3976. Martha Hudson had a foster son. She married Jonathan Kent of Smallville, and their foster child was the son of Jor-El and Lara Lor-Van of Krypton, better known as Superman, whose demise this year at the hands of DC Comics may or may not be final. Bill Rabe has reported that Jerry Siegel, one of the inventors of Superman, was a member of The Baker Street Irregulars of Honolulu in 1944-1946.
3977. Those (and only those) who managed to survive the second ten-kilometer "Holmes Peak Volksmarch" sponsored by the Holmes Peak Preservation Society and the Green Country Wander-Freunde of Tulsa in Nov. 1990 were presented with an attractive medal commemorating the occasion. Changes in the rules have now allowed the 15 remaining medals to be sold, and the proceeds will benefit the Baker Street Irregulars' John H. Watson Fund and the Holmes Peak Preservation Society's Holmes Peak Roadside Marker Fund. The medals are in pewter-colored metal (the triangle measures two inches at the base), and the ribbons are blue. Cost: \$25.00 postpaid, from Head Sherpa Dick Warner, 3168 South Rockford Drive, Tulsa, OK 74105.
3978. The third Simon & Schuster Audio gift set of THE NEW ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES will be released in Oct., in plenty of time for Christmas shoppers. The set will offer vols. 9-12 of the audiocassettes with the Rathbone/Bruce radio shows, and will cost \$25.00.
3979. Forecast: THE WHITECHAPEL HORRORS, by Edward B. Hanna (New York: Carroll & Graf, 1992; 400 pp., \$19.95), due in Oct., with Holmes and Watson again in pursuit of Jack the Ripper.
3980. Further to the note (August 92 #5) on the Kidbooks series by Anthony Tallarico with Sherlockian figures in the artwork, Ralph Hall reports two additional titles: WHERE'S WENDY (1992) and I DIDN'T KNOW THAT ABOUT STRANGE BUT TRUE MYSTERIES (1992).
3981. And further to the note (August 92 #2) on the availability of a disc with the Canon for Sony's "Data Discman" (a pocket-size "electronic book"), Mickey Fromkin reports that everything also is available in the U.S., and at much lower cost. The Canon is part of the "Library of the Future" (released in 1991 on a CD-ROM disc).

3982. Roger Johnson reports in *The District Messenger* that Granada, having ended work on "The Last Vampyre" (which was filmed in Gloucestershire rather than Sussex), has cast Simon Williams as Lord Robert St. Simon in their two-hour version of "The Noble Bachelor" (Williams was James Bellamy in the series "Upstairs, Downstairs").
3983. A conference on "Tennyson and the End of Empire" will be held on Oct. 14 at Central State Univ. in Wilberforce, Ohio, and the afternoon session (at the Greene County Library in Xenia) will include papers by Clare Simmons, Roy Pilot, and Robert F. Fleissner on connections between Tennyson and Conan Doyle (via Malory and Shakespeare). Additional information is available from Robert F. Fleissner, 367 East Cassily Street, Springfield, OH 45503.
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September 1992 #3

3984. A reminder from Richard R. Rutter that Rodney Engen's RICHARD DOYLE is still available. Published by the Catalpa Press, the 206-page book covers the life and work of ACD's artist uncle, who designed the traditional cover of *Punch* and as a freelance illustrator and painter contributed to a long list of books and magazines. The book is distributed by Oak Knoll Books (414 Delaware Street, New Castle, DE 19720); the cost is \$35.00 plus shipping, and they take plastic.
3985. Bartlett D. Simms ("Professor Coram") died on Aug. 27. Bart discovered the world of Sherlockians in the 1960s, and his first Sherlockian article was a report on "Dr. Watson: An Adventure in Orthopedics" in *The ACA Journal of Chiropractic* (Feb. 1970). He also contributed to the *BSJ*, and received his *BSI* investiture in 1974, and was an enthusiastic member of the Sherlockian societies in and near St. Louis.
3986. The world is changing, slowly but surely. Nielsen has announced that one Nielsen rating point now represents 931,000 television households, so they figure that there are 93.1 million television households in the U.S. (up from 92.1 million). "Mystery!" on PBS-TV has a rating well under 5 points.
3987. Computerized Sherlockian societies continue to appear in the world of bits and bytes, the latest being *The Hound of the Internet*, administered by Alan J. Block, who can be reached at BLOCKA@BELOIT.EDU (which, for people who are not computerized, is the sort of address that is used by people who use the Internet telephone network).
3988. If you haven't received the catalog from the Sherlock Holmes Memorabilia Company (August 92 #2), copies are available on request, from Robert C. Hess, 559 Potter Boulevard, Brightwaters, NY 11718.
3989. Stephen Fry, who portrayed a delightful Jeeves on PBS-TV (as well as other characters on "Blackadder") and who can occasionally be seen on Bravo (in "A Bit of Fry and Laurie"), also is a fine humorist in print. *PAPERWEIGHT* (London: Heinemann, 1992; 470 pp., £14.99) is a welcome collection of his work for magazines and newspapers (and radio); two pieces, reprinted from 1987 issues of *The Listener*, are of particular interest: a review of Martin Gardner's *THE ANNOTATED INNOCENCE OF FATHER BROWN* (in which Fry notes that as a schoolboy he was the youngest member of *The Sherlock Holmes Society of London*), and a Sherlockian pastiche called "The Adventure of the Laughing Jarvey" (which Fry has edited only by "trimming back the typically profuse growth of commas and semicolons familiar to scholars of the Canon").
3990. Joanne Zahorsky reports a source for a 16-inch clay pipe (for anyone who wants to emulate some of Sherlock Holmes' smoking habits), priced at \$4.95 in a catalog from Theatre House, Box 2090, Covington, KY 41012-2090 (800-827-2414); they take plastic.
3991. This year's Christmas card from the *The Sherlock Holmes Society of London* shows a view of the London poor at their Christmas marketing near Waterloo Station in the 1870s (as shown on the last page of the Sept. issue of the *BSJ*). The price for a packet of ten cards and envelopes, postpaid to North America, is \$10.00 (checks payable to the Society, and sent to Capt. W. R. Michell, 5 Old Farm Place, Hinton St. George, Somerset TA17 8TW, England).
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September 1992 #4

3992. One does hear of Sherlock everywhere, and sometimes others from the Canon. John McAleer, in a review in the *Chicago Tribune* of Donna Tartt's *THE SECRET HISTORY* (New York: Knopf, 1992; 524 pp., \$23.00), notes that the novel deals with a band of scholarly misfits, one of whom is described in the book as "a sort of Mycroft Holmes of classical philology."
3993. The Baker Street Pages are offering a new Sherlockian T-shirt, designed by John Brousch, and an illustrated flier is available from Tim O'Connor, 6015 West Route 115, Herscher, IL 60941.
3994. An article in the *Coulsdon and Purley Advertiser* (Sept. 4), at hand from Jon Lellenberg, reports that the house at 12 Tennyson Road, South Norwood, London, is for sale, for £350,000. It was the home of Arthur Conan Doyle from 1891 to 1893, and it has been converted for use as a residential care home (with a planning application pending). The house has ten rooms that could be used as bedrooms for residents, and three bathrooms, one of which is ensuite. And the ground floor has a cloakroom and shower room, communal lounge, dining room, breakfast room, and fully fitted kitchen. And there's a front drive, and a 200-foot rear garden. Interested purchasers may apply to Phillip Hickman and Partners Estate Agents, in Croydon.
3995. Another article from Jon notes a production of a new musical at the Bingley Arts Centre in Bingley (west of Leeds, in Yorkshire) in August. Written by John Leaver and Mark Rundle, and based on the Cottingley fairies hoax, the show tells "the tales of the real-live girls' escapades plus the adventures of the fairies who really do live at the bottom of their garden."
3996. Copies of Dick Lesh's reduced-facsimile reprint of L. C. Hopkins' parody "The Weirdly Thrilling Adventure of the Lost Bathing Suit" (from the Nov. 1908 issue of *Uncle Remus's The Home Magazine*) are still available from Richard D. Lesh (1205 Lory Street, Fort Collins, CO 80524); high-quality paper and bound in boards, at \$25.00 postpaid.
3997. Great Britain has issued a set of stamps marking the beginning of the Civil War that resulted in the execution of Charles I and in the installation of Oliver Cromwell as Lord Protector. Also known as the Great Rebellion (and it was at the time of the Great Rebellion that the Manor of Baskerville was held by Hugo of that name), the conflict is also recalled in the Canonical accounts of events at the Manor House of Birlstone (where Charles was concealed for several days, and which was taken by a Parliamentary colonel in 1644) and at the Manor House of Hurlstone (where coins of Charles the First and a battered and shapeless diadem were found).
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September 1992 #5

3998. CONAN DOYLE'S TALES OF MEDICAL HUMANISM AND VALUES, edited and annotated by Alvin E. Rodin and Jack D. Key, will be published later this year by the Krieger Publishing Co., according to a publisher's flier sent by Al Rodin. The book will include the stories in *ROUND THE RED LAMP*, six other medical short stories, and an address on medicine delivered by ACD 1910. The pre-publication price is \$42.50, plus shipping; they take plastic, and the publisher's address is Box 9542, Melbourne, FL 32902-9542.
3999. Welcome news for newcomers to the Canon, and for those who need a new copy: William S. Baring-Gould's *THE ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES* has been reissued by Outlet Books (a division of Random House) in one volume, cloth bound, at \$29.99.
4000. Ralph Hall (2906 Wallingford Court, Louisville, KY 40218) offers his sales list of more than a hundred items of Sherlockiana.
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4001. Pattie Brunner reports that the new catalog from Bits & Pieces offers a new 1500-piece "Sherlock Holmes's Stumper" jigsaw puzzle (item #03-H0423) that includes allusions to 29 of the stories (item #03-H0423), for \$17.95 (plus shipping). The address is 1 Puzzle Place (B8016), Stevens Point, WI 54481 (800-544-7297), and they take plastic. The catalog has a "Puzzle Corner" challenge: if you order by phone, and give the correct answer ("Sherlock Holmes's Stumper" and the item number), you'll win a small prize.
4002. Charlton Heston's "The Crucifer of Blood" (broadcast on TNT cable on Nov. 4, 1991) has been released on laserdisc by Image Entertainment (9333 Oso Avenue, Chatsworth, CA 91311); 103 min., \$29.95 suggested retail.
4003. There are a few other Sherlockian films and television programs available on laserdiscs: Basil Rathbone's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1939), "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (1939), "Sherlock Holmes and the Secret Weapon" (1943), "The Woman in Green" (1945), "Terror by Night" (1946), and "Dressed to Kill" (1946); Peter Cushing's "The Masks of Death" (1984); and Jeremy Brett's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1988). And Wallace Beery's "The Lost World" (1925). Does anyone know of any others?
4004. Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine continues its long tradition of Sherlockian content: the Dec. 1992 issue offers Dixie J. Whitted's "Detectiverse: Debt Blow" (on p. 139).
4005. Roger Johnson reports that THE TRI-METALLIC QUESTION (the guidebook to The Sherlock Holmes Society of London's summer-weekend excursion to Winchester in 1991) is being reprinted, and costs \$33.00 postpaid (surface mail) from Peter Horrocks (22 Old Buildings, Lincoln's Inn, London WC2A 3UJ, England). HOUND AND HORSE (the guidebook for this year's excursion to Dartmoor) also is available; \$30.00 postpaid (surface) from Shirley Purves, Heronsbrook, Doddiscombsleigh, Exeter EX6 7RE, England). Checks for both items should be payable to The Sherlock Holmes Society of London.
4006. Additional news from Roger: the church where Arthur Conan Doyle and Louise Hawkins were married in 1885 is selling copies of the marriage certificate; the price is £2.50, and orders can be sent to R. G. Taylor, 2 Greta Heath, Burton-in-Lonsdale, via Carnforth, Lancashire LA6 3LH, England.

September 1992 #6

4007. Spotted by Al Rosenblatt in the "Notes and Comment" section of the Aug. 31 issue of The New Yorker: a Hitler chronicler noted a few years ago that there are twice as many biographies of Hitler as there are of Winston Churchill; three times as many as there are of Roosevelt and Stalin. "Only Jesus Christ has had more words devoted to him than Hitler." There's some bias involved in that last statement, of course, and one does wonder whether anyone has actually counted all the words devoted to Hitler, or Stalin or Roosevelt or Churchill. Not to mention where Sherlock Holmes might rank on such a list . . .
4008. There wasn't much advance notice this year, but the 1992 "Victorian Holmes Weekend" in Cape May, N.J., will be held on Nov. 6-8. The weekend includes a Sherlockian mystery ("The Adventure in Cape May") to be solved by those who attend, and additional information is available from the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts, Box 340, Cape May, NJ 08204-0340 (609-884-5404). You might ask to be on their direct mailing list, by way of getting an earlier announcement of such events, if you're interested in this sort of affair.
4009. The latter-day Avenging Angels, attempting to make amends for the murders committed by an earlier organization using the same name, are continuing their campaign to install a plaque dedicated to the memory of John and Lucy Ferrier, on the road above Pioneer Trail State Park in Salt Lake City. All Sherlockians are invited to contribute to their project; a flier with more information about the plaque is available from Ronald B. De Waal, 638 12th Avenue, Salt Lake City, UT 84103.
4010. The City of Westminster has joined forces with The Sherlock Holmes Society of London to publish a facsimile of the manuscript of "The Lion's Mane", with an introduction by Colin Dexter (creator of Inspector Morse) and an afterword by Richard Lancelyn Green. The deluxe edition (limited to 100 copies in a slipcase, with pages cut to match the original, and signed by Dexter, Green, and Dame Jean Conan Doyle) costs £105 postpaid (\$200 to the U.S.), and the standard edition (in boards) costs £27.50 postpaid (\$60 to the U.S.). Checks should be made payable to "City of Westminster" and can be sent to Sherlock Holmes Facsimile, Marylebone Library, Marylebone Road, London NW1 5PS, England. And the facsimile of the manuscript of "The Dying Detective", issued last year in similar formats, is still available in both the deluxe and trade edition, at the same prices and from the same address.
4011. And thanks to Roy Preece for the cartoon by Delainey & Rasmussen, from the Sept. 12 issue of the [Massillon, Ohio] Independent.

October 1992 #1

4012. A clipping from the Sept. 9 issue of the Marylebone Mercury, at hand from Jon Lellenberg, reports that the historic Criterion restaurant has reopened its doors for the first time in three years, redecorated in neo-Byzantine style with gold-mosaic tiled ceiling and marble walls (quite different from the way it was when Watson met young Stamford there).
4013. The comic book SHERLOCK HOLMES: RETURN OF THE DEVIL #1 (\$2.50) appeared on schedule in Sept. from Adventure Comics (a division of Malibu Graphics), and #2 is due later this year. The story is by Martin Powell and the art by Seppo Makinen (the team responsible for the series SCARLET IN GASLIGHT in 1987-88), and the publisher's address is 5321 Sterling Center Drive, Westlake Village CA 91361.
4014. The latest catalog from the Gimbel & Sons Country Store (Box 57, Boothbay Harbor, ME 04538-0057) offers a Sherlock thimble ("miniature hand-painted Toby mug in bone china from England") for \$14.95 plus \$3.95 shipping; the item number is 5698, and they take plastic.
4015. THE CAMDEN HOUSE COOKBOOK, edited by Janet Bensley and Debbie Tinsley from recipes provided by members of The Occupants of the Empty House, is based on the society's long-standing tradition of potluck provisioning at their meetings. First published in 1990, the 48-page booklet has been reissued in a second printing priced at \$6.00 postpaid, from Debbie Tinsley, Box 21, Zeigler, IL 62999.
4016. Susan Jewell Martin, Marilyn MacGregor, and Jon L. Lellenberg are founding The Clients of Adrian Mulliner as a chapter of The Wodehouse Society, with the goal of enjoying the intersecting worlds of Sherlock Holmes and P. G. Wodehouse. The chapter will hold its first meeting during the weekend of the next Wodehouse Society Convention in San Francisco, on July 31-Aug. 1, 1993 (which happens to dovetail neatly with the Sherlockian workshop to be held at Stanford University on Aug. 4-8, 1993). If you would like to have more information about the chapter or the society or the convention, send an SASE to Jon L. Lellenberg, 3133 Connecticut Avenue NW #525, Washington, DC 20008.
4017. John Bennett Shaw's COLLECTING SHERLOCKIANA: AN ESSAY, published last year by the Opuscula Press as a 16-page pamphlet (April 91 #2) has been reprinted as a 28-page miniature book (2-7/8 by 2-1/2 inches). The postpaid price is \$23.00 (or \$25.00 outside the U.S.), and a flier with more information is available from the publisher at 6307 Forrester Drive, Bradenton, FL 34202.
4018. "Solitary Confinement" (written by Rupert Holmes and starring Stacy Keach) is scheduled to open at the Nederlander Theatre in New York in late October (the play had a Sherlockian line about eliminating the impossible, but the line was dropped during a tryout production in Pasadena in Nov. 1991). The show was produced in Washington in Mar. 1992, and I recommend it highly: it is written with style and ingenuity, and Keach is splendid in

the lead. I also recommend that you do not read detailed reviews, because it is next to impossible to discuss the play without spoiling some of its many surprises.

October 1992 #2

4019. You can add Frank Finlay to the very short list of actors who have played both Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Inspector Lestrade.
4020. "Encounters" is a British 50-minute television series that was produced by BBC Scotland that has dramatized imaginary meetings between notables such as Marilyn Monroe and Simone Signoret, H. G. Wells and George Orwell, Paul Robeson and Aneurin Bevan, and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes. The episode "The Other Side" (written by David Ashton and broadcast on Aug. 29) had Sir Arthur at a seance in 1928, confronted by the ghost of Sherlock Holmes, and the BBC mounted a massive (and extremely successful) publicity campaign, achieving wide-spread advance publicity about Frank Finlay (Conan Doyle), Richard E. Grant (Holmes), and Cathryn Harrison (Madame Moshel, the medium). Sherlockians will remember Finlay as a fine Lestrade in "A Study in Terror" (1959) and "Murder by Decree" (1979), although the BBC publicity was focussed on his appearance in the title role in a television version of "Casanova" that was so racy that it was aired once in Britain twenty years ago and has not been seen since. Richard E. Grant was in the recent Robert Altman movie ("The Player"), and Cathryn Harrison (granddaughter of Rex and daughter of Noel) did a splendid job in "Portrait of a Marriage" (seen here in July on "Masterpiece Theatre") as Violet Trefusis, the lesbian lover of Vita Sackville-West. The press campaign also noted that Cathryn Harrison grew up on Dartmoor ("I knew nothing about Conan Doyle before I was offered the role even though 'The Hound of the Baskervilles' was set near Buckfastleigh two miles away"). The blizzard of advance publicity surely won the episode a large audience, but the few reviews seen so far were lukewarm at best. If we ever see the series here, it will likely be on A&E or Bravo.
4021. A new and artistic set of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson bears (about four inches high) is available from the Washington Dolls' House & Toy Museum, at 5236 44th Street NW, Washington, DC 20015). They cost \$172.50 postpaid for the pair, and plastic is welcome.
4022. The twelve programs broadcast by BBC Radio in the series "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (with Clive Merrison as Sherlock Holmes) were released on audiocassettes in Great Britain last year (June 91 #4), and they are now available here in the new catalog from The Mind's Eye, Box 1060, Petaluma, CA 94953 (800-227-2020). There are three volumes, each with two cassettes and four stories; the price is \$14.95 each (\$39.95 for all three volumes), plus shipping (and they take plastic).
4023. L. B. Greenwood's pastiches SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE CASE OF THE RALEIGH LEGACY, SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE CASE OF SABINA HALL, and SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE THISTLE OF SCOTLAND are now out-of-print in hard-cover, but she is happy to offer copies of all three titles, signed or inscribed on request, for US\$20.00 per copy, postpaid (US dollar checks welcome). Her address is 1815 Maple Street, Kelowna, B.C. V1Y 1H4, Canada.
4024. The demise of Punch (May 92 #3) may be followed by a resurrection, the N.Y. Times reported last month. Bill Tidy, one of the magazine's most popular cartoonists (his earliest-known Sherlockian cartoon was published on Feb. 3, 1965), has made a bid for the title and the archives.

October 1992 #3

4025. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London's summer excursions have in the past few years been occasions for excellent scholarship, preserved in a series of guidebooks that offer fine demonstrations of just how much interest and amusement can be found in the world of Sherlockians and of Sherlock Holmes. HOUND AND HORSE: A DARTMOOR COMMONPLACE BOOK was edited by Shirley Purves as a guide for this year's expedition to Dartmoor, and it continues that tradition with a collection of essays that explore a range of subjects that include the life and career of B. Fletcher Robinson, the film-prints of the Hound, the genealogy of Silver Blaze, the geology of the Moors, recipes for curry, and much more. The guidebook has 70 pages in soft covers, and costs \$30.00 postpaid (surface mail) from Shirley Purves, Heronsbrook, Doddiscombsleigh, Exeter EX6 7RE, England); checks should be made payable to The Sherlock Holmes Society of London.
4026. THE HOUND'S TALE, by Prudence Moran Swift, a 16-page pamphlet published as a more light-hearted souvenir of the excursion, offers a decidedly canine view of events on Dartmoor, and costs \$7.00 postpaid; checks payable to The Sherlock Holmes Society of London should be sent to Wayne and Francine Swift, 4622 Morgan Drive, Chevy Chase, MD 20815).
4027. An acting company called Excaliber Productions offers to tour with four 45-minute Sherlockian plays (based on "The Dying Detective", "The Blue Carbuncle", "Black Peter", and "The Final Problem"). Performances have had good reviews from local Sherlockians (and non-Sherlockians) in St. Louis and St. Charles, and more information is available from Darryl Maximilian Robinson (the director-producer), 15 South Taylor #1 South, St. Louis, MO 63108.
4028. The recent sheet of stamps showing American wildflowers serves as an occasion for one of the rare Canonical questions that is not easily answered using the indexes to the Canon or the computerized Canon: where in the Canon is there a mention of the sego lily?
4029. Over My Dead Body! (the electronic mystery-magazine bulletin board) plans to publish a print magazine (also called Over My Dead Body!), and is soliciting manuscripts. The first issue, with Nov. 30 deadline, will be published in Feb. 1993 at Left Coast Crime III (the regional convention in Anaheim), and its theme is "blurring the boundaries" (cross-over mysteries: western, sci-fi, horror, vampire, spy, romantic suspense, etc.); additional information is available from Diane E. Amov (Box 1778, Auburn, WA 98071-1778).
4030. The television game show "Jeopardy" often poses Sherlockian answers (the contestants are supposed to respond with appropriate questions). Felice Bogus, introduced as a graduate student in Los Angeles and a member of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, was on the show for three days in Oct., winning a total of \$26,801 the first two days (and coming in second on the third day).
4031. Yes, there is another actor on the very short list (October 92 #2) of those who have played both Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Inspector Lestrade: it's Dennis Hoey, who portrayed an amusing Lestrade in many of Basil Rathbone's films, and Conan Doyle in "The Fine Art of Murder" on "Omnibus" on ABC-TV in 1956.

October 1992 #4

4032. STRANGE STUDIES FROM LIFE AND OTHER NARRATIVES: THE COMPLETE TRUE CRIME WRITINGS OF SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE, first published in 1988, now has a second printing. Edited by Jack Tracy, the book offers three "strange studies from life" and Peter Ruber's fine introduction from his 1963 reprint of the stories, three earlier reports, and Conan Doyle's later essay suggesting that psychic science might be useful in solving or preventing crimes. \$20.45 postpaid from Gaslight Publications, 626 North College Avenue, Bloomington, IN 47404 (they take plastic).
4033. Some people really *are* planning well ahead. More than one Hollywood studio now offers contracts granting producers rights "forever and throughout the universe."
4034. A new booklet of stamps showing animals includes stamps portraying a white Bengal tiger and a flamingo. There are many mentions of tigers in the Canon (in "The Empty House" and elsewhere), but there is only one mention of a flamingo: "See how that one little cloud floats like a pink feather from some gigantic flamingo," said Sherlock Holmes (in "The Sign of the Four").

4035. Credit Vinnie Brosnan with spotting a newspaper mention of a Sherlock Holmes fan who competed (and did well) in the summer Olympics in Barcelona. Shannon Miller, winner of five medals for gymnastics, is 15 years old and has begun training for the 1993 world championships. She may also compete in the summer Olympics in Atlanta in 1996, and her address is 8 Easy Street, Edmond, OK 73034.
4036. Further to the report (September 92 #2) on Superman being Martha Hudson's foster son, Tom Kowols notes that Martha Kent's maiden name was Clark, not Hudson (and that that's how the boy got the name Clark Kent). Tom cites a line in the first Christopher Reeve movie: "Martha Clark Kent, are you listening to me?" Of course there are some of us who believe that the Christopher Reeve movies are fiction rather than fact, and that truth is to be found only in comic books that cost no more than ten cents brand new.
4037. Amy Jones Frisbie died on Oct. 10. She was the widow of Owen P. Frisbie ("The Musgrave Ritual"), toasted by the Irregulars as *The* Woman in 1977, and an enthusiastic member of The Three Garridebs. She was also a fine Sherlockian artist, and in 1982 created an attractive poster print of the great detective.
4038. Shirley Purves, chairman of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London, was on tour in the United States in Sept. and Oct., and is now the newest member of The Baker Street Irregulars (as "The Dog in the Night-Time"). She also is half of the first sister-and-brother team in the history of the BSI; her brother is Charles O. Merriman ("Colonel Hayter").
4039. Don Pollock reports yet another target for computerized Sherlockians: the news group called alt.fan.holmes on Usenet. One needs a modem to access Usenet, of course. Presumably people who have modems know how to access Usenet. I don't have a modem. I don't do Windows, either.

October 1992 #5

4040. It has been some time since anyone reported a non-Sherlockian book with a Sherlockian title, either exact (such as Michael Gilbert's THE EMPTY HOUSE and John Creasey's THE VALLEY OF FEAR), or almost exact (such as Robert M. Coates' WISTERIA COTTAGE and P. M. Hubbard's THE DANCING MAN). The latter category would include the new novel THE COPPER BEECH, by Maeve Binchy (New York: Delacorte Press, 1992).
4041. "It is of that daughter that I would speak to you," said Brigham Young to John Ferrier. "She has grown to be the flower of Utah." And the official state flower of Utah is the sego lily (October 92 #3).
4042. Forecast: THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, with twelve watercolor illustrations by Barry Moser (including portraits of Holmes, Watson, and Conan Doyle), from Morrow/Books of Wonder (\$20.00).
4043. Jennie Paton reports that a dapper handmade "Bearlock Holmes" (holding pipe and violin) is available for \$50.00 from Lori Levin (Lori's Bears, 633 20th Street, West Des Moines, IA 50265); you get your choice of colors and such, so write to Lori Levin for a detailed order form.
4044. Reported: VICTORIAN TALES OF MYSTERY AND DETECTION, edited by Michael Cox (Oxford Univ. Press, \$25.00); 31 short stories, with one from the Canon as well as Conan Doyle's "The Lost Special").
4045. The broadcast of "Garrison Keillor's American Radio Company" on National Public Radio stations on Oct. 17 included an appearance by the Hound of the Baskervilles, in a sound-effects contest. This is the first Canonical bit reported on one of Keillor's shows; did anyone record it?
4046. The continuing increase in the number of Sherlockian societies (369 active societies are recorded at the moment) has led to some interesting associations. The Cardboard Boxers of Croydon, and of Susanville, and The Crew of the S.S. May Day of Belfast, plan to meet simultaneously (with a telephone link for appropriate toasts) on Jan. 23, 1993, in honor of the centenary of publication of their adventure in The Strand Magazine. If you might be in any of the vicinities, you can contact Andrew A. P. Butler (64 Firth Road, Croydon, Surrey CR0 1TA, England) or William Ballew (Box 1954, Susanville, CA 96130) or R. O. C. Ross (19 Ardcarney Way, Belfast BT5 7RP, Northern Ireland, United Kingdom).
4047. Ralph Hall reports an advertisement in the Louisville Courier-Journal (Oct. 10) for a Sherlock Holmes Chess Set issued to honor the 100th anniversary of the publication of THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES. The 32 pieces are solid pewter on enameled bases, and cost \$14.75 each, plus shipping, in a subscription offer (you get two pieces every two months) from Gorham, 1170 Wheeler Way, Langhorne, PA 19047.
4048. Jon Lellenberg reports that ICOM Simulations will release the second volume of its "Sherlock Holmes, Consulting Detective" computer game in November. The first volume was released on cartridges for game machines in 1991, and then on CD-ROM discs (March 92 #5), and has three adventures, each with liveaction video (15-frames-per-second quarter-screen digitized video). Even nicer news is that ICOM is now filming for a third volume.

October 1992 #6

4049. Roger Johnson reports that Denholm Elliott has died. He was a fine actor, and he played supporting roles in three Sherlockian ventures: he was the English Delegate in "The Strange Case of the End of Civilisation As We Know It" on television in 1977, Stapleton in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" on film in 1978, and Dr. Mortimer in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" on television in 1983. According to press reports, he also was one of the early candidates for the role of Watson in Frank Langella's production of "Sherlock's Last Case" in 1987.
4050. The Sherlockian Times is the mail-order sales catalog from Carolyn and Joel Senter (Classic Specialties, Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219), offering a fine range of American and British books and other collectibles.
4051. Fans of "Star Trek: The Next Generation" will be happy to learn that Dame Jean Conan Doyle has authorized Paramount to resurrect Professor Moriarty from the holodeck's computer. This pleasant news from Jon Lellenberg, who also reports that Rene Echevaria's script ("Ship in a Bottle"), still in an early draft, will have Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson in supporting roles. Earlier reports that Dame Jean had refused permission to use the characters were in error, probably because the series' production staff were not aware of the negotiations underway by the legal department.
4052. An illustrated flier from Starlog Press (475 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016) offers back issues of the magazine Star Trek: The Next Generation (issue #6 featured "Elementary, Dear Data" with Brent Spiner on the cover in Sherlockian costume). The series continues to be quite popular, with an estimated 17 million viewers each week (that would yield a Nielsen rating of about 18 if Nielsen had national ratings for syndicated shows). The Los Angeles Times has reported that Paramount made \$90 million from the series last year, and the Washington Post notes that a 30-second commercial costs \$115,000 (compared with \$30,000 to \$40,000 for other syndicated dramas).
4053. CONAN DOYLE'S TALES OF MEDICAL HUMANISM AND VALUES, edited and annotated by Alvin E. Rodin and Jack D. Key (Malabar: Robert E. Krieger, 1992; 481 pp., \$42.50), concentrates on ACD's fiction and emphasizes his medical humanism (which the editors define as "any delivery of health care which emphasizes human interest, values, and dignity, and which is compatible with medical science and technology"). Sources for the tales range from ROUND THE RED LAMP to the Canon (there are three Sherlockian stories), and the book ends with an address on "The Romance of Medicine" given by Conan Doyle in 1910. The commentary and notes are instructive, and the collection offers some fine examples of Conan Doyle's skills both as author and as physician. The publisher's address is Box 9542, Melbourne, FL 32902; shipping costs \$5.00, and they take plastic.
4054. Mark Alberstat's 1993 Sherlock Holmes Calendar has a Sidney Paget illustration for each month, with dates for the cases taken from Baring-Gould's THE ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES; Mark's address is 6258 Payzant Avenue, Halifax, NS B3H 2B1, Canada, and the calendar costs US\$10.00

postpaid. Brian and Charlotte Erickson's 1993 Calendar of 221B Baker Street also is available (\$12.00 plus shipping), along with shadow boxes, jigsaw puzzles, clay and needlepoint ornaments, comic books, and other collectibles, in a Christmas catalog from Sherlock's Corner, 1029 Judson Drive, Mountain View, CA 94040.

October 1992 #7

4055. Thanks to all those who responded in time for this one-month earlier forecast of what will be happening during the birthday festivities, by way of offering a better chance for advance planning. We will celebrate Sherlock Holmes' 139th birthday on Friday, Jan. 8, with the traditional festivities in New York. The festivities will actually begin on Thursday at 9:00 am in the lobby of the Hotel Algonquin (59 West 44th Street), whence Allen Mackler and Charlie Shields will lead participants in the annual Christopher Morley Walk, which includes luncheon at McSorley's. Allen's address is 324 2nd Street NE, Osseo, MN 55369, and from Jan. 5 he can be reached at the Iroquois Hotel (212-840-3080).
4056. Bob Hahn reports that the 1993 Aunt Clara Sing will honor its founder, the late Bill Rabe, as well as Aunt Clara's friends (intimate and otherwise), beginning at 8:00 pm on Thursday at O'Lunney's Steak House. Song sheets will be welcomed by the folk-singer-in-residence (and others). No advance payment is required, but space is limited and a check for \$10.00 for each person in your party can be sent to Hugh O'Lunney (12 West 44th Street, New York, NY 10036) by way of reserving a seat at the party (the \$10.00 will be applied to your tab for the evening).
4057. Friday's schedule will begin with the Martha Hudson Breakfast from 8:30 to 10:30 am at the Hotel Algonquin at 59 West 44th Street (The Stetaks, 15529 Diagonal Road, La Grange, OH 44050); \$18.95 (checks payable to The Baker Street Irregulars) for a buffet that includes the world-famous Algonquin oatmeal. The William Gillette Luncheon starts at noon at the Old Homestead at 56 Ninth Avenue at 14th Street (Susan Rice, 125 Washington Place #2-E, New York, NY 10014; \$30.00). Otto Penzler's open house at The Mysterious Bookshop (129 West 56th Street) also is on Friday, from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm; it is possible that S'ian authors will be on hand to sign their books.
4058. The Baker Street Irregulars will gather at 6:00 pm at 24 Fifth Avenue (at 9th Street), and The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes at 6:30 pm at Le Max Restaurant at 147 West 43rd Street between 6th Avenue and Broadway (Evelyn A. Herzog, 360 West 21st Street #5-A, New York, NY 10011-3310; \$35.00). As usual, early reservations are recommended for the breakfast, the luncheon, and The Adventuresses' dinner.
4059. On Saturday a posse of purveyors will offer a wide variety of S'iana at the Algonquin, from 9:30 am to 12:30 p.m. Huckster tables are still available (contact Ray Betzner, 107 Tendril Court, Williamsburg, VA 23188).
4060. The STUD Sherlockian Society plans to hold a Rache Subway Rally (much like a Road Rally) starting at 12:00 noon on Saturday. The rally will last less than two hours, and prizes will be awarded. Pre-registration is required, and additional details are available from Donald B. Izban, 5334 Wrightwood Avenue, Chicago, IL 60639-1524.
4061. On Saturday afternoon The Baker Street Irregulars will hold their annual reception, open to all Sherlockians and their friends, from 2:30 to 5:00 pm at 24 Fifth Avenue at 9th Street. There will be an open bar, with hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, and tickets cost \$30.00 a person. Checks (payable to The Baker Street Irregulars) should be sent to Michael F. Whelan, 342 Perry Cabin Drive, St. Michaels, MD 21663.

October 1992 #8

4062. The Baker Street Irregulars are now a tax-exempt organization, and Tom Stix arranged with the Hotel Algonquin for rooms (single or double) at \$145.00 a night (Thursday, Friday, or Saturday); this is the total cost, since no tax is due for reservations made through the BSI. Please note that all other charges (room service, telephone calls, meals, drinks, etc.) are not covered. Tom's offer is available to all Sherlockians: your reservations, with full names of all occupants, accompanied by checks payable to The Baker Street Irregulars, should be sent to Thomas L. Stix, Jr. (34 Pierson Avenue, Norwood, NJ 07648), and are to be received no later than Dec. 16.
4063. Mary Ellen Rich has once again kindly provided a list of hotels that offer reasonable (as defined by New York landlords) rates, along with a warning about non-optional extras: \$2.00 a day occupancy tax, 8.25% state tax, 5% city tax, and 5% state tax on rooms costing more than \$99.99. If you plan to arrive on Thursday, it is important to confirm that the weekend-package rates include Thursday.
4064. Omni Park Central (7th Avenue at 55th Street): \$98 (single/double at corporate rate) (800-843-6664). Roosevelt (Madison Avenue at 45th Street): \$89 (single/double FR/SA at Travel Trust rate) (800-223-1870). Journey's End (3 East 40th Street): \$88.88 (per room FR/SA) (800-668-4200). Shoreham (33 West 55th Street): \$75 (single) \$84 (double) (212-247-6700 ask for Terry). Iroquois (49 West 44th Street): \$65 (single) \$75 (double) \$99 (suite) (800-332-7220). Rosoff's (147 West 43rd Street, near Le Max): \$50 (single) \$60 (double) \$70 (triple) \$80 (quad) (212-869-1212).
4065. Onward, with a few more items to fill the page, and with apologies for not getting this end-of-October issue into the mail until November. I was in Cincinnati most of the last week in October, helping local Sherlockians and visiting geologists honor the world's first forensic geologist. No one was able to find anything in the Canon that seemed like a sure forecast of who would win the election, but it was noted that the word "independent" occurs in ten stories, the word "Republican" in three, and the word "democratic" in only one. There is someone named Stockdale in the Canon, of course. Oh well: you'll know who won by the time you read this item, of course, unless the electoral vote doesn't yield a winner and the House of Representatives selects the next president.
4066. Forecast by Jerry Margolin: THE SEVENTH BULLET, by Daniel D. Victor, from St. Martin's Press in Nov. (\$17.95); according to the press release, the pastiche brings Holmes and Watson to the United States to investigate the real-life assassination of muckraker-journalist David Graham Phillips in 1911 (Teddy Roosevelt and William Randolph Hearst are among the supporting characters).
4067. Pattie Brunner reports that a catalog from What on Earth (2451 Enterprise East Parkway, Twinsburg, OH 44087) has "Moriarty's of Baker Street" sweatshirts (\$22.95) and T-shirts (\$12.95). And that Bits & Pieces (1 Puzzle Place, Stevens Point, WI 54481) offers a "Jolly Good!" jigsaw puzzle that shows Sherlock Holmes in a window at the far right (\$14.95).

November 1992 #1

4068. Sir Kenneth Macmillan died on Oct. 29. He was principal choreographer of the Royal Ballet, and was credited with almost singlehandedly reviving the tradition of full-length ballet in Britain. He starred in the ballet "The Great Detective" in Sadler's Wells in 1953 as both The Great Detective and The Infamous Professor. Knighted in 1983, he died of a heart attack backstage at the Royal Opera House at Covent Garden.
4069. Thanks to all who have reported additional Sherlockian films on laserdiscs. Here's the current list: Rathbone's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1939), "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (1939), "Sherlock Holmes and the Voice of Terror" (1942), "Sherlock Holmes and the Secret Weapon" (1943), "Sherlock Holmes Faces Death" (1943), "The Woman in Green" (1945), "Terror by Night" (1946), "Dressed to Kill" (1946), "A Study in Terror" (1965), "The Seven-Per-Cent Solution" (1976), "Murder by Decree" (1979), "The Masks of Death" (1984), "Young Sherlock Holmes" (1985), "The Great Mouse Detective" (1986), Brett's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1988), "Without a Clue" (1988), and "The Crucifer of Blood" (1991). And "The Lost World" (1925).

4070. Nice news for those who weren't aware of the Klondike Holmes Bear available last year. It's 15 inches high, with a real magnifying glass, and costs \$9.95 plus two UPC symbols from any six-pack or four-pack of Klondike ice-cream sandwiches or bars or (plus \$1.50 per order for shipping) from Klondike Offer, 5400 118th Avenue North, Clearwater, FL 34620.
4071. Hal Roach died on Nov. 2. He was one of the great Hollywood film-makers, beginning his career as an extra in a western in 1912, and going on to discover Harold Lloyd and to share with Mack Sennett the honor of inventing film comedy as a genre. There are Sherlockian allusions in many of his films, including the Our Gang comedy "Young Sherlocks" (1922), Arthur Stone's "Sherlock Sleuth" (1925), and the Laurel and Hardy classic "Do Detectives Think?" (1927).
4072. Nielsen numbers. We most often see numbers for the programs on the major networks, but there are many people who watch programs available only on cable (Nielsen estimates that there are 93.1 million television households in the United States, and 61.4 million of them have cable). "Larry King Live" had George Bush on the show on CNN on Oct. 30, and scored a 5.0 (or slightly more than 3.0 million cable households); that's about the same as the rating for any of the better shows on PBS-TV.
4073. Completists should not neglect variants published by the Quality Paperback Book Club. Andrew Jay Peck reports new exclusive QPB editions of DETECTIVE STORIES FROM THE STRAND MAGAZINE and STRANGE TALES FROM THE STRAND MAGAZINE (December 91 #6) at \$14.95 each or \$22.25 the pair, available only to members of the club.
4074. And a bit more on laserdiscs, from the Oct. 29 issue of the N.Y. Times, via Syd Goldberg: there are more than 7,000 titles in a new catalog from Movies Unlimited. And industry observers estimate that there are nearly a million disc players in use, and that 12 million discs will be sold this year.

November 1992 #2

4075. Further to the news (October 92 #6) that Moriarty will return to the holodeck on "Star Trek: The Next Generation" (with Holmes and Watson in supporting roles in an episode tentatively titled "Ship in a Bottle"), Jon Lellenberg reports that Paramount expects the program to air during the week of Jan. 25 (the series is syndicated, so the air date will not be the same nationwide).
4076. In case you weren't watching the election coverage on PBS-TV on Nov. 3, one of the anchors was Hodding Carter, who in a conversation with Daniel Schorr mentioned "the dogs that didn't bark in this campaign," in a reference to the many issues that were not really debated during the campaign.
4077. Thanks to Victoria Robinson for spotting VICTORIAN DELIGHTS: REFLECTIONS OF TASTE IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY, by John Hadfield (New York: New Amsterdam Books, 1990; 128 pp., \$24.95). The book was first published in Britain in 1987, and includes a section devoted to Sherlock Holmes and Sidney Paget's illustrations, but it is most welcome for its profusely-illustrated display of the culture of the Sherlockian world, including mantelpiece ornaments, toy theaters, pottery portrait figures, pinup photographs, and much more. The publisher's address is 320 North Jensen Road, Vestal, NY 13850.
4078. One of the most important rules in journalism (and many other professions) is "get the names right!" Apologies to the Sherlock Holmes fan who was the winner of five medals for gymnastics at the Barcelona summer Olympics (October 92 #4), and whose name, correctly, is Shannon Miller.
4079. Bowling Green State University Popular Press (Bowling Green, OH 43403) is having an "Early Christmas Sale" offering discounts on many titles, including Earl Bargainnier's COMIC CRIME, Ray B. Browne's HEROES AND HUMANITIES: DETECTIVE FICTION AND CULTURE, Michael L. Cook's MYSTERY FANFARE, William R. Hunt's FRONT-PAGE DETECTIVE: WILLIAM J. BURNS AND THE DETECTIVE PROFESSION, S. T. Joshi's JOHN DICKSON CARR: A CRITICAL STUDY, Leroy L. Panek's AN INTRODUCTION TO THE DETECTIVE STORY; write for their sales-list.
4080. Ben Wood is preparing a new and revised edition of his guide to Sherlockian stamps and coins (THE PHILATELIC & NUMISMATIC HOLMES); the postpaid cost is \$5.00 through Dec. 31 (and \$6.00 thereafter), and you can order from Benton Wood, Box 740, Ellenton, FL 34222.
4081. The speculative boom in movie posters and lobby cards seems to have tapered off, slightly, but high-quality photographic reproductions are available at reasonable prices (\$6.95 for 8x10, \$12.95 for 11x14, \$29.95 for 16x20) from Cinema Art, Box 1121, Glastonbury, CT 06033 (800-336-4553). Their catalog has 2 cards from Barrymore's "Sherlock Holmes" (1922) and 16 from various Rathbone films, plus Sherlockian cards from Abbott and Costello's "Who Done It?" (1942), Laurel and Hardy's "The Big Noise" (1944), and Edgar Bergen's "Charlie McCarthy, Detective" (1939), and 4 cards from Wallace Beery's "The Lost World" (1922). And they take plastic.
4082. Forecast from the Oxford Univ. Press: THE OXFORD BOOK OF VILLAINS, edited by John Mortimer (in Dec. at \$24.95); the villains include Billy the Kid, Mac the Knife, Caligula, Captain Hook, Al Capone, and Professor Moriarty (in a reprint of T. S. Eliot's poem "Macavity: The Mystery Cat").

November 1992 #3

4083. Karen Isaacson (Box 1961, Lynnwood, WA 98046-1961) has sent a flier to Sherlockian societies, asking people to write to the Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee (Stamp Development Branch, U.S. Postal Service Headquarters, Washington, DC 20260-6352) to request a set of four stamps showing detectives (similar to the recent booklet honoring famous comedians). Karen's candidates are Charlie Chan, The Thin Man, Sam Spade, and (of course) Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson. She hopes that proposing a set of stamps will help secure a stamp honoring Holmes.
4084. Thanks to Bill Smith for a report from Audio Editions (Box 6930, Auburn, CA 95604): for six months their order forms had questions about the customers' opinions on books-on-cassette, such as "What is the all-time best book-on-cassette you have listened to?" The answer listed most often was "Sherlock Holmes" (with "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" as runner-up). "What was the most entertaining book-on-cassette you have heard?" had "Sherlock Holmes" and "Star Trek" as runners-up to "Tom Bodett" (a humorist noted for his "End of the Road" stories). Audio Editions offers all of the Simon & Schuster Rathbone/Bruce cassettes, and other Sherlockian recordings.
4085. Bill also notes that DutchGuard by Mail (Box 411687, Kansas City, MO 64141) offers a Sherlock Holmes walking stick from Italy, at \$59.95 (this would appear to be the same walking stick advertised by Davis and Son (April 92 #4).
4086. Eve Titus, back in the United States after a sojourn in Italy, reports with pleasure that the "Basil of Baker Street" series will soon be back in print in hardcover. The books went out-of-print in hardcover some years ago when McGraw-Hill closed its children's division, but they are now expected from the Sherrinford Press next year.
4087. A Case of Identifiers is a non-existent scion devoted to identification of past, present, and future Sherlockians in the visual media, including film, videotape, and photographs. The scion's Canonically appropriate motto is "I know him from the photographs," and the first issue (volume 0, number 0) of Baron Gruner's Diary ("photographs, names, details") is available from Bill Vande Water (697 Greenbelt Parkway West, Holbrook, NY 11741); \$2.00 postpaid. It's an unofficial publication (needless to say), with 20 pages of photos, identifications, discussions, confessions, and promises, as well as offers of the scion's lapel pin and reproductions of the photographs of the 1940 and 1946 annual dinners of The Baker Street Irregulars.
4088. Jim Weiss' one-hour audiocassette SHERLOCK HOLMES FOR CHILDREN (April 92 #8) has now won two awards (American Library Association notable, and Parent's Choice Foundation gold). The cassette costs \$9.95 (plus \$2.00 shipping), and their flier offers other non-Sherlockian titles; Greathall Productions, Box 813, Benicia, CA 94510.

4089. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London still has a modest waiting list for full membership, but there is no limit on associate membership, which is the same as a subscription to The Sherlock Holmes Journal: \$18.75 a year to the Americas, for two issues. Checks payable to the Society can be sent to Cdr. G. S. Stavert, 3 Outram Road, Southsea, Hants. PO5 1QP, England.

November 1992 #4

4090. If you enjoyed the series of "Maigret" programs on "Mystery!" on PBS-TV, you may have recognized the voice of M. Comelieu, the examining magistrate, who was played by John Moffatt. But only the voice: Moffatt played Sherlock Holmes for BBC Radio 4 in "Sherlock Holmes vs. Dracula" (1981), and Dr. Watson (with Roy Marsden as Holmes) in the Grant Eustace series that aired on British Airways flights (1987) and (with Dinsdale Landen as Holmes) for the BBC World Service in "Sherlock's Last Case" (1987).
4091. Ruthann and Tom Stetak have discovered SHUR-LOK at a local building-supply store. "SHUR-LOK your 'Holme' and feel secure," the label announces (with a portrait of Sherlock Holmes, of course). It's an add-on lock for sliding glass doors, sliding glass windows, and conventional windows, and it's made by Shur-Lok Inc., 5601 South Meridian, Indianapolis, IN 46217.
4092. And Ruthann and Tom report that House of Tyrol (Box 909, Alpenland Center, Cleveland, GA 30528) (800-241-5404) now offers a Bearlock Holmes (from the North American Bear Co.) at \$85.00, in addition to the Sherlock Holmes desk accessories in hand-cast English pewter (letter opener and magnifying glass at \$36.00 each, or \$69.00 the pair).
4093. Craig Sodar's one-act play "Holmes on the Range" (1991) has been published by the Pioneer Drama Service, Box 22555, Denver, CO 80222 (800-333-7262); it's "a comic mystery in five scenes," with a cast that includes Holmes and Watson, Dr. Cavitate (dentist to the stars), Nova Caine (his nurse), and a lot of other suspects, and costs \$4.00 plus shipping. Pioneer also offers some of Tim Kelly's scripts: "Sherlock Meets the Phantom" (1975) at \$3.25; "Sherlock Holmes" (1977) at \$4.00; "Bride of Frankenstein" (1976) at \$4.00; and "Hawkshaw the Detective" (1976) at \$4.00.
4094. Videotape alert: Richard Wein reports that the "In Search of..." series on A&E cable will go "In Search of...Sherlock Holmes" on Dec. 31 (at 7:00 pm EST): "surprising new evidence suggests that the fictional super-sleuth did actually exist."
4095. Fred Levin reports that Lori Levin (Lori's Bears, 633 20th Street, West Des Moines, IA 50265) plans to make a Watson bear to join her "Bearlock Holmes" (October 92 #5); write to Lori Levin for details.
4096. SHERLOCK HOLMES: LA SANGSUE ROUGE, published in French in 1990 (January 91 #1), is now available in English as SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE RED DEATH (Partridge Green: Ravette Books, 1992; 48 pp., £3.99); it's a graphic novel, with a story by Andre-Paul Duchateau and full-color artwork by Guy Clair. And it is nicely done, especially the artwork (Clair has his own strong style, in a pleasant change from the much weaker work in the comic books currently available here).
4097. Ravette Books has also published BAKER STREET PUZZLES, by Tom Bullimore, with illustrations by Ian Anderson (160 pp., £2.99); it's a collection of logic problems, number puzzles, and the like (such as: give the next two letters in the sequence OTTFSS..), with Holmes and Watson as characters and in the illustrations. The publisher's address is 3 Glenside Estate, Star Road, Partridge Green, near Horsham, West Sussex RH13 8RA, England.
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November 1992 #5

4098. Barnes & Noble (126 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10011) continue to include Sherlockiana in their mail-order catalogs: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Philip Weller and Christopher Roden (item #1840107, \$17.95); THE EXPLOITS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Adrian Conan Doyle and John Dickson Carr (#1789221, \$6.95); THE PICTORIAL HISTORY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Michael Pointer (#1742188, \$24.95); THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Michael Hardwick (#1841121, \$10.95); THE ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES, by William S. Baring-Gould (#1840164, \$29.95). Also: THE LURE OF THE LIMERICK, by William S. Baring-Gould (#1841675, \$12.95); non-S'ian, but great fun. And Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's THE EDGE OF THE UNKNOWN (#1819697, \$7.95) and THE STORY OF MR. GEORGE EDALJI (#1764026, \$6.95).
4099. Paulette Greene (7152 Via Palomar, Boca Raton, FL 33433) offers a new sales list of Sherlockiana and Doyleana, including first editions, letters from various S'ians and a copy of THE LOST WORLD (1914) signed by ACD. The Holiday Catalog from The Mysterious Bookshop (129 West 56th Street, New York, NY 10010) has two pages of Sherlockian books, as well as Sherlockian signs and sculpture and such. And the new sales list from Sherlock's Home (5624 East Second Street, Long Beach, CA 90803) is full of interesting material.
4100. The fall 1992 issue of Scarlet Street has more fine coverage of the Granada series (including an interview with Rosalie Williams and a report on Brett and Hardwicke as Holmes and Watson in the first ten-minute segment of "The Four Oaks Mystery" on ITV in June), a report by David Stuart Davies on the discovery of videotape of a few of the 1968 BBC television shows with Peter Cushing as Holmes, a long interview with Peter Cushing, and Jeremy Brett's comments on his appearance as Dracula on stage. \$18.00 a year from R. H. Enterprises, Box 604, Glen Rock, NJ 07452.
4101. Joseph J. Eckrich (7793 Keswick Place, St. Louis, MO 63119) has decided to sell much of his Sherlockian collection, through monthly price lists rather than to a dealer, and his first price list should be ready soon. Write to Joe if you would like to receive the first installment.
4102. The Northstar/Arpad comic book SHERLOCK HOLMES: TALES OF MYSTERY & SUSPENSE #2 is now in the shops (\$2.75), with "The Triangle of Blood" (story by Joe Gentile and art by Phil Rittenhouse). The story ends with Moriarty still at large, and Holmes predicting that "there *will* be justice!"
4103. Sherlockian tourists in Britain seem to spend almost all of their time in London and southern sites such as Dartmoor. There is much more to be seen in Britain, of course, and Michael T. R. B. Turnbull's EDINBURGH CHARACTERS (Edinburgh: Saint Andrew Press, 1992; 156 pp., £5.50) is the sort of book that makes being a tourist fun. The chapters and lively description range from Art and Architecture to Street Life, and the characters include James McLevy (an Edinburgh policeman whose analytical methods might have had some influence on Conan Doyle) and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle himself.
4104. And it is by nice coincidence that the dates have been set for the Arthur Conan Doyle Society's "Edinburgh '93" gathering, on Mar. 19-21, 1993. The weekend will feature tours, speeches, and panel discussions, and details are available from Christopher and Barbara Roden, Ashcroft, 2 Abbottsford Drive, Penyffordd, Chester, Cheshire CH4 0JG, England.
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November 1992 #6

4105. Marian J. A. Jackson's mystery series about Abigail Patience Danforth began with three paperback originals (THE PUNJAT'S RUBY, THE ARABIAN PEARL, and THE CAT'S EYE), and she is now deservedly in hardcover in DIAMOND HEAD (New York: Walker, 1992; 167 pp., \$18.95). Miss Danforth, continuing to ignore Conan Doyle's earlier warning that amateur detecting is no career for a young lady, is now at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel in turn-of-the-century Oahu, and quickly involved in a lively story.
4106. Holmes for the Holidays, now entering its fourth year, offers grand fun to young mystery fans; it costs \$7.50 a year for five issues, from Michael W. McClure (1415 Swanwick Street, Chester, IL 62333). Michael also offers all five of the "Basil of Baker Street" paperbacks, signed by Eve Titus; \$5.00 each postpaid.
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4107. Dr. Fatso's "sad, chilling account of the cataclysmic confrontation between Turlock Loams and the elusive Coroner Sandals in their fatal struggle over the fabulous Rosenbach Folios" is now available from the Pequod Press. THE SPINAL PROBLEM costs \$35.00 (cloth) or \$15.00 (paper), from John Ruyle, 521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707-1521.
4108. ROTTEN REJECTIONS: THE LETTERS THAT PUBLISHERS WISH THEY'D NEVER SENT was edited by Andre Bernard and published by the Pushcart Press in 1990, and is now available as a British paperback (London: Robson Books, 1992; 101 pp., £6.99). And the letters are fascinating. A sample: "You're welcome to le Carre--he hasn't got any future" (THE SPY WHO CAME IN FROM THE COLD); "It is impossible to see animal stories in the U.S.A." (George Orwell's ANIMAL FARM); "It is very interesting and has several good points, but it is not quite suitable for our list" (Agatha Christie's THE MYSTERIOUS AFFAIR AT STYLES); "Neither long enough for a serial nor short enough for a single story" (A STUDY IN SCARLET).
4109. Dave Galerstein reports an important addition to the birthday festivities: "One Bright Book of Life: Novels and Manuscripts" is the title of a public exhibition at the Berg Collection at the N.Y. Public Library (Fifth Avenue at 42nd Street), and one of the items on display is chapter XI from "The Hound of the Baskervilles". The exhibition will run until March, and the library is open Tue-Wed 11:00-6:00, Thu-Sat 10:00-6:00.
4110. David Hammer has kindly forwarded a report from the Evening Standard (Nov. 11, 1992) that Bart's, the oldest hospital in London, already under threat of closure as proposed in a recent government report, has been told that Britain's leading cancer charity, also facing a cash crisis, has slashed £500,000 from its annual grant for cancer research, one of the specialties at St. Bartholomew's Hospital.
4111. Roger Johnson reports in The District Messenger that the Merrison/Williams series "The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes" has ended on BBC Radio 4, and that recording is well underway on "The Return of Sherlock Holmes". And we can add Michael Pennington to the short list of actors who have portrayed both Holmes and Moriarty: Pennington is Moriarty in the radio series, and played Holmes in "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" on CBS-TV in 1987.

December 1992 #1

4112. "Is This the Real Sherlock Holmes?" asks the headline on an article in the [London] Evening Standard (Oct. 29), at hand from Jon Lellenberg. And the latest candidate, according to Bill West, is Edwin Holmes, who in 1858 was the founder of the Holmes Protection Group in Boston. Edwin Holmes and his assistant Thomas Watson perfected an electrical burglar-protection system, introduced in the 1870s, when Conan Doyle was studying at Edinburgh. And a search of the university records revealed that one of his fellow students came from just outside Boston, and the letters in THE STARK MUNRO LETTERS are addressed to a fictitious fellow-student living near Boston, and that, as far as Bill West is concerned, demonstrates that the answer is, "yes."
4113. Jon also has forwarded a report from the Daily Telegraph (Oct. 19) about a problem faced by John Aidiniantz, director of The Sherlock Holmes Museum in Baker Street: he can't find a suitable driver for the museum's recently purchased hansom cab. "The only people who have come forward so far are tinkers," Aidiniantz said, noting that "we want someone who will play the part and not spend the whole time smoking a fag." The intention is that tourists will pay £200 to be driven round Parliament Square accompanied by an actor dressed as Sherlock Holmes. And the reporter suggests that having worked, once, as a barman at the Sherlock Holmes Hotel in Baker Street, "I can confirm that when it comes to Conan Doyle's hero, there is no limit to the amount of drivel American tourists will swallow."
4114. And there is a report on THE SUPERNATURAL COAST: UNEXPLAINED MYSTERIES OF EAST ANGLIA, by Peter Haining (Hale, £6.95), with discussion of the Hound of the Baskervilles and the notorious Black Shuck, a ghostly dog that for many years haunted the area around Cromer.
4115. The department-store Christmas window-displays have likely been dismantled by now, but Dave Galerstein has reported that one of the windows at Lord & Taylor (on Fifth Avenue, about 50th or 51st Street) has dolls of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson -- Holmes, however, with a mustache.
4116. The full-color deck of Sherlock Holmes playing cards, issued in 1990, with 18 original and imaginative drawings by Jeff Decker, can still be ordered from Frank Vacante, 920 South Franklin Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702; the cost is \$6.50 postpaid per deck.
4117. John Foreman died on Nov. 20. He was an accomplished Hollywood producer, and his most famous films included "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid", "Prizzi's Honor", and "The Man Who Would Be King". He joined forces with actor Paul Newman in 1968 as the Newman-Foreman Co. production company, and one of the company's earliest films, with Foreman as producer, was "They Might Be Giants" (1971).
4118. LESTRADE AND THE SIGN OF NINE, by M. J. Trow (London: Constable, 1992; 223 pp., £13.99), is the twelfth in his series about Insp. Sholto Lestrade, who in this case is investigating a series of murders in 1886 (which means that Sherlock Holmes is still alive, and perhaps more competent than one might believe from Lestrade's complaints). The action is fast and furious, and the puns are atrocious and amusing, and the series is as usual great fun.

December 1992 #2

4119. Forecast: trade-paperback reprints from Carroll & Graf: THE ART OF THE MYSTERY STORY, edited by Howard Haycraft, at \$15.95 in December (an excellent anthology of critical and informative essays, first published in 1946), and 100 GREAT DETECTIVES, edited by Maxim Jakubowski, at \$9.95 in February (with H.R.F. Keating's discussion of Sherlock Holmes). And two more volumes of Murray Shaw's adaptations of the Canon for children (vol. 7 has "The Dancing Men" and "The Three Garridebs" and vol. 8 has "The Hound of the Baskervilles"), from Carolrhoda Books at \$10.95 (cloth) and \$4.95 (paper) this winter.
4120. Joan S. Wood is one of *the* women of the BSI, and her expertise extends far beyond the care and feeding of the BSI's chaplain. Two of Joan's interests are on display in MRS. HUDSON'S HANDBOOK OF SHERLOCKIAN COOKERY AND HOLMESIAN NEEDLEPOINT (51 pp.); the cost is \$8.50 postpaid, and orders should be sent to Joan at Box 740, Ellenton, FL 34222. And Ben Wood's newly revised and expanded edition of his illustrated PHILATELIC & NUMISMATIC HOLMES (28 pp.) is now available (\$6.00 postpaid from the same address).
4121. Visitors to the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Metropolitan Toronto Reference Library may wish to see the newest major acquisition, bequeathed to the collection by the late Anna Conan Doyle (the widow of Adrian Conan Doyle): the manuscript of his unpublished play "Angels of Darkness". It is an adaptation of the American portion of "A Study in Scarlet" (according to Richard Lancelyn Green, Conan Doyle worked on the play at the end of 1888 and the beginning of 1889); the characters include John Watson (a doctor in practice in San Francisco) but not Sherlock Holmes.
4122. Sterling Holloway died on Nov. 22. He began his film career in the days of the silents and then played many comic parts in sound films, becoming well known for his raspy voice, which was put to good use by Walt Disney in a long list of animated films. Holloway was the snake in "The Jungle Book" and the stork in "Dumbo" and the Cheshire Cat in "Alice in Wonderland" --and he was easily recognizable as the 1st Gravedigger in "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970).
4123. An additional forecast for the birthday festivities in New York: authors Edward B. Hanna (THE WHITECHAPEL HORRORS) and Daniel D. Victor (THE SEVENTH BULLET) are expected to be signing copies of their books during the open house on Friday at The Mysterious Bookshop (129 West 56th Street).

4124. Complaints about Granada Television's new lust for profits continue in the British press. Granada's executive chairman David Plowright was dismissed earlier this year (May 92 #2), and an article in The Times (Sept. 15), at hand from Chris Redmond, now reports that Plowright's successor Andy Quinn lasted only six months and has in turn been replaced by Charles Allen, "an accountant with no background in TV."
4125. THE BOER CONSPIRACY: A TALE OF WINSTON CHURCHILL AND SHERLOCK HOLMES is a pastiche written by John C. Woods (International Churchill Societies, 1992; 88 pp., \$15.00 postpaid); Holmes and Watson attempt to thwart an assassination of Winston Churchill, who in 1900 had just returned from South Africa and was about to embark on his political career. Available from the ICS Stores, 9807 Willow Brook Circle, Louisville, KY 40223.
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December 1992 #3

4126. "Collectors will agree, I hope, that the noblest mission of an autograph is to make some good book happy," Vincent Starrett once wrote. "Surely no more appropriate insert for a first edition copy of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES can be imagined than a jolly little ANS from Sherlock Holmes to Dr. Watson; or, indeed, since Holmes' letters are rare, from Dr. Watson to Sherlock Holmes. I am always in the market for such souvenirs of greatness, and the catalogues of autograph dealers are almost my favorite reading." This nice thought will be found in the third volume of THE NEW COLOPHON (1950), in Starrett's essay about "Renfrew the Silent: An Uncompleted Research".
4127. Kim Newman's ANNO DRACULA (London: Simon & Schuster Ltd., 1992; 359 pp., £14.99) is a fascinating book, apparently not yet published in the United States, but it surely will be soon. It's an alternate-universe novel, with considerable cross-over: the time is 1888, and Queen Victoria is no longer a widow, having married Vlad Tepes, who is ruling as Prince Consort and as Lord Protector. Many people, including Inspector Lestrade, have willingly become vampires, but not Sherlock Holmes, whose "differences" with the new government have caused his detention in a concentration camp. Nor Mycroft, who with other members of the Diogenes Club is involved in a different kind of resistance effort. And someone is stalking Whitechapel, using a silverplated scalpel in a series of murders of vampire prostitutes (Polly Nichols and Annie Chapman have already perished, and others are endangered). And that's just the first 40 pages . . .
4128. Markus Geisser reports that The Reichenbach Irregulars offer a handsome Sherlockian bookend, 20 cm high, handmade from beechwood, and bearing a "Homage to Sherlock Holmes" medallion on both sides. Orders should be sent to Klaus Worner (Torkelgasse 9, D-6990 Bad Mergentheim, Germany), and the price (in German marks) postpaid (by surface mail) is DM 68.00 in Europe and DM 70.00 elsewhere. Payment is requested in U.S. currency or by bank draft in German marks.
4129. Spotted by Warren Randall in Liz Smith's gossip column in the Nov. 15 issue of Newsday: Walter Annenberg describing Armand Hammer as "the 20th century Professor Moriarty." Annenberg, who has served as ambassador to the Court of St. James, also suggested that "Hammer was the most unscrupulous character and S.O.B. in America."
4130. Warren also is the editor of Prescott's Press, one of the nicer Sherlockian periodicals, and has offered to send a free copy of a back issue to anyone who requests one. He hopes to whet appetites and induce subscriptions, of course, but he also reports that "current subscribers who have the cheek to write in will have their subscriptions extended by one issue." His address is: Prescott's Press, Box 610, Levittown, NY 11756.
4131. The comic book SHERLOCK HOLMES: RETURN OF THE DEVIL #2 (of 2) has reached the shops (\$2.50), from Adventure Comics (a division of Malibu Graphics). Story by Martin Powell and the art by Seppo Mäkinen (the team responsible for the series SCARLET IN GASLIGHT in 1987-88); the publisher's address is 5321 Sterling Center Drive, Westlake Village CA 91361.
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December 1992 #4

4132. Tim O'Connor reports Sherlockian artwork on the front cover of HOOTERS #3 (\$2.95), a thoroughly adults-only comic book from Aircel Comics (a division of Malibu Graphics) with cover art by Tom Smith and contents (non-S'ian) consisting of reprints of four-page strips drawn by Don Lomax for Cavalier in the 1980s. And if your friendly neighborhood comic-book shop isn't this adult, the publisher's address is: 5321 Sterling Center Drive, Westlake Village, CA 91361.
4133. The computer game SHERLOCK HOLMES, CONSULTING DETECTIVE (available only on cartridges and CD-ROM discs) now has floppy-disk competition from THE LOST FILES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE CASE OF THE SERRATED SCALPEL, which has been released by Electronic Arts on a set of disks for MS-DOS machines. It's an interactive graphic mystery with plenty of visuals (animation rather than digitized video) and sound, and you will need a computer with real muscle to play the game: the specifications call for 640K of RAM, a 286-or-better chip, a sound card (such as Soundblaster) and a mouse (both "recommended" and that means that you won't have much fun if you don't have a sound card and a mouse), and a hard disk with 29 available megabytes (the game won't play from the floppies). The game can take more than 50 hours to play (but don't worry: you can stop and then resume where you left off), and the suggested retail price is \$59.95 (it's also available in Britain for £39.99). And Electronic Arts has a toll-free number for orders: 800-245-4525.
4134. Ginger Rogers was the sentimental favorite during the weekend celebration of the 15th annual Kennedy Center Honors this month, according to a report in the Washington Post (Dec. 7), with Walter Cronkite and Art Buchwald on hand as enthusiastic fans. Buchwald said that "The first autograph I ever got was an autographed picture of Ginger Rogers. I was 11 years old. It came in the mail, and I flipped." And Cronkite confessed that "I wasn't that excited about Fred Astaire or the dancing. But--boy--her performance in 'Kitty Foyle' just knocked me out." Ginger Rogers won an Academy Award for best actress in the role of Kitty Foyle in the 1940 film based on the novel by Christopher Morley.
4135. The Simon & Schuster audiocassette THE NEW ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES #18 is in the stores (at \$11.00) with two 1945 Rathbone/Bruce radio shows ("The Speckled Band" and "The Purloined Ruby"). The scripts are by Denis Green and Anthony Boucher, and well up to their traditional high standards, and there is additional commentary by series announcer Harry Bartell (who also provides two interviews with Irene Norton, played by Peggy Webber).
4136. Jim Hillestad (The Toy Soldier, Paradise Falls, RR#1, Box 379, Cresco, PA 18326) offers a set of ten 54mm Sherlock Holmes figurines (from Little Lead Soldiers in England) at \$58.00 postpaid. The figurines are in full color, and extend (left to right) from an irregular to the Hound.
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December 1992 #5

4137. Further to the report (September 92 #2) that Clark Kent (also known as Superman) was the foster son of Martha Hudson, who married Jonathan Kent, some readers have reported that Clark Kent's foster mother's maiden name was Clark. Could be, especially considering how many different alternate universes Superman has inhabited in all those stories over all those years. Does anyone have a working address for Jerry Siegel? Reggie Hudson also notes that the first story about Superman, in the first issue of Action Comics, showed him investigating the murder of Jack Kennedy.
4138. Reported by Ralph Hall: CLUE LITTLE DETECTIVE (from Parker Brothers) is a new game (ages 3-6) with a box showing little boys in Sherlockian costume (and the game piece Little Detective Mustard also is S'ian); selling for \$7.99 at K-Mart and Target stores. Also: a series of "Molehole Mysteries" paperbacks from the Moody Press, written by Barbara Davoll and illustrated by Dennis Hockerman, starring Dusty Mole and Squirrellock
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- Holmes; two titles (so far) at \$7.00 each in religious bookstores are DUSTY MOLE, PRIVATE EYE and SECRET AT MOSSY ROOTS MANSION, and you can join a Molehole Mystery Club and get a S'ian ID card and a free newsletter.
4139. The Curious Collectors of Baker Street held their Gasfitters Ball in South Pasadena on Nov. 7, heralded by an imaginative two-color poster (11 x 17") designed by Todd Tilterud. Copies of the poster, numbered and signed by the artist, are available from Jerry Kegley, 110 El Nido #41, Pasadena, CA 91107 (\$10.00 postpaid).
4140. Ted Schulz has reported that the "Third International Sexennial Sherlockian Seminar and Celebration" scheduled at Stanford University in Aug. 1993 has been, like the Red-Headed League, dissolved. But the Scowlers and Mollie Maguires of San Francisco are now making plans for a 50th anniversary S'ian seminar/workshop/playshop on Aug. 2-7, 1994.
4141. But John Bennett Shaw reports that there will be a different event in Aug. 1993: a Sherlock Holmes conference at Santa Fe Community College, on Aug. 6-7, 1993. A similar gathering in 1991 was well-attended, and featured lectures by many of the local Sherlockians; out-of-town (and even out-of-state) visitors are expected in 1993, and you are invited to contact the Community Services Office, Santa Fe Community College, Box 4187, Santa Fe, NM 87502 (505-438-1251).
4142. Richard Wein and Luci Zahray note that Sherlock Holmes appears prominently on the cover and in the pages of Thorarinn Gunnarsson's DRAGONS ON THE TOWN (New York: Ace Books, 1992; 295 pp., \$4.99). "New York City attracts all kinds of strange people," according to the blurb. "Who would even *notice* Sherlock Holmes, a dragon, and a California ghost girl?"
4143. William Shawn died on Dec. 8. He succeeded Harold Ross as editor of The New Yorker in 1952, and spent the next 35 years carefully maintaining the magazine's well-deserved literary reputation. It was in the Shawn years that authors such as Rachel Carson, John McPhee, J. D. Salinger, and John Updike wrote for the magazine, and when he left The New Yorker an editorial in the N.Y. Times noted that for several generations of writers, "winning the chance to work with William Shawn was like being asked to dance with Fred Astaire." Readers as well as writers will long remember his skills.
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December 1992 #6

4144. The Baker Street Dispatch, now completing its second year of publication, offers a sales list of Sherlockiana, including a one-sheet calendar, rubber stamps, notepads, etc. (Thomas Biblewski, Box 5503, Toledo, OH 43613). And Robert C. Hess (559 Potter Boulevard, Brightwaters NY 11718) has sent his new sales list, with sculpture, magazines, artwork, games, and other S'ian collectibles.
4145. And another additional forecast for the New York birthday festivities: artist Steven Emmons has created a handsome series of full-color "posters that might have been" done in a striking turn-of-the-century style, and his original artwork and prints will be displayed and offered for sale at the Chisholm Gallery on Jan. 5-9 (noon to 7:00 pm) and Jan. 10 (2:00 to 6:00 pm). The gallery is at 43 Greenwich Avenue, between Sixth and Seventh Avenues and below 11th Street (and thus quite convenient for those who are wondering what to do just before or after the Saturdayafternoon cocktail party at 24 Fifth Avenue).
4146. Uncle Ben's Consumer Pulse is an occasional four-page newsletter explaining how best to enjoy rice, and each issue includes a short dialogue between Mrs. Hudson and Sherlock Holmes on matters such as the mystery of how to cook perfect rice. There's no charge, and you can write to Uncle Ben's Inc., Box 740274, Houston, TX 77274.
4147. CRIME FOR CHRISTMAS, edited by Richard Dalby (published in 1991 by Michael O'Mara Books in London) now has an American edition (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1992; 280 pp., \$18.95); the anthology includes "The Blue Carbuncle" and other nicely seasonal crime stories by other authors.
4148. An illustrated Christmas catalog at hand from Joseph M. Maddalena (Profiles in History, 345 North Maple Drive #202, Beverly Hills, CA 90210) (800-942-8856) offers some grand suggestions, including a first edition of GONE WITH THE WIND signed by Margaret Mitchell (\$9,500); a first edition of DRACULA signed by Bram Stoker (\$19,500); a reprint of THE ADVENTURES OF ROBIN HOOD signed by all the major actors in the 1938 movie, including Basil Rathbone (\$15,000); Jane Taylor's HYMNS FOR INFANT MINDS, signed by Lizzie A. Borden (\$6,500), and a page from the manuscript of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (\$35,000).
4149. Reported: SHERLOCK HOLMES CASEBOOK (two audiocassettes) with "The Priory School" and "The Man with the Twisted Lip" read by John Barnes, new from Buckingham Classics (Box 597441, Chicago, IL 60659); \$12.95.
4150. The J. Peterman Company has in the past (September 90 #6) offered a "Baker Street Coat" (with removable shoulder cape) in 100% Melton wool at \$580, and their 146-page Christmas 1992 mail-order catalog is full of interesting clothing and imaginative descriptions. One of the items, on page 129, is described as "the most fiendishly intelligent hat ever designed" (and with additional information written by someone who obviously knows the Canon well). It's a deerstalker, of course, in handwoven Irish tweed, priced at \$64. And their address is 2444 Palumbo Drive, Lexington, KY 40509 (800-231-7341).
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December 1992 #7

4151. Recently reported by Ron De Waal: GREAT TALES OF CRIME & DETECTION, edited by Charles Ardai, with an introduction by Robert Bloch and a foreword by John Lutz (New York: Galahad Books, 1991; 512 pp., \$9.98); contents include "The Man with the Twisted Lip" and Mark Twain's "A Double-Barrelled Detective Story."
4152. Paul Lester's earlier 20-page monograph on SHERLOCK HOLMES IN BIRMINGHAM (May 90 #6) has now been followed by his SHERLOCK HOLMES IN THE MIDLANDS (Studley: Brewin Books, 1992; 124 pp., £9.95). And the new book offers a fine demonstration of the advantages the British have in following in the footsteps of Sherlock Holmes and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: there is much to be learned on the ground, and someone who knows the area well is far more likely to be able to follow the trails. And Lester has done just that, in a carefully-researched and well-illustrated volume that deservedly devotes more pages to ACD than to the Canon. It was in Shropshire that Conan Doyle first found a post as an unpaid medical assistant, and it was in Staffordshire that he investigated the charges against George Edalji, and the book covers many other connections to the region. The cost from the publisher is \$30.00 postpaid (surface post), and their address is Doric House, Church Street, Studley, Warwickshire B80 7LG, England.
4153. Yet another Canonical landmark has closed its doors. The Bow Street Police Station, described as Britain's "oldest cop shop" in the Nov. 1992 issue of the British Travel Letter (kindly forwarded by Betty Pierce), was 238 years old, and on closing day held an open house for the public, a concert by the Metropolitan Police Band in Covent Garden, and (in honor of the Bow Street Runners) a Truncheon Relay Race. Its cells once housed the likes of Oscar Wilde, Lord Haw Haw, and Hugh Boone, but seem to have escaped the attention of authors of Sherlockian travel guides.
4154. HOLMES, SWEET HOLMES is a new one-act comedy written by Jim Sperinck, about the bewildered Bennington-Smythes, who can't quite find peace and quiet in their ground-floor flat at 221 Baker Street. Sherlock Holmes does not make an appearance, but he has more than enough to do offstage. The cost of the script is £3.00 postpaid (surface mail); payment in sterling preferred, but dollar checks accepted, and you can order from Jasper Publishing, 1 Broad Street, Hemel Hempstead, Herts. HP2 5BW, England.
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4155. British publishers continue to issue selections from the Canon edited for younger readers, and Macmillan has a long list of titles in their "Stories to Remember" series. The latest is THE GREATEST TALES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, with four stories (Spec/Abbe/RedH/SixN) adapted by Kerry Edwards, and with a glossary (83 pp., £2.50).
4156. Videotaper alert (for those who haven't taped it already): Peter Cushing's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1959) will air on The Movie Channel on Jan. 4, 14, and 29.
4157. It's not a new book, but it is well worth watching for: PLAYS BY WILLIAM HOOKER GILLETTE, edited by Rosemary Cullen and Don B. Wilmeth (Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press, 1983; 276 pp.), has scripts of "All the Comforts of Home", "Secret Service", and "Sherlock Holmes", and an introduction that offers an excellent survey of Gillette's life and career.

December 1992 #8

4158. THEY NEVER SAID IT: A BOOK OF FAKE QUOTES, MISQUOTES, AND MISLEADING ATTRIBUTIONS, by Paul F. Boller, Jr., and John George (New York: Oxford University Press, 1989; 159 pp., \$6.95), is great fun to browse in, and does not neglect Sherlock Holmes (noting that it was Basil Rathbone, not Conan Doyle, who made the line, "Elementary, my dear Watson" so much a part of our language). There are misquotations in the Canon, of course, one of the misquoters being Sherlock Holmes himself ("They say that genius is an infinite capacity for taking pains"). Holmes was only one of many who use that quote, which usually is attributed to Thomas Carlyle and cited from his biography of Frederick the Great. William S. Baring-Gould reports in THE ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES what Carlyle actually wrote (see annotation 87 in "A Study in Scarlet"), and this is just the sort of thing that Bill Baring-Gould did so well. He certainly relied on the scholarship of his fellow-Sherlockians, but there is much of Bill himself in the book, not only in the commentary but also in the annotations. The ANNOTATED is in the bookshops now, with a list price of \$29.95 (but often discounted to \$19.95), and it is one of the very best ways there is to see how much fun so many people have had for so many years in the world of Sherlock Holmes.
4159. It's not the only way, of course. Another way is to read The Baker Street Journal, which has now completed its 42nd year of presenting the very best of Sherlockian scholarship and wit and intelligence. Philip Shreffler has now completed his eighth year as editor of the BSJ, and has now turned the editor's chair and green eyeshade and whatever over to Bill Cochran. It is all too common at this point to suggest that someone's shoes will be hard to fill (perhaps a bit inappropriate when referring to an editorial chair), but we owe much to Philip for all the work that is all too often invisible to those who aren't quite sure just what it is that an editor really does.
4160. For many of the early years the BSJ was almost the only way to participate in or merely watch the game that Sherlockians play. That's no longer true, since there are now many other periodicals in which our game is on display.
4161. But none in which it will be seen so well. Those few readers of this newsletter who do not subscribe to the BSJ may (well, should, really) send your checks (\$17.50 domestic or \$20.00 foreign) to The Baker Street Journal, Box 465, Hanover, PA 17331.
4162. The New Yorker, under new management, is now rather more colorful than it used to be, but it continues to give excellent coverage to what's available for Christmas presents. "On and Off the Avenue" (Nov. 30) noted an "anklelength Sherlock Holmes-style fir-green velvet wrapper for women, trimmed with green silk piping and with white quilted satin collar and cuffs," for \$895 at Leron (750 Madison Avenue at 65th). And Andy Logan (who for many years has reported on politics at City Hall) noted in "Toys of the Times" (Dec. 7) that A Tisket a Tasket (212-967-9366) offers toy gift baskets for "rich kids of all ages," including a Sherlock basket (\$200) with a handmade Sherlock marionette, a hardcover Sherlock book, a 221B Baker Street board game, a supply of English tea, and some cookies (or Irish whiskey cake, if it's going to an adult). And Tenzing & Pema (956 Madison Avenue at 75th) offers sets of "Authors" card games, including one for "Mystery Authors" with Conan Doyle shown on the box, priced quite reasonably at \$2.95.

January 1993 #1

4163. There have been many truly unusual Sherlockian productions in the performing arts, including a presentation of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" in dance, mime, and music by the National Tap Dance Company of Canada in 1987. It is perhaps only appropriate that the same story, adapted into Cantonese, was presented by the Hong Kong Academy of Performing Arts at the Academy Studio Theatre in Hong Kong in December, when by pleasant coincidence Mike and Mary Ann Whelan were in Hong Kong and attended one of the seven performances of the play. Mike reports that they were able to follow most of the plot, and that in this production the Hound was actually seen on stage, and performed well.
4164. Pierre Culliford died on Dec. 24. He was a Belgian cartoonist who used the pen name "Peyo" and was best known as the inventor of the Smurfs, the small blue creatures who have starred in more than 250 animations and who at one time were getting better Nielsen ratings on Saturday mornings than "Dallas" did in prime time. The animations are produced by Hanna-Barbera, and in an 11-minute segment titled "The Village Vandal" you will find Brainsy Smurf in appropriate costume as Sherlock Smurf.
4165. Our new "Happy New Year!" stamp honors the oriental year of the rooster (that's the lunar year 4691), and it is unfortunately true that the Canon contains no mention of a rooster. But perhaps we can stretch things a bit to include: "'It is Lestrade's little cock-a-doodle of victory,' Holmes answered, with a bitter smile." (Norw)
4166. It appears that no one has attempted to find Ray Hendrickson's translation of the Musgrave Ritual into Greek in the Sept. 1966 issue of the BSJ (April 92 #8). Well, at least no one has pointed out that it isn't to be found in that issue. But it *will* be found on p. 183 of the July 1958 issue.
4167. Sorry about that: Sterling Holloway did die on Nov. 22 (December 92 #2), and he did indeed play all those fine roles in all those fine Disney films, but he was not easily recognizable as the 1st Gravedigger in "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970). That actor, as Jon Lellenberg has observed, was Stanley Holloway.
4168. Recommended by Vivian Heisler: VALLEY OF FEAR, read by Christopher Lee on a two-audiocassette set from Listen for Pleasure. "Lee makes it sound like an entire cast!"
4169. Remsen Ten Eyck Schenck ("The Tarleton Murders") died in Mar. 1992. He was an expert chemist by profession, and his avocations included beekeeping and cryptanalysis, and his contributions to our literature reflected all three interests. He received his Investiture in 1954, and his most widely-known work was his completion of the alphabet of the dancing men, first published in the Apr. 1955 issue of the BSJ, and still used by many Sherlockians. He also was responsible for a delightful bibliohoax: THE PRACTICAL HANDBOOK OF BEE CULTURE, dated 1911 and published in an edition so limited that the few fortunate recipients were warned not to reveal the source of what still is one of the rarest and most imaginative Sherlockian books.

January 1993 #2

4170. The birthday festivities in New York were (as usual) enjoyable, and entertaining. The informal events on Thursday included the Annual Christopher Morley Walk, a meeting of The Pawky Humorists, and the traditional (it only takes two) Aunt Clara Sing at O'Lunney's Steak House. Friday started

- with the Mrs. Hudson Breakfast at the Hotel Algonquin and continued with the William Gillette Luncheon at the Old Homestead, where Mr. Gillette (impersonated by Tyke Niver) offered a warm welcome, and Paul Singleton and Andrew and Sarah Montague Joffe performed an excerpt from the Gillette play "Clarice". And Otto Penzler offered hospitality (and S'ian books) at his open house at the Mysterious Bookshop.
4171. The Baker Street Irregulars gathered at 24 Fifth Avenue, where *The* Woman was Mary Ann Bradley Whelan, who was toasted by Al Rosenblatt during the pre-dinner cocktail party and then departed to dine at the National Arts Club with other ladies who have received that honor. And there were other ladies on hand, of course, and one member of the BSI who didn't attend last year, and who obviously doesn't read either the BSI or this newsletter, and who quietly asked me whether "something had changed."
4172. The agenda included the usual toasts and other traditions (with one signal departure, when Steve Rothman toasted the second coming of Watson's first wife, followed by Bob Katz's promise of a rebuttal next year), Ralph Hall's detailed and expert discussion of Canonical insects, Joe Fink's account of the rise and fall of Prof. James Moriarty, and a tribute by Bob Mangler and Bob Hahn to Vincent Starrett.
4173. And Irregular Shillings and Investitures were awarded to Jean-Pierre Cagnat ("The Bank of France"), Fred Levin ("Abe Slaney"), Eve Titus ("Young Master Rucastle"), Shirley Dickensheet ("Ivy Douglas"), Joe Eckrich ("The Stockbroker's Clerk"), and Yuichi Hirayama ("The Japanese Vase"). And the Queen Victoria Medal was presented to Philip Shreffler, in recognition of all his hard work as editor of The Baker Street Journal.
4174. The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes also dined on Friday evening, at Le Max, where the agenda included Karen Johnson's explanation of the language of the fan, Francine and Wayne Swift's joint presentation on how Sherlock Holmes' attitude toward the fair sex changed as he grew older, and Susan Diamond's revelation that the Master sired the King (in close association with Wallis Simpson, their issue being Elvis Presley). ASH investitures, accompanied by newly-created and highly artistic certificates decorated by Linda Crane, were awarded to Susan Diamond ("Lone Star"), Marilynne McKay ("The Great Dermatologist"), Cate Pfeifer ("Mary Morstan"), Maryellen Utecht ("The Countess of Morcar"), and Dorothy Stix (to be announced).
4175. On Saturday morning the huckster room at the Algonquin was well attended, and all of the participants in the Rache Subway Rally survived the event (according to its organizer Don Izban). The Saturday-afternoon cocktail party at 24 Fifth Avenue also was well attended, and the agenda included poetic reports by Al Rosenblatt and Ev Herzog on the Friday-night dinners, an auction on behalf of the Dr. John H. Watson Fund, and a spirited reading by Philip Brogdon of one of the fine Sherlockian poems written by the late J. W. Sovine. And the Chisholm Gallery stayed open after the party, so that visitors could view Steven Emmons' attractive Sherlockian posters.

January 1993 #3

4176. The Dr. John H. Watson Fund offers financial assistance to all Sherlockians (membership in the BSI or the ASH is not required) who might otherwise be unable to participate in the weekend's festivities. A carefully anonymous John H. Watson presides over the fund and welcomes contributions, which can be made by check payable to John H. Watson and mailed (without return address on the envelope) to Dr. Watson, c/o Thomas L. Stix, Jr., who will happily forward the checks unopened. Dr. Watson will acknowledge your generosity, and Tom's address is 34 Pierson Avenue, Norwood, NJ 07648.
4177. Some interesting material was on display and on offer in the hucksters' room on Saturday morning, as always, including "antique character photoartifacts" created by Kevin Gordon; they are Sherlockian, imaginative, decorative, and difficult to describe (such as the King of Bohemia's note to Holmes mounted and framed with a photograph of someone who might well have been the King of Bohemia). Mr. Gordon offers an illustrated flier, and his address is 340 West 89th Street, New York, NY 10024-2144).
4178. Jon Lellenberg has forwarded a copy of a letter to the Edinburgh Evening News from Edinburgh district councillor James S. Tait, whose complaint in 1987 that the city had been derelict in failing to honor one of her famous sons led eventually to the installation of a statue of Sherlock Holmes in Edinburgh. Mr. Tait's new campaign seeks public support for his proposal to the district council for a permanent exhibition/museum devoted to the life and work of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.
4179. Also an item from the [London] Sunday Mirror with the headline "Sherlock reaches sexy new peaks" and a lead that states that "Sherlock Holmes is in for a raunchy image change." Sherlock Holmes is described as "a dark and sexy secret service agent serving Her Majesty the Queen" in a new novel by "Twin Peaks" co-creator Mark Frost, and LIST OF SEVEN has been snapped up for a film. The book is reported to center on how Arthur Conan Doyle met the man who inspired him to write the Victorian classic.
4180. The new movie "Chaplin" (directed by Richard Attenborough and with Robert Downey, Jr., as Charlie Chaplin) is an excellent film, but it skips from Chaplin's childhood to his going to work for Fred Karno, and thus has no mention of Chaplin's acting with William Gillette in "Sherlock Holmes".
4181. Further to the videotaper alert (November 92 #4) about "In Search of...Sherlock Holmes" on A&E cable on Dec. 31: it didn't air here, or anywhere else. But it may, some day, somewhere... In the meantime, Richard Wein reports that it can be found at Blockbuster video shops (in the documentary section) as one of three programs on a cassette called "In Search of Jack the Ripper".
4182. Three collections of Sherlockiana written by members of The Speckled Band of Boston are still available, from J. Devereux deGozzaldi, Graystone Farm, 79 Frankland Road, Hopkinton, MA 01748 (all prices postpaid): THE FOURTH CAB (1976) and THE BEST OF THE CABS (1980) in paper (\$8.00 each), and THE FIFTH CAB (1988) in paper (\$15.00). Also available are Mark Faverman's handsome full-color poster honoring the 50th anniversary of the Band in 1990 (\$12.50), the society's gold-washed sterling pin (#\$35.00), and the society's silk necktie in maroon or navy blue (\$20.00 or two for \$35.00).

January 1993 #4

4183. Tyke Niver reports that L. L. Bean (800-221-4221) advertises a "Classic Bread Mix and Baker" kit (item F376KL) for \$26.50, and that the loaf pan is made by the Henry Watson Pottery in England (founded 1800). Tyke suggests that Henry certainly might be related to John H., and having tried the kit, attests that the bread is delicious.
4184. CASES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE ADVENTURE OF THE COPPER BEECHES (\$2.50) is in the comic-book shops; it's the fourth issue in the series from Tome Press (a division of Caliber Press), with a reprint of Daniel Day's artwork from 1987. Tome's address is 621-B South Main Street, Plymouth, MI 48170.
4185. The Simon & Schuster audiocassette THE NEW ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES #19 (\$11.00) has two more of the Rathbone/Bruce radio shows ("The Book of Tobit" and "Murder Beyond the Mountains"), with scripts by Denis Green and Anthony Boucher ("The Book of Tobit" was Boucher's first contribution to the series). Series announcer Harry Bartell provides new introductions, and two interviews with Mycroft Holmes (played by Elliott Reid).
4186. The twelfth annual Sherlock Holmes/Conan Doyle Symposium at Wright State University in Dayton will be held on Mar. 13-14, 1993. Contact: Alvin E. Rodin, 3041 Maginn Drive, Beavercreek, OH 45385.

4187. The Serpentine Muse is the quarterly journal published by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes, and always of interest. Joe Fink's inspired report on "The Pregnancy of Irene Adler" will be found in the current issue (winter 1992), and subscriptions cost \$10.00 a year, from Evelyn A. Herzog, 360 West 21st Street #5-A, New York, NY 10011-3310.
4188. And there's a report from Image Entertainment that "The Baskerville Curse" (the animation with the voice of Peter O'Toole as Holmes) is now available on laserdisc (suggested retail \$24.95).
4189. The seventh volume of Beeman's Christmas Annual is available (the cost is \$10.00 postpaid, and you can order from The Occupants of the Empty House, 105 Wilcox, Zeigler, IL 62999); published as a well-deserved tribute to Bartlett D. Simms, the 30-page booklet has reminiscences about Bart from some of his friends, reprints of some of his own scholarship, and a short pastiche by Sundar Narayan.
4190. "The Master Blackmailer" (Granada's two-hour version of "Charles Augustus Milverton") may not be broadcast on "Mystery!" on PBS-TV on Mar. 25, if it turns out to be more than a mere rumor that six new "Inspector Morse" shows will air starting on that date. The rest of the rumor is that "The Master Blackmailer" will be broadcast in two parts in May.
4191. AMUSING, HOLMES! is a collection of Sherlockian humor perpetrated by Norman M. Davis, and unfortunately there are only 123 pages in the book. One can judge how good it is by the fact that John Bennett Shaw, in his Foreword, readily admits that he has read the book twice (and anyone who has visited John's library knows that he doesn't have time to read many books more than once). Or you can try to read aloud "Introducing Sherlock Holmes?" without laughing. Recommended. \$14.95 postpaid (or \$18.00 outside the U.S.) from the Grosvenor Square Press, 2215 Davis Street, Blue Island, IL 60406.

January 1993 #5

4192. Pat Ward has sent an article from The Economist (Jan. 16) with more news on a government proposal to close St. Bartholomew's Hospital (November 92 #6). It appears that Bart's is the hospital-of-choice of the upper classes, and that Prime Minister Major is wavering on the issue, "worried by criticism from loyal Tories and stung by the 1.5 million signatures which have arrived in Downing Street."
4193. Pat also reports that John Thaw is now a C.B.E. (Commander of the British Empire. He played Jonathan Small in Granada's "The Sign of Four" and the title role in "Inspector Morse" (and insists that the series now on the air in Britain will be his last as Morse). Roy Marsden also is insisting that he has filmed his last show as Adam Dalgliesh.
4194. Joseph J. Eckrich (7793 Keswick Place, St. Louis, MO 63119) is continuing to send monthly price lists of offers from his Sherlockian collection; if you would like to receive the lists, you need only write to Joe.
4195. Sorry about that: the name of the artist who designed the imaginative twocolor poster (11 x 17") for the Gasfitters Ball in Pasadena (December 92 #2) is Todd V. Titterud. But I got the price and the address right: copies of the poster, numbered and signed by the artist, are available from Jerry Kegley, 110 El Nido #41, Pasadena, CA 91107 (\$10.00 postpaid).
4196. Parodies of the Rathbone/Bruce films aren't seen all that often, but the 30-minute ABC-TV series "Doogie Howser, M.D." offered one on Jan. 20, with Neil Patrick Harris (Doogie) and Max Casella (Vinnie) Holmes and Watson in a black-and-white echo of "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (1939). It will surely repeat later in the season, and is worth watching for (Holmes and Watson are mentioned in the TV Guide listing).
4197. "In any case, at least in fiction, some collectors may not necessarily be of the finest moral character: the more villainous of both Sherlock Holmes' and Father Brown's adversaries tended to be avid collectors." Spotted by Al Rosenblatt in a "Special Report on Fine Arts and Specie Insurance: Careful Handling Required for Intriguing 'Collectibles'" in Lloyds List (Aug. 18, 1992).
4198. Another plug for the facsimile of the manuscript of "The Adventure of the Lion's Mane" published by the City of Westminster and The Sherlock Holmes Society of London (September 92 #6). This story offers more opportunities than most to see an author change his mind, and some unpublished clues as to the location of Holmes' retirement villa, and the afterword by Richard Lancelyn Green's is a helpful guide to this sort of research. Available in a deluxe edition (\$200) and a standard edition (\$60) from Sherlock Holmes Facsimile, Marylebone Library, Marylebone Road, London NW1 5PS, England (checks should be payable to City of Westminster).
4199. The New York bookshop Books of Wonder is continuing its series of classics for children in well-illustrated editions (in 1988 they reissued THE WHITE COMPANY with splendid artwork by N. C. Wyeth), and their latest title is THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, with twelve new full-color illustrations by the famous artist Barry Moser and an afterword by Peter Glassman (New York: Books of Wonder/William Morrow, 1992; 342 pp., \$20.00).

January 1993 #6

4200. One of the nicest features of Chris Steinbrunner's THE FILMS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (December 91 #5) is his enthusiasm for and enjoyment of the films he wrote about, and the splendid way in which he shared that enthusiasm and enjoyment. And Roger Johnson's new 'READY WHEN YOU ARE, MR. RATHBONE' is a similar appreciation of the Universal series. Subtitled as a review of those films, it is far more than that, offering a splendid look at the grand fun the series has given many generations of Sherlockians. It is a nicely-illustrated 48-page pamphlet, and costs £6.00 or \$12.00 (dollar payments in cash, please) postpaid from David Stuart Davies, Overdale, 69 Greenhead Road, Huddersfield, W. Yorks. HD1 3ER, England.
4201. David L. Hammer's THE WORTH OF THE GAME: BEING A FINAL TRAVEL GUIDE TO THE ENGLAND OF SHERLOCK HOLMES is, one hopes, mistitled. Not that the game is not worth this sort of enthusiastic pursuit, but rather because his books are so much fun to read. He has led us through England thrice, now, and through North America once, and it will be a pity if his readers now must wait until he tours the rest of the world. Or changes his mind about some of the identifications he has made in England. THE WORTH OF THE GAME is written with style, humor, and erudition, and is a grand example of how one can be a Sherlockian traveler, either on the ground or through the eyes of an author who long ago learned to observe what's important. The book has 371 pp. in paper covers, and costs \$21.70 postpaid from the Gasogene Press, Box 1041, Dubuque, IA 52001-1041.
4202. Schlosser's (attn: John Hickman, 4833 Bethesda Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20814) offers an illustrated sales list of Sherlockiana: statues, canes, teapots, steins, chess sets, ceramic wall masks, tankards, Royal Doulton jugs, and much more.
4203. Fred Fondren's play "Sherlock Holmes and the Warburton Conspiracy" is being performed off-off-Broadway through Feb. 27 at the Prometheus Theatre (239 East 5th Street in New York) (212-477-8689); TH-SA 8:00 pm and SU 7:00 pm.
4204. You might ask your doctor to give you the Jan. 1993 issue of MD magazine, spotted by Gideon Hill, which has a long essay by editor-in-chief Gerald Weissmann on Conan Doyle and Holmes, and a reprint of Joseph Bell's review of THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES in The Bookman.
4205. According to my records, you all now should have my seasonal souvenir for 1993 (WHERE DID HE LIVE, THEN?), received during the birthday festivities in New York, or since, or with this mailing. If I missed someone, please let me know.
4206. And a few commercials: the revised 15-page list of Investitured Irregulars, Two-Shilling Awards, *The* Women, and the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes costs \$1.10 postpaid. The 67-page list of 610 Sherlockian societies, with names and addresses for contacts for the 375 active societies, costs

\$3.55 postpaid. A run of address labels for 323 individual contacts (recommended if you wish to avoid making duplicate mailings to people who are contacts for more than one society) costs \$10.25 postpaid. Checks payable to Peter E. Blau, please.

February 1993 #1

4207. David Stuart Davies reports, via Roger Johnson, that Theme Publications, in financial difficulties last year, have found a buyer and expect to publish the next issue of *The Sherlock Holmes Gazette* this spring, with Elizabeth Wiggins continuing as editor.
4208. If you would like to have even more gossip from Britain, Roger Johnson does an excellent job in *The District Messenger*, publishing two or four pages at approximately monthly intervals. The cost is \$10.00 for twelve issues sent by airmail, and you can send dollar checks (payable to Jean Upton) to Roger Johnson, Mole End, 41 Sandford Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 6DE, England.
4209. Andy Peck reports a new addition to the list of non-Sherlockian books with Sherlockian titles: *THE EMPTY HOUSE*, by Rosamunde Pilcher. According to a book-club's newsletter blurb, "A young widow returns to Cornwall to rent a battered seaside cottage for her children and herself...and to discover if she can fill an empty house with love."
4210. The Sherlock Holmes Memorabilia Company (230 Baker Street, London NW1 5RT, England) has a new flier, illustrated in full color, showing their S'ian teapots, jugs, Zippo lighters, pocket cups, card cases, playing cards, etc.
4211. A new commemorative in our Black Heritage series honors Percy Lavon Julian, industrial chemist who developed a successful treatment for glaucoma in 1935. And his extensive research on the soybean yielded a weatherproof covering for battleships, a male sex hormone, and Aero-Foam (used in fire extinguishers). His glaucoma treatment utilized the synthesis of physostigmine (which in its natural form has been suggested by George Koelle Ruthann Stetak as a candidate for the poison used by Jefferson Hope in "A Study in Scarlet").
4212. Tom Kowols reports that the Chicago Tribune reports that Paramount plans to issue "The Hound of the Baskervilles" and "The Sign of Four" on videocassettes in 1993, at \$60.00 each. No details available, but it might be safe to assume that these will be the Ian Richardson television films that ran on HBO in 1983.
4213. "Sherlock Holmes: Victorian Sleuth to Modern Hero" is the title of the conference that will be held at Bennington College in Vermont on June 23-26, 1994, under the sponsorship of The Baker Street Breakfast Club, Bennington College, and the Vermont Council on the Humanities. Copies of the call for papers, which also serves as a preliminary announcement, are available from Joseph A. Cutshall King, Box 304, North Bennington, VT 05257.
4214. Sorry about that: the item (December 92 #4) about the 54-mm full-color Sherlock Holmes figurines from Little Lead Soldiers in England should have said that there are two sets: one with Holmes and five other nice people, and another with Moriarty and five other not-so-nice people. The sets cost \$58.00 each (postpaid), from Jim Hillestad (The Toy Soldier, Paradise Falls, RR #1, Box 379, Cresco, PA 19326); if you would like to see high-quality photographs of the figurines, just send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Jim.
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February 1993 #2

4215. At hand from Jon Lellenberg is an article from the [Edinburgh] Scotsman (Dec. 29, 1992), in which Victor Price reported on his discovery, while attending a small music festival in Feldkirch, that Arthur Conan Doyle studied for a year at the Stella Matutina when he was 16 years old. The school is now a music conservatory, and local Holmes enthusiasts are planning to install a plaque honoring Conan Doyle, hoping "to lure to their town members of the Sherlock Holmes Society visiting the nearly Fall of Reichenbach."
4216. And a note from the Reading Evening Post (Jan. 6) about a visit by a party of Holmesians led by Philip Weller to Reading to visit the city's historic sites, such as the Forbury Gardens Lion, which commemorates the 1880 battle of Maiwand, in which Dr. Watson was wounded. And according to the Evening Post, "the stories say he was then flown back to Britain, where he teamed up with Holmes to form the famous detective duo."
4217. And an article from *The Guardian* (Jan. 7) about the annual report from the Public Lending Right Office, which keeps track of payments due to authors whose books are borrowed from public libraries (authors now receive 1.86p for each library loan up to a maximum of £6,000). The five most-borrowed authors last year were: Catherine Cookson, Agatha Christie, Danielle Steel, Dick Francis, and Ruth Rendell. The list of "classic authors" (presumably those dead long enough not to collect payments) is headed by Thomas Hardy, followed by Tolkien, Dickens, Milne, Austen, Lawrence, Trollope, Kipling, Orwell, and Conan Doyle.
4218. And who is Catherine Cookson? And what sort of books does she write, to be the most-borrowed author in Britain? She writes romantic novels, nearly a hundred of them since 1955.
4219. In other news from Britain, reports of an outbreak of horse mutilations in Hampshire and Buckinghamshire have appeared in the American press as well: at least 30 horses have been slashed and sexually abused in the past year, and British papers have noted the case of George Edalji, and the part that Conan Doyle played in helping to exonerate Edalji.
4220. Reported by John Baesch: the latest mail-order catalog from the BBC offers *THE MODERN SHERLOCK HOLMES* (London: Broadside Books, 1991; 96 pp. £14.95). The book is based on a two part series that was broadcast by the BBC World Service in 1991, and discusses the advances made in modern forensic science (with illustrations by Sidney Paget and modern artists). Their address is: BBC World Service Mail Order, Box 76, Bush House, London WC2B 4PH, England; shipping costs extra, and they take plastic.
4221. "Ship in a Bottle" aired on "Star Trek: The Next Generation" almost everywhere at the end of January, and if you didn't see it, it's worth watching for when it repeats. The program opened with Data as Holmes and Geordi as Watson on the holodeck, and brought Moriarty (again played by Daniel Davis) back from computer memory in an imaginative script by Rene Echevarria. If holodeck-engineer Lt. Barclay seemed familiar, that was Dwight Schultz, who was Maj. Alistair Ross on stage in "The Crucifer of Blood" (1978), and then played Bassick in Langella's "Sherlock Holmes" on HBO (1981) and "Howling Mad" Murdoch in "The A Team" on NBC.
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February 1993 #3

4222. Bruce B. Newhall's three-act musical comedy "Sheerluck" had its premiere in Apr. 1980 at the Pleasant Ridge Presbyterian Youth Church in Cincinnati, and it's a pleasant vehicle for youthful Sherlockian actors. It has been updated twice, most recently in 1991 when it was published. The script costs \$4.25 and the music \$10.00 (both prices include shipping), and the performance royalty is \$25.00. Mr. Newhall's address is 8470 Denallen Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45255-2601.
4223. The fifth annual Canonical Convocation and Caper in Door County, Wis., will be held on Sept. 17-19, 1993. If you would like to be on the mailing list, write to Jane Richardson, 3456 Exchange Road, Crete, IL 60417.
4224. Plan ahead: the third annual Mid-Atlantic Mystery Book Fair and Convention will be held in Philadelphia on Nov. 12-14, 1993. Membership is limited to 350, full registration costs \$40.00, and you can contact Deen and Jay Kogan at Detecto-Mysterioso Books, 507 South 8th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147.
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4225. Paul H. Brundage (2632 Central Court, Union City, CA 94587-3128) publishes an occasional newsletter called The Appledore Tower, available in return for your name and address and a first-class-postage stamp.
4226. Bouchercon XXIII in Toronto in Oct. 1992 had a Sherlockian event: "Holmage to Sherlock" was a one-hour session featuring L. B. Greenwood discussing Holmes, Conan Doyle, and her own novel-length pastiches. An audiocassette of the session (#45) is available for \$8.75 postpaid from On Site Taping, 29318 Quail Run, Agoura Hills, CA 91301.
4227. Richard Tuttle has supplied names and addresses of some companies that sell movie posters and stills (originals or reproductions): Film Favorites, Box 133, Canton, OK 73724; Jerry Ohlinger Movie Materials Store, 242 West 14th Street, New York, NY 10011; Theater Poster Exchange, Box 27621, Memphis, TN 38127; and Movie Star News, 134 West 18th Street, New York, NY 10011.
4228. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London offers copies of the guidebooks for its weekend excursions in 1991 (THE TRI-METALLIC QUESTION) and 1992 (HOUND AND HORSE) for \$33.00 each (checks payable to The Sherlock Holmes Society of London); the books are fine collections of essays and articles related to the areas toured (Winchester and Dartmoor). And Prudence Moran Swift's pamphlet THE HOUND'S TALE is a more light-hearted souvenir of the Dartmoor excursion, and costs \$7.00 (checks payable to Francine Swift). All prices postpaid, and orders can be sent to Francine and Wayne Swift, 4622 Morgan Drive, Chevy Chase, MD 20815-5315.
4229. Peter J. Crupe (1533 64th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11219-5709) offers the lapel pin for The Montague Street Lodgers (black and red on white, with gold trim) for \$7.00 postpaid.
4230. Peter also reports that Conan Doyle's story "The New Catacomb" is included in HIGH ADVENTURE, edited by Cynthia Manson and Charles Ardai (New York: Barnes and Noble, 1992; \$9.98). Also that Movieline (1141 South Beverly Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90035) offers a set of twelve 11 x 14" color prints from "Star Trek: The Next Generation" with one showing Data in Sherlockian costume; \$14.45 postpaid, and their toll-free number is 800-521-1951.

February 1993 #4

4231. Barbara and Christopher Roden are considering the possibility of establishing an Amateur Publishing Association (APA) devoted to informal discussion of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's writings, both Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian, with six mailings a year and a limit of 25 members in the Conan Doyle APA. Additional information is available from the Rodens at (Ashcroft, 2 Abbottsford Drive, Penyffordd, Chester CH4 0JG, England).
4232. William Pšne du Bois died on Feb. 5. He was a well-known author and illustrator of children's books, winning a Newberry Award for THE TWENTY-ONE BALLOONS in 1948, and the impressive strength and delightful humor of his artwork were an important part of the new edition of Conan Doyle's THE POISON BELT published by Macmillan in 1964.
4233. Reported by Dick Lesh: Conan Doyle's short story "How It Happened" is reprinted in CAR TALES, edited by Jane Gottlieb (New York: Viking, 1991; 102 pp.) item #900893 in the mail-order catalog from Edward Hamilton, Falls Village, CT 06031-5000; \$3.95 plus shipping.
4234. Another laserdisc reported: "Chip 'n' Dale: Danger Rangers /Super Sleuths" from Walt Disney Home Video, with the 1989 television animation "Pound of the Baskervilles".
4235. David R. McCallister, who founded The Baker Street Bar Association in 1991, prepared a key-chain fob as a souvenir for the birthday weekend this year, and offers them to souvenir-hunters; just send \$0.25 and an SASE to David at 8142 Quail Hollow Boulevard, Wesley Chapel, FL 33544.
4236. Granada's two-hour "The Last Vampyre" aired in Britain on Jan. 27, and the two-hour "The Mistress of Glaven" (based on "The Noble Bachelor") on Feb. 3. According to one of our distant correspondents, the two shows "are, in a word, garbage. In two words, complete trash. In three words, waste of time." But there was some praise for Edward Hardwicke, who in the first broadcast "seemed to be the only person who remembered he was in a Holmes story, and at times it was as if he was acting in a completely different show. I wish Granada had shown more of whatever it was he was in."
4237. C. Bryan Gassner, who presides over The Shadows of the Elm at the Arroyo del Oso Elementary School in Albuquerque, N.M., assisted her students in presenting half-hour adaptations of "The Norwood Builder" (in 1991) and "Charles Augustus Milverton" (in 1992). The plays were nicely done, and are available on videocassettes (\$7.50 each or \$12.00 for both shows on one cassette, postpaid), with an assembly of out-takes from both shows included at no additional charge. And The Shadows of the Elm are now hard at work on this year's play ("The Red-Headed League"). Mrs. Gassner's address is: 922 Washington Street SE, Albuquerque, NM 87108).
4238. The Arthur Conan Doyle Society is planning a Doylean weekend in Toronto in 1994; if you want additional details, please contact the Society (Ashcroft, 2 Abbottsford Drive, Penyffordd, Chester CH4 0JG, England). Also available from the Society are back issues of their journal A.C.D. (\$10.00 each for the first five issues, and \$15.00 for the sixth, postpaid by surface mail).

February 1993 #5

4239. Philip Weller, managing director of The Franco-Midland Hardware Company, reports in the latest issue of The Baker Street Pillar Box that the owner of Groombridge Place will open its gardens to the public this year. Groombridge, acknowledged by Conan Doyle to have inspired the moated manor house of Birlstone (Sir Arthur not only visited Groombridge, but was accused of stealing its ghost), can also be seen to good advantage in the Peter Greenaway film "The Draughtsman's Contract" (1983).
4240. And George Welch reports, via Roger Johnson, that the British post office plans to issue a set of stamps honoring Sherlock Holmes in 1994.
4241. Check your local comic-book shops for SHERLOCK HOLMES IN THE CURIOUS CASE OF THE VANISHING VILLAIN, discovered by Tim O'Connor, with story by Gordon Rennie and colorful artwork by Woodrow Phoenix. The cover price is \$4.50, and the publisher is Tundra (The Flag Store, Jubilee Yard, Queen Elizabeth Street, London SE1 2LP, England). Part of the story was published earlier in the Dec. 1991 issue of Blast! (a rather short-lived British comic book), and the new comic book is well worth some searching: the imaginative story begins with Dr. Henry Jekyll asking Sherlock Holmes' help in finding Edward Hyde, who has vanished from the pages of Robert Louis Stevenson's book.
4242. In 1991 Canada issued a set of four stamps honoring doctors, and one of them was Dr. Harold R. Griffith (1894-1985), who is noted for being the first to use curare as an anesthetic during surgery. And thanks to Patrick Campbell, here's what the stamp looked like; this may be as close as we ever get to a stamp showing curare ("If the child were pricked with one of those arrows dipped in curare or some other devilish drug, it would mean death if the venom were not sucked out.").
4243. Paul C. Merz (Sandpiper Books, Box 1273, Long Beach, WA 98631) has issued a new catalog with a fine section of Sherlockiana, including thoroughly rare items such as four issues of Maximilian Lucke's parodies about HERR LOCK SHOLMES DER AMATEUR DETECTIV (published in German in Oregon in 1917//1921) and a copy of the G. Washington Coffee edition of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES in the company's original cardboard mailer. Many items will surely have been sold by the time you read this, but you might want to ask for a copy of Paul's next catalog.

4244. Carolyn and Joel Senter (Classic Specialties, Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219) offer a new catalog of Sherlockiana (in-print books and scripts, audiocassettes, bookmarks, photographs of Rathbone and Brett). Edward C. Rochette (Sherlock, Stock & Barrel, Box 8261, Colorado Springs, CO 80933-8261) also has a new catalog of S'ian collectibles (bookends, sculpture, lapel pins, etc.).
4245. Videotaper alert: "The Lost World" (1925) will air on cable on AMC on Mar. 13 at 5:00 am. This is the version that stars Wallace Beery as Challenger, with grand stop-motion dinosaurs by Willis H. O'Brien (who went on to much bigger things in "King Kong"). It's listed at 56 minutes, which means that it's even shorter than the 71-minute version available on cassette, but AMC generally has interesting forewords and afterwords. And perhaps some day someone will discover a negative or print of the uncut 106-minute version.
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February 1993 #6

4246. A catalog from Ralph Spurrier, at Post Mortem Books in England, offers an interesting copy of the Catalogue of the Collection at The Sherlock Holmes, with a note on the half title page in D. Martin Dakin's hand stating: "Copies withdrawn. This is an original copy, before infringement of copywrite [sic] rules were discovered." I know that there were at least six stated printings of the catalogue, but was unaware of a suppressed issue; does anyone have details on what was suppressed?
4247. Bouchercon XXIV will be in Omaha on Oct. 1-3, 1993 (Box 540516, Omaha, NE 68154-0516), and Bouchercon XXV will be in Seattle on Oct. 6-9, 1994 (Box 1095, Renton, WA 98057). The competition for Bouchercon XXVI was won by Nottingham, in England (the other competitors were Miami and Washington).
4248. A new postal card in the Historic Preservation Series shows the Wren Building at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, where The Cremona Fiddlers held S'ian workshops in 1987 and 1991. John Bennett Shaw led the 1987 event; the sites of three Shaw workshops have now been honored by postal cards (Notre Dame and Stanford are the others).
4249. And, to fill some space, here's an opportunity to test your logical powers. Holmes, Watson, and Moriarty have been playing cards. Each of them now has a different number of cards, and together the three of them have a total of twenty cards. Watson has the most cards, and Holmes has the fewest cards. Moriarty asks Watson if he can deduce how many cards each of the three has, and Watson replies that he cannot do so. Holmes then announces the correct answer. Can you deduce what the correct answer is?
4250. Spotted by Jennie Paton in Christopher Morley's "Trade Winds" column in the Saturday Review of Literature (May 2, 1936): a report that James F. Drake, Inc., celebrated the Fishing Season by offering (\$250) a 20-page manuscript by Conan Doyle, that had an excellent fish story. "Doyle, meeting a braggart angler, wagered that his own last catch was the bigger. The weight of Doyle's take was 200 tons. They were whales." ACD told the story in print in "Some Recollections of Sport" in the Strand (Sept. 1909), and again in MEMORIES AND ADVENTURES (1924), and the manuscript likely is the one titled "Some Reminiscences of Sport" (owned by the Free Library of Philadelphia).
4251. This is, of course, a world where it is always 1886, at least during 1993, in case you didn't notice that fact when you examined the calendar enclosed with last month's newsletter. I still have a few copies of Andrew Fusco's imaginative seasonal souvenir, in case anyone needs one.
4252. Al and Julie Rosenblatt's splendid 20-page souvenir menu for "An Evening in Scarlet" at the Culinary Institute of America on May 16, 1987, handsomely devised, designed, and produced, with many illustrations, annotations, and explanations, is still available for \$18.00 postpaid (with checks payable to Peter E. Blau, please).
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March 1993 #1

4253. No, it wasn't "The Mistress of Glaven" (a title picked up from a photograph caption, and one that seemed a bit more sensible than the one that Granada actually used for its version of "The Noble Bachelor"). The Granada title was "The Eligible Bachelor" (but at least I got "The Last Vampyre" right). The two television programs, preceded by a full-scale press campaign that included a suggestion that there might be a new program in the works as a Christmas special. Press reviews were mixed, and many reviewers noted the problems involved in expanding stories into a two-hour format (Nancy Banks-Smith suggested in the Guardian that "a decent dairymaid of a story was tarted up as a painted hussy of a film, trolloping about with shrieks and gibbering and sexual innuendo").
4254. The reviews also indicate that Jeremy Brett has not achieved ownership of the role of Sherlock Holmes in Britain in the same way that he appears to here, possibly because the two new shows aired in the slot just vacated by "Inspector Morse" (the series has ended and was widely mourned, with much credit given to John Thaw for his fine acting). Sean Day-Lewis suggested in the Sunday Telegraph that "the strength of Sherlock Holmes is that his unique stature makes him actor proof," and predicted that screen variations of Sherlock Holmes "will continue to multiply as the risibly melodramatic detective created by Jeremy Brett is set aside as an eccentric footnote."
4255. Well, you can't please everyone, as someone once said. The on-going BBC Radio 4 series starring Clive Merrison and Michael Williams, warmly praised by Sherlockians, was recently savaged in the Manchester Evening News by a reviewer who argued that "Doyle's original dialogue is so pompous, circumlocutory, and stilted that after five minutes of it one doesn't give a damn which one of the duo is mouthing," and demanded a moratorium on Sherlock Holmes dramatizations for the next 20 years.
4256. All those clippings were kindly provided by Jon Lellenberg, along with news that Stonyhurst College is celebrating its 400th anniversary. Stonyhurst is the oldest Jesuit college in the English-speaking world, founded in 1593 at St. Omer in France, and having been relocated in Bruges and Liege before arriving at its present site in 1794, and its anniversary fund-raising campaign has raised more than £2 million. Stonyhurst's students have included 22 saints and martyrs, seven winners of the Victoria Cross, actor Charles Laughton, Gen. Vernon Walters (who has served as American ambassador under seven different presidents), and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.
4257. Not all of the British reviewers are unkind to Sherlockian dramatizations. Russell Twisk, in a review from the Observer at hand from Malcolm Payne, gives high marks to the ongoing Merrison/Williams radio series, and to a new series of six programs on BBC Radio 5 called "The Unopened Casebook of Sherlock Holmes" (written by John Taylor, with Simon Callow as Holmes and Nicky Henson as Watson). These are new stories, "more vivid and horrific," and "not carrying the baggage of shadowing any original, they are freer to use the opportunities radio offers." Twisk also devotes a short paragraph an independent production of "The Valley of Fear" being broadcast by local commercial and BBC radio stations ("the less said about it the better," but he does say a bit more than that).
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March 1993 #2

4258. And if that's not enough news from Britain, here's some more. BBC Radio 4 broadcast Denny Martin Flinn's 90-minute adaptation of "The Seven-Per-Cent Solution" on Jan. 9 (with Simon Callow as Holmes and Ian Hogg as Watson). And the BBC offered a grand dialogue with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle on "The Miles Kington Interview" on Jan. 26. Kington was for many years a contributor to Punch, and his imaginative script gave Edward Hardwicke a splendid opportunity to perform, and well, as Conan Doyle.
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4259. That independent production of "The Valley of Fear" that was panned by the British reviewer almost certainly was a new dramatization starring Edward Petherbridge and David Peart, whose first series ("The Cases of Sherlock Holmes") was broadcast here by National Public Radio on "NPR Playhouse" last year (with "A Study in Scarlet", "A Scandal in Bohemia", and "The Speckled Band"). Their second series began on "NPR Playhouse" on Mar. 7 (with "The Valley of Fear", "The Five Orange Pips", and "The Man with the Twisted Lip"). And NPR is now negotiating with Independent Radio Drama Productions for a third series (with "The Hound of the Baskervilles" and two short stories). The first series was excellent, with splendid actors and imaginative dramatizations, and I wish there were a better market here for radio drama. National Public Radio offers two hours of radio drama a week, but relatively few local NPR stations put any of it on the air.
4260. And Roger Johnson reports that THE UNOPENED CASEBOOK OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by John Taylor, is a BBC paperback tie-in (£3.99) to the current radio series. And that The Drama Collection has issued audiocassettes of the Petherbridge radio versions of A STUDY IN SCARLET and THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES. And that M. J. Trow's LESTRADE AND THE SAWDUST RING is due from Constable in May (£13.99).
4261. The Spence Munro Society have a new badge, in blue on white, and 2.25 inches in diameter. The cost is \$2.00 postpaid (in currency, please) from Mark Alberstat, at 6258 Payzant Avenue, Halifax, NS B3H 2B1, Canada.
4262. THE WHITECHAPEL HORRORS: A SHERLOCK HOLMES NOVEL, by Edward B. Hanna (New York: Carroll & Graf, 1992; 395 pp., \$19.95), uses Holmes and Watson in a third-person account of the investigation of the Jack the Ripper murders. There are 119 footnotes, which probably shouldn't be needed in a pastiche (and that's certainly far more than will be found in any Canonical story), and the dust jacket quotes enthusiastic recommendations by Philip A. Shreffler and John Bennett Shaw.
4263. Discovered by Ralph Hall: I THINK THAT IT IS WONDERFUL AND OTHER POEMS FROM SESAME STREET, written by David Korr and illustrated by A. Delany (Racine: Western Publishing Co., 1992); a Sesame Street/Golden Book, with Sherlock Hemlock in a one-page poem ("A Silly Mystery").
4264. The latest issue of The Camden House Journal (published by The Occupants of the Empty House) includes an announcement of a Sherlockian London tour from St. Louis on June 11-20 (the itinerary also features a bus tour of Norwood, Crowborough, Forest Row, and the South Downs). Details are available from Ed Moorman, 2045 Nettlewood Court, Maryland Heights, MO 63043.

March 1993 #3

4265. Peter Ackroyd's ENGLISH MUSIC, published last year by Hamish Hamilton in London, has an American edition (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1992; 400 pp., \$23.00); it's an intriguing and imaginative book, in which young Timothy Harcombe's spiritual and visionary powers carry him into dream-worlds of English literature, art, and music. And one of those dream-worlds is (for twenty pages) more-or-less Sherlockian.
4266. SAC Ltd. (Studio Anne Carlton, Flinton Street, Hull, HU3 4NB, England) offers letter-openers (£15.70) and magnifiers (£22.70), with handle cameos showing Holmes or Watson (your choice), and a boxed set (£38.50) that also includes a Holmes figurine. A 32-piece Sherlock Holmes chess set also is available (£106.00). Prices postpaid to the U.S.; payment in sterling only, please.
4267. Harvey Kurtzman died on Feb. 21. Sometimes described as the spiritual god-father of underground comics, he was the first editor of Mad magazine, the author of its parodies "Shermlock Sholmes!" (1953) and "Shermlock Shomes in The Hound of the Basketballs!" (1954), the creator of "Little Annie Fanny" for Playboy, and a fine historian (his last book was FROM AARGH! TO ZAP!: HARVEY KURTZMAN'S VISUAL HISTORY OF THE COMICS).
4268. It was nice to see the two repeats from the Granada series, as part of the PBS-TV pledge drive. It is likely that the new series of "Inspector Morse" programs (which will end on Apr. 29) will be followed by "The Master Blackmailer" in two one-hour episodes (and that will be followed by six new onehour "Rumpole of the Bailey" shows).
4269. Further to the earlier report (February 93 #1) about Paramount's plans to issue "The Hound of the Baskervilles" and "The Sign of Four" on videocassettes: yes, they are the Ian Richardson television films that ran on HBO in 1983; \$59.95 each. And Fox Video is now discounting "The Sherlock Holmes Collection" (the 14 Rathbone/Bruce films) at \$14.98 each.
4270. Reported by Ralph Hall: Bob Terrio's LOOK & FIND WITCHES, GHOSTS & GOBLINS (Lincolnwood: Publications International, 1992); a children's book similar to the "Where's Waldo" series, with a Sherlockian skeleton in a cemetery on one of the pages.
4271. "Holmes's smarter brother joins police" was the headline on an article from The Times (Mar. 2), kindly forwarded by Barbara Roden. This is MYCROFT, a new artificial-intelligence computer system that was developed by a team at Portsmouth University and engineers at McDonnell Douglas, and tested by the police in Sussex, and it will complement the present HOLMES system. HOLMES is an acronym (for Home Office Large Major Enquiry System), but when plans for the new computer were first announced (December 87 #4), there was no mention of whether MYCROFT might be an acronym. Nor has there been since. But Jim Cleary proposed (January 88 #2) that MYCROFT might be a Major Yard Computer for Recovery, Organization, Filing, and Tabulation.

March 1993 #4

4272. DETECTIVE STORIES FROM THE STRAND MAGAZINE and STRANGE TALES FROM THE STRAND MAGAZINE, edited by Jack Adrian, with forewords by Julian Symons (Oxford University Press, 1991; 374 pp., £15.95 each) are now being discounted here at \$14.99 each (in a catalog at hand from Cahill & Co., Box 64554, St. Paul, MN 55114-0554). Honoring the centenary of the founding of The Strand Magazine, the anthologies offer six stories by Conan Doyle (three Canonical tales in the first volume, and three non-Sherlockian in the second). The first volume also has Ronald Knox's fine pastiche "The Apocryphal Sherlock Holmes: The Adventure of the First Class Carriage".
4273. Further to the item (February 93 #2) about the most-borrowed authors from public libraries in Britain in 1992 -- the winner was romantic-novelist Catherine Cookson -- a dramatization of one of her novels ("The Black Velvet Gown") will be broadcast by PBS-TV on "Masterpiece Theatre" on Apr. 4 and 11.
4274. Reported by John Taylor: BLOODY BUSINESS: AN ANECDOTAL HISTORY OF SCOTLAND YARD, by H. Paul Jeffers (New York: Pharos Books, 1992; 278 pp., \$19.95). Author of THE ADVENTURE OF THE STALWART COMPANIONS (1978) and MURDER MOST IRREGULAR (1983), Jeffers has turned from fiction to non-fiction, and now offers a fine history of the Yard, and neglects neither Sherlock Holmes nor Conan Doyle (who has his own chapter in the book).
4275. At one point in BLOODY BUSINESS, Jeffers notes that Holmes encounters a score of "official" policemen and one policewoman but none more often than "friend Lestrade." Try your hand at identifying that policewoman (don't wait too long, since I'll give the answer this month).
4276. C. Northcote Parkinson died on Mar. 10. He was the inventor of Parkinson's Law ("work expands so as to fill the time available for its completion") as well as important corollaries that include "work expands to occupy all the people available" and "expenditure rises to meet income." His obituary in The Times noted that he considered most Americans to be illiterate, except for Walt Disney, whom Parkinson believed to be a genius ("not a very well educated genius, but a genius all the same"). It was in MRS. PARKINSON'S LAW (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1968) that Parkinson noted (in the

- chapter on "Romance") that "had Sherlock Holmes married, he would have proved an irritating husband in most ways if not in all. Considered as a conversationalist, however, he would have been at least potentially entertaining at breakfast." And he continued with an example:
4277. "You recall, Watson--I mean, dear--the League of Redheaded Men?" "But, of course, Sherlock. A mysterious affair indeed. Have you finished with the marmalade?" "Perhaps I might swap it for the toast? Thank you.... Well, I solved that case yesterday. Nothing to it, mind you, but memorable, nevertheless, for one or two unusual features."
4278. And the solution to the problem of the twenty cards (February 93 #6) is: nine (Watson), six (Moriarty), and five (Holmes). Watson must have from eight to seventeen cards. And if Watson has seventeen or sixteen or eight cards, there is only one possible distribution, which he could have deduced. And if Holmes has from one to four cards, there are multiple possibilities for Watson and Moriarty. So Holmes must have five cards, in which case Watson must have nine, and Moriarty six. [solution from Pollock, Ballew, Preece]
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March 1993 #5

4279. "For more than a hundred years, it has been one of the world's greatest literary secrets," Steve Walker reported in *The Mail on Sunday* (Mar. 7). The secret, according to a long article at hand from John Hogan, is that Sherlock Holmes was based on Dr. Joseph Bell. And the proof was found in a letter "hidden for decades in a tin box" at the Edinburgh home of Bell's great-grandson, Brigadier Nigel Stisted. The letter, written by Conan Doyle to Bell on May 4, 1892, states firmly that "it is most certainly to you that I owe Sherlock Holmes," and that "I do not think that his analytical work is in the least an exaggeration of some effects which I have seen you produce in the out-patient ward." Well, the letter wasn't *that* well hidden: many will already have read the text (and that of a second letter written on June 16, 1892) in Ely Liebow's fine biography *DR. JOE BELL: MODEL FOR SHERLOCK HOLMES* (1982).
4280. The Men on the Tor offer their lapel pin; \$10.00 postpaid, and you can send orders to: Harold E. Niver, Baskerville Hall, 29 Woodhaven Road, Rocky Hill, CT 06067.
4281. *THE MAXIMORTAL* is a comic-book series written by Rick Veitch for King Hell Press, and issue #3 (Dec. 1992) has a Sherlockian cover showing an elderly Holmes, and six pages set in Sussex in 1924, all in color (\$3.95). If you can't find the book in your neighborhood shops, the distributor is Tundra Publishing (320 Riverside Drive, Northampton, MA 01060), and they offer a catalog with lots of other strange things as well.
4282. And if you haven't been able to find *SHERLOCK HOLMES IN THE CURIOUS CASE OF THE VANISHING VILLAIN* (February 93 #5) in a your neighborhood comic-book shop, a few copies are available from Tim O'Connor (6015 West Route 115, Herscher, IL 60941); \$5.00 postpaid.
4283. John MacGowan reports that the 18 videocassettes, each with two of the old (1954) Ronald Howard television shows, are now available at WalMart stores at \$2.96 each. A while back (March 91 #6) the cassettes cost \$3.95 each at K-Mart stores. One might, however, be at least a bit suspicious about the tape quality in cassettes priced this low.
4284. Thorarinn Gunnarsson's *DRAGONS ON THE TOWN* (New York: Ace Books, 1992; 295 pp., \$4.99) is a sequel to two earlier fantasy novels, which makes things a bit confusing for people who haven't read the first two. Sherlock Holmes is both on the cover and in the book, but actually he's an elf who stopped counting birthdays at 25,000, and everyone calls him Holmes because that's who he looks like (usually) and because he's logical (which isn't all that useful in a world of magic).
4285. Troy Taylor (805 West North, Decatur, IL 62522), who edited and published *The Peruvian Bird-Bow for Ferguson's Vampires*, reports that he is planning a new Sherlockian magazine called *The Whitechapel Gazette*, priced at \$6.00 an issue postpaid. If you'd like Troy to let you know when the first issue is ready, send him an SASE or PC.
4286. And who was the one policewoman in the Canon? Jeffers doesn't say, but a likely candidate appears in "The Naval Treaty" ("When we reached Scotland Yard she was handed over at once to the female searcher").
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March 1993 #6

4287. Helen Hayes died on Mar. 17. For many years the First Lady of the American theater, she began her acting career as a 5-year-old at the National Theatre in Washington, and made her New York debut in 1909. Her first major role came in 1918, with William Gillette in J. M. Barrie's "Dear Brutus" (Heywood Broun said she was "as eager as a Christmas morning and as dazzling as a Christmas night"). And, needless to say, she saw Gillette in "Sherlock Holmes". In her interview for the documentary "William Gillette: A Connecticut Yankee and the American Stage" (1986), she said: "I've admired other people in the role because it's such a good play, but William Gillette is the only real Sherlock Holmes for me, or for anyone else who ever saw him, I'm sure."
4288. Carole Nelson Douglas reports that *IRENE AT LARGE* is due in paperback in June, and that she has finished work on the fourth book in her series (the title will be *BACK TO BOHEMIA*).
4289. Jerry Margolin, who is trying to assemble a set of all five printings of *THE MISADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES*, needs a copy of the fourth printing. If you have one you'd like to sell, his address is 10007 S.W. Quail Post Road, Portland, OR 97219-6368.
4290. Vinnie Brosnan (Sherlock in L.A., 1741 Via Allena, Oceanside, CA 92056) has a new catalog 9, with 80 pages of offers of out-of-print Sherlockiana.
4291. Q: if a Scottish weightlifter married a green-faced woman from outer space, what would he become? Tim O'Connor spotted *SHERLOCK Q. JONES'S CASEBOOK OF PUZZLES, RIDDLES & MUDDLES and MORE PUZZLES, RIDDLES & MUDDLES FROM SHERLOCK Q. JONES'S CASEBOOK*, written by John Pinkney and illustrated by Gail Brailsford (Mahway: Watermill Press, 1992; 24 pp., \$3.95 each). These are children's books, with Jones in deerstalker and accompanied by Watson (his dog). A: her husband, of course.
4292. *SHERLOCK HOLMES CASEBOOK* is a boxed set of two audiocassettes, with "The Priory School" and "The Man with the Twisted Lip" (both unabridged) read by John Barnes with fine accent and expression, issued in 1991 by Buckingham Classics, Box 597441, Chicago, IL 60659 (\$12.95). Buckingham also offers *SHORT STORIES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* (\$7.95), with "The Red-Headed League" and "A Scandal in Bohemia" read by Brian Parry.
4293. There's an addition to the list of non-Sherlockian books with Sherlockian titles: Robert Barnard's *A SCANDAL IN BOHEMIA* (New York: Scribner's, 1992).
4294. Benjamin S. Clark ("The Retired Colourman") died on Mar. 18. Ben was for many years the leader of The Five Orange Pips of Westchester County (the oldest scion society of the BSI), and it was always a delight to hear him reminisce about the early days when the scion actually met in Westchester County, in members' homes, then as now for a formal dinner and scholarly papers from each member. And this year, after many annual dinners in clubs in New York City, the Pips were invited to meet once again at Ben's home in Pound Ridge, with the baying of a hound echoing through the woods outside the house, and grand entertainment within. He received his Investiture in 1951, and the BSI's Two-Shilling Award in 1984, and some of his grand tales of distant days will be found in the Sept. 1987 issue of the BSI.
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March 1993 #7

4295. Donald Girard Jewell's "Sherlock Holmes Natural History Series" now includes four titles, the latest being CANONICAL CATS: A MONOGRAPH ON FELINES IN THE TIME OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1992) and BUTTERFILES AND BLIND BEETLES: A MONOGRAPH ON INSECTS AND INSECT COLLECTING IN THE TIME OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1993). The monographs are 36-page pamphlets, carefully researched, attractively illustrated, and well-produced, and cost \$9.95 each postpaid from the author (4685 Geeting Road, Westminster, MD 21158).
4296. Cynthia Wein prepared screened black-on-blue T-shirts for the 10th anniversary last year of "Autumn in Baker Street" and a dozen are still available (three are large and nine extra large). \$11.00 postpaid, and Cynthia's address is 65 Briarwood Lane, Plainview, NY 11803.
4297. Comic-book alert: Bill Barton reports in The Illustrious Clients News that the DC comic ECLIPSO will have appearances by Sherlock Holmes in issues #7 (due in mid-March) and #8 (due in mid-April).
4298. Lincoln Enterprises (Box 691370, Los Angeles, CA 90069) offers scripts for the first five seasons of "Star Trek: The Next Generation" at \$11.95 each; scripts with Sherlockian dialogue include "Lonely Among Us" (1987), "Elementary, Dear Data" (1988), and "Data's Day" (1991). The shooting script for the film "Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country" (1991), which also has Sherlockian dialogue, costs \$16.95. Shipping extra, and they accept credit-card orders.
4299. Bill Walston (3763 East Deshler Avenue, Columbus, OH 43227) will send his 8-page sales list of Sherlockiana (mostly books) in return for a #10 SASE.
4300. The Poet of the Pequod Press, having exhausted the long stories but still pursued by the muse (and unwilling to make a Lavinia-like exit) announces a collection of 37 quartets. SCANDALS & VANDALS: 'ADVENTURES' IN VERSE is available from John Ruyle (521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707-1521); \$35.00 (cloth) or \$15.00 (paper).
4301. Videotaper alert: Ray Rawlings, a Canadian Sherlockian, will be one of the contestants on Bill Cosby's "You Bet Your Life" on NBC-TV on April 20.
4302. William R. Smith ("The Red Circle") died on March 24. Bill was a devoted musician, and associate conductor of the Philadelphia Orchestra, and he was a devoted Sherlockian as well. An enthusiastic member of The Sons of the Copper Beeches, he liked to reminisce about the early days when the scion met at Carl Anderson's copper-beech-shaded home. Bill received his investiture in 1964, and he was the proud owner of the William S. Hall copy of Beeton's Christmas Annual, which includes Conan Doyle's autograph note that it is "the very first independent book of mine that ever was published."
4303. If you don't want to wait for the "Mystery!" broadcast of Jeremy Brett's latest shows ("The Last Vampyre" and "The Eligible Bachelor"), they are now available from Jennie C. Paton's video lending-library. There's a charge of \$5.00 per cassette, borrowers pay return postage, and there's likely to be a waiting list; her address is 206 Loblolly Lane, Statesboro, GA 30458.

March 1993 #8

4304. Jon Lellenberg reports an enthusiastic review in The Observer for a new printing of THE UNCOLLECTED SHERLOCK HOLMES, edited by Richard Lancelyn Green (London: Penguin, 1993; 400 pp., £4.99). First published in 1983, assembling a wide variety of Conan Doyle's non-Canonical writings about Sherlock Holmes (pastiche, parodies, prefaces, articles, plays, and interviews), with Green's own 138-page introduction in which he provides excellent comment on Conan Doyle's life, writings, and career. Recommended in 1983, and recommended now.
4305. Further to the report (March 93 #2) on the Edward Petherbridge radio series, Richard Wein reports that the programs will air on WNYC-FM (New York) on Sundays, beginning Apr. 11. Public radio stations don't need to follow the NPR schedule, so it's worth checking your local schedules.
4306. Brian MacDonald reports two items that can be ordered through religious bookstores: Barbara Duvoll's THE GYPSIE'S SECRET (Moody Press, \$5.99); the third volume in the "Molehole Mysteries" series with Sherlockian artwork. And THE BIBLE WORD SEARCH BOOK (Warner Press, \$4.00); with caricatures of Holmes and Watson on the cover.
4307. Julie Rosenblatt, who is teaching a course on Sherlock Holmes at Vassar, credits one of her students with observing a nice touch by the production crew at Granada: the cover of Baron Gruner's diary (clearly seen behind the closing credits of "The Illustrious Client") displays the coat of arms of the Moriarty family.
4308. Discovered by Harlan Umansky in THE LETTERS OF T. S. ELIOT, VOL. I, 1898-1922 (page xxxi), in a footnote to a letter to Eliot from his older sister Ada Eliot Sheffield (1869-1943): "Intellectually close, he described her as the Mycroft to his Sherlock Holmes."
4309. There's a new "Sherlock Holmes" daily comic strip, produced by Tom Alvarez and launched in February, and Jon Lellenberg reports that it's running in five newspapers: the Wilkes-Barre (Pa.) Times-Leader, the Lakeland (Fla.) Ledger, the Middletown (N.Y.) Times Herald Record, the Provo (Utah) Daily Herald, and the Racine (Wis.) Journal Times. If you would like to urge your local papers to carry the strip, editors should write to Magic Comics, 50 Morris Drive, East Meadow, NY 11554.

April 1993 #1

4310. Film fans have pointed out that Clint Eastwood, who won Oscars last month for Best Director and Best Picture ("Unforgiven") has appeared in a Sherlockian film. Remotely Sherlockian, to be sure. The film is "The Dead Pool" (1988), one of the "Dirty Harry" series, and one scene shows a framed portrait of Holmes on the wall of the office of Harry Callahan's boss Capt. Donnelly. Even more remotely, Callahan kills the villain by pinning him to a wall with a harpoon through his chest.
4311. The third volume in the BSI's archival-history series is still available: IRREGULAR RECORDS OF THE EARLY 'FORTIES, edited by Jon L. Lellenberg takes the history of the early days into the somewhat more organized years that preceded the Trilogy Dinner in March 1944, and offers a grand reminder of the Sherlockian scene half a century ago. You can order from the Fordham University Press, Box 6525, Ithaca, NY 14805 (800-666-2211); \$18.95 (plus \$2.00 for shipping), and they take plastic.
4312. One of the more interesting souvenirs of the 1992 Bouchercon was COLD BLOOD IV, a collection of Canadian (and non-Sherlockian) short stories edited by Peter Sellers, bound in cloth and with Sherlockian artwork by Henry van der Linde on the jacket. And it's now available in a trade edition (Oakville: Mosaic Press, 1992; 242 pp., \$19.95).
4313. Peter A. Spina died on Mar. 24. He was vice president of public affairs for the Mobil Corp. and his projects included Mobil-underwritten publictelevision projects such as "Masterpiece Theatre" and "Mystery!" Jeremy Brett reported during his tour of the U.S. in 1991 that Spina had endorsed Brett's suggestion that Granada do the entire Canon.
4314. The Second Annual Watsonian Weekend has been announced for July 23-25 in and around Chicago, featuring the "Great Agra Treasure Hunt" on July 23, "The Canonical Collegium" and "The Regimental Dinner" on July 24, and a running of "The Silver Blaze" on July 25. More information is available from Robert W. Hahn, 2707 South 7th Street, Sheboygan, WI 53081.
4315. Les Quincailliers de la Franco-Midland (aka the Societe Sherlock Holmes de France) was founded earlier this year in Paris, and continues to win great publicity, possibly because of their proposed activities. According to an article in the Mar. 18 issue of The European, at hand from Andy Fusco, the society intends to picket the Elysee Palace in full Sherlockian costume to demand that the Legion d'Honneur given to Holmes in "The Golden Pince-

Nez" be presented to him in real life. Then the society will march to the Gare du Nord, hoping to repossess the luggage that Holmes left there en route to the Reichenbach. And on the 200th anniversary of the Musee du Louvre, the society will demonstrate to protest the fact that the Louvre displays too few paintings by Holmes' great-uncle, Horace Vernet.

4316. Penguin Books issued the Canon in 1981 and 1982 in a matching set of nine paperbacks with orange spines and colorful covers (at prices ranging from 80p to £1.25). The set is now being reissued in facsimile, starting with THE ADVENTURES, THE RETURN, THE CASEBOOK, and THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (but with more than ten years of inflation, each volume now costs £3.99).
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April 1993 #2

4317. A GUIDE TO THE VICTORIAN LONDON OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Tsukasa Kobayashi and Akane Higashiyama (Tokyo: Shinchosha Publishing Co., 1993), is a 120-page collection of the splendid photographs they have taken over the last ten years, with captions and text in Japanese but with numbered keys tied to carefully drawn maps that allow readers to identify the locations and views. The book's subtitle is SHERLOCK HOLMES VIVU POR ETERNE (in Esperanto, carefully designed not to require translation), and they offer copies of the book for \$15.00 or £12.00 postpaid (currency only, please); their address is Ohizumi-machi 2-55-8, Nerima, Tokyo 178, Japan.
4318. "'She might almost personify Britannia,' said he, 'with her complete self-absorption and general air of comfortable somnolence.'" Britannia was first shown on a British postage stamp in 1913, not long before "His Last Bow" took place, and her latest appearance is on the new £10 stamp, which has more security features than most banknotes: they include (to list only a few) metallic-silver die-stamping, embossing in braille, microprinting, and a grayishgreen ink that is quite difficult to photocopy (which helps to explain why the reduced illustration shown here is so poor).
4319. Excellence at chess is one mark of a scheming mind, according to Sherlock Holmes (in "The Retired Colourman"), and Holmes and Watson are occasionally honored in chess magazines and books. Stan Hill reports that Andy Soltis' pastiche chess-problem "The Case of the Mate by 90 Degrees" is in the May 1993 issue of Chess Life (186 Route 9W, New Windsor, NY 19553; \$2.95).
4320. The spring 1993 issue of Scarlet Street is due soon, and the winter 1993 issue has David Stuart Davies' usual fine coverage of work on the Granada series, an interview with Peter Cushing, and a comic-book forecast: Martin Powell, author of three mini-series for Eternity, has adapted "The Hound of the Baskervilles" as a graphic novel for Innovation (tentatively set for 1993 with a cover by Steranko). Scarlet Street costs \$18.00 a year (four issues) from R. H. Enterprises, 271 Farrant Terrace, Teaneck, NJ 07666.
4321. And Powell said that his graphic novel will be the "definitive version" of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (although "I did have to change the ending to make it more dynamic").
4322. Tom and Ruthann Stetak report a new series of collectibles from John Hine Studios (they distributed Malcolm Cooper's miniature reproduction of "The Sherlock Holmes" in 1988). "London by Gaslight" (designed by Bob Russell and Andrew C. Stadden) includes 14 different buildings and 15 sets of accessories, and one set of accessories consists of Jack the Ripper, Ripper's Victim, and Holmes & Watson, but I have no idea what their prices might be. In 1988 they did not sell at retail, but would identify your nearest dealer (John Hine Studios' address is Box 801207, Houston, TX 77280-1207).
4323. Paula Brown reports that a new catalog from What on Earth (2451 Enterprise East Parkway, Twinsburg, OH 44087) has new Sherlockian merchandise: Holmes on the handle of a walking stick (\$79.95) or umbrella (\$69.95), and magnets with five-inch wooden portraits of Holmes and Watson (\$7.95 each).
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April 1993 #3

4324. Moore Fantoni (5112 West Strong, Chicago, IL 60630) is offering a list of books available on floppy disks, one of them being THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES with text from The Strand Magazine. THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, A STUDY IN SCARLET, and THE SIGN OF FOUR also are available, with text from THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES. You can write for a price list, since prices vary depending on the size of the disk (THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES costs \$13.00 postpaid on three DSDD disks or \$5.00 postpaid on one DSHD disk).
4325. Holmes for the Holidays continues to offer splendid fun for young mystery fans, and value-for-money as well; it costs \$7.50 a year for five issues, with a color cover, and games and puzzles and cartoons, and in the latest issue a pleasant interview with Henry Mancini (who wrote the music for the films "The Great Mouse Detective" and "Without a Clue"). It's published by Michael W. McClure (1415 Swanwick Street, Chester, IL 62333).
4326. The Baker Street Pages have a new lapel pin, in red and blue enamel on brass, and far more colorful than the artwork shown here. \$9.00 postpaid from Tim O'Connor, 6015 West Route 115, Herscher, IL 60941.
4327. Sherlock of the West Country (Box 30521, Stockton, CA 95213) offers a sales list of Sherlockian and Doylean books.
4328. Victoria Robinson reports that Jeremy Brett's "The Master Blackmailer" will air on PBS-TV on "Mystery!" on May 6 and 13. For those who have forgotten, this is Granada's two-hour version of "Charles Augustus Milverton" (which was broadcast in Britain in Jan. 1992).
4329. Sorry about that. Helen Hayes did not, as reported here (March 93 #6) and in her obituary in the Washington Post, begin her acting career at the age of 5 at the National Theatre in Washington. Donn B. Murphy, president of the theater, has noted that while she frequently recalled seeing her first performances from the balcony of the National, she first appeared on stage at the age of 5 in "A Midsummer Night's Dream" at Holy Cross Academy.
4330. Sorry about that (again). And this is the first time that two such items have appeared in one issue of this newsletter. Ambassador Ralph Earle II, who ought to know, suggests that Gen. Vernon Walters (like Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, an alumnus of Stonyhurst College) was an Ambassador under only two different presidents. Last month's clipping (March 93 #1) did note that Gen. Walters served as (lower case) ambassador under seven different presidents, but lower-case ambassadorhood covers a multitude of sins.
4331. Leslie Charteris died on Apr. 15. There are millions of readers who will always remember Patricia Holm and Claud Eustace Teal and Hoppy Uniatz, and Simon Templar, who first appeared in 1928 in ENTER THE TIGER and continued for decades to delight fans of the Saint in a long series of short stories and books and in films and on television. There were Sherlockian allusions in many of those stories and books, and in 1944 and 1945 Charteris worked with Denis Green on scripts for the Rathbone radio series (their script for "The Case of the Dead Adventuress" was published in the March 1986 issue of the BSJ); Charteris used the pseudonym "Bruce Taylor" for the radio series.
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April 1993 #4

4332. A detailed schedule is available for the fifth annual Canonical Convocation and Caper in Door County, Wis., Sept. 17-19, 1993. This year's theme is the Victorian era, and there will be presentations on Victorian romance and courtship, medicine, architecture, religion, horseracing, bookshelves, bathrooms, and other aspects of that now-vanished age. Write to Jane Richardson, 3456 Exchange Road, Crete, IL 60417.
4333. The U.S. Postal Service celebrated the 200th anniversary of the first circus performance in this country with a set of four handsome stamps, some of which were cancelled at the first day ceremony in Washington by an inked foot belonging to circus star King Tusk (yes indeed, an elephant). We've had a clown on a stamp before (in 1966, honoring the 100th anniversary of John Ringling's birth), and a circus wagon (on a coil stamp in 1990). The clown would be Griggs, and the circus belle either Eugenia Ronder or Vittoria.
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4334. And who was it who went to the circus?

4335. A couple of months ago I mentioned plans by Barbara and Christopher Roden to start an Amateur Press Association (for discussion of the writings of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. The Dangling Prussian APA already exists, and is an essentially Sherlockian gathering place (the Dangling Prussian being an extremely peculiar pub with some extremely peculiar patrons), and there are a few vacancies. The rules are simple: you write something (at least two pages would be nice) and send twenty copies to Brad A. Keefauver (the parttime bartender), and he sorts them out and sends them back. You can write fiction about doings at the pub (guidelines available from Brad on request) or non-fiction, and if you don't contribute you don't get the mailing. The DPAPA is published six times a year; the deadline for the next issue is in mid-May, and details are available from Brad at 1421 West Shenandoah Drive, Peoria, IL 61614.

4336. Further to earlier reports on the government proposal to close St. Bartholomew's Hospital (January 93 #5), the April issue of The Petrel Flyer (the newsletter of The Stormy Petrels of British Columbia) reprints news from London (Feb. 12): the British cabinet has given St. Bart's a reprieve. It was one of 15 hospitals in London recommended for closure, but a campaign to save it, supported by many celebrities, did the trick.

4337. Roger Johnson reports in the April issue of The District Messenger that the spring issue of The Sherlock Holmes Gazette has appeared, still edited by Elizabeth Wiggins but now published by Baker Street Productions (P.O. Box 221, Alderney, Channel Islands, Great Britain). And that the Gazette has a report that Edward Hardwicke plans to revive Martyn Read's play "221B" (in which Nigel Stock toured to fine reviews in Britain in 1983). And the High Moorlands Visitors' Centre in Princeton will be opened later this year by Prince Charles, and will have a Conan Doyle/Sherlock Holmes exhibition.

April 1993 #5

4338. Jon Lellenberg has forwarded an article from the Mar. 22 issue of the London Evening Standard that may mark the setting of an important precedent: the Canon has been cited in a historical-preservation campaign. The Department of the Environment has required an investigation that will delay (and perhaps prevent) approval by Wandsworth Council of a proposal to demolish the historic board school at Lavender Hill. English Heritage, the Victorian Society, and the local conversation advisory committee have recommended that the brick-built structure, with its prominent turrets, be included in a nearby conservation area. The article notes that in "The Naval Treaty" Sherlock Holmes described the board school as a brick island in a lead-coloured sea, and states that the school now is "virtually the only building of any interest in the area."

4339. And an interesting report in the Apr. 2 issue of the Daily Telegraph: "A three-pipe problem for the Arthur Conan Doyle Society: its founder, Chris Roden of Chester, has discovered that his British members care more for slap-up dinners than debating the great man's *oeuvre*. The most recent Conan Doyle weekend--a £165 bash in Edinburgh--drew almost no Brits at all, leading Roden to threaten to hold future conventions in the United States. Roden claims he cannot put together a meeting here 'unless there is a bar and meal-table involved.' Americans apparently need only a cup of coffee."

4340. Tom Stix has reported a limited-edition print of John Lennon's caricature "Sherlock Lennon", first published in A SPANIARD IN THE WORKS (1965); the print image is 6 x 10 in. and each print has John Lennon's "chop" in red and is signed by Yoko Ono Lennon. The print is priced at \$400 (plus \$10 shipping) from Bag One Arts (110 West 79th Street, New York, NY 10024). Or at \$300 (plus \$10 shipping) from Burd House Frame Shop, 102 Main Street, Nyack, NY 10960; they take plastic, and will be happy to mat and frame the print for another \$100.

4341. And Bruce Southworth has discovered a cute one-inch-high plastic duck with magnifying glass and deerstalker, from Hallmark at \$3.00.

4342. Who went to the circus? Sally Dennis, in "A Study in Scarlet". Well yes, Sally Dennis didn't exist, but her mother said that she did. And yes, the mother really was a young man. Well, Holmes does say so, and Jefferson Hope confirms that she was a man. One wonders how Jefferson Hope so easily found a friend so skilled with disguise as to be able to deceive Sherlock Holmes, even that early in his career. It's not all that easy for a man to disguise himself as a woman, let alone an old woman, with enough expertise to get away with it at close range, but of course Holmes eventually gained that expertise himself, and as an elderly woman managed thoroughly to deceive Count Negretto Sylvius.

4343. The Mysterious Bookshop (192 West 56th Street, New York, NY 10019) has sent its new spring-summer catalog, with two pages of Sherlockiana (in and out of print), and a clearance sale of Mysterious Press paperbacks at five for \$10.00 (such as Gahan Wilson's EVERYBODY'S FAVORITE DUCK, with parodies of Holmes and Watson and Moriarty and other heroes and villains).

April 1993 #6

4344. Cantinflas died on Apr. 20. He was a splendid actor (Charlie Chaplin called him "the world's greatest comedian"), and he was best known here for his appearance as Phileas Fogg's valet Passepartout in the film "Around the World in 80 Days" (1956). The late Morris Rosenblum, who insisted on including Sherlockian references in every one of his books, suggested in HEROES OF MEXICO (1969) that Cantinflas was "so talented that he could play either a comic Sherlock Holmes or Dr. Watson, either Don Quixote or Sancho Panza."

4345. There's no mention of the Cherokee Strip Land Run in the Canon, nor any mention of Oklahoma, and we can't even be sure that any Canonical character actually set foot in that part of the west, but our new centennial commemorative has a nice design, and does serve as a reminder of "the canvas-covered tilts of wagons" (found in "A Study in Scarlet") or perhaps even the same story's "tall, savage-looking young fellow, mounted on a powerful roan horse."

4346. Robert C. Hess (559 Potter Boulevard, Brightwaters, NY 11718) offers a new sales list of Sherlockiana (statues, postage stamps, magazines, autographed material, cigar-box labels, coins, etc.).

4347. Paul H. Brundage (2632 Central Court, Union City, CA 94587-3128) offers a 18-page print-out of the more than 600 people on his Sherlockian address list, with names, addresses, and telephone numbers (if available), sorted alphabetically or geographically, for \$2.50 postpaid.

4348. The Jan. 26, 1927, issue of the Harvard Lampoon offered readers Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's "The Affair at Hampton Widgets" (not recorded by the bibliographers, but now rescued from obscurity by Dana Richards). The story was not by Conan Doyle, of course, and at this late date the author cannot be identified, but the parody has been reprinted in a 20-page pamphlet, with a new introduction, and is available from Dana at 10814 Rippon Lodge Drive, Fairfax, VA 22032 (\$4.00 postpaid).

4349. The seventh and eighth volumes in Murray Shaw's MATCH WITS WITH SHERLOCK HOLMES series are now available, with his adaptations of "The Dancing Men" and "The Three Garridebs" in one, and of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" in the other. The stories are nicely adapted for children aged 8-11, and have attractive illustrations by George Overlie; you can order from Carolrhoda Books, 241 First Avenue North, Minneapolis, MN 55401 (800-328-4929); \$14.95 (cloth) or \$4.95 (paper).

4350. A new subscriber has asked about ordering in-print books from Britain. And since it has been a while since the last explanation, here are the details: two companies can supply just about anything in print, and they offer two ways to pay without incurring bank surcharges (you can open an account and pay by check in your own currency, sent to a bank in your country, or you can authorize a charge against a credit card such as Visa or

Mastercard). They are W. & G. Foyle (119-125 Charing Cross Road, London W.C.2, England) and Blackwell's (Broad Street, Oxford, Oxon. OX1 3BQ, England).

May 93 #1

4351. Bruce Southworth reports that there's still room for last-minute decisions to attend the Norwegian Explorers' workshop on "Sherlock Holmes's Victorian Criminal Classes" on June 11-13. Lots of papers, a Saturday evening dinner speech on "Conan Doyle's Sense of Justice" by Prof. Harold Orel, and longer hours at the Special Collections Library on all three days. Registration costs \$110.00, and you should write to the society at: Wilson Library #466, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455.
4352. If you wondered why last month's issue was a few days late, it was because the entire staff spent the last week of April in New Orleans, Philadelphia, and New York, attending meetings of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists and of various Sherlockian societies, the most elegant being the spring dinner of The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes, at which Marilynne McKay delivered an excellent toast to spring, beginning with an old school poem: "Hooray! Hooray! The first of May! Outdoor f***ing starts today!"
4353. The complete text of Marilynne's toast (which did draw more directly from the Canon), as well as other adventuress and adventurous scholarship, will likely appear in *The Serpentine Muse*, the quarterly journal of the ASH; the subscription price is \$10.00 a year, from Evelyn A. Herzog, 360 West 21st Street #5-A, New York, NY 10011-3310.
4354. Reported by Thomas G. Kowols in the latest issue of *The Police Gazette* (the newsletter of *The Scotland Yarders*): *Starlog* (May 1993) offers an interview with Daniel Davis (who played Moriarty in the two Sherlockian episodes of "Star Trek: The Next Generation"); their address is 475 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016. The Apr. 1993 of *Boys' Life* has a comic-strip version of "The Blue Carbuncle" (as "The Mystery of the Blue Diamond"); Box 152079, Irving, TX 75015-2079. A new mail-order catalog from Prime Time Nostalgia (MMP International, 261 Van Buren Avenue, Teaneck, NJ 07666) has a set of five CD recordings, four with two each of the Rathbone/Bruce radio shows, and one with the Orson Welles version of the Gillette play (about \$20.00 for the set). And "Doctor Who: The Tom Baker Years" (a videocassette from CBS/Fox) has Baker watching a clip from each of his shows and reminiscing about them; when he reaches "The Talons of Weng Chiang" (1977), he recalls that making the story served as preparation for his "absolute failure" in the BBC-TV version of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1982).
4355. And now for something *really* trivial: the Duke of Holderness and Sherlock Holmes were first cousins. Thanks to the Howards. In Granada's version of "The Priory School", the Duke of Holderness was Alan Howard, whose father was Arthur Howard, whose brother was Leslie Howard, whose son was Ronald Howard, who was Sherlock Holmes in the 1954 television series.
4356. Barbara Alder Roden reports that the Royal Mail has set Oct. 12 as the day of issue of a set of postage stamps honoring Holmes and Conan Doyle, with a commemorative booklet as a souvenir collectible. The original plans were to honor the opening of the Channel Tunnel, but continuing delays with that grand opening have created an opening in the schedule that will undoubtedly be much more welcome to Sherlockians and Doyleans. Conan Doyle, it should be noted, was an enthusiastic supporter of the Channel Tunnel.

May 93 #2

4357. The first issue of *The Whitechapel Gazette* has appeared, edited by Troy Taylor, with 36 pages of nicely illustrated Sherlockian and Doylean articles (and one pastiche). \$6.00 postpaid, from Troy Taylor at 805 West North, Decatur, IL 62522.
4358. Our new block of four stamps honoring sporting horses includes two stamps with Canonical connections (polo is mentioned in "The Illustrious Client" and "His Last Bow"). Can anyone make Canonical connections for harness and steeplechase racing? The colors worn by the jockey on the horse going over the fence are red and black, but the Wessex Cup wasn't a steeplechase.
4359. Dick Warner (who holds the office of Head Sherpa of The Holmes Peak Preservation Society) has noted that the Tulsa Historical Society has added Holmes Peak to the list of 76 "Tulsa Historical Sites" in their new guide to the city. Holmes Peak is still the only officially-approved landform in the United States named in honor of Sherlock Holmes.
4360. DC Comics' *ECLIPSO* #8 is now in the shops with "an untold adventure of the world's greatest detective" (issue #7 had a brief introduction, and future issues presumably have relevant letters to the editor). The story's titled "Good Night, Mr. Holmes!" and it's gory and weird and macabre (not all that unusual for a lot of modern comic books).
4361. Charles Stumpp died on Apr. 15. A member of the Giants Rats of Massillon (on detached duty in Roanoke, Va., as he liked to say) and an enthusiastic Sherlockian, he also was a member of the Baker Street Irregulars. In his article "Those Were the Golden Years" (in *TALES OF THE GIANT RATS*, 1990) he told of reading about the BSI in 1947, and attending the annual dinner in 1952, and receiving a copy of *THE NAPOLEON OF CRIME* in 1953, inscribed by Edgar W. Smith to "Charles Stumpp BSI" (thus becoming the last person known to have received membership in the BSI unaccompanied by an Investiture and an Irregular Shilling).
4362. Baker Street Associates, producers of the continuing series of reissues of the Rathbone/Bruce radio shows, now have a newsletter: the first issue of *The Dispatch Box* is at hand from Ken Greenwald, who offers a history of the company's work on the series, and discussion of Sherlockian actors, and of Sherlockian books. P.O. Box 351453, Los Angeles, CA 90035-998.
4363. Lynn Redgrave's "Shakespeare for My Father" (at the Helen Hayes Theatre in New York) is a one-woman show in which she reminisces about life with her father, and reads from Shakespeare's plays. Harlan Umansky reports that at one point she tells of going to Australia with her husband, hoping to find the grave of her grandfather Rory Redgrave, and finding it in a cemetery near Sydney: the grave was situated between the graves of men named Doyle and Watson. Harlan has asked The Sydney Passengers to investigate.

May 93 #3

4364. Harvey Kurtzman's colorful Sherlockian cover for the Oct.-Nov. 1953 issue of *Mad* (which included his fine parody "Shermlock Shomes!") has been reprinted by Lime Rock International and E.C. Publications on one of a series of trading cards showing covers from the magazine, according to Tim O'Connor. The Sherlockian card apparently is part of the second set in the series, and you should try to find a trading-card shop or dealer who opens packets to put complete sets together (and winds up with left-over cards which usually are available for a dime or a quarter each).
4365. Carol-Lynn Rossel Waugh makes an attractive teddybear "Sherlock Holmes at Home" (15 in. tall, fully jointed, free-standing, in two-tone German mohair) available for \$500. A similar "William Jefferson Bear" also costs \$500 (regardless of whether your vote was for or against Clinton). Her address is: 5 Morrill Street, Winthrop, ME 04364.
4366. Further to the report (April 93 #2) on the "London by Gaslight" collectibles from John Hine Studios, the accessory set that includes Jack the Ripper, Holmes, and Watson retails for \$15.00. And they do have a computerized file of dealers who carry their material. Their address: P.O. Box 801207, Houston, TX 77280-1207.

4367. Sherlock Holmes' secretary is giving up answering tourist inquiries about the great man to become a detective," according to a report in the Brighton Evening Argus (Apr. 30), sent by Malcolm Payne via David Rush. Erica Harper, who has been answering Sherlock Holmes' mail for three years, will move into Abbey National's security department, where she will investigate frauds and robberies.
4368. Plan well ahead. Scott Bond and Sherry Rose-Bond report that "Harry and Arthur" is scheduled at the Bucks County Playhouse in New Hope, Pa., on Dec. 8-19, 1993. The play is to star William Shatner (as Houdini) and Leonard Nimoy (as Conan Doyle), and is based on the novel BELIEVE., written by Shatner and Michael Tobias and published last year by Berkley (July 92 #2). Tickets are on sale now (performances Wednesday through Sunday), and their box-office telephone number is 215-862-2041 (Box 313, New Hope, PA 18938).
4369. Henry Brandon died on Apr. 20. He was one of Britain's best journalists, arriving in Washington in 1949 as correspondent for The Sunday Times. He was promoted to associate editor, and then chief American correspondent, and retired in 1983. He was proud and delighted to learn that his phone was tapped by the Nixon administration in 1969 and 1971, and in a column headlined "Elementary, my dear Brandon" (Oct. 15, 1972) he reported in an interview with Sherlock Holmes on the detective's thoughts about Watergate.
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May 93 #4

4370. The spring 1993 issue of Scarlet Street has arrived, with David Stuart Davies' illustrated article about "Sherlock Holmes Meets The Twilight Zone" (that's his report on Granada's "The Last Vampire" and "The Eligible Bachelor"), and news of a new book: PETER CUSHING: THE GENTLE MAN OF HORROR AND HIS 91 FILMS, by Deborah Del Vecchio and Tom Johnson (465 pp., \$45.00, from McFarland & Co., Box 611, Jefferson, NC 28640). Scarlet Street costs \$18.00 a year (four issues) and it's published by R. H. Enterprises, 271 Farrant Terrace, Teaneck, NJ 07666.
4371. The Folio Society has sent information about SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE COMPLETE STORIES, with an introduction by Peter Cushing and illustrations by Francis Mosley. This is a five-volume boxed set with all of the short stories in a uniform cloth binding blocked with a design by David Eccles that displays a silhouette of Sherlock Holmes across the spines of the five volumes. The set will be published in June at \$149.00, but the Society offers a pre-publication price of \$124.00 postpaid to their members and to readers of this newsletter if you order before June 30. They take plastic, and their tollfree number is 800-688-6247, or you can order by mail from Folio Books at 2323 Randolph Avenue, Avenel, NJ 07001; to qualify for the discount price, you mention "Scuttlebutt from the Spermacti Press" and pay them \$124.00. The Society plans to issue a companion set of the long stories next year with a binding design that shows Watson on the spines, so that the entire set will present a complete picture on the shelf.
4372. "We're both failed doctors who found storytelling more congenial than healing. Sometimes I think I've devoted my life to rewriting Conan Doyle in different ways." Michael Crichton, interviewed in the N.Y. Times (May 11) about the soon-to-open film based on his book JURASSIC PARK.
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May 93 #5

4373. The Hubble Space Telescope will be used for an experiment that follows the trail blazed by Prof. Moriarty. Three young scientists led by Amherst College sophomore Benjamin Weiss will use the Hubble for a study of "The Dynamics of Binary Asteroids" in an attempt to discover binary asteroids, which are suspected to exist but are as yet unconfirmed (the Hubble is the only optical telescope capable of providing a definite answer). A binary asteroid actually would be two asteroids in orbit around each other; likely candidates are only 200 or 300 kilometers in diameter, and twice as far from the Earth as the Sun is.
4374. New theatrical trivia: name the actor who has played both Watson (on stage) and Moriarty (on television).
4375. Richard Wein reports that TNT cable will honor Sherlock Holmes on June 24, showing Christopher Plummer's "Murder by Decree" (1979), Peter Cushing's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1959), and Charlton Heston's "The Crucifer of Blood" (1991). Starting at 8:00 pm EDT.
4376. A new stop for Sherlockians touring in Britain: the Moon Under Water, a new pub in Norbury, southwest of London. According to an article at hand from Jon Lellenberg, the pub honors local history by displaying a painting that shows a scene from "The Yellow Face".
4377. The Northeast Victorian Studies Association plans to hold its 28th annual meeting at New York University on Apr. 15-17, 1994, exploring the topic of "Victorian Interiors: Domestic, Metaphorical, Narrative, and Psychological" (if you want to deliver a paper, the deadline for abstracts is Oct. 19, and you can contact Prof. Casey Finch, English Department, New York University, New York, NY 10003).
4378. The new musical "Ain't Broadway Grand" (which opened at the Lunt-Fontanne Theatre in New York on Apr. 18) is based on the life of Mike Todd, with a cast that has two Sherlockian connections: Richard B. Shull is a member of the BSI ("An Actor and a Rare One"), and Mitchell Greenberg played Sherlock Holmes in Suzan L. Zeder's "The Death and Life of Sherlock Holmes" at the Open Eye Theater in New York in 1991.
4379. Television ratings. The final episode of "Cheers" on NBC on May 20 had a Nielsen rating of 45.5 (that's 42.4 million of the nation's 93.1 million television households), making it the 20th highest-rated program ever. The shows that have had better ratings include the final episode of "M*A*S*H", nine Super Bowls, and Nicholas Meyer's television film "The Day After".
4380. The actor who has played both Watson and Moriarty is Daniel Davis, who was Watson in Peter Donat's production of "The Crucifer of Blood" in San Francisco in 1980, and Moriarty in the two Sherlockian episodes of "Star Trek: The Next Generation".
4381. Further to the report (February 91 #4) that filming was to begin in Apr. 1991 in Estonia on a movie that may or may not have been based on Loren Estleman's book, Andy Peck has forwarded a report that "Sherlock Holmes vs. Dracula" was being promoted (in "presales") at Cannes this month. Jeffrey Sneller is the producer, with Christopher Walken and Timothy Dalton as the stars.
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May 93 #6

4382. Further to the report (April 93 #4) about the campaign to save St. Bartholomew's Hospital, the latest news from Barbara Roden, in the May issue of The Petrel Flyer (the newsletter of The Stormy Petrels of British Columbia), is that Bart's survives only through merger with the Royal London Hospital. "I have to think of patients, not buildings," said health secretary Virginia Bottomley. "It is not my job to run a department of heritage."
4383. Steve Robinson offers two of the teaspoons that portray Charlie McCarthy in Sherlockian costume, offered by Chase & Sanborn as premiums tied to the old radio show. \$70.00 each, but Steve would prefer to trade for S'ian books or ephemera; his new address is: 6980 South Bannock Street #3, Littleton, CO 80120 (303-794-9709).
4384. Dick Rutter reports that Steve Szilagyi's PHOTOGRAPHING FAIRIES (August 92 #6) is now available in a trade paperback edition (New York: Ballantine Books, 1993; 321 pp., \$10.00). The book is an imaginative and well-written novel that was inspired by the Cottingley fairies and the two young girls whose photographs were earnestly defended by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in the 1920s. Sir Arthur and his daughter Mary are only incidental characters in a work of fantasy, but the fantasy is neatly contrived and well-executed.
4385. "Mrs. Parker and the Round Table" will go into production this summer, and Jennifer Jason Leigh has been "soaking up the vibes" at the Hotel Algonquin in preparation for the title role, according to Liz Smith's gossip column, at hand from Ross Kinnee. The film will be produced by Robert Altman and directed by Alan Rudolph, and will co-star Matthew Broderick as Charles MacArthur and Campbell Scott as Robert Benchley. There's no suggestion that the company will actually film at the Algonquin, which reportedly has been working hard to win back some of the literati who have
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- found other lobbies and restaurants in which to congregate in recent years. Dorothy Parker was once quoted as saying that the Round Table was full of people looking for a free lunch and asking, "Did you hear the funny thing I said yesterday?"
4386. A new sales list of Sherlockian books and magazines at hand from Jennifer Steen (Sherlock and Co., 695 35th Avenue #204, San Francisco, CA 94121. And Joseph J. Eckrich (7793 Keswick Place, St. Louis, MO 63119) offers a merged list of the material remaining from the first four lists of material from his collection (the remaining material has been discounted).
4387. The latest issue of The Parish Magazine has arrived from Christopher and Barbara Roden, reporting on past activities and future plans for the Arthur Conan Doyle Society (their meeting in Toronto has tentatively been set for May 6-8, 1994). Membership in the society includes an annual journal and a semi-annual newsletter, and costs £14.00 (or \$27.00) to U.S. addresses (or £19.00/\$35.00 to receive the publications by airmail); the Rodens' address is: Ashcroft, 2 Abbottsford Drive, Penyffordd, Chester CH4 0JG, England.
4388. And, to fill a bit of space: there are now 616 Sherlockian societies in our computer file, with 375 of them listed as active. 315 in the United States and 60 in other countries. 248 geographical, 18 professional, 109 other.

June 1993 #1

4389. More news on the set of British postage stamps that will be issued on Oct. 12 honoring Holmes and Conan Doyle. According to Christopher Roden, there will be five 24p stamps, designed by Andrew Davidson, with artwork for "The Reigate Squire", "The Hound of the Baskervilles", "The Six Napoleons", "The Greek Interpreter", and "The Final Problem". And there will be two sets of first day covers issued by The Arthur Conan Doyle Society. An illustrated information leaflet will be available in August from the Society (Ashcroft, 2 Abbottsford Drive, Penyffordd, Chester CH4 0JG, England). Malcolm Payne reports that The Conan Doyle (Crowborough) Establishment also will issue a first day cover, with a cachet and handstamps, posted from Windlesham; the cost is \$15.00 (currency only) from Richard Greep, The Limes, Eridge Road, Crowborough, East Sussex, England.
4390. Videotaper alert (for those who didn't buy the cassette): "The Great Mouse Detective" will be broadcast on the Disney channel in August.
4391. Warren Randall (Prescott's Press, Box 610, Levittown, NY 11756) offers a T-shirt and badge that display Scott Bond's "Sherlock Holmes' Rogues, Rascals, and Ruffians" emblem for the June 11-13 conference in Minneapolis. The T-shirt (S/M/L) and badge are in scion [cyan] blue on white, and the price for the set is \$15.00 postpaid. Badges also are available in other colors at \$3.00 postpaid.
4392. The weekend was grand fun, with excellent facilities and papers (the paper that received the most applause was an illustrated discussion of opium dens in turn-of-the-century London, presented by John Pforr in owneroperator costume, mustache, and accent, but it was only one item on a fine agenda). And Austin McLean had mounted a splendid exhibition in honor of Howard Haycraft at the Wilson Library at the University of Minnesota, which was accompanied by a display of some of their many Sherlockian treasures.
4393. The most interesting news in Minneapolis, certainly, was the report that Al Navis, who was in charge of Bouchercon XXIII in Toronto last year, and who had told me and others that he expected to net an estimated \$30,000 to pass on to future Bouchercons, has refused to account for the money, let alone pass any on, and has even refused to pass on his mailing list. So: if you have been thinking about attending Bouchercon in Omaha on Oct. 1-3, and you have not already received a mailing from Charles Levitt, you should write to Bouchercon XXIV, Box 540516, Omaha, NE 68154-0516.
4394. Further to the report (January 93 #3) that "Twin Peaks" co-creator Mark Frost has written a book called THE LIST OF SEVEN, about how Arthur Conan Doyle met the man who inspired him to write the Sherlock Holmes stories, Frost (spotted by a Washington Post reporter at one of the publishers' parties at this year's American Booksellers Association convention in Miami Beach) has already started work on a sequel.
4395. Plan ahead. 1993's "Autumn in Baker Street" will be held at the Tarrytown Hilton in Tarrytown, N.Y., on Nov. 6-7. Additional details are available from Robert E. Thomalen, 69 Glen Road, Eastchester, NY 10709.

June 1993 #2

4396. Jessie Lilley (editor of Scarlet Street) reports that David Stuart Davies reports that ITV has changed its mind about the importance of the two-hour format, and that Granada is now dusting off the old-but-not-yet-filmed one-hour scripts for the Jeremy Brett series, and hopes to continue the series with a one-hour version of "The Red Circle".
4397. Michael Senuta (881 Columbine Drive, Barberton, OH 44203) offers copies of two of his chapbooks: PUZZLING OVER SHERLOCK (1978) is a 32-page collection of 23 crossword puzzles based on stories in THE ADVENTURES and THE MEMOIRS (\$8.00 postpaid), and SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT SHERLOCK HOLMES (1991) is a 30-page pamphlet with two new pastiches and an analysis of the stories in the CASEBOOK (\$9.00 postpaid).
4398. Harry Sayen's newspaper review of some recent mysteries, at hand from Delia Vargas, notes that Colin Dexter's THE WAY THROUGH THE WOODS is a fine book, but includes lots of look-'em-up-in-the-dictionary words like spondylosis, cruciverbalist, and funambulist. So: which funambulist is named in one of the Sherlock Holmes stories?
4399. The Simon and Schuster audiocassette THE NEW ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES #20 (\$11.00) has two more of the fine old radio shows from scripts by Denis Green and Anthony Boucher, with new introductions by Harry Bartell. "The Manor House Case" (15 October 45), starring Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce, has long been available on phonograph records and cassettes, but Larry Nepodahl reports that earlier issues all have the east-coast broadcast of the show, while the new cassette offers the west-coast version; in the old days the broadcasts were live, and were performed twice so that west-coast audiences could hear the shows at a reasonable hour (so it now is possible to compare the two versions of this program). "The Stuttering Ghost" (12 October 46) is of particular interest, since it is the first program broadcast after Rathbone refused to continue in the series, and was succeeded in the title role by Tom Conway. There was a new sponsor (Kreml hair tonic and shampoo), and a new announcer (Joseph Bell), and the same stalwart Watson (Nigel Bruce).
4400. Marjorie H. Buell died on May 30. As Marge Henderson, she created "Little Lulu" for the Saturday Evening Post in 1934, and her cartoon character was widely popular. Little Lulu and her friend Tubby were still seen in comic books well into the 1980s, though no longer drawn by Mrs. Buell; this strip is from the comic book LITTLE LULU #233 (July 1976).

June 1993 #3

4401. If any Sherlockians were at the Belmont Stakes, they could have been big winners. Not this year, when Colonial Affair won and paid \$13.90, but rather in 1961, when Sherluck won and paid \$132.10 (that's the highest payoff in the race since 1940). And \$132.10 was serious money, back in 1961, when the BSI annual dinner cost \$16.00 (it would take \$454.10 to be that serious in 1993, when the BSI annual dinner cost \$55.00).
4402. The postal service continues to issue annual souvenir sheets commemorating the 50th anniversary of World War II, and this year's sheet includes a stamp that shows Willie and Joe, the classic cartoon characters created by Bill Mauldin. Some of Mauldin's editorial cartoons have used a Sherlockian theme (this one is from 1987).
4403. The Oxford University Press has sent information on their nine-volume THE OXFORD SHERLOCK HOLMES, tentatively scheduled for Sept. 1993 at \$100. The set will come in a display box, and each volume will have an introduction (Owen Dudley Edwards, Richard Lancelyn Green, Christopher

Roden, and W. W. Robson are editors of individual volumes), a chronology, selected bibliography, notes, and a silk-screened cover embossed with a wood-etching.

4404. "Sherlock Holmes: Alive and Well in the Hearts of Readers Everywhere!" is the title of the weekend conference at Santa Fe Community College on Aug. 6-7, 1993. Speakers will include John Bennett Shaw, Ely Liebow, Richard H. Miller, Jennie C. Paton, David Skene-Melvin, and Graham Sudbury, and there will be tours of John's library, plus "a highly personal overview of the American Sherlockian experience, with emphasis on seminal contributions by John Bennett Shaw" presented by Evelyn Herzog, Patricia Moran, Mary Ellen Rich, and Linda Patterson. Registration costs \$78.00 through July 14 (and \$88.00 thereafter), and the address is: Community Services Office, Santa Fe Community College, Box 4187, Santa Fe, NM 87502 (505-438-1251).
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June 1993 #4

4405. For the completists: Andrew Jay Peck reports that the Quality Paperback Book Club is offering an exclusive paperback edition Carole Nelson Douglas' IRENE AT LARGE at \$11.95. The club usually offers trade paperback editions (in the same size as, and printed from the plates of, the hardcover editions, but with paper covers), and they differ from the mass paperback editions (of which there will soon be one for IRENE AT LARGE). The Quality Paperback Book Club is for members only, but it's easy to join: the address is: Camp Hill, PA 17011-9902.
4406. At hand from Ted Friedman is a report by Jill Brooke in the N.Y. Post (May 28) about an announcement by CBS-TV of production plans for a made-for-TV movie starring Anthony Higgins as Sherlock Holmes. "In this new version, Holmes--who miraculously hasn't aged in 94 years thanks to a self-induced sleep--will have to outwit the evil offspring of his arch enemy Moriarty. The movie will air some time next season." Production is underway in Vancouver (substituting for San Francisco), according to Fran Martin, and a local paper reports that the title of the show is "Sherlock Holmes Returns in the Adventure of the Tiger's Revenge". Anthony Higgins was in "Raiders of the Lost Ark" (as Gobler, presumably one of the Nazis), and his co-star is Debrah Farentino (she was in the Warren Beatty film "Bugsy"), as his sceptical new friend, Dr. Amy Winslow. Another report from Vancouver is that the production company was unaware of "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" (the title of the thawed-out-Holmes film broadcast by CBS-TV in 1987).
4407. Further to the report (April 93 #4) that The Sherlock Holmes Gazette is now publishing again, Carolyn and Joel Senter (Classic Specialties, Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219) distribute the magazine in the U.S. The newest issue (#6) and all earlier issues are available for \$8.00 each postpaid, issue #7 is due this month, and the Senters will accept subscriptions (four issues for \$32.00 postpaid) beginning with issue #8. Issue #6 (spring 1993) has an attractive color cover, and 32 pages of news about a wide range of S'ian events, including a visit by Ronald and Nancy Reagan to The Sherlock Holmes in Northumberland Street (as well as the usual in-depth coverage of stage, radio, and television dramatizations of Sherlock Holmes).
4408. "Look out for Blondin," Sherlock Holmes exclaims, in "The Sign of the Four" (and Blondin was a funambulist). See June 93 #2, if you've forgotten.
4409. Jennie Paton has spotted GHOSTS OF DRACULA, a five-issue comic-book miniseries published by Eternity (Sept. 1991-Jan. 1992), with story by Martin Powell and artwork by Seppo Makinen. Harry Houdini is in London in 1925, joining Dr. Van Helsing in pursuit of Dracula, and Sherlock Holmes makes a brief appearance in issue #2.
4410. The Bowling Green State University Popular Press (Bowling Green, OH 43403) is having a summer sale, offering a 60% discount on their mystery-related backlist. The sale runs through July 31, and you can write them for their flier, which includes marginally-Sherlockian books such as Earl F. Bargainnier's COMIC CRIME (1987), Ray B. Browne's HEROES AND HUMANITIES: DETECTIVE FICTION AND CULTURE (1987), Michael L. Cook's MYSTERY FANFARE (1983); William B. Hunt's FRONT-PAGE DETECTIVE: WILLIAM BURNS AND THE DETECTIVE PROFESSION, 1880-1930 (1990); S. T. Joshi's JOHN DICKSON CARR: A CRITICAL STUDY (1990), and LeRoy L. Panek's AN INTRODUCTION TO THE DETECTIVE STORY (1987).
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June 1993 #5

4411. The Poet of the Pequod Press, thundering in hot pursuit of THE MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (March 93 #7), now offers 29 quartets, collected in THE HORSE IN THE GORSE, and finely-printed (as always) at The Pequod Press. Available from John Ruyle, 521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707-1521; \$35.00 (cloth) or \$15.00 (paper).
4412. Further to the report (June 92 #3) on filming of a television adaptation of Craig Bowsby's play "The Hound of London" (1987) with Patrick Macnee as Sherlock Holmes, Craig reports that the 90-minute special has been sold to (but not yet broadcast by) stations in British Columbia, Ireland, and Botswana. The special is being marketed to independent stations, and you can suggest that your local stations write to Intrepid Productions (2130 West 3rd Avenue #203, Vancouver, BC V6K 1L1, Canada) for more information.
4413. Sherlockians in or visiting southern California may wish to visit the Los Angeles County Museum of Art to see the retrospective exhibition of paintings by Mark Tansey that opened in June. But check first to make certain that the exhibit includes Tansey's painting "Derrida Queries De Man" (1990), which is described by many critics as derived from Sidney Paget's famous illustration, and which also generates comments such as "they are locked in eternal combat over the meaning De Man gave to the meaning that Derrida gave to Rousseau." There also have been reports that there are lots of words on the rocks on the left side of the painting, but so far no one has explained what they are, or say (the painting is almost seven feet in height, and someone ought to be able to get close enough to it in Los Angeles to find out).
4414. Cameron Hollyer retired from the Metropolitan Toronto Reference Library in 1991, after more than twenty years as curator of the library's Arthur Conan Doyle Collection, but he definitely has not retired from the Sherlockian world. Quite the contrary: he now has found the time for the research that was needed for his landmark paper "E=M3 squared or: How Many Moriartys Can Park on the Edge of a Quark?" Cam's imaginative conclusions were unveiled at the annual dinner of The Bimetallic Question in Montreal in January, and they have now been published, in the spring 1993 issue of Canadian Holmes, which is the quarterly journal of The Bootmakers of Toronto; the cost is \$15.00 a year, and checks can be sent to Nancy Thorpe, 47 Manor Road West, Toronto, Ont. M5P 1E6, Canada.
4415. Al Hirschfeld turned 90 this month, and was honored at a birthday party at the Hotel Algonquin (where his artistic caricatures of Broadway's famous personalities were on display). He has drawn more than one actor in the role of Sherlock Holmes over the years, and he's still at work.
4416. THE PRIVATE NOSE, by Andrew Taylor, with illustrations by Emanuel Schongut (Cambridge: Candlewick Press, 1993; 90 pp., \$13.95), was published in 1989 in Britain and now has an American edition; young Jack Watson's new neighbor Saturday Holmes (who has inherited her ancestor's nose for detection) involves them both in an amusing series of short mysteries for children.
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June 1993 #6

4417. PETER CUSHING: THE GENTLE MAN OF HORROR AND HIS 91 FILMS, by Deborah Del Vecchio and Tom Johnson (Jefferson: McFarland & Co., 1992; 465 pp., \$45.00), offers excellent coverage of a career that started with his appearance as a King's Messenger in "The Man in the Iron Mask" (1939) and included much more than the horror films for which he is best known. The filmography is carefully researched, with comments by the authors (and by Cushing himself), and lots of anecdotes. The book offers eight pages on "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1959), with minor discussion of his
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- Sherlockian television series (1968) and "The Masks of Death" (1984), and an intriguing mention of Paul Giovanni's play "The Crucifer of Blood" (Cushing told the authors in 1975 that "the part of Sherlock Holmes was originally offered to me, but I'm afraid the theatre is a thing of the past as far as I'm concerned"). The address for the publisher is: Box 611, Jefferson, NC 28640.
4418. David Rush reports that the June 1993 issue of Reader's Digest has "The Greatest Quotes Never Said" (condensed from "NICE GUYS FINISH SEVENTH": FALSE PHRASES, SPURIOUS SAYINGS AND FAMILIAR MISQUOTATIONS, by Ralph Keyes, published by HarperCollins in 1992). Keyes notes that "Elementary, my dear Watson" is not in the Canon, and there is nice accompanying artwork by Michael Witte.
4419. S. Tupper Bigelow ("The Five Orange Pips") died on June 13. He was one of Canada's best-known magistrates (and widely known as the "hanging judge of Toronto" although he really wanted only an end to the ban on flogging), and chairman of the Ontario Racing Commission (and an early promoter of various runnings of The Silver Blaze on both sides of the border), and he once told Bill Rabe that "I have been trying to con my brother-in-law, who is a local Alderman, into changing the name of our local street (in his ward, too), to Lauriston Gardens and renumbering us '3', but the silly bastard wants to know why." He received his Investiture and Irregular Shilling in 1959, and the BSI's Two-Shilling Award in 1969. And Tupper never objected when he was described as the only man I ever knew who had been born in the 19th century but who had been born a century too late (I was off only by a year).
4420. A new catalog at hand from Brian and Charlotte Erickson (Sherlock's Corner, 1029 Judson Drive, Mountain View, CA 94040) offering large and small Sherlockian shadow boxes, jigsaw puzzles, needlepoint and clay ornaments, note cards, and much more.
4421. Tina Rhea reports that a book dealer in Wiltshire is offering some books by Michael Harrison (Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian) that she doesn't need. If you have a Harrison want-list, you can write (and send an SASE) to Tina at 3-E Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770.
4422. THE LIFE AND TIMES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Philip Weller (with Christopher Roden), was published last year in England by Studio Editions at £12.95, and there also is an American edition (New York: Crescent Books, 1992; 144 pp., \$15.00). The text is for non-Sherlockians, but any Sherlockian ought to enjoy the many splendid full-color illustrations from material in the collections of Richard Lancelyn Green and Stanley MacKenzie.

June 1993 #7

4423. "Sherlock Bloodhound" was one of the "country companions" that were available earlier from Wild Wings (March 92 #5): an attractive six-inch-high figurine by artist Robert Harrop in handcrafted cold-cast resin. And if you missed it, Paula Brown has reported it offered again, in the Father's Day catalog from House of Tyrol, Box 451, Lake City, MN 55041 (800-445-4833). It's item 16433, and the cost is \$49.95 plus shipping.
4424. LESTRADE AND THE SAWDUST RING, by M. J. Trow (London: Constable, 1992, 235 pp., £13.99), is the thirteenth in his fine series about Sholto Lestrade, who in this book is a young detective-sergeant in 1879, pursued by a private detective hired by Prime Minister Disraeli and touring the provinces in "Lord" George Sanger's circus, investigating (as usual) a series of rather bizarre murders. Trow continues his excellent work in presenting a clumsy-but-intelligent Lestrade, with plenty of action, much humor, occasionally atrocious puns, and bravura style.
4425. Bantam Audio (as in Bantam Doubleday Dell) is the American distributor of the BBC Radio audiocassette version of THE MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (vol. 1 has four stories on two cassettes, at \$15.99); it's the Merrison/Williams series, and the stories are Silv/Yell/Stoc/Glor.
4426. Jennie Paton spotted a new Sherlockian troll: a plastic doll, five inches high, with purple hair, distributed by Russ Berrie and Co., Oakland, N.J. (item 18515). Not as authentic as the ten-inch-high white-haired Norfin Troll marketed in 1990 (October 90 #3), but just as silly.
4427. C. Bryan Gassner, who presides over The Shadows of the Elm at the Arroyo del Oso Elementary School in Albuquerque, N.M., assisted her students in presenting a half-hour adaptation of "The Red-Headed League" last month, and as usual it was nicely done, and videotaped. A videocassette (with an extra 17 minutes of out-takes titled "Rejects from the Artificial Kneecap Factory") is available for \$8.00 postpaid from Mrs. Gassner at 922 Washington Street SE, Albuquerque, NM 87108.
4428. Sherlock Holmes will battle the Phantom of the Opera. Twice. Jon Lellenberg has reported that Nicholas Meyer has written a new novel called THE CANARY TRAINER, and that an auction among publishers was delayed when Meyer learned that Sam Siciliano's novel THE ANGEL OF THE OPERA, with a similar theme, was already on offer with use of the characters authorized by Dame Jean Conan Doyle. Meyer quickly received authorization for his book, too, and Norton has announced that Meyer's THE CANARY TRAINER will be published on Sept. 20. And Siciliano's THE ANGEL OF THE OPERA will be published by Macmillan, who have not yet announced a date.
4429. "Three men in a deerstalker" was the headline on Judith Cook's report in the Guardian Weekend (May 22), kindly sent by Malcolm Payne, with details on a joint meeting of The Sherlock Holmes Society and The Jerome K. Jerome Society hosted by Philip and Rose Porter at their home in Worcestershire. "The Holmes Society runs heavily to barristers and solicitors and accountants," according to Miss Cook's account, "though also among its number was an aerial archaeologist who wore shorts and a pith helmet, and remained silent throughout." There was lunch, croquet, rain, Victorian music hall, and a balloon ascent, and the heavily outnumbered Jeromeians all survived.

June 1993 #8

4430. The Parallelogram is the newsletter published five times a year by and for The Parallel Case of St. Louis, and the June issue has Michael Harrison's hitherto unpublished essay on "The Unsung Virtues of Dr. Watson" (and it is nice indeed to be reminded of how easy it was for Michael to shed new light on the Canon). Subscriptions cost \$6.00 a year, to Joseph J. Eckrich, 2757 Baccara Drive, Arnold, MO 63010 (and yes, that's his new address).
4431. There's still time for a trip to Washington, to visit the National Gallery of Art to see the fine exhibition of "The Great Age of British Watercolors 1750-1880" before it closes on July 25. Twenty-seven splendid watercolors by Joseph Mallord William Turner (1775-1851), are featured in the show, and one of them is his fine painting "The Great Falls of the Reichenbach" (1804). And if you don't see the painting in Washington, you can visit it later at the Cecil Higgins Art Gallery in Bedford, from which it was loaned to the exhibition.
4432. "Poirot Battles Reilly: Ace of Spies on PBS-TV" isn't the name of the series, but if your local station repeats "Reilly" in July you will be able to see David Suchet in the second episode, as the policeman who pursues Reilly in Port Arthur.
4433. Richard Wein notes that Al Greengold (who has been a speaker at "Autumn on Baker Street") will lecture on Sherlock Holmes at the monthly meeting of Greater New York Mensa at 7:00 pm on July 8, at the Workmen's Circle (45 East 33rd Street in New York City); you need not be a member of Mensa to attend, and the cost is \$5.00 (members) or \$7.50 (guests) (and you can be Al's guest).
4434. Videotaper alert: the restored laserdisc version of "The Lost World" (1925) will air on AMC cable on July 1, 13, and 29. And "The Deadly Bees" (1967) will air on USA cable on July 22; the film is based on H. F. Heard's novel A TASTE FOR HONEY, and was scripted by Robert Bloch, but Anthony Marriotti's revision of Bloch's script "took some vast liberties" (according to Bloch), and Mr. Mycroft vanished from the show.

4435. Erik Beckman ("Stapleton") was found dead on June 5. He was a Professor of Criminal Justice at Michigan State University, with particular interest and expertise in the legal aspects of high-speed police pursuits, and a member of The Greek Interpreters of East Lansing, and received his Investiture in the BSI in 1986. After his retirement in 1988 he moved to California and joined The Napa Valley Napoleons, but lived alone.

July 1993 #1

4436. IL RITORNO DELLE FATE (Carnago: SugarCo Edizioni, 1992; 219 pp., 22,000 lire) is an Italian translation of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's THE COMING OF THE FAIRIES (1922), with his article from The Strand Magazine (Feb. 1923) and material from the second edition of the book (1928), and a transcript of the interview filmed by Fox Movietone in 1929 (reprinted in the N.Y. Times), and with an interesting new introduction by Michael W. Homer and Massimo Introvigne that brings the story of the Cottingley fairies up to date through the exposure of the hoax in the 1980s. All in Italian, and the publisher's address is: Via Enrico Fermi 9, 21040 Carnago (VA), Italy.
4437. The just-issued THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES offers two audiocassettes with three stories ("The Empty House", "The Devil's Foot", and "The Abbey Grange") read by Edward Hardwicke, who as might be expected does a fine job indeed with Watson's prose and with other voices such as Holmes, and Holmes as the old bookseller. The cost is £9.00 postpaid, from CSA Telltapes, 101 Chamberlayne Road, London NW10 3ND, England; payment in sterling only, but they take plastic (Visa/Mastercard/Eurocard). CSA also reports that Edward Hardwicke will be seen in the film "Shadowlands" (with Anthony Hopkins and Debra Winger).
4438. Christopher and Barbara Roden now have a firm date for next year's meeting of The Arthur Conan Doyle Society in Toronto: Apr. 29-May 1, at the Hotel Plaza II. Their tentative list of speakers includes the Rodens, Michael Coren, Michael W. Homer, Roy E. Pilot, Chris Redmond, Alvin E. Rodin, R. Dixon Smith, and Philip K. Wilson, and additional information is available from the society, at Ashcroft, 2 Abbottsford Drive, Penyffordd, Chester CH4 0JG, England.
4439. The summer 1993 issue of The Sherlock Holmes Gazette has arrived, with a color cover and 48 pages of news about the touring production of "Sherlock Holmes: The Musical" and the new Sherlockian society in France and other areas of interest, and more than three pages of comments on comment in the spring issue on how scholarly or social or bibulous many Sherlockians and Holmesians are or ought to be. And a report that Granada's recreation of Baker Street (the exterior set) has been enclosed in an enormous warehouse so that hourly Victorian shows can be presented in the street for visitors to the Granada Studios Tours; it thus becomes more and more difficult for the television series to use the set. Four-issue subscriptions cost \$32.00 from Carolyn and Joel Senter at Classic Specialties, Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219 (credit cards welcome). The Senters' last catalog also is available, offering an assortment of attractive Sherlockiana.
4440. Sherry Rose-Bond reports an interesting discovery in the July 1993 issue of Vanity Fair, in an article about Francesca Thyssen, daughter of Baron Hans Heinrich Thyssen-Bornemisza, wife of the Archduke Karl von Habsburg. The Archduke Karl is both an imperial and a royal highness who inherited more than 40 titles, including: Emperor of Austria, Apostolic King of Hungary, King of Jerusalem, King of Bohemia, King of Dalmatia, King of Transylvania, King of Croatia and Slovenia, King of Galicia and Illyria, Grand Duke of Tuscany, Margrave of Moravia, Duke of Salzburg, and Duke of Modena. Thus it would appear that there still is a hereditary King of Bohemia.
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July 1993 #2

4441. Granada Television, earlier criticized in the press for a lack of high-grade programming (May 92 #2 and December 92 #2) has more recently been under attack by MP Ann Clwyd, spokesperson for Her Majesty's Opposition, according to an article from The Times (Mar. 17) at hand from Chris Redmond. She has demanded that the Independent Television Commission revoke Granada's broadcasting license, or that the ITC should be arraigned for dereliction of duty. Stephen Morrison, the Granada managing director with prime responsibility for broadcasting policy and production, was confident that the company would be vindicated (and it still has its license).
4442. The Gleniffer Press microbook (one inch high) edition of THE THREE STUDENTS in 1992 was nicely done and they now have announced a miniature (7/8" high) edition of SILVER BLAZE, with 100 pages set in 2-point type and illustrated with line drawings. \$25.00 postpaid (U.S. dollar checks and credit cards are welcome), and the address is 11 Low Road, Castlehead, Paisley, Scotland PA2 6AQ, United Kingdom.
4443. "Six foot three in height, active as a squirrel, dexterous with his fingers," Sherlock Holmes suggested, describing the suspect in "The Abbey Grange" (and our latest self-adhesive issue shows a red squirrel).
4444. Tim O'Connor (6015 West Route 115, Herscher, IL 60941) has reported a new play by Mike C. Philipson: "Doctor Watson Investigates" will be performed in small theaters in England from Aug. 26, 1993, to Jan. 20, 1994; if you plan to be in England during that period, Tim can provide a detailed schedule and complimentary tickets.
4445. Roger Johnson reports in The District Messenger that Ian Henry Publications (20 Park Drive, Romford, Essex RM1 4LH, England) plan to publish the script of "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" (the play written by Terry and Rose, and starring Eille Norwood) later this year at £25.00 later this year. Also I REMEMBER THE DATE VERY WELL, a new chronology by John Hall.
4446. The July issue of Smithsonian has a splendid article by David Roberts about Sabine Baring-Gould, who is best-known today for writing the hymn "Onward Christian Soldiers" (he claimed he had dashed off the words in ten minutes as an occasional piece for a procession of schoolchildren). He also was a prolific writer, and one of the best historians of the West Country and its folksongs and tales of dangerous mires and spectral hounds, and the grandfather of William S. Baring-Gould, whose ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES is one of the Sherlockian classics.
4447. Sandra Dare Lubinsky has original 16mm films of two of the 1954 television shows that starred Ronald Howard and H. Marion Crawford ("The Baker Street Nursemaids" and "The Christmas Pudding"), and will be happy to accept bids for one or both until the end of August. Her address is Box 249, Clifton, VA 22024-0249.
4448. Further to the earlier mention of a funambulist (June 93 #2), there was a cruciverablist at the Sherlockian workshop in Minneapolis. Russell Sparks (6545 90th Street South, Cottage Grove, MN 55016) is selling a book with 67 S'ian puzzles (word squares, acrostics, and crosswords); \$6.75 postpaid.
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July 1993 #3

4449. Prince Charles, who also is the Duke of Cornwall, paid a threehour visit to Princetown on Dartmoor on June 9, and was greeted by Sherlock Holmes enthusiasts at the Duchy Hotel, according to an article in the [Plymouth] Western Morning News, kindly forwarded by Jon Lellenberg. Said to have been used by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle when he wrote "The Hound of the Baskervilles", the hotel now houses the newly-opened High Moorland Visitor Centre. The article made no mention of whether Prince Charles made any reference to his having played Sir Cumberbund Overspill in "The Hound of the Overspills" in 1969, when he was at Trinity College, Cambridge.
4450. Tom Kowols reports in the June issue of The Police Gazette (published by The Scotland Yarders) that WFMT-FM (Chicago) broadcast the first six shows from the BBC's "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (with Clive Merrison as Holmes) in June, with the remaining six promised in the near future. You might want to check with your local NPR and APR stations to see if they are planning to air the series.
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4451. Tom also reports that United Airlines is providing a new audience for the Jeremy Brett series by showing at least one of the shows ("Silver Blaze") in-flight on international flights.
4452. Creation Entertainment (530 Riverdale Drive, Glendale, CA 91204) arrange for Star Trek conventions here and there (practically everywhere, it might seem), and they merchandise interesting things such as thermal "Holodeck Mugs" (you put hot liquid in the mugs and characters beam into the Holodeck doors which disappear and then the Holodeck characters appear), and (as you may have guessed by now) one mug shows Data changing into Sherlock Holmes. It's item T80 and it costs \$12.00; shipping extra, and they take plastic, but they won't ship outside the United States.
4453. Carolyn Gassner reports that Marilee Woodrow (1016 Espejo Street NE, Albuquerque, NM 87112) has designed a nicely Sherlockian silhouette available as wooden jewelry. The silhouette is black, and seven cm. high, and available as a necklace (on black cord) or a pin at \$5.50 postpaid, or as a set of earrings at \$10.50 postpaid.
4454. The 1993 running of The Silver Blaze at Belmont Park (in New York) will be held on Sept. 11. If you would like to attend, and have not yet received the formal announcement, you can write to Stephen L. Stix, 203 East Chelly Street, Warsaw, NC 28398.
4455. It was, as I recall, in 1980 that the Abbey National Building Society began work on its new headquarters building, and donated the bricks from the old building to charities that sold the bricks, suitably stenciled and boxed, at £2.00 each (or thereabouts). But I don't remember which Sherlockian it was who came back from a vacation in Britain with an extra suitcase full of the bricks, bewildering a customs official or two. And I believe there's at least one Sherlockian who had at least one of the authentic 221-B bricks built into a living-room fireplace. And one of the bricks has finally been offered by a Sherlockian brick-dealer -- well, book-dealer (Pepper & Stern, 1980 Cliff Drive #224, Santa Barbara, CA 93109) -- at \$250.00.
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July 1993 #4

4456. The Knights of the Gnomon have revived their journal after an eleven-year hiatus. The third issue of Shadows of the Gnomon, with 32 pages of contributions by members, is available for \$8.00 postpaid from Richard R. Rutter, 1620 Granada Drive, Burlingame, CA 94010-5862.
4457. Chris Steinbrunner ("The Tankerville Club Scandal") died on July 7. He was in many ways thoroughly typical of a younger generation who discovered how much fun there was to be had in the Sherlockian world in the 1950s, when he was a student at Fordham University, and wrote a series of radio pastiches which he directed for broadcast by WFUV-FM. He received his investiture in 1957, and was the founder of The Priory Scholars, which was first based at Fordham, where the society broadcast several radio adaptations of Canonical stories, and then wherever Chris happened to be at the moment, sharing the pleasure he found in radio and films and books. He received the BSI's Two-Shilling Award in 1986, and many honors in worlds other than Sherlockian. He loved to act, preferably as Watson on stage and on radio, but surely his most astounding performance was as Charlie Chan at one of the grand gourmet off-year dinners at the Culinary Institute of America. And he was proud to have been the focal point for The Cheap Thrills Club, in which membership required only that one have been a passenger in a car driven by Chris. He had friends everywhere, and we all will miss him.
4458. The Curious Collectors of Baker Street, enthusiastically keeping green the memory in Los Angeles, offer their new pin, 1.5 inches high, in white and red on gold, available from Chrys Kegley, 110 El Nido #41, Pasadena, CA 91107 (\$10.00 postpaid).
4459. Can you identify an Oscar-winning actor or actress who played a Canonical role? Try naming more than one. There are at least seven, in fact, and I will name them, next month, perhaps.
4460. Lola Troy Fiur has an imaginative series of mystery-theme photograph notecards (one of them Sherlockian); for an illustrated sales-list flier, send an SASE to LTF Studios, 360 East 65th Street #17-A, New York, NY 10021.
4461. Spotted by eagle-eyed Tim O'Connor: RIPLEY'S BELIEVE IT OR NOT! FAIRY TALES & LITERATURE #1 (May 1993; \$2.50), a comic-book reprint of the old Ripley panels, with five items about Holmes or Conan Doyle. Tim also reports that Sherlock Holmes appears very briefly in a television commercial for AT&T's "I Plan", and that in the new movie "Last Action Hero" the nemesis quotes a variation of "whenever you have eliminated the impossible ..."
4462. Michael McClure reports that Jeremy Brett reported (in a telephone call to wish young Michael a happy birthday) that Granada is now in rehearsal for a one-hour version of "The Red Circle", and that their plans call for a total of six new shows (the other five not yet selected).
4463. The Royal Navy has long honored a tradition of exchanging Biblical signals, such as the one sent during WW2 by a submarine returning from a war patrol: "Psalm 17:4" (which is "Concerning the works of men by the word of thy lips I have kept me from the paths of the destroyers"). Of course one can also find Biblical verses that are appropriate to the Canon, and Jack Koelle has suggested that Stapleton surely would have appreciated "Psalm 69:10".
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July 1993 #5

4464. Further to the report (June 93 #5) on the retrospective exhibit of paintings by Mark Tansey at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Bruce Parker reports that "Derrida Queries De Man" is in the show, and that the two figures seem to be dancing rather than fighting, and that the writing on the rocks consists of phrases and clauses from deconstructionist critical works by Derrida and De Man.
4465. More from Tom Kowols: the film "Aliens" had two sequels, plus a series of spin-off comic books (published by Dark Horse Comics), and now a series of paperback novels adapted from the comic books by Steve Perry (published by Bantam Books). And in the second book (NIGHTMARE ASYLUM) a character says, "Back on Earth, long time ago, there was a famous investigator working on a crime," and goes on to paraphrase the exchange about the non-barking dog.
4466. Ben Wood has spotted a new space-program appearance by Sherlock, in the crew of space shuttle mission STS-57. Mission specialist Nancy Jane Sherlock, an Army captain and a senior aviator, was named an astronaut in 1990. STS-57, launched on June 18 and returned on July 1, was her first shuttle flight. The mission patch is a lot larger, and a lot more colorful, than shown here.
4467. Donald Girard Jewell has announced the fifth volume in his Sherlock Holmes Natural History Series: A CANONICAL DOG'S LIFE: A MONOGRAPH ON CANINES IN THE TIME OF SHERLOCK HOLMES; the 38-page monograph is illustrated with contemporary artwork and costs \$9.95 postpaid (Pinchin Lane Press, 4685 Geeting Road, Westminster, MD 21158).
4468. Syd Goldberg reports that the film "The Name of the Rose" (1986, with Sean Connery as William of Baskerville) is now available on laserdisc. Syd also notes that Anthony Higgins, who is to play Sherlock Holmes in the upcoming CBS-TV television movie (June 93 #4), can be seen as one of the Cheka agents in the last five of the twelve episodes of "Reilly: Ace of Spies" (in case your local PBS-TV station is rerunning the series).
4469. Check your local supermarkets: Jerry Margolin reports that "Sherlock Sprink and the Mystery of the Missing Sprinkles" can be found inside the cardboard wrapper of some six-packs of Dannon Sprinklins yogurt (strawberry, banana, and cherry vanilla lowfat yogurt with rainbow sprinkles).
4470. Christopher Roden reports that Richard Dalby is planning to reprint Hesketh Prichard's stories about the psychic detective Flaxman Low, from Pearson's Magazine (1898-1899), and that Flaxman Low seems to have been modelled on Sherlock Holmes, and that Prichard was a friend of Conan Doyle. Additional details are available from Richard Dalby (4 Westbourne Park, Scarborough, North Yorkshire YO12 4AT, England).
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4471. Christopher also notes that the diaries of the late Kenneth Williams have been edited by Russell Davies and published as THE KENNETH WILLIAMS DIARIES (London: HarperCollins, 1993; 827 pp., £20.00); Williams played Sir Henry Baskerville in the Cook/Moore film, and began the project with enthusiasm, but became more and more despondent as work continued (Williams could make no sense of Cook's Holmes-with-a-Jewish-accent, nor Moore's Welsh Watson).

July 1993 #6

4472. The Dispatch Box is a two-page newsletter published quarterly (in English) by The Japanese Cabinet, a newly-founded Sherlockian society, and edited by Keith Webb, 1297-10 Aobadai, Tokorozawa, Saitama 359, Japan; membership costs \$10.00 a year (North America) or \$15.00/£10.00 (Europe); currency or postal reply coupons only, please.
4473. Dick and Nancy Albright report that The Fifth Northumberland Fusiliers of Pittsburgh are offering Sherlockian T-shirts (\$12.00 postpaid) and sweatshirts (\$19.00 postpaid) in red-on-white, in sizes S/M/L/XL; you can order from GCS IPS Printers at 125 South Broad Street, Grove City, PA 16127.
4474. Tim O'Connor has good news for those who have been in hot pursuit of Larry Townsend's THE SEXUAL ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, published by the Olympia Press in 1971 and long out of print: it's back in print (without any indication that it's a reprint), from Masquerade Books (800-458-9640), priced at \$4.95 (plus \$1.00 shipping). You are unlikely to find it at your local bookstore, unless your local bookstore deals in hardcore homosexual pornography (the book was far more shocking in 1971 than it is in 1993, but it still isn't something for the easily shocked or annoyed).
4475. Tim also reports that the current catalog from the Players Press (Box 1132, Studio City, CA 91614) offers a long list of Sherlockiana published by Ian Henry in England and by Simon & Pierre in Toronto.
4476. Further to the report on Sherlock Holmes and the Phantom of the Opera (June 93 #7), Otto Penzler notes that Sam Siciliano's THE ANGEL OF THE OPERA will be published by Otto Penzler Books (in association with Macmillan), with a May 1994 publication date scheduled.
4477. A new sales-list at hand from Jennifer Steen (Sherlock and Co., 695 35th Avenue #204, San Francisco, CA 94121); Sherlockian books, other mysteries, and an imaginative S'ian T-shirt.
4478. SHERLOCK REDIVIVUS displays John Ruyle's poetic investigation of THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, with an impressive total of 45 quartets, finely-printed as usual by The Pequod Press (521 Vincent Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707-1521) and offered at \$35.00 (cloth) or \$15.00 (paper).
4479. The summer 1993 issue of Scarlet Street has arrived, with Boze Hadleigh's fine interview with Gale Sondergaard (the last she granted), David Stuart Davies' review of the touring production of "Sherlock Holmes: The Musical", and a bit of additional news from David about the Granada series (the new programs may include "The Golden Pince-Nez", "The Three Gables", and a combination of "The Three Garridebs" and "The Mazarin Stone"). Well, someone may be confused about Garridebs and Gables, because there also were reports that Jeremy Paul had done a one-hour Garridebs script before Granada went to the two-hour format. Scarlet Street costs \$18.00 a year (four issues) from R. H. Enterprises, 271 Farrant Terrace, Teaneck, NJ 07666.
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August 1993 #1

4480. Nicholas Meyer's THE CANARY TRAINER (New York: W. W. Norton, 1993; 225 pp., \$21.00) is his third Sherlockian novel, setting Sherlock Holmes in pursuit of the Phantom of the Opera in a pastiche that is a tribute more to Gaston Leroux's story than to the films and the Broadway musical based on it. The story is another long-lost and neglected manuscript, recently discovered at the Beinecke Library ("I urge people to write to the folks at Yale and tell them to get their act together," Meyer suggests in his foreword) [his own papers are at the University of Iowa]; it's a story nicely-told, with some surprises in store even for those who know the Phantom's story well.
4481. Norton is widely distributing Nicholas Meyer's THE CANARY TRAINER in paper covers to reviewers and others as an "advance reader's copy not for resale" (as Dutton did with THE SEVEN-PER-CENT SOLUTION in 1974; 1,000 copies were distributed in paper covers at the American Booksellers Association convention, and Ron De Waal records the total issue at 1,500).
4482. MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: VOLUME 1 is a welcome addition to the list of Canonical radio on audiocassettes. The two-cassette set has four stories (Silv/Yell/Stoc/Glor) from the BBC Radio series starring Clive Merrison and Michael Williams, and it's distributed here by BDD (as in Bantam Doubleday Dell) Audio at \$15.99. The dramatizations and voices are splendid, and the 45-minute format allows plenty of time for good radio theater.
4483. The challenge (July 93 #3) involved Oscar-winning actors and actresses who played Canonical roles. Note that it did not ask for actors and actresses who won Oscars for playing Canonical roles, which isn't quite the same (and in any case, there aren't any). And note that it specified Canonical roles (which excludes eight Oscar-winners: Ethel Barrymore, Michael Caine, Joel Grey, Ray Milland, Vanessa Redgrave, George C. Scott, Gale Sondergaard, and Joanne Woodward, who played roles that were Sherlockian but not Canonical). And yes, there are indeed at least seven people who do qualify.
4484. Nor does the list include Jack Francis, who played Watson in the film "A Study in Scarlet" (1914), since I've not been able to confirm Ron Haydock's suggestion that Jack Francis actually was John Ford, the younger brother of Francis Ford, who both directed and played Holmes in the film. John Ford won four Oscars.
4485. So who are the seven? In alphabetical order: Anne Baxter, Charles Chaplin, Donald Crisp, Robert Duvall, John Gielgud, Charlton Heston, John Huston, Ben Kingsley, John Mills, Laurence Olivier, and Orson Welles. Please note that the challenge didn't specify that the actors and actresses had to have played Canonical roles in films; in some cases they didn't. Welles played both Holmes and Moriarty; Heston and Gielgud played Holmes; Mills, Duvall, and Kingsley played Watson; Baxter played Irene Adler; Olivier and Huston played Prof. Moriarty; Crisp played Col. Moran; and Chaplin played Billy.
4486. And yes, there are eleven names, in case someone wishes to quibble about Charlie Chaplin, who was awarded an honorary Oscar in 1971, and thus technically didn't win one, or about Ben Kingsley, who won an Oscar but played a Watson that wasn't strictly Canonical -- and thanks to Lawrence Nepodahl, who reported two winners that I had overlooked.
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August 1993 #2

4487. Reported by John Pforr: Suncoast Pictures (a widespread videostore chain) is discounting the Key Video (CBS/Fox) series of Rathbone/Bruce cassettes (all 14 films) at \$14.98 each (they were issued at \$19.98 in 1988), and the cassettes carry special stickers that allow you to send get a \$5.00 rebate if you buy two cassettes. These cassettes likely are the best versions: in 1988 I was told that they had been made from the masters assembled by Leo Gutman when he controlled the films.
4488. John Nassivera's play "Sherlock Holmes and the Unseen Hand" (which had its world premiere at the Dorset Theatre in Dorset, Vermont, on July 22, with Time Winters as Holmes, Davis Hall as Watson, and Russell Goldberg as Conan Doyle) is a revision of his earlier "The Penultimate Problem of Sherlock Holmes" (1978), which was first produced in Dorset and then off-Broadway in New York in 1980 (with Keith Baxter as Holmes). It's an interesting view of the conflict between the creator and his creation; the first version was published by Samuel French and was produced at (at least) a dozen regional theaters, so the second version also is likely to be available eventually.
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4489. Six of the Canonical stories dramatized by Grant Eustace and produced by Daedalus Productions for British Airways (for in-flight entertainment for passengers beginning in Apr. 1987), with Roy Marsden as Holmes and John Moffatt as Watson, were broadcast weekly by the BBC World Service beginning June 24. The 30-minute series could continue into August and beyond, and each show has repeats, so short-wavers should check their BBC schedules. And if you're not a short-waver, the series was issued on cassettes by The Talking Tape Company (Unit 11, Shaftesbury Industrial Centre, The Runnings, Cheltenham GL51 9NH, England); in 1990, the cost was £7.00 per set of four shows.
4490. Ken Greenwald has sent the second issue of his newsletter The Dispatch Box, with six pages of news about the Rathbone/Bruce audiocassette series (which will end with volume 26), a revised edition of his THE LOST ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES to be published by B. Dalton for Christmas (and available only in B. Dalton stores), and a report from Glenhall Taylor that the Jimmy Durante closing line ("Good Night, Mrs. Calabash, wherever you are") does indeed have a Sherlockian source. You can send a #10 SASE to Ken at Box 351453, Los Angeles, CA 90035-998.
4491. Ken also reports the death of Mary Green in Nov. 1992. She was the widow of Denis Green, and worked with him, although uncredited, on the scripts for the Sherlock Holmes series, and told some nice tales about those early days in an introduction to the third volume in the audiocassette series.
4492. It has been widely reported that Bill Clinton likes to read mysteries, but so far there has been no confirmation that he likes to read mysteries about Sherlock Holmes. The closest connection so far has been in a report in the July 12 issue of Newsweek on seven days in the White House: the evening of June 24 extended well past midnight as the president waited for news of a long-delayed Senate vote, in the solarium on the second floor of the White House. "Some presidents in crisis drink or talk to the paintings. Clinton channel-surfed, flicking back and forth among three movies: 'Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid', 'Zorba the Greek', a Sherlock Holmes feature called 'The Crucifer of Blood', and whatever else was on at 3 a.m."

August 1993 #3

4493. Avram Davidson died on May 19. He was a well-known author and editor in science-fiction and fantasy, but he did not neglect Sherlock Holmes: "The Case of the Doped-Up Doctor", first published in the fanzine Cry (Apr. 1961) and reprinted in the BSI (Sept. 1961), offered his proposal that it was Watson rather than Holmes who was the cocaine addict.
4494. Prof. B. J. Rahn has launched a newsletter called "Murder Is Academic" for people interested in the teaching and criticism of crime fiction on campus, and has compiled a 134-page COLLECTION OF CRIME FICTION COURSE SYLLABI that is available for \$20.00 postpaid. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle led the list of authors the teachers used (cited by 20 of the 28 teachers who contributed). If you are, or know of, someone who works in this area, teaching Sherlockian or any other mystery fiction, or wish to order the COLLECTION or a copy of the newsletter, her address is: Hunter College (English Dept.), 695 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10021.
4495. Dennis France has reported that Richard J. Moore died on July 17. He was a retired school-teacher, and particularly interested in the fatal battle of Maiwand, making a specialty of delivering toasts to the gallant Murray at Sherlockian gatherings in the Chicago area.
4496. Von Herder Airguns Ltd. plan to celebrate the centenary of the first German translation of a Sherlock Holmes story (in 1894) by publishing A CENTENARY BIBLIOGRAPHY OF GERMAN SHERLOCKIANA 1894-1994, with text in both German and English, and with some 400 entries about translations, parodies, pastiches, and dramatizations for stage, screen, radio, and television. You can order a copy now (but you need not send payment until delivery), and the postpaid price is DM 25.00 until Oct. 31, and DM 30.00 thereafter (dollar checks are welcome, at \$16.00/\$19.00). You can order from Michael Ross, Bendheide 65, 47906 Kempen 1, Germany.
4497. Malcolm Payne reports that The Conan Doyle (Crowborough) Establishment now has an illustrated flier giving details about their first day cover for the upcoming British set of stamps honoring Sherlock Holmes. You can send an international reply coupon to Richard Greep, The Limes, Eridge Road, Crowborough, East Sussex, England.
4498. John Murray VI died on July 22. Born Arnaud Robin Grey, he was part of the family that has been in the publishing business since 1768 (when the first John Murray set up shop in London), and changed his name when he joined the firm. He was a teen-ager when he first met Conan Doyle, and once recalled that meeting ("If this is an author," I said to myself, "what fun to be a publisher"). His son John Murray VII now heads the company, which is the oldest family-run publisher in Britain.
4499. MALICE DOMESTIC 2: AN ANTHOLOGY OF ORIGINAL TRADITION MYSTERY STORIES, with an introduction by Mary Higgins Clark (New York: Pocket Books, 1993; 255 pp., \$4.99), includes Carole Nelson Douglas' "Parris Green" (in which Irene Adler and Penelope Huxleigh meet Oscar Wilde in 1886). You should look for the book under "C" on the bookstore shelves, since it's "presented by" Mary Higgins Clark, whose name the publisher has likely assumed will attract far more purchasers than the name of Martin Greenberg, who presumably actually edited the anthology, from the copyright credit on the title-page verso.

August 1993 #4

4500. Richard Wein recommends John English Gifts (6 Princes Arcade, Piccadilly, London SW1Y 6DS, England) as a reliable source for statues and such: their stock includes Kevin Francis' Sherlock Holmes Toby jug at £169.36; Richard Harrop's "country companions" of Holmes and Watson at £21.92 each; Malcolm Cooper's Sherlock Holmes Pub at £16.98; the Bossons heads of Holmes, Watson, and Moriarty at £17.83 each; and more. They offer an illustrated flier, shipping is extra, and they take plastic.
4501. Richard also reports that A&E cable will extend its series of reruns of the Granada "Sherlock Holmes" programs: "Wisteria Lodge" will debut on Sept. 6. And there has been a report quoted from the Los Angeles Times that PBS-TV will broadcast "The Last Vampyre" in the spring of 1994.
4502. Tom Biblewski notes in The Baker Street Dispatch that Suzan L. Zeder's play "The Death and Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1987) will be performed at Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio, from Sept. 29 to Oct. 3; the box-office telephone number is 419-372-2719.
4503. The Northern Musgraves have gradually turned their newsletter into a fullfledged journal: the spring issue of The Ritual has 52 pages of interesting articles and in-depth reviews of Great Britain's current Sherlockian stage, radio, and television. Membership costs \$32.00 a year (with airmail to the United States) and includes two issues of The Ritual and an annual issue of The Musgrave Papers; write to David Stuart Davies, Overdale, 69 Greenhead Road, Huddersfield, W. Yorks. HD1 4ER, England.
4504. Reported: THE DEFECTIVE DETECTIVE: MYSTERY PARODIES BY THE GREAT HUMORISTS, edited by Steve Carper (Citadel/Carol, 1992); with reprints of Sherlockian parodies by Stephen Leacock, Bret Harte, and Fran Lebowitz. RADIO MYSTERY AND ADVENTURE AND ITS APPEARANCES IN FILM, TELEVISION OTHER MEDIA, by Jim Harmon (McFarland, 1992); with coverage of Sherlock Holmes.
4505. "The Game's Afloat" in the midwest on Oct. 9-10. Yes, at the moment a lot of things are afloat there, but The Harpooners of the Sea Unicorn hope that everything will be high and dry in October, except for the Goldenrod, which is the Victorian riverboat on which they intend to hold their Sherlockian symposium. Additional information is available from Len Cleavelin, 35 St. Lawrence Drive, St. Peters, MO 63376.

4506. The Sherlock Holmes Conference at Santa Fe Community College was thoroughly successful, winning good reviews from attendees and from John Bennett Shaw, who gave guided tours of his library to more than fifty people, and praised all the nice people who performed, and the facilities, and the cuisine (the community college has a resident chef).
4507. Sorry about that: the cryptic biblical-message story (July 93 #4) wound up with an inherited typo, quickly spotted by Wayne Swift. We'll try again. The Royal Navy has long honored a tradition of exchanging Biblical signals, such as the one sent during WW2 by a submarine returning from a war patrol: "Psalm 17:4" (which is "Concerning the works of men by the word of thy lips I have kept me from the paths of the destroyers"). Of course one can also find Biblical verses that are appropriate to the Canon, and Jack Koelle has suggested that Stapleton surely would have appreciated "Psalm 69:2".
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August 1993 #5

4508. Robert C. Hess (559 Potter Boulevard, Brightwaters, NY 11718) offers a new sales-list, with Sherlockian statues, dolls, mugs, postage stamps, plates, and artwork (including an opportunity to commission original S'ian art from M. J. Trow, author of the series of amusing mystery novels about Sholto Lestrade). And Michel Lanteigne (5468 St. Urbain #4, Montreal, PQ H2T 2X1, Canada) offers a new S'ian sales-list (mostly books and pamphlets, with many older items, and reasonable prices).
4509. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists will meet for dinner on Oct. 26, at Jimmy's Harborside Restaurant on the Fish Pier in Boston, during the annual convention of the Geological Society of America. Geologists and Sherlockians (and visitors of either persuasion) are welcome to join us in honoring the world's first forensic geologist; the dinner will cost \$38.00, and you can make reservations with (and obtain additional information from) John F. Baesch, 1836 Columbia Road, South Boston, MA 02127.
4510. A revival of "Sherlock Holmes: The Musical" (with Robert Powell as Holmes and Roy Barraclough as Watson) began a seven-month tour in Britain on Mar. 11, to good reviews (and praise from some Sherlockians who saw the show), but poor box-office response forced a cancellation of the tour after only three months. "It's one of those unfathomables that it didn't manage to grab the public's attention despite the fact it is a very good production," a spokesman for the producer said.
4511. Holmes for the Holidays has been recommended in the past for young mystery fans, but older Sherlockians should not neglect it: Jeff Decker's cartoons are delightful, and appropriate for children of all ages. Available from Michael W. McClure (1415 Swanwick Street, Chester, IL 62333); \$7.50 a year for five issues.
4512. Stewart Granger died on Aug. 16. He started his acting career on stage in Britain in the 1930s, and made his film debut in 1939 in the first of more than 60 movies. He came to the U.S. to star in "King Solomon's Mines" in 1950, and was then cast as a romantic swashbuckler in many more films. And he was Sherlock Holmes in a 90-minute television film of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" that was broadcast by ABC-TV in 1972 in what was planned as a weekly series, alternating with Robert Conrad as Nick Carter, and Eve Arden as Hildegard Withers. Universal produced the series and thought it worked well, but ABC-TV didn't.
4513. Rodney Staab's article on "Sherlock Holmes and Geology" is a discussion of his achievements as the world's first practicing pedologist, presented to The Great Alkali Plainsmen earlier this year and now published in Mystery Forum Magazine #7. \$5.00 postpaid, and a six-issue subscription is \$18.00; 16503 3rd Street North, Independence, MO 64056.
4514. Reported: "THE LOST WORLD" OF WILLIS O'BRIEN, edited by Roy Kinnard (Jefferson: McFarland, 1993; 176 pp., \$29.95); the original shooting script for the complete film released in 1925, with stills and background information. Also: WILLIS O'BRIEN: SPECIAL EFFECTS GENIUS, by Steve Archer (Jefferson: McFarland, 1993, 149 pp., \$28.50); discussion of his most important films, and career, and his collaborators and proteges. The publisher's address is Box 611, Jefferson, NC 29640; shipping extra, and they take plastic.
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August 1993 #6

4515. George Armstrong ("John o' Groat's") died on July 12. He was a fine folk singer, artist, and illustrator, and was described by his longtime friend Studs Terkel as "one of the unsung musicologists of our time." George was the host of a long-running one-hour radio series on "The Wandering Folksong" for WFMT in Chicago, turning his attention to "The Case of Sherlock Holmes as a Folklore Hero" in a fine show that was broadcast in 1980. He received his Investiture in the BSI in 1984.
4516. Taelen Thomas, an actor who has portrayed Jack London in one-man shows on the Monterey Peninsula, brought a special presentation of "Jack London on Conan Doyle" to a meeting of The Diogenes Club this year, and the text has been published by the society as an 18-page pamphlet, available for \$6.00 postpaid (or \$8.00 foreign). It's Jack London on Sherlock Holmes, too, and Jack London on Jack London, and the text makes one wish one could have been at the meeting. Checks payable to The Diogenes Club can be sent to Michael H. Kean, 3040 Sloat Road, Pebble Beach, CA 93953.
4517. Further to the report on Mike C. Philipson's new play "Dr. Watson Investigates" (July 93 #2), one performances will be given at the Two Bridges Hotel in Dartmoor during a "Sherlock Holmes Returns to Dartmoor" weekend on Nov. 12-14, 1993. The weekend begins with a reception hosted by Shirley Purves and Clare Taylor, and also features a Dartmoor Treasure Hunt; additional information is available from Philip Davies, Two Bridges Hotel, Dartmoor, Devon PL20 6SW, England.
4518. Geoffrey Stavert has passed on an advertisement for a facsimile reprint of the 1888 Ward Lock edition of A STUDY IN SCARLET (reproduced from an original at the Bodleian Library at Oxford); a presentation edition costs £150/\$225, and a special edition costs £38/\$53. A flier with more information is available from Dr. Watson Books, P.O. Box 1888, London E3 5PJ, England.
4519. Paul Singleton's "newsletter for thespian pursuits in Sherlockiana" has now reached 16 issues, and the latest offers interesting items such as news of Edith Meiser's appearance on "I Love Lucy" and the script for a Holmes-and-Watson scene that was omitted from "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1939). The Third Pillar costs \$5.00 a year (four issues), from Paul Singleton, Box 2882, New York, NY 10185-0025.
4520. The annual dinner of The Dedicated Associates of Lomax (active in support of the Sherlock Holmes Collection at the Chicago Public Library) will hold their annual dinner on October 23. Additional details are available from Richard A. Myhre, 1319 Poplar Court, Homewood, IL 60430.
4521. The Dundurn Press has announced Chris Redmond's A SHERLOCK HOLMES HANDBOOK ("here in one convenient book by a noted Sherlockian scholar, is everything needed for the study and enjoyment of the Holmes canon"); 250 pp., US\$26.50 (plus \$3.00 shipping), and they take plastic (2181 Queen Street East #301, Toronto, Ont. M4E 1E5, Canada). Dundurn also has the backlist from Simon & Pierre, and offers Chris' excellent IN BED WITH SHERLOCK HOLMES (1984) and WELCOME TO AMERICA, MR. SHERLOCK HOLMES (1987), Andy and Bill Paton's THE SHERLOCK HOLMES ABC BOOK (1985), and two pastiches by Ronald C. Weyman).
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September 1993 #1

4522. Further to the earlier report on how Vincent Price was selected to supply the voice for Ratigan in "The Great Mouse Detective" (May 92 #6), there's a bit more to the story, revealed in publicity for the laserdisc. Voices are used to help create the animated characters, and the first plan was to use
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Ronald Coleman as a model, so the Disney staff screened the Ronald Coleman film "Champagne for Caesar" (1950), and as soon as they saw Vincent Price in the film, they realized they had the perfect actor for the role. And it was important to make Basil appealing, so they considered using the voice of Bing Crosby as a model for Basil, but when they set the voice to artwork the character "came out too mellow." It was Leslie Howard's performance in "Pygmalion" that sparked the final design of Basil.

4523. 1994 has arrived, at least on the calendar shelves in bookstores. The STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION calendar (New York: Pocket Books, 1993; \$10.00) shows Brent Spiner as Data as Sherlock Holmes for January, and a scene with Daniel Davis as Moriarty for August (both from "Ship in a Bottle").
4524. Charles O. Merriman ("Colonel Hayter") died on Aug. 28. He was one of the first to join The Sherlock Holmes Society of London after it was founded in 1951, and as a chartered accountant he was of valuable service as its hon. treasurer from 1959 to 1971. He also served as the society's chairman, and received his Investiture in the BSI in 1963. He enjoyed identifying sites of Sherlockian interest such as Holmes' retirement-years bee farm, and his fine six-part "Tourist Guide to the London of Sherlock Holmes" was first published in The Sherlock Holmes Journal in the 1970s and reprinted by the London Tourist Board as a *vade mecum* for visitors.
4525. "Rose is a rose is a rose," as Gertrude Stein once said. And a rose is shown on our latest self-adhesive issue, which offers a nice illustration for one of the Canonical roses.
4526. Raymond Burr died on Sept. 12. He acted in films such as "Rear Window" and "A Place in the Sun" and "Godzilla, King of the Monsters", but it was television that made him truly famous, first as Perry Mason and then as Ironside and again as Perry Mason in two-hour television films. It was the end of "The Case of the Reckless Romeo" (1992) that Perry Mason, having solved his latest case, proudly asked Della Street, "Who's the greatest detective in the world?" And Della replied, "Sherlock Holmes."
4527. Roger Johnson has reported that the six programs in Granada's new one-hour series (to be called "The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes") will be "The Golden Pince-Nez" (in which Mycroft rather than Watson assists Holmes), "The Red Circle", "The Three Gables", "The Cardboard Box", "The Mazarin Stone", and "The Dying Detective". The series may be broadcast in Britain as early as Jan. 1994.
4528. Completists may wish to pursue the most recent paperback reprint of Michael Dibdin's THE LAST SHERLOCK HOLMES STORY (London: Faber & Faber, 1990; 190 pp., £3.99); it's stated to be a corrected reprint of Faber & Faber's first reprint in 1989. It seems to be identical to earlier editions except for a new dedication "To Benita" and a now-missing two-page "Afterword".

September 1993 #2

4529. The new issue of Steven T. Doyle's The Sherlock Holmes Review has 64 pages with good graphics and excellent articles, including an interview with Mark McPherson (about his "Evening with Arthur Conan Doyle") and Pat Ward's warm tribute to Peter Cushing on the occasion of his 80th birthday. Box 583, Zionsville, IN 46077; \$6.00 (postpaid) or \$20.00 for a four-issue subscription.
4530. Michael Ricker Pewter now have a photograph of the prototype of his pewter sculpture of Dr. Watson (the first of the six elements in the subscription series showing the sitting-room); the deadline for ordering is Dec. 31, and a brochure with more information is available (5433 West 88th Avenue #132, Westminster, CO 80030) (800-554-1571).
4531. The STUD Sherlockian Society intends to celebrate Sherlock Holmes' birthday in October, with events that will include a traditional Anglican holiday at the American Club in Koehler, Wis., on Oct. 7-9; a ceremony in honor of Vincent Starrett at Graceland Cemetery in Chicago on Oct. 10, followed by a low tea (also described as an eat-a-rama) at the Ridgemoor Country Club; and a meeting of The Solar Pons Breakfast Club in Oak Park, Ill., on Oct. 30. Additional information is available from Donald B. Izban, 5334 Wrightwood Avenue, Chicago, IL 60639-1524.
4532. Howard Waldrop's NIGHT OF THE COOTERS (New York: Ace Books, 1993; 253 pp., \$4.99) is a collection of imaginative and fantastic short stories that show real expertise, including one that was written for an unpublished anthology of tales written by fictional authors who were inspired by Kilgore Trout's VENUS ON THE HALF-SHELL (1975) and the subsequent Sherlockian pastiches by Jonathan Swift Somers III and Harry Manders. Kurt Vonnegut created Kilgore Trout but did not write VENUS ON THE HALF-SHELL, and he blocked publication of the anthology; Waldrop's "The Adventure of the Grinder's Whistle" eventually appeared in a fanzine in 1977. The story is by Edward Malone, best known for his reporting on the exploits of George Edward Challenger; at the age of seven, however, he was a lad of the London streets, and in 1888 was of some assistance to Sherlock Holmes. [September 93 #2]
4533. Joe Eckrich reports that "Star Trek: The Next Generation: Elementary, Dear Data" (the 1988 television program with Brent Spiner as Data as Holmes) is available on a commercial videocassette (with Data in Sherlockian costume on the box) from Paramount Home Video (\$14.95). And that Suncoast Pictures (a widespread video-store chain) is discounting the Jeremy Brett videos at \$14.95 each. And that The Mind's Eye (4 Commercial Boulevard, Novato, CA 94949) (800-227-2020) offers three audiocassette volumes (each with four of the Clive Merrison/Michael Williams radio programs from "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes") discounted to \$20.00 for the lot.
4534. Thanks to all those who have reported the quotation from "The Naval Treaty" in the "Points to Ponder" in the Sept. 1993 issue of the Reader's Digest. So far no one has reported noticing that the magazine edited the quote (not that that's all that unusual for the Reader's Digest).

September 1993 #3

4535. The 1993 "Victorian Holmes Weekend" in Cape May, N.J., will be held on Nov. 5-7. The weekend will include a search for clues in the city's Victorian homes, and Paul Singleton's performance as Sherlock Holmes. More information is available from the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts, Box 340, Cape May, NJ 08204-0340 (609-884-5404).
4536. Ralph Hall reports that Dennis Rosa's adaptation of Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" (1972) will be produced at the Actors Theatre of Louisville from Dec. 30 through Jan. 29, with performances Tuesdays through Sundays. The address is 316 West Main Street, Louisville, KY 40202 (502-584-1205).
4537. Ralph also reports "Sherlock Bones and the Great Riddle Caper" on p. 55 of the Aug. 1993 issue of Cricket: The Magazine for Children. And some "Lost World" coverage in the summer issue of Dinosaur Times. And some Sherlockian illustrations in "Grateful Gregory Discovers the Carnival" in Daniel J. Hochstatter's SAMMY'S EXCELLENT REAL-LIFE ADVENTURES: A SEEKING SAMMY BOOK (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1993) and at the Royal Wedding and on the back cover of Jim Becker's WHERE'S CHARLES & DI? (a "Where's Waldo?" take-off from Ten Speed Press, 1992).
4538. Sherlock Holmes (and Ed Hoch and John Lutz) assisted the participants in a solve-the-mystery cruise through the Caribbean last spring, and a similar cruise ("The Game's Afoot, Senor") is scheduled on the Regal Princess from Acapulco to Los Angeles on Apr. 27-May 4, 1994. Additional information is available from Omni Group Cruises, 7033 Sunset Boulevard #214, Hollywood, CA 90028 (800-876-6664).
4539. Save your receipt when you buy your copy of THE OXFORD SHERLOCK HOLMES (the nine-volume set due in October, with introductions by Owen Dudley Edwards, Richard Lancelyn Green, W. W. Robson, and Christopher Roden): if you mail a proof-of-purchase (for any volume or for the whole set) to "Elementary, My Dear Watson", Oxford University Press, 200 Madison Avenue (9th floor), New York, NY 10016, they will send you a set of

nine colorful postcards showing the silk-screen cover artwork. And Barbara Roden has reported that the set will offer "the best texts possible, eliminating the errors and discrepancies that have crept in over the years," and that the set will be reissued by OUP in paperback at the end of 1994 in their "World's Classics" series.

4540. Kim Newman's ANNO DRACULA, published last year in Britain (December 92 #3), now has an American edition (New York: Carroll & Graf, 1993; 359 pp., \$21.00), and it took longer than it should have. Sherlock Holmes is in detention in a concentration camp (and stays there), Mycroft Holmes and other members of the Diogenes Club are working to overthrow Vlad Tepes (who has married the Widow of Windsor and is ruling as Prince Consort and Lord Protector), and Lestrade (who has willingly become a vampire) is pursuing a serial murderer who is threatening Whitechapel and its vampire prostitutes with a silverplated scalpel.
4541. Debbie Clark reports and recommends the two-audiocassette boxed set CLASSIC DETECTIVE STORIES, read by Edward Hardwicke for CSA Telltapes, and found in an American bookshop, so CSA now has a distributor in the U.S. One of the stories in this set is "The Dying Detective", which is not in the CSA Telltapes set THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (July 93 #1).

September 1993 #4

4542. It's interesting to speculate whether Nicholas Meyer eventually will receive credit, in a future edition of THE OXFORD ENGLISH DICTIONARY, for making the phrase "the seven-per-cent solution" so recognizable and so widely used in contexts that have nothing to do with Sherlock Holmes. And the "seven" is not all that necessary: many variants have been seen over the years (including a recent magazine page of "sales & bargains" that used the subhead "The 10 Percent-Off Solution").
4543. Ronald B. De Waal's THE UNIVERSAL SHERLOCK HOLMES (the long-awaited revised bibliography that will offer information from the two previously-published volumes and from at least 12,000 additional file cards prepared by Ron, who expects a total of 25,000 major entries) has been scheduled for publication by George Vanderburgh in Jan. 1994, with a price estimated at no more than US\$100, and with a firm deadline for orders of Dec. 1. Additional information is available from (please choose one): Richard A. Wein (65 Briarwood Lane, Plainview, NY 11803); Alfred A. Levin (8242 Ridgeway Avenue, Skokie, IL 60076); Philip Weller (6 Bramham Moor, Hill Head, Fareham, Hants. PO14 3RU, England); J.D. Singh (The Sleuth of Baker Street, 1595 Bayview Avenue, Toronto, Ont. M4G 3B5, Canada); or George Vanderburgh, Box 204, Shelburne, Ont. L0N 1S0, Canada.
4544. George Vanderburgh also can supply (at US\$14.95 postpaid) INTRODUCING JOHN KENDRICK BANGS, a newly-computerized edition of Bang's splendid Sherlockian parodies, with an introduction by Jon L. Lellenberg, in Hypertext format on a 3.5-inch DS-HD (1.44-MB) MS-DOS floppy disk.
4545. The new catalog from Signals (Box 64428, St. Paul, MN 55164) (800-669-9696) offers four "Sherlock Holmes Nesting Dolls" (Holmes, Watson, Moriarty, and the Hound) at \$16.95 plus shipping; they take plastic.
4546. THE LIST OF SEVEN, by Mark Frost (New York: William Morrow, 1993; 368 pp., \$20.00) (London: Hutchinson, 1993; 377 pp., £9.99) is alternate-universe fantasy (from the co-creator of the mini-series "Twin Peaks"); the novel opens in 1884 with young Dr. Arthur Conan Doyle in practice in London and hoping to find a publisher for his book-length story about the mysterious Dark Brotherhood, which to his dismay and peril he discovers is not at all fictional, and in fact seriously supernatural and malevolent. The story is told with style and verve, and smash and bang, and buckle and swash, and is full of echoes from the real world in which the real Conan Doyle lived, and there are some surprises. And the book will be widely read: Morrow reports that book-club rights have been sold to the Science Fiction Book Club, the Doubleday Book Club, the Mystery Guild, and the Literary Guild. Warning: the book may well seriously offend readers who do not understand or agree with the basic premise of alternate-universe fantasy (a genre in which the fact that Conan Doyle wasn't really in practice as a doctor in London in 1884, and didn't really do all the things he does in this story, isn't all that important).
4547. At hand from John Farrell is a note that Leslie Bricusse's SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE MUSICAL, published this year by Cherry Lane (a division of Hal Leonard) as a 100-page paperback with color illustrations, is available from Hollywood Sheet Music, 7777 Sunset Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90046, for \$19.95 plus \$5.00 shipping; they take plastic.

September 1993 #5

4548. A dozen audiocassettes with Charles Fuller reading the "twelve best" tales selected by Conan Doyle for The Strand Magazine in 1927 ("The Gloria Scott" has been substituted for "The Dancing Men") were first issued in 1990, and are now available from Radio Spirits (Box 2141, Schiller Park, IL 60176-0141) (800-729-4587); Fuller is a Sherlockian and an actor, and reads the stories well. There are two volumes (each with six cassettes) priced at \$29.95 each, and they accept credit-card orders (their catalog also offers a wide variety of vintage radio programs).
4549. "1994 Baker Street: Sherlock Holmes Returns" (which was the title when the two-hour television aired on CBS-TV on Sept. 12) was announced too late for a videotaper alert in the previous issue, but I trust that most of you were warned by friends or television listings or advertisements. But it likely will air again, even though it's not likely to lead to the sequels that the ending optimistically hints at. For those who didn't see the show, it was a cryogenic Holmes (again), with Anthony Higgins defrosted in San Francisco and assisted by Debrah Farentino (as doctor Amy Winslow) in pursuit of Ken Pogue (as evil grand-nephew James Moriarty Booth); the show was written and directed by Kenneth Johnson, who has a sense of humor and doesn't take the story or himself too seriously. Roger Johnson notes that Anthony Higgins played Sherlock Holmes on stage in "The White Glove" in England in 1983, as well as Rathe in the film "Young Sherlock Holmes" (1985), so we should add Higgins to the list of actors who have played both Holmes and Moriarty.
4550. Reported: LOST WORLD II, THE END OF THE THIRD WORLD, by Marcio Souza (New York: Avon, 1993; 362 pp., \$12.00), is a Brazilian novel, translated into English, that has nothing to do with dinosaurs or South American plateaus, but rather about a search for the fictional daughter of Prof. Challenger, and how the author finally manages to meet her.
4551. Tony Britton's excellent audiocassette readings of THE SIGN OF FOUR and A STUDY IN SCARLET (issued some years ago by Listen for Pleasure) have been followed by his version of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, done with style and fine attention to voices; HarperCollins AudioBooks has just issued the two-cassette set (HCA 124) at £6.99.
4552. This year's summer excursion by The Sherlock Holmes Society of London was to the South Downs (in pursuit of the Lion's Mane), with a stop at Forest Row (to visit Birlstone Manor), and the 42-page excursion handbook edited by Pamela Bruxner was as usual a fine production, and so well-received that it went quickly out of print. But SUNDAY IN SUSSEX has now been reprinted, and it is available for £7.00 (or \$10.50) postpaid (checks payable to the Society, please) from Pamela Bruxner at St. Cuthbert's Cottage, 23 North Street, Barming, Maidstone, Kent ME16 9HE, England.
4553. The handbooks from earlier Society excursions in 1989, 1991, and 1992, and other items such as Christmas cards issued in past years by the Society and by Lord Donegall, are among the many offers in a sales-list available from Mrs. E. M. Godden, Apple Tree Cottage, Smarden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 9RQE, England. And the Society's 1993 Christmas card, with a two-color sketch of New Scotland Yard, costs \$12.00 postpaid (to North America) for a

packet of ten, from Capt. W. R. Michell, 5 Old Farm Place, Hinton St. George, Somerset TA17 8TW, England (again, checks payable to the Society, please).

September 1993 #6

4554. Marina Stajic has forwarded an article from the N.Y. Daily News (Aug. 23) about a shop run by the Los Angeles County Coroner's Office to raise funds for their local Youthful Drunk Driving Program. The shop offers toe-tag key chains from the morgue, beach towels with a chalk body outline, and "Sherlock Bones" (a skeleton in appropriate costume) on T-shirts, tote bags, and mugs. An illustrated sales list is available from Skeletons in the Closet, 1104 N. Mission Road, Los Angeles, CA 90033.
4555. SHERLOCK IN LOVE, by Sena Jeter Naslund (Boston: David R. Godine, 1993; 236 pp., \$21.95), opens in 1922 with Watson having decided to write a biography of Sherlock Holmes, and quickly encountering a series of mysteries, current and past, that involve a mysterious violinist named Sigerson, an attempt to rescue Mad King Ludwig of Bavaria, and much more. The style and voice are consistent with the Canon, and the narrative is cinematic, as is often the case with modern pastiches.
4556. The Franco-Midland Hardware Company is offering some intriguing Sherlockian collectibles, including a 69 x 33 x 43 mm reproduction of the company's own Model T Ford van (£9.00/\$18.00 postpaid to the United States, with payment requested by sterling check or in U.S. currency), Christmas cards, company sweaters, and first day postcards for the forthcoming set of British stamps honoring Sherlock Holmes. Detailed information on all these and more, and on membership in the society, is available in return for a U.S. dollar bill sent to Philip Weller (6 Bramham Moor, Hill Head, Fareham, Hampshire PO14 3RU, England). The society also is planning a one-day trip from London on Jan. 16, 1994, to "Undershaw" (Conan Doyle's home), Portsmouth, Netley, and other Sherlockian and Doylean sites; details are available from Philip.
4557. Bill Nadel reports that this year's "Friends of Old Time Radio Convention" will be held at the Holiday Inn North in Newark, N.J., on Oct. 21-23; the unofficial "Sherlock Holmes" night will be Oct. 22, when Bill direct a recreation of one of Edith Meiser's scripts, with Frank Thomas as Holmes and Earl George as Watson. Convention information is available from Jay Hickerson, Box 4321, Hamden, CT 06514 (203-248-2887).
4558. MYTH AND MODERN MAN IN SHERLOCK HOLMES: SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE AND THE USES OF NOSTALGIA, by David S. Payne (Bloomington: Gaslight Publications, 1992; 311 pp., \$24.95), is a scholarly approach to the Canon and its author, and remarkably free from the academic jargon that often makes so many books in this genre so impenetrable. Payne suggests that the almost instant success of the Sherlock Holmes stories was aided by their reflection of the truly modern aspects of the 1890s, and he gives thoughtful examples both of this and of the ways in which the stories demonstrate the assumptions, preconceptions, and prejudices of their author and of his readers. Available for \$26.95 postpaid from the publisher at a new address (402 West Wilson Drive, Bloomington, IN 47403); credit-card orders welcome.
4559. Paula Brown reports that the new catalog from Potpourri (120 North Meadows Road, Medfield, MA 02052) (800-338-7798) offers a Durastone sculpture by Aleksander Danel of a "Gentleman Angler" wearing a deerstalker and period clothes, who might be Sherlock Holmes disguised with a mustache (\$59.95); and Levenger: Tools for Serious Readers (Box 1256, Delray Beach, FL 33447) (800-544-0880) offers Peterson's "Sherlock Holmes" pipe (\$189.00.).

September 1993 #7

4560. Herve Villechaize died on Sept. 4. He was best known as Tattoo in the ABC television series "Fantasy Island" (and his cry "The plane! The plane" was a catch-phrase in the 1980s). An episode that aired in 1979 opened with Tattoo dressed in Sherlockian costume, announcing that he had just finished reading a Sherlock Holmes story.
4561. Cathy Childs (1510 Lake Drive, Grand Island, FL 32735) offers a sales-list of her Sherlockian artwork, with realistic-style portraits of Jeremy Brett and other actors in the Granada series, and cartoon material as well. She also does Hercule Parrot (a crime-cracking polly from the Belgian Congo), and is happy to accept commissions.
4562. Contrary to the earlier report (May 93 #3) that William Shatner and Leonard Nimoy will star in "Harry and Arthur" at the Bucks County Playhouse in New Hope, Pa., on Dec. 8-19, 1993: they won't. And for those who arrived late, that's Harry (Houdini) and Arthur (Conan Doyle), and the play is based on the novel BELIEVE., written by Shatner and Michael Tobias and published by Berkley last year (July 92 #2). The play will be rescheduled whenever there is room in the stars' busy agenda, possibly in the spring of 1994.
4563. MYSTERIES SUSPENDED: MORE EARLY CASES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Richard Stone (Luton: Turnstone Press, 1993; 251 pp., £12.95), offers ten pastiches from the years between 1881 and 1888, sometimes involving a bit of science fiction and even fantasy, and the author has more stories to tell, so readers needn't worry about the last tale in this collection, which concludes with Sherlock Holmes lying exhausted on the dusty plains of Texas in 1883, "a white, barely living speck in a sea of inhospitable, unforgiving terrain."
4564. The British Philatelic Bulletin has published Andrew Davidson's designs for the set of five stamps to be issued on Oct. 12 in honor of Sherlock Holmes. The Royal Mail will issue first day covers (with an appropriate pictorial postmark) cancelled at Baker Street and in Edinburgh, a presentation pack, and a set of stamp cards, and there will be first day covers issued by The Conan Doyle (Crowborough) Establishment (Richard Greep, The Limes, Eridge Road, Crowborough, East Sussex, England), by The Arthur Conan Doyle Society (Christopher Roden, Ashcroft, 2 Abbottsford Drive, Penyffordd, Chester, CH4 0JG, England), and by The Sherlock Holmes Society of London (whose covers, as well as the presentation packs and stamp cards, will be marketed here by Ben Wood on behalf of The Baker Street Irregulars, and more information on Ben's material will be available next month).

September 1993 #8

4565. Lillian de la Torre died on Sept. 13. She was a fine mystery writer, and called herself a "histo-detector" (describing her calling as the craft of solving mysteries of the long-ago). Best known for her series of short stories about Dr. Sam: Johnson, Detector, she also was skilled as a playwright and as a historical novelist, and her Sherlockian pastiche ("The Adventure of the Persistent Marksman") was published in the anthology THE NEW ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1987).
4566. Chris Caswell has announced a 1994 Sherlock Holmes Calendar, with dates of Sherlockian significance and black-and-white photographs from classic S'ian films. The cost is \$11.95 postpaid, if you say the secret word ("Scuttlebutt") and your order is received by Oct. 23; otherwise the cost is \$15.95 postpaid. You can send your orders to The Baker Street Emporium, Box 2324, Seal Beach, CA 90740; credit-card orders welcome.
4567. Mark Alberstat's 1994 Sherlockian Calendar will have illustrations from The Strand Magazine, with William S. Baring-Gould's dates for the cases; Mark's address is 6258 Payzant Avenue, Halifax, NS B3H 2B1, Canada, and the cost (postpaid) is US\$12.00.
4568. Forecast: THE BEEKEEPER'S APPRENTICE: ON THE SEGREGATION OF THE QUEEN, by Laurie R. King, from St. Martin's Press, Feb. 1994 ("in his retirement, the great detective Sherlock Holmes grooms a young woman to follow in his footsteps"). Also: THE GAME IS AFOOT; PARODIES, PASTICHES, AND PONDERINGS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, edited by Marvin Kaye, from St. Martin's Press, Apr. 1994 ("the most comprehensive volume of classic writings on or about the world's greatest consulting detective").

4569. Edith Meiser ("A Fascinating and Beautiful Woman") died on Sept. 26. She was a fine actress (beginning her career with a stock company in 1921), as well as a director and writer, and her greatest gift to Sherlockians came soon after (as she once recalled) "my career as a Keith Orpheum headliner ended with the demise of vaudeville, killed by talking pictures." That was when she and her husband Tom McKnight decided to enter the world of radio, and to launch a "Sherlock Holmes" series, which began in 1930 with William Gillette in the title role in the first program (and "when Doubleday heard there would be a radio series they got out the Omnibus Edition in time for Christmas"). She wrote the scripts for the series through 1944, and again in 1947-48, and in 1954-55 she wrote the stories for the cartoon strip that Frank Giacoia drew for the N.Y. Herald Tribune. She was honored by the BSI as *The* Woman in 1987, and awarded the Queen Victoria Medal in 1989, and her Investiture in 1991.
4570. "Sherlock Holmes Star Brett in a Wheelchair" was the headline in the Sunday Mirror on Sept. 12, with an "exclusive" story reporting that Jeremy Brett has been struck down by a crippling illness, forcing him to halt filming on the series, and that he was so ill on Sept. 9 that he had to miss recording an episode of "This Is Your Life" featuring his co-star Edward Hardwicke. A Granada spokeswoman confirmed that Brett was suffering from pleurisy, and that filming had been halted until Sept. 27 to allow him to rest and recuperate. The Sunday Mirror is one of London's "shock" tabloids.
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October 1993 #1

4571. Those who feel that they aren't getting enough Sherlockian gossip in these monthly mailings may wish to subscribe to The District Messenger, which is edited by Roger Johnson for the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, and does a better job of covering what's happening in Great Britain (and sometimes elsewhere). He has been newslettering for almost eleven years, and is up to issue 134, and publishes approximately monthly with no guarantee of how many pages or how often. Twelve issues to North America cost £5.00 or US \$10.00 (dollar checks should be payable to Jean Upton, please), and Roger's address is Mole End, 41 Sandford Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 6DE, England.
4572. The Simon & Schuster audiocassette THE NEW ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES #21 (\$11.00) has two more of the fine old radio shows from scripts by Denis Green and Anthony Boucher, with new introductions by Harry Bartell (Peggy Webber, who worked on the original series, plays Mrs. Hudson in the introductions). "The Great Gandolfo" (22 October 45), starring Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce, has long been available on phonograph records and cassettes, but the new-to-audio "The Original Hamlet" (2 November 46) stars Nigel Bruce and Tom Conway (as Watson and Holmes, with top billing going to Bruce); Joseph Bell, the announcer, performed the same service for the pre-Rathbone series from 1930 to 1936. "The Original Hamlet" is a new script, rather than an adaptation of Vincent Starrett's pastiche.
4573. Leslie Bricusse's "Sherlock Holmes: The Musical" played 4 weeks in Exeter in 1988 and 11 weeks in London in 1989, with Ron Moody in the title role, and was revived this year for 14 weeks on tour with Robert Powell, and it is a lively show. It's not yet available for production in the U.S. and Canada, but until it we can see it on this side of the Atlantic, the script (London: Samuel French, 1992; 100 pp., \$11.95) will serve as a reasonable substitute; it is also available direct from Samuel French here (45 West 25th Street, New York, NY 10010) for \$13.95 postpaid; they take plastic.
4574. Edward B. Hanna's THE WHITECHAPEL HORRORS: A SHERLOCK HOLMES NOVEL was published last year (March 93 #2) and is now available as a trade paperback (New York: Carroll & Graf, 1993; 395 pp., \$10.95); Holmes and Watson appear in a third-person account of the investigation of the Jack the Ripper murders.
4575. Also out in trade paperback is THE D. CASE: THE TRUTH ABOUT THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD, by Charles Dickens, Carlo Fruttero, and Franco Lucentini (New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1993; 587 pp., \$12.95); first published in Italian in 1989 and then in English (May 92 #5), the book is an account of the events at a Forum on the Completion of Unfinished or Fragmentary Works in Music and Literature, and of the deliberations of the participants, who include Lew Archer, Father Brown, Hercule Poirot, Nero Wolfe, and Sherlock Holmes.
4576. Further to the earlier reports of Lumivision's laserdisc of the 1925 film of "The Lost World" (April 92 #4) and the more recent books about Willis H. O'Brien (August 93 #5), Ted Friedman reports that LSVideo (Box 415, Carmel, IN 46032) offers a video of "Rare Willis O'Brien Films (1915-1930)". O'Brien created ingenious and imaginative special effects for many films (including "King Kong"), and his shorter films also are interesting.
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October 1993 #2

4577. The third volume of "Sherlock Holmes, Consulting Detective" is now available on CD-ROM disc for IBM-compatible and Macintosh computers, with three new cases with live-action digitized video engineered by ICOM Simulations. See your neighborhood software shop: the shelf price should be \$69.95 or less. And an article in Forbes FYI (Sept. 27), at hand from Vinnie Brosnan, reports that ICOM has been bought by the media-giant Viacom, and that with 250,000 discs sold, the Sherlock Holmes discs are the third-best-selling discs in CD-ROM history.
4578. Donald M. Grant (Box 187, Hampton Falls, NH 03844) can still supply copies of Sterling Lanier's THE CURIOUS QUESTS OF BRIGADIER FFELLOWES (January 87 #2), with his giant-rat pastiche "A Father's Tale" (D5042b), nicely illustrated by Ned Damerson and signed by author and artist (\$30.00); and Joseph Payne Brennan's THE ADVENTURES OF LUCIUS LEFFING (May 90 #1), with stories about a psychic detective who owes much to H. P. Lovecraft as well as to Sherlock Holmes (although the stories are not S'ian pastiches), illustrated by Luis Ferreira and signed by author and artist (\$30.00); and the now-out-of-print St. Martin's Press "Night Lights" edition of THE SPECKLED BAND (December 87 #3) with glow-in-the-dark illustrations by Dean Morrissey (\$8.95). Shipping is extra, and there is lots of other well-illustrated science fiction, horror, and fantasy in his catalog.
4579. African violets are featured on the stamps in a booklet issued this month, and of course there are many Violets in the Canon. And there is one lower-case violet (in "The Valley of Fear"): "A lovely violet growing upon one of those black slag-heaps of the mines would not have seemed more surprising."
4580. MAAJABU YA UTEPE WENYE MADOADOA is Leonard Lisanza Muaka's translation into Swahili of "The Speckled Band" (and it is the first known translation of a Sherlock Holmes story into that language). The translation was proposed by George A. Vanderburgh during a visit to Kenya earlier this year, and is now available as a 24-page pamphlet. The postpaid cost is US\$7.95 or CA\$9.95 or £4.00, and George's address is Box 204, Shelburne, Ont. L0N 1S0, Canada. George will also be glad to send you a long list of Sherlockian and Doylean material available MS-DOS floppy disks, and he is preparing to publish THE BAKER STREET BRIEFS, a collection of S'ian essays by S. Tupper Bigelow.
4581. Sorry about that: the Sherlock Holmes Society of London's reprint of SUNDAY IN SUSSEX (the excellent 42-page handbook for this year's summer excursion) costs \$12.00 (postpaid to the United States). Also available is FRANCE IN THE BLOOD: A PRACTICAL HANDBOOK OF FRENCH HOLMESIAN CULTURE, WITH SOME OBSERVATIONS, edited by Philip Porter and Catherine Cooke and prepared as a souvenir for the Society's autumn trip to Cognac, Bordeaux, and Montpellier, with 98 pages of fine scholarship; \$18.50 postpaid (or \$28.50 for numbered and signed copies). You can order from Mrs. E. M. Godden, Apple Tree Cottage, Smarden, Ashford, Kent TN27 8QE, England; checks should be payable to the Society, please.
4582. And for those who like to plan ahead, the Society also plans to celebrate the centenary of Sherlock Holmes' return to London in 1894 with a "Festival of Holmes" from May 21 to May 30, 1994, with at least one event scheduled each day, and overseas visitors will be welcome to join the festivities.
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October 1993 #3

4583. Some years ago, the Land Press in London issued a new edition of THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, with all the Sidney Paget illustrations from The Strand Magazine, a previously unpublished full-page frontispiece of Holmes by Paget, and custom leather binding with four different designs available, at \$2,000 a copy (September 89 #6). Copies of all four variants are still available, and enquiries will be welcomed by Priscilla Juvelis, 150 Huntington Avenue #SD-L, Boston, MA 02115.
4584. Charles Scholefield died on Sept. 23. He was long a member of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London, as well as an excellent barrister, and an expert on public health and on local government, but he became most famous, as his obituary in The Times noted, for impersonating Prof. Moriarty in 1968, when the Society mounted its first invasion of Switzerland. Photos of Moriarty and Holmes (aka Paul Gore-Booth) grappling at the brink of the Reichenbach were published world-wide and are still remembered (one of those pictures was reprinted in the current issue of the British magazine Private Eye).
4585. A new catalog from Sound Exchange (45 North Industry Court, Deer Park, NY 11729) (800-521-0042) offers RADIO'S GREATEST DETECTIVES: SHERLOCK HOLMES on a set of five audiocassettes (\$19.98) or five CDs (\$24.98), with eight of the Rathbone/Bruce shows and Orson Welles' broadcast of his adaptation of William Gillette's play. Rathbone shows also are included in other anthology sets on audiocassettes.
4586. William D. Jenkins ("Sahara King") died on Oct. 4. Bill had a fine career in public relations, and then as a science writer and editor, but his great love was literature. He delighted in the associations he found between the Canon and the works of writers such as T. S. Eliot and Vladimir Nabokov and especially James Joyce, and he wrote and talked about the associations with great style and humor. He received his Investiture in the BSI in 1963, and the Two-Shilling Award in 1985.
4587. A new catalog at hand from Brian and Charlotte Erickson (Sherlock's Corner, 1029 Judson Drive, Mountain View, CA 94040) offers handmade clay caricature mugs of Holmes and Watson, plastic mugs customized with needlework inserts, puzzles, ornaments, note cards, and much more.
4588. Dennis Rosa's 1972 adaptation of William Gillette's play "Sherlock Holmes" is scheduled at the Actors Theatre (316 West Main Street, Louisville, KY 40202) from Dec. 30, 1993, to Jan. 29, 1994. And Charles Marowitz's play "Sherlock's Last Case" is scheduled at the Kavinoky Theatre (320 Porter Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14201) from Feb. 17 to Mar. 27, 1994; the box-office telephone number is 716-881-7668.
4589. Malcolm Payne, curator of the Conan Doyle (Crowborough) Establishment, has close associations with Windlesham (his father, aunt, and uncle worked for Sir Arthur), and he has collected some splendid reminiscences by his relatives and by others who were employed by the family. RECOLLECTIONS OF SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE BY RESIDENTS OF CROWBOROUGH has many warm and personal views of Sir Arthur, Lady Conan Doyle, and their children, and is available as a 26-page booklet from Malcolm Payne, 4 Wealden Close, Crowborough, East Sussex, TN6 2ST, England; £6.00 (sterling checks made payable to the Arthur Conan Doyle Memorial Fund) or \$12.00 (currency only) postpaid to the U.S.

October 1993 #4

4590. The Trifling Monographers, a professional scion for those who labor in the vineyards of public relations, will be meeting on Nov. 15 in Orlando, Fla., during an annual convention. Anyone who plans to be in the vicinity is welcome to attend the festivities (and you can spread the word to friends and acquaintances in public relations), and additional information is available from Graham Sudbury (Box 52062, Tulsa, OK 74152).
4591. Troy Taylor (805 West North, Decatur, IL 62522) has published the second issue of The Whitechapel Gazette: \$6.00 postpaid for 40 pages of articles about Jack the Ripper, Conan Doyle's home at Crowborough, Conan Doyle and Charles Fort, and more, all nicely illustrated by Troy.
4592. New philatelic items: the St. Vincent Grenadines (an island nation in the West Indies) recently issued a set of one sheetlet and two souvenir sheets honoring Disney's animated film "The Great Mouse Detective" (1986). They are quite colorful, with nice Disney art, and the set is available from Ben Wood, who also offers the Britain's recent "Sherlock Holmes" set (the Royal Mail presentation packs and stamp cards, and The Sherlock Holmes Society of London's first day covers). You can send a #10 SASE to Ben to receive his illustrated flier (Box 740, Ellenton, FL 34222).
4593. The British stamps also are available with first-day postmarks on a set of five postcards, with a black-and-white portrait of Conan Doyle and different color portraits of Holmes (taken from Abbey's dust jackets for the John Murray series); £8.37 postpaid (Maurice Tanner, 80 Whitehorse Road, West Croydon, Surrey CR0 2LA, England; credit-card orders are welcome (otherwise please send payment by sterling check or in U.S. currency). Henry Murray (Box 1102, Barnet, Herts. EN5 5AF, England) is offering sets of postcards with 10 different first-day postmarks (\$30.00), or 15 different (\$45.00), and a first day cover signed by Dame Jean Conan Doyle (\$19.00).
4594. And: there was a contest involving the British set, according to stories in the Independent. The design of each of the five stamps includes one letter (more-or-less hidden), and the five letters can be arranged to form a word with strong Holmesian connections.
4595. Chris Redmond's A SHERLOCK HOLMES HANDBOOK (Toronto: Simon & Pierre, 1993) has much to recommend it (and I do recommend it): the book offers detailed exploration of the Canon and of Conan Doyle and his other works, and a fine overview of the Victorian world reflected in the Canon, and a graceful tour of pastiches and parodies and media portrayals and of Sherlockian fans and followers, and a discussion of academic scholarship and why so many people have so much fun in the world of Sherlock Holmes in 250 well-written pages.
4596. And it really is what the title promises: a handbook, and one that can be used and enjoyed both by Sherlockians and by those who are wondering just what it is that Sherlockians do, and why. You can order from the Dundurn Press (Box 1000, Niagara Falls, NY 14302); the book costs US\$26.50 (plus \$3.00 shipping), and they take plastic.
4597. There's lots of Sherlockian audio and video and other material in the new catalog from The Mind's Eye (Box 1060, Petaluma, CA 94953) (800-227-2020); nothing new, but it's all convenient, and Bruce Wolfe's colorful portrait of Holmes is still available on sweatshirts and T-shirts.

October 1993 #5

4598. "Dr. Watson is the principal protagonist and he's very actionoriented, rather than the quizzical sidekick," is the way Craig Baumgarten described Brian Helgeland's script for "Elementary", which has been bought by Warner Bros. Pictures, according to a report spotted by Andy Peck in the Hollywood Reporter. Insiders estimated that Warner Bros. paid \$400,000 for the script; and if anyone has seen the film "The Ticking Man", Helgeland wrote that one, too.
4599. "60 Minutes" (on CBS-TV on Oct. 10) had a segment ("Jack the Ripper?") on the recently-discovered diary that is believed by some to prove that James Maybrick committed all those murders. The segment included black-and-white clips from old films, and if you thought you recognized Mary Kelly, it was indeed Edina Ronay, who played the role in "A Study in Terror" (1965). And yes, that film was made in color, but "60 Minutes" cheated.
4600. Richard Carleton Hacker, author of THE ULTIMATE PIPE BOOK, has now turned his attention to cigars: THE ULTIMATE CIGAR BOOK has more than 300 pages and 130 photographs, with eight pages in color and, as might be expected, discussion of cigar ash and of Sherlock Holmes' smoking habits. The book retails for \$34.95 at tobacconists, and can be purchased (autographed) for \$38.50 postpaid from the author (Box 634, Beverly Hills, CA 90213).
4601. THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (New York: Children's Classics, 992; 249 pp., \$12.99) is a reprint of the Portland House edition (October 88 #3), which was essentially a reprint of the first American edition, with eight additional (and well-executed) color illustrations by Sergio Martinez.

4602. The following story is quoted (in full) from the Washington Post's "Around the Nation" section (Sept. 25): "Exotic dancer Michele Roger, 27, stabbed, burned, and mulched her rock band drummer boyfriend, David Alexander Richmond, 28, before mixing his remains in cement and scattering cement chips down Interstate 95 in central Florida, according to police in Sanford, Fla. Richmond had been missing for more than a year; Roger was charged with second-degree murder."
4603. Jim Weiss told four Canonical stories (Maza/Spec/Musg/Blue) on his awardwinning audiocassette SHERLOCK HOLMES FOR CHILDREN (April 92 #8), and he has now recorded his storyteller's adaptation of "The Red-Headed League" (with Poe's "The Purloined Letter" and Chesterton's "The Blue Cross") on MYSTERY! MYSTERY! The cassette costs \$11.95 postpaid, from Greathall Productions, Box 813, Benicia, CA 94510.
4604. Stephen King's pastiche "The Doctor's Case" (which was first published in 1987 in the anthology THE NEW ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES) is reprinted in King's collection NIGHTMARES AND DREAMSCAPES (New York: Viking, 1993; 816 pp., \$27.50).
4605. The new catalog from Barnes & Noble (126 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10011) has a new edition of THE FINAL ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, compiled by Peter Haining from material by Conan Doyle and others and first published in 1981, now with an added (five-sentence) foreword by Jeremy Brett; \$6.98 (item 1884097). And (announced as "new!") a reprint of Alan K. Russell's 1978 anthology RIVALRY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (D5152b); \$9.98 (item 1949296).
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October 1993 #6

4606. The fall 1993 issue of Scarlet Street has arrived, with Jessie Lilley's excellent interview with Granada producer June Wyndham Davies (with production stills from "The Golden Pince-Nez"), and with other Sherlockian news, and as always lots of illustrated articles about mystery and horror films. And the next issue will have interviews with Ida Lupino and Terry Kilburn, with discussion of their work in Basil Rathbone's "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (1939). \$18.00 a year (four issues), from R. H. Enterprises, 271 Farrant Terrace, Teaneck, NJ 07666.
4607. Ray Betzner will present a program on "Sherlock Holmes: Fact or Fiction?" to the Friends of the Library of the College of William and Mary, at 7:30 pm on Dec. 2 at the Botetourt Theater in Williamsburg, Va. (in case anyone is planning to be in the vicinity then). And Robert F. Fleissner's paper "On the Pedigree of the Name of Holmes: Apropos of the First English Detective Work" is scheduled by the Modern Language Association on the afternoon of Dec. 30 in the Varley Room of the Toronto Hilton in Toronto.
4608. Sherry Rose-Bond reports two new Sherlockian chess sets: one costs \$450.00 (with board) in a catalog from Norm Thompson, Box 3999, Portland, OR 97208 (800-547-1160), and the other costs \$368.00 (with board) or \$245.00 (without) in a catalog from Museum Collections, 586 Higgins Crowell Road, West Yarmouth, MA 02673 (800-442-2460).
4609. Spotted by Tom Stix in the Sept. 1993 issue of Investment Advisor: a nice two-page color view of Holmes and Watson in the railway carriage, as part of an advertisement by Seligman Financial Services. To get a copy of the advertisement, call 800-221-2783 and ask for "the Sherlock Holmes piece".
4610. Tim Kline reports an interesting interview with Nicholas Meyer in Mystery Scene #40 (Box 669, Cedar Rapids, IA 52406; \$5.25), with discussion of THE CANARY TRAINER and his earlier pastiches, and with an account of his being asked to direct "Young Sherlock Holmes" (he declined). But Meyer did not mention plans for a new project, reported elsewhere to be a film based on Conan Doyle's THE WHITE COMPANY, scripted and directed by Meyer.
4611. Tim also notes that a new catalog from What on Earth (2451 Enterprise East Parkway, Twinsburg, OH 44087) has a new "Many Faces of Sherlock" design on T-shirts (\$12.95) and sweatshirts (\$22.95). And that the current catalog from Mysteries by Mail (Box 679, Boonville, CA 95415) (800-722-0726) has a S'ian word-puzzle (and offers of in-print S'ian books, audio, and video).
4612. The Nov. 1993 issue of Architectural Digest (6300 Willshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90048) has Brendan Gill's fine four-page article on "Gillette Castle: An Actor's Folly on a Connecticut Hilltop" (with grand color photographs). Gill has been there before: his "A Reporter at Large: Castle for Sale" was published in the Nov. 26, 1938, issue of The New Yorker.
4613. Reported from Britain: Keith Oatley's THE CASE OF EMILY V (London: Secker & Warburg, £9.99) is a dual pastiche: the book offers the journal of Emily (a young girl who has suffered a nervous breakdown after being seduced by her guardian), Dr. Sigmund Freud's notes on her case (she is his patient), and Dr. John H. Watson's account of Sherlock Holmes' investigation of a murder to which she is linked.
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October 1993 #7

4614. Sherlock Holmes' 140th birthday will be celebrated on Friday, Jan. 7, with the traditional festivities in New York. But the festivities actually will begin on Thursday at 9:00 am at the Hotel Algonquin (59 West 44th Street), whence Allen Mackler and Charlie Shields will lead participants in the annual Christopher Morley Walk, which ends with luncheon at McSorley's. Allen's address is 324 2nd Street NE, Osseo, MN 55369, and from Jan. 3 he will be at the Iroquois Hotel (212-840-3080).
4615. Bob Hahn (who claims to be known as the Booming Bittern of Baskerville Bog) will preside over the Aunt Clara Sing (off-hand, off-the-wall, and largely off-key) beginning some time after 8:00 pm at O'Lunney's Steak House. You can reserve a seat by sending a check for \$10.00 a person to Hugh O'Lunney (12 West 44th Street, New York, NY 10036); your \$10.00 will be applied to your tab for the evening.
4616. Friday's agenda begins with the Martha Hudson Breakfast from 8:30 to 10:30 am at the Hotel Algonquin at 59 West 44th Street; \$18.95 (checks *payable to The Baker Street Irregulars* can be sent to Tom and Ruthann Stetak, 15529 Diagonal Road, LaGrange, OH 44050).
4617. The William Gillette Luncheon will start at noon, and (a new location) at: Moran's Chelsea at 146 Tenth Avenue at 19th Street (Susan Rice, 125 Washington Place #2-E, New York, NY 10014; \$30.00). Otto Penzler's open house at The Mysterious Bookshop (129 West 56th Street) also is on Friday, from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm; it is quite possible that Sherlockian authors will be on hand to sign their books.
4618. The Baker Street Irregulars will gather at 6:00 pm at 24 Fifth Avenue (at 9th Street), and The Fortescue Symposium (sponsored by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes and two local societies) will convene at 6:30 pm at the St. Moritz Hotel at 50 Central Park South at 6th Avenue (Katherine Karlson, 1259 Fowler Place, Binghamton, NY 13903; \$55.00). Early reservations are recommended for the breakfast, the luncheon, and the Fortescue festivities.
4619. On Saturday a posse of purveyors will offer a wide variety of S'iana at the Algonquin (aka Covent Garden West) from 9:30 am to noon. Vendor tables are available (contact Ray Betzner, 107 Tendril Court, Williamsburg, VA 23188).
4620. The Baker Street Irregulars will hold their annual reception, open to all Sherlockians and their friends, on Saturday afternoon from 2:30 to 5:00 pm at 24 Fifth Avenue (at 9th Street). There will be an open bar, and hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, and the cost is \$35.00 a person (checks *payable to The Baker Street Irregulars* should be sent to Donald E. Novorsky, 5182 Mahoning Avenue NW, Warren, OH 44483). The Baker Street Irregulars are now a tax-exempt organization, and Tom has arranged with the Hotel Algonquin for rooms (single or double) at \$145.00 a night (Wednesday through Saturday); this is the total cost, since no tax is due for reservations made via the BSI. Please note that all other charges (room service, telephone calls, meals, drinks, etc.) are not covered. The offer is available to all Sherlockians: your reservations, with full names of all occupants, accompanied by
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payment (checks payable to the BSI), can be sent to Thomas L. Stix, Jr. (34 Pierson Avenue, Norwood, NJ 07648) and are to be received no later than Dec. 16. And there's more . . .

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4621. Note: payments to The Baker Street Irregulars for more than one event and for reservations at the Algonquin can be combined and made with one check (in U.S. funds, please) or by international money order to be sent to the BSI, c/o Thomas L. Stix, Jr., 34 Pierson Avenue, Norwood, NJ 07648.
4622. Mary Ellen Rich has once again kindly provided a list of hotels that offer reasonable (as defined by New York landlords) rates, along with a warning about non-optional extras: \$2.00 a day occupancy tax, 8.25% state tax, 5% city tax, and 5% state tax on rooms costing more than \$99.99. If you plan to arrive on Thursday, it is important to confirm that the weekend-package rates include Thursday.
4623. St. Moritz (50 Central Park South): \$109 (per inside room) or \$139 (with a view of the park) if you mention the Adventuresses, who are dining there on Friday (800-221-4774). Roosevelt (45 East 45th Street): \$99 (single SU-TH) \$109 (double SU-TH) \$89 (per room FR-SA) (800-223-1870). Jolly Madison (22 East 38th Street): \$99 (per room MO-TH) \$89 (FR-SU) (800-225-4340). Omni Park Central (7th Avenue at 55th Street): \$99 (promotional rate per room) \$165 (family rate for 2 connecting rooms and 3 double beds) (800-843-6664). Gramercy Park (Lexington Avenue at 21st Street): \$95 (per room) (800-221-4083). Journey's End (3 East 40th Street): \$94.99 (per room FR-SU) (800-668-4200). Iroquois (49 West 44th Street): \$75 (single) \$85 (double) (800-332-7220). Rosoff's (147 West 43rd Street): \$55 (single) \$65 (double) \$75 (triple) (212-869-1212).
4624. Vincent Price died on Oct. 25. He was a fine actor, and once played Prince Albert to Helen Hayes' "Victoria Regina", but he was far better known as a villain. He was flattered and amused by his reputation as "the prince of menace," and he was for many years the genially sinister host of "Mystery!" on PBS-TV (winning an Edgar from the Mystery Writers of America in 1988 for his "contributions to the world of mystery"). And he was the model for and supplied the voice of the thoroughly villainous Prof. Ratigan in the Disney film "The Great Mouse Detective" (1986).
4625. "First Couple's Intimate Talk: Surgery" was the headline on this story, by Al Kamen, in the Oct. 1 issue of the Washington Post

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4626. The Dr. John H. Watson Fund provides financial assistance to Sherlockians (membership in The Baker Street Irregulars or The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes is not required) who might otherwise be unable to participate in the birthday-weekend festivities in New York in January. A carefully anonymous John H. Watson presides over the Fund and welcomes contributions, which are needed each year, because the Fund is self-liquidating. Contributions can be made by checks payable to John H. Watson and can be sent (without return address on the envelope) to Dr. Watson, c/o The Baker Street Irregulars, 34 Pierson Avenue, Norwood, NJ 07648; letters are forwarded unopened, and Dr. Watson will acknowledge your generosity.
4627. The number of different first day covers for the British stamps honoring Sherlock Holmes doesn't really approach infinity, but it might seem that way. The British Philatelic Bureau (acting for the Royal Mail) offered a cacheted cover postmarked in Edinburgh or London, and other cacheted covers were prepared by The Conan Doyle (Crowborough) Establishment, The Arthur Conan Doyle Society, and The Sherlock Holmes Society of London (all noted in previous issues of this newsletter). And reports have been received of cacheted covers issued by St. Bart's (the hospital) and The Sherlock Holmes Museum (at 239 Baker Street); sorry: no information on how to order these. And all sorts of people and societies and companies arranged for all sorts of postmarks on the five stamp cards issued by the Royal Mail (there are no "official" first day cancellations in Britain).
4628. Reported by Tim O'Connor: a new graphic novel from DC Comics called BATMAN/HOUDINI: THE DEVIL'S WORKSHOP, written by Howard Victor Chaykin and John Francis Moore (and illustrated by Mark Chiarello); \$5.95 in the comic-book shops. Bruce Wayne (as a young man) meets Harry Houdini, who says, "As my dear English friend Conan Doyle says--endlessly--eliminate the impossible and you are left with the improbable." Otherwise non-Sherlockian.
4629. Tim also reports a rubber stamp with Sherlockian artwork by John Brousch, shown here actual size; \$6.00 postpaid from Tim O'Connor, 6015 West Route 115, Herscher, IL 60941.
4630. The fall 1993 issue of The Armchair Detective has a new "Report from 221B Baker Street" by Sherry Rose-Bond and Scott Bond (about the Sherlockian contributions to the Jack the Ripper genre), and an interesting article by William S. Cramer on "The Enigmatic B. Fletcher Robinson and the Writing of The Hound of the Baskervilles". Quarterly at \$26.00 a year (129 West 56th Street, New York, NY 10019).
4631. Reported by Gayle Harris: the new film "Malice" (described by one critic as "a highly implausible thriller about sex, money, and surgery," was directed by Harold Becker and stars Nicole Kidman, Alec Baldwin, Bill Pullman, and (in a cameo role) Anne Bancroft, who says in one of her scenes, "Now you've proved you're Sherlock Holmes."

November 1993 #2

4632. SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE MAJOR STORIES WITH CONTEMPORARY CRITICAL ESSAYS, edited by John A. Hodgson (New York: Bedford Books of St. Martin's Press, 1994; 452 pp., \$35.00 cloth, \$8.50 paper), is designed as a textbook for literature classes, and offers an excerpt from "A Study in Scarlet" and fourteen of the short stories, and nine essays by modern literary critics, reprinted from journals and books published in the 1980s and 1990s. Hodgson easily supports his suggestion that critical attention to the Canon "has developed into a rich and sustained dialogue."
4633. The Maiwand Jezails celebrated their 30th anniversary in high style, and with a necktie commemorating the event, and a few neckties are still available (in gold-red-and-black on navy blue) from Robert F. Cryne, 6407 South 106 Circle, Omaha, NE 68127; \$30.00 postpaid.
4634. Sorry about that: the wrong mailing address in last month's reports on the new Sherlock Holmes stamps. The new British stamps also are available with first-day postmarks on a set of five postcards, with a black-and-white portrait of Conan Doyle and different color portraits of Holmes (from Abbey's dust jackets for the John Murray series); the set costs £8.37 postpaid from Maurice Tanner, 180 Whitehorse Road, West Croydon, Surrey CRO 2LA, England; credit-card orders are welcome (otherwise please send payment by sterling check or in U.S. currency).
4635. The latest issue of Anglofile is at hand, after a year-long hiatus, and the newsletter is now published monthly, as always focusing on news of British television and film (on both sides of the Atlantic). A new James Bond film is in the works (to star Timothy Dalton), "Masterpiece Theatre" will broadcast Ian Richardson's "To Play the King" (a sequel to his excellent "House of Cards"), and the new "Poirot" series on "Mystery!" will be followed by Roy Marsden and Mel Martin in a new "Dagliesh" mini-series. \$12.00 a year (Box 33514, Decatur, GA 30033).
4636. The Simon & Schuster audiocassette THE NEW ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES #22 (\$12.00) has two more of the fine old radio shows from scripts by Denis Green and Anthony Boucher, with new introductions by Harry Bartell (and Lou Krugman as Inspector Lestrade). "Murder by Moonlight" (29 October 45), stars Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce and has long been available on phonograph records and cassettes (with lower fidelity), but the new-to-audio "The Coptic Compass" (7 December 46) stars Nigel Bruce and Tom Conway (as Watson and Holmes, with top billing going to Bruce).

4637. The Simon & Schuster audiocassette series has been produced from original transcription disks by Ken Greenwald and his partners at 221A Baker Street Associates, and the third issue of Ken's newsletter The Dispatch Box is now available, offering an excerpt from series director Glenhall Taylor's autobiography, and article by Desmond Tyler, and much more. You can send a #10 SASE to Ken at Box 351453, Los Angeles, CA 90035.
4638. For the completists: yet another variant edition of THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES, published in 1992 from the standard Doubleday plates and sold for \$14.98 at Barnes & Noble stores. "New York: Barnes & Noble" on the title page and "Published by arrangement with Doubleday" on the title-page verso.
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November 1993 #3

4639. WETA-TV (Washington) is rebroadcasting the 1978 British miniseries of "Rebecca" (with Jeremy Brett as Maxim de Winter), and Rosemary Michaud reports in Craig Moore's The Brett Gazette that videocassettes of Jeremy Brett's "Macbeth" and of Laurence Olivier's "The Merchant of Venice" (with Brett as Bassanio) are available from Fusion Video, 17311 Fusion Way, Country Club Hills, IL 60478 (800-959-0061).
4640. Mary Blount Christian's SHERLOCK STREET DETECTIVE SERIES now runs to ten titles, nicely illustrated by Joe Boddy. The stories are cheerful tales about four modern kids who live on Sherlock Street and have fun solving mysteries (aided by a friendly dog named Watson); grades 1-3, 32 pp. in paper covers, \$4.95 each from the Milliken Publishing Co., 1100 Research Boulevard, St. Louis, MO 63132 (800-325-4136).
4641. The Occupants of the Empty House have a new issue of lapel pins, available for \$11.00 postpaid from Debbie Tinsley, 105 Wilcox, Zeigler, IL 62999.
4642. Tom Biblewski reports that the 13th Sherlock Holmes/Conan Doyle Symposium at Wright State University in Dayton will be held on March 18-20, 1994. Contact Greg Sullivan (2800 North River Road, Yellow Springs, OH 45387) for details.
4643. Tom Kowols reports in The Police Gazette that "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970) is scheduled for release on laserdisc this month by MGM/UA, in letterbox format (widescreen, avoiding the pan-and-scan so often used in converting theatrical films to video). And "Elementary, Dear Data" (1988) from "Star Trek: The Next Generation" is out on laserdisc from Paramount. And Skybox has issued a set of "Star Trek" trading cards in which one card is "The Case of the Errant Holodeck" with artist Sonia B. Hillios' version of Data, Geordi, and Moriarty. And that there's a CD of the soundtrack of the film "My Fair Lady" (with Jeremy Brett as Freddie Eynsford-Hill).
4644. The Actors Theatre of Louisville will be performing Dennis Rosa's 1975 play "Sherlock Holmes and the Curse of the Sign of Four" (rather than his adaptation of the Gillette play) from Dec. 30 to Jan. 29. Their address is 316 West Main Street, Louisville, KY 40202 (502-585-1205).
4645. Some legal news, from Andy Peck: the N.Y. Law Journal has reported that Justice Albert M. Rosenblatt, who now serves in the Appellate Division in New York state, has been selected by the Commission on Judicial Nomination as one of seven candidates from which Governor Cuomo will choose the next judge of the N.Y. Court of Appeals (the state's highest court).
4646. Cinemonde (1932 Polk Street, San Francisco, CA 94109) offers a sales list of original posters and lobby cards for Sherlockian films, from a French poster for "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (1939) at \$7,000, to a onesheet for "Young Sherlock Holmes" (1985) at \$25.
4647. Reported: reprints of the third (and expanded) edition of Julian Symons' BLOODY MURDER: FROM THE DETECTIVE STORY TO THE CRIME NOVEL (Harmondsworth: Penguin Books, 1992) (New York: Mysterious Press, 1993), first published in Britain in 1992 (June 92 #2); with an enthusiastic chapter on the Canon.
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November 1993 #4

4648. There have been no reports of anything particularly Sherlockian at Bouchercon XXIV in Omaha, but everyone appears to have had a fine time regardless. Bouchercon XXV convenes in Seattle on Oct. 6-9, 1994 (Box 1095, Renton, WA 98057) and Bouchercon XXVI in Nottingham on Sept. 28-Oct. 1, 1995 (Broadway, 14 Broad Street, Nottingham NG1 3AL, England).
4649. Reported by Melanie Hughes from the Press Association Newsfile (Sept. 25): "A thief dubbed the 'Sherlock Holmes Raider' has been jailed for 11 years at Chester Crown Court. Patrick Neal, 23, from Anfield, Liverpool, wore a deerstalker hat to avoid being identified on cameras. In 26 robberies he stole over £40,000. After his arrest for one robbery, Det. Sgt. Tony Jopson spotted the connection between the different incidents."
4650. Spotted by Gertrude Mahoney: pewter Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson thimbles sculpted by Cheryl Harness, priced at \$13.95 each in a catalog from Gimbel & Sons Country Store, Box 57, Boothbay Harbor, ME 04538; they take plastic. And you can still get their Sherlockian handpainted bone-china thimble modeled after the pipe-in-the-ear Toby Mug, at \$14.95.
4651. Thanks to Dick Rutter for spotting Richard Roberts' THE WIND & THE WIZARD (San Anselmo: Vernal Equinox Press, 1990; 239+177 pp. in two vols., \$15.95 each). It's a remarkable story: a blend of fantasy and fiction, in which a young boy and his stuffed-monkey companion are transported from WW2 London into the worlds of THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS, WATER BABIES, PETER PAN, ROBIN HOOD, SHERLOCK HOLMES, and THE WIZARD OF OZ. And each of those worlds has some surprises in store, and not only because the presence of the young boy changes them (in the S'ian chapter he meets Holmes and Watson, of course, and James Barrie and Kenneth Grahame and Arthur Conan Doyle). The stories are told well, in styles that match the authors of the originals, and they are not "just" for children, but rather for any adult or younger reader who knows the originals. The publisher's address is: Box 581, San Anselmo, CA 94979.
4652. Michael Ricker Pewter have sent a reminder that Dec. 31 is the deadline for orders for their subscription series of sculptures showing the sitting-room at 221B Baker Street (September 93 #2). They will be happy to send you a copy of their illustrated flier (5433 West 88th Avenue #132, Westminster, CO 80030) (800-554-1571).
4653. The Mysterious Bookshop (129 West 56th Street, New York, NY 10019) offers a new mail-order catalog, with two pages of in-print Sherlockiana, including (hitherto unreported): Lord Donegall's BAKER STREET AND BEYOND (Westminster City Libraries, \$29.95; the first book edition of his articles in The New Strand Magazine in the 1960s) and T. S. Blakeney's SHERLOCK HOLMES: FACT OR FICTION? (Otto Penzler Books, \$7.95; out-of-print since the reprint by the Baker Street Irregulars in 1954).
4654. Mike Philipson, author of the play "Doctor Watson Investigates" now on tour in the provinces, has been bitten by the lapel-pin bug and notes that there aren't all that many Sherlockian lapel pins available in Britain. He would be glad to hear from people or societies who offer pins; and his address is Portway News, 13-15 Portway, Frome, Somerset BA11 1QP, England.
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November 1993 #5

4655. Further to the report (September 93 #3) that you can receive a set of nine colorful postcards if you send a proof-of-purchase for THE OXFORD SHERLOCK HOLMES to "Elementary, My Dear Watson", Oxford University Press, 200 Madison Avenue (9th floor), New York, NY 10016, Frank Darlington now reports that that also enters you in a drawing for a set signed by the editors, and that the deadline of the drawing has been extended to Jan. 30.
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4656. MEANWHILE BACK IN LONDON.... is a 41-page chapbook with new articles about how various people spent The Great Hiatus, by six authors who were among the contributors to The Quarterly Statement, and with illustrations by Troy Taylor; \$6.00 postpaid from James O. Duval, 72 Merrimack Street, Penacook, NH 03303.
4657. Keith Oatley's THE CASE OF EMILY V. (London: Secker & Warburg, £9.99) is an interesting psychological pastiche, presenting the journal of a young woman who may or may not have murdered the man who seduced her, the lecture-notes of Dr. Sigmund Freud (whose patient she is), and the account of Dr. Watson (after Sherlock Holmes is retained by the British government to investigate the death of the man who may or may not have been murdered). The principal focus of the book is on Emily, but the development of the plot provides an out-of-the-ordinary view of a consistent Holmes and Watson.
4658. Stillman Drake ("Porlock") died on Oct. 6. He was an investment banker and for many years a stalwart member of The Scowrers and Mollie Maguires (serving as the society's Bodymaster in the 1950s). He received his Investiture (reflecting his long-standing interest in "The Valley of Fear") in the BSI in 1963.
4659. Tim O'Connor reports: two volumes of a "Sherlock Holmes Collectors Edition" each with eight one-hour audiocassettes, in bookstores at \$29.95 each, and offered at the same price by Radio Classics (Great American Audio Corp.), 33 Portman Road, New Rochelle, NY 10801; the first volume with radio shows starring Gielgud/Richardson, and the second with radio shows starring Rathbone/Bruce, Stanley/Shirley, and Langford/Baker (all available elsewhere).
4660. And Tim reports that twelve in-print Sherlockian playscripts (published by Samuel French, Baker's Plays, and others) are offered in a sales-list from Act I, 2632 North Lincoln, Chicago, IL 60614) (800-557-5297).
4661. British bookdealer Robert Temple (65 Mildmay Road, London N1 4PU, England) is offering an interesting Sherlockian item with significant association: a copy of the Baskerette Press edition of THE CROWN DIAMOND (D813a) that was owned by Charles Farrell, who played the role of Sam Merton in London and on tour in 1921 and 1922. The play is accompanied by related material, and the lot is priced at £1,200.
4662. Television numbers: according to a report in the N.Y. Times (Oct. 3, 1993), about 20 million people in Britain pay the required license fee (now \$125 a year for color television; less for black-and-white television and radio). BBC-1 and BBC-2 have a combined audience share of 43 percent (down from 51 percent in 1981), facing competition from ITV, Channel 4, and a growing number of cable and satellite channels. The BBC employs 23,000 people, and has an annual budget of \$2.1 billion

November 1993 #6

4663. Robert N. Brodie ("The *Gloria Scott*") died on Nov. 15. He was the head of an advertising agency, and a member of MENSA (and with other members of the organization's New York chapter founded The Deal-Top Monographers in the 1970s). His BSI Investiture was awarded in 1971, and he was a valued member of The Three Garridebs, fondly remembered by Bob Thomalen as "the last of our courtly gentlemen."
4664. Susan E. Dahlinger has announced that Varieties of Ash will resume publication in Jan. 1994; the winter issue will be available at Covent Garden West (also known as the huckster's room at the Algonquin) on Jan. 8, and you can subscribe to the journal for \$12.00 a year (two issues). Susan's address: 758 Third Street, Secaucus, NJ 07094.
4665. The Sherlock Holmes Gazette (autumn 1993) is at hand, with a colorful cover portrait of Eric Porter as Moriarty (by Cathy Childs); an article about the opening of the High Moorland Visitor Centre at Princetown on Dartmoor, where Prince Charles met Sherlock Holmes (impersonated by Philip Weller); news of work at Granada (Jeremy Brett's tabloid-trumpeted illness turns out to have been an asthma attack that delayed their shooting of "The Dying Detective" for two weeks); and much more in the now-standard 48 pages. A subscription costs \$32.00 a year (for four issues) from Carolyn and Joel Senter (Classic Specialties, Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219); credit cards can be used for payment. The Senters' latest mail-order catalog also is available, with an excellent assortment of attractive Sherlockiana.
4666. Reported by Ralph Hall: "The Strange Case of the Missing Mermaid Costume" in Muppet Babies, Dec. 1993 (v. 2, n. 3), a comic book published by Harvey Classics (\$1.50). This probably is a reprint from Muppet Babies, May 87, from Marvel.
4667. Troy Taylor is the author and illustrator of THE ADVENTURE OF THE PARADOL CHAMBER, a new pastiche involving time travel and a bit of romance, available as a 16-page pamphlet, from the author (805 West North, Decatur, IL 62522); \$5.00 postpaid.
4668. Paulette Greene (7152 Via Palomar, Boca Raton, FL 33433) offers a new sales list of Sherlockian books and pamphlets.
4669. And having returned from Santa Fe, I can report that John Bennett Shaw says he breathed a sigh of relief when the moving van drove off with all of the books and other things that were in his library and storeroom, and that he has carefully kept a copy of the shipping papers so that he can prove that by nice coincidence the movers used exactly 221 shipping cartons. I wasn't quite the first visiting Sherlockian to see the library naked (the shelves have been removed, and sooner rather than later there will be a new carpet, and pictures on the walls), and John hopes to have his new desk and chair, as well as his old typewriter, reinstalled quickly, so that he can get back to answering all of the mail, because he hopes that his nice friends will continue to send him all the nice things that they've been sending to him in the past.

December 1993 #1

4670. A gift for the Sherlockian who has everything: the door to Selden's cell at Dartmoor Prison. Well, we can't be sure which cell was Selden's, but some of the doors, torn off their hinges during a prison riot in 1990, were sold by the prison governor to benefit a local charity. Tobys (an architectural salvage firm in nearby Newton Abbot) bought 275 doors, and now is marketing them as conversation pieces, priced at about \$370. According to the Washington Post (Nov. 25), Tobys' telephone number is 011-44-626-5167.
4671. British postage rates have risen: a first-class letter now costs 25p (about 38c), and an airmail letter costs 41p (about 62c). For the benefit of our readers in countries other than the United States, our rates still are 29c and 50c.
4672. Bill Bixby died on Nov. 21. His television career started in "My Favorite Martian" in 1963, but he was better-known for his work in "The Courtship of Eddie's Father" and "The Incredible Hulk. He played the Rev. Arthur Ford, with Peter Cushing as Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, in the television film "The Great Houdinis" broadcast by ABC-TV in 1976.
4673. Anthony Burgess died on Nov. 25. Best known for his 1962 novel A CLOCKWORK ORANGE and the film made from the book in 1971, he was also a fine literary critic and journalist. He was script consultant for the television series produced by Sheldon Reynolds in 1981 (with Geoffrey Whitehead as Holmes and Donald Pickering as Watson), and in his review of Owen Dudley Edwards' THE QUEST FOR SHERLOCK HOLMES in 1982, he honored Conan Doyle as "the greatest historical novelist after Walter Scott." Burgess celebrated the centenary with a long feature essay on "The Sainted Sleuth, Still on the Case" in the N.Y. Times Book Review in 1987, and included a Sherlockian pastiche "Murder to Music" in THE DEVIL'S MODE in 1989.

4674. Chess sets, chess sets, everywhere a chess set. Playboy (Dec. 1993) has a report ("Potpourri: The Game Is Still Afoot") on yet another Canonical set: \$430 postpaid (but not including a \$170 maple board) from British Exports, Box 11240, Merrillville, IN 46411.
4675. But one doesn't find Pagets everywhere. The original wash drawing for one of Sidney Paget's illustrations ("With his neck craned, he looked into the room," in "The Three Students"), which was sold at auction at Sotheby's in London in 1980 for £950, is now offered by Pepper & Stern (1980 Cliff Drive #224, Santa Barbara, CA 93109) for \$22,500.
4676. The Edgar Wallace Society has published the 100th issue of its newsletter The Crimson Circle, with a tribute to John Hogan, who led the society from 1985 until his death this year, Penelope Wallace's memories of her father (first published by Luther Norris in The Pontine Dossier in 1970), and much more. Wallace was one of the most prolific authors in modern literature (and he wrote the dialogue for the 1932 film version of "The Hound of the Baskervilles"), and members of the society are as devoted to their hero as we are to ours; membership, including the newsletter, is £9.00 a year (in sterling checks or U.S. currency), and the society's new organizer is Neil Clark, 9 Hurst Rise Road, North Hinksey, Oxford OX2 9HE, England.

December 1993 #2

4677. The deadline for orders for Ronald B. De Waal's THE UNIVERSAL SHERLOCK HOLMES (three volumes with more than 1,500 pages and more than 24,600 entries) has been extended to Mar. 15, 1994, and delivery will be made by mail after May 22, 1994. The price remains at US\$100 (or CA\$130), but since the set will not be available for delivery in New York in January, there also will be a charge for shipping; details are available from George A. Vanderburgh (Box 204, Shelburne, Ont. L0N 1S0, Canada).
4678. Bouchercon XXV is now Bouchercon 25, with a new address (Box 75684, Seattle, WA 98125-0684) and the same dates (Oct. 6-9, 1994), and some fine progress-report artwork by Stu Shiffman. Thom Walls reports that you can expect to see Marcia Muller (guest of honor), Tony Hillerman (lifetime achievement award), Art Scott (fan guest of honor), George Chesbro (toastmaster), and (of course) many other authors and fans. And since Seattle also is known as "The Emerald City" it is not at all surprising to see references to "The Gumshoe of Oz" in the progress report.
4679. "The Game Is Afoot: Holiday Season Tributes to Sherlock Holmes" is an 11-page article by John C. Tibbetts about Sherlock Holmes, Sherlockians, and the birthday festivities in New York in 1993 (with many color photos) in the Dec. 1993 issue of The World & I. The magazine is published by the Washington Times Corp., 2800 New York Avenue NE, Washington, DC 20002, and costs \$10.00 (that's for the 448-page issue).
4680. Video-taper alert: Granada's two-hour shows "The Last Vampyre" and "The Eligible Bachelor" will be broadcast by PBS on "Mystery!" in four one-hour episodes beginning on Jan. 27.
4681. The new "British Video Collection" catalog from Fusion Video (17311 Fusion Way, Country Club Hills, IL 60478) (800-959-0061) offers a video two-pack of the 1992 television films ("The Leading Lady" and "Incident at Victoria Falls") that starred Christopher Lee and Patrick Macnee, for \$29.98. Note: these are the edited two-hour versions.
4682. "Sherlock Holmes Chemist" is the name of a shop at 82a Baker Street, Cathy Childs reports. This is not the one chemist's shop mentioned in the Canon: who stood in that chemist's shop's doorway?
4683. "Otto Penzler's Sherlock Holmes Library" is the overall title for the new bi-monthly paperback series of reprints published by Otto Penzler Books, distributed by Macmillan, and priced at \$7.95 each. The first two titles are Vincent Starrett's THE PRIVATE LIFE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1933) and T. S. Blakeney's SHERLOCK HOLMES: FACT OR FICTION? (1932), and Vincent Starrett's anthology 221B: STUDIES IN SHERLOCK HOLMES (1940) is due soon. It is nice indeed to see excellent Sherlockian scholarship from the early days back in print, and the color covers with artwork by Frederic Dorr Steele will help catch the eye when non-Sherlockians browse book-shop shelves.

December 1993 #3

4684. The Curious Collectors of Baker Street held their second annual Gasfitters Ball in South Pasadena on Nov. 6, publicized with an attractive multi-color poster (11" x 17") designed by Chuck Kovacic; copies of the poster are available from Jerry and Chrys Kegley, 110 El Nido #41, Pasadena, CA 91107 (\$12.00 postpaid).
4685. Bill Brown's one-act radio plays have long bedeviled and bewildered The Hansom Wheels of Columbia, S.C., and his first collection (February 91 #2) has now been joined by THE UNKNOWN SHERLOCK HOLMES, VOLUME II, which has five new scripts filled with puns and shaggy bull-pup jokes. \$15.00 postpaid from Lloyd W. Brown, Jr. (103 Snow Court, Lexington, SC 29073), and both volumes are offered for \$25.00 postpaid.
4686. Who stood in the doorway of a chemist's shop? Watson (in "The Illustrious Client"): "I have a confused recollection of snatching at a paper, of the remonstrance of the man, whom I had not paid, and, finally, of standing in the doorway of a chemist's shop while I turned up the fateful paragraph." But that shop wasn't in Baker Street.
4687. The Sherlock Holmes Memorabilia Company (230 Baker Street, London NW1 5RT, England) has a new and well-illustrated mail-order catalog, offering a wide range of S'iana, including T-shirts, teddy bears, statues, figurines, chess sets, playing cards, plaques, pipes, their own first day cover for the new British stamps, and much more.
4688. A late addition to the birthday festivities: artist Steven Emmons, whose attractive full-color "posters that might have been" were on display last year, will exhibit (and sell) new work at the Chisholm Gallery, on the 9th floor at 89 Fifth Avenue (between 16th and 17th Streets) from 3:00 to 8:00 pm on Jan. 8 (in case you're still wondering what to do after the cocktail party on Saturday afternoon).
4689. Mark Frost's alternate-universe Conan Doyle fantasy THE LIST OF 7 (September 93 #4) also is available an audio book, abridged (to three hours) and nicely read by Rene Auberjonois (who stars in the television series "Deep Space Nine"). The two-cassette set is issued by Dove Audio at \$16.95, and if it isn't available in a local shop, you can order direct: 800-328-3683 or (in California) 800-345-9945.
4690. Canonical chronology is an arcane art that offers one of the most intricate examples of how people play our grand game, in this case trying to explain and solve the mysterious contradictions and omissions that so often prevent readers from being at all certain about exactly when things happened in the stories written and edited by people who were not meticulously careful. It probably was Arthur Conan Doyle who first noticed such a contradiction, in "The Sign of the Four" in Lippincott's Monthly Magazine; he mentioned it in a letter written in Mar. 1890 to J. M. Stoddart (his editor at Lippincott), but the mistake was not corrected in the first (or any other later) edition of the story. John Hall's "I REMEMBER THE DATE VERY WELL" is a new attempt to reconcile many of the contradictions, and offers an excellent look at how the game is played, in a 78-page monograph from Ian Henry Publications, 20 Park Drive, Romford, Essex RM1 4LH, England (£6.50/\$12.00 postpaid); their U.S. agent is the Players Press, Box 1132, Studio City, CA 91614-0132.

December 1993 #4

4691. "I would be risking my heart, my head, and my neck if I was to stick it on the block again playing Holmes," Jeremy Brett told the Daily Mail (Nov. 20) in a story at hand from Mel Hughes. After he was hospitalized while working on the new Granada series, doctors diagnosed a heart problem, thought

- to be a legacy of rheumatic fever when he was 16. Granada producer June Wyndham Davies was more optimistic: "The doctors have assured us that in the next three weeks he should be recovered. He should be returning to us to finish the series at the beginning of the year."
4692. And for those who neglected to tape "The Master Blackmailer" off the air, the latest issue of Anglofile reports that the show is available from MPI Home Video (15825 Rob Roy Drive, Oak Forest, IL 60452) and from video shops at \$24.98.
4693. The winners of this year's Kennedy Center Honors, which were presented on Dec. 5, included lyricist-composer Stephen Sondheim, who began his career as a lyricist for "West Side Story" (1957) and "Gypsy" (1959). Among his many fine contributions to musical theater and film was the song "I Never Do Anything Twice" in the film "The-Seven-Per-Cent Solution" (1976).
4694. It is frustrating to consider how many really grand shows were broadcast on television in the days before videocassettes. Among them were the programs in the series "The Rivals of Sherlock Holmes" (with 26 shows broadcast by ITV in Britain in 1971 and 1973). Some of them were aired here in 1972 and they were delightful. The series was triggered by the anthologies edited by Hugh Greene, of course, and offered (to name only a few) Derek Jacobi as Duckworth Drew, John Neville as Dr. John Thorndyke, Robert Stephens as Max Carrados, Roy Dotrice as Simon Carne, Donald Pleasance as Carnacki, Douglas Wilmer as Prof. S.F.X. Van Dusen, and Charles Gray as Eugene Valmont. And I'm sure they'll never be rebroadcast by PBS-TV on "Mystery!" But there is another possibility: Arts & Entertainment cable carries all sorts of grand mystery programming, old and new, and it might not be at all amiss to write to A&E (555 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10017) to suggest that they consider broadcasting this fine series.
4695. "Movie Mystery Madness: The Woman in Green" aired on A&E cable in November, without enough notice for a video-taper alert, but it probably will repeat eventually. The L.A. Connection performed in black tie for a live theater audience, providing irreverent dialogue and sound effects to create a new version of the Basil Rathbone film.
4696. Durkin Hayes has taken over the Listen for Pleasure line of audiocassettes and are adding new titles. Currently available, in two-cassette sets, are: THE SPECKLED BAND, read by Donald Pickering (who played Watson in the 1981 Sheldon Reynolds television series) in a set with H. G. Wells' "The Invisible Man" read by Gerald Harper; THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, read by Tony Britton; and VALLEY OF FEAR, read by Christopher Lee (who needs no introduction to Sherlockians). Vivian Heisler recommended VALLEY OF FEAR (January 93 #1) by suggesting that "Lee makes it sound like an entire cast!" And he does indeed: his reading is splendid. The sets cost \$15.95 each in stores, or you can order direct: 800-962-5200 (U.S.) or 800-263-5224 (Canada). THE SPECKLED BAND (read by Pickering) also is packaged as one "Paperback Audio" cassette at \$4.99, but only at chains such as Walmart and Waldenbooks.
4697. December 1993 #5
4698. The good news is that there are indeed surviving prints of some long-lost British television shows: "The Man with the Twisted Lip" and "The Illustrious Client" with Douglas Wilmer (1965), "The Hound of the Baskervilles" with Peter Cushing (1968), "Elementary My Dear Watson" with John Cleese (1973), and "Dr. Watson and the Darkwater Hall Mystery" with Edward Fox as Watson (1974). The bad news is that it may well be that the only way to see them is to visit the British Film Institute in London. All five titles were included (along with Jeremy Brett's not-yet-broadcast "The Three Gables") in a long series that focussed on "The Strange Cases of Sherlock Holmes" at the National Film Theatre in November and December. Mike Philipson reports that Brett was unable to attend the showing of "The Three Gables" due to ill health, and that during discussion after the film there was some talk of "His Last Bow" being turned into a two-hour special to mark the end of the Brett/Hardwick series.
4699. Sorry about that: the correct telephone number for the Actors Theatre of Louisville is 502-584-1205. Dennis Rosa's "Sherlock Holmes and the Curse of the Sign of Four" (1975) will be performed from Dec. 30 to Jan. 29, and the theater's address is 316 West Main Street, Louisville, KY 40202.
4700. Sophisticated Shirts (6321 East 30th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46219) (800-844-4801 and ask for Jackie or Buzz) offer a wide variety of T-shirts (\$22.00) and sweatshirts (\$35.00), including one with a design that honors Sherlock Holmes (on the (front) and Dr. Watson (on the back). The fine print states that Holmes "became an international celebrity and even today many people think he was a real person."
4701. Tim O'Connor reports that Peter Costello's THE REAL WORLD OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE TRUE CRIMES INVESTIGATED BY ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE, published two years ago (October 91 #1), has been reprinted as a trade paperback (New York: Carroll & Graf, 1993; 235 pp., \$10.95); the book offers a wide-ranging examination of ACD's involvement with the official police (from the time he was interviewed by a politely-suspicious detective in Southsea in 1885), and of his interest in the crimes and criminals of his day.
4702. Ted Friedman has an illustrated article on "Jujitsu and Sherlock Holmes" in the Dec. 6 issue of Linn's Stamp News (Box 29, Sidney, OH 45365). Ted also notes that MURDER UNDER THE MISTLETOE AND OTHER STORIES, edited by Cynthia Manson (Signet, \$4.99) includes "The Blue Carbuncle".
4703. Reported by Ralph Hall: a STICKER DETECTIVE STICKER-SAVER ALBUM featuring a deerstalkered elephant (for kids who collect stickers), published by Trend Enterprises in 1991. And THE CASE OF THE EMERALD EARRINGS and five other titles by Sharon Cadwallader in a juvenile series about young detective Cookie McCorkle, who worships Sherlock Holmes and has named her wirehaired terrier Moriarty (paperbacks from Avon Books priced from \$2.95 to \$3.50). And a 300-piece jigsaw puzzle for "The Great Mouse Detective" (from the Western Publishing Co. at \$5.99). And Kremer's Smoke Shoppe (333 South Preston Street, Louisville, KY 40202) offers Comoy's new Sherlock Holmes humidior (\$85.00) and some Sherlockian pipes (\$70.00 to \$1,560.00); Gayle C. Sallee is the shop's owner, and he will be happy to send more information.

December 1993 #6

4704. The U.S. Postal Service has announced plans for 102 new stamps next year, including a set of ten stamps with caricatures by Al Hirschfeld honoring silent-movie stars, among whom will be Charlie Chaplin (who portrayed Billy on stage with William Gillette) and Buster Keaton (who appeared in the film "Sherlock Jr." in 1924). And there will be a stamp in honor of humorist James Thurber, who included some Canonical echoes in "The Gloucester Sympathizer" [D5212b].
4705. The Mini-Tonga Scion Society, founded by the late Dee Snyder for collectors of Sherlockian miniatures, has been reactivated by Carol Wenk (Box 770554, Lakewood, OH 44107). If you were or would like to be a member, Carol will be happy to hear from you.
4706. Jennie Paton reports that "The Strange Case of the End of Civilization As We Know It" (1977) is now available on videocassette from Facets Video, at 1517 West Fullerton.

January 1994 #1

4707. This scuttlebutt is now also available in bits and bytes, on the Internet, without charge (and without illustrations), to members of The Hounds of the Internet, which is an electronic society for people who have computers and modems and telephones, or access to them and to the Internet. The society now has about 115 members, and it is easy to join (the list is maintained by Alan Block, and you can send an e-mail message to blocka@beloit.edu and state in the text: subscribe hounds).

4708. Robert F. Fleissner's essay "Did Not T. H. Huxley's 'Piece of Chalk' Leave Its Mark on the Canon?" discusses some possible connections between Huxley and Holmes, in the fall-winter 1993 issue of *Clues: A Journal of Detection* (Bowling Green State Univ. Popular Press, Bowling Green, OH 43403; \$7.50).
4709. "You Have Been in Afghanistan, I Perceive." is the title of Thaddeus Holt's intriguing article in the winter 1994 issue of *MHQ: The Quarterly Journal of Military History*. Thad's conclusion is that the fatal battle of Maiwand provided Conan Doyle with the names of both Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson. And *MHQ* is far more than a magazine: each hard-bound issue offers 112 pages of fine articles and illustrations. \$60 a year (back issues cost \$20 each plus shipping); Box 597, Mt. Morris, IL 61054-0597 (800-827-1218).
4710. More first day covers for the British "Sherlock Holmes" set are available, from Benham (A. Buckingham), Benham House, The Bayle, Folkestone, Kent CT20 1SD, England. A set of five single-stamp covers, with different postmarks and different full-color Granada photograph on silken fabric, costs £12.50, and the set of stamps is available on two different covers with postmarks honoring Granada, at £4.95 each (possibly still available signed by Jeremy Brett, at £8.99 each). Postage costs £1.00 extra, and credit-card orders are welcome.
4711. Mark Alberstat has a few copies left of his 1994 Sherlockian Calendar with illustrations from *The Strand Magazine*, and with William S. Baring-Gould's dates for the cases; 5 Lorraine Street, Dartmouth, NS B3A 2B9, Canada, and the cost (postpaid) is US\$12.00.
4712. Baker Street Miscellanea began publishing in Apr. 1975, founded by William D. Goodrich, John Nieminski, and Donald K. Pollock (who modestly described themselves as "editorial staff"). Their stated goal was "a periodic unpretentious mini-anthology, the best of the new spiced with a goodly dollop of the old, the rare and the little known, each issue a diverting mixture of odds and ends which complement rather than duplicate the more substantial fare of senior publications in the field," and they certainly succeeded, as demonstrated by the fact that BSM now itself is one of the senior, as well as one of the best, Sherlockian periodicals. And Don Pollock, now formally the editor, has announced that BSM will cease publication soon, likely with issue #76, because it is becoming harder and harder to maintain a backlog of material that meets the high standards set by those who have contributed to the magazine over the years. And those standards have been high, as the readers of BSM know well, and as shown by the fact that its circulation of more than 450 makes BSM one of the half-dozen most-widely-read Sherlockian periodicals published in English. Don and his colleagues merit our thanks.

January 1994 #2

4713. The birthday festivities in New York were (as always) enjoyable and entertaining, and the wintry weather less so (Richard Shull suggested at the Saturday cocktail party that the weather outside reminded him of the Donner Party, although the food was better) (and someone asked, "How do you know?"). Thursday's informal events included the annual Christopher Morley Walk arranged by Allen Mackler and Charlie Shields (this year with a guided tour of the Woolworth Building) and the Aunt Clara Sing at O'Lunney's Steak House.
4714. Friday's schedule began with the lavish Mrs. Hudson Breakfast at the Hotel Algonquin and continued with the William Gillette Luncheon at Moran's Chelsea, with honors paid to Gillette and Edith Meiser (with excerpts from her unfinished stage play "The Sign of the Four" performed by Paul Singleton, Sarah Montague Joffe, and Andrew Joffe). And the day continued with Otto Penzler's traditional hospitality (and Sherlockian books) at an open house at the Mysterious Bookshop.
4715. The Baker Street Irregulars gathered at 24 Fifth Avenue, where *The* Woman was Theresa Thomalen, who was toasted by Bill Schweickert during the predinner cocktail party and then departed to dine at the National Arts Club with other ladies who have received that honor. The BSI's agenda featured the usual toasts and traditions, and Bruce Montgomery's melodic tribute to his grand-aunt Clara and to his father, and then focused on 60 years of BSI history, including George Fletcher's anecdotal history of *The Baker Street Journal*, a joint presentation by Susan Rice and Mickey Fromkin of some of the better Irregular poetry, Steve Rothman's discussion of the very early meetings of the BSI, and reminiscences of the annual dinners of the 1950s by David Weiss (who has been attending the annual dinners for more than 40 years). Bill Schweickert's own poetic birthday tribute to the Master ended the historic and historical festivities.
4716. Irregular Shillings and Investitures were given to Bruce Montgomery ("The Red Circle"), Peter J. Crupe ("The Noble Bachelor"), Mickey Fromkin ("The Missing Three-Quarter"), Ruthann Stetak ("The Camberwell Poisoning Case"), Geoffrey Stavert ("The Shingle of Southsea"), Bill Vande Water ("An Enlarged Photograph"), Don Izban ("Market Street"), Tom Joyce ("A Yellow-Backed Novel"), Hirotaka Ueda ("Japanese Armor"), Thomas Utecht ("Arthur Charpentier"), and Francine Swift ("The Wigmore Street Post Office"). Eleanor O'Connor was awarded the Queen Victoria Medal in recognition of her many years of assistance to the BSI at the annual dinners, and Don Redmond (who is almost ready to publish a new index to the Baker Street Journal updated through 1993) received the BSI's Two-Shilling Award.
4717. The Fortescue Symposium (sponsored by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes, The Priory Scholars of New York, and The Montague Street Lodgers of Brooklyn), also was convened Friday evening, at the St. Moritz Hotel, moderated by Allan Devitt and Kate Karlson and with a program of toasts, songs, and presentations by Marilyn MacGregor on "Plumming Sherlock Holmes" (exploring Sherlockian allusions in the writings of P. G. Wodehouse), Patricia Guy on "Victorian Medicinal Imbibing" (and it was considerable), and B.J. Rahn on "Dorothy L. Sayers and Sherlock Holmes: The French Connection" (in which she revealed that Sayers was indeed the issue of a liaison between Sherlock and Irene).

January 1994 #3

4718. And on Saturday morning the huckster room at the Algonquin (aka Covent Garden West) was well attended, as was the BSI's Saturday-afternoon cocktail party at 24 Fifth Avenue, where the agenda included Jon Lellenberg and Clint Gould's "March of Time" report on the history of the BSI, a performance by Paul Singleton and Philip Brogdon of an excerpt from Jeremy Paul's play "The Secret of Sherlock Holmes", poetic reports by Al Rosenblatt and Marilyn McKay on the events of the previous evening, the award of an Irregular Shilling and Investiture to Catherine Cooke ("The Book of Life"), the usual fast-and-furious auction (raising a generous \$380 for the Dr. John H. Watson Fund), and a warm tribute to Tom Stix delivered by Bob Thomalen. And the Chisholm Gallery stayed open after the party, so that visitors could view Steven Emmons' new Sherlockian posters.
4719. The Dr. John H. Watson Fund offers financial assistance to all Sherlockians (membership in the BSI or the ASH is not required) who might otherwise not be able to participate in the weekend's festivities. A carefully anonymous John H. Watson presides over the fund and welcomes contributions, which can be made by checks payable to John H. Watson and mailed (without return any address on the envelope) to Dr. Watson, c/o Thomas L. Stix, Jr., who will forward the checks unopened. Dr. Watson will acknowledge your generosity, and Tom's address is 34 Pierson Avenue, Norwood, NJ 07648.
4720. Other news from the birthday festivities: George A. Vanderburgh distributed (on behalf of a society called The Retired Colonels) a floppy-disk edition of Mark Twain's A DOUBLE-BARRELLED DETECTIVE STORY that contained more news of Ron De Waal's THE UNIVERSAL SHERLOCK HOLMES, which (as noted earlier) is scheduled to be published on May 22, 1994 (the deadline for orders is Mar. 15). The new information is that the bibliography will have a "selective concordance" with about 5,000 different words, and those words will include the last names of all the purchasers of the set; George

also has asked for nominations (by Mar. 15) of your favorite words, to be included, with entry numbers, in the selective concordance. And George has announced that after May he will take orders for a second printing, that will be priced at least 50% more than the \$100 cost (plus postage) of the first printing. George's address is: Box 204, Shelburne, Ont. L0N 1S0, Canada.

4721. And Julie and Al Rosenblatt will present a four-day mini-course on Sherlock Holmes at Vassar College on July 10-15, 1994 (Sunday evening through Friday morning counts as four days in the Hudson Valley). The mini-course is open to all, and additional information is available from Maryann Bruno, Vassar College, Conferences and Summer Programs, Box 77, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601.
4722. And (plan ahead) the Third Occasional Sherlockian Cruise will sail on June 17, 1995, from Fort Lauderdale on the MV Zenith. Seven days, with stops at Ocho Rios, Grand Cayman Island, Cozumel, and Key West, and with a two-day Sherlockian symposium en route. Holmes at His Zenith (Box 96, Norwood, NJ 07648) is the contact, and enquiries are welcome.
4723. On Nov. 21 and 28, 1982, "The Jeffersons" on CBS-TV involved a "mysterywriters cruise" that included Sherlockian allusions. If you have an off-the-air videocassette of the second episode, please tell Jennie C. Paton (206 Loblolly Lane, Statesboro, GA 30458). And Jennie also would be glad to hear about any other Sherlockian episode of "The Jeffersons".

January 1994 #4

4724. HOLY BLOOD: AN INSIDE VIEW OF THE AFGHAN WAR (Westport: Greenwood, 1993; 248 pp., \$55.00) is Paul Overby's account of the most recent hostilities in that still-violent land, where he fought briefly on the side of the rebels, and he includes a passing mention of an earlier Afghan veteran: Dr. Watson.
4725. Peggy Nelson died on Sept. 20. She was toasted by the Baker Street Irregulars as *the* woman in 1967, to the delight of her husband, old Irregular Jim Nelson, and joined us again for the toast to all of *the* women at the BSI's cocktail party in 1989, and she will be missed by her many friends.
4726. "'Come, Watson, come!' cries Sherlock Holmes, 'the game is afoot' and so they leap into a hansom cab and rattle through foggy Victorian London to Paddington or Waterloo or indeed to No. 221B Baker Street, where the gasogene burns in the corner, a put-upon but devoted Mrs. Hudson prepares bacon and eggs and a mysterious visitor awaits them." From the flier prepared by the Folio Society last year to publicize their set of the short stories. I don't recall that anyone has wondered (at least in print) about that lovely description, but Alan Olding does now, in the latest issue of News from the Diggings. "The gasogene burns in the corner?" he asks. "Does the tantalus also sing in its little cage?"
4727. The Folio Society completes its version of the Canon with SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE COMPLETE NOVELS, a four-volume boxed set with illustrations by Francis Mosley and a binding uniform with the five-volume set of the short stories published in 1993. The set will be published in April at \$149.00, but the Society offers a pre-publication price of \$124.00 postpaid to its members and to readers of this newsletter if you order before Mar. 31. They take plastic, and their toll-free number is 800-688-6247, or you can order by mail from Folio Books at 2323 Randolph Avenue, Avenel, NJ 07001; to qualify for the discount price, mention "Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press" and pay them \$124.00.
4728. Tom Rieschick offers an illustrated flier for his attractive prints of Sherlock Holmes (as portrayed by Rathbone and Brett), and Watson and Moriarty, and Hercule Poirot, and others, and he accepts commissions; his address is 179 Gold Kettle Drive, Gaithersburg, MD 20878.
4729. THE DISNEY VILLAIN, written by Ollie Johnston and Frank Thomas (New York: Hyperion, 1993; 232 pp., \$45.00), is a well-illustrated book written by two of the "Nine Old Men" who were Disney's head animators for more than forty years. The excellent coverage runs from a surly wooden-legged pirate in the "Alice" series in the 1920s to Jafar in "Alladin", and does not neglect the infamous Ratigan in "The Great Mouse Detective".
4730. HarperAudio has issued THE STORIES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, VOL. 1 (with Basil Rathbone's fine reading of "The Speckled Band" and "The Final Problem") at \$5.99. The cassette is a reissue of the 1963 recording from Caedmon, and it would be nice indeed if other Rathbone readings are reissued as well.

January 1994 #5

4731. Further to earlier reports (September 90 #3; July 92 #4) on plans for an animated film of "Cats" (which one hopes would include the infamous Macavity), the latest issue of Anglofile reports that Andrew Lloyd Webber has decided to produce the film himself, and that the playwright Tom Stoppard has been recruited to write a screenplay. Anglofile is a monthly newsletter that offers detailed coverage of British entertainment; the cost is \$12.00 a year (Box 33515, Decatur, GA 30033).
4732. Listen for Pleasure (EMI) offers boxed two-cassette sets of readings of the four long stories: "A Study in Scarlet" and "The Sign of Four" read by Tony Britton, "The Hound of the Baskervilles" by Hugh Burden, and "The Valley of Fear" by Martin Jarvis. The stories have been abridged to fit the two-hour format, but they are read well, with excellent voices; the first three are reissues, but Jarvis' "Valley" is newly recorded (1992).
4733. The Parallel Case of St. Louis have prepared a new cloisonne pin, similar to their 1991 Sherlock Holmes pin but showing Dr. Watson (patterned after Nigel Bruce). \$13.00 postpaid from Joseph J. Eckrich, 914 Oakmoor Drive, Fenton, MO 63026.
4734. The Serpentine Muse is the quarterly journal of The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes, and it is always of interest. The current issue (winter 1993) offers Dorothy K. Stix's thoughts on what it's like "Being Married to the Head of the BSI", and subscriptions cost \$10.00 a year, from Evelyn A. Herzog, 360 West 21st Street #5-A, New York, NY 10011-3310.
4735. "The whole trouble in trying to write on any aspect of the Canon," Tupper Bigelow once suggested, in an early contribution to our literature, "is that in your reading of it, for the particular purpose you have in mind, you become so fascinated with the story (no matter how often you may have read it before) that unconsciously you forget what it is you are looking for, and before you know it, you have finished the story, having made no notes at all, and then have to go back and try to read it all over again with an attempted deliberate detachment that I have never yet found to be completely possible." THE BAKER STREET BRIEFS, by S. Tupper Bigelow (Toronto: Metropolitan Toronto Library, 1993), in 168 pages of selections from his Sherlockian writings, easily shows that he was far too modest about his scholarly skills. The cost is \$15.95 postpaid, from George A. Vanderburgh, Box 204, Shelburne, Ont. L0N 1S0, Canada.
4736. What on Earth (2451 Enterprise East Parkway, Twinsburg, OH 44087) continues to offer Sherlockiana in their mail order catalogs, including a 20-oz handpainted porcelain Sherlock Stein (item G1869) at \$129.95.
4737. THE REALLY RAGGED SHAW: BEING THE EXPANDED RAGGED SHAW (Dubuque: Gasogene Press, 1994; 161 pp., \$16.95) is David L. Hammer's birthday tribute to John Bennett Shaw, offering splendid examples of the imagination and inspiration and humor to be found in the quizzes devised by the Sage of Santa Fe. John did not rest from his labors when THE RAGGED SHAW appeared in 1987 with 45 quizzes, and there now are 59 quizzes to bemuse and bedevil all who claim true knowledge of the Canon. The publisher's address is Box 1041, Dubuque, IA 52004. Recommended.

January 1994 #6

4738. The August Derleth Society continues to honor the creator of Solar Pons (and many other fine works), most recently with A DERLETH COLLECTION (Sauk City: Geranium Press, 1993; 61 pp., \$17.00 postpaid), which offers a variety of hitherto unreprinted material, including his comments in the July

1951 issue of the Unicorn Mystery Book Club News when THE MEMOIRS OF SOLAR PONS was one of the club's monthly selections. The book is available from the society, at Box 481, Sauk City, WI 53583.

4739. Nate the Great continues his sleuthing, deerstalked and assisted by his dog Sludge, in the amusing children's series written by Marjorie Weinman Sharmat and illustrated by Marc Simont, from the Delacorte Press. NATE THE GREAT AND THE PILLOWCASE (1993; 48 pp., \$12.95) and NATE THE GREAT AND THE MUSHY VALENTINE (1994; 44 pp., \$12.95) are the latest titles, suggested for young readers aged 6-9.
4740. IT WAS A DARK & STORMY NIGHT: A POP-UP MYSTERY WHODUNIT, designed by Keith Moseley and with pictures by Linda Birkinshaw (New York: Dial Books, 1991; \$12.95), is an amusing children's book, with Inspector Derek Dog appearing in Sherlockian costume.
4741. The J. Peterman Co. (2444 Palumbo Drive, Lexington, KY 40509) offers its Owner's Manual #27, with a wide range of entertainingly-described items, one of which is the "most fiendishly intelligent hat ever designed" (an Irish tweed deerstalker) now discounted to \$37.00.
4742. Spotted by Jennie Paton: SOCCER CIRCUS, by Jamie Gilson, with illustrations by Dee deRosa (New York: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, 1993; 177 pp., \$12.00); an entertaining book for older grade-school readers, with Hobie Hanson and his soccer team attending a soccer tournament, which neatly happens to coincide with a meeting of WORMS (World Organization of Readers of Mysteries), which allows Hobie to meet a grandfatherly and deerstalked mystery readers, and to help solve a mystery, and to impersonate a penguin.
4743. Those who know Michael Harrison only as an author of Sherlockian books and as a fine raconteur will learn much more about the man and his work in Tina Rhea's THE BOOKS OF MICHAEL HARRISON (Greenbelt: Firecat Press, 1994; 47 pp., \$5.00 postpaid). This is an annotated bibliography of Michael's 64 published books, with comment and occasional tales-out-of-school by Michael and by Tina, and with a fine portrait of Michael by Stephanie Hawks. The book is available from Tina at 3-E Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770-1969.
4744. William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" will be performed from June 18 to Oct. 15 at the Shaw Festival at Niagara-on-the-Lake in Ontario. The box office has a toll-free number (800-267-4759); they take plastic. The Bootmakers of Toronto and An Irish Secret Society at Buffalo are planning a theater party on July 2, with lunch, the play, and souvenirs; details are available from George A. Vanderburgh, Box 204, Shelburne, Ont. L0N 1S0, Canada.
4745. Al Rosenblatt has received a report that the Oriental Hotel in Bangkok has an "authors' residence" decorated with photographs of famous authors who have (allegedly) stayed at the hotel and found inspiration there. And Sir Arthur Conan Doyle is one of those authors. Along with Tolstoy, Gorky, and Dostoyevsky, and Gertrude Stein, and Victor Hugo, and other improbables.

January 1994 #7

4746. Simon & Schuster's audiocassette THE NEW ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES #23 (\$12.00) offers two more of the fine old radio shows from scripts by Denis Green and Anthony Boucher, with new introductions by Harry Bartell (who was one of the announcers in the 1940s). "The Gunpowder Plot" (5 November 45) stars Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce and is already available on records and cassettes (with lower fidelity). The new-to-audio "The Babbling Butler" (27 January 47) has Nigel Bruce and Tom Conway (as Watson and Holmes, with top billing going to Bruce).
4747. A special Sherlock Holmes cover was issued on Jan. 8 at "Stamp Expo '94" in Long Beach, with a silhouette cachet and commemorative postmark. A few of the covers still may be available from the International Stamp Collectors Society, Box 854, Van Nuys, CA 91408; \$4.95 postpaid.
4748. Recent Sherlockian comic books, reported by Ralph Hall and Jim Suszynski: Muppet Babies (Dec. 1993) from Harvey Classics, reprinting "The Strange Case of the Missing Mermaid Costume". Walt Disney's Donald & Mickey (Sept. 1993) from Gladstone, reprinting "Mickey and the Sleuth: The Case of the Wax Dummy"; (Jan. 1994) reprinting "The Case of the Pea Soup Burglaries"; and (Mar. 1994) reprinting "The Great Winks Robbery". Walt Disney's Comics & Stories (Feb. 1994) from Disney, with "Inspector Clew Gluesome: Synthetic Lightning".
4749. Roger Zelazny's A NIGHT IN THE LONESOME OCTOBER (New York: William Morrow/AvoNova, 1993; 280 pp., \$18.00) is an imaginative blend of fantasy, horror, and humor, with thoroughly appropriate illustrations by Gahan Wilson. The story is told by a dog named Snuff who, when he isn't involved in calculating where the world will end, is a watch-dog for his knife-wielding master Jack not far from London, where they encounter an intriguing number of the more well-known characters from the various literatures that Zelazny knows so well. The Great Detective is one of those characters, otherwise unnamed but easily identified, both from his actions in the story and from the artwork (including Wilson's color portrait on the back of the dust jacket).
4750. Plan ahead: the fourth annual Mid-Atlantic Mystery Book Fair and Convention will be held at the Holiday Inn (Independence Mall) in Philadelphia on Nov. 4-6, 1994. Membership is limited to 400, full registration costs \$40.00, and you can contact Deen Kogan at Detecto-Mysterioso Books, 507 South 8th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147.
4751. Shots in the Dark ("Britain's only Crime Writing Convention") will be held in Nottingham on June 10-12. Nottingham also will host Bouchercon 26, from Sept. 28 through Oct. 1, 1995, with Colin Dexter and James Ellroy as guests of honour. More information is available from Broadway Media Centre, at 14 Broad Street, Nottingham NG1 3AL, England.
4752. It's always interesting to watch Sherlockian actors do other things. Ian Richardson (Sherlock Holmes) and Colin Jeavons (Insp. Lestrade) have been on display in "To Play the King" on "Masterpiece Theatre" on PBS-TV. And in the second episode (broadcast on Jan. 23), Jeavons (Tim Stamper) said, "I'm a notorious snapper-up of unconsidered trifles." Whom is he quoting?

January 1994 #8

4753. Who claimed to be a "snapper-up of unconsidered trifles" before Colin Jeavons did? Not Sherlock Holmes, although it does sound like something he would have said, sufficiently so that I couldn't imagine why I wasn't able to find that phrase in Bob Stek's electronic Canon. The answer (with thanks to Jerry Bangham) is that William Shakespeare gave the words to Autolycus ("a rogue") in "The Winter's Tale" (Act IV, Scene iii). Vincent Starrett later put the phrase on the title page of his AUTOLYCUS IN LIMBO (New York: E. P. Dutton, 1943), a collection of poetry that includes his wonderful sonnet "221B" and other poems with Sherlockian allusions.
4754. Reported by Kevin Parker: John Peel, the author of WHERE IN THE U.S.A. IS CARMEN SANDIEGO? (April 92 #4), is now writing EVOLUTION, a novel in a soon-to-start DOCTOR WHO: THE MISSING ADVENTURES series. Tom Baker's Doctor and his companion Sarah Jane will meet Sherlock Holmes, and the book is due to be released in September (with Baker in Sherlockian costume on the cover).
4755. A Canadian edition has been reported of June Thomson's THE SECRET JOURNALS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (McClelland & Stewart, CA\$29.99). Also Nicholas Meyer's THE CANARY TRAINER (Penguin, CA\$24.99)
4756. And THE OXFORD BOOK OF VILLAINS, edited by John Mortimer (November 92 #2) is now available as a paperback (Oxford University Press, \$11.95); Prof. Moriarty is present, in a reprint of T. S. Eliot's poem "Macavity: The Mystery Cat".
4757. "Genius's residence" was the clue in the crossword puzzle in the N.Y. Times Magazine on Jan. 2. And the answer was: "Sherlock's home".
4758. Tim O'Connor reports that videocassettes with the edited two-hour versions of "The Leading Lady" and "Incident at Victoria Falls" (the 1992 television films starring Christopher Lee as Holmes) are now deeply discounted: \$9.99 each (at EP speed) from Critic's Choice Video (800-367-7765).

4759. Dick Lesh reports that the 300-piece jigsaw puzzle showing "The Great Mouse Detective" issued by Western Publishing at \$5.99 (December 93 #5) also is available (but as "Poster Puzzle") for \$7.99 (add \$4.50 shipping) from Donavan Distributing, 732 Clinton Street, Waukesha, WI 53186 (800-236-7123).
4760. According to my not-always-infallible records, you all now should have my seasonal souvenir for 1994 ("CUSHLAMOCHREE!"), received during the birthday festivities in New York, or since, or with this mailing. If I managed to miss anyone, please let me know.
4761. And a few commercials: the revised 15-page list of Investiture Irregulars, Two-Shilling Awards, *The* Women, and the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes costs \$1.10 postpaid. The 70-page list of 632 Sherlockian societies, with names and addresses for contacts for the 386 active societies, costs \$3.55 postpaid. A run of address labels for 329 individual contacts (recommended if you wish to avoid making duplicate mailings to people who are contacts for more than one society) costs \$10.25 postpaid. Checks payable to Peter E. Blau, please.
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February 1994 #1

4762. A new issue (#26) of The Tonga Times has arrived from Carol Wenk, who has reactivated The Mini-Tonga Society, which the late Dee Snyder founded for creators and keepers of Sherlockian miniatures. Membership costs \$6.00 a year (with three issues of the newsletter, and back issues are available), and Carol's address is Box 770554, Lakewood, OH 44107.
4763. Oliver Smith died on Jan. 23. He was a co-director of the American Ballet Theatre for more than 35 years, and was best known as an award-winning set designer on Broadway, and in opera and films. His sets were an important feature of Broadway shows such as "West Side Story", "My Fair Lady", "Hello Dolly", "Camelot", and "Baker Street".
4764. Reported by Ralph Hall: ELEMENTARY DOCTOR WATSON! is a new CD and cassette starring country artist Doc Watson, issued by Sugar Hill Records; none of the tracks appear to be Sherlockian, and the contents are similar to, but not the same as, the phonograph record issued by Poppy Industries in 1972. Star Trek: The Next Generation #26 (Feb. 1994) has an interview with Alex Singer, director of "Ship in a Bottle" (which he compares to Pirandello's "Six Characters in Search of an Author"). The "Great Illustrated Classics" series from Baronet Press now includes THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, edited by Malvina G. Vogel and illustrated by Brendan Lynch (look for it on bookshop bargain tables); this is a reissue of the paperback from Playmore Inc. (March 85 #4).
4765. COOKIE MCCORKLE AND THE CASE OF THE CROOKED KEY and COOKIE MCCORKLE AND THE CASE OF THE MYSTERY MAP are the latest titles in Sharon Cadwallader's nice series of juveniles (ages 7 to 9) about a young girl who is fascinated by Sherlock Holmes, and has named her dog Moriarty, and solves mysteries; from Avon Books (Young Camelot), \$3.50 each.
4766. The eighth volume of Beeman's Christmas Annual offers 32 pages of Sherlockian scholarship from past meetings of The Occupants of the Empty House; the cost is \$11.00 postpaid, from the society (105 Wilcox, Zeigler, IL 62999).
4767. The BBC's six-hour dramatization of George Eliot's "Middlemarch" will air on "Masterpiece Theatre" starting on Apr. 10, according to the latest issue of Anglofile, and with some fine actors, including Robert Hardy and Patrick Malahide. Anglofile is a monthly newsletter that offers detailed coverage of British entertainment; \$12.00 a year (Box 33515, Decatur, GA 30033).
4768. The third issue of Troy Taylor's The Whitechapel Gazette is at hand, with 58 pages of nicely illustrated articles on Conan Doyle and Houdini, Basil Rathbone's "Sherlock Holmes and the Voice of Terror", a possible identification of Cheeseman's near Horsham, and much more. Troy's address is 805 West North, Decatur, IL 62522, and the cost is \$6.00 postpaid.
4769. Robert W. Wright, who is Branch Manager at the U.S. Colonial Office of the Franco-Midland Hardware Co., reports that the society is planning a meeting at the Gillette Castle in Hadlyme, Conn., some time during the summer. If you would like more information about the event, his address is R.R. 3, Box 401, Myerstown, PA 17067.
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February 1994 #2

4770. The winter 1993 issue of Scarlet Street offers tributes to the late Vincent Price, Richard Valley's discussion of Rathbone's "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (with excerpts from alternate versions of the script), interviews with Ida Lupino and Terry Kilburn (both of whom were in the film), and David Stuart Davies' report on Granada's most recent work (with production stills from "The Red Circle" and "The Three Gables"). \$20.00 a year (four issues), from Scarlet Street Inc., Box 604, Glen Rock, NJ 07452. David has reported in a later letter that Jeremy Brett is in the final stages of filming "The Cardboard Box", and that the new shows will be broadcast in Britain beginning Feb. 28.
4771. Eleri Arden's SHERLOCK HOLMES OBSERVED, OR WATSON TV TONIGHT is a 32-page guide to the Granada series, offering brief discussion of each program and notes on their Canonical anomalies, published in 1993 by the Teapot Press. Cheryl Hurd, the proprietor of the press, has herself written pamphlets on DRESSING UP VICTORIAN (36 pp.) and COME TO TEA! (40 pp.), both interesting guides for those who wish to sample or recreate turn-of-the-century lifestyles. The pamphlets are available from Classic Specialties, Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219; \$6.00 each postpaid.
4772. Marina Stajic found a nicely Sherlockian sign on a door of the Institut de Police Scientifique et de Criminologie in Lausanne.
4773. Andrew Jay Peck reports for the completists that Nicholas Meyer's THE CANARY TRAINER, published at \$19.95, is now available from the Book-of-the-Month Club at \$16.95 (and when one adds in postage, there isn't much discount).
4774. David L. Hammer's investigation of THE 22ND MAN: IN RE SHERLOCK HOLMES: GERMAN AGENT (July 89 #5) has a sequel: THE QUEST: BEING THE SEARCH FOR THE TREASURE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, THE 22ND MAN, by Angus Maclaren (Gasogene Press, 1993; 125 pp., \$15.95). Maclaren, in a style remarkably similar to Hammer's, reports on his successful pursuit of Holmes' own case reports, which are scheduled for publication later this year. THE QUEST is well-illustrated by photographs taken in Germany, England, and Switzerland, and is available from the publisher (Box 1041, Dubuque, IA 52004); \$18.70 postpaid.
4775. The winter 1994 issue of Varieties of Ash is available, with Francine and Wayne Swift's explanation of the difficulties of preparing and displaying properly a flag that actually is a quartering of the Union Jack with the Stars and Stripes, and David R. McCallister's suggestion that the villains of half a dozen different stories were all members of an "invisible gang", and other Sherlockian scholarship. \$12.00 a year (two issues), from Susan E. Dahlinger, 758 Third Street, Secaucus, NJ 07094.
4776. Frank Darlington reports that the Johnson Smith Company (which has supplied generations of customers with sneezing powder, whoopee cushions, and rubber chickens, and other neat stuff) still offers woolen deerstalkers at \$16.95 in their mail-order catalog (Box 25500, Bradenton, FL 34206).
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February 1994 #3

4777. David Rush has provided a copy of a flier received from Malcolm Payne about The Conan Doyle (Crowborough) Establishment's plans for a series of limited-edition commemorative covers honoring the birthday of Sherlock Holmes, the death of Conan Doyle, the birth of Conan Doyle, and the cricket match in which Conan Doyle bowled W. G. Grace. Information on prices and payment is available from Richard Greep, The Limes, Eridge Road, Crowborough, East Sussex, England.
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4778. Claude Akins died on January 27. He made his movie debut in 1953 as a sergeant in "From Here to Eternity" and went on to specialize in supporting roles in films and television, most recently as Teddy Roosevelt in "Sherlock Holmes: Incident at Victoria Falls" (1992).
4779. W. K. Dolls (6641 Backlick Road #206, Springfield, VA 22150) offers a color flier showing six different Sherlockian dolls designed by William Knoth and priced at \$500 each (or \$2,500 for all six).
4780. Further to Frank Darlington's report (November 93 #5) that the Oxford University Press is holding a drawing for a set of THE OXFORD SHERLOCK HOLMES signed by the editors, Barbara Roden notes that Wallace Robson died before proof sets were available, and that her husband Christopher has signed his books only for members of his family, so it is rather dubious that a signed set actually exists. Barbara also notes that space is still available at the meeting of the Arthur Conan Doyle Society in Toronto on Apr. 29-May 1, and that additional information is available from the society, at Ashcroft, 2 Abbotsford Drive, Penyffordd, Chester, Cheshire CH4 0JG, England.
4781. Virginia Lou Seay (Calhoun Book Store, Box 24552, Edina, MN 55424) offers sales-lists of in-print and out-of-print Sherlockian and Doylean magazines, books, audiocassettes, comic books, etc.
4782. The new catalog from Barnes & Noble (126 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10011) offers Barnes & Noble reprint editions of THE LOST ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Ken Greenwald (first published in 1989, with 13 stories adapted from the Denis Green/Anthony Boucher scripts for the Rathbone radio series) at \$4.98 (item E104047); DEATH LOCKED IN, edited by Douglas G. Greene and Robert C. S. Adey (an anthology of locked-room stories first published in 1987, with "The Lost Special") at \$9.98 (item 1954635); and 100 DASTARDLY LITTLE DETECTIVE STORIES, edited by Robert Weinberg, Stefan Dziemianowicz, and Martin H. Greenberg (an anthology of short fiction that Richard Wein reports has reprints of at least seven Sherlockian parodies and pastiches) at \$7.98 (item 1858729).
4783. Ralph Hall notes that the Mar. 1994 issue of Sesame Street Magazine has an illustration of Sherlock Hemlock in "I Can Follow Clues", and that there is an approving report from London on The Sherlock Holmes Museum and its justopened Hudson's Restaurant in Victoria Magazine (Mar. 1994). And Mystery Forum Magazine #8 has Retta West Whinnery's "Forensic Firsts", quoting from H. M. Robinson's SCIENCE CATCHES THE CRIMINAL (New York: Blue Ribbon Books, 1939): "When Sherlock Holmes whipped out his magnifying glass to examine a flake of Latakia tobacco found on the Smyrna rug in the 'Boscombe Valley Affair', he became not merely a very charming character in detective fiction, but an exponent of a whole new way of looking at life."

February 1994 #4

4784. MEG MACKINTOSH AND THE MYSTERY IN THE LOCKED LIBRARY (Boston: Little Brown, 1993; 44 pp., \$13.95) is the latest in Lucinda Landon's imaginative solve-it-yourself mystery series for young readers; this time Meg and her brother Peter are racing the clock to find valuable Sherlockian treasure hidden in, and almost stolen from, the local library.
4785. The Northern Musgraves continue to publish interesting scholarship in The Ritual (two issues a year) and in The Musgrave Papers (an annual); a fine example (in the 1993 annual) is Richard Lancelyn Green's report on Conan Doyle's initial plans to end the Memoirs with "The Naval Treaty" (with "The Final Problem" having been added somewhat later), and on just who it was who first noticed the dual appearance of the famous mind-reading episode, and called it to the attention of the author and the publisher. Membership costs \$32.00 a year (with airmail to the U.S.), from David Stuart Davies, Overdale, 69 Greenhead Road, Huddersfield, W. Yorks. HD1 4ER, England.
4786. "Back to Baker Street" is the formal title for the ten-day festival planned by the Sherlock Holmes Society of London from May 20 to May 30, with a wide variety of events, all open to Sherlockians and the general public; anyone planning to be in London on any of those days will surely find something of interest in the schedule, now available from Pamela Bruxner, St. Cuthbert's Cottage, 23 North Street, Barming, Maidstone, Kent ME16 9HE, England.
4787. Steve Robinson has a small supply of the smaller (4" x 4") Sherlock Holmes cigar-box labels, available for \$16.00 postpaid. His address is 6980 South Bannock Street #3, Littleton, CO 80120 (303-794-9709).
4788. Chris Redmond's THE TIN DISPATCH-BOX: A COMPENDIUM OF THE UNPUBLISHED CASES OF MR. SHERLOCK HOLMES, first published in 1965 (when a great deal of S'ian scholarship was published in multi-colored hectograph), has been reprinted; it's a well-researched 32-page pamphlet, with two full-page illustrations by Jon Wilmunen, and the cost is US\$7.00 postpaid from the author (at 523 Westfield Drive, Waterloo, Ont. N2T 2E1, Canada).
4789. Roger Johnson reports that the script for the play THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, written by J. E. Harold Terry and Arthur Rose for Eille Norwood and produced in London in 1923, has been published by Ian Henry at \$61.00 postpaid (20 Park Drive, Romford RM1 4LH, England). Philip Weller's ELEMENTARY HOLMES: A POCKET REFERENCE GUIDE TO THE WORLD OF SHERLOCK HOLMES is \$15.00 postpaid from Sherlock Publications (6 Bramham Moor, Hill Head, Fareham, Hampshire PO14 3RU, England). Anne Jordan's I LOOKED IN AT MECCA (a monograph on Holmes' visit) costs \$6.00 postpaid (payment in currency, please); Fairbank, Beck Lane, Bingley, West Yorkshire, BD16 4DN, England.
4790. Jon Lellenberg reports that John Barrymore's film "Sherlock Holmes" (1922), seldom seen in theaters and never broadcast on television, will be one of the films in a retrospective of MGM silent films at the Film Forum in New York. They will be showing a print supplied by Turner Entertainment, so it may well be from the vaults, rather than the print reconstructed some years ago from bits and pieces found in the archives at George Eastman House in Rochester. The film will be screened three times on May 3; the Film Forum is at 209 West Houston Street (just south of Greenwich Village), and their box-office telephone number is 212-727-8110.

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4791. Jim Suszynski has spotted another Sherlockian children's book: SHERLOCK HOUND AND THE CASE OF THE FOUL SMELL, illustrated by Scott Ross "from the case files of Dr. Bulldog Watson" (Morris Plains: Unicorn Publishing, 1993; 40 pp., \$6.95); if you can't find it at Waldenbooks or other bookstores, the publisher's address is 120 American Road, Morris Plains, NJ 07950. Later: there's a second title available: SHERLOCK HOUND AND THE CASE OF THE MYSTERIOUS MISSING PUMPKIN.
4792. Bob Burr reports in a supplement to the Mar. 1994 issue of Plugs & Dottles that Kendall J. Pagan, the mysterious leader of the Reichenbachian Cliff Divers, has been merely missing, rather than deceased, and that a new issue of The Reichenbachian Cliff-Notes will be due in April. Plugs & Dottles is an interesting monthly, and costs \$10.00 a year from Robert C. Burr, 4010 Devon Lane, Peoria, IL 61614.
4793. William Allen (602 West Houstonia, Royal Oak, MI 48073) offers a Sherlock Holmes Mouse Pad (that's something used by some computerized Sherlockians) in blue Lexan (8 x 9.5 in.) with a white S'ian design, for \$12.95 postpaid.
4794. Harold and Teddie Niver's A SHERLOCKIAN SONGBOOK, first published in 1982, is still available, offering thirteen turn-of-the-century songs, with new Sherlockian lyrics (such as "On the Trail of the Fearsome Hound" and "Yes Sir, That's My Sherlock"); \$10.00 postpaid from Harold E. Niver, 29 Woodhaven Road, Rocky Hill, CT 06067. A new supply of lapel pins for the Men on the Tor (March 93 #5) also is available, in case your checks were returned when the original supply was exhausted (or in case you weren't reading this newsletter then); also \$10.00 postpaid, from the same address.

4795. Chuck Kovacic (14383-B Nordhoff Street, Panorama City, CA 91402-1927) will be happy to send a copy of his new sales-list of Sherlockian pins, posters, photographs, press kits, and the like.
4796. A subscriber reports an addition to the list of homosexual pornography with a Sherlockian theme: EXPOSED, by Aaron Travis (New York: Badboy/Masquerade, 1993; 177 pp.; \$4.95); it's a collection of Travis' stories, including "The Adventure of the Ragged Youth" (with Holmes and Watson being thoroughly un-Canonical). Masquerade Books (801 Second Avenue, New York, NY 10017) has a toll-free number (800-458-9640); \$1.00 extra for shipping.
4797. IRENE'S LAST WALTZ (New York: Tom Dougherty/Forge, 1994; 480 pp., \$22.95) is the fourth book in Carole Nelson Douglas' imaginative series about Irene Adler Norton and her friend Penelope Huxleigh, who this time investigate a murder at the Parisian establishment of Charles Worth, the king of couture, and then return to Prague for a second encounter with the King of Bohemia. Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson make an appearance, but as usual the story is Irene's, and it is well told.
4798. The Mid-Atlantic Mystery Book Fair and Convention (in Philadelphia on Nov. 4-6, 1994) will feature publication of THE MID-ATLANTIC MYSTERY COOK BOOK (with recipes for suspenseful beginnings, mysterious main meals, villainous vegetables, sinister salads, and deadly desserts). Interested readers and writers are invited to submit their recipes, by May 31, to Deen Kogan, at the Society Hill Playhouse, 507 South 8th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147.

February 1994 #6

4799. VICTORIAN DETECTIVE STORIES is the Oxford University Press's title for the paperback edition of VICTORIAN TALES OF MYSTERY AND DETECTION, which was edited by Michael Cox and published in 1992 (October 93 #5); the anthology has 31 stories, with one from the Canon, as well as Conan Doyle's "The Lost Special", and the trade paperback costs \$12.95.
4800. NATMEET is what Sherlockians in Australia call their national meeting of Sherlockian societies, and this year's NATMEET will be held on Aug. 6-7 in Toowoomba in Queensland, celebrating "The Empty House" and featuring the third annual Toowoomba Silver Blaze Race Day. Travelers from afar will be welcome, and details are available from Michael Farrell, 86 Bridge Street, Toowoomba, Q. 4350, Australia.
4801. There certainly is no shortage of roses in the Canon, but doves seem to be few and far between (one candidate is the "sucking dove" mentioned in "His Last Bow"). Roses and doves were both featured on this year's "love" stamps.
4802. Cate Pfeifer, who presides over a Sherlockian society called The Nocturnal Journalists of 131 Pitt Street (their motto being "si hoc adfixum in obice legere potes, et liberaliter educatus et nimis propinquus ades") has kindly sent the second issue of the society's newsletter The Midnight Oil, with an imaginative outline for a "Multiple-Choice Sherlock Holmes Story" (you can ask Cate for your a copy, and her address is 3939 North Murray Avenue #402, Milwaukee, WI 53211).
4803. It is unlikely that there are many Sherlockians who are not aware of the contribution that The Strand Magazine made to ensuring the fame of Sherlock Holmes, but it is possible that only a few Sherlockians know that there was once also The New Strand, launched in 1961 in hopes that it could be worthy successor. Unfortunately, The New Strand lasted only 15 months, but every one of those 15 monthly issues had delightful articles on "Baker Street and Beyond", written by Lord Donegall. Don was the 6th Marquis of Donegall (a Marquis ranks just below a Duke), a wonderful Sherlockian, an enthusiastic collector, the editor for many years of The Sherlock Holmes Journal, and a fine writer. The Westminster Libraries and The Sherlock Holmes Society of London have recently published BAKER STREET AND BEYOND: ESSAYS ON SHERLOCK HOLMES, reprinting all of Don's articles from The New Strand, and (in full color) his spectacular Sherlockian series of Christmas cards. The cost is \$35.00 postpaid (checks payable to City of Westminster, please), and orders can be sent to the Sherlock Holmes Collection, Marylebone Library, Marylebone Road, London NW1 5PS, England.
4804. Jim Duval has reported a set of "Peanuts" trading cards issued by ProSport Specialties. Card #25 shows the comic strip from Oct. 16, 1979, in which Charlie Brown buys Snoopy a new book. "How thoughtful!" Snoopy says, "This is one I hadn't heard of: 'The Hound of the Beaglevilles'." Charles Schulz has been using Sherlockian references at least since 1962, when Snoopy was shown with a deerstalker and pipe, about to track down some rabbits.

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4805. "People used to kill for *noble* reasons--for revenge or honor or to usurp a throne. Today, everyone lets it 'all hang out.'" His lip curled around the phrase disdainfully. "You can't build a believable mystery around simple *scandal* for its own sake anymore. Can you *imagine* trying to write *A Scandal in Bohemia* today? Instead of hiring Sherlock Holmes to retrieve that picture of himself with Irene Adler, the king would probably be trying to peddle the negatives to *The National Enquirer*." Sigrid laughed. "And would probably be turned down because both parties in the picture were fully clothed." Spotted by Tom O'Day in CORPUS CHRISTMAS, by Margaret Maron (New York: Doubleday, 1989); p. 176-176.
4806. The new Granada series began on ITV on Mar. 7, with "The Three Gables" and a story by Adrian Furness in TV Times (Mar. 5) that noted that Jeremy Brett was diagnosed as suffering from heart failure after collapsing during work on the show. "I have bounced back like Bambi," said Brett. "I'm as fit as a fiddle, though still a little fragile." Brett also said that these would be his final six films as Holmes, and he wants to celebrate them: "I've got think of a way of publicizing this series. Perhaps I could streak naked across Lord's cricket ground with S and H painted on my backside..."
4807. The series continued with "The Dying Detective" on Mar. 14, and "The Golden Pince-Nez" on Mar. 21 (with Frank Finlay as Sergei), and "The Red Circle" on Mar. 28. Press reviews have been mixed, with some comment on overacting and on over-the-top directing, and some reviews welcoming the chance to see more fine Sherlock Holmes stories. And informal comment from British users of the Internet was generally enthusiastic. Charles Gray (as Mycroft) got high marks as Mycroft in "The Golden Pince-Nez" (apparently Granada did not tell the press that this was the first show filmed, and that Mycroft subbed for Watson because Edward Hardwicke was still working on the film "Shadowlands"). Edward Hardwicke's daughter Emma appeared as Dora in "The Three Gables".
4808. And the latest news from Britain was an article in the Sun (Mar. 25) with the headline TV SHERLOCK IN A MENTAL WARD, reporting that Jeremy Brett had been admitted to London's Chelsea and Westminster Hospital after breaking down with severe depression. The story noted that he had collapsed from serious heart problems last November during filming of the current Granada series, and that he had been using lithium since his nervous breakdown in 1986. Granada confirmed that Brett was hospitalized on Mar. 16, and that doctors are readjusting his medication for the treatment of depression.
4809. MITIGATED BLEAT is the title of the latest collection of Sherlockian verse from the pen of John Ruyle and the metal-and-ink of his Pequod Press. The 41 quartets are his "observations on HIS LAST BOW," and the cost is \$35.00 (cloth) or \$15.00 (paper) postpaid; you can order from the author at 521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707-1521.

4810. Vinnie Brosnan has issued a grand tenth catalog from Sherlock in L.A. (1741 Via Allena, Oceanside, CA 92056); packed with Sherlockiana old and new, and with interesting articles by Michael Boss and John Ruyle, and a reprint of Ben Abramson's flier promoting THE PAINFUL PREDICAMENT OF SHERLOCK HOLMES.

March 1994 #2

4811. Tiger Books (Yew Tree Cottage, Westbere, Canterbury, Kent CT2 0HH, England) has published an ABBREVIATED BIBLIOGRAPHIC CHECK LIST OF A. CONAN DOYLE (60 pp., £16.50); the information is restricted to first appearances of his articles and stories in magazines and newspapers and to the first editions of his books, and relies to a great extent on the Green/Gibson bibliography. The checklist is certainly much handier for the collector to carry along to bookshops than the more detailed bibliography, but has one serious defect: there is no index, and magazines are reported chronologically according to the first appearances of Conan Doyle item, so anyone finding a run of Pearson's, for example, will locate the check list of ACD's contributions to the magazine only by searching a three-page table of contents.
4812. Tom Kowols notes in The Police Gazette (published by The Scotland Yarders) that the Laser Disc Newsletter reports that the entire Granada series has been released in Japan on twenty laserdiscs, each 104 minutes and priced at ¥4,800 (about \$45.00). The series is broadcast in Japan in English, with Japanese subtitles, and I expect the laserdiscs are the same.
4813. The west-coast branch of the International Wizard of Oz Club sponsors the annual Winkie Conference, and the 1994 gathering will be held on July 8-10 in Pacific Grove, Calif., with L. Frank Baum's mystery novel THE LOST PRINCESS OF OZ (1917) as its theme. Their publicity flier shows a portrait of Toto drawn by Frank Kramer for Jack Snow's novel THE MAGICAL MIMICS IN OZ (1946), and the conference events will include a presentation of Baum's play "The King of Gee-Whiz" (at the end of which a fat missionary called Willie Cook emerges from a cannibal kettle to declare that he is none other than Sherlock Holmes). Dick Rutter (long an enthusiast in the worlds of Oz and the Canon) is in charge of the program, and additional information about this year's Winkie Conference is available from Peter E. Hanff, 1083 Euclid Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94708.
4814. Stafford Davis reports that The Afghanistan Perceivers will celebrate their 20th anniversary on May 21 (Queen Victoria's birthday) as part of a threeday weekend that will include a picnic on Holmes Peak. Travelers from afar will be welcome, and details are available from Staff, at 2144 North Elwood Avenue, Tulsa, OK 74106-3632.
4815. Bob Burr reports that Nintendo's time-travel game "Star Tropics II" has an 1890s London segment featuring Sherlock Holmes. Bob also notes that those who do not subscribe to his newsletter Plugs & Dottles, and who do wish to receive a copy of the just-published four-page Aug. 1991 issue of Kendall Pagan's newsletter Reichenbachian Cliff-Notes, are invited to send a #10 SASE and \$1.00 to The Lascarian Press, 4010 Devon Lane, Peoria, IL 61614. The lead story in the newsletter deals with an intriguing parallel between an event reported in "The Naval Treaty" and a recent criminous assault in Detroit that still echoes in the nation's headlines.
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March 1994 #3

4816. Roger Johnson has reported in the latest issue of The District Messenger that Robert Godfrey, the owner and publisher of The Sherlock Holmes Gazette, has died after a long illness. And Carolyn Senter of Classic Specialties reports that a new publisher has been found: he is Peter Harkness, and he hopes to have the next issue of the Sherlock Holmes Gazette off to press and into the mails soon.
4817. Roger Johnson has also noted that Sherlock Holmes Fine Ale (described as a "palatable brew") is now available at The Sherlock Holmes in Northumberland Street in London.
4818. Bob Mangler reports that the Book-of-the-Month Club is offering members THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES in an exclusive ("not available in any bookstore") nine-volume uniform hard-cover set priced at \$44.95. This is not a reprint of THE OXFORD SHERLOCK HOLMES, but instead seems to have been produced from earlier editions: A STUDY IN SCARLET and THE SIGN OF THE FOUR probably were copied from a pirated edition first published by Orange Judd in 1907, and the other seven volumes were copied from the first American editions (from a quick examination of photocopies kindly forwarded by Bob Fritsch. BOMC's address is 485 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10017.
4819. Ruth Brandon's THE LIFE AND MANY DEATHS OF HARRY HOUDINI (London: Secker & Warburg, 1993; 338 pp., £17.99) is a splendid biography of Houdini, drawing upon his correspondence and scrapbooks in collections such as those at the Library of Congress and the University of Texas, and examining the man and his family and friends in addition to his magic and showmanship. She does not neglect Houdini's relationship with Conan Doyle, but her discussion of that aspect of his campaign against Spiritualism is only one part of a fine portrayal of a man driven to create his own miracles.
4820. Geoffrey A. Landis' "The Singular Habits of Wasps" (Analog Science Fiction and Fact, Apr. 1994) is a somewhat different Sherlock-Holmes-and-Jack-the-Ripper pastiche, with illustrations by Broeck Steadman (who obviously is a fan of Basil Rathbone).
4821. ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: EINE ILLUSTRIERTE BIBLIOGRAPHIE DER VERÖFFENTLICHUNGEN IM DEUTSCHEN SPRACHRAUM, by Gerhard Lindenstruth, is an impressive 236-page review of all of Conan Doyle's work published in German in German-language nations, and in English in those nations. There are illustrations (some in color) of some of the more interesting book covers, a translation table of the bibliographic terms and abbreviations, and an appendix with the English translations of the German titles of books and stories. The bibliography can easily be used by collectors who are not fluent in German, and offers a splendid look at how well Conan Doyle's work has been presented in another language. The book is available from the publisher (Verlag Munnikma, Lindengasse 5, D-35390 Giessen, Germany) in paper covers at \$35.00 (or £23.00) postpaid, and in cloth (with additional color illustrations) at \$70.00 (or £46.00) postpaid.
4822. The late Isaac Asimov may not be the only Investitured member of The Baker Street Irregulars to have a school named in his honor, but he's the only one that I know of. Thanks to Pj Doyle for the news that Public School 99 in Brooklyn is now the Isaac Asimov School for Science and Literature.
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March 1994 #4

4823. Visitors to Montreal may or may not wish to dine at Sherlock's, the first in North America of a chain Swiss-owned restaurants all with that name (there are more than 30 such restaurants in Switzerland land, according to a review in the Jan. 27 issue of The McGill Reporter, at hand from Chris Redmond). The "may not" involves the menu, which features nothing Sherlockian, or even British, except for the shepherd's pie. But you can get grilled buffalo steak, and they have mystery nights, a dance floor, and 14 "state-of-the-art" pool tables.
4824. Alex Jack, author (as "Hapi") of THE ADAMANTINE SHERLOCK HOLMES (1974), has returned to the S'ian genre with INSPECTOR GINKGO TIPS HIS HAT TO SHERLOCK HOLMES (Becket: One Peaceful World Press, 1994; 231 pp., \$12.95). Ginkgo is a holistic detective who lives in Boston and follows the deductive principles (although not the diet) of Sherlock Holmes in attempting to recover the ceremonial headpiece of a high Tibetan lama, in a pursuit that takes him to London, the Reichenbach, and Nepal, with many Canonical echoes. The publisher's address is Box 10, Becket, MA 01223.
4825. As some of you know, The Red Circle's quizzes consist of questions devised by our members, with the Committee on Quizzes selecting the most malevolent questions for the quiz. One of the categories systematically rejected by the committee is "abstruse mathematical calculations," which
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- explains why a question proposed by Brad Schaefer for this month's quiz on "Silver Blaze" was disallowed. But it deserves wider circulation. So: at the speed that Holmes calculated the train was going, how long would it have taken for the train to win the Wessex Cup?
4826. Book-hunting tourists in London should not neglect Ming Books, a mysteryspecialist bookshop at 110 Gloucester Avenue in Primrose Hill, just to the north of Regent's Park (in which Holmes and Watson occasionally strolled, and in which Holmes visited the Zoo, and conveniently, because Baker Street is just to the south of the Park).
4827. The BBC's six-hour dramatization of George Eliot's "Middlemarch" will air on "Masterpiece Theatre" starting on Apr. 10, according to the latest issue of *Anglofile*, and with some fine actors, including Robert Hardy and Patrick Malahide. *Anglofile* is a monthly newsletter that offers detailed coverage of British entertainment; \$12.00 a year (Box 33515, Decatur, GA 30033).
4828. Last year's river-boat Sherlockian convention "The Game's Afloat" was quite successful, and The Harpooners of the Sea Unicorn are now planning another one, on Oct. 8-9 (and hoping that the excitement of last year's flood will not be repeated this year). Additional information is available from Len Cleavelin, 35 St. Lawrence Drive, St. Peters, MO 63376.
4829. Mary Russell is a new addition to the list of Sherlockian protagonists, and she will be found in Laurie R. King's *THE BEEKEEPER'S APPRENTICE* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1994; 347 pp., \$21.95). Russell, in her teens when she almost stumbles over Holmes in a field on the Sussex Downs in 1914, becomes his friend and student, and then his associate in war-time England, solving cases with him and telling her own story in a book that offers consistent character and voice. She has her own strengths, and weaknesses, and tells her story well. St. Martin's also offers credit-card sales (800-228-2131).
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March 1994 #5

4830. Plan ahead: four of the Sherlockian societies in New York have arranged a joint dinner meeting at 6:00 pm on Apr. 6 at the Old Garden Restaurant at 15 West 29th Street. Nicholas Meyer, author of books of Sherlockian interest, will be the guest of honor, and copies of his *THE CANARY TRAINER* will be available for purchase so that people can have them signed. Additional details are available from Dante Torrese of The Three Garridebs; his daytime telephone number is 914-965-4004.
4831. George Vanderburgh has issued an addendum to the first edition of S. Tupper Bigelow's *THE BAKER STREET BRIEFS* (January 94 #5), offering material that was omitted from the first edition; it is available to purchasers of the first edition for \$0.50 (United States and Canada) or \$1.00 (elsewhere). And the second (revised) edition of *THE BAKER STREET BRIEFS* is available, at \$15.95 postpaid. And since many readers of this newsletter have enquired whether Ron De Waal's *THE UNIVERSAL SHERLOCK HOLMES* will be issued on floppy disks or CD-ROM discs, George wrote recently that he has "no plans to release De Waal in ASCII at any time." George's address is: Box 204, Shelburne, Ont. L0N 1S0, Canada.
4832. Forecast: *MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: VOLUME 2* (due from Bantam Doubleday Dell audio in August, priced at \$15.99 for a two-cassette set) will have four more stories from the BBC Radio series starring Clive Merrison and Michael Williams. And *THE ADVENTURES OF THE DETECTED DETECTIVE: SHERLOCK HOLMES IN JAMES JOYCE*, by William D. Jenkins, is due from Greenwood Press in April (\$46.00).
4833. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists will meet for dinner on June 15, at the Denver Press Club, during the annual convention of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists. Geologists and Sherlockians (and visitors of either persuasion) are welcome to join us in honoring the world's first forensic geologist; you can make reservations with (and obtain additional information from) Steve Robinson, 6980 South Bannock Street #3, Littleton, CO 80120.
4834. Forecast in "Otto Penzler's Sherlock Holmes Library" in paperback reprints from Otto Penzler Books (\$8.00 each): *R. HOLMES & COMPANY*, by John Kendrick Bangs (in April); *SEVENTEEN STEPS TO 221B*, edited by James Edward Holroyd (in June); *MY DEAR HOLMES: A STUDY IN SHERLOCK*, by Gavin Brend (in August); *BAKER STREET BY-WAYS*, by James Edward Holroyd (in October); and *HOLMES AND WATSON: A MISCELLANY*, by S. C. Roberts (in December). Also due in cloth (\$21.00 each): *SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE MASQUERADE MURDERS*, by Frank Thomas (in May, reprinting the now-almost-impossible-to-find paperback original published by Medallion Books in 1986; and *THE ANGEL OF THE OPERA: SHERLOCK HOLMES MEETS THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA*, by Siciliano (in June).
4835. The reason why the paperback original of *SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE MASQUERADE MURDERS* is so difficult to find is that Medallion Books planned to sell its titles by subscription, and didn't distribute to bookstores, and went broke before word of the pastiche reached most Sherlockians. Much of their stock was sold to a discounter who shipped it off to Australia, where a supply of the pastiche was located and sent to me (that's at least 18,000 miles for a round trip), and in 1988 those well-traveled copies were offered at \$6.00 postpaid in this newsletter and quickly sold out.
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March 1994 #6

4836. The Arthur Conan Doyle Society plans to publish a new edition of Conan Doyle's *WESTERN WANDERINGS* (an account of his visit to the United States and Canada in 1914); cloth-bound, 80 pp., with six photographs and an introduction by Christopher and Barbara Roden, and the cost is £19.50 (or \$33.00) postpaid, from the Society (Ashcroft, 2 Abbotsford Drive, Penyffordd, Chester CH4 0JG, England).
4837. A new third "fully revised and updated" edition of *THE TELEVISION SHERLOCK HOLMES*, by Peter Haining (London: Virgin Books, 1994; 255 pp., £14.99 or \$19.95), is now available in Britain (there's no word yet on an American distributor); half of the book is a discussion of Sherlock Holmes and S'ian television pre-Granada, and the other half covers the Granada series. Both sections are profusely illustrated, with much color, and there's a new onepage foreword by Jeremy Brett, a new six-page introduction by Haining about the Granada series, and coverage of the series through the newest one-hour show (although the book went to press before cast lists were available for some of the programs).
4838. Fanatic completists may face some problems with the set of stamps issued by Britain last year in honor of Sherlock Holmes: Philip Weller has managed to find more than 50 different first day covers for the set. Some still are available, and offered in the latest issue of *The New Baker Street Pillar Box*, the quarterly periodical of The Franco-Midland Hardware Company. The issue's 42 pages also contain a wealth of British news and scholarship, and an 8-page booklet giving information about the society and its publications is available for \$1.00 (currency please) from Philip (6 Bramham Moor, Hill Head, Fareham, Hampshire PO14 3RU, England).
4839. Dave Galerstein reports that Arthur and Joyce Liebman will offer "An Evening with Sherlock Holmes" at the New School for Social Research in New York on Apr. 22, from 8:00 to 9:30 pm; the New School's address is 66 West 12th Street, admission costs \$10.00, and reservations aren't required (the phone number is 212-229-5600, if you want to check for a schedule change).
4840. Melanie Hughes has discovered William J. McGrath's review, in *Newsday* (Apr. 8, 1990), of *READING FREUD: EXPLORATIONS AND ENTERTAINMENTS*, by Peter Gay (Yale, 204 pp., \$14.95), which notes that one of the essays in the book is titled "The Dog That Did Not Bark in the Night" and discusses the question of whether Freud had an affair with his sister-in-law Minna Bernays. Some 65 letters written when the affair would have occurred are missing from the Freud-Bernays correspondence, but Gay is not concerned, and believes there was no love affair, and states that "The missing letters

are like Sherlock Holmes' famous dog that did not bark in the night ... there are times when dogs do not bark because they have nothing to bark about."

4841. THE MAMMOTH BOOK OF HISTORICAL WHODUNNITS, edited by Mike Ashley (London: Robinson, 1993; 522 pp., £5.99) (and New York: Carroll and Graf; \$9.95), is an interesting anthology of stories that (almost all) fit the editor's rule that a tale be set in a time earlier than its author's birth. The contents include reprints of Adrian Conan Doyle's "The Case of the Deptford Horror", Edward D. Hoch's "Five Rings in Reno" (as by R. L. Stevens, and about Conan Doyle), and Elizabeth Peters' "The Locked Tomb Mystery" (S'ian deduction by the sage and scholar Amenhotep Sa Hapu, assisted by his friend Wadjsen).
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March 1994 #7

4842. Readers of TV Guide may recall being asked to participate in an annual reader poll last summer. Victoria Robinson has kindly sent a copy of the poll that appeared in the Canadian edition of TV Guide on June 26, with (in some cases) different questions and proposed choices. In the U.S. and Canada, readers were asked to vote on the best drama actor, with a list that included (in Canada only) Jeremy Brett (Sherlock Holmes). And in Canada only, readers were asked to choose the sexiest TV actor, from a list that included Jeremy Brett. Alas, Jeremy Brett didn't make the top three in either category: Canadian readers selected Patrick Stewart, Tom Skeritt, and Michael Moriarty as best drama actors; and Joe Lando, Patrick Stewart, and Ted Danson as sexiest TV actors.
4843. Barbara Roden has reported from England that the hard-cover edition of THE OXFORD SHERLOCK HOLMES is now almost sold out; the set will be published in paperback this fall at £3.99 per volume, with Owen Dudley Edwards' corrections of some errors in the Notes and Introductions.
4844. The wide variety of Sherlockian societies in the broad category described as "other" includes The Sherlock Holmes Wireless Society, whose members are licensed amateur radio operators who are known to each other by mysterious code names such as WA2PXM or W6NKE or WD8NUK or N9RGW. Or KX1W (Ron Fish), who edits their newsletter (The Log of the Canonical Hams); his address is Box 3382, New Haven, CT 06515-3382.
4845. Don Hobbs notes that Greek translations of five of the nine volumes of the Canon are available from G. C. Eleftheroudakis SA, International Bookstore, 4 Nikis Str., Athens 105 63, Greece.
4846. Tom Stix reports that Gruntal & Co. (stockbrokers) have discovered Watson Pharmaceuticals Inc., a company that makes and sells off-patent (generic) drugs. There is no information on whether a descendant of John H. Watson is president of the company.
4847. Noted by Gary Westmoreland: Michael Howard's review, in the Times Literary Supplement (Feb. 11), of Martin Walker's THE COLD WAR AND THE MAKING OF THE MODERN WORLD (Fourth Estate, 404 pp., £18.99), in which Walker writes that "the costs of the Cold War, and the distortions inflicted upon the social systems of what had been the world's most powerful economies, suggests that the superpowers had become superlosers during the Cold War's final decade final struggle, plunging over the Reichenbach Falls together in a deadly embrace, then the USA was left clinging perilously and exhausted to the rim while the Soviet Union crashed down to the rocks below."
4848. Cathy Childs (1510 Lake Drive, Grand Island, FL 32735) offers a new saleslist, with reduced prices for her Sherlockian artwork, portraits of Jeremy Brett and other actors in the Granada series, and cartoon material.
4849. Further to an earlier report (November 93 #3) that "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970) was scheduled for release in letterbox format on laserdisc, Jim Dooley has reported to the Hounds of the Internet that the release has been delayed while work continues on putting the pieces back together. And it would appear that the laserdisc version may have some (but possibly not all) of the footage that was edited out before the film was released.
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March 1994 #8

4850. Spotted by Al Rosenblatt in Richard Jenkyns' review in the New Republic (Jan. 31) of Catherine Peters' THE KING OF INVENTORS: A LIFE OF WILKIE COLLINS: "Count Fosco is one of the most splendid villains ever imagined. With his megalomania tempered by intellect, courtesy, and an almost feminine delicacy, he is an ancestor of Professor Moriarty and those world-domination baddies in the James Bond books, though he is vastly superior to these descendants."
4851. Television ratings. The Wednesday-night Nielsen rating for the half-hour in which Tonya Harding skated during the Winter Olympics was 50.5 (that's 47.6 million television households) with a 64 share (that's 64 percent of all households where the sets were turned on). And for the half-hour when Nancy Kerrigan skated, the rating jumped to 53.4 with a 70 share. Friday night, which is sometimes called "baby-sitters night" (and when there was less suspense), the rating was 44.2 with a 63 share. The record-holder for highest-rated network program is the final episode of "M*A*S*H" (broadcast in 1983) with a rating of 60.2 and a 77 share. And the highest-rated Sherlockian broadcast recorded in my notes is the television film "Hands of a Murderer" (with Edward Woodward as Holmes, on CBS-TV in 1990), which had a rating of 9.5, with a 15 share.
4852. Maxine Reneker reports that her daughter Sarah, recently in Vietnam, found a Vietnamese translation of some of the Sherlock Holmes stories, published in Hanoi in 1993. The title is NHU'NG CUOC PHIEU LU'U CUA SHERLOCK HOLMES (with accents here and there that my computer won't reproduce), and there are six stories (Danc/3Stu/Dyin/Lady/RedH/Blue) presented on the even pages in English and on the odd pages in Vietnamese. Readers who are planning to visit Vietnam are invited to find a convenient bookstore and to bring back more copies, since Vietnamese apparently is not (until now) on the list of languages into which the Canon has been translated.
4853. The Barnes & Noble reprint edition of Ken Greenwald's THE LOST ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (February 94 #3) also is available at other chain bookstores at \$4.98; it's a minor variant, since the order of the last two stories has been reversed. The book is a collection of short-story adaptations of radio scripts from the Rathbone/Bruce series.
4854. Video-taper alert: "The Deadly Bees" (1967) will be broadcast by USA cable at 2:30 am on Apr. 21. Robert Bloch's screenplay is based on H. F. Heard's novel A TASTE FOR HONEY, but Bloch told me that a British writer [Anthony Marriott] took "some vast liberties" with Bloch's version (which did have Mr. Mycroft as a character). Bloch was informed that the script was to be juiced-up to include more horror, and suspected (correctly) that the gentle Mr. Mycroft had vanished from the screenplay (and Bloch refused to see his "deformed offspring").
4855. "Autumn in Baker Street" will be held on Oct. 22-23 at the Tarrytown Hilton in Tarrytown, N.Y. This annual gathering is always well-attended, and the agenda interesting, and additional information is available from Robert E. Thomalen, 69 Glen Road, Eastchester, NY 10709.
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April 1994 #1

4856. Well, yes, I didn't give the answer to the question Brad Schaefer submitted for The Red Circle's quiz on "Silver Blaze", just in case there are readers who didn't want me to spoil their fun. The question was: at the speed that Holmes calculated the train was going, how long would it have taken for the train to win the Wessex Cup?
4857. Eugene Ionesco died on Mar. 28. He was widely recognized as the inventor of the "theater of the absurd" and was famous as a writer of plays such as "The Bald Soprano" (1950) and "Rhinoceros" (1959). Zero Mostel starred in the film of "Rhinoceros" and did a magnificent job of turning into a
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- rhinoceros without using makeup. And "The Bald Soprano" has a scene in which a man and woman deduce that because they live on the same street, and in the same house, and share the same bed, they must be married. But it is the family's maid who declares, "I am Sherlock Holmes."
4858. This obviously is the year for German bibliography. Gerhard Lindenstruth's ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: EINE ILLUSTRIERTE BIBLIOGRAPHIE DER VEROFFENTLICHUNGEN IM DEUTSCHEN SPRACHRAUM (March 94 #3) has excellent coverage of all of Conan Doyle's work published in German in German-language nations, and in English in those nations, and now Michael Ross and other members of Von Herder Airguns Ltd. have produced JUBILAUMSBIBLIOGRAPHIE DEUTSCHER SHERLOCKIANA 1894-1994. This centenary bibliography celebrates the appearance of SPATE RACHE in German in 1894, and offers excellent coverage of a hundred years of the Canon, pastiches, parodies, scholarly articles, journals, and games. The annotations are in German and English, and there is glossary explaining the abbreviations, and the bibliography's 290 pages provide a splendid view of German Sherlockiana, both original and in translation. The book is available for DM 40.00 (\$24.00) from Michael Ross, Bendheide 65, D-47906 Kempen, Germany; U.S. dollars in currency only, please.
4859. Forecast: SEANCE FOR A VAMPIRE, by Fred Saberhagen (from Tor Books in May); "When Sherlock Holmes disappears, evidently abducted by malign powers while investigating a seance, Dr. Watson knows that it is up to him to perform the distasteful ritual of summoning the only one who might be able to help: Holmes' vampire cousin, Prince Dracula himself."
4860. "Otto Penzler's Sherlock Holmes Library" continues to reprint fine older Sherlockiana (and covers that show Frederic Dorr Steele's artwork in full color) in a paperback format that will make the books available to people who have not been able to find them (and who in some cases may never have known they existed). Vincent Starrett's 221B: STUDIES IN SHERLOCK HOLMES (\$7.95) was published in 1940 and was the first anthology of Sherlockian fiction and scholarship to be published in the United States; it offers a grand example of how well the Sherlockians of the 1930s played our Grand Game. John Kendrick Bangs' R. HOLMES & CO. (\$8.00) offers ten stories that appeared in Harper's Weekly in 1905 and were collected in a book in 1906; Bangs offered apologies to both Conan Doyle and Hornung for "the remarkable adventures of Raffles Holmes, Esq., Detective and Amateur Cracksman by Birth" (the collection includes an explanation of how Raffles Holmes had a detective father and an amateur-cracksman grandfather, and tells some tales of how he followed in their footsteps, in New York rather than London).

April 1994 #2

4861. And for the readers who didn't want to calculate the answer to the question (at the speed that Holmes calculated the train was going, how long would it have taken for the train to win the Wessex Cup), it would have taken 109.3 seconds to win the race (the distance was 1.625 miles, the velocity was 53.5 miles per hour, and the formula is $D/V=T$).
4862. Patricia Dalton died on Apr. 6. She was Patsy to her friends, and she had many of them in The Sherlock Holmes Society of London, which she joined in 1966, and which she served in many ways, as a member of its Council, as its chairman from 1980 to 1983, and as co-editor of The Sherlock Holmes Journal from 1982 to 1983.
4863. "Brief Writing and Oral Argument in Appellate Practice", by the Honorable Albert M. Rosenblatt, was published in the fall 1993 issue of Trial Lawyers Quarterly (the official journal of the N.Y. State Trial Lawyers Institute), and uses Canonical names in examples of what to avoid. Such as: "While in front of her home at Grosvenor Square in the Town of Brewster, on March 15, 1987, the seven year old infant plaintiff herein, Isadora Klein, was struck by a vehicle having been driven by defendant third-party plaintiff, Grice Patterson." Al not only has to read this sort of thing, but is supposed to understand it, and deserves our sympathy. The Institute's address is 132 Nassau Street, New York, NY 10038.
4864. Jennie Paton has forwarded an item in the Library Journal (Mar. 15), about Mark Frost's novel THE LIST OF 7 (September 93 #4): "Morrow put plenty of time, money, and energy into promoting this book, and though it didn't break out as expected, the estimated sale of 40,000 copies is nothing to regret." Avon will issue the book soon in paperback.
4865. Jennie also spotted Christopher Morley's essay about Walt Whitman in the Jan. 25, 1953, issue of the N.Y. Times Book Review (the editors noted that "Mr. Morley has largely taken the place of Walt Whitman on Long Island"). Morley suggested that "Some innocent (or well-trained) mortal ingredient was lost in Walt's makeup. At bottom he was tellurian, telluride, whatever the word may be. See Conan Doyle's gorgeous burlesque, 'When the Earth Screamed.' You can take that tale (which Walt would have called 'cute') as a quite unconscious parable of 'Leaves of Grass.' The description of the palpitant earth-jelly, uttering its appalling yell of outrage (and spattering the inquisitive pressmen with grievous muck) is a neat precis of the career of the 'Leaves.'"
4866. The U.S. has issued a set of ten stamps showing Al Hirschfeld's caricatures of stars of the silent screen. Some of them appeared in Sherlockian roles, including Charlie Chaplin (as Billy in William Gillette's plays "Sherlock Holmes" and "The Painful Predicament of Sherlock Holmes") and Buster Keaton (in the film "Sherlock Jr."). Can you identify another one?

April 1994 #3

4867. There was some interesting Conan Doyle manuscript material in an auction at Sotheby's in New York on Dec. 10, 1993. The lots and prices (including the 15% buyer's premium): four letters, with one to Greenhough Smith about "The Man with the Watches" (\$2,070); the poem "The Ballad of the Eurydice" (3 leaves) (unsold); "A Shadow Before" (14 leaves) (\$3,738); "The Home Coming" (17 leaves) (\$3,738); "The Last Galley" (10 leaves) (\$3,163); "The Last of the Legions" (9 leaves) (\$3,738); "The Vital Message" (67 leaves) (\$6,900); and "The Bully of Brocas Court" (27 leaves) (\$7,475). According to the catalog, the material was the "Property of a California Collector."
4868. Lawrence E. Spivak died on Mar. 9. He founded and produced and served as a panelist on "Meet the Press" (the longest-running program in the history of television); the program debuted on Nov. 6, 1947, and still is one of NBC's most important news shows. Jon Lellenberg has reminded me that Spivak was at the annual dinner of The Baker Street Irregulars in 1943, and it was not merely as a curious onlooker. Spivak had been the publisher of The American Mercury since 1939, and the Mercury Press was the publisher of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine from its first issue in 1941 until 1954, when he decided to work full-time on his television series. The Mystery Writers of America gave him their Raven award in 1981 for launching EQMM.
4869. The third silent-screen star who appeared in a Sherlockian role is Harold Lloyd, who played Tonga on stage in "The Sign of the Four" in 1912 (in a stock-company production of Charles P. Rice's play at the Grand Theatre in San Diego).
4870. Don Hobbs reports that a set of THE CROWBOROUGH EDITION is available from Barber's Book Store, at 215 West 8th Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102 (800-327-5471). Brian Perkins is the proprietor of the store, and the set and its dust jackets are in very fine condition, and the price is \$2,000. The set is the last "authorized" collection of Conan Doyle's works, in 24 volumes published in 1930, and the first volume was signed by the author (and in 1930 you could have bought the set from the publisher for \$240). And if you call or write, Brian Perkins would like to know you read about it here.
4871. Jim Vogelsang reports that Beethoven and Sarah Rose Karr (stars of the film "Beethoven's 2nd") are wearing deerstalkers on the cover of FT Magazine #1 (which has minor Sherlockian content in its puzzles-for-kids, and may still be available free at McDonald's).

4872. Graham Sudbury has proposed creating a society called SKIRMISH (an acronym for Sherlockians Keen to Inhibit and Rectify Mendacious Identifications of Sherlock Holmes) for those who would like to join in identifying and gently exposing "obvious misstatements" about Holmes, such as a suggestion in the Boston Sunday Globe's review of THE CAVEMAN'S VALENTINE that author "George Dawes Green has invented just about the most original amateur sleuth since Sherlock Holmes." Graham's address is Box 52062, Tulsa, OK 74152.
4873. The latest issue of The Sherlock Holmes Review features a long interview with Nicholas Meyer, and "Some Thoughts on Holmes and Raffles" by Edward and Karen Lauterbach, and costs \$6.00 postpaid from Steven T. Doyle, Box 583, Zionsville, IN 46077 (subscriptions cost \$20.00 for four issues).
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April 1994 #4

4874. It has been a while since I mentioned a fine catalog of Bargain Books from Edward R. Hamilton (Falls Village, CT 06031-5000). One book still available at a bargain price, I'm reminded by Gordon Kelley, is William S. Baring-Gould's THE ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES in a one-volume edition published by Outlet Books in 1992; it's item 83744X, and the price is \$19.95 (plus \$3.00 shipping per order). And Hamilton's catalogs always are packed with other bargains.
4875. Thanks to Kevin Reed for the report on the imaginative promotion of the Santa Anita Derby on Apr. 9. Fans could wear buttons proclaiming that they liked one of the three favorites: Brocco, Valiant Nature, and Tabasco Cat. Brocco was the winner, with Tabasco Cat second and Strodes Creek third. And Valiant Nature wasn't even there, having been withdrawn and shipped east for the Bluegrass and the Kentucky Derby (the latter on May 7).
4876. Cherie Jung reports that the May issue of her magazine Over My Dead Body will have a story on the Sherlock Holmes pub and a short profile of Jeremy Brett. Box 1778, Auburn, WA 98071, is the address; \$5.00 (or \$12.00 for four issues).
4877. Ellery Queen's THE MISADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1944) quickly achieved almost legendary status, for two reasons: one being that Adrian Conan Doyle managed to force Frederic Dannay to stop publication of the book after only five printings (making the book difficult to add to one's collection), and the other being that it was such a splendid anthology, of material selected with expertise and enthusiasm and ably presenting a wide range of excellent Sherlockiana. And Marvin Kaye's THE GAME IS AFOOT (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1994; 512 pp., \$24.95) is in many ways a better anthology, and not just because Kaye has been able to select material from an additional fifty years. Kaye also has included some of the best Sherlockian scholarship (or pseudo-scholarship), and has found a publisher that will see that the book is widely distributed. As it deserves to be: it is packed with wonderful writing and grand fun, and offers new material as well as reprints of old favorites. And while Kaye has not included everything that he might have, that's only because he hopes to edit a second anthology, which is nice news indeed. Recommended.
4878. John Brunner's MUDDLE EARTH (New York: Ballantine/Del Rey, 1993; 275 pp., \$3.99) offers a look at "the most unlikely place in the known and unknown universe" and includes among its characters "the adolescent Sherlock Holmes and his Biker Street Irregulars." It's an amusing fantasy, full of awful puns and some really weird characters, few of whom are what they seem to be (or even what they seem to think they are).
4879. G. C. Burner's short Sherlockian pastiche "The Puzzle of Graceland Manor" (first-place winner for Elvian prose) was published in the first issue of The International Journal of Elvianology and the Elvian Era, published by the Florida First Coast Writers' Festival and the Florida Community College at Jacksonville. You can request a copy of the 8-page journal from Howard Denson, FCCJ North Campus, 4501 Capper Road, Jacksonville, FL 32218.
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April 1994 #5

4880. The latest issues of The Parish Magazine (semi-annual) and ACD (annual) are at hand from The Arthur Conan Doyle Society, with interesting articles and essays, and reports. ACD's contents include Conan Doyle's "The Wild Geese: The Story of the Irish Brigades in France" (a fascinating lecture published only once before, in an Irish newspaper in 1954) and Cameron Hollyer's detailed article about the play "Angels of Darkness" (Conan Doyle's own dramatization, without Holmes, of "A Study in Scarlet"). Society membership costs £14.00 (or \$27.00) to U.S. addresses (or £19.00/ \$35.00 airmail); the address is: Ashcroft, 2 Abbottsford Drive, Penyffordd, Chester CH4 0JG, England.
4881. Paul Giovanni's play "The Crucifer of Blood" is on the summer schedule of The Phoenix Theatre at the Performing Arts Center at Purchase College in Westchester County, from July 20 through Aug. 7. Discount rates are available to groups of ten or more, and the group sales director is Jane Katz, at 5 Barker Avenue #407, White Plains, NY 10601 (914-681-9398).
4882. Andy Peck reports that the Mystery Guild is offering its members a Sherlock Holmes key chain (\$7.95) and a Sherlock Holmes letter opener (\$14.95). The picture of the letter opener is too dark to reproduce here; the Guild's address is Box 6325, Indianapolis, IN 46206.
4883. Further to the report on plans for a meeting of The Practical, But Limited, Geologists on June 15 at the Denver Press Club (March 94 #5), the contact for more information about the meeting (honoring the world's first forensic geologist) is Guy Mordeaux, 705 Forth Street, Castle Rock, CO 80104.
4884. Comic books are getting to be extremely strange. THE CHILDREN'S CRUSADE is a sort-of-related set that tells a series of stories that (at the beginning and the end, at any rate) involve two dead boy-detectives who are influenced to some degree (although not really all that much) by Sherlock Holmes. There are seven comic books in the series, which is published by Vertigo/DC, and they cost \$3.95 each.
4885. The latest news about Jeremy Brett is that the Daily Mail reported on Apr. 11 that he was out of hospital to attend a party in Manchester marking the tenth anniversary of the Granada series, having lost 49 pounds and feeling much better, and planning to go into a mental home for a week or ten days. If you would like to know why lithium can be dangerous, take a look in the PHYSICIANS' DESK REFERENCE at a library or a your doctor's office, to see what the book says about lithium carbonate in the sections on WARNING and DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION and ADVERSE REACTIONS.
4886. If you don't want to wait until 1985, or whenever WGBH-TV decides to broadcast the newest one-hour Granada shows on "Mystery!" here, and if you are willing to wait in line, so to speak, Jennie C. Paton has added "The Three Gables" and "The Dying Detective" (and possibly more of the six new shows, by the time you receive this newsletter) to her video lending library, and is now accepting reservations. You can write to Jennie for additional information (please enclose a #10 SASE) at 206 Loblolly Lane, Statesboro, GA 30458; her e-mail address is <jennie_paton@mailgate.armstrong.edu>.
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April 1994 #6

4887. Mel Hughes has spotted a report that "Return to the Lost World" is available on videocassette from WorldVision at \$59.95 (and it is likely that "The Lost World" also is available). The two shows were produced in 1991 by Harmony Gold (the company that made the two mini-series with Christopher Lee as Holmes and Patrick Macnee as Watson), and were intended for similar syndication on television, but were overtaken by the far more spectacular dinosaurs in "Jurassic Park" (Harmony Gold pretty much had pieces of life-size models, with feet thumping through the underbrush, and heads poking through the trees). The Harmony Gold series stars John Rhys-Davies as Challenger and David Warner as Summerlee (they're the only name actors in the casts); I've seen both of the shows on preview cassettes, and they're worth renting, if only to see what dinosaurs films used to be like.
4888. Bill Vande Water reports an article by John Devonport about the Battle of Maiwand (with mention of Conan Doyle) in Military History (June 1994); the magazine's address is 602 South King Street #300, Leesburg, VA 22075.
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4889. Richard M. Nixon died on Apr. 22. His first known contact with the world of Sherlockians was the telegram of greetings he sent to the annual dinner of The Baker Street Irregulars in 1956, and which was noted with disdain by Rex Stout in the June 1961 issue of The Baker Street Journal. The investigation of Watergate launched a flood of Sherlockian allusions in editorials and in editorial cartoons. But Nixon did know about Sherlock Holmes: Julie Baumgold reported in New York (June 9, 1980) that he had told her, "I don't care for novels, and mysteries bore me except on TV, and since Holmes is off, what is there?" He also found an appropriate context for a mention of "Sherlock Holmes's dog that did not bark" in his book 1999: VICTORY WITHOUT WAR (1988, page 76).
4890. The Scowlers and Molly Maguires will hold their workshop/playshop/conference/ seminar/funfest (that's Ted Schulz's cover-all-the-bases description) at Stanford University on Aug. 3-7. Details are available from Charlotte A. Erickson, 1029 Judson Drive, Mountain View, CA 94040-2310.
4891. A man in Sherlockian costume is shown swinging on a bordello chandelier on the cover of Spider Robinson's LADY SLINGS THE BOOZE (New York: Ace Books, 1993; 257 pp., \$4.99); there was an Ace Books hardcover edition in 1992, possibly with the same artwork on the dust jacket. Holmes isn't a character in the book (although Ralph von Wau Wau is), but there are occasional Canonical allusions in an amusing story set in the best little whorehouse in the universe.
4892. Dave Galerstein and Bill Nadel have reported that the Walter Reade Theater (apparently at or near Lincoln Center in New York) will screen Rathbone's "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (1939) on May 19 (2:00/5:15/8:30) and Brook's "Sherlock Holmes" (1932) on May 24 (5:05/8:05). Admirers of fine actors who have portrayed Moriarty well have rated Ernest Torrence highly, and properly, since he glowered just as well as Lyn Harding or Eric Porter ever did, and Torrence does his glowering in "Sherlock Holmes" (and George Zucco is a nicely suave Moriarty in "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes").

May 94 #1

4893. The "Sherlock Holmes" series of briar pipes launched in 1987 by Peterson of Dublin is still available, and at discount prices. There are seven different shapes, and various finishes, and a pipe-rack, and a flier is available from Gideon D. Hill <gideonhill221@earthlink.net>.
4894. Jon Lellenberg has supplied a copy of Godfrey Smith's column in the Sunday Times (Apr. 10), reporting that Kevin Charles, now Sherlock Holmes' secretary at Abbey National, receives and answers about 20 letters a week, and has occasional visitors, with whom he is happy to shake hands ("often, he says, emotional Japanese fans are overcome by the honour").
4895. This month's contribution to Canonical philately offers more roses, on one of the stamps in our new booklet showing summer garden flowers.
4896. Queen Elizabeth II and President Francois Mitterand officially inaugurated the Channel Tunnel on May 6. The 31.4-mile tunnel cost \$16 billion to build, and it has been 81 years since Sir Arthur Conan Doyle voiced support for the project ("The matter seems to me to be of such importance that I grudge every day that passes without something having been done to bring it to realization," he suggested in a letter published in The Times on Mar. 11, 1913). At least four more months will be needed before regular traffic begins between Folkestone and Calais on the Eurotunnel car trains (passengers will remain in their cars during the 35-minute trip, which will cost from \$330 (in winter) to \$460 (in summer)).
4897. The spring 1994 issue of Scarlet Street offers the usual interesting mix of mystery and horror, including a long interview with Edward Hardwicke, and David Stuart Davies' fond farewell to the Granada series (he was there when they demolished the Baker Street rooms). \$20.00 a year (four issues), from Scarlet Street Inc., Box 604, Glen Rock, NJ 07452.
4898. The spring-summer catalog from The Mysterious Bookshop has three pages of in-print Sherlockiana, and other items such as the special edition of THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES (published by Doubleday in 1953 with Conan Doyle's signature (\$2,750) and a sketchbook with scores of non-Sherlockian sketches by Sidney Paget (\$350); 129 West 56th Street, New York, NY 10019.
4899. And the spring 1994 issue of The Armchair Detective includes an interesting article by Gary Lovisi proposing that the first hardboiled detective ("this most American of all characters") can be found in a book written by a British author: Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, the detective being Birdy Edwards, in THE VALLEY OF FEAR. Quarterly (\$26.00 a year); same address.
4900. "A hobby is only really amusing when it becomes an obsession," according to H. Rider Haggard (quoted recently by John Ruyle). John also reports that he has now completed his verse exegesis of the Canon, with THE AGENT'S LAST BOW: THE 'CASE-BOOK' RE-CASED. There are 53 verses in the latest pressing from Pequod, which costs \$40 (cloth) or \$18 (paper), from John Ruyle, 521 Vincent Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707-1521.

May 94 #2

4901. LEAVES FROM THE COPPER BEECHES (1959) and MORE LEAVES FROM THE COPPER BEECHES (1976) are among the best of the anthologies of scion-society scholarship, and they are still in print from The Sons of the Copper Beeches. The second issue of LEAVES (in paper covers) costs \$5.00, and the first issue of MORE LEAVES (in boards) costs \$15.00 (prices include postage), from James G. Jewell, 1012 Waltham Road, Berwyn, PA 19312.
4902. David Langton died on Apr. 25. He was best known for his portrayal of Lord Bellamy in the television series "Upstairs, Downstairs" from 1971 to 1976, and he was seen as Sir Charles Baskerville in Ian Richardson's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1983) and as Sir James Damery in Granada's version of "The Illustrious Client" (1991).
4903. Stephen F. Rosenberg (3 Greenwood Place #307, Pikesville, MD 21208) offers a Sherlock Holmes lapel pin, in black plastic outlined in gold; \$4.00 postpaid.
4904. Basil Copper continues to add to his series of Solar Pons pastiches, with THE EXPLOITS OF SOLAR PONS (Minneapolis: Fedogan & Bremer, 1993; 239 pp., \$24.00). The book has four new novellas that pay skillful tribute to August Derleth's style, and an attractive dust jacket and four full-page illustrations by Stephanie Hawks; the publisher's address is 700 Washington Avenue #50, Minneapolis, MN 55414 (a limited edition also is available, priced at \$60.00).
4905. The busts of four different people are mentioned in the Canon. Try naming those four different people.
4906. Michael Ross reports that there's an amusing Sherlock Holmes figurine in the German "playmobil" series (the most popular series of toys for some 25 years, and on sale throughout Europe); the figurine is 7.5 cm high, made of plastic with movable limbs, and available from Michael Ross (Bendheide 65, D-47906 Kempen, Germany) for DM 10.00 (or \$6.00) sent by surface mail (U.S. dollars in currency only, please).
4907. And Michael reports that Sherlockiana continues to appear in German: M. J. Trow's LESTRADE UND JACK THE RIPPER [LESTRADE AND THE RIPPER] (Rowohlt, DM 12.90 paperback); Mark Frost's SIEBEN [THE LIST OF SEVEN] (v.g.s., DM 44.00 cloth); SHERLOCK HOLMES [a German version of Gibson's card game with Paget artwork] (Schmidt Spiele, DM 30.00); and an inexpensive nine-volume edition of the Canon, in a faithful translation and with annotations (Haffmans, DM 49.80). Michael can also supply these, but warns that additional postage costs could be expensive.
4908. Robert C. Hess (559 Potter Boulevard, Brightwaters, NY 11718) offers a new sales-list of Sherlockian collectibles, including a just-released pair of Holmes-and-Watson bookends from Rohn Porcelain (\$185.00 including shipping and insurance) and other interesting posters, pins, advertising, etc.

4909. Reported: Barnes & Noble have published their own edition (with a new dust jacket) of A SHERLOCK HOLMES COMPENDIUM, edited by Peter Haining (\$7.98); the book was published by W. H. Allen in 1980, and by Castle Books in 1981, and is an interesting anthology of reprinted Sherlockiana.

May 94 #3

4910. As for those four different people whose busts are mentioned in the Canon, they are: Sherlock Holmes (of course) and Napoleon (of course) and Athene (Milverton's bookcase had "a marble bust of Athene on the top") and Brenda Tregennis (the photograph "showed the bust and face of a very beautiful woman"). David McCallister spotted an advertisement in The New York (May 2) for a reproduction of a bust of Pallas Athena (from an original in the Louvre) offered (for \$260 postpaid) by Eleganza, 3217 West Smith #145, Seattle, WA 98199. The advertisement notes that Pallas Athena was the protectress of heroes who fought against evil, which makes her an interesting choice to decorate Milverton's study.
4911. And if you are now wondering about Brenda Tregennis' bust, please keep in mind that our language has changed a bit from what it was in Victorian and Edwardian times.
4912. Further to earlier reports (November 93 #3 and March 94 #7) on plans for a laserdisc version of "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970), Jennie Paton reports that her copy has arrived, with the film letterboxed on two discs, and offers some (but not all) of the sequences cut from the film, and music and other nice material. The set costs \$55.48 postpaid from Crane's Laserdisc, 15251 Beach Boulevard, Westminster, CA 92683 (800-624-3078); or you can pay \$59.95 (plus shipping) from Movies Unlimited, 6736 Castor Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19149 (800-523-0823).
4913. Spotted by Mel Hughes: a report in Daily Variety (May 5) on recent rulings by the Classification & Ratings Administration of the Motion Picture Assn. of America, which assigned "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (issued by MGM/UA Home Video) a PG-13 rating ("for brief drug-related plot material").
4914. Forecast: THE PILTDOWN CONFESSION, by Irwin Schwartz ("a mildly entertaining yet ill-conceived fictional solution" to the Piltdown hoax, with Conan Doyle as a major character, but apparently not as the culprit), from Wyatt/St. Martin's in July (\$20.95).
4915. The Folio Society has completed its version of the Canon: SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE COMPLETE NOVELS is a four-volume boxed set with illustrations by Francis Mosley, and an interesting Introduction by Michael S. Cox (producer of the early programs in the Granada series). Cox discusses the novels, and offers some intriguing insights into the series (which he had hoped would begin with "The Sign of Four"). In his comments on "The Hound of the Baskervilles" he suggests sadly that their version "limps home in third place" behind the films made by Basil Rathbone (1939) and by Peter Cushing (1959). Both boxed sets presumably are still available (but at \$149.00 each) from Folio Books, 2323 Randolph Avenue, Avenel, NJ 07001.
4916. The Great Detective and The Prince of Darkness were allies in Fred Saberhagen's THE HOLMES-DRACULA FILE (1978), set in 1897, and his SEANCE FOR A VAMPIRE (New York: Tor Books, 1994; 285 pp., \$21.95) brings them together again in 1903; the story is told by both Dracula and Watson, and involves pirates, mesmerism, executions by hanging, stolen treasure, murder, kidnapping, revenge, seduction, women taken by force, and attempts to materialize the spirits of the dead. "I know what you are going to say," Dracula suggests, "everything in the above list is a bit out of the ordinary."
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May 94 #4

4917. Sherlockians who were impressed by that Sherlockian caricature of Valiant Nature (April 94 #4) did well only if they didn't bet on him in the Kentucky Derby on May 7. The winner was Go For Gin, followed by Strodes Creek and Blumin Affair. Valiant Nature "gave way readily" and was 13th, finishing 15 lengths back.
4918. Noted by Pat Ward: an excellent still from "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1939) in HOLLYWOOD DOGS, edited by J. C. Soares (San Francisco: Collins, 1993). And Laurie Langbauer's long article on "The City, the Everyday, and Boredom: The Case of Sherlock Holmes" in Differences: A Journal of Feminist Cultural Studies 5.3 (1993) 80-120; noting discussion by others of how many wives Watson had, and how many times he was wounded, she suggests that "the connection here between women and wounding goes without saying, but what is worth comment is the uncertainty that attends it: through it, Doyle seems to be at least acknowledging that such misogyny (even as he practices it) is actually an unsuccessful attempt to pin down and contain vague threats, to ground amorphous categories."
4919. The "Rache Road Rally" from Racine to Sheboygan, planned by The STUD Sherlockian Society for May 1, has been postponed until Oct. 9 to coincide with their celebration of Sherlock Holmes' birthday. Additional information is available from Donald B. Izban, 5334 Wrightwood Avenue, Chicago, IL 60639.
4920. Don also reports that the third annual Watsonian Weekend (celebrating Dr. Watson and the Battle of Maiwand) will be held in Arlington Height, Ill., on July 8-10, featuring a horse race, a dinner, a collegium, and a pistol competition; additional details are available from Robert W. Hahn, 2707 South 7th Street, Sheboygan, WI 53081.
4921. Some interesting Sherlockiana is available from The Sherlock Holmes Society of London: neckties, scarves, back issues of The Sherlock Holmes Journal, recent handbooks, and (from this year's "Back to Baker Street" celebration) mugs and coasters; a sales list is available from Mrs. Lynne Godden, Apple Tree Cottage, Smarden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8QE, England.
4922. The Williamstown Theatre Festival (in Williamstown, Mass.) is celebrating its 40th anniversary this summer, and Hugh Leonard's "The Mask of Moriarty" is scheduled for July 6-17. Described as a "wonderful send-up of the Sherlock Holmes legend," the play premiered in Dublin in 1985, with Tom Baker as Holmes, and was done in Leicester in 1987 and Kenilworth in 1993. This is its American premiere (cast not yet announced), and the box-office phone number is 413-597-3400.
4923. Gordon E. Kelley has long been interested in Sherlockian films, radio, and television, and his new SHERLOCK HOLMES: SCREEN AND SOUND GUIDE (Metuchen: Scarecrow Press, 1994; 316 pp., \$37.50) offers a splendid look at the long history of Sherlock Holmes in all those areas, and on records and tapes and computer disks. The coverage is up-to-date, and the entries often include detailed lists of casts and credits. It can be frustrating to see how much one has missed, not only older material but also recent television programs that have come and gone (but of course many of them may return on all those cable-channels-to-come). The publisher's address is Box 4167, Metuchen, NJ 08840 (800-537-7107); \$40.00 postpaid, and they take plastic.
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May 94 #5

4924. The Sixth International Holmes Games will be held in Vancouver this year, on Sept. 17-18. The events have not been announced, but in years past have included "the pursuit of a chaste yeoman's daughter across the moor," and there will be a dinner, a formal debate, and other festivities; more information is available from Elsa Haffenden, 1026 West Keith Road, North Vancouver, B.C. V7P 3C6, Canada
4925. That very nice copy of the first edition of THE LOST WORLD, inscribed by Conan Doyle to his wife Jean, once owned by Richard Manney, and auctioned at Sotheby's in New York in Oct. 1991, is on the market again, offered by The 19th Century Shop, 1047 Hollins Street, Baltimore, MD 21223 (410-539-2586) for \$9,500. The buyer at the auction paid \$4,950 for the book.
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4926. Don Hobbs reports a new (1993) addition to the Canonical series issued by the Reader's Digest Association: THE FURTHER ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, with excellent illustrations by David Johnson and an Afterword by Philip A. Shreffler (the contents consist of HIS LAST BOW and four of the apocryphal tales). Other volumes in the series are worth looking for in book sales: A STUDY IN SCARLET/THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (1986), THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1987), THE MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1988), and THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1991).
4927. Victoria Gill reports: SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE RAILWAY MANIAC, a pastiche by Barrie Roberts (London: Constable, 1994; £14.00). DR. SHERLOCK HOLMES V CECHACH, by Rudolf Cechura (Prague: Nase Vojsko, 1993; 42 kr); pastiche (in Czech). 2ND CULPRIT, edited by Liza Cody (London: Chatto & Windus, 1993; £12.00); with a reprint of Peter Lovesey's pastiche "The Curious Computer".
4928. CREEPERS: BRITISH HORROR AND FANTASY IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY, edited by Clive Bloom (London: Pluto, 1993; £9.00); with Victor Sage's essay on "The Speckled Band".
4929. John Aidiniantz is still pursuing his campaign to control 221B Baker Street (according to an article in the Daily Telegraph on May 10). The Sherlock Holmes Museum (at 239) now argues that refusing to allow the Museum to use the 221B address is threatening jobs: a mail-order business, gaining extra credibility from the address, would eventually create 400 jobs, the Museum claims. But the Westminster Council opposes a change, and Abbey National is "determined to hold on" (chairman Lord Tugendhat is a great fan of the detective).
4930. The latest catalog from Cerebro (Box 327, East Prospect, PA 17603) is full of cigar-box labels, including the colorful "Sherlock Holmes" outer label (about 4" square) at \$18.00. Their telephone number is 800-695-2235, and they take plastic.
4931. I've been told that MY DEAREST HOLMES, by Rohase Piercy (London: Gay Men's Press, 1988; 142 pp., £3.95) is still available from Alyson Publications, 40 Plympton Street, Boston, MA 02118 (\$7.95). As reviewed earlier (April 88 #1), the book is homosexual in its intellectual and emotional approach, but it is neither erotic nor pornographic; it is a two-part pastiche, with the first half presenting Watson's account of a new case in 1887, and the second offering a thoroughly revised report on the events that preceded and followed the fateful journey to the Reichenbach.

May 94 #6

4932. Ardent Sherlockians need not be told how important film preservation is. And it's nice indeed that the UCLA Film and Television Archive has assigned priority status to the 12 Sherlock Holmes films made by Universal in the 1940s (the nitrate masters are now on the verge of deterioration). Lab costs are about \$15,000 per film (that's \$180,000 for the series), and your donations, large or small, are welcome. The development officer is Cornelia Emerson, UCLA Film and Television Archive (FX48), 302 East Melnitz, 405 Hilgard Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90024-1323.
4933. Warren Randall notes that A BOOK OF DAYS FOR THE LITERARY YEAR, edited by Neal T. Jones (published by Thames and Hudson) has entries for Holmes and Watson and Conan Doyle (and it's a perennial, so you don't need to buy one every year). And FODOR'S TORONTO 1993 recommends the Metropolitan Toronto Library as housing "the finest public collection of Holmesiana anywhere."
4934. A brief report, extracted from a longer report by Chris Redmond, on events at the end-of-April meeting of The Arthur Conan Doyle Society in Toronto, organized by Christopher and Barbara Roden, with about 80 people on hand, including two members of the Conan Doyle family: Georgina Doyle (widow of the Brig. John Doyle, son of ACD's brother Innes) and Charles Foley (grandson of ACD's sister Ida). Speakers spoke on Doylean subjects, and Michael Coren discussed the 250,000-word biography he is writing about Conan Doyle, with publication planned for the fall of 1995, with a press run of 120,000 copies in eight languages; asked about his opinions of Conan Doyle, Coren called him "the best of Empire" and spoke of his "basic decency".
4935. One session, led by the Rodens, traced the Society's history and offered enthusiastic comment on its future. A member of the audience asked whether (and if so, why) there was animosity between the Society and the Sherlockian world; Catherine Cooke (a member of the council of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London) said firmly that she thinks there is no such hostility, apart perhaps from a few misguided individuals, and Christopher Roden spoke of last year's controversy in print over remarks he was said to have made about Sherlockians' preferring for food and drink over scholarship (he said that an intervention into that debate from the head of the Baker Street Irregulars was particularly unfortunate).
4936. Three publications were issued at the meeting: WESTERN WANDERINGS (articles by ACD about his trip to Canada in 1914) costs £17.00 (or \$29.00); and THE FUTURE OF CANADIAN LITERATURE (a lecture delivered during that trip) costs £8.00 (or \$13.00). DR. DOYLE OF UPPER WIMPOLE STREET (presenting evidence that ACD's ophthalmological office was not, after all, in Devonshire Place, but rather in Upper Wimpole Street) may also be available (price unknown). Prices postpaid, from Christopher Roden, 2 Abbottsford Drive, Penyffordd, Chester, Cheshire CH4 0JG, England.
4937. "The famous detective solves crimes while concealing her true sexual identity" in Therese Lentz's new play "221 B Baker Street" now playing (through June 19) at the Group Repertory Theatre, 10900 Burbank Blvd., North Hollywood, Calif.; the box-office telephone number is 818-769-7529.

June 1994 #1

4938. Simon & Schuster's audiocassette THE NEW ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES #24 (\$12.00) offers two more of the grand old Rathbone/Bruce radio shows, from scripts by Denis Green and Anthony Boucher, with new introductions by Sarah Marshall (daughter of Herbert Marshall and Edna Best, one of the producers of the series). "The Accidental Murderess" (26 November 45) has been available on records and cassettes (with lower fidelity), but "The Blarney Stone" (18 March 46) is new to audio.
4939. K.C. Berger offers an autograph letter signed by Conan Doyle, written from 15 Buckingham Palace Mansions to a Mr. Bligh Bond (likely his fellow-spiritualist Frederick Bligh Bond), for \$1,150. For full details, send her an SASE (1555 Belford Road, Reno, NV 89509-3097).
4940. Michael Ross reports that the first edition of the JUBILAUMSBIBLIOGRAPHIE DEUTSCHER SHERLOCKIANA 1894-1994 (April 94 #1) sold out quickly; if you have not ordered already, don't. Von Herder Airguns are preparing a supplement, and an expanded second edition for those who missed the first edition.
4941. The Brothers Three of Moriarty will convene at the Albuquerque Press Club on July 16, for their traditional Col. Sebastian Moran Memorial Trap Shoot, an event which may or may not mark the end of Moran's extended term in prison. The Parole Board will award a prize for the best letter or speech offered supporting a parole for Col. Moran; John Bennett Shaw is chairman of the parole board, and letters should be sent to C. Bryan Gassner, P.O. Drawer G, Corrales, NM 87048-0178.
4942. C. Bryan Gassner also presides over The Shadows of the Elm at the Arroyo del Oso Elementary School in Albuquerque, continuing to help her students in presenting half-hour dramatizations of the Canon. This year's story was "The Copper Beeches", and it was videotaped. A cassette is available (with a selection of out-takes titled "May God Save Us from Colour and Life") for \$8.00 postpaid from Mrs. Gassner at the same address.
4943. WHO'S WHERE: A HANDY REFERENCE GUIDE TO PERSONS IN THE HOLMESIAN CANON (52 pp., spiral bound) is available for \$6.50 postpaid from Benton Wood, Box 740, Ellenton, FL 34222. Ben also offers \$5.00 face value of old commemorative postage stamps to use on your mail, for \$5.50 postpaid.

4944. The Mini-Tonga Scion Society now has 72 members, and will meet informally on Aug. 3, during the N.A.M.E. national meeting in Anaheim. Calif. Issue #27 of The Tonga Times offers eight pages of news (including instructions on making a miniature dark lantern); membership costs \$6.00 a year (with three issues of the newsletter, and back issues are available), and if you would like to have more information about the society, send a #10 SASE to Carol Wenk (Box 770554, Lakewood, OH 44107).
4945. Cleadon Hall Collectibles (31-A Maple Avenue, Barrie, Ont. L4N 1R7, Canada) has sent a sales-list announcing that they are the exclusive distributors for the commemorative Sherlockian plate and the Reichenbach jug designed by Deirdre Keetley at her Studio Gallery in London. Other S'ian collectibles (mugs, thimbles, bells, etc.) are available in quantities of 12 or more.
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June 1994 #2

4946. In his new book THE CATS OF THISTLE HILL: A MOSTLY PEACEABLE KINGDOM (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1994; 236 pp., \$22.00), Roger A. Caras tells many amusing stories, including one about the late cartoonist Charles Addams. Caras and Addams once were among the judges at a charity pet show for children, where Addams whispered that he wanted "to give first prize to that ugly little boy with the ugly little turtle" because "they look just alike." Caras pointed out that they shouldn't, since the turtle was an Eastern box turtle, a threatened species that was locally endangered, and it was illegal for the ugly little boy to have it. Addams thought for a moment; then his face brightened, passing quickly from contemplation to enlightenment. "If it really is illegal for him to have it, let's give him first prize, and then hang him."
4947. Jerry Devine died on May 20. He was an actor-producer whose film career started in silent films, and he played Billy in John Barrymore's Sherlock Holmes" (1922). He later turned to writing, and had two plays produced on Broadway, and then wrote for radio, contributing to "Mr. District Attorney" and producing and directing "This Is Your FBI".
4948. The 24nd running of The Silver Blaze (Southern Division), at Pimlico on May 28, was won easily by the appropriately-named Gotcha Cornered, who finished nine lengths ahead of Every Nuance. Lynda Blankenship, of The Giant Rats of Massillon, awarded the trophy on behalf of the Washington and Baltimore scions; The Silver Blaze was the first race she had attended or bet on, and by nice coincidence she had bet on the winner.
4949. Richard Hughes, one of the grand old men of journalism in south-east Asia, and founder of The Baritsu Society in Tokyo in 1948, appeared as two different characters in books by two different authors (as Dikko Henderson in Ian Fleming's YOU ONLY LIVE TWICE and as Bill Crow in John le Carre's THE HONOURABLE SCHOOLBOY). There are many other stories told about him, some by himself in his autobiography FOREIGN DEVIL (London: Andre Deutsch, 1972) and others by Norman McSwan in THE MAN WHO READ THE EAST WIND (Kenthurst: Kangaroo Press, 1988). And there's a new one told by his son Dick Hughes, in his autobiography DON'T YOU SING (just published in Australia, according to a story in the Washington Times on May 27): in the early 1950s Richard Hughes was reporting to The Sunday Times from Tokyo, and was contacted by the Soviets, who asked him to obtain information for them; Hughes reported this to Ian Fleming, who informed MI6 (Britain's foreign intelligence service) and for some time Hughes sold the Soviets misinformation prepared by MI6. And Hughes used the code name "Altamont".
4950. The International Stamp Collectors Society (Box 854, Van Nuys, CA 91408) is offering older Sherlockian postal material, such as the four stamps and one souvenir sheet from Turks & Caicos Islands (1984) for \$24.95; and the set of four booklets from Great Britain (1987-88) with S'ian covers designed by Andrew Davidson (who also designed the recent set honoring Sherlock Holmes) for \$39.95. Write for their illustrated fliers.
4951. Arthur and Joyce Ann Liebman will guide their 14-day tour "In the Footsteps of Sherlock, Dracula, and Agatha" in England on Aug. 6-20, according to a flier forwarded by Gordon Kelley. Their phone number is 516-621-6008, or you can contact Contemporary Tours, 580 Plandome Road, Manhasset, NY 10030.
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June 1994 #3

4952. Cliff Goldfarb notes that the Quality Paperback Book Club summer selection is THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, THE MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, and THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, in three volumes at CA\$23.95 (members in the U.S. will likely pay about \$17.50). The club describes the volumes as "definitive editions" with illustrations by Sidney Paget, and the club's "own guide to Holmes' world." The covers reprint the Frederic Dorr Steele portrait of Holmes that was used in 1904 on the covers of CONAN DOYLE'S BEST BOOKS (D673a) in 1904. The club is for members only, but it's easy to join; the address is: Camp Hill, PA 17011-9902.
4953. Sorry about that: the title of Barnes & Noble's reprint of Peter Haining's book (May 94 #2) is A SHERLOCK HOLMES COMPANION (as Don Izban has noted). The book was published as A SHERLOCK HOLMES COMPENDIUM in 1980 and 1981, and a different title was used for new reprint, possibly chosen by someone who didn't know or didn't care that A SHERLOCK HOLMES COMPANION also is the title of a book by Michael and Mollie Hardwick. And no, book titles cannot be protected by copyright.
4954. Jack Tracy has completed his westward trek, and is now at 2809 Wilmington Way, Las Vegas, NV 89102, will have Gaslight Publications unpacked soon.
4955. "Cut out the poetry," Sherlock Holmes once said (severely), and it may well be that modern Sherlockians are heeding his advice, since we don't see that much new S'ian poetry. One recent (and interesting) exception is "Watson", one of six poems in Henry Knight's collection SUSPICIONS (Toronto: Childe Thursday, 1994; 102 pp., US\$9.35 postpaid). The publisher's address is 29 Sussex Avenue, Toronto, Ont. M5S 1J6, Canada.
4956. Russia now has an active Sherlockian society, and it is active indeed: The Ural Holmesian Society has dinner meetings, and a journal (Elementary, Watson!), and has published two volumes of THE ADVENTURES OF THE GREAT DETECTIVE SHERLOCK HOLMES (not reprints from the Canon, but rather anthologies of S'iana translated into Russian, and Russian scholarship, pastiches, and parodies), and they are now at work on a four-volume edition of the Russian misadventures of Sherlock Holmes. All in Russian, of course, and with fine illustrations, old and new. The society contact is Alexander Shaburov, Ul. Cherepanova 4-334, Ekaterinburg 620034, Russia.
4957. "Enter the world of Norbertina Ninja Nanny, a mischievous cow in search of answers to the riddles of her past and Sleuth Sherrloch Sheltie, a budding computer criminology from Loch Sherr, Scotland." That's the blurb for "No. 11 Downing Street", a new CD-ROM disc game published by Silicon Alley and offered for \$49.95 by CD-ROM Warehouse, 1720 Oak Street, Lakewood, NJ 08701 (800-237-6623), and reported by Jerry Bangham. They offer a double-speed CD-ROM drive for \$199.00, and more CD-ROM discs than you can shake a panic button at.
4958. Northstar/Arpad published the two issues of the comic book SHERLOCK HOLMES: TALES OF MYSTERY AND SUSPENSE in 1992 (August 92 #3 and November 92 #5), and there was a third issue in Mar. 1993 that was unreported along the Sherlockian grapevine. The third issue (with Joe Gentile's story "The Sequestered Spy" and artwork by Eric and Kevin Masi) is available for \$5.00 postpaid from Joe Gentile, 47 East Lincoln Highway, Frankfort, IL 60423.
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June 1994 #4

4959. Philip Weller (6 Bramham Moor, Hill Head, Fareham, Hants. PO14 3RU, England) offers some new publications: ALPHABETICALLY, MY DEAR WATSON (a pocket reference book listing all the Canonical characters, with brief details and citations), \$13.00 (surface)/\$15.00 (air); THE COMPANY CANON:
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- THE EMPTY HOUSE (a pocket edition, with the text of the story and almost 200 annotations), \$7.00/\$10.00; and THE HAMPSHIRE PAPERS (looseleaf reprints of Hampshire newspaper articles by and about Conan Doyle), \$8.00/\$10.00. Payment in currency, rather than checks, please).
4960. John Aidiniantz has not abandoned his campaign to control mail that is sent to Sherlock Holmes at 221B Baker Street, according to an article by Stephen Ellis in the Sunday Times (June 5). Aidiniantz insists that his museum, at 239 Baker Street, is the "real" 221B, and want to sell memorabilia to those who write to Holmes. Abbey National's press spokesman noted that: "We have taken on the role of answering the letters to Sherlock Holmes, and do not plan to give it up without a fight. The people at the museum want to capitalise on them, while we just like the goodwill it creates." And the Post Office continues to agree with Abbey.
4961. Jeremy Brett is alive and well and working, according to a report at hand from Melanie Hughes. Stuart Wavell noted in the [London] Sunday Times (May 22) that Brett is working with Joss Ackland and Elizabeth Hurley on a new television film "Mad Dogs and Englishmen" (scheduled to begin shooting in London this month).
4962. Victoria Gill notes that Colin Dexter's collection MORSE'S GREATEST MYSTERY AND OTHER STORIES (London: Macmillan, 1993; £15.00) includes a reprint of his amusing pastiche "A Case of Mis-Identity" (first published in WINTER'S CRIMES 21, 1989).
4963. Marilou Trask-Curtin is writing a biography of William Gillette, and would like to hear from people who knew him or saw him perform (or, since there aren't that many such people surviving) from people whose family or friends knew him or saw him perform. Her address is: R.D.4, Box 523, Oneonta, NY 13820 (607-432-8145).
4964. Reported: MORIARTY'S RETURN: A GAME OF GLOBAL PURSUIT (for people who drive Macintosh computers), available at software stores (price unknown); you get to join the Diogenes Club Irregulars (an organization that was funded by a bequest in Mycroft Holmes' will) and use deductive reasoning while pursuing modern criminals; the game is made by Mysterium Tremendum (909 North Negley Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15206).
4965. New sales-list at hand from Classic Specialties (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219), with summer specials: new Sherlockian sport-shorts, sweat-shirts, golf towels, and sports towels.
4966. 3RD CULPRIT: AN ANNUAL OF CRIMES STORIES, edited by Liza Cody, Michael Z. Lewin, and Peter Lovesey (London: Chatto & Windus, 1994; 263 pp., £11.99), is the latest anthology of stories written by members of the Crime Writers Association; with an amusing Sherlockian allusion in H.R.F. Keating's story "Mr. Idd" and a delightful Sherlockian caption for one of the drawings contributed by "Clewsey" to the CWA's monthly newsletter Red Herrings.
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June 1994 #5

4967. Further to the reports (June 93 #5 and July 93 #5) on the retrospective exhibit in Los Angeles of Mark Tansey's paintings, the show is now at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. And this time the show's keynote painting, displayed on a large banner outside the museum and on the exhibition's poster, is "Derrida Queries De Man" (which owes a great deal to Sidney Paget's illustration of Holmes and Moriarty at the Reichenbach). One art critic has suggested that the two figures in Tansey's painting are "locked in eternal combat over the meaning De Man gave to the meaning that Derrida gave to Rousseau." Bruce Parker, who saw the show in Los Angeles, has reported that the figures seem to be dancing, rather than fighting, and that the words dimly seen on the rocks consist of phrases and clauses from deconstructionist critical works by Derrida and De Man.
4968. Henry Mancini died on June 14. He called himself simply a composer (and he titled his autobiography "Did They Mention the Music?"), and by the end of a career that began in 1952 he had won four Oscars, twenty Grammys, and many other awards. His Sherlockian films were "The Great Mouse Detective" (1986) and "Without a Clue" (1988), and in an interview that appeared in Holmes for the Holidays (Mar.-Apr. 1993) he recalled growing up with Sherlock Holmes, at the movies in the early 1940s.
4969. The film based on Mark Frost's Conan Doyle pastiche THE LIST OF SEVEN isn't in production yet, but an item in Daily Variety (May 24) spotted by Melanie Hughes reports that the Mexican director Guillermo del Toro has been signed by Universal to rewrite Frost's script (and is likely to direct the film). Meanwhile, Frost is completing a sequel to his book, to be set in the U.S. early in this century and called THE SIX MESSIAHS.
4970. Here's a smaller (the original is 19 x 40 in.) black-and-white reproduction of Steven Emmons' colorful pencil-ink-and-watercolor tribute to the BSI (in an edition of seven copies at \$2,550.00 each). And his catalog (with color photocopies) of other available Sherlockian original art and printed posters costs \$12.00. His address is 70-A Greenwich Avenue #206, New York, NY 10011 (212-627-4889).
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June 1994 #6

4971. Reported by Peter Calamai: THE CASE OF THE ALL-CONSUMING FIRE, by Andy Lane (London: Virgin Books, 1994); a cross-over novel, in which Doctor Who and Sherlock Holmes investigate the disappearance of books from the most secret library in the world: the Library of Saint John the Beheaded in London. A good source for Virgin's "Doctor Who" series is Who Enterprises, Box 399, Station A, Toronto, Ont. M4G 4C3, Canada; Lane's book costs CA\$10.91, or about US\$10.20.
4972. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists met for dinner at the Denver Press Club on June 15, honoring (as usual) the world's first forensic geologist, and some of the visitors who were attending the annual meeting of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists were warmly welcomed by members of Dr. Watson's Neglected Patients. Bill Dorn showed slides of the geology of Dartmoor (well, there were rocks in many of his pictures), but did not have any petrological specimens as souvenirs. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists will meet next in Seattle on Oct. 25, and in Houston in March 1995.
4973. "Sherlockians who have been President of the United States" is of necessity a limited number. Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Harry S. Truman both were members of The Baker Street Irregulars, but otherwise one settles for what one can get, such as memories of childhood reading (and that's how Ronald Reagan made the list). Now Andy Peck reports a letter sent by Bill Clinton in April to a Mystery Writers of America symposium and workshop on "Mystery Writing is Murder". "Mystery novels have been one of my favorite forms of literature since I was a child," President Clinton said. "Sherlock Holmes' brilliant logic inspired me throughout my young adulthood."
4974. A splendid collection of Conan Doyle letters and memorabilia was offered at auction at Sotheby's in New York on June 10: over 190 letters and cards to people such as Bram Stoker, Sir Henry Irving, Charles Frohman, and his publishers, and a signed photograph, a prescription that he wrote in 1898, and a signed menu from the Ladies Dinner given by the Authors Club (with Conan Doyle as chairman) in May 1901. Sotheby's estimate was \$125,000-175,000; the highest bid was \$70,000, and the lot was not sold.
4975. The Mystery Writers of America held their annual dinner in New York on Apr. 27, and presented their Ellery Queen Award (for writing teams, editors, and publishers who have made an outstanding contribution to the mystery genre) to Otto Penzler. And the nominees for Edgars included "1994 Baker Street" (for the best mystery feature or mini-series) and Mark Frost's THE LIST OF SEVEN (for the best first mystery novel by an American author); the winners were "Prime Suspect 2" and Laurie King's A GRAVE TALENT (her second novel is THE BEEKEEPER'S APPRENTICE).
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4976. Late-breaking news: Paxton Whitehead will play Sherlock Holmes in "The Mask of Moriarty" at The Williamstown Theatre Festival (in Williamstown, Mass.) on July 6-17 (the box-office telephone number is 413-597-3400). This will be the first American production of Hugh Leonard's play, which premiered in Dublin in 1985; Whitehead has played Holmes before, in Paul Giovanni's "The Crucifer of Blood" in Buffalo and New York in 1978.

July 1994 #1

4977. There wasn't time or space last month to do justice to the Sherlock Holmes conference in Bennington, Vt., on June 23-26. It was arranged by members of The Baker Street Breakfast Club with assistance from Bennington College and the Vermont Council on the Humanities, and had as its theme "Sherlock Holmes: Victorian Sleuth to Modern Hero". There were about 180 people on hand (the farthest-flung travelers being Masamichi Higurashi and his wife, en route from Japan to England); the papers varied from quite academic to thoroughly not (and there were enough papers for multiple sessions); and the sessions were held in the college's Visual and Performing Arts Center (which is grand indeed). And there were dealers, and a dinner and entertainment, and published authors (such as Nicholas Meyer, Edward B. Hanna, and Sena Jeter Naslund). One of the interesting aspects of the conference was what happened before the fun started: the local Sherlockians' outreach efforts, centered around the state's literacy program and working with the state's libraries to develop ways to help children and adults to learn to read. The locals also worked with local schools to encourage students to read and write mysteries (and contest-winners got to attend the conference and had a special session with Hanna). And the weekend was great fun.
4978. Ronald B. De Waal's THE UNIVERSAL SHERLOCK HOLMES has been published, and shipped to those who ordered it, and it is a truly welcome continuation of Ron's devoted bibliographic efforts. The good news (at least for those who have computers) is that the publisher, George Vanderburgh, has changed his mind since February, when he wrote that he had no plans to release the bibliography in ASCII at any time; now he states in an Editor's Note and elsewhere that he is planning an electronic edition. This is indeed important, because of the bad news: the ink-on-paper edition has no index, and thus is not accessible as a bibliography should be. Collectors and researchers who have found the indexes of personal names and titles in the previous volumes so useful will find nothing of that sort in this one.
4979. Vanderburgh instead provides what he calls a "selective concordance" (it is really a selective word-list) that devotes far more attention to the letter "A" than to the other letters (thus there are citation numbers for each and every appearance of "April" and "August" but there are no entries for the other months). And because it is a word-list, the brothers Morley will be found undifferentiated under "Morley", rather than separately as Frank and Felix and Christopher. The word-list also is extremely idiosyncratic: it has "Arthur" and "Adrian", but not "Conan" or "Doyle" or "Denis" or "Jean"; there are entries for "Kiwanis" and "Kodak" but not for "Knox" (and it was Ronald A. Knox, after all, who did so much to launch our grand game); and one finds "Pageboys" but not "Paget".
4980. Vanderburgh suggests that the electronic edition will "supersede the need for the compilation of a Title-Author Index"; while this may well be true for those who have computers, it will be of no help whatsoever to the many Sherlockians who do not, and who were expecting indexes similar to those in the first two volumes. Copies of THE UNIVERSAL SHERLOCK HOLMES may still be available from George A. Vanderburgh (Box 204, Shelburne, Ont. L0N 1S0, Canada), but purchasers should be aware that what is offered is essentially only an unindexed print-out of the data-base.
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July 1994 #2

4981. Sherlock Crater, still waiting patiently for astronauts to return to the Moon, has not been forgotten. Edward C. Rochette has noted in an article in The Numismatist (July 1994) that the site of the crater is shown (although not identified) on the reverse of the Eisenhower bicentennial dollar issued in 1976. Ed kindly offers to send a copy of the issue to those who write to him at Box 7083, Colorado Spring, CO 80933.
4982. More Sherlockian philately: Allan Hauck reports (in the July-Aug. issue of Topical Time) on an item in the British Postmark Bulletin (Mar. 25). The first listing was for a "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" handstamp for 1st April 1994, with a note: "The Manager of the SHC (Special Handstamp Centre) asks that we point out that this first of April postmark is to be applied using a new experimental invisible ink."
4983. A series of "Little Brown Notebooks" published by the Indigo Press in London includes one titled SCENES FROM SHERLOCK HOLMES, with quotations from the four long stories and decorative illustrations by Debra Thompson. The notebooks are hardbound and pocket size, with 256 pages and plenty of room for journal-keepers or diary-writers, and cost \$6.95. They are available here from the Sterling Publishing Co., 387 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016 (800-367-9692).
4984. Jim Zunic reports that he is about to marry, and move; his new address is 2739 Kingston Drive, Natrona Heights, PA 15065-1730 (412-226-2082).
4985. Jeremy Brett's new film-in-progress "Mad Dogs and Englishmen" has had some coverage in the British press, but most of the coverage tends to focus on the female stars; the film will "study the aristocracy's recreational use of narcotics," and it's a thriller, with location filming in fashionable Knightsbridge's Rutland Gate (a letter to residents warned: "Do not be concerned by muted female screams from the basement of No. 26").
4986. Forewarned is forearmed: a short article by Russell Atwood about Sherlock Holmes and the BSI is set to appear in the Oct. 1994 issue of A&E Monthly (the cable channel's monthly magazine).
4987. Gaby Goldscheider is "redivivus" (that's the title of her new catalog, with 221B items of Sherlockiana and Doyleana); her address is Deep Dene, Baring Road, Cowes, Isle of Wight PO31 8DB, England.
4988. Compliments to Herb Tinning, who seems to have been the first to spot (or at least to report on) something that has been available in Britain since Aug. 1993: a colorful folder prepared by the Royal Mail to tell customers about "upgraded priority services" such as registered, special delivery, and recorded mail, with a nice cover photograph of the usual Sherlockian icons (hat, pipe, and lens).
4989. Ben Wood reports that The Pleasant Places of Florida have published their second round-robin pastiche of 1994; A CASE OF HIDE 'N' TEA is available for \$3.50 postpaid from Benton Wood, Box 740, Ellenton, FL 34222. Ben also offers the 1994/5 revised edition of the PPofF HANDBOOK; \$5.00 postpaid.
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July 1994 #3

4990. Simon & Schuster's audiocassette THE NEW ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES #25 (\$12.00) offers two more of the fine old radio shows from scripts by Denis Green and Anthony Boucher, with new introductions by Glenhall Taylor (who produced and directed the series). "The Night Before Christmas" (24 December 45) stars Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce and is already available on records and cassettes (with lower fidelity). The new-to-audio "The Darlington Substitution" (4 January 47) has Nigel Bruce and Tom Conway (as Watson and Holmes, with top billing going to Bruce).
4991. Noted by Bob Fritsch in the June 20 issue of Coin World: Spain's new 10-pesetas coin honoring Sarasate. It's copper-nickel, so it's a circulating coin; do any other circulating coins show people (other than heads of state) named in the Canon?
4992. CREEPERS: BRITISH HORROR AND FANTASY IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY is edited by Clive Bloom (London: Pluto Press, 1993; 190 pp., £30.00 cloth, £9.95 paper) and offers Victor Sage's essay on "Empire Gothic: Explanation and Epiphany in Conan Doyle, Kipling, and Chesterton" (Sage makes an interesting suggestion that "The Speckled Band" can be read as a horror story masquerading as a detective story).
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4993. Tim O'Connor has reported a comic-book reprint (with new colors) of Marvin Channing's "The Vampire Hunter" in THE COLLECTOR'S DRACULA: BOOK TWO (1994) from Millennium (\$3.95). Originally in MAD HOUSE #97 (Jan. 1975) [D5706b], the story has Victorian vampire-hunter Henry Hobson dressed as and behaving like Sherlock Holmes.
4994. Tim also notes that Ruth Lake Tepper's THE SHERLOCK HOLMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE BOOK, first published in 1977, has been reprinted by Gramercy Books and is available for \$5.99 at B. Dalton stores. And that his summer sales-list of Sherlockiana is available; you can write to Tim O'Connor at 6015 West Route 115, Herscher, IL 60941.
4995. The sixth annual Canonical Convocation and Caper in Door County, Wis., will be held on Sept. 16-18. The mailing list is maintained by Jane Richardson, 3456 Exchange Street, Crete, IL 60417.
4996. Collectors of foreign translations of the Sherlock Holmes stories who do not yet have anything in Catalan (one of the official languages in Spain) will welcome news of TRES AVENTURAS DE SHERLOCK HOLMES, with illustrations by Javier Aceytuno (Barcelona: Editorial Lumen, 1994); the three stories are "Silver Blaze", "The Blue Carbuncle", and "The Red-Headed League", and the publisher is at: Ramon Miquel i Planas 10, 08034 Barcelona, Spain (no information available yet as to the price).
4997. One does indeed hear of Sherlock everywhere, and one of those everywhere is Spike Jones and His City Slickers' legendary 20-minute parody of "The Nutcracker Suite" (first recorded for RCA Victor in 1945). Carey Cummings has forwarded a newspaper review of the new single-CD collection "Spiked! The Music of Spike Jones" (BMG Classics/Catalyst) that includes the parody (at one point a dog howls, and someone exclaims, "I say, Holmes, what was that?"). And the new liner notes are by Thomas Pyncheon.

July 1994 #4

4998. Ralph F. Turner ("Colonel Carruthers") died on May 22. He had a long and distinguished career in forensics, from his founding of the Laboratory of Forensic Science in the Kansas City Police Department (and supervising the lab from 1939 to 1947), and continuing as Professor of Criminalistics at Michigan State University until his retirement in 1981. He was an enthusiastic member of The Greek Interpreters of East Lansing, and received his Irregular Shilling from the BSI in 1983.
4999. And here's a new example of Stu Shiffman's fine caricatures. You can expect to see both artist and artwork at Bouchercon 25 in Seattle on Oct. 6-9, as well as Marcia Muller (guest of honor), Tony Hillerman (lifetime achievement award), Art Scott (fan guest of honor), and George Chesbro (toastmaster). More information on registration available from Box 75684, Seattle, WA 98125.
5000. Reported by Ruthann Stetak: Mark Walker's CREATIVE COSTUMES FOR CHILDREN (WITHOUT SEWING) (256 pp. \$11.95) has a Sherlock Holmes costume on p. 141; the publisher is Cool Hand Communications, 1098 N.W. Boca Raton Boulevard #1, Boca Raton, FL 33432 (800-428-0578); add \$2.00 shipping and handling.
5001. Galahad Books have published a set of 12 booklets with 25 stories by P. G. Wodehouse (in magazines from 1901 to 1965) that have never been appeared in books in the Britain, and one of the stories is a newly-discovered Sherlock Holmes pastiche. PLUM STONES--THE HIDDEN P. G. WODEHOUSE is available only as a set (£135.00 postpaid to the U.S.); a flier with more information is available from Nigel Williams, 7 Waldeck Grove, London SE27 OBE, England.
5002. The fourth issue of The Whitechapel Gazette is at hand from Troy Taylor (805 West North, Decatur, IL 62522), with 60 pages of articles and stories and Troy's fine illustrations; \$6.50 postpaid (or \$18.00 for three issues).
5003. The annual volumes published by The Sherlock Holmes Society of London are always welcome, and this year's BACK TO BAKER STREET is no exception. The focus is on London, in keeping with the Society's celebration of The Return of Sherlock Holmes earlier this year, and Roger Johnson and Jean Upton have edited a splendid collection of scholarship and reminiscences that offer a delightful look at the London to which Sherlock Holmes returned, and at the manuscript which reported that return, and much more. \$21.50 postpaid, and you can order from Mrs. Lynne Godden, Apple Tree Cottage, Smarden, Ashford, Kent TN27 8QE, England.
5004. Andy Lane's ALL-CONSUMING FIRE (London: Virgin, 1994; 304 pp., £4.99) is one of "The New Doctor Who Adventures" in the series of books that extend the television series; this one is a cross-over novel in which The Doctor and his friends Bernice and Ace encounter Holmes and Watson, and Mycroft and Col. Warburton and Baron Maupertuis, and a bunch of strange creatures and people who are no more strange than one might expect in the worlds of The Doctor, but rather out-of-tune for the world of Sherlock Holmes.

July 1994 #5

5005. In case you missed the auction at Sotheby's in New York on Dec. 10, 1993, which included the manuscripts of Conan Doyle's "The Home Coming" (\$3,738) and "The Last of the Legions" (\$3,738); Steve Rothman notes that they are now advertised by the Heritage Book Shop (8540 Melrose Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90069) at \$12,500 and \$8,500.
5006. Jim Suszynski spotted a new offer by the Hallmark Keepsake Ornament Collector's Club: \$20.00 for a one-year membership, which includes their quarterly newsletter (and opportunities to buy lots of stuff) and two free ornaments, one of which is their Sherlock Holmes bear ("Holiday Pursuit"), shown here full-size. The club's address is Box 412734, Kansas City, MO 64141-2734, and they take plastic.
5007. Tim O'Connor reports that a recent catalog from Barnes & Noble (126 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10011) includes a close-out offer of the truly hideous Sherlock Holmes nutcracker from Steinbach at \$99.00 (catalog key E1AW, item 1893700; that's only a dollar more than the advertised price two years ago in a catalog from the House of Tyrol, Box 909, Alpenland Center, Cleveland, GA 30528 (800-241-5404). And that Dove Audio has issued a discount version of A TREASURY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES with seven stories read by Ben Kingsley on four cassettes (June 89 #8), still available at \$24.95; the reissues are A TREASURY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, with three stories, and MORE SHERLOCK HOLMES, with four stories, at \$8.99 each; in stores, or available direct from Dove (800-832-3683).
5008. The Harpooners of the Sea Unicorn will hold this year's Sherlockian riverboat convention "The Game's Afloat" on Oct. 8-9; additional information is available from Leonard R. Cleavelin, 35 Saint Lawrence Drive, Saint Peters, MO 63376.
5009. Reported by Chris Redmond: QUOTATIONS FROM BAKER STREET, edited by Chris Redmond ("memorable and ought-to-be-memorable passages from Sherlockian writings of the past century"); \$7.50 postpaid from George A. Vanderburgh, Box 204, Shelburne, Ont. L0N 1S0, Canada.
5010. Ben Wood's WHO'S WHERE: A HANDY REFERENCE GUIDE TO PERSONS IN THE HOLMESIAN CANON was mentioned earlier (June 94 #1), but without a note as to just what it is: 52 pp. and spiral-bound, with the people listed by adventure. \$6.50 postpaid from Benton Wood, Box 740, Ellenton, FL 34222.
5011. "There is more violence in an English hedgerow than in the meanest streets of a great city." No, it's not from the Canon, but it's a nice echo, from P. D. James' DEVICES AND DESIRES (spotted by Jack Koelle).

5012. Melanie Hughes spotted a story in the [Denver] Rocky Mountain News (June 6) about the newest member of the Douglas County sheriff's K-9 corps, who was named in a contest among local elementary schools. The judges voted 4-1 in favor of "Watson" over the runner-up "Ranger". "It's an appropriate name," said Watson's handler, deputy Troy McCoy. "The dog is very intelligent."

July 1994 #6

5013. "The Many Faces of Sherlock Holmes" is being distributed again in the U.S., according to the current issue of Anglofile; the 60-minute television program was made by Avery Productions in 1985, with Christopher Lee as host of an overview of actors who have played the role. Anglofile is a monthly newsletter with detailed coverage of British entertainment; \$12.00 a year (Box 33515, Decatur, GA 30033).
5014. Sondra Gair died on May 25. Her career in radio began in Chicago in the 1940s, and when she died at the age of 70 she was host of her own "Midday with Sondra Gair" show for WBEZ (Chicago). Early in her career she went to Hollywood with an NBC soap opera, and in 1946 became the star of the CBS west-coast series "Meet Miss Sherlock" (playing private detective Jane Sherlock). Bill Nadel kindly reports that the series aired from July to Sept. 1946, and from Sept. to Oct. 1947.
5015. The Duchess of Devonshire was sold at auction this month at Sotheby's in London. Well, her portrait, at any rate: Thomas Gainsborough's portrait of Georgiana, 5th Duchess of Devonshire (1757-1806). She was a grand beauty, and when the portrait first went on public view in 1876, her image became famous (sufficiently famous to have impressed Watson, who described Mary Sutherland's broad-brimmed hat as being "tilted in a coquettish Duchess-of-Devonshire fashion over her ear"). The portrait also impressed Adam Worth: when the portrait was purchased by London art dealer William Agnew and put on display at his gallery, Worth stole it. Worth was as great a criminal genius in real life as Moriarty was in the Canon, and Worth is considered by many to be the model for Moriarty (and not just because Worth's arrest, conviction, and refusal to give up the portrait to avoid seven years imprisonment made headlines in 1893, shortly before "The Final Problem" was written). Worth served five years, and then, seriously ill, delivered the painting to William Pinkerton, who returned it to London, where it was sold to J. Pierpont Morgan. It was Morgan's granddaughter who sent the painting to auction this month. And it sold for £265,500.
5016. Leonard M. Friedman died on May 11. He was a violinist and founder of the Scottish Baroque Ensemble, and was described by his friend John Calder as a brilliant performer and one of the great musical eccentrics. You can hear his violin on the cassettes of the current BBC radio series starring Clive Merrison and Michael Williams.
5017. Tom Stix has sent a reminder about the Watson Fund, founded some years ago to provide financial assistance to Sherlockians who might not otherwise be able to attend the birthday festivities in New York. The Fund is administered by a carefully anonymous Sherlockians, and contributions are welcome (and important); checks can be written to John H. Watson, M.D., and sent to him c/o Thomas L. Stix, 34 Pierson Avenue, Norwood, NJ 07648. Requests for assistance can also be sent to Dr. Watson, whose mail is forwarded unopened by Tom.
5018. The "Third Occasional Sherlockian Cruise" will sail on June 17, 1995, from Fort Lauderdale on the MV Zenith. The cruise lasts seven days, with stops at Ocho Rios, Grand Cayman Island, Cozumel, and Key West, and there will be Sherlockian seminars during the two days at sea. Holmes at His Zenith (Box 96, Norwood, NJ 07648) is the contact, and enquiries are welcome.
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July 1994 #7

5019. The Book-of-the-Month Club has announced it will dissolve its editorial board, whose members have read and recommended the books selected by the Club ever since it was founded in 1926. The Club's first Board of Judges were Henry Seidel Canby, Christopher Morley, William Allen White, Heywood Broun, and Dorothy Canfield Fisher. Morley served as a judge until ill health forced him to resign in 1954, and possibly helped ensure that THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES was a club selection in 1930. In today's publishing world, books are published too fast for monthly review by judges, and the club's staff will be responsible for selections.
5020. Spotted by Bernie O'Heir: Sonia R. Hillios contributed 14 original paintings to the SkyBox "Star Trek Master Series" of trading cards, one of which (#52) is "The Case of the Errant Holodeck" showing Data, Geordi, and Moriarty. The card is full-color, and is available matted and framed, and signed by the artist on the mat, for \$24.95 postpaid, from Time Line Studio, Box 90, Southampton, MA 01073 (800-659-8463); they take plastic.
5021. Cheryl Hurd plans to publish a VICTORIAN YELLOW PAGES early next year: it will be a compendium of modern sources for Victoriana ("antimacassars to zithers"), and she would be happy to hear from people who know about Victorian places, shops, events, resources, books, periodicals, etc. Her deadline is Sept. 30, and her address is: Teapot Press, Box 2048, Scotia, NY 12302.
5022. Roger Johnson notes that Groombridge Place, the inspiration for Birlstone Manor, is now officially open to the public. Groombridge is a fine 17th-century house, and well worth a visit; it can also be seen in Peter Greenaway's film "The Draughtsman's Contract" (1983). Visitors are invited to contact The Estate Office, Groombridge Place, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN3 9QG, England.
5023. "Mr. Penzler of mystery fiction" was the clue (23 across) in the N.Y. Times Magazine crossword puzzle on July 3. The puzzle was by A. J. Santora, and may well be the first one in the paper to honor an investitured member of The Baker Street Irregulars (Otto is "The King of Bohemia").
5024. The television film "The Hound of London" aired on channel 57 (Toronto) on July 14, with Patrick Macnee (Sherlock Holmes) and John Scott-Paget (Dr. Watson); the film was produced in Vancouver in 1993, and is based on Craig Bowlsby's play "The Hound of London" (1987). This is the first broadcast of the film reported; did anyone watch it? And did anyone tape it?
5025. The Bimetallic Question will hold a one-day Sherlockian colloquium in Point Claire, Quebec, on Sept. 24. Additional information available from the Bimetallic Question, Box 883, Stock Exchange Tower, Montreal H4Z 1K2, Canada.
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July 1994 #8

5026. President Clinton will award the Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, to Herbert Block on Aug. 8. Far better known by his byline "Herblock" and described by his colleagues as "a funny, gentle man who draws pictures in a newspaper," Block has been an editorial cartoonist for the Washington Post since 1946. His first known use of the Sherlockian image came in 1947, in a lampoon of Reps. Rankin and Thomas and their House Committee on Un-American Activities investigation of Hollywood, and he has drawn more than 15 other Sherlockian cartoons over the years.
5027. SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE CASE OF THE FEATHERSTONE POLICEMAN is a short new pastiche by Tony Lumb, who celebrated the centenary of a riot by miners in Yorkshire with a story that brings Holmes to the scene; the 20-page pamphlet is available for \$4.00 postpaid (in currency, please) from the author (21 Albert Street, Featherstone, Pontefract, West Yorks. WF7 5EX, England).
5028. Ralph Earle II ("Joyce Cummings") has been named the next deputy director of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency. Ralph is now chairman of the board of directors of the Laywers Alliance for World Security, and was earlier the director of the ACDA (1980-81), serving as chief negotiator of SALT II (1978-80).
5029. Bob Payton, the flamboyant American restaurateur and dedicated Anglophile, and the man who brought the Chicago Pizza Pie Factory and the Chicago Rib Shack to Britain, died on July 13. He arrived in England in 1973, opened his first restaurant in 1977, and became thoroughly successful
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(except to his mother, whom he often quoted as saying, "One son is a lawyer, the other lives in Europe"). And he arranged with Forte to refurbish and restore the historic Criterion restaurant in Piccadilly, which reopened in 1992 (October 92 #1), offering Sherlockians a chance to stand where Watson stood when he met young Stamford there.

5030. Reported from Britain: Mark Frost's THE LIST OF SEVEN now out in paperback (Arrow, £4.99); Arthur Conan Doyle and special agent Jack Sparks battle a sinister gang of devil-worshippers. The U.S. paperback is due from Avon in Sept. (416 pp., \$5.99). Avon also will reprint Kim Newman's ANNO DRACULA in paperback in the U.S. (Mycroft and fellow-members of the Diogenes Club versus Dracula, who is both Prince Consort and Regent, in a well-written novel).
5031. Rainer Zahn (45 Monchhofstrasse, 69120 Heidelberg, Germany) is offering (to the highest bidder) two volumes of The Strand Magazine (July-Dec. 1891 and Jan.-June 1892, with all of "The Hound of the Baskervilles"), both in publisher's decorated blue cloth, in good condition except for faded spines.
5032. Forecast: NEVERMORE, by William Hjortsberg (from Atlantic Monthly Press in October); the novel's three protagonists are Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Harry Houdini, and Opal Fletcher (a.k.a. Isis, a wealthy widow and clairvoyant to the elite). According to Kirkus Review (June 15), "a carefully researched thriller that provides many fascinating details about celebrities of the Jazz Age but fails miserably and completely to provide any suspense."

August 1994 #1

5033. Bert Coules (who has dramatized many of the stories in the current series on BBC Radio 4 starring Clive Merrison and Michael Williams) reports that the BBC has released nine double-cassette sets (two programs per cassette), with three sets each from the Adventures, the Memoirs, and the Return; the sets cost £7.99 each, plus shipping; The Radio Collection (overseas sales dept.), BBC Enterprises, Woodlands, 80 Wood Lane, London W12 OTT, England.
5034. An exhibition on "Reporting the War: The Journalistic Coverage of World War II" is now on view at the National Portrait Gallery (through Sept. 5), and it provides a grand look at the men and women who were part of that effort, and the excellent work they did. One of those recognized is Elmer Davis, member of The Baker Street Irregulars in the early days, and the author of our Constitution and Buy-Laws. He was the director of the Office of War Information in 1942 and 1943, and was criticized by those who believed that the OWI was not making enough information available, and by those who were upset that it was making too much information available, and by others who were thoroughly annoyed at the OWI's efforts to publicize the contribution of black Americans to the war effort. He made the cover of Time, and then went back to being a highly-regarded radio journalist. And he was an early member of The Red Circle.
5035. The Royal Mail is issuing a series of stamp booklets with covers honoring twentieth-century prime ministers; Gordon Palmer has kindly supplied this illustration of Herbert Brockway's design for the first booklet in the series, which shows Prime Minister Herbert Asquith (1852-1928). And Asquith is indeed mentioned in the Canon. Don't bother looking for "Asquith" (he's not mentioned by name, but he is mentioned).
5036. The summer 1994 issue of Scarlet Street offers David Stuart Davies' interesting discussion of the six new one-hour programs from Granada, and a nice article by Richard Valley about the new laserdisc version of Billy Wilder's film "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970), and other odds and ends, including a photograph of Jonathan Freeman as McTague in William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" in the 1970s (Freeman is better known now as the voice of Jafar in the animation "The Return of Jafar"). \$20.00 a year (four issues) from Scarlet Street Inc., Box 604, Glen Rock, NJ 07452.
5037. People who have fond memories of the comic strips created by Austin Briggs, Alex Raymond, V. T. Hamlin, Al Capp, Milton Caniff, and Will Eisner may not know that the strips are being reprinted by the Kitchen Sink Press, and you ask for their catalog, which also has modern material (320 Riverside Drive, Northampton, MA 01060) (800-365-7465). For those who don't know who those people are, the strips were Terry and the Pirates, Alley Oop, Flash Gordon, Steve Canyon, and The Spirit. And if you do know, you'll be able to match the names of the artists with the names of the comic strips.

August 1994 #2

5038. Bob Gellerstedt (1035 Wedgewood Drive, Fayetteville, GA 30214) is offering THE SHERLOCKIAN ANTHOLOGIES INDEX (20 pp., \$5.00 postpaid to the U.S. and Canada); it's a useful guide to 15 anthologies (including Marvin Kaye's THE GAME IS AFOOT), and there's an index to the obituaries in The Baker Street Journal, and a list of Conan Doyle's published fiction. And his earlier (June 91 #5) Macintosh Hypercard edition of Edgar W. Smith's APPOINTMENT IN BAKER STREET (1938) and BAKER STREET AND BEYOND (1940) still is available on one 800K floppy disk (you'll need version 2.0 or later); \$5.00 postpaid (foreign airmail \$3.00 extra).
5039. Mary Ann Warner (Annmar Enterprises, 2711 Fairlane Place, Chino Hills, CA 91709-1240) offers an illustrated catalog of Sherlockian bookmarks, sweatshirts, T-shirts, doorhangers, totebags, aprons, and magnets.
5040. TOUT CE QUE VOUS AVEZ VOULU SAVOIR SUR SHERLOCK HOLMES SANS JAMAIS L'AVOIR RENCONTRE, by Pierre Nordon (Paris: Le Livre de Poche, 1994; 124 pp., 30 francs) is a well-written paperback discussion of Conan Doyle, and Holmes, and the Sherlockian cult. It's all in French, of course (as was the first and best edition of Nordon's 1964 biography of Conan Doyle), and it offers the French an excellent introduction to the world of Sherlock Holmes.
5041. Another example of Sherlockiana available in other languages is IN VIAGGIO CON SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Marco Zatterin (Milan: Il Minotauro, 1994; 203 pp., 24,000 lire). The book is a helpful guide (in Italian) for Sherlockians on tour in Britain and elsewhere, with walking tours in London's neighborhoods mentioned in the Canon, and a discussion of the itinerary Holmes and Watson followed across Europe, and much more.
5042. The Sherlock Holmes Gazette is back in business, with a 48-page summer 1994 issue edited by Eddie Bissell and published by Peter Harkness (46 Purfield Drive, Wargrave, Berks. RG10 8AR, England). As usual, there is excellent coverage of events in Britain, and an interview with Jeremy Brett about his new film "Mad Dogs and Englishmen" (he plays the villain), and a report on the meeting of the Arthur Conan Doyle Society in Toronto earlier this year. Subscriptions cost £21.00 a year to North America, and you can send \$35.00 to Classic Specialties, Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219.
5043. The 1994 "Victorian Holmes Weekend" in Cape May, N.J., will be held on Nov. 4-6. There's a mystery to solve (with prizes for the winner) during a tour of eight Victorian homes, and meals, and other fun and games. Additional information is available from the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts, Box 340, Cape May, NJ 08204-0340 (609-884-5404).
5044. The fourth issue of The Shoso-in Bulletin has arrived from The Men with the Twisted Konjo, with 130 pages (in English) of articles, pastiches, poetry, and illustrations by contributors from Japan and seven other nations. The cost is \$10.00 postpaid (in currency, please) from Yuichi Hirayama, 2-10-12 Kamirenjaku, Mitaka-shi, Tokyo 181, Japan. A few copies of the second and third issues still are available (\$5.00 each postpaid). And The Japanese Cabinet publishes The Dispatch Box, also in English; the cost of a one-year subscription (four issues) is \$8.00 postpaid (to be sent to Dr. Hirayama at the same address). There is some fine scholarship being done in Japan, and it is nice to have some of it available to those who don't read Japanese.

August 1994 #3

5045. *THE PILTDOWN CONFESSION*, by Irwin Schwartz (New York: A Wyatt Book for St. Martin's Press, 1994; 210 pp., \$20.95), presents yet another solution to the hoax, offering a putative confession by Charles Dawson, who reveals Arthur ("my friends call me Conan") Doyle and Teilhard de Chardin as his accomplices. The complicated story involves two murders by some evangelical Christians, and copious annotations by Schwartz (who is far from knowledgeable about Conan Doyle and his family).
5046. Jack Kirby died on Feb. 6. He was one of the great comic-book artists, and began his career in comics in the 1930s. He worked for Marvel Comics and other companies, and helped create Captain America, the Fantastic Four, the Incredible Hulk, Spiderman and many more superheros, including Kamandi. In eight issues of *KAMANDI: THE LAST BOY ON EARTH*, published in 1977 and 1978, Mylock Bloodstalker (the world's most famous detective) was assisted by his loyal friend Doile in an attempt to hunt down and destroy Kamandi.
5047. Iron Crown issued a series of seven "Sherlock Holmes Solo Mysteries" as paperback books in 1987 and 1988; there were to be eight titles, but the eighth (*THE LOST HEIR*) was never published in English (there may be a translation in Catalan, as yet not confirmed). The eighth of Iron Crown's titles was to have a cover by Jill Bauman, and the original artwork (without lettering, but with a nice portrait of Watson) is now available: 15 x 20 in., in acrylics on canvas, for \$1350. Contact: Worlds of Wonder, 3421 M Street #327, Washington, DC 20007.
5048. I've mentioned *The Shadows of the Elm* before: they're the students taught by Carolyn Gassner at the Arroyo Del Oso Elementary School in Albuquerque, and each year they make an imaginative video dramatization of a Sherlock Holmes story. And at the end of July the classroom was torched by some sixteen-year-old members of a local gang (who have been apprehended). And of course the books, and the costumes and scenery used in the videos, are lost, and need to be replaced. The wishlist includes: illustrated unabridged editions of the Canon, Murray Shaw's *MATCH WITS WITH SHERLOCK HOLMES* series, Eve Titus' *BASIL OF BAKER STREET* series, Simon Goodenough's *SHERLOCK HOLMES MURDER DOSSIER* series, August Derleth's *SOLAR PONS* series, Robert Newman's *BAKER STREET IRREGULAR* series, back issues of the *BSJ* and other periodicals. And anything else suitable for energetic and intelligent grade-school students who need and deserve assistance; you can mail donations to Richard H. Miller, Box 9902, Santa Fe, NM 87504-9902. And (my additional suggestion) if you can't send stuff, a check (payable to C. Bryan Gassner) would be helpful, because there are all the costumes and scenery to replace as well.
5049. "Make memos more mysterious" is the motto of Bartholomew's Ink, who offer a fine assortment of rubber stamps in their current catalog, including a page full of Sherlockian designs. Box 4825, Charlottesville, VA 22905.

August 1994 #4

5050. Peter Cushing died on Aug. 11. He began his acting career on stage in the Connaught Repertory Company in 1936, arrived in Hollywood in 1939 (appearing in small parts in Louis Hayward's "The Man in the Iron Mask" and Laurel and Hardy's "A Chump at Oxford"), and went on to fame and fortune and high regard as a star in horror films. And he was a delightful Sherlock Holmes, in the film "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1959) and in a BBC television series (1968) and in the television film "The Masks of Death" (1984). He also played Conan Doyle in the television film "The Great Houdinis" (1976). And there were interesting might-have-beens: a West End revival of the play "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" in 1959 was not produced, and he once reported that he was offered (and turned down) "The Crucifer of Blood" on Broadway. He also was ready to do "The Abbot's Cry" in 1986 (as a sequel to "The Masks of Death"), and said in an interview: "I'm hoping to have one more stab at Holmes. Now he's very old and tottering around with his bees. But it's a good script. If I can only stagger through Holmes -- he never stops talking and moves with such speed. I thought, 'Oh, crikey. Roller skates please, props.'"
5051. Roger Johnson has reported that CoverCraft (Box 432, Beckenham, Kent BR3 3SZ, England) issued an attractive "Return of Sherlock Holmes Centenary Souvenir Cover" postmarked at Park Lane on Apr. 1, with a cachet showing Paget's illustration of Watson and the old book-seller (£6.00 postpaid); CoverCraft also designed last year's Sherlock Holmes first day cover for the Sherlock Holmes Society of London.
5052. Michael Carreras died on Apr. 19. He was a writer, producer, and director on many of the classic pictures made by Hammer Films, and in the 1950s he was executive producer for the studio, when Peter Cushing starred in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1959).
5053. "Ronder, of course, was a household word," said Sherlock Holmes to Watson. "He was the rival of Wombwell, and of Sanger, one of the greatest showmen of his day." George Wombwell (1778-1850) launched his traveling menagerie in 1805, and became the nineteenth century's greatest entrepreneur in that field. E. H. Bostock continued the enterprise, and *Dramatis Personae* (71 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10010) offer a colorful poster for Bostock and Wombwell's Menagerie (1905), with large portraits of the Wombwells and the Bostocks, for \$150 in their current catalog (their telephone number is 212-679-3705).
5054. R. Irving Paxton died on July 10. He was a civil and mechanical engineer, a bibliophile, one of the founding members (and later the Gasogene) of The Six Napoleons of Baltimore, and (as "Mr. Sandeford, of Reading"), a member of The Baker Street Irregulars.
5055. The arrest of Illich Ramirez Sanchez this month made the front pages around the world, and provided a reminder of a Sherlockian connection. In 1975 in Paris he was using the name Carlos Martinez Torres when he shot and killed two French counter-intelligence officers, and (as Frederick Forsythe noted) a French headline-writer dubbed Carlos "the Jackal" after the character in *THE DAY OF THE JACKAL*. Forsythe's book, published in 1971, is excellent, about an attempt to assassinate French president Charles de Gaulle, using a rifle smuggled into the country in an aluminum crutch.

August 1994 #5

5056. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London's 1994 Christmas card is now available, with a two-color sketch of troopships (including the "Orontes") at Bombay, waiting to bring home troops from the Afghan War. A packet of ten cards costs \$12.00 postpaid (to North America), from Capt. W. R. Michell, 5 Old Farm Place, Hinton St. George, Somerset TA17 8TW, England (checks payable to the Society, please).
5057. Cay Van Ash died in April. He was a friend of Sax Rohmer for many years, and collaborated with the author's widow on the biography of Rohmer called *MASTER OF VILLAINY*. Van Ash's novel *TEN YEARS BEYOND BAKER STREET* (1984) pitted Sherlock Holmes against Fu Manchu, and was well-received.
5058. Gary Thaden reports that this may be the last chance to buy the "Sherlock Holmes Nesting Dolls" (Holmes, Watson, Lestrade, Moriarty, and the Hound); originally \$16.95 from Signals, now \$7.99 (item 26899). Also *THE OXFORD SHERLOCK HOLMES* (nine hardcover volumes); published at \$99.00, now \$89.99 (item 30738) (but this set will be issued soon in paperback). Signals is at Box 64428, Saint Paul, MN 55164 (800-669-9696); they take plastic.
5059. The nesting dolls mentioned above were made in China. A different (and more expensive) set of nesting dolls, handpainted and lacquered in Russia, was noted by Gertrude Mahoney in the current mail-order catalog from The Cottage Shop Box 4836, Stamford, CT 06907 (800-388-7660); it's item #5304, and the cost is \$74.00 postpaid.
5060. *THE ADVENTURE OF THE PEREMPTORY SPOUSE* is the latest book from Pequod, representing the "recrudescence of Turlock Loams," as announced by Dr. Fatso's ever-industrious literary agent, John Ruyle (521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707-1521); \$40.00 (cloth) or \$18.00 (paper). For

newcomers who have not seen John's work, it is amusing, well-designed, hand-set, hand-printed, and (if you are willing to travel to Berkeley) hand-delivered.

5061. James O. Duval died on Aug. 22. He was one of the founding members of Cox & Company of New England in 1979, and edited and published its journal, *The Quarterly Statement*, and enthusiastically attended meetings of almost every Sherlockian society that met in or near New England. He also was an eager and educated collector of Sherlockiana, and received his Investiture in *The Baker Street Irregulars* in 1984 (quite appropriately as "The Battered Tin Dispatch-Box").
5062. Syd Goldberg has forwarded a brief Associated Press report on a new *Fortune* magazine survey of the world's 500 largest service companies in 1993. The top-ranked retailer was Wal-Mart (with \$67.3 billion in sales), the largest commercial bank was Fuji Bank Ltd. (with \$538.2 billion in assets), and the largest savings institution (with \$123.8 billion in assets) was . . . Abbey National (still happily assigning someone to answer the mail delivered to Sherlock Holmes at 221B Baker Street).

August 1994 #6

5063. Lady Victoria Wemyss, CVO, Extra Woman of the Bedchamber to the Queen Mother, died at Wemyss Castle, Fife, on May 8, aged 104. There's no Sherlockian connection, but it's worth noting that she probably was the last surviving godchild of Queen Victoria. David Rush has kindly forwarded the obituary from *The Times*, which noted in passing that she was known to the local police, having been fined for speeding at the age of 77, and that she continued to drive herself around her family estate until she was 100.
5064. Earlier this year Dame Jean Conan Doyle presided over the installation of a plaque at 2 Upper Wimpole Street, where her father had his ophthalmological office in 1891 (and where he wrote the first of the Sherlock Holmes short stories). For many years it had been thought that his office was in Upper Devonshire Place, as shown by a report in the *Sunday Express* (spring 1968) that noted that Conan Doyle's ghost was believed to have played pranks with the elevator at his former office in Devonshire Place. "In 1961 the house was shared by seven doctors. And the lift, though serviced monthly, often stopped inexplicably between the second and third floors. This was next to the rooms where Sir Arthur wrote Sherlock Holmes tales while waiting for patients." One wonders whose ghost it might have been. Perhaps it really *was* Conan Doyle, vainly trying to persuade people to stop claiming he had had an office there.
5065. Richard Lancelyn Green's *CONAN DOYLE OF UPPER WIMPOLE STREET* (May 94 #6) is a well-researched 20-page booklet issued earlier this year to commemorate the unveiling of the plaque, and it's still available from The Arthur Conan Doyle Society (Ashcroft, 2 Abbotsford Drive, Penyffordd, Chester, CH4 0JG, England); \$7.00 postpaid.
5066. Plan ahead: I've seen proofs from the spectacular 1995 calendar that Cadds (the British printers) are preparing with full-color photographs from the Granada "Sherlock Holmes" television series; it will be distributed here by Classic Specialties, and I'll report again when it is ready.
5067. Reported: *RETURN OF THE WEREWOLF*, by Les Martin (New York: Random House, 1993); a Bullseye Chiller for fourth-grade students, with Jonathan Holmes (Sherlock's cousin) called upon to help a beautiful French countess rid her village of the werewolf that is terrorizing it.
5068. Reported by Syd Goldberg: *THE MAMMOTH BOOK OF GOLDEN AGE DETECTIVE STORIES*, edited by Marie Smith (Carroll & Graf); \$9.95 at Barnes & Noble (contents include "A Scandal in Bohemia" and "His Last Bow").
5069. Reported from Britain: *THE SINGULAR CASE OF THE DUPLICATE HOLMES*, by January Walker (\$30.00); "an affectionate, engaging story of a mellowed friendship, of lives touched by a woman's intelligent, unaffected sweetness, and of a man whose depth and warmth are buried under the demands of professionalism and honor" (according to the author). And *THE BAKER STREET IRREGULAR: THE UNAUTHORISED BIOGRAPHY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES*, by Austin Mitchelson (\$35.00); "Jack the Ripper has been positively identified ... and he was none other than the famous Victorian detective Sherlock Holmes" (ditto). Published by Ian Henry and distributed here by Players Press, Box 1132, Studio City, CA 91614; shipping costs \$4.00 (first book) and \$1.50 (each additional book).

August 1994 #7

5070. The Hotel Algonquin still is receiving publicity on the gossip pages, but not, certainly, the way it did in the good old days. Simon & Schuster's hard-cover edition of Howard Stern's *PRIVATE PARTS* was launched in 1993 at a beer-and-Buttafuoco bash at the Harley Davidson Cafe, according to an item in *New York* magazine (Aug. 29). And now Pocket Books is considering a book party for the paperback at a more upscale location. "We asked the Algonquin, the Yale and Harvard Clubs, and both the New York and Downtown Athletic Clubs," a Pocket Books spokeswoman said. "They all said yes, which certainly surprised us." But the Algonquin had a restriction. "They asked us not to bring any Playboy Bunnies." No decision has been made yet as to whether and when, let alone where, the party will be.
5071. "An illused and disillusioned primer for collectors and novices," is the way that Vincent Starrett described John Carter's *ABC FOR BOOK-COLLECTORS*, adding that "no better guide to the whole subject has appeared in print." John Carter knew his subject, and was famous for far more than merely being one of the leaders of those who exposed the infamous forger Thomas J. Wise. *ABC FOR BOOK-COLLECTORS* was first published in 1952, and went through five editions over the years, and now there's a sixth edition, lightly revised by Nicolas Barker (an expert in his own right), and available for \$28.00 postpaid from Oak Knoll Books, 414 Delaware Street, New Castle, DE 19720; they take plastic. I recommend it to those who don't know the difference between page heads and running heads, or who aren't sure about editions and impressions and issues and states and variants, or who might want to read a description of "the chronological obsession" or "point-maniacs" written by someone who writes well and is convinced that "all extremes are a bore."
5072. Oak Knoll also can still supply *THE AFFAIR OF THE UNPRINCIPLED PUBLISHER*, a pastiche by Lawrence Garland that reports on an encounter between Thomas J. Wise and Sherlock Holmes, published by Oak Knoll in 1983 in an attractive hand-printed 21-page pamphlet (\$33.00 postpaid); and Rodney Engen's *RICHARD DOYLE* (London: Catalpa Press, 1983; 206 pp.), a review of the life and work of Arthur Conan Doyle's uncle, who designed the traditional cover of *Punch* and as a freelance illustrator and painter contributed art to a long list of books and magazines (\$38.00 postpaid).
5073. Knock, knock. Who's there? Watson. Watson who? Nothing much; Watson who with you?
5074. *IN BEDS WITH SHERLOCK HOLMES* is The Sherlock Holmes Society of London's new excursion guidebook, edited by Pamela Bruxner, and the title pays a punning tribute to Chris Redmond's *IN BED WITH SHERLOCK HOLMES* while offering Britreaders a clue as to the area covered: Bedfordshire. The articles focus on "The Three Gables", "The Blanched Soldier", and "The Man with the Watches", and the 52-page booklet costs \$13.50 postpaid; checks should be payable to the Society, and sent Mrs. E. M. Godden, Apple Tree Cottage, Smarden, Kent TN27 8QE, England).
5075. This year's national meeting of the Sherlockian societies in Australia went very well, Michael J. Farrell reports. And it featured an appearance by an authentic Sherlock Holmes, 83 years old, who resides in Newcastle, and who was born in Holmesville, with a Dr. Watson presiding over his birth (it was the nurse who suggested that the boy be called Sherlock).

August 1994 #8

5076. THE NEW ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES AUDIO GIFT SET #5 will be on sale in September, just in time for Christmas shopping (and offering a less-expensive way of picking up earlier issues): the boxed set with cassettes #17-20 will retail at \$25.00 (these are Simon and Schuster's reissues of the Basil Rathbone radio shows, but one of the eight programs has Tom Conway as Holmes).
5077. Otto Penzler continues to offer paperback reprints of important classics in his "Sherlock Holmes Library" series, the most recent being SEVENTEEN STEPS TO 221B, edited by James Edward Holroyd (an anthology of excellent British scholarship first published in 1967), and MY DEAR HOLMES: A STUDY IN SHERLOCK, by Gavin Bred (first published in 1951); \$8.00 each. The Armchair Detective Library offers a hard-cover reprint of SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE MASQUERADE MURDERS, by Frank Thomas (first published in 1986 in an elusive paperback, with an energetic Holmes and a sharp-shooting Watson investigating murder and financial chicanery); \$21.00. And Otto Penzler Books has published American editions of June Thomson's THE SECRET FILES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES and THE SECRET CHRONICLES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (published in Britain in 1990 and 1992, each with seven of the unrecorded cases, told with nice style and imagination); \$20.00 each. And Sam Siciliano's new THE ANGEL OF THE OPERA: SHERLOCK HOLMES MEETS THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA (\$21.95); Watson, momentarily annoyed at Holmes, has invented Moriarty and Holmes' death at the Reichenbach, so this story is told by Holmes' cousin Dr. Henry Vernier, who accompanies Holmes to Paris, and tells a tale that has romance as well as mystery.
5078. Magico has issued a new catalog of Sherlockiana, including a long back-list (some of the material was published as far back as 1980). One of the books offered for the first time is Reginald Johnson's THEY CAME TO BAKER STREET (New York: Magico Magazine, 1992; 174 pp., \$25.95); Johnson was born at the turn of the century and discovered the Canon as a teen-ager, and his book is a collection of more than 50 well-written vignettes of those who visited the famous sitting-room, edited and foot-noted by Alan Truscott (who as the bridge editor of the N.Y. Times has shown in his bridge column that he too is an admirer of Sherlock Holmes). HOLMES' RANGE, by Walter P. Armstrong, Jr. (New York: Magico Magazine, 1994; 90 pp., \$19.95), is a collection of reprints of S'ian essays, articles, and toasts written by another long-time enthusiast, a member of the The Baker Street Irregulars who for almost half a century has been a contributor to The Baker Street Journal and other periodicals. Shipping costs extra, and Magico's address is Box 156, New York, NY 10002-0156.
5079. And, for those who have not yet heard the news, John Bennett Shaw is now recovering nicely from the heart attack he suffered on July 30, while he was visiting the hospital (and that's certainly the best place, if you're going to have one). He is home, and being catered to by various visiting children (some of whom conveniently are nurses), and he gets around a bit using a walker, and is impatiently waiting for the baseball strike to end or college football to start, and isn't answering mail yet (so you can send him anything that doesn't require an answer or an acknowledgement).

September 1994 #1

5080. Fordham University Press may be clearing out its warehouse. Mike Greenberg reports that some of their books are being discounted by Edward R. Hamilton (Falls Village, CT 06031-5000): the second (revised) edition of DINING WITH SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Julia Carlson Rosenblatt and Frederic H. Sonnenschmidt (1990), now \$12.95; THE STANDARD DOYLE COMPANY: CHRISTOPHER MORLEY ON SHERLOCK HOLMES, edited and introduced by Steven Rothman (1990), now \$12.95; and SHERLOCK HOLMES BY GAS-LAMP: HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FIRST FOUR DECADES OF THE BAKER STREET JOURNAL, edited by Philip A. Shreffler (1989), now \$14.95. I recommend all three books highly, and this is a splendid opportunity for those who do not already have them.
5081. Thanks to David McCallister for the logo used by Sherlock Home Finders, in business for some ten years in Jupiter, Fla. (that's near Palm Beach). The company is owned by Richard Clegg, and if you're thinking of renting a home or apartment in the area, his number is 800-597-7368.
5082. The Walt Disney Co., whose stage version of "Beauty and the Beast" at the Palace Theatre on Times Square is Broadway's top box-office draw, plans to restore the long-abandoned New Amsterdam Theatre, which once was the home of the Ziegfeld Follies and which has many Sherlockian associations. It was at the New Amsterdam that William Gillette performed in his farewell tour of "Sherlock Holmes" in 1929, and it was in NBC's studios above the theater, in 1930, that he broadcast the first Sherlockian radio program in the U.S. ("The Adventure of the Speckled Band"). By 1966 the theater had been converted into a movie house ("A Study in Terror" opened there), and eventually it closed, surrounded by a decaying neighborhood on 42nd Street. Disney has been offered a low-interest \$21 million loan from the state, and will spend at least \$8 million more on the project. If you want to see the sorry shape the theater was in, Louis Malle's film "Vanya on 42nd Street" (not yet released) was filmed there earlier this year.
5083. LADY BRACKENSTALL'S LORD AND MASTER is J. C. Charles' latest contribution to adults-only Sherlockiana, providing details of Brackenstall's cruel and humiliating treatment of his beautiful young wife, and of his attentions to the pretty upstairs maid; the eight-page pamphlet costs \$5.00 postpaid from The Filmoods Co. (Box 475, Scarsdale, NY 10583).
5084. The list of "Dover Thrift Editions" continues to expand. These are trade paperbacks priced at \$1.00, intended to get good literature into the hands of readers as cheaply as possible. SIX GREAT SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES was published in 1992, and Bob Persing now notes THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES New York: Dover Publications, 1994).
5085. Last month I noted that Prime Minister Herbert Asquith is mentioned in the Canon, although not by name. For those who have not solved that puzzle, he was the Prime Minister from 1908 until 1916, and thus will be found in "His Last Bow" ("The Foreign Minister alone I could have withstood, but when the Premier also deigned to visit my humble roof---!").

September 1994 #2

5086. "Watson on the case as Sherlock packs bags," was the headline on a story by Antonia Feuchtwanger, spotted by Carey Cummings in the Daily Telegraph on Aug. 27, 1994. James Watson, the chairman of the National Freight Consortium (Britain's largest road-haulage business), led a boardroom coup that forced chief executive Peter Sherlock to resign. "I am quite a hard man," Watson said. "I may seem to be somebody who is quite laid-back, but when I want my way I get it."
5087. DAMN YOU JOHN CHRISTIE!: THE PUBLIC LIFE OF AUSTRALIA'S SHERLOCK HOLMES, by John Lahey (Melbourne, State Library of Victoria, 1993; 292 pp., A\$19.95), is a splendid biography of John Mitchell Christie, who joined the detective force in Victoria in 1867 as the age of 21, and soon became famous for his talents and his exploits, which involved a lot of disguises, and quite a bit of discretion. The book is only marginally Sherlockian, but it's grand fun; the publisher's address is 328 Swanston Street, Melbourne, Vic. 3000, Australia.
5088. SHERLOCKIAN TOAST, edited by Luci Zahray and Mary Erickson, is a 38-page collection of imaginative toasts, poetic and otherwise, given by members and guests at meetings of The South Downers and published by the Homestead Press. Available from Luci Zahray, 685 Marylane Drive, Holland, MI 49423; \$6.00 postpaid.
5089. Ruth Brandon's THE LIFE AND MANY DEATHS OF HARRY HOUDINI was published last year in London (March 94 #3), and the American edition is due in October from Random House (368 pp., \$25.00); it's a fine biography of Houdini, with discussion of his complicated relationship with Conan Doyle.

5090. Douglas G. Greene reports that his biography of John Dickson Carr will be published by Otto Penzler Books next spring. Doug also has started his own company (Crippen & Landru) to issue trade paperbacks of unpublished (or at least uncollected) work by great detective-story writers. The first volume is SPEAK OF THE DEVIL, an unpublished and non-Sherlockian eight-part radio serial written by Carr (\$14.95 post-paid). A flier with information about other titles planned is available from Crippen & Landru (Box 9315, Norfolk, VA 23505-9315).
5091. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists will convene on Tuesday, Oct. 25, at the Merchants Cafe in Seattle, during the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America. Geologists and Sherlockians (and any other visitors of either persuasion) are welcome to join in honoring the world's first forensic geologist. The Merchants Cafe is at 109 Yesler Way in Pioneer Square, and the festivities begin with cocktails at 7:00 and continue with dinner at 8:00; reservations are not needed.
5092. It's not too late (although there isn't much time left) for societies to follow a trail blazed by The Illustrious Clients of Indianapolis in celebrating an important centennial this year: the 100th anniversary of Conan Doyle's visit to the United States. On Oct. 15, the day that he arrived in Indianapolis, members of the Clients will take a walking tour of the sites he visited while he was in the city, dedicate a memorial in the Grand Hall of Union Station, and dine at the Penn Street Bar & Grille (the site of the Denison Hotel, where he dined that evening with J. Whitcomb Riley).
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September 1994 #3

5093. It was a long time ago (August 92 #2) that Pattie Brunner reported on THE DISNEY AFTERNOON, an audiocassette and CD collection of music from four Disney television shows. Disney Records (500 South Buena Vista Street, Burbank, CA 91521) offered to send people the lyrics, which have now arrived. The "Chip 'N Dale's Rescue Rangers Theme Song" includes a second verse "Fresh prints/Not since Watson and Mr. Holmes/Have two minds /So fine/Looked under every stone/When you need some help to save the day/They're never far away."
5094. The U.S. Postal Service honored the 100th birthday of James Thurber with a commemorative issued this month. Credit Ray Betzner with the discovery of a series of somewhat Sherlockian parodies ("The Cases of Blue Ploermell") Thurber wrote for the Columbus Dispatch in 1923; Thurber's "The Gloucester Sympathizer" (1950), sometimes reprinted as "The Case Book of James Thurber", is better known.
5095. Melanie Hughes has forwarded an article in the Hartford Courant, about a on-going attempt to restore William Gillette's small-scale railroad train to its rightful place at the Gillette Castle in Hadlyme, Conn. The railroad (which is nicely shown in the Movietone news interview with Gillette) ran along a three-mile route on the estate, and after Gillette's death was sold to a local amusement park. The Department of Environmental Protection is trying to negotiate the purchase or donation of the train, and hopes that it will be possible to restore at least part of the route on the estate.
5096. And John Aidiniantz has not yet abandoned his campaign to win the address 221b for his Sherlock Holmes Museum at 239 Baker Street. The [London] Sunday Telegraph reported on Sept. 4 that the Westminster Council has issued a public notice of an application by the museum to re-number the street (the museum claims it will be able to create hundreds of mail-order jobs if it is allowed to use the address 221b and sell memorabilia to those who write to Sherlock Holmes). The paper notes that the word is that the application is "doomed to failure," because it is opposed by the Post Office, the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, and the Abbey National Building Society.
5097. Bert Coules reports that the first six stories in "The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes" were broadcast weekly beginning Sept. 21 by BBC Radio 4, with Clive Merrison as Holmes and Michael Williams as Watson. The other six stories have not yet been recorded; when they have been, that will leave only "The Hound of the Baskervilles" and "The Valley of Fear" to be done to make the series the first one ever dramatized to offer all 60 stories with the same actors as Holmes and Watson.
5098. CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS: ERRANT ESSAYS ON PERPETRATORS OF LITERARY LICENSE, by Nicolas Freeling (Boston: David R. Godine, 1994; 155 pp., \$22.95), offers Freeling's thoughts on an interesting selection of authors, some of whom are not usually considered to be crime writers; Conan Doyle is included, of course, and Chandler and Sayers and Simenon, along with Stendhal, Dickens, Conrad, and Kipling. Freeling is himself well-known in the genre (for his series detectives Henri Castang and Inspector Van der Valk); he is a fine writer, and presents imaginative insights into the work of all the authors.
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September 1994 #4

5099. SCREAM FOR JEEVES: A PARODY, by P. H. Cannon, illustrated by J. C. Eckhardt (New York: Wodecraft Press, 1994; 86 pp., \$20.00 cloth, \$7.50 paper), offers three Jeeves-and-Wooster stories involving the worlds of H. P. Lovecraft, with Sherlockian and Doylean allusions, and in one tale an easily-recognizable "Mr. Altamont, of Chicago." The book also has a long essay ("The Adventure of the Three Anglo-American Authors") in which Cannon attempts to find parallels among the authors and their work. The book is available from the Necronomicon Press (Box 1304, West Warwick, RI 02893); postage extra, and they take plastic.
5100. The Baker Street Pages offer personalized engraved plastic disks, four inches in diameter (the illustration is shown reduced here); the transparent disk has white highlighting, and a wooden base, and the cost is \$14.00 postpaid, from Tim O'Connor, 6015 West Route 115, Herscher, IL 60941.
5101. Chris Redmond reports that his QUOTATIONS FROM BAKER STREET (July 94 #5) has 48 pages and saddle-stitch binding (not clam-shell plastic); \$7.50 postpaid from George Vanderburgh, Box 204, Shelburne, Ont. L0N 1S0, Canada.
5102. Sherlockians have an excuse to see the new film "Corrina, Corrina" (which has been described as the latest in the "kid finds mate for bumbling single dad" series). Ray Liotta (a widower) hires Whoopi Goldberg to care for his daughter, and there's a neighbor (a widow) with two sons who like to dress in costumes, and at one point they dress up as Holmes and Watson.
5103. "Mysteriously Yours" (a mystery dinner-theater company that performs at the Royal York Hotel in Toronto) is now doing "The Mystery of the Maltese Blue Jay" and five other plays from their repertory, and will perform a Sherlock Holmes mystery in November, December, and January. Additional information is available from Mysteriously Yours, at 1927 Yonge Street, Toronto ON M4S 1Z3, Canada (416-486-7469 or 800-668-3323).
5104. Bjarne Nielsen's mystery-specialist bookshop Antikvariat Pinkerton has a new address: Holtets Plads 1, DK-4500 Nykobing Sjaelland, Denmark. And that's where he also presides over the new Sherlock Holmes Museum and the library of the Danish Academy of Crime Writers. Visitors are welcome, and it's best to write or call (45/59-93-28-21) to ensure that Bjarne's there when you want to be. His current mail-order catalog includes mystery and science-fiction in Danish and in English, including old (and often rare) Sherlockiana.
5105. The current issue of Anglofile reports that the film "The Age of Innocence" (with Daniel Day-Lewis) will air on HBO cable on Oct. 29; Jeremy Brett has suggested that Day-Lewis might well be the next Sherlock Holmes, and you'll see why in the film. And "Shadowlands" (with Edward Hardwicke) will air on Cinemax in January. Anglofile is a monthly newsletter with detailed coverage of British entertainment; \$12.00 a year (Box 33515, Decatur, GA 30033).
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September 1994 #5

5106. The fall issue of The Sherlockian Times (the catalog/newsletter/ journal published by Classic Specialties) is at hand, with a fine assortment of books, prints, shirts, postcards, scarves, pins, news, scarves, a short pastiche by Robert Coffen, and much more. Their address is: Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH
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45219. Classic Specialties also offers the spectacular 1995 calendar that Cadds (the British printers) has published with full-color photographs from the Granada "Sherlock Holmes" television series; \$16.50 postpaid (Hugh Scullion of Cadds is not able to supply the calendar directly).
5107. Lawrence Nepodahl reports that Martin Kosleck died on Jan. 16. He acted with Basil Rathbone in the 1945 film "Pursuit to Algiers" (as Mirko), and played Maurice Gretz in Rathbone's non-Sherlockian "The Mad Doctor" (1941).
5108. The latest catalog from What on Earth (2451 Enterprise East Parkway, Twinsburg, OH 44087) includes a "Sherlock Hound: Master Sleuth" teaset that includes: a Teapot Hound (\$28.95); Sugar and Creamer Dogs (\$24.95); Salt and Pepper Pups (\$12.95). Shipping is extra, and they take plastic.
5109. Michael Ross' Baskerville Bucher has reprinted Ferdinand Bonn's SHERLOCK HOLMES: DETEKTIVKOMODIE IN VIER AUFGÜGEN (112 pp., \$16.00); Bonn wrote and starred in the play in Berlin in 1906 (when the play was first published), and the new edition has the play and annotations in German, a summary and commentary in English, and photographs from the original production. The play is based both on the Gillette play and on the Canon, and Bonn went on to write two more Sherlockian plays (which Michael intends to publish) and to star in S'ian films. Send currency only, please, to Michael Ross Verlag, Bendheide 65, D-47906 Kempen, Germany.
5110. Will Walsh reports that the autumn 1994 catalog from the Ben Silver Collection (800-221-4671) uses a Sherlockian silhouette to identify 17 neckties "associated with the master sleuth and his creator." These are regimental or school ties (such as "the Thirty-Fourth Bombay Infantry, of which Major Sholto and Capt. Morstan were officers"); the company's address is 149 King Street, Charleston, SC 29401.
5111. Listen for Pleasure (EMI) have added a fourth title to their list of twoaudiocassette sets of Canonical stories. HIS LAST BOW AND OTHER STORIES has four tales (Wist/RedC/Lady/Last) read (and read well) by Martin Jarvis. The other (older) sets are THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (Hugh Burden), A STUDY IN SCARLET (Tony Britton), and THE VALLEY OF FEAR (Martin Jarvis); the suggested retail price for each set is £7.49.

September 1994 #6

5112. Nice news for fans of Jeremy Brett: the newly-restored 30-year-old film "My Fair Lady" opened on Sept. 21 at the large-screen Ziegfield theatre in New York (and it likely will be shown in other cities that are fortunate enough to have houses with big screens and proper sound systems). And Melanie Hughes notes a report that Brett hosted an hour-long documentary about the film, which will be included in a \$75.00 anniversary re-issue (probably on laserdisc and videocassettes).
5113. Moris H. Goldberg has succeeded the late James Howe as the contact for The Deerstalkers (the Kent, Ohio, branch of The Inverness Capers); his address is 346 East Summit Street #A, Kent, OH 44240-3680.
5114. Robert Bloch died on Sept. 23. Best known for his novel "Psycho" (on which Alfred Hitchcock based his classic horror film), Bloch was prolific in the fields of fantasy, mystery, and suspense. He also was a friend of Luther L. Norris, and an admirer of Solar Pons, and the author of an essay on "The Dynamics of an Asteroid" (in the Oct. 1953 issue of the BSJ). Conan Doyle made a cameo appearance in Bloch's novel NIGHT OF THE RIPPER (1984), and he also wrote a screenplay based on H. F. Heard's "Mr. Mycroft" novel A TASTE FOR HONEY, which was released by Paramount in 1967 (as "The Deadly Bees") without an appearance by Mr. Mycroft, who was in Bloch's screenplay, but British writer Anthony Marriott took "some vast liberties" with the script, Bloch later reported (and Bloch said that he never saw the film he called his "deformed offspring").
5115. "Baker Street Revisited: A Weekend with Sherlock Holmes" is the 15th annual program of talks, panel discussions, and films presented by The Six Napoleons and the Carlton Club at the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore, Nov. 19-20. The Library's at 400 Cathedral Street, events start at 10:00 am on Nov. 19 and at 2:30 pm on Nov. 20, and there is no charge for admission.
5116. Tim O'Connor reports that the current catalog from Past Times (280 Summer Street, Boston, MA 02210) (800-621-6020) has a made-in-England wool tweed deerstalker (\$59.50).
5117. Gertrude Mahoney reports that the current catalog from the House of Tyrol, Box 909, Cleveland, GA 30528 (800-241-5404) offers Holmes and Watson wall masks at \$29.95 each (these are the masks made in England by Legend Products and distributed here over the years by Cowin Enterprises). And a set of Sherlock Holmes desk accessories in hand-cast English pewter: a letter opener and a magnifying glass at \$36.00 each, or \$69.00 the set. And they take plastic.
5118. Stu Shiffman has reported an item in Comic Shop News (Sept. 28) forecasting a two-issue comic-book mini-series SHERLOCK HOLMES: ADVENTURE OF THE OPERA GHOST, by Steven Jones and Aldin Baroza, due from Caliber Press in Oct. at \$2.95 each. Sherlock Holmes vs. the Phantom of the Opera, of course.
5119. And: if the end-of-October issue doesn't arrive until the end of the first week of November, the delay will be due to my enjoying my trip to Seattle.

October 1994 #1

5120. John Bennett Shaw died on Oct. 2 of a heart attack. He had the attack at home, and was taken to the hospital, and wasn't in pain, and Dorothy was with him, and they had a chance to talk before he passed away. John was unique in many ways, but I think the most important of all his achievements was that he was such a good friend to so many of us. Some of us have been fortunate enough to have enjoyed that friendship for more than thirty years (as I have), and it's difficult to accept that sort of loss. If you would like to see what some of his friends thought of John, I recommend the Dec. 1990 issue of The Baker Street Journal, which Philip A. Shreffler edited as a surprise tribute to him. And it was a surprise, and if you don't have a copy, you may be able to get that issue from the Fordham University Press, University Box L, Bronx, NY 10458-5172 (\$5.00 postpaid if it's still in stock).
5121. I think that it was the fun he found in the world of Sherlockians that was most important to John, far more so than the things he collected. But of course he was well-known as a collector, and it was thoroughly appropriate that he received the Investiture "The Hans Sloane of My Age" from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1965. He received a Two-Shilling Award in 1980, and the BSJ's Queen Victoria Medal in 1985, and although the awards and honors were fun to receive, it was people he enjoyed the most. He also enjoyed telling stories, about and on himself, and that's the way many of us will remember him: enjoying a good story.
5122. Readers of this newsletter should be aware that it is to John Bennett Shaw that you really are indebted for its existence, since it started with great informality in 1971 simply as sheets of paper kept by my typewriter so that I could write paragraphs of minor news to send to John. So you are sharing (and some of you have done so for many years) some of the news that I have enjoyed sending to him.
5123. Dorothy Shaw has suggested that contributions in memory of John might be made to the John H. Watson Fund, which provides assistance to Sherlockians who might not otherwise be able to attend the birthday festivities (checks payable to the Fund can be sent to Dr. John H. Watson, c/o Thomas L. Stix, Jr., 34 Pierson Avenue, Norwood, NJ 07648).
5124. The on-again off-again world premiere of the play "Harry and Arthur" (with Leonard Nimoy as Houdini and William Shatner as Conan Doyle) appears to be definitely off: an item in the Boston Globe (Sept. 22) reports that Ralph Miller, owner of the Bucks County Playhouse, is suing Shatner for

\$150,000 for breach of something-or-other. The play is based on the novel BELIEVE. (written by Shatner and Michael Tobias), and was first reported in 1992 and scheduled at the Playhouse in Dec. 1993, and postponed (more than once, it would seem).

5125. Critic's Choice Video (Box 808, Itasca, IL 60143) (800-367-7765) has some inexpensive Sherlockian video: "Sherlock Holmes and the Incident at Victoria Falls" (GJVES009930) at \$14.98; "Sherlock Holmes and the "Leading Lady" (GJAVD051204) at \$9.99; and "Without a Clue" (GJORI018733) at \$9.99. These are "EP" recordings, which means low speed and low fidelity.
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October 1994 #2

5126. More catalog stuff: the carved wooden head-of-Holmes previously available on a walking stick and an umbrella is now offered on a 21-inch cast-resin shoe horn at \$25.00 (item 101E) from the Horchow Collection (800-456-7000). Also: "Sherlock Holmes hung his hat on a hall tree like ours," is the proud (and unlikely, I suspect) boast by Colonial Garden Kitchens (Hanover, PA 17333-0066) (800-245-3399); "this twelve-prong butler will hold your company's hats, coats, scarves" (it's brass-coated, six feet high, on sale at \$28.90).
5127. Forecast: Carole Nelson Douglas' IRENE'S LAST WALTZ, from Forge in paperback in Nov., \$4.99); published earlier this year in hardcover (February 94 #5), this is the fourth in the imaginative series about Irene Adler Norton and Penelope Huxleigh, who investigate a murder at the Parisian establishment of king of couture Charles Worth, and then return to Prague for a second encounter with the King of Bohemia.
5128. There's a puzzle genre that consists of the first letters of the words in a phrase (such as "emdwe"), and you're supposed to figure out what the phrase is ("Elementary, my dear Watson, elementary"). Chris Redmond recently sent such a list to The Hounds of the Internet, and I'm happy to reprint it here (so that others can have some fun). The phrases all are from the Canon:
- A. achdtht
 - B. ayvyloyr
 - C. caoiciicats
 - D. htsyjio
 - E. iwtbtsb
 - F. tbawmwihek
 - G. tbftgoggsh
 - H. tddnitnt
 - I. tptlattc
 - J. trhlid
 - K. tshsiatw
 - L. twtfoagh
 - M. wboaboasu
 - N. wdydwtb
 - O. yhbaiap
 - P. ywncmammw
5129. I have in the past assumed that the subscribers to this newsletter also are subscribers to The Baker Street Journal, but that assumption likely is less accurate now, since the newsletter is being posted in bits and bytes to The Hounds of the Internet. The BSJ is published quarterly by The Baker Street Irregulars and is edited by William R. Cochran, and I recommend it highly. The Sept. 1994 issue includes a fine article by C. Bryan Gassner and Morrow Hall about Katherine McMahon, who first met Christopher Morley when he made his rounds as a bookseller in the 1930s, and who was one of the successful solvers of the famous crossword puzzle and thus became one of the earliest members of The Baker Street Irregulars, and who in 1991 received her Investiture and Irregular Shilling. The BSJ costs \$17.50 a year (\$20.00 outside the United States); Box 465, Hanover, PA 17331.
5130. Not new, but spotted recently in a Learningsmith shop in a mall: I.Q. Games Culture Classics (Educational Insights EI-2096) is a set of card quizzes on literature and the arts (with Sherlock Holmes on the box and one quiz about "The Hound of the Baskervilles", \$6.95; Mystery Authors (Whitehall Line 99-1501) is a set of playing cards with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle on the box and some of the cards), \$2.95.
5131. AUGUST HARVEST: ESSAYS PENNED BY VARIOUS HANDS TO KEEP THE MEMORY OF AUGUST DERLETH GREEN (New York: Magico Magazine, 1994; 172 pp., \$25.00) is a fine way to see how varied August Derleth's talents were. Ely Liebow has edited the book, which includes a chapter by Paul B. Smedegaard on the Solar Pons stories, and nine other authors (including Frank Belknap Long, Norman Blei, and Steve Eng) discuss the different genres in which Derleth was so active and entertaining. The publisher's address is: Box 156, New York, NY 10002.
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October 1994 #3

5132. Further to last month's mention (September 94 #5) of the two-audiocassette sets available from Listen for Pleasure, they offer four titles: THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES read by Hugh Burden (LFP 7607), A STUDY IN SCARLET read by Tony Britton (LFP 7613), and THE VALLEY OF FEAR (LFP 7616) and HIS LAST BOW AND OTHER STORIES (LFP 7808) read by Martin Jarvis. The sets cost £7.49 each, shipping is extra, they accept plastic, and the address is MFP/EMI, P.O. Box 33, Hayes, Middlesex UB4 0SY, England.
5133. Western Samoa will issue a set of four stamps marking the centenary of the death of Robert Louis Stevenson, showing his yacht Equator, his home Vailima, and his tomb on Mount Vaea, as well as his portrait. He corresponded with Conan Doyle, complimenting him in 1893 on THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: "That is the class of literature that I like when I have the toothache. As a matter of fact, it was a pleurisy I was enjoying when I took the volume up; and it will interest you as a medical man to know that the cure was for the moment effectual." Later that year he wrote about the difficulties he encountered telling the story of "The Engineer's Thumb" to a Samoan: "It was necessary, I need hardly say, to go somewhat farther afield than you have done. To explain (for instance) what a railway is, what a steam hammer, what a coach and horse, what coining, what a criminal, and what the police."
5134. An alert for variant-hunters. The Oxford University Press catalog shows a color photograph of the boxed set of THE OXFORD SHERLOCK HOLMES, with the box displaying two color illustrations on the front (rather than the three black-and-white illustrations on the box with my set). It is possible that the photograph shows a preliminary mockup that was not issued (early publicity showed the color artwork printed on the covers of the volumes, rather than on the dust jackets as issued).
5135. Jackie Geyer reports that Sherlock Holmes has been on display in New York: an exhibit of 222 film stills at the Museum of Modern Art included two that showed Basil Rathbone as Sherlock Holmes, and an exhibit of poster art at the Museum of Television & Radio featured a poster for the Granada series on "Mystery!"
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5136. Credit Peter Calamai with having discovered Martin L. Friedland's *THE DEATH OF OLD MAN RICE: A TRUE STORY OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN AMERICA* (New York: New York University Press, 1994; 423 pp., \$29.95). "Old man Rice" was William Marsh Rice, a wealthy Texan who died under suspicious circumstances in New York in 1900, bequeathing a great deal of money to found what was to become Rice University in Houston (depending on which of his wills was accepted as valid), and the book provides a fascinating account of the arrest of Albert T. Patrick for first-degree murder, and his trial and conviction and many appeals. And a demonstration that some aspects of the relationships among money, media, and justice have not changed a bit since then. And there's a connection to Conan Doyle: one of the points at issue during the trial and appeals involved embalming, and one of Patrick's supporters seems to have written to Dr. Joe Bell, who in turn contacted Sir Arthur: Friedland found a letter from Conan Doyle in an embalmers' magazine published in 1907 that said that "there seems to have been a gross miscarriage of justice."

October 1994 #4

5137. Dave Galerstein has reported that the Cecil Higgins Art Gallery offers an opportunity to have your own copy of Joseph Mallord William Turner's fine watercolor of "The Great Falls of the Reichenbach" (1804). The painting, on display at the National Gallery of Art in Washington last year (June 93 #8), is now back in Britain. Postcards (75p), color slides (£8.00), black-and-white photographs (£10.00), and color photographs (£32.00) are available; prices include shipping, payment in sterling is required with your order, and the Gallery's address is: Castle Close, Bedford MK40 3NY, England.
5138. Don Hobbs reports a source for Icelandic translations, for those who don't yet have one: Books on Iceland, Laugavegi 18, IS-101 Reykjavik, Iceland. The titles available are *AFREK SHERLOCK HOLMES 1*, *AFREK SHERLOCK HOLMES 2*, *ENDURKOMA SHERLOCK HOLMES 1*, *ENDURKOMA SHERLOCK HOLMES 2*, and *BASKERVILLEHUNDURINN*, and the cost is \$24.00 postpaid per volume (they take plastic).
5139. Steven Cragg's caricature of Conan Doyle, previously used on T-shirts marketed by Largely Literary Designs, has now appeared on bookmarks (\$1.29); check your local bookshop. The bookmarks are distributed by Roxbury Twain, 25 Canal Bank Road, Windsor Locks, CT 06096.
5140. The 1994 issue of *The Musgrave Papers* (the annual journal published by The Northern Musgraves) offers 132 pages of scholarship, artwork, reviews and news (the society plans to offer "A Study in Scotland" in Edinburgh on May 6-8, 1995, with papers, dramatics, and gala dinner in the Great Scottish Hall). Membership in the society costs \$32.00 a year (airmail to the U.S.), and includes two issues of *The Ritual*; the society also offers Kathryn White's artwork as prints and on Christmas cards. Write to David Stuart Davies, Overdale, 69 Greenhead Road, Huddersfield, W. Yorks. HD1 4ER, England.
5141. Heinz Ruhmann died on Oct. 4. The German actor appeared in more than 100 films, beginning with "The German Mother's Heart" (1926), and on stage and television. And he played an amusing Dr. Watson in "Der Mann, der Sherlock Holmes war" (1937), released on videocassette by Ufa Universum Film in 1992 and shown (subtitled in English) in many cities in the U.S. in 1993 as part of a touring program of German mystery films.
5142. The Kenneth W. Rendell Gallery offers Conan Doyle's signed three-page contract with Eveleigh Nash and Grayson for their 1926 edition of *THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES* (the book sold for 2s6d, with a 3d royalty to the author, who received an advance of £100, so they expected to sell more than 8,000 copies); the Gallery's address is 989 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10021 (800-376-1776), and they're asking \$15,000 for the contract.
5143. "High Technology to Market Hot New MPEG Titles with Jakarta Playback Card" was the headline on a story in *Business Wire* (Sept. 13), reported by Melanie Hughes. You install the Jakarta MPEG playback card/video accelerator in your computer, and that allows you to play high-quality digitized video from CD-ROM discs. The first titles (\$9.95 each) will be three discs of Max Fleischer's "Superman" cartoons from the 1940s, and one disc with two of the Ronald Howard's "Sherlock Holmes" shows from the 1950s.
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October 1994 #5

5144. Jack Kerr reports that a videocassette of "Star Trek: The Next Generation: Elementary, Dear Data" (the first of the two Data-as-Holmes episodes) is available for \$14.95 at Suncoast Video (and likely at other shops). And that *MURDER ON TRIAL*, edited by Cynthia Manson (New York: Signet Mystery, 1994; \$4.99) includes Conan Doyle's "The Prisoner's Defense".
5145. William Hjortsberg's *NEVERMORE* (New York: Atlantic Monthly Press, 1994; 289 pp., \$21.00) brings Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Harry Houdini to New York in 1923, and involves them both with Opal Crosby Fletcher (a provocative and beautiful medium) and with a mysterious serial killer (who is copying the murders described by Edgar Allan Poe and whose targets include Conan Doyle and Houdini). There's lots of skullduggery and derring-do, as well as some serious slighting of the facts with regard to the lives of Conan Doyle and Houdini and their families.
5146. Michael J. Gilbert (Box 23094, Ottawa, ON K2A 4E2, Canada) crafts a nice assortment of Sherlockian pewter: figurines (\$45.00), plaques (\$115.00), keychains (\$8.00), and pins (\$8.00); prices in Canadian dollars, shipping costs extra, he will send you an illustrated flier if available, and his e-mail address is <mgilbert@fox.nstn.ca>.
5147. Debbie Clark reports a find at a Sun Coast video store: 3 *ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* (a \$14.95 videocassette). Two adventures are old Ronald Howard programs ("The Haunted Gainsborough" and "The Exhumed Client"), and one is "At the Movies" (a 48-minute set of clips, trailers, and previews); from Brentwood Home Video, 5740 Corsa Avenue, Westlake Village, CA 91362 (item #30575).
5148. The *SHERLOCK HOLMES READER* is a new "Courage Classics" collection published in cloth by the Running Press, with eight stories (Glor/Scan/RedH/Five/Spec /Fina/Empt/Danc), Christopher Clausen's essay on "Sherlock Holmes, Order, and the Late-Victorian Mind" (first published in the spring 1984 issue of the *Georgia Review*), and Sir Arthur's "Sidelights on Sherlock Holmes" (from *MEMORIES AND ADVENTURES*). 224 pp., \$5.98; also available from the publisher (shipping is extra): 125 South 22nd Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103-4399 (800-345-5359).
5149. Andy Peck reports a Mystery Guild edition (#023432) of Kim Newman's *ANNO DRACULA* at \$9.98; Mycroft and fellow-members of the Diogenes Club versus Dracula, who is both Prince Consort and Regent, in a well-written novel. The Guild's address is: Box 6307, Indianapolis, IN 46206-6307.
5150. Mark Alberstat's 1995 *Sherlock Holmes Calendar* is illustrated with artwork from *The Strand Magazine*, and displays important Sherlockian birthdays and William S. Baring-Gould's dates for the cases. The cost is US\$12.00 postpaid, and his address is 5 Lorraine Street, Dartmouth, NS B3A 2B9, Canada.
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October 1994 #6

5152. This year's Nobel Prize in Economics was awarded to mathematician John F. Nash (Princeton University) and economists John C. Harsanyi (University of California at Berkeley) and Reinhard Selten (University of Bonn) for their groundbreaking work in integrating "game theory" into the study of economic behavior. It was just 50 years ago that John von Neumann and Oskar Morgenstern published their treatise on *THE THEORY OF GAMES AND ECONOMIC BEHAVIOR* (in which Holmes' flight from Moriarty was used as an example to explain the game of Matching Pennies).
5153. One of the attractive items commemorating the Third Irregular Sherlockian Seminar at Stanford University in August was a set of five multi-color pins designed by Eugene Stovall. The full set measures 4 x 4.5 in. and weighs 8 oz. (so strong lapels will be important), and there are two variants offered: the original set, with a commemorative plate and with errors on three of the pins (\$75.00); and the unofficial set, without a commemorative
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plate and with the errors corrected (\$60.00). The errors are on the pins for Jack McMurdo, Ted Baldwin, and Sherlock Holmes (the illustration here shows the corrected pins), and these pins also are available separately, incorrect and correct, for the completists who want everything (\$20.00 for Holmes, and \$15.00 each for the other two). Prices are postpaid (add \$2.00 per order outside the U.S.), and the address of the company is Olympic Pin Collectors, 5848 Balmoral Drive, Oakland, CA 94619.

5154. The Mini-Tonga Scion Society had a mini-meeting during the national meeting of the National Association of Miniature Enthusiasts in Anaheim, and issue #28 of The Tonga Times offers eight pages of news and articles and reviews (and instructions on how to make a miniature barometer). Membership costs \$7.00 a year (with three issues of the newsletter), and if you would like to have more information about the society, you need only send a #10 SASE to Carol Wenk (Box 770554, Lakewood, OH 44107).
5155. "Matlock" (starring Andy Griffith) has used a Sherlockian plot in one show in the eight seasons it has been on television, and has had S'ian dialogue in some other shows, is now entering its ninth season, with Griffith noting the series' attention to music, in an interview in the N.Y. Daily News on Oct. 12 (at hand from Ted Friedman). "The humor and music has grown over the years, and we feel comfortable doing it: even Sherlock Holmes stopped to play his violin once in a while."
5156. Michael Taylor reports that the boxed hard-cover nine-volume edition of THE OXFORD SHERLOCK HOLMES has been discounted at \$49.50 (plus \$5.00 for shipping). And while supplies last, the offer includes a set of postcards with the dust-jacket woodcut artwork (they say 90 postcards, but I assume that's a misprint for 9). Oxford University Press (Order Department), 2001 Evans Road, Cary, NC 27513 (800-230-3242); credit-card orders welcome.

October 1994 #7

5157. Sherlock Holmes' 141st birthday will be celebrated on Friday, Jan. 6, with the traditional festivities in New York. But the festivities actually will begin on Thursday at 9:00 am at the Hotel Algonquin (59 West 44th Street), whence Allen Mackler and Charlie Shields will lead participants in the annual Christopher Morley Walk, which ends with luncheon at McSorley's. Allen's address is 324 2nd Street NE, Osseo, MN 55369, and from Jan. 3 he will be at the Iroquois Hotel (212-840-3080).
5158. Bob Hahn (who claims to be known as the Booming Bittern of Baskerville Bog) will preside over the Aunt Clara Sing (off-hand, off-the-wall, and largely off-key) beginning some time after 8:00 pm at O'Lunney's Steak House. You can reserve a seat by sending a check for \$10.00 a person to Hugh O'Lunney (12 West 44th Street, New York, NY 10036); your \$10.00 will be applied to your tab for the evening.
5159. Friday begins with the Martha Hudson Breakfast from 8:30 to 10:30 am at the Hotel Algonquin at 59 West 44th Street; \$18.95 (checks payable to The Baker Street Irregulars should be sent to Tom and Ruthann Stetak, 15529 Diagonal Road, LaGrange, OH 44050). The William Gillette Luncheon starts at noon, at Moran's Chelsea Seafood Restaurant at 146 Tenth Avenue at 19th Street; \$30.00 (Susan Rice, 125 Washington Place #2-E, New York, NY 10014). Otto Penzler's open house at The Mysterious Bookshop (129 West 56th Street) also is on Friday, from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm, and it is possible that Sherlockian authors will be on hand to sign their books.
5160. The Baker Street Irregulars will gather at 6:00 pm at 24 Fifth Avenue (at 9th Street), and The Fortescue Symposium (sponsored by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes, The Priory Scholars, and The Montague Street Lodgers) will convene at 6:30 pm at the Sky Garden of the St. Moritz Hotel at 50 Central Park South at 6th Avenue; \$60.00 (Katherine Karlson, 1259 Fowler Place, Binghamton, NY 13903). Early reservations are recommended for the breakfast, the luncheon, and the Fortescue festivities.
5161. On Saturday a posse of purveyors will offer a wide variety of S'iana at the Algonquin (also known for the occasion as Covent Garden West) from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm; vendor tables are available (Ray Betzner, 107 Tendril Court, Williamsburg, VA 23188). And The Clients of Adrian Mulliner (a Sherlockian chapter of The Wodehouse Society as well as a Wodehousean scion society of the BSI) will hold a Junior Bloodstain in the Blue Bar of the Algonquin at noon. Artist Steven Emmons, whose attractive Sherlockian artwork has been shown in the past, will exhibit again at the Chisholm Gallery, on the 6th floor at 55 West 17th Street (near Sixth Avenue) from noon until 8:00 pm (in case you're wondering what to do before or after the cocktail party).
5162. The Baker Street Irregulars will hold their annual reception, open to all Sherlockians and their friends, on Saturday afternoon from 3:00 to 5:30 pm at 24 Fifth Avenue (at 9th Street). There will be an open bar, and hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, and the cost is \$35.00 a person (checks payable to The Baker Street Irregulars should be sent to Donald E. Novorsky, 5182 Mahoning Avenue NW, Warren, OH 44483).

October 1994 #8

5163. The Baker Street Irregulars are a tax-exempt organization, and Tom Stix has arranged with the Hotel Algonquin for rooms (single or double) at \$145.00 a night (Wednesday through Saturday); this is the total cost, because no tax is due on reservations made through the BSI. But please note that all other charges (such as room service, telephone calls, meals, drinks, etc.) are not covered. The offer is available to all Sherlockians: your reservations, with full names of all occupants, accompanied by payment (checks payable to The Baker Street Irregulars) should be sent to Thomas L. Stix, Jr. (34 Pierson Avenue, Norwood, NJ 07648) and to arrive no later than Dec. 16.
5164. Note: payments to The Baker Street Irregulars for more than one event and for reservations at the Algonquin can be combined and made with one check (in U.S. funds, please) or by international money order to be sent to the BSI, c/o Thomas L. Stix, Jr., 34 Pierson Avenue, Norwood, NJ 07648.
5165. Mary Ellen Rich has once again kindly provided a list of hotels that offer reasonable (as defined by New York landlords) rates, along with a warning about non-optional extras: \$2.00 a day occupancy tax, 8.25% state tax, and 5% city tax. If you plan to arrive on Thursday, it is important to confirm that the weekend-package rates include Thursday.
5166. Roosevelt (45 East 45th St.): \$99 (single/double) (800-223-1870); Jolly dison (22 East 38th St.): \$99 (single/double) (800-225-4340); Journey's End (3 East 40th St.): \$95 (single/double) (800-668-4200); Wellington (55th St. at 7th Ave.): \$94 (single) \$104 (double) (800-652-1212); Iroquois (49 West 44th St.): \$75 (single) \$85 (double) (800-332-7220); Portland (132 West 47th St.): \$70 (single) \$85 (double) (212-382-0600); Pickwick Arms (250 East 51st St.): \$70 (single) \$90 (double) (212-355-0300).
5167. Baker Street Miscellanea's last issue (#76) has been published, and it is a fine one, offering the usual excellent mix of interesting and well-written Sherlockiana and Doyleana. Copies of issues #61-76 will be available until Dec. 1, for those who may wish to see what they've been missing; \$5.00 each postpaid, from the Sciolist Press, Box 225, Winnetka, IL 60093.
5168. Benton Wood's new MYCROFT'S PUZZLE BOOK: A COLLECTION OF CONANICAL CRYPTIC & CEREBRAL CHALLENGES offers an intriguing sampling of Sherlockian puzzles Ben has published in his newsletters over the past 20 years; his address is Box 740, Ellenton, FL 34222, and the cost is \$7.50 postpaid (or \$10.00 out-side the United States).
5169. Cross-over continues between the worlds of Doctor Who and Sherlock Holmes. Issue #4 of Trenchcoat (a 200-page Doctor Who fanzine) offers "The Captive Sleuth", a 12-page pastiche by Patricia Smith that involves the Doctor in an attempt to rescue Holmes from a pulp publisher who is

kidnapping famous detectives. US\$15.00 postpaid from James Bow, 99 Krug Street, Kitchener, Ont. N2H 2X8 Canada (or CA\$15.00 to addresses in Canada).

5170. Christopher Roden reports that THE OXFORD SHERLOCK HOLMES will be issued in paperback next month at £3.99 per volume (\$5.95 in the U.S.) and with Frederick Dorr Steele artwork on the covers.

November 1994 #1

5171. I mentioned earlier (September 94 #1) discounted editions of some of the Fordham University Press' Sherlockian titles now available from Edward R. Hamilton (Falls Village, CT 06031-5000); I've seen two of them (SHERLOCK HOLMES BY GAS-LAMP, edited by Philip A. Shreffler, and THE STANDARD DOYLE COMPANY, edited by Steven Rothman), and they are variant issues: there are no dust jackets, but the jacket art is now printed on laminated covers (which is sometimes called library or school binding). DINING WITH SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Julia Carlson Rosenblatt and Frederic H. Sonnenschmidt, may also exist in the same new binding, and the three titles likely are available from bookstores as well.
5172. Reported by D.C.A. Mulcahy: Raymond Smullyan's THE CHESS MYSTERIES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: FIFTY TANTALIZING PROBLEMS OF CHESS DETECTION (September 79 #3) has been reprinted in paperback by Times Books/Random House (\$11.00).
5173. And Tom Bullimore's BAKER STREET PUZZLES, published two years ago in Great Britain (November 92 #4), now has an American edition (New York: Sterling Publishing, 1994; 128 pp., \$4.95), but with fewer puzzles; it's a collection of logic problems, number puzzles, and the like, with Holmes and Watson as characters and in the illustrations (by Ian Anderson).
5174. Thanks to Peter Costello for a copy of a new stamp from a Irish set honoring Ireland's Nobel prizewinners, one of which was George Bernard Shaw. According to Hesketh Pearson, in GEORGE BERNARD SHAW: HIS LIFE AND PERSONALITY (1963), he once said to Shaw, "I am told I am wrong in identifying Doyle with his creation of Dr. Watson. Some seem to think he was Sherlock Holmes to the life." Shaw replied, "What a libel! Sherlock was a drug addict without a single amiable trait, and Watson was a decent fellow." Another nice story about Shaw is told by Edward Hardwicke, who on his 21st birthday was given a bound volume inscribed by many of his father's friends. Shaw was one of those friends, and offered some advice: "Don't go on the stage, Edward, you would only be Cedric Hardwicke's son at best."
5175. James Hill died on Oct. 7. He began his long career as a film director in 1937, making documentaries for the British post office, and had his biggest commercial hit with "Born Free" (1965). And his next film was "A Study in Terror" (1965), with John Neville and Donald Houston as Holmes and Watson.
5176. Bill Nadel offers news of an end-of-the-birthday-weekend opportunity to see the last film in which Edith Meiser appeared: "The Middle of the Night" is scheduled at 2:40 pm, 6:30 pm, and 10:20 pm on Sunday, Jan. 8, at the Film Forum 2 at 209 West Houston Street (just south of Greenwich Village); their box-office telephone number is 212-727-8110.
5177. Skeletons in the Closet (1104 North Mission Road, Los Angeles, CA 90033) is run by the Los Angeles County Coroner's Office to raise funds for the local Youthful Drunk Driving Program, and continues to offer imaginative merchandise that includes "Sherlock Bones" (a skeleton in appropriate costume) on T-shirts, tote bags, and mugs, and they have an illustrated sales list.

November 1994 #2

5178. Roger Johnson notes in The District Messenger that Robert Richardson has a new short-story pastiche "The Woman of Goodwill" in CRIME YELLOW: GOLLANCZ NEW CRIMES 1, edited by Maxim Jakubowski (London: Victor Gollancz, £14.99), and that Ian Henry (20 Park Drive, Romford, Essex RM1 4LH, England) plans to publish Glen Petrie's new Mycroft Holmes novel THE HAMPSTEAD POISONING and a hardcover reprint of SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE HELLBIRDS (1977), by Austin Mitchelson and Nicolas Utechin (the Ian Henry books are distributed in the U.S. by Players Press, Box 1132, Studio City, CA 91604). Roger's newsletter is full of news of what's happening in Great Britain (and sometimes elsewhere), and is published approximately monthly with no guarantee of how many pages or how often. The cost is \$10.00 for twelve issues; dollar checks (payable to Jean Upton) can be sent to Roger Johnson, Mole End, 41 Sandford Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 6DE, England.
5179. Thanks to Christopher Roden for a copy of a new British stamp (part of a set honoring "Summertime") that shows cricket at Lord's. And of course there is a Sherlockian connection, via Dorothy L. Sayers, who said (in the Foreword to her 1946 collection UNPOPULAR OPINIONS "The game of applying the methods of the 'Higher Criticism' to the Sherlock Holmes canon was begun, many years ago, by Monsignor Ronald Knox. . . . Since then, the thing has become a hobby among a select set of jesters here and in America. The rule of the game is that it must be played as solemnly as a county cricket match at Lord's: the slightest touch of extravagance or burlesque ruins the atmosphere."
5180. "The Trial of Sherlock Holmes!" is the title of the mystery dinner-theater production that opened at the Royal York Hotel in Toronto on Nov. 11 (and it will play into January). "This hilarious, new, interactive murder mystery has the world's foremost fictional detective defending himself against the charges brought forth by the forces of Scotland Yard," according to the flier received from Mysteriously Yours (1927 Yonge Street, Toronto, ON M4S 1Z3, Canada) (416-486-7469 or 800-668-3323)
5181. More news of plans for the birthday festivities in New York: the location of the Jr. Bloodstain of the Clients of Adrian Mulliner has been changed, and it will be held in the Grill Room of the Penn Club of New York (30 West 44th Street) from noon to 1:00 pm on Saturday, Jan. 7. Jon L. Lellenberg would like to know how many breadroll-throwers he can expect; if you plan to attend the gathering, please let him know (3133 Connecticut Avenue NW #827, Washington, DC 20008).
5182. Gibraltar has issued eight one-crown coins honoring "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" (six of the designs show Canonical scenes, the seventh shows Watson and Holmes meeting Conan Doyle in Baker Street, and the eighth has the Mary Celeste, described as "Gibraltar's own story of the great detective" in the full-color flier from the Pobjoy Mint, which struck the coins). The coins are offered in cupro-nickel (\$6.95 each) and sterling silver (\$39.95 each) and gold (\$175.00 each) if a complete set is ordered (shipping costs \$7.00 extra per order). All three metals (and additional information in an illustrated flier) are available from the Pobjoy Mint (Box 13826, Milwaukee, WI 53213); the full-color flier and the silver coins are available from Pobjoy at Mint House, 92 Oldfields Road, Sutton, Surrey SM1 2NW, England).

November 1994 #3

5183. Simon & Schuster's audiocassette THE NEW ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES #26 (\$12.00) is the last volume in this long and welcome series, with two more of the splendid radio programs written by Denis Green and Anthony Boucher. Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce star in "The Haunting of Sherlock Holmes" (20 May 46) and "The Baconian Cipher" (27 May 46), and there are two new introductions by Mycroft Holmes (played by Elliott Reid). Joe Kearns substituted for Bruce in "The Haunting of Sherlock Holmes", and "The Baconian Cipher" was the last of Rathbone's appearances in the series. Ken Greenwald and his associates at 221A Baker Street deserve our gratitude for having brought us high-quality recordings of 52 of these fine shows.

5184. Reports from Bouchercon 25 in Seattle last month indicate that it was a fine event (including the Sherlockian tea sponsored by The Sound of the Baskervilles). Bouchercon 26 will be held at the Royal Centre in Nottingham, Sept. 28-Oct. 1, 1995, with Colin Dexter and James Ellroy as guests of honour; more information is available from the Broadway Media Centre, 14 Broad Street, Nottingham NG1 3AL, England. Bouchercon 27 will be in St. Paul on Oct. 9-13, 1996, with Dennis Armstrong and Bruce Southworth as co-chairs, Mary Higgins Clark as guest of honor; information from Box 8296, Minneapolis, MN 55408. Bouchercon 28 will be in San Francisco, with Bruce Taylor and Bryan Barrett as co-chairs; information from Box 6202, Hayward, CA 94540.
5185. Robert C. Hess (559 Potter Boulevard, Brightwaters, NY 11718) offers a new sales-list of Sherlockian figurines, chess sets, artwork, posters, medals, pin, badges, pipes, books, and much more.
5186. THE NEW GOOD OLD INDEX, by William D. Goodrich (Dubuque: Gasogene Press, 1994; 602 pp., \$29.95) is a revised and expanded edition of GOOD OLD INDEX (1988), and it is an invaluable reference guide to the Canon. Indexing is an art as well as a science, and a good index must be far more than merely a word-list; this index is a good one indeed, keyed to the 1960 (and still current) Doubleday edition of THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES. The additions include sections on Biblical and Shakespearean quotations, and if you find that boring, you can explore the citations for what this particular indexer classifies as profanity. Available from the publisher (Box 1041, Dubuque, IA 52004-1041); \$32.70 postpaid.
5187. Further to the earlier report (August 94 #3), with illustration, on the availability of Jill Bauman's original artwork for the cover of the unpublished eighth volume (THE LOST HEIR) in the Iron Crown series of "Sherlock Holmes Solo Mysteries" (issued as paperbacks in 1987 and 1988), I have confirmed, with kind assistance from Joan Proubasta, that the artwork was used on the cover of EL HEREDERO DESAPARECIDO, by Gerald Lientz (Barcelona: Editorial Timun Mas, 1989). As far as I know, the Spanish edition of the series is the only one to include the eighth title.
5188. Further to Michael Taylor's report (October 94 #6) about the Oxford University Press' discount offer on THE OXFORD SHERLOCK HOLMES, Jim Vogelsang reports that the 90 postcards with the dust-jacket woodcut artwork really are 90 postcards: ten sets of the nine cards issued when the set first appeared.

November 1994 #4

5189. "Amusing and profound, and at times repulsive," is John Ruyle's description of the poems in his DIFFICULT OYSTERS: SEVEN MEN IN THE SAME BOAT (TO SAY NOTHING OF THE DOG! (the seven men being Conan Doyle, Barrie, Wells, Poe, Haggard, Wilde, and Larkin). Well-printed (as always) at the Pequod Press; \$35.00 (cloth) or \$15.00 (paper) from John Ruyle, 521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707.
5190. Paula Brown spotted a "Sherlock Holmes Cookie Jar" (from Omnibus, 8"x6.25"x18.5") in a catalog from Potpourri, 120 North Meadows Road, Medfield, MA 02052 (800-388-7798); \$44.95 plus shipping, and they take plastic.
5191. The summer 1994 issue of the Metropolitan Toronto Reference Library News has Bernard Partridge's 1926 caricature of Conan Doyle and Holmes on the cover, and a brief story about a display of material from the library at Niagara-on-the-Lake, and a photo of publisher George Vanderburgh, former curator Cameron Hollyer, and Library CEO Frances Schwenger. A few copies of the newsletter are available (first come, first served) from the Library (attention: Victoria Gill) at 789 Yonge Street, Toronto, ON M4W 2G8, Canada).
5192. The Jan. 1995 issue of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine celebrates Sherlock Holmes' birthday with a Sherlockian cover by Joyce Patti and two new pastiches: Edward D. Hoch's "A Parcel of Deerstalkers" and Robert Richardson's "The Ghost of Christmas Past".
5193. Ben Wood offers a convenient (5.5"x4.5" unopened) 1995 Sherlockian calendar (with notes on some of the Sherlockian red-letter days); \$2.50 postpaid, and Ben's address is Box 740, Ellenton, FL 34222.
5194. Bernie O'Heir reports that Sotheby's will hold a "World of Movie Posters" auction on Dec. 10 in New York, and will offer one-sheets of Wontner's "The Sign of Four" (1932) estimated at \$3,500-5,500, and Rathbone's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1939) estimated at \$7,000-10,000; their address is 1334 York Avenue, New York, NY 10021 (212-606-7000).
5195. The fall 1994 issue of Scarlet Street has Richard Valley's "Cross-Dressed to Kill: Transvestism and the World of Sherlock Holmes" (discussing some of the occurrences in the Canon and on stage and screen and television), and a report that Carolco Pictures has purchased the film rights to Anne Rice's novel THE MUMMY (1989). Rice is in the news now as the author of INTERVIEW WITH THE VAMPIRE (the film is doing well at the box-office), as well as the book on which the film EXIT TO EDEN is based (but the characters played by Rose O'Donnell and Dan Aykroyd aren't in the book); THE MUMMY is dedicated to Arthur Conan Doyle (among others) "for his great mummy stories 'Lot No. 249' and 'The Ring of Thoth'." Scarlet Street: The Magazine of Mystery and Horror costs \$20.00 a year for four issues; Box 604, Glen Rock, NJ 07452. Scarlet Street has, by the way, done quite well since its first issue was published in 1991 with a print run of 500 copies (and half of the run was given away, according to publisher Jessie Lillie); the 15th issue (summer 1994) had a print run of 26,000 copies.

November 1994 #5

5196. Keith Oatley has won the Commonwealth Writer's Prize for best first novel, for THE CASE OF EMILY V., published last year in England (November 93 #5). The book is an interesting psychological pastiche, based on lecture-notes written by Dr. Sigmund Freud, and an account by Dr. John H. Watson after Sherlock Holmes is retained to investigate a case that involves Freud's patient. The £3,000 prize was presented to Oatley last month in Singapore.
5197. Michael Innes died on Nov. 12. He was J.I.M. Stewart, an Oxford don who used a pseudonym for his mysteries, starting with DEATH AT THE PRESIDENT'S LODGING (1936), the first of a long series about Inspector John Appleby. Many of his novels offer pleasant Sherlockian allusions and echoes, with THE MYSTERIOUS COMMISSION (1974) leading the list.
5198. Gertrude Mahoney reports a new "Sherlock Bear" in the new catalog from The Scottish Lion Import Shop (North Conway, NH 03860-1700 (item K100, \$110.00 plus shipping, and they take plastic).
5199. Reported by Ralph Hall: the Mighty Morphin Power Rangers 1995 Calendar has (for October) Billy as Sherlock Holmes (Landmark, \$11.99); in stores or from Landmark General Corp. (51 Digital Drive, Novato, CA 94949). "Christmas with Gumby" is a new videocassette Goodtimes Home Video, \$10.99), with Gumby in a deerstalker and referring to himself as Sherlock and to Pokey as Watson (Goodtimes is at 16 East 40th Street, New York, NY 10016). "The Adventures of Mary Kate and Ashley: The Case of the Logical i Ranch" is a new musical-mystery videocassette (Dualstar Video, \$9.99) with one of the girls briefly trying to play the violin as Sherlock Holmes did. And British Heritage (Oct. 1994) has a three-page article on "Acquiring Minds: Cigarette Cards" and a color photograph of the Sherlock Holmes card in the Turf Cigarettes set (\$5.00; Box 1066, Mt. Morris, IL 61054).
5200. Reported: FIRST ENCOUNTERS: A BOOK OF MEMORABLE MEETINGS, by Nancy Caldwell Sorel and Edward Sorel (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1994; \$24.00); 63 "first encounters" reprinted from the Atlantic Monthly (including Conan Doyle and Houdini), with the stories told by Nancy Caldwell Sorel, and illustrated in color by Edward Sorel.

5201. The Baskerville Bucher reprint of the script of Ferdinand Bonn's SHERLOCK HOLMES: DETEKTIVKOMODIE IN VIER AUFZUGEN (1906) is now available (112 pp., \$16.00), with the play and annotations in German, a summary and commentary in English, and photographs from the original production, and it offers a nice look at the first and most successful of Bonn's S'ian plays. You can order from Michael Ross Verlag, Bendheide 65, D-47906 Kempen, Germany; payment in currency only, please.
5202. Citadel has reissued THE SHERLOCK HOLMES ENCYCLOPEDIA, by Orlando Park (in paper covers at \$12.95); the book was first published in 1962 as SHERLOCK HOLMES, ESQ., AND JOHN H. WATSON, M.D.: AN ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THEIR AFFAIRS. It's item B106742 in a catalog from Barnes & Noble (126 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10011) and should be on bargain tables in other stores.
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November 1994 #6

5203. Chris Caswell (Baker Street Emporium, Box 2324, Seal Beach, CA 90740) has a new illustrated flier offering a new Sherlockian calendar (\$11.95 postpaid) and a plaster-cast reproduction of a life mask of Basil Rathbone prepared by the make-up department at Twentieth Century-Fox (\$30.00 postpaid in unfinished white, or \$40.00 postpaid with bronze patina). These are discount prices offered to readers of this newsletter (so say you are), and credit-card orders are welcome.
5204. The new film "Star Trek: Generations" is fun (although one does wonder why they still haven't realized that seat-belts are a good idea on spaceships), and possibly sort-of-Sherlockian, if that really is a deerstalker and cape hanging on a hook in Data's cabin early in the film (it was only a fleeting glimpse, and I'm not sure).
5205. Reported: CRIME IN A COLD CLIMATE: AN ANTHOLOGY OF CLASSIC CANADIAN CRIME, edited by David Skene-Melvin (Toronto: Simon & Pierre, 1994; 250 pp., US \$16.75); with a reprint of Robert Barr's parody "The Adventure of Sherlaw Kombs". The distributor is the Dundurn Press (Box 100, Niagara Falls, NY 14302); they take plastic.
5206. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists met for dinner on Oct. 25 to honor (as usual) the world's first forensic geologist, at the Merchants Cafe in Seattle, where visitors attending the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America were welcomed by members of The Sound of the Baskervilles. The Merchants Cafe is Seattle's oldest restaurant, located "down on the sawdust" on Skid Road, in a neighborhood now more gentrified than it was a century ago. Seattle also has fine bookshops, splendid seafood, and (for the geologists) a dormant volcano. The Practical, But Limited Geologists will meet next in Houston in March, and in New Orleans in November .
5207. PBS-TV and Big Feats! Entertainment have agreed to produce and distribute a new 30-minute television series about Wishbone, a Jack Russell terrier whose active imagination allows him to immerse himself in the storylines of classic books such as "Romeo and Juliet", "Don Quixote", "Oliver Twist", and "The Hound of the Baskervilles". The series' goal is to expose children to great literature, and there will be 40 episodes (including one called "The Slobbery Hound"); the series will be broadcast by PBS-TV beginning in the fall of 1995.
5208. An alert for variant-hunters: the latest catalog from Gravesend Books (Box 235, Pocono Pines, PA 18350) offers a copy of the first edition of DETECTIONARY that appears to be a hitherto-unreported later (and likely second) printing; the first printing states on the title page that it was published privately in 1971 by Hammermill Paper Company, and the newly-reported copy, otherwise identical, states 1972. The book's a "biographical dictionary" edited by five experts (Steinbrunner, Shibuk, Penzler, Lachman, and Nevins), and given by Hammermill to publishers as a showcase for its dictionary paper, and difficult to find. There's also a slightly-revised second edition published by the Overlook Press in 1977.
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November 1994 #7

5209. Reported: THE INTELLIGENT EYE: LEARNING TO THINK BY LOOKING AT ART, by David N. Perkins (Santa Monica: Getty Center for Education in the Arts, 1994; 80 pp., \$10.00); a review published in The College Board Review (summer 1994), notes that Perkins "invents imaginary internal dialogues between Dr. Watson and Sherlock Holmes." Getty's address is 401 Wilshire Boulevard #950, Santa Monica, CA 90401 (800-223-3431).
5210. Julian Symons died on Nov. 19. He was a skilled and readable critic and mystery writer, and one of the founders of the Crime Writers Association. He succeeded Agatha Christie as president of the Detection Club, and won an Edgar from the Mystery Writers of America, and was a fellow of the Royal Society of Literature. His Sherlockian pastiches included two novels (A THREE-PIPE PROBLEM and THE KENTISH MANOR MURDERS), and he wrote an interesting biography PORTRAIT OF AN ARTIST: CONAN DOYLE. He also suggested in BLOODY MURDER: FROM THE DETECTIVE STORY TO THE CRIME NOVEL (1972) that "the tone of mock-scholarly facetiousness" in the Writings About the Writings "must make them rank high among the most tedious pieces of their kind ever written," but removed that harsh judgement from later editions. But in all editions of that book he displayed his enthusiasm for the Canon: "Certainly what needs to be stressed today is something that should be a cliché, and unhappily is not: that if one were choosing the best twenty short detective stories ever written, at least half a dozen of them would be about Sherlock Holmes".
5211. The Stabur Corp. (11904 Farmington Road, Livonia, MI 48150) (800-346-8940) offers a new catalog with a wide variety of comic-book material, including Sherlockian prints signed by Will Elder, Mort Drucker, and Harvey Kurtzman (\$20.00 to \$50.00), four issues of the Tome Press "Sherlock Holmes" series illustrated by Dan Day (1992), and reprints of the Caliber Press punk-rock detective series "Baker Street" (1989-1992).
5212. Chris Redmond reports with some pride that on Nov. 22 he established the world's first Sherlockian home page on the World Wide Web. In tekkie talk, it is found at URL <http://watserv1.uwaterloo.ca/~credmond/sh.html/>. For the rest of us, that means you find someone who has a computer that has a World Wide Web viewer such as Mosaic or Netscape or Lynx, and watch while the tekkie uses that strange-looking address to let you see the neat stuff that Chris makes available from the computer at the University of Waterloo.
5213. Bert Coules, who has dramatized many of the stories for the excellent BBC radio series starring Clive Merrison as Holmes, reports that recording of the last of the short stories was completed on in Nov. (the last six of the short stories will air early in 1995). "The Hound of the Baskervilles" and "The Valley of Fear" likely will be broadcast in late 1995, or perhaps in 1996. And while BBC has no plans at the moment to release the 1989 dramatizations of "A Study in Scarlet" and "The Sign of the Four" on cassettes, it is possible that when the full cycle of 60 stories has aired (the first time this has been done with the same actors as Holmes and Watson), all of the stories will be issued on cassettes. But if you don't want to wait for "Stud" and "Sign" you might write to The Radio Collection (BBC Enterprises, Woodlands, 80 Wood Lane, London W12 0TT, England), suggesting politely that it would be nice to be able to hear more of the fine performances by Clive Merrison and Michael Williams, since you enjoy the later cassettes so much.
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November 1994 #8

5214. There's more news in the continuing saga of John Aidiniantz's campaign to win the address 221b for his Sherlock Holmes Museum at 239 Baker Street: a story in the West End Extra (Nov. 4), kindly sent by Catherine Cooke (via Jon Lellenberg), notes that the Westminster City Council have rejected, for the third (and perhaps the last) time Aidiniantz's application to re-number the street. And Aidiniantz, seemingly now unable to employ hundreds of the disabled to make and sell memorabilia to those who write to Sherlock Holmes (as he had said that he intended to do if he got the 221b address), plans to sell the museum to an overseas buyer.
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5215. And The Guardian reported (Nov. 10) that Aidiniantz had gotten support from Edinburgh M.P. Nigel Griffiths, who said he plans to introduce legislation in the House of Commons to reverse the Council's decision and give the 221b address to Aidiniantz. But: The Guardian has also reported (Nov. 16) that Aidiniantz has been charged with criminal fraud. He is accused of having raised a total of £1.2 million from eight multiple and fraudulent mortgages, from different lenders, on three properties (including the Museum). Much of the money has vanished without trace, according to the Crown Prosecutor. Aidiniantz denies the charges, and will be representing himself in court, according to The Guardian.
5216. Virginia Lou Seay (Calhoun Book Store, Box 24552, Edina, MN 55424) offers an 18-page catalog of old and new Sherlockian books, magazines, and recordings. And a 70-page "holiday catalogue" from The Mysterious Bookshop (129 West 56th Street, New York, NY 10019) has a section for Sherlockiana, new and old and sometimes ephemeral.
5217. "Friends from Calcutta . . . had told us that Port Blair, and particularly the Welcomgroup Bay Islands Hotel, is a popular destination for newlyweds." And the Andaman Islands seem to have been discovered by the tourist trade, according to a long article in the N.Y. Times (Oct. 30), forwarded by Syd Goldberg. "Port Blair was the equivalent of Devils Island for the French," the article notes, but makes no mention of "The Sign of the Four". Indian Airlines offers six flights a week from Calcutta and Madras to Port Blair.
5218. Jim Suszynski has discovered a small magnifying glass (\$0.99) packaged with Sherlockian artwork at his local CVS pharmacy.
5219. The fifth issue of Troy Taylor's The Whitechapel Gazette is at hand, with 50 pages of nicely illustrated articles on Holmes, Conan Doyle, Rathbone, Victorian criminals, and some of the mystery writers who followed the trail that Conan Doyle blazed. \$6.50 postpaid; Troy's address is 805 West North #1, Decatur, IL 62522.
5220. Compliments and congratulations to R. Dixon Smith (formerly of St. Paul) and Paulina M. Smith, on their marriage and on the revival of Rupert Books (the mail-order firm operated for many years by Paulina's first husband, the late David Kirby). They have issued a new 40-page catalog of Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes material, old and new, and the address for Rupert Books is 58/59 Stonefield, Bar Hill, Cambridge CB3 8TE, England.

December 1994 #1

5221. Robert E. Matthews, Jr. ("The Coptic Patriarchs") died on May 20, 1994. He was a member of the end-of-the-1950s generation of Sherlockians, and a real New Yorker (he retired last year after almost 30 years of working for the city). Bob was a member of The Priory Scholars in the long-ago days of the scion's radio broadcasts from WFUV-FM (at Fordham University), and received his Investiture from the BSI in 1958.
5222. A new paperback edition of THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES published by Aerie Books for Wal-Mart may well be the cheapest one seen in decades (50c); the 269 pp. include a foreword and afterword by R. L. Fisher.
5223. Forecast: SHERLOCK HOLMES IN ORBIT, edited by Mike Resnick and Martin H. Greenberg (from DAW Books in February); a paperback anthology of new science-fiction pastiches.
5224. In case you need something other than winter weather as an excuse to visit Florida, the fifth annual running of The Wessex Cup at Tampa Bay Downs will be held on Feb. 11, 1995. Details are available from Dr. Benton Wood, Box 740, Ellenton, FL 34222.
5225. And there's something Sherlockian about the new film "The Pagemaster" (starring Macaulay Culkin and Christopher Lloyd); Culkin plays a boy so afraid of the world that he won't even try out a tree-house his father built for him, and who soon winds up in an animated dream-world that includes some of the classic children's stories, and offers a brief glimpse of the Hound of the Baskervilles. There's a lot of tie-in merchandise, and Jim Vogelsang reports that there are Sherlockian allusions in many of the books.
5226. And "Star Trek: Generations" (November 94 #6) does have a minor Canonical connection: David Carson, the director of the film, worked in England for many years and directed three of the shows in the Granada series ("The Resident Patient", "The Musgrave Ritual", and "The Six Napoleons").
5227. Plan ahead: the 14th annual Sherlock Holmes/Conan Doyle Symposium will be held at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio, on Mar. 24-26, 1995. Contact: Greg Sullivan, 2800 North River Road, Yellow Springs, OH 45387.
5228. John Baesch reports that Barnes & Noble have reissued the Doubleday edition of THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES, beautifully bound, with an oval portrait of Holmes on the spine, and with gilt-edged pages and a permanent book-mark (\$16.95).
5229. John J. Waldeck died on Nov. 28. He was a lawyer (and an expert in parliamentary law), and for many years a member of Sherlockian societies in Ohio, and in 1981 led a stalwart band of the Inverness Capers to London in a new attempt to identify the location of 221 Baker Street (settling on 113 Baker Street, according to a story that ran on the UPI wire).

December 1994 #2

5230. David L. Hammer's THE 22ND MAN: IN RE SHERLOCK HOLMES: GERMAN AGENT (July 89 #5) led to THE QUEST: BEING THE SEARCH FOR THE TREASURE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, THE 22ND MAN, allegedly by Angus Maclaren (February 94 #2), and now David offers MY DEAR WATSON: BEING THE ANNALS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Gasogene Press, 1995; 104 pp., \$12.95). The annals are the treasure sought in the previous book: thirteen accounts of hitherto-unreported cases. \$18.70 postpaid from the publisher (Box 1041, Dubuque, IA 52004).
5231. This year's Canada Savings Bonds were promoted with a colorful flier showing a Sherlockian squirrel ("take the mystery out of investing" was the motto) (that's "investir n'est pas un mystere!" in Quebec).
5232. "Otto Penzler's Sherlock Holmes Library" has extended its series of paperback reprints of classic Sherlockiana (with full-color artwork by Frederic Dorr Steele on the covers); the latest volumes are BAKER STREET BY-WAYS, by James Edward Holroyd, and HOLMES & WATSON: A MISCELLANY, by S. C. Roberts, and they each offer a grand opportunity to see some fine writers at work. The books are distributed by Simon & Schuster, and cost \$8.00 each, and a reprint of H. W. Bell's BAKER STREET STUDIES is due soon.
5233. And Douglas G. Green's JOHN DICKSON CARR: THE MAN WHO EXPLAINED MIRACLES is scheduled for March in cloth at \$35.00; this is a 512-page biography of one of the best of the "golden age" writers. Carr also was the author of THE LIFE OF SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE (1949) and some amusing Sherlockian parodies performed at annual dinners of the Mystery Writers of America.
5234. Further to the report (November 94 #7) about Chris Redmond's Sherlockian home page on the World Wide Web, Willis Frick reports that three files from his Sherlocktron bulletin board (a list of the Sherlockian societies, a list of Sherlockian publications, and a list of Sherlockian purveyors) are available by anonymous FTP from ftp.netcom.com (directory pub/Sh/Sherlocktron). Translation: if you know how to use file-transfer-protocol, you can have your computer get those files for you. The list of Sherlockian societies is the list I maintain and offer as a 71-page print-out for \$3.55 postpaid (so you can see that computers and the Internet can make things faster and less expensive).
5235. Bookcassette Sales (Box 481, Grand Haven, MI 49417) offers a three-cassette set with Michael Page reading "A Study in Scarlet" and "The Sign of Four" (unabridged, nine hours) for \$17.95; you will need a cassette player with balance control, or a \$4.95 adapter (they use single-track recording to get three hours on each cassette). Their toll-free number is 800-222-3225, and they welcome credit-card orders, and if you order by Jan. 13, you get a 10% discount and free shipping.

5236. One hears of Sherlock Holmes pubs everywhere: Tim Richards reported in the winter 1994 issue of *The Western Flyer* (a newsletter published by the Sherlock Holmes Society of Western Australia) that a Sherlock Holmes Pub opened this year in the Ramses Hilton Hotel in Cairo.

December 1994 #3

5237. *THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES' DAUGHTER* is an audiocassette (1993) with a Telephone Network Theatre presentation (1991) of "The Adventure of the Golden Key", written by Ian McTavish and with Renee Dennis as Minerva Holmes, the illegitimate daughter of Sherlock Holmes (who needless to say has inherited her father's deductive abilities). There are 17 installments of just under four minutes each (you called a 900 number to hear a new installment each day) (each call cost \$1.75, and the number's no longer in service); it's an interesting and hitherto-unreported vehicle for a Sherlockian pastiche. The cassette was produced by Ida Games Audio (516 West 159th Street, New York, NY 10032), and retails at \$8.00 in stores, and if you can't find it in your neighborhood audio store, the cassette costs \$9.95 postpaid from Ida. A second adventure is forecast for June 1995.
5238. The Booker Prize is often described as the most significant literary award in Great Britain, and this year two prizes were awarded, one for 1994 and the other for 1894. The candidates for 1894 were: *IN THE YEAR OF JUBILEE*, by George Gissing; *THE PRISONER OF ZENDA*, by Anthony Hope; *JUNGLE BOOK*, by Rudyard Kipling; *TRILBY*, by George du Maurier; *ESTHER WATERS*, by George Moore; and *THE EBB TIDE*, by Robert Louis Stevenson (sorry, *THE MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* didn't make the list of candidates). And the winner was: George Moore's *ESTHER WATERS*. Arthur Conan Doyle enjoyed the book, as did Victoria Glendinning, one of this year's judges, who said that it combined "realism and great lyrical beauty." A hundred years ago, however, a review in the *Spectator* suggested that "a great novel must have both humour and narrative charm. *ESTHER WATERS* has neither." And Moore's book was sharply criticized by others as immoral, and W. H. Smith and Son refused to sell it or circulate it in their lending libraries. Conan Doyle, in turn, criticized the boycott in two letters in *The Daily Chronicle* (reprinted in 1986 in the volume of his *LETTERS TO THE PRESS* edited by John Michael Gibson and Richard Lancelyn Green). Conan Doyle said that *ESTHER WATERS* was "a great and a very serious book," and suggested that "if it is to be placed outside the pale of legitimate fiction, it is difficult to see how any true and serious work is to be done within it."
5239. Further to the earlier report (May 94 #2) on the Sherlock Holmes figurine in the German "playmobil" series, completists may or may not be delighted to learn that there are variants that seem to be distinguishable only from the box, which displays a number code: FS 062/4501/3092817/xx.xx. One of the boxes received from Germany earlier this year has a code ending 01.94, and a box from a store in the U.S. more recently has 05.94; the difference is of course even more minor than the points that distinguish the variants of that vinyl dog-toy *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (by A. Collie Dog) that was in pet shops a few years ago. Happy hunting . . .
5240. Irving L. Jaffee died on Nov. 19. He was for many years a journalist and a free-lance writer, and the author of Sherlockian articles published in *Famous Detective Stories*, *Double-Action Detective Stories*, and *Crack Detective and Mystery Stories* in the 1950s and 1960s and collected in 1965 in *ELEMENTARY MY DEAR WATSON: A SERIES OF ARTICLES ON THE GREAT DETECTIVE AND SOME OTHERS* (1965). He and his wife Mary also wrote pastiches, and five of them were collected by Luther Norris in *BEYOND BAKER STREET* (1973). Irving also was a member of *The Old Soldiers of Praed Street*, *The Trained Cormorants of Long Beach*, and many other of the California societies.
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December 1994 #4

5241. *SHORT STORY CRITICISM: EXCERPTS FROM CRITICISM OF THE WORKS OF SHORT FICTION WRITERS (VOLUME 12)*, edited by David Segal (Detroit: Gale Research, 1993) has a 44-page section on Conan Doyle, and the critics excerpted are Nordon, Lambert, Higham, Knight, Moskowitz, Slusser, Cox, Wertheim, Jaffe, and Liebow. \$88.00 postpaid from Gale Research, Box 71701, Chicago, IL 60694 (800-877-4253); they take plastic.
5242. Lots of people get caught doing lots of things, and some of those people, of course, are named Moriarty. Missouri secretary of state Judi Moriarty was forced from office when the Missouri state supreme court ruled unanimously that she committed impeachable conduct when she backdated her son's election paperwork. The backdated papers were intended to show that her son Tim had filed for a seat in the state House before the filing deadline; he withdrew from the race when the fraud was made public.
5243. Benton Wood's *PHILATELIC AND NUMISMATIC HOLMES*, first published five years ago, has been up-dated (through the new commemorative crowns of Gibraltar) and is now illustrated in color; 33 pp., \$10.00 postpaid from Benton Wood, Box 740, Ellenton, FL 34222.
5244. The autumn 1994 issue of the *Sherlock Holmes Gazette* has arrived, with 48 pages and an excellent assortment of articles and illustrations and news (including a report that Jeremy Brett is keeping busy: his latest booking was for voice-overs for some television commercials for Homepride flour). And a new feature: Club Corner, with reports from some of the societies in England, Japan, and Australia (and a suggestion that other societies send in their news). The magazine is edited by Eddie Bissell, from 46 Purfield Drive, Wargrave, Berks. RG10 8AR, England; and the American distributor is Classic Specialties, Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219 (the issue costs \$8.00 postpaid).
5245. *THE SIGN OF FOUR* had a complicated publishing history in the United States, a result of the lack of copyright protection for foreign authors in those long-ago days. That lack of protection led to a number of pirated editions here, and it was not until 1893 that J. B. Lippincott published the first authorized cloth-bound separate edition, using stereotypes from the plates used by Spencer Blackett for the first British edition (which explains the use of the British title rather than *THE SIGN OF THE FOUR*). The Lippincott first edition has now been reprinted in facsimile as the first in a Library of Congress Centennial Bestseller Series (Bedford: Applewood Books, 1994; 283 pp., \$24.95), with a foreword by James H. Billington (Librarian of Congress) and an introduction by John Y. Cole (Director of the Center for the Book). Applewood's address is Box 365, Bedford, MA 01730 (800-277-5312); they also offer some other interesting older material, including Tom Swift books, a book on bundling that was banned in Boston in 1871, and Margaret Sanger's *HAPPINESS IN MARRIAGE*.
5246. Craig Bowlsby's entertaining two-act play "The Hound of London" was first performed in Canada in 1987, and then produced for television and broadcast in 1993 with Patrick Macnee as Sherlock Holmes (adding Macnee to the list of actors who have played both Holmes and Watson). Intrepid Productions now offers a 72-minute videocassette for \$18.00 postpaid; Box 514, 250 H Street, Blaine, WA 98230), and credit card orders are welcome.
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December 1994 #5

5247. And there's news from London about Sherlock Holmes Museum proprietor John Aidiniantz, who was charged with criminal fraud involving eight fraudulent mortgages on three properties (including the Museum) for a total of £1.2 million (November 84 #8). The jury deliberated for two hours and then delivered eight verdicts of guilty, and (according to the *Daily Mail*) was then told that Aidiniantz had previous convictions for mail order and society security frauds stretching back 17 years (he's now 38 years old). The judge warned Aidiniantz that "there is a very serious likelihood of you facing a custodial sentence in due course," according to a report in *The Times*. Aidiniantz insisted that he is innocent, and said that he plans to appeal, and he is now free on bail pending sentencing in January. According to an Associated Press dispatch, Aidiniantz asked Judge David Martineau
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- if the court could return his passport so he could pay a Christmas visit to his children who live in the United States; he promised to come back for sentencing. "It doesn't take the world's greatest detective," the AP suggested, "to deduce that Martineau turned him down."
5248. The third volume of SHERLOCK HOLMES CONSULTING DETECTIVE is one of the top 100 CD-ROM discs, according to the Sept. 13 issue of PC Magazine (forwarded by Ruthann and Tom Stetak). "Use the hour of interactive video--sometimes comically overacted--to interview suspects and witnesses." It is issued by Viacom New Media (Viacom bought ICOM last year) at \$70.00 (800-877-4266); it may be discounted in the stores, and I have read that the first two volumes are available at deep discounts. The first volume, in fact, is one of ten CD-ROM discs in a \$30.00 "10-Pak" from Sirius Publishing.
5249. The annual series of anthologies edited by Maxim Jakubowski has moved to Gollancz, a publisher whose bright yellow jackets have long been a beacon for mystery fans, and CRIME YELLOW: GOLLANCZ NEW CRIMES 1 (London: Victor Gollancz, 1994; 283 pp., £14.99) is a nice anthology indeed. Robert Richardson's Sherlockian pastiche "The Woman of Goodwill" is not entirely new (a shorter version was published in The Independent on Dec. 27-28, 1994), but appears in the book for the first time with the full text.
5250. Bernie O'Heir has reported on some of the results in the "World of Movie Posters" auction on Dec. 10 at Sotheby's in New York: a one-sheet of Wontner's "The Sign of Four" (1932) sold for \$3,737 (including 15% commission) and a one-sheet of Rathbone's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1939) for \$7,475. A three-sheet for the original "King Kong" went for \$48,000, and a three-sheet (described as unique) for "Gone with the Wind" for \$71,250.
5251. John J. Kehoe, sometimes known as "Black Jack" Kehoe and as the King of the Molly Maguires, and charged with the murder of mine boss Frank Langdon, was acquitted at a trial in Pottsville earlier this month, according to a story in the Philadelphia Inquirer, at hand from Syd Goldberg. Needless to say, the trial was a reenactment, and was of little help to Kehoe, who was found guilty at his real trial, and hanged in Pottsville on Dec. 18, 1878.
5252. Videotape alert: the Sci-Fi Channel has acquired the "Twilight Zone" series and will broadcast them all, starting with a 15-hour marathon on New Year's Day. One of the shows is "The Arrival" (1961), which has some minor Sherlockian dialogue that no one seems to have on videotape. So: if you have the channel, and can tape "The Arrival" at SP speed, please let me know.

December 1994 #6

5253. "A Year with Sherlock Holmes" is the title of the 1995 calendar illustrated with interesting black-and-white artwork by Melissa Hellen (aka the Abominable Wife of Ross County), published by Cheryl Hurd's Teapot Press, and offered by Classic Specialties (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219); \$11.85 postpaid.
5254. SHERLOCK TAKES A WIFE AND OTHER MODERN TALES, by Ira Bernard Dworkin (Flemington: Creative Writers of Hunterdon, 1994; 92 pp., \$10.00), is a reprint of the eight stories in his SHERLOCK HOLMES IN MODERN TIMES (1980), with an additional story ("Sherlock Takes a Wife") in which Holmes marries in the 1980s; the other stories also have him alive and well in WW2 and later decades. The publisher's address is Box 14, Flemington, NJ 08822.
5255. Morency R. Dame ("Colonel Lysander Stark") died on Nov. 18. He served in the infantry officer in the Second World War and the Korean War, with many years as an Army Ranger, and retired as a lieutenant colonel, enjoying the appropriateness of his investiture in the BSI, which he received in 1982. He also was the first Chief Surgeon of Dr. Watson's Neglected Patients in Denver, and edited their newsletter The Medical Bulletin, and contributed to our literature in The Baker Street Journal.
5256. The "Mystery Money" ticket is from one of the games in the Michigan state lottery this summer (Sam Stinson of The Ribston-Pippins notes that one member of the society matched three umbrellas and won \$2.00).
5257. "Americans, particularly, are very keen" collectors of second-hand pipes, according to Dunhill archivist Howard Smith, who was quoted in The Times (Nov. 5). Of course the pipes aren't necessarily used. Dunhill issued a limited-edition silver-mounted "calabash" pipe in 1987 to honor the centenary of the first Sherlock Holmes story; packaged in a sumptuous red leather "book", it cost £200 (and now is worth about £1,500, according to the article).
5258. Mel Hughes has kindly forwarded a report from the San Diego Union-Tribune (July 15), in which Don Freeman reminisced about a long-ago interview with Sir Cedric Hardwicke. During the interview the telephone rang, and before answering it, Hardwicke said, his voice full of drama, "I wonder how that phone call will change my life." Then he merely said two words into the phone: "Thank you." And, asked if the phone call would indeed change his life, he replied, "Well, not exactly. It was the cleaners. My suit is ready."
5259. Rhetorical question of the month (from the Dec. 1994 issue of Generation Next: If cats always land on their feet, and toast always lands buttered-side down, what happens if you tie a piece of toast buttered-side-up to a cat's back and drop him?

January 1995 #1

5260. The birthday festivities in New York were nicely unwintry, and enjoyable as usual. Thursday offered a variety of informal gatherings, concluding with the Aunt Clara Sing at O'Lunney's Steak House and some Iroquois Hotel room parties that may or may not have ended early Sunday morning.
5261. Friday's schedule began with the Mrs. Hudson Breakfast at the Hotel Algonquin, and continued with the William Gillette Luncheon at Moran's Chelsea, where Paul Singleton, Sarah Montague Joffe, and Andrew Joffe performed what may be the world premiere of a play written by William Gillette when he was only 21 years old (it is likely that "The Sorrowful Tragedy of Jimlagaglio" may never be performed again, since many members of the audience found it memorable only for the exploding nuns). And Otto Penzler's open house at the Mysterious Bookshop offered refreshments as well as tempting treasures for collectors.
5262. The Baker Street Irregulars gathered at 24 Fifth Avenue, where *The* Woman was Myrtle Robinson, who was toasted by David Hammer during the pre-dinner cocktail party and then dined at the National Arts Club with a dozen other ladies who have received that honor. The BSI's agenda featured the usual toasts and traditions, and some unusual entertainment, including Marina Stajic's put-'em-on-one-at-a-time presentation on Victorian undergarments, Tom Stetak's discussion of Canonical lawn ornaments (which might well have been subtitled "beware the deadly sundial"), Paul Herbert's report on two Sherlockian films that never made it from script to screen (for which Sherlockians can be thankful), and Sherry Rose-Bond's toast to The Second Most Dangerous Man in London (in which she explained why that title really ought to be assigned to Sherlock Holmes).
5263. Irregular Shillings and Investitures were given to David Stuart Davies ("Sir Ralph Musgrave"), Thomas J. Francis ("The Imperial Opera of Warsaw"), Theodore Friedman ("The Commonplace Book"), Marina Stajic ("Curare"), Dante M. Torrese ("Von Herder"), Gerald N. Wachs ("Godfrey Emsworth"), Kathryn White ("The Musgrave Ritual"), and Ronald White ("The Cabinet Photograph"). And Robert S. Katz received the BSI's Two-Shilling Award.

5264. The Fortescue Symposium also convened on Friday evening, at the St. Moritz Hotel, where the agenda included Cheryl Hurd's paper on Canonical gardens and gardening, and a presentation on Canonical divorce by Aretha Franklin (impersonated by Kate Karlson), and energetic and enthusiastic singing of songs by many people who may still be wondering whether reindeer really are Sherlockian.
5265. On Saturday morning the usual suspects gathered at the huckster room at the Algonquin (aka Covent Garden West), and the BSI Saturday-afternoon cocktail party at 24 Fifth Avenue offered food and drink and a bit of entertainment: Al Rosenblatt's poetic report on events at the BSI annual dinner, the usual fast-and-furious auction that raised more than \$1,100 for the Dr. John H. Watson Fund. Saturday evening the Chisholm Galley was open for a memorial service for Steve Emmons, who died shortly before the weekend; Steve was a splendid artist whose striking and imaginative Sherlockian poster art, both originals and limited-edition reproductions, was welcomed by collectors.

January 1995 #2

5266. The cocktail party included an announcement by William R. Cochran, editor of The Baker Street Journal: the Morley-Montgomery Memorial Award, established by Lew David Feldman in 1958 for the best contribution to the BSJ, has been revived. The author of the best paper published in 1995 will receive a prize of \$500. The announcement included a warning that Poul Anderson, winner of the award in 1958, will have a paper in the BSJ in 1995, but the competition is open to all; Bill's address is 517 North Vine Street, DuQuoin, IL 62832.
5267. One of the auction items offered a room for two nights at the Beekman Arms and two seats at the Culinary Institute of America on May 13, which is the date of the Grand Gourmet Sherlockian Dinner at the CIA in Hyde Park. The Beekman Arms already is fully booked for the week-end, and the price of the dinner has not yet been set, but I will publish the important information as soon as it is available.
5268. The Dr. John H. Watson Fund offers financial assistance to all Sherlockians (membership in the BSI or the ASH is not required) who might otherwise not be able to participate in the weekend's festivities. A carefully anonymous John H. Watson presides over the fund and welcomes contributions, which can be made by checks payable to John H. Watson and mailed (without return any address on the envelope) to Dr. Watson, c/o Thomas L. Stix, Jr., who will forward the checks unopened. Dr. Watson will acknowledge your generosity, and Tom's address is 34 Pierson Avenue, Norwood, NJ 07648.
5269. THE SHERLOCK HOLMES VIDEO is a new 52-minute videocassette that has nicely blended modern views of the cities and towns and countryside where many of the Canonical stories occurred with interviews with Sherlock Holmes' secretary and Stanley MacKenzie. Holmes and Watson provide their own commentary (with style and humor), and the cassette is available for \$30.00 postpaid from Countryside TV Productions, Chargot Manor, Luxborough, Watchet, Somerset TA23 0SL, England; it's an NTSC cassette, for American machines.
5270. Herman Beerman ("Sir James Saunders") died on Jan. 1. He was an eminent dermatologist and an enthusiastic Sherlockian, and combine his two worlds by founding The Sir James Saunders Society for dermatologist who shared his enjoyment of the Canon. He was a Master Copper-Beech-Smith of The Sons of the Copper Beeches of Philadelphia, and his gentle manner and devilish wit contributed greatly to their meetings.
5271. Gillette Castle has deteriorated to the point where more than \$1 million is needed for renovations, and private fund-raising may be the only way to get the money, according to an article by Ward Morehouse III in the N.Y. Post (Dec. 30), at hand from Ted Friedman. The castle leaks and the masonry has weakened, and one worker at the castle joked that "we haven't had a strong wind, so it's still standing." And John Rowland, who just won reelection as governor of Connecticut, campaigned on a platform that included repeal of the state income tax, and may not look kindly on increasing spending on state parks.
5272. Reported: THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES AND OTHER DETECTIVE STORIES, with an introduction by Owen Dudley Edwards (London: HarperCollins, 1994; 1468 pp., £9.99); the Canon and many other stories.

January 1995 #3

5273. Tom Kowols reports that BBD Audio has released MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, VOLUME 3, with four more of the BBC radio program starring Clive Merrison and Michael Williams; the two-cassette set costs \$15.99, and the stories are "The Greek Interpreter", "The Naval Treaty", "The Final Problem", and "The Second Stain". Apparently some sets shipped with defective second cassettes ("The Second Stain" is missing); Tom Galbo reports that replacements are available from BBD's distribution center at 2451 South Wolf Road, Des Plaines, IL 60018.
5274. One of the most fascinating and frustrating aspects of the world of Sherlockians in the 1980 and 1990s is the increase in Sherlockian scholarship published in languages other than English: fascinating because there is so much excellent work done in other languages, and frustrating because it is not accessible to those who do not speak those other languages. Newly at hand is LA PEQUENA COMPLICACION DOMESTICA DE LAS TRES SEGUNDAS MANCHAS, by Manuel Diez-Alegria (Madrid: The Amateur Mendicant Society, 1994); this is a 124-page monograph dealing with "The Little Domestic Complication of the Three Second Stains", and it is carefully researched. The question of how many cases there actually were has long intrigued Sherlockian scholars who have noted that the case mentioned by Watson in passing seems not to be the one he wrote using that title; Diez-Alegria concludes that there was only one case, which occurred in 1886, and he identifies all the politicians who were involved in it. The monograph costs \$10.00 postpaid (currency only, please), from Miguel Gonzalez-Pedel, C/ San Vidal 15 (3-B), 28010 Madrid, Spain; if you want it by airmail the cost is \$20.00 postpaid.
5275. The Tortoises of Galapagos is the newest Sherlockian society, founded by Irving and Selma Kamil on the island of Santa Cruz, where they landed from the yacht Cruz del Sur on Nov. 19, 1994. The society is for Sherlockian visitors to the Galapagos (although Irv is normally found at 32 Overlook Avenue, Cliffside Park, NJ 07010).
5276. Nino Erne died on Dec. 11. He was the editor of a uniform edition of the Sherlock Holmes stories translated into German and published in 1959 and later years by Bluchert and many other publishers. The GESAMMELTE WERKE IN EINZELAUSGABEN did much to bring Sherlock Holmes to the attention of German readers, and Erne's excellent forewords and introductions helped in this.
5277. SHERLOCK TAKES A WIFE AND OTHER MODERN TALES, by Ira Bernard Dworkin (Flemington: Creative Writers of Hunterdon, 1994; 92 pp., \$10.00), reviewed last month (December 94 #6) is available from the publisher (Box 724, Flemington, NJ 08822) for \$11.50 postpaid).
5278. Mary Ann Warner (Annmar Enterprises, 2711 Fairlane Place, Chino Hills, CA 91709-1240) offers an illustrated flier for four new Sherlock Holmes mouse pads (\$8.95 each plus shipping).
5279. "They Might Be Giants" is alive and well, and getting ready for a new tour, according to a report spotted by Chris Redmond in the Varsity Review (Nov. 3, 1994). That's the rock group, not the film, but the rock group is named for the film. John Linnell and John Flansburgh founded the duo in 1982 and have been touring and recording ever since; their new album is "John Henry" (Elektra), and they have a dial-a-song number in Brooklyn (718-387-6992).

January 1995 #4

5280. Peter Cook died on Jan. 9. Regarded as one of the founders of modern British satire, he performed in the comedy revue "Beyond the Fringe" in the 1960s, launched the satirical magazine *Private Eye*, and shared the screenplay credit with Dudley Moore for a comedy version of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1978) and starred in the film; *Variety's* review described Cook's Holmes as an "absurdly degenerate version of Conan Doyle's master-sleuth." Cook also had an amusing scene in the film "Without a Clue" (1988), as Norman Greenhough, publisher of *The Strand Magazine*, thoroughly shocked at the news that "The Crime Doctor" intends to succeed Holmes.
5281. The fourth running of the Rache Road Rally, planned by The STUD Sherlockian Society for Mar. 5, will honor the centennial of automobile racing in America, duplicating the original race from Chicago to Waukegan ("but with more Canonical twists than you'll find in one of Mrs. Turner's German pretzels," Don Izban promises). The weekend also includes a meeting of The Solar Pons Breakfast Club on Mar. 3; additional information is available from Donald B. Izban, 5334 Wrightwood Avenue, Chicago, IL 60639-1524.
5282. 1995 marks the 100th anniversary of Buster Keaton's birth, and many of his films are now being released on cassettes and laserdiscs by Kino on Video (800-562-3330) in three boxed sets, according to TV Guide (Jan. 14). One of the films is "Sherlock Jr." (1924), described recently by the American Film Institute as "'The Purple Rose of Cairo' in reverse, as dreaming projectionist Buster jumps right into the screen (amid furious editing from garden bench to city street to cliff to lions) that eventually settles down to Keaton as ace detective Sherlock Jr. outwitting the bad guys, with an electrifying motor-cycle chase ... years later a routine physical revealed he'd unknowingly broken his neck when the water tank spout swept him away."
5283. The "Third Occasional Sherlockian Cruise" will sail on June 17, 1995, from Fort Lauderdale on the MV Zenith. The cruise lasts seven days, with stops at Ocho Rios, Grand Cayman Island, Cozumel, and Key West, and there will be Sherlockian seminars during the two days at sea. Holmes at His Zenith (Box 96, Norwood, NJ 07648) is the contact, and enquiries are welcome.
5284. Jim Suszynski reports a Sherlockian deerstalked Bugs Bunny on five of the cards in and on a \$1.99 box of "34 Tiny Toon Adventures Mystery Valentines" distributed by the Paper Magic Group to CVS drug stores.
5285. *ENCYCLOPEDIA SHERLOCKIANA*, by Matthew E. Bunson (New York: Macmillan, 1994; 326 pp., \$25.00) is a worthy successor to Jack Tracy's out-of-print volume with the same title; subtitled "an a-to-z guide to the world of the great detective," it conforms to the format used by Tracy but extends the focus beyond the Canon itself, with additional entries on actors, artists, films, plays, pastiches, and much more, including many excellent illustrations.
5286. The rhetorical question of the month (December 94 #6) was: If cats always land on their feet, and toast always lands buttered-side down, what happens if you tie a piece of toast buttered-side-up to a cat's back and drop him? Russ Geoffrey's answer is: it depends on the price of the carpet. Patrick Campbell reports that he has conducted exhaustive tests, with his cats and buttered toast, with and without parsley, and has found that the assembled unit landed on its left side (possibly true only north of the Equator).

January 1995 #5

5287. Last year (May 94 #6) Warren Randall noted entries for Holmes and Watson and Conan Doyle in *A BOOK OF DAYS FOR THE LITERARY YEAR*. And now Warren reports an entry for Conan Doyle in *THE PHYSICIANS' BOOK OF DAYS* (May 22) and for Holmes in *THE LAWYERS' BOOK OF DAYS* (January 6.); both published by Hugh Lauter Levin Associates and distributed by Macmillan (New York). Warren also spotted a comment in Richard Zoglin's long article on the Star Trek phenomenon in *Time* (Nov. 28, 1994): "Star Trek has never won much respect. In the realm of long-running entertainment phenoms, Sherlock Holmes has more history; James Bond, more class; Star Wars and Indiana Jones, more cinematic cachet. And while no one sneers at the Baker Street Irregulars, noninitiates consider Trekkies to be pretty odd."
5288. And while it's too late to help voters in New York decide who to vote for in the governor's race, Warren has forwarded an item from *Newsday* (Oct. 19, 1994) with answers to questions posed to candidates Cuomo and Pataki. One of the questions asked for the candidates' favorite book: Cuomo answered: "Pierre Teilhard de Chardin's *The Divine Milieu* because it's a wonderful combination of poetry and ultimate truth." And Pataki answered: "Sherlock Holmes". George E. Pataki (Rep.) is now governor of New York.
5289. Our new "Happy New Year!" stamp honors the oriental year of the boar. The weather-bitten pillars on either side of the lodge gates were surmounted by the boars' heads the Baskervilles, and there also is mention of a "human wild boar," formidable in its bestiality, in "The Veiled Lodger".
5290. Further to the report (December 94 #2) of a new Sherlock Holmes Pub in Cairo, Al and Julie Rosenblatt note that a friend has reported a Sherlock Holmes Free House on Collins Street in Melbourne, Australia.
5291. The comic-book mini-series *SHERLOCK HOLMES: ADVENTURE OF THE OPERA GHOST* is now in the shops; two issues, \$2.95 each, from the Caliber Press, and it's the Phantom of the Opera again.
5292. *THE SHAW FESTIVAL'S "SHERLOCK HOLMES"*, by William Gillette (1994; 208 pp.), offers Christopher Newton's revised version of the Gillette play (performed last year at the Shaw Festival), with additional material that includes an excellent essay by Chris Redmond about the play and about Gillette, and a reprint of Gillette's "The Painful Predicament of Sherlock Holmes", and is available in plastic clam-shell binding from George Vanderburgh (Box 204, Shelburne, Ont. L0N 1S0, Canada); CA\$20.00 plus US\$3.00 shipping.
5293. Also available from George Vanderburgh is *THE UNPUBLISHED SOLAR PONS*, by August Derleth (1994; 102 pp.), offering three hitherto unpublished stories and an unfinished fourth story (the latter previously published by Luther Norris in *The Pontine Dossier*). Derleth created Solar Pons as a tribute to Sherlock Holmes, and the Pontine saga has long been highly regarded for its imagination and style; the unpublished stories are among the first he wrote (in 1929 and 1930), and were not even known to exist until ten years ago, when his college roommate donated them, with other Derleth papers, to the August Derleth Society. The book is bound in paper-covered boards and the cost is CA\$20.00 plus US\$3.00 shipping.

January 1995 #6

5294. Jack Tracy has issued a new catalog from Gaslight Publications (3888 West Sahara Avenue #221B, Las Vegas, NV 89102), offering W. W. Higgins' *OUR BLAZONINGS AND CHARGES* (due in March at \$18.95) as well as a long list of in-print books from Gaslight and other publishers. The telephone number is 702-221-8495, and credit card orders are welcome.
5295. Many of the cable networks have their own monthly magazines, and Arts & Entertainment is no exception. *A&E Monthly* (Jan. 1995) celebrated Sherlock Holmes' birthday with a nicely Sherlockian "Quiz for the Fiendishly Clever" by Lester Shane, and an article on Sherlockian collectibles by Linda Peterson (with attractive color photography); 235 East 45th Street, New York, NY 10017; \$2.50.
5296. It is frustrating to consider how many really grand shows were broadcast on television in the days before videocassettes. Among them were the programs in the series "The Rivals of Sherlock Holmes" (with 26 shows broadcast by ITV in Britain in 1971 and 1973). Some of them were aired here in 1972 and they were delightful. The series was triggered by the anthologies edited by Hugh Greene, of course, and offered (to name only a few) Derek Jacobi as Duckworth Drew, John Neville as Dr. John Thorndyke, Robert Stephens as Max Carrados, Roy Dotrice as Simon Carne, Donald

Pleasance as Carnacki, Douglas Wilmer as Prof. S.F.X. Van Dusen, and Charles Gray as Eugene Valmont. And I'm sure they'll never be rebroadcast by PBS-TV on "Mystery!" Another fine series was "The Edwardians" (produced by the BBC and broadcast in 1972); it had eight programs about interesting Edwardians such as Baden-Powell, Lloyd George, Daisy Warwick (a very close friend, as was said in those days, of the Prince of Wales), and Arthur Conan Doyle (played by Nigel Davenport). Only four of the shows were broadcast by PBS-TV here (including the one on Conan Doyle, but unfortunately long before VCRs were widely owned). A year ago I suggested (and I will suggest again) that Arts & Entertainment cable carries a lot of fine British programming, old and new, and it might not be at all amiss to write to A&E (address as above) to ask that they consider broadcasting these fine series.

5297. John Aidiniantz, proprietor of The Sherlock Holmes Museum, who was convicted last month on charges of obtaining £1.2 million by deception, was jailed for three years and fined £30,000 in costs, according to a brief report in the Daily Telegraph (Jan. 21), noted by Wayne Swift.
5298. Jennie Paton reports WINNIE THE POOH: DETECTIVE TIGGER, a 55-minute commercial videocassette from Walt Disney Home Video with four excerpts from the animated "The New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh"; three of them ("Tigger, Private Ear", "Eeyore's Tail Tale", and "Sham Pooh" feature Tigger in Sherlockian costume.
5299. Jerry Kegley, John Farrell, and Chuck Kovacic recently created the Curious Tiger Press and from it have published the first issue of Baker Street W1, a new journal intended as a rallying point for Sherlockians who live west of the Mississippi and thus have far fewer opportunities for the proverbial whiskey and sodality than those in the more populous east. The first issue offers a fine article by Steve Hecox on Jefferson Hope's career in Nevada, reports on western society activities, and more; \$3.00 postpaid from Jerry Kegley, 110 El Nido #41, Pasadena, CA 91107.

January 1995 #7

5300. The next "Victorian Holmes Weekend" in Cape May, N.J., will be held on Mar. 31-Apr. 2. There will be a mystery to solve (with prizes for the winners) during a tour of eight Victorian homes, and meals, and other fun and games. More information is available from the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts, Box 340, Cape May, NJ 08204-0340 (609-884-5404).
5301. I tend not to mention The Baker Street Journal often in this newsletter, on the grounds that those fanatic enough to subscribe to this newsletter also subscribe to the BSJ (and if you don't, I recommend it, and it costs \$18.95 a year for four issues). But what's truly worthy of mention here is A CUMULATED INDEX TO THE BAKER STREET JOURNAL 1970-1993, compiled by Donald A. Redmond: it is an invaluable tool for people who want to know what's been published in the BSJ since 1970, because it is a true index (as opposed to a list of authors' names and titles of articles). The authors and titles are there, to be sure, but Don Redmond also has including careful indexing by subject, and that's what makes an index an index. There are 120 pages, and it costs \$19.95 postpaid, and the address (both for the BSJ and for the index) is The Baker Street Journal, Box 465, Hanover, PA 17331.
5302. Debi Pollard notes an attractive Rathbone/Bruce T-shirt, available from Book'em Mysteries, 1118 Mission Street, South Pasadena, CA 91030 (818-799-9600); \$21.95 postpaid; credit card orders are welcome. The design is by Pasadena artist/ actor Michael Wilhelm, and the shirts are available in large and extra-large sizes.
5303. "London in Children's Literature and the History of Childhood" is the title of the Christopher Newport University summer seminar in London from July 27 to Aug. 9; the seminar can be taken for credit and will be taught by Prof. Kara Keeling, and the Canon is among the children's classics to be studied. University president Anthony R. Santoro, a member of The Cremona Fiddlers, will be on hand to ensure proper attention to Sherlock Holmes. Additional information is available from Prof. Keeling at Christopher Newport University, Newport News, VA 23606-2998.
5304. Dana Richards has reported an interesting (and Sherlockian) "Double Cross" puzzle on page 36 of the Jan. 1995 issue of Games World of Puzzles.
5305. Arthur and Joyce Ann Liebman will guide their 14-day tour "In the Footsteps of Sherlock, Dracula, and Agatha" in England, starting by air from New York on Aug. 5, 1995. Their phone number is 516-621-6008, or you can write to Contemporary Tours, 580 Plandome Road, Manhasset, NY 11030.
5306. One of the interesting things about Sherlockians who are collectors is that quite often they collect something other than Sherlockiana. A fine example of such a non-Sherlockian collection is on exhibit at The Grolier Club in New York through March: Jerry and Gloya Wachs' collection of 19th-century English poetry. And the catalog prepared for the exhibit offers some fine lessons on why and how collectors collect (and they happily pay tribute to A.S.W. Rosenbach, who once suggested that "After love, book collecting is the most exhilarating sport of all").

January 1995 #8

5307. The winter 1995 issue of Scarlet Street has arrived, with David Stuart Davies' interview with Jeremy Brett, who offers some new anecdotes about the Granada series. Asked, "Will you play Sherlock Holmes again?" Brett smiled and said sweetly, "That door is never quite closed." Scarlet Street now has a video department, selling the Granada and Rathbone series and other Sherlockian films. The magazine costs \$20.00 a year for four issues; Box 604, Glen Rock, NJ 07452.
5308. And Scarlet Street publisher Jessie Lilley notes with pride that a copy of the magazine is on display in an exhibit of "Screams on Screen: 100 Years of the Horror Film" at the N.Y. Public Library for the Performing Arts at Lincoln Center (the exhibit is on through April).
5309. Syd Goldberg has reported a knighthood for another Sherlockian actor: the Queen's annual New Year's honours list included Robert Stephens, who starred in "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970).
5310. The eight one-crown coins issued last year by Gibraltar in honor of "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" (November 94 #2) are offered by Peter Mosiondz, Jr. (26 Cameron Circle, Laurel Springs, NJ 08021) at prices slightly lower than those asked by the Pobjoy Mint; write for his illustrated flier.
5311. According to my not-always-infallible records, subscribers to the ink-on-paper edition of this newsletter all now should have my seasonal souvenir for 1995 ("GORGON'S FATHER"), received during the birthday festivities in New York, or since, or with this mailing. If I managed to forget anyone, please let me know. And it's available to readers of the electronic edition in return for two 32c stamps; it's a modest tribute to the 1940s comic strip "Barnaby" and its creator Crockett Johnson, reprinting an passing but amusing reference to the Canon.
5312. And a few commercials: the revised 15-page list of Investitured Irregulars, Two-Shilling Awards, *The* Women, and the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes costs \$1.15 postpaid. The 72-page list of 657 Sherlockian societies, with names and addresses for contacts for the 397 active societies, costs \$3.65 postpaid. A run of address labels for 336 individual contacts (recommended if you wish to avoid making duplicate mailings to people who are contacts for more than one society) costs \$10.30 postpaid. Checks payable to Peter E. Blau, please.
5313. For the electronically enabled, the 15-page list of Irregulars and others is available from me as e-mail without charge, and the list of Sherlockian societies is offered by Willis Frick via anonymous ftp from ftp.netcom.com (directory pub/Sh/Sherlocktron).
5314. Al and Julie Rosenblatt's splendid 20-page souvenir menu for "An Evening in Scarlet" at the Culinary Institute of America on May 16, 1987, handsomely devised, designed, and produced, with many illustrations, annotations, and explanations, is still available for \$18.00 postpaid; checks also payable to Peter E. Blau, please).

February 1995 #1

5315. The ninth volume of Beeman's Christmas Annual offers 32 pages of Sherlockian scholarship from past meetings of The Occupants of the Empty House; the cost is \$11.00 postpaid, from the society (105 Wilcox, Zeigler, IL 62999). And for \$1.00 more you can receive the annual and a year of the society's monthly newsletter.
5316. The Giant Rats of Sumatra have a new necktie (red) with an amusing design (yellow); \$25.00 postpaid from Raymond J. Phillip, 2865 Stage Coach Drive, Memphis, TN 38134.
5317. Gayle Harris spotted nice news in the N.Y. Times (Jan. 7): a photograph of members of the Greater Philadelphia Search and Rescue Team searching for a cougar reported in Cobbs Creek Park in Yeadon. The search was led by Jim Hosgood and his bloodhound Watson.
5318. One of the nice souvenirs distributed during the birthday festivities was Cheryl Hurd's "A Sherlockian Garden" (two pages of helpful hints for people considering a horticultural tribute to the Canon); send a #10 SASE to the Teapot Press, Box 2048, Scotia, NY 12302.
5319. Don Hobbs reports that Thomas W. Olson's two-act play "Sherlock Holmes and the Baker Street Irregulars" has been scheduled by the Dallas Children's Theater on June 2-18, 1995; the box-office address is 2215 Cedar Springs, Dallas, TX 75201 (214-978-0110). The play premiered in Minneapolis in 1989 and was well-received.
5320. The latest issue of The Sherlock Holmes Review is largely devoted to the Granada series, with articles by Patricia Ward, Steven T. Doyle, and Mark Allen Gagen, and a long interview with Michael Cox. 64 pp., \$6.00 postpaid from Steven T. Doyle, Box 583, Zionsville, IN 46077 (a four-issue subscription costs \$20.00).
5321. Plan ahead: the fifth annual Mid-Atlantic Mystery Book Fair and Convention will be held at the Holiday Inn (Independence Mall) in Philadelphia on Nov. 10-12. Membership is limited to 450, full registration costs \$45.00, and the contact is Deen Kogan, Detecto-Mysterioso Books, 507 South 8th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147.
5322. Norman Houde reports that THE QUEST FOR SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: THIRTEEN BIOGRAPHERS IN SEARCH OF A LIFE, edited by Jon L. Lellenberg (November 87 #4) is offered by The Scholar's Bookshelf, 110 Melrich Road, Cranbury, NJ 08512, discounted to \$14.95. The book is a fine guide to the many, and frequently unreliable, biographies.
5323. Geraldine Beare's anthology CRIME STORIES FROM THE 'STRAND' in 1991 (with "A Scandal in Bohemia" and "The Dying Detective") was followed by ADVENTURE STORIES FROM THE 'STRAND' in 1992 (with "A Pot of Caviare") and this year by ADVENTURE STORIES FROM THE 'STRAND' (with "How the Brigadier Came to the Castle of Gloom"). The three volumes are illustrated by David Eccles and make a uniform set; the new title costs \$37.95 from The Folio Society, 2323 Randolph Avenue, Avenel, NJ 07001 (and the first two are still in print).

February 1995 #2

5324. Otto Penzler's Sherlock Holmes Library continues its series of reprints of classic Sherlockiana: BAKER STREET STUDIES, edited by H. W. Bell (New York: Otto Penzler Books, 1995; 223 pp., \$8.00), first appeared in 1934; it was (and still is) a splendid anthology of scholarship written by Dorothy L. Sayers, Helen Simpson, Vernon Rendall, Vincent Starrett, Ronald A. Knox, A. G. Macdonnell, S. C. Roberts, and Bell himself.
5325. "I was able to refer him to two parallel cases, the one at Riga in 1857, and the other at St. Louis in 1871, which have suggested to him the true solution," Sherlock Holmes said (in "The Sign of the Four"). Union Station in St. Louis is shown on a postal card issued last year, but Charles Lavazzi reports that the station opened on Sept. 1, 1884, far too late for that Canonical reference, or for the one found in "A Study in Scarlet" ("When you see him, ask him if he remembers the Jefferson Hopes of St. Louis"). But Union Station was there when Arthur Conan Doyle arrived in St. Louis by train in 1923. And in OUR SECOND AMERICAN ADVENTURE he told a story he heard in St. Louis, about a drummer selling potted milk. "It came from a contented cow," was his slogan. His fellow-drummer was selling some imitation beer. "I wish I had a slogan like yours," he said. "Well," said the other, "I've seen your stuff and tasted it. You might say it came from a discontented horse."
5326. Shall the world, then, be overrun by Sherlock Hound porcelain? The teapot available previously from What on Earth (September 94 #5) also is available from The Mind's Eye, Box 1060, Petaluma, CA 94953 (800-949-3333), along with a new matching set of four mugs (\$44.95), according to Tim O'Connor.
5327. The Sherlock Holmes Journal has long been one of the best of Sherlockian periodicals, and the winter 1994 issue is at hand, with Richard Lancelyn Green's excellent article about the history of The Sherlock Holmes Society, and the S'ian scholarship in the early 1930s that preceded the founding of the Society in 1934. The Sherlock Holmes Society was dissolved in 1938, and was succeeded by The Sherlock Holmes Society of London, whose membership secretary is Graeme Jameson (75 Kingsgate Street, Winchester, Hants. SO23 9PE, England); you can write for details (including available back issues and other material).
5328. Green quotes from a letter written by Dorothy L. Sayers to H. W. Bell in 1932: "I am also for maintaining the authenticity of the established text wherever possible, because this demands much more complication and perverse ingenuity than iconoclasm. What I like so much about your book was the determined seriousness and majestic parade of scholarship with which it plays the game. It's no fun unless it is played with deadly earnestness."
5329. Sayers continued in that belief, and in the introduction to her UNPOPULAR OPINIONS (1946) wrote: "The game of applying the methods of the 'Higher Criticism' to the Sherlock Holmes canon was begun, many years ago, by Monsignor Ronald Knox. . . . Since then, the thing has become a hobby among a select set of jesters here and in America. The rule of the game is that it must be played as solemnly as a county cricket match at Lord's: the slightest touch of extravagance or burlesque ruins the atmosphere."

February 1995 #3

5330. Arthur H. Lewis died on Jan. 25. He grew up in Mahanoy City, and had first-hand experience of the Shenandoah Valley, well-demonstrated in his book LAMENT FOR THE MOLLY MAGUIRES (1964), on which the 1970 film "The Molly Maguires" was based. He was a faithful member of The Sons of the Copper Beeches, and he had grand fun libelling his fellow Sherlockians in his murder mystery COPPER BEECHES (1978).
5331. "You don't happen to have a Raphael or a first folio Shakespeare without knowing it?" Sherlock Holmes asked (in "The Three Garridebs"). And this year's "Love" stamp has a Raphael cherub (from his "Sistine Madonna"), according to the postal service. Well, not quite, according to Joseph Cafetta Jr., whose letter in the Washington Post (Feb. 2) notes that the stamp actually portrays one of two "putti" (guardian death angels) that Raphael painted resting their elbows on the coffin of Pope Julius II. When the pope, who was Raphael's patron, died in 1513, Raphael made the painting to be carried in the funeral procession, and it is now in the Dresden Gallery in Germany.
5332. The 10th World of Drawings and Watercolours Fair was held at the Park Lane Hotel in London last month, and one of the paintings offered (for £24,000) was Charles Altamont Doyle's watercolor "Enjoying the Ice: a Curling Match on Duddingston Loch" (the loch, southeast of Edinburgh, was a favorite for skating and curling matches, according to the report spotted by Wayne and Francine Swift in The Times, and the artist was the father of Arthur Conan Doyle).

5333. Joseph A. Coppola reports that the Oxford University Press is considering reprinting the colorful set of postcards that were used as promotion for THE OXFORD SHERLOCK HOLMES; if you'd like to be on their mailing list, you can call them at 800-451-7556.
5334. SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE WHITE LADY OF FEATHERSTONE is Tony Lumb's second pastiche about Holmes' investigations in Yorkshire, again with plenty of local color; the 31-page pamphlet costs \$5.00 postpaid (currency, please) from the author (21 Albert Street, Featherstone, Pontefract, West Yorks. WF7 5EX, England).
5335. "I shall be the Hans Sloane of my age," said Nathan Garrideb. And SIR HANS SLOANE: COLLECTOR, SCIENTIST, ANTIQUARY, by Arthur MacGregor, has just been published by the British Museum Press (294 pp., £50.00). According to John Baesch, it is available from The Good Book Guide (24 Seward Street, London EC1V 3GB, England); they welcome credit-card orders.
5336. Roger Johnson's newsletter The District Messenger continues to provide all sorts of news about what's happening in Great Britain (and sometimes elsewhere); it's published approximately monthly and costs \$10.00 for twelve issues (dollar checks payable to Jean Upton can be sent to Roger Johnson, Mole End, 41 Sandford Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 6DE, England). His most recent issue has an alert for videotapers here: the series "Biography" (on A&E cable five days a week) filmed a dozen members of The Sherlock Holmes Society dining at The Sherlock Holmes in the company of Dr. John H. Watson (impersonated by David Burke). There's no word yet on a broadcast date.

February 1995 #4

5337. SHERLOCK HOLMES & OTHER DETECTIVE STORIES (London: HarperCollins, 1994; 1468 pp., £9.99) offers all of the Sherlock Holmes stories, and 31 other stories that involve detectives (or detection), from "That Little Square Box" (1881) to "The Lift" (1922), with an introduction and bibliography by Owen Dudley Edwards. The stories are arranged in order of publication, mixing S'ian and non-S'ian stories, and allowing readers to consider Edwards' suggestion that "Conan Doyle worried that the pressure on him to produce series of Sherlock Holmes stories would mean that Holmes was dragged into perfectly good plots which really did not need a great detective." Edwards also notes Conan Doyle's skillful focus on the short-story format, proposing that "he would have thought of one of the greatest of all modern derivations from Holmes and Watson, F. Scott Fitzgerald's 'The Great Gatsby', as a short story."
5338. AN ILLUSTRATED MONOGRAPH ON THE USE OF FIREARMS IN THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by E. W. McGinley, offers a knowledgeable exploration of the topic, concentrating on the weapons used by Holmes and Watson (the author concludes that Holmes was more expert than Watson); 47 pp., \$19.95 postpaid from Joseph Coppola, 103 Kenny Drive, Fayetteville, NY 103066.
5339. Carl and Diana Stix have found a new and interesting use of Sherlock Holmes, in promoting shopping safety at the Eastern Hills Mall in Williamsville, N.Y., where Holmes provides entertainment and safety tips at the mall, poses for pictures with children, and is delighted to meet with school and civic groups. And his portrait appears on the mall's publicity, and on the shoulder patch worn by the mall's security officers. An illustrated flier for the mall's "project awareness" notes that they chose Sherlock Holmes for this role "because he represents the calm, cool, confidence that comes from being in control of the situation." A nicely-illustrated flier is available from the Eastern Hills Mall (attn: John E. Abt), 4545 Transit Road, Williamsville, NY 14221.
5340. Michael Meer has sent a brochure from a new establishment called Sherlock's City in Switzerland; the address is Rte de Jura 49, 1700 Fribourg, and it offers a bar, rotisserie, and billiards.
5341. Plan ahead: "A Study in Largess" is the title of the memorial conference that will mark the dedication of the John Bennett Shaw Collection at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis on Oct. 13-15, 1995. The schedule will include exhibits, lectures, music, theater, tours, and much more, and a prospectus will be available next month.
5342. David Stuart Davies reports that he has heard from Jeremy Brett, who has been in hospital again, for serious heart failure, but is now on the mend. But he's had to suspend all activity for the next three or four months, and thus won't be able to join the festivities at "A Study in Scotland" on May 6-8 in Edinburgh. The weekend gathering is sponsored by the Northern Musgraves, and will include presentations by Owen Dudley Edwards and Michael Cox, a ghost walk, a whisky tasting, and a new drama written by John Cargill Thomson. Additional information is available from David at Overdale, 69 Greenhead Road, Huddersfield, W. Yorks. HD1 4ER, England.

February 1995 #5

5343. IT'S A PRINT!: DETECTIVE FICTION FROM PAGE TO SCREEN, edited by William Reynolds and Elizabeth Trembley (Bowling Green: Bowling Green University Popular Press, 1994; 235 pp., \$46.95 cloth, \$18.95 paper), is a fascinating anthology of essays on how the printed page is brought to both film and television screens. The coverage extends from "The Thin Man" to "The Silence of the Lambs", and Granada's "Sherlock Holmes" is discussed both by Elizabeth Trembley and by Michael Cox (who produced the first 32 of the Granada shows); Cox's article is noteworthy for its explanations of the reasons for the strengths and weaknesses of the series.
5344. A newsletter from the UCLA Film and Television Archive reports that thanks to Hugh Hefner's ongoing support, they are making great progress in preservation (from the original negatives and deteriorating prints) of six of the Sherlock Holmes films made by Universal in the 1940s. The National Endowment for the Arts has suspended its funding for film preservation, and your donations, large or small, are thus more important than ever; the development officer is Cornelia Emerson, UCLA Film and Television Archive (FX48), 302 East Melnitz, 405 Hilgard Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90024-1323.
5345. Richard Lederer has long delighted lovers of the English language with his explorations of that language's oddities, and he and Michael Gilleland have explored LITERARY TRIVIA: FUN AND GAMES FOR BOOK LOVERS (New York: Vintage Books, 1994; 233 pp., \$10.00); there's Sherlockiana, of course, and lots of other challenges for those who love literature.
5346. George Ault reports that the "top 50 music video countdown" broadcast by VH1 cable on Dec. 17 included (as the #29 video) a song called "Mmm Mmm Mmm Mmm" from the Crash Test Dummies album "God Shuffled His Feet", with three kids dressed in Sherlockian costume, in foggy London, investigating spots on another kid's body (like a school play put on for the parents, according to George, and really quite cute).
5347. The Trifling Monographers will hold their annual dinner during the annual meeting of the Public Relations Society of America in Seattle on Oct. 29. Laborers in the vineyards of public relations (and local Sherlockians) are invited to contact William Seil (3001 125th Avenue SE #3-D, Bellevue, WA 98005).
5348. The next meeting of the Practical, But Limited, Geologists will be at Chesterfield's (1111 Fannin Street) in Houston on Wednesday, Mar. 8; drinks at 7:00 and dinner at 8:00. I think that I've already alerted all the Houston Sherlockians, but if I've missed anyone, I'll be at the Doubletree Hotel at Allen Center (713-759-0202) from Mar. 4; just give me a call if you'd like to attend the festivities in honor of the world's first forensic geologist.
5349. The latest Sherlockian scholarship from Spain is ALGUNAS LEGUAS AL NORTE DE OPORTO: LA VERDAD SOBRE EL NORAH CREINA?, by Antonio J. Iriarte (Madrid: The Amateur Mendicant Society, 1995); the 59-page monograph explores "Some Leagues to the North of Oporto: The Truth about

the Norah Creina?", offering an intriguing suggestion of a possible connection between the events in "The Resident Patient" and the Irish Republican Brotherhood. The monograph costs \$10.00 postpaid (currency only, please), from Miguel Gonzalez-Pedel, C/ San Vidal 15 (3-B), 28010 Madrid, Spain; or \$20.00 postpaid by airmail.

February 1995 #6

5350. There are all sorts of imaginative Sherlockian goings-on in the United Kingdom, and if you have scheduled a visit this summer, you might wish to attend the "Appledore Towers Summer Ball" planned by The Poor Folk Upon the Moors, at the Lord Haldon Hotel in Dunchideok, near Exeter, in Devonshire, on June 10. Additional information is available from Mike C. Philipson, 4 Dolvin Road, Tavistock, Devon. PE19 9EA, England.
5351. Sorry about that: Ron Fish notes that Connecticut governor John Rowland was elected, rather than reelected (January 95 #2), last November .
5352. A sales list of books, pins, neckties, socks, and memorabilia offered by The Speckled Band of Boston is available from Richard M. Olken, 200 Hyslop Road, Brookline, MA 02145-5724. There's some fine writing in the anthologies of Sherlockian scholarship and humor perpetrated over the years by the members of the Band.
5353. When Sarah Jane Smith decides she would like to meet Rudyard Kipling, the Doctor kindly makes the necessary arrangements, but as so often happens in stories about Doctor Who, his time-setting is slightly off, and they arrive in England to find Kipling still a schoolboy. In Devon, where a thoroughly horrible hound is roaming Dartmoor, and another doctor is on hand: Arthur Conan Doyle, member of the crew of the whaler Hope. John Peel's EVOLUTION (London: Virgin Publishing, 1994; 261 pp., £4.99/\$5.95) is a new cross-over novel, and nicely done (with some advice from Bill Vande Water).
5354. "On the scene is Sherlock Holmes matching wits with Archy Stillman while Ham Sandwich and Wells Fargo look on," is (part of) the blurb for a recent unabridged recording of Mark Twain's "A Double-Barreled Detective Story", read well by Thomas Becker on two audiocassettes (2:15 hours), with a bit of added value: letters from readers, when the parody of 19th-century mysteries was first published in 1902, wondering about one of Twain's jokes, and his bemused response. The set is available for \$16.95 from Commuters Library, Box 3168, Falls Church, VA 22043 (800-643-0295), and credit-card orders are welcome. Other authors in their catalog include Chekhov, Wells, Poe, Carroll, Wharton, Joyce, and Kipling.
5355. A reader has asked for an explanation of the derivation of the name of the Spermaceti Press. Many years ago, when I wanted a whimsical name for the imaginary press from which my seasonal souvenirs were published (following in a long Sherlockian tradition of devising interesting names for this sort of thing), it occurred to me that someone whose Investiture in the BSI was "Black Peter" and who lived just down the road from Arrowhead, where Herman Melville wrote MOBY DICK ought to be able to find a name that had something to do with whaling. Of course one wouldn't expect to find printing presses on whaling ships, but I did some research and found that there used to be a spermaceti press, which was used for the final processing of whale oil into the spermaceti from which the finest candles were made. And there still is one surviving spermaceti press, preserved at the Nantucket Whaling Museum in Massachusetts, in the actual building where in the 19th century millions of candles were made and exported throughout the world. Now you know . . .

March 1995 #1

5356. "I have never known my friend to be in better form, both mental and physical, than in the year '95," proclaims the announcement of this year's grand Sherlockian dinner at the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, N.Y., on May 13. The evening begins at 5:00 pm, with wine, hors d'oeuvres, and a brief film interlude, with dinner at 7:30 pm. Dress is black tie, and the cost is \$95.00 per person. Checks (with a limit of four people) with names and addresses for all people, should be sent to Albert M. Rosenblatt (300 Freedom Road, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569); enclose a self-addressed postal card if you want an acknowledgement. Al advises quick action, since space is limited, and that you prepare for the dinner by reading the five cases said to have occurred in 1895 (Blac, Bruc, Norw, Soli, and 3Stu). And as in the past, there will be a Firehouse Breakfast in Rhinebeck on Sunday.
5357. The Beekman Arms in Rhinebeck is sold out, but a discount rate (\$65.00 per room) is available from the Sheraton Hotel (914-486-5300) in Poughkeepsie (about 10 minutes south). Conventional motels in Hyde Park include the Dutch Patroon (914-229-7141), Golden Manor (914-229-2157), Hyde Park (914-229-9616), Roosevelt (914-229-0026), and Super 8 (914-229-0088). Motels in Rhinebeck (about 20 minutes north) include the Rhinebeck (914-876-5900) and Village Inn (914-876-7000).
5358. The current issue of Anglofile reports that Mark Frost's THE SIX MESSIAHS (a sequel to his THE LIST OF SEVEN) will be issued by Dove Audio in July in an audiocassette set, read by David Warner (\$24.95). I've not had any word of a book edition (although there surely will be one), nor anything about the long-rumored film based on THE LIST OF SEVEN. Anglofile is a monthly newsletter with detailed coverage of British entertainment; \$12.00 a year (Box 33515, Decatur, GA 30033).
5359. It was a capital mistake (and it was mine): the new membership secretary of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London (February 95 #2) actually is Bob Ellis, 13 Crofton Avenue, Orpington, Kent BR6 8DU, England.
5360. Stanley MacKenzie died on Feb. 25. He joined The Sherlock Holmes Society of London soon after it was founded in 1951, became a member of its Council in 1956, and was one of its honorary secretaries from 1980 to 1985. He was a member of The Baker Street Irregulars (as "The Man with the Twisted Lip" in 1967), and an enthusiastic and energetic collector (one of the very few to have owned more than one copy of Beeton's Christmas Annual). Stanley's particular interest was in theatrical Sherlockiana, over the years finding many unique posters and playbills for early productions; that special interest was understandable, in view of his own career in the theater, which included the post of deputy stage manager for the Royal Shakespeare Company when it revived William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" in 1974 and brought it to Washington and New York.
5361. Nice news for those who have been searching for commercial videocassettes of the first six shows in Granada's Jeremy Brett series (Scan, Spec, Danc, Nava, Soli, and Blue): all 35 shows that have been broadcast in the United States are now available (\$19.98 plus shipping) from Scarlet Street Video, Box 604, Glen Rock, NJ 07452; credit card orders welcome.

March 1995 #2

5362. Bert Coules (Fairway, Sandling Road, Saltwood, Hythe, Kent CT21 4QJ, England) offers laser-printed scripts (about 60 pp. each) for his BBC radio adaptations (the current series starring Clive Merrison and Michael Williams as Holmes and Watson, except for the 1988 broadcast of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" with Roger Rees and Crawford Logan). The programs are: Stud, Sign, Scan, Bosc, Blue, Nobl, Silv, Croo, Fina, Empt, Norw, Danc, Soli, Chas, SixN, Seco, Houn, Wist, Bruc, Devi, Last, Illu, Maza, Suss, Thor, Lion, and Reti. The postpaid cost (by sterling check or draft) for each short-story script is £12.00 (surface) or £14.00 (airmail), or you can pay with currency (\$19.00 or \$22.00) or by dollar check (\$28.86 or \$30.02). The cost is doubled for the three long-story scripts.
5363. Catherine Cooke, who presides over the Sherlock Holmes Collection at the Marylebone Library in London, notes that she now has access to the Internet (and her e-mail address is C.COOKE@BBCNC.ORG.UK).

5364. It was 35 years ago that The Council of Four of Denver published the first anthology of Sherlockian science-fiction, reprinting seven stories by some of the very best writers working in the field. SHERLOCK HOLMES IN ORBIT, edited by Mike Resnick and Martin H. Greenberg (New York: DAW Books, 1995; 374 pp., \$5.50), is a somewhat different anthology, with far more stories (26 of them, all published for the first time), and it is interesting that the most successful of the new stories are those that do what the stories in the earlier volume did: they offer new and imaginative approaches to a character that is loved by so many readers, and give readers far more than tales told by authors who merely use Sherlock Holmes.
5365. Ron Fish reports a new comic book: THE REN & STIMPY SHOW #29 (Apr. 1995) in the shops now (from Marvel, \$1.95), with Sherlock Hoek and Dr. S. J. Stupid M.D. in "The Casebook of Sherlock Hoek".
5366. Stephen Davies reports that the 100th anniversary of the opening of Oscar Wilde's "The Importance of Being Earnest" will be marked by the installation of a stained glass window in Poet's Corner in Westminster Abbey. It should be remembered that Conan Doyle met Wilde, at a dinner at which they both were commissioned to write stories for Lippincott. Wilde's story was "The Picture of Dorian Gray" and Conan Doyle's was "The Sign of the Four" (and it is interesting that a character in Conan Doyle's story offers some echoes of Wilde).
5367. Domestic cats are mentioned in four of the Sherlock Holmes stories, and it is nice that the Royal Mail has issued a handsome "cats" set with designs by Elizabeth Blackadder (kindly forwarded by Roger Johnson and Jean Upton). And since black cats are mentioned in two of the four stories ("His Last Bow" and "The Yellow Face"), the black cat (named Sophie) on the 19-pence stamp is nicely appropriate.
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March 1995 #3

5368. Sherlockians considering attending the Dartmouth Alumni College on Aug. 6-11 will (one hopes) be happy to hear that the focus will be on crime and mystery fiction, especially the locales of the genre. "Landscapes of Murder" is to be the theme, and the program "will of course explore the landscape of Sherlock Holmes and other consummate masters."
5369. If you've never seen the lion's mane, you might wish to pay a visit to the New England Aquarium in Boston, Mass., where John Baesch reports that it is on display in a new exhibit ("Jellies") that is expected to run through the summer.
5370. Peter Calamai spotted the N.Y. Times obituary for Leonard S. Silk, who died on Feb. 10. He was a distinguished columnist and editorial writer for the paper and, as the obituary noted, a rarity in journalism: a reporter with a Ph.D. in economics. He started his journalism career in 1954 at Business Week, and moved to The Times in 1970 and wrote his farewell column in 1992. One of his stories, published in 1977, focused on Oskar Morgenstern, who with John von Neumann published a landmark treatise on THE THEORY OF GAMES AND ECONOMIC BEHAVIOR in 1944. They used Holmes' flight from Moriarty to explain the game of Matching Pennies, and Silk carefully explained for general readers how (as Morgenstern put it) when Holmes left Waterloo Station he was "already 48 percent dead."
5371. The sixth issue of Troy Taylor's The Whitechapel Gazette has arrived, with 50 pages of nicely illustrated articles on Doyleana, including Groombridge and Crowborough, a tribute to John Bennett Shaw, and some pastiches. \$6.50 postpaid; Troy's address is 805 West North #1, Decatur, IL 62522.
5372. Compliments and congratulations to Bjarne Nielsen, who has won first prize in the Scandinavian "Viking Lotto". Jette Randloev has kindly forwarded an article from the Berlingske Tidende (Feb. 26) with a photograph that showed Bjarne in a deerstalker and reported that the first prize was 4.3 million kroner (about \$711,000). Bjarne's mystery-specialist bookshop Antikvariat Pinkerton is located in a former jail in Nykobing, Denmark, where he also presides over his Sherlock Holmes Museum; according to the article, Bjarne will now try to buy the building from the Ministry of Justice.
5373. A new and well-illustrated 28-page catalog is at hand from Carolyn and Joel Senter (Classic Specialties, Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219), with a fine mix of books, pamphlets, pins, prints, and other collectibles.
5374. A hitherto unreported copy of Beeton's Christmas Annual for 1887 has turned up, at auction at Christie's East in New York, where it was sold from the collection of the late Charles J. Liebman to an unidentified buyer on Feb. 22 for \$14,375 (including 15% buyer's premium). It was without wrappers and advertisements, and was rebound in contemporary cloth, with the name of a previous owner (Claremont) on the Contents leaf and a bookseller's slip with the name Walter Schatzki.
5375. There's still time to plan to attend this year's National Sherlock Holmes Meeting in Australia on Apr. 14-17, when The Sydney Passengers will be in charge of the 1995 festivities. More information is available from Phil Cornell, 24 Byron Street, Croydon, N.S.W. 2132, Australia (02-799-3107).
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March 1995 #4

5376. "Body Found in Lions' Den at Zoo" was the headline on a story in the Washington Post (Mar. 5), and the story seems to have been followed widely in other papers. The victim was Margaret Davis King, of Little Rock, and the authorities have concluded that she chose a grisly way of committing suicide. The lions involved were a 450-pound male named Tana and a 300-pound female named Asha, and Tana is the son of one of the North African (or Atlas or Barbary) lions that The Red Circle of Washington visited during a "Cat House Picnic" at the National Zoo in June 1977. The Canon's Sahara King (in "The Veiled Lodger") was a North African lion, and they were recorded as extinct in the wild in the 1930s (killed by the likes of Count Negretto Sylvius); in the 1970s a few survivors were found in the King of Morocco's private zoo.
5377. This year marks the 150th anniversary of statehood for one of the states mentioned in "The Five Orange Pips" (the colorful design by Laura Smith shows an alligator enjoying himself in a swamp); Texas is due for similar honors later this year.
5378. Spradlin & Associates (Box 863, Lapeer, MI 48446) offer an attractive deck of playing cards, with Paget and Steele portraits of principal characters on the court cards (Moriarty's on the jokers), and Canonical quotations on the others. The Game's Afoot Playing Cards cost \$12.00 a deck, plus \$3.00 per order shipping.
5379. Those who remember Nigel Hawthorne from the fine series "Yes, Minister" and "Yes, Prime Minister" broadcast by some PBS-TV stations will find him doing something quite different, and doing it magnificently, in the title role in the film "The Madness of King George", which I recommend highly. Hawthorne is joined by other fine actors, including Ian Holm and Helen Mirren, and if you need a Sherlockian excuse to see the film, two of the characters in it are mentioned in the Canon.
5380. Tom Drucker was the first to note, and quite correctly, that the mention of Raphael is in "The Three Gables" rather than in "The Three Garridebs" (February 95 #3). My collection of G's is a confused one . . .
5381. Jennie Paton spotted SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE CARD GAME, from Gibsons Games (H. P. Gibson & Sons Ltd., London SW19 2B, England) in 1991; 108 playing cards, score pad, and rule book with detailed background notes (\$20.00 in a store in Georgia). Gibson also produced 221B BAKER STREET: THE MASTER DETECTIVE GAME and VIDEO BAKER STREET.
5382. Joseph A. Coppola's article "Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" appears in the Mar.-Apr. issue of Topical Time (published by the American Topical Association). Joe does a nice job of telling about his discovery and pursuit of stamps honoring Sherlock Holmes. Box 630, Johnstown, PA 15907; \$3.00.
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5383. The brochure for "A Study in Largess" will be available from Judy Burton at 499 Wilson Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455 (e-mail J-BURT@VM1.SPCS.UMN.EDU); that's the memorial conference scheduled for Oct. 13-15 to honor the dedication of the John Bennett Shaw Collection, and the schedule will include exhibits, lectures, music, theater, tours, and more.

March 1995 #5

5384. If your collection extends to romance novels with Sherlockian titles, such as Colin Rafferty's SHERLOCK AND WATSON (Toronto: Harlequin Books, 1991; #363) (January 92 #1), you might want to pursue Sharon De Vita's SHERLOCK'S HOME (New York: Silhouette Books, 1988; #593), which John Farrell recently found. According to the blurb: "Willie Walker took her position as head of the Children's Welfare Agency very seriously. Too seriously, according to juvenile detective Michael Ryce. As far as Ryce was concerned, that petite, fire-and-brimstone, by-the-book social worker was the only thing keeping him from adopting T.C. Sherlock, the street-smart orphan he'd grown to love."
5385. John Farrell reports that Rosella Frederick, a Cochiti Pueblo Indian, designs and makes porcelain-on-copper ornaments (John uses his on his bolo tie, but brooches also are available). John has BSI in dancing men in his design (the ornament is 3 in. high), and the cost is \$50.00 postpaid. More information is available from Charlotte Irons, Box 283, Cerillos, NM 87010.
5386. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London has issued two delightful audiocassettes with Douglas Wilmer reading "The Speckled Band", "The Devil's Foot", "The Musgrave Ritual", and "Charles Augustus Milverton"; the readings are unabridged, the notes are decorated with Wilmer's self-portrait as Holmes, and Wilmer, who has played Holmes on both television and film, does well indeed. The cost of the set is £13.95 or \$23.00 postpaid (the checks should be payable to the Society, please), from Mrs. E. M. Godden, Apple Tree Cottage, Smarden, Ashford, Kent TN27 8QE, England.
5387. John Baesch, on holiday in London, reports that the Sherlock Holmes Museum still is open, with John Aidiniantz's mother in charge.
5388. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists met for dinner at Chesterfield's in Houston on Mar. 8 to honor (as usual) the world's first forensic geologist. Visitors attending the annual meeting of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists were welcomed by members of The John Openshaw Society and The Strollers on the Strand. And we all welcomed Laurie R. King, author of THE BEEKEEPER'S APPRENTICE, who by pleasant coincidence was in Houston for a book-signing earlier in the day at Martha Farrington's Murder by the Book (Laurie's second book about Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes will be issued this year, and a third book is in the works). The Practical, But Limited, Geologists will meet next in New Orleans in November (does anyone know of any Sherlockians in New Orleans?) and in San Diego in May.
5389. We've lost a lawyer, and gained a judge. Congratulations to Andy Peck, who on Mar. 31 was inducted as United States Magistrate Judge for the Southern District of New York.
5390. It's not entirely clear when and where Sherlock Holmes might have heard the Polyphonic Motets of Lassus performed, but I've had my first opportunity to do that, on Mar. 18 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Washington, where the Palestrina Choir performed an all-Lassus program. And it was a delight to hear the songs, in a thoroughly appropriate setting, with fine acoustics.
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March 1995 #6

5391. Dave Galerstein reports that the Alumni Federation of Columbia University is planning a Swiss Alumni College, May 30-June 7, and since the alumni college will be based at the Sherlock Holmes Hotel in Meiringen, the brochure includes a photograph of the statue, and mention of Conan Doyle's visit to Meiringen. Alumni Federation, Columbia University, Box 400, New York, NY 10027 (800-323-7373).
5392. Jim Hillestad (The Toy Soldier, Paradise Falls, R.R. 1, Box 379, Cresco, PA 18326) offers two new sets of 54mm Sherlockian figurines: "Boscombe Valley" shows Holmes and Watson in a railway train compartment (\$130 postpaid), and "Silver Blaze" shows Holmes and Watson with Silver Blaze and his rider (\$50 postpaid); color photographs available from Jim in return for an SASE.
5393. Tom Stix has spotted an imaginative poster for the French release of the 1963 film "Sherlock Holmes und das Halsband des Todes" (which was dubbed into English and released in 1968 as "Sherlock Holmes and the Deadly Necklace"). The film starred Christopher Lee and Thorley Walters, and the poster measures 31 x 23.5" and is offered by the Omnibus Gallery (422 East Cooper Avenue, Aspen, CO 81611) at \$600.
5394. The winter 1995 of The New Baker Street Pillar Box is at hand, with 46 pages of articles by and news of members of The Franco-Midland Hardware Company. The society is led by Philip Weller, and offers a sales-list of other Sherlockian studies and monographs, from Philip at 6 Bramham Moor, Hill Head, Fareham, Hampshire PO14 3RU, England.
5395. The fourth annual Watsonian Weekend (celebrating Dr. Watson and the Battle of Maiwand) will be held in and near Des Plaines, Ill., on July 28-29, with a dinner, a speech by Susan Rice, a horse race, and a contest for the best essay on how many wives Watson had. Additional details are available from Fred Levin, 8242 North Ridgeway Avenue, Skokie, IL 60016.
5396. A video-taper alert from Jerry Margolin: "VR.5" is a new one-hour series on the Fox television network, with the overall premise that "lonely but likeable computer buff Sydney Bloom (Lori Singer) stumbles onto the previously unattainable fifth level of virtual reality." And the show will be in part Sherlockian on Friday, April 7.
5397. Wayne and Francine Swift report that they've been told that Stanley MacKenzie's collection has been sent to auction at Sotheby's in London; the date is not yet known (34-35 New Bond Street, London W1A 2AA, England).
5398. Three volumes of the game SHERLOCK HOLMES, CONSULTING DETECTIVE are available on CD-ROM discs, and now there's a book: SHERLOCK HOLMES, CONSULTING DETECTIVE: THE UNAUTHORIZED STRATEGY GUIDE, by Bruce C. Shelley (Rocklin: Prima Publishing, 1994; 369 pp., \$19.95); it's a true "everything you ever wanted to know" book, with instructions on how to play, and hints on how to play better, and the stories for all nine cases, and comments on them, and much more. Box 1260-BK, Rocklin, CA 95677-1260 (800-632-8676).
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April 1995 #1

5399. Bob Thomalen proudly reports that his grandson Patrick is as observant as every Sherlockian should be: their recent visit to the American Museum of Natural History in New York included an inspection of the museum's cross-section of a huge redwood tree, which is marked with time-lines that show what happened during the life of the tree. And Patrick happily called to Bob's attention the label, which noted that "this tree was cut down in a forest in California in 1891, the year in which Arthur Conan Doyle first published the Adventures of Sherlock Holmes in the Strand Magazine."
- A. 20 26 23 2 "Any Englishman who claims high intelligence," said Sherlock Holmes, should be able to identify which of these numbers is
B. 29 3 13 24 the odd one out, within about ten minutes." That is one of the 74 Mensa-type puzzles in THE SHERLOCK HOLMES
C. 27 25 17 10 IQ BOOK, by Eamonn Butler and Madsen Pirie (London: Pan Books, 1994; 193 pp., £3.99); summaries of the cases are
D. 22 12 21 28 used as introductions to the puzzles, which aren't in themselves Sherlockian (but that doesn't mean that they aren't challenging). And I will publish the solution next month.
5400. A new catalog from Art & Artifact, 2451 Enterprise East Parkway, Twinsburg, OH 44087-8021 (800-950-9540) offers a Sherlockian chess set (\$450.00) with board (\$185.00); this is the same address used previously by What on Earth.
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5401. Randy Cox is now editing the venerable Dime Novel Round-Up, a monthly magazine for collectors of the old-time dime and nickel novels, which sometimes had Sherlockian connections: the Feb. 1995 issue (for example) has a cover photograph of one of the old Flashlight Detective Series covers with a fine portrait of Sherlock Holmes. Robert H. Smeltzer's brief article about the Sherlock Holmes stories is in the Nov. 1944 issue, J. Edward Leithead discussed the influence of Holmes on the Nick Carter stories in the June 1968 issue, and there are minor Sherlockian allusions in the Sept. 1950 and Dec. 1981 issues. Fanatic collectors will welcome the news that back issues are available (although some are in short supply), at \$3.00 each postpaid (or \$7.50 postpaid for all five issues); the address for the magazine is Box 226, Dundas, MN 55019-0226.
5402. Michael Ross reports that SCORN, edited by Matthew Parris (London: Hamish Hamilton, 1994), is a collection of unfriendly comments by famous people on other famous people or places, including a quote from the Canon on London: "that great cesspool into which all the loungers and idlers of the Empire are irresistibly drained."
5403. More Star Trek: The Next Generation stuff: Joe Coppola spotted a new bookmark showing Data in Sherlockian costume, with the quote "It is deduction, pure and simple ... well, perhaps not *that* simple." Design KBO-10901 from the Antioch Publishing Co., Yellow Springs, OH 45387.
5404. The Ben Silver Collection (800-221-4671) continues to use a small Sherlockian silhouette to identify regimental or school neckties "associated with the great detective Sherlock Holmes" in its spring 1995 catalog (but there are no explanations of the associations, as there were in the autumn 1994 catalog); the company's address is 149 King Street, Charleston, SC 29401.
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April 1995 #2

5405. The imaginative activities of Les Quincailliers de la Franco-Midland merit some wider publicity: they have departments and branches throughout France, and in other nations, and their publications include the Ironmongers Daily Echo and Franco-Midland Branches Advertiser (in French), which recently offered details of a proposed "Hommage au Brigadier Gerard a Waterloo le 18 juin." The society's headquarters are at 26 avenue de la Republique, 75011 Paris, France.
5406. The newest Sherlockian society pin is from The Denizens of the Bar of Gold, who meet on Maryland's eastern shore. The design is by Jeff Decker (his first), and the eightcolor pin is 1" wide and it costs \$10.00 postpaid, from Michael F. Whelan, 342 Perry Cabin Drive, St. Michaels, MD 21663.
5407. On Mar. 22, 1995, the "American Masters" series on PBS-TV broadcast a one-hour show on "Edgar Allan Poe: Terror of the Soul". And Mary Burke noted that one of the program commentators suggests that "the Sherlock Holmes stories are very much patterned after the Dupin stories." If you missed it you can wait for a repeat, or order a cassette from PBS Video, 1320 Braddock Place, Alexandria, VA 22314 (800-848-4727); \$24.95 plus shipping.
5408. It was at the third pillar from the left outside the Lyceum Theatre that Mary Morstan was directed to meet her unknown benefactor. And a lengthy argument over preservation of the theater now seems to have ended. Seven years ago (September 88 #1) the London Residuary Body (successor to the Greater London Council) sold a 150-year lease on the building to a company that planned to turn the Lyceum into a London version of the Paris Lido (a "tits and bum" cabaret, one angry opponent suggested), but nothing came of that. Now according to an article at hand from Sally Kinsey, work has begun on a true restoration project that will turn the present eyesore back into a proper 2,000-seat theater. That's what's planned by a partnership between Apollo Leisure and American theater-owner James Nederlander, and the £15 million project is targeted for completion in August 1996. Apollo chairman Paul Gregg noted that archeologists have been invited in to make sure that London's history is preserved; "they have not uncovered any corpses yet," he said, "only dead shows."
5409. Michael McClure's publications list continues to expand: his newest periodical is THE BAKER STREET NEWS, launched during the birthday festivities in January with color covers and 64 pages of articles and interviews (\$10.00 for two issues). Mike also publishes HOLMES FOR THE HOLIDAYS, for younger Sherlockian and anyone who has one handy (\$7.50 a year for five issues), THE DEVONSHIRE CHRONICLE (\$4.00 a year for four issues), and the STIMSON & COMPANY GAZETTE (\$1.00 an issue); and his address is 1415 Swanwick Street, Chester, IL 62233.
5410. Forecast from Fedogan & Bremer in October: THE RECOLLECTIONS OF SOLAR PONS, by Basil Copper, with three new stories and a revision of an older one, and illustrations by Stephanie Hawks. Copper's THE EXPLOITS OF SOLAR PONS (May 94 #2) is still available at \$24.00; the publisher's address is 603 Washington Avenue #77, Minneapolis, MN 55414-2950, and they take plastic.
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April 1995 #3

5411. FACT AND FEELING: BACONIAN SCIENCE AND THE NINETEENTH-CENTURY LITERARY IMAGINATION, by Jonathan Smith (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1995; 277 pp., \$52.00 cloth, \$22.95 paper), is a scholarly discussion of the perceived (misperceived, in Smith's opinion) conflict between the scientific method and the arts. He finds interesting parallels (between Hutton's geological uniformitarianism and Eliot's THE MILL ON THE FLOSS, for example), and the book ends with a chapter on Sherlock Holmes as a scientific detective. Smith explores the influence of Huxley, Tyndall, and Darwin on Conan Doyle and Holmes, and notes Albert Einstein's tribute to "the admirable stories of Conan Doyle."
5412. The film "The Pagemaster" (1994) arrived in the videoshops this month, with a brief glimpse of an animated Hound of the Baskervilles (Macauley Culkin plays a boy who winds up in an animated dream-world that includes some of the classic children's stories (December 94 #1).
5413. Tom Biblewski now offers a silhouette of Conan Doyle on a 50-sheet notepad (and the silhouette of Holmes is still available). \$2.25 postpaid per notepad, from the Baker Street Dispatch, Box 5503, Toledo, OH 43613.
5414. Roger Johnson reported earlier (February 95 #3) that the series "Biography" filmed a dozen members of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London dining at The Sherlock Holmes in London in the company of Dr. John H. Watson (impersonated by David Burke), and now Richard Wein has learned that the one-hour program "Sherlock Holmes: The Great Detective" will be broadcast on A&E cable on Monday, May 22. According to the A&E press release, the show "has an intriguing twist--it assumes that Holmes is a real person and is still alive, and it traces the publishing history of his stories as if they were still being churned out today."
5415. Mike Kean noted in the Dec. 1994 issue of The Baker Street Journal Philip Weller's suggestion that there is good reason to consider that "the only surviving example of a fully-operational version of a Bruce-Partington Submarine" is His Majesty's Submarine Torpedo Boat No. 1, launched on Oct. 2, 1901, as the Royal Navy's first submarine. Renamed H.M. Holland I, it sank off Plymouth in 1913, and was recovered in 1981. And John Baesch has sent a story from the Daily Express (Mar. 27) that reports that "scientists are locked in a £250,000 battle to save her from the rust which has been gouging holes in her once-watertight hull." Restoration of the historic boat is being carried out at the Royal Naval Submarine Museum in Gosport, near Portsmouth.
5416. Further to last month's report (March 95 #3) that Bjarne Nielsen had won the Scandinavian "Viking Lotto", it should be noted that Bjarne had more than that to celebrate, namely his 50th birthday. And the festivities included publication of DETEKTIV DROMMAR [DETECTIVE DREAMS], an extremely-limitededition of pastiches written about Bjarne by his friends in various styles; the book was edited by Anders Hammarqvist, and of

course there was a Sherlockian pastiche: Nils Nordberg's THE ADVENTURE OF THE THIN MAN. A grand time was had by all, including Marina Stajic, who survived both the beer and a visit to jail. Well, to Bjarne's museum, which is in a jail.

April 1995 #4

5417. "Surf Reichenbach!!!" proclaims the cover of the just-published St. Patrick's Day 1993 issue of the Reichenbachian Cliff-Notes, published occasionally (very occasionally) by The Reichenbach Cliff-Divers. This issue's contents include "The Reader's Indigestible Condensed Canon: Fifty-Six Stories and Four Novels Available Now as Eight Brief Tales" and "The Rotherhithe Memorial Get-It-Over-With, Off-the-Deep-End-with-an-Aqualung Sherlockian Monograph Chart", and it's available in return for a #10 SASE from Robert C. Burr, 4010 North Devon Lane, Peoria, IL 61614-7109.
5418. Plan ahead: the next Canonical Convocation and Caper in Door County, Wis., is scheduled for Sept. 15-17, 1995, with talks by Bob Hahn, David Hammer, and Tony Citera, and "surprises" (according to Don Izban); contact Claudine Kastner, 810 Burning Bush Lane, Mount Prospect, IL 60056.
5419. "I'd wanted to write about a detective, a Sherlock Holmes or Maigret, to keep me alive in my old age," John Mortimer recalls in the latest installment of his memoirs. "Then I thought of making him a criminal defender, in honour of the Old Bailey hacks I'd known and admired." The book is MURDERERS AND OTHER FRIENDS (New York: Viking, 1995; 260 pp., \$23.95), and it's nicely done indeed, with a few other passing Canonical allusions. Mortimer was on tour in the United States last month, lecturing in Washington and Boston and elsewhere, and in fine fettle.
5420. Lawrence Nepodahl reports that Court Benson died on Feb. 5. He was a fine actor, and had a long career on radio and television, and played Watson on many of the CBS Radio Mystery Theater dramatizations of the Sherlock Holmes stories from 1977 to 1981.
5421. The tradition of home-movie drama survives in the age of video, and perhaps the genre is easier to produce now: "Quintet" is an 86-minute videocassette made in 1993 and available from Quartz Productions, 392 Taylor, Ashland, OR 97520 (\$20.00 postpaid); there are five "neo-classic screenplays by living playwrights," including "Watson's Only Case" (26 minutes), a farce written by Robert Spira, with Leland Tanquaray as Holmes and Jon Bernard as Watson.
5422. The fourth Sherlock Holmes Review Symposium will be held on Nov. 18-19 in Indianapolis (in the Omni Severn Hotel, a restored classic built in 1913, across the street from the railroad station where Conan Doyle arrived in 1894); contact the SHR, Box 583, Zionsville, IN 46077.
5423. John Ruyle is celebrating the 25th anniversary of The Pequod Press the same way it began, issuing a book of his poems (his first "serious" collection since 1986); SPLINTERED PARTS will offer about two dozen poems, including full-page tributes to "two men who helped the Press survive" (Holmes and Moriarty). \$40.00 cloth, \$20.00 paper; 521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707-1521.
5424. Jeanne Munson recommends a new CD-ROM game called "Hodj'n'Podj" produced by Boffo Games and marketed by Virgin Interactive Entertainment (800-874-4607) -- it's engineered for MS-DOS computers, and costs \$49.99 plus \$4.00 shipping, and contains 19 mini-games such as poker, mazes, and battleship (but with a new spin on each game); the games have occasional Sherlockian allusions (perhaps thanks to Jeanne, who gets credit in the testing section).
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April 1995 #5

5425. Further to the earlier report on the film-preservation efforts of the UCLA Film and Television Archive, their annual Festival of Preservation featured some of the results: on Apr. 20 the archive showed a new 35mm print of "Paramount on Parade" (1930), in which Sherlock Holmes is shot to death by Fu Manchu (and Clive Brook has a splendid death scene). On Apr. 23 they screened new 35mm prints of Basil Rathbone's "The Pearl of Death" (1944) and "The Woman in Green" (1945). Donations, large or small, are of course welcomed; the development officer is Cornelia Emerson, UCLA Film and Television Archive (FX48), 302 East Melnitz, 405 Hilgard Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90024-1323.
5426. Bob Fritsch uses an imaginative Sherlockian wooden shilling as his calling card, and he'll be happy to send you one in return for 50c and an SASE. Or you can get three of them for \$1.00 and a #10 SASE with 55c postage. Bob's address is Box 3003, Nashua, NH 03061-3003.
5427. Fifteen years ago John le Carre was asked about "writers who mean the most to you," and replied, "P. G. Wodehouse for rhythm and timing. Conan Doyle for thrust and instant atmosphere." And le Carre has included Sherlockian allusions in his books, most recently in his new novel OUR GAME (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1995; 302 pp., \$24.00); it's a splendid book about secret service agents involved with and in the current conflict in southern Russia (and with some real insight into the reasons for that conflict).
5428. Dave Thomas (one of the stars on ABC-TV's "Grace Under Fire") is reported to be writing a comedy special for Showtime cable about "the final adventure of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson." Thomas and fellow "SCTV" alumnus Joe Flaherty expect to start shooting the show in May.
5429. The spring 1995 issue of the Sherlock Holmes Gazette has fine cover art by Tom Rieschick and 48 pages of interesting articles and news, including a report from Philip Weller on the closing of the Conan Doyle Room at The Cross Hotel in Crowborough; the new landlord of the hotel was not able to continue to provide space for the collection, which had been assembled by Malcolm Payne and his society The Conan Doyle (Crowborough) Establishment. The collection is now in storage, until Malcolm finds a new display site. 46 Purfield Drive, Wargrave, Berks. RG10 8AR, England; or Classic Specialties, Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219.
5430. And a welcome addendum: Tim O'Connor has received a report from Malcolm Payne that Andrew de Candole, the owner of Groombridge Place, has kindly offered the Victorian dairy and cheese room of the old manor as a new home for the collection, which may be open again by Easter.
5431. One of the nicest things about the Internet is how easy it is to send and receive news and information, as was the case immediately after the earthquake in Kobe. And that generated a Sherlockian item in a long story about the growth of computerized communication in Japan, in Time (Mar. 6), kindly forwarded by Dick Lesh: "Shortly after the Kobe quake, Tomoji Ohta, a college student whose parents' home had collapsed, approached Time reporters on the rubble-strewn streets with an urgent request: 'Please get on the Internet and notify the Baker Street Irregulars that all our members in Kobe are all right.' Sherlock Holmes fans around the world were reassured."
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April 1995 #6

5432. THE OXFORD SHERLOCK HOLMES, issued as a nine-volume set in 1993 (December 93 #8) offered delightful scholarship in its introductions and many explanatory notes by Owen Dudley Edwards, Richard Lancelyn Green, Christopher Roden, and W. W. Robson, and a new edition is now available in The World's Classics series of paperbacks (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1994; £3.99 or \$5.95 per volume). The new edition has color covers showing Frederic Dorr Steele artwork, and it really is a new edition (rather than a new printing), because some errors and omissions have been corrected.
5433. Reported: a two-in-one paperback (Donald I. Fine, \$13.95) with reprints of John T. Lescroart's SON OF HOLMES (March 86 #2) and RASPUTIN'S REVENGE (May 87 #3). The detective is bon vivant Auguste Lupa, son of Sherlock Holmes and an opera star, who makes his detecting debut in France in 1915 in the first book, and in the second winds up in St. Petersburg in 1916, using a passport in the name of John Hamish Adler Holmes, accused of espionage, and rescued by his father.
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5434. *THE GAME IS AFOOT*, a splendid anthology of pastiches, parodies, and scholarship edited by Marvin Kaye, was published last year in cloth (April 94 #4) and is now available as a trade paperback (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1995; 512 pp., \$13.95). Recommended.
5435. Reported by B. J. Rahn: June Thomson's biographical *HOLMES AND WATSON*, new from Constable in London (this is her fourth Sherlockian book, following her three collections of pastiches).
5436. Plan ahead: the seventh International Holmesian Games will be held on Sept. 16-17 in Vancouver, B.C. Details on the "Sherlympiad" are available from Fran Martin, 10662-129 Street, Surrey, BC V3T 3H4, Canada.
5437. Roger Johnson reports in the latest issue of *The District Messenger* that Michael Coren's *THE LIFE OF SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE* is due in November from Bloomsbury Publishing (£20.00), and that Ian Henry (20 Park Drive, Romford RM1 4LH, England) have published Ernest Dudley's revised acting edition of *THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* (£5.95), and that Malcolm Payne has reported that *THE HISTORY OF THE CROWBOROUGH BEACON GOLF CLUB* (with much about Conan Doyle) is available from the Club (Beacon Road, Crowborough, East Sussex, England) (£11.00 postpaid).
5438. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists will convene on Tuesday, Nov. 7, at Ralph and Kacoo's in New Orleans, during the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America. Geologists and Sherlockians are welcome to join in honoring the world's first forensic geologist; Ralph and Kacoo's is at 519 Toulouse Street, and the festivities will begin with cocktails at 7:00 and continue with dinner at 8:00; reservations are not needed. New Orleans may well be the largest city in the U.S. without an active Sherlockian society; if anyone knows of any Sherlockians down there in the bayous, please let me know their names and addresses.
5439. Scott Monty spotted Rathbone as Holmes on the cover of the 1995 *Antibodies Catalogue* from Transduction Laboratories (2134 Nicholasville Road #18, Lexington, KY 40503-9888), and Canonical quotations scattered through it pages (their motto is "Investigation Made Elementary").

April 1995 #7

5440. *ESTUDIOS DEL NATURAL: LOS CASOS QUE SHERLOCK HOLMES NO PUDO RESOLVER* Barcelona: Grijalbo Mondadori, 1995; 142 pp., 1,200 pesetas) is a Spanish translation of *STRANGE STUDIES FROM LIFE AND OTHER NARRATIVES: THE COMPLETE TRUE CRIME WRITINGS OF SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE*, edited by Jack Tracy and published by Gaslight in 1988 (December 88 #5). The publisher's address is: Arago 385, Barcelona, Spain.
5441. Dick Lesh reports that a cassette with Buster Keaton's film "Sherlock Jr." (1924), recently issued by Kino Video (January 95 #4), is available from Barnes & Noble (126 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10011); item D120162 (\$29.95). And that Archie McPhee: Outfitters of Popular Culture (Box 38052, Seattle, WA 98103) offers the colorful 7x8" inner lid label for Sherlock Holmes cigars for \$16.95 postpaid.
5442. Burl Ives died on April 14. Carl Sandburg dubbed Ives "America's mightiest ballad singer" in the 1940s, and his unique voice and stage presence made him (and the folk songs he sang) world-famous. He also was an actor, and won an Oscar as best supporting actor in 1959 (in "The Big Country"). And he was one of many singers who recorded songs from the 1964 musical "Baker Street" (his LP album "Burl's Broadway" was issued by Decca in 1969 with "A Married Man").
5443. "St. Bartholomew's Hospital, founded for the sick and poor of London nearly 900 years ago, had developed a formidable instinct for survival", *The Times* noted on Apr. 6, but British Health Secretary Virginia Bottomley "has succeeded where Henry VIII, the Great Fire of London, the Blitz, and Margaret Thatcher all failed." The long campaign to keep the hospital open (April 93 #4) seems to have failed, and the government now proposes to move most the facilities to Whitechapel (St. Bart's accident and emergency unit closed in January). One hopes that The Sherlock Holmes Society of London is planning to rescue Sherlock Holmes' laboratory chair and the plaque that honors the first meeting between Holmes and Watson.
5444. Douglas G. Greene's *JOHN DICKSON CARR: THE MAN WHO EXPLAINED MIRACLES* (New York: Otto Penzler/Simon & Schuster, 1995; 537 pp., \$35.00) is a delightful biography of a splendid writer. "The Man Who Explained Miracles" was the title chosen by Fred Dannay for one of Carr's short stories, but it's also an apt description of the master of the "impossible mystery" genre. Carr is possibly most familiar to Sherlockians for his excellent biography of Conan Doyle, and his work with Adrian Conan Doyle on some of the pastiches that were published as *THE EXPLOITS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES*, but he also wrote radio adaptations of "The Lost World" and "The Speckled Band" for the BBC, and two amusing Sherlockian parody-playlets performed at the annual dinners of the Mystery Writers of America. He succeeded in creating four successful series detectives, and Greene has done a fine job of describing the man who could perform that sort of miracle.
5445. The spring 1995 issue of *Scarlet Street* offers David Stuart Davies' interesting interview with Michael Cox, who tells some fine stories about the Granada series (such as: the studio wanted a well-known name in the title role, and having recently produced "Brideshead Revisited" suggested Jeremy Irons and Anthony Andrews, but Cox insisted on Jeremy Brett). The magazine costs \$20.00 a year for four issues; Box 604, Glen Rock, NJ 07452.

April 1995 #8

5446. "Sherlock Holmes on American Radio" is a new audiocassette prepared by Lawrence Nepodahl, with one hour of comments on and excerpts from the many radio series about the Great Detective. The sound quality is high, and the cassette offers an excellent tour of the American series, and (at the end) Gordon E. Kelley's fine tribute to Basil Rathbone. 1230 Vienna Boulevard, Dekalb, IL 60115; \$20.00 postpaid.
5447. A new audio dramatization of William Hjortsberg's *NEVERMORE* from Radio Theater, 150 Martinvale Lane, San Jose, CA 95119 (800-959-7107) offers three hours on two cassettes (\$14.95). The novel (October 94 #5) brought Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Harry Houdini to New York in 1923, involving them with Opal Crosby Fletcher (a provocative and beautiful medium) and with a mysterious serial killer (who copies murders described in Edgar Allan Poe's stories, and whose targets include Conan Doyle and Houdini), and the dramatization is nicely done.
5448. It hasn't taken long for Laurie R. King's *THE BEEKEEPER'S APPRENTICE* to be translated: *BIAVLERENS LAERLING* (Arhus: Klim, 1994) is the Danish version.
5449. Forecast: *ESCAPEDE*, by Walter Satterthwait, from St. Martin's Press in July (\$22.95); "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Harry Houdini join forces to solve the murder of their host, killed in a locked room during a seance at his country manor house." And: *THE SIX MESSIAHS*, by Mark Frost, from William Morrow in July (\$23.00); "Arthur Conan Doyle embarks on his first tour of the United States, where six strangers await him--convinced it is Doyle who can lead them to the source of their vision."
5450. Reported: Anthony Boucher's delightful mystery novel *THE CASE OF THE BAKER STREET IRREGULARS* (1940) has been reprinted, with an introduction by Otto Penzler, from Carroll & Graf (\$4.95).
5451. One of the nicest things about being a publisher is that it is not difficult to get one's writings into print. And it is particularly nice for readers when the publisher is a fine writer, as is David L. Hammer, whose new collection *THE BEFORE-BREAKFAST PIPE OF MR. SHERLOCK HOLMES* offers a fine assortment of his essays and articles, old and new. 206 pp., \$19.50 postpaid, from the Gasogene Press, Box 1041, Dubuque, IA 52001-1041.
5452. *HAVE A LITTLE PATIENCE: THE SINGULAR ADVENTURES OF AN INDEPENDENT GIRL* is Mary L. Jaffee's amusing poetic tribute to Patience Moran, with excellent illustrations by Debra McWilliams, in a 24-page pamphlet published by Vincent Brosnan (1741 Via Allena, Oceanside, CA 92056); \$10.00

postpaid. And his new "Sherlock in L.A." catalogue 11, available from Vinnie on request, offers 782 items of Sherlockiana and Doyleana, and as added value, essays on Edgar W. Smith by Marilyn Ezzell, and on Michael Harrison by Tina Rhea.

5453. Audio-taper alert: BBC Radio 4 sent four people to Lidingo for two days to interview Ted Bergman and four of his friends about Swedish girls, Swedish royalty, Swedish sin, and Swedish interest in Sherlock Holmes, for a program in the "Ad Lib" series to be presented by Robert Robinson on June 17.

May 1995 #1

5454. "Dracula on the Rocks" is a short story by Carole Nelson Douglas scheduled for CELEBRITY VAMPIRES, a horror anthology due from DAW Books in October at \$4.99. Irene Adler "has more suitors than the Crown Prince of Bohemia when she plays prima donna at the Warsaw Imperial Opera. Could Count Dracula be lurking behind the arras and the arias?"

5455. 20 26 23 2 "Any Englishman who claims high intelligence," said Sherlock Holmes, should be able to identify which of these numbers is

5456. 29 3 13 24 the odd one out, within about ten minutes." For those who came in late, that's the puzzle I published last month, from THE

5457. 27 25 17 10 SHERLOCK HOLMES IQ BOOK. The answer is 17. Because the names of all the other numbers begin with a T when written in English. The

22 12 21 28 book suggests that anyone in the top 1% of the population, with an IQ of at least 155, should have been able to solve the problem in

5458. ten minutes.

5459. There are Hebrew translations of Frank Thomas' SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE MASQUERADE MURDERS, SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE SACRED SWORD, and SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE GOLDEN BIRD (possibly the first book-length pastiches to appear in Hebrew), and they are offered by the publisher ("Schalgi" Ltd., 23 Levanda Street, 66020 Tel-Aviv, Israel) at \$20.00 each postpaid. And Frank reports that the last two titles are due soon in Russian. And Laurie R. King's THE BEEKEEPER'S APPRENTICE will be published in a Dutch edition (as DE LEERLING VAN DE BIJENHOUDER) from Het Spectrum in August.

5460. Don Hobbs has found an old and artistic Sherlockian bookplate. I remember seeing the design before, but can't recall where, or when, or whose design it was (the name of Robert F. Larson, Jr., is typed rather than printed). Please let me know if you recognize this and can supply more information about artist or purveyor (the dancing men spell "in libris").

5461. The 24-page manuscript for Conan Doyle's article on "Life on a Greenland Whaler" (which was published in The Strand Magazine in Jan. 1897, and in McClure's Magazine in Mar. 1897) went to auction at Christie's in New York on Apr. 25, and was sold for \$9,200 (including the 15% buyer's premium).

5462. The Apr. 1995 issue of Nutshell News has a fine article by Lisa Sullivan on "The Game Is Afoot" (with some excellent color photographs of her miniature of the sitting-room); Box 1612, Waukesha, WI 53187-1612; \$3.95.

5463. Ginger Rogers died on Apr. 25. Her acting career spanned 65 years, from vaudeville to television, and although she will always be remembered best for her dancing with Fred Astaire, it was as a dramatic actress that she won an Academy Award, as Kitty Foyle in the 1940 film based on Christopher Morley's novel. Her life-long artistic achievement was recognized at the 15th annual Kennedy Center Honors in 1992, when Walter Cronkite confessed that "I wasn't that excited about Fred Astaire or the dancing. But--boy--her performance in 'Kitty Foyle' just knocked me out."

May 1995 #2

5464. Ed Wallner spotted a new article about the Andaman Islands in the May issue of Scientific American: Madhusree Mukerjee notes that the Great Andamanese have been reduced to a mixed-race group of 37 surviving on South Andaman Island, where the prison once was. The Jawara, also living on the island, still number about 200; the authorities don't know exactly how many, because the tribe still greets visitors with wellaimed arrows.

5465. After the British burned the Capitol, and the Library of Congress, during the War of 1812, there was considerable debate about whether Congress would buy Thomas Jefferson's library to replace the lost books. And, according to Librarian of Congress James H. Billington, some members of Congress complained that too much of Jefferson's library "is in languages many cannot read and most ought not to." Billington also reports, in the May/June 1995 issue of Civilization, that the Library now has more than 108 million items in 460 languages. That leaves quite a few languages to be pursued by Sherlockian collectors (Ron De Waal lists 63 foreign languages in THE UNIVERSAL SHERLOCK HOLMES). But of course the Canon has not been translated into all those other languages. Yet.

5466. In 1972 Nicaragua commemorated the 50th anniversary of Interpol with a set of stamps showing the twelve most famous detectives, with tributes to them printed on the backs of the stamps, and with Sherlock Holmes appearing (of course) on the highest value of the set. I have a small supply of mint copies of the Holmes stamp, which I am offering for \$15.00 each postpaid, one to a customer; checks payable to Peter E. Blau, please. And yes, the stamps do say that Interpol's 50th anniversary was in 1973, but Nicaragua obviously wanted to be the first to honor the anniversary. In 1973, at the annual dinner of the Baker Street Irregulars, a Sherlock Holmes silver medal was awarded (in absentia) to the Hon. Rafael Sevilla-Sacasa, director of the Philatelic Bureau of the Republic of Nicaragua, for his help in arranging for the world's first official Sherlock Holmes stamp.

5467. The second issue of Baker Street West 1 has arrived. This "Sherlockian Journal from the Western U.S.A." continues to focus on activities west of the Mississippi, and its highlights include an amusing cover designed by Chuck Kovacic. \$3.00 postpaid, from Jerry Kegley, 110 South El Nido #41, Pasadena, CA 91107.

5468. Telephone calling cards are a fairly new collectible (some people actually use them to make telephone calls, but the cards are energetically marketed to collectors), and the first sort-of-Sherlockian card has been spotted by Gordon Palmer: TEC Card (800-333-8735) offers a series of Star Trek cards, one of which shows Data in Sherlockian costume. The S'ian card is one of a set of four that costs \$40.00, and each of the four cards gives you \$5.00 of long-distance calling (at \$1.00 a minute) and \$5.00 of access to a "Star Trek" entertainment line.

5469. The six Sherlockian daily "Fox Trot" comic strips that ran in various newspapers on Mar. 8-13, 1993, were reprinted in Bill Amend's MAY THE FORCE BE WITH US, PLEASE (Kansas City: Andrews and McMeel, 1994; 128 pp., \$8.95).

May 1995 #3

5470. Our new commemorative honors the late President Richard Nixon, whose first known contact with the world of Sherlockians was the telegram of greetings he sent to the annual dinner of The Baker Street Irregulars in 1956, and which was noted with disdain by Rex Stout in The Baker Street Journal in June 1961. The investigation of Watergate launched a flood of Sherlockian allusions in editorials and in editorial cartoons, but Nixon did know about Sherlock Holmes: Julie Baumgold wrote in New York (June 9, 1980) that he told her, "I don't care for novels, and mysteries bore me except on TV, and since Holmes is off, what is there?" Nixon also found an appropriate context for a reference to "Sherlock Holmes's dog that did not bark" in his book 1999: VICTORY WITHOUT WAR (1988); see page 76.

5471. ESTUDIOS DEL NATURAL: LOS CASOS QUE SHERLOCK HOLMES NO PUDO RESOLVER, the Spanish translation of Jack Tracy's 1988 edition of STRANGE STUDIES FROM LIFE AND OTHER NARRATIVES: THE COMPLETE TRUE CRIME WRITINGS OF SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE (April 95 #7) also is available from Gaslight Publications, 3888 West Sahara Avenue #221-B, Las Vegas, NV 89102; \$17.00 postpaid (creditcard orders welcome).

5472. Mel Hughes spotted David Lilley's obituary for Douglas Bartlett Gregor in the Apr. 24 issue of The Independent [London]: Gregor was a classicist by training and profession, and was fluent in more than 20 languages and read many others. "He wrote about Byron's knowledge of Armenian, discussed the texts of Greek tragedies, and translated two Sherlock Holmes stories into Dolomitic Ladin and its sister languages Friulan and Romontsch."
5473. Andy Fusco reports that LEXIS-NEXIS (Box 933, Dayton, OH 45401) has some amusing Sherlockian artwork on its new flier ("The Case of the Bogus Business") promoting the use of LEXIS data bases ("Suppose you need to track the business operations of Moriarity Enterprises, operated by your nemesis, Professor James Moriarity, against whom you are attempting to recover damages in your fraud case"). And there are other S'ian allusions in the text.
5474. Edwin Blum died on May 2. He was a playwright and a screenwriter, working with Ernest Pascal and Billy Wilder and others; he shared screenplay credit for Basil Rathbone's "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (1939), and forty years later his script for "The Ghost of Sherlock Holmes" was considered by ABC-TV for a project starring Christopher Lee.
5475. A new flier at hand for Bouchercon 26, at the Royal Centre in Nottingham, Sept. 28 through Oct. 1, 1995. The organizers are still anonymous, but the guests of honour are James Ellroy and Colin Dexter, and Reginald Hill will be the toastmaster at the awards dinner. Additional information is available from Conference Nottingham, The Business Information Centre, 309 Haydn Road, Nottingham NG5 1DG, England.
5476. "Sherlock Sholem: Israeli detective in relentless pursuit of his nemesis, Professor Yom Tirra." That was one of the examples that Mary Ann Madden offered in a competition in New York magazine (May 8), in which competitors were invited "to sully by anagram one familiar name of fact or fiction and provide for it a brief description similarly altered by a one-word jumble."

May 1995 #4

5477. Donald Girard Jewell has announced the sixth volume in his continuing Sherlock Holmes Natural History Series: THE BOTANICAL HOLMES: A MONOGRAPH ON PLANTS IN THE TIME OF SHERLOCK HOLMES is illustrated with contemporary artwork and is twice as long as previous volumes, and the booklet costs \$16.95 postpaid (signed and hand-tinted copies are priced at \$24.95 postpaid). You can order from the Pinchin Lane Press, 4685 Geeting Road, Westminster, MD 21158.
5478. Video-taper alert: watch for a re-run on "Star Trek: Voyager" (syndicated on Mondays). Gilles Coughlan reports that "Ex Post Facto" (Feb. 27, 1995) had Lt. Tom Paris convicted of murder and sentenced to relive the victim's final moments over and over again, but is cleared of the crime when Tuvok applies some logic straight from the Sherlock Holmes stories.
5479. "You have a few sheep in the paddock," said Sherlock Holmes (in "Silver Blaze"). Our new stamped envelope shows a sheep (the envelope is for non-profit organizations, and is undenominated, because many non-profits don't want you to know that they pay only five cents when they mail you requests for donations).
5480. News for fans of Jeremy Brett: the British film "Mad Dogs and Englishmen" (also starring Elizabeth Hurley and Joss Ackland) will be released in June in Britain. And "Mystery!" will broadcast the six new (well, new to American television) Granada shows this fall; for those who have forgotten, the shows aired in Britain in March and April 1994 ("The Three Gables", "The Dying Detective", "The Golden Pince-Nez", "The Red Circle", "The Mazarin Stone", and "The Cardboard Box").
5481. Rush Limbaugh can be seen in Sherlockian costume on the cover of the May issue of The Limbaugh Letter (Box 420058, Palm Coast, FL 32142-0058) (800-829-5386); \$3.00.
5482. Debbie Clark reports that the Malice Domestic convention in Bethesda, Md., was enjoyable and well-attended, and the Sherlockian news is that Laurie R. King's next novel about Mary Russell (and Sherlock Holmes) is A MONSTROUS REGIMENT OF WOMEN, due from St. Martin's Press in August.
5483. "It is always 1895" was the theme of the irregular quinquennial Sherlockian dinner at the Culinary Institute of America on May 13, and the event was as usual delightful. And the weather, and the scenery in and around Hyde Park for those who arrived early or stayed late for a bit of sight-seeing in upstate New York. There was wine and hors d'oeuvres at the CIA's new Conrad Hilton library, and a video presentation in the new Danny Kaye media center of Jennie Paton's rapid-fire and amusing survey of Canonical dining as portrayed on film and television, and then dinner in the Great Hall with five buffet stations honoring the five cases dated in 1895, and toasts to those cases, and a handsome illustrated souvenir menu based on careful research by Al and Julie Rosenblatt, who shared credit with Fritz Sonnenschmidt for a memorable celebration. And on the next day the Rhinebeck Volunteer Fire Department welcomed visitors to The Great Jonas Oldacre Firehouse Smoke-Out Breakfast. And now back to dieting, preparing for the next gathering . . .

May 1995 #5

5484. There's occasional Sherlockian artwork by R. Michael Palan in Greg Hunter's NATE THE GREAT LITERATURE NOTES (for students and teachers using the NATE THE GREAT series by Marjorie Weinman Sharmat); item FS-2725 in a catalog from Frank Schaffer Publications (Box 2853, Torrance, CA 90509) (800-421-5565); \$2.49 (minimum order \$15.00, but there's lots of other things in their catalog).
5485. J.B. Fine Arts (420 Central Avenue, Cedarhurst, NY 11516) (800-522-7871) is selling a 37 x 36" multicolored lithograph of Robin Morris' "Sherlock" for \$750.00, and they will be happy to send you a fullcolor card showing you how handsome it is. There's a discount if you mention "Scuttlebutt".
5486. An old comic book, newly noted for modern collectors: THE THREE STOOGES #28 (May 1966) shows Moe Howard on the cover, with deerstalker and calabash.
5487. Tom Kowols notes in the Apr. 1995 issue of The Police Gazette that Geoffrey A. Landis' Sherlockian pastiche "The Singular Habits of Wasps" (in the Apr. 1994 issue of Analog Science Fiction and Fact) was nominated for a Nebula Award (for best novelette) by the Science Fiction Writers of America.
5488. "I kind of believe what Sherlock Holmes said to Watson," said Michael Tigar (defense lawyer for Oklahoma bombing-suspect Terry L. Nichols), quoted in a report in the N.Y. Times on May 19. "It's like a stick on the ground. It does point in one direction till you turn it around and look at it from the other side and it points just as equally in the other direction." Well now -- what did Holmes really say? Warning: answer on next page.
5489. Sotheby's reports that Stanley MacKenzie's collection of Sherlockiana will be auctioned on July 24. The catalog isn't ready yet, but their address is 34-35 New Bond Street, London, W1A 2AA, England.
5490. The June-July issue of British Heritage has a fine article by Steven Eramo about Edward Hardwicke, covering much more than his work as Watson on stage and television; Box 1066, Mount Morris, IL 61054-9946 (\$4.95).
5491. The 1995 running of The Silver Blaze at Belmont Park (in New York) will be held on Sept. 9. Additional information is available from Stephen L. Stix, 1150 NC 50 & US 117, Faison, NC 28341.

5492. Eric Porter died on May 15. He was a splendid actor, and his portrayal of Soames Forsyte brought him widespread notice in the United States when "The Forsyte Saga" aired on public television. And he was an inspired choice for the role of Prof. Moriarty in the Granada series.
5493. It should be noted, by the way, that the success of "The Forsyte Saga" was the key to bringing British drama to American television; the next step was when WGBH-TV (Boston) networked "The First Churchills" as the first series broadcast on "Masterpiece Theatre". "The Forsyte Saga" also featured Nyree Dawn Porter as Soames' wife Irene, and offered many American viewers their first chance to hear "Irene" pronounced as a three-syllable name.
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May 1995 #6

5494. The Sub-Librarians Scion of the Baker Street Irregulars in the American Library Association will hold its annual meeting from 4:00 to 5:30 pm on June 25 at the Harold Washington Library Center in Chicago; there will be reception, and a presentation by Ely M. Liebow, and the cost is \$15.00, and the deadline for reservations is June 17. You can send your checks to Marsha L. Pollak, Sunnyside Public Library, Box 3714, Sunnyside, CA 94088-3714. And you needn't be a librarian to enjoy the meeting.
5495. Jeff Decker (who aptly describes himself as "an artist known for his blend of pawky humor and visual storytelling") welcomes enquiries about original artwork for Sherlockian stationery, greeting cards, and illustrations; R.D. 3, Box 7631, Jonestown, PA 17038.
5496. Members of The Hounds of the Internet have offered quotations as sources for what Michael Tigar said Holmes said. Ben Fairbank gets credit for "The Boscombe Valley Mystery" ("Circumstantial evidence ... may seem to point very straight to one thing, but if you shift your own point of view a little, you may find it pointing in an equally uncompromising manner to something entirely different"). And Tom Crammond gets credit for "The Norwood Builder" ("After all, important fresh evidence is a two-edged thing, and may possibly cut in very different direction to that which Lestrade imagines"). It's difficult to figure out how Tigar got from either one of those quotes to his quote; perhaps he was recalling something from a pastiche or a movie or a television show.
5497. "Autumn in Baker Street" will be held on Oct. 28-29 at the Tarrytown Hilton in Tarrytown, N.Y. This annual gathering is always well-attended, and the agenda interesting, and additional information is available from Robert E. Thomalen, 69 Glen Road, Eastchester, NY 10709.
5498. If your cable system has the Sci-Fi Channel, watch for "Spectre" on June 3 and June 4 on "Pilot Playhouse". "Spectre" was a two-hour television film made from a story by Gene Roddenberry, produced by Norway Productions for Twentieth Century-Fox Television, and broadcast by NBC-TV on May 21, 1977, starring Robert Culp as William Sebastian and Gig Young as Dr. Hamilton. According to reasonably informed sources, Roddenberry wrote the screenplay several years after the original "Star Trek" series went off the air, and involved Holmes and Watson in a story that was dated after Holmes' retirement, and planned as a pilot for a series starring Leonard Nimoy as Holmes. But Nimoy didn't want to do the series, and Roddenberry wasn't able to get permission to use Holmes and Watson as characters, so he just changed the names to Sebastian and Hamilton and turned the project into a non-Sherlockian film.
5499. The just-published issue #9 of Murder & Mayhem: The Mystery Reader's Guide has a long and well-illustrated article "Of Matters Sherlockian" by editors Fiske and Elly-Ann Miles, and an interesting interview with Dame Jean Conan Doyle by John C. Tibbetts. Box 415024, Kansas City, MO 64141; \$2.95.
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June 1995 #1

5500. Faithful viewers of the O. J. Simpson trial will recall the battle between defense attorney Barry Scheck and Los Angeles Police Department criminalists Dennis Fung and Andrea Mazzola, and Scheck brandishing what he called the "fundamental textbook" used by the LAPD. The book was CRIMINALISTICS: AN INTRODUCTION TO FORENSIC SCIENCE, and its author, Richard Saferstein was interviewed by David Ellis for People magazine (May 15); I don't know about the current edition, but in the second edition (1981) the introductory section on the history and development of forensic science features a tribute to Conan Doyle and Holmes. Saferstein expects a hung jury.
5501. Reported from Britain: THE SHERLOCK HOLMES ENCYCLOPEDIA, by Matthew Bunson (Pavilion, £19.99); the British edition of his ENCYCLOPEDIA SHERLOCKIANA (January 95 #4); and NEVERMORE, by William Hjortsberg (Orion, £9.99); the British edition of his Houdini/Conan Doyle pastiche (October 94 #5).
5502. "You don't happen to have a Raphael or a first folio Shakespeare without knowing it?" Sherlock Holmes wondered (in "The Three Gables"). A cherub (suggested by some a guardian death angel) from Raphael's "Sistine Madonna" was seen earlier this year on an undenominated "Love" stamp (February 95 #3); now there are two of them.
5503. "Sherlock Holmes: The Great Detective" (on "Biography" on A&E cable on May 22) was nicely done and well produced for its target general audience. And those who don't get A&E, or who forgot to watch or tape the program and who don't know anyone who did tape it, will be glad to know that it's available on videocassette at \$23.90 postpaid; you can call 800-423-1212. "Jack the Ripper: Phantom of Death" (on "Biography" on May 23) had passing mentions of Holmes and Conan Doyle.
5504. Bob Burr offers a revised version of the one-page "Some Basic Questions for the Beginning Student of the Canon" (some of the questions might be considered multiple-choice, if Bob gave any choices). Send him a #10 SASE (4010 North Devon Lane, Peoria, IL 61614).
5505. Alas: newly-increased charges by the Postal Service have triggered a rise in the price of this newsletter, which now is \$9.00 a year for six or more pages a month of whatever gossip I find appropriate. A box of 500 stamped envelopes with printed return address now costs \$184.60 postpaid (\$181.60 postpaid if you're satisfied with the Liberty Bell indicia); that's still a bargain, as far as I'm concerned, and the toll-free number is 800-782-6724.
5506. And (alas, again) the postal rates for international mail will increase on July 9. The new newsletter price for Canada will be US\$11.50 a year, and the new price for other countries will be US\$17.50 a year.
5507. James R. Webb's three-page article "Sherlock Holmes on Consulting" offers readers of the Journal of Management Consulting (spring 1995) a look at how Sherlock Holmes anticipated the modern management consultant. The address is: 858 Longview Road, Burlingame, CA 94010; \$20.00 postpaid.
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June 1995 #2

5508. "I should not be surprised to learn that what we have heard is the cry of the last of the bitterns," said Jack Stapleton (in "The Hound of the Baskervilles"). There still are bitterns to be found in the United States, at least: Bob Robinson has noted a fine cover story in Smithsonian (May 1995) about the American bittern and the least bittern.
5509. Barbara Holmes will be glad to accept commissions for original Sherlockian artwork, and to discuss your ideas. She works in acrylics, and prices range from \$38.00 (11 x 14") to \$55.00 (20 x 24"); this greatly-reduced reproduction of her color portrait of Jeremy Brett and Edward Hardwick shows what she can do; her address is Box 446, Scottsville, VA 24590.
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5510. Oxford University Press began to discount the boxed hard-cover nine-volume edition of THE OXFORD SHERLOCK HOLMES when the new edition in paper covers was ready (the new edition was edited to correct some of the errors). Last year (October 94 #6) the hardcover edition cost \$49.50 (plus \$5.00 for shipping) from the press (800-230-3242), and Dick Lesh now reports that it's still available from Daedalus Books for \$50.00 (plus \$4.50 shipping); Box 9132, Hyattsville, MD 20781 (800-395-2665).
5511. I don't know if any Sherlockians investigating the Tankerville Club Scandal (mentioned in the "The Five Orange Pips") have ever discussed the case with the Earl of Tankerville, but there is one: the earldom was created in 1714, and the 10th Earl, Peter Grey Bennet, was born in 1956 and succeeded to the title in 1980. And a recent auction at the Swann Galleries in New York included a signed autograph postal card from Conan Doyle to Lady Tankerville, responding to an inquiry and complimenting her on her knowledge of psychic matters.
5512. Laurel Kristick reports (from the PBS home page on the World Wide Web) that "Mystery!" will repeat Granada's "The Last Vampyre" on Aug. 10 (two hours) and "The Eligible Bachelor" on Aug. 17 (ditto).
5513. The Ellery Queen Award, established by the Mystery Writers of America in 1982, recognizes achievement in the fields in which Ellery Queen (Frederic Dannay and Manfred B. Lee) excelled: anthologies, team writing, and editing. This year the award went to Martin H. Greenberg, of whom Francis M. Nevins, Jr., suggested that "his name seems to be on the dust jacket of every anthology or collection of entertainment fiction published in the last twenty years." Not quite, but Marty Greenberg has edited or co-edited 524 books, including THE BEST SCIENCE FICTION OF ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE (1981), THE NEW ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1987), THE BEST HORROR STORIES OF ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE (1989), SHERLOCK HOLMES IN ORBIT (1995), and many others that have included one or more Sherlockian or Doylean stories.

June 1995 #3

5514. This isn't a quiz, but: later this year the postal service will honor the 100th anniversary of comic strips by issuing a sheet of 20 stamps showing classic characters (all of them are at least 50 years old), and the honorees will be: the Yellow Kid, Little Nemo in Slumberland, Krazy Kat, Rube Goldberg's Inventions, the Toonerville Folks, the Katzenjammer Kids, Dick Tracy, Popeye, Bringing Up Father, Nancy, Blondie, Brenda Starr, Li'l Abner, Terry and the Pirates, Alley Oop, Barney Google, Prince Valiant, Flash Gordon, Gasoline Alley, and Little Orphan Annie. How many of these strips have had at least one Sherlockian allusion? In newspapers, not comic books or animations. Send me a photocopy of at least one, and I will (eventually) send you a complete set.
5515. If you weren't satisfied with the report (May 1995 #4) on the grand Sherlockian dinner at the Culinary Institute of America, and would like more detail on what you missed, extra copies of the handsome 16-page menu are available (\$18.95 postpaid) from Al and Julie Rosenblatt, 300 Freedom Road, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569. The text is carefully crafted by Julie and Al, with some grand photographs and artwork, and you can see "Black Peter and his wife in happier days."
5516. John Keane (who has been in business since 1976 as "Sherlock Bones: Tracer of Missing Pets") now has his own home page on the Internet; if you know how to cruise the Web, the URL is: <http://www.sherlock.com/home/sherlock>. And his e-mail address is <sherlock@sherlock.com> (he says that he would love to hear from "barker street irregulars").
5517. "Farintosh," said Sherlock Holmes (in "The Speckled Band"). "I recall the case; it was concerned with an opal tiara." Australia selected the opal as the national gemstone in 1993, and used holographic images of light and black opals on a set of stamps issued this year. Gem-quality opal also is found in South Africa, but one likes to think that the tiara had opals from Australia, if only because of the nice stamps.
5518. SHERLOCK HOLMES FOR CHILDREN is now offered both on CD and on cassette; the one-hour recording contains four stories (Maza/Spec/Musg/Blue) told by Jim Weiss, who does an excellent job of combining narration and dialogue. The stories were edited for a younger target-audience, but the adaptations are imaginative and retain the excitement of the Canon. The cassette is \$9.95 and the CD is \$14.95 (add \$2.00 per order for shipping) from Greathall Productions, Box 813, Benicia, CA 94510.
5519. Sherlockian artist Cathy Childs (1510 Lake Drive, Grand Island, FL 32735) offers a new illustrated catalog of her artwork, including new 6" busts of Jeremy Brett as Holmes and Edward Hardwicke as Watson.
5520. M. J. Trow's LESTRADE AND THE KISS OF HORUS (London: Constable, 1995; 235 pp., £15.99) is the fifteenth in his splendid series about Sholto Lestrade, who in 1923 is an ex-Detective Chief Superintendent, but still involved in the work of Scotland Yard, investigating the death of Lord Carnarvon (which turns out to have been deliberate murder, and only one of many in Egypt and in London). As usual, the book is full of puns and bravado and fun.

June 1995 #4

5521. Cadds (the British printer) will be issuing another colorful calendar for 1996, with color photos from the Granada series, and in the meantime has published two posters (12 x 16") with color photographs of Jeremy Brett; you can order from Classic Specialties (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219); \$20.50 postpaid for the two posters.
5522. Jennie Paton has reported some nice news from Ken Greenwald and 221A Baker Street Associates: he now is working with the Brilliant Cassettes to make 16 new high-quality cassettes with 32 of the old Sherlock Holmes radio programs with Tom Conway and Nigel Bruce; the introductions will be recorded this summer, and the cassettes likely will be released in 1996. And Ken doesn't have a 200-show backlog, unfortunately. If anyone knows where all those shows are hidden, he'd be delighted to hear who has them.
5523. Noted by Dana Richards: a Sherlockian rogue's gallery in "Test Your Private Eye-Q" in Games World of Puzzles (July 1995).
5524. Roving Reporter: From the Files of Sarah Jane Smith #4 (one of many Doctor Who fanzines) is now available, and one of the stories is "The Adventure of the Visiting Doctor" (by Joelle Augustine, with artwork by Stefanie Kate Hawks); the Doctor and Sarah Jane help Holmes foil a mass murderer. \$13.00 postpaid (\$15.00 overseas) from Kevin W. Parker, 3-E Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770-1900. Brad Keefauver calls Kevin's magazine "one of the world's few perfect fanzines."
5525. A Sherlockian first: a Sherlockian screen-saver (for non-tekkies, that's a program that helps you keep from burning something into the screen of your computer, which can happen if you leave something on the screen for hours). The "Abominable Wife" screen-saver cycles through seven of Melissa Hellen's black-and-white portraits of Sherlock Holmes, and you need Windows and 1-MB on a hard disk, and it is available on a 3.5" floppy disk from Carolyn and Joel Senter (Classic Specialties, Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219); \$23.45 postpaid.
5526. The Silver Blaze (Southern Division) at Pimlico on May 27 was won by Banpac and Meccas Boy in a dead heat, first dead heat in the history of The Silver Blaze and possibly all the Silver Blazes. Karen McDonough of Philadelphia presented the trophy (a specially bound copy of one of the Sherlockian volumes of The Strand Magazine), which will, one hopes, be shared in rotation over the years by the two fortunate owners.

5527. The spring 1995 issue of The New Baker Street Pillar Box has arrived from The Franco-Midland Hardware Company; the 46 pages of news and articles include Catherine and Alan Saunders' interesting exploration of "Heavy Game in the Western Himalayas" (information about the society and its publications is available from Philip Weller, 6 Bramham Moor, Hill Head, Fareham, Hampshire PO14 3RU, England).
5528. Dr. Fatso's latest installment of the continuing saga of Turlock Loams is THE ADVENTURE OF THE FERAL BARONET, involving "theriomorphy, exotic herbs, and the fast-food conspiracy," according to John Ruyle, who is even now at work printing the booklet on his Pequod Press. Available from the author, 521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707; \$40.00 (cloth) or \$20.00 (paper).
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June 1995 #5

5529. The bibliographic research by Richard Lancelyn Green and John Michael Gibson for A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF A. CONAN DOYLE (1983) uncovered ten stories that had been published anonymously and not previously known to have been Conan Doyle's; they were reprinted in THE UNKNOWN CONAN DOYLE: UNCOLLECTED STORIES (1982), and many admirers of Conan Doyle's work wondered whether there were more such discoveries to be made. The answer is yes: "The Blood-Stone Tragedy: A Druidical Story" in Cassell's Saturday Journal (Feb. 16, 1884) has been identified as Conan Doyle's work, thanks to Michael Halewood's research, inspired by his purchase at auction of a letter from Conan Doyle in Cassell's archives. The story has now been reprinted for the first time by The Arthur Conan Doyle Society in cloth, in a 63-page book that includes a 32-page Afterword by Owen Dudley Edwards, who offers details from contemporary newspapers about the real-life source for the story, and speculation about why it was not reprinted while its author lived. The cost is \$26.70 postpaid by surface from the Society (Ashcroft, 2 Abbottsford Drive, Penyffordd, Chester CH4 0JG, England (information on prices for shipping elsewhere is available from the Society).
5530. "If so, it would be good news in the sense that there is no Moriarty out there, no diabolical figure still eluding capture and bent on further mayhem," Joel Achenbach wrote in the Washington Post (June 11), commenting on the investigation of the Oklahoma City bombing. And he obviously assumed that his readers would know who Moriarty is. It is interesting how often one now sees allusions to the dog that did nothing in the night-time, and to the hound of the Baskervilles, and to Moriarty, without any additional identification, made by writers who believe they are writing for readers who don't need help identifying the dog, and the hound, and Moriarty.
5531. Our new stamp shows a familiar rose, since the design has been used before (September 93 #1), but the rose is pink (rather than red) and the denomination is 32c (rather than 29c). There are lots of roses to be found in the Sherlock Holmes stories, and on our postage stamps (I doubt that any other flower has been featured on our stamps as often as the rose).
5532. Reported by Ralph Hall: Mickey Mouse in a Sherlockian scene from "Lonesome Ghosts" on the face of a wristwatch (\$65.00) at a Disney store at a mall. THE BERENSTAIN BEARS AND THE GREEN-EYED MONSTER, by Stan and January Berenstain (New York, Random House, 1995; \$2.50); Grizzlock Holmes in a deerstalker on one page. And a flier from Peterson announcing a new series of pipes (commemorating "The Return of Sherlock Holmes"); the first is "The Rathbone" at \$150 to \$200 at your local pipe shop.
5533. Travelers to Ontario may wish to attend a dinner-theatre production of Dennis Rosa's play "Sherlock Holmes and the Curse of the Sign of the Four" at the Rainbow Theatre in Parry Sound, July 25-Aug. 5. Box 282, Parry Sound, ON P2A 2X4, Canada (705-746-4050).
5534. John Baesch reports that The Folio Society still offers their uniform set of the Canon, as a premium for new members: you can get five volumes of the short stories for £9.95 (for the set), and the four volumes with the novels free if you then decide to join; the society advertised in The Sunday Times (June 4), and their address is 44 Eagle Street, London WC1 4BR, England.
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June 1995 #6

5535. Hugh Scullion (proprietor of Cadds Printing) reports that he has learned from Grace Riley (John Aidiniantz's mother) that Aidiniantz, who in January was jailed for three years after being convicted of obtaining £1.2 million by deception, has now appealed the sentence, and hopes to be released if he can persuade a judge that the mortgage lenders wouldn't have suffered financially (because property served as security), and that many people who apply for mortgages don't always tell the complete truth. Aidiniantz's company has now gone into liquidation, which may bode ill for The Sherlock Holmes Museum at 239 Baker Street in London.
5536. Anyone who might wish to own a Sherlockian landmark will be interested in a classified advertisement noted by Steve Rothman in the Wall Street Journal (June 7): "STEAK HOUSE & REAL ESTATE. Christ Cella, NY's 70 yr old family owner restaurant. Sale incl. business & bldg in midtwn Mnhtn. Excl Agt 212-888-8850." The Baker Street Irregulars held their first formal meeting at Christ Cella's Restaurant on June 5, 1934, and their annual dinners on Dec. 7, 1934, and Jan. 6, 1936. However (Steve notes): it may be the same business, but it's not the same building, since the restaurant has moved since the days of the early BSI meetings.
5537. Steve also noted that "P.O.V.: Complaints of a Dutiful Daughter" (on PBS-TV on June 6), made by Deborah Hoffmann and nominated for an Oscar this year, involves the long struggle against Alzheimer's disease by her mother, Doris Hoffmann, who is the widow of the late Banesh Hoffmann, member of The Baker Street Irregulars.
5538. The spring 1995 issue of The Ritual is at hand from The Northern Musgraves; it's now a review rather than a newsletter, and offers 60 pages of articles and news, including David Stuart Davies' fine article on the BBC radio series with Clive Merrison and Michael Williams. Information on membership is available from Anne Jordan, Fairbank, Beck Lane, Bingley, West Yorks. BD16 4DN, England.
5539. "Mad Dogs and Englishmen" opened this month in Britain, and was not praised by the newspaper critics. Christopher Tookey (Daily Mail) called the film "the most inept condemnation of drug abuse since 'Reefer Madness' in 1936," and said that it "reduced a packed press screening to helpless laughter." And Jeremy Brett "gives us his Anthony Vernon-Smith, an aristocratic drug dealer, pimp, maker of blue films and master criminal -- though, frankly, he behaves more like a Mr. Prig than a Mr. Big." Other critics were a bit more lenient, at least toward the actors, including Elizabeth Hurley, who is the heroine-on-heroin and looks lovely, and Brett (who plays the drug king "in the louche style long copyrighted by Christopher Walken," according to Sean French in the Guardian). No word yet on distribution plans in the United States (the film might go directly to videocassette or to cable television, I suspect).
5540. "Try Canadian Pacific Railway," said Sherlock Holmes (in "Black Peter"). But that appears not to be the motto of the Canadian government, according to a Reuters dispatch in the N.Y. Times (Apr. 3). The government, striving to cut chronic fiscal deficits, plans to privatize Canadian National Railways in October, but has refused a \$1 billion offer from Canadian Pacific Ltd., which wanted to buy the eastern operations of Canadian National.
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June 1995 #7

5541. Julian Symons' CRIMINAL PRACTICES (London: Macmillan, 1994; 229 pp., £7.99) is a collection of some of the best of his critical essays and articles about crime writing. "The fact is that ninety per cent of crime stories, mystery stories, thrillers, are written by people with no feeling for language, place or character," he suggests in his Introduction, but he also finds much to praise, including the Sherlock Holmes stories, in his introductions to THE COMPLETE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1981) and THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (1987).
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5542. Roger Johnson reports that Sir Michael Hordern died on May 2. His acting career spanned decades, and he was a splendid character actor as well as a fine Shakespearean; it was his voice we heard narrating as the adult Watson in the film "Young Sherlock Holmes" (1985).
5543. Raphael Shaberman's *IN SEARCH OF LEWIS CARROLL* (London: Greenwich Exchange, 1995; 110 pp., £14.95) involves the author, in modern London, in conversation with Sherlock Holmes, discussing the life and work of the Rev. Charles Lutwidge Dodgson. Shaberman notes that both Dodgson and Conan Doyle were members of the Society for Psychical Research in 1894, and he reprints an illustration drawn by Conan Doyle's father Charles Doyle for an imitation "Alice in Wonderland" book published in 1877, but otherwise Sherlock Holmes is used only to help present the author's views. The publisher's address is 50 Langton Way, Blackheath, London SE3 7TJ, England.
5544. The Midsommer Actors are mounting an interesting production of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" at Newstead Abbey in Linby (Nottinghamshire) on Aug. 2-5 (the box-office telephone number is 0115-948-2626). "This is a promenade performance covering a distance of over 2 miles. Comfortable sturdy footwear is strongly advised and small carrying chairs are permitted. We do not feel this performance is suitable for those with walking difficulties or the very young."
5545. Ron De Waal is selling some interesting items from his collection, including a corrected first draft of Ouida Rathbone's play "Sherlock Holmes" and a holograph letter from Basil Rathbone to Adrian and Anna Conan Doyle, and will accept bids until Sept. 1. A seven-page list of material is available from Ron at 638 12th Avenue, Salt Lake City, UT 84013.
5546. John Farrell has nice news for people who like Sherlockian sheet music: he has discovered a published score for a piano solo from the Disney film "The Great Mouse Detective" (six pages, with a colorful cover). And I've found a convenient source: Backstage Inc. (attn: Rip Claussen), 2101 P Street NW, Washington, DC 20037. You should give the title and code (HL00356113), and the cost is \$5.50 postpaid (two to six weeks for delivery).
5547. The Brothers Three of Moriarty will hold their annual Trap/Crap Shoot at the Albuquerque Press Club on July 15, and this year there may actually be some traps shot. The program also will include a radio call-in show with Col. "Bash" Moran as host, and you're invited to submit written versions of phone-call questions or comments about his relations with Moriarty, Holmes, or anyone else that comes to mind. All calls should open with the obligatory "Megadodos, Bash!" (presumably more meaningful to locals than to me), and you can send them to Morrow Hall, Box 288, Estancia, NM 87016.

June 1995 #8

5548. *THE ADVENTURES OF KIRSTEN DOWNEY*, by Barb Nicolls (New Castle: The Peace Makers, 1995; 242 pp., \$19.95), is a collection of twelve stories set in the 1890s, about a young American woman who becomes a detective, and in one story winds up meeting Sherlock Holmes. The stories have many echoes from the Canon (and considerable borrowed dialogue), and some nicely appropriate period illustrations, and the cost of the book is \$24.20 postpaid from Classic Specialties (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219).
5549. The Sherlock Holmes Lapel Pin Society has (of course) created a new lapel pin, designed by Jeff Decker and produced in four colors; the pin costs \$11.00 postpaid from Ralph Hall, 2906 Wallingford Court, Louisville, KY 40218; \$11.00 postpaid.
5550. *1ST CULPRIT: A CRIME WRITERS' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL*, edited by Liza Cody and Michael Z. Lewin, first published in Britain in 1992, was reprinted by St. Martin's Press, and is now reported by Ted Friedman in paperback (Toronto: Worldwide Library, 1994; \$5.99); the contents include amusing Sherlockian captions for three of the drawings contributed by "Clewsey" to the CWA's monthly newsletter Red Herrings.
5551. The seventh issue of *The Whitechapel Gazette* has arrived from Troy Taylor, with 50 pages of nicely illustrated articles on matters Doylean. The cost is \$6.50 postpaid; Troy's address is 805 West North #1, Decatur, IL 62522. Troy notes that Malcolm Payne has reported that on July 1, Dame Jean Conan Doyle would unveil a memorial to her father at Groombridge Place, where the collection of the Conan Doyle Establishment is now on display.
5552. The Harpooners of the Sea Unicorn will hold this year's Sherlockian riverboat convention "The Game's Afloat" on Oct. 7-8; additional information is available from Michael E. Bragg, Box 799, St. Charles, MO 63302.
5553. Eugene Edmund Snyder's *THE ADVENTURE OF THE MISSING BROTHER* (Portland: Binford & Mort, 1994; 159 pp., \$12.95) is a pleasant mystery involving members of The 221 Club (a Sherlockian society in New Jersey) who become involved in a minor mystery that soon turns major, and that their amateur detecting helps solve. The publisher's address is 1202 N.W. 17th Avenue, Portland, OR 97209; if you order direct, add \$3.50 for shipping.
5554. Videotaper alert: the latest issue of *Anglofile* reports that Granada's last six "Sherlock Holmes" shows will air on "Mystery!" beginning Dec. 21. The monthly newsletter gives detailed coverage of British entertainment; \$12.00 a year (Box 33515, Decatur, GA 30033).
5555. Sotheby's catalog of Stanley MacKenzie's collection and other material has not arrived (as we go to press), but Gordon Palmer has forwarded a report from the London Observer Service on estimates for the auction on July 24 in London. His copy of Beeton's is estimated at \$15,000-\$24,000 ("though it could fetch considerably more"), and the entire collection is expected to bring about \$105,000. Sotheby's address is 34-35 New Bond Street, London W1A 2AA, England (0171-493-8080); attn: Peter Selley.

July 1995 #1

5556. Reported: a British edition of *THE D. CASE: THE TRUTH ABOUT THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD*, by Charles Dickens, Carlo Fruttero, and Franco Lucentini (London: Chatto & Windus, £10.99); first published in Italian in 1989 and then in English (May 92 #5), the book is an account of the events at a Forum on the Completion of Unfinished or Fragmentary Works in Music and Literature, and of the deliberations by participants who include Father Brown, Hercule Poirot, Nero Wolfe, Lew Archer, and Sherlock Holmes.
5557. Cathy Childs reports that we'll soon be able to see Edward Hardwicke again: in the new movie "The Scarlet Letter" (also starring Demi Moore and Robert Duvall).
5558. Sherlockians have appeared as characters in non-S'ian books: Richard Hughes appeared in books by Ian Fleming and John le Carre, and Jerry Neal Williamson killed off at least one of his Sherlockian acquaintances in one of his horror novels. Luci Zahray, who recently met Terence Faherty at a writers conference in Chicago, reports that Faherty told her that Tom, in Faherty's first novel *DEADSTICK* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1991) (Toronto: Worldwide, 1995) based on his college room-mate Peter Crupe (Luci notes that the novel also has some interesting Sherlockian references).
5559. "The Wild Geese" was the title of a paper Arthur Conan Doyle presented to the Irish Literary Society in 1897, noting that "I am acquainted with few more interesting incidents in history than those which led to the formation and the existence for a hundred years of the Irish brigades in the service of France." The lineage of these fighting corps began with the Irish Army that fought for King James II: after their defeat in 1691, thousands of soldiers went to exile in France, and Irishmen fought valiantly there. Conan Doyle's fine history of the Wild Geese was first published in *The Irish Times* in 1954, and it was reprinted in 1993 in *ACD: The Journal of the Arthur Conan Doyle Society*. This year Ireland issued a set of five stamps honoring the Irish who fought in France and other countries, and one of the stamps shows Irish soldiers in the French Army in 1745.

5560. Mike Kean reports a new destination for Sherlockian tourists: The Sherlock Holmes British Pub in Turkey. The address is Calikusu Sok. No: 5, Levent, Istanbul, and the pub's advertising shows a Sherlockian silhouette, and the motto "Visit the Place Where Everybody Knows Your Name."
5561. Sky-boxes aren't the only way that area-owners get help paying for arenas. Betty Pierce reports that backers of the proposed \$45.9-million World Arena in Colorado Springs have created a "Builders Club" for those who donate \$75 (tax deductible) for a six-inch-square decorative clay tile to be placed in the building (for an additional \$25 you get a duplicate tile for your home or office). You get to put your name on the tile, or anyone else's name, anyone else, in case you want to honor James Moriarty or John H. Watson or Irene Adler or whomsoever (Betty already has honored Sherlock Holmes on her tile). Additional information is available from the Colorado Springs World Arena, 10 Lake Circle, Colorado Springs, CO 80906.
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July 1995 #2

5562. Mark Frost's THE SIX MESSIAHS (a sequel to his 1993 Conan Doyle novel THE LIST OF SEVEN) will be published by William Morrow in August, and the publisher is sending him on a publicity tour, and is going to contact local Sherlockian societies. Further to the earlier report (June 94 #5) that Universal was planning to make a film of THE LIST OF SEVEN, the latest news is that the book has been optioned by Twentieth Century-Fox for Amblin Entertainment, and is now being cast, with production scheduled to start later this year.
5563. Marian J. A. Jackson's mystery series about Abigail Patience Danforth began with three paperback originals (THE PUNJAT'S RUBY, THE ARABIAN PEARL, and THE CAT'S EYE), and continued in hardcover in DIAMOND HEAD (1992), and THE SUNKEN TREASURE (New York: Walker, 1994; 166 pp., \$19.95). Miss Danforth, continues to ignore Conan Doyle's earlier warning that amateur detecting is no career for a young lady, and now is on a millionaire's yacht bound from Panama to New Orleans 1900, and as usual involved in a lively mystery.
5564. "Hound whodunnit 'not written by Sir Arthur'" is the headline on a story in the [Plymouth] Western Morning News (May 27, 1995) at hand from Jon Lellenberg. Rodger Garrick-Steele, a 52-year-old advanced-driving instructor who owns Park Hill House at Ipplepen, says that Conan Doyle stayed at the house when it was owned by the Fletcher Robinson family, and reports that he has found new evidence that someone else wrote "The Hound of the Baskervilles" ("the world has been conned for years," according to Garrick-Steele). He won't say who the "real" author was, but it is obvious he means B. Fletcher Robinson. Garrick-Steele "has been turned down by every publisher he has approached in the U.K., but he has found a publisher in New York who wants to have a look."
5565. Johann Magnus Bjarnason's AN ICELANDIC SHERLOCK HOLMES, a short story first published in Icelandic in 1903, has been translated into English by January B. Steffensen; the story isn't a Sherlockian pastiche, but rather involves a young Icelandic immigrant in Nova Scotia, where he solves a minor mystery. The 14-page pamphlet was published by Tidsskriftet Pinkerton in 1994, and is available for \$8.00 postpaid (in currency, please), from the translator (Sdr. Transders Bygade 23, DK-9220 Aalborg Ost, Denmark).
5566. Not a politician in sight, nor a trained cormorant, but our new booklet has five lighthouses, all of them on the shores of the Great Lakes. And there is another Canonical connection: Niagara Falls. Do you know (without going to a reference book) which of the Great Lakes are connected by the Niagara River, and which one is upstream?
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July 1995 #3

5567. More news from Hugh Scullion (of Cadds Printing): John Aidiniantz now seems likely to spend somewhat less than three years in quod, what with one-third off for good behavior, another one-third on parole, and credit for time in the slammer prior to trial. The Sherlock Holmes Museum seems still to be in business.
5568. The set of four stamp booklets issued by Great Britain in 1987-1988 with covers showing Canonical illustrations by Andrew Davidson, and the "Basil of Baker Street" stamps issue by the Grenadines of St. Vincent in 1993 are still available from the International Stamp Collectors Society (Box 854, Van Nuys, CA 91408); ask for their Sherlockian fliers.
5569. Donna Griffon reports that The Albuquerque Little Theatre will produce "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (dramatized by Tim Kelly) on week-ends from Oct. 20 through Nov. 4; the opening night will honor John Bennett Shaw, and the theater's address is: San Pascuale and Central, Albuquerque, NM 87104 (the box-office telephone number is 505-242-4750).
5570. The 150th anniversary of statehood for Florida was the occasion for a postage stamp earlier this year (March 95 #4), and now similar honors are being paid, colorfully indeed, to Texas, which also is mentioned in the Canon (in "The Five Orange Pips").
5571. FLASHMAN AND THE ANGEL OF THE LORD, by George MacDonald Fraser (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1995), 394 pp., \$24.00, is the latest installment in the grand saga of Flashman's exploits (eventually one of the books will reveal what happened when Flashman stalked Col. Sebastian Moran in an empty house in Baker Street); the Angel of the Lord is John Brown, so the time is preCanonical, but Flashman, reminiscing early on for his grandchildren, does mention the prize-fighter Jack Johnson, which allows Fraser to mention Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in an end-note.
5572. The manuscript of "The Three Garridebs" (22 leaves, signed twice by Arthur Conan Doyle) went to auction at the Superior Galleries in Beverly Hills on June 24, and was sold to a private collector for \$97,750 (including the 15% buyer's premium).
5573. I wondered (June 95 #7) about the obligatory "Megadodos, Bash!" required for call-in messages to Col. "Bash" Moran at the annual Trap/Crap Shoot at the Albuquerque Press Club this month. Obviously I've never listened to Rush Limbaugh's show: David Hobbet notes that Limbaugh's callers-in often start off by saying, "Megadittos, Rush!"
5574. "'Unless I am very much mistaken, said the great detective, 'we are about to have a visitor. A woman of some standing in society who has just enjoyed a prolonged and vigorous bout of sexual congress.'" That's the opening of "The Remarkable Adventures of Porlock Holmes", a story published in the British pornographic magazine The Oyster in the 1890s and reprinted in THE OYSTER V (New York: Carroll & Graf, 1991; 192 pp., \$4.50). The pastiche is 107 pp. of the paperback, which is sold in the erotica section at Borders, and (presumably) other bookshops. And you can order direct from Carroll & Graf (260 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10001); \$5.50 postpaid.
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July 1995 #4

5575. C. Brown's two-act play "Sherlock's Veiled Secret" will be produced at the Wayside Theatre in Middletown, Va., from Sept. 20 to Oct. 15. The play was performed in Seattle last year, and has Holmes coming out of retirement to solve a blackmail case. Middletown is about 70 miles west of Washington; the box-office address is Box 260, Middletown, VA 22645 (703-869-1776) (800-951-1776).
5576. Roger Johnson's newsletter The District Messenger continues to provide all sorts of news about what's happening in Great Britain (and sometimes elsewhere); it's published approximately monthly and costs \$10.00 for twelve issues (dollar checks payable to Jean Upton can be sent to Roger Johnson, Mole End, 41 Sandford Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 6DE, England). His most recent issue reports a British edition of Sam Siciliano's THE ANGEL OF THE OPERA (Robert Hale, £16.99); Glen Petrie's new pastiche THE HAMPSTEAD POISONINGS (Ian Henry, £15.55); a commercial release of Douglas Wilmer reading FOUR GREAT ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Penguin Audiobooks, £7.99), and much more.
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5577. Reported from Britain: TRANSFORMING GENRES: NEW APPROACHES TO BRITISH FICTION OF THE 1890'S, edited by Nikki Lee Manos and Meri-Jane Rochelson (London: Macmillan, 1995; 272 pp., £27.00), with an article by Ronald R. Thomas about the racism and sexism he has found in the Canon.
5578. Sherlockians who ignore Conan Doyle's other stories are missing some grand writing as well as some great fun, and both will be found in THE COMPLETE BRIGADIER GERARD (Edinburgh: Canongate, 1995; 387 pp., £4.99). Actually, the volume is more than complete: it also offers the Napoleonic "A Foreign Office Romance" and an excellent Introduction by Owen Dudley Edwards, who also has supplied fine notes for the stories. Canongate's distributor here is Interlink Publishing, 46 Crosby Street, Northampton, MA 01060 (800-238-5465); \$15.95 postpaid, and credit-card orders are welcome.
5579. A small cloth bundle contained a loaf of bread, a tinned tongue, and two tins of preserved peaches (in "The Hound of the Baskervilles"). Our new stamp preserves two peaches for posterity.
5580. Plan ahead: Dick Miller notes that a Sherlock Holmes Conference will be held at Santa Fe Community College, on Apr. 19-20, 1996. Tom Stix will be the keynote speaker, and the event will honor John Bennett Shaw, who starred at similar conferences in Santa Fe in 1991 and 1993. You can enroll on the conference mailing list by writing to Dean Rita Martinez-Purson, Santa Fe Community College, Box 4187, Santa Fe, NM 87502.
5581. TALES AT MIDNIGHT: TRUE STORIES FROM PARAPSYCHOLOGY CASEBOOKS AND JOURNALS, by Hans Holzer (Philadelphia: Courage Books/Running Press, 1994; 175 pp., \$5.98), gives the some of the results of Holzer's career as a ghost-hunter, and ends with Conan Doyle's essay "The Law of the Ghost" (first published in 1919).
5582. Milton A. Silverman ("Barker, My Hated Rival") died on June 15. He was for many years a Professor Law at New York Law School, and a faithful member of The Scandalous Bohemians and Mrs. Hudson's Cliffdwellers, and received his Investiture in The Baker Street Irregulars in 1982.

July 1995 #5

5583. Tourists in Paris have until Aug. 13, Sonia Fetherston notes, to visit the Palais Galliera, Museum of Fashion and Costume, and see an exhibit on "Le Dessin sous toutes ses Coutures" that features costume illustrations drawn by Lagerfeld, Chanel, Dior, Alterio, and ... Horace Vernet (the grand-uncle of Sherlock Holmes).
5584. "Sherlock Holmes & John Bennett Shaw: The Detective & the Collector" is the official title for the memorial conference that will be held on Oct. 13-15 to honor the dedication of the John Bennett Shaw Collection, and there's a handsome brochure available, with all the details, from Judy Burton, at 499 Wilson Library, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455 (612-642-8207). Her e-mail address is J-BURT@VM1.SPCS.UMN.EDU. This will be an interesting gathering, and (something that certainly would please John) there will be lots of nice Sherlockian collectibles published to mark the event.
5585. Our new sheet of "Civil War" stamps has portraits of three people mentioned by name in the Canon: Abraham Lincoln (in "Thor Bridge") and Robert E. Lee and Thomas J. ("Stonewall") Jackson (in "The Five Orange Pips").
5586. Reported by Jim Vogelsang: Les Martin's YOUNG INDIANA JONES AND THE TITANIC ADVENTURE (New York: Random House, 1993; 139 pp., \$3.50); #9 in the Young Indiana Jones series. In 1912 Indy has some hair-raising adventures with German saboteurs, Irish revolutionaries, and a fortune-hunter on the ill-fated Titanic, and meets Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.
5587. Don Hobbs has reported MURDER MOST MEDICAL, an anthology of stories from Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine and Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine, edited by Cathleen Jordan and Cynthia Manson (Carroll & Graf, \$21.00); contents include "The Resident Patient".
5588. Reported: ESCAPADE, by Walter Satterthwait (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1995; 336 pp., \$22.95); from a review: "can mystery be far behind when Houdini and Arthur Conan Doyle meet? Satterthwait offers up a locked-room caper enlivened by Houdini's ego and Doyle's decency."
5589. The latest catalog from Tyrol International (Box 909, Cleveland, GA 30528) (800-241-5404) offers the Legends heads of Holmes and Watson (\$29.95 each), the nested set of Sherlockian dolls from Russian (\$36.00), and a S'ian letter opener and magnifying glass (\$36.00 each).
5590. Radio Spirits (Box 2141, Schiller Park, IL 60176) (800-723-4648) has issued a four-cassette set of OLD TIME RADIO DETECTIVES AND CRIME FIGHTERS, with 12 grand old shows (digitally restored and remastered), and with a 52-page booklet about the shows (with a preface by Stacy Keach, Sr., who produced and directed "Tales of the Texas Rangers"). And one of the shows is "The Adventure of the Tolling Bell", with Nigel Bruce as Watson and Tom Conway as Watson (broadcast on Apr. 7, 1947, and hitherto unavailable). The cost is \$24.98 (cassette set) or \$34.98 (CD set); add \$5.00 for shipping.

July 1995 #6

5591. Mary Burke reports that the next "Victorian Holmes Weekend" in Cape May, N.J., will be held on Nov. 3-5. The weekend includes a mystery to solve, tours of atmospheric Victorian homes, meals, and other fun and games. Additional information is available from the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts, Box 340, Cape May, NJ 08204-0340 (800-275-4279).
5592. P. N. Elrod (better known in Sherlockian circles as Patti Nead Elrod, the creator of the "Baker Street Irregulars") began her paperback series THE VAMPIRE FILES for Ace in 1990, featuring Jack Fleming (formerly a reporter and now a vampire) and his private-detective friend Charles Escott (whose name is not the only Sherlockian echo in the six-book series). Patti has other books in print, and a fan club (run by Jackie Black, 1201 South Byrd #39, Tishomingo, OK 73460), and a Jack Fleming short story in the Martin H. Greenberg anthology VAMPIRE DETECTIVES (from DAW in April), and another in the Greenberg anthology CELEBRITY VAMPIRES (due from DAW in October), and she is getting ready to return to THE VAMPIRE FILES with a novel DARK SLEEP that will focus on Charles Escott, who (as it happens) is the natural son of Sherlock Holmes. And she'll be the Horror Guest of Honor at Consanguinity II (a science fiction/horror convention) in Chicago on Nov. 3-5.
5593. The Trifling Monographers will hold their annual dinner at the Roosevelt Hotel in Seattle on Oct. 29, during the annual meeting of the Public Relations Society of America. Laborers in the vineyards of public relations (and local Sherlockians) are invited to contact William Seil (3001 125th Avenue SE #3-D, Bellevue, WA 98005) (206-747-3636) <wseil@aol.com>.
5594. Ron De Waal's wonderful bibliography THE UNIVERSAL SHERLOCK HOLMES was published last year in four volumes (July 94 #1), but unfortunately had only a selective word-list rather than a proper index. But after many months THE INDEXES TO THE UNIVERSAL SHERLOCK HOLMES BY RONALD B. DE WAAL, compiled by George A. Vanderburgh and Leslie S. Klinger, now is available, as a 382-pp. fifth volume and in hypertext format for MS-DOS computers. There's a title index, and three separate personal-name indexes (for authors and subjects, thespians, and reviewers), and other useful material. \$36.00 postpaid (to the U.S.) for either version (and the ink-on-paper version is available as unbound pages or in plastic comb binding), from Vanderburgh (Box 204, Shelburne, ON L0N 1S0, Canada).
5595. But: the hypertext version appears to be defective: the search utility will not find all of the listings in the indexes. This is a serious defect, but the good news is that it is not all that difficult to print the indexes to your hard disk in plain-ASCII and then use a different (and perhaps better) search utility of your own. The hypertext format offers a colorful display on the screen, but many users surely will prefer the less colorful but much more useful plain-ASCII format.

5596. Better Holmes & Gardens: The Journal of Canonical Domesticity is requesting submissions, such as "learned speculation on the identity of Mrs. Turner, recipes for dishes mentioned in the Canon, instructions on the proper care of gas mantels or gasogenes, a Canonical study of roses (or Violets), and anything else Canonically domestic, including easily reproducible artwork." The first issue is expected in mid-November, and additional information is available from Cheryl Hurd, Teapot Press, Box 2048, Scotia, NY 12302.

July 1995 #7

5597. One of the more interesting ramifications of the computer age the spread of totally-electronic publishing, and the existence of journals that are not available in ink-on-paper form. One such journal for Sherlockians is available on the Prodigy computer service, but others can see some of what's published there, because a selection of its material appears twice a year as a newsletter. The summer 1995 issue of The Wigmore Street Post Office is a fine one, with 37 pages; \$6.00 a year, from Donald H. Meyers, 4757 47th Avenue NE, Seattle, WA 98105.
5598. "That's God's truth, gentlemen, every word of it," exclaimed Abe Slaney, I heard no more about it until that lad came riding up with a note which made me walk in here, like a jay, and give myself into your hands." (in "The Dancing Men"). A handsome blue jay appears on our new 20c booklet stamp.
5599. The summer 1995 issue of the Sherlock Holmes Gazette has arrived, and has David Stuart Davies' up-to-the minute report on Jeremy Brett's health (he has cardiomyopathy, and won't be able to take on any major acting work), and Wendy Teasdill-Rowe's interesting article about what Tibet was like when Holmes visited (or didn't), and much more. The cover price is £1.95 (48 Purfield Drive, Wargrave, Berks. RG10 8AR, England), and the American distributor is Classic Specialties, Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219.
5600. Jeanne Munson reports: THE PAGEMASTER: WHO'S IN THE LIBRARY WITH RICHARD? (Atlanta: Bedrock Press/Turner Publishing, 1994; 28 pp., \$9.95); it's like a "Where's Waldo?" book, but based on the recent animated film, and one of the challenges is devoted to "The Land of Mystery: 221B Baker Street" (with readers challenged to find keys to a dozen Sherlock Holmes stories in the picture). Jeanne is not sure, however, whether the purplish hippo in the tree is supposed to be one of the clues.
5601. Sherlock's in space again. NASA mission specialist Nancy Sherlock, then an Army captain and a senior aviator, made her first space-shuttle flight two years ago in the crew of STS-57 (July 93 #5); now (married last month) she is Nancy Sherlock Currie, and a major, and went into space again on STS-70, which was launched on July 13 and returned on July 22. The launch had been scheduled for June 8, but was postponed when NASA discovered that energetic yellow-shafted flickers (woodpeckers common in the Cape Canaveral area) had pecked 135 holes in the foam insulation that protects the shuttle's external fuel tank. NASA now has a BIRD team (that's Bird Investigation Review and Deterrent) that persuaded the woodpeckers to peck elsewhere.
5602. Another Sherlockian chess set, with the pieces "finely carved of stone and resin" (item 09-V8508), offered at \$149.95 (discounted from \$199.95) in the latest catalog from Bits & Pieces, 1 Puzzle Place, Stevens Point, WI 54481 (800-544-7297)
5603. Bouchercon 28 has issued its first announcement, and the world mystery convention is scheduled for Oct. 30-Nov. 2, 1997, in Monterey, Calif. Advance registration costs \$50.00 until Aug. 15 (Bouchercon '97, Box 6202, Hayward, CA 94540). Sara Paretsky and Ross Thomas will be the guests of honor, Donald Westlake will receive the lifetime-achievement award, Julie Smith will be toastmaster, and the organizers are Bryan Barrett and Bruce Taylor.
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July 1995 #8

5604. And some news from London, thanks to Catherine Cooke and Alan Vickers, who have supplied a few details on the July 24 auction of Stanley MacKenzie's collection. The total realized was £147,522 (which includes a 15% buyer's premium), and there was plenty of action: £20,700 for the Beeton's Christmas Annual, £10,350 for the almost-complete (688 issues) run of The Strand Magazine, £5,800 for lot 187 (ephemera, estimated at £350-500), £5,290 for the cigarette case presented by Conan Doyle to Saintsbury, £4,600 for lot 185 (theatrical posters and programs, estimated at £350-500), and £4,025 for lot 188 (memorabilia, estimated at £350-500).
5605. Sumner & Stillman (Box 973, Yarmouth, ME 04096) (207-846-6070) have issued an impressive catalog 59, offering 100 Conan Doyle items, almost all first editions, and some quite spectacular (such as an 1891 Ward Lock edition of A STUDY IN SCARLET presented to Joseph Bell).
5606. Kevin Parker has noted Charles Sheffield's "The Phantom of Dunwell Cove" in Asimov's Science Fiction, Aug. 1995; the story features Erasmus Darwin (the grandfather of Charles Darwin) using delightfully Sherlockian deduction to solve a mystery set long before the Sherlockian era. It isn't at all easy for pastichists to devise Sherlockian deduction for Sherlock Holmes, and it is a nice surprise to find in it a story about someone else.
5607. The autumn harvest 1995 catalog from Your Exceptional Home (W. M. Green & Co., Box 426, Greenville, NC 27835) (800-482-5050) offers a "mystery cardigan" embroidered with designs that include a small Sherlock Holmes. \$152 (misses) or \$162 (women) for item #769007 (shipping extra).
5608. Peter Spivak reports that the July 24 issue of Sports Illustrated features a six-page story by Merrell Noden about "The Adventure of the Treacherous Traps" (with Sherlock Holmes solving a mystery at the St. Andrews golf club a century ago). That's where the British Open is played, and this year the television coverage included commentary by Brent Musberger, who visited the pro shop and reported that you can buy a Sherlock Holmes golf cap there.
5609. Plan well ahead: the steering committee for "A Silver Anniversary Weekend with Sherlock Holmes and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle" has selected the Arts and Letters Club in Toronto as the site, and June 26-29, 1997, as the weekend. And The Bootmakers of Toronto are now at work on planning for the event.
5610. The STUD Sherlockian Society will celebrate Sherlock Holmes' 141st birthday on Oct. 6-7 at the historic Hutchinson Mansion Inn in Michigan City, Ind., and on Oct. 8 at Lou Malnati's Pizzeria in Lincolnwood, Ill. More information is available from Donald B. Izban, 5334 Wrightwood Avenue, Chicago, IL 60639. Don also will be happy to tell you about future STUD events, which include the Rache Road Rally scheduled on Jan. 13, 1996, in New York.
5611. The Seventh International Holmesian Games will be held on Sept. 16-17 in Vancouver, B.C., and the agenda includes sport, jollification, a debate, and a "Lost Special" train ride. More details are available from Len and Elsa Haffenden, 1026 West Keith Road, North Vancouver, BC V7P 3C6, Canada.
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August 1995 #1

5612. Paul Chapman and Terrence Harvey will play Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson on television in Britain next year, according to a story in the Lancashire Evening Post (June 13), at hand from Jon Lellenberg. Gillian Whitworth reports that "Book Box" (produced by Granada for Channel Four) involves two young children who disappear into a computer game, only to re-emerge in the Victorian era where they must solve a mystery with the help of Holmes and Watson (the program "aims to promote reading among youngsters by introducing them to fictional characters in an exciting and accessible way").
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5613. Miklos Rozsa died on July 27. His film music won three Academy Awards, for "Spellbound" (1947), "A Double Life" (1947), and "Ben Hur" (1959), and he often collaborated with producer Billy Wilder, with credits for the music in five of Wilder's films, including "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970). The music in that film was based on Rosza's "Concerto for Violin and Orchestra" (which had its first performance in Dallas in 1956 and was recorded by RCA Victor with Jascha Heifitz on violin).
5614. The sixth "gift set" of THE NEW ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES is due from Simon & Schuster Audio in October (\$25.00 for four cassettes with eight of the old radio shows); the first 24 cassettes are now available in the six "gift set" collections of the radio series that starred Basil Rathbone, Tom Conway, and Nigel Bruce.
5615. The Book-of-the-Month Club still may be offering their nine-volume set of THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES for \$19.95 as a premium to new members (they advertised in the N.Y. Times Book Review on Mar. 19). The set was issued last year at \$44.95, and consists of reprints (A STUDY IN SCARLET and THE SIGN OF THE FOUR from editions published by Orange Judd in 1907, and the other seven volumes from first American editions. The club's address is Camp Hill, PA 17012-0001.
5616. The summer 1995 issue of Scarlet Street honors "A Study in Terror" (1965), with an appreciation by Richard Valley, and Jessie Lilley's interviews with John Neville and Herman Cohen. And an article about the Philo Vance films has some nice photographs of Basil Rathbone. And there's a photo of Roger Perry as Sherlock Holmes at a costume party in "The Return of Count Yorga" (1971). Scarlet Street costs \$20.00 a year for four issues; Box 604, Glen Rock, NJ 07452.
5617. The Scowrers and Molly Maguires of San Francisco will hold an interesting day of "Sherlockian Intrigues & Adventures on Sept. 30, 1995; registration costs \$50 (until Sept. 1) and covers lunch, dinner, all events and related supplies; details are available from the Scowrers (V.V. 341, Mount Eden, CA 94557).
5618. The Sherlock Holmes Journal continues to offer a splendid mix of scholarship and news from The Sherlock Holmes Society of London, and the summer 1995 issue arrived accompanied by a 40-page supplement devoted to the 1994 "Back to Baker Street" festival. The membership secretary is Bob Ellis (13 Crofton Avenue, Orpington, Kent BR6 8DU, England), and he will be happy to respond to requests for information on membership and on subscriptions.

August 1995 #2

5619. Catalog 32 from Enola Stewart (Gravesend Books, Box 235, Pocono Pines, PA 18350) offers a great deal of desirable Sherlockiana and Doyleana from Julian Wolff's collection, some interesting material from the Rathbones (both Basil and Ouida), and much more.
5620. Tim O'Connor reports that a catalog from Idea Art, Box 291505, Nashville, TN 37229 (800-433-2278), has fullcolor "Get Results" stationery, with one design showing a Sherlockian figure (#742).
5621. Roger Johnson reports in The District Messenger that Sherlock Holmes in the Arches has opened at 6 the Arches, under Charing Cross Station; it's a new shop that sells Sherlockian artwork by Deirdre Keetley and others, and it's not far from The Sherlock Holmes.
5622. FETLOCKS, FEMURS AND PHALANGES, edited by Pam Bruxner, is the new 60-page guidebook for The Sherlock Holmes Society of London's recent excursion to Berkshire, and it's a fine one, demonstrating once again the fine scholarship that members of the Society can offer (and Bernard Davies does a fine job with identifications); \$17.50 postpaid to the United States (£10.00 to Europe, £11.00 to other countries), from Lynne Godden, Apple Tree Cottage, Smarden, Kent TN27 8QE, England.
5623. "Me and My Holme Boys" is the subhead on Bill DeAndrea's column in the summer 1995 issue of The Armchair Detective (he was trying for a Sherlockian pun that hadn't been done before, and I think he succeeded). He also notes that he once described Sherlockian pastiche as "the acne on the face of the detective story," and admits that he forgot one very important fact about acne: "in the course of growing up, virtually everybody gets it." And now he has written two of them, one for an anthology of S'ian Christmas stories edited by Martin Harry Greenberg, and the other for an anthology edited by Marvin Kaye for St. Martin's that will offer double-pastiches: Ed Hoch is doing Holmes as written by Ellery Queen, Kaye is doing Holmes as written by Rex Stout, and DeAndrea has done Holmes as written by Mickey Spillane. TAD now costs \$31.00 a year for four issues; 129 West 56th Street, New York, NY 10019-3808.
5624. Ely Liebow has returned from a trip to Britain, and has reported on his bus tour of the historic city of York, where he was both startled and delighted to discover that the bus had passed by a pub called The Brigadier Gerard. Ely persuaded the driver to stop, so that photographs could be taken of a pub named for Conan Doyle's famous character. Not quite: the pub is named in honor of the famous racehorse ("the only English classic winner of the present century to have lost only one race in 18 or more starts"). Brigadier Gerard was foaled in 1969, Francine and Wayne Swift report.
5625. Ida Lupino died on Aug. 3. She had a long and distinguished career in the movies, as actress and director; she had made eight films in England before Paramount brought her to Hollywood in 1933 to play Alice in Wonderland (she didn't get the part, and perhaps it was just as well: "I would have played her as a hooker," she once said, "and danced on the table tops"). But she quickly made her mark, and at the age of 21 had star billing as Ann Brandon in Basil Rathbone's "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (1939).

August 1995 #3

5626. Further to last month's mention (July 95 #1) of Sherlockians who have appeared as characters in non-S'ian books, Don Hardenbrook notes that Dean and Shirley Dickensheet also qualify. Ward and Irene Baldwin, the San Francisco agents of T.H.R.U.S.H. in David McDaniel's paperback THE MAN FROM U.N.C.L.E. #4
5627. THE DAGGER AFFAIR (New York: Ace Books, 1965), were based on Dean and Shirley, and the book is dedicated to them. Baldwin also appeared in THE MAN FROM U.N.C.L.E. #17: THE HOLLOW CROWN AFFAIR (New York: Ace Books, 1969).
5628. Penguin Audiobooks has issued a three-hour abridged version of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, read with verve and style by Freddie Jones on two audiocassettes (£7.99); Jones has other Sherlockian credits: he played Chester Cragwitch in "Young Sherlock Holmes" (1985), and has appeared in two of the Granada shows, as Inspector Baynes in "Wisteria Lodge" and as the Pedlar in "The Last Vampyre". Penguin also offers FOUR GREAT ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES with four cases ("The Speckled Band", "The Devil's Foot", "The Musgrave Ritual", and "Charles Augustus Milverton") read by Douglas Wilmer on two cassettes (£7.99); this is the commercial release of the two cassettes offered earlier by The Sherlock Holmes Society of London (March 95 #5), and Wilmer (who has played Holmes both on film and on television) offers grand performances on the cassettes.
5629. Sherlockian societies continue to find interesting ways in which to commemorate sports and games mentioned in the Canon: the Second Hon. Ronald Adair Memorial Whist Tournament will be held in St. Louis on Nov. 18, when The Harpooners of the Sea Unicorn will challenge The Noble Bachelors (although all are welcome to participate). Details are available from Art Schroeder, 3131 Russell Boulevard, St. Louis, MO 63104.

5630. Penguin Books is celebrating its 60th anniversary with a book series called "Penguin 60s" (the price is 60p) [95c]; one of the volumes, reported by Will Walsh, contains "The Man with the Twisted Lip" and "The Devil's Foot".
5631. THE ADVENTURE OF THE SIX NIXONS is the latest installment in the adventures of Turlock Loams (it's "a grotesque & tangled skein of madness, philately, iconoclasm, & murder," according to its author John Ruyle), and it's finely printed (as is everything published from John's Pequod Press). The cost of the 34-page booklet is \$40.00 (cloth) or \$20.00 (paper), and John's address is 521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707-1521.
5632. Further to last month's report (July 95 #4) about a Sherlock Holmes Conference scheduled at Santa Fe Community College on Apr. 19-20, 1996: they have issued a "call for presenters" (with a Sept. 29 deadline); more information is available from Ms. Trisha Stanton, Community Services Division, Santa Fe Community College, Box 4187, Santa Fe, NM 87502.
5633. Bonnie Bills reports that David Burke, no longer sporting the beard he had when he was filmed as Dr. Watson at dinner at The Sherlock Holmes in London in January (for the biography of Sherlock Holmes recently broadcast on A&E cable), is now on stage at the Fortune Theatre in London, as Arthur Kipps, in "The Woman in Black", a play based on Susan Hill's novel. And he told Bonnie that he has been quite busy the last few years, working in theater in London and Stratford, and guest-starring on television.

August 1995 #4

5634. Mark Frost's THE SIX MESSIAHS (New York: William Morrow, 1995; 404 pp., \$23.00) is a sequel to his THE LIST OF SEVEN (September 93 #4); the book opens in 1894, with Conan Doyle about to leave England for his tour of the United States, and the story involves him in a struggle to possess the mystical Book of Zohar, and to prevent the end of the world. As with the first book, this is alternate-universe fantasy, with more than a touch of the supernatural. And fantasy: Conan Doyle arrives in New York to be welcomed by three costumed members of "the official New York chapter of the Baker Street Irregulars," and ends his trek in the Arizona desert, helping an old friend win out over evil.
5635. Mark Frost joined The Red Circle of Washington for dinner on Aug. 11 during his promotion tour for THE SIX MESSIAHS, and reported that he is considering a third book about Conan Doyle's visit to Egypt in 1895-96. Frost's screenplay for THE LIST OF 7 has been optioned by 20th Century-Fox for Jim Cameron's Lightstorm Productions (Cameron has produced "Terminator", "True Lies", and "Aliens 2").
5636. Cheryl A. Hurd's THE VICTORIAN YELLOW PAGES: RESOURCES FOR YOUR VICTORIAN LIFESTYLE (Scotia: Teapot Press, 1995; 100 pp., \$12.00) offers guidance to those who want to recapture the nicer aspects of living in Victorian times, providing names and addresses for purveyors of clothing, jewelry, hatpins, furniture, stereoscopes, garden arbors, food and drink, and much more. The book is available from Classic Specialties, Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219 (\$15.00 postpaid).
5637. THE MAMMOTH BOOK OF HISTORICAL DETECTIVES, edited by Mike Ashley (New York: Carroll and Graf, 1995; 532 pp., \$9.95), offers reprints of two pastiches: Jack Adrian's Sherlock Holmes story "The Phantom Pistol", and an expanded version of Basil Copper's Solar Pons story "The Adventure of the Frightened Governess". The anthology is a companion volume to Ashley's THE MAMMOTH BOOK OF HISTORICAL WHODUNNITS (March 94 #6), and includes some fine stories, one of them being Ashley's candidate for the earliest-ever setting for a locked-room mystery: Australia, about 37,000 years ago.
5638. The summer 1995 issue of Friends of the Library (the newsletter published by the University of Minnesota Libraries) has two nice articles about John Bennett Shaw and plans for the memorial conference on Oct. 13-15; it's sent free to those who have contributed to the John Bennett Shaw Fund, and there still is time to do that: checks for \$25.00 (or more) payable to the fund can be sent to the University of Minnesota (attn: Judy Burton), 499 Wilson Library, Minneapolis, MN 55455.
5639. Miles Elward's SHERLOCK HOLMES IN CANTERBURY has three short stories that bring Holmes to Canterbury, with lots of nice period atmosphere. The 72-page book (paper covers) costs \$10.00 postpaid from Wynne Howard Publications, 10 Betula Close, Kenley, Surrey CR8 5ET, England.
5640. Societies looking for ideas for souvenirs might take a look through the new catalog from Best Impressions (Box 802, La Salle, IL 61301) (800-635-2378). Their promotional products range from mugs (\$40.00 set-up charge, and \$2.40 each for 72) to wooden nickels (\$15.00 set-up, and \$0.10 each for 1,000) to Christmas ornaments (\$3.31 each for 96), and there are many other ideas.

August 1995 #5

5641. THE RECOLLECTIONS OF SOLAR PONS, by Basil Copper (Minneapolis: Fedogan & Bremer, 1995; 248 pp., \$29.00), has three new tales about Solar Pons, and a much longer version of an earlier one, and striking illustrations by Stefanie Kate Hawks. Copper's continuation of the series that August Derleth conceived as a tribute to Sherlock Holmes is in turn a fine tribute to Derleth. The publisher's address is 603 Washington Avenue #77, Minneapolis, MN 55414-2950; a signed limited edition also is available at \$75.00, and they take plastic. Discount prices (\$25.00 or \$67.00) are available on orders received by Sept. 15.
5642. The Proprietor of the Pequod Press is hard at work again, setting type for THE ADVENTURE OF THE ALUMINUM CROTCH, the latest installment in Dr. Fatso's chronicles of the intrepid Turlock Loams. Available from John Ruyle, 521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707-1521; \$40.00 (cloth) or \$20.00 (paper).
5643. Ruth Berman published the first issue of THE SHSF FANTHOLOGY in 1967, with 32 pages of contributions by Robert Bloch, Dean Dickensheet, Dick Lupoff, and others, and the second and third issues appeared in 1971 and 1972, and they are great fun and now rare. And recently reprinted, offering modern collectors a chance to read some early cross-over essays and fiction. The reprints cost \$3.00 each postpaid (or \$8.00 for all three) from Ruth Berman (2809 Drew Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55416).
5644. Spotted by Jim Suszynski: SPIDER KANE AND THE MYSTERY UNDER THE MAY-APPLE, by Mary Pope Osborne (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1992; 127 pp., \$13.00); an amusing children's book, with detection by "the Sherlock Holmes of the bug world" (the description is the only Sherlockian aspect of the book).
5645. Frank Darlington has noted a catalog listing that might interest those who are investigating aspects of "The Musgrave Ritual": THE LATE KING'S GOODS: COLLECTIONS, POSSESSIONS, AND PATRONAGE OF CHARLES I IN THE LIGHT OF THE COMMONWEALTH SALE INVENTORIES, edited by Arthur MacGregor (London: Alistair McAlpine, 1989; 432 pp., \$59.95); A115162 from Barnes & Noble, 126 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10011).
5646. I can't remember who asked me about the cause of death for Raul Julia, so: the newspaper obituaries say that he died on Oct. 24, 1994, at North Shore University Hospital in Manhasset, N.Y., and that hospital spokeswoman Alice Siegel stated that the cause was complications of a stroke on Oct. 16.
5647. Mel Hughes reports that Edward Hardwicke is working on a new film: "Richard III" (due for release in Britain in November). Ian McKellen is executive producer, wrote the screenplay, and plays the title role, and other actors include Robert Downey Jr., Maggie Smith, Annette Bening, Nigel Hawthorne, and Edward Hardwicke (as Lord Stanley, played as an Air Vice Marshal who joins Richmond's forces, taking the RAF with him). Oh yes, the play is set in the 1930s, and McKellen is playing Richard as a fascist leader.

5648. Spotted by Dick Lesh: a new 80-minute videocassette "Sherlock: Undercover Dog", from Columbia Tristar, \$10.96 at Walmart. "The world's first talking police dog on a mission im-paws-ible!" The box shows the dog with pipe and deerstalker, and the story is about a boy and girl, on summer vacation on Catalina, encountering a talking dog.

August 1995 #6

5649. "Dinosaur Named After Conan Doyle" was the headline on a story in The Times on Aug. 19, at hand from Chris Roden. Dr. David Martill of Portsmouth University has described and named "Arthurdactylus conan-doylei" from a fossil found in northeastern Brazil; it's a pterodactyl with a wing-span of six meters. And no, pterodactyls aren't dinosaurs (but the copy-editor at The Times who wrote the headline didn't care).
5650. Bob Fritsch has reported finding a Sherlockian POG, with a white silhouette on a metallic blue background. POGs are the size of milk-bottle caps, and were last year's fad for kids, although they're still popular, because kids still are playing with them. You can ask your friendly neighborhood kid to tell you how the game is played. If your friendly neighborhood kid doesn't know what the name means, the first POGs came from Hawaii, where they were used to seal containers of a papaya-orange-guava juice drink.
5651. Noted by Jennie Paton: Investigator (an alligator detective in Sherlockian in Sherlockian costume) in Jerry Smath's INVESTI*GATOR* IN CLASSROOM CAPERS (Troll Associates, 1994; \$2.25); an illustrated children's book.
5652. Further to the report (June 95 #6) on the offer to sell Christ Cella's, Syd Goldberg reports that the N.Y. Times has noted that the restaurant has been sold to Ken Aretsky, who until March was the chairman and chief executive of the "21" Club. Aretsky said he had not decided whether to keep the name but will keep the steakhouse genre "with some additions and changes." The Baker Street Irregulars held their first formal meeting at Christ Cella's (which then was not where it is now), on June 5, 1934.
5653. Was anyone at the Royal and Ancient Golf Club for the British Open? ABC-TV commentator Brent Musberger visited the pro shop at St. Andrews on July 23, and reported that one could buy a Sherlock Holmes golf cap there.
5654. UNEXPLORED POSSIBILITIES, by John Hall (Leeds: Tai Xu Press, 1995) has the apt subtitle "Some Notes on the Life, Habits, and Character of Dr. John H. Watson," and offers a 96-page examination of the man who did so much for so many Sherlockians in bringing the exploits of Sherlock Holmes to the attention of generations of readers. Hall reviews the scholarship that has been devoted to Watson over the years, and offers some of his own, and does it well. Available from Classic Specialties, Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219; \$23.20 postpaid.
5655. Don Hobbs has forwarded a new catalog from Earlynn Collier (104 Brunswick Drive, Greenwood, IN 46143) that offers hand-painted porcelain with Sherlockian silhouettes: paperclip box (\$12.00), thimble (\$12.00), lapel pin (\$12.00), earrings (\$18.00), teapot (\$35.00), and other items.
5656. There aren't that many banks mentioned by name in the Canon, and they don't make the headlines all that often, but "Despite Tough Competition, Credit Lyonnais May Be the World's Worst Bank" caught Chris Redmond's eye. It was Bernard Levin's column in The Times (Apr. 25, 1995), discussing the bank's loss of six hundred million francs (that's about \$33.3 billion).
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September 1995 #1

5657. Jeremy Brett died on September 12. He made his stage debut in Manchester in 1954, and played Nicholas Rostov in the film "War and Peace" (1956), and then joined the Old Vic to perform in London and on Broadway. Brett played Dr. Watson in "The Crucifer of Blood" in Los Angeles in 1980 and 1981 (with Charlton Heston as Holmes), and then played Sherlock Holmes in the Granada series, launched in 1984. It was during a break in the Granada series that he commissioned and starred in the play "The Secret of Sherlock Holmes" in London and on tour in England in 1988, and it is as Holmes that he will be remembered by this generation and many more: the 46 hours of splendid television in the Granada series will be played on cassettes and broadcast over and over again to please old audiences and new. Jeremy Brett was the first actor since Basil Rathbone who truly owned the role of Sherlock Holmes, and he created a legion of fans and friends with his fine work for Granada and in other films and television programs.
5658. Meg Moller Martin, who last month launched a campaign to get Jeremy Brett onto the next honours list, heard only a few days before his death from the Prime Minister's office that the nominations unit would "see that Mr. Brett receives full and careful consideration."
5659. Try identifying the famous detective's employee who once said: "You mean these Baker Street societies and all that. Grown men being so silly! But there, that's men all over. Like the model railways they go on playing with. I can't say I've ever had time to read any of the stories. When I do get time for reading, which isn't often, I prefer an improving book."
5660. Ruthann and Tom Stetak report that the wristwatch showing Mickey Mouse in a Sherlockian scene from "Lonesome Ghosts" (\$65.00 at Disney mall stores not too long ago (June 95 #5) has been discounted to \$38.00 (and they warn those with ageing eyes that even though the dial is large, the watchface is quite small). Also that busts of Napoleon are offered in a catalog from Design Toscano of Chicago, 15 East Campbell, Arlington Heights, IL 60005 (800-525-0733).
5661. The Bull-Terrier Club of Boston University visited Newport, R.I., in August to attend a polo match at Glen Farm (possibly the first such occasion that a Sherlockian society has arranged), and commemorated the event with a nice 16-page booklet that explores the history of polo, and the history of polo in Newport, and does not neglect the fact that polo is indeed mentioned in the Canon. Copies of the booklet are available for \$4.00 postpaid (\$5.50 overseas) from W. Scott Monty, 140 Bay State Road #1137, Boston, MA 02215.
5662. The fifth issue of The Shoso-in Bulletin has arrived from The Men with the Twisted Konjo, with 152 pages (in English) of articles, pastiches, poetry, and illustrations by contributors from Japan and eight other nations. The journal is edited by Yuichi Hirayama, and is truly an international effort. \$12.00 postpaid (to addresses in the United States and Canada) from Jennie C. Paton, 206 Loblolly Lane, Statesboro, GA 30458; or £7.60 postpaid (to addresses in Britain and on the Continent) from John Hall, 20 Drury Avenue, Horsforth, Leeds, W. Yorks. LS18 4BR, England. Checks in U.S. dollars to Jennie; checks in sterling to John (or any nation's currency, John notes).
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September 1995 #2

5663. "During our London years, when I was learning my craft, various famous characters gave me a hand without knowing it. I am indebted, for example, to Sherlock Holmes, who was always complaining that Dr. Watson was often at the scene of the crime but failed to notice the incriminating details. 'You looked but didn't *see*, Watson!' This encouraged me thereafter to notice the little giveaway expressions on presidents' faces and telltale gaps in their arguments." Spotted by Gayle Harris in DEADLINE: A MEMOIR, by James Reston (New York: Times Books, 1992).
5664. "You mean these Baker Street societies and all that ..." Spoken by Hercule Poirot's secretary, Miss Lemon, in HICKORY DICKORY DEATH (1955); spotted by Ted Friedman.
5665. And here's an interesting discovery made by Jack and Natalie Kerr, while on holiday in Vermont: an impressive memorial at the birthplace of someone who is mentioned by name in the Canon. Who?
5666. Further to the report on the new pterosaur "Arthurdactylus conan-doylei" (August 95 #6), David M. Martill has kindly sent a copy of the report that he and Eberhard Frey contributed to the Neues Jahrbuch fur Geologie und Palaontologie Abhandlungen (Dec. 1994). Described from a single
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specimen that was found in laminated limestone of the Crato Formation (Lower Cretaceous) in northeastern Brazil, the fossil flying reptile was named in honor of the author "whose imaginative Lost World story inspired so many children." It had a wing span of 4.6 meters (that's about 15 feet), and the fossil now is at the State Museum of Natural History in Karlsruhe, Germany.

5667. Reported by Wally Conger: a reprint of William S. Baring-Gould's classic biography SHERLOCK HOLMES OF BAKER STREET: A LIFE OF THE WORLD'S FIRST CONSULTING DETECTIVE (from Wings Books, at \$7.99 on the bargain-books tables). First published in 1962, this was an important milestone on the road to THE ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES. Recommended.
5668. Sherri's Hacienda is now Sherlock's Steak House on Holmes, according to a review in the Kansas City Star (Aug. 18), at hand from Jerry Houchens. The restaurant's address is 9916-A Holmes Road, and the newspaper's restaurant reviewer gave the food high marks but suggested that the new mural "looks more like St. Francis of Assisi than Sherlock Holmes."
5669. If you've wandered by 12 West 44th Street in New York and wondered just how bad the delapidated Mansfield Hotel was, it was pretty bad. But no longer: it has been thoroughly restored, hearkening back to its original clubhouse atmosphere (it was built in 1904 as a residence for affluent bachelors). A single room will cost \$125 a night, including free parking and a breakfast buffet, and three bedside-reading anthologies (according to a story in the N.Y. Times on Aug. 16): one has essays about New York and the other two are devoted to the fiction of Jack London and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.
5670. THE IRISH PROFESSOR, by Eddie Maguire (Bridgwater: Big House Books, 1995), is a pleasant pastiche that takes Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson to County Sligo and an encounter with the Gore-Booths in 1897 (well before the time of Sir Paul of S'ian fame). The 23-page pamphlet costs \$4.00 postpaid from Ian Henry Publications, 20 Park Drive, Romford, Essex RM1 4LH, England.
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September 1995 #3

5671. Christopher and Barbara Roden have launched the Calabash Press as a new Sherlockian imprint, and their first book will be a reprint of David Stuart Davies' Holmes-Dracula pastiche THE TANGLED SKEIN, first published three years ago by Theme Publications (April 92 #2); \$28.50 postpaid, and their address is: Ashcroft, 2 Abbottsford Drive, Penyffordd, Chester CH4 0JG, England (shipping costs to other countries vary, and you can write to them for details).
5672. "An impressive memorial at the birthplace of someone mentioned by name in the Canon." Joseph Smith, founder of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, who was born in Sharon, Vermont, on Dec. 23, 1805.
5673. A MONSTROUS REGIMENT OF WOMEN (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1995; 326 pp., \$22.95) is Laurie R. King's second novel about Mary Russell, whom we met in THE BEEKEEPER'S APPRENTICE (March 94 #4), and who is now (at the end of 1920) about to turn 21, and again involved with Sherlock Holmes. She is a strong character in her own right, and the story has power and tension, important in any book that does more than merely offer an imitation Sherlock Holmes in an unimaginative mystery. King's new book has some intriguing insights into Holmes, as well as imagination and style.
5674. Michael Hardwick's SHERLOCK HOLMES: MY LIFE AND CRIMES is the latest volume of Sherlockiana to appear in a Japanese translation (by Masamichi Higurashi and Naohiko Kitahara) (Tokyo: Hara Shobo, 1995; 328 pp., ¥2,000); Masamichi reports that he also is translating Randall Collins' THE CASE OF THE PHILOSOPHERS' RING and Edward B. Hanna's THE WHITECHAPEL HORRORS.
5675. Ronald A. Knox's "Studies in the Literature of Sherlock Holmes" (published in the May 1912 issue of The Blue Book) is a well-known classic, but less far less well-known is the letter that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle wrote to Knox on July 5, 1912, commenting on the paper. The letter has been unpublished until now, and it appears for the first time, translated into German, along with a German translation of Knox's paper, in the summer 1995 issue of The Reichenbach Journal, which is edited for The Reichenbach Irregulars by Marcus Geisser. \$10.00 postpaid (in currency, please) from Klaus Worner, Torkelgasse 9, D-97980 Bad Mergentheim, Germany.
5676. Norman Houde reports that THE QUEST FOR SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: THIRTEEN BIOGRAPHERS IN SEARCH OF A LIFE, edited by Jon L. Lellenberg (November 87 #4) is offered by The Scholar's Bookshelf, 110 Melrich Road, Cranbury, NJ 08512, discounted to \$14.95. The book is a fine guide to the many, and frequently unreliable, biographies.
5677. If you didn't buy a copy of Maeve Binchy's novel THE COPPER BEECH when it first appeared (October 92 #5), and you still want one (there's nothing about it that's Sherlockian except for the almost-exact title match), Dick Lesh reports that it's discounted at \$5.95 in the current catalog from Edward R. Hamilton (Falls Village, CT 06031). And other bargains include the Outlet Books edition of William S. Baring-Gould's THE ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES (\$19.95), Edward B. Hanna's pastiche THE WHITECHAPEL HORRORS (\$5.95), and a real bargain: THE QUEST FOR SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: THIRTEEN BIOGRAPHERS IN SEARCH OF A LIFE (\$9.95); the last book is an excellent guide, edited by Jon L. Lellenberg, to the many, and frequently unreliable, biographies.
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September 1995 #4

5678. Further to the report (November 94 #6) about a "Hound of the Baskervilles" episode on the new PBS-TV series "Wishbone" (who is a Jack Russell terrier whose active imagination allows him to immerse himself in the storylines of classic books), the series will debut on Oct. 6. But there's no word yet on when "The Slobbery Hound" will air.
5679. This year's Christmas card from The Sherlock Holmes Society of London will be in full color, with an attractive watercolor painted for the Society by Douglas West, showing Holmes and Watson meeting Inspector Lestrade when he arrived from London in "The Hound of the Baskervilles". The cost is \$13.50 postpaid for ten cards (checks payable to the Society); you can send orders to Capt. W. R. Michell, 5 Old Farm Place, Hinton St. George, Somerset TA17 8TW, England.
5680. I can't remember who asked me recently about the different portraits of Queen Victoria on British coins, but an advertisement at hand from Sherry Rose-Bond provides the answer: the young queen's coins were minted from 1838 to 1887, a more mature queen appeared from 1887 to 1893, and an older queen from 1893 to 1901. The illustration shows gold sovereigns, advertised by the Worldwide Treasure Bureau, Box 5012, Visalia, CA 93278 (800-437-0222) at \$225 each (or \$650 for the set of three).
5681. Sherlockians are not the only ones who enjoyed membership in the many clubs founded by Christopher Morley, but some of those imaginative clubs are not widely known. A recent auction at the Swann Galleries in New York of items in the collection of the late Herman Abromson included a document certifying that R. C. Riminton was "a popular member of the N. & S. C. D. H. & L. R. C." That was the Nassau & Suffolk County Devilled Ham & Lake Ronkonkoma Club, and the certificate was signed by Morley as president, and Ogden Nash as permanent secretary pro-tem.
5682. Evelyn Wood died on Aug. 26. She began teaching speed reading in 1957 at the University of Utah, and reportedly could read as many as 15,000 words a minute. She founded the Evelyn Wood Reading Dynamics Institute in 1959, and in 1961 her Institute published a two-volume speed-reading edition of Conan Doyle's ADVENTURES OF GERARD.
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5683. Walter Satterthwait's *ESCAPADE* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1995; 355 pp., \$22.95) offers a mystery that is mysterious, and characters that are interesting, and some real fun. Two of the characters are Harry Houdini and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, and the setting is an English country house in 1921, and there's a locked-room murder that mystifies Houdini, and there's a Pinkerton man on hand to tell the tale in graceful but hard-boiled style, and there are some nice surprises and inside jokes as well.
5684. Sherlockian societies that would like more advance publicity for meetings and other events can now have brief announcements posted on the World Wide Web, on a home page maintained by Nigel J. Hayler for those who can cruise the Web via the Internet. You need only find a member who can send e-mail, and send your announcements to <nhayler@easynet.co.uk>, or you can write to Nigel at 74-A Elm Park Road, London N3 1EB, England.
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September 1995 #5

5685. William P. Schweickert ("Cox and Co.") died on Sept. 12. Bill had a long and distinguished career in banking, and he was an enthusiastic historian as well as a dedicated Sherlockian, and his friends and associates benefited from his energy and delightful sense of humor. He was one of the founders of The Three Garridebs of Eastchester, and a member of The Five Orange Pips of Westchester County and The Sacred Six and other societies in the New York area, and received his Investiture from the BSI in 1979, and their Two-Shilling Award in 1986.
5686. The postal service continues to issue annual souvenir sheets commemorating the 50th anniversary of World War II, and this year's sheet includes a stamp that shows President Truman announcing Japan's surrender, on Aug. 14, 1945. Truman was a member of The Baker Street Irregulars.
5687. "Exotic Creatures Lured to Balmy British Waters" is the headline on a story by Jonathan Leake and John Burns in *The Times* (Sept. 3), kindly forwarded by John Baesch. Warm weather and changes in ocean currents have resulted in an invasion of seldom seen sealife, including the lion's mane jellyfish. "Health officers in Hartlepool recently had to close the Seaton Carew beach after a swarm of lion's manes were washed up," and three children received hospital treatment for stings.
5688. Issue #31 of *The Tonga Times*, published by The Mini-Tonga Scion Society for Sherlockian miniaturists, offers news and helpful hints, and a report from Yves Charles Fercoq on the genealogy of the Vernet and Holmes families (it seems that Sherlock Holmes' grandmother was Emilie Vernet, who was guillotined in 1794). Membership in the society costs \$7.00 a year (with three issues of the newsletter), and if you would like to have more information about the society, you need only send a #10 SASE to Carol Wenk (Box 770554, Lakewood, OH 44107).
5689. Spotted by Jennie Paton: Pat Cummings' *JIMMY LEE DID IT* (New York: Harper-Trophy, 1995; 30 pp., \$4.95); a children's book, first published in 1985: Angel plays detective (wearing a deerstalker).
5690. *SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE HOUDINI BIRTHRIGHT*, by Val Andrews (London: Breese Books, 1995; 160 pp., £5.99), involves Holmes and Watson with Houdini, and then with Houdini's widow Bess (whose request for help brings them to New York and then to Budapest); the author is a magician, and has some fun with Houdini's contemporaries and rivals. The publisher's address is 164 Kensington Park Road, London W11 2ER, England.
5691. Geoff Jeffery notes that the Sherlock Holmes nesting dolls (September 93 #4) are offered at \$12.95 in a catalog from Bits & Pieces (1 Puzzle Place, Stevens Point, WI 54481 (800-544-7287); also Tom Bullimore's *BAKER STREET PUZZLES* (November 94 #1) and another puzzle book by Falcon Travis with S'ian artwork on the cover (\$9.95 for the set of two).
5692. The Victorian Villa Inn, at 601 North Broadway Street, Union City, MI 49094 (800-348-4552), is a carefully restored 1876 house that offers Sherlockian weekends, and an attractive brochure giving details and a schedule.
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September 1995 #6

5693. Not everyone named James Moriarty is a criminous mathematician, Dave Galerstein notes. Notre Dame football coach Lou Holtz is on his way to the Mayo Clinic for spinal surgery, according to a story in the *N.Y. Times* (Sept. 11). The announcement came from university physician James Moriarity, who uses a different spelling for the family name.
5694. "Wear the wrong hat out in the midday sun and there is a long-term danger of skin cancer," was the sub-head on a story in *The Times* (Aug. 22, 1995), kindly forwarded by John F. Baesch. *The Garden* (the journal of the Royal Horticultural Society) reports that the American National Farm Centre in Wisconsin has cautioned farmers that the American baseball cap will not protect the neck and ears from the sun, and that better protection would be provided by a deerstalker or a solar topi. Well, it has taken the RHS only four years to catch up with the news. It was the National Farm Medicine Center in Marshfield that conducted a test of various hats (August 91 #3 and November 91 #3): a modified baseball cap with a detachable flap that covers the temples, ears, and neck provided the most protection, and a mesh variation of the deerstalker came in second.
5695. The Ben Silver Collection (800-221-4671) continues to offer a grand variety of regimental, university, old school, and other neckties, and many of them can (with a bit of research) be associated with the Canon; the autumn 1995 catalog is now available, and their address is 149 King Street, Charleston, SC 29401.
5696. Steven T. Doyle has announced that the Wessex Press (founded two years ago by Steven and his partner Mark Gagen) has purchased the Gasogene Press from David L. Hammer, and Gasogene's books are now in Indianapolis. The Wessex Press will continue as a more general imprint (its next title will be *THE ANNOTATED LOST WORLD*, by Alvin E. Rodin and Roy Pilot), and Gasogene will continue to publish Sherlockian books. The new address for the Gasogene Press is: Box 68308, Indianapolis, IN 46268; a list of available titles is available on request.
5697. Carl L. Heifetz reports that The Pleasant Places of Florida have published *THE CALENDRIAL CANON WITH HOLIDAYS HOLMESIAN*, with a calendar of special occasions in 1996, and narratives by members of the society. The 20-page brochure costs \$6.50 postpaid to the U.S. and Canada, \$7.10 to Mexico, and \$9.20 elsewhere), and Carl's address is 5490 Salem Square Drive South, Palm Harbor, FL 34685.
5698. *Playboy* (Oct. 1995) has reported on the new series of commemorative Sherlockian pipes from Peterson Pipes of Dublin (June 95 #5). The "Rathbone" is available now; call 800-247-6653 (that's 800-24-SMOKE) for information on store locations.
5699. Chris Redmond has reported that Ronald P. Graham died on June 24. He was one of the three founders of The Canadian Baskervilles (the first Sherlockian society in Canada), and he wrote a paper for *The Baker Street Journal* (Oct. 1946) suggesting that Sherlock Holmes when retired from detecting he devoted himself to research in organic and analytical chemistry. Graham was, as might be expected, a professor of chemistry, at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, and was dean of science there from 1962 to 1977.
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September 1995 #7

5700. "The calculation is a simple one," as Sherlock Holmes once said, but there was some bad arithmetic in the story about the Credit Lyonnais (August 95 #6), as spotted by careful calculator Jack Kerr: the six hundred million francs lost by the bank actually is a mere \$118 million.
5701. Geoff Jeffery reports (found at a Book Warehouse in North Bend, Wash.) *THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* (Wordsworth Classics, \$5.00); the book has "A Study in Scarlet" and "The Sign of Four" in addition to the "Adventures" (which is reprinted with the Paget illustrations from *The Strand Magazine*), and the British publisher (Wordsworth Editions) states that there will be two more volumes and that the set will have all sixty stories;
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- Christopher Roden reports that Wordsworth Classics sell for £3.99 in Britain, and that Wordsworth has published paperback editions (£1.00 each) of SIR NIGEL and THE LOST WORLD AND OTHER STORIES (with all of the Challenger stories).
5702. Thanks to Ted Schulz for providing proof that Merrell Noden's pastiche "The Adventure of the Treacherous Traps" (July 95 #8) actually was published in the July 24 issue of Sports Illustrated. But it didn't appear all copies: only in some regional editions of the magazine.
5703. "Sometimes they call each other 'Watson and Holmes,' wear deerstalkers, and study with a magnifying glass, just as Sherlock Holmes and his sidekick Dr. Watson searched for clues," wrote Dinitia Smith in a long story about Leona Rostenberg and Madeleine Stern in the N.Y. Times on Aug. 29. In 1942 they discovered that Louisa May Alcott, who wrote charming novels about New England domesticity, also wrote "blood and thunder" tales about transvestitism and hashish smoking and feminism and other shocking themes (published anonymously or under a pseudonym). Now in their 80s, the ladies have been in the rare-book business for almost 40 years, and their interest in Sherlock Holmes is not merely a passing fancy: Madeleine Stern has researched and written about Sherlockian (and Doylean) phrenology and about Holmes as a collector of rare books, and Leona Rostenberg included Sherlock Holmes in an article on "Bibliately: A History of Books on Postage Stamps".
5704. Charles Marowitz's play "Sherlock's Last Case" opens at the Globe Theatre in Regina on Dec. 6, 1995, and runs through Dec. 17 (it may be held over until Dec. 23); the box-office address is 1801 Scarth Street, Regina, Sask. S4P 2G9, Canada (306-525-6400).
5705. Thanks to all those who reported on some recent television shows (which can be seen in repeats, if you missed them). On Sept. 9 the season opener of "Animaniacs" (broadcast by the Warner Bros. network) had a segment in which Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson helped Yakko, Wakko, and Dot Warner compete in a scavenger hunt, with the evil Professor Morey Archie making an appearance. On Sept. 17 the season opener of "The Simpsons" (on the Fox network) was "Who Shot Mr. Burns? Part Two" with Sideshow Mel doing a brief Sherlock Holmes impression (with Krusty the Clown as his Watson); Dan Castelaneta is the voice of Sideshow Mel.
5706. Mark Alberstat's 1996 Sherlock Holmes Calendar is illustrated with artwork from The Strand Magazine, and displays important Sherlockian birthdays and William S. Baring-Gould's dates for the cases. The cost is US\$12.00 postpaid, and his address is 5 Lorraine Street, Dartmouth, NS B3A 2B9, Canada.

September 1995 #8

5707. "The Scarlet Letter" opens wide (as they say in the trade) on Oct. 13, starring Demi Moore, Gary Oldman, and Robert Duvall --and Edward Hardwicke in a supporting role (sorry, I don't know which one). And you should warn your kids not to write a book report after seeing the movie (the movie has a different ending than the book did). Someone once suggested to James M. Cain that what Hollywood had done to his books was awful. Cain replied: "Hollywood hasn't done anything at all to my books; they're still right up there on the bookshelf."
5708. There are many reasons for the continuing popularity of the Sherlock Holmes stories, including their being used so widely in schools. And THE SHERLOCK HOLMES STUDY GUIDE, by Susan Thurman (Henderson: Class Act, 1995) is a fine example of this sort of use: the package includes the Dover Thrift Edition of SIX GREAT SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES (with Scan/RedH/Spec/Engr/Fina/Empt) and 44 pages of helpful study questions, vocabulary tests, ideas for study projects, and ideas for writing assignments. As well as a warning note to teachers about two words and phrases in the tales that today's students may think mean something other than what they meant when the stories were first published. \$21.95 postpaid, and the publisher's address is Box 802-P, Henderson, KY 42420.
5709. American Express provides those who have its top-of-the-line platinum card with extra benefits that include an opportunity to have questions answered. And someone asked American Express for the address of the nearest Sherlockian society, and someone at American Express apparently called The Sherlock Holmes Society of London, and was told to call me, and did, and got the information needed. Maybe they'll do your kids' homework, too.
5710. You've all seen "find the what-ever in this picture" puzzles for kids, but the puzzles in Games magazine are far from childish. The October issue has "Up in Smoke" (created by Lars Hokanson and Frances Cichetti), and all you need to do is find 30 pipes in an illustration that shows Holmes and Watson in the sitting-room at 221B Baker Street.
5711. And here's a non-Sherlockian puzzle (well, I could have had Sherlock Holmes post the challenge, but I didn't):
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|----|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| A. | A H I M O S T U V W X Y | Which letter is in the wrong line? Why? |
| B. | B C D E F G J K L N P Q R Z | I'll supply the answer next month. |
5712. Judy Burton reported on Sept. 26 that registration for the dedication of the John Bennett Shaw Collection in Minneapolis on Oct. 13-15 had reached 238 -- and that there still was room for late-comers. You can register by phone (and credit-card) by calling 612-625-3850.
5713. Further to the request (June 95 #3) for Sherlockian panels from the 20 comic strips that will be honored by the U.S. Postal Service on a sheet that will be issued in October, the results so far total seven. And photocopies have been sent to those who responded to the request for help; others who might wish to see the results are invited to send me a #10 SASE.

October 1995 #1

5714. Spencer Schein notes some new bargains offered in a new catalog from Edward Hamilton (Falls Village, CT 06031): Chris Redmond's WELCOME TO AMERICA, MR. SHERLOCK HOLMES (item 489557; \$4.95); IN BED WITH SHERLOCK HOLMES (489506; \$6.95), and A SHERLOCK HOLMES HANDBOOK (item 489530; \$7.95); all three are well-written, interesting, and recommended. And: William S. Baring-Gould's fine biography SHERLOCK HOLMES OF BAKER STREET (490393; \$7.95). Postage is \$3.00 extra per order.
5715. And Dick Lesh reports that Hamilton offers THE ILLUSTRATED SHERLOCK HOLMES, adapted by Nigel Flynn and Richard Widdows (London: Multimedia Books, 1993) for \$4.95; the 160-page book has adaptations of three of the long stories (Stud/Sign/Houn) with art-work from the Australian animations made in 1985 with Peter O'Toole's voice as Holmes; the adaptations were first published separately in 1985.
5716. Another (possibly) Canonical site is for sale, according to a brief story in the Birmingham Evening Mail (Aug. 17), at hand from Jon Lellenberg. The site is Crowsley Park House, an Oxfordshire estate in Henley-on-Thames, and the story reports that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle lived nearby and is said to have borrowed the name of owner Henry Baskerville. It should be noted that the most widely-accepted source for the family name is Harry M. Baskerville (who was coachman to B. Fletcher Robinson, who was Conan Doyle's host for a visit to Dartmoor and suggested the "West Country legend" to him).
5717. Last month's non-Sherlockian puzzle was:
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|----|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| A. | A H I M O S T U V W X Y | Which letter is in the wrong line? Why? |
| B. | B C D E F G J K L N P Q R Z | I'll supply the answer on the next page. |

5718. Further to the report (September 95 #4) on Nigel Hayler's "Sherlock Holmes Event Guide" on his home page on the World Wide Web, you don't need to be a webcruiser to see the listing: send an e-mail message to <agora@www.undp.org>, leave the subject-line blank, and state as the text (without the quotation marks): "send http://194.72.60.96/www/pwf/shevents.htm".
5719. The Dispatch Box is a four-page newsletter published in English by The Japanese Cabinet (a branch office of The Franco-Midland Hardware Company) with news of Sherlockian events in Japan: recent issues have included discussion of The Sherlock Holmes Pub in Osaka, exhibitions at Matsuzakaya department stores of Sherlockiana from the collection of Kiyoshi Tanaka, and the first performance of a Sherlock Holmes play in Japan (apparently Ferdinand Bonn's "Sherlock Holmes" produced by German prisoners of war in 1918). The newsletter costs \$8.00 or £5.00 (currency, please) for four issues, from Yuichi Hirayama, 2-10-12 Kamirenjaku, Mitaka-shi, Tokyo 181, Japan.
5720. The October issue of Anglofile has a long tribute to Jeremy Brett, and the usual detailed coverage of British entertainment. "Reilly: Ace of Spies" will air on the History Channel in two-hour installments, Nov. 5-10, with Sam Neill as Reilly and many excellent actors in supporting roles, including David Burke as Stalin. The monthly newsletter gives detailed coverage of British entertainment; \$12.00 a year (Box 33515, Decatur, GA 30033).
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October 1995 #2

5721. Jennie Paton spotted another Sherlockian chess set in the new catalog from Time Warner's "Sound Exchange" (45 North Industry Court, Deer Park, NY 11729 (800-521-0042); the catalog says that the pieces are "beautifully hand-decorated in subtle shades of green and grey" and the characters are based on "the original drawings that appeared in the Strand Magazine in 1890." \$495.00 painted (#219626); \$295.00 unpainted (#219618).
5722. And the answer to the non-Sherlockian puzzle is: the letter S should be in the bottom line. All of the other letters in the top line have rotational symmetry around a vertical axis, and none of the letters in the bottom line have that rotational symmetry.
5723. Conan Doyle likely was the first author to use THE LOST WORLD for the title of a book, and other authors have used the title since then (copyright laws don't protect titles of books). And THE LOST WORLD is the title of Michael Crichton's sequel to JURASSIC PARK. Reviewers of Crichton's new book (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1995; \$25.95) seem well aware of the borrowing from "the granddaddy of all dinosaur tales" (one reviewer's description). The new book opened at #1 on the best-seller lists, which will surprise no one who read JURASSIC PARK or saw the movie.
5724. While the United States Postal Service was honoring classic comic strips in October, Canada Post honored Canadian comicbook superheroes in a booklet that included a stamp showing Superman. One assumes that many readers are wondering why Superman is Canadian: he was created by Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster, and Joe Shuster was born in Toronto. If you also are wondering why Superman is Sherlockian, Bill Rabe discovered that Jerry Siegel and fellow staffers on the Pacific edition of Stars and Stripes during World War II founded The Baker Street Irregulars of Honolulu (active 1944-46).
5725. Roger Johnson reports in The District Messenger that the Croydon Clocktower Museum and Galleries will stage a major exhibition on "The Sherlock Holmes Experience" from Dec. 7 to Mar. 30. Conan Doyle once lived in Norwood, now part of the Borough of Croydon, and the exhibits will explore "the reality of Conan Doyle's Victorian London and the fictional world of the sleuth." The Croydon Clocktower is in Katharine Street, Croydon CR9 1HT, England.
5726. Bruce D. Aikin reports in the latest issue of "A Very Irregular Newsletter" Vasily LivaNovember died earlier this year. He starred as Holmes in a series of dramatizations of Canonical stories on Soviet television from 1979 to 1985, and in 1986 provided the voice of Holmes for a Soviet animated film called "Sherlock Holmes and I". Two of the one-hour television shows are in circulation, dubbed into German and taped off-the-air when they were broadcast from East Germany, and they're fun to watch.
5727. For those who don't yet have enough busts of Napoleon: John Baesch reports that the gift catalog from Monticello (800-243-1743) has a copy of the bust of a young Bonaparte that Thomas Jefferson owned (\$40.00). John also notes that Robert Harris' new novel ENIGMA (New York: Random House, 1995; \$23.00) involves the code-breaking activities at Bletchley; its hero Thomas Jericho carries a copy of the Doubleday THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES with him.
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October 1995 #3

5728. Reported by Stu Shiffman: NEIL GAIMAN'S MR. HERO--THE NEWMATIC MAN is a new comic-book series from Tekno-Comix (2255 Glades Road #237W, Boca Raton, FL 33431-7383) (800-448-3566); Mr. Hero is a steampowered robot who once performed at Maskelyne's Egyptian Theatre (deucing that a doctor in the audience was contemplating writing about a consulting detective) and is now accompanied by a young woman named Jenny Hale and is searching for a site in Sussex where he thinks he was created. Issue #10 (early Dec. 1995) reports on "The Hand of the Baskervilles" and has a Sherlockian cover (\$1.95).
5729. Jim Vogelsang reports a new Christmas ornament: "Gotta Have a Clue" shows Santa in a deerstalker, with pipe and magnifying glass, examining a "Clue" gameboard. It's item #139653 from the Enesco Corp. (\$20.00); check your local card and gift shops. And Andy Peck reports that it's available to members of the Mystery Guild (Box 6325 Indianapolis, IN 46206) at \$19.95.
5730. "I have some knowledge, however, of ... the Japanese system of wrestling," said Sherlock Holmes (in "The Empty House"). A new Japanese stamp, at hand from Yuichi Hirayama, honors the 1995 World Judo Championships and shows two women concontestants.
5731. Sorry about that: the translators of the Japanese edition of Michael Hardwick's SHERLOCK HOLMES: MY LIFE AND CRIMES (September 95 #3) are Masamichi Higurashi and Naohiko Kitahara.
5732. Further to the report (September 95 #7) on the Wordsworth Classics editions, Jim Coffin reports that he found all three volumes at Crown Books; \$7.00 each. The three volumes (THE ADVENTURES SHERLOCK HOLMES, THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, and THE CASEBOOK OF SHERLOCK HOLMES) contain all sixty stories in facsimile from The Strand Magazine, except for the first two stories, which are set in similar two-column format. The new volumes apparently use the plates created for THE COMPLETE ILLUSTRATED SHERLOCK HOLMES (Ware: Omega Books, 1986) and then used in THE ORIGINAL ILLUSTRATED 'STRAND' SHERLOCK HOLMES (New York: Mallard Press, 1990).
5733. Reported by Laura Kuhn: PAST IMPERFECT: HISTORY ACCORDING TO THE MOVIES, edited by Mark C. Carnes (New York: Henry Holt, 1995; 308 pp., \$30.00); the contents include a four-page essay by David Cannadine on "Murder by Decree" (1979) that compares fact and fiction.
5734. The Sept. 1995 issue of Baker Street W1 ("a Sherlockian journal from the western U.S.A.") offers news from west of the Mississippi, including John Farrell's interview with Marilyn Lewis, head of marketing for "Skeletons in the Closet" (which retails Sherlockian merchandise from the Los Angeles County Coroner's Office); \$9.00 a year (three issues) from Jerry Kegley, 110 South El Nido #41, Pasadena, CA 91107.
5735. H. Paul Jeffers, author of THE ADVENTURE OF THE STALWART COMPANIONS (1979) and MURDER MOST IRREGULAR (1983), also has paid tribute to the Canon in THE RAG DOLL MURDER (1987) and again in A GRAND NIGHT FOR MURDER (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1995), which Ben Wood describes as "a corking-good mystery" with references to the Canon and to the Baker Street Irregulars.
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October 1995 #4

5736. Michael Coren's new biography CONAN DOYLE is due in November from Bloomsbury Publishing (£20.00); "the creator of Sherlock Holmes was much more than a populist writer: he was a paradox--a Catholic who rejected religion; a family man who loved another woman throughout his marriage; an atheist who adopted spiritualism."
5737. The next volume from the Pequod Press will be LOOSE CANONS, a collection of John Ruyle's verse that includes his tribute to the late Jeremy Brett, and the cost is \$40.00 (cloth) or \$20.00 (paper), available from the author at 521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707. For those who unfamiliar with the fine Pequod pressings, it's a hand press, and John is an expert printer.
5738. "Not a politician in sight, nor a trained cormorant," I wrote earlier (July 95 #2), when I reported on the postal service's new booklet of stamps that show five lighthouses. Eagle-eyed Don Hardenbrook notes that the stamp that shows the Spectacle Reef Lighthouse also shows some rare albino cormorants, which often are mistaken for seagulls. And of course it's possible that there's a politician somewhere in the shadows . . .
5739. The 1995 issue of The Musgrave Papers (the annual published by The Northern Musgraves has 132 pages of scholarship, news, and reviews, with a great deal of excellent discussion of the humor that is found in the Canon, in the Sherlockian literature, and among Sherlockians everywhere (a well-illustrated interview with cartoonist Gahan Wilson is particularly interesting). Information on membership in the society is available from Anne Jordan, Fairbank, Beck Lane, Bingley, West Yorks. BD16 4DN, England.
5740. Further to the amusing comments made by Miss Lemon about the "Baker Street societies and all that" (September 95): Chris Redmond spotted the quotation long before I did, and included it in his QUOTATIONS FROM BAKER STREET, which is a delightful 49-page compilation that still is available (\$10.00 postpaid) from George A. Vanderburgh, Box 204, Shelburne, ON L0N 1S0, Canada.
5741. Ken Greenwald reports that he and The Baker Street Associates now are at work on a new series of 16 audiocassettes to be called MORE NEW ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, which will continue the series issued through Simon & Schuster (who told Ken that the Sherlock Holmes series sold better than all other S&S series other than "Star Trek"); Brilliance Audio (Box 887, Grand Haven, MI 49417) will issue the new series, and Ken would appreciate your writing to Brilliance to tell them you're looking forward to the series, and to ask them to let you know which stores will carry the cassettes. Ken also notes that a few copies remain of the 1987 commemorative record album of Rathbone/Bruce broadcasts that launched the series (the album has two LP records, and please don't ask me what an LP record is); details are available from Ken Greenwald at Box 351453, Los Angeles, CA 90035.
5742. "It's a waste of talent and a yawn for Baker Street buffs provided they even catch the show before it closes," Variety's reviewer suggested when Jeremy Brett and Edward Hardwicke opened in "The Secret of Sherlock Holmes" at Wyndham's Theatre in Sept. 1988. The play ran for a year in London, and for eleven weeks more on tour in the provinces.

October 1995 #5

5743. Sherlock Holmes' 142nd birthday will be celebrated on Friday, Jan. 12, with the traditional festivities in New York. But the festivities actually will begin on Thursday at 9:00 am at the Hotel Algonquin (59 West 44th Street), whence Allen Mackler and Charlie Shields will lead participants in the annual Christopher Morley Walk, which ends with luncheon at McSorley's. Allen's address is 324 2nd Street NE, Osseo, MN 55369, and from Jan. 9 he will be at the Iroquois Hotel (212-840-3080).
5744. Friday begins with the Martha Hudson Breakfast (details are not yet available). The William Gillette Memorial Luncheon starts at noon, at Moran's Restaurant at 146 Tenth Avenue at 19th Street; \$32.00 (Susan Rice, 125 Washington Place #2-E, New York, NY 10014). Otto Penzler's open house at The Mysterious Bookshop (129 West 56th Street) also is on Friday, from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm, and it is possible that Sherlockian authors will be on hand to sign their books.
5745. The Baker Street Irregulars will gather at 6:00 pm at 24 Fifth Avenue (at 9th Street), and The Fortescue Symposium (sponsored by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes, The Priory Scholars, and The Montague Street Lodgers) will convene at 6:30 pm at the St. Moritz Hotel at 50 Central Park South at 6th Avenue; \$60.00 (Katherine Karlson, 1259 Fowler Place, Binghamton, NY 13903-6036). Early reservations are advised for the luncheon and the Fortescue festivities.
5746. On Saturday a posse of purveyors will offer a wide variety of S'iana at the Algonquin (also known for the occasion as Covent Garden West) from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm; vendor tables are available (Ray Betzner, 1535 South Jefferson Court, Lancaster, PA 17602). The Baker Street Irregulars will hold their annual reception, open to all Sherlockians and their friends, on Saturday afternoon (details are not yet available).
5747. Mary Ellen Rich has once again kindly provided a list of hotels that offer reasonable (as defined by New York landlords) rates, along with a warning about non-optional extras: \$2.00 a day occupancy tax, 8.25% state tax, and 5% city tax. If you plan to arrive on Thursday, it is important to confirm the rates, and that the weekend-package rates include Thursday.
5748. Dorset (30 West 54th St.): \$149 (single/double, including Sunday brunch) (800-227-2348); Mansfield (12 West 44th St.): \$145 (single/double, but ask about specials) (212-944-6050); St. Moritz (50 Central Park South): ask for the Fortescue rate: \$125 (single) \$140 (double) (800-221-4774); Wyndham (42 West 58th St.): \$115 (single) \$130 (double) \$175 (suite) (212-753-3500); Wentworth (59 West 46th St.): \$115 (single/double) (800-567-7220); Iroquois (49 West 44th St.): \$99 (single) \$125 (double) \$150 (one-bedroom suite) (800-332-7220); Pickwick Arms (230 East 51st St.): \$95 (single/double) \$117 (triple) (212-355-0300); Edison (228 West 47th St.): \$88 (single/double corporate rate) (212-840-5000); Portland Square (132 West 47th St.): \$79 (single) \$89 (double) \$94 (triple) (212-382-0600).
5749. Richard M. Olken (200 Hyslop Road, Brookline, MA 02146) offers a new sales list of books, pins, neckties, and memorabilia available from The Speckled Band of Boston. There's some fine writing in the anthologies of Sherlockian scholarship and humor perpetrated by the members of the Band.

October 1995 #6

5750. Sonia Fetherston reports that A&E cable has removed the "Sherlock Holmes" series from its Monday-evening lineup, effective Oct. 30, and has no plans to bring the series back soon; someone in their viewer-relations department told Sonia: "As you know, the show is out of production, and we felt that we should give it a rest." Cards and letters can be sent to programming director Brooke Baily Johnson, A&E Television Network, 235 East 45th Street, New York, NY 10017.
5751. The dedication ceremonies for the John Bennett Shaw Collection at the University of Minnesota this month were grand indeed, and great fun. There were more than 300 on hand for the festivities, including Dorothy Shaw and almost all of John and Dorothy's children and grandchildren. The University and the Library and The Norwegian Explorers worked hard to arrange a splendid conference, and made everything look far easier than it really was. And there are some fine collectibles for those who couldn't attend:
5752. SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE DETECTIVE AND THE COLLECTOR, edited by Lucy M. Brusic; a 188-page anthology of essays about John Bennett Shaw and his collection (\$38.00 postpaid). The handsome conference poster is \$16.70 postpaid, and the conference brochure (mailed to many before the

conference, with lots of information about what went on) is \$1.00 postpaid. Checks payable to "University of Minnesota" should be sent to: Shaw Conference Publications, 466 Wilson Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455.

5753. Conan Doyle's THE LOST WORLD continues in print, offering a new generation of readers an opportunity to see where Michael Crichton found many of his ideas: a new edition in the Oxford Popular Fiction series (Oxford: Oxford Univ. Press, 1995; 189 pp., \$7.95) also has an interesting Introduction by Yale University professor of English Ian Duncan.
5754. Reported: an American edition of Colin Dexter's collection MORSE'S GREATEST MYSTERY AND OTHER STORIES (New York: Crown Books, 1995; 272 pp., \$23.00); the British edition was published by Macmillan in 1993 (June 94 #4), and the contents include his amusing pastiche "A Case of Mis-Identity" (first published in WINTER'S CRIMES 21, 1989).
5755. Kingsley Amis died on Oct. 22. He was the author of more than 20 novels, six books of poetry, and a volume of memoirs, beginning his career as one of Britain's "angry young men" achieved his first literary success in 1954 with his first novel, LUCKY JIM, and won the Book Prize in 1986 for THE OLD DEVILS. In an essay on "My Favorite Sleuths" (Playboy, Dec. 1966) he wrote that "Holmes is the memorable figure he is because Conan Doyle grasped the essential truth that the deductive solving of crimes cannot in itself throw much light on the character doing the solving, and therefore that character must be loaded up with quirks, hobbies, eccentricities. It is always these irrelevant qualities that define the figure of the great detective, not his mere powers of reasoning." Amis also wrote an Introduction for the Murray/ Cape edition of THE MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1974), and the script for a 1974 BBC-1 television program "Dr. Watson and the Darkwater Hall Mystery" (adapted as a short story in Playboy in May 1978).

November 1995 #1

5756. More details about the birthday weekend on Jan. 12-13: Friday begins with the Martha Hudson Breakfast from 7:00 to 10:00 in the Oak Room at the Hotel Algonquin at 59 West 44th Street; the Algonquin provides its guests with a continental breakfast, and others are welcome to order from the menu (reservations are not required). The Baker Street Irregulars will hold their annual reception, open to all Sherlockians and their friends, on Saturday afternoon from 3:00 to 5:30 at the National Arts Club at 15 Gramercy Park (20th Street between Park and Third Avenues). There will be an open bar, and hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, and the cost is \$35.00 a person until Dec. 29 (checks payable to the Baker Street Irregulars should be sent to Donald E. Novorsky, 5182 Mahoning Avenue NW, Warren, OH 44483); tickets will be available at the door, at \$40.00 a person.
5757. Rooms at the Hotel Algonquin (single or double) are available at the Hotel Algonquin for \$150.00 a night; no tax is due on reservations made through the BSI, and the offer is available to all Sherlockians; reservations with full names of all occupants, accompanied by payment (checks payable to The Baker Street Irregulars) should be sent to Thomas L. Stix, Jr. (34 Pierson Avenue, Norwood, NJ 07648) to arrive no later than Dec. 15.
5758. The Dr. John H. Watson Fund offers financial assistance to all Sherlockians (membership in the BSI or the ASH is not required) who might otherwise not be able to participate in the weekend's festivities. A carefully anonymous John H. Watson presides over the fund and welcomes contributions, which can be made by checks payable to John H. Watson and mailed (without return any address on the envelope) to Dr. Watson, c/o Thomas L. Stix, Jr. (address as above); Tom forwards the checks unopened, and Dr. Watson will acknowledge your generosity.
5759. SHERLOCK HOLMES, BRIDGE DETECTIVE, by bridge expert (and Sherlockian pastichist) Frank Thomas, was first published in 1973 and now has been reissued by the Devyn Press, 3600 Chamberlain Lane #230, Louisville, KY 40241 (800-274-2221); \$12.95 postpaid. Thomas notes that the game of bridge closely resembles a detective story, and has Holmes explain the fine points of the bidding and play of 44 bridge hands.
5760. Vincent Starrett was a true bookman, and an essayist and a poet as well as a Sherlockian. And Peter Ruber, long an admirer of Starrett, has edited a new volume of Vincent Starrett's COLLECTED POEMS, with an introduction by Ruber and an afterword by Albert M. Rosenblatt. Starrett delighted in the sonnet, and his famous "221b" is only one of the Sherlockian sonnets in the book (which is the first in a projected 15 volumes in the "Vincent Starrett Memorial Library"). COLLECTED POEMS (194 pp.) is available from George A. Vanderburgh, Box 204, Shelburne, ON L0N 1S0, Canada; \$27.00 postpaid.
5761. Peter Ruber is hard at work trying to find Vincent Starrett's uncollected early work, and would greatly appreciate hearing from anyone who has access to 1917-1937 issues of the magazines Short Stories, Wayside Tales, Real Detective Tales, or Street & Smith's Detective Story Magazine, and 1920-1930 issues of Black Mask or Weird Tales. Peter's address is Box 502, Oakdale, NY 11769.

November 1995 #2

5762. "It is as impossible for man to demonstrate the existence of God as it would be for even Sherlock Holmes to demonstrate the existence of Arthur Conan Doyle." WISHFUL THINKING: A THEOLOGICAL ABC, by Frederick Buechner (New York: Harper & Row, 1973).
5763. Richard L. Coe died on Nov. 12. He went to work for the Washington Post in 1938 as radio editor and assistant drama editor, and was the paper's drama editor from 1947 to 1979, and he worked hard over those many years to help his city grow from a one-theater town to a major theatrical center. In an article published on Oct. 6, 1974, he discussed Nicholas Meyer's THE SEVEN PERCENT SOLUTION and William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" (then about to open at the Kennedy Center), and asked rhetorically, "How does one account for Sherlock's long-lived appeal?" His answer was: "Doyle created a vivid character, a strong, independent man, but whimsical and unpredictable as well."
5764. If you didn't get the "Sherlock Hound Salt and Pepper Pups" offered by What on Earth last year (September 94 #5), they're in the new catalog offered by Joan Cook, Box 6038, Peabody, MA 01961 (800-935-0971); \$16.75 for the set (50C-6138).
5765. THE ADVENTURE OF THE FLABBY GRUNGE is the most recent installment in the saga of Turlock Loams, who now is investigating a murderous plot by Colonel Sebastian Marin against his brother Sebastopol, as reported by Dr. Fatso for the prolific Pequod Press. The cost is \$40.00 (cloth) or \$20.00 (paper), from John Ruyle, 521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707.
5766. The manuscript of "The Dancing Men" (53 small quarto pages, plus a special title page, signed by Conan Doyle on the front cover) was offered for sale at a book fair in Fort Worth in October, for \$250,000. The owner is Brian Perkins (the proprietor of Barber's Book Store, 215 West 8th Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102 (800-327-5471)).
5767. Edward Hardwicke needs no introduction to those who have enjoyed his portrayal of Watson in the Granada series and his readings on CSA Telltapes audiocassettes (July 93 #1 and September 93 #3). Tangled Web Audio now offers two audiocassette sets with new recordings by Hardwicke: SHERLOCK HOLMES: TALES OF INTRIGUE (with Croo/Gree/Nava), and SHERLOCK HOLMES: TALES OF SUSPENSE (with Suss/Cree/Spec); each set has two cassettes and costs \$20.45 postpaid (\$39.90 for two sets). The address is 3380 Sheridan Drive #167, Amherst, NY 14226 (800-249-2666 operator 616), and credit-card orders are welcome.
5768. John Terry Bell died on Aug. 24. He was an actor, writer, and director, beginning his career as a child actor in the Los Angeles production of "The King and I", and in 1983 played the title role in the American Theatre Arts production of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" in Hollywood.

5769. Steven T. Doyle reports that publication of the ANNOTATED LOST WORLD, by Roy Pilot and Al Rodin is "imminent" (and that the book will have 280 pages and cloth covers and a dust jacket). Advance orders are being accepted by the Wessex Press, Box 68308, Indianapolis, IN 46268; \$37.70 postpaid.

November 1995 #3

5770. Caroline Gassner presides over The Shadows of the Elm at the Arroyo del Oso Elementary School in Albuquerque, and helps her students present half-hour video dramatizations of the Canon. This year's adventure was "The Boscombe Valley Mystery" Beeches", and a cassette (with a selection of out-takes) is available for \$9.00 postpaid from Mrs. Gassner (P.O. Drawer G, Corrales, NM 87048-0178).
5771. Al Greengold and January Stauber offer three lapel pins showing artwork by Sidney Paget (shown here actual size); \$7.00 each postpaid, or \$18.00 postpaid for all three (Al's address is 118 South Prospect Street, Verona, NJ 07044).
5772. Reported: on Dec. 22 and 29 the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. radio series "Ideas" will repeat its two-part "The Casebook of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle" (first broadcast in June 1994). The two one-hour programs have Barry McGregor as Holmes and Nigel Bennett as Watson, and interviews with enthusiasts and experts such as Chris Redmond, Michael Coren, Owen Dudley Edwards, Jon Lellenberg, and Christopher and Barbara Roden.
5773. Reported by Jack Kerr: a catalog from Greybeard's Tobacconist & Gifts of Distinction), 211 Rehoboth Avenue, Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971 (800-414-7473) advertises a Sherlock Holmes hand-carved meerschaum pipe (#21A) at \$80.00.
5774. SHERLOCK HOLMES TRIUMFER (Kobenhavn: Forlaget Sesam, 1995; 287 pp.) is a new Danish translation, with ten stories, illustrations from The Strand Magazine, and a new foreword by Bjarne Nielsen.
5775. The Sherlock Holmes Memorabilia Company (230 Baker Street, London NW1 5RT, England) has a new 12-page full-color catalog with a wide variety of attractive Sherlockiana (many visitors to London have also recommended the shop, which is on the east side of Baker Street, not far from 221B).
5776. John Pforr spotted an Associated Press story about the Deerstalker Express, a sleeper train that runs from London to Fort William in the rugged Scottish Highlands: the six-car train has been making the 522-mile run through spectacular scenery and prime hunting grounds since 1894, but now is losing \$4 million a year. British Rail had announced plans to shut down the run, but public protests will keep the train rolling.
5777. Carol Wenk (Box 770554, Lakewood, OH 44107) offers sets of miniature books to fill your miniature bookshelves: one set of five books have Watson's name on the spines and titles of five stories on the covers (the pages are blank); the second set has Holmes' name on the spines and cover titles for five of his monographs. \$5.00 postpaid per set.
5778. The "Sly Fox" necktie (June 92 #6) is offered again in a new catalog at hand from Chipp II (9 Ethan Allen Lane, Stamford, CT 06903): the pattern shows a brown fox, wearing a green deerstalker and holding a magnifying glass on a navy (or medium blue) background; \$27.25 postpaid, and they take plastic.

November 1995 #4

5779. I've not yet had any reports on anything Sherlockian at Bouchercon 26, held in Nottingham on Sept. 28-Oct. 1. But you can plan ahead for the world's largest mystery-fan convention: Bouchercon 27 will be in St. Paul on Oct. 9-13, 1996; Dennis Armstrong and Bruce Southworth are co-chairs (Box 8296, Minneapolis, MN 55408). Bouchercon 28 will be in Monterey on Oct. 30-Nov. 2, 1997, with Bryan Barrett and Bruce Taylor as organizers (Box 6202, Hayward, CA 94540).
5780. Dante Torrese spotted Dudley the Dinosaur in material created by the American Dental Association for dentists to use during National Children's Dental Health Month (February). The stickers cost \$4.95 for 100 (#W435), and there's a poster for \$5.00 (#W318); non-members of the ADA pay 40% extra. ADA (Department. of Salable Materials, 211 East Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611 (800-947-4746).
5781. Frank Darlington notes another theological quote: "The fact that thousands of people refused to believe that God was real is one side of the coin: the fact that almost as many refused to believe that Sherlock Holmes was fictitious is the other." From Derek Jarrett's THE SLEEP OF REASON: FANTASY AND REALITY FROM THE VICTORIAN AGE TO THE FIRST WORLD WAR (New York: Harper & Row, 1989).
5782. British publishers keep Conan Doyle's grand "Brigadier Gerard" stories in print: THE COLLECTED BRIGADIER GERARD STORIES (Munslow: Hearthstone, 1995; 399 pp., £22.00 cloth, £9.50 paper) has an informative introduction by John Whitehead and presents the saga in chronological order; the cloth edition is distributed here by International Specialized Book Services, 5804 N.E. Hassalo Street, Portland, OR 97213 (\$35.00). Hearthstone also has THE BEST SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES, CHOSEN BY THE AUTHOR (370 pp., same prices), with the twelve stories that Conan Doyle selected for a competition set by The Strand Magazine in 1927, plus two later stories that he regretted were too recent to qualify, and his explanation of "How I Made My List" (the cloth edition also is available here from I.S.B.S. at \$35.00).
5783. Modern Maturity (with the largest circulation of any magazine published in English) has an amusing essay by Roger Rosenblatt in the Nov.-Dec. issue, with a mention of the giant rat of Sumatra and an illustration by Guy Billout. Modern Maturity is published by the American Association of Retired Persons (3200 East Carson Street, Lakewood, CA 90712).
5784. The latest issue of The Sherlockian Times has arrived from Carolyn and Joel Senter (Classic Specialties, Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219); it's their new 28-page catalog of Sherlockian books, pamphlets, cards, audiocassettes, pins, and much more.
5785. Robert Stephens died on Nov. 12. He was a grand Shakespearean actor (he won the Olivier Award in 1993 for his performance at Falstaff in "Henry IV" and received a knighthood in the New Year's Honours List in Jan. 1995); he starred as a very human Sherlock Holmes in the film "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970) and played the title role in the Royal Shakespeare Company's production of Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" in Toronto in 1976.

November 1995 #5

5786. The Baker Street Pages offer a weekly pocket diary with a Sherlockian cover design (black, brown, gray, burgundy, or navy); \$5.00 postpaid from Tim O'Connor (6015 West Route 115, Herscher, IL 60941). Tim also recommends a visit to the Christmas-gift department at your local Wal-Mart to seek their Sherlockian "bloodhound" plaster statue (the dog is 12" long and is wearing a deerstalker and holding a calabash); \$19.98.
5787. Foothill Video (Box 547, Tujunga, CA 91043) specializes in public-domain video, David Pearson has noted, and their catalog offers Sherlockian films that include "The Speckled Band" (1931), "Sherlock Holmes" (1932), "A Study in Scarlet" (1933), "The Triumph of Sherlock Holmes" (1935), "Silver Blaze" (1937), "The Woman in Green" (1945), "Terror by Night" (1946), "Dressed to Kill" (1946), and "Sherlock Holmes and the Deadly Necklace" (1964), all at \$7.95 each. And Archival Photography (14845 Anne Street, Allen Park, MI 48101) offers full-color photographic reproductions of posters for all the Rathbone/Bruce films at prices from \$4.00 (8 x 10") to \$20.00 (16 x 20").
5788. Those who missed the Sherlock Bloodhound "country companion" offered by Wild Wings a few years ago (March 92 #5) can pursue a similar hand-painted figurine (5.25" high) now offered by The Cottage Shop, Box 4836, Stamford, CT 06907 (800-388-7660); \$38.00 plus shipping.

5789. Barbara Holmes (June 95 #2) reports that she's still accepting commissions for original Sherlockian artwork; she works in acrylics, and prices range from \$48.00 (14 x 18") to \$68.00 (20 x 24"). A color photocopy and details are available for \$1.00 and a #10 SASE; Box 446, Scottsville, VA 24590.
5790. Ed Newman's pastiche THE GIANT RAT OF SUMATRA, first published in 1972 as a nicely-printed pamphlet, is now available as a miniature book, from his JEN press, for \$75.00 postpaid; 129 South Cory Drive, R.R. 2, Edgewater, FL 32141.
5791. Sotheby's (34-35 New Bond Street, London W1A 2AA, England) will have some Conan Doyle material in an auction of "English Literature and History" on Dec. 18, including the twelve-volume Author's Edition (London: John Murray, 1903) inscribed by the illustrator Arthur Twidle to his wife (estimated at £700-900).
5792. Sam Fry reports yet another Sherlockian chess set, with pieces handmade in simulated wood, at \$209.00 (the board costs \$99.50, and both cost \$299.00), offered by Past Times, 280 Summer Street, Boston, MA 02210 (800-242-1020).
5793. Plan ahead: Anglofile reports that "To Play the King" (with Ian Richardson as Francis Urquhart) repeats on "Masterpiece Theatre" on PBS-TV beginning Jan. 28, followed by his new (and allegedly last) appearance as Urquhart in "Final Cut". And that Nicholas Meyer will direct the movie version of "The Avengers" for Warner Bros., with filming in London as soon as they get a new script (they couldn't get a major male star because the current script has John Steed subservient to his female partner). Anglofile is a monthly newsletter with detailed coverage of British entertainment; \$12.00 a year (Box 33515, Decatur, GA 30033).

November 1995 #6

5794. HORSES OF DIFFERENT COLORS: A MONOGRAPH ON HORSES IN THE TIME OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, illustrated with artwork of the period, is the seventh volume in Donald Girard Jewell's continuing Sherlock Holmes Natural History series; the 34-page pamphlet costs \$12.95 postpaid from the Pinchin Lane Press, 4685 Geeting Road, Westminster, MD 21158-1720.
5795. Ben Wood offers a convenient (5.5x4.5" unopened) 1995 SHERLOCKIAN CALENDAR (with notes on some of the Sherlockian red-letter days); the cost is \$2.50 postpaid (\$4.00 or £3.00 in cash for foreign orders). Ben's address is Box 740, Ellenton, FL 34222-0740.
5796. Dave Galerstein spotted something new from Royal Doulton: a resin "character sculpture" of Sherlock Holmes, designed by Robert Tabbenor. The figurine is 8.5" high and portrays Sherlock Holmes on Dartmoor, watched by one of the ravens that inhabit the area, and costs £99.95 in Britain. Royal Doulton USA, 701 Cottontail Lane, Somerset, NJ 08873 (908-356-7880) will be delighted to tell you where your nearest Royal Doulton Shop is. The catalog number is HN3751.
5797. Faithful readers may recall John Aidiniantz's past efforts to require the Royal Mail to deliver letters addressed to Sherlock Holmes at 221B Baker Street to Aidiniantz's Sherlock Holmes Museum rather than to the Abbey Bank (where Sherlock Holmes' secretaries have been handling his mail since the 1930s). The attempts were unsuccessful, but I've now heard that a letter that was sent to Sherlock Holmes at 221B Baker Street in October received an answer from the Museum. Only one report, however, and lots of other letters still are being delivered to Abbey House, so the one letter may have been handled by a new carrier on the route. Has anyone else heard reports of mail going to 239 rather than 221 Baker Street?
5798. It's always fun when a Sherlockian brings real expertise to the Canon, and uses that expertise to illuminate the sometimes murky corners of the world of Sherlock Holmes, and Patricia Guy has done exactly that, in her BACCHUS AT BAKER STREET (Romford: Ian Henry, 1995; 136 pp., £9.95). She discusses the wine and beer and spirits found in the Canon, and the brewers and the vintners and the barkeepers and the wine-merchants, with flavor and humor and an occasional surprise. The publisher's address is 20 Park Drive, Romford, Essex RM1 4LH, England; that's a postpaid price in Britain; \$25.00 postpaid elsewhere (credit-card orders welcome).
5799. Rebecca Anderson has good news for those who liked THE BEEKEEPER'S APPRENTICE and A MONSTROUS REGIMENT OF WOMEN: Laurie R. King reports that the next book in the series about Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes will be LETTER OF MARY, tentatively scheduled for publication next summer, and there may be a fourth book in the summer of 1997. THE BEEKEEPER'S APPRENTICE, by the way, is scheduled in paperback from Bantam in January at \$5.50.
5800. Congratulations to Hizzoner: Albert M. Rosenblatt was elected to another fourteen-year term as judge in New York, and he won handily, as they say at the track. Of course it helped that he was endorsed by both the Republican and Democratic parties and was listed on both lines on the voting machines.

November 1995 #7

5801. CONAN DOYLE, by Michael Coren (London: Bloomsbury, 1995; 213 pp., £18.99), is a new biography, and it's both entertaining and informative. Authors aren't responsible for publisher's blurbs, so don't be put off by claims that it's a definitive biography, or that Conan Doyle was an atheist, or that Conan Doyle loved another woman throughout his marriage (Coren notes in the text that he did not have access to the family archives, and does not suggest that Conan Doyle was an atheist, and reports that Conan Doyle married Louise Hawkins in 1885 and first met Jean Leckie in 1897). Coren has some new information discovered in G. K. Chesterton's papers, but otherwise depends greatly on previous biographers (but there also is some evidence that Coren wrote more than his publisher was willing to publish, perhaps aiming at a general public more than at Sherlockians and Doyleans, who may be disappointed at finding little material that is truly new).
5802. Christopher Roden offers a discount on Coren's book: postpaid prices are £15.99 (U.K.), £16.99 or \$27.00 or CA\$37.00 (elsewhere by surface mail), \$30.50 or CA\$42.00 (North America by airmail), and \$31.50 (elsewhere by airmail). Checks payable to the Arthur Conan Doyle Society can be sent to him at Ashcroft, 2 Abbottsford Drive, Penyffordd, Chester CH4 0JG, England.
5803. The Jan. 1996 issue of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine has an imaginative Sherlockian cover by Richard Parisi, and S'ian stories by Gene DeWeese and Stephen Murray (nicely continuing the magazine's long tradition of celebrating Holmes' birthday with Sherlockiana).
5804. Cynthia Wein (65 Briarwood Lane, Plainview, NY 11803) offers a newly-commissioned Sherlockian pen, with a hand-painted ceramic barrel that takes a Bic refill; \$16.75 postpaid (U.S.), \$18.50 (Europe), \$19.50 (Asia and Africa).
5805. David McCallister reported to The Pleasant Places of Florida recently on "The Face of the Tiger: A Rogue's Gallery of Latin American Rulers"; his seven-page paper draws upon descriptions in Wm. Eleroy Curtis' THE CAPITALS OF SPANISH AMERICA (1888), and the illustrations show some of the candidates proposed by Sherlockian scholars as the original for Don Murillo of San Pedro. Copies of the paper are available from David (at 8142 Quail Hollow Boulevard, Wesley Chapel, FL 33544) in return for a #10 SASE and 25c (or an IRC).
5806. From This Old House (Box 468, Almont, MI 48003) offers a wide variety of "Personality Dollar Bills" with a list of possibilities ranging from Hank Aaron to Robert Young available for substitution as the portrait on U.S. currency. The list includes Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson (impersonated by Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce), and the final product is thoroughly realistic. \$3.95 each (three for \$9.95) plus \$0.75 postage.

5807. THE DYNAMICS OF A FALLING STAR, by John Hall (Leeds: Tai Xu Press, 1995) is a 32-page monograph on the late Professor Moriarty, examining his history, character, career, family, and associates. The cost is £4.50 postpaid (in Britain) or \$10.00 postpaid (elsewhere, in currency, please); his address is: 20 Drury Avenue, Horsforth, Leeds, LS18 4BR, England.

November 1995 #8

5808. The fifth annual Watsonian Weekend (celebrating Dr. Watson and the Battle of Maiwand) will be held in and near Des Plaines, Ill., on July 19-21, with a dinner, an chance to watch Dr. Watson "Meet the Press", a horse race, and other festivities. More information is available from Susan Diamond, 2851 North Pearl Avenue, Melrose Park, IL 60164-1421.
5809. Willis Frick has relayed a report from the Crowborough Courier (Nov. 17) on some controversy in Crowborough. The Town Council and Chamber of Commerce have joined to propose a Sherlock Holmes Festival in the fall of 1996, with the aim of revitalizing the town, but Malcolm Payne, curator of The Conan Doyle (Crowborough) Establishment, has written to the festival's steering committee complaining about the title of the festival and suggesting that at least two years should be given to project planning. Chamber president Tony Charlton said that festival proposals include a Sherlock Holmes exhibition and literary, film, and theatrical events.
5810. Sonia Fetherston spotted the caricature of Gil the Iguana at the Gilbert House Children's Museum in Salem, Oregon, where there's a "Secret Sleuth" detective exhibit. The museum is a hands-on children's museum that emphasizes creative learning for children aged 2-12, and is housed in two restored Victorian homes, one of which belonged to the family of A. C. Gilbert, who was born and raised in Salem and went on to Erector set and American Flyer train fame. Gil the Iguana is the museum's mascot, and the exhibit is funded by Lightning Powder (a company that makes and sells finger-print dusting powder for law-enforcement agencies).
5811. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists met for dinner at Ralph and Kacoo's in New Orleans on Nov. 7 to honor (as always) the world's first forensic geologist. Visitors attending the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America were welcomed by local Sherlockians led by Robin Leckee, and a special toast was offered to the absent geologists who named a pteranodon in honor of Arthur Conan Doyle. Our peripatetic society will meet next in San Diego in May 1996 and in Denver in October 1996.
5812. Further to earlier reports (December 91 #2 and June 92 #5) about the conversion of the Isle of Dogs into a mixed-use community, the project appears to be alive, though not yet well, and Canadian developer Paul Reichman is part of a consortium that is proposing to buy the project for £800 million. Reichman's family investment company Olympia & York took control of the project in 1987, masterminding construction of the Canary Wharf complex, which has the (among other attractions) a 50-story office building that is the tallest in Europe. The company and project went bankrupt in 1992, but Reichman now has financial backing from CBS-TV chairman Laurence Tisch, Saudi Prince al-Waleed bin Talal, and other rich investors, and his new consortium now controls Canary Wharf again. And yes, there is a Sherlockian connection: Holmes and Watson rounded the Isle of Dogs in pursuit of the dainty Aurora and the Agra Treasure.
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December 1995 #1

5813. Dorothy Beverly West died on June 30. She was a young Dorothy Beverly in 1934, when she was working with Gladys Norton and Katherine McMahon at Mrs. Cowlin's Open Bookshop in Elgin, Ill., and carried their completely-correct solution of the famous crossword puzzle to Christopher Morley in New York, thus helping all of the ladies qualify for membership in The Baker Street Irregulars. Morley often stayed with her family when his travels took him through Elgin, but never invited any of the ladies to a BSI annual dinner. She received the BSI's "Queen Victoria Medal" in 1990, and was one of our very few links to the earliest days of The Baker Street Irregulars.
5814. It has been a while since I've mentioned Bossons' "wall sculptures": their 1995 mini-folder, at hand from Tim O'Connor, shows all their models, including some attractive Victorians (Holmes, Watson, Moriarty, and, in case you need more, a fireman and a bobby). The company has many distributors, and their address is W. H. Bossons (Sales) Ltd., Brook Mills, Mountbatten Way, Congleton, Cheshire CW12 1DQ, England.
5815. Gayle Harris notes that the latest catalog from Fusion Video offers a 92-minute videocassette of "Hands of a Murderer" (the 1990 television film starring Edward Woodward) at \$29.95 (item #9635); this is the first report of this program on cassette that I've seen, but it's also likely available elsewhere. The catalog has lots of other Sherlockian video, and "Macbeth" (with Jeremy Brett); 17311 Fusion Way, Country Club Hills, IL 60478-9906 (800-959-0061).
5816. Michael Ross has reported that Erich Schellow died on Nov. 25. He was a respected actor on the German stage, and portrayed Sherlock Holmes in six television films broadcast in Germany in 1967 and 1968. Earlier this year Von Herder Airguns Ltd. published Uwe Sommerlad's SCHELLOW HOLMES, a well illustrated 48-page booklet honoring the actor, with text in German and summary in English; \$12.00 postpaid (currency, please) from Michael Ross, Bendheide 65, 47906 Kempen, Germany.
5817. Bernie O'Heir notes that the new Johnson Smith catalog of "Things You Never Knew Existed" has a 100% woolen deerstalker (item 9762) in sizes M-L-XL for \$19.98; Box 25599 (Dept. J9510), Bradenton, FL 34206-5500.
5818. The fall 1995 issue of the Metropolitan Toronto Reference Library News has a report on Sherlock Holmes' recent visit to Toronto, where he planned to retrieve the Great Mogul diamond for its rightful owner in England, but was foiled by Professor Moriarty, who then hid the gem somewhere in the Bloor-Yorkville area. And that provided the Bloor-Yorkville Business Improvement Area an opportunity to challenge residents of Toronto to help find the gem, and local businesses to create Sherlockian window displays. Copies of the newsletter are available from Victoria Gill, Metropolitan Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street, Toronto, ON M4W 2G8, Canada; no charge.
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December 1995 #2

5819. The Easton Press published THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES in 1987 in three leather-bound volumes, each with a color frontispiece, reprinting the Heritage Press edition published in 1952 and 1957. The set is handsomely produced, and available again at \$41.85 per volume postpaid, and the address is 47 Richards Avenue, Norwalk, CT 06857 (800-367-4534).
5820. Peter Calamai has forwarded David J. Brazier's story from The Independent (Nov. 24) about the new 1996 RUPERT ANNUAL (Pedigree Books, £5.50) in which Rupert time-travels to join Sherlock Holmes in the fight against Victorian crime in London. Brazier notes sadly that times have changed, suggesting that in the 1940s Rupert Bear helped parents in the moral education of their children, and laments that in the 1990s "Rupert is still a winsome enough character, but he has relinquished his grasp on the ethical nettle."
5821. Robertson Davies died on Dec. 2. He was a journalist, and an actor and director, and later in his life a novelist, and above all a Canadian who won many admirers for his work. It was as a journalist that he wrote in "A Writer's Diary" in the [Calgary] Herald Magazine in 1961 that he wished he liked detective stories, and described himself as "temperamentally unsuited to this sort of diversion," and confessed that "I have had it in for Great Detectives since boyhood, when I read Sherlock Holmes, and failed utterly to fall under his spell." But you will find Sherlockian allusions in his novels, so he must have remembered what he had read.
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5822. "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Journey" is the title of an eight-day tour to Switzerland organized by Gemmi Travel next year (five times, in May, June, July, August, and September) with stops in Montreux, Leukerbad, Kandersteg, and Meiringen; additional information and an attractive flier are available from Gemmi Travel (attn: Hilary Jenkins), The Barn Studios, Carters Lane, Old Woking, Surrey GU22 8JG, England.
5823. An "anthology of gloriously stodgy essays" is the way an anonymous reviewer in Newsweek (Dec. 4) described Otto Penzler's reprint of H. W. Bell's BAKER STREET STUDIES in Otto Penzler's "Sherlock Holmes Library" (and the review was in the section of books for "for men only").
5824. Murray Shaw, author of the fine series of children's books MATCH WITS WITH SHERLOCK HOLMES, has written and illustrated an imaginative new tale: THE CASE OF THE CLEVER KIPPERED HERRING, in which all the characters are cats; 32 pages, with hand-colored artwork, and the cost is \$8.50 postpaid (3601 North 5th Avenue #106, Phoenix, AZ 85013-3732).
5825. Further to the earlier report (November 95 #5): Nicholas Meyer has been replaced by Jeremiah Chechik ("Benny and Joon") as the director of the film version of "The Avengers" (according to Anglofile), and Variety reports that Nicole Kidman is a possibility as Emma Peel. Anglofile also notes that Mobil will stop sponsoring "Mystery!" at the end of the current season (in June 1996), but will continue funding "Masterpiece Theatre".
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December 1995 #3

5826. First day covers for the British set of stamps issued in 1993 in honor of Sherlock Holmes are still available here and there: an FDC with the Royal Mail's official cachet and a 221B Baker Street postmark is offered by the International Stamp Collectors Society, Box 854, Van Nuys, CA 91408; \$14.95 postpaid (credit-card orders welcome).
5827. James B. Reston died on Dec. 6. He was a splendid journalist, winning two Pulitzer prizes and the respect of both his readers and the people he wrote about in the N.Y. Times for fifty years. The journalists he hired to work in the paper's Washington bureau praised his guidance and support. And in his book DEADLINE: A MEMOIR (New York: Times Books, 1992) he wrote: "During our London years, when I was learning my craft, various famous characters gave me a hand without knowing it. I am indebted, for example, to Sherlock Holmes, who was always complaining that Dr. Watson was often at the scene of the crime but failed to notice the incriminating details. 'You looked but didn't *see*, Watson!' This encouraged me thereafter to notice the little giveaway expressions on presidents' faces and telltale gaps in their arguments."
5828. Victoria Gill suggests that those who collect translations of the Sherlock Holmes stories may wish to contact Pannonia Books: The Hungarian Bookstore (Box 716, Station P, Toronto, ON M5S 2Y4, Canada); their latest sales-list has eight Canonical titles in paperback (CA\$11.90) and cloth (CA\$14.50).
5829. The cold-cast porcelain Sherlock Pocket Dragon (3" high) costs \$48.00 (item HA510), and the Watson Gargoyle (2.5" high) costs \$27.50 (item HA522) in a new catalog received from Dancing Dragon, Box 1106, Arcata, CA 95518-1106 (800-322-6040).
5830. Lee Shackelford has reported to The Hounds of the Internet on a letter that Meg Moller Martin received from Linda Pritchard (who was Jeremy Brett's companion during his last years). She wrote that: "Some of my friends and I have had a plaque in memory of Jeremy put up in Wyndham's Theatre, Leicester Square, London [where he acted in the play 'The Secret of Sherlock Holmes']. Edward Hardwicke unveiled the plaque, which is in the bar by the Royal Circle, and bears the inscription 'I have lost a friend whom I regarded as the best and wisest man I have ever known.'"
5831. Carol Barnett (3562 N.E. Liberty, Portland, OR 97211-7248) is a bookseller specializing in gardening books from the Victorian and Edwardian eras (for those who want to know more about gardens in Sherlockian times).
5832. The fall 1995 issue of Friends of the Library (the newsletter published by the University of Minnesota Libraries) notes that in Jan. 1996 the University of Minnesota will ask the Minnesota State Legislature for \$43 million to build the Minnesota Library Access Center; the Center will have space for eight archives and special collections, including the Sherlock Holmes Collections. Copies of the newsletter are available from Judy Burton, 499 Wilson Library, University of Minnesota, MN 55455.
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December 1995 #4

5833. Plan ahead: the next Canonical Convocation and Caper in Door County, Wis., is scheduled for Sept. 13-15, 1996, with Sherlockian scholarship, fun and games, and many of the usual suspects (because the event is fully booked quite early each year); contact Donald B. Izban, 5334 Wrightwood Avenue, Chicago, IL 60639-1524.
5834. David Dunnett died on Sept. 15. He kept the memory green in Fort Worth for many years, founding The Sherlock Holmes Birthday Commission in 1979, and in 1980 The 1st Bangalore Pioneers (in which he served as acting Colonel, succeeding the late Colonel Sebastian Moran), and he was active in Civil War reenactments, his and imaginative Christmas greetings to Sherlockians were envelopes sent each year from Texas cities and towns with Canonical names, from Moran (1977) and Moulton (1978) to Cleveland (1993) and Athens (1994). David's mother has donated his Sherlockian collection to the University of Minnesota.
5835. William Hyder's FROM BALTIMORE TO BAKER STREET is a fine collection, with thirteen pieces, four being essays reprinted from The Baker Street Journal and Baker Street Miscellanea, plus other essays and dramatizations from the Sherlockian weekends held annually at the Enoch Pratt Free Library. Philip Shreffler describes Bill's "The Martha Myth" as one of the two best papers published in the BSJ during Philip's editorship, and it is only one of the items that ably demonstrate Bill's style and skill and humor. The 216-page book costs \$27.00 postpaid from George A. Vanderburgh, Box 204, Shelburne, ON L0N 1S0, Canada.
5836. THE SHERLOCK HOLMES JOKE PORTFOLIO is a new item offered by Cadds Printing (59 Lancaster Avenue, West Norwood, London SE27 9EL, London); there are 32 black-and-white cartoons by Peter Rochford, with captions by Hugh Scullion and Joel Senter, looseleaf in a leatherette cover for \$35.00 postpaid, or \$9.00 postpaid as a stapled booklet. US dollar checks are welcome, if made payable to Mrs. Ferrara.
5837. Jerry Margolin recommends a series of fantasy novels by Brian Lumley called NECROSCOPE, and notes that the latest volume is NECROSCOPE: THE LOST YEARS (New York: Tor Books, 1995; \$23.95) (and due in paperback next year); Harry Keogh is the hero, who can talk with the dead and is searching for a serial killer who believes he's a werewolf, and whose name is Arthur Conan Doyle Jamieson.
5838. The fall 1995 issue of The Armchair Detective has an excellent tribute to the late John Bennett Shaw in the "Report from 221B Baker Street" by Sherry Rose-Bond and Scott Bond, and an interesting exploration "In the Footsteps of Peculiar Companions: From Doyle to Dexter" by Cushing Strout. \$31.00 a year (quarterly); 129 West 56th Street, New York, NY 10019-3808.
5839. Skeletons in the Closet (1104 North Mission Road, Los Angeles, CA 90033) is run by the Los Angeles County Coroner's Office to raise funds for the local Youthful Drunk Driving Program, and continues to offer imaginative merchandise that includes "Sherlock Bones" (a skeleton in appropriate costume) on T-shirts, tote bags, playing cards, and mugs, and they have an illustrated sales list (funds are used to support the Youthful Drunk Driver Visitation Program, which is an alternative sentencing option in the Los Angeles area).
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December 1995 #5

5840. As reported earlier, Bouchercon 28 will be in Monterey, Calif., on Oct. 30-Nov. 2, 1997. And Mike Kean reports that The Diogenes Club of the Monterey Peninsula has been asked to put together one or two Sherlockian sessions. If you're planning to attend the convention and would like to participate in the Sherlockian agenda, please get in touch with Mike (3040 Sloat Road, Pebble Beach, CA 93953).
5841. Ramesh C. Madan has reported that Dr. G. Krishnamurthi died in 1993. He was an orthopedist who had "boned up thoroughly on *Holmesiana*" according to an article in the [Madras] Indian Express (July 11, 1988), and had studied in Edinburgh as Conan Doyle had. Dr. Krishnamurthi established a Sherlock Holmes Museum in Mylapore, and he founded The Sherlock Holmes Society of Madras (which was dissolved when he died).
5842. Philip R. Brogdon's *SHERLOCK IN BLACK: BEING PROFILES OF PAST AND PRESENT REAL LIFE SHERLOCKIANS* covers a wide range: actors from Bert Williams to Marcia Hewitt, entertainers from The Coasters to Wah Wah Watson, namesakes, and many more. The 29-page pamphlet is available for \$11.00 postpaid from George A. Vanderburgh, Box 204, Shelburne, ON L0N 1S0, Canada.
5843. Catherine Cooke reports that the Criterion Bar in Piccadilly, which closed a few months ago, has now reopened, and looks more Victorian than ever (and the plaque honoring Watson's meeting with Stamford is still there); the new owner is Marco Pierre White, a young and trendy chef who has three Michelin stars, so the restaurant is now even less likely than in the past to be the haunt of impoverished invalided-out Army doctors.
5844. Harlan L. Umansky ("Jonathan Small") died on Nov. 20. He served for many years as a high school principal in New Jersey, and was one of the founders of Mrs. Hudson's Cliffdwellers. He was a scholar and an enthusiastic collector, and received his Investiture in The Baker Street Irregulars in 1981. His most recent contribution to The Baker Street Journal was an article in the Sept. 1991 issue on echoes from the Bible in our Canon.
5845. C. H. Liddiard has forwarded to alt.fan.holmes a report in The Times (Dec. 11) that "A 30-ton granite rock on Hound Tor, Dartmoor, which Sir Arthur Conan Doyle said inspired his story 'The Hound of the Baskervilles', has been toppled and smashed by a gang of youths thought to be trying to start a landslide."
5846. Dick Rutter has recommended *THE ADVENTURES OF HUXTABLE HOLMES AND SPROCKET WATSON*, by Glen Frank (Acworth: Huxtable Press, 1993; 84 pp. \$9.95); Huxtable and Sprockett are teddy bears, and solve three cases (for kids aged 8-12). The book is available from Laissez Faire Books, 938 Howard Street, San Francisco, CA 94103 (800-362-0996); \$13.20 postpaid.
5847. William H. D. Cotrell Jr. died on Dec. 22. He was Walt Disney's right-hand man, beginning his career as a cameraman and in 1952 heading the division that designed and built Disneyland. According to the obituary published in the Los Angeles Times, he was an avid Sherlock Holmes fan, and was credited with suggesting the idea that led to the animated feature "The Great Mouse Detective" (1986); it is more likely, one suspects, that Cotrell suggested that the studio make a film based on Eve Titus' "Basil of Baker Street".

December 1995 #6

5848. Malcolm Payne reports that the Crowborough Town Council plans to include a life-size bronze statue of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in the new Town Centre (and "the best-known and most-reputable sculptors" will be asked to submit drawings); funds for the statue will be raised by donation, and details are available from David Harris, The Town Hall, Crowborough, East Sussex, England.
5849. Joe Coppola has spotted "A Very Curious Desk Caddy Indeed" in Wood Magazine (Jan. 1996): the article has full-sized patterns and detailed instructions for making a handsome Sherlockian desk caddy (all you need is some walnut, cedar, maple, mahogany, translucent plastic, tools, and skill). 1912 Grand Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50309-3379; \$4.95.
5850. Sophisticated Shirts (8712 East 33rd Street, Indianapolis, IN 46226) (800-259-7283) offer a wide variety of "genius" T-shirts and sweatshirts, with one of them showing Watson and Holmes on the front and Moriarty on the back (artwork by Sidney Paget); white-on-black, sizes M/L/XL/XX; postpaid prices are \$21.00 (T-shirts) and \$34.00 (sweatshirts).
5851. Reported: *THE WINGED WHEEL*, a new pastiche by Peter H. Wood; available from George A. Vanderburgh, Box 204, Shelburne, ON L0N 1S0, Canada; \$27.00 postpaid.
5852. Joan Wood's recipes from Mrs. Hudson's Kitchen have been featured in many issues of the Communications from The Pleasant Places of Florida, and she now offers *MRS. HUDSON'S HANDBOOK OF SHERLOCKIAN COOKERY*, BOOK NO. 2 (49 pp.) for \$10.00 postpaid (\$15.00 outside the U.S.); Box 740, Ellenton, FL 34222-0740.
5853. Bernie O'Heir notes some interesting prices at an auction of old movie posters at Sotheby's in New York on Dec. 7: \$6,037 (including the 15% buyer's premium) for a French two-panel poster (94 x 63") for "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (1939), and \$1,380 for a three-sheet poster (41 x 81") for "Sherlock Holmes and the Voice of Terror" (1942).
5854. Tom Galbo reports news from BDD Audio, the American marketer of cassettes with the BBC Radio 4 series starring Clive Merrison and Michael Williams: *THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES*, VOL. I was released in April, VOL. II is due this month, and VOL. III in June 1996; each volume has two cassettes and four stories, and the price should be about \$16.00 per volume.
5855. Some British financial news, with a few familiar names: the Granada Group (which owns Granada Television, which produced the Jeremy Brett series), has launched a £3.4 billion hostile takeover bid for Forte (which owns and operates restaurants and hotels that include the Ritz in Madrid, the George V in Paris, the Hyde Park Grosvenor House in London, and the Travelodge chain in the United States). And Forte, attempting to generate some quick cash now for shareholders, plans to sell its British restaurants and hotels to Whitbread (which owns and operates The Sherlock Holmes pub in London) for £1 billion.

January 1996 #1

5856. The birthday festivities in New York were a relatively easy commute for all those who arrived on Thursday (the day that people who had been marooned in the city for three days were able at long last to escape), and not quite as easy for those who arrived on Friday (by which time it was snowing again), and it was bright and sunny by Sunday, and presumably everyone made it home safely, except for those who never left home in the first place (and there were a few who decided not to make the trip from Oregon and Minnesota).
5857. Thursday evening still is the time for informal gatherings (a few members of The Hounds of the Internet and their friends dined on mutton chops and other delicacies at Keen's Chop House), but there was no Aunt Clara Sing at O'Lunney,s (because there's no longer an O'Lunney,s).
5858. Friday began with the Mrs. Hudson Breakfast at the Hotel Algonquin (where sometimes the lobby seemed to be populated entirely by Sherlockians during the weekend), and continued with the William Gillette Luncheon at Moran's Restaurant, where Andrew Joffe, Sarah Montague Joffe, and Paul Singleton presented a new play by Andrew about what really happened when Arthur Conan Doyle first met William Gillette. And Otto Penzler's open house on Friday at the Mysterious Bookshop offered collectors an opportunity to see (and of course to purchase) some of the treasures Otto brought back from the London auction of Stanley MacKenzie's collection.
5859. The Baker Street Irregulars gathered at 24 Fifth Avenue, where Mike Whelan toasted Barbara Herbert as *The* Woman during the pre-dinner cocktail party (Barbara then went on to dine at the Algonquin with other ladies who have received that honor), and the evenings' entertainment

- included the usual traditions, imaginative toasts by Bob Katz to the Second Dr. Watson and by Sherry Rose-Bond to Peter Steiler the Elder, Shirley Purves' tour of the moors (with thoughts on a computerized Sherlock Holmes), and Ev Herzog's rhyming tribute to her fine collection of M's.
5860. Irregular Shillings and Investitures were awarded to Steven T. Doyle ("The Western Morning News"), Ralph Hall ("Smack! Smack! Smack!"), Hugh Harrington ("Wisteria Lodge"), Peter Horrocks ("The Inner Temple"), Kate Karlson ("The Evening Standard"), John E. Pforr ("Police-Constable Cook"), Marsha Pollak ("A Small But Select Library"), and Robert J. Stek ("The Mysterious Scientist"). And Bob Thomalen received the BSI's Queen Victoria Medal in recognition for his work as Cartwright (a post from which he has retired). Tom Stix announced that Mike Whelan succeeds Bob as Cartwright, and that Tom and Ruthann Stetak are now the BSI's joint Simpsons, taking over the secretarial duties that the late John Bennett Shaw performed so well for many years.
5861. The Fortescue Symposium also convened on Friday evening, at the St. Moritz Hotel, where the entertainment included January Stauber's description of what it's like to arrive in the world of Sherlockians, Francine Kitts' report on entries in her contest that sought answers to the question "What would you give for the box?" (Dr. Watson's battered tin dispatch-box), and presentations by Barbara Fleming on bootlaces and (in verse) on "The Tale of the Pinch of Victor Lynch".
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January 1996 #2

5862. On Saturday morning the huckster room at the Algonquin (known temporarily known as Covent Garden West) offered a wide variety of Sherlockian wares that included newly-published Sherlockian and Doylean books, as well as the usual assortment of old-and-rare and new-and-artistic material. The BSI Saturday afternoon cocktail party at the National Arts Club offered a pleasant venue and excellent food and drink and conversation that were briefly interrupted by the entertainment: Al Rosenblatt reported poetically and melodiously on both the Sherlockian year and the BSI dinner, a hotly-contested auction for eager collectors raised more than \$1,000 for the John H. Watson Fund, and Mike Whelan presented the Morley-Montgomery Award for the best article in last year's Baker Street Journal to Margaret K. Nydell (who received an attractive certificate and a check for \$500).
5863. The Morley-Montgomery Award will be offered again for the best article in the BSJ in 1996, and potential contestants are invited to send submissions to Donald K. Pollock (19 Putnam Street, Buffalo, NY 14213. Don is the new editor of the BSJ, beginning with the March 1996 issue (Tom Stix's message announcing the change, and thanking Bill Cochran for his work over the last three years appeared in the Sept. 1995 issue).
5864. Samuel Rosenberg died on Jan. 5. He was a photographer, playwright, stage manager, artist, literary consultant, and the author of NAKED IS THE BEST DISGUISE: THE DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1974). Michael Harrison thought that the book "certainly set the deductive cat amongst the Sherlockian pigeons," and Rosenberg did indeed find many critics who were outraged by the analysis and analogy presented in that book and in an essay in Harrison's BEYOND BAKER STREET: A SHERLOCKIAN ANTHOLOGY (1976). But there also were many who enjoyed Rosenberg's new approach to the Canon and to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (his book sold well in cloth and paperback editions), and it was delightful to spend time with him (he was one of the speakers at a Sherlockian symposium at Colorado State University in 1975, and attended at least one annual dinner of The Baker Street Irregulars). He sometimes genially claimed to be a trivialist, but whether in person or on the printed page he was a guaranteed antidote to boredom.
5865. The current issue of Anglofile quotes British press reports that ITV has axed the "Poirot" series (there still are some shows not yet aired here). A decline in the ratings was cited: the latest shows had only half of the 14 million viewers the series had at first (and the shows aren't cheap, at £1.2 million each). But consider: the United States has about four times the population of Britain. There aren't all that many shows on the air in the United States that have more than 28 million viewers. Anglofile is a monthly newsletter with detailed coverage of British entertainment; \$12.00 a year (Box 33515, Decatur, GA 30033).
5866. Something new, and nicely done: "Sherlock Through the Magnifying Glass: A Female Perspective" was dramatized by David Stuart Davies and performed for the first time for The Northern Musgraves in 1992; now Classic Specialties has produced an audiocassette performed by Vanessa Maroney, who also reads an introduction written by Catherine Cooke. There are some interesting insights into the Canon, and some imaginative surprises, in the 60-minute cassette. \$13.45 postpaid to North America from Classic Specialties, Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219 (\$14.95 to Europe, \$16.45 elsewhere).
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January 1996 #3

5867. Jack Tracy notes that the new MERRIAM-WEBSTER'S ENCYCLOPEDIA OF LITERATURE (Springfield: Merriam-Webster, 1995) has entries for Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Sherlock Holmes, and The Hound of the Baskervilles; the anonymous author of the entry on Conan Doyle didn't confirm the titles of all the Sherlock Holmes book, but it's nice to see continuing attention paid to the Canon and its author.
5868. Readers who enjoyed Kim Newman's ANNO DRACULA (in which Mycroft Holmes and other members of the Diogenes Club were working to overthrow Vlad Tepes, who had married the Widow of Windsor and was ruling as Prince Consort and Lord Protector) likely will want to read the sequel, THE BLOODY RED BARON (Carroll & Graf, \$21.00). According to Tim Sullivan's review in the Washington Post (Dec. 31), the book is a fanciful tale of vampire flying aces: Prof. Ten Brincken and Dr. Mabuse have turned Richtofen and his brethren into huge bat-winged night flyers, and the Germans have hired Edgar Allan Poe (who was vampirized by his child bride Virginia) to write about them.
5869. "Every last one of them," said Altamont of the signals he had brought to Von Bork, "semaphore, lamp code, Marconi." Great Britain honored Marconi last year (the centenary of the first wireless message) with a pair of stamps showing him as a young man (with early wireless equipment) and as an older man (using a radiophone). Thanks to John Baesch for spotting this philatelic Sherlockiana and for confirming that the sinking ship in the design of the 60p stamp is the Titanic. That tragedy was not the first use of the S.O.S. signal, but it did result in a public exchange of letters between George Bernard Shaw and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in the [London] Daily News in May 1912.
5870. The birthday blizzards marooned Ben and Joan Wood in Florida, so they were unable to see their Sherlockian wares at the Algonquin. But a sales list of philatelic and other material is available from Benton Wood, Box 740, Ellenton, FL 34222-0740.
5871. Cheryl Hurd reports that her local public radio station carries a 30-minute weekly series called "NPR Playhouse" and (nice news for listeners where the series airs) that "The Cases of Sherlock Holmes" began on Jan. 14. This is a series recorded in Britain by Independent Radio Drama Productions (with Edward Petherbridge as Holmes and David Peart as Watson), and broadcast in the United States in 1991 and in Britain in 1992. The original series had "A Study in Scarlet" (in 6 episodes), "A Scandal in Bohemia" (2 episodes), "The Speckled Band" (2 episodes), "The Valley of Fear" (9 episodes), "The Five Orange Pips" (2 episodes), and "The Man with the Twisted Lip" (2 episodes).
5872. Robin Leckbee has reported that one of the floats in the Mardi Gras parades in New Orleans will feature Sherlock Holmes. Endymion's parade on Feb. 17 will have "Great Storytellers" as its theme (this won't be the first time that an image of Holmes has been used to honor the man who created him, of course). Mardi Gras now gets national television coverage, but there's no way of knowing whether or when we might see the float on the air.
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January 1996 #4

5873. A GRAND NIGHT FOR MURDER (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1995; 213 pp., \$20.95) is the latest novel by H. Paul Jeffers, whose earlier Sherlockian works include THE ADVENTURE OF THE STALWART COMPANIONS (1978) and MURDER MOST IRREGULAR (1983). The new book involves the murder of the Mystery Writers of America's newest grand master, who has a host of enemies (including a book dealer who is an enthusiastic Sherlockian), many Sherlockian allusions, and some nice twists in the plot.
5874. A new catalog at hand from Femmes Fatales (Box 3457, Lakewood, CA 90712-3457) (800-596-3323), with many mystery-related items, decorative and otherwise, including attractive pins (3" high) designed by Glyn Swanson. One of them (as might be expected) is Sherlockian; item J101 (\$27.95).
5875. Charles Marowitz's play "Sherlock's Last Case" will be produced at the Ted Paul Theatre at Mankato State University, Feb. 1-11, 1996. The box-office address is: MSU Theatre Arts, Box 8400, Mankato, MN 56002 (507-389-6661).
5876. SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE TRUTH ABOUT LUDWIG II, by Zeus Weinstein, is Richard R. Rutter's translation of SHERLOCK HOLMES: DIE WAHRHEIT UBER LUDWIG II, first published by Deutsche Verlagsanstalt in 1978. Zeus Weinstein is the pseudonym of Peter Neugebauer, who has contributed some fine Sherlockian scholarship to the German literature. His pastiche brings Holmes (posing as an American journalist) and Watson (posing as an American millionaire) to Bavaria in 1886, unable to prevent the death of the "mad king" who was responsible for some of Europe's most romantic castles. \$27.00 postpaid from George A. Vanderburgh, Box 204, Shelburne, ON L0N 1S0, Canada.
5877. Nellie Brown notes that the Quality Paperback Book Club now offers Loren D. Estleman's SHERLOCK HOLMES VS. DRACULA and DR. JEKYLL AND MR. HOLMES in one volume (\$12.95); Camp Hill, PA 17012-0001 (800-348-7128).
5878. William Hjortsberg's NEVERMORE (October 94 #5) is now available in paperback (New York: St. Martin's Paperbacks, 1996; 302 pp., \$5.99); the novel brings Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Harry Houdini to New York in 1923, where they are involved with Opal Crosby Fletcher (a provocative and beautiful medium) and a mysterious serial killer (who copies murders described in Edgar Allan Poe's stories, and whose targets include Conan Doyle and Houdini).
5879. "Richard III" is now in the theaters: Ian McKellen is executive producer, wrote the screenplay, and plays the title role, and other actors include Maggie Smith, Annette Bening, Nigel Hawthorne, and Edward Hardwicke (as Lord Stanley, played as an Air Vice Marshal who joins Richmond's forces, taking the RAF with him). The play is set in the 1930s, and McKellen is playing Richard as a fascist leader.
5880. The World Wide Web, which now is much more than a hideaway located in stray corners of the Internet, has a growing list of Sherlockian home pages, one of which is maintained by Chris Redmond (and which has links to most if not all of the others). During the first 17 days of 1996 he averaged 93 hits per day; you can see what's available by telling a computerized friend that the URL is <<http://watserv1.uwaterloo.ca/~credmond/sh.html>>.

January 1996 #5

5881. David Healy died on Oct. 25. He was born in Texas, according to information at hand from David Morrill, but found an acting career in Britain, on stage and screen and television. He played a fine Watson to Ian Richardson's Holmes in the television film "The Sign of Four" (1983), and he played Aloysius Moran in "The Noble Bachelor" (1991) in the Clive Merrison series on BBC Radio 4.
5882. Delicate Arch (in Arches National Park) is featured in McRay Magleby's design for our new stamp honoring the centennial of statehood for Utah, and (indirectly) "A Study in Scarlet".
5883. Helen Commodore spotted the announcement of a one-session "An Evening with Sherlock Holmes" at the New School in New York City on Apr. 26 (taught by Arthur Liebman, in costume, with Nickelodeon piano accompaniment by Joyce Ann Liebman); course 0537, 8:00-9:30 pm, \$10.00 (212-229-5690).
5884. Plan ahead: an International Sherlockian Congress in honor of "The Devil's Foot" will be held at Perth in the Swan River Colony on Oct. 4-6, 1997. If you are considering a journey to Australia and would like more information about the festivities, you can contact Douglas Sutherland-Bruce, P.O. Box 74, Sawyers Valley, W.A. 6074, Australia.
5885. A fine way to listen to the Sherlock Holmes tales is when Dr. Watson tells them himself; Edward Hardwicke does just that, and does it well, in two new audiocassette sets available from Tangled Web Audio: SHERLOCK HOLMES: TALES OF INTRIGUE (with Croo/Gree/Nava) and SHERLOCK HOLMES: TALES OF SUSPENSE (with Suss/Cree/Spec). Each set contains two cassettes and costs \$20.45 postpaid (\$39.90 for two sets); 3380 Sheridan Drive #167, Amherst, NY 14226 (800-249-2666 operator 616); credit card orders welcome.
5886. Jennie Paton reports a box of "34 Tiny Toon Adventures Mystery Valentines" with two cards with Sherlockian motifs on the back (and more cards inside); apparently the similar box last year sold well enough to be repeated (the new box is a minor variant). About \$2.00 (check your local drug stores).
5887. "Lasting Impressions" is the newly-chosen title for the celebration by The Bootmakers of Toronto of their silver anniversary, at the Arts and Letters Club in St. George's Hall, on June 26-29, 1997. If you would like to be on the mailing list for news about the gathering, the address is 30 Elm Avenue #210, Toronto, ON M4W 1N5, Canada.
5888. Jon Lellenberg was the first to report John McPhee's "The Gravel Page" in The New Yorker (Jan. 29). McPhee has been explaining geology to non-geologists since 1980, and the magazine's lead-in to his latest article suggests that: "The most frightening crimes have no witnesses except the ground on which they were committed. And from that alone forensic geologists illuminate cases in a way that would impress Sherlock Holmes, the science's first practitioner." McPhee was aware from the very start that "detective work is what geologists do," and his article offers a well-written exploration of how geologists help solve crimes today, and careful acknowledgement of Sherlock Holmes' contributions to the science he invented (and the title "The Gravel Page" is taken from the Canon).

January 1996 #6

5889. THE THINKING MACHINE: JACQUES FUTRELLE, by Freddie Seymour and Bettina Kyper (Dennisport: Graphic Illusions, 1995) is a fine biography of a mystery writer who was only 37 years old when he died on the Titanic in 1912; his "The Problem of Cell 13" still is widely reprinted in anthologies of mystery stories, and Prof. Augustus S. F. X. Van Dusen rated two appearances (played by Douglas Wilmer) in the British television series "The Rivals of Sherlock Holmes" in 1971 and 1973. The book also has some of his stories, and is available from Seymour/Kyper Productions, Box 1369, Sandwich, MA 02563; \$12.00 postpaid.
5890. Cadds has issued a Sherlock Holmes Diary for 1996: spiral bound, with page size 6 x 8.25" and a page for each week, with small illustrations (mostly by Paget) and Canonical quotes. Available from Cadds Printing (59 Lancaster Avenue, West Norwood, London SE27 9EL, England; \$11.00 postpaid (checks payable to Hugh Scullion).
5891. Sherlockian tourists have long enjoyed visiting Sherlockian sites with the help of David Hammer's series of guidebooks, and now there's an opportunity for a guided tour of one of the Canonical tales, with Brad Keefauver as the almost-always-genial expert in charge of the tour. Readers of

- Brad's work in the BSI and Plugs & Dottles and The Dangling Prussian APA already know his fine style, humor, and imagination, all on display in his THE ARMCHAIR BASKERVILLE TOUR (New York: Magico Magazine, 1995; 153 pp.). Brad takes a party of tourists through "The Hound of the Baskervilles", and it's a grand tour indeed, at least until some members of the tour group vanish in the midst of the tour (and the story). The tour allows the tour guide to offer some intriguing insights into the story, and to answer some unasked-untilnow questions, and it's an enjoyable excursion. \$27.00 postpaid from the publisher (Box 156, New York, NY 10002).
5892. Our new booklet showing five winter flowers includes a stamp portraying crocuses, which are mentioned twice in the Canon (in "The Speckled Band" and "The Empty House").
5893. A new catalog from 800-Trekker, Box 13131, Reading, PA 19612 (800-873-5537) has collectibles for "Star Trek", "The X-Files", and "Doctor Who", including a videocassette of Tom Baker in "Doctor Who: The Talons of Weng-Chiang" (1977) at \$19.95; the Doctor is in Sherlockian costume, in Victorian London, fighting giant rats.
5894. Vincent Price did some grand work in a career that lasted 55 years, and he was a splendid Ratigan in "The Great Mouse Detective" (1986). THE COMPLETE FILMS OF VINCENT PRICE, by Lucy Chase Williams (New York: Citadel Press, 1995; 290 pp., \$19.95) offers a biography (with interviews with his friends and fellow stars), a filmography, stills, posters, and much more.
5895. "In the vaults of Cox was an old tin box, With Watson's name on the lid." Jay Finlay Christ wrote many years ago, asking "What wouldn't we pay for that box today, And the secret notes there hid?" Francine Kitts wonders what modern Sherlockians would give for that old tin box, and will welcome brief and imaginative suggestions; her address is 35 Van Cortlandt Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10301-4019.

January 1996 #7

5896. Thanks to Janice Fisher and Herb Tinning for forwarding an item in Florence Fabricant's column in the food section of the N.Y. Times (Jan. 24): D. R. Finley, president of the Eerie Establishment restaurant company (which includes the Jekyll and Hyde Club on the Avenue of the Americas near 57th Street), plans to open the Sherlock Holmes this spring, at 176 West 4th Street (near Jones Street).
5897. It is a pity that some admirers of Sherlock Holmes are not acquainted with some of the other grand tales told by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. One of the best of those tales is THE LOST WORLD, and a fine way to explore that book is in THE ANNOTATED LOST WORLD, by Roy Pilot and Alvin Rodin (Indianapolis: Wessex Press, 1996; 264 pp., \$34.95). The annotated version offers a wellresearched introduction, and annotations, and appendices that cover topics that include the 1925 silent film and the fascinating archival material to be found with the manuscript of the story in the Berg Collection at the New York Public Library, and the wonderful illustrations from both the British and the American periodical appearances of the stories. And there is THE LOST WORLD itself, of course, still full of romance and fun, and enhanced by excellent contributions from Pilot and Rodin. The publisher's address is Box 68308, Indianapolis, IN 46268; \$37.70 postpaid.
5898. "Cousins' fairy tale casts a spell over Hollywood film-makers" is the headline on a story in The Times (Jan. 9), kindly forwarded by Pat Ward. The cousins are Elsie Wright and Frances Griffiths, and the fairy tale involves the Cottingley fairies that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle thought really had been photographed by the schoolgirls in 1917. And the Hollywood film-makers are Paramount, now planning to make "The Golden Afternoon" at Pinewood studios and on location in Yorkshire this spring.
5899. Visitors to London can choose from a variety of guides to London pubs (and they still are wonderful places to see London and Londoners at their best). John Baesch notes that the NICHOLSON LONDON PUB GUIDE (1995) has cover art showing the Peter Cushing side of the sign for The Sherlock Holmes.
5900. The Hounds of the Internet (which has almost 500 members who meet out there in the electricity) now have a lapel pin (one inch square) based on artwork by Stu Shiffman, available from David L. Hobbet (816 Hill Street, Shelby, NC 28152; the cost is \$3.50 postpaid to U.S. addresses; \$5.00 postpaid to other countries (checks in dollars or U.S. currency, please).
5901. CELEBRITY VAMPIRES is an anthology edited by Martin H. Greenberg (New York: DAW Books, 1995; 31 pp., \$4.99), with stories that include "Dracula on the Rocks" (by Carole Nelson Douglas, starring Irene Adler), "A Singular Event on a Night in 1912" (by Roman A. Ranieri, starring Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Bram Stoker), and non-Sherlockian tales by Jerry Neal Williamson and Patti Nead Elrod.
5902. The annual meeting of The STUD Sherlockian Society will be held on Mar. 9 at the Ridgemoor Country Club in Chicago, and the weekend also will feature a meeting of The Solar Pons Breakfast Club and a visit to the site of Vincent Starrett's grave on Mar. 10. Additional information is available from Donald B. Izban, 5334 Wrightwood Avenue, Chicago, IL 60639-1524.

January 1996 #8

5903. New York had many attractions in January in addition to all the Sherlockian birthday festivities, including interesting exhibits at the New York Public Library, which is celebrating its centennial with a display of one hundred "Books of the Century" (1895-1995); the books are in various categories, one of which is "Popular Culture & Mass Entertainment". And the eighteen books in that category range from Bram Stoker's DRACULA to Tom Wolfe's THE BONFIRE OF THE VANITIES, and include a copy of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES.
5904. The fourth installment in the BSI's archival-history series is IRREGULAR PROCEEDINGS OF THE MID 'FORTIES, edited by Jon L. Lellenberg (New York: Baker Street Irregulars, 1995; 392 pp., \$24.95), covering the period from the Trilogy Dinner in March 1994 to Christopher Morley declaration in June 1947 that there would be no more BSI annual dinners. Those were interesting days, and the book includes reports by Ted Schulz (on The Scowlers and Molly Maguires of San Francisco), Ronald Mansbridge (on Basil Davenport), Hugh Harrington (on Clifton T. Andrew), Russell McLaughlin (on The Amateur Mendicant Society of Detroit), and Allen Robertson and Paul S. Clarkson (on The Six Napoleons of Baltimore), and fascinating tales of feuds and foibles and furor, and photographs from the Trilogy Dinner and the annual dinners in 1946 and 1947, and much more. The annual-dinner photographs are welcome indeed, because Bill Vande Water has managed to identify almost everyone in them, so you'll be able to see what people looked like half a century ago. \$27.90 postpaid (\$28.90 postpaid for international orders) from The Baker Street Irregulars, Box 465, Hanover, PA 17331.
5905. The 15th annual Sherlock Holmes/Arthur Conan Doyle Symposium will be held at the Holiday Inn Conference Center in Dayton on Mar. 15-17, with papers, a banquet, and readers-theater presentations of "the Solitary Cyclist" and "A Duet: With an Occasional Chorus". Additional information is available from Jean C. Rodin, 3041 Maginn Drive, Beavercreek, OH 45434.
5906. Dick Lesh notes that bargain-books catalogs from Edward R. Hamilton (Falls Village, CT 06031-5000) continue to offer all sort of Sherlockian bargains, Nicholas Meyer's THE CANARY TRAINER (\$6.95) and the British edition of Mark Frost's THE LIST OF SEVEN (\$4.95).
5907. And a few commercials: the revised 15-page list of Investitured Irregulars, Two-Shilling Awards, *The* Women, and the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes costs \$1.15 postpaid. The 74-page list of 682 Sherlockian societies, with names and addresses for contacts for the 413 active societies, costs

\$3.80 postpaid. A run of address labels for 347 individual contacts (recommended if you wish to avoid making duplicate mailings to people who are contacts for more than one society) costs \$10.35 postpaid. Checks payable to Peter E. Blau, please.

5908. For the electronically enabled, the 15-page list of Irregulars and others is available from me as e-mail (no charge), and both lists are offered by Willis Frick via ftp from <ftp://sanar.kaiwan.com/user/Sherlocktron/> or on the Web at <http://www.kaiwan.com/~sherlock/stron1.html>.

February 1996 #1

5909. David M. Martill continues to find and name new fossils from the Lower Cretaceous formations of Brazil. The pterosaur "Arthurdactylus conan-doylei" (September 95 #2) had been joined by the tetrapod "Irritator challengeri" (which is described in great detail in the Journal of the Geological Society, vol. 153, 1996, pp. 5-8, at hand from Bill Sarjeant). It's the first real dinosaur to be described from the Santana Formation: it was carnivorous, and it had a crested skull up to 840 mm long (that's just under 3 feet). The name "Irritator" derives from the irritation that Martill and his fellow authors felt when they discovered that the snout had been artificially elongated by the professional fossil-hunter who found and sold the skull, and the name "challengeri" honors Professor George Edward Challenger, of the Lost World.
5910. Martill notes in correspondence that "Irritator challengeri" is the first fossil named in 1996 (the JGS is published on the first day of the year), and he says that if enough new fossils turn up he hopes to honor everyone else in Challenger's party ("Summerleetator and Youngfellowmeladosaurus are names to get your tongue around").
5911. Two of Britain's best-known landmarks are for sale, at a combined asking price of £5.5 million, according to a story in the Yorkshire Post (Jan. 8), at hand from Jon Lellenberg. They're John o' Groats and Land's End, and both are owned by Gulf Resources Pacific (of New Zealand); John o' Groats consists of 20 acres, and attracts more than 250,000 visitors a year, while Land's End is 100 acres and has 500,000 visitors a year. Sherlockians, of course, will want the one that's mentioned in the Canon: "A draghound will follow aniseed from here to John o' Groat's," said Sherlock Holmes in "The Missing Three-Quarter". John o' Groats (as it's spelled in the guidebooks now) is named for a man named John who built a house there in the 15th century, and it is romantically regarded at the northernmost place in Britain (it's in Caithness, in the northeastern corner of Scotland). It isn't the northernmost place in Britain, actually (that's Dunnet Head, about 12 miles to the west), but the tourists don't care.
5912. Jerry Siegel died on Jan. 28. He was a high-school student in Cleveland in the 1930s when he and classmate Joe Shuster invented Superman, who became a world-famous superhero as well as one of the most popular characters in the history of comic strips, films, and television. During World War II Siegel and others on the staff of the Pacific edition of Stars and Stripes founded The Baker Street Irregulars of Honolulu (active 1944-46).
5913. Reported by Don Hobbs: a colorful poster (18 x 26") showing a very stylized Sherlock Holmes urging "Smart Skin Care: It's Elementary", offered by the American Academy of Dermatology, Box 2289, Carrol Stream, IL 60132 (\$5.00).
5914. Kathy Barry-Hippensteel's "Little Sherlock" doll ("a clever little boy who thinks he's the world's greatest sleuth") was heavily promoted in 1989 and 1990 by the Ashton-Drake Galleries at \$87.00, and now it's available as an "heirloom ornament" for your Christmas tree a recent catalog, at hand from Jack Kerr. It's in a set of three 3" ornament (the other two aren't Sherlockian) that's item #96909 (\$33.79 postpaid). Ashton-Drake Galleries, Box 856, Morton Grove, IL 60053 (800-346-2460); credit-card orders welcome.

February 1996 #2

5915. THE YOUNG WITCHES is a thoroughly adults-only six-issue comicbook mini-series from Eros Comix; it's a porno Jack the Ripper story, and Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson make an appearance in the second issue (Dec. 1995), and may well turn up in the next issue. The cover price The cover price is \$3.50, or \$4.00 postpaid from the publisher (Box 25070, Seattle, WA 98125).
5916. Norma Schier died on Nov. 17. She was a mystery novelist and short-story writer, and one of the founders of the Rocky Mountain chapter of the Mystery Writers of America; her imaginative collection THE ANAGRAM DETECTIVES (1979) offered pastiches of famous detectives, including Hoskell Chomers and Sandwort in "The Adventure of the Solitary Bride" by Aldon Canoy, and Mooch Sheckls and Tweany in "The Adventure of the Boing! Ritual" by Rif H. Lobster.
5917. Jennie Paton reports that "Wishbone: The Slobbery Hound" is now available on a commercial videocassette from Polygram Video. This is the "Hound of Baskervilles" episode of the 30-minute PBS-TV children's series that has Wishbone (a Jack Russell terrier) encouraging kids to read good books. If your local video shop has never heard of Polygram, the address is 825 8th Avenue, New York, NY 10019 (800-825-7781).
5918. Conan Doyle proposed the principal toast ("The Immortal Memory") at the Edinburgh Burns Club Dinner on Mar. 23, 1901 (the meeting was postponed from January because of the death of Queen Victoria), and on Jan. 25 this year the Royal Mail honored The Immortal Memory on the 200th anniversary of the death of Robert Burns with a set of four stamps designed by Tayburn McIlroy Coates. The 19p stamp is especially nice for Sherlockians, with the "wee sleeeket, cowran, tim'rous beastie," made famous in Burns' poem "To a Mouse" (it was in "The Copper Beeches" that Violet Hunter said of Edward Rucastle that he showed "quite remarkable talent in planning the capture of mice"). Thanks to Catherine Cooke for her capture of this philatelic mouse.
5919. CANONICAL CRIME SCENES & INVESTIGATIONS, VOLUME 1, by William H. Conway and Linda L. Conway (Cincinnati: Classic Specialties Books, 1995) offers a new approach to the Canon: summaries of 14 cases done as official crime-scene reports; the 54-page spiral-bound book costs \$17.95 postpaid from Classic Specialties (see above), and there are many more books and other Sherlockiana in their new illustrated catalog.
5920. Warren Randall plans to honor the late Bob Brodie in a collection that will be called "The Log of the 'Gloria Scott'" and would like to hear from those who corresponded with Bob about Sherlockian matters or who have reminiscences of Bob that you would like to share. Warren's address is 15 Fawn Lane West, South Setauket, NY 11720-1346.
5921. If you don't have a local Wal-Mart, their Sherlockian "bloodhound" plaster statue (November 95 #5) is described as a coon dog in the Dec. 1995 catalog from Thompson & Co. (Box 30303, Tampa, FL 33630) (800-237-2559) and offered for \$29.95 plus shipping. The catalog, kindly forwarded by Laura Kuhn, also has a set of Holmes and Watson meerscham pipes at \$57.50.

February 1996 #3

5922. The winter 1996 issue of The Armchair Detective has arrived, with Daniel Stashower's excellent tribute to and interview with Jeremy Brett. And Scott and Sherry Rose Bond's regular Sherlockian column discusses collecting, with an account of their experience bidding in the auction of Stanley MacKenzie's collection. \$31.00 a year (quarterly); 129 West 56th Street, New York, NY 10019-3808.
5923. Michael Dibdin's THE LAST SHERLOCK HOLMES STORY (1978) has been reprinted as a trade paperback (New York: Vintage Books, 1996; 190 pp., \$10.00); the pastiche pits Sherlock Holmes against Jack the Ripper.
5924. Laurie King reports that the Bantam paperback of THE BEEKEEPER'S APPRENTICE will be issued this summer as part of their "read mysteries" promotion, and the book will be prominently featured in a display rack decorated by Edward Gorey (who unfortunately has not drawn a portrait of

- Mary Russell). A LETTER OF MARY, the third title in the series, is due in November , and Laurie is now working on the fourth book, which involves Mary in a mysterious case on Dartmoor.
5925. Don Hobbs spotted a "Barnes & Noble Classics" edition of THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES with an Introduction by Eric Ambler (\$5.98); it's a reprint of the volume published by John Murray and Jonathan Cape in London in 1974. They published all nine volumes of the Canon, so Barnes & Noble may reprint all of them eventually.
5926. Michael Brady has forwarded the Sherlockian design used by the Background Investigation Unit of the California Youth Authority.
5927. The Wigmore Street Post Office is an electronic journal published on the Prodigy computer service, but some of its material can be found in an ink-on-paper journal of the same name; the winter 1995 issue has 40 pages, and subscriptions cost \$6.00 a year (two issues) from Donald H. Meyers, 4757 47th Avenue NE, Seattle, WA 98105.
5928. The last six shows in Granada's "Sherlock Holmes" series are now available on commercial videocassettes from MPI video: all 41 shows are offered by Scarlet Street Video (Box 604, Glen Rock, NJ 07452) at \$19.98 each; write for their price list (which has other Sherlockian videos as well).
5929. Karl Gunnar Ekblad suggests that visitors to Norway might enjoy a visit to Sherlock's Pub at C.J. Hambros pl. 5 in Oslo (telephone 2241-8218).
5930. Ray Betzner reports that autograph dealer Robert F. Batchelder offers some Conan Doyle material: item 161 in catalog 101 consists of 14 items relating to spiritualism, including three autograph letters from Conan Doyle to Mrs. Cadwallader, an American from Chicago whom he apparently met during one of his American visits; there's also a note from Lady Doyle written in 1932, and the price for the lot is \$2,200. Item 214 in catalog 102 is a letter from Conan Doyle about spiritualism, and the price is \$1,400. The dealer's address is 1 West Butler Avenue, Ambler, PA 19002 (215-643-1430).

February 1996 #4

5931. Diana Ver Nooy, who is editor of Neurology Reviews (a journal for neurologists), has begun a continuing quote-of-the-month feature; the first one (titled "Phrenologically Speaking") is in the Jan.-Feb. 1996 issue, and should be familiar to Sherlockians: "You interest me very much, Mr. Holmes. I had hardly expected so dolichocephalic a skull or such well-marked supra-orbital development. Would you have any objection to my running my finger along your parietal fissure? A cast of your skull, sir, until the original is available, would be an ornament to any anthropological museum. It is not my intention to be fulsome, but I confess that I covet your skull." Suggestions for futures issues can be sent to Diana c/o CPG, 4 Brighton Road, Clifton, NJ 07012.
5932. Don Pollock reports O XANGO DE BAKER STREET, by Jo Soares (Sao Paulo: Companhia das Letras, 1995); it's a pastiche that brings Holmes and Watson to Rio de Janeiro to investigate the disappearance of a valuable Stradivarius during Sarah Bernhardt's first visit to the city. And it's available from Luso-Brazilian Books, Box 17028, Brooklyn, NY 11217; \$28.95 postpaid (they take plastic, and have an e-mail address <lbooks@aol.com>). And in Portuguese, Don notes, there's a chapeuzinho ("little hat") accent over the O's in XANGO and Jo.
5933. Barbara Holmes has designed a set of ten Sherlockian notecards available (with envelopes) for \$4.90 postpaid, and a design sheet showing the pencilsketch artwork on the notecards is offered in return for a self-addressed stamped envelope; her address is Box 446, Scottsville, VA 24590.
5934. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists will convene on Wednesday, May 22, at Luigi's in San Diego, during the annual meeting of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists. Sherlockians and geologists are welcome to join in honoring the world's first forensic geologist; Luigi's is at 861 West Harbor Drive, in Seaport Village (next to the convention center), and the festivities will begin with cocktails at 7:00 and continue with dinner at 8:00; reservations are not needed.
5935. The Jan. 1996 issue of Baker Street W1 offers news from Sherlockian societies west of the Mississippi, excellent articles about Sherlockian rooms, both full-size and miniature, and John Farrell's review of the punk rock song "Quick, Watson" on the stiffs, inc. debut recording "Nix Nought Nothing" (American Records CD 9-43030-2); subscriptions are \$9.00 a year (three issues), from Jerry Kegley, 110 South El Nido #41, Pasadena, CA 91107.
5936. Peter H. Wood's THE WINGED WHEEL is a new novel-length pastiche that brings Holmes and Watson to the Isle of Man in 1912, investigating a mystery that involves both the "Old Religion" and a German plot, and that offers Watson an opportunity to participate in a Manx motorcycle race. The 180-page book is available from George A. Vanderburgh, Box 204, Shelburne, ON L0N 1S0, Canada; \$27.00 postpaid.
5937. John Ruyle, who occasionally masquerades as ringmaster of the Quaker Street Irregulars, has announced a new collection of poetry from the Pequod Press: WIGGINS & COMPANY deals with Irregulars and other odd characters and will be (as usual) set and printed by the proprietor of the Press. 521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 97407-1521; \$40.00 (cloth) or \$20.00 (paper).

February 1996 #5

5938. Further to the report (January 96 #7) on the Sherlock Holmes Pub (which is due to open later this year at 176 West 4th Street in New York), John Baesch has reported that it will be across the street from The Slaughtered Lamb Pub (honoring "An American Werewolf in London") and not far from the Jack the Ripper Pub, all owned by Eerie Entertainment Inc.
5939. The Easton Press has published a new "Collector's Edition" of the Canon in three leather-bound volumes that reprint the text of The Limited Editions Club set and, for the first time, all of the fine introductions (as well as Edgar W. Smith's "Note on the Collation" and his "Epilogue"); the previous sets from Easton have been reprints of the Heritage Press version, which did not have all of the additional material. The Limited Editions Club set was warmly welcomed by Sherlockians, not only for its carefully edited text but also for its excellent illustrations and the new introductions (by Vincent Starrett, Elmer Davis, Fletcher Pratt, Rex Stout, Anthony Boucher, and Christopher Morley, all still names to conjure with). Each volume of "The Leather-Bound Complete Sherlock Holmes" has a color frontispiece (Richard Sparks' new portrait of Conan Doyle in the first volume, and illustrations by Frederic Dorr Steele in the other two), and the cost is \$41.85 postpaid per volume; the address is 47 Richards Avenue, Norwalk, CT 06857 (800-243-5160), and they accept credit-card orders.
5940. Philip Weller reports that The Franco-Midland Hardware Company has issued a new edition of Arthur Conan Doyle's short story "The Winning Shot" (which has been reprinted from the original appearance in Bow Bells in 1883), with a new introduction, illustrations, maps, and more than 300 textual annotations. £7.00 or \$14.00 postpaid (£8.00 or \$16.00 for airmail) (please send dollar payments in U.S. currency), and the address is 6 Bramham Moor, Hill Head, Fareham, Hampshire PO14 3RU, England.
5941. Solar Pons, created by August Derleth almost seventy years ago as a tribute to Sherlock Holmes, starred in a long series of stories popular with Sherlockians, and the saga was continued after Derleth's death by Basil Copper. Copper's THE RECOLLECTIONS OF SOLAR PONS (Minneapolis: Fedogan & Bremer, 1995; 248 pp., \$25.00) contains four stories, three of them new and one a revision from an earlier appearance, with fine illustrations by Stefanie K. Hawks. The book also is available (\$27.00 postpaid) from the publisher at 603 Washington Avenue SE #77, Minneapolis, MN 55414 (800-738-2660); creditcard orders welcome.

5942. Joseph A. Coppola has reported that The Mycroft Holmes Society of Syracuse will celebrate its 25th anniversary on Apr. 20, and that a special commemorative postmark (with the logo of the society) will be applied by the post office there. The Society will offer a cover with its own cachet and with Sherlockian stamps for \$2.00 postpaid (mailed under separate cover); \$5.00 postpaid for a set of three covers with different Sherlockian stamps. You can send advance orders to Hodge Hodgskin, 7328 Jamesville Road, Manlius, NY 13104. If you want to have the postmark on your own covers, you should send them to the Main Post Office, 5640 East Taft Road, Syracuse, NY 13200; the postmark will be available from Apr. 20 for 30 days. This may well be the first official commemorative postmark honoring a Sherlockian society; there have been other official postmarks honoring Sherlock Holmes, but I'm not aware of one honoring a Sherlockian society.

February 1996 #6

5943. "The Man Who Disappeared" (a dramatization of "The Man with the Twisted Lip") was produced in Britain in 1950 as a pilot film for American television, with John Longden as Holmes and Campbell Singer as Watson; it never made it onto the air at the time, but it was released to theaters in 1951, and eventually found its way onto videocassette, although very little has been known about the history of the project. Now Richard Lancelyn Green, drawing upon the correspondence files of Denis Conan Doyle, has written THE MISADVENTURE OF THE SHERLOCK HOLMES PILOT, a 36-page monograph published by The Northern Musgraves with illustrations from the film, and it's a delight to have the details. \$13.00 postpaid from Classic Specialties, Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219; credit-cards orders welcome.
5944. Issue #13 of the Sherlock Holmes Gazette includes a fine tribute to Jeremy Brett, with articles written by David Stuart Davies, Michael Cox, Elizabeth Wiggins, and Jean Upton, plus reviews and columns and letters about Holmes and Conan Doyle. \$9.50 postpaid from Classic Specialties (see above).
5945. Leslie Klinger is scheduled to teach a six-week, Monday-evening, extension course on "Sherlock Holmes and His World" at the University of California in Los Angeles from Apr. 15 to May 20; details are available from the UCLA Extension Writer's Program (310-825-0107). The press contact for the UCLA program is John G. Watson (no relation, he admits).
5946. There are realtors using the name "Sherlock Homes" here and there, but John Baesch spotted an advertisement for a different approach, by Rob Watson, in business in Wilmington, Del., as "Homes & Watson" (800-296-7629).
5947. The Franco-Midland Hardware Company (American Exchange Branch) is planning a "Valley of Fear" weekend in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, on March 30 and 31. The focus will of course be on The Molly Maguires, and the plans included tours of Pottsville and vicinity. Details are available from Bob Carter, Box 762, Fort Montgomery, NY 10922.
5948. Herman Herst Jr. (Box 1583, Boca Raton, FL 33429) offers a copy of William S. Baring-Gould's THE ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES (1967): two volumes, dust jackets, second edition (with the added Index of Titles on p. 806); \$50.00 postpaid. Also available from Pat (he was born on St. Patrick's Day) is a pamphlet reprint of "Dirty Pool" (a pleasant philatelic pastiche that was published in The Baker Street Journal in June 1966) and a round-robin pastiche to which he contributed; autographed copies of the 24-page pamphlet cost \$10.00 postpaid (same address).
5949. Spotted by Tim O'Connor: SHERLOCK HOLMES: SOUL OF THE DRAGON, a comic-book collection published by Northstar Press in Sept. 1995 with three stories written by Joe Gentile and illustrated by different artists (in different styles), and an introduction by Brad Keefauver; \$9.95.
5950. Chuck Kovacic (14383-B Nordhoff Street, Panorama City, CA 91402) offers an illustrated sales list of reproductions of Sherlockian cigar-box labels and cigarette cards, postcards, and the 1880 Afghan Campaign medal.
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March 1996 #1

5951. Adrian Fillmore is back, no longer involved with incredible and amorous umbrellas, but rather as the author of the introduction to Marvin Kaye's new anthology THE RESURRECTED HOLMES (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1996; 337 pp., \$24.95). Kaye has posed his authors a double problem: to write a Sherlock Holmes story, and to write it in the style of yet another author. And the results are intriguing: the authors pastiched vary widely, and are as unusual as Jack Kerouac and H. P. Lovecraft and J. Thorne Smith (and I wonder uneasily how many of us there still are who fondly remember Smith's racy novels). You won't find the styles of Watson or Conan Doyle in this anthology, but there's fun to be had reading the stories.
5952. And for those who are wondering about J. Adrian Fillmore: sometimes known as James Phillimore, he was the hero of Marvin Kaye's fantasy novels THE INCREDIBLE UMBRELLA (1979) and THE AMOROUS UMBRELLA (1981).
5953. The United States has marked the Lunar New Year with a stamp honoring the Year of the Rat (that's the first in the twelve-year cycle celebrated by the Chinese). Rats are mentioned in nine Sherlock Holmes stories (and that doesn't count the giant rat of Sumatra, or the dreaded Balla rat of Australia).
5954. Edward D. Hoch writes delightful short stories, and he has had at least one story in each issue of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine for many years (John Dickson Carr who once wrote about Hoch that "Satan himself would be proud of his ingenuity"). One of his series detectives is Dr. Sam Hawthorne, and a dozen of those stories have been collected in DIAGNOSIS: IMPOSSIBLE (Norfolk: Crippen & Landru, 1996; 203 pp., \$38.00 for a signed edition bound in cloth, or \$15.00 for the trade paperback). And one of the stories is "The Problem of the Covered Bridge" (reprinted from EQMM, Dec. 1974), which has an appropriate Sherlockian allusion. The publisher's address is Box 9315, Norfolk, VA 23505; add \$2.25 for shipping.
5955. Plan ahead: the sixth annual Mid-Atlantic Mystery Book Fair and Convention will be held at the Holiday Inn (Independence Mall) in Philadelphia on Nov. 8-10. Membership is limited to 450 and full registration costs \$50.00, and the contact is Deen Kogan, Detecto-Mysterioso Books, 507 South 8th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147. Plan well ahead: the seventh annual convention is scheduled for Oct. 3-5, 1997.
5956. Forecast: ELEMENTARY, MRS. HUDSON, by Sydney Hosier (from Avon in April at \$5.50); "Introducing Emma Hudson, the other sleuth of Baker Street: called in by old friend Vi Warner, who believes her employer has been murdered, a diligent Mrs. Hudson begins an investigation of the snobby upper-crust St. Clair family and uncovers evidence of a second murder."
5957. "Mad Dogs and Englishmen" (Jeremy Brett's last film) opened in Britain last June, and was broadcast on German television (VOX) on Dec. 3, according to Michael Ross, who now edits The Striking Trifles and The Soft-Nosed Bullet-In for Von Herder Airguns Ltd. Details on the society and its publications are available from Michael (Bendheide 65, 47906 Kempen, Germany).
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March 1996 #2

5958. Dorothy Stix has reported on the formation of a new Sherlockian society for collectors of foreign-language editions. The name of the new society is thoroughly appropriate ("Sherlock Holmes Around the World"), and membership (including the quarterly newsletter) costs \$10.00 a year. There's also a lapel pin designed by Jeff Decker, available only to members, at \$10.00 postpaid (or \$18.95 for a one-year membership plus the pin). Checks to Ralph Hall, 2906 Wallingford Court, Louisville, KY 40218.
5959. TIMEWANKERS #3 (Mar. 1991) had Jonathan Fegly in Sherlockian costume on the cover, and a non-S'ian pornographic time-travel comic-book story by Stephen Sullivan; now reprinted in TIMEWANKERS #13 (August 94), a graphic album from Eros Comic (Box 25070, Seattle, WA 98125) with a small S'ian vignette on the cover.
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5960. Thelma Steward is an award-winning doll-maker, and she now has a "Sherlock Holmes Series" that features Holmes, Watson, Mrs. Hudson, and Moriarty. The dolls are handcrafted from Cernit polymer and are about 20" high, and cost from \$1,350 to \$1,500 each. Mrs. Steward will be happy to provide additional information on request (6720 Happy Valley Road, Somerset, CA 95684).
5961. For the dedicated marginalists: Will Walsh reports that the Eddie Bauer chain is selling a \$19.95 stuffed puppy wearing an Eddie Bauer cap, which is a deerstalker.
5962. Eleanor N. Schwartz wrote the text that accompanied a fine photo story on "Hooray for Hollywood" in *Life* (Mar. 1996); the lead photograph (by Alfred Eisenstadt) shows "Sherlock Holmes and Jessica Fletcher" in the Paramount commissary in 1955, when Basil Rathbone and Angela Lansbury had roles in Danny Kaye's "Court Jester".
5963. "A Gathering of Inquiring Minds" is the formal title of the John Bennett Shaw Memorial Conference in Santa Fe on Apr. 19-20, and the agenda includes presentations by Sherlockians local and far-flung, and a live broadcast of Bill Dunning's radio adaptation of "A Scandal in Bohemia". An illustrated flier with all the details is available from Rita Martinez-Purson, Santa Fe Community College, Community Services Office, Box 4187, Santa Fe, NM 87502 <rpurson@santa-fe.cc.nm.us>.
5964. The commercial videocassette of "Wishbone: The Slobbery Hound" is in the shops at \$9.99 (discounted to \$7.95 at Best Buy, according to Laura Kuhn). It's the "Hound of Baskervilles" episode of the 30-minute PBS-TV children's series that has Wishbone (a Jack Russell terrier) encouraging kids to read good books.
5965. Congratulations to William A. S. Sarjeant, who has been elected a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, recognizing his long career as a geologist and as editor of an award-winning bibliography of geologists and the history of geology. Bill uses the pseudonym Antony Swithin for his fantasy novels, and his own name for his Sherlockian and Doyleana, which include *MS. HOLMES OF BAKER STREET: THE TRUTH ABOUT SHERLOCK HOLMES* (1989) articles about the geology of "The Lost World" and "The Terror of Blue John Gap".

March 1996 #3

5966. The Scowrers and Molly Maguires of San Francisco continue to devise interesting events, such as the "day of gala events and fun" scheduled for June 15 at the Scowrers Inn and Gaming Parlor (aka the Holiday Inn-Union Square) in San Francisco; details are available from the Scowrers (V.V. 341, Mount Eden, CA 94557).
5967. *THE MAN WITH THE FISTED GRIP* is the thirtieth narrative of Turlock Loams, to be revealed by Dr. Fatso, who is celebrating the occasion with a glass of cooking sherry (according to his Agent). Finely printed as always at the Pequod Press, the booklet costs \$40.00 (cloth) or \$20.00 (paper) from John Ruyle, 521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707-1521.
5968. The Lynn Peavey Co. has a thick mail-order catalog full of things of interest to law-enforcement professionals, such as fingerprint kits, evidence bags, prisoner property bags, gunshot residue kits, and some amusing souvenirs, including "Tracker the Investigator" (a 13" tall plush dog wearin a trenchcoat and deerstalker). \$24.95 plus shipping, and their address is Box 14100, Lenexa, KS 66285 (800-255-6499).
5969. The new catalog from Bits & Pieces, 1 Puzzle Place, Stevens Point, WI 54481 (800-544-7297) offers (on page 40) two new Sherlock Holmes jigsaw puzzles ("read the mystery story inside, assemble the jigsaw, then try to solve the crime") at \$10.95 each or \$16.95 for both; shipping extra, and credit-card orders are welcome.
5970. Harry Ryba died on Mar. 4. He owned hotels and boarding houses and bicycle rental shops on Mackinac Island (where bicycle rental shops did quite well, since motor vehicles are banned from the island). He opened a fudge shop on the island in 1959, and quickly became known as the "Fudge King", thanks to the late Bill Rabe, whose inspired public-relations campaign for everything there touted Mackinac Island as "the Miami Beach of the North." And of course Bill ensured that those who attended the The Mrs. Hudson Breakfast all those years ago went home with samples of the Fudge King's fudge.
5971. "Sherlock Holmes faces a new challenge...perhaps his greatest ever...and while he's singing, yet!" That's the blurb for "Sherlock in Love", a new musical scheduled at the Alleyway Theatre in Buffalo from Apr. 11 to May 5. The box-office address is One Curtain Up Alley, Buffalo, NY 14202, and the telephone number is 716-852-2600.
5972. Jim Hillestad (The Toy Soldier, Paradise Falls, R.R. 1, Box 379, Cresco, PA 18326) welcomes visitors to his museum (you can call 717-629-7227 for hours and directions) and mail orders (he offers 54-mm figures of Holmes and Watson, and other Sherlockiana).
5973. Further to last month's mention (February 96 #6) of the John Longden film "The Man Who Disappeared" (1951), David Pearson sent a reminder that the film is available on videocassette at \$19.99 from Movies Unlimited, a firm that is an excellent source of almost all videocassettes; 6736 Castor Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19149 (800-523-0823) <movies@moviesunltd.com>.

March 1996 #4

5974. The winter 1996 issue of *Scarlet Street* is a fine one, and has more than a dozen pages of well-illustrated tributes to Jeremy Brett, and an interview with Hillary Brooke (who acted with Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce in three of their Universal films), and a note that Steven Spielberg will start filming "The Lost World" in September (that's Michael Crichton's book, of course). *Scarlet Street* is published quarterly (\$20.00 a year), and the address is Box 604, Glen Rock, NJ 07452.
5975. George Burns died on March 9. His career as an entertainer and comedian spanned 90 years, and included four decades as genial straight man to his wife Gracie Allen. His sense of timing was impeccable, and there still are many who fondly remember "The Burns and Allen Show" from radio and television. Basil Rathbone was one of the many guest stars who appeared with them on radio, and you'll find a picture of them on page 83 of Michael B. Druxman's *BASIL RATHBONE: HIS LIFE AND FILMS* (1975). Rathbone and Allen are in Sherlockian costume, with Burns as the suspect, in a publicity shot from the 1940s.
5976. Readers of *Playboy* surely will recall the magazine's recent pictorial about Bettie Page, whose many fans were delighted to hear that she is alive and well, and the subject of a new biography *BETTIE PAGE: THE LIFE OF A PIN-UP LEGEND*, by Karen Essex and James L. Swanson (Los Angeles: General Publishing Group, 1996). In 1953 she was working in New York, enrolled in acting classes, going to movies, and reading fiction. "She also loved detective stories, and read Sherlock Holmes, Raymond Chandler and Erle Stanley Gardner," the biography notes (and thanks to John Comstock for the report).
5977. Classic Specialties Audio has issued a five-cassette (320 minutes) recording of Ronald C. Weyman's *SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE MARK OF THE BEAST*, read by the author, who has an excellent voice and does well with accents. The pastiche was first published by Simon & Pierre in 1990, and brings Holmes to Canada during the Great Hiatus to rescue the Empire from "a diabolical weapon before which nothing could live." \$34.05 postpaid (Classic Specialties, Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219); credit-card orders welcome.

5978. "Footrot Flats" was a comic strip that ran for many years in newspapers in New Zealand (and it was syndicated elsewhere), about a rancher named Wally Footrot, and his friends, neighbors, family, and pets, and his dog (named Dog). The strip was drawn by Murray Ball, and this excerpt, noted by Linda Anderson, is from the paperback collection "...LET SLIP THE DOGS OF WAR!" (Lower Hutt: Inprint, 1992), kindly forwarded by Alex Mitchell.

March 1996 #5

5979. The fifth annual Watsonian Weekend (celebrating Dr. Watson and the Battle of Maiwand) will begin with a regimental dinner at Knickers Restaurant in Des Plaines, Ill., on July 19 (when Dr. Watson will "Meet the Press"), and continues with the 37th annual running of The Silver Blaze at Arlington Race Course on July 20. More information is available from Fred Levin, 8242 North Ridgeway Avenue, Skokie, IL 60076.
5980. Patricia E. Moran ("Patience Moran") died on March 12. Pat was one of the founders of The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes, and one of the Albertus Magnus sextette who picketed the annual dinner of The Baker Street Irregulars on a wintry evening in 1968. She helped edit the Adventuresses' newsletter, and then their more formal The Serpentine Muse, and always was one of the usual suspects whenever the game was afoot or aflight or just cooked and served at the rowdy table.
5981. Richard Wein notes that there's a lot of Sherlockiana in the latest catalog from Barnes & Noble (126 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10011) (800-843-2665): THE FINAL ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, edited by Peter Haining (#1884097, \$4.98); THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES (#1546977, \$14.98); A SHERLOCK HOLMES COMPANION (a new title for A SHERLOCK HOLMES COMPENDIUM), edited by Peter Haining (#1903251, \$7.98); THE LOST ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Ken Greenwald (#E104047, \$5.98); and the American edition of THE LIFE & TIMES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Philip Weller (#1933860, \$17.98).
5982. Richard also reports that the "Barnes & Noble Classics" edition of THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES with an Introduction by Eric Ambler (February 96 #3) also is available as a trade paperback at \$4.98.
5983. The Gleniffer Press has published microbook (7/8" high) editions of THE THREE STUDENTS (1992) and SILVER BLAZE (1993), and now THE EMPTY HOUSE is available, with 109 pages set in readable 2-point type. Gleniffer does excellent work, and the address is 11 Low Road, Castlehead, Paisley, Renfrewshire PA2 6AQ, Scotland, United Kingdom; \$26.00 (or £15.00) postpaid (U.S. dollar checks and credit-card orders are welcome).
5984. The Northern Musgraves held a memorial luncheon for Jeremy Brett at the Cafe Royal in London on Mar. 16, and it was a splendid gathering indeed, according to a report from Lisa Oldham. There were toasts and tributes by David Stuart Davies, Edward Hardwicke, David Burke, Jeremy Paul, and Myra Fulford (of the Manic Depression Fellowship), and Lisa's detailed report on the festivities (retelling some of the grand stories she heard) is in the latest issue of her electronic newsletter The Brettish Empire. Her e-mail address is <oldham@freenet.columbus.oh.us>.
5985. Douglas G. Greene's JOHN DICKSON CARR: THE MAN WHO EXPLAINED MIRACLES is one of the Mystery Writers of America nominees for an Edgar for Best Critical Biographical this year (the annual MWA awards dinner will be held on Apr. 25). T. R. Bowen's "The Eligible Bachelor" is one of the nominees for Best Episode in a Television Series, and Jacques Barzun will receive this year's Ellery Queen Award (for writing teams, editors, and publishers who have made an outstanding contribution to the mystery genre). A CATALOGUE OF CRIME (written by Barzun and Wendell Hertig Taylor) is still a classic inventory of the genre, and he has contributed to our own literature.
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March 1996 #6

5986. David Hammer reports on M. F. K. Fisher's LAST HOUSE: REFLECTIONS, DREAMS, AND OBSERVATIONS 1943-1991 (New York: Pantheon Books, 1995; 286 pp., \$23.00); it was her last book, and chapter 7 ("A Few of the Men") is her confession about the men she loved, including Brillat-Savarin, Maigret, and Sherlock Holmes (and there's some excellent analysis of our hero, David adds).
5987. Frank Darlington notes that THE WORDSWORTH DICTIONARY OF PUB NAMES, by Leslie Dunkling and Gordon Wright (Ware: Wordsworth Reference, 1994; 305 pp., \$3.95 on bargain-books tables), contains entries for The Dangling Prussian and for all the other inns and pubs mentioned in the Canon, except for the Alpha (but only The Dangling Prussian is cited as Canonical). The book was first published by Routledge & Kegan Paul in London in 1987.
5988. Jerry Bangham spotted an advertisement in Variety (Feb. 26) for "Sherlock Holmes: The Case of the Temporal Nexus" with a photograph of Patrick Macnee as Holmes. The film is billed as produced and directed by David L. Stanton for Associated Entertainment Releasing in association with Range of Vision Productions, with the telephone number 310-576-7435, which turns out not to be in service. Nor does the telephone company have a listing for either of the two companies, or for Stanton. Can someone out there on the southern Pacific slope find out how to contact someone associated with the film?
5989. SHERLOCK HOLMES' LAST ADVENTURES is a new audiocassette set from K-Tel International/ AudioScope, with George Takei reading five of the stories (Wist /Bruc/Lady/ Dyin/Last) on two cassettes; Takei is well-known in the "Star Trek" world as Mr. Sulu, and has a fine voice (but no British accent). The set is in many bookstores at \$11.95; the address for K-Tel International is 2605 Fernbrook Lane North, Minneapolis, MN 55447-4736 (612-509-6418).
5990. Walter P. Armstrong, Jr. ("Birdy Edwards") died on Mar. 5. His career as a lawyer spanned more than 50 years, as did his interest in Sherlock Holmes: his first contribution to our literature appeared in the Oct. 1946 issue of The Baker Street Journal, and his last in the Sept. 1992 issue. He was one of the founding members of The Giant Rats of Sumatra of Memphis, and he received his BSI Investiture in 1985. His many essays, articles, and toasts were collected in HOLMES' RANGE (published by Magico in 1994).
5991. There are few people who have brought as much laughter to as many people as Chuck Jones has, in the more than 300 hundred animations he has directed in a career that has lasted more than 50 years. His Sherlockian "Deduce, You Say!" (1956) was one of them, and a brief clip from the film was shown when he received a special Oscar for lifetime achievement at the Academy Awards on Mar. 25.
5992. Baseball season is almost here, Thom Boykoff notes, and Holmes and Watson are still pitching: Darren Holmes (traded this winter by the Colorado Rockies to the San Francisco Giants) and Allen Watson (St. Louis Cardinals).
5993. Thom offers a pair of collectors cards for \$2.32 postpaid; his address is 222 Randolph Drive #303, Madison, WI 53717-1647.
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April 1996 #1

5994. "Murder, She Wrote" debuted on CBS-TV on Sept. 30, 1984, with a two-hour premiere that starred Angela Lansbury as mystery-writer Jessica Fletcher in "The Murder of Sherlock Holmes" (with Brian Keith playing a man who attends a costume party dressed as Sherlock Holmes and who may or may not have been the intended victim of a murderer. The final episode will be broadcast on May 19, making "Murder, She Wrote" the longest-running detective-drama series in the history of television (it was the highest-rated television drama series for nine consecutive seasons, from 1985 to 1994).
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5995. Kenneth Ludwig's play "Postmortem" is scheduled by the Oldcastle Theatre Company at the Bennington Center for the Arts in Bennington, Vt., on June 14-29. The play had its premiere (as "Dramatic License") in 1983 and was revised and retitled in 1985, and puts William Gillette to work solving a mystery at his famous home in Hadlyme, Conn. The box-office phone number is 802-447-0564.
5996. Simon Callow's *ORSON WELLES: THE ROAD TO XANADU* was published last year in Britain, and now has an American edition (New York: Viking, 1996; 638 pp., \$32.95), and it's an excellent biography of a man known best to many Sherlockians as the answer to a trivia-quiz question (name an actor who played both Sherlock Holmes and Prof. Moriarty). The book covers only the first 26 years of Welles' life and career, and there was plenty to cover (at the age of 18 he played Mercutio to Basil Rathbone's Romeo, and by the time he was 26 he had broadcast his alarming "The War of the Worlds" and launched his film career with "Citizen Kane"). Callow is himself a director and an actor (he played Inspector Lestrade in Charlton Heston's "The Crucifer of Blood" for TNT cable in 1991), and offers splendid insight into what made Welles such a phenomenon.
5997. John Baesch notes that Sherlockians may wish to visit the Frick Collection in New York to see a new exhibition called "Greuze: A Portraitist for the 90's" (since Jean-Baptiste Greuze is mentioned in the Canon). The Frick is at Fifth Avenue at East 70th Street, and the exhibition closes on Apr. 14.
5998. For those who still know what phonograph records are (and perhaps even have machines that play them), John Burkardt offers a treasure trove of Sherlockian LP records, at reasonable prices; a sales list is available (send a #10 SASE to him at 750 Hethwood Drive #200-D, Blacksburg, VA 24060).
5999. The continuing saga of St. Bartholomew's Hospital continues: a year ago *The Times* suggested that British Health Secretary Virginia Bottomley had "succeeded where Henry VIII, the Great Fire of London, the Blitz, and Margaret Thatcher all failed," and that the long campaign to keep the hospital open seemed to have failed. But a later article in *The Times* (Dec. 7, 1995), at hand from Chris Redmond, reports that the decision to close Bart's provoked an unprecedented campaign of opposition that culminated in a damaging Tory back-bench rebellion blamed for unseating Bottomley. And a new report from the King's Fund (an independent health-policy think-tank) suggests that the hospital can be kept going with state, charitable, and private funding. So the site of the historic first meeting between Holmes and Watson is safe to the end of the century, and perhaps much longer.

April 1996 #2

6000. Michael J. Farrell died on Mar. 1. He was a doctor in Queensland, and the founder and president of The Resident Patients of Toowoomba. He edited their journal *Panacea*, and organized both the annual Silver Blaze race day in Toowoomba and the 1994 national meeting of all the Sherlockian societies in Australia, and with his family had great fun helping keep the memory green in the Antipodes.
6001. Elizabeth Peters' series of mystery novels about Amelia Peabody Emerson now runs to seven titles, and they're written with style and humor, set in Victorian England and Egypt, and all with direct or indirect Canonical echoes. The latest in the series is *THE SNAKE, THE CROCODILE & THE DOG* (New York: Warner Books, 1994; 432 pp., \$5.99).
6002. "It's a very rare bird--practically extinct--in England now, but all things are possible upon the moor," Stapleton said (in "The Hound of the Baskervilles"). "Yes, I should not be surprised to learn that what we have heard is the cry of the last of the bitterns." It wasn't the last one, but there may be only 15 breeding males left in Great Britain. The bittern is one of the five threatened birds shown in a set issued there last month to honor the 50th anniversary of the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (the others are the Muscovy duck, the lapwing, the white-fronted goose, and the whooper crane); the stamps feature paintings by the late Charles F. Tunnicliffe.
6003. David Talbott Cox died on Mar. 15. He was a Chicago producer, director and actor for many years (and he was on the cover of *TV Guide* in the 1960s as a member of the cast of "The Integrators" when the television play aired was broadcast by WTTW-TV), and a newsletter publisher, and a Sherlockian: David was an energetic member of Hugo's Companions and one of the founders of The Criterion Bar Association.
6004. For those who like trivia questions: name two actors who have played Sherlock Holmes who also have played actors who have played Sherlock Holmes. The answer will appear later in this issue.
6005. Dominica issued a set of eight stamps in 1991 showing historic trains, and one of them showed "Sherlock Holmes & Dr. Watson watching Brunigline train (built 1888) descending from the Brunig Pass toward Meiringen"; the set of eight mint stamps is available from the International Collectors Society. Box 854, Van Nuys, CA 91408, for \$19.95 postpaid (credit cards welcome).
6006. Brook Manor was the home of the infamous Richard Cabell in 1656, and he is believed by many to have provided some of the inspiration for the legend of the Hound of the Baskervilles. And you can now stay at Brook Manor while touring Dartmoor: it is open as a guest house, fully restored with modern conveniences and central heating. A nicely-illustrated flier is available, and the address is: Buckfastleigh, Devon TQ11 0HR, England.
6007. William H. "Skip" Boyer has an article "At Holmes with a Good Smoke" (with a Gahan Wilson illustration showing Holmes offering a cigar to Moriarty) in the spring 1996 issue of *Smoke*, a fancy new quarterly for people who fancy cigars (\$3.99); 135 West 41st Street #1050, New York, NY 10036.

April 1996 #3

6008. Michael Ricker Pewter are preparing to ship the detailed pewter reproduction of The Consulting Room (the third element in their Sherlock Holmes Collection); \$260.00 postpaid. Dr. Watson and Mrs. Hudson (the first two figures) are still available (\$92.00 each postpaid), and the set will be completed by early 1997 with Inspector Lestrade, a Baker Street Irregular, and Sherlock Holmes. An illustrated flier is available from the company (5333 West 88th Avenue #132, Westminster, CO 80030) (800-554-1571); credit-card orders welcome.
6009. "George Spelvin, Performing Legend, Takes His Final Bow" was the headline on an article (not included in every edition of the *Newspaper of Record*, but reprinted in *New York* magazine on Apr. 8). According to Randall Short, "It is with sadness tinged by a modicum of embarrassment that these pages find themselves called upon to report (somewhat belatedly) the passing of George Spelvin, a giant of the American theater whose legend in that notoriously fickle milieu rivals--it is hardly an exaggeration to say--those of Edwin Forrest, Ethel Barrymore, and warm orange-flavored intermission beverages. The great man appears actually to have departed the sphere of our sorrow--or, at any rate, New York--immediately following his last recorded (1988) appearance in 'The Mystery of Edwin Drood', but it seems to have been a while before anybody noticed." Short also notes that Spelvin was a native New Yorker, and made his stage debut in Charles A. Gardner's 1886 "Karl the Peddler" on 14th Street in a space currently housing Phil's World of Electronics, and that he is survived by a sister, Georgina.
6010. George Spelvin also had many Sherlockian credits, according to George Vanderburgh's index to Ron De Waal's *THE UNIVERSAL SHERLOCK HOLMES*, including supporting roles in the 1970s and 1980s in productions of Martin Keeley's "Sherlock Holmes and the C.P.R. Murders", Paul Giovanni's "The Crucifer of Blood", William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes", and Dennis Rosa's "Sherlock Holmes and the Curse of the Sign of Four". The index also has credits for Georgina's children Georgia, Garff, and P. Highley Spelvin.
6011. And for those who have not noticed the name of George Spelvin before, it is traditionally used in cast listings when a producer isn't sure which actor will be playing a role, or occasionally (and incorrectly) when a character is another character in disguise.
6012. The question was: name two actors who have played Sherlock Holmes who also have played actors who have played Sherlock Holmes. Patrick Horgan, who played Sherlock Holmes on stage in William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" and in Conan Doyle's "The Speckled Band", played Gillette in

Kenneth Ludwig's play "Dramatic License" (now "Postmortem"). And Nicol Williamson, who was Holmes in the film "The Seven-Per-Cent Solution", is playing John Barrymore (who starred in the silent film "Sherlock Holmes") on stage in "Jack" at the Belasco Theatre in New York. "Jack" started previews on Apr. 20, and will have an eight-week run (212-239-6200).

6013. William K. Everson died on Apr. 14. He was a film historian and collector, and helped saved hundreds of films from the days when studios didn't bother to. He wrote 16 books on the cinema, and included discussion of Moriarty in THE BAD GUYS: A PICTORIAL HISTORY OF THE MOVIE VILLAIN (1964), and had a chapter on Sherlock Holmes in THE DETECTIVE IN FILM (1972).
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April 1996 #4

6014. Lots of dramatic items in this issue, so I'll also mention that Bert Coules (Fairway, Sandling Road, Saltwood, Hythe, Kent CT21 4QJ, England) still offers laser-printed scripts (about 60 pp. each) of his adaptations for the BBC radio series that stars Clive Merrison and Michael Williams as Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson ("The Hound of the Baskervilles" in 1988 had Roger Rees and Crawford Logan in 1999). The stories are: Stud/Sign/Scan/Bosc/Blue/Nobl/Silv/Croo/Fina/Empt/Norw/Danc/Soli/Chas/SixN/Seco/Houn/Wist/Bruc/Devi/Last/Illy/Maza/Suss/Thor/Lion/Reti. The postpaid cost (sterling check or draft) for each short-story script is £12.00 (surface) or £14.00 (airmail), or you can pay with currency (\$19.00 or \$22.00) or by dollar check (\$28.86 or \$30.02). The cost is doubled for the three longstory scripts.
6015. One of the nice things about collecting Sherlockiana is that the old can be as interesting as the new, and it can be fun to catch up with something you missed. As is the case with THE NOISELESS TENOR: THE BICYCLE IN LITERATURE (East Brunswick: Cornwall Books, 1982). James E. Starrs is well-known now for forensic investigation of questions such as whether Alferd Packer dined on the party he was supposed to be guiding over the mountains (Starrs dug up the victims, and concluded that they had indeed been murdered, and quite likely butchered). And he enjoys bicycling, and he has edited a delightful anthology that includes "The Priory School" (and some discussion of bicycle tracks), and a splendid Foreword by William Saroyan, and two excerpts from Christopher Morley, and much more.
6016. Robert C. Hess (559 Potter Boulevard, Brightwaters, NY 11718) offers a new sales list, with figurines, statues, Mardi Gras doubloons, programs, lobby cards, books, and other Sherlockiana.
6017. Lawrence J. Kaplan has been teaching a course on "Chemistry and Crime: From Sherlock Holmes to Modern Forensic Science" at Williams College since 1990, and this month the National Science Foundation awarded him a \$234,539 grant to create a CD-ROM version of his course. The disk is intended to make the laboratory portion of his course accessible to colleges that cannot offer forensics laboratory classes, and it will include simulations of equipment used in forensics analysis as well as cases for students to solve using the equipment. Kaplan hopes to have a finished product available in two years.
6018. Stuffed Moose Audio has issued an amusing audiocassette with four "classic humorous ghost stories" written by Stephen Leacock, Charles Dickens, Mark Twain, and Arthur Conan Doyle (whose story is "Selecting a Ghost"). George Plumley has dramatized the stories, and they're performed well by a group of talented actors. The Lodestone Catalog offers SPIRITED YARNS: VOLUME 1 for \$9.95 plus shipping; the address is 611 Empire Mill Road, Bloomington, IN 47401 (800-411-6463), and credit-card orders are welcome.
6019. Heritage Media (Castle Eden Studios, Castle Eden, Durham TS27 4SD, England) offers a catalog of classic audio and video, including radio drama: three double-cassette sets of "The Best of Sherlock Holmes" (each set with four Gielgud/Richardson broadcasts); £7.99 each (or £19.99 for all three in a slip case) plus shipping. The cassettes are available here from National Review Radio Classics (150 East 35th Street, New York, NY 10016); \$16.99 each (or \$39.99 for all three); \$4.50 shipping per order; plastic welcome.
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April 1996 #5

6020. The first annual Sherlock Holmes Festival will be held in Crowborough on July 5-7, according to an item in The Times Literary Supplement (Mar. 15). Sir Arthur Conan Doyle lived in Crowborough for many years, but the Chamber of Commerce believes that far too few Sherlockians visit the town. The festival will feature an exhibition, a street party, a concert, and a mystery trail, and the organizers are hoping that Sherlockians "will come to see Crowborough as the Mecca for Sherlock Holmes buffs." Details are available from The Sherlock Holmes Festival, The Town Hall, The Broadway, Crowborough, East Sussex TN6 1DA, England.
6021. Francine Kitts notes that a radio-theater production of "The Six Napoleons" will be performed five times at the Snug Harbor Cultural Center in Staten Island, N.Y. on May 2-5; tickets cost \$10.00, and the phone number for the box office is 718-979-3190.
6022. For anyone who might need another reason to keep away from the moor, Fred Barbash reported in the Washington Post (Apr. 18), that "There's a monster loose that's threatening the cities and the towns of Britain, its national heritage, its animals, its health, and its wealth. It's called traffic." The threat is everywhere, including "the great moors of lore and legend, like Dartmoor, the setting in western England for 'The Hound of the Baskervilles.' Any hound venturing into it today risks life and limb, according to a recent study, which said that some 300 sheep, ponies, and cattle were run down and killed by speeding cars there last year."
6023. Jim Suszynski spotted Shaggy in a deerstalker in "The Maltese Mutt" in the comic book SCOOBY-DOO #9 (June 1996) from Archie Comics (\$1.50). And Jack Kerr spotted Fred Flintstone in a deerstalker in "Fred Flintstone: Private Eye!" in THE FLINTSTONES #11 (July 1996), also from Archie (\$1.50).
6024. FROM PRUSSIA WITH LOVE, by John DeChancie (Rocklin: Prima, 1996; 261 pp., \$5.99), is a spin-off from the Castle Falkenstein role-playing game created by R. Talsorian Games. The game and the novel are set in a magical Victorian alternate universe that includes fairies, dwarves, steam engines, and dragons, and Prof. Moriarty makes a brief but villainous appearance in the novel. Stu Shiffman, who knows far more than I about this steampunk world, reports that Moriarty also is in a second novel (DeChancie's MASTERMINDS OF FALKENSTEIN), and that a third novel (by George Alec Effinger) will involve both Moriarty and Sherlock Holmes.
6025. Richard Olken has reported Alan M. Young's article "C. Auguste Dupin, Alias Holmes" (about Conan Doyle's debt to Poe) in the Feb. 1996 issue of Sextant (Salem State College, 352 Lafayette Street, Salem, MA 01970); the article has some fine illustrations of Dupin and Holmes (and photographs of Poe and Conan Doyle). The e-mail address is <sextant@mecn.mass.edu>.
6026. "The Molly Maguires" is a new musical (book by William Strempek, and music and lyrics by Sid Cherry), and it will have its world premiere this year at the Grand Candlelight Theatre in Milton, Pa., Aug. 7-31 (800-355-3099), and at the Media Theatre for the Performing Arts in Media, Pa., Sept. 4-Oct. 6 (800-355-3099). There will be a theater party for Sherlockians on Sept. 28 at 2:00 pm in Media; details are available from Sherry Rose-Bond, 519 East Allens Lane, Philadelphia, PA 19119.
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April 1996 #6

6027. Videotaper alert: "Wishbone" is featured in "A Dogged Expose" on PBS-TV on May 3. Wishbone is a Jack Russell terrier who stars in a fine children's series about a dog who finds himself involved in literary classics (this time in "A Scandal in Bohemia"); the series has 40 programs that cycle in repeats, and there is another interesting episode called "The Slobbery Hound" (yes, "The Hound of the Baskervilles"). Also: many PBS-TV stations are

likely to repeat some of the Granada programs with Jeremy Brett in May: "The Dying Detective" and "The Cardboard Box" will air in Washington on May 16, and "The Three Gables" on May 23.

6028. It was in the Sept. 1983 issue of *Science* 83 that John Hathaway Winslow and Alfred Meyer accused Sir Arthur Conan Doyle of being the perpetrator of the Piltown hoax, presenting a detailed and thoroughly circumstantial argument that received considerable publicity (mainly because they provided the N.Y. Times with an advance copy of their article). And now Robert B. Anderson has made the same accusation, in the spring 1996 issue of *Pacific Discovery* (California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA 94118; \$5.00 postpaid). Anderson, who is earth science editor at *Natural History* magazine at the American Museum of Natural History in New York, has drawn heavily upon Winslow's work, but (using Sherlock Holmes to reveal the solution) offers some additional evidence that is just as circumstantial. One is tempted to wonder whether the spring issue of *Pacific Discovery* was published on April Fool's Day . . .
6029. *ELEMENTARY, MRS. HUDSON*, by Sydney Hosier (New York: Avon, 1996; 206 pp., \$5.50), is yet another yellowed manuscript, part of the "Hudson Collection" (that's Emma Hudson, housekeeper to Sherlock Holmes), and the story is set in 1898, when Holmes and Watson are on holiday and Mrs. Hudson answers an old friend's plea for help and solves two mysterious murders (with the help of her old friend's powers of astral projection).
6030. R. Dixon Smith and Paulina M. Smith have a new catalog of "Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes" with 592 items old and new: books, pamphlets, magazines, posters, programs, and other ephemera; write to Rupert Books, 58/59 Stonefield, Bar Hill, Cambridge CB3 8TE, England.
6031. Societies looking for ideas for souvenirs might take a look through the new catalog from Best Impressions (Box 802, La Salle, IL 61301) (800-635-2378). Their promotional products range from mugs (\$35.00 set-up charge, and \$2.38 each for 72) to wooden nickels and key fobs and totebags and other items.
6032. Apparently I'm not the only one who has had trouble ordering new magazine cases from the Magafile Company in Vandalia, Mo., and it may well be that the company has gone out of business. Please let me know about alternate sources for inexpensive fold-up cardboard cases in various sizes.
6033. Is anyone planning a visit to Moscow? Does anyone know anyone who is planning a trip to Moscow? I need a courier who can retrieve some Sherlockian videocassettes that I am reluctant to entrust to the Russian mail system. Please let me know if you can help.

May 1996 #1

6034. Marlene R. Aig died on Apr. 25. She earned a Master's degree from McGill University (as did Christopher Morley's friend Jane Nightwork), and joined the Associated Press in 1978, becoming their Westchester correspondent in 1983. Marlene was as enthusiastic and energetic as a Sherlockian as she was as a journalist, and she made sure that her AP beat also included the Sherlockian world, filing stories on the birthday festivities and on other important events. Her AP obituary described her as a small, fast-talking, frequently squawking mass of energy, with a mop-top of rusty red hair and a spirit to match: that's the sort of personal touch that journalists like to give their colleagues, and it's the way her friends will remember her.
6035. The spring 1996 issue of *The Armchair Detective* includes excellent articles by January B. Steffensen and Kate Derie about the continuing spread of mystery-related material on the Internet, and Scott and Sherry Rose Bond's memorial to Jeremy Brett and Robert Stephens. \$31.00 a year (quarterly); 129 West 56th Street, New York, NY 10019-3808.
6036. Nice news for everyone interested in the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota (now the home of John Bennett Shaw's collection and much more): the state legislature has approved a bill that provides \$38.5 million to build the new Minnesota Library Access Center, which will be the new home of the special collections, and the governor has signed the bill into law. That's bricks-and-mortar money, and The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections are always happy to accept tax-deductible contributions to help maintain the collections. And there's an excellent reason to give now: the F. R. Bigelow Foundation in St. Paul will match all contributions (up to a total of \$30,000) to the John Bennett Shaw Fund (fund no. 3906). You can send your donations to the Sherlock Holmes Collections, 466 Wilson Library, Minneapolis, MN 55455 (matching gifts from employers also qualify for the for the matching grant). And there's a deadline: the first \$15,000 must be raised by June 30.
6037. Christopher Roden reports that EMI has issued a "Writers and Poets" set of three CDs (£26.99 in Britain) that includes an excerpt (3:48 minutes) from the longer recording that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle made for His Master's Voice in 1930.
6038. Further to last month's report (April 96 #5) on a paperback spin-off from the Castle Falkenstein role-playing game, the second book in the series is *MASTERMINDS OF FALKENSTEIN*, by John DeChancie (Rocklin: Prima, 1996; 25 pp., \$5.99); Moriarty turns up again in a magical Victorian alternate steampunk universe. The third novel in the series will be *THE LEAGUE OF DRAGONS*, by George Alec Effinger, due in October ("Tom Olam and the lovely, swashbuckling Marianne meet Sherlock Holmes, the young, not-yet-famous hero of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's series"). If your local bookseller can't find Prima Publishing, their address is Box 1260-BK, Rocklin, CA 95677.
6039. John Ruyle is once again perpetrating poetry, and hand-printing it himself at the Pequod Press: *SIR ARTHUR AGONISTES* "dips into unexpected areas of the Canon and ranges over other Holmesian matters as well." 521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 97407-1521; \$40.00 (cloth) or \$20.00 (paper).

May 1996 #2

6040. Do any "Howdy Doody" fans remember Inspector John J. Fadoodle? Paul Martin spotted mention of the Inspector ("America's number one--boi-i-i-inggg--puh-rivate eye"), and a photograph showing him with a deerstalker, cape, and mustache, in *HOWDY AND ME: BUFFALO BOB'S OWN STORY*, by Buffalo Bob Smith and Donna McCrohan (New York: Penguin/Plume, 1990).
6041. Orville Prescott died on Apr. 28. He was a book critic for the N.Y. Times from 1942 to 1966, and reviewed John Dickson Carr's *THE LIFE OF SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE* (1949) and Adrian Conan Doyle's *HEAVEN HAS CLAWS* (1953), praising them both but noting that Adrian Conan Doyle "lacks the literary skill to present his material in effective fashion." Prescott also enjoyed the writings of Christopher Morley, and in his review of Morley's *THE MAN WHO MADE FRIENDS WITH HIMSELF* (1949) suggested that if the book "is a failure as a novel and as a commentary on the neurosis of our time, it at least flashes intermittently with wit and charm. Christopher Morley never wrote anything that didn't do that."
6042. Herman Herst Jr. was able to combine his knowledge of philately and his interest in Arthur Conan Doyle in a souvenir he prepared for the 1981 annual dinner of The Baker Street Irregulars. If you would like learn more about the world's first Christmas envelope (which was designed by Conan Doyle's uncle, Richard Doyle, in 1840) you can send him a #10 SASE (Box 1583, Boca Raton, FL 33429).
6043. *Malice Domestic VIII* (in Bethesda, Md., at the end of April) was an interesting convention, with Peter Lovesey as guest of honor and Josephine Tey as ghost of honor, and a focus on "mysteries of manners," although not exclusively, since this year there were sessions on "The Scientific Sleuth: from Sherlock Holmes to Gideon Oliver" and on "Sherlock Holmes as a Forensic Scientist". The first session offered a panel consisting of Douglas G. Green, Aaron Elkins, Paul Sledzik, and me, and the second session was just me (and questions and comments from the audience). Audio Visual Inc. offers audiocassettes of any of the 50 convention sessions at \$10.00 each plus shipping (there's a discount for volume); 4390-B Parliament Place, Lanham, MD 20706 (credit-card orders welcome).

6044. Mary Frost-Pierson also was at the convention, offering a demonstration of the "mysteries" division of America Online, which is an excellent reason to try out AOL's free-trial-offer (now 15 hours). You'll need to be driving a Macintosh, or running Windows, with a 256-color card, and then you can take your own tour through Mary's offerings, which include on-line editions of magazines (The Sherlock Holmes Review and Scarlet Street), bulletin boards, discussion groups for kids and teachers, opportunities to browse the stock and buy books and gifts (Sherlockian and otherwise) from Mary's bookshop (Mysteries from the Yard), and much more. The address of Mary's shop is 253-B Xenia Avenue, Yellow Springs, OH 45387 <msteries@aol.com>; ask for AOL's 15-free-hours floppy disk.
6045. Glyn Szasz reports from Australia that a Planet Hollywood opened recently in Sydney, packed with movie memorabilia, including the pipe from "Young Sherlock Holmes". Glyn is the first Sherlockian I've heard of who has admitted going to a Planet Hollywood, let alone finding anything Sherlockian there (I have been to a Hard Rock Cafe, but didn't).
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May 1996 #3

6046. Web-cruiser alert: thanks to the energy and expertise of Willis Frick, the three most recent issues of the electronic edition of this newsletter are now available on a home page at his kaiwan.com web site; the URL is: <<http://www.kaiwan.com/~sherlock/SCUTTLE.HTML>>. URLs are case-sensitive, so you need to use the upper-case letters.
6047. Stephen Hemming died on Apr. 19. He was an actor in Wisconsin, and one of his fellow actors said that "when he was given a role, he was like Sherlock Holmes, investigating it, diving into learning everything he could about it." And perhaps that was only natural: he played Sherlock Holmes in "The Case of the Lurking Variable" on an audiocassette made for an instructional series on mathematics distributed by the University of Wisconsin in 1987.
6048. Thanks to all who responded to my request for other sources for inexpensive cardboard magazine cases, what with the Magafile Company having vanished. The good news is that there are alternate sources, and the bad news is that all the different sizes aren't available. The office-supply stores such as Staples and Office Depot offer "regular" (12" x 4" x 9") cut-corner boxes for about \$1.60 each. So do mail-order companies such as Quill (800-789-1331) and Highsmith (800-558-2110); Highsmith offers inexpensive boxes at \$19.15 for 20. Brodart (800-233-8959) offers "super-budget files" at \$0.96 each (cheaper by the dozen), and "economical shelf files" in five different sizes, ranging from 8.5" high (\$1.30 each for a dozen) to 14.5" high (\$1.95 each for a dozen); Brodart would be best for those who want BSJ-size boxes and for those who want low prices (don't forget that shipping costs extra).
6049. Bartholomew's Ink (Box 359, Warner, NH 03278-0359) offers a catalog full of mystery-related rubber stamps (with quite a few Sherlockian designs).
6050. Tim Kelly's adaptation of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed at the Huron Country Playhouse in Grand Bend, Ontario, July 16-27. Their address is R.R. #1, Grand Bend, ON N0M 1T0, Canada (519-238-6000) (800-706-6665).
6051. "Holmes lies on the border of fantasy. He has charm and verve, but no one actually knew him. This gives every actor who plays Holmes an unexcelled chance to use his imagination, but also exposes him to criticism from every person with an imagination of his own." According to Basil Rathbone, in an article "On Playing Sherlock Holmes" in Radio Varieties (Mar. 1940). And: "Portrayal of Sherlock Holmes on the screen, I might say, causes me more worry than my portrayal on the radio. The screen leaves little to the imagination, and anyone in the audience may disagree with my idea of how Sherlock Holmes should look and act. Radio leaves every listener free to draw individual mental pictures of Holmes."
6052. "A New Pinnacle for Sherlockian Achievement" is the slogan of the Downstate Illinois Sherlockian Invitational, to be held on Sept. 28 in Peoria. The Hansoms of John Clayton have offered a challenge to other societies in a Knowledge Competition, to be followed by The Nineteenth Annual 2704 Banquet of the Hansoms, and anyone interested participating, or merely attending, is invited to communication with Robert C. Burr, 4010 Devon Lane, Peoria, IL 61614-7109, by Aug. 31. One wonders about those pinnacles in downstate Illinois, which is not known for its mountains.
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May 1996 #4

6053. "While the British Library management makes swingeing cuts to finance its move to St. Pancras, the British Museum is this month seeking planning permission and listed building consent to vandalise the Round Reading Room when, and if, the British Library finally leaves Bloomsbury," is the news from Marysa Demoor, posted to the Gaslight electronic mailing list. "Contrary to its stated policy over many years, the British Museum is now preparing to sacrifice its commitment to keeping the Round Reading Room as a library and work place for scholars. Such a commitment is now deemed to be inconvenient to the realisation of 'The Great Court Scheme' in which the Round Reading Room is redefined as circulation space, with information terminals and, as one British Museum spokesman memorably reported, 'a place for schoolchildren to eat their sandwiches'. The 'library' element is restricted to a small sector, surrounded by low glass walls, providing passing tourists with a glimpse of how things used to be."
6054. And there's more, of particular importance to Sherlockians: "The desks, integral to the original design, will have to be largely removed." One would hope that before all those desks are hauled off to a land-fill, they will be carefully inspected to see whose initials might be carved in or on them. If Sherlock Holmes carved his initials on a laboratory stool at Bart's (and that one has been found and preserved), perhaps he did the same at a desk in the British Museum. "When I first came up to London I had rooms in Montague Street, just round the corner from the British Museum," he recalled (in "The Musgrave Ritual"), "and there I waited, filling in my too abundant leisure time by studying all those branches of science which might make me more efficient."
6055. Moris H. Goldberg died on Apr. 29. Moris ("that's with one r," as he liked to remind people) was an enthusiastic member of The Giant Rats of Massillon and The Inverness Capers of Akron, and he was the founder of The Deerstalkers of Akron, and a grand story-teller, Sherlockian and otherwise.
6056. Tim O'Connor notes that Parade Magazine is offering \$100 prizes to ten winners of a contest for funny, clever, or unusual vanity license plates; you need to enter a photograph of the actual license plate of a vehicle registered to the contestant, and the winners will need to prove that they are the registered owners of the vehicles. The complete rules were in the May 12 issue of Parade, and entries must be received by June 16; the address is Vanity License Plate Contest, c/o Parade, Box 4943, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163-4943). In the early 1980s someone had a vanity plate in San Francisco reading BSKRVL, on a Honda.
6057. Tim also reports that Charles Marowitz's play "Sherlock's Last Case" will be produced at the Candlelight Dinner Theater from Mar. 5 to May 25, 1997. The address is 5620 South Harlem Avenue, Summit, IL 60501 (15 minutes from downtown Chicago, according to the advertisement), and the box-office phone number is 708-496-3000. It is likely, of course, that one or more of the local Sherlockian societies will arrange for a theater party.
6058. Planning continues for Australia's seventh national Sherlockian convention, to be held on Oct. 4-6, 1997, in Perth, with festivities centering on "The Devil's Foot". The organizers are Tim Richards and Narrelle Harris, and their address is Box 896, Fremantle, W.A. 6160, Australia.
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May 1996 #5

6059. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists met for dinner on May 22 at Luigi's in San Diego to honor (as always) the world's first forensic geologist and to celebrate some local Sherlockian and Doylean connections.
6060. We were made welcome by Darlene Nelson, Debi Pollard, and Vinnie Brosnan, who all quite modestly declined personal responsibility for spring weather as delightful as any I've seen anywhere this year, and the visitors included Les Clutter, who has ascended Holmes Peak both as a geologist and as a member of the Afghanistan Perceivers of Tulsa. Our peripatetic society will meet next in Denver in October 1996 and in Dallas in April 1997.
6061. Visitors to San Diego may wish to stay at the Hotel del Coronado, which is the world's largest wooden hotel, carefully preserved and established as a national landmark, and it would be especially appropriate to stay in room 3236, since that's the room where William Gillette stayed in December 1898, when he settled in to write his play "Sherlock Holmes". Visitors also can visit the Spreckels Theater in downtown San Diego: the theater was built in 1912 and seats 1,400 (it was the largest theater of its kind west of New York), and it was still quite new when Sir Arthur Conan Doyle lectured at the theater in May 1923. And it's still in use as a theater, with much of the grand old decorative style.
6062. My journey to the Left Coast also included a stop in Long Beach for dinner with some of the Trained Cormorants, and a trip to jail for a visit with the Dartmoor Residents, the latter society being students in classes taught by Michael Brady at the California Youth Authority; Mike uses the Canon to good advantage, and his students are interested and knowledgeable.
6063. And I descended briefly on Los Angeles, where I had arranged for a Houdini Seance at the Magic Castle, which is a private club for magicians. There were twelve of us at the seance, and the medium was impressive indeed: he managed many of the manifestations produced by mediums in Houdini's time, and an appearance by Houdini himself.
6064. Vinnie Brosnan, I hasten to add, still presides over Sherlock in L.A. (1741 Via Allena, Oceanside, CA 92056); his new mail-order catalog is as always well-illustrated and has 711 items of Sherlockian and Doylean literature, Vinnie's warm tribute to John Bennett Shaw, and an intriguing "brief look" at Sherlockian scion societies by Bill Vande Water and fellow non-members of A Case of Identifiers.
6065. Videotaper alert: "Remember WENN" is an original 30-minute series now seen on Saturdays on American Movie Classics cable, about a fictional Pittsburgh radio station during the golden age of radio; it's written by Rupert Holmes (who is perhaps best known as the author of the musical "The Mystery of Edwin Drood" and whose pen name reflects his enjoyment of Rupert Knickerbocker beer and the Canon), and the episode scheduled for June 22 (titled "Armchair Detective") will be Sherlockian.
6066. And: the "Wishbone" series continues to repeat on PBS-TV, and it's a grand way to get kids interested in literature. Wishbone is a Jack Russell terrier who finds himself involved in literary classics, and "A Dogged Expose" (about "A Scandal in Bohemia") will air on June 28. "The Slobbery Hound" (about "The Hound of the Baskervilles") also is well worth watching for.

May 1996 #6

6067. It was only last month (April 96 #6) that there was a report of yet another article identifying Sir Arthur Conan Doyle as the perpetrator of the hoax at Piltdown, but now there's real news: an article by Kings College professor Brian Gardiner in the May 23 issue of Nature suggests that the culprit was Martin A. C. Hinton, a curator at the Natural History Museum in London. And for the first time there's some persuasive physical evidence: a trunk left behind at the museum by Hinton has been found to contain bones, teeth, and fossils stained with the same chemical mixture that was used to deceive those who first examined the Piltdown discoveries. Gardiner also found that Hinton had done some staining work for Charles Dawson (who made the Piltdown discovery), and was an expert on the geology of the area of Sussex where the find was made, and had good reason to bear a grudge against Arthur Smith Woodward (who was thoroughly deceived by the hoax). Hinton, who died in 1961, lived to see the hoax exposed by modern scientists in the early 1950s.
6068. "The Incredible Murder of Cardinal Tosca" will be performed at the Thousand Islands Playhouse in Gananoque, Ont., July 25-Aug. 25. That's not far from Kingston; their address is: Thousand Islands Playhouse, Box 241, Gananoque, ON K7G 2T8, Canada (613-382-7020).
6069. Lisa Lambert (77 Mendham Avenue, Hastings on Hudson, NY 10706) has designed some attractive Sherlockian wine labels (6.5x4.5") and bordered quotations (7.5" x 3.5"); the artwork is hand-colored and thoroughly artistic, and the prices are about \$25.00 postpaid, and complementary matting is available. The wines include varieties such as Silver Blaze Bordeaux, Hound Port, Musgrave Montrachet, Speckled Band Claret, and Holmes Port, and they make for nice displays. If you're interested, Lisa will be glad to send you a photocopy that will show her work to better advantage than I can.
6070. The Sub-Librarians Scion of The Baker Street Irregulars in the American Library Association will meet in New York this year during the annual meeting of the ALA, at the Renaissance Hotel at 4:30 pm on July 7. For additional information, you can write to Marsha L. Pollak, 1318 Mildred Avenue, San Jose, CA 95125 (and non-librarians are welcome to attend the festivities, of course).
6071. Laura Kuhn reports that the latest catalog from What on Earth is offering a one-third-off discount on its Sherlock Holmes Pub T-shirts (now \$9.95) and sweatshirts (now \$18.95); 2451 Enterprise East Parkway, Twinsburg, OH 44087 (800-945-2552). Note: the design is their own, rather than the actual pub sign.
6072. David Pearson reports that Critics' Choice Video offers discounts through July 1 on Peter Cushing's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1959) at \$14.77, and Cushing's "The Masks of Death" (1986) at \$14.95; Box 749, Itasca, IL 60143 (800-367-7765).

June 1996 #1

6073. The long series of Rathbone/Bruce radio programs on audiocassettes produced by Ken Greenwald and his 221A Baker Street Associates is expanding into the 1946-47 season with Tom Conway as Sherlock Holmes. There are new introductions by old-time radio actors Elliott Reid and Parley Baer, and there will be 16 cassettes in the new series (and four cassettes will be issued every three months). Eight cassettes are available now, and they are a grand reminder of the wonderful old days of radio, with scripts by Denis Green and Anthony Boucher, nice performances by Nigel Bruce as Dr. Watson (he got top billing) and the rest of the cast, and fine high-fidelity engineering. The series title is MORE NEW ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES; the cassettes (each with two shows) are distributed by Brilliance Audio and cost \$9.95 each; if you can't find them in local stores, Brilliance is at Box 887, Grand Haven, MI 49417 (800-222-3225). The eighth cassette includes "The Singular Affair of The Ancient Egyptian Curse" (1947), in which Ben Wright played Sherlock Holmes while Tom Conway was ill.
6074. Minnesota voters will have a chance to vote for a Sherlockian on Sept. 10, in the state's Republican primary: one of the six candidates for the Senate is former Senator Rudy Boschwitz, who lost the seat to Democrat Paul Wellstone in 1990. Boschwitz attended meetings of The Red Circle in the 1980s, and hopes to return (to the Senate, that is, although of course he's always welcome in The Red Circle).
6075. Andy Peck reports that eagle-eyed Sherlockians will find two small plaques at Doc Watson's (a bar-style restaurant at 1490 Second Avenue in New York), but nothing else Canonical. And that he and Les Klinger hard at work preparing an up-to-date revised edition of his comparative chronology THE DATE BEING --? (first published in 1970, with an addendum in 1973).

6076. Movies, movies, movies. Clint Eastwood received a Life Achievement Award from the American Film Institute (the televised special was broadcast by ABC-TV last month), and his many fans will recall that in "The Dead Pool" (1988) Dirty Harry's boss Captain Donnelly (played by Michael Currie) has a framed portrait of Sherlock Holmes on the wall of his office; it also is of (remotely) Sherlockian interest that Callahan kills the villain by pinning him to a wall with a harpoon through his chest. Entertainment Weekly has a brief report on the film "The Lost World" (due for release in the summer of 1997): co-screenwriter David Koepp's \$1.5 salary is the most ever paid for an adapted screenplay; the film is based on the book by Michael Crichton, and will be directed by Steven Spielberg, starring Julianne Moore and Jeff Goldblum. And: Jeremy Brett's last film was "Moll Flanders" (released this month), starring Robin Wright as Moll, Stockard Channing as the evil madam who makes Moll's life miserable, and Morgan Freeman as Hibble (who doesn't appear in Daniel Defoe's book); Brett has a brief appearance as the wealthy father of the artist with whom Moll falls in love.
6077. "Sherlock Holmes and the Sticky Wicket" is the title of an interesting and well-illustrated article by Peter N. Street in the Jan.-Feb. 1996 issue of the Journal of Sports Philately, about Holmes and Conan Doyle and cricket. The issue costs \$2.50 postpaid from John La Porta, Box 2286, La Grange, IL 60525 (checks payable to Sports Philatelists International, please).
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June 1996 #2

6078. Ralph Hall spotted a new paperback edition of Graham Landrum's THE ROTARY CLUB MURDER MYSTERY (New York: St. Martin's, 1996; \$4.99); there are two Sherlockian chapters ("The Baker Street Irregulars" and "Second Meeting of the Baker Street Irregulars"), and there was a hardback edition from St. Martin's in 1993. Also: Maurice Horn's 100 YEARS OF AMERICAN NEWSPAPER COMICS (New York: Gramercy Books, 1996; \$14.99) will be found on the bargain tables, with sections on Sherlock Holmes, Hawkshaw the Detective, and Sherlocko the Monk.
6079. Laurie R. King reports that A LETTER OF MARY (her third mystery novel about Mary Russell) is now set for publication in January 1997, and that THE BEEKEEPER'S APPRENTICE is due in England this summer ("at long last").
6080. Tamara Toumanova died on May 29. At the age of five she danced with Anna Pavlova in France, and was one of the first of George Balanchine's "baby ballerinas" when she joined his Ballet Russes de Monte Carlo in 1932. She danced on Broadway and in films, and played the ballerina Petrova in "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970), proposing that Sherlock Holmes father a child with her, so that the child would have his brains and her beauty. Mrs. Patrick Campbell made the same proposal to George Bernard Shaw, who pointed out that the child might have his beauty and her brains, but Holmes managed to find another way to avoid a liaison with Petrova.
6081. Al Gregory and January Stauber offer three new lapel pins with artwork by Sidney Paget (shown here actual size); \$6.00 each postpaid (checks made payable to Al Gregory, please), and Al's address is 118 South Prospect Street, Verona, NJ 07044.
6082. Captain Sharkey was one of the more memorable characters created by Arthur Conan Doyle, and he was one of the most vicious villains to be found in literature (if you like tales of pirates and the high seas). There are four stories about Sharkey, and you can find them in THE DOYLE FINA-1 NAVA-1 STORIES and in other collections. "How the Governor of St. Kitt's Came Home" was published in Pearson's Magazine in Jan. 1897, and the 23-page signed manuscript went to auction at Christie's in New York on May 17, estimated at \$4,000-6,000. And it sold for \$12,650 (including the 15% buyer's premium). BOSC-1
6083. "I do believe we're dealing with something we haven't seen before..." was the quote in a full-page advertisement in the May 6 issue of Variety for "Sherlock Holmes: The Case of the Temporal Nexus", one of the television projects promoted at the Cannes film festival by Associated Entertainment Releasing. And promoted quite successfully: the project has been pre-sold in European markets, and filming will begin soon in and near Los Angeles, with Patrick Macnee as Holmes, assisted by a young American reporter. The "legendary investigator is immersed in a case of paranormal murders and extra-terrestrials" in the two-hour television film that will be followed by a series of 22 one-hour shows. Work also is underway in England on a onehour series of television specials called "Sherlock Holmes' Tour of London" with Macnee as host, viewing London through the eyes of Sherlock Holmes.
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June 1996 #3

6084. Allen Mackler has spotted some bargains available from Daedalus Books (Box 9132, Hyattsville, MD 20781): the Chronicle Books editions of THE HORROR OF THE HEIGHTS & OTHER TALES OF SUSPENSE (1990) and WHEN THE WORLD SCREAMED AND OTHER STORIES (1992), now discounted at \$3.98 each; and Carroll & Graf's 100 GREAT DETECTIVES, edited by Maxim Jakubowsky (1992), with H.F.R. Keating's discussion of Sherlock Holmes, at \$2.98. And The Scholar's Bookshelf (100 Melrich Road, Cranbury, NJ 08512) offers the Academy Chicago editions of Conan Doyle's THE BEST HORROR STORIES (1989), THE LOST WORLD (1989), and TALES FOR A WINTER'S NIGHT (1990) at \$19.90 for all three.
6085. A hot plate: license plate, that is. The culprit most likely is a cruising teen-ager collecting things to display on a wall, but if you discover someone with a Maryland license plate reading BAKERST, it was stolen from a car owned by Wayne and Francine Swift. Just the one plate, which is why it's likely to be on a wall rather than one someone else's car.
6086. Marcus Geisser, the editor of The Reichenbach Journal (published in German by The Reichenbach Irregulars, the Sherlockian society in Switzerland), has been publishing German translations of some of the classic writings about the writings, including essays by Ronald Knox and Christopher Morley, (and an essay by Dorothy L. Sayers will be in the next issue). And Marcus would like to hear from anyone who can help with future translation; his address is 40 avenue de la Gare, CH-1003 Lausanne, Switzerland; and or by e-mail at <mgeisser@access.ch>.
6087. "The Ku Klux Klan ... rapidly formed local branches in different parts of the country, notably in Tennessee, Louisiana, the Carolinas, Georgia, and Florida," according to the American Encyclopaedia consulted by Sherlock Holmes in "The Five Orange Pips". The State Capitol Building is seen in a photograph on a new stamp honoring the 200th anniversary of Tennessee's statehood.
6088. "Sitting in a London pub, James O'Brien admits that he contemplated wearing his deerstalker hat, but opted instead for the more conservative blazer and tie of an academic," Alina Tugend noted in her article in The Chronicle of Higher Education (May 24). Jim, usually to be found teaching chemistry at Southwest Missouri State University, taught a two-month weekly course on the science of the Sherlock Holmes stories at the University of London's Imperial College.
6089. Percy Edwards died on June 8. "Of Psyche the dog and other noises," is the subhead on The Guardian's obituary for Edwards, who made his show-business debut at the Pier Pavilion in Worthing in 1928, so intriguing the audience with his bird songs and growls that other seaside engagements followed. In 1931 he took his act to London's Windmill Theatre (more famous for its nude tableaux), and in the 1950s and 1960s he starred on BBC radio as Psyche the dog, and as Gregory the chicken (in different series). He also performed in films (producers often found that he was far more reliable and cheaper than real animals). The obituary reports that he once was The Hound of the Baskervilles (most likely with Carlton Hobbs and Norman Shelley in the BBC Radio series in 1958, but full credits for that series aren't available).
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June 1996 #4

6090. Paula M. Brown is starting work on planning for a memorial to Jeremy Brett at the Holiday Inn (Union Square) in San Francisco on Sept. 14, and she would be happy to hear from anyone who would like to participate in the program, and to share thoughts and memories of the actor and his career. Paula's address is 40787 Canyon Heights Drive, Fremont, CA 94539; e-mail <vgt52b@prodigy.com>.
6091. "Autumn in Baker Street" will be held on Oct. 26-27 at the Tarrytown Hilton in Tarrytown, N.Y. This annual gathering is always well-attended, and the agenda always interesting (this year the speakers will include Wilma Brown, Carey Cummings, Sue Dahlinger, David Houle, Bill Hyder, Dick Kitts, Sandra Kozinn, Linda Spessotti, and Diana Ver Nooy). Details are available from Robert E. Thomalen, Highview Drive, Carmel, NY 10512 <crwk02a@prodigy.com>.
6092. "The Terror of Blue John Gap" continues to delight geologists who admire Conan Doyle's fiction, because the story offers an interesting mineral and a monster that turns out to be a Pleistocene cave bear. In a fine article about the story published in A.C.D. (1994), Dana Martin Batory and William A. S. Sarjeant suggest that the terror was not, in fact, a cave bear, but rather a great scimitar cat (*Homotherium sainzelli*). The dirktooth cat (*Megantereon megantereon*), was a close relative and much better known, since its upper canines were much longer, and thus tends to show up on postage stamps, such as the one just issued by the United States.
6093. The Running Press published a semi-miniature edition (2.75 x 3.25 in.) of SHERLOCK HOLMES: TWO COMPLETE ADVENTURES in 1989, and there's a new edition (1994) with a truly handsome jacket and illustrations by Andrew Davidson, the British artist who designed the attractive Sherlockian covers for four stamp booklets issued by Britain in 1987-1988, and the set of five Sherlock Holmes stamps issued by Britain in 1993. The cost is \$4.95 in bookstores, or \$5.95 from the publisher (125 South 22nd Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103-4399); "But try your bookstore first!" the publisher urges.
6094. John Ruyle modestly suggests in the 50th issue of Tantalus that ten years ago he had no idea that The Pequod Press would survive for ten years, but it certainly has, and its latest pressing will be THE ADVENTURE OF THE SECOND BRAIN, another of Dr. Fatso's accounts of the many cases of his friend Turlock Loams. \$40.00 (cloth) or \$20.00 (paper) postpaid from John, at 521 Vincente Avenue Berkeley, CA 94707-1521.
6095. The lion's mane jellyfish seem to be spreading, turning up last year in an exhibit at the New England Aquarium in Boston (March 95 #3), and now, according to Peter Calamai, in an exhibit of "Phantoms of the Deep" at the Aquarium in Baltimore.
6096. Francine Swift notes that the Carriage Museum at the Ladew Topiary Gardens contains a fine hansom, and a very sporting dog cart, for those who might wish to see what those methods of Canonical transportation look like close up. The Ladew Topiary Gardens are at 3535 Jarrettsville Pike, Monkton, MD 21111 (410-557-9570); that's north of Baltimore, about halfway to the border, and the dates are mid-April through the end of October.

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6097. THE HERPETOLOGICAL HOLMES: A MONOGRAPH ON REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS IN THE TIME OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, illustrated with artwork of the period, is the eighth volume in Donald Girard Jewell's continuing Sherlock Holmes Natural History series; the pamphlet costs \$12.95 postpaid from the Pinchin Lane Press, 4685 Geeting Road, Westminster, MD 21158. There are many singular Sherlockian societies, of course, and Luther Norris delighted in making The Praed Street Irregulars singular in more ways than one. Vinnie Brosnan has recently found that Luther awarded the Investiture "Meadows" to Basil of Baker Street.
6098. The Stage One Theatre Company will launch a tour of Tim Heath's play "Sherlock Holmes: The Adventure at Sir Arthur Sullivan's" in Brighton on Sept. 11, playing for three weeks in Croydon, and will close at Walton-on-Thames on Nov. 30; details of the schedule are available from Stage One at 34 Jasmine Grove, London SE20 8JW, England). Miles Richardson will play Holmes, and he is the son of Ian Richardson, who was Holmes in two television films (and as far as I know this is the only father-and-son to play the role).
6099. Jack Tracy ("A Case of Identity") died on May 9. He was an author, editor, and publisher, and a Doylean as well as a Sherlockian. His first article in The Baker Street Journal appeared in 1971, and his investigation of "St. Savior's near King's Cross" earned him the Morley-Montgomery Award for the best article in the BSJ in 1977. His ENCYCLOPAEDIA SHERLOCKIANA (1977) and his Conan Doyle collections SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE PUBLISHED APOCRYPHA (1980) and MASTERWORKS OF CRIME & MYSTERY (1982) were widely distributed by trade publishers, and his own Gaslight Publications, founded in 1979, issued many fine Sherlockian books by authors such as Robert L. Fish, David L. Hammer, Michael Harrison, Paul D. Herbert, and Jon L. Lellenberg, as well as seven books by Conan Doyle, each carefully edited and with new Afterwords written by Doylean enthusiasts. The many books he wrote and edited and published are a fine memorial to Jack.
6100. Hugh Scullion (Cadds Printing, 59 Lancaster Avenue, West Norwood, London SE27 9EL, England) offers an illustrated sales list of Sherlockiana, old and new (the new includes The Norwood Magazine, which is "The Empty House" reset in Strand Magazine format, with color covers, at \$5.00 postpaid); his e-mail address is <beetons@aol.com>.
6101. Thanks to Debi Rotmil for an item from The Times (May 23): "Mr. Peter William Jeremy Huggins, of London SW4, Jeremy Brett, the actor, known for his portrayal of Sherlock Holmes on television, left estate valued at £634,744 net. He left £3,000 to his fan club known as 'The Regulars', with the wish it be divided equally between those persons who are members at his death." "The Regulars" is a group of fans who met during the run of "The Secret of Sherlock Holmes" (the group was founded by Linda Pritchard, and they were responsible for placing his memorial plaque at Wyndham's Theatre).
6102. Further to the report (May 96 #3) on other sources for magazine file cases, it turns out that The Magafile Company is back in business ("after experiencing some difficulties that we have fortunately been able to overcome"); I have received a shipment of cases from them. They offer a wider range of sizes (heights and widths), and the address is Box 66, Vandalia, MO 63382.

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6103. Plan ahead: "Sherlock's Secret Life" (a new play written by Ed. Lange) is scheduled at the New York Theatre Institute in Troy, Mar. 13-26, 1997. Lange describes the play as "a good mystery with lots of 'inside' references and plausible speculations," and the box-office address is 155 River Street, Troy, NY 12180 (518-274-3256).
6104. SHERLOCK HOLMES: CLASSIC THEMES FROM 221B BAKER STREET is a new "music to read Sherlock Holmes by" compact disk produced by Varese Sarabande (with liner notes by the Scarlet Street's editor Richard Valley), offering music from films and television, from "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (1939) to the Granada series. \$18.98 postpaid (or \$24.98 to Canada, \$27.98 elsewhere); credit card orders welcome, and the Scarlet Street address is Box 604, Glen Rock, NJ 07452. Note: all of the music is newly recorded, by an orchestra conducted by Larry Meyers.
6105. An official Baker Street Irregulars necktie is again available (but only to those who have Investitures in the BSI), in a new edition (a bit wider, and with slightly different shades of the traditional purple, blue, and mouse); \$23.00 postpaid (\$25.00 outside the U.S.) from Wayne B. Swift, 4622 Morgan Drive, Chevy Chase, MD 20815-5315.

6106. The Eighth International Holmesian Games will be held on Sept. 21-22 at an extinct volcano in Mount Tabor Park in Portland, Ore. [warning: the locals may claim that the volcano is extinct, but volcanoes are either active or dormant]. Additional information is available from Karen Bridger (940 S.W. Vincent Place, Portland, OR 97201) or Don MacLachlan <donmac@wimsey.com>.
6107. Meg Moller Martin spotted an interesting item in the June issue of Esquire (in the "Reality Check"): some celebrities use pseudonyms when they travel (to avoid publicity and occasionally overeager admirers), and Indiana Pacer guard Reggie Miller checks into hotels as Sherlock Holmes.
6108. Carolyn and Joel Senter's latest sales list ("Quick Watson..." #2) offers some nice Sherlockian books, audio, video, pins, and much more, including some items for admirers of Inspector Morse; Classic Specialties, Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219.
6109. A new catalog from MindWare (6142 Olson Memorial Highway, Golden Valley, MN 55422) (800-999-0398) includes an illustration showing the Sherlockian artwork on the cover of Eleanor W. Hoomes' book CREATE-A-SLEUTH: WRITING A DETECTIVE STORY.
6110. Jennie Paton spotted some videocassette bargains: Nicol Williamson's "The Seven-Per-Cent Solution" (1976) and Peter Cushing's "The Masks of Death" (1984) at \$14.99 each from Movies Unlimited, 6736 Castor Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19149 (800-523-0823) <movies@moviesunltd.com>
6111. Jennings Lang died on May 29. A veteran MCA-Universal vice-president, he was the producer of "Earthquake" and "Airport", and "They Might Be Giants" (1971) was "a Jennings Lang presentation."

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6112. A plaque on all your houses. Members of The Wolfe Pack were on hand at 454 West 35th in New York to watch the installation of a plaque that reads: "On this site stood the elegant brownstone of the corpulent fictional private detective Nero Wolfe. With his able assistant Archie Goodwin, Mr. Wolfe raised orchids and dined well, while solving over seventy cases as recorded by Rex Stout from 1934-1975." Three brownstones at the site were torn down after Wolfe retired to his house in Egypt, and a new building erected. The new building houses formerly homeless adults, and the ceremony was attended by Parks Commissioner Henry Stern and Rex Stout's grandson Reed Maroc.
6113. The Wolfe Pack has about 400 members world-wide, and some of them are just as fanatic about Wolfe as some Sherlockians are about Holmes. Membership in The Wolfe Pack costs \$25.00 for two years (including four issues of The Gazette); Box 822, Ansonia Station, New York, NY 10023.
6114. The Sherlock Holmes Museum (221B Baker Street, London NW1 6XE, England) has a 28-page full-color catalog of Sherlockian souvenirs and mementoes: dolls, deerstalkers, buttons, badges, figurines, plaques, posters, prints, books, and videos. This is the museum founded some years ago by John Aidiniantz at 239 Baker Street; Grace Riley and Linda Riley are the directors now, and the e-mail address is <sherlock@easynet.co.uk>.
6115. Albert R. "Cubby" Broccoli died on June 27. He started his film career in 1938 as an assistant directory with 20th Century-Fox, and is best known as the producer of all but one of the James Bond films. Born in New York, he was an agronomist before entering the film business. His obituary in the Washington Post noted that agronomy was in the family: forebears in Italy invented the vegetable that bears their name by crossing the Italian rabe with cauliflower.
6116. Caliber has started a new comic-book mini-series called THE SEARCHERS, with a story by Colin Clayton and Chris Dows and artwork by Art Wetherell: issue #1 (\$2.95) is in shops now. Real-life descendants of characters created by Wells, Verne, Haggard, Burroughs, and Conan Doyle "must band together in a mutual quest for not only their own survival, but that of reality itself." But the Conan Doyle character isn't a Holmes: she's a Moriarty.
6117. Laura Kuhn notes that bargain-books catalogs from Edward R. Hamilton (Falls Village, CT 06031-5000) continue to offer all sort of Sherlockian bargains, and items such as THE BOXTREE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF TV DETECTIVES, by Geoff Tibballs (1992) at \$3.95; with brief entries for many of the Sherlockian series from 1951 (with Alan Wheatley) through the Granada series.
6118. The Washington Post has a contest each Sunday called "The Style Invitational" (in the Style section), and a recent contest called for tasteless "what is" jokes punning on someone's name. Among the runners-up were "What revolutionary leader led his guerrilla forces while wearing an evening gown and a string of pearls? (Che Edgar Hoover)" and "Who steals from the rich and mismanages the proceeds? (Robin HUD)", and the winning entry was "Who wrote 'The Hatchback of Notre Dame? (Victor Yugo)." An honorable mention went to "What famous mystery writer had no heirs? (Sir Arthur Condom Doyle)".

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6119. DINOSAUR TALES is a fine collection of stories by Ray Bradbury, illustrated by Gahan Wilson, Steranko, and others; the book was first published by Byron Preiss in 1983, and is now available in a new edition (New York: Barnes & Noble, 1996; 144 pp., \$5.98). Bradbury dedicated the book to Willis O'Brien, "who animated the beasts in 'The Lost World' in 1925, and so changed my life, forever." Ray Harryhausen tells in his foreword of seeing the same film when he was five; he worked with Bradbury on "The Beast from 20,000 Fathoms" (based on the story "The Fog Horn", which is included in the book.
6120. And no, there's no real Sherlockian connection for Cubby Broccoli, but the story about the vegetable having been named for an ancestor deserved to be shared. And apparently it's too good to be true; according to the Oxford English Dictionary, the word was first in print in 1699 and the vegetable wasn't named for anyone. But it's pleasant to think of great-grandfather telling his children the story.
6121. Luci Zahray has noted Ellis Peters' THE HIPPOPOTAMUS POOL (New York: Warner Books, 1996; 384 pp.); this is the eighth in her series of mystery novels about Amelia Peabody Emerson, set in Victorian England and Egypt, all with direct or indirect Canonical echoes.
6122. Hugh S. Scullion's SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES:--POLITICALLY CORRECT? examines the Canon for examples of language and attitudes and actions that would be considered incorrect or offensive by today's standards, and finds a lot of them, and he concludes that the author of the stories was a racist bigot. The paperback book (97 pages) costs \$16.00 postpaid from Hugh Scullion at 59 Lancaster Avenue, West Norwood, London SE27 9EL, England.
6123. There's a new society lapel pin, from Watson's Tin Dispatchers, and the cost is \$6.00 postpaid from Francine Kitts, 35 Van Cortlandt Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10301.
6124. For Sherlockian societies tired of the same old lapel pins and mugs and such: Calico Temporary Tattoos (2" x 2") cost \$189.00 for 1,000 (and \$10.00 for shipping); they use your design, and offer full-color service. And their address is 315 Plantation Way, Vacaville, CA 95687. No reports of a Sherlock Holmes Tattoo Society so far, but I wouldn't be surprised if someone starts one.
6125. Further to earlier reports (July 95 #1 and August 95 #3) on cameo appearances by Sherlockians in non-Sherlockian books, Bill Nadel reports that you will find him (as Chick Nadel, a barkeep with a load of hot radios) on page 44 of James Ellroy's L.A. CONFIDENTIAL (New York: Mysterious Press, 1990).
6126. Those who felt the recent film "Moll Flanders" (with Robin Wright, Morgan Freeman, Stockard Channing, and Jeremy Brett) was unfaithful to the book will welcome the news that Granada's version (written by Andrew Davies and starring Alex Kingston as Moll) will open the fall season on "Masterpiece Theatre" on PBS-TV in two episodes on Oct. 13 and 14. According to Anglofile, the new version is closely based on Defoe's book, and

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6127. CHINESE BOX MYSTERIES: SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Dan Kilcup (Springfield: Allen Wayne Limited, 1996; 268 pp., \$24.00 postpaid), offers two pastiches involving an elderly Sherlock Holmes and a young John S. Watson (son of the doctor), and a third featuring the ghost of Sherlock Holmes. Kilcup reports that his grandmother was the niece of Mrs. Victoria Hampton, successor to Mrs. Hudson as housekeeper to Sherlock Holmes at Hudson Farm in Surrey, and that there are eight more stories in the mysterious Chinese box, to be published in a second volume later this year. The publisher's address is 5404-A Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA 22151 (800-695-8880); credit-card orders welcome.
6128. R. Caton Woodville was a fine illustrator and artist, and you can see his illustrations for Arthur Conan Doyle's "An Exciting Christmas Eve; or, My Lecture on Dynamite" in the Boy's Own Paper (Christmas, 1883) and in Every Boy's Magazine (Feb.-Mar. 1905), "Uncle Jeremy's Household" in Boy's Own Paper (Jan. 8-Feb. 19, 1887) and Every Boy's Magazine (Feb.-Aug. 1907), "A Shadow Before" in the Windsor Magazine (Dec. 1898) and "The Pot of Caviare" in The Strand Magazine (Mar. 1908). He is more widely noted as an artist, and one of his classic works is "Saving the Guns at Maiwand" (showing the Royal Horse Artillery withdrawing with the enemy in hot pursuit during the Afghan war of 1879); a reproduction of the painting is available in full color and in two sizes from Cranston Fine Arts (Torwood House, Torwoodhill Road, Rhu Helensburgh, Scotland G84 8LE, Great Britain), and from an American distributor, Scottish Images, Box 160133, Sacramento, CA 95816 (800-700-0334), for \$60.00 (30 x 20 in.) or \$20.00 (14 x 10 in.). Shipping is \$10.00, and credit-card orders are welcome. Scottish Images' catalog also offers a 75-mm metal figurine of Sherlock Holmes at \$19.95, and reproductions of Napoleonic paintings by Holmes' grand-uncle, Horace Vernet.
6129. Bill Barnes (19 Malvern Avenue, Manly, NSW 2095, Australia) offers copies of THE HOUNDS COLLECTION, which has 120 pages of stories, cartoons, poems, puzzles, and plays written by members of The Hounds of the Internet; most of the material is new, but a few pieces have appeared elsewhere. AU\$18.00 (US\$15.00 or £9.00) postpaid by air, or AU\$11.50 (US\$10.00 or £6.00); postpaid by surface mail. Payment in Australian dollars is preferred, but U.S. and British checks and currency are acceptable.
6130. Further to the report (May 96 #4) on plans, or lack of plans, for preservation of the Round Reading Room in the British Museum, Catherine Cooke notes that the summer 1996 issue of the British Museum Magazine reports that the original blue, white, and gold interior will be restored and used for a new Information Center that will have terminals connected to a multimedia database, and a growing range of CD-ROM discs which can be consulted on "topics such as the Anglo-Saxons, the history of money, or the Rosetta Stone."
6131. Thanks to Didi Johnson for recommending THE BETTER BROWN STORIES, by Allan Ahlberg (New York: Viking, 1995; 97 pp., \$12.99); it's a grand existentialist story for children, about "a monstrous dog, a monstrous Milkman, free money, some Mysterious Men, a forgotten baby, baffled police, and a bewildered town." The monstrous dog isn't our Hound, but the author does thank Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in the Acknowledgements, and rightfully so. Ahlberg is British, and with his wife Janet has written many other childrens' books that are reported to be just as good, if not as Sherlockian, as this one.
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July 1996 #4

6132. Plan well ahead: The Pleasant Places of Florida will mark their 25th anniversary with a "Sunshine State Sherlockian Scion Symposium" in or near St. Petersburg on May 2-4, 1997. The contact is Carl L. Heifetz, 5490 Salem Square Drive South, Palm Harbor, FL 34685-11387; e-mail to <72642.3220@compuserve.com>.
6133. Thomas F. McGee ("Wilson, the Notorious Canary Trainer") died on June 25. He was an Army cryptographer and a commercial artist before beginning his career as a social worker, and he was a member of many of the Sherlockian societies in Chicago as well as The Baker Street Irregulars, from whom he received his investiture in 1981. He contributed to our literature in the 1970s and 1980s, and in 1976 he designed and manufactured the first Sherlockian chess set.
6134. You'll win one of 150 signed and numbered uncorrected proofs of A LETTER TO MARY (to be published later this year), and an acknowledgement in the next book in Laurie R. King's series about Mary Russell, if you submit the best "Sherlockismus" (or possibly "Russellismus") to be uttered (preferably) by Mary. A Sherlockismus, identified by Ronald A. Knox, is an exchange such as: "I followed you." "I saw nobody." "That is what you must expect to see when I am following you." But for the contest, it can also be a witty statement. Entries to Rebecca J. Anderson, 1877 Dumont Street, London, ON N5W 2S3, Canada <rebecca@mercury.execulink.com>; the deadline is Aug. 17.
6135. Karen M. Mullen (721 Vashti Drive, Houston, TX 77037-4128) <kmam1@aol.com> offers her graphite print (12 x 20 in.) titled "A Tribute to Jeremy Brett as Sherlock Holmes" (\$75.00 postpaid; credit-card orders welcome).
6136. Chris Redmond notes that THE ADVENTURES OF SURELOCKED HOMES: MAKING ENTRY LESS ELEMENTARY still is offered by the State Farm Insurance Companies, Box 7661, Westchester, IL 60154; the pleasant 16-page pamphlet was first issued in 1975, with suggestions on how to make your home safer, and there's no charge (although they hope that you'll think of them for home insurance).
6137. Ted Friedman made a pleasant discovery in Alan MacKinnon's MURDER, REPEAT MURDER (Garden City: Doubleday & Co., 1952). The dedication reads: "This book is offered to James Keddie Jr. of Boston, Mass. and the Baker Street Irregulars, in some slight return for the friendliest and most encouraging letter a downhearted writer can ever have received."
6138. Jim Suszynski's daughter spotted Larry "Sheerluck" Holmes in a deerstalker in "The Barking!" in the comic book SCOOBY-DOO #11 (Aug. 1996) from Archie Comics (\$1.50).
6139. Priscilla Juvelis (1166 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02138; 617-497-7570) offers interesting material in her catalogs, including from time to time some interesting Sherlockian and Doyleana. And her summer miscellany (list 96-3) has a still from "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1939) showing Holmes meeting Sir Henry, signed by Basil Rathbone in blue ink across the margin and a bit of the photograph, in fine condition; \$150.00.
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July 1996 #5

6140. Reported by Ralph Hall: MYSTERIOUS MENAGERIE, edited by Cynthia Manson (Berkley, 1996, \$5.99); with a Sherlockian dog on the front cover. THE BIG BOOK OF BERENSTAIN BEARS BEGINNER BOOKS, by Stan and January Berenstain (Random House, 1996, \$10.00); with reprints of two stories about the Bear Detectives. THE JEWELLED PEACOCK OF PERSIA, by Jake and Luke Thoene (Moorings/Ballantine, 1996, \$5.99); the third in a series of "Baker Street Mysteries". ESCAPEDE, by Walter Satterthwait (St. Martin's, 1996, \$5.99); a reprint of his Conan Doyle/Houndini pastiche (September 95 #4). CLASSIC MYSTERIES: A COLLECTION OF MIND-BENDING MASTERPIECES, edited by Molly Cooper (Lowell House, 1996, \$5.95); with "The Veiled Lodger". And: Sherlockian allusions in THE CASE OF THE U.S. SPACE CAMP MISSION, starring Mary Kate and Ashley (a videocassette from Kid Vision/Warner, \$9.95), and a Sherlockian Roquefort, the Cheese Detective, in THE ARISTOCATS (from Walt Disney Home Video, \$12.99).
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6141. Our recent set of stamps honoring folk heroes, with designs by David La Fleur, includes a stamp honoring the Mighty Casey (who was launched into legend on June 3, 1888, when Ernest L. Thayer's poem "Casey at the Bat" first was published in the San Francisco Examiner). In a footnote in his *THE ANNOTATED CASEY AT THE BAT* (New York: Clarkson N. Potter, 1967), Martin Gardner noted that Mudville's civic leaders, in an effort to change its rather forlorn image, had the town's name officially changed to Moorville, but residents of the area refused to use the new name, and the town continued to deteriorate rapidly. By 1907 it had disappeared entirely, explaining why neither Mudville nor Moorville can be found in Kansas today (although, of course, there was a Moorville at the time of "The Three Garridebs"). Gardner's friend John Bennett Shaw often proudly admitted that he had helped with certain aspects of the book.
6142. Steve Legenhausen has nice news for those who would like to see just what the Vermissa Valley looked like in the days of the Scowrers: there are many 19th-century photographs, with informative captions, in *IMAGES OF AMERICA: POTTSVILLE*, by Leo L. Ward and Mark T. Major (Dover: Arcadia Publishing, 1995; 144 pp., \$16.99). Pottsville, the county seat of Schuylkill County, is where the real Mollie Maguires were known and feared; the publisher's address is One Washington Center, Dover, NH 03820.
6143. I mentioned earlier (April 96 #1) an exhibition called "Greuze: A Portraitist for the 90's" at the Frick; the show has closed, but Sonia Fetherston notes that two of his portraits are part of the permanent collection: he painted famous Comedie Francaise actor Baptiste AOEne and his young wife in the early 1790s. The Frick is at Fifth Avenue at East 70th Street in New York.
6144. Bert Coules has reported on the auction (at Phillip's of London, on July 11) of items from the estate of the late Peter Cushing. One of them was a deerstalker "worn by Cushing in the role of Sherlock Holmes" (estimated at £30) that brought £1,200. A Cox Moore red smoking jacket (also worn in the role) sold for £480, and a Berman green tweed suit (ditto) for £440, and a small collection of pipes and smoking accessories (ditto) for £950. And a collection of film and television scripts annotated by Cushing (including "The Masks of Death" and "The Abbot's Cry") brought £1,250.

July 1996 #6

6145. The Quality Paperback Book Club now offers a ten-volume uniform Sherlock Holmes set for \$34.95 (that's the nine volumes of the Canon, plus their 96-page "guide to the lives of the great detective and his creator"); the club is for members only, but it's easy to join: the address is Camp Hill, PA 17011-9902.
6146. The summer 1996 issue of *The Sherlock Holmes Journal* has arrived, with the usual fine assortment of interesting material, including Catherine Cooke's enthusiastic evaluation of Michael Harrison's *IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* (1958) as the first of a series on "The Classics Reassessed", and Nicholas Utechin's announcement that next month the BBC will issue a videocassette with two shows ("The Speckled Band" and "The Illustrious Client") from the 1960s television series starring Douglas Wilmer and Nigel Stock (the cassette will be in the British PAL format, and so far there's no word of plans for a release in the American NTSC format). The SHJ is published two times a year, and a subscription costs \$21.00 to the U.S. (different prices for other countries); checks payable to the society, and you should write to Bob Ellis, 13 Crofton Avenue, Orpington, Kent BR6 8DU, England.
6147. The United States certainly wasn't the only country to honor the Year of the Rat on stamps (March 96 #1); there are two rats on a handsome souvenir sheet from Australia (for Christmas Island, which of course is closer to Sumatra).
6148. William E. Butler's *SHERLOCKIAN BOOKPLATES* (July 92 #3) still is available from its publisher (Silent Books, Boxworth End, Swavesey, Cambridge CB4 5RA, England) for £9.95 postpaid. The 57-page booklet does a fine job of showing a wide variety of bookplates created for and by many Sherlockians from Vincent Starrett and Edgar W. Smith to more recent times.
6149. The South Atlantic Chronicle (The Journal of the St. Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha Philatelic Society), and this year it published Michael D. Mueller's three-part article on "The Saint Helena Hypothesis". He explores the Sherlockian and philatelic connections of four well-known men: Darwin, Napoleon, Halley, and Newton (three of them actually visited the island, and are shown on its stamps, and of course St. Helena is mentioned in the Canon). The set of three issues is available (\$10.00 postpaid) from the author at 3201 Wisconsin Avenue NW #401, Washington, DC 20016-3802.
6150. Jerry Wachs reports that John English Gifts Ltd. (6 Princes Arcade, Piccadilly, London WS1Y 6DS, England) have a sales list of Sherlockian figures, including the Bossons wall sculptures, Robert Harrop's Country Companions (the Holmes and Watson dogs), Cloudside figures, and chess sets.
6151. John W. Chancellor died on July 12. He began his career in journalism in 1948, moving to television in 1950, and gained national attention with his on-the-scene coverage of the school-integration struggle in Little Rock in 1957; he had become one of America's most highly-regarded television journalists when he retired in 1993, and he often referred to the Canon during his broadcasts (during the 1992 presidential campaign he called Bush and Baker "the Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson of the Republican Party")

July 1996 #7

6152. There's still time to register for Bouchercon 27 (in St. Paul, Oct. 10-13); I've not heard about any Sherlockian programming, but Douglas Greene's *JOHN DICKSON CARR: THE MAN WHO EXPLAINED MIRACLES* has been nominated for an Anthony in the "best critical work" category. Bouchercon is the world mystery convention, named in honor of Anthony Boucher; additional information is available from Bouchercon 27, 4400 Upton Avenue South #408, Minneapolis, MN 55410 <bcon27@winternet.com>.
6153. What place, mentioned in the Canon, was a city when Conan Doyle was there, but isn't now? I'll give the answer on the next page.
6154. Ev Herzog has forwarded an interesting article in the *New York Press* (Jan. 3) about Richard B. Shull -- well, it's really about lost kingdoms, such as the Kingdom of Araucania and Patagonia, which briefly existed more than a century ago in what is now Chile. But there's still a Prince Phillippe, who lives in France, and a North American Araucania Royalist Society, of which Shull is director; their newsletter is called *The Steel Crown* (his address is 400 West 43rd Street #33-A, New York, NY 10036-6301) and they have a web site <<http://www.pitt.edu/~figtree/kap.html>>. He also has been knighted by the Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem, and the Orthodox Order of St. John of Jerusalem, and he is a member of the Society of the Colonial Wars, the Veterans Corps of Artillery, the Military Society of the War of 1812, the Colonial Order of the Acorn, the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, the Honorary Order of Kentucky Colonels, Washington Irving's St. Nicholas Society, and the Dutch Treat Club. Not mentioned in the article is the Baker Street Irregulars (in which his Investiture is "An Actor and a Rare One"). When you're in New York you can see him on stage in the musical "Victor/Victoria" at the Marquis Theatre.
6155. Russ Geoffrey reports that the latest catalog from What on Earth has handcast stone busts (also useful as bookends) of Holmes and Watson at \$54.95 each plus shipping; 2451 Enterprise East Parkway, Twinsburg, OH 44087-2351 (800-945-2552). And the new catalog from Cash's of Ireland has a painted resin Sherlockian chess set for \$295.00 plus shipping; Box 158, Plainview, NY 11803 (800-223-8100).
6156. Paul Martin notes that a yet another hand-decorated Sherlockian chess set is available from British Exports Ltd., Box 11240, Merrillville, IN 46411; \$450.00. Is anyone keeping count of how many different Sherlockian chess sets there are?

6157. Christopher Roden reports that next month the Calabash Press will publish THE CASE FILES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE MUSGRAVE RITUAL, with essays on the story by Sherlockians and Doyleans. The 167-page book will be available in cloth (\$33.00 by air, \$29.00 by surface) and paper (\$22.50 by air, \$19.50 by surface) and the address is Ashcroft, 2 Abbottsford Drive, Penyffordd, Chester, CH4 0JG, England.
6158. The Bull Terrier Club of Boston University is again planning an excursion to a polo match (USA vs. Argentina) at Glen Farm in Portsmouth, R.I., on Sept. 7. Polo is mentioned in the Canon, of course, and details about the event are available from Scott Monty, 1836 Columbia Road #2, South Boston, MA 02127-4342 <wsmonty@bu.edu>.
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July 1996 #8

6159. Philip J. Attwell reports that Maggie Fox and Sue Ryding will star in "Move Over Moriarty" (they play all the roles, in fact) at The Castle in Wellingborough on Nov. 20. The play is a comedy, and the duo has had high praise from The Independent. The Castle's address is Castle Way, Wellingborough, Northants. NN8 1XA, England (01933-270-007).
6160. The Commonwealth of Dominica has just issued a sheetlet of nine stamps honoring "Legendary Sleuths of the Silver Screen", and one of those legendary sleuths is Sherlock Holmes, as portrayed by Basil Rathbone. The others are Sam Spade (Humphrey Bogart), James Bond (Sean Connery), Dick Tracy (Warren Beatty), Charlie Chan (Sidney Toler), The Thin Man (William Powell), Inspector Clouseau (Peter Sellers), Philip Marlowe (Robert Mitchum), and Inspector Poirot (Peter Ustinov); there's also a separate souvenir sheet for Miss Marple (Margaret Rutherford). And there is no need to travel to the Windward Islands to get the Sherlock Holmes stamp: Benton Wood has a limited supply of the nine-stamp sheetlets, priced at \$7.50 postpaid. Ben's address is Box 740, Ellenton, FL 34222-0740. And (for those who are not philatelists) Ben also offers a fine sales list for the Pleasant Places of Florida's "Super Sherlockian Sale" of books, videocassettes, and other Sherlockiana.
6161. Gary Thaden has passed on a copy of the summer issue America Brews News, a newsletter for people who brew their own beer. The company offers recipe kits (with ingredients and instructions) for Sherlock's Bitter (\$20.95) and Watson's Cream Stout (\$21.65); shipping extra. The address is 9925 Lyndale Avenue South, Bloomington, MN 55438 (800-200-3647) <abrews@aol.com>.
6162. What place, mentioned in the Canon, was a city when Conan Doyle was there, but isn't now? Brooklyn (mentioned in "The Red Circle") was a city when he was there during his lecture tour in 1894; it was annexed into the city of New York in 1898, and now is a borough. If you want to try the question on non-Sherlockians: name a city in the United States that once had a population more than a million, and no longer exists.
6163. The latest issue of the Reichenbachian Cliff-Notes, edited by Kendall Pagan and published occasionally by The Reichenbach Cliff-Divers, has the usual assortment of skewed Sherlockiana, including a report on Juan Melondirge's plans for IRREGULAR MEMORIES OF 1996 and its supplements JOE BOB'S IRREGULAR MAMMARIES OF 1996 and IRREGULAR MUMMERIES OF 1996. A few copies still are available from the Lascarian Press, 4010 North Devon Lane, Peoria, IL 61614 (\$1.00 postpaid).
6164. Paula M. Brown has more information on the memorial to Jeremy Brett at the Holiday Inn (Union Square) in San Francisco on Sept. 14-15; she has blocked rooms at the Holiday Inn and at the nearby (and less expensive) Hotel Rex, and is lining up speakers and other items for the agenda. Her address is 40787 Canyon Heights Drive, Fremont, CA 94539 <vgtd52b@prodigy.com>.
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August 1996 #1

6165. Claudette Colbert died on July 30. She started her film career in "Love O' Mike" (1927), and won an Academy Award as best actress in "It Happened One Night" (1934), and became one of the most-admired stars in Hollywood; when she was awarded a Kennedy Center Honor in 1989, Gregory Peck introduced her as the "best thing we've gotten from France since the Statue of Liberty." She also acted on stage (including an appearance with Rex Harrison and Jeremy Brett in "Aren't We All" in 1985). And if you have a chance to see her with James Stewart in the splendid comedy "It's a Wonderful World" (1939), don't miss it: in one scene Colbert asks Stewart, "Couldn't you just think of me as if I were Sherlock Holmes?" And he replies, "OK, have it your own way. You're Sherlock Holmes. Here's your pipe."
6166. Sorry about that: the author of the fine Amelia Peabody Emerson mysteries (July 96 #2) is Elizabeth Peters (a pseudonym used by Barbara Mertz). Ellis Peters (a pseudonym used by Edith Pargeter) wrote about Brother Cadfael and others. And of course there is Ludovic Peters (a pseudonym used by Peter Ludwig Brent), who wrote about Ian Firth. It may well be that there are no mysteries written by someone who really is named Peters. Or perhaps someone named Peters is writing mysteries, but has wisely chosen a pseudonym.
6167. "A Japanese museum has launched a bizarre search for bricks from buildings featured in the adventures of Sherlock Holmes," according to a story in The Guardian (July 5, 1996), at hand from Jon Lellenberg. Not so bizarre, in fact: the World Brick Museum in Maizaru is preparing for an exhibition of British building bricks, and has targeted New Scotland Yard, Covent Garden, the Royal Albert Hall, and St. Pancras Station. The Guardian also reports that Sherlock Holmes was created when Arthur Conan Doyle lived in Portsmouth, "where there is concern at the methods that may be used by Japanese tourists to obtain the bricks."
6168. Also at hand from Jon are articles from Yorkshire about the start of filming on "The Golden Afternoon" (January 96 #7), the film about the two girls who created the Cottingley fairies and fooled Conan Doyle and many others. The film is budgeted at £9 million, and will star Peter O'Toole as Conan Doyle and Harvey Keitel as Houdini. The film has a new title ("Illumination"), and is scheduled for release next spring. Houdini? Well, according to the film-makers, Houdini and Conan Doyle "were friends who famously fell out over the authenticity of the pictures" of the fairies. Not true, but of course two big names are better than one.
6169. Is anyone planning a visit to Moscow? Does anyone know anyone who is planning a trip to Moscow? I still need to find someone who can retrieve some Sherlockian videocassettes that I am reluctant to entrust to the Russian mail system. Please let me know if you can help.
6170. The latest issue of Scarlet Street has arrived, with the last installment of Jeremy Brett's conversations with David Stuart Davies and Jessie Lilley. a fine discussion of film and television versions of "Laura" (it's not all that easy to discuss a television program when neither script nor tape have survived), and much more. Scarlet Street is published quarterly (\$20.00 a year), and the address is Box 604, Glen Rock, NJ 07452.
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August 1996 #2

6171. Herman Herst Jr. (Box 1583, Boca Raton, FL 33429) distributed copies of his illustrated report on the world's first Christmas card at the annual dinner of the Baker Street Irregulars in 1981, and it is available from him again for \$2.00 and a #10 55c SASE. Why would the story of an 1840 Christmas card be of interest to Sherlockian? It was designed by Richard Doyle, uncle of Arthur Conan Doyle.
6172. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists will convene on Tuesday, Oct. 29, at the Cadillac Ranch in Denver, during the annual meeting of the Geological Association of America. Sherlockians and geologists are welcome to join in honoring the world's first forensic geologist; the restaurant is in Larimer Square (1400 Larimer Street), and the festivities will begin with cocktails at 7:00 and continue with dinner at 8:00; the dinner will cost \$28.95 (with tax and tip included), and a choice of three entrees (prime rib, salmon, or chicken). It would be helpful (although it's not absolutely necessary) if you let me know in advance if you will attend the gathering.
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6173. The current issue of *Anglofile* reports that Raymond Benson will be the new author of additions to the James Bond saga, following in the footsteps of John Gardner (who "has tired of the 007 writing chores after 14 novels and two novelizations of Bond movies"); this may mean that Gardner will at long last have time to write the third novel in his "Moriarty" trilogy. And we will see some Sherlockian actors in non-Sherlockian roles: Christopher Lee will play Lucas De Beaumanoir in a BBC/A&E six-hour mini-series based on Sir Walter Scott's "Ivanhoe", and Michael Caine will star as Capt. Nemo in an ABC-TV mini-series "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea". *Anglofile* (a monthly newsletter with detailed coverage of British entertainment) costs \$12.00 a year (BX 33515, Decatur, GA 30033).
6174. Two of Val Andrews' British pastiches were on the shelves at a local Barnes & Noble, and presumably are available elsewhere; Andrews is a knowledgeable magician, and it shows. *SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE EGYPTIAN HALL ADVENTURE* (London: Breese Books, 1993, 112 pp., \$9.00) has Holmes and Watson involved with J. N. Maskelyne in 1898; *SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE HOUDINI BIRTHRIGHT* was published in 1995 and also costs \$9.00 (September 95 #5).
6175. "The Sherlock Holmes Museum (221B Baker Street, London NW1 6XE, England)" is what I gave as the address last month (July 96 #1), and of course some readers were quick to wonder whether the Museum had moved from 239 to 221 (or had persuaded the Royal Mail to give the 221 address to the Museum). No. But: as far as I know, a letter addressed to the Museum at 221b will be delivered to the Museum at 239, and a letter sent to Sherlock Holmes at 221b will be delivered to his secretary at Abbey House (since the carriers in England pay attention, which cannot always be said of carriers here).
6176. A correspondent in England reports that John Aidiniantz is now allowed out of jail each day, but must return to the nick in Richmond for the night. Aidiniantz, formerly the proprietor of The Sherlock Holmes Museum, was convicted on charges of obtaining £1.2 million by deception (in this case it multiple mortgages on the same properties), and was fined £30,000 in costs and jailed for three years in Jan. 1995; the British legal system allows one-third off for good behavior, so he's likely to be paroled soon. Mrs. Grace Riley, currently the Museum's proprietor, is his mother.

August 1996 #3

6177. Don't delay too long: *Malice Domestic IX* will be held at the Hyatt Regency in Bethesda on May 2-4, 1997, but registration is likely to close in October (attendance is limited to 700); *Malice Domestic* is a convention for fans of mysteries of manners, and this year's gathering was nicely done. Details are available from *Malice Domestic*, Box 31137, Bethesda, MD 20824-1137 <malice@erols.com> <<http://www.erols.com/malice>>.
6178. The Patchwork Playhouse performed Catherine Baker's dramatizations of four Sherlock Holmes stories in 1994-95, and two more plays have been scheduled: "The Noble Bridegroom" (Oct. 3-19, 1996) and "The Man with the Twisted Lip" (Mar. 13-Apr. 5, 1997). The box-office address is: 711 East Main Street, Lexington, SC 29072 (800-477-7252).
6179. Most if not all of the volumes in the "Franklin Library of Mystery Masterpieces" are now on the bargain tables at Barnes & Noble at \$4.98 each, and one of them is the handsome *GREAT CASES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES*, first published in 1987 (at \$19.95); it has 19 stories, and five excellent illustrations by Mitchell Hooks, and a rear section reprinting many of Julian Wolff's fine Sherlockian maps. You can identify the discount variant on the title-page verso, which no longer states that *Magico Magazine* owns the copyright for the maps (which apparently were taken from the *Magico* reprint of Julian's *THE SHERLOCKIAN ATLAS*).
6180. The Pequod Press presses on, with Dr. Fatso's report on Turlock Loams's encounter with the Rat Girl, Bulldog Drumstick, three sinister rodents, and their mysterious bonny blue eggs. *THE ADVENTURE OF THE THREE RODENTS* is available (hand-crafted as always) from Fatso's literary agent John Ruyle, 521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707: \$40.00 (cloth) or \$20.00 (paper).
6181. Mark Frost's Conan Doyle pastiche *THE SIX MESSIAHS* was issued on audiocassettes last year (March 95 #1); the six-hour audio version (abridged with the approval of the author) is read on four cassettes by David Warner with fine voice and style (Dove Audio, \$24.95).
6182. Syd Goldberg forwarded an item from the July 7 issue of the *N.Y. Post*: Otto Penzler, proprietor of the Mysterious Bookshop in New York, was in London scouting for a location for the British sister bookstore he hopes to open later this year. And in September he will spend a month as "the Alistair Cooke of mystery" when he does the introductions for 59 mystery classics on the Turner Classic Movie channel.
6183. An Orthodox rabbi is found shot to death in his study in the synagogue, in Batya Swift Yasgur's nice short story "Kaddish" in *EQMM* (Sept.-Oct. 1996); there's a copy of *THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES* among the books on his desk, and there's good reason for that.
6184. Further to the earlier review of the eight audiocassettes from Brilliance Audio starring Tom Conway and Nigel Bruce (June 96 #1), Ken Greenwald notes that he has just finished recording the introductions for the next four cassettes (the introductions include a dramatic encounter between Mycroft and Moriarty). There will be two more cassettes, for a series total of 16, and there's a possibility of a new series of 20 cassettes with 40 programs from 1947-1949, starring John Stanley as Sherlock Holmes.

August 1996 #4

6185. Jessica Mitford died on July 23. *Time* magazine dubbed her the "Queen of Muckrakers" when she wrote her expose of the funeral industry in *THE AMERICAN WAY OF DEATH* (1963), and in her long career as a writer she also attacked the Famous Writers School, overpriced restaurants, and the American prison system. And when her how-I-did-it book *POISON PENMANSHIP* was published in 1979, she happily posed in deerstalker and cape in advertisements in the *N.Y. Times* and other papers.
6186. Eddie Maguire's *A DEATH AT THE CRICKET* (Bridgwater: Big House Books, 1996) follows in the footsteps of last year's *THE IRISH PROFESSOR* (September 95 #2); the new pastiche takes Holmes and Watson to Sussex for a cricket match and a murder mystery. The 30-page pamphlet costs \$6.50 postpaid from Ian Henry Publications, 20 Park Drive, Romford, Essex RM1 4LH, England.
6187. The sixth issue of *The Shoso-in Bulletin* has arrived from *The Men with the Twisted Konjo*, with 162 pages (in English) of articles, pastiches, poetry, and illustrations by contributors from Japan and eight other nations. The journal is edited by Yuichi Hirayama, and is truly an international effort (don't neglect the delightful Japanese cover artwork, which isn't). \$12.00 postpaid (to United States and Canada) from Jennie C. Paton, 206 Loblolly Lane, Statesboro, GA 30458; or £7.50 postpaid (to Britain and Europe) from John Hall, 20 Drury Avenue, Horsforth, Leeds, W. Yorks. LS18 4BR, England. Checks in U.S. dollars to Jennie; checks in sterling to John (or any other nation's currency, John notes).
6188. One of the nice things about modern technology is that it allows Sherlockian (and other) authors access to broader audiences than is possible with ink-on-paper publication. John Hall's monograph *140 DIFFERENT VARIETIES* (on the use of tobacco in the Canon) was published as pamphlet in 1994 by the Northern Musgraves, and can now be read on the World Wide Web at the Pipe Digest home page at <<http://www.pipes.org>>.
6189. Luci Zahray kindly forwarded an excerpt from the list of items available at Mark Hime's booth at the New York International Antiquarian Book Fair last April: a fine, bright copy of the first edition of *THE MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* (\$2,250); one of the 147 sets of *THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES* (1953) with Conan Doyle's signature (\$2,750); and the almost-complete manuscript of "The Valley of Fear" (\$525,000). They may still be available; you can write to *Bibliotopus*, 2142 Century Park Lane, Century City, CA 90067.

6190. Pepper & Stern are offering books from the library of Nigel Bruce, including his copies of the first editions of THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1892) and THE MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1894), at \$6,500 for the set. More reasonable, perhaps, is his wife Bunny's signed copy of THE BEDSIDE BOOK OF FAMOUS BRITISH STORIES (1940), with "The Speckled Band", at \$150. Pepper & Stern's address is 1980 Cliff Drive #224, Santa Barbara, CA 93109 <psbookwest@aol.com>.
6191. THE KINGS' TALES, by Phillip and Robert King (London: B. T. Batsford, 1994; 142 pp.), is a collection of bridge-problem pastiches, done in the styles of authors such as Chandler, Runyon, Wodehouse, Asimov, Kafka, and Coward, and one of them is "A Study in Sherlock". \$20.95 postpaid from Trafalgar Square, Howe Hill Road, North Pomfret, VT 05053 (800-423-4525).
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August 1996 #5

6192. The BBC has ended its educational daytime programs on Radio 3 FM, but continues to broadcast School Radio programs at night (when teachers can make off-the-air recordings for later use). And "Music Workshop" will offer "Sherlock Holmes and the Rogues Gallery" at 3:00-3:20 am Fridays from Sept. 20 to Nov. 29 ("Holmes and Watson unravel a mystery, set in Victorian London, as we do a spot of musical detection; the musical focus is pitch and structure"). BBC Educational Publishing (P.O. Box 234, Wetherby, West Yorks. LS23 7EU, England) mentions teacher's notes, radio tapes, pupils' booklets, and music workshop cassettes in the catalog covering this series and many others on BBC radio and television.
6193. The Conan DoYLES liked Mercedes-Benz cars: Sir Arthur owned one, and his sons Denis and Adrian owned and raced four of them. One of the sons' cars is preserved in the collection at the Mercedes-Benz Museum in Stuttgart, and that's where another one was sold in April at an auction conducted by Brooks of London. Their 1934-35 7.1-litre supercharged Mercedes-Benz type 'SSK' two-seat competition Spyder rated four full pages in the auction catalog, with photographs of the car as it looks now, and when they raced it in England and Ireland. And there is some evidence that when the car was built for Denis and Adrian, Mercedes-Benz used the engine from Sir Arthur's older and more sedate car. Adrian sold the car in 1948, and it has been in the hands of collectors ever since; it was fully restored in 1990, and then was driven in rallies in England and Europe. The catalog described the car as "an immediately usable, reliable, and spectacular thoroughbred mount, ideal for a full programme of vintage motor sporting events of all kinds." And it sold for 1.2 million deutschmarks (about \$813,600).
6194. The Montague Street Lodgers of Brooklyn celebrated their tenth anniversary last year, and commemorated the event with a souvenir magnifying glass (5.25" long) \$7.00 postpaid from Peter Crupe (checks payable to him, please), at 1533 64th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11219-5709.
6195. Masamichi Higurashi has helped to make some American pastiches available in Japan, providing translations for Edward B. Hanna's THE WHITECHAPEL HORRORS in two volumes (Tokyo: Fusosha, 1996; 336/312 pp., Y560/Y540), and Randall Collins' THE CASE OF THE PHILOSOPHER'S RING (Tokyo: Kawade Shobo Shinsha, 1996); 272 pp., Y700). Masamichi also has translated four stories [RedH/Twis/Blue/Silv] for HOLMES THE GREAT DETECTIVE (Tokyo: Kodansha, 1996; 224 pp., Y560) in a children's series; the book has attractive illustrations by Hitoshi Wakana and "Ki".
6196. For Jeremy Brett fans: Ashley Lynn Decker reports that the episode of "The Incredible Hulk" on the Sci-Fi Channel on Sept. 16 will be "Of Guilt, Models and Murders" (with Brett in the cast).
6197. Collectors seeking specific old, used, and rare books have long relied on book-search firms, and now there's an electronic equivalent on the World Wide Web at <<http://www.bibliofind>>. Dealers post what they have in the data base, and you can run a search on-line (and if you don't find what you're looking for, you can put a want-list on file).
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August 1996 #6

6198. CSA Telltapes has issued another set of Sherlockian audiocassettes: THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, EPISODE TWO has two cassettes with three stories ("The Cardboard Box", "The Man with the Twisted Lip", and "The Bruce-Partington Plans") read by Edward Hardwicke, who as always does a splendid job with the text and voices; £9.00 postpaid, from CSA Telltapes, 101 Chamberlayne Road, London NW10 3ND, England. SIX GREAT ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES has the earlier and the current cassettes, at £14.00 postpaid. The cassettes also are available in stores in the United States at \$12.00/\$19.95; the distributor is Cimino Publishing, Box 174, Carle Place, NY 11514; \$14.00/\$22.95 postpaid.
6199. Robert C. Hess (559 Potter Boulevard, Brightwaters, NY 11718) offers a new sales list, with figurines, statues, programs, posters, lobby cards, books, magazines, and other Sherlockiana.
6200. Sonia Fetherston reports that the new film "A Very Brady Sequel" has Jesse Lee (Bobby Brady) with deerstalker and magnifying glass while he searches for Cindy's missing Kitty Carry-All doll (which also wears a deerstalker). The film is a sequel to "The Brady Bunch Movie" (1995), which of course was a sequel to the television sit-com series "The Brady Bunch" (1969-1974). I've not yet heard any rumors of a television series sequel to the films.
6201. And Susan Dahlinger reports that in the new film "The Island of Dr. Moreau" Val Kilmer (Douglas) explains the "dog in the night-time" Sherlockism to a group of Moreau's genetic "children".
6202. William Seil has reported that his pastiche SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE TITANIC TRAGEDY is available for \$14.95 (postage extra) from Breese Books, 164 Kensington Park Road, London W11 2ER, England (credit-card orders accepted). According to Bill, the 256-page book also is carried by some of the mystery and other bookshops in the United States.
6203. Enola Stewart (Gravesend Books, Box 235 Pocono Pines, PA 18350) has issued a new catalog offering lots of rare, unusual, and interesting Sherlockiana and other material, much of it from the collection of Julian Wolff, who was for many years the leader of The Baker Street Irregulars, and editor of The Baker Street Journal.
6204. John Farrell has discovered an intriguing CD issued by Channel Classics in 1995: "Modern Times: Dutch Jewish Composers 1928-1943" (CCS 7995); the contents include "Deux Homages" for solo piano by Leo Smit, and one of them is "a Sherlock Holmes" (a Charleston written in 1928).
6205. Forecast for September: SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE RED DEMON (a new pastiche by Larry Millett) from Viking/Penguin, \$22.95; THE LOST WORLD (the sequel to Michael Crichton's JURASSIC PARK) in paperback from Ballantine, \$7.99; THE LIST OF 7 (the Conan Doyle pastiche by Mark Frost) reissued in paperback from Avon, \$5.99. And David Stuart Davies' BENDING THE WILLOW: JEREMY BRETT AS SHERLOCK HOLMES (Calabash Press, 192 pp., £19.99) will have its launch party at Crime in Store in London on Oct. 23.
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September 1996 #1

6206. "Sherlock Holmes: The Musical" has returned. Leslie Bricusse was hired by MGM to write a new score for a film version of the musical "Baker Street" (1964), but the film was never produced, and Bricusse eventually used his songs in "Sherlock Holmes: The Musical" (1988), which received lukewarm reviews in London and the provinces. And "The Revenge of Sherlock Holmes" appears from the program to be a restaging of the musical; the new version was produced at the Bristol Old Vic in Mar. 1993 (but not reported by any local Sherlockians), and then in May 1996 at the Little Theatre in Gateshead (noted in a newspaper article recently forwarded by Jon Lellenberg). Samuel French Ltd., is handling licensing for amateur productions.
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6207. The August Derleth Society commemorated the 25th anniversary of Derleth's death last June in Sauk City, with a tour of his home "Place of Hawks" and a visit to his grave, according to an article in the local paper, at hand from George Vanderburgh. Peter Ruber, one of Derleth's editors, noted that "Derleth's genius was in storytelling, whether he wrote about the people of his home town or detective stories or stories of the macabre and the supernatural." Some of those detective stories will be found in the Solar Pons saga, of course. Membership in the society (including the quarterly newsletter) costs \$10.00 a year; Box 481, Sauk City, WI 53583.
6208. Plan ahead: Theatre Aquarius will present 19 performances of Tim Kelly's dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" in Hamilton, Ont., on Feb. 12-Mar. 1, 1997; the box-office address is 190 King William Street, Hamilton, ON L8R 1A8, Canada (800-465-7529).
6209. The summer 1996 issue of the Amherst alumni magazine has an amusing item about Henry Ward Beecher, who in addition to being admired by Watson was an Amherst graduate (1834) and author of the novel NORWOOD, "of which he characteristically remarked, 'People used to say that I had had a hand in [my sister's] writing of UNCLE TOM'S CABIN, but when NORWOOD was published I heard no more talk of this kind.'"
6210. The Friends of Bogie's (Andrew Joffe, Sarah Montague, and Paul Singleton) have been delighting Sherlockian audiences for a dozen years with inspired pastiches and parodies (such as a retelling of some of the Canonical tales in the styles of Shakespeare, Pinter, Joyce, Chandler, and Milne), and you can hear and enjoy their humor on five audiocassettes (THE FOB'S ON BAKER STREET, THE FOB'S RETURN TO BAKER STREET, THE ADVENTURES OF THE FOB'S ON BAKER STREET, THE MEMOIRS OF THE FOB'S ON BAKER STREET, and THE CASEBOOK OF THE FOB'S ON BAKER STREET), each also with a poetic account of one of the cases by Baker Street bard Henry W. Enberg. The cassettes cost \$8.95 each (or \$35.00 for all five) plus \$2.00 shipping per order, from Andrew Joffe, 340 East 63rd Street, New York, NY 10021.
6211. Christopher Morley turns up in unexpected places: USAir had "Kitty Foyle" (1940) as one of the in-flight movies (well, they're in-flight television now) on trans-Atlantic and trans-continental flights in July. And in the N.Y. Times Magazine (Aug. 4): Charles Harrington Elster reports in his "On Language" column that Morley minted the word "infracaninophile" (a champion of the underdog) in his preface to THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES (1930).

September 1996 #2

6212. One of the most delightful of the Sherlockian bibliohoaxes is THE PRACTICAL HANDBOOK OF BEE CULTURE: WITH SOME OBSERVATIONS UPON THE SEGREGATION OF THE QUEEN, by Sherlock Holmes (London: Methuen & Co., 1911), actually published by Remsen Ten Eyck Schenck in an edition so limited that the few fortunate recipients were warned never to reveal the source of the rarity. And the book was real: the title page was reproduced in the Sept. 1966 issue of The Baker Street Journal, and the book is cited in THE UNIVERSAL SHERLOCK HOLMES, and Julian Wolff's copy was advertised by Enola Stewart in 1993. Enola, with help from British bee-books specialists Betty and Karl Showler, eventually was able to find the source of Schenck's clever forgery: Kenneth K. Clark's handbook on BEEKEEPING (Harmondsworth: Penguin Books, 1951), a post-war paperback that Schenck had bound in cloth after substituting a new title-page. Copies of Clark's book turn up from time to time, and the Showlers now offer THE CASE OF THE HOLMES BEE BOOK: a carefully crafted box containing Clark's BEEKEEPING and a 28-page pamphlet with a detailed discussion of the affair. \$60.00 postpaid (checks payable to Karl Showler, please) from B & K Books, Riverside, Newport Street, Hayon-Wye, via Hereford HR3 5BG, England. But note: there's a waiting list, with orders filled as more copies of Clark's book turn up.
6213. SHERLOCK HOLMES: VICTORIAN SLEUTH TO MODERN HERO was the title of a fine conference held at Bennington College in Vermont in June 1994, and it is the title of a collection of papers presented at the conference, edited by Charles A. Putney, Sally Sugarman, and Joseph A. Cutshall King, members of The Baker Street Breakfast Club (Lanham: Scarecrow Press, 1996; 356 pp., \$34.50); \$37.50 postpaid from the publisher, 4720 Boston Way, Lanham, MD 20706 (800-462-6420).
6214. Video-taper alert: the latest issue of Anglofile reports that "Nightmare! The Birth of Victorian Horror" will air on A&E cable on Oct. 28-31 (and on BBC-1, probably); this is a four-part mini-series with Christopher Frayling as host, examining Mary Shelley's "Frankenstein", Bram Stoker's "Dracula", Robert Louis Stevenson's "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde", and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (actors impersonating Conan Doyle and Fletcher Robinson were filmed in Sept. 1995 at the Links Hotel in West Runton, and John Nettles plays Sherlock Holmes). Anglofile is a monthly newsletter with detailed coverage of British entertainment; \$12.00 a year (Box 33515, Decatur, GA 30033).
6215. The Gainesville Children's Theatre will perform Suzan L. Zeder's play "The Death and Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1987) at the Pearce Auditorium on the Brenau University Campus in Gainesville, Ga. on Oct. 11-12 (six school performances on Oct. 8-10 have already been sold out). The box-office address is Box 2267, Gainesville, GA 30503 (770-503-1118).
6216. Further to the mention of IMAGES OF AMERICA: POTTSVILLE (July 96 #5), Bruce Aikin notes that IMAGES OF AMERICA: NIAGARA FALLS, by Daniel M. Dumych (Dover: Arcadia Publishing, 1996; \$16.99) also has fine period photographs of a place mentioned in two Sherlock Holmes stories ("A Study in Scarlet" and "The Cardboard Box"); the publisher's address is One Washington Center, Dover, NH 03820. There is a person named in Canon who visited Niagara Falls many times, and was famous for what he did there. Who was he? and what did he do there? I'll give the answer on the next page.

September 1996 #3

6217. Victoria Gill has forwarded an item from the Toronto Globe and Mail (Aug. 20): filming has started in Winnipeg on a 13-episode children's mystery series "The Adventures of Shirley Holmes" (with Meredith Henderson as Shirley Holmes, the 12-year-old great grandniece of Sherlock Holmes); like her ancestor, Shirley is brilliant and eccentric and wants to become the world's greatest detective. The 30-minute series will air next year on YTV cable in Canada.
6218. Queen Victoria was discussing the Diamond Jubilee with the Bishop of Winchester, and she asked him, "From what point did you see the procession?" And then, recollecting, she said, "Oh! you were on the steps of St. Paul's. I was unfortunate -- I had a very bad place and saw nothing." That's only one of the stories in THE JUBILEE YEARS 1887-1897, compiled by Roger Hudson and published by The Folio Society to celebrate its own 50th anniversary. It's lavishly illustrated, and costs \$57.00, and available only to members of the Society (Box 694, Holmes, PA 19043) (800-353-0700), but it will be found in used-book shops eventually, and it looks like a grand view of the world of Sherlock Holmes.
6219. Christopher Roden reports that the Calabash Press will publish collections of fine articles from Baker Street Miscellanea, Canadian Holmes, and Wheelwrightings within the next eighteen months, and that all major articles in the journals will be reprinted in the book. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London also is preparing to publish a similar volume of articles reprinted from The Sherlock Holmes Journal, so the next two years will be banner ones for "best of" books.
6220. Sorry about that: I gave an incorrect World Wide Web address for the electronic equivalent of a book-search firm (August 96 #6). The correct address is <<http://www.bibliofind.com>>.
6221. Thomas M. McDade ("The Dancing Men") died on Mar. 2. He was an FBI agent in the 1930s, in the days when the G-Men battled Public Enemies, and then became an attorney and a writer. He won an Edgar from the Mystery Writers of America for his book THE ANNALS OF MURDER, and his article

on "Sherlock Holmes and the F.B.I." appeared in Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine in 1957 (the same year in which he received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars).

6222. The Bull-Terrier Club of Boston University returned to Newport, R.I., on Sept. 7 for its second annual polo outing, and enjoyed a thoroughly rainy afternoon (thanks to Hurricane Fran) rather than a polo match. A revised edition of their (now 20-page) booklet that explores the history of this Canonical sport is available for \$2.50 postpaid from W. Scott Monty, 1836 Columbia Road #2, South Boston, MA 02127-4342.
6223. Who visited Niagara Falls many times, and was famous for what he did there? Blondin (mentioned in "The Sign of the Four"). Jean Francois Gravelet was a French acrobat who performed as Blondin and won the title "Hero of Niagara" when he crossed the Falls on a tightrope many times in 1859 and 1860. If you would like to know more about him, I recommend "Blondin, Prince of Manila" in Vincent Starrett's BOOKMAN'S HOLIDAY: THE PRIVATE SATISFACTIONS OF AN INCURABLE COLLECTOR (New York: Random House, 1942).
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September 1996 #4

6224. Planning continues for the "Devil's Foot Congress" in Guildford (near Perth) in Western Australia on Oct. 4-6, 1997, should you need a good excuse for a trip to the Antipodes. Douglas Sutherland-Bruce (P.O. Box 74, Sawyers Valley, W.A. 6074, Australia) will be happy to send more information about plans for the festivities.
6225. Cadds Printing has issued THE SHERLOCK HOLMES DIARY 1997, with page size 6 x 8.25". and a page for each week, with small illustrations (most by Paget) and Canonical dates and quotes. Available from the publisher (59 Lancaster Avenue, West Norwood, London SE27 9EL, England) for \$14.00 postpaid (checks payable to Hugh Scullion, please); the Filofax version is \$13.00 postpaid.
6226. Kathleen Zacharias (Tribute Portrait Studio, Box 1153, Lawrence, KS 66044) offers an attractive full-color tribute to Jeremy Brett on a hockey shirt (XL); \$18.00 postpaid.
6227. "Mr. Milne pooh-poohs my fears...." is an unexpected bit of wordplay noted by Mary Lee Herrick in a posting to the Gaslight electronic mailing list -- and the wordplay certainly is unexpected from an author who hadn't had a chance to read A. A. Milne's WINNIE THE POOH. The author was Arthur Conan Doyle, in "The Captain of the Pole-Star" (1883).
6228. The current catalog from Seventh Avenue (1112 Seventh Avenue, Monroe, WI 53566-1364) has a Sherlockian photograph on the front cover (but nothing Sherlockian in the catalog).
6229. David Pearson notes that Far-Out Flix (404 Cooper Road, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603) offers John Neville's "A Study in Terror" (1965) on a cassette for \$20.00 plus \$4.00 shipping (much less than the \$69.99 asked by other companies). Far-Out Flix also offers "The Deadly Bees" (1967), with screenplay by Robert Bloch based on H. F. Heard's novel A TASTE FOR HONEY; the only problem is that Mr. Mycroft doesn't appear in the film (but he was in Bloch's script -- Anthony Marriott was brought in to "juice up" the script and Bloch once told me that he had never seen his "deformed offspring"). And Movies Unlimited (6736 Castor Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19149; 800-523-0823) offers "Movie Madness Mystery" at \$19.99; this is the L.A. Connection version of Basil Rathbone's "The Woman in Green" with new dialogue supplied by parodists.
6230. Richard Lancelyn Green's CONAN DOYLE OF UPPER WIMPOLE STREET (August 94 #6) is a well-researched 20-page booklet issued to commemorate the unveiling of a plaque at Conan Doyle's surgery in London, and it's still available (\$7.00 postpaid) from The Arthur Conan Doyle Society, at Ashcroft, 2 Abbottsford Drive, Penyffordd, Chester, CH4 0JG, England); \$7.00 postpaid.
6231. "Currently on a tour of South America, the Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, thought of an apt gift for one of his hosts, the Argentinian Foreign Minister. The pair went to visit the Iguazu Falls on the border between Argentina and Brazil on Saturday, and afterwards Rifkind handed over a copy of THE MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, carefully marking the famous fight scene between the detective and Moriarty at the Reichenbach Fall in Switzerland." From the [London] Times, Apr. 15, 1996.
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September 1996 #5

6232. Jim Vogelsang reports that the "Wishbone: A Classic Hero!" wall calendar for 1997 has Wishbone (the star of the imaginative PBS children's television series) in Sherlockian costume at Sept. 1997 (Landmark Calendars, \$10.99); and a new stuffed-toy Wishbone in Sherlockian costume, in a box designed as a stage, from Equity Toys (\$19.99 at Toys R Us, and likely at other toy stores). And Jennie Paton reports that Wishbone is a Wendy's (that's the fast-food chain), as part of their kid's meal motif, with one of the prizes being a little "photo book" with one page for "The Slobbery Hound" and a stick-on Sherlockian costume for Wishbone.
6233. Reported by Ralph Hall: a Sherlockian Word Search in the Oct. 1996 issue of Games. Michael Mallory's pastiche "The Adventure of the Damsel in Grey" (told by Watson's wife Amelia) in the summer 1996 issue of Murderous Intent (Box 5947, Vancouver, WA 98668; \$5.00). STAR IN YOUR OWN ADVENTURE: THE HAUNTED SCHOOL, written by Caroline Rose, illustrations by Mike Dorey (Barron's, \$14.95); a children's book that comes in a plastic kit with a 35mm camera (and a Sherlockian illustration on the cover). The NATE THE GREAT series by Marjorie Weinman Sharmat and Rosalind Weinman have been reissued by Bantam Doubleday Dell (\$3.99) in new printings with covers that differ from the earlier printings.
6234. Vincent Bugliosi won 105 of 106 felony jury trials will at the Los Angeles district attorney's office (Charles Manson was one of the many criminals he helped to convict), and wrote the recent best-seller OUTRAGE: THE FIVE REASONS WHY O.J. SIMPSON GOT AWAY WITH MURDER, and (according to the Sept. 16 issue of People), his inquisitive part-Siamese cat is named Sherlock.
6235. Larry Millett's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE RED DEMON (New York: Viking, 1996; 318 pp., \$22.95) is yet another long-lost manuscript, found in a safe hidden in the wall of the James J. Hill mansion in St. Paul; Hill was a 19thcentury railroad magnate who brought Holmes and Watson to Minnesota to help save the Great North Railway from an insane arsonist. Holmes becomes an expert on American railroads, and on the logging industry, and faces dire perils, and manages to save the railroad.
6236. 221B BAKER STREET: THE MASTER DETECTIVE GAME is now available in a pocketsize version from by Gibsons Games (£14.95 in the catalog from The Sherlock Holmes Memorabilia Company, 230 Baker Street, London NW1 5RT, England); the board game was designed by Antler Productions for the John N. Hansen Co. in 1977, and appeared in a video version in 1987, and was issued full-size in England in 1992.
6237. Further to earlier reports (January 96 #7 and August 96 #1) on the new film "Illumination" (also known as "One Golden Afternoon"), now in production with Peter O'Toole as Conan Doyle and Harvey Keitel, Mel Gibson has been added to the cast in a small role as the father of the two girls who created the Cottingley fairies and fooled Conan Doyle and many others. And articles at hand from Mel Hughes report that shooting has started in Britain on "Photographing Fairies" (adapted from Steve Szilagyi's book); Conan Doyle and his daughter Mary are incidental characters in the book, which is well-written fantasy rather than a fictionalized account (August 92 #6). Toby Stephens, Emily Woof, Ben Kingsley, Frances Barber, and Phil Davies will star in the film (there's no word yet on whether the Conan DoYLES will be characters).
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September 1996 #6

6238. Brenda Forbes died on Sept. 11. She began her acting career in 1927, and made her Broadway debut as a loyal maid in Katharine Cornell's "The Barretts of Wimpole Street" (1931); she was Madge Larrabee in Orson Welles' radio adaptation of "Sherlock Holmes" (1938), and appeared in "Aren't We All" on Broadway with Rex Harrison, Claudette Colbert, and Jeremy Brett in 1985.
6239. Filming is now underway on a new version of "The Day of the Jackal" (1973), which centered on a plot to assassinate French president Charles de Gaulle. The new film will star Bruce Willis as the assassin, Sidney Poitier as the FBI deputy director, and Richard Gere as the former Irish Republican Army commando who helps Poitier track down the assassin. There's no word yet on the target of the assassin, but it would appear to be someone other than de Gaulle. Nor is there any word on whether the new film will follow the book written by Frederick Forsythe (1971), in which the Jackal's rifle is smuggled in the country in an aluminum crutch.
6240. THE SHERLOCK HOLMES IQ BOOK, by Eamonn Butler and Madsen Pirie, previously published in England (April 95 #1), now has an American edition (New York: Carroll & Graf, 1996; 193 pp., \$9.95); the book used summaries of Canonical cases as introductions to 74 Mensa-type puzzles.
6241. THE BOURBON BULLION BAFFLEMENT is the latest round-robin pastiche written by six members of The Pleasant Places of Florida; \$6.00 postpaid from Ben Wood, Box 740, Ellenton, FL 24222. Ben also offers SHERLOCK ON STAMPS (a presentation folder with color reproductions of all the stamps that honor Sherlock Holmes); \$2.50 postpaid. And he still has a few copies of the new Commonwealth of Dominica sheetlet with the stamp showing Basil Rathbone as Sherlock Holmes; \$7.50 postpaid.
6242. "You're Sherlock Holmes, and the game is afoot, but you're not in 19th-century London any more. Thanks to H. G. Wells' time machine, you're in 20th-century America, tackling 20 true unsolved crimes," according to the blurb for 221B BAKER ST.: SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE TIME MACHINE, a new version of the board game first marketed 20 years ago by John N. Hansen Co. \$34.95 in stores, and the current catalog from Bits & Pieces, 1 Puzzle Place, Stevens Point, WI 54481 (800-544-7297).
6243. This year's Christmas card from The Sherlock Holmes Society of London will again be in full color, with another attractive watercolor by Douglas West, showing Holmes and Watson arriving to question Breckinridge about his geese (in "The Blue Carbuncle"). The cost is \$13.50 postpaid for ten cards (or £5.50 to the U.K., £6.00 to Europe, £7.00 elsewhere); checks payable to the Society, please, and orders should be sent to Cdr. G. S. Stavert, 3 Outram Road, Southsea, Hants. PO5 1QP, England.
6244. Sherlock Holmes appeared in one of the new programs that debuted on Sept. 14 in the one-hour "Great Books" television series on The Learning Channel. Not because the Canon made the list of Great Books, but rather in the program devoted to "Plato's Republic": narrator Donald Sutherland noted (over a clip showing Rathbone and Bruce) that "Even Arthur Conan Doyle, creator of Sherlock Holmes, pays tribute when Dr. Watson quotes Plato to describe his detective friend as 'the best and wisest man I have ever known.'"

September 1996 #7

6245. Former Senator Rudy Boschwitz won easily in the Republican primary on Sept. 10 in Minnesota, winning 80 percent of the vote against four challengers. He will now face Democratic Sen. Paul Wellstone in November, hoping to regain his Senate seat as well as his status as the highest-ranking elected politician who's a Sherlockian (Boschwitz attended meetings of The Red Circle when he was in the Senate in the 1980s).
6246. "Dangermouse, the world's greatest detective, and his faithful assistant, Penfold, the world's most obvious coward, operate from a letterbox on Baker Street, helping their boss, Colonel K, solve crimes that range from exploding custard that is taking over the world to a weather machine run amok." Dangermouse was created by Brian Cosgrove and Mark Hall in 1981, and was the star of a ten-minute animated cartoon series that aired in Britain, and later on Nickelodeon cable in the United States. And he is one of five children's television characters on a set of stamps issued this year in Britain.
6247. Mark Frost's THE 6 MESSIAHS (a sequel to his THE LIST OF SEVEN) is now out in paperback (New York: Avon, 1996; 423 pp., \$6.99); the book is alternate universe fantasy, opening in 1894, with Conan Doyle about to leave England for his tour of the United States, and the story involves him in a struggle to possess the mystical Book of Zohar, and to prevent the end of the world. The title-page verso mentions an Avon Book special printing in Feb. 1996; does anyone know what this was?
6248. George A. Vanderburgh has published a 32-page Fall Price List with details on publications available from The Battered Silicon Dispatch Box; Box 204, Shelburne, ON L0N 1S0, Canada <gav@gbd.com>.
6249. Robert S. Gellerstedt, Jr., (1035 Wedgewood Drive, Fayetteville, GA 30214) has tucked away in his computer some nice indexes to various Sherlockian anthologies, and to the obituaries published in The Baker Street Journal, and to the recorded cases, all included in an updated version of his earlier THE SHERLOCKIAN ANTHOLOGIES INDEX (August 94 #2); \$5.00 postpaid (in the United States) for a print-out.
6250. Takahiko Endo reports that the World Brick Museum (August 96 #1) is in Maizuru (in case you're planning to visit Japan, and have been wondering about The Guardian's misspelling of the town's name). Maizuru is about 100 minutes by train from Kyoto.
6251. Canadians have been enjoying CBC Radio's "The Mystery Project" on Saturdays at 6:30 pm: the series started Sept. 7, and offers rebroadcasts of the 1954 BBC radio programs with John Gielgud as Holmes and Ralph Richardson as Watson.
6252. Reports of his death were greatly exaggerated: Vasily LivaNovember did not die in 1995 (October 95 #2), but is in fact alive and well. According to Peter A. Kartsev, reporting from Moscow, LivaNovember was interviewed on television there on Sept. 11, discussing his latest project (a Russian-Bulgarian co-production of "Don Quixote"). He starred as Holmes in a series of dramatizations of Canonical stories on Soviet television from 1979 to 1985.

September 1996 #8

6253. SUPERNATURAL SLEUTHS, edited by Charles G. Waugh and Martin H. Greenberg (New York: Roc, 1996; 348 pp., \$5.99), has "14 mysterious cases of uncanny crimes," including a reprint of "The Adventure of the Ball of Nostradamus" (a 1955 science-fiction Solar Pons story written by August Derleth and Mack Reynolds). MURDER BY THE BOOK, an anthology edited by Cynthia Manson (New York: Berkley, 1996; 326 pp., \$5.99), includes Penelope Wallace's "The World of Uncle Albert" (which starts "My uncle was mad about Sherlock Holmes").
6254. "We all know that the year 1891 was Holmes' worst year," Caroline Gassner suggests, "having to do all that running from Moriarty, baritsu fighting at the edge of a cliff, and faking his death. We would like to know what you think is the *second* worst year of Holmes's life, and why." That will be the theme of this year's "Unhappy Birthday You Bastard Celebration" by The Brothers Three of Moriarty, in Moriarty (of course), in November. You all are invited to send your papers/diatribes/poems/songs/rants to C. B. Gassner (P.O. Drawer G, Corrales, N.M. 87048), to arrive by Nov. 1. The Brothers Three, founded by the late John Bennett Shaw, continue to dishonor Moriarty on or near his birthday (deduced by John to have been Halloween), and all those attending wear name-tags reading "James".
6255. Billy Childish and Thee Headcoats made an appearance at Bimbo's 365 Club in San Francisco on Aug. 8, according to a "nightlife" item noted by Mike Kean in the San Francisco Chronicle. According to the paper, they have made their mark "in the world of alternative music on the strength of

Childish's offbeat obsessions (Native Americans, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle) and the driving force of their post-punk sound, influenced by such diverse types as Link Wray, Leadbelly, and the Cure."

6256. The University of Iowa Press still offers two excellent books: LETTERS TO THE PRESS (1986), edited by John Michael Gibson and Richard Lancelyn Green (a 383-page collection of Conan Doyle's letters to newspapers and magazines on non-Sherlockian topics), \$37.95; and THE SHERLOCK HOLMES LETTERS (1987), edited by Richard Lancelyn Green (a 272-page collection of Sherlockian letters to the press by others), \$32.95. Shipping is \$3.50 for one book, and \$4.00 for two; the address of the press is 119 West Park Road, Iowa City, IA 52242 <kate-capps@uiowa.edu>.
6257. Further to the mention (May 96 #2) of Mary Frost-Pierson's demonstration at Malice Domestic of the nice things that Mysteries from the Yard was making available America Online, Mary notes that "AOL cancelled MFTY Online after nine months of operation, due to our inability to attract a large enough audience quickly enough." But Mary hopes to be able to open her own online mystery site if she can find a corporate sponsor.
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October 1996 #1

6258. "A Saturday with Sherlock Holmes" will be the 17th annual program of talks and panel discussions presented by The Six Napoleons and The Carlton Club at the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore on Nov. 16. This year's theme will be "50 Years with the Master" (honoring the 50th anniversary of The Six Napoleons); the program begins at 10:00 am with a coffee hour in the Edgar Allan Poe Room at the Library (at 400 Cathedral Street), and there's no admission charge for the festivities.
6259. Australia issued two attractive stamps showing opals last year (June 95 #3), and now the series has continued with stamps showing a pearl and a diamond. There are many mentions of pearls and diamonds in the Canon, and it's nice to think that some of the Canonical gems might have been Australian.
6260. Further to the mention (July 96 #2) of temporary tattoos, David McCallister has reported (someone else's) real Sherlockian tattoo: a photograph of a rather Brettish Holmes, with Watson, shown on p. 96 in Chris Wroblewski's SKIN SHOWS III (London: Virgin, 1993); the endnotes state that the artist was "Ian of Reading", and that the tattoo is owned by Jim Laird, address unknown.
6261. EXITS & ENTRANCES is the latest volume of verse from the Pequod Press, and consists mostly of Canonical examples of such, save when the author's protean skills lead him astray, and the obligatory homage to Poe." The author also sets type and prints and binds the books. \$40.00 (cloth) or \$20.00 (paper) postpaid from John Ruyle, 521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707.
6262. The new BBC "Sherlock Holmes" videocassette provides a fine opportunity to see two of their 50-minute programs ("The Speckled Band" and "The Illustrious Client") broadcast in 1964, with Douglas Wilmer as Sherlock Holmes and Nigel as Dr. Watson. It is nice to be reminded of what television was like in the 1960s (black-and-white, and slower-paced, and lower-budgeted), and to be able to compare the scripts, direction, production, and acting in the BBC programs with the same stories in the Granada series. The BBC cassette costs £14.99 (shipping extra) from BBC Video, Box 44, Leatherhead, Surrey KT22 7AE, England (credit-card orders welcome). But (alas): the cassette is available only in the British PAL system (rather than the American NTSC format); the BBC apparently has no plans to distribute the cassette to the American market.
6263. I should note that the Douglas Wilmer programs (and lots of other Sherlockian video) can be borrowed on American-format NTSC cassettes from the lending library maintained by Jennie C. Paton (206 Loblolly Lane, Statesboro, GA 30458-4247). There's a charge of \$5.50 for shipping, and you get to keep a cassette for a day or two, and then you pay the return postage. But there may well be a waiting list for something that's in high demand (such as the Douglas Wilmer cassette, right now).
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October 1996 #2

6264. Basil Rathbone on the Baker Street Irregulars: "They are bores. Why, those fellows do not even recognise Sir Arthur Conan Doyle as the creator of Holmes. They say that Watson, Watson, mind you, was his creator. I'm a life member, you know. But I haven't attended one of their ridiculous meetings." Quoted in an interview with Jim Keep in the Australalasian Post, Oct. 6, 1960.
6265. Gertrude Mahoney reports that a new catalog from Expressions from Potpourri offers a Limoges porcelain deerstalker, 2.5 in. long, with a magnifying-glass clasp and an even smaller pipe. Item 172882, \$225.00; the address is 120 North Meadows Road, Medfield, MA 02052 (800-338-2699).
6266. Dick Lesh reports that the new catalog from Signals (Box 64428, Saint Paul, MN 55164) (800-669-9696) now offers the cupro-nickel version of the eight one-crown Sherlock Holmes coins issued by Gibraltar (November 94 #3), for \$89.90 postpaid.
6267. Walter Kerr died on Oct. 9. In 1939 he began his theatrical career teaching speech and drama at Catholic University, and in 1951 joined the staff of the N.Y. Herald Tribune as a theater critic; when the Herald Tribune stopped publishing in 1966, he moved to the N.Y. Times, retiring in 1983. His body of work won him the Pulitzer Prize for criticism in 1978, and the Walter Kerr Theater in Manhattan was named in his honor in 1990. "He was a man who loved the theater," his friend, theater-caricaturist Al Hirschfeld, once said. "Even if you didn't agree with what he said, you wanted to see the show, because the review was so well written." And some of those wellwritten reviews were devoted to Rathbone's "Sherlock Holmes" (1953), the musical "Baker Street" (1964), the Royal Shakespeare Company's "Sherlock Holmes" (1974 and 1975), and "The Crucifer of Blood (1978). In 1978 Kerr noted that "Sherlock Holmes is a legendary figure of fiction, so powerful a legend that we take him as almost real: the pretense that he *is* real has spurred countless reincarnations at other hands, has gleefully supported a society devoted to continuing admiration and the further recording of his activities."
6268. The latest issue of Anglofile reports that MYSTERY! A CELEBRATION, by Ron Miller (KQED Books, \$24.95) will be in book stores in November (one would of course assume that Granada's "Sherlock Holmes" will be one of the many programs celebrated). The book also will be available from WGBH (Boston) by mail order (800-255-9424), but it isn't available yet. Anglofile is a monthly newsletter with detailed coverage of British entertainment; \$12.00 a year (Box 33515, Decatur, GA 30033).
6269. The Credit Lyonnaise (one of the few banks mentioned by name in the Canon) still has problems. The Times [London] suggested earlier that it might be "the world's worst bank" (August 95 #8 and September 95 #7), and now the Washington Post has reported (Oct. 5) that the chairman of the state-owned bank has called for more government funds to bail out the bank, which flourished in the late 1980s and then ran into collapsing property values in the 1990s. The bank has \$17.4 billion in "dud assets" amassed during its expansion.
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October 1996 #3

6270. Michael Atkinson's THE SECRET MARRIAGE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES AND OTHER ECCENTRIC READINGS (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1996; 192 pp., \$29.95) uses the tools of modern literary theory in (according to the publisher) "a series of flirtations" with nine of the Sherlock Holmes stories.
6271. The Eurotunnel opened in 1994, 81 years after Sir Arthur Conan Doyle wrote in The Times that a Channel Tunnel "seems to me to be of such importance that I grudge every day that passes without something having been done to bring it to realization," and the tunnel has now captured 45
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percent of the freight and passenger traffic between England and France. The tunnel also still is deeply in debt, and last year suspended interest payments to its creditor banks (the Washington Post reported on Oct. 12 that the banks have accepted a deal that swaps debt for equity, and now own 45 percent of the Eurotunnel company).

6272. Milt Halpert spotted an interesting design on a Turkish semi-postal stamp issued in February to raise funds to assist the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina. I've not been able to find out just what the symbolism of the design is, but they don't seem to be *our* dancing men . . .
6273. Mary Burke found Holmes and Watson (a photograph of Rathbone and Bruce) in one of the collages on display in Hanne Darboven's "Kulturgeschichte 1880-1983" at the Dia Center for the Arts; the collages are arranged chronologically and Holmes and Watson are among the 1940s cinema subjects. The Dia Center is at 548 West 22nd Street in New York, and the exhibit runs through June 29, 1997.
6274. Femmes Fatales has issued a new catalog of gifts to please any mystery fan (including Sherlockians); their address is (Box 3457, Lakewood, CA 90712) (800-596-3323) <bytocrime@aol.com> <<http://register.com/femfatal>>.
6275. Further to the earlier mention (September 96 #5) of the new film based on Steve Szilagyi's book PHOTOGRAPHING FAIRIES, Christopher Roden has reported that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle will appear in the film, played by Edward Hardwicke in a cameo appearance. Clive Merrison, who plays Holmes on BBC Radio, will be in the film as well, playing the theosophist Edward Gardner. There are actors who have played both Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes, and both Conan Doyle and Inspector Lestrade, but Edward Hardwicke may well be the first to play both Conan Doyle and Dr. Watson.
6276. There are lots of plans afoot for "Lasting Impressions" (the Bootmakers of Toronto Silver Anniversary Weekend on June 26-29, 1997), and a flier now is available with a detailed schedule. The address is Lasting Impressions, 30 Elm Avenue #210, Toronto, ON M4W 1N5, Canada <lasting@syndesis.com> <<http://www.edu.yorku.ca/~li>>.
6277. Tim O'Connor (6015 West Route 115, Herscher, IL 60941) offers a 1997 Baker Street Pages International weekly pocket calendar and pen gift-set. The calendar is 3.5 x 6 in. with a black cover decorated in metallic green (or medium blue or purple) with a Sherlockian collage and coat of arms. \$6.00 each, plus \$1.50 shipping per order.

October 1996 #4

6278. John Baesch, recently in London, reported from the Ritz that he discovered an excellent pizza shop at 197 Baker Street. The pizzas include Marinara, Portafino, and Margherita, but no Sherlock. One does wonder what toppings might be suitable for a Sherlock pizza . . .
6279. Mark Alberstat's 1997 Sherlock Holmes Calendar is illustrated with artwork from The Strand Magazine, and displays important Sherlockian birthdays and William S. Baring-Gould's dates for the cases. The cost is US\$12.00 postpaid, and his address is 5 Lorraine Street, Dartmouth, NS B3A 2B9, Canada.
6280. Luci Zahray reports a six-inch Sherlock Holmes ornament for your Christmas tree in a catalog from Bronner's Christmas Wonderland, Box 176, Frankenmuth, MI 48734 (800-361-6736); \$27.00 plus shipping.
6281. Luci also offers some of the Cadds items from Hugh Scullion: THE SHERLOCK HOLMES JOKE BOOK, by Peter V. Rochford and Hugh S. Scullion [December 95 #4] (\$7.00 postpaid); SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES: --POLITICALLY CORRECT?, by Hugh S. Scullion [July 96 #2] (\$16.00 postpaid); and Sherlockian silhouette stickers (\$2.50 per sheet postpaid) (small size shown here, 81 per sheet; or a larger size, 42 per sheet). Her address is 685 Marylane Drive, Holland, MI 49423.
6282. Kay Sturm notes that Laurie R. King's THE BEEKEEPER'S APPRENTICE (the first in her series about Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes) now is available in a large-print edition (New York: G. K. Hall Large Print Books; \$24.95).
6283. The Commonwealth of Dominica's sheetlet of nine stamps honoring "Legendary Sleuths of the Silver Screen" (July 96 #8), with one stamp showing Sherlock Holmes as portrayed by Basil Rathbone, is available from Bick International (Box 854, Van Nuys, CA 91408) for \$9.95; first day covers cost \$12.95.
6284. "Reading a Sherlock Holmes story and wondering how long a hansom cab ride is from Baker Street to Kensington?" asked the page-a-day calendar for computer buffs on Oct. 15. The University College of London offers a web page called "The London Guide" at <<http://www.cs.ucl.ac.uk/misc.uk/london.html>>.
6285. Don Pendleton died on Oct. 23. Best known as the author of 38 books in the Mack Bolan "Executioner" series, he also wrote an excellent introduction for the Ballantine paperback of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (1975).
6286. Forecast: RIVALS OF DRACULA, edited by Stefan R. Dziemianowicz, Robert E. Weinberg, and Martin Harry Greenberg (from Barnes & Noble in Oct.); with Carole Nelson Douglas' Irene Adler story "Dracula on the Rocks" (reprinted from the 1995 anthology CELEBRITY VAMPIRES).
6287. The first eight audiocassettes in the series MORE NEW ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (June 96 #1) from the fine old 1946-47 radio series that starred Tom Conway and Nigel Bruce still are available (\$9.95 each) from Brilliance Audio at Box 481, Grand Haven, MI 49417 (800-222-3225); and more cassettes are due in the shops in November .

October 1996 #5

6288. Sherlock Holmes' 143rd birthday will be celebrated on Friday, Jan. 10, with the traditional festivities in New York. But the festivities actually will begin on Thursday at 9:00 am at the Hotel Algonquin (59 West 44th Street), whence Allen Mackler and Charlie Shields will lead participants in the annual Christopher Morley Walk, which ends with luncheon at McSorley's. Allen's address is 324 2nd Street NE, Osseo, MN 55369, and from Jan. 7 he will be at the Iroquois Hotel (212-840-3080).
6289. Friday begins with the Martha Hudson Breakfast from 7:00 to 10:00 in the Oak Room at the Hotel Algonquin at 59 West 44th Street; the Algonquin provides its guests with a continental breakfast, and others are welcome to order from the menu (reservations are not required). The William Gillette Memorial Luncheon starts at noon, at Moran's Restaurant at 146 Tenth Avenue at 19th Street; \$35.00 (Susan Rice, 125 Washington Place #2-E, New York, NY 10014). And Otto Penzler's open house at The Mysterious Bookshop (129 West 56th Street) is on Friday, from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm; it is possible that Sherlockian authors will be on hand to sign their books.
6290. The Baker Street Irregulars will gather at 6:00 pm at 24 Fifth Avenue (at 9th Street), and The Baskerville Bash (open to all Sherlockians and their friends) will convene for drinks, dinner, and entertainment at 6:30 pm at Bill's Gay Nineties at 57 East 54th Street between Park and Madison Avenues; \$40.00 (Maribeau Briggs, 46 East 29th Street, 2nd floor, New York, NY 10016). Early reservations are advised for the William Gillette luncheon and the Baskerville Bash.
6291. On Saturday a posse of purveyors will offer a wide variety of S'iana in a room on the second floor of the Algonquin (also known for the occasion as Covent Garden West) from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm; vendor tables are available (Donald B. Izban, 213 Ivy Court, Streamwood, IL 60107). The Baker Street Irregulars will hold their annual reception, open to all Sherlockians and their friends, on Saturday afternoon from 3:00 to 5:30 at the National Arts Club at 15 Gramercy Park (on 20th Street between Park and Third Avenues); open bar, and hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, and the cost is \$35.00 a

person until Dec. 28 (checks payable to the Baker Street Irregulars should be sent to Donald E. Novorsky, 5182 Mahoning Avenue NW, Warren, OH 44483); tickets also will be available at the door, at \$40.00 a person.

6292. The Baker Street Irregulars are a tax-exempt organization, and Tom Stix arranged with the Hotel Algonquin for rooms (single or double) at \$155.00 a night (Wednesday through Saturday); this is the total cost, because no tax is due on reservations made through the BSI. Other charges (such as room service, telephone calls, meals, drinks, etc.) are not covered. The offer is available to all Sherlockians: your reservations, accompanied by payment (to The Baker Street Irregulars) should be sent to Thomas L. Stix, Jr. (see below) to arrive no later than Dec. 16. Please include names, addresses, and phone numbers of occupants, and the type of room (single, double, or twin) desired.
6293. Note: payments to The Baker Street Irregulars for the Algonquin, the annual dinner, and the cocktail party, can be combined and made with one check (in U.S. funds, please) or by international money order, to be sent to the BSI, c/o Thomas L. Stix, Jr., 34 Pierson Avenue, Norwood, NJ 07648.
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October 1996 #6

6294. Mary Ellen Rich has once again kindly provided a list of hotels that offer reasonable (as defined by New York landlords) rates, along with a warning about non-optional extras: \$2.00 a day occupancy tax, 8.25% state tax, and 5% city tax. If you plan to arrive on Thursday, you should confirm the rates, and that the weekend rates include Thursday.
6295. Lexington (511 Lexington Ave. at East 48th St.): \$99 (single-double) (800-448-4471); Radio City Suites (142 West 49th St.: \$97 (studio) \$127 (one bedroom) (212-730-0728); Portland Square (132 West 47th St.): \$89 (single/ double) (212-382-0600); Iroquois (49 West 44th St.): \$85 (single) \$99 (double) \$135 (suite) (800-332-7220) [they anticipate some construction at the beginning of January, and wish to warn guests that there may be some disruption]; Edison (228 West 47th St.): \$81 (single) \$95 (double) (212-840-5000); Pickwick Arms (230 East 51st St.): \$80 (single) \$99 (double) (800-742-5945).
6296. The Dr. John H. Watson Fund offers financial assistance to all Sherlockians (membership in the BSI or the ASH is not required) who might otherwise not be able to participate in the weekend's festivities. A carefully anonymous John H. Watson presides over the fund and welcomes contributions, which can be made by checks payable to John H. Watson and mailed (without return any address on the envelope) to Dr. Watson, c/o Thomas L. Stix, Jr. (address as above); Tom forwards the checks unopened, and Dr. Watson will acknowledge your generosity.
6297. A single page of the manuscript of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" sold at auction at Sotheby's in New York on Oct. 29 for \$14,950 (including the 15% buyer's premium); the page was owned by Victor Jacobs, and is from Chapter VI (pages 107-109 in the first British book edition).
6298. And there's more auction news: two Conan Doyle manuscripts will be sold at auction at Sotheby's on Dec. 4. "The White Company" (estimated at \$60,000-90,000) and "The Sign of the Four" (\$250,000-\$300,000) are from the collection of the late Redmond A. Burke, and came to him from the 1973 auction of the David Gage Joyce collection; "The Sign of the Four" is complete in 160 pages (the first page is a "fair copy" in Conan Doyle's handwriting), and it is accompanied by four letters from Conan Doyle to J. M. Stoddart (who commissioned the story for Lippincott's). The catalog for the Dec. 4 sale will be available soon, and interested bidders can contact Sotheby's (attn: Paul Needham), 1334 York Avenue, New York, NY 10021 (212-606-7385).
6299. I hope you all wished the Earth a happy birthday on Oct. 25, which was its 6000th birthday, according to Bishop Ussher, who calculated that the Creation occurred on that date in 4004 BC. It also was on Oct. 25 that members of the Geological Society of America began assembling in Denver for their annual meeting, which of course including a dinner for The Practical, But Limited, Geologists on Oct. 29, when the visitors were welcomed by Doctor Watson's Neglected Patients at the Cadillac Ranch in Larimer Square, and we all toasted the world's first forensic geologist. Our next dinner meetings will be in Dallas in Apr. 1997 and in Salt Lake City in Oct. 1997.
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November 1996 #1

6300. Further to the report (October 96 #6) of the sale of a page from the manuscript of "The Hound of the Baskervilles", I've now seen the catalog illustration of the page: it's from Chapter VI (from "said to be a young lady . . ." to ". . . hours of darkness when the"), and it's interesting to note that as first written, Holmes directly addressed Sir Henry as "Mr. Baskerville" and as "Baskerville" -- both corrected by the author to read "Sir Henry".
6301. And, still on the subject of manuscripts, J. M. Stoddart dined with Arthur Conan Doyle and Oscar Wilde in London, and commissioned stories from both of them; both stories were published in Lippincott's, and both manuscripts were sold at auction in 1909. "The Sign of the Four" sold for \$105, and "The Picture of Dorian Gray" brought \$1,000; what might the prices be today if both manuscripts went to auction in the same sale?
6302. St. Vincent issued five stamps this year honoring the 100th anniversary of wireless transmission, with portraits of some radio personalities: Fred Allen, Eve Arden, Major Bowes, Walter Winchell, and Hedda Hopper; Hedda Hopper also was a movie actress: she played Madge Larrabee in the John Barrymore film "Sherlock Holmes" (1922).
6303. Plan ahead: The STUD Sherlockian Society's annual meeting and dinner will be held March 7 at the Starlight Inn in Schiller Park (near Chicago), and Brad Keefauver will be the guest speaker; there will be a Solar Pons Brunch on Mar. 8, and a visit to Vincent Starrett's grave at Graceland Cemetery. Additional information is available from F. Dennis France, 8546 North Ked-vale Avenue, Skokie, IL 60076.
6304. Nice news from Minnesota: after a bit of delay, James F. Hubbs has now been reappointed as collection specialist for the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota. Carol Johnson is acting assistant curator and Carol Urness is the acting head of the Special Collections and Rare Books department until they appoint a successor to the late Clarence Carter (who spoke at the dedication of the John Bennett Shaw Collection in Oct. 1995). Planning also is under way for construction of the new Minnesota Library Access Center (May 96 #1), where the special collections will be housed.
6305. Kemp R. Niver died on Oct. 15. He had been a private detective, a police officer, and a veteran cameraman when he was hired in the early 1950s by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences as an archivist and film historian; he used equipment he built himself to transfer some 3,600 movies made between 1894 and 1912 from copyright-deposit frame-by-frame paper photographs to film. All those who have enjoyed the amusing "Sherlock Holmes Baffled" (1900) on film or video owe thanks to Kemp Niver.
6306. Jim Weiss does an excellent job of combining narration and dialogue on his recordings for younger audiences in SHERLOCK HOLMES FOR CHILDREN (Maza/Spec /Musg/Blue) and MYSTERY! MYSTERY! (RedH, plus tales by Poe and Chesterton); cassettes are \$9.95 each, and CDs are \$14.95 each, and other non-Sherlockian recordings are available (shipping is \$2.50 per order). Greathall Productions, Box 813, Benicia, CA 94510 (800-477-6234).
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November 1996 #2

6307. John Baesch reports some new evidence in the continuing debate about which university Sherlock Holmes attended: Oxford or Cambridge. John notes that the new British film "True Blue" (to be released this year) tells the story of the annual Oxford-Cambridge Boat Race, one of the oarsmen in the Oxford boat is played by Nicholas Rowe, who some years ago was Young Sherlock Holmes.
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6308. AT&T has chosen John R. Walter as its new president. Walter is chairman and chief executive of R. R. Donnelley & Sons (the world's largest commercial printer), and the Washington Post (Oct. 24) reports that his favorite books are "mysteries, particularly Sir Arthur Conan Doyle."
6309. The Illustrious Clients of Indianapolis celebrated their 50th anniversary last month, with an anniversary dinner and an interesting 38-page pamphlet recording the history of the society: Steven T. Doyle's THE ADVENTURES OF THE ILLUSTRIOUS CLIENTS costs \$4.50 postpaid, from Mark Gagen, 3625-B Glen Arm Road, Indianapolis, IN 46224.
6310. Warren Randall is preparing a new lapel pin called "The Gas Lamp" that will be sold during the January birthday festivities in New York for \$10.00 (the pin is 1.25 in. in diameter, with the design in red, gold, and black on white); the pin also will be available by mail (\$11.50 postpaid); his address is 15 Fawn Lane West, South Setauket, NY 11720-1346.
6311. Tangled Web Audio has extended its series of excellent recordings of the Canon, read by Edward Hardwicke, who does his usual fine job with the stories in SHERLOCK HOLMES: TALES OF BETRAYAL (with Scan/Silv/Copp) and SHERLOCK HOLMES: TALES OF AVARICE (with Prio/RedH/Blue); each set has two cassettes, and costs \$20.00 postpaid (\$37.00 for two sets); Tangled Web Audio, 3380 Sheridan Drive #167, Amherst, NY 14226 <tangled@bis.on.ca>. For those want to use credit cards, the cassettes also are available (same prices) from Classic Specialties, Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219).
6312. HOLMES FOR THE HOLIDAYS, edited by Martin H. Greenberg, Jon L. Lellenberg, and Carol-Lynn Waugh (New York: Berkley, 1996; 304 pp., \$21.95), offers 14 new pastiches, all with a seasonal theme, written by Anne Perry, Barbara Paul, Carolyn Wheat, Carole Nelson Douglas, Edward D. Hoch, and others.
6313. Phil Attwell has noted a "Sherlock Holmes Celebration Cakes" (suitable for all occasions): a luxury two-pound Victorian fruit cake, with brandy, marzipan, and icing featuring a plaque with a silhouette of Sherlock Holmes, delivered to your door anywhere in the country (Great Britain), for £19.50; overseas prices are available on request. Good Food and Cakes, 21-A Market Street, Wellingborough, Northants., England (or you can call Sue or Enid at 01933-227100 to discuss the details).
6314. Further to the report (October 96 #2) on the availability of the cupro-nickel version of the eight one-crown Sherlock Holmes coins issued by Gibraltar (November 94 #3), Peter Mosiondz, Jr. (Box 1483, Bellmawr, NJ 08099) notes that you can get them from him at a far better price (\$60.00 postpaid); he also offers the silver and gold versions, and you can write to him for details.

November 1996 #3

6315. "I shall be the Hans Sloane of my age," said a hopeful Nathan Garrideb. The Sept.-Oct. issue of Preservation (the magazine of the National Trust for Historic Preservation) has Roland Flamini's fine article about the Chelsea Physic Garden, founded in 1673 by the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries. It's the second oldest botanic garden in England (Oxford's was founded in 1621), and when it was threatened with closure in the early 18th century it was rescued by Sir Hans Sloane, whose statue now stands guard over the medicinal herb beds; in 1722 he leased it back to the Apothecaries in perpetuity, for £5 a year, and it was from the Physic Garden that cotton seeds were shipped to the new American colony of Georgia to start the plantations there. In 1977, Sloane's heirs, the Cadogan Estate, hoping to build on the site, challenged the lease, but lost in court. And it is thanks to Sir Hans that each year Sue Minter, the garden's curator, writes a check for £5 to the Cadogan Estate as rent, for three and a half acres of prime land that is now worth millions.
6316. Ben Wood offers a flier for his close-out sale of Sherlockian books, pamphlets, and other material; his address is Box 740, Ellenton, FL 34222.
6317. Platinum Press has published THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, THE MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, and THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES in facsimile from The Strand Magazine (with Sidney Paget's fine illustrations), separately and as a boxed set. These are reissues of the four volumes published by Schocken Books in 1975 and 1976, but now without the introductions by Steven Marcus, Leslie Fiedler, and Samuel Rosenberg. \$9.98 each or \$40.00 for the boxed set, and if you can't find them locally, there's a toll-free telephone number (800-284-3580).
6318. Megan Follows does a fine job with her audiocassette readings of Laurie R. King's THE BEEKEEPER'S APPRENTICE and A MONSTROUS REGIMENT OF WOMEN; each (abridged) audiobook is on two cassettes (issued by Durkin Hayes) and costs \$16.99. And Megan Follows' reading of the third book in the Mary Russell series, A LETTER OF MARY, will be issued by Durkin Hayes in January when the book is published. If you can't find the cassettes in your shops, the address for Durkin Hayes Audio is 1 Colomba Drive, Niagara Falls, NY 14305.
6319. Al Rosenblatt reports that the "Sly Fox" necktie (June 92 #6) is available again in a catalog from Chipp II (9 Ethan Allen Lane, Stamford, CT 06903): the pattern shows a brown fox, wearing a green deerstalker and holding a magnifying glass, on a navy (or medium blue) background; \$27.25 postpaid, and they take plastic.
6320. First roses were red, and then roses were pink, and now roses are yellow. The postage stamps have the same design as in the past, but with a new color. And there still are more mentions of roses in the Canon than we have stamps showing roses. Perhaps this one could honor all of the Texans in the Canon.
6321. John McGowan spotted a report from London about a grand resource for those who have access to the World Wide Web: <<http://www.victoriana.com/>> is the URL for the Resources for Victorian Living web-site, and it's packed with articles and archives and pictures and information, as well as lists of and links to many companies that offer Victoriana for sale.

November 1996 #4

6322. Sorry about that: Oct. 25, 1996, was not the 6,000th birthday of the Earth (October 96 #6). Chris Redmond points out that 4004 BC was only 5,999 years ago. There was no year 0, of course. You'll hear a lot more about that when we get closer to celebrating the beginning of the next millennium, on Jan. 1, 2000. Or perhaps 2001. Or perhaps both.
6323. Jerry Margolin reports that Caliber Comics has published THE SUSSEX VAMPIRE as a one-shot comic-book, with adaptation by Warren Ellis and art by Craig Gilmore; \$2.95. Caliber is at 225 North Sheldon Road, Plymouth, MI 48170.
6324. Brilliance Audio is continuing its series of audiocassettes produced by Ken Greenwald and his 221A Baker Street Associates with radio programs from the 1946-47 season with Tom Conway as Holmes and Nigel Bruce as Watson; Elliott Reid provides fine new introductions about the old days of radio, and it's grand to be able to hear these hitherto-unavailable programs. Cassettes #9 through #12 are now available; they cost \$9.95 each (with two shows on each cassette). The series title is MORE NEW ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, and if you can't find them in your local shops, Brilliance is at Box 887, Grand Haven, MI 49417 (800-222-3225).
6325. James Pepper Rare Books have an intriguing new catalog of Peter Cushing's personal copies of his scripts, for films and television shows, produced and unproduced, heavily annotated and sometimes illustrated (alas, there's no Sherlockian material); 2026 Cliff Drive #224, Santa Barbara, CA 93109 <pepbooks@aol.com>.

6326. I wondered (October 96 #4) what toppings might be suitable for a Sherlock pizza -- and Alan Saunders offered an excellent suggestion: the plugs and dottles from the previous day's pizzas, carefully collected and dried out on the end of the mantelpiece. And John Baesch, who bears some responsibility for all this, has responded to various suggestions by exclaiming "What inedible twaddle!"
6327. Our new endangered-species sheet shows 15 different animals, and eight of the animals are mentioned in the Canon: the butterfly, caribou, crocodile, ferret, plover, seal, snake, and trout. But which of the eight endangered species is the most likely match to the animal mentioned in the Canon?
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November 1996 #5

6328. PBS-TV broadcast a excellent mini-series on "The Great War" in November (it also is airing in Britain), with some discussion of Conan Doyle in the final episode, which dealt with the increased interest in Spiritualism after the war. And it is a pleasant coincidence that Stephen Davies recently discovered Rudyard Kipling's book SEA WARFARE (Garden City: Doubleday, Page & Co., 1917), which includes "Tools of the Trade" (written in 1916 about the Submarine Service). Kipling tells the story of how the E 14, on patrol in Turkish waters, encountered an enemy ship: "When the crew of the Turkish brigantine full of stores got into their boats by request, and then 'all stood up and cursed us,' E 14 did not lose her temper, even though it was too rough to lie alongside the abandoned ship. She told Acting Lieutenant R. W. Lawrence, of the Royal Naval Reserve, to swim off to her, which he did, and after a 'cursory search'--Who can be expected to Sherlock Holmes for hours with nothing on?--set fire to her 'with the aid of her own matches and paraffin oil.'"
6329. Which of the eight endangered species is the most likely match to the animal mentioned in the Canon? The woodland caribou, which is mentioned in "The Valley of Fear" ("It was the worst enemy I had among them all--one who has been after me like a hungry wolf after a caribou all these years.").
6330. Paul Martin reports that "Sherlock Holmes Revisited" is available on a 57-minute videocassette from PBS Home Video, Box 751089, Charlotte, NC 28275 (800-645-4727); item A2093, and the cost is \$19.95 plus shipping. This is a reissue of "The Sherlock Holmes Video" (January 95 #2), written and directed by Martin Hesp (who also plays Sherlock Holmes in a tour of Canonical locations); the video also offers interviews with Stanley MacKenzie and one of Sherlock Holmes' secretaries.
6331. Former Senator Rudy Boschwitz, a Sherlockian who attended meetings of The Red Circle when he was in the Senate in the 1980s, lost to Democratic Sen. Paul Wellstone, who was elected to a second term on Nov. 5.
6332. Ferdinand "Ferd" Johnson died on Oct. 14. He was only 17 when he enrolled at the Chicago Art Institute, and met cartoonist and teacher Frank Willard, who had just begun drawing his cartoon strip "Moon Mullins". Willard hired Johnson as an assistant at the Chicago Tribune, and they worked together for 35 years; when Willard died in 1958, Johnson took over "Moon Mullins" and drew the strip until he retired in 1991. This cartoon is from Feb. 20, 1979.
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November 1996 #6

6333. He's probably only a distant relative of the Musgraves in the Canon, but: 61-year-old astronaut F. Story Musgrave began his sixth and final shuttle flight on Nov. 19, becoming the oldest human to fly in space. He joined the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in 1967, and made his first flight in 1983, taking part in the first shuttleprogram space-walk; he's an accomplished pilot, with more than 17,000 hours of flying time in 160 different aircraft types, and has made more than 500 parachute jumps. In his spare time he's studying for two master's degrees (to add to the three master's degrees and one doctorate he already has).
6334. The Hounds of the Internet discuss (well, they're invited to discuss) a different story each week, and Chris Redmond has been providing "delicate questions" each week intended "to stimulate discussion, research, controversy, delight and flights of fancy as devotees of Sherlock Holmes explore the stories." For example, his question for "The Illustrious Client" was: "Baron Gruner is, by general consent, among the worst of the villains whom Sherlock Holmes encounters; is it only the whiff of kinky sex in this story that makes him so, or is there something else about him -- his nationality, perhaps -- that makes him the man Sherlockians love to hate?" And, since he now has a question for each of the cases, he offers them all in booklet form, for \$2.00 (US or CA) postpaid; his address is 523 Westfield Drive, Waterloo, ON N2T 2E1, Canada. The questions make fine discussion topics for societies seeking things to do at their meetings.
6335. THE FLOOR PLANS OF BAKER STREET, by Edward S. Smith, Jr., offers a survey of what was where at 221 Baker Street, on all of the floors, with plans and citations; the 38-page booklet is available from the author (Box 353, Williston Park, NY 11596); \$7.50 postpaid to the U.S. and Canada, and \$9.50 to other countries.
6336. It was at the third pillar from the left outside the Lyceum Theatre that Mary Morstan was directed to meet her unknown benefactor. And, further to the report (April 95 #2) on plans to restore the long-neglected theater, the Daily Telegraph has reported that the Prince of Wales formally reopened the Lyceum on Oct. 30. The first production at the theater in half a century is a revival of "Jesus Christ Superstar", which opened on Nov. 19. Apollo Leisure, a chain that owns 22 theaters in Britain, spent £14.5 million on the restoration project.
6337. Bill Hyder reports that the first edition of his excellent collection FROM BALTIMORE TO BAKER STREET (December 95 #4) has sold out, and that a revised second edition is now available (\$27.00 postpaid) from George A. Vanderburgh, Box 204, Shelburne, ON L0N 1S0, Canada. The revisions are some corrections of errata; those who already have the first edition and would like to have an errata sheet can send an SASE (self-addressed stamped envelope) to William J. Hyder, 5488 Cedar Lane #C-3, Columbia, MD 21044-1220.
6338. Collectors of foreign Sherlockiana will be happy to learn about the first known item of Sherlockiana to have been published in Liechtenstein: Marcus Geisser reports that 5 NEUE SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES contains stories (in German) written by 11-year-old Martin K. Hasler; the 30-page booklet costs \$8.00 or £5.00 postpaid (in currency only, please) from the author, whose address is: Dorfstrasse 59, FL-9495 Triesen, Furstentum Liechtenstein.
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November 1996 #7

6339. Jerry Margolin reports that Caliber's comic-book mini-series THE SEARCHERS (July 96 #1) has ended with issue #4 (\$2.95 each). Real-life descendants of various characters created by Haggard, Burroughs, Wells, Verne, and Conan Doyle "band together in a mutual quest for not only their own survival, but that of reality itself." But Conan Doyle's character isn't a Holmes: she's a Moriarty.
6340. William L. DeAndrea died on Oct. 9. He was a fine mystery writer, and his ENCYCLOPEDIA MYSTERIOSA (1994) is a splendid reference work. He also was a long-time contributor to The Armchair Detective, and noted last year that he had once described Sherlockian pastiche as "the acne on the face of the detective story," admitting that he forgot one very important fact about acne: "in the course of growing up, virtually everybody gets it." And Bill wrote two Sherlockian pastiches, one (in the style of Mickey Spillane) in Marvin Kaye's anthology RESURRECTED HOLMES (1996) and the other in Martin H. Greenberg's anthology HOLMES FOR THE HOLIDAYS (1996).
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6341. David Stuart Davies' one-act play "Fixed Point: The Life and Death of Sherlock Holmes" was first performed for The Northern Musgraves in 1991, with Davies himself as Holmes, and it now has been adapted for audio by Meredith Granger and issued on a single cassette by Classic Specialties (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219); \$9.45 postpaid to the U.S. and Canada, \$10.50 to Europe, \$11.00 elsewhere, and credit-cards are accepted (wholesale inquiries welcome). The voices are excellent, as is the play, which offers Watson's reminiscences of his life with Holmes.
6342. Warren Randall (15 Fawn Lane West, South Setauket, NY 11720) also offers a new lapel pin ("hot off the Prescott presses"); it's silver on gray, 1" wide, and costs \$8.50 postpaid.
6343. Alexander Lebed, formerly the National Security Advisor in Russia (until he was summarily dismissed by President Boris Yeltsin a few months ago), and now regarded by some as the person most likely to be the next President of Russia, was asked at a recent meeting in Washington about his critical comments about various religious groups, including the Mormons. Lebed replied that he had thought the Mormons were a cult or sect that practiced polygamy "because I learned about them from reading Conan Doyle in my youth," and he has since apologized to the Mormons.
6344. If you missed the Sherlock Bloodhound "country companion" offered by Wild Wings a few years ago (March 92 #5) you can still buy a similar hand-painted figurine (5.5 in. high) offered in a recent catalog from The Cottage Shop, Box 4836, Stamford, CT 06907 (800-388-7660); \$35.00 plus shipping.
6345. Further to the report (August 95 #6) that on the purchase of Christ Cella's restaurant by Ken Aretsky, who had not then yet decided whether to keep the name, but intended to keep the steakhouse genre "with some additions and changes," Tom Stix has forwarded a report from the N.Y. Times (Nov. 8) that reveals that there have indeed been some changes: the restaurant is now the Patroon, the hamburger costs \$23.00, and a porterhouse steak for two costs \$75.00 (without side dishes, which cost \$9.00). The first formal meeting of The Baker Street Irregulars took place at Christ Cella's original location, but not at 160 East 46th Street, where the Patroon is now.

November 1996 #8

6346. Ken Koftan reports that "Sherlock Holmes and the Curious Adventure of the Clockwork Prince" (a one-act "Victorian romp" by Cleve Haubold, with music by James Alfred Hill, published by Samuel French in 1980) is being produced at the Empire House Restaurant and Theatre in Wichita through December 22. This probably is a dinner theater, and the address is 1817 West Sim Park Drive, Wichita, KS 67203 (316-269-0900).
6347. Antonio Iriarte reports that Jo Soares' O XANGO DE BAKER STREET, a pastiche published last year in Brazilian Portuguese (February 96 #4) is now available in Spanish as EL XANGO DE BAKER STREET (Madrid: Ediciones Siruela, 1996; 272 pp., 1,900 ptas.); copies are available from Antonio (Barbara de Braganza 4 (5), 28004 Madrid, Spain) by surface post for \$20.00 (in currency, please). Holmes and Watson investigate the disappearance of a valuable Stradivarius during Sarah Bernhardt's first visit to Rio de Janeiro.
6348. Basil Rathbone was one of six actors featured on a sheet of "official stamps of the stars and studios" issued in 1947; Israel I. Bick (Box 854, Van Nuys, CA 91408) offers a fullcolor reprint of the entire sheet (5 x 8.5 in.) for \$9.95 postpaid.
6349. The shoe horn with a bust of Sherlock Holmes on the handle (October 94 #2) is offered at \$23.95 in the current catalog from the Finck Cigar Company, Box 831007, San Antonio, TX 78283 (800-221-0638) <www.finckcigarcompany.com>.
6350. The Mysterious Bookshop has a new Holiday Catalogue, with a nice selection of Sherlockian books, new and old (and lots of other books, of course); 129 West 56th Street, New York, NY 10019 (800-352-2840).
6351. Takahiko Endo has kindly forwarded a copy of the catalog prepared for the special exhibit on "Sherlock Holmes and English Bricks" at the World Brick Museum in Maizuru, and the museum must be a wonderful place to visit, even without a Sherlockian display (the special exhibit closes on Nov. 30, so there's still time to see it); much of the Sherlockian material on display is from the collection of Yumiko Shigaki. Maizuru is near Kyoto, and it is a seaport, with many brick buildings, reminiscent of Portsmouth. Also well worth a visit is the Shoso-in, which contains some wonderful Japanese art ("What do you know of the Emperor Shomu and how do you associate him with the Shoso-in near Nara?" Baron Gruner asked during his interview with Dr. Watson); Emperor Shomu who founded this great repository of Japanese art in the 8th century. And the Shoso-in has a home page with some fine pictures at <<http://www.bekkoame.or.jp/~joykun>>.
6352. Don Hobbs notes a Canonical excerpt in THE BOOK OF VICIES: A COLLECTION OF CLASSIC IMMORAL TALES, edited by Robert J. Hutchinson (New York: Riverhead Books, 1996; 280 pp., \$9.00); the excerpt (from "A Study in Scarlet") runs from "Well, I have a trade of my own," to the departure of the commissionaire, and is described by Hutchinson as "a character study in pride."

December 1996 #1

6353. Further to the report (June 94 #6) of the auction sale of the Gainsborough portrait of Georgiana, 5th Duchess of Devonshire (of rather more than passing interest to Sherlockians), Bob Robinson has kindly forwarded a report from London that Ben Macintyre, whose stories about the painting were published in The Times and The N.Y. Times, has now written a book about Adam Worth, the master thief who once stole the painting, and the book has been purchased by Steven Spielberg's production company DreamWorks. The book's title is THE NAPOLEON OF CRIME, which is what some called Adam Worth (whose arrest, conviction, and refusal to surrender the portrait to avoid his sentence of seven years imprisonment made headlines in 1893, shortly before "The Final Problem" was written).
6354. Adam Worth has, by the way, appeared in one film, as noted by Bob: "Harry and Walter Go to New York" (1976); Harry and Walter were con-men, played by James Caan and Elliott Gould, and Adam Worth was played by Michael Caine. We'll have to wait to read Ben Macintyre's book, which is due in May 1997 from HarperCollins in Britain.
6355. Arsene Lupin, the hero of many novels and stories by Maurice Leblanc, was honored by France in a recent set of semi-postal stamps celebrating great characters in French mystery stories. And Lupin succeeded in defeating Sherlock Holmes (or Herlock Sholmes, after Sir Arthur complained). Thanks to Jean-Pierre Cagnat for supplying the stamp.
6356. Noted by Don Hobbs: MURDEROUS SCHEMES: AN ANTHOLOGY OF CLASSIC DETECTIVE STORIES, edified by Donald E. Westlake (New York: Oxford University Press, 1996; 519 pp., \$25.00); "The Dying Detective" is included in section devoted to the "I Confess" genre.
6357. From the N.Y. Times News Service, via Paul Martin: "the state of euphoria a historian experiences when unearthing a long-forgotten manuscript may be chemically induced, according to Linga Franca magazine. It cites a report in the Lancet, a British medical journal. A fungus that grows on moldy books apparently releases spores when disturbed, and the airborne spores can induce hallucinations. Dermatologist R. J. Hay of London suggests that 'It is not inconceivable that intoxication might follow the inhalation of spores from suitable mold fungi in libraries.'" Bibliophiles do sometimes act strangely, and it's nice to know why . . .
6358. Tom Huntington's article about his travel "On the Trail of Sherlock Holmes" in the Feb. 1997 issue of Historic Traveler focuses on Sherlockian sites in London, with lots of fine color photographs; the magazine's address is 741 Miller Drive SE #D-2, Leesburg, VA 22075 (\$3.99).

6359. The Dispatch Box is an interesting newsletter published in English by The Japanese Cabinet (a branch office of The Franco-Midland Hardware Company) with news of Sherlockian events in Japan, and articles such as a report on a new "Sherlock Holmes" cocktail bar in Naha on Okinawa. A subscription costs \$8.00 or £5.00 (currency only, please) for four issues, from Yuichi Hirayama, 2-10-12 Kamirenjaku, Mitaka-shi, Tokyo 181, Japan.

December 1996 #2

6360. Bouchercon 27 in St. Paul included a Sunday-morning panel on "The Bottomless Battered Tin Dispatch Box", moderated by Bruce Southworth and with panelists Jon L. Breen, Carole Nelson Douglas, Edward D. Hoch, and Larry Millett, discussing "what makes writing a Sherlockian parody or pastiche so attractive for both new and established writers?" An audiocassette (session 41) is available (\$8.75 postpaid) from Bouchercon St. Paul Program, On Site Taping, 29318 Quail Run, Agoura Hills, CA 91301; \$8.75 postpaid (note: the recording is not complete, and occasionally the sound is defective).
6361. Bouchercon 28 will be held in Monterey on Oct. 30-Nov. 2, 1997 (Box 6202, Hayward, CA 94540); Mike Kean is working on arranging a Sherlockian agenda. Bouchercon 29 will be in Philadelphia in 1998 (dates not yet set); the organizer is Deen Kogan, who has run successful local conventions each fall in Philadelphia.
6362. "A Grand Design: The Art of the Victoria and Albert Museum" is the title of the exhibit, ten years in the planning, that will open at the Baltimore Museum of Art in Oct. 1997 at the start of a five-city tour of North America. Museum directors and sponsors hope that the show will be a blockbuster that rivals the "Treasure Houses of Britain" exhibit at the National Gallery of Art in Washington in 1985-86, and it may well do that: the Victoria and Albert was founded in 1852, and it is the first and largest decorative-arts museum in the world. But the "Treasure Houses of Britain" had enough items with Sherlockian connections on display to warrant a six-page mini-catalog prepared by The Red Circle.
6363. Carolyn and Joel Senter (aka Classic Specialties) have a new issue of The Sherlockian Times (their illustrated catalog of Sherlockian books, pamphlets, screen savers, mouse pads, banners, prints, and et ceteras. So new that it didn't get into the catalog is an amusing lapel pin, inspired by Ashley Lynn Decker and executed by Stu Shiffman. It's shown here actual size, with a white background and (of course) the happy face in yellow; the cost is \$11.00 postpaid to North American, or \$11.75 to Europe, or \$12.50 elsewhere. Credit-card orders welcome; their address is Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219 <sherlock@sherlock-holmes.com>.
6364. The "fossil apostle of poetic Sherlockism" has prepared another volume of verse "with all the Canonical verve and whimsical jiggery-pokery you have come to expect," finely-printed as always on his Pequod Press. That's John Ruyle (521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707-1521); the price is \$40.00 postpaid in cloth, \$20.00 in paper.
6365. Syd Goldberg spotted a 72-minute videocassette called "The Diary of Jack the Ripper: Beyond Reasonable Doubt?" (1993), with an interesting account of the discovery of and debate about the diary of James Maybrick. Michael Winner presents the story, which is narrated by Tom Baker, and at the end of the video Winner suggests that "Perhaps another celebrated Victorian, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, was right: when you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth." The video is available from Consumer Video Marketing, 60 Cutter Mill Road, Great Neck, NY 10021 (800-530-8035); \$19.95 plus shipping.

December 1996 #3

6366. Auction news: the manuscript of "The Sign of the Four" sold for \$519,500 (including the premium paid by the buyer) at Sotheby's in New York on Dec. 4; the price was well above the catalog estimate, possibly because of increased interest fueled by a nice article about the manuscript in the N.Y. Times the day before the auction. And the manuscript of "The White Company" sold for \$85,000 (also including the buyer's premium). Both manuscripts were owned by Father Redmond A. Burke, C.S.V., Ph.D., who died on May 14 (the 57th anniversary of his Ordination to Priesthood); "The White Company" is now owned by Fred Kittle of Chicago, but the new owner of "The Sign of the Four" has not yet been identified.
6367. Scott Monty reports that there's a floating restaurant called the "Aurora" in Boston, rather larger than Mordecai Smith's steam launch. It's an old harbor-cruise ship moored at 310 Congress Street (right next to the Boston Tea Party exhibit); The Bull-Terriers are planning a dinner meeting there.
6368. Al Gregory notes that the Early Holiday 1996 catalog from Design Toscano, 17 East Campbell Street, Arlington Heights, IL 60005 (800-525-0733) has a Sherlockian chess set in natural bone and mahogany (\$228) or hand-painted (\$448), and a Sherlock Holmes walking stick (\$68.95). The company specializes in "historical European reproductions for home and garden," with armor and tapestries and gargoyles and other delights for those who are thinking of redecorating their homes as the Manor House of Hurlstone, or Baskerville Hall, or Holderness Hall, or some other "picturesque pile" in the Canon.
6369. That sheet of "official stamps of the stars and studio" that included Basil Rathbone (November 96 #8) wasn't the only one issued in 1947; another sheet showed twelve actors, including Nigel Bruce, and a full-color reprint of that entire sheet (4.25x8.25") is available (\$9.95 postpaid) from Israel I. Bick (Box 854, Van Nuys, CA 91408).
6370. Russ Geoffrey notes some interesting Sherlockian references in Kinky Friedman's new mystery novel THE LOVE SONG OF J. EDGAR HOOVER (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1996).
6371. Fans of "Mystery!" on PBS-TV may recall the BBC Television series "Campion" (based on the stories written by Margery Allingham), and remember that the two-hour program "Police at the Funeral" (1988), in which Inspector Oates finds Albert Campion (played by Peter Davison) dressed in Sherlockian costume. And the solution to the murder of John Franklyn-Robbins had a nice echo from the Canon. There may be more Sherlockian discoveries to be made in Allingham's books, but I'll leave that to members of The Margery Allingham Society, which twice a year publishes an interesting journal called The Bottle Street Gazette. Membership in the society costs £7.00 (or \$10.00) a year; the society's contact is Pamela Bruxner, St. Cuthbert's Cottage, 23 North Street, Barming, Maidstone, Kent ME16 9HE, England.
6372. Lisa Oldham's electronic newsletter The Brettish Empire continues to offer interesting material about Jeremy Brett, with the latest issue reporting on the launch party for David Stuart Davies' new biography of Brett, BENDING THE WILLOW. Lisa's e-mail address is <loldham@freenet.columbus.oh.us>, and back issues are posted on the Web at <<http://www.infinet.com/~jwolfe/tbe>>.

December 1996 #4

6373. Further to the item (November 96 #6) on astronaut F. Story Musgrave, who started his sixth and final shuttle flight on Nov. 19, the shuttle Columbia returned safely to Cape Canaveral on Dec. 7. Musgrave, 61 years old, is the oldest active astronaut, and now also shares the record for the longest-lasting shuttle mission.
6374. Ben Wolf ("Vernet, the French Artist") died on Dec. 5. Ben was an artist, writer, teacher, biographer, editor, poet, and bookman, and a member of The Baker Street Irregulars (he received his Investiture in 1964) and a Master Copper Beechsmith of The Sons of the Copper Beeches of Philadelphia (whose dinner menus have for many years been decorated with his amusing Sherlockian artwork). He also was an admirer of Conan Doyle, and

- during a visit to England in the early 1970s discovered Constance Holland, Sir Arthur's last secretary (he called her "Tiny" and that's how she still signed her letters in the 1970s), and brought her to the United States for a tour of Philadelphia and Washington.
6375. Tom Rieschick offers an illustrated flier for his attractive prints of Sherlock Holmes (as portrayed by Rathbone and Brett), and Watson and Moriarty, and Hercule Poirot, and others, and he accepts commissions; his address is 179 Gold Kettle Drive, Gaithersburg, MD 20878. Holmes by Hall offers an illustrated flier for their hand-crafted porcelain Sherlockian mugs and teapots; Box 221-B, Flushing, MI 48433.
6376. The latest issue of *Scarlet Street* has arrived, with a good article about what went into assembling the music for the Varese Sarabande CD "Sherlock Holmes: Classic Themes from 221B Baker Street" and a report by David Stuart Davies on British television, including notes on what David Burke, Edward Hardwicke, and Jeremy Paul are up to (unfortunately, nothing Sherlockian). *Scarlet Street* is published quarterly (\$20.00 a year), and the address is Box 604, Glen Rock, NJ 07452. The CD is available from Varese Sarabande, 11846 Ventura Boulevard #130, Studio City, CA 91604 (800-827-3734); \$15.98 plus \$4.50 shipping.
6377. Jerry Bangham spotted an advertisement in *Variety* (Sept. 30) for "Sherlock Holmes in the 22nd Century: The Future Files" (an animated television series with 26 30-minute episodes) planned by DIC Entertainment in Burbank, in cooperation with Scottish Television. DIC hopes to start production during 1997, aiming for availability on-the-air in the fall 1998 season; you may already have seen DIC's animations on television: they've done "Where in the World is Carmen Sandiego?", "Slimer! and the Real Ghostbusters", "Sonic the Hedgehog", and "Madeline" (based on Ludwig Bemelmans' book).
6378. "Underneath it all, those Victorian Violets were women of steel," suggests Sonia Fetherston, who recommends an exhibit of Victorian underwear (hoops, corsettes, drawers, pantalettes, petticoats, cage crinolines, chemises, and other assorted hard and soft wear from 1840 to 1900) at the Wadsworth Atheneum in Hartford, Conn., through Mar. 2; the Atheneum's address is 600 Main Street, and their textile curator is Carol Dean Krute (860-278-2670).

December 1995 #5

6379. The latest issue of *Anglofile* reports that the final episodes of Granada's "Sherlock Holmes" series will repeat on "Mystery!" on PBS-TV beginning May 8, 1997. And MPI Home Video has reported "healthy sales" of its videocassettes "with a surprising number of people buying the entire set" of 41 "Sherlock Holmes" programs. "The Thin Blue Line" (a BBCTV sitcom starring Rowan Atkinson as police inspector in suburban London) will air on PBS-TV stations at the end of the year; Alan Saunders has noted that Atkinson's character has a rather nice bust of Holmes on the desk in his office, and in one episode waxes lyrical about the pleasures of spending his lunch break reading a few chapters of Sherlock Holmes. *Anglofile* is a monthly newsletter with detailed coverage of British entertainment; \$12.00 a year (Box 33515, Decatur, GA 30033).
6380. John Semper offers Frank Giacoia's original black-and-white artwork for the "Sherlock Holmes" newspaper comic strip that appeared on Apr. 15, 1956; the artwork (from "Silver Blaze") shows Fitzroy Simpson being charged with the murder of John Straker, and Holmes and Watson leaving 221B Baker Street to travel to King's Pyland. It's framed and in excellent condition, and costs \$3,000; 10153-1/2 Riverside Drive #392, Toluca Lake, CA 91602 (818-993-6859) <johnsemper@aol.com>.
6381. Marina Stajic has found the Gillette Tavern at the Hale-N-Hearty (381 Town Street, East Haddam, Conn.), quite convenient for visitors to nearby Gillette Castle; the menu notes that the owner, Mary Ellen Klinck, is a justice of the peace, and will be happy to perform weddings at the restaurant.
6382. Walter R. Brooks wrote 26 children's books about Freddy the Pig, with nice illustrations by Kurt Wiese, who appropriately showed Freddy in Sherlockian costume in *FREDDY THE DETECTIVE*. The Friends of Freddy, founded in 1984, hold conventions, and publish the quarterly *Bean Home Newsletter*, and show Freddy the Detective on the flier you get if you request information about the society (5-A Laurel Hill Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770); please include a #10 SASE (stamped self-addressed envelope).
6383. I hope you all enjoyed Stephen Davies' nice discovery of Rudyard Kipling's use of "Sherlock Holmes" as a verb (November 96 #5). It's an earlier use of the two words as a verb than the earliest citation in the second (1989) edition of the *OXFORD ENGLISH DICTIONARY*, which notes James Joyce's *ULYSSES* (1922) for "He had been meantime taking stock of the individual in front of him and Sherlock-holmesing him up."
6384. Ellery Queen's *Mystery Magazine* wishes Sherlock Holmes a happy 143rd birthday with the Feb. 1997 issue, with a note on the birthday festivities, the late Harlan L. Umansky's poem "Watson's Mournful Reveries", and reviews by Jon L. Breen of recent Sherlockian books.
6385. Willie Rushton died on Dec. 11. He was a British comedian, satirist, writer, and artist, and a major figure in the anti-establishment comic movement that flowered in the 1960s. He appeared on television with David Frost in "That Was the Week That Was", and was a co-founder of the magazine *Private Eye*, and in 1973 he played Watson to John Cleese's Holmes in the BBC television comedy "Elementary, My Dear Watson" comedy; he also wrote and illustrated the Watsonian pastiche novel *W. G. GRACE'S LAST CASE* (1984).

December 1996 #6

6386. Charles Hamilton Jr. died on Dec. 11. He was a handwriting expert and autograph dealer, and brought the manuscript of "Black Peter" to auction in 1972, when it was happily purchased by Norm Nolan. In 1983, Hamilton was one of the first to describe the alleged Hitler diaries as obvious forgeries; he also wrote about his work in books such as *SCRIBBLERS & SCOUNDRELS* (1968), and he always had grand tales to tell.
6387. John Bennett Shaw had great fun compiling his list of "the basic 100 books" for Sherlockians, despite understandable frustration in deciding what books to include and exclude from his list, but his list always was just that: a list, rather than a discussion of the books themselves. Carl William Thiel now offers the list, and describes and discusses the books, and offers some suggestions of his own, in *THE BASIC 100: AN ANNOTATED COLLECTOR'S GUIDE*. It's nicely done, and there's an excellent foreword by Ray Betzner, and the 56-page pamphlet costs \$13.00 postpaid from George A. Vanderburgh, Box 204, Shelburne, ON L0N 1S0, Canada.
6388. The next "Victorian Holmes Weekend" in Cape May, N.J., will be held on Mar. 14-16. There will be a mystery to solve (with prizes for the winners) during a tour of six Victorian homes, and meals, and other fun and games. For more information, contact the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts at: Box 340, Cape May, NJ 08204-0340 (609-884-5404).
6389. Ben Fairbank reports that the Oxford University Press is again offering the nine cloth-bound volumes of *THE OXFORD SHERLOCK HOLMES* at a discount. The sale price is \$65.00 for the set, and you also get the nine color postcards showing the cover art; it's item 725 in their catalog (credit cards only), and the toll-free number is 800-230-3242.
6390. "Part of you think it's in poor taste," the Los Angeles County Coroner's Department suggests in their latest mail-order catalog, adding that "part of you wants an XL." Their artwork includes the old skeleton Sherlock, and a new Sherlock-and-magnifying-glass, on T-shirts, mugs, playing cards, and lapel pins. Profits support that department's Youthful Drunk Driver Visitation Program, and the catalog is available from *Skeletons in the Closet*, 1104 North Mission Road, Los Angeles, CA 90033.

6391. Plan ahead: the next Arthur Conan Doyle/Sherlock Holmes Symposium will be held in Dayton on Mar. 14-16, 1997. If you'd like to be on their mailing list, contact Mary Frost-Pierson, 101 Cemetery Street, Yellow Springs, OH 45387 <msteries@aol.com>.
6392. Jon Lellenberg has forwarded an article from the British press about a proposal to open a "Sherlock Holmes Experience" in the basement and first two floors at 231-237 Baker Street; architects' plans include moving models of Victorian street urchins, bobbies on the beat, and hansom cabs. A spokesman for the project refused to identify who's behind it, but it's not Grace Riley, director of the Sherlock Holmes Museum at 239 Baker Street; she said that "to have two museums on the same street is ludicrous." She fears that the new museum would be a "state of the art, hi-tech entertainment complex or something. Can you imagine that sort of freak show here?" The property at 231-237, now vacant, is owned by the Abbey National, and the Westminster Council had decided to visit the site before making a decision.
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December 1996 #7

6393. AUGUST W. DERLETH (1909-1971): A BIBLIOGRAPHICAL CHECKLIST OF HIS WORKS, edited by William Dutch and others, offers a checklist of his novels, some additions to an earlier bibliography by Alison M. Wilson, a list of some of the contents of the August Derleth Society Newsletter, and other material. The 76-page pamphlet is available from George A. Vanderburgh (Box 204, Shelburne, ON L0N 1S0, Canada); \$13.00 postpaid.
6394. W. Scott Monty (1836 Columbia Road #2, South Boston, MA 02127) offers a wrist watch (male or female style) with the emblem of The Bull-Terrier Club on the watch-face (writing in red, the bull terrier in gray and black); \$26.00 postpaid (or \$28.00 if you want your name on the watch face).
6395. A LETTER OF MARY (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1996; 276 pp., \$23.95) is Laurie R. King's third novel about Mary Russell, and it's a fine one. The time is 1923, and Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes now are married (yes, to each other), and involved in solving a mystery that's really a mystery, and Mary is more mature, and she's very much a character in her own right. There are some subtleties to amuse mystery fans, and some new insights into the lives of both Russell and Holmes, and a good story, told well.
6396. Rebecca Anderson has kindly provided a list of dates and cities for Laurie R. King's tour promoting her new Mary Russell book A LETTER OF MARY (names of bookstores and times of book-signings are not yet available): Jan. 20-21 (New York), 22 (Boston), 23 (Washington), 24 (Baltimore), 25-26 (Minneapolis), 27-28 (Chicago); Feb. 2-3 (Phoenix), 4 (Tucson), 5-6 (Los Angeles), 7-8 (Portland), 9-10 (Seattle). Attenta: the list is not necessarily accurate; she will be signing at MysteryBooks (at 1715 Connecticut Avenue NW in Washington) from noon to 1:00 pm on January 24.
6397. And Laurie's second Mary Russell novel A MONSTROUS REGIMENT OF WOMEN now is available in paperback (New York: Bantam Books, 1997; 336 pp., \$5.99); this is a collectible, because it contains a teaser at the end: 13 pages from A LETTER OF MARY. Some paperback publishers are doing this for some of their series (they need to have the next book in hand, of course, or perhaps only the opening pages); if the paperback teaser beats the actual first edition into the shops, then there's a partial first edition for the completists.
6398. Chris Caswell (Baker Street Emporium, Box 2324, Seal Beach, CA 90740) has a new sales list of Sherlockiana, including a life mask of Basil Rathbone, a doormat with a Sherlockian profile in two sizes, and much more.
6399. Edward F. Clark, Jr. ("The Matter of the French Government") died on Dec. 13. He was a Wall Street lawyer, and a fine Sherlockian; his first contribution to our literature won the Morley-Montgomery Award for the best piece in the BSJ in 1963, and his scholarship and humor were a continuing delight both in print and at society meetings. He received his BSI Investiture in 1963, and the BSI's Two-Shilling Award in 1986; he once described himself as "one of the dwindling array of Edwardians who report for duty in Baker Street," and he was a wonderful link to the days of lamplighters and many other things that we can now only read about.
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December 1996 #8

6400. Michael Atkinson's THE SECRET MARRIAGE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES AND OTHER ECCENTRIC READINGS (Ann Arbor: Univ. of Michigan Press, 1996; 198 pp., \$29.95) easily refutes the widely-held belief that pop-cult lit-crit must be deadly dull and packed with academic jargon. The eccentric aspect of his approaches to nine Canonical stories is that he offers an intriguing starting-point for his discussion of each story, such as the kundalini-yoga serpent for "The Speckled Band" and Nietzschean iconoclasm for "The Six Napoleons". Atkinson explains what he's doing, in critical appendices and readable end-notes; three of the chapters are revised and expanded from earlier articles, and six are new, and all are interesting.
6401. It seems quite appropriate that a Sherlockian society in California has produced its own wine glasses, and that's just what The Scowrers and Mollie Maguires of San Francisco had done: the design is in 22 kt. gold, kiln-fired on a clear 8-oz. bowl, with a black twisted stem. \$13.50 postpaid for one, \$26.00 for two, \$44.00 for four, \$86.00 for eight; Charlotte Erickson, Sherlock's Corner, 1029 Judson Drive, Mountain View, CA 94040.
6402. And if you would like some Sherlockian wine in your Sherlockian wine glass, you might consider a Canonically-appropriate French claret, a 1995 Bordeaux produced by Chateau Plain-Point in Saint Aignan, in a 750-ml. bottle with a commemorative Sherlockian label and a Sherlockian profile on the wax seal. \$34.95 postpaid from Chris Caswell, Baker Street Emporium, Box 2324, Seal Beach, CA 90740.
6403. Forecast for February: MURDER, MRS. HUDSON, by Sydney Hosier (Avon); Emma Hudson, housekeeper to Sherlock Holmes, is the detective in this sequel to ELEMENTARY, MRS. HUDSON (April 96 #6).
6404. Perhaps the only real problem for those who attend Sherlockian symposiums and workshops and weekends is that all too often one goes home without the papers presented at the gatherings, because the sessions generally aren't recorded and the papers generally aren't published, and it's even worse if there are multiple sessions, and one can't attend all of them. A pleasant exception is the conference organized by The Baker Street Breakfast Club at Bennington College in June 1994. SHERLOCK HOLMES: VICTORIAN SLEUTH TO MODERN HERO (Lanham: Scarecrow Press, 1996; 396 pp., \$34.50) is a thoroughly welcome collection, and the editors (Charles R. Putney, Joseph A. Cutshall King, and Sally Sugarman) have done an excellent job of offering 24 of the papers from the conference, including Nicholas Meyer's fine keynote address on "Sherlock Holmes on Film: A Personal View" (he has never seen a Sherlock Holmes film he didn't dislike, and explains why, with considerable insight and humor).
6405. Robert C. Hess has a new sales list of Sherlockiana, and a nicely-illustrated flier of British souvenirs, gifts, and collectibles; his address is 559 Potter Boulevard, Brightwaters, NY 11718.
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January 1997 #1

6406. The birthday festivities in New York were pleasantly free from rain, sleet, hail, ice, and snow, and they started as usual on Thursday with informal events, but without an Aunt Clara Sing at O'Lunney,s (because by the time that Hugh O'Lunney's new premises were located it was too late to publicize a Thursday gathering, but it's likely that there will be one next year).
6407. Friday's celebrations began with the Mrs. Hudson Breakfast in the Oak Room at the Hotel Algonquin, and continued at the William Gillette Luncheon at Moran's Restaurant, where Andrew Joffe, Sarah Montague Joffe, and Paul Singleton presented a new play by Andrew about what really happened when Edith Meiser persuaded William Gillette to play Sherlock Holmes on the radio in 1930. And Otto Penzler's open house at the Mysterious Bookshop was a nice opportunity for collectors to browse and buy.
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6408. The Baker Street Irregulars gathered at 24 Fifth Avenue, where Ray Betzner toasted Bev Wolov as *The* Woman during the pre-dinner cocktail party (Bev then went on to dine at the Algonquin with other ladies who have received that honor), and the evenings' entertainment included the usual traditions (Bob Katz's toast to the Second Mrs. Watson may or may not have proved that there weren't any Mrs. Watsons), and a carefully orchestrated roast of Tom Stix by family, friends, and former friends (roastees are not allowed to disown family).
6409. Tom then awarded Irregular Shillings and Investitures to William J. Hyder ("A Most Valuable Institution"), Richard J. Kitts ("The Battered Tin Dispatch-Box"), Kenneth C. Lanza ("His Last Bow"), Theodora Niver ("Carina"), Roy E. Pilot ("Chemical Laboratory of St. Barts"), Paul G. Singleton ("Covent Garden"), Margaret Smedegaard ("Criterion Bar"), and Dorothy K. Stix ("Martha"). And then Tom announced that after serving as head of the BSI for eleven years, one more than he had planned, he was resigning the post and handing over the gavel to Mike Whelan.
6410. The Baskerville Bash also took place on Friday evening, at Bill's Gay 90's, in a sold-out private room and with an agenda that included papers by Linda Anderson re-telling of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" from the perspective of the curly-haired spaniel and by Peter McIntyre on substance abuse in the Canon, busking by assorted pearlie kings and queens, and an all-in performance of a new dance called the Barcarena (led by Francine Kitts to the tune of "Bad Dog, No Biscuit")
6411. On Saturday morning the huckster room at the Algonquin was as usual packed with dealers who happily offered a wide variety of Sherlockian wares to a large crowd of collectors who just as happily added to their collections. And Saturday afternoon's cocktail party at the National Arts Club offered attractive surroundings, fine food and drink and conversation, and brief entertainment that included David Stuart Davies' one-man reenactment of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (in only seven minutes) and a hard-fought auction that raised \$2,250 for the John H. Watson Fund. And Mike Whelan presented the Morley-Montgomery Award for the best article in last year's Baker Street Journal to Philip K. Shreffler (who received an attractive certificate and a check for \$500).

January 1997 #2

6412. The festivities continued into the evening, of course, but on a more informal basis, and the Aunt Clara Sing at O'Lunney's, was devoted to raucous singing, drinks and cigars, and the usual honors to the late Bill Rabe and others uncounted (or at least unreported). And the Canonical Capricorns toasted Sherlock Holmes and others born under that sign. And some still were partying on Sunday, here and there. And why not?
6413. Mike Whelan will use the title "Wiggins" as head of The Baker Street Irregulars (as did Tom Stix); he received his Investiture ("Vincent Spaulding") in 1974, and the BSI's Two-Shilling Award in 1992, and has lived in Chicago and San Francisco and Cleveland and Indianapolis, and been active in Sherlockian societies in all those cities, and he's been an able business manager of The Baker Street Journal. Mike has asked that mail concerning the BSI be sent to him at his post-office box address: Michael F. Whelan, Box 2189, Easton, MD 21601.
6414. Plan ahead: the next "Autumn in Baker Street" will be held at the Tarrytown Hillton in Tarrytown, N.Y., on Nov. 1-2. Additional details are available from Robert E. Thomalen, Highview Drive, Carmel, NY 10512 <crwk02a@prodigy.com>. And if you want to plan even farther ahead, "Autumn in Baker Street" will be held on Oct. 31-Nov. 1, 1998 (Bob reports with justified pride that the 1998 program lacks only two speakers to be complete).
6415. Cornelis Helling ("The Reigning Family of Holland") died on Mar. 10, 1995. He liked to explain that he had first found Sherlock Holmes in the back room of the shop of a pork-butcher, where at the age of ten or eleven he and a friend read the Canon in Dutch (and surely there could be no better place to first read "The Adventure of Black Peter"). He was an advocate, a fervent admirer of Jules Verne, and an energetic Sherlockian; he founded The Crew of the S.S. Friesland in 1952, and was a member of many other societies (he received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1961), and he contributed to our literature from the 1940s to the 1970s on both sides of the Atlantic.
6416. Some European countries will be issuing stamps this year tied to the theme "tales of horror" (since 1997 is the bicentenary of the birth of Mary Godwin, wife of Percy Bysshe Shelley and the author of FRANKENSTEIN, and the centenary of the publication of Bram Stoker's DRACULA), and Great Britain will issue a set of four stamps in May honoring (by nice coincidence) the four books featured in last year's television mini-series "Nightmare: The Birth of Victorian Horror" (the other two books being DR. JEKYLL AND MR. HYDE and THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES). Nicola Davies kindly forwarded the report by James Mackay in The Times (Jan. 7).
6417. PRIVATE EYE: DETEKTIV-ROLLENSPIEL IM VIKTORIANISCHEN ENGLAND is a German role-playing game created by Thilo Bayer and published by B&B Productions (Postfach 12, 74386 Talheim, Germany); the 96-page rule-book (DM 22.00) is illustrated with Sherlockian artwork, with two pages about Sherlock Holmes, and there are five adventures (#5 is "Auge um Auge" and costs DM 12.00). Okay: "Auge um Auge" is "An Eye for an Eye" and you (and your friends) will need to know German to play the games. Christian Swoboda will be happy to supply the rule-book and adventure #5 for \$27.00 postpaid (currency only, please); his address is Birkengasse 68/6/19, 3100 St. Poelten, Austria.

January 1997 #3

6418. Reported by Lisa Oldham: Laurence Jarvik's PBS (Rocklin: Forum/Prima, 1997; 376 pp., \$25.00) offers a history of the Public Broadcasting System, with a chapter on "Mobil's Masterpiece" that covers both "Masterpiece Theatre" and "Mystery!" and includes lots of behind-the-scenes gossip, some of it about Joan Wilson (who produced both series, and was Jeremy Brett's second wife, and apparently got "Mystery!" started by pirating mystery programming away from Alistair Cooke).
6419. A Sherlockian silhouette has long been used by Crime Solvers on its posters and fliers, and now it can be seen on the World Wide Web, where there's a "most wanted" site with pictures of perps and felons and such. The site URL is <<http://www.mostwanted.org>>, and the S'ian silhouette will be found at <<http://www.mostwanted.org/va/FairfaxCoPD/>>.
6420. The trivia question was: name two actors who have played Sherlock Holmes who also have played actors who have played Sherlock Holmes (April 96 #2). And the answer was: Patrick Horgan (who has played Holmes and William Gillette) and Nicol Williamson (who has played Holmes and John Barrymore). And there is a third: Christopher Plummer, who has played Holmes and is now on tour in the one-man show "Barrymore" (written by William Luce). The play premiered at Stratford, Ontario last fall, and will be at the Mechanic Theatre in Baltimore Feb. 10 through Mar. 2, and is due on Broadway in March.
6421. "The man must have gone down like a pole-axed ox before that terrible blow." That's from "Black Peter" (other mentions of oxen, or more accurately, parts of oxen, can be found in "A Study in Scarlet" and "The Lion's Mane"). And here's our newest Lunar New Year stamp, honoring the Year of the Ox.
6422. President Clinton welcomed this year's recipients of National Medal of Arts (the government's highest honor for individual artists, writers, and scholars) at a White House dinner on Jan. 9, and one of the honorees was Stephen Sondheim, creator of many of the most memorable of modern musicals, and the author of the song "I Never Do Anything Twice" featured in the movie "The Seven-Per-Cent Solution" (1976).
6423. Further to the mention of the upcoming exhibit "A Grand Design: The Art of the Victoria and Albert Museum" at the Baltimore Museum of Art in October (December 96 #2), there will be a different exhibit on "The Victorians: British Painting in the Reign of Queen Victoria (1837-1901)" at the

National Gallery of Art in Washington from Feb. 16 through May 11. The latter exhibit will be the first survey of Victorian art ever mounted in the U.S., and it will be on display only in Washington.

6424. Jim Suszynski reports some things to look for: a work shirt with Scooby Doo and Shaggy in Sherlockian costume on the pocket (\$38.00 at Warner Brothers stores); a British short-hair calico cat sculpted by Priscilla Hillman in Sherlockian costume made by ENESCO (\$17.50); a "101 Dalmatians" Timex watch showing a dalmatian with deerstalker and magnifying glass (\$39.95); and a coaster for Sherlock Holmes Best Bitter in a set of 25 British Pub Coasters from Pub World Collectibles (\$7.95) (there's a Pub World Collectibles Club, The Old Coach House, 92 Lodge Road, Feltwell, Norfolk PL26 4DN, England).
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January 1997 #4

6425. FAREWELL, MY DUMMY, by Phillip and Robert King (London: B. T. Batsford, 1996; 128 pp.) is a new collection of bridge-problem pastiches similar to their earlier THE KINGS' TALES (August 96 #4); Holmes and Watson appear in "The London Bridge Mystery" (Jeffrey Archer, Jane Austen, and Raymond Chandler are among the authors whose styles are used in other stories). Available from Trafalgar Square, Howe Hill Road, North Pomfret, VT 05053 (800-423-4525); \$20.95 postpaid.
6426. D. Salinger's HAPWORTH 16, 1924 will be published next month by Orchises Press (a small press owned by an English professor at George Mason University), and it will be Salinger's fifth book, and first new one since 1962. Actually, the story has been published once before in The New Yorker (June 19, 1965), but the reclusive author refused to allow a reprint until now. The 20,000-word story is a letter from seven-year-old Seymour Glass to his family; he's at summer camp, and young Glass writes that "my love for Sir Arthur Conan Doyle ... is an absolute certainty!"
6427. For those who can cruise the web with a graphics browser: Andy Solberg has reported a web page touting the current exhibition on sea nettles at the National Aquarium in Baltimore, with a picture of the Lion's Mane; the URL is <<http://www.cris.com/~Stocksda/naib/jelly.htm>>. And Willis Frick notes a home page displaying pictures of various recreations of the sitting room at 221B Baker Street, at <http://www.thehistorynet.com/HistoricTraveler/articles/1997/0297_text.htm>.
6428. Karl Showler reports that he has been able to clear the waiting list for THE CASE OF THE HOLMES BEE BOOK (September 96 #2); this is a boxed set of Kenneth K. Clark's BEEKEEPING (1951) and a 28-page pamphlet explaining how Remsen Ten Eyck Schenck used Clark's book to create one of the most delightful of the Sherlockian bibliohoaxes. The set is available from B & K Books, Riverside, Newport Street, Hay-on-Wye, via Hereford HR3 5BG, England; \$60.00 postpaid (checks payable to Karl Showler, please).
6429. The Emperor Napoleon III ordered the construction of the Hotel du Louvre in 1855 to accommodate visitors to the World Fair, and it was the first Grand Hotel in France; it was mentioned in "The Bruce-Partington Plans" and it is the official rendezvous for Holmesians in Paris, and it will be the focus of "L'affaire de l'Hotel du Louvre" planned by The Societe Sherlock Holmes de France for May 8-11. Details of the celebration (and it will be a grand affair indeed) are available from the society (26 avenue de la Republique, 75011 Paris. France).
6430. Slylock Fox appears in Sherlockian costume on all 90 cards (presumably reprinted from Bob Weber Jr.'s comic strip) in the box of SLYLOCK FOX BRAIN BOGGLERS (Great American Puzzle Factory #784), issued in 1996 and available in toy stores now.
6431. John McGowan notes that the Nando Times has reported that PBS has ordered eight new episodes of "Wishbone" (which may get a try-out in prime time), but there's no word on whether one of the new shows will be Sherlockian. In the meantime, fans of "The Original Cracker Jack" can check supermarket shelves for packages proclaiming that there is a "Wishbone" prize inside: there are 24 different prizes, but I don't know if one of them is S'ian).
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January 1997 #5

6432. H. R. F. Keating's CRIME & MYSTERY: THE 100 BEST BOOKS, first published in 1987 (February 88 #1) has been reissued in paperback (New York: Carroll & Graf, 1996; 219 pp., \$9.95); Keating comments on his selections, from Edgar Allan Poe to P. D. James, and Conan Doyle is noted for THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES and THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES.
6433. Brenda White and her husband Jesse Rhodes started creating Disney collectibles in 1989, and have done (very) limited editions of charger plates, pull-toys, tile table-tops, and one-of-a-kind vases. And her full-color 16" charger plate showing Ratigan (from "The Great Mouse Detective") is #7 of an edition of 10, and is available for \$2,000 at The Walt Disney Gallery (attn: Antonio), 711 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10022 (212-702-0702).
6434. THE BOOK OF FICTIONAL DAYS: 1997 ENGAGEMENT CALENDAR is a new project, and an intriguing one, restricted to honoring fictional events and characters rather than authors (Sherlockians may be familiar with that, of course). The calendar notes, for example, that Dec. 27 is when Commissionaire Peterson's goose coughed up the Blue Carbuncle. \$12.45 postpaid from Bob Gordon (6224 Bury Drive, Eden Prairie, MN 55436); Bob will also be happy to hear from anyone who wants to nominate other fictional events, at that address or at <bgordon@fona.com>.
6435. Bernard J. O'Heir died on Jan. 25. It was just over twenty years ago, when Bernie was a sergeant in the Air Force, that he began to focus his interest in old movies into an enthusiastic admiration of Basil Rathbone, and when he was stationed in California he interviewed many people who had known and acted with Rathbone. Bernie collected, naturally, and he pursued anything and everything related to Rathbone's stage, screen, radio, and television career. He was able to find and preserve many unique items, and he gladly shared both his discoveries and his enthusiasm with his friends and fellow admirers of an actor who was far more than just Sherlock Holmes.
6436. Tom Rieschick's attractive Sherlockian artwork is now available on greeting cards as well as prints, and you can request his illustrated flier; his new address is 4549 Windsor Lane, Bethesda, MD 20814 <trieschick@aol.com>.
6437. "Sherlock's Secret Life" is a new play, written by Ed. Lange and scheduled at the New York State Theatre Institute in Troy, N.Y. There will be preview performances on Mar. 14 and 15, and the play will open on Mar. 16 and close on Mar. 26; the address of the box-office is 155 River Street, Troy, NY 12180 (518-274-3256). And there are plans for a limited run in Queens, N.Y. in April, and for a longer run at the Fulton Opera House in Lancaster, Pa., in the 1997-1998 season. Altamont's Agents have made arrangements for a theater party on Mar. 15; more information is available from Cheryl Hurd, Box 2048, Scotia, NY 12302 <hurdc@sage.edu>.
6438. David A. Bankes and Anthony R. Santoro of Christopher Newport University are guiding another tour through "Gardens, Country Houses, and Museums in England" on May 19-30, with "adventures custom-tailored for Sherlock Holmes buff" as an option; details are available from TravelMates (attn: Ginger Shriver), 12482 Warwick Boulevard, Newport News, VA 23606
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January 1997 #6

6439. "20-100" is the cryptic title chosen for the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the founding of The Blustering Gales from the South-West and the 100th anniversary of their favorite story (which of course is "The Devil's Foot"); the celebration will be held on Mar. 22 in Burbank, and additional details are available from Paula Salo, 4421 Pacific Coast Highway, Torrance, CA 90505.
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6440. Guernsey has issued a set of stamps that honors "100 Years of Cinema" and portrays five famous detectives: Basil Rathbone as Sherlock Holmes, Margaret Rutherford as Miss Marple, Warner Oland as Charlie Chan, Humphrey Bogart as Philip Marlow, and Peter Sellers as Inspector Clouseau. The mint set is offered here by Israel I. Bick (Box 854, Van Nuys, CA 91408) for \$9.95; there also is a first day cover (\$14.95), presentation pack (\$12.95), and prestige booklet containing a competition pastiche (\$29.95); plus \$3.00 for shipping (credit card orders welcome). Maurice Tanner (180 Whitehorse Road, West Croydon, Surrey CR0 2LA, England) offers his own color-cachet first day cover of the Rathbone stamp (£9.99 postpaid in U.K. or £10.99 overseas) and a set of two different maximum cards (£6.99 or £7.99); sterling checks or money orders only, or credit cards with a 30p surcharge (an illustrated flier is available in return two IRC or a \$1.00 bill).
6441. Doug Elliott reports that the Metropolitan Toronto Reference Library will celebrate the 25th anniversary of The Bootmakers of Toronto with a special exhibit of original Sherlockian art by Sidney Paget, Frederic Dorr Steele, Gahan Wilson, and others, from the collections of Dr. Peter Lemiski and the Library; the exhibit will be open from June 26 to Aug. 2.
6442. THE BAKER STREET COMPANION, by Paul Lipari (Kansas City: Ariel Books, 1996; 128 pp., \$3.95), is an interesting mini-book (1.9 x 2.3 inches), with brief chapters on the Canon, and Sherlockians, and Basil Rathbone; distributed by Andrew and McMeel, 4900 Main Street, Kansas City, MO 64112.
6443. Best wishes to all on George Washington's Birthday (which of course we now celebrate on President's Day). A repeat question from six years back: on what date and in what year was George Washington actually born?
6444. And a few commercials: the revised 16-page list of Investitured Irregulars, Two-Shilling Awards, *The* Women, and the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes costs \$1.15 postpaid. The 76-page list of 704 Sherlockian societies, with names and addresses for contacts for the 413 active societies, costs \$3.80 postpaid. A run of address labels for 345 individual contacts (recommended if you wish to avoid making duplicate mailings to people who are contacts for more than one society) costs \$10.35 postpaid. Checks payable to Peter E. Blau, please.
6445. For the electronically enabled, the 16-page list of Irregulars and others is available from me as e-mail (no charge), and both lists are available at Willis Frick's web site at <<http://www.kaiwan.com/~sherlock/stron1.html>>.

February 1997 #1

6446. The question was: on what date and in what year was George Washington born? And the answer is: Feb. 11, 1731. Well, yes, his official birthday now is Feb. 22, but that's because Britain in 1752, adopted the Gregorian calendar in all of their possessions, including the American colonies, and there was a loss of eleven days, and Feb. 11 became Feb. 22. And yes, we celebrated the bicentennial of his birth in 1932, and you might think that means that he was born in 1732, but the change to the Gregorian calendar also involved shifting the start of the new year from Mar. 25 back to Jan. 1. And why is this of significance to Sherlockians? "What was the month? The sixth from the first." So the first month when the Musgrave ritual was created wasn't January, and the sixth from the first wasn't July.
6447. Mollie Panter-Downes died on Jan. 22. She wrote a "Letter from London" for The New Yorker for 45 years, discussing British society and politics and culture, and her report on the Sherlock Holmes Exhibition at Abbey House (in the July 7, 1951, issue) offered both splendid reporting and delightful reading.
6448. For those who enjoyed Derek Jacobi as Alan Turing in "Breaking the Code" on "Mobil Masterpiece Theatre" on PBS-TV on Feb. 2 (and for those who may want to watch it when it repeats): Richard Johnson played Dillwyn Knox, the second of the four Knox brothers (Ronald, the founder of our grand Sherlockian game, was the youngest). Dilly Knox was recruited by Naval Intelligence as a cryptographer in 1915, and continued that work in the Foreign Office, and was Turing's superior at Bletchley Park when the British broke the Enigma cipher. Penelope Fitzgerald's THE KNOX BROTHERS (London: Macmillan, 1977) is a fine biography of all four brothers.
6449. I had a bit of fun during the birthday festivities in January presenting people with a cultural-literacy test, showing them a ring that video shops are giving to customers who buy a new film. And about half (but only half) of those tested recognized the Phantom's death's-head ring, and the symbol feared by evildoers everywhere, all those years in the comic strip, and now in the movie. But that wasn't the cultural-literacy test; try your hand at the real question: what was the symbol on the Phantom's other ring?
6450. Leonard Nimoy played Sherlock Holmes on educational television in "The Interior Motive" in 1975, long before VCRs were as widely owned and used as they are now; I would appreciate hearing from anyone who has a recording of this show.
6451. WHICH WAY DID THE BICYCLE GO? is an imaginative collection of mathematical mysteries by Joseph D. E. Konhauser, Dan Velleman, and Stan Wagon (Washington: Mathematical Association of America, 1996; 235 pp., \$24.95). And the first problem in the book is a discussion of a real Canonical mystery (from "The Priory School"): how do you tell from a set of bicycle tracks which way the bicycle was going? It turns out that there is a mathematical answer to the question, and it's explained neatly in the book (which also has some nice Sherlockian cover art by Max Carl Winkler). \$29.50 postpaid from the MAA, Box 91112, Washington DC 20090 (800-331-1162).

February 1997 #2

6452. Herb Caen died on Feb. 1. He was in many ways the ultimate San Franciscan (although he was born in Sacramento), and began his journalism career as a columnist on his high-school newspaper; he started his six-days-a-week column in the San Francisco Chronicle in 1938, and when he retired last year, 75,000 people attended a farewell party arranged by the city. He loved to write about his city and its people, and once in a while about the local Sherlockians: on Jan. 4, 1996, he tipped his hat to Ray de Groat ("exiled to Seattle") and praised his Christmas toast, "Geese on earth, goosewill to all."
6453. And the answer is: the symbol on the Phantom's other ring was the symbol of his protection, which was a nice thing to have, whether in the jungle or elsewhere. Chrys Kegley knew, and knew as well that Maggie Schpak, of the Curious Collectors of Baker Street, designed both rings worn by the Phantom in the film.
6454. Henry Irving claimed credit for suggesting that William Gillette bring his play "Sherlock Holmes" to London in 1901, and earlier achieved considerable success playing Corporal Brewster in "Waterloo" (dramatized by Conan Doyle from his short story "A Straggler of '15"); the Lyceum (well known to those who have read "The Sign of the Four" was his theater, and the restaurant in the newly renovated theater is named in his honor. And British enthusiasts have founded The Irving Society, there are four meetings planned for 1997, and a twice-a-year newsletter; membership costs £15.00 a year (in sterling only, please) to the society, c/o Brien Chitty, 69 Harcourt Street, Newark-on-Trent, Notts. NG24 1RG, England.
6455. The current issue of Anglofile reports that Britain's year-end honors list included a baronetcy for composer Andrew Lloyd Webber; his musical "Cats" (1981), was adapted from T. S. Eliot's OLD POSSUM'S BOOK OF PRACTICAL CATS and features the song "Macavity". Anglofile is a monthly newsletter with detailed coverage of British entertainment; Box 33515, Decatur, GA 30033 (\$12.00 a year).
6456. "Time Exposures" is an interesting Canadian television series (with 26 30-minute episodes) about a modern family who wind up time-traveling through history; it first aired in 1989 on CTV, and it's now running on WAM! cable (a children's network owned by Encore), and in three episodes

they have an encounter with Sherlock Holmes (played by Philip Linfield); watch for the three S'ian episodes on Mar. 15, 22, and 29. If any of you get WAM! cable, please record the shows off-the-air.

6457. Plan ahead: the seventh annual Mid-Atlantic Mystery Book Fair and Convention will be held at the Holiday Inn (Independence Mall) in Philadelphia on Oct. 3-5. Membership is limited to 400 and full registration costs \$50.00, and you can write to Deen Kogan, Detecto-Mysterioso Books, 507 South 8th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147. You can also plan well ahead: Bouchercon 29 will be held in Philadelphia on Oct. 1-4, 1998, with Deen in charge of arrangements (she has done it before and done it well); Bouchercon is the world mystery convention and it's a grand affair indeed, and it will be at the Wyndham Franklin Plaza in Philadelphia, and full registration is \$100 (checks payable to Bouchercon 29, same address).
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February 1997 #3

6458. "The hospital's head pediatric nurse is also an ex-prostitute whose former madam turns up dead after revealing that she's going to publish a tell-all book" was the TV Guide synopsis for "Diagnosis Murder" on CBS-TV on Jan. 9, and it's well worth watching for when it runs again: Dick Van Dyke takes a cue from a Sherlock Holmes story in solving a mystery, and says, "I only steal from the best."
6459. A bibliographic query about the first American edition of THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1892): is there a copy of the first edition (with the date 1892 on the title page) that does not have the misprint "if had" (rather than "if I had") on page 65, line 4? The mistake was corrected in later editions (which have an undated title page), but one sometimes sees the misprint cited as distinguishing the first issue of the first edition. But if the mistake wasn't corrected in the first edition of the book, there would be only one issue. Does anyone have a second issue?
6460. The Torists International are celebrating their tenth anniversary this year and they have an imaginative schedule for those in or near Chicago: visits to the Chicago Stock Exchange in March, Sportsman's Park in June, the Adler Planetarium in September, and the Chicago Athletic Association in December. Information about the society and its meetings is available from Claudine Kastner, 810 Burning Bush Lane, Mount Prospect, IL 60056.
6461. Sheldon Wesson died on Dec. 12. He was for many years director of press relations for the American Iron and Steel Institute in Washington, and the poet laureate of The Silver Blaze (Southern Division), and an enthusiastic printer with a basement full of hand presses and type. His scholarship and wit were a mainstay of The Red Circle, and some fine examples of both will be found in the pages of The Baker Street Journal.
6462. NIGHTMARE: THE BIRTH OF HORROR, by Christopher Frayling (London: BBC Books, 1996; 224 pp., £17.99), was published to accompany the BBC mini-series that was broadcast here in Oct. 1996, and it's far more than merely a repeat of the material in the television shows: Frayling explores FRANKENSTEIN, DRACULA, DR. JEKYLL AND MR. HYDE, and THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, and offers new information on the genesis of the Dartmoor tale, and some splendid illustrations, including (for the first time) the first page of Chapter XI of the manuscript, and B. Fletcher Robinson's inscription in the copy of the first edition of the book he presented to coachman Harry Baskerville "with apologies for using the name!"
6463. Forecast: THE FINAL ADVENTURES OF SOLAR PONS, from Arkham House in July, edited and introduced by Peter Ruber, including some of Derleth's own unpublished Solar Pons stories; and THE SOLAR PONS ENCYCLOPEDIA, by Robert Brooks, from Arkham House in November.
6464. THE SHERLOCK HOLMES COLLECTED EDITION was first published by John Murray and Jonathan Cape in 1974 in nine volumes, with introductions by authors such as Eric Ambler and Kingsley Amis, and it has been reissued by Leopard in Britain at £2.99 or £3.99 per volume; Geoff Jeffrey has noted that all nine volumes are available here (\$7.95 each) from Edward R. Hamilton, Falls Village, CT 06031-5000 (and the Hamilton catalog of discount and bargain books has many other Sherlockian titles).
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February 1997 #4

6465. New from the Folio Society: SHERLOCK HOLMES: SELECTED STORIES, selected by Joe Whitlock Blundell and with an introduction by Richard Lancelyn Green, with 11 of the stories and illustrations by Francis Mosley (reprinted from the set of the complete short stories published by the Society in 1993). Available to members of the Society for \$34.95; if you'd like to join, the address is: 2323 Randolph Avenue, Avenel, NJ 07001 (800-353-0700).
6466. There also is an exhibition honoring "Folio Society Fifty Years 1947-1997" at the King's Library (at the British Library in Great Russell Street), and an attractive poster designed by John Lawrence that shows many of the characters in the Society's book, including (of course) Sherlock Holmes.
6467. Washington Post columnist Bill Gold died on January 26th. It was on Sept. 13, 1949, that he noted in his column "The District Line" that Karen Kruse was hoping to find some fellow-Sherlockians in Washington ("for the benefit of the younger set," he noted, "it might be well to explain that Holmes was a sort of script writer for Basil Rathbone"); three people responded to her call, and the four of them founded The Red Circle of Washington.
6468. Cerebro (Box 327, East Prospect, PA 17317 (800-695-2235) continues to offer a wide variety of attractive cigar box labels; their new catalog includes a pictorial Sherlock Holmes outer label (\$30.00) and a Sherlock Holmes inner label top sheet (\$8.00).
6469. The proprietor of the Pequod Press reports that THE ADVENTURE OF THE WOODEN NEZ PERCE embroils Sherlock Loams in a mystery surrounding an effigy of the legendary Chief Joseph (and that no animals were harmed in its writing or production; hand-set and printed, as always, and available for \$40 (cloth) or \$20 (paper) from John Ruyle, 521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707.
6470. Richard J. Sveum, who is president of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University in Minnesota, was in New York for the birthday festivities and for a discussion of the status of and plans for their John Bennett Shaw and other collections. Many Sherlockians have donated to the Library, but continued support is always welcome; the Friends plan to publish a quarterly newsletter, with reports on the collection and on some of its interesting material, and the first issue is due this spring. If you are not already on their mailing list, you are invited to write to him at: 466 O. M. Wilson Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455 <sveum001@maroon.tc.umn.edu>.
6471. Jack Kerr spotted a second pastiche by Michael Mallory, "The Adventure of the Glass House" (told by Watson's wife Amelia), in the fall 1996 issue of Murderous Intent (Box 5947, Vancouver, WA 98668); \$5.00. Another story, by Richard A. Lupoff, is illustrated by Stu Shiffman, who has drawn a Sherlock Holmes PEZ dispenser (and perhaps there will be a real one, some day).
6472. Megan Follows has recorded Laurie R. King's A LETTER OF MARY on two audiocassettes in a set now available from Durkin Hayes (\$16.95), and the reading is a fine one (THE BEEKEEPER'S APPRENTICE and A MONSTROUS REGIMENT OF WOMEN are also available); if you can't find them at your local shop, the address for Durkin Hayes Audio is 1 Colomba Drive, Niagara Falls, NY 14305.
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February 1997 #5

6473. This year's program for University Vacations includes "Light upon the Moor" at Brasenose College (Oxford), Devon, and Cornwall on Aug. 17-27, with a week of lectures and a stay at the Manor House Hotel, with due attention to Arthur Conan Doyle. 10461 N.W. 26th Street, Miami, FL 33172 (800-792-0100) <univac@icanect.net>.
6474. George B. Koelle died on Feb. 1. He was a distinguished scientist, and an inventor of electron-microscope methods that became a standard in the field of pharmacology, and served as chairman of the department at the University of Pennsylvania from 1957 to 1981; he was elected to the

- National Academy of Science in 1972. George also was a Master Copper Beechsmith of The Sons of the Copper Beeches, and used his medical expertise in writing his essay on poisons in the Canon for the society's LEAVES FROM THE COPPER BEECHES.
6475. The Pleasant Places of Florida will celebrate their 25th anniversary with a "Sunshine State Sherlockian Scion Symposium" at the Dolphin Beach Resort in St. Pete Beach on May 2-4. Write to Carl L. Heifetz, 3693 Siena Lane, Palm Harbor, FL 34685 <72642.3220@compuserve.com> for more information.
6476. Spotted by Victoria Robinson: a German hand-painted porcelain Sherlock Holmes stein (with full-relief calabash pipe, pipe pewter thumbflirt, flat pewter lid under the deerstalker hat), 6.75" high, \$130.00 plus \$6.00 shipping, in the new catalog from The Cottage Shop, 11 Largo Drive South, Stamford, CT 06907 (800-965-7467).
6477. If your local pipe shop stocks Dr. Grabow pipes and accessories, you can ask for a copy of the small booklet (with nice Sherlockian artwork) called "The Case of the New Pipe Smoker" (noted recently by eagle-eyed Siobhan McElduff).
6478. Richard M. Caplan's "DR. WATSON, MR. SHERLOCK HOLMES" (Shelburne: Battered Silicon Dispatch Box, 1996; 171 pp., \$24.00) offers a fine demonstration of how much fun a Sherlockian can have mixing the Canon with an area of expertise: Caplan's area of expertise is dermatology, and he has over the years discussed that aspect of the Sherlock Holmes stories in articles in medical journals and in The Baker Street Journal, all reprinted here. But there is much more in this book: a series of letters from written by Young Stamford to his wife, from 1882 to 1913, and tells some fine stories about his travels and the people he meets (including Holmes and Watson, more than once). The publisher's address is Box 204, Shelburne, ON L0N 1S0, Canada; \$27.00 postpaid.
6479. Reported: Martin Gardner's essay on "The Irrelevance of Conan Doyle" (first published in 1976 in BEYOND BAKER STREET: A SHERLOCKIAN ANTHOLOGY) has been reprinted in his THE NIGHT IS LARGE: COLLECTED ESSAYS, 1938-1995 (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1996).
6480. Mary Beth Myles spotted a Russ Teddy Town "Sherlock" plastic bear in S'ian costume, 5" high, holding a pipe and a magnifying glass, it's item 13739 from Russ Berrie and Co. (Oakland, N.J.), and it cost \$10.50 at her local Hallmark shop (but note that it's not a Hallmark item).

February 1997 #6

6481. TERCER ANUARIO DE LA SOCIEDAD DE MENDIGOS AFICIONADOS is the third casebook of The Amateur Mendicant Society of Madrid, and nicely done, with 296 pages of Sherlockian scholarship and pastiches by members of the society, with an interesting exploration of "El Sultan de Turquia" and a section of studies devoted to "La Finca "Copper Beeches"" and much more. It's all in Spanish; \$20.00 postpaid (in currency only, please) from Miguel Gonzales-Pedel, San Vidal 15, 28017 Madrid, Spain.
6482. Further to the earlier mention of Ed. Lange's new play "Sherlock's Secret Life" (January 97 #5): if you can't get to Troy in March, there will be one performance of the play at Christ the King Regional High School in Middle Village, Queens, N.Y., on Apr. 11; the box-office telephone number is 718-366-7400 ext 246.
6483. Leo Rosten died on Feb. 19. He was teaching English to immigrants when he met the man who inspired a 1935 series of New Yorker stories called "The Education of H*Y*M*A*N K*A*P*L*A*N" (which later became a series of books and a Broadway musical). His classic THE JOYS OF YIDDISH (1689) still is a standard reference work, and in HOORAY FOR YIDDISH! (1982) he discussed the used of the word "bread" as a substitute for "money" (also noting the more straightforward English, "as in Conan Doyle, say: A blackmailer tells Sherlock Holmes, 'Here's how I make my humble bread.'"). And his novels SILKY! (1979) and KING SILKY! (1980) starred private investigators Sidney Pincus and Michael X. Clancy, operating as Watson and Holmes, Inc.
6484. CSA Telltapes (101 Camberlayne Road, London NW10 3ND, England) has issued a two-audiocassette set VINTAGE MURDER STORIES (available earlier as CLASSIC TALES OF MURDER) with five stories (including Conan Doyle's "B.24") read by Brian Cox; £9.49 postpaid (credit-card orders welcome).
6485. Cynthia Wein (65 Briarwood Lane, Plainview, NY 11803) offers an artistic hand-painted Sherlockian design (in black on a 7.5 in. red circle) on short-sleeved white T-shirts (\$26.00), long-sleeved white or gray T-shirts (\$29.00), and white or gray sweatshirts (\$34.00), in sizes M/L/XL (add \$3.00 for XXL); all prices postpaid.
6486. If you're considering a summer holiday in England: The Sherlock Holmes of London's East Coast Expedition is scheduled for July 4-6, with a tour of the countryside where the German spy-master Von Bork lived in the years before the outbreak of war in 1914. Additional information is available from Margaret Bird, 193 Richmond Road, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey KT2 5DD, England.
6487. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists will meet for dinner in honor of the world's first forensic geologist on Apr. 9, at Tony's Wine Warehouse, 1111 Oak Lawn Avenue, in Dallas, for a five-course ten-wine dinner and the usual toasts, and the price is \$50.00 a person; if you would like to join us for the festivities, please contact Don Hobbs at: Box 36329, Dallas, TX 75235 <dhobbs@zluh.org>. And if you'd like an excuse for a visit to Oklahoma, I will lead the first-ever geological expedition to the summit of Holmes Peak (near Tulsa) on Apr. 12; Staff Davis (2144 North Elwood Avenue, Tulsa, OK 74106) is the ring-leader of The Afghanistan Perceivers of Tulsa.

February 1997 #7

6488. And are you wondering where Leo Rosten found that quote in the Canon? He didn't; it's his humorous (but plausible) invention.
6489. Some invented quotes are more plausible than others: William Safire, in his column "On Language" in the N.Y. Times Magazine (Feb. 16), notes a comment made by Neil Simon on one of the many meanings of "Aha!" as "when you know something but find it unnecessary to share, as for example, Sherlock Holmes picking up an object and exclaiming, 'Aha!' to which Watson asks, 'What is it Holmes?' 'I'll let you know when we get to Blenheim Castle. Quickly, Watson. To Victoria Station.'"
6490. And yes, Neil Simon got "Blenheim Castle" wrong, too; it's Blenheim Palace, built by Sherlock Holmes/John Neville/John Churchill, Duke of Marlborough (and trivia experts know that the first "Masterpiece Theatre" series was "The First Churchills", not "The Forsyte Saga").
6491. The Mycroft Holmes Society celebrated their 25th anniversary last year, and have now celebrated that celebration with A SILVER JUBILEE: 25 YEARS OF THE MYCROFT HOLMES SOCIETY OF SYRACUSE, edited by Joseph A. Coppola, and offering a collection of announcements, articles, papers, reminiscences, poetry, and puzzles from the society's archives. 195 pages (cloth-bound); \$27.24 postpaid to U.S. addresses (\$31.00 elsewhere), from Joseph A. Coppola, 103 Kenny Street, Fayetteville, NY 13066. Joe also reports that sets of three commemorative covers with the official USPS postmark are available; \$5.00 postpaid.
6492. Michael Atkinson's THE SECRET MARRIAGE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (December 96 #8) has been nominated for a Mystery Writers of America "Edgar" for Best Critical/Biographical Work.
6493. The Beeman's Christmas Annual for 1996 offers 40 pages of scholarship (and a few advertisements), including William R. Cochran's interesting reminiscences on society history, and Brad Keefauver's imaginative explanation of why the empty house was so conveniently vacant. \$10.00 postpaid from The Occupants of the Empty House (105 Wilcox, Ziegler, IL 62999).

6494. MURDER, MRS. HUDSON, by Sydney Hosier (New York: Avon Books, 1997; 210 pp., \$5.50) is a sequel to his ELEMENTARY, MRS. HUDSON (April 96 #6); this time Emma is hired by journalist-and-would-be-politician Winston Churchill to find, follow, and thwart an international terrorist and assassin. Emma is again assisted by a friend's powers of astral projection, and by Holmes' apparent willingness to do without a housekeeper.
6495. Jim Suszynski notes that the May issue of Cracked has a small illustration of Sherlock Holmes by John Severin (in the last panel of the spoof "Goosedumps").
6496. COMMANDING VIEWS FROM THE EMPTY HOUSE: COLLECTED WRITINGS BY THE OCCUPANTS OF THE EMPTY HOUSE, edited by William R. Cochran and Gordon R. Speck (Indianapolis: Gasogene Book, 1996; 192 pp., \$18.75), is just what the subtitle states; the best papers from the society's 16 years of monthly meetings are scholarly, unscholarly, and occasionally scandalous, and there's a reprint of the script for Lee Eric Shackelford's two-act play "Holmes and Watson". \$21.70 postpaid from the publisher (Box 68308, Indianapolis, IN 46268).
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February 1997 #8

6497. Angela Lansbury received a special life achievement award from the Screen Actors Guild on Feb. 22, and a tribute narrated by Glenn Close, who recalled that she was acting on Broadway in "The Crucifer of Blood" when she first met Lansbury, who in 1979 was starring in "Sweeney Todd" (and each night Close was able to get to the other theater in time to watch the end of "Sweeney Todd"). Close had an added incentive, of course: she was dating Lansbury's co-star Len Cariou.
6498. Reported by Jack Kerr: SCI-FI PRIVATE EYE, edited by Charles G. Waugh and Martin H. Greenberg (New York: Roc, 1997; \$5.99), with reprints of Poul Anderson's "The Martian Crown Jewels" and Philip Jose Farmer's "A Scarlet Study".
6499. Scott Monty finds imaginative venues for meetings of The Bull-Terriers: the Apr. 20 dinner will be held at The Castle at Boston University; details on the meetings are available from Scott (1836 Columbia Road #2, South Boston, MA 02127) <wsmonty@bu.edu>.
6500. Luci Zahray has found an amusing Sherlockian poster and bookmarks in a new catalog from Upstart, Box 800, Fort Atkinson, WI 53538 (800-448-4887); the bookmarks cost \$6.25 for a package of 200, but if you want just one, send a #10 SASE to Luci (685 Marylane Drive, Holland, MI 49423).
6501. Luci also reports a new catalog from Dale Seymour Publications, Box 5026, White Plains, NY 10602 (800-872-1100), with Sherlockian artwork on the covers of two books by Wade H. Sherard III: LOGIC NUMBER PROBLEMS (for grades 7-12) and LOGIC GEOMETRY PROBLEMS (for grades 9-12); \$10.50 each.
6502. C. Frederick Kittle's "There's More to Doyle Than Holmes!" in the winter 1997 issue of The Pharos offers a fine overview of ACD's life and career; spotted by Bob Katz. The magazine is published by the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society (525 Middlefield Road #130, Menlo Park, CA 94025).
6503. Carolyn Hoehn reports that the Public Domain Players are performing William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" in Austin, closing on Apr. 5. The box-office address is 807 Congress Avenue, Austin, TX 78701 (512-474-6202).
6504. More and more people are hearing about the Irregulars; Tom and Dorothy Stix report that they had a phone call recently from someone who wanted to know if they would like to buy some irregular jeans.
6505. Further to the item about the set of stamps issued by Guernsey (July 97 #6), Gordon Palmer notes that the stamp that shows Warner Oland as Charlie Chan actually shows Warner Oland as Fu Manchu (in "Daughter of the Dragon").
6506. THE JEWELLED PEACOCK OF PERSIA, by Jake and Luke Thoene (Nashville: Moorings/ Ballantine, 1996; 155 pp., \$5.95), is a nicely-written juvenile, about three of Sherlock Holmes' young street-urchin assistants pursuing a case of their own; it's the third in a "Baker Street Mysteries" series (the others are THE MYSTERY OF THE YELLOW HANDS and THE GIANT RAT OF SUMATRA).
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March 1997 #1

6507. Kathleen A. Shiel notes that there will be Sherlockian programming at the Fantasticon U.K. convention in Harrowgate on May 24-26, 1997. Two Watsons will be participating: Edward Hardwicke (from the Granada television series) and Michael Williams (from the BBC radio series). Additional details are available from Catherine Richardson (38 Planetree Avenue, Fenham, Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 9TH, England); the convention's web-site is at <<http://www.aber.ac.uk/~mlr95/>>.
6508. A moment of silence, please, for Sherlock H. Lincoln, who died aged 77 (of cancer of the stomach and liver) in Pittsfield, Mass., on Feb. 5, 1895. He was a farmer from Plainfield, Mass.
6509. It's unlikely that Brad Keefauver wrote all of the material in the 32 pages of the first issue of The Holmes & Watson Report, since one of the putative authors is known to be armed and dangerous, but it isn't at all surprising that he includes a staff guitarist on the masthead. And a voice of sanity, but no one familiar with Brad's work would take that seriously. \$14.00 in North America for six issues a year, or \$20.00 elsewhere; Brad's address is 1421 West Shenandoah Drive, Peoria, IL 61614.
6510. Simon Callow's excellent biography ORSON WELLES: THE ROAD TO XANADU (April 96 #1) has been reissued as a paperback (New York: Penguin USA, 1997; 680 pp., \$14.95).
6511. Reported: HOUDINI!!!: THE CAREER OF EHRICH WEISS, by Kenneth Silverman (New York: HarperCollins, 1996; 465 pp., \$35.00); a new biography (and the three exclamation points really do appear in the title), with some discussion of the relationship between Houdini and Conan Doyle.
6512. Thanks to all who reported portraits of Holmes and Watson on the cover of the Mar. 1997 issue of the TV Guide Crossword Puzzle Book (devoted to TV detective puzzles, and with some Sherlockian clues in the puzzles).
6513. Fans of Christopher Lee's will want to watch him as the sinister Grand Master of the Templars in a new BBC/A&E six-hour dramatization of Sir Walter Scott's "Ivanhoe" on A&E cable on Apr. 20-22 (with a repeat on Apr. 25-26). Reported by Anglofile (a monthly newsletter with detailed coverage of British entertainment); Box 33515, Decatur, GA 30033 (\$12.00 a year).
6514. Edward Hardwicke is splendid as always reading four CLASSIC DETECTIVE STORIES ("The Dying Detective" and tales by Sapper, G. K. Chesterton, and Edgar Wallace) on two audiocassettes in a boxed set issued in 1992, and Patrick Malahyde does an excellent job with four CLASSIC RAILWAY MURDERS (by Baroness Orczy, Maurice Leblanc, Victor Whitechurch and E. Conway, and Freeman Wills Crofts) on two audiocassettes, and Brian Cox also performs well on VINTAGE MURDER STORIES [issued earlier as CLASSIC TALES OF MURDER] (Conan Doyle's "B.24" and stories by P. C. Wren, Arnold Bennett, Jack London, Robert Barr, and Sapper). Each set is £9.49 postpaid from CSA Telltapes (101 Camberlayne Road, London NW10 3ND, England); credit-card orders accepted. And Tangled Web Audio offers CLASSIC RAILWAY MURDERS for \$20.45 postpaid; 3380 Sheridan Drive #167, Amherst, NY 14226 (800-336-5746).
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March 1997 #2

6515. Irene Mikhlin has uncovered a Russian parody SHERLOCK HOLMES I VCE-VCE-VCE, by Jack Kent, illustrated by Nikolai Lebedev (Moscow: MiK, 1994); the title is translated (roughly) as "Sherlock Holmes and Practically Everybody" and Holmes and Watson (and Miss Marple, Nero Wolfe, Inspector
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- Maigret, Perry Mason, Father Brown, and others) find themselves in a castle out on the moors, defending themselves against a murderer who is killing them off, one by one.
6516. Elizabeth Kastor reported in the Washington Post (Mar. 1) on a new series of "Smelly Old History" books written by Oxford University history professor Mary Dobson and due next month in Great Britain from the Oxford University Press. They are scratch-and-sniff books intended to make history more interesting to kids. ROMAN AROMAS, TUDOR ODORS, and VICTORIAN VAPORS will each have five scratch-and-sniff panels (head-on-a-stake, presumably one of the Tudor odors, is described by Kastor as part overripe meat, part glue), and two of the Victorian vapors will be: machine oil and urine.
6517. David Stuart Davies' BENDING THE WILLOW: JEREMY BRETT AS SHERLOCK HOLMES (Chester: Calabash Press, 1996; 192 pp., £19.99) is a splendid tribute to the actor and to the Granada series and the people who worked on it; there are many grand stories about how the series was conceived and brought to the screen, about problems and resolutions, about successes and occasional failures, all told by an author who is a fine writer and who talked often with those who worked on the series. Available from the publisher (Box 1360, Ashcroft, BC V0K 1A0, Canada) <ashtree@mail.netshop.net>; US \$35.75 postpaid (credit-card orders welcome).
6518. Connie Steffan reports a new Sherlock Holmes hand-painted pewter thimble (with a lift-off hat) in a new catalog from Gimbel & Sons Country Store (Box 56, Boothbay Harbor, ME 04538); \$19.95.
6519. Karl and Betty Showler, whose interest in all things related to bees and beekeeping led to their THE CASE OF THE HOLMES BEE BOOK (January 97 #4), have also laid in a supply of THE OXFORD SHERLOCK HOLMES volume of HIS LAST BOW (in which Holmes' apiculture is mentioned); if you need only the one volume (in cloth), it costs \$15.00 postpaid (checks payable to Karl Showler, please) from B & K Books, Riverside, Newport Street, Hay-on-Wye, via Hereford HR3 5BG, England.
6520. Hugh Leonard's play "The Mask of Moriarty" premiered in Dublin in 1985 with Tom Baker as Holmes, and Paxton Whitehead starred in the play in Williamstown, Mass. in 1994. And Al JaCoby reports that Whitehead will do the role again at the Globe Theater in San Diego from Sept. 14 to Oct. 25. The boxoffice address is Box 2171, San Diego, CA 92112 (619-239-2255).
6521. The exhibition of "The Victorians: British Painting in the Reign of Queen Victoria (1837-1901)" at the National Gallery of Art in Washington is fine indeed; it's the first major survey of Victorian art ever mounted in the U.S. and it will be on display only in Washington (through May 11). It is interesting to see the best artists of the era, from Turner to Whistler, and the way the way they reflected the culture that surrounded them. And there a bit of minor Sherlockiana: a mention of Conan Doyle and "A Study in Scarlet" in the chronology of Victorian Britain in the exhibition brochure.

March 1997 #3

6522. The first issue of "Le registre de l'hotel Dulong" has arrived from Sylvain Policard, with four pages of Sherlockian news from the Lyonnaise branch of La Quincaillerie Franco-Midland (including an article about the meeting between Lyon notable Dr. Edmond Locard and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle); you need to read French, but free copies are available from Sylvain Policard (2 rue Jean-Noel, Lyon VIe, France).
6523. David L. Hammer is a stamp collector as well as a Sherlockian cicerone, and two of his pastiches have been reprinted from MY DEAR WATSON: BEING THE ANNALS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1995) in The American Philatelist, Nov. 1996 and Mar. 1997; Box 8000, State College, PA 16803 (\$2.25 each).
6524. Sorry about that: there was a typo in my (February 97 #3) query about the first issue of the first American edition of THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES. The first issue (dated 1892 on the title page) has a misprint "if had" on page 65, line 4; and later issues (without the date 1892 on the title page) have "if he had" on page 65, line 4. And so far no one has reported a copy with the date 1892 on the title page and "if he had" on page 65, line 4 (so the date on the title page will suffice to identify the first edition).
6525. Great Britain has issued a booklet of stamps showing ten flowers drawn by the best of the nation's classic botanical illustrators, including an iris drawn by G. D. Ehret (who was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1757); it's an English Iris (*Iris latifolia*) not the Duke of Balmoral's Iris, but it will do until someone issues a stamp showing a horse named Iris.
6526. Brian Stableford's THE HUNGER AND ECSTASY OF VAMPIRES (Shingletown: Mark V. Ziesing Books, 1996; 207 pp., \$25.00) is an imaginative tale of time travel and vampires, involving Count Dracula, H. G. Wells, Nikola Tesla, Sir William Crookes, M. P. Shiel, and others (who include an unnamed detective who lives in Baker Street, and his unnamed doctor friend). Available from the publisher (Box 76, Shingletown, CA 96088); \$29.00 postpaid (a limited and signed edition costs \$64.00 postpaid).
6527. Further to the review of Richard M. Caplan's new book (February 97 #5), an article about him and his chronic condition ("Sherlockianism") written by Lynda Leidiger appears in the spring 1997 issue of the Iowa Alumni Quarterly (100 Alumni Center, Iowa City, IA 52242).
6528. "The Holmes Brothers are one of my favorite bands!" someone posted recently to the newsgroup alt.fan.holmes. And the Holmes Brothers have been playing blues and gospel for more than 30 years, in New York and on tour; they are Sherman and Wendell Holmes, and they've been recording since 1989, and they wrote the soundtrack for the film "Lotto Land" (1995), and their new album is "Promised Land" (Rounders 2142), reviewed recently in People magazine as being "the real article: rugged, honest and undeniably soulful."
6529. BBC Radio/BDD Audio now have eight two-cassette sets of the Merrison/Williams radio series in the shops: three volumes of MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (\$15.99 each), three vols. of THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (\$16.99 each), and two vols. of ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (\$16.99 each).

March 1997 #4

6530. Kiwi Carlisle notes that the St. Louis Art Museum is celebrating Italian art, and that an exhibit on "In the Light of Italy: Corot and Early Plein-Air Painting" includes the "View at Tivoli" by Claude Joseph Vernet [grand-father of Sherlock Holmes' granduncle Horace Vernet]; the exhibit closes on May 18.
6531. Alfred Sheinwold died on Mar. 8. He began playing bridge "to escape dull philosophy lectures" while a student at City College of New York, and went on to become one of the best players in the world. He wrote 13 best-selling books on the game, and his syndicated column "Sheinwold on Bridge" ran in more than 200 newspapers (and for more than 25 years he enjoyed including Sherlock Holmes in occasional bridge columns).
6532. The Reichenbach Irregulars will convene the first Sherlock Holmes Symposium ever held in Switzerland, at Wartensee Castle near Rorschach, on Lake Constance, on Sept. 12-14. This will be an international affair, and details are available from Marcus Geisser, 40 avenue de la Gare, CH 1003 Lausanne, Switzerland <mgeisser@access.ch>.
6533. The Northern Musgraves will celebrate their tenth anniversary at Stonyhurst College in Lancashire on Aug. 22-24. Arthur Conan Doyle was at the school 1870 to 1875, and there are echoes of the school to be found in the Canon. The weekend will include talks and a dramatic presentation, and additional details are available from Christine Fell, 13 Greavestown Lane, Lea, Preston, Lancs. PR2 1PD, England.

6534. Dave Galerstein reports that anyone who missed the Feb. 1997 issue of *Historic Traveler* with the article on Sherlockian sites in England (December 96 #1) can order it using their toll-free number (800-829-9555); \$5.00.
6535. Some statistics from the U.S. Postal Service, which in 1996 handled 43% of the world's mail; Japan, the second largest carrier of cards and letters, handled 6%. In 1966 the U.S.P.S. processed 182.7 billion pieces of mail; our 32c first-class rate is among the lowest in the industrial world (in Japan the rate is 70c, and in Germany it's 64c).
6536. Stan Drake died on Mar. 10. He created the award-winning comic strip "The Heart of Juliet Jones" in 1953, and in 1989 switched to drawing "Blondie" (created by Chic Young in 1930), which is syndicated in thousands of newspapers worldwide in 55 languages. This strip appeared on Oct. 8, 1994.
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March 1997 #5

6537. Howard Einbinder reports that 221B BAKER ST.: SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE TIME MACHINE (September 96 #6) has been discounted to \$29.95 in the latest catalog from Bits & Pieces, 1 Puzzle Place, Stevens Point, WI 54481 (800-544-7297); this is a new version of the board game first marketed by the John N. Hansen Co.
6538. Connie Steffan reports a sheet of Wishbone Stickers (including Wishbone in Sherlockian costume) at a Hallmark shop (\$1.95 for 8 sheets). But so far no one has reported a Sherlockian toy in the specially-marked packages of Crackerjack.
6539. The agenda at the Mar. 14 meeting of The Red Circle of Washington included a demonstration by Frank Young of a new CD-ROM disk that has the "Complete Works of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle" (including his novels, essays, short-story collections, histories of the Boer War and World War I, and much more). It has the text in eight-bit ASCII (so it will run on any computer, regardless of the operating system), and it includes a program that will enlarge the text (helpful for those whose vision isn't the best), and another program that will read the text aloud, and it allows a universal text search (so it takes only a minute to determine that Conan Doyle mentioned "Vernet" in a non-Sherlockian work). There are 311+ text files (more than 32 megabytes); a bit of final proof-reading and engineering will complete the project, and the disk should be ready to ship at the end of July, with a likely price of \$95.00 postpaid. If you would like to be informed when it's ready, you can write (but don't send any money yet) to E-CODEX, Box 10785, Franconia, VA 22310. E-CODEX has already produced similar disks for Herman Melville and James Joyce (\$45.00 each postpaid), and if you're wondering why the Conan Doyle disk will cost more, it's because he wrote a lot more than either Melville or Joyce.
6540. Marvin Lachman will receive a Raven award from the Mystery Writers of America on May 1 (the Raven is a special award for outstanding achievement in the mystery field outside the realm of creative writing). Marv is a fine editor, critic, and reviewer; he worked with Chris Steinbrunner's on the DETECTIONARY (1971) and the ENCYCLOPEDIA OF MYSTERY AND DETECTION (1976), and has written about Arthur B. Reeve and Craig Kennedy in "The American Sherlock Holmes: A Study in Scarlet Impersonation" in the Mystery Reader's Newsletter (Dec. 1969).
6541. David Kahn's THE CODEBREAKERS: THE STORY OF SECRET WRITING (1967) is widely and wisely regarded as the best book ever written about codes and ciphers, and those who deal with them (including Sherlock Holmes and the dancing men cipher); there's now a 30th-anniversary edition, revised and expanded (New York: Scribner, 1997; 1,181 pp., \$65.00).
6542. Eleanor Wolff died on Mar. 7. She was Julian Wolff's wife, and a gracious hostess in those long-ago days when the January cocktail party in New York was held in their apartment on West Side Drive. She genially allowed her dining room to serve as Julian's editorial and business office, and she had a kind smile that served as a welcoming beacon to more than one generation of Sherlockians. She was honored The Woman in 1965, and in 1987 received The Baker Street Irregulars' unique gilded Queen Victoria Medal, recognizing her "long service as the BSI's most devoted camp-follower."
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March 1997 #6

6543. The amusing Italian/Japanese "Sherlock Hound" animations first appeared in 1984, and they have been reissued by Just for Kids (Celebrity Home Entertainment) with two 24-minute stories on each cassette (and there are at least four cassettes); \$2.88 each in toy stores. And Jim Vogelsang reports that there also are at least two single-story cassettes; \$1.50 each.
6544. Carol Wenk continues to preside over The Mini-Tonga Scion Society for Sherlockian miniaturists; membership (including three issues of the newsletter) costs \$7.00 a year (\$8.00 to Canada, \$11.00 elsewhere), and if you'd like to have more information, send a #10 SASE to Carol at Box 770554, Lakewood, OH 44107.
6545. Patrick Kirkby, historian at the Royal Victoria Country Park at Netley, has written of plans for a special "Netley Veterans Reunion and Display" on May 14, 1998; they expect that many medical and nursing veterans to attend, and there are expectations that Dr. John H. Watson will be among them (since it was at Netley Hospital that he took the course prescribed for surgeons in the Army). Admission will be by ticket only, but arrangements can be made for visiting Sherlockians; if you think that you might be able to join the festivities, please write to Patrick W. Kirkby, 2 Colson Road, Winnal, Winchester, Hants. SO23 0EX, England.
6546. Jerry Margolin spotted Mr. Mxyzptlk (the imp from the 5th dimension) wearing Sherlockian costume in one panel of Superman Adventures #6 (Apr. 1997); \$1.75 in the comic-book shops. This is a new comic book, based on the new animated television series.
6547. Tom Galbo reports that the graphic books (comic-book series reprints) of A CASE OF BLIND FEAR and SCARLET IN GASLIGHT, written by Martin Powell and illustrated by Seppo Makinen, have been reissued by Caliber Comics with new covers. \$12.50 each in the stores; \$16.00 each postpaid from the publisher (225 North Sheldon Road, Plymouth, MI 48170).
6548. Baskerville Holmes and his girlfriend Tanya Franklin died on Mar. 18 in an apparent murder-suicide, according to police in Memphis. He was 6'7" and the star forward for the Memphis State Tigers, and played in the Final Four in 1985; he was picked by Milwaukee in the second round of the NBA draft in 1986, but didn't succeed in professional basketball. He was named by his mother, who liked the Basil Rathbone film, and saw it again not long before he was born.
6549. Ralph E. Vaughan's PROFESSOR CHALLENGER IN SECRETS OF THE DREAMLANDS brings Professor Challenger into a science-fantasy dreamworld of H. P. Lovecraft; the 63-page pamphlet is illustrated by Earl Geier and costs \$10.95 postpaid from Gryphon Publications, Box 209, Brooklyn, NY 11228.
6550. Ronald Howard died on Feb. 16. He began his film career as a child, acting with his father Leslie Howard in "Pimpernel Smith" (1941), and he was only 36 years old when he starred as a younger-than-usual Sherlock Holmes in the first Sheldon Reynolds television series broadcast in 1954 and 1955; one of the 39 half-hour episodes includes the seldom-filmed first meeting between Holmes and Watson, and they're still grand fun to watch.
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March 1997 #7

6551. Murray Shaw, author of the excellent series of children's books MATCH WITS WITH SHERLOCK HOLMES, wrote and illustrated an imaginative new Sherlockian story two years ago (December 95 #2); all the characters are cats, and the tale now is available again in a revised edition with a new title: THE CASE OF THE MISSING KIPPERED HERRING; the booklet has 31 pp. and hand-colored artwork, and costs \$11.24 postpaid (3601 North 5th Avenue #106, Phoenix, AZ 85013).
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6552. Tom Stix has forwarded an item from the N.Y. Times (Mar. 13) about the impending sale of the Algonquin Hotel to Olympus Real Estate of Dallas and the Camberley Hotel Co. of Atlanta. Aoki, a Japanese company, bought the hotel ten years ago for \$29 million (June 87 #4) and then spent \$22 million on renovations; the new owners will pay about \$30 million for the hotel and plan to spend \$4 million to renovate its 165 rooms and to extend the lobby back into what now is the Rose Room. And they hope to revive the hotel's literary heritage, in part by creating a Round Table Foundation to offer scholarships for young writers (the Algonquin's famous Round Table was in the Rose Room, of course, and there won't be a Rose Room any more). The new owners also expect to raise the rates, and to keep the hotel for only five to seven years.
6553. Reported by Stu Shiffman: Beaten's Christmas Annual, "chock full of goodies [by Stu Shiffman], British Grub, nifty stuff" (64 pages for \$12.00 postpaid from David Haugen, 1244 107th Place NE, Kirkland, WA 98034); checks payable to Sound of the Baskervilles, please.
6554. The Piltdown hoax was in the news again this month in England, and so was Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: on Mar. 20 the Linnean Society celebrated National Science Week by staging a debate between Richard Milner (who believes that Conan Doyle was the culprit) and Brian Gardiner (who doesn't). Milner, a historian of science at the American Museum of Natural History in New York, provided evidence for Robert B. Anderson's article in the spring 1996 issue of Pacific Discovery (April 96 #6), and Gardiner, a professor at King's College and president of the Linnean Society, wrote the article in Nature (May 23, 1996) that identified Martin A. C. Hinton as the prime suspect (May 96 #6). Articles in the Daily Telegraph and The Times did not indicate who won the debate.
6555. Penelope Wallace died on Jan. 13. She was the daughter of Edgar Wallace, and the first woman to become chairman of the Press Club (a post her father had held the year she was born), and chairman of Crime Writer's Association and organizer of the first Crime Writers' International Congress; she wrote novels and short stories, including one with pleasant Sherlockian allusions ("The World According to Uncle Albert"), and she was the founder and president of the Edgar Wallace Society, which has just published the 113th issue of its newsletter The Crimson Circle. If you'd like more information about the society, write to Kai Jorg Hinz, Kohlbergsgracht 40, 6463 CD Kerkrade, The Netherlands.
6556. It's not quite the Order of the Legion of Honour that Holmes received, but Charlton Heston (who has played Holmes on stage and television in "The Crucifer of Blood") now is a Commander in the Order of the Arts and Letters, the highest civilian decoration awarded by the French Ministry of Culture.

March 1997 #8

6557. John McAleer's REX STOUT, first published in 1977, is a splendid biography of a fine writer and a fascinating man (and Stout was an important figure in the early years of The Baker Street Irregulars); the book won an Edgar from the Mystery Writers of America in 1978, and it's still available in a reprint (San Bernardino: Brownstone Books/Borgo Press, 1994; 622 pp., \$57.00 cloth, \$47.00 paper).
6558. Plan ahead: The "Fourth Occasional Sherlockian Cruise" has been scheduled for June 1998, from New York to Bermuda (and back), and the organizers are Irving Kamil, Susan Rice, Mary Ellen Rich, and Dorothy Stix; if you'd like to be on the mailing list, you can write to the Cruise Committee, Box 96, Norwood, NJ 07648. The cruise will feature Sherlockian events at sea, and pink sand beaches and shopping ashore.
6559. The Crime Writers of Scandinavia's annual Scandinavian Mystery Conference will be held in Aalborg on May 9-11; additional details are available from January B. Steffensen, Sdr. Tranders Bygade 23, DK-9220 Aalborg Oest, Denmark <jbs@db.dk>.
6560. Tim O'Connor has spotted a new edition of SHERLOCK HOLMES IN ORBIT, edited by Mike Resnick and Martin H. Greenberg, published in paperback in 1995 by DAW Books (March 95 #2), and now by MJF Books (seen so far only at Barnes & Noble, where it's available at a "special value" price of \$8.98); 26 new science-fiction stories.
6561. Auction news: the manuscript of "How the Brigadier took the field against the Marshal Millefleurs" (22 leaves, bound in red morocco gilt) is lot 44 in the Apr. 17 sale at the Swann Galleries, 104 East 25th Street, New York, NY 10010 (212-254-4710); the estimate is \$4,000-6,000.
6562. David Stuart Davies is the new editor of the Sherlock Holmes Gazette (which actually is the Sherlock Holmes Gazette & Classic Detective Magazine but is focused firmly on the Sherlockian world), and the latest issue is #18, with 48 pages of articles, columns, reviews, and letters. The contents include part 4 of Michael Cox's continuing series on the behind-the-scenes story of the Granada series, Catherine Cooke's discussion of the Sherlockian aspects of T. S. Eliot, part 1 of David Stuart Davies' well-illustrated series on Sherlock Holmes in silent films, a report by Barbara Roden on Conan Doyle's western wanderings in Canada in 1914, and much more. \$7.50 postpaid from Classic Specialties (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219); £3.50 postpaid from the Sherlock Holmes Gazette (49 Purfield Drive, Wargrave, Berks. RG10 8AR, England); credit-card orders are welcome at both addresses, and back issues are available.
6563. William Schley-Ulrich's "Sherlock Holmes and the Lizzie Borden Connection" ran in three installments in The Lizzie Borden Quarterly (July 1996, Oct. 1996, Jan. 1997); Holmes was in Vermont rather than southern France during the Great Hiatus, and was asked by a cousin to come to Fall River to look into the case. \$9.00 for the three issues (Bristol Community College, 777 Elsbree Street, Fall River, MA 02720-7391).

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6564. Christopher and Barbara Roden have acquired the unsold copies of the splendid facsimiles of the manuscripts of "The Dying Detective" and "The Lion's Mane" (September 91 #7 and September 92 #6) and the reprint of Lord Donegall's "Baker Street and Beyond" columns from The New Strand (November 93 #4). The manuscript facsimiles are available in both the deluxe and standard editions, and all of the books are offered at bargain prices; more information is available from the Calabash Press, Box 1360, Ashcroft, BC V0K 1A0, Canada <ashtree@mail.netshop.net>.
6565. Calabash also reports THE CASE FILES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE SPECKLED BAND (188 pp.), with new essays on the story and on Conan Doyle's dramatization. \$30.00 cloth or \$21.00 paper; shipping charges vary (same address).
6566. Douglas G. Greene continues to issue excellent collections of mystery short stories from his aptly-named publishing house, Crippen & Landru. The only Sherlockian item published so far is Edward D. Hoch's DIAGNOSIS IMPOSSIBLE (March 96 #1), which has a nicely appropriate allusion in a story about Dr. Sam Hawthorne, but there are many other fine authors in his catalog; write to Crippen & Landru at Box 9315, Norfolk, VA 23505 <crippen@norfolk.info.net> <<http://www.avalon.net/~scott/cl/>>.
6567. Charles Marowitz's play "Sherlock's Last Case" will be produced by the Actors' Repertory Company at the Courtyard Playhouse in Rolling Hills Estates (in southern Calif.) from Apr. 25 through May 31; the box-office address is Box 2512, Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274 (310-544-6555).
6568. Irving Kamil (32 Overlook Avenue, Cliffside Park, NJ 07010) offers self-adhesive silhouettes of Sherlock Holmes (4" x 6") in black or white; \$5.00 postpaid.
6569. Non-Sherlockian, but: try your hand at listing the U.S. states whose names contain only four letters.
6570. Nate the Great continues his sleuthing, deerstalkered and assisted by his dog Sludge, in an amusing children's series that now offers 17 titles, of which the most recent is NATE THE GREAT AND THE TARDY TORTOISE, by Marjorie Weinman Sharmat and Craig Sharmat, illustrated by Marc Simont (New York: Delacorte Press, 1995; 42 pp., \$13.95); nicely done, as usual.

6571. John McPhee's essay "The Gravel Page" (the title was taken from the Canon) appeared in The New Yorker last year (January 96 #5), with a fine explanation of forensic geology, and acknowledgement of Sherlock Holmes' contributions to the science he invented; and it's included in his IRONS IN THE FIRE (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1997; 216 pp., \$22.00).
6572. Baron Barclay Bridge Supplies (3600 Chamberlain Lane #230, Louisville, KY 40241) (800-2740-2221) <baronbarclay@baronbarclay.com> have a new catalog with just about anything a bridge player might want, including books such as Philip and Robert King's THE KINGS' TALES (August 96 #5) and FAREWELL, MY DUMMY (January 97 #4), and a reprint of RIGHT THROUGH THE PACK, by Robert Darvas and Norman de V. Hart (1947), all with Sherlockian bridge pastiches.
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April 1997 #2

6573. Baker Street W1 offers prizes for pastiches: "In 2,000 words or less, recreate the master detective as he and Dr. Watson solve yet another baffling mystery." All authors will win a postcard portrait of William Gillette, and the grand prize is a framed original Gillette signature dated 1906 (and the pastiche will be published in the Jan. 1998 issue of the journal); entries will not be returned, and someone needs to write a good pastiche, because if none of the entries is deemed suitable, no prize will be awarded. The deadline is Oct. 15, 1997, the journal's address is 110 South El Nido Avenue #41, Pasadena, CA 91107; entries should be typed and double-spaced, and please don't forget to include your name, address, and telephone number.
6574. "Pinky and the Brain" is an animated television series, and a comic book, and the May issue (#11) of the comic book includes a Sherlockian tale ("The Final Narf"); \$1.75.
6575. For those who have access to the World Wide Web, there are three URL's that will be helpful: <<http://www.amazon.com>> is an American company, and it can supply just about any American book in print; the home page includes a fine search engine. <<http://www.bookpages.co.uk>> is a British company, and can supply just about any British book in print; the home page includes a fine search engine. <<http://www.bibliofind.com>> offers access to dealers in used and rare books; you can post your want-list, and wait for offers.
6576. U.S. states whose names have only four letters are: Iowa, Ohio, and Utah. But: are there any more U.S. states whose names contain only four letters?
6577. The Crew of the Barque Lone Star arranged a fine welcome in Dallas for The Practical, But Limited, Geologists and some other travelers from afar (both in Texas and other states), and an excellent dinner (with five courses and ten wines) at Tony's Wine Warehouse on Apr. 9, when the usual toasts were offered to the world's first forensic geologist. And it was nice indeed to be escorted by Don Hobbs and Jim Webb to Fort Worth (visitors from Dallas no longer are required to carry passports) to see the original manuscript of "The Dancing Men" at Barber's Book Store (both owned by Brian Perkins).
6578. Additional honors were paid to Sherlock Holmes on Apr. 12, when a stalwart dozen geologists and Sherlockians participated in the first-ever geological expedition to the summit of Holmes Peak, in Osage County on the outskirts of Tulsa. A threatened blizzard failed to materialize, but the temperature was about eight degrees above freezing, so the time actually spent at the summit (elev. 1032 ft.) was as brief as possible; the climbers then quickly retreated to a sheltered slope to toast both Sherlock Holmes and Richard S. Warner (Head Sherpa of the Holmes Peak Preservation Society), who was present to accept plaudits for all the work that in 1984 resulted in official government approval for the naming of the peak in honor of the great detective. Also participating in the expedition were Nellie Brown (expedition entomologist), Charles J. Mankin (Oklahoma's state geologist), M. Charles Gilbert (director of the school of geology and geophysics at Oklahoma University), and Vic Lahti (who manages to be both a geologist and a member of The Afghanistan Perceivers of Tulsa). It also is nice to report that the U.S. Geological Survey recently reprinted the topographic map of the Sand Springs quadrangle, and that Holmes Peak's name is now shown on the map.
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April 1997 #3

6579. The Sub-Librarians Scion of The Baker Street Irregulars in the American Library Association will meet in San Francisco this year, for afternoon tea and Sherlockian entertainment, at the Holiday Inn (Union Square) on June 29 at 4:00 pm, and it will be as always a nice gathering for Sherlockians and librarians and anyone else who wants to join the festivities. The cost is \$17.00 (checks payable to Marsha L. Pollak, and please enclose a SASE); Marsha's address is: Sunnyside Public Library, Box 3714, Sunnyside, CA 94088-3714.
6580. More U.S. states whose names have only four letters are: Alabama, Alaska, Hawaii, Indiana, Kansas, Mississippi, and Tennessee.
6581. The latest issue of Scarlet Street has arrived, with David Stuart Davies' interesting interview with Christopher Lee (about Peter Cushing), the news that Steven Spielberg's "The Lost World: Jurassic Park" will be released by Universal on Memorial Day weekend, and Forrest J Ackerman's note on plans for a film of Robert A. Heinlein's THE MOON IS A HARSH MISTRESS (the book features a computer named Mycroft). And there's an advertisement for Haunted Hollywood's "Monster Bash" convention honoring Forry Ackerman's 80th birthday, with guests who include Sara Karloff (daughter), Bela Lugosi Jr. (son), and Ron Chaney (grandson), on July 18-20 in Ligonier (just east of Pittsburgh); Haunted Hollywood, Box 213, Ligonier, PA 15658 <bat@b4futures.net>. Scarlet Street is published quarterly (\$20.00 a year); Box 604, Glen Rock, NJ 07452.
6582. There's more news about the set of stamps due from Great Britain on May 13 honoring Tales of Terror: the Hound will appear on the 43p stamp, which will be nice for those who get airmail from Britain, and "the grisly hound is shown head-on with huge jaws baring the fearsome fangs" in the ink-and-watercolor design by Ian Pollock (the image will be highlighted with fluorescent ink which glows under ultraviolet light). There will be a postcard showing the stamp (25p), and a presentation pack (£1.70) that has a brief history of the four classic tales, by Christopher Frayling (who produced the four-part "Nightmare" television series broadcast here on Arts & Entertainment cable last October); the other stamps in the set will show Dracula, Frankenstein, and Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. Many other countries will be issuing stamps honoring Tales of Terror this year, but so far only Great Britain is reported to be paying tribute to The Hound of the Baskervilles.
6583. There will be at least one fancy first day cover for the set: Roger Johnson has sent an illustrated flier from A. G. Bradbury (3 Link Road, Stoneygate, Leicester LE2 3RA, England): £10.00 for a full-cover cachet, with a special Princetown postmark; £12.50 signed by Edward Hardwicke or Tom Baker; £5.00 for a full-cover cachet with only the Hound stamp (add £1.00 per order for shipping).
6584. Tom Huntington reports that his article "On the Trail of Sherlock Holmes" in the Feb. 1997 issue of Historic Traveler (December 96 #1) will be reprinted in the May issue of the Japanese edition of Playboy. This may well be the first Sherlockian item ever to appear in the Japanese edition.
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April 1997 #4

6585. "Gun" is a new six-part one-hour anthology series that debuted on ABC-TV on Apr. 11, produced by Robert Altman and following a pistol as it passes from hand to hand. Sherlockians should look for a repeat of the second program, which starred Martin Sheen as a cop whose last case involved the death of a Japanese businessman.
6586. David McCord died on Apr. 13. He was a poet and an author, and received the first honorary doctor of humane letters degree ever granted by Harvard University. His collection ONE AT A TIME (1977) won the first national award for excellence in poetry for children from the National Council
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- of Teachers of English; an earlier anthology WHAT CHEER (1945), reprinted as THE POCKET BOOK OF HUMOROUS VERSE (1946), included Philip H. Rhinelander's "It's Very Unwise to Kill the Goose (Sherlock Holmes)" (the poem was reprinted in the Oct. 1955 issue of The Baker Street Journal).
6587. Kevin Reed's THE ADVENTURES OF COCKROACH BONES offers three of his parodies about Cockroach Bones and Dr. Waspon, including their encounter with Arachne Adder and the King of Bulimia; the 20-page pamphlet costs \$8.00 postpaid from the author (191 North Ridgeway Street, Anaheim, CA 92801).
6588. Auction news: the manuscript of "How the Brigadier took the field against the Marshal Millefleurs" (22 leaves, bound in red morocco gilt) sold for \$8,500 (plus 15% buyer's premium) on Apr. 17 at the Swann Galleries in New York. It was purchased by C. Frederick Kittle, who owns other Conan Doyle manuscripts, and a copy of Beeton's Christmas Annual, and whose collection will eventually be given to the Newberry Library in Chicago.
6589. For those who would like to make their own Sherlockian costumes, THE CUT OF MEN'S CLOTHES, 1600-1900, by Norah Waugh (London: Faber and Faber, 1964) (New York: Theatre Arts Books, 1964), is reported to be a fine source, and includes a pattern for a Sherlock Holmes coat.
6590. Nice news from the August Derleth Society: the latest issue of their newsletter includes Peter Ruber's report that April Derleth has found a lot of unpublished material, including an early (1938-43) Solar Pons novel (missing the first chapter), an unfinished Solar Pons short story, and two Solar Pons science-fiction stories written jointly with Mack Reynolds; Peter is editing the material for publication by George A. Vanderburgh. Membership in the society costs \$20.00 a year (Box 481, Sauk City, WI 53583).
6591. Ben Macintyre's THE NAPOLEON OF CRIME: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF ADAM WORTH, THE REAL MORIARTY is now due from HarperCollins in June (£18.00); this is an expanded version of his stories in The Times and the N.Y. Times when the famous Gainsborough portrait of the Duchess of Devonshire, once stolen by Worth, went to auction three years ago (July 94 #6).
6592. Connie and Jeff Gay, directors of Dreamland Productions, report that their MurderWatch Mystery Theatre performs twice a night on Saturdays at Baskervilles Restaurant (adjacent to Moriarty's Pub) at the Grosvenor Resort at Walt Disney World; the restaurant has a replica of the sitting-room, and the shows often allude to Holmes and Watson, and sometimes their detective is Shirley Holmes. And you get a \$4.00 discount on dinner if you reserve in advance: Box 1114 Goldenrod, FL 33273 (407-827-6534) <mwmt@aol.com>.

April 1997 #5

6593. Nice news from the sport of kings: Neil Travis Honaker reports that My Dear Watson won the fourth race at Keenland (in Lexington, Kentucky) on Apr. 20, paying \$11.40 to win, \$5.80 to place, and \$3.60 to show. It would be nice indeed if there were horses so aptly named when Sherlockians go to the track to attend runnings of The Silver Blaze.
6594. Unexpected casting: Ernest Dudley's play "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" (in which Eille Norwood starred in 1923) was recently produced in Newcastle upon Tyne, with Michael Cashman as Holmes and Frederick Pyne as Watson, and Nicholas Smith as Milverton. Nicholas Smith has been seen here for many years on some PBS-TV stations as the bald, jug-eared, store manager in the British series "Are You Being Served?" (and if you've seen the series you will know how unexpected he is a Milverton).
6595. Mel Gibson's film "Braveheart" (1995) aired on cable not too long ago, and likely has been seen by many of you, in theaters and on television. What's the connection between the film and something mentioned often in the Canon?
6596. Well, those plans to make a film of Heinlein's THE MOON IS A HARSH MISTRESS may not be real plans: it turns out that the magazine Locus had a report in Jan. 1996 that Steven Spielberg's Dreamworks SKG had bought the film rights to the novel. A film certainly would need some interesting special effects (since much of the story takes place on the Moon at one-sixth gravity).
6597. Laurie R. King is on the cover of the winter 1997 issue of The Armchair Detective; the contents include Charles L. P. Silet's interview with Laurie (and her essay on "The Mystery of God Talk"), and an excellent discussion of Sherlockian miniatures by Scott and Sherry Rose Bond. Subscriptions are \$31.00 a year (four issues); 459 Park Avenue #252, Scotch Plains, NJ 07076.
6598. Novel Explorations ("where fiction and travel merge") offer an interesting assortment of literary tours, including "The Great Detectives" on July 3-12 with due attention to Sherlock Holmes and Conan Doyle. And there will be "Suspense, Mystery, and Intrigue on the High Seas" on the Norwegian Cruise Line's "Norway" on Jan. 31-Feb. 7, 1998 (with stops at St. Thomas and St. Maarten, and Carole Nelson Douglas as one of the workshopers). Details on these and other tours are available in their fliers; their address is 10590 Twin Rivers Road, Columbia, MD 21044 (800-432-6659) <novelexp@erols.com> <<http://www.erols.com/novelexp/>>.
6599. Reported: SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE FALL RIVER TRAGEDY, by Owen Haskell; with a reprint of Lizzie Borden's inquest testimony. Available for \$20.00 postpaid from Murder by the Book, 1281 North Main Street, Providence, RI 02905 <kbbooks@aol.com>; credit-card orders welcome.
6600. The prolific Pequot poet presses on, and John Ruyle promises that his new SHERLOCK UNBOUND will contain verses both whimsical and tragic, all handwritten, hand-set, and hand-printed; \$40.00 (cloth) or \$20.00 (paper), and his address is 521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707-1521.
6601. Sorry about that: it was Frank Darlington who proposed the Christmas toast "Geese on earth, geoswill to all!" (February 97 #2), reported by Ray de Groat to Herb Caen.

April 1997 #6

6602. Tickets still are available for The Red Circle of Washington's theater party for "The Case of the Purloined Patience" at the Folger Elizabethan Theatre on Aug. 2 and 2:00 pm. Our discount price is \$26.50 per ticket (checks payable to Mary V. Burke); Mary's address is 2515 South First Place, Arlington, VA 22204.
6603. What's the connection between "Braveheart" and something mentioned often in the Canon? Well, William Wallace's arch-enemy (played by Patrick McGoohan) was the English king, Edward Longshanks, who is better known now as Edward I. Edward's first wife was Eleanor of Castile, and when she died in 1290 he erected beautiful memorial crosses wherever her bier rested on its trip from Nottinghamshire to Westminster; one of those memorials was at Charing Cross (where a replica can be seen today), and Charing Cross is mentioned often in the Canon. As is Eleanor, for that matter, although not by name: Sherlock Holmes alluded to her when he asked (in "The Sussex Vampire") "Was there not a queen in English history who sucked such a wound to draw poison from it?" (Eleanor is said to have sucked poison from her husband's wounded arm, in 1272).
6604. "These stunning beauties have cast a spell over millions," according to an advertisement by the National Aquarium in Baltimore for its exhibition of "Jellies: Phantoms of the Deep" (June 96 #4); if you'd like to see a lion's mane, you've got until January 1998, when the exhibition closes.
6605. And further to the discussion of Holmes Peak, there's Sherlock Crater on the Moon, also named in honor of Holmes, and asteroids have been named in honor of Holmes and Watson and Moriarty. But I'm not aware of any other feature on Earth, either natural (mountain, river, lake, or whatever) or man-made (street or avenue, perhaps) actually named in honor of Holmes or anyone else in the Canon. Does anyone have a friend who's naming streets in a new sub-division somewhere?

6606. N. C. Wyeth illustrated three of Conan Doyle's short stories for Scribner's Magazine in 1910 and 1911, and THE WHITE COMPANY for the Cosmopolitan Publishing Co. in 1922. And THE WHITE COMPANY is one of fourteen volumes in a series of leather-bound "Classics of Adventure Illustrated by N. C. Wyeth" now available from the Easton Press, 47 Richards Avenue, Norwalk, CT 06857 (800-367-4535); \$48.25 per volume for the series.
6607. Baker Street W1 is published three times a year, reporting on Sherlockian activities west of the Mississippi, and costs \$9.00 a year. The Sept. 1996 issue has 44 pages, and focuses on pastiches, with a fine tribute to August Derleth by William A. S. Sarjeant.
6608. Sam Moskowitz died on Apr. 15. He was tireless researcher in the fields of science fiction, fantasy, and horror, and a fine editor as well; in 1939 he organized the first World Science Fiction Convention (now a major event in the sf world), and his "Studies in Science Fiction" series in the magazine Science Fantasy in 1959 included a warm tribute to Conan Doyle.
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May 1997 #1

6609. The first issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota has arrived, with a fine description of the collections, and a look at some of its material, and a nice tribute to John Bennett Shaw. If you would like to be on the mailing list, you should write to Richard J. Sveum (466 O. M. Wilson Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455 <sveum001@maroon.tc.umn.edu>).
6610. Why are dinosaurs so popular with kids? Well, they're big, and they're bad, and they're dead (so they can't hurt you). And the U.S. Postal Service knows they're popular, and our new souvenir sheet honors "The World of Dinosaurs" with 15 different stamps (and some scenery); one of them shows a Stegosaurus, in Colorado 150 million years ago (a stegosaur is one of the dinosaurs mentioned in Conan Doyle's THE LOST WORLD).
6611. Pat Ward reports that the Indianapolis Civic Theater will offer "The Crucifer of Blood" on Nov. 7-23, 1997; the theater is in the Indianapolis Museum of Art, at 1200 West 38th Street #1-X, Indianapolis, IN 46208, and the boxoffice telephone number is (317-923-4597).
6612. Eve Titus, author of the "Basil of Baker Street" series, offers inscribed copies of the out-of-print hardcover editions, and the almost-out-of-print paperback editions, and other Sherlockian material. If you would like to have a copy of her sales list, send Eve a #10 self-addressed stamped envelope (Mayfair Towers #10-H, 9195 Collins Avenue, Surfside, FL 33154).
6613. Sherlockian change-ringers interested in joining a special-interest Sherlockian society are invited to write to Pam Verrey (408 Koko Isle Circle, Honolulu, HI 96825 <verrey@kestrok.com>).
6614. Jon Lellenberg spotted Adam Hochschild's interesting article "Mr. Kurtz, I Presume" in The New Yorker (Apr. 14); Hochschild wonders why "most scholars think there was no real Kurtz," and notes that "Zaire's history is full of them." The campaign against mistreatment of the natives in the Congo was launched in 1903 by Edward Morel and Roger Casement (who was then British Consul at Kinshasa), and in 1904 Casement returned to London and contacted several writers, including Arthur Conan Doyle, who wrote THE CRIME OF THE CONGO (1909) and later tried to save Casement from execution after the 1916 rebellion against the British in Dublin, and Joseph Conrad, who had written HEART OF DARKNESS (1899). You'll know about Kurtz if you've read Conrad's book or seen the television film (1994), or seen the film "Apocalypse Now" (1979) that was based on Conrad's book but set in Vietnam. Hochschild has identified some of the Belgian colonial administrators Conrad may have met in the Congo in 1890, and who may well have contributed to his portrayal of his character Kurtz.
6615. THE SHERLOCK HOLMES COOKBOOK, by Charles A. Mills (Alexandria: Apple Cheeks Press, 1990; 49 pp., \$5.00 postpaid), is still available, offering a brief culinary tour of the Canon, with discussion of food, drink, and clubs, as well as recipes (August 90 #3); Box 217, Alexandria, VA 22307.
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May 1997 #2

6616. Further to earlier reviews of abridged readings of Laurie R. King's novels about Mary Russell, Debbie Clark notes that unabridged readings by Jenny Sterlin also are available, from Recorded Books Audio, 270 Skipjack Road, Prince Frederick, MD 20678 (800-638-1304). The cassettes play on normal machines; THE BEEKEEPER'S APPRENTICE costs \$17.50 (rental)/\$85.00 (purchase); A MONSTROUS REGIMENT OF WOMEN is \$16.50/\$67.00; and A LETTER OF MARY is \$13.50/\$49.00.
6617. Mike Royko died on Apr. 29. He went to work for the Chicago Daily News in 1959 as a police reporter, and became a columnist in 1963, eventually working for almost all of Chicago's major papers (when he quit the Sun-Times in 1984 he announced that "no self-respecting fish" would want to be wrapped in a newspaper owned by Rupert Murdoch); he became a Chicago institution, championing the common man and the Chicago Cubs, and in 1986 he used Holmes and Watson in a column about the mugging of TV anchor Dan Rather, admitting that "I'm more of a bumbling Watson than a cerebral Holmes."
6618. The Caliber comic-book mini-series THE SEARCHERS (July 96 #1 and November 96 #7) has picked up again: Jerry Margolin spotted THE SEARCHERS: APOSTLE OF MERCY #1 (\$2.95) with one Sherlockian panel reprinted from the earlier series (if the new series continues, a descendant of Moriarty may turn up again, too).
6619. Bunny Yeager was a model and a beauty queen before becoming a photographer herself, and her work has been seen in Playboy for decades; she now offers a series of collector's cards, and one of models in "The Girl in the Hat" (set no. 1) is "Sherlock Holmes' Apprentice" (it's a lot larger and more colorful than shown here. The set of twelve cards costs \$19.95 postpaid, and you need to say that you're more than 18 years old (Bunny Yeager, 9301 N.E. 6th Avenue #C-311, Miami, FL 33138).
6620. Congratulations to Ben Wood, on his Two-Shilling Award, which he received during the Sunshine State Sherlockian Scion Symposium held this month in St. Pete Beach. The award is made by The Baker Street Irregulars "for extraordinary devotion to the cause beyond the call of duty," and Ben has certainly earned it; he received his Investiture ("A Scandal in Bohemia") in 1979, and served for many years as the BSI's Chaplain, and as sparkingplug for The Pleasant Places or Florida.
6621. The Mysterious Bookshop has a new 88-page spring-summer catalog, with three pages of Sherlockiana; 129 West 56th Street, New York, NY 10019 (800-352-2840) <mysteriousny@worldnet.att.net> <<http://www.mysteriousbookshop.com>>.
6622. The continuing saga of St. Bartholomew's Hospital (the site of the historic first meeting between Holmes and Watson) has taken a welcome turn for the better: the Conservative government's campaign to close the hospital (April 96 #1) ended with the recent Labour election victory. According to a story in The Times on May 9 (at hand from Christopher Roden), Tony Blair made a pre-election promise to halt planned hospital closures, and the new government has begun a full-scale review of London's health needs. Frank Dobson (the new Health Secretary) said: "This government will not end up endorsing the previous government's policy. I am not dealing with individual cases at present, but I will make my decisions at the end of the review."
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May 1997 #3

6623. Admirers of August Derleth's work will enjoy RETURN TO DERLETH: SELECTED ESSAYS, VOLUME TWO, edited by James P. Roberts and illustrated by Eugene Gryniwicz; 96 pp., with Basil Copper's six-page "The Game's Afoot: August Derleth and Solar Pons" (about Derleth's stories and Copper's
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- continuation of the saga) and essays by other enthusiasts on Derleth's life and work in other genres. Available from the White Hawk Press, 950 Jenifer Street, Madison, WI 53703; \$8.00 postpaid.
6624. Bill Serow suggests that visitors to Paris may enjoy an exhibition of "The World of Sherlock Holmes" at the Louvre des Antiquaires (an antique-dealers cooperative) at 2 place Palais-Royale through Sept. 15; eight displays (including the sitting-room) have been arranged with the help of the Sherlock Holmes Society of France.
6625. I've now had a chance to hear (and meet) Billy Childish and Thee Headcoats (September 96 #8), at the Black Cat in Washington during the band's recent eastcoast tour, but on this occasion only the drummer wore a deerstalker. The band's music is mainly punk rock, played well and highly regarded by fans, and record titles include "Sound of the Baskervilles" and "My Dear Watson" and other Sherlockian allusions, although Billy Childish seemed rather intrigued, or perhaps merely amused, to meet a Sherlockian after the show. He explained that it was Don Crane, leader of the British rhythm-and-blues band Downliner Sect, who first wore a deerstalker (which he called a headcoat) while performing, and influenced Billy Childish, who was born in 1959 in Chatham, Kent, and now has many songs and records to his credit (as well as paintings and poems). Billy's band was formed in 1979, and records for Damaged Goods (P.O. Box 671, London E17, England); album jackets often have S'ian artwork. The band has a home page at <<http://www.psychogarage.demon.co.uk/childish/>>, and there's a discography at <http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/Patrick_Davies/headcoat.htm>.
6626. Steven Spielberg's "The Lost World" is doing well at the box office, but it remains to be seen whether it will do as well as "Jurassic Park" (which has grossed more than \$900 million since 1993 and is the highest-grossing film in history). A colorful poster for the 1925 film based on Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's book led into the story about this year's film in the May 23 issue of Entertainment Weekly.
6627. SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE FALL RIVER TRAGEDY, by Owen Haskell (North Providence: Lazarus Press, 1997; 174 pp., \$15.00), brings Holmes to Fall River in 1893 to investigate the murders of Lizzie Borden's parents, and to meet Lizzie after the trial at which she was acquitted, and to reveal his solution to the mystery. The book includes 69 pages of Lizzie's testimony at the coroner's inquest (she didn't testify at the trial), and it's easy to see why she wasn't convicted, after such a confused and confusing investigation. \$17.00 postpaid from the author (1 Homes Street, North Providence, RI 02904).
6628. Congratulations to Michael Atkinson, whose THE SECRET MARRIAGE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES has won a Mystery Writer of America "Edgar" for Best Critical/Biographical Work. The book is a fine refutation of the widely-held belief that pop-cult lit-crit must be deadly dull and packed with academic jargon (Ann Arbor: Univ. of Michigan Press, 1996; 198 pp., \$29.95).

May 1997 #4

6629. Robert F. Fleissner's "The Old English Mr. Holmes: A Study in Critical Method" notes some parallels between "Beowulf" and the Canon in the 1996 annual volume of the academic journal In Geardagum (published by the Society for New Language Study); \$5.00 postpaid from Ray Tripp, Box 100596, Denver, CO 80210.
6630. Forecast from Signet in August (\$5.99): FIRST CASES 2: FIRST APPEARANCES OF CLASSIC AMATEUR SLEUTHS, edited by Robert Randisi; with a reprint of Carole Nelson Douglas' "Parris Green" (in which Irene Adler and Penelope Huxleigh meet Oscar Wilde in 1886), reprinted from MALICE DOMESTIC 2 (August 93 #3). Midnight Louie's Scratching Post-Intelligencer also notes that Carole had edited MARILYN: SHADES OF BLONDE (forecast from Forge in July, \$23.95); Carole has written a dramatic monologue for the book, portraying what Marilyn would be doing were she alive and well today at age 70, and plans to present the monologue, with costume and props during a panel at Bouchercon in Monterey at the end of October. The newsletter is available from Carole (Box 331555, Fort Worth, TX 76163) <cdouglas@catwriter.com>; she also has a home page at <<http://www.catwriter.com/cdouglas>>.
6631. Michael J. Smigowski has executed a striking lithograph that shows a young Sherlock Holmes, working on a chemical experiment in 1878, waiting patiently to become an unofficial consulting detective; the signed prints (17 x 23 in.) are available from the artist (One Melissa Drive, Pembroke, NH 03275), and they cost \$50.00 postpaid (he also offers a nicely illustrated free flier).
6632. "Only the stupidest of intellectuals wouldn't realize that Alice in Wonderland and Sherlock Holmes are among the blessings that English writing in its many forms has given to the world." C. P. Snow, on England's literary legacy, in the Saturday Review (June 11, 1977).
6633. The set of four British stamps honoring "Tales of Terror" (April 97 #3) are available from the U.S. Postal Service: the presentation pack (805719) is \$2.95, a block of four of the "Hound" stamp (805712) is \$2.90, and a full pane of 100 "Hound" stamps (805714) is \$71.40; add \$1.00 for shipping. The address is: Philatelic Fulfillment Service Center, Box 7247, Philadelphia, PA 19101-9014 (800-782-6724); credit-card orders welcome.
6634. Pat Ward reports that Paul Giovanni's play "The Crucifer of Blood" will be preformed at the Indianapolis Civic Theater (at the Indianapolis Museum of Art) on Nov. 7-23. The box-office address is 1200 West 38th Street #1-X, Indianapolis, IN 46208 (317-923-4597).
6635. Stafford G. Davis ("Horace Harker") died on May 10. He had a long career in corporate communications, and was the founder and the True Perceiver of The Afghanistan Perceivers of Tulsa, and received his Investiture from the BSI in 1980. He worked hard to keep the memory green in Oklahoma, where he even managed to persuade the residents of Watson that their town had been named for Sherlock Holmes' friend and chronicler.

May 1997 #5

6636. Maggie Fox and Sue Ryding starred in "Move Over Moriarty" in England last year (July 96 #8), playing all the roles (including Holmes and Watson) and winning praise from the critics; now they're in the United States, at the Santa Fe Stages, where the comedy will have its North American premiere on June 4-14. The box-office address is 105 East Marcy Street #107, Santa Fe, NM 87501 (505-982-6683).
6637. Carolyn and Joel Senter's latest sales list ("Quick Watson...!" #3) offers some nice Sherlockian books, audio, video, pins, a new Sherlockian map of England drawn by January Walker, and much more; Classic Specialties, Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219.
6638. HENRY IRVING'S WATERLOO, by W. D. King (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1993; 303 pp., \$40.00), is a fascinating and rewarding book. Arthur Conan Doyle adapted his story "A Straggler of '15" (1891) into the one-act play "A Story of Waterloo" and sent it to Henry Irving, who quickly bought the rights to the play and made it famous, performing it hundreds of times in London and on tour from 1894 until his death in 1905. But today it is best known (and often remembered only) for the scathing review that George Bernard Shaw gave Irving's performance when the play opened in London in 1895. One of the reasons why King's book is so fascinating and rewarding is that King stresses the fundamental change from the "actor's theater" that Irving represented so well to the "author's theater" that Shaw was about to launch and lead. And the book is full of real people, including Ellen Terry and Bram Stoker and Edward Gordon Craig and Napoleon, and King tells his and their story well, offering a fine look at what drama was like a century ago.

6639. A video-taper alert: "The X-Files" starts in reruns on the fX cable channel on Aug. 19, five nights a week. The first season's 12th episode ("Fire") had Muldur's old flame, now a Scotland Yard detective, enlisting his aid in tracking down an arsonist who is able to ignite things simply by touching them. And there are Sherlockian allusions in the episode, which should be broadcast on Sept. 3, if the schedule is correct.
6640. It was many years ago that John Bennett Shaw prepared calling cards for Mr. Sherlock Holmes and Professor James Moriarty (long enough ago that Richard M. Nixon was president of the United States, accounting for John giving the White House telephone number as the Washington contact for Moriarty). But whose were the London numbers he gave for Holmes (01-486-5555) and Moriarty (01-236-5555)? Does anyone remember? Or were they non-working even then?
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May 1997 #6

6641. John Ruyle, preferring to believe that Sherlock Holmes shares the birthday of Arthur Conan Doyle rather than Felix Morley, has celebrated May 22 with BEEING THERE, a new collection of Sherlockian verse, handset and printed at the Pequod Press; \$40.00 (cloth) or \$20.00 (paper) from John (521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707).
6642. The weather was delightful for the 27th running of The Silver Blaze (Southern Division) at Pimlico on May 24, when it was nice indeed to find a horse named Dr. Doyle entered in the seventh race (we also learned that Dr. Doyle had been scheduled to run the day before, but had been scratched so that he could run the next day). It was even nicer when Dr. Doyle won handily, but he was an odds-on favorite and paid only \$3.40/\$2.60/\$2.20. Unfortunately, The Silver Blaze was the fourth race, in which many Sherlockians had backed Lulu's Boy, who had won the same race in 1991 and missed a chance to be our only double-winner by finishing sixth. Screen Star was an easy winner, and the traditional trophy was presented by Gwen Knight, of Philadelphia.
6643. The sixth annual Watsonian Weekend (celebrating Dr. Watson and the Battle of Maiwand) begins with a regimental dinner at Knickers Restaurant in Des Plaines, Ill., on July 18, and continues with the 38th annual running of The Silver Blaze at Arlington Race Course on July 19, and concludes with brunch at the Destiny restaurant in Des Plaines. More details are available from Fred Levin, 8242 North Ridgeway Avenue, Skokie, IL 60076.
6644. Edward Mulhare died on May 24. He began his acting career in Ireland in 1942, moving to London and then to New York, where in 1957 he succeeded Rex Harrison at Henry Higgins in "My Fair Lady". He had starring roles in the television series "The Ghost and Mrs. Muir" and "Knight Rider", and in 1977 was to star as Holmes (with Ben Wright as Watson) in "The Sherlock Holmes Radio Theatre", a radio series planned by KIIS (Los Angeles); Glenhall Taylor wrote twelve scripts for the series, and seven were recorded, but the series never made it onto the air.
6645. Lisa Oldham's electronic newsletter "The Brettish Empire" continues to run installments of her excellent survey of Jeremy Brett's stage career. Her address is <loldham@freenet.columbus.oh.us>; back issues can be read on the web at <<http://www.infinet.com/~jwolfe/tbe>>.
6646. John Hillen has kindly forwarded news of a new production by the California Artists Repertory Theatre: "Alice in Wonderland" will be performed at the Hollywood Entertainment Museum at 10:00 and 7:00 on June 14. The play is adapted and directed by Peggy Webber, and stars Samantha Eggar (Alice) and David Warner (Lewis Carroll, John Astin (the White Knight), Louis Nye (the Mock Turtle), Parley Baer, Elliott Reid, and others; the Museum's address is 7021 Hollywood Boulevard, Hollywood, CA 90028 (213-960-4806). CART was founded 48 years ago by Peggy Webber, who has had a long career on stage, screen, radio, and television; she worked on the "Sherlock Holmes" radio series in the 1940s, and she and Parley Baer and Elliott Reed have contributed to the audio reissues produced by Ken Greenwald at 221A Baker Street Associates (and distributed by Simon and Schuster and Brilliance Audio).
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June 1997 #1

6647. David L. Hammer's A DANGEROUS GAME: BEING A TRAVEL GUIDE TO THE EUROPE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Indianapolis: Gasogene Books, 1997; 277 pp., \$19.95) is as delightful as his four earlier travel books (three devoted to Britain, and one to North America), and like the others it is a reasonable substitute for having the author himself as one's guide. But only reasonable, since he so obviously enjoys his journeys and his research, and it is easy enough to imagine how much fun it would be to join one of his expeditions. The book is written with style and humor, and recommended; \$22.70 postpaid from the publisher (Box 68308, Indianapolis, IN 46256).
6648. Leslie Klinger will repeat his six-week, Monday-evening, extension course on "Sherlock Holmes and His World" at the University of California in Los Angeles from Oct. 6 through Nov. 10; details are available from the UCLA Extension (310-825-9971) <<http://www.unex.ucla.edu>>. "A serious course," Les notes, with "lots of reading!"
6649. A new postage stamp honors Bugs, the world's most famous Bunny, and he's famous enough that the postal service didn't even need to put his name on the stamp. And yes, there is a mention of a bunny in the Canon (revealed on the next page).
6650. Further to the item about the sale of the Algonquin Hotel (March 97 #7), John Baesch has kindly forwarded a flier for the newly renovated landmark (which for many years has been the informal headquarters for the January birthday weekend) is run now as a Camberley Hotel); the Algonquin's Camberley Club Suites feature "a personal library of significant works, current periodicals, fresh fruit, a decanter of American sherry, complimentary soft drinks and special Algonquin Beer."
6651. Malcolm Payne died on May 30. He was the founder of The Conan Doyle (Crowborough) Establishment, and had a close association with Windlesham (since his father, aunt, and uncle had worked for Sir Arthur); he put together an interesting museum collection of Conan Doyle material, now shown at Groombridge, and in 1993 edited and published RECOLLECTIONS OF SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE BY RESIDENTS OF CROWBOROUGH, with reminiscences by his relatives and others who were employed by the family.
6652. Jo Soares' pastiche O XANGO DE BAKER STREET has been published in Brazilian Portuguese (February 96 #4), and in Spanish (November 96 #8), and Olaf Maurer reports that there now is a German translation: SHERLOCK HOLMES IN RIO (Frankfurt: Insel Verlag, 1997; 320 pp., DM 39.80); this may well set a record for modern Sherlockiana in languages other than English before there's an English translation (which is forecast from Pantheon in paperback in November as A SAMBA FOR SHERLOCK).
6653. The Canadian television series "The Adventures of Shirley Holmes" (September 96 #3) began airing on YTV cable on Feb. 24, with thirteen 30-minute episodes starring Meredith Henderson as the 12-year-old great grandniece of Sherlock Holmes., but there's no news about possible broadcast in the United States. In the meantime, Jamie Hubbs notes, the electronically enabled can visit an Internet web site at <<http://www.ytv.com/shows/shirley/index.asp>>.
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June 1997 #2

6654. FRITZ SPIEGL'S BOOK OF MUSICAL BLUNDERS AND OTHER MUSICAL CURIOSITIES (London: Robson Books, 1996; £16.95) includes a 8-page discussion titled "Sherlock Holmes mistreats his mahogany violin" in which Spiegl concludes that Holmes was far less a musician than Watson made him out to be. Spiegl also notes that Holmes' violin must have been the most remarkable instrument ever to come out of the Cremona workshops: when (in

- "The Norwood Builder"), "during a fit of exasperation, Holmes 'flung down the instrument' into a corner, it came to no harm. It was 'made of mahogany'. Solid, no doubt." But there's no mention of a mahogany violin in my copy of the Canon.
6655. The Wigmore Street Post Office is a nicely imaginative electronic journal published on the Prodigy computer service, and some of the best of its fun and games and scholarship now is available ink-on-paper in MELANGE DE WSPO, edited and published by Mel Hughes; the 100-page anthology is available for \$23.45 postpaid from Classic Specialties, Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219 (credit-card orders welcome).
6656. Yes, there is indeed a Canonical mention of a bunny. Two bunnies, in fact, in "Shoscombe Old Place" ("me and Stephens, quaking in the bushes like two bunny-rabbits").
6657. Hal Prince produced the play "They Might Be Giants" in London in 1961, and directed the Broadway musical "Baker Street" (1965), and tells tales about both shows (and many others) in CONTRADICTIONS: NOTES ON TWENTY-SIX YEARS IN THE THEATRE (New York: Dodd, Mead & Co., 1974. It's an interesting and amusing book, and of course Prince has had many more years in the theater: his production of the musical "Candide" is the last show he covers in the book, and his revival of "Candide" is running now at the Gershwin Theatre in New York.
6658. "I was once janitor and sweeper-out of the laboratory at York College," said Jefferson Hope (in "A Study in Scarlet"). And the City College of New York (founded in 1847 and honored on a recent postal card) is a reasonable candidate; all of the actual York Colleges in America were founded in 1890 or later.
6659. Phillip Gold (221Books) has sent a nice mail-order catalog of Sherlockian books, and it's available for the asking; 760 Carlisle Canyon Road, Westlake Village, CA 91361 <221books@interloc.com>. One item not included in the catalog is the Sherlock Holmes Presskit distributed by Leo Gutman in the 1970s when he was marketing the Rathbone/Bruce films: there are more than 120 loose pages, mostly reprints of articles, photographs, and period advertisements, and a letter from Gutman; \$150 postpaid.
6660. Michael Phillips, manager of The Sherlock Holmes Public House & Restaurant, has provided a copy of their sales list of souvenirs and other Sherlockiana (and of course they welcome tourists who want to dine or drink or view the recreation of the sitting-room); 10-11 Northumberland Street, London WC2N 5DA, England <sherlock@popmail.dircon.co.uk>, and they have a home page on the World Wide Web <<http://users.dircon.co.uk/~sherlock/>>.

June 1997 #3

6661. "Movie Studios Pursue Elusive Girls Segment" was the headline on a story by Jeff Jensen in the June 2 issue of Advertising Age about Hollywood plans for marketing film properties this fall: Disney will release "The Little Mermaid" for the second time, Twentieth Century-Fox will have its first animated musical "Anastasia", and Paramount will release "Fairy Tale: A True Story" (which you have heard about before as "Illumination" and before that as "The Golden Afternoon", starring Peter O'Toole as Conan Doyle and Harvey Keitel as Houdini). Viacom hopes it can do for fairies what Universal has done with dinosaurs, and the brand name "Fairies of Cottingley Glen" has been licensed to Playmates Toys, Gibson Greeting Cards, and Random House. "It's a brand that can outlive a single movie and create a distinct world that can produce future line extensions," said Viacom's vice president for strategic property development. Tom Huntington, who spotted the story, also reports that the film is scheduled for release in October.
6662. Marsha Pollak spotted a forecast in Publishers Weekly (Apr. 14): AGAINST THE BROTHERHOOD, by Quinn Fawcett, due from Forge in October, is the first in a new series featuring Mycroft Holmes.
6663. The University of Minnesota held an Official Ground Breaking Celebration on May 9 to celebrate the start of work on the new Minnesota Library Access Center that will house the university's special collections (including the Sherlock Holmes Collections). Dick Sveum reports that university president Nils Hasslmo and university librarian Tom Shaughnessy described the center and its collections, and politicians discussed their battles with the governor and the state legislature, and then shovels moved dirt, and pictures were taken. Serious construction begins this summer, and the collections will move to the new center in 1999. If you'd like to be on a mailing list for the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections, write to Richard J. Sveum (466 O. M. Wilson Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <sveum001@maroon.tc.umn.edu>.
6664. Forecast: SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE RED DEMON, by Larry Millett, in paperback from Penguin in July (\$9.95); a reprint of last year's pastiche (September 96 #5) in Holmes and Watson travel to Minnesota to help save the Great North Railway from an insane arsonist.
6665. Congratulations to Christopher Plummer, who on June 1 won a Tony Award for best actor in a play, for his performance in "Barrymore" (he is one of the very few actors who have played Sherlock Holmes and an actor who has played Sherlock Holmes). The Tony Awards are given by The American Theatre Wing and the League of American Theatres and Producers.
6666. Jerry Margolin is offering to sell some of his animation cels. Additional information is available from Jerry at 10007 S.W. Quail Post Road, Portland OR 97219 (503-293-7274) <jerrym@bidtek.com>.
6667. At hand from John Pforr is a flier for the next "Victorian Holmes Weekend" in Cape May, N.J., on Oct. 31-Nov. 2. There will be a Sherlockian mystery to solve, a tour of eight Victorian homes, meal, and other fun and games. Additional information is available from the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts, Box 340, Cape May, NJ 08204-0340 (609-884-5404) (800-275-4278).

June 1997 #4

6668. Cracker Jack fans now have more than one Sherlockian "Wishbone" prize to look for: the first one reported was a small portrait of Wishbone as Sherlock Holmes (one of a 12 different character portraits), and Don Hobbs' son now has found a fancier "dog tag" with two portraits of Wishbone (one in Sherlockian costume) under a piece of ridged plastic that allows you to see one or the other depending on the viewing angle (again, this is one of a dozen different prizes, so you get to eat lots of Cracker Jack before you get to the Sherlockian prize). There seems to be no official name for the process; some have suggested "switch cards" or "flickers" (or one can just say "what they had before holograms").
6669. Brilliance Audio's continuing series of cassettes produced by Ken Greenwald and his 221A Baker Street Associates offers more of the splendid old radio shows from the 1946-47 season with Nigel Bruce as Watson and Tom Conway as Holmes; Elliott Reid introduces one of the cassettes with discussion of the Baker Street Irregulars and modern Sherlockian societies, and other introductions offer a nice round-table discussion by Holmes, Mycroft, Moriarty, Irene Adler, and Conan Doyle (played by Hank Garrett). Cassettes #13-#16 are now available, at \$9.95 each (with two shows on each cassette). MORE NEW ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES is the series title and if you can't find them in your local shops, Brilliance is at Box 887, Grand Haven, MI 49417 (800-222-3225).
6670. THE STRANGE CASE OF MRS. HUDSON'S CAT: AND OTHER SCIENCE MYSTERIES SOLVED BY SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Colin Bruce (Reading: Addison-Wesley, 1997; 254 pp., \$23.00), offers explanations of the more important paradoxes of classical and modern physics (and resolutions for most of them), with a cast of characters that includes Holmes, Watson, Mycroft, Prof. Challenger, Summerlee, Mrs. Hudson, and her cat; this is serious science, presented with style and imagination.

6671. Ben Wood offers a sales list for Sherlockian stamps (From Great Britain and Guernsey) and Sherlockiana (needlework, booklets and other souvenirs); his address is Box 740, Ellenton, FL 34222.
6672. Stan and January Berenstain continue to include Sherlockian allusions in their Berenstain Bears series: David McCallister has spotted THE BERENSTAIN BEARS AND THE GALLOPING GHOST (New York: Random House, 1994; \$2.99); Brother and Sister are enjoying the adventures of the great bear detective, Grizzlock Holmes, and his faithful assistance, Dr. Bearson.
6673. David also noted an article by John de Lancie in the July issue of Starlog, about the audiobook series "Alien Voices" (distributed by Simon and Schuster): the first show is "The Time Machine" with Leonard Nimoy as the Time Traveller; "Journey to the Center of the Earth" is due in July, starring Nimoy and de Lancie; and "The Lost World" comes next, with Armin Shimerman as Challenger and Dwight Schultz as Malone.
6674. Plan well ahead: the next STUD Sherlockian Society annual banquet will be held on Mar. 6, 1998, at the Starlight Inn in Schiller Park (near Chicago), with David L. Hammer as featured speaker, followed as usual by a Solar Pons Breakfast in Oak Park on Mar. 7; if you'd like to be on their mailing list, write to Dennis France, 8546 North Kedvale Avenue, Skokie, IL 60076-2113.
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June 1997 #5

6675. Andrew Joffe's fine one-act chamber opera "Tobermory" (based on the story by Saki) was produced in Washington and New York last year (with Andrew as the director and a Giant Rat of Sumatra lurking on the set). It will be performed again (with a different director and cast) at the Lake George Opera Festival on Aug. 9, 11, and 13; the box office is at Box 2172, Glens Falls, NY 12801 (518-793-3859).
6676. Maurice Tanner (180 Whitehorse Road, West Croydon, Surrey CR0 2LA, England) offers his own color-cachet first day cover of the recent British "Hound of the Baskervilles" stamp with two different pictorial postmarks (£7.99 each postpaid in U.K. or £8.99 overseas), and combination FDCs with the Guernsey Rathbone stamp also with two different pictorial postmarks (£10.99/£11.99), and maximum cards for the four "Tales of Terror" stamps (£9.99/£10/99); you can pay with sterling checks or money orders, or with credit cards with a 30p surcharge (an illustrated flier is available in return for two IRCs or a \$1.00 bill).
6677. Susan Cohen has forwarded a flier from the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal, which will sponsor a workshop they call "The Skeptic's Toolbox '97" at the University of Oregon at Eugene on Aug. 21-25; the workshop topics will include Houdini and Conan Doyle, Piltown Man, dowsing, and the Oregon Vortex. The flier (with Sherlockian artwork) is available from CSICOP (Box 703, Amherst, NY 14226).
6678. Auction news: an auction of "English Literature and History" at Sotheby's on July 17 will include a copy of the first edition of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (estimated at £500-700), and a lot with eleven signed letters and cards (ten by Arthur Conan Doyle and one by his widow) to Lord Gorrell (mostly about publishing and the Psychic Bookshop (estimated at £800-1000); the sale will be in the Aeolian Hall in London, and Sotheby's address is: 34-35 New Bond Street, London W1A 2AA, England.
6679. The Conan Doyle (Crowborough) Establishment offers a lapel pin as part of its ongoing effort to raise money for a lifesize statue of Sir Arthur in Clokes Corner in Crowborough Close. The pin is in antique pewter and 1" high, available from Brian Pugh (20 Clare Road, Lewes BN7 1PN England; £6.00 postpaid in the U.K. or £7.00/\$14.00 elsewhere (dollars in currency only, please).
6680. Gary Thaden has forwarded David Thompson's article on "Sherlock Holmes and the Ghost Hunter" in the July issue of Biblio: The Magazine for Collectors of Books, Manuscripts and Ephemera; the article deals with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Harry Price and their books about spiritualism. The magazine is found in many used-book stores (\$4.95), and published from 845 Willamette Street, Eugene, OR 97401.
6681. Bill Barnes (19 Malvern Avenue, Manly, NSW 2095, Australia) offers copies of THE HOUNDS COLLECTION: VOLUME 2, with 100 pages of stories, cartoons, poems, and plays written by members of The Hounds of the Internet; most of the material is new, but a few pieces have appeared elsewhere. \$13.00 or CA\$18.00 or £9.00 postpaid by airmail; \$9.00/\$12.00/£6.00 postpaid by surface mail. Payment by personal checks or currency is welcome.
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June 1997 #6

6682. Sherlockians planning to attend Bouchercon 28 in Monterey on Oct. 30-Nov. 2 will be happy to know that the convention will include two Sherlockian symposia, on "Sherlock Holmes and the Golden State" and "Victorian Gentlemen's Clubs and the Sherlockian Canon (including a Woman's Point of View)". And the Diogenes Club of the Monterey Peninsula will host a reception for visiting Sherlockians on Oct. 31 (5:00 to 7:00 pm); if you plan to attend the reception, please contact Michael H. Kean, 3040 Sloat Road, Pebble Beach, CA 93953.
6683. Plan ahead: 221Beach ("a fun-filled Sherlockian spring break of canonical games, contests and camaraderie at the Jersey shore"), is planned for Apr. 17-19, 1998, in Spring Lake, N.J.; if you would like to be on the mailing list, write to Dick Kitts, 35 Van Cortlandt Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10301 <rkitts@aol.com>.
6684. Congratulations to Al Rosenblatt, who has been selected as a member of the 1997 U.S. Maccabiah Masters Squash Team. The Maccabiah Games, sanctioned by the International Olympic Committee, have been held in Israel every four years since 1932, and more than 5,600 athletes from more than 56 countries will participate in this year's Games in July.
6685. Hugh S. Scullion's THE SHERLOCK HOLMES REFERENCE MANUAL offers indexes to Canonical murderers, smoking and tobacco, ships, wrongful arrests, characters and places mentioned, and other topics; the 28-page pamphlet is \$13.00 postpaid (checks payable to Hugh Scullion, please) from Cadds Printing, 59 Lancaster Avenue, West Norwood, London SE27 9EL, England.
6686. Tom Huntington's "On the Trail of Sherlock Holmes" (April 97 #3) ran in the June issue of the Japanese edition of Playboy; he's very fluent in Japanese (the article first ran in the Feb. 1997 issue of Historic Traveler).
6687. The house at 12 Tension Road, South Norwood, is again available, sporting a "for sale" sign, according to a message posted to the Internet news group alt.fan.holmes. It was the home of Arthur Conan Doyle from 1891 to 1893, and four years ago (September 92 #4) was offered for £350,000.
6688. Ian Henry Publications (20 Park Drive, Romford, Essex RM1 4LH, England) has sent its summer 1997 catalog of Sherlock Holmes material, with a long list of in-print pastiches, scripts, and Doyleana (most also are available from Empire Publishing Services, Box 1344, Studio City, CA 91614).
6689. Carolyn and Joel Senter describe THE FORMIDABLE SCRAP-BOOK OF BAKER STREET as "being a compendium of creations, contributions, and offerings from, of, and about Sherlockians everywhere," and that's a fine description indeed: the book includes photographs and program and reports from events they have attended, and material submitted by others, and it offers an interesting view of the world of today's Sherlockians in 292 pages. \$35.50 postpaid (US \$38.50 to Canada) from Classic Specialties, Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219 <sherlock@sherlock-holmes.com>; credit-card orders are welcome, and orders from outside North America will be charged actual shipping costs.
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July 1997 #1

6690. I've long sought to identify an actor or artist earlier than Basil Rathbone who portrayed Sherlock Holmes with a calabash pipe. William Gillette used a curved or "bent" wooden pipe rather than the straight pipe shown in the illustrations by Paget and Steele, most likely because he realized (as any
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actor would) that lighting and smoking a straight pipe puts the hand right in front of the actor's face, whereas a bent pipe doesn't). And Robert S. Ennis has located just such an earlier calabash, and has reported on it in a fine article in the June issue of *The Baker Street Journal*: the calabash and a deerstalker are shown in a photograph of Robert Woolsey in an advertisement for the film "The Nitwits" (1935), which also had Bert Wheeler and Betty Grable in the cast. Alas, the film seems not to be available on videocassette, although it may be found on a now-withdrawn laserdisc, and it's certainly something to watch for in the television listings.

6691. And as always I am happy to recommend *The Baker Street Journal*, published quarterly at \$18.95 a year (\$21.50 a year outside the U.S.); you can subscribe for up to three years, subscribers outside the U.S. can use Visa or Mastercard, and the address is: Box 465, Hanover, PA 17331.
6692. Venezuela's giant sandstone mesas (called tepuis) were featured in a onehour program "Islands in the Sky" in the PBS-TV series "Nature" in 1989, (with mention of their having inspired Conan Doyle's "The Lost World").
6693. And John Hillen spotted an Associated Press story by Bart Jones (June 26) about the campaign by Indians and environmentalists against a government plan to run a high-voltage power line through Canaima National Park, which is the home of Angel Falls (the world's tallest waterfall) and many tepuis. Canaima, the sixth largest national park in the world, was declared a World Heritage Site by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization in 1994. The power line will serve gold mines in the state of Roraima, across the border in Brazil, and there are plans to expand mining into the Imataca forest reserve near Canaima.
6694. *THE FINAL PROBLEMS: SHERLOCK HOLMES MYSTERY TRIVIA*, by Cort Reynolds, is a 78-page booklet with more than 800 Canonical questions that can be used for a four-player board game or by those who just want to test their expertise; \$11.25 postpaid from Cort Reynolds, 108 West Lima Avenue, Ada, OH 45810.
6695. Brian Keith died on June 24. He launched his acting career in 1924 (at the age of 3) in the silent film "Piper Malone" and went on to star in the television series "Family Affair" (1966-1971) and "Hardcastle & McCormick" (1983-1986). He also guest-starred on the premiere of Angela Lansbury's television series "Murder, She Wrote" in 1984; the episode was "The Murder of Sherlock Holmes" and he played Capt. Caleb McCallum, who attended a costume party dressed as Sherlock Holmes and who may or may not have been the intended victim of a murderer (Jessica Fletcher figured it out, of course).
6696. The Book-of-the-Month Club still offers members its *SHERLOCK HOLMES SET* of nine hardcover volumes of the Canon (March 94 #3) at \$44.95; the set consists of reprints (*A STUDY IN SCARLET* and *THE SIGN OF THE FOUR* from editions published by Orange Judd in 1907, and the other seven volumes from first American editions). The club's address is Camp Hill, PA 17012-0001.
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July 1997 #2

6697. The "Lasting Impressions" symposium in Toronto on June 26-29 was thoroughly enjoyable, and a fine way to celebrate the 25th anniversary of The Bootmakers of Toronto, who planned and publicized the festivities for two and a half years and offered an instructive example of how much fun this sort of gathering can be both for those who do the work and those who benefit from it. There were interesting papers, and plenty of entertainment, and one of the nicest aspects of the schedule was the "down time" when there were no speeches and papers, and when participants could visit the Metropolitan Toronto Reference Library, chat with friends old and new, or play tourist in an interesting city. And there were pleasant surprises, such as a chance to hear from Zora Buchanan, who as a World War II refugee from Glasgow wound up on Long Island, sitting on Christopher Morley's knee, and growing up with his children.
6698. The Arts & Letters Club was graced by an impressive Commissionaire: Sahni Singh, a veteran of the British and Indian armies, who manned the door and was just as martial as one could expect any Sikh to be. The Bootmakers also arranged for Lasting Impressions vintages: an Estate Reisling 1995 and a Gamay Noir 1996 from Stoney Ridge Cellars in Winona (Ontario), available throughout the weekend. And the Metropolitan Toronto Reference Library's exhibition of "Images of Sherlock Holmes" was truly impressive, offering a chance to see original art by Paget, Steele, and others from the collection of Peter A. Lemiski, as well as the manuscript of Arthur Conan Doyle's play "Angels of Darkness" from the Library's own collection.
6699. And there was an active huckster's room, for browsers and buyers. One nice item, mentioned before (November 96 #6) is *REDMOND'S DELICATE QUESTIONS*, a booklet with thought-provoking questions, one for each case in the Canon, that make splendid discussion topics for societies seeking things to do at meetings. The booklet costs \$2.00 (US or CA) postpaid from Chris Redmond, 523 Westfield Drive, Waterloo, ON N2T 2E1, Canada.
6700. Clifford S. Goldfarb's *THE GREAT SHADOW: ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE, BRIGADIER GERARD, AND NAPOLEON* (Ashcroft: Calabash Press, 1997; 232 pp.) is a detailed and interesting examination of all of Conan Doyle's writings about the man who terrified and ruled most of Europe in the early years of the 19th century, and who was still both hated and admired at the end of the century, when he appeared in or influenced many of Conan Doyle's short stories, novels, and plays. Goldfarb discusses both the writings and their author, and his research and sources, and does it well. Available from the publisher (Box 1360, Ashcroft, BC V8K 1A0, Canada) <ashtree@mail.netshop.net>; \$27.75 postpaid (air) or \$26.00 (surface); CA\$32.75 to Canada; \$34.40/\$24.00 elsewhere (credit-card orders welcome). The trade edition is in wrappers, but there's also a limited and signed edition in cloth; ask Calabash about cost and availability.
6701. *L'UNIVERS DE SHERLOCK HOLMES* is an attractive 99-page booklet published to accompany the exhibition (which closes on Sept. 15) at the Louvre des Antiquaires in Paris (May 97 #3); it's an excellent anthology of scholarship by members of the Societe Sherlock Holmes de France (all in French), with caricatures by Jean-Pierre Cagnat, and an intriguing Sherlockian discovery in one of Camille Pissarro's paintings. Available from George A. Vanderburgh, Box 204, Shelburne, ON L0N 1S0, Canada; \$30.00 postpaid.
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July 1997 #3

6702. The Japan Sherlock Holmes Club (they're the largest Sherlockian society in the world) will celebrate its 21st anniversary with an international convention next year, on Mar. 21 in Kamakura and Mar. 22 in Tokyo. There will be presentations and exhibitions and sightseeing, and speeches by foreign guests from the United States and Great Britain, and it will be an excellent opportunity to meet Japanese Sherlockians; details are available from Mitch Higurashi, 3-13-7-305 Nishikubo, Musashino, Tokyo 180, Japan (fax 81-422-55-3356) <hgd02506@niftyserve.or.jp>.
6703. The 1997 running of The Silver Blaze at Meadowlands (that's the new venue for the New York event) will be held on Sept. 20. Additional information is available from Stephen L. Stix, 1150 NC 50 US 117, Faison, NC 28341.
6704. Robert Mitchum died on July 1. His film career began in the 1940s, in a Hopalong Cassidy western, and he went on to star in films that ranged from the thriller "Cape Fear" to the warm-hearted "Heaven Knows, Mr. Allison". Deborah Kerr once told him, "You know you can't act, and if you hadn't been good-looking, you would never have gotten a picture," and he never denied it ("Taking acting lessons," he said, "is like going to school to learn to be tall"). In the television film "Jake Spanner, Private Eye" (1989) he played a retired private detective, and in one scene tried to get information from a car-rental clerk, who asked his name; Mitchum replied, "Holmes, Mycroft Holmes."
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6705. The American Chemical Society's "peg" poster (16" x 22") with the Sherlockian maxim about it being a capital mistake, etc.) was first produced in 1977, and Jennie Paton notes that it's still available (item HS07) from ACS Education Products, Dept. 1195, Box 2537, Kearneysville, WV 25430 (800-209-0423); \$3.00 each (plus \$4.00 shipping per order).
6706. An alert for Sherlockian miniaturists: Miniature Collector magazine will showcase Sherlockian miniatures in an issue to be published next spring, and has asked readers to submit photographs or transparencies by Sept. 1; there was an announcement in the July-Aug. issue, and clues to a Sherlock Holmes quiz in the Sept. issue (now on the newsstands). You can send your material to the editor, Barbara J. Aardema, 1060 West Norton Avenue, Muskegon, MI 49441.
6707. Ted Friedman's nicely-illustrated two-page article on Jean Baptiste Greuze and stamps showing his paintings appeared in Topical Time (July-Aug. 1997); the issue costs \$5.00 postpaid from the American Topical Association, Box 65749, Tucson, AZ 85728.
6708. SHERLOCK HOLMES AND SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE IN EDINBURGH, by Charles Hall and Peter Blythe, offers interesting discussions of Sherlockian and Doylean plays performed in Edinburgh (mostly during the Edinburgh Festival Fringe), Conan Doyle's speeches and lectures in Edinburgh, and memorials to him in Edinburgh, with amusing artwork by Hall. The 48-page booklet (published in 1995) costs £4.95 postpaid to Britain (or £5.95 by surface post elsewhere) from Charles Hall, 12 Paisley Terrace, Edinburgh EH8 7JW, Scotland, Great Britain; dollar payments in currency only, please.
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July 1997 #4

6709. Charles Kuralt died on July 4. He worked as a journalist and columnist for the Charlotte News and joined CBS News in 1957, becoming host of "CBS News Sunday Morning" and the highly popular "On the Road with Charles Kuralt", winning three Peabody awards, ten Emmys, and the George Polk Memorial Award for national television reporting. "I try to avoid anything that's relevant or significant or newsworthy," he once said, and he made a career of showing that anything interesting can be important. He recorded a "Newsnote" for CBS radio in 1984 noting that "Tomorrow is Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's birthday, and lucky for us too," and he ended his warm tribute by suggesting that "Sherlock Holmes is an inspiration, a triumph of the mind in art, and we continue to follow his trail--always in admiration, always a dozen paces behind."
6710. The Bootmakers also celebrated their 25th anniversary with LASTING IMPRESSIONS, which includes a revised version of Cameron Hollyer's splendid "The Curator's Egg" (a delightfully personal history of Cameron's work at the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection), Christopher Redmond's "Sherlock Holmes from Sea to Sea" (an annotated list that ranges from Adventuresses to Yukon), a chronology of what happened at all the meetings of the Bootmakers), and a bibliography of papers presented at the meetings. 413 pp., \$35.00 postpaid from George A. Vanderburgh, Box 204, Shelburne, ON L0N 1S0, Canada.
6711. Articles in the Edinburgh press, at hand from Jon Lellenberg, report a new summer-long exhibition on "Arthur Conan Doyle: The Edinburgh Connection" at the Writers Museum in Lady Stair's Close in Edinburgh.
6712. Katherine McMahon, the last known survivor of those who solved the famous Sherlock Holmes crossword puzzle in the Saturday Review of Literature in 1934 (she's "Lucy Ferrier" in the Baker Street Irregulars), will celebrate her 90th birthday on Aug. 8, recovering from hip-replacement surgery. You can send birthday greetings to her at 516 Solano Drive NE, Albuquerque, NM 87108; birthday cards would be welcome, and audio greetings even more so, since she can't see, but can play cassettes (if you have any extra commercial Sherlockian cassettes, she can play those, too).
6713. The Home Office (Large) Major Enquiry System [HOLMES] was created more than a dozen years ago (April 85 #6), and is now widely used, but needs updating. According to a story in The Times (July 2), at hand from John R. Clark, six police forces in the United Kingdom are now testing HOLMES 2, which is both more sophisticated and easier to learn and use. HOLMES 2 is expected to go online throughout the U.K. next spring.
6714. The Norwegian Explorers will hold a "Founders Footprints" 50th-anniversary conference at the Holiday Inn Metrodome in Minneapolis on Aug. 7-9, 1998. Additional information is available from Bruce Southworth, 1621 Lafond Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55104 <bruce1@mindspring.com>.
6715. Conan Doyle praised Wilkie Collins' "fine stories of mystery" (in MEMORIES AND ADVENTURES), and we'll have a chance to see a new BBC dramatization of his "The Moonstone" on "Masterpiece Theatre" on PBS-TV on Nov. 2; the stars are Patricia Hodge, Greg Wise, Keeley Hawes, and Antony Sher. The advance warning comes from Anglofile, a monthly newsletter with detailed coverage of British entertainment; Box 33515, Decatur, GA 30033 (\$12.00 a year).
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July 1997 #5

6716. A reminder: the seventh annual Mid-Atlantic Mystery Book Fair and Convention will be held at the Holiday Inn (Independence Mall) in Philadelphia on Oct. 3-5. Membership is limited to 400 and full registration costs \$50.00; write to Deen Kogan, Detecto-Mysterioso Books, 507 South 8th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147.
6717. Orval C. Graves ("Whitaker's Almanac") died on June 18. He earned degrees in English and Religion, and enjoyed the works of Christopher Morley and Vincent Starrett, and his special interests in the Canon included air guns and sundials. He was executive director of the YMCA in Sequoia, Calif., in the 1970s, and after teaching a seven-week Sherlock Holmes course at a community college in Redwood City he founded The Knights of the Gnomon there. He received his investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1982.
6718. Marisa Babjak-Wiggins continues to offer interesting Sherlockiana in her femmes fatales mail-order catalog (Box 4457, Lakewood, CA 90712) (800-596-3323) <byteocrime@aol.com> <<http://register.com/femfatal>>. And her new catalog, ready by the end of August, will offer a boxed set of Christ-Christmas tree ornaments (Watson, Holmes, and an English Bobby); \$139.00 plus shipping; Marisa kindly offers a 10% discount to newsletter readers who mention the magic word (Scuttlebutt). Not in the catalog, but shown in a separate flier available on request, are some expensive Sherlockian statues, steins, jars, bottle openers, and chess sets.
6719. The trivia-question list of actors who have played Sherlock Holmes who also have played actors who have played Sherlock Holmes continues to lengthen: there were Patrick Horgan (who has played both Holmes and William Gillette) and Nicol Williamson and Christopher Plummer (who have played both Holmes and John Barrymore), and now there's a fourth, noted by Bill Nadel: Kevin McCarthy, who played both Holmes and William Gillette in programs on the CBS Radio Mystery Theater (1977-1982).
6720. Donald Girard Jewell's THE METEOROLOGICAL HOLMES: A MONOGRAPH ON WEATHER AND FORECASTING IN THE TIME OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, illustrated with artwork of the period, is the ninth volume in his interesting Sherlock Holmes Natural History Series; you can order the pamphlet from the Pinchin Lane Press, 4685 Geeting Road, Westminster, MD 21158 (\$16.95 postpaid).
6721. An interesting "Third Ear Radio Theatre" dramatization of THE LOST WORLD is available on two cassettes from Ziggurat Productions (Box 292, Topanga, CA 90290); \$20.50 postpaid.
6722. Peter Calamai reports that Charles Marowitz's play "Sherlock's Last Case" will be produced by the Sunshine Festival Theatre Company in Orilla on Aug. 14-30; the box-office address is 20 Mississaga Street West, Orilla, ON L3V 6K8, Canada (705-326-8011). Peter also notes that Orilla has other attractions, including the home of Stephen Leacock, the Canadian humorist whose parodies included some nice Sherlockiana.
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July 1997 #6

6723. When in the Berkshires: the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute in Williamstown, Mass., has a fine exhibition "Uncanny Spectacle: The Public Career of the Young John Singer Sargent" on display through Sept. 7, showing paintings from the first decade of his career (a decade that ended in 1887 when he had moved from Paris to London, and was already painting striking portraits).
6724. Rolf J. Canton has contributed often to the newsletter of The Norwegian Explorers, and his essays and poems have been collected in THE MORIARTY PRINCIPLE: AN IRREGULAR LOOK AT SHERLOCK HOLMES (Lakeville: Galde Press, 1997; 264 pp., \$19.95), along with new material that includes the scripts for two radio plays and a fine assortment of photographs taken at Explorers' meetings and conferences. \$23.95 postpaid from the publisher, Box 460, Lakesville, MN 55044 (800-777-3454) <pgalde@minn.net>.
6725. The summer-fall issue of Mary Higgins Clark Mystery (now on the stands and in grocery stores) has John T. Lescroart's pastiche "The Adventure of the Giant Rat of Sumatra".
6726. Brad Keefauver proudly promises "the best day you'll ever spend in Peoria, Illinois" on Sept. 27, when locals (and visitors) can shop the Central Illinois Book and Paper Fair in the morning and then proceed to the Downstate Illinois Sherlockian Invitational, which will involve a Knowledge Competition in the afternoon, and the 20th annual 2704 Banquet of The Hansoms of John Clayton in the evening. The festivities also will include a Literary Competition and a Sherlockian Scion Sing-Off, and additional information is available from Robert C. Burr (4010 Devon Lane, Peoria, IL 60614) <rcburr@hrn.bradley.edu>.
6727. CRIME THROUGH TIME: ORIGINAL TALES OF HISTORICAL MYSTERY, edited by Miriam Grace Monfredo and Sharan Newman (New York: Berkley Prime Crime, 1997; 373 pp., \$6.9), is an anthology offering 21 new short stories, including Laurie R. King's "Mrs. Hudson's Case" (with Mary Russell) and M. J. Trow's "Exit Centre Stage" (with Inspector Sholto Lestrade).
6728. Nice news indeed for fans of "The Lost World" (the 1925 film, not the movie made from Michael Crichton's book): a long article by Scott MacQueen in the June issue of Cinefex (at hand from Roy Pilot) reports on the discovery of a copy of the film at Filmovy Archiv in Prague. Work on a 35mm black-and-white preservation negative is now underway at the Haghefilm laboratory in the Netherlands; the Czech print was edited by local censors, but MacQueen believes that the new preservation negative will contain 90 percent of the full footage (the Lumivision laserdisc issued in 1991 has only 65 percent of the footage). Hugh Hefner, who earlier helped preserve the films Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce made for Universal, has contributed funds for the new project, but additional donations are requested by Ed Summer, editor of Dinosaur Interplanetary Gazette <<http://www.users.interport.net/~dinosaur>>. The address for Cinefex is Box 20027, Riverside, CA 92516; \$8.50. And for those who might be in or near Rochester, N.Y., on Aug. 8, that's when the George Eastman House is planning a preview screening of the new version.

August 1997 #1

6729. The second issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota has an excellent tribute to E. W. McDiarmid (who continues to work with the collection), and a look at hansoms, Canonical and otherwise. If you would like to be on the mailing list, write to Richard J. Sveum (466 O. M. Wilson Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <sveum001@maroon.tc.umn.edu>.
6730. Scott Monty has noted that Massachusetts police have recovered a blackened clump of beeswax bearing the crest of King Charles I, which was affixed to the first page of the charter of Massachusetts Bay Colony, which was stolen from the state archives in 1984; the page was recovered in 1985 but without the seal, which has now been reunited with the charter. It's unlikely that the police motto was "we may find something else of Charles the First," but it certainly turned out that way.
6731. Steven T. Doyle, editor and publisher of The Sherlock Holmes Review, has decided to stop publishing the magazine at the end of 1997 (the two final issues will be mailed later this year). And the fifth Sherlock Holmes Review Symposium in Indianapolis on Nov. 21-23, will be the last one. But he'll continue his work with Mark Gagen on the Wessex Press and the Gasogene Press. Details are available from Steven at Box 583, Zionsville, IN 46077 <73551.3254@compuserve.com>.
6732. Jack Kerr notes a discovery at his local Royal Doulton outlet: a series of "Pigtails" from Holland Studio Craft Ltd. (King Street, Fenton, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs. ST4 3EP, England) that includes a "Detective" with magnifying glass and deerstalker; item PT262, product code 31-580-195, \$8.50.
6733. Jack also has seen SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE RED DEMON, by Larry Millett, in paperback from Penguin (\$9.95); a reprint of last year's pastiche (September 96 #5) in which Holmes and Watson travel to Minnesota to help save the Great North Railway from an insane arsonist.
6734. "Triumphs and Misfortunes: The Life of Sherlock Holmes" (a new play by Lynn C. Miller) is scheduled at the Heller Theater (5328 South Wheeling, Tulsa, OK 74105) on Oct. 16-18 and 23-25, 1997; the box-office telephone number is 918-746-5065.
6735. Doctor Who Magazine is running a continuing series on the influences on and sources for the television series, and Stephen Cartwright's discussion of the Sherlockian echoes (and there are a lot of them) is in issue #253 (July 2, 1997); I don't know if there's an American distributor, but the cover price is \$5.99, and the magazine is published from Box 503, Leicester LE94 0AD, England.
6736. LESTRADE AND THE DEVIL'S OWN, by M. J. Trow (London: Constable, 1996; 190 pp., £15.99), has a grabber of an opening: it's 1913, and Superintendent Sholto Lestrade is being sentenced to hang for the crime of murder. Well, of course he didn't do it, and the novel (Trow's sixteenth in his series about Lestrade) explains how he got to be framed, and exonerated, and the book has the all the broad humor that one expects from Trow.

August 1997 #2

6737. It's nice to think of it as a memorial to the late John Bennett Shaw (whose Baker Street Irregulars investiture was "The Hans Sloane of My Age"), but of course it's a memorial to the original Sir Hans Sloane: according to an article at hand from John Baesch, a statue of Sir Hans has been returned to Sloane Square in Chelsea.
6738. The Conclave of Richmond Pipe Smokers will hold its 13th Annual Pipe Smokers' Exposition & Celebration at the Holiday Inn in Richmond, Va., on Oct. 10-12, and this year will honor Sherlock Holmes (as "the master pipe smoker and the world's foremost consulting detective"). There will be Sherlockian exhibits, and a "Mystery of the Pipe"; details are available from the Conclave (Box 34023, Richmond, VA 23234) <corpipemsk@aol.com>. And there is Sherlockian artwork on the cover of the exposition flier.
6739. If you've been trying to order THE SHERLOCK HOLMES COOKBOOK (May 97 #1) and have gotten post-office rejects, the new address for Apple Cheeks Press is: Box 7134, Alexandria, VA 22307. The Alexandria post office seems unable to forward mail from the old box to the new box.
6740. Ralph Cosham (who is playing Dr. Watson in the Interact Theatre Company's "The Case of the Purloined 'Patience'" at the Folger Elizabethan Theatre in Washington) also does a fine job reading five stories (Musg/RedH/Houn/Spec/Fina) on the new boxed set of six audiocassettes SHERLOCK HOLMES MYSTERIES. If it's not available in a local store (Richard Wein found it at Price Club /Costco for \$19.95), it's offered by the publisher (Entertainment Software, 300 Madison Avenue South #203, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110) (800-688-7406) priced at \$34.95.

6741. And for those who've not yet seen the amusing show at the Folger, the run has been extended through Sept. 7, and the box-office telephone number is 703-760-9863; Sherlock Holmes is excellent as "the very model of a crack Victorian supersleuth," and The Red Circle had a fine time at our theater party this month.
6742. Richard Wein also notes that the new catalog from What on East, 2451 Enterprise East Parkway, Twinsburg, OH 44087 (800-945-2552) has a brew kit with the makings of a gallon of Sherlock Holmes Porter (G570); \$15.95. The box design also is available on T-shirts (P300T) and sweatshirts (P300S) for \$16.95 to \$28.95.
6743. The new issue of Scarlet Street has arrived, with David Stuart Davies' warm tribute to the late Ronald Howard, a series of fine articles about the film "The Day the Earth Stood Still" (1951), and the usual coverage of the mystery-and-horror genre. Scarlet Street published quarterly) costs \$20.00 a year; Box 604, Glen Rock, NJ 07452.
6744. A reminder: Hugh Leonard's play "The Mask of Moriarty" premiered in Dublin in 1985 with Tom Baker as Holmes, and Paxton Whitehead starred in the play in Williamstown, Mass. in 1994. Whitehead will be doing the play again at the Globe Theater in San Diego from Sept. 14 to Oct. 25; the box-office address is 1363 Old Globe Way, San Diego, CA 92101 (619-239-2255).
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August 1997 #3

6745. The seventh issue of The Shosoin Bulletin has arrived from The Men with the Twisted Konjo, with 200 pages (in English) of articles, poetry, pastiches, and illustrations by contributors from Japan and nine other countries (one of the new contributors is Margarine Lau, from Hong Kong, with translations of prefaces in Chinese editions of the Canon published in 1903 and 1916). Yuichi Hirayama and Mel Hughes are the editors, and the cost is \$12.00 postpaid (to U.S. or Canada) from Mel Hughes, 2664 Sam Hardwick Boulevard, Jacksonville, FL 32240; and £5.50 postpaid (to Britain and Europe) from John Hall, 20 Drury Avenue, Horsforth, Leeds, West Yorkshire, LS18 4BR, England; please send checks in U.S. dollars to Mel, or checks in sterling to John (or currency from any country).
6746. Carl Heifetz reports that Ben Wood (Box 740, Ellenton, FL 34222) offers a new sales-list of his interesting Sherlockiana (a self-addressed stamped envelope would be welcome); the list also is available by e-mail from Carl <microdoc@gte.net>.
6747. Raymond Jackson died on July 27. He was the London Evening Standard's political cartoonist for more than 30 years (signing his cartoons "Jak"). In 1968 he caricatured Sir Paul Gore-Booth, then highest-ranking civil servant in the Foreign Office, when The Sherlock Holmes Society made its first pilgrimage to Switzerland, and Sir Paul, dressed as Holmes, was photographed wrestling with Moriarty at the edge of the Reichenbach, and made headlines in most British (and many other) newspapers.
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August 1997 #4

6748. Bill Dorn's A SHERLOCK HOLMES CALENDAR FOR 1998 is illustrated with varied Canonical artwork, and relies primarily on Ernest B. Zeisler's dates. \$8.95 postpaid (or \$9.45 to Canada, \$11.45 elsewhere), from William S. Dorn, 2120 South Monroe Street, Denver, CO 80210. Bill also offers an illustrated sales list of Sherlockian note cards and Christmas cards in color and in black-and-white.
6749. Mark Alberstat's 1988 Sherlock Holmes Calendar is illustrated with artwork from The Strand Magazine, and displays important Sherlockian birthdays and William S. Baring-Gould's dates for the cases. The cost is US \$12.00 postpaid, and his address is 5 Lorraine Street, Dartmouth, NS B3A 2B9, Canada.
6750. The poster for the "Images of Sherlock Holmes" exhibition at the Metropolitan Toronto Reference Library is handsome indeed, showing (in full color) Sidney Paget's artwork for "The Three Students" ("with his neck craned, he looked into the room"), and it's a fine opportunity indeed to see how much better the originals are than the illustrations in the Strand. The poster is available for CA\$15.00 to Canada, or US\$15.00 to other countries, mailed unfolded, and you can send your orders to Sarah Visser, Communications and Development Department, Metropolitan Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street, Toronto, ON M4W 2G8, Canada; checks payable to the MTRL, please.
6751. The July-Aug. 1997 issue of the Metropolitan Toronto Reference Library News has a one-page story on the exhibit, and on the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection (with a nice photograph of ACD and his family at a picnic in Canada in 1923). If you'd like your own copy of the newsletter (free), write to Victoria Gill <vgill@gwmail.mtrl.toronto.on.ca> or at the MTRL address above.
6752. Audio Editions Books on Cassette, Box 6930, Auburn, CA 95604 (800-231-4261) <info@audioeditions.com> offers Ralph Cosham's SHERLOCK HOLMES MYSTERIES (August 97 #2) at \$34.95; three two-cassette sets (four shows each) from the Merrison BBC series "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" at \$16.99 each; six four-cassette gift sets (eight shows each) from the Rathbone/Bruce radio series at \$25.00 each; and 16 volumes of the Conway/Bruce radio series at \$9.95 each. And lots of non-Sherlockian material as well.
6753. A videotaper alert: the Fox television series "The X-Files" is in syndication on fX cable now, so you'll have a chance at the episode "Fire" due to air on Sept. 3 ("Mulder must overcome his fear of fire to take on the hotheaded pyrokinetic serial killer"); there are a few Sherlockian and Doylean allusions.
6754. Reported by Paul Martin: a picture of the Sherlock Holmes Pub on the cover of CHEAP EATS IN LONDON, by Sandra A. Gustafson (San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 1997; 3rd edition; 240 pp., \$12.95).
6755. "Sherlockian Wisdom and Ventricular Ectopy" is the name of 48-minute educational documentary film released in 1987, according to the All-Movie Guide (a web-site where Warren Randall found it listed). "Learn the symptoms and diagnosis of ventricular ectopy. Treatment, particularly therapy, is also discussed." Does anyone know anything else about the film? The name and address of the company that made it? There's no record at the Copyright Office at the Library of Congress, nor in the Internet Movie Data Base.
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August 1997 #5

6756. The Patchwork Playhouse (711 East Main Street, Lexington, SC 29072) has occasionally been performing original two-act Sherlockian plays since 1994; their current schedule includes "The Adventure of the Dancing Men" (Oct. 2-18, 1997) and "The Case of the Crooked Man" (Feb. 5-21, 1998), and their box-office telephone number is 803-951-2100.
6757. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle appears as a character in the Dark Horse comic book TARZAN #13 (\$2.95); it's a to-be-continued story, so he may turn up in the next installments.
6758. Francine Kitts has noted the New School's fall 1997 catalog, which includes Irving Kamil's 13-session Thursday-morning course on "The World of Mystery Fiction" (starting Sept. 18), and Arthur Liebman's evening presentation on "Dracula: The Count's 100th Birthday" (on Sept. 19). Additional information is available from the New School, 66 West 12th Street, New York, NY 10011 (212-229-5690).
6759. The board game 221B BAKER ST.: SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE TIME MACHINE, issued last year at \$34.95 (September 96 #6), is now offered at \$14.99 (item 50578) in the summer catalog from Smart Shopper, Box 64494, St. Paul, MN 55164 (800-736-3055).
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6760. Dave Scott is coordinating reservations for a murder-mystery dinner at Baskerville's Restaurant in The Grosvenor Hotel in Orlando on Sept. 27 -- and by special arrangement the group will be allowed inside the hotel's replica of the sitting room at 221B Baker Street. Details are available from Dave (Box 463, De Land, FL 32721) (904-740-9559) <davescot@ix.netcom.com>.
6761. Phil Swiggum is selling his Holmesian collection, which includes the Crowborough edition of Conan Doyle's works, bound Strands, a run of Norwegian Explorers publications, and much more. His asking price is \$6,000 and his address is 8500 Parrish Avenue, Otsego, MN 55330.
6762. The Goose Club of the Alpha Inn, The Tigers of San Pedro, other local Sherlockian societies will present "HolmesWest 97: Three Days with the Master" at the Occidental College Library in Los Angeles on Sept. 26-28. Details are available from John Farrell, 25314 Woodward Avenue, Lomita, CA 90717 (818-703-8708) <holmeswest@bigfoot.com>.
6763. "Back in my younger days, it kept me out of some speeding tickets," said a 70-year-old retired businessman in Marion, Ill. "They would say, 'I can't give a ticket to Sherlock Holmes.'" And that is indeed his name, according to a story in the Decatur Herald and Review (July 27), kindly forwarded by David M. Rush.
6764. THE CURSE OF THE BRONZE LAMP, by Carter Dickson [John Dickson Carr], has been reported in a reprint from Carroll & Graf (\$4.95); the book is dedicated to Ellery Queen, with a cryptic reference to Mr. James Phillimore and his umbrella.
6765. Forecast: THE NAPOLEON OF CRIME, Ben Macintyre's biography of Adam Worth (December 96 #1), published earlier in Britain (HarperCollins, £18,00), is due soon in the United States (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, \$24.00).

August 1997 #6

6766. There were many things that made the Granada "Sherlock Holmes" series such a great success, and one of the most important was careful preparation and attention to detail on the part of producer Michael Cox. Part of that preliminary work was the creation by Cox, associate producer Stuart Doughty, and researcher Nicky Cooney, of an 80-page detailed production guide, extracted from the Canon and issued as a stapled handbook to those who worked on the series. And now that background bible is available to those who would like to see their work, with a new foreword by Cox, in the Calabash Press' THE BAKER STREET FILE: A GUIDE TO THE APPEARANCE AND HABITS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES AND DR. WATSON (105 pp., \$18.70 postpaid); different prices to other countries, and by air; the publisher's address is Box 1360, Ashcroft, BC V0K 1A0, Canada <ashtree@mail.netshop.net> (credit card orders welcome).
6767. Calabash also has published CANADIAN HOLMES: THE FIRST TWENTY-FIVE YEARS, edited by Chris Redmond (306 pp., \$42.70 postpaid); Trevor Raymond recalls in his afterword that the first constitution of the Bootmakers of Toronto stated that "The purpose of this Society shall be to keep Sherlock Holmes alive and well in Canada, and to assist police in locating missing boots and other footwear," and the Bootmakers have done that (well, part of that) splendidly in the journal Canadian Holmes, as this anthology demonstrates.
6768. Also available from Calabash: CANONICAL QUIZZES FROM THE BOOTBOX, compiled by Dave Sanders and Brian Gibson and edited by Barbara Roden, with a selection of quizzes and puzzles from meetings of The Bootmakers of Toronto (80 pp., \$9.00 postpaid).
6769. Brad Hicks is holding a mail-auction of nearly 300 books and journals from his Sherlockian collection; the deadline for bids is Nov. 1, and a detailed list is available from Brad: (5349 Amesbury Drive #2515, Dallas, TX 75206) (972-718-5764) <bhicks@gte.net>.
6770. The Wigmore Street Post Office is an electronic journal published on the Prodigy computer service, but some of the best of its material can be found in its ink-on-paper version; the summer 1997 issue has 40 pages, and costs \$4.50 postpaid. Or you can subscribe: \$6.50 (two issues) from Mel Hughes, 2664 Sam Hardwick Boulevard, Jacksonville, FL 32246.
6771. The BBC Radio/BDD Audio cassettes of the Merrison/Williams radio series are nicely done, and it's fascinating to see what Bert Coules and others have done to adapt the stories for radio; there are three volumes of THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (each with four stories) in the shops (\$16.99 each).
6772. It happened ten years ago, but the memory lingers, and you can still read all about the event: Al and Julie Rosenblatt's fine 20-page souvenir menu for "An Evening in Scarlet" at the Culinary Institute of America on May 16, 1987, handsomely devised, designed, and produced, with many illustrations, annotations, and explanations, is still available; \$19.00 postpaid (checks payable to Peter E. Blau, please).

September 1997 #1

6773. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists will meet for dinner in honor of the world's first forensic geologist at 7:00 pm on Oct. 21 at The Chart House, 340 West South Temple, in Salt Lake City; if you would like to join us for the event, please let us know. The local contact is Ronald B. De Waal, 638 Twelfth Avenue, Salt Lake City, UT 84103 (801-533-0523); or you can tell me (see the end of the newsletter). From Oct. 19 I'll be staying at the Peery Hotel (801-521-4300).
6774. Al and Julie Rosenblatt would greatly appreciate hearing from whoever it was in California who earlier this year acquired Richard W. Clarke's papers concerning The Five Orange Pips of Westchester County; their address is 300 Freedom Road, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569 <jurosenblatt@vassar.edu>.
6775. The fourth issue of The Holmes & Watson Report has arrived, and it likely that rumors that Brad Keefauver writes all of the articles under pseudonyms are unfounded: the current issue has Jim Vogelsang's tale of the lengths to which a collector will go to add to his collection, Rosemary Michaud's report on how much fun librarians have when they escape from their libraries, and other odd ends. \$14.00 a year (six issues) from Brad Keefauver, 4009 North Chelsea Place, Peoria, IL 61614.
6776. James Cuthbertson died in August. He was a major in the Royal Army Service Corps on D-Day, and won a Military Cross for organizing and leading convoys carrying supplies under fire supporting the 6th Airborne Division. He was a banker before the war, and returned to the profession afterward, retiring in 1979. He was a member of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London, and in 1989 wrote and published A STUDY IN BANKING: AN INVESTIGATION OF THE RELATIONSHIP OF MR. SHERLOCK HOLMES WITH HIS BANK, discussing the detective's dealings with the Hampshire Banking Company from 1871 until 1914 (by which time it had been renamed the Capital and Counties Bank).
6777. Tom Huntington's article in the Sept. issue of Smithsonian magazine on "The Man Who Believed in Fairies" discusses Conan Doyle's campaign on behalf of spiritualism, and includes a photograph from the soon-to-be-released film "Fairytale: A True Story" showing Peter O'Toole as Sir Arthur.
6778. The Sept. issue of Smithsonian also has Michael Kernan's fine article about the National Museum of Natural History's new Janet Annenberg Hooker Hall of Geology, Gems and Minerals, with a photograph (on p. 60) of the spectacular 75-carat Hooker Emerald, which has a Sherlockian connection, via a previous owner, Abdul-Hamid II (also known as Abdul the Damned): it was on the night of Apr. 23, 1909, his last as Sultan of the Ottoman Empire (he was deposed the next day), that his Chamberlain read to him a translation of the latest Sherlock Holmes story from The Strand Magazine.
6779. The Basic Program of Liberal Education for Adults at the University of Chicago has scheduled a "Sherlock Holmes" weekend at the Alpine Valley Resort in East Troy, Wis., on Oct. 31-Nov. 2; the list of speakers includes Robert Mangler (Master of the Hounds of the Baskerville). Additional details

September 1997 #2

6780. One does indeed hear of Sherlock everywhere, and sometimes in strange ways. Tomoji Ohta noted that BBC radio's dramatization of "The Final Problem" has been "sampled" on the CD "Lionrock: An Instinct for Detection", and Bert Coules reported that "everyone concerned with the show was amazed" when they found that several tracks on the CD include extracts from the BBC shows, without acknowledgement, permission, or payment. "I believe that lawyers are now involved," Bert said. The double CD from BMG Entertainment International/Deconstruction Ltd. is distributed by Time Bomb Recordings (\$16.99 in a shop here), and the box notes show a Frederic Dorr Steele portrait of Sherlock Holmes. "The brainchild of dj Justin Robertson, Lionrock is a blend of chaos and control. Equal parts techno and traditional rock."
6781. There's a new edition of Robert Barr's THE TRIUMPHS OF EUGENE VALMONT (New York: Oxford University Press, 1997; 220 pp., \$9.95), with an introduction by Stephen Knight and as a bonus, two of Barr's Sherlockian parodies: "The Adventures of Sherlaw Kombs" and "The Adventure of the Second Swag" (first published in The Idler in May 1892 and Dec. 1904, as by Luke Sharp).
6782. Our new postal card shows a view of the Golden Gate and San Francisco, from a photograph by Carol Simowitz. But (alas) it is a view that "Hatty Doran, the only daughter of Aloysius Doran, Esq., of San Francisco, Cal., U.S.A." never saw (the bridge was decades after she left the Pacific slope).
6783. The Northern Musgraves continue to offer excellent Sherlockian and Doylean scholarship in their annual Musgrave Monographs, and the most recent is SHERLOCK HOLMES, CONAN DOYLE, AND THE BRITISH EMPIRE, a 40-page pamphlet by Jeffrey Richards in which he examines the Empire of a hundred years ago, when it was celebrating Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee; £4.50 postpaid to the U.K. and Europe (\$10.00 postpaid elsewhere) from Anne Jordan, Fairbank, Beck Lane, Bingley, West Yorkshire BD16 4DN, England (please make checks payable to The Northern Musgraves). The Ritual (the society's semi-annual journal) continues to offer a fine mix of articles, essays, and reviews; the latest issue has 72 pages, and information on membership also is available from Anne Jordan.
6784. "Wishbone" fans will welcome the news that there are new episodes due soon; unfortunately none of them are Sherlockian (there's always hope for a future season, of course); a one-hour version of "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" is being networked to PBS-TV stations on Oct. 15, and eight new 30-minute shows will air weekly beginning Oct. 19.
6785. Leon Edel died on Sept. 5. Famous for his biographies of Henry James, he stressed the need to use psychological analysis in writing literary biography. In an essay on "The Art of Biography: The Figure Under the Carpet" in The New Republic (Feb. 10, 1979) he proposed that it is important to try to "glimpse the myths within and behind the individual," and to search for an individual's hidden dreams of himself, and then discover how they have been acted out . . . in a series of fantasy conversions or metamorphoses as in Stout and Conan Doyle." The essay was reprinted in Edel's STUFF OF SLEEP AND DREAMS: EXPERIMENTS IN LITERARY PSYCHOLOGY (1982).
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September 1997 #3

6786. Richard Lancelyn Green (chairman of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London) notes in The Sherlock Holmes Journal (summer 1997) that it was in 1901 that the question "Should a Public Monument be Erected to Sherlock Holmes?" first appeared in print. G. K. Chesterton and Dorothy L. Sayers were among those who favored the project in later years, and now something is being done about it: plans call for a statue by sculptor John Doubleday to be in place outside the Baker Street Station in London by the millennium. The project will cost an estimated £100,000, and The Sherlock Holmes Statue Company Ltd. (which Nicholas Utechin reports is separate from the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, "though its board includes a number of familiar names") now welcomes donations; the treasurer is Elaine Hamill (16 Kirton Close, Chiswick, London W4 5VW, England).
6787. The Holmes and Watson glass Christmas tree ornaments (July 97 #5) are available individually (\$29.95 each) in the new catalog from What on Earth (2451 Enterprise East Parkway, Twinsburg, OH 44087 (800-945-2552).
6788. "A Grand Design: The Art of the Victoria and Albert Museum" opens at the Baltimore Museum of Art on Oct. 12, and it ought to be quite a show (it arrives in Boston in February, and then goes to Toronto, Houston, and San Francisco). Tickets for the show in Baltimore are marketed by Vista (888-262-4278 is the toll-free number) and cost \$8.00 (or \$6.00 for seniors), plus \$2.00 for Vista (you can avoid the surcharge by buying tickets at the museum).
6789. The movie "Fairytale: A True Story" (with Peter O'Toole as Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Harvey Keitel as Harry Houdini) will be released in the U.S. on Oct. 24, rated PG (for "brief mild language"). The movie was released in Great Britain on Sept. 19 and is scheduled for release in Australia on Dec. 18. This is the film about the Cottingley fairies, and there's an official web-site at <www.fairytalemovie.com/>.
6790. Sherlock Hemlock isn't seen as often as he used to be, but Jo Pitesky notes that he's in "The Mysterious Zero Cookie Case" in the Sept. issue of Sesame Street Magazine (\$1.95); Box 55518, Boulder, CO 80328-5518
6791. "Moll Flanders" (1996) was broadcast on Showtime cable on Sept. 26 (and it will repeat), starring Robin Wright as Moll, Stockard Channing as the evil madam who makes Moll's life miserable, and Morgan Freeman as Hibble (who doesn't appear in Daniel Defoe's book); it was Jeremy Brett's last film, in which he had one scene as the wealthy father of the artist with whom Moll falls in love.
6792. The new catalog from Bits & Pieces, 1 Puzzle Place, Stevens Point, WI 54481 (800-544-7297) offers four Sherlock Holmes Mystery Jigsaw Puzzles, two old (March 96 #3) and two new (the puzzle pictures help solve the crimes); \$10.95 each (cheaper if you order more than one).
6793. The three Chesterton societies in the United States and Canada have joined forces to publish the new magazine Gilbert! with coverage of all aspects of his writings. Membership in the American Chesterton Society costs \$25.00 a year, including 10 issues of Gilbert! (only 5c more than the subscription price); 1377 Goodrich Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55105.
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September 1997 #4

6794. The winners of this year's Kennedy Center Honors include Charlton Heston and Bob Dylan. Heston began his acting career in 1941, and has played Marc Anthony, Buffalo Bill Cody, Michaelangelo, Andrew Jackson, General Charles Gordon, El Cid, King Henry VIII, Brigham Young, Cardinal Richelieu, John the Baptist, God -- and Sherlock Holmes (on stage and television, in "The Crucifer of Blood"). Dylan has been world-famous since the 1960s for songs such as "Blowin' in the Wind" and "Like a Rolling Stone". In May 1963 he was scheduled to sing "Talkin' John Birch Society Blues" on "The Ed Sullivan Show", but CBS-TV refused to allow the song on the air, and Dylan refused to perform. The song soon appeared on bootleg recordings, and it was released officially in 1991; one verse is: "Well I quit my job so I could work all alone,/ And I changed my name to Sherlock Holmes./ Found some clues in my detective bag;/ I discovered there was red stripes in the American flag." The awards will be presented at a dinner at the State Department on Dec. 6, followed by a White House reception and a tribute at the Kennedy Center on Dec. 7.
6795. Information needed: this panel was the only Sherlockian bit in an issue of a BATMAN comic book published in 1996; Can anyone supply the issue number and date?
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6796. N. C. Wyeth was one of America's great illustrators: he studied with Howard Pyle, and there are many who grew up with and fondly remember his editions of TREASURE ISLAND, ROBIN HOOD, THE YEARLING, THE LAST OF THE MOHICANS, and other children's classics. He also illustrated some of Conan Doyle's stories, and you'll find a splendid fullcolor collection of his art (including two of his Doylean paintings) in Kate F. Jennings' N. C. WYETH (Secaucus: Book Sales, 1995; 48 pp., \$6.98).
6797. Bob Gellerstedt offers a helpful four-page index to Carl William Thiel's THE BASIC 100: AN ANNOTATED COLLECTOR'S GUIDE (December 96 #6); his address is 1035 Wedgewood Drive, Fayetteville, GA 30214, and the cost (postpaid) to North America is two 32c US stamps.
6798. The contents of the latest issue of The Serpentine Muse include an interesting report by Nora Myers on "Our Future Sherlockians" (including the eighth-grade students she taught in Baltimore County). At the beginning of the class, she asked her students to write a paragraph to her what they already knew about Sherlock Holmes, and one young lady wrote, "The best thing about Sherlock Holmes are the sluts in the stories." Not until the end of the paragraph did Nora realized that the student had misspelled "sleuths". The Muse is published quarterly by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes; \$10.00 a year from Evelyn A. Herzog, 360 West 21st Street, New York, NY 10011.
6799. "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Purloined 'Patience'" was delightful (August 97 #2), and it's unfortunate that there are no current plans to revive or tour the show (nor was it videotaped). But at least you have a chance read the script, which is available for \$30.00 (postpaid in the U.S.) from the Interact Theatre Company, 1221 Mottrom Drive, McLean, VA 22101.

September 1997 #5

6800. Plan ahead: Bill Dunning reports that the Fourth Biennial John Bennett Shaw Memorial Conference for Sherlockian Studies will be held at Santa Fe Community College on Sept. 25-27, 1998. Jon L. Lellenberg will be the keynote speaker, and Richard H. Miller will be the master of ceremonies. To be on the conference mailing list, you should write to Elizabeth Gutierrez, Santa Fe Community College, 6401 South Richards Avenue, Santa Fe, NM 87505 <egutierrez@santa-fe.cc.nm.us>.
6801. Alderney has issued a set of stamps honoring the 150th anniversary of cricket (introduced by soldiers garrisoned there), and one stamp shows the great British cricketer W. G. Grace. Conan wrote an appreciation of Grace for The Times (Oct. 17, 1915), later revised and expanded for the Strand (July 1927), and he discussed Grace in "Some Recollections of Sport" in the Strand (Sept. 1909 and June 1924) and in MEMORIES AND ADVENTURES.
6802. The fall issue of the Upton Tea Quarterly has many items for the pleasure of fanciers of fine tea, including their new "Baker Street Afternoon Blend" ("a bit of Lapsang Souchong is blended with Keemun and Darjeeling, yielding a mildly smoky tea"); prices range from \$1.00 for a sample up to \$36.30 for a kilogram. Upton Tea Imports, 231 South Street, Hopkinton, MA 01748 (800-234-8327).
6803. Laurie R. King is doing a bit of building in Santa Cruz County, California, and applied for a building permit for a guest house, which was described by someone in the planning department as "a habitable accessory structure (no kitchen/bathroom) to include a bedroom, living room, with future kitchen and bathroom areas, on site with a single-family dwelling (retirement home for S. Holmes)." It would appear that someone in the planning department is an admirer of the Mary Russell series. And Laurie reports that A LETTER OF MARY is due in paperback in December, and that THE MOOR is due in cloth in January. Her next (non-series) book will be BIRTH OF THE NEW MOON, due in November 1998.
6804. Olaf Maurer notes that Sena Jeter Naslund's pastiche SHERLOCK IN LOVE (September 93 #6) has been translated into German as SHERLOCK VERLIEBT (Hildesheim: Claasen Verlag, 1997; 256 pp., DM 32.00).
6805. "Sherlock Holmes: The Changing Face of a Modern Hero" is the title of the Shadok-Fackenthal Library's exhibition "tracing the 110-year public life of the world's most famous private detective," and "Adventures in Criticism: Studies in the Literature of Sherlock Holmes" is the title of a lecture by Ray Betzner scheduled at the Library on Oct. 15 (reception at 4:00 pm, and talk at 4:30 pm). The Library is at Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, Penn.
6806. If you have a copy of the first edition of John T. Lescroart's RASPUTIN'S REVENGE (New York: Donald I. Fine, 1987), you can check to see if you have the first issue, which has a jumbled paragraph two-thirds of the way down page 137 (starting "No, he said at last, as if to himself). Jerry Margolin recently met Lescroart, and was told that "only about 300 copies got out before they were recalled and a corrected page was tipped in." This is Lescroart's second novel about "Auguste Lupa" (the son of Sherlock Holmes).

September 1997 #6

6807. "Der Hund von Baskerville" (1937) has been issued on videocassette, at long last, by International Historic Films (Box 29035, Chicago, IL 60629; priced at \$39.95 plus \$6.00 shipping). The film stars Bruno Guttner as Holmes and Fritz Odemar as Watson; there is a report that a copy of the film was found in Hitler's private film library at Berchtesgaden in 1945. It's in German, and there are no subtitles, and the sound is not as good as it ought to be. But: film buffs may wish to wait a bit, since it is possible that a better videocassette may be available in a few months from Germany, where a print of the film was located recently.
6808. Jennie Paton has asked me to report that she has arrived in Florida, but is not quite settled in yet, nor even close to unpacked or plugged in or wired up (so the video lending library is not yet up and running again), but you can write to her at P.O. Box 17197, Tampa, FL 33682-7197.
6809. If you're planning trip to Hawaii: Ken Lanza has forwarded a report on the Honolulu Police Department's annual Sherlock Holmes Night, scheduled this year on Oct. 3 in the Hawaii Room at the Blaisdell Center, at 7:00 pm. It is "a lighthearted, interactive event" at which the public can learn what it takes to solve a crime by using "forensic science, interrogation techniques, and good old common sense and ingenuity, and have fun doing it."
6810. Chuck Kovacic has created three new Sherlockian metal sculptures: Sherlock Holmes, William Gillette as Sherlock Holmes, and a Holmes/Moriarty headed walking stick. Send a self-addressed stamped envelope for his illustrated flier; Chuck's address is 14383-B Nordhoff Street, Panorama City, CA 91402.
6811. Dave Galerstein, learning to use Windows 95, which comes with the Windows Encarta 96 Encyclopedia, notes that the encyclopedia entry for Sir Arthur Conan Doyle notes that "A Holmes cult arose and still flourishes, notable through clubs of devotees such as the Baker Street Irregulars."
6812. The Greek Interpreters of East Lansing celebrated their 50th anniversary in 1995 by publishing a "trifling brochure" with highlights of the history of the scion; the 32-page pamphlet is available for \$6.00 postpaid from Shari Conway, 4440 Beeman Road, Williamston, MI 48895.
6813. John Tracey is selling his Sherlockian collection, and offers a sales-list (without prices, since he "will only consider fair offers for any of the titles"); his address is 10-1121 Bavlle Avenue, Ottawa, ON K1H 8P3, Canada <johntracey@pigeon.carleton.ca>.
6814. Sotheby's auctioned a collection of film posters in London on Sept. 18, and the sale included (add 15% for the buyer's premium): a lobby card showing John Barrymore in "Sherlock Holmes" (1922) (£900), lobby cards of Bruce and Rathbone in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1939) (£450) and "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (1939) (£450), a half-sheet poster of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1939) (not sold at £650), and a three-sheet poster for the same film (not sold at £5,200); the three-sheet measures 81 by 41 in., and was described as the only one known to exist from the film.

October 1997 #1

6815. It's been the season for world premieres of movies about fairies, it would seem: "Photographing Fairies" (based on Steve Szilagyi's book, with Edward Hardwicke as Conan Doyle) premiered at the Edinburgh Film Festival on Aug. 13, and "FairyTale: A True Story" (starring Peter O'Toole as Conan Doyle) premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival on Sept. 11. According to a press release, Szilagyi's book has been translated into Japanese, German, Danish, French, and Hebrew); there's no word yet on when this film will be released in the United States (both films have been released in the United Kingdom).
6816. Many of you will have seen "FairyTale: A True Story" by now (it opened in the U.S. on Oct. 24), and if you haven't, I recommend it: it's a delightful film, warm and sympathetic, about people who wanted to believe, and about two young girls and what they did and didn't do. It's well-directed (by Charles Sturridge), and well-acted, and the story is interesting. There will be no spoilers here, but the girls did fake the photographs (as they admitted, years later), and there really were fairies (you'll see them, and they're fun, too). Harvey Keitel is fine indeed as Harry Houdini (who was not involved the real Cottingley story, but is important to the story in the film), and Bill Nighy is excellent as the theosophist Edward Gardner, and Peter O'Toole does well as Conan Doyle. And when you see the film, pay attention to the opening scenes: you'll see Lara Morgan as Jean Conan Doyle in 1917, with her brothers and father, in London to see Houdini perform his upside-down escape from a straitjacket.
6817. If you want to know what Conan Doyle had to say about the photographs, and about the girls, Priscilla Juvelis, 1166 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 01238 (617-497-7570) <pjbooks@tiac.net>, is offering two copies of the first edition of his THE COMING OF THE FAIRIES (1922), one inscribed by the author (\$2,500) and the other unsigned (\$350).
6818. Brad Keefauver notes that Playmates has some "FairyTale: A True Story" tie-ins in toy stores: "The Fairies of Cottingley Glen" (about 6" tall, \$7.99 each, with leaf stands, mirror, and comb). There are six of them in "The Fairy Collection" and four in "The Royal Fairy Collection".
6819. Andrew Cahan offers a set of first British editions of THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES and THE MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES that have an interesting association: both volumes have been signed by Frederic Dannay as "Barnaby Ross" and as "Ellery Queen"; the cost is \$2,600, and details are available Cahan (3000 Blueberry Lane, Chapel Hill, NC 27516) <acahan@cahanbooks.com> <www.cahanbooks.com>.
6820. West-coast Sherlockians were able to see Paxton Whitehead in Hugh Leonard's play "The Mask of Moriarty" at the Globe Theater in San Diego, and it won't be too long before he'll be starring in the play on the east coast: it will be performed at the Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn, N.J., Jan. 7 to Feb. 15. Millburn is a 35-minute drive from New York City, and the box-office address is Brookside Drive, Millburn, NJ 07041 (973-376-4343) (973-379-3636 ext 2438 for groups of 20 or more). Perhaps someone will set up a theater party for the evening of Jan. 10, after the BSI cocktail party . . .

October 1997 #2

6821. Eve Titus is selling many of her own books and newspaper and magazine articles and letters related to Basil of Baker Street and other Sherlockian matters, and you can have a copy of her sales-list in return for a self-addressed stamped envelope. Her address is 17094 Collins Avenue #A-405, Sunny Isles, FL 33160.
6822. A mail-order catalog from Hammacher Schlemmer (9180 Le Saint Drive, Fairfield, OH 45014-5475) (800-543-3366) offers an "English locking tantalus" with two crystal decanters (\$279.95), a "traditional English deerstalker hat" (\$69.95), and a 6.5 ft. "Baskerville bear" in Sherlockian costume (\$1,500). The miniature 3-foot version of the bear costs only \$299.95.
6823. Mark Stickney is asking \$1,500 for his original onesheet poster (28" x 39") for "Sherlock Holmes Contra Moriarty" (the Spanish title for the 1939 "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes"); the linen-backed poster has stone-lithograph artwork by Soligo with a large portrait of Basil Rathbone and a smaller one of Ida Lupino. His address is 9636 Orion Drive, Windsor, CA 95492-8288 (707-573-2979) <upship@msn.com>.
6824. Owen Phairis bought many books from Gaslight's stock when Jack Tracy's effects were auctioned in Las Vegas recently, and now offers them for sale; many are Gaslight's own titles, with some from other publishers. A sales-list is available; Box 3400, Big Bear Lake, CA 92315.
6825. Doc Watson was one of those selected this year to receive a National Medal of Arts (one of the country's highest honors for cultural achievement); recipients of the National Medals of Arts and National Humanities Medals were honored at a White House presentation and dinner on Sept. 29. Doc Watson is the renowned guitarist and bluegrass virtuoso, who has never recorded a Sherlockian piece, but his record "Elementary Doctor Watson!" was issued in 1972. Bill Clinton said at the presentation ceremony that "There may not be a serious, committed baby boomer alive who didn't at some point in his or her youth try to spend a few minutes at least trying to learn to pick a guitar like Doc Watson," adding that "he still lives on the land his great-great-granddaddy homesteaded, and he's still making that old-time mountain music."
6826. Dave Galerstein notes that the current mail-order catalog from The Daily Planet (Box 64411, Saint Paul, MN 55164) (800-324-5950) offers a Sherlockian chess set (\$484), a deerstalker (\$32), a London bobby's whistle (\$14), a Sherlockian walking stick (\$72), and a Manchester police helmet (\$198).
6827. John Ruyle has fired a two-gun salute from the deck of the Pequod: BEES IN MY BONNET contains 20 of his Sherlockian verses, and THE ADVENTURE OF THE ABBEY MANGE is the latest in the Turlock Loams saga, and both volumes are as usual hand-set and hand-printed. \$20.00 each postpaid in wrappers, or \$40.00 each in cloth; 521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707-1521.

October 1997 #3

6828. The fifth Sherlock Holmes Review Symposium in Indianapolis on Nov. 21-23 is nearing the deadline for reservations (Nov. 10); the speakers will include Michael Atkinson, Roy Pilot, Philip Shreffler, and Pat Ward, and there will be a chance to attend a local production of "The Crucifer of Blood" (additional information is available from Steven T. Doyle, Box 583, Zionsville, IN 46077) <73551.3254@compuserve.com>.
6829. The Metropolitan Toronto Reference Library News (Sept. 1997) has a one-page story on its "Images of Sherlock Holmes" exhibit in June; if you'd like a free copy of the newsletter, contact Victoria Gill, MTRL, 789 Yonge Street, Toronto, ON M4W 2G8, Canada <vgill@gwmail.mtrl.toronto.on.ca>.
6830. FORTY YEARS OF THE SHERLOCK HOLMES is an attractive 16-page pamphlet, with text by Roger Johnson and Jean Upton, and artwork by Jean-Pierre Cagnat, available from The Sherlock Holmes Public House & Restaurant; £3.45 postpaid to the U.K. (£3.95 postpaid to the U.S.), from The Sherlock Holmes, 10-11 Northumberland Street, London WC2N 5DA, England <sherlock@popmail.dircon.co.uk> <www.users.dircon.co.uk/~sherlock/>. The pub also offers a sales-list of Sherlockian memorabilia, and credit-card orders are welcome.
6831. Boris Karloff was honored twice in our new set of "Classic Movie Monsters" stamps (the other actors honored were Bela Lugosi, Lon Chaney, and Lon Chaney, Jr.). Karloff played Mr. Mycroft in "The Sting of Death" (adapted by Alvin Sapinsley from H. F. Heard's novel A TASTE FOR HONEY) on ABC-TV's "The Elgin Hour" on Feb. 22, 1955 (in an era before fans were quick to tape off-the-air, alas).
6832. Tim Heath's play "Sherlock Holmes: The Adventure at Sir Arthur Sullivan's" was performed on tour in Britain in 1996, with Miles Richardson as Holmes (he is the son of Ian Richardson, and as far as I know this still is the only father-and-son team to have played the role). The play is imaginative

- and interesting (Holmes and Watson are invited to perform for a select audience at Sullivan's house, and there are some intriguing complications), and the 40-page script is now offered by Ian Henry Publications (20 Park Drive, Romford, Essex RM1 4LH, England); £6.25 or \$18.00 postpaid.
6833. Robert G. Harris ("The Creeping Man") died on Sept. 25, 1997. A patent attorney who spent most of his career with the Ford Motor Co., he also was a firm link to the long-ago days when the Baker Street Irregulars met at the Murray Hill Hotel, and in 1946 was one of the founders of The Amateur Mendicant Society of Detroit. He was a witty and irreverent scholar, boasting of being a Board-Certified Curmudgeon, and received his BSI Investiture in 1952, and the BSI's Two-Shilling Award in 1984.
6834. John McGowan reports that the WISHBONE: 1998 16-MONTH CALENDAR (Sept. 1997 through Dec. 1998) is now in bookstores (\$9.95) with two Wishbone in Sherlockian costume in the photographs for February ("The Slobbery Hound") and October 1998 ("A Dogged Expose"). The graphics-enabled can visit the Web at <www.wishbone.com/WWWishbone/MyFunStuff/Glossies/glossies.html> to see other Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian photographs of Wishbone.
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October 1997 #4

6835. Tyke Niver has forwarded an article from the Hartford Courant, reporting on what's new at the Gillette Castle State Park in Hadlyme: \$1 million spent on repairs in the past year, and plans to spend an additional \$3 million on renovations over the next few years. The state also proposes to increase the admission prices, to \$3.00 for ages 6 through 12 and \$6.00 for ages 13 and up (300,410 tickets were sold last year). The Castle is William Gillette's home (built largely with profits from his play "Sherlock Holmes"), and it's a delightful place to visit.
6836. Further to the report (March 97 #5) about the CD-ROM disk with the "Complete Works of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle" (including his novels, essays, short-story collections, histories, and much more), the latest news from John Thibeau is that the disk will be ready to ship in November, and it will have some graphics (such as the manuscript of the first chapter of THE WHITE COMPANY) and additional text material that includes an updated and expanded edition of THE QUEST FOR SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE (edited by Jon L. Lellenberg) and an extensive bibliography by Frank A. Young. \$95.00 postpaid from Insight Engineering (Box 10785, Franconia, VA 22310); US dollar checks or money orders only, please. John (same address) <thibeau@erols.com> will be happy to answer questions.
6837. "Sherlock Bones to the Rescue" is the headline on Rick Boling's article in Animals (Sept.-Oct. 1997) about John Keane, who's still in business helping people find lost pets. Among those he has helped is Jim Carrey, who lost a Jack Russell terrier just before "Ace Ventura, Pet Detective" was released; The article (at hand from Geoff Jeffery) has a photo of Keane with his dog Clouseau. If you need help, you can call Sherlock Bones at 800-942-6647 or visit his web site at <www.sherlockbones.com>.
6838. Geoff also reports MAD ABOUT THE FIFTIES: THE BEST OF THE DECADE (Boston: Little, Brown, 1997; 288 pp., \$19.95); contents include a reprint of Bill Elder's "Shermlock Shomes!" (from the Oct.-Nov. 1953 issue of Mad).
6839. Further to the item (September 97 #6) about the availability of a videocassette of "Der Hund von Baskerville" (1937), Michael Ross reports that a print of the film has indeed been found in Germany, and it will soon be available on cassette, in German (without subtitles), in PAL (European) format only, and in an edition limited to 100 copies. Cost: DM 49.90 (add DM 3.00 shipping) to Germany; £19.00 (add £4.50 shipping) to Europe; \$29.50 (add \$9.00 shipping to the rest of the world. Shipping is the same for one to four copies, so you'll save a bit on multiple orders. Prepayment required (sterling and dollar checks should be made payable to Anke van Hasenhorst), and Michael's e-mail address is <baskerville-buecher@bigfoot.de> or URL <www.sis-online.com/cgi-com/cgi-local/hp/Baskerville>; his postal address is: Bendheide 65, D-47906 Kempen, Germany.
6840. "The Mis-Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" was a 30-minute radio series that parodied old-time radio, produced by Joe Bevilacqua and broadcast by WBAIFM (New York) in the early 1980s (October 85 #3); there were ten episodes, and if you're really electronically enabled you can hear RealAudio excerpts at <www.cybergraphix-anim.com/Comedy-O-Rama/holmes.htm>. All ten episodes are available on cassettes \$9.00 each postpaid, or \$75.00 for all ten); 10749 Lawler Street, Unit 2, Los Angeles, CA 90034) <comedyorama@ibm.net>.
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October 1997 #5

6841. Those who have lamented that a trip to Hyde Park, N.Y., is too far to travel for a good meal surely will welcome the news that the Culinary Institute of America now has a western branch in Saint Helena, Calif., where the Graystone Restaurant is located in the grand stone building that once housed the Christian Brothers winery. And Don Yates reports that that's where the next grand gourmet Sherlockian dinner will be held, on Mar. 4, 1998, with Fritz Sonnenschmidt on hand from Hyde Park to coordinate the evening and to supervise the menu. If you'd like more information about the event, send a #10 SASE to Donald A. Yates (555 Canon Park Drive, Saint Helena, CA 94574) <sshirene@aol.com>.
6842. If you're one of those who read the articles in Playboy, the November issue has an article by Michael Angeli ("Inside the Extreme Machine") that gives due attention to Biker Sherlock's excellent performance in the X Games that were held in Mission Bay Park in San Diego in June. Biker Sherlock won two gold medals and one silver medal (more than anyone else in the Games); his specialty is the street luge, and he was one of the stars when ESPN broadcast the Games. His real name is Michael Sherlock.
6843. The same issue of Playboy quotes Laura Lyons in the Playmate News: "People still ask me about Hef. He's a wonderful, caring man, and I think that's what people should know about him." That's not her real name, but it's the name she chose when she was Playmate of the Month in Feb. 1976 (and she was in the magazine again in Jan. 1977).
6844. Plan well ahead: The Long Island Cave Dwellers have scheduled a three-day celebration on Aug. 6-8, 1999, to honor the 60th anniversary of Basil Rathbone's first portrayal of the great detective. "Sherlock Holmes: A Study in Shadow and Light" will focus on the celluloid Canon, and will be part of the Annual Film Festival at the Staller Fine Arts Center at the University at Stony Brook, Long Island, N.Y. If you would like to participate in the program, or be on the mailing list, contact Warren Randall (15 Fawn Lane West, South Setauket, NY 11720-1346) <whirdy@aol.com>.
6845. Jessie Lilley, formerly with Scarlet Street, now is the managing editor and designer of the new magazine RetroVision; the premiere issue focuses on the making of "Jurassic Park", with other interesting articles about "1941" and "The Questor Tapes" and other films and television shows that launched series. \$5.95 on newsstands; \$7.95 postpaid (from 1036-A Park Boulevard #103, Massapequa Park, NY 11762).
6846. The "Sherlock Holmes Festival" on Nov. 8 in Tryon, N.C., will be a tribute to William Gillette; they'll have a film festival, a radio-players performance ("The Red-Headed League"), and other events; additional information is available from the Polk County Travel & Tourism Council (800-440-7848).
6847. THE BAKER STREET REGULARS is a delightful collection of cartoon stories by Sachiko Ueyama, who has a fine artistic hand and brings an attractive sense of humor to her versions of three of the Canonical tales; Richard Pugh and Masamichi Higurashi have supplied helpful English translations, and the 64-page booklet costs \$10.00 or £5.00 postpaid (currency only, please, unless you order more than five copies and want to pay by check), from Masamichi Higurashi, 3-13-7-305 Nishikubo, Musashino, Tokyo 180, Japan.
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October 1997 #6

6848. Douglas G. Greene has announced that he will publish Ed Hoch's THE RIPPER OF STORYVILLE AND OTHER BEN SNOW MYSTERIES in Nov.; Ben Snow is a 19th-century gunslinger-sleuth in the American west. \$16.00 in wrappers, or \$40.00 in cloth in a signed and limited edition that will include a separate pamphlet with a reprint of "Five Rings in Reno" (as by R. L. Stevens, from Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine, July 1976, in which Conan Doyle accepts the invitation to referee the Johnson/Jeffries fight, and winds up doing some detecting). Crippen & Landru, Box 9315, Norfolk, VA 23505 <crippen@norfolk.infi.net> <www.avalon.net/~scott/cl/>; shipping extra, and credit-card orders welcome.
6849. Rudy Faist reports that "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1959, with Peter Cushing) now is available on laserdisc from MGM/UA Home Video (\$39.98) in wide-screen format and with a black-and-white theatrical trailer.
6850. This year's Christmas card from The Sherlock Holmes Society of London will again be in full color, with another attractive watercolor by Douglas West, showing Holmes and Watson strolling in Baker Street on a wintry day. The cost is \$13.00 postpaid for ten cards (£5.50 to the U.K., £6.00 to Europe, £7.00 elsewhere); checks made payable to the Society, please, and orders can be sent to Cdr. G. S. Stavert, 3 Outram Road, Southsea, Hants. PO5 1QP, England.
6851. Carolyn and Joel Senter offer the 1997-1998 issue of The Sherlockian Times (their 28-page catalog/journal/newsletter); Classic Specialties, Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219 <sherlock@sherlock-holmes.com>. The catalog has lots of new (and interesting) Sherlockiana.
6852. The Mysterious Bookshop has a new holiday catalog with three pages of new Sherlockiana (and additional rare and collectable material), and three addresses: 129 West 56th Street, New York, NY 10019 (800-352-2840); 8763 Beverly Boulevard, West Hollywood, CA 90048 (800-821-9017); and 82 Marylebone High Street, London W1M 3DE, England. A separate (and larger) S'ian list also is available <mysteriousny@worldnet.att.net> <www.mysteriousbookshop.com>.
6853. John Farrell advises fanatics to check your local Sears stores for the new collectible underwear: red silk boxer shorts (\$20.00) showing Mickey Mouse in Sherlockian costume.
6854. The eastern New England societies will honor Basil Rathbone on Nov. 8 at the Algonquin Club in Boston, starting at 6:00 pm, with cocktails, dinner, and a commemorative program; there may still be room at the event, and you should contact Scott Monty (800-253-4417 ext 6981) <smonty@phcs.com>.
6855. Further to the report (September 97 #5) of the two variants of the first edition of John T. Lescroart's RASPUTIN'S REVENGE (New York: Donald I. Fine, 1987), it's quite unlikely that only 300 copies of the misprinted first issue got out with the jumbled paragraph on page 137 (starting "No, he said at last, as if to myself"): I've had too many reports of misprinted copies from too many places. Nor was the description of the second issue correct: in fact it has the corrected pages 137-138 pasted onto the stub of the misprinted leaf. And there's at least one second-issue review copy.

October 1997 #7

6856. Sherlock Holmes' 144th birthday will be celebrated on Friday, Jan. 9, with the traditional festivities in New York. But the festivities actually will begin on Thursday at 9:00 am at the Hotel Algonquin (59 West 44th Street), whence Allen Mackler and Charlie Shields will lead participants in the annual Christopher Morley Walk, which ends with lunch at McSorley's; Allen's address is 324 2nd Street NE, Osseo, MN 55369 <psarasate@aol.com>, and from Jan. 7 he will be at the Iroquois Hotel (212-840-3080).
6857. And there's something new on Thursday afternoon: The Morley-Montgomery Reception (by invitation only, honoring recipients of the award for the best paper published in The Baker Street Journal each year, and recent contributors to the BSJ). This will be followed by The BSI Distinguished Speaker Lecture at 6:15 pm at the Penn Club at 30 West 44th Street; the speaker will be Sherlockian author Nicholas Meyer (\$10.00; seating is limited, and you are advised to reserve early; details below). Then there's time for supper and theater, or perhaps the Aunt Clara-Sing Along (off-hand, off-the-wall, and largely off-key) begins at 8:00 pm at O'Lunney's Pub at 204 West 43rd Street; John Farrell reports that reservations are not required.
6858. Friday begins with the Martha Hudson Breakfast, from 7:00 to 10:00, in the Oak Room at the Hotel Algonquin at 59 West 44th Street; the Algonquin provides its guests with a continental breakfast, and others are welcome to attend (\$15.00; details below). The William Gillette Memorial Luncheon starts at noon, at Moran's Chelsea Seafood Restaurant at 146 Tenth Avenue at 19th Street; \$35.00 (Susan Rice, 125 Washington Place #2-E, New York, NY 10014). And Otto Penzler's open house at The Mysterious Bookshop (129 West 56th Street) is on Friday, from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm; it is possible that Sherlockian authors will be on hand to sign their books.
6859. The Baker Street Irregulars will gather at 6:00 pm at 24 Fifth Avenue (at 9th Street), and The Baskerville Bash (open to all Sherlockians and their friends) will convene for drinks, dinner, and entertainment at 6:30 pm at La Belle Epoque at 827 Broadway (at 12th Street); \$43.00 (Maribeau Briggs, 46 East 29th Street #2-R, New York, NY 10016). Early reservations are advised for the William Gillette luncheon and the Baskerville Bash.
6860. On Saturday a posse of purveyors will offer a wide variety of Sherlockiana in a spacious room at the Princeton Club at 15 West 43rd Street, from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm; information about vendor tables is available from Donald B. Izban, 213 Ivy Court, Streamwood, IL 60107 (630-483-3497). The BSI annual reception, open to all Sherlockians and their friends, will be held on Saturday afternoon from 3:00 to 5:30, at the National Arts Club at 15 Gramercy Park (on 20th Street between Park and Third Avenues); open bar, and hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, and the cost is \$35.00 (details below) or \$45.00 at the door.
6861. The Baker Street Irregulars are a tax-exempt organization, and Mike Whelan arranged with the Hotel Algonquin for rooms (single or double) at \$139.00 a night (Wednesday through Saturday); this is the total cost, because no tax is due on reservations made through the BSI. Other charges (such as room service, telephone calls, meals, drinks, etc.) are not covered. The offer is available to all Sherlockians (details below).

October 1997 #8

6862. And here are the details: you should request a reservation form for the BSI events (including the Thursday lecture, the Martha Hudson breakfast, and the Saturday reception), and for rooms at the Hotel Algonquin, from Michael F. Whelan, Box 2189, Easton, MD 21601. The forms will be mailed to you by mid-November.
6863. For those who hope to save money on hotel rooms, the pickings are slimmer this time round (the rates at the Iroquois, for example, now are \$125 (single) \$135 (double), and that's before the non-optional extras: \$2.00 a day occupancy tax, 8.25% state tax, and 5% city tax. A few less-expensive alternatives: Portland Square (132 West 47th St.): \$80 (single) \$105 (double) (212-382-0600); Pickwick Arms (230 East 51st St.): \$85 (single) \$105 (double) (800-742-5945). You should confirm the rates, and (if you arriving on Thursday) make sure that the weekend rates include Thursday.
6864. The Dr. John H. Watson Fund offers financial assistance to all Sherlockians (membership in the BSI is not required) who might otherwise not be able to participate in the weekend's festivities. A carefully pseudonymous John H. Watson presides over the fund and welcomes contributions, which can be made by check payable to John H. Watson and sent (without any return address on the envelope) to Dr. Watson, care of The Baker Street Irregulars, Box 2189, Easton, MD 21601; the checks will be forwarded unopened and Dr. Watson will acknowledge your generosity. Requests for assistance can also be mailed to Dr. Watson at the same address.

6865. Geoff Jeffery reports that the new catalog from the Britannia Collection (Box 64413, St. Paul, MN 55164 (800-778-7007) offers a Comoy's of London Sherlock Holmes walking stick (\$165.00), a pair of Holmes and Watson bookend (\$85.00), and the Town & Country Companion bloodhound in Sherlockian costume (\$59.95), and other Sherlockiana.
6866. Russ Geoffrey plans to sell his Sherlockian collection (including some nice pipes): to find out if he has anything you might want, call him at 617-753 4343 (8-4 EST) or leave a message for him at 401-245-6452.
6867. Luci Zahray notes that Expressions from Potpourri still offers the Limoges porcelain deerstalker, 2.5 in. long, with a magnifying-glass clasp and an even smaller pipe (October 96 #2). Item 172886, \$225.00; their address is 120 North Meadows Road, Medfield, MA 02052 (800-338-2699).
6868. Vinnie Brosnan (Sherlock in L.A., 1741 Via Allena, Oceanside, CA 92056) has a new catalog, with almost 850 items of Sherlockiana, many from the collection of Cecil Ryder, and a nice article by Deborah Benson, about her father Ben Abramson and the early days of the BSJ and the BSI (Christopher Morley was her godfather).
6869. Jack Earley's expressionistic portraits include one of Sherlock Holmes, and he offers the painting itself as well as photographic posters. You can ask for a copy of his illustrated flier (5881 Mindy Drive, Indian Springs, OH 45011) <jlearley@aol.com>, or view the painting at <www.earleyart.com>.

November 1997 #1

6870. The exhibit "A Grand Design: The Art of the Victoria and Albert Museum" at the Baltimore Museum of Art is delightful, despite having very little that is directly Sherlockian other than Landseer's painting "Lion: A Newfoundland Dog" and the Lucretia Borgia Mirror (unfortunately without any black pearls). But there are many other interesting things to see (especially in the room devoted to "The Idea of 'Englishness'").
6871. The Crystal Palace Exhibition was open from May 1 to Oct. 11, 1851, and had 6,039,193 visitors in less than six months (at a time when the railroad was the only convenient mass transit); the building was taken down and rebuilt in Sydenham (southeast of London), and was open from 1854 until it burned in 1936. The exhibition led to the founding of the South Kensington Museum (which opened in 1857), and that's where Holmes and Watson might have seen such things as the full-scale plaster cast of Michelangelo's "David" (represented in the show here by a large photograph and the full-scale fig leaf that was added to the statue when Queen Victoria visited the museum). The practice was continued to avoid offending later royal ladies, and was last used for a visit by Queen Mary. The museum was renamed by Queen Victoria at her last official function, and its focus on the decorative arts continues (you'll also see a pair of Doc Martens "Air Wair" vegetarian shoes).
6872. It will close in Baltimore on Jan. 18, and then travel to Boston, Toronto, Houston, and San Francisco; tickets for the show in Baltimore are marketed by Vista (888-262-4278 is the toll-free number) and cost \$8.00 (or \$6.00 for seniors), plus \$2.00 for Vista (you can avoid the surcharge by buying tickets at the museum).
6873. The latest issue of Scarlet Street has arrived, with David Stuart Davies' discussion of BBC Radio's Merrison-Williams series (only "The Hound of the Baskervilles" remains to be done to complete the Canon, for the first time ever, with the same actors as Holmes and Watson). And there's a photograph of Jeremy Brett as Dracula (on stage in San Francisco in 1978), as well as the usual coverage of the mystery-and-horror genre. Scarlet Street is published quarterly and costs \$20.00 a year; Box 604, Glen Rock, NJ 07452.
6874. "The Lost World: Jurassic Park" (1997) was issued this month on videocassette; that's the Steven Spielberg film, of course, in two versions (one is letter-boxed). Available in video shops everywhere, one assumes, and from Movies Unlimited (3015 Darnell Road, Philadelphia, PA 19154) (800-466-8437) for \$19.99.
6875. It has been quite a while since I mentioned the Dangling Prussian Amateur Press Association (April 93 #4). It's an essentially Sherlockian gathering place (the Dangling Prussian being an extremely peculiar pub with some extremely peculiar patrons), and there are a few vacancies. The rules of an APA are simple: contributors write something every two months (at least two pages would be nice) and send copies to part-time bartender Brad A. Keefauver, and he sorts them out and sends them back; you can write fiction about events at the pub, or non-fiction, and those who don't contribute don't get the mailing. Additional information, and perhaps a sample, are available from Brad at 4009 Chelsea Place, Peoria, IL 61614.

November 1997 #2

6876. "When I first came up to London I had rooms in Montague Street, just round the corner from the British Museum," Sherlock Holmes told Watson (in "The Musgrave Ritual"), "and there I waited, filling in my too abundant leisure time by studying all those branches of science which might make me more efficient." The British Museum's Round Reading Room is where he did that studying; it opened 140 years ago, and it was officially closed on Oct. 25. The new British Library, near St. Pancras Station, will have its own humanities reading room.
6877. Our new set of "Classic Movie Monsters" stamps honored Boris Karloff twice, and Bela Lugosi once. "What do we know about vampires?" asked Sherlock Holmes; we seem to know a lot now, exactly a hundred years since Bram Stoker's DRACULA appeared in print. The centenary was celebrated with a wonderful exhibit at the Rosenbach Museum & Library in Philadelphia that included Stoker's notes for the novel, and a typescript (it would appear that there never was a manuscript), which were displayed together for the first time ever. The exhibition catalog quoted from a letter that Conan Doyle wrote to Stoker in 1897, saying that the novel "is the very best story of *diablerie* which I have read for many years. It is really wonderful how with so much exciting interest over so long a book there is never an anticlimax."
6878. William Safire's column "On Language" in the N.Y. Times Magazine is always interesting, and on Nov. 2 he discussed the word "presentism" (first used in print in 1950): it's a word that should be of more than passing interest to Sherlockians who examine and comment on the attitudes and customs seen in the Canonical world of Sherlock Holmes. Safire quotes from a recent article by Prof. Annette Gordon-Reed of the New York Law School: presentism is "when a historian sees events in the past through the prism of presentday standards. For example, Thomas Jefferson is often judged harshly as a sexist even though the notion of complete equality between the sexes was almost unthinkable in his era." Gordon-Reed calls it the "why wasn't Jefferson like Alan Alda" question.
6879. And Sherlockians who yearn for the long-ago Victorian and Edwardian era we see in the Canon may be amused by Safire's reminder of the title of a 1978 book by Simone Signoret: "Nostalgia Isn't What It Used to Be."
6880. THE SHERLOCK HOLMES VICTORIAN COOKBOOK: FAVOURITE RECIPES OF THE GREAT DETECTIVE & DR. WATSON, by William Bonnell (Toronto: Macmillan Canada, 1997; 196 pp., CA \$24.95), offers an interesting look at Victorian cookery, with accompany discussion of the its history. The focus is more on British than on Canonical food, and it sounds tasty indeed.
6881. The new catalog from femmes fatales has arrived, nicely timed for Christmas shopping, with some intriguing new Sherlockiana, including a S'ian candle snuffer (\$9.95), a S'ian P.I. kitten (\$18.95), an a S'ian flip-top thimble (\$29.95); Box 4457, Lakewood, CA 90712) (800-596-3323) <byteocrime@aol.com> <<http://register.com/femfatal>>. Readers of this newsletter qualify for a 10% discount (the magic word is "Scuttlebutt") and news of an item not in the catalog: an inexpensive miniature edition of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES with a removable jacket (\$7.95).

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6882. Francine Kitts notes that the new catalog from Worldwide Games offers the 221B BAKER STREET: THE TIME MACHINE board game for \$29.95, the WEST END ADVENTURES GAME discounted at \$19.95, and the QUEEN'S PARK AFFAIR SUPPLEMENT discounted at \$14.95 (the latter two games are from the old Sleuth Publications SHERLOCK HOLMES CONSULTING DETECTIVE); Box 517, Colchester, CT 06415) (800-888-0987) <www.worldwidegames.com>.
6883. Willis G. Frick has moved his Sherlocktron home pages to a new web-site at <http://members.home.net/sherlock1/Sherlocktron/html>. The other URL will work for a while, but you can change your bookmarks now. And there's a new URL for the electronic edition (the three most recent issues) of this newsletter at <http://members.home.net/sherlock1/scuttle.htm>.
6884. Slylock Fox appears in Sherlockian costume on all 90 cards (presumably reprinted from Bob Weber Jr.'s comic strip) in the box of SLYLOCK FOX BRAIN BOGGGLERS, issued in 1996 (January 97 #4) and available now from the Spilsbury Puzzle Co., Box 8922, Madison, WI 53708 (800-772-1760) <www.spilsbury.com>; \$11.95.
6885. What really happened to Birdy Edwards after he escaped from the Valley of Fear? Well, more precisely, what happened to the real Birdy Edwards? The real Birdy Edwards was the real Pinkerton agent James McParland, who helped bring an end to the Molly Maguires, and he continued his Pinkerton career, in the western United States, where he was once again involved in a battle with miners, and the International Workers of the World, after the assassination of a former governor of Idaho. That story is told in considerable detail in BIG TROUBLE: A MURDER IN A SMALL WESTERN TOWN SETS OFF A STRUGGLE FOR THE SOUL OF AMERICA, by J. Anthony Lukas (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1997; 875 pp., \$32.50).
6886. This is one of a hundred designs on a "Have a Night" poster spotted by Jim Suszynski. It's item HAN01, \$7.00 postpaid from Mantis Designs, 513 Main Street, Stroudsburg, PA 18360 (800-567-3778) <http://www.mantisd.com>.
6887. MR. DOYLE & DR. BELL: A VICTORIAN MYSTERY (Toronto: Viking/Penguin, 1997; 212 pp., CA \$19.99) is a fiction-based-on-fact pastiche from Howard Engel, the Canadian author of the Benny Cooperman mysteries; Conan Doyle is still a medical student in Edinburgh, in 1879, involved with Joe Bell in solving a mystery full of echoes from the decades-later Oscar Slater case. It's a bit of a surprise to see both Robert Louis Stevenson and Bell addressing their friend "Conan" (Stevenson, as late as 1894, wrote letters to "My dear Conan Doyle").
6888. Scott and Sherry Rose Bond are planning an 11-day tour "In the Footsteps of Sherlock Holmes" in London and the Sherlockian countryside next July; write to them to ask for details (519 East Allens Lane, Philadelphia, PA 19119).
6889. The November issue of Smithsonian magazine has an interesting article about collectors of autographs and manuscripts, with a photograph of David Karpeles, who is one of the fortunate few who own more than one Sherlock Holmes manuscript, although that's not mentioned in the article (his Sherlockian manuscripts are "The Greek Interpreter" and "Thor Bridge").

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6890. Michael Whelan is one of the very best artists in the world of fantasy and science fiction, and his THE ART OF MICHAEL WHELAN (New York: Bantam Books, 1993) offers a fine display of his work, including the full-color and previously-unpublished portraits of "Sherlock Hoka" and "Moriarty Hoka" that were painted in 1983 for a "Hoka" movie project based on the stories by Poul Anderson and Gordon R. Dickson. Alas, the movie was never produced, but their delightful short story "The Adventure of the Misplaced Hound" was published in Universe Science Fiction (Dec. 1953) and in EARTHMAN'S BURDEN (New York: Gnome Press, 1957). THE ART OF MICHAEL WHELAN costs \$55.00 postpaid from his company Glass Onion Graphics (Box 88, Brookfield, CT 06804) <productinfo@glassonion.com> <www.glassonion.com>. Note: the artist is not the "Wiggins" of The Baker Street Irregulars.
6891. Beryl and Tom Cooper's SHERLOCKIAN JUMBLES offers 25 word puzzles in honor of the silver anniversary of The Mycroft Holmes Society of Syracuse. The postpaid cost of the 30-page pamphlet is \$4.00, from Joseph A. Coppola, 103 Kenny Street, Fayetteville, NY 13066.
6892. The Sept. issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota has fine articles about the Czarina Alexandra's volumes of the Canon, and (by Bill Vande Water) on some of the interesting material in the collections photographic archives. If you would like to be on their mailing list, write to Richard J. Sveum (466 O. M. Wilson Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455 <sveum001@maroon.tc.umn.edu>).
6893. And there's more "Wishbone" merchandise (spotted by Debbie Clark): a Wishbone Magnetic Dress-Up Kit that includes his Sherlockian costume; \$12.95 in the current mail-order catalog of public-television tie-ins from the Store of Knowledge, Box 10, Long Beach, CA 90801 (800-241-5858).
6894. If you missed Northstar's comic-book version of "The Speckled Band" (illustrated by Dan Day) in their series CHRONICLES OF CRIME & MYSTERY (February 92 #4), it has been reprinted as CASES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1997) from Avalon/American Comics Group (\$2.95). SHERLOCK HOLMES: RETURN OF THE DEVIL (story by Martin Powell and illustrations by Seppo Makinen) from Adventure/Malibu October 92 #1 and December 92 #3) has been reprinted by Tome/Caliber as a one-shot comic book (\$3.95).
6895. "Sherlock Holmes: The Great Detective" aired on "Biography" on A&E cable on May 22, 1995, and it may well never repeat; if you missed it the first time out, it's available on videocassette (\$19.98) from Adventures in Cassettes, 5353 Nathan Lane North, Plymouth, MN 55442-1978 (800-328-0108) <aic4radio@aol.com> <www.aic-radio.com>. Edward Hardwicke stars as Watson, at dinner with members of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London and reminiscing about his friend. The company also offers 48 Sherlockian radio-series audiocassettes starring Rathbone, Conway, and Gielgud.
6896. David A. Bankes and Anthony R. Santoro of Christopher Newport University will guide a "Gardens & Museum Trip to London" in June or July 1998; Prof. Santoro is a member of The Cremona Fiddlers, and will ensure that there is some Sherlockian content to the tour, and details are available from him (Smith Annex 164, Christopher Newport University, Newport News, VA 23606).

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6897. Dame Jean Conan Doyle ("A Certain Gracious Lady") died on Nov. 18. She was known as "Billy" in her youth. and you can read about her in her father's delightful collection THREE OF THEM (1923). She joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service in 1938, and was commissioned in the WAAF in 1940, eventually serving as commandant of the Women's Royal Air Force; awarded an OBE in 1948, she received a DBE in 1963. When a revision of the U.S. copyright law in the 1970s allowed her to regain control of the copyright, she was able to do a great deal to protect her father's characters from misuse and abuse, and unlike her brothers she was amused by the humor with which Sherlockians pretend the world of the Canon is a real one. She received her Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1991, and she was indeed a gracious lady, both to those who had the good fortune to know her, and to countless others who enjoyed all her father's work.
6898. Douglas Wilmer now has been impersonating Sherlock Holmes for more than 30 years, and doing it well, most recently for Penguin Audiobooks, in THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: VOLUME 1. There are two cassettes, with four stories (Scan/RedH/Iden/Bosc), and Wilmer is splendid as Holmes, and as the other characters, male and female. £7.99 in Britain (0181-899-4036), and \$16.95 in the United States (800-253-6476).

6899. Boss McGinty's Bird Watchers (of Wilkes-Barre, Pa.) have scheduled a Sherlockian tour of England in mid-July; the contact is Cathy Lalko (Universal Odyssey, 1500 Quail Street #550, Newport Beach, CA 92660).
6900. There's nothing directly Sherlockian in the exhibit "Cultural Curios: Literary and Historical Witnesses" at the Pierpont Morgan Library in New York, but it's a delightful display of the odd things that wind up in libraries, such as Sir Arthur Sullivan's first piece of clothing (his baby shirt) and a lock of hair from the tail of Gen. Lee's horse Traveller. The exhibit is curated by George Fletcher (of the BSI), and his informative labels are as enjoyable as the items shown (he's particularly proud of the inkpot used at the historic surrender at Appomattox). The address is 29 East 36th Street (212-685-0008), and the exhibit closes on Jan. 4.
6901. The six-inch Sherlock Holmes Christmas-tree ornament issued last year (October 96 #4) by Bronner's Christmas Wonderland is still available in their mailorder catalog for #26.99 (item 18132); Box 176, Frankenmuth, MI 48734 (800-361-6736).
6902. There's good news for electronically-enabled fans of Mary Russell: Rebecca J. Anderson has made available (with permission from Laurie R. King) an exclusive sneak-preview chapter from THE MOOR, the fourth book in the series, not due in the bookstores until December ; <<http://www.golden.net/~rebeccaj/docs/moor/htm>>.
6903. THE AMERICAN FIRM CHALLENGES, by Edward S. Smith, Jr., offers more than 450 questions about individual stories, and about the Canon in general (in case your society has run out of questions for your quizzes); the 41-page pamphlet costs \$10.00 postpaid to the U.S. and Canada (\$12.00 elsewhere) from Ed (his address is Box 353, Williston Park, NY 11596). Ed also will be happy to tell you about The American Firm, which raises money to purchase largeprint editions of the Canon for adult homes and nursing homes.

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6904. The Northern Musgraves are celebrating their tenth anniversary, and the tenth issue of their annual journal The Musgrave Papers has 142 pages of scholarship, spoofery, and art, both Sherlockian and Doylean. Fans of the Rathbone/Bruce radio series will appreciate David Stuart Davies' send-up tribute in his script "The Adventure of the Spotted Dick", and David Hammer offers an interesting look at "The Victorian Prospective". £7.00 (to the U.K.), £9.00 (to Europe), and \$35.00 (elsewhere), from Anne Jordan, Fairbank, Beck Lane, Bingley, West Yorks. DB16 4DN, England (checks payable to the society, please). Information on the society and its other publications also is available, and the society's tenth birthday party will be held on Jan. 31, honoring Sherlock Holmes' knowledge of politics.
6905. Nice news for anyone who has been seeking Michael B. Druyman's long out-ofprint book BASIL RATHBONE: HIS LIFE AND HIS FILMS (1975): he's now offering plastic-bound autographed photocopies (reduced to 93% and with some loss of quality in the photographs) of his own copy of the book; the cost is \$30.00 plus shipping (information on shipping costs and payment methods is available from him); Box 8086, Calabasas, CA 91372 (fax 818-876-0069) <druxy@ix.netcom.com> <pw1.netcom.com/~druxy/basil/index.html>.
6906. ALIEN VOICES: THE LOST WORLD (New York: Simon & Schuster Audio, 1997; two cassettes, \$18.00) is a splendid dramatization, directed by Leonard Nimoy and starring Armin Shimerman as Challenger and Dwight Schultz as Malone in a script by Nat Segaloff and John de Lancie. It's an impressive production and shows just how much fun old-time radio was, and still is, although now on audiocassettes rather than the airwaves.
6907. "FairyTale: A True Story" opened "wide" (on 1,058 screens) in the U.S., and had a modest box-office gross: \$12.2 million after 24 days (just for comparison, "Starship Troopers" did \$22.1 million its first weekend); there were good reviews in many newspapers, but the movie was promoted poorly by Paramount. Theatrical release in Britain isn't planned until February, but in the meantime the Royal Academy in London has an exhibit on "Victorian Fairy Painting" that includes work by Dadd, Doyle, and Dulac (that's Arthur Conan Doyle's uncle Richard Doyle); the exhibit closes on Feb. 8, and goes next to the University of Iowa and to Toronto.
6908. It may well be that Viacom (the company that owns Paramount) will do better from product licensing than at the box office: in addition to the Playmates action figures (June 97 #3 and October 97 #1), three 2.5-in. pewter fairies from the film (\$21.00 each) and a demin shirt (\$44.00) are offered in a new catalog from the Red Rose Collection, 826 Burlway, Burlingame, CA 94010 (800-220-7673).
6909. FATAL HABITS: AN APPRECIATION OF THE LITERARY SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Jeffery F. Dow, is the latest publication from The Pleasant Places of Florida, examining the literary aspects of the Canon, with examples of humor, irony, character, peripeteia, plot, atmosphere, and much more; the 120-page monograph costs \$10.00 postpaid to any address (\$14.00 overseas if airmail is wanted) from the author, 1737 Santa Anna Drive, Dunedin, FL 34698.

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6910. There's more "FairyTale: A True Story" tie-in merchandise in the shops, including a CD-ROM disk "Activity Center" that offers a fine demonstration of just how much can be done with modern computers. It has puzzles and games, and things to explore, for children aged 7-11, and six clips from the film (one of which shows Houdini performing for five-year-old Jean Conan Doyle), and it's all nicely done indeed. The cost is \$30.00, and there's a \$10.00 rebate coupon inside the box; if you can't find it in your local shops, you can order from Knowledge Adventure (1311 Grand Central Avenue, Glendale, CA 91201) (800-542-4240) <sales@adventure.com> <www.adventure.com>.
6911. Blackstone Audio (Box 969, Ashland, OR 97520) (800-729-2665) offers a 146-page catalog of unabridged books on cassette, that includes six Canonical titles read by Walter Covell and Frederick Davidson (3 to 8 cassettes each; \$23.95 to \$56.95); Conan Doyle's "The Lost World" read by Fred Williams (6 cassettes; \$44.95); and T. S. Eliot reading his own poems, one of them being "Macavity: The Mystery Cat" (1 cassette, \$11.95). The sets can also be rented, and used cassettes are available at a discount.
6912. An update of "The Lost World" is planned for pay-per-view television, as part of an agreement between the Action Adventure Network and DIRECTV, according to a November press release spotted by Sean Catherall. John Landis and Leslie Belzberg (as St. Clare Entertainment) will produce a "first-run action-adventure" two-hour episode of "The Lost World" followed by one-hour episodes based on the pilot. Other projects include a contemporary version of "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" set in Hong Kong, from Francis Ford Coppola's American Zoetrope, and a new version of "Gulliver's Travels" from Steven de Souza. The initial episodes are budgeted at an average of \$3 million each, for broadcast next summer by Direct Ticket pay-per-view.
6913. Plan ahead: Patrick Kirkby reports that Dr. Watson is expected to attend a "Netley Veterans Reunion and Display" on May 14, 1998, celebrating the centenary of Queen Victoria's visit to Netley Hospital; Dr. Watson is expected to be there to meet Her Majesty's nursing sisters. The event will be open to the public, and members of The Sherlock Holmes Society are likely to be on hand in costume; the Society's annual general meeting will held on May 12 in London, in case you want to attend both events. Patrick's address is 2 Colson Road, Winnal, Winchester, Hants. SO23 0EX, England.
6914. Kingsley Amis' "Dr. Watson and the Darkwater Hall Mystery" was broadcast by BBC-1 in 1974 (before the VCR era, alas) with Edward Fox as Dr. Watson (who does the detecting); the story was published in Playboy (May 1978) and it's now included (read well by Michael Page) in the Playboy

Audio two-cassette set THE DARKWATER HALL MYSTERY BY KINGSLEY AMIS AND OTHER STORIES (\$16.95) from Brilliance Audio (Box 481, Grand Haven, MI 49417) (800-222-3225).

6915. The pop/rock quartet "Fathouse" turned to the Canon to find a title for its first CD "A Pin, a Cork, and a Card" (but only the title is Sherlockian); if you can't find it in stores, you can order directly from the group (216 Freeman Street #2, Brookline, MA 02146 (888-328-4687) <virgilg@acs.bu.edu> <www.geocities.com/SunsetStrip/Palms/1549/fathouse.html>. \$12.95 postpaid; checks only, please.

December 1997 #2

6916. Arthur Conan Doyle's "Waterloo" will be performed from Aug. 6 to Sept. 19 at the Shaw Festival in Ontario. Conan Doyle submitted the play to Henry Irving, who wisely bought the rights and performed it to great acclaim (although George Bernard Shaw had some mean things to say about it); it was the first of Conan Doyle's plays to be performed in North America (when Irving came to Montreal on tour). The season brochure won't be ready until January, but the box-office address is: Box 774, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont. L0S 1J0, Canada (800-267-4759).

6917. The Filmmoods Co. (Box 475, Scarsdale, NY 10583) specializes in Sherlockian adults-only stories, and offers a sales-list flier with information about its J. C. Charles pastiches published in recent years and still available.

6918. Warren Randall (15 Fawn Lane West, South Setauket, NY 11720) offers two new (and colorful) lapel pins, one for The Long Island Cave Dwellers, and another for next spring's 221 Beach gathering in Spring Lake, N.J.; \$8.00 each (plus \$2.00 shipping per order).

6919. SHERLOCK HOLMES MYSTERIES #1 is a new comic book from Moonstone, with two new stories by Joe Gentile and artwork by Rich Gulick and Mike Biano. \$2.95 in the shops; Moonstone's address is 582 Torrance Avenue, Calumet City, IL 60409 <http://members.aol.com/mnstone>.

6920. Ralph Hall has spotted Parker C. Hinter's THE CASE OF THE SECRET MESSAGE (New York: Scholastic, Inc., 1994; 84 pp., \$2.95); it's #1 in a "Clue Jr." in a series of children's puzzle-story books, and has Wendy White reporting briefly on Conan Doyle as the greatest mystery writer of all time.

6921. Wanda Dow noted some new items of interest in DEMCO's fall 1997 catalog of library supplies: "Sherlock Bones" posters, book bags, buttons, certificates, and stickers (p. 185), and bookmarks with S'ian motifs (p. 184); the address is Box 7488 Madison, WI 53707 (800-356-1200).

6922. The International Stamp Collectors Society is advertising a new set of two first day covers for the "Hound of the Baskervilles" stamp issued by Great Britain on May 13, 1997, with different postmarks and full-color cachets; \$19.95 for the set. An illustrated flier is available; Box 854, Van Nuys, CA 91408 <iibick@aol.com>.

6923. George Overlie's colorful illustrations can be seen in the eight volumes of Murray Shaw's MATCH WITS WITH SHERLOCK HOLMES (1990-1993), and Overlie now offers an attractive wood engraving of a scene from "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (\$225.00); an illustrated flier is available from the artist at 201 Main Street NE, Minneapolis, MN 55413.

6924. Jo Elyn Clarey is proposing a session on "Seeking Sherlock's Sisters: Issues in Feminist History-Mystery" at the Modern Language Association in San Francisco in Dec. 1998; the focus is women-centered detective fiction using historical settings of any period, and if you'd like to submit a paper, her address is 326 Norwood SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506 <francior@gvsu.edu>.

December 1997 #3

6925. The world of technology uses the phrase "killer application" to describe something that's so desirable that it sells a product: it was pornography, for example that drove the rapid expansion of VCR ownership (since people could watch X-rated films at home rather than in seedy movie theaters). And THE WORKS OF SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE on a CD-ROM disk may well help many Sherlockians decide to add a CD-ROM reader to their computers. It has almost all of Conan Doyle's published works, an extensive bibliography, and an updated and expanded second edition of THE QUEST FOR SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE (edited by Jon L. Lellenberg), in plain-ASCII that's platform-independent (you can run it on any computer, possibly even including an IBM 650, which is the first computer I ever wrote programs for, back in 1960). And there's more, including useful software, and the manuscript of the first chapter of THE WHITE COMPANY. John Thibeau and Frank A. Young have created a splendid resource for Sherlockians and Doyleans and anyone interested in good literature: there's material on this disk that has been out of print for decades and almost impossible to find in original appearances, and it's grand indeed that so many more people will be able to read it now. \$95.00 postpaid from Insight Engineering (Box 10785, Franconia, VA 22310), and there's a Zip disk for those who have Zip drives (\$100.00 postpaid); US dollar checks or money orders only, please.

6926. Kel Richards has written three Sherlock Holmes pastiches (THE CURSE OF THE PHAROAHS, THE HEADLESS MONK, and THE VAMPIRE SERPENT) in a SHERLOCK HOLMES' TALES OF TERROR series for children aged 10-15, with about 120 pp. each and cover art by Philip Cornell; they're available from Bill Barnes (19 Malvern Avenue, Manly, NSW 2095, Australia) at \$7.00/CA\$10.00/£4.00 each or \$20.00/ CA\$28.00/£12.00 for the set (surface mail), and you can pay with checks or currency.

6927. "What ineffable twaddle!" Watson cried. "Ineffable" would appear to be one of those words without an antonym: what, one wonders, might effable twaddle be? An answer may be found in EFFABLE TWADDLE, John Ruyle's latest book of Sherlockian verse, produced as usual by and on the Pequod Press. Available from the author (521 Vincent Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707), and the postpaid cost is \$40.00 (cloth) or \$20.00 (paper).

6928. Jon Lellenberg reports that the memorial service for Dame Jean Conan Doyle will be held at noon on Jan. 29, 1998, at St. Clement Danes in the Strand (it's the official church of the Royal Air Force, and the principal speaker will be retired Chief Air Marshal Lewis). The service will be open to all, and those wishing to attend are requested to call the R.A.F. Office at the Defence Ministry (0171-218-2524). Her family has asked that no flowers or wreaths be sent, but for those who want to do something in her memory, her executors have suggested donations to the Royal National Institute for the Blind (224 Great Portland Street, London W1N 6AA, England) (0717-388-1266); Dame Jean had weak eyesight from childhood, and considerable trouble in her final years, and felt strongly that she would like to help other people in a similar situation.

6929. Donald P. Musgrave ("Reginald Musgrave") died on Mar. 27. He was a doctor, specializing in dermatology, and one of the old Sherlockian hands in southern California. He became a member of The Baker Street Irregulars in 1976, and of course enjoyed representing one of his fictional ancestors.

December 1997 #4

6930. The Trained Cormorants of Long Beach are celebrating their 50th anniversary, and the December issue of The Cormorant's Ring has interesting articles about the society's past and present (Don Hardenbrook, one of the founders, reminisces about the early days); 44 pp., \$5.00 postpaid from Jim Coffin, 6570 East Paseo Alcazaa, Anaheim Hills, CA 92807.

6931. Jo Soares is a multi-talented Brazilian (he has his own nightly television show, a weekly column in a news magazine, and a radio jazz program), and A SAMBA FOR SHERLOCK (New York: Pantheon Books, 1997; 271 pp., \$23.00) is his first novel, about Sherlock Holmes' trip to Brazil in 1886, and his encounter with Sarah Bernhardt and a thoroughly nasty serial killer. The book is a thriller, and a parody of Holmes and Brazil and Brazilians, and its humor is broad, often vulgar, and sometimes quite dark. And already published in Brazil, France, Italy, and Germany, it appears to hold a Sherlockian record for the greatest number of translations before an English version.

6932. "I shall stand behind this holly-bush and see what I can see," Sherlock Holmes said (in "Shoscombe Old Place"); American holly is shown on one of this year's Christmas stamps.
6933. Gary F. Boothe's THE SECRET OF SHERLOCK HOLMES is a new pastiche that brings Holmes out of retirement in 1907 to help forestall a threat to the economic security of the United States; he's assisted by his daughter Alice rather than by Watson. 145 pp., paperback; \$13.00 postpaid from the author (3909 Meadow Beauty Drive, Pasco, WA 99301).
6934. Sorry about that: "Sherlock Holmes: The Great Detective" on "Biography" on A&E cable (November 97 #4) featured David Burke as Dr. Watson. Thanks to David F. Morrill for the correction.
6935. Brendan Gill died on Dec. 27. He went to work for The New Yorker in 1936 and never left (his last piece appears in the magazine's Jan. 5 issue), and his best-seller HERE AT THE NEW YORKER (1975) is a delightfully opinionated history of a magazine that was a literary landmark. Gill had seen William Gillette on stage, and reported in the New Yorker on the failed auction of Gillette's estate (Nov. 26, 1938), and he wrote about Gillette Castle many years later for the Architectural Digest (Nov. 1993). Gill also was a fine raconteur, and told some splendid stories at the William Gillette Luncheon during the birthday festivities in 1978.
6936. Matthew Bunson's ENCYCLOPEDIA SHERLOCKIANA (January 95 #4) is the latest addition to the extensive list of Sherlockiana available in Japanese, in a new translation by Masamichi Higurashi and others (Tokyo: Hara Shobo, 1997; 505 pp., Y3,800).
6937. Anglofile reports that the three-part miniseries "Rhodes" will air on PBSTV on Jan. 4-6, starring Martin Shaw as Cecil Rhodes, and Neil Pearson as Dr. Leander Starr Jameson, who led an armed incursion into the Transvaal at the end of 1895; the "Jameson Raid" was one of the first overt acts of the Boer War, and his name has echoes in two Canonical pseudonyms: Colonel Lysander Stark and Dr. Lysander Starr (as noted in the June 1968 issue of The Baker Street Journal). Anglofile is a monthly newsletter with details on British entertainment; Box 33515, Decatur, GA 30033 (\$12.00 a year).

December 1997 #5

6938. Plan ahead: Paul Singleton reports that Douglas Wilmer (who has impersonated Sherlock Holmes for more than 30 years on television and film and audiocassettes) is planning an American tour this spring, and is tentatively scheduled to arrive in Boston on Apr. 20 and (with stops also in New York and Philadelphia) to leave from Washington on March 4. Paul hopes that details on appearances in each of the four cities will be available during the birthday festivities in January (and I will report on those details in the next issue of this newsletter).
6939. Penguin Audiobooks has issued two more sets of audiocassettes with Douglas Wilmer's excellent readings from the Canon. Each set has two cassettes and four tales: THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: VOLUME 2 has Five/Twice/Blue/Spec; BLACK PETER AND OTHER SHERLOCK HOLMES CASES has Blac/Lady/Blue/Resi; and they're all nicely done indeed. £7.99 each in Britain (0181-899-4036); the first set is scheduled for release here in May (\$16.95), and the second one is not yet scheduled for release in the United States.
6940. "Triple Threat" proclaims the N.Y. Times: Frank Langella has three jobs in The Roundabout Theater Company's production of "Cyrano de Bergerac" at the Laura Pels Theater in New York. Langella has adapted Edmond Rostand's play and directs and stars in it.
6941. There are twelve "Let's Play Dolls" in the Madame Alexander series from the Alexander Doll Company, all 14" tall, with fully-rooted hair, vinyl heads and fully-jointed vinyl bodies and painted faces; "Belinda and Bobby" is the one for Sherlockians. =20 The company says the line has been discontinued, but the doll is still in stock in some specialist doll shops (\$100+).
6942. A detailed flier and registration form are now available for 221Beach, the Sherlockian springbreak weekend on Apr. 17-19, 1998, in Spring Lake, N.J.; write to Dick Kitts, 35 Van Cortlandt Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10301 (718-981-5097) <rkitts@aol.com>.
6943. Plan ahead: the next Arthur Conan Doyle/Sherlock Holmes Symposium will be held in Dayton on Mar. 6-8, 1998. If you'd like to be on their mailing list, contact Mary Frost-Pierson, 101 Cemetery Street, Yellow Springs, OH 45387 <msteries@aol.com>.
6944. Plan farther ahead: the Sherlock Holmes Festival at Crowborough will be on July 3-10, 1998. Additional information is available from The Conan Doyle (Crowborough) Establishment (Brian Pugh, 20 Clare Road, Lewes, Sussex BN7 1PN, England).
6945. DETECTIVE DUOS: THE BEST ADVENTURES OF TWENTY-FIVE CRIME-SOLVING TWOSOMES, edited by Marcia Muller and Bill Pronzini (New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 1997; 444 pp., \$30.00), ranges from Edgar Allan Poe (1844) to Julie Smith (1997), and includes "The Empty House" as well as an interesting introduction and an intriguing selection of authors and stories, old and new.

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6946. "After the controversy surrounding the publication in 1907 of her famous fairy photograph in The Regular magazine, Angelica Cottington retired into a life of seclusion. Never having married, she became Lady Cottington upon the death of her father and lived as a recluse on the family estate until her death in 1991. Her pressed fairy journal was brought to light when the estate was sold to developers and the house was scheduled to be demolished." LADY COTTINGTON'S PRESSED FAIRY BOOK was published in 1994 (by Pavilion Books in Britain and by Andrews McMeel in the United States), and highly esteemed by those who enjoyed the inventive text by Terry Jones (of Monty Python's Flying Circus) and the splendid artwork by Brian Froud.
6947. And Lady Cottington's pressed fairies definitely are not the fairies that were photographed at Cottingley in 1917, nor those seen in either of the films released this year. Nor are they in any way Doylean, let alone Sherlockian, but they're truly delightful. The book is out of print, but you can perhaps still find a 1998 LADY COTTINGTON PRESSED FAIRY CALENDAR (from Andrew McMeel, \$10.95); it has twelve of the illustrations from the book, and strange calendar annotations, and it's great fun.
6948. Oh: how did Lady Cottington compile her pressed fairy book? She sat there with her journal open to a blank page, and waiting until one of the fairies landed on the page, and then . . .
6949. Douglas Moreton's THE PAPERS IN THE CASE offers five pastiches (one of them a short puzzle in logic and geometry, and another a discussion of the Jack the Ripper mystery); 96 pp., paper covers, £9.50 postpaid from Cadds Printing Ltd. (59 Lancaster Avenue, West Norwood, London SE27 9EL, England), or \$18.00 (dollar checks payable to Hugh Scullion, please). Cadds also offers a catalog of its other products, including a 1998 diary.
6950. Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine celebrates Sherlock Holmes' 144th birthday in the Feb. 1998 issue with Len Moffatt's amusing "The Raving: A Poetic Version of the Baskerville Legend" (and a nice Sherlockian cover by Richard Parisi).
6951. The dates for the Bonds' summer tour "In the Footsteps of Sherlock Holmes" are July 13-23, 1998, and the itinerary includes Manchester, York, London, Stratford, Bath, Ashford, and Canterbury. Additional information is available from Sherry Rose-Bond, 519 East Allens Lane, Philadelphia, PA 19119 (215-247-2962) or Cathy Lalko, Universal Odyssey, 1500 Quail Street #550, Newport Beach, CA 92660 (714-263-5979).
6952. Bert Coules reports that BBC Radio's "The Valley of Fear" (starring Clive Merrison and Michael Williams) will be released on audiocassette in England in March, followed by "The Sign of Four" in June, and "A Study in Scarlet" in August. He hopes that "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be recorded

and broadcast some time next year. BDD Audio (the distributor of the cassette series in the United States) lags well behind BBC Audio, but of course the fanatic and the impatient can order from Britain.

January 1998 #1

6953. The birthday festivities in New York were once again graced with delightful weather (no guarantees for next year, of course), and a rather empty lobby at the Hotel Algonquin (which is being renovated by the new owners, who are hoping to have almost everything back the way it was, or perhaps better, in a few months). The BSI's Distinguished Speaker Lecture, on Thursday afternoon, featured Nicholas Meyer, who selected as his topic "Sherlock Holmes, Wine Bottles, and the Catholic Mass" (and told some splendid stories about the casting of the film "The Seven-Per-Cent Solution"). And the Aunt Clara Sing at O'Lunney's was well attended on Thursday evening.
6954. The Mrs. Hudson Breakfast on Friday morning was rather informal, since the Algonquin had no dining room (and far fewer people than usual were able to stay at the Algonquin), but the William Gillette Luncheon at Moran's Chelsea Seafood Restaurant was as always a splendid event, with Andrew Joffe, Sarah Montague Joffe, and Paul Singleton presenting a new playlet by Andrew about "Sherlock Holmes in Hell". And Otto Penzler's traditional open house at the Mysterious Bookshop was a nice opportunity for collectors to browse and buy.
6955. The Baker Street Irregulars gathered at 24 Fifth Avenue, where Paul Martin toasted Mary Schulz as *The* Woman during the pre-dinner cocktail party (Mary then went on to dine at the Harvard Club with many of the other ladies who have received that honor). The evening's entertainment included the usual traditions (Steve Rothman's toast to the Second Mrs. Watson turned out to honor the Second Dr. Watson's Mrs.), and a lively program that ranged from selections from the late Harvey Officer's Sherlockian songbook presented by Bruce Montgomery and members of the Penn Glee Club, to an astounding cooking demonstration by Fritz Sonnenschmidt, assisted by a bewildered George Fletcher, of just how a master chef prepares pheasant livers with orange on toast points (or, for this one occasion, on bagels).
6956. And Mike Whelan (our "Wiggins") announced two official appointments: Peter E. Blau as the BSI's secretary ("Simpson"), and Jon L. Lellenberg the historian ("Thucydides"), and awarded Irregular Shillings and Investitures to James E. Smith II ("Winner of the Jackson Prize"), Susan Z. Diamond ("The Great Mogul"), Lou Lewis ("William Whyte"), Thierry Saint-Joanis ("Monsieur Bertillon"), and John F. Baesch ("State and Merton County Railroad"). Pamela Bruxner ("The British Government") received her membership in the BSI from Mike eight days later in London.
6957. The Baskerville Bash also took place on Friday evening, at La Belle Epoque, with a capacity crowd of 110 (reserve early next year), souvenirs for all (including Jane Hinckley's imaginative "Do-It-Yourself Baskerville Threatening Letter Kit"), toasts and scholarly papers (Tom Cynkin proposed that Sherlock Holmes was a Fakir), and other fun and frivolity, with The Grimpen Mire Choir transformed at one point into the Sherlettes, recalling the 60s with red sashes, gold glitter, and Canonical doo-wop.
6958. On Saturday morning the huckster room (at the Princeton Club this year) was as usual packed with dealers who offered a wide variety of Sherlockiana to eager browsers and collectors. And (yes, there's more) . . .

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6959. Saturday afternoon's cocktail party at the National Arts Club honored the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes with Bill Vande Water's display of photographs from the BSI's 1968 annual dinner (the one they picketed) and the 1992 annual dinner (the first one to which ladies were invited); some of the people in both pictures were remarkably recognizable in the earlier one. Susan Rice accepted the plaudits of the crowd as the winner of the Morley-Montgomery Award (an attractive certificate and a check for \$500) for the best article in last year's Baker Street Journal, and energetic bidders helped the Dr. John H. Watson Fund in the traditional auction (the Fund also benefited from auctions at the BSI annual dinner and the Baskerville Bash).
6960. The festivities continued into the evening, but on a more informal basis, with The Canonical Capricorns celebrating Sherlock Holmes and others born under that sign, and with some going off to theaters or getting into other mischief. And for the hardy souls who stayed on, or perhaps up, until Sunday noon, there was a Sherlockian brunch at Le Max, where the decorations honored recent newlyweds Mary Ellen Rich and Philip A. Shreffler.
6961. I've not reported on everything, I hasten to add; if you want more details than fit into print here, it is quite likely that there will be much longer reports in the March issue of The Baker Street Journal (quarterly, \$18.95 a year, and the address is Box 465, Hanover, PA 17331).
6962. The Dr. John H. Watson Fund offers financial assistance to all Sherlockians (membership in the BSI is not required) who might otherwise not be able to participate in the weekend's festivities, and contributions of interesting and unique items for the auction are always welcome. If you have something you would like to donate to this worthy cause, you are cordially invited to write to Michael F. Whelan, Box 2189, Easton, MD 21601.
6963. Paul Martin offers a nicely coincidental excuse to see the musical "Cats" at the Winter Garden Theater in New York: the actor playing Macavity (the Mystery Cat in Eliot's poem) is Philip Michael Baskerville.
6964. CapAccess (the Internet service provider managed by WETA, the local public broadcasting service) celebrated the New Year by crashing, and was off-line for more than a week, in case anyone still hasn't received responses to any e-mail messages that are lost out there in the electricity, somewhere. My new e-mail address at Digital Gateway Systems is <pblau@dgs.dgsys.com>.
6965. The Beeman's Christmas Annual for 1997 is dedicated to Dr. John H. Watson, with contributions from eight members of The Occupants of the Empty House, including Brad Keefauver's imaginative explanation of why everyone likes Watson. The 24-page pamphlet costs \$10.00 postpaid from the society (Box 21, Zeigler, IL 62999).
6966. Constance P. Montgomery died on May 21, 1997. Connie was just as musical as her husband Jim and her son Bruce, both members of the BSI, and proud to be called "Hot Rod Nanny" from her prowess at the wheel: she drove without an accident from the age of 16 until she "grounded" herself four years ago at the age of 94. In 1961 she was the first lady invited to the cocktail hour preceding the BSI's annual dinner and toasted formally as *The* Woman.

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6967. Musical adaptations of the Canon are quite rare, and one of the best of them will be found on JON DEAK: MUSICAL FANTASIES, a CD (CRC 2296) issued by Centaur Records in 1996. "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (commissioned by Richard Hartshorne of the Apple Hill Chamber Players in 1983) is an adaptation of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" for double bass and six voices (all provided by Hartshorne), and it's delightful. The CD also offers Deak's "Eeyore Has a Birthday" and "Lady Chatterly's Dream" (all performed by the Apple Hill Chamber Players), and if you can't find it in a record store, it's available from Centaur Records, 8856 Highland Road #206, Baton Rouge, LA 70808; \$15.00 postpaid (credit-card orders welcome).
6968. Frederick D. Bryan-Brown died in Nov. 1997. He was one of the most senior members of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London, which he joined in Sept. 1951, and was for many years Head of Classics at Bishop's Stortford School, which surely helped with his choice of topic for his first published paper (about "Sherlockian Schools and Schoolmasters") in the summer 1956 issue of The Sherlock Holmes Journal.

6969. Movies Unlimited (3015 Darnell Road, Philadelphia, PA 19154) (800-466-8437) <www.moviesunlimited.com> offers just about anything you can imagine might be on videocassettes, and some you might not think of, such as the 12-chapter 211-minute serial "Daredevils of the Red Circle" (1939): "three circus stuntmen join forces to track down a cunning madman bent on catastrophic revenge" (\$19.99). Absolutely non-Sherlockian, except for the title, and a cast that includes Miles Mander.
6970. It's the Year of the Tiger . . . of San Pedro, perhaps . . . in the twelve-year Lunar New Year cycle celebrated by the Chinese, and by our postal service. And if "Wisteria Lodge" doesn't have your favorite tiger, there are plenty of tigers (and tiger cubs and tiger-skin rugs) in other stories.
6971. Bill Dunning suggests that it's time to request reservation forms for the Fourth Biennial John Bennett Shaw Memorial Conference for Sherlockian Studies at Santa Fe Community College on Sept. 25-27; Jon L. Lellenberg will be the keynote speaker. You can write to: Santa Fe Community College, Center for Continuing Education, 6401 South Richards Avenue, Santa Fe, NM 87505 <sherlock@santa-fe.cc.nm.us>.
6972. For new readers (and those who don't remember the question from a couple of years ago): name a city, mentioned in the Canon, that had more than a million inhabitants when Conan Doyle visited it, but no longer exists?
6973. ON STAGE: SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Charles Hall and Peter Blythe, is a guide to 70 Sherlockian plays and musicals from 1899 to 1993, with synopses and commentary, and it's well done indeed, ranging from the major productions to scripts written for school performances, and from serious dramas to broad farce, offering a splendid look at the wide variety of Sherlockian theater. There are two booklets with a total of 105 pp., and the cost is £6.60 postpaid, from Charles Hall, 12 Paisley Terrace, Edinburgh EH8 7JW, Scotland, Great Britain (sterling checks are welcome, but otherwise please send only currency or add £5.00 for bank charges on foreign-currency checks).

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6974. The current issue of Anglofile reports that Britain's year-end honors list included a knighthood for science-fiction writer Arthur C. Clarke (who has discussed Arthur Conan Doyle and the Cottingley fairies in his television series "Arthur C. Clarke's World of Strange Powers"), and CBEs for Deborah Kerr, who had three roles in the film "The Life and Death of Colonel Blimp" (1943), and Alan Howard, who played the Duke of Holderness in Granada's version of "The Priory School" (1986). Anglofile is a monthly newsletter that offers detailed coverage of British entertainment; Box 33515, Decatur, GA 30033 (\$15.00 a year).
6975. William C. Thomas (9507 East 65th Street #407, Tulsa, OK 74133) publishes The Jack-Knife for his fellow-members of Holmes in Scales, an informal correspondence society for those who like to make (or read about) Sherlockian models (a subject that includes more than miniatures).
6976. Glenhall Taylor died on Dec. 28. He produced or directed hundreds of radio programs in the days when Hollywood was a broadcasting center, and he wrote for radio and television. He produced the Rathbone/Bruce "Sherlock Holmes" radio series from 1943 to 1945, and in 1977 he wrote scripts for a proposed series (unfortunately not broadcast) that was to star Edwin Mulhare and Ben Wright. He was a delightful raconteur, and his memoirs BEFORE TELEVISION: THE RADIO YEARS (1979) offer some grand tales about Rathbone and Bruce and many others from those long-ago days.
6977. Ron Fish has begun work on a directory that will list Sherlockian societies and the dates of their meetings, to be published in 1999 and then updated annually. If your society would like to be included, contact Ron at Box 4, Circleville, NY 10919-0004 <ronf404@aol.com>.
6978. Carolyn Gassner is asking for photographs (or .gif or .jpg graphic files) of "Ugly or Bizarre Sherlockian Collectibles" so that she can hold a contest on the World Wide Web: visitors to her "Sherlockian humor" home page will be able to vote for the "Epitome of Sherlockian Bizarritude" (and if you are wondering how to define bizarritude, she suggests that "bizarritude is as bizarritude does"). There's no URL yet, but you can send photographs to her at P.O. Drawer G, Corrales, NM 87048; and e-mail and graphic files to her at <carina@pipeline.com>.
6979. When in New York: Leslie Tonkonow Artworks+Projects (601 West 26th Street) has a show on "The Cottingley Fairies and Other Apparitions" (with photographs of otherworldly phenomena from the 19th century to the present) until Feb. 21 (212-255-8450).
6980. The Times has reported briefly on some of the provisions of Dame Jean Conan Doyle's will: she left three Sherlock Holmes manuscripts to the British Library, a museum in Edinburgh, and a museum in Portsmouth or Southsea (to be chosen by her trustees); six other Conan Doyle manuscripts are to be sold and the proceeds shared among the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund, the Not Forgotten Association, the Royal Air Force Association, Help the Hospices, the Distressed Gentlefolks' Aid Association, and the Royal Star and Garter Home; other original papers and letters written by her father to the British Library; her copyrights to the Royal National Institute for the Blind; and £1,000 to Minstead Church. The total estate was valued at £1,867,361.

January 1998 #5

6981. John Stephenson wonders whether anyone knows anything about a souvenir he found recently: a small deerstalker imprinted for "Empress Coffee" (it appears to be an advertising handout from the 1950s); any recollections of Empress Coffee or their advertising? John's address is 6807 East Briarwood Drive, Englewood, CO 80112).
6982. Frank Muir died on Jan. 2. Best known here for his decades as a punning panelist on the radio quiz shows "My Word!" and "My Music" (still heard in re-runs on public radio), he was also credited with inventing the television situation comedy, and he was an inspired wit, described by Marc Fisher in the Washington Post as a man who could "wink on radio." His specialty was a complicated story that ended in a startling pun, and one of them was Sherlockian, published in his collection OH, MY WORD! (1980) and reprinted (with permission) by Douglas Sutherland-Bruce in The Western Flyer (winter 1986); it's well worth tracking down.
6983. Thom Boykoff reports a set of "Facts & Feats" Guinness Records collector's cards issued in 1992 by Pro Set; card #38 has Sherlockian artwork by Frank Wiles, and notes that Holmes is the most-portrayed character on the screen.
6984. Travelers from afar (San Francisco) report that S. Holmes, Esq., atop the Holiday Inn, Union Square, has been closed. The top floor of the hotel is being renovated, and when it opens again there won't be space for the fine recreation of the sitting-room at 221B. But everything is being carefully preserved, in hopes of finding a new location for the sitting-room.
6985. What city, mentioned in the Canon, had more than a million inhabitants when Conan Doyle visited it, but no longer exists? Brooklyn (mentioned in "The Red Circle") was a city when he was there during his lecture tour in 1894; it was annexed into the city of New York in 1898, and now is a borough, and that's why New York City is celebrating its centennial this year.
6986. Cliff Goldfarb reports that The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library have arranged a special performance of Arthur Conan Doyle's play "Waterloo" at the Shaw Festival at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont., on Aug. 15; there will also be a buffet lunch afterward at the Prince of Wales Hotel. Doug Wrigglesworth (16 Sunset Street, Holland Landing, ON L9N 1H4, Canada <dougwrig@netrover.com> is the contact for more information about the event.
6987. "I hesitated for a moment, searching for the proper phraseology. 'There was something I did *not* observe that was highly significant.' The blood rushed into Emerson's lean cheeks. 'Curse it, Peabody,' he shouted, 'You have been reading those damnable detective stories again!'" Reported by

Melissa Ennis in SEEING A LARGE SNAKE, by Elizabeth Peters (New York: Warner Books, 1997); the latest in the fine series of mystery novels starring Amelia Peabody Emerson.

6988. "A Study in Scarlet" (produced by Jennifer and Robert Spahr, and directed and adapted by Bart Lovins), will be performed by Expanded Arts on Feb. 5-7, 12-14, 19-21 at 7:00 pm. Tickets cost \$12.00, and the theater is at 85 Ludlow Street, New York, NY 10002 (212-253-1813); that's between Broome and Delancey Streets. You can also reserve on-line at <www.expandedarts.com>.

January 1998 #6

6989. The STUD Sherlockian Society's annual banquet on Mar. 6 (at the Starlight Inn in Schiller Park near Chicago) will feature David L. Hammer as the featured speaker (on "A Study in Scarlet: A Triumph of the Geography of the Imagination"). There will also be a Solar Pons Breakfast on Mar. 7, and a Rache Road Rally on Mar. 8, and additional information is available from Dennis France, 8546 North Kedvale Avenue, Skokie, IL 60076.
6990. Laurie R. King's THE MOOR (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1998; 307 pp., \$23.95) brings Mary Russell and her husband to Dartmoor in 1923, summoned by the Rev. Sabine Baring-Gould to solve a new mystery that echoes the one that Sherlock Holmes solved there decades earlier. The moor is as wet and cold as ever, in the book, at any rate (the first time Laurie was there to do research the weather was so pleasant that she had to make another trip), and she has done a fine job with the time and place and characters, as well as with the mystery. She also has discovered a delightful echo of the reverend in his grandson's biography of Sherlock Holmes (no spoiler here).
6991. Laurie will be visiting bookshops in the west, and of course will be happy to sign copies of THE MOOR: Feb. 8 at Black Oak Books (Berkeley, Calif.), Feb. 12 at Clues Unlimited and Feb. 13 at Antigone Books (Tucson, Ariz.), Feb. 15 at the Poisoned Pen (Scottsdale, Ariz.), Mar. 1 at the Left Coast Crime convention (San Diego), Mar. 8 at Book Passages (Corte Madera, Calif.), Mar. 15 at Trinity Cathedral (San Jose, Calif.), and Apr. 25 at the Pleasant Hill Literary Women conference (Pleasant Hill, Calif.).
6992. And Laurie's A LETTER OF MARY (December 96 #7) is now in the stores in paperback (New York: Bantam Books, 1998; 318 pp., \$5.99); set just before the events in THE MOOR, it's also a good read, with a fine mystery. Bantam will issue THE MOOR in paperback in the spring of 1999.
6993. Rebecca J. Anderson reports an announcement that the June-July issue of British Heritage will include an article about Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and how Dartmoor became "the major character his "Hound of the Baskervilles." Rebecca also presides over The Beekeeper's Holmes Page for fans of Laurie King's books about Mary Russell <www.golden.net/~rebeccaj/beekeeper.html>, as well as the RUSS-L electronic mailing list; Rebecca's e-mail address is <rebeccaj@pobox.com>.
6994. Plan ahead: The Harpooners of the Sea Unicorn are considering celebrating the turn of the century and the new millennium by spending Christmas and New Year's 1999-2000 in England; more information is available from Michael E. Bragg (Box 256, St. Charles, MO 63302. One assumes that those who want to celebrate the turn of the century and the new millennium one year later will be planning their own tour.
6995. Lawrence Treat died on Jan. 7. He began his writing career in the 1930s, and was a pioneer in the police-procedural genre and a founding member of the Mystery Writers of America. "Once upon a time there was no TV," he wrote in an essay published in MURDER INK (1977). "People walked to the movies and used their cars to neck in, but when they stayed home there was nothing much to do except listen to the radio and play games." So in 1935 he invented a game called BRINGING SHERLOCK HOLMES that was so popular that it's a rare collectible now (you'll find one of the puzzles in MURDER INK).
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January 1998 #7

6996. Milestone Films & Video now offers a videocassette version of the laserdisc edition of "The Lost World" (1925) issued by Lumivision in 1991 (it has 65 percent of the original footage, a trailer, a promotional short, and a demonstration of the stop-motion special effects devised by Willis O'Brien; it's the most complete version of the film now available. A much longer version of the film was found in the Czech Republic recently (July 97 #6), but is unlikely to be issued on videocassette for some years. Milestone's address is: 275 West 96th Street #28-C, New York, NY 10025 <milefilms@aol.com>; the cassette costs \$29.95 postpaid (creditcard orders welcome).
6997. Alfred Thelin died on Jan. 15. Carolyn Gassner reports that he was a dentist and a member of The Brothers Three, and enjoyed their Trap Shoots in Tesuque. He was an easy-going man known for his quiet humor, and he will be missed by the Sherlockians in New Mexico.
6998. The Wigmore Street Post Office is an electronic journal that appears on the Prodigy computer service, but some of the best of its material can be found in its ink-on-paper version; the winter 1997 issue, dedicated to Jephro Rucastle, has 40 pages, and a subscription costs \$10.00 (three issues), from Mel Hughes, 2664 Sam Hardwick Boulevard, Jacksonville, FL 32246. The next issue will include the entries in an on-going contest for the worst opening paragraph of a Sherlockian pastiche (contestants must write the paragraphs themselves).
6999. Russ Geoffrey, still selling his Sherlockian collection (October 97 #8), offers an illustrated sales-list of statues, audiocassettes, videocassettes, etc.; send him a #10 SASE (21 Baker Street, Warren, RI 02885).
7000. Christie's South Kensington will have some interesting material in an auction on Mar. 19: the Midg and Cameo cameras used by Elsie Wright and Frances Griffiths to take the photographs of the Cottingley fairies; six original photographs on contemporary mounts; a first edition of Conan Doyle's THE COMING OF THE FAIRIES (1922); three later watercolors of fairies made by Elsie; and a 1983 holograph letter by Elsie giving her version of events. And (perhaps) two of the original glass negative. An illustrated catalog will be ready in mid-February; their address (attn: Michael Pritchard) is 85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 3LD, England (0171-321-3279) <mpritchard@cix.compulink.co.uk>.
7001. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle appeared as a character in comic books TARZAN #13 and #14 (from Dark Horse), and there are mentions of "Sir Arthur's detective" in #15 (\$2.95).
7002. Carole Bugge wrote the Dashiell Hammett pastiche in Marvin Kaye's anthology RESURRECTED HOLMES (March 96 #1), and now wields Watson's own pen in THE STAR OF INDIA (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1998; 197 pp., \$21.95); it is 1894, and Holmes and returned from the Reichenbach to find that Moriarty also survived the battle there, and is plotting revenge.
7003. Jennie C. Paton's video lending library is up and running again, and you can ask her for more information (please enclose a #10 SASE): Box 17197, Tampa, FL 33682-7198; her e-mail address is <jjpaton514@aol.com>.
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January 1998 #8

7004. It's not often that one can attend a concert that includes the Polyphonic Motets of Lassus (the most recent I know of being a performance by the Palestrina Choir at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Washington three years ago (March 95 #5), but Catherine Cooke has reported that the Renaissance Singers will offer music by Lassus, Willaert, de Rore, and Manichourt in "The Legacy of an Archbishop" at St. Pancras Church, Euston Road, London NW1 at 7:30 pm on Feb. 14 (telephone 0171-923-2182).
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7005. Robert M. George (14441 S.W. 124th Place, Miami, FL 33186) offers copies of death certificates for William Sherlock Scott Holmes (b. 6 Jan. 1854, d. 6 Jan. 1957) and John Hamish Watson (b. 7 August 1852, d. 24 July 1929); \$10.00 postpaid (with a bonus color portrait of Holmes). William S. Baring-Gould supplied the dates and other details.
7006. The digital video disk (DVD) is starting to find a market. According to an article in the N.Y. Times (Jan. 16), spotted by Syd Goldberg, 200,000 players (\$600 each) and five million disks (\$25) were sold in 1997. And Warner has announced that "My Fair Lady" (1964), with Jeremy Brett in a supporting role, will be released on DVD later this year.
7007. Texas offers the newest venue for a running of The Silver Blaze, which will be held at Lone Star Park at Grand Prairie (near Dallas), on Apr. 26; additional details are available from Don Hobbs, 2100 Elm Creek, Flower Mound, TX 75028 (972-335-2746) <djhobbs@hcs-is.com>.
7008. The Sir James Saunders Society (for Sherlockian dermatologists) will gather for luncheon in Orlando, Fla., this year, on Mar. 2, and local Sherlockians are welcome at the event; details are available from Don Hazelrigg, 15 Victoria Drive, Newburgh, IN 47630.
7009. One of the more interesting discoveries during the birthday festivities was that the package of copies of my new seasonal souvenir ("WHERE THE BODY WAS FOUND") intended for the BSI annual dinner seems to have vanished en route to New York, perhaps demolished by the massive package-sorting machine that is rumored to be bedeviling postal workers and postal customers somewhere in the wilds of New Jersey; subscribers to this newsletter who have not received the souvenir previously, or with this mailing, please let me know.
7010. And a few commercials: the revised 15-page list of Investitured Irregulars, Two-Shilling Awards, *The* Women, and the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes costs \$1.20 postpaid. The 79-page list of 733 Sherlockian societies, with names and addresses for contacts for the 432 active societies, costs \$4.00 postpaid. A run of address labels for 362 individual contacts (recommended if you wish to avoid making duplicate mailings to people who are contacts for more than one society) costs \$10.40 postpaid. Checks payable to Peter E. Blau, please.
7011. The list of irregulars and others also is available from me by e-mail (no charge), and both lists are available at Willis G. Frick's "Sherlocktron" home page at <<http://members.home.net/sherlock1/Sherlocktron.html>>.

February 1998 #1

7012. Jerry Margolin reports that the poster promoting the video of the film "The Line King" (about famed N.Y. Times theater artist Al Hirschfeld) has as its border some of his portraits of celebrities, including Rathbone and Bruce as Holmes and Watson (that artwork is also briefly seen in the film). The Rathbone/Bruce lithograph sold some years ago for \$500 (March 92 #1); the new poster's available from the Margo Feiden Galleries (669 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10021) for \$75. Or you may be able to get one for much less when your local video shop is finished with their copy.
7013. Allen J. Hubin launched The Armchair Detective in October 1967 for people who shared his enjoyment of the mystery genre, and it still does an excellent job of covering the field. The latest issue has an interesting article by Laurie R. King on what it's like to chair an Edgar Awards committee (for Best First Novel, an award she has won herself), and Scott and Sherry Rose Bond's discussion of Sherlockian pastiches and parodies. \$31.00 a year for four issues; Box 929, Bound Brook, NJ 08805.
7014. And The Armchair Detective reports the Michael Bond received an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List last summer. Bond is the creator of Paddington Bear, who uses Sherlockian methods and dialogue in "Paddington Turns Detective" in MORE ABOUT PADDINGTON (1959) and PADDINGTON ON STAGE (1977).
7015. Our new commemorative honors Winter Sports, showing an Alpine skier who looks far more stylish than Arthur Conan Doyle did when he helped popularize the sport with his article "An Alpine Pass on 'Ski'" in The Strand Magazine (Dec. 1894).
7016. Laura Kuhn reports that a new mail-order catalog from Carey's Smoke Shop offers their "Vintage Holmes" pipe-tobacco blend (Flake/Cavendish Cut), plus cigars and pipes and such. 7835 Freedom Avenue NW #3, North Canton, OH 44720 (800-992-7427).
7017. "In the Bay of Bengal Some Tribes Still Greet Visitors with Bows and Arrows" is the title of an article by Tom Huth in the Nov.-Dec. 1997 issue of Islands magazine, spotted by John Baesch; Huth visited the Andamans, but missed seeing the fiercest of the Andamanese ("there might be some pretty beaches," he notes, but "the program is that the government restricts tourists from setting foot on most of them").
7018. The season brochure is available for the Shaw Festival in Ontario (it will include 15 performances of Arthur Conan Doyle's "Waterloo" from Aug. 6 to Sept. 19). The box-office address is: Box 774, Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON L0S 1J0, Canada (800-267-4759) <<http://shawfest.sympatico.ca>>.
7019. Rebecca J. Anderson reports that there are more dates for locations where Laurie R. King will be signing her books (including THE MOOR): Mar. 8 at Book Passages (Corte Madera, Calif.), Mar. 10 at Kepler's (San Mateo), Mar. 16 at A Clean Well-Lighted Place (San Francisco), Apr. 5 at Trinity Cathedral (San Jose), Apr. 16-19 at the Palm Springs Writers Conference (Palm Springs), Apr. 25 at the Pleasant Hill Literary Women's Conference (Pleasant Hill), and Apr. 27-30 at various shops in New York during Edgars Week.

February 1998 #2

7020. TALES OF WRYKYN AND ELSEWHERE, by P. G. Wodehouse (Maidenhead: Porpoise Books, 1997; 323 pp.), offers 25 stories published in British magazines from 1901 to 1910, more than half of them reprinted for the first time. They are "school stories" (published in boys' magazines), and they're great fun, and two of them are Sherlockian parodies featuring Burdock Rose and Wotsing; another story ("Pillington Detective") has nice Sherlockian echoes. And in other stories Wodehouse's characters show that they have read "The White Company" and "Rodney Stone". \$45.00 postpaid in the United States and Canada from Frederik Menschaar, 140 Cabrini Boulevard #132, New York, NY 10033; or £27.50 postpaid in Britain and Europe (creditcard orders welcome) from Book Systems Plus, 2-B Priors Hall Farm, Widdington, Essex CB11 3SB, England <bsp2b@aol.com>.
7021. "We are very rich in orchids on the moor," said Beryl Stapleton (in "The Hound of the Baskervilles"). And a lady's slipper orchid (*Cypripedium calceolus*) is shown on one of the stamps in a new "Endangered Species" set from Britain.
7022. Thanks to Sandy Kozinn for spotting my mistake (January 98 #5): SEEING A LARGE CAT is the correct title of the latest addition to Elizabeth Peters' fine series of mystery novels that star Amelia Peabody Emerson.
7023. Miniature Collector magazine offered clues to a Sherlock Holmes quiz in its Sept. 1997 issue (Paul D. Herbert won the first prize, and other Sherlockians were among the runners-up); the answers, and some color photographs of some spectacular Sherlockian miniatures (including Dorothy Rowe Shaw's twostory replica of the entire house in Baker Street), have been published in the March issue (\$3.95; 30595 Eight Mile, Livonia, MI 48152).
7024. For the completists: Andy Peck reports that the Mystery Guild has their own editions of Laurie R. King's A LETTER OF MARY and THE MOOR (\$11.98 each or \$21.98 the pair) as well as Martin H. Greenberg's anthology HOLMES FOR THE HOLIDAYS (\$10.98); Box 6325, Indianapolis, IN 46206 <www.mysteryguild.com>.
7025. Adam Worth's arrest, conviction, and refusal to avoid seven years imprisonment by surrendering the stolen Gainsborough portrait of Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire was headline news in London in July 1893, shortly before "The Final Problem" was written, and many echoes of the man can

be found in the Sherlock Holmes stories. Ben Macintyre's *THE NAPOLEON OF CRIME: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF ADAM WORTH, MASTER THIEF* (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1997; 336 pp., \$24.00) is a fine account of what happened to the painting, and to Worth, who was indeed called "the Napoleon of Crime" by some of his contemporaries. The connection between Worth and Moriarty appears first to have been reported by Vincent Starrett, in his *THE PRIVATE LIFE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* in 1933: "this was revealed by Sir Arthur in conversation with Dr. Gray Chandler Briggs, some years ago."

7026. St. Bartholomew's Hospital (the site of the historic first meeting between Holmes and Watson) has been saved: the full-scale review of London's health needs ordered by Labor prime minister Tony Blair (May 97 #2) has concluded that Bart's, scheduled for closure by the previous Conservative government, should instead be turned into a specialized cancer and heart unit.

February 1998 #3

7027. "An Evening of Musical Mystery and Other Noteworthy Adventures" at Elizabethtown College in Mt. Gretna, Pa., on January 31 included the world premiere of "The Cryptic Composition of Sherlock Bach" (composed by Allen Krantz, with story written and performed by Cary Burkett). Based on the characters "Sherlock Bach and Dr. Witless" (created by Burkett for WITF-FM), the work "follows the famous detective as he explores the mystery of musical composition in a fun musical odyssey for violin, cello, piano, oboe, and french horn."
7028. Former RAF Air Commandant Dame Jean Conan Doyle's memorial service at St. Clement Danes in the Strand on Jan. 29 was a very military ceremony, Jon Lellenberg reports, with Royal Air Force officers and aircraftwomen serving as ushers, senior RAF officers reading the Lessons, and Air Chief Marshal Lewis Hodges, giving the eulogy, in which both her father's literary heritage and Dame Jean's work defending it were remembered. The service was followed by a reception at the RAF Club in Piccadilly. Dame Jean's ashes had been interred a week before beside those of her husband Air Vice Marshal Sir Geoffrey Bromet at the Minstead cemetery near her parents' graves; she was cremated on Nov. 27 with her body wrapped (as she had requested in her will) in the Union Flag.
7029. Her father's copyrights, to published works and unpublished material, are now part of the Estate of Dame Jean Conan Doyle, with the income from the U.S. copyrights and ancillary rights to go to the Royal National Institute for the Blind. Jon L. Lellenberg and Saul Cohen continue to represent the Estate as agent and copyright lawyer, as they had represented Dame Jean for the last twenty years.
7030. The "Sherlock Holmes Festival" held in Tryon, N.C., last year (October 97 #5) included performances of Hendrik Booraem's 30-minute adaptations of "The Red-Headed League" and "The Sign of Four" by the Blue Ridge Radio Players. They're nicely done, and audiocassettes are available for \$4.00 each (plus \$1.50 shipping per order) from the Blue Ridge Players, Box 933, Hendersonville, NC 28793-0933.
7031. If you're interested in "Titanic" incunabula: Ben Wood (Box 740, Ellenton, FL 34222) has long been a member of the Titanic Historical Society (as well as a Sherlockian), and he offers a sales-list of Titanic-related items that includes books, magazines, and artwork (and a sales-list of Sherlockiana).
7032. Roger L. Stevens died on Feb. 2. He was the founding chairman of the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and helped persuade Congress to provide \$150 million for the Center's construction, operation, and endowment, and to pass legislation establishing the National Endowment for the Arts, serving as the NEA's first chairman. He had produced many plays and musicals before he came to Washington, and he ensured that the Center continued that function, co-producing (in a long list of other shows) the American tour of the Royal Shakespeare Company's revival of "Sherlock Holmes" in 1974.
7033. In case you're planning a trip to Scotland: "Move Over Moriarty" stars Maggie Fox and Sue Ryding playing all the roles (including Holmes and Watson); they toured in the comedy in England in 1996 and to Santa Fe last year, and they will be performing at the Edinburgh Festival on Aug. 10-28.
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February 1998 #4

7034. The fourth issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota reports on the late Bill Rabe's exploits, and the donation by his family of Bill's Sherlockian collection to the university, with articles about Bill and other matters. You can join the mailing list by writing to Richard J. Sveum (466 O. M. Wilson Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <sveum001@maroon.tc.umn.edu>.
7035. Henry W. Enberg ("John Garrideb") died on Feb. 9. He was a senior editor with the Practising Law Institute, and the poet laureate of The Friends of Bogie's, contributing to many of their performances as well as to meetings of the Sherlockian societies in New York, and he received his Investiture in The Baker Street Irregulars in 1991.
7036. Walter R. Brooks' delightful books about "Freddy the Pig" have amused children for more than 65 years, and his *FREDDY THE DETECTIVE* is once again in print, with the original Sherlockian illustrations by Kurt Wiese (New York: Overlook Press, 1997; 256 pp., \$23.95). And the Friends of Freddy, founded in 1984, have nearly 500 members, an irregular quarterly, and a home page <www.outermost.com/freddy/>. Membership is \$15.00, and the contact is Connie Arnold, 5-A Laurel Hill Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770.
7037. Reported: *DINOSAUR SUMMER*, by Greg Bear (from Aspect/Warner in February at \$23.00): Conan Doyle's "Lost World" was a factual account of the Challenger expedition, but by 1947 nobody cares about dinosaurs any more, and the last dinosaur circus in America is closing, and there's an attempt to return the dinosaurs to the Lost World, filmed for National Geographic by John Ford.
7038. Dover Thrift Editions offer spectacular value-for-money with their inexpensive reprints (*SIX GREAT SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES* and *THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES* are among the many titles available at \$1.00 each), and now there is *DETECTION BY GASLIGHT: 14 VICTORIAN DETECTIVE STORIES*, edited by Douglas G. Greene (258 pp., \$2.00); Greene notes in his introduction that the opening of the first Golden Age of the Detective Story can be precisely dated: it began when The Strand Magazine published "A Scandal in Bohemia" in July 1891 (Greene's fine anthology contains "The Copper Beeches").
7039. Sigurdur Gustavsson offers a sales list of Icelandic translations of Conan Doyle's stories, Sherlockian and otherwise, published from 1898 to 1914 and priced from \$95 to \$365; his address is Vidihlid 33, 105 Reykjavik, Iceland <gussi@vortex.is>.
7040. Susan Conant has extended her Dog Lover's Mystery series into the world of the Canon: *THE BARKER STREET REGULARS* (New York: Doubleday, 1998; 262 pp., \$21.95) involves amateur sleuth Holly Winter and her malamutes Rowdy and Kimi with some Boston Sherlockians, an animal psychic, and a murder; it's an amusing story: Conant knows and loves dogs, and had Sherlockian assistance from Bruce Southworth.
7041. New York magazine reports (Feb. 2) that New York restaurateur Nello will be in England in March to film a role in David Mamet's new period drama "The Winslow Boy", playing a "Sherlock Holmes type" who investigates the movie's central mystery (it's a new adaptation of Terence Rattigan's 1946 play).
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February 1998 #5

7042. I noted last year (July 97 #1) Robert S. Ennis' article in The Baker Street Journal in which he reported an early Sherlockian calabash in the film "The Nitwits" (1935); since then others have turned up even earlier calabashes in newspaper cartoons and comic strips. But all of the calabashes are used by characters who are not Sherlock Holmes. Who was the first artist or actor to portray Sherlock Holmes with a calabash? I'll provide the answer next month (if, that is, someone supplies the answer).
7043. Brian Pugh has more information about the Sherlock Holmes Festival in Crowborough on July 3-10: Philip Weller will deliver a slide and video talk on "The World of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle" on July 3, and a memorial service on July 5, followed by a five-mile "Walk with Sir Arthur" in and around Crowborough. Details on bed-and-breakfast accommodations, a map of the town, and a brochure about Groombridge Place are available from Brian (20 Clare Road, Lewes, Sussex BN7 1PN, England); \$5.00 (in currency, please).
7044. Ed Wiltse reports that he will discuss his article on "'So Constant an Expectation': Sherlock Holmes and Seriality" during a seminar on Victorian Literature and Culture at Harvard's Barker Center (12 Quincy Street, Cambridge, Mass.) at 7:00 pm on Mar. 9; there's no charge to attend.
7045. The long series of "Doctor Who" novels (there have been more than 50) has had appearances by Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson in Andy Lane's ALL-CONSUMING FIRE (July 94 #4) and by Arthur Conan Doyle in John Peel's EVOLUTION (February 95 #6). Paul Cornell's HAPPY ENDINGS (London: Doctor Who Books/Virgin Publishing, 1996; 291 pp., £4.99/\$5.95) has guest appearances by scores of characters from earlier books in the series, including Holmes and Watson; there's romance and mystery and a wedding, and various dire threats, and a lot of humor (as is always the case in the Doctor Who books).
7046. I suggested (January 98 #8) that the package of copies of my seasonal souvenir intended for the BSI annual dinner might have been demolished by the postal service; it turns out I was correct: I have received some of the souvenirs, kindly forwarded by the Most Holy Trinity Church in Mamaroneck, N.Y., with a note saying, "these were enclosed with our package which was re-packed by the post office."
7047. David Stuart Davies has a long review of John Barrymore's "Sherlock Holmes" (1922) in the latest issue of Scarlet Street (a 16mm flash-titles print was shown to The Sherlock Holmes Society of London in 1997); there's also a review of the laserdisc of Peter Cushing's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1959), and Paxton Whitehead in the play "The Mask of Moriarty", and an advertisement for a \$165 "Basil Rathbone as the Great Detective" casting kit from Supporting Castings (Box 1061, Whittier, CA 90609), and other coverage of the mystery/horror genre. The magazine now is published bimonthly, for \$35.00 a year (Box 604, Glen Rock, NJ 07452).
7048. Scott Monty reports an interesting course for people who want to pursue the interests that Sherlock Holmes pursued: The Massachusetts Audubon Society will offer a four-Saturday course beginning Mar. 28 on beekeeping; veteran beekeeper Tom Sisson will preside, and participants are asked to bring bee veils, hive tools, and (optional) gloves. \$50 for Audubon members, \$58 for others (Drumlin Farm Programs, South Great Road, Lincoln, MA 01773).

February 1998 #6

7049. Some book catalogs are a delight to read, if they offer interesting books and describe them with imagination and enthusiasm; that certainly was true of Ben Abramson's catalogs from The Argus Bookshop, and it is what one finds in catalogs from A Common Reader, a company that concentrates on current books at reasonable prices (sometimes in its own reprint editions), with titles such as Brendan Gill's HERE AT THE NEW YORKER (\$15.95), Berton Roueche's THE MEDICAL DETECTIVES (\$14.95), and a long list of George MacDonald Fraser's FLASHMAN books (\$11.95 or \$12.95). And COOKING WITH THE TWO FAT LADIES, by Jennifer Paterson and Clarissa Dickson Wright (\$25.00); "there's no substitute for lard or beef dripping," they say of bubble and squeak. "If you object, eat something else." A Common Reader's address is 141 Tompkins Avenue, Pleasantville, NY 10570 (800-832-7323) <www.commonreader.com>.
7050. "The Bibliophile's Book Shelf & Miscellanea" is the new mail-order catalog from Carolyn and Joel Senter (Classic Specialties, Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219 <www.sherlock-holmes.com>); mostly books, but some et ceteras.
7051. The Reichenbach Irregulars and the Societe Sherlock Holmes de France are preparing for their Sherlock Holmes Worldwide Congress on Apr. 30-May 4 in Meiringen, Switzerland. Additional information is available from Michael A. Meer (Morgenstrasse 70, 3018 Bern, Switzerland) <mycrofts@classic.msn.com> <www.chez.com/mycroft>.
7052. The Sherlockian chess set offered by The Daily Planet for \$484.00 (October 97 #2) has been discounted to \$249.99 in the spring catalog from Smart Shopper (which also offers discounts on items from the Signals and Wireless catalogs); Box 64494, St. Paul, MN 55164 (800-736-3055).
7053. David Pearson notes that some attractive 54mm Sherlockian figures in mailorder catalogs from Valley Plaza Hobbies (2211 Mouton Drive, Carson City, NV 89706), The Saratoga Soldier Shop (Box 89, Burnt Hills, NY 12027), and The Toy Soldier Co. (100 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10024).
7054. The Pequod's poet laureate is at it again, celebrating the 28th anniversary of the Press with a new collection of verse: WATSON FURIOSO (which "pulls no punches and spares no one") costs \$40.00 (cloth) or \$20.00 (paper) from John Ruyle, 521 Vincent Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707-1521.
7055. THE DIARIES OF MRS. JOHN H. WATSON, NEE MORSTAN was written and privately published by the late Fraser Smyth in 1995 for his own pleasure, according to his wife Anna, and to interest and amuse his friends and others who love the Sherlock Holmes stories. "Mary Morstan was an elusive creature," Smyth noted in his introduction, and her diaries demonstrate she was quite modern (and quite unconventional) in her behavior and outlook. The book (112 pp., nicely bound in cloth) is not for sale, but Mrs. Smyth has kindly agreed to make it available for only the cost of shipping (from Great Britain to the United States and onward); that's \$4.00 postpaid in the U.S. and \$4.30 by surface post elsewhere; checks payable to Peter E. Blau, please, sent to the address below.

March 1998 #1

7056. "FairyTale: A True Story" will be released on videocassette in the U.S. and Canada on Mar. 31, for the video rental market; you will be able to buy the cassette for \$102.00, but you'll be wise to wait a month or two, when there will be a sell-through price of \$16.00 or so. It's an excellent film, with some fine acting, about Conan Doyle and Houdini and the Cottingley fairies and the two girls who photographed them (the fairies were real and the photographs faked, according to the film). The film was dumped into theaters last year by Paramount, and essentially abandoned; the videocassette will make it available to many who were unable to see it during its brief visit to the big screen.
7057. Conan Doyle's own account of the Cottingley photographs also is available, in a new edition of his THE COMING OF THE FAIRIES (London: Pavilion Books, 1997; 111 pp., £9.99); it shows very well how sincere a believer he was, in the reality of the photographs and in the honesty of the girls.
7058. The Sherlock Holmes Museum at 239 Baker Street in London has a vacancy, according to a report in the Daily Mirror (Jan. 29): they're advertising for a Sherlock Holmes look-alike ("superb take Holmes pay," the paper punned). And the Museum has a new 36-page full-color mail-order catalog of souvenirs and mementos, plus a flier for their solid silver heraldic badge (£60) for their new Sherlock Holmes Worldwide Friendship Society. The office address of the Museum is 1 Parkgate Road, London, SW11 4NL, England.

7059. Jim Suszynski found a "Mickey Detective" snow-globe (3.5 in. high) that has Mickey Mouse in Sherlockian costume; \$20.00 at local Hallmark shop. Made by Westland Giftware (Mickey & Co. #6407).
7060. Donna Goldthwaite reports that THE OXFORD SHERLOCK HOLMES (nine volumes) is available for \$50.00 postpaid in the winter sale catalog she has received from the Oxford University Press (Order Department: 2001 Evans Road, Cary, NC 27513 (800-230-3242). Owen Dudley Edwards was the general editor of the set, which was first published in 1993; individual volumes were edited and annotated by Edwards, Richard Lancelyn Green, Christopher Roden, and W. W. Robson; the set is cloth-bound (item #0192123297).
7061. "There's a bunch of detective stories that have been important to me," Jake Kasdan told an interviewer, "and Sherlock Holmes is certainly among them." Kasdan wrote and directed the new film "Zero Effect" with Bill Pullman as a dysfunctional and emotionally-handicapped detective named Daryl Zero, and Ben Stiller as his sidekick Steve Arlo.
7062. I noted last month (February 98 #5) that all the Sherlockian calabashes seen in comic strips and films in the mid-1930s belong to characters who are not Sherlock Holmes, and I asked who the first artist or actor to show Sherlock Holmes with a calabash might have been, and promised to provide the answer this month, if someone supplied the answer. And the answer is: sorry, no one has supplied an answer supported by evidence. A few readers suggested William Gillette, who used a curved wooden pipe rather than a calabash. I will still be happy to hear from anyone who has a reasonable answer to the question. Or perhaps even an unreasonable answer.

March 1998 #2

7063. Bert Coules reports that the BBC has released a two-audiocassette set of the 1997 radio broadcast of "The Valley of Fear" (with Clive Merrison as Sherlock Holmes); £8.99 in shops in Britain. The BBC also entered into an agreement with a greeting-card company that plans to issue a series of cards containing CDs with BBC programs; the price is expected to be £4.99 each. The first batch (release date not yet known) will include the Merrison/Williams "A Scandal in Bohemia" and the second batch (expected for Christmas) will have "The Blue Carbuncle".
7064. Our "Celebrate the Century" souvenir sheets have 15 different stamps for each decade, so it should be easy to find at least one Sherlockian connection for each decade. Such as the Model T Ford (1900s) and Charlie Chaplin (1910s); it was in a little Ford that Altamont arrived for his meeting with Von Bork (in "His Last Bow"), and Chaplin played "Billy" on stage with William Gillette.
7065. The seventh annual Watsonian Weekend (celebrating Dr. Watson and the Battle of Maiwand) begins with a regimental dinner in Bensonville, Ill., on June 26; continues with the annual running of The Silver Blaze at Sportsman's Park on June 27; and concludes with a Fortescue brunch in Des Plaines on June 28. Additional details are available from Fred Levin, 8242 North Ridgeway Avenue, Skokie, IL 60076.
7066. Laurie R. King was online in the Barnes & Noble chat room recently, answering questions about Mary Russell and other things, including the next book in the series; the electronically-enabled can see the questions and answers at <www.barnesandnoble.com/community/archive/archive> or in a more coherent transcript provided by Jennifer Chance at Rebecca J. Anderson's home page at <www.golden.net/~rebeccaj/docs/lrkchat.txt>.
7067. Ben Macintyre's THE NAPOLEON OF CRIME: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF ADAM WORTH has been nominated for Mystery Writers of America Edgar (best fact crime); the Edgar winners will be announced at the MWA banquet in New York on Apr. 30.
7068. The Northern Musgraves are planning "The Return of the Mini Tonga Cruise" on May 16 in York (where the society was founded, and where the society had a similar event on the river Ouse some years earlier). The event includes lunch at York's Pizza Express, formerly a gentlemen's club, and additional information is available from Mark Hunter-Purvis, 6 Deer Park Way, Axwell Park, Blaydon-on-Tyne NE21 5PD, England.
7069. Scott Price (The World of Sherlock Holmes Mystery Shop, 3957-A Grahamdale Circle, Memphis, TN 38122) (toll-free 888-355-6877 2:00pm-10:00pm CST) has a new illustrated mail-order catalog with a wide variety of Sherlockiana.
7070. A STUDY IN SILVER, by David Silver (Toronto: Master Point Press, 1998; 128 pp., US\$9.95/CA\$12.95/UK£6.99), is a collection of amusing bridge stories that echo authors such as Melville, Conrad, Bierce, and (four of the tales) Conan Doyle. Silver modestly claims that he has "partnered all the leading Canadian bridge players of his generation, once." The publisher's address is 22 Lower Village Gate, Toronto, ON M5P 3L7, Canada <craylee@pathcom.com>.

March 1998 #3

7071. An article from The Baker Street Journal has been reprinted on the World Wide Web, on a San Diego Natural History Museum webpage honoring Laurence M. Klauber, an amateur naturalist whose specialty was herpetology. "The Truth About the Speckled Band" (Apr. 1948), can be read at <www.sdnhm.org/research/klauber/sherlock.html>.
7072. "I had been through a Florence Nightingale phase and I was getting sick and tired of being a nanny and a nurse to men," Andrea Reynolds said (quoted in a report in The Times this month). "Instead I became Zorro. I decided to fight injustice." The men who benefited from her nannying and nursing were Sheldon Reynolds and Claus von Bulow, and a six-year battle over royalties from a 1979 Sherlock Holmes television series that starred Geoffrey Whitehead has ended with New York state supreme court judge ruling (according to the newspaper story) that Andrea, rather than Sheldon, controls the newlyrevived European copyright on the Sherlock Holmes stories. Andrea also announced that a competition will be held for new writers of Sherlock Holmes stories, "with possible publication of the winning entries."
7073. "Read the book that inspired Michael Crichton's dinosaur bestsellers" urges the Book-of-the-Month Club in its monthly offers to members, noted by John Baesch. It's Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's THE LOST WORLD, of course, in a BOMC exclusive edition (\$19.95 to members). Item 45-7799, and their address is Camp Hill, PA 17012-0001 (800-348-7128).
7074. More verse from the Pequod: BRICKS WITHOUT CLAY "leans heavily on the untold adventures and other Holmesian topics on which we have little data," John Ruyle reports. Hand-set and hand-printed as usual; \$40.00 (cloth) or \$20.00 (paper) from John, at 521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707-1521.
7075. John also keeps an eye on the obituaries, and casts his net widely when it comes to Sherlockian connections. The actor Lloyd Bridges died on Mar. 10 after a long career that seems not to have included any Sherlockian roles. But his full name was Lloyd Vernet Bridges II, and perhaps a distant relative of someone else who had art in the blood . . .
7076. Sydney Hosier's MOST BAFFLING, MRS. HUDSON (New York: Avon Books, 1998; 246 pp., \$5.50) is his third book about "the other sleuth of Baker Street," who solves another murder mystery, with the assistance of her friend Vi Warner (who performs no astral projection this time), but without any input from her famous lodger except one of his cast-off suits.
7077. Gary Hildebrandt notes a report in Lee's Action Figure News & Review (Mar.) that a "Star Trek" figure of Data in Sherlockian costume will be released this fall. Credit Brad Keefauver for the additional news that it will be one of the 9-inch deluxe collector series figures (with two outfits) from Playmates (who likely will sell a lot more "Star Trek" action figures than they did "FairyTale: A True Story" figures last year).

7078. The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection offer a handsome flier by way of an invitation to join them in supporting the collection at the Toronto Reference Library (789 Yonge Street, Toronto, ON M4W 2G8, Canada); if you aren't on their mailing list already, you can write to the Friends, or send an e-mail request to Doug Wrigglesworth <dougwrig@netrover.com>.

March 1998 #4

7079. I've been telling people that it has been forty-two years since I was in Japan, and I figured it was time to go back to see if anything had changed, since my visit in 1956 when the USS Mullany operated out of Yokosuka and Sasebo. The occasion for my second visit was the Japan Sherlock Holmes Club's special spring convention, in Kamakura and Kawasaki, and both the convention and the sightseeing (afterward, in Kyoto and Nara and Tokyo) were delightful.
7080. Japan has changed, of course: it's not as Japanese as it used to be: almost everyone wears western clothes (rather than traditional costume), and western food and drink is everywhere (although it was much more fun to avoid it), and many more Japanese speak English (six years of it are required in schools now), and their bullet trains are absolutely astounding. And there are a lot more Sherlockians now: the Japan Sherlock Holmes Club, founded in 1977, has more than 1,300 members and is the largest Sherlockian society in the world.
7081. There were about 150 people at the convention, with ages ranging from six to eighty-four, and the foreign visitors included Mike and Mary Ann Whelan and Jim Webb from the United States, Catherine Cooke and Philip and Jane Weller from Britain, and Mike Berdan from Hong Kong. It was wonderful to see old friends again, and to meet new ones, and to enjoy the scholarship and fun and games. It also was nice to be reminded of the Japan I remembered from forty-two years ago, since some of the ladies were kind enough to wear kimonos.
7082. Tsukasa Kobayashi and Akane Higashiyama were the organizers of the convention, with Shigeru Koike as chairman and Masamichi Higurashi as secretary general, and many others helped with the festivities, which included papers and presentations and dinners and parties and exhibits and auctions from a welcoming dinner on Friday evening to a memorial reception on Sunday evening (the convention combined the Japan Sherlock Holmes Club's 10th annual seminar in Kamakura and its 40th semi-annual general meeting). It was at the Sunday-evening reception that Mike Whelan told some stories about the early history of the Baker Street Irregulars, and awarded membership in the BSI to Masamichi Higurashi ("Baron Adelbert Gruner").
7083. The convention also featured sightseeing tours for the foreign visitors in Kamakura: Yuichi Hirayama led us on a visit to the battleship Mikasa, which was Admiral Togo's flagship during the attack on the Russian fleet at Port Arthur in 1904 (which you may recall from the 1983 television mini-series "Reilly: Ace of Spies"), and Kiyoshi Tanaka took us to the Engaku-ji Temple and the bronze statue of the Great Buddha (both 13th century treasures).
7084. There was other sightseeing after the convention, including the Nijo Castle (in Kyoto), which was built in 1603 by Tokugawa Ieyasu (who was the Shogun in the 1980 television mini-series "Shogun"), and the Shoso-in (in Nara), which is a treasure repository created in 752 and which is mentioned in the Canon (in "The Illustrious Client"). And accidental discoveries such as a Sherlockian poster for the Gakusei Jutaku real-estate company in Kyoto.
7085. Well, one page isn't anywhere near enough to cover everything, but one page is all you get. Except for the flier on the next page (March 98 #5).
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March 1998 #5

7086. "So the bibliophile steals pleasure from a catalogue, the lover from his fantasies," A. J. Liebling wrote in BETWEEN MEALS, and that's one of the appropriate quotes in a recent catalog from Bibliophile Books (5 Thomas Road, London E14 7BN, England). Their offers include Jack Tracy's THE ULTIMATE SHERLOCK HOLMES ENCYCLOPEDIA (£7.00), Michael Coren's CONAN DOYLE (discounted to £7.00), and William S. Baring-Gould's SHERLOCK HOLMES OF BAKER STREET (discounted to £4.00).
7087. There we were, in a nice Chinese restaurant in Chinatown in Yokohama, discussing whether Sherlock Holmes is a "tiger" (which is nice if you're also a "tiger"), and Tokie Miyoshi noted that all twelve of the animals in the lunar cycle are mentioned in the Canon. Name the animals, and one story in which each is mentioned. For extra credit: it's now the year of the tiger (January 98 #3); what is Sherlock Holmes? A modest prize is offered for the first correct answers by e-mail and by mail.
7088. Ted Friedman continues to discuss Sherlockian philately in Topical Time: his two-page article on "Sherlockian Postmarks" is in the Mar.-Apr. issue (\$5.00 postpaid from the American Topical Association, Box 65749, Tucson, AZ 85728).
7089. TALES CALCULATED TO DRIVE YOU MAD is a new series, reprinting the earlier issues of Mad; Jack Kerr spotted #3 (spring 1998) with full-color reprints of original issues #7-9, including the classic "Shermlock Shomes!" from the Oct.-Nov. 1953 issue; \$3.99.
7090. Daniel Massey died on Mar. 25. He was a distinguished actor, as were his father Raymond Massey and his mother Adrienne Allen, and as is his younger sister Anna Massey (who was Jeremy Brett's first wife). Daniel Massey was a fine J. Neil Gibson in Granada's "The Problem of Thor Bridge" (1991) and the casting was imaginative, what with Watson suggesting that Gibson resembled Abraham Lincoln, a role that made Raymond Massey a star in Hollywood.
7091. Here's the schedule for Douglas Wilmer's public appearances during his tour of the U.S.: in Boston at a dinner at The Algonquin Club at 6:30 pm on Apr. 22 (contact: W. Scott Monty, 1836 Columbia Road #2, South Boston, MA 02127; office: 800-253-4417 ext 6981); in New York at The Penn Club at 6:30 pm on Apr. 27 (Paul Singleton, 104 Second Avenue #3, New York, NY 10003; office: 212-236-1756/home: 212-533-9093); in Philadelphia at the Community College of Philadelphia at 6:30 pm on Apr. 30 (contact: Scott Bond, 519 East Allens Lane, Philadelphia, PA 19119; home: 215-247-2962); and in Washington at The National Press Club at 2:00 pm on May 2 (contact: Peter E. Blau (see below for address and phone number). In Washington there will be a \$5.00 charge at the door to hear Mr. Wilmer, and lunch will be available at the National Press Club from 11:30.
7092. Joe Eckrich offers his new six-page sales-list of books, comics, menus, and other Sherlockiana, by e-mail on request to <jeckrich@aol.com>, or you can send a #10 SASE to him at 914 Oakmoor Drive, Fenton, MO 63026 (outside the U.S. please send two IRCs or \$1.00 in currency).
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April 1998 #1

7093. The movie "Titanic" has been getting a lot of publicity, and making a lot of money at the box office, and of course it was nice to learn that there's a Sherlockian connection: the passengers on the ship included Harry Widener and his father and mother; only his mother survived, and she gave his book collection to Harvard University, as well as the money to build the Widener Library. And Dan Posnansky reports that one of the books in Widener's collection (at the Houghton Library) is his copy of MY FIRST BOOK (1894), with a letter from each contributor to the anthology laid in; Conan Doyle is not represented by a letter, but instead by a page from the manuscript of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (the start of Chapter II: The Curse of the Baskervilles); it is nice news indeed that a hitherto-unreported page from the manuscript has turned up.
7094. A reminder that Jennie C. Paton's video lending library is available again, with all sorts of major and minor Sherlockian material. She charges \$5.50 per cassette for shipping and handling (borrowers pay return postage), and her address is Box 17197, Tampa, FL 33682-7198 (please enclose a #10 SASE) or <jpaton514@aol.com> if you'd like the list of what's in the library.
7095. "What do you get when you cross a French dictator with a bucket of dirt?"
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7096. The Harpooners of the Sea Unicorn will celebrate Halloween with their Sherlockian convention "The Game's Afloat 1998" at the Sheraton Plaza Hotel in West Port, on Oct. 30-Nov. 1; additional information is available from Barbara Roscoe, 7101 Mardel Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63109 <fivepips@aol.com>.
7097. The fine recreation of the sitting-room at 221B that delighted both Sherlockians and tourists for many years at S. Holmes, Esq. in San Francisco closed earlier this year (January 98 #5). Willy Werby reports that she would prefer to find a new home for the sitting-room in the Bay area, but will consider another city; if you have any suggestions, you can send let her know at 2700 19th Street, San Francisco, CA 94110 <mycroft813@aol.com>.
7098. Michael Ross offers a commercial videocassette with the 1979 Soviet television dramatization of "A Study in Scarlet" and "The Speckled Band" starring Vasily Livanov and Vitaly Solomin as Holmes and Watson (134 minutes) in PAL format (with dialogue in Russian). The videocassette of "Der Hund von Baskerville" (1937) with Bruno Guttner and Fritz Odemar is still available, too, also in PAL format (dialogue in German). Note: PAL cassettes can't be played on American NTSC-format VCRs. The cassettes cost DM49.90 or £17.00 or \$28.00 each; postage costs DM4.40 in Germany or £4.00 in Europe or \$8.50 elsewhere for one to four cassettes (so you save money on multiple orders). Pay with Eurocheques or currency only, please; Michael's address is: Postfach 83-01-25, 51034 Köln, Germany.
7099. The argument about whether the Molly Maguires were terrorist anarchists or heroic defenders of the working man probably will continue forever, both in Pennsylvania and in print; Kevin Kenny's MAKING SENSE OF THE MOLLY MAGUIRES (New York: Oxford University Press, 1998; 368 pp., \$39.95 cloth, \$18.95 paper), reviewed in the Los Angeles Times (Apr. 5) (reported by Les Klinger), appears to be even-handed, criticizing almost everyone involved.

April 1998 #2

7100. "What do you get when you cross a French dictator with a bucket of dirt?" Jeff Dow asked recently, and his answer is "The Napoleon of Grime." Cribbed from Communication (the newsletter of The Pleasant Places of Florida, where this sort of thing is not at all unusual); \$10.00 a year from Carl L. Heifetz, 3693 Siena Lane, Palm Harbor, FL 34685.
7101. The Pleasant Places of Florida are continuing their tradition of publishing round-robin pastiches, and the latest is THE ADVENTURE OF THE YULE LANTERN LOST; the 16-page pamphlet costs \$3.00 postpaid (or \$4.00 outside the U.S.) from Carl Heifetz (address above). Also available (ditto) is HAPPY 144TH SHERLOCK!, a 20-page pamphlet that reports in detail on the society's first annual Sherlock's Sunshine Celebration, on Jan. 17, 1998, with texts of the presentations and toasts (\$2.50/\$3.50).
7102. Caliber Comics offers a sales-list of Sherlockian graphic novels and comic books by Martin Powell & Seppo Makinen and others. Their address is (225 North Sheldon Road, Plymouth, MI 48170) <caliber@calibercomics.com> <www.calibercomics.com>.
7103. Nice news from Gillette Castle in Hadlyme, Connecticut: Tyke Niver reports that at long last visitors will be able to see the old miniature train that Gillette used to run on three miles of track on his estate. The train was sold to the Lake Compounce Amusement Park in 1943, but modernization of the park left no room for the "quaint ride" around the lake, and the owners decided to donate the train to the state park at the Castle. The state will refurbish the train for display at the Castle, but at the moment there are no plans to lay track on the old roadbed.
7104. Tyke also reports that a mail-order catalog from What on Earth, 2451 Enterprise East Parkway, Twinsburg, OH 44087 (800-945-2552) has a T-shirt (item V143T, \$18.95) with a small publicity still that shows the Three Stooges in Sherlockian costume.
7105. "Sheer Luck" is the slogan (or possibly the warning) on a new series of Minnesota state lottery tickets reported by Julie McKuras. Alas, there has been no report of a winning sheerlucky Sherlockian, but perhaps they're just modest.
7106. Susan Conant's THE BARKER STREET REGULARS (February 98 #4) is only one of a long shelf of dog-lovers' mysteries: Patricia Guiver's DELILAH DOOLITTLE AND THE PURLOINED POOCH (New York: Berkley Prime Crime, 1997; 196 pp., \$5.99) stars a pet detective in southern California whose own Doberman pinscher is named Watson, which generates a bit of occasional Canonical dialogue during their pursuit of missing animals and assorted criminals. "No animals were harmed in the writing of this book," the acknowledgements promise.
7107. Turlock Loams and Dr. Fatso are drawn into a spectral vortex of evil (and pawky humor) in THE ADVENTURE OF THE DEVIL'S YARD in a new Pequod pressing, hand-set and hand-printed as usual. \$40.00 (in allusive cloth) [which does seem to call for an explanation, but I'm afraid to ask] or \$20.00 (in paper) from John Ruyle, 521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707.

April 1998 #3

7108. Bibliophile Books (5 Thomas Road, London E14 7BN, England) is offering more interesting books in its mail-order catalogs, including Peter Haining's A SHERLOCK HOLMES COMPENDIUM (discounted to £3.50) and Judy Williams' THE MODERN SHERLOCK HOLMES: AN INTRODUCTION INTO FORENSIC SCIENCE TODAY (discounted to £5.00); the latter book is based on a BBC World Service radio series that brought up to date "the meticulous detection methods set down by Sherlock Holmes 100 years ago."
7109. Tokio Miyoshi noted that all twelve of the animals in the lunar cycle are mentioned in the Canon, I noted (March 98 #6), asking for the names of the animals, and one story in which each is mentioned. Tom Cynkin won a prize for being the first to respond correctly by mail (no one has responded by e-mail). So far, everyone responding has identified Sherlock Holmes as a tiger, but he was an ox (Jan. 6 comes before the Lunar New Year).
7110. "There is not a great deal to celebrate in the sleepy southern English town of Woking," Trevor Datson wrote in a Reuters dispatch (Apr. 13) spotted by Scott Monty. "It does have the headquarters of the McLaren grand prix motor racing team, and the Spice Girls once recorded here, but otherwise there is little to set it apart from any other commuter town." But the item does not go on to say that Woking is mentioned in a Sherlock Holmes. Woking has something else to brag about: The Martian. It was 100 years ago in Woking that a vast metal cylinder containing the first extra-terrestrial invaders landed on Horsell Common, as recorded in H. W. Wells' classic science-fiction story, and Woking has honored the event with a 23-foot-high sculpture of one of the invaders. Sherlockians know, of course, that Holmes was involved in the battle against the Martians, reported by Manley Wade Wellman and Wade Wellman in their SHERLOCK HOLMES' WAR OF THE WORLDS (1975).
7111. THE SIGN OF 4 is a three-CD set from Knitting Factory Works (KFW197) offering contemporary jazz by Derek Bailey and Pat Metheny (guitars) and Gregg Bendian and Paul Wertico (percussion); the CDs and some of the tracks have Sherlockian titles, and the music is thoroughly avant-garde. The set costs \$20.00 in the shops, and from the company (74 Leonard Street, New York, NY 10013) <kfw@knittingfactory.com> <www.knittingfactory.com>.
7112. The Norwegian Explorers will celebrate their 50th anniversary this year, at a "Founders' Footprints Conference" on Aug. 7-9 in Minneapolis, and a flier about the fun and games and other events is available from Julie A. McKuras (13512 Granada Avenue, Apple Valley, MN 55124) <mike9750@aol.com>.
7113. David Pearson notes that the current catalog from The Toy Soldier Co. (100 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10024) (201-792-6665) <www.toysoldierco.com> offers 54mm figures and models that include as "Sherlock Holmes on Bicycle, with Dr. Watson" (\$75.00), sets of the 66th

Foot and some Afghan soldiers (\$159.00 each), a set of the Fifth Northumberland Fusiliers (\$91.00), and a steam launch that might pass for the Aurora (\$75.00).

7114. British police are to "use bloodhounds for the first time in 60 years in their fight against crime," according to an article in the International Express (Mar. 24), at hand from John Baesch; Essex police have bought two pedigreed 14-week-old puppies that are now being trained and are expected to be at work by year's end. The dogs are named "Sherlock" and "Morse".

April 1998 #4

7115. Penguin Audiobooks has issued a new set of audiocassettes with Douglas Wilmer's fine readings from the Canon. THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: VOLUME 3 has four stories (Engr/Nobl/Bery/Copp) and it costs £7.99 in England (Penguin USA lags far behind Penguin UK, alas, and the set won't be in the shops here for some time).
7116. "Sherlock Holmes and the Lost Rose of India" is a new play, which opened on Mar. 26 at the Gaslight Theatre in Tucson, and will run through May 30; the address is 7010 East Broadway Boulevard, Tucson, AZ 85710 (520-886-9428).
7117. Elaine Hamill reports that the prospectus for the Sherlock Holmes Statue commissioned by The Sherlock Holmes Society of London for installation in Baker Street to celebrate the millennium is available to donors. A sevenpage brochure with original artwork by Alan Keeler and a photograph of the maquette by John Doubleday (who designed the statue of Sherlock Holmes at Meiringen) will be sent to those who contribute £25.00 (\$40.00), and copies signed by the artist and sculptor to those who contribute £50.00 (\$80.00). Checks (payable to The Sherlock Holmes Statue Company Ltd.) can be sent to the Appeal Fund (16 Kirton Close, Chiswick, London, W4 5UU, England).
7118. R & M George (14441 S.W. 124th Place, Miami, FL 33186) <rgeorge2@bellsouth.net> offered death certificates for William Sherlock Scott Holmes and John Hamish Watson (January 98 #8), and there are many other fictional certificates available, from Cleopatra to Rick Blaine to King Kong to Arthur Conan Doyle (ask for a list).
7119. Jim Suszynski found a Book Essentials Promotions paperback edition of THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES published in 1994 with atmospheric cover art by Jim Seward; priced at \$4.95 on the cover, but discounted to \$1.00 at a local shop. And his daughter, visiting Disney World, found a \$40.00 clock showing the Whitbread pub sign for The Sherlock Holmes (from the British Pub Collectables Club, The Old Coach House, 92 Lodge Road, Feltwell, Norfolk 1P26 4DN, England)
7120. Robert C. Hess (559 Potter Boulevard, Brightwater, NY 11718) offers a new sales-list of Sherlockian posters, prints, dolls, puzzles, artwork, cards, and much more.
7121. The March issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota reports on the search for foreign translations of the Canon, and other news; you can join the mailing list by writing to Richard J. Sveum (466 O. M. Wilson Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <sveum001@maroon.tc.umn.edu>.
7122. Ev Herzog spotted a colorful beaver in Sherlockian costume on the cover of Sarah Benjamin's SPELLING Golden Books "Step-Ahead Workbook" (grades 2-3); \$2.39 in magazine shops and elsewhere.
7123. Doug Wrigglesworth spotted Massimo Polidoro's article on "Houdini and Conan Doyle: The Story of a Strange Friendship" in Skeptical Inquirer (Mar.-Apr. 1998); the issue also has an excellent interview with Martin Gardner, now 83 years old (he doesn't feel a day over 75), and still having fun debunking pseudoscience. \$4.95; Box 703, Amherst, NY 14226 (800-634-1610).

April 1998 #5

7124. Michael Bourne visited Rex Stout at his home in 1973, and some of their discussion was published in 1977 in CORSAGE: A BOUQUET OF REX STOUT & NERO WOLFE. And now the entire interview is available on a 90-minute audiocassette; AN INFORMAL INTERVIEW WITH REX STOUT costs \$20.00 postpaid from James A. Rock & Co., 113 North Washington Street, Rockville, MD 20850. There are only a few comments on Sherlock Holmes, but it's grand to hear Stout's thoughts about everything, including his own writing.
7125. Jim Rock also offers SUBCUTANEOUSLY, MY DEAR WATSON, by Jack Tracy with Jim Berkey (1978); it's a detailed and careful examination of Sherlock Holmes' use of cocaine, and what that involved at the end of the nineteenth century (91 pp.). The postpaid price is \$25.00 (cloth) or \$15.00 (paper).
7126. William Gillette wrote twenty full-length plays, and he starred in nine of them. And the play in which he performed most often (more than 1,800 performances) was not "Sherlock Holmes" but rather "Secret Service: A Romance of the Southern Confederacy". STAGING THE NATION: PLAYS FROM THE AMERICAN THEATER 1787-1909, by Don B. Wilmeth (Boston: Bedford Books, 1998; 574 pp., \$17.99), is intended as a textbook, with the texts of nine plays (including "Secret Service"), and it offers a good chance to see what Gillette could do when he wasn't writing about Sherlock Holmes.
7127. SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE STUDY OF DEATH is Tony Lumb's third pastiche about Holmes' adventures in Yorkshire (where Tony lives, so he handles the local color well indeed); it's a locked-room murder mystery, and the 46-page pamphlet costs \$6.00 postpaid (in currency, please) from the author (21 Albert Street, Featherstone, Pontefract, West Yorks. WF7 5EX, England).
7128. The Calabash Press has issued its spring 1998 catalog, with information on the new and older books; Box 1360, Ashcroft, BC V0K 1A0, Canada <ashtree@netshop.net> <www.ash-tree.bc.ca/calabash.html>.
7129. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists will meet for dinner in honor of the world's first forensic geologist at 7:00 pm on May 20 at The Chart House at 340 West South Temple in Salt Lake City. If you would like to join us for the event, please let us know; my address is at the end of the newsletter, and from May 16 I'll be staying at the Peery Hotel (801-521-4300).
7130. The Baker Street Dispatch is an interesting eight-page newsletter edited by Thomas and Janet Biblewski (\$8.50 a year for six issues; Box 5503, Toledo, OH 43613); the March issue includes articles by Donald A. Redmond on how he came to be a Sherlockian indexer, and by Don Hobbs (who proudly calls himself a maniac collector) on "What Is a Completist?"
7131. George Schwartz (Another Fine Mess, R.D. 1, Box 1419, Freeland, PA 19224) offers full-color laser-print reproductions of posters and lobby cards from Basil Rathbone's "Sherlock Holmes" films (\$5.00 to \$7.00 each); send \$1.00 for his illustrated list.
7132. A flier at hand for The Sherlock Holmes Festival scheduled in Crowborough on July 3-10; the festival will include events both Doylean and Sherlockian, and additional information is available from P.O. Box 17, Crowborough, East Sussex TN6 1WU, England.

April 1998 #6

7133. "The ship is magnificent, the program engrossing, and the company superb," Dorothy Stix writes, about the Fourth Occasional Sherlockian Cruise, which sails from New York on June 20 to Bermuda; there will be two days at sea, and four days in Bermuda, and the Sherlockian entertainers include Philip Shreffler, Marilynne McKay, Irving Kamil, Joanne Zahorsky, Kate Karlson, and Mary Ellen Rich. Cabins are still available (\$998 to \$1370 per person) and more information is available from Dorothy at Box 96, Norwood, NJ 07648 (201-768-2241)

7134. Rebecca Anderson received a report from Laurie R. King that you can order signed or inscribed copies of her "Mary Russell" series from Laurie's local bookstore: Crossroads Books (attn: January Van Wardenburg), 1935 Main Street, Watsonville, CA 95076 (408-728-4139); credit-card orders welcome. Laurie also reports that O JERUSALEM, the next book in the series, may be in the bookstores before the end of 1999.
7135. Colin R. Grimes' new play "Exit Sherlock Holmes" will have its world premiere in Florida next month at the Chapters Bookshop dinner-theater: part 1 ("Autumn of Terror") on May 8 and 15 cost \$24.95, and part 2 ("The Master's Word") on May 9 and 16 costs \$29.95 (or \$49.95 for both parts). This is a Jack-the-Ripper play, and the Chapters Bookshop & Cafe is at 717 West Smith Street, Orlando, FL 32804 (407-246-1546).
7136. The WISHBONE JUMBO FUN BOOK (New York: Modern Publishing, 1998; \$3.99) includes eight pages on Wishbone's investigation of the Hound of the Baskervilles; it's a coloring book with puzzles and mazes and other fun for fans of the television series.
7137. Emory Lee kindly sent this cartoon by T. O. Sylvester from the San Francisco Chronicle (Feb. 1); the caption says: "How come the Cat of the Baskervilles never gets blamed for anything?"
7138. The summer mail-order catalog from The Daily Planet (Box 64411, St. Paul, MN 55164) (800-324-5950) offers their Sherlockian deerstalker (sizes M/L/XL) for \$22.00 (discounted from \$32.00); item 52184.
7139. Paul Martin reports that the summer-preview catalog from Signals (Box 1029, Des Moines, IA 50336) (800-669-9696) offers a "Holmes Bloodhound" figurine for \$69.95 (item 62360); this one is different from similar figures available elsewhere, and comes in a gift box/display stand.
7140. Keith E. Webb has lived in Japan since 1991, and he is one of the founders of The Japanese Cabinet and editor of The Dispatch Box (the only Englishlanguage newsletter about Sherlockians in Japan). His SHERLOCK HOLMES IN JAPAN was one of the items available at last month's convention there; the 52-page pamphlet has thirteen interesting articles on Japanese Sherlockians and Sherlockiana and it costs \$10.00 postpaid. Your checks or currency can be sent to Keith at 15104 SE 22nd Street, Bellevue, WA 98007.

May 1998 #1

7141. The Sons of the Copper Beeches celebrated their 50th anniversary this month in Philadelphia, with a reception at the Athenaeum and a dinner at the Down Town Club, and it was a grand affair, marking the first time in the history of the society when ladies have been welcomed to dinner with the Sons. It did seem a bit strange, however, that the historic event was held at a club that had no functioning ladies room.
7142. And Douglas Wilmer had a fine time on his tour, entertaining Sherlockians in Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and Washington with readings from the Sherlock Holmes stories and fascinating tales about his long career as an actor. He hopes to be able to record all of the stories for Penguin (which has issued five four-story sets so far), but it seems quite unlikely that the BBC can be persuaded to release any more episodes from his 1960s "Sherlock Holmes" television series.
7143. The fourth volume in the BSI's archival-history series was IRREGULAR PROCEEDINGS OF THE MID 'FORTIES, edited by Jon L. Lellenberg (New York: Baker Street Irregulars, 1995; 392 pp., \$24.95) and covering the period from the Trilogy Dinner in March 1994 to Christopher Morley's June 1947 declaration that there would be no more BSI annual dinners; copies are still available with photographs of those at the Trilogy Dinner and at the 1946 and 1947 annual dinners, and with almost everyone identified. \$27.90 postpaid (or \$28.90 for international orders) from The Baker Street Irregulars, Box 465, Hanover, PA 17331.
7144. Dave Galerstein reports that Ely Liebow's JOE BELL still is available from the publisher (item 197-9, \$18.95 postpaid); it's excellent biography of the man who impressed Arthur Conan Doyle so highly. Popular Press, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH 43403 (800-515-5118).
7145. Thomas F. Grady ("Mr. Hilton Soames, of the College of St. Luke's") died on Mar. 24, 1998. He was a stalwart member of The Speckled Band of Boston for decades, and proud that his grandfather had heard Sir Arthur Conan Doyle lecture about spiritualism in Boston in 1922 ("his presentations were well constructed, but unconvincing," Tom's grandfather noted in his diary). He had a long and distinguished career as a professor and dean, reflected in his Investiture, which he received in 1962.
7146. Plan ahead: Bouchercon (the world mystery convention) will be held in Philadelphia on Oct. 3-5, 1998 (507 South 8th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147). and in Milwaukee on Sept. 30-October 3, 1999 (Box 341218, Milwaukee, WI 53234), and in Denver on Sept. 7-10, 2000 (Box 17910, Boulder, CO 90308).
7147. It's not all that often one gets to see an 85-year-old Sherlockian film for the first time, and even though only the title of "Piu forte che Sherlock Holmes" is Sherlockian, it was nice to discover that the film has survived, and to see it at the National Gallery of Art (in a program on "Italian Studio Production: The Early Years"). Made by the Itala Film Co. in Turin in 1913, the seven-minute short involves a man who falls asleep and dreams he is a policeman chasing a criminal (with a lot of trick photography). The title translates as "Stronger Than Sherlock Holmes".

May 1998 #2

7148. Sherlockians have held elected political office over the years, but they've been few and far between in law enforcement. Jim De Stefano ("The St. Pancras Case" in the Baker Street Irregulars) was appointed Police Commissioner of Hudson, New York, in 1996 and he will serve until the end of 1999; he presides over 21 officers and 8 civilian personnel, and proudly reports there no longer are any Moriarty's in Hudson.
7149. Here a Sherlock, there a Sherlock: further to the mention (March 97 #1) of Sherlock H. Lincoln, who died aged 77 in Pittsfield, Mass., in 1895, Gayle Harris has found Edwin and Caroline Kiln Lincoln, who named their first son (born in Philadelphia in 1863) Sherlock Harvey Lincoln. He and his wife Alice Loretta Ashenfelter named their first son (born in Burns, Kans., in 1901) Sherlock Edwin Lincoln. And Sherlock Harvey (died in 1933) isn't the Sherlock H. who died in 1895. Apparently genealogical records can't yet be searched by first name only, but one assumes that there must be other pre-Holmesian Sherlocks to be found.
7150. Rosemary Michaud asked, on one of the electronic mailing lists: "why were the children of the Scowlers such insufferable brats?"
7151. Jacques Futrelle was only 37 years old when he died on the Titanic in 1912; Freddie Seymour and Bettina Kyper wrote about his life and his career as a mystery writer in 1995 in THE THINKING MACHINE: JACQUES FUTRELLE (January 96 #6), and now they have reprinted his THE GREAT SUIT CASE MYSTERY from the front pages of the Boston American (Oct. 5-8, 1905). The story is a Sherlockian pastiche in which Futrelle offered a fictional solution to a murder mystery then baffling the Boston police; the 58-page pamphlet costs \$5.00 postpaid (\$8.00 outside the United States) from Seymour/Kyper Productions, Box 1369, Sandwich, MA 02563.
7152. The latest stamp in our series honoring "Great Americans" shows Henry R. Luce (1898-1967); he was an editor and publisher, and the founder of Time, Fortune, Life, and Sports Illustrated (and all those magazines have published Sherlockiana).
7153. "Mysteriously Yours" (a mystery dinner-theater company appearing at the Royal York Hotel and at the Old Mill Restaurant Toronto) is now performing "The Love Boat Mystery!" (which features Hercule Poirot); their repertoire includes a Sherlockian event and they will be glad to perform for groups. Additional information is available from the company at 1927 Yonge Street, Toronto ON M4S 1Z3, Canada (416-486-7469) (800-668-3323) <mystery@interlog.com> <www.mysteriouslyyours.com>.

7154. Carole Nelson Douglas has reported that her new Irene Adler story "Mesmerizing Bertie" will be published in CRIME THROUGH TIME II, edited by Miriam Grace Monfredo and Sharan Newman, due in September from Berkley (\$6.99).
7155. Roberta Davies notes a report in The Bookseller (Apr. 17) that Virgin Books has celebrated Spike Milligan's 80th birthday with a special edition of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES ACCORDING TO SPIKE MILLIGAN (£15.99). Milligan has some familiarity with the story, having played a Policeman in the Peter Cook/Dudley Moore film "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1978); he also has played Sherlock Holmes in a skit broadcast in the BBC-TV "Q" series.

May 1998 #3

7156. The Gleniffer Press has published its fourth microbook (2.3 x 1.9 cm) edition of one of the Sherlock Holmes stories: THE ENGINEER'S THUMB (101 pp. set in readable 2-point type) costs £15.00 (to the U.K.) or \$26.00 (elsewhere) postpaid; they do excellent work, and their new address is Benvoir, Wigtown, Newton Stewart, Galloway DG8 9EE, Scotland, U.K. <benvoir@aol.com> <members.aol.com/benvoir> (U.S. dollar checks and credit-card orders are welcome). If your taste for miniature books extends beyond the Canon, The Lord Advocate for Scotland, on behalf of Her Majesty, has granted a Royal License to Gleniffer to print and publish a miniature edition of the King James New Testament on the first day of January 2000.
7157. Rosemary Michaud asked: "why were the children of the Scowrers such insufferable brats?" Because their parents were too Vermissive.
7158. It was a Sherlockian silhouette on the flier that caught my eye, and then the two-track programing at the Virginia Romance Writers Conference that's scheduled for Mar. 26-28, 1999, in Williamsburg. The second track offers criminology workshops on crime scenes and FBI role playing (most romance novels have subplots that involve more than love and sex, I was told). If you'd like to be on their mailing list, write to Virginia Romance Writers, 13 Woodlawn Terrace, Fredericksburg, VA 22405 <spgreenman@aol.com>.
7159. The Mysterious Bookshop's spring-summer catalog with two pages of new Sherlockiana (and additional rare and collectable material), and lots of other books, of course. And three addresses: 129 West 56th Street, New York, NY 10019 (800-352-2840); and 8763 Beverly Boulevard, West Hollywood, CA 90048 (800-821-9017); and 82 Marylebone High Street, London W1M 3DE, England. A separate (and larger) S'ian list also is available <mysteriousny@worldnet.att.net> <www.mysteriousbookshop.com>.
7160. The colorful beaver in Sherlockian costume (April 98 #4) also appears on the cover of Jeanie Ahrens' ADDITION AND SUBTRACTION Golden Books "Step-Ahead Workbook" (\$2.39 in magazine shops and elsewhere).
7161. Sherlock Holmes said he had bought his Stradivarius for only 55 shillings, and told Watson that it was worth 500 guineas. It would be worth more now: according to a report in the Wilmington News Journal (Apr. 2), at hand from Jack Kerr, a London dealer has paid a record \$1.58 million for a Stradivarius that once was owned by Rudolphe Kreutzer (to whom Beethoven dedicated the "Kreutzer" sonata).
7162. Alexandra Haropulos spotted Victor Lewis-Smith's review (in the April issue of Harpers & Queen) of the Sherlock Holmes Restaurant in the Victoria & Albert Hotel in Manchester (which is owned by the Granada Group): "dinner was one of the most perfect, and most expensive, I have ever had in this country" (£170 for two, with wine).
7163. The Holmes & Watson Report continues to offer an interesting mix of sense and nonsense, and the May issue will be of special interest to film buffs and television fans, with Jennie Paton's report on the Russian television series that starred Vasily Livanov, and Dave Morrill's take on Christopher Lee's "Sherlock Holmes and the Deadly Necklace" (1962). \$14.00 a year (six issues), from Brad Keefauver, 4009 North Chelsea Place, Peoria, IL 61614.

7164. May 1998 #4

7165. A VOICE FROM THE ETHER (Bridgwater: Big House Books, 1998) is Eddie Maguire's third pastiche; an Edison phonograph presents a mystery to Sherlock Holmes in 1891, and he solves it in Essex. The 39-page pamphlet costs \$11.00 postpaid from Ian Henry Publications, 20 Park Drive, Romford, Essex RM1 4LH, England. Also available (same address) is a packet of ten note-cards (with envelopes) with two different illustrations by Sidney Paget (\$12.00 postpaid).
7166. McCranie's Pipe and Tobacco Shop offers their Sherlock Holmes ceramic tobacco jar (in green, burgundy, or tan) for \$70.00; 4143 Park Road, Charlotte, NC 28209 <704-523-8554> (888-523-8554) <www.mccranies.com>.
7167. The HBO mini-series "From the Earth to the Moon" was delightful, and if you missed it this time, it likely will repeat in this fall. Episodes 10 (about the Apollo 15 mission) and 12 (about the Apollo 17 mission) offer a chance to see the actors portray astronaut-geologist Jack Schmitt (who named Sherlock Crater on the Moon in honor of Sherlock Holmes), astronaut Joe Allen (who while Capcom in Houston held a Sherlockian conversation with Schmitt on the Moon), and geologist Farouk El-Baz (who persuaded the International Astronomical Union to give official approval for the name Sherlock Crater). You don't see any of the Sherlockian stuff, but the mini-series tells a grand story and tells it well indeed.
7168. Dave Galerstein reports that his daughter lives in Morristown, N.J., just down the road from Baker Street, a name that dates from when Edgar W. Smith lived in Morristown; his was the only house on the lane, and he was able to persuade the local authorities to approve the name. And the latest news is that a builder is putting up a new development of expensive homes called: Holmes Court.
7169. An inflationary note: the "illustrated classic edition" of SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE CASE OF THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, adapted by Malvina G. Vogel, first published by Moby Books in 1977 at 95c, is still in print, but it now costs \$2.50.
7170. Planning already is under way for the next Baskerville Bash on in New York on Jan. 8, 1999. If you'd like to be on the mailing list, contact Maribeau Briggs (46 East 29th Street #2R, New York, NY 10016) or Susan E. Dahlinger <sebd@aol.com>. The program committee will be happy to hear from anyone who would like to offer short (and humorous) skits, plays, poems, readings, papers, acts, or other performances (Spessoti and Russo, 164 Concord Avenue, Hartsdale, NY 10530).
7171. Quinn Fawcett's AGAINST THE BROTHERHOOD: A MYCROFT HOLMES NOVEL (New York: Forge/Tom Doherty, 1997; 319 pp., \$23.95) is set in 1887, when Mycroft's newly-hired personal secretary is sent under cover into a thoroughly malevolent scheme that threatens (of course) the security of Europe; Mycroft also is on hand and in action, in various disguises and in European cities far from Pall Mall, and saves almost everyone worth saving. Chelsea Quinn Yarbro and William Fawcett are the actual authors of the book, which carefully leaves plenty of room for a sequel, or even sequels.

May 1998 #5

7172. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists met at The Chart House in Salt Lake City on May 20, for a dinner honoring the world's first forensic geologist, during the annual meeting of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists. Heidi-Marie Mason welcomed the visitors on behalf of the locals, and Sarah Andrews reported that she plans to murder a vertebrate paleontologist in her next book, which will be her fifth in her series about Emily Hansen, a petroleum geologist who doubles as a detective (the first four are still in print, and recommended: TENSLEEP, A FALL IN DENVER, MOTHER NATURE, and ONLY FLESH & BONES). Our next dinner is scheduled for Oct. 20, when the Geological Society of America meets in Toronto.

7173. The Shadows of the Elm, a society of elementary-school students in New Mexico, are once again out and about, Carolyn Gassner notes, and their latest theatrical production was a radio-play version of "The Hound of the Baskervilles", which now is available on audiocassette; \$5.00 postpaid (or \$7.00 outside the U.S.) from Carolyn (P.O. Drawer G, Corrales, NJ 87048).
7174. Barbara Roscoe has a new e-mail address (in case you received no response to your request for information about "The Game's Afloat 1998" at the Sheraton Plaza Hotel in West Port on Oct. 30-Nov. 1); 7101 Mardel Avenue, Saint Louis, MO 63109 <gameafloat@aol.com>.
7175. Ken Lanza has spotted a report in the Old Time Radio digest that the Sci-Fi channel will air an "Alien Voices" radio-drama telecast of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's "The Lost World" on July 12, from a Los Angeles theater; this would appear to have been taped when the company recorded the audiocassettes that were released last year (November 97 #6). Leonard Nimoy directed, from a script by Nat Segaloff and John de Lancie, with Armin Shimerman as Challenger and Dwight Schultz as Malone, and the recording was nicely done indeed.
7176. Joe Eckrich offers a second sales-list of Sherlockiana from his collection, by e-mail on request to <jeckrich@aol.com>, or you can send a #10 SASE to him at 914 Oakmoor Drive, Fenton, MO 63026 (if outside the United States, please send two IRCs or \$1.00 in currency).
7177. Ben Wood (Box 740, Ellenton, FL 34222) offers the twelve stamps issued by Nicaragua in 1972 to honor Interpol (Sherlock Holmes is on the high value); \$15.00 postpaid (to the United States only). Also in Florida, The Pleasant Places are planning a visit to the Cassadaga Spiritualist Camp on July 11; there will be discussions of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and spiritualism, and additional information is available from David Scott (Box 463, De Land, FL 32721 <davescot@ix.netcom.com>).
7178. Sorry about that: I had the address wrong (April 98 #5). A flier at hand for The Sherlock Holmes Festival in Crowborough on July 3-10; the festival will include events both Doylean and Sherlockian, and additional information is available from P.O. Box 117, Crowborough, East Sussex TN6 1WU, England.
7179. It isn't often that you can look at a book that looks back at you, but that certainly is true of MYSTERIES IN BUGTOWN, written by William Boniface and illustrated by Jim Harris (Denver: Accord, 1997; \$15.95); spotted by Jennie Paton, it's a children's book that is imaginative and amusing. And one of the inhabitants of Bugtown is an Inspector Cricket in Sherlockian costume.

May 1998 #6

7180. TEDDY & ARTHUR is the latest collection of John Ruyle's poems, honoring Ted Schulz, who was born on June 2, 1923, when Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was lecturing in San Francisco; hand-set and hand-printed at the Pequod Press, as always, and the postpaid cost is \$40.00 (cloth) or \$20.00 (paper) from John, at 521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707.
7181. The "CBS Radio Mystery Theater" was an award-winning one-hour series that ran from 1974 to 1983, produced and directed by Himan Brown, with more than a dozen Sherlock Holmes stories starring Kevin McCarthy (Sherlock Holmes) and Court Benson (Dr. Watson). And the good news is: the series is back on the air, syndicated by Westwood One as "Mystery Theater" (since it's available to any local station). But the bad news is: Westwood One isn't able to tell you which of your local stations will be airing the series. But it has been rumored that in Chicago it's WMAQ-AM (670).
7182. Prof. Larry Meinert (Washington State University) teaches an honors seminar on "Mysteries of the Earth: If Sherlock Holmes Had Been a Geologist", and his syllabus demonstrates how well the Sherlock Holmes stories can be used to interest and educate students. The electronically enabled can check his web-site at <www.wsu.edu:8080/~meinert/SH.html>.
7183. Plan ahead: the STUD Sherlockian Society will hold its Sixth Annual Anglican Holiday Getaway Weekend on Oct. 16-18 at the Stagecoach Inn in Cedarburg, Wis. The Eighth Annual STUD Dinner is scheduled for Mar. 5, 1998, in Schiller Park, Ill., followed by a Solar Pons Breakfast on Mar. 6. Details are available from Allan Devitt (16W603 3rd Avenue, Bensenville, IL 60106).
7184. Thomas Pitner's one-page article "Taking Tea with Sherlock Holmes" (which discusses tea in the Canon) appeared in the May-June issue of Tea: A Magazine; \$4.95 in stores such as Borders or Barnes & Noble, or \$5.45 postpaid (Box 348, Scotland, CT 06264) (888-456-8651).
7185. Bill Barnes (19 Malvern Avenue, Manly, NSW 2095, Australia) offers copies of THE HOUNDS COLLECTION: VOLUME 3, with 116 pages of pastiche, poems, and serious writing by members of The Hounds of the Internet; most of the material is new, but a few pieces have appeared elsewhere. \$13.00 or CA\$18.00 or £9.00 postpaid by airmail; \$9.00/\$12.00/£6.00 postpaid by surface mail. Payment by personal checks or currency is welcome.
7186. The Apr.-May issue of British Heritage mentions Conan Doyle in Anita Frullani's article on "The Piltown Man Forgery", and the June-July issue has Jim Hargan's well-illustrated article on "Dartmoor of the Baskervilles". \$4.99 on newsstands, or \$6.00 postpaid (6405 Flank Drive, Harrisburgh, PA 17112 (800-358-6327). And there's a web-site at <www.thehistorynet.com>.
7187. THE DIARIES OF MRS. JOHN H. WATSON, NEE MORSTAN (February 98 #6) is still available, but not for much longer (from me, at any rate); the late Fraser Smyth wrote the diaries in 1995, and they show a Mary Morstan who was both modern and unconventional. \$4.00 postpaid in the U.S., and \$4.30 by surface post elsewhere; checks payable to Peter E. Blau, please, at the address below.

June 1998 #1

7188. Mike Whelan and Mary Ann Bradley have moved to Indianapolis, and their new address is 414 North Park Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46202-3642. That's the address to use for official (or unofficial) letters to the "Wiggins" of The Baker Street Irregulars, and for journals, newsletters, and meeting notices that societies are sending to Mike.
7189. Frank Darlington reports that a recent catalog from the Worldwide Treasure Bureau (Box 5012, Visalia, CA 93278) (800-437-0222) offers Victorian gold sovereigns (\$295.00), Victorian and Edwardian pennies (\$9.95 for ten), and gold Napoleons (\$215.00-350.00). And for Doyleans, U.S. "gold back" bills (series of 1922) that he would have seen when he visited here (\$375.00 for the \$10 bill and \$450.00 for the \$20 bill).
7190. There are (at least) three connections between the actors Eille Norwood and Jeremy Brett. They have both played Sherlock Holmes. And Eille Norwood's real name was Brett. What's the third (Kevin Baconish) connection?
7191. The American Association of Petroleum Geologists' annual meeting in Salt Lake City last month had an official postalservice postmark, arranged by the AAPG with the aid of Highland Stamp and Commemorative Design (4835 South Highland Drive #1346, Salt Lake City, UT 84117). The company will be happy to assist in designing and arranging for a commemorative postmark for any sort of convention (including Sherlockian gatherings), and can produce cacheted covers that can be canceled at the convention (which need not be in Utah). And as an added attraction, the Salt Lake City post office arranged for two clerks to sell stamps that showed attractive dinosaurs and Martian geology.
7192. The summer issue of The Serpentine Muse (published quarterly by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes) offers an assortment of amusing winning essays from the competitions during the "Holmes at His Zenith" cruise to the Caribbean in 1995; \$10.00 a year from Evelyn A. Herzog, 360 West 21st Street, New York, NY 10011.

7193. The latest issue of *Scarlet Street* has David Stuart Davies' interview with Ian Richardson (with discussion of his work on the 1980s television films), and an interview with Adrienne Corri (who played Angela Osborne in "A Study in Terror" in 1965), as well as the usual coverage of the mystery-and-horror genre. *Scarlet Street* now is published bimonthly, and costs \$35.00 a year; Box 604, Glen Rock, NJ 07452.
7194. I had a chance last month to thank Jim Lehrer last month, for a delightful quote I've often repeated. So I will repeat it again: it was in the *Smithsonian* magazine (Mar. 1990, when he was an associate editor of the *MacNeil/Lehrer Newshour*"); he wrote about the pleasures of collecting, describing himself as a world-class collector of depot signs and other memorabilia). Collectors, Lehrer suggested, are not odd. "We are merely possessed with a need to collect certain things that some people might consider odd."
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June 1998 #2

7195. Gypsies appear to be no more welcome in Great Britain now than they were at the time of "The Speckled Band" (according to an item in the April 10 issue of the *Boston Globe*, kindly forwarded by Scott Monty): Interior Minister Jack Straw said that he had received reports of an exodus of gypsies from the Czech Republic and Slovakia and warned them they would not be welcome if they sought asylum in Britain.
7196. Les Klinger reports that "The Mystery of the Leaping Fish" (1916) is available on videocassette from Foothill Video (Box 900367, Palmdale, CA 93590) for \$7.95 plus \$3.50 shipping. This is the two-reel silent film starring Douglas Fairbanks as the detective Coke Enneyday (in Sherlockian costume) and Bessie Love as The Little Fish Blower. From a story by D. W. Griffith (as Granville Warwick), just to drop another name.
7197. Our "Celebrate the Century" souvenir sheets (with 15 different stamps for each decade) have now reached the 1920s. The first known Sherlockian radio program was broadcast on Dec. 4, 1929 (by the BBC, actually, and it was a biography of Dr. Watson, by Desmond MacCarthy). Doyleans might prefer stamps that recall baseball, prohibition, or the 19th amendment, as Sir Arthur had something to say about all three of them.
7198. Further to the report (January 98 #7) that Christie's South Kensington planned an auction of the Midg and Cameo cameras used by Elsie Wright and Frances Griffiths to take the photographs of the Cottingley fairies, six original photographs on contemporary mounts, a first edition of Conan Doyle's *THE COMING OF THE FAIRIES* (1922), three later watercolors of fairies made by Elsie, and a 1983 holograph letter by Elsie giving her version of events, the owner of the material, collector Geoffrey Crawley, rejected a £20,000 bid from Mel Gibson (whose company made the film "FairyTale: A True Story") and accepted instead £14,000 from a fund-raising campaign that will keep the archive at the National Museum of Film, Photography and Television in Bradford. "Dash it all, this is Britain!" Crawley told the *Bradford Telegraph and Argus*, "I bought them originally to prevent them going to the U.S. so wasn't about to risk them going abroad again."
7199. Alfred Kazin died on June 5. He was an important scholar and teacher of American literature, and his book *ON NATIVE GROUNDS: AN INTERPRETATION OF MODERN AMERICAN PROSE LITERATURE* (1942) was a standard text in college courses for decades. It was on a freighter crossing the Atlantic in a World War Two convoy that he "compulsively reread" the Sherlock Holmes stories, he wrote in *NEW YORK JEW* (1978). "In Conan Doyle there was just one crime at a time, and everything else was suspended, all England held its breath, until the Great Brain, outwardly asleep like Buddha in his total concentration on this one case, came through with a solution satisfying and *loveable*."
7200. The 30-minute television series "Muppets Tonight!" (now in repeats on the Disney channel has (at least) two episodes with Sherlockians skits, one of the shows guest-starring Heather Locklear and the other Paula Abdul. And John Stephenson spotted a Golden Books coloring book *GONZO'S SILLY SKITS & CLASSIC BITS* (1997) with Nate Butler's two-page illustration of "Classic Theater of Whales Presents Sherlock Holmes" (\$1.29).
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June 1998 #3

7201. Marsha Pollak reports that Bruce Taylor has purchased the late Dean Dickensheet's collection; it's still in boxes, but worth checking out if you're in the neighborhood of San Francisco Mystery Books, at 4175 24th Street, San Francisco, CA 94114) (415-282-7444). The shop is open Wed-Sun, 11:30-5:30.
7202. Sherlockian material continues to turn up on laserdisc: "Young Sherlock Holmes" (1985, with Nicholas Rowe and Alan Cox) has been released by Pioneer (\$39.95), and the "Ship in a Bottle" episode of "Star Trek: The Next Generation" (1993, with Daniel Davis as Moriarty) is available from Paramount/Pioneer (\$34.98).
7203. According to Philip Jose Farmer, the Wold Newton family originated when a radioactive meteor landed in Wold Newton, England, in the year 1795. The radiation caused a genetic mutation in those present, which endowed many of their descendants with extremely high intelligence and strength, as well as an exceptional capacity and drive to perform good (or evil) deeds. And two of his literary biographies give the details: *TARZAN ALIVE* (1972) and *DOC SAVAGE: HIS APOCALYPTIC LIFE* (1973). The books still are fun to read; both Sherlock Holmes and Professor Moriarty, needless to say, are among the Wold Newton descendants, and, thanks to energetic fans who keep track of crossovers, there is a long list of other fictional heroes and villains in the Wold Newton universe. The electronically enabled can see the results at a web-site at <members.aol.com/ufpsfwin/Pulp.htm>.
7204. What's the third (Kevin Baconish) connection between actors Eille Norwood and Jeremy Brett? Thanks to Carol Elaine Cyr, who noted that Isobel Elsom who played Mary Morstan in Eille Norwood's "The Sign of Four" (1923) and Jeremy Brett's mother Mrs. Eynsford-Hill in "My Fair Lady" (1964).
7205. Dame Catherine Cookson died on June 11. She wrote 100 books, and they have sold more than 100 million copies in 18 languages, and she is the most-read author in British libraries. The Public Lending Right Office, which tracks library borrowing and pays authors, reported that she headed their list in 1992 (February 93 #2), and she still does: in 1997 nine of the ten most-borrowed books were hers. She began writing in 1955, and insisted that "I am not a romantic writer. Those sloppy, silly stories. A strong, storytelling novelist is what I am."
7206. Paul Martin reports that a new catalog from the Britannia Collection (Box 64413, St. Paul, MN 55164) (800-778-7007) offers a Comoy's of London Sherlock Holmes walking stick (\$165.00), and a framed first day cover of last year's British stamp honoring the Hound of the Baskervilles, with a Jeremy Brett cachet, mounted and framed (\$59.95).
7207. Greg Bear's *DINOSAUR SUMMER* (New York: Warner Books, 1998; 325 pp., \$23.00) is delightful alternate history: Arthur Conan Doyle's "The Lost World" was a factual account of the Challenger expedition, but in 1947 nobody cares about dinosaurs; the last dinosaur circus in America is closing, and the National Geographic funds an expedition to return the surviving dinosaurs to their home in Venezuela. Willis O'Brien and Ray Harryhausen are along for the fun and games, and the expedition is stranded on the plateau (of course), and there are some nice illustrations by Tony DiTerlizzi.
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June 1998 #4

7208. "Algonquin, at Wits' End, Retrofits" is the headline on a story in the *Metro* edition of the *N.Y. Times* (May 28), forwarded by Francine Kitts: renovation of the hotel has been completed, and Ian Lloyd-Jones, president of the Camberley Hotel Co. (which purchased the Algonquin last year for about \$30 million and has spent \$5.5 on renovating it), said that "We've created a palette for people when they come in their tweeds and brogues and Sherlock Holmes hats."
7209. Michael Kimmelman's review in the *N.Y. Times* (May 22) of the exhibition of "Police Pictures: The Photograph as Evidence" (at the Grey Art Gallery and Study Center at New York University in New York through July 18) notes that the show includes a copy of Cesare Lombroso's book *CRIMINAL*
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MEN. "Lombroso is one of those once-famous and immensely influential figures who flourish in Darwin's wake and are now mostly forgotten," Kimmelman writes. "A pioneer of so-called criminal anthropology, he said that criminal behavior was biological, a hereditary trait identifiable in tell-tale physical features, which he called stigmata. They might include big jaws, long arms, dark skin or low brows." And, he continues, "Arthur Conan Doyle's criminals in the Holmes stories came straight out of Lombroso." Some of the Canonical criminals certainly looked criminal, but a study of how many did or didn't might make for an interesting paper, if someone's looking for something to write about.

7210. An alert for collectors of foreign translations: Don Hobbs notes that Pannonia Books (Box 716, Station P, Toronto, ON M5S 2Y4, Canada) offers copies of A BRIXTONI REJTELY, a Hungarian translation of A STUDY IN SCARLET (234 pp., paperback, with a photograph of Brett and Hardwicke on the cover) for US\$13.57 postpaid. There's a web-site at <www.panbooks.com>.
7211. Dick Lesh spotted a Sherlock Ink fingerprint pad at a Denver supermarket (such pads are increasingly common at banks and other places that tend to get a lot of bogus checks); if you would like to have one of your own, the pads cost \$6.00 each plus shipping. Their address is 43039 London Drive, Parker, CO 80138 <sher_ink@ix.netcom.com> <www.sherlock.org>.
7212. This year's Christmas card from The Sherlock Holmes Society of London will again be in full color, with another attractive watercolor by Douglas West that shows Holmes, Watson, and Mrs. Hudson in the sittingroom at 221B. \$13.50 postpaid for ten cards (£5.50 to the U.K., £6.00 to Europe, £7.00 elsewhere); checks payable to the Society, please, and orders should be sent to Cdr. G. S. Stavert, 3 Outram Road, Southsea, Hants. PO5 1AP, England.
7213. "Imagination Theatre" is the title of a weekly radio series written by Jim French: it's a one-hour show, with two mysteries each week, and two of them have been Sherlockian ("The Poet of Death" and "The Sealed Room"), and Jim has a third one ("The Blind Man") in the works. The series is syndicated by TransMedia in San Francisco, and you can ask them if a local station is carrying the series in your area (800-229-7234), or check their web-site at <www.transmediasf.com> (where you can also hear some of the shows, if your tech is high enough). You can, of course, also encourage a local station to carry the series: it's always nice to be able to hear radio drama.

June 1998 #5

7214. "Fallen angels, satanic manuals, and a passion for the works of Raphael Sabatini and Alexandre Dumas, among others--this is the stuff of Spanish author Arturo Perez-Reverte's engrossing novel," according to one review of THE CLUB DUMAS (New York: Harcourt Brace, 1997; 362 pp., \$23.00) (New York: Vintage Books, 1998; 368 pp., \$13.00). And one of the characters is named Irene Adler, who lives at 223 Baker Street, Pam Russell reports, but this is a minor homage, and a passing one at that. And there is a movie based on the book: "The Ninth Gate" now in pre-production, with Roman Polanski as director and starring Johnny Depp and Lena Olin.
7215. Well, it turns out that "Elementary, my dear Watson" was indeed spoken by Sherlock Holmes in one of A. Conan Doyle's stories. It really was. Which story is it?
7216. There are many reasons why the Sherlock Holmes stories continue to be so widely read and enjoyed, including the many things that Sherlockians do to ensure that children learn how enjoyable they are. Jim Webb goes to his local public elementary schools to read to students and answer their questions, and there's no need to guess which stories he reads. It's the sort of thing that anyone can do anywhere: check with your local schools.
7217. Stella Luuk spotted a Sherlockian hamster on a flier for the Habitrail Fun Club at a pet show; there's a newsletter and other neat hamster stuff, and you can write to Habitrail at Rolf C. Hagen Inc., 3225 Sartelon, St. Laurent, QC H4R 1E8, Canada. Or visit the web-site at <www.rchagen.com>.
7218. Rolf J. Canton reports that his new video "The Pipe Dream Continues...." will be available at the end of June; the one-hour documentary (with dramatized segments) salutes the 50th anniversary of The Norwegian Explorers. \$62.95 postpaid from Rolf at 5562 Oak Glen Road, Edina, MN 55439.
7219. Otto Penzler is editing a series of "Sounds Like Murder" audiocassettes for Random House Audio ("short stories for short commutes" is their motto); one of them is THE CASE OF THE SCOTTISH TRAGEDY, a new story by June Thomson, read by Simon Jones (\$12.95). Available in stores, or from the Mysterious Bookshop (800-352-2840) <www.mysteriousbookshop.com>.
7220. Henry J. Arbour died on Apr. 29. He was an enthusiastic miniaturist, one of the few brave enough to take on the task of recreating the entire house at 221 Baker Street at his home in North Adams, Mass., and it was grand to be able to see some of his work on display at the Sherlockian conference in Bennington, Vt. in 1994.
7221. At last: a Sherlockian connection to Kenneth Starr's attempt to persuade the Supreme Court that the attorney/client privilege ends with the client's death. If, that is, you believe (as some pasticheurs have postulated) that Sherlock Holmes investigated the murder of Lizzie Borden's parents. Well, the law firm that represented Lizzie still has notes on the interviews that her lawyers had with Lizzie in the summer of 1892, guarded all these years, but now possibly (if the Supreme Court rules in Starr's favor) available to the local district attorney. Perhaps she mentioned a British investigator.

June 1998 #6

7222. The Morgan Library (at 29 East 36th Street in New York) always is worth a visit, and now you can see a fascinating exhibition titled "a.k.a. Lewis Carroll" (though Aug. 30). The library has all sorts of material by and about Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, including a pamphlet he wrote about Oxford politics in 1865: there's no evidence that Arthur Conan Doyle ever saw the pamphlet ("The Dynamics of a Parti-cle, with an Excursus on the New Method of Evaluation, as Applied to pi"), but perhaps a mathematician who appears in the Canon was amused by the title. Anna Lou Ashby curated the exhibit, which also includes a photograph of Dodgson taken by Elliott & Fry in the 1860s in their studio at 55 Baker Street (where Conan Doyle also once had his picture taken).
7223. And the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes (and their guests) had a fine time at their annual spring dinner on June 19, when Priscilla Ridgway ("One of Poe's Sketches") became the newest member of the Adventuresses, and there were toasts and other festivities at St. Maggie's Cafe far down the island on Wall Street at South Street (which seemed appropriate for those who were Bermuda-bound the next day on the Fourth Occasional Sherlockian Cruise).
7224. Charles Dodgson and Arthur Conan Doyle do meet, however, in Roberta Rogow's THE PROBLEM OF THE MISSING MISS (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1998; 261 pp, \$22.95); it's August 1885, and Conan Doyle and his bride Touie are on their honeymoon in Brighton, where a liberal MP's daughter on her way for a holiday with Dodgson is kidnapped and in peril. Conan Doyle and Dodgson do manage to solve the mystery, of course, and rescue the girl, and foil all the villains and villainesses.
7225. Yes, Sherlock Holmes really did say "Elementary, my dear Watson" in one of A. Conan Doyle's stories, and you can credit (or blame) Jim Vogelsang for the discovery. The story is "The Adventure of the Red Widow" -- by Adrian Conan Doyle.
7226. Sherlock Homes has filed for bankruptcy in Buffalo, according to a report spotted by Ken Lanza in the June 2 issue of Business First. "The attorney general may initiate his own investigation into the matter independent of any complaints that may or may not have been received by this office,"

said Michael Zabel, area spokesman for Attorney General Dennis Vacco. But there is no need to worry: it's one of the many real estate firms using the name Sherlock Homes.

7227. David Scott's *HOLMES REDUX: NEW ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* (Vaughn: Red Apple Publishing, 1997; 90 pp., \$9.95), offers four short-story pastiches; Holmes helps Mycroft, and Irene, and others. If you can't find it in your local bookstore, the publisher's address is Box 568, Vaughn, WA 98394 (800-245-6595) <redapple@aol.com>.
7228. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists will meet for dinner in honor of the world's first forensic geologist at 7:00 pm on Oct. 28 at The Old Spaghetti Factory, 54 The Esplanade, in Toronto; the gathering will offer an opportunity for visitors attending the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America to mingle with local Sherlockians. More information will be available (for the locals) from Philip Elliott (120 Perth Avenue #608, Toronto, ON M6OP 4E1, Canada (416-537-8936) <pellioott@city.toronto.on.ca>.

June 1998 #7

7229. Brad Keefauver's column "The Dissecting Room" has long graced the pages of Bob Burr's monthly *Plugs & Dottles*; Brad's latest (July) column notes (with credit to Janet Bensley) that Chemical & Engineering News has reported that the Rhone-Poulenc Foundation and the Archeological Survey of India have begun work on a three-year restoration of two of India's major monuments: the Taj Mahal and the Agra Fort (where the red sandstone and lime and plaster will be treated with stone renovation techniques). Brad wonders whether they'll be putting the treasure back, too.
7230. *HOLY SMOKE*, by Guillermo Cabrera Infante's (1985) has been reprinted (Woodstock: Overlook Press, 1997; 329 pp., \$24.95); it's a fascinating, expert, and humorous discussion of the history of cigars (and cigarettes and pipes) with occasional references to the Canon.
7231. There are two versions of *The Wigmore Street Post Office*: electronic, on the Prodigy computer service, and ink-on-paper offering a selection of the best of the bits and bytes: issue #11 (spring 1998) has 44 pages that focus (subversively and otherwise) on "The Sign of the Four" and the cost \$5.25 is postpaid, or you can subscribe for \$10.00 a year (three issues). Write to Mel Hughes, 2664 Sam Hardwick Boulevard, Jacksonville, FL 32246 (back issues also are available).
7232. Phil Hartman died on May 27. He was a graphic designer who became a comedian in the 1970s, spending eight years on "Saturday Night Live" and starred on the series "NewsRadio". He was Dr. Watson in a six-minute skit on "Saturday Night Live" on Mar. 23, 1991, with Jeremy Irons as Holmes.
7233. Vinnie Brosnan's latest catalog is a "Special Ted Schulz Issue" and it's a delight. Vinnie is selling Ted's collection, and there more than 900 items in the 164-page catalog, which also offers reminiscences by and photographs of Ted, and tributes from many of his friends, and a chance to see some of the many byways Ted has explored as a collector and as a Sherlockian. It's a collectible in itself, and it costs \$3.00 postpaid from Sherlock in L.A., 1741 Via Allena, Oceanside, CA 92056.
7234. Reg Smythe died on June 13. He served in the British army and later worked as a clerk, sketching cartoons in his spare time. He created "Andy Capp" for the Daily Mirror's northern editions in 1957, and the strip eventually was syndicated to 1,700 newspapers in 48 countries. This one appeared in American papers on Apr. 13, 1974:

June 1998 #8

7235. If you missed the earlier offer (September 96 #2), it's not too late. One of the most delightful of Sherlockian bibliohoxes is *THE PRACTICAL HANDBOOK OF BEE CULTURE: WITH SOME OBSERVATIONS UPON THE SEGREGATION OF THE QUEEN*, by Sherlock Holmes (London: Methuen & Co., 1911), which actually was published by Remsen Ten Eyck Schenck in an edition so limited that the few fortunate recipients were warned never to reveal the source of the rarity. And it's real: the title page was reproduced in the Sept. 1966 issue of *The Baker Street Journal*, the book is cited in *THE UNIVERSAL SHERHOLMES*, and Julian Wolff's copy was sold by Enola Stewart in 1993. Enola, assisted by British bee-books specialists Betty and Karl Showler, was able to identify the source of Schenck's ingenious forgery: Kenneth K. Clark's handbook on *BEEKEEPING* (Harmondsworth: Penguin Books, 1951), a post-war paperback that Schenck had bound in cloth after substituting a new titlepage. Copies of Clark's book still turn up, and the Showlers now offer *THE CASE OF THE HOLMES BEE BOOK*: a carefully crafted box containing Clark's *BEEKEEPING* and a 28-page pamphlet with a detailed discussion of the affair. \$60.00 postpaid (checks payable to Karl Showler, please) from B & K Books, Riverside, Newport Street, Hay-on-Wye, via Hereford HR3 5BG, England. And you'll receive a bonus: a copy of "His Last Bow" in the current Oxford University Press edition.
7236. Warren Randall reports that he will be selling a lapel pin (red and black on white) and other ephemera at the convention in Minneapolis in August; additional information is available from Warren (15 Fawn Lane West, South Setauket, NY 11720) <whirdy@aol.com>.
7237. The Hound of the Baskervilles isn't the only phantom dog found in England, and England isn't the only country that has phantom dogs (there's even one on the eastern shore of Maryland), and there are blue dogs and white dogs and fairy hounds as well. And you can read about them in the spring 1998 issue of *Strange Magazine* (\$5.95); Box 2246, Rockville, MD 20847 <strange1@strangemag.com> <www.strangemag.com>.
7238. *Sherlock Holmes: The Detective Magazine* (formerly *The Sherlock Holmes Gazette*) continues to offer an interesting mix of articles, reports, reviews, and essays, with an occasional look at other detectives. The editor is David Stuart Davies (who also provides a look at "Holmes of the Movies"), and other regular contributors include Michael Cox (on the Granada series) and Barbara Roden (on Conan Doyle's non-Sherlockian works). An annual subscription (six issues) costs £18.00 (U.K.)/£20.00 (continent)/\$40.00 (U.S.) and the address is 49 Purfield Drive, Wargrave, Berks. RG10 8AR, England <overdale@btinternet.com>; their U.S. representative is Classic Specialties (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219) <sherlock@sherlock-holmes.com>. Creditcard orders are welcome at both addresses, and back issues are available.
7239. Many of you have seen my Sherlockian tie-tack: a black-on-silver version of my calling card (1.1" wide). Well, I need a new one, and I can't remember the name and address of the company that made my old one, and I've not been able to find a company that does that sort of thing. Suggestions welcome.

July 1998 #1

7240. John McPhee's books are excellent, no matter what they're about, and he has written four of the very best books about geology. And you can read all of them now, reprinted in *ANNALS OF THE FORMER WORLD* (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1998; 695 pp.); it's in the first of the four (*BASIN AND RANGE*) that he notes that Sherlock Holmes was the first forensic geologist. *IRONS IN THE FIRE* (April 97 #1) includes McPhee's essay "The Gravel Page" in which he has much more to say about forensic geology.
7241. Martin Gardner's *THE ANNOTATED INNOCENCE OF FATHER BROWN* first appeared in 1987 (July 87 #4), and it is available again in a trade paperback reprint (New York: Dover, 1998; 274 pp., \$9.95); Gardner notes that G. K. Chesterton "was as careless with his details as Dr. Watson, and as many curious questions can be asked about the priest as about Holmes." Many of those questions are answered in Gardner's annotations, which do not neglect the Sherlockian aspects of the stories.
7242. The "In Memoriam" section of the *Mystery Writers Annual* distributed at the 1998 MWA awards dinner reported that Donald R. Bensen died in 1997. He was an editor and author, and three of his Sherlockian "criminalimericks" were published in issues of Ellery Queen's *Mystery Magazine* honoring

the birthday festivities; he wrote the novel based on the television film "Sherlock Holmes in New York" (1976), and his amusing IRENE, GOOD NIGHT was published by Targ Editions in 1982.

7243. W. O. G. Lofts also died in 1997. He was a splendid bibliographer, and his interests focused on stories for boys (of all ages), including Leslie Charteris' stories about The Saint and Charles Hamilton's series about Herlock Sholmes; he collaborated with Jon L. Lellenberg on articles about Hamilton in the BSI (June 1984) and about Dr. Patrick H. Watson (June 1980), who may have been a namesake for Dr. John H. Watson.
7244. John Stephenson and Jack Kerr each spotted a WISHBONE COLORING AND ACTIVITY BOOK: CANINE CLASSICS (New York: Modern Publishing, 1997; \$1.30) with six pages devoted to Wishbone's investigation of the Hound of the Baskervilles.
7245. Carole Nelson Douglas will be one of the guest stars on a seven-day Murder Mystery Cruise sailing from Houston on the Norwegian Star Oct. 4 with stops in Calica, Cozumel, and Roatan. Dean James will lecture on the history of mystery fiction, and Mary Katherine Marion will stage a mystery murder, and more details are available from Cruises Cruises (800-245-9806) <netropolis.net/antoine>.
7246. Joseph A. Kestner's SHERLOCK'S MEN: MASCULINITY, CONAN DOYLE, AND CULTURE HISTORY (Brookfield: Ashgate, 1997; 250 pp., \$72.95) is an academic examination of the Canon's reflections of the sociology of Britain during the reigns of Victoria, Edward VII, and George V; Kestner concludes that "for readers of the *Strand* and above all for male readers, these nine volumes constructed, interrogated, debated and critiqued the construction of male gender in culture for 40 years, from 1887 to 1927." Ashgate Publishing, Old Post Road, Brookfield, VT 05036 (800-535-9544); or Gower House, Croft Road, Aldershot, Hants. GU11 3HR, England.
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July 1998 #2

7247. Nice news for old-time radio fans: Ken Greenwald reports that the Baker Street Associates will have a new series of Sherlock Holmes ready for release later this year; there will be at least six cassettes (more if sales go well), each with two programs from the 1947 season that starred John Stanley and Alfred Shirley, with Clipper Craft Clothes as the sponsor. The distributor will be Radio Spirits.
7248. Biker Sherlock competed in the X Games again this year in Mission Bay Park in San Diego. In 1997 he won three medals (two gold and one silver), more than anyone else in the Games, in the street luge, but this year won only one medal (gold, in the dual luge). His real name is Michael Sherlock.
7249. George Ault spotted a large (31 oz.) box of Kellogg's Frosted Flakes with Sherlockian artwork for a "Breakfast Detective Game" on the box (the original is in full color, of course, and seven inches wide, and is on the back of the box, but similar artwork will be found on the front, if your local store has this promotion.
7250. The 711 issues of The Strand Magazine published from Jan. 1891 to Mar. 1950 offer a wonderful picture of six decades of life and literature in Britain, and it's neither easy nor cheap to put together a complete run. An almost-complete run of 703 issues (87 bound six-issue volumes and the remainder in single issues) was sold at the Pacific Book Auction Galleries on Apr. 9 for \$6,325 (including the 15% buyer's premium).
7251. "Murder, They Write: The Times 100 Masters of Crime" was the title of a 20-page supplement to the Apr. 18 issue of The Times, and it was nice indeed to find two masters were noted for their Sherlockian work: Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Laurie King.
7252. Luci Zahray notes a new catalog from Cuisenaire/Dale Seymour Publications, Box 5026, White Plains, NY 10602 (800-237-0338) <www.aw.com/dsp> with Sherlockian artwork on the covers of two books: Wade Hampton Sherard's LOGIC NUMBER PROBLEMS (for grades 4-8) and Kylie Dunn's THE SOUND SLEUTH (grades K-2); \$10.95 each.
7253. Roy Rogers died on July 6. He was the singing "king of the cowboys" whose straight-shooting exploits in more than 90 movies and on radio and television made him a hero to generations of young fans. His films offer a fascinating look at how much tastes have changed; if you're going to watch only one of them, you might as well choose "San Fernando Valley" (1944); a herd of horses is rustled one dark evening, and Roy deduces that it must have been an inside job, because of the ranch dog: "If they'd a been strangers, he would've barked, and there wasn't a peep out of him."
7254. Will Walsh notes that the summer catalog from the Britannia Collection (Box 64413, St. Paul, MN 55164) (800-778-7007) has older Sherlockian items (June 98 #3), Holmes Bloodhound and Watson Beagle figurines (\$69.95 each), and gold sovereigns from the reigns of Victoria (\$269.00) and Edward (\$289.00).
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July 1998 #3

7255. The May/June issue of the Toronto Reference Library News has a nice article about the new Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection and its activities. The Library had an exhibition from Mar. 1 to May 30 celebrating "A Grand Tradition: 150 Years of Giving to the Toronto Public Library" showing items that have been given to the collections, including the manuscript of Conan Doyle's play "Angels of Darkness" and a drawing of Watson by Frederic Dorr Steele, and the catalog has a small reproduction of the Steele artwork. Both are available from Victoria Gill, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street, Toronto, ON M4W 2G8, Canada (the newsletter is free, but please send \$1.00 if you want the catalog).
7256. Ed Lear spotted the Sherlockian "symbol of excellence" artwork on the shipping carton for grade A quality eggs at his local Kroger supermarket.
7257. The sixteenth annual "Autumn in Baker Street" will be held at the Tarrytown Hilton in Tarrytown, N.Y., on Oct. 31-Nov. 1, and the program will include the world premiere of "The H.M.S. Sign o' Four" (by Gilbert & Sullivan & Randall); more information is available from Robert E. Thomalen, Highview Drive, Carmel, NY 10512 <crwk02a@prodigy.com>.
7258. Further to the report (October 97 #4) about plans to renovate Gillette Castle (William Gillette's home, built largely with profits from his play "Sherlock Holmes") in Hadlyme, Conn., the Castle will remain open seven days a week through Labor Day, but then it will be closed for 18 months while the roof and parapets are repaired. The state bought the castle and grounds from Gillette's estate in 1943 for \$35,000; overall renovation costs will be about \$4,000,000.
7259. Caleb Sampson died on June 8. He was a composer, and leader of an unusual three-man band called the Alloy Orchestra that used metallic junk such as bedpans and truck springs for percussion, and keyboard and synthesizer, and provided original music for silent films at international festivals. Scott Monty recalls a showing of "The Lost World" (1925) at the Coolidge Theatre in Brookline, Mass., in 1993, accompanied by the Alloy Orchestra playing a new score by Sampson.
7260. Joseph A. Coppola reports that The Mycroft Holmes Society Press plans to publish an anthology of items about Mycroft: papers, pastiches, cartoons, or anything else; if the material is previously published and not your own, please him know the name and address of the copyright owner. Joe's address is: 103 Kenny Street, Fayetteville, NY 13066 <coppolja@morrisville.edu>.
7261. Further to my query (February 98 #5) about the first actor to portray Sherlock Holmes with a calabash, Sean Wright notes that John Neville is seen with a calabash in the film "A Study in Terror" (1965). It's in the first scene with Sherlock Holmes, in which he deduces where his pipe is hidden: Watson must be sitting on it. The pipe certainly is a calabash, although with a silver rim rather than the now-traditional lipped meerschaum bowl. Holmes takes the pipe from Watson, and holds it. But he doesn't smoke it. You're welcome, of course, to track down an earlier actor than John Neville.
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July 1998 #4

7262. Thomas Narcejac died on June 7. His treatise on the detective novel (ESTHETIQUE DU ROMAN POLICIER) appeared in 1947, and he then collaborated with Pierre Boileau on a long series of short stories, novel, and plays, including the novels on which the films "Les Diaboliques" and "Vertigo" were based. Their Sherlockian pastiche "Le mystère de Nightingale mansion" was collected in USUPATION D'IDENTITE (1980), and his UNE MACHINE A LIRE: LE ROMAN POLICIER (1975) has many references to the Canon.
7263. George Kreuzberger ("Archie Stamford, the Forger") died on Dec. 27, 1997. He was a partner with the accounting firm Coopers & Lybrandt, specializing as a consultant to health-care facilities. He was one of the founders of The Sons of the Copper Beeches, serving for many years as their Controller of the Kennel and assisting Bill Starr in arranging the Sons' meetings. He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1956.
7264. Some books cost more than others. A first edition of Chaucer's CANTERBURY TALES printed by William Caxton, the only one of a dozen surviving copies in private hands, was sold at auction at Christie's in London on July 8 for £4.6 million, making it the world's most expensive printed book. Printed around 1476, it was bought by the first Earl Fitzwilliam for £6 in 1776 and was sold this month by Lady Juliet Tadgell, daughter of the last Earl (she plans to use the money to create a trust that will protect the rest of the family's art collection); the book was bought by the London dealer Maggs Bros. acting for J. Paul Getty, Jr. The previous record sale was a Gutenberg Bible that brought £3.2 million at Christie's in New York in 1987.
7265. The June issue of The Baker Street Journal has much of interest, as always, including news of two new Baker Street Irregulars publishing projects: THE BSI/LIBRARY SERIES and THE BSI INTERNATIONAL SERIES, and (after many years) a BSI Christmas annual that will focus on the BSI's annual dinner in 1940. The BSI costs \$18.95 a year (four issues) from Box 465, Hanover, PA 17331; the annual costs \$6.00 and orders will be accepted until Sept. 30.
7266. The summer catalog from Mysteries by Mail (Box 8515, Ukiah, CA 95482 (800-722-0726) <www.mysteriesbymail.com> has a wide selection of in-print books and audio, including a new (at least I don't recall seeing it before) Sherlock Holmes stoneware coffee mug (item 936028, \$14.95).
7267. The exhibition of "The Jewels of Lalique" at the Smithsonian Institution's International Gallery (through Aug. 16) is a spectacular show, offering a wonderful look at just how modern the late Victorians and Edwardians could be. Rene Lalique was born in 1860; he was apprenticed to a Parisian jeweler and spent two years studying in London, and then opened his own workshop in 1886. He invented the Art Nouveau jewel, creating spectacular designs for patrons such as Sarah Bernhardt and Calouste Gulbenkian, and then went on to help define the Art Deco style. The exhibition will be at the Dallas Museum of Art from Sept. 13 to Jan. 10, and it's well worth a visit.
7268. Further to the report (June 98 #3) on the sale of Dean Dickensheet's collection, Steven A. Stilwell reports that he participated in the purchase, and that a lot of material is in Steve's shop: Once Upon a Crime, at 604 West 26th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55405 (612-870-3785). Steve also offers lists of some of the better material available in Minneapolis and San Francisco.
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July 1998 #5

7269. The British four-part mini-series "Nightmare: The Birth of Victorian Horror" aired in Oct. 1996, and included an excellent program on "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (the other novels covered were "Frankenstein", "Dracula", and "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde"). Lee Shackelford notes that the series (200 minutes) is offered on two videocassettes (item AAE-61076) for \$39.95, from A&E Home Video, Box 2284, South Burlington, VT 06407 (800-625-9000).
7270. WORMHOLES, by John Fowles (New York: Henry Holt, 1998; 404 pp., \$25.00) is a collection of essays and other works, including a reprint of his Foreword and Afterword from the John Murray/Jonathan Cape edition of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (1974).
7271. Robert A. W. Lowndes ("Langdale Pike") died on July 14. He was best-known as a science-fiction writer and editor (and once ranked fourth on a list of the Ten Most Prodigious Science Fiction Magazine Editors), but he enjoyed the world of Sherlock Holmes as well, as a member of The Scandalous Bohemians of New Jersey and The Praed Street Irregulars, and The Baker Street Irregulars, from whom he received his Investiture in 1973.
7272. Stephanie Plum is an unemployed discount-lingerie buyer in Trenton, N.J., who becomes an apprehension agent (bounty hunter) and stars in "delightfully funny" (says Bill Vande Water) mysteries written by Janet Evanovich, who has a web site at <www.evanovich.com> and a daughter (Alex), who has a pet hamster (Angus) who appears in a comic strip and in Sherlockian costume on a watch (men's and women's sizes) sold for \$23.00 by Creative Promotions, 344 Cedar Avenue, Ridgewood, NJ 07450 (800-253-9861) <cpromo@aol.com>.
7273. There were some interesting items at auction at Sotheby's in London on July 16, and there were some interesting prices paid: an inscribed copy of THE GREAT SHADOW (£520); the manuscript and corrected typescript of a 1927 article by Conan Doyle on "Some Strange Psychic Experiences" (£1,700); a copy of THE COMING OF THE FAIRIES inscribed to Frances Griffiths, also signed by Elsie Wright (£7,800); Frances Griffiths' own prints of five of the fairy photographs (£7,000); and a copy of the first edition of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES in dust jacket (£72,000). A portrait of Holmes and Watson in Art Deco style by John Bulloch Souter failed to sell at £4,400. You should add 15% for the buyer's premium to see what the purchasers paid.
7274. "The Lost World" (1960) now is available on videocassette from Fox Video at \$15.00 (this is the version starring Claude Rains, Fernando Lamas, Jill St. John, and Frosty the Poodle).
7275. The latest issue of Scarlet Street has the conclusion of David Stuart Davies' interview with Ian Richardson, with some interesting background on his two Sherlockian films in the 1980s: there were plans for a third film "The Napoleon of Crime" (which eventually was made as "Hands of a Murderer" with Edward Woodward as Holmes. There's also a possibility that Richardson will star in a film of the play "Sherlock's Last Case". Scarlet Street is published bimonthly, covering the mystery-and-horror genre, and costs \$35.00 a year; Box 604, Glen Rock, NJ 07452.
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July 1998 #6

7276. The one-hour Sci-Fi channel television broadcast of "The Lost World" (by the "Alien Voices" company) on July 12 was thoroughly enjoyable, and it's available on videocassette for \$12.95 plus shipping from Rhino Direct, Box 60062, Tampa, FL 33660 (800-432-0020). Nat Segaloff and John de Lancie wrote the script; Armin Shimerman played Challenger and Dwight Schultz played Malone.
7277. Simon Jones does a nice job reading June Thomson's new pastiche THE CASE OF THE SCOTTISH TRAGEDY on a two-hour cassette from Random House; Holmes and Watson visit the Grice Patersons in Uffa. \$12.95 in stores, and from the Mysterious Bookshop (800-352-2840) <www.mysteriousbookshop.com>.
7278. Willis G. Frick reports an advertisement of interest to those who might be seeking an Inverness cape: Antony M. Mistofsky offers Inverness capes in two fabrics: waterproof (£30 plus shipping) and wool (£349 plus shipping). His address is 15 Cheviot Drive, Newton Mearns, Glasgow G77 5AT, Scotland <mister.antony@cableol.co.uk>.
7279. Antonio Iriarte discovered ENQUETE SUR SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Bernard Oudin (Paris: Decouvertes Gallimard, 1997; 96 pp., 64 FF); all in French, and an excellent survey of the Sherlockian world, with many interesting illustrations from the collection of Richard Lancelyn Green and other archives.
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7280. Forecast: THE GAME'S AFOOT, MRS. HUDSON, by Sydney Hosier (from Avon Books in August, \$5.99); the fourth in his series about Mrs. Hudson's detecting.
7281. BELLS, BUTLERS, & OTHERS (modestly subtitled as "Frolics by John Ruyle") is a new collection of Sherlockian poetry, hand-set and hand-printed as usual at the Pequod Press; \$40.00 (cloth) or \$20.00 (paper) from John Ruyle, 521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707.
7282. Oliver Sacks, in his New Yorker article "An Anthropologist on Mars" (and in his book with the same title) noted that Sherlock Holmes showed some of the symptoms of autism. And there may be something about this in the four-part mini-series "Oliver Sacks: The Mind Traveller" that will start on PBS-TV on Aug. 25; the segment on autism likely will air on Sept. 8.
7283. The Cottage Shop (Box 4836, Stamford, CT 06907) (800-695-7467) still offers their German hand-painted porcelain Sherlock Holmes stein (February 97 #5); item K1507, \$130.00 plus \$7.00 shipping.
7284. VICTORIAN FAIRY PAINTING, by Jeremy Maas and others (1997) offers an excellent view of the exhibition at the Royal Academy of Arts last year (November 97 #6), with art by Richard and Charles Doyle (Arthur Conan Doyle's uncle and father); the exhibition's at the Art Gallery of Ontario in Toronto now (until Sept. 13). The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection have made arrangements for a guided tour (and a talk by Barbara Rusch) on the evening of Sept. 9; \$20.00, and details are available from the Friends at the Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street, Toronto, ON M4W 2G8, Canada).

August 1998 #1

7285. The June issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota has Jon Lellenberg's fine (and well illustrated) tribute to Norman Schatell, and an article by Andrew Malec about Frederic Dorr Steele (both artists are well represented in the collections). You can join the mailing list by writing to Richard J. Sveum (466 O. M. Wilson Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <sveum001@maroon.tc.umn.edu>.
7286. And the "Founders' Footprints" conference in Minneapolis this month was an excellent celebration of a half-century of Sherlockian goings-on in Minneapolis. E. W. McDiarmid, one of the founders, was able to attend the Saturday-evening banquet, and there were fine talks by visitors and locals, and a reception at the Wilson Library, and time for a bit of sightseeing (Minneapolis proudly boasts the tallest waterfall on the Mississippi River).
7287. The conference also offered an chance to see Rolf J. Canton's one-hour videocassette "The Pipe Dream Continues...." (a documentary saluting the 50th anniversary of The Norwegian Explorers). There are interviews with some of the founders, and those who have followed in their footsteps, and appearances by Holmes and Watson. \$62.95 postpaid from Rolf at 5562 Oak Glen Road, Edina, MN 55439.
7288. Bill Sawisch reports an amusing discovery in Naperville, Ill.: a hair salon called Shearlock Combs. He didn't need a haircut at the time, but plans to give it a try eventually.
7289. Phil Attwell reports that the Royal Theatre will tour Northamptonshire with Jeremy Paul's play "The Secret of Sherlock Holmes" (originally commissioned by Jeremy Brett) from Sept. 15 through Oct. 10. Information about the tour is available from the Royal Theatre, Guildhall Road, Northampton NN1 1EA, England (01604-632533).
7290. We hear of Conan Doyle everywhere: the caption on a splendid center-spread photograph of the wild lands of California's White Mountains, in the August issue of Sports Afield (spotted by George Ault), is "Our ideas must be as broad as Nature if they are to interpret Nature," credited to ACD but without identification as to the source.
7291. Audio Book Contractors (Box 40115, Washington, DC 20016) continue to offer a nice assortment of Sherlockian readings on audiocassettes, for rental or purchase. As well as some Arthur Conan Doyle ("The Exploits of Brigadier Gerard"), and Christopher Morley ("The Haunted Bookshop" and "Parnassus on Wheels"), and there's a lot more classic literature in their catalog.
7292. "The World of Sherlock Holmes" is the title of an illustrated evening lecture at the Smithsonian Institution on Oct. 27 by social historian Virginia W. Newmyer, focusing on the world of late-Victorian England; \$10.00 to resident Smithsonian Associates, and \$13.00 to others (Smithsonian Associates, Smithsonian Institution, Dept. 0603, Washington, DC 20073) (202-357-3030) <www.si.edu/tsa/rap>. Virginia Newmyer was one of the lecturers in a Sherlockian lecture series in 1994, and is both interesting and expert.

August 1998 #2

7293. The next "Victorian Holmes Weekend" in Cape May, N.J., will be on Nov. 6-8; there will be a Sherlockian mystery to solve, a tour of eight Victorian homes, meals, and other fun and games. Additional information is available from the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts, Box 340, Cape May, NJ 08204 (609-884-5404) (800-275-4278) <www.capemayac.org>.
7294. The Canadian television series "The Adventures of Shirley Holmes" began on YTV cable in Feb. 1997, and the nice news for viewers south of the border is that the series started on the Family channel on Aug. 15 and 16 (and it surely will repeat); Meredith Henderson stars as a 12-year-old great grandniece of Sherlock Holmes, the great grandniece of Sherlock Holmes (and like him, she is brilliant and eccentric and wants to become the world's greatest detective). There have been two seasons (13 episodes each) broadcast in Canada, with a third season in the works. The electronically enabled can visit a web-site at <http://www.ytv.com/shows/shirley/index.asp>.
7295. Stephen Vincent Benet (1898-1943) has been honored in our series of "Literary Arts" stamps. He was a delightful writer and poet (and perhaps is best known now for his poem "John Brown's Body"); writing on "My Favorite Fiction Character" for The Bookman (Feb. 1926), he chose Dr. Watson: "As far as professional skill goes, one cannot rank him with the leaders, I fear--his practice was too subject to continual interruption," Benet suggested. "But his bedside manner must have been ideal. I would rather die some pleasantly fictional death with Watson in attendance" than recover under the aseptic hands of a modern practitioner."
7296. The three-page manuscript of Conan Doyle's poem "A Forgotten Tale" (which first appeared in Scribner's Magazine in Jan. 1895, reprinted in Current Literature in Mar. 1895, and in SONGS OF ACTION in 1898) is available for \$4,500 from The History Store (Box 1829, Wells, ME 04090) (207-967-9790) <historystore@cybertours.com>.
7297. The latest issue of The Tonga Times is at hand from Carol Wenk (Box 770554, Lakewood, OH 44107), with ideas, recommendations, instructions, and news of interest to Sherlockian miniaturists. Membership in the Mini-Tonga Scion Society costs \$7.00 a year (\$8.00 to Canada, \$12.00 elsewhere).
7298. And there's still another version of "The Lost World" in the works, according to an item in the Daily Telegraph (July 24) kindly forwarded by Wilfrid de Freitas. "Brian Blessed Survives Swamp Crash" was the headline, and the swamp was in Venezuela, where he was filming "The Lost World" for BBC television. "It was the worst experience of my life, an horrific experience," Blessed said when he returned to England. "I am still in shock and cannot stop shaking." The actor has become known as an explorer, the paper noted, and made an abortive attempt to climb Everest eight years ago.

7299. Forecast for November : Larry Millett's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE ICE PALACE MURDERS, from Viking (\$23.95) and as a Penguin Audiobook (\$24.95); Holmes returns to Minnesota to solve a mystery during Saint Paul's annual Winter Carnival in 1896. See Millett's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE RED DEMON (1996) for details of Holmes' first visit to Minnesota.

August 1998 #3

7300. Barbara Holmes has designed a set of ten Sherlockian notecards with pencil sketches of Jeremy Brett; a packet of ten cards and envelopes costs \$3.95 postpaid. A sample card and a flier showing the artwork is offered in return for a self-addressed stamped envelope; Barbara's address is Box 446, Scottsville, VA 24590.
7301. And where in Conan Doyle's works do we find "Our ideas must be as broad as Nature if they are to interpret Nature"? For those of you who haven't yet found the source, it's in "A Study in Scarlet", spoken by Sherlock Holmes.
7302. Brad Keefauver has reported finding the "FairyTale: A True Story" film tie-in "Activity Center" CD-ROM disk discounted to \$9.99 at a Target store. It was issued last year at \$30.00 (December 97 #1), and it offers a fine demonstration of just how much can be done with modern computers. There are puzzles and games, and things to explore, for children aged 7-11, as well as clips from the film (one of which shows Houdini performing for five-year-old Jean Conan Doyle), and it's all nicely done indeed. One hopes that this means that the film will soon be in the videoshops at a lower sell-through price.
7303. The latest stamp in our series honoring "Great Americans" shows Lila and DeWitt Wallace, founders of the Reader's Digest. Their magazine published Sherlockian articles by Vincent Starrett and Fletcher Pratt in the 1930s, a condensed version of "The Speckled Band" in 1942, and many other Sherlockian items since then. The company also published a condensed GREAT CASES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES in 1966 in a series of "Best Loved Books for Young Readers" and five volumes of uncondensed (and well-illustrated) Canonical tales from 1986 to 1993 in a series of "The World's Best Reading".
7304. Fans of Laurie King's books about Mary Russell who aren't electronically enabled may not know about the T-shirts: white, with a yellow honeycomb on the front and "After 1914 Holmes is ours" on the back (in sizes XXL/XL/L). \$10.00 postpaid from Lianne E. Hanson (101 Broadway, Pembroke, NH 03275).
7305. Howard Engel, author of MR. DOYLE & DR. BELL: A VICTORIAN MYSTERY (November 97 #3), was interviewed on Canadian television, according to a report in the summer 1998 issue of Canadian Holmes, and said he plans to write another novel featuring Arthur Conan Doyle as the sleuth.
7306. The July-August issue of the Toronto Reference Library News marks the end of the newsletter, after 24 years (there will be a new publication covering events at all the city's public libraries); the last issue has a look-back section of photographs, one of which shows the inventors of the game "Trivial Pursuit" in the Arthur Conan Doyle Room in 1984, in search of answers for questions on Sherlock Holmes for the second edition of their game. You can request a copy of the newsletter from Victoria Gill, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street, Toronto, ON M4W 2G8, Canada; no charge.
7307. The Trifling Monographers, which meet during annual meetings of the Public Relations Society of America, plan to hold their twentieth annual meeting in Boston on Oct. 18, expecting a good turnout for an "Evening of Canonical Chat and Unmitigated Bleat". Graham Sudbury (Box 52062, Tulsa, OK 74152) (918-747-6565) will be happy to furnish additional information.
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August 1998 #4

7308. Ed. Lange's two-act play "Sherlock's Secret Life" premiered in Troy, N.Y., in March 1997, and there will be new productions this year: at the Fulton Opera House Sept. 15-27 (Box 1865, Lancaster, PA 17608) (717-397-7425); at the Queens Theatre in the Park, Oct. 8-11 (Box 520069, Flushing, NY 11352 (718-760-0064); and at the N.Y. Theatre Institute, Oct. 21-25 (155 River Street, Troy, NY 12180) (518-274-3256).
7309. "Dr. W. G. Grace was a phenomenon," John Major notes in his review in the June 14 issue of The Sunday Times (at hand from John Baesch) of Simon Rae's W. G. GRACE: A LIFE (London: Faber & Faber, 1998; 548 pp., £20.00); "Almost single-handedly, he raised the game of cricket from a country-house amusement to a national obsession." And Conan Doyle was proud to have competed against Grace, and wrote a warm appreciation of him when he died.
7310. The new "Legends of Hollywood" stamp honors Alfred Hitchcock, who started his filmmaking career in 1919, illustrating title cards for silent films in London, and directed his first film in 1925. His films "The Lady Vanishes" (1938) and "Shadow of a Doubt" (1943) had Sherlockian dialogue, and the television series "Alfred Hitchcock Presents" (which continued after his death in 1980) had an episode "My Dear Watson" (1989) that had a colorized introduction that showed Hitchcock wearing a deerstalker and blowing bubbles from a calabash pipe.
7311. The BBC videocassette in PAL format with two of the 1964 "Sherlock Holmes" broadcasts starring Douglas Wilmer (October 96 #1) now is available in Malaysia for about RM39\$ (about US \$9.00), according to a report from Aziz Bin Adam; that's a sharp discount from the issue price in Britain (£14.99), and the BBC obviously has cleared out a warehouse somewhere. PAL-format cassettes won't play on American NTSC machines, unfortunately. I've no idea what the shipping charges might be, nor whether the cassette still is available in Britain, but the distributor is Vision Four Home Video, No. 28 Jalan Liku Bangsar, 59100 Kuala Lumpur, West Malaysia.
7312. William H. Preston died on July 10. He was 50 years old and working as a bookkeeper in Philadelphia when he became a professional actor, winning a part in "We Bombed in New Haven" (which closed after only a single performance in New York). He played many other roles in the 27 years since then, including Rodgers (a comic old man) with Patrick Horgan as Holmes in "Sherlock Holmes and the Speckled Band" in Philadelphia in 1990.
7313. "This narrative, told with restraint, should make you laugh, if it does not make you cry," is the way Dr. Fatso's literary agent describes the latest episode in the saga of Turlock Loams, hot off the Pequod Press. THE WETHEADED LEAGUE costs \$40.00 (cloth) or \$20.00 (paper) from John Ruyle, 521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707.
7314. Eve Titus reports that Basil of Baker Street's cousin Anatole (hero of her other children's series) is due to appear on television, in one of six animated series now being produced by the Canadian company Nelvana for CBS-TV. "Anatole" will air on Saturday mornings starting in September (he's a dignified French mouse who serves as an ambassador of the animal world to the human world). Eve much prefers Basil, of course. So do Sherlockians.
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August 1998 #5

7315. Sherlockians do manage to find a way to distinguish themselves from other Sherlockians: Robert Ennis, of Weston, Florida was struck by lightning this month. And survived. "It had been raining pretty heavily," he told a local reporter, and he noticed at one that there was a little trickle of water coming in one of the windows, and he walked out to his driveway to survey the roof. "The next thing I knew, I was flat on my face." He had just started his vacation, and now plans to do what he had originally planned: go to Disney World. With his grandchildren.
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7316. Nick Scovell reports that the Dramatis Personae company will present "The Final Problem" at the Portsmouth Arts Centre in Southsea on Oct. 8-10; the box office telephone number is 01705-732236. This is the last episode in a trilogy of Sherlockian plays -- and a chance to see Sherlockian theater in the city where Arthur Conan Doyle first wrote about the Great Detective.
7317. Peter Lewis reported to the N.Y. Times (July 14) on the Macworld trade show in New York, where Apple displays what's new for Macintosh users. The new Mac OS 8.5 operating system (code-named Allegro, and due in September) will feature a powerful file-finding utility called Sherlock.
7318. "I hear of Sherlock everywhere," Mycroft Holmes said. And one of the more interesting places to look for Sherlockian echoes is in the works of James Joyce. Sherlockians and Joyceans have been doing that for close to fifty years (Hugh Kenner was the first in print, in 1949, and William D. Jenkins was the next, in 1969). Bill Jenkins loved to explore the connections between Conan Doyle and Joyce, but he died in 1993 with his *magnum opus* not yet published. Now you can see just how much fun he had, in THE ADVENTURE OF THE DETECTED DETECTIVE: SHERLOCK HOLMES IN JAMES JOYCE'S FINNEGANS WAKE (Westport: Greenwood Press, 1998; 149 pp., \$45.00). Joyce's book is "the most perplexing whodunit ever written," Bill suggests, and he certainly enjoyed trying to solve at least some of the puzzles Joyce created.
7319. "Who Chopped Chang" is the theme for this year's "Sherlock Holmes Night" (a free event for the public) to be presented by the Honolulu Police Dept. on Sept. 11, 1998, Pam Verrey reports. If you'd like to participate, contact the HPD's Informational Resources Section, 801 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI 96813 (808-529-3351).
7320. Michael Williams starred as Watson in this year's BBC Radio 4 broadcast of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" and his wife Judi Dench played Mrs. Hudson. Try your hand at identifying other married couples who acted together in a Sherlockian production (there are at least two more). Answers next month.
7321. E. G. Marshall died on Aug. 24. His acting career began on radio in the 1930s, and continued in film and on television and the stage. In 1981 he was the host on the "CBS Radio Mystery Theater" series, introducing their Sherlockian and other mystery broadcasts.
7322. The "Sherlock Holmes Festival" on Nov. 7 in Tryon, N.C., will be a tribute to William Gillette; they'll have a film festival, a "Search for Sherlockian Clues" contest, a radio-play performance ("Silver Blaze"), and other events; additional information is available from the Polk County Travel & Tourism Council, 401 North Trade Street, Tryon, NC 28782 (800-440-7848).

August 1998 #6

7323. "Tainted Blood" is a three-act "drawing-room comedy with teeth" written by Tom Jacobson, with Oscar Wilde, Arthur Conan Doyle, and Bram Stoker as young unknowns who encounter a vampire during a weekend at Wilde's country estate in Ireland. The play was first performed in 1990 in Houston, and Christopher Roden reports that there will be a new production from Oct. 2 to Nov. 22 at the Road Theatre (5108 Lankershim Boulevard, North Hollywood, CA 91601 (818-761-8838).
7324. Dave Galerstein has decided to sell his Sherlockian collection, as one lot, to an individual or consortium, and estimates that it's worth from \$11,000 to \$12,000. If you would like to visit to inspect the collection and make an offer, you can contact Dave at 44 Center Drive, New Hyde Park, NY 11040 (516-248-6210) <davebsi@erols.com>.
7325. "Scruffy Is Badge of Pride, But Some Physicists Long for Cool" is the headline on Malcolm W. Browne's essay in the N.Y. Times (July 21) on the public image of scientists. And Browne noted that Conan Doyle endowed one of his characters in "The Lost World" with a "stereotypical image that still resonates," writing of Prof. Summerlee that "among his minor peculiarities are that he is careless as to his attire" and "unclean in his person."
7326. The new catalog from Bits & Pieces, 1 Puzzle Place, Stevens Point, WI 54481 (800-544-7297) has two new mystery jigsaw puzzles in "The Continuing Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (the puzzle pictures help solve the crimes); "The Kent Chapel Murder" and "Sins of the Father" are \$10.95 each (or \$17.95 for the pair).
7327. Doug Wrigglesworth reports that he and other visitors enjoyed the production of Conan Doyle's "Waterloo" during the Shaw Festival in Ontario, and copies of WATERLOO: A CASE-BOOK ON SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE'S HISTORICAL PLAY are now available. David Skene-Melvin edited the 76-page book, which has the texts of the play and of the story on which it was based, and essays by Clifford Goldfarb, Doug Elliott, and others; the postpaid cost is CA\$38.50 (CA\$33.50 to members of the Friends) from the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection (Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street, Toronto, ON M4W 2G8, Canada); credit-card orders welcome. The play continues in repertory though Sept. 19; the box-office is at: Box 774, Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON L0S 1J0, Canada (800-267-4759) <shawfest@sympatico.ca>.
7328. The Conclave of Richmond Pipe Smokers' annual Exposition & Celebration featured Sherlock Holmes in 1997; this year's event won't be Sherlockian, but there will lots of pipes and tobacco and smoking, at the Holiday Inn Select on Oct. 9-11; details are available from the Conclave (Box 34023, Richmond, VA 23234) (804-342-0761) <corpipemsk@aol.com>.
7329. Forecast: THE ADVENTURES OF INSPECTOR LESTRADE, by M. J. Trow (from Regnery Gateway in Sept., \$22.95); a reprint of the amusing pastiche published in 1985 (it was the first of a long series, and Regnery plans to publish more of them). EMBASSY ROW, by Quinn Fawcett (from Forge in Oct., \$24.95); a sequel to the Mycroft pastiche AGAINST THE BROTHERHOOD published in 1997.

September 1998 #1

7330. Thomas L. Stix, Jr. ("The Norwood Builder") died on Sept. 9. He was proud of the three generations of Sherlockians in his family (his father Thomas L. Stix, his son Stephen, and his wife Dorothy are all members of the BSI); his father helped start, and Tom and Stephen continued for many years, the traditional running of The Silver Blaze at race tracks near New York. Tom received his Investiture in 1961, and the BSI's Two-Shilling Award in 1982, and in 1986 he succeeded Julian Wolff as head of the BSI, inaugurating the title of "Wiggins". In 1991 Tom welcomed women to full membership in the BSI, and in 1997, after a carefully-orchestrated roast by family, friends, and former friends (since roastees are not permitted to disown family), he announced that he had led the BSI for eleven years, one more than he had planned, and handed over the gavel to Mike Whelan, who then presented Tom with a special crystal plaque from the BSI recognizing his long service and many contributions to the cause.
7331. It was a century ago that Arthur Conan Doyle wrote his splendid short story "The Lost Special" (and it was in Sept. 1898 that readers in the U.S. found the tale in the American edition of The Strand Magazine); the tale has long been regarded as apocryphal (almost, that is, part of the Canon) because it includes mention of "an amateur reasoner of some celebrity" who "attempted to deal with the matter in a critical and semi-scientific manner." It may be that Conan Doyle omitted the name of that amateur reasoner because the amateur reasoning turned out to be wrong, and it's nice to be able to celebrate the centenary of something both Doylean and Sherlockian.
7332. The Baker Street Irregulars have always honored Sir Arthur for the world he created for us: you can see Christopher Morley's admiration for Conan Doyle in the introduction to THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES, and over many years in the pages of The Baker Street Journal, from Morley and Edgar W. Smith and many others who at the same time greatly enjoyed following the trail blazed by Ronald Knox, pretending that the world of Sherlock Holmes is a real one.

7333. And our "Wiggins" Mike Whelan certainly agrees: at the BSI's annual dinner last January he said that "It is my opinion that the Great Game of viewing Dr. Watson as the creator of the Canon and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle as the literary agent reached full flower as the American equivalent of the raspberry to Adrian Conan Doyle (sometimes referred to as 'The Viper'). I'm hardly suggesting restrictions on this form of fun, but I do believe Doyle should receive the proper credit he deserves for making all this possible."
7334. "Palmer and Pritchard were among the heads of the profession," Holmes noted (in "The Speckled Band"); "The Life and Crimes of William Palmer" will air on "Mystery!" on PBS-TV on Nov. 12 and 19. "When a doctor does go wrong he is the first of criminals," Holmes also suggested, and the mini-series will show just what he meant.
7335. William Neblett's SHERLOCK'S LOGIC, first published in 1985, is now available in Barnes & Noble reprint (\$7.98); Holmes' grandson attempts to solve a murder mystery in the first third of the book, with the rest of the book devoted to an exposition of elementary logic. Barnes & Noble also has THE OXFORD SHERLOCK HOLMES (in cloth) discounted at \$4.98 per volume.

September 1998 #2

7336. Last month's challenge asked for married couples who have acted together in a Sherlockian production (other than Michael Williams and Judi Dench in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" on BBC Radio 4 this year). John Cleese and Connie Booth acted in the British television film "The Strange Case of the End of Civilisation as We Know It" (1977). David Morrill offered Herbert Kelcey and Effie Shannon, who toured in Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" (1902-1904 and 1907).
7337. Beryl E. Cooper died on Aug. 28. She was an enthusiastic member of the Mycroft Holmes Society of Syracuse and of the The Bootmakers of Toronto, and co-author with her husband Tom created two collections of SHERLOCKIAN JUMBLES in 1987 and 1997.
7338. Further to the item (April 98 #3) about the Essex police testing the prowess of bloodhounds named Sherlock and Morse, John McGowan has forwarded a new report from The Times (Sept. 3): "Police forces are to be told that if they really want to get their man, they should abandon German shepherd dogs and replace them with bloodhounds." The six-month trial has proved that "their tracking abilities are out of this world," according to dog-handling expert PC Malcolm Fish.
7339. If you'd like to know more about Douglas Wilmer's tour earlier this year, there are excellent reports in the September issue of The Holmes & Watson Report, by John Baesch and Scott Monty and Dave Morrill, and much more of interest; \$14.00 a year for six issues, from Brad Keefauver, 4009 North Chelsea Place, Peoria, IL 61614.
7340. Johnathon Schaech will play the title role in "Believe: The Houdini Story" (scheduled on TNT cable on Dec. 6). Limited information at Internet Movie Database does not list any writers, so the movie may or may not be based on the book BELIEVE., which was written by William Shatner and Michael Tobias (July 92 #5); there is no cast listing for anyone as Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. The director is Pen Densham, who directed Jeremy Brett's last film, "Moll Flanders" (1996).
7341. The digital video disk (DVD) is slowly finding a market, but I'm not sure just how large the market is. In any case, there's now a Sherlockian DVD available: "The Seven-Per-Cent Solution" (1976, with Nicol Williamson and Robert Duvall) has been released by Image Entertainment (\$23.95).
7342. Hugo's Companions will celebrate their 50th anniversary in April, at which time they will publish a guided tour through the history of the society. The first hard-cover edition will be sold by subscription only, and available in April, but pre-publication orders are being accepted until Dec. 31 at \$50.00 postpaid (the price will be \$65.00 postpaid next year). Checks payable to Hugo's Companions, please, and sent to Grosse Point Lighthouse, 2535 Sheridan Road, Evanston, IL 60201.
7343. Further to the item about "Imagination Theatre" (January 98 #4), the first two of Jim French's Sherlock Holmes radio programs ("The Poet of Death" is #114 and "The Sealed Room" is #121) are now available (along with lots of other shows) on CD or cassette at \$7.99 each postpaid from TransMedia, 719 Battery Street, San Francisco, CA 94111 (800-227-7234) <www.transmediasf.com>.

September 1998 #3

7344. More news from the Sherlockian conference in Minneapolis last month: Wilson's Basement Dwellers unveiled two of the continuing adventures of Hamhock Holmes, written by Billy Joe-Bob "Bubba" Watson and edited by John "Blue Tick" Atkins and C. Bryan "Bird Dawg" Gassner (who at least in Minneapolis, didn't talk the way they write). "The Adventure of the Wild Turkey" (24 pp.) and "The Red-Necked League" (39 pp.) cost \$4.00 each (add \$1.20 shipping for one or two booklets) from C. Bryan Gassner, P.O. Drawer G, Corrales, NM 87048.
7345. Turlock Loams recovers a legendary rarity to gratify the collecting mania of Myron R. "Whizzer" Oz, the wealthy Sprocket King, in THE ADVENTURE OF THE BLUE GARFUNKEL, the latest story from Dr. Fatso and the Pequod Press. Available from John Ruyle, 521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707; \$40.00 (cloth) or \$20.00 (paper).
7346. John continues his pursuit of Vernet namesakes, having noted Lloyd Vernet Bridges II, who died earlier this year (March 98 #3). There is both acting and art in the blood, it seems: John now reports that Beau Bridges' real name is Lloyd Vernet Bridges III.
7347. T. A. Waters died on Aug. 7. In an obituary in The New Yorker, Ricky Jay described Waters as a remarkable man, a classic autodidact, and the world's foremost expert in mentalism (the term magicians use to describe magic of the mind: the simulation of clairvoyance, telepathy, and precognition). He had been the librarian at the Magic Castle in Hollywood, and was the author of the landmark ENCYCLOPEDIA OF MAGIC AND MAGICIANS (1988), and also wrote science fiction, fantasy, mystery, and gothic novels. His THE PROBABILITY PAD (1970) involved Waters and Michael Kurland and Chester Anderson in a series of time-travel adventures and included an encounter with Holmes and Watson and Count Dracula in Transylvania.
7348. Tyco, the company that makes Sesame Street Beans (bean-bag toys) has kindly reported that they have just shipped Sherlock Hemlock, and he will be found in Kmart, Walmart, and Target stores (\$4.99 recommended retail).
7349. "Use the word horticulture in a sentence." "You can lead a horticulture, but you can't make her think." No matter: you can start looking for flowers with the names of Canonical tales. Vic Lahti, of the Afghanistan Perceivers of Tulsa, notes in their newsletter that there is a day-lily named "Study in Scarlet" (described as "blood red self with a green throat"); it received a Junior Citation from the American Hemerocallis (Daylily) Society in 1986, and an Honorable Mention in 1990.
7350. Doug Elliott reports that Jo Soares' A SAMBA FOR SHERLOCK (December 97 #4) will be reprinted as a trade paperback by Vintage in November (\$13.00); the book is a thriller, and a parody of Holmes and Brazil and Brazilians, with broad humor that's often vulgar, and sometimes quite dark.
7351. The excellent recreation of the sitting-room at 221B that delighted Sherlockians and other tourists for many years at S. Holmes, Esq. in San Francisco still seeks a new location in a pub, hotel, or theme restaurant; the rental is \$3,000 a year, and enquiries can be directed to 2700 19th Street San Francisco, CA 94110 (456-616-3116) <mycroft813@aol.com>.

September 1998 #4

7352. "Rodger Baskerville's Lonely Hound from Hell" is a two-act rock opera, with lyrics by Wanda and Jeffery Dow, performed by the Willie Nelson Oratorio Society (aka Wanda and Jeffery) to the music of Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Band (aka John Lennon, Paul McCartney, and George Harrison) during the Sunshine State Sherlockian Scion Symposium in Florida in May. And the lyrics, with an introduction by Tom Stix and some amusing production notes, are now available from the Dows at 1737 Santa Anna Drive, Dunedin, FL 34698; \$6.00 (to North America) or \$8.00 (elsewhere).
7353. Our "Celebrate the Century" souvenir sheets (with 15 different stamps for each decade) have reached the 1930s, and the new sheet includes a stamp that honors Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the first president of the United States to be a member of The Baker Street Irregulars. Other designs show Life magazine (which published many Sherlockian items) and Bobby Jones playing golf (a sport not unknown to Sherlock Holmes).
7354. Paul Kessel and John Fiske perform (in English) in Sweden, and one of their shows is "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (they perform all the roles, sometimes arguing about it); they'll be in Umeå in October, Aalborg (Denmark) in November, Stockholm in February, and Helsingborg and Malmö in April. If you would like more information, you can write to Kesselofski & Fiske, Box 2066, 750 02 Uppsala, Sweden <kessel@dany.pp.se>.
7355. Syd Goldberg reports that the videocassette of "FairyTale: A True Story" will be go on sale in videostores on Oct. 6 at the sell-through price of \$14.95; this is the film that starred Peter O'Toole as Arthur Conan Doyle and Harvey Keitel as Harry Houdini.
7356. Gael Stahl recommends "An Evening with Sherlock Holmes" at Chaffin's Barn Dinner Theatre (8204 Highway 100, Nashville, TN 37221) (615-646-9977) (800-282-2276) <www.dinnertheatre.com>; the show opened on Sept. 1 and will run through Oct. 24, and offers John Chaffin's dramatizations of three stories ("The Speckled Band", "The Crooked Man", and "The Second Stain").
7357. John Baesch reports that the Criterion, far fancier now than when Watson stood drinking at its bar, was praised by A. A. Gill in The Sunday Times (June 14) as one of the most beautiful restaurants on the south side of Piccadilly: "It looks like the mother-in-law's entrance to a well-stocked harem. Loathed by gossip-column gurlies because, whatever you forget to war, nobody is going to notice."
7358. Reported by Don Hobbs: CLASSIC MYSTERIES: A COLLECTION OF MIND-BENDING MASTERPIECES, edited by Molly Cooper, illustrated by Barbara Kiwak (from RGA Publishing Group/Lowell House in 1996; \$5.99); contents include "The Veiled Lodger".
7359. David McCallister reports that The Pleasant Places of Florida enjoyed their summer visit to the Cassadaga Spiritualist Camp; Sir Arthur Conan Doyle is honored there as an early evangelist, and David suggests that visitors consider staying at the nearby Clauser's Bed & Breakfast (201 East Kicklighter Road, Lake Helen, FL 32744) (800-220-0310), where guests can gather at the end of the day in Clauser's pub, which is called Sherlock's.

September 1998 #5

7360. Tome Press (Caliber Comics) has published a new comic book DR. JEKYLL & MR. HOLMES (\$2.95), written by Steven Philip Jones and drawn by Seppo Makinen. If you can't find the comic book in a local shop, the publisher's address is 225 North Sheldon Road, Plymouth, MI 48170 (888-222-6642) <calcomic@aol.com> <www.calibercomics.com>. Caliber also offers back issues of other Sherlockian comic books, and has announced a new SHERLOCK HOLMES READER SERIES ("adaptations of classic stories, as well as all-new Holmes tales set in the world of Doyle").
7361. Mona Morstein notes that the film "Zero Effect" (March 98 #1) is now in the videoshops, with Bill Pullman as the world's best private detective, who is utterly brilliant, a deductive genius, emotionally unstable, and uses disguises, and Ben Stiller as his steady, reliable aide who eventually leaves him for a wife.
7362. Stu Shiffman spotted WALT DISNEY'S COMICS AND STORIES #629 (Oct. 1998) from Gladstone (\$6.95), with Police Chief Ratz incognito in Sherlockian costume on the cover and in one panel in a new story ("Donald Duck: Scandal on the Epoch Express"). And Detective "Burlap-Bones" is seen in Sherlockian costume with an early calabash pipe in one panel in "Mr. Slicker and the EggRobbers" reprinted from daily strips published in 1930. There's a web-site at <www.brucehamilton.com>.
7363. A new catalog from femmes fatales offers some intriguing new Sherlockiana, including a checkbook cover (\$14.95), earrings (\$24.95), and neckties (two designs, \$24.95 each), and some interesting non-Sherlockian items as well). The address is Box 4457, Lakewood, CA 90712 (800-596-3323) <byteocrime@aol.com> <www.register.com/femfatal>. Readers of this newsletter qualify for a 10% discount (the magic word is "Scuttlebutt").
7364. Sorry about that: the earlier mention (August 98 #3) of Sherlockian notecards with Barbara Holmes' pencil sketches of Jeremy Brett didn't make clear that there are different designs offered; she will be happy to send you a sample card and an illustrated flier in return for a self-addressed stamped envelope (Box 446, Scottsville, VA 24590).
7365. Joe Eckrich offers a third sales-list of Sherlockiana from his collection, by e-mail on request to <jeckrich@aol.com>, or you can send a #10 SASE to him at 914 Oakmoor Drive, Fenton, MO 63026 (if outside the United States, please send two IRCs or \$1.00 in currency).
7366. You don't need to live in Cottingley to have fairies in your garden: Mary Beth Myles reports that the mail-order catalog from Past Times offers nice Victorian items, including three different rust-proof powder-coated steel "Flower Fairy Silhouettes" (7201 Intermodal Drive, Louisville, KY 40258) (800-242-1020) <www.past-times.com>.
7367. The summer issue of The Wigmore Street Post Office has 40 pages of amusing and interesting material taken from the electronic cauldron that bubbles and seethes at the Prodigy computer service (and the contest for the worst original one-paragraph opening for a Watsonian pastiche is still open, with a Nov. 1 deadline). \$5.25 postpaid, or \$10.00 a year (three issues) from Mel Hughes, 2664 Sam Hardwick Boulevard, Jacksonville, FL 32246.

September 1998 #6

7368. "The Magic Door" is the newsletter of The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library, and the first (summer) issue is nicely done, edited by Chris Redmond and with interesting articles about the collection and some of its treasures; copies are available from Doug Wrigglesworth, 16 Sunset Street, Holland Landing, ON L9N 1H4, Canada <dougwig@netrover.com>.
7369. Jeffrey Moss died on Sept. 24. He was a co-founder of "Sesame Street" in 1969, and was head writer for the series when Sherlock Hemlock arrived on the show in 1971. He also wrote the hit song "Rubber Duckie" and invented Cookie Monster, and was nominated for an Oscar for his lyrics for the film "The Muppets Take Manhattan".
7370. "Ms. Lewinsky testified that she gave the President a number of additional gifts.(181)" "(181). These included a Sherlock Holmes game sometime after Christmas 1996." From the second part of the Referral to the United States House of Representatives, Submitted by the Office of the Independent Counsel, Sept. 9, 1998 (noted by Jon Lellenberg, who surely deserves an award for reading all of the footnotes).
7371. The Armchair Detective has suspended publication due to physical and financial problems of its publisher, Judi Vause, according to a report from the magazine's editor-in-chief Elizabeth Foxwell in August. Vause is seeking for a buyer for the magazine; her address is 459 Park Avenue #252, Scotch Plains, NJ 07076. The most recent issue appears to have been vol. 30, no. 3 (1997).

7372. Sherlock Holmes encounters both Jack the Ripper and Professor Moriarty in Colin R. Grimes' new play "Exit Sherlock Holmes", which will premiere at the Performance Space Orlando on Oct. 9 and runs weekends through Oct. 31; tickets cost \$12.00, and the theater is at 1707-A North Mills Avenue, Orlando, FL 32803 (407-896-5717).
7373. Julie Rosenblatt, one of the speakers at the conference in Minneapolis in August, told of Arthur Conan Doyle's skiing exploits in Switzerland (his route from Davos to Arosa is graded now as suitable only for experienced skiers, who are warned of the frequent danger of avalanche); Julie now reports that Dave Goodman, a very experienced back-country skier, skied the route recently and will report on his trip in an article in the Feb. 1999 issue of Skiing.
7374. Geoff Jeffery notes that the Sherlock Holmes nesting dolls (September 93 #4) are offered at \$12.95 in a catalog from Bits & Pieces (1 Puzzle Place, Stevens Point, WI 54481 (800-544-7287); also Tom Bullimore's BAKER STREET PUZZLES (November 94 #1) and another puzzle book by Falcon Travis with S'ian artwork on the cover (\$9.95 for the set of two).
7375. Rupert Books has published THE JEREMY BRETT-LINDA PRITCHARD STORY: ON THE WINGS OF PARADISE; Linda Pritchard was Jeremy Brett's companion during the last seven years of his life, and offers her personal account of their time together. 146 pp., £20.00 or \$32.00 plus shipping (credit-card orders welcome); 58/59 Stonefield, Bar Hill, Cambridge CB3 8TE, England <rupert_books@compuserve.com> <ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages.rupert_books>.

September 1998 #7

7376. Olaf Maurer reports that the Deutscher-Sherlock-Holmes-Club is planning a Sherlock Holmes exhibition next year, and would like to have a display of Sherlockian emblems, stationery, and publications to show how interesting and world-wide interest in Sherlock Holmes is. If you would like to contribute something to the display, his address is P.O. Box 150314, D-67028 Ludwigshafen, Germany.
7377. Applewood Books published a facsimile of the first authorized cloth-bound separate edition of THE SIGN OF FOUR, published by Lippincott in 1893 (December 94 #4), with a foreword by James H. Billington and an introduction by John Y. Cole, and it's still available for \$24.95 (128 The Great Road, Bedford, MA 01730) (800-277-5312) <www.awb.com>. And on Nov. 7, Applewood will begin publishing facsimiles of Harper's Weekly, beginning with the Nov. 10, 1860, Lincoln election issue (\$125.00 per year by mail, \$35.00 by e-mail); it will be a long wait, however, for the first issue with anything Doylean ("A Straggler of '15" appeared on Mar. 21, 1891) or Sherlockian ("The Cardboard Box" was published in the Jan. 14, 1893, issue).
7378. Our new sheet of 20 stamps honoring "Four Centuries of American Art" shows Sherlockiana such as a plover, a geranium, a bison, and the Missouri, and Frederick Edwin Church's splendid painting of "Niagara" (1857).
7379. Plan ahead: Christopher Lee, who has played Sir Henry Baskerville, Sherlock Holmes, and Mycroft Holmes, will be one of the superstar guests at "Monster Rally '99" (on Aug. 6-8, 1999, at the Crystal City Hyatt in Arlington, Va.) where he will be signing the new Midnight Marquee Press edition (redesigned and with additional photographs) of his 1977 autobiography TALL, DARK AND GRUESOME. There will be other guests, and a Forry Ackerman impersonation contest, and more information is available From FANEX (John Stell, 12118 Little Patuxant Parkway #J, Columbia, MD 21044) <www.fanex.com>.
7380. Forecast: MIDNIGHT LOUIE'S PET DETECTIVES, edited by Carole Nelson Douglas, from Forge in October (\$23.95); includes her new story "A Baker Street Irregular" (Midnight Louie meets Irene Adler). Quinn Fawcett's AGAINST THE BROTHERHOOD: A MYCROFT HOLMES NOVEL (May 98 #4), from Tor in October in a paperback reprint (\$6.99).
7381. Shelby Peck reported to the Mary Russell fans on a lecture on "A Short History of the Mystery" by Ron Goulart, who, during a discussion of American detective novels, mentioned his new book GROUCHO MARX, MASTER DETECTIVE, and his next book GROUCHO MARX, PRIVATE EYE due in 1999, and in the year 2000, ELEMENTARY, MY DEAR GROUCHO, which involves Groucho in a murder that takes place during the filming of a (fictitious) Sherlock Holmes movie in the late 1930s.
7382. J. Trow's series of amusing pastiches about Inspector Sholto Lestrade, published since 1985 in Britain, now has an American publisher: Regnery Publishing (Gateway Mysteries) will publish all sixteen titles, starting with THE ADVENTURES OF INSPECTOR LESTRADE (224 pp., \$19.95) in October. Trow offers a new and more sympathetic look at the oft-maligned detective portrayed in the Canon, writing with humor and ingenuity.

September 1998 #8

7383. Franklin W. Dixon has been writing the "Hardy Boys" series for more than 70 years, and he finally has got round to doing something Sherlockian (and yes, I know that it's really a house name, and that he doesn't exist). His THE GIANT RAT OF SUMATRA (New York: Minstrel/Pocket Books, 1997; 152 pp., \$3.99) is #143 in the series; Franklin and Joe Hardy are involved in the production of a new musical version of the unrecorded case. "There's singing! There's dancing! And there's sabotage!"
7384. More than one movie-going reader has reported that the trailer for "A Rugrats Movie" (an animation, to be released on Nov. 25) shows Angelica in a deerstalker, and you can see her in full color at web-sites at <www.nick.com/rugrats-movie/goodies/color_book/angelica.html> and <www.rugratsmovie.com/>. And elsewhere, since this will be a heavily merchandized movie: there's a doll (\$21.99) on p. 513 of the J.C. Penney Christmas catalog (spotted by Sonia Fetherston), and the book RUGRATS AND THE ZOMBIES written by Sarah Willson and illustrated by Barry Goldberg (\$3.25 from Simon & Schuster) that shows Angelica watching the television series "Shirleylock Holmes" (noted by Jim Vogelsang), and she's on the lid of Mott's Apple Sauce and Mott's Fruitsations (reported by Tim O'Connor), and on the band of the Mott's Adventure Watch you can buy for \$3.99 with nine Rugrats points (you get three points for each \$2.39 package of six 4-ounce jars). No word yet on an Angelica toy at a fast-food chain, but surely there's one on the way. I don't think that we can (or should) complain about anything that ensures that pre-schoolers see (and enjoy) the Sherlockian symbols.
7385. More dolls: Sonia Fetherston reports that oversized stuffed-animal prizes for games of "skill" on the midway at the Oregon State Fair included huge Scooby Doo dolls dressed in Sherlockian costume. No one has reported them in stores, but the next time you're at a fair you might ask where they get their prizes from. And John Farrell has reported seeing a similar (but of course smaller) prize in an amusement-arcade claw machine.
7386. Reported: THE MYSTERIES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (New York: Grosset & Dunlap, 1996; 218 pp., \$14.95); nine of the stories, illustrated by Paul Bachem.
7387. Five sets of Douglas Wilmer's splendid readings of Sherlock Holmes stories have been issued on audiocassettes by Penguin in Britain (not all have yet been issued in the United States), and they were available during his tour, and limited quantities are offered now: FOUR ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Spec/Devi/Musg/Chas); BLACK PETER AND OTHER SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES (Blue/Resi/Blac/Lady); THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: VOL. 1 (Scan/Iden/RedH/Bosc); THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: VOL. 2 (Five/Twis/Blue/Spec); and THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: VOL. 3 (Engr/Nobl/Bery/Copp). And yes, two of the tales are duplicated. \$15.00 per set, plus \$2.00 per order for one or two sets

(or \$3.00 per order for three to seven sets) for shipping by surface post to any address. US dollar or UK sterling checks payable to Peter E. Blau, please, and sent to the address below.

October 1998 #1

7388. Francie Monaghan happily notes that SHERLOCK HOLMES BY GAS-LAMP: HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FIRST FOUR DECADES OF THE BAKER STREET JOURNAL (New York: Fordham University Press, 1989; 423 pp., \$22.50) is still in print, and that's nice news indeed for those who don't have it. Edited by Philip A. Shreffler, it offers splendid examples of the wit and intelligence and devotion that have been and still are found in the Sherlockian world.
7389. John Sherwood reports that Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson will visit The Victorian Villa Inn in Union City, Mich., to participate in "The Adventure of the Maniac Murders" on Nov. 6-8 and Nov. 13-15. Additional information is available from the Inn (601 North Broadway, Union City, MI 49094) (800-348-4552) <sherwood@internet1.net> <<http://www.internet1.net/~sherwood/>>.
7390. Elliott M. Black reports that The Criterion Bar Association enjoyed a performance of "Villains" at their meeting on Sept. 12. Commissioned by the society and performed by Charles Picard, the production presents "The Red-Headed League" and "The Norwood Builder" from the villains' point of view; if your society would be interested in hiring Picard to put on his show in your area, or doing it on your own, you can contact Elliott at 2511 Windsor Lane, Northfield, IL 60062 <emba10@aol.com>.
7391. Noted by Don Hobbs: CLASSIC ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (New York: Barnes & Noble, 1998; 216 pages, \$4.98); seven stories (RedH/Iden/Bosc/Bery/Copp/Scan/Spec), in their Children's Classics series.
7392. Reported by Willis Frick: HOLMES, CHEMISTRY AND THE ROYAL INSTITUTION, by Antony Richards and Bryson Gore, in collaboration with The Sherlock Holmes Society of London; essays assessing Holmes' chemical work and his relationship with the Royal Institution of Great Britain. The 168-page book costs £13.50 from the Irregular Special Railway Company, 170 Woodland Road, Sawston, Cambridge CB2 4DX, England.
7393. Carolyn and Joel Senter offer the 1998-1999 issue of The Sherlockian Times (their 20-page catalog/journal/newsletter); Classic Specialties, Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219 <sherlock@sherlock-holmes.com>. The catalog has lots of new (and interesting) Sherlockiana, as well as news of goings-on in the Sherlockian world.
7394. Dorothy K. Stix has decided to sell her husband Tom's collection to Sherlockians in multiple catalogs; if you would like to receive a catalog, you should send your requests to her at (34 Pierson Avenue, Norwood, NJ 07648) (fax 201-768-5843) or by e-mail to Carl Stix <carl.stix@ey.com>.
7395. If you've wondered about those foot marks of some small animal ("five wellmarked footpads, an indication of long nails, and the whole print might be nearly as large as a dessert-spoon," Watson tells us in "The Crooked Man"), George Vanderburgh happily recommends this year's sheet of Christmas seals from Zimbabwe, which shows 15 small carnivores of Zimbabwe (including three different mongooses) and comes with a pamphlet of explanatory notes showing their footprints. George suggests a donation of at least \$5.00 (currency, please), to RAPT National Headquarters, P.O. Box 2166, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.

October 1998 #2

7396. Marius Goring died on Sept. 30. He studied theater at the Old Vic dramatic school, and during World War II provided the voice of Hitler in an anti-Nazi radio serial "The Shadow of the Swastika" (and he then acted in so many World War II movies that he was able to claim to have played every rank in the German army from private to field marshal). Other films roles included the young composer Julian Craster in "The Red Shoes" (1948) and a South American wastrel in "The Barefoot Contessa" (1954), and he starred as Sir Arthur Conan Doyle on radio for the BBC Home Service in Michael and Mollie Hardwick's "The Man Who Was Sherlock Holmes" in 1963.
7397. There are many foxes mentioned in the Canon, and the design of our new one-dollar stamp features a red fox, perhaps honoring "Mortimer Tregennis, with the foxy face" ("The Devil's Foot").
7398. Sorry about that (I had the phone number wrong): the excellent recreation of the sitting-room at 221B that delighted Sherlockians and other tourists for many years at S. Holmes, Esq. in San Francisco still seeks a new location in a pub, hotel, or theme restaurant; the rental is \$3,000 a year, and enquiries can be directed to Willy Werby at 2700 19th Street San Francisco, CA 94110 (415-616-3116) <mycroft813@aol.com>.
7399. Robert Lewis Taylor died on Sept. 30. He was a journalist, biographer, and novelist, and in 1958 won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction for THE TRAVELS OF JAMIE MCPHEETERS. He joined the staff of The New Yorker in 1939, and wrote many splendid profiles for the magazine, including a two-part article ("Two Authors in an Attic") in 1951 about John Dickson Carr, with many fine tales about the author, his imaginative mysteries, and his work on his biography of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.
7400. Further to the report (September 98 #8) of Scooby Doo dolls dressed in Sherlockian costume, Jim Vogelsang notes that they were offered for sale (in five different sizes: small, medium, large, jumbo, and life-size) at a Six Flags amusement park, and that he has seen them at pet-supply stores. "Large" is about 21 inches high, and costs \$26.99.
7401. Christopher Sliwa would be delighted to hear from Sherlockians in Poland (and from Sherlockians who aren't in Poland, but would like to correspond with a Sherlockian there): Krzysztof Sliwa, ul. Wegierska 10d/2, 73-110 Stargard, Poland <holmes54@friko6.onet.pl>.
7402. Christopher Roden reports that Simon Jones (who played Arthur Dent in "The Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy" and read June Thompson's "The Case of the Scottish Tragedy" on the recently-issued audiocassette) will play the title role in The Actors Company Theatre production of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" at the Theatre at the New York Historical Society (2 West 77th Street at Central Park West) on Nov. 13 and 16 (7:30 pm) and Nov. 15 (2:00 pm); tickets cost \$15.00, and the box office phone number is 212-645-8228.
7403. MIDNIGHT LOUIE'S PET DETECTIVES, edited by Carole Nelson Douglas (New York: Forge/Tom Doherty, 1998; 350 pp., \$23.95), offers an interesting collection of short stories (almost all of the new) by authors who include Anne Perry, Carolyn Wheat, Barbara Paul, and Douglas herself, whose tale allows her own cat detective Midnight Louie to solve a mystery for Sherlock Holmes.

October 1998 #3

7404. A Common Reader (141 Tompkins Avenue, Pleasantville, NY 10570 (800-832-7323) <www.commonreader.com> continues to issue its delightful catalogs, with interesting descriptions of books not often seen in other catalogs, such as Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's THE COMPLETE BRIGADIER GERARD STORIES (\$15.95), Ben Macintyre's THE NAPOLEON OF CRIME (\$12.95), Umberto Eco's THE NAME OF THE ROSE (\$13.00), and Michael Dibdin's THE LAST SHERLOCK HOLMES STORY (\$10.00).
7405. Ben Wood (9840 Sucia Circle, Parrish, FL 34219) offer his compact Sherlockian calendar for 1999; it's 5.5 x 4 in. unopened and costs \$2.50 postpaid.
7406. Yuichi Hirayama has published the eighth volume of The Shoso-in Bulletin, with 248 pages, articles from contributors in Asia, Australia, Europe, and the United States, and papers presented at the international convention in Japan last spring, all in English and nicely done as always. \$12.00 postpaid from Mel Hughes, 2664 Sam Hardwick Boulevard, Jacksonville, FL 32246.

7407. Gerald F. O'Hara died on Oct. 11. He was an energetic member of The C.P.R. Stockholders of Edmonton, and edited and published his own Sherlock Holmes Information Exchange Newsletter, and was keenly interested in Arthur Conan Doyle and his visits to Canada; some of Gerry's research was published in "Doyle's Visit to Jasper" (Canadian Holmes, summer 1987) and in his 20-page pamphlet TRAVEL ALBERTA WITH SHERLOCK HOLMES (1988), and much more in his newsletter.
7408. THE CASE OF THE MYSTERIOUS FUDGE has Turlock Loams linking a prosaic shipment of odd fudge to the bizarre machinations of the evil fast-food empire which seeks to control the world, Dr. Fatso's literary agent reports. The latest (hand-set and hand-printed) Pequod Pressing costs \$40.00 (cloth) or \$20.00 (paper) from John Ruyle, 521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707.
7409. Jim Vogelsang reports that Amelia Watson continues to solve mysteries, now in San Francisco, where she has accompanied her husband John on a lecture tour. Michael Mallory's "The Adventure of the Japanese Sword" is in Murderous Intent (summer/fall 1998); Box 5947, Vancouver, WA 98668 (\$5.95).
7410. Jim also reports still more appearances of Angelica in a deerstalker: in THE RUGRATS MOVIE STICKER BOOK and THE RUGRATS MOVIE SUPER COLORING AND ACTIVITY BOOK (\$1.49 each), as a Rugrats Movie Soft Pal 5-inch-high doll (\$4.99), and as an Angelica Safari Mini Plush 6-inch-high doll (\$6.99).
7411. "Victorian Fairy Painting" (at the Frick Collection, at 5th Avenue at East 70th Street in New York through Jan. 17) offers 34 paintings selected from the exhibition organized by the Royal Academy in London in 1997, and it is an interesting show: there are three paintings by Richard Doyle and one by Charles Doyle (Arthur Conan Doyle's uncle and father). Visitors can also see three fine paintings by Jean-Baptiste Greuze displayed in the Frick's permanent collection.
7412. Mark Alberstat's 1999 Sherlock Holmes Calendar is illustrated with artwork from The Strand Magazine, and displays important Sherlockian birthdays and William S. Baring-Gould's dates for the cases. The cost is US\$12.00 postpaid, and his address is 5 Lorraine Street, Dartmouth, NS B3A 2B9, Canada.

October 1998 #4

7413. There weren't any Sherlockian sessions or panels at Bouchercon (the world mystery convention) in Philadelphia on Oct. 1-4, but of course there were Sherlockian authors on hand, including Carole Nelson Douglas, who reported that her four Irene Adler novels have been bought by Recorded Books for release as unabridged recordings on cassette (there's no word yet on who will do the reading); the same company has issued three of Laurie R. King's Mary Russell novels, read well by Jenny Sterlin.
7414. Future Bouchercons will be held in Milwaukee on Sept. 30-October 3, 1999 (Box 341218, Milwaukee, WI 53234) <whreene@aol.com> <www.execpc.com/~piesbook/bouchercon'99.html> and in Denver on Sept. 7-10, 2000 (Box 17910, Boulder, CO 90308) <clafin@colorado.edu> <www.bouchercon2000.com>.
7415. Douglas G. Greene continues to publish fine short-story collections from his Crippen & Landru Press, the latest being Bill Pronzini's CARPENTER AND QUINCANNON: PROFESSIONAL DETECTIVE SERVICES and Peter Robinson's NOT SAFE AFTER DARK; each \$40.00 (cloth) or \$16.00 (paper). Non-Sherlockian, but he can still provide copies of Edward D. Hoch's DIAGNOSIS: IMPOSSIBLE (March 96 #1) and THE RIPPER OF STORYVILLE (October 97 #6). Box 9315, Norfolk, VA 23505 (toll-free 877-622-6656) <crippenl@pilot.infi.net> <www.crippenlandru.com>.
7416. The Mycroft Holmes Society of Syracuse offers its new lapel pin (black on silver); \$7.00 postpaid, and checks should be sent to Joseph A. Coppola (103 Kenny Street, Fayetteville, NY 13066).
7417. The latest issue of Scarlet Street has David Stuart Davies' wishful report on "My Interview with Basil Rathbone" (wishful because David never met Rathbone, but then neither did Tony Howlett, and David explains why), but the next issue of the magazine will have David's report on Edward R. Murrow's interview with Rathbone on "Person to Person" on CBS-TV on Jan. 11, 1957. Scarlet Street is published bimonthly, with coverage of the mystery-and-horror genre, and costs \$35.00 a year; Box 604, Glen Rock, NJ 07452.
7418. Bill Mason's DEEPER SHADES offers an interesting analysis of "the dressinggowns of Sherlock Holmes, and the psychology of color" in a 44-page booklet available (for \$8.00 postpaid) from Bill (5805 Post Corners Trail #K, Centreville, VA 20120).
7419. Scott Price (The World of Sherlock Holmes Mystery Shop, 3957-A Grahamdale Circle, Memphis, TN 38122) (toll-free 888-355-6877 2:00pm-10:00pm CST) has a new illustrated mail-order catalog with a wide variety of Sherlockiana.
7420. Spotted by Ev Herzog: ALBERT'S HALLOWEEN: THE CASE OF THE STOLEN PUMPKINS, by Leslie Tryon (New York: Atheneum, 1998; 40 pp., \$16.00); Chief Inspector Albert Duck leads Miss Maple, Sam Slade, and Shamrock Homes (a monkey) on a quest to find some missing pumpkins (the latest in a series for children).
7421. "A character suffers from the fear that he will become boring to the author, who will simply let him drop, without so much as a terminal illness or a dramatic tumble down the Reichenbach Falls in the arms of Professor Moriarty." John Updike, in BECH AT BAY: A QUASI-NOVEL (New York: Knopf, 1998).

October 1998 #5

7422. Sherlock Holmes' 145th birthday will be celebrated on Friday, Jan. 8, with the traditional festivities in New York. But the festivities actually will begin on Thursday at 9:00 am at the Hotel Algonquin (59 West 44th Street), whence Allen Mackler and Charlie Shields will lead participants in the annual Christopher Morley Walk, which ends with lunch at McSorley's; Allen's address is 324 2nd Street NE, Osseo, MN 55369 (612-424-8889) <psarasate@aol.com>, and from Jan. 5, Allen will be at the Doubletree Guest Suites (212-719-1600).
7423. On Thursday afternoon The Morley-Montgomery Reception (by invitation only) will honor past winners and this year's recipient of the award for the best paper published in The Baker Street Journal each year, and recent contributors to the BSJ. The BSI Distinguished Speaker Lecture begins at 6:15 pm on the 6th floor of the Williams Club at 24 East 39th Street (between Madison and Park Avenues); the speaker will be Owen Dudley Edwards, biographer of Arthur Conan Doyle and the general editor of THE OXFORD SHERLOCK HOLMES (\$10.00; seating is limited, and you are advised to reserve early; details below). Then there's time for supper and theater, or maybe the Aunt Clara Sing-Along at a site to be named later (since Hugh O'Lunney is frantically seeking another site for his pub).
7424. Friday begins with the Martha Hudson Breakfast, from 7:00 to 10:00 in the Oak Room at the Hotel Algonquin at 59 West 44th Street; the hotel provides its guests with a continental breakfast, and others are welcome to attend each day (and pay about \$15.00; details below). The William Gillette Memorial Luncheon starts at noon, at Moran's Chelsea Seafood Restaurant at 146 Tenth Avenue at 19th Street; \$35.00 (Susan Rice, 125 Washington Place #2-E, New York, NY 10014). And Otto Penzler's open house at The Mysterious Bookshop (129 West 56th Street) is from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm, and it is possible that Sherlockian authors will be on hand to sign their books.

7425. The Baker Street Irregulars will gather at 6:00 pm at the Union League Club at 38 East 37th Street, and The Baskerville Bash (open to all Sherlockians and their friends) will include drinks, dinner, and entertainment at 6:30 pm at La Belle Epoque at 827 Broadway (at 12th Street); \$45.00 (Maribeau Briggs, 46 East 29th Street #2-R, New York, NY 10016). Early reservations are advised for the William Gillette luncheon and the Baskerville Bash.
7426. On Saturday a wide variety of Sherlockiana will be available in a dealers room on the 2nd floor of the Hotel Algonquin at 59 West 44th Street, from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm; information about vendor tables is available from Donald B. Izban, 213 Ivy Court, Streamwood, IL 60107 (630-483-3497). The BSI annual reception, open to all Sherlockians and their friends, will be held on Saturday afternoon from 3:00 to 5:30, at the National Arts Club at 15 Gramercy Park South (on 20th Street between Park and Third Avenues); there will be an open bar and hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, and the cost is \$35.00 (details below) or \$45.00 at the door.
7427. The Baker Street Irregulars are a tax-exempt organization, and Mike Whelan has arranged with the Hotel Algonquin for single or double rooms at \$190.00 a night (Wednesday through Saturday); this is the total cost, since no tax is due on reservations arranged by the BSI (the special rate is the equivalent of \$166.00 plus tax). Other charges (room service, telephone calls, meals, drinks, etc.) are not covered. The offer is available to all Sherlockians; contact the Algonquin directly (and don't delay), and ask for the Baker Street Irregulars rate (212-840-6800).
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October 1998 #6

7428. And here are the details: you can request a reservation form for BSI events (including the lecture on Thursday, the Martha Hudson breakfast on Friday, and the reception on Saturday) from Michael F. Whelan, 414 N. Park Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46202; the forms will be mailed to you by mid-November .
7429. Mary Ellen Rich has kindly provided a list of hotels that offer reasonable (as defined by New York landlords) rates, along with a warning about nonoptional extras: \$2.00 a day occupancy tax, 8.25% state tax, and 5% city tax. You should for weekend specials, or winter promotional rates, and if you plan to arrive on Thursday, you should confirm the rates, and that the weekend rates include Thursday. Portland Square (132 West 47th St.): \$99 (single) \$109 (double) (212-382-0600); Gershwin (7 East 27th St.): \$99/\$119 (212-545-8000); New Yorker (481 8th Ave.): \$119 (212-971-0101); Hampshire (157 West 47th St.): \$119 (dollars and sense rate) (212-768-3700); St. Moritz (under renovation) (50 Central Park South): \$125 (212-752-7760); Chelsea Savoy (204 West 23rd St.): \$125/\$145 (212-929-9353); Quality Fifth Ave. (3 East 40th St.): \$129 (212-447-1500).
7430. The Dr. John H. Watson Fund offers financial assistance to all Sherlockians (membership in the BSI is not required) who might otherwise not be able to participate in the weekend's festivities. A carefully pseudonymous John H. Watson presides over the fund and welcomes contributions, which can be made by check payable to John H. Watson and sent (without return address on the envelope) to Dr. Watson, c/o The Baker Street Irregulars, at 414 N. Park Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46202; the checks will be forwarded unopened and Dr. Watson will acknowledge your generosity. Requests for assistance can also be mailed to Dr. Watson at the same address.
7431. Forecast: HOLMES FOR THE HOLIDAYS, edited by Martin H. Greenberg, Jon L. Lellenberg, and Carol-Lynn Waugh, from Berkley in November in a paperback reprint (\$13.00); 14 pastiches, all with a seasonal theme, written by Anne Perry, Barbara Paul, Carolyn Wheat, Carole Nelson Douglas, Edward D. Hoch, and others (first published in 1996).
7432. Plan ahead: the next Sherlock Holmes Festival in Crowborough will be held on July 3-10, 1999; there will be Doylean and Sherlockian events, and more information is available from P.O. Box 17, Crowborough, East Sussex TN6 1WU, England <webzone.ccacyber.com/www/conan_doyle_crowborough/>.
7433. Joseph Cates died on Oct. 10. He was a Broadway and television producer, a creator of the television game show "The \$64,000 Question", and helped make television specials into regular network features, writing, producing, and directing more than a thousand of them. He was executive producer for the special "Timex Presents Sherlock Holmes", planned by NBC-TV for spring 1976 with Robert Shaw as Holmes and Donald Pleasance as Watson, but the project was shelved because of Shaw's commitments after his hit movie "Jaws".
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November 1998 #1

7434. Francine Kitts notes that the current catalog from the Britannia Collection (Box 64413, St. Paul, MN 55164) (800-778-7007) offers an Irish deerstalker in Donegal tweed (\$49.95); a dozen of the Gielgud/Richardson radio programs on audio cassette (\$26.95); and six of the Brett/Hardwicke television shows (\$19.98 each). Adventures in Cassettes (5353 Nathan Lane North, Plymouth, MN 55422) (800-328-0108) offers 16 of the Gielgud/Richardson shows (\$29.98) and many of the Rathbone/Bruce and Conway/Bruce programs.
7435. Wilfrid de Freitas happily reports that he has found the Priory School: it is an independent co-educational English School (Kindergarten to Grade 6), founded in 1947 and located in Montreal.
7436. James Goldman died on Oct. 28. He was the author of the play "The Lion in Winter" (and won an Academy Award for his screenplay for the film) and the book for Stephen Sondheim's musical "Follies", he also wrote the script for the play "They Might Be Giants" (1961), which was made into a film in 1971 starring George C. Scott as a psychotic judge who believes that he is Sherlock Holmes, and Joanne Woodward as his psychiatrist Dr. Watson.
7437. Ben Wood notes that the new catalog from Russell's For Men offers a Holmes-and-Watson set of two meerschaum pipes carved by M. Aydogu (item SMS-126); the cost is \$195.00, and the address is 1705 North Thompson Street, Springdale, AR 72764 (800-255-9034) <www.agrussell.com>.
7438. The Practical, But Limited Geologists met at the Old Spaghetti Factory in Toronto on Oct. 28, for a dinner honoring the world's first forensic geologist, during the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America. The Bootmakers of Toronto offered a warm welcome, the traditional toasts were drunk (along with some untraditional toasts), and many of the visiting geologists remembered that one of the nice things about Canada is that Cuban cigars are both available and legal (although not inexpensive). Our next dinners will be in San Antonio in April, and in Denver in October.
7439. Those who have enjoyed the Canonical Convocation and Caper in Door County, Wis., in years past will welcome the news that the fun and games will continue, since plans are afoot for a Sherlockian Equinoctial Experience there in Sept. 1999. If you would like to be on the mailing list, write to Jane Richardson (3427 East Exchange Road, Crete, IL 60417).
7440. Tom O'Day reports that the Book-of-the-Month Club set THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES (March 94 #3) has been remaindered to Crown (and perhaps other) stores at \$3.99 a volume. The nine-volume uniform hard-cover set sold for \$44.95 in 1994; A STUDY IN SCARLET and THE SIGN OF THE FOUR seem to have been copied from a pirated edition first published by Orange Judd in 1907, and the other seven volumes were copied from the first American editions.
7441. If you missed the "Victorian Holmes Weekend" in Cape May on Nov. 6-8, there is plenty of time to plan to attend the next one, on Mar. 12-14, 1999. You get a tour of eight Victorian homes, meals, and a mystery to solve; details are available from the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts, Box 340, Cape May, NJ 08204 (609-884-5404) (800-275-4278) <www.capemaymac.org>.
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November 1998 #2

7442. The Cambridge Stamp Centre celebrated the 40th anniversary of the making the Hammer Films version of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" on Oct. 31 (when principal photography for the film ended) with a series of commemorative covers with a special pictorial postmark on the 1997 British stamp honoring the Hound, illustrated with the film's poster, and signed by Christopher Lee and actors who have performed in the Granada television series. Additional information is available from the company (attn: Keith Astell), at 9 Sussex Street, Cambridge CB1 1PA, England.
7443. The Mac OS 8.5 operating system was released with great fanfare about Sherlock (described as "your personal search detective"), and with a nice logo that also appears on free T-shirts given to those who were among the first to buy the new upgrade.
7444. Some of the nicest things about book catalogs are the surprises one finds in them, including occasional quotes: "Gentlemen, you must not mistake me. I admit that he is the sworn foe of our nation, and, if you will, of the whole human race. But Gentlemen, we must be just to our enemy. We must not forget that he once shot a bookseller." Thomas Campbell, on Napoleon, quoted in a catalog from Buddenbrooks (31 Newbury Street, Boston, MA 02116) <buddenbrooks@worldnet.att.net>.
7445. Norman L. Rosenbaum's collection of Conan Doyle books and manuscripts will be sold at auction at Sotheby's in London on Dec. 17, in 218 lots, one of them being twelve minutes of home movies of Conan Doyle and his family). The catalog is available from Sotheby's (attn: Peter Selley, 34-35 New Bond Street, London W1A 2AA, England) <peter.selley@sothebys.com> and on their web-site <www.sothebys.com>.
7446. The October catalog from the J. Peterman Company (1318 Russell Cave Road, Lexington, KY 40505 (800-231-7341) <www.jpeterman.com> is devoted to "holiday attire" (and Scott Monty notes that quite a bit of it echoes stylish attire from late-19th-century England and America).
7447. The Sept. issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota reports on the Founders' Footprints Conference held at the Wilson Library this summer, with reports on the festivities, and by new curator of special collections Timothy Johnson on his background and plans for the future. You can join the mailing list by writing to Richard J. Sveum (466 O. M. Wilson Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <sveum001@maroon.tc.umn.edu>.
7448. There was quite a bit of publicity for the unveiling of the skeleton of a new spinosaur *Suchomimus tenerensis* at the National Geographic Society in Washington this month (it was as large a *Tyrannosaurus rex* but preferred a diet of fish, and there were a lot of fish available 100 million years ago in what's now central Niger). There aren't all that many spinosaurs known, but one of them is *Irritator challengeri*, found in Brazil and named after Professor George Edward Challenger, of the Lost World (February 96 #1).

November 1998 #3

7449. Bob Kane died on Nov. 3. He was the creator of Batman and Robin, and the Penguin and Catwoman and the Joker, for DC Comics in 1939, and (as might be expected) the comic books had Sherlockian references over the years, the first of them being appearances by Bruce Wayne's butler Alfred in a deerstalker in the 1940s). Kane gave artistic control over the series to DC Comics early in Batman's history, but retained (and profited from) the copyright, and continued to be involved in the series, and worked as a consultant right through the most recent feature films.
7450. Dan Knight reports that the current catalog from The Mind's Eye (Box 6549, Chelmsford, MA 01824 (800-949-333) offers wool deerstalkers (S/M/L/XL) for \$24.95; a Sherlock Holmes pipe from Peterson of Dublin for \$249.00; and six audiocassettes each with two of the Gielgud/Richardson radio broadcasts for \$35.95.
7451. Greg Darak reports that a Celebrity Play Reading Series at the Stratford Shakespeare Festival Theater will include Charles Edward Pogue's 1987 play "The Ebony Ape" on Jan. 25, 1999, with Michael York (Sherlock Holmes) and Simon James (Dr. Watson). Tickets cost \$15.00 or \$10.00 (\$5.00 for students), and the series benefits the continuing renovation and restoration of the theater; 1850 Elm Street, Stratford, CT 06497 (203-381-9518).
7452. Reported: new double-audiocassette sets from CSA Telltapes (101 Chamberlayne Road, London NW10 3ND, England): THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, EPISODE 3, read by Edward Hardwicke (Suss/Cree/Spec); and CLASSIC SCI FI STORIES, read by Nicky Henson (includes Conan Doyle's "The Disintegration Machine"). £8.99 each postpaid in Britain; £9.99 each to other addresses.
7453. Decorative eggs have long been a holiday tradition in Europe and in some parts of the United States, and Ramute Plioplys has produced a series of attractive Sherlockian eggs, to hang on your Christmas tree or elsewhere. The eggs are decorated in the Lithuanian tradition (using heated beeswax and multiple dye baths) and feature dancing men and various mottos; they cost \$20.00 each plus shipping, and you can request an illustrated flier from Ramute (7212 South Talman Avenue, Chicago, IL 60629).
7454. The Mysterious Bookshop's fall-winter catalog includes three pages of new and old Sherlockiana (and lots of other books); 129 West 56th Street, New York, NY 10019 (800-352-2840); 8763 Beverly Boulevard, West Hollywood, CA 90048 (800-821-9017); or 82 Marylebone High Street, London W1M 3DE, England. And there's a web-site at <www.mysteriousbookshop.com>.
7455. Ted Friedman continues his exploration of Sherlockian philately in a wellillustrated two-page article on the "Music of Sherlock Holmes" in Topical Time (Nov.-Dec. 1998). The issue costs \$5.00 postpaid, from the American Topical Association, Box 50820, Albuquerque, NM 87181.
7456. Anglofile reports a new treasure trove for trivia fans: the "RADIO TIMES" GUIDE TO TV COMEDY, by Mark Lewisohn (London: BBC Worldwide, 1998; 736 pp., £19.99); the book offers details on 2,600 comedy programs, from sitcoms to sketch shows, series to specials, broadcast on British television over the last 54 years. Anglofile is a monthly newsletter with detailed coverage of British entertainment; Box 33515, Decatur, GA 30033 (\$15.00 a year).

November 1998 #4

7457. Bill Dorn's Sherlock Holmes Calendar for 1999 shows the dates for 54 of the case (Bill has used the Zeisler and Christ chronologies, and omits the six cases that Zeisler and Christ did not date), and the founding dates for 65 Sherlockian societies, and birth and death dates for Sherlockian notables; \$9.95 postpaid (or \$11.95 outside the U.S.) from William S. Dorn, 2045 South Monroe Street, Denver, CO 80210.
7458. The Library of Congress has added "The Lost World" (1925) to the National Film Registry, as one of 25 films selected this year "based on their historic, cultural, or aesthetic importance." The Registry was created by the National Film Preservation Act of 1988, and 25 films are chosen each year; Buster Keaton's "Sherlock, Jr." (1924) was honored in 1991.
7459. Plan ahead: there will be another spring-break "221Beach" Sherlockian gathering at Spring Lake, N.J., on Apr. 23-25, 1999; details are available from Al Gregory and January Stauber, at 118 South Prospect Street, Verona, NJ 07044 <grimpen@compuserve.com>.
7460. The Library of Congress exhibition "Freud: Conflict and Culture" (through Jan. 16) is accompanied by a film series in Mary Pickford Theater in the Madison Building, and Brian Taves notes that "The Seven-Per-Cent Solution" is scheduled for 7:00 pm on Dec. 15; there's no charge, but there are only 64 seats in the theater, and you should call 202-707-5677 for reservations starting Dec. 8.
7461. Jim Suszynski spotted Holmes and Watson on the cover of WEATHER TRACKER (a supplement in the special school edition of the Philadelphia Inquirer that helps students in grades 4-8 understand how weather makes news), and Pooh in a deerstalker on the cover of HUNTING FOR HONEY: SPECIAL EDITION COLORING BOOK from Golden Books.

7462. Hugh Scullion reports from Britain that Douglas Moreton died in September. He worked for many years as a salesman for a printing company, and wrote two collections of amusing pastiches: *THE PAPER IN THE CASE* (1997) and *THE UNRELATED ADVENTURES OF CLEWLOW HOLMES* (1998).
7463. Jennie Paton notes that *SMITHSONIAN HISTORICAL PERFORMANCES: THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* from Radio Spirits is now in stores; \$24.98 on four audiocassettes or \$39.98 on four CDs, with twelve of the John Stanley/Alfred Shirley radio programs from the 1947-48 season. The new releases were produced by Ken Greenwald and 221 Baker Street Associates (and almost all of them were not previously available).
7464. Carl Heifetz reports that Tim Kelly's dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be produced by the St. Petersburg Little Theatre, Jan. 7-17, 1999. The theater's address is 4025 31st Street South, St. Petersburg, FL 33712 (813-866-1973).
7465. Noted by Ralph Hall: *NATE THE GREAT AND ME: THE CASE OF THE FLEEING FANG*, by Marjorie Weinman Sharmat (New York, Delacorte, 1998, \$9.95); the latest title in the continuing series featuring Nate in Sherlockian costume. *AUNT EATER'S MYSTERY HALLOWEEN*, by Doug Cushman (Harper Collins, 1998, \$14.95); with Aunt Eater in S'ian costume on the cover and throughout the book.

November 1998 #5

7466. T. J. Mullin's dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" played at the Heritage Square Music Hall in Golden, and it was quite funny, according to John Stephenson. The show will be revived from Jan. 22 to Feb. 28, 1999; the address is: 18301 West Colfax Avenue #D-103, Golden, CO 80401, and the box-office telephone number is 303-279-7800.
7467. David L. Hammer continues his Sherlockian explorations of philately with a pastiche about "Victor Lynch, the Forger" in *The American Philatelist*, Nov. 1998; Box 8000, State College, PA 16803 (\$3.95).
7468. Reported: *BRIGADE: THE FURTHER ADVENTURES OF INSPECTOR LESTRADE*, by M. J. Trow (Washington: Regnery/Gateway, 1998; 208 pp., \$19.95); the second in the continuing series, with humor that's broad and occasionally slapstick, and a cast of cameo characters that extends from Kaiser Wilhelm to an infant Basil Rathbone.
7469. Robert S. Gellerstedt, Jr., (1035 Wedgewood Drive, Fayetteville, GA 30214) has tucked away in his computer a combined index to 20 Sherlockian anthologies, and to the obituaries published in *The Baker Street Journal*, and to the recorded cases, all included in the 27 pages of the latest edition of *THE SHERLOCKIAN ANTHOLOGIES INDEX*; \$6.00 postpaid to the U.S. and Canada. Bob's "The Irregular News" (his four-page Christmas newsletter, this year with reprints of two Sherlockian essays by A. A. Milne) is available without charge.
7470. Scott Monty has forwarded a report from the N.Y. Times (Nov. 18) that the latest Stradivarius to go to auction brought \$884,000 at Christie's, quite a bit more than the 55 shillings Sherlock Holmes said he paid for his, and rather less than the \$1.58 million a different Stradivarius brought earlier this year (May 98 #3).
7471. *THE BOTTOM OF THE BARREL* is the ninth Pequod Press pressing this year, and it's a volume of verse (primarily Canonical, the poet reports). The booklet costs \$40.00 (cloth) or \$20.00 (paper), from John Ruyle, 521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707.
7472. Michael and Lynette Yencho exhibited a handsome bronze sculpture of Sherlock Holmes "On Grimpen Mire" in Minneapolis earlier this year, and copies still are available (\$600 plus shipping). You can write for an illustrated brochure (Garden Studio, 931 Portland Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55104) or see it on the Web <www.skypoint.com/members/yencho/holmes/>.
7473. Ratana Ngin reports that Ty (the company that makes Beanie Babies) also has a line of plush dolls, one of them a basset hound named Sherlock, about 12" long, that sells for about \$10.00. The electronically-enabled can see him at <www.ty.com> (look in the Dog House).
7474. A television adaptation of Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical "Cats" was broadcast on "Great Performances" on PBS-TV on Nov. 2 (and perhaps a bit earlier in Britain), and the program is available on a videocassette (from Polygram Video) for \$18.99; it's nicely done, and the cast includes Bryn Walters as Macavity: the Mystery Cat, who is just as Canonical in the musical as he is in the poem in T. S. Eliot's *OLD POSSUM'S BOOK OF PRACTICAL CATS*.

November 1998 #6

7475. Noted by Bill Mason: *THE MAMMOTH BOOK OF MOVIE DETECTIVES AND SCREEN CRIMES*, edited by Peter Haining (New York: Carroll & Graf, 1998; 416 pp., \$10.95); it's an anthology of stories that have been dramatized, and of scripts that include Thomas R. Hutchinson's "The Three Garridebs" (broadcast by NBC-TV on Nov. 28, 1937).
7476. Reported: *THE MURILLO MURDER MYSTERY*, by Michael Jorgensen, with illustrations by the author; a mystery involving the cast of an Australian tour of "The Speckled Band" in 1911. A brochure is available from the Black Jack Press, 392 Station Street, Carlton North, Vic. 3054, Australia, or you can order the book itself for \$29.00 postpaid (or \$110 postpaid for a limited edition with additional illustrations).
7477. If you've postponed reserving for events during the birthday festivities in January, you may be too late for some of them, but at least there's still time to send souvenirs for the Baskerville Bash to Francine Kitts at 35 Van Cortlandt Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10301; her deadline is Dec. 20, and you can send her 120 copies of your souvenir.
7478. The Mycroft Holmes Society of Syracuse is planning a Fall Sherlockian Weekend at Minnowbrook in Blue Mountain Lake, N.Y., on Oct. 15-17, 1999. More information is available from Carol Cavalluzzi (108 Marvin Road, Syracuse, NY 13207) <cacavall@library.syr.edu>. The resort also has a web-site, at <www.minnowbrook.org>.
7479. Hugh Leonard's play "The Mask of Moriarty" (1985) opened at the Blackfriars Theatre in Rochester on Nov. 27 and runs through Dec. 31; the box office is at 248 East Avenue, Rochester, NY 14604 (716-454-1260). The play also will be produced at Seattle's Village Theatre-Mainstage from Jan. 21 to Mar. 28, 1999; 303 Front Street North, Issaquah, WA 98207 (425-392-2202) <seattle.sidewalk.com/link/70125>.
7480. William A. Berner ("Aloysius Doran, Esq., of San Francisco, Cal.") died in 1997. Bill was a member of The Scowrers and Molly Maguires, and edited *The Vermissa Herald* in the 1960s and 1970s, and he was a helpful book dealer to Sherlockians in a time when there weren't that many dealers who specialized in Sherlockiana. He received his Investiture in 1983.
7481. Robert B. Frier ("Colonel Upwood") died on Apr. 8. He was one of the first members of The Scowrers and Molly Maguires, and was awarded his Investiture in 1960; he was editor of the *Pacific Goldsmith*, and loved Gilbert & Sullivan as well as Sherlock Holmes.
7482. Larry Millett's *SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE ICE PALACE MURDERS* (New York: Viking, 1998; 322 pp., \$23.95) brings Holmes and Watson back to Minnesota in 1896 to solve a grisly murder during Saint Paul's famous Winter Carnival; as in his *SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE RED DEMON* (September 96 #5), Millett makes good use of local history, color, and characters. And at the Norwegian Explorers' conference last summer, he reported that Holmes paid a third visit to Minnesota, to be covered in a third novel now underway.

December 1998 #1

7483. It's great fun to hear good stories read by fine actors, and audiocassettes offer just that opportunity: Nicky Henson reads Conan Doyle's "Disintegration Machine" and five stories by other authors on *CLASSIC SCI FI STORIES*, and Edward Hardwick reads three stories ("The Sussex

- Vampire"/"The Creeping Man"/"The Speckled Band") on THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, EPISODE 3. Both are two-cassette sets; £8.99 each postpaid in Britain, or £9.99 each to other addresses, from CSA Teltapes Ltd., 101 Chamberlayne Road, London NW10 3ND, England.
7484. The Easton Press (47 Richards Avenue, Norwalk, CT 06875) (800-211-1308) is still offering THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES in three volumes; first issued in 1987, it's a handsome leather-bound reprint (with color frontispieces) of the Heritage Press edition published in 1952 and 1957; \$49.75 per volume postpaid.
7485. Eric Ambler died on Oct. 22. He was hailed as the father of the modern spy thriller, famous for novels such as EPITAPH FOR A SPY (1938) and A COFFIN FOR DIMITRIOS (1939), and for his screenplays for films that included "The Cruel Sea" (1953) and "A Night to Remember" (1958). In his introduction to the Murray/Cape edition of THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1974) Ambler recalled his first encounter with the Canon: "For the boy of twelve these stories were more than an entertainment; they opened doors to rooms about which he might not otherwise have known so soon," and noted that they still gave him pleasure.
7486. Plan ahead: John Comstock notes that the Shaw Festival in Ontario will produce Arthur Conan Doyle's "Waterloo" from June 5 to July 25, 1999. This is their second production of the play, which was well-received in repertory last summer. The box-office address is: Box 774, Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON L0S 1J0, Canada (800-267-4759) <shawfest@sympatico.ca>.
7487. Patrick Horgan began his Sherlockian career playing Captain Gregg in the musical "Baker Street" in 1964, and went on to play Sherlock Holmes in the William Gillette play, and in "The Speckled Band" and in a television commercial, and to play William Gillette (in Kenneth Ludwig's play "Dramatic License"). And he has done much more, recording six of the nine books of the Canon (work is underway on the remaining three) and his book of S'ian scholarship THE DETECTION OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, for a company called Audio Concepts; some of the recordings are available (and more will be soon) to those who can download them from an Internet web-site at <www.audiohighway.com> (use the link to "audio books"). There's no charge for the recordings or the software, but you will need to be running Windows on a reasonably powerful computer. There are hopes that the scholarship can be published as a book, and that the recordings can be issued on audiocassettes, sooner rather than later.
7488. THE EINSTEIN PARADOX AND OTHER SCIENCE MYSTERIES SOLVED BY SHERLOCK HOLMES (Reading: Helix/Perseus, 1998; 254 pp., \$12.00) is the new title used for the paperback edition of Colin Bruce's THE STRANGE CASE OF MRS. HUDSON'S CAT (June 97 #4); explanations of the more important paradoxes of classical and modern physics, with a cast of Sherlockian and Doylean characters.

December 1998 #2

7489. Plan ahead: Cox & Co. of New England and The Bull Terriers of Boston will hold an anniversary weekend gathering at Windsor Castle on May 15-16, 1999. Windsor Castle is perhaps better known locally as the Sheraton Tara (even though a photograph of the hotel shows that it looks more like a castle than a southern mansion). Additional details are available from David House, 498 Hanover Street #1-D, Manchester, NH 03104.
7490. "Houdini" was interesting on TNT cable in December, with David Warner in a short scene as Conan Doyle. It was Warner's second association with Sherlock Holmes, for those who like trivia questions.
7491. Bjarne Nielsen (Antikvariat Pinkerton, Algade 3, DK-4500 Nykobing Sjaelland, Denmark) continues to issue interesting sales lists of Sherlockiana, in English and Danish, some from the collection of A. D. Henriksen, and the books and pamphlets that he has published himself; the current catalog also has a photograph of Bjarne's Sherlock Holmes Museum, which is well worth a visit when you're visiting Denmark.
7492. Flip Wilson died on Nov. 25. He was the first successful black host of a television variety show, winning Emmy awards for performing and writing on "The Flip Wilson Show" in 1971. In one of the many skits on the series he portrayed Hemlock Jones, on Dec. 3, 1970, with Johnny Brown as Dr. Dotson and Connie Stevens as Prof. Doriarty.
7493. Scott Lucy has reported that plans are afoot to create The Undershaw Club in Arthur Conan Doyle's home in Surrey. Plans call for a major refurbishment of the house (to be completed early in Dec. 1999), and the club will then be open to members, offering accommodations, meals, and entertainment. The management company (ACD Holdings) plans to raise £1.5 million, of which £200,000 will be used to acquire Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes material. The company also plans to raise £600,000 to form a production company (ACD Productions) to produce a feature-length documentary of Conan Doyle's life. The initial joining fee for club will be £500 (waived for founding members who join before Jan. 2000) and the annual fee will be £365 (U.K. members) or £200 (overseas members) or £50 (associate members who visit the club no more than three times a year). Additional information is available from Lucy at The Undershaw Club, c/o Grannom House, Gasden Lane, Witley, Surrey GU8 5QB, England <slucy@supralife.co.uk>.
7494. Plan ahead: the STUD Sherlockian Society will hold their next Annual Dinner and Weekend on Mar. 5-6, 1999, in and near Schiller Park, Ill. Details are available from Allan Devitt (16W603 3rd Avenue, Bensenville, IL 60106).
7495. Barbara Roscoe reports that Holmes Under the Arch (a group of Sherlockian societies in Missouri and Illinois) are planning a "Weekend at Baskerville Hall" in St. Louis on Sept. 10-11, 1999. Additional information is available from Holmes Under the Arch, 7101 Mardel Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63109 <huta1999@aol.com>.
7496. A new flier from Carolyn and Joel Senter (Classic Specialties, Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219) <www.sherlock-holmes.com> offers souvenirs (the pin, poster, and medallion) from the recent William Gillette festival in Tryon, N.C., and Bill Dorn's Sherlockian calendar for 1999.

December 1998 #3

7497. Syd Goldberg has kindly forwarded Thomas J. Brady's review (in the Philadelphia Inquirer, Nov. 1) of Paul Theroux's new book about V. S. Naipaul, SIR VIDIA'S SHADOW (Houghton Mifflin, \$25.00); Brady reports that Theroux divides his time between Cape Cod and Hawaii, and in Hawaii raises bees, "inspired by Sherlock Holmes, who reputedly survived his supposed death leap with Professor Moriarty at Reichenbach Falls and went on to raise bees in retirement in Sussex."
7498. Reported by Steve Rothman: ONE MAN'S CHORUS, by Anthony Burgess (New York: Carroll & Graf, 1998; 368 pp., \$26.00); a posthumous collection of essays that include "Our Eternal Holmes" (his "Immortal Crusader" reprinted from the May 14, 1989, issue of The Mail on Sunday).
7499. And yes, that was a trivia question: what was David Warner's first association with Sherlock Holmes? In the film "Time After Time" (1979), directed by Nicholas Meyer, with Malcolm McDowell as H. G. Wells and David Warner as John Leslie Stevenson (who is Jack the Ripper). Stevenson uses Wells' time machine to escape to modern-day San Francisco, where Wells tracks him down at the Hyatt Regency, where Stevenson says with admiration, "You're a regular Sherlock Holmes."
7500. Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine celebrates Sherlock Holmes' birthday in its Feb. issue, with cover art by Kevin Hauff and nice poetry by Peter Lovesey.
7501. Congratulations to Al Rosenblatt ("Inspector Bradstreet" in the BSI), who Who has been nominated by New York governor George Pataki to the Court of Appeals, the highest court in the state. "Rosenblatt is a longtime Sherlock Holmes buff," the Albany Times Union noted, "in fact, the fictional

sleuth sometimes finds his way into Rosenblatt's decisions." And the N.Y. Law Journal reported, "We had a long talk and most of it was about Sherlock Holmes", Judge Rosenblatt said, noting that both he and the governor are aficionados. The state senate is likely to confirm the nomination early next year.

7502. Joe Eckrich has nice news for those who have been seeking a copy of Arthur Wontner's "The Sign of Four" (1932): Vintage Entertainment offers a videocassette for \$13.95 postpaid. Checks payable to (and sent to) Nothing's New, 23 Bayhill Shopping Center, San Bruno, CA 94066.
7503. Steve Rothman reports that George R. Allen died on Nov. 20. He was a fine bookseller (at William H. Allen in Philadelphia), and in 1945 was assigned to counter-intelligence with the 101st Airborne and was among the first of the Allied troops to enter Berchtesgaden, where in Adolph Hitler's private film library he found a copy of "Der Hund von Baskerville" (1937); he wrote about this to Christopher Morley in 1947, and Edgar W. Smith published the report in The Baker Street Journal in Apr. 1948.
7504. Maurice Tanner (180 Whitehorse Road, West Croydon, Surrey CD0 2LA, England) offers a pair of cacheted covers cancelled on Oct. 31 with a "Hound of the Baskervilles" pictorial postmark, one honoring the 1939 film (£13.99 to the U.K., £14.99 elsewhere), and the other the 1959 film (£11.99/£12.99); credit-card orders welcome (L0.30 surcharge) or you can pay in sterling. You can also send him \$1.00 for an illustrated flier.

December 1998 #4

7505. Laurie R. King will tour to promote her new (non-Mary Russell) book A DARKER PLACE in February, for those who would like to meet her and get books signed, and perhaps ask for a hint or two about the next book in the Russell series (which is O JERUSALEM, scheduled for June 1999). The dates and places are: 5: Capitola Book Cafe (Capitola, CA); 6: M Is for Mystery (San Mateo); 8: Kepler's (Palo Alto); 9: Bonanza Street Books (Walnut Creek); 10: 23rd Avenue Books (Portland, OR); 11: Park Place Books (Seattle, WA); 12: University Bookstore (Seattle); 14: The Poisoned Pen (Scottsdale, AZ); 15: Rue Morgue (Boulder, CO); 18: Mysterious Bookshop (Los Angeles, CA); 19: Small World Mystery Annex (Los Angeles); 20: Book Carnival (Los Angeles); 21: Mysterious Galaxy (San Diego); 23: Reader's Books (Sonoma).
7506. The Radio Spirits set SMITHSONIAN HISTORICAL PERFORMANCES: THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (November 98 #4) is now being discounted widely: Richard Wein reports that it costs \$18.88 on four audiocassettes or \$29.88 on four CDs, from Collectors' Choice Music (Box 838, Itasca, IL 60143) (800-923-1122). This is the set with 12 of the John Stanley/Alfred Shirley radio programs from the 1947-48 season.
7507. Richard also spotted new "Sherlock Holmes Pub" T-shirts (\$14.95) and sweatshirts (\$24.95) with a design from a pub in Sheffield, England, in the holiday 1998 catalog from What on Earth, 2451 Enterprise East Parkway, Twinsburg, OH 44087 (800-945-2552).
7508. Michael L. Higgs' ON THE RACK WITH CONAN DOYLE, AND OTHER JOURNEYS (Vancouver: Hansom Press, 1998; 105 pp.), is a collection of essays that have been published earlier in the newsletter of the Stormy Petrels of British Columbia, and it is a nice collection indeed; Higgs has traveled widely, and to some unusual places, and he has written about them (and about their Doylean and Sherlockian connections) with insight and enjoyment. The booklet costs \$15.00 or CA\$20.00 or £10.00 (postpaid) from the publisher (1026 West Keith Road, North Vancouver, BC V7P 3C6, Canada).
7509. Bits & Pieces (1 Puzzle Place, Stevens Point, WI 54481) (800-544-7297) are discounting the four mystery jigsaw puzzles in "The Continuing Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (the puzzle pictures help solve the crimes); \$8.95 each or \$29.95 for all four.
7510. And there's a new (and different) Sherlockian jigsaw puzzle, reported by Richard Wein: "The Adventure of the Speckled Band" (\$19.95) in a catalog from the Spilsbury Puzzle Company (Box 8922, Madison, WI 53708) (800-772-1760); 1,000 pieces, and it's item A3266-03.
7511. The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library will offer a discussion of "Conan Doyle Among the Spirits" at the library on the afternoon of Jan. 31: Joe Nickell (Senior Research Fellow of the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal) will discuss the Spiritualism movement, and Victoria Gill (Curator of the ACD Collection) will display and describe some of the collection's material related to Conan Doyle's participation in the movement. \$8.00 at the door (free to members of the Friends); rsvp to Doug Wrigglesworth at 16 Sunset Street, Holland Landing, ON L9N 1H4, Canada <dougwig@netrover.com>.

December 1998 #5

7512. A press release at hand from Bjarne Nielsen notes the founding of The Great Greenland Expedition Society, whose members have discovered that the island of Uffa actually is the island of M⁺geoen. The society (using the mothership S/S Perikles) occupied the island on July 17, and declared it free of all unions and nuclear activities, on behalf of all Sherlockians worldwide. The island is located at 55 degrees 53.46 minutes N and 11 degrees 40.15 E, not far from Nykobing Sjaelland in Denmark, and conveniently near Bjarne's home. The society's statutes state that its aim is the final charting of navigable regions in Isefjorden and Roskilde Fjord with due attention to accessibility of anchorage, and local availability of beer, pot-luck, and snooker.
7513. The Oxford Popular Fiction edition of THE LOST WORLD, with an Introduction by Ian Duncan (October 95 #6) has been joined by an Oxford World Classics Edition (Oxford: Oxford Univ. Press, 1998; 224 pp., \$8.95); the new edition is a reissue, now uniform with THE OXFORD SHERLOCK HOLMES.
7514. Norman L. Rosenbaum's collection of Arthur Conan Doyle material was sold at auction at Sotheby's in London on Dec. 17, and some of the highlights (with hammer prices not including the 15% buyer's premium) were: a first edition of A STUDY IN SCARLET (£11,000), a first separate American edition of THE SIGN OF THE FOUR in Collier's Once a Week Library (£8,000), an inscribed first edition of THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (£15,000), a first edition of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES in superb condition (£5,000), the 21-page manuscript of "How the Brigadier Rode to Minsk" (£12,000), an Indian silver cornucopia given by Rudyard Kipling to Conan Doyle as a Christmas present (£10,000), a one-page letter from Conan Doyle in the early 1890s in which he wrote that Holmes' "reasonings & deductions (which are the whole point of the character) would become an intolerable bore upon the stage" (£5,000), an unpublished ink-and-wash portrait of Sherlock Holmes by Sidney Paget, signed and dated 1904 (£18,000), and 12 minutes of home movies of Sir Arthur and his family (£2,000). An inscribed copy of the first American edition of A STUDY IN SCARLET sent to auction by another owner brought £20,000.
7515. Maureen O'Sullivan died on June 23. She made more than 60 films, and was best-known as Jane (with Johnny Weismuller as Tarzan) in "Tarzan, the Ape Man" (1932) and five sequels. She also played Lady Doyle in the television film "The Great Houdinis" (1976), with Peter Cushing as Conan Doyle.
7516. THE HISTORY OF THE NORWEGIAN EXPLORERS, a 32-page booklet prepared by Julie McKuras and Richard J. Sveum for the society's 50th-anniversary dinner this month, is a nicely-researched review of both earlier and more recent Sherlockian events in Minnesota and Switzerland; copies are available for \$7.00 postpaid from Julie McKuras (13512 Granada Avenue, Apple Valley, MN 55124).
7517. Reported by Jim Vogelsang: Peterson of Dublin offers pipe tobacco as well as a series of Sherlockian briar pipes; their "Sherlock Holmes" is an "old 19th century blend of orange and red smoking leaf, Brazilian and Mysore Indian tobacco" packed in a 50-gram tin with a S'ian silhouette on the label, which also carries a blunt warning that "tobacco seriously damages health" as required by an EC Council Directive (it's not just our Surgeon General who discourages smoking nowadays); about \$10.00 in tobacco stores.

December 1998 #6

7518. Joe Eckrich has some really nice news for those who have long been wanting to see John Barrymore's "Sherlock Holmes" (1922): it's now available on videocassette for \$19.95 (plus \$4.00 shipping) from Videobrary, Inc. (5812 Wish Avenue, Encino, CA 91316) (818-881-2640) (fax 213-660-5571) <paullissy@aol.com>, and credit-card orders are welcome. The quality is quite good, the length is 103 minutes, there's new organ music, and it's grand indeed to see the Barrymore version of the Gillette play, with a cast that includes Hedda Hopper and William H. Powell. This is the print that was restored in 1970 (with help from the film's director Albert Parker) from separate and out-of-sequence scenes discovered at George Eastman House in Rochester, and while it isn't complete it still offers a fine look at what people saw when they went to the movies all those years ago.
7519. John Hall's SIDELIGHTS ON HOLMES (Ashcroft: Calabash Press, 1998; 190 pp.) explores each of the Canonical stories, offering commentary and questions (and plausible answers for many of those questions); it's a fine example of the enjoyment to be found in considering the contradictions and confusions and nooks and crannies of the Canon. \$21.00/CA\$39.00/£13.50 plus shipping (\$3.75 to U.S. or CA\$5.30 to Canada or \$7.05/\$4.15 air/surface elsewhere) (credit-card orders welcome) from the Calabash Press, Box 1360, Ashcroft, BC V0K 1A0, Canada <www.ash-tree.bc.ca/calabash.html>.
7520. Calabash also has published THE SCROLL OF THE DEAD, by David Stuart Davies (1998; 147 pp.); the pastiche is a nicely-plotted mystery that has Holmes and Watson involved in pursuing and thwarting a villain who hopes to find the secret of immortality. \$30.00 or CA\$40.00 or £19.00 (cloth); \$19.50 or CA\$23.50 or £12.50 (paper); plus shipping as above.
7521. Dick Wright spotted Matthew Stevenson's article on "Russian Rublette" in The American Spectator (Dec. 1998), about current economics in Russia, and about the proliferation of small regional banks. "I have visited many of these new banks," he writes, "including one in Ufa, nears the Urals, with potatoes for sale in its lobby." No mention of any nearby island, alas.
7522. Bill Thornton reports that Rockport Shoes offer a Baskerville collection of men's casual shoes, with styles that include Watson and Moriarty; Rockport shoes are available in a mail-order catalog from Marks Athletic (4028 S.W. 57th Avenue, Miami, FL 33155) (800-666-6222).
7523. Keith E. Webb's SHERLOCK HOLMES IN JAPAN (April 98 #6) now is available in an expanded 97-page edition; Keith has lived in Japan since 1991 and does well with explanations (in English) of the Sherlockian references in the Canon, and of the history of Sherlock Holmes and Sherlockians in Japan. The cost is \$10.00 postpaid, and you can send checks or currency to Keith at 15104 SE 22nd Street, Bellevue, WA 98007.
7524. As subscribers in the United States likely are aware, our domestic postage rates are going to increase in January, and so will the subscription rate for this newsletter, to \$9.10 a year; postage rates to other countries are unchanged for the moment, but will be increased later in 1999.

January 1999 #1

7525. The birthday festivities in New York suffered only a brief blizzard on Friday afternoon, and almost everyone traveling that day got to evening events almost on time. The weather was much nicer on Thursday both for the Christopher Morley Walk and for the BSI's Distinguished Speaker Lecture, which featured Owen Dudley Edwards, who both entertained and enlightened a large audience at the Williams Club with his talk on "Dr. Watson: Portrait of a Genius".
7526. And (for those up early enough on Friday) the first event was nationwide: Edward Lear reports that during the "Today" show on NBC-TV, Matt Lauer and Al Roker were outside with the audience, and Roker said that they wanted to announce a birthday of someone who was 145 years old today. With that they panned to Lauer, who was wearing a deerstalker and said it was the birthday of Sherlock Holmes. Lauer then had the camera turn to a man in the crowd who also was wearing a deerstalker (David R. McCallister, of The Pleasant Places of Florida, Wanda and Jeffery Dow note).
7527. The Hotel Algonquin provided a fine meal for the Mrs. Hudson Breakfast on Friday morning, and the William Gillette Luncheon at Moran's Chelsea Seafood Restaurant was as always a splendid event, with the Friends of Bogie's (aka Andrew Joffe, Sarah Montague Joffe, and Paul Singleton) presenting a tour of "Sister Wendy's World of Sherlock". And Otto Penzler's traditional open house at the Mysterious Bookshop was a nice opportunity for collectors to browse and buy.
7528. The Baker Street Irregulars assembled at the Union League Club, which is a new venue, and a fine one indeed (and not just because it's closer to midtown), and joined Otto Penzler in his toast to Deborah Fusco as *the* Woman during the pre-dinner cocktail party (Debbie went on to dine at the Algonquin with many of the other ladies who have received that honor).
7529. The evening's entertainment featured the usual traditions, and presentations that included a report by George Fletcher and Jon Lellenberg on the venues of past annual dinners, an explanation by John Linsenmeyer of why Charles Augustus Milverton should be Canonized, a frantic debate on the best and worst stories in the Canon (frantic because each side had to be both pro and con), and a tribute by Dan Posnansky to the late James Keddie (pŕre and fils, as they chose to be known in Boston and in the BSI).
7530. And there was enthusiastic applause for New York governor George Pataki, who had appointed Al Rosenblatt to the Court of Appeals, and on Jan. 5 had presided over Al's swearing-in ceremony, and was the first state governor to attend a BSI annual dinner (mention was made of the fact that New York governor Franklin Delano Roosevelt had been a Sherlockian and had gone on to serve as president of the United States, but the governor did not seize the opportunity to announce his future plans).
7531. Miike Whelan (the BSI's "Wiggins") awarded this year's Birthday Honours of Irregular Shillings and Investitures to Marilyn MacGregor ("V.V. 341"), Paul Jeffers ("Wilson Hargreave"), Bill Dorn ("The Newgate Calendar"), June Kinnee ("Miss Hatty Doran"), and Les Klinger ("The Abbey Grange").

January 1999 #2

7532. The Baskerville Bash also took place on Friday evening, again at La Belle Epoque and with a capacity crowd, and with entertainment by The Grimpen Mire Choir and the Sherlettes, Will Walsh explaining his Seventeen-Step Program for Recovering Sherlockians (you start by admitting that Sherlock Holmes is fictional), Elliott Black performing his mystifying mentalism act ("The Sherlock Holmes of Thought"), and presentations by Rosemary Michaud and Brad Keefavuer.
7533. On Saturday morning the dealers' room (at the Algonquin) was as always full of dealers and a wide variety of Sherlockiana to delight eager browsers and collectors. And the Saturday-afternoon cocktail party at the National Arts Club featured Jay and Trish Pearlman's spectacular miniature recreation of the sitting-room at 221B Baker Street, displayed for the first time for a Sherlockian audience.
7534. Al Rosenblatt waxed poetic in his traditional report on the previous evening's events, and Mike Whelan announced that Jon Lellenberg was the winner of the Morley-Montgomery Award (an attractive certificate and a check for \$500) for the best contribution to last year's Baker Street Journal (the BSI's Christmas Annual history of the 1940 BSI annual dinner). And Beverly Wolov read her poem honoring *the* woman, commissioned as a new tradition at the previous evening's dinner at the Algonquin for *the* woman.
7535. The Dr. John H. Watson Fund benefited from June Kinnee's energetic marketing of raffle tickets for an attractive portrait-in-oils of Sherlock Holmes that was painted by Franklin Moody in 1979 and kindly donated to the raffle by Ken Lanza and Altamont's Agents, and from the generosity of bidders

in the auction, which included treasures such a sheet of the Sherlock Holmes stamps and the set of first day covers issued by Nicaragua in 1973, donated from Ted Schulz's collection by Vinnie Brosnan.

7536. The festivities continued into the evening, but on a more informal basis, with The Canonical Capricorns celebrating Sherlock Holmes and others born under that sign, and with some going off to theaters or getting into other mischief. And for the hardy souls who stayed on, or perhaps up, until Sunday noon, the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes had arranged a Sherlockian brunch at the Landmark Tavern.
7537. I've not reported on everything, I hasten to add; if you want more details than fit into print here, it is quite likely that there will be much longer reports in the March issue of The Baker Street Journal (quarterly, \$21.00 a year, and the address is Box 465, Hanover, PA 17331). The BSJ's Christmas Annual for 1998 still is available (\$6.00 postpaid, from the same address); "Entertainment and Fantasy" is the title that Jon Lellenberg chose, and it is apt indeed for his appreciative and amusing look at what the Irregulars were up to way back when.
7538. The Dr. John H. Watson Fund offers financial assistance to all Sherlockians (membership in the BSI is not required) who might otherwise not be able to participate in the weekend's festivities, and contributions of interesting and unique items for the raffle and the auction are always welcome. If you have something you would like to donate to this worthy cause, you are cordially invited to write to Michael F. Whelan, Box 2189, Easton, MD 21601.
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January 1999 #3

7539. "What is your favorite occupation?" "Being an entertainer." "When and where were you happiest?" "Right now!" "What is your greatest regret?" "I could have been a contender." "What do you most value in your friends?" "Love." "Who is your favorite hero of fiction?" "Sherlock Holmes." Those were some of the questions and answers in Tony Bennett's "Proust Questionnaire" in Vanity Fair (Dec. 1998).
7540. "His broad black hat, his baggy trousers, his white tie, his sympathetic smile, and general look of peering and benevolent curiosity were such as Mr. John Hare alone could have equalled," Watson reported (in "A Scandal in Bohemia"). And this year the postal service celebrates the Year of the Hare.
7541. This year may be the year of "The Lost World" on television: "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's The Lost World" premiered on The Movie Network in Canada on Jan. 4 (the 93-minute television film was produced in Canada and is only, loosely based on Conan Doyle's book, set in Mongolia in 1934, directed by Bob Keen, and starring Patrick Bergin as Challenger); a different two-hour film has been completed by the Telescene Film Group (produced by John Landis and directed by Richard Franklin, it is targeted for the Action Adventure Network, with plans for a spin-off series of twenty one-hour shows); and there was a report last year suggesting that the BBC is considering a production starring Brian Blessed as Challenger.
7542. The John Landis television film stars Peter McCauley as Challenger; he has been an actor at least since 1979, and had a supporting role in the television mini-series "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea" (1987) that starred Michael Caine as Capt. Nemo, and the film was made in Australia and will be seen on DirecTV (that's a direct broadcast satellite service with 4.6 million sub-scribers); the film debuts on Feb. 1 and will be available through Mar. 10, and subscribers will pay \$2.99 if they want to watch the film.
7543. It's really difficult to make a dinosaur film now, since Steven Spielberg has set a standard difficult to match; the Canadian film doesn't begin to do justice to Conan Doyle's story, and the actors aren't up to what story there is, and the dinosaurs aren't much better than the actors. The real problem, perhaps, is that producers don't understand, and thus ignore, the humor in Conan Doyle's tale.
7544. It was in 1979 that Sherlock Holmes went on display at the National Museum of Air and Space at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, and I'm glad to report that he's still there, in the exhibit on "Exploring the Planets" on the second floor of the museum, with Sidney Paget artwork and an appropriate quote from the Canon.
7545. An interesting book for those who collect foreign-language Sherlockiana: MY DEAR WATSON, by Margaret Park Bridges; it won the second prize in Suntory's mystery-fiction competition in 1992 and it was translated into Japanese and published by Bungei Shunju, and as far as I know it is the only Sherlockian novel to have been written in English, and published in Japanese but not in English. Masamichi Higurashi reports that it's also unusual for a Sherlock Holmes pastiche to win a prize in the competition.
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January 1999 #4

7546. Spotted by Jerry Margolin: A STUDY IN SCARLET (1998), a graphic novel published by Thorby Comics (\$6.95); it contains reprints of "The Singular Case of the Anemic Heir!" (artwork by Anton Caravana) from The Rook (Aug. 1981) and "A Study in Scarlet" (artwork by Noly Panaligan) from The Rook (Feb. 1982 and Apr. 1982) and Eerie (Jan. 1983), with strong new cover art by Mark Evans.
7547. Elic Denbo ("The Ferrers Documents") died on Mar. 9, 1998. He was an ophthalmologist, and for many years a member of The Sons of the Copper Beeches (in which he held the rank of Master Copper Beechsmith). He received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1974.
7548. Lois McMaster Bujold was the guest of honor at the New England Science Fiction Association's annual convention in 1996, and one of Boskone's pleasant traditions is publishing a collection of the honoree's work. DREAMWEAVER'S DILEMMA (NESFA Press, 1995; 250 pp.) still is available in the trade paperback edition (\$14.00 postpaid), and it includes "The Adventure of the Lady on the Embankment" (kindly noted by Alexandra Haropulos); it's a Sherlockian pastiche, written after the author graduated from college and hitherto unpublished. The publisher's address is Box 809, Framingham, MA 01701 (and credit-card orders are welcome).
7549. The Pequod's poet laureate has begun the New Year with STIX & STONES, featuring poetic tributes to Tom Stix and perhaps (the poet hedges) a revised version of his own now-out-of-date epitaph; the cost is \$40.00 (cloth) or \$20.00 (paper) from John Ruyle, 521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707.
7550. Among my Christmas presents: THE MISSING NOSE FLUTE AND OTHER MYSTERIES OF LIFE, by Nick Bantock (San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 1991; \$8.95); reproductions of 22 oversize antique postcards with bizarre captions supplied by Bantock (and one of them is Sherlockian, of course). And a canvas bookbag from Waldenbooks with the quote "It is a great thing to start life with ... really good books which are your very own," credited to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. The quote is from his THROUGH THE MAGIC DOOR (1907), and the three dots replace "a small number of" (one can of course understand why Waldenbooks thought it best to leave that out).
7551. Susan Conant's THE BAKER STREET REGULARS (February 98 #4) is scheduled in a paperback reprint from Bantam Books in February (\$5.99); amateur sleuth Holly Winter and her malamutes Rowdy and Kimi get involved with some Boston Sherlockians, an animal psychic, and a murder.
7552. The latest issue of Scarlet Street offers the second part of David Stuart Davies' report on Edward R. Murrow's interview with Basil Rathbone on "Person to Person" on CBS-TV on Jan. 11, 1957, and as always coverage of other aspects of the mystery-and-horror genre. The magazine costs \$35.00 a year (bimonthly); Box 604, Glen Rock, NJ 07452, And there's a web-site at <www.scarletstreet.com>.
7553. Reported by Julie McKuras: Baker Street Pens ("our unique pewter pens are topped with finely crafted figurines depicting Sherlock Holmes, Dr. Watson, and Professor Moriarty"), \$39.95 each in the new spring catalog from What on Earth (2451 Enterprise East Parkway, Twinsburg, OH 44087 (800-945-2552).
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January 1999 #5

7554. "Clinton Describes Terrorism Threat for 21st Century" was the headline on a story in the N.Y. Times (Jan. 22, 1999), reporting on an Oval Office interview with reporters Judith Miller and William J. Broad the day before. And it's obvious that the President knows the Canon: "he hoped a major legacy of his Presidency would be to stave off unconventional attacks. He said he would be delighted if, decades later, Americans look back on any such threat as 'the dog that didn't bark.'"
7555. "I would never have overlooked such a cock pheasant as that," Holmes told Watson (in "The Three Garridebs"); our latest postcard-rate stamp shows a ring-necked pheasant (and we can use it for a while longer since that rate hasn't gone up).
7556. Don Hobbs reports *THE 50 GREATEST MYSTERIES OF ALL TIME*, edited by Otto Penzler (Los Angeles: Dove Books, 1998; 567 pp., \$25.00); the contents include "The Red-Headed League" and Vincent Starrett's "The Adventure of the Unique Hamlet" (Otto says in his introduction that if it wasn't for a limit of one story per author, there would have been more Sherlock Holmes stories).
7557. Dr. Watson's Neglected Patients (the Sherlockian society in Denver) offer their sales-list of society collectibles: their handbook, lapel pin, bookmarks, T-shirts, and sweatshirts. The sales list is available from Mark Langston (1143 South Monaco Parkway, Denver, CO 80224) or from Bill Dorn <holmespage@aol.com>.
7558. Michael Pointer died on Dec. 26, 1998. He was one of earliest enthusiasts to investigate Sherlock Holmes on stage and screen, and contributed his expertise to the catalog of the exhibition at Abbey House during the Festival of Britain in 1951, and gladly and quickly joined The Sherlock Holmes Society of London. His fine series of articles on "Which of You Is Holmes?" in *The Sherlock Holmes Journal* were expanded into *THE PUBLIC LIFE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* (1975) and *THE SHERLOCK HOLMES FILE* (1976), both delightful explorations of theatrical Sherlockiana, and he went on to expand his reach in *THE PICTORIAL HISTORY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* (1991), another excellent contribution to our literature.
7559. Spotted by Jim Suszynski: *THE NATURALIST'S HANDBOOK: ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG EXPLORERS*, by Lynn Kuntz (Layton: Gibbs Smith, 1996; 64 pp., \$14.95, but now \$4.98 on the discount tables); Sherlockian artwork by Michael Moran on the cover and inside the book.
7560. "Sherlock Holmes & the League of Night" is the mystery that Holmes and Watson and participants in the next "Victorian Holmes Weekend" will attempt to solve on Mar. 12-14 in Cape May. The weekend includes a tour of the town's Victorian homes, and additional details are available from the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts, Box 340, Cape May, NJ 08204 (609-884-5404) (800-275-4278) <www.capemaymac.org>.
7561. David R. McCallister's "Periodic Table of the Sherlock Holmes Adventures" is an amusing, artistic, and informative approach to organizing the Canon; it's 14 x 8.5 in., printed in six colors, and it's available for \$6.00 post-paid from David at 8142 Quail Hollow Boulevard, Wesley Chapel, FL 33544.

January 1999 #6

7562. One of the more interesting things about the Internet is the electronic auction ongoing at eBay <cgi.ebay.com>, where Amy Brinkley noted the recent offer of a program from the Wyndham Theatre production of "The Secret of Sherlock Holmes" signed by both Jeremy Brett and Edward Hardwicke (accompanied by a letter of provenance and a photograph of the seller with Brett and Hardwicke). And the final price was \$880 (demonstrating why some collectors like to get signatures on things).
7563. *THE BEST AMERICAN MYSTERY STORIES 1998* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1998; 343 pp., \$27.50) is edited by Sue Grafton and Otto Penzler and contains 20 fine stories that were first published in 1997, one of them John T. Lescroart's pastiche "The Adventure of the Giant Rat of Sumatra" (reprinted from Mary Higgins Clark Mystery Magazine).
7564. The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond is displaying 50 sketches and finished drawings of horses by Sherlock Holmes' great-granduncle. "Fiery Steeds: French Romantic Studies by Carle Vernet from the Ritzenberg Collection" runs through Mar. 14, and the museum's at 2800 Grove Avenue (804-367-0844) <www.vmf.a.state.va.us>.
7565. Warren Randall created a new lapel pin for this year's (third annual) Baskerville Bash; it's shown here actual size, and it costs \$15.00 postpaid (his address is 15 Fawn Lane West, South Setauket, NY 11720).
7566. Charles Prepolec has reported that K. C. Brown's two-act play "Sherlock's Veiled Secret" (1994) is being performed at the Pleiades Theatre in Calgary through Feb. 14; Sherlock Holmes comes out of retirement to solve a blackmail case. Box 2100, Station M #73, Calgary, AB T2P 2M5, Canada (403-221-3708).
7567. And a few commercials: the revised 15-page list of Investitured Irregulars, Two-Shilling Awards, *The* Women, and the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes costs \$1.20 postpaid. The 79-page list of 751 Sherlockian societies, with names and addresses for contacts for the 433 active societies, costs \$4.20 postpaid. A run of address labels for 362 individual contacts (recommended if you wish to avoid making duplicate mailings to people who are contacts for more than one society) costs \$10.40 postpaid. Checks payable to Peter E. Blau, please.
7568. For the electronically enabled, the 15-page list of Irregulars and others is available from me by e-mail (no charge), and both lists are available at Willis G. Frick's "Sherlocktron" web site at <members.home.net/sherlock1/Sherlocktron.html>. Also available free on the Web are Linda Anderson's digital photographs of various and sundry celebrants at the birthday festivities, at <www.geocities.com/~sherlockian/scion/bsi/hounds99.html>.

February 1999 #1

7569. Further to the report (January 99 #3) on the latest version of "The Lost World" starring Peter McCauley as Challenger: after the broadcast on DirecTV from Feb. 1 to Mar. 10, the two-hour film will air on TNT cable on Apr. 11. The spin-off one-hour series (same actors) is in production, and will start on DirecTV in July, and will be available for syndication this fall.
7570. Spotted by Jim Suszynski: *A TREASURY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* (Dove Audio): "The Six Napoleons" and "The Crooked Man" read by Ben Kingsley on a single "select sound buys" cassette (\$1.98); this was part of a four-cassette set that was first issued in 1988. Dove's toll-free number is 800-328-3683.
7571. *TALES CALCULATED TO DRIVE YOU MAD* is a new series, reprinting the earlier issues of Mad; Jack Kerr spotted #6 (spring 1999) with full-color reprints of original issues #16-18, including the classic "Sherlock Shomes in The Hound of the Basketballs" from the Oct. 1954 issue and a Sherlockian panel in "Julius Caesar!" from the Nov. 1954 issue; \$3.99.
7572. Robert W. Hahn ("Colonel Ross") died on Feb. 4. He was a credit manager by profession, and a Sherlockian both by vocation and avocation: he lectured at conferences and taught courses in Sherlock Holmes, and he was a sparking plug in the S'ian world in Chicago (where he served nine terms as Sir Hugo in Hugo's Companions and founded their running of The Silver Blaze), continuing his S'ian activities after he retired to Sheboygan, Wis., proudly playing the butler in the local community players' adaptation of William Gillette's play in 1987. He received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1963, and the BSI's Two-Shilling Award in 1981.
7573. Reported by Christopher Roden: *MYSTERY & SUSPENSE WRITERS*, edited by Robin Winks (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1998; 1,296 pages, \$225.00); two volumes of essays on past and present writers, including a 30-page essay on Arthur Conan Doyle by Owen Dudley Edwards.
7574. Barnes & Noble continues to reprint older books under its own imprint: Gaston Leroux's *THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA*, with reprints of two articles about the Phantom's Sherlockian connections (David Rush's "Holmes and the Opera Ghost" and Barbara Goldfield's "Sherlock Holmes Meets the

- Living Corpse"), first published in 1988 (now \$5.98); and Terry Jones' LADY COTTINGTON'S PRESSED FAIRY BOOK, with artwork by Brian Freud (these fairies definitely are not those photographed at Cottingley in 1917, but the book is delightfully macabre), first published in 1997 (now \$12.95).
7575. Sorry about that: the correct URL for Willis Frick's "Sherlocktron" website (January 99 #6), where the 15-page list of Irregulars and others, and the lists of the Sherlockian societies, can be viewed by the electronically-enabled is <members.home.net/sherlock1/Sherlocktron.html>.
7576. Reported by Jon Lellenberg: MEMBRANES: METAPHORS OF INVASION IN NINETEENTHCENTURY LITERATURE, SCIENCE, AND POLITICS (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Univ. Press, 1999; 248 pp., \$49.00); Otis "examines how the image of the biological cell became one of the reigning metaphors of the nineteenth century," and there's a chapter on "Arthur Conan Doyle: An Imperial Immune System".
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February 1999 #2

7577. Huntz Hall died on Jan. 30. He made his Broadway debut at the age of three months, worked in vaudeville and radio serials in his boyhood, and went to Hollywood at the age of 16 to be one of the Dead End Kids, and then one of the Bowery Boys. He can be seen with deerstalker and calabash playing Sach Jones in "Hard Boiled Mahoney" (1947), "Private Eyes" (1953), and the last film in the series, "In the Money" (1958). Turner Classic Movies has announced that it will salute Hall by broadcasting 48 Bowery Boys films beginning in June.
7578. The Playmates 9-inch "Star Trek" collector-series figure of Data in Sherlockian costume (March 98 #3) is now scheduled for release in June, exclusively in Target stores, likely priced at \$17.99.
7579. The list of Sherlockian pastiches mentioned in novels written by non-Sherlockian authors is short indeed, but you can add John Sandford's THE NIGHT CREW (G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1997) (Berkeley, 1998). Andrew Blau spotted the mention: "Later that night, with Glass asleep in his bed, Creek sat in his cluttered living room reading SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE RED DEMON. He turned the last page, sighed, put the book down and his feet up."
7580. Reported by Don Pollock: DETECTION AND ITS DESIGNS: NARRATIVE AND POWER IN 19TH CENTURY DETECTIVE FICTION, by Peter Thoms (Athens: Ohio Univ. Press, 1998; 160 pp., \$32.95); the author uses Conan Doyle as one of several early detective-fiction authors, and devotes a chapter to "The Hound of the Baskervilles".
7581. Reported by George Schenk: THE MODERN SHERLOCK HOLMES: AN INTRODUCTION TO FORENSIC SCIENCE TODAY (London: Broadside Books, 1991), by Judy Williams; with Sherlockian artwork on the cover, and a Canonical quote and a Paget illustration with each chapter, the book is based on a BBC World Service radio series that brought up to date "the meticulous detection methods set down by Sherlock Holmes 100 years ago" (now discounted to \$5.98 at Barnes & Noble).
7582. The Dec. issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota has excellent articles about David L. Hammer and James Montgomery, and other news of what's going on at the Library. You can join the mailing list by writing to Richard J. Sveum (466 O. M. Wilson Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <sveum001@maroon.tc.umn.edu>.
7583. Plan well ahead: the Sunshine State Sherlockian Scion Symposium II will be held in St. Pete Beach on June 9-11, 2000. If you would like to be on the mailing list, write to Carl L. Heifetz (3693 Siena Lane, Palm Harbor, FL 34685) <microdoc@gte.net>.
7584. William Gillette's play "Sherlock Holmes" was first performed in 1899, and The Blustering Gales from the South-West will hold a conference on Mar. 27 at the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society Clubhouse in North Hollywood to honor the centenary. The day-long event will include guest speakers, two meals, and a performance of the play; additional information is available from Paula Salo (4421 Pacific Coast Highway, Torrance, CA 90505) and at the society's web-site at <home.earthlink.net/~denmartin/hammer/bgs.html>.
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February 1999 #3

7585. Caliber Comics has begun a new series called SHERLOCK HOLMES READER. The contents of the first issue (\$3.95) include the first installment of "The Loch Ness Horror" (with story by Martin Powell and artwork by Seppo Makinen), and reprints of "A Case of Identity" and Barrie's "The Adventure of the Two Collaborators"; Caliber's at 225 North Sheldon Road, Plymouth, MI 48170 (888-222-6643) <www.calibercomics.com>.
7586. Laurie R. King's THE MOOR (January 98 #6) is now in paperback (New York: Bantam Book, 1999; 369 pp., \$5.99); it's the fourth novel about Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes, and Laurie has done a fine job with the time and place and characters, as well as with the mystery.
7587. Herman Herst, Jr. ("Colonel Emsworth, V.C.") died on Jan. 31. He began his as a stamp dealer in the 1930s and became the philatelic world's best-known dealers and collectors. Pat (he was born on St. Patrick's Day) was a fine writer and a delightful story-teller; his philatelic pastiche "Dirty Pool" was published in the Baker Street Journal in June 1966, and he received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1968. He also found interesting philatelic connections for Arthur Conan Doyle, whose uncle Richard designed the first commercial Christmas greeting in 1840 (a caricature of the prepaid Mulready envelope), and whose father Charles was an artist for the Illustrated London Times at the trial of Madeleine Smith in Edinburgh in 1857 (a smudged postmark helped win a verdict of "not proven").
7588. John Chaffin reports that "Another Evening with Sherlock Holmes" will open at Chaffin's Barn Dinner Theatre on Aug. 31 and run through Oct. 23 (with dramatizations of "The Red-Headed League", "A Scandal in Bohemia", and "The Dancing Men"); 8204 Highway 100, Nashville, TN 37221) (615-646-9977) (800-282-2276) <www.dinnertheatre.com>.
7589. "Our noisy friend upon the sofa has assured me that it is from Franz Joseph's special cellar at the Schoenbrunn Palace," Sherlock Holmes said (in "His Last Bow"). Ben Wood spotted a new set of United Nations stamps honoring the Schonbrunn Palace and Gardens; the Palace was added to the UNESCO World Heritage list in 1996. The palace and gardens are open to the public, but the tour may not include the special cellar.
7590. Many hotel chains have magazines now, just like the airlines (although they probably aren't called in-bed magazines). Connie Steffan reports that the contents of the Dec. 1998 issue of Navigator (Holiday Inn Express) included Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's "The Tale of the Gloria Scott".
7591. Francine Kitts reports that the Morgan Library (at 29 East 36th Street in New York) has an exhibit of "Detectives, Private Eyes, and Spies" through May 5; it includes a first edition of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, and at least one other Sherlockian book (with an accompanying mention of the Baker Street Irregulars in Christopher Morley's essay "On Belonging to Clubs"), and treasures such as the manuscript of Wilkie Collins' THE MOONSTONE. A "Murder at the Morgan" film series accompanying the exhibit includes "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970) at 3:00 pm on Mar. 21.
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February 1999 #4

7592. John Addison died on Dec. 7, 1998. He began writing music for theater and film in the 1950s, scoring more than 70 films, and he won an Oscar for "Tom Jones" (1963) and an Emmy for the theme music for the "Murder, She Wrote" television series. His other credits included the "detective" theme music for Douglas Wilmer's "The Speckled Band" on BBC television (1964) and the score for "The Seven-Per-Cent Solution" (1976).
7593. Noted by Jim Suszynski: HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY, MISS HILDY!, by Lois Grambling, illustrated by Bridget Starr Taylor (New York: Random House, 1998; 32 pp., \$3.99); a Step into Reading book for grades 1-3, with Miss Hildy as a senior-citizen detective in Sherlockian costume.
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7594. Reported: Larry Millett's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE ICE PALACE MURDERS (the second of his novel-length pastiches), read by Simon Prebble on an abridged four-audiocassette set from Penguin Audio (\$24.95).
7595. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists will meet for dinner in honor of the world's first forensic geologist at 7:00 pm on Apr. 14 at Mi Tierra in San Antonio. If you'd like to join us for the festivities, please contact Ben Fairbank (Box 15075, San Antonio, TX 78212) (210-733-8738) <baf@texas.net> or me (addresses at the end of the newsletter).
7596. The Sons of the Copper Beeches celebrated their 50th anniversary last fall, and published a 24-page collection of essays, poetry, artwork, and history in honor of the event. Copies are available for \$8.00 postpaid from Scott P. Bond (519 East Allens Lane, Philadelphia, PA 19119). And the Sons' lapel pin (shown here actual size), which was designed by Scott and (of course) is decorated with a colorful copper beech tree, costs \$12.00 postpaid and also is available from Scott (to whom checks should be made payable as well as sent).
7597. Tyrol International (Box 909, Cleveland, GA 30528) (800-241-5404) offers a miniature (5.5 in. high) Sherlock Holmes nutcracker hand-crafted in Canada by Norbert Zuber from a design by Bernd Nagy (item 78229) (\$45.00) [it will make a nice pair with the similar full-size Steinbach nutcracker that was offered more than 20 years ago].
7598. 221B: EN STUDIE I BAKER STREET, by Morgan Malm, offers a careful survey of Baker Street and the many suggested locations for 221B; the 36-page monograph (in Swedish) is available for \$9.00 (in currency only, please) from Ystads Antikvariat, Box 165, 271 23 Ystad, Sweden.
7599. Ystads also offers KRONDIAMANTEN, ELLER EN KVÄLL MED SHERLOCK HOLMES; this is Conan Doyle's play "The Crown Diamond" (translated into Swedish by Ted Bergman) and with a foreword by Mattias Bostrom (also in Swedish) discussing a production of the play in Malmo in 1994, and with photographs from the show. 28 pp., same price (or \$16.00 for the two pamphlets).
7600. The exhibition of "Jellies: Phantoms of the Deep" at the National Aquarium in Baltimore in 1997-98 (April 87 #6) can be seen at the Tennessee Aquarium in Chattanooga (423-265-0695) (800-262-0695) through the end of 1999, Jack Kerr notes, and it's a fine (and safe) opportunity to see a lion's mane.

February 1999 #5

7601. Noted by Matt Demakos: VISITORS FROM OZ: THE WILD ADVENTURES OF DOROTHY, THE SCARECROW, AND THE TIN WOODMAN, by Martin Gardner (New York: St. Martin's Press, 208 pp., \$22.95); the intrepid trio travel to an alternate-universe Wonderland, where they are assisted by Sheerluck Brown (a large brown private-detective bear wearing a deerstalker), and to New York, where they appear on The Oprah Winfrey Show.
7602. Ezra A. Wolff ("Sir James Damery") died on Feb. 2. He was a surgeon, and was guided into the Sherlockian world by his brother Julian Wolff, and in 1969 Ezra began his delightful tradition of reporting in rhyme at the Saturday cocktail party on events at the annual dinner the night before. He read the last of his poems in 1988, noting that "It's nineteen years since I, a beginner, Came to my first BSI Dinner." Ezra received his Investiture in 1972, and the BSI's Two-Shilling Award in 1987, and the Irregulars still honor the tradition he started, thanks to Al Rosenblatt's judicial poetics.
7603. The Northern Musgraves offer a metal bookmark that shows Sherlock Holmes as drawn by Peter Cushing (it's the society's logo); the postpaid cost is £2.00 (Britain) or £3.00 (Europe) or \$10.00 (elsewhere). Checks should be payable to The Northern Musgraves, and sent to Anne Jordan (Fairbank, Beck Lane, Bingley, West Yorks. BD16 3DN, England).
7604. Gary L. Heiselberg's PERSONAE DRAMATIS IN LUDIS SHERLOCIENSIBUS follows the trail blazed by Edgar W. Smith in his APPOINTMENT IN BAKER STREET, but Gary has cast his net more widely in offering capsule commentaries on the characters and animals named in the Canon. 183 pp., \$28.00 postpaid (cloth) or \$19.00 (paper) from George A. Vanderburgh, Box 204, Shelburne, ON L0N 1S0, Canada (or you can special-order at Borders bookstores).
7605. David McCallister spotted the "leather book collection" in the current catalog from the Home Decorators Collection (8920 Pershall Road, Hazelwood, MO 63042) (800-245-2217): furniture featuring multi-colored book facades that include fake "Sherlock Holmes" volumes. A coffee table with two accent tables costs \$199.00, and a four-panel screen costs \$299.00.
7606. Reported: a new Dover Thrift Series edition of A. A. Milne's THE RED HOUSE MYSTERY, with an introduction by Douglas G. Greene (Mineola: Dover, 1998; 156 pp., \$2.00); two of the characters assume the roles of Holmes and Watson to solve the mystery.
7607. The 18th annual Arthur Conan Doyle/Sherlock Holmes Symposium will be held on Mar. 12-14 at the Holiday Inn Conference Center in Fairborn, Ohio, with speakers and theatrics and other fun and games. Additional information is available from Greg Sullivan, 39 Sherwood Avenue, Danvers, MA 01923 <greg.sullivan@ae.ge.com>.
7608. A new catalog from femmes fatales offers some intriguing new Sherlockiana, including deerstalker wine stopper, napkin rings, swizzle sticks, and place cards, and Sherlockian bottle openers and corkscrews, and older items, and some interesting non-Sherlockian material. Box 4457, Lakewood, CA 90712 (800-596-3323) <byteocrime@aol.com> <www.femfatales.com>. Readers of this newsletter qualify for a 10% discount (the magic word is "Scuttlebutt").

February 1999 #6

7609. Tangled Web #7 is a 28-page magazine with an article about the Cottingley fairies by Chris Willis, reviews of British mysteries, and a nice tribute to A. E. W. Mason by Philip L. Scowcroft; available from Andrew Osmond (69 Holm Oak Park, Watford, Herts. WD1 8TH, England) for £2.95 (U.K.) or \$6.00 (elsewhere: currency only, please).
7610. The Pequot Press' second book of the year is BAKER STREET BAZAAR, with more Sherlockian poetry; the cost is \$40.00 (cloth) or \$20.00 (paper) from John Ruyle, 521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707.
7611. Sorry about that: the correct title of the new paperback edition of Susan Conant's mystery novel about amateur sleuth Holly Winter and her malamutes Rowdy and Kimi (January 99 #4) is THE BARKER STREET REGULARS (New York: Bantam Books, 1999; 272 pp., \$5.99).
7612. "The Sign of Four" (directed and adapted by Bart Lovins) will be performed by Expanded Arts from May 16 to June 1; the theater is at 85 Ludlow Street, New York, NY 10002 (between Broome and Delancey) and the box-office phone number is (212-253-1813). The company's production of "A Study in Scarlet" last year won praise in a review in The Three Garridebs' newsletter.
7613. Our "Celebrate the Century" souvenir sheets have reached the 1940s, and the new sheet includes a stamp honoring the film "Citizen Kane" and Orson Welles, one of the few actors who have played both Sherlock Holmes and Prof. Moriarty. Other stamps show Harry S. Truman (who was a member of the Baker Street Irregulars), and a World War II poster drawn by N. C. Wyeth, who also illustrated some of Conan Doyle's stories.
7614. The Sherlock Holmes Society of Australia's lapel pin, first sold more than ten years ago (April 88 #6), shows a silhouette of Holmes superimposed on an outline map of Australia, and is available again from Alan C. Olding, P.O. Box 13, Stirling, S.A. 5152, Australia; \$15.00 postpaid (personal checks are welcome).

7615. "My wife and the other furniture will arrive shortly," Dr. Watson said, in "The Triumph of Sherlock Holmes" (1935). An addition to the list of memorable lines from Sherlockian movies, spotted by Jane Langston of The Afghanistan Perceivers of Tulsa.
7616. Planning for the unveiling of the statue of Sherlock Holmes in Baker Street this fall continues, with an informal schedule that starts with a tour of Tower Bridge on Sept. 21 and ends with a visit to sculptor John Doubleday's studio in Essex on Sept. 26. And Barbara Herbert has begun work on a package (plane and hotel) for Americans who might participate; you can write or call her at Wayfarer Travel Service (7140 Miami Avenue #100, Cincinnati, OH 45243) (513-271-4637) (800-638-5351) <sherlock@wayfarertravel.com>. The electronically-enabled can find a few more details about the festivities at <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk>, which is the web-site of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London, and I hope to have more information here next month.

March 1999 #1

7617. "Pinkerton Inc., the legendary American detective agency that guarded Abraham Lincoln, chased Jesse James, and gave rise to the term 'private eye', is being bought by a Swedish security company," according to a story in the Boston Globe (Feb. 23), spotted by Scott Monty. Securitas AB has agreed to pay \$384 million for Pinkerton, which will keep its name, management, and worldwide staff. "We're not losing an icon," Pinkerton's president said. "Pinkerton will remain Pinkerton. We're just trading shareholders."
7618. And it's a nice coincidence, of course, that Ettie Shafter was Swedish, at least in The Strand Magazine and in the first British edition of THE VALLEY OF FEAR. In the first American edition, and in the manuscript, Ettie was German; it is likely that the change from German to Swedish was an editorial decision: Conan Doyle's prophetic story "Danger!" (about Britain's weakness if an enemy were to impose a submarine blockade) appeared in the July 1914 issue of the Strand, two months before "The Valley of Fear" began in the magazine.
7619. Plan ahead: the third annual Sherlock Holmes Festival on Nov. 5-6 in Tryon, N.C. will again pay tribute to William Gillette; the events will include a performance of his play "Sherlock Holmes", and additional information will be available from the Polk County Travel & Tourism Council, 401 North Trade Street, Tryon, NC 28782 (800-440-7848).
7620. Laurie R. King's won an Edgar from the Mystery Writers of America for her first novel, A GRAVE TALENT, and of course copies of the first printing are serious collectibles now, and even more collectible if they're signed. So it was a surprise to Laurie when at a recent book-signing, she was asked to sign a faked copy of the first printing. The faker had photocopied both sides of a proper title page, removed the title page from a later printing, and carefully glued in the photocopy; Laurie might not have detected the forgery, except that the original paper was of better quality than the photocopy paper. And the dedication page (where she was about to sign), has a line of Hebrew, which in the first printing is upside down.
7621. Edward Rote and Karen Page offer a wristwatch with a Sherlockian silhouette on the face; \$75.00. You can request an illustrated flier from A Sherlock Holmes Occasion, Box 1079, Agoura Hills, CA 91376), or visit their web-site at <www.asherlockholmes.com>.
7622. Lenny Gray spotted a new comic-book mini-series THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN from America's Best Comics, with story by Alan Moore and striking artwork by Kevin O'Neill. The first issue is dated March (\$2.95) and gathers Allan Quatermain, Captain Nemo, and C. Auguste Dupin into a league that has been organized by an off-stage Mycroft Holmes.
7623. THE WORLD OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Martin Fido (London: Carlton Books, 1998; 144 pp., £14.99), is subtitled "the facts and fiction behind the world's greatest detective," and it's a handsome book indeed, packed with colorful illustrations and offering interesting two-page summaries of the stories, aspects of their author's life, and the world of Sherlock Holmes and Sherlockians. The book is discounted here at \$20.00 by the Adams Media Corp.

March 1999 #2

7624. Michael Avallone died on Feb. 26. He wrote more than 200 books (about half of them using pseudonyms), and was best-known for his "Ed Noon" series. He liked being known as "the fastest typewriter in the east," and once suggested that "a professional writer should be able to write anything from a garden seed catalogue to the Bible." In 1973 he told a reporter for the Daily Express that "I've been writing ever since I discovered pencils," and that he was considering writing a thriller that would identify Jack the Ripper as Arthur Conan Doyle.
7625. Pam Verrey spotted the "Children of the World" shirts and jackets and tops and totes and mini paks in a catalog from S.C.R.U.B.S. (8555 Argent Street, Santee, CA 90271) (800-231-5965); \$23.00 to \$44.00, and one of the children is in Sherlockian costume.
7626. Moshe Nalick notes that Ohr Somayach, a Jerusalem-based yeshiva, publishes a weekly newsletter on the Internet, in which Sherlock Holmes and Watstein solve problems in commentary on the Torah. The URL is <ohr.org.il>.
7627. Sorry about that: the correct Caliber Comics toll-free number is 888-222-6642. They have launched the series SHERLOCK HOLMES READER (February 99 #3), and have back issues of other Sherlockian comics, and there's a web-site at <www.calibercomics.com>.
7628. Dr. Watson was "deep in one of Clark Russell's fine sea-stories" (in "The Five Orange Pips"), and David Pearson notes that one of the stories is in print as a paperback: THE WRECK OF THE GROSVENOR, by William Clark Russell (McBooks Press, 1998, 320 pp.); \$11.16 from Barnes & Noble (One Pond Road, Rockleigh, NJ 07647) (800-843-2665) and presumably elsewhere.
7629. The English Channel offers Sherlockian chess sets (\$897.00), bottlestoppers (\$17.00), and matchbox covers (\$16.00 or \$19.00); and you can write for an illustrated sales list (Vine House, 16 New Street, Ledbury, Herefordshire, HR8 2DX, England) or visit their web-site <www.english-channel.com>.
7630. Bob Burr reports that in THE FLINTSTONES AND THE JETSONS (from DC Comics, Apr. 1999), Fred Flintstone reads so many Sherlock Stones books that he becomes the character himself.
7631. Lynn Willis died on Mar. 7. She was an early member of The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes (as "Laura Lyons"), and an enthusiastic participant in Sherlockian affairs in the New York, including planning for the Baskerville Bashes.
7632. "Hot on the Trail of Sherlock Holmes" is the title of David Goodman's article in Ski Magazine (Mar.-Apr. 1999), but it was Arthur Conan Doyle who did the skiing, in 1894, crossing the Maienfelder Furka from Davos to Arosa, as did Goodman almost exactly 104 years later. The magazine's address is Box 55533, Boulder, CO 80322 (800-678-0817) <www.skinet.com>; \$3.99.

March 1999 #3

7633. MEMBRANES: METAPHORS OF INVASION IN NINETEENTH-CENTURY LITERATURE, SCIENCE, AND POLITICS, by Laura Otis (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Univ. Press, 1999; 210 pp., \$49.00), uses the century's attitudes toward the spread and prevention of disease as an analogy for colonial politics, with a chapter on "Arthur Conan Doyle: An Imperial Immune System".
7634. Dennis France is trying to assemble an archive of all 56 of the stories as broadcast by Carlton Hobbs and Norman Shelley, and lacks only four ("A Case of Identity", "The Cardboard Box", "The Illustrious Client", and "The Three Students"); anyone who has any or all of the missing four is invited to get in touch with Dennis (8546 North Kedvale Avenue, Skokie, IL 60076).

7635. John L. Goldwater died on Feb. 26. He is survived by Archie, Jughead, Betty, and Veronica, in Riverdale, the N.Y. Times noted in its obituary. Goldman and artist Bob Montana created Archie in 1941, and the strip once ran in 750 newspapers. Archie Andrews and his friends are still in their teens, although now exchanging e-mail, and Archie Comics publishes more than 30 comic books. This panel is from a strip that ran on June 13, 1965, with Jughead and Archie rehearsing for a "Sheerluck Homes" play at their school.
7636. William F. B. Vodrey has written an interesting one-act radio play about "The Adventure of the Grice Patersons" (it will take 35-40 minutes to perform); copies of the script (with permission for a single performance) cost \$15.00 postpaid from the author (3785 Hillbrook Road, University Heights, OH 44118).
7637. Alvin E. Rodin ("Palmer") died on Mar. 18. He was for many years a professor in the departments of pathology and postgraduate medicine and continuing education at Wright State University's School of Medicine, and combined vocation and avocation in careful research and excellent writing about Arthur Conan Doyle's life and career, published in *The Baker Street Journal*, *Baker Street Miscellanea*, and other journals. With Jack D. Key he wrote *MEDICAL CASEBOOK OF DOCTOR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: FROM PRACTITIONER TO SHERLOCK HOLMES AND BEYOND* (1984), offering a fascinating assessment of Sir Arthur's career and the medical aspects of all of his writings, and Al's interest in Conan Doyle continued through many other books, culminating in *THE ANNOTATED LOST WORLD* (1996), which he wrote with Roy E. Pilot. Al received his membership in *The Baker Street Irregulars* in 1989.
7638. The next Arthur Conan Doyle/Sherlock Holmes Symposium (Mar. 10-12, 2000 in Fairborn, Ohio), will have tributes to Al, who founded the symposium many years ago; if you have thoughts or reminiscences for publication in a booklet that will honor Al, please send them to Greg Sullivan (39 Sherwood Avenue, Danvers, MA 01923) <greg.sullivan@ae.ge.com>.
7639. Reported: *DINOSAUR SUMMER*, by Greg Baer (June 93 #3), in a paperback reprint (Aspect, \$6.99); it's delightful alternate history, about an expedition to return the survivors of America's last dinosaur circus to the Lost World, Willis O'Brien and Ray Harryhausen along for the fun and games.

March 1999 #4

7640. Les Klinger spotted reviews of two books that may be of interest: *A MAN'S PLACE: MASCULINITY AND THE MIDDLE-CLASS HOME IN VICTORIAN ENGLAND*, by John Tosh (New Haven: Yale Univ. Press, 1999; 288 pp, \$30.00); the book considers the decline of the cult of domesticity in late-Victorian times but describes this as a "change in atmosphere" rather than a "full-blown crisis." *LILLIE LANGTRY: MANNERS, MASKS AND MORALS*, by Laura Beatty (London: Chatto and Windus, 1999; 288 pp., £20.00); recommended by Antonia Fraser as "irresistibly enjoyable" and revealing that Langtry was tutored in Greek and Latin by Oscar Wilde.
7641. It certainly isn't the palimpsest that Holmes was studying (in "The Golden Pince-Nez"), but Mary Burke notes that you can see one at the Walters Art Gallery in Baltimore in an exhibit that opens on June 20. The "Archimedes Palimpsest" is the oldest surviving manuscript of any of his mathematical works; it was written in Greek in the 10th century in Constantinople, and washed by a monk in the Holy Land in the 12th century (so that the parchment could be used for something more important), and it was bought for \$2 million at an auction last year by a private buyer who has loaned it to the Walters. Both of the texts can now be seen, thanks to modern conservation methods, and the palimpsest already is on display on the World Wide Web at <www.thewalters.org/exhibitsarchwag.html>.
7642. Leon Falk died on Mar. 13. Better known as Lee Falk, he created the "Mandrake the Magician" comic strip in 1934, and "The Phantom" in 1936 (this panel is from a "Phantom" strip that ran on Mar. 18, 1982).
7643. My trial took only seven days, and it was quite interesting: the charges involved possession of cocaine and marijuana with intent to distribute, and possession of drug paraphernalia, and the trial was in D.C. Superior Court, and I was on the jury, for the first time ever (in the District of Columbia you are called every two or three years, and you need to spend only one day at the courthouse unless you're selected for a jury), and this was the first time I've ever gotten through the selection process (in the past I've always been unselected, for unstated reasons), and I suspect it was because they were really desperate to get a jury (the jury included two lawyers and two journalists, which is quite unusual). There were four defendants; charges against one were dismissed, and we voted not guilty on one, and couldn't get unanimous votes for guilty on the remaining two. And jury duty is an experience I recommend to everyone, if only because you get to see that real life isn't at all like television or the movies.
7644. The March issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota has arrived, with interesting articles, and some truly important news: the launch of Ronald B. De Waal's *THE UNIVERSAL SHERLOCK HOLMES* online at the university's web-site <www.lib.umn.edu/special/rare/ush/ush.html>. It is a work-in-progress at the moment (only the first two volumes are available now), but it's a fine taste of things to come. You can join the mailing list for the newsletter by writing to Richard J. Sveum at: 466 O. M. Wilson Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <sveum001@maroon.tc.umn.edu>.

March 1999 #5

7645. Ray Russell died on Mar. 15. He was a prolific horror and fantasy writer, and his novella "Sardonicus" (1960) was praised by Stephen King as "perhaps the finest example of the modern Gothic ever written." He joined *Playboy* magazine as an associate editor in 1954, served as executive editor from 1955 to 1960, and continued as a contributing editor into the 1970s. His satirical pastiche "The Murder of Conan Doyle" (with Foames, Squatson, and Goryarty) appeared in *Playboy* in Apr. 1955.
7646. Roger Moore, who has portrayed Sherlock Holmes (in the 1976 television film "Sherlock Holmes in New York"), as well as Simon Templar and James Bond, is now a Commander of the British Empire, in the latest Queen's honours list.
7647. Welcome news for those who have been searching for a copy of *A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF A. CONAN DOYLE*, by Richard Lancelyn Green and John Michael Gibson, which was published by the Oxford University Press in 1980: Richard has been hard at work on corrections and additions for a revised edition to be published soon by Otto Penzler. There won't be room for all of the additions Richard would like to include, he reports sadly, but the bibliography was and will continue to be the very best reference volume for anyone who collects or is interested what Conan Doyle wrote.
7648. The Fifth Northumberland Fusiliers will celebrate their 25th anniversary on July 24 at the Westin William Penn (where Sir Arthur Conan Doyle stayed in 1923, when it wasn't part of the Westin chain), with a British high tea at noon, presentations and games, and dinner; details are available from Lynda Conway (2330 Benson Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15216) (412-563-6985) <76241.3027@compuserve.com>.
7649. Bill Barnes reports that a contest among members of The Sydney Passengers to nominate actors for a new Sherlock Holmes film or television series produced 23 suggestions for the role of Holmes, including Michael Palin, John Waters, and Maggie Smith. And the society's resident artist Philip Cornell has created a group portrait of all the nominees, available for \$15.00 or £10.00 or CA\$23.00 postpaid from Bill (19 Malvern Avenue, Manly, NSW 2095, Australia) (currency or checks welcome).

7650. The Irregular Special Railway Company offers their 1999 prospectus (available from Antony J. Richards, 170 Woodland Road, Sawston, Cambridge CB2 4DX, England), with information about the society and its activities, and their publications and guidebooks and philatelic items and other items such as souvenirs from the Venice-Simplon Orient Express.
7651. Sherlock Holmes died on Mar. 19. He lived in Baltimore, according to the death notice spotted by Steve Clarkson in the Baltimore Sun. One of the nice things about the World Wide Web is access to electronic telephone directories (there are least four of them, and some may have listings that the others don't), and a quick check reveals listings for twelve people named Sherlock Holmes, in Arizona, Arkansas, Illinois, Maryland, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, and Texas. Another quick check, for Garridebs, turned up only Nathan (in Missouri) and John (in New York), both of whom are Sherlockians masquerading as Garridebs. The Mormons' data base, which is the largest genealogical resource in the world, has no one named Garrideb, and the name remains a unique invention by Arthur Conan Doyle.
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March 1999 #6

7652. Interesting material continues to turn up at eBay (the Internet auction site), including a complete 18-hole portable miniature golf course, used for only three years. Each of the holes features a lifesize movie characters on exterior plywood, including Humphrey Bogart, the Three Stooges, Humphrey Bogart, the Terminator, Jason, and Sherlock Holmes. It cost more than \$32,000 new, and the high bid of \$510 was lower (quite a bit lower, one might assume) than the reserve.
7653. The Canadian National Railway Police were the first organization reported to be using lapel pins with this mustached portrait of Sherlock Holmes with a pipe (September 89 #4), which then was copied by other police operations in Canada. Four different pins (for the Canadian National Railway Police, the Canadian Pacific Railway Police, the British Columbia Railway Police, and the Coordinated Law Enforcement Unit) are available from Paul D. Roy (3874 Winlake Crescent, Burnaby, BC V5A 2G5, Canada) for US\$10.00 each postpaid. The CLEU was created in 1974 in British Columbia, combining the "best and brightest" of Royal Canadian Mounted Police and municipal forces to fight drug-smuggling and other organized crime. The design was used in 1989 by HOLMES (the Home Office Large Major Enquiry System used for computerized case-management in Britain and acquired by the police in Toronto), but that pin is not included among those now available.
7654. Donald J. Grant died on Feb. 7. His career with the state of Connecticut began in 1967, and for many years he was the Department of Environmental Protection Park Supervisor at Gillette Castle State Park in Hadlyme, where he offered hospitality and assistance to local and visiting Sherlockians. If you've seen and enjoyed the sound-film newsreel footage of William Gillette showing off his railroad, you're indebted to Don, who found the film and shipped it off to the Library of Congress for preservation.
7655. Fred Levin reports some nice news for collectors of foreign translations: you can add Vietnamese to the list of languages, since he has received THAM TU SHERLOCK HOLMES (Ho Chi Minh City: Nha Xuat Ban-Van Nghe TP, 1998) from a kind friend; there are two volumes, and they don't include all 60 stories (so there may be at least one more volume).
7656. MYSTERY & SUSPENSE WRITERS, edited by Robin Winks and including a 30-page essay on Arthur Conan Doyle by Owen Dudley Edwards (February 99 #1), has been nominated for an Edgar (best critical/biographical work) from the Mystery Writers of America.
7657. The Napoleon of Crime is in the news again: Phil Attwell has noted a report by Clive King in The Times (Mar. 13) that Robert Redford's company Wildwood Enterprises has purchased the film rights to Ben Macintyre's 1997 biography of Adam Worth, whose life and crimes contributed to Conan Doyle's portrait of Prof. Moriarty; the book had been optioned earlier by Steven Spielberg's company DreamWorks SKG (December 96 #1). King suggested that "for the 62-year-old heart-throb, the movie marks a long overdue return to the lovable-rogue territory of 'The Sting', or 'Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid'."
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April 1999 #1

7658. "And yet I live and keep bees upon the South Downs," said Sherlock Holmes (in "His Last Bow"). And while it's old news in England, I don't recall that it's been reported here: the Countryside Commission decided against national Park status for the South Downs. According to an article in The Times (Apr. 24, 1998), at hand from Chris Redmond, the commission decided that the Downs, from Eastbourne in East Sussex to Winchester in Hampshire, could be best protected by enhancing their existing status as an area of outstanding natural beauty.
7659. The commission also welcomed a proposal to give the New Forest a status equivalent to that of National Parks through special legislation. It was Watson, of course, who "yearned for the glades of the New Forest" (in "The Cardboard Box").
7660. Kirk Alyn died on Mar. 14. He began his show-business career as a chorus boy on Broadway and as an entertainer in vaudeville, and launched his film career in 1934; in 1948 he became the first actor to play Superman on film, in serial that ran through 1950, and one of his last film roles was an appearance as young Lois Lane's father in "Superman" (1978). He worked with Jim Harmon on a script written by Ron Haydock for "Curley Bradley's Trail of Mystery" (a radio western series) playing Jonathan Frazier, an actor who played Sherlock Holmes on stage at the Strand Theatre in Grant, Utah, where Moriarty was committing foul play during the town's annual Sherlock Holmes Celebration; unfortunately the episode never aired. Alyn also was to star in an unproduced film "Sherlock Holmes and the Golden Vampire" (planned in 1976 by writer-producer-director Frank R. Saletri, with Keith McConnell as Sherlock Holmes and Alice Cooper as the Vampire).
7661. "The Rugrats Movie" (1998) was released on videocassette (\$26.95) on Mar. 30 (discounted to \$16.95 at Safeway and likely elsewhere); Angelica Pickles appears in the film in a deerstalker (and was seen thus in a wide variety of tie-in merchandise last year).
7662. Enrico Solito reports that there will be an exposition on Sherlock Holmes in the Imperial Gardens in Rome from July 10 to Aug. 10, and that his society (Uno Studio in Holmes) hold a seminar there on July 24-25. More information is available from Enrico at Via Lazzerini 56, 50019 Sesto Fiorentino F1, Italy <esolito@tin.it>, and on the World Wide Web at <soalinux.comune.firenze.it/holmes/start.htm>.
7663. John Ruyle has reported that Dr. Fatso has recorded another case of Turlock Loams for the Pequod Press: THE ADVENTURE OF THE FIERY POOL costs \$40.00 (cloth) or \$20.00 (paper) from John, at 521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707.
7664. The Canadian television series "The Adventures of Shirley Holmes" aired on the Fox Family Channel last year (August 98 #2), but was suspended after a few weeks. Repeats are now airing sporadically, at 2:00 pm on some Saturdays and Sundays. Meredith Henderson stars as the 12-year-old great grand-niece of Sherlock Holmes (and like him, she is brilliant and eccentric and wants to become the world's greatest detective).
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April 1999 #2

7665. Further to last month's note that Robert Redford has bought the film rights to Ben Macintyre's THE NAPOLEON OF CRIME: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF ADAM WORTH, MASTER THIEF (March 99 #6), BBC News reported that Redford wants Paul Newman to play Worth's nemesis, Allan Pinkerton. This may require a bit of artistic license in the film: Allan Pinkerton died in 1884, and it was to his son William that Worth surrendered Gainborough's portrait of The Duchess of Devonshire in 1901.
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7666. The Berkshire Theatre Festival's summer season will include Paul Giovanni's "The Crucifer of Blood" from June 24 through July 10. The box office is at Box 797, Stockbridge, MA 01262 (413-298-5536) <www.berkshiretheatre.org>. And there's more theater ahead: the Village Players plan to produce William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" from Mar. 17 through Apr. 1, 2000; the address of the box-office is Box 712, Birmingham, MI 48012, and the web-site is at <www.birmingham-mi.com/villageplayers>.
7667. It's "the duelling dinosaurs" (or something like that), and if people were confused when Michael Crichton used "The Lost World" as a title for a book, they'll be even more confused now, since two different two-hour television films about "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's The Lost World" have aired this year (January 99 #3 and February 99 #1). Patrick Bergin starred as Professor Challenger in the first film, broadcast on The Movie Network in Canada in January, and Peter McCauley was Challenger in the second film, which aired on DirecTV in February and on TNT cable in April (when TV Guide and the Washington Post announced the Bergin version). The McCauley film is a pilot for a spin-off one-hour series, announced to start on DirecTV in July.
7668. Our new sheet of stamps showing the fauna and flora of the Sonoran Desert includes at least three stamps with Canonical connections, one of them being the "venomous lizard or gila" (mentioned in "The Sussex Vampire").
7669. A mail-order catalog from Signals offers a John Cleese video trio: "The Strange Case of the End of Civilization as We Know It", "Romance with a Double Bass", and "How to Irritate People" on three cassettes (\$39.95). Box 64428, St. Paul, MN 55164 (800-669-9696). "The Strange Case of the End of Civilization as We Know It" aired on television in Britain in 1977, with Cleese as Arthur Sherlock-Holmes and Arthur Lowe as Dr. William Watson.
7670. Lola Troy Fiur offers an imaginative series of mystery-theme photographic note-cards; two of them are Sherlockian (and one of the S'ian photos also is available on a T-shirt). For an illustrated flier, contact LTF Studios, 360 East 65th Street #17-A, New York, NY 10021 <ltfoto@cloud9.net>.
7671. There's still plenty of time to register for Bouchercon (the World Mystery Convention), which will be held in Milwaukee on Sept. 30-Oct. 3, 1999 (Box 341218, Milwaukee, WI 53234) <whreene@aol.com> <www.execpc.com/~piesbook/bouchercon'99.html>. Next year Bouchercon will be in Denver on Sept. 7-10 (Box 17910, Boulder, CO 90308) <claflin@colorado.edu> <www.bouchercon2000.com>. And then Bouchercon will move to Washington, on Nov. 1-4, 2001 (Box 11700, Washington, DC 20008) <web-site expected by mid-July>.

April 1999 #3

7672. The weekly syndicated radio series "Imagination Theater" continues to air 22-minute Sherlock Holmes programs written by Jim French (June 98 #4 and September 98 #2). Seven S'ian programs have aired so far, and they are available (along with many other shows) on CD or cassette (at \$7.99 each postpaid) from TransMedia, 719 Battery Street, San Francisco, CA 94111 (800-227-7234) <www.transmediasf.com> (credit-card orders welcome).
7673. "The Golden Era of the Movies" is a 35 x 14.5 in. print with portraits of more than 120 stars of the 1930s and 1940s by the late George I. Parrish, Jr., who included Basil Rathbone as Sherlock Holmes; the print costs \$92.00 postpaid from Barwick Publishing (Box 5355, Maryville, TN 37802).
7674. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists met at Mi Tierra in San Antonio on Apr. 14, during the annual meeting of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, for a dinner honoring the world's first forensic geologist. We were welcomed by the local Sherlockians (The Strange Old Book Collectors), and of course approved of the AAPG's journalism award to Sarah Andrews for her four mystery novels about Emily Hansen, a petroleum geologist who doubles as a detective. We will dine next in October in Denver during the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America.
7675. John McPhee won the 1999 Pulitzer Prize for general nonfiction for ANNALS OF THE FORMER WORLD (July 98 #1); it's a collection of his four fine books about geology, including BASIN AND RANGE, in which he notes that Sherlock Holmes was the first forensic geologist.
7676. "Australian Farmer Breeds Blue Sheep" was the headline a on report from the Associated Press (Apr. 20), spotted by Scott Monty, who notes that Sherlock Holmes could now wear a blue dressing gown made with undyed wool. Nancy Follett, who owns a sheep farm at Sleaford Bay in South Australia, said she 25 years ago with a Sussex-type of ram that had a black face and legs and a dark blue body, and now has bred 100 sheep with fleece ranging from light blue to navy blue. "Some people have accused me of dyeing the sheep," she said. "That's absolutely not true. I'm not up to chasing sheep around and dipping them into dye."
7677. Bill Barnes (19 Malvern Avenue, Manly, NSW 2095, Australia) offers copies of THE HOUNDS' COLLECTION: VOLUME 4, with 80 pages of pastiche, humour and serious writing by members of The Hounds of the Internet; most of the material is new, but a few items have appeared elsewhere. \$12.00 or CA\$17.00 or £8.00 postpaid by airmail; or \$8.00/CA\$11.00/£5.00 postpaid by surface mail. Payment by personal checks or currency is welcome.
7678. "Scooby-Doo's Greatest Mysteries" is a new videocassette (\$12.99) with four non-Sherlockian episodes from the 1970s animated television series "Scooby-Doo, Where Are You" (and a brief view of the cover of the book "The Hound of Beastville" in one of the short "behind the scenes" segments); the cassette box shows Scooby in Sherlockian costume, and is packaged with a photo frame that also shows Scooby in S'ian costume. And completists will want to visit a Dairy Queen: the paper bag for their "Kids Pick-nic!" has S'ian artwork on a coupon for a \$2.00 discount when you buy the videocassette.

April 1999 #4

7679. Reported: THE CROWDED BOX-ROOM: A CHECKLIST OF SHERLOCKIAN PUBLICATIONS AND THEIR PUBLISHERS, by Don Hobbs. 214 pp. in plastic comb binding, with the names and dates of more than 420 publications, and the names of associated societies and editors, plus notes, appendices, and an index; available from the author (2100 Elm Creek Lane, Flower Mound, TX 75028) for \$31.95 plus shipping costs.
7680. John Pforr offers the lapel pin honoring the 50th anniversary of the Six Napoleons of Baltimore; designed by Jeff Decker, the pin is one inch in diameter, and in three colors on a red background, and costs \$6.00 postpaid from John (6 Salthill Court, Timonium, MD 21093).
7681. Ernie Wise died on Mar. 21. Wise was one of Britain's greatest comedians, best known for his work with Eric Morecambe; they began performing together in 1941, and "The Morecambe and Wise Show" was one of the most popular series on British television. In 1982 the show features a kit with Morecambe (Holmes) and Wise (Watson) solving a murder mystery with Nigel Hawthorne as the butler (who did do it).
7682. Kent State University is not distinguished only for providing an electronic home for The Hounds of the Internet: Bruce Southworth notes that its libraries house the Borowitz True Crime Collection, to which Albert and Helen Borowitz continue to donate interesting items, most recently their Arthur Conan Doyle Collection, which features inscribed copies of "The Sign of the Four" in Lippincott's Magazine and of THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, and a copy of THE CAPTAIN OF THE POLE-STAR AND OTHER TALES (1890) with holograph corrections by Conan Doyle. The last item is of particular interest, since Conan Doyle seldom edited his work after publication. The university is in Kent, Ohio.
7683. Mary Ann Madden's "New York Magazine Competition" (Apr. 19) invited competitors to sully by anagram one familiar name of fact or fiction and provide for it a brief description similarly altered by a one-word jumble. The examples she offered included: "Sherlock Sholem--Israeli detective in relentless pursuit of his nemesis, Professor Yom Tirra."

7684. Further to the report (December 98 #2) on plans to create The Undershaw Club in Arthur Conan Doyle's home in Surrey, Scott Lucy reports that the adjacent property has become available, adding greater scope for the project, which now is targeted for completion by the end of 2000. Additional details are available from Lucy at The Undershaw Club, c/o Grannom House, Gasden Lane, Witley, Surrey GU8 5QB, England <slucy@supralife.co.uk>.
7685. I've lived this long because I didn't die," Dirk Struik told the Associated Press when interviewed for a story on centenarians published in the Boston Globe on Apr. 20 and noted by Scott Monty. "I have good friends," Struik said. "I'm healthy. Above all, I'm active." Struik, now 104, was born in the Netherlands, and began teaching mathematics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1926; his article on "The Real Watson" was published in The Baker Street Journal in Jan. 1947, and one of his activities now is attending the annual dinners of The Friends of Irene Adler in Cambridge, where each year he toasts his fellow mathematician, Professor Moriarty.

April 1999 #5

7686. The New York Public Library celebrated its centennial with a display of one hundred "Books of the Century" (1895-1995), and one of them was THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (January 96 #8), which also was included in a set of 48 "Books of the Century Knowledge Cards" (\$9.95) produced by Pomegranate Publications (Box 6099, Rohnert Park, CA 94927) and available at the Library. The card notes that "This full-length novel is considered one of Conan Doyle's most literary and best-written works."
7687. "Meanwhile, patrons of alt.comp.virus, a newsgroup where virus writers and hunters hang out, morphed into virtual Baker Street irregulars," noted the story in Time (Apr. 12) about the successful search for the author of the Melissa macro virus that attacked computers recently. Thanks to Syd Goldberg for spotting the story.
7688. There still are Sherlockians who discovered Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in John Dickson Carr's THE LIFE OF SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE; that's something rather different from discovering Sherlock Holmes, of course, and it's nice indeed that fifty years later there is a new biography that will help readers old and new learn just how much more there was to Conan Doyle than the stories he wrote about Sherlock Holmes. Daniel Stashower is a fine writer, and his experience as a magician and warm sympathy for Conan Doyle's religious belief in spiritualism offers real insight into an area that has quite often been ignored or derided by other biographers. TELLER OF TALES: THE LIFE OF ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE (New York: Henry Holt, 1999; 472 pp., \$32.50) shows well just how interesting a man Conan Doyle was, and how much he did (as well as how much fun he had doing it); surely that's what a good biography ought to do. Recommended.
7689. Carole Nelson Douglas' GOOD NIGHT, MR. HOLMES (1990) now is available read (and read well indeed) unabridged by Virginia Leishman and Patrick Tull on nine audiocassettes, from Recorded Books, 270 Skipjack Road, Prince Frederick, MD 20678 (800-638-1304) <www.recordedbooks.com>, for \$67.50 (purchase) or \$15.75 (rental); credit-card orders welcome. Laurie R. King's four Mary Russell novels also are available, read by Jenny Sterlin; as well as THE POISON BELT and THE LOST WORLD, and six Canonical books, by other readers.
7690. Carol Barnett's "Plotting a Sherlockian Garden" (spotted by Mike Bragg in the June issue of Victorian Homes) is a nicely illustrated and interesting exploration for S'ian botanists; 265 South Anita Drive #120, Orange, CA 92868 (800-999-9718)
7691. The U.S. postal service has continued its annual tributes to the stars of Warner Bros. cartoons, this year honoring Daffy Duck, who appeared in "Deduce, You Say!" (1956) as Dorlock Homes (with Porky Pig as Dr. Watkins).
7692. The Andaman Islands continue to attract attention: Kathryn Piffat notes an article by Sita Venkateswar on the history of the Andaman Islanders in the May 1999 issue of Scientific American (with a mention of "The Sign of the Four"), and John Clark has forwarded a report from The Times (Apr. 13) that DNA analysis of hair samples taken from Andaman tribesmen by a British anthropologist in 1907 suggests that the islanders may be descended from the first humans to leave man's African birthplace, 100,000 years ago.

April 1999 #6

7693. Laurie R. King's O JERUSALEM (New York: Bantam Books, 1999; 367 pp., \$23.95) is her fifth novel about Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes, set in early 1919 (just after A BEEKEEPER'S APPRENTICE) in the Holy Land, with Russell and Holmes in pursuit of a villain who is trying to undo the British conquest. It's nicely done, with some delightful touches, one involving Holmes, in disguise as a Bedouin in an Arab village, listening to someone translate a Sherlock Holmes story from The Strand Magazine.
7694. And in an interview with the Internet bookseller Amazon.com, Laurie reports that she has a sixth Mary Russell novel planned, set in England in 1923 and 1924. And that an English producer is interested in a Mary Russell film, but "won't touch anything until the copyright on the Holmes stuff expires in 2001."
7695. Laurie will be on a book-signing tour for O JERUSALEM in June; here's the tentative schedule: 1 or 2 Sebastopol, CA, Copperfield's (time not set); 1 or 2 Capitola, CA, Capitola Bookcafe, 7:30 (unconfirmed); 3 Scottsdale, AZ, Poisoned Pen, 12:00; 4 Houston, TX, Murder by the Book, 6:00; 5 Dallas, TX, Mystery Bookstore, 2:00; 6 Louisville, KY, Hawley-Cooke, 2:00; 7 Bethesda, MD, Mystery Bookshop, 6:30-8:00; 8 Washington, DC, MysteryBooks 6:00-7:00; 9 New York, NY, Mysterious Bookshop (time not set).
7696. A new set of United National stamps calls attention to endangered species, and one of the stamps shows the long-tailed chinchilla. And, yes, there's an Canonical allusion (in "The Engineer's Thumb"): "The newcomers were Colonel Lysander Stark and a short thick man with a chinchilla beard growing out of the creases of his double chin, who was introduced to me as Mr. Ferguson."
7697. The Mysterious Book Shop has issued a 38-page Sherlock Holmes Catalog with 551 items (and that's just A-J); available from the shop, at 129 West 56th Street, New York, NY 10019 (800-352-2840) <mysteriousny@worldnet.att.net>.
7698. "Murder in the City: The Classical Detective Story in New York" is scheduled at the New York Historical Society on May 22-23, with an agenda that feature panels and speakers (including B.J. Rahn and Otto Penzler), a playreading, and walking tours. Additional details are available from the New York Festival of Mystery, c/o Mercantile Library, 17 East 47th Street, New York, NY 10017 (212-755-5610) <www.mysterynet.com/nyfm>.
7699. Roger Llewellyn first played Sherlock Holmes in Christopher Martin's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" in Newcastle-under-Lyme in 1997, and he'll be Holmes again in a tour of David Stuart Davies' new one-man play "Sherlock Holmes: The Last Act" (opening at the Salisbury Playhouse in Salisbury on May 18-22). The play then tours the provinces, and it will be performed during the Edinburgh Festival on Aug. 6-29, and in London on Sept. 10-Oct. 10. "In the elegant hands of Roger Llewellyn," the Sunday Express noted, "this is Holmes as you've always imagined him: tall, angular and precise, but with a cutting sense of humor."

May 1999 #1

7700. The spring issue of The Magic Door (the newsletter of The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) has Cameron Hollyer's article about the collection's letters and postcards written by Conan Doyle to Strand editor Greenhough Smith, and Victoria Gill's report on family spiritualism material, purchased from Denis Conan Doyle's estate and from other sources; copies are available from Doug

Wrigglesworth, 16 Sunset Street, Holland Landing, ON L9N 1H4, Canada <dougwig@netrover.com>. And (for the electronically enabled), the collection's web-site is at <www.mtrl.toronto.on.ca/centres/spcoll/acd/home.htm>.

7701. Plan ahead: "A Saturday with Sherlock Holmes" will be the 20th annual presentation by The Six Napoleons, The Carlton Club, and Watson's Tin Box, at the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore from 10:00 am to 1:30 pm on Nov. 20; the festivities begin with a coffee hour in the Edgar Allan Poe Room, followed by talks by eight members of the societies, and a quiz based on talks. The library is at 400 Cathedral Street, and there's no admission charge for the event, and additional information is available from William Hyder (5488 Cedar Lane #C-3, Columbia, MD 21044) (410-997-9114).
7702. Oliver Reed died on May 2. He was a fine actor, with 53 films to his credit, among them "The Three Musketeers" (1973), "The Four Musketeers" (1974), and "The Return of the Musketeers" (1989), directed by Richard Lester and written by George MacDonald Fraser, as well as many television roles. Initial publicity for the 1990s television mini-series "The Lost World" and "Return to the Lost World" had Reed cast as Challenger (with Donald Pleasance as Summerlee); the films eventually were made with John Rhys-Davies as Challenger (and David Warner as Summerlee), and went directly to video stores, and it is interesting to consider what Reed might have been able to do as Challenger.
7703. A POETIC TRIBUTE TO BAKER STREET is a delightful audiocassette recorded by Philip Brogdon, who reads and comments on some of the best works by Sherlockian poets, from T. S. Eliot to Vincent Starrett to Kenneth Fearing to E. V. Knox, with many others possibly less well-known but no less poetic. The cassette (53-minutes) costs \$16.00 postpaid from George A. Vanderburgh, Box 204, Shelburne, ON L0N 1S0, Canada.
7704. Ron Kritter reports that the 18th Annual Midwest Chesterton Conference at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul on June 10-12 will include a Saturday-morning debate on "Sherlock Holmes vs. Father Brown" (with Pasquale Accardo on behalf of Holmes and Steve Miller on behalf of Brown). There's no charge for the conference sessions, and additional information is available from The American Chesterton Society (4117 Pebblebrook Circle, Minneapolis, MN 55437) <info@chesterton.org>.
7705. The Kenneth W. Rendell Gallery offers Conan Doyle's signed three-page contract with Eveleigh Nash and Grayson for their 1926 edition of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (the book sold for 2s6d, with a 3d royalty to the author, who received an advance of £100, so they expected to sell more than 8,000 copies); the Gallery's address is 989 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10021 (800-376-1776), and they're asking \$15,000 for the contract.

May 1999 #2

7706. The manuscripts of "The Dying Detective" and "The Lion's Mane" were loaned to the Marylebone Library in London in 1990 by the son of the late Alfred T. Miller (who bought them at Christie's in 1960); Catherine Cooke reports that the owner has retrieved the manuscripts, and will be putting them up for sale. Both manuscripts have been published in facsimile (September 91 #7 and September 92 #6), and copies of both still are available from Christopher and Barbara Roden (Calabash Press, Box 1360, Ashcroft, BC V0K 1A0, Canada <ashtree@ashtree.bc.ca>; postpaid prices are \$31.50 (to the U.S.) or CA \$40.00 (Canada) or \$37.00/£11.60 (elsewhere by airmail) (\$32.00 /£20.00 by surface post) (credit-card orders welcome).
7707. Hyman Shrand died on Apr. 21. He was an artist and poet, and doctor, and retired as chief of pediatrics at Mount Auburn Hospital in Boston in 1983.
7708. In retirement in Truro he founded the Truro School Irregulars at the North Central Truro School, and (according to his obituary in the Boston Globe) "was known for his entertaining storytelling, especially his rendition of Sherlock Holmes mysteries."
7709. The Interact Theatre Company's production of Nick Olcott's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Purloined 'Patience'" delighted Washington audiences in 1997 (and it won the Charles MacArthur award for outstanding new play that year). Tim Brierly starred as Sherlock Holmes, and he will return as Sherlock Holmes, acting as chairman (master of ceremonies) and performing in "The Very Model of a Major Merry Music Hall" at Arena Stage in Washington from June 9 to Sept. 5; the show will include Gilbert & Sullivan favorites as well as songs and sketches from the hey-day of British music hall. The box-office address is 1221 Mottrom Drive, McLean, VA 22101 (703-218-6500).
7710. The AARP (formerly the American Association of Retired Persons, but now officially known as the AARP, because they don't care whether you're retired or working) has a nice booklet YOUR THREE-STEP PLAN TO FIGHT MEDICARE FRAUD (available in English or Spanish), with amusing Sherlockian artwork; the AARP address is 601 E Street NW, Washington, DC 20049.
7711. The RE/MAX network of realtors (it's a franchise with 3,200 offices in 27 countries) now is running a major television advertising campaign that has been underway since last December. Holmes and Watson are featured in 15-second and 30-second commercials that ran on many network and cable stations this spring; the commercials will repeat on cable this summer, and we may see Holmes and Watson again on network television this fall.
7712. Stephen Davies spotted Ray Greene's article about "The Making of Star Wars" (on the "Return of the Force: Behind the Scenes, Part 2") on a web-page at <mrshowbiz.go.com/feature/phantommenace/behindthescenes6.html>. According to Green, the "Star Wars" production notes began with a quotation from Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: "To the boy who's half a man/ Or the man who's half a boy." After the film was released, Lucas said that "It's been a long time since people have been able to go to the movies and see a sort of straightforward, wholesome, fun adventure." Which, of course, also is a fine way to describe "The Lost World" (the source of the quotation).

May 1999 #3

7713. John Ruyle reports that the fourth Sherlockian book this year from the Pequod Press will be THE ADVENTURE OF THE BLANCHED SHOULDER, in which Turlock Loams, assisted by Inspector S. Lespade and the ubiquitous Dr. Fatso, investigates the notorious acrobatic Lox Brothers. 521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707; \$40.00 (cloth) or \$20.00 (paper).
7714. Sherlock Holmes made his 100th (and final) visit to the Victorian Villa in Union City, Mich., for an English beer and ale dinner on May 7, John Sherwood reports. His next appearance (perhaps accompanied by Mrs. Norton) is to be on or about July 21, at the Sherlock Holmes Museum in Baker Street, when John and his wife Katari will be on holiday in London.
7715. The 22-page manuscript of "The Adventure of the Worst man in London" (Conan Doyle's original title for "The Adventure of Charles Augustus Milverton") will go to auction at Christie's in New York on June 9, accompanied by the original artwork for Frederic Dorr Steele's portrait of Milverton (the lot is estimated at \$75,000-95,000); previous owners of the manuscript have included William Randolph Hearst (who bought the manuscript at auction in New York in 1923 for \$70), Edgar W. Smith (Buttons-cum-Commissionaire of The Baker Street Irregulars and editor of The Baker Street Journal), and Carl H. Anderson (one of the founders of The Sons of the Copper Beeches of Philadelphia). The auction also will include Sidney Paget's original artwork showing Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson in "The Norwood Builder" (estimated at \$10,000-15,000) and a first edition of THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (\$1,000-1,500). Christie's is at 20 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10020 (800-395-6300), and the catalog costs \$40.00 postpaid.

7716. Syd Goldberg notes that Ronald Howard's "The Case of Lady Beryl" (1954) is one of 24 programs in a six-cassette collection of RADIO TO TV ("comedies, dramas, and adventures sagas that made the transition" from radio to television) available for \$59.95 from The Video Catalog (1000 Westgate Drive, Saint Paul, MN 55114 (800-733-6656); item 64842.
7717. Whatever happened to ... Guy Henry? Star of the British television series "Young Sherlock" (1982) about 17-year-old Sherlock's investigations of various strange goings-on at his ancestral manor-house home on the edge of the Lancashire fells, Henry has won a Helen Hayes Award in Washington as the best supporting performer in a non-resident production for his appearance as the villainous Cloten in "Cymbeline" with the Royal Shakespeare Company at the Kennedy Center last year.
7718. The May issue of Natural History, published by the American Museum of Natural History in New York, is devoted to flowers, and one of the articles is Richard Milner's "Mystery of the Red Rose" (which starts and ends with references to the Canon, and is illustrated with an appropriate photograph of Jeremy Brett from the Granada series).
7719. The Holmes & Watson report celebrated Mother's Day in its May issue with a collection of essays about Sherlock Holmes' mother, plus some interesting reviews of older Sherlockian films by David Morrill and Jennie Paton (and Sherlock Holmes' father will be honored in the next issue); subscriptions cost \$16.00 a year for six issues (\$22.00 outside North America), from Brad Keefauver, 4009 North Chelsea Place, Peoria, IL 61614.
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May 1999 #4

7720. Dell's Yearling Books has launched "The Adventures of Shirley Holmes" as a paperback series based on the Canadian television series starring Meredith Henderson as the 12-year-old great grand-niece of Sherlock Holmes (it also is seen sporadically on the Fox Family Channel). The first two titles are THE CASE OF THE BURNING BUILDING AND THE CASE OF THE RUBY RING and THE CASE OF THE BLAZING STAR AND THE CASE OF THE KING OF HEARTS, written by Judie Angell (each 112 pp., and \$3.99).
7721. The flier is now available for "Holmes Under the Arch: Weekend at Baskerville Hall" on Sept. 10-12 at the Westport Sheraton Hotel in St. Louis; the speakers will include Bill Cochran, David Hammer, and Jennie Paton. Write to Holmes Under the Arch, 7101 Mardel Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63109 <huta1999@aol.com>.
7722. Classic Images has been covering old films since the 1960s, when (as The 8mm Collector) it published the working script for "The Lost World" (1925); the May issue has William M. Apple's article on "The Twentieth Century-Fox Sherlock Holmes Films" and a report about film memorabilia (including Basil Rathbone material) at Boston University. Classic Images usually has 80 to 92 pp., and is published monthly (\$32.00 a year); single issues cost \$4.00 (301 East Third Street, Muscadine, IA 52761) <www.classicimages.com>.
7723. It's been many years since Michael B. Druzman's excellent filmography BASIL RATHBONE was published in 1975, and since then he has been writing non-fiction and stage and screenplays; Druzman's first novel is NOBODY DROWNS IN MINERAL LAKE (Westlake Village: Center Press, 1999; 240 pp., \$12.95). It's a mystery, set in the state of Washington in the 1970s, and it includes an echo of one of Rathbone's Sherlockian films. Autographed copies cost only \$12.95 postpaid from the publisher (30961 West Agoura Road #223-B, Westlake Village, CA 91361) <www.centerbooks.com>; credit-card orders are welcome.
7724. Mike Whelan spotted a new advertising use of Sherlock Holmes: by the Leak Investigation Unit of the Indianapolis Water Company:
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May 1999 #5

7725. Susan Dahlinger notes that there's a William Gillette Exhibit at the Harriett Beecher Stowe Center through July 5; the Center (formerly known as the Stowe-Day Foundation) is at 77 Forest Street, Hartford, CT 06105 (860-522-9258). The Center's quarterly newsletter reports that Harold and Teddie Niver, dressed in period costume, gave a presentation about William Gillette at the Center's annual meeting on May 11.
7726. Rex Pinson, Jr. ("Inspector G. Lestrade") died on May 6. Rex grew up in Tulsa across the street from John Bennett Shaw, and by the time he retired as a vice president of Pfizer Pharmaceuticals he was a regular at the annual dinners of The Baker Street Irregulars and at the Sherlockian dinners at the Culinary Institute of America; he received his Investiture from the BSI in 1973. Rex also loved wine, Jon Lellenberg notes, and had the best private wine cellar of anyone Jon has known (which is high praise indeed).
7727. John Stephenson has reported a packet of Stickopotamus binder stickers with a mystery theme, and (of course) one of them is a portrait of Sherlock Holmes; it's item SP-CB-13, and their address is Box 86, Carlstadt, NY 07072.
7728. Nancy Beiman reports that Walt Disney will reissue "The Great Mouse Detective" on videocassette on Aug. 31; it will be nice indeed to have Basil of Baker Street back.
7729. When you visit the Antarctic (and you certainly can, even as a tourist) you might want to visit Cape Evans, where you can see the world's southernmost copy of a book by Arthur Conan Doyle: THE GREEN FLAG AND OTHER STORIES OF WAR AND SPORT, which was brought there by Robert Falcon Scott in 1910, in the small hut from which Scott set off on an ill-fated attempt to reach the South Pole. Scott had led an earlier expedition to the Antarctic, in 1901-04, and his third lieutenant then was Ernest Shackleton (who, fortunately for Shackleton, was not a member of Scott's second expedition). But Shackleton did return to the Antarctic, and in 1914-16 he led an expedition that is the subject of one of the greatest stories of exploration ever told.
7730. That story's at the heart of the American Museum of Natural History's exhibition about "The Endurance: Shackleton's Legendary Antarctic Expedition" (through Oct. 11) that is well worth seeing if you're in or visiting N.Y. And John Rabe (son of the late Bill Rabe) has produced for Minnesota Public Radio a delightful one-hour program "Walking Out of History" about the expedition. The electronically-enabled can visit a web-site at <news.mpr.org/features/199905/31_rabej_walking/>; Minnesota Public Radio is planning to distribute "Walking Out of History" nationally in a month or so, and John (needless to say) would be delighted if you could ask your local PBS radio station to broadcast the program.
7731. The May issue of The Dispatch (edited by Vic Lahti for the Afghanistan Perceivers of Tulsa) has a report on a rebroadcast of an episode the "Kentucky Derby Bet" episode (May 7, 1939) from "The Jack Benny Show": after exchanging their opening jokes and wisecracks, the regulars went "on stage" to begin the formal show, and Benny called out to his dog, "Come on Baskerville, it's time to go." Followed by the yipping of a small dog (the Basil Rathbone film had opened on Mar. 24, so presumably everyone got the joke).
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May 1999 #6

7732. Bill Dunning notes that Edmund L. Hartmann has been honored by the Santa Fe Film Critics Circle with their Golden Chile Award for Lifetime Achievement. Hartmann, who retired to Santa Fe in 1990 after a long Hollywood career as a screenwriter for Universal and Paramount, had among his many credits two of Basil Rathbone's films: "Sherlock Holmes and the Secret Weapon" (1943) and "The Scarlet Claw" (1944). The Golden Chile is a serious award, Bill says (it takes its name from the one to four red peppers that a local paper uses to rate movies in reviews).
7733. Until 1988 it cost exactly the same to mail a first-class letter from the United States to Canada as to an address within the U.S. But then Canada imposed an extra charge on letters mailed from Canada to the U.S., and the U.S. post office responded by charging 30c (instead of 25c) for letters to
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Canada. And it still costs more to mail a letter from Vancouver to Seattle than from Vancouver to Montreal (and more to mail a letter from Seattle to Vancouver than from Seattle to Boston), and it got worse at the end of May: one ounce from the U.S. to Canada now costs 55c (up from 52c). And (alas) the cost of this newsletter to Canadian subscribers goes up too (as you'll learn when you next hear from our circulation department).

7734. Laura Sifurova spotted a Russian translation of Arthur Conan Doyle's *THE HISTORY OF SPIRITUALISM* (1926) published by Global Books in St. Petersburg (1998), with additional illustrations by Polina Goryntseva (two of which are shown here). It was in 1929 that the Soviet government banned Conan Doyle's works, because of his interest in occultism and spiritualism, and almost nothing of Conan Doyle's was published in the USSR until World War Two, when some of the Sherlock Holmes stories were translated into Russian for distribution to the Soviet Army.
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June 1999 #1

7735. "Last Words of Killer Gave Life to Sherlock Holmes" was the headline on a story by Nicholas Hellen in *The Sunday Times* (May 16) about BBC plans for a feature film and a television series about Dr. Joseph Bell. "Blood Line: The Dark Beginning of Sherlock Holmes" (the title of the first adaptation) is to deal with the trial, conviction, and execution of Eugene Chantrell in 1878, when Bell was working with Dr. Henry Littlejohn as forensic experts for the Crown. Jonathan Pryce (who played the villain in the James Bond film "Tomorrow Never Dies") was announced to play the lead in the series.
7736. Our "Celebrate the Century" souvenir sheets (with 15 different stamps for each decade) have now reached the 1950s. The latest sheet includes a stamp honoring the "shot heard round world" (the home run with which Bobby Thompson won the 1951 World Series for the N.Y. Giants). The Giants defeated the Brooklyn Dodgers in that game, as they did in 1922, when Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was on hand (and rooting for the Giants).
7737. According to Ely Liebow's *DR. JOE BELL: MODEL FOR SHERLOCK HOLMES* (1982), Littlejohn was present when Chantrelle was sent to the scaffold: just before being pinioned, Chantrelle took off his hat, took a last puff on his cigar, and waving his hand to the police physician, cried out, "Bye-bye, Littlejohn. Don't forget to give my compliments to Joe Bell. You both did a good job in bringing me to the scaffold." It was only a few months later that Arthur Conan Doyle became Joe Bell's student in Edinburgh.
7738. Michael W. Homer has long been interested in (and has written about) Arthur Conan Doyle and spiritualism, and his newest book is *LO SPIRITISMO* (Torino: Elledici, 1999; 96 pp., 10,000 lira), offering (in Italian) an overview of spiritualism, with discussion of Conan Doyle's life and beliefs in many of the chapters.
7739. Noted by Tom Dandrew: *VICTORIAN QUEST ROMANCE: STEVENSON, HAGGARD, KIPLING AND CONAN DOYLE*, by Robert Fraser (Northcote House, 1998; 108 pp., £8.99); one of the chapter ("Arthur Conan Doyle and the 'Missing Link'") focuses on "The Lost World".
7740. Stephen Kendrick's *HOLY CLUES: THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SHERLOCK HOLMES* (New York: Pantheon Books, 1999; 192 pp., \$21.00) is an interesting discussion of the faith, reason, mystery, and philosophy one can find in the Sherlock Holmes stories, especially with an expert guide. Kendrick is a Unitarian minister, and widely read (one doesn't often find Henry David Thoreau and Woody Allen quoted in the same book), and he has written with imagination and style. And I don't recall being told before that when Holmes said to Watson, "You see, but you do not observe," he was alluding to passages in both the Old Testament (Isaiah) and New (Matthew).
7741. The Crowborough Conan Doyle Trust is continuing its fund-raising for the life-size bronze statue of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle planned for Crowborough; British sculptor David Cornell designed the statue, and the Town Council has contributed and will maintain the site. More information is available from Brian Pugh (20 Clare Road, Lewes BN7 7PN, England).
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June 1999 #2

7742. Hillary Brooke died on May 25. She began a long film career in "New Faces of 1937" and went on to act with Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce and with many other major stars, including Charles Laughton (in 1952 in "Abbott and Costello Meet Captain Kidd"), and had a recurring role in the 1950s television series "My Little Margie". She appeared as Jill Grandis in "Sherlock Holmes and the Voice of Terror" (1942), as Sally Musgrave in "Sherlock Holmes Faces Death" (1943), and as Lydia Marlowe in "The Woman in Green" (1945). She told some fine stories about her fellow-actors and her career in an interview in the winter 1996 issue of *Scarlet Street*.
7743. Geoff Jeffery reports a Three Stooges necktie showing Moe, Larry, and Curly in Sherlockian costume (item SGTX30, \$16.99) in a recent mail-order catalog from Soitenly Stooges (Box 10666, Glendale, CA 91209) (800-378-6643).
7744. David L. Hammer's *THE VITAL ESSENCE: BEING THE FURTHER ANNALS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* (Gasogene Press, 1999; 131 pp., \$12.95) is his second collection of hitherto-unreported cases hidden away by Dr. Watson. David notes that he has said several times that he would "never demean the Canon by insinuating a pastiche into commerce," adding unapologetically that he has found it to be great fun, and so it is. \$15.45 postpaid (\$16.45 outside the U.S.) from the publisher (Box 68308, Indianapolis, IN 46077).
7745. The Mysterious Book Shop's second Sherlock Holmes Catalog (J-Z) brings the total of its Sherlockian offers to 1017 items of old and new material; the catalogs are available from the shop, at 129 West 56th Street, New York, NY 10019 (800-352-2840) <mysteriousny@worldnet.att.net>.
7746. The Three Garridebs of Westchester County offer a Sherlock Holmes wrist-watch, with a Sherlockian profile on the face, in men's and women's sizes, for \$27.00 postpaid; orders can be sent to Dante Torrese, 11 Chestnut Street, Ardsley, NY 10502.
7747. P. N. Elrod (better known in Sherlockian circles as Patti Nead Elrod, creator of the "Baker Street Irregulars") began her book series *THE VAMPIRE FILES* series in 1990 with *BLOODLIST* and *LIFEBLOOD* (June 90 #3), about Jack Fleming (once a reporter and now a vampire) and his private-detective friend Charles Escott (whose name is not the only S'ian echo in the series, which is set in gangland Chicago in the 1930s). The series graduated to hardcover in 1998 with *A CHILL IN THE BLOOD*, and the eighth title is *THE DARK SLEEP* (New York: Ace Books, 1999; 368 pp., \$21.95).
7748. "Yo, Sherlock" was the headline on a brief item in the *Baltimore Sun* (May 23), spotted by John Pforr. "In the seventh inning of a game May 7 between the Arizona Diamondbacks and Mets, the opposing pitchers were Holmes (Darren) and Watson (Allen)."
7749. The *STUD* Sherlockian Society will hold a Founder's Day Festival on July 10 in Chicago, with a Depression-era breakfast, a Rache Road Rally, a tour of Graceland Cemetery (resting place of Vincent Starrett, Alan Pinkerton, and others) conducted by Donald B. Izban, and luncheon at the Ridgmoor Country Club. Details are available from Bill Sawisch (418 Galahad, Bolingbrook, IL 60440) or Allan Devitt (630-227-9127) <szd@ix.netcom.com>.
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June 1999 #3

7750. Frank Spencer died on May 30. After beginning his scientific career as a medical microbiologist he became an anthropologist, and was editor of *THE HISTORY OF PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY* and chairman of the Anthropology Department at Queens College. It was in 1976 that he became interested in the Piltdown Hoax, and in his *PILTDOWN: A SCIENTIFIC FORGERY* (1990) he documented his belief that Sir Arthur Keith was the culprit. He discussed, and dismissed, other suspects, including Arthur Conan Doyle, and published for the first time an amusing discovery in Keith's papers: the postcard portrait photograph of Conan Doyle that he sent to Keith, with an invitation to dinner, after they debated spiritualism in a series of articles in the [London] *Morning Post* in 1925. On the back of the postcard Sir Arthur mentions the "Great 3rd round exhibition contest between the Crowborough Kid and Battling Arty of Lincolns Inn Fields." [December 90 #3]
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7751. M&Ms are marketed world-wide, and there are collectibles not seen in the U.S.: six different snap-together plastic toys, one of which is a detective (2.5 in. high assembled); they're marketed by Mars (BP 36, 67501 Haguenau, France), and widely available in Europe (there are eleven languages on the small "not suitable for children under three years" warning).
7752. "Sherlock Holmes was a sarcastic loner who played his cards close to his vest and left the business details of life to his faithful Dr. Watson," according to a Reuters dispatch in the Baltimore Sun (May 28) now at hand from John Pfforr, about the British government's advertising for a new head of Scotland Yard, who will need to meet "demanding strategic business objectives" and must have "strong leadership, organizational ability, and communications skills," to command the 44,000-strong force. "Sherlock Holmes-types need not apply," the story noted.
7753. "Obviously the work of we-know-who!" notes Richard Shull on a report in the N.Y. Times (June 1) about the Maritime Museum at the Palais de Chaillot in Paris, where a dilapidated roof and a weekend rainstorm resulted in damage to several paintings by Joseph Vernet (Sherlock Holmes' great-great-granduncle).
7754. Malice Domestic XII will be held on May 5-7, 2000, at the Renaissance Hotel in Washington, with Simon Brett as the guest of honor, and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle as ghost of honor. Celebrating a ghost of honor has long been a tradition at Malice Domestic (John Dickson Carr was honored this year), and we can expect some interesting Doylean (and Sherlockian) discussions, events, and panels next year. If you would like to be on the mailing list, write to Malice Domestic (Box 31137, Bethesda, MD 20824); there's a web-site at <www.erols.com/malice>.
7755. "Sherlock Holmes in the 22nd Century" (a 30-minute animated series with 26 episodes, created by DIC Entertainment and Scottish Television) began airing on ITV in Britain on May 6, and the series also is scheduled to run on the Fox network (probably on Monday mornings) this fall. Holmes, who died of old age and was preserved in honey, is revived and rejuvenated by Insp. Lestrade (well, an attractive woman who, like her ancestor, works for Scotland Yard, and has a robot assistant she calls Watson), and does a fine job of battling crime and criminals in the 2100s.

June 1999 #4

7756. Fred Levin notes that Nakladatelstvi Books (s.r.o., Star18/20, 602 00 Brno, Czech Republic) is a good source for Czech translations, including the complete Canon in eight volumes, Larry Millett's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE DEMON and Donald Thomas' THE SECRET CASES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (about \$6.00 per volume). Hunga Libri Kiado (Budapest Print, Fogarasi ut 17/b, 1149 Budapest, Hungary) offers two paperbacks in Hungarian: A SATAN KUTYAJA [The Hound of the Baskervilles] and A SUSSEXI VAMPIR [The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes] (about \$2.00 each).
7757. "Black Shag" is the first in a "221B Series" of pipe tobaccos from the McClelland Tobacco Co. (\$6.50 suggested retail for a 50g tin); if you can't find it at your local tobacconist, you can ask McClelland for the name of a nearby dealer (Box 7005, Country Club Station, Kansas City, MO 64113) (888-213-8207).
7758. Tom Amorosi and Richard Valley interviewed Bert Coules for an interesting account of the "Sherlock Holmes" BBC radio series in the latest issue of Scarlet Street: The Magazine of Mystery and Horror (well illustrated with photographs, including one of Dame Judi Dench playing Mrs. Hudson with her husband Michael Williams as Watson); \$6.95, or \$35.00 a year for six issues (Box 604, Glen Rock, NJ 07452).
7759. And Forry Ackerman's column in the same issue offers a \$500 reward for information leading to the return of a treasure stolen from his collection: a little metallic figure on a thin metal support of the pterodactyl from film "The Lost World" (1925); his address is 2495 Glendower Avenue, Hollywood, CA 90027 (323-666-6326).
7760. "Hip-Hop Raps to the Top" was the headline on an article in the [Atlantic City] Press (May 2), noted by Francine Kitts. And one of the people happy about the popularity of the genre is Sure Rock Holmes. He's a hip-hop disc jockey at Richard Stockton College of New Jersey radio station WLFR-FM.
7761. Lynette Yencho's new bronze Sherlockian sculpture "The Three Pipe Problem" is available (\$600 plus shipping), and her earlier "The Grimpen Mire" (November 98 #5) still is available at the same price. Both sculptures also are offered in resin as bookends (\$250 for the pair). You can write for an illustrated flier (Garden Studio, 931 Portland Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55104), or see her work the Web <www.skypoint.com/members/yencho/holmes.html>.
7762. The first two Sherlock Holmes jigsaw puzzles in "The Continuing Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" ("The Adventures of the Fellow Lodgers" and "The Phantom of Sorrel House"), now three years old (March 96 #3), are discounted at \$6.95 in the new catalog from Bits & Pieces (1 Puzzle Place, Stevens Point, WI 54481) (800-544-7297) <www.bitsandpieces.com>.
7763. The August issue of American History has two articles of interest, one by Daniel Stashower on "The Medium & the Magician" (about the contest between Mina "Margery" Crandon and Harry Houdini), and the other by Joseph H. Bloom on "Undermining the Molly Maguires" (about the originals of the Scowlers), and editor Tom Huntington's "thoughts on history" about Harry Houdini and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. \$3.99; 6405 Flank Drive, Harrisburg, PA 17112.

June 1999 #5

7764. The 22-page manuscript of "Charles Augustus Milverton" (accompanied by Frederic Dorr Steele's original artwork for his portrait of Milverton) set a new auction record for a Sherlockian short-story manuscript at Christie's on June 9: \$255,000 (including a 15% buyer's premium. The previous record (\$97,750 including the premium) was held by "The Three Garridebs" (sold at auction in 1995. And the fortunate new owner of "Charles Augustus Milverton" is Constantine Rossakis.
7765. Sidney Paget's original artwork showing Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson in "The Norwood Builder" brought \$18,400 (also including the premium) in the same sale, and Jerry Wachs reports that he is delighted to be the new owner. The underbidder was Richard Sveum, who is president of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota as well as a doctor specializing in asthma (which handily explains his special interest in an illustration showing John Hector McFarlane meeting Holmes and Watson: McFarlane was an asthmatic).
7766. Great Britain is issuing a series of stamps celebrating the millennium, and one of them honors "Chaplin's Genius" with a portrait of Charlie Chaplin by Ralph Steadman (Chaplin played Billy on stage with William Gillette).
7767. Clifton Fadiman died on June 20. "He learned to read when he was four," Richard Severo wrote in an obituary in the N.Y. Times, "and he never got over it." Generations of readers benefited from his expertise, which was wide indeed. He helped to establish the Book of the Month Club and served on its editorial board for more than 50 years, in 1938 he was asked to moderate a new radio program "Information Please" and quickly gained an audience of nine million listeners, and he was a delightful anthologist and essayist. And he was a Sherlockian: listed as a member of the Baker Street Irregulars in the early 1940s, and a guest speaker at the "Trilogy Dinner" in Mar. 1944 (according to one newspaper report, he "elevated Sherlock Holmes to the position of a myth"). And in 1963 he contributed an afterword to a collection of TALES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES; "I hope this volume of excellent selections will make you want to read all the stories," he wrote. "I know men who have spent part of a lifetime poring over them, with never-failing delight."

7768. "Sherlock Holmes has been done so many times," Roberta Klaeser said, "so I decided to make a scene with this man who just wants to be like him." And her "Sherlock Holmes Wannabe" is one of the delightful rooms photographed for Kristen M. Scheuing's article on "Secrets of a Top Collector" in *Dollhouse Miniatures* (July 1999), at hand from Kelly Blau. Kalmbach Publishing Co., Box 1612, Waukesha, WI 53187; \$4.50.
7769. The June issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota has arrived, with Julie McKuras' article about Christopher Morley's brother Felix Morley, whose son Anthony J. Morley has donated to the collections his father's Sherlockian books; and an essay by Bruce Southworth about Conan Doyle's A DUET: WITH AN OCCASIONAL CHORUS; and other news. You can join the newsletter's mailing list by writing to Richard J. Sveum (466 O. M. Wilson Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <sveum001@maroon.tc.umn.edu>.
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June 1999 #6

7770. Sotheby's will offer 80 lots of Conan Doyle material in an auction in London on July 15; some of the material is left over from the sale of Norman L. Rosenbaum's collection last year (November 98 #2 and December 98 #5), and some is new. The catalog's available from Sotheby's (attn: Peter Selley, 34-35 New Bond Street, London W1A 2AA, England) <peter.selley@sothebys.com> and at their web-site <www.sothebys.com>.
7771. Plan ahead: the Millennium Congress of Holmesian Societies will be held in May 2000 in Switzerland, sponsored by three French and Swiss societies. To enroll on the mailing list for additional details, write to Michael A. Meer (Morgenstrasse 70, CH-3018 Bern, Switzerland) <sherlock.holmes@gmx.net>.
7772. The seventeenth annual "Autumn in Baker Street" will be held at the Tarrytown Hilton in Tarrytown, N.Y., on Oct. 30-31, with an agenda full of Sherlockian doings and undoings. More information is available from Robert E. Thomalen, Highview Drive, Carmel, NY 10512 <crwk02a@prodigy.com>.
7773. MYSTERY & SUSPENSE WRITERS, edited by Robin Winks and including a 30-page essay on Arthur Conan Doyle by Owen Dudley Edwards (February 99 #1), was an Edgar-winner (best critical/biographical work) at this spring's annual dinner of the Mystery Writers of America.
7774. John Ruyle reports that TIDEWAITERS & YEGGMEN will be the fifth Sherlockian book this year from the Pequod Press, offering whimsical verse dealing with Canonical occupations and personages. John's address is 521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707; \$40.00 (cloth) or \$20.00 (paper).
7775. Margaret Scott died on May 30, She was a journalist, and with her husband Ken attended the first meeting of the Illustrious Clients of Indianapolis, in 1947, and was an enthusiastic member of the Clients for many years.
7776. Fred Holt reports that an exhibition called "Sherlock Holmes and the Clocktower Mystery" opened at the Fresno Metropolitan Museum in Fresno, Calif., on June 20; it will run through Sept. 12. The exhibition was first seen in Croydon in England (October 95 #2), and has visited Des Moines, Iowa (where it was seen by 31,000 people). It's an interactive show, with an actor playing Holmes), and the museum is located at 1515 Van Ness Avenue, Fresno, CA 93721 (559-441-1444) <www.fresnomet.org>.
7777. Laurie R. King's O JERUSALEM (her latest book about Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes) is one of the Mystery Guild's featured summer selections, and (for the electronically enabled) there's an interesting interview with her at their web-site <www.mysteryguild.com>.
7778. The eighth annual Watsonian Weekend will begin with the Royal Berkshires/Fifth Northumberland Fusiliers Regimental Dinner in Elmhurst, Ill., on July 23; continues with the fortieth annual running of The Silver Blaze at Hawthorne Race Track on July 24; and concludes with a Fortescue Honours Brunch in Des Plaines on July 25. Additional information is available from Susan Z. Diamond (16W603 3rd Avenue, Bensenville, IL 60106 <szd@ix.netcom.com>).
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July 1999 #1

7779. Detailed information about the Sherlock Holmes Society of London's festival on Sept. 21-26 honoring the unveiling of the statue of Sherlock Holmes in Baker Street were mailed and posted from London on July 21; if you've not already heard directly from them, you need to act quickly, and the fastest way to get information is at their web-site at <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk> or (for those who have text-only browsers) at <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/defindex.html>, or ask an electronically-enabled friend to do it for you.
7780. News from Moscow (noted by Yuichi Hirayama): on June 9 the Russian General Prosecutor's Office rehabilitated four Grand Dukes who had been executed by the Communists in Jan. 1919 after the attempted assassination of Lenin (Emperor Nicholas II and his family had been executed in July 1918); the decision to rehabilitate the Grand Dukes was based on their not having received due process, or having been convicted of anything. And one of the four was Pavel Alexandrovich, a son of Emperor Alexander II and an uncle of Emperor Nicholas II. According to an article by Yuichi in the 1997 volume of The Shoso-In Bulletin, Grand Duke Pavel Alexandrovich is "the most believable candidate for the King of Bohemia."
7781. Lora Sifurova has reported that Russian translations of all of the Sherlock Holmes and Professor Challenger stories now are available on the World Wide Web at <www.g2.ru/library/kol/AKONANDOJL/a> and <www.sec.jb.rovno.ua/biblio/bigbook/AKONANDOJL/>.
7782. Further to the report (January 99 #5) of the anthology THE 50 GREATEST MYSTERIES OF ALL TIME, Otto Penzler also edited a four-audiocassette collection MORE OF THE GREATEST MYSTERIES OF ALL TIME (Los Angeles: Dove Audio, 1997; \$24.95); the eight stories include Vincent Starrett's "The Unique Hamlet" (read by David Warner).
7783. The July issue of In Britain has Pat Moore's article "The Greatest Detective" about the annual Sherlock Holmes festival in Crowborough, and local associations with Conan Doyle. British Tourist Authority, Thames Tower, Blacks Road, London W6 9EL, England; £2.75/\$6.25.
7784. It's time for one of my infrequent irregular challenges: Sherlock Holmes says (in "The Abbey Grange"), "Come, Watson, come, the game is afoot. Not a word! Into your clothes and come!" Of course this wasn't the first time the famous phrase was used in literature; it also is found in one of William Shakespeare's plays. In which of Shakespeare's plays does someone say "the game is afoot"? Who says it?
7785. The Hollywood Chamber of Commerce has approved the latest list of people to be added to the Hollywood Walk of Fame; sponsors pay \$15,000 to have a star installed in the sidewalk, and (with the exception of posthumous stars) the celebrities must promise to appear for installation ceremony, according to an Associated Press dispatch forwarded by Scott Monty. The latest list includes Don Knotts, who appeared in Sherlockian costume as Inspector Winship in "The Private Eyes" (1980), and Peter O'Toole, who did the voice of Sherlock Holmes in animations of the four long stories (1985) and played Arthur Conan Doyle in "FairyTale: A True Story" (1997).
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July 1999 #2

7786. Roberta Rogow's THE PROBLEM OF THE SPITEFUL SPIRITUALIST (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1999; 282 pp., \$23.95) is a sequel to her THE PROBLEM OF THE MISSING MISS (June 98 #6); Charles Dodgson comes to Southsea in Oct. 1885 to visit Arthur Conan Doyle, and they once again are involved in an interesting mystery (with some intriguing hints about Conan Doyle's future writings). Her first book now also has a British edition (as THE PROBLEM OF THE MISSING HOYDEN) from Robert Hale (256 pp., £16.99).
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7787. Rogow has finished writing the third book in her Dodgson/Conan Doyle series (THE PROBLEM OF THE EVIL EDITOR) and is at work on the fourth (THE PROBLEM OF THE SURLY SERVANT). Plan ahead: the Sunshine State Sherlockian Scion Symposium II will be held at the Dolphin Beach Resort in St. Pete Beach, Fla., on June 9-11, 2000; the Pleasant Places of Florida have a full agenda scheduled, and additional information is available from Carl Heifetz (3693 Siena Lane, Palm Harbor, FL 34685) <microdoc@gte.net>.
7788. Francine Kitts notes the "novelkeys" in the current mail-order catalog from the book-seller Bas Bleu (515 Means Street NW, Atlanta, GA 30318) (800-433-1155) <www.basbleu.com>; they're book-shaped keychains (\$10.00 each), with the name of an author on the front and a quote on the back, and Conan Doyle is represented by "It is a capital mistake to theorize before you have all the evidence."
7789. Our new 48c stamp shows Niagara Falls, and appropriately pays the postage on half-ounce letters posted to Canada. Niagara Falls is mentioned in two Sherlock Holmes stories, and one of them ("The Crooked Man") has "I seem to have all Niagara whizzing and buzzing in my ears." In 1991 I wondered how much whizzing and buzzing can actually be heard at Niagara Falls, and Don Pollock noted a comment by Richard Burton, who visited the Falls in 1860: "I well remember not being able to sleep within ear-shot of Niagara, whose mighty orchestra, during the stillness of the night, seemed to run through a repertoire of oratorios and operas."
7790. Further to the item about the Annual Midwest Chesterton Conference (May 99 #1), Phil Bergem reports that the "Sherlock Holmes vs. Father Brown" debate was well-done and interesting, and that an audiocassette is available from the American Chesterton Society (4117 Pebblebrook Circle, Minneapolis, MN, 55437); \$6.00 postpaid.
7791. In which of Shakespeare's plays does someone say "the game is afoot"? Who says it? If your answer was "Henry V" and Henry V . . . you were wrong.
7792. This year's Christmas card from The Sherlock Holmes Society of London will have another attractive watercolor by Douglas West, showing Holmes and Watson inspecting the statue of Holmes in Baker Street; the title is straight from the Canon: "It really is rather like me is it not?" \$13.50 postpaid for ten cards (£5.50 to the U.K., £6.00 to Europe, £7.00 elsewhere); checks payable to the Society, please, and orders can be sent to Cdr. G. S. Stavert, 22 Home Heights, Clarence Parade, Southsea, Hants. PO5 3NN, England. Note: you can order now, but the cards will not be shipped until September.

July 1999 #3

7793. Lorraine Daly's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE LUSITANIA (Romford: Ian Henry, 1999; 188 pp., £15.99) extends Holmes' career beyond his capture of Von Bork, and involves Holmes and Watson in an investigation of the sinking of the *Lusitania* and in a battle against German saboteurs. The publisher's address is 20 Park Drive, Romford, Essex RM1 4LH, England, and a summer 1998 catalog of additional Sherlockian books also is available.
7794. Vinnie Brosnan has issued a supplement to his catalog of Ted Schulz's collection (June 98 #7); the supplement offers 772 items, including "a curious collection" of 11 items of "adult material which may offend some Victorian sensibilities". Available from Sherlock in L.A., 1741 Via Allena, Oceanside, CA 92056.
7795. That's right, you were wrong. Henry V says in "Henry V" (III, i, 32) that "the game's afoot" (not "the game is afoot"). Try again, please.
7796. Biker Sherlock competed in the street luge in the X Games again this year in San Francisco. In 1997 he won three medals (two gold and one silver), more than anyone else in the Games, but last year took home only one medal (gold). This year he won two silver medals (dual downhill and super mass). His real name is Michael Sherlock.
7797. Wanda and Jeffery Dow report a Sherlockian "Detective Little Bear" as one of five different toys offered with kids' meals at Subway shops; the toy is 3 in. high, wearing a deerstalker and holding a magnifying glass. "Little Bear" (created by Maurice Sendak) also stars on two videocassettes ("Little Bear: Friends" and "Little Bear: Summertime Tales") that costs \$9.95 retail (but no one has yet reported S'ian artwork on the cassettes). Also noted by the Dows: a toy with Wishbone as Holmes advertised by Dairy Queen.
7798. The Fortescue Honours Brunch was one of the events held during the annual Watsonian Weekend (June 99 #6), and there's a commemorative lapel pin in five colors (1" high) available (\$12.00 postpaid) from Susan Z. Diamond (16W603 3rd Avenue, Bensenville, IL 60106).
7799. "I have some knowledge," Sherlock Holmes explained to Watson (in "The Empty House"), "of baritsu, or the Japanese system of wrestling, which has more than once been very useful to me." That's what Watson wrote, and possibly what he heard, but it's likely that what Holmes said was "bartitsu" (note the minor difference). Graham Noble's interesting article "An Introduction to W. Barton-Wright (1860-1951) and the Ecclectic Art of Bartitsu" in the Journal of Asian Martial Arts (1999), reported by Jim Webb, notes that Barton-Wright wrote about "The New Art of Self Defence" in Pearson's Magazine (Mar. 1899 and Apr. 1899), and suggests that he "deserves his niche in martial arts history." The issue costs \$10.00 from the Via Media Publishing Co., 821 West 24th Street, Erie, PA 16502 (800-455-9517).
7800. The Mycroft Holmes Society of Syracuse has a full schedule planned for its Fall Sherlockian Weekend at Minnowbrook (an Adirondack Camp) in Blue Mountain Lake, N.Y., on Oct. 15-17, 1999. More information is available from Carol Cavalluzzi (108 Marvin Road, Syracuse, NY 13207) <cacavall@library.syr.edu>. The resort also has a web-site, at <www.minnowbrook.org>.

July 1999 #4

7801. Stanton O. Berg's first contribution to the Writings About the Writings was his article on "Sherlock Holmes: Father of Scientific Crime Detection" in the Sept. 1970 issue of the Journal of Criminal Law, Criminology and Police Science (Sept. 1970); he's a forensic firearms consultant, and his two-part illustrated lecture on "The Firearms-Safeties of Sherlockian-Victorian London" at the 1997 and 1998 annual conferences of the Association of Firearm and Tool Mark Examiners has now been published in the spring and fall 1998 issues of the AFTE Journal, with expert discussion of the Canon as well as the conclusions of earlier authors.
7802. Sorry about that: Costa Rossakis ("a Yankees fan and a native New Yorker") notes that the "short heard round the world" (June 99 #1) was the home run with which Bobby Thompson won the 1951 pennant for the Giants. The Yankees (of course) beat the Giants to win the 1951 World Series.
7803. And the manuscript of "Charles Augustus Milverton" (accompanied by Frederic Dorr Steele's original artwork for his portrait of Milverton) sold at auction at Christie's (June 99 #5) for \$244,500 (including the buyer's premium, which drops to 10% above \$50,000).
7804. In which of Shakespeare's play does someone say "the game is afoot"? The play is "Henry IV, Part I" (I, iii, 276) and it's said by Northumberland. Next question: "The Abbey Grange" isn't the only Sherlock Holmes story in which the game was afoot. What's the other story? Who said that the game was afoot?
7805. Paul S. Newman died on May 30. He began writing comic book stories in the late 1940s, and wound up listed by the Guinness Book of World Records for more than 4,100 published stories in more than 360 comic-book titles (and about 5,000 stories that were rejected). According to Greg Metcalf's article "If You Read It, I Wrote It: The Anonymous Career of Comic Book Writer Paul S. Newman" in the Journal of Popular Culture (summer 1995), Newman's work included the stories for "The New Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (two issues illustrated by Frank Giacoia, published by Dell in 1961 and 1962).

7806. The National Crime Prevention Council has been using its "Take a Bite Out of Crime" symbol for more than ten years: according to an article in *Smithsonian* (April 88 #5), the dog's name was selected in a contest in which the most frequent suggestion was "Shure-lock Bones" (but "McGruff" was the winner). The Council now has a sales-list for its McGruff reflective Halloween bags (1 Prospect Street, Amsterdam, NY 12010) (800-995-5121).
7807. Len and Elsa Haffenden created "The Adventure of the Evil Apparition" as a three-act puppet show, based on the brief scenario found in Conan Doyle's papers by Hesketh Pearson (and reported by Pearson in his 1943 biography of Conan Doyle); the play (accompanied by a puppet-show dramatization of Conan Doyle's pastiche "How Watson Turned the Trick") were first performed at a meeting of The Stormy Petrels of British Columbia in July 1993. And both scripts (suitable for performance by live actors) have just been published by the Hansom Press in Ellay Aitchison's THE ADVENTURE OF THE AWFUL APPARITION; the 52-page booklet costs \$10.00 or CA\$14.95 or £7.00 (postpaid) from the publisher (1026 West Keith Road, North Vancouver, BC V7P 3C6, Canada).
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July 1999 #5

7808. Jay Windsor (who is Charles Marowitz's personal manager) offers a copy of the prompt-script for Marowitz's play SHERLOCK'S LAST CASE (the two-act version performed on Broadway in 1987 by Frank Langella), fully annotated and inscribed to the buyer by Marowitz, for \$450.00. Also available are copies of Marowitz's THE SHERLOCK LOG, an unpublished diary record of the show, covering rehearsals, the Washington try-out, and the Broadway production itself, inscribed by Marowitz; \$350.00 each. Windsor's address is: Mail Boxes Etc., 23852 Pacific Coast Highway, Box 172, Malibu, CA 90265 <winomar@aol.com>. And he reports that a revival of the play in London's West End is projected for November .
7809. What's the other Canonical story in which the game was afoot? It's "Wisteria Lodge" -- and that's exactly what Watson said: "the game was afoot."
7810. Dorlock Homes and Dr. Watkins are on display on Fifth Avenue in New York, in a bas-relief on the Warner Brothers store (at East 57th Street), in a scene from "Deduce You Say!" (1956). Thanks to Jay Pearlman for the photograph of a prominent tribute to Daffy Duck and Porky Pig.
7811. John Ruyle reports that BAKER STREET GALORE! will be the sixth Sherlockian book this year from the Pequod Press, offering more verse (some new, some expanded and revised from previous collections). \$40.00 (cloth) or \$20.00 (paper); John's address is 521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707.
7812. Bob Robinson reports that "Towards the end of May, I felt a twinge of something akin to nostalgia or at least *deja vu* when my physician telephoned me to state, 'You have an aortic aneurism.'" Much of Bob's aorta now consists of Dacron, and he's still recovering from the procedure, and he has founded a correspondence society called The Companions of Jefferson Hope for those who share (or shared) that ailment with Hope. Prospective members are invited to write to Robert E. Robinson, 6117 Lakeshore Drive, Columbia, SC 29206 <rer@lindau.net>.
7813. Forecast from the Oxford University Press in November : ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: BEYOND BAKER STREET, by Janet Pascal; 144 pp., \$22.00, intended for ages 9-12.
7814. John D. Clark ("The Politician, the Lighthouse, and the Trained Cormorant") died on July 5, 1988. He was a chemist, in charge of research and development of rocket propellants at the Naval Air Rocket Test Station and at its successor, the Liquid Propulsion Laboratory, and his history of the search for a power package that would take man into space was published in 1972. His best-known contribution to our literature was his landmark paper "Some Notes Relating to a Preliminary Investigation into the Paternity of Nero Wolfe" (published in the Jan. 1956 issue of *The Baker Street Journal*), in which he proposed the delightful suggestion (now accepted in many quarters as gospel) that Nero Wolfe was the son of Sherlock Holmes and Irene Adler. He received his investiture in the Baker Street Irregulars in 1965.
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July 1999 #6

7815. William Targ died on July 22. He began his career in the book world at the age of 18 as an office boy at Macmillan in Chicago and at 22 opened his own bookshop there; in 1942 he moved to Cleveland and then to New York with Tower and World Books, rising to editor in chief, and in 1964 joined Putnam's (where he wisely paid Mario Puzo a \$5,000 advance for the rights to THE GODFATHER). He retired from Putnam's in 1978, and then founded Targ Editions, publishing some 250 titles, carefully printed and bound, and signed by the authors and illustrators. He once suggested that the trouble with the publishing business is that too many people who have half a mind to write a book do so," but Targ Editions are delightful exceptions: one of them was D. R. Benson's IRENE, GOOD-NIGHT in 1982 (with Edward Gorey's signed frontispiece portrait of Irene Adler). His own anthologies CARROUSEL FOR BIBLIOPHILES (1947), BOUILLABAISSE FOR BIBLIOPHILES (1955), and BIBLIOPHILE IN THE NURSERY (1957), are delightful, and his memoirs INDECENT PLEASURES (1975) are a fine tribute to his love of books.
7816. If you've been postponing a visit to Gillette Castle in Hadlyme, Conn., you will need to wait until Memorial Day 2000; the state Department of Environmental Protection was hoping to keep the castle open through Labor Day this year, but design flaws have left the castle leaking since it was built, and the head of the Parks Division realized that "there was more damage than we thought." According to an article at hand from Tyke Niver, the state will spend \$2.98 million repairing the castle roof and stone parapets, and \$3.5 million renovating the interior. The DEP now plans to open portions of the castle for the Memorial Day weekend in 2000, when initial repairs have been finished, and hopes the project will be completed in 2001.
7817. Seen at Barnes & Noble: new printings of Barnes & Noble reprint editions of THE LOST ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Ken Greenwald, with 13 stories adapted from the Denis Green/Anthony Boucher scripts for the Rathbone radio scripts (1993); and THE FINAL ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, compiled by Peter Haining from material by Conan Doyle and others, with a brief added foreword by Jeremy Brett (1995); \$5.95 each.
7818. "Impressionists in Winter: Effets de Neige" is on display at the Brooklyn Museum of Art through Aug. 29 (718-638-5000); it's a delightful exhibition that was shown at the Phillips Collection in Washington last year. One of the paintings is Camille Pissarro's "Fox Hill, Upper Norwood" (ca. 1870), and there is a Sherlockian connection: Conan Doyle lived in South Norwood in 1891, and wrote many of the early Sherlock Holmes stories there. John Dickson Carr says in his biography of Conan Doyle that "the house stood in semi-rural country," but the photographs that accompany Harry How's article "A Day with Dr. Conan Doyle" in *The Strand Magazine* (Aug. 1892) demonstrate that Norwood by then was hardly the rustic village that Pissarro painted.
7819. The videocassette with Douglas Wilmer's "The Speckled Band" and "The Illustrious Client" (1964) issued by BBC Video in 1996 is offered (in the British PAL format) for £14.99 postpaid from Blackstar (11 Ravenhill Road, Belfast, BT6 8DN, Northern Ireland, U.K.) <www.blackstar.co.uk>; credit-card orders welcome. They also offer an American NTSC-format cassette (£30.99 postpaid). It's delightful to see Douglas Wilmer (and Nigel Stock and many other fine actors) in these pleasant reminders of the days when so much of what one saw on television was in black and white.
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July 1999 #7

7820. Antonio Iriarte reports that the second volume of LAS HAZAÑAS DE SHERLOCK HOLMES [that's THE EXPLOITS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Adrian Conan Doyle and John Dickson Carr, translated into Spanish by Cristian de la Maza] has at long last appeared. The first volume was published in 1990, launching an "El Club Diogenes" series of paperbacks that now numbers 118 titles, among them Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's HISTORIAS DEL
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CREPUSCULO Y DE LO DESCONOCIDO, HISTORIAS ESPELUZNANTES, HISTORIAS DEL RING, HISTORIAS DE LA ANTIGUEDAD, LA COMPAÑIA BLANCA, HISTORIAS DE INTRIGUA Y DE AVENTURAS, EL MUNDO PERDIDO, LA NUEVA REVELACION/EL MENSAJE VITAL, HISTORIAS DE PIRATAS, and EL CAPITAN DEL "POLESTAR". Valdemar (C/ Gran Via 69, 28013 Madrid, Spain) is the publisher, and all the volumes are in print.

7821. La Sociedad de Mendigos Aficionados [that's The Amateur Mendicant Society] continues to keep the memory green in Spain, and their semi-annual journal *The Stranded* appears twice a year (with 72 pages in the spring 1999 issue), publishing original scholarship from Spain and Spanish translations from other corners of the Sherlockian world. The society's address is Apartado de Correos 35.262, 28080 Madrid, Spain.
7822. Christina Foyle died on June 8. She was for decades the managing director and guiding spirit of Foyle's, the famous and eccentric bookshop in Charing Cross Road, founded in 1904 by her father and her uncle. She began working at the shop in 1928 at the age of 17, and (according to an obituary in the *Daily Telegraph*) encountered Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who was browsing the shelves. Knowing he was a spiritualist, she asked him if he had ever been in touch with an author "on the other side." "Oh yes, he replied, "Only last week I was talking to Oscar Wilde. He told me that being dead was the most boring thing on Earth."
7823. One of the more interesting tours available in Chicago is a visit to Graceland Cemetery with Donald B. Izban as your guide; Graceland is notable for the Sherlockian gravestone honoring Vincent Starrett and for much more, and SHERLOCK HOLMES VISITS A CEMETERY offers Don's seventeen-step tour of some of the more interesting sights to be seen at Graceland. The 44-page booklet costs \$11.00 postpaid from George A. Vanderburgh, Box 204, Shelburne, ON L0N 1S0, Canada.
7824. "Sherlock Holmes & the League of Night" is the mystery that Holmes and Watson and participants in the next "Victorian Holmes Weekend" will attempt to solve on Nov. 5-7 in Cape May. The weekend includes a tour of the town's Victorian homes, and additional details are available from the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts, Box 340, Cape May, NJ 08204 (609-884-5404) (800-275-4278) <www.capemaymac.org>. Their next Sherlockian weekend will be on Mar. 10-13, 2000.
7825. Thanks to John Hillen for the news that DirecTV (a direct broadcast satellite service with 7.4 million subscribers) has begun airing its mini-series based on "The Lost World" (the first of 20 44-minute episodes premiered on July 30, and the series will run through Feb. 2000, with subscribers paying \$1.49 to view each episode). The series pilot was the two-hour "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's The Lost World" with Peter McCauley as Challenger (January 99 #3 and February 99 #1); the pilot debuted on DirecTV on Feb. 1, and on TNT cable on Apr. 11. And the mini-series likely will be syndicated to cable this fall.

July 1999 #8

7826. Brian Pugh notes that the Conan Doyle (Crowborough) Establishment's collection of memorabilia and photographs, now displayed at the Old Dairy at Groombridge Place, will be moved to Crowborough in the fall, when the collection will have a new home at Crowborough Beacon Community College. Brian also reports that next year's Sherlock Holmes Festival in Crowborough is scheduled for July 7-9.
7827. "Photographing Fairies" (1997) is now in the videoshops from Polygram Video (\$19.95); the film is based on, though somewhat different from, Steve Szilaygi's novel (August 92 #6), which was an imaginative fantasy that echoed the story of the Cottingley fairies. The film ran in theaters in Britain, but has gone directly to video here; actors in supporting roles include Edward Hardwicke as Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, and Clive Merrison as the theosophist Edward Gardner.
7828. The new "Legends of Hollywood" stamp honors James Cagney, who has played Lon Chaney, who likely didn't play Sherlock Holmes, but: in the film "The Man of a Thousand Faces" (1957) there is an early scene in which Cagney (as Chaney) shows his pressbook to a theatrical producer, and there is a fleeting glimpse of a sketch of Chaney as Sherlock Holmes and a press clipping about his performance as Holmes. Charles Shibuk has reported that Chaney did act in the theater early in his career, and it is possible that Chaney may have played Holmes in a touring company of William Gillette's play or in some other play, but no one (including Lon Chaney, Jr.) has been able to provide any information on the plays Chaney may have acted in, or to locate any sort of scrapbook from his early career, and it is more likely that the scrapbook in the film was merely a studio prop.
7829. The Goose Club of the Alpha Inn and The Tigers of San Pedro have announced Holmes West '99 on Sept. 24-26 at the Occidental College Library in Los Angeles. "Three days with the Master" is their motto, Leslie Klinger will be the guest of honor, and there's much more scheduled. More information is available from John P. Sohl (20446 Orey Place, Canoga Park, CA 91306) <home.earthlink.net/~jpsohl/holmeswest>.
7830. The July 15 auction at Sotheby's in London included some nice Sherlockiana, and yielded some nice prices. The highlight of the sale (at £7,820 including the buyer's premium) was a autograph postcard written by Conan Doyle in 1927, explaining why the mind-reading scene is found in "The Cardboard Box" and in "The Resident Patient" in many editions of the Canon: "...There was a certain sex element in The Cardboard Box story and for this reason I dis-carded it when I published in book form. As there was a bit of good deduc-tive reasoning in it I took it out and inserted it in another story. Years late I was publishing another S.H. collection and as I was rather short I put in the Cardboard Box after all. But I forgot that a bit of it had al-ready been used." A copy of the first edition of THE HOUND OF THE BASKER-VILLES, signed and inscribed by Conan Doyle in 1902, estimated at £12,000 to £15,000, would have been another highlight, but it went unsold.

August 1999 #1

7831. Monster Rally '99 (on Aug. 6-8 in Crystal City, Va.) was great fun: Christopher Lee was the guest of honor, and the last day of the convention there was a chance to hear him sing (opera) (in Italian) during a two-and-a-half hour session of answering questions and telling stories about such things as his appearance as Sherlock Holmes on "Saturday Night Live" in 1978 (the skit was rehearsed but didn't make it onto the air), and being directed by Billy Wilder in "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (Wilder had written the script, and the actors had to get every word right). And there were chances to meet children of famous actors (Ron Chaney, Sara Karloff, Bela Lugosi Jr., and Victoria Price), and genre greats such as Ray Harryhausen and Forry Ackerman.
7832. AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY AND PAST FORGETTING is a new one-volume edition combining both volumes of Peter Cushing's autobiography (first published in 1986 and 1988), with many fine stories about his Sherlockian and other roles (among them the fact that the ugly false teeth he used in "Tales from the Crypt" in 1971 were the same ones he had used as Sherlock Holmes in the earlier BBC television series) and a new afterword by Joyce Broughton, who was his secretary from 1959 until his death in 1994 (Baltimore: Midnight Marquee Press, 1999; 256 pp., \$55.00 in cloth or \$20.00 in paper covers). The publisher's address is 9721 Britinay Lane, Baltimore, MD 21234 (800-886-0313).
7833. Also available from Midnight Marquee is the American edition of Christopher Lee's autobiography TALL, DARK AND GRUESOME (320 pp., same prices in cloth or paper); the first edition was published in Britain (1977), and there was a second (revised and expanded) British edition in 1997 (the American edition has two additional chapters not in the second British edition).
7834. Laura Kuhn reports that she received an order from Amazon.com, with a bookmark packed with the book, and with a nice quote from Christopher Morley on the bookmark: "When you sell a man a book, you don't sell him 12 ounces of paper and ink and glue--you sell him a whole new life."

7835. Pj Doyle found some electronic conversations with Carole Nelson Douglas at a CNN web-site, where Carole said that she hopes to resume her Irene Adler series in the next couple of years, and that Recorded Books, which has issued GOOD NIGHT, MR. HOLMES unabridged on audiocassettes (April 99 #5) will do the same with the other three already-published books.
7836. Merlin Holland, grandson of Oscar Wilde, will be the featured speaker at a conference on "The Arts of the British 1890s" in Washington on Sept. 10-12; the interdisciplinary conference is organized by the William Morris Society in collaboration with the Freer Gallery of Art, Smithsonian Institution, Georgetown University Department of English, and National Gallery of Art in association with the Eighteen Nineties Society. Other talks will cover the music, theater, poetry, fiction, book design, printmaking, photography, and Arts and Crafts furniture designs of the 1890s, with special attention to trans-Atlantic connections between British and American arts. All events are free and open to the public; no registration is necessary. Details are available from the William Morris Society in the United States (Box 53263, Washington, DC 20009 <www.ccnycunycuny.edu/wmorris/conference.htm>).
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August 1999 #2

7837. Constantine Rossakis, who earlier this year (June 99 #5) bought the manuscript of "Charles Augustus Milverton" at auction, now is the fortunate owner of two more Sherlockian manuscripts: "The Dying Detective" and "The Lion's Mane" (purchased from the son of the late Alfred T. Miller, who bought them at auction at Christie's in 1960). Other than the Conan Doyles, Dr. Rossakis is the only person to have owned more than two Canonical manuscripts.
7838. Douglas Seale died on June 13. He was a British actor, producer, and director who launched his acting career on stage in London in 1934, was nominated for a Tony Award in 1983 for the comedy "Noises Off", and in 1996 appeared as Archie Rice in a production of "The Entertainer" in New York. He was trained at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, and produced and directed plays on both sides of the Atlantic, and in Mar. 1952 he directed William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" for the Birmingham Repertory Theatre.
7839. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists will meet for dinner in honor of the world's first forensic geologist at 7:00 pm on Oct. 27 at Dixon's Downtown Grill in Denver. If you'd like to join the festivities for local Sherlockians and visiting geologists, you can contact Mark G. Langston (1143 South Monaco Parkway, Denver, CO 80224) or me (addresses at the end of this newsletter).
7840. Madeline wears Sherlockian costume while doing a bit of detective work in "Madeline and The 40 Thieves" (on a videocassette from Sony at \$9.98); it's an episode from the 30-minute animated series that ran on the Family channel in 1993, based on the book by Ludwig Bemelmans and narrated by Christopher Plummer.
7841. For completists: Andy Peck reports that the Mystery Guild has its own edition of Daniel Stashower's TELLER OF TALES: THE LIFE OF ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE (item #182360, \$16.25); their address is Box 6325, Indianapolis, IN 46206 <www.mysteryguild.com>.
7842. Colonel Sebastian Moran's Secret Gun Club (which meets on Leap Year Day in or near Chicago) is planning next year's gathering, and details are available from Nancy Wrobel, 7998 Garfield Avenue, Burr Ridge, IL 60521. Firearms will be provided, and the luncheon will feature buffalo meat, according to Don Izban, the society's founder, who has revealed the full name of the society: CSMSGCEFTUQCOIIIDRRARSOTDRBDJHWOBTTAHEAUEOMSH. Yes, that's an abbreviation, but I'm sure they'll tell you the full name on Feb. 29.
7843. Alan Smith's article on "Smoking and Sherlock Holmes: A Three-Pipe Problem" appears in the summer 1999 issue of Pipes & Tobaccos, with illustrations by Chuck Regan; \$3.95. The magazine is published by SpecComm International, 3000 Highwoods Boulevard #300, Raleigh, NC 27604 <www.pt-magazine.com>.
7844. Jackie Buckrop spotted a nice coincidence in the 30-minute television public-television series "The Desert Speaks" (now in its ninth year from the University of Arizona): the series is produced by Fran C. Sherlock, and the tenth episode this year was "An Inside Look at Beekeeping". The program is available on cassette for \$18.95 postpaid from WUAT-TV (attn: business services), University of Arizona, Box 210067, Tucson, AZ 85721 (800-841-5923).
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August 1999 #3

7845. Carl Toms died on Aug. 4. A British stage designer whose career spanned more than 40 years, he designed sets for theater, films, opera, and ballet, and in 1969 was awarded the Order of the British Empire for his work as design consultant for the investiture of Charles as Prince of Wales. Toms designed the sets and costumes for the Royal Shakespeare Company's revival of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes", winning Tony and Drama Desk awards for the show's sets in New York in 1974.
7846. Mrs. Hudson's Cliffdwellers have launched their own journal, called (quite appropriately) Cliff Notes on Mrs. Hudson's Cliffdwellers; the first issue has 22 pages, including a report on a recent visit to 221B Baker Street in Morristown, N.J. (the former home of Edgar W. Smith), and costs \$3.00 postpaid (or \$5.00 a year for two issues) from Henry Boote, 184 Central Avenue, Old Tappan, NJ 07675.
7847. Fans of Laurie R. King's five books about Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes will want to order the new T-shirt offered by the RUSS-L electronic mailing list (the design is different from the one offered last year). The cost is \$10.00 postpaid (to the U.S.) or \$11.00 (Canada) or \$15.00 (elsewhere), and you should send your orders to Jessie Emerson, Box 2812, Huntsville, AL 35804; please specify size (S to 2X for adults; 6 to 16 for children) and background color (parchment or light blue). Size 3X also is available (parchment only) for \$2.00 more. The mailing list motto (which is much more easily read in the full-size emblem on the T-shirt) is: "After 1914, Holmes is ours."
7848. Ray Betzner spotted the comic-book SCREAM COMICS #1 (Oct. 1998) with a twopage story "The Ghost of Snaggle Castle" (starring Foreclose Holmes and his trusty assistant Batsin); \$2.95. The publisher is A List Comics (8332 Melrose Avenue, Hollywood, CA 90069 <schanes@gateway.net>).
7849. It can be interesting to judge "cultural literacy" by looking for examples of things that writers assume that all (or perhaps almost all) readers will recognize without explanation. One example might be an allusion to the dog that did nothing in the night-time, with no explanation that the allusion is to a Sherlock Holmes story. And there was an interesting example in the Washington Post's obituary (Aug. 11) for Jennifer Paterson, who was half of the BBC's famous cooking duo whose "Two Fat Ladies" show was syndicated in ten countries. Her partner was Clarissa Dickson Wright, and the obituary noted that "Paterson was filmed for the show driving a Triumph Thunderbird motorcycle, with Dickson Wright riding its Watsonian sidecar."
7850. Audio Book Contractors (Box 40115, Washington, DC 20016) offers new recordings by Flo Gibson of A STUDY IN SCARLET (on three cassettes; \$8.95 rental or \$24.95 purchase) and THE LOST WORLD (on four cassettes; \$11.95 rental or \$35.95 purchase). Add \$3.50 for shipping (\$4.50 to Canada).
7851. "Freak Storms as Britain Sizzles in the Sun" was the headline on an article in the [London] Daily Telegraph on Aug. 2, at hand from Francine and Wayne Swift. Seaside towns were crowded, needless to say, and "Coastguards were warning paddlers and swimmers from the Wash to the Thames to watch out for Lion's Mane jellyfish reported on the East Anglian coast."
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August 1999 #4

7852. The 26-episode 30-minute animated series "Sherlock Holmes in the 22nd Century" is scheduled to run weekly on the Fox Kids network at 8:00 am on Saturdays beginning Sept. 18, and possibly also on local stations that pick up syndicated programming from PAX TV. The series began airing in ITV in
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Britain in May (June 99 #3): Holmes, who died of old age and was preserved in honey, has been revived and rejuvenated by Insp. Lestrade (well, an attractive woman who, like her ancestor, works for Scotland Yard, and has a robot assistant she calls Watson), and does a fine job of battling crime and criminals in the 2100s.

7853. The annual Sherlock Holmes Festival in Tryon, N.C., continues to pay tribute to local resident William Gillette; this year's dates are Nov. 4-7, and the Tryon Little Theater will give five performances of his play "Sherlock Holmes". Additional information about all the festival events is available from Jacquie Ziller, Polk County Travel & Tourism Council, 425 North Trade Street, Tryon, NC 28782 (800-440-7848); and the festival has a web-site at <www.skydance.com/tlt/sherlockholmes>.
7854. Bill Barnes reports that Kel Richards' FOOTSTEPS IN THE FOG AND OTHER STORIES (Sydney: Beacon Communications, 1999; 304 pp.) now is available, with three Sherlockian pastiches, from Bill (19 Malvern Avenue, Manly, NSW 2095, Australia) for US\$24/CA\$32/£15 postpaid (air) or US\$21/CA\$29/£13 (surface).
7855. There's more discussion of the "Sherlock Holmes" BBC radio series in the conclusion of Tom Amorosi and Richard Valley's interview with Bert Coules in the latest issue of Scarlet Street: The Magazine of Mystery and Horror; \$6.95, or \$35.00 a year for six issues (Box 604, Glen Rock, NJ 07452); future issues will have interviews with actor Douglas Wilmer and scriptwriter Charles Edward Pogue.
7856. Larry Millett's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE RUNE STONE MYSTERY (New York: Viking, 1999; 317 pp., \$23.95) will be published in October; Holmes and Watson return to Minnesota in 1899 to try to authenticate evidence that Norse explorers had visited there in 1362. The book is a sequel to Millett's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE RED DEMON (September 96 #5) and SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE ICE PALACE MURDERS (November 98 #6), and he continues to make good use of local history, color, and characters.
7857. Guernsey has issued a set of six stamps honoring the 200th anniversary of Sandhurst (the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst was founded by a Guernseyman, Major General John Gaspard Le Marchant); four of the stamps honor people who have Sherlockian or Doylean connections: the Duke of York (Le Marchant's sponsor), and three men who attended the academy: Field Marshal Earl Haig, the actor David Niven, and Winston Churchill:

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7858. The other two Guernsey stamps show Sandhurst founder Le Marchant and graduate Field Marshal Montgomery, but I don't know of any connections for them. As for the other four, Sherlock Holmes mentions "the Duke of York's steps" (in "His Last Bow"), Conan Doyle wrote the poem "Haig is Moving" (1919), Niven (according to his autobiography THE MOON'S A BALLOON) played the juvenile lead in "The Speckled Band" at Sandhurst in 1928, and John McAleer noted in his biography REX STOUT that in Dec. 1931 prospective bridegroom Stout had "a night out with the boys" at a private club where Churchill was one of the guests (at half-past one, Stout remembered, Churchill "was sipping bourbon and discussing Sherlock Holmes with me and three other men").
7859. And what did Winston Churchill have to say about Sherlock Holmes? According to Stout, "Churchill knew the Holmes stories fairly well and thought them 'perfect entertainment.'"
7860. The third pillar from the left (and the rest of the Lyceum) has been sold, according to a report in The Times (Aug. 5), at hand from John Baesch. The American conglomerate SFX Entertainment paid the Apollo Leisure Group £158 million for more than 20 theaters in Britain, including the Lyceum, where Mary Morstan was directed to meet her unknown benefactor (in "The Sign of the Four"). Apollo spent £14.6 million restoring the Lyceum, which was reopened by the Prince of Wales three years ago (November 96 #6).
7861. "Rose is a rose is a rose" isn't a quote from the Canon, but we can hold it in reserve. The U.S. Postal Service's newest rose is a pink coral rose, and unlikely to be regarded by the USPS as a tribute to smokers (but of course we know that "the smoke bubbled merrily through the rose-water" in "The Sign of Four").
7862. The Cambridge Footlights/Amateur Dramatic Club have scheduled a first for Sherlockian theatricals: "Sherlock Holmes: The Pantomime" will be produced at the ADC Theatre in Cambridge from Nov. 23 to Dec. 4; for those unfamiliar with British traditions, this is not a pantomime in the style of Marcel Marceau, but rather a broadly comic musical (John Cleese, Stephen Fry, and Hugh Laurie have been members of Footlights in the past). You can reserve tickets now from the Cambridge Arts Theatre Box Office, 6 St. Edwards Passage, Cambridge CB2 3PJ, England (01223-503333), and more information about the show is available from Gemma Rougier at the ADC Theatre, Park Street, Cambridge CB5 8AS, England (01223-359547) <gcer2@cam.ac.uk>. Copies of the program for the panto (with a synopsis and director's notes) will be available by mail in December for £3.50 postpaid anywhere in the world (sterling checks only, please) from Gemma Rougier at the ADC Theatre.
7863. Further to the report (July 99 #7) on the 20-episode television series "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's The Lost World" (with Peter McCauley as Challenger), the series is scheduled to begin in syndication on local stations starting Sept. 27. According to a story by Steve Brennan in The Hollywood Reporter (Aug. 12) executive producer John Landis noted that the two-hour pilot ended with the explorers trapped on the Lost World, and that "the syndicated series takes a wacky left turn at that point, and suddenly our explorers uncover a civilization that has evolved between dinosaurs and humans. They look like lizards and live in a society that is similar to ancient Rome."

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7864. The STUD Sherlockian Society's Founder's Day Festival was both sold-out and enjoyable, Allan Devitt reports, and the society's next function will be an Anglican Holiday at the Eagle Ridge Resort near Galena, Ill., on Oct. 29-31. And their first gathering next year will be in Schiller Park, Ill., on Mar. 3-4. Details are available from Allan at 16W603 3rd Avenue, Bensenville, IL 60106 <szd@ix.netcom.com>.
7865. The Bird's Nest Theatre in South London will present "In League with Sherlock Holmes" on Sept. 8-25 (with new adaptations of "Lady Frances Carfax", "The Copper Beeches", and "The Red-Headed League"). The show runs Wednesdays through Saturdays at 8:00 pm, tickets cost £7.50, and the theater is located above the Bird's Nest pub at 32 Deptford Church Street, London SE8 4RZ, England (0181-694-2255) <birdsnesttheatre@x-stream.co.uk>.
7866. The lapel pin of The Scowrers and Mollie Maguires of San Francisco is 5/8" in diameter and black and gold on red enamel; \$15.00 postpaid (checks should be made payable to the Scowrers, please) from Jim Ferreira, 753 Oriole Avenue, Livermore, CA 94550.
7867. Sherlock Holmes: The Detective Magazine (edited by David Stuart Davies) has a fine variety of articles, essays, reviews, and other material about Sherlock Holmes and other detectives, old and new. Continuing features include Michael Cox's "A Study in Celluloid" (offering the background story of the Granada series) and Roger Johnson's "Societies Forum" and Pat Ward's "Sherlock Stateside" (with news from both sides of the Atlantic). And the most recent issues have featured Kathryn White's intriguing "Sherlock Holmes and the Viagra Principle" (a thoughtful discussion of Holmes' enigmatic sexuality) and Shane Baldwin's "Confessions of a Sherlockian Punk Rocker" (he was 12 or 13 when he found the Canon, and only 19 when his band Vice Squad made its first performance at the Lyceum Theatre and he was delighted to hasten to the third pillar from the left). Annual subscriptions (six issues) cost £18.00 (U.K.)/£20.00 (continent)/\$40.00 (U.S.), and the address is Box 100, Chichester, West Sussex PO18 8HD, England

<pmh.uk.com/sherlock/sherlock .htm>; their U.S. representative is Classic Specialties (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219) <sherlock@sherlock-holmes.com>. Back issues are available, and credit-card orders are welcome at both addresses.

7868. And there's interesting news in the latest issue of *Sherlock Holmes: The Detective Magazine* for fans of the radio series starring Clive Merrison and Michael Williams: BBC Radio 4 will extend the Merrison/Williams series into the unrecorded cases, with five original pastiches written by Bert Coules. The new shows will air next year. But Bert's not planning to do the *Giant Rat of Sumatra*: "some things should be left shrouded convenient Watsonian fog," Bert told the magazine.
7869. The digital video disk (DVD) market is expanding; "The Seven-Per-Cent Solution" (1976) was issued by Image Entertainment last year (September 98 #2), and Tom Kowols has noted that Ian Richardson's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1983) will be released by Image Entertainment on Oct. 12 (\$19.99). Jeremy Brett fans will also welcome his "Macbeth" (1981), due on Oct. 19 (\$29.99).

September 1999 #1

7870. Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press Further to the item (June 99 #1) on the BBC's "Blood Line: The Dark Beginning of Sherlock Holmes" (about Joseph Bell and Arthur Conan Doyle), an article in the *Daily Telegraph* (Aug. 14) reported that filming was to start in Glasgow in August, with Charles Dance and Ian Richardson starring, and Dolly Wells as a medical student who battles prejudice against women in the profession and ends up falling in love with Conan Doyle. "I'm learning how to kick a man in his balls," she explained. "I've never done it before but it doesn't sound that difficult."
7871. Barbara Michaels (who also writes as Elizabeth Peters about Amelia Peabody Emerson) presents two unsolved ghostly mysteries from the 19th century in *OTHER WORLDS* (New York: HarperCollins, 1999; 217 pp., \$23.00), and she uses Frank Podmore, Nandor Fodor, Harry Houdini, and Arthur Conan Doyle to offer and briefly debate possible solutions to the mysteries.
- A. G A M E F O R E Credit Matt Demakos for using word-transformation to demonstrate that the game is a foot, in five changes. Can anyone do
 - B. F A M E F O R T it in four? Matt, in turn, credits Lewis Carroll with inventing this kind of puzzle. Note that you're not allowed to change more
 - C. F A R E F O O T than one letter in each more, and that each step must be a real word. If you can do it in four, stop: it can't be done in three moves.
7872. Aziz Bin Adam noted some interesting items in catalog 174 from Bibliophile Books ("Britain's Best Postal Book Bargains"): *UNRAVELLING PILTDOWN: THE SCIENCE FRAUD OF THE CENTURY AND ITS SOLUTION*, by John Evangelist Walsh, with discussion of Arthur Conan Doyle and many others (1996, 279 pp., now £5.00) and *THE VICTORIAN TOWN CHILD*, by Pamela Horn, with details on just what sort of life the original Baker Street Irregulars led (1997, 248 pp., now £8.00). Their address is 5 Thomas Road, London E14 7BN, England; and they welcome credit-card orders, but postage can be expensive: to the U.S. by cheapest rate it's £2.50 per order plus £2.00 per book.
7873. Members of The Parallel Case of St. Louis are celebrating their society's tenth anniversary with (among other things) an anthology of new articles and artwork titled *THE PARALLEL CASES OF ST. LOUIS*. The 56-page pamphlet costs \$10.00 postpaid to the U.S. (\$11.00 to Canada and \$12.00 elsewhere), from Joseph J. Eckrich (914 Oakmoor Drive, Fenton, MO 63026).
7874. Jim Suszynski spotted *THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES* in the Parragon Children's Library (Avonmouth: Parragon, 1994; 316 pp.), with a color dust jacket and some uncredited black-and-white illustrations; discounted at \$1.99.
7875. The "Dover Thrift Editions" (\$1.00 to \$2.00 each) continue to offer a wide range of good literature: their latest catalog, at hand from Laura Kuhn, has four titles by Conan Doyle: *THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES*, *SIX GREAT SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES*, and *THE ADVENTURE OF THE DANCING MEN AND OTHER SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES* (\$1.00 each), and *THE LOST WORLD* (\$1.50). There's also a new "Dover Audio Thrift Classics" series that includes *LISTEN & READ SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES* (\$6.95, with *SIX GREAT SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES* and an audiocassette with readings of "The Red-Headed League" and "The Final Problem"). Dover's address is 31 East 2nd Street, Mineola, NY 11501.

September 1999 #2

7876. Hugh S. Scullion's *THE FATAL MISTAKE* and the late Douglas Moreton's *THE RISING RANSOM* are available in one volume (144 pp.) from Cadds Printing (56 Lancaster Avenue, West Norwood, London SE27 9EL, England); Scullion's pastiche involves Wiggins, now a detective in his own right, investigating a case in Dulwich, and Moreton's pastiche has Holmes in pursuit of kidnappers near Lancaster. £12.00 postpaid to the U.K. or \$20.00 postpaid elsewhere (dollar checks payable to Hugh Scullion, please).
7877. Issue #32 of *Sherlock Holmes: The Detective Magazine* is a "Special Statue Issue" with much about the new statue of Sherlock Holmes in Baker Street (including an interview with sculptor John Doubleday). And a report on a new sight for Sherlockian visitors to London to see: The Sherlock Holmes Memorabilia Company (at 230 Baker Street) has mounted an exhibition of furniture and props used by Granada in their television series, accompanied by Linda Pritchard's scrapbooks of Jeremy Brett's career. An annual subscription (six issues) costs £18.00 (U.K.)/£20.00 (continent)/\$40.00 (U.S.) and the address is Box 100, Chichester, West Sussex PO18 8HD, England <pmh.uk.com/sherlock/sherlock.htm>; Classic Specialties (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219) <sherlock@sherlock-holmes.com> is their U.S. representative. Back issues are available, and credit-card orders are welcome at both addresses.
7878. Jerry Margolin reports that the second issue of Caliber Comics' *SHERLOCK HOLMES READER* is in the shops (\$3.95), with the second installment of "The Loch Ness Horror" (story by Martin Powell and artwork by Seppo Makinen) and other Sherlockian articles, puzzles, and artwork; 225 North Sheldon Road, Plymouth, MI 48170 (888-222-6643) <www.calibercomics.com>.
7879. What is small, lives underground, and solves crimes?
7880. The "special millennium issue" of *British Heritage* (Aug.-Sept.) includes a review of British art and literature by Chris Smith; with a portrait of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, and credit to him for having "created one of the most popular characters in fiction and provided material for hundreds of adaptations this century in film, television, and radio." \$4.99 on newsstands, or \$6.00 postpaid (6405 Flank Drive, Harrisburgh, PA 17112) (800-358-6327). And there's a web-site at <www.thehistorynet.com>.
7881. There's more news about the BBC's "Blood Line" (September 99 #1), from a story in the *Daily Mail* (at hand from Jay Hyde): Ian Richardson will play Joe Bell, Robin Laing will be Arthur Conan Doyle, and Charles Dance will be hospital patron Sir Henry Carlyle.
7882. The Arthur Conan Doyle Society celebrates its tenth anniversary this year, and the ninth issue of its journal *ACD* (June 1999) offers 180 pages of essays, articles, reviews, and scholarship, including Pierre Nordon's address to the Sherlock Holmes Society of London's annual dinner in Jan. 1999, articles and letters by and about Conan Doyle found by John Michael Gibson in the pages of the [London] *Daily Mail* from 1909 to 1930, Conan Doyle on Houini's Last Escape" (from the Mar. 1930 issue of *Ghost Stories*) and Douglas G. Greene on "Adrian Conan Doyle and John Dickson Carr".

September 1993 #3

7883. THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES is the first of a series of five limited editions of Sherlock Holmes stories, with illustrations in full color by Jason Powers and published by Micawber Fine Editions. The price varies from \$395 to \$95, depending on how many signed prints are included; shipping is extra, and an illustrated flier is available from Janis Frame at Book Buffs, Ltd., 1307 Bannock Street, Denver, CO 80204 (800-265-9552) <jframe6383@aol.com>. An illustration can also be seen on the Web at <www.abebooks.com>: search for Micawber Fine Editions as the publisher.
7884. What is small, lives underground, and solves crimes? Sherlock Gnomes! According to Tod Hageman, in Betty Debnam's "The Mini Page" (Sept. 5).
7885. The seventh and eight Sherlockian books this year from John Ruyle's Pequod Press are THE CHIMNEY-CHILD (poetry old and new) and THE MELLOW FACE (a new case from Dr. Fatso's archives, in which Turlock Loams joins forces with the famed private eye Philip Merlot). The hand-set and hand-printed books cost \$40.00 each (cloth) or \$20.00 (paper); John's address is 521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707, and you're invited to request his sales-list of earlier titles still available.
7886. Arthur C. Schroeder died on Aug. 26. He was an insurance underwriter and marketing representative, and an enthusiastic member of the Sherlockian societies in the Saint Louis area. Art was the sparking-plug as well as the skilled handicapper for the local running of The Silver Blaze, and he wrote a series of amusing radio dramas performed at society meetings.
7887. The Friends of Dr. Watson (a branch of The Franco-Midland Hardware Company with an interest in the medical aspects of the Canon) are organizing their second annual prize-essay competition (open to all) for the best essay discussing Dr. Watson's medical abilities, knowledge, and skills, with a deadline of Mar. 31. Details are available from Richard Stacpoole-Ryding, 14 Western Close, Letchworth, Herts. SG6 4SZ, England; please send an SASE (in the U.K.) or two International Reply Coupons (elsewhere).
7888. Further to the report (August 99 #6) on the 20-episode television series "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's The Lost World" (with Peter McCauley as Challenger), TV Guide (Sept. 11) noted that there are two versions: the "slightly more risqué" series is airing on pay-per-view DirecTV, and the other one began in prime-time syndication on Sept. 27.
7889. Larry Millett will be on a book-signing tour for SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE RUNE STONE MYSTERY in October: here's the tentative schedule: 16 Minneapolis, MN, Once Upon a Crime; 23 Stillwater, MN, Valley Bookseller (1:00; 25, Dayton, OH, Books and Company, 7:00; 26, Madison, WI, Booked for Murder, 7:30; 27, Seattle, WA, Seattle Mystery Bookshop, 12:00; 28, Portland, OR, Murder by the Book, 7:00; 29 Los Angeles, CA, Mysteries to Die For, 12:00; 30 Los Angeles, CA, Coffee, Tea and Mystery, 1:00.
7890. Jean Dutourd's novel-length pastiche MEMOIRES DE MARY WATSON was first published (in French) in 1980 (April 81 #4), and it has now been translated into Russian and published in Ukraine; if you would like to add to your collection of foreign pastiches, contact Lora Sifurova (49-1, Apt. 65, 9th Parkovaya Street, Moscow 105425, Russia) (7-095-463-6803) <laura@cityline.ru>.
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September 1999 #4

7891. Reported: THE AUTHENTIC WORLD OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: AN EVOCATIVE TOUR OF CONAN DOYLE'S VICTORIAN LONDON, by Charles Viney (Godalming: Quadrillion, 1999; 168 pp., \$14.99; almost certainly a reprint of his SHERLOCK HOLMES IN LONDON (October 89 #3) under a new title, and aimed for the bargain tables. SHERLOCK HOLMES IN LONDON was a delightful book, with more than 200 sepia-toned contemporary photographs, accompanying appropriate quotations from the Canon; recommended then, and now.
7892. The summer issue of The Magic Door (the newsletter of The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) offers the first part of Barbara Rusch's report on interesting ephemera in the collection, and Victoria Gill's account of what is old and new in the Arthur Conan Doyle Room, and much more; copies are available from Doug Wrigglesworth, 16 Sunset Street, Holland Landing, ON L9N 1H4, Canada <dougwig@netrover.com>. And (for the electronically enabled), the collection website is at <www.mtrl.toronto.on.ca/centres/spcoll/acd/home.htm>.
7893. Ed. Lange's play "Sherlock's Secret Life" premiered at the N.Y. State Theatre Institute in Mar. 1997, and it's now available in the Institute's "Family Classic Audio Book" series on two cassettes, with the original cast and narration by Karl Malden, and it's nicely done indeed. The cost is \$21.90 postpaid; 155 River Street, Troy, NY 12180 <www.nysti.org> (credit-card orders are welcome).
7894. Marcus Geisser reports that he is now working for the International Committee of the Red Cross, and is on his way to Congo-Kinshasa (formerly known as Zaire), where he will be for the next ten to twelve months. He doesn't have e-mail yet, but will welcome letters, which will be forwarded if they are addressed to: Marcus Geisser/Lubumbashi/R.D.C., c/o CICR, 19 avenue de la Paix, CH-1202 Geneva, Switzerland.
7895. Our new set of six stamps honoring Hollywood Composers includes one for Academy Award-winner Bernard Herrmann, whose lengthy list of credits included conducting the orchestra on Orson Welles' Mercury Theater radio broadcast of William Gillette's play "Sherlock Holmes", and writing the score for the 1976 film "The Seven-Per-Cent Solution".
7896. Vincent Starrett, who was described by Julian Wolff as "the greatest Sherlockian of all time" when he wrote Vincent's obituary for The Baker Street Journal in 1974, was photographed by Laura V. Page at his home in Oak Park, Ill., in 1972. She also designed the imaginative grave-marker installed at Vincent's grave in 1986, and she now offers high-quality prints of three of those photographs; \$25.20 each postpaid. An illustrated flier is available from Laura (Box 5283, Madison, WI 53705) <lvpage@mailbag.com>.
7897. It's nice to see that Christopher Morley's not forgotten: John Pforr noted an article by John Rivera in the Baltimore Sun (Sept. 16) on the 100th anniversary of the Gideons, an organization that still distributes Bibles "in the human traffic lanes and streams of national life." And the article began with a quote from Morley: "Why do they ut the Gideon Bibles only in the bedrooms, where it's usually too late, and not in the barroom downstairs?"
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September 1999 #5

7898. Bill Dorn's Sherlock Holmes Calendar for 2000 has the dates for 55 of the cases (he uses the Zeisler and Christ chronologies), founding dates for more than 80 Sherlockian societies, and other dates of significance in the Sherlockian world; \$11.95 postpaid (\$12.95 to Canada or \$13.95 elsewhere) from William S. Dorn, 2045 South Monroe Street, Denver, CO 80210 <www.TheSherlockStore.com>.
7899. The film "The Ninth Gate" is scheduled for release on Dec. 22, but it's not going to be a Christmas-holiday film. Directed by Roman Polanski and starring Johnny Depp and Lena Olin, the film is based on Arturo Perez-Reverte's book THE CLUB DUMAS, which one reviewer called "a cross between Umberto Eco and Anne Rice," and "a beach book for intellectuals." The book is literate and mysterious, and has Canonical echoes, including a woman who says she is Irene Adler; I reported on it earlier (June 98 #5), and took far too long to get round to reading (and recommending) it. EL CLUB DUMAS was published in Spain in 1993, and in English in 1997 as THE CLUB DUMAS, and it's available now as a trade paperback (New York: Vintage Books, 1998; 362 pp., \$13.00).
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7900. Marco Zatterin noted last year that Perez-Reverte has said that there are pictures of three people on the table where he works: Stendhal, Dumas, and Basil Rathbone. In an interview with an Italian crime magazine, Perez-Reverte said that "Rathbone represents the real Sherlock Holmes. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was one of the first authors I read, and he is still an important point of reference for me." And as a war correspondent, "Wherever I went, Beirut or Sarajevo, I would take some books with me. By the light of a candle, I was traveling in the world of Sherlock Holmes, or the world of Hans Castorp."
7901. And Don Pollock has reported that there are many Sherlockian references in Perez-Reverte's earlier THE FLANDERS PANEL, as well as more subtle references in his later THE SEVILLE COMMUNICATION, whose "whole plot is borrowed from the Canon (though one could make that claim about a large percentage of mysteries...)."
7902. The Palm Pilot is a small (hold it in the palm of your hand) computer that is useful for various things, including reading books (as long as you don't mind reading them on a very small screen), and you can download books from the World Wide Web; Cliff Goldfarb reports that the books available at the web-site <www.memoware.com> include Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian titles by Arthur Conan Doyle, and Christopher Morley's THE HAUNTED BOOKSHOP.
7903. Carl Heifetz has reported that the Avenue Players Theatre will present Hugh Leonard's play "The Mask of Moriarty" in Tarpon Springs on Nov. 5-20. The box-office is at 324 Pine Street, Tarpon Springs, FL 34689 (727-942-5605).
7904. President Clinton has selected Jim Lehrer as one of this year's recipients of the National Humanities Medals. Lehrer, a novelist and playwright as well as the anchor of "The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer" on PBS-TV, provided a quote that every collector ought to memorize, in an essay on the pleasures of collecting, in the Mar. 1990 issue of Smithsonian: describing himself as a world-class collector of depot signs and other memorabilia, Lehrer suggested that collectors are not odd. "We are merely possessed with a need to collect certain things that some people might consider odd."

September 1999 #6

7905. Moonlight Cinema (416 West 3rd Street, London, KY 40741) has an interesting list of old and new Sherlockian and Doylean films on videocassette, with seldom-seen titles such as "Sherlock Holmes' Fatal Hour" ["The Sleeping Cardinal"] (1931) with Arthur Wontner, "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1937) with Bruno Guttner, and "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1977) with Peter Cook, and a high-quality transfer of "Sherlock Holmes" (1932) with Clive Brook; write to Moonlight for the complete list.
7906. Richard Carleton Hacker, author of THE ULTIMATE PIPE BOOK, has celebrated its 15th anniversary with a new title: RARE SMOKE: THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO PIPE COLLECTING, with thorough coverage of collection 20th-century estate pipes. Rick reports that he includes information on commemorative Sherlock Holmes pipes, and some previously untold stories about his adventures with the late Jeremy Brett. The 288-page book retails for \$37.50, and is available from the author (Box 634, Beverly Hills, CA 90213); \$42.00 postpaid.
7907. Ben Wood (9840 Sucia Circle, Parrish, FL 34219) offer his compact Sherlockian Calendar (Noting Red-Letter Days) for 2000; it measures 5.5 x 4 in. unopened, and costs \$2.00 postpaid to U.S. addresses.
7908. Masamichi Higurashi is continuing his work on the MEITANTEI HOLMES [HOLMES THE GREAT DETECTIVE] series of translations of the Canon (with four stories in each volume), published by Kodansha with illustrations by Hitoshi Wakana and "Ki". And the first two of Laurie R. King's novels about Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes (THE BEEKEEPER'S APPRENTICE and A MONSTROUS REGIMENT OF WOMEN) have been translated by Kumiko Yamada and published by Shuisha with cover art by Goro Sasaki (the publisher hopes to do more of the series).
7909. "Seers and Believers: A Symposium on Victorian Spiritualism" will be held on Oct. 16 at the Town & Country Club and the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center in Hartford, Connecticut. Hartford's celebrated 19th century community, Nook Farm, was home to several prominent believers (and a few skeptics), including author Harriet Beecher Stowe, theologian Calvin Stowe, suffragist Isabella Beecher Hooker and attorney John Hooker. Additional information is available from the Harriett Beecher Stowe Center, 77 Forst Street, Hartford, CT 06105 (860-522-9258). Reported by Susan Dahlinger, who notes that Wililam Hooker Gillette was born at Nook Farm.
7910. George C. Scott died on Sept. 22. He was an award-winning actor on stage, screen, and television (and refused to accept the Oscar he won for "Patton" in 1971). His many great films included "They Might Be Giants" (1971), in which he played Justin Playfair, a psychotic judge who believed that he was Sherlock Holmes (Joanne Woodward was his psychiatrist, Dr. Mildred Watson).
7911. The unveiling of the statue of Sherlock Holmes in front of the Baker Street underground station on Sept. 23 was well received by the Sherlockians who gathered for the event. According a story by T. R. Reid in the Washington Post (Sept. 24), Lord Tugendhat, chairman of Abbey National, noted that his bank was "proud to be associated with the world's greatest fictional detective," and looked stunned when he was booed by the assembled fans.

October 1999 #1

7912. The six days of festivities arranged by The Sherlock Holmes Society of London to celebrate the unveiling of the statue of Sherlock Holmes at the Baker Street underground station on Sept. 23 delighted the large contingent of Sherlockians who assembled from many nations and more than three separate continents, according to accounts from all quarters received. The Guardian noted the ceremony in an editorial, and T. R. Reid had a story in the Washington Post (with a photograph of Joe Moran and a quote from June Kinnee); his story was reprinted in the Houston Chronicle, the Denver Post, and the Japan Times. I'm not aware of other reports in the general media, but I'm sure there will be lots of coverage in the Sherlockian press.
7913. "Sherlock Holmes got me to Oxford, says Ukraine girl," was the headline on an article in The Sunday Telegraph, at hand from Garth Hazlett. The girl is Eleonor Suhoivy, who spoke no English when she arrived in England four years ago at the age of 14; she became fluent in English largely through comparing translations of the Sherlock Holmes stories with the originals, she said in an interview, and good grades in her A-levels won her a place at Oxford, where she began her degree course this month.
7914. "The book combines the pastoral charms of THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS (1908), the urbanity of James Branch Cabell, the wackiness of Thorne Smith, and the mysticism of a whole pot of Inklings," is the way Paul Di Filippo describes Christopher Morley's WHERE THE BLUE BEGINS (1922) in the June issue of Fantasy & Science Fiction. "Morley's dialogue and characterizations are absolutely brilliant, his touch light and assured," Di Filippo continues, "This quintessentially Jazz Age novel simultaneously encapsulates and transcends its era." The book is great fun to read, and the praise well-deserved.
7915. Alexander Orlov has forwarded a long article from the Moskovsky Komsomolets (Sept. 4) by Stanislav Kuvaldin, noting the 20th anniversary of the Russian television series that starred Vasily Livanov and Vitaly Solomin. According to Kuvaldin, Russian Public Television recently commissioned Igor Maslennikov (director of the original series) to produce "Memoirs About Sherlock Holmes" (which will have as its central figure Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, played by Alexei Petrenko).

7916. Sorry about that: Bernard Herrmann's credits did not include the score for the 1976 film "The Seven-Per-Cent Solution" (September 99 #4). As noted by David Morrill, the score was written by John Addison. Philip Cornell has noted that Herrmann is reported to have been signed to write the film score, but ill health intervened and he was replaced by Addison. Herrmann does have one Sherlockian film credit: the score for "The Day the Earth Stood Still" (1951), which is one of the very few films to include a member of The Baker Street Irregulars in the cast.
7917. This year's Kennedy Center Honors will be presented on Dec. 4, recognizing the life-long artistic achievements of musician Stevie Wonder, actor Jason Robards, comic pianist Victor Borge, dancer Judith Jamison, and actor Sean Connery, who starred in two films of interest to Sherlockians: "The Molly Maguires" (1970), in which he played Jack Kehoe, and "The Name of the Rose" (1986), in which he was William of Baskerville.
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October 1999 #2

7918. THE STRANGE AFFAIR AT GLASTONBURY (Bridgwater: Big House Books, 1999) is Eddie Maguire's fourth pastiche; Holmes and Watson are in Somerset, where a series of apparent practical jokes conceal a far more serious mystery. The 37-page pamphlet costs \$10.00 postpaid from Ian Henry Publications (20 Park Drive, Romford, Essex RM1 4LH, England).
7919. Our new set of six stamps honor Broadway Songwriters includes one for Alan Jay Lerner and Frederick Loewe, who wrote together from 1942 into the 1970s, with hits such as "Brigadoon" (1947), "Paint Your Wagon" (1951), "My Fair Lady" (1956), and "Camelot" (1960). And they might have had a Sherlockian connection: according to Maurice Zolotow (BILLY WILDER IN HOLLYWOOD, 1977), Wilder Billy Wilder purchased the rights to the characters from the estate in 1955 for a musical play, with book and lyrics by Lerner, and music by Loewe, but let the option lapse; after the success of the film "Irma La Douce" he tried again, proposing a Technicolor musical film with score by Lerner and Loewe, starring Peter O'Toole as Holmes and Peter Sellers as Watson.
7920. Yes, "The Day the Earth Stood Still" (1951) includes a member of The Baker Street Irregulars in the cast. When the alien spaceship landed in Washington, there were lots of news reports, and one of the reporters was newsman Elmer Davis, played by himself. Elmer Davis was one of the early members of the BSI, and wrote its Constitution and Buy-Laws.
7921. And Michael Ross has reported a possible Sherlockian television credit for Bernard Herrmann: "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1972), broadcast by ABCTV, starring Stewart Granger as Holmes. According to the 9-10/1988 issue of ARD Magazin, published by the German public television station ARD, the music was written by Herrmann. But he's not mentioned in the credits.
7922. The latest issue of The Sherlockian Times, the catalog/journal/newsletter from Classic Specialties, has 28 pages of news and offers of books, audio, and other Sherlockiana; Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219 (toll-free 877-233-3823) <sherlock@sherlock-holmes.com>.
7923. Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine often celebrates Sherlock Holmes' birthday by including something Sherlockian in the issue that's available during the birthday festivities, but that's not the only time that intriguing stories appear in the magazine: Ian Rankin's "The Acid Test" (Aug. 1999) will be of interest to Doyleans as well as Sherlockians.
7924. Mark Alberstat's 2000 Sherlock Holmes Calendar is illustrated with artwork from The Strand Magazine, and displays important Sherlockian birthdays and William S. Baring-Gould's dates for the cases. The cost is US\$12.00 postpaid, and his address is 5 Lorraine Street, Dartmouth, NS B3A 2B9, Canada.
7925. Sherlock Hemlock is alive and well, in Singapore (and perhaps other Asian countries), where McDonald's has a tie-in promotion of Sesame Street mini bean pals, 5.5 in. high, that includes a cute little Sherlock Hemlock. And if you're not planning to be in Singapore soon, the mini-bean pals turn up at auction on the Internet at eBay (less than \$9.00 postpaid).
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October 1999 #3

7926. Plan well ahead: The Sherlock Holmes Society of London Golden Jubilee Cruise is scheduled to the Baltic, departing Harwich around Aug. 23, 2001, for a 12-day voyage with stops at Oslo, Tallin, St. Petersburg, Riga, and Kalliningrad, returning to Harwich through the Kiel Canal. Details are available from Arena Travel, Freeport 1H 1037, Felixstowe, Suffolk IP11 7BR, England <holmes@arenatravel>.
7927. Our "Celebrate the Century" souvenir sheets have reached the 1960s, and one of the new stamps honors Gene Roddenberry's television series "Star Trek". First broadcast in 1966, it led to a series of films; in "Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country" (1991) Spock says "An ancestor of mine maintained that if you eliminate the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth."
7928. The ancient Jarawa people of the Andaman islands face the threat of extinction because of the spread of disease resulting from the growing links with the outside world, according a story by Rahul Bedi in the Sept. 29 issue of The Telegraph noted by John R. Clark. At least 50 of the 300 or so surviving Jarawa, who live deep in a rain forest and traditionally shun contacts with outsiders, are ill with measles and pneumonia, to which they lack immunity; the outbreaks have followed efforts by local officials to encourage contacts with the tribe. In the 1950s contact groups attempted to woo the Jarawa, leaving them gifts such as bananas and coconuts. Construction of a major road a decade ago led to wider exposure to the outside world. And in 1998, a Jarawa teenager found by police with a broken leg was treated in a hospital in Port Blair. He was fussed over and treated to bangles, sweets, cakes and color television; when he returned home, his tales of his adventures and luxuries prompted others to venture out, seeking modern treats. This week, six Jarawa boys, naked and armed with bows and arrows, stopped all vehicles on the road passing through their reserve, located about 50 miles north of Port Blair. Slapping their bellies and mumbling the Hindi word for "hunger", they lunged at all packages, presuming they contained food, before police chased them away. Local officials now advise travelers passing through the Jarawa reserve to carry bananas and biscuits to appease them. This has upset anthropologists, who demand more positive measures to preserve the tribe.
7929. Les Klinger has forwarded a report in Daily Variety (Sept. 23) that Centropolis Entertainment ("Independence Day" and "Godzilla") has purchased an option to produce a Victorian thriller "Cast of Characters" from a script written by Larry Cohen. Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson (and other characters from the Canon) are involved in the story.
7930. The 50-minute BBC documentary "Queen Mary's Dolls' House" was produced by the BBC in 1989 ("tour the sumptuous rooms and enchanting garden in this miracle of miniature craftsmanship"), but when it was issued on videocassette (October 90 #5) there was no report that it showed the manuscript of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's "How Watson Learned the Trick" (specially written for the library). Frank Darlington now confirms that the manuscript is indeed shown in the documentary, which is available (\$24.20 postpaid) from Discovery Channel Video (Box 4055, Santa Monica, CA 90411) (800-207-5775); it's item E1788 in their catalog.
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October 1999 #4

7931. Further to the report (April 98 #3) about Sherlock and Morse (the pedigreed bloodhounds working for the Essex police), the dogs are doing quite well, according to a story in The Sunday Times (Sept. 19), at hand from John Baesch: in one case, Sherlock followed a 13-day-old trail (German shepherds with the same training were able to follow trails only up to 48 hours old). and in another case Sherlock found a smash-and-grab raider in Harwich, following the trail down several roads and eventually identifying the thief's house even though he had driven home after the raid.
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7932. Jerry Margolin reports that Disney has celebrated the videocassette re-release of "The Great Mouse Detective" by adding Basil, Dr. Dawson, Olivia, and Ratigan to their "mini bean bags" line, available in Disney stores, or by phone (800-237-5751), or at the Disney web-site <www.disneystore.com>; the mini beans are about 4" high, and cost \$6.00 each or \$24.00 for the set of four (item 20078WW).
7933. Boston University is planning an Alumni College in the Swiss Alps on Sept. 17-25, 2000, Scott Monty reports, and one of the long list of attractions is: "Walk through the Rosenloui Gorge, with lunch under the glacier. Then, view the Reichenbach Falls of Sherlock Holmes fame." There's no need to be affiliated with the university, Scott notes, and you can request a brochure with much more information from: Alumni Travel Program, Boston University, 599 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, MA 02215 (800-800-3466) <alumtrav@bu.edu>.
7934. The 20 stamps in our new "Insects & Spiders" set have a nice assortment of them, and there are many mentions of flies, butterflies, beetles, and spiders in the Canon. And there is one mention of a bug-hunter (in "The Three Garridebs"), providing a nice excuse to show an assassin bug ("this predator, which hunts from ambush, feeds on many insects including bees," according to the U.S. Postal Service's note on the back of the stamp).
7935. Trevor Raymond notes that Simon Callow now is a CBE (Companion of the Order of the British Empire); he is a director and an actor (he played Inspector Lestrade in Charlton Heston's "The Crucifer of Blood" on TNT cable in 1991, and Sherlock Holmes in "The Seven-Per-Cent Solution" on BBC Radio 4 and in "The Unopened Casebook of Sherlock Holmes" on BBC Radio 5 in 1993, and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in a one-man play "In Defence of Fairies" in London in 1997), and his fine biography of another Sherlockian actor (ORSON WELLES: THE ROAD TO XANADU) was published in 1995.
7936. Trevor also reports that Tim Kelly's play "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be produced by the Mystery Company at the Lancaster Opera House on Jan. 14-23, 2000. The box-office address is 21 Central Avenue, Lancaster, NY 14086 (716-683-1776).
7937. George MacDonald Fraser's FLASHMAN AND THE TIGER, AND OTHER EXTRACTS FROM THE FLASHMAN PAPERS (London: HarperCollins, 1999; 320 pp., £16.99) offers the first (and long-awaited) book appearance of the story first published in the Daily Express, Sept. 29-Oct. 3, 1975. It's a delightful tale: the "tiger" is Colonel Sebastian Moran, with whom Flashman had three encounters (this being the third, in an empty house in Baker Street in 1894).

October 1999 #5

7938. Richard B. Shull ("An Actor and a Rare One") died on Oct. 14. Dick was a fine actor indeed, on stage and screen and television (N.Y. Times theater critic Frank Rich once praised him as "that amusing character actor who looks like a bloated fish"), and he performed with wit and humor at many of the annual dinners of the Baker Street Irregulars. He was director of the North American Araucania Royalist Society, a knight of the Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem and of the Orthodox Order of St. John of Jerusalem, and a member of the Society of the Colonial Wars, the Veterans Corps of Artillery, the Military Society of the War of 1812, the Colonial Order of the Acorn, the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, the Honorary Order of Kentucky Colonels, Washington Irving's St. Nicholas Society, the Dutch Treat Club, and (since 1986) the BSI.
7939. The ninth volume of The Shoso-in Bulletin, edited by Yuichi Hirayama and Mel Hughes and published by The Men with the Twisted Konjo, has 201 pages of articles, essays, pastiches, parodies, verse, and artwork contributed from Asia, Australia, Europe, and the United States, all in English and as usual nicely done. \$12.00 postpaid from Classic Specialties, Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219 <sherlock@sherlock-holmes.com>; credit-card orders welcome.
7940. Another report of Lion's Manes on display in the U.S.: according to Mark Andersen, there are several (small) specimens on view at the Birch Aquarium at Scripps in San Diego.
7941. Stu Shiffman's "The Game Is Afoot!" artwork is available (white on purple) on T-shirts (size XL only) for \$20.00 postpaid; his address is 8616 Linden Avenue North, Seattle, WA 98103. If you're interested in other colors or other sizes, or in polo shirts or caps, just let Stu know <roscoe10@home.com>.
7942. The ninth Sherlockian book this year from the Pequod Press is BAKER STREET ANTICS, in which (as John Ruyle reports) he sheds poetic new light on dark corners. Hand-set and hand-printed; \$40.00 each (cloth) or \$20.00 (paper), and his address is 521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707.
7943. Jean Shepherd died on Oct. 16. He was one of America's greatest humorists, described by Marshall McLuhan as "the first radio novelist," and in 1956 he began a 21-year career on WOR-AM (New York), creating an audience of "night people" that stretched from Canada to Florida. In 1969 he introduced the broadcast of "The Priory School" by Chris Steinbrunner and other members of The Priory Scholars of Fordham on WFUV-FM, and when he visited the Okefenokee Swamp in Georgia for his television series "Jean Shepherd's America" on PBS-TV in 1985, he happily reported that the mists reminded him of Sherlock Holmes and the Hound of the Baskervilles.
7944. Further to the report (June 99 #1) on the campaign to raise funds for David Cornell's life-size bronze statue of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in Crowborough, the Crowborough Conan Doyle Trust offers 34.5 cm. bronze maquettes (£890) and bronze-resin maquettes (£390), according to a flier at hand from David Rush. A leaflet is available from the Trust (The Town Hall, The Broadway, Crowborough, East Sussex TX6 1DA, England).

October 1999 #6

7945. The Oct. 1999 issue of Hayakawa's Mystery Magazine offers the Japanese a nice variety of Sherlockiana in Japanese: original stories, pastiches by Jacques Futrelle, Laurie R. King, John T. Lescroart, articles by Paul Chapman and Kathryn White from Sherlock Holmes: The Detective Magazine, and an excerpt from DINING WITH SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Julia Carlson Rosenblatt and Frederic H. Sonnenschmidt; many of the translations are by Masamichi Higurashi, who also contributed an article on "Holmes Never Dies: A Guide to Overseas Books and Events".
7946. Daniel Stashower will be in Toronto on Nov. 7, at the Beeton Auditorium at the Toronto Reference Library (789 Yonge Street) at 1:00 pm, reading from his biography TELLER OF TALES: THE LIFE OF ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE; there's no charge for the event, which has been arranged by the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection. And Victoria Gill, curator of the collection will display and discuss some of the collection's treasures.
7947. The Practical, But Limited Geologists met at Dixon's Downtown Grill in Denver on Oct. 27, for a dinner honoring the world's first forensic geologist, during the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America, and we were welcomed by Dr. Watson's Neglected Patients. Our next dinners will be in New Orleans in April, and in Reno in November, and in Denver and Boston in 2001 (there is a tentative possibility that there will be a formal session on forensic geology at the GSA annual meeting in Boston).
7948. Sarah Andrews was at the GSA meeting to sign copies of BONE HUNTER ("a mystery featuring forensic geologist Em Hansen, the dust jacket notes); it's Sarah's fifth mystery novel, and it's a fine one (New York: St. Martin's Minotaur, 1999; 340 pp., \$24.95).
7949. Donald W. Marshall died on Apr. 20, 1999. He joined the editorial staff of the New York World in 1926, and worked for the New York Times from 1931 to his retirement in 1959, and he was a member of the faculty at the Columbia School of Journalism, and for many years a distinguished member of The Five Orange Pips (in which his title, appropriately, was "Horace Harker").
7950. Our new 40c stamp shows the Rio Grande, and can be used to send postcards to Mexico. "To the right of the Sierra Blanco -- so we shall reach the Rio Grande," said one of the Mormons (in "A Study in Scarlet"), creating considerable confusion for Sherlockian geographers.

7951. Richard Wein reports that Bits & Pieces (1 Puzzle Place, Stevens Point, WI 54481) (800-544-7297) <www.bitsandpieces.com> offers two new mystery jigsaw puzzles in "The Continuing Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (the puzzle pictures help you solve the crimes); "The Watson Inheritance" and "The Case of the Fallen Actress" are \$10.95 each (or \$17.90 for the pair) (or \$29.95 for the four most recent puzzles). Great for meeting prizes, Richard notes.
7952. Trish Prehn's attractive painting of the sitting-room at 221B is available as a full-color print (18 x 14.5"), accompanied by a key to the stories in which things are mentioned; \$67.00 postpaid to the U.S. (\$70.00 elsewhere), and her address is 312-B West 34th Street, Austin, TX 78705 (512-302-4064) A postcard-size reproduction is available on request.
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October 1999 #7

7953. Sherlock Holmes' 146th birthday will be celebrated on Friday, Jan. 14, with the traditional festivities in New York, but the celebration actually begins on Thursday afternoon, with The Morley-Montgomery Reception (by invitation only) honoring winners and this year's recipient of the award for the best paper published in The Baker Street Journal each year, and recent contributors to the BSJ. And the BSI Distinguished Speaker Lecture begins at 6:15 pm on the 6th floor of the Williams Club at 24 East 39th Street (between Madison and Park Avenues); the speaker will be Michael Dirda, a winner of the Pulitzer Prize for criticism and the senior editor of the Washington Post's Book World (\$10.00; seating is limited, and you are advised to reserve early; details below). Then there's time for supper and theater, and this time there will be some Sherlockian theater:
7954. There are plans for a New York production of David Stuart Davies' one-man play "Sherlock Holmes: The Last Act!", which has been performed by Roger Llewellyn on tour in the provinces and in London this year. If all goes well, there will be performances on Thursday and Saturday evenings, somewhere, and possibly also on Sunday morning. And (sorry) there's no firm information yet on the venue or prices, which will be available soon from Mike Whelan (see below).
7955. Friday begins with the Martha Hudson Breakfast, from 7:00 to 10:00 in the Oak Room at the Hotel Algonquin at 59 West 44th Street; the hotel provides its guests with a continental breakfast, and others are welcome to attend each day (and pay \$15.00; details below). The William Gillette Memorial Luncheon starts at noon, at Moran's Chelsea Seafood Restaurant at 146 Tenth Avenue at 19th Street; \$36.00 (Susan Rice, 125 Washington Place #2-E, New York, NY 10014). And Otto Penzler will hold his traditional open house at The Mysterious Bookshop (129 West 56th Street) from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm; Sherlockian authors will be on hand to sign their books.
7956. The Baker Street Irregulars will gather at 6:00 pm at the Union League Club at 38 East 37th Street. The Baskerville Bash (which is open to all Sherlockians and their friends) offers dinner and entertainment at 6:30 pm at the Manhattan Club at 800 Seventh Avenue (at 52nd Street); \$55.50 (Maribeau Briggs, 46 East 29th Street #2-R, New York, NY 10016) <www.homestead.com/baskervillebash/BB.html>. Early reservations are advised for the William Gillette luncheon and the Baskerville Bash.
7957. Those who wish to have seasonal souvenirs in the dinner packets can send 175 copies (for the BSI) to James B. Saunders (3011 47th Street, Astoria, NY 11103) and 125 copies (for the Bash) to Francine Kitts (35 Van Cortlandt Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10301); your material should arrive by Dec. 15.
7958. On Saturday a wide variety of Sherlockiana will be available in a dealers room on the 2nd floor of the Hotel Algonquin at 59 West 44th Street, from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm; for information on vendor tables, contact Ralph Hall, 2906 Wallingford Court, Louisville, KY 40218 (502-491-3148) <bugmanhall@aol.com>. The BSI annual reception, which is open to all Sherlockians and their friends, will be held on Saturday afternoon from 3:00 to 5:30, at the National Arts Club at 15 Gramercy Park (on 20th Street between Third and Park Avenues); open bar, and hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, and the cost is \$35.00 (details below) or \$45.00 at the door.
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October 1999 #8

7959. The Baker Street Irregulars are a tax-exempt organization, and Mike Whelan has arranged with the Hotel Algonquin for single or double rooms at \$195.00 a night (Tuesday through Sunday); this is the total cost, since there is no tax due on reservations arranged by the BSI (the special rate is the equivalent of \$170.00 plus tax). Other charges (room service, telephone calls, meals, drinks, etc.) are not covered. The offer is available to all Sherlockians; contact the Algonquin directly (and don't delay), and ask for the Baker Street Irregulars rate (212-840-6800).
7960. And here are the details: you can request a reservation form for the Thursday lecture, the Martha Hudson breakfast, the Saturday reception, and the David Stuart Davies play, from Michael F. Whelan, 7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278; the forms will be mailed to you by mid-November.
7961. Mary Ellen Rich has kindly provided a list of hotels that offer reasonable (as defined by New York landlords) rates, along with a warning about nonoptional extras: \$2.00 a day occupancy tax, 8.25% state tax, and 5% city tax. You should ask for weekend specials, or winter promotional rates, and if you plan to arrive on Thursday, you should confirm the rates, and that the weekend rates include Thursday. Portland Square (132 West 47th St.): \$99 (single) \$109 (double) (212-382-0600); Quality Hotel (59 West 46th St.): \$99 (and up) \$139 (suite) (senior discounts available); Gershwin (7 East 27th St.): \$127 (212-545-8000); St. Moritz (50 Central Park South): \$125 (212-752-7760); Grand Hyatt Grand Central (42nd St. at Park Ave.): \$139 (212-883-1234). And Mary Ellen recommends <www.hotres.com> as a website for economy-rate hotels in New York.
7962. The Dr. John H. Watson Fund offers financial assistance to all Sherlockians (membership in the BSI is not required) who might otherwise not be able to participate in the weekend's festivities. A carefully pseudonymous John H. Watson presides over the fund and welcomes contributions, which can be made by check payable to John H. Watson and sent (without return address on the envelope) to Dr. Watson, care of The Baker Street Irregulars, at 7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278; the checks are forwarded unopened, and Dr. Watson will acknowledge your generosity. Requests for assistance can also be mailed to Dr. Watson at the same address.
7963. Norman S. Nolan ("Godfrey Norton") died on Oct. 17, 1999. Norm was first an engineer, and then a doctor, and a ringleader in Sherlockian affairs in New Jersey, where he was the sparking-plug of The Scandalous Bohemians and The Ostlers, and among the Baker Street Irregulars (for whom he began the tradition of providing identification keys to the photographs of the annual dinners) (and from whom he received his Investiture in 1972). He also was an energetic collector, and one of the few fortunate Sherlockians to own a Canonical manuscript ("Black Peter").
7964. Congratulations to Steve Rothman, who will take over as editor of The Baker Street Journal with the March 2000 issue. Manuscripts, letters, and other BSJ submissions can now be sent to: Steven Rothman, 220 West Rittenhouse Square #15-D, Philadelphia, PA 19103.
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November 1999 #1

7965. Snoo Wilson's one-man play "In Defence of Fairies" was performed by Simon Callow in London in December 1997, in association with an exhibition of "Victorian Fairy Painting" at the Royal Academy of Arts. Wilson was at the time reported to be writing a play about Conan Doyle, and the play (titled "Moonshine" opened in London in October. "Guaranteed to empty Hampstead Theatre faster than a powerful laxative," Michael Billington wrote in The Guardian (Oct. 27), "it already has the makings of a myth, and, as with any play that sinks in the water, one wonders why anyone thought it seaworthy in the first place." The play stars Robin Soans as Conan Doyle, who meets a sun god Abraxas (played by Ian Gelder); Abraxas has spawned

- the monstrous Moloch, an Australian media magnate, who is planning to destroy Earth with a meteorite unless Abraxas takes on the guise of Sherlock Holmes, with Conan Doyle as his doggedly faithful Watson. The play was scheduled to close on Nov. 13.
7966. Tess Connors notes that Blackstone Audio has added two Canonical titles to its list of unabridged books on audiocassettes. Both are read by Frederick Davidson: "A Study in Scarlet" is on 3 cassettes (\$23.95 purchase or \$8.95 rental) and "His Last Bow" is on 5 cassettes (\$39.95/\$10.95). The address is Box 969, Ashland, OR 97520) (800-729-2665) <black@blackstoneaudio.com> <www.blackstoneaudio.com>
7967. "Griffin, Dis to Investigate 'Holmes'" was the headline on a story in the Hollywood Reporter (Oct. 12), spotted by Nancy Beiman. Buena Vista Motion Picture Group is developing a feature film about a streetwise American private eye on assignment in Britain as a starring vehicle for comedian Eddie Griffin (who stars in the UPN sitcom "Malcolm & Eddie" and recently wrapped a Disney comedy "Deuce Bigelow: Male Gigolo". In the script by Colby Carr ("Blank Check"), when the American detective arrives in Britain, he is assigned a stuffy Englishman as his partner, and the two opposites must learn to work together to solve a crime. It's not very Sherlockian, of course. And one wonders what Walt would say when he learned that Disney had made a comedy about a male gigolo . . .
7968. George V. Higgins died on November 6. He was a crime novelist best known for THE FRIENDS OF EDDIE COYLE (1972), and an assistant United States attorney for the district of Massachusetts, and a newspaper columnist. In 1985 he reviewed Granada's dramatization of "The Crooked Man" for the Wall Street Journal, noting that Jeremy Brett was "unsettlingly good," but complaining about some of Granada's changes in the stories: "I have some reservations about such alterations, dramatically desirable as they may be," he wrote. "Watching Sherlock Holmes bound around like Jimi Hendrix in a frock coat doesn't delight me. This Holmes should be detoxed."
7969. "Nero Wolfe: The Doorbell Rang" was broadcast by ABC-TV in 1979, starring Thayer David as Nero Wolfe and Tom Mason as Archie Goodwin. And now "The Golden Spiders" is being filmed for A&E cable, with Maury Chaykin as Wolfe and Timothy Hutton as Goodwin. Winnifred Lewis has an informative report on her visit to the set, on the web at <www.geocities.com/Athens/8907/nero_tgs.html>, and Walter Doherty has suggested to the Nero Wolfe electronic mailing list that the film is likely to air early next year.

November 1999 #2

7970. Reported: Wayne Worcester's THE MONSTER OF ST. MARYLEBONE: THE JOURNALS OF DR. WATSON (New York: New American Library/Signet, 1999; 272 pp., \$5.95); "A madman is terrorizing London's St. Marylebone district and Scotland Yard is clueless, but when Sherlock Holmes himself is injured by the killer, Dr. Watson is forced to step in to investigate."
7971. Further to the item (September 99 #1) on the BBC's "Blood Line" (about Joe Bell and Arthur Conan Doyle): according to new reports, at hand from Jon Lellenberg, the big-budget period drama will air in two parts on BBC-2 next year, with Ian Richardson as Bell, Robin Laing as Conan Doyle, and Charles Dance as hospital patron Sir Henry Carlyle.
7972. Nancy Beiman also spotted a report in the Hollywood Reporter (Nov. 5) that Columbia Pictures has purchased Michael Valle's script for "Sherlock Holmes and the Vengeance of Dracula" for production by the Mutual Film Co. "Filmmaker Chris Columbus may come on board to develop and direct the project, which is described as an action-adventure-horror film in the vein of 'The Mummy'" (Chris Columbus directed the 1998 film "Stepmom" with Julia Roberts and Susan Sarandon, and wrote the screenplay for the 1985 film "Young Sherlock Holmes").
7973. Stephen Davies reported to the Gaslight mailing list on the Geminiis (those are the Canadian television awards): among the winners was Meredith Henderson, who received award (for best performer in a series about children or youth) for the series "The Adventures of Shirley Holmes". The series ran for three seasons in Canada, and started in Britain earlier this year, but no longer airs in the United States. There's an excellent fan web-site at <www.ozemail.com.au/~damonjf/shirley_holmes/>, and in case you've been wondering, at the end of the third season Shirley found and rescued her longlost mother. And Peter Calamai reports that shows for a fourth season have been filmed and are in post-production; the new episodes will air in Canada on YTV cable beginning in February.
7974. The weekly syndicated radio series "Imagination Theater" continues to air 22-minute Sherlock Holmes programs written by Jim French (April 99 #3). A dozen Sherlockian shows will have aired by the end of the year, and they are available (along with many other shows) on cassette or CD (\$7.99 each postpaid) from TransMedia, 719 Battery Street, San Francisco, CA 94111 (800-229-7234) <www.transmediasf.com> (credit-card orders welcome).
7975. There's still time to consider a triple play that's reminiscent of Tinkersto-Evers-to-Chance (although this one covers more distance: Copenhagen-to-London-to-New York). You can attend three different Sherlockian events in three different countries in one week: the 50th-anniversary dinner of the Sherlock Holmes Klubben i Danmark at the Hotel Ascot on Jan. 7, the annual dinner of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London at Lincoln's Inn on Jan. 8, and the birthday festivities in New York beginning on Jan. 13. Details on Copenhagen are available from Bjarne Nielsen (Sherlock Holmes Museet, Agade 3, DK-4500 Nykobing Sjaelland, Denmark) <sherlock@sherlockiana.net>; on London from Pamela Bruxner (2-B Hiham Green, Winchelsea, East Sussex TN36 4HB, England) <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk>, and on New York in my newsletter (October 99 #7) <members.home.net/sherlock1/scuttle.htm> and from Michael F. Whelan (7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278).

November 1999 #3

7976. Watson & the Sherlocks contribute two tracks ("Funky Walk" and "Standing on the Corner" to a CD called "All Night Soul Stomp!" (STOMP-S-4001) available for \$14.75 postpaid from Midheaven Mailorder, 2525 16th Street (3rd floor), San Francisco, CA 94103 <www.midheaven.com>; the 24 tracks on the disk are soul dance and stomp, mainly from the mid 1960s.
7977. "ABC has green-lighted a script for a drama series called 'Holmes & Watson' in which Sherlock Holmes and his partner, Dr. John H. Watson, are now private eyes working the Venice Beach area of Southern California," Lisa de Moraes noted in the Washington Post (Nov. 2). The project is "in development," so there's no further comment from ABC, but yes, Venice Beach is the place where all those people flex all those muscles, and we may get to see the series next year.
7978. Brad Keefauver reports that the comic book SCOOBY-DOO #30 (Jan. 2000, from DC Comics, \$1.99) features a cover that has young Fred as Sherlock Holmes, and a story ("Spring-Heeled Jack") that takes place in "The Sherlock Holmes Gallery".
7979. Reported from Britain: THE INTELLIGENCE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by John Radford (Sigma Forlag, £9.95); "in which the author, a distinguished psychologist, charges through the Holmesian oeuvre asking intriguing questions." ATLAS OF THE EUROPEAN NOVEL, 1900-1900, by Franco Moretti (Verso, £12.00): "this is a book which makes maps out of where books are set" and a map of Holmes' investigations shows that murders in Sherlock Holmes' London were far more likely in the best, rather than the worst, neighborhoods.
7980. Bill Dorn offers wristwatches with portraits of Holmes and Watson (in men's and women's sizes) for \$24.95 postpaid (\$25.95 to Canada, \$26.95 overseas); an illustrated flier is available from William S. Dorn, 2045 South Monroe Street, Denver, CO 80210) <www.TheSherlockStore.com>.

7981. Bob Hess has a new sales-list of interesting Sherlockiana (posters, pins, postcards, statues, dolls, and much more); available on request from Robert C. Hess, 559 Potter Boulevard, Brightwaters, NY 11718 (631-665-8365) <two21baker@aol.com>.
7982. Ev Herzog spotted some attractive poly-resin Victorian figurines at a CVS store; they're made by Lemax Village Collections (25 Pequot Way, Canton, MA 02021), and are about 2" high, and they show people wreath-hanging, treetrimming, snowman-building, street music-making, etc., and two of the sets echo "The Blue Carbuncle": "The Christmas Goose" has a small tree, a frockcoated gent with an unplucked white goose in a basket, and a bonneted lady with shopping baskets (\$2.99); and "The Turkey Seller" has a poulterer with plucked fowl, a young lady with a shopping basket, and a young lad (\$4.99).
7983. Stu Shiffman spotted a press release from Pizza Hut (Nov. 4) that reported that "Dr. Seuss Tops Governors' Favorite Book Survey" (Pizza Hut sponsors a program that offers free pizza to children in elementary schools and childcare centers as an incentive for reading). Nine governors listed Dr. Seuss books as their favorite childhood reading, THE LITTLE ENGINE THAT COULD and TREASURE ISLAND were named by five governors each, and one governor (John Engler of Michigan) included SHERLOCK HOLMES on his list.
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November 1999 #4

7984. Christopher Roden has news from Britain: Christopher Frayling, who presented the television series "Nightmare: The Birth of Victorian Horror" on A&E cable in 1996 (broadcast by the BBC as "Nightmare: The Birth of Horror" in 1997), is working with Penguin on a new Complete Sherlock Holmes with introductions and annotations. THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES is one of the first volumes planned, and will be out next year.
7985. When you visit the Antarctic (and you certainly can, even as a tourist) you might want to visit Cape Evans, where you can see the world's southernmost copy of a book by Arthur Conan Doyle: THE GREEN FLAG AND OTHER STORIES OF WAR AND SPORT, which was brought there by Robert Falcon Scott in 1910, in the small hut from which Scott set off on an ill-fated attempt to reach the South Pole. Scott had led an earlier expedition to the Antarctic, in 1901-04, and his third lieutenant then was Ernest Shackleton (who, fortunately for Shackleton, was not a member of Scott's second expedition). But Shackleton did return to the Antarctic, and in 1914-16 he led an expedition that is the subject of one of the greatest stories of exploration ever told.
7986. That story's at the heart of an exhibition about "The Endurance: Shackleton's Legendary Antarctic Expedition" at the National Geographic Society's Explorers Hall in Washington (through Feb. 6); it's well worth seeing, as it was last year in New York (May 99 #5).
7987. Gene Levitt died on Nov. 15. He was a journalist, and served as a Marine in World War II, and then became a writer, director, and producer in radio and television (with credits for "Barnaby Jones" and "Hawaii Five-O"); his biggest success was the series he created in 1978: "Fantasy Island" (which in 1982 included a segment called "Save Sherlock Holmes" that starred Peter Lawford as Holmes, Donald O'Connor as Watson, and Mel Ferrer as Moriarty).
7988. R & E Pipes (219 Patterson Place, Alton, IL 62002) <www.re-pipes.com> offer a 221B Series of their own blends of pipe tobacco: Black Shag (\$6.30 for 50 grams) and Arcadia (\$8.75 for 50 grams); a price-list of pipes and tobacco is available on request.
7989. The 19th annual Arthur Conan Doyle/Sherlock Holmes Symposium (Mar. 10-12 in Fairborn, Ohio) has launched a pastiche contest (and you don't need to register for the symposium to enter the contest); the deadline for pastiches is Feb. 15, and more information (about the symposium and the contest) is available from Greg Sullivan (39 Sherwood Avenue, Danvers, MA 01923) <greg.sullivan@ae.ge.com>.
7990. Ronald B. De Waal's latest bibliography is rather shorter than THE UNIVERSAL SHERLOCK HOLMES: it's an annotated list of all his published writings and awards, Sherlockian and otherwise; eight pages, \$2.00 postpaid (\$3.00 overseas) from Ron (638 12th Avenue, Salt Lake City, UT 84103).
7991. "Sherlock Holmes: Consulting Detective" was first a board game (December 81 #3) and then a CD-ROM disk game (December 91 #1), and now it's a DVD game (from DVD International, \$25.00); according to a Los Angeles Times review (Nov. 17), at hand from Willis Frick, "It's a great concept and fun for a while, but the production values are almost nil, and the performers playing Holmes and Watson are strictly elementary when it comes to acting talent."
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November 1999 #5

7992. THE TRAGEDY OF ERRORS AND OTHERS is the first new Ellery Queen book in almost 30 years, Doug Greene has reported, offering a long and detailed plot outline for the last (and unpublished) Ellery Queen novel, six hitherto uncollected EQ short stories, and a section of reminiscences written by family, friends, and others (one of whom is Bill Vande Water, who has contributed an essay on "Frederic Dannay, BSI"). The cloth edition is already exhausted, but the trade paperback costs \$18.25 postpaid from Crippen & Landru, Box 9315, Norfolk, VA 23505 <www.crippenlandru.com>.
7993. MORE HOLMES FOR THE HOLIDAYS, edited by Martin H. Greenberg, Jon L. Lellenberg, and Carol-Lynn Waugh (New York: Berkley Prime Crime, 1999; 262 pp., \$21.95), is an excellent sequel to HOLMES FOR THE HOLIDAY (November 96 #2); the eleven stories are all originals, and of course seasonal, and the authors include Anne Perry, Daniel Stashower, Peter Lovesey, L. B. Greenwood, Jon L. Breen, Barbara Paul, and Edward D. Hoch.
7994. Andy Peck and Laura Kuhn report that MORE HOLMES FOR THE HOLIDAYS also is available in a Mystery Guild edition, discounted to \$10.98. And that Annette Meyers' FREE LOVE is discounted to \$11.98 (from \$23.95); private investigator Harry Melville is known as "Sherlock" and has a group similar to the Baker Street Irregulars called the Hudson Dusters. The Mystery Guild address is Box 6325, Indianapolis, IN 46206 <www.MysteryGuild.com>.
7995. THE NEW ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: ORIGINAL STORIES BY EMINENT MYSTERY WRITERS was a fine celebration of the centenary (September 87 #6); the new (and expanded) edition, edited by Martin H. Greenberg, Carol-Lynn Rossel Waugh, and Jon L. Lellenberg (New York: Carroll & Graf, 1999; 404 pp., \$13.95), offers the stories in the original edition (by authors such as Lillian de la Torre and Stephen King) and three new tales (by Daniel Stashower, Bill Crider, and Anne Perry). There's no overlap between the stories in this volume and in MORE HOLMES FOR THE HOLIDAYS, by both books are recommended to those who enjoyed well-written Sherlockian pastiches.
7996. "There's a bunch of detective stories that have been important to me," Jake Kasdan told an interviewer, "and Sherlock Holmes is certainly among them." Kasdan wrote and directed the film "Zero Effect" (1998), with Bill Pullman as a dysfunctional and emotionally-handicapped detective named Daryl Zero, and Ben Stiller as his sidekick Steve Arlo (March 98 #1); it has been in the video shops for a while, and it's now on television, and it has quite a few Canonical echoes.
7997. Bruce Beaman reports that Barnes & Noble <www.bn.com> offers some attractive Sherlockian prints and posters: you select the design you want, and it is shipped to you printed on paper (\$19.95) or canvas (\$99.00 and up). You may also be able to see the artwork (and Sherlock Holmes is only one of the many categories available) at Barnes & Noble stores.
7998. Dorothy R. Shaw died on Nov. 24. She was the widow of John Bennett Shaw, toasted by the Irregulars as *The* Woman in 1974, and she received the BSI's Queen Victoria Medal in 1995. She created the magnificent miniature of 221 Baker Street (the entire building) now on permanent display at the Special Collections at the University of Minnesota, and happily welcomed (and put up with) the many pilgrims who journeyed to visit their home in Santa Fe.
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November 1999 #6

7999. The Pleasant Places of Florida have a new lapel pin, with the society logo and name, in orange, blue, and black on gold, and the cost is \$12.00 postpaid (\$13.00 outside North America) from Wanda Dow, 1737 Santa Anna Drive, Dunedin, FL 34690. And their new round-robin pastiche "The Adventure of the Glorious Scot" costs \$6.00 postpaid from Carl Heifetz, 3693 Siena Lane, Palm Harbor, FL 34685.
8000. Don Izban notes in the latest issue of the SBIOS Post that the quadrennial meeting of the Colonel Sebastian Moran Secret Gun Club on Feb. 29 (August 99 #2) will include another Hunt for the Mongoose Named Moriarty ("no greater sport," Don writes); details are available from Nancy Wrobel, 7998 Garfield Avenue, Burr Ridge, IL 60521.
8001. "New Life for Noted Lions?" was the headline on an Associated Press story by Sue Leeman in the Philadelphia Inquirer (Nov. 26). The noted lions are Barbary or Atlas lions, and the Port Lympne Wildlife Park in Kent (England) and Oxford University's Wildlife Conservation Unit hope that hybrid descendants of Barbary lions in the King of Morocco's zoo in Rabat can be used to breed a new Barbary line that can be restored to the wild. Sahara King (in "The Veiled Lodger") was a North African lion, and the breed was recorded as extinct in the wild in the 1930s (killed by the likes of Count Negretto Sylvius). They were larger (and fiercer) than the lions of East Africa and South Africa, with spectacular black manes on the males, as members of The Red Circle of Washington know from their "Cat House Picnic" at the National Zoo in June 1977: the National Zoo had bred them back from hybrids, but did not maintain the experiment. But Morocco has now earmarked 98,000 acres of land in the Atlas Mountains as a potential refuge, and local Berber people hope that Barbary lions will become a tourist attraction there.
8002. Stephen Kendrick's "A Sherlock Way of Knowing: Five Spiritual Teachings of a Fictional Detective" was published in the Nov.-Dec. issue of World: The Journal of the Unitarian Universalist Association; the article is adapted from his book HOLY CLUES: THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO THE SHERLOCK HOLMES (June 99 #1). The magazine costs \$4.50, and the address is Lock Box 5971, Boston, MA 02206 <www.uua.org/world>.
8003. An addendum to the birthday-festivities forecast: Susan Rice notes that the Friends of Bogie's (Andrew Joffe, Susan Montague, and Paul Singleton) will (as in years past) present original theatrics at the Gillette Luncheon at Moran's Chelsea Restaurant on Jan. 14. The luncheon costs \$36.00; details are available from Susan at 125 Washington Place #2-E, New York, NY 10014 <rice-fromkin@worldnet.att.net>.
8004. The BBC television mini-series "Clouds of Witness" (with Ian Carmichael as Lord Peter Wimsey) was produced by the BBC in 1972 and broadcast here in an age when VCRs were not ubiquitous. And now it's available on cassette (on five NTSC cassettes, actually, about 45 minutes each); the boxed set costs \$59.95 (plus \$8.95 shipping, for a total of \$68.90) from Signals, but I am happy to offer one boxed set, viewed once only, at a discount: \$50.00 postpaid (first come, first served).

December 1999 #1

8005. A last-minute addition to the birthday festivities: The Clients of Adrian Mulliner (devotees of the works of both P. G. Wodehouse and John H. Watson) will hold a Junior Bloodstain (a rather less than totally reverent gathering) at the Hotel Algonquin on Saturday, Jan. 15, at 12:30 pm (possibly in the lobby, or elsewhere, depending on how many people show up). If you're planning to attend, please let Anne Cotton know (12 Hollywood Street, South Hadley, MA 01075) <ladybassett@mediaone.net>.
8006. And Judith Freeman reports that Spinning in Their Graves Productions will present staged readings of "The Sign of the Four" at 8:00 pm on Thursday, Jan. 13, and Saturday, Jan. 15, at the Theater at St. Clements at 423 West 46th Street (212-613-3023); \$15.00.
8007. The fall issue of The Cormorant's Ring (published by The Trained Cormorants of Long Beach and edited by Jim Coffin) offers a nice mix of material, including Don Hardenbrook on "Sherlock Holmes and Raffles", Rick Mattingley on John LaBarbera's Sherlockian jazz, and John Farrell on Sherlock Holmes' musical tastes. \$7.00 a year (two issues), and back issues are available; Jim's address is 6570 East Paseo Alcazaa, Anaheim Hills, CA 92807.
8008. Plan ahead: the Bimetallic Question has announced their Second Bimetallic Colloquium, to be held at McGill University in Montreal on June 2-4, 2000. Details are available from the society (Box 883, Stock Exchange Tower, Montreal, QC H5Z 1K2, Canada) <wilfrid@defreitasbooks.com>.
8009. Mike Ockrent died on Dec. 2. He began his theatrical career as a director in Perth, Scotland, moving to London in the late 1970s and then to New York where he was nominated for three Tonys (for his direction and work on the score and book) of a revival of "Me and My Girl" in 1986, and for another Tony as director of Ken Ludwig's "Crazy for You" in 1992. And it was in Perth, in 1971, that he directed Joan Knight's dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles".
8010. Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine celebrates Sherlock Holmes' birthday in its Feb. issue, with cover art by Keith Richens Hauff, a new pastiche ("The Adventure of the Cipher in the Sand") by Edward D. Hoch, and a poem ("Shaggy Dog") by Dennis Upper.
8011. Ev Herzog reports that the ENGLISH PUBS 2000 CALENDAR (Browntrot, \$12.00) shows (for October) an interior view of The Sherlock Holmes in London. And there's lots of Victorian (though not Sherlockian) atmosphere in an ADVENT CALENDAR MUSICAL VICTORIAN STREET SCENE (\$14.95) and a MILLENNIUM CALENDAR 2000 (\$14.95) in a catalog from Past Times (7201-A Intermodal Drive, Louisville, KY 40258) (800-621-6020) <www.past-times.com>. Past Times also offers a Millennium Party Pack of eight masks (\$12.95), one of which (eyes up) is Sherlock Holmes in standard deerstalker.
8012. Sherlock Holmes was Entertainment Weekly's sleuth of the week in their Dec. 10 issue: Focusfilm Entertainment has announced that it will release four fully-restored Basil Rathbone films on DVD early next year, with extra material that will include the filmed interview with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

December 1999 #2

8013. Stu Shiffman reports that in January the Kellogg Co. will make new Sesame Street mini-bean toys available in specially-marked boxes of cereal: four toys (including Sherlock Hemlock) will be available in Apple Jacks and in Honey Crunch Corn Flakes. "This will be a hot crosscategory promotion for those collecting cereal boxes and premiums as well as Sesame Street items. There will also be special games, quizzes and cutout-and-color versions of the Sesame Street buildings."
8014. Judith Freeman edits an occasional newsletter ("Pound Notes") with information about the Baskerville Bash, and other items of Sherlockian interest; if you'd like to be on her mailing list, she's at 280 9th Avenue #1-C, New York, NY 10001 <judith-freeman@worldnet.att.net>.
8015. Madeline Kahn died on Dec. 3. She was a wonderful comedian, nominated for Oscars in as Trixie Delight in "Paper Moon" (1973) and as Lili von Shtupp in "Blazing Saddles" (1994), and was once described (as her obituary in the N.Y. Times noted) as "a Botticelli angel cracking a malicious grin." And Sherlockians will remember her as a delightful Jenny in Gene Wilder's "The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes' Smarter Brother" (1975).
8016. "Black Shag" was the first in a "221B Series" of pipe tobaccos from the McClelland Tobacco Co. (June 99 #4), and the second is "Arcadia" (\$9.25 for a 50g tin), offered in a catalog from Georgetown Tobacco (3144 M Street NW, Washington, DC 20007 (800-345-1459) <www.gttobacco.com>. They also have "Full Virginia Flake" from Samuel Gawaith & Co. in England (\$8.95 for a 50g tin). Both may also be available from your local tobacconist.
8017. David Bradley reports that John Chaffin's dramatizations will continue next year with "The Hound of the Baskervilles" at Chaffin's Barn Dinner Theatre, Aug. 29 through Oct. 21, 2000 (8204 Highway 100, Nashville, TN 37221) (800-282-2276) <www.dinnertheatre.com>.

8018. BURIED BLUEPRINTS: MAPS AND SKETCHES OF LOST WORLD AND MYSTERIOUS PLACES, by Albert Lorenz with Joy Schleh (New York: Harry N. Abrams, 1999; \$19.95), offers imaginative views of 14 places, some real and some imaginary, from The Garden of Eden to Dinosaur Island (the Lost World of Arthur Conan Doyle rather than Michael Crichton).
8019. Edward Lear reports that Sherlock Holmes is shown on the front of (and one assumes also on at least some of its pages) the N.Y. Public Library's THE 2000 366-DAY MYSTERY LOVER'S CALENDAR (\$10.95).
8020. Liberton Bank House in Edinburgh has received a temporary reprieve, thanks to a campaign by Doyleans and Sherlockians to thwart plans to demolish the building so that McDonald's could build a restaurant on the site. In the 1860s the house was owned by the sister of historian John Hill Burton, and Arthur Conan Doyle lived there when he was five to seven years old. Historic Scotland (a government agency) now has six months to decide whether the house should be added to a statutory list of buildings of architectural or historic interest. "Sherlock Holmes still has his magic, it seems," Richard Lancelyn Green told a reporter for the Associated Press.

December 1999 #3

8021. "It is not eight o'clock, and a Wagner night at Covent Garden!" Holmes said to Watson (in "The Red Circle"). The first Covent Garden opera house opened in 1728 (with John Gay's "The Beggar's Opera"), and the current Royal Opera House was built in 1858; it closed for reconstruction in July 1997, and was reopened on Dec. 1 with a gala celebration that headlined Placido Domingo serenading Her Majesty.
8022. J. Trow's LESTRADE AND THE MAGPIE (Washington: Regnery, 2000; 224 pp., \$19.95) will be in the stores next year in an American edition: it's the tenth novel in his delightful series about Inspector Sholto Lestrade (with the usual name-dropping, bawdy humor, and puns). The nine earlier titles are still available from Regnery (same price), and Regnery plans to issue all sixteen to complete the series.
8023. Sherlock Holmes has made it into the current campaign for the presidency: a report on "The Life of Bill Bradley" by Barton Gellman and Dale Russakoff in the Washington Post (Dec. 14) discusses Bradley's 1965 journey from basketball stardom at Princeton to his Rhodes scholarship at Oxford. Bradley shared a cabin on the Queen Mary with Jack Horton, an older Rhodes scholar. Informed that the British press awaited the American sports star at Southampton, Bradley winced, and Horton offered to shake them. "Jack put on a Sherlock Holmes hat and a pipe, picked up a violin case," tucked a Bible and a volume of Shakespeare under his arm, strode ashore, and declared himself to be Bill Bradley in the flesh.
8024. Jerry Margolin has reported a new comic book: THE GREAT DETECTIVE: SHERLOCK HOLMES #1 (Avalon Communications, \$2.95), with a reprint of "The Problem of Thor Bridge" from the 1954 comic strip written by Edith Meiser and drawn by Frank Giacoia. The publisher's address is 2800 Halpern, St-Laurent, QC H4S 1R2, Canada.
8025. Don Hardenbrook notes that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's autobiography MEMORIES AND ADVENTURES is available read (unabridged) by Robert Whitfield on ten 90-minute audiocassettes (\$69.95 purchase or \$13.95 rental) from Blackstone Audio (Box 969, Ashland, OR 97520 (800-729-2665) <www.blackstoneaudio.com>.
8026. Our "Celebrate the Century" souvenir sheets have reached the 1970s; the latest sheet includes a stamp that honors Pioneer 10, the first spacecraft to travel to Jupiter and send back data and images (eleven years later it became the first manmade object to leave the solar system). Jupiter can be seen in the background ("Jupiter is descending today," said Sherlock Holmes in "The Bruce-Partington Plans").
8027. John Hillen notes a mention of "The Lost World" in an Associated Press dispatch endangered wildlife in Venezuela: the government is building a highvoltage electricity line through Canaima National Park, which is one of 100 World Heritage Sites designated by the United Nations, and critics say the plan is a recipe for environmental catastrophe. Canaima, the sixth-largest national park in the world, has Angel Falls (the world's tallest waterfall) and the mysterious flat-topped mountains said to have inspired Arthur Conan Doyle's "The Lost World" (the park is the size of Belgium and is protected by 14 park rangers, most of whom have only bicycles for transportation).

December 1999 #4

8028. Sir Rupert Hart-Davies died on Dec. 8. He began his publishing career as an office boy at William Heinemann, and after serving in the Coldstream Guards in World War II, started his own publishing house, which he named after himself. Hart-Davies was known "as much for the care he took in publishing books as for his almost complete lack of business acumen" (as Sarah Lyall noted in an obituary in the N.Y. Times), and he was an accomplished editor and writer. His company published the first British edition of William S. Baring-Gould's SHERLOCK HOLMES: A BIOGRAPHY OF THE WORLD'S FIRST CONSULTING DETECTIVE (1962), which unlike the first American edition was illustrated, and had on the dust jacket and as the frontispiece a delightful photograph of Sherlock Holmes, taken in Montenegro and discovered by the late James Montgomery.
8029. Richard Lowry spotted a new mail-order catalog for chess enthusiasts, with Sherlockian artwork and a portrait of Moriarty, available from Chessco, Box 8, Davenport, IA 52805 (800-397-7117) <www.chessco.com>.
8030. Another collectible for "Wishbone" fans: Wishbone as Sherlock Holmes (with deerstalker and Inverness) in the Snap-On Costume Collection manufactured by Equity Toys (Los Angeles); he is 3.5 in. high and "fully poseable" (you can move his head and legs), and there are four other literary characters available (spotted by Phil Attwell in a bargain store in England).
8031. Hugh Haynie died on Nov. 25. He worked as a syndicated political cartoonist at the Louisville Courier-Journal from 1958 to 1995, and his critical comments on Watergate earned him a place on Nixon's enemies list. Haynie often used the Sherlockian icons; these cartoons were published on Aug. 29, 1972, and Aug. 4, 1994.
8032. Further to the report (November 99 #2) that a fourth season of television series "The Adventures of Shirley Holmes" is in post-production in Canada, the first two seasons are being broadcast in Britain, and there are some book tie-ins published by Harper-Collins: THE ESSENTIAL CASE FILE, compiled by Stella Paskins and Sue Mongredien, with profiles, tips for detectives, and an episode guide (94 pp., £3.50); and novelizations of four of the episodes.
8033. The Canadian Institute for Mediterranean Studies will present a lecture by Clifford Goldfarb on "Arthur Conan Doyle--the Napoleonic War Tales: History or Romance?" on Jan. 19 at Emmanuel College (room 119) at the University of Toronto (5 Queen's Park Crescent); there's no charge for the event, which is open to the public.
8034. Discovered by Ratana Ngin: SHERLOCK'S MISSING BONE: A PICTURE PUZZLE BOARD BOOK, written by Dawn Bentley and illustrated by Siobhan Dodds (New York: Barnes & Noble, 1999; \$9.95); a 12-piece jigsaw puzzle helps children help a dog dressed in Sherlockian costume solve a mystery.

December 1999 #5

8035. Further to the item (September 99 #1) on the BBC television program Blood Line" (about Joe Bell and Arthur Conan Doyle), it's now titled "Murder Rooms: The Dark Beginnings of Sherlock Holmes" and it will air on "Mystery!" on PBS-TV on May 18 and 25 (60 minutes each), according to the press release at hand from Otto Penzler. The program features Ian Richardson as Bell and Robin Laing as Conan Doyle.

8036. Otto now is a consultant to Amazon, and writes a monthly column ("Penzler's Picks") for their web-site, recommending six mysteries a month. The electronically-enabled can read all about it at <www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/feature/-/12820/ref=ad_b_mt_2>.
8037. Lamba Aaman reports from India: there's a Sherlock Holmes Pub in Bangalore.
8038. Plan well ahead: the centenary of the first publication of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (in The Strand Magazine) will be celebrated in Toronto on Oct. 26-28, 2001, which also will mark the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library. The festivities will include scholarly and social activities, and an exhibit at the library, and other events. If you'd like to be on their mailing list, the address is HOUND2001, 18 Jackson Avenue, Etobicoke, ON M8X 2J3, Canada <sherlox@attglobal.net>.
8039. Alan Addlestone ("The Addleton Tragedy") died on Sept. 2. He was a member of The Scowrers and Molly Maguires of San Francisco for many years, and a fine punster, and remembered for his ferocious quizzes. He received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1985.
8040. Charles Schulz has announced that he will stop drawing the "Peanuts" comic strip to focus on recovering from colon cancer. The strip first appeared on Oct. 2, 1950, in seven newspapers, and now runs in 2,600 newspapers and reaches an estimated 355 million readers. Rare among cartoonists, Schulz has drawn every frame of every one of the strips; the final original daily "Peanuts" will be published on Jan. 3, and the last Sunday strip on Feb. 13. He said in PEANUTS JUBILEE: MY LIFE AND ART WITH CHARLIE BROWN AND OTHERS (1975) that "in my high school years, I became a Sherlock Holmes fanatic and used to buy scrapbooks at the local five-and-dime and fill them with Sherlock Holmes stories in comic-book form." And in his contribution to BOOKS I READ WHEN I WAS YOUNG, edited by Bernice Cullinan and M. Jerry Weiss (1980), Schulz wrote, "When I was a teenager, the three books that gave me the most enjoyment and probably led me on to more reading were the Sherlock Holmes stories, *Beau Geste*, and *Ivanhoe*." Snoopy has often paid tribute to Sherlock Holmes: here's an extract from his first known S'ian appearance, on Jan. 28, 1962:

December 1999 #6

8041. The latest volume in Jon L. Lellenberg's archival-history series is IRREGULAR CRISES OF THE LATE 'FORTIES (New York: Baker Street Irregulars, 1999; 508 pp., \$28.95), with accounts of how Edgar W. Smith rescued the BSI after Christopher Morley's decision that there would be no more annual dinners, the trials and tribulations of The Baker Street Journal and other BSI publications, an irregular visit to the White House, the mysterious Helene Yuhasova, and usual) much more; recommended. \$31.90 postpaid (\$32.90 outside the US) from The Baker Street Irregulars, Box 465, Hanover, PA 17331.
8042. Christopher and Barbara Roden continue to published a wide variety of Sherlockian and Doylean books from their Calabash Press (Box 1360, Ashcroft, BC V0K 1A0, Canada) <www.ash-tree-bc.ca/calabash.html>, including AS IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN: A COLLECTION OF SHERLOCKIAN PARODIES FROM UNLIKELY SOURCES, edited by Robert C. S. Adey; his research in humor magazines from the 1890s onward has uncovered many previously unprinted examples of what writers have done with and to Sherlock Holmes. Denis O. Smith's THE CHRONICLES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, VOLUME TWO offers three atmospheric pastiches, two old and one new. John Hall's THE ABOMINABLE WIFE AND OTHER UNRECORDED CASES OF MR. SHERLOCK HOLMES is a thoughtful examination of the cases mentioned by Dr. Watson but never recorded for posterity, as well as the apocryphal cases and the Canonical and Uncanonical plays and parodies.
8043. Christopher and Barbara Roden also edit THE CASE FILES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, a series of anthologies of essays devoted to single stories. THE MUSGRAVE RITUAL and THE SPECKLED BAND have already been examined, and THE DYING DETECTIVE contains some delightful scholarship, including (for those who enjoy discoveries in the manuscripts), Christopher's interesting thoughts on who may have written which parts of the story. Prices and shipping costs vary, credit-card orders are welcome, and you can write to the press for their catalog with all the details on these and on other books available.
8044. "Millennium Hugo" is a lapel pin marking the fourth annual Baskerville Bash (2" high, showing Sir Hugo in full color); available from Warren Randall (15 Fawn Lane West, South Setauket, NY 11720) for \$16.50 postpaid.
8045. Michael Lawrence offers full-size reproductions of London street signs, and is happy to include one for Baker Street (\$135.00). His company is Signpost International (19 Bramall Court, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire PE3 9RD, England) <sign@post19.fsnet.co.uk>; details available on request.
8046. The Cercle des Sites Holmesiens Francophones (a French-speaking group of Sherlockian web-masters) has announced a Sherlock Holmes millennium contest for short stories about "Sherlock Holmes and the Millenium" (stories can be written in French or English, and the deadline is Jan. 31). Rules and other information about the contest is available by mail from Francois Hoff (19 avenue Marechal Joffre, F-67000 Strasbourg, France) and at their web-site <www.pleia.de/concours/>.

January 2000 #1

8047. It was nice to get back to Washington after the "triple play" (three Sherlockian events in three countries in one week); the three events were the 50th-anniversary annual dinner of the Sherlock Holmes Klubben i Danmark on Jan. 7, the annual dinner of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London on Jan. 8, and the start of the birthday festivities in New York on Jan. 13). For readers who aren't familiar with American sporting traditions, the triple play is from baseball, and involves ending an inning by getting three men out on just one hit ball.
8048. And I wasn't the only one participating in the historic Sherlockian triple play: the others were Mike Whelan and Mary Ann Bradley, Kate Karlson, Herb and Addie Tinning, and Susan Dahlinger (from the U.S.), and Anders Hammarqvist (from Sweden), and Bjarne Nielsen, Bjarne Rother Jensen, and January B. Steffensen (from Denmark).
8049. Denmark was delightful, and those who were able to arrive early enjoyed a visit with Bjarne Nielsen at his Sherlock Holmes Museet in Nykobing and some sight-seeing in Copenhagen as well as the annual dinner at the Hotel Ascot, where about 40 Sherlockian from four countries celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Sherlock Holmes Klubben i Danmark; Ted Bergman was on hand from Sweden, with a grand video tour of his miniature of the house at 221 Baker Street, and the toasts and reports were all delivered in English, in honor of the more far-flung guests.
8050. London was just as much fun (and the weather just as pleasant); there were about 160 gathered in the Great Hall of the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn (it's one of the four Inns of Court and a spectacular place in which to dine), and somewhat fewer for the Morning-After Get-Together at the Royal Commonwealth Society the next day, just round the corner from The Sherlock Holmes (which still happily offers a warm welcome to visitors from near and far). And there was time to visit (or perhaps revisit) the statue of Sherlock Holmes, which presides over Marylebone Road outside the Baker Street tube station, undisturbed by local pigeons; sculptor John Doubleday now is working on his third statue of Sherlock Holmes, which will be installed in Switzerland (where the first one greets visitors to Meiringen).
8051. I don't think that anyone has mentioned (in print or otherwise) an intriguing Sherlockian tourist site: the public convenience across Marylebone Road from the statue of Sherlock Holmes. There is a decorative mural over the urinals, and it shows a party of tourists heading happily for The Sherlock Holmes. We await word from the distaff side on whether there is a ladies' loo with equally appropriate decoration.

8052. The birthday festivities in New York began on Wednesday this year, with an Ash Wednesday luncheon at O'Casey's attended by about 40 enthusiasts pursuing a truly long weekend, and continued on Thursday at the Williams Club, where Michael Dirda (senior editor of the Washington Post's Book World) was the BSI's Distinguished Speaker, he reminisced fondly about his childhood discovery of Sherlock Holmes, and noted the intriguing coincidence of three brothers named Moriarty and three more named Morley, and you'll be able to read the full text in an early issue of The Baker Street Journal.

January 2000 #2

8053. The Hotel Algonquin offered a fine venue for an informal Mrs. Hudson Breakfast on Friday morning, and about 160 people were on hand for the William Gillette Luncheon at Moran's Chelsea Seafood Restaurant, where Andrew Joffe and Paul Singleton (aka The Friends of Bogie's) provided entertainment: delightful impersonations of Chip Finney and Bob Spacey (neophyte Sherlockians on their first visit to the birthday festivities from Traverse City, Mich., Community College), and Richard and Cynthia Wein, David Stuart Davies, Susan Rice, Mickey Fromkin, and Peter Blau (all of whom also were in the audience and none of whom were aware they were to be impersonated). And Otto Penzler's traditional open house at the Mysterious Bookshop provided the usual opportunities to browse and buy.
8054. There were about 190 at the annual dinner of The Baker Street Irregulars at the Union League Club, where the pre-dinner cocktail party featured Steven Rothman's toast to *the* Woman: Eleanor Baker O'Connor, who for many years has assisted Julian Wolff, Tom Stix, and now Mike Whelan with arrangements for the annual dinner. The dinner honored the BSI's "moment of creation" by copying the menu from January 1934 (oysters, pea soup, curried chicken, ice cream, petits fours, and cafe), and the entertainment offered the usual traditions, a discussions of Canon and Cult in three centuries, and of Canonical maladies, Bob Coghill's warm tribute to the late S. Tupper Bigelow, and (as always) much more.
8055. Mike Whelan (the BSI's "Wiggins") awarded this year's Birthday Honours: Irregular Shillings and Investitures to Michael Meer ("The Englischer Hof"), Fred Kittle ("Jack Stapleton"), Douglas Wilmer ("The Lyceum Theatre"), Ben Vizoskie ("Alexander Hamilton Garrideb"), Jean Upton ("Elsie Cubitt"), Doug Elliott ("Canadian Pacific Railway"), Karen Anderson ("Emilia Lucca"), Anders Hammarqvist ("Jacob Shafter"), and Don Curtis ("Jabez Wilson"); and the BSI's Two-Shilling Award ("for extraordinary devotion to the cause beyond the call of duty") to Scott Bond.
8056. The Baskerville Bash also took place Friday evening, at the Manhattan Club and with about 100 people on hand, and with entertainment that included a pastiche/parody by Rosemary Michaud ("Jeeves and the Horrible Hound"), a performance by the irrepressible Sherlettes (as the Dartmoorsketeers), and a musical toast by Cynthia Wein ("There is Nothing Like a Hound").
8057. On Saturday morning the dealers' room (at the Algonquin) was as always full of dealers and a wide variety of Sherlockiana to delight eager browsers and collectors. And the Saturday-afternoon cocktail party attracted a capacity crowd to the National Arts Club, where a display of interesting items from the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota honored John and Dorothy Shaw. Al Rosenblatt reported in verse on the previous evening and the previous year (and you will be able to read that in the BSI, too), and events, and Susan Dahlinger was applauded as the winner of the Morley-Montgomery Award (an attractive certificate and a check for \$500) for the best contribution to last year's Baker Street Journal (her fine article on William Gillette in the September issue). And The Dr. John H. Watson Fund benefited from June Kinnee's energetic marketing of raffle tickets for Jeff Decker's original artwork for his portrait of Julian Wolff (won by Bruce R. Parker, who will present it to Ted Schulz), as well as from the enthusiastic bidders in the traditional auction.
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January 2000 #3

8058. On Saturday evening a capacity-house Sherlockian audience saw the American premiere of David Stuart Davies' play "Sherlock Holmes: The Last Act!" with Roger Llewellyn in a fine portrayal of Holmes. The script is nicely done as well, and available from the Calabash Press (Box 1360, Ashcroft, BC V0K 1A0, Canada <www.ash-tree.bc.ca/calabash.html>; \$15.00 or CA\$20.00 or £9.50 (shipping extra), and credit-card orders are welcome.
8059. I've not reported on everything, I hasten to add; if you want more details than fit into print here, it is quite likely that there will be much longer reports in The Baker Street Journal, which is published quarterly and costs \$21.00 a year (\$23.50 outside the U.S.), and checks (credit-card payments accepted from foreign subscribers) can be sent to the BSI at Box 465, Hanover, PA 17331.
8060. The birthday festivities attracted some attention from the press: Michael Pollak's report that "They Came to Honor Mr. Holmes. Or So, at Least, They Claimed." ran in the home edition of the N.Y. Times (Jan. 16), and Karl E. Meyer's story about "The Curious Incident of the Sleuth in the Meantime" in all editions (Jan. 19); the latter story also ran on the paper's wire, and was reprinted in the Sydney Morning Herald (and perhaps other papers less far-flung).
8061. The Scotland Yarders will honor their tenth anniversary with T-shirts with their logo and "10th Anniversary" in silver on black over the left breast; sizes offered are small to extralarge, \$16.00 postpaid, and checks (payable to The Scotland Yarders) should be sent to Barbara Wells, 8894 Knight Avenue #413, Des Plaines, IL 60016 (the deadline for orders is Mar. 14).
8062. John Archer died on Dec. 5. He began his acting career in radio in 1938, and was best known for his echo-chambered "Who knows what evil lurks in the hearts of men?" introduction on "The Shadow" in 1944 and 1945. He appeared on stage and screen and television as well, starring in the science fiction film "Destination Moon" (1950), and he played Lt. Pete Merriam in "Sherlock Holmes in Washington" (1943).
8063. The second volume of Leslie S. Klinger's SHERLOCK HOLMES REFERENCE LIBRARY is THE MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Indianapolis: Gasogene Books, 1999; 303 pp., \$26.95), and it's full of excellent scholarship, with a personal approach to the annotations (as was the case with Baring-Gould's THE ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES). \$29.70 postpaid from the publisher (Box 68308, Indianapolis, IN 46260).
8064. Roger Rees, who played Sherlock Holmes in Bert Coules' BBC Radio 4 dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles in 1988 (and more recently a "womanizing, slightly inebriated English lord who's actually quite brilliant" on the NBC-TV series "West Wing") also is a director: he will stage a revival of George Bernard Shaw's "Arms and the Man" for the Roundabout Theatre in New York (in previews for a Feb. 10 opening), and this spring will star in Roundabout's production of "Uncle Vanya". "Arms and the Man" is playing at the Gramercy Theatre at 127 East 23rd Street (212-777-4900).
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January 2000 #4

8065. Laurie R. King will be on a book-signing tour in February promoting NIGHT WORK (not part of her Mary Russell series); here's the tentative schedule: Feb. 2 Capitola Book Cafe, 7:30 (Capitola, CA); 3 or 4 Orinda Books and Walnut Creek Barnes & Noble; 5 M Is for Mystery, 2:00 (San Mateo, CA); 6 Powell's, 7:30 (Portland, OR); 7 Seattle Mystery Books, 12:00, and Third Place Books, 7:30 (Seattle, WA); 8 Vroman's, 7:00 (Los Angeles, CA), 9 Coffee, Tea & Mystery, 12:00 (Los Angeles, CA) and Barnes & Noble, 7:00 (Huntington Beach, CA); 10 Bookseller, 6:00 (Grass Valley near Sacramento, CA), 11 Mysterious Galaxy, 7:00 (San Diego, CA); 12 Poisoned Pen, 11:00 (Scottsdale, AZ). And Apr. 29 or 30 she will be at the Los Angeles Festival of Books.
8066. Geoff Jeffery notes that local Disney stores have a "Countdown to the Millennium" series of lapel pins (\$4.00 each); one of the (#27) is "The Great Mouse Detective".
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8067. **TOURNAMENT OF SHADOWS: THE GREAT GAME AND THE RACE FOR EMPIRE IN CENTRAL ASIA**, by Karl E. Meyer and Shareen Blair Brysac (Washington: Counterpoint, 1999; 646 pp., \$35.00), received a rave review in the N.Y. Times (Jan. 9); the Great Game was the long-standing competition between Britain and Russia, and the story of the Second Afghan War (and the fatal battle of Maiwand) will of course be of particular interest to Sherlockians. Nancy Beiman notes that Dr. John H. Watson is included in the index, no doubt thanks to Meyer (who is "Fritz von Waldbaum" in *The Baker Street Irregulars*).
8068. Nathan Lane is reported ready to star in the Broadway revival (set to open on June 30) of "The Man Who Came to Dinner" (in which Monty Woolley starred as Sheridan Whiteside on Broadway in 1939 and in the film in 1942). In the play and the film Whiteside says about Harriett Stanley, "Strange? She's right out of 'The Hound of the Baskervilles'."
8069. Peter Jeffrey died on Dec. 25. He was a veteran character actor in British film, television, and radio, and he played Mycroft Holmes in the television film "Hands of a Murderer" (1990).
8070. Caroline Bryan offers a new audiocassette with country and western versions of "I Wanna Be the Hound" (which debuted as the open-mike contest-winner at the Under the Arch conference in Saint Louis) and "The Ballad of Moriarty's Excuse"; the cassette costs \$5.00 postpaid from Wilson's Basement Dwellers, Box 57057, Albuquerque, NM 87187.
8071. Planning continues for the Millennium Congress of Holmesian Societies that will be held in Meiringen on May 4-7; there will be guest speakers from at least four continents, and excursions, exhibitions, and wining and dining, and full details are available from Michael A. Meer (Morgenstrasse 70, CH-3018 Bern, Switzerland) <sherlock.holmes@gmx.net>.
8072. Jerry Margolin notes that the second issue of **THE GREAT DETECTIVE: SHERLOCK HOLMES** (Avalon Communications, \$2.95) is in the comic-book shops, with "The Missing Heiress" reprinted from the 1954 comic strip written by Edith Meiser and drawn by Frank Giacoia; the publisher's address is 2800 Halpern, St-Laurent, QC H4S 1R2, Canada.
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January 2000 #5

8073. "Murder Rooms: The Dark Beginnings of Sherlock Holmes" aired in Britain on BBC-2 in two one-hour episodes on Jan. 4 and 5, with Ian Richardson as Joseph Bell and Robin Laing as Arthur Conan Doyle; it was interesting indeed to see Richardson, who has played Holmes, as the man who contributed so much to Conan Doyle's portrayal of Holmes, and David Pirie's script has some interesting twists, turns, and surprises. The mini-series will be broadcast on "Mystery!" on PBS-TV on May 18 and 25.
8074. **THE NAPOLEON OF CRIME: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF ADAM WORTH**, by Ben Macintyre (February 98 #2) is now available in a paperback edition in Britain (Flamingo, £7.99); the book is a fine account of the man who was indeed called "the Napoleon of Crime" by some of his contemporaries. The connection between Worth and Moriarty appears first to have been reported by Vincent Starrett, in his **THE PRIVATE LIFE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES** in 1933: "this was revealed by Sir Arthur in conversation with Dr. Gray Chandler Briggs, some years ago."
8075. James Card died on Jan. 16. He was a devoted collector and admirer of silent films, and he was the founder and the first curator of the Department of Film at the George Eastman House in Rochester, where he arrived in 1948, bringing with him his personal collection of 800 films. He also was an energetic film preservationist, and one of the films he was able to save was John Barrymore's "Sherlock Holmes" (1922), which was restored and shown to a delighted audience of Sherlockians at George Eastman House in 1975.
8076. Our "Celebrate the Century" souvenir sheets have reached the 1980s, and the new sheet includes a stamp honoring the musical "Cats", which opened on Broadway on Oct. 7, 1982, and is now the longest-running show in Broadway history; the Andrew Lloyd Webber hit, based on poems in T. S. Eliot's "Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats", brought "Macavity: The Mystery Cat" to the attention of millions.
8077. The Silver Blaze, an Irregular event conceived by Thomas L. Stix, Sr., and run for the first time at Jamaica Race Course on Long Island in 1952, has been revived, and the next running will be held on Aug. 19, at a new venue for the historic event: Saratoga Race Track in upstate New York. Saratoga is a delightful place to go to the races, and a committee is energetically planning some other events that will be of interest to Sherlockians, and scouting hotels and restaurants. If you'd like to be on the mailing list, please contact Lou Lewis (Box 2990, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603) <lewisgreer@aol.com>; you can expect to receive full details by mid-June.
8078. Reported: Barbara Michaels' **OTHER WORLDS** (September 99 #1) in a paperback reprint from HarperCollins (\$6.99); Frank Podmore, Nandor Fodor, Harry Houdini, and Arthur Conan Doyle offer (and briefly debate) possible solutions to two unsolved ghostly mysteries from the 19th century.
8079. Hinnie Brosnan reports that the late Alvin E. Rodin's collection (including originals, proofs, and drafts of his writings about Arthur Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes), is to be sold by Mary Frost-Pierson at Mysteries from the Yard beginning Feb. 14. The catalog will be available at Mary's web-site at <www.mysteriesfromtheyard.com> or via the mail (\$5.00 postpaid, and you can order now) from Jean C. Rodin (4440 Pavlov Avenue, San Diego, CA 92122).
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January 2000 #6

8080. Brian Pugh reports that the Crowborough Town Council has agreed to fund the life-size statue of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle that the Crowborough Conan Doyle Trust and local enthusiasts have been campaigning for; sculptor David Cornell has started work on the £48,000 statue, and an unveiling is planned for late summer or early fall. This year's Sherlock Holmes Festival (which had been scheduled for July 7-9) will not be held, but the unveiling of the statue will be celebrated with due ceremony.
8081. Bill Barnes still has copies of **THE HOUNDS' COLLECTION: VOLUME 4** available, (80 pages of pastiche, humor, and serious writing by members of The Hounds of the Internet; most of the material is new, but a few items have appeared elsewhere). \$12.00 or CA\$17.00 or £7.50 postpaid by airmail, and payment by personal check or currency is welcome; his address is 19 Malvern Avenue, Manly, NSW 2095, Australia.
8082. You can get 24 different Sesame Street mini beans in packages of Kellogg's cereals, and they include Sherlock Hemlock, who is one of four characters in packages of Apple Jacks and Honey Crunch Corn Flakes; there's no way of telling who's in any particular package, of course, but if you aren't lucky you can send in \$2.50 and three box tops to get the set of four.
8083. Issue #34 of **Sherlock Holmes: The Detective Magazine** (edited by David Stuart Davies) offers the usual wide variety of articles, essays, reviews, and other material about Holmes and other detectives, old and new. Davies' new series on "Sherlock Holmes: The Millennium Film Star Hero" starts in this issue, which also has the conclusion of Paul Chapman's two-part article on Sherlock Holmes and Jack the Ripper. Annual subscriptions (six issues) are £20.00 (U.K.)/£22.00 (continent)/\$40.00 (U.S.), and the address is Box 100, Chichester, West Sussex PO18 8HD, England <pmh.uk.com/sherlock/sherlock.htm>; their U.S. representative is Classic Specialties (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219) <sherlock@sherlock-holmes.com>. Back issues are available, and credit-card orders are welcome at both addresses.
8084. Compliments of the season from Andrew G. Fusco, who kindly contributed the enclosed pocket calendar for 1876 (it works just fine for 2000, of course).
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8085. And a few commercials: the revised 15-page list of Investitured Irregulars, Two-Shilling Awards, The Women, and the Adventuresses costs \$1.20 postpaid. The 79-page list of 764 Sherlockian societies, with names and addresses for contacts for 426 active societies, costs \$4.20 postpaid. A run of address labels for 359 individual contacts (recommended if you wish to avoid making duplicate mailings to people who are contacts for more than one society) costs \$10.40 postpaid. Checks payable to Peter E. Blau, please.
8086. The list of irregulars and others also is available from me by e-mail (no charge), and both lists are available at Willis G. Frick's "Sherlocktron" home page at <<http://members.home.net/sherlock1/Sherlocktron.html>>. Also available free at Linda Anderson's home page are digital photographs of celebrants at the birthday festivities <<http://www.fortunecity.com/victorian/canterbury/222/bsi2000.htm>>.
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February 2000 #1

8087. "Burger Giant Chips Away at Holmes Truth" was the headline on a report in the Edinburgh Evening News (Jan. 8), at hand from Jon Lellenberg. Liberton Bank House, where Arthur Conan Doyle lived when he was five to seven years old, and which McDonald's planned to demolish so that they could build a restaurant on the site, was granted a temporary reprieve last month by the Edinburgh City Council (December 99 #2), but McDonald's is bringing in its own experts to verify that Conan Doyle actually lived there. Conan Doyle biographer Owen Dudley Edwards said that "McDonald's is perfectly entitled to do its own historical research. I would be extremely glad to see what evidence it gets. I hope they develop a conscience at the same time."
8088. Sorry about that: my list of the participants in the historic "triple play" (three Sherlockian events in three countries in one week) was not complete (January 00 #1). The full list: Mike Whelan and Mary Ann Bradley, Kate Karlson, Herb and Addie Tinning, Paul and Margaret Smedegaard, Susan Dahlinger, and Peter Blau (from the U.S.), Anders Hammarqvist (from Sweden), and Bjarne Nielsen, Bjarne Rother Jensen, and January B. Steffensen (from Denmark).
8089. And another correction: the home page where you can see digital photographs taken at the birthday festivities in New York (January 00 #6) is located at the web-site of the San Francisco Bay Area Sherlockian Societies. The URL is <www.fortunecity.com/victorian/canterbury/222/bsi2000.htm>.
8090. W. R. Michell ("The Rock of Gibraltar") died on Jan. 18. He was a Captain in the Royal Navy when he joined The Sherlock Holmes Society of London in 1958, and not long after his retirement happily enlisted as Honorary Secretary of the society, a post he held from 1973 to 1988. Bill's genial humor was a delight, and he will be missed by his many friends.
8091. Paul Martin reports that Critics' Choice Video (Box 749, Itaska, IL 60143) (800-367-7765) <www.ccvideo.com> offers John Neville's "A Study in Terror" (1965) for \$19.95 (discounted from \$69.95), and the longer (98-minute) version of George C. Scott's "They Might Be Giants" (1971) for \$14.95. Richard Wein spotted Claude Rains' "The Lost World" (1960) in the same catalog discounted to \$10.77; shipping is free until Mar. 31.
8092. Sonia Fetherston spotted some business news in the Portland Oregonian (Jan. 23): Pat Sherlock, owner of Sherlock Holmes Real Estate, has merged his 17-year-old company with the Equity Group.
8093. Desmond Llewelyn died on Dec. 19. He studied at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts in the 1930s and had a long career in films. Best known as "Q" in all but one of the James Bond films, he also performed in the Merrison/Williams BBC radio series, as Bannister in "The Three Students" (1993) and as Palfreyman in "Shoscombe Old Place" (1995).
8094. News for the electronically-enabled: Chris Redmond's "Holmepage" was as far as I know the first one on the World Wide Web, and it's still an excellent entry-way into the strange Sherlockian world of bits and bytes. And it has name (Sherlockian.Net), a new format, new graphics, lots of revisions and additions, and a new URL: <www.sherlockian.net>.
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February 2000 #2

8095. "Krushchev Wary of Yeltsin's Successor" is the headline on a story in the Providence Journal (Jan. 6), at hand from Al and Julie Rosenblatt. The Krushchev is former Soviet leader Nikita Krushchev's son Sergei, who became an American citizen last summer and is a scholar at Brown University; Vladimir Putin, the new prime minister, was hand-picked by a group of "political oligarchs" aligned with Boris Berezovsky, according to Sergei Krushchev, who noted that Berezovsky is close to Yeltsin and his family, and is "the Professor Moriarty of the 21st century."
8096. SHERLOCKIANS ABROAD: THEIR ADVENTURES AT AND MEMOIRS OF THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES STATUE FESTIVAL, collected and edited by Susan E. B. Vizoskie, with photographs by Ben Vizoskie, offers 71 pages of reminiscences by 32 of the participants; \$3.50 postpaid (\$3.75 to Canada and \$4.00 elsewhere) in U.S. funds, please, with checks payable to The Three Garridebs, and sent to Sue (90 Ralph Avenue, White Plains, NY 10606).
8097. Reported: Martin Booth's THE DOCTOR AND THE DETECTIVE: A BIOGRAPHY OF SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE (published in Britain in 1997), in an American edition from St. Martin's Press in January (384 pp., \$27.95).
8098. "Holmes!" is a work-in-progress musical with book and lyrics by Brett Nicholson and music by Hans Vollrath, first performed in concert at the Disney Institute in Orlando in Sept. 1997. A revised version of the musical will be presented in a workshop performance on May 4-5 at the Disney Institute Performance Center in Orlando, Fla.; additional details are available from Holmes! (Box 2242, Windermere, FL 34786) <www.holmesthemusical.com>.
8099. "What is the name of that inn you spoke of?" "The Green Dragon" (as noted in "Shoscombe Old Place"). There are two other allusions to dragons in the Canon (in "Charles Augustus Milverton" and "The Sign of the Four"), and it is nice to have three appropriate references to help the postal service celebrate the Year of the Dragon.
8100. The Village Players will produce William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" from Mar. 17 through Apr. 1; the box-office address is Box 712, Birmingham, MI 48012 (248-644-2075) <www.birmingham-mi.com/villageplayers>.
8101. Art Hoppe died on Feb. 1. He joined the San Francisco Chronicle as a copy boy in 1949 and soon was promoted to reporter, and in 1960 began writing a column that eventually appeared five days a week and was syndicated in more than 100 newspapers. The targets for his political satire included Watergate, and in 1974 he created Sherlock Helms in a column titled "As American As Ample Spies" (voted "best pun of the year" by John Bennett Shaw).
8102. Richard Lancelyn Green and John Michael Gibson's A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF A. CONAN DOYLE, published in 1983, was, as I reported at the time (September 83 #2), *the* bibliography of Conan Doyle, and it still is. Long out of print, and only rarely offered by used-book dealers, it will be available again on Mar. 4 in a revised edition (with corrections and additions) by Hudson House (Otto Penzler's new imprint), priced at \$100.00 retail. Otto will be glad to accept your orders (The Mysterious Bookshop, 129 West 56th Street, New York, NY 10019 (800-352-2840) <mysteriousny@worldnet.att.net>.
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February 2000 #3

8103. Wolf Ackva died on Jan. 16. He was an actor in Germany, and he provided German dubbing for famous actors such as Clark Gable, Vincent Price, William Holden, James Mason, and Sam (the eagle on "The Muppet Show"). He also played Sherlock Holmes in the first known television adaptation
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- of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (broadcast in Germany by ARD on August 16, 1955). In 1997, Michael Ross notes, Ackva was made an honorary member of Von Herder Airguns, Ltd.
8104. The film "The Ninth Gate" had its world premiere in Spain on Aug. 25, and is scheduled for release in the United States on Mar. 31; directed by Roman Polanski and starring Johnny Depp and Lena Olin, the film's based on Arturo Perez-Reverte's book THE CLUB DUMAS, which one reviewer has called "a cross between Umberto Eco and Anne Rice." But: Marco Zatterin reports from Italy that none of the Canonical echoes in the book, including a woman who calls herself Irene Adler (September 99 #5), are in the film.
8105. Peter Calamai reports that the fourth (and final) season of "The Adventures of Shirley Holmes" (starring Meredith Henderson as the great-grandniece of Sherlock Holmes) started on YTV in Canada on Feb. 13.
8106. TELLER OF TALES: THE LIFE OF ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE, by Daniel Stashower (April 99 #5), has been nominated for an Edgar (best critical/biographical work) from the Mystery Writers of America. The winners of the Edgars will be announced at the MWA annual dinner in New York on May 4.
8107. Don Martin died on Jan. 7. He began drawing for Mad in 1956, and for more than thirty years he contributed "a gallery of harridans, freaks and imbeciles burdened with over-large feet and bulbous noses, all of whom came too frequently in contact with buzz-saws, steamrollers, and falling safes" (as noted in his obituary in the Independent). His caricature of Sherlock Holmes (as one of eight literary heroes) appeared in the Mad in the 1970s.
8108. Reported: THE ILLUSTRIOUS CLIENTS SECOND CASE-NOTES, edited by Steven T. Doyle and Mark Gagen, with an introduction by Don Curtis and contributions by members of the society (96 pp., \$12.95); \$14.70 postpaid from Gasogene Books, Box 68308, Indianapolis, IN 46268.
8109. The winter issue of The Magic Door (the newsletter of The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) offers the second part of Barbara Rusch's report on interesting ephemera in the collection, and Victoria Gill's note on a manuscript letter from Conan Doyle in which he affirms the date of the end of the 19th century (Dec. 31, 1899), and much more; you can request a copy from Doug Wrigglesworth, 16 Sunset Street, Holland Landing, ON L9N 1H4, Canada <dougwrig@netover.com>. And (for the electronically enabled), the collection web-site is at <www.mtrl.toronto.on.ca/centres/spcoll/acd/home.htm>.
8110. The second issue of Cliff Notes (published by Mrs. Hudson's Cliffdwellers) offers 25 pp. of (viniferous, philatelic, and other) contributions from its members, and it costs \$3.00 postpaid (or \$5.00 a year for two issues) from Henry Boote, 184 Central Avenue, Old Tappan, NJ 07675.

February 2000 #4

8111. Don Hobbs has compiled a list of sources for translations of the Sherlock Holmes stories into Arabic (Almaktabah, P.O. Box 1998, Beirut 11, Lebanon) <www.almaktabah.com>; Croatian (Unival Company) <mmartic@unival.hr> <www.unival.hr>; Marathi (Rasik) <www.rasik.com/marathi/ph2marathi_static.html>; Farsi (Ferdosi, Box 45095, S-104 30 Stockholm, Sweden) <www.ferdosi.se>; Braille (I Can See Books) <www.island.net/~dfaris/i/>; Urdu (Sang-E-Meel Publications (25 Shahrah-E-Pakistan Lower Mall, Lahore 54000, Pakistan <sm@sang-e-meel.com>; and Tamil (Don Hobbs, 2100 Elm Creek Lane, Flower Mound, TX 75028 <djhobbs@airmail.net>.
8112. Januarye L. Jenkins died on Feb. 3. She was a delightful lady, and the widow of William D. Jenkins, and honored by The Baker Street Irregulars as *the* women in 1985.
8113. Reported: THE LOST ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Paxton Franklin Watson (Chillicothe: Community Press, 2000; 330 pp., \$25.00); pastiches. \$30.00 postpaid from William C. Paxton (12907 East 36th Street Terrace, Independence, MO 64055).
8114. The American Firm, a Sherlockian society whose "resident patient" project raises money to buy large-print editions of the Canon for adult homes and nursing homes, offers badges, bookmarks, tea towels, and other Sherlockian merchandise; an illustrated sales-list is available from Edward S. Smith, Jr. (Box 353, Williston Park, NY 11596) <amerfirm@aol.com>.
8115. Nancy Beiman reports that Bert Coules is now at work dramatizing five of the unrecorded cases (starting with "Colonel Warburton's Madness" and "The Disappearance of Mr. James Phillimore") for broadcast by the BBC (and Clive Merrison and Michael Williams have been approached to continue as Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson).
8116. Peter Jeffrey died on Dec. 25. One of the more memorable guest actors on "The Avengers", he also appeared in "Room Without a View", "The Joker", and "House of Cards", he played Mycroft Holmes in the television film "Hands of a Murderer" (1990).
8117. Al Gregory has noted that THE KEY TO THE NAME OF THE ROSE: INCLUDING TRANSLATIONS OF ALL NON-ENGLISH PASSAGES, by Adele J. Haft, Jane G. White, and Robert J. White (first published in 1987), has been published in paperback (Ann Arbor: Univ. of Michigan Press, 1999); 190 pp., \$14.95); fans of William of Baskerville and his assistant Adso will also welcome the glossary of unfamiliar names of people, places, and heresies.
8118. Raymond Murray quotes from the Canon to highlight his article "Devil in the Details: The Science of Forensic Geology" in the February issue of Geotimes (published by the American Geological Institute, 4220 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22302; \$5.00).
8119. Reported: Ron Frantz's FANDOM: CONFIDENTIAL, a 200-page history of two decades of organized fan activity, and comics and nostalgia collecting; there are occasional mentions of Sherlock Holmes, reflected in Pete Morisi's cover portrait of Frantz. \$17.95 postpaid from Midguard Publishing, Box 1711, Mena, AR 71953 <members.aol.com/midguard20/Midguardindex.html>.

February 2000 #5

8120. One does hear of Sherlock everywhere, Scott Monty notes, even on the syndicated radio "Howard Stern Show": on Feb. 10, Howard and his staff were running through true/false trivia questions, and one of them was, "Sherlock Holmes never said, 'Elementary, my dear Watson.'" Both Howard and Robin Quivers quickly said it was a true statement. Robin even went so far as to identify the Rathbone/Bruce films as the source, and Howard said, "Yeah, he said something else, like 'Hey, Watson,' or something."
8121. The Blustering Gales of the South West will hold a conference on "Sherlock Holmes and the Future" on Mar. 25 at the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Clubhouse (11513 Burbank Boulevard, North Hollywood, Calif.); the speakers will include Poul and Karen Anderson and Len and June Moffatt. More information is available from Paula Salo (4421 Pacific Coast Highway #E-112, Torrance, CA 90505) (310-378-7947) and at the society's web-site <home.earthlink.net/~bgsw/next.html>.
8122. Jerry Margolin notes that the third issue of THE GREAT DETECTIVE: SHERLOCK HOLMES (Avalon Communications, \$2.95) is in the comic-book shops, with "The Mystery of The Thames Afire" reprinted from the 1954 comic strip written by Edith Meiser and drawn by Frank Giacoia; the publisher's address is 2800 Halpern, St-Laurent, QC H4S 1R2, Canada.
8123. Antonio Iriarte reports that a newly-annotated nine-volume Spanish edition of the Canon is in the works; Juan Antonio Molina Foix, a well-known translator who specializes in fantastic literature (most recently a collection of Arthur Machen's short stories) will be the editor, and Editorial Valdemar of Madrid will publish the set.

8124. "The starting point in any attempt to rewrite the history of the Molly Maguires today, is to treat the surviving evidence with the skepticism it deserves," Kevin Kenny suggests, and he does just that in his *MAKING SENSE OF THE MOLLY MAGUIRES* (New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 1998; 336 pp., \$19.95). It's an interesting book, and Kenny has done his best to avoid the biases that have colored previous histories of the Mollies. Arthur Conan Doyle is mentioned only in passing in a book that focuses on the facts of Irish history in the Pennsylvania coal fields.
8125. E. Van Vogt died on Jan. 26. His first science-fiction story was "Black Destroyer" in *Astounding Science Fiction* (July 1939), and it is often cited as the inspiration for the film "Aliens" and its many sequels; he was one of the great science-fiction writers, and a friend of Luther Norris and a member of the Praed Street Irregulars, and van Vogt's articles about Solar Pons were published in *The Pontine Dossier* from 1958 to 1977.
8126. St. Bartholomew's Hospital (the site of the historic first meeting between Holmes and Watson) was reported to have been saved (February 98 #2), but there's still plenty of controversy: according to an article in *The Times* (Feb. 8), at hand from John Baesch, prime minister Tony Blair's decision to turn the hospital into a specialized cancer and heart unit, at a cost now estimated at £150 million, has been criticized in a report by cancer specialists who say that not enough back-up services are available at Barts. Critics also suggest that Blair's election promise to rescue the hospital was made because his children were born there.

February 2000 #6

8127. Many Sherlockians have wondered and speculated about how Sherlock Holmes got to where we find him in the Canon, just as many actors who have played him have felt a need to understand his motivations. *THE CHILDHOOD OF SHERLOCK HOLMES*, by Mona Morstein (Lakeville: Galde Press, 2000; 340 pp., \$24.95), presents an imaginative and well-written history of the Holmes family, both parents and children, told by the butler who served them. Available for \$28.95 postpaid (shipping costs higher to Canada and overseas) from the publisher, Box 460, Lakesville, MN 55044 (800-777-3454) <www.galdepress.com>; credit-card orders welcome.
8128. A colorful brochure for The Sherlock Holmes Society of London's Golden Jubilee Cruise, scheduled to the Baltic from Aug. 25 to Sept. 7, 2001 (departing from Harwich and with stops at Oslo, Copenhagen, Stockholm, Tallin, St. Petersburg, Kaliningrad, and Kiel) is offered by from Arena Travel Cruises (Hamilton House, Cambridge Road, Felixstowe, Suffolk, 1P11 7SW, England) <holmes@arenatravel.com> <www.arenatravel.com>.
8129. Bjarne Nielsen's February "Millennial Highlights" catalog from the Sherlock Holmes Museet Antikvariatet has a fine assortment of Sherlockian books and pamphlets, in Danish and in English, and Alex Secher's original artwork for a Danish translation of *THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES* (1976). His address is Algade 3, DK-4500 Nykobing Sjaelland, Denmark, and his material also can be seen on the World Wide Web at <www.sherlockiana.net>.
8130. Hammer Films, like its long-running hero Dracula, has been revived, according a story in the *Hollywood Reporter* (Feb. 8), at hand from Nancy Beiman. The company that produced Peter Cushing's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1959) has been purchased by a private investment consortium (for a little more than £1 million, according to industry sources); the new owners plan to take advantage of Hammer's library of more than 250 film and TV titles by relicensing remake rights, and will expand the Hammer brand into computer games, merchandising, animation, and the Internet.
8131. Marina Stajic notes that you can see Sherlock Holmes and Hercule Poirot in the same play on Broadway, at the Music Box Theatre at 239 West 45th Street (212-239-6200). The play is Peter Shaffer's "Amadeus", with David Suchet as Salieri and J. P. Linton as Count Von Strack (Linton played Holmes in Tom McClary's "Flights of Devils" on Long Island in 1987).
8132. Charles Schulz died on Feb. 12, the day before his last original "Peanuts" comic strip ran in papers around the world. He became a Sherlock Holmes fan in high school, he wrote in 1975, and it was in 1962 that readers saw Snoopy's first known Sherlockian appearance (December 99 #5). That was only the first of the strip's Canonical allusions; this one ran on Aug. 28, 1964:

February 2000 #7

8133. Amanda Foreman's *GEORGIANA, DUCHESS OF DEVONSHIRE* was published in 1998 in Britain to great acclaim, and there's now an American edition (New York: Random House, 2000; 454 pp., \$29.95) that is getting excellent reviews here. It was Gainsborough's portrait of Georgiana that was stolen by Adam Worth, and she's the duchess mentioned in the Canon (in "A Case of Identity"), where Miss Mary Sutherland's broad-brimmed hat was "tilted in a coquettish Duchess of Devonshire fashion over her ear."
8134. "Murder Rooms: The Dark Beginnings of Sherlock Holmes" (the BBC-2 two-part mini-series starring Robin Laing as Arthur Conan Doyle and Ian Richardson as Joseph Bell) will air on BBC America cable on Mar. 5 and 12, according to *Anglofile*, and then on "Mystery!" on PBS-TV on May 18 and 25. *Anglofile* is a monthly newsletter that offers detailed coverage of British entertainment; Box 33515, Decatur, GA 30033 (\$15.00 a year).
8135. The latest issue of *Scarlet Street* (#36) has David Stuart Davies' interesting article on how he wrote his play "Sherlock Holmes - The Last Act!", and a review of the new laserdisc (from Image Entertainment, \$29.98) of "Photographing Fairies" (1997, with Edward Hardwick as Conan Doyle), and the usual coverage of the mystery-and-horror genre. The magazine costs \$35.00 a year (six issues); Box 604, Glen Rock, NJ 07452. And there's a web-site at <www.scarletstreet.com>.
8136. "Sherlock Holmes & the Royal Regatta" is the mystery that Holmes and Watson and participants in the next "Victorian Holmes Weekend" will try to solve on Mar. 10-12 in Cape May. The weekend includes a tour of the town's Victorian homes, and additional information is available from the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts, Box 340, Cape May, NJ 08204 (609-884-5404) (800-275-4278) <www.capemaymac.org>.
8137. George C. Scott's "They Might Be Giants" (1971) has been released on DVD by Anchor Bay Entertainment (\$24.98); Jennie Paton reports that it's the longer television version with the supermarket food-fight, and additional material that includes commentary by director Anthony Harvey and film archivist Robert A. Harris, theatrical trailers, and a featurette.
8138. The late John Ford is said to have had *THE WHITE COMPANY* in his sights at the end of his career, with John Wayne and Alec Guinness in mind, George MacDonald Fraser notes in his perceptive and interesting introduction to a new edition of Arthur Conan Doyle's two great historical novels: *THE WHITE COMPANY/SIR NIGEL* (Pleasantville: Akadine Press, 1999; 618 pp., \$24.95). Akadine also has published a new edition of Conan Doyle's *THROUGH THE MAGIC DOOR* (276 pp., \$16.95), in which he offers a delightful tour of the books in his own library, and the authors he admired. And you get a discount to \$37.70 if you order both books. Akadine Press editions are not available in bookstores, but rather from A Common Reader (141 Tompkins Avenue, Pleasantville, NY 10570) (800-832-7323) <www.commonreader.com>; I've recommended A Common Reader's catalogs in the past, and am glad to do so again: there's a wide variety of interesting reading, including Christopher Morley's *THE HAUNTED BOOKSHOP* and *PARNASSUS ON WHEELS* (\$15.95 each, or \$26.90 the pair).

March 2000 #1

8139. The musical "Cats" (based on poems in T. S. Eliot's "Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats") is the longest-running show in Broadway history, and was honored by the U.S. Postal Service in January (January 00 #5), but weekly receipts are dwindling, and Andrew Lloyd Webber announced on Feb. 19 that the show will close on June 25. Fans of "Macavity: The Mystery Cat" will still be able to see him, however: the London production, which opened on May 11, 1981 is still running.

8140. More translations available: Atanas Topalov offers Bulgarian translations of the Canon (ABLEN, 2 Elena Snejina Street, Dragalevtsi, Sofia 1415, Bulgaria) <www.ablen.com/bookstore/authors>.
8141. "Beautiful? It's elementary, my dear Watson" is the headline on Lee Karen Stow's two-page discussion of the southwest of England in a "Britain: Time to Travel" booklet published by the British Tourist Authority and spotted by Laura Kuhn. The BTA's address is 551 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10176 (888-364-6101).
8142. Daniel Stashower's TELLER OF TALES: THE LIFE OF ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE (April 99 #5) has a British edition (London: Allen Lane, 2000; 472 pp., £18.99), and good reviews in The Sunday Times, The Times, and the Daily Telegraph.
8143. The eighth annual Mid-Atlantic Mystery Book Fair & Convention will be held on Oct. 13-15 at the Wyndham Franklin Plaza in Philadelphia, with more than 500 people expected to attend; additional information is available from the Society Hill Playhouse (507 South 8th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147) <www.erols.com/shp>.
8144. Sean Connery, recipient of a Kennedy Center Honor in December (October 99 #1), was knighted by the Queen in her New Year's Honours List; he played Jack Kehoe in "The Molly Maguires" (1970), and William of Baskerville in "The Name of the Rose" (1986).
8145. Sherlock Holmes (impersonated by John Sherwood) will return to Union City, Mich., on July 8 for an English-style banquet and conversation with guests at the Victorian Villa Inn. Additional details are available from the inn (601 North Broadway, Union City, MI 49094) (800-348-4552) <members.kennet.net/brownswood/bakerstreet25.htm>.
8146. Ian Richardson's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1983), released on digital video disk (DVD) by Image Entertainment last year (August 99 #6), will be joined by Richardson's "The Sign of Four" (1983) this year, according to Richard Valley.
8147. Albert Whitlock died on Oct. 26, 1999. He was an expert visual-effects artist who began his film career in London as a teenager and came to the U.S. in the 1950s to work for Walt Disney. He moved to Universal Studios in the 1960s, and was described by Alfred Hitchcock as the finest artist working in films. Whitlock won back-to-back Oscars (for "Earthquake" and "The Hindenburg"), and his credits include the special photographic effects for the Stewart Granger television film "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1972).

March 2000 #2

8148. LANGUAGE OF THE LAND: THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS BOOK OF LITERARY MAPS, by Martha Hopkins and Michael Buscher (Washington: Library of Congress, 1999; 287 pp., \$50.00), does not neglect Sherlock Holmes: the book includes six of Julian Wolff's Sherlockian maps, and "The Sherlock Holmes Mystery Map" published by Aaron Blake in 1987.
8149. Robert McG. Thomas died on Jan. 6. He was a splendid journalist: a police reporter, a rewrite man, a society news reporter, and a sports reporter at the N.Y. Times until he began writing obituaries full-time in 1995, "shaking the dust from one of the most neglected areas of daily journalism" (as Michael T. Kaufman noted in his tribute to Thomas). He was at his best in writing about people who were out of the ordinary, including Samuel Rosenberg (Jan. 12, 1996), and Herman Herst (Feb. 7, 1999).
8150. The 1999 issue of Beeman's Christmas Annual, published by The Occupants of the Empty House and edited by Janet Bensley and Jack Crelling, is devoted to "Geology in the Canon", with an article by Raymond C. Murray on forensic geology and contributions from society members on other geological aspects of the stories. The 32-page booklet costs \$10.00 postpaid; checks (payable able to O.E.H.) can be sent to Stan Tinsley, 105 Wilcox Street, Ziegler, IL 62999.
8151. Forecast: THE HAUNTING OF TORRE ABBEY, by Carole Bugge (New York: St. Martin's Press, 2000; 272 pp. \$22.95); a new pastiche from the author of THE STAR OF INDIA (January 98 #7).
8152. THE CASE OF THE SCARLET WOMAN, by Watkin Jones (London: Greenwich Exchange, 1999; 124 pp.), involves Holmes and Watson with members of Aleister Crowley's Order of the Golden Dawn, and in an investigation of the occult and of a murder mystery; the cost is £9.95 postpaid (sterling or dollar checks, please) from the Greenwich Exchange (50 Langton Way, Blackheath, London SE3 7TJ, England) or \$17.35 postpaid (credit-card orders welcome) from A+ Educational Resource (Box 23781, Phoenix, AZ 85063) (toll-free 877-845-6472) <katbeth@prodigy.net>.
8153. Joe Coppola reports a Carol Ann Miniatures "Sherlock Holmes with his Magnifying Glass" flip-top hand-painted pewter thimble (item 4137; \$19.95) in a mail-order catalog from Gimbel & Sons Country Store (Box 57, Boothbay Harbor, ME 04538) (888-633-1463) <www.gimbelsdepartmentstore.com>.
8154. John Colicos died on Mar. 6. Best known as the villainous Count Baltar in the television series "Battlestar Galactica", he was the youngest actor, at the age of 22, to play King Lear at the Old Vic in London, and went on to a long acting career that included appearances as Sherlock Holmes in William Gillette's play in Florida in 1975, and as Inspector Lestrade on television in "Alfred Hitchcock Presents: My Dear Watson" in 1989.
8155. The caricature of William Gillette as Sherlock Holmes drawn by Leslie Ward ("Spy") for Vanity Fair in 1907 has been reprinted as the four of diamonds in one of a double deck of Vanity Fair playing cards available from Wilfrid M. de Freitas (Box 883, Stock Exchange Tower, Montreal, QC H4Z 1K2, Canada) <wilfrid@defreitasbooks.com>; US\$26.00 postpaid for both decks, or US\$13.50 postpaid for the deck with the Gillette caricature.

March 2000 #3

8156. Mary Bodne died on Feb. 28. She and her husband Ben discovered the Algonquin Hotel on their honeymoon, purchased it from Frank Case in 1946, and lived there for 41 years, happily maintaining its literary and theatrical connections. They sold the Algonquin, still the informal headquarters for the January birthday weekend in 1987, and the current owners, the Camberley Hotel Co., continue many of the decades-old traditions, including the lobby cat.
8157. Laurie R. King's O JERUSALEM (her fifth novel about Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes) is available from Recorded Books, read unabridged by Jenny Sterlin and with a 56-minute interview with Laurie, on ten audiocassettes; it's an excellent reading, and an interesting interview that includes discussion of Russell and Laurie's other protagonists, and of how she writes and why. \$80.00 (purchase) or \$17.50 (rental); Recorded Books, 270 Skipjack Road, Prince Frederick, MD 20678 (800-638-1304) <www.recordedbooks.com>; credit-card orders welcome.
8158. If one believes the pundits, the primary campaigns are pretty much wrapped up, which means it's time to focus on the political aspects of the Canon, where one finds a forecast of what will happen when Al Gore faces a family of Republicans: George W. supported by his father and his brother.
8159. The ninth annual Watsonian Weekend on July 21-23 will feature Daniel Stashower as guest speaker at the Regimental Dinner in Schiller Park, the 41st annual running of The Silver Blaze at Arlington Race Track, and the Fortescue Honours Brunch in Des Plaines; more information is available from Susan Z. Diamond (16W603 3rd Avenue, Bensenville, IL 60106) <szd@mediaone.net>.
8160. Britain has opened its first diplomatic mission in Mecca, according to a report in The Times (Feb. 23), at hand from John Baesch. The mission will be led by Labour peer Lord Ahmed and will consist of Muslim diplomats from the foreign Office and Muslim volunteer staff, and will provide assistance to British pilgrims. The article notes that Sir Richard Burton, who visited Mecca in 1883 after staining his skin with walnut juice and undergoing a circumcision, is the only British Christian known to have visited Mecca. Sherlockians, of course, know that Holmes looked in at Mecca.

8161. John also has forwarded a story from The Independent on Sunday (Mar. 5) an exhibition "Chapter & Verse: 1,000 Years of English Literature" on display at the British Library through Oct. 15; one of the items is the manuscript of "The Missing Three-Quarter" (the first page in shown in the article).
8162. Issue #35 of Sherlock Holmes: The Detective Magazine offers discussion of the television mini-series "Murder Rooms: The Dark Beginnings of Sherlock Holmes", Bert Coules' interview with Michael Valle (scriptwriter for the new film "Sherlock Holmes and the Vengeance of Dracula"), the first part of David Stuart Davies' report on Granada's "The Last Vampyre", and much more (S'ian and otherwise). Annual subscriptions (six issues) are £18.00 (U.K.)/£20.00 (continent)/\$40.00 (U.S.); the address is Box 100, Chichester, West Sussex PO18 8HD, England <pmh.uk.com/sherlock/sherlock.htm>, and their U.S. agent is Classic Specialties (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219) (toll-free 877-233-3823) <sherlock@sherlock-holmes.com>. Back issues are available; credit-card orders are welcome at both addresses.
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March 2000 #4

8163. Diane Nolan writes that she is offering some of the Sherlockian ephemera from Norm's collection in auctions on eBay <www.ebay.com>; "nothing rare or scarce," she notes, "but mainly the toys, T-shirts, games, etc." (search at eBay for items offered by seller <n2913@aol.com>. Diane expects to sell the books eventually, but as a collection.
8164. Robert E. Brolli died on Jan. 31. He was an actor and director in local and regional theater in western New England, and appeared on Broadway with Mary Martin in "Skin of Our Teeth". In 1977 he played John Forman in William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" at the Williamstown Theatre Festival (with Frank Langella in the title role), and again in the 1981 broadcast of the play on HBO cable.
8165. What will happen when Al Gore faces George W. supported by his father and his brother? The quote's in "Black Peter": Al Gore will be "surrounded on three sides by Bushes."
8166. For completists: Andy Peck reports that the Mystery Guild its own edition of the 1999 revised and expanded edition of THE NEW ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (item #051359, \$11.98); their address is Box 6325, Indianapolis, IN 46206 <www.mysteryguild.com>. MORE HOLMES FOR THE HOLIDAYS also is available in a Mystery Guild edition (item #054775, \$10.98).
8167. The February issue of Baker Street West 1 has 52 pages of Sherlockiana from the western states, including Chuck Kovacic's article on dark lanterns and Stu Shiffman's report on Sherlockian toys and dolls; \$6.00 (or \$11.00 for a one-year two-issue subscription) (checks made payable to the magazine) from Jerry Kegley, 110 South El Nido Avenue, #41, Pasadena, CA 91107.
8168. GOOSE'S CHOICE is described by its editors (John Farrell and John P. Sohl) as a collection of Sherlock Holmes stories chosen by The Goose Club of the Alpha Inn, and original research papers and a Cockroach Bones pastiche; the 88-page book has been published on (and only on) the Internet, as with the latest best-seller by Stephen King, at it costs \$6.00 to download the book at <www.mightywords.com>.
8169. Frank Pape died on Mar. 5. He was regarded as Chicago's toughest cop, and his character and cases were used as a basis for the "M Squad" television series; he joined the force in 1933 and by the time he retired in 1972 he was credited with sending 300 men to prison, including five to the electric chair, and in 16 gun battles he shot and killed nine suspects. He took a leave of absence from 1961 to 1965 to head the security detail at Chicago's racetracks, where owners were concerned about syndicate bookmakers, many of whom Pape and his men knew by sight. He also was a good friend of Chicago Sherlockian Eugene Carey, Bob Mangler reports, and made sure the locals who attended runnings of the Silver Blaze in Chicago "got the royal treatment."
8170. Jon Lellenberg notes that the authors at a "N.Y. Times Literary Lunch" at the Fairmont Copley Plaza in Boston on Apr. 9 will include Karl E. Meyer and Shareen Blair Brysac, authors of TOURNAMENT OF SHADOWS: THE GREAT GAME AND THE RACE FOR EMPIRE IN CENTRAL ASIA (January 00 #4); Meyer is a member of the Baker Street Irregulars, and the book has many allusions to the Canon. The cost of the lunch is \$65.00 (212-556-1905).
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March 2000 #5

8171. Dayna McCausland, as this year's "Meyers" of The Bootmakers of Toronto, has decided to set the Sherlockian apocrypha for discussion by the society, and George Vanderburgh has published a helpful 66-page pamphlet: BEYOND THE CANON contains "The Field Bazaar", "How Watson Learned the Trick", "The Story of the Man with the Watches", and "The Story of the Lost Special", with an introduction and notes by Cameron Hollyer and an afterword and illustrations by Dayna. It's available for US \$7.00 postpaid from Dayna McCausland (Box 321, Erin, ON N0B 1T0, Canada).
8172. Charles Gray died on Mar. 7. His wide-ranging career as a character actor included stage, screen, and television, and his best-known roles were Ernst Blofeld in the James Bond film "Diamonds Are Forever" (1971) and the narrator in "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" (1975). He also played a splendid Mycroft in "The Seven-Per-Cent Solution" (1976) and in Granada's "The Greek Interpreter" (1985), "The Bruce-Partington Plans" (1988), and "The Creeping Man" (1991).
8173. "Sherlock Holmes for President" proclaims the cover of the March issue of The Holmes & Watson report, and the contents offer a look at the possibilities, plus a new Sherlockian word-puzzle from Dana Richards, and much more. \$16.00 a year for six issues (\$22.00 outside North America), from Brad Keefauver, 4009 North Chelsea Place, Peoria, IL 61614.
8174. Spotted recently on a bargain table: THE CRIME AND MYSTERY BOOK: A READER'S COMPANION, by Ian Ousby (London: Thames & Hudson, 1997; 224 pp., £12.95 but discounted to \$7.00); it's an interesting and nicely-illustrated review of the genre, with due attention to Sherlock Holmes and Arthur Conan Doyle.
8175. Januarius Books has an excellent new Sherlockian catalog available at its website: go to <janusbooks.com> and click on "Sherlockiana" and you can view or download the catalog. And if you're not electronically-enabled, Mike Greenbaum will be glad to mail the catalog to you (Janus Books, Box 40787, Tucson, AZ 85717 (800-986-1165).
8176. Michael Lawrence is selling full-size reproductions of 20th-century London street signs, and is happy to include one for Baker Street N.W.1 (\$185.00 postpaid). His company is Signpost International (19 Bramall Court, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire PE3 9RD, England) <www.signpost-international.com>; details available on request.
8177. Hayward Cirker died on Mar. 8. He founded Dover Books in 1941 and specialized in publishing inexpensive paperback reprints of interesting books that brought good literature to millions of readers; the current series of Dover Thrift Editions (\$1.00 to \$2.00 each) offers THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES and SIX GREAT SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES, as well as Douglas G. Greene's 1998 anthology DETECTION BY GASLIGHT: 14 VICTORIAN DETECTIVE STORIES.
8178. David Morrill reports news from Hollywood: Don Knotts, five-time Emmy winner for his portrayal of bumbling Deputy Barney Fife on "The Andy Griffith Show", was honored Jan. 19 with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. "I can't believe I have my own star," Knotts said. "I'm gonna come down here every morning and shine that sucker up." Knotts wore Sherlockian costume as Inspector Winship in the film "The Private Eyes" (1980).
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March 2000 #6

8179. Alexander Orlov reports a review in *The Economist* (Mar. 18) of Jonathan Schneer's *LONDON 1900: THE IMPERIAL METROPOLIS* (Yale University Press, 1999; 416 pp., \$29.95); according to the review, "in half a dozen entertaining pages, Mr. Schneer combs the Sherlock Holmes stories of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle for a rich store of imperial themes." The same issue has a review of *WAINEWRIGHT THE POISONER*, by Andrew Motion (New York: Knopf, 2000; 306 pp., \$26.00) (and Faber & Faber £20.00); the biography's subject is Thomas Griffiths Wainewright (1794-1847), who was (according to Sherlock Holmes, in "The Illustrious Client") both a great criminal and no mean artist.
8180. Sergio Martinez's attractive Sherlockian artwork has been published in the Portland House "Illustrated Classics" edition of *THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES* (1988) and the Reader's Digest "World's Best Reading" edition of *THE MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* (1988), and on the boxes for the audiocassettes of the BBC radio broadcasts starring Clive Merrison and Michael Williams (1991-1999); an illustrated brochure for the original artwork for 27 of his illustrations (priced from \$350 to \$2,400) is available from Illustration House (96 Spring Street, New York, NY 10012 <www.illustration-house.com>).
8181. The Bimetallic Question's flier for their Second Bimetallic Colloquium (at McGill University in Montreal on June 2-4) is now available from the society (Box 883, Stock Exchange Tower, Montreal, QC H4Z 1K2, Canada) <wilfrid@defreitasbooks.com>.
8182. Stephen Farrell died on Mar. 6. He was a banker and financial advisor, and an authority on small arms; he joined The Sherlock Holmes Society of London in 1977, served as a Member of Council 1984 to 1987, and contributed often to *The Sherlock Holmes Journal* in the 1980s and 1990s.
8183. The Japan Sherlock Holmes Club has awarded its annual grand prize (for contributions to the Sherlockian world in Japan) to the publisher Hara Shobo, honoring the company for its publication of Japanese translations of *HOLMES FOR THE HOLIDAYS* and *MORE HOLMES FOR THE HOLIDAYS*, the anthologies of new pastiches edited by Martin H. Greenberg, Jon L. Lellenberg, and Carol-Lynn Waugh and first published in English in 1996 and 1999.
8184. Tom Simmons died on Mar. 17. His long career in journalism led to the post of news editor of the *Dallas Morning News*, and he was a long-time member of The Diogenes Club of Dallas. His article on "Dartmoor: Tracking the Baskerville Hound" was published in the *Dallas Morning News* on Mar. 13, 1994.
8185. The new issue of *Scarlet Street* (#37) has the second part of David Stuart Davies' article about his play "Sherlock Holmes - The Last Act!" (with an interesting account of the tribulations encountered in getting it produced and the pleasures encountered when it eventually was), and the usual coverage of the mystery-and-horror genre (including excellent tributes to Thorne Smith's "Topper" books, and the films based on the books. Subscriptions to the magazine cost \$35.00 a year (six issues); Box 604, Glen Rock, NJ 07452. And there's a web-site at <www.scarletstreet.com>.

April 2000 #1

8186. Further to the item (August 98 #2) about a *Daily Telegraph* report that Brian Blessed was in Venezuela, filming "The Lost World" for BBC television, it would appear that he was exploring rather than acting. Blessed has written a fine account of his expedition in *QUEST FOR THE LOST WORLD* (London: Boxtree, 1999; 164 pp., £16.99), and notes that he first fell in love with the romance of the *Lost World* as a schoolboy, when he had a chance to listen to the BBC radio dramatization of the book.
8187. John Baesch has forwarded a story from the *Evening Standard* (Mar. 20) about plans to sell a Stradivarius at Christie's in New York on May 5. It's the Taft Stradivarius, described as the most desirable Strad at auction since the Kreutzer Strad sold for \$1.58 million in 1998. Sherlock Holmes did get a bargain when he paid 55 shillings for his Strad.
8188. Abbey National is considering selling off and then leasing back its freehold buildings, including the head office at 221B Baker Street, according to a report from Reuters (Apr. 7) at hand from Ray Betzner. Abbey has 800 branches and a total of about three million square feet of office space; the sale and lease-back would free up capital to develop the core banking business (the freehold portfolio could be worth as much as £460 million).
8189. Sorry about that: Charles Gray, who died last month (March 00 #5), played a fine Mycroft in Granada's "The Greek Interpreter" (1985), "The Bruce-Partington Plans" (1988), "The Golden Pince-Nez" (1994), and "The Mazarin Stone" (1994) -- and he didn't appear in their "The Creeping Man" (1991).
8190. The opening of the University of Minnesota's new Elmer L. Andersen Library was celebrated on Apr. 8 with a gala ceremony. There are two caverns in the new underground library, with storage space totaling 2.5 million cubic feet; university librarian Tom Shaughnessy told the *Minneapolis Star-Tribune* that the \$46.5 million library contains some of the most important research materials in the world, including the world's largest collection of Sherlock Holmes books and memorabilia.
8191. Sy Weintraub died on Apr. 4. In 1958, against the advice of his friends, he acquired the rights to "Tarzan" and produced a new series of films that starred Gordon Scott, Jock Mahoney, and Mike Henry as Tarzan and featured supporting actors such as Sean Connery, Anthony Quayle, Helen Hayes, Diana Ross and the Supremes, John Carradine, Peter Cook, and Woody Strode; Weintraub retained the television rights, and went to become a highly successful television producer. Sherlockians are indebted to him for two television films that starred Ian Richardson as Holmes: "The Hound of the Baskervilles" and "The Sign of Four" (broadcast by HBO cable in 1983).
8192. Nancy Beiman has reported a reissue of the recording of the splendid music composed and conducted by Patrick Gowers for the Granada "Sherlock Holmes" television series, originally published by That's Entertainment Records in Britain (December 87 #6) and by Varese Sarabande Records in the United States (February 88 #2). The new CD is "Sherlock Holmes" (with the same 19 tracks and a revised booklet), issued by Jay Records in Britain, and it's available here at \$17.97, discounted to \$13.99 at <www.amazon.com>.

April 2000 #2

8193. The *Strand Magazine* (published from 1891 to 1950) brought Sherlock Holmes (and much more) to a wide readership, and the name of the magazine has been resurrected for a new periodical launched in the fall of 1998 and edited by Andrew F. Gulli. The magazine's focus is on the mystery genre, and it has had fine stories by authors such as Henry Slesar, Michael Gilbert, and H. R. F. Keating; and articles by Matthew Prichard on his grandmother Agatha Christie, and Barbara and Christopher Roden on Conan Doyle and other mystery writers. The fourth issue has just been published, and subscriptions (four issues) cost \$24.95 (U.S. and Canada) or \$29.95 (to other countries); Box 1418, Birmingham, MI 48012 (800-300-6652) (UK: 800-961-280) <www.magamall.com/magazine/96117/Strand.htm>.
8194. The Speckled Band of Boston are celebrating their 60th anniversary with a poster (\$15.00); also available are their 50th anniversary poster, wristwatches, neckties (four-in-hand and bow), and lapel pins, and you can request their sales-list from Richard Olken, 200 Hyslop Road, Brookline, MA 02445 <rick@bikesbelong.org>.
8195. Spotted by Doug Wrigglesworth: the Apr. issue of *Firsts: The Book Collector's Magazine*, with an article by Gary Lovisi's on "Not Conan Doyle: Sherlock Holmes: The Pastiche" and a checklist with current prices (and there also is an interesting article by William F. Nolan on "Collecting: Raymond Chandler"). \$4.95; 4493 North Camino Gacela, Tucson, AZ 85718.

8196. Noted by Caroline Bryan: Glow Dog (131-A Great Road, Bedford, MA 01730) (888-456-9364) <www.glowdog.com> offers a "Sherlock Bones" plush doll (20" high) for \$350.00 (credit-card orders welcome).
8197. Peter Calamai's career as a journalist was of great help in his research for a discussion of rare Victorian newspaper accounts of Sherlock Holmes at the 25th-anniversary festivities of The Bootmakers of Toronto in 1997, and you can see his discoveries for yourself in the spring 2000 issue of Canadian Holmes. \$20.00 a year (four issues); checks payable to the society can be sent to Derek Thorpe (5 Brownlea Avenue, Toronto, ON M9P 2R5, Canada).
8198. E. W. McDiarmid ("The Bruce-Partington Plans") died on Apr. 27. He served a director of the University of Minnesota library from 1943 to 1952, and then was Dean of the university's College of Liberal Arts. In 1948, Mac was one of the founders of The Norwegian Explorers, and helped the society celebrate its 50th anniversary (there are few Sherlockian societies indeed that have celebrated 50th anniversaries with a founder present). He helped edit two excellent Sherlockian anthologies, and he received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1957, and the BSI's Two-Shilling Award in 1985.
8199. Jerry Margolin notes that the fourth issue of THE GREAT DETECTIVE: SHERLOCK HOLMES (Avalon Communications, \$2.95) is in the comic-book shops, with "The Mystery of Pendennick Castle" (reprinted from the 1954 comic strip written by Edith Meiser and drawn by Frank Giacoia); the magazine's address is 2800 Halpern, St-Laurent, QC H4S 1R2, Canada.
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April 2000 #3

8200. Julie McKuras reports that the Hallmark Collectors Club has announced that one of this year's Hallmark ornaments will be "The Detective" (Snoopy, dressed in standard Sherlockian costume, accompanied by Woodstock in Watsonian costume); the ornament will be in Hallmark stores on July 15, priced at \$9.95.
8201. Another translation noted by Fred Levin: a two-volume Thai translation of THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES; \$9.38 plus shipping (\$18.80 by air or \$9.00 by sea to the U.S., but possibly different to other countries), available from the Chulalongkorn University Book Center, P.O. Box 2011, Chulalongkorn Post Office, Phayathai Road, Bangkok 10330, Thailand <info@cubook.chula.ac.th> <www.cubook.com> (credit-card orders welcome).
8202. John Sladek died on Mar. 10. Best known as a science-fiction author who specialized in satire and parody, he also wrote fine mysteries, including BLACK AURA (1979), in which his detective Thackeray Phin investigates (with due deference to Sherlock Holmes) a spiritualist mystery.
8203. Steve Tolins has served as official quizmaster (described by Joe Fink as a "fearsome inquisitor") for The Three Garridebs for 15 years, and a baker's dozen of his quizzes, together with a fine assortment of his Sherlockian essays, have been collected in SHERLOCKIAN TWADDLE, with illustrations by Paul Churchill. 156 pp., \$25.00 postpaid from George A. Vanderburgh, Box 204, Shelburne, ON L0N 1S0, Canada.
8204. John Sherwood will appear as Sherlock Holmes (discussing one or more unpublished cases involving Freemasons) at the anniversary meeting (and ladies night) of the Patmos Masonic Lodge of Ellicott City at 7:00 pm on May 22nd (at the Candle Light Inn in Catonsville, Md.). The cost of the dinner is \$29.00 (including tax and tip), and additional details are available from S. Brent Morris (7780 Blueberry Hill Lane, Ellicott City, MD 21043) (410-796-7984) <sbrentm@home.com>.
8205. It is interesting to see how the World Wide Web is beginning to have an impact on publishing. At least one Sherlockian book has been published on (and only on) the Internet: GOOSE'S CHOICE, edited by John Farrell and John P. Sohl and available at <www.mightywords.com> [March 00 #4]. And a company called Xlibris has gone a step farther, offering to publish books as trade paperbacks or in electronic form at no cost to the author, distributing via bookselling channels such as Amazon, Borders, and Barnes & Noble, as well as at the company's web-site at <www.xlibris.com>. Xlibris also offers information at a toll-free telephone number (888-795-4274). Machines such as Ingram's Lightning Print and a new on-site press called BookBuilder are examples of the new technology available, and are described in an interesting article by Linton Weeks in the Washington Post (Apr. 24), which can be read on-line at <www.washingtonpost.com>.
8206. The Practical, But Limited Geologists met for dinner at Ralph and Kacoo's in New Orleans on Apr. 19, during the annual meeting of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, to honor the world's first forensic geologist, and we were welcomed to the Big Easy by Robin Leckbee of The Mystik Krewe of Sherlock Holmes. Our next dinners will be in Reno in November, and in Denver in June and in Boston in November 2001.
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April 2000 #4

8207. And here's a reminder that "Murder Rooms: The Dark Beginnings of Sherlock Holmes" (the BBC-2 two-part mini-series starring Robin Laing as Arthur Conan Doyle and Ian Richardson as Joseph Bell) will be broadcast on "Mystery!" on PBS-TV on May 18 and 25. It is interesting to see Richardson, who has played Holmes, portray the man who contributed so much to Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes, and David Pirie's script has some fine twists, turns, and surprises.
8208. About 75 people are expected at the Pleasant Places of Florida's Sunshine State Sherlockian Scion Symposium II at the Dolphin Beach Resort in St. Pete Beach, Fla., on June 9-11, 2000; there's a full agenda scheduled and, additional details are available from Carl Heifetz (3693 Siena Lane, Palm Harbor, FL 34685) <microdoc@gte.net>.
8209. Edward Gorey died on Apr. 15. He was a genius of the macabre as an artist and author, from his first book, THE UNSTRUNG HARP (1953), to his animated artwork for the opening and closing credits for the PBS-TV series "Mystery!". He first drew Holmes and Watson for THE CASE OF THE HEAVY READER: A PASTICHE FOR MADISON AVENUE, a brochure published by Esquire in 1967 to persuade companies to advertise in the magazine. He also provided Canonical artwork for Kingsley Amis' "The Darkwater Hall Mystery" in Playboy (May 1978), D. R. Benson's IRENE, GOOD-NIGHT (1982), and the jacket of the American edition of THE D. CASE: THE TRUTH ABOUT THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD (1992), and a portrait of Macavity: The Mystery Cat for a new edition of T. S. Eliot's OLD POSSUM'S BOOK OF PRACTICAL CATS (1982).
8210. News for members of The Baker Street Irregulars, and ladies who have been honored as The Woman: the BSI's Shameless Commerce Division (aka George McCormack & Wayne and Francine Swift) has received a new shipment of rosettes (\$10.00 postpaid/\$11.00 outside the United States), bow ties, four-in-hand ties, scarves (48 x 6 in.), and cummerbunds (each \$29.95/\$32.95); all in the BSI's official colors (purple, blue, and mouse), and (sorry about that) available only to members of the BSI and (the scarves) to The Women. Your orders can be sent to George J. McCormack (615 Third Street, Brooklyn, NY 11215 (checks payable to George); those wishing to pay in sterling can send checks payable to Francine Swift.
8211. Sorry about that: correcting the report on Britain's first diplomatic mission to Mecca (March 00 #3), Mona Morstein has noted that it was in 1853 (not 1883) that Sir Richard Burton visited Mecca.
8212. "Try one of these cigars" (as Sherlock Holmes proposed, in "The Sign of the Four"), and you may even wish to keep them in your coal-scuttle. Sherlockian cigar-smokers (as well as S'ian collectors who don't smoke cigars) are invited to acquire the new "221b Baker Street Collection" of six cigars (in Churchill, Torpedo, Pyramid, Lonsdale, Corona, and Grand Corona sizes) with Sherlockian labels and in an attractive display case, available for \$30.00 (plus shipping) from GSI (485 South Illinois Route 59, PMB 175, Aurora, IL 60504) (877-430-7476) <www.CUs4Cigars.com>.
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April 2000 #5

8213. Andre Deutsch died on Apr. 11. Born in Hungary, he emigrated to Britain in 1939 and soon became a publisher; his first major success was the British edition of Norman Mailer's *THE NAKED AND THE DEAD* (condemned by *The Sunday Times* in 1949 as something that should not be left around lest women might read it), and his company's Sherlockian titles include Richard Hughes' *FOREIGN DEVIL: THIRTY YEARS OF REPORTING FROM THE FAR EAST* (1972) and Julian Symons' *PORTRAIT OF AN ARTIST: CONAN DOYLE* (1979).
8214. There's more news about this year's running of The Silver Blaze at Saratoga Race Track on Saturday, Aug. 19 (January 00 #5): "Sherlock at Saratoga" will be a weekend event, with lunch "At the Rail" (a lovely tented pavilion offering a buffet and a nice view of the races); post time is 12:30 pm. And on Sunday morning, Aug. 20, there will be a Sherlockian brunch in the elegant Whitney Room of the Saratogan Sheraton, with distinguished speakers and an excellent meal. The cost of the event (admission to the track, lunch, and brunch) is \$95.00, and checks (payable to the Baker Street Irregulars) can be sent to Lou Lewis (11 Raymond Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603).
8215. Participants are invited to make their own hotel reservations, and sooner rather than later, since lots of people go to the races in Saratoga. The Hilton Garden Inn in Saratoga costs \$228.00 a night (and a two-night stay is required); the telephone number for reservations is 800-445-8667 (Wayne Swift notes that AARP members qualify for a \$225.00 rate). And a block of rooms has been reserved at the Holiday Inn in Albany (about a half hour's drive from the track) with a discount rate of \$128.00 a night (reservations for one night only are welcome); the phone number is 800-465-4329.
8216. And there's plenty to do in Saratoga before and after the races and such: antiquing and shopping, the National Museum of Racing, the National Museum of Dance, the Saratoga Spa State Park, the Historical Society of Saratoga Springs, and (for Revolutionary War buffs) the Saratoga National Historical Park. Lou will be happy to answer questions by mail (see above) or e-mail <lewisgreer@aol.com>, and to supply a detailed schedule to those who register for the festivities.
8217. *THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, EPISODE 4*, read by Edward Hardwicke, is the latest audiocassette set available from CSA Telltapes (101 Chamberlayne Road, London NW10 3ND, England) <www.csatelltapes.demon.co.uk>. As always, Hardwicke is an excellent Watson reading three stories (Croo/Gree/Nava) on two cassettes. £8.99 postpaid in Britain; £9.99 elsewhere. Note: earlier available from Tangled Web Audio as *SHERLOCK HOLMES: TALES OF INTRIGUE* (November 95 #2). CSA also has *CLASSIC DETECTIVE STORIES* read by Hardwicke on four cassettes (one of the stories is "The Dying Detective"); the story also was earlier available from Tangled Web (September 93 #3).
8218. Dave Galerstein and Caroline Bryan, hoping to provide a wider audience for some of the better papers delivered at meetings of Sherlockian societies, are planning to edit an anthology, and invite authors or archivists to submit suitable material ("we are interested in quality," Dave notes, "especially Sherlockian humor") (and, Caroline adds, toasts, lyrics, cartoons, and graphics). The new collection will be similar to *A SINGULAR SET OF PEOPLE* (edited by Dave and Marlene Aig in 1990), and Dave's address is: 49 Stonewyck Place, Monroe Township, NJ 08831 <davebsi@erols.com>.
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April 2000 #6

8219. The weekly syndicated radio series "Imagination Theater" continues to broadcast 22-minute Sherlock Holmes programs written by Jim French (April 99 #3). Sixteen Sherlockian shows will have aired by the end of May, and they all are available (along with many other shows) on cassette or CD (\$7.99 each postpaid) from TransMedia, 719 Battery Street, San Francisco, CA 94111 (800-229-7234) <www.transmediasf.com> (credit-card orders welcome).
8220. Hugh Scullion (Cadds Printing, 59 Lancaster Avenue, West Norwood, London SE27 9EL, England) <hometown.aol.com/beetons> offers an illustrated saleslist of Sherlockian books, postcards, posters, calendars, keyfobs, etc.
8221. Bud Livingston's *ANATOMICALLY, MY DEAR WATSON* offers "some trifling monographs on Canonical body parts" (extending to beards and voices, with some intriguing thoughts on why so many people in the Canon have grey eyes); the 58-page pamphlet is available for \$9.95 (plus shipping) from Classic Specialties (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219) <www.sherlock-holmes.com>.
8222. Also available from Classic Specialties is a 56-page pamphlet with 366 *EXCUSES FOR A SHERLOCKIAN PARTY* (or at least a commemoration) in which Joel and Carolyn Senter provide one or more Canonical or Sherlockian events that can be celebrated on each day of the year; \$12.95 (plus shipping).
8223. Alexander H. Cohen died on Apr. 22. He was one of the most flamboyant and successful theatrical producers, beginning his career with "Angel Street" in 1941 (the play starred Vincent Price and was filmed as "Gaslight") to Noel Coward's "Waiting in the Wings" (starring Lauren Bacall and Rosemary Harris and now playing on Broadway). His production of the musical "Baker Street" (with Fritz Weaver, Peter Sallis, Martin Gabel, and Inga Swenson) has 313 performances on Broadway in 1965, undoubtedly thanks to promotion that included a massive marquee display featuring animated figures from the show, young ladies in "Palace Guard" costumes assisting customers standing in line for tickets, and a theater-lobby exhibit of the manuscript of "The Greek Interpreter", bought at auction at Christie's in Dec. 1964 by Lew D. Feldman on behalf of Adrian Conan Doyle for \$12,600 (then the highest price ever paid for a manuscript of any short story by any author, and there was a persistent rumor that Cohen had contributed toward the purchase price as an investment in publicity for the musical).
8224. Jay Hyde notes that the May issue of *Biography* (published by Arts & Entertainment for those who watch the series on A&E cable) has a long article by John Kehoe about "The Case of the Murderous Author: Why Arthur Conan Doyle Tried to Kill Sherlock Holmes" (the magazine may be available at bookshops such as Borders and Barnes & Noble).
8225. The Pequot Press continues to publish its proprietor's poetry and prose, as always nicely hand-set, hand-printed and bound; the latest titles are *MONGOOSE & MENDICANTS* (a collections of verse) and *THE ADVENTURE OF THE BEEPING MAN* (another Turlock Loams tale); each book costs \$40.00 in cloth or \$20.00 in paper, from John Ruyle, 521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707.
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May 2000 #1

8226. The fourth issue of the new *Strand Magazine* has arrived, with editor Andrew Gulli's interesting interviews with Michael Cox (the first producer of the Granada "Sherlock Holmes" series) and David Suchet (who is ready to do more "Poirot" programs), and a review by H. R. F. Keating of the TV mini-series "Murder Rooms: The Dark Beginnings of Sherlock Holmes"; subscriptions (four issues) cost \$24.95 (U.S. and Canada) or \$29.95 (elsewhere), from Box 1418, Birmingham, MI 48012 (800-300-6652) (UK: 800-961-280) <www.magamall.com/magazine/96117/Strand.htm>.
8227. Laura Kuhn reports that Ian Richardson's "The Sign of Four" (1983) will be released on DVD on June 27; \$14.99 plus shipping from <www.cduniverse.com>, and one assumes that's also a discount street price.
8228. The obituary for Sy Weintraub (April 00 #1) listed Peter Cook as one of the many actors who appeared in Weintraub's "Tarzan" films. Dave ("I've seen this one a million times since I was a lad") Morrill reports that the end credits for "Tarzan Goes to India" show a Peter Cooke as the foreman in the building-the-dam sequences, and Peter Cooke certainly isn't Peter Cook.

8229. The March issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota offers tributes to Vincent Starrett, Grant Allen, and Olga Katzin, and reports on the collections and the library. If you'd like to be on their mailing list you should contact Richard J. Sveum (111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <sveum001@maroon.tc.umn.edu>.
8230. Laura Sifurova has reported that the Russian television series (1979-1986) that starred Vasily LivaNovember and Vitaly Solomin has been repackaged with a new framing story that stars Alexei Petrenko (Arthur Conan Doyle), Larisa Udovichenko (his wife), and Sergei Bekhterev (his secretary Alfred Wood) in a thirteen-part mini-series "Vospominaniya o Sherloke Kholmse" that aired on Russian public television (ORT) in April. But only eleven episodes were broadcast, because a private company that claims to own the rights to the original series sued, and an arbitration court ruled that the new series was using too much from the old series, and it may be a long time (if ever) before the final two episodes are seen.
8231. "Nothing stirred over the vast expanse save a pair of ravens, which croaked loudly from a tor behind us," Dr. Watson wrote (in "The Hound of the Baskervilles"). And you can find a pair of ravens in the design of our new sheet of Pacific Coast Rain Forest stamps.
8232. It will be interesting to see just what the impact is on Sherlockian philately (and on philatelic Sherlockians) of the new of P-Stamps (called vanity stamps by some). Personalized stamps were introduced by Australia in 1999: Australia Post printed your own photograph on tabs attached to each stamp in a sheet of Australian stamps. The most recent nations to join the movement are Great Britain and Canada; one assumes that it won't be long before we see P-Stamps that honor Sherlock Holmes and other Canonical characters (Canada Post will charge \$24.95 for a booklet of 25 standard 46c stamps).
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May 2000 #2

8233. Penelope Fitzgerald died on Apr. 28. She was the daughter and niece of great names in the Sherlockian world: her father was E. V. Knox, who used the pen-name "Evoe" when he edited Punch in the years when it published much Sherlockian material, and one of her uncles was Ronald Knox, inventor of the grand game so many Sherlockians play. She wrote a fine biography of THE KNOX BROTHERS in 1977 (her other uncles were Dillwyn, a classical scholar and a noted code-breaker in both World Wars, and Wilfred, an Anglo-Catholic priest and teacher). That was the year she began her literary career, at the age of 60, and she went on to win England's prestigious Booker Prize in 1979 and the U.S. National Book Critics Circle Award in 1998.
8234. Laura Kuhn reports that the latest mail-order catalog from Skeletons in the Closet (1104 North Mission Road, Los Angeles, CA 90033) offers their Sherlockian skeleton mascot on coffee mugs, buttons, mouse pads, baseball caps, T-shirts, pins, etc. Profits help support the Los Angeles County Coroner's Department's Youthful Drunk Driver Visitation Program.
8235. THE OXFORD COMPANION TO CRIME AND MYSTERY WRITING, edited by Rosemary Herbert (London: Oxford University Press, 1999; 608 pp., £30.00/\$50.00), has had excellent reviews, and (of course) does not neglect Sherlock Holmes and Arthur Conan Doyle.
8236. Congratulations to Daniel Stashower, who has won an Edgar from the Mystery Writers of America (for the best critical/biographical work) and an Agatha from Malice Domestic (for the best non-fiction work) for his biography of Arthur Conan Doyle, TELLER OF TALES. The Edgar is a juried award, and the Agatha is awarded by vote of those attending the convention, and it's rare for an author to win both awards the same year.
8237. Malice Domestic XII was great fun, of course, with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle as the ghost of honor. There was a session titled "A Study in Sir Arthur" with panelists Carole Nelson Douglas, Roberta Rogow, Walter Satterthwait, and Daniel Stashower (and Peter Blau as moderator), and Dan Stashower and Verena Rose presided over a Sherlockian "In Jeopardy at Malice" contest, and Douglas G. Greene's convention souvenir from Crippen & Landru was a reprint of Conan Doyle's "The Surgeon of Gaster Fell" (from the original periodical text) with an afterword by Dan Stashower.
8238. Malice Domestic sessions are audiotaped, and you can purchase a copy of "A Study in Sir Arthur" (session 021) from Audio Recording Services (1103 Butterworth Court, Stevensville, MD 21666) <www.ars-service.com>; \$11.00 postpaid. Copies of the reprint of "The Surgeon of Gaster Fell" are offered by Crippen & Landru free to those who buy at least one of their other books.
8239. One such book might be DIAGNOSIS: IMPOSSIBLE, a collection of stories by Ed Hoch about Dr. Sam Hawthorne (March 96 #1); the book has just been reprinted, and one of the stories is "The Problem of the Covered Bridge" (there's an appropriate Sherlockian allusion); \$17.25 postpaid. Or THE VELVET TOUCH, a collection of Ed's stories about Nick Velvet (including "The Theft of the Sherlockian Slipper"), due in late June or early July; \$40.00 cloth/\$16.00 paper. Crippen & Landru's address is Box 9315, Norfolk, VA 23505 (tollfree 877-662-6656) <www.crippenlandru.com>.
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May 2000 #3

8240. Malice Domestic XIII will be held May 4-6, 2001, at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington, Va.; Margaret Maron will be the guest of honor, and Rex Stout the ghost of honor. If you would like to be on the mailing list, you can write to Malice Domestic (Box 31137, Bethesda, MD 20824); there's a web-site at <www.erols.com/malice>. A bit nearer on the calendar is Bouchercon 2000 at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Denver (their motto is "High Crimes") on Sept. 7-10, with Elmore Leonard as the guest of honor; Box 17910, Boulder, CO 80308 <www.bouchercon2000.com>. Bouchercon 2001 ("A Capital Mystery") will be held in Washington, at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City on Nov. 1-4, 2001, with Sue Grafton as American guest of honor and Peter Lovesey as international guest of honor; Box 11700, Washington, DC 20008 <www.bouchercon20001.com>.
8241. Reported by Christopher Roden: a new four-DVD set AN EVENING WITH SHERLOCK HOLMES with four Rathbone/Bruce films ("Sherlock Holmes and the Secret Weapon", "The Woman in Green", "Terror by Night", and Dressed to Kill"); theatrical trailers; film production notes; a photo gallery; and the sound-onfilm interview with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle; plus 15 hours of Rathbone/Bruce "Sherlock Holmes" radio broadcasts. The list price is \$69.96. The films are the four that are in the public domain; Les Klinger notes that the DVD versions are not from high-quality masters, but the quality of the interview and the radio shows is excellent.
8242. The set of four "Great Mouse Detective" mini bean bags (Basil, Dr. Dawson, Olivia, and Ratigan) is back in the Disney catalog, at \$24.00 the set (item 20078-560). The Disney Catalog, Box 29144, Shawnee Mission, KS 66201 (800-237-5751) <www.disneystore.com>.
8243. The Liberton Bank House saga continues: further to the earlier report (February 00 #1) about attempts to save the house where Arthur Conan Doyle lived when he was five to seven years old from being demolished so that McDonald's can build a restaurant on the site, a story in the Edinburgh Evening News (May 4) noted that McDonald's and its partner Pearl Assurance have warned that if their plans are thwarted they will sue for up to £1.7 million -- and if they're given an okay to build the restaurant they may sue for "significant compensation" from the city council for the delay. The story also reports that Pearl bought the property in 1997 for £245,000.
8244. The 500-member Japan Society Scotland joined the campaign to preserve the house, which was owned by the Burton family when the DoYLES lived there. William K. Burton, who was a childhood friend of Conan Doyle, was invited by the Japanese government to teach sanitary engineering at the Imperial University of Tokyo, and married a Japanese woman and settled in Kyoto, which now is Edinburgh's sister city.
8245. And the preservationists have won, no doubt assisted by the fact that Mary Burton, owner of the house in the 1860s, was the first woman governor of what is now Edinburgh's Heriot Watt University, and perhaps in defiant reaction to McDonald's bullying tactics: on May 24, Historic Scotland
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decided to list the house as a building of special interest that cannot be altered or demolished unless special permission is granted. Allen Simpson, a local resident and historian who led the campaign to save the house, said "this almost certainly means plans to demolish it will be turned down."

May 2000 #4

8246. Bill Barnes (19 Malvern Avenue, Manly, NSW 2095, Australia) has published THE HOUNDS' COLLECTION: VOLUME 5; the book contains 76 pages of pastiche, poetry, song, and serious writing by members of The Hounds of the Internet. Most of the material is new, but a few items have appeared elsewhere; the cost is \$9.00/CA\$13.00/\$9.00/£5.00/AU\$9.00 postpaid by air (payment in currency preferred, but checks are acceptable).
8247. David Stuart Davies' play "Sherlock Holmes...The Last Act!" (starring Roger Llewellyn as Holmes) was performed on tour in Britain last year to excellent reviews, and for an enthusiastic Sherlockian audience in New York during the birthday festivities in January, and it will be on tour in eastern Canada in June and July: at the Centaur Theatre (Montreal) on June 4-7; St. Luke's Church Theatre (Ottawa) on June 9-11; The Playhouse (Fredericton) on June 13-14; the Centenary Theatre (Saint John) on June 15-18; the Neptune theatre (Halifax) on June 22-25; the Waterloo Stage Theatre (Waterloo) on June 28-29; the Market Centre (Woodstock) on July 4-5; the Old Factory Theatre (London) on July 6-9; the Von Ayres CC Theatre (Wallaceburg) on July 11-12; Mackenzie Hall (Windsor) on July 14-15, and the Palmerstown Library Theatre (Toronto) on July 19-29. The tour is produced by the Federal Bureau of Entertainment (29205 Greening Boulevard, Farmington Hills, MI 48334) <jsapub@aol.com>; FBE's proprietor, Joseph S. Ajlouny, would be delighted to hear from a booking agent interested in arranging a tour in the U.S.
8248. Further to the report (January 00 #1) that sculptor John Doubleday is working on his third statue of Sherlock Holmes, the statue is to be installed in 2002 outside the village of Meiringen, facing the Reichenbach Falls. And in the meantime, Michael Meer reports, there is a limited edition of small statuettes, in solid bronze, 32 cm high on a wooden base; one of them is for sale now, and you can contact Michael at Morgenstrasse 70/1/1, CH-3018 Bern, Switzerland <sherlock.holmes@gmx.net>.
8249. Jerry Margolin spotted the new comic book STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION -EMBRACE THE WOLF (Wildstorm/DC Comics, \$5.95); 7910 Ivanhoe Avenue #438, La Jolla, CA 92037. The story brings back Redjac, the villain of the episode "Wolf in the Fold" written by Robert Block in 1967; Data once again appears in Sherlockian costume on the holodeck.
8250. In his preface to The Crowborough Edition (1930), Arthur Conan Doyle wrote that "the small book, *The Parasite*, has also a psychic, or at any rate a psychological, interest." The story, first published in 1894, only a year after he joined the Society for Psychical Research, deals with mesmerism and obsession, and there's a new edition with an introduction by Martin Edmonds, who discusses Conan Doyle's interest in spiritualism and the supernatural. The 69-page booklet is available from Rupert Books (58/59 Stonefield, Bar Hill, Cambridge CB3 8TE, England) <rupert_books@compuserve.com>; £13.26 postpaid (to the UK) or \$22.82 (to the US) or £13.83 (elsewhere). Checks payable to R. D. Smith, please; credit-card orders welcome.
8251. Rupert Books also published A STUDY IN CELLULOID: A PRODUCER'S ACCOUNT OF JEREMY BRETT AS SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Michael Cox (the first producer of the Granada series); Dixon Smith describes it as "the most popular, best-selling, award-winning Sherlockian book" of 1999. 235 pp. and 21 photographs; £19.00 plus shipping from Rupert Books (address above).

May 2000 #5

8252. Les Klinger reports a facsimile edition of WHITAKER'S ALMANACK 1900, published by Stationery Office Books in London (928 pp., £25.00); in the section about "Landmarks in the History of Whitaker's Almanack" the entry for 1914 is: "In THE VALLEY OF FEAR, Sherlock Holmes uses the Almanack to decode a message." WHITAKER'S ALMANACK still is published, by the way; the 2000 edition (1,291 pp.) costs £40.00.
8253. David Waxman (Estates of Mind, 217 Shoreward Drive, Great Neck, NY 11021) (516-487-5160) <www.estatesofmind.com> offers a copy of Beeton's Christmas Annual for 1887 (with "A Study in Scarlet"): the text pages only, without wrappers or advertisements, bound together with Bow Bells Annual for 1870 in contemporary cloth. He believes that the book was purchased shortly before or after WWII by an Englishman and has been in the family since, and surfaced last year in England. The asking price is \$20,000.
8254. Bloomsbury Book Auctions (3 & 4 Hardwick Street, London EC1R 4RY, England) <www.bloomsbury-book-auct.com> offers 79 lots (#258-336) of Sherlock Holmes material in an auction on June 15, including first editions, first appearances in periodicals, and other items. The items are described at the website, and the catalog costs £10.00 (UK and Europe) or \$21.00 (US/Canada) or £12.00 (elsewhere).
8255. Peter Calamai reports that the final mailing for the Second Bimetallic Colloquium is available; the convention will be held at McGill University in Montreal on June 2-4, and there's a fine assembly of speakers. Additional information is available from The Bimetallic Colloquium (Box 883, Stock Exchange Tower, Montreal, QC H4Z 1K2, Canada) <wilfrid@defreitasbooks.com>.
8256. The next meeting of The Sub-Librarians Scion will be at 4:30 pm on Sunday, July 9, at the Sheraton Chicago Hotel (Ballroom 9/10) during the annual conference of the American Library Association; the guest speaker will be Philip Jose Farmer, and there's no charge to attend. Additional information is available from Marsha Pollak (1318 Mildred Avenue, San Jose, CA 95125) <dsp66@aol.com>.
8257. The 18th annual "Autumn in Baker Street" will be held at the Tarrytown Hilton in Tarrytown, N.Y., on Oct. 28-29, with an agenda full of Sherlockian doings and undoings. This will be the last event in the series, Bob Thomalen has announced, and more information is available from Paula Perry (one of the stalwart band assisting Bob with his swan song); her address is 346 East 87th Street #4-A, New York, NY 10128 (212-348-8817) <jperry@msn.com>.
8258. The U.S. Navy and the U.S. Postal Service are celebrating the 100th anniversary of the submarine service, and a new sheet of stamps includes one showing the USS Holland, which was accepted for service on Apr. 11, 1900. It was designed by Joseph P. Holland, who may or may not have been aware of the earlier Bruce-Partington plans.
8259. For the electronically-enabled: Stephen Davies has reported to the Gaslight mailing list that mp3lit.com (a web-site with excerpts from talking books) offers a chance to hear Basil Rathbone read from Edgar Allan Poe's "The Pit and the Pendulum". The URL is <www.mp3lit.com/fiction/poe.html>.

May 2000 #6

8260. Richard Lancelyn Green and John Michael Gibson's A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF A. CONAN DOYLE (1983) is an invaluable reference for anyone who collects Arthur Conan Doyle's works; long out-of-print (and seldom seen advertised by used-book dealers, since those who own and use the book tend to keep it). The bibliography is available again in a revised and expanded edition (New York: Hudson House, 2000; 726 pp., \$100.00/£65.00); it's a reprint of the first edition, with 14 pages of addenda and corrigenda, and it is nice indeed to see it back in print. It's available from the Mysterious Bookshop (127 West 56th Street, New York, NY 10019) <www.mysteriousbookshop.com> and from Nigel Williams (22 Cecil Court, Charing Cross, London WC2N 4HE, England) <www.nigelwilliams.com>; shipping is additional, and creditcard orders are welcome.

8261. The May issue of The Holmes & Watson Report offers Brad Keefauver's consideration of the similarities between Sherlockian scholarship and professional wrestling and Dave Morrill's return visit to "BrettBash '95", and other reverent and irreverent approaches to the Canon; \$16.00 a year for six issues (\$22.00 outside North America), from Brad Keefauver, 4009 North Chelsea Place, Peoria, IL 61614.
8262. Reported: Dan Kilcup's CHINESE BOX MYSTERIES: SHERLOCK HOLMES offered three pastiches (July 96 #3), and there are eight new stories in CHINESE BOX MYSTERIES: VOLUME TWO (260 pp.), due this month. \$16.00 postpaid from Allen Wayne Ltd., 14121 Parke Long Court #104, Chantilly, VA 20151 (703-321-7414) (800-695-8880) <www.allenwayne.com>; credit-card orders welcome.
8263. "Footprints of the Hound" (celebrating the centenary of the first publication of "The Hounds of the Baskervilles in The Strand Magazine) has been rescheduled, and will be held in Toronto on Oct. 19-21, 2001 (Doug Wrigglesworth notes that the International Organization of Chiefs of Police has block-booked all of the decent hotel and meeting rooms in Toronto on the weekend the festival was planned to be held). If you'd like to be on their mailing list, the address is HOUND2001, 18 Jackson Avenue, Etobicoke, ON M8X 2J3, Canada <sherlox@attglobal.net>.
8264. "Stop being Sherlock Holmes," Israeli president Ezer Weizman told a reporter last month, according to a Reuters dispatch that ran in the Philadelphia Inquirer on Apr. 10 (at hand from Syd Goldberg). Weizman, his reputation damaged by a secret-gifts scandal, had announced plans to resign some time before his term expires in 2003, but would not give a specific date.
8265. Scott Monty notes news of a modern "Aurora" rather more grandiose, but no less problem-free, than the one in the Canon: "Lauded Luxury Liner Limp Home" was the headline on an Associated Press dispatch from London that reported that a luxury super-liner christened with great fanfare last month had developed a mechanical problem and headed home, just one day into its maiden voyage. An overheated propellor shaft on the \$320 million "Aurora" forced the liner to return to its home port of Southampton, and a two-week Mediterranean cruise for 1,800 passengers was canceled. The ship had been christened by Princess Anne, but the traditional champagne bottle failed to break against the side of the ship, a bad omen to seafarers. The "Aurora" is Britain's largest cruise liner, with five lounges, 12 bars, five restaurants, a theater, a concert hall and cinema, and three swimming pools.

May 2000 #7

8266. Sir John Gielgud died on May 21. He made his professional acting debut as a walk-on herald in "Henry V" at London's Old Vic in 1921 and appeared in a silent-movie melodrama in 1924, and went on to become a consummate actor and director, winning a Tony as the director of "Big Fish, Little Fish" on Broadway in 1961, and an Oscar as the austere butler Hobson in "Arthur" (1982). He played Sherlock Holmes (with Ralph Richardson as Dr. Watson) in 16 delightful 30-minute radio broadcasts produced by the BBC in 1954, and Lord Salisbury in Christopher Plummer's film "Murder by Decree" (1979).
8267. My long-weekend first-time-ever visit to Disney World in Florida was quite enjoyable, with splendid weather, helpful staff, uncrowded theme parks, and lots of interesting things to see, even though a long weekend offered time to visit only two of the parks (Epcot and Disney-MGM Studios). There's not much Sherlockian at Disney World, except for occasional glimpses of Basil and Dr. Dawson in some of the animation shows (Disney Store merchandise is an entirely different set-up, and the mini bean bags aren't sold at Disney World), and the movie memorabilia available at Sid Cahuenga's One of a Kind shop, which offers lobby cards and posters from "The Great Mouse Detective" and (no longer available) a "certificate of alien claiming residence in the United States" signed and dated by Basil Rathbone in 1965.
8268. Sid Cahuenga's shop has some serious memorabilia, including movie props and clothes, and books from Marilyn Monroe's library, and prices are serious as well, but other material is quite reasonable. Actually, there is something else Sherlockian at Disney World: "Sherlock Goofy" T-shirts and pins that were given to cast members (employees) who participated in a treasure hunt a while back and now available in a special store that's open only to cast members. And no, you can't sign up as a very-short-term employee.
8269. There also was time to visit the Grosvenor Resort, and inspect Moriarty's Pub, and Baskervilles Restaurant, and the recreation of the sitting room at 221b Baker Street furnished by the Werbys (the west-coast version still is in storage and available for rental); if you know of a restaurant or hotel that might want to display it, you should contact Willy Werby at 2700 19th Street, San Francisco, CA 94110 <mycroft813@aol.com>.
8270. A spoiler alert: those who have not yet seen the mini-series "Murder Rooms" should skip the rest of this paragraph and go directly to the next page of the newsletter. Still here? Okay: American television viewers did not see exactly the same version of "Murder Rooms" that British viewers saw. For one thing, the mini-series was titled "Murder Rooms: The Dark Beginnings of Sherlock Holmes" in Britain, and "Murder Rooms: The Dark Origins of Sherlock Holmes" in the United States. But that was only a minor difference; more interesting were the closing credits for the second episode, which in Britain offered viewers more information about the villainous Neill: "Dr. Thomas Neill Cream did attend medical school alongside Arthur Conan Doyle. Finally convicted as a serial killer, Neill was hanged at Newgate Prison in 1892. To this day he remains a prime suspect in the case of Jack the Ripper." In the United States the closing credits did not mention Cream. It is likely that after the program aired in Britain someone pointed out that Cream studied at the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons in Edinburgh, not with Conan Doyle at Edinburgh University.

May 2000 #8

8271. David Spencer Smith's article on "The Dog and the Afghanistan Campaign Medal" in the May issue of the NI Bulletin (at hand from Bob Fritsch) discusses the penny-size medallion available at the Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire, and Wiltshire Regimental Museum in Salisbury, honoring the battle of Maiwand with portraits of Queen Victoria and the rough-haired terrier Bobbie; a display at the museum notes the similarity between the severe injury sustained by Dr. Watson at Maiwand with the injury suffered by Surgeon-Major A. F. Preston, as recorded in the official 66th (Berkshire) Regimental History. The magazine is published by Numismatics International (Box 670013, Dallas, TX 75367); \$2.00.
8272. "BBC seeks ratings triumph with Conan Doyle epic combining technology and costume drama," according to The Guardian (May 23), which reported that the BBC aims to repeat the ratings bonanza won by its acclaimed "Walking with Dinosaurs" (which aired on the Discovery channel here). "The Lost World" will be a £5 million project, with filming on location in Australia or New Zealand from January to March, and some scenes shot in London. The adaptation will be largely faithful to the book, according to co-producer Jane Tranter (head of drama serials), but a new female character has been introduced to spice up the plot. "A load of sweaty men would be a bit dull," she said, adding that the character will be a "plucky lass," and that "love does eventually blossom." The other co-producer, Tim Haines (who was responsible for "Walking with Dinosaurs") said that Conan Doyle's novel, while not a classic, was a "rollicking good story." The BBC's plans call for the program to air as a mini-series with two 75-minute episodes at Christmas in 2001.
8273. The next grand gourmet Sherlock Holmes dinner at the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, N.Y., will be held on May 12, 2001, and Al and Julie Rosenblatt and Fritz Sonnenschmidt are again hard at work on plans for the event. The dinner is a year away, and no price has been set, and reservations are not being accepted; if you would like to be on the mailing list for more information (when it's ready), send a self-addressed stamped envelope to the Rosenblatts (300 Freedom Road, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569), and they will send a mailing to you some months from now. There may

still be rooms available at the historic Beekman Arms in Rhinebeck (800-361-6517); information on other hotels in the vicinity of the CIA will also be available anon.

8274. Fritz is the culinary dean at the CIA, and he is featured in the February issue of *Chef Educator Today*, at hand from Joe Coppola. "When he's not directing the futures of chef-hopefuls, Fritz Sonnenschmidt lives a life of crime," the sub-head to the article notes, and there's a photograph of him with his deerstalker and calabash.
8275. If you'd like to see how much fun a past CIA dinner was, copies of Al and Julie's 20-page souvenir menu for "An Evening in Scarlet" on May 16, 1987, handsomely devised, designed, and produced, with many illustrations, annotations, and explanations, are still available; \$20.00 postpaid (checks to and payable to Peter E. Blau, please).

June 2000 #1

8276. Katherine McMahon ("Lucy Ferrier") died on Dec. 26, 1999. She was the last survivor of the elite band who earned membership in The Baker Street Irregulars by submitting correct solutions to the Sherlock Holmes Crossword that was devised by Frank V. Morley and published by Christopher Morley in the *Saturday Review of Literature* on May 19, 1934. Katherine received a Queen Victoria Medal from the BSI in 1990, but it was not until 1991 that she received her Investiture and Irregular Shilling from John Bennett Shaw at a small gathering in his library in Santa Fe, while the BSI's cocktail party was underway in New York. There's much more about this interesting lady in Caroline Bryan and Morrow Hall's excellent article "The Haunted Bookplate" in the Sept. 1994 issue of *The Baker Street Journal*.
8277. "Sherlock at Saratoga" is this year's renewal of the original Silver Blaze, on Aug. 19 at the Saratoga Race Track ("At the Rail," with a buffet and a nice view of the races), and on Aug. 20 at the Saratoga Sheraton (with a brunch and speakers); more information is available from Lou Lewis, 11 Raymond Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603.
8278. Issue #36 of *Sherlock Holmes: The Detective Magazine* has David Stuart Davies' report on the recent discovery of a videocassette with a conversation between Holmes and Watson about the Abbey National Building Society (apparently made in the spring of 1988 with Jeremy Brett and Edward Hardwicke), Nick Connell's report on the Sherlock Holmes correspondence in the Scotland Yard Files at the Public Records Office, an interview with Roy Ward Baker (who directed some of the programs in the 1979 "Sherlock Holmes" television series and the 1984 television film "The Masks of Death"), a note on a new Sherlock's Bistro at the Victoria Hotel in Cottingley; and much more (both S'ian and otherwise). Annual subscriptions (six issues) are £18.00 (U.K.)/£20.00 (continent)/\$40.00 (U.S.); the address is Box 100, Chichester, West Sussex PO18 8HD, England <pmh.uk.com/sherlock/sherlock.htm>, and their U.S. agent is Classic Specialties (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219) (toll-free 877-233-3823) <sherlock@sherlock-holmes.com>. Back issues are available; credit-card orders are welcome at both addresses.
8279. The television series "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's The Lost World" (starring Peter McCauley as Challenger) was launched with a two-hour pilot in 1999, followed by 22 one-hour episodes (including a two-part repeat of the pilot) that runs on DirecTV (a direct broadcast service) and in syndication on local stations. It's reported to be the #2 rated new syndicated action series in the United States, and the #1 new adventure series in Germany, and it has been renewed for 22 more one-hour episodes, according to a press release spotted by Dave Morrill. There's a web-site with lots of graphics at <www.thelostworldtv.com>.
8280. "Sherlock Holmes to Succeed Mrs. Hudson as British Spy Chief" isn't how the headline read, but it could have. Dave Morrill has kindly forwarded a Reuters dispatch citing a report in *The Mirror* (May 18) that Edward Woodward will play "M" in the next James Bond film; Woodward was Holmes in the television film "Hands of a Murderer" (1990); Judi Dench, who played "M" in the first three films starring Pierce Brosnan as Bond, was Mrs. Hudson in the BBC Radio broadcast of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1998).

June 2000 #2

8281. "Welcome to the land of G-men (and women), foreign operatives, political consultants, secret tapes, shredded papers, special prosecutors, and interns," according to the invitation to Bouchercon 2001; the convention will be held at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City on Nov. 1-4, 2001, and there are some interesting events planned, including a pre-convention Halloween party, FBI and CIA expert panels, guided mystery tours of Washington, and a Nick & Nora Charles Martini Happy Hour, and certainly a lot more than when Bouchercon was last in Washington, at the National Press Club in 1980. The cost of registration is \$135 though Sept. 1, 2000 (higher afterward). Additional details are available from Bouchercon 2001 (Box 11700, Washington, DC 20008) <www.bouchercon2001.com>.
8282. Cameron Hollyer ("The Three Students") died on June 4, 2000. Cam was a librarian in the Literature Department of the Toronto Public Library when he helped organize the first Sherlockian conference ever held, in Dec. 1971, an event that led to the founding of The Bootmakers of Toronto and the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Library, and he worked hard on behalf of both those institutions for many years, retiring from his post as curator of the collection in 1991. The Bootmakers honored him in the autumn 1991 issue of *Canadian Holmes* by publishing his delightful paper "The Curator's Egg" (a fine example of how well he combined humor and scholarship). He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1978.
8283. Paul D. Herbert (734 Alpine Drive, Milford, OH 45150) offers The Tankerville Club's new lapel pin (designed by Jeff Decker); \$11.00 postpaid.
8284. Tracy Cooper-Posey's *CHRONICLES OF THE LOST YEARS: A SHERLOCK HOLMES MYSTERY* (Winnipeg: Ravenstone, 1999; 209 pp., \$14.95) offers quite a bit of adventure and romance: Holmes is involved with a mysterious and accomplished woman named Elizabeth Sigerson before, during, and after the Great Hiatus, but there's mystery, too, and the adventures are interesting. Ravenstone is an imprint of Turnstone Press (607-100 Arthur Street, Winnipeg, MN R3B 1H3, Canada) <www.turnstonepress.com>.
8285. The *SHERLOCK HOLMES READER #3* is now in the shops from Tome Press/Caliber Comics, \$3.95; Jerry Margolin notes, with another installment of "The Loch Ness Horror" (story by Martin Powell and artwork by Seppo Makinen) and other Sherlockiana; 225 North Sheldon Road, Plymouth, MI 48170 (888-222-6643) <www.calibercomics.com>.
8286. "Better Holmes and Gardens: Sherlock Holmes, Arthur Conan Doyle, and Architectural Design 'Down Under'" is the title of an exhibition on the fourth floor of the Wilson Library at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis through the first week of August, Tim Johnson reports. It's a collaboration by Derham Groves, his students of Architectural Design and Practice at the University of Melbourne, and the Department of Special Collections & Rare Books at the University of Minnesota, and a 28-page illustrated catalog is available on the Web at <www.lib.umn.edu/special/rare/rare.html> and (\$10.00 postpaid) from Special Collections, Anderson Library #111, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455 (checks payable to the University of Minnesota, please).

June 2000 #3

8287. Roberta Rogow's *THE PROBLEM OF THE EVIL EDITOR* (New York: St. Martin's Minotaur, 2000; 298 pp., \$23.95) is her third mystery novel about Charles Dodgson and Arthur Conan Doyle; Dodgson is in London in Feb. 1886 to introduce Conan Doyle to an editor, and they quickly become

- involved in solving a murder. It's an interesting story, and in the midst of their investigation Dodgson and Conan Doyle get to visit the Cafe Royal in search of Oscar Wilde, who (needless to say) is far more at home there than the two visitors.
8288. Dame Barbara Cartland died on May 21. She launched her writing career in 1925, and for decades ruled the romance genre with more than 700 books that sold more than one billion copies. "My heroines are always virgins," she said in 1973. "They never go to bed without a ring on their fingers; not until page 118 at least." She also maintained that a truly sexy man was one who was "fully clothed and preferably in uniform." She often alluded to Sherlock Holmes in her books, and in her author's note in MOON OVER EDEN (1976), set in Ceylon in the 19th century, she wrote that "the success of Ceylon tea after the failure of the coffee was immortalized by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle when he wrote: 'Not often is it that men have the heart, when their one great industry is withered, to rear up in a few years another as rich to take its place, and the tea fields of Ceylon are as true a monument to courage as is the lion at Waterloo.'"
8289. Jeff MacNelly died on June 8. He was 24 years old in 1972, when he won the first of his three Pulitzer prizes for editorial cartoons, and his comic strip "Shoe" runs in more than 1,000 papers. He used Sherlockian icons in his editorial cartoons, including one from July 1992 on the U.N. in Iraq.
8290. Sorry about that: Malice Domestic XIII (May 2000 #3) will be held May 4-6, 2001, at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington, Va. Thanks to Donna Goldthwaite for noting the typo.
8291. Jerry Margolin notes that the fifth issue of THE GREAT DETECTIVE: SHERLOCK HOLMES (Avalon Communications, \$2.95) is in the comic-book shops, with "The Mystery of the Black Death" (reprinted from the 1954 comic strip written by Edith Meiser and drawn by Frank Giacoia); the magazine address is 2800 Halpern, St-Laurent, QC H4S 1R2, Canada.
8292. And the comic-book mini-series THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN (from America's Best Comics, with a story by Alan Moore and powerful artwork by Kevin O'Neill) has reached the fifth issue (June 2000, \$2.95). Holmes and Moriarty are involved, along with Allan Quatermain, Captain Nemo, and many others; the mini-series will end with the sixth issue, and the address is 7910 Ivanhoe #438, La Jolla, CA 92037 <wildstorm.com>.
8293. Mary Erickson reports that she now has a new home: a trailer with "washer, dryer, central air, telephone, and *no* kerosene heater" (there was a kerosene heater in her previous home, which didn't survive the fire), and four new cats, and that she is grateful to Sherlockian friends for their concern and generosity. Her new address is 212 Zurich Drive, Lynwood, IL 60411.

June 2000 #4

8294. The tenth volume of ACD: The Journal of The Arthur Conan Doyle Society (May 2000) offers 110 pages of interesting scholarship, including Dana M. Batory's conclusions about the internal dating of "The Lost World", Wladimir V. Bogomoletz's report on Conan Doyle's seven visits to Paris, and Thomas R. Tietze's discussion of Conan Doyle poetry. Membership in the society (including two issues of the journal) costs \$27.00 a year (CA\$33.00/£16.00); credit-card orders are welcome, and the address is Box 1360, Ashcroft, BC V0K 1A0, Canada <www.ash-tree.bc.ca/acdsoc.html>.
8295. The new issue of Scarlet Street (#38) offers David Stuart Davies' review of the television mini-series "Murder Rooms: The Dark Beginnings of Sherlock Holmes" (noting that the BBC has commissioned four new episodes, with filming on the first one, set in Southsea, to begin this fall), discussion by Richard Scrivani of John Morgan's work on a soon-to-be-released Marco Polo CD with an orchestral recreation of the theme music for "Sherlock Holmes and the Voice of Terror" (1942), and other coverage of the mystery-and-horror genre. Subscriptions to the magazine cost \$35.00 a year (six issues); Box 604, Glen Rock, NJ 07452 <www.scarletstreet.com>.
8296. The Illustrious Clients of Indianapolis offer their new lapel pin, available in two versions, one for members and the other for non-members; each costs \$10.00 postpaid, from Yvonne De Tar (1838 Portage Terrace #C, Indianapolis, IN 46227); please make checks payable to The Illustrious Clients. Membership in the society costs \$10.00 (same address), which includes their newsletter and allows you to buy the members-only version.
8297. Ben and Sue Vizoskie have noted in the April issue of the Foolscap Document (the newsletter of The Three Garridebs) that Bill Schweickert was once interviewed for a newspaper article about Holmes and Watson, and was pleased to find that the article was published without mistakes -- until the last paragraph, which reported there was a plaque in the men's room at Barts to honor the first meeting of Holmes and Watson. The reporter seems to have thought that Bill said that the meeting took place in the lavatory.
8298. The Three Garridebs' newsletter is published six times a year for the society's members; dues are \$6.00 a year (Ben Vizoskie, 90 Ralph Avenue, White Plains, NY 10606).
8299. Bob Robinson spotted Keith Aitken's article in Scottish Life (summer 2000) on "The Case of the Missing Memorial", in which he suggests that "While Arthur Conan Doyle's immortal Sherlock Holmes stories were inspired by Edinburgh's people and places, the capital city seems intent on wiping out all connections to its native son." Some of Conan Doyle's residences survive, however, in Sciennes Hill Place and Argyle Park Terrace, and at 23 George Square, all dating from the 1870s, in the years after he was sent to stay with Mary Burton at Liberton Bank House (May 00 #3). Box 403, Vandalia, OH 45337; \$4.50.
8300. Jennie Paton reports a DVD due from Focus Film: SHERLOCK HOLMES COLLECTION with four of the 1940s Rathbone/Bruce films ("The Woman in Green", "Terror by Night", "Dressed to Kill", and "Sherlock Holmes and the Secret Weapon") and the film interview with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (list price \$19.99).

June 2000 #5

8301. The June issue of National Geographic has two articles of interest: "Jelly Bellies" has a splendid photograph of a lion's mane with a caption quoting Sherlock Holmes that the creature "can be as dangerous to life as, and far more painful than, the bite of the cobra." But: "It's a bad rap," the caption notes, "The sting of a lion's mane jelly hurts but almost never kills--unless you're a copepod." And an article on London is accompanied by a double map supplement of "Britain and Ireland" and "The Heart of Tourist London" that includes the Sherlock Holmes Hotel on Baker Street.
8302. Nicholas Clay died on May 5. He began his acting career on screen in 1971, and he played Stapleton in Ian Richardson's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1983) and Dr. Percy Trevelyan in Granada's "The Resident Patient" (1985).
8303. William Serad's article on "Sherlockian Pipes" in the summer 2000 issue of Pipes & Tobaccos has a list of all the pipes mentioned in the Canon, with illustrations of the first results of his decision to commission his own series of Sherlock Holmes pipes from Mark Tinsky, of the American Smoking Pipe Company. The magazine is published by SpecComm International, 3000 Highwoods Boulevard #300, Raleigh, NC 27604 <www.pt-magazine.com>; \$3.95.
8304. Carole Nelson Douglas has reported that her fifth novel about Irene Adler will be published in Nov. 2001, "with that ubiquitous consulting detective, I suppose, and some surprise guest villains, vamps, and victims." And in the meantime, her "The Dame's Afoot" silhouette of Irene (with artwork by Carole) is offered on embroidered T-shirts (S/M/L/XL \$28.75 2X \$31.75 3X \$32.75 4X \$35.75), golf shirts (S/M/L/XL \$33.75 2X \$36.75 3X \$37.75 4X

\$40.75), and totebags (\$33.75); all prices are postpaid. Checks or money orders only, please, payable to Carole Douglas: Box 331555, Fort Worth, TX 76163 <www.catwriter.com/cdouglas>.

8305. John Hillen spotted an announcement from the UCLA Film and Television Archive for its Tenth Festival of Preservation (July 28-Aug. 26). "Sherlock Holmes Faces Death" (1943) and "The House of Fear" (1945) will be screened at 7:00 pm on Aug. 13 (Hugh Hefner provided funds for restoring the Universal "Sherlock Holmes" films). Details on the festival are available from Nancy Reed (310-206-8588) <nreed@emelnitz.ucla.edu>.
8306. Otto Penzler (The Mysterious Bookshop, 129 West 56th Street, New York, NY 10019) (800-352-2840) <www.mysteriousbookshop.com> publishes an interesting series of pastiches and parodies, some are reprints and some originals, and almost all first separate publications; \$10.00 each (with shipping extra, and there's a 10% discount for standing orders). The list so far: SHADY SINNERS OF THE STYX (Lawrence Daniel Fogg); THE MYSTERY OF PINKHAM'S DIAMOND STUD (John Kendrick Bangs); THE SLEUTHS (O. Henry); THE ADVENTURE OF THE CIPHER IN THE SAND (Ed Hoch); A PRAGMATIC ENIGMA (John Kendrick Bangs); THE ADVENTURE OF THE DIAMOND NECKLACE (George F. Forrest); MURDER IN STUDIO 221B (Ron Goulart); SHERLOCK HOLMES AGAIN (John Kendrick Bangs); SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE MYSTERIOUS CARD (Joel Lima); ME, OR THE STRANGE EPISODE OF THE REINCARNATED GREEK (E. V. Knox); THE ADVENTURE OF THE WOODEN BOX (Leslie Klinger); ANATOMY OF TWO MURDERS (Murray Shaw), HERLOCK SHOMES AT IT AGAIN (anonymous); and THE MARRIAGE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Gregory Breitman).
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June 2000 #6

8307. The Virginia Romance Writers' next "Step Back in Time" conference on romance, history, and crime is scheduled for Mar. 23-25, 2001, in Williamsburg, and it will include a workshop on criminology; if you'd like to be on their mailing list, you should send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Virginia Romance Writers, 13 Woodlawn Terrace, Fredericksburg, VA 22405 <www.geocities.com/SoHo/Museum/2164>.
8308. Sorry about that: the Baker Street Irregulars (Shameless Commerce Division) merchandise (April 00 #4) is available from George J. McCormack, but his best address is at Cusack & Stiles, 61 Broadway #2912, New York, NY 10006.
8309. Ray Betzner spotted the announcement on America Online News: "Chapters Online Extends Digital Delivery Strategy with Addition of New eBook Titles at Chapters.ca" (May 29). The electronically-enabled can now go to a web-site at <www.chapters.ca/digital/books> and download a long list of electronic books (including THE MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES) using the free Glassware Reader software also available at the web-site. Customers can also pay for and download more recent titles; the company reported that in March more than 10,000 people downloaded Stephen King's eBook RIDING THE BULLET in the first 48 hours after its release.
8310. "The Rock says, call Sherlock Holmes! Call Magnum P.I.! Call Scooby-Doo himself!" The Rock is World Wrestling Federation superstar Rocky Maivia, on "WWF Smackdown" on UPN-TV on June 15, as reported by Brad Keefeauver.
8311. The House of Ascot (4450 Arapahoe Avenue #100, Boulder, CO 80303) (800-717-3105) <www.houseofascot.com> has an interesting catalog of British collectibles, including a Lakeland Studios oval wall plaque (8 x 6 in.) showing the sitting room (\$39.95) and Hazle Ceramics' Sherlock Holmes Museum house-front (\$74.95) and miniature teapot (\$24.95); shipping is extra, credit-card orders are welcome, and there's a 10% discount in July if you quote "CR07".
8312. The 90-minute laserdisc of "The Lost World" (1925) released by LumiVision (April 92 #4) is now available on DVD from Slingshot Entertainment (with a trailer, a promotional short, and a demonstration of the stop-motion special effects devised by Willis O'Brien), priced at \$19.99. Check your local shops, or their web-site at <www.slingshotdvd.com>.
8313. Dennis France died on June 20. He was an attorney, and an energetic member and officer of many of the Chicago-area societies, including The Criterion Bar Association and The Scotland Yarders, and The STUD Sherlockian Society.
8314. Pat Ward has reported that "Bloomington by Gaslight: Sherlock Holmes in the Lilly Library" is now on display in the library's main gallery at Indiana University in Bloomington, through Sept. 19. The exhibit includes a copy of Beeton's Christmas Annual for 1887, the manuscript of "The Red Circle", a manuscript page with the first three sentences of the note Holmes left for Watson at the Reichenbach, and Darryl F. Zanuck's personal copy of the script for Rathbone's "The Hound of the Baskervilles"
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June 2000 #7

8315. This year's Christmas card from The Sherlock Holmes Society of London will have another attractive watercolor by Douglas West, showing Holmes and Watson looking out across the Thames, captioned "There is a boatman here with a wherry, Watson. We shall take it and cross the river." \$13.00 postpaid for ten cards (£5.50 to the U.K., £6.00 to Europe, £7.00 elsewhere); checks payable to the Society, please, and orders can be sent to Cdr. G. S. Stavert, 22 Homeheights House, Clarence Parade, Southsea, Hants. PO5 3NN, England. Note: you can order now, but the cards will not be shipped until September.
8316. The latest issue of Reichenbach Cliff-Notes, edited by Kendall Pagan and published occasionally by The Reichenbach Cliff-Divers, offers four pages of skewed Sherlockiana, including a report on S'ian lapel-pin piercings. A few copies are still available from the Punctuality Press (4010 Devon Lane, Peoria, IL 61614) in return for a #10 self-addressed stamped envelope.
8317. A three-hour special "AFI's 100 Years...100 Laughs" (broadcast by CBS-TV on June 13, 2000) honored the 100 funniest American films, chosen by a jury of 1,800 film-industry leaders for the American Film Institute. Buster Keaton's "Sherlock Jr." (1924) was #62 on the list.
8318. Is it possible that none of the Sherlockians who watch the show are willing to admit they watch "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire" on ABC-TV? A non-Sherlockian has reported that on June 11 one of the early questions asked which street Sherlock lived on. "Baker Street" was one of the answers, and the contestant got it right, adding, "it was at 21 Baker Street."
8319. Uno Studio in Holmes (the Sherlockian society in Italy) has arranged for a symposium in Milan on Sept. 9-11 and in Sesto Fiorentino (near Florence) on Sept. 15-17; there will be exhibits, papers, films, games, excursions, and a concert, and additional details are available from Gianluca Salvatori, cp 14, 55042 Forte dei marmi (LU), Italy <www.versilia.toscana.it/~mycroft>.
8320. BLOODLINE (New York: St. Martin's Paperbacks, 2000; 316 pp., \$6.50) is Jill Jones' seventh romance novel, and she combines the romance and mystery genres in an investigation of a modern serial killer whose murders start at a Sherlockian "The Unsolved Case of Jack the Ripper--Where Was Sherlock When We Needed Him?" conference in London. The hero's a Scotland Yard inspector and the heroine an FBI agent, there's plenty of romance as well as mystery, and the Sherlockian aspects are incidental.
8321. Joe Bevilacqua reports that his 1980s radio series "The Mis-Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" will air again on National Public Radio stations in September (when he will also make the parodies available on CD).
8322. The audiocassette version of Ed. Lange's 1997 play "Sherlock's Secret Life" (September 99 #4) has won an Audie Award (from the Audio Publishers Association of America) for best multi-voiced presentation. The set's still available (\$12.90 postpaid) from the N.Y. State Theatre Institute (155 River Street, Troy, NY 12180) <www.nysti.org> (credit-card orders are welcome).
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July 2000 #1

8323. BBC Radio 4 celebrated "Conan Doyle Week" (July 1-7) with a fine assortment of programs that included Nick Utechin on "Do What You Like with Him: The Unreal Life of Sherlock Holmes" (about pastiches and parodies), Ruth Dudley Edwards on "The Real Sherlock Holmes" (about Victorian science and crime), Humphrey Carpenter on "The Secret History of Conan Doyle" (about his life and career), and Simon Russell Beale reading abridgements of five of the Brigadier Gerard stories on "Book at Bedtime".
8324. Radio Times gave "Conan Doyle Week" plenty of coverage, and the RT Shop is offering "The Complete Sherlock Holmes" with "48 hours of audio material on 36 cassettes" and "a special behind-the-scenes book" together with a boxed set of four dramatizations of "Agatha Christie's Miss Marple" starring June Whitfield, all for £150 postpaid; checks (payable to RT Shop) can be sent to JEM House, Littlemead, Cranleigh, GU6 8TT, England.
8325. "You don't have to be Sherlock Holmes to hunt down hard-to-find books," according to the voice-over on the opening credits on "Mystery!" on PBS-TV, "You can deduce their whereabouts on Alibris: the on-line source for books you thought you'd never find." The spot began airing in April, promoting <www.alibris.com>, one of the new sponsors for the series.
8326. "We started off with 12 Rembrandts. We are now down to one plus two halves and a probable," Ros Savill, director of the Wallace Collection in London, said in an interview in the Evening Standard (June 15), at hand from John Baesch. The collection, assembled by four Marquesses of Hertford and the 4th Marquess' illegitimate son, Sir Richard Wallace, used a £10.6 million lottery grant to redevelop Hertford House in Manchester Square, where visitors can now see all 5,470 items in the collection, including some fakes, because the collection "exposes the misjudgements of the collectors, not to mention the machinations of the art market." And it's a nice place to view your favorite Greuze, John notes.
8327. Discounted at Barnes & Noble: THE MYSTERIES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (New York: Grosset & Dunlap, 1996; 218 pp., now \$5.98); with nine of the stories, illustrated by Paul Bachem.
8328. THE SHERLOCK HOLMES BOOK OF MAGIC, by Jeff Brown (Colorado Springs: Piccadilly Books, 2000; 96 pp., \$10.00), offers explanations of almost 30 magic tricks, all related in some way to Holmes, Watson, or other Canonical characters (but if you're planning to put on a Sherlockian magic show, remember that everyone who has read the book will know what your secrets). \$13.20 postpaid from the Village Booksmith (233 Main Street, Hudson Falls, NY 12801) <booksmith@global2000.net>; credit-card orders welcome.
8329. I recommended Chris Redmond's A SHERLOCK HOLMES HANDBOOK highly when it was published by Simon & Pierre (October 93 #4), and it's still highly recommended, as well as available (CA\$29.99/£14.99) from the University of Toronto Press 5201 Dufferin Street, Toronto, ON M3H 5T8, Canada, or 2250 Military Road, Tonawanda, NY 14150 (800-565-9523) <utpbooks@utpress.utoronto.ca>; creditcard orders welcome. The book can be used and enjoyed both by Sherlockians and by those who are wondering just what Sherlockians do, and why.
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July 2000 #2

8330. "There is a lack of firm scientific evidence about the effect on the welfare of a fox of being closely pursued, caught and killed above ground by hounds. We are satisfied, nevertheless, that this experience seriously compromises the welfare of the fox." According to a British government committee's report on the environmental, economic, and other aspects of the ruling Labor Party's proposed ban on fox-hunting. The Canon contains no mention of fox-hunting (although there is a mention of a foxhound), but it's quite important in Conan Doyle's stories "The King of the Foxes" (1898) and "The Crime of the Brigadier" (1900).
8331. "I am one of those who believe that the folly of a monarch and the blundering of a minister in far-gone years will not prevent our children from being some day citizens of the same world-wide country under a flag which shall be a quartering of the Union Jack with the Stars and Stripes," Sherlock Holmes said (in "The Noble Bachelor"). Our new sheet of stamps honoring the Stars and Stripes includes one showing the Grand Union flag.
8332. Nino Cirone's UPON THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE ASHES OF THE VARIOUS TOBACCOS is not Sherlock Holmes' long-lost monograph, but rather an interesting collection of interesting descriptions of 60 tobaccos, one for each of the Canonical tales, accompanied by appropriate period artwork. The 70-page book costs £14.99/\$25.00 from Ian Henry Publications, 20 Park Drive, Romford, Essex RM1 4LH, England; credit-card orders welcome.
8333. It's odd that it should take so long for the American edition of FLASHMAN AND THE TIGER, AND OTHER EXTRACTS FROM THE FLASHMAN PAPERS to appear, but it's due from Knopf in August (346 pp., \$25.00). For those who didn't get the British edition (October 99 #4), George MacDonald Fraser's delightful tale, first published in the Daily Express in 1975, deals with Colonel Sebastian Moran, with whom Flashman had three encounters (this being the third, in an empty house in Baker Street in 1894).
8334. "Cows Invade New York!" More than 500 life-sized fiberglass cow sculptures (each decorated or painted by a local artist) are to be found in streets, parks, and hidden corners in each of the five boroughs through Labor Day, according to publicity at hand from Ev Herzog. But none of them appear to be Sherlockian (at least not yet). You can call 302-291-4538 for more information, or see a map of cow locations at <www.cowparadenewyork.com>, and may even be possible for one of the local Sherlockian societies to sponsor a Sherlockian cow.
8335. Issue #37 of Sherlock Holmes: The Detective Magazine has David Stuart Davies' discussion of Granada's "The Eligible Bachelor" and Universal's "The House of Fear", essays by Roger Forsdyke's essay on real Victorian crime and criminals, and Grant Eustace's on "Baker Street Addictions", and much more (Sherlockian and otherwise); an annual subscription (six issues) costs £18.00 (U.K.)/£20.00 (continent)/\$40.00 (elsewhere). The magazine address is Box 100, Chichester, West Sussex PO18 8HD, England <pmh.uk.com/sherlock/sherlock.htm>, and their U.S. agent is Classic Specialties (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219) (toll-free 877-233-3823) <sherlock@sherlock-holmes.com>. Credit-card orders welcome at both addresses; back issues are available.
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July 2000 #3

8336. Barry Day has written three pastiches: SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE SHAKESPEARE GLOBE MURDERS (London: Oberon Books, 1997; 190 pp., \$11.00); SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE ALICE IN WONDERLAND MURDERS (London: Oberon Books, 1997; 180 pp., \$11.00); and SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE COPYCAT MURDERS (Palm Beach: Second Opinion, 2000; 192 pp., \$11.00). All three novels involve Holmes and Watson in complicated mysteries that involve assassination and attempts to overthrow the government or destroy the empire.
8337. Ted Friedman's interesting series of articles about Sherlockian philately in Topical Times continues with "Literary Skills of Sherlock Holmes" in the July-August issue, which also has Allan Hauck's "Topics on Postmarks" with an illustration of the postmark created for the Sherlock Holmes Festival in Tryon, N.C. on Nov. 4-7, 1999 (the magazine costs \$5.00 postpaid from the American Topical Association, Box 50820, Albuquerque, NM 87181) <atastamps@juno.com> (credit card orders welcome).
8338. The ATA has also announced a new 72-page handbook on THE PHILATELIC ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Larry Dodson. \$11.00 postpaid for members of the ATA (\$12.00 for non-members) if you order by Oct. 1 (extra charges for shipping after that date); addresses in the preceding paragraph.
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8339. Reported: Stephen Kendrick's *HOLY CLUES: THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SHERLOCK HOLMES* (June 99 #1) in a trade paperback edition (New York: Vintage Books, 2000; 208 pp., \$12.00); it's an interesting discussion of the faith, reason, mystery, and philosophy one can find in the Sherlock Holmes stories, especially with an expert guide.
8340. "Psst... Did you know we are currently hiring..." asked an advertisement in the N.Y. Times (June 25) for a government agency that promises "Challenges for a Challenging World" (most positions are in the Northern Virginia area, but there is an opportunity for living abroad); it's the Central Intelligence Agency <www.cia.gov>.
8341. Paulette Greene (7152 Via Palomar, Boca Raton, FL 33433) offers copies of two older items: Madeleine B. Stern's 1982 monograph *THE GAME'S A HEAD: A PHRENOLOGICAL STUDY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES AND ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE*, with illustrations by Sam Greene (\$15.00), and Trevor H. Hall's 1986 monograph *THE LAST CASE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: IVY JOHNSON BULL OF BORLEY* (\$30.00); both prices are postpaid (please pay by check or money order).
8342. Noted by Dave Morrill: "Radio-Active Man" in *Filmfax* (June-July 2000), the first part of an excellent interview with long-time radio, television, and film actor Harry Bartell, who was the announcer for the Rathbone/Bruce radio series "The New Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" from 1945 to 1946.
8343. Fans of "They Might Be Giants" (the rock group that took its name from the 1971 George C. Scott film) may want to purchase the two-CD set "They Might Be Giants/Then: The Earlier Years" issued by Restless Records in 1997 (the set number is 72931-2); the contents include their two albums "They Might Be Giants" and "Lincoln", EP B-side recordings, and bonus tracks (only the name of the group is Sherlockian). They have a web-site at <www.tmbg.com> and their dial-a-song telephone number is 718-387-6962.

July 2000 #4

8344. Januarye Seymour has received her award as an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE). She appeared on British television in 1974 in "Orson Welles' Great Mysteries: The Leather Funnel". Simon Ward was a young Englishman who went to Paris to propose to a French girl (Jane Seymour); her uncle (Christopher Lee) drugged Ward's drink and left him near the leather funnel.
8345. Michael Caine, already honored as a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in 1993, was knighted in the Queen's Birthday honors list in June. He starred in "Without a Clue" (1988) as Reginald Kincaid, a drunken actor hired by Dr. Watson to impersonate his fictional Sherlock Holmes.
8346. Prescott's Press (the quarterly journal of The Three Garridebs) has been revived after a lengthy hiatus, and issue 21 is now available, with Mona Morstein's "The Adventure of the Strange Case of the Woman with the Really Long Name" and Tom Cynkin's "The Worst Woman in London: An Opinion" (among other contributions to the literature); \$12.00 for four issues, from Warren Randall, 15 Fawn Lane West, South Setauket, NY 11720.
8347. *THE BIG BOOK OF BAD*, by Jonathan Vankin (New York: Paradox Press, 1998; 191 pp., \$14.95), is a collection of short comic-strip explications, including with two pages (artwork by Phil Jimenez) on "Moriarty: Professor of Crime".
8348. Our "Celebrate the Century" souvenir sheets have reached the 1990s, and the new sheet includes a stamp honoring the World Wide Web, which has had a delightful impact on the Sherlockian world, and of course made it possible for many people to read this Sherlockian and Doylean newsletter without depending on the postal service or paying for a subscription. The URL is <members.home.net/sherlock1/scuttle.htm>.
8349. Many of the items in Tom Stix's fine collection of Sherlockiana were sold from a series of catalogs (October 98 #1), and the remainder (some in the earlier catalogs and some not) will be sold at auction by The Three Garridebs on Aug. 27, at the Sunset Supper Club in Tuckahoe, N.Y.; mail bids will be accepted until Aug. 22. A 70-page catalog is available from Ben Vizoskie (90 Ralph Avenue, White Plains, NY 10606) <garridebs@aol.com>.
8350. The June issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota offers Tim Johnson's update on the collections and the move to the new underground facility, and Julie McKuras discussion of the collections' "Pipes, Matches, and Tobacco". If you'd like to be on their mailing list you can contact Richard J. Sveum (111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <sveum001@maroon.tc.umn.edu>.
8351. George Perlman died on June 18, at the age of 103. He was a violin teacher and for 74 years he rented a studio in the Fine Arts Building in Chicago, where he taught generations of students to play the violin, continuing to teach until April of this year, when he was hospitalized after a fall. Ely Liebow wrote about him as "The Man Who Wrapped with ACD" (in Baker Street Miscellanea, summer 1991); Perlman accompanied Sir Arthur Conan Doyle to a seance at the Auditorium Hotel in Chicago in 1923.

July 2000 #5

8352. Christopher Lee has been signed to play a "charismatic separatist" in "Star Wars: Episode II" (now filming in Australia and due for release in the summer of 2002), according to a report in the N.Y. Post (July 13), kindly forwarded by Marina Stajic. Lee has played three Canonical characters on film and television: Sir Henry Baskerville in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1959), Mycroft Holmes in "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970), and Sherlock Holmes in "Sherlock Holmes und das Halsband des Todes" (1962), "Sherlock Holmes and the Leading Lady" (1992), and "Sherlock Holmes: Incident at Victoria Falls" (1992).
8353. "We had occasion some months ago to strengthen our resources and borrowed for that purpose 30,000 napoleons from the Bank of France," Mr. Merryweather, said, in the cellar of the Coburg branch of the City and Suburban Bank (in "The Red-Headed League"). Thanks to Ted Friedman for spotting the stamp issued by France this year to honor the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Banque de France.
8354. Further to the report (December 99 #3) on the development-versus-environment battle over Venezuela's Canaima National Park (one of 100 World Heritage Sites designated by the United Nations, and the sixth-largest national park in the world), Ray Betzner has noted an Associated Press report that Indian tribes in Venezuela's southeastern rain forests have signed an accord that will allow construction to resume on a high-voltage electricity line through the park; the \$100-million 360-mile project will provide energy to Indian communities as well as to gold-mining companies and towns in north-eastern Brazil. The park contains Angel Falls (the world's tallest water-fall) and the mysterious flat-topped mountains said to have inspired Arthur Conan Doyle's "The Lost World".
8355. The four "Great Mouse Detective" mini bean bags (Basil, Dr. Dawson, Olivia, and Ratigan) are still offered in the Disney catalog, discounted to \$12.00 for the set (that's half price, which suggests a close-out). The item number is 20078-F20; Box 29144, Shawnee Mission, KS 66201 (800-237-5751) <www.disneystore.com>.
8356. "Who Ordered the Rare Roast Beef? I Did, Said the Grosvenor Square Furniture Van." was the headline on a story about "Dinner with the Sherlockians in Washington" in the [Washington] Sunday Star on June 18, 1972. And the author of the article was Lynne Cheney, wife of (now) Republican vice-presidential candidate, who enjoyed her dinner with The Red Circle.
8357. *TO VISIT THE QUEEN*, by Diane Duane (New York: Warner Books, 1999; 354 pp., \$14.99) (also in paperback this year; 366 pp., \$6.50), is translated from Ailurin, and features a team of feline wizards, caretakers of a time-gate at Grand Central Station in New York, who travel to London to help wizards there thwart a malevolent attempt to change history and destroy the world.

8358. The Queen they visit, time-gating to 1874, is Victoria, who is the target assassination attempt, and in the midst of their battle to prevent Armageddon they are assisted by a young human named Arthur Conan Doyle. The fantasy is intriguing, the concept nicely executed, and the book well-written' young Artie is only a supporting character (and yes, he did indeed make a three-week visit to London in 1874, invited by his aunt Annette).

July 2000 #6

8359. Further to the report (May 00 #6) about the trials and tribulations of the modern "Aurora" (Britain's largest cruise liner, whose maiden cruise came to an abrupt end because of mechanical problems), John Baesch has forwarded Sandy Byrne's story from The Mail on Sunday (July 16) reporting on a quite pleasant cruise to the Canaries. And pleasant it ought to be, with a crew of 850 that includes 110 chefs.
8360. Further to the report (April 00 #3) on Hallmark's ornament "The Detective" (Snoopy, dressed in standard Sherlockian costume, accompanied by Woodstock in Watsonian costume): the ornament now is in Hallmark shops (\$9.95).
8361. Reported: THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, due from MPI on DVD on Oct. 3 (\$19.99); the disk will contain Granada's "A Scandal in Bohemia", "The Solitary Cyclist", "The Naval Treaty", and "The Dancing Men". Nancy Beiman has noted, in a message posted at <www.amazon.com> that MPI plans to issue additional disks in the series only if there is sufficient demand for the first one.
8362. THE UNKNOWN SHERLOCK HOLMES, VOLUME III is the new volume of Bill Brown's one-act radio plays performed by The Squeaking Axles to amuse and bemuse The Hansom Wheels of Columbia, S.C. The new collection offers five plays, packed with puns and broad humor, and it costs \$15.00 postpaid from Lloyd W. Brown, Jr. (103 Snow Court, Lexington, SC 29073). The first two volumes (five plays each) are still available (\$10.00 each); \$25.00 for all three.
8363. Ray Bradbury has high praise for cartoonist Erv Kaplan in the August issue of Playboy, and one of Kaplan's cartoons is Sherlockian.
8364. The Ferret Company offers all sorts of imaginative collectibles for ferret fans, including a 2001 wall calendar with a November photograph (also shown on the cover) of a deerstalked ferret with a magnifying glass. Box 7161, Redwood City, CA 94063 <www.ferretcompany.com>; \$13.95 plus shipping (\$4.95 to U.S. addresses), and credit-card orders are welcome.
8365. Timothy Francis Sheil's THE SIAM QUESTION (London: Camden House, 1999; 603 pp., £19.50/\$30.00) is the first of two volumes of THE HOLMES REPORT, which Watson adapted on journals kept by M. Francois Villard when he accompanied Sherlock Holmes during the Great Hiatus from 1891 to 1894. The book covers their adventures in Tibet (where they help defeat a Russian attempt to gain control of the country) and Siam (where they help defeat a French attempt to gain control of the country) and London (where they help defeat Colonel James Moriarty's attempt to gain control of the government); the author has lived in Thailand, and the book is full of local color and history. It is available (\$35.00 postpaid) from Firebird Distributing, 2030 First Street (unit 5), Eureka, CA 95501 (800-353-3575) <www.firebirdistributing.com>; and (£19.50 plus shipping) from Camden House Publishing, 54 Kestrel Avenue, London SE24 EB, England <www.sherlockholmesreport.com>; credit-card orders welcome at both sources.
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August 2000 #1

8366. Further to the report (June 00 #7) that Joe Bevilacqua's 1980s radio series "The Mis-Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" would air again on National Public Radio stations in September, the ten shows also will be available (on five CDs or five cassettes); \$16.00 each (postpaid) or \$59.00 for all five (also postpaid) from Joe Bevilacqua, Waterlogg Productions, Box 10723, Austin, TX 78766: payment by check or money order, please.
8367. Laurie R. King has returned home from a trip to England, where she was researching her next Mary Russell book. Laurie also reports that she now has an official web-site at <www.laurierking.com>, maintained by her niece and offering information about Laurie and all of her books, and on how you can buy signed copies of her books from a bookstore near Laurie's home: Cross-Roads Books, 1935 Main Street, Watsonville, CA 9576 (831-728-4139).
8368. The detailed schedule for the 18th annual (as well as the last) "Autumn in Baker Street" (May 00 #5) in Tarrytown, N.Y., on Oct. 28-29, is now available from Paula Perry (346 East 87th Street #4-A, New York, NY 10120 (212-348-8817) <pjperry@msn.com>.
8369. Don Weis died on July 26. He worked as an Air Force film technician during World War II, and then joined MGM where he became a director, then turning to television, where he earned six awards from the Directors Guild of America for best television director of the year. He directed more than 40 episodes of "M*A*S*H" and worked on many other series, including "Fantasy Island", for which he directed the 1982 segment "Save Sherlock Holmes" with Ron Ely playing a department-store detective in a fantasy that had him rescuing Sherlock Holmes (Peter Lawford) from Professor Moriarty (Mel Ferrer).
8370. At least one Sherlockian author has followed in Stephen King's footsteps, publishing on the World Wide Web and asking readers to send money: for the electronically enabled, Paul Boler offers three stories: "The Whitechapel Horrors" <smallrain.homestead.com/whitec1.html>, "The Giant Rat of Sumatra" <oliviaj.homestead.com/rat2.html>, and "The Werewolf of Devon" <smallrain.homestead.com/werew2.html>.
8371. The Red-Headed League of Jersey meets twice a year in Flemington, N.J., and managed to garner nice two articles about the society and about Conan Doyle in the local newspaper, the Trenton Times (Nov. 14, 1999); photocopies are available from Peter Christianson (4175 Milords Lane, Doylestown, PA 18901) <unset@comcat.com>.
8372. "We are making the hound mystery more ambiguous. Viewers will think it is from hell," director Rodney Gibbons explained to the National Post in Toronto. He is now filming "The Hound of the Baskervilles" in Quebec for Muse Entertainment Enterprises, with Montreal filling in for Baker Street, and Harrington for the bleak expanses of Dartmoor. The film stars Matt Frewer (Holmes) and Kenneth Welsh (Watson), and will air this fall on CTV in Canada and on the Odyssey Network in the United States. Charles Prepolec offers the electronically-enabled a lot more information about the film at his web-site <www.geocities.com/sirharryflashman1/hound.html>. And Howard Ostrom reports that Muse will start work on "The Sign of the Four" this fall.
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August 2000 #2

8373. Sir Alec Guinness died on Aug. 5. He began his acting career in 1934, as Osric and the third player in a production of "Hamlet" (with the assistance of John Gielgud), and went on to starring roles that included Col. Nicholson in "The Bridge on the River Kwai" (1957) and Obi-Wan Kenobi in "Star Wars" (1977). Sherlockians will recall him as the blind butler Bensonmum in "Murder by Death" (1976), which had cameo appearances by Keith McConnell as Holmes and Richard Peel as Watson, cut from the theatrical release but restored for the first television broadcast in 1979. And George MacDonald Fraser has written that the late John Ford is said to have had Conan Doyle's THE WHITE COMPANY "in his sights at the end of his career, with John Wayne and Alec Guinness in mind."
8374. "I hear of Sherlock everywhere," Al Rosenblatt reports. Even on peaches, which (at least in upstate New York) are labeled individually as "Holmes Grown in South Carolina".
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8375. Otto Penzler notes in the July issue of *The Mysterious Bookshop Newsletter* that he has acquired "a superb collection of Sherlock Holmes books, pamphlets, and ephemera, including many inscribed copies of books by Edgar W. Smith, Vincent Starrett, Christopher Morley, etc. If you have particular wants of more obscure titles, or variant editions of the Canon, please send you wants lists, or make an appointment to see the collection." 129 West 5th Street, New York, NY 10019 (800-3520-2840) <mysteriousny@worldnet.att.net>.
8376. There's some Sherlockian gossip about the "Harry Potter" film that Warner Bros. hopes to have in theaters in time for Thanksgiving 2001. Pam Russell noted a report posted by Brian Linder on June 11 at the IGN FilmForce website at <filmforce.ign.com/harrypotter/> that Jean Hirshenson, the film's American casting director, has been testing American children for the title role, under the guise of casting for a "Young Sherlock Holmes" film; the screenplay for "Young Sherlock Holmes" was written by Chris Columbus, who is directing the "Harry Potter" film. According to Linder's source, scenes from the Holmes script were chosen that closely parallel some of the scenes from the Potter story, including the one where Holmes and Watson first meet (parallel to the scene where Harry and Ron first get to know each other on the train).
8377. *THE YOUNG WITCHES IV* is a three-issue mini-series continuing the thoroughly adults-only comic-book series from Eros Comix (7563 City Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115) (800-657-1100) <www.eroscomix.com>. Sherlock Holmes returns in the first issue (June 2000); \$3.50.
8378. Readers of this newsletter will have noted that I like show postage stamps that have some connection to the Canon or to Arthur Conan Doyle: Larry Dodson's *THE PHILATELIC ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* (July 00 #3) offers not pastiches or parodies, but rather a well-researched and nicely-illustrated review of postal items that show Conan Doyle, Holmes, other Canonical characters, musicians mentioned in the Canon, and actors and an executive producer associated with Sherlockian films. 72 pp., \$11.00 postpaid for members of the ATA (\$12.00 for non-members) if you order by Oct. 1 (shipping charges extra after that date); American Topical Association, Box 50820, Albuquerque, NM 87181) <atastamps@juno.com> (credit card orders welcome).

August 2000 #3

8379. Daniel Stashower has turned his attention from biography (*TELLER OF TALES: THE LIFE OF ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE*) to mysteries, and *THE DIME MUSEUM MURDERS* (New York: Avon/Twilight, 1999, 249 pp., \$5.95) is both interesting and amusing. It's billed as a Harry Houdini mystery, but Harry's brother Dash does some fine detecting as well; the story is set in New York in 1897, when Houdini was still trying to launch his career as an escapologist, and liked to quote from the Sherlock Holmes stories. A second book in the series (*THE FLOATING LADY*) is due in December .
8380. J. Brendan Shaw (son of Mary and grandson of Dorothy and John) edits a new newsletter called *Scene of a Crime Magazine*; \$7.55 for four issues (1205 East Meinecke Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53212), and the first issue (May 2000) has eight pages of reviews and interviews (non-Sherlockian this time).
8381. The late Bill Rabe's *VOICES FROM BAKER STREET I, II, AND III* was a landmark four-record boxed LP album (December 83 #3), described by Bill as "sounds to deduce by" and offering a fascinating aural history of the Sherlockian world. And Bill's son John has found a few mint sets, still in the original cellophane wrapper, available for \$50.00 postpaid (\$60.00 outside the U.S.) from John S. Rabe, 1742 Grevelia Street #1, South Pasadena, CA 91030; payment by check or money order, please. Note: you will need a phonograph to play LP records, which are sometimes mistaken for large, thick, CDs.
8382. Susan J. Beasley died on Aug. 14. She was an artist, and a mystery (and science fiction and fantasy) writer, and head of the Sherlockian society *The Nonpareil Club* in Fort Worth, Texas.
8383. Ben Macintyre's excellent *THE NAPOLEON OF CRIME: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF ADAM WORTH, MASTER THIEF* (February 98 #2) reports on the stolen Gainsborough portrait of Georgina, Duchess of Devonshire, and what happened to the man who stole it, and contributed to Conan Doyle's portrait of Moriarty; it's available, discounted to \$5.98, along with many other inexpensive books, from *Daedalus Books* (Box 6000, Columbia, MD 21045) (800-395-2665) <www.salebooks.com>.
8384. Spotted by Ted Friedman: *STICKS AND STONES: 7 WAYS YOUR CHILD CAN DEAL WITH TEASING, CONFLICT, AND OTHER HARD TIMES*, by Scott Cooper (New York: Times Books, 2000; 160 pp., \$13.00); with an interesting section about a "Sherlock Holmes technique" that children can use in starting conversations and keeping them going.
8385. "So vivid are [Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson] that they have become the object of a worldwide cult coupled with a make-believe scholarship: The members of the dozens of Sherlock Holmes societies pretend that Holmes and his friend were historical persons whose lives are recorded in minutest details in the sixty stories. Since these were not written to be consistent or complete, inferences from the data are the subject of endless argument, much of it carried on with the subdued humor that is itself an engaging aspect of Doyle's narratives. This manifestation of modern pedantry does not differ from that shown in the single-author societies and collectors' bibliographical concerns. But the Holmes-and-Watson 'findings' show how easy it is to draw plausible conclusions from verbal hints when the truth is in fact unknowable." Jacques Barzun, in *FROM DAWN TO DECADENCE: 500 YEARS OF CULTURAL TRIUMPH AND DEFEAT: 1500 TO THE PRESENT* (1999).

August 2000 #4

8386. Off-topic (as they like to say in the world of the Internet): don't miss a chance to hear a performance by the *Paragon Ragtime Orchestra*, which does a splendid job of accompanying silent films, and performing Scott Joplin's music, on tour in the United States and Canada. Their schedule is posted at a web-site at <www.paragonragtime.com> and it's in their newsletter (*The Paragon Ragtime News*), and they offer their music on cassettes and CDs, and on a videocassette "The Charlie Chaplin Moving Picture Show" (their address is: Box 247, Lewisburg, PA 17837).
8387. John Baesch notes that the *ENGLISH PUBS 2001 CALENDAR* (BrownTrout, \$19.99) shows the facade of *The Sherlock Holmes* in London on the cover and on the page for February. In book stores (now or eventually), and from the *Calendar Club* (800-366-3645) <www.calendars.com>.
8388. Guernsey has issued an attractive set of ten stamps celebrating the beauty of some of the flowers to be found in *Candie Gardens* in St. Peter Port; the stamps were designed by Petula Stone, and one of them portrays the *Watsonia*, which has tall spires of vivid red or pink petals, and comes from the winterrainfall areas of the Cape in South Africa. It's quite likely named for a Watson than the one in the Canon, but perhaps some Sherlockian (or even Watsonian) botanist will have more information about the flower.
8389. John Milford died on Aug. 14. He was a character actor, with appearances in more than 500 films and television shows, and was credited with the original design for the Hollywood Walk of Fame. He played Dave Taylor in "My Dear Uncle Sherlock" on ABC-TV in 1977.
8390. *Midnight Marquee* (9721 Britinay Lane, Baltimore, MD 21234) (800-886-0313) <www.midmar.com> still offers the expanded American edition of Christopher Lee's autobiography *TALL, DARK AND GRUESOME* (August 99 #1) for \$20.00 (autographed), and the one-volume edition of Peter Cushing's *AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY AND PAST FORGETTING* (August 99 #1) for \$35.00 (cloth) or \$20.00 (paper); shipping costs extra, and credit-card orders welcome. Their sales list offers many other titles, and *FANEX 15* will be held at the *Hunt Valley Inn* in Baltimore on July 6-8, 2001.

8391. OCCASIONALLY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, edited by Joseph Coppola for The Mycroft Holmes Society Press, offers 156 pages of scholarship, poetry, pastiche, and artwork devoted (appropriately) to Mycroft Holmes; the cost is \$24.95 postpaid, from Joseph A. Coppola (103 Kenny Street, Fayetteville, NY 13066).
8392. Carol Wenk has asked Trish and Jay Pearlman to assist with the work of The Mini-Tonga Scion Society, and they report that they're at work on setting up a web-site, and other things; those who attended the Saturday-afternoon cocktail party during the birthday festivities in 1999 will recall the delightful miniature of the sitting-room displayed by the Pearlmans. They'll be in touch soon with members of the society; if you're not a member, and would like to know more about the society, their address is 1656 East 19th Street #2-E, Brooklyn, NY 11229 (718-998-5351) <minitongasociety@aol.com>, and there's a web-site at <hometown.aol.com/minitongasociety/mini1.htm>.
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August 2000 #5

8393. The Hotel Algonquin, for many years the unofficial headquarters for Sherlockians during the birthday festivities in New York, may become the first major New York hotel property to be run by a foundation, according to a story by Ward Morehouse III in the N.Y. Post (Aug. 8), at hand from Ted Friedman. Ian Lloyd-Jones, president of the Camberley Hotel Co. which bought the Algonquin in 1997 and has renovated the lobby and rooms, said that he is planning to set up a foundation to run the Algonquin that would be similar to the Shubert Foundation, which owns and operates 16 historic Broadway theaters. A foundation would provide the Algonquin with more protection than its current designation as a landmark, and ensure that it "will never fall into the wrong hands" and subsequently be torn down or substantially altered, Lloyd-Jones said.
8394. Chuck Kovacic has founded a new Sherlockian society (The Baker Street Builders), for those who actually have created a full-scale reproduction of the sitting-room at 221b Baker Street. There is a lapel pin, gold for full members (free) and pewter for others (\$10.00 postpaid); his address is 9337 Sophia Avenue, North Hills, CA 91343 (818-891-4069) <cfkovacic@aol.com>. And his own version of the sitting-room is on display for visitors (by appointment only); North Hills is near Los Angeles, and there's a different lapel pin available (free) for those who visit from out of state, or twice in one year from California.
8395. "Sherlock at Saratoga" offered those who had made their reservations early enough a pleasant day at the races on Aug. 19 (Hero's Tribute won The Silver Blaze by two lengths, driving); an enterprising con artist who claimed to be a television journalist and was hoping to finagle four free luncheons (the Sherlockians weren't fooled, needless to say); and entertaining papers at the brunch on Aug. 20. "Sherlock at Saratoga" will repeat in 2003.
8396. "I am not Sherlock Holmes," said O. J. Simpson, at a news conference where he explained that he's still trying to find the killer of his wife and Ronald Goldman. "I can't do those things--other people do those things." The wire-service report was noted by Arnie Matanky in the Grimpen Mire Gazette (which he edits for Hugo's Companions).
8397. "Sherlock Holmes and the Clocktower Mystery" was first exhibited in Croydon in England (October 95 #2), and has been in Des Moines and Fresno (June 99 #6), and it's now scheduled at The Health Adventure in Asheville, N.C., Sept. 25 to Dec. 31, 2000; there will be a gala event (dress black tie or Victorian costume) on Oct. 13, with a Victorian meal and live and silent auctions of Sherlockian and other material. Additional information is available from the museum (2 South Pack Square, Asheville, NC 28801) (828-254-6373 ext 0) <www.thehealthadventure.org>.
8398. Audio Book Contractors (Box 40115, Washington, DC 20016) offers readings of a long list of authors, including Arthur Conan Doyle, on cassettes for rental or purchase. The Conan Doyle titles, read by Flo Gibson, Grover Gardner, or Richard Brown, are THE EXPLOITS OF BRIGADIER GERARD, THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, THE LOST WORLD, SELECTED CASES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, and A STUDY IN SCARLET; THE VALLEY OF FEAR is a coming attraction.
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August 2000 #6

8399. This year's Kennedy Center Honors will be presented on Dec. 2, recognizing the life-long artistic achievements of actor/director Clint Eastwood, musician Chuck Berry, dancer Mikhail Baryshnikov, tenor Placido Domingo, and actress Angela Lansbury, who portrayed mystery-writer Jessica Fletcher in the television series "Murder, She Wrote" (which premiered in 1984 with a two-hour pilot "The Murder of Sherlock Holmes")
8400. The Pleasant Places of Florida offer their lapel pin, window decal, books, and water glasses (from which some may wish to drink something other than water, of course); an illustrated sales-list is available from Wanda Dow, 1737 Santa Anna Drive, Dunedin, FL 54698 <wjced.dunedin@worldnet.att.net>.
8401. Kay Price reports in the current issue of the August Derleth Society Newsletter that this year's Walden West Festival (Oct. 8, in Sauk City, Wis.) will feature a play based on the Solar Pons story "The Unique Dickensians" and the publication of the new original-text version of THE SOLAR PONS OMNIBUS (\$130.00). Membership in the society costs \$15.00 a year (Box 481, Sauk City, WI 53583) <www.derleth.org>. The guest speaker at Walden West will be Robert Weinberg, who owns the copyright to (as well as a complete collection of) the magazine Weird Tales.
8402. THE LOST ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (February 00 #4) has now been published, as THE HIDDEN ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Bill Paxton (Independence: Omnibus Enterprises, 2000; 239 pp., \$25.00), with four pastiches involving Holmes with a robbery of gold from the Bank of England, handwriting analysis, the Baha'i religion, and the Knights Hospitaler. \$30.00 postpaid from the publisher (12907 East 36th Street Terrace, Independence, MO 64055).
8403. Carl Barks died on Aug. 25. He started working for Walt Disney in the early 1930s as an "in-between" (drawing frames between action in animated cartoons), moved on to the story department, and in the 1940s was working on Disney comic books, where he gave Donald Duck what has been described as a career-prolonging personality transplant (he liked to say that he turned Donald into an everyman, albeit one that quacks). He also created fabulously wealthy (and stingy) Scrooge McDuck, who encountered the "Hound of the Whiskervilles" in 1960, and appeared with Sir Sherlock in "The Invisible Intruder" in 1963.
8404. There are still some of us who fondly remember an era when the Saturday afternoon cocktail party each January was held in Julian Wolff's Upper West Side apartment at 33 Riverside Drive, where hors d'oeuvres were laid out on the dining-room table (which the rest of the year was used by Julian as the desk where he edited The Baker Street Journal). To show what inflation is all about, New York magazine noted (Aug. 14) that a three-bedroom, threebath, 1,800-square-foot co-op in Julian's building has been sold (time on market: one week) for \$1.425 million.
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September 2000 #1

8405. The summer issue of The Baker Street Journal has much of interest, including Michael Dirda's reflections on Sherlock Holmes and The Baker Street Irregulars (presented to a capacity audience during the birthday festivities in January), and Leslie S. Klinger's interview with Hugh M. Hefner (at the Playboy Mansion, but there are no Playmates visible in the photograph that accompanies the interview); \$21.00 a year for four issues (\$23.50 outside the U.S.), Box 465, Hanover, PA 17331.

8406. The BSI also is considering publishing a complete run of the journal on a CD-ROM disk, in PDF format readable with Adobe Acrobat software (included), in early 2001, for \$100. Expressions of interest are requested (payment is not due until the disk is shipped), to help determine if there will be sufficient demand. Please contact Les Klinger (2029 Century Park East #3290, Los Angeles, CA 90067) <lsklinger@home.com>.
8407. Bob Ennis reports that Eve Titus (the creator of Basil of Baker Street) is seriously ill in hospital in Florida (she has Guillian-Barre syndrome and is on a respirator), but she is awake and alert, and you can send get-well cards to her at Columbia-Aventura Hospital (CCU-8), 20900 Biscayne Boulevard, Aventura, FL 33180; Bob also will be happy to bring her e-mail greetings sent to him at <lsterndale@aol.com>.
8408. Kazuo Ishiguro's novel THE REMAINS OF THE DAY won the Booker Prize in Britain, and his WHEN WE WERE ORPHANS has just been published by Knopf; he was born in Nagasaki and raised in southern England, and Helen M. Jerome's interview with him was published in Book magazine (July-Aug. 2000), reported by Tom Huntington: "By the age of ten, Ish [as he likes to be called] had discovered Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes and became 'quite nerdy' in his obsession with the language of those books, books in which people would say 'pray tell me' and 'my dear Watson.' Ish laughs as he confesses: 'I went around speaking like that and it must have been very bizarre, this little boy from Japan talking Victorian English.'" Book costs \$4.95, or \$20.00 a year (10 Bank Street #204, Summit, NJ 07901) (800-317-2665).
8409. Found by Bob Robinson at his local Target store: MOTHER GOOSE: SILLY PEOPLE RHYMES (Lincolnwood: Publications International/Rainbow Books, 1996; 99c); with a bloodhound in Sherlockian costume illustrating "Peter White".
8410. Further to the item about "Sherlock Holmes and the Clocktower Mystery" in Asheville, N.C. (August 00 #5), the exhibit will also be on view in the Hall of Ideas at the Midland Center for the Arts in Midland, Mich., Jan. 20 to Apr. 23, 2001. Additional information is available from the museum (1001 West Saint Andrews, Midland, MI 48640) (571-631-5930) <www.mcfta.org>.
8411. Luke Steven Fullenkamp's new pastiche SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE ADVENTURE OF THE THREE DRAGONS (Bloomington: 1stBooks Library, 2000; 192 pp., \$13.98) is set in 1879, with Holmes and his friend Dr. Johnathan Watson defending London and the Queen from an evil Chinese villain. The book can be downloaded over the Internet for \$4.95 <www.1stbooks.com> (and you can read a preview at the web-site), and it also is available in paper covers for \$14.70 postpaid from the publisher (2511 West 3rd Street #1, Bloomington, IN 47404).

September 2000 #2

8412. "Operation Tatzelwurm" is a series of mystery weekends underway in Meiringen, according to a flier at hand from Jurg and Bice Musfeld-Brugnoli, proprietors of the Parkhotel du Sauvage (which has long been a haven for Sherlockian visitors). "Wir freuen uns sehr auf ihre Anmeldung," they note, and additional information is available from the hotel (CH-3860 Meiringen, Switzerland) <www.parkhotel-du-sauvage.ch>.
8413. Sorry about that: last month's item about "Autumn in Baker Street" on Oct. 28-29 in Tarrytown, N.Y., had the wrong ZIP code for contact Paula Perry; her correct address is 346 East 87th Street #4-A, New York, NY 10128 (212-348-8817) <pjperry@msn.com>.
8414. Ray Betzner spotted a <www.prnewswire.com> announcement (Sept. 5) that the Dutch company BEA Hotels NV has acquired a long-term lease on the Sherlock Holmes Hotel in Baker Street; the lease will cost £10 million plus £450,000 a year for the 125-room three-star hotel, and the hotel will be refurbished to upgrade it to a four-star rating.
8415. G. Joseph Sills died on Aug. 31. He was a Fulbright scholar and a lawyer, and served as a Maryland workers' compensation commission for many years. He was a member of The Six Napoleons of Baltimore, and the Little Big Horn Association, and he was able to combine those interests in a scholarly paper on "Holmes's Last Stand" (1987) in which Joe suggested that Holmes had spent his early life in America and had survived Custer's Last Stand, and thus was a deserter from the 7th U.S. Cavalry.
8416. Bits & Pieces (1 Puzzle Place, Stevens Point, WI 54481 (800-544-7297) <www.bitsandpieces.com> has a seventh mystery jigsaw puzzle in its series "The Continuing Adventures of Sherlock Holmes": "The Adventure of the Suicidal Secretary" (item 04-H0140-003) costs \$7.95 plus shipping.
8417. Ev Herzog spotted the item in the Aug.-Sept. issue of Irish American Magazine about a Gathering of Clan Moriarty, beginning Oct. 7 in Dublin. The nine-day event includes a clan reception in Dublin, a bus tour of the West of Ireland, and a clan rally in Killarny. The contact is Fr. Jim Moriarty (St. Pius X Parish, 4314 South Oak Park Avenue, Stickney, IL 60402) (708-484-7951) <jmoriarty.ync.net>.
8418. The musical "Cats" (based on poems in T. S. Eliot's "Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats") holds the record as the longest-running show in Broadway history; it opened on Oct. 7, 1982, and closed on Sept. 10, 2000. Fans of "Macavity: The Mystery Cat" will still be able to see him, however, since the show's still in theaters in other cities.
8419. Penelope Fitzgerald, who died on Apr. 28 (May 00 #2), was the daughter and niece of great names in the Sherlockian world: her father was E. V. Knox, who used the pen-name "Evoc" when he edited Punch in the years when it published much excellent Sherlockian material, and one of her uncles was Ronald Knox, inventor of the grand game so many Sherlockians play. She wrote a fine biography of THE KNOX BROTHERS in 1977 (her two other uncles were Dillwyn, a classical scholar and a noted code-breaker in both World Wars, and Wilfred, an Anglo-Catholic priest and teacher), and her book has just been reprinted (Washington: Counterpoint Press, 2000; 304 pp., \$26.00).

September 2000 #3

8420. "The greatest challenge is Catullus, who could be very filthy," an Oxford professor said recently. Yes, the volume of Catullus that Holmes, in disguise as an old bookseller, offered Watson, was a dirty book, especially if it was in the original Latin. According to a story in The Times (Aug. 22), at hand from John Baesch, the Loeb Classical Library, which since 1911 has been censoring the naughty bits in translations of authors such as Catullus and Aristophanes, now is owned by Harvard University Press, which hopes that the classics can become best-sellers if the profanities and obscenities are restored.
8421. Groombridge Place is for sale. Andrew de Candole, who bought the house and grounds eight years ago, is selling reluctantly, because he's spending much of his time overseas and can't give it the attention it needs, according to an article in the Daily Telegraph (Aug. 24), at hand from Jon Lellenberg. The 17th-century house is surrounded by a moat dating back to 1230, and is set in 200 landscaped acres. Acknowledged by Conan Doyle to have inspired the moated manor house of Birlstone in "The Valley of Fear" (Sir Arthur not only visited Groombridge, but was accused of stealing its ghost), it can be seen to good advantage in the Peter Greenaway film "The Draughtsman's Contract" (1983). The property draws up to 100,000 visitors a year, and the gardens will remain open to the public until the end of October.
8422. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists will meet for dinner in honor of the world's first forensic geologist at 7:00 pm on Nov. 15 at the Liberty Belle Saloon, Museum & Restaurant in Reno. If you would like to join us for the festivities, please contact Paul and Jenny McFarlane (10180 Deadwood Drive, Reno, NV 89506) (775-972-9141) <mcfarlane@sprintmail.com> or me (addresses at the end of the newsletter).
8423. Sir Julian Critchley died on Sept. 9. The former Tory member of Parliament was famous for his battles with prime minister Margaret Thatcher, whom he described as someone "who cannot see an institution without hitting it with her handbag" (he received a knighthood only after Thatcher left office, at the recommendation of her successor John Major). Critchley wrote an appreciate essay about Conan Doyle's THE LOST WORLD for the

Illustrated London News (Christmas 1976), noting that it is "one of the best adventure stories in the language" as well as high comedy, and that "Conan Doyle was one of the greatest figures in the literature of Edwardian England, surely soon to be recognized as a silver age in our letters."

8424. The Liberton Bank House saga continues: further to the earlier report (May 00 #3) about attempts to save the house where Arthur Conan Doyle lived when he was five to seven years old from being demolished so that McDonald's can build a restaurant on the site, McDonald's and its partner Pearl Assurance filed a new application that would have kept the house bricked-up and isolated at the rear of the restaurant site, with no access road and no ground around the house. Local historian Allen Simpson sent out an e-mail alert on Sept. 3, and the Dundee Press Agency reported on Sept. 7 that the Cockburn Conservation Trust had offered to buy and preserve the house. Edinburgh City Council planning convener Bob Cairns said that he had received e-mail from the United States, Brazil, and New Zealand urging the council to reject the latest McDonald's proposal, and that "We will be looking very closely at whether the application harms the building or its setting."

September 2000 #4

8425. An exhibition "South: The Race to the Pole" has opened at the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich, and it can be seen until Sept. 2001. It's the world's first major exhibition on Antarctic explorers Capt. Robert Falcon Scott, Sir Ernest Shackleton, and Capt. Roald Amundsen, and there's a web-site at <www.nmm.ac.uk>, It was Scott who brought to the Antarctic a copy of Conan Doyle's THE GREEN FLAG AND OTHER STORIES OF WAR AND SPORT, and it's still there, in the small hut from which Scott set off on his ill-fated attempt to reach the South Pole.
8426. "Lost World Babes" is the cover story on the October issue of Femme Fatales (which is devoted to "the luscious ladies of horror, fantasy, and sciencefiction), spotted by Dana Richards. Jennifer O'Dell is on the cover, and there are stories about her and Rachel Blakely and the CGI special effects. "Yes, they also shoot a European version of the show which is a little more 'revealing,'" O'Dell said. "If we're going to show any T&A in the episode, then they'll show it in the European version. \$5.95 on the newsstands; 7240 West Roosevelt Road, Forest Park, IL 60130 <www.femmesfatales.com>.
8427. For those who came in late, O'Dell and Blakely star in the television series "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's The Lost World" (with Peter McCauley as Challenger), syndicated on local stations here. TV Guide noted (Sept. 9) that a second season will debut in October, and that O'Dell "trades in her original loincloth (which was auctioned off to a lucky fan at the end of last season for an even skimpier outfit."
8428. Mike Ward offers original watercolor artwork for two illustrations by British artist Paul Hogarth for a French pastiche "La main brune" published by Gallimard: a deerstalker (29 x 40 cm, signed, £125) and a pipe (24 x 32 cm, initialed, £75). You can see them on the web at <www.users.waitrose.com/~clapplin/deerstalker.jpg> and <www.users.waitrose.com/~clapplin/shpipe.jpg>. Mike's address is (27 Addison Road, Guildford, Surrey GU1 3QQ, England) <michaeljohnward@btinternet.com>.
8429. The Walt Disney cartoon "Lonesome Ghosts" (1937) featured Mickey and Goofy (wearing deerstalkers) and Donald pursuing ghosts in a haunted house, and Julie McKuras spotted a new limited-edition (2,500 copies) sericel called "Ghouls Rush In" (showing the trio) at \$295 (framed and matted) at a local Disney Store. Your local Disney Store may have a copy, or might be able to order one for you.
8430. Reported: discussion of "The Dancing Men" in Simon Singh's THE CODE BOOK: THE EVOLUTION OF SECRECY FROM MARY, QUEEN OF SCOTS TO QUANTUM CRYPTOGRAPHY (New York: Doubleday, 1999; 402 pp., \$24.95) just reprinted in paperback as THE CODE BOOK: THE EVOLUTION OF SECRECY FROM ANCIENT EGYPT TO QUANTUM CRYPTOGRAPHY (New York: Anchor, 2000; 416 pp., \$14.00).
8431. Curt Siodmak died on Sept. 2. He created "The Wolf Man" for Universal Pictures in 1941, and wrote or co-wrote more than 70 screenplays between 1928 and 1979, and his science-fiction novel DONOVAN'S BRAIN (1943) has become a classic in the genre. He wrote the screenplay for "Sherlock Holmes und das Hasband des Todes" (1963, which starred Christopher Lee as Sherlock Holmes and Thorley Walters as Dr. Watson, and was dubbed and released in English in 1968 as "Sherlock Holmes and the Necklace of Death".
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September 2000 #5

8432. "L'homme n'est rien, l'oeuvre tout," Gustave Flaubert wrote to George Sand, and while those aren't the exact words to be found in "The Red-Headed League", it's what Flaubert did write to Amantine Lucile Aurore Dupin, the Baroness Dudevant, who was the most famous woman writer in France in the 19th century. And she's the subject of Belinda Jack's new biography GEORGE SAND: A WOMAN'S LIFE WRIT LARGE (New York: Knopf, 2000; 395 pp., \$30.00).
8433. "The Golden Spiders: A Nero Wolfe Mystery" debuted on A&E cable on Mar. 5, starring Maury Chaykin as Nero Wolfe and Tim Hutton as Archie Goodwin, and a brief glimpse of the portrait of Sherlock Holmes on the wall over Goodwin's desk in Wolfe's office; it's now available on cassette (100 minutes) from A&E Home Video (\$19.95). John McAleer (Rex Stout's biographer) asked him, "Did Archie hang up the picture of Sherlock Holmes that is found over his desk, or did Wolfe put it there?" Stout replied, "I was a damn fool to do it. Obviously it's always an artistic fault in any fiction to mention any other character in fiction. It should never be done."
8434. The summer issue of The Magic Door (the newsletter published by The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) has nice tributes to the late Cameron Hollyer, and Dayna McCausland's examination of Sherlockian comic strips and comic books; copies are available from Doug Wrigglesworth, 16 Sunset Street, Holland Landing, ON L9N 1H4, Canada <dougwrig@idirect.com>. And (for the electronically enabled), the Friends' web-site is at <www.acdfriends.org>.
8435. The 1932 Czech film "Lelicek ve sluzbach Sherlocka Holmesa" [Lelicek in the Service of Sherlock Holmes] was directed by Karel Lamac and starred Martin Fric as Holmes, and it's now available on an NTSC-format videocassette (in Czech, without subtitles) from Video EL Canada, 583 William Street, London, ON N6B 3E8, Canada; CA\$41.00 or US\$37.00 postpaid (checks or money orders, please).
8436. Further to the earlier report (August 00 #1) on the new version of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (with Matt Frewer as Holmes), the film is scheduled to debut on the Odyssey Channel on Oct. 21. The Odyssey Channel most likely can be found among the digital channels available from some cable services.
8437. Patricia King examines "The Dyeing Detective" in the September issue of The Camden House Journal (the monthly four-page newsletter published by the Occupants of the Empty House), and that's not a misprint: it's hair dye, and she comes to a surprising and interesting conclusion about what Holmes did after he encountered Moriarty at the Reichenbach Falls. A subscription to The Camden House Journal costs \$12.00 a year from Stan Tinsley (105 Wilcox Avenue, Ziegler, IL 62999); copies of "The Dyeing Detective" are available (free) from Stan, who's also at <srtn@hotmail.com>. And the society has a web-site at <www.75megs.com/camdenhouse/>.
8438. For the electronically-enabled: the SciFi Channel's web-site at <www.scifi.com/set/originals/> offers a Seeing Ear Theater web-page with a long list of audio adaptations, and you now can (if your computer is fancy enough), listen to Poul Anderson's imaginative pastiche "The Martian Crown Jewels" starring Bronson Pinchot as Syaloch (and with a script by Andrew Joffe).
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September 2000 #6

8439. There has been a lot of publicity about Rodger Garrick-Steele's claim that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle colluded with his publishers to deny B. Fletcher Robinson recognition for devising the plot and supplying much of the local detail for THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, and then in 1907, worried that his affair with Fletcher Robinson's wife Gladys would be discovered, poisoned Fletcher Robinson with laudanum. According to a story in the Sunday Times (Sept. 10), Garrick-Steele moved into Park Hill House, Fletcher Robinson's former home, in the 1980s, but was unaware of its literary connections until "a photograph of the young Conan Doyle was mysteriously left on the doorstep." According to a story in the Sunday Express on the same date, Garrick-Steele's 500-page manuscript has been rejected by 90 publishers, and he is hoping that "publicity surrounding his allegations will be enough to get the book into print." He has been described in the press as a former driving instructor, undertaker, and property developer; it remains to be seen if he will become a published author.
8440. A new stamp honors the 150th anniversary of California's statehood; California is mentioned in three Sherlock Holmes stories ("A Study in Scarlet", "The Noble Bachelor", and "The Valley of Fear"). The spectacular view of the Pacific coast is one that Conan Doyle might well have seen when he visited California in 1923. "It is a nice question," he wrote in OUR SECOND AMERICAN ADVENTURE, "whether San Francisco does not stand first in natural beauty of all cities in the world."
8441. Almost three years ago I wrote about a new CD-ROM disk, and it is just as interesting and useful now as it was then, and, since there are many more Sherlockians and Doyleans who have computers with CD-ROM readers now, I'll reprint my review: December 97 #3
8442. The world of technology uses the phrase "killer application" to describe something that's so desirable that it sells a product: it was pornography, for example, that drove the rapid expansion of VCR ownership (since people could watch X-rated films at home rather than in seedy movie theaters). And THE WORKS OF SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE on a CD-ROM disk may well help many Sherlockians decide to add a CD-ROM reader to their computers. It has almost all of Conan Doyle's published works, an extensive bibliography, and an updated and expanded second edition of THE QUEST FOR SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE (edited by Jon L. Lellenberg), in plain-ASCII that's platform-independent (you can run it on any computer, possibly even including an IBM 650, which is the first computer I ever wrote programs for, back in 1960). And there's more, including useful software, and the manuscript of the first chapter of THE WHITE COMPANY. John Thibeau and Frank A. Young have created a splendid resource for Sherlockians and Doyleans and anyone interested in good literature: there's material on this disk that has been out-of-print for decades and almost impossible to find in original appearances, and it's grand indeed that so many more people will be able to read it now. \$95.00 postpaid from Insight Engineering (Box 10785, Franconia, VA 22310), and there's a Zip disk for those who have Zip drives (\$100.00 postpaid); US dollar checks or money orders, please.

October 2000 #1

8443. There's going to be a lot going on in mid-November in and near Washington: Ken Ludwig's play "Postmortem" will be performed in Arlington, Va., on Nov. 17-19; "A Saturday with Sherlock Holmes: Sherlock Under the Lens: will be held at the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore on Nov. 18, and The Red Circle of Washington celebrates its 50th anniversary at dinner on Nov. 20.
8444. A synopsis of the play: "William Gillette has invited the cast of his revival of 'Sherlock Holmes' to his Connecticut home for the weekend. Someone is trying to murder Gillette, and he has reason to suspect that it is one of his guests for the weekend, and the intrepid and eccentric Gillette has taken on, in real life, his greatest role: he plans to solve the case a la Sherlock Holmes! Shots in the dark, a stormy night, and bottles over the head, all lead to misbegotten suspicions among the guests." There will be three performances, on Nov. 17 (8:00 pm), Nov. 18 (8:00 pm), and Nov. 19 (2:00 pm), at the Bishop O'Connell High School at 6600 Little Falls Road, Arlington, VA 22213; tickets cost \$8.00 (or \$5.00 for students and seniors) (and there's a special family rate for members of the Knights of Columbus), and reservations are needed if you want a good seat (the box-office telephone number is 703-237-1448).
8445. "A Saturday with Sherlock Holmes" is sponsored by the Sherlockian societies in Baltimore; it's the 21st annual program, and it starts at 10:00 on Nov. 18, with presentations by local Sherlockians, and the festivities will end at 1:00. There's no charge, and the Enoch Pratt Free Library is located at 400 Cathedral Street in Baltimore.
8446. And The Red Circle will celebrate its 50th anniversary at dinner at The National Press Club in Washington, with Karen Anderson (the founder and still the president of the society) on hand, accompanied by her husband Poul Anderson; drinks at 6:30 and dinner at 7:30. Dinner costs \$36.50, and reservations are important; please contact Peter E. Blau (addresses at the end of the last page of this newsletter).
8447. John A. Kerr died on October 13. He was a certified public accountant, proud of his Scots ancestors (he wore his kilt to help the Bootmakers of Toronto celebrate their 25th anniversary), and a member of The Sons of the Copper Beeches, The Clients of Sherlock Holmes, The Denizens of the Bar of Gold, and other societies on the mid-Atlantic coast.
8448. Marina Stajic and Paul Singleton have discovered a Baker Street restaurant and pub in New York, at 1152 First Avenue (at 63rd Street); there's a Sherlockian silhouette on the menu and matchbooks, and their web-site may be up and running now at <<http://www.bakerstreetny.com>>.
8449. Planning continues for the 10th annual dinner of the STUD Sherlockian Society, at the Sheraton Four Points in Schiller Park, Ill., on Mar. 2, 2001, with Steve Doyle as featured speaker, a silent auction of material from the late Dennis France's collection of Sherlockiana, as well as the traditional awards, toasts, and door prizes. And there will be a Solar Pons Breakfast and other events on Mar. 3. Additional details are available from Allan T. Devitt (16W603 3rd Avenue, Bensenville, IL 60106) <atdevitt@mediaone.net>.

October 2000 #2

8450. For the completists: Tom Baker's autobiography WHO ON EARTH IS TOM BAKER? (London: HarperCollins, 1997; 268 pp., £17.99) has been remaindered, and includes minor discussion of his appearances on television as Doctor Who in "The Talons of Weng-Chiang" (1977) and as Sherlock Holmes in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1982) and in Hugh Leonard's play "The Mask of Moriarty" (1985).
8451. Further to the obituary for Curt Siodmak (September 00 #4), the latest issue of Scarlet Street (#39) offers some fine articles about him and his films; the magazine costs \$35.00 a year for six issues (Box 604, Glen Rock, NJ 07452). <<http://www.scarletstreet.com>>.
8452. Scarlet Street also reports that Arts & Entertainment cable plans to follow their "The Golden Spiders: A Nero Wolfe Mystery" with another two-hour film ("The Doorbell Rang") and ten one-hour episodes starring Maury Chaykin and Timothy Hutton. If they use the same set for Wolfe's office, there may be more glimpses of the portrait of Sherlock Holmes hanging on the wall over Archie Goodwin's desk.
8453. Claire Pierce, who provides Special Events Bulletin Boards for the Touring America Guild, has kindly created one for Sherlockian events, and if you have access to the World Wide Web, you can see how it works at the web-site at <<http://www.touringtiles.com/bulletin/sherlock/wwwboard.htm>>, and post your own notices (and there's no charge for posting or access).
8454. Thomas Wolfe (1900-1938) has been honored in our series of "Literary Arts" stamps. He's best known for his novel LOOK HOMEWARD, ANGEL (1929), and Stephen M. Black's "A Meeting Between Sherlock Holmes and Thomas Wolfe--A Possible and Plausible Scenario" was published The Thomas Wolfe Review (spring 1983).

8455. Does anyone recall anything about Arthur Conan Doyle having visited Elton Manor? Eliza Wright spotted a passing mention of this in *THE MARIAN CONSPIRACY*, by Graham Phillips (London: Sidgwick and Jackson, 2000); Phillips says that Conan Doyle stayed at Elton Manor in 1899, and that the manor was the inspiration for Baskerville Hall, but cites no source.
8456. A new issue of *The Sherlockian Times* has arrived from Classic Specialties (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219) <<http://www.sherlock-holmes.com>> with a nice selection of books, mugs, audio and videocassettes, and other collectibles, including a new "Sherlock Hare" (complete with birth certificate); do your Christmas shopping early.
8457. It has been a while since I mentioned The Edgar Wallace Society, whose members are devoted to their hero as we are to ours; Edgar Wallace was one of the most prolific authors in modern literature (and he wrote the dialogue for the 1932 film version of "The Hound of the Baskervilles"). The society has the blessing of Wallace's granddaughter Penny Wyrde, and has a quarterly newsletter called *The Crimson Circle*, and membership costs £15.00 in Europe (£10.00 for students and seniors) and £20.00/€15.00 elsewhere. Additional information is available from Kai Jorg Hinz at Kohlbergsgracht 40, NL-6462 CD Kerkrade, The Netherlands <<http://www.edgarwallace.org>>.
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October 2000 #3

8458. John Baesch has forwarded a review by Jim Carey in *The Sunday Times* (Sept. 24) of *HOW THE ENGLISH MADE THE ALPS*, by Jim Ring (London: John Murray, 2000; 290 pp., £19.99); it appears that British mountaineers who were members of the Alpine Club, founded in 1857 by people who believed that Alps were only to be climbed, were far from happy when Arthur Conan Doyle launched the sport of downhill skiing, which one member of the club called "a return to the primitive delights practised by savages."
8459. The Sept. 2000 "mostly new arrivals" catalog from Peter L. Stern (55 Temple Place, Boston, MA 02111) <psbook@aol.com> offers some interesting Sherlockiana and Doyleana, including the 12-page manuscript for "The Coming of the Huns" (one of his fine tales of Roman history), offered at \$37,500.
8460. The Easton Press (47 Richards Avenue, Norwalk, CT 06875) (800-211-1308) is still offering *THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES* in three volumes; first issued in 1987, it's a handsome leather-bound reprint (with color frontispieces) of the Heritage Press edition published in 1952 and 1957; \$54.00 per volume postpaid.
8461. Stradivarius violins continue to make the news: John Baesch has forwarded a story from the *Daily Telegraph* (Sept. 25), about the Messiah Stradivarius, which has been owned by the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford for a century and a half and, now that experts have concluded it's authentic, is valued at £10 million. The violin is in perfect condition, which made it suspect in the view of some who believed it a 19th-century fake, but a study of tree rings in the violin's Alpine spruce top show it to be far older, and perhaps even made from the same tree as two other Strads created in 1717.
8462. Morton Lowry died on Aug. 22. He began his acting career on stage in London, and moved to Hollywood in the 1930s, acting in films for more than 20 years; he played John Stapleton in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1939) and the steward Sanford in "Pursuit to Algiers" (1945).
8463. Forecast: Gerard Van der Leun's *THE QUOTABLE SHERLOCK HOLMES* ("a comprehensive compendium of the first consulting detective's wit, wisdom, and philosophy"), from the Mysterious Press in November (256 pp., \$12.95).
8464. Jerry Kegley presented a paper on "The Magic Bullet Pre-Kennedy: Dr. John H. Watson at the Battle of Maiwand" at a meeting of The Curious Collectors of Baker Street on Sept. 17; copies of the 23-page paper (which Jerry describes as a "definitive chapbook") are available from the author (110 El Nido Avenue #41, Pasadena, CA 91107 (\$7.50 postpaid)).
8465. Further to the item (September 00 #1) on the possibility of a CD-ROM disk with a complete run of *The Baker Street Journal*, *The Baker Street Irregulars* have announced that the disk will be published, with the Old Series, the Christmas Annuals, and 50 volumes of the New Series (through the end of 2000) in PDF format; and with Don Redmond's subject, author, and title indexes; and with search and cut-and-paste features; and with Adobe Reader software in both Windows and Macintosh formats. The cost will be \$105.00 postpaid (or \$110.00 outside North America); checks (payable to *The Baker Street Irregulars*) should be sent to *The Baker Street Irregulars*, 2029 Century Park East #3290, Los Angeles, CA 90067, and the disks will be shipped early in 2001.
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October 2000 #4

8466. Peter Melonas (Sherlock Holmes Mystery Book Store, 1770 Sixth Crompton Square, Memphis, TN 38134 <capedthief@cs.com> offers copies of Joe Barros' 1981 "A Three Pipe Problem" lithograph portrait of Sherlock Holmes (\$45.00 postpaid), and of John Northcross' 1992 print showing Holmes and Watson (\$12.00 postpaid). Illustrated flier are available on request.
8467. Further to the item (July 00 #1) about the boxed set of "The Complete Sherlock Holmes" with 48 hours of audio material on 36 cassettes, I neglected to mention that all those hours are the BBC radio series that starred Clive Merrison and Michael Williams (the first time the entire Canon has been recorded with the same actors as Holmes and Watson); the set costs £150, and the cassettes also are available separately.
8468. Available from Thomas Biblewski: a chrome-plated lapel pin with a silhouette of Sherlock Holmes. \$7.00 postpaid, from the Baker Street Dispatch, Box 5503, Toledo, OH 43613.
8469. Noted by Paul Churchill: William R. Hanson's article "The Adventure of the Detective Stamp" in October issue of *American Philatelist*, about many of the postage stamps that have honored Sherlock Holmes. Hanson has designed more than 3,000 stamps for some two dozen counties, and one of his designs may be new to Sherlockian philatelists: a young woman of Queen Victoria's day shown in front of the Northumberland Hotel in London, on the souvenir sheet issued by Bhutan in 1990 to honor Stamp World London 90. Box 8000, State College, PA 16803; \$3.95.
8470. Further to the item (September 00 #6) on Rodger Garrick-Steele's claim that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle stole "The Hound of the Baskervilles" from B. Fletcher Robinson, had an affair with his wife, and murdered him, *Variety* reported on Oct. 11 that Nash Entertainment has bought the film, stage, television, and book rights to the Garrick-Steele manuscript. Nash Entertainment is a Hollywood production company responsible for television series such as "The Sexiest Bachelor in America", "I Confess!", "Speed Dating", and "Wanted!".
8471. William S. Dorn has been teaching courses on Sherlock Holmes at the University of Denver for more than 25 years, and the results of his work are now available in *A STUDY GUIDE TO SHERLOCK HOLMES*, which offers quizzes, questions, and exercises in chronology. The first volume (with 288 pages) has a foreword by Julia Carlson Rosenblatt and covers the four novels, the Adventures, and the Memoirs; it can be ordered from The Sherlock Store (2045 South Monroe Street, Denver, CO 80210), and the postpaid cost is \$19.95 (to the U.S.), \$20.95 (Canada), and \$25.95 (elsewhere). A CD-ROM disk (without answers to the questions) can be used to generate print-outs of assignments and costs \$9.95/\$10.95/\$12.95 postpaid.
8472. "2001: A New Sherlockian Odyssey: a Journey Through the Shaw 100" will be held in Minneapolis on June 29-July 1, 2001; the conference will focus on John Bennett Shaw's "Basic Holmesian Library" (with an exhibit at the Elmer L. Andersen Library), and there will be distinguished speakers, an
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auction, a banquet, a meeting of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections, and other entertainment. Details are available from Julie McKuras (13512 Granada Avenue, Apple Valley, MN 55124) <mike9750@aol.com>.

October 2000 #5

8473. Peter Turgeon died on Oct. 6. He started his acting career as one of the Day children in a touring production of "Life with Father" in 1940, and worked in film and television as well as on stage, and he was a writer, director, and actor at the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center in Waterford, Conn., where in 1973 he played Holmes in the world premiere of Allen Sternfield's one-act play "Holmes and Moriarty, or An Extension of Philosophy, or The Rape of Mrs. Hudson".
8474. The American Firm, a Sherlockian society whose "resident patient" project raises money to buy large-print editions of the Canon for adult homes and nursing homes, welcomes donations for the project, and offers badges, bookmarks, mouse pads, tea towels, a quiz book, and other Sherlockian merchandise; an illustrated sales-list is available from Edward S. Smith, Jr. (Box 353, Williston Park, NY 11596) <amerfirm@aol.com>.
8475. Elfed Jones offers original, excellently-preserved issues of The Times and the Pall Mall Gazette from the 1880s and 1890s ("as read by Holmes and Watson"); \$19.00 each (Yesterday's News, 43 Dundonald Road, Colwyn Bay, Clwyd LL29 7RE, United Kingdom).
8476. Cerebro (Box 327, East Prospect, PA 17317) <<http://www.cerebro.com>> (800-695-2235) offers a wide variety of colorful antique label art (cigar box, fruit crate, and can labels), and their new catalog includes the Sherlock Holmes cigar box labels: inner lid label (\$8.00) and outer label (two variants, \$24.00 and \$75.00).
8477. The September issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota offers warm tributes to the late E. W. McDiarmid, by Andrew Malec, Julie McKuras, and John Bergquist, and news of the collections and notes on some of the more interesting items. If you'd like to be on their mailing list you can contact Richard J. Sveum (111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <sveum001@maroon.tc.umn.edu>.
8478. The Ferret Company Catalog is now available, with a colorful illustration of The Ferret Calendar 2001 cover photograph of a deerstalked ferret with a magnifying glass (July 00 #6). The calendar costs \$13.95 plus shipping (\$4.95 in the U.S.); Box 7161, Redwood City, CA 94063, and can see the photograph at <<http://www.ferretcompany.com>>.
8479. Issues #38 and #39 of Sherlock Holmes: The Detective Magazine offer David Stuart Davies' continuing series of articles on the Granada series; Roger Llewellyn's report on his tour of Canada in the play "Sherlock Holmes - The Last Act!"; Roger Johnson's tribute to Solar Pons; an interview with Matt Frewer (who played Sherlock Holmes in the new television version of "The Hound of the Baskervilles"); Nick Utechin's two-part discussion of parodies and pastiches (adapted from his BBC radio broadcast in July); and much more (Sherlockian and otherwise). Annual subscriptions (six issues) cost £18.00 (U.K.)/£20.00 (continent)/\$40.00 (elsewhere); Box 100, Chichester, West Sussex PO18 8HD, England <<http://pmh.uk.com/sherlock/sherlock.htm>>, and their U.S. agent is Classic Specialties (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219) (toll-free 877-233-3823) <<http://sherlock@sherlock-holmes.com>>. Creditcard orders welcome at both addresses; back issues are available.
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October 2000 #6

8480. The Shoso-in Bulletin's tenth volume, published by The Men with the Twisted Konjo and edited by Yuichi Hirayama and Mel Hughes, offers 208 pages of articles, poetry, essays, pastiches, parodies, and artwork, from contributors on five continents, all in English and nicely done as usual. \$12.00 postpaid from Classic Specialties (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219) (toll-free 877-233-3823) <<http://www.sherlock-holmes.com>>; credit-card orders welcome. And the Shoso-in Bulletin has its own web-site, at <<http://www.parkcity.ne.jp/~hirayama/index.htm>>.
8481. Spotted by Jennie Paton: a "Stuffins" seated Santa, about 10" high, wearing a deerstalker, in "The Island of Misfit Toys" soft-toys series, exclusively at CVS stores; \$12.95. Stuffins is at Box 124, Brielle, NJ 08730.
8482. Plan ahead: The Canonical Convocation and Capers, held in Door County, Wis., from 1989 to 1998, will hold a reunion (not restricted to alumni) on Sept. 7-9, 2001, at the Waterbury Inn in Ephraim. Donald B. Izban, Tom and Janet Biblewski, and Joel and Carolyn Senter comprise the CCC Committee, and they note that reservations are first come, first served. Details are available from Donald B. Izban (213 Ivy Court, Streamwood, IL 60107).
8483. Jacques Barzun's FROM DAWN TO DECADENCE: 500 YEARS OF CULTURAL TRIUMPH AND DEFEAT: 1500 TO THE PRESENT (August 00 #3) has been nominated for the National Book Award. The winners of the awards will be honored by the National Book Foundation in New York on Nov. 15, when Ray Bradbury will receive the 2000 Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters.
8484. The Czech Republic has joined the list of countries that have Sherlockian societies: Ceska spolecnost Sherlocka Holmese [The Czech Sherlock Holmes Society] will have its first meeting on Nov, 25 in Prague. The contact is Ales Kolodrubec (Milesovska 1, 130 00 Praha 3, Czech Republic) <classifieds@praguepost.cz>.
8485. Reported: James R. Stefanie's THE CHARTERS AFFAIR: BEING A REMINISCENCE OF DR. JOHN H. WATSON (428 pp., \$20.95); a pastiche involving Holmes in an investigation of a 16th-century mystery that has culminated in a 19th-century murder. The book can be ordered through bookstores, and from retailers on the World Wide Web; it's published on demand by iUniverse, a company that's similar to Xlibris (April 00 #3), offering authors who can provide electronic text a way to have books published at little or no cost. You can get more information about iUniverse at <<http://www.iuniverse.com>> (800-376-1736).
8486. Basil Rathbone as Sherlock Holmes is one of the more than 120 stars of the 1930s and 1940s portrayed by the late George I. Parrish, Jr., in his print (35 x 14.5 in.) "The Golden Era of the Movies"; it's available for \$75.00 from Barwick Publishing (Box 5355, Maryville, TN 37802), and they now have a web-site at <<http://www.barwickpublishing.com>>.
8487. "They Might Be Giants" (the rock group that took its name from the George C. Scott film) is touring: Nov. 2/9/16/23/30 at the Bowery Ballroom in New York (212-982-6115); Nov. 3 at the 9:30 Club in Washington (202-265-0930); Nov. 4 at the Recher Theater in Baltimore (410-337-7178); Nov. 10 at Palestra in Rochester, N.Y. (716-275-2332); and Nov. 18 at the Avalon Ballroom in Boston (617-262-2424). Their web-site is at <<http://www.tmbg.com>>.
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October 2000 #7

8488. Sherlock Holmes' 147th birthday will be celebrated on Friday, Jan. 5, with the traditional festivities in New York, but the celebration actually starts on Thursday evening, when the BSI Distinguished Speaker Lecture begins at 6:15 pm on the 6th floor of the Williams Club at 24 East 39th Street (between Madison and Park Avenues); the speaker will be Madeleine B. Stern, author of the classic paper "Sherlock Holmes: Rare-Book Collector" (1953), and for decades an expert book dealer (\$10.00); seating is limited, and you are advised to reserve early; details below).
8489. Friday begins with the Martha Hudson Breakfast, from 7:00 to 10:00 in the Oak Room at the Hotel Algonquin at 59 West 44th Street; the hotel provides its guests with a continental breakfast, and others are welcome to attend each day (and pay \$15.00; details below). The William Gillette
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- Memorial Luncheon starts at noon, at Moran's Chelsea Seafood Restaurant at 146 Tenth Avenue at 19th Street; \$36.00 (Susan Rice, 125 Washington Place #2-E, New York, NY 10014). And Otto Penzler will hold his traditional open house at The Mysterious Bookshop (129 West 56th Street) from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm; Sherlockian authors will be on hand to sign their books.
8490. The Baker Street Irregulars will gather at 6:00 pm at the Union League Club at 38 East 37th Street. The Baskerville Bash (open to all Sherlockians and their friends) offers dinner and entertainment at 6:30 pm at the Manhattan Club at 201 West 52nd Street (between Broadway and Seventh Avenue); \$65.00 until Dec. 15, then \$75.00 (Paula J. Perry, 346 East 87th Street #4-A, New York, NY 10128) <www.homestead.com/baskervillebash/BB.html> (and please let Paula know your e-mail address, and your primary Sherlockian society affiliation). Early reservations are advised for the William Gillette luncheon and the Baskerville Bash.
8491. Those who wish to have seasonal souvenirs in the dinner packets can send 175 copies (for the BSI) to James B. Saunders (3011 47th Street, Astoria, NY 11103) and 140 copies (for the Bash) to Francine Kitts (35 Van Cortlandt Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10301); your material should arrive by Dec. 15.
8492. On Saturday a wide variety of Sherlockiana will be available in a dealers' room on the 2nd floor of the Hotel Algonquin at 59 West 44th Street, from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm; for information on vendor tables, contact Ralph Hall, 2906 Wallingford Court, Louisville, KY 40218 (502-491-3148) <bugmanhall@aol.com>.
8493. The Clients of Adrian Mulliner (devotees of the works of both John H. Watson and P. G. Wodehouse) will hold a Junior Bloodstain (a rather less than totally reverent gathering) at the Hotel Algonquin at 12:30 pm (possibly in the lobby, or elsewhere, depending on how many people show up). If you're planning to attend, please let Anne Cotton know (12 Hollywood Street, South Hadley, MA 01075) <ladybassett@mediaone.net>.
8494. The BSI annual reception, open to all Sherlockians and their friends, will be held on Saturday afternoon from 3:00 to 5:30, at the National Arts Club at 15 Gramercy Park (on 20th Street between Park and Third Avenues); there will be an open bar, and hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, and the usual traditional and untraditional entertainment, and the cost of the event is \$35.00 (details below) or \$45.00 at the door.

October 2000 #8

8495. There will be an early-Saturday-evening event, also at the National Arts Club, where Paul Singleton will present "The Celluloid Hound" reviewing the many film and television versions of the story; this will take about 30 minutes, and it will start reasonably soon after the reception ends, and there will be a nominal charge for the event.
8496. The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes have arranged an informal brunch on Sunday, at noon at the Baker Street restaurant at 1152 First Avenue (at 63rd Street); it's open to all, and reservations are advised, to Marina Stajic (425 East 51st Street #4-A, New York, NY 10022) <mstajic@aol.com>.
8497. The Baker Street Irregulars are a tax-exempt organization, and Mike Whelan has arranged with the Hotel Algonquin for single or double rooms at 195.00 a night (Tuesday through Sunday); this is the total cost, since there is no tax due on reservations arranged by the BSI (the special rate is the equivalent of \$170.00 plus tax). Other charges (room service, telephone calls, meals, drinks, etc.) are not covered. The offer is available to all Sherlockians; contact the Algonquin directly (there's a firm mid-December cutoff deadline) and ask for the Baker Street Irregulars rate (212-840-6800).
8498. And here are the details: you can request a reservation form for the Thursday lecture, the Martha Hudson breakfast, and the Saturday reception, from Michael F. Whelan, 7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278; he will mail out the reservation forms by mid-November .
8499. Mary Ellen Rich has kindly provided a list of hotels that offer reasonable (as defined by New York landlords) rates, along with a warning about nonoptional extras: \$2.00 a day occupancy tax, 8.25% state tax, and 5% city tax. Ask for the lowest available rate, don't be shy about asking for discounts (AAA, senior, corporate), and if you plan to arrive on Thursday you should confirm that weekend rates apply, and you should request a written confirmation. Best Western Manhattan (17 West 32nd St.): \$89 (promotional: single/double) (212-736-1600); Comfort Inn Midtown (129 West 46th St.): \$89 \$99 (double) (212-221-2600); Thirty Thirty Hotel (30 East 30th St.): \$90 (promo: single/double) (212-689-1900); Red Roof Inn (6 West 32nd St.): \$90 (corporate: single/double) (212-643-7100); Quality Hotel (59 West 46th St.): \$99 (single/double) (212-719-2300); Best Western Woodwood (210 West 55th St.): \$119 (single/double) (212-247-2000). And Mary Ellen recommends <<http://www.panix.com>> for links to Manhattan hotels, hostels, and bed-andbreakfasts.
8500. The Dr. John H. Watson Fund offers financial assistance to all Sherlockians (membership in the BSI is not required) who might otherwise not be able to participate in the weekend's festivities. A carefully pseudonymous John H. Watson presides over the fund and welcomes contributions, which can be made by check payable to John H. Watson and sent (without return address on the envelope) to Dr. Watson, care of The Baker Street Irregulars, at 7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278; your letters are forwarded unopened, and Dr. Watson will acknowledge your generosity. Requests for assistance can also be mailed to Dr. Watson at the same address.

November 2000 #1

8501. The 18th "Autumn in Baker Street" in Tarrytown, N.Y., on Oct. 28-29 was a delightful gathering, with some 125 people on hand for the festivities, and to pay tribute to Bob Thomalen, who has both arranged and presided over all of the gatherings. This was his swan song, and the weekend was full of fun and games, and a bit of scholarship, and a dinner that featured warm tributes to Bob and Terry, and a rousing performance by the Sherlettes and the Sherhunks (who will perform again at the Baskerville Bash in January), and an after-hours songs-and-cigars room-party that was raided by the hotel security chief, who wisely offered the celebrants a larger meeting room next to a wedding party that was almost as raucous; the room's smoke alarm was disabled, and it was reported at breakfast that the party concluded at the Canonical hour of 2:21 am.
8502. Bouchercon 2000 was held in Denver on Sept. 7-10, and (according to reports from all quarters received) quite successful, and there were three 45-minute sessions of particular interest: "Sherlock's Radio Plays" (David Haugen and Bill Seil) [BCX09-420]; "Spirits and Spitoons: Arthur Conan Doyle in America" (Daniel Stashower) [BCX09-840]; and "The Sherlockian Canon: High Crimes" (David Haugen, Bill Seil, and Stu Shiffman) [BCX09-910]. Bouchercon sessions are audiotaped, and you can purchase cassettes from Tree Farm Communications, 23703 N.E. 4th Street, Sammamish, WA 98074 (800-468-0464) <<http://www.treefarmtapes.com>>; \$11.00 each postpaid (credit-card orders welcome).
8503. Bouchercon will be in Washington on Nov. 1-4, 2001 (Box 11700, Washington, DC 20008) <<http://www.bouchercon2001.com>>, and then in Austin in 2002 (Box 27277, Austin, TX 78755 <acs@crimeandspace.com>).
8504. Reported: Adam Goodheart's article "The Last Island of the Savages" in the autumn issue of American Scholar, about North Sentinel Island, which is a close neighbor (30 miles away) of Great Andaman Island in the Indian Ocean; the first "friendly visit" occurred in 1991, when a small group of Indian officials managed to land on the island and distributed gifts of coconuts without being killed by the Sentinelese. That also may have been the only friendly visit: Goodheart approached the island in a small boat, but did not attempt to land.
8505. "Swift Goes to the Races!" is the theme of this year's Christmas Annual of The Baker Street Journal, which will offer Wayne B. Swift's comprehensive history of the Silver Blaze races (world wide) since the first such event was held in 1952. The 64-page annual is not part of subscriptions to the BSI,

and you'll need to place your orders by Dec. 15 in order to be sure of getting a copy. Orders can be sent to The Baker Street Journal (Box 465, Hanover, PA 17331); \$11.00 postpaid in the U.S. (checks only, please), and \$12.00 postpaid to other countries (credit-card orders welcome).

8506. The most recent volumes in The Baker Street Irregulars' excellent archival history series (edited by Jon L. Lellenberg) also are available: IRREGULAR PROCEEDINGS OF THE MID 'FORTIES (1995), and IRREGULAR CRISES OF THE LATE 'FORTIES (1999) cost \$27.90 each postpaid (\$28.90 outside the U.S.) from The Baker Street Irregulars, Box 465, Hanover, PA 17331.

November 2000 #2

8507. Dirk J. Struik died on Oct. 21. He began teaching mathematics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1926, and his landmark two-volume CONCISE HISTORY OF MATHEMATICS was published in 1948 (a revised fourth edition was issued in 1987 and is still in print). He also was a fervent Marxist and in 1951 was accused by a county grand jury of advocating the overthrow of the government, and MIT suspended him from teaching until the case was dropped five years later. His article on "The Real Watson" was published in The Baker Street Journal in Jan. 1947, and he was still a Sherlockian when he was a centenarian; Dirk greatly enjoyed attending annual dinners of The Friends of Irene Adler, and toasting his fellow mathematician Professor Moriarty. "I've lived this long because I didn't die," he told the Associated Press in 1999, when he was 104.
8508. Arthur Conan Doyle wrote "The Haunted Grange of Gresthorpe: A True Ghost Story" toward the end of the 1870s, and submitted it to Blackwood's Magazine; the story was never published, but the magazine kept the manuscript, which was discovered in its archives, now at the National Library of Scotland. The story is being published for the first time, on Dec. 1, with an introduction by Owen Dudley Edwards, an afterword by Christopher Roden, and a reproduction of the first page of the manuscript, by the Ash-Tree Press (Box 136, Ashcroft, BC V0K 1A0, Canada). The book costs CA\$45.00/US\$35.00 /£21.00 plus shipping (credit-card orders welcome), and there's a web-site at <<http://ash-tree.bc.ca/ashtreecurrent.html>>.
8509. "Mr. Holmes was a dinner guest at the White House," Washington Evening Star reporter Ben McKelway was told by an official at the National Theater on Jan. 6, 1930. Of course it wasn't Holmes, but rather William Gillette, who had arrived to begin a one-week run of his play and had been invited to luncheon with President and Mrs. Herbert Hoover. Our new stamp honors the bicentennial of the opening of the White House, which has been visited by notable Sherlockians, including Christopher Morley, whose article about "What the President Reads: Notes on a Visit to the White House" in the Saturday Review of Literature (Sept. 24, 1932) said of President Herbert Hoover: "Though not a great zealot of the detective story he knows his Sherlock Holmes, Anna Katharine Green, Mary Roberts Rinehart, S. S. Van Dine."
8510. Mark Alberstat's 2001 Sherlock Holmes Calendar is illustrated with artwork from The Strand Magazine, and displays important Sherlockian birthdays and William S. Baring-Gould's dates for the cases. The cost is US\$12.00 postpaid, and his address is 5 Lorraine Street, Dartmouth, NS B3A 2B9, Canada.
8511. Laurie R. King is home after her promotional tour to Australia, and is now at work on her next Mary Russell book, JUSTICE HALL, scheduled for publication next year. There's lots of information about Laurie and her books at her official web-site at <<http://www.laurierking.com>>, with information on how to get signed copies of her books from a bookstore near Laurie's home: Cross-Roads Books, 1935 Main Street, Watsonville, CA 9576 (831-728-4139).
8512. And Laurie's "The Beekeeper's Apprentice" is now on the air in Great Britain, dramatized by Sean Prendergast and broadcast by BBC Radio 4 in four weekly episodes beginning on Nov. 15, starring Monica Dolan (Mary Russell), James Fox (Sherlock Holmes), and Sean Prendergast (Dr. Watson).
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November 2000 #3

8513. The Northern Musgraves offer some attractive new merchandise: a bronze bust of Peter Cushing as Holmes, a pewter statuette of Peter Cushing as Holmes, and a bone-china cup with the Musgrave Ritual and the society's logo. An illustrated sales-list is available from Anne Jordan, Fairbank, Beck Lane, Bingley, West Yorks. BD16 4DN, England.
8514. Further to the item (October 00 #6) about the Shoso-in Bulletin, editor Yuichi Hirayama welcomes submissions (especially from countries where English is not the primary language) for the next volume; Yuichi's address is: 2-10-12 Kamirenjaku, Mitaka-shi, Tokyo 181-0012, Japan <hirayama@parkcity.ne.jp>.
8515. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists met for dinner at the Liberty Belle Saloon in Reno on Nov. 15, welcomed by Paul and Jenny McFarlane and other members of The Jarveys of the Metropolis. As usual, we toasted the world's first forensic geologist, and then many other people, including Sarah Andrews, whose sixth mystery novel about forensic geologist Em Hansen (AN EYE FOR GOLD) has just been published by St. Martin's Minotaur. Sarah brought along her friend David A. Spencer, who carried a paperback copy of her earlier ONLY FLESH AND BONES with him to Mount Everest, and left it behind at the camp at 6,502 meters, establishing Em Hansen as our most elevated forensic geologist. Our next dinners will be in Denver in June and in Boston in November 2001.
8516. William T. Hurtz died on Oct. 14. He was a splendid animator who began his career with Walt Disney in 1938 (working on the dancing mushroom sequence in "Fantasia" in 1940), and went on to launch United Productions of America (he was the layout artist for "Gerald McBoing-Boing"), and in 1959 moved to Jay Ward Productions (where he was one of the first to direct and supervise "The Adventures of Rocky and Bullwinkle"). He drew this Sherlockian "Rocky and Bullwinkle" artwork for Jerry Margolin, who reproduced it on his 1984 Christmas card.
8517. Many Sherlockians have visited William Gillette's home (Gillette Castle and State Park) in East Haddam, Conn., but I don't recall anyone reporting on a visit to Gillette's grave in Riverside Cemetery in Farmington, Conn. William Force spotted the story in the Farmington Valley Post (Oct. 26): enter the cemetery through the south gate, and look for the brownstone Civil War Monument; Gillette's grave is several steps to the east of the monument.
8518. Allen Mackler reports some nice finds in a catalog from The Scholar's Bookshelf: Richard D. Altick's WRITERS, READERS, AND OCCASIONS: SELECTED ESSAYS ON VICTORIAN LITERATURE AND LIFE (1989) discounted to \$12.95; Altick's THE PRESENCE OF THE PRESENT: TOPICS OF THE DAY IN THE VICTORIAN NOVEL (1991) discounted to \$19.95; Daniel Stashower's TELLER OF TALES: THE LIFE OF ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE (1999) discounted to \$19.95; and THE SUPERNATURAL TALES OF SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE (1987) discounted to \$8.99; the address is 110 Melrich Road, Cranbury, NJ 08512) <<http://scholarsbookshelf.com/literature/>>.
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November 2000 #4

8519. Those who enjoyed "Murder Rooms: The Dark Beginnings of Sherlock Holmes" on BBC-2 in Britain in January and on PBS-TV in the United States in May (starring Ian Richardson as Joseph Bell and Robin Laing as Arthur Conan Doyle) will welcome the report from script-writer David Pirie that shooting began on Nov. 13 on four more 90-minute episodes.
8520. Further to the mention of The Edgar Wallace Society (October 00 #2), the House of Stratus is bringing Wallace's books back into print: 28 titles are now available, with 28 more due in February, and members of the society receive a discount. Details are available from Penny Wyrld (84 Ridgfield Road, Oxford OX4 3DA, England) <<http://www.edgarwallace.org>>.
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8521. Tom Huntington notes Sherlockian dialogue in the new film "Best in Show": when Harlan Pepper (played by Christopher Guest) enters the show arena with his bloodhound Hubert, the clueless commentator (Buck Laughlin, played by Fred Willard) asks his co-commentator if the bloodhound would stand a better chance if he came on wearing a Sherlock Holmes cap and with a pipe that could be rigged to blow smoke.
8522. And Mia Stampe has reported that in Robin Williams' film "Jakob the Liar" (1999), one of the old men says that he has played minor roles in some Shakespeare plays, and Sherlock Holmes in "The Hound of the Baskervilles".
8523. John Broush's artwork is shown on new "Shirts from the South Downers" (polo shirts and T-shirts), available in various colors and sizes; an illustrated flier with full details is offered by Tim O'Connor (6015 West Route 115, Herscher, IL 60941); the deadline for orders is Dec. 31.
8524. The Red Circle of Washington celebrated its 50th anniversary at dinner at the National Press Club on Nov. 20 with our founder Karen Kruse Anderson on hand for the festivities. Karen reminisced about the society's early days, Jon Lellenberg paid tribute to six members of The Baker Street Irregulars who attended meetings in the 1950s, Sarah Rosenbaum reviewed significant events of later decades, Mike Whelan offered ideas on why so many Sherlockian societies have been so long-lived, and Beau Briggs and Nora Myers offered a dramatic bilingual toast to Emilia Lucca. And as might be expected, national politics was not neglected: both presidential candidates were reported to be suffering from medical problems. George W. Bush was receiving treatment for erectile dysfunction, and Al Gore was havtrouble with of premature congratulation.
8525. Further to the item (October 00 #4) about the boxed set of "The Complete Sherlock Holmes" on 36 cassettes starring Clive Merrison and Michael Williams (in the series broadcast by BBC radio), Bert Coules notes that you get all 50 hours for your £150 (and he should know, since he wrote many of the series scripts).
8526. Sherlock Holmes continues to turn up in medical journals: Richard Lackritz spotted Krishnansu S. Tewari's "The Adventure of the Three Abnormal Paps" in *Obstetrics & Gynecology* (Nov. 2000). in which Holmes is consulted by Sir William Gull and meets Dr. Frederick Treves (of Elephant Man fame).

November 2000 #5

8527. Forecast for December : THE SCOTTISH PLAY: A MYCROFT HOLMES MYSTERY, by Quinn Fawcett (Forge, \$24.95); the fourth novel in the series of pastiches ("when an actor resembling him mysteriously disappears, Mycroft Holmes must step into his shoes in Macbeth, while his allies search London for the missing man and battle to the enigmatic Brotherhood").
8528. Forecast for January: a paperback reprint of SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE RED DEMON, by Larry Millett (Penguin, \$5.99). INTO THE MUMMY'S TOMB, edited by John Richard Stephens (Berkley, \$14.00); contents include essays by Egyptologists Arthur Weigall and Howard Carter, and short stories Anne Rice, Bram Stoker, Elizabeth Peters, Arthur Conan Doyle, and others.
8529. An auction of "illustrative paintings and drawings" at Illustration House on Nov. 4 included a painting by Arthur Conan Doyle's uncle Richard Doyle, ("Man at the edge of the pits of Hell", in watercolor and gouache en grisaille) which sold for \$2,200 (plus 10% for the buyer's premium). The electronically-enabled may still be able to see the painting (lot 14) at their web-site at <<http://www.illustration-house.com>>. If you'd like to be on their mailing list for future auctions, their address is 96 Spring Street, New York, 10012 (212-966-9444).
8530. Forwarded by Bob Reynolds and Joe Coppola: Howell L. Hodgskin Jr.'s "'The Game Is Afoot'" in the November issue of *American Philatelist*, reporting on his Sherlockian stamps, postcards, and covers, with an illustration of his advertising cover from Parker Brothers in 1904 that promotes the company's "Sherlock Holmes" game.
8531. Tim Kelly's dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be produced at the Long Beach Playhouse on Dec. 1-16 and Jan. 5-20. The theater is at 5021 East Anaheim Street, Long Beach, CA 90804 (562-494-1014).
8532. "I wish I could say that Plato, Aristotle and other worthies were my fare, but my tastes at the period were for fun and adventure and mystery," Julia Child told Amy Wallace and Jerry Griswold when they asked celebrities about their youthful reading for an article in *Parade Magazine* (Mar. 13, 1983). "Kiddie adventure stories were my favorite reading," she reported, listing G. A. Henty's, the Sherlock Holmes stories, and Western sagas by Zane Grey. On Nov. 19, Scott Monty has reported, Julia Child was awarded the Legion d'Honneur, France's highest honor, in recognition of her work in ensuring that "any literate person with a reasonable amount of manual dexterity can concoct praiseworthy French meals." One hopes that she recalls that Sherlock Holmes received the same honor, for the tracking and arrest of Huret, the Boulevard assassin.
8533. Things do change: those who remember the Hotel Iroquois as an inexpensive alternative to the Hotel Algonquin will have noticed that the Iroquois has been renovated and now far from inexpensive. William Grimes wrote in his "Diner's Journal" in the N.Y. Times (Oct. 27) that: "On 44th Street, the Algonquin has always held sway over the Iroquois next door. But the Iroquois, in the final phase of its transformation into a chic boutique hotel, has trumped its old rival. It has created a restaurant worth eating at." The new restaurant is called Triomphe, and it has 11 tables and an interesting menu, with dinner entrees \$23.00 to \$27.00.

November 2000 #6

8534. Lee Shackelford's play "Holmes & Watson" had its world premiere at the University of Alabama in Birmingham in 1989, and it was performed in New York during the birthday festivities in 1990, and it will be revived next year at the Library Theatre of the Hoover Public Library in Hoover, Ala., on May 10-12 and 18-20. The theater address is 200 Municipal Drive, Hoover, AL 35216 (205-444-7888) <<http://www.gulliver.cc/h&w.htm>>.
8535. Frank Thomas was honored by The Blustering Gales from the South-West at a dinner in Los Angeles on Oct. 21; he made his first stage appearance in 1932, and acted in a dramatization of Christopher Morley's novel "Thunder on the Left", and appeared in his first film ("A Dog of Flanders") in 1935, and on television as "Tom Corbett, Space Cadet" in the 1950s. After retiring from acting, he began new careers as an author and as a bridge teacher, and in the 1980s and 1990s wrote a series of Sherlockian pastiches.
8536. Mary Burke reports that the exhibition "Art for the Nation: Collecting for a New Century" (at the National Gallery of Art in Washington through Feb. 4) displays recent acquisitions by the museum, including "The Shipwreck" by Sherlock Holmes' great-great-grandfather Claude-Joseph Vernet.
8537. Further to the report (April 96 #2) on the postage stamp issue by Great Britain honoring the 50th anniversary of the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust and its efforts to save endangered birds that include the bittern, one recalls that Stapleton suggested (in "The Hound of the Baskervilles") that "I should not be surprised to learn that what we have heard is the cry of the last of the bitterns." John McGowan has noted a story in the *Daily Telegraph* (Nov. 20) that records some cheerful news: there are 22 surviving pairs of bitterns, and one of them has produced young, at a sanctuary run by the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust at Barton.
8538. Sotheby's (34-35 New Bond Street, London W1A 2AA, England) is offering some interesting Dorothy L. Sayers material at auction on Dec. 19 (sale L00215), and lot 279 consists of items relating to her interest in Sherlock Holmes. There's an unpublished BBC radio script of Lord Peter Wimsey's tribute to Sherlock Holmes (broadcast in 1954), an annotated proof copy of her article "Dr. Watson's Christian Name", an autograph notebook with her notes on "The Priory School", and other intriguing material. Sotheby's estimates the lot at £2,500-3,500. The electronically-enabled can view a

full description at <http://www.sothebys.com/cgi-bin/osform.exe/lotservice?osforms_template=CatalogueSearch.oft> (type in the sale and lot numbers).

8539. There's a delightful stained-glass portrait of Sherlock Holmes on display in the O'Shaughnessy-Frey Library at the University of St. Thomas, designed by Austin H. Lange, manufactured by Conrad Pichel, and installed in 1959. John Bennett Shaw showed the portrait on his Christmas card in 1975, and it can also be seen on the dust jacket of the 1977 Bramhall House reprint of Ronald B. De Waal's THE WORLD BIBLIOGRAPHY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES AND DR. WATSON, and it now is one of the illustrations in a booklet about the library, recently at hand from Bob Brusic. Copies of the booklet are available on request from the Library (2115 Summit Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55105).

December 2000 #1

8540. The formal announcement for the grand gourmet dinner (honoring the centennial of "The Hound of the Baskervilles") at the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park on May 12 is ready: the cost of the black-tie event will be \$120.00, and you should send your checks to Albert and Julia Rosenblatt, 300 Freedom Road, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569. And quickly, because seating is limited, and it's first-come, first served.
8541. Bert Coules reports that Michael Williams has been awarded a Papal Knighthood, presumably for services to the Church rather than for being the only actor to have portrayed Dr. Watson in all sixty Canonical stories.
8542. Inspector Morse died last month, on British television, in the last of 33 television programs starring John Thaw, according to a Reuters dispatch at hand from Jay Hyde. Colin Dexter, who created the detective, said that "by killing Morse now, I am ending it while the show is still a success," and that "Morse deserves to die. He's not looked after himself -- he is diabetic and drinks too much. So it is no wonder he keels over. It happens to us all one day, so why should Morse be any different?" And John Thaw praised Morse's fallibility: "It's one of the things I loved about him, the way he got things wrong but was so convinced he was right. Sometimes he would be chasing the wrong man for three quarters of an episode. He was never Sherlock Holmes."
8543. Michael Ross notes a new Sherlockian pastiche (in German): DER VIERTE KOENIG [THE FOURTH MAGI], by Stefan Wings (Cologne: Emons Verlag, 2000; 255 pp., DM 19.80); Holmes is called in to unravel the theft of the relics of the Biblical magi from Cologne Cathedral. \$10.00 postpaid (to any address) from Baskerville Buecher (Postfach 42 06 70, 50900 Cologne, Germany); currency only, please.
8544. Claire Pierce, who provides Special Events Bulletin Boards for the Touring America Guild, continues to offer one for Sherlockian events, and if you (or anyone in your Sherlockian society) has access to the World Wide Web, you can see how the bulletin board works (and post your own notices, at no charge) at <<http://www.touringtiles.com/bulletin/sherlock/wwwboard.htm>>.
8545. "Whoever plays him, the Doctor is a cosmic meddler. with no ideology except an aversion to suffering and injustice," Lloyd Rose wrote in the Washington Post (Dec. 2), discussing the television series "Doctor Who" (which is now being aired on Maryland Public Television). "As a hero, he belongs to the class of Eccentric English Bachelor Geniuses, of whom the supreme example is Sherlock Holmes. Like Holmes, he is cerebral, solitary, and curious, in both senses of the word. He doesn't find wickedness fearsome as much as supremely irritating."
8546. The British Tourist Authority (551 Fifth Avenue #701, New York, NY 10176) (800-482-2748) <<http://www.travelbritain.org>> does a splendid job of helping tourists. Their "Literary Britain" map offers discussion of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes, and their "Movie Map" includes the Granada "Sherlock Holmes" series. There's also a brochure for The Original London Walks <<http://www.walks.com>> with various walks devoted to Sherlock Holmes.

December 2000 #2

8547. Laurie R. King will be on tour next year, promoting her new (non-Mary Russell) novel FOLLY. Her schedule is: Mar. 5 at the Capitola Book Cafe in Capitola, CA; Mar. 6 at Stacey's in San Francisco, CA, and Kepler's in Menlo Park, CA; Mar. 7 at Rakestraw in Danville, CA; Mar. 10 at M Is for Mystery in San Mateo, CA, and the Bookshop in Benicia, CA; Mar. 11 at the Poisoned Pen in Scottsdale, AZ; Mar. 12 at Murder by the Book in Houston, TX; Mar. 13 at Anderson's in Naperville (near Chicago), IL; Mar. 14 at Once Upon a Crime in Minneapolis, MN; Mar. 15 at Borders in Bailey's Crossroads, VA; Mar. 16 in bookstores in New York and at Book Revue in Huntington, Long Island; Mar. 18 at Nicholas Hoare in Toronto, ON; Mar. 21 at Elliott Bay in Seattle, WA; Mar. 22 at Borders in Tigard (near Portland), OR; Apr. 25 at the Bookshop in Santa Cruz, CA. And she will be in England the first week in May, but with no schedule set yet.
8548. Classic Specialties offers Hugo's Companions' gold-plated lapel pin; \$17.00 postpaid, or \$15.00 if you mention the magic word ("Scuttlebutt"); credit-card orders welcome (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219) <<http://www.sherlock-holmes.com>>.
8549. The Pleasant Places of Florida had "The Missing Three-Quarter" as their adventure of the evening on Nov. 18; David R. McCallister prepared souvenirs for the occasion that include a carefully-researched "Rugby for Sherlockian Dummies" complete with contemporary illustrations; copies of the souvenirs are available from David (8142 Quail Hollow Boulevard, Wesley Chapel, FL 33544 (\$2.00 postpaid). And the 11th running of The Florida Wessex Cup is set for Tampa Bay Downs in Florida on Feb. 10. Details also are available from David McCallister.
8550. The latest issue of the August Derleth Society Newsletter has Kay Price's report on this year's Walden West Festival in Sauk City, and a reprint of an essay "Of Books and Great Books" Derleth wrote for one of Ben Abramson's Argus Bookshop catalogs in the early 1940s. A year's membership in the society costs \$15.00 (Box 481, Sauk City, WI 53583) <<http://www.derleth.org>>.
8551. Evelyn P. Black died on Nov. 23. She was for many years a dealer in used and rare books, an ardent mystery buff (she liked to play Miss Marple with the theatrical troupe Murder by Invitation), and a member of The Men on the Tor in Rocky Hill, Conn.
8552. OVER THE EDGE: THE CRIME WRITERS OF CANADA ANTHOLOGY, edited by Peter Sellers and Robert J. Sawyer (East Lawrencetown: Pottersfield Press, 2000; 224 pp., \$18.95), includes Sawyer's Sherlockian time-travel pastiche "You See But You Do Not Observe" (reprinted from the 1995 anthology SHERLOCK HOLMES IN ORBIT). OVER THE EDGE costs \$21.00 postpaid from the publisher (83 Leslie Road, East Lawrencetown, NS B2Z 1P8, Canada).
8553. "Attorney General Investigating the Venerable Players Club" proclaimed the headline on a story in the N.Y. Times (Nov. 12), kindly forwarded by Francine Kitts. The Baker Street Irregulars held their annual dinner there in years past, but that's not the reason for the investigation. The Players share their building (actor Edwin Booth's home) on Gramercy Park South, and board of directors members, with the Hampden-Booth Theater Library and the John Drew Fund, and there's now a dispute about who owes money to whom.

December 2000 #3

8554. The Christopher Morley Knothole Association continues its efforts to honor Morley's memory on Long Island: the latest issue of their newsletter notes that there will be a CMKA Reading Scholarship at the Bryant Library on Jan. 9, and the society contributes funds to maintain the Knothole (his writing studio, complete with Buckminster Fuller's dymaxion bathroom), now open to the public during the summer; membership costs \$20.00 a year (Christopher Morley Knothole Association, The Bryant Library, Paper Mill Road, Roslyn, NY 11743).

8555. The electronically-enabled can listen to readings of poems by Edgar Allan Poe, including Basil Rathbone's "The Raven" (if you can run the software) at <<http://www.angelfire.com/pa3/poeaudio>>.
8556. "Sherlock Holmes and the First English Gentleman" is a two-act play written by Doug Warwick that had its world premiere at St. Vlad's Theatre in Toronto last March; the electronically-enabled can read the script, Nancy Beiman reports, at <<http://www.dramex.org/ftp/scripts/sherlock.txt>>.
8557. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London offers a 32-minute videocassette, in both European (PAL) and American (NTSC) formats, of the festivities honoring the unveiling of the statue of Sherlock Holmes in London in 1999. The postpaid cost is £10.95 (U.K.), £11.95 (Europe), \$19.85 (U.S.), or £13.25 (elsewhere); from Mrs. E. M. Godden, Apple Tree Cottage, Smarden, Kent TN27 8QE, England (checks made payable to The Sherlock Holmes Society of London, please). You can also request information about a wide range of other memorabilia, including neckties, umbrellas, mugs, cameos, bookmarks, posters, lapel pins, medals, and pens.
8558. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London also welcomes new members: associate members receive only The Sherlock Holmes Journal, and full members also receive notices of meetings. Prices vary depending on where you are, and on whether you're an adult or a junior, and details are available from R. J. Ellis, 13 Crofton Avenue, Orpington, Kent BR6 8DU England; the society has a website at <<http://www.sherlock-holmes.org>>.
8559. And the Society's forward schedule is intriguing. Of particular interest is an event scheduled for June 10, 2001: a cricket match, in Victorian costume, played to 1895 rules, at the private cricket ground of Sir Paul Getty in Buckinghamshire.
8560. Further to the report (October 00 #7) on the "Stuffins" seated Santa wearing a deerstalker, in "The Island of Misfit Toys" soft-toys series exclusively at CVS stores, Al Gregory reports for completists that there are three sizes: small (\$5.99), medium (\$12.99), and large (\$24.99). The large size, which is a standing Santa holding a sack, has (at least) three variants, with an elf, an elephant, or a Raggedy Ann doll in the sack.
8561. The registration brochure for "Footprints of the Hound" in Toronto is now available: the conference on Oct. 19-21, 2001, is sponsored by The Bootmakers of Toronto, The Toronto Public Library, The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection, and The Arthur Conan Doyle Society, and the schedule is an excellent one. The brochure is available from Doug Wrigglesworth (16 Sunset Street, Holland Landing, ON L9N 1H4, Canada) <dougwig@idirect.com>.

December 2000 #4

8562. I don't know how many Sherlockian and Doylean artists are represented in the collections of the Smithsonian Institution, but one of them is the Polish-born illustrator Wladyslaw Theodore Benda (1875-1948), whose mixed-media theatrical mask of Myrna Loy (ca. 1940) is owned by the National Portrait Gallery and is shown (in full color) at the week of Sept. 9-15 in the Smithsonian: America's Treasures 2001 engagement calendar (\$16.99). Benda illustrated Conan Doyle's work (including "The Sussex Vampire") in the Metropolitan Magazine, Nash's-Pall Mall Magazine, and Hearst's International Magazine from 1918 to 1924.
8563. Ron Fish has founded a new Sherlockian society: The Master's Masons, which is open to any male belonging to a Masonic Lodge. Ron's address is Box 4, Circleville, NY 10919 <ronf404@aol.com>.
8564. Ron also has begun work on a new "Commomplace Book" project that will have entries for individual Sherlockians (in North America only) and on meetings of Sherlockian societies; the information will be published on floppy disks each January (beginning in 2002), and copies of his questionnaire will be in dinner packets at the birthday festivities in New York. Copies also are available from Ron (addresses as above).
8565. Issue #40 of Sherlock Holmes: The Detective Magazine offers the usual fine mix of Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian material, with a report that Random House plans to issue a series of books, beginning in May, based on the television series "Murder Rooms: The Dark Beginnings of Sherlock Holmes", and Alan Perry's review of MURDER THROUGH THE AGES, edited by Maxim Jakubowski (Headline, £12.99) with a new S'ian pastiche by June Thomson. Annual subscriptions (six issues) cost £18.00 (U.K.)/£20.00 (continent)/\$40.00 (elsewhere); Box 100, Chichester, West Sussex PO18 8HD, England <<http://pmh.uk.com/sherlock/sherlock.htm>>. Classic Specialties is the agent in the U.S. (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219) (toll-free 877-233-3823) <<http://sherlock@sherlock-holmes.com>>. Credit-card orders welcome at both addresses; back issues are available.
8566. Kate Karlson is selling some of her Sherlockian books collection at a website at <<http://home.stny.rr.com/edware/books/>>. Her sales-list also is available if you send a #10 self-addressed stamped envelope to Kate at 1259 Fowler Place, Binghamton, NY 13903.
8567. John Clark has kindly forwarded a report from The Independent (Nov. 26) on the latest news from Britain's Police Information Technology Organization: Holmes 1 has been upgraded, and Holmes 2 is expected to be in national use by 2002. Both systems are powerful computers, and Holmes 1 was created in 1985; Holmes 2 can store fingerprints, photographs, and even the recorded voices of suspects. There was no mention in the story of the original name of the computer for which HOLMES is an acronym: the Home Office (Large) Major Enquiry System (August 85 #5).
8568. Spinning Graves Productions performed Bart Lovins' dramatization of "The Sign of Four" during the birthday festivities last January, and they will be performing his "The Hound of the Baskervilles" at Freaks Local at 413 West 44th Street (between 9th and 10th Avenues) on Jan. 4-6. Seating is limited, and the telephone number for reservations is 212-613-3023.

December 2000 #5

8569. William A. S. Sarjeant continues to pursue his varied interests in geology and science fantasy, contributing an introduction to a first-ever reprint of Bohun Lynch's MENACE FROM THE MOON (first published in 1924); the book costs \$31.00 (postpaid) from George A. Vanderburgh (Box 204, Shelburne, ON L0N 1S0, Canada).
8570. Tom Darcy died on Dec. 6. He was an editorial cartoonist for Newsday, for many years, and won a Pulitzer prize in 1970 for work he said was "not for the amusement of the comfortable." His colleague Doug Marlette described Darcy's work as having "a stainless steel quality that cut through everything, demanding that you paid attention." And he drew Sherlock Holmes from time to time; this cartoon was in Newsday on Aug. 1, 1975.
8571. Bill Nadel has reported that the York Theatre Company will perform a "concert version" of the musical "Baker Street" (1964) on Jan. 19, 20, and 21. The theater is at 619 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10022 (212-935-5820).
8572. The latest issue of Scarlet Street (#40) has three articles and interviews by Charles Prepolec dealing with the recent Canadian television version of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" with Matt Frewer and Kenneth Welsh, plus the usual coverage of the mystery-and-horror genre. \$35.00 for an annual subscription (six issues); Box 604, Glen Rock, NJ 07452, and there's a website at <<http://www.scarletstreet.com>>.
8573. Catherine Cooke reports that London now has two statues of Sherlock Holmes, the second one being a "living statue" she describes as "a bloke dressed as Sherlock Holmes sprayed bronze, who stands motionless on a low plinth." He can be seen in Leicester Square, on the northeast corner near the Old Swiss Center.
8574. Harold Prince, director of the musical "Baker Street" (1964), was one of those selected to receive a National Medal of Arts this year; the winners of the National Medals of Arts and National Humanities Medals were honored at Constitution Hall and at dinner at the White House on Dec. 20.

8575. The fall issue of *The Magic Door* (the newsletter published by The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) has Daniel Stashower's interesting comments on Rodger Garrick-Steele's accusation that Arthur Conan Doyle was a plagiarist and a murderer: "If only it were true," the headline on Dan's article suggests, and if you'd like to know more, the newsletter is available from Doug Wrigglesworth, 16 Sunset Street, Holland Landing, ON L9N 1H4, Canada <dougwig@idirect.com>. And the Friends have a web-site at <<http://www.acdfriends.org>>.
8576. Ellery Queen's *Mystery Magazine* celebrates the birthday festivities in the Feb. 2001 issue, with an attractive cover by Chris Kotsakis, a new "Stately Homes" parody by Arthur Porges, and Sherlockian cartoons by David Hurd and Richard Tomasic.
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December 2000 #6

8577. Further to the report on BBC plans for a new television version of "The Lost World" (May 00 #8), there was a story in the *Telegraph* (Nov. 12) headlined "BBC Will Strip Conan Doyle of Racial Overtones" with a quote from producer Christopher Hall: "Some of the Victorian obsessions and concerns are now viewed differently. There are things about Conan Doyle which are old-fashioned, particularly his view of natives. We feel differently now." The BBC expressed concern about the story's references to "sub-human natives noted for their savage behaviour and low intellects."
8578. Ray Betzner noted a Reuters dispatch from Montreal (Dec. 1) reporting that Telecene Film Group intends to file for bankruptcy so that it can reorganize its finances. The company said that this will not affect production of the second season of "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's *The Lost World*" (with Peter McCauley as Prof. Challenger). The series is broadcast in syndication on Warner Bros. channels in the U.S., and six episodes of the second season have already aired.
8579. Sorry about that: I got the name of Quinn Fawcett's new Mycroft Holmes mystery wrong (November 00 #5). It's *THE SCOTTISH PLOY* (Forge, \$24.95). Thespians will understand my Shakespearean slip in referring to "The Scottish Play".
8580. Jon Lellenberg's *DISJECTA MEMBRA: STRAY SCRAPS OF IRREGULAR HISTORY, 1932-1950* is a 96-page interim addition to his continuing archival history of The Baker Street Irregulars, offering letters and other material from early Sherlockians that has come to light since earlier volumes were published. The contents range from Edgar W. Smith's birth certificate to a report to the stockholders of The Baker Street Irregulars, Inc.; the annotations and explanations are helpful, and the glimpses of the early days are interesting as always. Copies will be available during the birthday festivities in New York, and by mail from Jon (3133 Connecticut Avenue NW #827, Washington, DC 20008); \$13.00 postpaid (\$13.50 outside the U.S.).
8581. Susan Rice's *THE SOMNAMBULIST AND THE DETECTIVE: VINCENT STARRETT AND SHERLOCK HOLMES* is a delightful reminder for those who knew him of how talented he was, and (far more important) a welcome introduction to Starrett and his work for those who have come more recently to the Sherlockian world. It's *Musgrave Monograph Number Ten*, with 60 pages and nicely illustrated, and it costs (postpaid) £7.00 (U.K.)/£9.00 (Europe)/US \$15.00 or CA \$25.00 (elsewhere); checks (US or CA dollars welcome) payable to The Northern Musgraves can be sent to Anne Jordan, Fairbank, Beck Lane, Bigley, West Yorks. BD16 4DN, England). Copies may also be available from Susan Rice (212-989-1768) <srice@virtuoso.com>.
8582. *HOUDINI AND THE SEANCE MURDERS*, by Christopher Farran (Bend: Salvo Press, 2000; 169 pp., \$12.95), has Harry Houdini, Houdini's nephew Ira, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, and Sir Arthur's granddaughter Lucinda (who'd rather be called *Solitaire*) investigating a murder committed during a seance in Trieste; Ira and *Solitaire* get to visit Paris, and they do most of the adventuring. The novel is available in bookstores and on-line, and the distributor is Seven Hills, 1531 Tremont Street, Cincinnati, OH 45214.
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January 2001 #1

8583. The birthday festivities in New York began midweek with an ASH Wednesday supper at O'Casey's for dedicated enthusiasts seeking a truly long weekend, and continued on Thursday at the Williams Club, when Madeleine Stern (accompanied by her partner Leona Rostenberg) was the Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Speaker, offering stories about Sherlock Holmes' rare books (and her talk will be published in the Baker Street Journal this year).
8584. The Hotel Algonquin was a nice venue for an informal Mrs. Hudson Breakfast on Friday morning, and more than 140 people were on hand for the William Gillette Luncheon at Moran's Chelsea Seafood Restaurant, where Andrew Joffe and Paul Singleton offered a dramatic rendition of "The True Murderers of Sherlock Holmes". And Otto Penzler's traditional open house at the Mysterious Bookshop provided the usual opportunities to browse and buy.
8585. There were more than 160 on hand for the annual dinner of The Baker Street Irregulars at the Union League Club, where Paul Herbert offered the toast to Sharon Novorky as *the* Woman during the pre-dinner cocktail party (she then went on to dine at the Algonquin with other ladies who have received that honor). The dinner agenda was both scholarly and musical, including the usual traditions, recognition of George McCormack (attending his 43rd consecutive annual dinner), reminiscences of old Irregulars Elmer Davis (by Jon Lellenberg) and Nathan Bengis (by Andrew Fusco), and a spectacular "musical tribute to the children of Baker Street": Eddy the Button (Paul Singleton), Julie the Wolf (Mary Ellen Rich), Tommy the Stick (Andrew Joffe), and Mikey (Richard Wein), with music and lyrics by Henry Boote.
8586. Mike Whelan (the BSI's "Wiggins") announced this year's Birthday Honours: the Two-Shilling Award ("for extraordinary devotion to the cause beyond the call of duty") to Donald K. Pollock, recognizing his fine work as editor of *The Baker Street Journal*; and Irregular Shillings and Investitures to Andrew L. Solberg ("Professor Coram"), Lloyd Rose ("George Sand"), Charles Foley ("Marlow Bates"), Julie A. McKuras ("The Duchess of Devonshire"), Daniel Stashower ("Thurston"), Marcus Geisser ("Rosenlauri"), and W. Scott Monty ("Corporal Henry Wood").
8587. The Baskerville Bash also took place Friday evening, at the Manhattan Club and with more than 90 people on hand, and with entertainment that included a rousing toast by Chuck Kovacic (to The Hound of the Baskervilles) and a stirring performance by the Sherlettes and the Sherhunks of "Hello, Selden" (starring the Hound instead of Carol Channing).
8588. On Saturday morning the dealers room at the Algonquin was as usual crowded with sellers and buyers, and shortly after noon The Clients of Adrian Mulliner commandeered the lobby for their now-traditional Junior Bloodstain.
8589. The BSI's Saturday-afternoon cocktail party attracted more than 250 people to the National Arts Club, where Bev Wolov introduced ladies who have been honored as *the* Woman over the years, and Al and Betsy Rosenblatt reported in verse on the events of the previous evening and the previous year (and you will be able to read that in the BSIJ, too). And Ben Vizoskie was applauded as the winner of the Morley-Montgomery Award (an attractive certificate and a check for \$500) for the best contribution to *The Baker Street Journal* last year (his article on "Who Wrote the American Chapters of 'A Study in Scarlet'?" in the summer issue). And The Dr. John H. Watson Fund benefited from June Kinnee's energetic marketing of raffle tickets for Amy Frisbie's portrait of Sherlock Holmes (won by Dayna McCausland), as well as from the enthusiastic bidders in the traditional auction (which, untraditionally, included signing rights on Kate Karlson's leg cast).
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January 2001 #2

8590. On Sunday locals and long-weekenders gathered at the Baker Street Pub and Restaurant for an excellent brunch that also was a surprise party celebrating the 20th anniversary of Susan Rice and Mickey Fromkin.
8591. I've not reported on everything, I hasten to add; if you want more details than fit into print here, it is quite likely that there will be much longer reports in The Baker Street Journal, which is published quarterly and costs \$21.00 a year (\$23.50 outside the U.S.), and checks (credit-card payments accepted from foreign subscribers) can be sent to the BSJ at Box 465, Hanover, PA 17331. And the electronically-enabled can view photographs of the birthday festivities taken by Linda Anderson (and perhaps others) at a website at <<http://www.ar.cc.mn.us/murdock/bash.htm>>.
8592. Brad Keefauver offers some perspective on the BSI annual dinner (to which he returned after a twelve-year absence), and Brad and his wife Kathryn R. Carter provide a simultaneous account of the BSI dinner and the Bash in the January issue of The Holmes & Watson Report (which also has David Morrill's review of the 1977 television film "The Strange Case of the End of Civilisation as We Know It" and James R. Webb's discussion of the manuscript of "The Dancing Men"). \$16.00 a year for six issues (or \$22.00 outside North America), or \$3.00 for one issue, from Brad Keefauver (4009 North Chelsea Place, Peoria, IL 61614).
8593. And for those who want to mark their calendars for next year's festivities: the Baker Street Irregulars' annual dinner will be held on Jan. 11, 2002.
8594. The 20th annual Sherlock Holmes/Arthur Conan Doyle Symposium will be held on Mar. 9-11 at the Holiday Inn Conference Center in Fairborn, Ohio, with speakers and theatrics and other fun and games. Additional information is available from Cathy Gill, 4661 Hamilton Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45223 (513-681-5507) <chirpsworth@fuse.net>.
8595. Jean-Pierre Cagnat is a splendid French illustrator and political cartoonist, and he has been attending Sherlockian gatherings for 15 years, and of course rendering what he has seen in his unique style. His tour "around the world of Sherlock Holmes" is now available, in full color and with text in English, in IT IS ALWAYS A JOY... TO MEET AN AMERICAN, A BRITON, A JAPANESE, A CANADIAN, A SWISS... (Paris: Mycroft's Brother Editions, 2000; 160 pp., 485 francs), from the publisher (26 avenue de la Republique, 75011 Paris, France) <<http://www.chez.com/mycroft/English-index.htm>>. Shipping is extra: 67fr to the European Union and Switzerland, 75fr to the rest of Europe and Africa, 110fr to America, Asia, and Oceania. Credit-card orders welcome, as are checks in non-French currency (please leave the payee line blank). And if you would like an inscribed copy, please state to whom.

January 2001 #3

8596. Wayne B. Swift ("The Giant Rat of Sumatra") died on Jan. 15. Wayne was an electrical engineer and a teacher, and a computer systems analyst, and in the early 1970s arrived in Washington, D.C., where he discovered the world of Sherlockians, and met and married his wife Francine, and became one of the stalwarts of The Red Circle, for whom he wrote the continuing serial "Upstairs, Downstairs, All Around the Holmes". Wayne received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1978, and was our expert on race horses and horse racing; he identified Silver Blaze as the Duke of Westminster's Ormonde, and The Baker Street Journal's Christmas Annual for 2000 (which is appropriately bound in turf-green covers) was his carefully-researched "History of The Silver Blaze" (from the race recorded by Dr. Watson through its many successors to last year's race at Saratoga).
8597. Yuichi Hirayama's THE ANNOTATED JELLAND'S VOYAGE offers a reprint of Arthur Conan Doyle's only story set in Japan, with annotations and an interesting discussion of the historical and literary background of the story; the 20-page pamphlet costs \$7.00 postpaid from the author, at 2-10-12 Kamirenjaku, Mitaka-shi, Tokyo 181-0012, Japan (US dollar checks are welcome, payable to Mel Hughes).
8598. Our new 10c stamp (for presorted bound printed material) honors the N.Y. Public Library and shows one of the two handsome lions that guard its entrance on 42nd Street; visitors to the Library should not neglect its Berg Collection, which owns a chapter of the manuscript of "The Hound of the Baskervilles", and a letter (written for Conan Doyle by his secretary Charles Terry) to B. Fletcher Robinson (with the text of the acknowledgement found in the first American edition); complete manuscripts of "The Norwood Builder", "The Blanched Soldier", "The Devil's Foot", and two Brigadier Gerard stories; and a fascinating archive of material about "The Lost World".
8599. "A Dime Novelist's View of American History" is the title of a lecture that J. Randolph Cox will give at the New York Public Library on May 17, as one of five talks scheduled this spring on "Pulp Fictions: Reading, Collecting, and Preserving Popular Culture". Randy, billed in the announcement as "the preeminent scholar of the dime novel genre in the United States," wrote the essay on Arthur Conan Doyle in the DICTIONARY OF LITERARY BIOGRAPHY (1988), and has contributed to The Baker Street Journal and Baker Street Miscellanea, including an article noting that some of Conan Doyle's works have been published here as dime novels.
8600. "Rebooted Any Good Books Lately?" asked the headline on Ian Austen's story in the N.Y. Times (Jan. 4), kindly forwarded by Dan Knight. The review of electronic-book readers included an illustration of the Franklin eBookMan displaying a passage from "The Three Students".
8601. THE ORIGINAL TEXT SOLAR PONS OMNIBUS EDITION is a new collection of all of August Derleth's Solar Pons stories, published last year by George A. Vanderburgh in two volumes (with a total of 826 pages), with an introduction by Peter Ruber, and text taken from book collections published by Derleth (an earlier omnibus published in 1982 had text edited by Basil Copper, who corrected "errors" he had perceived in Derleth's text). \$138.00 postpaid from the August Derleth Society (Box 481, Sauk City, WI 53583).

January 2001 #4

8602. There are paintings by two Canonical artists in the exhibition "Art for the Nation: Collecting for a New Century" at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, through Feb. 4: Jean-Baptiste Greuze's "The Well-Loved Mother" (1765) and Claude Joseph Vernet's "The Shipwreck" (1772). The electronically enabled also can see the paintings at the NGA web-site at <<http://www.nga.gov/cgi-bin/pinfo?Object=111043+0+none>> and at <http://www.nga.gov/feature/artnation/vernet/thepainting_1.htm>. Thanks to Mary Burke for the URLs.
8603. A reminder (from August 00 #5): "Sherlock Holmes and the Clocktower Mystery" has been has been touring in England and the United States, and the exhibit will be on display in the Hall of Ideas at the Midland Center for the Arts in Midland, Mich., Jan. 20 to Apr. 23. Additional information is available from the museum (1001 West Saint Andrews, Midland, MI 48640) (571-631-5931 ext 1217) <<http://www.mcfta.org>>.
8604. The fifth issue of the new Strand Magazine offers editor Andrew F. Gulli's interesting interview with Sir John Gielgud, a Sherlockian pastiche by Guy N. Smith, an Inspector Ghote story by H. R. F. Keating, and much more; subscriptions (four issues) cost \$24.95 (U.S./Canada) or \$29.95 (elsewhere), from Box 1418, Birmingham, MI 48012 (800-300-6652) (800-961-280 in the UK) <<http://www.magamall.com/magazine/96117/Strand.htm>>.
8605. Don Hardenbrook ("Huret, the Boulevard Assassin") died on Dec. 18. He was a teacher, of English and French, it showed in his Sherlockian scholarship and in the poetry he wrote in the guise of Gaston Huret III. He was one of the founders of The Trained Cormorants, in 1947, and was published in The Baker Street Journal in July 1948 and many times thereafter. Don received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1955, and was for decades one of the shining lights among the west coast's Sherlockians.
8606. "Sherlock Holmes and the Jackson Street Terror" is the mystery that Holmes and Watson and participants in this year's "Sherlock Holmes Weekend" will try to solve this year, on Mar. 9-11 and Nov. 2-4 in Cape May. The weekend includes a tour of the town's Victorian homes, and additional

information is available from the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts, Box 340, Cape May, NJ 08204 (609-884-5404) (800-275-4278)

<<http://www.capemaymac.org>>.

8607. The third volume of Leslie S. Klinger's SHERLOCK HOLMES REFERENCE LIBRARY is A STUDY IN SCARLET, with an interesting introduction by Donald Pollock (Indianapolis: Gasogene Books, 2001; 150 pp., \$19.95); the annotations are perceptive, and draw upon old and new Sherlockian scholarship, and there is intriguing speculation on whether the story had more than one author, and on who those authors might have been. \$22.70 postpaid from the publisher (Box 68308, Indianapolis, IN 46260).
8608. And THE ILLUSTRIOUS CLIENTS' SECOND CASE-NOTES, edited by Steven T. Doyle and Mark Gagen (Indianapolis: Gasogene Books, 1999; 79 pp., \$12.95), is the latest anthology of essays, poetry, and puzzles written by members of the society. Of particular note is a unique scholarly paper ("Whatever Remains Must Be the Truth") written by Paul D. Herbert in 1977 and presented that same year to John Bennett Shaw (who must have loved it), and only now (and at long last) in print. \$15.70 postpaid from the publisher (as above).

January 2001 #5

8609. Stephen Clarkson's THE CANONICAL COMPENDIUM (Ashcroft: Calabash Press, 1999; 429 pp., US\$45.00/CA\$60.00) is the product of more than 30 years of research (it started as a joint project with the late Bill Fleischauer), and the results of the research are both interesting and useful: there's a topical index of the Canon, with 80 categories and 144 subcategories, and story indexes for each of the 60 tales, with page numbers noted for five different editions (Baring-Gould's ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES and the Doubleday, Heritage Press, John Murray, and Oxford Press editions), plus intriguing introductory notes and "miscellaneous" citations for each story. The book costs US\$52.50 postpaid (to the U.S.) or CA\$66.00 (to Canada) or £34.50/US\$55.00 (elsewhere) from the Calabash Press (Box 1360, Ashcroft, BC V0K 1A0, Canada) <<http://www.ash-tree.bc.ca/calabash.html>>; creditcard orders welcome.
8610. Michael Williams died on Jan. 11. He began his acting career at the age of seven, as a toy soldier in an amateur play, and made his professional debut in repertory at the Nottingham Playhouse in 1959. He went on to star with the Royal Shakespeare Company, where he met and married Judi Dench, appearing with her on television in the 1980s. In 1989 he played Dr. Watson (to Clive Merrison's Holmes) in "A Study in Scarlet" on BBC radio, and in 1998 became the first actor to portray Watson in all of the Canonical stories. Bert Coules, who worked with Williams on the series, has said that he was "a kindly, modest man and a most generous and versatile actor."
8611. The Filmoods Company (Box 475, Scarsdale, NY 10583) offers a sales-list of its pamphlets of Sherlockian and Victorian erotica ("these stories furnish provocative details of the lives and experiences of characters who appear in those adventures, but about whom we know much less than we might...").
8612. Thanks to Michael Ross for last year's German stamp honoring Heinz R hmann, who was Dr. Watson in "Der Mann, der Sherlock Holmes war" (1937). Hans Albers, who played Holmes in the film, was honored on a German stamp in 1991 (February 92 #2). The film is a comedy (released on videocassette by Ufa Universum Film in 1992, in German and without subtitles).
8613. "The Sign of Four" (the second two-hour television film to star Matt Frewer as Sherlock Holmes and Kenneth Welsh as Dr. Watson) is scheduled to air on the Odyssey network on Mar. 23. Their version of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" debuted on the network last October.
8614. "I have been reading a short but clear and interesting account of the old building, purchasable at the modest sum of one penny from the local tobacconist," said Sherlock Holmes (in "The Valley of Fear"). Paul Churchill has determined that the pamphlet in question was "The Story of Birlstone Manor House", by B. W. Shepherd-Welwyn; it was published in 1888 and distributed by tobacconist L. V. Narramore, and copies of the pamphlet were distributed by Paul at the recent annual dinner of Watson's Tin Box in Eldersburg, Md. Three additional copies will be auctioned on the Internet: the web-site is <<http://www.ebay.com>>, the auction begins on Feb. 4 and runs for one week, and the text keyword phrase will be "Birlstone Manor House" (or search for the item under the seller's ID "morse.hudson").

January 2001 #6

8615. The Montague Street Lodgers of Brooklyn have launched a series of irreverent, and occasionally incomprehensible, celebratory pamphlets, the most recent being THE VERY STRANGE HISTORY OF THE MONTAGUE LODGERS OF BROOKLYN (issued last year honoring their 15th anniversary); it was preceded by YOU GOTTABEKIDDING: THE UNAUTHORIZED BIOGRAPHY OF DOROTHY D. STIX, and both pamphlets are available (\$5.00 each postpaid) from Peter J. Crupe (1533 64th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11219-5709).
8616. Phyllis White died on Dec. 22. She was a stalwart member of The Scowrers and Molly Maguires of San Francisco, and was honored as Member Number One at each meeting of Bouchercon, the annual mystery convention named for her husband Anthony Boucher. Her tales about the "Sherlock Holmes" radio days in the 1940s were delightful, and her poem "Prologue in Baker Street" was one of the birthday tributes published in Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine (Jan. 1986).
8617. Reported: Colin Bruce's CONNED AGAIN, WATSON!: CAUTIONARY TALES OF LOGIC, MATH, AND PROBABILITY, from Perseus Books in December (\$24.00); instruction from Sherlock Holmes, by the author of THE STRANGE CASE OF MRS. HUDSON'S CAT: AND OTHER SCIENCE MYSTERIES SOLVED BY SHERLOCK HOLMES (June 97 #4).
8618. H. Paul Jeffers' BLOODY BUSINESS: AN ANECDOTAL HISTORY OF SCOTLAND YARD was published in 1992 (March 93 #4), and it's available again in a 1999 Barnes & Noble reprint (278 pp., \$6.98). The book is an interesting history of the Yard, with due attention to Sherlock Holmes and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (who has his own chapter).
8619. Carolyn Wheat's TALES OUT OF SCHOOL (Norfolk: Crippen & Landru, 2000; 237 pp., \$40.00 cloth/\$16.00 paper), is a collection of the best of her mystery stories, and one of them is a Sherlockian pastiche: "The Adventure of the Angel's Trumpet" appeared earlier in HOLMES FOR THE HOLIDAYS (1996). The cloth edition is signed and is accompanied by a pamphlet with an additional story not included in the paper-covers edition. The publisher's address is Box 9315, Norfolk, VA 23505 <<http://www.crippenlandru.com>> (toll free 877-662-6656); credit-card orders welcome.
8620. The 2000 issue of Beeman's Christmas Annual, published by The Occupants of the Empty House and edited by Janet Bensley, is devoted to "Flora & Fauna in the Canon" (including an article by Brad Keefauver on "Innocent Flora, Evil Fauna" resulting from his speculation that wrongly-accused Flora Miller might have had an evil sister). The 28-page booklet costs \$10.00 postpaid; checks (payable to O.E.H.) can be sent to Stan Tinsley, 105 Wilcox Street, Ziegler, IL 62999.
8621. Joseph Coppola was in Washington this month for the winter meeting of the American Library Association, and reported some discoveries in the vendors room: Chinese translations of the Sherlock Holmes stories, available from the New China Book Store (926 Archer Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107) (215-627-4507), and Russian translations, from Russia Online (Box 558, Kensington, MD 20895) (301-929-8981) <<http://www.russia-online.com>>. And a necktie, with a pattern of bookshelves with books and Sherlockiana; \$29.95 from Stop Falling Productions (15009 Manchester Road #159, Ballwin, MO 63011) (800-362-9511) <<http://www.stopfalling.com>>.

January 2001 #7

8622. "Paul Singleton is the complete lecher!" At least that's what Paul Singleton claims in publicity for his upcoming performance in "The Complete Lecher" at the Kraine Theatre in New York, on Mondays at 7:00 pm from Feb. 12 through Mar. 19; the theater is at 85 East 4th Street (between 2nd and 3rd Avenues), and the box-office phone number is 212-414-5259. Those who have seen him performing at Sherlockian events can expect somewhat different entertainment: "Paul Singleton is back to torment and tantalize Nicole Golden in an hour of hilarity, double entendres, law and disorder! Nicole is the do-right lawyer assigned to Paul's case of selling porn in the back of his station wagon; Paul uses his street sense of Legal-Sleaze to get Nicole in his dark corner. Nicole is no Ally McBeal, as she is fully aware of what is going on, and takes Paul on a little joy ride up the straight and narrow." Tickets cost \$10.00, and the show was written and directed by Andrew Joffe.
8623. Steve Allen died on Oct. 30, 2000. He was a prolific song-writer, as well as a talented author and actor, and one of television's most versatile entertainers. He created the "Tonight" show for NBC-TV in 1953, and launched "The Steve Allen Show" in 1956 (and on July 1, 1956, featured Elvis Presley as the guest star, singing "You Ain't Nothin' But a Hound Dog" to a basset hound named Sherlock). His mystery novel THE TALK SHOW MURDERS (1982) had references to Sherlock Holmes and (unusual in mystery novels) a character who belonged to the Baker Street Irregulars.
8624. James Moss Cardwell's musical comedy "Mrs. Hudson?...MRS. HUDSON!!" had its world premiere as a dramatic reading performed for The Diogenes Club of the Monterey Peninsula in 1981; there was no music (and there still isn't), and the author died in 1990. But the script survived, and it's irreverent and amusing, and it was published last year with an interesting introduction by Michael H. Kean and colorful dust-jacket artwork by Jean-Pierre Cagnat; 136 pp., \$39.00 postpaid from George A. Vanderburgh, Box 204, Shelburne, ON L0N 1S0, Canada.
8625. READINGS: ESSAYS AND LITERARY ENTERTAINMENTS, by Michael Dirda (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2000; 216 pp., \$24.95), is a collection of his essays published in the Washington Post's "Book World" section; those who heard his Sherlockian reminiscences during the birthday festivities in 2000 (and who read them in the summer 2000 issue of The Baker Street Journal) will know how enthusiastic he is about reading, and how well he writes about what he has read. There are many Sherlockian and Doylean references in this book, but it would be well worth reading even if there weren't.
8626. Spotted by John Baesch: TROUBLESOME THINGS: A HISTORY OF FAIRIES AND FAIRY STORIES, by Diane Purkiss (London: Penguin Books, 2000; 368 pp., £20.00); includes discussion of the Cottingley fairies.
8627. Reported by Doug Wrigglesworth: THE GREAT WAR OF WORDS: BRITISH, AMERICAN AND CANADIAN PROPAGANDA AND FICTION, 1914-1933, by Peter Buitenhuis (Vancouver: Univ. of British Columbia Press, 1987, 218 pp., \$25.95); includes discussion of Conan Doyle's writing about the Boer War and the Great War. VICTORIAN QUEST ROMANCE: STEVENSON, HAGGARD, KIPLING AND CONAN DOYLE, by Robert Fraser (Jackson: Univ. Press of Mississippi, 1998; 93 pp., \$19.00); relates "The Lost World" to contemporary "quest romances" by other authors.
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January 2001 #8

8628. Some attractive Sherlockian prints and posters are available on the World Wide Web: you select the design you want, and it is shipped printed on paper (\$19.95) or canvas (\$99.00 and up). You can see the images at Barnes & Noble at <<http://posters.barnesandnoble.com/>> and at Amazon Z-shops at <<http://www.amazon.com>>; "Sherlock Holmes" is only one of many categories available.
8629. Forecast for May from St. Martin's Press (and reported by Fred Levin): Roberta Rogow's THE PROBLEM OF THE SURLY SERVANT (\$23.95); the fourth in her series of mysteries starring Arthur Conan Doyle and Charles Dodgson. And (also from Saint Martin's) in July: Michael Kurland's new Moriarty pastiche THE GREAT GAME (\$23.95), along with a one-volume trade paperback reprint of his first two pastiches THE INFERNAL DEVICE and DEATH BY GASLIGHT (\$15.95). And Gerard Williams' DR. MORTIMER AND THE ALDGATE MYSTERY (\$22.95); a new pastiche featuring Dr. James Mortimer.
8630. Some late-breaking news: Scott Monty has succeeded Ray Betzner as the circulation and advertising manager of the Baker Street Journal.
8631. Andrew G. Fusco prepares Sherlockian-era calendars for distribution during the birthday festivities in New York, carefully choosing a Sherlockian year that works for the current year; some of my readers will find enclosed the rare green variant that was not distributed in New York.
8632. Our postage rates have changed, and so have the subscription rates for my monthly newsletter, which now costs \$9.30 a year for six or more pages of whatever gossip I find appropriate, much of it quite trivial, but most of it Sherlockian or Doylean; \$12.40 a year to Canada; \$15.00 a year overseas (the overseas rate is now 80c for the first ounce, rather than 60c for the first half-ounce and 40c for the next half-ounce)
8633. And a few commercials: a 15-page list of the Investitured Irregulars, the Two-Shilling Awards, *the* Women, and the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes costs \$1.20 postpaid. An 80-page list of 781 Sherlockian societies, with names and addresses for contacts for 430 active societies, is \$4.20 postpaid. A run of address labels for 360 individual contacts (recommended to avoid duplicate mailings to those who are contacts for more than one society) costs \$10.40 postpaid (checks payable to Peter E. Blau, please).
8634. The list of irregulars and others also is available from me by e-mail (no charge), and both lists are available at Willis G. Frick's "Sherlocktron" home page at <<http://members.home.net/sherlock1/scuttle.htm>>.
8635. Updating the item on the grand gourmet Sherlockian dinner at the Culinary Institute of America on May 12 (December 00 #1): Al and Julie Rosenblatt report that the event is now fully-booked. If you would like to see how much fun a past CIA dinner was, copies of Al and Julie's 20-page souvenir menu for "An Evening in Scarlet" on May 16, 1987, handsomely devised, designed, and produced, with many illustrations, annotations, and explanations, are still available; \$20.00 postpaid (checks payable to Peter E. Blau, please).
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February 2001 #1

8636. Last month I recommended Jean-Pierre Cagnat's IT IS ALWAYS A JOY...TO ME TO MEET AN AMERICAN, A BRITON, A JAPANESE, A CANADIAN, A SWISS... (Paris: Mycroft's Brother Editions, 2000; 160 pp., 485 francs), and I'm happy to do so again, because there's much more to it than Jean-Pierre's excellent art: the accompanying text by Christilla Cagnat is delightful, as she explains what it is like to accompany a Sherlockian spouse, whether in pursuit of the Hound ("I hate Dartmoor!... Dartmoor makes you want to divorce and hate your husband") or between floors in a malfunctioning elevator ("There were nine of us. Nine foolish people who, on a cold Saturday night in New York, crowded into a tiny elevator meant for six"). It's recommended, and available from the publisher (26 avenue de la Republique, 75011 Paris, France) <<http://www.chez.com/mycroft/English-index.htm>>; shipping is extra: 67fr to the European Union and Switzerland, 75fr to the rest of Europe and Africa, 110fr to America, Asia, and Oceania. Credit-card orders welcome, as are checks in non-French currency (please leave the payee line blank). And if you would like an inscribed copy, please state to whom.
8637. Spotted by Ted Friedman: a colorful catalog from De La Concha Tobacconist (1390 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10019) (One Civic Center Plaza, Hartford, CT 06103) <www.delaconcha.com>, with a page for Peterson showing their Sherlock Holmes pipe tobacco, and a cover photograph showing a pipe resting on THE WORKS OF SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE published by the Longmeadow Press in 1985.
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8638. Jacques Barzun's FROM DAWN TO DECADENCE: 500 YEARS OF CULTURAL TRIUMPH AND DEFEAT: 1500 TO THE PRESENT (August 00 #3) has been nominated for the National Book Critics Circle Award; the winners will be announced on Mar. 15.
8639. Scott Monty reports that the Sherlockian societies in New England are planning a Sherlockian evening at the Algonquin Club in Boston on Mar. 24. The agenda will include an interview with Sherlock Holmes (impersonated by Paul Singleton). Details are available from Scott (1836 Columbia Road #2, South Boston, MA 02127) (617-464-4153) <wsmonty@yahoo.com>.
8640. A bibliographic query: Les Moskowitz has noted an interesting typo in the Doubleday edition of THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES published in 1960 (this was reset, and has 1122 pages). The error is on page 645: "Holmes's card sent in to the manager ensured instand attention..." And the error is of interest because it occurs in the two-volume edition, but not in all printings of the one-volume edition. There are printing codes in both editions, at the lower right of page 1122, indicating the year (by letter, beginning with A for 1959) and the week (by number). The earliest copy I know of is a copy of the two-volume edition (with a presentation label from the publisher) with a printing code A41 (1959, 41st week). And there are copies of the one-volume edition with printing codes C10 (1961, 10th week) and Q16 that contain the typo, and a copy with printing code BB42 in which the typo has been corrected. It would be nice to know when the page was reset for the one-volume edition; please let me know if you have copies with printing codes between C10 and BB42, and whether they have the typo. But: do not be confused by later reprints; Book-of-the-Month Club editions have different printing codes, such as MP3B (for the Maple Press, 3rd month, 1972).

February 2001 #2

8641. The December issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota has John Bergquist's report on the gift to the collections by Jennie C. Paton of part of her Sherlockian video library (the 16-page catalog is "in tiny print with narrow margins"), with some stories about how Jennie started and maintains the library; a tribute to early Sherlockian Charles Honce; and other news. If you would like to be on their mailing list you can contact Richard J. Sveum (111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <sveum001@tc.umn.edu>.
8642. David Stuart Davies reports that the eighth International Gilbert & Sullivan Festival will be held in Derbyshire from July 28 to Aug. 19, and that the agenda will include some Sherlockian events: a presentation by David on Sherlock Holmes (Aug. 4) and two performances by Roger Llewellyn in David's play "Sherlock Holmes - The Last Act" (on Aug. 4 and 17) at the Paxton Theatre in Buxton. More information is available from Ian Smith, The Old Vicarage, Haley Hill, Halifax NX3 6DR, England <www.gs-festival.co.uk>.
8643. It's the Year of the Snake, and the U.S. Postal Service reports that in Chinese astrology the snake symbolizes wisdom, intensity, and physical beauty. One wonders if that's what readers of the Canon think about when they read about the cobra, swamp adder, vipers, and serpents that are mentioned in various stories.
8644. "DK" is a well-known set of initials among those who enjoy Dorling Kindersley's travel guides and educational books, and the company has now begun a line of fiction classics that includes THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (New York: Dorling Kindersley, 2000; 64 pp., \$14.95); the story is abridged for younger readers, and illustrated by Mark Oldroyd, and there are annotations and explanations (also illustrated).
8645. Further to the report (April 00 #1) that Abbey National was considering selling off and then leasing back its freehold buildings, including the head office at 221B Baker Street, Scott Monty notes a new report that the bank is the target of two separate takeover bids. Abbey National has been negotiating with the Bank of Scotland, but Lloyds TSB Group has now offered \$27 billion to acquire Abbey National. If successful, Lloyds TSB would become Britain's second-largest bank, and the takeover will require approval from Britain's Office of Fair Trading.
8646. Spotted by David Morrill: THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES [Scan/RedH/Iden /Bosc/Five/Twis/Bery/Copp] read (abridged) by John Whitaker on four audiocassettes; and THE HOUNDS OF THE BASKERVILLES read (abridged) by Michael J. Bennett on four audiocassettes (Englewood Cliffs: Media Books, 1999; \$12.99 each).
8647. Gordon R. Dickson died on Feb. 1. He was one of the great science-fiction writers, and with Poul Anderson created the Hokas, and one of the very best cross-over stories: "The Adventure of the Misplaced Hound" (first published in Universe Science Fiction, Dec. 1953) was collected in EARTHMAN'S BURDEN (1957) and reprinted in THE SCIENCE-FICTIONAL SHERLOCK HOLMES (1960). All of the Hoka stories are great fun, and this one especially so.

February 2001 #3

8648. The Feb. 2001 sales-list from Peter L. Stern (55 Temple Place, Boston, MA 02111) <psbook@aol.com> offers interesting Sherlockiana and Doyleana, including a holograph manuscript of the poem "The Song of the Bowmen" with a signed letter from his niece Claire noting that the poem was written out by Sir Arthur for his sister Caroline (Claire's mother), offered at \$6,000. Caroline was his sister Lottie, and the poem was first published in THE WHITE COMPANY (as "The Song of the Bow").
8649. The British Royal Mint has issued a new Victorian anniversary crown with the reverse showing a young Victoria (based on the William Wyon portrait used on the world's first postage stamps), and a backdrop representing the ironwork of the famed Crystal Palace. The cost of the coin in a presentation folder is \$16.50 (plus \$4.95 per order for shipping), and there are some toll-free phone numbers: 800-221-1215 (U.S.), 800-563-5943 (Canada), and 01443-623322 (U.K.). And a URL: <http://royalmint.com>.
8650. "Songs like '30 Seconds Over Tokyo' and 'Final Solution' (a reference not to Nazism, Mr. Thomas says, but to a Sherlock Holmes mystery) evoked an existential dread that somehow tore through itself to become beautiful," Ann Powers wrote in the N.Y. Times (Oct. 19), in a review (noted by Greg Darak) of the 25th-anniversary performance by David Thomas and the punk rock band Pere Ubu. Do any Sherlockian punk rockers know if the piece is available on a recording?
8651. Reported by Catherine Cooke: Conan Doyle's OUR AFRICAN WINTER, scheduled from Duckworth in London in May (£14.99) in their series of reprints of classic travel books; it's an interesting account of the family's tour of eastern and southern Africa in 1928-1929.
8652. Dale Evans died on Feb. 7. Her first movie with Roy Rogers was "The Cowboy and the Senorita" (1944), and they married in 1947, performing together in 28 films and then on television. One of their early films was "San Fernando Valley" (1944): a herd of horses is rustled one dark evening, and Rogers deduces that it must have been an inside job, because of the ranch dog: "If they'd a been strangers," Rogers explained, "he would've barked, and there wasn't a peep out of him."
8653. And yes, a crown now is worth five pounds, rather than five shillings as in Sherlockian days. The five-shilling coin went out of circulation when the British decimalized their money (and didn't issue a circulating 25p coin); it was in 1990 that the Royal Mint began describing five-pound coins issued for collectors as crowns.
8654. Some late-breaking news about the grand gourmet Sherlockian dinner at the Culinary Institute of America: Al and Julie Rosenblatt have confirmed that the Rhinebeck Volunteer Fire Department will again offer their Firehouse Breakfast on Sunday, May 13. It's an easy walk from the Beekman

Arms, but there's no guarantee that there will be a fire. The first such event, many years ago, was indeed interrupted by an alarm: the firefighter cooks roared off to fight the fire, and returned after a few minutes to report that it was a false alarm. All in honor of Irene Adler, of course.

February 2001 #4

8655. "We must hurry up, for I want to go to Halle's concert to hear Norman Neruda this afternoon," said Sherlock Holmes (during "A Study in Scarlet"). Here's another quote from an admirer of the lady: "I stayed with Halle in Manchester. Madame Norman Neruda came to the concert; I like her very much, and I think you would too. Her playing is more to my taste than that of any other contemporary--unspoilt, pure and musical. The poor lady has been travel travelling about since October, playing in public in the provinces nearly every day and she will continue to do so until the end of March, but then she will make £1800 clear profit." In a letter from violinist Joseph Joachim to his wife, written in February 1870, spotted by Gayle Harris in *LETTERS FROM AND TO JOSEPH JOACHIM* (New York: Vienna House, 1914; reprinted 1974).
8656. Larry Ashley (an addictions counselor with the department of counseling at the University of Nevada in Las Vegas) is finding the Canon helpful: he'll lecture on "Sherlock Holmes and His World of Drug Use" on Apr. 26 (focusing on the historical context of drug use in the Victorian era).
8657. Sorry about that: <<http://members.home.net.sherlock1/Sherlocktron.html>> is the correct URL for Willis Frick's "Sherlocktron" home page, where he has kindly provided space for the list of the Investitured Irregulars, the Two-Shilling Awards, the Women, and the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes; and the lists of the Sherlockian societies, and many other items of interest.
8658. Our new sheet of "American Illustrators" stamps celebrates three artists of interest (one Sherlockian and two Doylean). Robert Fawcett (1903-1967) "is best remembered for recreating detailed illustrations to accompany a series of Sherlock Holmes stories in Collier's magazine" (as the postal service notes on the back of the sheet); he illustrated Arthur Whitaker's pastiche "The Case of the Man Who Was Wanted" in *Cosmopolitan* in 1948, and the pastiches by Adrian Conan Doyle and John Dickson Carr in *Collier's* in 1953. Howard Pyle (1853-1911) illustrated "The Parasite" in *Harper's Weekly* in 1894 and "A Forgotten Tale" in *Scribner's Magazine* in 1895; and N. C. Wyeth (1881-1945) illustrated "The Coming of the Huns", "The First Cargo", and "The Red Star" in *Scribner's Magazine* in 1910-1911, and a later edition of *THE WHITE COMPANY* in 1922.
8659. Joe Eckrich offers a 13-page sales-list of Doyleana and Sherlockiana, with books, records, and videocassettes, and some nice non-Sherlockian material by Vincent Starrett and Michael Harrison; his address is 914 Oakmoor Drive, Fenton, MO 63026 <jeckrich@earthlink.net>.
8660. The centenary of the publication of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be celebrated in Australia on Sept. 29-Oct. 1, when The Sydney Passengers are sponsoring a Victorian-costume weekend at Bishopthorpe Manor at Goulburn, near Sydney. For more information, contact Sally Cornell (24 Byron Street, Croydon, NSW 2132, Australia) <sally_cornell@optusnet.com.au>.
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February 2001 #5

8661. *LITTLE SHERLOCK BEAR* is a new 34-minute videocassette from Paramount/Viacom (\$6.99 in toy stores), with four animations based on the books written by Else Holmelund Minarik and illustrated by Maurice Sendak. The box shows Little Bear with deerstalker and magnifying glass, and the contents include "Detective Little Bear" (length 8 minutes); Little Bear appears in deerstalker and magnifying glass investigating the mystery of his grandfather's missing pocket watch.
8662. "The traditional stationmaster, a pillar of the community and ready to help even the most awkward customer, is set to return," according to a newspaper story that had from John Baesch. The Great North Eastern Railway is changing its customer service delivery managers into stationmasters, equipped with mobile phones and pagers, to make trains friendlier, more efficient, and faster. Stationmasters, one of them Prof. Moriarty's younger brother, are mentioned in five stories in the Canon.
8663. Ian Henry Publications (20 Park Drive, Romford, Essex RM1 4LH, England) has a new (autumn 2000) sales list of their Sherlockian books (including monographs, pastiches, plays, and television and film scripts). And Ian Henry has just launched a series of paperback reprints of M. J. Trow's pastiches about Insp. Sholto Lestrade (£9.99 each).
8664. Further to the item (May 00 #8) about BBC plans to produce a new television version of "The Lost World" (co-producer Tim Haines said then that the novel, while not a classic, was a "rollicking good story"), Nancy Beiman notes a story in the *Hollywood Reporter* (Feb. 13) that reported that Bob Hoskins will star as Challenger, with Tom Ward (Lord Roxton), James Fox (Prof. Leo Summerlee), Matthew Rhys (Edward Malone), Elaine Cassidy (Agnes Kerr), and Peter Falk (the Rev. Theo Kerr). Executive producer Jane Tranter said last year that a new female character would be introduced to spice up the plot ("a load of sweaty men would be a bit dull"). Tim Haining was responsible for the BBC's acclaimed "Walking with Dinosaurs" (which was on the Discovery channel here), so we can expect some excellent digital dinosaurs.
8665. Reported by Jeff Bradley: Christopher Hitchens' *UNACKNOWLEDGED LEGISLATION: WRITERS IN THE PUBLIC SPHERE* (New York: Verso, 2001; 320 pp., \$25.00) has a chapter on "The Case of Arthur Conan Doyle"; it's his long review of Daniel Stashower's biography of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle *TELLER OF TALES*, reprinted from the N.Y. *Review of Books* (Nov. 4, 1999).
8666. Further to the report that the Crowborough Town Council had provided funds for the life-size statue of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle sculpted by David Cornell (January 00 #6), Brian Pugh reports that the statue will be unveiled in Crowborough on Apr. 14. More information is available from the Council (The Town Hall, The Broadway, Crowborough, East Sussex TN6 1DA, England <crowborough@mistral.co.uk>).
8667. David Musto reports that Yale University's 20th annual Sherlock Holmes Lecture will be held on June 28, at 8:00 pm at the Davies Auditorium, Becton Center, 15 Prospect Street on the Yale Campus. Murray Biggs (an Associate Professor of English and Theater Studies at Yale) will discuss the ways in which Holmes illustrated Conan Doyle's attitudes toward society. And the event will include a Rathbone/Bruce film.
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February 2001 #6

8668. Dan Stashower has noted a report in *The Independent* (Feb. 16) about Cottingley fairies material coming to auction on Mar. 13 at Bonhams & Brooks (attn: Carole Park, Montpelier Street, London SW7 1HH, England) (44-20-7393-3829) <<http://www.bonhams.com>>. It's sale 28534, lot 396: a collection of glass plates and other negatives originally owned by Edward Gardner (the theosophist who first showed the photographs to Arthur Conan Doyle); the archive includes photographs of the fairies, and unpublished pictures of Elsie Wright and Frances Griffiths and their relatives, and the lot is estimated at £3,000-4,000.
8669. News from Fred Levin: June Thomson's *HOLMES AND WATSON*, published in Britain in 1995, now has an American edition from Carroll & Graf (\$24.00). And Gerard Williams' *DR. MORTIMER AND THE BARKING MAN MYSTERY* (his second pastiche starring Dr. Mortimer) is due from Carroll & Graf in April (\$24.00).
8670. Mary Burke reports that there are photographs of Andaman islanders and of Agra on display in the exhibition "India Through the Lens: 1840-1911" at the Smithsonian Institution's Sackler Gallery in Washington through Mar. 25. There's a web-site at <<http://www.asia.si.edu/exhibitions/ittl/htm>>.
8671. The multicolor BASH 2001 lapel pin (honoring this year's Baskerville Bash during the birthday festivities in New York) is available (\$12.50 postpaid to North America, and \$13.50 elsewhere) from Warren Randall, 15 Fawn Lane West, South Setauket, NY 11720-1346.
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8672. Further to the report (October 00 #5) on "2001: A New Sherlockian Odyssey: A Journey Through the Shaw 100" in Minneapolis on June 29-July 1, the conference brochure (with details on the speakers, banquet, and other events) and registration materials are now available from Richard J. Sveum (111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <sveum001@tc.umn.edu>.
8673. Reported by Ed Collins: a dinner-theater production of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (newly dramatized by director Jeremy Tow) at the Chemainus Theatre on Vancouver Island in British Columbia, from Feb. 23 through Apr. 14; Box 1205, Chemainus, BC V0R 1K0, Canada (800-565-7738), and there's a web-site at <<http://www.ctheatre.bc.ca>>.
8674. Christopher Morley was a splendid writer as well as the founder of The Baker Street Irregulars, and Jim Hawkins reports that Bartleby ("Great Books Online") offers a sample of Morley's work on the World Wide Web: there's a brief biography of Morley at <<http://www.bartleby.com/people/Morley-C.html>> and the complete text of MODERN ESSAYS (1921) with a preface by Morley at <<http://www.bartleby.com/237/>>.
8675. Travelman Publishing has installed three vending machines in the South Kensington Station on the London Underground, offering short stories in a mapfold format (£1.00 each) for readers who want something more interesting than the daily paper. And Sherlock Holmes is among the stories available.

March 2001 #1

8676. "The Sign of Four" (with Matt Frewer as Sherlock Holmes) aired on Odyssey cable in March, and Charles Prepolec has reported that Muse Entertainment has confirmed that their next two-hour television film will be "A Scandal in Bohemia" (combining that story with "The Bruce-Partington Plans"). And The electronically enabled will find graphics and more information about "The Sign of Four" at web-sites at <<http://www.muse.ca/sign4prod.htm>> and <<http://www.odysseychannel.com/sherlockholmes/signoffour.html>>.
8677. A HISTORY OF THE MUSEUM TAVERN IN BLOOMSBURY, by John N. Henderson (London: Blemund's books, 1989), traces the history of the tavern from 1723 (when it was the Dog and Duck) to the present day, and it does not neglect the fact that Sherlockian scholars have identified it as the Alpha Inn (in "The Blue Carbuncle"); John Baesch notes that the 32-page booklet still is available at the pub (£1.00).
8678. Further to the report (January 01 #3) that promotion for the Franklin eBookMan shows the electronic-book reader displaying a passage from the Canon, Richard Wein notes that there's a similar illustration (this time showing the beginning of "The Empty House") in the early-spring catalog of "tools for serious readers" from Levenger (420 South Congress Avenue, Delray Beach, FL 33445 (800-544-0880) <<http://www.levenger.com>>).
8679. Robert S. Gellerstedt, Jr., died on Nov. 23, 2000. Bob worked for General Electric in the late 1940s (designing the gas turbine engine) and in 1951 moved to Lockheed Aircraft Corp. where he was instrumental in designing the Jetstar plane. He collected trains, and was a member of The Confederates of Wisteria Lodge in Atlanta, and in 1985 he brought his trusty Macintosh into Sherlockian service, compiling and publishing lists and indexes and 17 issues of his Christmas newsletter The Irregular News, and helping George Vanderburgh scan the entries in the first two volumes of Ron De Waal's bibliographies for use in THE UNIVERSAL SHERLOCK HOLMES.
8680. CONNED AGAIN, WATSON!: CAUTIONARY TALES OF LOGIC, MATH, AND PROBABILITY, by Colin Bruce (Cambridge: Perseus Publishing, 2000; 290 pp., \$24.00), employs Holmes and Watson to explain scams, game theory, and statistics, and does a good job of making it all sound easy; Bruce's earlier THE EINSTEIN PARADOX AND OTHER SCIENCE MYSTERIES SOLVED BY SHERLOCK HOLMES (December 98 #1) used a similar approach for scientific paradoxes. And the author has a web-site at <<http://members.aol.com/OxMathDes/ColinBruce.html>>.
8681. Fans of Ross Macdonald's work will welcome the announcement that his biographer, Tom Nolan, has discovered some unpublished material in Macdonald's papers: one short story and two novelettes featuring Macdonald's private eye Lew Archer, all now available in STRANGERS IN TOWN (Norfolk: Crippen & Landru, 2001). \$15.00 (paper) or \$37.00 (cloth, signed by Nolan and with some additional material); Box 9315, Norfolk, VA 23505 (toll-free 877-622-6656) <<http://www.crippenlandru.com>>; credit-card orders welcome. There's nothing Sherlockian about the new book, as far as I know, but Macdonald's real name was Kenneth Millar, and his first published story was "The South Sea Soup Co." in The Grumbler (Kitchener-Waterloo Collegiate and Vocational School, 1931); it's a parody featuring Herlock Sholmes and Sotwum.

March 2001 #2

8682. "Violin Won't Go for a Song" was the headline on a story in the [London] Evening Standard (Mar. 14), at hand from John Baesch, about a Stradivarius up for auction at Sotheby's, where it was expected to bring up to £450,000. That's rather more than the 55 shillings that Sherlock Holmes said he paid for his, but much less than the \$1.58 million paid for the Kreutzer Stradivarius in 1998 (May 98 #3). Another Strad sent to auction that year in New York sold for \$884,000 (November 98 #5).
8683. Terry Manners' biography THE MAN WHO BECAME SHERLOCK HOLMES; THE TORMENT OF JEREMY BRETT, first published in 1997, has been reissued as a trade paperback (London: Virgin, 2001; 244 pp., £12.99); according to a recent review, "Brett's manic depression and his disastrous submersion in his most famous role are well described in a book that avoids the luvvie banalties of most theatre biographies."
8684. E. W. Ziebarth died on Feb. 27. He arrived at the University of Minnesota in 1937 to pursue a doctorate in speech communication, and in 1948 was one of the founding members of The Norwegian Explorers. He was a radio correspondent, and won two Peabody Awards for distinguished achievement in broadcasting, and served as dean of the university's College of Liberal Arts and as the university's interim president. And he wrote a fine article about "The Master and the Mass Media" in EXPLORING SHERLOCK HOLMES (published by the Norwegian Explorers in 1957).
8685. There are many Internet web-sites devoted to news/gossip/rumor about films, including Ananova <<http://www.ananova.com>>, which reported this month that Catherine Zeta-Jones "is considering" making a film loosely based on "The Sign of Four" that also focuses on a secret love affair between Holmes and married member of the aristocracy. Alan Rickman "is tipped" as Holmes, and Gabriel Byrne as Watson. The script is currently "being developed," with a view to start filming next spring. Cynicism alert: when you see words and phrases such as "considering" and "tipped" and "being developed" in reports from the film industry, it is reasonably safe to assume that you're reading hype rather than news.
8686. Forecast for May: A PICTORIAL TRIBUTE TO JEREMY BRETT: THE DEFINITIVE SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Linda Pritchard (his companion for the last few years of his life), with 100 photographs covering his entire career, and a foreword by Granada Television chairman Charles L. Allen; due from Paradise Books in London, 120 pp. Price not yet known, but expected to be \$28.00 to \$32.00; you can reserve copies now from Ashland Books, 132 Seventh Street, Ashland, OR 97520 (541-201-0271) <ashlandbooks@ashlandhome.net>.
8687. "A Music Reference Goes Electronic, Finally," was the headline in the N.Y. Times (Feb. 15) on Allan Kozinn's article about the new on-line edition of the NEW GROVE DICTIONARY OF MUSIC AND MUSICIANS, which is regarded by many as the best-ever reference work for musicians and musicologists, as well as music fans. The 29-volume ink-on-paper set costs \$4,850, and you can subscribe to the on-line version at rates ranging from \$295 a year to \$30 for ten 24-hour sessions. And electronically-enabled Sherlockians who want to see what Grove has to say about Lassus or

March 2001 #3

8688. The spring 2001 issue of *The Serpentine Muse* offers Kate Karlson's thoughts on "Holmes the Gambler; or A Few Trifling Observations on The Master's Income Sources", the late Wayne Swift's delightful toast to "The Queen Empress", and much more. The *Muse* is a quarterly published by *The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes*, and it costs \$10.00 a year (make your checks payable to the *Adventuresses*, please) from Evelyn A. Herzog (360 West 21st Street #5-A, New York, NY 10011).
8689. Sorry about that: my report (October 00 #3) that Morton Lowry died on Aug. 22, 2000, was wrong: Lowry, who played John Stapleton in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1939 and the steward Sanford in "Pursuit to Algiers" (1945) actually died on Nov. 26, 1987. The erroneous information turned up on the Internet Movie Data Base last year (and their mini-biography of Lowry has not been corrected, although his correct dates are now in the main entry).
8690. Further to the item (July 99 #6) about the renovation of Gillette Castle in Hadlyme, Conn., the work has taken longer than expected, and the park will be closed to the public on May 1, and the park and the castle are expected to be open again on Memorial Day in 2002. The cost will be about \$10 million, and "it's money well spent," according to state parks director Pamela Adams. Visitors will be able to see the steam and electric trains that ran on track installed by William Gillette (the trains were purchased years ago by an amusement park in Bristol, and recently returned to the park for repair and restoration); they will be on exhibit as a static display, but it may be possible to lay a small loop of track so that the trains can run on special occasions in the summertime. You can see what the train and track looked like in the 1930s on the Fox Movietone interview with Gillette that is available on various videocassettes.
8691. Andy Fusco notes an advertisement in the spring issue of *Pipes* magazine for six pewter pipe tampers (each with a different character from the *Sherlock Holmes* tales) offered by the Catnip Hill Trading Company (2201 Catnip Hill Road, Nicholasville, KY 40356 (958-887-5737) <<http://www.catniphill.com>>; \$124.95 for the boxed set.
8692. Carol Wenk died on Mar. 9. She was an ardent and energetic member of the National Association of Miniature Enthusiasts, and created and sold miniature blank books in the 1970s (her miniature *SHERLOCK HOLMES* was offered in 1980). In 1993 she succeeded Dee Snyder as leader of The Mini-Tonga Scion Society and editor of the *Tonga Times*; she greatly enjoyed the Sherlockian world, and was of much help to its miniaturists.
8693. Issue #41 of *Sherlock Holmes: The Detective Magazine* offers an assortment of Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian material, including an interesting essay by Bert Coules on Arthur Conan Doyle as a literary stylist, a discussion by Paul M. Chapman of the literary background for "The Hound of the Baskervilles", and an article by David Stuart Davies on the making of Granada's "The Three Gables". An annual subscription (six issues) costs £20.00 (in the (U.K.)/£22.00 (continent)/\$40.00 (elsewhere); Box 100, Chichester, West Sussex PO18 8HD, England <<http://pmh.uk.com/sherlock/sherlock.htm>>. Classic Specialties is the agent in the U.S. (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219) (toll-free 877-233-3823) <<http://sherlock@sherlock-holmes.com>>, and credit-card orders are welcome at both addresses; back issues are available.
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March 2001 #4

8694. Elmer Davis was honored in Jon Lellenberg's tribute during the Baker Street Irregulars' annual dinner in New York in January, and that reminded me of a question I planned to ask some time ago. Elmer Davis played himself in the movie "The Day the Earth Stood Still" (1951), and Richard Shull appeared in many films. Is there any other Investitured Irregular who has appeared in a film as an actor?
8695. A search of the Internet Movie Data Base reveals that Elmer Davis also is an author who has had books made into films. Christopher Morley and Vincent Starrett are two more Investitured Irregulars whose books have been made into films. Are there any others?
8696. Bob Coghill has kindly forwarded a losing ticket (he wisely kept all his winning tickets) from the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation's "Mystery Cash" game. A caricature of Sherlock Holmes appears on every ticket, and a calabash pipe and a deerstalker are among the game symbols (you need to uncover three of any symbol in order to win).
8697. Marcus Geisser reports that he has arrived in Myanmar [Burma], and that he is enjoying both the country and his work there for the International Committee of the Red Cross (for whom he worked in the Congo). Myanmar borders the Andaman Sea, but it's not all that close to the islands (nothing is all that close to the Andaman Islands, of course). He doesn't have e-mail, but his postal address is: c/o CICR/Myanmar/Mawlamyline, 19 Avenue de la Paix, CH-1202 Geneva, Switzerland.
8698. William Hanna died on Mar. 22. He was a pioneer in the field of animation, and collaborated with Joseph Barbera for more than 50 years, creating film and television classics that included "Tom and Jerry", "The Jetsons", "The Flintstones", "Yogi Bear", and "Scooby-Doo". Hanna-Barbera shows often had Sherlockian allusions, including "The Hound of the Scoobyvilles at Baskerville Hall" (1984) and "Scooby-Doo Mysteries: Sherlock Doo" (1985).
8699. Reported: Quinn Fawcett's *Mycroft Holmes* pastiches *AGAINST THE BROTHERHOOD* and *EMBASSY ROW* are available from Recorded Books, read unabridged by Simon Prebble. *AGAINST THE BROTHERHOOD* costs \$71.00 on cassettes and \$94.00 on CDs (or \$16.50 rental); *EMBASSY ROW* costs \$82.00 on cassettes (\$17.50 rental). Their address is: 270 Skipjack Road, Prince Frederick, MD 20678 (800-638-1304) <<http://www.recordedbooks.com>>; credit-card orders welcome.
8700. Further to the item (February 01 #6) on the auction of a collection of Cottingley fairies material at auction at Bonhams & Brooks in London on Mar. 13, the estimate was £3,000-4000, and the winning bid (by "an unnamed collector") was £6,000; the lot included glass plates and other negatives originally owned by Edward Gardner (the theosophist who first showed the photographs to Arthur Conan Doyle), with photographs of the fairies, and unpublished pictures of Elsie Wright and Frances Griffiths and their relatives.
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March 2001 #5

8701. The winter 2001 issue of the *Tonga Times* has arrived from Trish and Jay Pearlman, and it is nicely done indeed, with ten pages, color illustrations, and a miniature copy of *THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES*.
8702. They would like to hear from anyone who collects, constructs, or is interested in Sherlockian miniatures, and membership in The Mini-Tonga Scion Society costs \$10.00 a year (or \$11.00 to Canada, or \$13.00 elsewhere); their address is 1656 East 19th Street #2-E, Brooklyn, NY 11229, and they have a web-site at <<http://hometown.aol.com/minitongasociety/mini1.htm>>.
8703. John Baesch has reported a review in the *Tatler* (Apr. 2001) of Ciaran Carson's *SHAMROCK TEA* (Granta, £14.99): "The latest novel from this acclaimed Belfast writer is an absorbing fantasy centred round a van Eyck painting. Shamrock tea allows its drinker to pass through the painting into another world. The narrator meets Ludwig Wittgenstein and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, and enters a magical universe where time is suspended. A fairytale for ad-ults, which contains a miscellany of facts."
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8704. John also notes that the epidemic of foot-and-mouth disease has had an impact on at least one Sherlockian site: nearly 400 square miles of Dartmoor were closed to the public in order to protect hundreds of cattle and sheep that graze on common land on the moor. "Dartmoor Pubs Deserted by All But Their Ghosts" said a headline in *The Times* (Mar. 5); "the hordes of hikers, bird-watchers, canoeists, and geology students who normally populate one of Britain's last unspoiled open spaces have evaporated faster than yesterday's snow in the spring sunshine."
8705. The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes will hold their spring dinner on Apr. 21, at Bill's Gay 90's Restaurant in New York; details are available from Evelyn A. Herzog, 360 West 21st Street #5-A, New York, NY 10011. "Ladies and gentlemen will be welcomed" at this gathering of the Adventuresses and their friends (the fall dinner is open to members and female guests), and there are plans for an informal brunch on Apr. 22.
8706. John Doubleday's life-size statue of a seated Sherlock Holmes was unveiled in Meiringen in 1988, inscribed with 60 cryptic clues, each clue referring to one of the Canonical tales, and a 1:10 scale model of the sculpture was offered as a prize to anyone who identifies all the clues and stories. And no one has claimed the prize, according to Gavin Bell's story in the *Daily Telegraph* (Mar. 24): so far the highest score is 58.
8707. Regnery continues to publish American editions of M. J. Trow's delightful series about Inspector Sholto Lestrade; the 16 novels offer name-dropping, bawdy humor, and puns, as well as interesting mysteries. *LESTRADE AND THE MIRROR OF MURDER* (Washington: Regnery, 2000; 240 pp., \$19.95) is available (it's #14 in the series). And the publisher is starting to issue the series in trade paperback: the first two titles (*THE ADVENTURES OF INSPECTOR LESTRADE* and *BRIGADE*) are available at \$9.95.
8708. Sherlock Holmes (impersonated by John Sherwood) will return to Union City, Mich., on May 4 and 5 to host dinner events at the Victorian Villa Inn in honor of the centenary of the death of Queen Victoria. Additional details are available from the inn (601 North Broadway, Union City, MI 49094) (800-348-4552) <<http://www.geocities.com/jcsherwood/BakerStreet25.htm>>.

March 2001 #6

8709. Reported: *THE CONFESSIONS OF MYCROFT HOLMES: A PAPER CHASE*, by Marcel Theroux (New York: Harcourt, 2001; 216 pp., \$23.00), has had two reviews in the *N.Y. Times* (Mar. 13 in the daily paper, and Mar. 25 in the *N.Y. Times Book Review*). It's the second novel by the son of Paul Theroux, and according to one reviewer the novel focuses on family rivalry, and a mystery that involves a manuscript with the same title as the book. The book isn't Sherlockian, but the reviewers like its style and energy.
8710. The Bibliotheque Cantonale et Universitaire de Lausanne has an interesting archive of photographs of Arthur Conan Doyle, and in 1999 Sylvie Steinmann, as part of her work for a diploma, prepared a CD-ROM disk with 250 photographs selected from the archives, accompanied by biographical and genealogical information. The disk is in French, and requires FileMaker 4.0 software and it is available from Michael Meer for \$49.00 postpaid in currency, or \$56.00 postpaid for checks and money orders (to cover bank charges).
8711. But: FileMaker is a data-base applications program, and the current version is 5.0, and it costs \$249.00 from the company (with discounts available in computer stores), and the disk can be read only with the FileMaker program. The company web-site <<http://www.filemaker.com>> does allow you to download a trial version of 5.0 (as a 9-MB zipped file, and I have no idea how large it unzips to), and then you can run version 5.0 to convert the version 4.0 database on the CD-ROM disk to your hard disk, and you'll likely need 4-GB to convert the entire CD-ROM disk. Of course it might be possible to find someone who'll sell you a cheap copy of the FileMaker 4.0 software now that version 5.0 is available.
8712. Bookubes are an imaginative device: eight small cubes connected to form one larger cube that you unfold and refold to show various pictures or designs. The Sherlock Holmes Bookube of Quotations nicely displays full-color Paget artwork and Canonical quotations, and it costs £3.99 plus shipping (£2.99 to the U.S.) from Crime in Store (14 Bedford Street, London WC2E 9HE, England) (0207-379-3795) <<http://www.crimeinstore.co.uk>>.
8713. The *Musgrave Papers 2000* is the 13th annual published by The Northern Musgraves, and as usual it's nicely done indeed, with 126 pages devoted to the stories in *THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* (Kathryn White suggests that "The Second Stain" is a tale of "sex, lies, and red tape," and Auberon Redfearn offers amusing extracts from the diary of Col. Sebastian Moran). Information on membership in the society and on its publications is available from Anne Jordan, Fairbank, Beck Lane, Bingley, West Yorks. BD16 4DN, England <fairbank@btinternet.com>.
8714. The current annual from the society also is the last to be edited by David Stuart Davies and Kathryn White, who report that Roger Johnson already is hard at work on the next one (which is to be devoted to *THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES*). David also reports that a computer crash has damaged his address files: any American contributors who have not received their authors' copies should write to David at: Overdale, 69 Greenhead Road, Huddersfield HD1 4ER, England <overdale@btinternet.com>.

April 2001 #1

8715. Further to my query (March 01 #4) about Investitured Irregulars who have appeared in movies as actors (in addition to Elmer Davis), Bill Ward was a child actor, from the age of three in "The Amazing Mrs. Holliday" (1943) to the age of seven in "The Foxes of Harrow" (1947), and John E. Pforr had a bit part (as an extra) in Barry Levinson's "Liberty Heights" (1999). And Investitured Irregulars who have had books made into films (in addition to Christopher Morley and Vincent Starrett) include Poul Anderson, Isaac Asimov, John Ball, Frederic Dannay (as Ellery Queen), Robert L. Fish, Stuart Palmer, Rex Stout, and Eve Titus. If you include books made into television series, add Michael Harrison to the list. Jon Lellenberg (who supplied many of the authors listed) also notes that Henry C. Potter, the only member of The Baker Street Irregulars who has a star on Hollywood Boulevard, directed many films.
8716. "Granada to Revive Sherlock Holmes" was the headline on a story in the Mar. 31 issue of *Broadcast* magazine, reported by Bill Barnes. "Granada is to revive its successful drama series 'Sherlock Holmes' on ITV, The programme is currently being cast by Granada controller of drama and comedy Andy Harries. It will show a much grittier interpretation of Victorian London and will follow Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson during an earlier period of their partnership, when the men were in their early 30s. Granada produced 39 episodes of the original series, which ran between 1984 and 1994 and garnered viewing figures of up to 14 million for the network. No transmission date has been revealed."
8717. And there's more, in a story in the *Mirror* (Apr. 2), forwarded by David M. Scott, which says that Robson Green and Jerome Flynn "are being lined up" to star as Holmes and Watson, with Sean Bann as Moriarty and Geraldine Somerville as Holmes' girlfriend, in a series of 12 one-hour programs. Note: as with many such projects, Sherlockian and otherwise, initial publicity is quite often intended to help generate interest and funding. It remains to be seen whether Granada actually starts production.
8718. Forecast for May: *SHERLOCK IN LOVE*, by Sena Jeter Naslund, first published in 1993, in a trade-paperback reprint (New York: HarperPerennial, 2001; 240 pp., \$13.00); the book opens in 1922 with Watson having decided to write a biography of Sherlock Holmes, and quickly encountering a series of mysteries, current and past, that involve a mysterious violinist named Sigerson, an attempt to rescue Mad King Ludwig of Bavaria, and much more. The style and voice are consistent with the Canon, and the narrative is cinematic, as is often the case with modern pastiches.
8719. The Mystery Writers of America will hold their 56th annual banquet on May 3 in New York; the nominees for Edgar awards include Martin Booth's *THE DOCTOR AND THE DETECTIVE: A BIOGRAPHY OF SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE* (for best critical/ biographical work) and David Pirie's "Murder

Rooms: The Dark Origins of Sherlock Holmes" (for best TV feature/miniseries). Ed Hoch, whose work includes both Sherlockian and Doylean stories, will be honored as a Grand Master of the MWA, and Douglas G. Greene (the proprietor of Crippen & Landru) will receive the Ellery Queen Award (for writing teams, editors, and publishers who have made an outstanding contribution to the mystery genre).

April 2001 #2

8720. Further to the previous report (September 00 #3) about the continuing battle over Liberton Bank House (where Arthur Conan Doyle once lived), McDonald's has now scaled down its plans: the [Edinburgh] Scotsman reported (Mar. 19), that the company now proposed to build a 75-seat restaurant, painted white and without the world-famous golden M, farther away from the derelict house. But opponents note that the new plan blocks the original driveway to the house and make access impossible except through a shopping center, possibly deterring potential buyers who might want to restore the house. Owen Dudley Edwards said in the South Edinburgh News last month that Conan Doyle "first learned to read and write" while he lived in the house, and that "It was here that the first impressions of human life came to him on the printed page which he would later make his battleground of endless triumphs."
8721. Our new stamp commemorates the 100th anniversary of the creation of the Nobel Prize, and by implication the only known Sherlockian to have won one: Prize: Philip S. Hench (1896-1965), winner of a prize for medicine in 1950. His collection (with four copies of Beeton's Christmas Annual for 1887), now is owned by the University of Minnesota.
8722. Further to the item (February 01 #5) about the BBC's new television version of "The Lost World", the production company, filming in New Zealand, has lost a famous capuchin monkey, Tuku, named in honor of the nation's first prime minister, according to a story in the Evening Standard (Mar. 27), at hand from John Baesch. A local observer noted that Tuku was part of the background action, and its owner had assured the film crew that if it was taken off its lead it wouldn't disappear. "It did immediately, and no one could retrieve it." A BBC spokesman explained that they were in negotiation with the owner, "and we can't comment further about the monkey until the situation is resolved."
8723. The Mysterious Bookshop Newsletter continues to appear monthly, offering a wide variety of titles, old and new, and there's always a section of Sherlockiana (also old and new); 129 West 56th Street, New York, NY 10019 (212-765-0900) <mysteriousny@worldnet.att.net>.
8724. The International League of Antiquarian Booksellers has a new web-site with offers by about 2,000 dealers worldwide, including (early this month) 450-500 items listed for Arthur Conan Doyle; some items are rare and expensive (there are three non-Sherlockian manuscripts), and others are less rare and reasonably priced. The search engine is helpful, and one of the nice features of the new web-site is that you can use foreign-language characters in searches. The URL is <<http://www.ilab-lila.com>>.
8725. Nyree Dawn Porter died on Apr. 9. She was a fine actress, best known for her portrayal of Irene Forsythe in the BBC's late-1960s television series "The Forsythe Saga" (a role for which she won an award as best actress from the Society of Film and Television Arts, and was honored as an officer of the Order of the British Empire); the series was for many American admirers of Irene Adler an education on the British pronunciation of her given name (eye-REEN-ee). Miss Porter also was Lady Brackenstall in the Douglas Wilmer version of "The Abbey Grange" on BBC television in 1965.
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April 2001 #3

8726. "In the year 1878 I took my degree of Doctor of Medicine of the University of London, and proceeded to Netley to go through the course prescribed for surgeons in the Army," Dr. Watson wrote (in "A Study in Scarlet"). John Baesch has forwarded a review from the Evening Standard (Apr. 4) of Philip Hoare's new SPIKE ISLAND: THE MEMORY OF A MILITARY HOSPITAL (Fourth Estate, £17.99); Hoare grew up near Netley, and his book covers far more than the history of the hospital.
8727. "In more fertile spots the observer would have come to the conclusion that one of those great herds of bisons which graze upon the prairie land was approaching him," Conan Doyle wrote (in "A Study in Scarlet"). Our new 21c stamp shows the silhouette of a bison; American do call them buffalo, but the buffalo mentioned in the Canon surely were South African Cape buffalo.
8728. Further to the item (February 01 #5) on plans for the unveiling of the life-size statue of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in Crowborough, the Daily Telegraph ran a story on Apr. 12 on protests by former mayor Steve Isted and others against the cost of the unveiling ceremony, but the statue, sculpted by David Cornell, was unveiled on Apr. 14 without a hitch (or protest). Georgina Doyle (widow of Sir Arthur's nephew Brigadier John Doyle) was the guest of honor, and spoke about how pleasant it was to see a statue of the creator rather than the creation; other members of Conan Doyle's extended family present were Richard Doyle, Catherine Beggs, Robert and Shirley Foley, and Charles Foley.
8729. Will Walsh (23 Powder Horn Road, Cortlandt Manor, NY 10567) offers a set of six postcards showing his watercolors of Canonical ships; \$5.50 postpaid. Some of his original artwork also is available, and you can contact him by mail or e-mail <wmwalsh221@aol.com>.
8730. The tenth annual Watsonian Weekend on July 27-29 will feature Chuck Kovacic as guest speaker at the Regimental Dinner in Schiller Park, the 42nd annual running of The Silver Blaze at Arlington Race Track, the Fortescue Honours Brunch in Des Plaines, and a tour of Graceland (the cemetery where Vincent Starrett and other famous locals are buried) led by Don Izban; more information is available from Susan Z. Diamond (16W603 3rd Avenue, Bensenville, IL 60106) <szd@mediaone.net>.
8731. "He's almost magical in his abilities," Morgan Freeman said in an interview with Roger Ebert in the Chicago Sun-Times (Apr. 15), talking about Dr. Alex Cross (the forensic psychologist Freeman plays in the new film "Along Came a Spider"). "He's very like Sherlock Holmes," Freeman continued. "One of my joys was Jeremy Brett doing Sherlock Holmes. I'm drawn to that sort of cerebral detective."
8732. Michael Chabon, winner of the Pulitzer Prize for fiction for his novel THE AMAZING ADVENTURES OF KAVALIER & CLAY (New York: Random House, 2000), was interviewed on "The Newshour with Jim Lehrer" on PBS-TV on Apr. 19, and he talked about how he started getting interested in writing. He said he was ten years old when he first wrote something long, in English class: a 12-page story about Sherlock Holmes meeting Captain Nemo, trying to write in Conan Doyle's style. His teacher gave him an A.

8733. April 2001 #4

8734. Derham Groves, recently lecturing about architecture in Vietnam, found the Canon in print there, in small and inexpensive paperbacks. And no, that's not Sherlock Holmes in the cover artwork; the story is "A Study in Scarlet" and the cover shows Jefferson Hope, and the booklet was published in Hanoi in 1998. Another publisher, in Ho Chi Minh [Saigon], has a series of 12 paperbacks with translations from the French OEUVRES COMPLETES published by Robert Laffont in Paris in the 1960s.
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8735. April 2001 #5

8736. Jack Haley Jr. died on Apr. 21. He was born into show business (his father played the Tin Man in "The Wizard of Oz" in 1939), and he had a long career as a film and television director and producer; his Sherlockian credits include executive producer for a Sherlock Holmes episode of "That's Hollywood!" (1976) and executive in charge of production for the Roger Moore television film "Sherlock Holmes in New York" (1976).
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8737. Original artwork by Robert Fawcett will be included in an auction on May 5 at Illustration House (96 Spring Street, New York, NY 10012 (212-966-9444) <<http://www.illustration-house.com>>. His artwork for "The Adventure of the Wax Gamblers" (by Adrian Conan Doyle and John Dickson Carr) in Collier's on June 20, 1953, shows Watson taking cards from the hands of the wax gamblers, and is estimated at \$5,000-7,000. Fawcett's artwork for Agatha Christie's "Hickory Dickory Dock" in Collier's on Oct. 28, 1955, shows Hercule Poirot, and is estimated at \$2,000-\$3,000 (suggesting, perhaps, that Watson is more desirable than Poirot when it comes to original art by the same artist).
8738. A new sales-list of Sherlockiana, and an extensive one, with more than 500 items (List G), is offered by Michael S. Greenbaum (Janus Books, Box 40787, Tucson, AZ 85717) (800-986-1165) <<http://janusbooks.com>>.
8739. Further to the report (September 00 #1) on plans to publish a complete run of The Baker Street Journal on a CD-ROM disk, in PDF format that can be read with Adobe Acrobat software (included) for Windows and Macintosh systems, there are four CD-ROM disks, and the set now is ready for shipping; it costs \$105 postpaid (to North America) or \$110 postpaid (elsewhere), and checks should be sent to The Baker Street Irregulars, 2029 Century Park East #3290, Los Angeles, CA 90067. The first issue of the BSI appeared in 1946, when its editor, Edgar W. Smith, said that it was "dedicated to the proposition that there is still infinitely much to be said about the scene in Baker Street." That's still true, of course, and the archive on the BSI disks illustrates just what is meant when we say that Sherlockians have "contributed to our literature." Mike Whelan (the current "Wiggins" of The Baker Street Irregulars) suggested to the BSI at an annual dinner that the Irregulars should be a literary society rather than a fan club, and you'll be able to see on the disks just how literary, and how much fun, the BSI has been for so many years, and still is.
8740. Tom Armstrong's "Marvin" comic strip used a Sherlockian motif to celebrate Easter in a continuing story, Apr. 2-7 and 9-14; thanks to Carl Heifetz for pursuing the mystery through the pages of the St. Petersburg Times.

April 2001 #6

8741. Martin Gardner's imaginative THE ANNOTATED CASEY AT THE BAT: A COLLECTION OF BALLADS ABOUT THE MIGHTY CASEY (according to John Bennett Shaw, it has "the only accurate account of where Moorville (3Gar) was, and what happened to it") appeared in 1967, with a second edition in 1984, and there's a third edition (Mineola: Dover Publications, 1995: 231 pp., \$8.95) with additional Sherlockian material: a one-paragraph summary of Charles Michael Carroll's poem "Sherlock at the Bat" (first published in Wheelwrightings in 1991).
8742. "Hooked: Illegal Drugs and How They Got That Way" is a four-hour mini-series broadcast by the History channel on Apr. 22; the third one-hour program ("Cocaine: The Third Scourge") included a one-minute segment about Sherlock Holmes, with a photograph of Basil Rathbone, a quote from "The Sign of the Four" (misidentified as "The Seven-Per-Cent Solution"), and commentary by David F. Musto of Yale University (and The Baker Street Irregulars).
8743. Laurie R. King will be on tour promoting her new (non-Mary Russell) novel FOLLY, and signing her books. The preliminary schedule: May 7 (Amsterdam); May 8 (joint event with Val McDermid and Manda Scott at Waterstones, Emerson Chambers, Newcastle); May 9 (similar joint event at Waterstones, West End Branch, Edinburgh); May 10 (signings in London at Crime in Stone and Murder One, and perhaps at Silver Moon and Harrods, and a joint event with Andrew Taylor at Heffers, Cambridge); May 11 (joint event with Val McDermid and Waterstones, Deansgate, Manchester). More information may be available at Laurie's web-site at <<http://www.laurierking.com>>.
8744. Reported by Stu Shiffman: VILLAINS VICTORIOUS, edited by Martin H. Greenberg and John Helfers (New York: DAW Books, 2001; 320 pp., \$6.99); an anthology of 14 original stories, including a Sherlockian pastiche by Peter Tremayne, about Holmes' first encounter with Moriarty, in Ireland, where Colonel James Phillimore disappeared from his estate in Kerry.
8745. The museum exhibit "Sherlock Holmes and the Clocktower Mystery" has been on display in the United States (January 01 #4), and now it's moving to Canada: it will open at the Vancouver Museum on June 11 and run through the end of the year. More information is available from the museum (1100 Chestnut Street, Vancouver, BC V6J 3J9, Canada) (604-736-4431) and (by the end of the month) at their web-site <<http://www.vanmuseum.bc.ca>>.
8746. The annual Edinburgh Festival Fringe often includes new Sherlockian drama, and this year's play will be Edward Viney's new dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles", at the Stage by Stage Edinburgh Academy in Henderson Row on Aug. 5-19. The box office (0131-557-1155) and the company web-site <<http://www.stagebystage.org>> will open on June 1. After the Festival ends the play will also be produced in Exeter. According to company publicity, the production focuses on the supernatural dimensions of the story and the atmosphere created by a lone man of reason entering a close-knit, frightened community. Sir Hugo makes more than one appearance, and the audiences will get to see the Hound. "The tone of the piece is gothic and suspended, rather than comic or camp, as some adaptations can be."

May 2001 #1

8747. It was nice to see a mention of the creator of our grand Sherlockian game in conservative columnist George F. Will's op-ed piece in the Washington Post (Apr. 29): "Ronald Knox, the learned Catholic priest whose elegantly medieval mind converted a number of Oxford undergraduates in the 1920s and '30s, believed that airplanes, telephones and such gadgets were overrated and that the last good invention was the toast rack for the breakfast table. Now, *that* was a conservative."
8748. Willis Frick spotted a report of a new play, scheduled at the South Coast Repertory's Second Stage in Costa Mesa, Oct. 30-Dec. 2. "Nostalgia" (written by Lucinda Coxon) is set on a farm in South Wales, where "two brothers hear an echo of hypnotic songs sung by sirens. There is a foreboding about the surrounding woods. Perhaps the strange woman across the river, who is loved from afar by one brother and scorned by the other, knows why. When Sherlock Holmes' creator Sir Arthur Conan Doyle arrives, he gets the chance to put his literary insights to a real test as he attempts to untangle both the emotional and ethereal enigmas." The theater address is Box 2197, Costa Mesa, CA 92628 (714-708-5555) <<http://www.scr.org>>.
8749. One of the events during the annual dinner of the Baker Street Irregulars in 1960 was a quiz presented by Irving Fenton, for which the first prize was a copy of LEAVES FROM THE COPPER BEECHES supplied by Bill Starr and Tom Hart by way of giving the volume some publicity. And Julian Wolff won the quiz. Julian's prize volume possibly was inscribed by Edgar W. Smith, and may also have been signed by some of those who attended the dinner; and I wonder if one of my readers acquired this copy when Julian's collection was dispersed some years ago.
8750. "Try Canadian Pacific Railway," was Sherlock Holmes' suggestion (in "Black Peter"), and John Baesch notes that it's as strong an investment now as it was then. The chairman of Canadian Pacific Ltd. told the company's shareholders on Apr. 26 that the time is right to split CP into five companies, one of which will be Canadian Pacific Railway. The company opened in 1881 as a "ribbon of steel" built to tie Canada together coast-to-coast, and it will again be a "pure play railway company" (CP's ships, petroleum, hotels, resorts, etc., will be owned by the other new companies).
8751. There's an addition to the list of three Investitured Irregulars who have appeared in movies as actors (April 01 #1), thanks to Roy Pilot: add Richard B. Shull, who was a professional actor on stage, screen, and television.

8752. "The Royal Arsenal at Woolwich is a real blast from the past," Chris Wharton wrote in The Sunday Telegraph (Apr. 22), in an article kindly forwarded by John Baesch. The Royal Ordnance Factory closed in 1967, and the London Development Agency bought the 76-acre site from the Ministry of Defence in 1997 for £1, and then spent £48.8 million to decontaminate the area. Some of the buildings now are being converted, one into a museum and others for housing, with apartments that will be priced from £105,000 (one bedroom) to £250,000 (three bedrooms). One hopes, of course, that someone will arrange for a plaque that will commemorate the services of Arthur Cadogan West, who was a clerk at the Woolwich Arsenal ("The Bruce-Partington Plans").

May 2001 #2

8753. The Sherlock Holmes Gazette was launched ten years ago as a 24-page journal edited by Elizabeth Wiggins, with a "Reichenbach Centenary Edition" on May 4, 1991; it has grown and prospered, and it was retitled Sherlock Holmes: The Detective Magazine in 1997, and it is edited now by David Stuart Davies, and the decade's 40 issues (through 2000) are now available on a CD-ROM disk. The disk costs £39.95 or \$60.00 postpaid from PHM Publications, PO Box 100, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 8HD, England <admin@pmh.uk.com> (you should specify PC or Mac); credit-card orders welcome.
8754. "This case deserves to be a classic," is the quote from the Canon noted by Joe Coppola in a new catalog from Reading Etc. (3201 SW 15th Street, Deerfield, FL 33442 (877-909-7323) <<http://www.readingetc.com>>, introducing a collection of handsome desk accessories that aren't themselves Sherlockian.
8755. The electronically-enabled will wish to visit Steve Trusell's splendid "Detectives on Stamps" web-site at <<http://trussel.com/detfic/detect.htm>>; it was there that I discovered a report of the latest postage stamp honoring Arthur Conan Doyle:
8756. South Africa issued (Oct. 25, 2000) two stamps honoring Anglo-Boer/South African War Writers, showing portraits of Sol Plaatje and Johanna Brandt on one stamp, and Arthur Conan Doyle and Winston Churchill on the other stamp. The mint set, and an official first day cover, still are available from Philatelic Services, Private Bag X505, Pretoria 0001, South Africa <<http://www.sapo.co.za>>; the cost is R5.70 for the stamps and R7.70 for the cover, and credit-card orders are welcome.
8757. Bridget Byrne reported (in the Washington Post on May 8) on the cast of the new film "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" (due in theaters on Nov. 16), and the film will feature two actors who have played Sherlock Holmes: John Cleese will be Nearly Headless Nick (a "ghost who 4 years ago wasn't quite beheaded"), and Alan Rickman will be Severus Snape ("cold-eyed, paleskinned, sarcastic Slytherin housemaster and potions professor"). Cleese played Holmes on television in "Elementary, My Dear Watson" in 1973, and Rickman played the title role in William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" on stage in Birmingham in 1976.
8758. Issue #42 of Sherlock Holmes: The Detective Magazine offers a first (as far as I know): Peter Guttridge's "Sound Alibi" is a pastiche with Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce, in the midst of filming for Universal, assisting the police in solving a double murder perpetrated on the film set. And there's much more, non-Sherlockian and Sherlockian, including David Stuart Davies' article about the making of Granada's "The Dying Detective", and Denis Norden's quote from the first Sherlockian sketch that he and Frank Muir wrote for BBC radio in 1949. Annual subscriptions (six issues) cost £20.00 (in the U.K.)/£22.00 (continent)/\$40.00 (elsewhere); Box 100, Chichester, West Sussex PO18 8HD, England <<http://pmh.uk.com/sherlock/sherlock.htm>>. Classic Specialties is the agent in the U.S. (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219) (toll-free 877-233-3823) <<http://sherlock@sherlock-holmes.com>>, and creditcard orders are welcome at both addresses; back issues are available.
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May 2001 #3

8759. A&E cable debuted its "Nero Wolfe" mystery series last year with "The Golden Spiders" (September 00 #5), starring Maury Chaykin as Wolfe and Tim Hutton as Archie Goodwin, with a view of the portrait of Sherlock Holmes on the wall over Archie's desk. The series continues this year ("The Doorbell Rang", "Champagne for One", and "Prisoner's Base" have aired so far), and Holmes' portrait seems to have vanished, but there now are views of the picture of waterfall (which hides the secret panel through which people can see what's going on in the office); it is widely assumed that the waterfall is the Reichenbach, although this is not stated in any of the stories (and as seen in the series it doesn't look like the Reichenbach). The series offers excellent atmosphere and production values, and Hutton is delightful as Archie Goodwin.
8760. Further to the item (August 96 #5) about how much the Conan Doyles liked Mercedes-Benz cars: the Wall Street Journal had a front-page article by Jonathan Welsh on May 8, about a 1955 Mercedes 300 SL Gullwing Coupe, ordered from the factory by Adrian Conan Doyle and now owned by Alfred Barbour, who purchased it for \$165,000. The car then spent two years in a restoration shop, and after two years of work and an estimated bill of \$300,000 the car resides in Barbour's garage in Mars, Pa. But he doesn't plan to drive it: "Sometimes I'll come down alone, pull up a chair and just sit and look at," he said. And he thinks the car is well worth what he's spent on it: "Some people have beautiful paintings or sculptures, and they have no trouble justifying it. My work of art just happens to be in the garage." Actually, the Mercedes was driven by Adrian's wife Anna Conan Doyle; according to Charles Foley, Adrian's own car was a Ferrari 250 GTO.
8761. Further to the report (April 01 #5) of original artwork by Robert Fawcett at auction in New York on May 5, his illustration for "The Adventure of the Wax Gamblers" (by Adrian Conan Doyle and John Dickson Carr) in Collier's, showing Watson but not Holmes (estimated at \$5,000-7,000), brought \$7,150 (including the 10% buyer's premium). Fawcett's artwork for Agatha Christie's "Hickory Dickory Dock", showing Hercule Poirot (estimated at \$2,000-3,000) brought \$3,080.
8762. Bill Barnes (19 Malvern Avenue, Manly, NSW 2095, Australia) notes that THE HOUNDS' COLLECTION: VOLUME 6 now is available; there are 98 pages of pastiche, humor, serious writing, and artwork by members of The Hounds of the Internet. Most of the material is new, but a few items have appeared elsewhere; the cost is \$12.00/CA\$18.00/£8.00/AU\$14.75 postpaid by air (payment in currency preferred, but checks are acceptable), and PayPal can be used to <bbarnes@ozemail.com.au>.
8763. The latest issue of The Cormorant's Ring is a delightful tribute to Margaret and Don Hardenbrook: Don was one of the founders of The Trained Cormorants in 1947, and their wedding in 1957 was nicely Sherlockian (both the reverend and the best man were members of the Cormorants), and their marriage was a happy one in every way, as you will see in the reminiscences and reprints in the society's journal. It's available for \$5.00 postpaid from Jim Coffin, 6570 East Paseo Alcazaa, Anaheim Hills, CA 92807.
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May 2001 #4

8764. Britain's second largest mortgage lender Abbey National continues to sell bonds backed by residential mortgages, and "Holmes Four" (due in June) will be worth £2.6 billion, the largest such bond issue in European history. There's already a Holmes One, Holmes Two, and Holmes Three, and yes, the name is carefully chosen. According to a Reuters dispatch (May 10), at hand from Ray Betzner, "The Holmes vehicle is named after Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's fictional detective Sherlock Holmes who lived at Abbey's headquarters address on Baker Street in London."
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8765. The June-July issue of *British Heritage* is devoted to "The Age of Empire: Victorian Britain", with information on the best sites for tourists interested in the era, and (of course) mention of Sherlock Holmes and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. 645 Flank Drive, Harrisburg, PA 17112 (800-358-6327); \$6.00.
8766. The spring issue of *The Magic Door* (the newsletter published by The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) has David Kotin's review of the Toronto Public Library's special collections, and Victoria Gill's article about one of the Conan Doyle family photographs (of Arctic explorer Vilhjalmur Stefansson, publisher H. M. McClure, detective William J. Burns, Capitol Theatre owner Edward Bowes, and Sir Arthur, taken by Lady Doyle in 1913 at Windlesham, where they discussed the possibility of "a play combining a detective of fact with the greatest detective of fiction." The newsletter is available from Doug Wrigglesworth (16 Sunset Street, Holland Landing, ON L9N 1H4, Canada) <dougwig@idirect.com>. And the Friends have a web-site at <<http://www.acdfriends.org>>.
8767. There's a new lapel pin, for The Goose Club of the Alpha Inn; and the cost is \$8.50 postpaid, from Jeanette Pyle, 16 Browe Court, Burlington, VT 05401.
8768. There were 180 people at the Culinary Institute of America on May 12 to enjoy "Sir Hugo Baskerville's Feast", which included delicacies such as spit-roasted boar, stuffed pheasant eggs, neat's tongue, warm venison pate, roast hind of oxen, cowcumber and dill sallet, and many other dishes known from the time of the Great Rebellion (1642-1652). The agenda also featured a performance by the Friends of Bogie (Andrew Joffe, Paul Singleton, and Sarah Montague Joffe) of a scene that didn't make it into last year's film "Best in Show" (involving the Hound, of course), and many toasts, one of which was Mike Whelan's warm tribute to "The Economic Sherlock Holmes" (Mike noted in passing that consideration is being given to reducing the cost of the annual birthday festivities by moving the Baker Street Irregulars' annual dinner to a centrally-located McDonald's located in Peoria, Ill.).
8769. The irregularly quinquennial Sherlockian dinners have been held at the CIA since 1973, masterminded always by Fritz Sonnenschmidt and Al and Julie Rosenblatt, who were honored this year by Mike Whelan with a presentation of three Waterford toasting goblets, each inscribed as a Culinary Innovation Award. The weekend also included the traditional Sunday-morning pancake breakfast at the Rhinebeck Fire Department, and opportunities to tour the historic sites and sights of the Hudson Valley, one of which is the Presidential Library of BSI member Franklin Delano Roosevelt, whose Sherlockian memorabilia have been carefully preserved in his archives.

May 2001 #5

8770. Otto Penzler's pamphlet series of pastiches and parodies (June 00 #5) has a new title: Montgomery Carmichael's *ON THE THRESHHOLD OF THE CHAMBER OF HORRORS* (which was first published in *The Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News*, October 27, 1894). The 16-page pamphlet costs \$10.00, from The Mysterious Bookshop, 129 West 56th Street, New York, NY 10019 (800-352-2840) <<http://www.mysteriousbookshop.com>>
8771. Isabella Beeton's classic *MRS. BEETON'S BOOK OF HOUSEHOLD MANAGEMENT* was first published in 1861, and it was a valuable guide for those who managed households in the days of Sherlock Holmes; she died in 1865 at the age of 28, but the book "spawned what we today would call a brand-name publishing empire," according to an article by Maryann Haggerty in the *Washington Post* (May 17). "Mrs. Beeton's name was slapped on just about any book that had anything to do with house-wifery. Think Martha Stewart, without the quality control." A new edition of the book, edited by Nicola Humble for the Oxford World's Classics last year (672 pp., \$13.95), offers an interesting look at how households were managed in those long-ago days.
8772. The Borough of St. Marylebone's contribution to the Festival of Britain in 1951 was an "Exhibition on Sherlock Holmes" at Abbey House in Baker Street that opened to the public on May 22; it ran until Sept. 22 and was visited by more than 50,000 people, and it attracted considerable publicity in the world press with a carefully-researched reproduction of the sitting-room at 221b, as well as displays of manuscripts, first editions, and memorabilia of Canonical cases. The Westminster Libraries have launched a web-site at <<http://www.westminsteronline.org/holmes1951/>> to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the exhibition, and it's nicely done indeed. The web-site will be updated, and next year it will honor the exhibition's visit to New York in 1952; Catherine Cooke would be glad to hear from anyone who saw it (or knows someone who saw it) and can offer reminiscences that can be added to the web-site. Her address is: Marylebone Library, Marylebone Road, London NW1 5PS, England <c.cooke@dial.pipex.com>.
8773. Linda Pritchard's *A PICTORIAL TRIBUTE TO JEREMY BRETT: THE DEFINITIVE YEARS* (London: Paradise Books, 2001; 120 pp., £15.00) offers a brief biography, tributes to the actor and his work, lists of his appearances on stage and screen and television, and a splendid selection of photographs covering his entire career. Available for \$29.95 postpaid from Ashland Books, 132 Seventh Street, Ashland, OR 97520 <ashlandbooks@ashlandhome.net>.
8774. January Meredith died on May 10. She was an actress on stage, radio, and television, and in recent years a member of the Asheville Community Theater in North Carolina. In the 1980s she played Mrs. Hudson in Joseph Bevilacqua's parody radio series "The Mis-Adventures of Sherlock Holmes".
8775. Further to the reports (April 01 #1) that Granada is planning to revive their Sherlock Holmes series, David Stuart Davies has learned that the company is in the very early development stages of a new series, with the idea of presenting a younger Holmes and Watson. But there is no producer in charge of the project, nor any writers involved, and no decisions on casting. On the other hand, the Jeremy Brett series was the most successful financially of all the series Granada has ever made, and one might assume that something Sherlockian will appear from Granada in the next 18 to 24 months.

May 2001 #6

8776. Kate Karlson traveled to Paris for the annual meeting of *La Societe Sherlock Holmes de France* in Paris in May (they "really rock," Kate reports), and the locals and the visitor enjoyed a tour of Pere Lachaise cemetery, where one will find the tombs of Oscar Wilde, Alphonse Bertillon, Honore de Balzac, Frederic Chopin, a Sir Charles Doyle (showing the correct family coat of arms), and a black marble tomb decorated with an enigmatic "SH" in gold below a cross; when asked by a passing tourist whose tomb it was, Phillipe Roland Nicholas (the society's youngest member) had a quick response: "C'est Sherlock Holmes."
8777. Further to the item (March 01 #1) about plans for Muse Entertainment's third two-hour television film starring Matt Frewer and Kenneth Welsh, it's now in production in Canada, according to a story in the *Ottawa Citizen*, kindly noted by Les Klinger. The working title is "The Royal Scandal" (based on "A Scandal in Bohemia" and "The Naval Treaty"). In their next film, Frewer and Welsh will play a cross-dressing hockey player and her coach: "Helga: A True Story" will feature Frewer in two roles: as Helga, who becomes an NHL star while disguised as a man, and her murderous twin sister Sonya. Welsh will be Helga's coach, confidante, and paramour.
8778. More investitured members of The Baker Street Irregulars in films: Philip Shreffler appeared as an extra in the Huck Finn episode of "Mark Twain: Beneath the Laughter" (1980). Donald Pollock also was an extra (one of the zombies) in "Dawn of the Dead" (1978). And his car was filmed in the airport parking lot in "Airport" (1970).
8779. Barnes & Noble <<http://www.bn.com>> still offers handsome Sherlockian prints and posters (November 99 #5

8780. you select the design you want, and it's shipped to you printed on paper (\$19.95) or canvas (\$99.00 and up). You can also see the artwork (and Sherlock Holmes is only one of many categories available) at Barnes & Noble stores.
8781. And yes, this end-of-May issue of my newsletter is being published somewhat late, but I have a reasonable excuse: hepatitis A, which is an infection of the liver caused by a virus, and you get it from eating raw or undercooked shellfish that came from contaminated water, or (more likely) anything prepared by someone who hasn't paid attention to the signs one sees in restaurant restrooms ("employees must wash their hands before leaving"). Hepatitis A is the one you recover from (with hepatitis B you never get to drink alcohol again, and with hepatitis C you just get in line for a liver transplant), and there's no medicine to take: you just get plenty of rest, and drink lots of liquid, and eventually you get your appetite and energy back, and your skin and eyes aren't yellow any more.
8782. So I'm back to normal (when I say that to people, the response occasionally is, "when were you ever normal?"), and I'm not contagious any more, which will be nice news to those planning to attend the Sherlockian conference in Minneapolis at the end of June, since I plan to be there. As for the next issue of my newsletter, I'm not sure I'll have six whole pages of gossip by the end of June, but I expect to be back on schedule by the end of July.

June 2001 #1

8783. Bits & Pieces (One Puzzle Place, B8016, Stevens Point, WI 54481) (800-544-7297) <<http://www.bitsandpieces.com>> continues to offer "The Continuing Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" puzzles ("read the enclosed story booklet and assemble the 550-piece jigsaw to solve each original murder mystery"): "The Fellow Lodgers" and "The Phantom of Sorrel House" (originally \$10.95 each) are now discounted at \$6.95 each.
8784. The Strand bookstore in New York has been open for business since 1927, and now boasts more than 12 miles of books for sale; Paul Singleton spotted an interview with the store's owner Fred Bass and his daughter Nancy, in Time Out New York (summer 2001), that reports that the store is "named after the famous London publishing street and after the magazine in which Arthur Conan Doyle published the first Sherlock Holmes stories." The store is at 848 Broadway (at 12th Street), and is well worth a visit by every collector.
8785. Further to the item (March 01 #5) about Ciaran Carson's SHAMROCK TEA (London: Granta Books, 2001; 308 pp., £14.99), pursuit of Sherlock Holmes and Arthur Conan Doyle in literature occasionally leads to discoveries of strange and wondrous writing, and the book certainly qualifies: it's an assembly of 101 short, interconnected, and colorful chapters tied to January van Eyck's painting "The Arnolfini Portrait", the lives of the saints (both well-known and obscure), and much more. And yes, Carson pays tribute to both Conan Doyle and Holmes.
8786. Angela Browne died on June 20. She began her acting career on stage in the mid-1950s, and also had great success in film and on television; she played Mrs. Toller in Granada's "The Copper Beeches" (1985).
8787. The French have a long-standing tradition of baking epiphany cakes with a bean in them (whoever gets the slice with the bean gets good luck as well), but more recently small porcelain figurines are used instead of beans. And there's a set of ten "feves" (1" high) each with a character from the film "The Great Mouse Detective" available for \$43.50 postpaid (if there are any left) from KinderMagic, 848 West Lantana Road, Lantana, FL 33462 (toll-free 877-875-4633) <<http://www.kindermagicusa.com/Disney%20pages/basil.htm>>. If the supply is exhausted, they may be able to get more, so you can enroll on a waiting list.
8788. John Baesch has reported that the Queen's birthday honours included a CBE [Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire] for Christopher Lee, who played Sir Henry in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1959), Sherlock Holmes in "Sherlock Holmes und das Halsband des Todes" (1963), Mycroft in "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970), and Sherlock Holmes in the television films "Sherlock Holmes and the Leading Lady" and "Incident at Victoria Falls" (1992), and he read "The Valley of Fear" for a set of audiocassettes in 1991. Dudley Moore, who also received a CBE, played Dr. Watson in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1978). And Leslie Bricusse, who received an OBE [making him an Officer of the Order], wrote the book, music, and lyrics for "Sherlock Holmes: The Musical" (1988), which included some of his work for MGM (the company hired him to write a new score for their planned-but-never-produced film of the musical "Baker Street").

June 2001 #2

8789. This year's Christmas card from The Sherlock Holmes Society of London will celebrate the society's 50th anniversary, with the society's logo and appropriate wording, on a special white card embossed in gold. \$13.00 postpaid for ten cards (£5.50 to the U.K., £6.00 to Europe, £7.00 elsewhere); checks payable to the Society, please, and orders should be sent to Cdr. G. S. Stavert, 22 Homeheights, Clarence Parade, Southsea, Hants. PO5 3NN, England. Note: you can order now, but the cards will not be shipped until September.
8790. Lise McClendon has noted a new bookshop: Sherlock's Home, owned by John and Jane Hooper, at 7 North Missouri Street, Liberty, MO 64068 (816-792-0499) <<http://www.sherlockshome.com>>.
8791. Further to the report of THE CONFESSIONS OF MYCROFT HOLMES: A PAPER CHASE, by Marcel Theroux (New York: Harcourt, 2001; 216 pp., \$23.00), it's an interesting novel, full of twists and turns and surprises, and although it's not Sherlockian ("The Confessions of Mycroft Holmes" are stories written by the narrator's uncle), it's an intriguing mystery.
8792. Norman Schatell was a delightful artist whose Sherlockian work appeared in Sherlockian (and other) journals, and informally on the envelopes in which he enclosed his letters to his friends. THE SCION OF SCHATELL: ART IN THE BLOOD (New York: Magico Magazine, 2001; 50 pp., \$10.00 postpaid) offers a spiral-bound collection of Norman's work, assembled by Dave Galerstein and with an enthusiastic introduction by Irving Kamil, and it's a fine opportunity to see just how much artistic fun Norm (and his friends) had. Magico Magazine's address is: Box 156, New York, NY 10002.
8793. While it's true that The Baker Street Irregulars were born and nourished in the pages of the Saturday Review of Literature, it's also a fact that the pages of the Chicago Tribune offered its readers a splendid opportunity to discover just how much fun Sherlockians have. Vincent Starrett wrote for the paper for many years, of course, but there was another stalwart Sherlockian on its staff: Charles Collins, who for more than two decades edited and wrote a daily column called "A Line o' Type or Two" and provided a forum for his fellow enthusiasts. And you can now see just how much they all had, thanks to the late John Nieminski, who discovered more than 300 separate items of interest in the Collins' column, and assembled and annotated them for a book that was not published while he lived; and thanks to Ely Liebow, who has contributed two informative and enthusiastic introductions, about John Nieminski and Charles Collins, and who presided over publication of SHERLOCK IN THE TRIB (New York: Magico Magazine, 2000; 242 pp., \$31.95 postpaid, publisher's address as above).
8794. Edgar W. Smith, in his BAKER STREET AND BEYOND (1940), was the first Sherlockian to offer an annotated list of the place names that constitute the geography of the Canon, and others followed in his footsteps in encyclopedias and similar guides. A SHERLOCKIAN GAZETTEER, by Virginia Powell (New York: Magico Magazine, 1997; 157 pp., \$27.00 postpaid, publisher's address as above), offers some added value: her comprehensive list of place names, annotated from the Canon and often from the 11th edition of the ENCYCLOPEDIA BRITANNICA, also includes identifications by previous scholars of many of the place names disguised by Dr. Watson.

June 2001 #3

8795. Mary Burke has returned from London to report on her visit to the British Museum, where the British Library's former reading room has been restored and opened to the public. Near the front chairs is a placard that states: "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle refers to Sherlock Holmes' researches in the Reading Room, and a later writer describes an imaginary meeting between Holmes and Karl Marx." And in a glassed bookcase against the wall there are 18 books by Conan Doyle, and another card with the quote from "The Musgrave Ritual" about Holmes' use of the British Museum: "There I waited, filling in my too abundant leisure time by studying all those branches of science which might make me more efficient."
8796. That "later writer" (Jon Lellenberg reports) was William S. Baring-Gould: his SHERLOCK HOLMES OF BAKER STREET: A LIFE OF THE WORLD'S FIRST CONSULTING DETECTIVE (1962) describes such a meeting (at which, it is amusing to note, Holmes never learned Marx's name). Lewis Feuer, in THE CASE OF THE REVOLUTIONIST'S DAUGHTER: SHERLOCK HOLMES MEETS KARL MARX (1983) has Holmes meeting Marx, but at Marx's home in Maitland Park Road. And Michael Hardwick, in SHERLOCK HOLMES: MY LIFE AND CRIMES (1984), has Holmes recalling his use of the Reading Room: Holmes says of Marx that "I saw him there often," but not that he actually met him.
8797. Mary Burke also visited the Dulwich Picture Gallery, where one can see two paintings by Sherlock Holmes' great-great-grand-uncle Claude-Joseph Vernet: "An Italianate Harbour Scene" and "Italian Landscape". The gallery has an "adopt an old master" program that raises funds for conservation (adoption allows the use of the image of the artwork free of charge); "An Italianate Harbour Scene" needs urgent work, according to the gallery's head of development Lottie Cole, and it is up for adoption for £4,000. More information is available from Miss Cole (Dulwich Picture Gallery, Gallery Road, Dulwich Village, London, SE21 7AD, England) <www.dulwichpicturegallery.org.uk>.
8798. Noted by Denny Dobry: William R. Hanson's pastiche "Sherlock Holmes and the Hawaiian Treasure" in the American Philatelist (July); one of the illustrations is a photograph of Denny's carefully-detailed recreation (in Reading, Pa.) of the sitting-room at 221B. If you can't find the issue locally, the magazine's address is: Box 8000, State College, PA 16803; \$3.95. And their web-site is at <<http://www.stamps.org>>.
8799. The U.S. Postal Service has honored "Peanuts" with a recent stamp that portrays Snoopy, not in the Sherlockian costume that we know so well, but rather in his far more widely-recognized guise as the fierce (and famous) World War I fighter pilot. Charles Schulz, who created Snoopy and the rest of the "Peanuts" characters, died last year (February 00 #6), and was posthumously awarded the Congressional Gold Medal at a ceremony in the Capitol Rotunda on June 7.
8800. Cullen Murphy, managing editor of The Atlantic Monthly, has a column called "Innocent Bystander" in each issue; the columns are always interesting, and sometimes have mentions of Sherlock Holmes and of Sherlockians, as with the June issue, which is about attempts by today's doctors to diagnose the ailments of literary characters. The column also is available on-line at the magazine's web-site <<http://www.theatlantic.com/issues/2001/06/murphy.htm>>.

June 2001 #4

8801. Further to the report (April 01 #3) on the unveiling of the lifesize statue of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in Crowborough on Apr. 14, less than a month later the statue was vandalized, and Sir Arthur's hat was stolen. It's nice to note that modern detective methods were used to solve the case: Takeshi Shimizu spotted an Associated Press story (May 17) that reported that a police closed-circuit television camera recorded a 17-year-old youth climbing the statue; he managed to break off the hat before fleeing the scene of the crime, but he was later arrested and "interviewed about the theft" and then "cautioned but released without charge."
8802. There's been a lot of publicity for the publication of Mark Twain's "A Murder, a Mystery, and a Marriage" in The Atlantic Monthly (July-Aug. 2001), 125 years after he wrote the novelette for the magazine. And it's nice to learn that two members of The Baker Street Irregulars helped preserve the manuscript: according to the magazine's editor, Michael Kelly, who was interviewed on "The Newshour with Jim Lehrer" on June 25, the manuscript was discovered in the estate of the widow of a British bookseller in 1943 and purchased by Lew David Feldman, who sold it to Ellery Queen (Frederic Dannay), whose collection eventually was acquired by the University of Texas.
8803. Each issue of Fantasy & Science Fiction magazine offers a last-page look at "Curiosities": out-of-print and long-neglected books that deserve attention from today's readers. The August issue has an enthusiastic recommendation by Paul Di Filippo's that begins: "Imagine Potocki's grimly fantastic THE SARAGOSSA MANUSCRIPT (1804) comically rewritten by William Goldman in the manner of THE PRINCESS BRIDE (1973), or perhaps infused with the spirit of Monty Python, and you'll have some idea of the giddy, fizzy buzz supplied by [his] first novel, a historical fantasia spanning the years 1483 to the author's present, and revolving around a magical bottled draught from the Fountain of Youth." There's more, including mention of Peter Ruber's suggestion that the book is "one of the great under-appreciated fantasies of this century," and the book they're raving about is Vincent Starrett's SEAPORTS IN THE MOON (1928).
8804. Hank Ketcham died on May 31. He worked as an animator for Walter Lantz and then for Walt Disney, and after World War II as a freelance cartoonist, and "Dennis the Menace" was launched in 1951, syndicated in 16 papers. Ketcham recalled in an interview this year that when the cartoon started one editor offered a warning: "I don't see how it can last. There's only so much you can say about a 5-year-old-kid." Dennis has never changed, and now is syndicated in more than 1,000 papers. Here's the opening of the Sunday strip that ran on Aug. 20, 1995:

June 2001 #5

8805. Laurie R. King reports that her next Mary Russell book, JUSTICE HALL, will be published next February. Laurie also is one of the thirteen women mystery writers who have written chapters for the serial novel NAKED CAME THE PHOENIX, edited by Marcia Talley (New York: St. Martin's, 2001; 320 pp., \$24.95); the scheme is the same as in the 1996 serial novel NAKED CAME THE MANATEE (and there's no Mary Russell content). An official web-site at <<http://www.laurierking.com>> offers lots of information about Laurie and her books.
8806. Many television quiz shows have Sherlockian questions, and Laura Kuhn provided the first report of one on "The Weakest Link" on NBC-TV, on July 2: "What literary detective first appeared in the 1887 novel A STUDY IN SCARLET?" "Sherlock Holmes." "That is the correct answer." It's nice to know that the program offers contestants at least a few easy questions.
8807. THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES has been reissued in a new Penguin Classics edition (£4.99), edited by Christopher Frayling, who noted in an article in The Independent (July 1) that the book has finally "been promoted from the ghetto of Penguin Crime/Mystery to the pantheon of Penguin Classics."
8808. Another new edition of the story is THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES: HUNTING THE DARTMOOR LEGEND (Tiverton: Halsgrove House, 2001; 240 pp., £24.95); according to the publisher's publicity, the book includes the full text from The Strand Magazine, and a major new study by Philip Weller of the historical, geographical, and literary background to the story, illustrated with 100 historic and contemporary photographs, and a foreword by Edward Hardwicke. The publisher's address is Halsgrove House, Lower Moor Way, Tiverton, Devon EX16 6SS, England (44-1884-243242) <<http://www.halsgrove.com>>.

8809. Dorothy L. Sayers was one of the earliest and best of those who and played the grand game of Sherlockian scholarship, and it is nice indeed that all of her essays on Sherlock Holmes will soon be in print again, together with (and available for the first time) the script she wrote for Lord Peter Wimsey's comments for the centenary birthday tribute to Holmes that was broadcast by BBC radio on Jan. 8, 1954. SAYERS ON HOLMES: ESSAYS AND FICTION ON SHERLOCK HOLMES will also have an informative introduction by Alzina Stone Dale; the 53-page book will be published in August by The Mythopoeic Society; \$9.50 postpaid, and checks (payable to the Society, please) should be sent to Joan Marie Verba, Box 1363, Minnetonka, MN 55345.
8810. Bibliography can be a puzzling pursuit. There is a copy of George Bernard Shaw's first published play WIDOWERS' HOUSES (1893) inscribed by the author on the half-title for a charity auction a statement that, though the volume had, as he recalled, been issued originally in "a green colored cloth case of the shade called citrine," here was a copy bound in blue cloth. "I never saw or heard of any blue copies," write Shaw. "Consequently, though I am actually writing these words in a blue copy I deny its existence." From a lecture by Dan H. Laurence at the Library of Congress in 1982 in which he discussed his work on his two-volume bibliography of Shaw (published by the Oxford University Press in 1983). Laurence's lecture was published by the Library of Congress' Center for the Book as A PORTRAIT OF THE AUTHOR AS A BIBLIOGRAPHY in 1983. The inscription, it should be noted, was Shaw's inventive (and false) response to the pursuit of binding variants.
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June 2001 #6

8811. The Norwegian Explorers did a splendid job with "2001: A Sherlockian Odyssey: A Journey Among the Shaw 100" in Minneapolis in June, and it was especially nice to be able to tour the new underground storage facility of the University of Minnesota's new library, where the collections of John Bennett Shaw and many others are now preserved. Participants in the conference were taken on guided tours of the stacks, and had a chance to browse through the collection, which includes such things as John's favorite bolo tie, and a box labeled "bust of Sherlock Holmes and two handguns". The presentations, scholarly and otherwise, ran from Friday afternoon through lunch on Sunday, and there were about 120 people on hand for the festivities, and Julie McKuras, who with Dick Sveum presided over the event, ended the conference by suggesting that another one can be expected in 2004.
8812. The June issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota offers eight pages of articles about past and present aspects of the collection, and a report from curator of special collections Tim Johnson, who also gave a delightful talk at the conference on what he collects (conflict of interest concerns ensure that he can't compete with the special collections, but he still has great fun collecting). If you would like to be on the Friends' mailing list you can contact Richard J. Sveum (111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <sveum001@tc.umn.edu>.
8813. Clarkson N. Potter died on June 24. He was a publisher, writer, and literary agent who began his publishing career in 1950 as an editor at Doubleday and Co. In 1959 he founded his own imprint, and published many cornerstone Sherlockian titles, including William S. Baring-Gould's SHERLOCK HOLMES OF BAKER STREET (1962) and THE ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES (1967), the American edition of Michael and Mollie Hardwick's SHERLOCK HOLMES COMPANION (1977), and a Bramhall House reprint edition of Ronald B. De Waal's THE WORLD BIBLIOGRAPHY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES AND DR. WATSON (1977).
8814. A badger, a bison, a goose, and a grouse appear on our new Great Plains Prairie sheet of stamps, and all are mentioned in the Canon, but of the four only the bison is specifically American: "Those great herds of bisons which graze upon the prairie land" are mentioned in "A Study in Scarlet".
8815. Arlene Francis died on May 31. She acted on Broadway, with Orson Welles' Mercury Theater company, and in film and on radio and television, where she was a panelist on "What's My Line" for 25 years. In 1962 she joined Zacherley to introduce Chris Steinbrunner's broadcast of "The Valley of Fear" on Fordham University's WFUV-FM.
8816. And yes, it's some days past the end of June, but my newsletter is edging back toward being on schedule again. I seem to have recovered from my bout with hepatitis A, except for not yet being allowed to drink alcohol, but my doctor suggests that I may be able to fall off the wagon by mid-July.
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July 2001 #1

8817. T. R. Reid reported to the Washington Post (May 18) that former president Bill Clinton, on a visit to Poland, was hit on the sleeve by an egg apparently thrown by an anti-globalization protestor; Clinton laughed, and said that "It's good for young people to be angry about something." It was a bit different in London, where a heckler egged deputy prime minister John Prescott, who retaliated with a "powerful left to the egg-thrower's jaw." Anne Billman, in a letter to the Daily Telegraph (May 19), was reminded of Sidney Paget's illustration for "The Solitary Cyclist" (the newspaper helpfully reprinted the artwork) and mentioned Holmes' "straight left against a slogging ruffian."
8818. Scott Monty has launched a "Calender of Sherlockian Events" at a web-site at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Sherlockian_Events>, so that people can post (and read) information about up-coming events. You must register with Yahoo, and obtain a Yahoo ID, in order to access the calendar. Among the things you must tell Yahoo: your birthday, preferred language, ZIP code, gender, occupation, and industry. Yahoo will use the information "to customize the advertising and content you see, to fulfill your requests for certain products and services, and to contact you about specials and new products," according to their privacy policy, and you can opt out of the third category.
8819. "Pipe and cigar smoking is salubrious," Marty Pulvers told a San Francisco Chronicle reporter. "It relaxes you. "it's healthful in the same way the ritual is in religion. It causes you to pause and reflect." But Pulvers, the owner of the tobacco shop Sherlock's Haven, is concerned about declining sales of cigars since California has banned smoking in bars and restaurants, and because many former customers are placing out-of-state orders on the Internet to avoid California's high taxes on tobacco, and he is hoping to increase sales of his shop's pipes, according to an article, kindly forwarded by Emory Lee, in the San Francisco Chronicle (July 1).
8820. Further to the report (April 01 #2) about the continuing battle over Liberton Bank House (where Arthur Conan Doyle once lived as a child), planning officers of the Edinburgh city council have recommended rejection of a proposal by McDonald's to build a restaurant near the cottage, noting that the company had failed to consider restoration of the building. "We will be taking legal advice," a spokesman for McDonald's said on May 30, adding that "At this stage we are likely to look at an appeal by public inquiry."
8821. Issue #43 of Sherlock Holmes: The Detective Magazine offers a report (with photographs) on the Georgina Doyle's unveiling of the statue of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle at Crowborough in April; the third of four installments of David Stuart Davies' "Flickering Phantoms" (his discussion of the many film versions of "The Hound of the Baskervilles") and much more (Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian). Annual subscriptions (six issues) cost £20.00 (in the U.K.)/£22.00 (continent)/\$40.00 (elsewhere); Box 100, Chichester, West Sussex PO18 8HD, England <<http://pmh.uk.com/sherlock/sherlock.htm>>. Classic Specialties is their agent in the U.S. (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219) (toll-free 877-233-3823) <<http://www.sherlock-holmes.com>>, and credit-card orders are welcome at both addresses; back issues are available.
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July 2001 #2

8822. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists, met for dinner at the University Club in Denver on June 6, during the annual meeting of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, to honor the world's first forensic geologist. Oklahoma state geologist Charles J. Mankin presided over the festivities, and continuing to insist that Sherlock Holmes had visited Oklahoma rather than New York (New York state geologist Robert H. Fakundiny was not on hand to present his traditional rebuttal). The society will meet next in Boston in November, and in Houston in March.
8823. New York magazine offers a weekly two-page spread called "Gotham" which has a weekly quote about New York. On July 19 the quote was "The city of envy, office work, and hustle--Christopher Morley."
8824. Reported: William F. Nolan's *DOWN THE LONG NIGHT* (Five Star, \$21.95) is a collection of his short stories, including "Sungrab" (which was first published in 1980 in *AFTER THE FALL*, a paperback anthology edited by Robert Sheckley; Mars-based private eye Sam Space, aided by robots named Holmes and Watson, pursues a new manifestation of the Baskerville curse. Also: *MURDER MOST POSTAL: HOMICIDAL TALES THAT DELIVER A MESSAGE*, edited by Martin H. Greenberg (Nashville: Cumberland House, 2001; 307 pp., \$14.95), includes August Derleth's "Solar Pons" pastiche "The Adventure of the Penny Magenta".
8825. The *Ritual* is the semi-annual journal published by The Northern Musgraves; the spring issue has 68 pages of scholarship, news, and reviews, including Patrick Michael's interesting article on the early stage career of Charlie Chaplin, who went from appearing with H. A. Saintsbury in "Jim: The Romance of a Cockayne" and on tour in William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes", to acting with Gillette himself in "The Painful Predicament of Sherlock Holmes" and "Sherlock Holmes". Information on membership in the society and on its publications is available from Anne Jordan, Fairbank, Beck Lane, Bingley, West Yorks. BD16 4DN, England <fairbank@btinternet.com>.
8826. The New York-New Jersey "metro area" Sherlockian societies have issued a joint lapel pin, available for \$9.00 postpaid from Warren Randall (15 Fawn Lane West, South Setauket, NY 11720). The pin is 2" in diameter, and (for those who can't read the fine print), the societies are: The Mini-Tonga Society, The Three Garridebs of Westchester County, Watson's Tin Dispatchers of Staten Island, The Priory Scholars of New York, Mrs. Hudson's Cliffdwellers of Cliffside Park, The Long Island Cave Dwellers, The Epilogues of Sherlock Holmes, and The Montague Street Lodgers of Brooklyn. And that's the Statue of Liberty inside the silhouette.
8827. "Mystery!" has been one of the best of the series broadcast by PBS-TV for many years, funded by Mobil until last year, but WGBH-TV has announced that the series schedule has been trimmed: PBS-TV will show repeats at 10:00 pm on Thursdays from October through December 2001, when the series will shut down until it is revived with twelve weeks of new shows from July to September 2002, and again in 2003. But mystery fans who have access to cable can still see fine shows, including the "Nero Wolfe" series now airing on A&E; Maury Chaykin is excellent as Nero Wolfe, and Timothy Hutton even better as Archie Goodwin, and the production values are splendid.

July 2001 #3

8828. It has been three years since the last Sherlockian conference in Minneapolis, where Nils Nordberg presented a fine paper on "Sherlock Holmes in the Claws of Confidence Men; or, The Misadventures of a World Detective", noting that Holmes appeared in a long series of dime novels (well, 20-pfennige novels) published in Germany beginning in 1905, and in many other countries, and in a series of short Danish films. His paper is now in print as the lead article in the Oct. 2000 issue of *Dime Novel Round-Up*, available from its editor, J. Randolph Cox (Box 226, Dundas, MN 55019); \$3.00 (or \$15.00 a year for six issues).
8829. Catherine Cooke reports that Jason Brown of Anyone Can Play Productions has dramatized Conan Doyle's short story "Lot 249" for production at the Portsmouth Arts Center from Oct. 31 to Nov. 3. The Centre is in Reginald Road, Southsea, Hants. PO4 9HN, England (44-23-9283-7373).
8830. Reported: a mass paperback reprint of *MIDNIGHT LOUIE'S PET DETECTIVES*, edited by Carole Nelson Douglas (New York: Forge, 2000, 352 pp., \$6.99); contents include her own story "A Baker Street Irregular" (in which Midnight Louie meets Irene Adler and solves a mystery for Sherlock Holmes). And a trade paperback reprint of Daniel Stashower's biography *TELLER OF TALES: THE LIFE OF ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE* in a paperback reprint (New York: Owl Books, 2001, 472 pp., \$16.00); Dan also notes that a British trade paperback edition is now available (London: Penguin, 2001; 472 pp., £8.99).
8831. Forecast by Bill Nadel (who contributed to the liner notes) in September, from *Radio Spirits* (Box 2141, Schiller Park, IL 60176): "The Best of Sherlock Holmes", a collection of 20 of Edith Meiser's radio shows from 1948 (starring John Stanley) on ten cassettes (\$34.98) or ten CDs (\$39.98). And "The New Adventures of Sherlock Holmes", a CD with two programs from Meiser's 1948 series (\$4.98).
8832. James Bernard died on July 12. He was a composer and screenwriter, and one of the very few composers to win an Academy Award for something other than music, for the screenplay of "Seven Days to Noon" (1950). He began working with Hammer Films in 1955, composing the music for "The Quatermass Experiment" and then scored most of their best films, including "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1959). His most recent work was the score for Kevin Brownlow's television documentary "Universal Horror" (1998).
8833. It was Scott Monty (naturally) who spotted the Sherlockian content in Jim Meddick's comic strip "Monty" on June 19:

July 2001 #4

8834. It's always nice to find something old that's new, in this case Will Oursler's *FAMILY STORY* (1963), which is an interesting and well-written memoir of his family. His father was Fulton Oursler, who knew Conan Doyle and fooled him with a faked spirit photograph; Will notes that his father, when he was a young reporter for the *Baltimore American*, wrote a short piece that made a box on the front page: "An unknown admirer of the late Edgar Allan Poe, who is buried in Baltimore, left a rose today on his grave." The unknown admirer was in fact Fulton Oursler himself, who thus started a tradition that continues today. He also was a member of The Baker Street Irregulars, as was Will, who inherited his father's Investiture ("The Abbey Grange").
8835. C. T. ("Jack") Thorne died on May 2. He was working in the Marylebone Borough Council's Reference Library with responsibility for local history in 1950, and was the first to suggest that the borough contribute a Sherlock Holmes exhibition to the Festival of Britain. He went on to mount the exhibition (Heather Owen notes in an obituary for Jack in the *Sherlock Holmes Journal* that his wife recalls that everything in the exhibition was of the correct period, "including the dust, which Jack collected from the shelves of the British Museum basement." He then traveled with the exhibition to New York in 1952, and went on to recreate the sitting-room at The Sherlock Holmes in London and at the Chateau de Lucens in Switzerland.
8836. Paul Brundage reports that subscribers to America Online can download "The Hound of the Baskervilles" in an E-Book format readable on a personal data assistant (PDA).
8837. Further to the mention (June 01 #5) of a new Penguin Classics edition of *THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES*, Nicholas Utechin reports that there's more than one volume: *A STUDY IN SCARLET* (introduced by Iain Sinclair), *THE VALLEY OF FEAR AND SELECTED CASES* (introduced by Charles Palliser), *THE SIGN OF FOUR* (introduced by Peter Ackroyd), *THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES* (introduced by Christopher Frayling), *THE ADVENTURES AND THE MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* (introduced by Iain Pears), and *THE LOST WORLD AND OTHER THRILLING TALES* (introduced by Philip Gooden).

8838. Further to the item (June 01 #3) about the glassed bookcase in the British Museum's renovated Reading Room, containing books by Conan Doyle, a photograph reveals that the Canon is represented by seven of the nine volumes of the uniform set published by the Book-of-the-Month Club in 1994. One hopes that someone might be inspired to lead a campaign to raise the funds needed to donate to the British Museum a complete set of the Sherlock Holmes stories issued by a British publisher.
8839. The summer 2001 issue of the *Tonga Times* honors Gertrude Mahoney (one of the founders of The Mini-Tonga Scion Society), who recently celebrated her 95th birthday and the birth of her newest great-grandchild. The newsletter also has detailed instructions on how to make a miniature tantalus, photographs and news from the world of Sherlockian miniatures, and suitable-for-framing miniature portraits of Queen Victoria. The cost of membership is \$10.00 a year (or \$11.00 to Canada or \$13.00 elsewhere) from Trish and Jay Pearlman (1656 East 19th Street #2-E, Brooklyn, NY 11229, and they have a web-site at <<http://hometown.aol.com/minitongasociety/mini1.htm>>.
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July 2001 #5

8840. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle made a public declaration of his belief in spiritualism in an article published in 1916, and the next year in a speech, and in much more detail in 1918 in his book *THE NEW REVELATION*; the book is now available in a new edition (Garden City: Square One Publishers, 2001; 110 pp., \$12.95), with an introduction and afterword by George J. Lankevich, who discusses Conan Doyle's life and career, and his relationship with Harry Houdini.
8841. Dick Riley and Pam McAllister's *THE BEDSIDE, BATHTUB, AND ARMCHAIR COMPANION TO SHERLOCK HOLMES* (1999) now has a Japanese translation (Tokyo: Hara Shobo, 2000; 372 pp., ¥1,800) by Masamichi Higurashi, who also has provided additional photographs, a chronology and bibliography, and other material.
8842. The Lynn Peavey Co. markets to law-enforcement professionals, and in the Jan.-Feb. of their monthly newsletter *The Daily Hound* notes that their Zipr-Weld Evidence Tape was used to seal the boxes of ballots sent off to be recounted in Florida. Their company mascot, Big Dog, also exists in larger-than-life inflatable plastic, and could be seen at this year's meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences in Seattle. Box 14100, Lenexa, KS 66285 (800-255-6499) <<http://www.lynnpeavey.com>>.
8843. An addition to the growing list of Investitured members of The Baker Street Irregulars who have acted in films: Mary Ellen Rich, who appeared an extra in "The Group" (1966). And Al Rosenblatt reports that when "Nobody's Fool" (1994) was being filmed in Poughkeepsie, he advised the crew on how to set up a courtroom scene (although he didn't receive formal credit as a technical advisor); they did, however, need a proper judicial robe for the scene, and used his (Al regrets that there is no Oscar for best supporting robe).
8844. Due in October: *MURDER IN BAKER STREET: NEW TALES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES*, edited by Martin H. Greenberg, Jon Lellenberg, and Daniel Stashower (New York: Carroll & Graf, 2001; 277 pp., \$25.00; it's an anthology of new stories by fine writers such as Loren Estleman, L. B. Greenwood, Edward D. Hoch, Gillian Linscott, Stuart Kaminsky, Anne Perry, and Carolyn Wheat, plus a review of "100 Years of Sherlock Holmes" by Lloyd Rose, and a discussion of Conan Doyle's contributions to the *OXFORD ENGLISH DICTIONARY* by Jon Lellenberg.
8845. The Ben Silver Collection continues to offer a wide variety of regimental, club, corps, and university neckties in its mail-order catalog, many having Sherlockian and Doylean associations; 149 King Street, Charleston, SC 29401 (800-221-4671) <<http://www.bensilver.com>>.
8846. Gordon B. Shriver's "Boris Karloff: The Man Remembered" is a carefully-researched biography of a fine actor whose credits included his appearance as Mr. Mycroft in Alvin Sapinsley's adaptation H. F. Heard's *A TASTE FOR HONEY* ("The Sting of Death" was broadcast on ABC-TV's "The Elgin Hour" in 1955, and won an Edgar from the Mystery Writers of America for the best television program of the year). It's featured in the latest issue (#34) of the quarterly *Cult Movies* (\$4.95, or \$30.00 for six issues); 6201 Sunset Boulevard #152, Hollywood, CA 90028 <<http://www.cult-movies.com>>.
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July 2001 #6

8847. *Malice Domestic XIII* (in Washington on May 4-6, with Rex Stout as ghost of honor, was (according to accounts from all quarters received) enjoyable, despite the lack of any specifically Sherlockian sessions. Next year's convention will be held on May 3-5 at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington, Va., with Edward Marston as guest of honor, and G. K. Chesterton as ghost of honor. Full details are available from *Malice Domestic* (Box 31137, Bethesda, MD 20804) <<http://www.malicedomestic.org>>.
8848. And there's a registration cap of 1,500 at *Bouchercon 2001* ("A Capital Mystery") on Nov. 1-4 at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City, with Sue Grafton as American guest of honor and Peter Lovesey as international guest of honor, and there will be a Sherlockian panel ("Sherlock and His Creator" is the working title) on Thursday afternoon; registration closes on Aug. 15 (Box 11700, Washington, DC 20008 <<http://www.bouchercon2001.com>>.
8849. "The Many Places of Sherlock Holmes" is the theme of Bill Dorn's *Sherlock Holmes Calendar* for 2002, which offers photographs of Sherlockian locales, plus dates for 55 of the cases, founding dates for many Sherlockian societies, and other dates of significance in the Sherlockian world, The calendar costs \$14.45 postpaid (\$15.45 to Canada, \$16.45 elsewhere), and checks can be sent to William S. Dorn, 2045 South Monroe Street, Denver, CO 80210 <<http://www.TheSherlockStore.com>>.
8850. *THE POCKET ESSENTIAL SHERLOCK HOLMES*, by Mark Campbell (Harpden: Pocket Essentials, 2001; 95 pp., £3.99), provides an interesting introduction to the world of Sherlock Holmes for newcomers (a "modern equivalent of the old Baedeker Guide," Richard Lancelyn Green suggests in his introduction), with discussion of each of the 60 stories, an annotated list of actors who have played Holmes, and other reference material; the publisher's web-site is at <<http://www.pocketessentials.com>>, and the American distributor is Trafalgar Square Publishing, Box 257, Howe Hill Road, North Pomfret, VT 05053, Campbell reports that a receptionist at Abbey House recently said that mail to Sherlock Holmes at 221B Baker Street is now being sent to the Sherlock Holmes Museum, but the receptionist was wrong: Gug Kyriacou still is Sherlock Holmes' secretary at Abbey House.
8851. *THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES: HUNTING THE DARTMOOR LEGEND*, by Philip Weller (Tiverton: Devon Books, 2001; 243 pp., £24.95), offers the text of the story from its first appearance in *The Strand Magazine*, and a great deal of careful and well-written scholarship: annotations to the text; discussion of the legends that echo in the story, and how it came to be written; examination of the locations, real and invented, with contemporary black-and-white photographs and modern full-color photographs; a review of the many film and television versions of the story; and much more. Recommended. The publisher is at Halsgrove House, Lower Moor Way, Tiverton, DE EX16 6SS, England <<http://www.halsgrove.com>>. The book also is available from Classic Specialties (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219) (toll-free 877-233-3823) <<http://www.sherlock-holmes.com>>; \$45.15 postpaid to U.S. readers of this newsletter (the magic word is "Scuttlebutt") and the postpaid cost varies to other countries.
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August 2001 #1

8852. Poul Anderson ("The Dreadful Abernethy Business") died on July 31. He was a past president of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America, and was named a grand master of the organization in 1977, and over the years he won all the major awards in the genre. Poul's first story was published in 1947, and in 1952 he met (and in 1953 married) Karen Kruse, who had earlier founded The Red Circle of Washington. In an essay about his work he once wrote that "There is considerable overlap between followers of science fiction and of the great detective," and he was one of the
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best examples: his short story "The "Adventure of the Misplaced Hound" (written with Gordon R. Dickson) was published in 1953, and "The Martian Crown Jewels" in 1958, and there are many Canonical allusions in other stories and novels. Poul also wrote for Sherlockian publications, and he was twice a winner of The Baker Street Irregulars' Morley-Montgomery Award (recognizing the best contribution to The Baker Street Journal), for work that appeared in 1958 and 1968. He received his Investiture from the BSI in 1960.

8853. Poul and Karen Anderson were in Washington to attend a World Science-Fiction Convention in 1974, and were guests of honor at a Red Circle cocktail party in their honor; Gordon R. Dickson also was at the party, as was their creation Sherlock Hoka (appropriately dressed Barry Parker, a prize-winner in the convention's costume competition). Poul is on the right.
8854. It has been many years since John Bennett Shaw wondered just how obscene the Canon might be, and revealed the results of his research at an annual dinner of The Baker Street Irregulars, and in an article "To Shelve or to Censor" that appeared in *Shades of Sherlock* in 1971. The electronically-enabled can find the results of somewhat similar research at a web-site at <<http://www.geocities.com/TelevisionCity/8827/vict.html>> (it's called "The Sexiest Lines in Sherlockian Canon").
8855. Sherlockians in or visiting Arizona might wish to stop by the Dam Bar and Grille in Page. According to a photograph in the *Arizona Republic* (Dec. 14), Vern Sherlock Holmes is the manager of the bar.
8856. More news about Bouchercon 2001, in Washington on Nov. 1-4: nominations for the Anthony Awards (voted on by fans) include Daniel Stashower for his Houdini mystery novel *THE FLOATING LADY* (for best paperback original); winners will be chosen by those attending the convention. Sorry: registration for Bouchercon 2001 closed on Aug. 15.
8857. *OTHERWERE: STORIES OF TRANSFORMATION*, edited by Laura Anne Gilman and Keith R. A. DeCandido (New York: Ace Books, 1996; 260 pp., \$5.99), is an anthology of new stories that deal with shape-shifting into something other than a werewolf; Esther M. Friesner's contribution is "The Strange Case of Ludwig the Unspeakable", and it's an amusing parody involving a consulting detective and his narrator friend, both unnamed but easily recognized (don't neglect the brief biography of the author that precedes the story). The book is out-of-print, but worth looking for.

August 2001 #2

8858. *Les Evades de Dartmoor* publish an annual with the title *Le Registre d'Ecrou* (three issues are available at 45 fr each), and they have reprinted Flavian d'Hoursac's 1927 book *LA VERITE SUR CONAN DOYLE* (60 fr to members, 70 fr to non-members); the annual cost of membership is 132.20 fr (you must certify that you're "un dangereux malfaiteur"). Additional information is available from Sebastien Canevet (37 rue du Commerce, 37160 Descartes, France) <<http://www.baker-street.org>>.
8859. A new CD discovered by John Baesch: *PLAY THE GAME: VICTORIAN AND EDWARDIAN SPORTING SONGS* (JUSCD001), issued by Just Accord Music (Box 224, Tadworth, Surrey KT20 5YJ, England) <<http://www.justaccordmusic.com>>; £9.99 (postpaid in the United Kingdom, £10.99 to Europe, £11.49 elsewhere). One of the 17 songs on the CD is Conan Doyle's "A Hunting Morning" (1898), set to music by Alfred J. Silver in 1908.
8860. *Canadian Holmes*, published quarterly by The Bootmakers of Toronto, always is interesting, and the summer issue has an amusing exchange of correspondence about the television mini-series "Murder Rooms: The Dark Beginnings of Sherlock Holmes", between Michael Doyle and Kathy Hughes (who writes the scripts for Diana Rigg's introductions broadcast on "Mystery!"). The focus of the exchange is on whether or not Dr. Joe Bell was pleased, when he was credited as the real Sherlock Holmes, but Hughes also notes that introductions for the next four "Murder Rooms" shows have been taped, and that the stories are set in Southsea, and that one of them features Dr. Rutherford, the prototype for Professor Challenger. Annual subscriptions cost \$20.00 a year; checks payable to the society can be sent to Derek Thorpe (5 Brownlea Avenue, Toronto, ON M9P 2R5, Canada).
8861. Emory Lee spotted promotion for *THE HISTORY OF MYSTERY*, by Max Allan Collins, due from Collectors Press in October; 196 pp., 375 full-color images, \$45.00. If you can't find it in local bookstores, the publisher is at Box 230986, Portland, OR 97281 (800-423-1848) <www.collectorspress.com>. And yes, Sherlock Holmes is part of the history of mystery.
8862. The 2000 version of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" starring Jason London and Emma Campbell is available on videocassette from Critics' Choice Video (Box 749, Itasca, IL 60143) (800-367-7765) <<http://www.ccvideo.com>>, discounted at \$13.69. And yes, those are the only stars named in the blurb. Jason London (Sir Henry Baskerville) and Emma Campbell (Beryl) were in the television film that starred Matt Frewer as Holmes.
8863. There are very few videocassettes of productions of plays by William Gillette: Frank Langella's version of "Sherlock Holmes" was broadcast by HBO in 1981 and taped off-the-air by those who had VCRs, but it's not available on a commercial cassette. Gillette wrote many other plays, but they're seldom produced; one exception is his melodrama "Secret Service" was broadcast by PBS-TV on "Great Performances" in 1977, taped by WNET-TV (New York) from a production at the Phoenix Theatre in New York, and it was an excellent program. It was nice indeed to learn from Karen Ellery that the program now is available on videocassette from the Broadway Theatre Archive (Box 2284, South Burlington, VT 05407) (800-422-2827) <www.broadwayarchive.com> for \$34.90 postpaid. The stars of the production are better known today than they were in 1977: Meryl Streep, John Lithgow, and Mary Beth Hurt.

August 2001 #3

8864. Norm Davis reports that his *AMUSING, HOLMES!* still is available (\$20.00 postpaid, signed on request); his address is 168 Grimes Mill Road, Caribou, ME 04736. Some years ago (January 93 #4) I reported that: *AMUSING, HOLMES!* is a collection of Sherlockian humor perpetrated by Norman M. Davis, and unfortunately there are only 123 pages in the book. One can judge how good it is by the fact that John Bennett Shaw, in his Foreword, readily admits that he has read the book twice (and anyone who has visited John's library knows that he doesn't have time to read many books more than once). Or you can try to read aloud "Introducing Sherlock Holmes?" without laughing. Recommended.
8865. One more to add to the list of Investitured members of The Baker Street Irregulars who have acted in films: Jerry Margolin, who appeared as an extra in the HBO television film "The Last Innocent Man" (1987).
8866. *THE PRIORY SCHOOL TYRE DIRECTIONAL GUIDE* is a 12-page booklet now available from Len Haffenden; it's an illustrated version of the winning side of the debate at a meeting of The Stormy Petrels of British Columbia in April 1992 on whether Holmes could determine the direction a bicycle had traveled (the vote was "yes"). Len's address is 1026 West Keith Road, North Vancouver, BC V7P 3C6, Canada; the booklet costs CA\$5.00 to Canada, US\$5.00 elsewhere.
8867. Tyke Niver reports a new set of two mini bean bags (Inspector Mickey wearing deerstalker and inverness, and Super Sleuth Goofy holding a magnifying glass) in the latest Disney catalog (Box 29144, Shawnee Mission, KS 66201 (800-237-5751) <<http://www.disneystore.com>>; \$14.00 (item 23155-F31).
8868. Penelope Fitzgerald's *THE KNOX BROTHERS* (1977) was reprinted last year (September 00 #2), and it has now been reissued in paperback (Washington: Counterpoint Press, 2001; 304 pp., \$16.00); she was the daughter and niece of two greats in the Sherlockian world: her father was E. V.

Knox, who used the pen-name "Evoe" when he edited Punch in the years when it published much excellent Sherlockian material, and one of her uncles was Ronald Knox, who invented the grand game so many Sherlockians play (her other uncles were Dillwyn, a classical scholar and a noted code-breaker in both World Wars, and Wilfred, an Anglo-Catholic priest and teacher).

8869. Audio Book Contractors (Box 40115, Washington, DC 20016) offers readings of a long list of authors, including Arthur Conan Doyle. Their latest titles are THROUGH THE MAGIC DOOR and THE VALLEY OF FEAR, each on four cassettes (\$10.95 30-day rental, \$29.95 purchase).
8870. Maxine Reneker discovered "The Invisible Library", a web-site maintained by Brian Quinette, who has catalogued more than a thousand books that can be found only in other books. It's at <<http://www.invisiblelibrary.com>>, and it includes books found in the Canon and in THE LOST WORLD.
8871. John Baesch has kindly forwarded an article from the Daily Telegraph (Aug. 1) about Japan's launch of personalized postage stamps, which allow you to have your own photograph printed on tabs attached to the stamps. As noted earlier (May 2000 #1), P-stamps were introduced by Australia in 1999; Canada and Great Britain joined the movement last year. The world of Sherlockians will, one expects, eventually produce a Sherlockian personalized stamp.

August 2001 #4

8872. This year's "A Saturday with Sherlock Holmes" (sponsored by the Sherlockian societies in Baltimore) will be held at the Enoch Press Free Library on Oct. 6, honoring the centennial of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (starting with morning coffee in the Edgar Allan Poe Room at 10:00, and ending at 1:00). There's no charge for the festivities, and the library is at 400 Cathedral Street in Baltimore.
8873. Further to the report (January 01 #8) of Michael Kurland's third Moriarty pastiche THE GREAT GAME (now out from St. Martin's Press at \$23.95), the trade paperback THE INFERNAL DEVICE AND OTHERS (from St. Martin's at \$18.95) offers not only the first two novels THE INFERNAL DEVICE and DEATH BY GASLIGHT but also "The Paradol Paradox" (a new Moriarty short story).
8874. Carole Nelson Douglas' CHAPEL NOIR: AN IRENE ADLER NOVEL (New York: Forge, 2001; 480 pp., \$25.95), continues her series of mysteries about Irene Adler and Penelope Huxleigh and Sherlock Holmes, with plenty of suspense and derring-do, and some interesting surprises and supporting characters; it's s much darker story than the first four novels in the series, and it's nice to know that a sixth Irene Adler mystery (CASTLE ROUGE) is due next year.
8875. Robert Kraus died on Aug. 7. He wrote, illustrated, and edited more than 100 children's books, including (with his son Bruce) THE DETECTIVE OF LONDON (1978), and he was a prolific cover artist and cartoonist for The New Yorker. This cartoon ran in the magazine on Mar. 19, 1969, with the caption "Don't 'Elementary, my dear Watson,' me, McCloskey!"
8876. John Baesch has forwarded British newspaper reports on the discovery of the wreck of the Mary Celeste, which sailed from New York for Europe on Nov. 17, 1872, and 17 days later was found adrift off the Azores with no one aboard, creating a still-unsolved mystery of the sea (Arthur Conan Doyle offered his own solution in "J. Habakuk Jephson's Statement"). The ship continued in service under other owners until 1884, when it was used in an insurance scam, scuttled in the Caribbean in hopes of collecting on highly-insured but non-existent cargo; the scheme failed when the ship was caught on a coral reef rather than sinking in deep water. American author Clive Cussler and a team of shipwreck experts held a press conference this month to announce that they located the wreck of the Mary Celeste, on Rochelois Reef off Haiti.
8877. You can celebrate "La maledizione dei Baskervilles" (sponsored by Uno Studio in Holmes) in Firenze on Mar. 22-24, 2002. For more information, contact Gianluca Salvatori, P.O. Box 140, 55042 Forte dei Marmi (LU), Italy <mycroft@versilia.toscana.it>.
8878. "Sherlock Holmes and the Jackson Street Terror" is the mystery that Holmes and Watson and participants in a "Sherlock Holmes Weekend" will attempt to solve this year, on Nov. 2-4 in Cape May. The weekend includes a tour of the town's Victorian homes, and additional information is available from the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts, Box 340, Cape May, NJ 08204 (609-884-5404 ext 185) (800-275-4278 ext 185) <<http://www.capemaymac.org>>.

August 2001 #5

8879. Ian Ousby died on Aug. 6. He was an expert in European history, and a literary scholar, and he taught English in England and the United States in the 1960s and 1970s; according to his obituary in the Daily Telegraph, Ousby said that it was in America that he decided to abandon teaching, because his students "appeared to be better-dressed and to have more money than I did." His first book was BLOODHOUNDS OF HEAVEN: THE DETECTIVE IN ENGLISH FICTION FROM GODWIN TO DOYLE (1976), and he went on to edit reference standards such as THE CAMBRIDGE GUIDE TO LITERATURE IN ENGLISH (1988) and THE CAMBRIDGE GUIDE TO FICTION IN ENGLISH (1998).
8880. Scott Monty has reported that The Baker Street Journal now has a web-site, at <<http://www.bakerstreetjournal.com>>, where the electronically-enabled can see some of the BSJ's contents, subscribe, and order back issues and the CD-ROM disk with all issues through the end of 2000.
8881. Jill Castoral advertised "Sherlock Fox" in Miniature Collector (Feb. 2001); he's a 6.25" posable doll available painted and dressed by the artist (\$175.00), or as a do-it-yourself kit (\$48.00 painted or \$28.00 unpainted (add \$5.00 for a set of patterns for the clothing). And she's at work on a Watson raccoon. Her address is 6320 Uplands Boulevard, Sarasota, FL 34243 (914-355-3525) <<http://www.jillcastoral.com>>.
8882. Joe Eckrich reports that The Parallelogram (published by The Parallel Case of St. Louis) will have a special supplement celebrating the centennial of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES; 50 pages of articles and other material, almost all of the contents in print for the first time, available for \$10.00 postpaid (Joseph J. Eckrich, 914 Oakmoor Drive, Fenton, MO 63026).
8883. Further to the item (July 01 #4) on new Penguin Classics editions of Conan Doyle's books, Laurie R. King's appreciative essay about him ("Art in the Blood?") can be read at their web-site at <<http://www.penguinclassics.com>>.
8884. Don Hobbs has reported William Herbert "Skip" Boyer's article "The Masonic Game Is Afoot: Was Sherlock Holmes a Mason?" in the Aug. 2001 issue of The Scottish Rite Journal; the issue also has an article about Harry Houdini as a Mason. You can read the articles at <<http://www.srmason-sj.org>>; copies of the issue on paper cost \$1.00 postpaid (1733 16th Street NW, Washington, DC 20009).
8885. The Passengers' Log is published by The Sydney Passengers, and the current issue (60 pages) offers news, reviews, and scholarship from Australia, including an interesting article by Arthur Williams about actor H. G. Stoker, who played Watson with Eille Norwood as Holmes in the play "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" (1923); Stoker was Australian, and a Navy man, commanding (at age 31) the first submarine to pass through the Dardanelles and attack the Turkish battleships that had been shelling Allied troops at Gallipoli. After the war ended he was offered command of a cruiser, but instead decided to pursue an acting career. And Phil Cornell offers a new (and amusing) cartoon pun on the famous "elementary" phrase. Information on membership and subscriptions is available from Bill Barnes (19 Malvern Avenue, Manly NSW 2095, Australia) <<http://www.ozemail.com.au/~bbarnes/sp.htm>>.

August 2001 #6

8886. E. T. Hall died on Aug. 11. He was an Oxford University professor who provided the scientific evidence that proved that Piltdown Man was a hoax; after later archaeological discoveries cast doubt on the fossil discovered in Sussex in 1912, Hall used x-ray fluorescence in 1953 to show that the bones had been stained with potassium dichromate, and found iron filings that indicated that orangutan teeth had been altered to make them look human. His scientific work didn't identify the culprit in the hoax, but many people have been accused since then, including (in 1983) Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. It wasn't until 1996 that real evidence turned up (May 96 #6), suggesting that the hoaxer was Martin A. C. Hinton, a curator at the Natural History Museum in London.
8887. Venezuelan president Hugo Chavez gave Fidel Castro a 75th-birthday present on Aug. 12: a visit to "The Lost World" in Canaima National Park, which has the world's tallest waterfall (Angel Falls) as well as jungle-draped mesas that may have served as the inspiration for Conan Doyle's novel.
8888. Further to the review (July 01 #6) of Philip Weller's THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES: HUNTING THE DARTMOOR LEGEND, the book launch coincided with an invasion of Dartmoor by The Baskerville Hounds: 55 enthusiasts in full costume, attending from Britain, Europe, North America, and Japan, visited all 120 places on Dartmoor connected to the story, and of course there was some picturesque coverage in the local press.
8889. And while on the subject of costume, it was "optional but strongly encouraged" for The Sherlock Holmes Society of London's "Golden Jubilee Baltic Cruise" which (with more than 80 Sherlockians aboard the MV Princess Danae) departed Harwich on Aug. 25 for Oslo, Copenhagen, Stockholm, Tallinn, St. Petersburg, Helsinki, and Kiel, returning (if all goes well) to Harwich on Sept. 7. There have been no press reports of shipwreck or piracy, and it would appear that the ship lacks a connection to the Internet, since I've not seen any messages posted from voyagers to Sherlockian electronic mailing lists. Of course it's also possible that there's no time for e-mail, what with all the wining, dining, lectures, films, and excursions.
8890. HOLMES OF THE MOVIES: THE SCREEN CAREER OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1976) was David Stuart Davies' first Sherlockian filmography; he has pursued Holmes in the cinema and on television ever since, and the results of that research are now available in his STARRING SHERLOCK HOLMES (London: Titan Books, 2001; 191 pp., £29.99). The coverage runs from the earliest silent films to the latest television films starring Matt Frewer, and the discussion of films and programs, and actors and directors and producers, is both interesting and perceptive; the illustrations are just as important, and the book is full of them, many in full color and some of them quite hard to find (you will be able to see Jackie Coogan towering over Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, in Hollywood in 1923) (well, Coogan is standing on a table). There's an extra benefit for those who can't decide between Basil Rathbone and Jeremy Brett as the ideal Holmes: the publisher has provided a "Janus" dust jacket, and you can decide for yourself which actor belongs on the front of the book.

September 2001 #1

8891. I'm happy to report that all of the Sherlockians in New York and Washington seem to have avoided harm during the tragedy on Sept. 11 (a few, it should be noted, by only narrow margins). And we are grateful for the messages of concern and support from our friends elsewhere in the United States, and in other countries. People have asked how they can help: those who can donate whole blood or platelets can contact the American Red Cross (800-448-3543). For those who would like to donate money, two of the better organizations are the American Red Cross National Disaster Relief Fund (Box 97089, Washington, DC 20090) (800-435-7669) <<http://www.redcross.org>> and the United Way's September 11th Fund (95 M Street SW, Washington, DC 20024 (800-710-8002) <<http://www.unitedwaynca.org>>.
8892. "The World of Sherlock Holmes: Volume I: Lifestyles" is a new CD-ROM disk that will run on both Windows and Mackintosh platforms; it offers audio and video, and maps of London, Sherlock Holmes' horoscope, and a reference section and you can tour Holmes' sitting room and bedroom. The disk's available from The World of Sherlock Holmes, 7 Candover Street, London W1W 7DN, England <<http://www.worldofholmes.com>>, and it costs £29.00 (including value-added tax in the U.K.) or £24.68 (without VAT) plus shipping (£2.00 to the U.K., £2.75 to Europe, £3.50 elsewhere). Also from Classic Specialties for \$45.00 postpaid (to U.S. addresses) (the price is higher to foreign addresses) if you mention the magic word ("Scuttlebutt"); credit-card orders welcome (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219) <<http://www.sherlock-holmes.com>>.
8893. Classic Specialties also offers their new fall mail-order catalog, with a fine selection of Sherlockian books, audiocassettes, videocassettes, calendars, prints, magazines, deerstalkers, and a new embroidered sweatshirt.
8894. Virgin Books celebrated Spike Milligan's 80th birthday with a special edition of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES ACCORDING TO SPIKE MILLIGAN (May 98 #2), and the book has been reissued (£5.99). Milligan has some familiarity with the story: he played a Policeman in the Peter Cook/Dudley Moore film "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1978); he also played Sherlock Holmes in a skit broadcast in the BBC-TV "Q" series.
8895. Barry Day's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE APOCALYPSE MURDERS (Palm Beach: Second Opinion, 2001; 191 pp., \$11.00) is the fourth in his series of pastiches; Holmes (and Watson and Mycroft and Irene) are involved in a battle against a serial killer who intends to destroy London.
8896. Jeremy Brett toured the United States in 1991, promoting Granada's "Sherlock Holmes" television series, and he was interviewed by Robert Aubry Davis for the "Desert Island Discs" program broadcast by WETA-FM (Washington). And Severine Rubin reports that The Jeremy Brett Society of France has published A THRILLING TIME: AN INTERVIEW WITH JEREMY BRETT, an 80-page booklet that has transcripts of the interview (in French and English), photographs, notes, and a CD with the program itself. Postpaid costs are fr 225/\$31.23 (Europe) or fr 240/\$33.32 (U.S. and Canada) or fr 260/\$36.09 (elsewhere); checks welcome, but please add fr 23/\$3.19 for bank charges. Payment can be sent to the society (Residence le Clos de l'Arc, entree 5, Avenue Gaston Berger, 13090 Aix-en-Provence, France).

September 2001 #2

8897. Reported by Janice L. Weiner in The Police Gazette (the newsletter of the Scotland Yarders): a Chicago Tribune (Aug. 12) review of Al Sarrantonio's WEST TEXAS (Lancaster: Stealth Press, 2001; 150 pp., \$26.95); the novel's a western, and a mystery, and interesting: Thomas Mullin is a black Civil War veteran, who's also an avid reader of the Sherlock Holmes stories (copies of The Strand Magazine mailed to him from New York), sent onto the high plains to find a senator's missing son, and Mullin has learned from what he has read. The book's a reprint (the first edition was published in 1990), and the Stealth Press address is 336 College Avenue, (Lancaster, PA 17603 (800-806-1660) <<http://www.stealthpress.com>>; shipping is free if you order from their web-site.
8898. An addition to the growing list of Investitured members of The Baker Street Irregulars who have acted in films: Jean Upton, who provided voices ("airport announcer" and "obnoxious child on airplane" and others) for "Martha, Meet Frank, Daniel and Laurence" (1998).
8899. Muse Entertainment's third television film starring Matt Frewer as Sherlock Holmes and Kenneth Welsh as Dr. Watson will air on the Hallmark Channel on Oct. 19 (repeating on Oct. 21 and 25); "Sherlock Holmes in 'The Royal Scandal'" combines "A Scandal in Bohemia" and "The Bruce-Partington Plans".
8900. The latest stamp in our "Legends of Hollywood" series honors Lucille Ball, who starred in the Metro-Goldwyn Mayer film "Best Foot Forward" (1943), and (as noted by Ted Schulz) had a line of Sherlockian dialogue: Tommy Dix (playing Winssocki Military Academy cadet Bud Hooper) says, "But I have the whole thing solved." To which Lucille Ball (as herself) replies, "Keep on solving, Sherlock."

8901. C. Black reports that he has organized first-Friday-of-themonth "club nights" for The Sherlock Holmes Society of London, on Oct. 5, Nov. 2, and Dec. 7, at the New Commonwealth Club at 18 Northumberland Avenue (between Trafalgar Square and the Embankment underground station); members, prospective members, visitors, and friends are welcome: just show up at any time between 6:00 and 9:00 pm. There's no charge except for drinks or food purchased from the bar. There's no formal agenda, and if the gatherings attract a good turn-out, there will be more of them.
8902. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London has an extensive sales list, offering interesting items such as THE VICTORIAN CRICKET MATCH (a souvenir of their cricket match against the Wodehouse Society in June) (£3.00 postpaid to the U.K./£3.50 to Europe/\$6.50 to the U.S./£4.50 elsewhere); HELPING OUT HOPELESS HOPKINS (a 36-page handbook for their summer tour of the locations of "The Golden Pince-Nez", "Black Peter", and "The Abbey Grange") (£7.00/£8.00/\$14.50/£9.00); its 50th-anniversary medal (golden color with blue ribbon) (£19.50/£20.00/\$29.50/£21.00); a "Swiss Navy" knife (in royal blue, with the Society logo inlaid in white metal) (same prices); a ladies' "Swiss Army" knife (in red, with the logo and slip case) (£10.50/£11.00/\$16.00/£12.00); and a woollen scarf (60" long and 9" wide) in navy blue with their logo embroidered in silver at each end (£16.95/£17.95/\$29.50/£18.50). Request the list from Lynne Godden at Apple Tree Cottage, Smarden, Ashford, Kent TN27 8QE, England; their web-site URL is <<http://www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk>>.
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September 2001 #3

8903. "Murder Rooms: The Dark Beginnings of Sherlock Holmes: The Patient's Eyes" aired on BBC-1 on Sept. 4, starring Ian Richardson as Dr. Joe Bell and Charles Edwards (instead of Robin Laing) as Arthur Conan Doyle; the 90-minute program is set in Southsea, five years after the opening show that was broadcast in 2000, it's the first of four scheduled by the BBC. The opening show aired in the U.S. on BBC America two months after it aired in the U.K., so cable viewers can watch for it; in the meantime, the series has a web-site at <<http://www.murder-rooms.com>>.
8904. "Murder Rooms" faced strong competition in its time slot: "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?" with a special edition featuring "Coronation Street" cast members had 10.6 million viewers and a 47% audience share; "Murder Rooms" had only 4.9 million viewers and a 22% audience share, according to a report in The Guardian.
8905. The second program ("The Photographer's Chair") aired on Sept. 18, and the third program ("The Kingdom of Bones") aired on Sept. 25. The fourth (and last) program ("The White Knight Stratagem") is scheduled to air on Oct. 2.
8906. Donald Thomas' THE SECRET CASES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES was published in Britain in 1997, and in the United States in 1998, and reissued as a trade paperback (New York: Carroll & Graf, 1999; 343 pp., \$12.95); it's a collection of seven short stories that involve Holmes and Watson in mysteries in London, Dublin, Paris, and Yokohama. And (reported) his SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE RUNNING NOOSE (London: Macmillan, 2001; 339 pp., £16.99) is a new collection of short stories.
8907. Reported: SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE LIMEHOUSE HORROR, by Philip Pullman (London: Nelson Thomas, 1999; 99 pp., £5.50); a short pastiche for children.
8908. Mona Morstein spotted the "Secret Hideaways" item in the October issue of Realm, about The Island at Newquay in Cornwall: it's a five-bedroom house that stands on a 70-foot-high slab of rock, accessible via its own suspension footbridge from the adjacent clifftop (or you can climb 70 feet from the beach at low tide). According to Realm, "The house's inspiring views and unusual position appealed to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who stayed there frequently when the house belonged to his friend, Sir Oliver Joseph Lodge, inventor of the spark-plug." And it's for sale, offered for £500,000 by Lillcrap Chilcott (The Old Chapel, Greenbottom, Truro, Cornwall TR4 8QP, England <<http://www.waterfrontandcountryhomes.com>>.
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September 2001 #4

8909. Sherlockian philatelists (and philatelic Sherlockians) can request a copy of Bruce Holmes' sales list, which includes photocopy studies of postage stamps showing Sherlockian saints and dogs, actual "CPR" and "VR" perfins, and other interesting material; his address is 3170 Dutch Village Road #7, Halifax, NS B3L 4G1, Canada <az734@chebucto.ns.ca>.
8910. That's the dress that Ida Lupino wore (as Ann Brandon) in "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (1939); it's "designed by Gwen Wakeling, light blue floral bouquet gown with dark blue velvet pleated trim (top has been altered)". It was offered at auction at eBay in January with a \$2,000 minimum, and didn't sell, and again in August with a \$750 minimum (as noted by Paul Singleton) and again didn't sell. If you're interested, the owner is Profiles in History (345 Maple Drive #212, Beverly Hill, CA 90210) (800-942-8856) <<http://www.profilesinhistory.com>>.
8911. Doug Wrigglesworth discovered a Canadian radio dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles", dramatized by Marian Waldman and broadcast by the CBC on "Adventure Theatre" in 1968, with Henry Comor (Sherlock Holmes) and Gerard Parkes (Dr. Watson); it's nicely done indeed, and offered on two one-hour cassettes for \$23.99 or CA\$26.99 postpaid by Scenario Productions (831 Glencairn Avenue #276, Toronto, ON M6B 2A4, Canada) (877-625-5379) <<http://www.scenarioproductions.com>>. Scenario also offers (at the same prices) "Mystery Theatre Vol. 1" with four 30-minute programs aired by the CBC in 1966 and 1967; the stories are "The Noble Bachelor" (with Robert Clothier as Holmes and Roy Brinson as Watson), Dorothy Davies' "Sight Unseen", Alan King's "The Kitchen Table", and Edgar Allan Poe's "The Tell-tale Heart" (all nicely done as well).
8912. Reported: THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (VOLUME 2) from MPI Home Video (\$14.98) with "The Crooked Man" and "The Speckled Band"; if you can't find it locally, MPI is at (800-777-2223) <<http://www.mpimedia.com/sherlock>>. The next DVD (with "The Blue Carbuncle" and "The Copper Beeches") is scheduled for Nov. 27 (\$14.98).
8913. Tony Earnshaw's AN ACTOR, AND A RARE ONE: PETER CUSHING AS SHERLOCK HOLMES (Lanham: Scarecrow Press, 2001; 146 pp. \$26.50) is a splendid addition to Scarecrow's "Filmmakers Series"; Earnshaw has long been an admirer of Cushing's work, and has interviewed many people who worked with Cushing in his Sherlockian (and Doylean) films, television shows, and tape recordings, and the book is full of interesting comments and new information. And yes, he did make tape recordings: 13 one-hour readings of the stories in THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, for the Royal National Institute for the Blind in 1971 (not for sale, and loaned only to the visually handicapped). Certainly we would love to hear the radio series that the BBC offered Basil Rathbone in 1967, and to see the new film of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" that Cushing was considering at the end of the 1970s with the Hound created by stopmotion expert Ray Harryhausen (who made some brief test footage), and Cushing in a guest role he was offered in Granada's "The Last Vampyre" (a broken hip prevented him from traveling to Manchester). Order from Scarecrow at Box 191, Blue Ridge Summit, PA 17214 (800-462-6420); shipping extra, and there's a 15% discount on web-site orders <<http://www.scarecrowpress.com>>.
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September 2001 #5

8914. Reported: THE DANES OF SEND MANOR: THE LIFE, LOVES AND MYSTERY OF GORDON STEWART, by Robert Heal (Erin: Boston Mills Press, 2001; 320 pp., CA\$34.95/ \$25.95/£17.00); Gordon Stewart was an entrepreneur involved with aviation, motor cars, the theater, and Send Manor, which he designed as the world's best kennel. His Champion Egmond of Send starred in the film "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1932), and the book includes stills from and discussion of the film. The publisher is 132 Main Street, Erin, ON NOB 1T0, Canada <<http://www.bostonmillspress.com>>.
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8915. The current catalog from Roe of Books (Ponderosa Plaza, 209 Oswego Street, Liverpool, NY 13088) (877-286-0544) <<http://www.roeofbooks.com>> offers amusing Sherlockian "Bookworms" products that range from miniature replica books (\$9.95) to table lamps (\$98.95); that's the 8 in. high shelf sitter (\$29.95) in the illustration. Thanks to Joe Coppola for spotting the catalog.
8916. Stephen Kendrick's HOLY CLUES: THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SHERLOCK HOLMES was well-received two years ago (June 99 #1), and he has now turned to pastiche: Jeff Bradway has noted a publisher's forecast for Kendrick's NIGHT WATCH (due from Pantheon in November, \$23.00); Sherlock Holmes and Father Brown investigate a murder mystery.
8917. The recreation of the sitting-room commissioned by Adrian Conan Doyle for the Chateau de Lucens in 1965 was designed by Michael Weight, who had done excellent work on the earlier version on display in Baker Street during the Festival of Britain in 1951; he had much room to work with in the chateau, and his second version was delightful. The chateau was closed to visitors in the 1990s, and it is nice to be able to report that the sitting-room has been installed in the Maison Rouge in Lucens, where it is again on view in the Musee Sherlock Holmes, which opened to the public on July 19. There is more information available at the web-site at <<http://www.lucens.ch>>.
8918. John Chaffin's dramatization of "A Study in Scarlet" premiered at Chaffin's Barn Dinner Theatre on Sept. 18, and it will run through Oct. 27; the theater address is 8204 Highway 100, Nashville, TN 37221 (615-646-9977) (800-282-2276) <<http://www.dinnertheatre.com>>.
8919. Further to my earlier mention (August 01 #5) of The Passengers' Log (published by The Sydney Passengers), editor Rosane McNamara doesn't neglect the minor (but interesting) items: in the January issue she reported on an interview (in the Sydney Sunday Telegraph) with Kevin Spacey, who noted that Sherlock Holmes influenced Spacey's choice of a career: on a trip to London, at the age of 10, he saw a production of Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" in which the revolving scenery fell on Dr. Watson; the actor extracted himself, strolled upstage, lit a cigarette, and declared, "I knew I should never have moved to Kensington." Spacey recalls, "I thought it was incredible, the funniest thing I'd ever seen; that's what I wanted to do." And when Spacey told the story in the dressing room during a 1998 revival of "The Iceman Cometh" in London, Tim Pigott-Smith turned and said, "Yes, Dr. Watson was me." Information on subscriptions is available from Bill Barnes (19 Malvern Avenue, Manly NSW 2095, Australia) <<http://www.ozemail.com.au/~bbarnes/sp.htm>>.

September 2001 #6

8920. TALES FOR A WINTER'S NIGHT, which was first published in 1989 (December 89 #5), has a reprint edition (Chicago: Academy Chicago, 1999; 207 pp., \$14.95); it offers of eight of Conan Doyle's non-Sherlockian stories from ROUND THE FIRE STORIES (Jacques Barzun and Wendell Hertig Taylor suggested in their CATALOG OF CRIME that the stories in that book "are worth reading even around a radiator").
8921. WHITE CHAPPEL, SCARLET TRACING was Iain Sinclair's first novel, published in Britain in 1987 (January 88 #6); it's a complex novel about antiquarian-book dealers, Jack the Ripper, and a hitherto-unknown first issue of A STUDY IN SCARLET. Sinclair is a well-known author now, and the book has been reissued as a trade paperback (New York: Granta, 2001; 210 pp., \$12.95).
8922. There's amusing Sherlockian artwork on and in a booklet ("Taking the Mystery Out of Vaccines") found at a doctor's office; the booklet's available from Aventus Pasteur (Discovery Drive, Swiftwater, PA 18370) <<http://www.us.aventispasteur.com>>
8923. "Sherlock Holmes probably copied these studies for his own use from the '24 Caprices' by John Scott Eccles, written as a tutor of the Fiorillo grade of difficulty which was also used by Charlie Peace, the famous 19th century violin virtuoso," Belgian composer Boudewijn Buckinx suggests, in the notes for his "Etudes Sherlock Holmes", recorded by violinist Paul Klinck on a PKP Produkties CD (PKP 009) that was issued in 1998. It's nicely done, and pleasantly evocative of the Sherlockian era, and the CD is available from Paul Klinck (Keizervest 24, B-9000 Gent, Belgium) for \$12.00 postpaid (in U.S. currency, please). The sheet music also is available (in case you're a violinist, or merely a fanatic collector), from Chiola Music Press (29 via De Cesaris, I-651 Spoltore, Italy); the cost is E14.75 postpaid (payment in Euros, please).
8924. The Modern Library first published THE ADVENTURES AND MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES in 1946, and it has been in print ever since; there is now a revised edition with a new introduction by John Berendt (New York: Modern Library, 2001; 483 pp., \$24.95).
8925. Roger Johnson reports that BBC Worldwide is considering issuing videocassettes of at least some of the surviving programs from the 1968 "Sherlock Holmes" series that starred Peter Cushing and Nigel Stock, and it would be nice if potential buyers let BBC Worldwide know that there's some interest in the programs, and that it would be a good idea to issue NTSC cassettes (for the U.S. and Japan) as well as PAL cassettes (for the U.K.). Comments can be sent to Gavin Collinson, BBC Worldwide (room A-3022), 80 Wood Lane, London W12 0TT, England <gavin.collinson@bbc.co.uk>.
8926. BBC Worldwide's earlier videocassette (PAL format only) with Douglas Wilmer and Nigel Stock in "The Speckled Band" and "The Illustrious Client" still is available (£14.99), along with two-cassette sets of the BBC Radio series starring Clive Merrison and Michael Williams (£9.99 each) and a DVD of the Merrison/Williams "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (£12.99) from BBC Spoken Word (A-1047 Woodlands, 80 Wood Lane, London W12 0TT, England); there's a web-site at <<http://www.bbcworldwide.com/spokenword>>.

September 2001 #7

8927. The Norwood Building Inspectors offer a day-by-day Sherlockian Calendar for 2002, book-size (8.5 x 11 in.) with two dates per page (four dates when the book is opened), and information for about cases and events; \$16.00 postpaid (checks payable to the Sherlock Holmes Society of Charleston, please), and the society's address is (305 Highland Avenue, South Charleston, WV 25303) <<http://members.citynet.net/wvsherlock>>. The Calendars will be shipped in November to those who have ordered and paid.
8928. The animated television series "Sherlock Holmes in the 22nd Century" began in repeats on some (but not all) Warner Bros. channels at 7:30 am on Saturday, Sept. 22. I'd appreciate hearing from people who get the series on their local stations.
8929. "The crate upon which I sit contains 2,000 napoleons packed between layers of lead foil," said Mr. Merryweather (in "The Red-Headed League"). And you can now have one for your very own: Frank Darlington spotted a mail-order catalog from Treasures from a Bygone Era (Box 81347, San Diego, CA 92138) (800-482-4179) <<http://www.treasurescatalog.com>> that offers the 20-franc coins, minted in 1812 and in very fine condition (item 204541) for \$295.00 each. Admirers of the Brigadier Gerard will find other items of interest in the catalog.
8930. Ken Lanza reports a new DVD title "Legendary Sherlock Holmes Movies" with three of the Rathbone/Bruce films ("Dressed to Kill", "The Woman in Green", and "Terror by Night"), scheduled from BFS Entertainment & Media on Oct. 9, (\$9.98).
8931. Paul Martin spotted a discussion (in a catalog from The Common Reader) of David Markson's THIS IS NOT A NOVEL (Washington: Counterpoint Press, 2001; 188 pp., \$15.00); it's a collection of "literary and artistic anecdotes" such as "Montaigne could not swim. Unfortunately neither could Shelley." Of special interest: "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was evidently the first person in England ever to receive a ticket for speeding."
8932. But: Daniel Stashower notes (in TELLER OF TALES, 1999, p. 249-250) that ACD was an enthusiastic motorist, and was "one of the first men in Britain ever to receive a speeding ticket, prompting an angry letter to the Daily Mail." The letter was published on Sept. 21, 1905, and reprinted in LETTERS TO THE PRESS, 1986, p. 108-109), and he reports that he had been caught "recently" by police in a speed trap at Folkestone. He also comments on

"the energy of the police in seizing motorists, and that of the magistrates in taking their money," in and around Andover and Guildford during the summer, with 71 captures and 71 convictions in each district, and it is clear that there were others who were ahead of him in deserving the honor (if it was indeed an honor) of being the first to receive a speeding ticket.

8933. John Baesch has kindly forwarded a report from the Sunday Telegraph (Sept. 9, 2001) about a new advertising plan for Coutts, a 309-year-old bank that now styles itself as a dream team of bankers (pops stars and nearly half of the England football squad have accounts at Coutts, according to the bank, which several years ago abolished its famous frock coats). One of the advertisements shows an office door with a sign for Coutts' "dream team" private detective agency: Holmes, Poirot & Marlowe.

September 2001 #8

8934. Carl Heifetz reports that PBS Home Video (1320 Braddock Place, Alexandria, VA 22314 (800-645-4727) <www.shoppbs.com> offers the Granada "Sherlock Holmes" series: "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" and "More Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (each with five programs on five cassettes) cost \$99.98 each, and "The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes" (six programs on six cassettes) costs \$119.98; all three sets for \$289.94.
8935. Ray Betzner reports that Moonstone Comics has begun a new series of "Sherlock Holmes" comic books, with stories by Joe Gentile and artwork by Rich Gulick and Mike Bianco; 32 pp., \$2.95 each, and at least two issues due.
8936. Warren Randall (15 Fawn Lane West, South Setauket, NY 11720-1346) offers a new lapel pin suitable for everyone who attends the birthday festivities in New York in January: the pin is 2" in diameter, with the Statue of Liberty in green on a silhouette of Sherlock Holmes in yellow. \$7.50 at the dealers' room at the Hotel Algonquin in January, or \$9.00 postpaid now from Warren.
8937. "The West End Horror" is a new play, based on the novel by Nicholas Meyer and dramatized by Anthony Dodge and Marcia Milgrom Dodge; it will open off-Broadway at the CAP21 Theater in New York on Oct. 30, and run through Nov. 25. The theater is at 15 West 28th Street, and tickets will cost \$40.00 (or \$35.00 if you order by Oct. 20); a 15% discount is available for groups of ten or more people. You can order by mail from CAP21, 18 West 18th Street (6th floor), New York, NY 10011 (212-807-0202) <<http://www.cap21.org>>.
8938. Forecast from Carroll & Graf: SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE GIANT RAT OF SUMATRA, by Alan Vanneman (in December, \$24.00); SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE VOICE FROM THE CRYPT AND OTHER TALES, by Donald Thomas (in March, \$25.00).
8939. Roger Llewellyn continues to tour in Britain in David Stuart Davies' play "Sherlock Holmes - The Last Act!", and next January will have a week's run in Antibes in the south of France.
8940. The fall issue of The Magic Door (the newsletter published by The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) has Cliff Goldfarb's article on "Brigadier Gerard" material in the collection, and Victoria Gill's report on the library's spiritualist material related to Conan Doyle's family after his death. The newsletter is available from Doug Wrigglesworth (16 Sunset Street, Holland Landing, ON L9N 1H4, Canada) <dougwig@sympatico.ca>. Doug also sends word that the "Footprints of the Hounds" conference will be held as scheduled, on Oct. 19-21, at the Delta Chelsea in Toronto, and that space still is available. You can request details from Ted Gurr <foth2001@home.com> <<http://www.acdfriends.org/hound>>.
8941. And for those wondering about what the birthday festivities in New York will include: watch this space. As usual, the next issue will include a forecast of events from Thursday (Jan. 10) to Sunday (Jan. 13, 2002).

October 2001 #1

8942. The September issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota has Julie McKuras' report on this summer's conference (with many photographs of exhibits and participants), Daniel Stashower's "100 Years Ago" response to an accusation that Conan Doyle was a plagiarist, and notes on recent acquisitions such as include artifacts from annual dinners of the Maiwand Jezails, and the Sherlockian scrapbook kept by Katherine McMahan. You can request a copy of the newsletter from Richard J. Sveum (111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <sveum001@tc.umn.edu>.
8943. Sorry about that: the Clive Merrison/Michael Williams radio version of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is not available on a DVD (as noted September 01 #6), but rather as a two-CD set (Bert Coules reports) for £12.99 from BBC Spoken Word (A-1047 Woodlands, 80 Wood Lane, London W12 0TT, England); their website is at <<http://www.bbcworldwide.com/spokenword>>.
8944. Forecast: MORE HOLMES FOR THE HOLIDAYS, edited by Martin H. Greenberg, Jon L. Lellenber, and Carol-Lynn Waugh (November 99 #5), reprinted as a trade paperback by Berkley in November (\$13.00); eleven short-story pastiches by authors such as Anne Perry, Daniel Stashower, Peter Lovesey, Jon L. Breen, Barbara Paul, L. B. Greenwood, and Edward D. Hoch. Also: DR. JEKYLL AND MR. HOLMES, by Loren D. Estleman (June 79 #1); reprinted as a trade paperback by Pocket Books in November (\$12.00); "Holmes uses his expertise as a chemist to explain a mysterious gap" in Robert Louis Stevenson's story.
8945. Bruce Southworth reports that the first edition of Stephen Kendrick's HOLY CLUES: THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SHERLOCK HOLMES (1999) now is available at Barnes & Noble discounted at \$4.98; it's an interesting discussion of the faith, reason, mystery, and philosophy one can find in the Sherlock Holmes stories, especially with an expert guide.
8946. The production of "The West End Horror" scheduled for this fall (September 01 #8) has been postponed; the play will open off-Broadway at the CAP21 Theater in New York on June 11, and close on July 7, 2002. The theater is at 15 West 28th Street, and the box office address is 18 West 18th Street (6th floor), New York, NY 10011 (212-807-0202) <<http://www.cap21.org>>.
8947. The British Royal Mint's Victorian anniversary crown (February 01 #3) with the reverse showing a young Victoria (based on the William Wyon portrait used on the world's first postage stamps), and a backdrop representing the ironwork of the famed Crystal Palace, is still available in an illustrated presentation folder for \$16.50 (plus shipping), and in other formats such as a silver proof (\$49.95) and a gold proof (\$925.00), and you can request their illustrated brochure: British Royal Mint, Cheyenne, WY 82008-0031 (800-221-1215) (Canada 800-563-5943) (U.K. 01443-623322) <<http://www.royalmint.com>>.
8948. Daniel Stashower's TELLER OF TALES: THE LIFE OF ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE (1999), read unabridged by Richard Matthews on 11 90-minute audiocassettes, now is available from Books on Tape (Box 7900, Newport Beach, CA 92658 (800-626-3333) <<http://www.booksontape.com>> for purchase (\$66.00) or 30-day rental (\$16.95); shipping extra, and there's a 5% discount if you order on-line.

October 2001 #2

8949. Fats Waller mentioned Sherlock Holmes in the lyrics of his recording of "Somebody Stole My Gal" for Victor in 1935 (as Lord Donegall noted in the Sherlock Holmes Journal in 1972), and it was the earliest known record with Sherlockian lyrics. But Ken Lanza has found Sherlockian lyrics on an earlier and different recording: "Dr. Watson and Mr. Holmes" (by the Spirits of Rhythm for Decca in 1934). Leo Watson and Douglas Daniels founded the group, and Otis Ferguson's enthusiastic tribute to them was published in The New Republic (Feb. 3, 1941); it's also available at

- <<http://www.thenewrepublic.com/jazz/spirits/html>>. The electronically enabled can hear the piece at <<http://www.jazzmagazine.com/Musique/Encyclo/enc4.htm#The%20Spirits%20of%20Rhythm>>, and it also is available on two CDs: SPIRITS OF RHYTHM 1933-1945 (Classics 1028) and SPIRITS OF RHYTHM 1932-34 (Retrieval RTR 79004 JAZZ); \$17.97 each. There is some overlap on the two CDs, of course, but the Retrieval CD is of special interest (it offers two slightly different recording-session takes of "Dr. Watson and Mr. Holmes").
8950. The sixth issue of the new Strand Magazine has arrived, with editor Andrew Gulli's interesting interview with Christopher Lee, and fiction (including a Sherlockian pastiche by David Ellis, and a W. G. Grace pastiche by Judith Cutler), and reviews and articles. Subscriptions (four issues) cost \$24.95 (U.S. and Canada) or \$35.95 (elsewhere); the address is Box 1418, Birmingham, MI 48012 (800-300-6652) (UK: 800-961-280) <<http://www.strandmag.com>>.
8951. The deerstalkered Santa sold last year in the "Stuffins" soft-toy "The Island of Misfit Toys" series (October 00 #6 and December 00 #3) is now offered (greeting Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer) as the first in a monthly series of "Rudolph and the Island of Misfit Toys" figurines (\$26.99 each postpaid) (you can cancel your subscription at any time) from The Hamilton Collection at 9204 Center for the Arts Drive, Niles, IL 60714) (877-268-6638) <<http://www.collectiblestoday.com>>.
8952. Reported in a "19th Century Studies" catalog at hand from Ashgate (131 Main Street, Burlington, VT 05401) <<http://www.ashgate.com>>: ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE AND THE MEANING OF MASCULINITY, by Diana Barsham (2000, 320 pp., \$84.95); Barsham suggests that Conan Doyle "used his fame as the creator of Sherlock Holmes to refigure the spirit of British Imperialism." Also: GEORGE NEWNES AND THE NEW JOURNALIST IN BRITAIN, 1880-1910, by Kate Jackson (2001, 342 pp., \$79.95); Newnes' "new journalism" included The Strand Magazine, The Westminster Gazette, Tit-Bits, and The Wide World Magazine (all contained material by and about Conan Doyle).
8953. Dagmar died on Oct. 9. She was born Virginia Ruth Egnor, and took the name Dagmar when she joined "Broadway Open House" on NBC-TV in 1950. She was a statuesque blonde, described in the N.Y. Times as combining "the voluptuous curves of a Venus, the provocative grace of a young Mae West, and the virtue of a Girl Scout." She also performed in the theater, summer stock, and Las Vegas; and she was a regular on "Hollywood Squares" and recorded a duet with Frank Sinatra. And in 1954 she appeared on "The Buick Berle Show" in a 17-minute skit with about a stolen car, with Milton Berle, Mickey Spillane, and Basil Rathbone as Sherlock Holmes.

October 2001 #3

8954. The centenary of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is getting a lot of attention this year, but Sherlockians can also celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of a man whose vocabulary was described by Holmes as "nervous and tense." That was George Bradshaw, of course; he was born on July 29, 1801, according to an article in the October issue of The Railway Magazine (kindly forwarded by John Baesch), and died in Norway on Sept. 6, 1853, a victim of Asian cholera, but his railway guides continued to be published until June 1961.
8955. Ron Fish (Box 4, Circleville, NY 10919) <commonplacebook@aol.com> is working on a new reference work that will include information on Sherlockians, and on Sherlockian societies and their meeting dates in 2002 (The Commonplace Book will be available in January). Questionnaires, for individuals and societies, are available on request from Ron.
8956. It's a bit late, but: further to the report (February 01 #2) about the £18 billion bid by Lloyds TSB Group to acquire Abbey National, thus becoming Britain's second-largest bank, the takeover was blocked by the British government on July 10. Secretary of State for Trade and Industry Patricia Hewitt accepted the findings and recommendations of the Competition Commission and the advice of the Director General of Fair Trading that the merger would be against the public interest because of its adverse effect on competition.
8957. Herbert L. Block died on Oct. 7. He used the signature "Herblock" for his editorial cartoons, and he began his career with the Chicago Daily News in 1929; he joined the Washington Post in 1946, and he was widely regarded as one of the best journalists ever to have picked up a pen. He won three Pulitzer Prizes and shared a fourth, and was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1994. His first known use of the Sherlockian image came in 1947, in a lampoon of Reps. Rankin and Thomas and the House Committee on Un-American Activities investigation of Hollywood, and he drew many more S'ian cartoons over the years; the most recent one ran on Feb. 18, 2001, with a comment on voting machines.
8958. John le Carre, once asked about "writers who mean the most to you," and replied, "P. G. Wodehouse for rhythm and timing. Conan Doyle for thrust and instant atmosphere." And le Carre has included Sherlockian allusions in many of his books, including his novel OUR GAME (August 95 #5) (and available in a paperback edition from Ballantine); it's an excellent book about secret service agents involved with and in the conflict on the southern border of Russia (and offering some real insight into the reasons for that conflict).
8959. Further to the item (June 01 #3) about the Dulwich Picture Gallery in London (where you can view two paintings by Sherlock Holmes' great-great-grand-uncle Claude-Joseph Vernet), Lottie Cole reports that "An Italianate Harbour Scene" has been adopted for conservation (at a cost of £4,000). The gallery's web-site is at <www.dulwichpicturegallery.org.uk>.

October 2001 #4

8960. This has been a banner year for Sherlockians who like to attend major seasonal events, hither and yon: the grand gourmet dinner at the Culinary Institute of America was held last spring, and there was a fine Sherlockian conference in Minneapolis this summer, and about 140 Sherlockians and Doyleans were on hand for "Footprints of the Hound" in Toronto this month, when it was easy to see how simple it is to put on an wonderful conference, if a lot of locals spend two or three years arranging it. The conference was delightful, and I expect there will be a long report on the festivities in Canadian Holmes, so I will tell only one story here, about Canadian immigration.
8961. Sir Christopher Frayling, knighted earlier this year for his contributions to arts and letters (including an hour on "The Hound of the Baskervilles" in his 1996 television series "Nightmare: The Birth of Victorian Horror"), was one of the featured speakers; he arrived from England and explained to Canadian immigration that he coming to lecture at a conference, and wasn't being paid, and (asked what the conference was about) decided that he ought to give a suitably dignified answer, and said, "crime fiction." And he was led off to an interrogation room and questioned thoroughly. Other visitors (including this reporter), when asked about the conference, mentioned Sherlock Holmes and were zipped through with a wave and a smile.
8962. Visitors to Toronto will also enjoy the splendid exhibition at the Toronto Public Library (at 789 Yonge Street) through Dec. 2. There are manuscript pages from "The Hound of the Baskervilles" on display (from public and private collections, and other rare and interesting Sherlockian and Doylean material, and it's always possible to tour (by appointment, please) the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection itself.
8963. Canadian Holmes (mentioned above) is the quarterly journal of The Bootmakers of Toronto, costs \$20.00 a year; checks payable to the society can be sent to Derek Thorpe (5 Brownlea Avenue, Toronto, ON M9P 2R5, Canada).
8964. The U.S. postal service has continued its annual tributes to the stars of Warner Bros. cartoons, this year honoring Porky Pig, who appeared in "Deduce, You Say!" (1956) as Dr. Watkins (with Daffy Duck as Dorlock Homes); Daffy was honored earlier (April 99 #5).

8965. The complicated relationship between Conan Doyle and Houdini continues to intrigue authors of all sorts: "Listen Houdini" is a new play that opened on Oct. 18 at the Axis Theatre in New York; it runs Thursdays through Saturdays at 8:00 pm until Dec. 22, run through Dec. 22, starring Jim Sterling (Sir Arthur Conan Doyle) and Robert Cucuzza (Houdini) in a confrontation about the medium Margery Crandon. The Axis Company is an off-Broadway experimental theater group, and the theater is located at One Sheridan Square (near Seventh Avenue) (212-807-9300) <<http://www.axiscompany.org>>.
8966. Herbert Ross died on Oct. 9. He began his theatrical career as a choreographer, with the American Ballet Theatre and on Broadway and in film, and became a film director in 1969; he directed more than two dozen films over the years, and produced and directed "The Seven-Per-Cent Solution" (1976).

October 2001 #5

8967. John Linton's splendid Sherlockian and Pontine prints delighted collectors in the 1970s (you can see some of his earlier artwork in the Sept. 1973, Dec. 1973, and June 1974 issues of The Baker Street Journal), and he has a new print, honoring "The Hound of the Baskervilles", with a properly fearsome hound, and Holmes and Watson, and (look carefully) a self-portrait of John; it measures 18 x 12 in. and it costs \$13.00 postpaid from John Linton (704 Burgundy Drive, Rockville, MD 20850).
8968. And my use of the word "Pontine" is a nice excuse to mention Luther Norris, who had a wonderful time presiding over The Praed Street Irregulars, which was his way of paying tribute to The Baker Street Irregulars, in the same way that August Derleth, at the end of the 1920s, created Solar Pons (who lived in Praed Street) as a tribute to Sherlock Holmes. Derleth wrote more tales about Pons than Conan Doyle did about Holmes, and Solar Pons was only a small part of what Derleth wrote. There's an August Derleth Society, and a newsletter; membership costs \$15.00 a year (Box 481, Sauk City, WI 53583) <[Http://www.derleth.org](http://www.derleth.org)>. The society also offers reprints of many of Derleth's books, including the Solar Pons stories.
8969. Hirotaka Ueda's continuing "EQ Sherlockiana" column (each with an imaginative Sherlockian sketch by the author) appeared in every issue of issue of the bimonthly Japanese edition of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine from Mar. 1980 to May 1999 (the Japanese magazine ceased publication in July 1999); the first collection of his columns was SHERLOCK HOLMES DAIHAKURANKAI (July 89 #4), and the second collection is SHERLOCK HOLMES YUYU GAKUGAKU [A JOYFUL STUDY ON SHERLOCK HOLMES] (Tokyo: Thodo-sha, 2001; 241 pp., Y1,700).
8970. Reported: THE TRUE CRIME FILES OF SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE, edited by Stephen Hines and with an introduction by Steven Womack (New York: Berkley Prime Crime, 2001; 304 pp., \$22.95); a collection of what he wrote about his investigation of crimes such as the George Edalji and Oscar Slater cases.
8971. GRAMERCY PARK, by Paula Cohen (New York: St. Martin's Press, 2002; 357 pp., \$24.95); due in Jan/Feb, and already picked up by the Book-of-the-Month Club, the Literary Guild, and the Doubleday Book Club, and there will be a British edition (from The Fourth Estate) and Italian and Spanish editions. Paula calls the book "historical suspense", closest in spirit to Daphne du Maurier's REBECCA, but set in Edith Wharton's New York. The novel opens in New York in 1894, when Mario Alfieri, the world's greatest tenor, moves into an elegant mansion facing Gramercy Park and encounters a bewitching orphan named Clara Adler. Paula is "Lady Mary Brackenstall" amongst the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes.
8972. Bert Coules reports that "The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" goes into studio at the end of October, for broadcast by BBC Radio in January and February next year. Clive Merrison returns as Sherlock Holmes, and Andrew Sachs will be Dr. Watson; Sachs played the King of Bohemia in the BBC version of "A Scandal in Bohemia" (and to show just how interesting radio can be, many of you have seen Sachs on television in the John Cleese series "Fawlty Towers", playing the Barcelonan waiter Manuel). There will be five program: "The Peculiar Persecution of Mr. John Vincent Hardin", "The Star of the Adelphi", "The Singular Inheritance of Miss Gloria Wilson", "The Saviour of Cripplegate Square", and "The Madness of Colonel Warburton".

October 2001 #6

8973. Plan ahead: Laurie R. King, author of the Mary Russell series and other mystery novels, will be the guest of honor at Left Coast Crime 12, on Mar. 21-24, 2002, in Portland (Box 18033, Portland, OR 97218 <<http://www.spiritone.com/~jlorentz/leftcoast/>>. And Bouchercon 2002 ("Longhorns of the Law") will be in Austin on Oct. 17-20, 2002; Mary Willis Walker and George Pelecanos will be guests of honor (Box 27277, Austin, TX 78755) <<http://www.bouchercon2002.com>>.
8974. Further to the report (September 01 #8) of a new series of comic books from Moonstone, SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE CLOWN PRINCE OF LONDON now is in the shops (\$2.95); written by Joe Gentile and illustrated by Rich Gulick. Moonstone is at 582 Torrence Avenue, Calumet City, IL 60409 <www.moonstonebooks.com>.
8975. This year's Christmas Annual of The Baker Street Journal is "On the Shoulders of Giants: Jack Tracy and the Encyclopaedia Sherlockian", by Christopher and Barbara Roden, offering a history (based on Jack's correspondence) of how Jack's splendid reference work was conceived, created, and (after a long struggle) published. The annual is not part of subscriptions to the BSJ, and you'll need to place your orders by Dec. 1 in order to be sure of getting a copy. Orders can be sent to The Baker Street Journal (Box 465, Hanover, PA 17331); \$11.00 postpaid in the U.S. (checks only, please), and \$12.00 postpaid to other countries (credit-card orders welcome).
8976. George Gately died on Sept. 30. His "Heathcliff" was a stylish cartoon cat who debuted on the comic pages in 1973 (and is thus five years older than Garfield), and then appeared on TV. His brother said that Gately had once hoped to be a musician, but Heathcliff became so popular that he was too busy drawing. This panel ran on July 1, 1989.
8977. Philip J. Carraher's SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE ADVENTURE OF THE DEAD RABBITS SOCIETY: THE LOST REMINISCENCE OF JOHN H. WATSON, MD (Bloomington: 1stBooks Library, 2001; 142 pp., \$13.98) has Holmes in disguise in the United States during the Great Hiatus (without Watson, who managed nevertheless to write the story in 1908 and tuck it away for discovery now). You can order the book from bookstores, or from the publisher (2595 Vernal Pike, Bloomington, IN 47404 (800-839-9640) <<http://www.1stbooks.com>>.
8978. Fans of the "Nero Wolfe" series running on Arts & Entertainment cable will be glad to hear that production has started on "Death of a Doxy" (scheduled for broadcast on Apr. 30). Sharon Doyle (who dramatized the story) reports that it will be set circa 1965, the year it was written.
8979. Further to the report (August 01 #5) about Laurie R. King's appreciative essay about Arthur Conan Doyle ("Art in the Blood?") that Penguin Classics made available at its web-site, the essay vanished from the web-site soon afterward. But it's now available elsewhere, and still nicely written, at Laurie's own web-site <<http://www.laurierking.com/mutterings.html>>, along with a link to the Mary Russell electronic mailing list, and lots of new about Laurie, her tours, and her books.

October 2001 #7

8980. Sherlock Holmes' 148th birthday will be celebrated on Friday, Jan. 11, with the traditional festivities in New York, but the festivities actually will begin on Thursday at 9:00 am at the Hotel Algonquin (59 West 44th Street), whence Jim Cox will lead the annual Christopher Morley Walk, which ends with

- lunch at McSorley's. The BSI's Distinguished Speaker Lecture begins at 6:15 pm on the 6th floor of the Williams Club at 24 East 39th Street (between Madison and Park Avenues); the speaker will be Bert Coules, who dramatized most of the Canon for the BBC radio broadcasts starring Clive Merrison and Michael Williams as Holmes and Watson (\$10.00); seating is limited, and you are advised to reserve early; details below).
8981. Friday begins with the Martha Hudson Breakfast, from 7:00 to 10:00 in the Oak Room at the Hotel Algonquin at 59 West 44th Street; the hotel provides its guests with a continental breakfast, and others are welcome to attend each day (and pay \$16.00; details below). The William Gillette Memorial Luncheon starts at noon, at Moran's Chelsea Seafood Restaurant at 146 Tenth Avenue at 19th Street; \$37.00 (Susan Rice, 125 Washington Place #2-E, New York, NY 10014). And Otto Penzler will hold his traditional open house at The Mysterious Bookshop (129 West 56th Street) from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm; Sherlockian authors will be on hand to sign their books.
8982. The Baker Street Irregulars will gather at 6:00 pm at the Union League Club at 38 East 37th Street. The Baskerville Bash (open to all Sherlockians and their friends) offers dinner and entertainment at 6:30 pm at the Manhattan Club at 201 West 52nd Street (between Broadway and Seventh Avenue); \$75.00 until Dec. 15, then \$85.00 (Paula J. Perry, 346 East 87th Street #4-A, New York, NY 10128) <www.baskervillebash.org> (please tell her your e-mail address, and primary Sherlockian society affiliation). Early reservations are advised for the William Gillette luncheon and the Baskerville Bash.
8983. Those who wish to have seasonal souvenirs in the dinner packets can send 175 copies (for the BSI) to James B. Saunders (3011 47th Street, Astoria, NY 11103) and 125 copies (for the Bash) to Francine Kitts (35 Van Cortlandt Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10301); your material should arrive by Dec. 15.
8984. On Saturday a wide variety of Sherlockiana will be offered in the dealers' room on the 2nd floor of the Hotel Algonquin (59 West 44th Street), 9:30 am to 12:30 pm; Ralph Hall 2906 Wallingford Court, Louisville, KY 40218 (502-491-3148) <bugmanhall@aol.com> has information on dealers tables.
8985. The Clients of Adrian Mulliner (devotees of the works of both John H. Watson and P. G. Wodehouse) will hold a Junior Bloodstain (a rather less than totally reverent gathering) at the Hotel Algonquin at 12:30 pm (possibly in the lobby, or elsewhere, depending on how many people show up). If you're planning to attend, please let Anne Cotton know (12 Hollywood Street, South Hadley, MA 01075) <ladybassett@mediaone.net>.
8986. The BSI annual reception, open to all Sherlockians and their friends, will be held on Saturday afternoon from 2:30 to 5:30, at the National Arts Club at 15 Gramercy Park (on 20th Street between Park and Third Avenues); there will be an open bar, and hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, and the usual traditional and untraditional entertainment, and the cost of the event is \$45.00 (details below) or \$55.00 at the door.

October 2001 #8

8987. And the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes will hold an informal brunch on Sunday, at 11:30 am at the Baker Street restaurant at 1152 First Avenue (at 63rd Street); it's open to all, and reservations are advised, to Marina Stajic (425 East 51st Street #4-A, New York, NY 10022) <mstajic@aol.com>.
8988. The Baker Street Irregulars are a tax-exempt organization, and Mike Whelan has arranged with the Hotel Algonquin for single or double rooms at \$179.00 a night (Tuesday through Sunday); this is the total cost, since there is no tax due on reservations arranged by the BSI (the special rate is the equivalent of \$156.00 plus tax). Other charges (room service, telephone calls, meals, drinks, etc.) are not covered. The offer is available to all Sherlockians; contact the Algonquin directly (there's a firm mid-December cutoff deadline) and ask for the Baker Street Irregulars rate (212-840-6800).
8989. And here are the details: you can request a reservation form for the Thursday lecture, the Martha Hudson breakfast, and the Saturday reception, from Michael F. Whelan, 7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278; please see that your reservations are received by Mike by Dec. 15.
8990. Mary Ellen Rich has kindly provided a list of hotels that offer reasonable (as defined by New York landlords) rates, along with a warning about nonoptional extras: \$2.00 a day occupancy tax, 8.25% state tax, and 5% city tax. Ask for the lowest available rate, don't be shy about asking for discounts (AAA, senior, corporate), and if you plan to arrive on Thursday you should confirm that weekend rates apply, and request written confirmation.
8991. Quality Inn (59 West 46th St.) \$80 corporate single/double (212-719-2300); Best Western President (234 West 48th St.) \$84 single \$92 double (212-246-8800); Vanderbilt Y (224 East 47th St. at Second Ave.) \$85 single/\$95 double (shared baths) (212-756-9600); Red Roof Inn (6 West 32nd St.) \$90 corporate single/\$100 double (212-643-7100); Hampshire Hotel (157 West 47th St.) \$99 single/\$109 double/\$139 suite (212-768-3700); Wellington Hotel (55th St. at 7th Ave.) \$119 "America's special" single/double (212-247-3900); Pickwick Arms Hotel (230 East 51st St.) \$125 single/double (212-355-0300); Hotel Pennsylvania (401 7th Ave. at 33rd St.) \$129 single/double (212-736-5000); Holiday Inn (440 West 57th St.) \$129 "great rate" single/double (212-581-8100). Mary Ellen also recommends <<http://www.nycvisit.com>> for specials and general information, and <<http://www.site59.com>> for last-minute bargains.
8992. The Dr. John H. Watson Fund offers financial assistance to all Sherlockians (membership in the BSI is not required) who might otherwise not be able to participate in the weekend's festivities. A carefully pseudonymous John H. Watson presides over the fund and welcomes contributions, which can be made by check payable to John H. Watson and sent (without return address on the envelope) to Dr. Watson, care of The Baker Street Irregulars, at 7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278; your letters are forwarded unopened, and Dr. Watson will acknowledge your generosity. Requests for assistance can also be mailed to Dr. Watson at the same address.

November 2001 #1

8993. Bouchercon 2001 ("A Capital Mystery") attracted 1,600 fans and authors to Washington; Sue Grafton was the American guest of honor, Peter Lovesey was the international guest of honor, and Edward D. Hoch was honored for lifetime achievement. There was a panel on "Sherlock Holmes and His Creator", another on "Gaslight Detectives", and Daniel Stashower did an excellent job of impersonating Harry Houdini on the panel on "Keeping in Character". And Peter Lovesey spoke at the awards banquet and brought a letter from a distinguished Briton who couldn't attend the convention because he was a hundred years old. The letter was from Baskerville Hall, and Lovesey read it: "Woof! Woof!"
8994. Audiocassettes of all the Bouchercon 2001 panels and interviews are available from the Audio Recording Service, 1414 John Brown Road, Queenstown, MD 21658) <<http://www.ars-service.com>>.
8995. Bouchercon 2002 ("Longhorns of the Law") will be in Austin, Oct. 17-20; the guests of honor will be Mary Willis Walker and George Pelecanos (Box 27277, Austin, TX 78755) <<http://www.bouchercon2002.org>>. Bouchercon 2003 ("Where the Odds Favor Mystery") will be held in Las Vegas, Oct. 16-19; the guests of honor will be James Lee Burke and Ian Rankin (SHP, 507 South 8th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147) <<http://www.bconvegas2003.org>>. And (planning well ahead) Bouchercon 2004 will be in Toronto, Oct. 7-10 (Box 7, Thornhill, ON L3T 3N1, Canada) <almark-co@rogers.com>.
8996. Trevor Raymond reports that the anthology STORIES AND POEMS FOR EXTREMELY INTELLIGENT CHILDREN OF ALL AGES, edited by Harold Bloom (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2001; 578 pp., \$27.50), is arranged by season, and includes (in the section for "Autumn") "The Problem of Thor Bridge".

8997. Spradlin & Associates (Box 863, Lapeer, MI 48446) offer an attractive deck of playing cards, with Paget and Steele portraits of principal characters on the court cards (Moriarty's on the jokers), and Canonical quotations on the others; \$12.00 a deck, plus shipping. Also available are three different coffee mugs with Paget artwork and appropriate quotations; \$8.00 each, plus shipping. Credit-card orders per order, and you can write for an illustrated flier.
8998. Sorry about that: 1stBooks Library is at 2595 Vernal Pike, Bloomington, IN 47404 (088-938-8640) <<http://www.1stbooks.com>; they publish Philip J. Carraher's pastiche SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE ADVENTURE OF THE DEAD RABBITS SOCIETY (October 01 #6).
8999. Some of us are old enough to recall the days when society newsletters were produced in purple ink on hectograph machines, and it was considered daring to use overlays in red and green ink. And the world certainly has changed, thanks to computers and scanners and printers that allow newsletter to show high-quality photographs and full color. The Oct. 2001 issue of the Illustrious Clients Newsletter is a fine example of this modern technology, with 16 colorful and well-illustrated pages devoted to "The Hound of the Baskervilles" and society activities; you can purchase a copy of the issue (\$2.00 postpaid) from Steven Doyle (540 W. Sycamore St. Zionsville, IN 46077).
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November 2001 #2

9000. SHERLOCK HOLMES' STRANGEST CASES, illustrated by Spain Rodriguez (San Francisco: Cottage Classics, 2001; 117 pp., \$17.95 in paper covers), has five cases ("The Speckled Band", "The Engineer's Thumb", "The Musgrave Ritual", "Black Peter", and "The Devil's Foot") and interesting artwork. Rodriguez was (with Robert Crumb) one of the founders of ZAP Comix, and was a leading contributor to underground comics, and his artwork is a dramatic match with the more macabre of Holmes' cases. Also available in cloth (signed, \$40.00) and (signed, with an insert of original art-work, \$160.00). Cottage Classics is an imprint of Word-Play Publications (1 Sutter Street #205, San Francisco 94104) <<http://www.word-play.com>>.
9001. Don Izban's SBIOS (Sherlockians by Invitation Only Society) has a new lapel pin (in pewter), available for \$20.00 postpaid from Classic Specialties, Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219.
9002. The conference in Toronto last month was an occasion for exhibits at three different sites: the Toronto Reference Library showed its delightful "Footprints of the Hound" display of manuscripts and other material; the Merrill Collection (of science fiction and fantasy) offered "Mysterious Worlds: A Tribute to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle" with four display cases of books in that genre, by Conan Doyle and others; and the Osborne Collection (of children's books) showed some interesting Conan Doyle material and related items. The catalog for the "Footprints of the Hound" exhibit is well written and well illustrated; copies are available on request (and free) from Victoria Gill, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street, Toronto, ON M4W 2G8, Canada <vgill@tpl.toronto.on.ca>.
9003. And one of the conference souvenirs offered Peter Calamai's careful historical research: "MASTERLY INACTIVITY": THE CANADIAN BASKERVILLES: THE COUNTRY'S FIRST SHERLOCKIAN SCION, 1945-1961 is a 32-page pamphlet that costs \$10.00 (or CA\$13.00) postpaid from The Bootmakers of Toronto, 5 Brownlea Avenue, Etobicoke, ON M9P 2R5, Canada.
9004. It also was interesting to see just how cosmopolitan a city Toronto is: the Toronto Public Library system offers children's programs in Cantonese, English, French, Mandarin, Persian, Polish, and Vietnamese.
9005. There has been discussion among some of the subscribers to the electronic Sherlockian mailing list The Hounds of the Internet about how to pronounce the word "S'ian" (a usage found occasionally in this newsletter). "S'ian" is, of course, a contraction rather than a word, and it is a contraction I use (to avoid confusion) only if the word "Sherlockian" has appeared earlier in the same paragraph. For those who feel a need to pronounce (rather than merely read) the contraction, I would suggest that the pronunciation "sher-lock-i-an" will serve nicely.
9006. "Agatha Christie and Archaeology: Mystery in Mesopotamia" is a new exhibition at the British Museum, about her work with her husband Max Mallowan at sites such as Ur, Nineveh, and Nimrud. The exhibition opened on Nov. 8 and runs through Mar. 24, according to the flier at hand from John Baesch, and during the first month (act quickly) you have an opportunity to explore an Orient Express carriage in the forecourt of the museum. There's a web-site at <<http://www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk/agathachristie>>.
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November 2001 #3

9007. Bits & Pieces (1 Puzzle Place, Stevens Point, WI 54481) (800-544-7297) <<http://www.bitsandpieces.com>> continues to offer its mystery jigsaw puzzles in "The Continuing Adventures of Sherlock Holmes": "The Watson Inheritance" and "The Case of the Fallen Actress" cost \$10.95 each, or \$16.95 for the pair.
9008. Charles J. Blinderman, whose THE PILTDOWN INQUEST (1987) covered the hoax in great detail, with discussions of all the likely and unlikely suspects (one of the unlikely being Sir Arthur Conan Doyle), has joined with David Joyce to create a web-site at <<http://www.clark.edu/~pilttdown>> that offers thorough cover of the affair. They have another web-site about T. H. Huxley, whose work influenced Darwin and others, and might have influenced Sherlock Holmes (although that's not covered at the web-site); "The Huxley File" is at <<http://aleph0clarku.edu/huxley>>.
9009. Jerry Wachs offers lapel pins for the 25th anniversary of The Sir James Saunders Society, and for The Epilogues of Sherlock Holmes; they cost \$10.00 each (plus \$1.00 for shipping per order) from Jerry (One Lincoln Plaza, 20 West 64th Street #32-J, New York, NY 10023).
9010. Further to the report (September 00 #6) about Rodger Garrick-Steele's claim that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was a plagiarist and a murderer (he allegedly colluded with his publishers to deny B. Fletcher Robinson recognition for devising the plot and supplying much of the local detail for THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, and then in 1907, worried that his affair with Fletcher Robinson's wife Gladys would be discovered, poisoned Fletcher Robinson with laudanum), Garrick-Steele never did find a publisher for his book detailing his expose. Now, according to a story, in the Torquay Herald Express (Nov. 2), reported by Jon Lellenberg, Garrick-Steele has charged Conan Doyle with the murder of British naturalist Charles Dawson, the motive being that Dawson was aware that Conan Doyle had perpetrated the Pilttdown hoax. Garrick-Steele's evidence was found during an excursion to the Northern Territories in Australia, and he plans to send a dossier to Scotland Yard. He also has challenged "devoted Sherlockians" to refute his charges: "If this is true, they are covering for a serial murderer. If they don't know this then they are fools indeed."
9011. The eleventh volume of The Shoso-in Bulletin, published by The Men with the Twisted Konjo and edited by Yuichi Hirayama and Mel Hughes, is a fine collection of articles, essays, pastiches, parodies, and artwork from contributors in 14 countries on four continents, with 226 pages (and everything's in English). \$12.00 plus postage from Classic Specialties (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219) (877-233-3823) <<http://www.sherlock-holmes.com>>; creditcard orders welcome. Or £9.00 postpaid (in the U.K.) from John Hall, 20 Drury Avenue, Horsforth, Leeds LS18 4BR, England. The Shoso-in Bulletin also has a web-site at <<http://www.parkcity.ne.jp/~hirayama/index.htm>>.
9012. Mark Alberstat's 2002 Sherlock Holmes Calendar is illustrated with artwork from The Strand Magazine, and displays important Sherlockian birthdays and William S. Baring-Gould's dates for the cases. The cost is US\$12.00 postpaid, and his address is 5 Lorraine Street, Dartmouth, NS B3A 2B9, Canada.
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November 2001 #4

9013. "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" debuted this month on a record-breaking 6,000 screens in the United States, according to Alona Wartofsky's story in the Washington Post (Nov. 11); the story was filed from London and said that "one recent report detailed survey findings that Harry Potter is the most famous character in all of British literature (ahead of Sherlock Holmes, Oliver Twist, James Bond, and, alas, Winnie the Pooh)." The survey, conducted by the marketing research group NOP World, involved asking 1,000 people of all ages to name the first fictional character that came into their heads; 22 percent said it was Harry Potter (not all that surprising, in view of the deluge of publicity for the film). And Elvis Mitchell, in a review in the N.Y. Times (Nov. 16), suggested that the film was "'Young Sherlock Holmes' as written by C. S. Lewis from a story by Roald Dahl."
9014. Further to the mention (October 01 #5) of "The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (the five-part radio series now in production for BBC radio with Clive Merrison as Sherlock Holmes and Andrew Sachs as Dr. Watson), scriptwriter Bert Coules notes that information about cast and crew, and studio photographs, can be seen by the electronically enabled at his web-site at <<http://freespace.virgin.net/bert.coules/further.htm>>.
9015. Michael S. Greenbaum (Janus Books, Box 40787, Tucson, AZ 85717) (800-986-1165) <<http://janusbooks.com>> has issued a new catalog (List H) of detective fiction and Sherlockiana (and there's a lot of S'iana); it's available at his web-site, and by mail.
9016. "Sex and Drugs and Sherlock Holmes" was the headline on a story in the September issue of the British Airways in-flight magazine High Life, at hand from Ev Herzog. The story was about Marylebone, described as "the central London village no one knows. So the area has long been a perfect hide-out for pop stars, poets, society pimps -- and fictional detectives." According to Simon Kuper, Christine Keeler drank whisky and messed around at Wimpole Mews with a Soviet intelligence officer named Ivanov, and then engaged in an affair with Britain's Secretary of State for War, John Profumo. John Lennon and Yoko Ono were busted for cannabis in Ringo Starr's flat on Montague Square (Lennon later claimed that the drugs had been left behind by a previous resident, Jimi Hendrix), and Sherlock Holmes was "a natural Marylebonian." Kuper also notes that Conan Doyle modelled did not model 221b on the building that houses the Sherlock Holmes Museum in Baker Street, but rather what is now 48 Baker Street, across the road from the head office of Marks and Spencer.
9017. Jenny Laird died on Oct. 31. Her acting career on stage, screen, and television lasted from the 1930s into the 1980s, and she was a director and a writer as well. She played Mrs. Hudson in Peter Cushing's television film "The Masks of Death" (1984).
9018. Marco Zatterin reports that a new play "Sherlock Holmes e il Mistero della Tomba Egizia" (which he wrote with Raffaele Castria) will be performed at the Teatro Stabile del Giallo in Rome from Dec. 21 to Feb. 4. Holmes, on his way from Khartoum to Alexandria and Montpelier, stops at Thebes, meets a young Howard Carter, and solves the mystery of the Egyptian tomb. The theater's address is 871 via Cassia, 00198 Roma, Italy.

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9019. Naxos AudioBooks offers four sets of THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (with four stories, abridged) read by David Timson, each on three CDs (£13.99) or three cassettes (£9.99); Hesketh Pearson's ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: A LIFE (abridged) read by Tim Pigott-Smith on two CDs (£10.99) or two cassettes (£8.99); and FOUR SHORT STORIES by Conan Doyle (abridged) read by Carl Rigg (the stories are "The Horror of the Heights", "The Terror of Blue John Gap", "Lot No. 249" and "The Sealed Room") on two CDs (£10.99) or two cassettes (£8.99). 34 Holmethorpe Avenue, Redhill, Surrey, RH1 2NN, England) <<http://www.naxosaudiobooks.com>>.
9020. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists gathered for dinner at Cornwall's in Boston on Nov. 7, during the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America, to honor the world's first forensic geologist. Scott Monty welcomed the visitors on behalf of the locals. Our next dinners will be in Houston in March, and in Denver in October. Convention activities included honors for Sarah Andrews, whose series of mystery novels starring forensic geologist Em Hansen won her an award from the National Association of Geoscience Teachers: the James H. Shea Award is given "in recognition of exceptional contributions in the form of writing and/or editing of earth science materials that are of interest to the general public." Sarah's next book will be FAULT LINE, due from St. Martin's Press in January, just in time for the Winter Olympics, and appropriately so, since the novel is set in Salt Lake City during the Winter Olympics.
9021. Peter Lovesey's pastiche "The Four Wise Men" (previously published in the anthology MORE HOLMES FOR THE HOLIDAYS) (November 99 #5) has been collected in his THE SEDGEMOOR STRANGLER AND OTHER STORIES OF CRIME (Norfolk: Crippen & Landru, 2001; 200 pp., \$42.00 signed in cloth, \$17.00 in paper); Box 9315, Norfolk, VA 23505 (877-622-6656) <<http://www.crippenlandru.com>>.
9022. Sotheby's next sale of "valuable printed books and manuscripts" on Dec. 13 (34-35 New Bond Street, London W1A 2AA, England) <<http://www.sothebys.com>> includes interesting books by Conan Doyle, many of them inscribed (some to his first wife Touie or to his second wife Jean), and books by other authors (from Conan Doyle's library, and often signed), and a presentation copy of Bram Stoker's THE MYSTERY OF THE SEA (1902) inscribed by the author to Conan Doyle. And some original watercolors by Richard Doyle (Conan Doyle's uncle). Much of the material was sent to auction by "a great nephew of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle."
9023. Varro E. Tyler died on Aug. 22. He was an internationally recognized expert on herbal medicine, and the author of more than 270 publications, including three popular books in the field, and was on the faculty at Purdue University for more than 30 years, including 20 years as dean of its School of Pharmacy and Pharmacal Sciences; he also was a renowned philatelist, and the foremost expert in the field of philatelic forgeries (in the foreword to his book FOCUS ON FORGERIES he suggested: "If you, too, enjoy the thrill of the hunt and wish to avoid the disappointment felt when the forgery you purchased turns out to be genuine, I believe this volume will be helpful to you"). His contribution to our literature was including a section on "The Devil's Foot Root" in a presentation on "The Physiological Properties and Chemical Constituents of Some Habit-Forming Plants" to the American Society of Pharmacognosy (it was published in the Dec. 1966 issue of Lloydia).

November 2001 #6

9024. Roger Johnson's "The Great Detective: The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" is an interesting play with an intriguing concept: Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle hold a press conference, talking with reporters about Conan Doyle and Watson and Holmes; the play was written for the Chelmsford Theatre Workshop and performed last month, and the 46-page script is available from The Pyewacket Press (Mole End, 41 Sandford Road, Chelmsford CM2 6DE, England); £4.00 postpaid (checks payable to Roger Johnson) or \$8.00 postpaid (checks payable to Jean Upton).
9025. Further to the report (September 01 #6) on BBC Worldwide's plans to issue videocassettes of some of the "Sherlock Holmes" series that starred Peter Cushing and Nigel Stock, Roger Johnson happily notes that the first release is to be "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1968). They also will issue cassettes of "The Picture of Dorian Gray" (1976, with John Gielgud and Jeremy Brett) and "Count Dracula" (1977, with Louis Jourdan). It's likely that the releases will be on PAL-format cassettes, and multi-region DVDs.
9026. The Ferret Company's calendar for 2001 featured an amusing photograph of a deerstalked ferret with a magnifying glass, and the photograph's now offered on a Grin&ferret greeting card ("Do I detect a birthday?"); \$1.95 each (with envelope). Box 7161, Redwood City, CA 94063 <www.ferretcompany.com>.

9027. The Sherlock Holmes Pipe Tamper Collection is a set of six pipe tampers in a velvet-lined black-walnut case (with tampers showing Holmes, Watson, Moriarty, Mrs. Hudson, Lestrade, and Wiggins), available for \$130.00 postpaid from the Catnip Hill Trading Co. (2201 Catnip Hill Road, Nicholasville, KY 40356) <<http://www.catniphill.com>>; you can request their full-color illustrated flier.
9028. June Thomson's Sherlock Holmes pastiche "The Case of the Scottish Tragedy" (previously available only on a Random House audiocassette) (July 98 #6) was published last year in a mystery anthology edited by Otto Penzler: CRIMINAL RECORDS (London: Orion, 2000; 465 pp., £10.99).
9029. Further to the item (April 01 #2) about the BBC's new television version of "The Lost World" (starring Bob Hoskins, Peter Falk, James Fox, Elaine Cassidy, and Matthew Rhys), Catherine Cooke reports that the two 75-minute episodes will air on BBC-1 over Christmas. And of course there's a web-site, at <<http://www.bbc.co.uk/lostworld>>.
9030. Volume two of William S. Dorn's A STUDY GUIDE TO SHERLOCK HOLMES (Denver: Pencil Productions, 2001; 301 pp., \$19.95) offers quizzes, questions, and exercises in chronology, and illustrations by Nancy Beiman, for THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, HIS LAST BOW, and THE CASE BOOK OF SHERLOCK HOLMES; it is based on the courses on Sherlock Holmes that Bill has taught at the University of Denver for more than 25 years, and it offers welcome guidance to both teachers and students. The publisher's address is 2045 South Monroe Street, Denver, CO 80210, and the postpaid cost is \$21.45 (to the U.S.) or \$22.45 (to Canada) or \$24.45 (elsewhere) postpaid. A CD-ROM disk with both volumes of the study guide costs \$11.45/\$12.45/\$14.45 postpaid.

December 2001 #1

9031. Late-breaking news about the birthday festivities: Judith Freeman reports that the video compilation "What a Hound It Was" (produced by Paul Singleton and Maribeau Briggs and premiered for an enthusiastic audience at the "Footprints of the Hound" conference in Toronto in October) will be shown on Saturday at 7:00 pm in St. John's Hall at St. Mary the Virgin Church at 145 West 46th Street; \$5.00.
9032. Richard Bernstein's "A Reading List for a Troubled Land" (in the N.Y. Times on Nov. 8) noted that "Afghanistan, for centuries a country of brutal wars between local tribes and foreign armies, has inspired a substantial literature, fiction and nonfiction, military history, and semicomical fantasy." He began with Rudyard Kipling's "The Man Who Would Be King" and then mentioned James Bond and Dr. Watson, and praised Henry Hanna's THE SECOND AFGHAN WAR: ITS CAUSES, ITS CONDUCT AND ITS CONSEQUENCES (that's the war in which Watson was wounded), and Karl E. Meyer and Shareen Blair Brysac's TOURNAMENT OF SHADOWS: THE GREAT GAME AND THE RACE FOR EMPIRE IN CENTRAL ASIA (Watson is in the book, likely thanks to Meyer, who is a member of The Baker Street Irregulars), and George MacDonald Fraser's FLASHMAN. Bernstein's discussed many other books of interest to those who would like to know more about the history of Afghanistan.
9033. The eleventh annual Watsonian weekend will be a joint event with The STUD Sherlockian Society on May 3-5, 2002, starting with a gathering at the home of Susan Diamond and Allan Devitt on May 3, and continuing with the Solar Pons/Fortescue Honours Brunch in Oak Park and the STUDS' annual dinner in Chicago on May 4, and the 43rd annual running of The Silver Blaze at Hawthorne Race Track in Cicero on May 5. Details are available from Susan Z. Diamond (16W603 3rd Avenue, Bensenville, IL 60106) <szdiamond@attbi.com>.
9034. The Pleasant Places of Florida offer their lapel pin, window decal, water glasses, and Wanda and Jeffery Dow's RODGER BASKERVILLE'S LONELY HOUND FROM HELL; and an illustrated sales-list is available from Wanda Dow, 1737 Santa Anna Drive, Dunedin, FL 54698 <wjced.dunedin@worldnet.att.net>.
9035. Spencer Holst died on Nov. 23. He was an award-winning writer and storyteller who once said: "In the geography of literature I have always felt my work to be equidistant between two writers, each born in Ohio - Hart Crane and James Thurber - but my wife says don't be silly, your stories are halfway between Hans Christian Andersen and Franz Kafka." Holst's parody "The Giant Rat of Sumatra" appeared in OUI (November 1973) and was collected in SPENCER HOLST STORIES (1976).
9036. "I am a little nervous," Thaddeus Sholto said (in "The Sign of the Four"), "and I find my hookah an invaluable sedative," He had brought his hookah with him from India, and Indian water pipes were included in an exhibition of "Water Pipes from the Islamic World" at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem from fall 2000 to fall 2001. "Have a Nargileh" was the alternate title of the exhibition. The catalog offers interesting discussion of hookahs and other waterpipes, in English and Hebrew, and full-color illustrations, and costs \$5.00 postpaid (currency only, please) from the Israel Museum (attn: Mrs. Na'ama Brosh), P.O. Box 71117, Jerusalem 91710, Israel.

December 2001 #2

9037. Dick Wright reports that Joe Bell still is remembered in Edinburgh, where (to quote from a web-site), "The Joseph Bell Centre for Forensic Statistics and Legal Reasoning has been set up to evaluate, present, and interpret evidence. The Centre draws on skills in statistics, law and artificial intelligence from the University of Edinburgh, Glasgow Caledonian University, and the Lothian and Borders Police Force. Researchers from Australia, Belgium, England, and the United States are collaborating with the Scottish researchers. Dr. Joseph Bell was a professor of Medicine at the University of Edinburgh, when he encountered Arthur Conan Doyle, the future author of the Sherlock Holmes stories. Bell was the man who inspired the character of Sherlock Holmes and shared many qualities with the famous detective." There's more information about the Centre at <<http://www.cfslr.ed.ac.uk/cfslr>>.
9038. Peter Ackroyd's LONDON: THE BIOGRAPHY, published last year by Chatto & Windus in London, has an American edition (New York: Nan A. Talese/Doubleday, 2001; 801 pp., \$45.00), and it's a delightful book. "The image of London as a human body is striking and singular," Ackroyd notes, and his book is full of anecdotes and insight and fine writing (and there are occasional mentions of Conan Doyle and Holmes, of course).
9039. Bill Ward ("Major Prendergast") died on Nov. 22. He was born in Oklahoma, and as a child was a movie star, from the age of three in "The Amazing Mrs. Holliday" (1943) to the age of seven in "The Foxes of Harrow" (1947), and thus was one of the few members of The Baker Street Irregulars to have appeared in movies as an actor. He had a career in resort management in St. Petersburg Beach, and was an energetic and enthusiastic member of The Pleasant Places of Florida (in which his alias was "Red Indian" in tribute to his being half Cherokee), and a fine Sherlockian poet; he received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1984.
9040. "There are no exact details to hand, but the event seems to have occurred about twelve o'clock in Regent Street, outside the Cafe Royal" (according to the newspaper quoted in "The Illustrious Client"); John Baesch reports that visitors to the Cafe Royal will find a portrait of Conan Doyle on the wall in Daniel's (the restaurant's coffeeshop/bar), with an explanation of the reference in the story, and the assertion that Conan Doyle came there often and liked it.
9041. Patrick Horgan has played both Sherlock Holmes and William Gillette on the stage, and his unabridged readings of A STUDY IN SCARLET, THE SIGN OF FOUR, and THE VALLEY OF FEAR are available on ten audiocassettes in BEST OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, VOLUME 1 from The Literate Listener (Redmond: CounterTop Software/Topic Entertainment, 2000; \$29.98). They're nicely done.

9042. Colin Bruce's CONNED AGAIN, WATSON!: CAUTIONARY TALES OF LOGIC, MATH, AND PROBABILITY, published earlier this year (March 01 #1), now is available as a trade paperback (Cambridge: Perseus Publishing, 2001; 290 pp., \$15.00). He uses Holmes and Watson to explain scams, game theory, and statistics, and does a good job of making it all sound easy; his earlier THE EINSTEIN PARADOX AND OTHER SCIENCE MYSTERIES SOLVED BY SHERLOCK HOLMES (December 98 #1) used a similar approach for scientific paradoxes. The author has a web-site at <<http://members.aol.com/OxMathDes/ColinBruce.html>>.

December 2001 #3

9043. SHERLOCK HOLMES MYSTERY TALES, by Frank Thomas (New York: Gryphon Books, 2001; 154 pp., \$16.00), offers 13 stories, most of them adapted from pastiches published in Popular Bridge in the 70s and 80s; shipping extra, and the publisher's address is Box 209, Brooklyn, NY 11228 <<http://www.gryphonbooks.com>>.
9044. The new film of "The Lord of the Rings" is getting lots of publicity, and of course there's an official web-site at <<http://www.lordoftherings.net>>, Ratana Ngini reports, where the section on the cast has a nice biography of Christopher Lee, who is noted as the only actor who has portrayed Sherlock Holmes and his brother Mycroft (Lee plays the wizard Saruman in "The Lord of the Rings"). You'll also see John Rhys-Davies (Gimli); he played Prof. Challenger in "The Lost World" and "Return to the Lost World" (1994).
9045. The other notable film this season ("Harry Potter") also has some Sherlockian actors: Alan Rickman (Prof. Severus Snape) has played Sherlock Holmes on stage and Prof. Moriarty on screen, and John Cleese (Nearly Headless Nick) has played both Sherlock Holmes and Arthur Sherlock-Holmes on television, and Richard Harris (Headmaster Albus Dumbledore) has played James McParlan on screen (perhaps not strictly Sherlockian, but McParlan was the real Birdy Edwards).
9046. Further to the report (November 01 #6) on BBC Worldwide's plans to issue videocassettes of some of the "Sherlock Holmes" series that starred Peter Cushing and Nigel Stock, "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1968) is advertised at their web-site, with the two 50-minute episodes on videocassette (so far only in PAL format) or DVD (multi-region); £19.99 each plus shipping (which varies depending on your country); you can order by mail (Video Offer, BBC Learning, Room A3022, 80 Wood Lane, London, W12 0TT, England) or on-line at <www.bbcworldwide.com/vet/specialinterests/content/titles/Baskervilles.asp> and credit-card orders are welcome.
- I. C. Black reports that The Sherlock Holmes Society of London's informal first-Friday-of-the-month Club Nights have been successful, and they will continue each month through June at the New Commonwealth Club at 18 Northumberland Avenue (between Trafalgar Square and the Embankment underground station); members, prospective members, visitors, and friends are welcome: just show up at any time between 6:00 and 9:00 pm. There's no charge except for drinks or food purchased from the bar. There's no formal agenda.
9047. Grave Matters' catalog #143 (mystery and detective fiction) featured Toni L. P. Kelner's amusing Sherlockian poem "The Crime Before Christmas", and the electronically-enabled can read it on the World Wide Web at their website <<http://www.gravematters.com/kelnerpoem.htm>>. Catalog #144 (available in January) also will have Sherlockiana for sale; Box 32192, Cincinnati, OH 44232.
9048. The Hansom Wheels will hold the first Intergalactic Sherlockian Festival in Columbia, S.C. on Apr. 26-28, offering the world premiere of English actor Howard Burnham's dramatic monologue "Dr. Watson Recalls Sherlock Holmes", distinguished speakers, and (of course) wining and dining. Additional information is available from Robert E. Robinson (6117 Lakeshore Drive, Columbia, SC 29206, or at <<http://www.capnbilly.com/hansomwheels.htm>>.
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December 2001 #4

9049. David P. Phillips and five colleagues at the University of California at San Diego wondered whether Sir Charles Baskerville's death was based on medical intuition or literary license: "are fatal heart attacks and stress linked in fact as well as in fiction?" Their methodology was ingenious: determining whether cardiac mortality is abnormally high on days considered unlucky (Chinese and Japanese people consider the number 4 unlucky, while white Americans do not). And they concluded, in an article on "The *Hound of the Baskervilles* effect: natural experiment on the influence of psychological stress on timing of death" in the Dec. 22 issue of the British Medical Journal, that "the Baskerville effect exists both in fact and in fiction." They also concluded that "Conan Doyle was not only a great writer but a remarkably intuitive physician as well." The article is available on-line (with a photograph of Christopher Lee as Sir Charles) at <<http://bmj.com/cgi/content/full/323/73271/1443>>.
9050. Boys' Life has been published by the Boy Scouts of America since 1911; the first known Sherlockian item in the magazine was Percy K. Fitzhugh's "Sherlock Nobody Holmes" (Mar. 1918), and the most recent is "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (Nov. 2001), adapted by Shannon Lowry and illustrated by Mike Vosburg; it's a 16-page graphic novel, and the artwork is spectacular. You don't need to be a Boy Scout to subscribe to the magazine (\$18.00 a year), and they've kindly agreed to supply single issues with the "Hound" to Sherlockians: send a self-addressed 9" x 12" envelope (without postage), a note requesting the Nov. 2001 issue, and a check payable to Boys' Life for \$3.00 (or \$6.00 for two copies, the maximum allowed), to Boys' Life (S-302), Boy Scouts of America, 1325 West Walnut Hill Lane, Irving, TX 75038.
9051. Thomas A. Sebeok died on Dec. 21. He was a pioneer in semiotics (the study of the nature of signs in language), and taught at Indiana University for almost 50 years, becoming chairman of its Research Center for Language and Semiotic Studies before he retired in 1991. His "'You Know My Method': A Juxtaposition of Charles S. Peirce and Sherlock Holmes" (written with his wife Jean Umiker-Sebeok) was published in Semiotica in 1979 and reprinted by Jack Tracy's Gaslight Publications in 1980, and he was co-editor (with Umberto Eco) of the collection THE SIGN OF THREE: DUPIN, HOLMES, PEIRCE for the Indiana University Press in 1983.
9052. Spotted by Stu Shiffman: Ruse #1, a comic book from Crossgen (Nov. 2001; \$2.95); it's not directly Sherlockian, but there's lots of good Victorian flavor, and some nice artwork (Stu describes the beautiful Baroness Miranda Cross as "a subtle mixture of Isadora Klein, Professor Moriarty, and Morgaine le Fay"). There's a web-site at <<http://www.crossgen.com>>.
9053. Jack Tracy's THE ENCYCLOPAEDIA SHERLOCKIANA was and still is a valuable and interesting reference work; it was published in 1977, and is still in print (and soon to have a new Japanese edition), and Christopher and Barbara Roden's "On the Shoulders of Giants" (this year's Christmas Annual of The Baker Street Journal) offers excellent insights into Jack's life and career, and into the trials and tribulations (for both Jack and his publisher) involved in getting the book into print. The annual costs \$11.00 postpaid in the U.S. (checks only, please), and \$12.00 postpaid elsewhere (credit-card orders welcome) from the BSJ (Box 465, Hanover, PA 17331); you also can order at the BSJ's web-site <<http://www.bakerstreetjournal.com>>.
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December 2001 #5

9054. Nigel Hawthorne died on Dec. 26. He was a splendid actor, best known as the suave (and all too often frustrated) civil servant Humphrey Appleby in the television series "Yes, Minister" (1980-1983) and its sequel "Yes, Prime Minister" (1986-1987), and as the King on stage and screen in Alan Bennett's "The Madness of George III" in 1992 and 1994; his obituary in The Guardian noted that it was once said that Hawthorne "spent the first 20 years of his distinguished career being ignored and the rest of it being discovered." He was awarded a CBE in 1987, and he was knighted in 1999. In
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- 1982 he made guest appearance on television on "The Morecambe and Wise Show" as the butler in a murder-mystery skit, with Eric Morecambe (as Holmes) and Ernie Wise (as Watson).
9055. More news about the broadcast of the new dramatization of "The Lost World" by the BBC this month: Catherine Cooke reports that the BBC has announced that the show is the most pre-sold drama they've ever done, and that Peter Falk was cast in the program because of funding from the U.S. And there's to be a DVD release likely in multi-region format.
9056. Stephen Kendrick's NIGHT WATCH (New York: Pantheon, 2001; 258 pp., \$23.00) is an interest dual pastiche: it's Christmas in 1902, and a gruesome murder has been committed in a church in London, and Sherlock Holmes is called in to solve the mystery, and meets a young Catholic priest named Paul Brown, whose deductive prowess is impressive, and who at the end of the book calls at Baker Street to explain a clue that Holmes overlooked. Kendrick's HOLY CLUES (1999) was an interesting exploration of the Sherlock Holmes stories, and NIGHT WATCH also is interesting, and well-written.
9057. Barbara and Christopher Roden report that they've seen the shooting script ("remarkably faithful," they note) for a new version of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" that's now in production in Britain, with broadcast scheduled for Christmas in 2002. They believe the company is Tiger Aspect (which has produced some fine series, including "The Vicar of Dibley" and "Mr. Bean"), and that the writer is Allan Cubitt (whose credits include "Prime Suspect 2" and the recent mini-series "Anna Karenina").
9058. The latest issue of Scarlet Street (#43) continues the magazine's exploration of the dramatizations of "The Picture of Doran Gray", which is a story of more than passing interest to Doyleans and Sherlockians: in August 1889 Arthur Conan Doyle met Oscar Wilde at dinner in London, where editor J. M. Stoddart asked both men to write stories for Lippincott's. Wilde's story was "The Picture of Dorian Gray", and Conan Doyle's story was "The Sign of the Four" (in which careful readers will find echoes of Wilde). And there is the usual coverage of the mystery-and-horror genre. \$42.00 a year (six issues); Box 604, Glen Rock, NJ 07452 <<http://www.scarletstreet.com>>.
9059. White Chapel Productions (Muse) filmed in Montreal in December, Wilfrid de Freitas reports, for their fourth television film starring Matt Frewer as Holmes and Kenneth Welsh as Watson. "It is 1892 and Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson are on the prowl through the streets of East London investigating a series of murders at a monastery. Is the killer really a vampire, as people are saying, with vengeance on its mind and grudge against the monk?" Wilfrid notes that they say "The Case of the Whitechapel Vampire" will be broadcast next fall.

December 2001 #6

9060. One of the nicer things about the birthday festivities in New York is that they offer an opportunity to arrive a bit early for the Saturday-afternoon cocktail party at the National Arts Club, and stroll around Gramercy Park and think about what a genteel New York neighborhood was like in the 1890s: when Arthur Conan Doyle visited the city in 1894, he would have seen almost exactly what we see today. Paula Cohen's GRAMERCY PARK (New York: St. Martin's Press, 2002; 357 pp., \$24.95) is set in 1894, and opens in a Gramercy Park mansion, it and offers a delightful picture of what life was like in that era, for people who could afford it. It's also a story of dark secrets and bitter revenge, and a young woman in real danger. And it's a well-written page-turner, and it's easy to see why it has been picked up by four major book clubs. GRAMERCY PARK is not Sherlockian, but it's a good read, and recommended.
9061. The Sir James Saunders Society (for Sherlockian dermatologists) is one of the older "professional" S'ian societies, meeting for lunch (with toasts, papers, and a quiz) each year; their next meeting will be in New Orleans on Feb. 25, from noon to 2:00 pm, at the Ernst Cafe, and details are available from Don Hazelrigg, 15 Victoria Drive, Newburgh, IN 47630.
9062. The famous (perhaps infamous) "tent joke" has been voted the world's funniest joke, in an on-going "Laughlab" experiment that was launched in September by British psychologist Richard Wiseman. According to a story in The Guardian (Dec. 20), more than 100,000 people from 70 countries have visited the Laughlab web-site, submitting and rating 10,000 jokes. The "tent joke" (which was rated the funniest by about 47,000 people) isn't new, to the despair of some Sherlockians who can't stand to hear a joke more than once, or perhaps more than twice or thrice; Les Moskowitz has noted that it was posted to The Hounds of the Internet on July 2, 1998 (without credit to a source), and it first appeared in print in "Laughter, the Best Medicine" in the Reader's Digest (Nov. 1998), credited to <www.funnybone.com>. And for those who haven't yet heard the joke, or who would like to see the Reader's Digest version, here it is:
9063. Sherlock Holmes and Watson were camping in the forest. They had gone to bed and were lying beneath the night sky. Holmes said, "Watson, look up. What do you see?"
9064. "I see thousands of stars."
9065. "And what does that mean to you?" Holmes asked.
9066. "I suppose it means that of all the planets in the universe, we are truly fortunate to be here on Earth. We are small in God's eyes, but should struggle every day to be worthy of our blessings. In a meteorological sense, it means we'll have a sunny day tomorrow. What does it mean to you, Holmes?"
9067. "To me, it means someone has stolen our tent."
9068. The experiment will continue until September 2002, and the electronically-enabled are welcome to participate at <<http://www.laughlab.co.uk>>. There is quite a bit to see at the web-site, including the other jokes, and an analysis of what sort of people like which kinds of jokes.

January 2002 #1

9069. The birthday festivities in New York began midweek with an ASH Wednesday supper at O'Casey's for dedicated enthusiasts seeking a truly long weekend, and continued on Thursday morning with the Christopher Morley Walk led by Jim Cox, and a rendezvous with other Morley enthusiasts at McSorley's for lunch. Thursday evening's main event was at the Williams Club, where Bert Coules was the Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Speaker, and he told grand tales about his work on the BBC Radio 4 series featuring Clive Merrison and Michael Williams, and provided the world premiere of excerpts from the soon-to-be-aired pastiches starring Merrison and Andrew Sachs.
9070. The Hotel Algonquin was a nice venue for an informal Mrs. Hudson Breakfast on Friday morning, and more than 140 people were on hand for the William Gillette Luncheon at Moran's Chelsea Seafood Restaurant, where Andrew Joffe and Paul Singleton offered their version of Bravo's "Inside the Actors Studio" (with James Lipton interviewing Sherlock Holmes). And Otto Penzler's traditional open house at the Mysterious Bookshop provided the usual opportunities to browse and buy.
9071. There were more than 170 present for the annual dinner of The Baker Street Irregulars at the Union League Club, where George McCormack toasted Joyce Saunders as *the* Woman during the pre-prandial cocktail party (Joyce then went on to dine at the Algonquin with others who have received that honor). The dinner agenda was thoroughly international, with toasts and reports by Sherlockians from Denmark, Canada, Japan, England, Italy, and Germany. To detail only a few: Jean Upton toasted Dr. Watson's Second Wife (explaining that standing next to Mike Whelan at the lectern she

- felt like Harry Potter standing next to Hagrid); Enrico Solito was an enthusiastic leader of a responsive reading of the Musgrave Ritual (in Italian); and Catherine Cooke offered a delightful toast to old Irregular Lord Donegall.
9072. Mike Whelan (the BSI's "Wiggins") announced the Birthday Honours: the Two-Shilling Award ("for extraordinary devotion to the cause beyond the call of duty") to Susan Rice, and Irregular Shillings and Investitures to Henry W. Boote ("Meyers, Toronto"), Marilynne McKay ("Violet de Merville"), Enrico Solito ("Gennaro Lucca"), Christopher Roden ("Sir Henry Baskerville"), Michael Dirda ("Langdale Pike"), Mark Gagen ("Sir James Damery"), Bob Schultz ("The *Gloria Scott*"), Mary Campbell ("Brenda Tregennis"), Pasquale Accardo ("Gorgiano of the Red Circle"), and Richard J. Sveum ("Dr. Hill Barton"). And Jon L. Lellenberg received The Silver Penguin Award (a 1930s cocktail shaker) in appreciation of his peerless history of the BSI.
9073. The Baskerville Bash also took place Friday evening, at the Manhattan Club and with more than 90 people on hand, and with entertainment that included a "Bash-In" tribute to Rowan and Martin's beloved television series, with Queen Victoria (aka Maribeau Briggs) saying "Sock it to me!" and receiving a whipped-cream pie in the face from Dr. Watson (aka Andrew Joffe); a rendition of "Tip-Toe Through the Grimpen" by Tiny Tim (aka Howard Einbinder), and the park-bench skit performed by Ruth Buzzi (aka Catalina Hannan) and Artie Johnson (aka Warren Randall). It would appear that no one performed in a bikini as Goldie Hawn ("we couldn't find anyone to do the body-painting," someone explained).
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January 2002 #2

9074. On Saturday morning the dealers room at the Algonquin was as usual crowded with sellers and buyers, and shortly after noon The Clients of Adrian Mulliner (devotees of the works of both Watson and Wodehouse) commandeered the lobby for their now-traditional Junior Bloodstain, which featured a reading of A. B. Cox's "Holmes and the Dasher".
9075. The BSI's Saturday-afternoon cocktail party attracted more than 230 people to the National Arts Club, where Mary Ann Bradley introduced ladies who have been honored as *the* Woman over the years, and Al Rosenblatt reported in verse on the events of the previous evening and the previous year. Tom Cynkin was applauded as the winner of the Morley-Montgomery Award (an attractive certificate and a check for \$500) for the best contribution to The Baker Street Journal last year (his article on "James Watson, M.D." in the winter issue), and the Dr. John H. Watson Fund benefited from June Kinnee's energetic sales of raffle tickets for Jeff Decker's portrait of the winner (Michael Dirda), and from enthusiastic bidders in the traditional auction.
9076. On Sunday more than 70 locals and visiting long-weekenders gathered at the Baker Street Pub and Restaurant for a convivial brunch arranged by the (Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes. And (for those who wish to plan ahead) the next birthday dinners will be held on Friday, Jan. 10, 2003.
9077. I've not reported on everything, I hasten to add; if you want more details than fit into print here, it is quite likely that there will be much longer reports in The Baker Street Journal, which is published quarterly and costs \$22.50 a year (\$25.00 outside the U.S.), and checks (credit-card payments accepted from foreign subscribers) can be sent to the BSI at Box 465, Hanover, PA 17331 there's a web-site at <<http://www.bakerstreetjournal.com>>.
9078. The multicolor BASH 2002 lapel pin, with the same psychedelic design featured on publicity for this year's Baskerville Bash during the birthday festivities in New York, is available for \$9.00 postpaid from Warren Randall, 15 Fawn Lane West South Setauket, NY 11720.
9079. This year's Christopher Morley Walk was the occasion for the publication of MORLEY IN MANHATTAN 2002, an attractive guidebook to some of the sites and sights and participants sauntered by. The 38-page booklet is attractively illustrated, and also contains some of Morley's own thoughts about Manhattan, and copies are available from James D. Cox, 452 Ivy Street, San Francisco, CA 94102; \$15.00 postpaid.
9080. Sorry about that: Alan Rickman (December 01 #3) has played Sherlock Holmes on stage, but he hasn't played Prof. Moriarty on screen (and thanks to Christopher Roden, who was the first to spot my mistake). I was thinking of Anthony Higgins (who played Moriarty in "Young Sherlock Holmes").
9081. Ted Friedman's interesting series about Sherlockian philately for Topical Times continues with his two-page article "The Great Hiatus" in the January-February issue; it's illustrated with stamps from Saudia Arabia, Persia, and the Sudan, and a cover mailed from Tibet (the magazine costs \$5.00 postpaid from the American Topical Association, Box 50820, Albuquerque, NM 87181) <atastamps@juno.com> (credit-card orders welcome).
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January 2002 #3

9082. Douglas Brinkley, director of the Eisenhower Center for American Studies at the University of New Orleans, was interviewed on National Public Radio's "Weekend Edition" on Dec. 23, 2001, in a segment about the World War I battlefield truce between the Germans and the British on Christmas Eve in 1914, and he noted that "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, best known for Sherlock Holmes whodunits, deemed a Christmas truce an amazing spectacle, believing history would honor it as one human episode amid all the atrocities which have stained the memory of the war."
9083. Paul Landres died on Dec. 26. He began his career in motion pictures as an assistant editor at Universal Studios in 1931, becoming an editor and eventually a director on film and television. He was the editor of Basil Rathbone's "The Scarlet Claw" (1944).
9084. The winter 2001 issue of The Serpentine Muse offers news from, about, and by The Adventuress of Sherlock Holmes; Marilynne McKay's scrapbook on The Sherlock Holmes Society of London's cruise through the Baltic (replete with hats, and a few wigs); and an Internet discussion-group cast list for "The Crooked Man" (winners of the voting ranged from Jeremy Irons as Holmes to Helena Bonham Carter as Teddy the Mongoose). The Muse is published quarterly and costs \$10.00 a year (checks payable to the Adventuresses, please) from Evelyn A. Herzog (360 West 21st Street #5-A, New York, NY 10011).
9085. There's a cuddly plush Sherlock Holmes pooch, timely for Valentine's Day ("Our love is no mystery" is embroidered on his paw) in the spring mail-order catalog from What on Earth (2451 Enterprise East Parkway, Twinsburg, OH 44087) (800-945-2552) <<http://whatonearthcatalog.com>>; he has the traditional magnifying glass and pipe and deerstalker, and is 7.5" high (item AK9212) and costs \$16.95 plus shipping.
9086. Gary Lovisi reports that Ralph Vaughan's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE TERROR OUT OF TIME (New York: Gryphon Books, 2002; 121 pp., \$15.00) is now available; "Holmes and Challenger battle the minions of Cthulhu in London." Shipping extra, and the publisher's address is Box 209, Brooklyn, NY 11228; there's a web-site at <<http://www.gryphonbooks.com>>.
9087. Philip Attwell has reported that Hugh Laurie is reading "The Hound of the Baskervilles" on BBC Radio 2 on Fridays at 21:15 GMT; the eight-part, 15-minute, weekly series began on Jan. 18. And Bert Coules' "The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" began airing on BBC Radio 4 on Wednesdays at 14:15 GMT on Jan. 30; this is a series of five 45-minute pastiches starring Clive Merrison as Holmes and Andrew Sachs as Watson (four of the shows will be released by the BBC as a two-cassette set on Feb. 4 priced at £9.99. If you can listen to radio on the Internet, you can hear BBC Radio shows live at <<http://www.bbc.co.uk>>.
9088. The Queen's New Year's honours list included a knighthood for Ben Kingsley, who played Dr. Watson in "Without a Clue" (1988). And Denis Quilley, who was awarded an OBE [Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire], played Dr. Leon Sterndale in the Granada television version of "The Devil's Foot" (1988) and Bob Carruthers in the BBC Radio 4 dramatization of "The Solitary Cyclist" (1993); thanks to Scott Monty for this news.
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January 2002 #4

9089. One of the nicer things about the World Wide Web is that it's getting easier and easier for people to do interesting things: The Sherlock Holmes Society of France offers a "Worldwide Holmesian Photo Gallery" displaying photographs of Sherlockians, organized by individuals and by societies. The URL is <<http://www.sh-whoswho.com>>.
9090. Edward Gorey, who died last year (April 00 #4) first drew Holmes and Watson in 1967, and contributed Canonical artwork to various books into the 1990s; his fans, Sherlockian and otherwise, will surely welcome ASCENDING PECULIARITY: EDWARD GOREY ON EDWARD GOREY, selected and edited by Karen Wilkin (New York: Harcourt, 2001; 292 pp., \$35.00). It's S'ian only in passing (he told an interviewer in 1998 that "at the moment I'm re-reading all of Sherlock Holmes, for no particular reason"), but it offers a splendid look at what it was like listening to him talk about himself, and his many enthusiasms.
9091. Nabisco is celebrating the 100th anniversary of Barnum's Animal Crackers, a story in the Washington Post noted (Dec. 28), by adding a new animal to the box (and fans can vote on whether it will be a koala, a walrus, a penguin, or a cobra). More important to Sherlockians, perhaps, is that Christopher Morley, founder of The Baker Street Irregulars, was recalled by journalist Jennifer Frey for his couplet: "Animal crackers, and cocoa to drink,/That is the finest of suppers, I think..." It's from his poem "Animal Crackers" (first published in 1917 in his book SONGS FOR A LITTLE HOUSE).
9092. Ruse #2 (Dec. 2001) is in the comic-book shops (\$2.95); it's part of a continuing mini-series that offers nice Victorian (but non-Sherlockian) atmosphere and artwork. There's a web-site at <<http://www.crossgen.com>>.
9093. The November issue of Brad Keefauver's The Holmes & Watson Report arrived on Jan. 7, and it was of course enjoyable, and it was easy enough to read the contents, after I got through opening the pages carefully, since they were slightly stuck together, as if the ink had been a bit sticky. And I wondered when it had been mailed, and looked at the cancellation, which was November just-one-digit, and it finally dawned on me that there might be an interesting explanation of the seemingly sticky ink and the late delivery: the envelope and its contents might have been in one of the suspect batches of mail that were shipped from the anthrax-infested Brentwood sorting station in the Washington suburbs off to Ohio (I think) to be decontaminated. I like to think that I now have a journal that has been rendered officially non-threatening.
9094. The latest bargain-books catalog from Edward R. Hamilton (Falls Village, CT 06031) <<http://www.edwardrhamilton.com>> offers Loren D. Estleman's SHERLOCK HOLMES VS. DRACULA in paper covers (\$14.00 discounted to \$9.95) and Jamyang Norbu's SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE MISSING YEARS (\$23.95 discounted to \$16.95).
9095. "Sherlock Holmes and the Eye of Venus" is the mystery that Holmes and Watson and participants in a "Sherlock Holmes Weekend" will attempt to solve this year, on Mar. 8-10 and Nov. 1-3 in Cape May. The weekend includes a tour of the town's Victorian homes, and additional information is offered by the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts, Box 340, Cape May, NJ 08204 (609-884-5404) (800-275-4278) <<http://www.capemaymac.org>>.

January 2002 #5

9096. The winter issue of Friends of the Library (the newsletter published by the University of Minnesota Libraries) includes Julie McKuras' warm tribute to the late E. W. McDiarmid, who was one of the founders of The Norwegian Explorers and who devoted many years to assisting the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the Wilson Library. Copies of the newsletter are available from Lanaya Stangret (499 Wilson Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <stangret@tc.umn.edu>.
9097. Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine celebrated the birthday festivities in the Feb. 2002 issue, with an attractive Sherlockian cover by John Bowdren showing "The Long Shadow of Holmes", a cartoon by Bob Meyer, a crossword puzzle by Robert Kesling, and amusing poems by Cynthia Rufty and Donald A. Yates.
9098. It's nice to see some of the older Sherlockian books back in print, including THE DREAMERS: A CLUB, by John Kendrick Bangs (Holicong: Wildside Press, 2001; 246 pp., \$15.95); a trade paperback with Edward Penfield's illustrations, and Bangs' parody "The Mystery of Pinkham's Diamond Stud". There's also Maurice Leblanc's ARSENE LUPIN VERSUS HERLOCK SHOLMES (Holicong: Wildside Press, 2001; 282 pp., \$17.50); also a trade paperback ("a classic tale of the world's greatest thief and the world's greatest detective"). Wildside also has reprinted David Dvorkin's TIME FOR SHERLOCK HOLMES and Bang's R. HOLMES & COMPANY. The Wildside address is: Box 301, Holicong, PA 18928 <<http://www.wildsidepress.com>>.
9099. Reported by Stu Shiffman: Avram Davidson's THE OTHER NINETEENTH CENTURY: A COLLECTION, by Avram Davidson (New York: Tor Books, 2001; 327 pp., \$27.95); contents include "The Singular Incident of the Dog on the Beach" (reprinted from Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine, Dec. 1986).
9100. Noted by Jack Koelle: TEACHING LITERATURE AND MEDICINE, edited by Anne Hunsaker Hawkins and Marilyn Chandler McEntyre (New York: Modern Language Association, 2000; 406 pp., \$27.00), with Kathryn Montgomery's seven-page article "Sherlock Holmes and Clinical Reasoning" about a five-week seminar at Northwestern University Medical School that pairs the Canon with analytic studies of diagnostic reasoning.
9101. Writers such as Twain and Arthur Conan Doyle described the Mormons in terms similar to those the press uses to describe the Taliban today," Lawrence Wright notes in a long and interesting article about the Mormon in The New Yorker (Jan. 21). That was in Victorian times, of course; when Conan Doyle finally visited Salt Lake City in 1923, he was warmly received, and it was in the Mormon Tabernacle that he lectured on Spiritualism.
9102. The same issue of The New Yorker has John Lahr's excellent profile of Judy Dench. "She has clowned with the comedians Eric Morecambe and Ernie Wise," Lahr reports. "She has locked herself in a bathroom with Maggie Smith to escape the advances of the English comic character actor Miles Malleon." Malleon played Thaddeus Sholto in Arthur Wontner's film "The Sign of Four" (1932), and Bishop Frankland in Peter Cushing's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1959). And Dench played Mrs. Hudson, with Clive Merrison as Sherlock Holmes and her husband Michael Williams as Dr. Watson, in the BBC Radio 4 broadcast of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1998). That's the end of this month's theatrical trivia.

January 2002 #6

9103. Reported: Dana M. Batory's THE FEDERATION HOLMES: CASEBOOK NUMBER ONE has been published by George A. Vanderburgh (174 pp., \$33.00 postpaid); it has twelve of his Sherlock Holmes/Star Trek parodies first published in The Holmesian Federation from 1978 to 1991, and one new story. The publisher's address is Box 204, Shelburne, ON L0N 1S0, Canada; autographed copies are available from the author (402 East Bucyrus Street, Crestline, OH 44827) for \$35.00 postpaid.
9104. The latest catalog from Peter L. Stern (55 Temple Place, Boston, MA 02111) <psbook@aol.com> includes some nice Doyleana and Sherlockiana, including a two-page holograph letter from Conan Doyle to his publisher George Newnes, dated Nov. 19, 1893 (\$8,500); a copy of Beeton's Christmas Annual for 1887, bound without wrappers, advertisements, or contents page (\$37,500); a copy of the Collier's Once a Week Library first (and pirated) separate American edition of "The Sign of Four" (\$12,500).
9105. The 2001 issue of Beeman's Christmas Annual, published by The Occupants of the Empty House and edited by Janet Bensley, has "Geography in the Canon" as its theme, with a report by Doris and Richard Dale on last year's excursion through the Baltic, and a detailed discussion by David Bensley of the Battle of Maiwand, both with excellent illustrations in color. The 48-page booklet costs \$15.50 postpaid; checks (payable to the society) can be sent to Stan Tinsley (Box 21, Zeigler, IL 62999).

9106. The Conan Doyle material at auction at Sotheby's in London in December (November 01 #5) now has new owners: the most expensive item (sold at £19,800 including the buyer's premium) was a copy of Bram Stoker's THE MYSTERY OF THE SEA (1902) inscribed by the author to Conan Doyle. A copy of the first American edition of the ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES that Conan Doyle inscribed to his wife Louise in 1893 sold for £8,225, and a copy of the first British edition of THE POISON BELT inscribed to his wife Jean sold for £4,112.
9107. Theatrical news: Ev Herzog reports that "Murder in Baker Street" (described in an announcement as a "deadly comedy" by Judd Woldin) will be presented by Theater by the Blind at The Mint Space in New York from Feb. 22 through Mar. 10. The theater is at 311 West 43rd Street (5th floor) (212-206-1515) <www.smarttix.com>.
9108. And a few commercials: a 16-page list of the Investitured Irregulars, the Two-Shilling Awards, *the* Women, and the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes costs \$1.20 postpaid. An 80-page list of 790 Sherlockian societies, with names and addresses for contacts for 424 active societies, is \$4.60 postpaid. A run of address labels for 352 individual contacts (recommended to avoid duplicate mailings to those who are contacts for more than one society) costs \$10.50 postpaid (checks payable to Peter E. Blau, please).
9109. The list of irregulars and others also is available from me by e-mail (no charge), and both lists are available at Willis G. Frick's "Sherlocktron" home page at <<http://members.cox.net/sherlock1/Sherlocktron.html>>. Please note that "Sherlocktron" has a new URL.

February 2002 #1

9110. The birthday festivities in January saw the launch of The Baker Street Irregulars Manuscript Series, which makes available to the public "facsimile editions of manuscripts and other documents relating to Sherlock Holmes and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, with insightful commentary by talented Sherlockian and Doylean writers," as general editor Leslie S. Klinger notes on the dust jackets. And work is underway on the next volume in the series. For now:
9111. ANGELS OF DARKNESS: A DRAMA IN THREE ACTS, begun by Arthur Conan Doyle in the 1880s and never finished, now published for the first time, with a facsimile of the first scene and a transcription of the complete manuscript (now owned by the Toronto Public Library), with scholarly commentary on the play and its theatrical context, and on the Mormon subplot and the absence of Sherlock Holmes, and on the manuscript's history (New York: The Baker Street Irregulars, 2001; 191 pp., \$35.00). And yes: Sherlock Holmes is indeed absent, but many others from "A Study in Scarlet" (including John Watson, MD) are active participants.
9112. THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (CHAPTER XI) offers a facsimile and a transcription of the only complete chapter surviving (and now in the Berg Collection at the N.Y. Public Library), with commentary on the story by ten Sherlockian and Doylean scholars (New York: The Baker Street Irregulars, 2001; 109 pp., \$35.00). It's always a pleasure to be able to see an author at work, and manuscripts are a delightful way to do just that, watching the author change his mind, and speculating as to the reasons.
9113. As noted, \$35.00 each, plus shipping (\$8.00 each or \$9.50 for both; \$9.50 each or \$12.00 for both outside North America), and the books are available from The Baker Street Irregulars, Box 1360, Ashcroft, BC V0K 1A0, Canada <<http://www.bakerstreetjournal.com>>.
9114. The fourth volume of Leslie S. Klinger's SHERLOCK HOLMES REFERENCE LIBRARY is THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, with a thoughtful introduction by Nicholas Meyer (Indianapolis: Gasogene Books, 2002; 150 pp., \$22.95); as with previous volumes in the series, the annotations draw upon old and new Sherlockian scholarship, and on the manuscript for Chapter XI, and there's discussion of the many candidates for Baskerville Hall. \$25.70 postpaid from the publisher (Box 68308, Indianapolis, IN 46260).
9115. Stratford Johns died on Jan. 29. His acting career began on stage in 1948, and he was one of the biggest stars on British television in the 1960s and 1970s as police officer Charlie Barlow in the series "Z Cars" and "Softly Softly" and "Barlow at Large". And he played the Chief Commissioner, with John Cleese and Arthur Lowe, in the television film "The Strange Case of the End of Civilization as We Know It" (1977).
9116. The 2002 edition of Ron Fish's THE COMMONPLACE BOOK: A DIRECTORY OF SHERLOCKIANS AND SHERLOCKIAN SOCIETIES has names, addresses, and telephone numbers for 163 Sherlockians, and contact information and (when available) the meeting dates for 174 Sherlockian societies; \$7.00 postpaid (\$9.00 outside North America). A new edition is due next January, and Ron will be happy to make additions; Box 4, Circleville, NY 10919 <commonplacebook@aol.com>.

February 2002 #2

9117. Like William Gillette, David L. Hammer has proclaimed more than one farewell tour, suggesting that his current venture surely is his last, but (fortunately for the Sherlockian traveler) he continues to find new stories to tell about places to visit. And A DEEP GAME: THE TRAVELERS' COMPANION TO THE LONDON OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Indianapolis: Gasogene Books, 2002; 178 pp., \$22.95) is a delight: he has collected and rewritten material from his earlier guidebooks, and he has added new sites and sights and stories. If you're not able to arrange for David to be your personal tour guide, you'll do almost as well with his books. \$25.70 postpaid from Gasogene (Box 68303, Indianapolis, IN 46268).
9118. And David is far more than a travel writer: he's a grand story-teller, and some of his best stories are about (and on) himself, and the people he has known. THE GAME IS UNDERFOOT! THE MEMOIR OF A SHERLOCKIAN PUBLISHER (Shelburne: The Battered Silicon Dispatch Box, 2001; 142 pp., \$15.00) is a fine collection of stories about Jack Tracy, and Michael Harrison (who included a chapter about "The Night I Raped the Succubus" in his unfinished sexual biography), and Sam Gringras, and Michael and Mollie Hardwick, and Tom Stix (his "only known joke" noted in the index), and others; David has a splendid gift with language, and it's nice to be able to read stories well told. Available from the publisher (Box 204, Shelburne, ON L0N 1S0, Canada) for \$18.00 postpaid.
9119. The Clients of Adrian Mulliner (the society for devotees of the stories written by both P. G. Wodehouse and Dr. Watson) have an new and attractive lapel pin, which is available (\$11.80 postpaid from Anne Cotton (at 12 Hollywood Street, South Hadley, MA 01075).
9120. There's still time to see the major exhibition of "Pearls" at American Museum of Natural History in New York (through Apr. 14); there are all sorts of pearls, natural and cultured, and in all colors including black (no mention of the Borgias, however).
9121. John Thaw died on Feb. 21. He began his acting career on stage in 1960 in Liverpool, and made his television debut in 1961 with Granada in the anthology series "The Younger Generation"; his first film was "The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner" (1962). He starred in television series such as "Redcap" and "The Sweeney" and "Kavanagh QC" in the 1960s and 1970s, and in the long-running series "Inspector Morse" (1987-2000). And he was a splendid Jonathan Small in Granada's dramatization of "The Sign of Four" (1987).
9122. Further to the mention of Dame Judi Dench having played Mrs. Hudson in the BBC Radio 4 series, Lenny Picker has noted that she has also appeared in a Sherlockian film: "A Study in Terror" (1965); she played Dr. Murray's niece Sally Young, who worked at the mission in Whitechapel.
9123. The winter 2002 issue of the Tonga Times offers news of the world of Sherlockian miniatures, with lots of color photographs of the work of members of The Mini-Tonga Scion Society); membership (including three issues of the newsletter) costs \$10.00 a year (\$11.00 to Canada, \$13.00 elsewhere)

February 2002 #3

9124. Eve Titus ("Young Master Rucastle") died on Feb. 4. She was an excellent pianist and a truly talented author, well-known for her children's books, especially her series BASIL OF BAKER STREET (1958), BASIL AND THE LOST COLONY (1964), BASIL AND THE PYGMY CATS (1971), BASIL IN MEXICO (1976), and BASIL IN THE WILD WEST (1982); Basil and Dr. Dawson also starred in Disney's animated film "The Great Mouse Detective" (1986). Her imaginative "Message from the Mouser" was published in the Apr. 1960 issue of The Baker Street Journal, and she enjoyed meeting with The Praed Street Irregulars when she lived in Los Angeles in the 1970s; she received her Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1993.
9125. Spotted by Francine Kitts in a new mail-order catalog from Signals (Box 159, Cedar Rapids, IA 52405) (800-669-9696) <www.giftcatalog.com>: a Paddington Station Clock imported from English (9" in diameter). According to the catalog, Paddington is "where Holmes met Watson at the start of 'The Boscombe Valley Mystery,'" and "the London terminal of the Great Western Railway is more than a train station; it's a literary landmark." \$79.00 plus shipping.
9126. QUOTABLE SHERLOCK, compiled and edited by David W. Barber (Westport: Quotable Books, 2001; 118 pp., \$14.95), collects (and categorizes) hundreds of quotations from the Canon. The categories allow the reader to note some of Holmes' occasional contradictions, such as "I have no time for trifles" (A Study in Scarlet) and "there is nothing so important as trifles" (The Man with the Twisted Lip). It's distributed in the United States by Firefly Books <<http://www.fireflybooks.com>>.
9127. THE BAKER STREET DOZEN: SHERLOCKIAN EXERCISES, by Donald B. Izban, is a 42-page booklet offering Dr. Watson's advice on "how to be and stay fit at any age" (actually, it's Sherlock Holmes' advice, since it's obvious from Paul Churchill's illustrations that it's Watson who needs the advice). The pamphlet can be ordered from The Battered Silicon Dispatch Box (Box 204, Shelburne, ON L0N 1S0, Canada); \$11.00 postpaid.
9128. "Great Books" is a one-hour series broadcast by The Learning Channel (up to now the only Canonical connection has been a mention of Sherlock Holmes in their 1996 show on "Plato's Republic"), and a program on "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is now in development, targeted to air this fall.
9129. The 21st annual Sherlock Holmes/Arthur Conan Doyle Symposium will be held on Mar. 8-10 at the Holiday Inn in Fairborn, Ohio, with a schedule that includes speakers, theatrics and other fun and games. Additional details are available from Cathy Gill, 4661 Hamilton Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45223 (513-681-5507) <chirpsworth@fuse.net>.
9130. Radio Times had a tie-in offer when the BBC's new television mini-series of "The Lost World" was broadcast in December: the story read (unabridged) by Matthew Rhys on six audiocassettes from BBC Cover to Cover (2001); £21.95. Rhys was Edward Malone in the television mini-series, and he does very well with the reading. It's available from The Audio Book Collection, Ashmans Court, Locksbrook Trading Estate, Bath, BA1 3EH, England; their web-site is at <<http://www.audiobookcollection.com>>.
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February 2002 #4

9131. Chuck Jones died on Feb. 22. His first work in films was as a child extra in Mack Sennett comedies, and he began his career as an animator working for Ub Iwerks in 1932. He helped to create classic Warner Bros. characters such as Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck, Porky Pig, and the Road Runner, and he won four Oscars for his work, including a special Oscar for lifetime achievement in 1996, when the Academy Awards tribute included a clip from his Sherlockian "Deduce, You Say!" (1956).
9132. "Any resemblance between the characters of this story and those of history is a mistake!" according to the opening credits of the film "The Adventures of Gerard" (1970); the film was directed by Jerzy Skolimowski and the stars included Peter McEnery (Colonel Gerard), Eli Wallach (Napoleon Bonaparte), Claudia Cardinale (Countess of Morales), and John Neville (Duke of Wellington). The film was never formally released (the studio decided that profits wouldn't cover the distribution costs); it was broadcast in Britain by BBC-2 in 1994, and if you'd like to see it in a theater, come to Washington on Aug. 30, when it will be shown at the Mary Pickford Theater in the Madison Building at the Library of Congress at 7:00 pm. There's no charge, and there are only 64 seats in the theater, and you can reserve by phone (202-707-5677) one week before the screening.
9133. Markus Geisser, now in Thailand working for the International Committee of the Red Cross, hopes to start a Sherlockian society there, and would appreciate hearing from anyone who has correspondents in Thailand, and from anyone who has information on translations of the Canon into Thai; his address is ICRC, 36 Sirimangkalajarn Road, Soi 11, Tambon Suthep, Muang District, Chiang Mai 50200, Kingdom of Thailand <marcus_geisser@hotmail.com>.
9134. JUSTICE HALL (New York: Bantam Books, 2002; 331 pp., \$23.95) is Laurie R. King's sixth novel about Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes, set in 1923 in Berkshire (and in Paris and London) after their visit to Dartmoor in THE MOOR, and it's well up to her high standards, with interesting characters and an intriguing mystery, and the reappearance of old friends.
9135. Laurie will be writer in residence at Hanover College (Hanover, IN) on Mar. 4-8, with a public lecture on Mar. 7 at 7:30 on "The Mystery of Theology: Using Crime Fiction as a Platform for Theological Inquiry"; and on Mar. 21-24 she will be appearing at Left Coast Crime (Portland, OR).
9136. And she will be on tour reading and signing JUSTICE HALL; here's the tentative schedule: Mar. 27 at Annie's Bloom at 7:30 (Portland, OR); Mar. 28 at Seattle Mystery Books at 12:00, and Third Place Books at 7:00 (Seattle, WA); Apr. 2 at the Capitola Book Cafe at 7:30 (Capitola, CA); Apr. 5 at Bay Book & Tobacco at 7:00 (Half Moon Bay, CA); Apr. 7 at M Is for Mystery at 3:30 (San Mateo, CA), and Book Passage at 7:30 (Corte Madera, CA); Apr. 10 at Books Inc. at 7:00 (Carmel, CA); Apr. 11 at Diesel Books at 7:30 (Oakland, CA); Apr. 14 at High Crimes at 3:00 (Denver, CO); Apr. 15 at Poisoned Pen at 7:00 (Scottsdale, AZ); Apr. 16 at Vroman's at 7:00 (Los Angeles, CA); Apr. 18 at Cody's at 7:30 (Berkeley, CA); Apr. 24 at Bookshop Santa Cruz at 7:00 (Santa Cruz, CA); Apr. 27 at the Los Angeles Times Book Festival; May 1-3 in New York; July 17 at the Book Passage Mystery Writer's Conference (Corte Madera, CA). You can check for updates and details at her web-site at <<http://www.laurierking.com>>.
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February 2002 #5

9137. John McAleer's REX STOUT, first published in 1977, was a splendid biography of a fine writer and a fascinating man (and Stout was an important figure in the early years of The Baker Street Irregulars); the book won an Edgar from the Mystery Writers of America in 1978, and it's to be reprinted (Rockville: James Rock Publishing, 2002; 608 pp., \$44.95 in cloth, \$26.95 in paper) with a new introduction by John McAleer, an afterword by John's son Andrew S. McAleer, additional photographs, an expanded index, and a revised title: REX STOUT: A MAJESTY'S LIFE (which is what John wanted for the first edition). And the publisher offers a \$5.00 discount on orders received by Apr. 1 (113 North Washington Street, Rockville, MD 20850) (800-411-2230) <<http://www.rockpublishing.com>>.
9138. The Occupants of the Empty House will celebrate their 25th anniversary at a weekend gathering on Apr. 12-13 in Carbondale, Ill. Details are available from Debbie Tinsley (Box 21, Zeigler, IL 62999) <rstin@hotmail.com>.
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9139. The Rev. Sherlock S. Holmes, D.D., runs "The Baker Street Marketplace" online at <<http://www.sherlockholmes.com>>, where he offers all sorts of Sherlockian merchandise. And he offers a 10% discount on books if you mention the magic word ("Scuttlebutt"); enter the word in the "coupon" section.
9140. Stam and Pilou are found in a series of comic books launched last year by the Belgian post office, and they play detective in the first issue: Droles de Detectives [in French] or De Super Speurneuzen [in Flemish]. E13.88 euros] each, plus shipping, from The Post Philately, Egide Walschaertsstraat 1, 2800 Mechelen, Belgium <<http://www.philately.post.be>>.
9141. Barry Foster died on Feb. 11. He began his acting career in the film "The Battle of the River Plate" (1956), and also appeared on stage and television; he was best known as the star of the television series "Van der Valk" in the 1970s, and once said that "the trouble is that people often mistake me for someone else. They think I'm Inspector Morse, or else John Pertwee from Doctor Who, or Keith Barron. In fact I attribute a good deal of my success to being confused with these people." And he was a fine Sherlock Holmes in a 13-episode "Sherlock Holmes" series on BBC Radio 4 in 1978.
9142. News for Gertrude Mahoney's friends: she has moved to the Sunrise Assisted Living facility at 2863 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton, VA 22124-1006 (703-319-7176), and has a nice room with sunshine and a view, and is settling in and looking forward to celebrating her 96th birthday.
9143. SHERLOCKIANS ABROAD: THEIR ADVENTURES ON AND MEMOIRS OF THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY OF LONDON GOLDEN JUBILEE CRUISE 2001, collected and edited by Susan E. B. Vizoskie, has interesting and amusing reminiscences and photographs by participants; 60 pp., \$5.00 postpaid. And there's TEAS AND TOASTS WITH THE THREE GARRIDEBS, collected and edited by Susan, with 65 pages of toasts and recipes, all nicely done, by members of The Three Garridebs, celebrating last years' 10th anniversary of the society's annual picnic and afternoon tea; \$5.00 postpaid. Or \$8.50 postpaid for both volumes; the postpaid costs are higher outside the U.S., and details are available from Susan (90 Ralph Avenue, White Plains, NY 10606) <svizoskie@aol.com>.

February 2002 #6

9144. THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES is a new British CD, with words and music by Clive Nolan and Oliver Wakeman, with 14 tracks (and about 100 minutes) of narration, instrumentals, and vocals, and it's an interesting performance. It's VGCD022 from Verglas Music, P.O. Box 19, Virginia Water, Surrey GU25 4YE, England <<http://www.verglas.com>>; and the cost is £14.00 postpaid anywhere in the world. The cast includes Robert Powell as the narrator and Dr. Watson; he played Sherlock Holmes in a BBC radio broadcast of "A Study in Scarlet" in 1974, and on stage in a touring production of "Sherlock Holmes: The Musical" in 1993.
9145. Noted by Bruce Southworth: Conan Doyle's OUR AFRICAN WINTER, reprinted last year by Duckworth in London at £14.99 (February 01 #3); discounted at \$14.98 at Half Price Books in New York (and presumably available elsewhere). It's an interesting account of the family's tour of eastern and southern Africa in 1928-1929.
9146. The seventh issue of the new Strand Magazine is an expanded holiday issue, revising a tradition often followed by the original Strand Magazine; many of the stories are Christmas stories, by authors such as H. R. F. Keating, John Mortimer, and Edward D. Hoch, and including a Sherlockian pastiche by Barrie Roberts, and there's an interesting interview with Peter Lovesey by editor Andrew F. Gulli, and reviews and articles. Subscriptions (four issues) cost \$24.95 (U.S. and Canada) or \$35.95 (elsewhere), and the magazine address is Box 1418, Birmingham, MI 48012 (800-300-6652) (UK: 800-961-280) <<http://www.strandmag.com>>.
9147. Great-Scot, 278 Holburn Street, Aberdeen AB10 6DD, Scotland, Great Britain <<http://great-scot.co.uk>> is offering attractive and colorful prints from a new painting of Arthur Conan Doyle, by Ian R. Thomson (\$64.00 or £45.00 or E73.00 postpaid); payment by check or in currency, please, and the company kindly offers a 15% discount if you mention the magic word ("Scuttlebutt"). You can see the print at their web-site, and you can request an illustrated flier.
9148. Januarye Hinckley (4 Crown Street Hicksville, NY 11801) is selling her collection of Sherlockiana (books, pins, videocassettes, audiocassettes); there are 120 items on the list, individually priced, and copies are available on request (please send Jane a 34c self-addressed stamped envelope).
9149. It's the Year of the Horse, and the U.S. Postal Service has continued its "Chinese New Year" series. There are so many horses mentioned in the Canon that it's hard to select one, but we can consider one of the horses Sherlock Holmes helped the ostlers rub down in the Serpentine Mews (in "A Scandal in Bohemia").
9150. Details and a registration form for the eleventh annual Watsonian weekend (now a joint event with The STUD Sherlockian Society) on May 3-5, are now available Susan Diamond and Allan Devitt (16W603 3rd Avenue, Bensenville, IL 60106) <szdiamond@attbi.com>.

March 2002 #1

9151. There will be a Victorian Festival in Staunton, Va., on Apr. 19-21, and the events will include a Victorian mystery game throughout the festival, and (on Apr. 20) a Victorian boxing exhibition, a lecture on "Sherlock Holmes in America", and a Sherlock Holmes Look-Alike Contest. There's lots more on the schedule, and I won't be the only Sherlockian on hand; more information is available from the Staunton Downtown Development Association, 116 West Beverley Street, Staunton, VA 24401 (540-332-3867); and at a web-site at <<http://sdda.staunton.va.us>>.
9152. Spike Milligan died on Feb. 27. In 1951 he joined Peter Sellers, Harry Secombe, and Michael Bentine to create a BBC radio series called "Crazy People" (soon retitled "The Goon Show"), and their antic genius was credited as highly influential by the new generation of comedy stars that included Robin Williams and members of Monty Python and The Firesign Theatre. "The Goon Show" often featured skits sketches about a defective detective called Ned Seagoon, with Milligan as the perpetual villain Jim Moriarty; Milligan also played a policemen in the Peter Cook/Dudley Moore film version of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1978), and he celebrated his 80th birthday with a special edition of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES ACCORDING TO SPIKE MILLIGAN published by Virgin Books in 1998.
9153. Richard M. Lackritz's splendid collection of detective fiction is going to auction at Christie's in New York, in three parts: from Voltaire's "Zadig" (1747) to 1920 on Apr. 17, followed by material from 1920 to 1945 on Sept. 24, and post-war literature on Dec. 19. The first part has some interesting Sherlockian and Doylean material, of course, including some manuscripts (but not the manuscript of "The Three Garridebs"). One additional item to be offered on Apr. 17 (from another owner) is the original typed manuscript of Bram Stoker's "Dracula" (estimated at \$1,000,000 to \$1,500,000). All of the items will be on view Apr. 11-16 at Christie's at 20 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10020 (212-636-2010) <<http://www.christies.com>>.
9154. THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN (a six-issue comic-book mini-series, published by America's Best Comics in 1999-2000, with a story by Alan Moore and powerful artwork by Kevin O'Neill) seems likely to be a movie, according to reports noted by Stu Shiffman. Twentieth Century-Fox was in Prague scouting locations, according to a story in Variety (Feb. 5), and Sean Connery was in final negotiations to play Allan Quatermain, Variety reported on Feb. 20. Holmes and Moriarty appeared in the comic-book story, but may or may not be seen in the movie; fan web-sites report that Tom Sawyer has been added to the cast of characters (as an American detective) in response to studio demands for a younger character in the mix.

9155. The world premiere of the new play "The West End Horror (dramatized by Anthony Dodge and Marcia Milgrom Dodge from the novel by Nicholas Meyer) has a new venue, and new dates, Paul Singleton reports: the play will open at the Bay Street Theatre (Bay & Main Street, Sag Harbor, NY 11963) on June 18, and close on July 7, 2002. Sag Harbor is near the eastern end of Long Island, decidedly off-off-Broadway; there's no word yet of arrangements for a theater party. The box-office telephone number is 631-725-9500, and the play's web-site URL is <<http://www.thewestendhorror.com>>.

March 2002 #2

9156. "The 100 Best Characters in Fiction: From Sherlock to Scarlett to Harry Potter" is the cover blurb on the Mar.-Apr. issue of Book magazine, but (alas) Sherlock isn't ranked first. The magazine asked writers, journalists, professors, actors, and directors to select and rank the 100 best characters since 1900, and Sherlock Holmes came in sixth, preceded by Jay Gatsby, Holden Caulfield, Humbert Humbert, Leopold Bloom, and Rabbit Angstrom. And ahead of Atticus Finch, Molly Bloom, Stephen Dedalus, Lily Bart, Holly Golightly, and Gregor Samsa.
9157. I was asked: in which Sherlock Holmes story does he receive a letter written in lemon juice? I can't recall any such story (in print or on film or television) -- if you know the answer, please let me know.
9158. Ray Betzner spotted a new comic-book series FANTASTIC STORIES, created by Don Marquez and published by Amryl <<http://www.amryl.com>>: the first issue (Dec. 2001; \$2.95) includes a 10-page adaptation of "The Disintegration Machine". A three-part adaptation of "When the World Screamed" will appear in future issues, and then he plans a Challenger pastiche in the form of an old-fashioned serial. Don Marquez also did "The Lost World" in two parts for Millennium in 1996, and a one-issue adaptation of "The Poison Belt" for Tome in 1997, and he offers the earlier comic books for \$3.00 each (plus \$3.50 shipping per order); his address is 1313 Young Wo Circle, Folsom, CA 95630 <<http://www.cartuneland.com>>.
9159. The April-May issue of British Heritage has a nice (and nicely illustrated) seven-page article by Tom Huntington about "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Edinburgh". The issue costs \$6.00; the magazine address is 6405 Flank Drive, Harrisburg, PA 17112 (800-358-6327); and British Heritage has a web-site at <<http://www.britishhistory.about.com/heritage>> that has other Sherlockian articles such as "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and the Case of George Edalji" and "Baker Streets Around the World" (about various reproductions of "the most famous room that never existed").
9160. Irene Worth died on Mar. 10. Born in Lincoln, Neb., she began her acting career on tour in 1942 and made her Broadway debut in 1943; she then studied acting in London, and learned stage English so well that audiences often assumed she was British. Irene Worth was her stage name (and Sherlockians should note that she used the pronunciation eye-ree-nee); she was an honorary Commander of the British Empire, and won many other honors for her acting. In 1983 she recorded T. S. Eliot's "Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats" with Sir John Gielgud for Caedmon; it's still available, and you can hear her perform "Macavity: The Mystery Cat".
9161. There's no word on whether or when we will get to see the film "O Xango de Baker Street" (based on Jo Soares' pastiche, which was called A SAMBA FOR SHERLOCK when it was published in an English translation in 1997); the film stars Joaquim de Almeida as Sherlock Holmes, and it was released in Portugal in Sept. 1999, and in Brazil in Oct. 2001. Alan Ryan, in his "Letter from Rio" in the Washington Post (Book World) on Mar. 17, notes that Soares often has writers as guests on his five-nights-a-week television program. "Short, fat and round, in a world of slim, body-conscious Brazilians ('Beijo do gordo!' he calls out every night--'A kiss from the fat man!'), he's an engaging personality who enjoys both popularity and respect."
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March 2002 #3

9162. The March issue of Firsts: The Book Collector's Magazine has an interesting article on "Collecting Stephen Leacock" by John Conrad, who quotes Leacock: "Indeed the first edition hobby is one of the minor forms of mental derangement, seldom ending in homicide and outside the scope of the law." Conrad also notes that "in the aftermath of World War One, Stephen Leacock was the most famous humorist in the English language," and reports that his NONSENSE NOVELS received a promotional boost when President Theodore Roosevelt quoted one of the most popular sentences in the book, in a spoof of Victorian novels in which one of the love-smitten principal characters "flung himself from the room, flung himself on his horse and rode madly off in all directions." NONSENSE NOVELS also has Leacock's first Sherlockian parody ("Maddened by Mystery; or The Defective Detective"), and he wrote others; it is a mark of his skill that he and John Kendrick Bangs were the only authors to have more than one piece selected for Ellery Queen's landmark anthology THE MISADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES. First costs \$4.95 in bookstores; \$40.00 a year for ten issues (4493 North Camino Gacela, Tucson, AZ 85718).
9163. The Raymond F. Neuzil Memorial Sherlock Holmes Collection, created at Illinois Benedictine College in Lisle, Ill., in 1983, was discontinued in 1994, John Brousch has learned; all of the books were integrated into their general collection, and other items (artifacts, periodicals, clippings, etc.) were placed in storage, and recently recovered. Anyone who donated items other than books can ask for their return, describing the material to John (16727 Olcott Avenue, Tinley Park, IL 60477) <jbrouschships@aol.com>. A committee of Chicago-area Sherlockians will eventually decide what to do with what's left.
9164. John also reports that the Sherlock Holmes Center (in the Harold Washington Library Center), created when the new downtown library opened to the public in 1991, was discontinued about five years ago and placed in storage; John has not been able to recover that material.
9165. This is the sort of thing that underscores the important of having an energetic and enthusiastic group of locals providing both support and oversight for a special collection. That's available in Minneapolis and Toronto and Boston and London, where libraries are kept aware of the importance of the Sherlockian and Doylean material. When it's not available, terrible things can happen: the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library once had a copy of the Baker Street Irregulars special edition of THE BLUE CARBUNCLE, inscribed to Truman by Edgar W. Smith. But it's not there now, thanks to a curator who decided that the book (and all of the other fiction owned by Truman) wasn't important to the library. Fortunately, the inscribed copy of THE BLUE CARBUNCLE is now in the hands of a collector, who acquired it from the dealer who acquired it from the presidential library.
9166. Collectors can also provide support for special collections, of course, by donating or bequeathing material from their own collections. It's also always nice to donate or bequeath money that special collections can use to maintain and expand their holdings; special collections can also generate funding by disposing of duplicate material, and that's indeed what they do, since there's no sense in keeping half a dozen identical copies of the same book, absent inscriptions or other things that might make a copy unique.
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March 2002 #4

9167. "Holmes!" is a work-in-progress musical with book and lyrics by Brett Nicholson and music by Hans Vollrath, first performed in concert at the Disney Institute in Orlando in Sept. 1997. There have been other concert readings since then, and there were "producers readings" in New York on Mar. 25-26 for invited theatrical professionals and producers. There's much more at their web-site at <<http://www.holmesthemusical.com>>, and that's where to order the CD (\$15.99 postpaid, with a 16-page booklet, and signed by Nicholson and Vollrath on request); those who don't have access to the Internet can order from Holmes!, Box 2242, Windermere, FL 34786 (credit-card orders welcome). It's nicely done, and it will be fun to see a full-scale production.
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9168. Watch for a repeat of the "Saturday Night Live" program that aired on Mar. 16 on NBC-TV, with Sir Ian McKellen as guest host, and in Sherlockian costume in a hot-air-balloon murder-mystery skit. Jeremy Irons was guest host on "Saturday Night Live" on Mar. 23, 1991, and appeared as Sherlock Holmes in one of the skits, and that same month won an Oscar for his performance (as Claus von Bulow in "Reversal of Fortune"), but McKellen was not as fortunate: he was nominated but didn't win the this year's Oscar for best supporting actor (as Gandalf in "The Lord of the Rings").
9169. Tony Harries, who was Sherlock Holmes' secretary at Abbey House in London in 1990 and then toured the United States, speaking to Sherlockian societies and appearing on television (on "To Tell the Truth" and "Good Morning America") now is a writer, and he has his own web-site, which the electronically-enabled can visit at <<http://www.tonyharries.co.uk>>.
9170. Forecast: THE HAMSTER OF THE BASKERVILLES: A CHET GECKO MYSTERY, by Bruce Hale, from Harcourt Children's Books in April; 132 pp., \$14.00. "Something is trashing the classrooms at Emerson Hicky Elementary School, and sixthgrade private eye Chet Gecko sets out to find the creature that's responsible. Chet Gecko doesn't believe in the supernatural. His idea of voodoo is his mom's cockroach ripple ice cream. But when a teacher reports seeing a monster by the list of a full moon, it falls to Chet and his sleek-winged partner, Natalie Attired, to answer the burning question: Is this the work of a vicious, supernatural werehamster on the loose? Or just another science fair project gone wrong?"
9171. Issue #47 of Sherlock (that's the new title for Sherlock Holmes: The Detective Magazine) has Bert Coules' interesting "studio diary" reporting on the ten days it took to record the five new programs in "The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" for BBC radio and Chris Senior's review of the series, Gavin Collinson's report on the new BBC videocassette with Peter Cushing's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (from the 1968 television series, which had the highest ratings in the United Kingdom of any Sherlock Holmes series before or since), Trish and Jay Pearlman's history of the Mini-Tonga Society (for Sherlockian miniaturists), and much more (S'ian and otherwise). Annual subscriptions (six issues) cost £20.00 (U.K.)/£22.00 (continent)/\$40.00 (elsewhere); Box 100, Chichester, West Sussex PO18 8HD, England; there's a web-site at <<http://pmh.uk.com/sherlock/sherlock.htm>>. Classic Specialties is their agent in the U.S. (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219) (877-233-3823) <<http://www.sherlock-holmes.com>>; credit-card orders are welcomed at both addresses, and back issues are available.

March 2002 #5

9172. Naxos AudioBooks, which offers recordings of THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES and other Doylean books (November 01 #5), has added A STUDY IN SCARLET to its list, read by David Timson on four CDs (£14.99) or four audiocassettes (£11.99); 34 Holmethorpe Avenue, Redhill, Surrey RH1 2NN, England <<http://www.selectmusic.co.uk>>.
9173. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists met for dinner at Mia Bella Trattoria in Houston on Mar. 13, during the annual meeting of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, to honor the world's first forensic geologist. The local Sherlockians were led by Bruce R. Parker, whose toast to Sherlock Holmes was only one of many offered during the evening. Our next meetings will be in Denver in October, and in Salt Lake City in May 2003.
9174. David W. Bradley died on Mar. 16. He had been a research assistant for the Tennessee State Legislature for 29 years, and he was an energetic member of the Sherlockian societies in Nashville, especially interested in the Sherlockian aspects of stage, screen, radio, and television.
9175. Prescott's Press, published by The Three Garridebs, offers an excellent review of the birthday festivities in its 30-page Jan. 2002 issue, including Warren Randall's script for the Baskerville Bash's "Bash-In" tribute to Rowan and Martin's television series. Subscriptions cost \$12.00 (\$14.00 outside the U.S.) for four issues (and you can start with the January issue), to Warren Randall, 15 Fawn Lane West, South Setauket, NY 11720.
9176. Ev Herzog spotted a story in the New Haven Register reporting that Gillette Castle will reopen on Memorial Day weekend (that's May 25-27 this year) after major renovation work. According to an earlier report (March 01 #3) visitors will now be able to see the steam and electric trains that once ran on track installed by William Gillette (the trains were purchased years ago by an amusement park in Bristol, and last year returned to the Castle).
9177. The film "Zero Effect" (1998) starred Bill Pullman as Daryl Zero, the best private detective in the world (utterly brilliant, a deductive genius, emotionally unstable, and a user of disguises) and Ben Stiller as Steve Arlo (the steady, reliable aide who eventually leaves to get married); Jake Kasdan, who wrote and directed the film, told an interviewer that "There's a bunch of detective stories that have been important to me, and Sherlock Holmes is certainly among them." And stories in Variety and the Hollywood Reporter last month reported that Alan Cumming will star as Daryl Zero in an NBC-TV pilot for a series to be produced by Warner Bros. TV/Castle Rock.
9178. Laurie R. King's new Mary Russell/Sherlock Holmes novel JUSTICE HALL (February 02 #4) is available from Recorded Books, read unabridged by Jenny Sterlin on ten cassettes (\$49.50, or \$18.50 rental); they're at 270 Skipjack Road, Prince Frederick, MD 20678 (800-638-1304) <<http://www.recordedbooks.com>>.
9179. William S. Dorn offers his latest CD-ROM disk THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THEN SOME, with the text of the 60 Canonical stories plus "The Man with the Watches" and "The Lost Special" (with an illustration for each story); it's in searchable PDF format. Bill's address is 2045 South Monroe Street, Denver, CO 80210; and the postpaid cost is \$11.45 (to the U.S.) or \$12.45 (to Canada) or \$14.45 (elsewhere).

March 2002 #6

9180. The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library are honoring the founding curator of the collection with an annual Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture; the first lecture, at the Toronto Reference Library (at 789 Yonge Street) at 2:00 pm on Apr. 20, will be on "The Berg Collection: A Tale of Literary Taste and Scholarship" by Isaac Gewirtz, curator of the Berg Collection at the N.Y. Public Library (which also owns some splendid Sherlockian and Doylean material). There's no charge for the event, and the collection will be open for visiting following the lecture.
9181. Fans of the excellent "Nero Wolfe" series running on Arts & Entertainment cable will welcome the news that "Death of a Doxy" will debut on Apr. 14; according to Sharon Doyle (who dramatized the story), it's set in 1965, the year Rex Stout wrote the story. The series will continue with "Die Like a Dog", "The Next Witness", "The Mother Hunt", "Murder is Corny", "Poison A La Carte", "Too Many Clients", "Help Wanted Male", "Before I Die", "Silent Speaker", "The Cop Killer", and "Immune to Murder".
9182. Celebrations of the centenary of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" continue: on Mar. 23, Sherlockians from Italy (and England and Japan) assembled in Firenze for the unveiling of a new bronze bust of Sherlock Holmes, sculpted by Giancarlo Buratti. The formal unveiling took place on Mar. 24 at the Biblioteca Civica Ernesto Regionieri, and the bust will be moved soon to the Sesto Fiorentino railway station, where (according to Uno Studio in Holmes, the local Sherlockian society) Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson arrived in 1891 on their way to Florence. Firenze isn't the only city in Italy to have a different name in English (Livorno's another); the British seemed to find it quite easy to do that in the days of the Grand Tour. Marco Zatterin reports that the Italian newspaper La Stampa kindly hosts a "Sherlockiani italiani" website at <http://www.lastampa.it/_web/_RUBRICHE/Libri/default_sherlock.asp>, where you can read more (in Italian) about the bust and about other aspects of the Sherlockian world in Italy. Marco works for La Stampa, which surely helps to explain why the newspaper is so kind to Sherlockians.
9183. Thanks to Dave Morrill for spotting a new CD of John Scott's score for his first film "A Study in Terror" (1965). It's a new recording, by the Hollywood Symphony Orchestra (conducted by Scott), and the accompanying booklet includes an interesting discussion by the composer of his work for the film

and for the CD; he explains that "If any authoritarian, purist, film music specialist, collector should ask 'Why didn't I include the pub piano music heard on the film and on the original LP?' my answer would be that I never did enjoy pub pianists. But if anyone misses it that much I can recommend some pubs where the pianists are every bit as bad as the one performing on the original sound track." The CD is available in shops, and (\$16.99 plus shipping) from Intrada (2220 Mountain Boulevard #220, Oakland, CA 94611) <<http://www.intrada.com>>. And fans of John Scott's music will want to visit Randy Levy's web-site at <<http://webhome.idirect.com/~rlevy>>.

April 2002 #1

9184. Patrick Macnee has performed as Sherlock Holmes, and as Dr. Watson, and as a psychotic former British secret agent who believes he is Sherlock Holmes, and (as John Steed) he was involved with Sir Arthur Doyle. And now he's an excellent guide to Sherlockian London in a 45-minute videocassette ("In the Footsteps of Sherlock Holmes") available from Chip Taylor Communications (2 East View Drive, Derry, NH 03038 (800-876-2447) <www.chiptaylor.com>. The cassette costs \$29.95 plus shipping (credit-card orders welcome); \$99.99 to schools and libraries.
9185. Billy Wilder died on Mar. 27. He was a Hollywood legend, the winner of six Oscars, and the only person to win three times for the same film: as director, producer, and co-writer of "The Apartment" (1960). His "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970) was splendid fun, and might have been more even fun if United Artists hadn't insisted on leaving almost a third of the film on the cutting-room floor. But one can see some of the longer film, on a two-laserdisc set issued in 1994 with the film (in letterbox format), production stills, a shooting script, music cue sheets, a pressbook, "The Dreadful Business of the Naked Honeymooners" (film only, with subtitles), "The Curious Case of the Upside Down Room" (sound only), an interview with Ernest Walter (the editor of the film), and the theatrical trailer.
9186. MPI Home Video is continuing its DVD series with programs from the Granada series. Volume 4 offers "The Greek Interpreter" and "The Norwood Builder" (\$14.98); if you can't find it locally, try Critics' Choice Video (Box 749, Itasca, IL 60413 (800-367-7765) <<http://www.criticschoicevideo.com>>. Their current catalog also has videocassettes of John Neville's "A Study in Terror" (1965) (\$19.95) and Matt Frewer's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (2000) (\$14.95).
9187. And Signals Video offers 30 of the Granada programs in boxed sets of videocassettes (\$89.95 to \$219.95); videocassettes of Ian Richardson's "The Sign of Four" and "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (\$29.95 the pair); and audiocassette and CD sets (from the Smithsonian Institution) of "The New Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (\$59.95/\$69.95) with ten hours (20 programs) from the 1947-48 radio series that starred John Stanley and Alfred Shirley.
9188. THE HIDDEN ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES II, by Bill Paxton (Independence: Omnibus Enterprises, 2001; 153 pp., \$25.00), has two short pastiches and a novella that involves Holmes once again with the Knights Hospitaller in an adventurous pursuit of treasure long lost undersea off the coast of Egypt. \$25.00 postpaid from the publisher (12907 East 36th Street Terrace, Independence, MO 64055. His earlier THE HIDDEN ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (August 00 #6) is available for the same price, and both volumes cost \$40.00 postpaid.
9189. The "Left Coast Crime 12" convention in Portland (Mar. 21-24) featured Laurie R. King as one of the guests of honor, and included a session on "Sherlock Through Time: The Detective We Can't Stop Reading About" with Michael Kurland, David Haugen, Stanley Johnson, and John Schilke. On Site Taping recorded the sessions and offers cassettes or CDs (\$8.75/\$15.99 postpaid); 29318 Quall Run, Agoura Hills, CA 91301) <conftape1@aol.com>.
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April 2002 #2

9190. Milton Berle died on Mar. 27. He began his entertainment career in vaudeville in 1908, and went on to become "Mr. Television" (he didn't invent it, but he was first seen on television in 1929, on an experimental broadcast in Chicago). He played Sherlock Holmes on "Texaco Star Theatre" in 1949 (with Victor Moore as Watson) in "Sherlock Holmes in the Mystery of the Sen Sen Murder". Basil Rathbone often was a guest on Berle's programs, and in Berle's autobiography he recalled Rathbone's first guest appearance: "Nobody ever had it worse on the show than Basil Rathbone --or at least, that's what he thought at the time. In fairness to him, it must have been rough for a man of Basil's dignity to find himself in front of the camera with Martha Raye and me. Both of us can go pretty wild in the low-comedy department when we forget our lines. Which is exactly what happened in some sort of Sherlock Holmes takeoff that was dreamed up for Basil's guest shot. We just ran wild around him, pushing, shoving, ad libbing, mugging, swinging burlesque bladders. Mr. Rathbone looked stunned throughout the whole thing. As soon as he got off stage, he said to the first person he met, 'Nevah again will I work with those two fucking people! Nevah!' He was on the show three weeks later, after everyone he knew had congratulated him on how marvelous he looked and on what a real flair for comedy he had displayed."
9191. Great Britain issued six high-tech stamps in 1991 honoring the 100th anniversary of the Nobel Prize: the physics stamp had a hologram that showed a molecule; the medicine stamp was scratch-and-sniff with the odor of eucalyptus; and the 45p literature stamp had the entire text of T. S. Eliot's poem "The Ad-dressing of Cats" in 0.1mm-high microprinting (readable with a good magnifying lens, but not in the illustration here). The poem is from OLD POSSUM'S BOOK OF PRACTICAL CATS (which has two Sherlockian poems).
9192. Bill Barnes (19 Malvern Avenue, Manly, NSW 2095, Australia) notes that THE HOUNDS' COLLECTION: VOLUME 7 now is available, with 74 pages of wit, scholarship, pastiche, and artwork by 16 members of The Hounds of the Internet; most of the material is new, but a few items have appeared elsewhere. The cost is \$10.00/CA\$15.00/£6.00/E10.00/AU\$12.00 postpaid by air; payment in currency or by PayPal to <bbarnes@ozemail.com.au> preferred, but checks are acceptable.
9193. Further to the report (March 02 #6) on the festivities in Firenze celebrating the 100th anniversary of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" in March, Uno Studio in Holmes has published two items of interest. SOTTO ORDINI DEL MEDICO E SOTTO IL SOLE ITALIANO/UNDER DOCTOR'S ORDERS AND UNDER THE ITALIAN SUN is an analysis by Philip Weller of a letter from Arthur Conan Doyle to William Gillette (undated, but the accompanying envelope was postmarked on Mar. 26, 1902); the 32-page booklet, with a color facsimile of the letter, is in Italian and English, and the postpaid cost is \$10.00. The letter is owned by Gabriele Mazzoni, and his collection is a fine one: LA MALEDIZIONE DEI BASKERVILLES is the catalog of an exhibition during the celebration, with 461 items all related to the story, from first editions to comic books, in various languages, and games, records, videocassettes, and DVDs; 82 pp., with by a colorful poster, \$15.00 postpaid. Order from Gianluca Salvatori, Casa Postale 140, 55042 Forte dei Marmi (Lucca), Italy; currency only, please.
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April 2002 #3

9194. Dudley Moore died on Mar. 27. He was a talented musician, comedian, and actor, from the start of his career in "Beyond the Fringe" in 1960 to starring roles in "10" and "Arthur. He shared screenplay credit with Peter Cook for a comedy version of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1978) and played three characters in the film: Dr. Watson, Mrs. Ada Holmes, and Mr. Spigot.
9195. I've suggested in the past that it would be grand to see a film or television dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" starring a Hound created George Lucas' computer wizards at Industrial Light & Magic, that being the only way, really, to bring a truly terrifying Hound to the screen. And we're

now going to have a chance to see such a Hound on television, thanks to the BBC, which is planning to use the same computer technology that generated the dinosaurs in its recent version of "The Lost World" in a "chilling thriller for the 21st century" (according to Jane Trantor, controller of drama commissioning at the BBC). Jay Hyde has forwarded a report in The Independent (Apr. 2) that says the dramatization will be set in 1901, and will star Richard Roxburgh (who played the Duke in "Moulin Rouge") as Sherlock Holmes, Ian Hart (he was Quirrell in "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone") as Dr. Watson, Richard E. Grant as Stapleton, and John Nettles as Mortimer. Also according to the story, Holmes and Watson will be "portrayed as young and athletic men in their mid-30s, in contrast to the mature and paternalistic figures of most screen versions."

9196. Reported: WRITING THE URBAN JUNGLE: READING EMPIRE IN LONDON FROM DOYLE TO ELIOT, by Joseph McLaughlin (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2000; 256 pp., \$55.00 cloth, \$18.50 paper); two of the book's seven chapters are "Holmes on the Range: Frontiers Old and New in 'A Study in Scarlet'" and "The Romance of Invasion: Cocaine and Cannibalism in 'The Sign of Four'" (which Karen Murdock found "heavily freighted with academic language and far-fetched observations").
9197. The Thalia was one of New York's best art-film theaters for decades; almost derelict for a decade, it has been renovated and is now open again as the Leonard Nimoy Thalia (renamed in honor of Nimoy because he paid for much of the renovation). And it has a Doylean connection: it may be the only theater in the U.S. to have screened Peter McEnery's "The Adventures of Gerard" (1970), which had a brief run at the Thalia in Dec. 1978. The film will be screened again (probably for the second time in the U.S.) at the Library of Congress in August (February 02 #4).
9198. "Sherlock Holmes (Meitantei Holmes)" is a boxed DVD set issued in Japan in 2001 with all 26 episodes of the animated television series produced there in 1983 (and better known here as "The Adventures of Sherlock Hound"). The soundtrack's in Japanese, and there are five disks (with total running time of 636 minutes), a 44-page booklet, television promotion spots, imageboard stills, and trailers, and it is formatted in NTSC for region 2 (Japan and Europe) and costs ¥31,500 (\$236.66). You can order on-line, at a web-site at <<http://www.cdjapan.co.jp/detailview.html/?KEY=PIBA-3020>>. The series also is being issued here on DVD by Pioneer Entertainment, but not (yet) as a set: "Sherlock Hound: Case File 1" was issued in February (\$29.98) with five episodes; "Case File 2" was released in April (\$29.98) with five episodes; and "Case File 3" is due in June (\$29.98) with four episodes.

April 2002 #4

9199. Commentary on a re-reading of "The Hound of the Baskervilles": "But Sherlock Holmes was a comedy character; and I cannot call up any picture of what a real interview between him and a real ghost would be like. Sherlock Holmes, having the kind of cleverness that belongs to a comedy character, has also the kind of stupidity, or at least the kind of limitation, which belongs to a man who could never have had a chat with a ghost." G. K. Chesterton, in his essay "On Ghost Stories, Crime Stories, the Rules, & Holmes" in the Illustrated London News (May 30, 1936); it was reprinted in All Things Considered (the newsletter of the Ottawa Chesterton Society), and kindly forwarded by Pat Accardo.
9200. House of Ascot sells a wide variety of architectural bookends and models sculpted by Timothy Richards, including 221b Baker Street (modeled after the Sherlock Holmes Museum); it's item TRSL, 7.5 in. high, \$69.95 plus shipping, and the new catalog offers a 10% discount until May 15 (quote code AM4); their address is 365 Boston Post Road #244, Sudbury, MA 01776) (800-717-3105) <<http://www.houseofascot.com>>.
9201. Richard Bradford died on Mar. 23. He lived in Santa Fe since he was twelve years old, and his novel RED SKY AT MORNING (1968) established his reputation as one of the best writers about the southwest (and it was made into a film that starred Richard Thomas and Claire Bloom). His musical melodrama "Sherlock" (written with Tim Thompson and Marianne De Pury) was produced in Santa Fe in 1972 and had good reviews (members of The Brothers Three of Moriarty, led by John Bennett Shaw, were at the opening night, of course).
9202. Marcel Theroux's THE CONFESSIONS OF MYCROFT HOLMES: A PAPER CHASE (June 01 #2) now is available as a trade paperback (New York: Harvest Books, 2002; 228 pp., \$14.00); it's not Sherlockian, but it's an intriguing mystery.
9203. The new production at Chaffin's Barn Dinner Theatre is John Chaffin's dramatizations of ""The Resident Patient", "The Final Problem", and "The Empty House"; the production opened on Apr. 9 and will run through May 18. The theater's address is 8204 Highway 100, Nashville, TN 73221) (800-282-2276) <<http://www.dinnertheatre.com>>.
9204. Bantam Doubleday Dell has begun a reprint series of Laurie R. King's novels about Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes as trade paperbacks; THE BEEKEEPER'S APPRENTICE is now available, with new cover art (368 pp., \$11.95).
9205. "A Hound It Was..." is a video compilation produced by Paul Singleton and Maribeau Briggs; it had its world premiere for an enthusiastic audience at the "Footprints of the Hounds" conference in Toronto last October, and it was revised and shown again during the birthday festivities in New York in January. Copies of the 65-minute videocassette are available (\$20.00 postpaid, \$23.00 to Canada) from Maribeau Briggs (On-the-Fly Video Productions, 46 East 29th Street #3-F, New York, NY 10016). The cassette also is available in formats for other countries; Sherlockians overseas should ask about shipping costs <onthefly@peoplepc.com>.

April 2002 #5

9206. A review of "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" noted by Willis Frick in "Book Reviews by Kids" in the Los Angeles Times (Mar. 27): "Sherlock Holmes is a great detective who solved many cases. He has a partner named Dr. John Watson who helps solve many of his cases. Holmes possesses an intelligent and clever mind. His motto is 'eyes and brains.' Many people try to challenge him, but he's never failed a case yet!" (Gil, 10, Overland Avenue Elementary, Los Angeles). Well, you won't find "eyes and brains" as Sherlock Holmes' motto in Canon, but it is his motto in the animated television series "Sherlock Holmes in the 22nd Century" (which you can see in re-runs on local Warner Bros. channels, usually on weekend mornings). It was produced by DIC Entertainment and Scottish Entertainment and first shown in 1999, with 26 30-minute episodes; Holmes, preserved in honey after his battle with Moriarty, is revived in the 22nd century, teamed with a robotic Dr. Watson and assisting a (female) descendant of Insp. Lestrade, and the shows are based (sometimes loosely) on Canonical stories. And it's interesting to see what the producers and writers have done.
9207. A DVD with episodes from "Sherlock Holmes in the 22nd Century" was issued by Trimark Entertainment in April: its title is "The Fall and Rise of Sherlock Holmes" (\$14.99), and its length is 78 minutes, suggesting that it has at least four episodes. And "The Great Mouse Detective" has been forecast on DVD from Walt Disney Home Video in July (\$29.99); this will include additional material about the film.
9208. Reported: an American edition of SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE CROSBY MURDER, by Barrie Roberts (New York: Carroll & Graf, 224 pp., \$24.00); according to Publishers Weekly, "Roberts captures the flavor of the originals but little of their drama."
9209. Barry Took died on Mar. 31. He was a noted British comedian and writer; he worked on radio series such as "Round the Horne" and "The Army Game", was one of the producers for a television series the BBC planned as "Baron Von Took's Flying Circus" and then as "Owl Stretching Time" before launching it as "Monty Python's Flying Circus". He also produced the 1973 BBC-1 television program "Elementary, My Dear Watson" with John Cleese as Holmes and William Rushton as Watson.

9210. Reported: THE CAMDEN HOUSE COOKBOOK 2: RECIPES FROM THE EMPTY HOUSE, edited by Janet Bensley; 200 pp., \$24.00 postpaid to the U.S., \$26.00 elsewhere), available from Stan Tinsley, Box 21, Zeigler, IL 62999.
9211. The Holmes & Watson Report continues to provide interesting reading written by "publisher, editor-in-chief, and absolute scapegoat" Brad Keefauver and others. In the Jan. 2002 issue Brad expands on Chris Redmond's suggestion that Sherlockians need a new Game: Sherlockian role-playing; it's an intriguing idea, as Brad discovered when he appeared as guest speaker John Clayton at the annual banquet of the Hansoms of John Clayton. Other contributors included David Morrill, who reminisces about the Great Revival of the 1970s; Bill Mason, who offers some thoughtful comments on last year's Baker Street Journal Christmas Annual; and Jennie Paton, who reviews the four new programs in the "Murder Rooms" television series. \$16.00 a year (six issues), \$22.00 outside North America; \$3.00 for one issue, from Brad Keefauver (4009 North Chelsea Place, Peoria, IL 61614).
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April 2002 #6

9212. Robert Urich died on Apr. 16. He began his television career in 1973, and became best known as Dan Tanna in the television series "Vega\$" (1978-1981), and in the title role in "Spenser: For Hire" (1985-1988). He had Sherlockian dialogue in both series, and one "Vega\$" episode ended with Dan Tanna being made a member of the British Detectives and given a deerstalker and calabash.
9213. There will be 17 lots of Sherlockiana and Doyleana from the collection of Fred Stutman at auction on May 16 at Samuel T. Freeman & Co. (1808 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103 <<http://www.freemansauction.com>> (215-563-9275).
9214. The December issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota has Richard Lancelyn Green's "100 Years Ago" article about statues honoring Sherlock Holmes (the first proposal for such a monument appeared in Tit-Bits on Dec. 29, 1901), John Bergquist's "50 Years Ago" report on the Sherlock Holmes Exhibition in 1951 and the founding of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London, and news of the special collections. The March issue has Richard J. Sveum's report on Christopher and Barbara Roden's gift to the collections of a file of letters from John Bennett Shaw to Jack Tracy (from the archive on which they based their 2001 Baker Street Journal Christmas Annual), Julie McKuras' "50 Years Ago" article about A. A. Milne, and other news. Copies of the newsletter are available from Richard J. Sveum (111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <sveum001@tc.umn.edu>.
9215. If you want to bid on a damaged and incomplete copy of the first British edition of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, contact Richard Howe in England <richardh1461@yahoo.co.uk> before the end of June.
9216. The comic-book mini-series RUSE continues; #5 (\$2.95) has a new mystery for Emma Bishop to solve, and nice Victorian (but not-quite-Sherlockian) atmosphere and artwork, and someone lurking behind an easily identifiable portrait of Arthur Conan Doyle.
9217. The auction at Christie's of the first part of Richard M. Lackritz's detective fiction library (March 02 #1) on Apr. 17 was lively and interesting: the two-page manuscript of Conan Doyle's working draft for his introduction to Harold Baylor's THE UNDISCOVERED COUNTRY brought \$3,346; a lot with 79 single issues of The Strand Magazine (with all the stories that were published in the magazine) sold for \$26,290 (including the buyer's premium, which now is 19.5%); an inscribed copy of Vincent Starrett's "The Unique Hamlet" (one of 10 imprinted for the friends of Vincent Starrett) went for \$38,240 (well over the estimate of \$3,000-5,000); and another inscribed copy (one of 190 imprinted for the friends of Walter M. Hill) brought \$1,434. Bram Stoker's corrected typed manuscript of "Dracula" (estimated at \$1,000,000-1,500,000) sent to auction by another owner went unsold at \$700,000.
9218. Two items were withdrawn before the sale: an autograph manuscript signed by Vincent Starrett of his poem "221B", and a Frederick Dorr Steele portrait of Sherlock Holmes inscribed to Starrett by the artist; both were forgeries (the portrait being a carefully inked-over print) with provenance that originated with the late Michael Murphy, who was Starrett's literary executor.
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April 2002 #7

9219. The winter issue of The Magic Door (the newsletter published by The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) offers Janice McNabb's reminiscences about working with Cameron Hollyer (excerpted from a talk she gave at a ceremony honoring Cam during the "Footprints of the Hound" conference last year), and other interesting reports. Copies are available from Doug Wrigglesworth (16 Sunset Street, Holland Landing, ON L9N 1H4, Canada) <dougwig@sympatico.ca>.
9220. Further to the report (December 01 #1) on BBC Worldwide's plans to issue videocassettes and DVDs of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1968) starring Peter Cushing and Nigel Stock, they're now available; the recording is excellent, 100 minutes long, with fine color (there are four other programs in the BBC vaults, and one hopes they will issue them as well). £19.99 plus shipping for the PAL cassette or DVD, or £25.00 plus shipping for the NTSC cassette. You can order by mail (Video Offer, BBC Learning, Room A3022, 80 Wood Lane, London, W12 0TT, England) <www.bbcworldwide.com/vet/specialinterests/>, and credit-card orders are welcome.
9221. "Graphic Classics" is an attractive series of single-author anthologies edited and published by Tom Pomplun, and the second issue is devoted to Arthur Conan Doyle (Mount Horeb: Eureka Productions, 2002; 144 pp., \$9.95); the contents include "The Adventure of the Speckled Band" (illustrated by Nestor Redondo and adapted from the version that Pendulum Press published in 1974); "The Lost World" (illustrated by Don Marquez and reprinted from the version he published in 1994); and many new stories (including "The Adventure of the Copper Beeches" illustrated by Rick Geary, "The Los Amigos Fiasco", "How It Happened", and "The Hound of the Baskervilles"). Available in comic-book shops, and (\$11.95 postpaid) from Eureka Productions, 8778 Grove Road, Mount Horeb, WI 53572 <www.graphicclassics.com>.
9222. Harry Alan Towers has worked in radio, films, and television for more than six decades, primarily as a producer and screenwriter; he produced the 1954 John Gielgud/Ralph Richardson BBC radio series, and the two 1992 television films that starred Christopher Lee and Patrick Macnee, and in 1994 the two "Lost World" television films with John Rhys-Davies as Challenger. And he is still at work at the age of 81, planning a new film ("The Baker Street Irregulars") starring Malcolm McDowell as Holmes, and (Towers hopes) Edward Hardwicke as Watson. You can read more about that, and his many other productions, in an excellent interview by Terry Pace in the latest issue (#44) of Scarlet Street, which also offers a fine interview with Christopher Lee by David Del Valle. \$42.00 a year (for six issues); Box 604, Glen Rock, NJ 07452 <<http://www.scarletstreet.com>>.
9223. "Following Lord Peter Wimsey" is the title of a Book Adventures tour (July 12-22) of Dorothy L. Sayers' England with members of the Dorothy L. Sayers Society and other experts, and there will be an optional Scotland Extension at the end of the tour, into "The Five Red Herrings" country (one assumes that the experts are aware of Sayer's interest in Sherlock Holmes). Additional information is available from Book Adventures, 512 West Venice Avenue #102, Venice, FL 34285 <<http://www.bookadventures.com>>.
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May 2002 #1

9224. Occasionally readers of this newsletter have asked about back issues. I've always felt that there's nothing sillier than stale gossip, but if you want to see what has (or hasn't) happened since I acquired my first computer in 1985, and have access to the World Wide Web, Willis G. Frick has generously

provided expanded web-space for all those bits and bytes (text only) at his Sherlocktron web-site at <<http://members.cox.net/sherlock1/scuttle.htm>>.

9225. Marina Stajic has reported that the annual meeting of the Society of Forensic Toxicologists will be held on Oct. 13-17 at the Hyatt Regency in Dearborn, Mich; a "Sherlock Holmes Workshop: The Adventure of the Devil's Foot" is scheduled for Oct. 17 (2:00-4:00 pm) with a panel of five eminent forensic toxicologists presenting their opinions on the true identity of *Radix pedis diaboli*. Local Sherlockians are welcome (and encouraged) to attend.
9226. THE POISON BELT is available in a trade paperback reprint (93 pp., \$11.95) in a series of science-fiction classics published by the University of Nebraska (Edgar Rice Burroughs' PIRATES OF VENUS also was issued this year).
9227. Big Feats! Entertainment's 30-minute "Wishbone" series (broadcast by PBSTV) has won a lot of fans over the years ("Wishbone is a short-haired Jack Russell terrier whose active imagination lands him--in full costume--smack in the middle of signature scenes from classic works such as 'The Hound of the Baskervilles'"). That story ("The Slobbery Hound") first aired on Oct. 18, 1995, and it was issued on videocassette by Polygram Video, and again (to bedevil the completists) by Lyrick Studios as "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (both are now out of print, but they turn up at auction on eBay).
9228. The first four of Laurie R. King's novels about Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes have been translated into Japanese and published by Shueisha, with attractive cover artwork that the electronically-enabled can see at Naomi Tanaka's Japanese web-site at <<http://village.infoweb.ne.jp/~beekeep>>.
9229. "That painting was by Jean Baptiste Greuze," said Sherlock Holmes (in "The Valley of Fear"). An exhibition devoted exclusively to the artist's drawing ("Greuze the Draftsman") opened at the Frick Collection in New York on May 14, and it will run through Aug. 4 (and it will open at the Getty Museum in Los Angeles in September). The Frick Collection is at 4 East 70th Street in New York <<http://www.frick.org>>.
9230. Terry Walsh died on Apr. 21. He was an actor, stuntman, stunt coordinator, and fight arranger, beginning his career on television in the "Doctor Who" series in 1963 (doubling for Jon Pertwee and then for Tom Baker, Jay Pearlman notes), and he was a stuntman on "Without a Clue" (1988).
9231. If anyone knows of a mention in print of Conan Doyle having helped Dorando at the marathon finish line at the 1908 Olympics, earlier than THE PEOPLE'S ALMANAC PRESENTS THE BOOK OF LISTS NO. 2, by Irving Wallace, Amy Wallace, and David Wallechinsky (1980), please communicate with Clifford S. Goldfarb (22 Markdale Avenue, Toronto, ON M6C 1T1, Canada) <goldfarb@netrover.com>. Cliff's working on an article demonstrating that no one in that famous photograph is Conan Doyle, who was in the stands when the race was run.

May 2002 #2

9232. Those who remember Doctor Who from seeing Jon Pertwee on television, or Tom Baker, or any of the other actors who have appeared as the Doctor, and who may have avoided novels that have extended the series should take another look, at least at Lloyd Rose's THE CITY OF THE DEAD (London: BBC Worldwide, 2001; 278 pp., \$6.95). It's a dramatic story (she has been the Washington Post's drama critic) that has brought the Eighth Doctor (played by Paul McGann in a television film in 1996) to New Orleans; there are surprises and humor, and a minor allusion to Sherlock Holmes. Her next Doctor Who novel (CAMERA OBSCURA) is due this year, and Lloyd reports that it's set in England in 1893, and full of Sherlockian references.
9233. Paul Petrucci's PRODIGAL LOGIC (Bangor: Booklocker, 2002; 240 pp., \$14.95) is a first novel, featuring Ray Gabriel, a computer programmer who lives on a houseboat in Seattle and who is working on a "Sherlock-in-a-Box" program based on the "thumb-rules" found in the Sherlock Holmes stories; he becomes involved in a murder investigation, and his computer program helps with the solution. Booklocker's address is Box 2399, Bangor, ME 04402, and the book can be downloaded from their web-site; you can use a link at Petrucci's own web-site at <<http://www.paulpetrucci.com>>.
9234. Howard Merrill died on Apr. 20. He was a child actor and a teen-aged radio scriptwriter (he made it into "Ripley's Believe It or Not" for being in 58 silent movies before he was 11 years old and for 487 radio broadcasts on 38 shows by the time he was 14); he also wrote for television, and with Allan Sherman created the television game show "I've Got a Secret" in 1952. And he was one of the writers for the "Sherlock Holmes" radio series (1948-49) that starred John Stanley and Ian Martin.
9235. The new shows in the excellent "Nero Wolfe" series running on Arts & Entertainment cable have been great fun, and there was a surprise in "Die Like a Dog" (on Apr. 28): the dog is important to the solution of a murder, and it frequently is called a hound (it's really a black Labrador), and the police department's dog-handler shows up wearing a deerstalker. Sharon Doyle (who dramatized the story) credits costume designer Chris Hargedon for the allusive costume (a nice touch indeed during a centenary year).
9236. The museum exhibit "Sherlock Holmes and the Clocktower Mystery" has been on display in the United States and Canada, and it opened at the Witte Museum in San Antonio on May 25 and will run through Aug. 25. It's an interactive exhibit with lots of Victorian flavor, and a mystery to solve; the museum's at 3801 Broadway, San Antonio, TX 78209 <<http://www.wittemuseum.org>>.
9237. "Gripping Tale as Kissinger Plays Moriarty" was the headline on Frank Johnson's "Commons Sketch" in the Daily Telegraph (Apr. 23), at hand from Shirley Purves. MP Jeremy Corbyn "is a vigorous Left-winger," Johnson noted. And Henry Kissinger "is to Mr. Corbyn, and to the Left in general, what Dr. Moriarty was to Arthur Conan Doyle: the indispensable villain." Corbyn's concern was that Kissinger, who hasn't held government office since 1977, was visiting Britain. Johnson explained that Conan Doyle killed off Holmes and Moriarty, and brought back the detective, and that "Mr. Corbyn did not make Conan Doyle's mistake. That shows him to be the greater, certainly the more commercial, artist. Mr. Corbyn brought back his villain."

May 2002 #3

9238. Mary Burke reports that Claude-Joseph Vernet's painting "Vue du Port de Dieppe" (1765) is on display in a French naval exhibit "Le Grand Voyage" that has toured in Quebec and Wilmington, and will be at the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Mass., July 12-Oct. 14. Claude-Joseph Vernet (1714-1789) was the official painter for the French navy, and the grandfather of Sherlock Holmes' granduncle Horace Vernet.
9239. John Murray, founded in 1768 and the publisher of Byron, Jane Austen, Conan Doyle, and Charles Darwin (the Financial Times noted), has been acquired by Hodder Headline, a division of the retailer W. H. Smith; the paper also reported that Hodder Headline is planning to rejuvenate Murray's fiction list (which has suffered from an inability to offer the staggering advances that successful authors expect from big publishing houses). The firm will continue as an imprint under Hodder, according to John Murray (the seventh of that name to head the company), and its archives, which include quills used by Dickens and locks of hair of Byron's lovers, will be preserved.
9240. There's an electronic "Gaslight" mailing list for people interested in the gaslight era (1800-1919), and their web-site offers many e-texts from that period's authors. There's also a page of links to Sherlock Holmes parodies at <<http://gaslight.mtrooyal.ca/parody.htm>> with e-texts for authors such as Lehmann, Ramsay, Munkittrick, Barr, Bangs, Twain, Forrest, Leblanc, Harte, O. Henry, Leacock, Barrie, and Conan Doyle.
9241. Reported: David Pirie's THE PATIENT'S EYES: THE DARK BEGINNINGS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, published last year in Britain and now in an American edition (New York: St. Martin's Press, 2002; 252 pp., \$22.95); a pastiche by the author of the British television mini-series "Murder Rooms: The Dark Beginnings of Sherlock Holmes" (2000) that starred Ian Richardson as Dr. Joseph Bell.

9242. Marsha Pollak reports that the American Library Association will hold its annual meeting in Atlanta in June, and that the Sub-Librarians will gather on Sunday, June 16, from 4:00 to 5:00 pm, in the Greenwood Room at the Omni Hotel. Tim Johnson (curator of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota) will be the guest speaker, and local Sherlockians and visiting librarians are welcome to attend.
9243. Reported: DEATH AT DARTMOOR, by Robin Paige (New York: Berkley Prime Crime, 2002; 336 pp., \$21.95); the latest in a series of mysteries set in the Victorian era, this one with Conan Doyle and Fletcher Robinson in the cast of characters (neither one is murdered, by the other or by anyone else).
9244. Gertrude H. Mahoney died on May 18. She enjoyed dolls and dollhouses, miniatures (she helped found the National Association of Miniature Enthusiasts in 1971), Sherlockians (she joined The Red Circle of Washington in 1978 and in 1983 masterminded a local weekend for Sherlockian miniaturists), and her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. She had a grand sense of humor, and of curiosity, which may help explain what happened when not too many years ago she surprised a burglar in the kitchen of her son's house in Washington: he fled, and she went to the door to see which way he went, and he shot her, grazing her arm. "But it's only a flesh wound," she explained to the paramedics who were insisting that she go to the hospital, "and I've never had a chance to watch the police investigate a crime scene."

May 2002 #4

9245. Reported by Bill Vande Water: MAGGOTS, MURDER AND MEN: MEMORIES AND REFLECTIONS OF A FORENSIC ENTOMOLOGIST, by Zakaria Erzincioğlu: it was published in Britain in 2000, and there is now an American edition (New York: St. Martin's Press, 2002; 256 pp., \$23.95). The author cites the Canon in each chapter, and devotes a couple of pages to Sherlock Holmes and Conan Doyle's achievements.
9246. Otto Penzler's pamphlet series of pastiches and parodies has a new volume: SHERLOCK HOLMES FINDS THE LOST DUTCHMAN MINE, by Murray Shaw; the 28-page pamphlet costs \$10.00, from The Mysterious Bookshop, 129 West 56th Street, New York, NY 10019 (800-352-2840) <<http://www.mysteriousbookshop.com>>.
9247. Plan well ahead: Takeshi Shimizu has forwarded a report from the Manchester Evening News that the Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh will celebrate its 500th anniversary from July 2005 to Oct. 2006, and that the festivities will include honors to famous "sons" of the college, including Dr. Joseph Bell, "who was immortalized as Sherlock Holmes by Arthur Conan Doyle."
9248. "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Vanishing Lady" premiered at Elaine's Famous Dinner Theater and Haunted Mansion Restaurant in Cape May, N.J., on Apr. 20. It's a murder-mystery musical, with prizes awarded to diners who guess the culprit, and it runs nightly through the summer, with some matinee dates. Additional details are available from Terrence O'Brien (513 Lafayette Street, Cape May, NJ 08204 (609-884-4358) <zelda@delanet.com>. And you'll get a discount if you mention the magic word ("Scuttlebutt").
9249. Those who have fond memories of the Sherlockian alternate universe at Brad Keefauver's "Dangling Prussian" will appreciate the May issue of The Holmes & Watson Report, which includes "A Tale of Two Empty Houses" and a copy of "The Wisteria Lodge Journal" as his tribute to the 25th anniversary of The Occupants of the Empty House. \$16.00 a year (six issues) or \$22.00 outside North America; \$3.00 for one issue, from Brad Keefauver (4009 North Chelsea Place, Peoria, IL 61614).
9250. Arthur H. Lewis was a talented writer, and a member of The Sons of the Copper Beeches, whom he had grand fun libelling in his murder mystery COPPER BEECHES (1978). And I recommend his CARNIVAL (1970), non-fiction (except, certainly for some of the stories he was told) about "the wide, weird wonderful world where carnies meet the marks, and everyone goes away happy," not because it is Sherlockian or Doylean, but because of throw-away lines such as his description of carnivals as a "world that is never really surprised at anything, where a man can say quite casually, 'What this country needs is a frozen whale,' then go out and freeze one."
9251. Some interesting things come up for auction at eBay (an electronic auction web-site): this month Canadian collector-dealer Mark Hacking (Scientifica Opticae) offered an amputation set (with four Liston knives, two scalpels, a pair of forceps, and a small amputation saw, in a mahogany case) that belonged to Dr. Joseph Bell; the on-line auction lasted a week, and the winning bid was \$11,700. The new owner is Fred Kittle, an ardent collector of Doyle material, who is donating his collection of Doyleana to the Newberry Library in Chicago; their exhibit on "The Remarkable Doyle Family-- Including Sherlock Holmes" is scheduled for April-June 2003.

May 2002 #5

9252. Anglofile reports that the four 90-minute episodes of the miniseries "Murder Rooms" (with Ian Richardson as Dr. Joseph Bell and Charles Edwards as Arthur Conan Doyle) that were broadcast by BBC-1 in Britain last year will air on "Mystery!" on PBS-TV weekly beginning on July 22. Anglofile is a monthly newsletter offering detailed coverage of British entertainment; Box 33515, Decatur, GA 30033 (\$15.00 a year).
9253. A signed silhouette of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle will be offered at auction by Early American History Auctions on June 8, with similar signed silhouettes of Lady Doyle and of their children; the silhouettes were cut by "Beatrix Sherman, the premiere 20th-century silhouette artist" when the Conan Doyle family visited Atlantic City in 1922. It's lot 484, and you can bid by mail or phone or e-mail: Box 3341, La Jolla, CA 92038 (800-473-5686) <<http://www.earlyamerican.com>>.
9254. A reminder: the world premiere of the new play "The West End Horror (dramatized by Anthony Dodge and Marcia Milgrom Dodge from the novel by Nicholas Meyer) will open at the Bay Street Theatre (Bay & Main Street, Sag Harbor, NY 11963) on June 18, and close on July 7, 2002. The box-office phone number is 631-725-9500; web-site at <<http://www.baystreet.org>>.
9255. Stephen Jay Gould died on May 20. He was a biologist and a geologist, a fine lecturer, and a splendid writer whose many books help explain varied aspects of modern science, including evolutionary biology. His letter to the magazine Science 83 responding to an article by John Hathaway Winslow and Alfred Meyer that accused Sir Arthur Conan Doyle of perpetrating the Piltdown hoax described their article as "an evidence-free argument based on speculations about motive." He also enjoyed Sherlockian films: in THE FLAMINGO'S SMILE: REFLECTIONS ON NATURAL HISTORY (1985) he described the Universal series as "the unnumberable, yet wonderful, Rathbone-Bruce anachronisms that pit Holmes against Hitler and assorted enemies."
9256. Further to last year's discussion in my monthly newsletter of Investitured Irregulars who have appeared in movies as actors, we can expand the list to include television soap operas: Paul Singleton played a cameo role as Dr. Brookglad on "All My Children" on ABC-TV on May 20.
9257. Issue #48 of Sherlock offers editor David Stuart Davies discussion of the friendship between Holmes and Watson, Gavin Collinson's review of the BBCTV dramatization of Kingsley Amis' "Dr. Watson and the Darkwater Hall Mystery" (1974), and Rod Murphy's analysis of the humor in the Canon, and much more (including an interview with Ed McBain and a tribute to the late John Thaw. Annual subscriptions (six issues) cost £23.70 (U.K.)/£26.00 (continent)/\$40.00 (elsewhere); Box 100, Chichester, West Sussex PO18 8HD, England <<http://pmh.uk.com/sherlock/sherlock.htm>>. It's also available from their American agent Classic Specialties (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219) (877-233-3823) <<http://www.sherlock-holmes.com>>; credit-card orders welcome at both addresses, and back issues are available.

May 2002 #6

9258. "On June 22, 1979, twelve days after his 77th birthday, Sherlock Holmes died." "Sherlock Holmes" was the "nom" of Palmer C. Peterson, who was one of the most renowned members of the National Puzzlers' League; and he specialized in form puzzles (which require the multiple skills of anagrammatist, palindromist, and crossword puzzler, according to O. V. Michaelsen). You can see some of Peterson's best form puzzles in Michaelsen's *WORDS AT PLAY: QUIPS, QUIRKS AND ODDITIES* (New York: Sterling Publishing Co. 1987).
9259. Mystery conventions: the ninth Mid Atlantic Mystery will be held in Philadelphia on Sept. 27-29, with Jonathan Gash and Lisa Scottoline as featured guests; the organizer is Deen Kogan (507 South Eighth Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147 <<http://midatlanticmystery.port5.com>>. Bouchercon 2002 will be in Austin on Oct. 17-20; the guests of honor are Mary Willis Walker and George Pelecanos (Box 27277, Austin, TX 78755) <<http://www.bouchercon2002.org>>. Bouchercon 2003 will be in Las Vegas, Oct. 16-19, with James Lee Burke, Ian Rankin, and Ruth Rendell as guests of honor (507 South Eighth Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147) <<http://www.bconvegas2003.org>>.
9260. Laurie King's *JUSTICE HALL* (her sixth novel about Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes) is a June Book-of-the-Month Club selection (\$14.37 plus shipping).
9261. Further to the report on plans for a film based on the comic-book mini-series "The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen" (March 02 #1), Bill Barnes notes that Richard Roxburgh has reported that he will be in the film as Fantom, a character who turns out to be Moriarty. We will also be able to see him as Sherlock Holmes in the BBC's new dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (April 02 #3); filming has been completed on that production.
9262. Reported by Karen Murdock: *LITERARY LIVES*, edited by John Sutherland (Oxford University Press, 2001; 388 pp., £14.99); a collection of essays from supplements to the *DICTIONARY OF NATIONAL BIOGRAPHY*, including an essay by A. Cochrane on Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (first published in 1937). Karen also spotted two minor mentions of Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes in *HOW THE SCOTS INVENTED THE MODERN WORLD: THE TRUE STORY OF HOW WESTERN EUROPE'S POOREST NATION CREATED OUR WORLD & EVERYTHING IN IT*, by Arthur Herman (New York: Crown Publishers, 2001; 288 pp., \$25.95). Also: *THE COLLECTION*, by Peter Ackroyd (London: Chatto & Windus, 2001; 476 pp., £25.00); reviews and essays, including his review of "Young Sherlock Holmes" in *The Spectator* (1985).
9263. Also: *THE GREAT RADIO HEROES (REVISED EDITION)*, by Jim Harmon (Jefferson: McFarland, 2001; 256 pp., 2001); with discussion of Sherlock Holmes broadcasts in the (reprinted) chapter "For Armchair Detectives Only". And: *THE DETECTIVE AS HISTORIAN: HISTORY AND ART IN HISTORICAL CRIME FICTION*, edited by Ray B. Browne and Lawrence A. Kreiser, Jr. (Bowling Green: Bowling Green State University Popular Press, 2000; 313 pp., \$29.95); Sherlock Holmes and Arthur Conan Doyle are mentioned in essays by Judy Ann Ford ("Umberto Eco: THE NAME OF THE ROSE") and by Gary Hoppenstand ("Elizabeth Peters: THE LAST CAMEL DIED AT NOON as Lost World Adventure Pastiche").

June 2002 #1

9264. Domestic postage rates increase on July 1, and so will the cost of my newsletter, to \$10.00 a year (as in the past, for six or more pages a month of whatever gossip I find appropriate, most of it quite trivial, but much of it Sherlockian or Doylean). The cost is still \$12.70 to Canada and \$15.30 overseas, at least until those rates increase. The text (no illustrations) is available at <<http://members.cox.net/sherlock1/scuttle.htm>>, thanks to Willis G. Frick.
9265. At hand from Philip Wilson is an article in the spring issue of *Now & Then* (the newsletter of the National Center for Osteopathic History at the Still National Osteopathic Museum) about "William Smith, M.D., D.O. (1862-1912)". Like Conan Doyle, Smith studied under Joseph Bell at the University of Edinburgh, and in 1938 Smith's son said that Conan Doyle fashioned the character of Dr. Watson around Smith as "a friendly gesture." The newsletter's address is: Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine, 800 West Jefferson Street, Kirksville, MO 63501.
9266. Further to last year's discussion of Investitured Irregulars who have appeared in movies as actors, we can expand the list to include television soap operas: Paul Singleton played Dr. Brookglad on "All My Children" on ABC-TV on May 20.
9267. *THE ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE READER: FROM SHERLOCK HOLMES TO SPIRITUALISM*, edited by Jeffrey Meyers and Valerie Meyers (New York: Cooper Square Press, 2002; 500 pp., \$28.95), offers a wide-ranging sample of his writings, from an excerpt from *A STUDY IN SCARLET* (1887) to an excerpt from *THE WANDERINGS OF A SPIRITUALIST* (1921), including Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian short stories, and there's an excellent introduction setting the contents in context.
9268. Which actor played a furious Sherlock Holmes?
9269. Vitaliy Solomin died on May 28. He acted on stage and screen and television in the Soviet Union, and was an excellent Dr. Watson (with Vasilii LivaNovember as Holmes) in five Russian television films broadcast in the USSR from 1979 to 1986.
9270. British actor Roger Llewellyn appeared in David Stuart Davies' interesting one-man play "Sherlock Holmes - The Last Act!" during the birthday festivities in New York in 2000, and has toured world-wide since then. And he is happy to perform anywhere: details on bookings are available from Joseph S. Ajlouny (Federal Bureau of Entertainment, 29205 Greening Boulevard, Farmington Hills, MI 48334) <<http://www.the-feds.com>>.
9271. Further to the item on "The Baker Street Marketplace" (February 02 #5), the Sussex Group has purchased the on-line business from the Rev. Sherlock Holmes, D.D., and it is now called "The Sherlock Shop.Com at SherlockHolmes.Com". Sherlockians and societies who wish to sell material are invited to get in touch with Paul Crane at <new-item@sherlockholmes.com>. Their web-site URL is <<http://www.sherlockholmes.com>>. And they continue to offer a 10% discount on books if you mention the magic word ("Scuttlebutt"); you enter the word in the "coupon" section.

June 2002 #2

9272. *MEDICAL READERS' THEATER: A GUIDE AND SCRIPTS*, edited by Todd L. Savitt (Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 2002; 192 pp., \$22.95), is an interesting anthology of dramatizations of short stories intended for use in educating health-care students who are encouraged to discuss the productions; one of the scripts is Gregory A. Watkins' adaptation of Conan Doyle's "The Doctors of Hoyland".
9273. Which actor played a furious Sherlock Holmes? Basil Wrathbone. Credit to Emily Cox and Henry Rathvon, in their "Wrote Learning" crossword puzzle in the *Boston Globe* (May 26).
9274. Herman Cohen died on June 2. He started his movie career before he was a teenager, as a gofer and then an usher at the Fox Theater in Detroit, and in Hollywood he became a producer and writer. He was assistant producer of "Bride of the Gorilla" (1951), and produced American International's earliest hits (including "I Was a Teenage Werewolf"), and he was the executive producer of John Neville's "A Study in Terror" (1965).
9275. The new edition of John McAleer's *REX STOUT: A MAJESTY'S LIFE* (Rockville: James A. Rock & Co., 2002; 621 pp., \$44.95 in cloth, \$26.95 in paper) has been shipped to those who ordered before publication (February 02 #5); it's nice to have this excellent biography back in print, with a new introduction by the author, and an afterword by his son Andrew, and additional photographs. The publisher's address is 113 North Washington Street, Rockville, MD 20850 (800-411-2230) <<http://www.rockpublishing.com>>.

9276. Also available from Rock is a paperback reprint of Maurice Leblanc's ARSENE LUPIN VERSUS HOLMLOCK SHEARS (271 pp., \$16.95); first published in France in 1908 and in English in 1910, the book describes two encounters between the famous gentleman burglar and (as he was called in the original French) Herlock Sholmes. The text is a facsimile of the first English translation by Alexander Teixeira de Mattos. And it's part of a series of "Yellowback Mysteries" that include Grant Allen's AN AFRICAN MILLIONAIRE: EPISODES IN THE LIFE OF THE ILLUSTRIOUS COLONEL CLAY and Arthur Morrison's THE DORRINGTON DEED BOX (also 2002 and \$16.95 each).
9277. Finally, there's his "Sense of Wonder Press" imprint that reprints material from the early days of science fiction and fantasy: FORREST J ACKERMANN & FRIENDS PLUS (2002, \$14.95) is a collection that includes a description of his home (commissioned by Esquire but never published); the "Ackermansion" is a delight, packed with memorabilia such as the model pterodactyls that Willis H. O'Brien used in two of his more memorable films ("The Lost World" and "King Kong"). Forry was born in 1917, and he started collecting in Los Angeles in the long-ago days when movie studios just threw things away; his treasures include the bolts from the neck of Boris Karloff's Frankenstein's monster, and Bela Lugosi's "Dracula" ring.
9278. Signe Hasso died on June 7. She was born in Sweden and began acting at the age of 12 at the Royal Dramatic Theatre; she made her film debut in 1933, and arrived in Hollywood in 1941. After starring in many films in the next decade, she returned to the stage on Broadway, and helped start a national repertory theater in Sweden. She also acted on television, and played Frau Reichenbach in the television film "Sherlock Holmes in New York" in 1976.

June 2002 #3

9279. Fritz Sonnenschmidt, culinary dean at the Culinary Institute of America, has retired after 33 years at the CIA, where he provided great assistance to Al and Julie Rosenblatt in masterminding a series of grand gourmet Sherlockian meals. He was co-author with Julie of the delightful cookbook DINING WITH SHERLOCK HOLMES (1976), and received his Investiture ("Simpson's") in The Baker Street Irregulars in 1982, the BSI's Two-Shilling Award in 1987, and The Queen Victoria Medal in 1991.
9280. Reported: NAMES, TITLES, AND CHARACTERS BY LITERARY WRITERS--SHAKESPEARE, 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY AUTHORS, by Robert F. Fleissner (Lewiston: Edwin Mellen Press, 2001; 239 pp., \$89.95); a collection of essays, including "The Onomastics of *Sherlock*", "Poe's C. Auguste Dupin and Sherlock Holmes's Initial", and "On the Pedigree of the *Holmes* Name: Apropos of the First English Detective Work". And his THE MASTER SLEUTH ON THE TRAIL OF EDWIN DROOD: SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE JASPER SYNDROME: AN ANNOTATED PASTICHE, by Robert F. Fleissner (Philadelphia: Xlibris, 2002; 238 pp., \$31.99 in cloth, \$21.99 in paper, \$8.00 e-book); discounts are available at the publisher's web-site at <<http://www.xlibris.com>>.
9281. "If a herd of buffaloes had passed along," said Sherlock Holmes (in "A Study in Scarlet"), "there could not be a greater mess." American readers of the tale tend to assume that the buffaloes were the kind that were hunted by Buffalo Bill, but those are mentioned in the same story, later on, and quite correctly, as "those great herds of bisons which graze upon the prairie land." In this instance Arthur Conan Doyle was a careful writer: the buffaloes alluded to earlier in the story surely were Cape buffalo; one of them is shown on a stamp issued in 2001 by South Africa.
9282. The Occupants of the Empty House, clearing out the attic, offer their lapel pin, 25th-anniversary mug and book bag, and back issues of Beeman's Christmas Annual; copies of their sales-list are available from Stan Tinsley (Box 21, Zeigler, IL 62999) <srtin@hotmail.com>.
9283. Charles Ede died on May 29. He founded the Folio Society in 1947, and produced handsome books at affordable prices for society members, who were also welcome to visit a clubroom in London to enjoy sandwiches and wine. He sold the business in 1971 to pursue his interested in antiquities, becoming a respected dealer in Roman and other material. The society published THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES in 1958, with an introduction by Brian Marsh and illustrations by Paul Hogarth, and additional Sherlockian volumes under later owners.
9284. The signed silhouettes of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and his family offered at auction this month at Early American History Auctions (May 02 #5) brought \$4,500 (plus 15% buyer's premium).
9285. C. Black reports that plans are afoot to turn the now-disused Bow Street police station into a museum to be called "The Beat" (planning and listed building applications have been submitted to the Westminster City Council). There's a web-site at <<http://www.thebeat.org.uk>>. Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson visited the Bow Street station (in "The Man with the Twisted Lip").
9286. June 2002 #4
9287. The entry for Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in the new edition of the ENCYCLOPEDIA BRITANNICA (2002) is also new, revised by Philip K. Wilson (a Doylean and a medical historian). The electronically-enabled also can view the entry (and a new entry by Wilson on Sherlock Holmes that doesn't appear in the print edition) on-line at <<http://eb.com>>, if you're a subscriber or if you sign up for a free 72-hour trial subscription.
9288. "The Case of the Whitechapel Vampire" (the fourth television film starring Matt Frewer and Kenneth Welsh) has been scheduled as a "movie of the week" on the Hallmark channel in October.
9289. Gillette Castle reopened to the public on Memorial Day, and tickets for the tour of the castle sold out quickly. The Connecticut department of public works has spent \$11.5 million restoring and renovating the castle, and it's well worth a visit if you're anywhere near Hadlyme. There's also an exhibit "Honoring William Gillette" at the East Haddam Historical Society Museum (though Oct. 13); one of the features is a continuous showing of "William Gillette: A Connecticut Yankee on the American Stage" (a 30-minute documentary produced by Peter Loffredo in 1986, with a long interview with Helen Hayes, and an impersonation of the actor by Garrett Walters. The museum's telephone number is 860-873-3944.
9290. Reproductions of 19th-century railway station clocks include more than Paddington Station (February 02 #3); a clock for London Victoria Station (frequently mentioned in the Sherlock Holmes stories) is available (9" diameter \$49.95; 15" diameter \$74.95) from Alberene Royal Mail (9 Mill Alley, Box 902, Harrisville, NH 03450 (800-843-9078) <<http://www.alberene.com>>.
9291. Carolyn and Joel Senter have a new sales-list of Sherlockiana that includes books, CDs, videos, artwork, and other collectibles. The Sherlockian Times is available on request from Classic Specialties (Box 16058, Cincinnati, OH 45219) <<http://www.sherlock-holmes.com>>.
9292. Forecast from Forge for August: CASTLE ROUGE, by Carole Nelson Douglas, the next in her mystery series about Irene Adler (\$25.95); Midnight Louie says it's the second part of a Jack the Ripper duology. And a paperback reprint of last year's CHAPEL NOIR (\$6.99). And for December : ANOTHER SCANDAL IN BOHEMIA; a paperback reprint of IRENE'S LAST WALTZ.
9293. Mystery-writer Peter Lovesey has long been interested in the Olympics. His article on "Conan Doyle and the Olympics" in the Journal of Olympic History (Dec. 2001) discusses both the famous photograph of the end of the marathon in 1908 that some have claimed shows Sir Arthur Conan Doyle helping Dorando Pietri at the finish line (Lovesey explains that the two men actually were Clerk of the Course Jack Andrew and Chief Medical Officer Michael Bulger), and Conan Doyle's later efforts to rally support for British participation in the Olympics.

9294. The first issue of Nicholas Twit: The Schoolboy Sherlock Holmes (June 2002) has two stories by Cenarth Fox about a young fan who winds up solving mysteries, plus Sherlockian Snippets and word games. The magazine is Australian, and a quarterly with 24 pages; it costs AU\$6.00 plus shipping, and you can order only through the publisher's web-site at <<http://www.twit.biz>>.

June 2002 #5

9295. "The Tale of the Giant Rat of Sumatra" was written, performed, and produced in Hollywood "that foggy September of '73" by The Firesign Theatre; it was issued as a phonograph record in 1974 (described as "a thrilling mis-adventure from 'The Cheque Book of Hemlock Stones'"), and Tim O'Connor has noted that it's now available as a CD (HWLGH1 0762) from Collectors' Choice Music (900 North Rohlwing Road, Itasca, IL 60143) (800-993-6344) <<http://collectorschoicemusic.com>> for \$14.95.
9296. Issue #49 of Sherlock offers its usual coverage of crime fiction (Sherlockian and otherwise). Tony Earnshaw reports that the BBC has donated copies of otherwise-unavailable programs from Peter Cushing's 1968 television series ("A Study in Scarlet"/"The Sign of Four"/"The Boscombe Valley Mystery"/"The Blue Carbuncle") to the National Museum of Photography, Film & Television (Bradford, West Yorkshire, BD1 1NQ, England). Visitors are welcome to view the programs, and the archive holdings (now more than 700 titles) are listed at <<http://www.nmpft.org.uk/whatson/tvheaven.asp>> (the Cushing shows are not yet listed).
9297. And Crime Scene 2002 ("Criminal Film and Fiction Exposed") will be held on July 11-14 at the National Film Theatre (Belvedere Road, South Bank, Waterloo, London SE1 8XT (020-7255-144) <<http://www.bfi.org.uk/crimescene>>; the schedule includes speeches by Gavin Collinson (on "Holmes and His Habit") and David Stuart Davies (on Holmes on radio), a performance by Roger Llewellyn in "Sherlock Holmes - The Last Act!", and presentation of the magazine's "Sherlock" awards for 2001 (the winners include Dr. Joseph Bell in "Murder Rooms" for best television detective, and Tony Earnshaw for his AN ACTOR AND A RARE ONE: PETER CUSHING AS SHERLOCK HOLMES).
9298. Sherlock is a bimonthly, and subscriptions cost £23.70 (U.K.)/£26.00 (continent)/\$40.00 (elsewhere); Box 100, Chichester, West Sussex PO18 8HD, England <<http://pmh.uk.com/sherlock/sherlock.htm>>. It's also available from their American agent Classic Specialties (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219) (877-233-3823) <<http://www.sherlock-holmes.com>>; credit-card orders welcome at both addresses, and back issues are available.
9299. Rebecca Bohner relays news from Laurie R. King, who plans to start writing the next Mary Russell book (which will take Russell and Holmes to India) in August, for publication in the spring of 2004. And she'll be participating in a discussion panel at Books by the Bay in San Francisco at noon on July 20. She'll also be at Bouchercon in Austin, Texas, on Oct. 17-20.
9300. It's not quite breaking news, but it seems there's a Canonical reason not to swim in at least one of New York City's rivers. An "F.Y.I." item in the N.Y. Times (Aug. 1, 1999), spotted by Bud Livingston, responded to a query about a sighting of a group of large milky-white jellyfish in the East River, from a reader who wondered what salt-water organisms were doing in the East River. The response began, "The breast stroke, perhaps?" and went on to note that the East River actually isn't a river: it's a saltwater strait that connects Long Island Sound with New York Harbor. Dr. Dennis A. Thoney (a New York Aquarium marine biologist) explained that it's not uncommon for *Aurelia aurita* to float into the river in the summer, and that it's sting is not severe compared with that of the lion's mane, or *Cyanea capillata*, which also is found in East River waters, though in smaller numbers.
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June 2002 #6

9301. This year's Christmas card from The Sherlock Holmes Society of London will celebrate the centenary of the first edition of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES: the card will show Douglas E. West's watercolor of Holmes, Watson, and Lestrade lying in wait for the Hound. \$13.00 postpaid for ten cards (£5.50 to the U.K., £6.00 to Europe, £7.00 elsewhere); checks payable to the Society, please, with orders sent to Cdr. G. S. Stavert, 22 Homeheights, Clarence Parade, Southsea, Hants. PO5 3NN, England. Note: you can order now, but the cards will not be shipped until September.
9302. Karen Murdock spotted THE DEVIL HIMSELF: VILLAINY IN DETECTIVE FICTION AND FILM, edited by Stacy Gillis and Philippa Gates (Westport: Greenwood Press, 2002; 232 pp., \$64.95); the title of the book is taken from the Canon, and there are many references to Sherlock Holmes, as well as a chapter by Catherine Wynne on "Philanthropies and Villainies: The Conflict of the Imperial and Anti-Imperial in Conan Doyle".
9303. English actor David Ian Davies has recorded "Silver Blaze" (unabridged) on a CD issued by One Voice Recordings, and he has done an excellent job with the story and with various voices. It's available for \$12.00 (plus shipping) from Classic Specialties (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219) (877-233-3823) <<http://www.sherlock-holmes.com>>; credit-card orders welcomed. And the electronically-enabled can hear a six-minute sample of the reading at a web-site at <<http://www.storyteller.net/tellers/ddavies>>.
9304. Patricia and Dick DiFalco make delightful teddy bears, including Sherlock Holmes (shown here) and Dr. Watson; they're cute and cuddly, and 17" high (seated), and they cost \$95.00 each (plus \$10.00 shipping per order). More information is available from the DiFalco Bear Company, Box 700192, Plymouth, MI 48170 <difalcobears@yahoo.com> (810-632-9631).
9305. The blurb in the June issue of Inside Borders reports that "Artemis Fowl is a very unusual hero. He has the astuteness of Sherlock Holmes, the sang-froid of James Bond, and the attitude of Attila the Hun. And he's only 12 years old." The young-adult series, written by Eoin Colfer, is published by Hyperion; ARTEMIS FOWL is out in paperback (\$6.99) and ARTEMIS FOWL: THE ARCTIC INCIDENT in hardcover (\$16.95).
9306. Tsukasa Kobayashi and Akane Higashiyama have completed their translation of THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES into Japanese, for a hard-cover set published by Kawade-Shobou-Shinsha: A STUDY IN SCARLET appeared in 1997 and THE CASEBOOK OF SHERLOCK HOLMES this year. The set is a translation of THE OXFORD SHERLOCK HOLMES, and this is the first time that all the stories have been translated into Japanese by the same Sherlockian translators (the total of their books written in or translated into Japanese is now 69). The set of nine volumes costs ¥31,600 (plus shipping), and the publisher's address is Sentagaya 2-32-2, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 151-0051, Japan.
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July 2002 #1

9307. The Doyles were an interesting family. James and Catherine Tynan Doyle of Dublin had six children, one of them the artist John Doyle (the grandfather of Arthur Conan Doyle); another was a daughter, Anna Maria Doyle, who isn't mentioned in any of biographies of Sir Arthur. But his grand-aunt now has her own biography: 'IT COMMENCED WITH TWO...': THE STORY OF MARY ANN DOYLE, FIRST COMPANION OF CATHERINE MCAULEY, by Bonaventure Brennan (2001). Anna Maria was born in Dublin in 1801; she met Catherine McAuley in 1827, and they became nuns in 1831, Anna Maria taking the name Sister Mary Ann. She helped found the Sisters of Mercy, and served the poor in Ireland until her death in 1866. The biography, which includes information on the Doyle family, is now out-of-print, but may be reprinted (and likely will cost E30.00 postpaid); if you are interested in a copy of the second printing, write to Sister Bonaventure (2 St. Brigid's Court, Athboy, County Meath, Ireland).
9308. Daniel S. Knight died on July 6. He was a lawyer and an ardent oenophile, and a loyal fan of both grand opera and Gilbert & Sullivan operettas, as well as a Sherlockian, and he presided over The Sons of the Copper Beeches of Philadelphia as their Headmastiff from 1995 to 2000.
9309. Which actor played a ghostly Sherlock Holmes?
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9310. The Toronto Star (July 2) ran Peter Calamai's story about the new Canadian satellite SCISAT-1 that will be launched into orbit next January, carrying two instruments that will monitor chemical reactions in the atmosphere and monitor the Earth's ozone layer. The instruments are the Fourier Transform Spectrometer (FTS) and the Measurements of Aerosol Extinction in the Stratosphere and Troposphere Retrieved by Occultation (MAESTRO); he's given them the nicknames Sherlock Holmes and Watson, and notes that the nicknames have caught on with journalists, but not (yet) with the public.
9311. Peter also noted that Cambridge professor Richard Chorley died on May 12. He was a noted physical geographer and geomorphologist, and his obituary in The Times (June 24) reported that after his retirement in 1995 he regaled colleagues with tales of his latest efforts to prove that Sherlock Holmes had been a member of Sidney Sussex College, of which Chorley had been Vice Master. "This improbable project once led him to send a house brick purporting to come from the College to a Holmes society in Japan."
9312. Chorley's SHERLOCK HOLMES AT SIDNEY SUSSEX COLLEGE, 1871-1873: AN IMAGINATIVE RECONSTRUCTION is a carefully-researched, illustrated, and footnoted pastiche published in 1997; the 40-page pamphlet still is available (£5.41 postpaid to the U.K./£5.99 to the continent/£5.83 elsewhere) from the Sidney Sussex Society (attn: Wendy Hedley), Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge CB2 3HU, England (checks should be made payable to Sidney Sussex College, please), and credit-card orders are welcome by mail or at their web-site at <<http://www.sid.cam.ac.uk/alumni/merch/merch.html>>.
9313. Gerald Campion died on July 9. He began his acting career in movies as an uncredited soldier in "The Drums" (1938) with Sabu and Raymond Massey, and had many more roles on screen and television, including Morse Hudson in the Granada version of "The Six Napoleons" in 1986.

July 2002 #2

9314. Garry James continues to report on Canonical weaponry in Guns & Ammo: his article on his test of the Webley Metropolitan Police Revolver (Aug. 2002) notes that some believe that Sherlock Holmes used one to dispatch both Tonga and the Hound of the Baskervilles. James was unable to hit a target at 25 yards, but did much better at the "more acceptable" range of seven yards.
9315. They're not quite as Canonical, certainly, as the 221b Baker Street bricks that Abbey National made available as souvenirs in 1981, after they built their new headquarters in Baker Street, but bricks from Edgar Allan Poe's home are now available. According to an item in the June-July issue of The 3rd Degree (the newsletter of the Mystery Writers of America), 700 bricks were retrieved from the Poe House on West 3rd Street in Greenwich Village when New York University demolished the historic building, and they're now on sale through a partnership between the MWA and the Edgar Allan Poe Museum. \$40.00 each, including shipping (checks should be payable to the Poe Foundation, please), from the Museum (attn: Steve Hicks), 1914-16 East Main Street, Richmond, VA 23223 (804-648-5523).
9316. Which actor played a ghostly Sherlock Holmes? Basil Wraithbone. Credit to David Stuart Davies, who notes that Holmes often assisted Spectre Lestrade.
9317. Don Werby ("Old Abrahams") died on June 15. Don and his wife Willy assembled the spectacular version of the sitting-room that delighted visitors to the S. Holmes, Esq. restaurant at the Grosvenor Towers and then on the top floor of the Holiday Inn at Union Square in San Francisco. Another version of their sitting-room can still be seen, at the Grosvenor Hotel near Disney World in Orlando. He received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1986.
9318. Harry Houdini is honored by a new stamp issued by the U.S. Postal Service this month (one year after the 75th anniversary of his death in 1926); Houdini knew Conan Doyle, and argued with him about Spiritualism. Houdini wrote about Conan Doyle in A MAGICIAN AMONG THE SPIRITS (1924), and Conan Doyle's article on "The Riddle of Houdini" was published in The Strand Magazine in Aug. and Sept. 1927, and reprinted in THE EDGE OF THE UNKNOWN (1930).
9319. CURIOUS INCIDENTS, edited by J. R. Campbell and Charles Prepolec (Calgary: Mad for a Mystery, 2002; 96 pp., \$8.00), offers six new pastiches (six Sherlockian and one Gillettean) and artwork by Philip Cornell. The publisher is at 3805 Marlborough Drive NE #D-308, Calgary, AB T2A 5M4, Canada; postpaid prices are \$10.00 (U.S.), CA\$17.00 (Canada), \$12.00 (elsewhere); payment by check or money order, please.
9320. "The Case of the Vanishing Author" (an entertaining 45-minute program written by Stephen Sheridan and broadcast by BBC Radio 4 on June 19) dealt with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Dorothy L. Sayers joining forces to investigate the mysterious disappearance of Agatha Christie in 1926. Derek Waring was Conan Doyle, and Roger Johnson notes that Waring also played Watson in 1988 and 1989 in "Sherlock Holmes: The Musical" (with Ron Moody as Holmes). Are there other actors who have played both Conan Doyle and Watson?

July 2002 #3

9321. The Sherlockian parody "The South Sea Soup Company" (1931) was the first published story written by Kenneth Millar (aka Ross Macdonald), and Bill Vande Water reports that it's reprinted in HARDBOILED MYSTERY WRITERS: RAYMOND CHANDLER, DASHIELL HAMMETT, ROSS MACDONALD: A LITERARY REFERENCE, edited by Matthew Bruccoli and Richard Layman (New York: Carroll & Graf, 2002; 324 pp., \$22.00).
9322. Neil Simon's delightful film "Murder by Death" (1976) is often seen on television (most recently on Turner Classic Movies cable on July 21), but it always seems to be the theatrical release rather than the slightly different version broadcast on television in 1979. That television version had a brief scene at the end with Keith McConnell as Sherlock Holmes and Richard Peel as Dr. Watson; does anyone have an off-the-air videocassette of the television version with the Holmes and Watson scene?
9323. William A. S. Sarjeant died on July 8. He was a professor of geology at the University of Saskatchewan, and honored as a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada; a fantasy writer, using the pseudonym Antony Swithin for his series of novels about "The Perilous Quest of Lyonesse" (and he merged the two fields when he delivered a paper at a meeting of the Mythopoeic Society on "The Geology of Middle Earth"); an energetic book collector and a writer about detective fiction; and he was both a Sherlockian and a Doylean: Bill was co-author with Alan Bradley of the delightful spoof MS. HOLMES OF BAKER STREET: THE TRUTH ABOUT SHERLOCK HOLMES (1989), and with Dana M. Batory of fine scholarly articles on "Sussex *Iguanodon* Footprints and the Writing of *The Lost World*" (1989) and "'The Terror of Blue John Gap'- A Geological and Literary Study" (1994).
9324. John Linnell and John Flansburgh of "They Might Be Giants" (the rock group that took its name from the 1971 George C. Scott film) were in Washington last month, performing songs from their new children's album "No!" (which has been #1 on the Billboard children's chart). The group has a web-site at <<http://www.tmbg.com>>.
9325. Philip S. Hench (1896-1965) was a noted doctor (he won the Nobel Prize for medicine in 1950), an enthusiastic Sherlockian (he was for many years a member of The Norwegian Explorers, and led the society's campaign to place a plaque honoring Sherlock Holmes at the Reichenbach Falls), and an energetic book-collector (in 1978 his wife Mary donated his collection, including four copies of Beeton's Christmas Annual for 1887, to the University of Minnesota). Last year Micronesia included his portrait in a sheetlet of stamps issued to honor the 100th anniversary of the Nobel Prize.
9326. "Researchers have found the earliest surviving work of world famous author Sir Arthur Conan Doyle," the BBC reported on July 7, "his signature carved into a school desk top." According to the BBC story (forwarded by Takeshi Shimizu), the desk is at Stonyhurst, in Lancashire, where Conan

Doyle was a student from 1868 to 1875, and "was described in reports by his teachers as lazy and slovenly." M.C. Black notes that the desk was shown to The Northern Musgraves when they visited Stonyhurst in 2000. And John Baesch notes that Stonyhurst has a web-site at <<http://www.stonyhurst.ac.uk>>.

July 2002 #4

9327. Frederick C. Page ("The Arcadia Mixture") died on July 12. He was a corporate recruiter, and one of the founders of The Arcadia Mixture in Ann Arbor in 1976, serving as its Chief Tobacconist for many years; in 1979 Fred participated in the John Bennett Shaw workshop at Wayne State University in Detroit, and he received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1990.
9328. Randall Garrett's LORD DARCY (1984) has been reprinted as a trade paperback (New York: Baen Books, 2002; 688 pp., \$18.00); it's an omnibus edition with TOO MANY MAGICIANS, LORD DARCY INVESTIGATES, and MURDER AND MAGIC. They're fine alternate-universe novels (magic works, and there's lots of detection needed) with many pleasant Sherlockian allusions in TOO MANY MAGICIANS.
9329. "Monk" is a new one-hour television series, broadcast by USA cable, starring Tony Shalhoub as obsessive-compulsive detective Adrian Monk, who frequently is seen performing Sherlockian observation and deduction. In the two-hour premiere (first broadcast on July 12), his assistant Sharona Fleming (played by Bitty Schram) tells a police officer: "I love this part. He does this Zen Sherlock Holmes thing." And it's an interesting series, with plot and humor and good acting.
9330. The June issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota has tributes to Frederick Dorr Steele (illustrated with original artwork owned by the collections), Jon Lellenberg's discussion of Jack Tracy's correspondence with Dame Jean Conan Doyle and others, and other reports from and about the collections. Copies are available from Richard J. Sveum (111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <sveum001@tc.umn.edu>.
9331. The summer issue of The Magic Door (the newsletter published by The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) has an interesting report on the first Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture, given by Isaac Gewirtz (curator of the Berg Collection at the New York Public Library), about the collection and its Sherlockian and Doylean holdings (and with photographs of two pages from "The Hound of the Baskervilles"), plus other news from the library; this is the first issue edited by Peter Wood, who has succeeded Chris Redmond on the editor's green settee. Copies are available from Doug Wrigglesworth (16 Sunset Street, Holland Landing, ON L9N 1H4, Canada) <dougwig@sympatico.ca>.
9332. "Sherlock Is Best Fictional Sleuth" was the headline on a Reuters report on July 17 on the results of a survey carried out by mail-order bookseller BCA <<http://booksdirect.co.uk>>. Sherlock Holmes won the votes of 27 percent of British readers; Hercule Poirot was second (16 percent) and Inspector Morse third (15 percent).
9333. Stu Shiffman noted an allusion to Sherlock Holmes and Arthur Conan Doyle in S. M. Stirling's THE PESHAWAR LANCERS (New York: Roc/New American Library, 2002; 420 pp., \$23.95); the allusion is minor, but the book is imaginative alternative history: a cluster of comets strikes the Earth in 1878, with a terrible effect on North America and western Europe, but the British Empire manages to shift its base to India, where the story is set in 2025. Stirling offers lots of derring-do, and a vivid picture of the British Raj.
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July 2002 #5

9334. Christopher Roden reports that the Calabash Press has published new editions of David Stuart Davies' BENDING THE WILLOW: JEREMY BRETT AS SHERLOCK HOLMES (with a new afterword and additional photographs), and of THE BAKER STREET FILE: A GUIDE TO THE APPEARANCE AND HABITS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (the "background bible" used for the Granada series). And THE CHRONICLES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: VOLUME 4, with four new pastiches by Denis O. Smith. Details are available from the publisher (Box 1360, Ashcroft, BC V0K 1A0, Canada) <<http://www.ash-tree.bc.ca/calabash.html>>.
9335. Sean Cunningham's comedy/musical "Sherlock Holmes and the Secret of Making Whoopee" will be produced during the New York International Fringe Festival with six performances (Aug. 18-25) at La Tea Theater (107 Suffolk Street); additional details are available from the Fringe box office (212-420-8877) (888-374-6436) <<http://www.fringenyc.org>>. "See the master detective try to get Jill the Ripper. Or any woman."
9336. The new "fall preview" catalog from Signals Video (Box 64428, St. Paul, MN 55164 (800-530-2225 <<http://signalsvideo.com>>) has two pages of Sherlockian videocassettes, paperweights, teapots, and clocks.
9337. The Algonquin Hotel has a new owner. Olympus Real Estate of Dallas and the Camberley Hotel Co. of Atlanta, who bought the hotel in 1997, have sold it to Miller Global Properties, which has selected Destination Hotels & Properties to manage the Algonquin; the hotel will celebrate its 100th anniversary in November. The new owners plan to begin work soon on enhancements to guest rooms, installation of high-speed Internet access in all of the guest and meeting rooms, and other renovations intended to meet demands of business travelers.
9338. Maurice Denham died on June 24. He began his start as a professional actor in 1934 with the Hull Repertory Company, and went on to a long career as a distinguished character actor on stage, screen, radio and television. He was awarded the OBE in 1992; he played Josiah Amberley in "The Retired Colourman" (with Douglas Wilmer) for the BBC in 1965, and the Rev. Merridew in "The Last Vampyre" (with Jeremy Brett) for Granada in 1993.
9339. It has been six years since The Bull Terrier Club of Boston University had an excursion to a polo match, and Scott Monty is planning another one, to Newport, R.I., on Sept. 14, for a tailgate party and a chance to watch USA vs. England. You can contact Scott at 1836 Columbia Road, South Boston, MA 02127 (617-464-4153) <wsmonty@att.net>. Polo is mentioned in the Canon, of course, and Scott reports that the full tournament schedule and directions are available at a web-site at <<http://www.newportinternationalpolo.com>>.
9340. Anglofile reports that "Case of Evil" will debut on USA cable on Oct. 25. The film stars James D'Arcy (Sherlock Holmes), Roger Morlidge (Dr. Watson), Richard E. Grant (Mycroft), and Vincent D'Onofrio (Moriarty); Holmes is a young "super-smart, sexy society star with a growing reputation among the young women of London," and the story "has Moriarty trying to corner the opium market with his powerful new drug, heroin." Anglofile is a monthly newsletter offering detailed coverage of British entertainment; Box 33515, Decatur, GA 30033 (\$15.00 a year). And there's a web-site for the film at <http://www.castelfilm.ro/portfolio/case_of_evil_gallery.asp>.
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July 2002 #6

9341. "In touching upon . . . Sherlock Holmes, he said that detective stories are rather primitive as a literary production, but make a good setting for the dramatic." From a story in the [Northampton] Daily Gazette (Oct. 31, 1894) about Arthur Conan Doyle's lecture in Northampton, Mass., the previous evening (kindly forwarded by John Lockwood).
9342. The celebration of the centenary of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES continues (since the book was published in 1902), and some excellent scholarship has been published in Britain. The 2001 issue of The Musgrave Papers offers 88 pages of essays by authors from both sides of the Atlantic (including the late Prudence Moran Swift); £7.50 or \$12.00 postpaid (checks payable to The Northern Musgraves, please) from Paul M. Chapman (Alderley, Chapel Street, Easingwold, North Yorkshire YO16 3AF, England).
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9343. And Richard Lancelyn Green has an excellent two-part article in the winter 2001 and summer 2002 issues of the *Sherlock Holmes Journal* on how the story was written and published; he has discovered where and when Conan Doyle was when he wrote and did his research, and offers a great deal of new information. SHJ subscription costs vary depending on where you are and on whether you're adult or junior; details are available from Bob Ellis, 13 Crofton Avenue, Orpington, Kent BR6 8DU England <shsl221b@aol.com>, and the society has a web-site at <<http://www.sherlock-holmes.org>>.
9344. Leo McKern died on July 23. His acting career began on stage in Australia in 1944, and he moved to England in 1946, acting with the Royal Vic and the Shakespeare Memorial Theater. His first film was "Murder in the Cathedral" (1952), and is best-known today as the star of "Rumpole of the Bailey" on television; he also played a bravura Moriarty in the film "The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes' Smarter Brother" (1975).
9345. The comic-book mini-series RUSE continues; #9 appeared this month (\$2.95) with Simon Archard and Emma Bishop investigating a new mystery (the series has excellent not-quite-Sherlockian atmosphere and artwork. Also issued in July: RUSE: ENTER THE DETECTIVE, a trade paperback (\$15.95) reprinting issues #1-6. And Comic Shop News has reported that there will be more issues of THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN, which begins a second mini-series in August; a trade paperback is due in September with the six issues in the first mini-series.
9346. Bill Barton notes that Sherlock Holmes continues to appear in role-playing games: GURPS STEAM-TECH, edited by William Stoddard, is a supplement for Steve Jackson Games' Generic Universal Role-Playing System (GURPS); it's a book that describes both historical gadgets of the Victorian era and those existing only in Victorian scientific romances (including H. G. Wells and the modern Victorian science-fiction genre known as "steampunk"), and there are descriptions and illustrations of the "Holmes I Detection Automaton" (a Sherlockian steam-age robot) and the "Mycroft IV Police Engine" (a S'ianthemed Babbage Difference Engine). It retails for \$22.95 in stores (less in some on-line retail sites) and it's available directly from Steve Jackson Games (Box 18597, Austin, TX 78760) <<http://www.sjgames.com>>.

August 2002 #1

9347. THREE PORGES PARODIES AND A PASTICHE (New York: Magico Magazine, 1988; 54 pp., \$25.00) is the only collection of the Sherlockian writings of the prolific writer and journalist Arthur Porges, whose "Stately Homes" parodies were launched in Ellery Queen's *Mystery Magazine* (Feb. 1957); the book also has a pastiche on "The Aluminium Crutch" (published for the first time), a letter from Fred Dannay (editor of *EQMM*), a Porges article about Arthur Conan Doyle, and an interesting introduction by Michael H. Kean. Porges is a fine writer, and the book still is available from the publisher (Box 156, New York, NY 10002) for \$27.00 postpaid.
9348. Ron Walotsky died on July 29. He was a science-fiction artist whose work was used on hundreds of book covers, including Anne Rice's *QUEEN OF THE DAMNED* and Steven King's *CARRIE*, and he illustrated Sterling Lanier's "A Father's Tale" (a giant rat of Sumatra pastiche) in the July 1974 issue of *The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction*.
9349. Leonard Nimoy's *I AM SPOCK* (New York: Hyperion, 1995; 342 pp., \$24.95) is the sequel to his *I AM NOT SPOCK* (1975); there's much about "Star Trek" and his other work, and a mention that Nicholas Meyer (director of "Star Trek: The Wrath of Khan") was a Sherlock Holmes buff as well as an opera lover: one day, preparing to go directly from the studio to see a performance of "Carmen", Meyer was dressed in his evening attire "as Holmes himself, complete with stalking hat and Inverness cape!"
9350. The third season of "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's *The Lost World*" is in re-runs on Warner Brothers channels, and the first two seasons can be seen weekday mornings on TNT cable. And Jennifer O'Dell, who plays untamed jungle-girl Veronica on the series, is *Playboy's* "Babe of the Month" (on p. 22) in the September issue.
9351. Barbara and Christopher Roden have a new Calabash Press catalog (Box 1360, Ashcroft, BC V0K 1A0, Canada <<http://www.ash-tree.bc.ca/calabash.html>>. It is their seventh catalog, with new and older Sherlockian and Doylean titles as well as some special discount offers. And they've written to members of The Arthur Conan Doyle Society that one more issue of *ACD* will be published ink-on-paper; thereafter the society and its journal will become web-based at <<http://www.ash-tree.bc.ca/acdsoc.html>>.
9352. The summer rare-book list from Priscilla Juvelis (1166 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02138) <www.juvelisbooks.com> offers some fine examples of contemporary book arts, including a copy of the first American book edition of *A STUDY IN SCARLET*, rebound by Donald Glaister in spectacular (and appropriately decorated multi-colored morocco (\$12,000).
9353. "Beyond Oscar Wilde: Portraits of Late-Victorian Writers and Artists from the Mark Samuels Lasner Collection" is the title of an exhibition that will open at the University Gallery at the University of Delaware Sept. 5. The exhibition will include a previously unknown caricature of Wilde drawn by Max Beerbohm, and portraits and self-portraits of their contemporaries (but not Arthur Conan Doyle). The exhibition runs through Nov. 10, and the University is in Newark, Del. (302-831-8242) <<http://www.museums.udel.edu>>.

August 2002 #2

9354. Dinosaurs are quite popular with philatelists who have topical collections, and Liberia frequently issues such stamps, such as the 2001 miniature sheet and souvenir sheet (noted by Phillip Bergem) that celebrated Arthur Conan Doyle's *THE LOST WORLD*:

August 02 #3

9355. It's likely that most readers have seen advertisements and reviews for the new movie "Tadpole" (starring Sigourney Weaver, John Ritter, and Bebe Neuwirth). But did you wonder whether it was Sherlockian? Possibly that it might have something to do with Percy Phelps? Bud Livingston made the connection (of course it appears from the reviews that only the title has any Canonical significance).
9356. Christie's will offer the second part of Richard M. Lackritz's collection of detective fiction (material from 1920 to 1945) on Sept. 24, at 20 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10020 (212-636-2010) <<http://www.christies.com>>.
9357. Gideon Hill (Headmastiff of The Sons of the Copper Beeches of Philadelphia) reports that Abington Township has just completed construction of its new Copper Beech Elementary School (at 825 North Easton Road in Glenside); the grounds are landscaped with the namesake trees. Gideon also notes that one of the buildings that were demolished to make way for the new school housed the office of a private investigator who had a window sign showing a magnifying glass and a deerstalker.
9358. Russ Mann notes that the Walt Disney animation "The Great Mouse Detective" (1986) has been issued on DVD (with a list price \$29.99, but it's available for less at discount sites and stores).
9359. Cameron & Smith (Box 637, Vero Beach, FL 32961) (800-472-9862) <<http://www.cameronsmith.com>> offer a "Sherlock Holmes" in the Halcyon Days scarecrow series of bonbonniere; it's hand-painted porcelain on an enamel base, 3.75" high, and the bottom of the figure reads "Scarecrows take many forms this one is based on the famous English fictional detective Sherlock Holmes." It's in a lined presentation case, and costs \$225.00 plus shipping.
9360. The excellent "Nero Wolfe" series continues to air on A&E cable, but this will be the last season of original programs: Allen Sabinson (A&E's senior vice president of programming) has been fired, and the series has been cancelled (because, according to a report, A&E has decided it can't afford to

do original series. The Jack Myers Report, at <<http://jackmyers.com>>, noted on Aug. 11 that A&E prime-time year-to-date ratings declined 15% in households and 13% in adults 25-54.

9361. And the furnishings of the set have been dispersed: the Nero Wolfe Set Department sold many of the props on-line this month, and the material that did not sell on-line to fans was to be sold to other set firms. Three of the items were Sherlockian, two of them paintings from Wolfe's office: the portrait of Sherlock Holmes seen on the wall above Archie Goodwin's desk in the series pilot "The Golden Spiders" but not in other programs (offered for \$995.00), and the painting of the waterfall that did not look as much like the Reichenbach as it might have (sold for \$550.00). The third item was Nero Wolfe's "brown and grey plaid country coat with cape and matching hat" (actually an Inverness and deerstalker) seen in the opening to "Immune to Murder" on A&E this month (offered for \$500.00).

August 2002 #4

9362. Derham Groves continues to produce imaginative and attractive booklets from his Black Jack Press (which is in Victoria rather than Ballarat); the most recent is THE REBUSES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Australian artist Vane Lindesay. The 46-page booklet is described (and quite accurately) by Derham as "a surrealist-style picture-puzzle book", and he has a few copies available for US \$5.00 postpaid (in currency, please); his address is 485 Albert Street, Brunswick West, Vic. 3055, Australia.
9363. The comic-book mini-series RUSE continues; #10 appeared this month (\$2.95) with Simon Archard and Emma Bishop and excellent-but-not-quite-Sherlockian artwork. Also in the shops is #1 in the second volume of THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN (\$3.50); it's set on Mars, with most of the dialogue is in Martian, but it's only leading up to future events on Earth, where we may again encounter one or more characters from the Canon.
9364. Collectors will recall the catalogs of Sherlockiana issued by Sylvian Hamilton in the 1980s and early 1990s, first from England and then from Scotland, where she retired from the book business; she's now an author, with a series about Sir Richard Straccan, a former Crusader who does his detecting in the Middle Ages. The first book in the series was THE BONE-PEDLAR (London: Orion Books, 2000; 264 pp., £12.99), and its opening sentence does get one's attention: "In the crypt of the abbey church at Hallowdene, the monks were boiling their bishop." The next book in the series was THE PENDRAGON BANNER, followed by THE GLEEMAIKEN, and Sylvian is getting ready to start work on a fourth book. For those who may be wondering why the bishop was being boiled, "Over the bishop's deathbed, the calculating eyes of the sacristan and the almoner had accurately weighed up the advantages of a splendidly profitable set of skeletal relics, and Bishop Alain was barely cold before he was eviscerated, dismembered, and simmering in the largest pot the monastery kitchen could furnish."
9365. Trevor Raymond reports from Canada that the Sherlock Holmes Pub in Guelph has closed. The new establishment, in the same premises (which will be redecorated) is to be a Frugal Macdougall's.
9366. "So every summer I truly intend/My intellectual sloth to end,/And every summer for years and years/I've read Sherlock Holmes and The Three Musketeers" (from Ogden Nash's poem "Each June I Make a Promise Sober"). The U.S. Postal Service honored Nash this year, celebrating the 100th anniversary of his birth.
9367. Hichimes Lagg notes in a letter in the July-August issue of The Petrel Flyer (published by The Stormy Petrels of British Columbia) an interesting obituary published in the Economist (May 18, 2002), reporting the death, on May 11, of Joseph Bonanno, the well-known (at least in some circles) American mafioso who many believe may have inspired Mario Puzo's novel THE GODFATHER. According to the obituary, Bonanno "was said to have invented the double coffin, in which the body of someone who had died naturally would conceal a murdered corpse." Lagg also notes that Bonanno was born in 1906, while Baring-Gould dates the disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax in 1902, and the story was published in 1911. One wonders, of course, whether he might have been inspired by the Sherlock Holmes story.
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August 2002 #5

9368. Often the simplest Sherlockian questions can be the most interesting. Such as, "What were Sherlock Holmes' first words to Watson?" Or, "What are the titles of the sixty Sherlock Holmes stories?" Well, try answering that question, without help from a table of contents or a list of abbreviations of the titles: just write them down, from memory, on a piece of paper. And keep track of how long it takes to get to fifty, and to fifty five, and to sixty (if you do get to sixty). The late Wayne Swift did it handily: he happily recited them from memory. If you can't do it handily, it's interesting to consider which were the last stories to be added to your list, and why it was more difficult for you to remember them.
9369. And how did you do with the first of the two questions? Sherlock Holmes' first words to Watson? If your answer was, "You have been in Afghanistan, I perceive," you're wrong. Most people are. You can look it up. Sherlock Holmes' first words to Watson were, "How are you?"
9370. Forecast for October: THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, with a new introduction by Laurie R. King; a Modern Library/Random House paperback (\$7.95). MURDER IN BAKER STREET: NEW TALES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, edited by Martin H. Greenberg, Jon Lellenberg, and Daniel Stashower; a paperback reprint from Carroll & Graf (\$14.00). SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE SECRET ALLIANCE, by Larry Millett; a paperback reprint of his fourth pastiche set in Minnesota, from Penguin Putnam (\$6.99).
9371. "The Many Cases of Sherlock Holmes" is the theme of Bill Dorn's Sherlock Holmes Calendar for 2003; it has monthly artwork by Nancy Beiman, dates for Canonical cases, founding dates for Sherlockian societies, and other dates of significance in the Sherlockian world. It costs \$16.15 postpaid (or CA\$29.39 to Canada or \$20.75 elsewhere), and you can send your checks to William S. Dorn at 2045 South Monroe Street, Denver, CO 80210; there's a web-site at <<http://www.thesherlockstore.com>>.
9372. It isn't too late to consider joining The Bull Terrier Club for their excursion to a polo match (USA vs. England) at Newport, R.I., on Sept. 14. And if you need an incentive, there's an entertaining cover story on "The Boys of Polo" in the Aug. 19 issue of New York magazine; "They've Got Game," is the title of the story, which notes that "With its alluring combination of beautiful horses, bruising competition, Latin charm, and A-list celebrities, polo has become the NASCAR of the Moet & Chandon set." Polo also is mentioned in the Canon, of course, and more information about the Newport event is available from Scott Monty, 1386 Columbia Road #2, Boston, MA 02127 (617-484-4153) <wsmonty@att.net>
9373. Audio Book Contractors (Box 40115, Washington, DC 20016) continues to offer readings of a long list of authors, including Arthur Conan Doyle and Christopher Morley, on cassettes for rental or purchase (and after 18 years they are approaching their 1,000th recording). THE SIGN OF FOUR (with Flo Gibson as reader) is the latest addition to their Conan Doyle titles.
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August 2002 #6

9374. Bert Coules reported to the Arthur Conan Doyle electronic mailing list on his recent visit to the National Portrait Gallery in London. Walking by the enquiry desk, it occurred to him to ask a question. "Excuse me." "Yes, sir?" "I was wondering if there's a portrait of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in the collection." "I'm sorry, who?" "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle." "That's what I thought you said. Well, no, there isn't." "Really?" "Well, there wouldn't be, would there? I mean, he wasn't a real person." She was quite convinced of this, but couldn't offer any reason for her certainty. It was just "something

that everyone knows". It took quite some persuasion on my part to get her to look up poor ACD in the catalog. The Gallery has two portraits of Conan Doyle, both of them in storage, Bert notes, adding, "That's what you get for not being real."

9375. British actor Roger Llewellyn continues to tour in David Stuart Davies' one-man play "Sherlock Holmes - The Last Act!" (which was seen by many Sherlockians during the birthday festivities in New York in 2000); he'll perform the play at the Kavinoky Theatre in Buffalo, N.Y., from Jan. 9 to Feb. 9, 2003; 320 Porter Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14201, and their web-site is at <<http://www.kavinokytheatre.com>>.
9376. Richard Levinson and William Link have Sherlockian credentials (as creators of the television series "Murder, She Wrote" with its pilot story "The Murder of Sherlock Holmes"), and so does Alfred Hitchcock. And William Link, current president of the Mystery Writers of America, had a delightful story to tell in the MYSTERY WRITERS ANNUAL (distributed at the MWA annual dinner in New York in May), about their three-hour luncheon conversation with him in the mid-1960s. They talked about many things, including credibility in films, and they noted his famous scene with Cary Grant being strafed by the crop-duster plane in "North by Northwest". Why would the heavies rent a plane, equip it with a machine gun and a pilot who could operate it when all they had to do was drive up in an anonymous car and dispense Cary with a gunshot? "That was one of my refrigerator sequences," Hitchcock replied, explaining that the night after seeing the film, the movie-goer feels like a midnight snack. So he goes to the refrigerator and builds a delectable high-rise sandwich: ham, cheese, turkey, mayo—all lovingly described by a lip-smacking Hitchcock. While devouring the sandwich it hits him that the crop-dusting scene is utterly preposterous. "But by then," Hitch said with a sly wink, "I have his money."
9377. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists will meet for drinks and dinner, in honor of the world's first forensic geologist, during the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America in Denver, on Wednesday, October 30, at 7:00 pm, at Dixon's Downtown Grill, at 1610 16th Street. Our tradition is to have neither scholarly papers, slide shows, nor quizzes; our agenda consists entirely of toasts (some scholarly, but many not). If you would like to join us for the festivities, please let me know.

September 2002 #1

9378. It was very nice to be able to see "The Adventures of Gerard" (1970) at the Library of Congress this month, and not just for the chance to see the film screened in a theater: I learned from a member of the audience that another Brigadier Gerard film is available on videocassette. "The Fighting Eagle" (1927) starred Rod La Rocque as Gerard, and Sally Rand in a supporting role (before her fan-dancing days), and it was directed by Donald Crisp (who was Col. Sebastian Moran in the 1929 film "The Return of Sherlock Holmes"); it is available from Grapevine Video on videocassette (NTSC format only) for \$16.96 and on DVD for \$19.95 (plus shipping); Box 46161, Phoenix, AZ 85063 <<http://gravevinevideo.com>>.
9379. Grapevine also offers "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" on videocassette (\$19.95) and DVD (\$19.95) with shipping extra; it's a compilation of four silent films: "The Copper Beeches" (1912), "The Dying Detective" (1921), "The Devil's Foot" (1921), and "The Man with the Twisted Lip" (1921).
9380. THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, EPISODE 5, read by Edward Hardwicke, is the latest audiocassette set available from CSA Telltapes; as always, Hardwicke is an excellent Watson, and the stories on the two cassettes are "A Scandal in Bohemia", "Silver Blaze", and "The Copper Beeches" (which were earlier available from Tangled Web Audio as SHERLOCK HOLMES: TALES OF BETRAYAL). CSA Telltapes's address is: 6a Archway Mews, 241a Putney Bridge Road, London SW15 2PE, England <www.csatelltapes.demon.co.uk>; the new set costs £9.95 postpaid (discounted to £7.95 at the web-site), and CSA offers other sets of the Sherlock Holmes stories.
9381. Mark Alberstat's 2003 Sherlock Holmes Calendar is illustrated with artwork from The Strand Magazine, and displays important Sherlockian birthdays and William S. Baring-Gould's dates for the cases. The cost is US\$12.00 postpaid, and his address is 5 Lorraine Street, Dartmouth, NS B3A 2B9, Canada.
9382. Les Klinger, general editor of the Baker Street Irregulars' Manuscript Series, reports that the third volume, edited by Steven Doyle and planned for Jan. 2003, will feature Sherlockian artwork drawn by G. K. Chesterton for a never-published edition of the Sherlock Holmes stories, with new critical essays on Chesterton and the Canon, and reprints of several of Chesterton's essays on detective fiction. And the fourth volume, edited by William Hyder and planned for Jan. 2004, will present a facsimile of "The Six Napoleons", with a transcript and new critical essays about the story.
9383. Les also reports that the fifth volume in his SHERLOCK HOLMES REFERENCE LIBRARY will be THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, with an introduction by David Stuart Davies, and it will be available for purchase in New York during the birthday festivities in January.
9384. The first two volumes in the series, ANGELS OF DARKNESS: A DRAMA IN THREE ACTS and THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (CHAPTER XI) debuted last January (February 02 #1), and they're still available; \$35.00 each, plus shipping (\$8.00 each or \$9.50 for both, or \$9.50 each or \$12.00 for both outside North America), from The Baker Street Irregulars, Box 1360, Ashcroft, BC V0K 1A0, Canada <<http://www.bakerstreetjournal.com>>.

September 2002 #2

9385. The film "Shadow of a Doubt" (1943), directed by Alfred Hitchcock, is included in the National Film Registry (selections are based on the films' "historic, cultural, or aesthetic importance"), and the Library of Congress recently restored the film from archival nitrate-stock sources; the new print was screened at the National Gallery of Art on Sept. 8. The film has been described as "Hitchcock's paragon of family suspense and small-town sociology: Joseph Cotton takes refuge with his sister's family while his adoring niece (Teresa Wright) assembles the puzzle of his infamous part as a 'merry widow' murderer." Hume Cronyn plays a neighbor who is devoted mystery-magazine reader, and at one point he says, "That little Frenchman beats them all. You can talk all you like about Sherlock Holmes. That little Frenchman beats them all."
9386. Jeanne Jewell died on Sept. 30. She was a Sherlockian, as well as a wife, mother, and mother-in-law of Sherlockians, and one of the founders of The Bitches of the Copper Beeches of Philadelphia in the 1980s, for spouses who enjoyed convivial dining twice a year while The Sons of The Copper Beeches dined at the Orpheus Club.
9387. The latest issue of Scarlet Street (#45) focuses on the "Nero Wolfe" television series (recently cancelled by A&E but continuing in repeats), with interesting interviews with the actors, and stories about how the production of the series. And there's more, about Harry Alan Towers and Christopher Lee, and the first season of the radio series "The Adventures of Ellery Queen". \$42.00 a year (for six issues); Box 604, Glen Rock, NJ 07452 <<http://www.scarletstreet.com>>.
9388. The new issue of Prescott's Press (published by The Three Garridebs) is a tribute to Bob Thomalen's eighteen Autumns in Baker Street, with 58 pages of photographs and reminiscences by almost 40 participants. Subscriptions cost \$12.00 (\$14.00 outside the U.S.) for four issues, from Warren Randall, 15 Fawn Lane West, South Setauket, NY 11720).
9389. Peter Ashman has reported that Doyle E. Holmes, a candidate in the primary race for state representative in Alaska this year, used a Sherlockian silhouette on bumper stickers and other campaign materials; he lost to the incumbent, Bev Masek, who now will seek her fifth term in office in the general election in November. Holmes, who now has lost to Masek three times, told the Anchorage Daily News that his defeat was due to support Masek got from political groups such as the Alaska Outdoor Council and the National Rifle Association. "I think that it's just power politics," he said.

September 2002 #3

9390. Thanks to Brian Taves for the latest news on the mini-series of "The Lost World" (starring Bob Hoskins as Challenger) that was broadcast in Britain last December : Arts & Entertainment cable will air the program in two parts on Oct. 6 and 7. There's all sort of material available at A&E's web-site <<http://www.aande.com>>, including an opportunity to order the show on VHS cassettes or DVDs (if you order now, there's a \$5.00 discount, and they'll ship orders on Oct. 8); cassettes cost \$24.95/\$19.95, and DVDs (with two hours of bonus programming) cost \$39.95/\$34.95).
9391. The comic-book mini-series RUSE continues; #11 appeared this month (\$2.95) with Simon Archard and Emma Bishop and excellent-but-not-quite-Sherlockian artwork. Also in the shops is #2 in the second volume of THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN (\$3.50); members of the League are investigating the mysterious Martian cylinder that has fallen to Earth in England.
9392. Bill Griffith's "Zippy the Pinhead" is a long-running comic strip which has fervent admirers among the readers of the Washington Post (and other newspapers); Mary Ellen Rich reports that Bill Griffith lives in Hadlyme, Connecticut, and often uses people and places he likes in his work. This strip (which ran on July 31) shows Gillette Castle:
9393. It was in "The Norwood Builder" that Watson wrote that "I find, on looking over my notes, that this period includes the case of the papers of ex-President Murillo, and also the shocking affair of the Dutch steamship Friesland, which so nearly cost us both our lives." And Peter H. Wood noted a BBC news report (Sept. 3) that a team of English divers, attempting to salvage a cargo of tin ingots from the wreck of the Dutch ship Friesland off the coast of Galicia, had been arrested by the Spanish police. Peter Devlin, managing director of Force 9 Salvage, said that the Spanish government had awarded his company a licence to dive at the wreck, but the police had accused them of trying to steal gold and diamonds from a wreck, and of damaging Spain's heritage. The Friesland, which sank in 1877, was carrying a cargo with a current commercial value of £650,000. There were, of course, other ships with the same name (including the one that's mentioned in "The Lost World"), and "The Norwood Builder" is dated after Holmes returned from his Great Hiatus, so if Holmes and Watson were involved with the Friesland that sank in 1877, it might have had something to do with salvage.

September 2002 #4

9394. Further to the report on the postage stamp honoring Ogden Nash (August 02 #4), his Sherlockian connections are more than poetic. Jon L. Lellenberg, in his IRREGULAR MEMORIES OF THE 'THIRTIES, reprinted (from the July 1946 issue of The Baker Street Journal) Christopher Morley's remembrance of a fateful gathering during the summer of 1930 at a "basement speakeasy, then momentarily esteemed by the Grub Street Runners of Messrs. Doubleday Doran and Co." That was when Frank Henry, "accompanied and reinforced by his faithful assembly men" (among them Ogden Nash) suggested that Morley write a preface for THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES. And, responding to a query from Bill Rabe, Nash later wrote that he had met Holmes in THE SIGN OF FOUR at the age of eleven "and never looked back."
9395. Joan Littlewood died on Sept. 20. She was an important producer, director, and author who presided over the Theater Workshop in East London, launching plays such as "Oh What a Lovely War", Shelagh Delaney's "A Taste of Honey", and Brendan Behan's "The Quare Fellow" and "The Hostage". "Theater should be grand, vulgar, simple, pathetic," she once said, "not genteel, not poetical." In 1961 she directed a Theatre Royal production of James Goldman's play "They Might Be Giants" (with Harry H. Corbett as Justin Playfair, and Avis Bunnage as Dr. Mildred Watson).
9396. William S. Dorn has edited A DAY-BY-DAY CHRONOLOGY OF MR. SHERLOCK HOLMES: ACCORDING TO ZEISLER AND CHRIST (Denver: Pencil Productions, 2002; 57 pp., \$9.95); the dates run from the death of Lucy Ferrier's mother (May 1, 1847) to the capture of Von Bork (Aug. 2, 1914), and Bill relies on dating by Ernest B. Zeisler and Jay Finley Christ rather than William S. Baring-Gould. It's available at his web-site <<http://www.thesherlockstore.com>> or by mail (shipping is extra: \$1.60 to the U.S., \$2.60 to Canada, \$4.60 elsewhere), and his address is 2450 South Monroe Street, Denver, CO 80210.
9397. Walter R. Brooks' delightful books about "Freddy the Pig" have amused children for more than 65 years, and they're still in print, including FREDDY THE DETECTIVE (1997), with the original Sherlockian illustrations by Kurt Wiese (New York: Overlook Press, 1997; 256 pp., \$23.95). Michael Cart, in an article in Booklist (May 1), kindly forwarded by Kevin Parker, reports that Brooks, when he was reviewing books for the Outlook and Independent in the 1920s, was one of the first important observers to discover the work of Dashiell Hammett, recommending RED HARVEST "without reservation. We gave it an A plus before we'd finished the first chapter." And Alfred A. Knopf, contracted with Hammett to write an introduction to FREDDY THE DETECTIVE in 1932. But Hammett failed to deliver the introduction, despite frantic appeals from the publisher, and Freddy's fans thus lost a chance to read what Hammett might have written. The Friends of Freddy, founded in 1984, have a web-site <<http://www.freddythepig.org>>, nearly 500 members, and an irregular quarterly; \$15.00 a year for membership (Box 912, Greenbelt, MD 20768).
9398. Kevin also notes that FREDDY'S COUSIN WEEDLY (1940) will be reprinted soon (New York: Overlook Press, 2002; 220 pp., \$23.95); the book includes a play in which all of the animals appear as their favorite characters, solving a mystery in the court of Queen Elizabeth. The story may have provided the only opportunity for Freddy to appear on stage in Sherlockian costume, in a puppet show performed in 2000 during the biennial Friends of Freddy convention (Michael Cart provided the puppetry for Freddy/Sherlock Holmes).

September 2002 #5

9399. The Holmes & Watson Report continues to offer interesting discoveries, including Stu Shiffman's mention of the Sherlockian inspiration for a Grateful Dead song: "Dire Wolf" (music by Jerry Garcia, and words by Robert Hunter). David Dodd's web-site "The Annotated Grateful Dead Lyrics" notes that the song was first performed in 1969 (and recorded in 1970 on the album "Workingman's Dead"), and he quotes from the journal of Hunter: "The song 'Dire Wolf' was inspired, at least in name, by watching the Hound of the Baskervilles on TV with Garcia. We were speculating on what the ghostly hound might turn out to be, and somehow the idea that maybe it was a Dire Wolf came up." The Holmes & Watson Report costs \$16.00 a year (for six issues) or \$22.00 outside North America, or \$3.00 for one issue, from Brad Keefauver (4009 North Chelsea Place, Peoria, IL 61614). And Dodd's web-site is at <<http://arts.ucsc.edu/GDead/AGDL/direwolf.html>>.
9400. State lotteries continue to use Sherlockian artwork, Connecticut the most recent example, in August; thanks to Ev Herzog, who (alas) didn't win with this ticket.
9401. Scott Monty has reported that The Baker Street Journal's traditional binders are again available: navy-blue vinyl with the BSJ logo on the cover and spine, and with a label holder on the spine, and with a saddle mechanism using rods to hold issues in place. They're suitable for both the old and the new series, and each binder holds eight issues of the new series; they cost \$10.00 each, plus \$5.00 shipping for one to four binders, and \$2.50 shipping for each additional one to four binders. The BSJ's web-site at <<http://www.bakerstreetjournal.com>> has an order form, or you can send checks (payable to The Baker Street Irregulars) to W. Scott Monty (1836 Columbia Road, South Boston, MA 02127).
9402. Marian J. A. Jackson's series of pastiches about Abigail Patience Danforth (who happily ignores a warning from Arthur Conan Doyle that amateur detecting is no career for a young lady) has five titles: THE PUNJAT'S RUBY and THE ARABIAN PEARL (September 90 #5), THE CAT'S EYE (October 91 #3), DIAMOND HEAD (November 92 #6), and SUNKEN TREASURE (July 95 #2). And they're still in print, from iUniverse, one of the computerized

companies that provide authors who can supply electronic text a way to have books published and sold through bookstores and via the World Wide Web. Jackson's books (originally published by Pinnacle and Walker), were reissued by iUniverse in 2001, and they cost \$15.95 or \$17.95 as trade paperbacks. The URL for iUniverse's web-site is <<http://www.iuniverse.com>>. And Jackson has her own web-site (as do many authors now) at <<http://www.marianjackson.net>>.

9403. Further to the report (April 02 #7) on the BBC Worldwide release of the 1968 television version of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (with Peter Cushing and Nigel Stock) on cassette and DVD, the 1959 film (with Peter Cushing and Andre Morell) also is available on DVD from MGM Home Entertainment (\$14.95) with additional material: a theatrical trailer (in black-and-white), a featurette with Christopher Lee (who played Sir Henry Baskerville) reminiscing about the film, and a reading by Lee of excerpts from the novel.

September 2002 #6

9404. Herbert Epstein died on Sept. 21. He bought Edgar W. Smith's home in Morristown, N.J., Dave Galerstein has reported, and retained the address 221B Baker Street for the cottage in which Edgar carried out and carried on his work for The Baker Street Irregulars. Epstein donated to the BSI a switch plate with a Sherlockian profile, and a plaque that Edgar P. Smith had installed noting that his father's cottage had been the headquarters of the BSI. "When I bought the property," Epstein once said, "I didn't know I was buying a shrine."
9405. Phil Attwell reports that the watercolor of "The Great Falls of the Reichenbach" (1804) painted by Joseph Mallord William Turner (1775-1851) will be on exhibit at Agnew's Gallery in Old Bond Street in London from Oct. 8 to Nov. 1 (with five other Turners).
9406. The September booklist from Peter L. Stern & Co. (55 Temple Place, Boston, MA 02111) <psbook@aol.com> has two interesting items: "Conan Doyle Speaking" (the 1930 Gramophone Co. recording) with his comments on both Sherlock Holmes and Spiritualism (\$850), and Conan Doyle's bankbook (for February-October 1904) from the Capital and Counties Bank on Oxford Street, which by nice coincidence (well, perhaps it wasn't only a coincidence) was Sherlock Holmes' own bank (\$2,500).
9407. The twelfth volume of The Shoso-in Bulletin, published by The Men with the Twisted Konjo and edited by Yuichi Hirayama and Mel Hughes, is an interesting anthology of articles, essays, pastiches, parodies, and artwork by contributors in ten countries on four continents, with 212 pages (and it's all in English); \$12.00 plus shipping from Classic Specialties (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219) (877-233-3823) <<http://www.sherlock-holmes.com>>; creditcard orders welcome. Back issues are available, and The Shoso-in Bulletin has a web-site at <<http://www.parkcity.ne.jp/~hirayama/index.htm>>. If you are in Britain and want to order by mail, contact John Hall (20 Drury Avenue, Horsforth, Leeds LS18 4BR, England).
9408. The Japanese film director and writer Hayao Miyazaki is receiving rave reviews for his new feature-length animation "Spirited Away" (now in limited release, so it may not be available in every neighborhood), and Pam Verrey has noted that Miyazaki's previous credits include work on the 1983 television series "The Adventures of Sherlock Hound" (known in Japan as "Meitantei Holmes").
9409. Doug and Sandi Greene report that the fourth volume in the "Crippen & Landru Lost Classics" series (offering previously uncollected stories by great detective and mystery writers) is Stuart Palmer's HILDEGARDE WITHERS: UNCOLLECTED RIDDLES. None of the stories is Sherlockian (although one has a mention of Trichinopoly), but they're great fun as well as fine 1930s puzzle stories; Palmer was a member of The Baker Street Irregulars (his entertaining essay "The I-O-U of Hildegard Withers" appeared in the Jan. 1948 issue of The Baker Street Journal). \$29.00 cloth/\$19.00 paper, plus shipping, from Crippen & Landru (Box 9315, Norfolk, VA 23505) (toll-free 877-622-6656) <<http://www.crippenlandru.com>>.

October 2002 #1

9410. The famous (perhaps infamous) Sherlock Holmes "tent joke" was voted (temporarily) the funniest joke in the world in a "Laughlab" experiment launched last September by British psychologist Richard Wiseman (December 01 #6), and the good news (for those who detest the oft-repeated joke) is that it only came in second in the final voting (and I'm not going to tell it again); you can see the final results at the web-site <<http://www.laughlab.co.uk>>. For all my readers who don't have access to the Internet, here's the winner: There are two hunters out in the woods, and one of them collapses; he seems not to be breathing and his eyes are glazed. So the other hunter takes out his cell phone and calls emergency services. He gasps: "My friend is dead! What can I do?" And the operator replies: "Calm down, I can help. First, let's make sure he's dead." There is a silence, then a gunshot is heard. Back on the phone, the guy says: "okay, now what?"
9411. The second part of Richard M. Lackritz's detective-fiction collection (the material from 1920 to 1945) was sold at auction at Christie's in New York on Sept. 24; one item was his copy of Ellery Queen's THE MISADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, inscribed by Fred Dannay: "To Dr. Richard Lackritz/This is the only EQ book ever suppressed -- and for reasons that had nothing to do with the book!" It sold for \$418.25 (including the 19.5% buyer's premium).
9412. THE MISADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES was indeed suppressed, after the fifth printing; Adrian Conan Doyle objected furiously to publication of Sherlock Holmes pastiches, but was unable to do anything about the book until Fred Dannay discovered, and brought to Adrian's attention, that Dannay had mistakenly included (without permission) an excerpt from the Canon in the anthology 101 YEARS' ENTERTAINMENT: THE GREAT DETECTIVE STORIES, 1841-1941; Adrian then threatened a lawsuit over the copyright infringement unless THE MISADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES was withdrawn, and Ellery Queen complied. Adrian changed his mind about pastiches in the 1950s, when he wrote some of them himself.
9413. Plan well ahead: "Gaslight and Fog" (an autumnal weekend of Sherlockian fun and frolic) is scheduled for Oct. 11-13, 2003, at the Nevele Grande Hotel in Ellenville, N.Y. (in the Catskills). Arrangements by The Sign of Four (aka Ron and Carol Fish, Al Gregory, and January Stauber), and they have a website at <<http://www.gaslightandfog.org>>; you can also reach Ron Fish at Box 4, Circleville, NY 10919 (845-361-4320).
9414. Judith Freeman notes that an exhibit of "Alien Stingers" opened at the N.Y. Aquarium on Sept. 27; it's devoted to jellyfish, and one of the 20 species exhibited is the Lion's Mane. *Cyanea capillata*, according to an aquarium press release, is the "giant of all the species of jellies; the belled sac of a lion's mane jelly can measure six feet or more across while its tangle of venomous tentacles may reach over 100 feet in length. The tentacles are arranged in eight groups with each group having 150 tentacles. The lion's mane ranges widely in the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, and although it is not believed capable of killing an organism as large as a human, its sting can cause severe discomfort." The Aquarium is at Coney Island in Brooklyn, and there's an interesting web-site at <<http://www.nyaquarium.com>>.

October 2002 #2

9415. The September issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota offers Jim Hawkins' story about John Bennett Shaw's personal collection with the movie "Young Sherlock Holmes" (and his comments on what John received for that work), and other reports from and about the collections. Expansion of the catalog of the Sherlock Holmes collections continues (and as of late summer 13,995 items had been added), and the results are available on-line at <<http://www.lib.umn.edu/books/>>. The newsletter is available from Richard J. Sveum (111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, 222 21st Avenue South, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <sveum001@tc.umn.edu>.

9416. The newsletter also reports that Sherlock's Home (in Minnetonka, Minn.) has begun a "Sherlock for Governor" campaign. Holmes held a press conference at the microbrewery to announce his plans to run for governor on the law and order platform, with "no taxation on beer" a special concern. Owner Bill Burdick is distributing window decals and campaign buttons, and has said that other gubernatorial candidates will be challenged to debate with the Great Detective.
9417. Philip Knightley's *THE FIRST CASUALTY: FROM THE CRIMEA TO VIETNAM: THE WAR CORRESPONDENT AS HERO, PROPAGANDIST, AND MYTH MAKER* was published in 1975, and it's an excellent examination of "to what extent the war correspondent has been responsible for myths" (the epigraph for the book is the suggestion by Sen. Hiram Johnson in 1917 that "the first casualty when war come is truth"), and Conan Doyle's reporting on the Boer War and the First World War is mentioned briefly. A revised second edition (with a new subtitle "the war correspondent as hero and myth-maker from the Crimea to Kosovo") appeared in Britain in 2000, and there's now an American edition (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2002; 574 pp., \$19.95).
9418. Issue #50 of *Sherlock* offers its usual coverage of crime fiction (Sherlockian and otherwise). Mark Palmer reports on Sherlock Holmes pubs and restaurants ("From Silver Blaze to Mayonnaise"), Gavin Collinson discusses the new television film "Case of Evil", Paul Chapman explores "Encounters with Evil", and the continuing "Spotlight on a Society" feature offers Michael E. Bragg's report on *The Harpooners of the Sea Unicorn*. *Sherlock* is a bimonthly, and a subscription costs £23.70 (U.K.)/£26.00 (continent)/\$40.00 (elsewhere); the address is Box 100, Chichester, West Sussex PO18 8HD, England <<http://pmh.uk.com/sherlock/sherlock.htm>>. Also available from their American agent Classic Specialties (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219) (877-233-3823) <<http://www.sherlock-holmes.com>>; credit-card orders welcome at both addresses, and back issues are available.
9419. Phyllis Calvert died on Oct. 8. She trained as a child dancer until an injury forced a switch to drama, and made her first appearance on stage at the age of 10 in 1925 (in Dame Ellen Terry's last play), and her first appearance in film at the age of 12, and by the 1940s was the most glamorous film star in Britain. She continued acting on stage, screen, and television, and played Agnes Garrideb in 1994 in the "Three Garridebs" segment of Granada's "The Mazarin Stone".

October 2002 #3

9420. Filming for the fourth season of "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's *The Lost World*" (the series that stars Peter McCauley as Challenger) has been postponed while producers pursue final agreements on funding for 22 more programs. The third season will continue in syndicated re-runs on Warner Brothers channels, while the first two seasons can be seen weekday mornings on TNT cable. There's a web-site <<http://www.lostworldtv.net>> that offers action, background, episode information, and a newsletter.
9421. "Studies in Sherlock" is being performed at the Saint Sebastian Players Theatre in Chicago through Nov. 17 (Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 pm and Sundays at 2:00 pm); the play is a dramatization of "A Case of Identity" and "The Second Stain" by Jim Masini. The box office phone number is (773-404-7922); web-site at <<http://www.members.aol.com/stsebplyers/>>.
9422. John Baesch reports that the National Portrait Gallery in London opens an exhibition on "The Cult of Byronism" on Nov. 20; according to the November issue of *British Heritage*, the show will examine the influence of Lord Byron (1788-1824) on Benjamin Disraeli, Oscar Wilde, W. H. Auden, and T. E. Lawrence (all four, by interesting coincidence cited by Ron De Waal in his *THE UNIVERSAL SHERLOCK HOLMES*).
9423. Plan ahead: the Appletree Theater in Highland Park, Ill., plans to produce a new dramatization of "The Sign of the Four" (by Dr. Shanghai Low), June 18-July 20, 2003. The box-office address is 595 Elm Place, Highland Park, IL 60035 (847-437-4335) <<http://www.appletreetheatre.com>>.
9424. Zakaria Erzincinoglu died on Sept. 26. He was a renowned forensic entomologist in Britain, widely known as "Dr. Zak" (both in law enforcement and to the general public). His memoirs (*MAGGOTS, MURDER AND MEN*), published in Britain in 2000 and in the United States this year (May 02 #4), include a discussion of the achievements of Sherlock Holmes and Arthur Conan Doyle, and citations of the Canon in each chapter.
9425. The November /December issue of *Book* magazine is their "Best of 2002" issue, and one of their five "best crime novels" is Laurie R. King's *JUSTICE HALL*, which they describe as "Sherlock Holmes and his brilliant young wife (surprised?) enter the world of British high society. In a country manor, they uncover the mechanisms that caused the execution of a well-born young soldier in World War I." One subscriber to the RUSS-L electronic mailing list has suggested that it should have read "Mary Russell and her husband." Of course it might also have read "Mary Russell and her brilliant elderly husband" . . .
9426. "It seems elementary, my dear readers, why Hunter couple William and Elizabeth Holmes called their second boy Sherlock. After all, an affable doctor named Watson delivered him on January 20, 1911. 'A nurse told my parents that they just had to call me Sherlock,' the 91-year-old laughs." That's the opening of an article by Chad Watson (no relation, he carefully noted in his byline) in the Australian newspaper the *Newcastle Herald* (Aug. 3), recently at hand from Karen Murdock. And there's a bit more to the story: "I think his grandmother's sister was married to Conan Doyle or something like that," his former dance partner Joyce Mason said. "He told me how it was but now nobody can remember."

October 2002 #4

9427. Kenton A. Johnson ("A Remarkable Invention") died on June 13. Ken became interested in ham radio as a teenager in the 1930s, and communications was both a vocation and an avocation for him (he used the call sign W6NKE). In 1975 he founded The Sherlock Holmes Wireless Society for fellow ham operators who met by shortwave radio (in an era when the phrase "out there in the electricity" didn't mean the Internet), and edited The Sherlock Holmes Wireless Society Newsletter (later called *The Log of the Canonical Hams*) for people who weren't wireless. Ken received his Investiture from *The Baker Street Irregulars* in 1981.
9428. *A LITERARY GUIDE TO LONDON*, by Ed Glinert (New York: Penguin Books, 2000; 435 pp., £12.99), is an excellent guide, with a chapter "From Bart's to Baker Street: A Walk Through Sherlock Holmes's London" and many other references, Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian, to Arthur Conan Doyle.
9429. The Bootmakers of Toronto met at the Bata Shoe Museum on Sept. 28, and one of the papers, nicely appropriate for the venue, was Chris Redmond's "Foot Notes" (which includes a spectacular Sherlockian pun). The paper is available at <<http://www.sherlockian.net/societies/boots/footwear.html>>, and his web-site offers a wide and interesting range of other Sherlockian and Doylean material, and links to other web-sites.
9430. Carolyn and Joel Senter have a new sales-list of Sherlockiana that includes books, CDs, videos, artwork, and other collectibles. The *Sherlockian Times* is available on request from Classic Specialties (Box 16058, Cincinnati, OH 45219) (877-233-3823 <<http://www.sherlock-holmes.com>>. There's also newsletter content, including an interesting report on the "Sherlock Holmes and all That Jazz" excursion to New Orleans last March; planning is underway on a second excursion, to a different city, and you can ask the Senters to let you know details when they're available.
9431. Sherlock Holmes is now an honorary FRSC. That's Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry, and the award, usually reserved for Nobel Laureates and distinguished academics, is the first by the society to a fictional character (according to the society) and it was made in recognition of Holmes' pioneering use of forensic science. FRSC Dr. John Watson was photographed placing the medal around the neck of the statue of Sherlock Holmes

outside the Baker Street Underground on Oct. 16, and Andrew Chancellor in a grumpy "Footnote" on the editorial page of the Daily Telegraph (Oct. 17), suggested that the reason for the award was to "attract publicity to this not tremendously well known organisation, but it was carrying whimsy too far. You can hardly take seriously an institution that hands out honours to fictional characters. What would we think if the Nobel committee decided to give its prize for economics to Mr. Micawber?" Why didn't the Society give its award on Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Chancellor wondered. "Not famous enough, I suppose."

9432. Kenneth Ludwig's play "Postmortem" (which premiered as "Dramatic Licence" in New Hampshire in 1983, with Patrick Horgan as William Gillette) is being performed at the Ottawa Little Theatre, through Nov. 9. It's a murder mystery set in Gillette's home in Connecticut, with Gillette trying to do the detecting. The theater is at 400 King Edward, Ottawa, ON K1N 7M7, Canada (613-233-8948) and there's a web-site at <www.o-l-t.com/oltdat.html>.

October 2002 #5

9433. Sherlock Holmes' 149th birthday will be celebrated on Friday, Jan. 10, with the traditional festivities in New York, but the first formal event will be on Thursday at 9:00 am at the Hotel Algonquin (59 West 44th Street), whence Jim Cox will lead the annual Christopher Morley Walk, which ends with lunch at McSorley's. The Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Speaker Lecture begins at 6:15 pm on the 6th floor of the Williams Club (24 East 39th Street, between Madison and Park Avenues); the speaker will be Douglas G. Greene, author of the biography JOHN DICKSON CARR: THE MAN WHO EXPLAINED MIRACLES (1995), editor of the anthology DETECTION BY GASLIGHT (1998), and proprietor (with his wife Sandi) of Crippen & Landru, publishers of a wide range of classic mysteries (\$10.00); seating is limited, and you are advised to reserve early (details below).
9434. Friday begins with the Martha Hudson Breakfast, from 7:00 to 10:00 in the Oak Room at the Hotel Algonquin at 59 West 44th Street; the hotel provides guests with a continental breakfast, and others are welcome to attend each day and pay \$17.00 (details below). The William Gillette Memorial Luncheon starts at noon, at Moran's Chelsea Seafood Restaurant at 146 Tenth Avenue at 19th Street; \$37.00 (Susan Rice, 125 Washington Place #2-E, New York, NY 10014). And Otto Penzler will hold his traditional open house at The Mysterious Bookshop (129 West 56th Street) from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm; Sherlockian authors are likely to be on hand to sign their books.
9435. The Baker Street Irregulars will gather at 6:00 pm at the Union League Club at 38 East 37th Street. The Baskerville Bash (open to all Sherlockians and their friends) offers dinner and entertainment at 6:30 pm at the Manhattan Club at 201 West 52nd Street (between Broadway and Seventh Avenue); \$75.00 until Dec. 15, \$85.00 thereafter (checks payable to Maribeau Briggs Shrawder should be sent to Paula J. Perry, 346 East 87th Street #4-A, New York, NY 10128); please include your e-mail address and primary Sherlockian society affiliation). Early reservations are advised for the William Gillette luncheon and the Baskerville Bash.
9436. Those who wish to have seasonal souvenirs in the dinner packets can send 175 copies (for the BSI) to James B. Saunders (3011 47th Street, Astoria, NY 11103) and 125 copies (for the Bash) to Francine Kitts (35 Van Cortlandt Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10301); your material should arrive by Dec. 15.
9437. On Saturday a wide variety of Sherlockiana will be offered in the dealers' room on the second floor of the Hotel Algonquin (59 West 44th Street) from 9:30 am until 12:30 pm; Ralph Hall (2906 Wallingford Court, Louisville, KY 40218) (502-491-3148) <bugmanhall@aol.com> will be glad to supply information about dealers' tables.
9438. And the Clients of Adrian Mulliner (devotees of the works of both John H. Watson and P. G. Wodehouse) will hold their Junior Bloodstain (a somewhat less than totally reverent gathering) in the lobby of the Hotel Algonquin at 12:30 pm; if you're planning to attend, please let Anne Cotton know (12 Hollywood Street, South Hadley, MA 01075) <ladybassett@attbi.com>.
9439. The BSI annual reception, open to all Sherlockians and their friends, will be held on Saturday afternoon from 2:30 to 5:30, at the National Arts Club at 15 Gramercy Park (on 20th Street between Park and Third Avenues); open bar, and hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, and the usual traditional and untraditional entertainment, and the cost of the event is \$45.00 (details below) until Dec. 15, or \$55.00 thereafter or at the door.

October 2002 #6

9440. The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes will hold an informal brunch on Sunday, at 11:30 am at the Baker Street restaurant at 1152 First Avenue (at 63rd Street); it's open to everyone, and reservations are strongly advised, to Marina Stajic (425 East 51st Street #4-A, New York, NY 10022) <mstajic@aol.com>.
9441. The Baker Street Irregulars are a tax-exempt organization, and Mike Whelan has arranged with the Hotel Algonquin for single or double rooms at \$175.00 a night (Tuesday through Sunday); this is the total cost, since there is no tax due on reservations arranged by the BSI (the special rate is the equivalent of \$153.00 plus tax). Other charges (room service, telephone calls, meals, drinks, etc.) are not covered. The offer is available to all Sherlockians; contact the Algonquin directly (there's a firm mid-December cutoff deadline) and ask for the Baker Street Irregulars rate (212-840-6800).
9442. And here are the details: you can request a reservation form for the Thursday lecture, the Martha Hudson breakfast, and the Saturday reception, from Michael F. Whelan, 7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278; please see that your reservations are received by Mike by Dec. 15.
9443. Mary Ellen Rich has kindly provided a list of hotels that offer reasonable (as defined by New York landlords) rates, along with a warning about nonoptional extras: \$2.00 a day occupancy tax, 8.25% state tax, and 5% city tax. Ask for the lowest available rate, don't be shy about asking for discounts (AAA, senior, corporate), and if you plan to arrive on Thursday you should confirm that weekend rates apply, and request written confirmation.
9444. Chelsea International Hostel (251 West 20th St.) \$25 (dormitory) or \$60 single/double, but no private baths (212-647-0100); West Park Hotel (6 Columbus Circle) \$85 standard or \$100 superior single/double (212-445-0200); Howard Johnson Plaza (851 8th Ave.) \$87.95 single/double Internet special (866-260-0402); Wellington Hotel (55th St. at 7th Ave.) \$99 single/double Internet special (212-247-3900); Hotel Pennsylvania (401 7th Ave.) \$100 single/double Internet special (212-756-5000). Mary Ellen also recommends <<http://www.nycvisit.com>> for specials and general information, as well as <<http://www.orbitz.com>> and <<http://travelocity.com>>.
9445. The Dr. John H. Watson Fund offers financial assistance to all Sherlockians (membership in the BSI is not required) who might otherwise not be able to participate in the weekend's festivities. A carefully pseudonymous John H. Watson presides over the fund and welcomes contributions, which can be made by check payable to John H. Watson and sent (without return address on the envelope) to Dr. Watson, care of The Baker Street Irregulars, at 7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278; your letters are forwarded unopened, and Dr. Watson will acknowledge your generosity. Requests for assistance can also be mailed to Dr. Watson at the same address.

November 2002 #1

9446. Some late-breaking news: there's an additional event scheduled during the birthday festivities in New York: a staged reading (with Paul Singleton as Sherlock Holmes and Mary Ellen Rich as Mrs. Hudson) of Andrew Joffe's new adaptation of "The Blue Carbuncle", on Thursday, Jan. 9, at 2:00 pm, at

the West Bank Cafe (Downstairs) at 407 West 42nd Street (between 9th and 10th Avenues). The play runs about 90 minutes, and there will be a short intermission; admission is free (first come, first served), and there will be a cash bar.

9447. There has been a wide variety of Sherlockian television programs broadcast in Russian over the years, and it's nice indeed that many are now available here on videocassettes and DVDs, some in PAL format only, and others also in NTSC format, from RBC Computers (269 Brighton Beach Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11235) <<http://www.rbcmp3.com>>; the company also offers a range of multisystem DVD players (\$124.99 and up) that allow you to view PAL DVDs on NTSC television sets (the format doesn't matter if you play a DVD on your computer. And some programs are available subtitled in English. Shipping costs extra, and credit-card orders are welcome; you'll save on shipping costs if you order at the web-site.
9448. Three programs starring Vasily Livanov and Vitaly Solomin are in Russian, with English subtitles: "Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson" (1979) (#30316) [with "A Study in Scarlet" and "The Speckled Band"]; "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson" (1980) (#30315) [with "The Final Problem", "The Empty House", and "Charles Augustus Milverton"]; and "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1981) (#29545) are on DVD-PAL and cost \$14.99 each. "The Hound of the Baskervilles" also is available with subtitles on DVD-NTSC at \$21.99 (#30194).
9449. Two other Livanov/Solomin programs are available without subtitles: "The Agra Treasure" (1983) [with "The Sign of Four" and "A Scandal in Bohemia"] on VHS-NTSC at \$10.99 (#9458); and "The Twentieth Century Begins" (1986) [with "The Engineer's Thumb", "The Second Stain", "His Last Bow", and "The Bruce-Partington Plans"] on DVD-PAL at \$15.99 (#5020), and on VHS-NTSC at \$10.99 (#9459).
9450. Livanov also did Sherlock Holmes' voice on a nine-minute children's animation "Sherlock Holmes and I" (1986) that is included with seven other non-Sherlockian animations on VHS-NTSC (no subtitles) at \$10.99 (#29747). And there's "My Dearly Beloved Detective" (1986): a parody starring Yekaterina Vasilyeva (Miss Holmes) and Galina Shchepetnova (Miss Watson) as two detectives who run their own detective agency (to the annoyance of officials at Scotland Yard) on VHS-NTSC (no subtitles) at \$10.99 (#8203).
9451. There's still time to see the exhibition "Exposed: The Victorian Nude" at the Brooklyn Art Museum through Jan. 5, where you can see some 150 paintings, sculptures, works on paper, photographs, popular illustrations, and films. Organized by Tate Britain, the exhibition provides an interesting look at what was considered proper or improper, and artistic or otherwise, during the Victorian era. The museum is at 200 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn, NY 11238 (718-638-5000) <<http://www.brooklynmuseum.org>>.

November 2002 #2

9452. Dave Galerstein has forwarded an item from his local newspaper The Cranbury Press (Oct. 25) about the party at Castle Senior Living to celebrate the 100th birthday of Etta (Eddie) Lehrman, who talked about growing up in her grandfather's brownstone on East 50th Street in New York, where she had interesting neighbors: Katherine Cornell, Julie Harris, Irving Berlin, and Basil Rathbone. "We always knew when Mr. Rathbone was expecting to have a lady visitor," Mrs. Lehrman explained. "He would line the stairs in front of his place with flowers."
9453. The new BBC television film of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (April 02 #3) will air on PBS-TV in January, with Richard Roxburgh as Sherlock Holmes and Ian Hart as Dr. Watson, and the latest computer technology to generate the Hound. Richard E. Grant, who was Sherlock Holmes for BBC-2 in "Encounters: The Other Side" (1992) and Mycroft Holmes in "Case of Evil" on USA cable in October, will play Stapleton.
9454. And Ian Hart will be seen as Arthur Conan Doyle in "Neverland" next year. The film, based on Alan Knee's play "The Man Who Was Peter Pan" (about how J. M. Barrie was inspired to write "Peter Pan") stars Johnny Depp (Barrie), Dustin Hoffman (Charles Frohman), Kate Maberly (Wendy Darling), Kate Winslet, and Julie Christie. Miramax will be the distributor in the U.S.
9455. Steve Rothman has reported that Ray Betzner is The Baker Street Journal's new editor of reports from the Sherlockian societies. Society reports can be sent to Raymond L. Betzner at 1535 South Jefferson Court, Lancaster, PA 17602 (typed and double-spaced, please); e-mail to <societynotes@aol.com>.
9456. The "Sign of Three" (Jim Saunders, Scott Bond, and Ed Smith) offer a new Sherlock Holmes ring, designed by Scott Bond and available in ultrium, or white or yellow gold (10/14/18 carats) and in versions for men and women, at prices from \$179 to \$409; you can ask James Saunders (Box 9052, Astoria, NY 11103) <sherlockianring@aol.com> for an illustrated flier.
9457. Communication (the newsletter of The Pleasant Places of Florida) is now up to its 225th issue, which is a "special fall television issue" (prepared by Wanda and Jeff Dow) with details on the fall Sherlockian schedule (similar to what TV Guide does, but for a season in which all the programs are Sherlockian); it's imaginatively done, complete with photographs (including one showing Vicki Lewis in "Suddenly Susan Cushing"). Membership, including a subscription, costs \$12.00 a year (\$13.00 overseas) from Carl Heifetz, 1220 Winding Willow Drive, New Port Richey, FL 34655; the TV issue alone costs \$2.00 postpaid.
9458. Rodger Garrick-Steele has found a publisher for his book with all the details of his claim (November 01 #3) Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was a plagiarist and a murderer (he allegedly colluded with his publishers to deny B. Fletcher Robinson recognition for devising the plot and supplying much of the local detail for THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, and then in 1907, worried that his affair with Fletcher Robinson's wife Gladys would be discovered, poisoned Fletcher Robinson with laudanum): the publisher is Nanundo, in Tokyo, and the book is in Japanese: CONAN DOYLE SATSUJIN JIKEN (with the subtitle THE HOUSE OF THE BASKERVILLES), and it costs Y950.

November 2002 #3

9459. The Duke of Bedford died on Oct. 25. He was John Robert Russell, born into a family which (in his own words) "thought themselves slightly grander than God." He inherited the title in 1953 and devoted years to rescuing and restoring Woburn Abbey; he opened its rooms to the public, created the first game park at a stately home, and turned the family estate into a business that drew visitors at the rate of more than 1.5 million a year. In 1974 he turned the estate over to his son and lived abroad with his third wife, whom he married in 1960: Nicole Milinaire, now the Dowager Duchess of Bedford, but in the 1950s associate producer of the "Sherlock Holmes" television series that starred Ronald Howard. There is a chapter about the series in her memoirs, NICOLE NOBODY (1974).
9460. The Baskerville Arms in Shiplake reopened under new ownership this summer, according to a flier at hand from John Baesch; it's a restaurant in Station Road, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon. RG9 3NY, England (in case you're on tour).
9461. "Sherlock Holmes and the curious case of a scholar who detects the Bible in Conan Doyle's tales" was the headline on Richard Owen's report in The Times (Nov. 7) about a new book that suggests that Conan Doyle's early education by the Jesuits is reflected in the Sherlock Holmes tales. The book is SOPRANNATURALE!, WATSON: SHERLOCK HOLMES E IL CASO DIO, by Alessandro Gnocchi and Mario Palmaro (Milan: Ancora, 2002; 176 pp., E14.00); the title translates as SUPERNATURAL, WATSON!: SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE CASE OF GOD.
9462. Worldwide Collectibles & Gifts (Box 158, Berwyn, PA 19312) (800-222-1613) <<http://wwcag.com>> offers the "Department 56" models of "Literary Classics" that include "The Hansom Cab" (DT5853-4) at \$35.00, and "Sherlock Holmes: 221B Baker Street" with the house, figures of Holmes and Watson, and a book (DT5860-1) at \$90.00; and "Legends of England" wall masks of Holmes (£19) and Watson (£20) at \$29.00 each.

9463. The museum show "Sherlock Holmes and the Clocktower Mystery" (first exhibited in England in 1995) has been on tour in the United States and Canada, and it will open at the Berkshire Museum in Pittsfield, Mass., on Jan. 21 and run through May 7. The museum is at 39 South Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201 (413-443-7171) <<http://www.berkshireremuseum.org>>.
9464. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists met for dinner at Dixon's Downtown Grill in Denver on Oct. 30, to honor the world's first forensic geologist, during the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America (the society gave this year's public service award to author John McPhee, whose classic book BASIN AND RANGE noted that Sherlock Holmes was a geologist). The local Sherlockians were led by were led by John and Judy Stephenson, and Bill Dorn, and temporarily-local Mia Stampe. Our next meetings will be in Salt Lake City in May, and in Seattle in November .
9465. John Leonard's review of USA cable's "Case of Evil" in the Oct. 28 issue of New York magazine reported that it "will remind you of every variation on Sherlock Holmes that the screen is heir to, plus every serial killer since Jack the Ripper," calling it "ridiculous but entertaining." He ended his review: "May I suggest the glorious alternative of Laurie R. King's Sherlock Holmes-meets-Mary Russell series? *The Beekeeper's Apprentice* may be more fun than anything Sir Arthur Conan Doyle wrote."

November 2002 #4

9466. The Honolulu Police Department has cancelled its annual "Sherlock Holmes Night" this year because of staffing constraints, according to a report in the Honolulu Advertiser (Oct. 13). The popular event, designed to educate the public about forensic science and criminal investigations, invites participants to solve a mock crime, but deputy police chief Glen Kajiyama said that "We regret that we cannot host the event his year. Right now we are concentrating on other priorities such as preparing our department and DNA lab for national accreditation." The department plans to resume the event next year.
9467. Sonia Fetherston and Tyke Niver have noted "Sherlock Holmes London Tea" ("blended to a delicious and secret Victorian recipe that not even Holmes could ferret out") in the fall-winter mail-order catalog from The Scottish Lion (Box 1700, 3424 White Mountain Highway, North Conway, NH 03860 (800-355-7268) <<http://www.scottishlion.com>>; \$18.00 for two 4.4-ounce tins (item F185).
9468. Marina Stajic was the moderator of a Sherlock Holmes Workshop in Dearborn, Mich., on Oct. 17, as part of the annual meeting of the Society of Forensic Toxicologists, with five experts discussing "The Adventure of the Devil's Foot" (which was reprinted in the Program and Abstracts, possibly the first time a Sherlock Holmes story has been published by a scientific society).
9469. The Mystery Guild continues to offer its members inexpensive book-club editions that include JUSTICE HALL, by Laurie R. King (\$11.99) and MURDER IN BAKER STREET: NEW TALES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, edited by Martin H. Greenberg (\$12.49); (Box 6325, Indianapolis, IN 46206) <<http://www.mysteryguild.com>>. And the November issue of the Guild's newsletter offers a "member profile" of George Schenk, a Sherlockian who lives in West Linn, Ore., and has been a member of the Guild since 1950.
9470. There's a new Sherlockian society in Philadelphia: Gideon Hill reports that Mycroft's League will meet for lunch at the Union League Club on the last Fridays in April and October, before the dinners of The Sons of the Copper Beeches and The Bitches of the Copper Beeches, and on other occasions, including an event now being planned for Saturday, Apr. 26, 2003. If you'd like to be notified of the society's activities, please contact Gideon at (215-887-8110) <gideonhill221@earthlink.net>; all Sherlockians are welcome to attend meetings of Mycroft's League.
9471. Mary Burke reports that a painting by Emile Jean Horace Vernet (the granduncle of Sherlock Holmes) is on display at the Walters Art Museum in Baltimore; the painting is "Italian Brigands Surprised by Papal Troops" (in the 19th Century Gallery).
9472. Fans of the country-pop group The Dixie Chicks may already know that Emily Robison named her baby, born on Nov. 11, Charles Augustus Robison. Mickey Fromkin ran an Internet search in pursuit of a possible connection to the Sherlock Holmes story and found that the baby was named after his father, Charles Robison, and the baby's parents' favorite literary character, Augustus McCrea (from Larry McMurtry's LONESOME DOVE).

November 2002 #5

9473. One (possibly last) item about the famous Sherlock Holmes "tent joke": Tad Friend's article "What's So Funny?" in The New Yorker (Nov. 11) discusses humor and jokes and Dr. Richard Wiseman's "Laughlab" experiment; Friend mentions what he calls the "old groaner about Holmes and Watson going camping," and gives only the punch line, reporting that Wiseman said "It's a terrible joke."
9474. The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection arranged an afternoon symposium on "Bringing *Angels of Darkness* to Light" at the Toronto Reference Library on Nov. 16, with the manuscript of the play on display, along with other interesting Doylean items from the collection; the event was well-attended, and it included a world premiere: Scott Kettles and Cliff Makinson performed two excerpts from the play, one between Elias Fortescue Smee and John Ferrier, and the other Jefferson Hope and John Watson, M.D. And there was a convivial Bootmakers pub night at the nearby Artful Dodger afterward.
9475. The Toronto Reference Library, celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, provides a suitably late-Victorian home for the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection in an attractive and otherwise much-more-modern building that also is bordered on one side by a Sherlock Holmes Walk; the Arthur Conan Doyle room is open to the public from 2:00 to 4:00 pm on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, and at other times by appointment, and it's well worth a visit.
9476. The new BBC version of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (with Richard Roxburgh as Holmes and Ian Hart as Watson) was broadcast by the CBC in Canada on Nov. 18, and was warmly reviewed by Sherlockians who posted to mailing lists. But Catherine Dawson March, in her preview in the Toronto Globe and Mail, complained that "Henry Baskerville, who's been abroad farming in Canada, is played by Matt Day, who flattens his accent into an American drawl rather than a Canadian twang." (I don't recall hearing any Canadian twangs in Toronto on Nov. 16, possibly because none of the Friends and Bootmakers have been farming.) The program will air in Britain at Christmas, and in the United States (on PBS-TV) on Jan. 19.
9477. Noted by Victoria Gill: INDEXERS AND INDEXES IN FACT AND FICTION, edited by Hazel K. Bell, with a Foreword by A. S. Byatt (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2001; 160 pp., CA\$22.95); the contents include an interesting essay on "Indexing in Baker Street" by Margaret D. Anderson, who concludes that "Holmes was a successful indexer. He was industrious and painstaking, as all indexers must be, and, aided by his remarkable memory, his filing system never failed him. A modern practitioner would no doubt have made a master card-index for all the encyclopaedic volumes, but Holmes did very well without."
9478. The 2002 Christmas Annual of The Baker Street Journal is "Tilting at Windmills: Denis Conan Doyle and the Baker Street Irregulars", by Richard Lancelyn Green, who examines Denis and Adrian's battles with Ellery Queen over THE MISADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, the sudden demise of The Baker Street Journal, and the "general unhappiness" that Conan Doyle's sons caused and felt in the United States. The annual is not part of subscriptions to the BSJ; orders can be sent to The Baker Street Journal (Box 465, Hanover, PA 17331) <<http://www.bakerstreetjournal.com>>; \$11.00 postpaid in the U.S., or \$12.00 to other countries.

November 2002 #6

9479. The latest issue of *Scarlet Street* (#46) is a "special swimsuit issue" (devoted to the "Creature from the Black Lagoon" genre), also offering David Stuart Davies' review of Matt Frewer's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Whitechapel Vampire". \$42.00 a year (for six issues); the address is Box 604, Glen Rock, NJ 07452 <<http://www.scarletstreet.com>>.
9480. Brian Pugh reports that Britain has issued a set of "Pillar to Post" stamps, one of which shows an ornate letter-box introduced in 1857 in London, Dublin, and Edinburgh (a plainer "economy version" was produced for use elsewhere). The ornate boxes were dark green, decorated in gold, but from 1874 to 1884 the boxes were repainted red (dark green being considered a dingy color); thus it's likely that when Sherlock Holmes arrived in Baker Street the letter-boxes he saw would have been in red livery rather than green-and-gold.
9481. If you've not yet heard any of the excellent BBC Radio dramatizations with Clive Merrison as Holmes and Michael Williams as Watson, here's a chance to get some of the cassettes at a deep discount from Daedalus Books (Box 6000, Columbia, MD 21045) (800-395-2665) <www.salebooks.com>: THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES VOLUME 1 ("The Empty House", "The Norwood Builder", "The Dancing Men" and "The Solitary Cyclist" on two cassettes) and VOLUME 2 ("The Priory School", "Black Peter", "Charles Augustus Milverton", and "The Six Napoleons" on two cassettes) cost \$4.98 each (plus shipping).
9482. Richard Harris died on Oct. 25. He began his acting career in a workshop production of Brendan Behan's "The Quare Fellow" in 1956, and appeared in his film in 1962, starring in "This Sporting Life" and "Camelot" and most recently in "Gladiator" and "Harry Potter". And he played James McParlan (with Sean Connery as Jack Kehoe) in "The Molly Maguires" (1970); the non-Sherlockian film was based on the events featured in the American portion of "The Valley of Fear".
9483. Issue #51 of SHERLOCK offers its usual coverage of crime fiction (Sherlockian and otherwise); the contents include reviews (by Alan Wightman) of Matt Frewer's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Whitechapel Vampire" and (by Gavin Collinson) of Douglas Fairbanks' "The Mystery of the Leaping Fish" and Richard Roxburgh's "The Hound of the Baskervilles", and an article by Alan Taman on Sherlock Holmes and forensic science. SHERLOCK is published bi-monthly and subscriptions cost £23.70 (U.K.)/£26.00 (continent)/\$40.00 (elsewhere); the address is Box 100, Chichester, West Sussex PO18 8HD, England <<http://pmh.uk.com/sherlock/sherlock.htm>>. Also available from their American agent Classic Specialties (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219) (877-233-3823) <<http://www.sherlock-holmes.com>>; credit-card orders are welcome at both addresses, and back issues are available.
9484. THE DETECTIVE AND THE INVESTOR: UNCOVERING INVESTMENT TECHNIQUES FROM THE LEGENDARY SLEUTHS, by Robert G. Hagstrom (New York: TEXERE, 2002; 262 pp., \$24.95), is written for investors, with emphasis on how the methods of C. Auguste Dupin, Sherlock Holmes, and Father Brown can be used by those who want to invest wisely and well. Hagstrom also has interviewed modern mystery writers, and he includes four pages of discussion with Laurie R. King about Holmes and Mary Russell.

November 2002 #7

9485. Evelyn Stefansson Nef is a fascinating woman; born in 1913, she had three husbands: master puppeteer Bil Baird, polar explorer Vilhjalmur Stefansson, and John Nef, one of the founders of the University of Chicago's Committee on Social Thought. She now lives in Washington, in a nice Georgetown house with a garden mosaic mural designed and installed for her by Marc Chagall, and Sam Fry has noted an interesting story in her memoirs FINDING MY WAY: THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF AN OPTIMIST (Washington: Francis Press, 2002; 304 pp., \$26.00). While married to Baird she suffered a ruptured appendix and peritonitis, and one of her visitors during a monthlong recovery in the hospital was Stefansson, who arrived "bringing a copy of THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by his friend Sir Arthur Conan Doyle" and then "did an amazing thing: before my eyes he tore the hardcover book apart, so I could read it a chapter at a time without having to bear the weight of the whole volume. It seemed to me an extravagant act of kindness that belonged to a lost chivalric age."
9486. Januaryice Fisher has forwarded a report that footage from sixty years of British Pathe newsreels from 1910 to 1970 now is available at their web-site at <<http://www.britishpathe.com/index.cfm>>. You can search the archive (there are 3 hits for "Conan Doyle" and 16 hits for "Sherlock Holmes"), and you're able to preview some of the footage; the hits range from Eille Norwood making up for his role of Sherlock Holmes (1923) and "The Adventures of Sammy Sausage" (1928), to the reconstruction of the sitting-room in Baker Street (1951), to the Sherlock Holmes Society of London's excursion to Switzerland "In the Footsteps of Sherlock Holmes" (1968).
9487. "They Might Be Giants" (the rock group that takes its name from George C. Scott's 1971 film) are celebrating an anniversary with a 2-CD 52-song album "Dial-a-Song: 20 Years of They Might Be Giants" that lists at \$32.00 (but is discounted at \$27.18 at <<http://www.rhino.com>>. The group has its own web-site at <<http://www.tmbg.com>>.
9488. Ted Friedman's interesting series about Sherlockian philately for Topical Times continues with a two-page article "Sherlock Holmes Meets Dr. Watson" in the November -December issue; it's illustrated with stamps from Afghanistan, and the Cinderella local-post stamps issued by the Maiwand Jezails in 1980. The magazine costs \$5.00 postpaid from the American Topical Association, Box 50820, Albuquerque, NM 87181) <atastamps@juno.com> (credit-card orders welcome).
9489. South Africa's four-year series of stamps commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Anglo-Boer/South African War, including the stamp honoring Arthur Conan Doyle and Winston Churchill as war writers (May 01 #2), has been reissued in a souvenir booklet, with historical background information and illustrations; the cost of the booklet is R45.00 from Philatelic Services, Private Box X505, Pretoria, South Africa <<http://www.sapo.co.za>>.
9490. Martin Breese (Breese Books, c/o Magick Enterprises, 82 Broad Street, Sheffield S2 5TG, England) <www.sherlockholmes.co.uk> continues to publish interesting pastiches by John Hall and Val Andrews and others, and now offers an occasional newsletter Sherlock Holmes News, which includes the preface from Roger Jaynes' soon-to-be-published pastiche SHERLOCK HOLMES IN A DUEL WITH THE DEVIL. Copies of the newsletter are available without charge.

November 2002 #8

9491. One test of "cultural literacy" is the assumption that readers don't need explanations for allusions to literature. As with "The Dog That Never Barks" (the headline on the lead editorial in the Washington Post on Nov. 25). The editorial is about the Federal Election Commission ("the watchdog here dozes most of the day"), and there is no mention of a detective story or a detective or an author, the assumption being that readers will understand the allusion.
9492. There's more news about the film "O Xango de Baker Street" (it's based on Jo Soares' pastiche, which was called A SAMBA FOR SHERLOCK when it was published in an English translation in 1997): it was screened at the Festival do Rio in Brazil on Sept. 27, 2001, and at the New Cinema Novo festival at the Leonard Nimoy New Thalia in New York on Nov. 24, 2002. Joaquim de Almeida is Sherlock Holmes, with Anthony O'Donnell as Dr. Watson and Maria de Medeiros as Sarah Bernhardt.

9493. Debra Day, of St. Charles, Mo., has been creating hand-made collectibles for several years, Carolyn and Joel Senter report, and she has launched a new line of Sherlockian Mouse Christmas Tree Ornaments (they'll also stand up by themselves on your knickknack shelf); she plans to offer two ornaments each year, and this year's pair are Mrs. Hudson and Wiggins (they're about 2.5" high). The ornaments cost \$32.50 (shipping extra) for the pair, from Classic Specialties (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219) (877-233-3823) <<http://www.sherlock-holmes.com>> (credit-card orders are welcome).
9494. Reported by Tyke Niver: a deerstalker designed by Christys' of London, made of lambs wool and with a grosgrain tie, in brown check, in sizes S/M/L/XL, \$59.95; from Stark & Legum, 739 Granby Street, Norfolk, VA 23510 <<http://www.MensHats.com>> (800-356-4287).
9495. Reported: Stephen Gaspar's THE CANADIAN ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Blackfriars, 2002, \$4.95); mysteries solved by Holmes on a trip to and in Canada (this is an eBook that is available only on the Internet) <<http://blackfriarsbooks.tripod.com>>. Peter Lovesey's THE SEDGEMOOR STRANGLER AND OTHER STORIES OF CRIME (November 01 #5) has a British edition (London: Allison & Busby, 2002; 247 pp., £17.99); it includes a reprint of his pastiche "The Four Wise Men".
9496. The comic-book mini-series RUSE continues: issue #13 arrived in the shops this month (\$2.95); and so did issue #3 in the second volume of THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN (\$3.50) with an appearance by Mycroft directing the efforts of members of the League against the mysterious Martian cylinders that have fallen to Earth in England.

December 2002 #1

9497. Some late-breaking late-breaking news: the venue for the staged reading of "The Blue Carbuncle" during the birthday festivities has been changed: the performance of Andrew Joffe's new adaptation (with Paul Singleton as Sherlock Holmes and Mary Ellen Rich as Mrs. Hudson) will be held on Thursday, Jan. 9, at 2:00 pm, at the Blue Heron Theatre at 123 East 24th Street (between Park and Lexington Avenues). No charge for admission; reservations to Paul Singleton (144 East 24th Street #3-B, New York, NY 10010) (212-505-3609) <doctorsyn50@hotmail.com>.
9498. Geoffrey S. Stavert ("The Shingle of Southsea") died on Dec. 19. He served in the Royal Navy and retired with the rank of Commander, and was a devoted member of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London, serving as a member of its council from 1978 to 1979 and as its Honorary Secretary from 1986 to 1994, and he was named an Honorary Member of the Society in 1998. Geoff lived in Southsea for decades, and his carefully-researched and well-written A STUDY IN SOUTHSEA: THE UNREVEALED LIFE OF DOCTOR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE (1987) was a splendid examination of Conan Doyle's life and career in Southsea from 1882 to 1890, and his brief visit there in 1896. Geoff received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1994.
9499. A STUDY IN SOUTHSEA is no longer in print ink-on-paper, but thanks to the wonders of computers it is still available on a CD-ROM disk that's offered by Archive Britain (409 Victory House, Portsmouth, Hants. PO1 1JP, England) <http://www.archivebritain.com/a_study_in_southsea.htm>; the cost is £9.95 plus shipping. It's a fine picture of the place where Conan Doyle was both doctor and author, and of his family, friends, and associates there.
9500. English actor David Ian Davies, who earlier recorded "Silver Blaze" (June 02 #6), has now read "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (unabridged) on four CDs from One Voice Recordings; it's a fine performance (he supplies all of the voices, and he does them well indeed). The set costs \$34.50 (shipping extra) from Classic Specialties (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219) (toll-free 877-233-3823) <<http://www.sherlock-holmes.com>>; credit-card orders welcome.
9501. The Actor's Playhouse at the Miracle Theatre in Coral Gables will produce Charles Marowitz's "Sherlock's Last Case" from Jan. 15 to Feb. 9. The boxoffice address is 280 Miracle Mile, Coral Gables, FL 33134 (305-444-9293) <<http://www.actorsplayhouse.org>>.
9502. The Nashville Scholars of the Three Pipe Problem will celebrate their 25th anniversary on Apr. 16-18, 2004, with a reception at the world's only fullscale replica of the Parthenon, papers, dealers, a dinner-theater production of "The Greek Interpreter", and breakfast at the Sherlock Holmes Pub. Additional details are available from Jim Hawkins (644 Vivian Drive, Nashville, TN 37211) <jimhawkins@thehawk.net>.
9503. Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine continues its pleasant tradition of celebrating the birthday festivities in its Feb. 2003 issue, with Steve Hockensmith's cowboy whodunit "Dear Mr. Holmes", Arthur Porges' parody "Stately Homes and the Invisible Giant", C. McArthur's poem "The Hound", and Jon L. Breen's "The Jury Box" (devoted to reviews of Sherlockian pastiches).

December 2002 #2

9504. Lewis Feuer died on Nov. 24. A Marxist as a student, and suspected of being a Communist during World War II (he was a sergeant in New Caledonia and tried to organize local workers who were building airfields for the Allies, he also was arrested in the Soviet Union in 1963. during an academic exchange trip, when he explained to Soviet workers that American workers owned cars and homes. He began his academic career as associate professor of philosophy at Vassar College in 1946, and taught at many universities until he retired as professor emeritus of sociology and government at the University of Virginia in 1988. And he combined his interests in Karl Marx and Sherlock Holmes in THE CASE OF THE REVOLUTIONIST'S DAUGHTER (1983), in which Holmes is hired by Marx to investigate the disappearance of his daughter Eleanor.
9505. Crocuses are shown on a postage stamp issued by Belgium in 2002, and mentioned twice in the Canon: "But I have heard that the crocuses promise well," Holmes said imperturbably (in "The Speckled Band"). And Watson reported that there was "a bed of crocuses in full bloom" beneath the window at the Honorable Ronald Adair's house (in "The Empty House").
9506. Gavin Collinson continues to offer readers of SHERLOCK interesting and insightful comment on film and television: his review of the new Richard Roxburgh version of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is in issue #52, which also has comments by eight crime novelists on their favorite Sherlock Holmes stories, and the usual coverage of a wide range of crime fiction. SHERLOCK is published bi-monthly and subscriptions cost £23.70 (U.K.)/£26.00 (continent)/\$40.00 (elsewhere), from Box 100, Chichester, West Sussex PO18 8HD, England <<http://pmh.uk.com/sherlock/sherlock.htm>>. Or you can order from their American agent Classic Specialties (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219) (877-233-3823) <<http://www.sherlock-holmes.com>>; credit-card orders welcome at both addresses, and back issues are available.
9507. Reported by Lawrence G. Myers: reproduction posters for three of the Rathbone/Bruce films ("The Woman in Green", "Dressed to Kill", and "The Secret Weapon") available from Nina's Discount Oldies (Box 77, Narberth, PA 19072 (800-336-4627); large (17 x 26 in) \$14.98 or small (11 x 17 in) \$5.98, plus shipping. They also offer the three films, plus "Terror By Night", on videocassettes or DVDs for \$5.95 each, plus shipping.
9508. Spotted by Peter Ashman, in Patrick O'Brien's biography PABLO RUIZ PICASSO (1976): in 1909 Picasso and Fernande Olivier moved from the boarding-house Bateau-Lavoir to a flat in the Boulevard de Clichy, just by the Place Pigalle: "[F]irst came the easels and the canvases . . . then the few sticks among which they had lived all these years, consisting of one spring-mattress with no feet, one round table, one stained white-wood chest of drawers, several broken chairs; then the tin bath in which he kept his books (Sherlock Holmes, Nick Carter, Buffalo Bill, Verlaine, Rimbaud, Mallarme); three cats, the huge furniture-like bitch Frika, and one small ape."

9509. Plan ahead: The Canonical Convocation and Caper will hold a revival/reunion in Door County, Wis., on Sept. 12-14, and the conclave will honor the Sherlock Holmes and All That Jazz Society. Additional information is available from Donald B. Izban (71 East Division Street #1203, Chicago, IL 60610).

December 2002 #3

9510. The Civic Center Library of Marin County, in San Rafael, will honor Sherlock Holmes' birthday with a display of Sherlockiana loaned by members of The Scowrers and Mollie Maguires, from Jan. 2 to Jan. 25. There will also be lectures, by Kathleen Zell on Jan. 21, and by Ron White on Jan. 23; a panel of mystery authors (Michael Kurland, Cara Black, and Richard A. Lupoff) on Jan. 25 (followed by a post-panel supper party in San Rafael). Additional information is available from Carol Russell (314 Laurel Court, Cloverdale, CA 95425) <carolrussell@attbi.com>.
9511. Further to the report that the Algonquin Hotel has a new owner (July 02 #5), Destination Hotels & Properties has created a handsome new web-site for the hotel (and its history) at <<http://www.thealgonquin.net>>.
9512. Vlad Wolynetz has reported a delightful web-site for fans of older British television programs, at <<http://www.the-mausoleum-club.org.uk>>. The Mausoleum Club archives information about series such as "Detective" (which included Douglas Wilmer's "The Speckled Band" in 1964) and "Sherlock Holmes" (with Wilmer in 1965) and "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes" (with Peter Cushing in 1968), and (of particular interest) "The Stories of Arthur Conan Doyle" (1967). What's most interesting about the 1967 series is that one program survives in the BBC archives: "The Mystery of Cader Ifan" (with Charlotte Rampling as Julia Lambert); it's the BBC version "The Surgeon of Gaster Fell" (dramatized by John Hawkesworth), and the web-site has a detailed synopsis of the program, with a Radio Times photograph of Rampling. The web-site also offers Radio Times listings and photographs for many other program in the series (and in other series).
9513. Another series discussed in detail at The Mausoleum Club is the BBC's "Late Night Horror", which included "The Kiss of Blood" (John Hawkesworth's dramatization of "The Case of Lady Sannox") in 1968. According to Radio Times, Sean Connery, "famous for the role of James Bond (the toughest and bravest man in the world)," came to the set to see his wife Diane Cilento perform as Lady Sannox and "was seen to blanch visibly. Diane herself enjoyed it very much, 'although,' she admits with relief, 'the script demanded that I kept my eyes shut most of the time.'" For those who are wondering just how horrible the story is, I should note that Ian McKellen was recently a guest on "Inside the Actors Studio" on Bravo cable, and was asked for hints about what was going to happen in the second "Lord of the Rings" film. He smiled and replied, "if you want to know what happens in the story, you could read the book."
9514. Amanda Knight is planning a magazine that will appear three times a year, publishing Sherlockian short stories written by fans, and welcomes submissions; her address is 3/69 McIntosh Road, Narrabeena, NSW 2099, Australia <mandysmowing@hotmail.com>.
9515. William Henson died on Dec. 2. He was veteran animator who began his career with Walt Disney in the 1940s, where he helped create "Chip 'n Dale"; after a move to New York to work on cartoons such as "Casper the Friendly Ghost", he went to Mexico to supervise a team of 180 animators working on "The Adventures of Bullwinkle and Rocky" (which, in a story about counterfeit box-tops that threatened to flood the world's economy, featured Boris Badenov as Hemlock Soams and Natasha Fatale as Dr. Watkins).

December 2002 #4

9516. "An Ancient Link to Africa Lives On in Bay of Bengal" was the headline on Nicholas Wade's story in the N.Y. Times (Dec. 10), spotted by Jack Koelle. Researchers have analyzed DNA obtained from Andaman Islanders and determined that they are direct descendants of the first modern humans to have inhabited Asia. The Andaman Islanders are "arguably the most enigmatic people on our planet," according to a report in Current Biology by a team led by geneticist Dr. Erika Hagelberg of the University of Oslo; the physical characteristics of the Andamanese are African; their language belongs to a family that includes those of Papua New Guinea, Tasmania, and Melanesia; and their DNA establishes them as Asians whose ancestors migrated from Africa 40,000 to 50,000 years ago.
9517. The first lapel pin of 2003 celebrates The Baskerville Bash (one suspects that the "BBC" represents the Baskerville Bash Committee as well as the British Broadcasting Corporation); it's available from Warren Randall, 15 Fawn Lane West, South Setauket, NY 11720, for \$8.50 postpaid.
9518. Stephen Rebello's preview (in the January issue of Playboy) of the new film "Shanghai Knights" notes that "Jackie Chan's manic charm and Owen Wilson's loopy, stoner rhythms played so well off each other in the action romp Western 'Shanghai Noon' that the actors have been reteamed. This time they're off to Victorian London to avenge Chan's father's death but instead get tangled in a conspiracy--involving such legends as Jack the Ripper and Sherlock Holmes--to kill the royal family." According to the Internet Movie Data Base, the cast includes Tom Fisher as Det. Artie Doyle (aka Arthur Conan Doyle); the film is scheduled to open in February.
9519. Peter Tanner died on Dec. 10. He was a drummer and a stockbroker before he found work in the film industry, as a tea boy at a British studio. He soon became a film editor for Ealing, working on "Scott of the Antarctic" (1948) and "Kind Hearts and Coronets" (1949), and went on to a distinguished editing career in films that included "Without a Clue" (1988).
9520. William Harker reports that L.O.F. Communications maintains a nice web-site devoted to old-time radio; one of the features is a series of columns written by Harry Bartell, the announcer on the Rathbone/Bruce "Sherlock Holmes" 1945-1946 radio series. <<http://www.lofcom.com/nostalgia/columns/struts>> is the URL for Bartell's "Struts and Frets"; just click on "On Auditions" to read his story about how he auditioned for the series.
9521. The twelfth annual Watsonian weekend (a joint celebration by The STUD Sherlockian Society and The Watsonians) will be held on May 2-4; additional details (and a registration form) are available from Susan Diamond and Allan Devitt (16W603 3rd Avenue, Bensenville, IL 60106) <szdiamond@attbi.com>.
9522. Laurie R. King's web-site at <<http://www.laurierking.com>> has interesting new material: check the "Mutterings" section for her thoughts on Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, and her "Holmes Chronology" (in which she explains why she has Sherlock Holmes somewhat younger than some Sherlockians expect). Laurie's next two books, she reports, will be Mary Russell novels, one (due in 2004) set in India, and the other (due in 2005) set in San Francisco.

December 2002 #5

9523. Larry Millett's THE DISAPPEARANCE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (New York: Viking, 2002; 340 pp., \$23.95) is his fifth pastiche (and the first not set in Minnesota); Holmes has not really disappeared, but he's in serious trouble, in London and New York and Chicago, and again assisted by Shadwell Rafferty as well as Watson, and battling a vicious villain.
9524. The winter issue of The Magic Door (the newsletter published by The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) offers an amusing cartoon tribute by Michael Ffolkes to Sidney Paget's illustration of the battle at the Reichenbach, Dayna McCausland's report on the recent celebration of "Angels of Darkness" at the library, and other news from the library. Copies are available from Doug Wrigglesworth (16 Sunset Street, Holland Landing, ON L9N 1H4, Canada) <dougwrig@sympatico.ca>.

9525. Only a few collectors can own manuscripts of the Sherlock Holmes stories, but it's not difficult to own facsimiles, two of which were published by the Westminster Libraries and are offered in the new Rupert Books discount sales-list for £15.00 each. THE DYING DETECTIVE (1991) has an introduction by Julian Symonds and an afterword by Owen Dudley Edwards, and THE LION'S MANE (1992) has an introduction by Colin Dexter and an afterword by Richard Lancelyn Green. There are many other items of interest in the sales-list, and Rupert Books is at 58/59 Stonefield, Bar Hill, Cambridge CB3 8TE, England <sales@rupert-books.co.uk>; the sales ends on Jan. 31.
9526. There's no shortage of paperback reprints of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES with introductions and afterwords by noted authors. One of them is a Modern Library edition published this year (181 pp., \$7.95) has a biographical note on Conan Doyle, twelve pages of end-notes on the text by James Danly, and an introduction by Laurie R. King, who suggests that: "So great is the pleasure in the book, in fact, that the hapless commentator hesitates to pick over it, wanting only to thrust the book, whole and unanalyzed, into the reader's hand and urge, 'Enjoy! Oh, this is your tenth read? Well, have a grand time!'" She has much more to say, and says it well.
9527. And there's a Signet Classic edition (250 pp., \$4.95) first published in 1986 with an afterword by Frederick Busch, reissued in 2001 with an updated bibliography and a new afterword by Anne Perry, who notes that: "Many of us who write other books, other series, still love to add to the Holmes canon. We wish to draw him with our own particular slant, give him new adventures, exercise his brilliant intellect, his deductive reason, and his foibles of character. But have we the courage to make him dance and laugh and wring Watson's hand, or for that matter live alone in a derelict stone hut, but of course with bread and a clean collar--and apparently adequate means to be perfectly shaved?"
9528. David Pirie's THE NIGHT CALLS (London: Century, 2002; 360 pp., £17.99), is his second novel based on his television series "Murder Rooms: The Dark Beginnings of Sherlock Holmes": it's an expansion of the two-hour mini-series that was broadcast in Britain and the United States in 2000: it opens with Conan Doyle as a medical student assisting Dr. Joseph Bell in his forensic investigations in Edinburgh in 1878 and ends with bizarre villainy in London in 1883, and there are some interesting additions to the story told in the television mini-series, including a surprise at the end of the novel.

December 2002 #6

9529. Barbara Roden has reported that "Murder by Decree" (1979) (with Christopher Plummer and James Mason) will be issued on Jan. 21 on DVD and videocassette by Anchor Bay Entertainment. As will "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (2002) (with Richard Roxburgh and Ian Hart), by Warner Home Video; the DVD will include a "making of..." featurette and interviews with cast and crew. The DVDs are in region 1 format (North America), and the videocassettes are NTSC; the films are listed at Amazon at \$14.99 each for pre-orders.
9530. The new version of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (with Richard Roxburgh as Holmes and Ian Hart as Watson) aired in Canada on Nov. 18, and in Britain on Dec. 26, and it was favorably reviewed by most Sherlockians who have commented on it. It will air in the United States on "Masterpiece Theater" on PBS-TV on Jan. 19.
9531. The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collections and the Canadian Institute for Mediterranean Studies will present Clifford S. Goldfarb's lecture on "Arthur Conan Doyle and the Dorando Affair: The Evolution of an Olympic Legend" at the Library at 4:00 pm on Feb. 15. The legend involves widelypublished suggestions that it was Conan Doyle whose assistance at the finish line resulted in Dorando's disqualification as the winner of the Marathon, and Cliff will offer facts that contradict the legend.
9532. Further to the report (October 02 #4) on the Royal Society of Chemistry granting honoring fellowship to Sherlock Holmes, Steve Mirsky, in his column in Scientific American (Jan. 2003) has suggested other possibilities, including nominations to the American Podiatric Medical Association for Achilles (for his elucidation of the vital importance of foot health care); to the International Society of Entomology for Gregor Samsa sa (for serendipitous study of the social life of the common cockroach), and to the Royal Agricultural Society of England for Dr. John Watson (for being the quintessential banana).
9533. James Hazeldine died on Dec. 11. He began his theatrical career at the age of 15 as assistant student stage manager for the Salford Repertory Theatre, and went on to act with the Royal Shakespeare Company, and in the West End and on Broadway, and he appeared in films and on television, and he played Brunton in Granada's "The Musgrave Ritual" (1986).
9534. David R. Lenat has an interesting sales-list of Sherlockiana that includes some seldom-seen ephemera from the 1960s and 1970s and 1980s; his address is 3607 Corbin Street, Raleigh, NC 27612 <lenatbks@mindspring.com>.
9535. Randall Stock reports that Michael Kurland has a new Sherlockian anthology due in February: MY SHERLOCK HOLMES (New York: St. Martin's Minotaur, 2003; 368 pp., \$24.95) is edited by Kurland and contains stories written from the viewpoints of Canonical characters other than Holmes and Watson. The authors include Kurland, Dick Lupoff, Gary Lovisi, Barbara Hambly, and Michael Mallory. Kurland has a web-site at <<http://www.michaelkurland.com>>, and he notes that there will be a Japanese translation of THE GREAT GAME.

January 2003 #1

9536. The schedule for the birthday festivities in New York appears to have stabilized at Wednesday-to-Sunday, for those who can manage (or survive) that long a weekend. This year featured dire warnings of a blizzard that never occurred, and an unusually large number of celebrants who came down with or came home with ailments that ranged from a black eye to gastroenteritis.
9537. The first event was an ASH Wednesday supper at O'Casey's for dedicated enthusiasts. Thursday's schedule featured the Christopher Morley Walk, led by Jim Cox, and a rendezvous with other Morley enthusiasts at McSorley's for lunch; an excellent staged reading of "The Blue Carbuncle" (dramatized by Andrew Joffe and starring Paul Singleton as Holmes, Mary Ellen Rich as Mrs. Hudson and Mrs. Breckinridge); and the Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Speaker, Douglas G. Greene, who gave an entertaining and knowledgeable lecture at the Williams Club about "female ferrets" and the books in which the early female detectives starred.
9538. The Hotel Algonquin was a nice venue for an informal Mrs. Hudson Breakfast on Friday morning, and more than 142 people were on hand for the William Gillette Luncheon at Moran's Chelsea Seafood Restaurant, where Andrew Joffe and Paul Singleton read some of the letters written to Gillette in 1929 by celebrities congratulating him on the occasion of his last farewell tour; this was the 50th anniversary of the luncheon, and the 150th anniversary of William Gillette's birth. And Otto Penzler's afternoon open house at the Mysterious Bookshop provided the usual opportunities to browse and buy.
9539. There were 170 on hand for the annual dinner of The Baker Street Irregulars at the Union League Club, where Sherry Rose-Bond offered a cocktail-party toast to the Woman: Janice Fisher, who responded with comments on the twoeditor home she shares with her husband Steve Rothman, and left to dine at the Algonquin with others who have been the Woman). The dinner agenda included the usual toasts and traditions, with Bill Vande Water honoring Old Irregular Haycraft and Ely Liebow leading a responsive reading of the Musgrave Ritual in Yiddish. Other highlights of the evening included Philip Shreffler and Mary Ellen Rich enacting Holmes' dealings with a thoroughly confused travel agent arranging his itinerary for the Great Hiatus, and a grand rendition by Bruce Montgomery of a new version of "Aunt Clara" ("What Became of Old Sherlock" with lyrics by Al Rosenblatt).

9540. Mike Whelan (the BSI's "Wiggins") announced the Birthday Honours: Irregular Shillings and Investitures to Ed Christenson ("Antonio"), Al Gregory ("The Grimpen Postmaster"), Susan Vizoskie ("Mrs. Saunders"), Joe Coppola ("The Stranger's Room"), and Mia Stampe ("The Dynamics of an Asteroid"); and the Two-Shilling Award (presented "for extraordinary devotion to the cause beyond the call of duty") to Don Novorsky.
9541. The Baskerville Bash also took place Friday evening, at the Manhattan Club and with more than 80 people on hand, and with entertainment that featured a presentation by the newsdesk of CNN (that's the Canonical News Network), a "You Bet Your Life" broadcast with Jay Pearlman starring as Groucho Marx, and an investigation of "The Case of the Missing Sherlettes" (who appear to be in Tahiti en route to the Andaman Islands).
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January 2003 #2

9542. On Saturday morning the dealers room at the Algonquin was as usual crowded with sellers and buyers, and shortly after noon The Clients of Adrian Mulliner (devotees of the works of both Watson and Wodehouse) commandeered the lobby for their now-traditional Junior Bloodstain, which featured a reading of Anne Cotton's playlet "Sherlock Holmes and the Gentleman's Gentleman".
9543. The BSI's Saturday-afternoon cocktail party attracted more than 240 people to the National Arts Club, where Mary Ann Bradley introduced ladies who have been honored as the Woman over the years, and Al and Betsy Rosenblatt reported in verse on the events of the previous year and the previous evening. Bob Schultz was applauded as the new winner of the Morley-Montgomery Award (an attractive certificate and a check for \$500) for the best contribution to The Baker Street Journal last year (his article "Upon the Dating of Bloodstains" in the winter issue), and the Dr. John H. Watson Fund benefited from a raffle of Scott Bond's portrait of the winner (Evelyn Herzog) and from enthusiastic bidders in the traditional auction.
9544. The Watson Fund (administered by a carefully anonymous Dr. Watson) offers financial assistance to all Sherlockians (membership in the BSI is not required) who might otherwise not be able to participate in the birthday festivities. The generous donors to this year's auction included The Curious Collectors of Baker Street (an attractive set of Sherlockian jewelry created by Maggie Schpak), Joe Coppola (a hand-crafted wooden clock with Sherlockian decorations), Don Hobbs (copies of Ron De Waal's first two bibliographies, inscribed to Dorothy Shaw), and Enrico Solito (a limited-edition plate created for the speakers at the conference arranged by Uno Studio in Holmes in Sesto Fiorentino in 2001).
9545. On Sunday about 60 locals and visiting long-weekenders gathered at Wylie's for a brunch arranged by the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes; the agenda was thoroughly French, and the first of many events that will celebrate the tenth anniversary of The Sherlock Holmes Society of France.
9546. And (for those who wish to plan ahead) the next birthday dinners will be held on Friday, Jan. 16, 2004. For those who wish to plan farther ahead, The Baker Street Irregulars are arranging a weekend in the Valley of Fear on Oct. 22-24, 2004; the event is open to all Sherlockians, but hotel and bus space is limited, and reservations are essential: only double rooms are available, and you should send a \$50 (per person) deposit to Michael F. Whelan (7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278).
9547. I've not reported on everything, I hasten to add; if you want more details than I've provided here, there will be much more in The Baker Street Journal, which is published quarterly and costs \$22.50 a year (\$25.00 outside the U.S.), and checks (credit-card payments accepted from foreign subscribers) should be sent to the BSI (Box 465, Hanover, PA 17331); there's a website at <<http://www.bakerstreetjournal.com>>.
9548. And yes, as usual, there were all sort of new books published just in time for the festivities, including a new facsimile of a manuscript ("Shoscombe Old Place"), available for purchase during the weekend and afterward, and I will have lots of reviews in the next issue of this newsletter.
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January 2003 #3

9549. Christmas crackers are a long-standing Christmas-dinner tradition in Britain, and now elsewhere, including the U.S., where they come with "fortunes" that often are a series of joke, in English and in French. And Gayle Harris reports that one of the jokes in her Christmas cracker last month was: "Watson: Dites-moi Holmes, a quelle ecole etesvous alle? Holmes: Elementaire, mon cher Watson, elementaire."
9550. ExxonMobil Corp. announced in December that it will end its sponsorship of "Masterpiece Theatre" at the end of 2004. Mobil (now ExxonMobil) has been the only sponsor of the series since it first aired in 1971, contributing more than \$250 million to PBS programs; its recent funding of "Masterpiece Theatre" is reported to have been about \$9 million a year. An ExxonMobil spokeswoman said that: "We felt that the time had come for us to consider some alternative sponsorship and outreach activities," particularly in the area of public health and the environment. PBS-TV hopes to find new sponsors, but it's not easy to do that in the present economic climate: Mobil had already stopped funding "Mystery!", and there was no sponsor for that series' dramatization of Tony Hillerman's "Skinwalkers" in November .
9551. Al Hirschfeld died on Jan. 20. He began his artistic career in 1921 as art director for Selznick Studios, creating posters for "The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari" and other films, and in 1926 began contributing sketches of Broadway plays to the N.Y. Herald Tribune. In 1928 he was commissioned by the N.Y. Times to draw Harry Lauder, and Hirschfeld's energetic style made him one of America's best-known artists; he received a special Tony Award in 1975, and New York City officials declared him a living landmark in 1996. His caricatures of actors as Sherlock Holmes included Fritz Weaver, Paxton Whitehead (shown here), and Frank Langella for the N.Y. Times, and Basil Rathbone in a limited-edition print.
9552. The Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota have published their "Christmas Annual 2002", edited by John Bergquist; the contents include Philip G. Bergem's examination of Beeton's Christmas Annual for 1887, with a census of known copies, Gary K. Thaden's examination of Dr. Watson's library, and much more; the 46-page pamphlet costs \$6.00 (postpaid), and checks (payable to The Norwegian Explorers) should be sent to John Bergquist, 3665 Ashbury Road, Eagan, MN 55122.
9553. Edward Fox was awarded an OBE (Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) in the Queen's New Year's honours list. He played Dr. Watson on television in "Dr. Watson and the Darkwater Hall Mystery" (1974) and Major Alistair Ross on television in "The Crucifer of Blood" (1991).
9554. The new version of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" has now aired in Canada, Britain, and the United States (Canadians missed a few bits and pieces, and the "making of" featurette). Anglofile notes that Richard Roxburgh was the second choice for the role, which was offered first to Jeremy Northam, who had to decline due to prior commitments. Anglofile is a monthly newsletter offering detailed coverage of British entertainment; Box 33515, Decatur, GA 30033 (\$16.00 a year).
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January 2003 #4

9555. Japanese readers have some interesting new books available, all translated by Masamichi Higurashi, who also has provided introductions, afterwords, photographs, and explanatory notes. Two of the books are hard-cover editions: SHERLOCK HOLMES DAI-HYAKKA-JITEN is Jack Tracy's ENCYCLOPAEDIA SHERLOCKIANA (Tokyo: Shobo Shinsha, 2002; 476 pp., Y4,800); and SHERLOCK HOLMES: BEIKA-GAI NO SATSUJIN is MURDER IN BAKER STREET, the 2001 anthology edited by Martin H. Greenberg, Jon L. Lellenberg, and Daniel Stashower (Tokyo: Hara Shobo, 2002; 400 pp., Y1,800). And six more titles have been added to the Aoi Tori Bunko MEITANTEI HOLMES series of children's paperbacks each with one of the long stories, or four or five of the short stories, cover artwork by Kazuyo Kazumi, and illustrations by Hitoshi Wakana and "Ki" (Tokyo: Kodansha, 2000-2002; 184-352 pp., Y530-720).
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9556. It's fascinating to see how useful 21st-century technology can be: mp3 is a compression program: the playing time on Worldtainment's mp3 CDs runs from 8:08 to 11:13 hours, and with excellent sound quality. And it's all portable: RadioShack currently offers a "road-ready" player for CDs and mp3 CDs for \$79.99 (discounted from \$99.99). Or you can play them on your computer (if your computer has a CD-ROM or DVD drive, and it's difficult to purchase a computer now without a CD-ROM or DVD drive).
9557. Richard Horner died on Dec. 28. He was a Broadway theater-owner and producer who won a Tony award for the revival of Eugene O'Neill's "Moon for the Misbegotten" in 1974. He was one of the producers of Paul Giovanni's play "The Crucifer of Blood" on Broadway in 1978, and one of the executive producers when the play was broadcast on television in 1991.
9558. A correction to my review of David Pirie's THE NIGHT CALLS (December 02 #5): the book is not based on the British television series "Murder Rooms": The Dark Beginnings of Sherlock Holmes". It's the other way round, as David has explained: the books are always written first. "They are not novelizations," David notes, "if they were, I'd get someone else to do it!" And there is indeed much more in the book than in the television program (his third book about Bell and Conan Doyle is due this year).
9559. Patrick Horgan began his Sherlockian career playing Captain Gregg in the musical "Baker Street" in 1964, and went on to play Sherlock Holmes in the William Gillette play, and in "The Speckled Band" and in a television commercial, and to play William Gillette (in Kenneth Ludwig's play "Dramatic License"), making him one of the very few actors to have played both Sherlock Holmes and an actor who has played Sherlock Holmes. He also has read the entire Canon for the Library of Congress recordings for the blind, and for Worldtainment, which offers all the Sherlock Holmes stories, and "The Lost World", "The Poison Belt" and "The Leather Funnel", and Horgan's own book of Sherlockian scholarship "The Detection of Sherlock Holmes" on ten CDs in mp3 format (you'll need an mp3 player or a computer with an mp3 program). Horgan has an excellent voice, and an imaginative approach to Sherlockian scholarship (and in his book cheerfully describes the Baker Street Irregulars and its scion societies as "large groups of otherwise respectable people"). And it's delightful to see how useful the latest technology can be: the mp3 CDs cost \$9.95 each, and more information is available at <<http://www.worldtainment.com>>; their postal address is 1002 Quentin Road, Brooklyn, NY 11223.

January 2003 #5

9560. "Going for a Record: LP Sparks an Odd Little Bidding War" was the headline on Tim Page's story in the Washington Post (Jan. 9) about an eBay bidding war for a recording of Bach's Sonatas and Partitas for Solo Violin by Johanna Martzy; the three-LP set sold for \$4,906. More interesting to Sherlockians, perhaps, was a statement by rare-record dealer Lawrence F. Holdridge that "the greatest rarities of all would be the two discs the celebrated tenor Jean de Reszke (1850-1925) made in 1905 for the Fonotopia company. 'Those would be quite literally priceless,' he said. 'De Reszke made the records, but he was dissatisfied with the results and ordered the masters smashed and never made another record. Some test copies are supposed to have survived--but who knows?' De Reszke was perhaps the leading tenor of the late 19th century--imagine Pavarotti and Domingo rolled into one--so it is not surprising that there is a great deal of interest in anything he might have recorded." It was at the conclusion of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" that Holmes suggested to Watson that they go to a concert by Jean and Edouard De Reszke in "Les Huguenots".
9561. Sherlock Holmes is on the cover of the January catalog from Critics' Choice Video (Box 749, Itasca, IL 60143 (800-367-7765) <<http://www.ccvideo.com>>. Well, actually, it's Guy Henry, who played the title role in the television series "Young Sherlock" (1982), which is now available (for the first time) on three DVDs or videocassettes for \$42.96. The catalog also has the new Roxburgh/Hart "The Hound of the Baskervilles" on DVD and cassette (\$16.96), and three Rathbone/Bruce films ("Dressed to Kill", "The Woman in Green", and "Terror by Night") on DVD (\$6.99 each).
9562. Philip Attwell has kindly provided more information on British digital radio that's also available on the Internet. BBC 7 airs in Great Britain on DAB digital radio and on television channels on Freeview 78, Sky, and Digital Cable, and it's available (with schedules listed) worldwide on the Internet <<http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio>>. BBC 7 announced that they would air all the "Sherlock Holmes" stories, and since Dec. 17, 2002, they have been broadcasting the Merrison/Williams adaptations on weekdays. There is also a "Crime/Thriller" slot on weekdays that is now featuring sleuths such as Cadfael and Julie Enfield.
9563. And ONEWORD is broadcast in Britain on DAB digital radio and on television channels on Freeview 85 and Sky 877, and it's available (with schedules) on the Internet <<http://oneword.co.uk>>. Edith Meiser's "Sherlock Holmes and the Christmas Bridge" (with John Stanley and Alfred Shirley, from 1947) was heard in the "Vintage Classics/Cult Comedy" slot this month. Philip also recommends <<http://www.mydigiguide.com>> as a useful site for finding upcoming Sherlock Holmes broadcasts on British radio and television.
9564. Len Haffenden's souvenir for this month's annual dinner of The Stormy Petrels of British Columbia is a 16-page pamphlet reprinting his speech about "Sherlock Holmes and Mensa" (presented to the Pacific Northwest MENSA Convention last October); US \$8.00 postpaid. Also available are the souvenir from last year's annual dinner, "Who Was H.B.?" (\$5.00); the 36-page program for the society's commemoration of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" in Aug. 2001 (\$8.00), and a 12-page "The Priory School Tyre Directional Guide" (\$5.00). Checks payable to the Hansom Press, please and Len's address is 1026 West Keith Road, North Vancouver, BC V7P 3C6, Canada.

January 2003 #6

9565. Walter Pond ("Brunton, the Butler, of Hurlstone") died on Jan. 11. He was an attorney, a Sherlockian scholar, and a dedicated collector; Julian Wolff once described Walter's collection of Sherlockiana as "one that cannot be surpassed in private hands," and that was true for decades: Walter owned a page from the manuscript of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" and complete manuscripts of "The Veiled Lodger" and "The Three Gables", a splendid copy of Beeton's Christmas Annual for 1887, first editions in dust jackets, and many other treasures. He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1970.
9566. Jean Weidner is offering her Sherlockian and Doylean books on-line at the Advanced Book Exchange <<http://www.abebooks.com/home/JEANWEIDNER/>>; those who don't have access to the Web can request a copy from Jean (9421 North 50th Drive, Glendale, AZ 85302).
9567. The Silver Blaze, conceived by Thomas L. Stix, Sr., was run for the first time at Jamaica Race Course on Long Island in 1952; it was revived by The Baker Street Irregulars at historic Saratoga Race Track in upstate New York in 2000. The next running of the race at Saratoga will be on Aug. 2, and it will be a weekend event, with a brunch on Aug. 3. If you'd like to be on the mailing list, contact Lou Lewis (Box 2990, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603) <lewisgreer@aol.com>; you can expect to receive full details shortly.
9568. MC Black advises overseas visitors that the Sherlock Holmes Society of London's first-Friday-of-the-month "club nights" at the New Commonwealth Club at 18 Northumberland Avenue (between Trafalgar Square and the Embankment underground station) will be discontinued after the meeting on Feb. 7, due to declining attendance.
9569. Michael Rieders, who was one of the panelists at the workshop on "The Adventure of the Devil's Foot" arranged by Marina Stajic at the annual meeting of the Society of Forensic Toxicologists in Detroit last year (May 02 #1 and November 02 #4), will repeat his presentation at National Medical

Services in Willow Grove (near Philadelphia) on Feb. 13 at 6:00 pm. According to Rieders, "This humorous presentation will include time for audience solutions and ends with my toxicological conclusions!" If you would like to attend the event, please contact Gideon Hill 19038 (215-887-8110) or e-mail <gideonhill@earthlink.net>.

9570. And a few commercials: a 16-page list of the Investitured Irregulars, the Two-Shilling Awards, the Women, and the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes costs \$1.25 postpaid. An 81-page list of 810 Sherlockian societies, with names and addresses for contacts for 431 active societies, is \$4.70 postpaid. A run of address labels for 354 individual contacts (recommended to avoid duplicate mailings to those who are contacts for more than one society) costs \$10.55 postpaid (checks payable to Peter E. Blau, please).

9571. The list of irregulars and others also is available from me by e-mail (no charge), and both lists are available at Willis G. Frick's "Sherlocktron" home page at <<http://members.cox.net/sherlock1/Sherlocktron.html>>.

February 2003 #1

9572. Sorry about that: I omitted one Investiture from last month's report on the annual dinner of The Baker Street Irregulars: David Greeney ("Uncle Ned"). It nicely appropriate, too, since David lives in Auckland, and so did Mary Sutherland's uncle.

9573. It was in "The Red-Headed League" that Holmes said, "'L'homme c'est rien--l'oeuvre c'est tout,' as Gustave Flaubert wrote to George Sand." The "January Sale Catalog" from David Schulson Autographs (234 West 34th Street, New York, NY 10122 (212-629-3939 <<http://schulsonautographs.com>> offers an autograph letter from Sand to Flaubert, signed "Your old Troubadour" and dated Feb. 28, 1870, for \$1,440 (discounted from \$1,850). There's also an undated letter from Conan Doyle with literary content, offered for \$1,465 (discounted from \$1,850); the catalog suggests that the letter refers to THE HISTORY OF SPIRITUALISM, but the reference almost certainly is to THE WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA: ITS CAUSE AND CONDUCT.

9574. Debbie Clark spotted a tribute to Conan Doyle in the current catalog from Levenger (420 South Congress Avenue, Delray Beach, FL 33445) (800-544-0880) <<http://www.levenger.com>>: they offer a child's bookcase and show a photograph of Sir Arthur and the quote, "It is a great thing to start life with a small number of really good books which are your very own." Others have used the quote before, and it's from THROUGH THE MAGIC DOOR (1907).

9575. Januaryet Hutchings, editor of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine, was at the annual dinner of The Baker Street Irregulars, and was applauded for continuing the tradition established decades ago by Fred Dannay of ensuring that EQMM issue that coincides with the annual dinner has Sherlockian content; there were four such items in the Feb. 2003 issue (December 02 #2). And the Feb. 2003 issue of Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine had Sherlockiana: a reprint of August Derleth's Solar Pons pastiche "The Adventure of the Proper Comma".

9576. Fans of John Mortimer's delightful legal eagle Horace Rumpole will welcome news of plans afoot to create The Rumpole Society of Great Britain; members are to include "devotees of John Mortimer's writings, all branches of the legal profession, and raffish free spirits who down cheap claret." Additional information is available from the society (9 Alba Place, London W11 1LQ, England) <rumpolesociety@yahoo.com>.

9577. The comic-book series RUSE continues, with Simon Archard and Emma Bishop: a new story began in issue #15 (Jan. 2003; \$2.95), and there's a report of a spin-off series ARCHARD'S AGENTS (also \$2.95); and issue #4 in the second volume of THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN (\$3.50) extends the account of the efforts of members of the League to combat against the Martians who have invaded England.

9578. Paulette Greene offers copies of two older items: Madeleine B. Stern's 1982 monograph THE GAME'S A HEAD: A PHRENOLOGICAL STUDY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES AND ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE, with illustrations by Sam Greene; and Trevor H. Hall's 1986 monograph THE LAST CASE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: IVY JOHNSON BULL OF BORLEY (\$35.00 each postpaid; please pay by check or money order). Paulette's address is: 7152 Via Palomar, Boca Raton, FL 33433 <greenesbooks@juno.com>.

February 2003 #2

9579. Cynthia Harvey was at the George Eastman House (in Rochester, N.Y.) on Jan. 12 for the world-premiere screening of a new 97-minute restoration of John Barrymore's "Sherlock Holmes" (1922). A second print, with the missing original intertitles, was discovered in the Eastman vaults a few years ago, and was used to create a new and better version of the film, which was based on William Gillette's play.

9580. The December 2002 issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota offers interesting tributes to Julian Wolff by Jon Lellenberg and John Bergquist, and reports from and about the collections. Copies of the newsletter are available from Richard J. Sveum (111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, 222 21st Avenue South, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <sveum001@tc.umn.edu>.

9581. Bill Mauldin died on Jan. 22. He was serving as an Army sergeant during World War II, drawing cartoons for the 45th Division News and for Stars & Stripes, when he created his war-weary characters Willie and Joe, and won his first Pulitzer Prize in 1945. He went on to a career as an editorial cartoonist, winning a second Pulitzer 1959, and he used Sherlockian themes in at least three of his editorial cartoons; this one, published on July 1, 1987, showed Ed Meese and was captioned "He's got a rear-view mirror on his magnifying glass."

9582. Further to the item (November 02 #3) about the museum show "Sherlock Holmes and the Clocktower Mystery" now at the Berkshire Museum in Pittsfield, Mass., (through May 6), Maureen Corrigan (book reviewer on National Public Radio's "Fresh Air" and associate editor of MYSTERY AND SUSPENSE WRITERS) will lecture on "The Haunting of Sherlock Holmes" at 7:00 pm on Apr. 12 (emphasizing "The Hound of the Baskervilles", which she calls a "giant boggy metaphor for the human mind"). 39 South Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201 (413-443-7171) <<http://www.berkshireremuseum.org>>.

9583. Alexian Gregory <grimpen@nac.net> offers "The ABC of BSI Investitures" as a Word 97 attachment (available only by e-mail); it's an alphabetical listing of all Baker Street Investitures and their years of bestowal.

9584. Tom Wheeler, who is about to publish FINDING SHERLOCK'S LONDON, a book that identifies more than 200 places in London associated with Sherlock Holmes, will guide a tour exploring Sherlock Holmes' London on May 19-27; he'll be happy to provide more information about the tour, and if your spouse isn't interested in spending all that time on Sherlock Holmes, he also has tickets for the Chelsea Flower Show. He's at 6875 Honey Locust Cove, Memphis, TN 38119 <londonsecrets@london.com>.

9585. "Non-Canonical Holmes" is the title of the 22nd annual Sherlock Holmes/Arthur Conan Doyle Symposium, in Dayton on Mar. 14-16; the speakers will focus on stories, novels, plays, comic books, and television and radio shows not written by Conan Doyle. Additional information is available from Cathy Gill (4661 Hamilton Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45223) <chirpsworth@fuse.net>.

February 2003 #3

9586. The third volume in The Baker Street Irregulars Manuscript Series was unveiled during the birthday festivities: G. K. CHESTERTON'S SHERLOCK HOLMES, edited and with an introduction by Steven Doyle, offers a facsimile of Chesterton's illustrations for a never-published edition of the stories, scholarly articles on Chesterton by Dale Ahlquist and Pasquale Accardo, commentary on the artwork by Scott Bond, and reprints of four Sherlockian

- essays by Chesterton. It is delightful to see the illustrations, owned and preserved by the Lilly Library at Indiana University in Bloomington, now widely available, with interesting discussion of the artist (and writer) and his work. \$35.00 plus shipping (\$8.00, or \$9.50 outside North America) from The Baker Street Irregulars, Box 1360, Ashcroft, BC V0K 1A0, Canada <<http://www.bakerstreetjournal.com>>.
9587. Also available is a limited-edition folio with hand-colored versions of the 19 Chesterton drawings, suitable for framing; there are 50 numbered copies of the folio, and the cost is \$75.00 postpaid (see the paragraph above for the address and methods of payment).
9588. Mary Ellis died on Jan. 30, at the age of 105 (including, according to her obituary in the N.Y. Times, the three years that Hollywood publicists subtracted in the 1930s). She signed a four-year contract with the Metropolitan Opera in New York at the age of 18, then acted on Broadway (starring in "Rose-Marie") and in London, and retired from the stage in 1970 but continued acting on radio and television; she appeared in Granada's "Sherlock Holmes" series twice: as Lady Florence in "The Eligible Bachelor" (1993), and, in her last role, as Mary Maberly in "The Three Gables" (1994).
9589. Paul Herbert reports that Paul Giovanni's play "The Crucifer of Blood" will be performed Nov. 7-23 at the Indianapolis Civic Theatre (at 1200 West 38th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46208) (317-923-4597) <www.civictheatre.org>.
9590. The Mystery Writers of America have announced their nominees for the Edgar Allan Poe Awards, which will be presented at the MWA's banquet in New York on May 1. "The West End Horror" (dramatized by Anthony Dodge and Marcia Milgrom Dodge from Nicholas Meyer's novel, and produced last year at the Bay Street Theatre in Sag Harbor, N.Y.) was nominated for a "best play" Edgar. And a special Raven Award (for outstanding achievement in the mystery field outside the realm of creative writing) will be presented to Otto Penzler, owner of the Mysterious Bookshop in New York.
9591. Planning for Bouchercon 2003 continues: the venue is Las Vegas, on Oct. 16-19, with James Lee Burke, Ian Rankin, and Ruth Rendell as guests of honor; Deen Kogan heads the organizing committee (507 South Eighth Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147 <<http://www.bconveg2003.org>>).
9592. "221B Coronation Street" was the subject line on David Hough's message to The Hounds of the Internet, quoting the Manchester Evening News (Feb. 7): The set for Granada's "Sherlock Holmes" no longer exists, but Granada has revamped the set for its long-running soap opera "Coronation Street" to include a pizza parlour that has the doorway to 221B Baker Street, mock glass paneling and numbers intact. "It's a superstitious thing," Granada's production chief said, "because it's a chunk of history, the doorway to Sherlock's lodgings, and we're hoping it might bring us luck."

February 2003 #4

9593. GreenPrints ("The Weeder's Digest") is a interesting and lighthearted quarterly that has published four amusing pastiches by Jeff Taylor about garden detective Sherlock Jones (and his assistant Ms. Bubbles Watson: "The Carrot Caper" (summer 1997); "The Return of Sherlock Jones" (summer 1998); "A Midwinter Mystery" (winter 1998); and "The Case of the Speckled Slug" (summer 1999). Box 1355, Fairview, NC 28730 (800-569-0602) <<http://www.greenprints.com>>; \$22.97 a year.
9594. Bill Hyder watched the BBC television program "Queen and Country" broadcast on PBS-TV this month, about how the relationship between Queen Elizabeth II and the British people have changed during the fifty years she has been on the throne, and reports that at the conclusion of the program the narrator described the Queen as "the one fixed point in a changing age." "Sherlock Holmes couldn't have put it better," Bill notes.
9595. Murray Shaw died on Dec. 18, 2002. He was a kitchen designer and consultant, and author of the textbook PROFESSIONAL KITCHEN DESIGN; in the Sherlockian world Murray was an enthusiastic member of Moulton's Prospectors in Phoenix, and an author of pastiches for young readers, including MATCH WITS WITH SHERLOCK HOLMES, a series of eight children's books published by Carolrhoda Books from 1990 to 1993. And two other tales (ANATOMY OF TWO MURDERS and SHERLOCK HOLMES FINDS THE LOST DUTCHMAN MINE) have been published in Otto Penzler's pamphlet series of pastiches and parodies.
9596. Paul Martin notes that a new bargain-books catalog from Edward R. Hamilton (Falls Village, CT 06031) <<http://www.edwardrhamilton.com>> offers SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE COMPLETE ILLUSTRATED SHORT STORIES, reprinted from The Strand Magazine (\$9.95 discounted from \$12.95); Larry Millett's THE DISAPPEARANCE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (\$15.95 discounted from \$23.95); Alan Barnes' SHERLOCK HOLMES ON SCREEN (\$17.95 discounted from \$24.95); and June Thomson's HOLMES AND WATSON (\$5.95 discounted from \$24.00).
9597. Laurie Fraser Manifold's artwork has enhanced the Baskerville Bash in recent years, and she has created two imaginative booklets to entertain those who remember cutting out and coloring and enjoying paper dolls: MRS. MANIFOLD'S CUT OUT & FOLD 221B FURNITURE and HOLMES & WATSON AT HOME & AFIELD: PAPER FIGURES & WARDROBE TO COLOUR & CUT cost \$12.00 each postpaid, and her address is Box 387, Shenorock, NY 10587.
9598. E. W. McGinley's AN ILLUSTRATED MONOGRAPH ON THE USE OF FIREARMS IN THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, first published in 1995, is now available in a second (revised and expanded) edition, offering a knowledgeable exploration of the topic, concentrating on the weapons used by Holmes and Watson. The 50-page booklet costs \$12.50 postpaid from Joseph Coppola, 103 Kenny Drive, Fayetteville, NY 13066.
9599. "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: Beyond Sherlock Holmes" is the title of an exhibition of material from Fred Kittle's collection of Doyleana at the Newberry Library in Chicago from Apr. 9 through July 12 (60 West Walton Street, Chicago, IL 60610) <<http://www.newberry.org>>. There will be special festivities on Apr. 11 (a dinner and a private showing) and Apr. 12 (a lecture by Richard Lancelyn Green); additional information is available from Donald J. Terras (2535 Sheridan Road, Evanston, IL 60201) <d-terras@neu.edu>.

February 2003 #5

9600. Marcello Truzzi died on Feb. 9, He was a sociologist and one of the founders of the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal in 1976, but then resigned because he considered it more propagandistic than scientific; in 1981 he founded and directed the Center for Scientific Anomalies Research, and he was a skeptical friend of many self-proclaimed psychics. As an author his books included textbooks on sociology and a cookbook for witches that called for ingredients such as eye of newt, an article (with Scot Morris) on "Sherlock Holmes as a Social Scientist" in Psychology Today (Dec. 1971), and a chapter about "Sherlock Holmes: Applied Social Psychologist" in THE HUMANITIES AS SOCIOLOGY: AN INTRODUCTORY READER (1973).
9601. Rose Louise Hovick, invited by The Baker Street Irregulars to the cocktail party before their annual dinner in 1943, is the subject of an interesting article by Laura Jacobs in the March issue of Vanity Fair. There's no mention of the BSI, but "Taking it *All* Off" offers a fine explanation of why those at the dinner enjoyed telling family and friends that they had had a drink with Gypsy Rose Lee.
9602. Arrangements for The Silver Blaze at Saratoga Race Track have now been finalized: there will be a buffet luncheon at the Rail Pavilion (with a maximum of 60 people) on Aug. 2, and a buffet brunch and program at the Prime Hotel & Conference Center on Aug. 3, all for \$100 per person. The deadline for reservations is May 1; checks (payable to The Baker Street Irregulars) should be sent to Lou Lewis, 11 Raymond Avenue #24, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603.
9603. The U.S. Postal Service has continued its "Chinese New Year" series, honoring the Year of the Ram, or the Goat or the Sheep (depending on which calendar you consult). Goats and sheep are mentioned in many stories, but both are can be found only in one ("The Hound of the Baskervilles").

9604. Jon V. Wilmunen died on Jan. 13. He taught art in the Mountain Iron-Buhl school system in Minnesota, and in the 1960s and 1970s his amusing artwork and parodies were published by The Musgrave Ritualists Beta, The Three Students Plus, and his own society The Gamekeepers of Northern Minnesota, and in The Baker Street Journal (Sept. 1965 and Mar. 1966).
9605. Further to my mention (January 03 #2) of a new facsimile of a manuscript, THE ADVENTURE OF SHOSCOMBE ABBEY, now owned by the Fondation Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in Lausanne, has been published by the Bibliotheque cantonale et universitaire, with an introduction (in French) by Vincent Delay (president of the Societe d'etudes holmesiennes de la Suisse romande) and two essays (one in French and the other in English) by Lausanne University professor Ernest Giddey (whose CRIME ET DETECTION: ESSAI SUR LES STRUCTURES DU ROMAN POLICIER DE LANGUE ANGLAISE was published in 1990). Manuscripts are a splendid way to watch an author write, adding and subtracting and refining, and as with other facsimiles, Sherlockians will find some interesting changes in the story. The cost of the new facsimile is \$25.00 (plus \$12.00 shipping for one copy), and you can order from Laurent Dubois (atelier photo), Bibliotheque cantonale et universitaire, Dorigny, CH-1015 Lausanne, Switzerland <laurent.dubois@bcu.unil.ch>; credit-card orders welcome.
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February 2003 #6

9606. Stacy Keach Sr. died on Feb. 13. He was a drama teacher and an actor, and father of the actor Stacy Keach and the actor-director James Keach. He began his career in films as a contract player at Universal Pictures, where he also was dialogue director for "The Scarlet Claw" (1944). He developed, produced, and directed "Tales of the Texas Rangers" on radio and television, and appeared in hundreds of films, radio and television programs, and commercials over more than 50 years.
9607. There have been many weekends with Sherlock Holmes at the Victorian Villa Inn over the years, and now Professor Moriarty on hand to entertain visitors, with weekend events scheduled for Mar. 22, Apr. 26, and May 13. Additional information is available from the management (601 North Broadway, Union City, MI 49094 (800-348-3445) <<http://www.avictorianvilla.com>>.
9608. Leslie Fiedler died on Jan. 29. He was a noted, and provocative, literary critic who called himself a "literary anthropologist." He was a respected teacher as well, in the United States and Europe, and he contributed an introduction to an edition of MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES published by Schocken Books in 1976.
9609. The East Lynne Theater Company will present a staged reading (with live piano accompaniment) of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" on Mar. 7 and 8 during a "Sherlock Holmes Weekend" in Cape May, N.J.; the company's phone number is 609-884-5898 <<http://www.eastlynnecompany.org>>.
9610. Peter O'Toole has decided to accept his honorary Oscar, and is expected to attend the ceremony in March. According to Anglofile, O'Toole had declined the award earlier because he was "still in the game and might win the lovely bugger outright," but was told by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences that the award was meant not as a coda to his career but rather as a tribute. O'Toole (who was Billy Wilder's first choice for the title role in "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes") was the voice of Sherlock Holmes on four Australian animations of the long stories (1985), and played Conan Doyle in the film "FairyTale: A True Story" (1997). Anglofile is a monthly newsletter offering detailed coverage of British entertainment; Box 33515, Decatur, GA 30033 (\$16.00 a year).
9611. Jay Hyde (proud owner of a Scottish terrier) observed the Westminster Kennel Club's best-of-breed competition on Feb. 10, and noted the winner: Ch Friendship Hill Dr. Watson, whose sire was Ch So What Moriarty. Details at <http://www.westminsterkennelclub.org/2003/scotty_r.html>.
9612. THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, EPISODE 6, read by Edward Hardwicke, is the latest set of audiocassette available from CSA Telltapes, and Hardwicke is excellent as always; there are two cassettes, and the stories are "The Priory School", "The Red-Headed League", and "The Blue Carbuncle" (issue by Tangled Web Audio in 1996 as SHERLOCK HOLMES: TALES OF AVARICE). CSA Telltapes's address is: 6a Archway Mews, 241a Putney Bridge Road, London SW15 2PE, England <www.csatelltapes.demon.co.uk>; the new set costs £9.99 postpaid, and CSA offers other sets of the Sherlock Holmes stories.
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March 2003 #1

9613. Erik Larson's THE DEVIL IN THE WHITE CITY (New York: Crown Books, 2003; 464 pp., \$25.95) is an examination of the planning for the World's Fair in Chicago in 1893, and of Herman Webster Mudgett, the serial murderer who built and ran the World's Fair Hotel in which many of his victims died. Mudgett used the alias H. H. Holmes, and at least two reviewers have suggested that Mudgett renamed himself after the famous detective. But Larson doesn't say that in the book. What he does say (on page 44) about Mudgett's arrival in Chicago is: "There in July 1886, the year Sir Arthur Conan Doyle introduced his detective to the world, Mudgett registered his name as Holmes."
9614. The fifth volume of Leslie S. Klinger's SHERLOCK HOLMES REFERENCE LIBRARY is THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, with a interesting introduction by David Stuart Davies, who discusses the perils and pitfalls of bringing a star out of retirement (Indianapolis: Gasogene Books, 2002; 150 pp., \$29.95); as in previous volumes, the annotations and appendices are based upon new and old Sherlockian scholarship. The book costs \$33.70 postpaid (or \$35.70 outside the U.S.) from the publisher (Box 68308, Indianapolis, IN 46260).
9615. "The Day the Earth Stood Still" (1951) has been released on DVD (by Twentieth Century-Fox Home Video, \$19.98) with commentary by director Robert Wise and Nicholas Meyer, and a 70-minute "making of" featurette. The film is a science-fiction classic, with Michael Rennie as Klaatu and with Elmer Davis (a member of The Baker Street Irregulars as well as an early member of The Red Circle of Washington) as himself as a newscaster reporting on the alien spaceship.
9616. Reported: DURKHEIM IS DEAD! SHERLOCK HOLMES IS INTRODUCED TO SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY, by Arthur Asa Berger (AltaMira Press, 2003; 200 pp., \$70.00 cloth or \$19.95 paper); "in this sociology textbook/mystery novel, students can join Sherlock Holmes and Watson as they discover a new area ripe for acrimony and intrigue: social theory."
9617. The Sherlockians in France continue to publish intriguing material, including Le Catalogue de la Franco-Midland numero 3, which offers a guided tour (written by Yves-Charles Fercoq and Wladimir V. Bogomoletz) to the Pere Lachaise cemetery, where visitors will find many graves and monuments of people mentioned in or with connections to the Canon. It's in French and English, and nicely illustrated by Jean-Pierre Cagnat, and it's available free as an Acrobat Reader file from Thierry Saint-Joanis <mail@mycrofts.net>, or ink-on-paper for \$5.00 postpaid; dollar checks payable to Elisabeth Mignon and euro checks payable to SSHF can be sent to Thierry (26 avenue de la Republique, 75011 Paris, France), and credit-card orders are welcome by mail or e-mail.
9618. Reported: "The Mystery of the Mummy" (The Adventure Company, \$19.99); a new computer game ("with his signature pipe in hand, super-sleuth Holmes takes kids to a turn-of-the-century Victorian mansion to find a missing archeologist and Egyptian mummy"). According to a review in the Washington Post on Mar. 2, the likeliest audience for the game is teenagers with time for tedious brain twisters ("Take copious notes and save often, and you might get the game done. But you might not care to make the effort.").
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March 2003 #2

9619. Stephen H. Tolins ("John Straker") died on Feb. 24, 2003. He served with distinction as a doctor in the U.S. Navy, retiring with the rank of Captain, and taught surgery at Albert Einstein College of Medicine and at New York Medical College. Steve was a member of many Sherlockian societies in New York and Connecticut, and his articles about Canonical medicine appeared in *The Baker Street Journal*, *Prescott's Press*, and *Canadian Holmes*; he received his Investiture from *The Baker Street Irregulars* in 1991.
9620. Bits & Pieces (1 Puzzle Place B8016, Stevens Point, WI 54481 (800-884-2637) <<http://www.bitsandpieces.com>> offers its mystery jigsaw puzzle "The Watson Inheritance" discounted to \$6.99 (from \$10.99); item 04-U0140-007.
9621. Details (and a registration form) for the twelfth annual Watsonian weekend (now a joint event with The STUD Sherlockian Society) on May 2-4, are now available from Susan Diamond and Allan Devitt (16W603 3rd Avenue, Bensenville, IL 60106) <szdiamond@attbi.com>. The schedule includes dinner on Friday (with a performance by Sherlockian thespian Paul Singleton); brunch on Saturday, followed by an excursion to the Newberry Library to view the exhibit of Conan Doyle material from Fred Kittle's collection, and a pizza supper; and the annual running of The Silver Blaze at Hawthorne Race Track on Sunday.
9622. Karen Murdock spotted a report in *This Is Local London* (Feb. 19) that Mayday Hospital in Croydon is renaming its wards in honor of some of the Croydon's best-known figures. Arthur Conan Doyle will be one of the people to be honored.
9623. James G. Jewell died on Feb. 27. He was a stalwart member of The Sons of the Copper Beeches of Philadelphia, one of the editors of and contributors to their anthology *MORE LEAVES FROM THE COPPER BEECHES* (1976), and an energetic, persistent, and always genial sales committee for the society's publications.
9624. Ruth Berman has reported that the most recent issue of the literary magazine "The North Stone Review" (2002, n. 14) includes "Ciphers", a 16-line poem by Mary d'Angelo that alludes to "The Dancing Men"; there's much more non-Sherlockian material in the magazine, which costs \$14.00 (Box 14098, Minneapolis, MN 55414).
9625. Issue #53 of *SHERLOCK* offers its usual coverage of crime fiction (Sherlockian and otherwise); the contents include commentary (by Bert Coules) on the recent Roxburgh/Hart version of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (with a report of rumors that the producers are considering a sequel that would have Holmes and Watson investigating the strange mystery of Dorian Gray, and (by Gavin Collinson) on "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes", and (by Richard Valley) on transvestism and the world of Sherlock Holmes. *SHERLOCK* is published bi-monthly and subscriptions cost £23.70 (U.K.)/£26.00 (continent)/\$40.00 (elsewhere); their address is Box 100, Chichester, West Sussex PO18 8HD, England <<http://pmh.uk.com/sherlock/sherlock.htm>>. Or you can order from their American agent: Classic Specialties (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219) (877-233-3823) <<http://www.sherlock-holmes.com>>; credit-card orders are welcome at both addresses, and back issues are available.

March 2003 #3

9626. Walter Scharf died on Feb. 24. He began his musical career in Los Angeles in 1934 as an arranger for Rudy Vallee's orchestra, and then turned to composing and arranging film scores; he worked on more than 200 films and television programs and received ten Academy Award nominations. And his film credits included some of the original music in "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (1939).
9627. Collectors of the Sherlock Holmes stories in various languages can add one more to the list: American Sign Language. Three videocassettes are available, with "The Blue Carbuncle", "The Red-Headed League", and "The Speckled Band" signed by Gilbert Eastman (in costume as Sherlock Holmes) and Patrick Graybill (as Dr. Watson), with voice-over narration, and a short biography of Conan Doyle at the end of each cassette. \$39.95 each or \$107.95 for all three (plus shipping), and orders can be sent to Sign Media (4020 Blackburn Lane, Burtonsville, MD 20866) (800-475-4756) <<http://www.signmedia.com>>.
9628. *HearthSong* (Box 1050, Madison, VA 22727 (800-325-2502) <<http://www.hearthsong.com>> has a Sherlockian-themed cover on the box for a fingerprint kit in a new mail-order catalog (item 724165, \$9.95); the kit includes "dusting powder, fluffy feathers for dusting, tape squares to lift prints, print identification cards, a magnifying glass, and a comprehensive 16-page instruction booklet full of interesting facts" (it's recommended for ages 8 and up. I confess that I'm not sure that forensic experts still use fluffy feathers).
9629. Christie's is offering the third part of Richard M. Lackritz's collection of detective fiction on Apr. 8, at 20 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10020 (212-636-2010) <<http://www.christies.com>>, with some attractive modern material and some older literature that includes Sherlockian editions, a manuscript letter from Conan Doyle to Grant Richards, and signed photographs of William Gillette and Basil Rathbone.
9630. The March issue of *The Holmes & Watson Report* offers a thoughtful editorial by Brad Keefauver on what is so important about 221B Baker Street, which he describes as a "container of sorts that held within its cozy confines something bigger than the sum of its ingredients," and interesting suggestions by Jennie Paton on why Sherlockian films are or aren't successful; the periodical costs \$16.00 a year (for six issues) or \$22.00 outside North America, or \$3.00 for one issue, from Brad Keefauver (4009 North Chelsea Place, Peoria, IL 61614).
9631. It was in "The Five Orange Pips" that Watson wrote that he was "deep in one of Clark Russell's fine sea-stories," and that sea-story may have been *THE DEATH SHIP*, which was first published in a three-volume edition in 1888 in London and which is available again, with an introduction (and an afterword about Charles Doyle) by Hugo Koch. The first edition was not illustrated, but the new edition has appropriate artwork by Charles Doyle, Gustav Dore, and F. W. Hayes, selected by Koch from other sources; 336 pp., \$41.00 postpaid from George A. Vanderburgh at The Battered Silicon Dispatch Box, Box 204, Shelburne, ON LN0 1S0, Canada.

March 2003 #4

9632. Further to the report (February 03 #2) on Thomas B. Wheeler's *FINDING SHERLOCK'S LONDON*, you don't need to go on his tour in May in order to have a copy of the book, which has 54 pp. and lists more than 200 Sherlockian sites, by adventure and by closest underground station. It costs \$15.00 postpaid (\$20.00 outside the U.S.); his address is 6875 Honey Locust Cove, Memphis, TN 38119 <londonsecrets@london.com>, and credit-card orders are welcome.
9633. Martin Breese has moved (Breese Books, 10 Hanover Crescent, Brighton, East Sussex BN2 9SB, England) <www.sherlockholmes.co.uk>, and offers discounts on more than a dozen pastiches written by Val Andrews, John Hall, William Seil, and others; details on that, and on his other titles, are available by mail or at his web-site.
9634. Mary Campbell ("Brenda Tregennis") died on Mar. 17. She was a librarian at the University of Toronto, and an enthusiastic member of The Bootmakers of Toronto. Mary was their archivist for many years, and won awards for the best paper presented at a meeting in 1977 and for the best paper published in *Canadian Holmes* in 1983; she also was an active member of The Bootmaker Players, often performing as Mrs. Hudson, and was honored as a Master Bootmaker in 1985. Mary also was "Mrs. Merrilow" in *The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes*, and she received her Investiture from *The Baker Street Irregulars* in 2002.

9635. The Sherlock Holmes Review sponsored five Sherlockian symposia from 1987 to 1997, and there will be a new one on Nov. 8-9 in Indianapolis, sponsored by Wessex Press/Gasogene Books. "From Gillette to Brett: Sherlock Holmes on Stage, Screen, & Radio" will feature Edward Hardwicke and Nicholas Meyer as special guests, and Susan Dahlinger, David Stuart Davies, Chris Gullo, Paul Herbert, and Gordon Kelley as speakers. You can contact Steven Doyle (540 West Sycamore Street, Zionsville, IN 46077 <sdoyle221@aol.com> for information on how to register for the event.
9636. William S. Dorn's latest CD-ROM is SOME SHERLOCKIAN MORPHS, and it's an intriguing demonstration of what can be done with computers: you can watch 20 Sherlockian graphics morph into other Sherlockian graphics, comparing various actors with other actors, or with Paget or Steele illustrations, Holmes undisguised with Holmes disguised, etc. His address is 2045 South Monroe Street, Denver, CO 80210; and the postpaid cost is \$13.03 (to Colorado) or \$12.95 (other U.S.) or CA\$22.00 (to Canada) or \$15.85 (elsewhere).
9637. There's interesting news of new DVD releases in the latest issue of Scarlet Street (#47): advertisements for "Murder by Decree" (with audio commentary by director Bob Clark and other added-value material such as DVD-ROM of the original screenplay) from Anchor Bay Entertainment; the five two-hour Granada "Sherlock Holmes" programs from MPI Home Video; and some older material from Sinister Cinema: "The Sign of Four" (1932, with Arthur Wontner), "Der Hund von Baskerville" (1936, with Bruno Guttner, in German), "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1959, with Peter Cushing), and "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1979, with Vasily Livanov, in Russian subtitled in English). The magazine costs \$42.00 a year (for six issues); the address is Box 604, Glen Rock, NJ 07452 <<http://www.scarletstreet.com>>. Sinister Cinema's address Box 4369 (Dept. S), Medford, OR 97501 <<http://www.sinistercinema.com>>.
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March 2003 #5

9638. Reported: Svend Petersen's A SHERLOCK HOLMES ALMANAC, which he compiled and published 1956, now is available in a second edition, revised and expanded by Carl Will William Thiel, Karen Murdock, Frank Darlington, Edwin Christenson, and George A. Vanderburgh; the 388-page book is available for \$41.00 postpaid from The Battered Silicon Dispatch Box at Box 240, Shelburne, ON L0N 1S0, Canada.
9639. Norman Davis and Linda Crane report that they will be selling much of their Sherlockian collection (including "the interesting, arcane, desirable, and just plain weird") at auction on eBay <<http://www.ebay.com>> in weekly offerings beginning on Apr. 5 and continuing for many weeks; they'll include "BSI" in the title of each item, and their seller name is "bsi_and_ash".
9640. "...that one glance told him that Cleveland in Ohio possessed the men whom he was in pursuit of," we are told (in "A Study in Scarlet"). The U.S. Postal Service has honored the 200th anniversary of Ohio's statehood.
9641. Sorry about that: the production of "The Crucifer of Blood" on Nov. 7-23 in Indianapolis (February 03 #3) won't be seen this year; the play actually was produced there in 1997, but the year was omitted from the flier I received last month.
9642. The new Britannia mail-order catalog has two pages of Sherlockian material, including James Sadler teapots and a mini bar set. And (due for release on Apr. 8) "Tommy & Tuppence: Partners in Crimes" on DVD; this London Weekend Television series was based on Agatha Christie's stories and starred James Warwick and Francesca Annis, and included an episode ("Finessing the King") in which Tommy and Tuppence go to a fancy-dress ball dressed as Dr. Watson and Sherlock Holmes.
9643. Sheldon Reynolds died on Jan. 25. He made his mark in television as producer and writer of the syndicated series "Foreign Intrigue" (1951-1955), and directed some of the episodes as well as the 1956 feature film that starred Robert Mitchum. His next series was "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" in 1954, starring Ronald Howard and H. Marion Crawford, and his later work included the series "Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson" (1981), with Geoffrey Whitehead and Donald Pickering. The second series was made in Poland while Reynolds was married to Andrea Reynolds, and production involved a dispute with the Polish authorities that resulted in Andrea temporarily lodged in a Polish jail; Reynolds later said that his greatest mistake was getting her out. He did change his mind, allowing that his greatest mistake was introducing Andrea to his friend Claus von Bulow; she abandoned Reynolds and energetically claimed credit for von Bulow's acquittal in his second trial for the attempted murder of his wife Sunny. Sheldon Reynolds was inventive and optimistic, and a delightful raconteur about his many years in television and film.
9644. Reported: a sidebar in the Jan.-Feb. issue of Book magazine on "the battle of the side-kicks," ranking supporting characters such as Dr. Watson, Hawk (from the Spenser novels), and Asta (Nick and Nora's dog). Hawk won first prize, and Sherlock Holmes (husband and mentor to Mary Russell in the series of novels by Laurie R. King) came in second.
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March 2003 #6

9645. Phil Attwell notes that the film "Minority Report" (2002) now is available on DVD, with added-value special features that include discussion by director Steven Spielberg, who talks about the names of the three pre-cogs who are able to "see" murders before they happen: the twins Arthur and Dashiell were named after Arthur Conan Doyle and Dashiell Hammett, and Agatha after Agatha Christie.
9646. Carolyn and Joel Senter have issued a new catalog from Classic Specialties (Box 1958, Cincinnati, OH 45219) <<http://www.sherlock-holmes.com>> (877-233-3823) with a nice assortment of Sherlockian books and other material.
9647. And now for some film news, if you're willing to count rumor and gossip as news. There is a long list of past entertainment-world announcements that might be described as huffery-puffery: we never got to see "Sherlock Holmes Meets Dracula" (1986), which was persistently reported with Tony Randall as Holmes and Sid Caesar as Dracula ("Tony Randall asked me to inform you that unfortunately, he's never heard of the project," a public-relations staffer wrote to me in 1994, "although, he thought it sounded like a great idea"). Or a 1991 "Sherlock Holmes" television series starring Stephen Fry as Sherlock Holmes and Hugh Laurie as Dr. Watson. Or the 2001 film loosely based on "The Sign of Four" with Alan Rickman as Holmes, Gabriel Byrne as Watson, and Catherine Zeta-Jones as Holmes' love interest.
9648. So here's some of the more recent buzz: "221bCAUSE" is a "Sherlock Holmes thriller" about a modern-day female Sherlock Holmes, with Britney Spears in talks about playing the lead (Sarah Michelle Gellar and Jennifer Love Hewitt saw the script and declined); the [London] Sun ran an amusing photo of Britney in a deerstalker on Jan. 3, and many readers didn't notice that the paper stated it was a fake. "Baker Street Irregulars" (the story of "the kids who were the secret army of Sherlock Holmes") is to star Malcolm McDowell as Holmes and Christopher Lee as Moriarty. And "Holmes and Watson" (an action-adventure) will be set in modern-day London ("the heir to the Holmes legacy will be portrayed as a twenty-something playboy who uses his talents mainly to pick up girls--until he is unwittingly drawn back into the family detective business by a young, sexy Dr. Jane Watson").
9649. Karen Murdock (1212 Yale Avenue SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414) offers Sherlockian bumper stickers (11.5" wide, with bright green background); \$2.00 each, or three for \$5.00. If you're outside the U.S., please send currency.
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April 2003 #1

9650. There's still time to reserve for this year's running of The Silver Blaze at historic Saratoga Race Track in upstate New York: the event is sponsored by The Baker Street Irregulars, and the agenda will include a buffet luncheon at the Rail Pavilion on Aug. 2, with honors for the winner of the race, and a buffet brunch and Sherlockian program at the Prime Hotel & Conference Center on Aug. 3, all for \$100 a person. Checks for \$100 (payable to The
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Baker Street Irregulars) should be sent to Lou Lewis at 11 Raymond Avenue #24, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603; he'll also be happy to provide information on hotel accommodations in the area.

9651. For those who missed Ian McKellen as Sherlock Holmes in the "Hot Air Balloon Mystery Theater" skit broadcast by NBC-TV on "Saturday Night Live" on Mar. 16, 2002, Ratana Ngini reports that there's an image at the web-site at <<http://img-www.theonering.net/images/170302-snlmckellen30.JPG>>.
9652. Robin W. Winks died on Apr. 7. He was a professor of history at Yale University, with special interests in the environment, detective fiction, and the history of espionage. His reviews of mysteries appeared in the New Republic, the Washington Post, and the Boston Globe, and he wrote an introduction for a 1992 reprint of Howard Haycraft's THE ART OF MYSTERY FICTION. Winks edited THE HISTORIAN AS DETECTIVE: ESSAYS ON EVIDENCE (1969) and DETECTIVE FICTION: A COLLECTION OF CRITICAL ESSAYS (1980), and he wrote MODUS OPERANDI: AN EXCURSION INTO DETECTIVE FICTION (1982) and with Maureen Corrigan won an Edgar Award from the Mystery Writers of America for MYSTERY AND SUSPENSE WRITERS: THE LITERATURE OF CRIME, DETECTION AND ESPIONAGE (1998). He often paid tribute to Conan Doyle, and once suggested that "When all is said and done, crime fiction is about the same craft as any fiction: writing well."
9653. A new catalog from McCranie's offers a wide range of pipe tobacco in tins, among them McClelland's "221-B Black Shag" and "221-B Arcadia", and Peterson's "Sherlock Holmes". McCranie's address is 4143 Park Road, Charlotte, NC 28209 (800-523-8554) <www.mccranies.com>.
9654. The comic-book series FANTASTIC STORIES (March 02 #2), created by Don Marquez and published by Amryl <<http://www.amryl.com>> continues, with the first two parts (six and seven pages) of a three-part adaptation of "When the World Screamed" (Apr. 2002 and Dec. 2002); \$2.95 each in comic-book shops, or you can order from Don Marquez (1313 Young Wo Circle, Folsom, CA 95630), \$3.00 each plus \$3.00 shipping per order (please pay by check or via PayPal). He has a web-site at <<http://www.cartune.land.com>>, and he will sign the covers on request.
9655. Reported: THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME, by Mark Haddon (New York: Doubleday, 2003; 224 pp., \$22.95); according to Publishers Weekly (Apr. 7), "Christopher Boone, the autistic 15-year-old narrator of this revelatory novel, relaxes by groaning and doing math problems in his head, eats red--but not yellow or brown--food and screams when he is touched.... When his neighbor's poodle is killed and Christopher is falsely accused of the crime, he decides that he will take a page from Sherlock Holmes (one of his favorite characters) and track down the killer."

April 2003 #2

9656. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists will meet for drinks and dinner, honoring the world's first forensic geologist, on May 14, at 7:00 pm, at the Alta Club in Salt Lake City, during the annual meeting of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists. The Alta Club is at 100 East South Temple; our tradition is to discourage scholarly papers, slide shows, and quizzes (and our agenda consists entirely of toasts, some scholarly, but many not). We will be following in distinguished footsteps: Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was entertained at the Alta Club during his visit to Salt Lake City in 1923, when he lectured at the Mormon Tabernacle. If you would like to join us for the festivities, please let me know.
9657. Ann Skene-Melvin died on Apr. 9. She was a bibliophile, and proprietor of Ann's Books and Mostly Mysteries Books, and with her husband David compiled CRIME, DETECTIVE, ESPIONAGE, MYSTERY, AND THRILLER FICTION & FILM: A COMPREHENSIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY OF CRITICAL WRITING THROUGH 1979 (1980). She was one of the founders of The Bookmakers of Toronto, a member of the executive committees that organized the Bookmakers conferences in 1986 and 1997, and (as "Beryl Garcia") a member of The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes.
9658. Elizabeth Dow (ten-year-old daughter of Wanda and Jeffery Dow, and a member of The Pleasant Places of Florida) is a Girl Scout, and now the proud owner of a "Science Sleuth" badge (and of course it's nice indeed to see the Girl Scouts using a Sherlockian icon); the "Explore and Discover" booklet says: "Here are some questions you can ask or investigate, just like a scientist. There isn't always a 'right' or 'only' answer--that's the challenge of sleuthing."
9659. Jon Lellenberg reports that the opening of the Newberry Library exhibition in Chicago on "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: Beyond Sherlock Holmes" was well-attended and interesting. There were about 120 people at the private dinner on Apr. 11 (the evening ended with a recording of Vincent Starrett reading his poem "221B"), and about 240 people on hand for a public lecture on Apr. 12 by Richard Lancelyn Green (the library's Saturday lectures generally attract fewer than 20 people). The exhibition offers an attractive display of many of the highlights from the material donated to the library by Fred Kittle, whose Doyleana covers four generations of Doyles and Conan Doyles), and will be on view until July 12; there's a well-illustrated list of what is in the exhibition at the library's web-site <<http://www.newberry.org>>.
9660. And for those who might need an additional excuse to visit Chicago, Daniel Stashower will speak at the Newberry Library on May 28, on "Believers and Debunkers: Arthur Conan Doyle and Harry Houdini".
9661. Karen Murdock noted the story in the Daily Express (Apr. 19): "an old golf club register may hold the clue to one of the last Sherlock Holmes mysteries," the report by Richard Palmer notes. Douglas Blunden, the historian of the Sheringham Golf Club in Norfolk, found the name of Mr. C. Moriarty in a visitors' book entry for 1901; Moriarty later became a full member of the club, and Conan Doyle became a member in 1903. Club officials now wonder if the two men met on holiday in Sheringham a decade earlier, when Conan Doyle first wrote about the evil Prof. James Moriarty.

April 2003 #3

9662. Jeffrey Schwartz ("Henry Baker") died on Apr. 7. He was vice president for international affairs for a Wall Street brokerage, and then moved to Houston to work for a Mexican bank; while he lived in the New York area he was a stalwart member of Mrs. Hudson's Cliffdwellers and served as their quiz-master and (Irv Kamil has noted) designed team quizzes "of dazzling creativity." He received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1984.
9663. Reported: MGM/UA Video will release "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970) on DVD on July 15 (\$19.98), with added-value features that include theatrical trailers, deleted sequences, and "Christopher Lee: Mr. Holmes, Mr. Wilder".
9664. Admirers of "Aunt Clara" will recall that Bill Rabe reported in his "We Always Mention Aunt Clara" that one of the experts consulted in his research on the post-war history of the song was Art Buchwald, who was (Bill noted) "nightclub critic" for the Paris edition of the N.Y. Herald Tribune. They had met in March 1952, when Lt. Rabe was in Paris, following in the footsteps of Sherlock Holmes, and a report on Bill's activities was featured in Buchwald's column. Buchwald, who joined the paper in 1949, reported in his syndicated column this month: "A funny thing happened the other day. Actually, it was not that funny. The International Herald Tribune in Paris canceled my column after 53 years." The N.Y. Herald Tribune closed many years ago, but the International Herald Tribune has continued to publish, operated jointly by the N.Y. Times and the Washington Post; last year the N.Y. Times, in a hostile takeover, purchased the Washington Post's interest in the International Herald Tribune, and Buchwald, whose column has

been published for decades in the Washington Post (and not in the N.Y. Times), is the latest casualty of the takeover. But his fans can continue to read his column in the Washington Post and other papers that carry it.

9665. Boris Karloff was shown in a pane of ten stamps honoring "American Film Making" that was issued in February; the stamp is a photograph of Jack Pierce and an unidentified technician applying makeup to Karloff for "Frankenstein" (1931). Karloff also played Mr. Mycroft in "The Sting of Death" (which was adapted by Alvin Sapinsley from H. F. Heard's novel A TASTE FOR HONEY) on ABC-TV's "The Elgin Hour" on Feb. 22, 1955 (in an era before fans were quick to tape off-the-air, alas).
9666. David Harlan would like to reactivate The Mystik Krewe of Sherlock Holmes (the Sherlockian society in New Orleans), and would be happy to hear from any locals; his address is: 833 East Lexington Avenue, Terrytown, LA 70056 <d100harlan@cs.com>.
9667. Ted Friedman's interesting series about Sherlockian philately for Topical Times continues with his two-page article on "Vernet French Connections" in the May-June issue; he offers brief histories of the Vernet and Holmes families, and it's illustrated with stamps showing paintings by Carle, Emile Jean Horace, and Claude Joseph Vernet. The magazine costs \$5.00 postpaid (credit-card orders welcome) from the American Topical Association, Box 57, Arlington, TX 76004 <americantopical@msn.com>.
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April 2003 #4

9668. "The actor Charles Dance wanted to perform 'Pursued by a Bear', in which Sherlock Holmes hunts a killer in an animal suit," according to Benedict Nightingale's story in the N.Y. Times (Mar. 23) about the career of playwright Peter Nichols, whose play "A Day in the Death of Joe Egg" was recently revived in New York. "Pursued by a Bear" is one of some 40 unproduced plays he has written; they are now in British Library, which bought his archive four years ago. Thanks to Greg Darak, who noted the mention of a Sherlock Holmes play.
9669. Richard Valley reports that MPI Home Video will release the 14 Basil Rathbone/Nigel Bruce films on DVDs, beginning this fall; one film per DVD, and two DVDs per month; the Universal films will be the recently-restored versions in the UCLA archives (the 20th Century-Fox films will be cleaned up but not entirely remastered), and Valley will provide the chapter stops and liner notes (and it's possible that there will be extra features included).
9670. Two enameled-metal lapel pins (Holmes reading Porlock's message is in six colors, and the hansom cab is in five) are offered by Al Gregory (118 South Prospect Street, Verona, NJ 07044); the pins cost \$12.00 each (postpaid) or \$15.00 each for orders from outside the United States (payment should be made in currency or with checks drawn on U.S. banks, please).
9671. According to The Passengers' Log (summer 2003, p. 12), the Programme Preservation Society offers "The Life (in a Day) of Douglas Wilmer", a 165-minute interview in which he reminisces about his acting career (including his performances as Holmes and his recorded readings of the Canon) on a videocassette. The PPS notes that Wilmer has written about the interview that "I have decided that yours is the *definitive* one and, should anyone ever ask me again I shall simply recommend it to them." Their cassettes usually are available only to members, but readers of this newsletter are welcome to order this one if they hear from you by Aug. 1 (mention the magic word "Scuttlebutt"). The cassette is in PAL/VHS format, and costs £10.00 postpaid to the U.K. (or £13.00 elsewhere); payment by sterling check or money order, please (checks payable to the PPS), and orders can be sent to Richard Berry (36-B Elvendon Road, Bounds Green, London N13 4SH, England). Additional information about the PPS and its other cassettes can be found at their web-site at <<http://www.pps-tv.co.uk>>.
9672. James Eedle has prepared a comprehensive index for News from the Diggings, which was edited by Alan C. Olding and published by The Sherlock Holmes Society of Australia from 1980 to 2002. There's a general index, an index of references to stories, and an annotated list of contents, in Word format on a 3.5" floppy disk, available for US\$25.00 postpaid (US\$ checks or currency welcome) from Alan (P.O. Box 13, Stirling, SA 5152, Australia).
9673. Rebecca Bohner has a bit of news from Laurie R. King about a Mary Russell novel in the works: "THE GAME as in The Great Game, as in India's Northwest frontier, as in Kim. Yes, Kim. He's 47 now (that is, in 1924), and missing..." And Rebecca notes that that's Rudyard Kipling's Kim.
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April 2003 #5

9674. The 2002 issue of the Beeman's Christmas Annual, edited by Janet N. Bensley for The Occupants of the Empty House, is a celebration of the society's first 25 years and a tribute to Father Raymond L. "Vic" Holly. The Occupants have met each month since Jan. 1977, and their 300 meetings through the end of 2002 may well be a record for Sherlockian societies; the 40-page booklet costs \$11.25 postpaid, and checks (payable to the society, please) should be sent to Stan Tinsley (Box 21, Zeigler, IL 62999).
9675. "What might have been" department: the spring issue of Irene Adler's Postmodern Victorian Gazette (published by Carole Nelson Douglas as part of her Midnight Louie's Scratching Post-Intelligencer) reports that Carole sent a copy of GOOD NIGHT, MR. HOLMES to Jane Seymour for Christmas in 1990, hoping to interest the actress in playing the role. The actress called Carole to thank her, and went on to star in "Dr. Quinn: Medicine Woman" on television, and Carole went on to write more novels. The URL for Carole's website is <<http://www.catwriter.com>>.
9676. Belgium issued a stamp commemorating the centenary of the death of Felicien Rops (1833-1898), who was a member of the Groupe des Vingts [XX Group], and Belgium's leading artist, when Sherlock Holmes was pursuing the Hound of the Baskervilles" (and Watson reported that Holmes "was entirely absorbed in the pictures of the modern Belgian masters"); the design shows part of Rops' painting "La foire aux amours". The stamp was one of a set of four in a set that honored the 200th anniversary of the Museum of Fine Arts in Ghent.
9677. Dave Dobson spotted Massimo Pigliucci's "Thinking About Science" column in the May-June issue of Skeptical Inquirer" "Elementary, Dear Watson" notes that Sherlock Holmes used induction rather than deduction, and explains the difference between the two forms of reasoning.
9678. "Sherlock Holmes and the Giant Rat of Sumatra" (a 1986 two-act "Victorian musical spoof" with book by Tim Kelly and music and lyrics by Jack Sharkey) will be performed at the Drama Lab Theatre at Orange Coast Community College on May 8-11 and 15-18. The theater is at 2701 Fairview Road, Costa Mesa, CA 92626 (714-432-5880) <<http://www.occtickets.com>>.
9679. Robert F. Hanson (6000 Cortaderia Street NE #3215, Albuquerque, NM 87111) offers a second printing of John Bennett Shaw's COLLECTING SHERLOCKIANA: AN ESSAY [April 91 #2]. The 16-page pamphlet includes a frontispiece photograph showing the Sage of Santa Fe in his library; \$6.50 postpaid (\$8.50 outside the United States).
9680. Roger Johnson reports that Malcolm Williamson died on Mar. 2. He was appointed Master of the Queen's Music (the musical equivalent of poet laureate) in 1975, and he was a composer for films, including the score of "The Masks of Death" (1984). And that Lloyd Shirley died in Mar. 5. He was a leading television executive in Britain, and was executive producer of the Thames TV series "The Rivals of Sherlock Holmes" (1971).
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April 2003 #6

9681. Here's your chance to star in some of the Sherlock Holmes stories: Customized Classics (5 Camelot Way, Markham, ON L3P 3V9, Canada) (905-201-9504) <<http://www.customizedclassics.com>> offers A STUDY IN SCARLET AND THE SIGN OF THE FOUR, THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, THE MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, and THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (\$28.95 each postpaid) with customized covers and your name in the

text in place of major characters. And you get a 20% discount if you mention the magic word ("Scuttlebutt"); please tell them your phone number when you order. Books by other authors also are available.

9682. The Sherlock Holmes stories (as well as Conan Doyle's non-Sherlockian work) have been illustrated by some fine artists, including Wladyslaw Theodore Benda (1875-1948), whose mixed-media theatrical mask is owned by the National Portrait Gallery. An exhibit of "American Beauties: Drawing from the Golden Age of Illustration" at the Library of Congress last year included some of his striking art for the covers of "Hearst's International Magazine" (his illustrations for "The Sussex Vampire" appeared in that magazine in Jan. 1924).
9683. The March issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota offers Julie McKuras' article about the collections' recently acquired print of the film "A Black Sherlock Holmes" (1918); the film was made by the Ebony Film Corp. and starred Sam Robinson (in parody Sherlockian costume) as Knick Garter. The issue also has Michael Dirda's critique of W. H. Auden's discussion of mysteries, and Sherlock Holmes, in "The Guilty Vicarage"; and Jon Lellenberg's warm tribute to John Bennett Shaw's enthusiastic collecting, in Jon's reminiscence of how two century-old parodies wound up in John's collection. Dick Sveum also reports that the cataloging project funded by the Hubbs Family (and by the library and the Hench Endowment) has been completed. the newsletter is available from Richard J. Sveum (111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, 222 21st Avenue South, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <sveum001@tc.umn.edu>.
9684. "The future of humankind is at stake and only two men can save it. Come on a journey back to the beginning of science, the beginning of civilization, the beginning of time. Where will it all end? Be prepared to see Holmes and Watson as you've never seen them before. In daring plots, in amazing escapades, in dubious disguise. In trouble." That's the promotion for the new play "Sherlock Holmes in Trouble" (written by Mark Long and Emil Wolk) that will have its world premiere at the Royal Exchange in Manchester, July 2 through Aug. 9. St. Ann's Square, Manchester N2 7DH, England (0161-833-9833) <<http://www.royalexchange.co.uk>>.

May 2003 #1

9685. Dennis Lien reports that a fourth (and final) edition of Allen J. Hubin's massive bibliography of crime fiction is to be published at the end of this year. Al described the first edition, which appeared in 1984 and covered 1749-1975, as a list of "all mystery, detective, suspense, police and gothic fiction in book form published in the English language," and he's an expert in the field: his had more than 26,000 books in his collection, and he founded and edited "The Armchair Detective" and won two Edgar awards from the Mystery Writers of America. His CRIME FICTION IV: A COMPREHENSIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY 1749-2000 is to have about 2,700 pages in five hard-cover volumes (\$400 postpaid for pre-publication orders), from George A. Vanderbugh (Box 204, Shelburne, ON L0N 1S0, Canada) <gav@bmts.com>, and there are plans for a CD-ROM edition from the Locus Press <<http://www.locusmag.com/index>>; the CD-ROM with the third edition costs \$49.95 (and one can assume that the new CD-ROM won't cost much more). The bibliography will list more than 109,000 titles, indexed by authors and pseudonyms, and indexes for settings, film adaptations, and much more.
9686. Dennis Rosa's 1975 play "Sherlock Holmes and the Curse of the Sign of the Four" is scheduled at the Dorset Theatre Festival from June 26 to July 12; Box 510, Dorset, VT 05251 (802-867-2223) <www.dorsettheatrefestival.com>.
9687. The television series "Sherlock Holmes in the 22nd Century" (1999), which was produced by DIC Entertainment and Scottish Television and broadcast in Britain in 1999 and in the United States in 2001, will now be seen in many other countries; according to the Hollywood Reporter (Apr. 29), the animated series is included in deals with Nickelodeon Asia, Fox Kids Italy, and Cartoon Network Japan. The series had 26 30-minute programs and featured the voices of Jason Gray Stanford as Sherlock Holmes, and John Payne as Dr. John Watson).
9688. If you're planning a trip to England: The Sherlock Holmes Society of London is planning a cricket match against The P. G. Wodehouse Society on June 29, at the West Wycombe Cricket Club in Buckinghamshire. It's open to the public, and there's no charge for admission.
9689. Reported: MY SHERLOCK HOLMES: UNTOLD STORIES OF THE GREAT DETECTIVE, edited by Michael Kurland (New York: St. Martin's Minotaur, 2003; 370 pp., \$24.95) -- an anthology of pastiches, written to Kurland's rule: while Holmes must appear, the viewpoint character is not Watson, but some other figure from the Canon.
9690. Jim Rock reports that the Bookfinder web-site <<http://www.bookfinder.com>> that allows users to search other used-book sites has noted what the most-searched-for books in various categories were during the last half of 2002. Under "mysteries and thrillers" that top ten were WHERE THERE'S A WILL (Rex Stout), THE RUBBER BAND (Rex Stout), THE RED BOX (Rex Stout), THE LEAGUE OF FRIGHTENED MEN (Rex Stout), TEN LITTLE NIGGERS (Agatha Christie), THE DEEP (Peter Benchley), THE IPCRESS FILE (Len Deighton), THE ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES (William S. Baring-Gould), THE BOYS FROM BRAZIL (Ira Levin), and THE SILVER PIGS (Lindsey Davis). It's intriguing that THE ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES is on so many people's want lists 35 years after it was published.

May 2003 #2

9691. Further to the report (July 01 #1) about the continuing battle over Liberton Bank House (where Arthur Conan Doyle once lived as a child), award-winning Edinburgh architect Richard Murphy has drawn up plans to renovate the house for use by the Dunedin School. Opponents of a proposal by McDonald's for a restaurant on the site of the oldest surviving house where Conan Doyle lived welcomed the news.
9692. Frank Darlington died on May 9. He was an energetic member of The Sound of the Baskervilles and The Stormy Petrels of British Columbia, and a genial contributor to The Hounds of the Internet, and his risqué Christmas cards issued from his Scandalous Darlington Press were a delight. Thanks to his career in the U.S. Foreign Service he happily visited many of the countries mentioned in the Canon (Afghanistan, Austria, England, France, Italy, Pakiistan, and the Sudan), and his home included a library full of Sherlockian souvenirs from his travels.
9693. Further to the report (April 03 #3) on the MGM/UA Video release of "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970) on DVD, Dave Kehr noted (N.Y. Times, May 11) that the added features include 30 minutes cut from the theatrical release.
9694. There's plenty of Sherlockian scholarship in languages other than English: Le Registre d'Ecrou, published by Les Evades de Dartmoor, had four annual issues, and last year was succeeded by Le Carnet d'Ecrou. Information on subscriptions are available from Francois Hoff, 19 rue du Marechal Joffre, 67000 Strasbourg, France <lecarnetdecrou@hotmail.com>.
9695. Bill Barnes (19 Malvern Avenue, Manly, NSW 2095, Australia) notes that THE HOUNDS' COLLECTION: VOLUME 8 now is available, with 68 pages of wit, scholarship, conjecture, pastiche, and artwork by members of The Hounds of the Internet; most of the material is new (one item was published earlier only in Japanese, and another is revised and expanded from a version published in 1997). The cost is \$10.00/CA\$15.00/£6.50/€9.00 postpaid by air; payment in currency or by PayPal to <bbarnes@ozemail.com.au> preferred, but checks (made out to R. W. Barnes) are acceptable.
9696. Brian W. Pugh reports that he has published a second (expanded and corrected) edition of his A CHRONOLOGY OF THE LIFE OF SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE, now with more biographical references to Conan Doyle and with the dates of his works incorporated within the chronology. It's available

from Brian at 20 Clare Road, Lewes, Sussex BN7 1PN, England; £16.00 postpaid to the U.K., or £19.00/E30.00/\$30.00 elsewhere; sterling checks only (euros and dollars in currency, please).

9697. Further to the item (March 03 #4) about films available from Sinister Cinema (Box 4369, Medford, OR 97501) <<http://www.sinistercinema.com>>: they offer many more titles, including "Der Hund von Baskerville" (1936, with Bruno Guttner, in German), "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1968, with Peter Cushing), and "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1979, with Vasily Livanov, in Russian subtitled in English), on DVDs (\$16.95 each); and "The Sign of Four" (1932, with Arthur Wontner), "Murder at the Baskervilles" (1937, with Arthur Wontner, aka "Silver Blaze"), and "Sherlock Holmes and the Deadly Necklace" (1962, with Christopher Lee), on cassettes (\$12.95 each).
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May 2003 #3

9698. Fans of the recent series (with Maury Chaykin as Nero Wolfe and Tim Hutton as Maury Chaykin) will welcome the news that "Nero Wolfe: The Complete Season One DVD set" will be available (\$59.95) on June 10 at the A&E web-site <<http://store.aetv.com>>, with a poster showing Hutton Goodwin; or discounted (\$31.89) at <www.deepdiscounteddvd.com>. The A&E web-site also offers Nero Wolfe floral ties and swirl ties. For those who came in late, many Sherlockians enjoy the speculation that Sherlock Holmes, during the Great Hiatus, rendezvoused with Irene Adler in Montenegro; after her return to New Jersey she gave birth to a child who inherited his father's expertise at deduction, and his uncle's physique.
9699. Kathleen I. Morrison died on May 5. She worked for the Calgary Public Library for 42 years, and she was one of Canada's first Sherlockians (and the fourth baronet of The Canadian Baskervilles, Canada's first Sherlockian society); her article on "John H. Watson, M.D." was published in the Calgary Associate Clinic's Historical Bulletin in May 1943. Charles Honce's story about her ran on the Associated Press wire on Jan. 29, 1945, by which time she had been recruited by Clif Andrew as the corresponding secretary of the Scandalous Bohemians of Akron. Vincent Starrett was another of her correspondents, and she was quoted by Honce saying that "it has been an intriguing adventure, growing daily in color and scope."
9700. Further to the item (March 03 #6) about recent news from Hollywood about New Line Cinema's "Holmes and Watson" action-adventure that's set in modern-day London, Josh Spector notes in the Hollywood Reporter (May 23) that New Line also has acquired Mark DiStefano's "untitled modern Sherlock Holmes spec in a mid-six-figure deal" with Chris Bender and J. C. Spink as producer. It's described as a thriller with a historical hook, and the script centers on "a rookie New York cop who discovers that he is the descendant of the legendary sleuth. While Holmes' great-great-grandson does not share his last name, he does share his unique ability and quickly rises up the ranks to detective. But when his true heritage becomes tabloid fodder, a copycat criminal emerges and re-enacts many of the crimes Holmes once solved, putting the descendant to the test."
9701. May 29 was Bob Hope's 100th birthday, and there have been many celebrations of his long career as an entertainer, on stage and screen and radio and television, and on his many USO tours performing for our armed forces. And his massive joke file (he kept careful records) is now at the Library of Congress, where they were scanned and digitized (but unfortunately one cannot run a word search to see if he told any jokes about Sherlock Holmes). You can, however, see a caricature of Bob "Sherlock" Hope at his official web-site at <<http://www.bobhope.com/JokePage.html>> (thanks to Scott Monty for observing and reporting on this); you can click on the image and listen to him telling jokes. You can also keep an eye out for advertising for the film "My Favorite Brunette" (1947) showing him in Sherlockian costume (it's only in the advertising, however, and there's no S'ian costume in the film itself). He also is reported to have performed in a skit on the "Donny and Marie Show" (1977) as Inspector Wonderful, with Jay Osmond as Doctor Datum (alas, no one has reported having recorded this on videocassette).
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May 2003 #4

9702. "I grew up with Conan Doyle," said Dick Wolf, producer of the television series "Law & Order", according to David Zurawick in the Baltimore Sun (May 4). "That's what I read when I was growing up. Sherlock Holmes is still my favorite fictional character. I started with the Hardy Boys, and then moved on to Sherlock Holmes." Thanks to Jay Hyde for forwarding the article. There was Sherlockian dialogue in the episode "Prescription for Death" (1990), and the episode "Kiss the Girls and Make Them Die" (1990) had many echos from "The Illustrious Client".
9703. "Gigantic (A Tale of Two Johns)" opened at the Cinema Village in New York on May 23. The documentary film is about the rock band "They Might Be Giants" (the two Johns are John Flansburgh and John Linnell, who founded the group that took its name from the 1970 film that starred George C. Scott as a psychotic judge who believes he's Sherlock Holmes).
9704. Father Raymond L. "Vic" Holly died on May 19. He was a charter member of The Harpooners of the Sea Unicorn, and the first person to attend a meeting of The Occupants of the Empty House (and in case you're wondering how he got to be the first person, he also was the only person, Michael Bragg reports: there was a huge blizzard and the meeting was postponed, and Vic, who hadn't told anyone he was coming, was the only one not told; he crawled through the blizzard and found the restaurant closed, so he got credit for attending, even though no one else did). As noted earlier (April 03 #5), the 2002 issue of the Beeman's Christmas Annual was a tribute to Vic; the 40-page booklet costs \$11.25 postpaid; checks (payable to the society, please) should be sent to Stan Tinsley (Box 21, Zeigler, IL 62999).
9705. Andy Peck has reported that the recently-restored 97-minute version of John Barrymore's silent film "Sherlock Holmes" (1922) will be screened with live musical accompaniment by the Film Society of Lincoln Center at their Walter Reade Theater on July 22 at 6:00 and 8:30 pm; the theater is located at 165 West 65th Street in New York. Tickets go on sale on July 16, and the boxoffice phone number is 212-496-3809 <<http://www.filmlinc.com>>.
9706. David Otis Ives died on May 16. He was a reporter and editor, and in 1960 he went to work as assistant general manager of the WGBH Educational Foundation. From 1970 to 1984 he was president and chief executive officer of WGBH, and approved projects such as "Nova", "Frontline", "Masterpiece Theater", and "Mystery!", which allowed viewers here to see the Granada "Sherlock Holmes" series, and Richard Roxburgh's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (and many references to Sherlock Holmes and Arthur Conan Doyle in the wraparounds recorded in Boston by Vincent Price, Diana Rigg and Russell Baker).
9707. I would appreciate hearing from anyone who might have a current address for Douglas Walker-Macran, who some years ago wrote to me from the ChÛteau de la Bastide d'Engras in Gard; he isn't there now, and the French post office doesn't have a forwarding address for him.
9708. One of the more interesting Sherlockian-themed toys is VTech's "The Detectives" Search 'n Discover Book (see the next page for a reduced picture of what it looks like). It's for ages three years and up, and it costs about \$10.00 at toy stores. VTech can be reached at 800-521-2010 or (in Canada) 800-267-7377 <<http://www/vtechkids.com>> or <<http://vtechcanada.com>>.
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May 2003 #6

9709. Sherlockian allusions continue to appear in kid-vid television animations, demonstrating that producers assume that children (sometimes so young that they're not reading yet) will understand the reference. And of course many of the series are also available on videocassettes, one of them being "Hey Arnold!: Partners" (from Nickelodeon), with five 12-minute segments; the title segment of the cassette is synopsisized: "First the great

composing team of Spumoni and Reynolds split up. And now maybe Arnold and Gerald, too. Are all great performing duos doomed?") and there's an appropriate mention of Holmes and Watson. Thanks to Mike Kean for forwarding the cassette.

9710. Gillette Castle in East Haddam, Conn., has opened for the season (Memorial Day through Columbus Day), fully restored after an \$11-million restoration project funded by the state. A story in the Hartford Courant (May 22) reported that "Gillette's famous personal railroad cars, which once carried personalities such as Calvin Coolidge and Albert Einstein, are still being restored."
9711. BBC Radio 4 continues to offer Conan Doyle material to listeners in Great Britain (and sometimes on its overseas broadcasts), and the material can isn't necessarily Sherlockian: BBC Radio 4's 30-minute series "The Darker Side of the Border" aired Martin Ross' dramatization of "The Captain of the Polestar" on Apr. 24, 2003. The border is the Scottish border, and the accents are thick enough to be cut by a knife. As far as I know, this is the first time this story has been dramatized; thanks to Roger Johnson for providing an off-the-air recording.
9712. Issue #54 of SHERLOCK offers its usual coverage of crime fiction (Sherlockian and otherwise), including the second part of Gavin Collinson's commentary on Billy Wilder's "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes", David Stuart Davies' discussion of "The Voice of Passion: How Arthur Conan Doyle's Private Life Influenced the Sherlock Holmes Stories", and Pat Ward's two-page report on "Sherlock Stateside" (a feature in each issue of the magazine). SHERLOCK is published every two months and a subscription costs £23.70 (to the U.K.)/£26.00 (continent)/\$40.00 (elsewhere); Box 100, Chichester, West Sussex PO18 8HD, England <<http://pmh.uk.com/sherlock/sherlock.htm>>. Or you can order from their American agent: Classic Specialties (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219) (877-233-3823) <<http://www.sherlock-holmes.com>>; creditcard orders are welcome at both addresses, and back issues are available.
9713. The spring issue of The Magic Door (the newsletter published by The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) has ers Doug Wrigglesworth's report on the collection's acquisition (with funding assistance from the Friends) of books from Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's library, Barbara Rusch's discussion of Cliff Goldfarb's research on the longstanding controversy about whether Conan Doyle helped marathon runner Dorando across the finish line at the 1908 Olympics (Conan Doyle was present for the race, but in the stands rather than on the track), and other news from the library. Copies are available from Doug Wrigglesworth (16 Sunset Street, Holland Landing, ON L9N 1H4, Canada) <dougwig@sympatico.ca>.

June 2003 #1

9714. It is rare for the BBC to broadcast a repeat of an ITV television series, but the BBC has signed to repeat the first 13 programs of Granada's "Sherlock Holmes" (with Jeremy Brett and David Burke) on BBC-2 on Saturday afternoons in the "Watching the Detectives" slot. According to Adam Sherwin (in The Times on May 30), a BBC spokesman said that the deal didn't signal a retreat from its obligations to provide original programming, and that "we are always looking for new acquisitions and this is a series we think will be very popular with daytime audiences." And Nadine Nohr, Granada International's managing director, said that "This series starring the late, great Jeremy Brett as Holmes is still hailed as the definitive on-screen depiction of the world's greatest fictional detective. The series continues to resonate as evidenced by continued sales around the world."
9715. Patricia Guy has reported on a new society: The Assorted and Stradivarious of Verona (the first scion of The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes). They hold their meetings (in English, since the local members prefer to read the Canon in its original language), and visitors should contact Patricia Guy (Via Fama 11, 37121 Verona, Italy) <benguy@libero.it>.
9716. The first running of The Silver Blaze at Belmont Race Track was in 1956, as noted by Wayne B. Swift in the The Street Journal Christmas Annual for 2000 (an excellent history of the original race, and its many offspring), and the last running there was in 1995. And there's a fine article about the track (where the 135th Belmont Stakes was run on June 7) in the Washington Post's sports section on June 2. Look for John Scheinman's "In the Spring of Kings, Belmont is the Palace" in your local library, or at the paper's web-site <<http://www.washingtonpost.com>> (look for "In the Sport of Kings, Belmont Is the Palace" as a headline).
9717. Jerry Margolin offers a rare poster for sale: it's for the first Sherlock Holmes talking picture, "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" (1929), with Clive Brook as Holmes, with a hand-tinted photograph of Brook holding a magnifying glass and examining a gun. Jerry's asking \$3,000, and you can ask him for more information: 10007 S.W. Quail Post Road, Portland, OR 97219 (503-293-7274) <sherlock@teleport.com>.
9718. The Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas has completed a two-year \$14.5 million renovation, according to a story in the Daily Texas on June 2 (spotted by Ken Lanza), and the center is displaying some of "the most famous elements of its collection": manuscript and signed works by George Bernard Shaw, Charles Dickens, Albert Einstein, and Dylan Thomas, the original "Leatherface" mask from "The Texas Chainsaw Massacre", and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's golf clubs.
9719. Jim Weiss' excellent recordings for younger audiences are available on CDs as well as cassettes, and his titles include SHERLOCK HOLMES FOR CHILDREN ("The Mazarin Stone", "The Speckled Band", "The Musgrave Ritual", and "The Blue Carbuncle") and MYSTERY! MYSTERY! ("The Red-Headed League" plus tales by Poe and Chesterton); cassettes are \$10.95 each, and CDs are \$14.95 each, and orders can be sent to Greathall Productions, Box 813, Benicia, CA 94510 (800-477-6234) <<http://www.greathall.com>>.

June 2003 #2

9720. Reported by Roger Johnson: the sixth volume of David Timson's unabridged readings of THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (with "The Gloria Scott", "The Resident Patient", "The Noble Bachelor", and "The Final Problem"), available from Naxos AudioBooks on three CDs (£13.99) or three cassettes (£9.99); 3 Wells Place, Redhill, Surrey, RH1 1SL, England) <<http://www.naxos-audiobooks.com>>. Naxos also offers ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE--A LIFE, by Hesketh Pearson, read (abridged) by Tim Pigott-Smith on two CDs (\$10.99) or two cassettes (\$8.99). And their web-site has a link to their prices-in-dollars site for American customers.
9721. Julie McKuras spotted Sherlock Snoopy, one of 16 stickers (all of them showing Snoopy in various costumes and poses) on a sheet of "Peanuts" stickers that's marketed to stationery and toy stores by Sandylion <<http://www.sandylion.com>>. The company is at 400 Cochrane Drive, Markham, ON L3R 8E3, Canada (800-387-4215) or Box 1570, Buffalo, NY 14240 (same toll-free number). Their "Peanuts" series also offers "Woodstock, Charlie Brown, and the gang."
9722. Sorry about that: I suggested (May 03 #6) that BBC Radio 4 might have aired the first dramatization of "The Captain of the Polestar" (on Apr. 24). The story was dramatized for and broadcast by the CBS Radio Mystery Theater on Oct. 6, 1978. If anyone recorded this program, please let me know.
9723. Russ Mann spotted the story in The Scotsman (May 26): the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, founded in 1729 with just four beds, has closed its facility at Lauriston Place. According to Tara Womersley, "Joseph Bell, who became acting surgeon at the infirmary in 1871, quickly gained attention for his terse clinical observations, and he so inspired one of his students that he was immortalized in literature. In a letter, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle credited Bell for helping him to imagine the finest creation, writing: 'It is to you that I owe Sherlock Holmes.'" The Lauriston Place infirmary opened in 1879,

and of course there is an intriguing echo of the place name in the Canon. The Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh continues operations at a new hospital at Little France.

9724. Julie McKuras notes a web-site <<http://www.sherlocksofcelebration.com>> for Sherlock's of Celebration, an appropriately-themed restaurant and memorabilia shop in Florida: 715 Bloom Street #130, Celebration, FL 34747.
9725. The Mystery Writer's Annual (the program for the MWA's annual Edgar Allan Poe Awards Dinner) includes an "In Memoriam" section, and this year there were three people I didn't mention in this newsletter. Henry Slesar died on Apr. 2, 2002; he wrote seven mystery novels and nearly 500 short stories, and contributed to "The Alfred Hitchcock Show" and "The Edge of Night" television series (one of his stories was "The Sherlock Method" in the Feb. 1959 issue of *The Gent*). Alvin Sapinsley, Jr., died on June 13, 2002; he adapted H. F. Heard's "Mr. Mycroft" novel "A Taste for Honey" for television as "The Sting of Death" on the *Elgin Hour* series (1955), and wrote the script for the television film "Sherlock Holmes in New York" (1976). And Lloyd Biggle, Jr., died on Sept. 12, 2002; he wrote mysteries and science fiction, and novels and short stories, and two of his novels are entertaining Sherlockian pastiches, told by Edward P. Jones (one of the irregulars: *THE QUALLSFORD INHERITANCE* (1986) and *THE GLENDOWER CONSPIRACY* (1990)).
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June 2003 #3

9726. Jerry Margolin offers a rare poster for sale: it advertises the first Sherlock Holmes talking picture, "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" (1929), with Clive Brook as Holmes, with a hand-tinted photograph of Brook holding a magnifying glass and examining a gun. Jerry is asking \$3,000, and he'll be glad to supply more information: 10007 S.W. Quail Post Road, Portland, OR 97219 (503-293-7274) <sherlock@teleport.com>.
9727. Costa Rossakis spotted a colorful full-page advertisement for McClelland's pipe tobaccos in the summer 2003 issue of *Pipes and Tobacco*: their Sherlock's Black Shag and Watson's Arcadia will soon be joined by a "new 221B tobacco" that may not come in the appropriately Canonical box shown in the advertisement, but they have paid close attention to "The Cardboard Box".
9728. Plan ahead: June 11-13, 2004, are the dates for the conference titled "A River Runs by It: The University of Minnesota's Elmer L. Andersen Library and Sherlock Holmes Collections, On the Banks of the Mississippi" sponsored by the Norwegian Explorers, The Arthur Conan Doyle Society, and The Sherlock Holmes Collections; you can contact Julie McKuras at 13512 Granada Avenue, Apple Valley, MN 55124 <mike9750@aol.com> to enroll on their mailing list.
9729. Bill Force noted a report in the *Hartford Courant* (May 29) that Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" will be produced by the River Rep at the Ivoryton Playhouse on July 2-19. The box office is at Box 367, Ivoryton, CT 06442 (860-767-8348) <<http://www.riverrep.com>>.
9730. And, further to the item (May 03 #6) about the opening of Gillette Castle, visitors should not neglect the exhibition "Honoring William Gillette" at the East Haddam Historical Society Museum on Route 82 (Town Street) (860-873-3944). The exhibits include a continuous running of Peter Loffredo's excellent 30-minute documentary "William Gillette: A Connecticut Yankee and the American Stage" (1986); Garrett Walters plays William Gillette, and the film features interviews that include one with Helen Hayes, who as a young woman acted with Gillette.
9731. "Jane Austin's Mr. Darcy has emerged as the most romantic figure in English literature in a poll of women readers," according to a story by Nigel Reynolds in the *Daily Telegraph* (June 4), forwarded by Ken Lanza. Orange, a mobile phone company polled 1,900 women, and the runners-up, in order, were James Bond, Superman, Hercule Poirot, Inspector Morse, Heathcliff, Sherlock Holmes, Rhett Butler, Prince Charming, and Sharpe. Holmes also ranked 3rd their choice of a guest for an imaginary dinner party, behind Mr. Darcy and Hercule Poirot.
9732. The film "The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen" (based on the comic-book mini-series, with story by Alan Moore) will open on July 17, with Richard Roxburgh as Mycroft 'M' Holmes, making him (I think) the second actor who has played both Sherlock and Mycroft Holmes.
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June 2003 #4

9733. The American Film Institute's "AFI's 100 Years . . . 100 Heroes & Villains" aired on CBS-TV on June 3, and the winners (selected from 400 nominations by an unidentified jury) were Atticus Finch in "To Kill a Mockingbird" (Gregory Peck) and Hannibal Lecter (Anthony Hopkins). The list is available at <<http://www.afi.com>>, and Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson (Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce in "The Hound of the Baskervilles") were ranked #160.
9734. The Queen's Birthday Honours list included a knighthood for Roger Moore, who played Sherlock Holmes in the television film "Sherlock Holmes in New York" (1976).
9735. William S. Dorn offers a new (and interesting) Sherlockian item: A Sherlock Holmes bobblehead doll (7.5" high); the postpaid cost is \$36.55 (to the U.S.)/\$38.55 (to Canada)/\$42.55 (elsewhere). And there's a new lapel pin with artwork by Nancy Beiman, at \$12.15/\$13.15/\$16.15). His address is 2045 South Monroe Street, Denver, CO 80210; and he has a web-site at <<http://www.thesherlockstore.com>>.
9736. "Sherlock Holmes and the Clocktower Mystery" (the interactive exhibit with much Victorian flavor, and a mystery visitors can solve), was first exhibited in England in 1995 and it has been touring the United States and Canada in since then; it is now at the Science Museum of Virginia in Richmond, Va., through Aug. 31 (804-864-1400) <<http://www.smv.org>>.
9737. The June 2003 issue of the quarterly newsletter published by The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota has John Linsenmeyer's warm tribute to the late Stephen Tolins, Dick Sveum's "100 Years Ago" discussion of P. G. Wodehouse, and reports from and about the collections. The newsletter is available from Richard J. Sveum (111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, 222 21st Avenue South, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <sveum001@tc.umn.edu>.
9738. "Your private detective does not--or did not ten years ago when he was my colleague--want to be an erudite solver of riddles in the Sherlock Holmes manner; he wants to be a hard and shifty fellow, able to take care of himself in any situation, able to get the best of anybody he comes in contact with, whether criminal, innocent by-stander or client." Dashiell Hammett, in his Introduction to the 1934 Modern Library edition of *THE MALTESE FALCON*, discovered recently by Bill Harker.
9739. Marcus Geisser, who works for the International Committee for the Red Cross in Thailand, reports that he has been scuba-diving at Sukorn, which is located on the west coast of Thailand, on the east side of the Andaman Sea. I'm sure there are other scuba-diving Sherlockians, and it occurs to me to wonder what their Sherlockian society might be called.
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June 2003 #5

9740. Barry Day, has written five Sherlockian pastiches, and he now has edited *SHERLOCK HOLMES: IN HIS OWN WORDS AND IN THE WORDS OF THOSE WHO KNEW HIM* (New York: Taylor Trade Publishing, 2003; 224 pp., \$24.95); it's an interesting literary biography, based on quotations from the Canon, with commentary by Day and illustrations from *The Strand Magazine*, and it's an excellent introduction to the Canon (and to some of its more important other characters). Day notes in his Introduction that "It surprises many people to learn that more has been written about Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson in one century than about Shakespeare in four," and he offers a welcome focus on what the Canon itself tells us.
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9741. Reported by Roger Johnson: SHERLOCK HOLMES UND DER FLUCH VON ADDLETON, the German edition of Mike Ashley's anthology THE MAMMOTH BOOK OF NEW SHERLOCK HOLMES ADVENTURES (1997); Bastei Lubbe, Verlagsgruppe Lubbe GmbH & Co. KG, Bergisch Gladbach, Germany (E10.00). And MYCROFT UP AGAINST IT and MYCROFT OVER THE WATER, by Sam Bonnamy, as a downloadable e-book, or ink-on-paper (e-bookonline, 28 Bryntirion Drive, Woodlands Park Prestatyn, Denbighshire LE19 9NY, England); <<http://www.e-booksonline.net>>. And some new miniature books of Canonical stories, from R. F. Flower, 5 Foxglove Close, Ringmer, East Sussex BN8 5PB, England. Roger also forecasts SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE RULE OF NINE, by Barrie Roberts, due in August from Severn House (9-15 High Street Sutton, Surrey SM1 1DF, England; £18.99). All this from Roger's excellent monthly newsletter The District Messenger, which costs \$15.00 (make your checks payable to Jean Upton, please) or £6.00 (checks payable to Roger); his address is Mole End, 41 Sandford Road, Chelmsford CM2 6DF, England <rojerjohnson@yahoo.co.uk>. And yes, that's "rojer" with a "j".
9742. The auction at Sotheby's in London on July 10 offers a wide range of Winston Churchill material, including several of his cigars, some half-smoked and some smoked (an unsmoked cigar with a band reading "Especiales Sir Winston Churchill" is estimated at £500-600); a photograph of Harry Houdini, inscribed to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in 1920 (£1,500-2,000); a signed presentation copy of THE NEW REVELATION (£500-700), and other Sherlockiana. 34-35 New Bond Street, London W1A 2AA, England <<http://www.sothebys.com>>.
9743. I suggested (June 03 #3) that Richard Roxburgh was the second actor to play both Sherlock and Mycroft Holmes; the first actor was Christopher Lee, who has played Sherlock Holmes on television and Mycroft in a film (as well as Sir Henry Baskerville in another film). Ken Lanza has forwarded a story in the Sydney Morning Herald (June 14) noting that the trailer for "The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen" has a "booming American voice dubbed onto the lips of Australia's Richard Roxburgh," even though Sean Connery was allowed to retain his Scottish accent). "We must conclude that the producers think American audiences won't be attracted to a movie," David Dale wrote, "if it contains too many non-American renditions of the English language."
9744. Hume Cronyn died on June 15. He began his acting career on stage in Washington in 1931, in the comedy "Up Pops the Devil" (he said years later that he over-rehearsed and blew his only line), and went on to a long and awardwinning career on stage and screen and television. In Alfred Hitchcock's film "Shadow of a Doubt" (1943) he played an avid mystery-magazine reader, and said "That little Frenchman beats them all. You can talk all you like about Sherlock Holmes. That little Frenchman beats them all."

June 2003 #6

9745. Karen Murdock has noted a story in the [Cardiff] Western Mail (May 16) that reported that "the title of baron of the castle which is said to have inspired the name of the Sherlock Holmes novel THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES" has been offered for sale for £40,000. Owner Grace Pitchford said the history of 1,000-year-old Pencelli Castle, near Brecon in Wales and built by the 11th-century knight Ralph Baskerville, in-spired the name of the novel, and that "Conan Doyle was a regular visitor to the castle during the reign of Queen Victoria." According to a story in This Is Herefordshire (May 22) the barony is being sold by the Pitchford family, who acquired the Pencelli estate in the 1930s from the trustees of Henry Barry, Lord Buckland of Bwich. The story also says that "new lords or ladies of the manors may use their style on passports, driving licences and credit cards." And you can jin the Manorian Society of Great Britain. The barony is being offered by Manorial Auctioneers (104 Kennington Road, London SE11 6RE, England) <<http://www.msgb.co.uk>>.
9746. But there's a major problem: according to information at Paul M. Remfry's web-site <<http://www.castlewales.com/pencelli.html>>, Pencelli Castle "was probably built in the late eleventh century" and "The fortress was seized by the king in 1322 and probably fell into decay soon afterwards. Today the ruins of the great square keep can still be made out behind the hotel which itself dates to 1584." It is possible, of course, that Conan Doyle stayed at the nearby hotel, but one should recall that just about every old house in Britain that has been owned by someone named Baskerville has been claimed as inspiring the book, despite the fact (which was widely reported, in the Sherlockian world) that the book was inspired by a story told to Conan Doyle by Fletcher Robinson, and the name was taken from Fletcher Robinson's coachman Harry Baskerville.
9747. Occasionally one finds an unusual reference to Sherlock Holmes repeated in an unusual place: Colbert I. King's op-ed column (Washington Post, June 21) was headlined "Searchin' Every Which A-Way for WMD", and in it King quoted from the Coasters' "Searchin'" (1957), which included the line, "Sherlock Holmes, Sam Spade, got nothing', child, on me." You can read King's column at <<http://washingtonpost.com>>, and the complete lyrics to "Searchin'" at <<http://www.rockabilly.nl/lyrics4/s0037.htm>>. The song also is available on various CDs, of course.
9748. Tim Kelly's dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed at the Pioneer Playhouse from July 15 to July 26; the theater is at 840 Stanford Road, Danville, KY 40422 (859-236-2748), and their web-site is <<http://www.pioneerplayhouse.com>>
9749. I reported earlier (May 03 #1) on the Bookfinder web-site's list of the top ten most-searched-for books in the mystery and thrillers category. One of the books was Agatha Christie's TEN LITTLE ***** (now sold retitled AND THEN THERE WERE NONE), and at least one subscriber to the electronic mailing lists to which I post the text of my newsletter encountered a problem reading the newsletter, because his e-mail manager had been set to block automatically (what is now euphemistically called) the "n-word".

July 2003 #1

9750. Scott Monty has reported an exhibition titled "Thomas Gainsborough, 1727-1788" at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, through Sept. 24, with approximately 100 paintings and drawings. Gainsborough painted the splendid portrait of Georgina, Duchess of Devonshire, that was stolen by master-criminal Adam Worth, who was called by some "the Napoleon of crime" (and who may have served as an inspiration for Professor Moriarty). The Duchess is mentioned in the Canon (see "A Case of Identity"), and one of the Ronald Howard television shows was "The Case of the Haunted Gainsborough". More information is available at <www.mfa.org/exhibitions/gainsborough/>.
9751. Spotted by Marina Stajic: DICTIONARY OF THEORIES, edited by Jennifer Bothamley (first published by Gale Research in 1993, and reprinted by Visible Ink Press in 2002); with an entry for "dynamics of an asteroid" (written by John Bowers), which says (in part): "initiated by C. F. Gauss (1777-1855), but reputed to have had its outstanding exposition in an elusive textbook by James Moriarty (c1840-1891)."
9752. The August issue of Realm: The Magazine of Britain's History and Countryside has Sarah Matthews' four-page article about Conan Doyle ("A Knight for Mystery"); much of the article is illustrations, and they including a fullcolor reproduction of a portrait of Conan Doyle painted by Henry L. Gates in 1923. \$6.50 (\$39.00 a year for six issues), from Box 215, Landisburg, PA 17040 (800-998-0807) <www.realm-magazine.com>.
9753. SHERLOCK has a new publisher: Mark Coleman (Atlas Publishing), who has purchased the magazine from Peter Harkness; David Stuart Davies will continue as editor. Issue #55 has A. L. Blake's article on "Sherlock Holmes & the Vampire Connection", Gavin Collinson's discussion of the Michael Caine/Ben Kingsley "Without a Clue", M. J. Elliott's pastiche "The Adventure of the Mocking Huntsman", and other coverage of crime fiction. SHERLOCK appears every two months, and it costs £23.70 (to the U.K.) a year (£26.00 to Europe/\$40.00 elsewhere); Jordan House, Old Milton Green, New Milton, Hampshire BH25 6QJ, England <www.sherlockholmes.com>. Classic Specialties (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219) (877-233-3823) <www.sherlock-holmes.com>, is their American agent; credit-card orders welcome at both addresses.

9754. "Shanghai Knights" (in theaters earlier this year) has been released on DVD (\$22.99) and videocassette (\$17.99); the film stars Jim Fisher as Det. Artie Doyle (aka Arthur Conan Doyle), and the DVD includes out-takes and such.
9755. Spotted by Ken Lanza: a story by Neal Jones in the New Haven Register (July 7) about plans by archeologists to investigate the remains of William Gillette's houseboat Aunt Polly (which sank on its moorings after a fire in December 1932). The Aunt Polly was a yacht, built for Gillette and launched around 1900, and he was sailing on the Connecticut River when he first saw the site where he eventually built his home (now Gillette Castle); he lived aboard the yacht during the five years it took to build the castle, and he then had the 100-foot yacht turned into a 144-foot houseboat. The wreck of the Aunt Polly was named an underwater archeological preserve by the Connecticut Historical Commission in May, and a team of archeologists will develop a booklet about the boat and mount a plaque near the site.
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July 2003 #2

9756. Conan Doyle's THE TRAGEDY OF THE KOROSKO is a grand adventure story, set in Egypt in 1895, but it's also a surprisingly modern novel, according to Tony Robinson in his interesting introduction (and the American distributor of a new edition suggests in a press release that "some of the parallels with today's events are quite startling, including the Frenchman's refusal to go along with the proposed plan of the Americans and the English"). London: Hesperus Press, 2003; 121 pp., £6.99 (distributed here by Trafalgar Square Publishing, \$12.00).
9757. The East Lynne Theater Company will present its third staged reading (with live piano accompaniment) of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" on Oct. 24 and 25, during a "Sherlock Holmes Weekend" in Cape May, N.J.; the company's phone number is 609-884-5898 <www.eastlynnecompany.org>.
9758. If you've seen The Reduced Shakespeare Company's "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)", or any of its other productions, you'll need not be urged to see their new "All the Great Books (Abridged)"; it was developed at various venues last year, and debuted at the Kennedy Center in Washington on June 10, and it goes next to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe and then on tour. The show is literary, irreverent, and hilarious, and of course one of the Great Books is "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (Reed Martin has the deerstalker and calabash in the photo, but Austin Tichenor has them in the current version). <www.reducedshakespeare.com>.
9759. Leonard Koppett died on June 22. He was a sportswriter and author, and his career spanned nearly six decades, in New York and in California, where he was editor of the [Palo Alto] Times Tribune and contributed a general-interest column to the paper, and in the 1990s was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame. At least three of the columns discussed Sherlock Holmes, and are listed in Ron De Waal's THE UNIVERSAL SHERLOCK HOLMES; Emory Lee notes that Koppett attended (and enjoyed) at least one meeting of The Knights of the Gnomon in the late 1980s.
9760. News of John Doubleday, who sculpted statues of Sherlock Holmes in Meiringen and in London: Karen Murdock spotted an article in the Essex Chronicle (July 18) reporting that he has been commissioned to sculpt a 30-foot high statue Maldon's Saxon hero Bryhtnoth, who died in battle defending Maldon against the Vikings more than 1,000 ago. Doubleday, who was born in Maldon, said, "It will be a genuine landmark and people will see it when they come in from the sea."
9761. And Don Grant, in his article on "Clubbing: In Praise of Art and Alcohol" in the Independent on Sunday (July 20), says, "I don't know whether Conan Doyle was a member of the Traveller's Club, upon which the Diogenes Club was said to have been based, but he certainly was a member of the somewhat recherche London Sketch Club, which was founded in 1898 and is still going strong today." The club's studio "had a frieze of silhouettes of all the distinguished members right up to the present day, including Conan Doyle's, and on a red velvet chaise longue in the middle of the room lounged a beautiful Spanish life model."
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July 2003 #3

9762. Anglofile reports that Richard E. Grant (who has played Sherlock Holmes, Mycroft Holmes, and Stapleton on television) will provide the voice of Doctor Who in a new animated adventure to be released in November on the Internet (on BBCi) to mark the 40th anniversary of "Doctor Who". Grant said his interpretation of the Doctor will be "sort of a 'Sherlock Holmes in Space'". The new adventure is written by Paul Cornell, who included Holmes and Watson as characters in the "Doctor Who" novel HAPPY ENDINGS (February 98 #2). Anglofile is a monthly newsletter offering news of British entertainment; Box 33515, Decatur, GA 30033 (\$16.00 a year).
9763. Syd Goldberg died on July 15. His enthusiasms ranged from World War I to early film stars to Sherlock Holmes, and he was an assiduous collector (he happily noted that he had more than 19,000 items. He bequeathed his collection to the Sherlock Holmes Society of London.
9764. Spotted by Karen Murdock: "I always watched Sherlock Holmes movies. It's fascinating to deal with people who are smart at something." William Peterson (Gil Grissom in "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation"), quoted in a profile in the Glasgow Evening Times (July 1).
9765. Further to the report (June 03 #6) that the barony of Baskerville is being offered for sale (for £40,000) by Manorial Auctioneers: before sending them a check, you should visit the web-site of British Feudal Investments; the URL is <nobletitles.com/manorialsocietyscam.htm>, and you can read a long discussion ("The frauds of the Manorial Society and who runs it") of what is described as "one of the most ruthless, vindictive, arrogant, and dangerous of all business enterprises related to titles in the world."
9766. The Manorial Auctioneers catalog reports that the "Baskerville family are still connected to the area and in the 19th century were friends with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. He stayed with the family on many occasions and it is from them that he took the name for his famous HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES. It is possible that the castle and its setting provided an inspiration for the gloomy aspect for the bleak house in the novel, which of course was set in Devon."
9767. I've corresponded with Robert Smith (managing director of Manorial Auctioneers), and asked how Sir Arthur could have been a regular visitor at a castle that has been only a ruin since the 14th century; he has replied that the elderly lady who now is selling the barony title says that Conan Doyle was a regular visitor to the area, and that he "got the idea for the Baskerville name because a branch of Baskervilles had held the castle and barony in the Middle Ages." And (later) that there is a Tudor mansion, known as Pencelli Castle, and "which dates, I understand, from the 16th century and may have foundations and other parts from an earlier period. It is not uncommon in Britain for medieval castles to be abandoned and 'modern' houses, of the same name, built on or near the castle site." And that "I cannot be certain, but Sir Arthur may have stayed at this house."
9768. Forecast for August: David Pirie's THE NIGHT CALLS (December 02 #5 and Jan. 03 #4), in an American edition from St. Martin's Minotaur (\$24.95); it's the novel on which the British television series "Murder Rooms: The Dark Beginnings of Sherlock Holmes" was based.
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July 2003 #4

9769. Further to the item (June 03 #5) about the auction at Sotheby's, the photograph of Harry Houdini, inscribed to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in 1920 (estimated at £1,500-2000) sold for £4,560 (including the 20% buyer's premium). the unsmoked cigar with a band reading "Especiales Sir Winston Churchill" (£500-600) and the signed presentation copy of THE NEW REVELATION (£500-700) went unsold.
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9770. Mike Whelan ("Wiggins" of the Baker Street Irregulars) has announced that the BSI will celebrate their 70th anniversary, and Sherlock Holmes' 150th birthday, on Jan. 16 in New York. John Berendt, author of MIDNIGHT IN THE GARDEN OF GOOD AND EVIL, and the introduction to the Modern Library's 2001 edition of THE ADVENTURES AND MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, will be the Distinguished Speaker at the Williams Club on Jan. 15, and planning continues for the BSI's "Valley of Fear" excursion on Oct. 22-24, 2004. The fourth volume in the BSI's manuscript series will be "The Six Napoleons" (edited by Bill Hyder).
9771. Further to the item (April 01 #3) about the unveiling of the life-size statue of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Brian Pugh reports that a 70-minute color videocassette of the festivities, with additional footage of Windlesham and other local scenes, is available (in PAL or NTSC formats) for £20.70 or \$34.00 postpaid from Brian W. Pugh, 20 Clare Road, Lewes, Sussex BN7 1PN, England; please pay by sterling check (payable to The ACD Memorial Fund) or US currency.
9772. "Safe. Friendly. Suspicious. Toronto" is the motto for Bouchercon 2004 in (of course) Toronto on Oct. 7-10, 2004, with Peter Robinson (Canadian guest of honor), Jeremiah Healy (American guest of honor), Lindsey Davis (British guest of honor), and Gary Warren Niebuhr (fan guest of honor); P.O. Box 7, Thornhill, ON L3T 3N1, Canada.
9773. Noted by Peter Ashman: there's a web-site <www.oldbaileyonline.org> for The Proceedings of the Old Bailey in London from 1674 to 1834, and the Proceedings from Dec. 1714 to Dec. 1759 are now on-line, for those interested in pre-Sherlockian crime.
9774. Our new "Nature of America" sheetlet depicts an autumn tundra scene in the northern foothills of the Brooks Range in Alaska, and some of the animals shown on the stamps are mentioned in the Canon: ravens, squirrels, grizzly bears, caribou, and wolves. And there are swans and various lichens shown elsewhere on the sheetlet.

July 2003 #5

9775. Judith Freeman reports that the Baskerville Bash is accepting reservations for its Sherlockian birthday celebration on Jan. 16 at the Manhattan Club in New York; you can send checks (payable to Maribeau Briggs Shrawder) for \$70.00 to P. J. Perry (346 East 87th Street #4-A, New York, NY 10238. And that the exhibition on "Chocolate" at the American Museum of Natural History in New York closes on Aug. 7 (there are tastings at 1:00 pm each weekend in the gift shop); if you need an additional excuse to visit the exhibition, chocolate (well, cocoa) is mentioned in the Canon.
9776. "The crown!" exclaimed Reginald Musgrave, when Sherlock Holmes explained that "It is nothing less than the ancient crown of the kings of England." Many Sherlockian scholars believe that it was the original Crown of St. Edward, which was worn by only two kings, James I and Charles I. This is its successor, commissioned for the coronation of Charles II in 1660 and now shown on one of a set of stamps issued by Australia this year to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the coronation of Elizabeth II (thanks to Alan Olding for forwarding a copy of the stamp). According to the Australian Post Bulletin, the Crown of St. Edward is worn only once in the lifetime of each sovereign, during the coronation; at the conclusion of the coronation service at Westminster Abbey, when the monarch retires into St. Edward's Chapel and St. Edward's Edward is replaced by the Imperial State Crown.
9777. Bob Hope died on July 27. He was an outstanding comedian, from vaudeville to his many USO tours, and he entertained hundreds of millions on stage and screen and radio and television. His many fans celebrated his 100th birthday earlier this year (May 03 #4), there's a caricature of Bob "Sherlock" Hope at his official web-site <www.bobhope.com/JokePage.html>; he appeared in Sherlockian costume in advertising for the film "My Favorite Brunette" (1947).
9778. The latest issue of Scarlet Street (#48) focuses on "The Fly" (1958) and its sequels and remakes, and (of course) there's a Sherlockian connection. Isn't there a Sherlockian connection to everything? Charles Edward Pogue, who wrote the screenplay for "The Fly" (1986), also wrote the scripts for Ian Richardson's 1983 films "The Hound of the Baskervilles" and "The Sign of Four", and the play "The Ebony Ape" (1987), and Edward Woodward's "Hands of a Murderer" (1990). And he was in the cast (as Mordecai Smith) for "The Crucifer of Blood" in Los Angeles in 1990, with Charlton Heston as Holmes and Jeremy Brett as Watson. Richard Valley's interview with Pogue covers his Sherlockian work as well as "The Fly". The magazine's address is Box 604, Glen Rock, NJ 07452 <www.scarletstreet.com>; subscriptions cost \$42.00 a year (six issues).
9779. President Bush awarded the Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor to Charlton Heston and Jacques Barzun, and nine others, at the White House on July 23. Heston played Sherlock Holmes in "The Crucifer of Blood" on stage in Los Angeles in Dec. 1980 and Jan. 1981, and on Turner Network Television cable in Sept. 1991; Barzun has written about the Canon in THE CATALOGUE OF CRIME (1971) and in essays and introductions and in The Baker Street Journal, and he contributed a Sherlockian cleriehew to Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine (Jan. 14, 1980).

July 2003 #6

9780. Tyke Niver reports that he and Teddie visited Gillette Castle on July 25 (of course wearing their Holmes/Gillette T-shirts) and talked with a staffer who said the Castle had been looking for someone to be Gillette on his birthday (on July 24). She was delighted to accept their offer to be Mr. and Mrs. Gillette on the weekend, and they had a fine time. The restoration of Gillette Castle, budgeted at \$3 million, wound up costing \$9 million; most of the pictures and artifacts are still in storage, but will be back on the walls eventually. And, Tyke notes, the Castle is again Holmes-friendly.
9781. Spotted by Dick Rutter: THE WIZARD OF QUARKS: A FANTASY OF PARTICLE PHYSICS, by Robert Gilmore (New York: Copernicus Books, 2000; 202 pp., \$24.00); with a chapter about "The Higgs of the Masskervilles" in which Holmes explains the mysterious properties of the Higgs boson.
9782. Harold C. Schonberg died on July 26. He started his career in journalism as associate editor and record critic for the American Music Lover 1939 and joined the N.Y. Times in 1950; he was their chief music from 1960 to 1980, and in 1971 was the first music critic to win a Pulitzer Prize. As "Newgate Callendar" he reviewed mysteries and thrillers for the N.Y. Times Book Review from 1972 to 1995, and he was a devoted chess player and covered the Spassky-Fischer and Kasparov-Karpov championship matches in 1972 and 1984. An essay on Sherlock Holmes and chess was published in the Sherlock Holmes Journal (spring 1964), and his N.Y. Times music articles included "Tra-lala-lira-lira-lay" (1965) and "Sherlock--and Malocchio!" (1968).
9783. I've had two responses to my query (June 03 #5) about naming a society for Sherlockian scuba-divers. I've had two responses: Jack Koelle has proposed "The Lion's Maniacs", and Andy Peck has suggested "And So Under". The contest (sorry, no prizes) is still open.
9784. Rosemary Herbert, who earlier edited THE OXFORD COMPANION TO CRIME AND MYSTERY WRITING (1999) and made sure that Sherlock Holmes was not neglected, has now edited (and again paid attention to Sherlock Holmes in) WHODUNIT; A WHO'S WHO IN CRIME AND MYSTERY WRITING (London and New York: Oxford University Press, 2003; 256 pp., \$35.00 in cloth, \$18.95 in paper).
9785. Not a politician in sight, nor a trained cormorant, but the Postal Service has honored five Southeastern Lighthouses, in the five coastal states from Virginia to Florida.

August 2003 #1

9786. Les Klinger reports that he has been asked to edit THE NEW ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES for W. W. Norton. There will be three volumes, the first two with the short stories (fall 2004, estimated price \$79.95) and a third with the long stories (fall 2005, estimated price \$39.95). There will be more

than 500 illustrations, including all the Pagets and all the Steeles, and others in the public domain, and contemporary photographs; Les has written a long introduction and many new notes on Victorian topics, and is keeping the substance of the Sherlockian analysis. Norton has been publishing annotated editions for many years; they have done HUCKLEBERRY FINN, THE WIZARD OF OZ, ALICE, CLASSIC FAIRY TALES, and (soon) THE CHRISTMAS CAROL and WIND IN THE WILLOWS.

9787. The Sherlock Holmes Reference Series published by Gasogene Books will continue, with the remaining four volumes likely to be published one per year. The new set from Norton is intended for the general public, and they'll be told that the reference series is recommended to those who want more detail and depth. Les hopes, of course, that Sherlockians will want both sets.
9788. Further to the mention (June 03 #3) of Richard Roxburgh playing Mycroft 'M' Holmes (in the film "The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen"), the Internet Movie Data Base now lists Roxburgh as playing M; there's a reason for this, which I won't explain, by way of avoiding spoiling a surprise in the film. The IMDB also reports that Roxburgh is playing Dracula in a new film scheduled for release in 2004, which (according to our department of movie trivia) makes him (at least) the fourth actor to play both Sherlock Holmes and Dracula. Warning: I'll name the other three later in the newsletter.
9789. Bruce Holmes has long pursued Sherlockian philately (and philatelic Sherlockiana), and his THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: ILLUSTRATED WITH POSTAGE STAMPS is attractive indeed. Each of the thirteen stories is represented by at least five postage stamps and covers, and the selection is imaginative. The postpaid cost of the 23-page booklet US \$29.50 (color)/\$15.00 (black and white), and Bruce's address is 3170 Joseph Howe Drive, Halifax, NS B3L 4G1, Canada.
9790. Bits & Pieces (1 Puzzle Place B8016, Stevens Point, WI 54481 (800-884-2637) <www.bitsandpieces.com> has discounted their Sherlock Holmes mystery jigsaw puzzle "The Case of the Fallen Actress" to \$6.99 (from \$10.95); item number 04-E0140-008 in their catalog.
9791. Anthony D. Howlett ("John Hector McFarlane") died on Aug. 21. He was one of the contributors (on "Sherlock Holmes on the Screen") to the catalog for the Sherlock Holmes Exhibition in London in 1951, and one of the founders of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London and for many years its president. Tony had a wonderful sense of scholarship, and humor, and all who knew him will remember him fondly. He starred in the excellent television documentary "Mr. Sherlock Holmes of London" (1971), which concludes with him sitting in a chair in the sitting-room at 221B Baker Street (as reconstructed in The Sherlock Holmes); Tony explained that "whenever I am asked, 'Sherlock Holmes, was he fact or fiction?' I always answer . . . yes." He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1994.
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August 2003 #2

9792. Forecast for September: Stephen Kendrick's NIGHT WATCH (December 01 #5), in a trade-paperback edition from Berkley, \$13.00; Sherlock Holmes and Father Brown investigate a gruesome murder committed in a church in London. John Lescroart's SON OF HOLMES (March 86 #2), in a trade paperback edition from New American Library, \$14.00; Sherlockian only for occasional references to the parentage and inherited abilities of the protagonist: Auguste Lupa (a large man who is partial to yellow shirts, beer, and gourmet meals).
9793. Department of movie trivia: three other actors who have played both Sherlock Holmes and Dracula are Jeremy Brett, Frank Langella, and Christopher Lee.
9794. William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at the Mauch Chunk Opera House in Jim Thorpe, Pa., Oct. 3-5 and 10-12, during the annual Fall Foliage celebration. The box-office is at 14 West Broadway, Jim Thorpe, PA 19228 (610-395-7176) <barwallprod@enter.net>. Mauch Chunk (which has been renamed Jim Thorpe) is in the Valley of Fear, and members of the Mollie Maguires were tried in the Courthouse there, and housed and hanged in the Carbon County Jail; many of their descendants still reside in the region.
9795. Niagara Falls is shown on a new stamp from Canada honors Niagara Falls. "'From a drop of water,' said the writer, 'a logician could infer the possibility of an Atlantic or a Niagara without having seen or heard of one or the other.'" (Stud) Thanks to Wilfrid de Freitas for sending a copy of the stamp.
9796. Vinnie Brosnan reports that the Museum of the City of New York has an exhibit on "Harlem: Lost and Found" (through Jan. 4) that documents the history and development of Harlem, with exhibits that include a bust of Harry Houdini, who bought a large brownstone at 278 West 113th Street in 1904. In the spring of 1922 Conan Doyle and his wife visited the house; according to the information in the exhibit, Lady Doyle said that the residence was "the most home-like home she had ever seen." The museum is located at Fifth Av address is Fifth Avenue at 103rd Street.
9797. Mike Kean reports that The Diogenes Club of the Monterey Peninsula will re-turn to the SS Jeremiah O'Brien; their first meeting on board the ship was in Sept. 1998, and the second will be on Nov. 8, 2003. It will be black-tie optional, with a sit-down dinner and a program, and the ship is moored at Pier 45 in San Francisco; additional information is available from Wal-ter W. Jaffee (Box 633, Benicia, CA 94510) <captjaff@pacbell.net>.
9798. Sorry about that: Shawn Neidorf's obituary for Leonard Koppett in the San Jose Mercury News said that he "was inducted into the writer's wing of the Baseball Hall of Fame in the early 1990s," and Bruce Macgowan, in the San Francisco Examiner, said that Koppett was "the only writer I know of to be enshrined in the writer's wings of both the Baseball and Basketball Halls of Fame." And so I reported July 03 #2). Paul Herbert notes that Koppett was not inducted into baseball's Hall of Fame (announcers and writers can't be); Koppett was a winner of the Spink Award, and he was honored by, rather than inducted into, the National Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown.
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August 2003 #3

9799. Cliff Goldfarb has reported another HOLMES (this one being the High-speed Online Library Management Extranet System); according to an item in Canadian Lawyer (August), Law Library Management Inc. in Toronto offers a customized library extranet (described as "a hosted website and database system that is accessible both from within a firm's local network and from outside via the Internet").
9800. Further to the report (June 03 #1) about the Harry Ransom Humanities Center at the University of Texas, a story in the Los Angeles Times (Aug. 5), at hand from Ken Lanza, notes that a dealer's collection of Conan Doyle material, acquired by the Center 30 years ago, includes his underwear.
9801. Julie McKuras has reported an invasion of statues in St. Paul (as with the elephants and donkeys in Washington, or the cows, moose, and other animals in other cities in recent years). One statue is "Detective Linus"; there's a different picture at <www.TwinCities.com> (find the article titled "Linus Blankets St. Paul" and then click on "Seeking Philanthropy My Dear Watson"). At the end of the summer the statue will be donated to the Sherlock Holmes collections at the University of Minnesota (the gift, by the F. R. Bigelow Foundation, will be in memory of the late Ronald M. Hubbs).
9802. Sorry about that: the new issue of Scarlet Street (July 03 #5) focuses on "The Fly" (1958), as editor Richard Valley has noted. The paragraph's other references to film titles are, fortunately, correct.
9803. Those who enjoyed the series of pastiches written by Bert Coules and aired by BBC Radio 4 last year will welcome the news that he'd preparing to write a new series of "The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (again starring Clive Merrison as Holmes and Andrew Sachs as Watson), based on
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more of the unrecorded cases. Bert has suggested that the "tantalizing throwaway references" in the Canonical stories were "composed by Doyle in great glee, secure in the knowledge that he'd never have to come up with plots to fit descriptions."

9804. "The Sherlock Holmes Collection" is a two-CD-ROM set from Hallmark Home Entertainment (\$19.98) with the four television films that starred Matt Frewer as Holmes and Kenneth Welsh as Watson. Reviews indicate that there are no added-value features.
9805. The summer 2002 issue of the Tonga Times offers news of the world of Sherlockian miniatures, with color photographs of Oksana Korolenko's miniature rooms, and miniatures of the portraits of General Charles Gordon and Henry Ward Beecher for those who need them for their recreations of the sitting room; membership (including the newsletter) costs \$10.50 a year (\$11.50 to Canada, \$13.50 elsewhere) from Trish & Jay Pearlman (1656 East 19th Street #2-E, Brooklyn, NY 11229 <hometown.aol.com/minitongasociety/mini1.htm>).
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August 2003 #4

9806. Lou Lewis notes that the BSI's "Silver Blaze" weekend at Saratoga Race Track was a great success. And that Antiques and the Arts Weekly reported that a drawing by Jean-Baptiste Greuze recently sold at auction in St. Louis for \$92,700. Visitors to Edinburgh might wish to include the National Gallery of Scotland on their itineraries; the Gallery own four paintings by Greuze, and one of them is "A Girl with Folded Hands" (bequeathed to the museum in 1861, it is unlikely to have been the painting in Moriarty's study at the time of "The Valley of Fear"). Greuze painted many young girls in similar poses; his girl with folded hands is shown on p. 197 of the Dec. 1962 issue of The Baker Street Journal, and on p. I-478 in THE ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES.
9807. Further to the report (April 03 #1) about Mark Haddon's THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME, there's nothing directly Sherlockian in Alona Wartofsky's interview with Haddon in the Washington Post (Aug. 14) (you can read it at <www.washingtonpost.com>), but there is news for fanatic collectors: there are two British editions (one for young adults) in addition to the American edition. And Warner Bros. has plans for a film which will be produced by a team that includes actor Brad Pitt; they have hired screenwriter Steve Kloves (who adapted the Harry Potter books for the movies).
9808. Catherine Cooke has kindly provided a copy of Great Britain's new stamp (in an "Extreme Endeavours" set), honoring Robert Falcon Scott, whose copy of THE GREEN FLAG AND OTHER STORIES OF WAR AND SPORT, brought to the Antarctic in 1910, is preserved on Cape Evans, in the Ross Sea, in the hut from which Scott set off on his ill-fated attempt to be the first to reach the South Pole. Also in the set is a stamp honoring Sir Ernest Shackleton; he wanted to be part of the expedition but was rejected by Scott and went on to be a celebrated Antarctic explorer in his own right (Shackleton's brother was one of the prime suspects in the theft of the Irish Crown Jewels, an unsolved mystery with which Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was involved in a minor way).
9809. "Curiosities" is a continuing one-page feature in the Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction; in the February issue Claude Lalumiere praises Arthur Byron Cover's AN EAST WIND COMING (1979) as "a decadent smorgasbord oozing sex and nihilism" and a "dense and mind-warping novel." The novel features "the consulting detective", "the good doctor", Jack the Ripper, and others; it was described here (October 79 #2) as even more impenetrable than Cover's THE PLATYPUS OF DOOM AND OTHER NIHILISTS (1976), a collection that included "The Clam of Catastrophe" (in which the consulting detective and the good doctor attempt to learn why some people can't accept sexism).
9810. Reported by Ashgate Press: THE ALTERNATIVE SHERLOCK HOLMES: PASTICHES, PARODIES AND COPIES, edited by Peter Ridgway Watt and Joseph Green (in June, 368 pp., \$79.95); "provides a new approach to the Sherlock Holmes literature, as well as discussing many works that have for years remained forgotten." And: SHERLOCK'S SISTERS: THE BRITISH FEMALE DETECTIVE, 1864-1913, by Joseph A. Kestner (in November, 254 pp., \$79.95); "concentrating on detection by women, particularly those following the creation of Sherlock Holmes by Arthur Conan Doyle in 1887."
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August 2003 #5

9811. The Afghanistan Perceivers of Oklahoma's newsletter is called The Dispatch, and the August issue offers six pages of amusing Sherlockian puns and shaggy-dog stories. You can request a copy from Vic Lahti (8515 East 64th Street, Tulsa, OK 74133); send him a self-addressed stamped envelope and an extra 37c stamp to help cover photocopying costs.
9812. Peter Ashman spotted a Sherlock Holmes mask (M.C.7) produced by the Mamelok Press in Britain in 1999 in a set of eight Millennium Collection masks (for the parties, one assumes, at which people celebrated the arrival of the new millennium); it is still available, from PartyMasks (4717 61st Avenue Terrace West, Bradenton, FL 34210) (800-201-0780) <www.partymasks.com>. \$25.00 postpaid for the set of eight masks (sorry: the Sherlock Holmes mask isn't offered separately). The life-size mask is shown here in a smaller illustration.
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August 2003 #6

9813. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists will meet for drinks and dinner, honoring the world's first forensic geologist, on Nov. 5, at 7:00 pm, at the Elephant & Castle in Seattle, during the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America. The Elephant & Castle is at 1415 5th Avenue (in the basement of the Red Lion Hotel); our tradition discourages scholarly papers, slide shows, and quizzes (and our agenda consists entirely of toasts, some scholarly, but many not). We also will be honoring Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who visited Seattle in June 1923, during his last lecture tour in the United States. If you would like to participate in the festivities, please contact David N. Haugen (3606 Harborcrest Court NW, Gig Harbor, WA 98332 <www.soundofthebaskervilles.com> or me (see below).
9814. Further to the report (July 03 #6) on names proposed for a society for Sherlockian scuba-divers, I've received more suggestions, from Scott Monty: The Sopping Bundle, The Birlstone Manorists, the Von Borks [he was a self-contained man, as were J. Neil Gibson and Sherlock Holmes], The Bruce-Partington Submariners, A Canonical Diversion [diver-scion], the Seal's Kins, the Boscombe Pool Party, the Water-tight Compartments, and Deep Waters; Warren Randall: Soul(s) into Water (sic); Roger Burrows: The Sub-Librarians; and Jerry Kegley: Sherlockian Club Underwater Breathers Association. The competition, such as it was, is now declared closed, pending a decision by one or more of the scuba-diving Sherlockians (and there are some) to volunteer to found a society.
9815. Costa Rossakis spotted an excellent article in the fall issue of Pipes and Tobacco about Bob Hess' collection of Sherlockian pipes carved by Marc Darrah; the pipes are extremely detailed, and there are lots of illustrations. \$7.95, and they're at 808 Faringdon Place #200, Raleigh, NC 27609 (919-872-5040) <www.pt-magazine.com>.
9816. Further to Philip Attwell's report (January 03 #5) Sherlock Holmes broadcasts on BBC 7 digital radio, he notes that the BBC 7 newsletter (Aug. 1) has a story about the recent celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Carleton Hobbs Bursary Awards, intended to bring new acting talent to radio. Clive Merrison, the only actor to have recorded all of the Canonical stories, and a former winner of the award, was on hand for the festivities, as were Paul Copley, Bill Nighy, Mark Perry, Andrew Sachs, Stephen Tomkinson, Nina Wadia, and Timothy West. Carleton Hobbs was an O.B.E. and an honorary member of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London), and died in 1978; his first Canonical role for the BBC was Watson (with Arthur Wontner as Holmes) in 1943, and Hobbs was the BBC's Holmes from the 1940s to the end of the 1960s.
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9817. William Woolfolk died on July 20. He wrote novels (including the 1968 best seller THE BEAUTIFUL COUPLE), television scripts (he was chief scriptwriter for "The Defenders" from 1961 to 1965), and stories for comic books (he was one of the most highly-paid writers in the 1940s). He claimed to have created Captain Marvel's exclamation "Holy Moley" (giving Captain Marvel something to say when he was particularly astonished); Captain Marvel Jr. meets Sherlock Holmes in CAPTAIN MARVEL JR. (Dec. 16, 1942), and "Captain Marvel and Mr. Tawny's Detective Case" will be found in CAPTAIN MARVEL (May 1950).

September 2003 #1

9818. The one-page "Curiosities" feature in the Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction (August 03 #4) continues to recommend interesting books. In the September issue Paul Di Filippo suggests: "To concoct a unique fantasy novel, mix a dash of Virginia Woolf's interior monologues, a jigger of Robert Nathan's whimsy, a soupcon of Noel Coward's witty sophistication, a handful of Kuttneresque children, and a pinch of Robert Aickman's eerie atmospherics." The book he is recommending is Christopher Morley's THUNDER ON THE LEFT (1925); Di Filippo obviously is a Morley fan; in the June 1999 issue he recommended Morley's WHERE THE BLUE BEGINS (1922) (October 99 #1)
9819. John J. Brousch died on Aug. 27. He was an enthusiastic Sherlockian, and a member of many of the societies in and near Chicago. John's interests were much broader than Sherlock Holmes: he enjoyed art and heraldry and building ship models (and managed to work Sherlock Holmes into all those areas).
9820. Bill Dorn's attractive Sherlock Holmes Calendar for 2004 is in full color, by way of celebrating Holmes' 150th birthday; most of the monthly illustrations are by Frederic Dorr Steele, with the daily entries noting Canonical events of interest. \$16.95 postpaid (or \$18.45 to Canada or \$19.45 elsewhere); checks can be sent to William S. Dorn at 2045 South Monroe Street, Denver, CO 80210, and there's a web-site at <www.thesherlockstore.com>.
9821. Philip Bergem's 56-page pamphlet THE FAMILY AND RESIDENCES OF ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE offers some of the results of his continuing research on the family: birth, marriage, and death dates of the Doyles and Conan Doyles, and information about residences, military service, and gravestone inscriptions. It is available from the author (3829 172nd Avenue NW, Andover, MN 55304; the postpaid cost is \$22.50 (\$23.00 to Canada), and it's also available (£13.00 plus shipping) from Rupert Books <www.rupert-books.co.uk>.
9822. William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" is scheduled at the Alley Theatre in Houston, Oct. 10-20-Nov. 2, 2003. The box office address is 615 Texas Avenue, Houston, TX 77002) (713-228-8421) <www.alleytheatre.org>.
9823. Mary Burke reports that she will be joining an Ancient Order of Hibernians tour of Catholic and rebel sites in Northern Ireland and the Republic, Jan. 27-Feb. 4, 2004 (and notes that the Ancient Order of Freeman, and the Molly Maguires, were prominent in "The Valley of Fear"). More information about the tour is available from the travel agent Terry Flynn, and the deadline for reservations is Oct. 15 (800-678-7848) <terryflynn@aol.com>.
9824. For the musically-minded completists: Many episodes of the "Fibber and Mollie" radio series are available on cassettes and CDs, and you might want to acquire a copy of the program that aired on May 13, 1941 (listed variously as "Salmon Dinner" and "Fibber and Mollie are expecting a huge fish to arrive"). Tyke Niver has reported that the series also featured the King's Men, who on that program sang "Mush, Mush" (the music and lyrics were published in THE SCOTTISH STUDENTS' SONG BOOK in 1891, and reprinted in W. T. Rabe's pamphlet WE *ALWAYS* MENTION AUNT CLARA IN 1990). Sherlockians (and others) now sing "Aunt Clara" to the music of "Mush, Mush" (rather than the original music composed by Bud and Ruth Willis in 1936).

September 2003 #2

9825. James P. Shannon died on Aug. 28. He was a Catholic priest and bishop in the archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis when he resigned over his dissent with church teaching about artificial birth control and other issues; he then became vice president at St. John's College in Santa Fe, and began a career in philanthropy that brought him back to Minneapolis, where he was a member of the Norwegian Explorers. He wrote about the Hench Collection in a booklet published in 1984, and contributed an essay about Silver Blaze to the anthology THE BAKER STREET DOZEN (1987).
9826. Further to the report (August 03 #2) on William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" scheduled at the Mauch Chunk Opera House, in Jim Thorpe, Pa., Oct. 3-5 and 10-12, Gideon Hill is organizing a theater party for the 2:00 pm matinee on Oct. 5. If you are interested in attending, please contact Gideon (64 Bridle Road, Glenside, PA 19038) (215-280-2004) <gideonhill221@earthlink.net>.
9827. Gideon also reports that Mycroft's League of Philadelphia has two events on its October schedule: the Diogenes Luncheon at noon on Oct. 24, in the Meredith Cafe at the Union League Club (there may be a limited Sherlockian program); and at noon on Oct. 25 a buffet luncheon at the historic College of Pharmacy at the University of Sciences, which will be followed by a panel discussion (by forensic toxicologist Marina Stajic and two colleagues) of "The Devil's Foot", and a tour of the college's Pharmacy Museum (which has many items of Sherlockian interest). Additional information is available from Gideon (see above).
9828. Madhustree Mukerjee's THE LAND OF NAKED PEOPLE: ENCOUNTERS WITH STONE AGE ISLANDERS (Houghton Mifflin, 268 pp., \$24.00) is about the Andaman Islanders. Jonathan Yardley's review in the Washington Post (Aug. 14) is lukewarm ("a book that is in more or less equal measures interesting and maddening").
9829. Further to the item (July 03 #3) about the report from Manorial Auctioneers that Conan Doyle took the name "Baskerville" from the Baskerville family at Pencelli Castle in Brecon, Wales, Dave Galerstein notes that he disagrees, recalling that the coach driver who took Conan Doyle and Fletcher Robinson round Dartmoor was named Baskerville. More information about the coachman available from Dave, his address is 49 Stonewyck Place, Monroe Township, NJ 08831 <davebsi@erols.com>.
9830. Don Pollock has discovered EL DILEMA DE LOS PROCERES: SHERLOCK HOLMES Y EL MISTERIO DEL ARGENTINO ENMASCARADO, by Jorge Fernandez (Buenos Aires: Editorial Sudamericana, 1997; 221 pp.). And Don Yates reports that Sherlock Holmes is treated with respect, and that the Baker Street scene is faithfully evoked in the novel, which is aimed for an Argentine audience: the cast of characters includes many real figures in Argentine history. The publisher's address is Humberto 1o 531, Buenos Aires, Argentina.
9831. Further to the report (November 00 #6) Britain's endangered bitterns (it was in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" that Stapleton suggested that "I should not be surprised to learn that what we have heard is the cry of the last of the bitterns"), a story in The Daily Telegraph (Aug. 22) was headlined "Bitterns are Booming Again After Conservation Work Saves Habitat". Conservationists counted 42 booming males this year, the highest figure since 1983.

September 2003 #3

9832. Reported: THE ORIENTAL CASEBOOK OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Ted Riccardi, from Random House (320 pp., \$24.95); nine short stories featuring Holmes during the Great Hiatus, in Sumatra, Tibet, and other exotic settings. According to a Publishers Weekly forecast (Aug. 11), "Like many recent

Holmes pastichers, the author transforms the original thinking machine into an Indiana Jones-like character facing century-old deathtraps and charged with recovering legendary jewels."

9833. THE ALTERNATIVE SHERLOCK HOLMES: PASTICHES, PARODIES AND COPIES, by Peter Ridgway Watt and Joseph Green (Aldershot/Burlington: Ashgate Press, 2003; 359 pp., \$79.95), is an interesting review of the thousands of items that were published between 1892 (C. C. Rothwell's parody "Adventures of Sherwood Hoakes") and 2001 (Donald Thomas' collection SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE RUNNING NOOSE). There are sections on the unchronicled cases; period pastiches; non-period pastiches; friends, relations, and one enemy; parodies and impostors; and copies and rivals. And the authors extend their reach from major publishers to society periodicals, summarizing each item, with careful indexes and identifications of sources; the book is a fine survey, intended for the academic community, but any Sherlockian interested in the genre will find the book fascinating, if only for the many opportunities to mutter "I haven't read that one").
9834. Further to Tyke Niver's report (July 03 #6) on Gillette Castle, now open to the public again after a \$9 million restoration, he and Teddie appeared at the castle on Sept. 20 as Mr. and Mrs. Gillette during a fund-raiser to benefit restoration of Gillette's miniature railroad. The photograph appeared in the Hartford Courant (Sept. 22), accompanying an article kindly forwarded by Bill Force.
9835. "The Disembodied Spirit" is an exhibition organized by the Bowdoin College Museum of Art in Brunswick, Maine, where it opened on Sept. 25 (and it continues through Dec. 7); their web-site is at <www.bowdoin.edu/artmuseum>. The theme of the exhibition is an exploration of the art and culture of the late 19th and late 20th centuries involving the depictions or suggestions of ghosts, and it will include photographs from Dame Jean Conan Doyle's estate (the photographs are on loan from the Harry Ransom Research Center at the University of Texas). The exhibition travels next to the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art in Kansas City (Mar. 5-May 23, 2004) and the Austin Museum of Art in Austin, Tex. (Sept. 11-Nov. 28, 2004).
9836. Steven S. Raab Autographs is offering an interesting autograph letter written by Conan Doyle in April 1927 in which he says that "I fear that there is little chance of my doing much more literary work," that "I was glad to withdraw Holmes before the public were too weary of him," and that he has a story "The Fabricious Deep" in mind. The price is \$11,900; and the dealer is at Box 471, Ardmore, PA 19003 (800-977-8333) <www.raabautographs.com>.

September 2003 #4

9837. Communication (the newsletter of The Pleasant Places of Florida) has now reached its 234th issue: The Enquirer Star Tattler (All the News That's Fit for Ink), prepared by Wanda and Jeff Dow, with an amusing assortment of tabloid stories about the Canon. Membership includes a subscription and costs \$12.00 a year (\$13.00 overseas) from Carl Heifetz, 1220 Winding Willow Drive, New Port Richey, FL 34655; if you want only the tabloid issue, that's \$2.00 postpaid.
9838. "'It is an old maxim of mine,' said Holmes, 'that when you have excluded the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth.' Answered Watson, 'Perhaps, you may have convinced me as to the motive, but you are yet to explain how it is done.'" That's the epigraph for the first chapter ("Secare and Eros: Sex, Love, Science, and Circumstances") in Joann Ellison Rodgers' SEX: A NATURAL HISTORY (Henry Holt, 2001), discovered recently by Christy Richards. And if you have concluded that Watson's answer doesn't sound like Watson, well, you're right: it's not found in the Canon.
9839. Karen Murdock (1212 Yale Avenue SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414) offers Sherlockian stickers with a silhouette on a green background; the silhouette also appeared on her bumper sticker (May 03 #6). \$2.00 postpaid for 25 stickers If you're outside the U.S., please send currency.
9840. An exhibition on "The Age of Watteau, Chardin, and Fragonard: Masterpieces of French Genre Painting" will open at the National Gallery of Art in Washington on Oct. 12 (through Jan. 11), and it will display more than one hundred French eighteenth-century paintings, including "emotional family dramas" by Jean-Baptiste Greuze (one of his paintings was in Professor Moriarty's study at the time of "The Valley of Fear").
9841. There's a new paperback edition of Ed McBain's THE HECKLER (New York: Pocket Books, 2003; 254 pp., \$7.99), with a new afterword by the author; it's an 87th Precinct mystery novel that has both cops and crooks acknowledging use of a plot from a Sherlock Holmes story. and McBain mentions Holmes and Moriarty briefly in the afterword.
9842. Robert Duvall was honored on Sept. 18 with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. "It's a privilege for me to work as a professional actor," he said. "I am very proud of that and I still got a lot in me before they start wiping away the drool." Duvall played Dr. Watson in "The Seven-Per-Cent Solution" (1976).
9843. Roger Llewellyn continues to tour in "Sherlock Holmes: The Last Act!": on Oct. 9 he will be in Verona, participating in a Sherlockian evening at the Live Literature Association (an organization dedicated to English-language cultural exchange). The evening will also feature a wine tasting arranged by Patricia Guy (founder of The Assorted and Stradivarious of Verona), who reports that a glass of Amarone and a Recioto will set the warming tone for "a very special evening's entertainment." Tickets can be ordered from the Association <verontalivelit@hotmail.com>; details on the event are available from Patricia (Via Fama 11, 37121 Verona, Italy) <benguy@libero.it>.

September 2003 #5

9844. This year's Christmas card from The Sherlock Holmes Society of London shows a watercolor by Douglas E. West of a snowy scene in Switzerland, where Holmes and Watson, with their carpet bags, are on the run from Moriarty. The cost is \$13.00 postpaid for ten cards (or £5.50 to the U.K., £7.00 elsewhere); checks (payable to the Society, please), can be sent to Judi Ellis, 13 Crofton Avenue, Orpington BR6 8DC, England.
9845. "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (2002) will repeat on "Masterpiece Theatre" on PBS-TV on Oct. 26, repeating on Oct. 31 (but check your local stations); it's the latest television version, produced by the BBC, starring Richard Roxburgh as Holmes, Ian Hart as Watson, and Richard E. Grant as Stapleton.
9846. Derham Groves recommends (and so do I) a web-site at <www.crimefactory.net> that offers a special Sherlockian issue with interesting contributions from Sherlockians. Some of the material (and other material that's not available at the web-site) will be published in the catalogue for an exhibition on Sherlockian private presses at the University of Melbourne in April.
9847. Randall Stock maintains an excellent web-site about the manuscripts of the Sherlock Holmes stories at <members.aol.com/_ht_a/shbest/ref/rfms.htm> with a checklist of facsimiles (partial and complete) for 25 stories, and links to images of three of them.
9848. There's a new two-volume edition of THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES, with the apocryphal tales and two Sherlockian articles by Conan Doyle, and introductions and notes by Kyle Freeman (New York: Barnes & Noble Classics, 2003); vol. 1 (709 pp.) and vol. 2 (705 pp.) cost \$7.95 each.
9849. John Sherwood, who for many years impersonated Sherlock Holmes at the Victorian Villa Inn in Michigan, has moved to the east coast, and he will appear as Holmes during the "Saturday with Sherlock Holmes" sponsored by the local Sherlockian societies at the Enoch Pratt Free Library in

Baltimore; the event starts with morning coffee in the Edgar Allan Poe Room at 10:00, and ends at 1:00). There's no charge for the festivities, and the library is at 400 Cathedral Street in Baltimore. More information is available at <www.geocities.com/jcsherwood/BakerStreet99.htm>.

9850. And John will appear as Holmes during Mystery Weekends at the Fairville Inn in Chadds Ford, Pa., on Jan. 9-11 and 16-18. Additional details are available at <www.geocities.com/jcsherwood/BakerStreet13.htm>, and you can contact the Inn at 506 Kennett Pike, Route 52, Chadds Ford, PA 19317 (877-285-7772) <info@fairvilleinn.com>.
9851. Bill Vande Water reports that Stu Shiffman will be Guest of Honor at Ditto 16, a national fanzine convention in Eugene, Ore., Oct. 10-12. Stu has won a Hugo Award for fan artists for his science-fiction and fantasy work, and he's an excellent Sherlockian artist as well. More information on the convention will be found at <home.att.net/~ditto16/contents/ditto.html>.
9852. "'But the romance was there,' I remonstrated. 'I could not tamper with the facts.'" was the thoroughly appropriate quotation from the Canon on the invitation to the wedding of Ev Herzog and John Baesch, which was celebrated in New York on Sept. 20. Congratulations to the happy couple . . .

September 2003 #6

9853. Further to the item (May 03 #1) on Michael Kurland's anthology SHERLOCK HOLMES; UNTOLD STORIES OF THE GREATEST DETECTIVE, he reported in an interview in the North Bay Bohemian (Sept. 18) that the book has been so well-received that his publisher has asked for a sequel: SHERLOCK HOLMES: ONLY THE MISSING YEARS, an anthology of stories set during the Great Hiatus.
9854. Don Izban has announced that the third meeting of The Sherlock Holmes and All That Jazz Society will be held in Davenport, Iowa, on July 22-25, 2004. Davenport is the birthplace of Dixieland great Bix Biederbecke; the program (with Don as chairman) will focus on his music. More information is available from Donald B. Izban, 1012 Rene Court, Park Ridge, IL 60068.
9855. The fall 2003 issue of The Serpentine Muse offers news from, about, and by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes, including an attractively illustrated "Dainty Bouquet of Canonical Blossoms" by Laurie Manifold and Susan Vizoskie, and reports on planning for SERPENTINE MUSINGS: AN ANTHOLOGY FROM THE JOURNAL OF THE ADVENTURESSES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (to be edited by Susan Diamond and Marilynne McKay for publication next year) and the 2004 Christmas Annual of The Baker Street Journal, which will offer a history of the Adventuresses (edited by Susan Rice). The Muse, published quarterly, costs \$10.00 a year (checks payable to the Adventuresses, please) from Evelyn A. Herzog (360 West 21st Street #5-A, New York, NY 10011).
9856. I reported earlier (October 01 #2) on the deerstalkered Santa (in the "Island of Misfit Toys" series with Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer); Jim Suszynski spotted a hanging ornament showing Santa and Rudolph on a television screen discounted to \$4.99 (from \$10.00). It's made by ENESCO (item 104288); Elk Grove Village, IL 60007 <www.enesco.com>.
9857. The autumn issue of The Magic Door (the newsletter published by The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) has Cliff Goldfarb's report on the library's copy of an early Yiddish translation of "The Resident Patient" (published in Warsaw in 1906/1907), Victoria Gill's discussion of Conan Doyle's influence on Wodehouse, Karen Campbell's report on this summer's visit to Toronto by the American Library Association (and The Sub-Librarian's Scion), and news from Doug Wrigglesworth of a new biography of Conan Doyle by Georgina Doyle, the widow of Sir Arthur's nephew Brigadier John Doyle, scheduled for next year. Copies are available from Doug Wrigglesworth (16 Sunset Street, Holland Landing, ON L9N 1H4, Canada) <dougwrigh@sympatico.ca>.
9858. Georgina Doyle will be at the Toronto Reference Library on Oct. 25 to offer a sneak preview of her new biography, titled OUT OF THE SHADOWS: THE STORY OF ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE'S FIRST FAMILY. The public is welcome at the event, and there's no charge for admission.
9859. Andrew Gulli reports that the third holiday issue of the new Strand Magazine will be published in October, with new fiction by Ray Bradbury, John Mortimer, and Ruth Rendell, as well articles, interviews, and a Sherlockian a pastiche. Subscriptions (four issues) cost \$24.95 (U.S. and Canada) or \$35.95 (elsewhere), and the magazine's address is Box 1418, Birmingham, MI 48012 (800-300-6652) (UK: 800-961-280) <www.strandmag.com>.

September 2003 #7

9860. Further to the report (March 03 #4) on Thomas B. Wheeler's FINDING SHERLOCK'S LONDON (a travel guide to more than 200 Canonical sites that are listed by closest underground station and by adventure). his book has now been published by iUniverse (94 pp., \$12.95). You can order the book at stores, or at the publisher's web-site <www.iuniverse.com>; you can also browse the book at the web-site.
9861. Donald O'Connor died on Sept. 27. Best known for his acrobatic song-and-dance number "Make 'Em Laugh" in the film "Singin' in the Rain" (1952) and for his starring role in the "Francis the Talking Mule" series of films (he abandoned the series in 1955, complaining that "When you've made six pic-tures and the mule still gets more fan mail than you do..."), he also was Dr. Watson in a "Save Sherlock Holmes" episode of "Fantasy Island" in 1982 (with Peter Lawford as Holmes and Mel Ferrer as Moriarty).
9862. The fact that Sherlock Holmes kept his tobacco "in the toe end of a Persian slipper" is noted in the Canon (in "The Musgrave Ritual"), and the slipper is usually found in recreations of the sitting-room attached to the side of the fireplace. Holmes was not the only person who displayed Persian slippers in this fashion: Herman Melville also did: a pair of them, one on each side of the fireplace at "Arrowhead" in Pittsfield, Mass., where he lived when he wrote MOBY DICK. This photograph of the fireplace and the slippers was taken in 1897 and recently reported by Kelly H. Blau. "Arrowhead" has been preserved, and it is open to the public, and you can visit Melville's fireplace; the slippers and many other Melville artifacts are displayed in the Melville Room at the Berkshire Athen'um in Pittsfield. photograph from the Berkshire Athen'um, Pittsfield, Massachusetts,

September 2003 #8

9863. The thirteenth annual STUD-Watsonian Weekend is scheduled for Apr. 16-18, 2004, in and near Chicago; there will be a dinner on Friday, a running of The Silver Blaze on Saturday, a Fortescue Honours brunch on Sunday, and other events. If you'd like to be on their mailing list, you should contact Allan Devitt and Susan Diamond, 16W603 3rd Avenue, Bensenville, IL 60106 <szdiamond@comcast.net>.
9864. "The Strange Case of the End of Civilization as We Know It" (1977) is now available on DVD (from Kultur, \$14.95); it's a British one-hour television program broadcast by ITV in Britain (and by PBS-TV in the United States), with John Cleese (Arthur Sherlock-Holmes) and Arthur Lowe (Dr. William Watson), and it offers low humor, excellent puns, and a few surprises.
9865. John Sherwood notes that "Sherlock Holmes: The True Story" (a new documentary) will air on the Discovery channel on Oct. 5. According to the synopsis: "In 1886, Arthur Conan Doyle borrows the character, physical qualities and diagnostic genius of Dr. Joseph Bell to create the famous detective."
9866. "Pitldown Hoax Hunt Narrows to Two Men" was the headline on a story by Mark Henderson in The Times (Sept. 6). The Natural History Museum in London is planning to celebrate to 50th anniversary of the exposure of the hoax (in The Times on Nov. 21, 1953) by putting the fake fossils on display for the public for the first time since the exposure, and two experts will speak at the museum's Pfizer Annual Science Forum: Chris Stringer

implicates Charles Dawson, and Brian Gardiner argues for Martin Hinton, and both experts agree that other suspects (including Sir Arthur Conan Doyle) aren't the culprits.

9867. Some years ago (November 92 #5) I noted that Michael T. R. B. Turnbull's EDINBURGH CHARACTERS included the colorful Edinburgh policeman James McLevy; many of his cases were published in 1861 in CURIOSITIES OF CRIME IN EDINBURGH and THE SLIDING SCALE OF LIFE, and although there is no record of an Arthur Conan Doyle having read those books, it intriguing to think of him encountering and enjoying the stories. Modern readers can now enjoy them too, in two recent collections published in Edinburgh by the Mercat Press: MCLEVY: THE EDINBURGH DETECTIVE (2001; 185 pp.) and MCLEVY RETURNS: FURTHER DISCLOSURES OF THE EDINBURGH DETECTIVE (2002; 231 pp.); £9.99 each.
9868. Reported: Carole Nelson Douglas' FEMME FATALE (Forge, \$25.95); the latest in Carole's series about Irene Adler and Penelope Huxleigh (and now Elizabeth Jane Cochran aka Nellie Bly), set in New York. Alan Stockwell's THE SINGULAR ADVENTURES OF MR. SHERLOCK HOLMES; 15 short-story pastiches, from UPSO Ltd. <www.upso.co.uk>, 245 pages, paper covers, £7.99 or \$12.95. Dennis Burges' GRAVES GATE: A NOVEL OF POSSESSION (Carroll & Graf, \$25.00); a mystery that features Arthur Conan Doyle in London in 1922. Michael Cox's THE OXFORD BOOK OF VICTORIAN DETECTIVE STORIES (Oxford Univ. Press, \$17.95); an anthology of 31 short stories (including "The Blue Carbuncle" and "The Lost Special") that was published in 1992 as VICTORIAN TALES OF MYSTERY AND DETECTION (October 92 #5). Brent Monahan's THE SCEPTERED ISLE CLUB (St. Mar-tin's Minotaur, \$13.95); a murder mystery set in London in 1905, with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle involved.

October 2003 #1

9869. The thirteenth volume of The Shoso-in Bulletin, edited by Yuichi Hirayama and Mel Hughes, and published by The Men with the Twisted Konjo, is as usual a fine anthology of articles, essays, reviews, artwork, and other material by contributors from nine countries, with 167 pages (all in English); \$13.00 (plus shipping) from Classic Specialties (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219) <www.sherlock-holmes.com>. Contributors to previous volumes can order the new volume from Mel Hughes (2664 Sam Hardwick Boulevard, Jacksonville, FL 32246; \$10.00 postpaid. Yuichi has announced that the next volume will be the last in the series; if you would like to contribute to the fourteenth volume, his address is: 2-10-12 Kamirenjaku, Mitakashi, Tokyo 181-0012, Japan <www.parkcity.ne.jp/~hirayama/index.htm>.
9870. John Hawkesworth died on Sept. 30. First an artist (studying in Picasso's studio), he became a television scriptwriter and producer, and won a British Screenwriter's Award for his adaptations for "The Stories of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle" on BBC-2 in 1967. He also produced "Upstairs, Downstairs" and developed "Danger UXB", "The Duchess of Duke Street", "The Flame Trees of Thika", and "By the Sword Divided", and in 1984 Granada's "Sherlock Holmes" series, for which he also adapted eight stories. In 1988 he was considering a series about Conan Doyle, and was quoted as saying Conan Doyle "was the sort of chap who would play cricket in the morning, ski during the afternoon, and write a Sherlock Holmes story in the evening."
9871. Further to the report (September 03 #5) on the new edition of THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES (New York: Barnes & Noble, 2003), vol. 2 includes two parodies by Conan Doyle (rather than two apocryphal tales). And completists should act quickly to buy copies of vol. 1; Jon Lellenberg reports that the first printing contained so many misprints that a second printing will be in the stores soon.
9872. This will be the third time that the first issue of an edition of Sherlock Holmes stories has been withdrawn and replaced by a second issue. You are invited to try to identify the other two instances.
9873. Mark Alberstat's 2004 Sherlock Holmes Calendar is illustrated with artwork from The Strand Magazine, and displays important Sherlockian birthdays and William S. Baring-Gould's dates for the cases. The cost is US\$12.00 postpaid, and his address is 5 Lorraine Street, Dartmouth, NS B3A 2B9, Canada.
9874. The comic-book series THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN has ended its second volume with the November issue (\$3.50), in which the Martians lose; the story closes with an announcement that "there now follows an intermission," so one might assume that the series will resume. RUSE also continues (with Simon Archard and Emma Bishop) in issue #22 (\$2.95); there will be a Sherlockian cover on issue #25, according to Crossgen (the publisher).
9875. If you missed "Sherlock Holmes: The True Story" on the Discovery channel on Oct. 5 (or later in the month), you can wait for a repeat: it's a one-hour documentary about Dr. Joseph Bell, produced by CineNova in Canada, with interviews with Owen Dudley Edwards and Ely Liebow, David Bronfman as Arthur Conan Doyle in the dramatizations, and atmospheric views of Edinburgh.

October 2003 #2

9876. Six of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's non-Sherlockian manuscripts are to be offered at auction at Christie's King Street salesroom in London on Nov. 19, from the estate of Dame Jean Conan Doyle, to benefit six charities chosen by Dame Jean. The manuscripts are "A Duet: with an Occasional Chorus" (1899), "A Glimpse of the Army" (1900), "How the Brigadier Lost an Ear" (1902), "Brigadier Gerard at Waterloo" (1903), "Ypres, September 15" (1915), and "The Maracot Deep" (1927). The charities are the RAF Benevolent Fund; the Not Forgotten Association; the RAF Association; the Elizabeth Finn Trust (formerly the Distinguished Gentlefolks Aid Association); Help the Hospices; and the Royal Star and Garter Home in Richmond. Additional information is available from Christie's at 8 King Street, St. James's, London SW1Y 6QT, England <www.christies.com>.
9877. The British Library has announced that it will hold a study day and commemoration of "Sir Hans Sloane (1660-1753) and His Library" on Nov. 24. There is no charge for attendance; for further details, please register your name and address with Teresa Harrington at the British Library (020-4712-7785) <teresa.harrington@bl.uk>. It was 250 years ago that his collections were acquired for the nation; an Act of Parliament established the British Museum in the same year, and that led to Nathan Garrideb's hopeful (or wishful) statement that "I shall be the Hans Sloane of my age."
9878. The Royal Mail has celebrated the 250th anniversary of the British Museum with a set of six stamps, one of which shows a bust of Alexander the Great. Nathan Garrideb was referring to coins when he suggested that "Some prefer the Alexandrian school," but the bust will do. And the British Museum is mentioned in four Canonical tales.
9879. Spotted by Scott Monty in the Holiday Preview catalog from Marshall Field's Direct (800-776.4444) <www.fields.com>: a Sherlock Holmes apothecary cabinet cabinet (based on an original in the Sherlock Holmes Museum in London), suitable for "your magnifying glasses, pipes, and deerstalker hats--or your growing media collection" of CDs cassettes, DVDs, and videos. \$199.95 plus shipping (item 206499).
9880. The first time the first issue of an edition of Sherlock Holmes stories was withdrawn was the first American edition of THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1894), which included, contrary to Conan Doyle's wishes, "The Adventure of the Cardboard Box". The second time was the edition of THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES published by Coles in Canada in 1980 immediately after the Conan Doyle copyright expired there; Coles reprinted the Doubleday edition but neglected to obtain permission from Christopher Morley's estate to use his "In Memoriam Sherlock Holmes" (which still was protected by copyright), and the Morley pages were razored out of the second issue.
9881. House of Ascot continues to offer a wide variety of architectural bookends and models sculpted by Timothy Richards (April 02 #4). His 221b Baker Street (modeled after the Sherlock Holmes Museum) is 7.5 in. high and costs \$79.95 plus shipping (it's item TRSL in their new catalog, and there's a

October 2003 #3

9882. Carolyn G. Heilbrun died on Oct. 10. She was famous as a feminist scholar at Columbia University (where she retired in 1992 as the Avalon Foundation Professor of the Humanities) and (as Amanda Cross) as the author of a series of successful detective novels; she concealed the identity of Amanda Cross for six years, worried she would damage her chances for tenure at Columbia. And she was one of the speakers at "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes in Minnesota" conference in Minneapolis in 1984; quite appropriately, she chose "Sherlock Holmes and Women" as her topic.
9883. News about Carole Nelson Douglas' Irene Adler series: CASTLE ROUGE has been reissued as a paperback from Forge (\$6.99). THE ADVENTRESS (published in 1991 as GOOD MORNING, IRENE) is due as a paperback from Forge in December \$6.99). And SPIDER DANCE is the title of the next Irene Adler novel, due from Forge in Nov. 2004.
9884. Denis Quilley died on Oct. 5. He began his career as an actor in 1945 with the Birmingham Repertory Theater, and went on to an award-winning series of roles in the West End. He also appeared in films and on television, and he played Dr. Leon Sterndale in Granada's "The Devil's Foot" in 1988 and Bob Carruthers in Granada's "The Solitary Cyclist" in 1993.
9885. Barnes & Noble <<http://www.bn.com>> still offers handsome Sherlockian prints and posters (May 01 #6): you select the design you want, and it is shipped to you printed on paper or canvas. You can also see the artwork (and Sherlock Holmes is only one of the many categories available) at Barnes & Noble stores.
9886. Noted by Jon Lellenberg: Frederic H. Sonnenschmidt's TASTES AND TALES OF A CHEF: STORIES AND RECIPES (Upper Saddle River: Pearson/Prentice Hall, 2004; 272 pp. \$16.00); Fritz presided over all of the delightful Sherlockian dinners at the Culinary Institute of America, and is shown on the cover as a Sherlockian chef, and does not neglect Sherlock Holmes in his stories.
9887. The September issue of the quarterly newsletter published by The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota offers John Bergquist's tribute to the late Bryce Crawford, Julie McKuras's "100 Years Ago" discussion of Finley Peter Dunne's "Mr. Dooley", and reports from and about the collections. The newsletter is available from Richard J. Sveum (111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, 222 21st Avenue South, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <sveum001@tc.umn.edu>.
9888. Roger Llewellyn continues to tour his fine one-man play "Sherlock Holmes: The Last Act!", scheduled at the Jermyn Street Theatre in London on Dec. 1-6; the theater address is 16-B Jermyn Street, London SW1Y 6ST, London (020-7287-2875) <www.jermynstreettheatre.co.uk>
9889. Reported: THE LOST WORLD OF ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE, with a 57-page introduction by John R. Lavas; a collector's edition marking the 90th anniversary of the publication of the original story, the 168-page book has many new illustrations, in color and in black-and-white. John will inscribe the book on request, and his address is P.O. Box 14-421, Panmure, Auckland 6, New Zealand <dearborn@ihug.co.nz>; £34.00 (UK/Europe), US\$55.00 (US/Canada), US\$47.00 (Australia) (checks in sterling or US dollars, please).
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October 2003 #4

9890. Sherlock Holmes' 150th birthday will be celebrated on Friday, Jan. 16, with the traditional festivities in New York, but the first formal event will be The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes' ASH Wednesday dinner at 6:00 pm at O'Casey's (22 East 41st Street); attendees pay their own checks, but it would be helpful to let Ev Herzog (360 West 21st Street #5-A, New York, NY 10011) <herzog@darbylaw.com> know if you're coming to the event.
9891. Thursday's activities begin at 9:00 am at the Hotel Algonquin (59 West 44th Street), whence Jim Cox will lead the annual Christopher Morley Walk, which ends with lunch at McSorley's. The Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Speaker Lecture begins at 6:15 pm on the 6th floor of the Williams Club (24 East 39th Street, between Madison and Park Avenues); the speaker will be John Berendt, author of MIDNIGHT IN THE GARDEN OF GOOD AND EVIL and the Introduction to the Modern Library's 2001 edition of THE ADVENTURES AND MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (\$11.00); seating is limited, and you are advised to reserve early (details below).
9892. Friday begins with the Martha Hudson Breakfast, from 7:00 to 10:00 in the Oak Room at the Hotel Algonquin at 59 West 44th Street; the hotel provides guests with a continental breakfast, and others are welcome to attend each day and pay \$17.00 (details below). The William Gillette Memorial Luncheon starts at noon, at Moran's Chelsea Seafood Restaurant at 146 Tenth Avenue at 19th Street; \$37.00 (Susan Rice, 125 Washington Place #2-E, New York, NY 10014). And Otto Penzler will hold his traditional open house at The Mysterious Bookshop (129 West 56th Street) from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm; Sherlockian authors are likely to be on hand to sign their books.
9893. The Baker Street Irregulars will gather at 6:00 pm at the Union League Club at 38 East 37th Street. The Baskerville Bash (open to all Sherlockians and their friends) offers dinner and entertainment at 6:30 pm at the Manhattan Club at 201 West 52nd Street (between Broadway and Seventh Avenue); \$70.00 (checks payable to Maribea Briggs Shrawder can be sent to Paula J. Perry, 346 East 87th Street #4-A, New York, NY 10128) (please include your e-mail address and primary Sherlockian society affiliation). Early reservations are advised for the William Gillette luncheon and the Baskerville Bash.
9894. Those who wish to have seasonal souvenirs in the dinner packets can send 175 copies (for the BSI) to James B. Saunders (3011 47th Street, Astoria, NY 11103), 125 copies (for the Bash) to Francine Kitts (35 Van Cortlandt Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10301), and 20 copies (for The Women) to Mary Ann Bradley, 7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278); your material should arrive by Dec. 15.
9895. For those who want an additional event on Friday, Paul Singleton is considering a gathering that will start at midnight at the Waterfront Ale House, at 540 Second Avenue (at East 30th Street); there will be plenty to drink, but the kitchen will be closed (which should not be a problem for those who have dined well earlier in the evening). But: Paul needs a rough estimate of how many people are interested; you can let him know at 144 East 24th Street #3-B, New York, NY 10010 (212-505-3609) <doctorsyn50@hotmail.com>. And Paul will be announcing final plans (and perhaps a name) for the event earlier during the birthday festivities.
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October 2003 #5

9896. On Saturday a wide variety of Sherlockiana will be offered in the dealers' room on the second floor of the Hotel Algonquin (59 West 44th Street) from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm; Ralph Hall (2906 Wallingford Court, Louisville, KY 40218) (502-491-3148) <bugmanhall@aol.com> will be glad to supply information about dealers' tables.
9897. And the Clients of Adrian Mulliner (devotees of the works of both John H. Watson and P. G. Wodehouse) will hold their Junior Bloodstain (a somewhat less than totally reverent gathering) in the lobby of the Hotel Algonquin at 12:30 pm; if you're planning to attend, please let Anne Cotton know (12 Hollywood Street, South Hadley, MA 01075) <ladybassett@comcast.net>.
9898. The BSI annual reception, open to all Sherlockians and their friends, will be held on Saturday afternoon from 2:30 to 5:30, at the National Arts Club at 15 Gramercy Park (on 20th Street between Park and Third Avenues); there will be hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, a *cash bar for alcoholic
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beverages* and an open bar for non-alcoholic beverages, and the usual traditional and un-traditional entertainment, and the cost of the event is \$45.00 (details be-low) until Dec. 15, or \$55.00 thereafter or at the door.

9899. The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes will hold an informal brunch on Sunday, from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Baker Street restaurant at 1152 First Avenue (at 63rd Street). It's open to all, but space is limited and reservations are strongly advised, to Marina Stajic (425 East 51st Street #4-A, New York, NY 10022) <mstajic@aol.com>.
9900. The Baker Street Irregulars are a tax-exempt organization, and Mike Whelan has arranged with the Hotel Algonquin for single or double rooms at \$179.00 a night (Tuesday through Sunday); this is the total cost, since there is no tax due on reservations arranged by the BSI (the special rate is the equivalent of \$156.00 plus tax). Other charges (room service, telephone calls, meals, drinks, etc.) are not covered. The offer is available to all Sherlockians, and [note the different procedure] *room reservations must be made through the Baker Street Irregulars* (details below).
9901. And here are the details: Mike Whelan's announcement will be ready in November, with prices and a reservation form for the Thursday lecture, the Martha Hudson breakfast, the Saturday reception, and the rooms at the Algonquin. If you're not on the BSI or Bash mailing lists, you can request a copy of his letter from Michael F. Whelan, 7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278.
9902. Mary Ellen Rich has kindly provided a list of hotels that offer reasonable (as defined by New York landlords) rates, along with a warning about nonoptional extras: \$2.00 a day occupancy tax, 8.25% state tax, and 5% city tax. Ask for the lowest available rate, don't be shy about asking for discounts (AAA, senior, corporate), and if you plan to arrive on Thursday you should confirm that weekend rates apply, and request written confirmation.

October 2003 #6

9903. Vanderbilt YMCA (224 East 47th St.) \$65 bunk with shared bathroom (212-756-9600) ["it's a modern building in a nice neighborhood"]; Hotel 31 (120 East 31st St.) \$95 single/double (seasonal discount) (212-685-3060); Mayfair Hotel (242 West 49th St.) \$95 standard single/double (special rate) (212-586-0300); Super 8 Times Square (59 West 46th St.) \$98 single/double (corporate rate) (212-719-2300); Cosmopolitan Hotel (95 West Broadway) \$101 for their superior single/double (winter special) (212-566-1900); Wellington Hotel (7th Ave at 55th St.) \$109 standard or \$119 superior single/double (America's Special promotion) (212-247-3900); Comfort Inn Central Park (31 West 71st St.) \$117 single/double (their senior/AAA rate) or \$122 (corporate rate) (212-721-4770) [Mary Ellen especially likes the location in a very nice residential area and their boutiquey rooms]; West Park Hotel (6 Columbus Circle) \$118 single/double (via ORBITZSAVER) (212 445 0200). <www.nycvisit.com> offers specials and general information, as do <www.orbitz.com> and <travelocity.com>.
9904. The Dr. John H. Watson Fund offers financial assistance to all Sherlockians (membership in the BSI is not required) who might otherwise not be able to participate in the weekend's festivities. A carefully pseudonymous John H. Watson presides over the fund and welcomes contributions, which can be made by check payable to John H. Watson and sent (without return address on the envelope) to Dr. Watson, care of The Baker Street Irregulars, at 7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278; your letters are forwarded unopened, and Dr. Watson will acknowledge your generosity. Requests for assistance can also be mailed to Dr. Watson at the same address.
9905. Warren Randall is again the first to announce a souvenir pin for the birthday festivities; the two-inch pin honors the Great Detectives' 150th birthday (note the spelling of his name on the handle), and it's available now: the postpaid coast is \$8.75 (to the U.S.) or \$10.50 (Canada) or \$13.50 (elsewhere). Warren's address is 15 Fawn Lane West, South Setauket, NY 11720.
9906. The Baker Street Journal's 2003 Christmas Annual "'The Strength and Activity of Youth': The Junior Sherlockian Movement", compiled by Stephen Clarkson; the annual offers a reminiscent look at what younger Sherlockians were doing in the 1960s and 1970s. It's not part of subscriptions to the BSI; orders can be sent to The Baker Street Journal (Box 465, Hanover, PA 17331); \$11.00 postpaid (to the U.S. (by check or at the web-site), or \$12.00 to other countries (credit-card orders accepted) <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>.
9907. The Easton Press (47 Richards Avenue, Norwalk, CT 06875) (800-211-1308) is still offering THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES in three volumes; first issued in 1987, it's a handsome leather-bound reprint (with color frontispieces) of the Heritage Press edition published in 1952 and 1957; \$55.00 per volume postpaid (item 0135).
9908. I have a new address and telephone number (see below) and am at long last becoming a suburbanite. It's a new house in Bethesda, with plenty of room for Bev and Samantha Wolov and me, and my library, and we've been having a lot of fun designing and deciding, and figuring out what will go where.

November 2003 #1

9909. For those who came in late: I've moved to Bethesda, in the suburbs of Washington, and the move has been rather more complicated than the last time I moved, in 1979: needless to say, this time there are a lot more books to be unpacked and shelved, and a lot more files and other things, and nothing is as instantaneous as one might wish. Which will explain why there are only four pages in this issue of my newsletter, rather than six or more pages as I have promised for many years, and why it's slightly late. I hope to find plenty of things to report on in extra pages next month.
9910. "Case of Evil" (broadcast by USA cable on Oct. 25, 2002) is now available on DVD from Screen Media/Universal (\$26.98); the film starred James D'Arcy (Sherlock Holmes), Roger Morlidge (Dr. Watson), Richard E. Grant (Mycroft), Vincent D'Onofrio (Moriarty).
9911. The New York Police Department bomb squad celebrated its 100th anniversary this month, according to a report in the Washington Post (Nov. 24). "But ever cautious, the squad is not publicizing exactly where and when the party will occur." The bomb squad got its start when the city assigned officer Giuseppe Petrosino to lead the country's first municipal bomb squad; that assignment was "due to terror over extortion letters that would appear at homes and businesses in Italian neighborhoods in the early 1900s." One of the organizations he fought was the Camorra, known to Sherlockians as "The Red Circle" (in the manuscript of the story, at any rate, but the name was changed to the Carbonari when the story was published). He was eventually murdered in Palermo, and was a national hero in Italy (where he was known as "Il Sherlock Holmes d'Italia"), and he was the hero of "Il Piccolo Sherlock Holmes" (1909), a short Italian film made in Turin and released in the U.S. as "The Italian Sherlock Holmes" (1910).
9912. Peter L. Stern's "Catalogue Thirty" has many attractive items, among them some fine Sherlockiana, including first editions of THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES and THE MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, both signed by the author and previously owned by the Marquis of Donegall (\$90,000), and "The Oscar Meunier Bust of Sherlock Holmes, executed by Edgar P. Smith in porcelain, and described (quite justifiably) as "one of the few attractive pieces of Sherlockian statuary" (\$750). And there's a copy of the first edition of UNCLE BERNAC (1897) with holograph corrections by the author that were incorporated in later editions (\$8,000). 55 Temple Place, Boston, MA 02111 <psbook@aol.com>.

9913. John J. McAleer died on Nov. 21. He taught English literature at Boston College for decades, and wrote book reviews and a mystery novels, and fine biographies of Henry David Thoreau and Rex Stout. His REX STOUT (1977) won an Edgar from the Mystery Writers of America, and of course has discussion of Stout's long involvement with Sherlockian world.
9914. And I'm reminded of John's revelation, many years ago, of the Sherlockian reason why Nero Wolfe lives on West 35th Street: Rex Stout remembered seeing William Gillette in "Sherlock Holmes" in Kansas City in 1903, and later put Wolfe's house on West 35th Street because "Gillette's Holmes received his first acclaim" at the Garrick Theater on West 35th Street.
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November 2003 #2

9915. Only two of the six Conan Doyle manuscripts offered at auction at Christie's King Street salesroom in London on Nov. 19 (October 03 #2) were sold. "A Duet: with an Occasional Chorus" brought £35,850 (including the 19.5% premium paid by the buyer), and "A Glimpse of the Army" went for £4,183; the other manuscripts failed to meet their reserves. The fortunate new owner of the manuscript of "A Duet" is Richard J. Sveum.
9916. Forecast: THE MOON REFLECTS THE SUN, by Mitch Cullin; according to Publishers Weekly (Nov. 10), Cullin has sold his novel to Nan Talese's Doubleday imprint. The novel portrays Sherlock Holmes in retirement at 93, "struggling to come to terms with a mysterious case from his past."
9917. In the Novgorod region of Russia the "best police officers will be presented with porcelain statuettes of Sherlock Holmes to sum up the results of a competition named after the great detective," the BBC reported (Nov. 10) in an item spotted by Karen Murdock. One assumes that collectors of Sherlockian statuettes will now be in hot pursuit of prize-winning Novgorod police officers in hopes that one of them might possibly be persuaded to part with one of prizes.
9918. DETECTA-CROSTICS: PUZZLES OF MYSTERY, by Jeanne M. Jacobson and Jennie G. Jacobson (Carmel: Crum Creek Press, 2003; 187 pp., \$18.00), is a collection of imaginative word puzzles keyed to mystery fiction, with lots of anagrams and word-play and annotations and detailed explanations of the answers.
9919. Doug Greene reports that Crippen & Landru have added William L. DeAndrea's MURDER--ALL KINDS to their "Lost Classics" series. The collection of all of Bill's short stories in the mystery genre includes "The Adventure of the Christmas Tree" (reprinted from Martin H. Greenberg's HOLMES FOR THE HOLIDAYS) and "The Adventure of Cripple Parade" (reprinted from Marvin Kaye's RESURRECTED HOLMES). The publisher is at Box 9315, Norfolk, VA 23505 (877-622-665) <www.crippenlandru.com>; \$29.00 (cloth) or \$19.00 (paper).
9920. Fans of Basil Rathbone might wish to acquire an inscribed and signed photograph offered in catalog 120 from David Schulson Autographs (225 West 34th Street, New York, NY 10122 <schulsonautographs.com>; it's not a Sherlockian photograph (it's dated Mar. 3, 1938), and the price is \$450.
9921. Someone has been having fun setting the peeps on Sherlockians. That's the five orange peeps, which arrived in mailboxes this month, from Capt. John Calhoun in Savannah (postmarked from southern California). They're "Creepy Peeps" (made by Marshmallow Peeps as a Halloween 2003 special); the company has been making those little gooey chicks for 50 years, and of course quite wisely no longer restricts its marketing to the Easter season. If you were not one of the fortunate recipients, you can see a picture of the five orange peeps at the company's web-site <www.marshmallowpeeps.com> (click on "About Peeps" and then on "Halloween").
9922. Hugh Kenner died on Nov. 24. He was a renowned literary scholar and professor who wrote about Ezra Pound, T. S. Eliot, Samuel Beckett, and James Joyce; his article "From Eccles Street to Baker Street: The Odyssey of a Myth" in the Hudson Review (1949), revised and reprinted in DUBLIN'S JOYCE (1955), was the first analysis of the Sherlockian echoes in Joyce's work.
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November 2003 #3

9923. The Learning Channel has over the years aired an excellent series of one-hour programs about "Great Books", but The Learning Channel has changed its name to TLC and its programming now tends to ignore anything educational; four new shows were produced for the series in 2002, but they didn't air at the traditional times. Which is a pity, since one of the four programs was devoted to "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (I believe the others were "2001: A Space Odyssey", "The Wizard of Oz", and Arabian Nights"). "The Hound of the Baskervilles" show featured actors on location in England and interviews with Dan Stashower and me and others, and it did finally air: at 2:00 am on Oct. 24, without any publicity whatsoever and in fact with another series listed in the television guides. The show may repeat, but you'll need to check their web-site at <www.tlc.com> frequently; some of the shows are airing on the Discovery HD Theater channel (that's HD for high definition). And some of the earlier shows are available on videocassette (click on Discovery Channel Store), so it's possible that "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will turn up on cassette eventually.
9924. Edmund L. Hartmann died on Nov. 28. He was a prolific screenwriter who began his career working on Broadway comedies in the early 1930s, and moved to Hollywood in 1934; he wrote screenplays for comedies and dramas, and as a television writer-producer he created "My Three Sons" for Fred MacMurray. His screenplay credits included the Rathbone/Bruce films "Sherlock Holmes and the Secret Weapon" (1943) and "The Scarlet Claw" (1944).
9925. Further to the item (September 03 #4) on the exhibition on "The Age of Watteau, Chardin, and Fragonard: Masterpieces of French Genre Painting" at the National Gallery of Art in Washington (through Jan. 11), Mary Burke has been to the exhibition and reports that it includes ten paintings by Jean-Baptiste Greuze, one on loan from Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, and others on loan from England, Scotland, Russian, France, and the United States.
9926. The Wessex Press' "From Gillette to Brett" symposium in Indianapolis this month received rave reviews from those who attended; Steve Doyle and Mark Gagen had Edward Hardwicke and Nicholas Meyer as the featured guests, and other speakers included Susan Dahlinger, David Stuart Davies, Paul Herbert, and Gordon Kelley. And (Brad Keefauver has noted) there was a film festival using actual film.
9927. LOONEY TUNES: THE GOLDEN COLLECTION is a four-disk DVD set issued by Warner Home Video (\$64.92); there are 56 of the studio's animated shorts, remastered and restored, plus audio commentary, featurettes, documentaries, and galleries of stills. This offers Sherlockians a chance to own a high quality copy of "Deduce, You Say" (1956) with Daffy Duck as Dorlock Holmes and Porky Pig as Dr. Watkins.
9928. It's always intriguing to find mentions of Sherlock Holmes in unexpected places, such as Peter Schjeldahl's review (in the Nov. 10 issue of The New Yorker) of the exhibition "Rembrandt's Journey: Painter, Draftsman, Etcher" at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. "Rembrandt is a detective," Schjeldahl suggests. "When I look at his pictures, I feel like Dr. Watson stumbling along behind Holmes. Once exposed by the master, mysteries become as plain as day, but I know that, on my own, I would have missed the clues ten times out of ten."
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November 2003 #4

9929. The Long Beach Shakespeare Company is performing Martin Pope's new play "Sherlock Holmes and the Dangerous Game" (an adaptation of "The Illustrious Client") at the Black Box Theatre through Dec. 20; the theater's address is 4250 Atlantic Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90807 (562-997-1494), and their web-site URL is <www.bardintheyard.com>.
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9930. Colin G. Prestige ("Captain Jack Crocker") died on Nov. 12. He was a solicitor, an ardent Gilbert & Sullivan scholar, and an enthusiastic Sherlockian; he was one of the founders of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London and served as its honorary secretary, and (from 1977 to 1980) as its chairman. He received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1961, and the BSI's Queen Victoria Medal (awarded for "outstanding contributions to the quartering of the Union Jack with the Stars and Stripes" in 1967.
9931. Further to the report (May 03 #2) about the continuing battle over Liberton Bank House (where Arthur Conan Doyle once lived as a child), a story in the Edinburgh Evening News (Nov. 22) reports that the city council is planning to give heritage protection to the Craigmillar Park area, which would lead to expanding an existing conservation area to include Nether Liberton, the site of the house. Councillor Fred Mackintosh has led the campaign to prevent McDonald's from demolishing the house to build a restaurant.
9932. Penny Singleton died on Nov. 13. She toured in vaudeville in an act called "The Kiddie Kabaret", sang and danced with Milton Berle, acted on Broadway with Jack Benny, and began her Hollywood film career in 1930; in 1938 she starred in "Blondie" and continued in that role for 12 years 1950 in a long series of films. Watch for "Blondie in Society" (1941) on television: Dagwood Bumstead (Arthur Lake) accepts a Great Dane as payment for a loan, and Blondie says, "Dagwood, you take that Hound of the Baskervilles right back to Mr. Peters."
9933. Reported: SHADOWS OVER BAKER STREET, edited by Michael Reaves and John Pelan (Del Rey/Ballantine; \$23.95); according to the blurb, "Sherlock Holmes enters the macabre and nightmarish world of H. P. Lovecraft" in an anthology of stories by 20 authors. And some paperback reprints: SHERLOCK HOLMES VS. DRACULA, by Loren Estleman (ibooks/Pocket Books, \$6.99); THE DISAPPEARANCE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Larry Millett (Penguin Books, \$6.99); THE BIG FOUR, by Agatha Christie (Berkley, \$5.95) (a Poirot novel from 1927, Sherlockian only for a few amusing echoes from the Canon); SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE GIANT RAT OF SUMATRA, by Alan Vennerman (Carroll & Graf, \$14.00).
9934. And there's a British edition of Laurie R. King's JUSTICE HALL (HarperCollins, £18.99). And her earlier THE BEEKEEPER'S APPRENTICE, A MONSTROUS REGIMENT OF WOMEN, A LETTER OF MARY, and JUSTICE HALL are available in paperback reprints (Bantam Books, \$6.99 each).
9935. Forecast: SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE HAPSBURG TIARA, by Alan Vanneman, from Carroll & Graf in March (\$25.00); according to the blurb, "Winston Churchill calls in Holmes and Watson, charging that Archduke Josef of Austria is an imposter.

December 2003 #1

9936. Further to the item (October 03 #4) about Paul Singleton's plans for a midnight gathering on Friday after the various dinners: plans have changed. Anyone interested in some excellent beer is welcome to gather in the back room at St. Andrew's (120 West 44th Street, between the Avenue of the Americas and Broadway); no reservations required. St. Andrew's is Scottish-themed, and offers 20 beers on tap (mostly English or Scottish) and 110 bottled beers.
9937. "This game's too good for the world's greatest detective to take on alone. Happily, she'll have some help from her husband..." That's the caption on a postcard that Bantam's sending out to publicize Laurie R. King's THE GAME (the next Mary Russell mystery). THE GAME will be in the stores in March, according to Laurie; "It is now 1924, and Russell and Holmes have been sent to the wilds of India's northwest frontier to search for a missing British spy--perhaps the most famous spy of them all, whose boyhood exploits were brought to light by Rudyard Kipling: Kim." You can see the cover artwork at her web-site <www.laurierking.com>, and that's where you'll find a GAME game starting in early January.
9938. The steam launch Aurora was neither the first nor the last vessel to bear that name, and the current Aurora, a P&O superliner, seems to be a ship to avoid: an article in the Weekly Telegraph (Nov. 1), spotted by John Baesch, noted that more than 500 passengers were suffering from a highly contagious stomach virus. The ship was denied permission to dock in Athens, and when it reached Gibraltar, Spain closed its border with the colony for the first time in almost 20 years.
9939. Kelly Blau spotted the murder-mystery cover on the October issue of Dollhouse Miniatures; it's not quite Sherlockian, but the accompanying article will offer ideas for Sherlockian miniaturists. And there's a deerstalker on the desk in the article "I Love a Mystery" about Joann Swanson's miniature of a private investigator's office.
9940. THE COMPLETE ADVENTURES AND MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: A FACSIMILE OF THE ORIGINAL STRAND MAGAZINE STORIES (New York: Gramercy Books, 2001; 326 pp., \$9.99); with an anonymous two page introduction, it's a reprint of the 1975 Clarkson N. Potter edition (and it's less expensive on the discount tables at the chain bookstores).
9941. Further to the item (November 03 #1) about the 100th anniversary of the New York Police Department's bomb squad, created by officer Giuseppe Petrosino, who was known as "Il Sherlock Holmes d'Italia" for his pursuit of the Camorra and Mafia, Jon Lellenberg recalls that Ernest Borgnine starred as Lt. Joseph Petrosino in the movie "Pay or Die" (1960).
9942. Gianluca Salvatori reports that Uno Studio in Holmes is planning their annual meeting for May 21-23, 2004, in Naples, as part of a month-long series of plays and films, an exhibition of Sherlockian rarities, the unveiling of a plaque commemorating Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's visit to the isle of Gaiola (near Posillipo) (or Posilippo), and the revelation of the true identity of Augusto Barelli. You can contact Gianluca at: Casella Postale 140, 55042 Forte dei Marmi (Lucca), Italy <mycroft@versilia.toscana.it>.

December 2003 #2

9943. AND TO THINK THAT I SAW IT ON MULBAKER STREET, written by Warren Randall and illustrated by Laurie Manifold (36 pp., \$10.00 postpaid from the author, at 15 Fawn Lane West, South Setauket, NY 11720-1346); an imaginative and amusing report by Wiggins, who on his irregular routine of going, seeing, and hearing everything, has fallen under the influence of Dr. Suess.
9944. David Hemmings died on Dec. 3. He began his film career in a bit part in 1954 and became famous as the predatory fashion photographer in "Blow-Up" (1966); he starred in "Camelot" (1967), "The Charge of the Light Brigade" (1968), and "Barbarella" (1968), and last film was "The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen" (2003). He played Walter Leybourne/Benjamin Oaks in "The Best House in London" (1969) (the film included cameo appearances by Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson), and Inspector Foxborough in "Murder by Decree" (1979).
9945. Les Klinger suggests that Sherlockians who are in or near Los Angeles rather than in New York for the birthday festivities might wish to attend the UCLA Film and Television Archive screening of "The Great Limejuice Mystery, or Who Spat in Grandfather's Porridge" (1930) on Jan. 14 at 7:30 pm at the James Bridge Theater (on the university campus at 405 Hilgard Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90095) <www.cinema.ucla.edu>. The film's an eight-minute British marionette burlesque of Clive Brook's performance in the title role in "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" (1929); in Britain the title was "Herlock Sholmes in Be-a-Live Crook, or Anna Went Wrong". It will be screened during a "Discovering Anna May Wong" festival that will run Jan. 8-14. Anna May Wong did appear in a Sherlock Holmes film, but some years later, with Reginald Owen, in "A Study in Scarlet" (1933), but that film isn't included in the festival.

9946. The spring 2004 issue of "The Sherlock Times" has arrived from Carolyn and Joel Senter; it's their 16-page catalog, with news and reviews, and offers of Sherlockian books, periodicals, audio, video, calendars, posters, mugs, CDs, statues, and much more. Classic Specialties, Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219 (877-233-3823) <www.sherlock-holmes.com>.
9947. The documentary "Gigantic (A Tale of Two Johns)" (May 03 #4) is now available on DVD (Wea Corp, \$24.95) with more than four hours of extra material; the film is about the rock band "They Might Be Giants" (the two Johns are John Flansburgh and John Linnell, founders of the group that took its name from the 1970 film that featured George C. Scott as a psychotic judge who believes he's Sherlock Holmes).
9948. "Shanghai Knights" (in theaters, and on DVD and videocassette earlier this year, will premier on cable on the Starz channel on Jan. 24; the film stars Jim Fisher as Det. Artie Doyle (aka Arthur Conan Doyle).
9949. Jennifer O'Dell, who played Veronica in the television series "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's The Lost World" (1999), is the "Babe of the Month" in Playboy (Jan. 2004), wearing almost as much as she wore in the series; she's hoping there will be a fourth season filmed in Hawaii (the first three seasons were filmed in Australia). And there's a six-disc DVD set due in January from Image Entertainment (\$59.99) with the first season's shows.

December 2003 #3

9950. "The only explanation that one can advance for the great success of the Holmes stories lies not in their writing, which is bad, nor in their character delineation, which is worse, but in their plot appeal. . . . Holmes was and is a world success not because of himself but simply because he happened to be present when a shudderful hound howled on the dark moor, when a poisonous and terrifying snake crawled down a bellcord, and when a deadly Hindu dart was projected from a blow-pipe." From an essay by George Jean Nathan in the American Mercury (Jan. 1930) that's reprinted in THE WORLD OF GEORGE JEAN NATHAN: ESSAYS, REVIEWS, & COMMENTARY (New York: Applause Books, 1998); spotted and forwarded by someone to whom I apologize for not being able to recognize the handwriting on the accompanying note.
9951. Karen Murdock spotted a story in the Toronto Star (Nov. 15) by Marc Atchison about his stay at the historic Hotel du Louvre in Paris. A plaque installed in the hotel lobby by the Sherlock Holmes Society, the Atchison reports, explains that according to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Sherlock Holmes preferred the Hotel du Louvre to all other Paris properties. Consultation with Thierry Saint-Joanis has revealed that the Sherlock Holmes Societe de France is responsible for the plaque, which states (and quite Canonically) that "Here the international spy Hugo Oberstein was arrested by the police at the request of Sherlock Holmes." The plaque says nothing about the hotel being Holmes' favorite. But Conan Doyle did have a favorite hotel in Paris, Thierry reports: the Hotel Regina, which is not far from the Hotel du Louvre.
9952. LADY COTTINGTON'S PRESSED FAIRY BOOK, illustrated by Brian Froud and written by Terry Jones, was published in 1991 and reprinted in 1994 and 1998 (it won Froud a Hugo Award for original artwork in 1995); these fairies definitely are not the fairies photographed at Cottingley in 1917, nor are they Doylean or Sherlockian, but they're delightful, if your taste in humor runs toward the macabre (Lady Cottington sat patiently with her journal open to a blank page, waited until one or more fairies landed on the page, and then . . . swompppph! or occasionally thromp!). LADY COTTINGTON'S PRESSED FAIRY CALENDAR 2004 (New York: Harry N. Abrams, 2003; \$12.95) has illustrations by Froud, plus some "rare fairy photographs and hitherto unpublished fairy notes," and 69 fairy stickers. There's a web-site <www.worldoffroud.com> with news and views of Froud's work (he lives near Dartmoor, and there's a mention of the Hound of the Baskervilles in the "about Devon" section).
9953. Another calendar has a more direct Doyle connection: Richard Doyle's painting "Triumphal March of the Elf-King" is the illustration for August in THE FAERYLAND CALENDAR 2004 (Barnes & Noble, \$9.95). Richard Doyle was Arthur Conan Doyle's uncle.
9954. Canadian astronomer Simon Newcomb has been suggested before as a possible inspiration for Prof. Moriarty, and Jean-Louis Trudell's article on "Simon Newcomb's Journey" in Canada's National History Society's magazine The Beaver (Dec. 2003-Jan. 2004) offers an excellent summary of his life and career, and a discussion of Conan Doyle and Moriarty. Thanks to Doug Wrigglesworth for a copy of the article; the magazine costs \$6.00 plus postage, and the society's address is 478-167 Lombard Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R3B 0T6, Canada (800-816-6777) <www.historysociety.ca>

December 2003 #4

9955. It has been some years since the Credit Lyonnaise (one of the few banks mentioned by name in the Canon) has been in the news (in this newsletter, at any rate). The Washington Post reported (Dec. 12) that the French government has agreed to pay about \$475 million to avert criminal prosecution of the French bank by the U.S. Justice Department for the alleged secret takeover of a California insurance company that failed more than a decade ago. Much of the money (a total of \$770 million) will be placed in escrow to cover damages if California regulators win an ongoing civil suit against the bank and other defendants.
9956. Julie McKuras found an intriguing Christmas item manufactured by Department 56: their "Naughty or Nice Detective Agency" is a five-piece gift set that includes figures of Santas dressed as Holmes and Watson (item 56.56758, and it costs \$50.00). The problem is that it was limited to 2003 production, and it has been "retired" (no more will be made) and may not be available at all stores. You can see a picture of the item at the company's web-site at <www.department56.com>, and they'll tell you local stores that carry the Department 56 products.
9957. New York magazine ran a nicely illustrated article on "The Place to Be: 100 Years of New York's Hottest Scenes" (Dec. 22), and one of the photographs, taken at the Algonquin, shows Dorothy Parker, James Thurber, Robert Benchley, and other members of the Algonquin Round Table in 1938.
9958. The Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension is putting the final touches on its new headquarters in Saint Paul, according to an article in the Star Tribune (Dec. 7), and there will be 19 stained-glass artworks, all shaped like magnifying lenses and representing each of the crime-solving departments of the BCA. Already in place are large stone sculptures with giant fingerprints and sections of DNA, and a fresco of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.
9959. Paul Herbert gets credit for reporting a Sherlockian connection for Ernie Nevers, one of four old-time football heroes honored on a sheet of stamps this year (the others were Red Grange, Bronko Nagurski, and Watler Camp). Nevers also had an acting career, and he played Bob Collins (one of the good guys) in "The Lost Special" (1932), a 12-chapter serial made by Universal and based (loosely) on Conan Doyle's story. It should be noted that Francis Ford (college professor Botter Hood in the serial), directed and played Sherlock Holmes in "A Study in Scarlet" (1914).
9960. Those who can't see the stamp in the electronic edition of this newsletter can find it at <www.usps.gov>; click on "buy stamps online" and on "stamp issues" and on "early football".
9961. One of the more interesting "professional" Sherlockian societies is the Sir James Saunders Society (for dermatologists); their 31st annual meeting will be held at the Mehak Restaurant in Washington (at 817 7th Street NW), from noon to 2:00 pm on Feb. 9; as usual, there will be a lunch, presentations, and toasts. You need not be a dermatologist to attend; you can send your reservation (and your check for \$30.00, payable to the SJSS) to Don Hazelrigg, 15 Victoria Drive, Newburgh, IN 47630; the deadline is Feb. 2.

December 2003 #5

9962. "After you left I sent down to Stamford's for the Ordnance map of this portion of the moor," Sherlock Holmes said (in almost every edition of "The Hound of the Baskervilles"). Founded by Edward Stanford in 1853 (Watson wasn't aware of the correct spelling), Stanfords celebrated its 150th anniversary this year; thanks to John Baesch for news of THE MAPMAKERS: A HISTORY OF STANFORDS, by Peter Whitfield, with a foreword by Michael Palin (London: Compendium Book, 2003; 128 pp., £14.99).
9963. Jon Lellenberg has reported a new Children's Golden Library edition of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" published by the Daily Mail and available from the paper for £2.60; there will be 25 titles in the hardback collection, of children's classics.
9964. According to Marcel Berlins (in The Times on Dec. 6), Graham Robb "ponders a romantic edge to Sherlock Holmes' feelings for Dr. Watson" in his STRANGERS: HOMOSEXUAL LOVE IN THE 19TH CENTURY (London: Picador, 2003; 400 pp., £18.99); the capsule review was accompanied by a far larger photograph of Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce.
9965. Issue #57 of SHERLOCK has its usual coverage of crime fiction (Sherlockian and otherwise), including Paul M. Chapman's exploration of "Sherlock Holmes in the Underworld", Gavin Collinson's discussion of Ian Richardson's films ("The Glorious Scot"), and the first part of Robert Sanderson's commentary on Sherlockian fantasy ("Planetary, My Dear Watson"). SHERLOCK appears every two months, and a subscription costs £23.70 (to the U.K.)/\$26.00 (continent)/\$40.00 (elsewhere); Box 100, Chichester, West Sussex PO18 8HD, England <www.sherlockholmes.com>. Or you can order from the magazine's American agent: Classic Specialties (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219) (877-233-3823) <www.sherlock-holmes.com>; credit-card orders are welcome at both addresses, and back issues are available.
9966. Ales Kolodrubec reports that the Czech Sherlock Holmes Society and the Museum of the Czech Police will celebrate Sherlock Holmes' 150th birthday with an exhibition at the Museum from Jan. 7 to Feb. 15 (and with a grand opening ceremony at 5:00 pm on Jan. 6). The Museum is at Ke Karlovu Street #1, Prague 2 (center), and additional information is available from Ales (Milesovska 1, 130 00 Praha 3, Czech Republic) <ales@sherlockholmes.cz>.
9967. SHERLOCK HOLMES' PUZZLES OF DEDUCTION, by Tom Bullimore, is back in print, as one of four "match wits with" puzzle books collected in CLASSIC WHODUNITS (New York: Main Street/Sterling, 2003; 275 pp., \$6.98); it's a "special value" item marketed by Barnes & Noble.
9968. The "five orange peeps" (November 03 #2) were sent to many Sherlockians, and Les Klinger has identified the perpetrator: Kevin Reed, who heads The Sinister Ballarat Gang (left-handed Sherlockians), and who generously has credited John Farrell for conceiving the dastardly plan.
9969. If you're more comfortable in Spanish than in English, Video Search of Miami (Box 16-1917, Miami, FL 33116 (888-279-97734) <www.vsom.com> has "Dr. Bell and Mr. Doyle: The Dark Beginnings of Sherlock Holmes" (2000) in English with Spanish subtitles; \$25.00 on VHS or DVD. It's the first show in the series, starring Ian Richardson (Bell) and Robin Laing (Conan Doyle).

December 2003 #6

9970. Wayne Wall ("Holy Peters") died in December. He was for many years the minister at the Metropolitan Baptist Church in West Columbia, S.C., and his Sherlockian specialty was theology; his first article on Canonical religion appeared in The Baker Street Journal in 1973, and his book GOD AND SHERLOCK HOLMES: A STUDY IN THE LIFE AND LITERATURE OF ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE appeared in 1982. He was the founder of The Hansom Wheels and edited their newsletter The Pink 'Un, and he received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1976.
9971. Reported: Howard Engel's MR. DOYLE & DR. BELL (November 97 #3) has been reissued by the Overlook Press (\$24.95); Conan Doyle is still a medical student in Edinburgh, in 1879, involved with Joseph Bell in solving a mystery full of echoes from the decades-later Oscar Slater case.
9972. Forecast for January: SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE RULE OF NINE, by Barrie Roberts, from Severn House (200 pp., \$26.99); published earlier this year in Britain (June 03 #5), it was described by Publishers Weekly (Dec. 15) as "an unmemorable effort."
9973. Reported: Crippen & Landru's "Lost Classics" series includes C. Daly King's THE COMPLETE CURIOUS MR. TARRANT, which offers a collection of stories published in 1935, and additional uncollected stories, one being "The Episode of the Sinister Inventor" (a Tarrant tale written in Watsonian style, reprinted from Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine, Dec. 1946). \$29.00 (cloth) or \$19.00 (paper); the publisher's address is Box 9315, Norfolk, VA 23505 (877-622-665) <www.crippenlandru.com>.
9974. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists met for drinks and dinner on Nov. 5 at the Elephant and Castle in Seattle, during the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America. We were welcomed by members of The Sound of the Baskervilles, and enjoyed the usual (as well as some unusual) toasts, the first of which, as always, being to the world's first forensic geologist, and another being to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who visited Seattle in 1923 with his family and stayed at the New Washington Hotel (it was built in 1903, and was advertised as being the first hotel in the west to have a bath in every bedroom). It had 222 rooms, and still does, although it is now an apartment house called The Josephinum; you can follow in the footsteps of Conan Doyle in the lobby, which has been carefully preserved. The next dinners for Sherlockians and geologists will be held in Dallas in April, and in Denver in November 2004.
9975. Seattle provides funds for a wide variety of municipal art, and Dave Haugen reported on the installation at the corner of 4th and Spring: a wooden panel with eye-holes that appear designed to view the construction of the new downtown library. But the top of the panel states that it's the "Peephole Theatre" and there are two quotations displayed, one from "Jane Austen" and the other "Over the great Grimpen Mire there hung a dense, white fog. . . . 'It's moving towards us, Watson.'" When you look through the eye-hole near the Canonical quote, you'll see a diorama of Holmes, Watson, and fog. The artist is Edie Whitsett, who has a warning on the panel: "Art Hat Area".

January 2004 #1

9976. Those attending this year's birthday festivities in New York enjoyed pleasant weather (unless something other than wintry cold was expected), without a sign of the predicted snow and sleet. The first event was an ASH Wednesday supper at O'Casey's for dedicated enthusiasts, and Thursday's featured the Christopher Morley Walk led by Jim Cox, a rendezvous with other Morley enthusiasts at McSorley's for lunch, and the Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Speaker, John Berendt, who entertained his audience at the Williams Club with witty and intriguing tales about and from his next book.
9977. Friday began with an informal Mrs. Hudson Breakfast at the Hotel Algonquin, and more than 140 people attended the William Gillette Luncheon at Moran's Chelsea Seafood Restaurant, where the Friends of Bogie's (Sarah Montague, Andrew Joffe, Paul Singleton, and Elyse Locurto) performed their Sherlockian version of "The Miracle of Birth". And that afternoon Otto Penzler's open house at the Mysterious Bookshop provided the usual opportunities to browse and buy.
9978. There were more than 170 on hand for the annual dinner of The Baker Street Irregulars at the Union League Club, where Julie Rosenblatt delivered the cocktail-party toast to the Woman: Martha McCormack, who acknowledged the toast with revelations about Irene Adler, and left to dine at the Algonquin with others who have been the Woman. The dinner agenda included the usual toasts and traditions, the Friends of Bogie's with an

- entertaining view of baby Sherlock and his family (with Thierry Saint-Joanis as Grandmere Vernet and John Baesch as young Mycroft), and Ray Betzner's toast to Old Irregular Edward J. Van Lier. The dinner concluded with Sherry Rose-Bond's reading of Bev Wolov's poem to "The Woman".
9979. Mike Whelan (the BSI's "Wiggins") announced the Birthday Honours: Irregular Shillings and Investitures to Gideon Hill ("Jack Prendergast"), Doug Wrigglesworth ("The Retired Colourman"), Michael Ross ("Von Bork"), Bernard Oudin ("Our French Gold"), Francine Kitts ("Lady Hilda Trelawney Hope"), Nicholas Meyer ("A Fine Morocco Case"), and Costa Rossakis ("St. Bartholomew's Hospital"); and the Two-Shilling Award (presented "for extraordinary devotion to the cause beyond the call of duty") to Paul Herbert. And (in the "my blushes" department) I received the Dr. John H. Watson Afghan Campaign Desk ("with grateful appreciation of the many contributions as society secretary, Sherlockian ambassador, and record keeper extraordinaire".
9980. Mike also reported on the creation of The Baker Street Irregulars' Archives at the Houghton Library at Harvard University; the Archives will be administered by The Baker Street Irregulars Trust. Additional details will be forthcoming during 2004 about how Sherlockians will be able to support this important archives with BSI archival material and cash contributions.
9981. There were more than 80 people on hand for the Baskerville Bash at the Manhattan Club, enjoying Victorian (and Canonical) music hall. Audrey Epstein researched the music and songs, and provided the piano accompaniment, and there were performances by characters who included Kitty Winter (aka Elyse Locurto) singing "She Was Poor But She Was Honest" and Isadora Klein (aka Susan Dahlinger) singing Stephen Sondheim's "I Never Do Anything Twice".

January 2004 #2

9982. And for those not quite ready for bed, Paul Singleton presided over a brew-hall get-together at midnight at St. Andrew's, conveniently on 44th Street not far from the Algonquin, with about 40 people present to sample the many varieties of beer available.
9983. On Saturday morning the dealers room at the Algonquin was as usual crowded with sellers and buyers, and at 12:30 The Clients of Adrian Mulliner (devotees of the works of both Watson and Wodehouse) assembled for their Junior Bloodstain, which featured a reading of a Marilyn MacGregor's dramatization of Robert L. Fish's parody "The Adventure of the Odd Lotteries".
9984. The BSI's Saturday-afternoon cocktail party attracted more than 220 people to the National Arts Club, where Mary Ann Bradley introduced ladies who have been honored as the Woman over the years, and Al and Betsy Rosenblatt reported in verse on the events of the previous year and the previous evening. Andy Solberg and Don Pollock shared honors as the winners of the Morley-Montgomery Award (attractive certificates and checks for \$250 each) for the best contribution to The Baker Street Journal last year (their article, as by D. K. Andrews, M.D., on Sigmund Freud, in the autumn issue). And the Dr. John H. Watson Fund benefited from the raffle of Jean-Pierre Cagnat's original artwork showing Holmes and Watson in a Turkish bath, and from enthusiastic bidders in the traditional auction.
9985. The Watson Fund (administered by a carefully anonymous Dr. Watson) offers financial assistance to all Sherlockians (membership in the BSI is not required) who might otherwise not be able to participate in the birthday festivities. The generous donors to this year's auction included Jean Upton (original artwork for a Sherlockian advertisement in Sherlock Holmes: The Detective Magazine), Dorothy Stix (an animation cel from "Snooper and Blabber" that shows Snooper in silhouette in Sherlockian costume), Mel Ruiz (a hand-painting cigar-store sculpture of Sherlock Holmes), and Ken Lanza (a handsome reproduction of one of Jean-Baptiste Greuze's paintings of a young woman).
9986. On Sunday about 45 locals and visiting long-weekenders gathered at the Baker Street Restaurant for a brunch arranged by the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes. And now for next year: for those who wish to plan ahead, the next birthday dinners will be held on Friday, Jan. 7, 2005. If you've been considering participating in the BSI weekend in the Valley of Fear on Oct. 22-24, 2004, there's no room at the inn (or perhaps in the mine), but there is a waiting list.
9987. I've not reported on everything, I hasten to add; if you want more details than I've provided here, there will be much more in The Baker Street Journal, which is published quarterly and costs \$24.95 a year (\$27.50 outside the U.S.), and checks (credit-card payments accepted from foreign subscribers) should be sent to the BSJ (Box 465, Hanover, PA 17331); there's a website at <<http://www.bakerstreetjournal.com>>. There's much of interest at the web-site, including an opportunity to read some of the papers that have won a Morley-Montgomery Award for their authors, and to order copies of the BSI's manuscript series (including this year's THE NAPOLEON BUST BUSINESS AGAIN), some volumes in the BSI's archival-history series, and some of the BSI's Christmas Annuals.

January 2004 #3

9988. New York is not the only place where Sherlock Holmes' birthday is celebrated: The Sherlock Holmes Society of London held its annual dinner on Jan. 10 at the House of Commons, where Simon Brett was the featured guest (speaking on the importance of Conan Doyle and Holmes to all subsequent writers of detective stories), Pam Bruxner was made an honorary member of the Society, and Richard Lancelyn Green received the first Tony Howlett Award (a maquette of John Doubleday's London statue of Holmes, donated by Tony's widow Freda).
9989. Japanese publishers continue to offer a wide variety of Sherlockiana: MURDER, MY DEAR WATSON (edited by Martin H. Greenberg, Jon L. Lellenberg, and Daniel Stashower) has been translated into Japanese by Masamichi Higurashi Tokyo: Hara Shobo, 2003; 400 pp., Y1,800); and he also has translated six stories (Devi/Bruc/RedC/Lady/Dyin/Veil) and written an introduction and explanatory notes for a new volume in the MEITANTEI HOLMES children's paperback series illustrated by Hitoshi Wakana and "Ki" (Tokyo: Kodansha, 2003; 294 pp., Y670). There's also DETECTIVE CONAN: THE PHANTOM OF BAKER STREET in two volumes (Tokyo: Shogakukan, 2002; 208 pp., Y781 each; they're graphic-novel adaptations of a film based on the manga comic-book series created by Goshō Aoyama. And GOLGO 13, by Takao Saito (Tokyo: Leed Sha, 2004; 256 pp., Y524) in his series about Duke Togo, a Japanese comics hero who is one of the best snipers in the world; in this volume he is involved in a dispute between members of the Baker Street Irregulars over the manuscript of "The Speckled Band".
9990. Sara Berger reports that Michael Breuer has built a fine HO-scale model of the SBB/Brunigbahn station in Meiringen, and you can see two views of the model at <www.erlebnisbahn.at/mbm/bruening_2.html>. HO-scale, for those who have never lived in the world of model railroads, is 1:87 (about seven feet to the inch).
9991. Jack French reports that there's a section on "Jane Sherlock of Meet Miss Sherlock" in his new PRIVATE EYELASHES: RADIO'S LADY DETECTIVES, due from BearManor Media in February. "Meet Miss Sherlock" was a 30-minute series about private detective Jane Sherlock that was broadcast by CBS in 1946 and 1947. \$18.95 (plus shipping) from BearManor Media, Box 750, Boalsburg, PA 16827 <www.bearmanormedia.com>
9992. Joan Aiken died on Jan. 4. She wrote more than 100 books over her 50-year career, telling grand tales of mystery and adventure for adults and children, and won an Edgar from the Mystery Writers of America for her novel NIGHT FALL (1970); in 1999 she was made a member of the Order of the British Empire for her contributions to children's literature. And she wrote the article on Arthur Conan Doyle for Richard Cavendish's MAN, MYTH & MAGIC: AN ILLUSTRATION ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE SUPERNATURAL (1970).

9993. The December issue of the quarterly newsletter published by The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota offers news from the collections, Julie McKuras' "100 Years Ago" tribute to cartoonist John McCutcheon, and John Bergquist's "50 Years Ago" discussion of A. Carson ("Deak") Simpson. The newsletter is available from Richard J. Sveum, 111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, 222 21st Avenue South, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455 <sveum001@tc.umn.edu>.

January 2004 #4

9994. 1,001 MORE FACTS SOMEBODY SCREWED UP, by Deane Jordan (Atlanta: Longstreet Press, 1997; 138 pp., \$7.95), is still in print; it has corrections of three Sherlockian "facts" (one of them is "Dr. Watson, pal of Sherlock Holmes, was not shot in the leg. He was shot in the shoulder, according to 'A Study in Scarlet'. Later Doyle wrote that Watson was shot in the leg, perhaps because it is an easier affliction to depict.").
9995. Colonel Sebastian Moran's Secret Gun Club's annual Mongoose Hunt will take place at the Forest Preserve in Wilmette, Ill, at approximately 9:15 am on Sunday, Feb. 29; no firearms are needed, and there will be a breakfast at 10:30 am at Hackney's Restaurant in Glenview, Ill. The Gun Club meets every four years, on Leap Day, and Don Izban has offered to lead his infamous walking tour of Graceland Cemetery after the breakfast. Reservations are required, and more information is available from Elliott Black (2511 Windsor Lane, Northbrook, IL 60062) <elblack@embainc.com>
9996. Don Pollock has discovered a new source of Sherlockian miniature books: Lee Ann Borgia has created 1/12-scale editions of 14 Canonical stories, and you can them at <www.picturetrail.com> (go to member-name leeann1948). Her address is Box 1057, Pennington, NJ 08534 <lborgia993@aol.com>, and she'll be happy to send you a flier in return for a #10 SASE; the stories cost from \$10.00 to \$25.00, plus shipping.
9997. The Christopher Morley Knothole Association's newsletter The Knothole notes two losses in the world of Morley's family and enthusiasts. Blythe Morley Brennan died in mid-2002; she was the daughter of Christopher Morley, and the author (as "Stanley Hopkins, Jr.") of two Morleyan mystery novels, MURDER BY INCHES (1943) THE PARCHMENT KEY (1944). And Helen McK. Oakley died in Jan. 2003; she was one of the founding members of the association, and one of its early presidents, and her biography THREE HOURS FOR LUNCH: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF CHRISTOPHER MORLEY (1976) has a chapter about The Baker Street Irregulars and many other mentions of Sherlock Holmes. The Association keeps Morley's memory alive on Long Island and elsewhere; membership costs \$20.00 a year, and its address is c/o The Bryant Library, Paper Mill Road, Roslyn, NY 11576.
9998. The East Lynne Theater Company will present a staged reading (with live piano accompaniment) of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" on Mar. 5 and 6, during a "Sherlock Holmes Weekend" in Cape May, N.J.; the box-office phone number is 609-884-5898 <www.eastlynnetheater.org>.
9999. "The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen" (based on the comic-book mini-series, with story by Alan Moore) was in theaters last year, with Richard Roxburgh as M (and there's a Canonical connection), and now it's available on DVD from Twentieth Century-Fox Home Video (\$27.98) with extras that include 12 scenes that weren't used in the film.
10000. Dinsdale Landen died on Dec. 29. His first appearance as an actor was at school, as the rear end of a pantomime horse, and he went on to a long career on stage, screen, radio, and television. He was Dr. Watson (with Robert Powell as Holmes) in "A Study in Scarlet" on BBC Radio 4 in 1974, and Sherlock Holmes (with John Moffatt as Watson) in Charles Marowitz's "Sherlock's Last Case" on the BBC World Service in 1987.
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January 2004 #5

10001. Further to the item (December 03 #1) about the GAME game at Laurie R. King's web-site <www.laurierking.com>, the first content has ended; the prizes were signed copies of the first edition and the audio recording, and the winners will be announced in February. And there will be a drawing in March (save your sales receipts for THE GAME), with different interesting prizes.
10002. "The landscape is a genuine Corot," Thaddeus Sholto said (in "The Sign of the Four"), "and though a connoisseur might perhaps throw a doubt upon that Salvator Rosa, there cannot be the least question about the Bouguereau. I am partial to the modern French school." The Sterling & Francine Clark Art Institute in Williamstown, Mass. <www.clarkart.edu> recently acquired a set of Old Master drawings, including an attractive sheet of studies by Rosa, which will be on display through Feb. 16. The Clark Institute also has two Corots ("The Castel Sant'Angelo, Rome" and "Washerwomen in a Willow Grove") and two Bouguereaus ("Nymphs and Satyrs" and "Seated Nude"), so you have a chance to see all three artists in one museum.
10003. Phil Attwell reports that the Queen's New Year's honours list included an OBE (Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) for comedian and writer Roy Hudd, who starred as Sherlock Holmes in "The Newly Discovered Casebook of Sherlock Holmes" (a six-episode series) on BBC Radio 2 in 1999.
10004. Further to the item (May 02 #3) about the publishing firm John Murray having been sold to Hodder Headline, the current John Murray (there has always been a John Murray running the firm) has offered the Murray archives to the National Library of Scotland at a discount: £33.2 million (about £10 million less than the archives' assessed value). The archives contain letters and manuscripts from authors that include Lord Byron, Jane Austen, Charles Darwin, David Hume, John Betjeman, and Arthur Conan Doyle. Thanks to Gary Thaden for spotting the story in The Scotsman (Dec. 29).
10005. THE ORIENTAL CASEBOOK OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Ted Riccardi, published last year at \$24.95 (September 03 #3), is discounted to \$16.95 in the latest catalog from Edward R. Hamilton (Falls Village, CT 06031). And he has a web-site at <www.edwardrhamilton.com>; a search for "sherlock" in the title turned up 23 hits.
10006. And, speaking of Anna May Wong (December 03 #2) there's a new biography by Graham Russell Gao Hodges: ANNA MAY WONG: FROM LAUNDRYMAN'S DAUGHTER TO HOLLYWOOD LEGEND (New York: Palgrave, 2004; 284 pp., \$27.95); with two pages of discussion of the film "A Study in Scarlet" (1933). Carolyn See wrote an interesting (and amusing) review of the book for the Washington Post (Jan. 2); the review should still be available at <www.washingtonpost.com>.
10007. Phil Attwell has reported that BBC 7 Digital Radio aired "Sherlock Holmes with Carlton Hobbs" (a series of ten programs dramatized by Michael Hardwick) in January. The series will repeat in April with new one-minute introductions recorded by Nicholas Utechin, who will do the same for a second series later this year. The electronically-enabled can listen to BBC 7 on the Internet, and you can find more information about this from the BBC at <www.bbc.co.uk>.
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January 2004 #6

10008. GRAVES GATE, by Dennis Burges (New York: Carroll & Graf, 2003; 419 pp., \$25.00), is set in 1922, when Conan Doyle hires an American journalist to investigate a case that turns into a suspenseful tale of supernatural possession.
10009. "Quick, Watson..." is the interim sales-list from Carolyn and Joel Senter, and it offers a nice variety of news, books, jewelry, audio, mugs, and other Sherlockiana. Classic Specialties is at Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219 (887-233-3823) <www.sherlock-holmes.com>.
10010. "Villains in the Canon" is the title of the 23rd annual Sherlock Holmes/Arthur Conan Doyle Symposium, in Dayton on Mar. 14-16; there will be presentations, vendors, a quiz, and a reader's theater event. Additional information is available from Cathy Gill (4661 Hamilton Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45223) <chirpsworth@fuse.net>.
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10011. Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine has continued its long tradition of honoring Sherlock Holmes' birthday: the February issue has a new parody by Arthur Porges ("Stately Homes and the Impossible Shot"), Jon L. Breen's Sherlockian book reviews, and a tribute by editor Janet Hutchings.
10012. Communication (the newsletter of The Pleasant Places of Florida) continues to offer amusing and timely news; the year-end issue offered some interesting recommendations for "eleventh hour shopping" such as "Asteroids by the Dozen" (large or small, spinning clockwise or counterclockwise: the perfect gift for your physics or mathematics professor). \$12.00 a year (\$13.00 overseas) for membership, including a subscription, from Carl Heifetz, 1220 Winding Willow Drive, New Port Richey, FL 34655; if you want just the one issue, that's \$2.00 postpaid.
10013. There's a new society (with a new pin): Scott Monty is HeadLight of The Beacon Society ("supporting educational experiences that introduce young people to the Canon and recognizing exemplary efforts that do so"); they held their annual meeting during the birthday festivities, and the pin is offered in return for a contribution of \$10.00, which you can send to Scott (1836 Columbia Road, Boston, MA 02127) <wsmonty@alum.bu.edu>.
10014. THE GIANT RAT OF SUMATRA, by Daniel Gracely (Pitman: Grandma's Attic Press, 2001; 117 pp., \$13.95); another pastiche "from the lost cases of Sherlock Holmes," notable for some Paget illustrations photo-shopped to match scenes in the story.
10015. MURDER AT THE CHESSBOARD, edited by P. T. Houdunitz, published by Sterling in 2001, has been reprinted by Barnes & Noble (\$8.95); it's an anthology of 43 "whodunit puzzlers" that includes ten Sherlockian puzzles by Tom Bullimore that appeared in his books in the 1990s.
10016. GOOD FOR THE CAUSE: SHERLOCKIANS IN THE NEWSPAPERS, by Karen Murdock, is an interesting review of often erroneous newspaper and magazine articles about Sherlock Holmes and Sherlockian societies; the 20-page pamphlet (Occasional Paper Number 4 from The Bootmakers of Toronto) is available from the author (1212 Yale Avenue SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414) for US \$7.00 postpaid.

January 2004 #7

10017. The comic-book series RUSE ended its run with issue #26 (Jan. 2004; \$2.95), and there was a Sherlockian cover on issue #25 (Dec. 2003). And there's a second issue of ARCHARD'S AGENTS (Nov. 2003). According to the series publisher (CrossGen), RUSE is "Victorian mystery with a fantastic edge"; see their web-site at <www.comicontheweb.com>.
10018. One of the more interesting souvenirs published for the birthday festivities was the "Christmas Annual 2003" edited by John Bergquist for the Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota; the contents include Andrew Malec's article about the Frederic Dorr Steele illustrations for the Limited Editions Club edition of the Canon, and the story is a fascinating one: some of the artwork was recycled from non-Sherlockian stories (now identified), and that's only part of the intriguing history of Steele's work. A few copies of the 62-page pamphlet are available from John Bergquist, 3665 Ashbury Road, Eagan, MN 55122; \$10.00 postpaid (checks payable to the society, please).
10019. Another of the interesting souvenirs distributed during the birthday weekend was the first issue of Canonier's Household Number for Christmas, published by The Dark Lantern League; the 32-page collection of articles written by Horace Harker, Violet Hunter, Mrs. Hudson, and others, is available (free) from Brad Keefauver (4009 North Chelsea Place, Peoria, IL 61614).
10020. The winter issue of The Magic Door (the newsletter published by The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) has another installment in its continuing series of reports on other libraries' special collections: Elizabeth Chenault's discussion of the University of North Carolina's holding, which include two collections of Sherlock Holmes and Sherlockiana, and the Barzun-Taylor Mystery-Detective Collection. Plus the usual news from and about the Conan Doyle collection in Toronto. Copies are available from Doug Wrigglesworth (16 Sunset Street, Holland Landing, ON L9N 1H4, Canada) <dougwrig@sympatico.ca> <www.acdfriends.org/>.
10021. Bob Keeshan died on Jan. 23. He began his on-screen television career as Clarabell the Clown on the "Howdy Doody Show" and went on to star as Captain Kangaroo on the long-running children's series that began in 1955 and continued for decades on CBS-TV. There was a report in 1980 that "Captain Kangaroo" frequently had skits involved a sleuth named Sherlock House and his cohort Dr. Whatsup; are there any recordings of the skits out there?
10022. And a few commercials: a 16-page list of the Investitured Irregulars, the Two-Shilling Awards, the Women, and the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes costs \$1.25 postpaid. An 81-page list of 826 Sherlockian societies, with names and addresses for contacts for 439 active societies, is \$4.70 postpaid. A run of address labels for 359 individual contacts (recommended to avoid duplicate mailings to those who are contacts for more than one society) costs \$10.55 postpaid (checks payable to Peter E. Blau, please).
10023. The list of irregulars and others also is available from me by e-mail (no charge), and both lists are available at Willis G. Frick's "Sherlocktron" home page at <http://members.cox.net/sherlock1/Sherlocktron.html>.

February 2004 #1

10024. The fourth volume in The Baker Street Irregulars Manuscript Series is "THE NAPOLEON BUST BUSINESS AGAIN", edited and with an introduction by William Hyder, offering a facsimile and transcript of the manuscript of "The Adventure of the Six Napoleons", and discussion of the manuscript, some of the dramatizations of the story, Conan Doyle's investment in a machine designed to create multiple copies of sculptures, the Borgias and black pearls, Victorian journalism, Italians in Victorian London, all by knowledgeable Sherlockian scholars. The cost is \$35.00 plus shipping (\$8.00 or \$9.50 outside North America) from The Baker Street Irregulars, Box 1360, Ashcroft, BC V0K 1A0, Canada <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>.
10025. "'The Strength and Activity of Youth': The Junior Sherlockian Movement" is the title of The Baker Street Journal's 2003 Christmas Annual, and it offers a delightful review of what the junior Sherlockians were up to and into in the 1960s and 1970s. It's edited by Steve Clarkson, who has assembled a fine roster of now-somewhat-older Sherlockians who have contributed reminiscences (and some ancient photographs) from their early days. \$11.00 postpaid to the United States (by check) or \$12.00 elsewhere (by check or credit card); and you can also order from the BSJ web-site (see above).
10026. Reported: SHERLOCK HOLMES: SOME UNPUBLISHED CASES, by Robert A. Kisch (from the Institution of Diagnostic Engineers, 7 Wier Road, Kibworth, Leicestershire LE8 0LQ, England) <www.diagnosticengineers.org>; L9.99 plus shipping. "Was Sherlock Holmes a diagnostic engineer?" their web-site asks.
10027. The sixth volume of Leslie S. Klinger's SHERLOCK HOLMES REFERENCE LIBRARY is THE SIGN OF FOUR, with a delightful introduction by Bernard Davies, who offers an essay that is both personal and scholarly (Indianapolis: Gasogene Books, 2004; 121 pp., \$19.95); as in previous volumes, the annotations and appendices are based on Sherlockian scholarship both old and new. The book costs \$22.70 postpaid (or \$25.70 outside the U.S.) from the publisher (Box 68308, Indianapolis, IN 46260).
10028. "Sherlock Holmes and the Clocktower Mystery" (the interactive exhibit with much Victorian flavor, and a mystery that visitors can solve) is now at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History & Science in Albuquerque, through May 9 (505-841-2800) <www.nmmnh-abq.mus.nm.us>.
10029. Peter B. Spivak died on Dec. 8. He served as first chairman and first commissioner of the U.S. Football League and was an owner of 1983 USFL champion Michigan Panthers, and he was elected twice to the Third Judicial Circuit Court of Michigan, and he was an active and enthusiastic member of The Amateur Mendicants of Detroit.

10030. Chris Redmond (523 Westfield Drive, Waterloo, ON N2T 2E1, Canada) has offered copies of his "Sherlock Holmes Reference Card" (1982); it's a convenient bookmark-size list of the stories, Christ's four-letter abbreviations, the first publication dates, and the page numbers in THE ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES. Also "The Mysterious Affair at Great Orme Street" (1988); it's an entertaining essay examining the affair of Mr. Fairdale Hobbs. Send Chris \$1.00 in currency and let him know (either or both) what you need.

February 2004 #2

10031. THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN, VOL. II (Wildstorm/America's Best Comics, \$24.95) is a collection of the six issues of the comic-book mini-series, written by Alan Moore and illustrated by Kevin O'Neill. There's no appearance by "M" (nor anything else Sherlockian), but plenty of Victorian atmosphere and Martian aliens and literary allusions.
10032. Erik Larson's THE DEVIL IN THE WHITE CITY (March 03 #1) is one of five books nominated for an Edgar for Best Fact Crime. The winners will be announced at the Mystery Writers of America annual dinner in New York on Apr. 29.
10033. Issue #58 of SHERLOCK has its usual coverage of crime fiction (Sherlockian and otherwise), including Alan Perry's comparison of Harry Potter and Sherlock Holmes ("Harry Potter: Wizard Detective") and the second part of Robert Sanderson's commentary on Sherlockian fantasy ("Planetary, My Dear Watson"). SHERLOCK is published bimonthly, and subscriptions cost £23.70 (to the U.K.)/£26.00 (continent)/\$40.00 (elsewhere); Box 100, Chichester, West Sussex PO18 8HD, England <www.sherlockholmes.com>. And you can order from the magazine's American agent: Classic Specialties (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219) (877-233-3823) <www.sherlock-holmes.com>; credit-card orders are welcome at both addresses, and back issues are available.
10034. SHERLOCK also has a full page advertisement from Martin Breese, offering to sell Breese Books to potential Sherlockian publishers. Additional information is available from Martin (10 Hanover Crescent, Brighton, East Sussex BN2 9SB, England) <martin@sherlockholmes.co.uk>.
10035. MADAME BOVARY, C'EST MOI, by Andre Bernard (New York: W. W. Norton, 2003; 128 pp., \$19.95), discusses "the great characters in literature and where they came from," and (of course) Sherlock Holmes is included.
10036. Christopher and Barbara Roden have added three new titles to list of Sherlockiana published by their Calabash Press (Box 1360, Ashcroft, BC V0K 1A0, Canada) <www.ash-tree.bc.ca/calabash.html>. The oldest, and perhaps most unusual, item is THE QUESTIONABLE PARENTAGE OF BASIL GRANT, by R. Bostoun Cromer, originally published in The Monthly Review (July 1905) and now reprinted as a 27-page pamphlet with an introduction by Jack Adrian. It's a wide-ranging literary parody, written by D. K. Broster and M. Croom Brown and published under a pseudonym, and Andrew Lang, Arthur Conan Doyle, Robert Louis Stevenson, and G. K. Chesterton are only a few of the authors who works are parodied. CA\$10.00/US\$7.50/£5.00 plus postage.
10037. Barbara Roden's 'I AM INCLINED TO THINK...': MUSINGS ON SHERLOCK HOLMES AND ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE is a collection of essays published from 1988 to 2001 in S'ian and D'ean periodicals, on topics that range from Saucy Jack to Oliver Onions to "The Captain of the Pole-Star". CA\$13.00/US\$10.00/£7.50.
10038. And VIOLETS & VITRIOL: ESSAYS ABOUT SHERLOCK HOLMES AND CONAN DOYLE, edited by Susan Dahlinger, is an imaginative tribute to the role of women in the Sherlockian world, from 1903, when an editor of The Bookman first used the word "Sherlockian" (describing a lady who had written a letter commenting on Carolyn Wells) to current scholarship. All the authors are women, from many nations and continents; some of the articles are reprints, but most of them are new, and all are interesting. CA\$30.00/US\$23.00/£15.00.
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February 2004 #3

10039. Mollie Hardwick died on Dec. 13. She joined the BBC as a radio announcer in 1940 and in 1946 moved to their drama department, where she met and married Michael Hardwick. Mollie wrote mysteries, novelizations of television classics such as "Upstairs, Downstairs", THE WORLD OF UPSTAIRS, DOWNSTAIRS, and Sherlockian poems; and with her husband wrote a 30-minute radio program ("The Man Who Was Sherlock Holmes") about Sir Arthur Conan Doyle for the BBC in 1963 and dramatized some of the Peter Cushing "Sherlock Holmes" shows broadcast by BBC-1 in 1968.
10040. Undershaw, the home that Conan Doyle built in Hindhead in Surrey, is now a hotel and restaurant, and the Independent's restaurant critic Richard Johnson has reported (Feb. 7) on a recent visit: the food was enjoyable and inexpensive (about £30 for two without drinks) and the atmosphere pleasant, although there's little left in the house from Sir Arthur's times. The Observer's restaurant critic Jay Raynor reviewed the restaurant earlier (Jan. 25) and recommended it, describing the house as a "huge lump of Victorian Gothic." Johnson called it an "Arts and Crafts house, built of red brick and tile." One wonders about Victorian Gothics enjoying Arts and Crafts.
10041. The U.S. Postal Service has continued its "Chinese New Year" series, honoring the Year of the Monkey, and the Canon has many mentions of monkeys; one of them is "It was the monkey, not the Professor, whom Roy attacked, just as it was the monkey who teased Roy." ("The Adventure of the Creeping Man").
10042. Further to the report (March 03 #6) on plans for a film starring Malcolm McDowell as Holmes and Christopher Lee as Moriarty, the planners are still at work planning: Randall Stock spotted an interview in the Toronto Star (Jan. 30) with McDowell, who was in Toronto for its international film festival. "I'm supposed to be doing Sherlock Holmes to his Moriarty. But he can't do it now, because of this 'Star Wars' thing he's doing." McDowell then imitated Lee's formal British accent: "I kahnt do it now, we'll have to do it next year. When will you be free? We want you to do it."
10043. The Modern Library has published THE LOST WORLD (2003, 227 pp., \$8.95) with an introduction by Michael Crichton and notes by Julia Houston. It's taken almost ten years since Crichton's own THE LOST WORLD was published, for him to comment at length on Conan Doyle's book, and the commentary is insightful and interesting. "Conan Doyle did something far more influential than invent a character," Crichton suggests, "he invented a particular kind of fantasy story, and demonstrated a successful way to tell it."
10044. Cator Court, one of the many candidates as the inspiration of the original of Baskerville Hall, is for sale. Russ Mann spotted a notice in the [Plymouth] Western Morning News (Feb. 14), describing the house as having three reception rooms, a conservatory, a study, four bedrooms, two bathrooms, a two-bedroom cottage wing, mature gardens, landscaped grounds, two paddocks, and stabling, on 12 acres; the agents are quoting a "guide price in the region of £1.2 million. Cator Court is located in Widecombe, in Dartmoor National Park, and it was Bernard Davies who identifies it as a Baskerville Hall contender in "Radical Rethinks on Hound and Horse" (the guidebook for the Sherlock Holmes Society of London's expedition to Dartmoor in 2002).
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February 2004 #4

10045. "Conan Doyle and Harry Houdini: A Spirited Friendship" is the title of Daniel Stashower's talk at the Library of Congress in Washington on Mar. 17 at 12:10 pm in the Madison Building (room LMG-45 on the ground floor); the talk will be presented by the Library of Congress' Professional Association's "What If... Science Fiction & Fantasy Forum" and copies of Dan's TELLER OF TALES and THE FLOATING LADY MURDER will be available for purchase. And of course he will be happy to sign his books.
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10046. "Sherlock and Shaw: The Adventure of the Missing Vampire Diaries" is a new play by Audrey Hampton, scheduled at the Gorilla Theatre in Tampa, Mar. 4-21. According to a story in Playbill <www.playbill.com>, spotted by Pat Ward, the play is set in London in the 1880s, and producer William Terriss has been murdered outside the stage door of the Lyceum Theatre [that really happened]. "The blood has been drained out of him. . . . Henry Irving's business partner, Bram Stoker, had given Terriss a copy of his manuscript 'Vampire Diaries', and now the papers have disappeared. . . . George Bernard Shaw hires master sleuth Sherlock Holmes to track down the sanguinary killer." The theater is at 4419 North Hubert Avenue, Tampa, FL 33614 (813-879-2914) <www.gorillatheatre.com>.
10047. Arnie Matanky died on Jan. 5. He began his career in journalism in 1947 at the Chicago Sun, and in 1956 founded the Near North News, which he edited and published for more than 40 years. He was an enthusiastic member of the Sherlockian world in Chicago, and a philatelist who delighted in his collection of stamps showing people and places mentioned in the Canon, and of course made sure his newspaper reported often on Sherlock Holmes and Sherlockians.
10048. Pat Ward spotted a report by Peter Filichia at <www.theatermania.com> on Feb. 16 that offers some nice background information on the musical "Baker Street" (1965), and an explanation of why there is no CD of the original cast album: Decca Broadway, which now owns the MGM catalog, can't find the original contracts, and company lawyers are worried about being sued.
10049. Welcome news for Jeremy Brett fans: Warner Home Video has issued a two-DVD set of "My Fair Lady" (\$26.00) with a new high-definition transfer from the 1994 restoration; the added-value material includes the documentary "More Lovely Than Ever: The Making of 'My Fair Lady'" narrated by Brett, and the recently discovered test sequences of Audrey Hepburn singing "Wouldn't It Be Lovely" and "Show Me" (Marnie Nixon dubbed Hepburn's songs in the final version of the film). Alas, there was no similar discovery of tests with Brett doing his own singing (it was in the documentary that Brett first admitted that he was dubbed by Bill Shirley).
10050. Reported: RAFFLES: THE AMATEUR CRACKSMAN, by E. W. Hornung, with an introduction by Richard Lancelyn Green (London: Penguin Classics, 2003, 240 pp., £7.99); Richard's introduction includes discussion of the stories literary context, and the relationship between Raffles and Holmes.
10051. Bjarne Nielsen's Sherlock Holmes Museet Antikvariatet is open again, at a new address (Egebjergvej 206, 4500 Nykøbing Sj., Denmark), and he has sent a new catalog of Sherlockian books (his last, since he has decided to move his business to his web-site) <www.sherlockiana.net>.

February 2004 #5

10052. "Thank you for the card about THE EYE OF OSIRIS. I don't want any book I can't put on my bookshelves that is not equal in appearance to the COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES you sent." From a letter from the writer (and collector) Raymond Chandler to a bookdealer in 1949, advertised ten years ago by Kenneth W. Rendell for \$3,500.
10053. The winter 2004 issue of the Tonga Times offers a rare one-on-one interview with Tonga, news from the world of miniatures, and a colorful photograph of Nancy Garces' model of the reconstruction of the sitting-room at the Chateau de Lucens in Switzerland. Membership in the society includes the newsletter, and the cost is \$10.50 a year (or \$11.50 to Canada or \$13.50 elsewhere) from Trish and Jay Pearlman (1656 East 19th Street #2-E, Brooklyn, NY 11229) <hometown.aol.com/miniingosociety/mini1.htm>.
10054. Paul Robeson has been honored on the new stamp in the U.S. Postal Service's "Black Heritage" series, and yes, there's a Sherlockian connection for Paul Robeson, reported by Jim Vogelsang: in the British film "The Big Fella" (1937), Robeson (as Joe) is asked by the police to help find a missing boy, and when he explains this to a friend, his companion replies, "Mr. Joe blinkin' Sherlock, head of the lost kid department."
10055. One of the more interesting things that Sherlockian societies do is engage in a bit of propaganda, and a fine way to explain to people how much fun is to be found in the sometimes strange world of Sherlock Holmes and Sherlockians is to present programs at local libraries; members of Watson's Tin Box will do that on Mar. 25 (from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm) in the Miller Branch Library in Ellicott City, Md. (characters from the Canon will appear to share some experiences with and opinions about Sherlock Holmes). The library's telephone number is 410-313-1950 (in case you need directions).
10056. Sherlock Holmes appears in "Humpty Dumpty: Did He Fall? Or Was He Pushed?" in Victor G. Ambrus' DRACULA'S BEDTIME STORYBOOK (Oxford University Press, 1982), one of two books collected as DRACULA'S OMNIBUS (1983); Ambrus has written and illustrated his own version of the saga, with great humor and delightfully grotesque artwork.
10057. "Concerning the Spiritual in Photography" is an exhibit at the Photographic Resource Center at Boston University through Mar. 14, displaying contemporary art and historical spirit photographs and ephemera from the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center at the University of Texas (Austin), including photographs of Arthur Conan Doyle and Harry Houdini and the Boston medium Mina (Margery) Crandon). Thanks to Randall Stock for spotting a report on the exhibit; the Center is located at 832 Commonwealth Avenue in Boston (617-875-0600) <www.bu.edu/prc/spirit.html>.
10058. Gideon Hill has noted the web-site promotion for the 2004 edition of Whitaker's Almanack <www.whitakers-almanack.co.uk>: "Published annually in Britain since 1868, Whitaker's Almanack is the ultimate single-volume reference source. Such is its reputation that a copy of the 1878 edition was included in the time capsule beneath Cleopatra's Needle, and Sherlock Holmes used it when deciphering a code in *The Valley of Fear*."

February 2004 #6

10059. Harry Bartell died on Feb. 26. He acted on stage, screen, radio, and television (he worked on 185 radio series and 77 television series), and he was the genial announcer for "The New Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (with Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce) in the 1945-46 season. He also provided interesting commentary for the audiocassette series produced by Ken Greenwald and distributed by Simon and Schuster from 1988 to 1994, and he wrote a delightful series of columns for an old-time radio web-site <www.lofcom.com/nostalgia/columns/struts>; click on "On Auditions" to read his story about how he auditioned for the Sherlock Holmes series.
10060. Beaten's Christmas Annual has been published for 21 years by The Sound of the Baskervilles (the Sherlockian society in Seattle), and the latest issue includes warm tributes to long-time member Frank Darlington, and other material by the society's members. The 45-page booklet is available from David Haugen, 3606 Harborcrest Court NW, Gig Harbor, WA 98332; \$5.00 postpaid (\$6.00 outside the United States).
10061. The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes began publishing a newsletter in 1975, and it quickly involved into the journal The Serpentine Muse, which continues to offer news about the ASH as toasts and presentations at the dinners, and papers submitted to the Muse. And now Susan Z. Diamond and Marilynne McKay have edited an anthology, SERPENTINE MUSE-INGS (Indianapolis: Gasogene Books, 2004; 163 pp., \$19.95), that offers a fine and nicely decorated look at what the ASH (and their friends) have been up to. It's available from the publisher (Box 68303, Indianapolis, IN 46268); \$23.70 postpaid (to the U.S.), \$25.70 (elsewhere). If you want to know more about the Adventuresses, their web-site is at <www.ash-nyc.com>.
10062. Maurice F. Neville's collection will be sold at auction at Sotheby's in New York in two parts, on Apr. 13 and Nov. 16. And it's a fine collection indeed (Neville is a book dealer as well as a collector): the highlights include the first 40 pages (in two exercise books) of the manuscript of "The Adventure of the Solitary Cyclist" (the last two pages, in a third exercise book, are owned by another collector); and the original artwork for Sidney Paget's

illustration of Holmes and Moriarty grappling at the Reichenbach. The manuscript is estimated at \$150,000-200,000 and the artwork at \$50,000-75,000 (the two Sherlockian items will be in the second sale on Nov. 16).

10063. The catalog's not yet up at the web-site, but other items include a ninepage letter from Charles Dickens to Washington Irving, and Hemingway's THE OLD MAN AND THE SEA inscribed to Spencer Tracy. Sotheby's is at 1334 York Avenue, New York, NY 10021 <www.sothebys.com>.
10064. Michael Chabon, who won a Pulitzer Prize for his novel THE AMAZING ADVENTURES OF KAVALIER & CLAY (April 01 #3), was ten years old when he wrote, trying for Conan Doyle's style, a story about Sherlock Holmes meeting Captain Nemo. And now he has written an intriguing mystery story ("The Final Solution"), set on the Sussex Downs and in London in the summer of 1944, that features an aged beekeeper detective; it was published in The Paris Review (summer 2003), and it will be included in his TALES OF MYSTERY AND IMAGINATION, forthcoming from Fourth Estate.

March 2004 #1

10065. Russ Mann spotted the story in Newsday (Mar. 6), about a foolish gunman who attempted to rob a man who was visiting his mother in the East Village; the intended victim was a federal agent who works for the Bureau of Diplomatic Security, and who pulled out his wallet with one hand and his weapon with the other hand. The robber, critically hurt but expected to survive, has three prior convictions and served time for each one; he was paroled in October after serving six and a half years for weapons possession. When he began serving his most recent sentence he told prison authorities his name was Sherlock Holmes.
10066. The Parallel Case of St. Louis will hold its second "Holmes Under the Arch" symposium on May 20-22, 2005; their first symposium took place in 1999, and it was quite successful. Their mailing list is maintained by Barbara Roscoe (7101 Mardel, St. Louis, MO 63109) <sherlock-holmes@sbcglobal.net>.
10067. Tom Dunn is the editor and publisher of The Pipe Smoker's Ephemera, an irregular quarterly published for The Universal Coterie of Pipe Smokers, and of course the Coterie has many Sherlockian members. The latest issue (winter-spring 2004) includes a report on Dunhill's decision to resume production (in 2003) of their oversized "magnum" briars for the first time since 1939. Dunhill's press release noted that one of the earliest examples of such an oversized pipe is a shell-finish classically-shaped bent billiard that was fitted with a sterling silver band engraved for a 1921 presentation to H. A. Saintsbury, celebrating his 1,200th performance as Sherlock Holmes. The pipe was eventually owned by Stanley MacKenzie, and was in his collection when it was sold at auction in 1995. The current issue of the Ephemera is the 40th, with 116 pages; Tom's address is 2037 120th Street, College Point, NY 11356.
10068. "The Cottingley Fairies Dupe Sir Arthur Conan Doyle" is the cover blurb on the May issue of British Heritage, promoting Bruce Heydt's article "The Adventure of the Cottingley Fairies". \$5.99; 741 Miller Drive SE #D-2, Leesburg, VA 20175 <www.britishheritage.com>.
10069. THE PARTIAL ART OF DETECTION, edited by Balaji Narasimhan (Tokyo: Shosho-in Press, 2003; 32 pp., \$8.00), offers 235 quotes from the Canon, identified by story and indexed for subjects from "alternative" to "wrong"; the author is a journalist in India and an active Sherlockian, and this is his interim attempt at creating Sherlock Holmes' THE WHOLE ART OF DETECTION. Available from Classic Specialties (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219) (887-233-3823) <www.sherlock-holmes.com>.
10070. It was Steve Clarkson who first reported (in The Passengers' Log, published by The Sydney Passengers) in 1998 on Sherlock Homes, a then-new residential development in southeastern Carroll County, Maryland. The development now is called Sherlock Holmes Estates, and the residents live in rather expensive (upper six figures) houses on Conan Doyle Road, Elementary Drive, Watson Court, Hudson Drive, Sherlock Holmes Street, Baskerville Drive, Mycroft Street, and Silver Blaze Drive. The development is in Sykesville, and you can find the streets easily using <www.mapquest.com>. There's also a Sherlock Homes Estates in West London <www.sherlockhomesestates.com>.

March 2004 #2

10071. The Red Circle of Washington keeps a careful watch for politicians who are familiar with the Master Detective's abilities. A story in The Hill (Feb. 11), reports that Sen. Arlen Specter (R-Penn.), a former prosecutor whose resume includes both the Warren Commission and the Water-gate investigation, has his own ideas about who sent ricin to Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist's (R-Tenn.) office last week and who mailed anthrax-laced letters to then-Majority Leader Tom Daschle in the days after the Sept. 11 attacks. "I think it was the same guy," he said. "I see him as a potential serial offender. Now he's going after Frist, so there's a pattern." But after floating his theory, Specter seemed to make light of his own gumshoe abilities. "They put Sherlock and me on the case, we'll solve it in a matter of ten days," he said.
10072. "Manga" are the graphic novels that have been popular in Japan for many years, and they're now becoming popular here in English translations. Ratana Ngin has noted THE KINDAICHI CASE FILES: THE MUMMY'S CURSE, with story by Yozaburo Kanari and art by Fumiya Sato (Los Angeles: TOKYOPOP, 2003; 252 pp., \$9.99); the Sherlockian frontispiece is unrelated to the story, but a good example of the manga style. The publisher's web-site <www.tokyopop.com> offers a good look at manga series.
10073. Further to the report (September 03 #8) on MCLEVY: THE EDINBURGH DETECTIVE (2001) and MCLEVY RETURNS: FURTHER DISCLOSURES OF THE EDINBURGH DETECTIVE (2002), there's a companion volume: THE MCGOVAN CASEBOOK: EXPERIENCES OF A DETECTIVE IN VICTORIAN EDINBURGH, by James McGovan [a pseudonym used by William Crawford Honeyman] (Edinburgh: Mercat Press, 2003; 198 pp., £9.99); the McGovan memoirs, published from 1878 to 1884 to great acclaim, may well have been read by Conan Doyle during his years as a student in Edinburgh.
10074. Paul Winfield died on Mar. 7. He launched his acting career as a contract player at Columbia Pictures in 1966, and went on to award-winning roles on stage and in films and television, and was nominated for an Oscar for his work in "Sunder" (1972). He participated in a reading of "Sherlock Holmes and the Hands of Othello" (1987) in Los Angeles in 1999, and according to playwright Alex Simmons, Winfield "did a sterling and dignified performance as the ghost of Ira Aldridge (a real-life 'Negro tragedian' actor from the 1880s)."
10075. Fans of Michael Kurland's Moriarty pastiche THE GREAT GAME (2001) who have been waiting impatiently for the sequel THE EMPRESS OF INDIA, Michael reports that it "is being finished even now," and that his second anthology SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE HIDDEN YEARS is scheduled late this year from St. Martin's Press, with stories by Dick Lupoff, Bill Pronzini, Peter Beagle, and others. He has a web-site at <www.michaelkurland.com>.

March 2004 #3

10076. Jim Hillestad runs The Toy Soldier (1343 Paradise Falls, Cresco, PA 19326 <www.the-toy-soldier.com>); it's both a shop and a museum, and he has many dioramas and other displays (and of course Holmes and Watson are on display, and for sale). His newest diorama is "The Adventure of Repulse Bay" (60" x 30") featuring a 50" battleship "Britannia" docked in Hong Kong Harbor; "On board are Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson, who have come to foil the opium dealings of Professor Moriarty--you can see him lurking in the shadows of the crowded streets." And crowded they are: there are more than 200 figures (including Holmes, Watson, and Moriarty).

10077. Mike Berdan has reported on his visit to Dinosaur State Park in Rocky Hill, Conn.: the park is devoted to displays of dinosaur footprints (no one has found anything other than footprints in the Connecticut Valley), and one of the signs states: "There is no branch of detective science so important and so neglected as the art of tracing footsteps." The quote is attributed to A. Conan Doyle 1891/Study in Scarlet.
10078. DISNEY ANIMATION: THE ILLUSION OF LIFE, by Frank Thomas and Ollie Johnston (New York: Abbeville Press, 1981), is a fascinating book (written by two of Disney's original "nine old men"); it's a coffee-table volume with 575 pages and 489 full-color plates, and although it was published too early for a discussion of "The Great Mouse Detective" (1986), it does offer some information for fans of Basil Rathbone: when "The Jungle Book" was being developed, they decided that Shere Khan should be an aristocratic, regal monarch "reminiscent of Basil Rathbone." But when the time came to record a voice, "we felt that the intellectual refinement in a voice like Rathbone's would no longer be quite right," and "found the perfect combination of traits in the voice of George Sanders."
10079. Prescott's Press, published by The Three Garridebs, offers a nice mixture of scholarship and whimsy, including Warren Randall's amusing lyrics for "The Irregular March of Michael Whelan's Band" (to be sung to the tune of "MacNamara's Band"). Subscriptions cost \$14.00 for four issues (\$16.00 to Canada, \$18.00 elsewhere), from Warren (15 Fawn Lane West, South Setauket, NY 11720).
10080. Martin Booth died on Feb. 12. He was a poet and a teacher, and then a successful novelist, and a publisher and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature. His biography THE DOCTOR, THE DETECTIVE, AND ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE was published in Britain in 1997 and in the United States in 2000, and was well received.
10081. Further to the report on Hodder Headline's acquisition of John Murray (May 02 #3), when John Murray (the seventh of that name to head the firm) said that its archives (which include quills used by Dickens and locks of hair of Byron's lovers) would be preserved, the National Library of Scotland announced on Mar. 2 that it will acquire the archives for just over £33 million, considerably less than the assessed value of £45 million; the Murray family will create a charitable trust that will use the proceeds from the sale to preserve, explore, and expand the collection, and is pleased that it "is going home" (the first John Murray was born in Edinburgh). Murray's archives include its correspondence with its authors, one of which was Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

March 2004 #4

10082. More politics: Laura Kuhn has reported the remarks by Rep. Phil Gingrey (R-Ga.) on Mar. 9 about a joint resolution that would express the sense of Congress that Kids Love a Mystery [a program sponsored by the Mystery Writers of America] "promotes literacy and should be encouraged." Gingrey said: "Whether it is Sherlock Holmes or Dick Tracy or Harry Potter or my childhood favorite, the Hardy Boys mysteries, our support for reading and writing mystery books is a worthy cause."
10083. I don't necessarily report on the most important news first, and for those who have been reading impatiently in search of information about the upcoming auction of Conan Doyle material at Christie's salesroom in King Street, London, on May 19, here's the story: there was a flurry of publicity in the media starting on Mar. 14, when the Sunday Times broke the news that Conan Doyle archival material that had been owned by Adrian, and then by his widow Anna, and by Anna's heirs, is being sent to auction by her heirs. Much (and perhaps all) of the material is described briefly by John Dickson Carr in the "Biographical Archives" section at the end of his biography of Conan Doyle, but the auction will not have all of the material described by Carr.
10084. The archival material in the auction is interesting indeed: the name plate that he set up outside his medical practice in Southsea in 1882 (estimate £10,000-15,000); three Southsea notebooks that include his sketch for "A Study in Scarlet" (estimate £100,000-150,000); a Norwood notebook in which he wrote "Killed Holmes" (estimate £20,000-30,000); research notes and diaries; correspondence with notables such as Oscar Wilde, Theodore Roosevelt, Winston Churchill, W. G. Grace, and P. G. Wodehouse; the gold medal he had struck for his wife shortly before his death, engraved "To the best of nurses" (estimate £800-1000); and much more. Christie's estimates the total value of the material at £2 million.
10085. Christie's web-site at <www.christies.com> has some information (and will have more soon, and eventually a display of the catalog); to find the press release about the auction, click on "About Christie's" and "Press Center" and search for press releases for May 2004 and click on "Read" at 19 May. The material will be on view at Christie's salesroom at Rockefeller Center in New York from Mar. 30 to Apr. 1, and at King Street in London from May 14 on until the auction on May 19 (and there will be an evening of readings on "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle--The Man Revealed" on May 18). Sorry about the short notice about the viewing in New York; I posted a message about this to The Hounds of the Internet earlier this month, and I hope that the news spread quickly and widely.
10086. The text of the two stories in the Sunday Times is available at the Sherlock Holmes Society of London's web-site at <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk>: Click on "News Archive" and then "Conan Doyle's secret plan for troops in armour".
10087. Reported: THE NIGHT ORCHID: CONAN DOYLE IN TOULOUSE, by Jean-Claude Dunyach Encino: Black Coat Press, 2004; 280 pp., \$20.95); a collection of stories, translated from the French. In the title story "Arthur Conan Doyle takes Professor Challenger to the south of France, where he encounters the famous Professor Picard, Irene Adler, and an ancient horror." The publisher's address is Box 17270, Encino, CA 91416 <www.blackcoatpress.com>.

March 2004 #5

10088. David Stuart Davies reports that his new novel THE VEILED DETECTIVE will be published by Robert Hale in London on Apr. 29 (240 pp., £18.99); the dust-jacket blurb says that the book "takes a fresh, exciting and controversial look at the relationship between the great detective Sherlock Holmes, his friend and chronicler, Doctor John H. Watson, and Professor Moriarty." The book can be pre-ordered at Amazon, and it's also offered (£17.99) at the SHERLOCK web-site <www.sherlockholmes.com>.
10089. Bouchercon 2004 ("Murder Among the Maples") will be held in Toronto on Oct. 7-10, organized by Al Navis <www.bouchercon2004.com>. Bouchercon 2005 will take place in Chicago on Sept. 1-4, organized by Deen Kogan and Sonya Rice <www.boucherconworld.org>. And Bouchercon 2006 ("A Prairie Plot") will be held in Madison on Sept. 28-Oct. 1, organized by Al Abramson and Mary Helen Becker <www.bouchercon.com>.
10090. You can listen to two versions of Mark Haddon's novel THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME: the American version, read by Jeff Woodman, was issued by Recorded Books on CDs (\$24.99) and audiocassettes (\$19.99); and British version, read by Ben Tibber, was issued by Random House Audiobooks on CDs (£16.99) and audiocassettes (£12.99).
10091. William S. Dorn's COOKING FOR SHERLOCK HOLMES AND DR. WATSON: BRITISH RECIPES FOR TWO PERSONS is sufficiently up-to-date to have nutritional values for each of the 60 recipes, many of them (including ships biscuits, toad in the hole, and Sussex fritters) not found in more traditional cookbooks; it is spiral-bound to open flat, with coated pages to allow spills to be wiped off easily, and the postpaid cost is \$23.80 (to the U.S.)/\$24.35 (Canada)/ \$24.40 (elsewhere). Bill's address is 2045 South Monroe Street, Denver, CO 80210 <www.thesherlockholmesstore.com>.

10092. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists will meet for drinks and dinner, in honor of the world's first forensic geologist, at 7:00 pm on Apr. 21, at La Calle Doce Ristaurante in Dallas during the annual meeting of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists. Our tradition discourages scholarly papers, slide shows, and quizzes (our agenda consists entirely of toasts, some scholarly, but many not). The restaurant is at 415 West 12th Street, and locals and visitors are welcome.
10093. Catching up with news from last year: Rebecca Eaton, executive producer of the long-running PBS-TV series "Masterpiece Theatre" and "Mystery!", is an honorary OBE [Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire]; the award was presented to her by the British ambassador in Washington on Dec. 10. The OBE is awarded to people who have made an important contribution to British interests, and people who are not British citizens receive honorary OBEs; Eaton was honored for "her services to Anglo-American film and television."
10094. EARTH COLORS, by Sarah Andrews (New York: St. Martin's Minotaur, 2004; 304 pp., \$23.95), is the latest title in her continuing series about forensic geologist Em Hansen; Sarah travels for book events that include a dinner on Apr. 22 in Mount Joy, Pa., at Bube's Brewery (which is in a limestone cave 44 feet underground). Details on this and other events, and on her books, and on Sarah, are available at her web-site <www.sarahandrews.net>.
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March 2004 #6

10095. For those who like captivating opening sentences in books, here is a fine example: "It was a dramatic setting for a human sacrifice, give my murderer credit." And it's not until you're well into the book that you discover just how Mary Russell has become a candidate for human sacrifice. In Laurie R. King's THE GAME (New York: Bantam Books, 2004; 368 pp., \$23.95), she tells a story that's set in 1924, when Mycroft Holmes has sent Mary and her husband to India in search of Kimball O'Hara, betterknown to the world as Kim. "He's real, then? Kipling's boy?" Mary asked. "As real as I am," said Sherlock Holmes. The novel is an excellent continuation of the Mary Russell series, written with style and humor, and interesting characters and plenty of adventure.
10096. Further to the report (November 02 #2) on a film based on Allan Knee's play "The Man Who Was Peter Pan" (about how J. M. Barrie was inspired to write "Peter Pan"), "J. M. Barrie's Neverland" film is scheduled for release by Miramax on Oct. 22, starring Johnny Depp as Barrie, Ian Hart as Conan Doyle, Dustin Hoffman as Charles Frohman (who also produced William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes"), Julie Christie, and Kate Winslett. Ian Hart was Watson in Richard Roxburgh's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (2002); Hart isn't the first actor to play both Watson and Conan Doyle, but the list is quite short.
10097. Mycroft's League is planning "A Practical Symposium on Sherlock Holmes and the U.S. Constitution, with Observations on the Segregation of Her Majesty, the Queen" in Philadelphia on May 8. The "investigation into the Constitution, Sherlock Holmes, and the Anglo-American Union" will feature a morning session at the National Constitution Center on Independence Mall, lunch, a chance to tour Independence Hall, the Library Bell Pavilion, and the Betsy Ross House, and a guided tour of Christopher Morley's Colonial Philadelphia led by Frank Ferry. The deadline for reservations is Apr. 30, and more information is available from Gideon D. Hill <gideonhill221@earthlink.net>.
10098. Chris Redmond spotted the story in the Toronto Star (Mar. 23) about politicians and cormorants (alas, there's no mention of a lighthouse): the province of Ontario is under fire for its plan to authorize shooting of almost 7,000 double-breasted cormorants in Presqu'ile Provincial Park. According to Thomas Walkom's column, the birds' alleged crime is that they often kill the trees in which they nest, but their real crime is that they've made enemies in the lucrative sport fishing industry.
10099. It has been some months since Stephen Rullman posted to the Hounds of the Internet about the custom-built carriages available from the Justin Carriage Works (7615 South M-66, Nashville, MI 49073) <www.buggy.com>; they offer hansoms (\$6,870), broughams (\$14,500), wagonettes, surreys, buckboards, and other appropriate vehicles (seatbelts optional, at additional cost).
10100. I've reported from time to time (most recently May 00 #2) on Skeletons in the Closet (their profits help support the Los Angeles County Coroner's Department's Youthful Drunk Driver Visitation Program), and (of course) they now have a web-site at <www.lacstores.co.la.ca.us> where you can find Sherlock Mugs (displaying a skeleton in Sherlockian costume) and other interesting merchandise. Their postal address is 1104 North Mission Road, Los Angeles, CA 90033; thanks to Gayle Harris for the tip.
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March 2004 #7

10101. "Cops are hunting a conman who dresses like Sherlock Holmes and pretends to be a policeman," according to Mike Sullivan in the [London] Sun (Mar. 23). The article, noted by Phil Attwell, reports that a man wearing a deerstalker and pretending to be buying a fleet of cars for an operation involving Scotland Yard and MI5, stole a £20,000 Toyota from a showroom in Coulsdon, Surrey. A salesman accompanied him on a test run to the Croydon police station, where the man tricked the salesman into getting out to fetch one of the man's "colleagues", and then sped off.
10102. Richard Lancelyn Green ("The Three Gables") died on Mar. 27. He was both a Doylean and a Sherlockian, an enthusiastic bibliographer and collector, an energetic editor and writer, and an excellent speaker. A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF A. CONAN DOYLE (1983), written with John Michael Gibson, was and is an invaluable resource for collectors and scholars, and their careful research resulted in Conan Doyle's UNCOLLECTED STORIES (1982) and ESSAYS ON PHOTOGRAPHY (1982), and his LETTERS TO THE PRESS (1986), making available material that had never been reprinted and in some cases had not been known to have been written by Conan Doyle. For Sherlockians, he edited an anthology of pastiches, THE FURTHER ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1985); a selection from mail sent to Holmes at 221B Baker Street, LETTERS TO SHERLOCK HOLMES (1985); an anthology of early reviews, letters, and articles, THE SHERLOCK HOLMES LETTERS (1986); and an anthology of associated Conan Doyle writings, THE UNCOLLECTED SHERLOCK HOLMES (1993). He also wrote articles and introductions and commentary for Sherlockian societies, and spoke to delighted audiences at Sherlockian symposiums, and he served as chairman of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London from 1996 to 1999. As a collector he was informed and relentless in pursuit of unique material; anyone who was able to visit his home in London to see his treasures was fortunate indeed. He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1985.
10103. Jerry Margolin has reported a television commercial for Fisher-Price's new "Learn Through Music" set (product 89452, ages 18 months and up, \$34.99); one of the four cartridges is "Elmo's ABC Scavenger Hunt" with Elmo shown in Sherlockian costume. Their web-site is <www.fisher-price.com>.
10104. Siegler & Co.'s Sovietski Collection catalog (3473 Kurtz Street, San Diego, CA 92110) (800-442-0002) <www.sovietski.com> offers a deerstalker (#151699, \$65.00), a magnifying glass and stand (#151631, \$79.95), and "classic detective bookends" (#151630, \$39.95), as well as Bobby helmets, nightsticks, and whistles.
10105. "Indeed, British weather is more temperate than that of the northeastern United States. There one finds really frigid winters, with annual ghostly blizzards killing scores of people and occasioning total stoppage of activity for days at a time; and really torrid wet summers, when everyone who can afford it either flees abroad or moves to the seashore. Fall brings hurricanes; spring, floods. The weather of Boston, New York, and Washington

is so bad that if the United States had been colonized from west to east instead of the reverse, the northeastern United States today would be populated as sparsely as North Dakota. The main cities would be somewhere else, and the northeastern area would be planted out in soybeans." Thanks to Karen Murdock, who spotted the passage in Paul Fussell's *ABROAD: BRITISH LITERARY TRAVELING BETWEEN THE WARS* (1980).

March 2004 #8

10106. Admirers of the film "The Quiet Man" (1952), and there are many who are fans of the only Irish western, may be learning for the first time (as I just have it) that one of the actors in "The Quiet Man" also has played Sherlock Holmes. It's not John Wayne, nor Barry Fitzgerald, nor Victor McLaglen. And it's not Maureen O'Hara. Credit Dean Clark for his article on early Sherlock Holmes films in the March issue of *The Dispatch* (published by the Afghanistan Perceivers of Oklahoma) and his reminder of the supporting character Dan Tobin (the old man with a grand white beard) and the actor who played him: Francis Ford, who played Sherlock Holmes in "A Study in Scarlet" (1914).
10107. "Jailhouse Rock Concert for Dartmoor Prisoners" was the headline on a story in the *Daily Telegraph* (Mar. 22), kindly forwarded by John Baesch. Claudia Stuart, the first woman governor of Dartmoor prison, will allow 26-year-old folk-rock musician Seth Lakeman to launch his new album "Kitty Jay" with a live concert for about 100 of the 600 inmates in the prison chapel on May 5. Lakeman, who lives in Yelverton, only five miles from the prison, said that the songs he wrote for the album "are inspired by the mysterious and haunting background of Dartmoor and deal with all kinds of extremes of human behaviour and emotion. I am sure these are things that prisoners inside Dartmoor can identify with." Dartmoor Prison has housed some of Britain's most notorious convicts, and was condemned two years ago by the Chief Inspector of Prison as "the prison that time forgot" before Stuart was appointed as to reform the prison. She is seeking more contact with the outside world for the prisoners, and approved the concert (music fans may recall the similar concert by Johnny Cash at San Quentin). I Scream Records will release the album (£11.99); it's available at <www.fishrecords.co.uk>, where you can also hear samples of some of the tracks. And Lakeman's website is at <www.sethlakeman.co.uk>.
10108. Craig Wichman's Quicksilver Radio Theater has recorded "The Speckled Band" (broadcast by WBAI-FM on Oct. 31, 1999) and "The Blue Carbuncle" (Dec. 28, 2003), and they have two live events coming up: the first is "Fibber McGee Meets Sherlock Holmes" for the Episcopal Actor's Guild in New York on May 20; this will feature recreations of a "Fibber McGee and Molly" episode and a "Sherlock Holmes" episode ("The Hindu in the Wicker Basket") with assistance from Bill Nadel; the Guild is at 1 East 29th Street in New York (212-685-2927). The second event will be a performance of one of Edith Meiser's classic "Sherlock Holmes" scripts at the Friends of Old Time Radio Convention in Newark, N.J., on Oct. 21-24 <www.lofcom.com/nostalgia/fotr>.
10109. Audiobuch (Lambertusstrasse 5, 79104 Freiburg, Germany) <www.audiobuch.com> offers Quicksilver's "The Speckled Band" on a CD (€14.90), and this winter will issue a CD with "The Blue Carbuncle" and "The Painful Predicament of Sherlock Holmes". They also offer tales read in German by Hubertus Gertzen: "Der Hund von Baskerville" on 3 CDs (€24.90), "Der Katechismus der Familie Musgrave" and "Der blaue Karfunkel" on single CDs (€14.90 each), and "Sherlock-Holmes-Geschichten" ("Der Mann mit der Narbe" and "Der blaue Karfunkel") on 2 cassettes (€19.90). You can hear samples of most of the recordings at the web-site.
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April 2004 #1

10110. Further to the report (March 04 #4) on the auction and viewing of Conan Doyle material at Christie's sales-room in New York: it was delightful to be able to see some (but not all) of the things that will be at auction in London on May 19. There were three cases of Conan Doyle material in the gallery at Christie's in New York (their London staff was still at work cataloguing the material, Christie's representative explained, and the requirement for export licenses for everything that left London prevented them from bringing more material).
10111. What we got to see included: Richard Doyle's portrait of his young nephew Arthur; the manuscript of Conan Doyle's first short story, written when he was six and proudly preserved by his mother; two handwritten issues of his schooldays "Feldkirchian Gazette"; log-books of his voyages on the *Hope* and *Mayumba*; his pencil portrait of Professor Challenger; his manuscript notes for "The White Company" and "Sir Nigel"; letters from Oscar Wilde, Winston Churchill, George Bernard Shaw, and H. G. Wells; and a Christmas card from William Gillette inscribed from Sherlock Holmes.
10112. The material, once owned by Adrian Conan Doyle, and then by his widow Anna, has been sent to auction by her heirs Richard Doyle, Catherine Doyle, and Charles Foley. And it's grand to think that so much that's so interesting will soon be in public or private collections, and available to those who wish to enjoy learning more about Sir Arthur. By way of example, his logbook from the *S.S. Hope* is wonderful, with daily comments on life on board and on the ice, and his sketches of the ship and the crew and their activities.
10113. He seems to have spent a lot of time falling into the ocean, what with the difficulty of moving about on ice floes, and on one day he happily recorded that he hadn't fallen in. There's also considerable humor in what he wrote (as there was in later years in his professional writing): in one report on a storm at sea he wrote (and I paraphrase) about the violent wind and seas, and straining masts and yards and shrouds, and one of the crew almost being swept overboard, and one tremendous wave carrying off a crate from the deck . . . and then he noted, "But seriously . . ."
10114. If you want to see material before the sale, there will be another viewing at Christie's in London (8 King Street, St. James's); the catalog (\$30.00/€20.00) can be ordered from Christie's in New York (800-395-6300) or London (20-7389-2820), and the catalog descriptions of the lots should be available at their web-site <www.christies.com>.
10115. There were other nice things on display in Christie's gallery in New York, including "Important English Drama including Shakespeare from the Estate of Mary, Vicountess of Eccles" scheduled for auction on Apr. 14. One item in her collection was a copy of the third quarto edition of "Hamlet" published in 1661 and described as the "earliest obtainable copy of 'Hamlet' remaining in private hands" and estimated at \$1.5 million to \$2 million; the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington did not bid on the book, because the Folger already has three copies of the third quarto. If you're interested in the book, it's still available: bidding did not reach the reserve.
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April 2004 #2

10116. And there is more auction news: the manuscript of "The Sussex Vampire" will be offered at auction at Christie's in New York on June 9. Noted as "unrecorded" in my census of Canonical manuscripts, it is described by Christie's as purchased from a New York antiquarian dealer by a New York collector, and given it to the lady who has sent it to auction. According to the catalog, there are 24 leaves on two different paper stocks: 11 sheets of printed ship's stationery (the versos headed "On board S.S.....") and 13 sheets of good-quality lined paper; there are scattered corrections and revisions (among them some 160 crossed-out words describing Holmes and Watson's first meeting with the Ferguson family). The manuscript, bound for the author in white buckram boards is signed and titled on the front cover, and the estimate is \$150,000-200,000. The ship's stationery also is printed with the house flag of the White Star Line, and it seems likely that Conan Doyle began the story on the *S.S. Adriatic*, in which he returned to England in August 1923 after his "second American adventure" (the story was published in January 1924).
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10117. Sherlock G. Holmes died on Mar. 24. He thought his name was Gordon Holmes until he was 17 years old and needed a copy of his birth certificate in order to play baseball with the American Legion his name, and discovered that his parents had named him Sherlock Gordon Holmes (they hadn't told him because they didn't want him to be teased). And he never regretted his name, and thoroughly enjoyed using it during his long career as an investigator for the Washington state auditor's office.
10118. "Hello Kitty" is quite popular with youngsters in Japan (and elsewhere), and she was available last year (and no longer) in Sherlockian costume on a tag that comes with KitKat chocolate, Naomi Tanaka reports from Osaka. According to the label, the tag could be attached to your cell phone.
10119. Many years ago (July 91 #1) the Daily Mail reported that there were plans for a Sherlock Holmes series starring Stephen Fry and Hugh Laurie, but it was merely a rumor. Now there's a new report in the Daily Mirror (Mar. 30) that Fry and Laurie are to reunite as Holmes and Watson in a new ITV television film that will air next year; the story quoted ITV1's drama chief Nick Elliott as saying that "Stephen is absolutely passionate about Sherlock Holmes, and Hugh will make a superb Watson." The BBC picked up the story, noting that "ITV has yet to confirm the project." So here are the facts (just the facts, ma'am). from London-based Company Pictures (you might have seen their "Anna Karenina" on PBS-TV, and their "Nicholas Nickleby on Bravo): they are developing a pilot script for a possible series for ITV1, starring Fry and Laurie, possibly to shoot this fall, but: "at this stage we have no further information on the project."
10120. It's out-of-print, but available in used-book shops and at web-sites such as <www.abebooks.com>: THE CASE BOOK OF SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE, a 72-page book published by the Quality Paperback Book Club in 1994. There's an introduction and a discussion of Conan Doyle and his works (both anonymous), and reprints of Sherlockian essays by G. K. Chesterton, Dorothy L. Sayers, and A. E. Murch, and eight illustrations. Gale Research seems to have put the book together, without credit to an editor, and it's nicely done.

April 2004 #3

10121. Another interesting opening for a story: "I swallowed my fairy when I was twelve years old. It was an accident." That's from Jean-Claude Dunyach's "Watch Me While I Sleep", one of thirteen stories in THE NIGHT ORCHID: CONAN DOYLE IN TOULOUSE (Encino: Black Coat Press, 2004; 279 pp. \$20.95). Dunyach's genre is science fiction and fantasy, and the Doylean story in the collection is the title story, set in 1890, when Conan Doyle and Challenger travel to France to help solve a murder mystery; Dunyach does an excellent job of capturing Challenger as he would have been in his younger days. The publisher's address is: Box 17270, Encino, CA 91416 <www.blackcoatpress.com>.
10122. Scott Monty spotted Molly Melloan's illustration in the Wall Street Journal (Apr. 13), accompanying George Melloan's opinion piece on "We Already Know Why al Qaeda Succeeded".
10123. Registration is now open for the third meeting of The Sherlock Holmes and All That Jazz Society, to be held this year in Davenport, Iowa, on July 22-25. Davenport is the birthplace of Dixieland great Bix Beiderbecke, and the meeting coincides with Davenport's Bix Beiderbecke Jazz Festival. More details are available from Donald B. Izban, 1012 Rene Court, Park Ridge, IL 60068.
10124. Peter Wood has noted a travel piece from the Apr. 8 issue of the Vancouver Georgia Straight with the headline "KGB Relics Recall the Days of Baltic Spooks" in which Peter Neville-Hadley reported from Estonia that "In Tallinn, those employed to detect and discourage dissidents had their headquarters at an appropriate address: Pagari (Baker) Street. The Soviet Sherlocks' building sits at the junction with a road that is lined with magnificent medieval structures in creams and ochres, its grey dolomite and terra cotta facade comparatively drab and ready to be overlooked like some rain-coated spy on a street-corner stakeout."
10125. Peter UstiNovember died on Mar. 28. He was an actor, playwright, novelist, film director, and newspaper columnist, and his acting career spanned six decades; he won Oscars as supporting actor in "Spartacus" (1960) and "Topkapi" (1964). He also participated in the BBC Home Service's centenary "Tribute to Sherlock Holmes" broadcast in 1954, reminiscing as Professor Willi Notenschlager, Holmes' old violin teacher.
10126. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has a "Astronomy Picture of the Day" at its web-site, and Scott Monty notes that on Apr. 4 the picture shows "The Lost World of Lake Vida" (a lake hidden beneath 19 meters of ice and gravel in Antarctica). "In a modern version of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's classic book," NASA-funded scientists plan to drill into the lake and remove a sample of water for analysis. Lake Vida, buried under the ice for more than 2,500 years, is liquid only because of its high salt content, and it may contain microbes. If living organisms are found in Lake Vida, they may indicate that life might still exist under similar frozen ice-sheets on Mars or moons of Jupiter. A photo of a robot meteorological station above ice-sealed Lake Vida can be seen at NASA's web-site at <<http://apod.gsfc.nasa.gov/apod/ap040404.html>>.

April 2004 #4

10127. Alistair Cooke died on Mar. 30. He went to work for the BBC in 1934, and in 1946 started his "Letter from America", which was broadcast to more than 50 countries, with 2869 programs, the last one airing in February. He wrote a Sherlockian parody "The Case of the November Sun-Tan" and hosted the television series "Omnibus" on ABC-TV (they aired "The Fine Art of Murder" in 1956, with Dennis Hoey as Conan Doyle), and in 1971 he became the first (and only, for 22 years) host of "Masterpiece Theatre". In 1994 Jeremy Brett told Nicholas Utechin: "Alistair Cooke said to me about two years ago, 'The three most memorable men of the twentieth century so far are Winston Churchill, Adolf Hitler, and Sherlock Holmes.'"
10128. The World Wide Web offers a spectacular variety of sources for information: the N.Y. Times <www.nytimes.com> provides index access to its archives (you just click on "archive" at the top of the first screen), and you can search the 1851-1995 or the 1996-present archives. The archive for 1851-1995 displays 1,208 citations for "William Gillette" and 2,663 citations for "Conan Doyle" and 5,723 citations for "Sherlock Holmes". Of course you don't get free access to the complete articles, but you can take a list of citations to a library that has the N.Y. Times on microfilm and read without charge. Thanks to Gayle Harris for tip on these archives.
10129. The U.S. Postal Service has honored Henry Mancini, who called himself simply a composer; he won four Oscars and twenty Grammys, and his albums sold more than 30 million copies. His Sherlockian films were "The Great Mouse Detective" (1986) and "Without a Clue" (1988), and (not quite Sherlockian) "The Molly Maguires" (1970).
10130. The latest news about Charles Dickens has no connection with Conan Doyle (although Sir Arthur did once converse with Dickens, during a seance), but Andrew Blau noted a report by Alex Beam in the Boston Globe (Apr. 6) that Stanford University has been mailing facsimile editions of Dickens' novels in weekly serial form so that readers can experience the books as Dickens' readers did in the 19th century. The chapters are printed on cheap newsprint, with the original illustrations. This year's book is "A Tales of Two Cities" and the mailings are sent free to some 5,000 households as part of a community outreach program now in its second year. You can read more about this imaginative project at <www.dickens.stanford.edu>.
10131. Further to the report (November 03 #4) about the continuing battle over Liberton Bank House (where Arthur Conan Doyle once lived as a child), a story in the Edinburgh Evening News (Mar. 25), at hand from Jay Hyde, reports that the house will be restored and used as a permanent home for the Dunedin Special School, according to a development proposal that will be submitted to the local council.

10132. Ken Lanza has reported the story in the Guardian (Apr. 16): "The rich Scots brogue of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle recounting how he came to create Sherlock Holmes is one of thousands of sound recordings from the British Library to be made available online to universities and further education colleges in a £1 million programme." And the Guardian's web-site has a link to a 1:56 recording of Conan Doyle with grand fidelity. Go to <www.guardian.co.uk> and search for "Conan Doyle" and scroll down to the story.

April 2004 #5

10133. Abbey National, long resident in Baker Street, and with a long history of providing a secretary to answer mail sent to Sherlock Holmes at 221b, has closed its headquarters there, and no longer answers Sherlock Holmes' mail. Bill Barnes reports that his nephew wrote to Sherlock Holmes at 221b, and received a form-letter reply from Grace Riley, director of The Sherlock Holmes Museum, enclosing one of the leather bookmarks stamped with Abbey's name that Abbey used to send with their replies to Sherlock Holmes' mail. The letter is quite similar to those sent from Abbey National, explaining that Mr. Holmes receives too many letters to reply personally, and that he has retired to a bee-farm in the English countryside, and with a final paragraph noting that his old rooms are now open to the public as The Sherlock Holmes Museum.
10134. Reported: a trade paperback edition of MY SHERLOCK HOLMES: UNTOLD STORIES OF THE GREAT DETECTIVE, edited by Michael Kurland (New York: St. Martin's Minotaur, 2004; 370 pp., \$14.95); it's an anthology of pastiches, written to Kurland's rule: while Holmes must appear, the viewpoint character is not Watson, but some other figure from the Canon (May 03 #1).
10135. The March issue of the quarterly newsletter published by The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota offers an interesting review by Julie McKuras of the books presented to those who attended the 1944 "Trilogy Dinner" (there are multiple copies in the collections, of course) and Dick Sveum's "100 Years Ago" tribute to Andrew Lang, plus other news from and about the collections. And the spring issue of the semi-annual newsletter published by The Friends of the Library uses an appropriate quote from Christopher Morley' friend Don Marquis to introduce a report on "An Evening of Ribald Literature" with Garrison Keillor, and has stories by Tim Johnson on the arrival of "Detective Linus" at the Special Collections (August 03 #3) and on Tim's series of "Compleat Scholar" continuing-education classes on the four Sherlock Holmes stories. You can request copies from Richard J. Sveum, 111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, 222 21st Avenue South, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455 <sveum001@tc.umn.edu>.
10136. SHERLOCK has been redesigned but continues to offer excellent coverage of crime fiction (Sherlockian and otherwise); issue #59 features David Stuart Davies' discussion of "Mrs. Hudson of the Movies", June Thomson's new pastiche "The Case of the Conk-Singleton Forgery", and Gavin Collinson's review of "Infinite Villainy" (Holmes' adversaries in the films). SHERLOCK is published bimonthly, and subscriptions cost £23.70 (to the U.K.)/£26.00 (continent)/\$40.00 (elsewhere); Box 100, Chichester, West Sussex PO18 8HD, England <www.sherlockholmes.com>. Classic Specialties (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219) (877-233-3823) <www.sherlock-holmes.com> is their American agent; credit-card orders are welcomed at both addresses, and back issues are available.
10137. Robin Hunter died on Mar. 8. The son of actor Ian Hunter (who was Dr. Watson with Arthur Wontner in "The Sign of Four" in 1932), he spent his childhood in Hollywood, where he made the set of "Tarzan" films a favorite playground. He moved to London as a versatile juvenile, and at the age of 23 was the youngest chairman ever at the Players' Theatre, where he excelled in their pantomimes. He went on to a career on stage and screen and television, and played Major Sholto in Granada's "The Sign of the Four" (1987).
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April 2004 #6

10138. "Sky's the Limit for Sculpture" is the headline on P. J. Lassek's front-page story in the Tulsa World (Mar. 9), kindly forwarded by Dean Clark. Tulsa plans to create an Oklahoma Centennial Botanical Garden at a wooded area about seven miles northwest of downtown Tulsa at a site that includes Holmes Peak, described as being the highest point in Tulsa, Osage, Creek, Washington, and Pawnee counties. There also is a plan to use the site for a 176-foot bronze sculpture of a Native American that is to be the largest free-standing bronze monument in the world (the Statue of Liberty is 152 feet high). Shan Gray, the artist who is designing the statue, announced this month that he has chosen Holmes Peak as the site; the \$26-million statue will be funded privately, and Tulsa is being asked only to provide the site and infrastructure.
10139. The statue won't put Holmes Peak on the map, of course: Dick Warner, head sherpa of The Holmes Peak Preservation Society, won government approval for that some years ago, and Holmes Peak still is the only geographical feature on Earth named in honor of Sherlock Holmes. Dick will of course revise his "Guide Book and Instructions for the Ascent of Holmes Peak" in time for the formal dedication of the statue in 2007, when Oklahoma celebrates its centennial.
10140. It's not new, but completists may want to look for THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (New York: Alladin Classics/Simon & Schuster, 2000; 246 pp., \$3.99); with a six-page foreword by Bruce Brooks and a four-page reading guide.
10141. MPI Home Entertainment has released remastered DVDs (\$19.98 each) with Basil Rathbone's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" and "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (1939); the DVDs also have production notes and commentary by Richard Valley, and "The Hound of the Baskervilles" has additional commentary by David Stuart Davies.
10142. Norman M. Davis ("The Grosvenor Square Furniture Van") died on Apr. 7. He was a free-lance writer and a stalwart member of Sherlockian societies in Washington and Chicago. His first S'ian paper appeared in The Baker Street Journal in 1969, and he received investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1972. In Washington he happily impersonated Dr. Watson in the productions of The Red Circle Players, and he was proud to share with Watson what Holmes once described as a "pawky vein of humor." Norm delighted in puns and word-play, shown to great advantage in A PAWKY QUIZ (1983) and AMUSING HOLMES! (1992), and his presentations to bewildered and bemused society meetings were spectacular.
10143. Elizabeth Peters' mystery novels about Amelia Peabody Emerson often include allusions to the Sherlock Holmes stories, and fans of the series will welcome AMELIA PEABODY'S EGYPT: A COMPENDIUM, which she has edited with Kristen Whitbread (New York: William Morrow, 2003; 334 pp., \$29.95). The book has a chapter on "The Best of Wonder: An Authoritative Analysis of Victorian Popular Fiction" in which Barbara Michaels includes references to the Canon. Note: Elizabeth Peters and Barbara Michaels are both Barbara Mertz, and you can find all three of them at <www.mpmbooks.com>.
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May 2004 #1

10144. "The Devonshire Inheritance: Five Centuries of Collecting at Chatsworth" is an exhibition (through June 20) at the Bard Graduate Center for Studies in the Decorative Arts, Design, and Culture (18 West 86th Street in New York) (212-501-3000), according to a report by Sue Vizoskie in the April issue of the Foolscap Document (the newsletter of The Three Garridebs). There are more than 200 works of art from the family's private collection in the exhibition, including Joshua Reynolds' portrait of Georgiana, 5th Duchess of Devonshire; a different portrait, by Thomas Gainsborough, showing the Georgiana in the fashionable hat mentioned by Watson (in "A Case of Identity") was stolen by Adam Worth (sometimes called "the

- Napoleon of crime"). The Chatsworth web-site <www.chatsworth-house.co.uk> display the Gainsborough portrait; look for a link to "Devonshire Collection" (the web-site mentions Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Professor Moriarty).
10145. William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at the Barnstormers Theatre, July 6-10. The theater's address is Box 434, Tamworth, NY 03886 (603-323-8500) <www.barnstormerstheatre.com>.
10146. The Historical Journal, published by the Cambridge University Press and devoted to coverage of "all aspects of British, European, and world history since the fifteenth century," has in its Sept. 2003 issue Michael Saler's 24-page article "'Clap If You Believe in Sherlock Holmes': Mass Culture and the Re-Enchantment of Modernity, c. 1890-c. 1940". Saler has interesting things to say about the two types of Holmes believers: the "naive believer" (who genuinely believed that Holmes and Watson were real) and the "ironic believer" (who pretended that Holmes was real, "but for whom this pretence was so earnest that the uninitiated might not recognize it as pretence"). The distinction seems to be as real today as it was then.
10147. Reported by Roger Johnson: Christopher Downes died on Nov. 21. He was the dresser (the trusted personal assistant) for some of Britain's greatest actors, and it was on his life that the film "The Dresser" (1983) was based; according to the obituary by Derek Grainger in The Independent, Robert Stephens insisted on Downes' services in "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970), and Billy Wilder was so impressed by Downes' stylishness and verve that he wrote him into the script as a Victorian policeman. Victor Langley also died in November; he played the Prince of Wales in "Murder by Decree" (1978). And Max Harris died on Mar. 13; he was a jazz pianist, and wrote theme music for radio and television programs, including the Douglas Wilmer "Sherlock Holmes" television series (1965).
10148. All that from Roger's excellent monthly newsletter The District Messenger, which costs \$15.00 a year (checks payable to Jean Upton, please) or £6.00 (checks payable to Roger Johnson); their address is Mole End, 41 Sandford Road, Chelmsford CM2 6DF, England. And you can receive his newsletter free by e-mail <rojerjohnson@yahoo.co.uk> [yes, that's "rojer" with a "j"].
10149. The comic-book series RUSE (with Simon Archard and Emma Bishop) has ended its run, but Crossgen continues to published occasional issues of ARCHARD'S AGENT; the latest issue (April 04) is not Sherlockian, but nicely Victorian. See <www.crossgen.com> for information on all their series.

May 2004 #2

10150. "In the Privacy of Their Own Holmes: An Exhibition of Private Press and Limited Edition Sherlockiana" was arranged by Derham Groves for the Baillieu Library at the University of Melbourne from Apr. 5 to May 28, and there was an interesting assortment of Sherlockiana on view. Derham also edited and published IN THE PRIVACY OF THEIR OWN HOLMES to coincide with the exhibition; the 46-page booklet offers nicely-illustrated essays by Peter E. Blau, Vincent Brosnan, Derham Groves, David G. Harris, Michael Jorgensen, Robert C. Littlewood, Jerry Margolin, and C. Paul Martin about private presses and other matters. It's available from Derham Groves (485 Albert Street, Brunswick West, Vic. 3055, Australia); US \$30.00 postpaid hard-bound or \$15.00 for the paperback.
10151. One of the many strengths of Leslie S. Klinger's SHERLOCK HOLMES REFERENCE LIBRARY is the broad scope of his research; one of the problems that result from this is the fact that many of the articles he cites have appeared in society newsletters and other publications that can be difficult if not impossible to find. The Occupants of the Empty House have offered a solution to the problem: THE OCCUPANTS WITHIN THE SHERLOCK HOLMES REFERENCE LIBRARY, with an interesting introduction by Bill Cochran, reprints 24 articles that were cited in the first six volumes of the reference library; the 70-page booklet is available (\$23.95 postpaid) from Stan Tinsley (Box 21, Zeigler, IL 62999).
10152. RUSS-L (the Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes electronic mailing list for fans of Laurie R. King's novels) has a second edition of their T-shirt (the first version was produced in 1999), and now spaghetti tanks, sweatshirts, camisoles, mouse-pads, and tote bags, available from CafePress.com, 1515 Aurora Drive, San Leandro, CA 94577 (877-809-1659) <www.cafepress.com/russl>. The web-site offers a link to the mailing list (click on the blue logo).
10153. MS. HOLMES OF BAKER STREET, by C. Alan Bradley and William A. S. Sarjeant, has been reprinted (Edmonton: University of Alberta Press, 2004; 288 pp., \$34.95), with a new introduction by Barbara Roden. When their book was first published 15 years ago (December 89 #6), the authors' careful and well-written examination of evidence that Holmes was female, twice pregnant, and possibly once a mother, was met with outrage from critics who apparently had never heard John Bennett Shaw explain that the one thing Sherlockians should be serious about is not taking themselves seriously.
10154. There has been some discussion on the RUSS-L electronic mailing list (for fans of Laurie R. King's Mary Russell series) of Sherlock Holmes' age during the decades in which the series is set. Michele Canterbury reported to the list about her grandfather, who lived to be 93 years old. "He was very fit and healthy for a man who, to the best of my knowledge, was an alcoholic until the day he died (homemade moonshine, no less), smoked, and chewed tobacco. He did have a massive coronary at the age of 82 (while having sex with his wife); he buried two wives, and one week before he died he walked five miles from his home to the porch of a lady to propose marriage. She told him to go to hell, and he walked home, took to his bed, and died."

May 2004 #3

10155. Bert Coules' 45-minute series "The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (with Clive Merrison as Holmes and Andrew Sachs as Watson) resumed on BBC Radio 4 on May 18, with "The Abergavenny Murder" as the first of five new weekly programs. The BBC kindly makes its broadcasts available on the Internet at <www.bbc.co.uk> (just click on "radio" and on "radio 4" and on "listen again"). Four of the five shows will be issued on June 7 as a four-CD set (£15.99) and a two-audiocassette set (£10.99); you can order on-line at <www.bbcshop.com>. Four of the five programs from the first series (2002) also are available as a two-audiocassette set (£10.99). The series is nicely done, with interesting stories imaginatively told.
10156. Thanks to Jerry Margolin for the report on the reality series "The Restaurant" (broadcast by NBC-TV on Mondays). In episode 203 (May 10) Mama surprises Rocco with a video of his graduation from the Culinary Institute of America eighteen years ago, and the next day Rocco visits the CIA to speak at their commencement and to see his old mentor Fritz Sonnenschmidt (it was Fritz who did so much work to make the CIA's grand gourmet Sherlockian dinners so delicious). You can see a photograph of Rocco and Fritz at the NBC web-site <www.nbc.com/The_Restaurant>, and while the episode certainly will repeat on NBC-TV, it will also air on Bravo cable on June 23.
10157. Kenneth Ludwig's play "Postmortem" (which premiered as "Dramatic Licence" in New Hampshire in 1983, with Patrick Horgan as William Gillette) is being performed at the Chattanooga Theatre Centre through June 6. It's a murder mystery set in Gillette's home in Connecticut, with Gillette trying to do the detecting. The box-office address is 4 River Street, Chattanooga, TN 37045 <www.theatrecentre.com>.
10158. It's not quite the same as engaging a special, as Moriarty did (in "The Final Problem"), but you can still charter "private varnish" (the name still used for private railway cars). Scott Monty spotted an interesting article ("Ride Like a Railroad Baron") in Business Week (May 10), and the experience sounds grand indeed; the American Association of Private Railroad Car Owners has a web-site <www.aaprco.com>, and publishes a Private Car

Charter Guide (\$7.50 postpaid). AAPRCO is at 630-B Constitution Avenue NE, Washington, DC 20002. Oh yes: prices to charter a car start at around \$3,000 a day and can easily top \$5,000 or \$6,000.

10159. Laurie R. King's *THE GAME*, her latest novel starring Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes (March 04 #6), is available from Recorded Books, read unabridged by Jenny Sterlin, on 8 audiocassettes (\$34.99 purchase or \$18.50 rental) or 12 CDs (\$39.95/\$18.50); 270 Skipjack Road, Prince Frederick, MD 20678 (800-636-1304) <www.recordedbooks.com>.
10160. Reported: *MURDER ON THE LEVIATHAN*, by Boris Akunin (New York: Random House, 2004; 240 pp., \$21.95); Erast Fandorin, a young Russian detective/diplomat, travels to India in 1878 on the maiden voyage of the Leviathan, and there are murders to solve (Dennis Drabelle reviewed the book in the May 16 issue of the Washington Post and noted echoes of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in "the detective's ability to fill in a character's background by noticing what is lost on less keen-eyed observers"). And: a trade-paperback edition of Mark Haddon's *THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME* (April 03 #1) (New York: Vintage Books, 2004; 240 pp., \$12.00).
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May 2004 #4

10161. There were many Sherlockians and Doyleans who happily took advantage of the opportunity to inspect the Conan Doyle material that was on view at Christie's sales-rooms in London before the auction on May 19, and there were plenty of active bidders. The catalog is spectacular, and recommended to anyone who wants to learn more about Sir Arthur's life and work; \$30.00/£20.00 from Christie's in New York (800-395-6300) or London (20-7389-2820), and at their web-site <www.christies.com>.
10162. Bert Coules has reported that the auction featured "a couple of hundred or so people, a rank of TV cameras, a bank of Christie's staff earnestly chattering into telephones, a plasma screen which displayed the lots (on occasion at the correct time, and various passersby who wandered in to look at (and discuss, sometimes rather loudly the entirely unrelated paintings on the walls of the auction room."
10163. The sale realized \$1,678,821 (or £948,545) including the buyer's premium; this was somewhat less than half of Christie's estimate for the sale, and 31 lots (out of 135) went unsold because bids were less than the reserves. The more interesting unsold material included Conan Doyle's log-books from his voyages aboard the "Hope" and the "Mayumba", his archive on the Edalji case, his letters to his sister Lottie. The highest price paid for a lot was \$247,180/£139,650 for the Southsea notebooks (with the first notes for "A Study in Scarlet"). And some material went for much more than Christie had estimated: Conan Doyle's drawings and paintings, estimated at £1,000-1,500, brought £7,170 (a sure sign that two bidders really wanted the lot).
10164. And there have been some reports on who bought what: Cliff Goldfarb has announced that the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library was successful in acquiring a lot titled "Canada and the Empire" (quite appropriate for the Toronto collection). The [Edinburgh] Scotsman reported that the Glasgow City Council bought the archive on the Oscar Slater case (the Mitchell Library already has the records of the Glasgow police enquiries into the case). The British Library purchased ten lots, including two issues of the handwritten magazine Conan Doyle produced while at school at Feldkirch in Austria, the manuscript of his first (and unpublished) novel ("The Narrative of John Smith"), letters to his mother and his brother Innes, and other family papers.
10165. The auction attracted considerable interest from the press, both before and after the sale, and there were last-minute complaints that the British government had not acted to preserve the archive for the nation. There also was a report that there was "parliamentary agitation over the possible fate of the archive." The agitation consisted of two "Early Day Motions" filed by MP Alex Salmond (SNP) [Scottish Nationalist Party] on May 14 and 18 protesting the auction (the House of Commons web-site at <www.parliament.uk> notes that early day motions are not generally expected to be debated); and a question posed by MP Pete Wishart (SNP) on May 18 to the Speaker of the House, asking whether he had been approached by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media, and Sport about her coming to the House to make a statement about the auction. The Speaker responded: "There are certain things that hon. Members can do to raise these matters, but I have no powers to raise them. It is up to the hon. Gentleman to approach the Department and Ministers with his deep concern." And that was that.
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May 2004 #5

10166. The British Library has announced that it "plans in the coming weeks to mount an exhibition to display the Conan Doyle manuscripts," and that it is "seeking to secure other items that went unsold at auction." The Library also is "keen to explore with other public collections the possibility of raising funds to establish a digital archive" that would reunite as much of the original archives as possible.
10167. The British Library also now has received material bequeathed to it by Dame Jean Conan Doyle, including the manuscripts of "The Retired Colourman" and "The Stark Munro Letters".
10168. More auction news: Christie's sale of fine printed books and manuscripts at their South Kensington sales room in London on June 8 will include a series of letters and postcards to General Enesy from Sir Arthur, Lady Doyle, and their daughter Mary, 1926-1929; in one letter, discussing a proposed Spiritualist tour to Vienna and Budapest, Sir Arthur notes: "The idea of mixing up a religious subject with Sherlock Holmes or other stories is altogether wrong. Spiritualism is far too solemn and too important."
10169. Tony Randall died on May 17. He began his acting career on radio in New York in 1940 and made his stage debut in 1941, and moved to television in 1952, and to films in 1955, and was most famous as Felix Unger in the television series "The Odd Couple" from 1970 to 1975. In 1986 it was reported that he had been signed as Holmes in "Sherlock Holmes Meets Dracula" (playing opposite Sid Caesar as Count Dracula); rumors persisted, but in 1994 his publicist wrote: "Tony Randall asked me to inform you that unfortunately, he's never heard of the project you wrote of. Although, he thought it sounded like a great idea." But he did appear as Holmes in advertisements for Smirnoff vodka (1959) and the International Paper Co. (1979); here he is in the 1979 advertisement.
10170. It's always nice to see Conan Doyle's books back in print: there is a new edition of *THE REFUGEES: A TALE OF TWO CONTINENTS* (Neerlandia: Inheritance Publications, 2004; 369 pp., CA\$17.95/US\$14.90). It's part of the publisher's Huguenot Inheritance Series, which is thoroughly appropriate: the book tells the story of the Huguenots who escaped from France after the revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1685 and settled in the New World. The publisher's address is: Box 154, Neerlandia, AB T0G 1R0, Canada (780-674-3949) <www.telusplanet.net/public/inhpubl/webip/ip.htm>
10171. Jonathan Talbot's striking etching of "Silver Blaze" was commissioned as a souvenir of the 25th running of "The Silver Blaze" (you can see it on page 56 of the March 1977 issue of *The Baker Street Journal*); his artistic style has changed since then, and he'll be one of the artists included in an exhibition titled "The Imaginary Voyage" at the Poughkeepsie Art Museum Galleries (214 Main Street) (845-454-0522) <www.poughkeepsieartmuseum.com>, May 22 to July 4. Talbot will be at the museum for a panel discussion on June 23, and you can see his "Large Planetary Patrin" at their web-site.
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May 2004 #6

10172. PBS Home Video (1320 Braddock Place, Alexandria, VA 22314 (800-645-4727) <www.shoppbs.com> offers "The Many Faces of Sherlock Holmes" on VHS and DVD (\$19.98); it's likely the one-hour documentary first broadcast in 1986 (although the new release is listed at 120 minutes). And "Dr. Bell and Mr. Doyle" on VHS and DVD (\$19.98); it's a new title for the first "Murder Rooms" mini-series (2000) that starred Ian Richardson as Bell and Robin Laing as Conan Doyle. And various collections, on VHS and DVD, of the Universal films starring Basil Rathbone, and the Granada television series starring Jeremy Brett.
10173. Al Gregory notes the March-April issue of Saudi Aramco World, with a cover story by Peter Harrigan on Bedouin trackers. "There is a classic Holmesian tale," he wrote "about the Bedouin who, after four days on the trail of a camel-mounted fugitive, came upon a settlement where his quarry had taken refuge. He demanded, 'Bring out the man with the eye ailment who rode in one night ago on a white camel with no tail that's also blind in one eye.' The tracker had taken in clues: the position of the camel's droppings relative to its rear footprints, the evidence of lopsided grazing on shrubs, and a tell-tale finger-smear on a campfire stone near which the pursued rider had applied the juice of a desert plant use to treat the eyes." You can read the full story on-line at <www.saudiaramcoworld.com>.
10174. "Meitantei Conan" [Detective Conan] was first a Japanese manga comic-book series created by Gosho Aoyama, and then it was developed into a long-running animated television series, and then animated films; Shinichi Kudo is a 17-year-old master detective who is turned by villains into a child, and assumes the name Conan Edogawa and pursues evil-doers. The 30-minute series began running (in English, as "Case Closed") on the Cartoon network's "adult swim" late-night schedule on May 24, and airs Mondays through Thursdays at 12:30 am. You can read all about it (and see graphics and such) at two web-sites, at <www.adultswim.com> and <www.caseclosed.com>; the series is not directly Sherlockian, but you should expect echoes and allusions.
10175. Reported: Brian Freemantle's THE HOLMES INHERITANCE (Sutton: Severn House, 2004; 346 pp., £18.99); "Sebastian Holmes, estranged son of the great detective, sails to America on the Lusitania to investigate rumors of business magnates plotting secret weapons deals with the Germans just before WWI."
10176. It's not known whether Arthur Conan Doyle and Major-General Robert Baden-Powell actually met, in South Africa or elsewhere, but Baden-Powell is mentioned in Conan Doyle's history of THE GREAT BOER WAR, and Conan Doyle is mentioned in Baden-Powell's SCOUTING FOR BOYS. Baden-Powell suggested that Scouts read the Sherlock Holmes stories to learn observation and deduction, in what Christopher Hitchens has called (in the June issue of The Atlantic Monthly) "one of the very few books of the twentieth century that actually led to the formation of a worldwide movement." SCOUTING FOR BOYS: THE ORIGINAL 1908 EDITION, by Robert Baden-Powell (London: Oxford University Press, 2004; 448 pp., \$26.00), has been reprinted for the first time in the Oxford World's Classics series.

June 2004 #1

10177. Further to the report about Baden-Powell (May 04 #6), there is more to the story, as noted by Jon Lellenberg: Dame Jean Conan Doyle, in her foreword to Jon's THE QUEST FOR SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE (1987), wrote that her father "... had an open mind, admitting past misjudgements, such as telling the then Sir Robert Baden-Powell that his new Scout movement would prove too idealistic to last. He remembered this when he took me, age seven, to join the village Brownie pack ..."
10178. In 1980 young Harry Hallesy, as an English Literature project, wrote to actors, authors, and politicians, asking them, "what are your all-time favorite books?" The responses were sold at auction in February in Shropshire, and the lot included a letter from former prime minister Harold Wilson, who listed Howard Springer's FAME IS THE SPUR, Dorothy L. Sayer's THE NINE TAILORS, and Arthur Conan Doyle's THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (according to an article in the Bristol Western Daily Press).
10179. Paranormal researcher James Ellis has spent six decades documenting spiritualist Leslie Flint, who used an "independent direct voice" made of ectoplasm that would form in the air while Flint sat silently, recently donated thousands of hours of audiotape of Flint to the University of Manitoba, according to a story in the Winnipeg Sun (May 20); distinguished figures from the past who spoke to Flint included Archimedes, Rudolph Valentino, and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Staff at the T. G. Hamilton Collection of the paranormal will spend several months indexing and transferring the audiotapes to electronic format.
10180. "Novelist Sir Arthur Conan Doyle used to correct his Sherlock Holmes proofs while sitting in the cafe," according to a review (May 29) of the InterContinental Le Grand Hotel Paris at The Telegraph's web-site. The hotel was built in 1862 and recently reopened after an 18-month restoration, and it has a web-site <www.paris-le-grand.intercontinental.com>, but the web-site has no historical information on distinguished guests.
10181. Watson's Tin Box (one of the more active Sherlockian societies in Maryland) have collected some of their scholarship in Irene's Cabinet, and a few copies of the 50-page pamphlet are available (\$10.00 postpaid) from Beth Austin (9455 Chadburn Place, Gaithersburg, MD 20886); the contents range from Steve Clarkson's "Interview with Sir Eustace Brackenstall" to Mike Berdan's "A Three-Continent Problem", and it's all nicely done.
10182. Reported: RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES I [EMPT/NORW/SIXN/3STU], read by David Timson (Naxos Audiobooks, 2004) on three CDs (£13.99) or three audiocassettes (£9.99); Naxos also offers Timson's recordings of A STUDY IN SCARLET, THE SIGN OF FOUR, and THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES I-VI. Naxos is at 3 Wells Place, Redhill, Surrey RH1 3DR, England <www.naxosaudiobooks.com>.
10183. Further to the report (May 04 #2) about merchandise with the RUSS-L emblem, there's a lot more available for Sherlockians: silhouettes and artwork by Paget, Elcock, and Wiles, on everything from clothing to tote bags to lunch boxes to clocks; the CafePress.com address is 1515 Aurora Drive, San Leandro, CA 94577 (877-809-1659) <www.cafepress.com/bakerstreet>.

June 2004 #2

10184. Erik Larson's THE DEVIL IN THE WHITE CITY (March 03 #1) won the Edgar awarded by the Mystery Writers of America for best fact crime, at their annual dinner in New York on Apr. 29; the book is Sherlockian only for Larson's description of the arrival in Chicago of Herman Webster Mudgett (the serial murderer who is the book's titular devil): "There in July 1886, the year Sir Arthur Conan Doyle introduced his detective to the world, Mudgett registered his name as Holmes."
10185. A "Happy 200th Birthday!" to Amandine-Aurore-Lucile Dupin, who was born on July 1, 1804 (the portrait is from the July issue of Smithsonian magazine), and who used the pen-name George Sand. "'L'homme c'est rien--l'oeuvre c'est tout,' as Gustave Flaubert wrote to George Sand," Sherlock Holmes said (in "The Red-Headed League").
10186. Casting trivia: name some actors who have played both Sherlock Holmes and Inspector Lestrade.
10187. The spring issue of The Serpentine Muse offers news from, about, and by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes, including a splendid article by forensic toxicologist Marina Stajic on "The Aerodynamics of a Reindeer" (and if you want to know why reindeer are of special interest to the

- Adventuresses, and how forensic toxicology is involved, you need only subscribe to the Muse). It's published quarterly and costs \$10.00 a year (checks payable to the Adventuresses, please) from Evelyn A. Herzog (360 West 21st Street #5-A, New York, NY 10011).
10188. An actor who has played both Sherlock Holmes and Inspector Lestrade is Roger Llewellyn, who is touring as Holmes in David Stuart Davies' play "Sherlock Holmes - The Last Act"; he was Lestrade on stage in "Sherlock Holmes: The Musical" (1988). There's at least one more.
10189. Judith Flanders' *INSIDE THE VICTORIAN HOME: A PORTRAIT OF DOMESTIC LIFE IN VICTORIAN ENGLAND* (New York: Norton, 2004; 499 pp., \$34.95) was reviewed by Jonathan Yardley in the *Washington Post* (May 2) as "a useful corrective to over-romanticizing." He noted that "her attention is focused on city life, London in particular; what she shows us is a world in which dirt, vermin, and disease were nearly inescapable, and in which the labor of maintaining even the best-managed households was endless, exhausting, and often dangerous," and it is obvious that the book will be of interest to those who wish to see what life below-stairs in Sherlock Holmes' world was like. If you want to explore the subject a bit farther, Benjamin Schwarz, in his review of *INSIDE THE VICTORIAN HOME* in *The Atlantic Monthly* (June) recommends other books, including *PUBLIC LIVES*, by Eleanor Gordon and Gwyneth Nair (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2004; 304 pp., \$45.00), for a different view of how life was lived in those times.
10190. Bill Barnes (19 Malvern Avenue, Manly, NSW 2095, Australia) notes that *THE HOUNDS' COLLECTION: VOLUME 9* now is available, with 62 pages of humor, pastiche, scholarship, conjecture, and artwork by members of The Hounds of the Internet. \$12.00/CA\$16.00/£6.50/E10.00/AU\$12.00 postpaid by air; payment in currency or by PayPal to <barnes@ozemail.com.au> preferred, but checks (made out to R. W. Barnes) are acceptable.

June 2004 #3

10191. According to a review of Metro 3D's Xbox computer game *DINOSAUR HUNTING*: "The characters each have their own look and feel, but don't appear to have much of a backstory. The one exception is Arthur Conan Doyle. Yes, the author of the Sherlock Holmes series and *THE LOST WORLD* is, for some reason, in the game as a hunter. Uh, okay, cool. The primary character, Malone, also gets an assist from his dog, Algo, who finds clues and also runs around dinosaurs that are absolutely spazzing out." The review by Hilary Goldstein at <www.ign.com> on June 2; the game was released by Microsoft in Japan last year, and Metro 3D took over publishing duties for the U.S. when Microsoft decided not to release the game, which retails for \$39.99 here.
10192. "The West End Horror" (dramatized by Anthony Dodge and Marcia Milgrom Dodge from Nicholas Meyer's novel) has been scheduled at the Asolo Theatre Festival from Nov. 26 to Mar. 3 ("Holmes & Watson meet Gilbert & Sullivan, Shaw, Wilde, and more," according to an announcement). 5555 North Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL 34243 (800-361-8388) <www.asolo.org>
10193. "Not since the days of Sherlock Holmes has there appeared a collection of detective stories as clever, exciting, and continually gripping as *TRENT INTERVENES*; not since the Baker Street master has there been a detective as ingenious as Trent. No human encyclopaedia, but a sensible man who is not above relying on the help of those who know more than he in certain special fields, Trent is here in a collection of twelve fast-paced mysteries that are likely to put him in a place second only to that of Conan Doyle's great character." That's the enthusiastic promotion found on a wrap-around strip of paper on top of the dust jacket of the first American edition (1938) of E. C. Bentley's book.
10194. Another actor who has played both Sherlock Holmes and Inspector Lestrade is Simon Callow, who was Holmes in BBC Radio 4's "The Seven-Per-Cent Solution" (1993) and BBC Radio 5's series "The Unopened Casebook of Sherlock Holmes" (1993); he was Lestrade on TNT cable television in "The Crucifer of Blood" (1991).
10195. Anna Lee died on May 14, one week (according to TV Guide) before she was to receive a special Daytime Emmy for Lifetime Achievement; she played matriarch Lila Quartermaine on "General Hospital" on ABC-TV from 1978 to 2003. She began her acting career on stage in England, and appeared in her first film in 1932, and in her first American film in 1940; she received an MBE (Member of the Order of the British Empire) in 1982. TV Guide's tribute to her (June 6) said she was the god-daughter of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, but in fact she wasn't: Barbara Roisman Cooper (who has been working with Anna Lee on her autobiography *BEFORE THE COLOURS FADE*) reported four years ago that while her father was a very good friend of Sir Arthur, she wasn't his god-daughter.
10196. Further to the report (May 04 #3) on BBC radio broadcasts being available on the Internet at <www.bbc.co.uk>, BBC Radio 7 is airing "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (with Clive Merrison as Holmes and Michael Williams as Watson) five days a week (click on "radio" and on "radio 7" and on "listen again"); the previous seven days' broadcast always are available. Thanks to Phil Attwell for his monitoring of the BBC's radio schedule.

June 2004 #4

10197. Ronald W. Reagan died on June 5. He wrote to O. Dallas Baillio (director of the public library in Mobile, Ala.) in 1977, describing his debt to public libraries and the books he read as a young boy in Dixon, Ill.: "Then came the Zane Grey phase, Horatio Alger and Sherlock Holmes, and, of course, Mark Twain with Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn."
10198. There was much more to his reading in those days, and you can read the entire letter in the Feb. 1981 issue of *American Libraries*. And there's more to the story: on Dec. 4, 1992, the Reagans dined at The Sherlock Holmes in Northumberland Street, and were greeted by Holmes and Watson (costumed actors Stewart Quentin Holmes and John Barrett-Watson); you can read a story about that in the *Sherlock Holmes Gazette* (spring 1993).
10199. Malice Domestic XVII will convene on Apr. 29-May 1, 2005, at the Sheraton National Hotel in Arlington, Va., with Joan Hess as Guest of Honor, Ellis Peters as Ghost of Honor, Carole Nelson Douglas as Toastmaster, and a Lifetime Achievement Award for H. R. F. Keating; you can register with Malice Domestic at Box 31137, Bethesda, MD 20824 <www.malicedomestic.org>.
10200. Michael P. Hodel co-authored *ENTER THE LION: A POSTHUMOUS MEMOIR OF MYCROFT HOLMES* (1978) and was an active Sherlockian in Los Angeles; he also was enthusiastic about radio, and science fiction, and it's nice that we can listen to "Mike Hodel's Hour 25 (Science Fiction Radio for Southern California since 1972)" on the Internet <www.hour25online.com>. Mike was one of four people who started "Hour 25" in 1973, and when he died in 1986, Harlan Ellison took over as host and the show was renamed to honor Mike. The series continued with various hosts until 2000 which it switched to the Internet, and it's still going strong. The index of people interviewed makes it easy to pick and choose, and you might look for (and listen to) Poul Anderson, Laurie R. King, and Charles Edward Pogue, all of whom have something to say about Sherlock Holmes.
10201. The next issue of *SHERLOCK* (edited by David Stuart Davies) won some excellent publicity in the *Daily Telegraph* in Richard Savill's article "The Dubious Pedigree of the Baskerville Hound" (June 1) about an article by thriller writer Phil Rickman in *SHERLOCK* that Conan Doyle was inspired by tales of Herefordshire's Black Vaughan of Kington, and his ghostly Hergest hound; medieval Baskervilles had a castle at Eardisley, near Kington. It remains to be seen whether Kington will supplant Dartmoor as a destination for future Sherlockian tourists. *SHERLOCK* is published bimonthly, and the cost of a subscription is £23.70 (to the U.K.)/£26.00 (continent)/\$40.00 (elsewhere); Atlas Publishing Ltd., Jordan House, Old Milton Green, New Milton, Hants. BH24 6QJ, England <www.sherlockholmes.com>. And Classic Specialties (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219) (877-233-3823) <www.sherlock-holmes.com> is their American agent; credit-card orders are welcomed at both addresses and back issues are available.

10202. Of course there are other candidates. Last year "the title of baron of the castle which is said to have inspired the name of the Sherlock Holmes novel THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES" was offered for sale (June 03 #6). That was Pencelli Castle, near Brecon in Wales, built by 11th-century knight Ralph Baskerville; the owner noted that "Conan Doyle was a regular visitor to the castle during the reign of Queen Victoria." Oh well: "Here a Baskerville, there a Baskerville, everywhere . . ."

June 2004 #5

10203. Eric H. Silk ("The Blue Carbuncle") died on June 8. He was one of the founders of The Bootmakers of Toronto, and drafted the society's constitution (which Cliff Goldfarb quite correctly describes as a document that easily matches The Baker Street Irregulars' Constitution and Buy-Laws); Eric also was Commissioner of the Ontario Police for many years, and he owned the only known piece of Sherlockian pornography (a copy of the 1971 paperback THE SEXUAL ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES) smuggled across an international border by a special agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. He received his Investiture from the BSI in 1977.
10204. Randall Stock has a valuable web-site called "The Best of Sherlock Holmes" at <www.members.aol.com/_ht_a/shbest/index.htm>, where you will find much more information about material in the sale of Conan Doyle material in May, the sale of "The Sussex Vampire" this month, Conan Doyle manuscripts (Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian), copies of Beeton's Christmas Annual for 1887, and much more.
10205. The summer issue of The Magic Door (the newsletter published by The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) has another installment in its continuing series of reports on other libraries' special collections: Rebecca Cape's discussion of the Lilly Library at Indiana University, which has a fine collection of Sherlockiana. Plus Christopher Roden's warm tribute to the late Richard Lancelyn Green, and the usual news from and about the Conan Doyle collection in Toronto. Copies are available from Doug Wrigglesworth, at 16 Sunset Street, Holland Landing, ON L9N 1H4, Canada <dougwrig@sympatico.ca> <www.acdfriends.org/>.
10206. I neglected to report earlier that Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine's editor Janet Hutchings has continued EQMM's pleasant tradition of celebrating the birthday festivities: the Feb. 2004 issue offered a parody by Arthur Porges ("Stately Homes and the Impossible Shot") and Jon L. Breen's "The Jury Box" (with reviews of Sherlockian pastiches), plus an editorial "Happy Birthday" to Holmes.
10207. Sonia Fetherston reports that Lord Addison Travel is advertising a guided tour ("Masters of Mystery: On the Trail of the Great Detectives") in England, Nov. 11-20, devoted to Hercule Poirot, Lord Peter Wimsey, Inspector Morse, and (of course) Sherlock Holmes; the company is at Box 307, Peterborough, NH 03458 (800-326-1070) <www.lordaddison.com>.
10208. John McGowan spotted at BBC News story (June 11) about plans by the British Library to put more than a million pages from 19th-century British newspapers on-line, providing a data base that will be valuable to Sherlockian and Doylean researchers. The £2 million project will cover a century of images and text from papers no longer protected by copyright and a searchable website "is expected to be ready in 18 months' time."
10209. Julia Stevenson reports that the Jeremy Brett Memorial Group is planning to petition the Lambeth City Council to establish memorial garden in his honor on Clapham Common; Brett lived in Clapham for many years and 2005 will mark the 10th anniversary of his death. There's more information at a web-site at <[www.myvillage.co.uk/pages/celebs-jeremybrett.htm?domain=my clapham/](http://www.myvillage.co.uk/pages/celebs-jeremybrett.htm?domain=my%20clapham/)>, and you can sign an on-line petition at <www.petitiononline.com/CCJB2005>.
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June 2004 #6

10210. Jean Upton reports that she has written an introduction for a centenary reprint of THE GOLLIWOGG'S CIRCUS (1903), written by Bertha Upton and illustrated by Jean's grandfather's cousin Florence K. Upton, who created the Golliwoggs in 1895 (Jean also reports that she discovered that Florence was a friend of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, by way of their shared interest in spiritualism, and Dame Jean Conan Doyle recalled having some of the Golliwogg books when she was a child. The reprint is sold by Carlton Ware (Francis Joseph, 5 Southbrook Mews, London, SE12 8LG, England <www.carltonware.co.uk/badges_and_books.htm>; £25.00 plus shipping).
10211. You can visit Gillette Castle on the web, as well as in Hadlyme, Conn.; the URL is <www.hartford.about.com/cs/daytrips/a/aagcastle.htm>. Click on the "virtual photo tour" and you'll find lots of nice photographs, one of which shows Tyke and Teddie Niver as Mr. and Mrs. Gillette.
10212. Bill Barnes reports that The Sydney Passengers plan to celebrate their 20th over the weekend of June 11-13, 2005, and will be honored if visitors from abroad can attend the festivities (tentatively titled "An Excellent Voyage: Twenty Years on the Hotspur"). Additional details are available from Bill (19 Malvern Avenue, Manly NSW 2095, Australia) <bbarnes@ozemail.com.au>.
10213. Ken Lanza spotted an on-line review at <www.aversion.com> of Sonic Youth's new CD "Sonic Nurse" (released by Geffen Records this month at \$13.98); one of the tracks is "Kim Gordon and the Arthur Doyle Hand Cream" (according to the review it "uncovers the screaming waves of distortion and amplifier abuse of the band's glory years, though it settles on a mild-mannered sonic freakout appropriate for the band's mature position in the modern-rock pantheon.") Of course the band has a web-site, where you can hear a sample of the track <www.sonicyouth.com/nurse>. Revolver USA has scheduled a double-LP album to be released on June 28 (\$13.00); 2745 16th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103 <www.midheaven.com>.
10214. It's not at all clear from the lyrics (available unofficially at a fan website) that their Arthur Doyle is our Arthur Conan Doyle. The song was originally written and performed with the title ("Mariah Carey and the Arthur Doyle Hand Cream"); interviewed by the New Zealand Herald (June 20), Sonic Youth's guitarist Lee Ranaldo explained that "We had to change the name of the track for the album, we've changed Mariah Carey to Kim Gordon for legal reasons. The song came about at the time when Mariah was being dropped by her record company, Virgin, after they'd spent \$80 million to sign her to the label. It's a comment on her as a pop star, but also it has a lot to do with that situation where a label signs an artist that sells 15 million copies of an album, then if the next record only sells five million copies they think the artist is a failure all of a sudden and they give them the boot. It's so ridiculous the way the labels think about this medium that is supposed to be art. It's just so crassly commercial and commodified."
10215. The "Ron De Waal Collection of Sherlock Holmes" is being offered for sale for \$80,000 from Sam Weller's Zion Bookstore (254 South Main Street, Salt Lake City, UT 84101 <www.samwellers.com>); according to Tony Weller, there are about 10,000 individual items, and more than 50 cartons of correspondence and other files, and a four-page flier with an overall description of the collection is available on request from the bookstore.
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June 2004 #7

10216. Further to the report (April 04 #2) on the rumor that ITV-1 will broadcast a Sherlock Holmes film starring Stephen Fry and Hugh Laurie, BBC-1 will air its own Sherlock Holmes film, starring Rupert Everett and Ian Hart, in its Christmas schedule. The BBC-1 film will be produced by Tiger Aspect from an original story by Allan Cubitt (who wrote the script for the company's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" on BBC-1 in 2002); according to the BBC's press release, Cubitt's story "reunites an estranged Holmes and his friend Doctor John Watson in a desperate bid to solve a case which threatens to overwhelm the privilege and tranquility of Edwardian aristocratic society," and filming will begin in London in August. The ITV-1 film, with no title yet announced, is to air some time in 2005.
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10217. "A River Runs By It: Holmes and Doyle in Minnesota" (the conference sponsored by The Norwegian Explorers and the Arthur Conan Doyle Society in Minneapolis on June 11-13) was great fun, with presentations and performances and vending and dining and drinking, and about 125 locals and visitors enjoying the festivities. Georgina Doyle (widow of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's nephew Brigadier John Doyle) was on hand for her first time in the United States to help launch her book *OUT OF THE SHADOWS*, which tells the story of Conan Doyle's first wife and their children, and there were other new books available (many of which I hope to review as I find time to read them); and there were guided tours of the Sherlock Holmes Collections in the University's underground cavern (and an interesting exhibit in the Library); and I won't go into additional detail except to suggest that you should consider attending the next conference in Minneapolis, in 2007.
10218. One of the nicer new books unveiled at the conference was *THE HORROR OF THE HEIGHTS: A FACSIMILE OF THE AUTHOR'S HOLOGRAPH MANUSCRIPT WITH COMMENTARY*; the manuscript is one of the treasures in the Special Collections, and the book offers a facsimile of the manuscript and an annotated transcription of the science-fiction story first published in 1913, with the original color and black-and-white illustrations, and commentary by John Bergquist, Michael Dirda, Philip Bergem, Thomas R. Tietze, and Julie McKuras. The book is available from the Calabash Press (Box 1360, Ashcroft, BC V0K 1A0, Canada) <www.ash-tree.bc.ca/calabash.html>; US\$45.00/CA\$58.00/£27.50 plus postage.
10219. The June issue of the quarterly newsletter published by The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota offers news from the collections, Julie McKuras' "100 Years Ago" discussion of Bradshaw's, Ray Betzner's "50 Years Ago" tribute to Edward J. Van Liere, and an explanation of how Linus came to grace the foyer of the library. The newsletter is available from Richard J. Sveum, 111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455 <sveum001@tc.umn.edu>.
10220. *JABBERLAND: A WHIFFLE THROUGH THE TULGEY WOOD OF "JABBERWOCKY"* IMITATIONS, by Hilda Bohem, edited by Dayna McCausland, was published in 2002 for the Lewis Carroll Society of Canada, offering more than 200 parodies, pastiches, burlesques, and imitations of the famous poem that have appeared since 1872. And two of them are Sherlockian, one composed by Ruth Berman and Ron Whyte (1957), and the other by Steve Tolins (1992). The book is available from Dayna McCausland (208 Main Street #321, Erin, ON N0B 1T0, Canada) for \$20.00 postpaid (or \$22.00 outside North America); Canadian or U.S. dollar checks welcome.

June 2004 #8

10221. The manuscript of "The Sussex Vampire" at auction at Christie's in New York on June 9 (April 04 #2) sold for \$399,500 (including the buyer's premium), setting a new record for a Sherlockian short story. The record for a Holmes story at auction is \$519,500 (for "The Sign of the Four" in 1996); the previous record for a short story was \$244,500 (set by "Charles Augustus Milverton", accompanied by Frederic Dorr Steele's original artwork for his portrait of Milverton, in 1999).
10222. The American Cinematheque has scheduled a "Sherlock Holmes on Film" series at the Egyptian Theatre (6712 Hollywood Boulevard in Hollywood) on July 2-4, featuring ten films starring Basil Rathbone, Peter Cushing, Nicol Williamson, Christopher Plummer, and Robert Stephens <www.egyptiantheatre.com>.
10223. Philip Locke died on Apr. 19. He began his acting career in minor roles on stage at the Royal Court in London in the 1950s, and played major parts at the National Theatre and with the Royal Shakespeare Company, and went on to act in films and on television. And he was a splendid Moriarty in the RSC revival of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" in London, Washington, and New York in 1974 and 1975. It was nice indeed that while he was performing at the Kennedy Center in Washington, the Washington Star-News commissioned him to review John Gardner's *THE RETURN OF MORIARTY*; Locke, writing as Moriarty, predicted that Gardner's "fable will do well."
10224. Laurie R. King's *THE GAME*, her latest novel starring Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes (March 04 #6), has a British edition from Alison & Busby (£18.99).
10225. The Baker Street Irregulars' weekend expedition to the Valley of Fear (Oct. 22-24) has been fully booked, but additional accommodations have been found and space is again available. There will be distinguished speakers, guided tours with expert guides, entertainment, meals, and an expedition handbook, all for \$135 (per person); accommodations cost \$250 (per person) for a twonight stay. The festivities are open to all, and you can contact Mary Ann Bradley (7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278) (317-293-2212).
10226. The UCLA Film and Television Archive's "12th Festival of Film Preservation" (July 22-Aug. 21 in Los Angeles) will feature two of Basil Rathbone's films on Aug. 6: "The Mark of Zorro" (1940) and "Sherlock Holmes in Washington" (1943); their web-site's as <www.cinema.ucla.edu>.
10227. Forecast: June Thomson's *THE SECRET NOTEBOOKS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES*, from Allison & Busby in June (£18.99/\$25.95); more new pastiches from the unrecorded cases.
10228. One of the features of the "Footprints of the Hound" conference in Toronto in Oct. 2001 was an excellent performance of Bill Nadel's one-hour adaptation of Edith Meiser's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" radio script (originally broadcast by NBC in six 30-minute episodes in 1941); a 65-minute CD is now available from the Friends of the ACD Collection, 15 Sunset Street, Holland Landing, ON L9N 1H4, Canada <acdfriends@sympatico.ca> for CA\$20.00/US \$15.00/£8.00 plus shipping (credit-card orders welcome).

July 2004 #1

10229. The famous (perhaps infamous) "tent joke" still turns up, sometimes in odd places, the most recent odd place being the Ramada Hotel in Belfast, where the Democratic Unionist Party held its annual conference. DUP deputy leader Peter Robinson told the joke (citing "The Hound of the Baskervilles") in his address to the conference on May 8; you can read his speech on-line at the DUP web-site <www.dup.org.uk/SearchDetails.asp?Article_ID=617>. I've published the joke once (December 01 #6), from the Reader's Digest (Nov. 1998), and once is enough. Karen Murdock spotted a report about the speech in the Irish Times (May 10).
10230. Will Thomas explains that his new mystery novel *SOME DANGER INVOLVED* (New York: Simon and Schuster/Touchstone, 2004; 304 pp., \$22.95) is more an homage than a pastiche, with a lead character based on Holmes' rival in "The Retired Colourman" (Cyrus Barker and his apprentice Thomas Llewelyn investigate a murder in Victorian London). Ellery Queen's *Mystery Magazine* has published four of Will's Sherlockian poems.
10231. Department of Canonical allusions: "If we can establish the facts about the two cigarette-cases, the secret drawer, the telephone conversation and the stolen letter, we're right. Good Lord, that sounds like a list of titles from the old Sherlock Holmes stories. I think part of the charm of those excellent tales lies in Watson's casual but enthralling references to cases we never hear of again." Chief Inspector Roderick Alleyn, in Ngaio Marsh's *DEATH IN A WHITE TIE* (1938).
10232. Manly Wade Wellman wrote a Sherlockian pastiche in 1941 and contributed to *The Baker Street Journal* from 1946 to 1953 (becoming a member of *The Baker Street Irregulars* in 1951), and (with his son Wade Wellman) wrote a series of science fiction stories that were collected as *SHERLOCK HOLMES'S WAR OF THE WORLDS* (1975). He was a fine writer in other fields (he died in 1986), and there's an excellent web-site <www.manlywadewellman.com> maintained by Daniel Ross that's devoted to Wellman's life and work.

10233. Further to the item on Sonic Youth's song "Kim Gordon and the Arthur Doyle Hand Cream" (June 04 #6), the line in the last verse is: "Like Arthur Doyle they can't fake you." And responses to a query to a bulletin board at the group's web-site suggest that the reference is to free-jazz saxophonist Arthur Doyle, who was born in Birmingham, Ala., in 1944 and who performs in a style he calls "free jazz soul."
10234. As noted earlier (June 04 #4), the new issue of SHERLOCK (#60) offers Phil Rickman's article about the Welsh inspiration for "The Hound of the Baskervilles", Peter Lovesey's new (non-Sherlockian) story about Sergeant Cribb. and David Stuart Davies' report on his visit to the BBC during recording of Bert Coules' new "Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes". SHERLOCK is published bimonthly, and subscriptions cost £23.70 (to the U.K.)/£26.00 (continent)/\$40.00 (elsewhere); Atlas Publishing Ltd., Jordan House, Old Milton Green, New Milton, Hants. BH24 6QJ, England <www.sherlockholmes.com>. And Classic Specialties is the American agent (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219) (877-233-3823) <www.sherlockholmes.com>; credit-card orders are welcomed at both addresses and back issues are available.
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July 2004 #2

10235. Maurice Leblanc's ARSENE LUPIN VS. SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE HOLLOW NEEDLE has been published in a new translation by Jean-Marc and Randy Lofficier (Encino: Black Coat Press, 2004; 261 pp., \$20.95), and the book also has Leblanc's short story "Sherlock Holmes Arrives Too Late", an interesting introduction by Kim Newman (author of ANNO DRACULA), and a new pastiche by the Lofficiers about the final encounter between the Gentleman Burglar and the Great Detective. It's nice to see Leblanc's work in print, and there's more to come from the Lofficiers. The publisher has a web-site at <www.blackcoatpress.com>, with a link to an interesting French World Newtown Universe, which expands (in English) on the World Newton Universe that Philip Jose Farmer created in the 1970s (and of course it includes Sherlock Holmes); there's also an intriguing (and illustrated) bibliography of Sherlockian pastiches in French, in books and comics, and on the radio.
10236. Philip Jose Farmer also wrote a biography of Tarzan, and (of course) there is a web-site devoted to Edgar Rice Burroughs <www.erbzine.com>, where the archives include Stu Shiffman's "Adventure of the Martian Hegira: Fragments from the Barsoomian Reminiscences of Sherlock Holmes" in issue 215 of their weekly on-line fanzine.
10237. SHERLOCK HOLMES IN BABYLON AND OTHER TALES OF MATHEMATICAL HISTORY, edited by Marlow Anderson, et al. (Washington: Mathematical Association of America, 2004; 400 pp., \$49.95), has imaginative Sherlockian cover art, but only the artwork and title are Sherlockian. The original article appeared in the American Mathematical Monthly (May 1980) and was written by R. Creighton Buck, who started with an explanation: "Let me begin by clarifying the title 'Sherlock Holmes in Babylon.' Lest some members of the Baker Street Irregulars be misled, my topic is the archaeology of mathematics." And that was (and is) the only mention of Sherlock Holmes in the article and book.
10238. Maria Sharapova, the 17-year-old winner of the tennis singles championship at Wimbledon this month, "enjoys reading books in the Sherlock Holmes and Pippi Longstocking series," according to an item noted by Takeshi Shimizu.
10239. For completists (or those who haven't yet read the books): Nicholas Meyer's three Sherlockian pastiches have been issued by W. W. Norton in a uniform set of trade paperbacks: THE SEVEN-PER-CENT SOLUTION (\$13.00), THE WEST END HORROR (\$10.95), and THE CANARY TRAINER (\$10.95).
10240. Gerald R. Clark died on July 11; he was a former Pinkerton agent and security guard, and he was the founder, in 1971, of The Mycroft Holmes Society of Syracuse.
10241. Joseph A. Kestner, a professor of English at the University of Tulsa, has explored the Canon in SHERLOCK'S MEN: MASCULINITY, CONAN DOYLE, AND CULTURE HISTORY (July 98 #1), and in THE EDWARDIAN DETECTIVE, 1901-1915 (Brookfield: Ashgate Publishing, 1999; 416 pp., \$89.95) he offers a reminder that many of the Sherlock Holmes stories were written in an Edwardian (rather than a Victorian age), and discusses the cultural aspects of Edwardian attitudes in the works of Conan Doyle and many of his contemporary mystery writers.
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July 2004 #3

10242. John Baesch notes that the new mail-order catalog from Antique Hardware & Home (19 Buckingham Plantation Drive, Bluffton, SC 29910 (800-422-9982) <www.antiquehardware.com> offers solid mahogany replicas of British telephone booths (in mahogany finish or painted the familiar red) for \$899. "It's elementary, Watson!" they exclaim, suggesting you'll be the talk of the town with one of their booths in your game room, office, or restaurant. If you want an authentic cast-iron phone booth, the cost is \$7,500. Plus shipping (they weigh about 1,500 pounds).
10243. Francine Kitts reports (and recommends) a new Sherlock Holmes Leather Paperweight in a catalog from Acorn (5389 East Provident Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45246 (888-870-8047) <www.acornonline.com>; it's 4.25x3.5 in. and weighs one pound, and carries Sherlock Holmes' observation that "The little things are infinitely the most important."
10244. It's easy enough to assume that everyone who uses e-mail has discovered one or more aspects of the downside of e-mail, and has become aware of the need for firewalls and filters and such; some Internet Service Providers install filters to block potentially dangerous incoming e-mail, screening messages for indications that the message might be malicious. Recently I sent someone a message that contained the phrase "at home" and the word "spam", and the recipient's ISP blocked the message, and explained why.
10245. Congratulations to forensic toxicologist Marina Stajic (whose Investiture in The Baker Street Irregulars is "Curare"), on her appointment by Governor George E. Pataki to the N.Y. State Commission on Forensic Science; the commission sets accreditation criteria for all the public forensic laboratories in the state. The photograph shows Marina and the governor at the BSI's annual dinner in 1999.
10246. Thierry Saint-Joanis, as Mycroft's Brother Editions, published Jean-Pierre Cagnat's fine IT IS ALWAYS A JOY...TO ME TO MEET AN AMERICAN, A BRITON, A JAPANESE, A CANADIAN, A SWISS... (February 01 #1) (still available at E36.00), he also offers Richard L. Boyer's LE RAT GEANT DE SUMATRA (a translation of Boyer's 1976 pastiche) (E18.00), and Bernard Oudin's new SHERLOCK HOLMES ET LA SUFFRAGETTE AMOUREUSE (a collection of seven pastiches) (E18.00). Shipping costs are extra, and more information is available at his web-site at <www.sshf.com/index.php3?dir=fr/biblio&file=mycrofts_brother>; his postal address is 2 impasse de la Serre - Saint-Julien, 63320 Montaigut-le-Blanc, France.
10247. Ken Lanza has reported that "Hands of a Murder" (1990) was released on DVD by Wellspring Media on July 20 (\$24.98); the film starred Edward Woodward (Holmes), John Hillerman (Watson), and Anthony Andrews (Moriarty), and the script was written by Charles Edward Pogue.
10248. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London is planning to make another pilgrimage to Switzerland in June 2005, in costume and in character, with a "very exciting and varied programme (interspersed with a number of serious crimes as well as some startling surprises)." More information is available from Judi Ellis (13 Crofton Avenue, Orpington, Kent BR6 8DU, England) and at the society's web-site <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk>.
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July 2004 #4

10249. There's yet another edition of THE SIGN OF FOUR (Peterborough: Broadview Press, 2001; 167 pp., \$7.95), with scattered annotations in the text and a striking cover photograph showing "Some members of Hodson's Horse Brigade, a mixed troop of Indian and British soldiers, 1857" (Hodson's

Horse was raised at Delhi in 1857 during the Sepoy rebellion, and fought at Lucknow, both cities being mentioned in the story); it is obvious from the photograph the Hodson's men were not to be trifled with.

10250. Some interesting Conan Doyle material was auctioned at Sotheby's in London on July 8. There were three lots with manuscript material sent to travel writer Douglas Sladen, two related to Conan Doyle's visit to Egypt in 1895-1896 (one of them a letter in which he mentions finding his "little holmes stories" translated into Arabic for use by the Egyptian police) and a third with an eight-page lecture in which he discusses his early career and literary influences, and explains why he stopped writing the Sherlock Holmes stories.
10251. It is easy to see how important Sherlockian content can be in valuing Conan Doyle's letters: the first (non-Sherlockian) lot (four pages) was estimated at £1,000-1,500 and brought £1,320 (including the buyer's premium), and the second Egyptian lot (three pages), estimated at £800-1,200, brought £2,160. The third lot (the lecture), estimated at £5,000-7,000, sold for £16,800.
10252. And there was a miscellaneous lot that included a pen-and-ink caricature by James Frank Sullivan (1853-1936) showing Sherlock Holmes with a dressing gown and an extremely large pipe; if anyone can identify when and where the caricature was published, please let me know. The estimate on the lot was £900-1,200, and it did not sell.
10253. Jo Soares' pastiche O XANGO DE BAKER STREET was published in Portuguese in Brazil in 1995 (February 96 #4), and in other languages, including (eventually) English in 1997 as A SAMBA FOR SHERLOCK (December 97 #4). The story brings Holmes and Watson to Rio de Janeiro to investigate the disappearance of a valuable Stradivarius during Sarah Bernhardt's first visit to the city; the book's a thriller and a parody, and its humor is broad, often vulgar, and sometimes quite dark. A film based on the book was released in Brazil and Portugal in 2001, played briefly at a film festival in New York in 2002, and at long last it's available on DVD (NTSC, region 4 only), in Portuguese, with English sub-titles, from Diabolik: Demented Discs from the World Over (Box 8913, Collingswood, NJ 08108) <www.diabolikdvd.com> for \$24.99 plus shipping; thanks to Don Pollock for identifying a reliable source for the DVD. Region 4 is South America, and region 4 DVDs won't run on standard U.S. (region 1) DVD players. But: region 4 DVDs play easily on most (if not all) computer DVD drives.
10254. Production on a new Canadian version of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" began on July 4, with Anthony D. P. Mann as Holmes and Bill Morrow as Watson. The film is scheduled for release later this year on VHS and DVD, and there is a web-site <www.geocities.com/anthonydpmann> with more information, and a photograph of the company at work in Kingston City Hall (substituting for the parlor at Baskerville Hall).
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July 2004 #5

10255. The BBC has released five of its 1960s television programs with Peter Cushing and Nigel Stock on three DVDs, with "The Hound of the Baskervilles", "A Study in Scarlet" and "The Boscombe Valley Mystery", and "The Sign of Four" and "The Blue Carbuncle" (£9.99 each); there's also a boxed set (£24.99). The DVDs are made for region 2 (Europe and Japan), but you ought to be able to play them on any computer DVD drive. The BBC has a web-site at <www.bbcshop.com>.
10256. Scott Monty reports that The Bull-Terrier Club will visit Newport, R.I., on Sept. 4 to watch an international polo match (USA vs. England) and to toast all the polo players mentioned in the Canon; tailgating begins at 3:00, and the match at 5:00 <www.newportinternationalpolo.com>. You can call Scott (617-464-4153) for more information.
10257. Scott also notes that the Meridian Hotel in Boston is now part of the Langham chain <www.langhamhotels.com/langham/boston>. The King of Bohemia was one of three people named in the Canon who stayed at the Langham in London.
10258. The Postal Service has honored R. Buckminster Fuller as "an inventor, architect, engineer, designer, geometrician, cartographer, and philosopher," with a portrait by Boris Artzybasheff (first published on the cover of the Jan. 10, 1964, issue of Time magazine) that has Fuller's head in the pattern of a geodesic dome (perhaps the best known of his many inventions). Bucky Fuller was a protege and good friend of Christopher Morley in the 1930s, and a member of the Three Hours for Lunch Club, the Grillparzer Sittenpolitzeiverein, and The Baker Street Irregulars.
10259. Jennie Paton has reported that "The Name of the Rose" (1986) was released on DVD by Warner Home Video on July 6 (\$19.98); the film starred Sean Connery (William of Baskerville) and Christian Slater (Adso of Melk), and the disk has added commentary, a making-of featurette, and other features.
10260. There's a new addition to the list of languages into which Sherlock Holmes stories have been translated: 'O CUNTO D' 'O CHIRCHIO RUSSO' is a translation into Neapolitan of "The Adventure of the Red Circle" (the Camorra were and still are based in Naples) by Roberto d'Ajello. Uno Studio in Holmes has published the story in a 93-page book that also contains "L'Avventura del Cerchio Rosso" (an Italian translation by Gianluca Salvatori) and the text in the original English. Copies can be ordered from Dott. Gabriele Mazzoni, C.P. 672, I-50053 Empoli (FI), Italy; \$18.00 postpaid (in currency, please), or via PayPal to Gianluca <mycroft@versilia.toscana.it>.
10261. A few years ago HarperCollins issued three sets of stories read by Christopher Lee: THE ADVENTURE OF THE SUSSEX VAMPIRE AND OTHER STORIES [SUSS/SHOS/ILLU/VEIL] on two cassettes (£10.99), THE ADVENTURE OF THE LION'S MANE AND OTHER STORIES [LION/3GAR/THOR/RETI] on two cassettes (£10.99), and THE CASE BOOK OF SHERLOCK HOLMES [BLAN/CREE/MAZA/3GAB] on two cassettes (£10.99) and two CDs (£12.99); Phil Attwell reports that the sets are now discounted at £5.99 (cassettes) and £6.49 (CDs) at <www.listen2books.co.uk>. Christopher Lee has an excellent reading voice, and has been a fine Holmes on film and television (as well as playing Sir Henry Baskerville and Mycroft Holmes).
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July 2004 #6

10262. Further to the mention of Philip Locke's review (as Moriarty, when he was playing Moriarty) of John Gardner's THE RETURN OF MORIARTY (June 04 #8), Lenny Picker had heard from Gardner that "plans are well advanced for doing the third Moriarty," and that he should be starting the book toward the end of next year.
10263. Roger Johnson offers an addition to the list of actors who have played both Sherlock Holmes and Inspector Lestrade (June 04 #2): Donald Gee was Sherlock Holmes in Conan Doyle's "The Speckled Band" at the Nottingham Playhouse in 1977, and Lestrade (with Clive Merrison as Holmes) in broadcasts in the BBC Radio 4 series from 1990 to 1993.
10264. "Chinese Cartoonist Sues Nike" was the headline on a story in the Seattle Post-Intelligencer on July 16. Cartoonist Zhu Zhiqiang (known as Xiaoxiao on the Internet) has filed a lawsuit against Nike demanding 2 million yuan (\$240,000) and a public apology for copying his "Little Match Man" artwork in their worldwide "Creativity in Sports" television advertising campaign. According to China Daily, Nike's lawyer Zhang Zaiping told the Beijing No. 1 Intermediate People's Court that Zhu's artwork is not protected by copyright because it lacks originality; "From murals and stone paintings in ancient times to Sherlock Holmes stories, the logo has been used repeatedly," Zhang explained. See above for a sample of Zhu's "Little Match Man".
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10265. NO ORDINARY TERROR, by J. Brooks Van Dyke (Dallas: Durban House, 2004; 314 pp., \$15.95); Richard and Emma Watson, twin children of Dr. John H. Watson (she's also a doctor, in practice with her father) investigate an Edwardian espionage mystery set before World War I. Mycroft is involved, and so is a second-generation Inspector Gordon Lestrade. The author has a web-site at <www.jbrooksandyke.com>.
10266. Stephen Clarkson's FIRST MAGAZINE APPEARANCES OF THE SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES offers his research into the priority of the British and American magazines that published the Canonical tales; the 24-page pamphlet is available from Steve (91 Haven Lane, Berkeley Springs, WV 25411); \$5.00 postpaid.
10267. Abbey National has agreed to be taken over by Spain's largest bank, Banco Santander Central Hispanico, in a deal estimated at £8.5 billion. The new offer is less than half of the £18 billion offered by Lloyds TSB in 2001, in an attempted takeover that was blocked by the British government as anticompetitive. There have been press reports that other banks, including Citigroup and Lloyds, TSB may now enter the bidding. Abbey National closed its headquarters in Baker Street some months ago; letters sent to Sherlock Holmes at 221b Baker Street now are being answered by the Sherlock Holmes Museum (April 04 #5). Thanks to John Baesch and Bob Katz for noting the latest news about Abbey.
10268. News from Britain: a new dramatization (by Clive Francis) of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be directed by Richard Baron at the Nottingham Playhouse from Sept. 4 to Sept. 25, and at the Salisbury Playhouse from Sept. 30 to Oct. 23. According to the Nottingham Playhouse web-site, there will be "four actors each taking on the pivotal roles of Holmes and Watson."

July 2004 #7

10269. Georgina Doyle's OUT OF THE SHADOWS: THE UNTOLD STORY OF ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE'S FIRST FAMILY is an excellent and invaluable addition to the biographies of Conan Doyle. Georgina is the widow of Brigadier John Doyle, son of Conan Doyle's brother Innes, and her father and Georgina were close friends of Conan Doyle's daughter Mary. Other biographers have paid far more attention to Conan Doyle's second wife and family than to his first, but Georgina, using her husband's diaries, correspondence, and family photographs, offers an intriguing view of Conan Doyle's life and career, and the complicated, and sometimes antagonistic, interactions between Lady Doyle and her step-children, and then between Mary and Denis, Adrian, and Jean. There's also new and interesting information about the Doyle, Foley, and Hawkins families, and helpful family trees for all the family branches. The book is available from the Calabash Press (Box 1360, Ashcroft, BC V0K 1A0, Canada) <www.ash-tree.bc.ca/calabash.html>; US\$42.00/CA\$55.00/£25.00 (cloth) plus postage, or US\$25.00/CA\$35.00/£15.00 (paper) plus postage.
10270. THE BEST AMERICAN MYSTERY STORIES 2003 (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2003; 328 pp., \$27.50 cloth, \$13.00 paper), edited by Michael Connelly and Otto Penzler, contains 20 fine stories, including Daniel Stashower's "The Adventure of the Agitated Actress" (reprinted from MURDER, MY DEAR WATSON: NEW TALES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES).
10271. The world celebrated the centenary of "Bloomsday" on June 16, and the Irish post office issued two stamps honoring James Joyce and ULYSSES (one of them with a striking portrait photograph taken by Constantine Curran in 1904). Hugh Kenner and William D. Jenkins have reported on the many allusions to the Sherlock Holmes stories in Joyce's works, and the OXFORD ENGLISH DICTIONARY notes one of them (from ULYSSES): "He had been meantime taking stock of the individual in front of him and Sherlock-holmesing him up."
10272. The May issue of The Holmes & Watson Report offers editor Brad Keefauver's thoughts about how one might read the Canon if one knew it would be for the last time, and David F. Morrill's review of "The Loss of a Personal Friend" (1987), which may be a record-holder: a film that's been seen by the fewest Sherlockians. \$16.00 a year (for six issues) or \$22.00 outside North America, or \$3.00 for one issue, from Brad Keefauver (4009 North Chelsea Place, Peoria, IL 61614).
10273. Plan ahead: Ken Ludwig's play "Postmortem" (a murder mystery set at William home in Connecticut, with Gillette doing the detecting) is scheduled at the Curtain Call Theatre (210 Old Loudon Road, Latham, NY 12110) (518-877-7529) <www.curtaincalltheatre.com> in 2005, from Mar. 4 to Apr. 9; thanks to Ken Lanza for the news.
10274. Ted Friedman spotted Jeremy Brett in "Macbeth" (one of a nine-play series produced in the 1980s and available on DVD). Brett played Macbeth, with Piper Laurie as Lady Macbeth and Simon MacCorkindale as Macduff; "Macbeth" (1981) was released on DVD by Image Entertainment (Ted found it in his local library, but it's available for sale at web-sites).

August 2004 #1

10275. There are many Sherlockians who remember the excitement during the Christmas season of 1967, when William S. Baring-Gould's THE ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES appeared in the book stores, and I'm sure there will be similar attention paid to Leslie S. Klinger's THE NEW ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES this coming Christmas season. W. W. Norton was sufficiently impressed by Les' continuing work on his SHERLOCK HOLMES REFERENCE SERIES to commission a new version intended for the general public, and the new version is impressive indeed, offering the same overall format as Baring-Gould's work, with annotations and illustrations, but covering an additional 37 years of Sherlockian scholarship, and with a different arrangement: two volumes, with all of the short stories and a total of more than 1900 pages, will be published in November (\$75.00), and a third volume, with the long stories, is due next year. There's a fine introduction by John le Carre, and Les' own excellent exploration of the world of Sherlock Holmes (and Conan Doyle, and the Sherlockians). Les modestly suggests that "this is not a work for the serious student of Arthur Conan Doyle," but he's seriously wrong: you may think you know it all, but you'll find that you don't, and I recommend the NEW ANNOTATED to everyone. You can read much more about the new work at Les' website <www.lesliesklinger.com>, where there's also a schedule of his appearances on tour coast-to-coast in November and December .
10276. Forge/Tom Doherty Associates have begun their paperback reissues of Carole Nelson Douglas' series about Irene Adler, with new titles and uniform cover artwork by Glenn Harrington, offering Carole an opportunity for minor revisions to make the series' time-line more consistent: ANOTHER SCANDAL IN BOHEMIA (formerly IRENE'S LAST WALTZ) was published in Jan. 2003, and THE ADVENTURESS (formerly GOOD MORNING, IRENE) in Dec. 2003.
10277. Ken Lanza spotted a review in Scotland on Sunday (July 25) of PABLO NERUDA: A PASSION FOR LIFE, a new biography by Adam Feinstein (London: Bloomsbury, 2004; 544 pp., £25.00) (there's an American edition from Bloomsbury USA); Neruda, who won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1971 for his poetry, was born Ricardo Reyes, and at the age of 16, when he wrote his earliest poems, adopted a pseudonym, taking his surname from the violinist Wilhelmina Norman-Neruda, who is mentioned in "A Study in Scarlet".
10278. Further to reports that Stephen Fry will star as Sherlock Holmes in an ITV "Sherlock Holmes" television film, and speculation that Fry is too heavy to play the part effectively, the Sun has reported (July 16) that Fry has purchased a running machine so that he can slim down for the role. But he had yet to try out the machine: "It's out of the box," he explained, "but I am going to see a doctor to see how much I can do."
10279. Michael Meer has reported on his visit to the Dia:Beacon Museum in Beacon, N.Y., which has an installation by German artist Hanne Darboven that (according to the catalog) weaves together "cultural, social, and historical references with autobiographical documents." It includes displays of film

stars, and the film stars include Rathbone and Bruce, captioned as Holmes and Watson (all the other films stars are captioned with their names). The museum's web-site is at <www.diabeacon.org>. And Michael notes that Beacon is not far from Poughkeepsie, home of The Hudson Valley Scientists.

August 2004 #2

10280. "Conan Doyle Comes Home to Portsmouth" was the headline on the Portsmouth City Council's press release announcing that Richard Lancelyn Green's collection has been bequeathed to Portsmouth. Richard's will stipulated that the collection should be kept together, and he wanted it offered first to Portsmouth. The books and printed material will go to the Central Library, and the artifacts to the City Museum. Richard's brother Scirard said that "It's truly fitting that Richard's life work should go to Portsmouth. Conan Doyle wrote the first two Sherlock Holmes stories there, so in some way his work is going home. Richard would have been very pleased that Portsmouth is the final resting place for his eclectic and amazing collection."
10281. Ken Lanza noted a review of *A MOMENT ON THE EDGE: 100 YEARS OF CRIME STORIES BY WOMEN*, edited by Elizabeth George (New York: HarperCollins, 2004; 560 pp., \$24.95); the stories include Gillian Linscott's "A Scandal in Winter" (reprinted from *HOLMES FOR THE HOLIDAYS*).
10282. The eight "historical" masks (including a Sherlock Holmes mask) (see August 03 #5) are still available for \$19.95 plus shipping, from *HearthSong* (item 710564); Box 1050, Madison, VA 22727) (800-533-4397) <www.hearthsong.com>.
10283. Bud Livingston has reported an advertisement for Thomas Wheeler's *THE ARCANUM* (New York: Bantam, 2004; 336 pp., \$22.00); "1919, New York City: With body after mutilated body discovered in the Bowery, an alliance of investigators known as the Arcanum--including Sir Arthur Conan Doyle--takes matters into its own hands to thwart an unnamed evil."
10284. Januarye Hoffman died on July 26. She made her Broadway debut in 1940, and was a founding member of the Actors Studio; she also appeared in many films and television programs, and was the 2nd Telephone Operator in "They Might Be Giants" (1971).
10285. If don't have anything in Mongolian in your collection of translations of the Sherlock Holmes stories, there are two volumes available from The Mongolia Society (322 Goodbody Hall, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405 <www.indiana.edu/~mongsoc> *STORIES ABOUT SHERLOCK HOLMES, BOOK 6 [FIVE/SPEC /ABBE]* and *BOOK 7 [DANC/CROO/SECO]*; \$30.00 each plus shipping (credit-card orders welcome).
10286. Andrea Plunket, who was Andrea Reynolds when she (and her husband Sheldon Reynolds) controlled the Sherlock Holmes copyrights (which were eventually recovered by Dame Jean Conan Doyle) continues to claim control of the characters but has now had a third judge summarily dismiss a third lawsuit she has filed against people and companies that have ignored her demands. The most recent suit was against USA Cable over their television film "Case of Evil" (2002); the court granted summary judgement in favor of USA Cable in June, and awarded attorneys' fees to USA Cable, and ruling that it was "objectively unreasonable" for the lawsuit to have been filed invoked a "rule 11" sanction that made Andrea's attorney also liable for USA Cable's fees.
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August 2004 #3

10287. Hardcover Theater will present "Sherlock Holmes: Murder at the Abbey Grange" (a new adaptation by Mark Steven Jensen) at the Minneapolis Theatre Garage on Aug. 7-14, according to Julie McKuras. The box office address is 711 West Franklin Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55405 (612-604-4466) <www.fringefestival.org>.
10288. Further to the item (January 04 #4) on the East Lynne Theater Company's staged readings of Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" during the "Sherlock Holmes Weekends" in Cape May, N.J., the weekends also offer S'ian mysteries written by John Pekich that are solved by participants with the assistance of Sherlock Holmes (played by Jeff Craig). The next weekends are Nov. 5-7, and on Mar. 4-6 and Nov. 4-6, 2005. Additional information is available from the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts, Box 340, Cape May, NJ 08204 (800-275-4278) <www.capemaymac.org>.
10289. Eugene Roche died on July 28. He began his acting career on radio at the age of 15, and went on to character work, with a long list of credits on stage, screen, and television; and he played a policeman in "They Might Be Giants" (1971).
10290. The web-site at <www.wordcount.org> offers an interesting look at what can be done with computers. "WordCount is an artistic experiment in the way we use language. It presents the 86,800 most frequently used English words, ranked in order of commonality," according to the web-site. You will find "sherlock" at 19364, just after "deformation" and just before "expertly". "holmes" is 7677, "watson" is 6308, and "moriarty" is 49311. "scuttlebutt" (alas) "is currently not in the archive."
10291. Add *The Occupants of the Empty House* to the list of Sherlockian societies that have indexed their journals: *THE CAMDEN HOUSE JOURNAL INDEX 1979-2003*, edited by William R. Cochran, covers 25 years of monthly issues, indexed by author and subject. There are 63 pages, with essays about society founder Newt Williams and other editors, and it's available from Stan Tinsley (Box 21, Zeigler, IL 62999); \$23.95 postpaid (checks payable to The Occupants of the Empty House, please).
10292. Birlstone Manor is in a film (again); the first film was "The Draughtsman's Contract" (1982), and the second one is "The Four Feathers" (2002), based on A. E. W. Mason's novel and starring Heath Ledger, Wes Bentley, and Kate Hudson. The scenes at Jack Durrance's country home, where he recovers from his wounds, were shot on location at Groombridge Place (on which Sir Arthur modeled Birlstone Manor in "The Valley of Fear"). The film aired on Showtime cable in July, and on The Movie Channel in August; it's also available on DVD, and presumably will be broadcast by a network eventually.
10293. If you have been one of those complaining that the U.S. Postal Service has not issued a stamp honoring Sherlock Holmes, you now have an opportunity to fill that gap: the USPS has authorized Stamps.com <www.photo.stamps.com> to create personalized postage for anyone who sends in a digitized photo. It's not cheap, since a sheet of 20 37c stamps costs \$16.99 (and shipping costs \$2.99 per order). And there are some restrictions: no politics, violence, obscenity, or trademark infringement, and users are required by law to own the rights to or to obtain permission to use any image to create postage.
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August 2004 #4

10294. Mark Haddon's *THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME* (2003) was a best-selling first novel, and it has drawn a great deal of attention to Asperger syndrome (according to Mel Gussow's story in the Aug. 3 issue of the N.Y. Times, a form of high-functioning autism characterized by obsessive behavior, brilliance in some areas, and social ineptitude). And Sherlock Holmes is the favorite author of Christopher Boone, the book's protagonist. Some Sherlockians (and non-Sherlockians) have discussed whether Sherlock Holmes had Asperger syndrome, and psychiatrist Oliver Sacks (who has written widely on medical subjects), queried by Gussow, said that "There is a strange constellation of characters whom we now call Asperger's people. It's reasonable to see Holmes in that direction."
10295. David Raksin died on Aug. 9. He worked as a musician in Philadelphia, and in 1935 moved to Hollywood to work with Charlie Chapin on "Modern Times", and went on to write music for more than 400 films and television series. Nominated for two Academy Awards, he is best remembered for
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- his score for "Laura" (1944); he also wrote original music for "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1939) and "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (1939).
10296. There are nice Sherlockian (and Watsonian) touches in Jeffrey Deaver's "The Westphalian Ring" in the September-October issue of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine.
10297. George Bernard Shaw once suggested that "England and America are two countries divided by a common language," and the Canon offers occasional examples of words and phrases that don't mean the same thing on different sides of the Atlantic (John Bennett Shaw's liked to cite "knocked up"). The second edition of Mike Etherington's THE VERY BEST OF BRITISH: AN AMERICAN'S GUIDE TO SPEAKING BRITISH was published in 2000; it's now available on-line at <www.effingpot.com>, and it's both educational and amusing.
10298. Stephen Kempksi has noted that Edward R. Hamilton (Falls Village, CT 06031-5000) <www.edwardrhamilton.com> offers a wide range of remaindered and discounted books, including at least a dozen paperback pastiches published by Breese Books, discounted to \$3.95 from \$12.95.
10299. Al Gregory notes that the television series "Fawlty Towers" may be unique in that all of its stars have appeared in at least one Sherlockian production: John Cleese (Basil) in "The Strange Case of the End of Civilization as We Know It" (1977), Prunella Scales (Sibyl) in Peter Cook's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1978), Connie Booth (Polly) in "The Strange Case of Civilization as We Know It" (1977), Andrew Sachs (Manuel) in Clive Merrison's BBC Radio 4 series, Ballard Berkley (Major Gowen) in Peter Cushing's BBC-1 "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1968). Can anyone cite another candidate?
10300. Karen Murdock noted a story in the Townsville Bulletin (July 30) about "The Paddy in Oz" held at the University of Southern Queensland, July 12-17 (the name of the stage and film-fighting workshop honors Patrick "Paddy" Crean, who was Errol Flynn's choreographer and stunt double); one of the features of the workshop was an exhibition of bartitsu, described by fighting-styles designer Tony Wolfe as "the art of defending oneself while twirling one's moustache." The article noted the connection with Conan Doyle and bartitsu.

August 2004 #5

10301. "Let us accept, until proven otherwise, that bin Laden is what he seems--a worthy and dangerous foe--and agree with what Mr. Holmes told Dr. Watson, that eliminating all other options, 'Whatever remains however improbable must be the truth.'" Spotted by Sam Fry in IMPERIAL HUBRIS: WHY THE WEST IS LOSING THE WAR ON TERROR, by Anonymous (Dulles: Brassey's, 2004; 309 pp., \$27.50); the author is Michael Scheuer, a veteran CIA employee whose first book was THROUGH OUR ENEMIES' EYES: OSAMA BIN LADEN, RADICAL ISLAM, AND THE FUTURE OF AMERICA (2002).
10302. Edinburgh plans to ask UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization) for the agency's first award of the title "world city of literature", according to reports in the Scottish press this month. The city cites writers past (Sir Walter Scott, Robert Louis Stevenson, and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle) and present (Alexander McCall Smith, J. K. Rowling, Ian Rankin, Irvine Welsh, and Dame Muriel Spark, and economics experts have estimated that UNESCO recognition would be worth £2.2 million in extra business to the city. The award would come from the Global Alliance for Cultural Diversity, which was launched by UNESCO in 2002 "to reinforce cultural industries in developing countries and countries in transition while improving the protection of intellectual property rights." And at the end of 2003 the Alliance reported its first results: promoting Algeria's book policy and strengthening its publishing sector, boosting the music industry in Jamaica, helping to market hand-woven items from Tibet abroad, making small Central American publishers more competitive, and creating new musical production standards in Africa. Edinburgh's backers hope that the new award (for cities that "celebrate and extend their literary culture and share it with others") might help the city be the site for future award ceremonies of the Whitbread and Booker prizes and the Nobel Prize for Literature.
10303. Peter Woodthorpe died on Aug. 12. His acting career spanned four decades, and he was seen as the pathologist Max in the "Inspector Morse" television series, and as Wilson Kemp in "The Greek Interpreter" in the Peter Cushing television series broadcast by BBC-1 in 1968.
10304. Patrick Anderson reviewed Denise Mina's new thriller DECEPTION in the Washington Post on Aug. 30, mentioning Sherlock Holmes in the review, but also reminded readers that "last week I questioned whether it is truly possible for someone, using only his or her tongue and teeth, to tie a cherry-stem into a knot." Readers were quick to assure him that the feat is no urban legend, and "a Sherlock Holmes fan in Nashville reports that 'a nationally recognized Sherlockian scholar' once demonstrated her cherry-stem skills at a Sherlockian convention in St. Louis." The "Sherlock Holmes fan in Nashville" is as yet unidentified, and the talented female Sherlockian scholar as well, but an investigation is underway, and there may or may not be more to report in the next issue.
10305. Of course tying a knot in a cherry-stem is elementary, compared to a more difficult feat: you put a skein of thread and a packet of sewing needles in your mouth, chew thoroughly, and then slowly pull the end of the thread out of your mouth with all the needles threaded on it. That's what Harry Houdini did, and if you think Houdini didn't really thread those needles using only his tongue and teeth, then perhaps you might not believe those cherry stems get tied using only tongue and teeth.

August 2004 #6

10306. Further to the report (June 04 #7) on BBC-1 plans for a Sherlock Holmes film starring Rupert Everett and Ian Hart, Rupert told a columnist for The Independent (Aug. 24) that he "won't wear a deerstalker or smoke a pipe. The deerstalker is never mentioned in the books. It was invented by the actor Basil Rathbone, and now I'm taking it away and going for a mysterious and moody Holmes." The new film (now called "The Return of Sherlock Holmes") is in production; Everett and Hart filmed their first scenes on Aug. 22 at Greenwich Naval College in London.
10307. Ken Lanza has noted a new "Sherlock Holmes Action Figure" in the "Action Hero" series from Archie McPhee & Co. (Box 3852, Seattle, WA 98113 (425-349-3009) <www.archiemcphree.com>; it's 5.25" tall, with removable magnifying glass and deerstalker, and it costs \$8.95 postpaid (item 11360).
10308. "A Thousand Italian Exclamations!!!" is the title of the next presentation by Mycroft's League, at Maggiano's Restaurant in Philadelphia on Oct. 9. There will be cocktails at 11:30 am, followed by an Italian luncheon and a program devoted to the Italian aspects of the Canon; the proceedings are expected to end at 4:00 pm. The deadline for reservations is Oct. 2, and additional information is offered by Gideon D. Hill (215-887-8110) e-mail <gideonhill221@earthlink.net>. Gideon also plans for a theater party on Sept. 19 to attend a matinee performance of Charles Marowitz's play "Sherlock's Last Case" at the Stagecrafters in Philadelphia; contact Gideon for details.
10309. And if you can't join the theater party, the play will open on Sept. 17 and close on Oct. 2; the theater is at 8130 Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19118 (215-247-8881) <www.thestagecrafters.org>. First performed as a oneact play in London in 1974, it was expanded into a two-act play produced in Los Angeles in 1984, and Frank Langella played the title role in Washington and New York in 1987; it's billed as a comic thriller, and it offers plenty of surprises as well as dark comedy.

10310. And yes, this issue of my newsletter is a bit late, because I was in southwestern England at the end of August, visiting Dartmoor for the first time (kindly guided and driven by local expert Shirley Purves), visiting Sabine Baring-Gould's home at Lew Trenchard (they served a spectacular Devonshire clotted cream ice cream for dessert at lunch), and Cornwall to see Tintagel (non-Sherlockian, but for those who fondly remember the film "Excalibur", that's where Uther Pendragon, fully armored, had his way with Igraine and fathered the legendary Arthur), and Bath (where one might recall the tales Conan Doyle told of Roman legions), and Longleat, where the four-poster bed in the Chinese Bedroom was used by Sir Herbert Beerbohm Tree in his production of Shakespeare's "King John" in 1899, and a peignoir that's tastefully displayed at the foot of a bed once owned by Lillie Langtry (Sir Herbert, who once discussed with Conan Doyle the possibility of a dramatization of Sherlock Holmes, was the grandfather of Virginia Parsons, the mother of the present 7th Marquess of Bath).

September 2004 #1

10311. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists will meet for drinks and dinner, to honor the world's first forensic geologist, at 7:00 pm on Nov. 10, at Dixon's Downtown Grill in Denver during the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America. We traditionally discourage scholarly papers, quizzes, and slide shows, and our agenda consists entirely of toasts (some scholarly, but many not). The restaurant is at 1600 16th Street, and locals and visitors are welcome.
10312. Something to look for, for those who admire the animations of "A Study in Scarlet", "The Sign of Four", and "The Hound of the Baskervilles" produced in Australia and release by Burbank films in 1985 (with Peter O'Toole providing the voice of Sherlock Holmes): all three stories (adapted by Nigel Flynn and Richard Widdows, with artwork from the films) were collected in THE ILLUSTRATED SHERLOCK HOLMES (London: MMB/Multimedia Books, 1993), and the book turns up from used-book dealers.
10313. "You don't read Holmes for the plots. These are not Agatha Christie, these are not brain-twisting mysteries. Unless you're 12 years old, you'll probably figure out the mystery in the first four pages." Leslie S. Klinger, author of THE NEW ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES, interviewed by Lenny Picker in Publishers Weekly (Sept. 6). And the magazine ran a starred review, indicating "a book of outstanding quality."
10314. Roger Johnson notes Rod Baser's web-site <www.sherlockholmesindia.com>, which offers an interesting look at his research on "Sherlock Holmes in India"; he will be returning to India this winter to finalize plans for the guided tour scheduled for October 2005.
10315. "Finding Neverland" (the new and final title for the film "J. M. Barrie's Neverland") premiered at the Venice Film Festival on Sept. 8, and received excellent reviews; it's the story of how J. M. Barrie was inspired to write "Peter Pan" and it will be released in the U.S. by Miramax on Nov. 12. The film stars Johnny Depp as Barrie, Ian Hart as Conan Doyle, Dustin Hoffman as Charles Frohman, Julie Christie and Kate Winslett.
10316. Meredith Henderson, who starred in "The Adventures of Shirley Holmes" for three seasons Canadian television, from 1997 to 2000 1997 (Shirley was the great-grandniece of Sherlock Holmes), went on to guest star in series that included "Queer As Folk" and "The Eleventh Hour" and she has now been cast as superstar Shania Twain in a CBC biography that began shooting this month but my not air until late next year.
10317. The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection are continuing their annual Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lectures: Dan Posnansky is their guest speaker this year, on the topic of "collecting" (about which he has some delightful tales to tell), at 4:00 pm on October 23, at the Elizabeth Beeton Auditorium in the Metro Toronto Reference Library (no charge for admission). And as usual The Bootmakers of Toronto plan to gather for an informal supper at 6:00 pm at the Red Lion Pub not far from the library; you can rsvp for the supper to Karen Campbell (235 Bloor Street East #919, Toronto, ON M4W 3Y3, Canada) (415-924-1487) <kecapbell@sympatico.ca>.
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September 2004 #2

10318. The new edition of MS. HOLMES OF BAKER STREET, by C. Alan Bradley and William A. S. Sarjeant (Edmonton: University of Alberta Press, 2004; 205 pp., \$34.95) has a new introduction by Barbara Roden and a new afterword by Alan Bradley that explains the history of a book that was received in the Sherlockian world with outrage or admiration, and occasionally both, when it first appeared in 1989. The authors carefully examined the Canon, and present evidence that Holmes was female, twice pregnant, and possibly once a mother. It is a delight to see their conclusions in print again (Bill Sarjeant called the book ultimate heresy, and was as proud of it as any of his scholarly geological publications).
10319. Sherlock Hound (the famous dog detective) and Dr. WhatsUp Wombat (his loyal friend) are featured in THE CASE OF THE DISAPPEARING NECKLACE, written by Karen Wallace and illustrated by Emma Damon, published by Scholastic Ltd. in Britain in 2002 (48 pp., £3.99); there were three other titles in the series (all 2002): THE CASE OF THE HOWLING ARMOUR, THE CASE OF THE GIANT GULPING BLUEBELLS, and THE CASE OF THE FIENDISH DANCING FOOTPRINTS. THE CASE OF THE DISAPPEARING NECKLACE was published by Scholastic in the U.S. this year, with THE CASE OF THE HOWLING ARMOR to follow; they're "only available for distribution through the school market" here, so you'll need to find a cooperative teacher, or order from Britain (all four titles are listed at <www.amazon.co.uk>).
10320. Dante Torrese notes that The Biblical Archaeology Review (Sept.-Oct.) has recognized "Sherlock Holmes, Paleographer" as the world's first manuscript sleuth (with a photograph of Clive Brook).
10321. Douglas Warren died on Jan. 19. He was a military and then a civil engineer (when he retired in 1974 the Dudley Council named a street in Sedgely in his honor), He was also an early member of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London, and contributed to The Sherlock Holmes Journal and other S'ian publications, and lectured about Holmes widely and often in the Midlands.
10322. "Do you know the exact difference between a mystery story and a detective story?" a mystery reviewer for the N.Y. Herald Tribune once wrote. "Are you aware that such and such a tale--let's call it 'The Haunted Tooth'--even though it contains a certified sleuth hot on the trail of the missing emeralds, is not properly a detective story at all, but should be classified as a mystery, genus B, subspecies 3-x? Or don't you go in for that sort of fine distinctions? Neither do I." The reviewer was the delightful American humorist Will Cuppy, and the quote is the opening paragraph to his introduction to WORLD'S GREAT MYSTERY STORIES (1943); Cuppy also edited the anthology, and Conan Doyle is represented, not by a Sherlock Holmes story, but by "The Fiend of the Cooperage".
10323. SHADOWS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Ware: Wordworth Classics, 1998) is a 378-page anthology of 19 stories written by Conan Doyle's predecessors and successors, from Edgar Allan Poe and Wilkie Collins to E. W. Hornung and Baroness Orczy, selected by David Stuart Davies, who also contributed a perceptive introduction; it's still in print, at £1.50 from <www.amazon.co.uk>.
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September 2004 #3

10324. Further to the item (August 04 #3) about scenes filmed at Groombridge Place in "The Four Feathers" (2002), yet another film is being made featuring the house on which Conan Doyle modeled Birlstone Manor (in "The Valley of Fear"): a new dramatization of Jane Austen's "Pride and Prejudice", scheduled for release next year, with Keira Knightley (Elizabeth Bennett), Donald Sutherland (Mr. Bennett), and Dame Judi Dench (Lady Catherine de Bourgh). Working Title's location manager said "the house has immense charm and the landscape seems to merge seamlessly with it," and the company filmed there in July and August.
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10325. "That's Elementary, My Dear Joe" is the motto on the Cinnamon Schoolbook Cookies available at Trader Joe's grocery stores; Connie and Betty Berdan enjoy the alphabet cookies, their father Mike reports.
10326. "As a kid, I was a Holmes fan. I wanted to know what makes the puzzle work," Gary Sinise told James Brady (Parade magazine, Sept. 12). Sinise (who stars in the CBS-TV spinoff "CSI: New York") told Brady that "CSI" a powerful television franchise because of "the stylishness of the show, the writing, the cast, and the Sherlock Holmes element." But he didn't mention any plans for a "CSI: Baker Street" series.
10327. Watson's Tin Box have published the second volume of Irene's Cabinet, and the 52-page pamphlet costs \$10.00 (postpaid) from Beth Austin (9455 Chadburn Place, Gaithersburg, MD 20886); the contents include Steve Clarkson's explanation of how to tell whether it was Fred Dannay or Manfred Lee who signed "Ellery Queen", and Beth Austin's explanation of what an entail was (and wasn't).
10328. Les Klinger will moderate a panel on "The World of Sherlock Holmes" at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington on Dec. 1 (the panelists being Peter Blau, Dan Stashower, and Patrick Loughney, who is curator of the Moving Image Division at the Library of Congress); copies of Les' THE NEW ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES will be available for purchase and signing after the program. More information can be found at <www.residentassociates.org>, and a schedule of his other appearances on tour promoting the book is available at <www.lesliesklinger.com>.
10329. Karen Murdock spotted something for completists: Mark Haddon's THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME has been condensed and published by the Reader's Digest Association in its "selected editions" series of four-in-one volumes; the volume also has David Weich's "Conversation with Mark Haddon (an interview reprinted from Powell's Books' web-site). there's also a side-bar report that mentions that "a story about THE CURIOUS INCIDENT was recently featured on the website of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London, where Baker Street loyalists meet to ponder all things Sherlockian." The narrator of Haddon's award-winning best-seller is an autistic teen-ager who enjoys the Sherlock Holmes stories, and turns detective himself.

September 2004 #4

10330. Stephen Fry continues to garner publicity for his comments on his suitability to play Sherlock Holmes. "It's very noticeable that words like 'lean' and 'cadaverous' are used in Holmes, but words like 'lard arse' are not," he told The Independent (Sept. 20). "Not once does Conan Doyle say, 'Holmes wobbled over to his chair and sat down and stuck a pipe into one of his chins.'" Fry and Rupert Everett, both openly gay, will be playing the same role in competing television films; "I don't know about the private life of William Gillette, the first movie Holmes," Fry told the interviewer, "and I can't believe that Basil Rathbone was camp."
10331. James C. Cleary ("Howard Garrideb") died on Sept. 9. He had a long career as a photographer and as public-school and university audio-visual specialist, and was an energetic member of The Three Garridebs and of the wider Sherlockian world in the New York area; he received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1988.
10332. "Franz Kafka singled our four writers as his 'blood relations,'" according to Dennis Drabelle (in the Washington Post Book World on Sept. 19): Dostoyevsky, Flaubert, Grillparzer, and Kleist. Franz Grillparzer (1791-1872) was a highly-regarded Austrian dramatist, relatively unknown today, except to those who know the early history of The Baker Street Irregulars: one of its predecessors was the Grillparzer SittenPolizei Verein, an informal society whose records were kept in a copy of Gustav Pollak's FRANZ GRILLPARZER AND THE AUSTRIAN DRAMA. George Fletcher's excellent essay "Before the Rise: The Grillparzer Book" will be found in Jon L. Lellenberg's IRREGULAR MEMORIES OF THE 'THIRTIES in the BSI's archival-history series.
10333. I reported earlier (August 04 #3) that the U.S. Postal Service had authorized Stamps.com to issue personalized postage stamps; so far Don Hobbs is the only one who has used such a stamp on mail to me, with a photograph showing him and his grand-daughter Madison Claire Hamill in his Sherlockian library. According to a story in the Washington Post on Sept. 25, pranksters at the web-site The Smoking Gun ordered stamps that showed Monica Lewinsky's stained dress, convicted spies Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, and notorious war criminals, and the company set new restrictions on images. And the program was authorized only through the end of September, so it may be too late to create your own postage stamps showing Sherlock Holmes.
10334. PBS Home Video has added a DVD (\$24.98) of "Hands of a Murderer" (the 1990 television film starring Edward Woodward and John Hillerman) to its list of Sherlockian film and video; 1320 Braddock Place, Alexandria, VA 22314 (800-645-4727) <www.shoppbs.com>.
10335. Further to the item (August 04 #5) on Patrick Anderson's report in the Washington Post on people who could tie knots in cherry stems using only their tongue and teeth, mentioning "a nationally recognized Sherlockian scholar" who once demonstrated her cherry-stem skills at a Sherlockian convention in St. Louis, the lady in question has been identified (which wasn't all that difficult, since she confessed). "I can't tell you the ambivalent feelings I have about being identified as tongue-talented," Julie McKuras wrote.

September 2004 #5

10336. "A Blaze of Silver" is the title of this year's "Saturday with Sherlock Holmes" sponsored by the local Sherlockian societies at the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore on Nov. 13; the event starts with morning coffee in the Edgar Allan Poe Room at 10:00, and ends at 1:00, and the program will feature John Sherwood and Bill Hyder's performance in a sketch in which Holmes meets the ghost of Poe in Baltimore's Westminster churchyard. There's no charge for the festivities, and the library is at 400 Cathedral Street in Baltimore.
10337. The fall issue of The Magic Door (the newsletter published by The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) has Doug Elliott's report on the Bootmakers' recreation of Edith Meiser's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" in 2001, Doug Elliott's tribute to the late Nathan L. Bengis, and Doug Wrigglesworth's account of his adventures at the Conan Doyle auction at Christie's in May. The newsletter is available from Doug Wrigglesworth, at 16 Sunset Street, Holland Landing, ON L9N 1H4, Canada <dougwrig@sympatico.ca> <www.acdfriends.org/>.
10338. Phil Attwell reports that Radio Times is offering Granada's entire "Sherlock Holmes" series as a boxed set of 23 DVDs (region 2) for £123.99; the title is "Sherlock Holmes - The Complete Collection" and the product number is 658703; Radio Times, P.O. Box 190, Peterborough PE2 6UW, England. Or go to their web-site <www.radiotimes.com> and click on "Shopping". The set is apparently not yet available on region 1 DVDs.
10339. Gus Dallas died on Sept. 22. He was a journalist and a Sherlockian, active in the Sherlockian societies in New York, specializing in witty and punny one-act dramatics at society meetings. He worked for the Cleveland Plain Dealer and the N.Y. World-Telegram and Sun, and was an editor and writer at the N.Y. Daily News for more than 25 years, and an editor at Newsday from 1993 to 2003, and he wrote many stories about Sherlockian events for newspapers in Cleveland and New York.
10340. The Marine Conservation Society has a "jellyfish survey" running at their web-site at <www.marineworldlife.co.uk>; one of the society's goals is protection of the endangered leatherback turtle, which enjoys dining on jellyfish. The society is seeking detailed records of jellyfish strandings on beaches in the United Kingdom, and the web-site shows colorful photographs of various jellyfish, including *Cyanea capillata* (the lion's mane); "this jellyfish stings," the web-site notes, "DO NOT TOUCH."

10341. Thaddeus Holt, a lawyer and formerly a deputy under secretary of the Army, also is a military historian, and has written *THE DECEIVERS: ALLIED MILITARY DECEPTION IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR* (New York: Scribner, 2004; 1168 pp., \$49.95); he's a member of The Baker Street Irregulars as well, and has not neglected the Canon, citing Holmes' deductions from Watson's watch (in "The Sign of the Four").
10342. Something not-quite-new: *TOLERANCE VS INTOLERANCE*, edited by Marjorie Nicholson, is a 28-pamphlet published in 1995 by FOREST [The Freedom Organisation for the Right to Enjoy Smoking Tobacco]; it's a collection of stories favoring smoking, and one of them is Guy N. Smith's "The Adventure of the Dark Shag" (with Sherman Hulme, Dr. Wilson, and Professor Morrissey).
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September 2004 #6

10343. Alan Vanneman's second pastiche, *SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE HAPSBURG TIARA* (New York: Carroll & Graf, 2004; 272 pp., \$24.00), also is available read unabridged by Simon Vance, from Audio Editions (Box 6930, Auburn, CA 95604) (800-231-4261) <www.audioeditions.com>; \$44.95 on 7 cassettes, or \$64.80 on 9 CDs, or \$24.95 on 1 mp3-CD. Audio Editions also offers other Sherlockian recordings, including pastiches by Laurie L. King and Larry Millett, and some of the Canon read in Spanish.
10344. Jean C. Keating is an author and a doglover, and when she tours promoting her books she is sometimes joined by Sherlock Bones: her papillon Puff, dressed in Sherlockian attire designed and constructed by Donna Jacobson, a costume costumer who works for Colonial Williamsburg; Puff weighs only five pounds, and was described by Jacobson as "two fleas wide and half-a-grasshopper long" in an article in the *Outer Banks Sentinel* (Sept. 21), spotted by Ken Lanza. The web-site <www.astrapublishers.com> has some book reviews written by Sherlock Bones.
10345. There are two new issues of *SHERLOCK* at hand, and welcome as always for a good mix of Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian material. Issue #61 includes an interesting pastiche by Gillian Linscott, and Gavin Collinson's tribute to the film "The Pearl of Death" on its 60th anniversary; issue #62 offers Paul M. Chapman's examination of the American aspects of the Canon, and editor David Stuart Davies' perceptive discussion of film portrayals of Moriarty.
10346. *SHERLOCK* appears six times a year and a subscription costs £23.70 (to the U.K.)/£26.00 (continent)/\$45.00 (elsewhere); the publisher is Atlas Publishing Ltd., Jordan House, Old Milton Green, New Milton, Hants. BH24 6QJ, England <www.sherlockholmes.com>. Classic Specialties (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219) (877-233-3823) <www.sherlock-holmes.com> is their American agent. Credit-card orders welcome at both addresses; back issues are available.
10347. *SHERLOCK* also offers an Internet newsletter *SHERLOCK EXTRA*, without charge. Go to their web-site and register by supplying your e-mail address.
10348. Some of you are aware that my old e-mail address doesn't work (my old ISP has been sold, and the new owners are struggling to update the hardware; if they succeed, I may actually gain access to the newest and, alas, not downloaded, version of my e-mail address book. So I have a new e-mail address, and you can update your e-mail address books; if you have sent me messages that I haven't acknowledged, I've not seen them. The electronic world is a treasure, when it works. But when it doesn't . . .
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October 2004 #1

10349. "Letterboxing" may seem to be a modern pastime, but it has a 150-year-old history; the goal is to find letterboxes, often in rather remote locations, following straightforward or cryptic clues, and record your visit. There's a web-site, of course, at <www.letterboxing.org>, where Letterboxing North America lists some 5,000 letterboxes in the United States, a story in the *Middlefield (CT) Town Times* reports (Sept. 23). But according to legend, letterboxing was born in England in 1854, when Dartmoor guide James Perrott left his calling card in a jar in a remote area near Cranmere Pool, and encouraged his clients to leave their cards in the jar. Visitors then began leaving a self-addressed postcard in the jar, hoping they would be mailed by the next visitor.
10350. Mike Berdan, exploring Connecticut, has enjoyed Sherlock's 221 Restaurant, formerly Anne's Bistro but renamed by its new owner Jane Sherlock); there's no Sherlockian decor or food, but the cuisine is upscale and tasty, and the address is Old Lyme Marketplace, Halls Road, Old Lyme, CT 06371.
10351. Alan Olding reports from Australia that a plaque commemorating the 75th anniversary of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's visit to Adelaide with his family in Sept. 1920, originally dedicated in 1995, was vandalized recently; it was refurbished with the help of local authorities, and rededicated last month. The plaque is outside Hungry Jack's restaurant, which occupies part of the site of Gibson's Grand Central Hotel, where Sir Arthur stayed in 1920.
10352. More and more authors have their own web-sites, including John Gardner, who has written fine books about Professor Moriarty, James Bond, Boysie Oakes, and others <www.john-gardner.com>, and Marian Jackson, who has written four pastiches about Abigail Patience Danforth <www.marianjackson.net>.
10353. The Baker Street Journal has a web-site <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>, and a new subscription option that includes the Christmas Annual. \$24.95 (U.S.) or \$27.50 (elsewhere) for only the BSJ; \$34.95 (U.S.) or \$38.00 (elsewhere) for the BSJ and the Christmas Annual (the Christmas Annual alone is \$11.00/ \$12.00). The 2004 Christmas Annual is *DUBIOUS AND QUESTIONABLE MEMORIES: A HISTORY OF THE ADVENTURESSES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES*, edited by Susan Rice and with contributions by other Adventuresses; "this delightful work of Rice's should clear up old mysteries and, with luck, create a few new ones." The BSJ's postal address is Box 465, Hanover, PA 17331.
10354. Laurie R. King's next Mary Russell novel, *LOCKED ROOMS*, is now in the hands of her publisher, due to be published next summer; it's set in San Francisco. Her web-site <www.laurierking.com> includes Mary Russell's imaginative new interview with Laurie, and other material of interest.
10355. "The Case of the Silver Earring" is a new computer game developed by Frogwares <www.frogwares.com>, distributed in Britain by Digital Justice (selling for £29.99 <www.digitaljesters.com> and (as "Secret of the Silver Ear-ring") in the U.S. by Ubisoft (\$19.99) <www.ubisoft.com>. It's on a CD-ROM that runs on Windows 98/Me/2000/XP, and you play as Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson; it's advertised as offering "30 interesting hours of play," with 40 different 19th-century locations and five levels of play.
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October 2004 #2

10356. "Indeed, if anything could ever put one off being a Wodehouse fan, it would be the somewhat cultish element among his admirers and biographers. Such people have a tendency to allude to him as 'The Master.' They publish monographs about the exact geographical location of Blandings Castle, or the Drones Club. They hold dinners at which breadstuffs are thrown. Their English branch publishes the quarterly *Wooster Sauce*, and their American branch publishes the quarterly *Plum Lines*: two painfully unfunny titles. They materialize, in other words, Evelyn Waugh's view that Wodehouse created a delightful self-contained world of his own. The only modern comparison I can think of is to the sterner 'Irregulars' who have their shrine at 221 Baker Street." Christopher Hitchens in his long review of Robert McCrum's *WODEHOUSE: A LIFE* in the November issue of *The Atlantic Monthly*.
10357. Charles J. Shields ("17 King Edward Street") died on Sept. 15. Charley was a reporter for the *Philadelphia Bulletin* and the *Chester Times* in the late 1940s, and then features editor and business editor for the *Star* newspapers in suburban Chicago. And he was an energetic and long-standing member of local Sherlockian societies, including *The Hounds of the Baskerville* (*sic*), *Hugo's Companions*, and *The South Downers*.
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10358. Scarlet Street publisher Richard Valley reports that he supplied the liner notes for an Alpha Video DVD with three films: Arthur Wontner's "Murder at the Baskervilles" (1937), Reginald Owen's "A Study in Scarlet" (1933), and Basil Rathbone's "Dressed to Kill" (1946). The DVD costs only \$5.99 at the Scarlet Street web-site <www.scarletstreet.com>.
10359. MC Black has reported that he will maintain a "Diary of Events" for Sherlockian societies, and societies devoted to other authors and detectives, in the United Kingdom and in other countries that UK residents might visit, by way of helping avoid conflicts, and helping people learn what's scheduled where and when if they're planning a trip. To have an event listed, contact him at (44-0-1920-467930) <mc.black@physics.org> and let him know your provisional or confirmed dates; he will also answer questions about schedules.
10360. Wanda Dow notes that CITY ABLAZE, the latest round-robin pastiche from The Pleasant Places of Florida (three years in the writing and 12 pages) now is available for \$6.00 postpaid (\$7.00 outside North America) from Wanda (1737 Santa Anna Drive, Dunedin, FL 34698).
10361. Great Britain's Public Lending Right Act of 1979 gave British authors a legal right to receive payment for the free lending of their books by public libraries; the current rate is 4.85 pence for each time a book is borrowed, and the maximum payment for a year is £6,000. But "classic authors" don't get paid (you need to be alive to collect); Barbara Roden has reported that an item in The Bookseller has listed the most-borrowed classic authors, and Conan Doyle ranked at #14. The top 20 are Tolkien, Heyer, Milne, Potter, Tranter, Dickens, Shakespeare, du Maurier, Austen, Hardy, Orwell, Trollope, Hemingway, Conan Doyle, Stevenson, Forster, Kipling, Forester, Buchan, and Nesbit. Some years ago (February 93 #2) the ranking was Hardy, Tolkien, Dick-ens, Milne, Austen, Lawrence, Trollope, Kipling, Orwell, and Conan Doyle. The Public Lending Right Office has a web-site at <www.plr.uk.com>.

October 2004 #3

10362. Rodney Dangerfield died on Oct. 5. He started his career as a stand-up comedian in the late 1930s, and his big break came in 1967 when he appeared on "The Ed Sullivan Show" complaining that "Nothing goes right for me." After he saw "The Godfather" in 1972, he changed his catchphrase to "I don't get no respect," and made the line famous. In the film "Back to School" (1986) he played a self-made millionaire who decided to join his son as a college student; in an early scene he told the dean of the business school, "Listen, Sherlock, while you were tucked away up here working on your ethics, I was out there busting my hump in the real world." The dean of the business school was played by Paxton Whitehead, who earlier had been Sherlock Holmes on stage in "The Crucifer of Blood" (1978).
10363. The British Library is planning an exhibition of Conan Doyle material that will open on Dec. 3, displaying a selection of material bequeathed to the Library by Dame Jean Conan Doyle, and from the Library's purchases from the material sent to auction earlier this year by Anna Conan Doyle's heirs; the details of what will be on display will be announced in due course, as will the closing date of the exhibition, and the Library has announced that the archive of Conan Doyle material is available for researchers and scholars. The display will be in their headquarters entrance hall at St. Pancras, and will be open through January 30.
10364. There various ways to be a tourist in Britain, from do-it-yourself to packaged coach tours with groups, and there's an alternative: companies such as British Tours <www.britishtours.com>. They offer a car driven by an expert guide, and you can choose one of their standard tours or ask for something that suits your particular interests, Sherlockian or otherwise. And their postal address is 49 Conduit Street, London W1S 2YS, England.
10365. Ken Lanza reports that Janet Pascal's biography ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: BEYOND BAKER STREET, published by the Oxford University Press in 2000 at \$22.00, is available for \$10.00 at their web-site <www.oup.com/us.catalog>; check the "Oxford Fall Sale" and then the "\$10 and under" books.
10366. Fritha Goodey died on Sept. 5. Her acting career on stage, screen, radio, and television was brief but promising, and she played Caroline Addleton, the title role in "The Determined Client" with Clive Merrison in the BBC's "The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes."
10367. Raymond C. Murray first encountered forensic geology in 1973, when he was teaching geology at Rutgers University and received a request for assistance from a federal agent; he went on to co-author the first textbook (FORENSIC GEOLOGY) in 1975, and now has written EVIDENCE FROM THE EARTH: FORENSIC GEOLOGY AND CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION (Missoula: Mountain Press, 2004, 226 pp., \$20.00). It's an up-to-date review of the science, with due credit to Sherlock Holmes as the first forensic geologist. He also has a web-site at <www.forensicgeology.net>, where you'll find some Sherlockian artwork.
10368. Michael Chabon's "The Final Solution" (set on the Sussex Downs and in London in the summer of 1944, and featuring an aged beekeeper detective) was in The Paris Review (summer 2003); THE FINAL SOLUTION: A STORY OF DETECTION is due in November (New York: Fourth Estate, 2004; 144 pp., \$16.96) and as an audio CD read unabridged by Michael York (HarperAudio, \$22.95).

October 2004 #4

10369. Lenny Picker reports that HOUDINI: THE MAN FROM BEYOND is due in December from Image Comics; a graphic novel by Brian Haberlin, Jeff Phillips, and Gilbert Monsanto, with Houdini returning from the dead to team with Conan Doyle to prevent the murder of Houdini's wife Bess. And THE GHOSTS OF BAKER STREET: NEW TALES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES is scheduled by Carroll & Graf in February, edited by Martin H. Greenberg, Jon L. Lellenberg, and Daniel Stashower; an anthology of stories in which Holmes and Watson battle the supernatural.
10370. Lenny also has noted that THE BEST AMERICAN MYSTERY STORIES 2004, edited by Nelson DeMille and Otto Penzler (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2004; 448 pp., \$27.50 cloth and \$14.00 paper), includes Richard Lupoff's Holmes/Dupin pastiche "The Incident of the Impecunious Chevalier"; an unabridged CD also is available at \$30.00.
10371. The September issue of the quarterly newsletter published by The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota offers much discussion of (and photographs from) the conference held in Minneapolis in June, and other news about the collections; it's available from Richard J. Sveum, 111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455 <sveum001@tc.umn.edu>.
10372. Betty Pierce did on Sept. 4. She was for many years an untiring member of and publicist for The Mexborough Lodgers of El Paso, and an editor of their newsletter The Register of the Mexborough Private Hotel; she loved to travel, and to collect stereoscopic photographs, the older the better, and her letters about her tourist activities were always delightful.
10373. Mattias Boström has translated the Canon into Swedish, and EN STUDIE I ROTT has just been published by Lind & Co.; the remaining volumes will follow at two volumes per year. Mattias also has edited SHERLOCK HOLMES 150 AR: EN JUBILEUMSBOK FRAN THE BASKERVILLE HALL CLUB OF SWEDEN, a handsome 185-page anthology of Swedish scholarship (with translations of contributions from Roger Johnson and Stephen Fry). The books are available from Mattias (Domherrevagen 12, S-178 39 Ekerö, Sweden) for \$40.00/£20.00/€30.00 each (post-paid); currency only, please, and you can let him know by e-mail that you are sending an order <mattias.bostrom@telia.com>.
10374. Further to the report on Jean-Marc and Randy Lofficier's Black Coat Press (July 04 #2), they have now published LORD RUTHVEN THE VAMPIRE and THE RETURN OF LORD RUTHVEN, with John William Polidori's original story (1819), dramatizations (including a sequel by Alexandre Dumas), and

new stories by translator Frank J. Morlock (one of Morlock's stories, in the first volume, pits Ruthven against Dracula, Sherlock Holmes, and Father Brown); each volume costs \$20.95, and there's a web-site at <www.blackcoatpress.com>.

10375. Updating the earlier forecast (May 03 #5): Locus Press (Box 13305, Oakland, CA 94661) <www.locusmag.com/index/catalog.html> offers a CD-ROM edition of Allen J. Hubin's CRIME FICTION IV: A COMPREHENSIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY 1749-2000 (\$49.95); an ink-on-paper version is available in five volumes (\$400) from George A. Vanderburgh (Box 204, Shelburne, ON L0N 1S0, Canada). Locus also offers a CD-ROM of the third edition of Walter Albert's DETECTIVE AND MYSTERY FICTION: AN INTERNATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY OF SECONDARY SOURCES (\$29.95).
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October 2004 #5

10376. The Seattle Monorail Project hasn't made public the details on design and costs that contractors have proposed for a new 14-mile transportation line, and opponents launched a "Monorail Recall" campaign and filed a lawsuit in King County Superior Court. The Seattle Times reported (Oct. 14) that opponents wore "Sherlock Holmes garb outside monorail headquarters, snooping for the 'secret' bid."
10377. Richard Carleton Hacker has celebrated 20 years of writing about pipes with "The Adventures of the Singular Pipes of Sherlock Holmes", a handsome fullcolor six-page monograph available from Rick at Box 634, Beverly Hills, CA 90213; \$6.50 postpaid (\$10.00 foreign).
10378. Barnes & Noble has three volumes from the Canon available in a "Collector's Library" series (\$4.95 each): THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, THE CASEBOOK OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, and THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES & THE VALLEY OF FEAR, each with an afterword by David Stuart Davies, possibly the start of a set that eventually will include the entire Canon. The first two volumes are available in Britain published by the Collector's Library (£5.99 each).
10379. William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" is being performed by Theatre Calgary through Nov. 7; the theater is at (220 9th Avenue SE, Calgary, AB T2G 5C4, Canada) (403-294-7447) <www.theatrecalgary.com>.
10380. Next year's annual STUD-Watsonian Weekend is scheduled for Apr. 29-May 1, in and near Chicago; there will be a dinner (with Henry Zecher speaking on William Gillette), a running of The Silver Blaze at Hawthorne Race Course, and a Fortescue Honours brunch. If you would like to be on their mailing list, you should contact Allan Devitt and Susan Diamond, 16W603 3rd Avenue, Bensenville, IL 60106 <szdiamond@comcast.net>.
10381. Karen Murdock recommends Peter Harrigan's article on "Reading the Sands" in Saudi Aramco World (Mar.-Apr. 2004) for a description of what truly expert trackers can do (and there's a passing allusion to Holmes). You can read it at <www.saudiaramcoworld.com>, and an ink-on-paper copy of the issue may still be available (Box 2106, Houston, TX 77252).
10382. David Pirie's third Conan Doyle pastiche is THE DARK WATER (London: Random House/Century, 2004; 372 pp., £17.99); "Imprisoned in a dank cottage deep in the English countryside, Arthur Doyle lies half-unconscious and at the mercy of his nemesis--Cream." The first two novels in his "Murder Rooms" series, THE PATIENT'S EYES and THE NIGHT CALLS have been reissued as paper-backs by Random House/Arrow at £6.99 each.
10383. The fall issue of the Tonga Times (published by the Mini-Tonga Scion Society) has lots of news about the world of Sherlockian miniatures, including color photographs of the spectacular "221B Dollhouse" created by Ardie and Murray Strauser, which is now available for purchase; if you're interested, you can contact Murray at 301 South 4th Street, Sunbury, PA 17801 (570-286-7699). Trish and Jay Pearlman <minitongasociety@aol.com> will be happy to e-mail photographs of the house on request. Membership in the society includes the newsletter, and the cost is \$10.50 a year (or \$11.50 to Canada or \$13.50 elsewhere) from the Pearlmans (1656 East 19th Street #2-E, Brooklyn, NY 11229) <www.hometown.aol.com/minitongasociety/mini1.htm>.
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October 2004 #6

10384. The Baker Street Irregulars' excursion into the Valley of Fear on Oct. 22-24 was a delightful event that featured fine weather, colorful fall scenery; comfortable accommodations at the New American Hotel in Mauch Chunk (now the Inn at Jim Thorpe); an excellent agenda arranged by Julia C. Rosenblatt that offered scholarship and entertainment by Sherlockians, discussion of local history by experts on the Molly Maguires, and guided bus tours of the area; bus extrication by Priscilla Ridgway; and an excellent excursion book, edited by Steven T. Doyle, that includes five pages of Conan Doyle's manuscript notes for the story, reproduced in facsimile and published for the first time. MURDERLAND, with 168 pages of Sherlockian scholarship, will be available for \$19.95 at the BSI table in the dealers' room at the Hotel Algonquin during the birthday festivities.
10385. Paul S. Clarkson, Jr. ("Morse Hudson") died on Oct. 19. Steve followed his father's footsteps into the Sherlockian world (his father was a founder of The Six Napoleons of Baltimore), and he was generous with his expertise and time and support, especially for younger Sherlockians; Julian Wolff asked Steve to help answer the queries sent by neophytes, and he was pleased to be of service, founding the Board School Beacons, and more recently editing The Baker Street Journal's 2003 Christmas Annual ("The Strength and Activity of Youth: The Junior Sherlockian Movement"). His other contributions to the cause included Sherlockian sculpture, scholarship, and THE SHERLOCK HOLMES COMPENDIUM. Steve was awarded his Investiture by The Baker Street Irregulars in 1970.
10386. Ted Nye's THE ADVENTURE OF THE TEDDY BEAR'S RIBBON AND OTHER TALES, illustrated by Bruce Mahalski (Dunedin: Halvon Press, 2000), is a 168-page paperback collection of pastiches, still available from the publisher (51 Irvine Road, Dunedin, New Zealand); US\$17.00 or £6.00 postpaid.
10387. "A Study in Scarlet: Sherlock Holmes Revisited and Updated" is the title of a program by Lawrence A. Pesley at Arcadia University on Nov. 30. "Using the character of Sherlock Holmes and one of his famous cases ... the presentation shows the relationship of biology, chemistry, and mathematics in crime solving. Some audience participation is required." Arcadia University is in Glenside, Pa.; there's no charge for attendance, and additional information is available from the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies (215-572-2877) <mcnulty@arcadia.edu>.
10388. Karen Traviss, author of a new video-game spin-off novel STAR WARS: REPUBLIC COMMANDO: HARD CONTACT, has noted in an interview at <www.starwars.com> that she was raised in Portsmouth, which she has described as the "'Bermuda Triangle of fiction,' thanks to the iconic authors H.G. Wells, Nevil Shute, and Conan Doyle who once lived there as well."
10389. Further to the report (February 04 #6) on the sale of Maurice F. Neville's collection at Sotheby's <www.sothebys.com>, the sale's second part (on Nov. 16) will include the first 40 pages (in two exercise books) of the manuscript of "The Adventure of the Solitary Cyclist" (estimated at \$200,000-300,000) (the last two pages, in a third exercise book, are owned by another collector); the original artwork for Sidney Paget's illustration showing Holmes and Moriarty grappling at the Reichenbach (\$60,000-80,000); and a page from the manuscript of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (\$18,000-25,000).
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October 2004 #7

10390. Sherlock Holmes' 151st birthday will be celebrated on Friday, Jan. 7, with the traditional festivities in New York, but the first formal event will be The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes' ASH Wednesday dinner at 6:00 pm at O'Casey's (22 East 41st Street); attendees pay their own checks, but it would be helpful to let Ev Herzog (360 West 21st Street #5-A, New York, NY 10011) <herzogbaesch@aol.com> know if you're coming to the event.
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10391. On Thursday, The Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Speaker Lecture begins at 6:15 pm on the 6th floor of the Williams Club (24 East 39th Street, between Madison and Park Avenues); the speaker will be noted author and artist Gahan Wilson, who drew four pages of delightful cartoons for the Dec. 1959 issue of Playboy, and who has not neglected Sherlock Holmes since then (\$11.00); seating is limited, and you are advised to reserve early (details below).
10392. On Friday, the William Gillette Memorial Luncheon starts at noon, at Moran's Chelsea Seafood Restaurant at 146 Tenth Avenue at 19th Street; \$42.00 (Susan Rice, 125 Washington Place #2-E, New York, NY 10014). Otto Penzler will hold his traditional open house at The Mysterious Bookshop (129 West 56th Street) from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm; Sherlockian authors are likely to be on hand to sign their books.
10393. The Baker Street Irregulars will gather at 6:00 pm at the Union League Club at 38 East 37th Street. The Baskerville Bash (open to all Sherlockians and their friends) offers dinner and entertainment at 6:30 pm at the Manhattan Club at 201 West 52nd Street (between Broadway and Seventh Avenue); \$70.00 (checks payable to Maribeau Briggs should be sent to Maribeau (183 Stokes Road, Medford Lakes, NJ 08055); please include your e-mail address and primary Sherlockian society affiliation). Early reservations are advised for the William Gillette luncheon and the Baskerville Bash.
10394. Those who wish to have seasonal souvenirs in the dinner packets can send 175 copies (for the BSI) to James B. Saunders (3011 47th Street, Astoria, NY 11103), 125 copies (for the Bash) to Francine Kitts (35 Van Cortlandt Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10301), and 20 copies (for The Women) to Mary Ann Bradley, 7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278; your material should arrive by Dec. 15.
10395. On Saturday a wide variety of Sherlockiana will be offered in the dealers' room on the second floor of the Hotel Algonquin (59 West 44th Street) from 9:30 am until 12:30 pm; Ralph Hall (2906 Wallingford Court, Louisville, KY 40218) (502-491-3148) <bugmanhall@aol.com> will be glad to supply information about dealers' tables. And the Clients of Adrian Mulliner (devotees of the works of both John H. Watson and P. G. Wodehouse) will hold their Junior Bloodstain (a somewhat less than totally reverent gathering) in the lobby of the Hotel Algonquin at 12:30 pm; if you are planning to attend, please let Anne Cotton know (12 Hollywood Street, South Hadley, MA 01075) <ladybassett@comcast.net>.
10396. Also on Saturday, the BSI annual reception, which is open to all Sherlockians and friends, will be held from 2:30 to 5:30, at the National Arts Club at 15 Gramercy Park (on 20th Street between Park and Third Avenues); there will be hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, a cash bar, and the usual traditional and untraditional entertainment, and the event will cost \$45.00 (details below), or \$55.00 after Dec. 1 or at the door. And on Sunday, The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes will hold their usual informal brunch, open to all; details on where and when are not yet available, but I hope to report more in the next issue.

October 2004 #8

10397. The Baker Street Irregulars are a tax-exempt organization, and Mike Whelan has arranged with the Hotel Algonquin for single or double rooms at \$165.00 a night (Tuesday through Saturday); this is the total cost, since there is no tax due on reservations arranged by the BSI. Breakfast is not included in the price this year. Other charges (telephone calls, meals, room service, drinks, etc.) are not covered. The offer's available to all Sherlockians, and room reservations must be made directly to the Algonquin (mention The Baker Street Irregulars) at 212-840-6800 on or before Dec. 14.
10398. And here are the details: if you've not already received Mike Whelan's announcement with the prices and a reservation form for the Thursday lecture and the Saturday reception, you can request a copy from Michael F. Whelan, 7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278.
10399. Mary Ellen Rich has kindly provided a list of hotels that offer reasonable (as defined by New York landlords) rates, along with a warning about nonoptional extras: \$2.00 a day occupancy fee, and 14% in state and city tax. Ask for the lowest available rate, don't be shy about asking for discounts (AAA, senior, corporate), and if you plan to arrive on Thursday you should confirm that weekend rates apply, and request written confirmation.
10400. Vanderbilt YMCA (224 East 47th St.) \$79 bunk bed or \$105 double bed (with shared bathroom (212-756-9600) ["it's a modern building in a nice neighborhood"]; Best Western President Hotel (234 West 48th St.) \$85 double bed \$94 queen (212-246-8800); Cosmopolitan Hotel (95 West Broadway) \$109 single \$130 double (212-566-1900); Ramada Plaza (481 8th Ave. at 34th St.) \$112 promotional rate (212-971-1010); Howard Johnson (851 8th Ave. at 46th St.) \$115 (212-581-4100); Comfort Inn Central Park West (31 West 71st St.) \$130 double bed or \$140 queen (212-721-4770); Wyndham Hotel (42 West 58th St.) \$135 single \$152 double AAA promotional rate (212-753-3500). Specials and general information are available at <www.nycvisit.com>, and discounts can be found at <www.skyauction.com>, <www.travelocity.com>, <www.hotels.com>, and <www.orbitz.com> .
10401. The Dr. John H. Watson Fund offers financial assistance to all Sherlockians (membership in the BSI is not required) who might otherwise not be able to participate in the weekend's festivities. A carefully pseudonymous John H. Watson presides over the fund and welcomes contributions, which can be made by check payable to John H. Watson and sent (without return address on the envelope) to Dr. Watson, care of The Baker Street Irregulars, at 7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278; your letters are forwarded unopened, and Dr. Watson will acknowledge your generosity. Requests for assistance should also be mailed (quickly) to Dr. Watson at the same address.

November 2004 #1

10402. An update to last month's forecast of events during the birthday festivities: Jim Cox reports that the annual Christopher Morley Walk will begin at the Hotel Algonquin (59 West 44th Street) on Thursday, Jan. 6, at 9:00 am; the walk will end with lunch at McSorley's.
10403. And on Sunday, Jan. 9, there will be a bus tour to Gillette Castle for a maximum of 50 participants. Mike Whelan notes that many years ago Julian Wolff organized a trip to Gillette Castle during the birthday festivities, and this year being the 100th anniversary of Julian's birth, the BSI will reprise the event, which will include the bus trip from the Hotel Algonquin at 8:00 am, a private tour of the renovated castle, brunch at a restaurant on the Connecticut River, and return to the Algonquin at about 5:30 pm; the cost is \$60.00 a person (which includes transportation, tour, and brunch). If you're interested, please call Mary Ann Bradley (317-293-2212) to make sure there's still room available before sending any money.
10404. There will also be a brunch in New York on Sunday, but the time and location are not yet settled; if you're interested in attending, please contact Judith Freeman <judith.freeman@worldnet.att.net> (280 Ninth Avenue #1-C, New York, NY 10001)
10405. "Once upon a time, but not so long ago, in a tropical island midway between Asia and Australia, there lived a race of little people, whose adults stood just three and a half feet high," Nicholas Wade reported in the N.Y. Times on Oct. 28. "Despite their stature, they were mighty hunters. They made stone tools, with which they speared giant rats, clubbed sleeping dragons, and hunted the packs of pygmy elephants that roamed their lost world." The island is Flores, and the new human species is *Homo floresiensis*, discovered last year and the subject of two article in Nature magazine (Oct. 28). They lived on Flores until as recently as 18,000 years ago. Peter Brown, associate professor at the University of New England in Australia and one of the authors of the articles in Nature, reports that there are still very large rats on Flores, and that "Pleistocene rats were bigger than a North American raccoon." Flores is about a thousand miles from Sumatra, so it's obvious that giant rats had good travel agents.

10406. Karen Murdock reports that George Vanderburgh now has his catalog on-line at <www.batteredbox.com>; he offers more than 200 print-on-demand titles, Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian.
10407. Barlieb Wallace Productions and the Crowded Kitchen Players produced William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" last year, and they're now getting ready to do "Sherlock Holmes and the Christmas Goose" (adapted from "A Study in Scarlet", "The Speckled Band", and "The Blue Carbuncle") at Stage 9 in Allentown, Pa., on Dec. 3-5, 10-12, and 17-19; information and tickets available at (610-395-7176) <barwalprod@enter.net>.
10408. John A. Lanzalotti is a sculptor and a doctor, and a Sherlockian who does not neglect Sherlock Holmes at his web-site <www.williamsburgsculpture.com>; click on "Sherlock Holmes and Sculpture" to see John's research on Devine's bust of Napoleon, and the busts of Holmes by Meunier and Tavernier.

November 2004 #2

10409. This year's Christmas card from The Sherlock Holmes Society of London honors Richard Lancelyn Green: he selected the colorful cover of the Jan. 1902 issue of the American edition of The Strand Magazine for his Christmas card for 1998, and the Society is using the same artwork this year. The cost is \$13.00 postpaid for ten cards (£5.50 to the U.K. or £6.00 to Europe or £7.00 elsewhere); checks (payable to the Society) can be sent to Judi Ellis, 13 Crofton Avenue, Orpington BR6 8DC, England.
10410. Thomas Dandrew reports that a "Complete Sherlock Holmes Box Set" is available at <www.bbcshop.com> with the entire Canon as broadcast by BBC Radio 4 with Clive Merrison as Holmes and Michael Williams as Watson; 48 hours on 64 CDs, with a book written by Bert Coules (who dramatized many of the programs in the series), offering "a look behind the scenes at the highs and lows that came with the undertaking of such an enormous project." £145.00 plus shipping, and the BBC Shop's postal address is P.O. Box 308, Sittingbourne, Kent ME9 8LW, England.
10411. Times change: it's not uncommon, when one goes to the theater, to see warnings that there will be strobe lights, or gunfire. The University of Wisconsin (Stevens Point) produced Charles Marowitz's "Sherlock's Last Case" in October, with warnings that "Gunshots will be fired during the performance" and that "A pipe will be smoked during the performance."
10412. Michael Dirda's weekly page in the Washington Post's Book World was devoted to "Ghost Stories" on Oct. 31, and he had nice things to say about Barbara and Christopher Roden's Ash-Tree Press (their Calabash Press likely is better known to Sherlockians and Doyleans); the story likely still can be read on-line at <www.washingtonpost.com>.
10413. The OXFORD DICTIONARY OF NATIONAL BIOGRAPHY was published in September, and John Baesch has forwarded a report in the Daily Telegraph (Sept. 23). The 60 volumes contain 60,305 pages, 62.5 million words, and 50,113 articles, and the set cost only £6,500 if you ordered by Nov. 30 (you'll need 12 feet of shelf space, and the set weighs 282 pounds). The Telegraph noted that the dictionary includes "biographies" of people who never existed or whose identities are unknown, including King Lear, Robin Hood, Sweeney Todd, Jack the Ripper, and John Bull. But: "Not included is Sherlock Holmes because 'everybody knows he's a fictional character.'"
10414. The OXFORD DNB does, it should be noted, have interesting entries for Sir Arthur Ignatius Conan Doyle (by Owen Dudley Edwards) and for Dame Jean Lena Annette Conan Doyle (by Jane Potter); thanks to Philip K. Wilson for checking the edition on-line. The web-site at <www.oxforddnb.com> offers information, free tours, and subscriptions (\$295 a year for individuals).
10415. David Shulman died on Oct. 30. His obituary in the N.Y. Times called him "a self-described Sherlock Holmes of Americanisms who dug through obscure, often crumbling publications" to identify the first published use of words and phrases such as "The Great White Way," "Big Apple," "hoochie-coochie," "jazz," and "hot dog" for the OXFORD ENGLISH DICTIONARY. He was a founder of the American Cryptogram Association, and wrote two articles for The Baker Street Journal: "Sherlock Holmes Cryptanalyst" (Apr. 1948) and "The Origin of the Dancing Men" (Mar. 1973).

November 2004 #3

10416. "Kitty Winter for State Attorney: She'll Throw More Than a Book at Your Common Criminal" and "Helen Stoner for Prosecutor: She Knows a Snake When She Sees One" are only two of the political slogans included in a special issue of Communication (the newsletter of The Pleasant Places of Florida) that arrived the day after the election; editors Wanda and Jeff Dow also offer amusing political Canonical commentary in the sixpage issue. \$12.00 a year (\$13.00 overseas) including a subscription, from Carl Heifetz, 1220 Winding Willow Drive, New Port Richey, FL 34655; if you want just the one issue, that's \$2.00 postpaid.
10417. Old-time radio continues to be popular, not only on the air but also on the stage: the Corbin Theatre Company performed "The Musgrave Ritual" and "The Tolling Bell" on three evenings at the Corbin Theatre in Liberty, Mo., last month. They have a web-site at <www.corbintheatre.org>.
10418. The winter issue of The Sherlockian Times has arrived from Classic Specialties; it's billed as a catalog/journal/newsletter, and it combines things nicely, offering news, books, ornaments, and much more (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219) (877-233-3823) <www.sherlock-holmes.com>. There's also a new "Quick Watson" supplement that includes Sherlock Holmes' passport (for \$125.00); they're hand-made rather than off-the-shelf, tied to Basil Rathbone's films, with his photograph and appropriate visa stamps, and imaginatively done.
10419. Elmer L. Anderson died on Nov. 15. A former governor of Minnesota, he also was a businessman, community leader, a bookman, and a philanthropist, and he helped make possible the new University of Minnesota Library, named in his honor, that houses their Sherlock Holmes Collections.
10420. "Sherlock Holmes and the West End Horror" (dramatized by Anthony Dodge and Marcia Milgrom Dodge from Nicholas Meyer's novel) has opened at the Asolo Theatre Festival, where it will run through Mar. 3. The box office is at 5555 North Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL 34243 (941-351-8000) (800-361-8388) <www.asolo.org>.
10421. Reported by Ralph Hall: Dark Horse Comics <www.darkhorse.com> will publish THE IRREGULARS on Jan. 12; the 128-page graphic novel (\$12.95) has Sherlock Holmes and the Baker Street Irregulars in pursuit of a murderous madman who is stalking the streets of Whitechapel.
10422. It has been almost 25 years since Edmund Aubrey brought Sherlock Holmes out of retirement in SHERLOCK HOLMES IN DALLAS to solve the murder of President Kennedy; now Sherlock Holmes comes out of retirement again in Kenneth Frawley's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE CASE OF THE MISSING AMERICAN CULTURE (Philadelphia: Xlibris, 2004; 221 pp., \$31.99 cloth, \$21.99 paper). Bill Clinton is president, and Holmes and Watson travel to New York, Chicago, Las Vegas, and Los Angeles in pursuit of an evil mastermind who is well on his way to turning American culture into mind-numbing lowest-common-denominator trash.
10423. Mark Alberstat's 2005 Sherlock Holmes Calendar is illustrated with artwork from The Strand Magazine, and displays important Sherlockian birthdays and William S. Baring-Gould's dates for the cases. The cost is US\$12.00 postpaid, and his address is 5 Lorraine Street, Dartmouth, NS B3A 2B9, Canada.

November 2004 #4

10424. "Who Shot Sherlock Holmes?" is the title of an upcoming episode of the series "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation" (on CBS-TV) according to a report spotted by Ken Lanza on a fan-site <talk.csifiles.com>. It's not really Holmes who gets shot, but "Joe Bell, a man who has trouble distinguishing the difference between fact and fiction. Bell is the leading member of a literary society whose members dress up in period costume and role-play Sherlock Holmes mysteries with each other." The site warns that this is rumor based on early script drafts, but the episode is billed as #511. Episode #509 ("Mea Culpa") is scheduled for Nov. 25, so "Who Shot Sherlock Holmes" may air in December or January, depending on pre-emptions and repeats during the holidays.
10425. A new French film of "Arsene Lupin" (with Romain Duris as Lupin, and Kristin Scott Thomas as Josephine, comtesse de Cagliostro) was screened in September during the Toronto Film Festival; it doesn't seem to be Sherlockian, but the web-site <www.club-internet.fr/arsenelupin/> is interesting.
10426. Further to the report (October 04 #6) on the sale of Maurice F. Neville's collection at Sotheby's <www.sothebys.com>, the sale's second part (on Nov. 16) yielded nice prices for Sherlockiana: \$8,400 (including the buyer's premium) for the signed first edition of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES; \$78,000 for a page from the manuscript of "The Hound of the Baskervilles"; \$220,800 for the original artwork for Sidney Paget's illustration showing Holmes and Moriarty grappling at the Reichenbach; and \$344,000 for the first 40 pages (in two exercise books) of the manuscript of "The Solitary Cyclist". John Genova, who was at the sale, reports that the Paget artwork sold to someone who bid by phone, and that underbidder for the artwork was present, and won the manuscript of "The Solitary Cyclist".
10427. Further to the report (July 04 #6) on Abbey National's agreement to be taken over by Spain's largest bank, Banco Santander Central Hispanico (BSCH), an overwhelming majority of Abbey shareholders approved the takeover in October. BSCH plans to trim Abbey's staff by some 3,000 employees, but apparently has no plans to dispose of the statue of Sherlock Holmes at the entrance to the Baker Street underground station.
10428. SAYERS ON HOLMES: ESSAYS AND FICTION ON SHERLOCK HOLMES was published three years ago (June 01 #5), and it's still available (\$8.00) at <www.amazon.com> and elsewhere, and I'm happy to recommend it once more: Dorothy L. Sayers was one of the earliest and best of the people who played the grand game of Sherlockian scholarship, and the booklet reprints all her essays on Sherlock Holmes and offers (for the first time in print) the script she wrote for Lord Peter Wimsey's comments during the centenary birthday tribute to Holmes broadcast by BBC radio on Jan. 8, 1954.
10429. Further to the item about Edinburgh's hopes to be the first "world city of literature" (August 04 #5), the city formally submitted a bid to UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization) on Oct. 13, expecting to wait several months for a decision, and UNESCO awarded the distinction only a few hours later. Edinburgh cited Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in the list of its important writers, of course, and Patricia Ferguson, the Scottish culture minister, said from Paris that the award "confirms Scotlands' position as a country of literary excellence."

November 2004 #5

10430. Bruce Holmes, continuing his pursuit of Sherlockian philately (and philatelic Sherlockiana), offers Vincent Starrett's sonnet 221B: ILLUSTRATED WITH POSTAL RELATED ITEMS; the cost of the 18-page booklet is US\$29.50 (color)/\$15.00 (black and white), and his address is 3170 Joseph Howe Drive, Halifax, NS B3L 4G1, Canada.
10431. "I have been sitting, for the past week, like a parrot on a perch," Conan Doyle wrote to George H. Doran on Jan. 23, 1930, "while your sculptor operated on me." The sculptor was Jo Davidson, and there's a photograph of the bust in Davidson's BETWEEN SITTINGS (1950). The two-page letter, which also discusses Harry Houdini and ON THE EDGE OF THE UNKNOWN, is available for \$2,500 from David Schulson (225 West 34th Street #1908, New York, NY 10122 (212-629-3939) <www.schulsonautographs.com>
10432. "Sherlock Holmes and the Clocktower Mystery" (the interactive exhibit with Victorian flavor, and a mystery that visitors can solve) is now at the Discovery Center in Springfield, Mo., through Jan. 2 (417-862-9910); they have a web-site at <www.discoverycenter.org>.
10433. "Finding Neverland" (September 04 #1) is well worth seeing, and not just for Ian Hart as Arthur Conan Doyle in a couple of scenes (as noted by a few reviewers, Barrie's friend is not identified as Conan Doyle until the final credits); Johnny Depp is excellent as Barrie, and the film is romantic and emotional, and while the script plays fast and loose with some of the history, that's only to be expected in any film.
10434. Planning is underway for the fourth meeting of The Sherlock Holmes and All That Jazz Society, to be held the last weekend in July in Davenport, Iowa (the birthplace of Dixieland great Bix Beiderbecke); details are available from Donald B. Izban, 1012 Rene Court, Park Ridge, IL 60068.
10435. Reports to the "Mary Russell" electronic mailing list from Bouchercon (held in Toronto this month) offer some teasers about Laurie R. King's next Mary Russell novel (LOCKED ROOMS), set in San Francisco, where Mary meets Dashiell Hammett when he was working for Pinkerton in 1924; there's mention of a case in Japan (where Laurie would love to visit to do research).
10436. Charles Press' LOOKING OVER SIR ARTHUR'S SHOULDER: HOW CONAN DOYLE TURNED THE TRICK (Battered Silicon Dispatch Box, 2004, 132 pp.) is a collection of essays analyzing the techniques and appeal of the Sherlock Holmes stories; copies of the book, inscribed on request, are available from the author at 987 Lantern Hill Drive, East Lansing, MI 48823 (\$15.00 postpaid).
10437. Further to earlier reports on plans for competing Sherlock Holmes films to be broadcast by BBC-1 (starring Rupert Everett) and ITV (starring Stephen Fry), there's a third broadcast in the works: "The Strange Case of Sherlock Holmes and Arthur Conan Doyle". According to a story in the [Glasgow] Sunday Herald (Nov. 28), David Pirie, author of the "Murder Rooms" novels and television series about Dr. Joseph Bell and Arthur Conan Doyle, has written a script suggesting that some aspects of Sherlock Holmes were based on Arthur Conan Doyle's alcoholic father. "Joseph Bell gave us half of Sherlock Holmes," producer Richard Downes said, "but there's a lot more." The television film will star Douglas Henshall (Conan Doyle) and Brian Cox (Bell).

November 2004 #6

10438. I'm catching up with obituaries of actors and authors who had Sherlockian connections, and I'm happy to acknowledge my debt to Roger Johnson for much of this news. His excellent monthly newsletter, published for The Sherlock Holmes Society of London, is the District Messenger, and it costs \$15.00 a year (checks payable to Jean Upton, please) or £6.00 (payable to Roger); it is also available via e-mail without charge, and his address is Mole End, 41 Sandford Road, Chelmsford CM2 6DF, England <rojerjohnson@yahoo.co.uk>. The current issue also is available on-line at <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk>, the The Sherlock Holmes Society of London's web-site, which offers lots of other news and interesting links.
10439. Hugh Manning died on Aug. 18. He began his acting career on stage in the 1940s, and went on to films and radio and television; he was in John Gielgud's "The Dying Detective" (1954) and in Carlton Hobb's "The Stockbroker's Clerk" and "The Cardboard Box" (1960) on BBC radio. Charles Eaton died on Aug. 22. A child star on stage and in silent films, he made the transition to sound, and starred with Helen Twelvetrees in "The Ghost Talks" (1929), and was shown in publicity photographs with deerstalker and calabash pipe, looking very much like Sherlock Holmes, but in the film he was merely an amateur detective who had learned to be a sleuth from a mail-order detective course.

10440. Hildy Parks died on Oct. 7. She was a producer, writer, and actress, and a long-time partner with her husband Alexander H. Cohen; she wrote the first 20 Tony Awards and many other television specials that he produced, and was his production associate for the musical "Baker Street" in 1964. Jacques Derrida died on Oct. 9. He was the inventor of the philosophy known as deconstructionism, arguing that "there is nothing outside the text," and that the meaning of a collection of words is not fixed. His Sherlockian connection is Mark Tansey's painting "Derrida Queries De Man" (which owes a great deal to Sidney Paget's illustration of Holmes and Moriarty at the Reichenbach) (June 93 #5).
10441. Christopher Reeve died on Oct. 10. He was became a member of Actors Equity at the age of 15, and still a relatively unknown actor when he starred in "Superman: The Movie" in 1978, and later films in the series. He had leading roles on stage as well, and after a 1995 accident left him paralyzed he became an outspoken advocate for research on spinal injuries. In 1985 he narrated "Dinosaur!" (a one-hour video for Family Home Entertainment), and noted that "in 1922 Sherlock Holmes' author promoted a hoax" when he showed scenes from "The Lost World" to magicians in New York.
10442. Sheila Keith died on Oct. 14. She began her acting career on television in 1964, and went on to supporting and starring roles in films as well; bestknown for the Grand Guignol film "Frightmare" (1974), she also played Miss Stoper in Douglas Wilmer's BBC-1 broadcast of "The Copper Beeches" (1965). Robert Lang died on Nov. 6. He made his professional debut with the Bristol Old Vic in 1956 and had a long career on stage, screen, radio, and television; he played Blessington in BBC Radio 4's Merrison/Williams broadcast of "The Resident Patient" (1992).

December 2004 #1

10443. Late-breaking news: CBS-TV plans to help celebrate Sherlock Holmes' birthday by airing "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation: Who Shot Sherlock Holmes" on Jan. 6. As noted earlier (November 04 #4) Joe Bell, a man who has trouble distinguishing the difference between fact and fiction. Bell is the leading member of a literary society whose members dress up in period costume and role-play Sherlock Holmes mysteries with each other.
10444. A hitherto unrecorded copy of Beeton's Christmas Annual turned up at auction at Sotheby's in New York this month (estimated at \$45,000-65,000), and it sold for \$153,600 (including the buyer's premium); it was described as complete, in unrestored original wrappers, in a half red morocco slipcase, and it went to auction from the library of the late Mrs. J. Insley Blair, who was well known as an active collector of American furniture (there was an interesting article about the Blairs in the Jan. 2000 issue of Magazine Antiques, available at <www.findarticles.com>). According to Sotheby's it was the first complete and unrestored copy to appear at auction since 1990, when a copy once owned by Vincent Starrett sold at Sotheby's for \$57,200. And it is possible that it's the same copy that was offered in a Scribner's catalog in 1934, bound in half red morocco, for \$45.
10445. The sale also included a good copy of the Feb. 1890 issue of Lippincott's Magazine (with "The Sign of the Four"), estimated at \$3,000-5,000 and sold for \$63,000; and other nice first editions of the Sherlock Holmes stories. The highlight of the sale was a rare contemporary printing of the Declaration of Independence, estimated at \$250,000-350,000 and sold for \$456,000.
10446. "There used to be a lunchtime radio programme called Workers' Playtime and I still remember one sketch from it in which a character complained that he was tired because he had been sitting on his shooting stick all day. The straight man said that shouldn't have tired him. The comedian said it did if you had the stick the wrong way up," Owen Kelly recalled in the [Dublin] Irish Times (Oct. 23). "I thought that hilarious because at the time the master in school was reading us a Sherlock Holmes serial in which shooting stocks figured largely," he continued. "They were used by villains because real heroes would never have used a gun disguised as a walking stick." So: which Sherlock Holmes serial might that have been?
10447. The Parallel Case of St. Louis will hold its second "Holmes Under the Arch" conference on May 20-22, 2005; information on the schedule and registration is available from Joseph J. Eckrich (914 Oakmoor Drive, Fenton, MO 63026) (636-861-1454) <jeckrich@sbcglobalnet>.
10448. Carolyn and Joel Senter, who have presided over Classic Specialties for 17 years, offering a wide variety of Sherlockian merchandise in their mail-order catalogs and at their web-site (last month I noted their reproductions of Sherlock Holmes' passport), are thinking about retirement, and selling Classic Specialties, which has a data base with some 7,200 people in North America and about 800 overseas. Anyone interested in acquiring a business with an excellent track record and reputation is welcome to discuss things with the Senters (Box 1958, Cincinnati, OH 45219) (877-133-3823); the website is at <www.sherlock-holmes.com>.

December 2004 #2

10449. It has been noted that Dr. Gregory House, played by Hugh Laurie on the highly-regarded television series "House" (broadcast by Fox on Tuesdays) resembles Sherlock Holmes. That's no accident, according to an interview with series creator David Shore in the Winston-Salem Journal (Dec. 10). "Part of the inspiration for the House character was Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's fictional 19th-century detective Sherlock Holmes, who was highly observant and frequently more interested in solving cases than in social niceties. When Shore and actor Hugh Laurie first met, they discussed the similarities between House and Holmes."
10450. Jennie Paton reports that she has another new address (Box 221, Randsburg, CA 93554-0221); she hasn't moved far, but at long last she has found a post office that will give her Box 221.
10451. Reports to the "Mary Russell" electronic mailing list from Bouchercon (held in Toronto in October) offer some teasers about Laurie R. King's next Mary Russell novel: LOCKED ROOMS, set in San Francisco, where Mary meets Dashiell Hammett, who was working for Pinkerton in 1924; there's mention of a case in Japan (where Laurie would love to visit to do research). And while you're waiting for the book to be published in June, you can see the cover at <www.amazon.com>.
10452. Gayle Harris has reported some new DVDs at Walmart, priced at \$1.00 each: two volumes of "Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" each with three shows from the Ronald Howard television series, from Digiview Productions; the quality's quite reasonable, and purists will note that there's new music presumably substituted to establish new copyright protection).
10453. Mystery Scene continues to publish interesting articles about and reviews of the mystery genre; the fall 2004 issue has a long and well-illustrated article by Jerome Coopersmith on his 1964 musical "Baker Street". The magazine costs \$7.95 (\$32.00 for a five-issue annual subscription); 331 West 57th Street #148, New York, NY 10019 <www.mysteryscenemag.com>.
10454. Mary Hoehling died on Dec. 7. She started writing biographies and popular histories because her "children were coming home from school complaining of the dullness of history," and one of her biographies was THE REAL SHERLOCK HOLMES: ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE (1965).
10455. The winter issue of The Serpentine Muse offers news from and about The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes, and a poetic report by Dorothy Belle Pollack on her discovery of a mention of Sherlock Holmes in Marcel Proust's A LA RECHERCHE DU TEMPS PERDU; it's in ALBERTINE DISPARUE (1925), in case you want to find it on your own. The Serpentine Muse costs \$10.00 a year (four issues); \$10.00 a year (checks payable to the Adventuresses, please) from Evelyn A. Herzog (360 West 21st Street #5-A, New York, NY 10011).

10456. Scott Monty has suggested "a little gem" for the newsletter:: if you want to make the birthday festivities truly spectacular for someone, the Hotel Algonquin is offering a \$10,000 martini, and the hotel has been getting a lot of publicity (but so far no buyers). The Algonquin's martini arrives at your table with a loose diamond at the bottom (you'll need to give them 72 hours' notice, and meet with a jeweler to select a diamond).

December 2004 #3

10457. Sherlock Holmes has been on display at the Smithsonian Institution for many years, in the exhibit "Exploring the Planets" in the National Air and Space Museum, and it should be noted that he's now also on display in the exhibit "Within These Walls" in the National Museum of American History: look for the booklet prepared by the National Association of Realtors (they sponsored the exhibit), and the nice Sherlockian artwork in the booklet.
10458. "Medical Errors in Fiction" is the title on an item in the Journal of the American Medical Association (Dec. 3, 1904) that commented on an error in "The Golden Pince-Nez" in Collier's Weekly, where the lenses in the pincenez are convex (they're concave, correctly, in the Strand). The item in JAMA in 1904 seems to have been overlooked by bibliographers and scholars.
10459. The Lamp-Post is an occasional electronic newsletter published by the Baker Street Journal: go to www.bakerstreetjournal.com/pages/564309/index.htm to see the current issue, which offers the editorial and the leading article in the winter 2004 issue of the BSJ, and other news about the BSJ and The Baker Street Irregulars.
10460. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London has settled on June 15-23, 2005, for its next Swiss Pilgrimage; if you think you might be interested in joining their festivities, you should contact Bob Ellis (13 Crofton Avenue, Orpington, Kent BR6 8DU, England) <shsl221b@aol.com>.
10461. Andrew Gulli has now edited and published 13 issues of his new Strand Magazine; I mentioned the magazine last year (September 03 #6). And he's offering a Sherlock Holmes 2005 Calendar in full color (\$16.95) and other Sherlockiana in four-page flier (Box 1418, Birmingham, MI 48012) (800-300-6652) and at his web-site <www.strandmag.com>.
10462. Diana Schatell died on Dec. 15. She was the widow of Norman Schatell, and with Norm a founder of Mrs. Hudson's Cliffdwellers of New Jersey (in which her thoroughly apt Investiture was "A Certain Gracious Lady").
10463. Reported: MRS. HUDSON AND THE CASE OF THE SPIRITS' CURSE, by Martin Davies (New York: Berkley, 2004; 320 pp., \$13.00); Mrs. Hudson takes an interest in one of Holmes' cases, and with Flottie, the orphan girl in her care, is determined to solve the mystery.
10464. The exhibition of Conan Doyle material at the British Library (October 04 #3) continues through Jan. 30, and there's another event of interest scheduled for Jan. 17, when their "West End Poetry" series will offer T. S. Eliot's "Four Quartets" read by Edward Fox and Dame Eileen Atkins. On Feb. 14 the poetry will be Oscar Wilde's "The Ballade of Reading Gaol" read by Brian Cox. One hears of Sherlock everywhere, as some say: T. S. Eliot used Conan Doyle's word "grimpen" in "East Coker" in "Four Quartets", Edward Fox was Watson on television in "Dr. Watson and the Darkwater Hall Mystery" (1974), Eileen Atkins attended the memorial service for Jeremy Brett at St. Martin-in-the-Fields in Nov. 1995, Oscar Wilde dined and corresponded with Conan Doyle, and Brian Cox is to play Joseph Bell on television in "The Strange Case of Sherlock Holmes and Arthur Conan Doyle" in 1995 (and his son Alan played Watson on screen in "Young Sherlock Holmes" in 1985).
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December 2004 #4

10465. Ted Friedman has noted a brief item in the N.Y. Post (Dec. 12) about a pair of paintings by Claude-Joseph Vernet (the great-great-granduncle of Sherlock Holmes); they were bought from Vernet by the famous Clive of India in 1773, and last year Clive's family sent the paintings to auction and they were bought for £2.4 million by American billionaire David Koch, who then fought and lost a battle with the British government, which classified the paintings as part of Britain's cultural heritage and refused to allow them to be exported to the U.S. And there has been an amicable resolution that involved Koch agreeing to donate the paintings to the National Gallery in London, and the National Gallery agreeing to lend the paintings to Koch until he dies, when the paintings will be returned to the National Gallery. The National Gallery will display the paintings until next summer, and then they'll be turned over to Koch.
10466. Reported: THE CASE OF THE 2ND SEANCE: A JOHN DARNELL MYSTERY, by Sam McCarver (New York: Signet, 2000; 216 pp., \$5.99); it's set in 1916, and Lloyd George's teenage daughter is kidnapped during a seance at 10 Downing Street attended by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who asks paranormal investigator John Darnell to help solve the mystery.
10467. Issue #63 of SHERLOCK has two interesting interviews by editor David Stuart Davies: one with Allan Cubitt, who wrote the scripts for BBC-1's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (with Roxburgh and Hart) and the new "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Silk Stocking" (with Everett and Hart); and the other with Clive Francis, whose dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" for a cast of four men was performed this year in England. And much more, as usual, Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian. SHERLOCK is published six times a year and subscriptions cost £23.70 (to the U.K.)/£26.00 (continent)/\$45.00 (elsewhere) from Atlas Publishing Ltd., Jordan House, Old Milton Green, New Milton, Hants. BH24 6QJ, England <www.sherlockholmes.com>. Classic Specialties is their American agent (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219) (877-233-3823) <www.sherlockholmes.com>; credit-card orders are welcome at both addresses, and back issues are available.
10468. Reported: Carole Nelson Douglas' SPIDER DANCE (New York: Forge Books, 2004; 464 pp., \$24.95); the 8th mystery novel in her Irene Adler series. According to Kirkus Reviews, the book is "a paean to women's audacity, pugnacity, and street smarts, told with frisky good humor and nicely integrated historical asides."
10469. The 14th (and last) volume of The Shoso-in Bulletin, edited by Yuichi Hirayama and Mel Hughes and published by The Men with the Twisted Konjo, offers its traditional mix of articles, essays, and artwork by contributors from nine countries, with 200 pages (all in English); of particular interest is Yuichi's long review of KONAN DOIRU SATSUJIN-JIKEN, the Japanese translation of Rodger Garrick-Steele's book (not available in English) about his belief that B. Fletcher Robinson was murdered by his wife and Conan Doyle (Yuichi's conclusion is that the book "is full of mistakes, errors, inaccuracies, and ill will," and "it is hard to call it a non-fiction work, and it is even a poor work of fiction." Yuichi will have copies of the Bulletin for sale in New York during the birthday festivities, or you can order from him: \$12.00 postpaid, with US dollar checks (payable to Mel Hughes) to be sent to Yuichi (2-10-12 Kamirenjaku, Mitaka-shi, Tokyo 181-0012, Japan).
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December 2004 #5

10470. The Pioneer Drama Service continues to offer scripts for Sherlockian plays, including Craig Sodaro's "Hound of the Clackervilles" (\$5.25); Granny, the local witch, announces the curse of the hound of the Clackervilles, and Holmes and Watson are kept hopping to solve the mystery. And there's Robert W. LaVohn's "Murder at the Banquet" (\$4.50); it's set at an awards banquet for the world's greatest detectives, and as Foster Holmes, Sherlock's descendant, steps up to speak, Jenny Watson arrives to protest *her* ancestor's role as Sherlock's side-kick. "The lights go out, and when they return the banquet's host is dead and the prize money is missing." Pioneer's address is Box 4267, Englewood, CO 80155 (800-333-7262) <www.pioneerdrama.com>.
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10471. The November issue of The Holmes & Watson Report offers Bill Cochran's interesting commentary on the classics in John Bennett Shaw's recommendations for a basic Sherlockian library, and Stu Shiffman's report on Lloyd Alexander's THE GAWGON AND THE BOY, a children's book published in 2001 and still in print, with some nice Sherlockian echoes. \$16.00 a year (six issues) or \$22.00 outside North America, or \$3.00 for one issue, from Brad Keefauver (4009 North Chelsea Place, Peoria, IL 61614).
10472. Warren Randall celebrated the recent excursion into the Valley of Fear (October 04 #6) with a lapel pin, and extra copies of this official souvenir are available for \$10.00 postpaid (in North America) or \$12.00 (elsewhere); checks (payable to Warren) can be sent to him at 15 Fawn Lane West, South Setauket, NY 11720. Warren reports that he considered distributing pieces of coal, but concluded that would be more appropriate for December, and for naughty boys and girls, rather than for October and the well-behaved expeditionary force. I would also recommend the film "The Molly Maguires" (1970), available on DVD and VHS; it has fine performances by Sean Connery, Richard Harris, Samantha Eggar, Frank Finlay, and others, and many of the scenes were filmed on location in Mauch Chunk/Jim Thorpe.
10473. VICTORIAN DETECTIVE FICTION AND THE NATURE OF EVIDENCE: THE SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATIONS OF POE, DICKENS, AND DOYLE, by Lawrence Frank (Houndmills and New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2003; 249 pp., \$69.96), is an academic examination of the relationships between detective fiction and 19th-century scientific texts; three of the seven chapters are devoted to Conan Doyle.
10474. Masamichi Higurashi continues to translate Sherlockiana for Jaanese readers: Ken Greenwald's THE LOST ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1989) has been published by Hara Shobo, and Ted Riccardi's THE ORIENTAL CASEBOOK OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (2003) by Kobunsha; Mitch also has added two new volumes to the MEITANTEI HOLMES children's paperback series illustrated by Hitoshi Wakana and "Ki" and published by Kodansha.
10475. Thomas Mann has worked for many years as a reference librarian, and like so many librarians also is a collector, and has written about his collection in HORROR AND MYSTERY PHOTOPLAY EDITIONS AND MAGAZINE FICTIONIZATIONS: THE CATALOG OF A COLLECTION (Jefferson: McFarland, 2004; 184 pp., \$35.00). Tom reports that there are a dozen entries for Sherlock Holmes (including magazine fictionizations of Rathbone films) and four for "The Lost World" (and he knows of a fifth that he discovered after the book went to press).

December 2004 #6

10476. ROBERT RIPLEY'S BELIEVE IT OR NOT! ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE BIZARRE (New York: Black Dog & Leventhal, 2002; 318 pp., \$17.95) is (of course) full of things that are "amazing, strange, inexplicable, weird, and all true!" And the chapter on literature has a portrait of Sherlock Holmes and an explanation that "the fictional detective each year is sent hundreds of letters to his nonexistent address at 221B Baker Street." I'm not sure whether that's amazing, strange, inexplicable, or weird.
10477. "Sherlock Holmes and the Clocktower Mystery" (the interactive exhibit with Victorian flavor, and a mystery that visitors can solve) currently at the Discovery Center in Springfield, Mo. (November 04 #5) will be next at the Lakeview Museum in Peoria, Ill., from Apr. 16 to Aug. 14 (309-686-7000); their web-site is at <www.lakeview-museum.org>.
10478. "Great Books: The Hound of the Baskervilles" was broadcast on TLC (formerly The Learning Channel) last year (November 03 #3), and the series was then abandoned by TLC. But the series hasn't vanished completely: the program aired on the Discovery Civilisation channel in Britain on Dec. 28, as I learned on Dec. 29 (and confirmed with a Google search on the name of the program). And some of the programs air on Discovery HD Theater and The Science Channel; you can check the listings at <www.discovery.com>. "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is worth watching, and not merely because two Sherlockians in Washington were interviewed on tape for the show.
10479. I'll do my best to write this item so that it will get through e-mail filters: "The game's a footsie" is one of the phrases used by the producers to describe "The Secret of H*ri*t Hill" (2001), which also is described as "a wild and wicked tale of deception, sensual awakenings, and dangerous liaisons" involving Sherlock Holmes and his trusted companion Dr. Emma Watson. The 87-minute film is available at <www.adamandeve.com> (800-293-4654) for \$19.95 on DVD or VHS; another web-site <www.searchextreme.com> offers fullcolor stills from the film. Asterisk #1 is an "a" and asterisk #2 an "o". And thanks to Joe Coppola for the report.
10480. Further to the report (July 04 #6) on cartoonist Zhu Ziquiang's suit against Nike over their copying his "Little Match Man" artwork in their worldwide "Creativity in Sports" television advertising campaign, a court in Beijing has ruled in favor of Zhu, who had asked for 2 million yuan (\$240,000) and a public apology. The court ordered Nike to pay 300,000 yuan and issue a public apology. Nike plans to appeal; the company's lawyer argued earlier that Zhu's artwork lacks originality: "From murals and stone paintings in ancient times to Sherlock Holmes stories, the logo has been used repeatedly." Thanks to Bill Vande Water for spotting the AP dispatch.
10481. The Feb. 2005 issue of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine, which will on the newsstands during the birthday celebrations, is its annual tribute to Sherlock Holmes: there's nice cover art by Susan Smith, and Bill Vande Water's discussion of the photograph of Christopher Morley and Fred Dannay inset on the cover, and an amusing pastiche by Steve Hockensmith ("Gustav Amlingmeyer, Holmes on the Range").

January 2005 #1

10482. We once again enjoyed pleasant weather during the birthday festivities in New York (although some people heading east encountered a few problems when it snowed in the west). There was an ASH Wednesday supper at O'Casey's for dedicated enthusiasts, and the Christopher Morley Walk (led by Jim Cox) for more than a dozen Morley enthusiasts on Thursday morning (followed by lunch at McSorley's). The Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Speaker at the Williams Club on Thursday evening was Gahan Wilson, who told entertaining tales from his career as artist and writer, and about Hugh Hefner and Playboy, and he happily signed Sherlockian souvenirs from as far back as 1959 (when Playboy published four pages of his artistic version of "some littleknown misadventures of the great detective."
10483. More than 140 people were on hand for the William Gillette Luncheon on Friday at Moran's Chelsea Seafood Restaurant, where Paul Singleton and Elyse Locurto offered their version of an American (Sherlockian) in Paris. And in the afternoon Otto Penzler's open house at the Mysterious Bookshop provided the usual opportunities to browse and buy.
10484. More than 170 Irregulars and guests gathered for the BSI's annual dinner at the Union League Club, where Peter Crupe delivered the cocktail-party toast to *the* Woman: Debbie Hall (who then went on to dine at the Algonquin with other ladies who have been *the* Woman). The agenda of the dinner included the usual toasts and traditions; revelations by Nicholas Meyer, David Stuart Davies, and Steven Doyle; a warm welcome to honored guest Inga Swenson (who played Irene Adler in the musical "Baker Street" and was serenaded by Henry Boote with "Finding Words for Spring"); and a tribute to Old Irregular Julian Wolff on the occasion of his centenary.
10485. Mike Whelan (the BSI's "Wiggins") announced the Birthday Honours: Irregular Shillings and Investitures to John Bergquist ("The King of Scandinavia"), Barbara Roden ("Beryl Stapleton"), Neil Gaiman ("The Devil's Foot"), Gianluca Salvatori ("The Dacre Hotel"), Peter Calamai ("The *Leeds Mercury*"), and Art Renkwitz ("The Bar of Gold"). And Two-Shilling Awards ("for extraordinary devotion to the cause beyond the call of duty") were presented to Steve Rothman, Julie Rosenblatt, and Les Klingler.

10486. Mike also reported on the creation of The Baker Street Irregulars Trust has in its first year received more than \$12,000 from 50 generous donors (the Trust will use the funds to support the BSI's archives at the Houghton Library at Harvard University).
10487. There were 90 people at the Baskerville Bash at the Manhattan Club, enjoying an evening of 1930s radio broadcasting by station WBBC, a station that was struggling to achieve financial stability and hoping to achieve a significant ratings boost special guest Basil Rathbone, who was to perform in "The Hound of the Baskervilles". Unfortunately, Rathbone never made it to the station, but station staff came up with substitute programming that included a courtroom drama "Hudson vs. Holmes" (with the plaintiff attempting to evict the defendant,) a version of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" from Beryl Stapleton's perspective, and the last-minute arrival of William Gillette (impersonated by Chuck Kovacic).
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January 2005 #2

10488. On Saturday morning the dealers room at the Algonquin was (as always) crowded with sellers and buyers, and at 12:30 The Clients of Adrian Mulliner (devotees of the works of both Wodehouse and Watson) convened a Junior Bloodstain, which featured a reading of Anne Cotton's dramatization "Sherlock Holmes and the Unsettling Smile" (there also was a "smile" contest won by Scott Monty, whose smile was described by one observer as unsettling and "truly ghastly").
10489. The BSI's Saturday-afternoon cocktail party attracted more than 200 people to the National Arts Club, where Mary Ann Bradley introduced ladies who have been honored as the Woman over the years, and Al and Betsy Rosenblatt reported in verse on the events of the previous year and the previous evening. Costa Rossakis was the new winner of the Morley-Montgomery Award (an attractive certificate and a check for \$500) for the best contribution to The Baker Street Journal last year: his article on "Thaddeus Sholto: (Mis)-Diagnosed"). And the Dr. John H. Watson Fund benefited from the raffle of Joseph Coppola's hand-crafted faux-Victorian tea caddy bath, and from enthusiastic bidders in the traditional auction.
10490. The Watson Fund (administered by a carefully anonymous Dr. Watson) offers financial assistance to all Sherlockians (membership in the BSI is not required) who might otherwise not be able to participate in the birthday festivities. The generous donors to the auction were Joseph and Elaine Coppola and the Mycroft Holmes Society of Syracuse (a solid-cherry reproduction of a Victorian writing desk), Vincent Brosnan (a limited-edition print of one of Edward Bawden's lino-cut illustrations for the Folio Society's 1987 edition of "The Hound of the Baskervilles"), and Jerry and Chrys Kegley and The Curious Collectors of Baker Street (a set of handsome Canonical medals created by Maggie Schpak).
10491. On Sunday about 40 locals and visiting long-weekenders gathered at the Old Castle Pub & Restaurant for a brunch arranged by the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes, and a bus-load of Sherlockians journeyed to Hadlyme for a private visit to Gillette Castle, where they were entertained by Susan Dahlinnger (who talked about the castle and its owner), and made welcome by William Gillette (impersonated by Harold E. Niver). The Castle is open to the public from Memorial Day to Columbus Day, and well worth visiting; there's a web-site at <www.dep.state.ct.us/stateparks/parks/gillettecastle.html>.
10492. And the next birthday dinners in New York dinners will be held on Friday, Jan. 13, 2006.
10493. I've not reported on everything, I hasten to add; if you want more details than I've provided here, there will be much more in The Baker Street Journal , which is published quarterly and costs \$24.95 a year (\$27.50 outside the U.S.), and checks (credit-card payments accepted from foreign subscribers) should be sent to the BSJ (Box 465, Hanover, PA 17331); there's a new option for 2005, offering a subscription to the BSJ and the Christmas Annual for \$34.95 (or \$38.50 foreign). You can also subscribe at the BSJ website at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>, where there's additional interesting material, including issues of The Lamp-Post (the BSJ's occasional newsletter), some of the papers that have won Morley-Montgomery Awards for their authors, and news of various BSI publications.
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January 2005 #3

10494. Michael Reaves and John Pelan, the editors of SHADOWS OVER BAKER STREET (New York: Del Rey/Ballantine Books, 2003; 446 pp., \$23.95), have assembled an anthology in which "Sherlock Holmes enters the dark, nightmare world of H. P. Lovecraft." And so he does, pursuing the NECRONOMICON and battling the Great Old Ones and various monsters; by far the best of the stories is by Neil Gaiman, and it has some fascinating surprises , none of which will be revealed here.
10495. Les Moskowitz has reported that Gerard Van der Leun's THE QUOTABLE SHERLOCK HOLMES, published by the Mysterious Press (October 00 #3) and now out of print, is available to the electronically enabled as a 217-page .pdf file at the web-site <www.americandigest.org/mt-archives/004817.php>.
10496. MISSIVES FROM THE MIRE is a splendid demonstration of what can be done with modern technology: it's a CD-ROM with the "collected newsletters and other scribblings" over the 55-year history of Hugo's Companions of Chicago; Donald J. Terras assembled a nearly complete run of their meeting notices and newsletters, and prepared an annotated index, and the disk includes an up-to-date version of Adobe Acrobat, all for \$27.50 postpaid (checks payable to Hugo's Companions, please) from Bill Sawisch (418 Gallahad Road, Bolingbrook , IL 60440).
10497. The Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh will celebrate its 500th anniversary this year, and there will be a series of exhibitions in Surgeon's Hall, including one on "Conan Doyle and the Real Sherlock Holmes" that will explore his connections with the college and his relationship with Dr. Joseph Bell. The college was an active bidder at Christie's last year, buying three lots, one of which included a poem that Conan Doyle wrote about the college.
10498. Ed. Lange's play "Sherlock's Secret Life" premiered at the N.Y. State Theatre Institute in 1997, and his new play "Sherlock's Legacy" is scheduled to open at the Schacht Fine Arts Center at Russell Sage College in Troy, N.Y., from Apr. 23 through May 7 (518-274-3256) <www.nysti.org>. "Sherlock's Secret Life" at the Workshop Theatre in Calgary, on Feb. 4-12 (403-253-2002) <www.workshoptheatre.org>, and at the Red Barn Theatre in Key West, Mar. 15 to Apr. 16 (866-870-9911) <www.redbartheatre.com>. Lange's web-site is at <home.nycap.rr.com/bifurcated/sherlock.html> with information about both of the plays, and about the audiocassette of "Sherlock's Secret Life".
10499. The Norwegian Explorers' "Christmas Annual 2004" (devoted to "the architectural Holmes") features Derham Groves' long article ("Welcome to the Hotel Irregular") on what his architecture students came up with when challenged to design a hotel for the Baker Street Irregulars. His students are imaginative indeed, and copies of the 62-page booklet are available from its editor , John Bergquist (3665 Ashbury Road, Eagan, MN 55122); checks payable to The Norwegian Explorers, please).
10500. Reported: Lora Roberts' THE AFFAIR OF THE INCOGNITO TENANT: A MYSTERY WITH SHERLOCK HOLMES (Palo Alto: Perseverance Press/John Daniel & Co., 2004; 264 pp., \$13.95); Charlotte Dodson, housekeeper at an estate in Sussex, discovers that her tenant, a Mr. Sigerson, is of significant assistance in solving a mystery. Lora Roberts has a web-site at <www.nmomysteries.com>.
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January 2005 #4

10501. Britain's Royal Society will celebrate its 350th anniversary in 2010, and a story in The Guardian (Jan. 1) notes that the celebration is to include an exhibition of important items from the Society's archives, "ranging from a telescope built by Isaac Newton to a letter in defence of spiritualism by
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- Sir Arthur Conan Doyle." Conan Doyle asked astronomer James Jeans to pay attention to spiritualism, saying that "Personally , I have studied this matter since 1887. I have experimented with more mediums than, probably, any living man."
10502. Richard Valley reports that the current issue of *Scarlet Street* (#52) includes interviews with Patricia Morison (who appeared with Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce in "Dressed to Kill") and with Peggy Webber (who acted with Rathbone and Bruce in the Sherlock Holmes radio series); \$7.95 (\$10.95 outside the U.S.) from Box 604, Glen Rock, NJ 07452 <www.scarletstreet.com>.
10503. "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Silk Stocking" aired on BBC-1 on Dec. 26, and in Canada on the CBC on Dec. 29, to mixed reviews from Sherlockians who have commented on it. The closing credits noted it is a co-production of the BBC and WGBH; WGBH plans to air the program on "Masterpiece Theatre" on PBS-TV this fall. And Rupert Everett isn't the only Sherlock Holmes in the film: Guy Henry (Mr. Bilney) played Holmes in "Young Sherlock: The Mystery of the Manor House" (1982). Dayna McCausland has noted that this was a case in which the game truly was a foot.
10504. The December issue of the quarterly newsletter published by The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota offers a report on Les Klinger's visit to the library, Julie McKuras' "100 Years Ago" discussion of the Parker Brothers "Sherlock Holmes" game, and Jon Lellenberg's warm "50 Years Ago" tribute to Bliss Austin; you can request a copy from Richard J. Sveum, 111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455 <sveum001@tc.umn.edu>.
10505. "Who Shot Sherlock?" (the final title of the episode of "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation" that aired on CBS-TV on Jan. 6) was an interesting show, and worth looking for as a repeat if you haven't seen it; the CSI team tries to determine how the man who played Sherlock Holmes in a Sherlock Holmes club was killed, and you may be surprised at some of the plot twists. Of course the broadcast was nicely timed for Sherlock Holmes' birthday, and I'm sure that many Sherlockians at the birthday festivities in New York are thankful that they had VCRs set to record at home.
10506. If you'd like to see Buster Keaton's "Sherlock, Jr." (1924) in a theater, the American Film Institute has scheduled a Keaton/Chaplin double feature at the AFI Silver in Silver Spring, Md., at 5:30 pm on Feb. 9. The Charlie Chaplin film is "The Circus" (1928), and there will be music accompanying both films (301-495-6721) <www.afi.com/silver>.
10507. Bruce Holmes continues his pursuit of Sherlockian philately (and philatelic Sherlockiana), and his *THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: ILLUSTRATED WITH POSTAGE STAMPS* offers the twelve stories represented by postage stamps and covers, and the selection is as usual appropriate and imaginative. The 23-page booklet costs US \$29.50 (color)/\$15.00 (black and white) postpaid, and Bruce's address is 3170 Joseph Howe Drive, Halifax, NS B3L 4G1, Canada.

January 2005 #5

10508. Reported by Don Dillistone: *WHODUNIT CRIME PUZZLES*, by Hy Conrad and Tatjana Mai Wyss (New York: Sterling Publishing, 2002; 96 pp., \$6.95); Sherman Oliver Holmes is the great-great-grandson of Sherlock Holmes, and poses 29 mystery puzzles for readers to solve (one of them being a sequel to "The Blue Carbuncle"). Some of the Sherman Oliver Holmes puzzles (but not the sequel to "The Blue Carbuncle") have been reprinted in *MENSA WHODUNITS*, by Bill Wise, Hy Conrad, and Bob Peterson (New York: Sterling Publishing, 2004; 286 pp., \$4.98).
10509. Kelly Freas died on Jan. 2. He was an artist and an illustrator, and began his career painting buxom women on bombers during World War II. His first professional work was a cover for the Nov. 1950 issue of *Weird Tales*, and he went on to win 11 prestigious Hugo Awards from the World Science Fiction Society. He also worked for *Mad* magazine from 1957 to 1962, painting many portraits of Alfred E. "What Me Worry?" Neuman. Freas also illustrated the fine Sherlockian story "The Return", by H. Beam Piper and John J. McGuire, in the Jan. 1954 issue of *Astounding Science Fiction*.
10510. Plan ahead: the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection, the Bootmakers of Toronto, the Toronto Public Library, and the Arthur Conan Doyle Society will sponsor "ACD at Thirty-Five" (celebrating the 35th anniversary of the collection) in Toronto on Oct. 20-22, 2006; if you'd like to be on the mailing list, write to ACD@35 (22 Markdale Avenue, Toronto, ON M6C 1T1, Canada) <acd35@sympatico.ca>
10511. Al Gregory <grimpen@nac.net> offers (e-mail only) his 2005 edition of "The ABC of the BSI" (an alphabetical listing of Investitures, with recipients, from "Abbey Grange" to "Young Stamford") and "The Florin Society" (couples in which both spouses have received Irregular Shillings).
10512. The BBC Radio 7 30-minute series "Cult" broadcast five new Sherlock Holmes stories on Jan. 17-21, read by Andrew Sachs and Hannah Gordon; you can listen to the programs and read the scripts (along with an interview with Bert Coules) at <www.bbc.co.uk/cult/sherlock/>. Two of the program were written by authors who have Sherlockian credentials: Paul Cornell, whose *Doctor Who* novel *HAPPY ENDINGS* included Holmes and Watson as characters (February 98 #5); and Kim Newman, whose *ANNO DRACULA* had many echoes from the Canon (December 92 #3). Newman, by the way, has a web-site at <www.johnnyalucard.com>.
10513. Bernard Oudin's *SHERLOCK HOLMES ET LA SUFFRAGETTE AMOUREUSE* (2004; 144 pp., E18.00) is a collection of seven new pastiches, and it's only one of many interesting books available in French from Thierry Saint-Joanis' Editions Mycroft's Brother (2 impasse de la Serre - Saint Julien, 63320 Montaigut-le-Blanc, France) <www.mycrofts.net>.
10514. "Watson's Tin Box Sponsors Essay Contest for Pupils" was the headline on a story in the *Baltimore Sun* (Jan. 4) about the society's campaign to explain to seventh-grade students why Sherlock Holmes is so interesting. Members of the society will present programs at local libraries, and they will distribute a booklet they've prepared about "The Speckled Band" (the subject of the essay content), and then select the winners, who will be announced in April; the contest is co-sponsored by Barnes & Noble. If you'd like to see the booklet, go to <www.hclibrary.org/partners/holmescontest.cfm>.

January 2005 #6

10515. Les Klinger reports that Universal plans to release the first season of "Murder, She Wrote" on DVD (three discs) on Mar. 29 (\$49.98); the set includes the 1984 two-hour pilot "The Murder of Sherlock Holmes", in which Brian Keith starred in the pilot as Capt. Caleb McCallum , who attends a costume party dressed as Holmes, and may or may not have been the intended victim of a murderer. Jessica Fletcher (played by Angela Lansbury) solves the mystery, needless to say.
10516. Al Rosenblatt has kindly forwarded Michael Peel's review in the *Times Literary Supplement* (Sept. 3, 2004) of Samantha Weinberg's *POINTING FROM THE GRAVE*, Cyril Wecht's *MORTAL EVIDENCE*, and N. E. Genge's *THE FORENSIC CASEBOOK*; "The three books have little in common stylistically," Peel reports, "but all cite Sherlock Holmes' famous dictum that once the impossible has been ruled out, whatever remains - however improbably - must be true."
10517. Guy Davenport died on Jan. 4. He won a MacArthur Foundation "genius grant" for his essays and short fiction, and he was a distinguished teacher and artist, illustrating Hugh Kenner's *THE COUNTERFEITERS* (1968). The *National Review* obituary (Jan. 31) for Kenner noted, "Sherlock Holmes and Karl Marx in the same picture? Why not."
10518. Trevor S. Raymond reports that "Rawhide 2" (a phonograph record released by Folkways Records in 1957) with a dramatization of "The Case of the Speckled Band" by the Canadian humorist Max Ferguson is available from the Smithsonian Institution (they have purchased Folkways) on one CD

- (\$17.99) or cassette (\$9.95). Catalog number 03872 (888-365-5939) <www.folkways.si.edu>. And that's only one of the interesting items in the winter issue of Canadian Holmes, which is published by The Bootmakers of Toronto and available by subscription (US\$20.00) or included in membership (US\$25.00); the business manager is D. Thorpe, 5 Brownlee Avenue, Toronto, ON M9P 2R5, Canada.
10519. Further to earlier reports (September 04 #4) on plans for an ITV television series starring Stephen Fry and Hugh Laurie as Holmes and Watson, Jim Ballinger reports that Fry announced at the annual dinner of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London this month that he has realized that he doesn't resemble Holmes ("there's no description in the Canon of Holmes looking like 'a bin liner full of yoghurt'), and that the project has been scrapped.
10520. A new edition of A STUDY IN SCARLET, with the original text from Beeton's Christmas Annual and more than 600 striking illustrations by Danish artist Nis Jessen, will be published this spring by Hakon Holm (Borgmester Nielsens Vej 24, DK-3700 Roenne, Bornholm, Denmark <www.mr-holmes.com>. There will be three versions: standard (E60.00), deluxe (E70.00), and signed and numbered in a slip-case (E78.00), and two posters will be available; there is more information (and lots of artwork) at the publisher's web-site, and you can see more of Jessen's work at <home2.inet.tele.dk/fnjessen>.
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January 2005 #7

10521. David Grann's article about Richard Lancelyn Green in The New Yorker's Dec. 13 issue ("A Reporter at Large: Mysterious Circumstances") generated renewed press speculation in Britain about Richard's death, and an excellent letter of comment from Glen Miranker in the Jan. 17 issue of the magazine. That issue also has an article by Margaret Talbot ("The Auteur of Anime") about Hayao Miyazaki, the highly-acclaimed director of Japanese animation; Sherlockians have seen his work in some of the episodes in the 1983 series "Meitantei Holmes" (available here as "The Adventures of Sherlock Hound").
10522. The film "Finding Neverland" (November 04 #5) received seven nominations for an Oscar: best picture, best actor in a leading role (Johnny Depp), art direction, costume design, film editing, writing (adapted screenplay), and music (score).
10523. The Confederates of Wisteria Lodge and The Nashville Scholars of the Three Pipe Problem are planning an informal "Gathering of Southern Sherlockians" on Apr. 16 at the Sheraton Read House in Chattanooga, Tenn.; additional information is available from Kent Ross (6875 Fielder Court, Rex, GA 30273) <kenthross@aol.com>.
10524. The steam launch Aurora's successor, the P&O superliner Aurora, continues to afflict its passengers: some months ago (December 03 #1) more than 500 passengers suffered from a highly contagious virus, and now a 103-night "Grand Voyage" to 40 ports in 23 countries has been cancelled. According to a report in the Daily Telegraph (Jan. 21), kindly forwarded by John Baesch, the passengers spent the first 11 days of their cruise in and near Southampton while the line struggled to repair the ship's propulsion system. The cost to the company will be £22 million, but David Dingle, managing director of P&O Cruises, said there is no need to rename the ship (at its naming ceremony, conducted by the Princess Royal, the champagne bottle didn't smash, traditionally a bad omen).
10525. JAPAN AND SHERLOCK HOLMES, edited and translated by Yuichi Hirayama, Masamichi Higurashi, and Hirotaka Ueda (New York: The Baker Street Irregulars, 2004; 190 pp., \$39.95), is the first volume in the BSI's International Series, which is intended to make available in English some of the fine Sherlockian scholarship published in other languages. And the Japanese have a long history of enthusiasm for Sherlock Holmes: the first translation of a Sherlock Holmes story was published in 1894, a Japanese journalist interviewed Conan Doyle in 1910 (the interview is in the book), the first Sherlockian society in Japan was founded in 1948, and since then members of the Japan Sherlock Holmes Club and other societies have continued to enjoy the world of Sherlock Holmes; the best of their essays, poems, and artwork will be found in JAPAN AND SHERLOCK HOLMES. \$43.90 postpaid (\$44.90 outside the U.S.) from The Baker Street Journal, 1836 Columbia Road #2, South Boston, MA 02127.
10526. Les Klinger has been getting a lot of publicity for THE NEW ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES, in reviews and interviews, in print and on radio, and in various languages (thanks to the Voice of America, which broadcast an interview with Les and Dan Stashower and me last month; you can listen to us at their web-site at <www.voanews.com/english/AmericanLife/2004-12-24-voa33.cfm>.
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January 2005 #8

10527. The January 2005 issue of Geotimes is their "forensic geology" theme issue, with Raymond C. Murray's feature article on "Collecting Crime Evidence from Earth", Sarah Andrews' report on "A Visit to the FBI Lab", and articles by Megan Sever on "Murder and Mud in the Shenandoah" and David Abbott on "Investigating Mining Frauds". Published by the American Geological Institute, 4220 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22302 (\$3.95); Murray's article and Megan Sever's story on "Becoming a Forensic Geologist" are available at the magazine's web-site <www.geotimes.org>. "Forensic geology," Murray notes, "began with the writings of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle."
10528. A BLUE CARBUNCLE is the latest in the "monograph series" of The Occupants of the Empty House: Janet Bensley has edited an interesting collection of papers about the gem, and the story, and the 32-page pamphlet costs \$12.00 postpaid (checks payable to The Occupants of the Empty House, please) from Stan Tinsley (Box 21, Zeigler, IL 62999).
10529. Gasogene Press has three new titles available, one of them the seventh volume of Leslie S. Klinger's SHERLOCK HOLMES REFERENCE LIBRARY: THE VALLEY OF FEAR, with a fine introduction by Julia Carlson Rosenblatt, whose insights on the story and its setting are as helpful to the reader as they were to those who participated in last year's excursion into the Valley; the annotations and appendices are as usual based on old and new Sherlockian scholarship (2005; 143 pp., \$19.95); \$22.70 postpaid (\$23.70 outside the U.S.) from the publisher.
10530. SERPENTINE MUSE-INGS, VOLUME TWO, edited by Susan Z. Diamond and Marilynne McKay, is the second anthology of scholarship, speculation, and toasts from archives of The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes and their journal The Serpentine Muse (2005; 229 pp., \$22.95); \$25.70 postpaid (\$26.70 outside the U.S.) from the publisher.
10531. A DISTINCT TOUCH, WATSON: BEING THE FINAL ANNALS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by David L. Hammer, offers 13 new stories in his series of Sherlockian pastiches (the series now runs to four volumes, and his readers will grumble a bit at that "final" in the subtitle, but David reports that he had decided that it is time, in appropriately lawyerly language, to cease and desist (2003; 131 pp., \$13.95); \$16.70 postpaid (\$17.70 outside the U.S.) from the publisher: Gasogene Press, Box 68308, Indianapolis, IN 46268.
10532. Beaten's Christmas Annual has been published for 22 years by The Sound of the Baskervilles (the Sherlockian society in Seattle), and the latest issue offers "essays, puzzles, commentary, artwork and more" by its members; the 40-page booklet is available from David Haugen, 3605 Harborcrest Court NW, Gig Harbor, WA 98332; \$10.00 postpaid.
10533. Andy Fusco has kindly supplied copies for everyone of his seasonal souvenir for the birthday festivities: a pocket calendar for 1898, which also works for 2005. And this is a collectible, since it's the first printing, which Andy deemed unsuitable for distribution in New York, where people received copies of the second printing.
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February 2005 #1

10534. I neglected the annual commercials last month: the 16-page list of the Investitured Irregulars, the Two-Shilling Awards, the Women, and the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes costs \$1.25 postpaid. The 81-page list of 831 Sherlockian societies, with names and addresses for contacts for 427 active societies, is \$4.70 post-paid. A run of address labels for 349 individual contacts (recommended to avoid duplicate mailings to those who are contacts for more than one society) costs \$10.55 postpaid (checks payable to Peter E. Blau, please).
10535. The list of Irregulars and others also is available from me by e-mail (no charge), and all of the lists are available at Willis G. Frick's "Sherlocktron" home page at <<http://members.cox.net/sherlock1/Sherlocktron.html>>.
10536. Charles J. Blinderman's THE PILTDOWN INQUEST (1986) was an excellent examination of the Piltdown hoax and the various suspects (there's a chapter on Conan Doyle), and Blinderman and David Joyce have an excellent web-site devoted to "The Piltdown Plot" at <www.clarku.edu/~pilttdown>. Blinderman's book also is available (a very nice aspect of the Internet as a resource) at <www.clarku.edu/~pilttdown/The_Piltdown_Inquest/chapters/chapter1.html>; if you want to go directly to the chapter on Conan Doyle, which is a pastiche (April 87 #2) just substitute "11" for "1".
10537. Rosemary Clark died on Jan. 6. She was the widow of Edward F. Clark (they met at the Pentagon, Jon Lellenberg notes, where they were Ultra handlers in 1944), and she was honored by The Baker Street Irregulars as *the* woman in 1976.
10538. Sorry about that: my review omitted the price, so here's a revised repeat: The Norwegian Explorers' "Christmas Annual 2004" (devoted to "the architectural Holmes") features Derham Groves' long article ("Welcome to the Hotel Irregular") on what his architecture students came up with when challenged to design a hotel for the Baker Street Irregulars. His students are imaginative indeed, and copies of the 62-page pamphlet are available from editor John Bergquist (3665 Ashbury Road, Eagan, MN 55122); \$10.00 postpaid (with checks payable to The Norwegian Explorers, please).
10539. Details are now available for the annual STUD-Watsonian Weekend On Apr. 29-May 1 in and near Chicago; there will be a dinner (with Henry Zecher speaking on William Gillette), a running of The Silver Blaze at Hawthorne Race Course, and a Fortescue Honours brunch. Contact Susan Diamond, 16W603 3rd Avenue, Bensenville, IL 60106 <szdiamond@comcast.net>.
10540. "We could put up a very fair team in the field, and were runners-up for the County Cup the last season that I played," Conan Doyle wrote, remembering his playing association football in Portsmouth, adding that "I was always too slow, however, to be a really good back, though I was a long and safe kick." Kevin Smith's SHERLOCK HOLMES WAS A POMPEY KEEPER: THE EXTRAORDINARY STORY OF THE ORIGINAL POMPEY AFC AND THE WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS DETECTIVE (Tiverton: Halsgrove, 2004; 152 pp., £19.95) is a detailed history of the team on which Conan Doyle played, first listed as A. C. Smith and then by his own name, and the team's success continued after Conan Doyle departed.

February 2005 #2

10541. Philip Johnson died on Jan. 25. He was a renowned architect, and with his partner John Burgee designed four buildings in San Francisco, the most controversial of which was the Nieman Marcus department store on Union Square. According to John King's tribute in the San Francisco Chronicle on Jan. 27 (forwarded by Scott Monty), Piero Patri, a local architect who worked with Johnson, recalled a planning commission hearing where speaker after speaker denounced the project. "Emotions ran high--except at the end of the front row of the audience, where Johnson sat reading a paperback Sherlock Holmes novel."
10542. It has been more than 15 years since Mysteriously Yours (a mystery dinnertheater company in Toronto) performed their first Sherlock Holmes play, and their new play "CSI: Baker Street" opened last month, and will run at least through July. The theater's address is 2026 Yonge Street, Toronto, ON M4S 1Z9, Canada (416-486-7469) (800-668-3323) <www.mysteriouslyyours.com>.
10543. "Elementary School, My Dear Watson" was the headline on a Reuters dispatch from Moscow: Russia's police force has adopted Moscow school 1862 for children aged 6 to 17 and created a "detectives' section" as part of a campaign to clean up its reputation for incompetence and corruption. "Future Sherlock Holmes's will be able to learn the basics of the detective's trade," First Deputy Interior Minister Alexander Chekalin said (quoted by the Itar-Tass news agency on Jan. 28).
10544. Filming on "The Strange Case of Sherlock Holmes and Arthur Conan Doyle" is now underway in Glasgow; the film (November 04 #5) was written by David Pirie, who suggests that some aspects of Holmes were based on Conan Doyle's alcoholic father. Douglas Henshall stars as Conan Doyle, and Brian Cox as Dr. Joseph Bell.
10545. No one reported the story in the N.Y. Times when it ran on Sept. 7, but it was reprinted in the San Diego Union-Tribune on Sept. 15, and noted in The Passengers' Log (Oct. 8), and although New York to San Diego to Sydney to Washington is quite a trek, it all started in Belize, eight miles east of the border with Guatemala, where a party of mycologists was searching for fungi on a ridge called Doyle's Delight, named for its resemblance to the prehistoric setting of "The Lost World". And they found some, of course, including a brilliant yellow-capped mushroom that may be new to science and might wind up named *Hygrocybe doyles delightiorium*.
10546. Karen Murdock spotted a story at <www.restaurantbiz.com> about a chain of Sherlockian pubs and grills, all in Texas, in Addison, Arlington, Houston, and San Antonio, with future sites in Austin and Fort Worth; there's a website at <www.hospitalityusa.com/locations.htm>.
10547. Kinky Friedman announced this month that he will run for governor of Texas in 2006, calling himself Texas' first independent candidate since Sam Houston in 1859. Friedman often has Sherlockian allusions in his mystery novels, but said he wouldn't be writing any mysteries from the governor's mansion. According to a story in the Kerrville Daily Times (Feb. 4), Friedman explained that "The Kinkster gets killed off in my newest book, TEN LITTLE NEW YORKERS, sort of like Sherlock Holmes at Reichenbach Falls." Friedman has a web-site at <www.kinkyfriedman.com>.

February 2005 #3

10548. U.S. Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan received an honorary degree from the University of Edinburgh this month, and in his acceptance speech he paid tribute to Sherlock Holmes: "As an economic detective of sorts," Greenspan said, "I find kinship in the words written by this university's world-renowned alumnus, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, whose Sherlock Holmes--while speaking of the art of detection--unknowingly unlocked the well-kept secrets of monetary policy-making. 'We balance probabilities,' he said, 'and choose the most likely. It is the scientific use of the imagination.' He sounds like a stock portfolio manager of one of Edinburgh's premium investment houses. What is true for detectives and financial risk managers is true for monetary policy-makers, and is, I am certain, also true for the young minds taking shape here on these grounds."
10549. Bank of England governor Mervyn King also received an honorary degree from the University of Edinburgh. And Simon Pia reported in The Scotsman (Feb. 8) that King explained that "my predecessor said there were three kinds of economists: (1) Those who can count. (2) Those who can't."
10550. Further to my review of SHADOWS OVER BAKER STREET (January 05 #3), Chris Roden notes that Neil Gaiman won a Hugo Award (best short story) for his contribution to the anthology ("A Study in Emerald") at the World Science Fiction Convention in Boston last year. And it was well-deserved.

10551. Francis A. Young died on Jan. 17. He was described by more than one friend as a walking encyclopedia, and one of his earliest published works was his article "On the Identification of Cardinal Tosca" in the June 1964 issue of *The Baker Street Journal* BSI (June 1964). Frank's books include *ART OF THE FOOTNOTE: THE INTELLIGENT STUDENT'S GUIDE TO THE ART AND SCIENCE OF ANNOTATING TEXTS* (1996) and *PASSING THE KEYS: MODERN CARDINALS, CONCLAVES, AND THE ELECTION OF THE NEXT POPE* (1999), and we are in his debt for the CD-ROM "The Works of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle" issued by Insight Engineering (1997).
10552. The first issue of *The Master's Trestleboard*, the electronic newsletter edited by Ron Fish for The Master's Masons, is available at their web-site at <www.themastersmasons.homestead.com>.
10553. The 24th annual Sherlock Holmes/Arthur Conan Doyle Symposium will be held in Dayton on Mar. 11-13, at the Holiday Inn Fairborn; additional details are available from Cathy Gill (4661 Hamilton Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45223) (513-681-5507) <chirpsworth@fuse.net>.
10554. "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: The Real Sherlock Holmes" is a 57-minute documentary issued in 2004 by Delta Entertainment Corp. on DVD (\$6.99 at Amazon), with interesting footage of Conan Doyle locations from Edinburgh to Windlesham, and (as a "special feature") the 29-minute Nigel Bruce/Tom Conway radio broadcast of "The Devil's Foot" (1947).
10555. Gayle T. Harris reports a new and interesting archive for researchers: the [Edinburgh] Scotsman offers on-line access to its articles published from 1817 to 1920. Searches are free at <www.archives.scotsman.com>, and there are 646 hits for "conan doyle" and 204 hits for "sherlock holmes", but you need to pay for access to the articles: £7.95 for one day, £12.95 for two days, or £19.95 for one week.

February 2005 #4

10556. Further to the report (December 04 #4) on a Japanese translation of Rodger Garrick-Steele's *THE HOUSE OF THE BASKERVILLES*, Cliff Goldfarb has noted that the book is available in English, published by the print-on-demand company 1st Books; \$24.00 (paperback) or \$6.95 (electronic). The company's address is AuthorHouse, 1663 Liberty Drive #200, Bloomington, IN 47403 (888-519-5121) <www.authorhouse.com>.
10557. Garrick-Steele received considerable publicity in 2000, when he accused Sir Arthur Conan Doyle of murdering Bertram Fletcher Robinson (with the assistance of Fletcher Robinson's wife Gladys) to avoid exposure as having plagiarized *THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES* from a book written by Fletcher Robinson, and far less publicity in 2001 when he accused Conan Doyle of murdering Charles Dawson, who knew Conan Doyle to be the perpetrator of the Piltdown hoax. According to a story in *Torquay Herald Express* (Nov. 2, 2001), Garrick-Steele challenged Sherlockians: "If this is true, they are covering for a serial murderer; if they don't know this then they are fools indeed."
10558. There's nothing about Dawson in *THE HOUSE OF THE BASKERVILLES*, which offers details on Garrick-Steele's life and career, and lengthy (and undocumented) quotes from members of Fletcher Robinson's family, and their servants and friends, and an end-note on Garrick-Steele's plans to publish Fletcher Robinson's *AN ADVENTURE ON DARTMOOR*, the manuscript upon which Conan Doyle allegedly based *THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES*.
10559. Rodger isn't the only Garrick-Steele around, according to Yahoo. "Katelin Ashford was a bit hotheaded, but hardly wicked enough to be exiled from her beloved London to the wilds of the Caribbean just to avoid a scandal! But her trip across the Atlantic turned out to be fraught with peril and passion when a storm buffeted her ship, and cast her onto the deck and into the arms of an infamous privateer. Yet virile Garrick Steele was no stranger; he was the very man who'd ruined her reputation back home!" From the blurb for Kathleen Drymon's *PIRATE MOON* (1993).
10560. Basil Hoskins died on Jan. 17. His career as a character actor lasted for almost 50 years, in both classics and comedy, and he played Mr. Henderson in Granada's "Wisteria Lodge" (1988).
10561. It's unlikely that there's anything Sherlockian about the new film "Inside Deep Throat" (it's a documentary about the 1972 porno film "Deep Throat"), but there's a connection: Harry Reems, who starred in the film (and is now a real-estate salesman in Utah), went on to make "Sherlock Holmes" (1975), which for many years was the only porno Sherlock Holmes film available on videocassette.
10562. The Mystery Writers of America have announced their nominations for Edgar awards, including Les Klinger (best critical-biographical) for *THE NEW ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES*, and Gary Lovisi (best short story) for "The Adventure of the Missing Detective" (in *SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE HIDDEN YEARS*). The winners will be announced at the MWA awards dinner on Apr. 28. *THE NEW ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES* has also been nominated for an Agatha award (best non-fiction) from Malice Domestic, and Jack French's *PRIVATE EYELASHES: RADIO'S LADY DETECTIVES* has been nominated in the same category; the winners will be announced at Malice's awards banquet on Apr. 30.

February 2005 #5

10563. Bruce Cassiday died on Jan. 12. "He was a writer with as many talents as pseudonyms," according to Jack Adrian's obituary in *The Independent* (Feb. 11), and one of those talents was his wide knowledge of literature: Cassiday edited *ROOTS OF DETECTION: THE ART OF DEDUCTION BEFORE SHERLOCK HOLMES* (1983), and collaborated with Waltraud Woeller on *THE LITERATURE OF CRIME AND DETECTION: AN ILLUSTRATION HISTORY FROM ANTIQUITY TO THE PRESENT* (1988).
10564. Teddy Hayes' "The Baskerville Beast: The Musical" will have its world premiere at the Questors Theatre on Mar. 22-26 (12 Mattock Lane, Ealing W5 5BQ, England) (0208-237-1111) <www.thebaskervillebeast.co.uk>. And there's some nice artwork at the web-site.
10565. Bob Levinson is the author of *ASK A DEAD MAN*, and has his own web-site at <www.robertslevinson.com>, and he recently contributed to a thread on the Dorothy-L electronic mailing list about typos that manage to pass undetected from ms. to printed page, noted that "My new work *A STUDY IN SCARLETT O'HARA* (in which Watson wonders why Holmes has done nothing about the holes in his socks, and Holmes reveals, 'I don't give a darn') will contain 60 intentional errors of fact. Readers will be invited to find these 55 errors of fact before Holmes does. Prizes will be awarded, although I'm not yet sure what they'll be. I'll think about it tomorrow."
10566. Ken Lanza spotted a Sherlock Holmes in Nortonville, Ky.: an on-line newspaper <www.the-messenger.com> noted on Feb. 9 that "February is a good month for birthdays in Nortonville . . . Dwight Holmes, son of City Councilman Sherlock Holmes and Doris Holmes, has a birthday Feb. 11." The councilman, when he ran for election in 1998, was billed as Andrew "Sherlock" Holmes."
10567. For the completists: *THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* in a Treasury of Illustrated Classics edition adapted by Kathy Wilmore and illustrated by Ned Butterfield (New York: Modern Publishing, 2000; 189 pp., \$1.99 on some discount tables, or \$2.99 at their web-site <www.modernpublishing.com>); five stories simplified for young readers.
10568. Further to the item on the National Library of Scotland's plans to acquire the John Murray archives (March 04 #3), the Library won a £17.7 million grant from the national lottery and has purchased the archives for £31.2 million. The archives include the company's correspondence with its authors, one of whom was Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

10569. "Sherlock Holmes and the Sea Grove Covenant" is this year's mystery, to be solved during Sherlock Holmes Weekends in Cape May, N.J., on Mar. 4-6 and Nov. 4-6. The weekends also feature staged readings of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" by the East Lynne Theater Company, and additional details are available from the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts, Box 340, Cape May, NJ 08204 (800-275-4278) <www.capemaymac.org>.
10570. The famous/infamous "tent joke" was unveiled to The Hounds of the Internet in July 1998, and seems to have appeared in print first in the Reader's Digest (Nov. 1998), and it was published here somewhat later (December 01 #6), and it came in second in voting for the world's funniest joke (October 02 #1); it's still being told, for example in John Lescroart's THE SECOND CHAIR (2004).
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February 2005 #6

10571. The magician Ricky Jay is interested in all sorts of trickery, as you can see at his web-site <www.rickyjay.com>, where you'll find his weekly "Jay's Journal" as broadcast by KCRW-FM (Los Angeles). On Apr. 17, 2003, Jay talked about "the American Sherlock Holmes" (Clifton R. Wooldridge, who described himself with that title in a series of booklets published early in the 20th century).
10572. Otto Plaschkes died on Feb. 14. He began his film career as assistant director on "Exodus" (1960), and went on to produce "Georgy Girl" (1966) and many other films, including the Ian Richardson television films "The Hound of the Baskervilles" and "The Sign of Four" (1983).
10573. Reported: Catherine Wynne's THE COLONIAL CONAN DOYLE: BRITISH IMPERIALISM, IRISH NATIONALISM AND THE GOTHIC (Westport: Greenwood Press, 2003; 224 pp., \$75.00); an academic examination of the many Irish aspects, allusions, and echoes in Conan Doyle's writings.
10574. Sherlock Holmes died on Feb. 15, Bill Barnes reports. That's the Sherlock Holmes who lived in Newcastle, Australia. Ten years ago (August 94 #7) he attended the national meeting of the Sherlockian societies in Australia, and Michael J. Farrell reported that Mr. Holmes was born in Holmesville, with a Dr. Watson presiding over the birth (and it was the suggestion of the nurse that the child be called Sherlock).
10575. Ken Lanza spotted a report in the Desert-Mountain Times about the opening of the Sherlock Holmes Outpost restaurant and club in Alpine, Texas. Visitors can enjoy Mrs. Hudson's Dining Room and Dr. Watson's Pub, and will be invited to become members of Dr. Watson's Club.
10576. Michael Ross (Baskerville Bucher, Postfach 42 06 70, 50900 Koln, Germany) <www.baskerville.de> reports that German publishers continue to offer Sherlockian books: Stefan Wingses, author of DER VIERTE KONIG (2004) has a new pastiche TOD AUF DEM RHEIN (Emons Verlag, 2004) visit Egypt and Cologne and are involved with the parents of Indiana Jones, and Friedrich Gerhard Kimmek's SHERLOCK HOLMES UND DIE WAHRE GESCHICHTE VOM GESPENKELTEN BAND (vmd, 2004) tells the "true story" of "The Speckled Band"; both books (and many others) are available from Michael. And Jeremy Paul's "The Secret of Sherlock Holmes" (performed by Jeremy Brett and Edward Hardwicke in 1988) has been translated into German, and performed in Idar-Oberstein in January.
10577. "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Silk Stocking" aired on BBC-1 on Dec. 26, and in Canada on the CBC on Dec. 29 (January 05 #4), and it is scheduled on PBS-TV this fall. It will be released on DVD (region 2) on Mar. 21 (£10.99 at <www.bbcshop.co.uk>, according to publicity at hand from Ben Wood.
10578. In 1959 postcards from Edgar W. Smith advertised "The Oscar Meunier Bust of Sherlock Holmes" reproduced (without the bullet hole) in matte porcelain by the noted sculptor E. Pichard (actually Edgar's son, Edgar Pichard Smith). Only 25 numbered replicas were made, according to the postal card. In the Mar. 1962 issue of The Baker Street Journal there was an offer from Edgar P. Smith of a "new casting" with 25 numbered replicas. I would appreciate hearing from those who have copies of the bust accompanied by documentation as to whether they are from 1959 or 1962.
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February 2005 #7

10579. An exhibition on "Tutankhamen and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs" is on tour, with more than twice as many artifacts from his tomb than were in the exhibition in the 1970s; it has been on display in Bonn and is now in Basel, and it will open in Los Angeles on June 16 and will then move to Fort Lauderdale and Chicago. Newspaper stories about the exhibition note that tales about mummies that come to life were popular in the 19th century, and often cite Bram Stoker's JEWEL OF SEVEN STARS (1903), but Conan Doyle was earlier, with "The Ring of Thoth" (Jan. 1890) and "Lot No. 249" (Sept. 1892).
10580. Guillermo Cabrera Infante died on Feb. 21. He was a Cuban novelist, essayist, supporter of Fidel Castro's revolution, and for the last forty years critic of Castro's government. His HOLY SMOKE (1985) is a fascinating, expert, and humorous discussion of the history of cigars (and cigarettes and pipes) with occasional references to the Canon.
10581. Ronald Reagan has been honored by the U.S. Postal Service. He wrote to O. Dallas Baillio (director of the public library in Mobile, Ala.) in 1977, describing his debt to public libraries and the books he read as a young boy in Dixon, Ill.: "Then came the Zane Grey phase, Horatio Alger and Sherlock Holmes, and, of course, Mark Twain with Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn." And in 1992 the Reagans dined at The Sherlock Holmes in Northumberland Street and were greeted by Holmes and Watson (costumed actors Stewart Quentin Holmes and John Barrett-Watson); you can read about that in the Sherlock Holmes Gazette (spring 1993).
10582. Jack L. Chalker died on Feb. 18. He was 13 years old when he attended his first science-fiction meeting, and a year later won a Hugo Award nomination for his literary magazine Mirage; he went on to write more than 60 sciencefiction and fantasy novels, and founded his own publishing company the Mirage Press. And he reported on Scrooge McDuck's Sherlockian connections in AN INFORMAL BIOGRAPHY OF SCROOGE MCDUCK, published by Mirage Press in 1974.
10583. I noted (July 02 #2) that Derek Waring has played both Conan Doyle and Watson; can you name two other actors who have played both roles?
10584. W. W. Norton has announced a second printing of Les Klinger's THE NEW ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES, due in bookstores in late spring, with corrections of errors in the first printing; the first print run was 30,000 copies, and the second print run will be 20,000 copies. And this fall (on Sept. 1) the retail price for the two volumes will increase to \$90.00.
10585. I've mentioned the Friends of Freddy before, and Walter R. Brooks' delightful series of books about Freddy the Pig, and FREDDY THE DETECTIVE (September 02 #4); Sandra Fenichel Asher adapted that novel as "Freddy, the King of Detectives" for the Open Eye Theatre in Margaretville, N.Y., last summer, and her web-site <www.usaplays4kids.drury.edu/playwrights/asher> has a photo of Freddy in the play. There's lots of information about the society at their web-site <www.freddythepig.org>, and the winter 2005 issue of the Bean Home Newsletter has Jack Bromiley's "Comparing Freddy the Detective with Sherlock Holmes" (illustrated by the author); \$15.00 for a two-year membership/subscription (Box 912, Greenbelt, MD 20768).
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February 2005 #8

10586. Issue #64 of SHERLOCK offers Barbara Roisman Cooper's fine interview with Inga Swenson (with amusing stories about the musical "Baker Street"); Roger Johnson's discussion of the influence of Robert Louis Stevenson on Conan Doyle and other mystery writers; and as usual much more, Sherlockian and non-S'ian. SHERLOCK is published six times a year, and costs £23.70 (to the U.K.)/£26.00 continent)/\$45.00 (elsewhere) from Atlas Publishing, Jordan House, Old Milton Green, New Milton, Hants. BH24 6QJ, England <www.sherlockholmes.com>. Classic Specialties is their
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American agent <www.sherlock-holmes.com> (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219) (877-233-3823); credit-card orders are welcome at both addresses, and back issues are available.

10587. The two other actors who have played both Conan Doyle and Watson are Edward Hardwick (Conan Doyle in the film "Photographing Fairies" and Watson in the Granada series) and Ian Hart (Conan Doyle in "Finding Neverland" and Watson in two recent BBC-1 television films).
10588. The film "Finding Neverland" (2004), with Ian Hart as Conan Doyle (and with Johnny Depp as James M. Barrie) will be released on VHS and DVD (\$29.99) in March (\$29.99). The film received seven nominations for an Oscar, and won one: best achievement in music written for motion pictures, original score.
10589. Natsume Soseki has been described as Japan's most revered author (from 1984 to 2004 his portrait was on Japan's 1000-yen note); he lived in London from 1900 to 1902, and THE TOWER OF LONDON (London: Peter Owen, 2005; 240 pp., £14.95) collects English translations of his essays about his visit, along with Yamada Futaro's "The Yellow Lodger" ["Kihiro Geshukunin"], a pastiche first published in Hoseki magazine (Dec. 1953) and reprinted in many anthologies. This is the first translation of "The Yellow Lodger", which is a pastiche in which Soseki meets Sherlock Holmes. Soseki did not enjoy his stay in London, and with good reason; translator Damian Flanagan also has contributed an excellent introduction to the book, and explanatory notes on the essays and the pastiche.
10590. Google is testing a new "print" feature that allows you to read books. Go to <www.google.com> and search for "books about donan coyle" [and yes, you need to spell the names incorrectly] and you'll find an academic discussion of interest to those who wonder about "playing the game."
10591. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London has learned that copies of the winter issue of The Sherlock Holmes Journal mailed to overseas subscribers seem to have gone missing; the Society hopes that the missing issues will turn up in up in March, and would greatly appreciate subscribers sending the wrappers to Catherine Cooke, Flat 15, Copperfield Court, 146 Worple Road, Wimbledon, London SW20 8QA, England.
10592. Ken Lanza spotted the report in the Washington Times (Feb. 19) about "podcasting" (a term derived from Apple's iPod); you can do your own radio show over the Internet. At <www.pinkgeek.net/weblog3> you can listen to Tim Aldrich read "A Study in Scarlet" and "The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes".

March 2005 #1

10593. I mentioned MURDERLAND: A COMPANION VOLUME TO THE BAKER STREET IRREGULARS' EXPEDITION TO THE VALLEY OF FEAR earlier (October 04 #6); it was available in the dealers' room at the Hotel Algonquin in January. Edited by Steven T. Doyle, it's much more than an excursion book, offering 168 pages of Sherlockian scholarship, with five pages of Conan Doyle's notes for the story, reproduced in facsimile and published for the first time. \$19.95 (\$23.90 postpaid to the U.S., \$24.90 elsewhere); checks (payable to the BSI) can be sent to The Baker Street Journal, Box 465 Hanover, PA 17331, or you can order with credit cards at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>.
10594. Reported: Sid Fleischman's THE GIANT RAT OF SUMATRA, OR PIRATES GALORE (New York: Greenwillow, 2005; 208 pp., \$16.89); for young readers, set in 1846, and the giant rat is a pirate-ship figurehead ("villains spring forth, and amazements abound").
10595. Charles Marowitz's play "Sherlock's Last Case" is scheduled for production at the Drury Lane Theatre in Oakbrook Terrace from July 29 to Oct. 2; 100 Drury Lane, Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181 <www.drurylaneoakbrook.com>.
10596. Peter Crupe spotted THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (New York: Sterling Publishing Co., 2005; 151 pp., \$4.95) in a new series of "Classic Starts" at Barnes & Noble; it has six stories "retold from the Arthur Conan Doyle original" by Chris Sasaki, and illustrations by Lucy Corvino.
10597. Conan Doyle's tour of the United States in 1894 included a visit to Vermont to see Rudyard Kipling. "I had brought up my golf-clubs and gave him lessons in a field," Conan Doyle recalled in his autobiography, "while the New England rustics watched us from afar, wondering what on earth we were at, for golf was unknown in America at that time." Actually, golf was known in America at that time; there was a crude three-hole course in use in Yonkers in 1888. And there's a bit more about Rudyard Kipling and golf: a story by E. Michael Johnson in Golf World (Feb. 18), at hand from Andrew Blau, notes that Kipling "invented what many believe to be the first colored golf ball when he slapped a coat of red paint on a white ball in order to make it easier to find while playing golf in the snow."
10598. Darlene Cypser, who had two articles published in The Baker Street Journal in 1985 and 1988, now has a small distribution company and offers help to authors who don't have access to Amazon and other wider markets. Bifrost Distribution, Box 753, Littleton, CO 80160 <www.bifrostdistribution.com>.
10599. Luke Steven Fullenkamp has completed the trilogy he started with SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE ADVENTURE OF THE THREE DRAGONS (September 00 #1). SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE GHOST OF THE FLYING DUTCHMAN (2001, 244 pp., \$13.50 paperback/\$4.95 electronic) begins with Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Johnathan Watson menaced by a carriage driven by a headless coachman immune to gunfire, and foiling a villainous and murderous plot; SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE SEARCH FOR EXCALIBUR (2004, 280 pp., \$14.50/paperback/\$4.95 electronic) involves them with Buffalo Bill Cody's Wild West Show while the plot continues, as villainous and murderous as ever. Both books are available from Authorhouse, 1663 Liberty Drive #200, Bloomington, IN 47403 (888-519-5212) <www.authorhouse.com>.

March 2005 #2

10600. "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes Theatre" is new from Blackstone Audio, offering performances of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes", Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's "The Speckled Band", and Yuri Rosovsky's one-act comedy "Ghastly Murder in Famed Detective's Flat" (Martin Jarvis and Kristoffer Tabori star as Holmes and Watson, and there's a full cast, and they all do fine work). \$34.95 on 4 audiocassettes (\$10.95 rental); \$45.00 on 5 CDs (\$13.95 rental); \$29.95 on 1 mp3-CD; Box 969, Ashland, OR 97520 (800-729-2665) <www.blackstoneaudio.com>. Jarvis was Reginald Musgrave on BBC Radio 4 in 1978 and recorded "The Valley of Fear" for Listen for Pleasure in 1992, and Tabori was Sir Henry Baskerville in Granada's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1988).
10601. Further to the item (February 05 #8) about missing copies of The Sherlock Holmes Journal, they've now arrived, and have much of interest, including extracts from the Sherlockian papers of Sir Paul Gore-Booth. SHJ subscription costs vary depending on where you are and on whether you're adult or junior; details are available from Bob Ellis, 13 Crofton Avenue, Orpington, Kent BR6 8DU England, and at the society's web-site <www.sherlock-holmes.org>.
10602. Jim Vogelsang spotted an attractive gift bag (suitable for baby showers, of course) with a matching tag, from Leap Year Publishing in Methuen, Mass.; the photograph is by Tom Arma, and you can see it in full color (click on "occupations") at <www.tomarma.com>.
10603. The Sound of the Baskervilles will celebrate their 25th anniversary the afternoon of Apr. 2, with tea and other refreshments, and commemorative pins and paperweights; additional details are available from David Haugen, 3606 Harborcrest Court NW, Gig Harbor, WA 98332; the society web-site's at <www.soundofthebaskervilles.com>.

10604. Further to the report (April 04 #6) on plans for a 176-foot bronze sculpture of a Native American on Holmes Peak in Oklahoma, Dick Warner has forwarded a story in the *Tulsa World* (Feb. 16) that reports that organizers had hoped to break ground last month, but still need to raise more money and do more design work; their goal for the \$30 million project is to finish the statue in time for the state's centennial in 2007.
10605. The March issue of *The Believer* (\$8.00) has a six-page interview with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle by Eric Spitznagel, who was assisted by Arthur Pacheco, a psychic and trance medium from Hawaii. Conan Doyle discusses the afterlife, Bram Stoker and Anne Rice, and Edgar Allan Poe (and the cover has a portrait of Conan Doyle by Charles Burns). There's also a four-panel cartoon ("Sherlock Holmes Versus Jungle Boy, Part 47") from Michael Kupperman. 826 Valencia Street, San Francisco, CA 94110 <www.believermag.com>.
10606. Dark Horse Books' *THE IRREGULARS...IN THE SERVICE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* is a 128-page graphic novel written by Steven-Elliot Altman and Michael Reaves, and illustrated by Bong Dazo; Altman and Reaves had stories in *SHADOWS OVER BAKER STREET* (2003), and *THE IRREGULARS* also owes a great deal to the world of H. P. Lovecraft. \$12.95, and if you can't find it in a store, their address is 10956 SE Main Street, Milwaukie, OR 97222 <www.darkhorse.com>.
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March 2005 #3

10607. Some of the 1968 BBC television versions of the Canon starring Peter Cushing and Nigel Stock are available on region 2 DVDs: "A Study in Scarlet" and "The Boscombe Valley Mystery", "The Sign of Four" and "The Blue Carbuncle", and "The Hound of the Baskervilles"; £9.99 each at <www.bbcshop.com>. A boxed set with all three DVDs also is available at <www.amazon.co.uk> for £24.99.
10608. The How Now! theater troupe will present "An Evening with Sherlock Holmes" at the Historic General Dodge House in Council Bluffs on Apr. 8 and 9 (605 Third Street, Council Bluffs, IA 51503) (712-322-2406); the troupe will be in costume, with music and sound effects, reading Clarinda Karpov's dramatizations of "The Red-Headed League" and "The Man with the Twisted Lip".
10609. It's not the Duke of Balmoral's Iris, but an iris was one of four stamps in a "Spring Flowers" set issued this year by the U.S. Postal Service.
10610. Further to my earlier review (July 02 #1) of Bonaventure Brennan's 'IT COMMENCED WITH TWO...': *THE STORY OF MARY ANN DOYLE, FIRST COMPANION OF CATHERINE MCAULEY*, the book now has a second printing. It's a biography of Anna Maria Doyle, sister of Arthur Conan Doyle's grandfather John Doyle; born in Dublin in 1801, Anna met Catherine McAuley in 1827, became a nun in 1831, and helped found the Sisters of Mercy. The book includes information about the Doyle family and it can be bought (€30.00 postpaid) from Sister Bonaventure (2 St. Brigid's Court, Athboy, County Meath, Ireland); please pay by bank draft in euros.
10611. Further to the earlier item (June 02 #4) about Nicholas Twit: *The Schoolboy Sherlock Holmes*, there now are five books in the series <www.twit.biz>. and author Cenarth Fox is presenting his talk on "Meet Sherlock Holmes" in venues in Australia, and his play "The Real Sherlock Holmes" also is on tour there <www.foxplays.com>.
10612. When in Dubai: you can stay at the new Arabian Court Hotel, and choose from its restaurants: the traditionally-themed Bastakiya, Muglal cuisine at the Mumtaz Mahal, the Ahland Lounge, and the hotel's classic English pub: the Sherlock Holmes.
10613. Ken Lanza spotted the web-site for Wayne M. Rooney, Consulting Detective at <www.consultingdetective.com>; there are Sherlockian images and quotations, and his e-mail address is <sholmes@pixi.com>.
10614. Samuel French (45 West 25th Street, New York, 10010) <www.samuel french.com> offer 18 Sherlockian scripts, from William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" (in the version used for the revival by the Royal Shakespeare Company) and Leslie Bricusse's "Sherlock Holmes: The Musical" to comedies and dramas (some only marginally S'ian) by Tim Kelly.
10615. For readers who like detectives named "Sherlock": Catherine Coulter has a long-running series about FBI special agents Dillon Savich (first seen in *THE COVE* in 1996) and Lacey Sherlock (in *THE MAZE* in 1997); they married, and the tenth book in their series (*POINTBLANK*) is due in September. And of course there's a web-site at <www.catherinecoulter.com>.
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March 2005 #4

10616. Scotland should exploit Sherlock Holmes as a national cultural icon, according to the chairman of Scotland's cultural commission, quoted in the *Edinburgh Scotsman* (Mar. 19). "I think we should retake Sherlock Holmes," James Boyle said. "You look at the worldwide web and you will find that all the web businesses based round Sherlock Holmes are in London, they're in Illinois, they are in Switzerland. Sherlock Holmes is a product of Scottish mind, born in Scotland, trained in Scotland. Why don't we own him? It's perfectly reasonable that you should have large businesses built round Sherlock Holmes in London, but if people want a whole range of things from academic thought to cheap souvenirs, we may as well do that. What's to stop us selling tapes of Jeremy Brett back to the Americans?"
10617. Belgium's definitive postage stamps show birds, and two recent issues show a Mediterranean gull and a partridge. "One great grey bird, a gull or curlew, soared aloft in the blue heaven" (in "The Hound of the Baskervilles"), and Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson dined on a cold partridge (in "The Veiled Lodger").
10618. John Sherwood has been impersonating Sherlock Holmes for many years, assisted by a handy-dandy (and easily concealed) portable guide to the Canon that he's now happy to share with those who might wish to benefit from his careful research: *THE POCKET SHERLOCK*, which was created in 1987, now is available in a 2005 edition that offers 70 pages of case summaries and data. The booklet costs \$12.00 postpaid (and will be autographed on request) from Mystery Visits (120 Quimby Road, West Grove, PA 19390) <www.mysteryvisits.com>.
10619. Leona Rostenberg died on Mar. 17. She was a bibliophile and book dealer, and with her partner Madeleine B. Stern in 1942 identified Louisa May Alcott as the author, under a pseudonym, of a series of (at the time) racy stories, and the story of their partnership was told in their memoirs, *OLD BOOKS, RARE FRIENDS: TWO LITERARY SLEUTHS AND THEIR SHARED PASSION* (1997) and *BOOKENDS: TWO WOMEN, ONE ENDURING FRIENDSHIP* (2001). She wrote a series of articles on "Bibliately: A History of Books on Postage Stamps" for *The American Philatelist* in 1977, and included Sherlock Holmes, and she was in the audience when Madeleine B. Stern gave The Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Lecture in 2001.
10620. Turns out there's a tenuous Sherlockian connection for Russell Crowe: the music played at the end of Rupert Everett's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Silk Stocking" (broadcast in December in the UK and in Canada). According to the *Nottingham Evening Post* (Mar. 5), it was "La Musica Notturna delle Strade di Madrid" (No. 6 Op. 30) by Italian composer Luigi Boccherini (1743-1805); the music also was used in the film "Master and Commander".
10621. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists will meet for drinks and dinner to honor the world's first forensic geologist, at 7:00 pm on June 22, at The Joyce on 4th in Calgary during the annual meeting of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists. We traditionally discourage scholarly papers, quizzes, and slide shows, and our agenda consists entirely of toasts (some scholarly, but many not). The restaurant is at 506 24th Avenue SW, and locals and visitors are welcome.
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March 2005 #5

10622. The Constitution of The Baker Street Irregulars (drafted by Elmer Davis in 1934) states in Article IV that "The duties of the Commissionaire shall be to telephone down for ice, White Rock, and whatever else may be required and avail available." White Rock still exists, and of course there's a web-site <www.whiterockbeverages.com>, with a link to the White Rock Collectors Association <www.whiterocking.com>, which in the history of the company there's an item about White Rock's "ambassador without portfolio": "By 1895 America's favorite sparking table water and mixer went international, and in 1901 was featured at the coronation banquet of England's King Edward VII. A British newspaper later commented that the King always used White Rock to dilute his wine."
10623. Ken Lanza has reported a Sherlockian image at the web-site <www.quackwatch.com> (proposed as "your guide to quackery, health fraud, and intelligent decisions").
10624. Scott Tate reports a new Sherlockian society: The John Turner Society, for people who have, or know someone who has, or are interested in diabetes. More information about the society is available from Scott at 925 La Due Avenue, Alamosa, CO 81101 <boscombevalley@gmail.com>.
10625. This year's Canonical Convocation and Caper will take place in Door County, Wis., on Sept. 23-25; there's a web-site at <www.cccdoorcounty.com>, or you can request additional information from Jane Richardson, 3427 East Exchange Street, Crete, IL 60417. Mary Erickson notes that Don Izban, who presided over the event for many years, has found four people to do all the work he did to make the event a success, and one assumes that Don will be there to see how they do.
10626. Sumal Surendranath reports that there's a Sherlock Holmes Society of India on the Internet, founded in May 2001 as a meeting place for Indian fans of Sherlock Holmes <in.groups.yahoo.com/group/SherlockHolmesSocietyofIndia>.
10627. THE PRIVATE EYE WRITERS OF AMERICAN PRESENTS MYSTERY STREET: THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY PWA ANTHOLOGY (New York: Signet, 2001; 341 pp., \$6.50) was edited by Robert Randisi and includes Warren Murphy's "Highly Irregular on Baker Street", which stars his series P.I. Devlin Tracy, investigating a murder at the present-day 221B Baker Street.
10628. Further to the report (December 04 #2) on Laurie R. King's LOCKED ROOMS (the new Mary Russell mystery, due for release in June), the new paperback edition of THE GAME (New York: Bantam Books, 2005; 442 pp. \$6.99) offers a 12-page preview from LOCKED ROOMS. Teaser excerpts are becoming more and more common now, to the delight of completists.
10629. Ev Herzog spotted a Barnes & Noble reprint of Heather Hacking's HISTORICAL CATS: GREAT CATS WHO HAVE SHAPED HISTORY (London: Hodder & Stoughton, 2003; 80 pp., £9.99); the cats include King Tutankhamin 'n' Kahmout (who invented the catflap), Richard the Furred, and Purrlock Holmes, all with amusing illustrations by the author. The Barnes & Noble reprint was issued in 2004 (\$3.98) and may be found at their stores (if you're lucky) (the reprint was a one-shot, apparently, and the title can't be ordered or reordered).

March 2005 #6

10630. It's worth recalling, occasionally, that the world of Sherlock Holmes wasn't only the Victorian world portrayed so carefully in the Canon; a fine way to see a different aspect of his world is a visit to the National Gallery of Art in Washington to view the exhibition "Toulouse-Lautrec and Montmartre" (which will be on display through June 12, and then at the Art Institute of Chicago from July 16 to Oct. 10). There are 250 works of art in the show, offering a splendid look at a Parisian milieu that was of interest to many visitors to the city during the last two decades of the 19th century; in "The Golden Pince-Nez" there's a mention of the case of Huret in 1894, and it is difficult to imagine that Sherlock Holmes went to Paris without spending time in Montmartre. Much of the artwork in the show is by Toulouse-Lautrec, but there also are works by Van Gogh, Manet, Degas, Picasso, and many others. "The Englishman at the Moulin Rouge" (painted by Toulouse-Lautrec in 1892) might well be a portrait of Dr. Watson (according to the catalog of the show, the model for the man was in fact a young English painter named William Warrenner). The Montmartre district is specifically mentioned in the Canon (in a believably violent context) in "The Illustrious Client" (dated by most Canonical chronologists in 1902). The catalog also is of interest, with informative essays on "Toulouse-Lautrec and Montmartre: Depicting Decadence in Fin-de-Siecle Paris", "The Social Menagerie of Toulouse-Lautrec's Montmartre", and "Toulouse-Lautrec and the Culture of Celebrity", and a wealth of lavish illustrations.
10631. Reported: CREATIVE HEALERS: A COLLECTION OF ESSAYS, REVIEWS, AND POEMS FROM THE PHAROS 1938-1998, edited by Edward Day Harris, Jr. (Menlo Park: Alpha Omega Alpha, 2004; 532 pp., \$50.00 leather, \$40.00 cloth); the contents include C. Frederick Kittle's "There's More to Doyle Than Holmes!" reprinted from the winter 1997 issue of The Pharos (the journal of the honor medical society). Fred Kittle's fine collection, exhibited at the Newberry Library in Chicago in 2003, includes four generations of Doyles and Conan Doyles. The address for Alpha Omega Alpha is 525 Middlefield Road #130, Menlo Park, CA 94025 <www.alphaomegaalpha.org>.
10632. Mycroft's League is organizing the 2nd Quadragennial Running of the Philadelphia Silver Blaze, at Delaware Park on May 7 (you'll also be able to see the Kentucky Derby via simulcast from Churchill Downs); there will lunch in the Main Clubhouse and as always a chance to conduct Sherlockian handicapping. Details available from Gideon D. Hill <gideonhill221@earthlink.net>. The previous running of the Silver Blaze in the Delaware Valley was at Garden State Park in 1966, in case anyone's counting.

April 2005 #1

10633. Laurie R. King's A GRAVE TALENT (1993) won best-first-novel awards from the Mystery Writers of America and the British Crime Writers' Association, and there now are four books in her series about San Francisco Police Department homicide inspector Kate Martinelli; Laurie reports that she is about halfway through her next Martinelli novel, due next year, and that a good portion of it concerns a newly discovered Sherlock Holmes manuscript; Martinelli is (of course) scornful of the item as well as the interest among Sherlockians.
10634. Laurie also has reported in her web-log that in June she will begin work on the last Mary Russell novel, in which she and her husband return to England just in time to meet a ship from Africa that is carrying a nasty contagion, sent there from the German colonies as a prelude to the upcoming conflict, that drives its victims insane with terror. Laurie notes that "Russell and Holmes die in each others arms, I'm afraid," and that the working title of the book is THE BEEKEEPER'S APPREHENSION. That was in her blog for April 1 (headed "Black Armbands"), in case you're wondering about credibility. Her web-log is at <www.laurierking.blogspot.com>.
10635. Ken Lanza spotted a story about "Putting a Face Value on Celebrity Cheques" in the Financial Times (Mar. 28) with a mention of the British Cheque Collectors' Society (now the British Banking History Society) and an article on "Cheques and Sherlock Holmes"; the article is available at their web-site <www.banking-history.co.uk> with pictures of cheques from some of the banks mentioned in the Canon.
10636. Reported: Peter Abraham's DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE: AN ECHO FALLS MYSTERY (New York: Laura Geringer/HarperCollins, 2005); 384 pp., \$15.99); Ingrid Levin-Hill, eighth-grade Sherlock Holmes fan and amateur actress, inadvertently becomes a witness in the murder case of Cracked-up Katie, the weird lady in the rundown house on the wrong side of town. There's also a CD recorded by Mandy Siegfried (\$27.95).

10637. "Do you know," said Lord Minto [Governor General of Canada in 1902], "ever since I received your invitation I have been thinking of Holmes, and unconsciously I have been trying processes of deduction. For instance, I have scanned Major Maude's shoes to see if I could determine if he had been to the stables; I have even looked closely at my daughter's nails to see if she had practiced on the piano that morning. In fact, I have neglected my duties in an endeavor to learn if I have any of the talent of deduction which Sir Conan Doyle attributes to his detective. Lady Minto was convinced this morning that I was crazy when I told her the butler was learning to shave with his left hand, as his left cheek was scratched. Really, this Holmes is a fascinating man, and I am afraid that now I have seen your performance I will be a source of deep anxiety to my family and friends." Ah, they knew how to get publicity in those long-ago days, when Herbert Kelcey and Effie Shannon were on tour in William Gillette's play and during a oneweek run in Montreal learned that the Governor General was in town and invited him and his family and staff to see the play. They came backstage at the end of the second act, and there was an "In and Out of the Theatre" report in the N.Y. Times (November 30, 1902), recently spotted by Gayle Harris.

April 2005 #2

10638. The Haslemere Initiative will be welcoming visitors and locals to a literary weekend featuring Sir Arthur Conan Doyle on May 6-8. The weekend will include a welcome gala dinner at the Lythe Hill Hotel and Spa on May 6, and a lecture by Philip Weller at the Haslemere Museum on May 7, followed by a lunch at Undershaw, and there will be time to tour the countryside around Hindhead. Additional information is available at <www.haslemere.com> (click on "Haslemere's Literary Weekend").
10639. The U.S. Postal Service has issued a new sheet in its "Nature of America" series, this year showing a Northeast Deciduous Forest whose inhabitants include many animals mentioned in the Canon. The weasel, shown for the first time in the history of this newsletter, is mentioned in two of the stories ("The Sign of the Four" and "The Crooked Man").
10640. Ken Lanza has noted a fashion report at <www.iafrica.com> praising the trench coat, "born in the mud-soaked trenches of World War I which gave it its name," and reporting that it was boosted by Hollywood stars Humphrey Bogart, Robert Mitchum, Marlene Dietrich, and Greta Garbo, and by politicians that included prime minister Winston Churchill and president Ronald Reagan. "Even writers like Rudyard Kipling and Arthur Conan Doyle helped to popularize the coat." Does anyone recall Conan Doyle photographed wearing a trench coat?
10641. At age twelve, Mitch Cullin was given access to the largest Sherlock Holmes collection in North America, according to publicity for A SLIGHT TRICK OF THE MIND (New York: Nan A. Talese/Doubleday, 2005; 253 pp., \$23.95); needless to say, the collection belonged to John Bennett Shaw, and three years later, in 1984, a photograph of the two enthusiasts appeared in USA Today. A SLIGHT TRICK OF THE MIND is a fascinating book, set in 1947 and showing an ageing and sometimes forgetful Holmes, who visited Japan after the war and has returned to bee-keeping in Sussex; a pastiche is part of the book, which is written with style and imagination, and I wish that John had lived to enjoy a book that was born in his library twenty years ago. There's also a recording (unabridged) by Simon Jones (who has played Holmes on stage in 1998 and 2001) on audiocassettes and CDs from HighBridge (\$29.95), and Cullin has an interesting web-site at <www.mitchcullin.com>.
10642. Barbara C. Schaaf died on Mar. 29. She was an author and a journalist, and a life-long liberal Democrat, and a member of The South Downers and The Baker Street Pages, and helped publicize local Sherlockian activities in the Chicago-area press.
10643. Antony Richards reports that Baker Street Studios Limited has purchased all of the murder-mystery publications of Breese Books. The company includes The Irregular Special Players and The Irregulars Special Press, and there's a web-site at <www.baker-street-studios.com> that also hosts the Inspector Morse Society; their postal address is Endeavour House, 170 Woodland Road, Sawston, Cambridge CB2 4DX, England. SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE GIANT'S HAND AND OTHER STORIES, by Matthew Booth (2004; 138 pp., £5.00/£7.50/\$9.50), has Holmes solving murders from three of the unrecorded cases, in Cornwall (the Addeleton tragedy), Kent (Colonel Warburton's madness), and Wiltshire (the dreadful business of the Abernetty family).
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April 2005 #3

10644. Bouchercon is a long-established world mystery convention, run by fans for fans, and named in honor of Anthony Boucher (a multi-talented author and a member of The Baker Street Irregulars); there were about 1,200 people (fans and authors) at Bouchercon 35 last year in Toronto and the conventions always are enjoyable. Bouchercon 36 will be in Chicago on Sept. 1-4, 2005 <www.boucherconworld.org>; Bouchercon 37 will in Madison on Sept. 28-Oct. 1, 2006 <www.bouchercon.com>; Bouchercon 38 will be in Anchorage on Sept. 27-30, 2007 <www.bouchercon2007.com>; there are rumors of Orlando and Brighton competing for 2008.
10645. Chalmers Roberts died on Apr. 8. He was a journalist, and an old-fashioned generalist, and he was the Washington Post's chief diplomatic correspondent from 1953 until he retired in 1971; the biggest story of his career was the Pentagon Papers, and his threat to resign in protest if his report did not appear in the paper strengthened its resolve to publish (and he was one of the defendants named in the government's unsuccessful lawsuit against the paper). It was at a news conference with President Eisenhower in 1954 that Roberts asked the president whether military reasons were his only reasons against preventative war, and Eisenhower said: "Well, let me make it this way: if you remember, I believe it was Conan Doyle's WHITE COMPANY, there was a monk that left the church; he said there were seven reasons, and the first one was he was thrown out; they decided there was no use to recite the other six. It seems to me that when, by definition, a term is just ridiculous in itself, there is no use in going any further."
10646. Tom Dunn, proprietor of The Pipe Smoker's Ephemeris, spotted the Sherlockian artwork (including a pipe, of course) on a computerized USPS first-class electronic delivery-confirmation label generated by Endicia Internet Postage.
10647. George MacDonald Fraser's FLASHMAN ON THE MARCH has been published in Britain (London: HarperCollins, 2005; 336 pp., £17.99), to the great delight of Flashman's fans, and it's due in the U.S. from Knopf in November; the novel involves Flashman in the Abyssinian War of 1868, so Canonical allusions are unlikely. FLASHMAN AND THE TIGER (October 99 #4) dealt with Colonel Sebastian Moran, with whom Flashman had three encounters (including one in an empty house in Baker Street in 1894).
10648. THE GREATEST STORIES NEVER TOLD, by Rick Beyer (New York: HarperResource/HarperCollins, 2003; 214 pp., \$17.95), is subtitled "100 Tales from History to Astonish, Bewilder & Stupefy" and is based the History Channel's "Timelab 2000" series, and offers two pages on "the curious case of the doctor who gave birth to a superstar" (the doctor being Joseph Bell, and the superstar being Sherlock Holmes); it's certain not a story never told, but it might astonish, bewilder, and stupefy someone.
10649. "The legal status of private detectives is unclear under China's murky judicial system," according to an article in USA Today (Apr. 14); they were banned in 1993 (partly because private companies were recruiting away too many police officers), but many stayed in business, and a Chinese newspaper reported last year that an estimated 20,000 private detectives were operating in China. One company is called FMS Commercial Consultation; the FMS stands for "fu er mo si" (Chinese for Sherlock Holmes).
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April 2005 #4

10650. It has been many years since I abandoned my Erector set, and I have no idea whether some enthusiast has ever constructed anything Sherlockian with one, but Steve Rothman reports in the spring issue of *The Baker Street Journal* than Don Redmond, who has for many years created the annual indexes for the BSJ, is an avid practitioner of the art of Meccano, and you can see some of his handiwork, and a photograph of Don, at <www.kzwp.com/windmills/>. The new issue of the BSJ also offers much about Julian Wolff, including a delightful memoir by his niece Lila.
10651. The Smithsonian Institution highlights some of its more interesting paleontological art (including inhabitants of the Lost World) at its new web-page at <www.nmnh.si.edu/paleo/paleoart>.
10652. Ken Lanza spotted a new Internet resource at <www.nndb.com>; it's an "intelligence aggregator that tracks the activities of people we have determined to be noteworthy, both living and dead," and it currently offers profiles of more than 12,000 people, including Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, William Gillette, Basil Rathbone, Nigel Bruce, Jeremy Brett, and David Burke.
10653. Warren Randall has created a new lapel pin honoring the symposium "Holmes Under the Arch II: The Site of the Four" (in St. Louis in May), and The Parallel Case of St. Louis. You don't need attend the symposium to buy the pin, which costs \$7.50 postpaid from Warren (15 Fawn Lane West, South Setauket, NY 11720).
10654. Robert H. Dinegar ("Henry Ward Beecher") died on Apr. 21. He was a chemist at the Los Alamos National Laboratory, an adjunct professor at the University of New Mexico, and an Episcopal priest, involved in the scientific investigation of the Shroud of Turin. He also was a faithful member of the Brothers Three of Moriarty and in 1972 composed the Sherlock Holmes Litany which was for many years recited at their meetings, and wrote about "Sherlock Holmes: Scientist and Chemist" in the *Sherlock Holmes Journal* in 1988. Bob received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1984.
10655. Reported: WHAT ROUGH BEAST, by H. R. Knight (New York: Dorchester/Leisure Books, 2005; 374 pp., \$6.99); Conan Doyle and Houdini in 1903, involved in a battle against demonic possession.
10656. Roberta Davies discovered <www.audiobooksforfree.com>, a web-site that has the Canon and other books and stories by Conan Doyle, and material by many other authors; you can listen to everything free (low fidelity) or pay for it (higher fidelity).
10657. Paul Martin spotted the report that the Algonquin Hotel now is a member of the Historic Hotels of America. The program, created by the National Trust for Historic Preservation includes hotels that are at least 50 years old, listed in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, or recognized locally as having historical significance. More information about the program and the hotel as available at <www.historichotels.com>, where an entry on the Algonquin mentions the famous Round Table and Dorothy Parker's Vicious Circle, but not the Baker Street Irregulars, who have made the Algonquin their unofficial headquarters in January for many years.

April 2005 #5

10658. I've mentioned the Invisible Library previously (August 01 #3) and am glad to recommend it again; it was created by Brian Quinette in 1999 and is a collection of books found only in other books ("imaginary books, pseudobiblia, artificions, fabled tomes, libris phantastica, and all manner of books unwritten, unread, unpublished, and unfound." The URL is <www.invisiblelibrary.com>, and you will find books by Holmes, Watson, Moriarty, Challenger, and Jonathan Swift Somers III (the collection doesn't include short stories, so Somers' Sherlockian parodies aren't listed); the list is incomplete, and you're invited to tell the librarian about missing titles).
10659. One of the nice things about the Internet is the opportunity to listen to radio broadcasts: National Public Radio's web-site <www.npr.org> allows you to search for "Sherlock Holmes" and hear interviews with Mark Haddon, Les Klinger, David Grann, Michael Chabon, and Mitch Cullin.
10660. Brian Freemantle's THE HOLMES FACTOR (Sutton: Severn House, 2005; 313 pp., £18.99/\$28.95) is the second novel in his series about Sherlock Holmes' son Sebastian, who has been sent to Russia just before the start of World War I to assess the political situation; he meets Churchill and Asquith, and Kerensky and Stalin and Rasputin, and is involved in lots of intrigue. Sherlock and Mycroft and Watson are also on hand, but in supporting roles.
10661. Magda Jozsa's SHERLOCK HOLMES ON THE WILD FRONTIER (Charleston: BookSurge, 2005; 303 pp., \$14.99); takes Holmes and Watson through the Wild West and into encounters with desperados, Indians, and renegades. The publisher's web-site is at <www.booksurge.com>.
10662. Sir John Mills died on Apr. 23. He began his acting career as a song-and-dance man in the 1920s and went on to act for decades on stage, screen, and television. He was appointed a CBE (Companion of the Order of the British Empire) in 1960, won an Oscar (best actor in a supporting role) for "Ryan's Daughter" (1970); and was knighted in 1976. And he starred as Dr. Watson (with Peter Cushing as Holmes) in the television film "The Masks of Death" (1974).
10663. I reported earlier on the exhibition "Toulouse-Lautrec and Montmartre" at the National Gallery of Art in Washington (March 05 #6), and there's now an excellent article about the exhibition in the May issue of *Smithsonian* magazine with a passing mention of the assassination in 1894 of French president Sadi Carnot. Some Sherlockian scholars who believe that the culprit was Huret, the Boulevard assassin, whose tracking and arrest won for Sherlock Holmes an autograph letter of thanks from the French President and the Order of the Legion of Honour (see "The Golden-Pince Nez").
10664. Caleb Carr's THE ITALIAN SECRETARY: A FURTHER ADVENTURE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (New York: Carroll & Graf, 2005; 263 pp., \$23.95) is a new pastiche by the author of THE ALIENIST and THE ANGEL OF DARKNESS; it brings Holmes and Watson to Edinburgh to assist Mycroft in defending Her Majesty against a plot that involves Holyrood and David Rizzio (who was Queen Mary's secretary and met his death at Holyrood. There's an afterword by Jon Lellenberg, who has hopes of some day reading a pastiche in which Sherlock Holmes meets Laszlo Kreizler.

April 2005 #6

10665. The Portland Press Herald reported (Apr. 24) on the discovery of 425 autographs, notes, and letters collected in the 1890s by Harry E. Burbank of Augusta, Maine, who wrote to celebrities asking for autographs. The collection was found in a shirt-box hidden away in a closet in an old house and will be sold on May 5 by auctioneer James B. Julia of Fairfield; it includes signatures of six presidents, several Civil War generals, Frederick Douglass, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Thomas Edison, and Arthur Conan Doyle. The auction house <www.juliaauctions.com> estimates the lot at \$5,000-10,000.
10666. Plan well ahead: "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" (adapted by Steven Dietz from William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes") has been scheduled by the Arizona Theatre Company in Tucson, Mar. 4 through 25, and in Phoenix, Mar. 30 through Apr. 5, 2006; the show's a co-production with the Pasadena Playhouse, so it's likely to be seen there later in the year. According to the company's artistic director David Ira Goldstein, Dietz "cut and re-shaped and added characters from other Holmes stories."
10667. Great Britain issued a set of six stamps last year, commemorating the 150th anniversary of the beginning of the Crimean War, showing photographs from a book of "Crimean Heroes" by photographers Joseph Cundall and Robert Hewitt, who set up a temporary studio at Aldershot in 1856. There

are mentions of the Crimean War in five of the Sherlock Holmes stories, including "The Gloria Scott" (Mortimer, the gardener, was an army pensioner, "an old Crimean man of excellent character").

10668. Forecast for July: SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE KING'S GOVERNESS, by Barrie Roberts, from Severn House <www.severnhouse.com>; the latest in his series (June 03 #5), now involving Russian intrigue in London in 1897.
10669. News from the computer world: according to a report by Sam Varghese in the Melbourne Age (Apr. 1), the Open Source Development League announced that it has decided to recruit socialite Paris Hilton to gain more exposure for its campaign for free and open source software. People need to be aware of the breadth and scope of what they have to offer, League CEO Jeremy Bleats noted, and Miss Hilton "can expose things like nobody else can." He also cautioned journalists not to "confuse our League with the Red-Headed League about which Sir Arthur Conan Doyle wove a tale involving Sherlock Holmes. I have to say this because our Exposure Executive is, at the moment, a redhead."

May 2005 #1

10670. Last year the U.S. Postal Service authorized Stamps.com to sell personalized postage (August 04 #3), and more than 2.75 million stamps were sold in a two-month test run. Don Hobbs had a stamp that showed him with his granddaughter in his Sherlockian library (September 04 #4), but I've not heard about any stamps showing Sherlock Holmes. A second year-long test run began on May 30, and a sheet of twenty 37c stamps costs \$16.99 (plus shipping).
10671. Forge/Tom Doherty Associates are continuing their reissues of Carole Nelson Douglas' series about Irene Adler in paperback, with uniform cover artwork by Glenn Harrington and minor revisions and a reader's guide; the third reissue is the first volume in the series, GOOD NIGHT, MR. HOLMES (2005).
10672. Tony van Bridge died on Dec. 20, 2004. He had a long career as an actor in Britain and then in Canada, where he spent 18 years with the Stratford Festival and 30 years with the Shaw Festival at Niagara-on-the-Lake; it was at the Shaw Festival in 1998 and 1999 that played Corporal Gregory Brewster in Conan Doyle's play "Waterloo". In an obituary in Canadian Holmes, Trevor S. Raymond recalls a luncheon in 1998 when van Bridge happily signed memorabilia for Doyleans and Sherlockians; it was suggested that he had signed enough things, and he cheerily replied, "Nonsense! This is what an actor *dreams* of."
10673. Kate Karlson reports that PBS-TV is running promos for "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Silk Stocking" (with Rupert Everett and Ian Hart), due to air on "Mystery!" this fall.
10674. This year's World Fantasy Convention will be held in Madison, Wis., on Nov. 3-6, and April and Walden Derleth will be there to accept the convention's "special recognition" award to Arkham House, founded by their father August Derleth; Arkham House published its first book in 1939, and it was his Mycroft & Moran imprint that issued collections of Derleth's Solar Pons stories. One of Arkham recent books is ARKHAM'S MASTERS OF HORROR (2000), edited by Peter A. Ruber, with 21 featured writers that include Vincent Starrett. You can register at WFC-Madison, Box 531, Cambridge, WI 53523, or at their web-site <www.worldfantasy.org>.
10675. Further to the item (April 05 #6) on "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" (adapted by Steven Dietz from William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes") scheduled in Tucson and Pasadena next year, the play also will be performed at the Quadrocci Powerhouse Theater in Milwaukee from Apr. 12 through May 14, 2006.
10676. <www.spokennetwork.com> offers 61 Sherlockian and Doylean recordings in mp3 and WMA formats that you can download over the Internet at prices ranging from \$2.98 to \$10.00 (and you can listen to free samples of each of the recordings). There are three fine full-cast recordings of Canonical stories by the One Act Players (with Scot Crisp as Holmes and Glenn Carlson as Watson); and excellent readings by David Ian Davies of 53 Canonical tales, one pastiche written by Matthew Elliott, three by David Stuart Davies, and one non-Sherlockian story by Conan Doyle ("The Leather Funnel"). David Ian Davies does an excellent job with voices and accents.

May 2005 #2

10677. The winter 2004 issue of The Baum Bugle includes many tributes to the late Fred M. Meyer, who promoted the cause of "Oz" for almost 60 years. According to Michael Patrick Hearn reminiscences, Anthony Boucher, editor of The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction, which had just published Martin Gardner's two-part article on L. Frank Baum, challenged Jack Snow (then serving as "Royal Historian of Oz") in the April 1955 issue of F&SF to create an Oz society "based on the famous Sherlock Holmes fan club, the Baker Street Irregulars. Boucher suggested the organization be called the Oz Irregulars. Snow had been discussing just such an organization with Gardner, William Baring-Gould of Life magazine, and Fred Dannay, half of the 'Ellery Queen' writing team." It is interesting to see how many Sherlockians were involved in the creation of what became the International Wizard of Oz Club.
10678. Mel Gussow died on Apr. 29. He worked for Newsweek, and moved to the N.Y. Times in 1969 as critic and cultural reporter, writing more than 4,000 reviews and articles for the paper over 35 years; his first Sherlockian review was of the Royal Shakespeare Company's revival of Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" in 1974, and in recent years he wrote perceptive obituary tributes to some great Sherlockian actors.
10679. The Sons of the Copper Beeches and Mycroft's League made nice arrangements for a Sherlockian weekend in Philadelphia this month, including a running of The Silver Blaze at Delaware Park, which offers an interesting look at the future of horse racing: Delaware Park has a two-story casino with 2,500 slot machines, and proceeds from the slots are used to increase the size of the purses for the races; simulcast betting also is offered for three other tracks, and Delaware Park is open year-round, regardless of whether there's racing on-site. Sherlockian handicappers were happy to find two attractively-named horses in the first and second races: Briony and Good Morning Irene (unfortunately they finished 7th and 9th). The Silver Blaze was the 5th race, with Monetary Monarch on hand and finishing 7th, well behind the winner B. Murray, who might have been favored by Sherlockians who recalled "Murray, the faithful orderly," or who observed that the horse had a silver blaze.
10680. Further to the report (April 04 #4) about the continuing trials and tribulations of Liberton Bank House (where Arthur Conan Doyle lived as a child), a story in the Edinburgh Evening News (Apr. 27) reports that plans to convert the derelict house into a school and build doctors' offices in the garden have run into a funding crisis: the National Health Service may not provide the £2.8 million needed for the project.
10681. Reported: Jonathan Coe's 9TH & 13TH (London: Penguin, 2005; 64 pp., £1.50); a collection of fiction and non-fiction, including an essay (published in The Guardian on Apr. 30) about his life-long obsession with Billy Wilder's film "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes".
10682. There will be another Sherlock Holmes Festival in Tryon, N.C. on Nov. 11-13 (317 North Trade Street, Tryon, NC 28782) (800-440-7848), and David Milner reports that The Survivors of the *Gloria Scott* plan to hold their regular monthly meeting on Nov. 14 in Greenville, S.C. (only 30 minutes by car from Tryon); David is at Box 515, Taylors, SC 29687 <dmycroft@bellsouth.net>.

May 2005 #3

10683. Malice Domestic XVII was enjoyable as always, with Carole Nelson Douglas as toastmaster (she was interviewed by Irene Adler and Midnight Louie) and H.R.F. Keating receiving a lifetime achievement award. There was a panel on Sherlock Holmes on Sunday, nicely moderated by Maureen Collins, who started off asking why so many people have written pastiches, with Keating, Dan Stashower, Les Klinger, Roberta Rogow, and me (I got to explain that I was the only person on the panel who hadn't written a Sherlock Holmes pastiche).
10684. Malice Domestic XVIII will be held Apr. 21-23, 2006, at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington, Va., featuring Katherine Hall Page as Guest of Honor, Craig Rice as Ghost of Honor, Kate Grillee as Toastmaster, Douglas G. Greene as Poirot Award Nominee, and a Lifetime Achievement Award for Robert Barnard; you can register with Malice Domestic at Box 31137, Bethesda, MD 20824 <www.malicedomestic.org>.
10685. Kay Walsh died on Apr. 16. She began her acting career as a chorus girl, and appeared in her first film in 1934; she met David Lean in 1936 and they married in 1940, and she acted in more than 50 films, including "Great Expectations" (1946) and "Oliver Twist" (1948). She played Cathy Eddowes in "A Study in Terror" (1965) and Mrs. Hudson in the episode "A Motive for Murder" in the Geoffrey Whitehead television series (1981).
10686. Reported: a new edition of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (Hoboken: Melville House, 2004; 160 pp., \$9.00); in their "Art of the Novella" series.
10687. Legend Films <www.legendfilms.net> specializes in colorizing old black-and-white films, and the company has added the Rathbone/Bruce "Sherlock Holmes and the Secret Weapon" (1943) and "Sherlock Holmes and the Woman in Green" (1945) to its list of DVDs (\$9.98 each). "Terror by Night" and "Dressed to Kill" (both 1946) are scheduled for September. These same four films were colorized in the 1980s and issued on cassettes and then syndicated on television, in the days when colorization technology was in its infancy.
10688. Our new set of postage stamps honoring American Scientists includes mathematician John von Neumann, whose article (written with Oskar Morgenstern) on "Some Elementary Games" in their THEORY OF GAMES AND ECONOMIC BEHAVIOR (1944) analyzed Holmes flight from Moriarty (in "The Final Problem").
10689. Last month Ted Bergman donated his collection of Swedish Sherlockiana (420 books and about 600 newspaper and magazine articles) to the Svenska Deckarbiblioteket (Swedish Library of Crime and Detective Fiction) in Eskilstuna (about 100 kilometers west of Stockholm); he wants to keep his collection intact and available for academic research.
10690. "My esthetic appreciation of the Sherlock Holmes mysteries stems from their reflection, both in theme and in plot structure, of the idea of rationality," Minnesota high school senior Christian Tarsney wrote in his essay on "Truth or beauty" in the Kids Philosophy Slam. He won first prize in the national contest this month, and you can read his essay at their web-site at <www.philosophyslam.org/c_tarsney.html>.

May 2005 #4

10691. Sylvian Hamilton died on Feb. 28. Collectors will recall the catalogs of Sherlockiana she issued in the 1980s and the early 1990s, from England and then from Scotland, where she retired from the book business and became an author, with three books about a former Crusader who turns detective in the Middle Ages. Sylvian had a gift for interesting opening sentences: "In the crypt of the Abbey Church at Hallowdene the monks were boiling their bishop" (THE BONE PEDDLAR), "There was only one witness, and he was already dead, but that didn't matter, he could still give evidence" (THE PENDRAGON BANNER) and "Countess Judith kept her husband's head in a box" (THE GLEE-MAIDEN).
10692. Don Hobbs has discovered another translation of Sherlock Holmes stories in another language: Interlingua. It's an artificial language that has been used for decades, and there was an Interlingua-English dictionary published in 1951. CINQUE AVENTURAS DE SHERLOCK HOLMES, published in 1997 (140 pp., E10.00) has five stories ("Un scandalo in Bohemia", "La liga a capillos rubie", "La banda maculate", "Le fascie jalne", and "La figuras dansante"); it's available from Servicio de Libros U.M.I. (Casa Postale 4035, NL-9701 EA, Groningen, Netherlands) <www.interlingua.com/libros/bragod/htm>. And the non-Sherlockian story "La horror altissime" is available without charge as an e-book at <www.interlingua.nu/elibros/Horror.pdf>. The foreword to the dictionary states that there were five earlier international language systems: Esperanto, Ido, Esperanto II, Occidental, and Latino sine Flexione (there are two Esperanto translations known, but nothing reported for the other four).
10693. I sometimes explain to e-mail correspondents that there are two rules: if someone tells you to forward something to everyone, don't; and if you can't be bothered checking for hoaxes, don't forward messages to me. The Urban Legends Reference Pages at <www.snopes.com> is an excellent place to check for hoaxes, and (thanks to Michael E. Bragg) the site discusses two stories about Conan Doyle. One is that "magician and escape artist Harry Houdini died from appendicitis brought about by his being punched in the stomach by a college student" (they conclude that the story, told by Conan Doyle and others, is false: "although some of the basic facts of this description are correct, the assumption of cause and effect is not"). And the second story is that "a medical school instructor lectures the class on the importance of taste as a diagnostic tool and demonstrates his point by conducting a diabetes test which involves dipping his finger into a flask of urine and licking it" (they report that "the origination of this story has often been attributed to Dr. Joseph Bell, the Edinburgh University instructor on whom Sir Arthur Conan Doyle modeled the character Sherlock Holmes," with credit to Harold Emery Jones, who wrote an article on "The Original of Sherlock Holmes" in the Jan. 9, 1904, issue of Collier's).
10694. An exhibition on "The Quintessential Ellery Queen: Celebrating the Centennial of Frederic Dannay and Manfred B. Lee" will be on view through June 30 at the Butler Library at Columbia University in New York. Dannay, Lee, and Queen were all born in 1905, and Janet Maslin reported in the N.Y. Times on May 6 on a symposium at the Library, with speakers such as Lawrence Block, Francis M. Nevins, and Otto Penzler. Frederic Dannay was a member of The Baker Street Irregulars (as "The Dying Detective"), and Ellery Queen's THE MISADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1944) was a landmark Sherlockian book.

May 2005 #5

10695. Jim Suszynski has spotted Sherlock Holmes on the cover of (and inside as a minor character) the comic book THE SIMPSONS FUTURAMA CROSSOVER CRISIS II (Bongo Comics Group, 2005, \$2.99): "If you are just joining us, a vortex has opened up next to the New New York Public Library a few hours ago. Apparently bringing every literary character ever written about...to life!"
10696. Peter Bramley died on Apr. 12. He was the first art director of National Lampoon, an editor of humor magazines, and creator of underground comics. He also was an illustrator, and his Sherlockian artwork can be seen in Michaela Muntean's THE DETECTIVE'S WORD PUZZLE BOOK (1981).
10697. Bob Thomalen has confirmed that "Springtime in Baker Street" will be held in Tarrytown, N.Y., on Apr. 22-23, 2006. Those who attended "Autumn in Baker Street" in years past know how much fun the events have been. More information will be available anon from Bob and Terry.
10698. Roger Johnson launched The Sherlock Holmes Society of London's newsletter The District Messenger, on Dec. 1, 1982, and this month reached the 252nd issue, reporting (as always) the latest Sherlockian news from the U.K. and elsewhere; the first 100 issues (through July 23, 1990) are now available on a CD-ROM in non-searchable PDF format for £6.00 (\$15.00) postpaid, from Roger at 41 Sandford Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 6DE, England.

10699. Roger has reported that in view of the tsunami disaster Rod Baser has postponed his plans (September 04 #1) for a guided tour to India and the Andaman Islands in October; his web-site at <www.sherlockholmesinindia.com> offers an interesting look at his research on "Sherlock Holmes in India".
10700. Edgar B. Smith ("Dr. Moore Agar") died on May 12. Ben was a distinguished dermatologist, and for many years a member of The Sir James Saunders Society; he was co-author with Herman Beerman of an article on their Sherlockian specialty in the International Journal of Dermatology in 1977, and he served as president of the American Academy of Dermatology. He also was a founder of The Strollers on the Strand in Galveston and The Gila Lizards of the Arid and Repulsive Desert in Albuquerque, and received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1981.
10701. Stephen Leacock's parody "Maddened by Mystery; or, The Defective Detective" was first published in his NONSENSE NOVELS (1911); it was included in Ellery Queen's THE MISADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1944), and there's a new edition of NONSENSE NOVELS (New York: New York Review Books Classics, 2004; 160 pp., \$16.95) with an introduction by Daniel Handler (author of the Lemony Snicket series).
10702. Further to the report (January 05 #3) on the Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh celebrating its 500th anniversary in 2005, the Scottish National Portrait Gallery will include a rare picture of Joseph Bell in an exhibition on "The Healing Touch" from June 9 until Nov. 27. The exhibition will feature hundreds of portraits and photographs covering the history of medicine in Scotland, according to a story in the Edinburgh Evening News (May 17), and the portrait of "Arthur Conan Doyle's inspiration for Sherlock Holmes is likely to be among the most popular images."

May 2005 #6

10703. Jim Weiss has moved to Virginia, and he continues to offer his excellent recordings for younger audiences on CDs (\$14.95) and cassettes (\$10.95); his titles include SHERLOCK HOLMES FOR CHILDREN ("The Mazarin Stone", "The Speckled Band", "The Musgrave Ritual", and "The Blue Carbuncle") and MYSTERY! MYSTERY! (with "The Red-Headed League" and tales by Poe and Chesterton); Greathall Productions, Box 5061, Charlottesville, VA 22905 (800-477-6234) <www.greathall.com>.
10704. Frank Gorshin died on May 17. He was a character actor and a nightclub performer as an impersonator when he was given the role of the Riddler in 1966 in the ABC-TV "Batman" series, and he went on to star in Las Vegas and on stage and screen. In the film "Record City" (1977) he played Chameleon, a criminal who concealed his activities behind various disguises, including a Sherlockian detective.
10705. <www.pulpgen.com/pulp/downloads/index.html> is the URL for the Online Pulps site, at which Larry Estep and John Locke offer almost 300 pulp-magazine stories, including Vincent Starrett's "The Mid-Watch Tragedy" from Short Stories June 10, 1925 (a Jimmie Lavender story) and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's "An Intimate Study of Sherlock Holmes" from Detective Story Magazine, Jan. 15, 1918 (reprinted from The Strand Magazine, Dec. 1917).
10706. Further to the earlier report (February 05 #7) on plans for a second printing of Les Klinger's THE NEW ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES, with corrections of errors in the first printing (which would make it a second edition), it's easy to identify: the string of numerals from one to zero on the title-page verso runs from two to zero. Les has noted that with more than 2,000 footnotes and almost 1,900 pages, errors were inevitable, and he continues to welcome word of errors not yet reported. Those who would prefer not to buy the revised second printing (which is now available) can find a list of errata at Les' web-site <www.annotatedsherlockholmes.com>, and you can check the website from time to time to see additions to the list.
10707. It is possible, of course, that there will be a third printing with additional corrections in November, when the third volume (with the four long in the set) is published. And there's more news: THE NEW ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES has been nominated for an Anthony (for best non-fiction) at Bouchercon; the winners will be announced at the convention in September.
10708. Sherlock Holmes had occasion to search Mary Russell's hand-bag, and "turned it upside-down on the bed: money purse, handkerchief, note-book, pen-knife, pistol, and investigative tool-kit--all the usual paraphernalia and nothing out of the ordinary." That's one of the delightful sentences in Laurie R. King's LOCKED ROOMS (New York: Bantam Books, 2005; 400 pp., \$24.00); it is the new title in the Mary Russell series, set in San Francisco in 1924 after their visit to India in THE GAME. Russell intends a last look at her family home, but she and Holmes (with the assistance of Dashiell Hammett) become involved in a series of mysteries concerning her parents; good characterization, interesting plotting, and a nice sense of time and place.

June 2005 #1

10709. Autograph dealer Gary Zimet of Moments in Time is offering the 34-page manuscript of "The Greek Interpreter" for sale (on behalf of owner David Karpeles), for \$565,000. Zimet's web-site is at <www.momentsintime.com>, and his telephone number is 845-497-7373.
10710. Phil Attwell has noted an offer from The Book People (Parc Menai, Bangor, LL57 4FB, United Kingdom <www.thebookpeople.com> of "The Sherlock Holmes Collection": ten Penguin paperback (the nine volumes of the Canon plus THE FURTHER ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES edited by Richard Lancelyn Green) for £9.99 (deeply discounted from the £57.90 list price of the set).
10711. SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE KING'S GOVERNESS, by Barrie Roberts (Sutton: Severn House, 2005, 186 pp., £18.99) (New York: Severn House; \$28.95), is the 8th in his series of novel-length pastiches; it's set in London during the Diamond Jubilee in 1897 and involves Diana Fordeland (who bears a striking resemblance to Anna Leonowens) and a battle against evil Tsarist agents. The publisher's web-site is at <www.severnhouse.com>.
10712. Helen E. Heinrich died on June 19. She was an assistant professor at Adelphi University when she reported on her "Reise nach Reichenbach" in The Baker Street Journal in 1987; she presided over The Long Island Cave Dwellers and was an active member of Sherlockian societies in the New York area, and "Lady Hilda Trelawney Hope" in The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes.
10713. The latest issue of Sherlockiana (published three times a year by the Sherlock Holmes Klubben i Danmark) has an article about The Sherlock Holmes Pub in Aarhus, and other Sherlockian news from Denmark; the pub's web-site is at <www.sherlock-holmes.dk>.
10714. "They go in not because they need any certain volume but because they feel that there may be some book that needs them." That's a quote from Christopher Morley at the web-site for the Third Annual Kerrytown Bookfest, to be held on Sept. 11 at the Ann Arbor [Mich.] Farmer's Market. This year the BookFest will focus on mystery writers, and there will be a Sherlock Holmes Look Alike Contest judged by Sherlockian author Loren D. Estleman. There's a web-site at <www.kerrytownbookfast.org>. Thanks to Tom Biblewski for the report.
10715. The Sherlock Holmes Festival scheduled in Tryon, N.C. on Nov. 11-13 (May 05 #3) now has a web-site at <www.sherlockholmesfestival.com>, or you can contact them at 317 North Trade Street, Tryon, NC 28782 (800-440-7848). David Milner reports that the festival will feature Henry Zecher and his new biography of William Gillette.
10716. DEADHOUSE: LIFE IN A CORONER'S OFFICE, by John Temple (Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2005; 177 pp., \$28.00), offers an interesting look at forensic pathology in Pittsburgh's Allegheny County Coroner's Office in the summer of 2000, and at the pathologists and interns who worked

there, and he does not neglect Sherlock Holmes' contributions to the science; the book is not for the squeamish, but it's an excellent account of the real science on which the "CSI" television shows are based.

June 2005 #2

10717. What has 4 brains, 24 eyes, and stingers that can kill you in a minute flat? Not the lion's mane, but rather the box jellyfish (according to Paul Raffaele's article in the June issue of Smithsonian magazine). "On a pain scale of 1 to 10, it rated between 15 and 20," was how Australian zoologist Jamie Seymour described his encounter with one of the less venomous species; they're under careful study in northern Australia, and it's possible they can be found in others areas of the world.
10718. Ken Lanza spotted the TVNow offer of a "Mystery DVD Set of 50 Movies" on 12 double-sided DVDs for \$28.00 plus shipping; the movies include eight Sherlockian films (1933-1946), and the address is TVNow, Box 2247, Greensboro, NC 27402 (800-577-3492) <www.tv-now.com>.
10719. Charles McGrath commented on "a vast and ever-growing trove of serious and semiserious Holmes scholarship," in a long story about "What Makes Him the Supersleuth?" in the N.Y. Times (May 20). "Much of this last is inspired by an obsessive pursuit known as 'the game,'" he noted, "in which dedicated and slightly batty fans insist on pretending that Holmes and Watson were real people."
10720. "That painting was by Jean Baptiste Greuze," Sherlock Holmes said (in "The Valley of Fear"). Greuze's "Head of a Woman, in Profile and Turned to the Right" (in red chalk, circa 1777) is included in an exhibition "From Callot to Greuze: French Drawings from the Weimar" (from the Goethe National Museum in Weimar) at the Frick Collection through Aug. 7. The Frick is at 4 East 70th Street in New York <www.frick.org>, and there are three paintings by Greuze in its permanent collection.
10721. Thos. Kent Miller's THE GREAT DETECTIVE AT THE CRUCIBLE OF LIFE (Holicong: Wildside Press, 2005; 235 pp., \$35.00 cloth, \$15.95 paper) is an Allan Quatermain pastiche, involving a young Sherlock Holmes, Richard Burton, Danny Dravot, and Peachy Carnehan (among others); it's a prequel to his SHERLOCK HOLMES ON THE ROOF OF THE WORLD (October 91 #3).
10722. Herbert Warren Wind died on May 30. He was the dean of American golf writers and began writing for The New Yorker in 1941; he moved to Sports Illustrated in 1954 and returned to The New Yorker in 1962. "Silver Blaze" was included in the three volumes of GREAT STORIES FROM THE WORLD OF SPORT that he edited with Peter Schwed in 1958.
10723. "Dan Scott--the evil epicenter of the WB's 'One Tree Hill'--tells his son, Lucas, that Professor Moriarty is his favorite 'Sherlock Holmes' character. Lucas reminds Dan that Moriarty was the villain. Dan says that depends on your interpretation." That's according to Mike Battaglini in the N.Y. Post (May 24), in a review kindly forwarded by John Baesch. If anyone knows the episode with this exchange, please let me know.
10724. HOLMES, by Omaha Perez (from O-P-P, June 2005, \$3.50), is the first of four issues in a new comic-book mini-series; "a vicious skewering of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's classic literary creations, this Sherlock Holmes has more in common with Iggy Pop than Basil Rathbone" (according to the author). His address is Box 2013, Redondo Beach, CA 90278 <www.o-p-p.ws>.
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June 2005 #3

10725. Tony Harries, who was Sherlock Holmes' secretary for two years at Abbey House in the 1990s, and then toured the U.S., has sent his regards to those he met. He's now a teacher in a boarding school where he "talks to students about Sherlock Holmes (even when they don't want to listen)," and still enjoys travel; his two-year-old daughter is named Callie, "after the lovely town of Calistoga" in California. Tony has written four (non-Sherlockian) children's books, one of which (ZEEGPAW) is available for \$10.00 as an eBook at <www.ebookad.com>.
10726. Leon Askin died on June 3. He worked as a cabaret artist in Vienna in the 1930s, fled Nazi persecution, and acted in many American films and on television; he was best known as Gen. Albert Burkhalter on "Hogan's Heroes" in the 1960s, and he played the chauffeur Charles in "Sherlock Holmes und das Halsband des Todes" (1962).
10727. Victoria Gill has retired from the Toronto Reference Library, where she has served as curator of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collections since 1991, offering a kind welcome to Sherlockians and Doyleans. Until her replacement is announced, Bob Coghill (who is a reference librarian as well as a member of The Bootmakers of Toronto and The Baker Street Irregulars), in addition to his other duties, will be in charge of maintaining and building the collection; his e-mail address is <bcoghill@torontopubliclibrary.ca>.
10728. The spring issue of The Magic Door (the newsletter published by The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) has Victoria's article about her last scheduled tour of the collection, a nice photograph of Victoria and Bob, and Peter Calamai's discussion of American slang as found in Conan Doyle's stories and notebooks. Copies of the newsletter are available from Doug Wrigglesworth, at 16 Sunset Street, Holland Landing, ON L9N 1H4, Canada <doug.wrig@sympatico.ca> <www.acdfriends.org/>.
10729. "Three key facts define Cru: its wine list is world-class; its chef, Shea Gallante, is among the most gifted in the city; and its location, on the ground floor of a handsome apartment building a few blocks north of Washington Square, is notorious for the speed with which fine restaurants wither and die there, like exotic plants in unsuitable soil, a phenomenon that Cru seems uncomfortably aware of." That's the opening of a (favorable) review of the restaurant in The New Yorker (May 30), and for those who have not yet guessed the address of that apartment building, it's 24 Fifth Avenue, where (in the ballroom) The Baker Street Irregulars held their annual dinners from 1987 to 1998, and Saturday cocktail parties from 1987 to 1995. The ballroom also is where Andrew Jay Peck and Karen Gurian were married, and the Baker Street Kinematograph met, in Andy's apartment upstairs. I'm not aware of any plans for a historical marker, but there may be one someday noting the building's Sherlockian connections.
10730. From David Horspool's review of Umberto Eco's THE MYSTERIOUS FAME OF QUEEN LOANA (in The Sunday Times, June 5): "The novel's opening pages are a giddy display of the disconcerting effects of a lifetime of reading crowding in on an otherwise blank consciousness. Within a short space, Eco invokes the works of T. S. Eliot, Edgar Allan Poe, Conan Doyle, Georges Simenon, and Agatha Christie; the literary torrent continues with Hermann Hesse and Herman Melville, Oliver Sacks and Robert Louis Stevenson."
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June 2005 #4

10731. Mike Berdan reports that his children are enjoying the "Which Way USA?" puzzle books and maps offered by Highlights for Children (Box 18201, Columbus, OH 43218) (800-962-3661) <www.highlights.com>; subscribers pay \$7.40 (postpaid) per state, and the puzzle-book characters include a hound named Baskerville who "sniffs out important clues and can help you find hidden objects."
10732. Bob Thomalen reports that the Doubletree Hotel in Tarrytown is now accepting reservations for "Springtime in Baker Street" on Apr. 22-23, 2006, and he notes that you can save money by teaming up with someone and sharing a room; there's no registration fee for the conference, and you can reserve rooms with a credit card, and at least 20% of the rooms have already been booked. There will be eight vendor's tables (at no charge to the vendors), and it's first-come first-served for vendor registration. More information is available from Bob at (845-225-2445) <the3garridebs@suscom.net>.
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10733. Michael Billington died on June 6. He started working as an actor at the Windmill Theatre in London, and went on to a wide variety of parts on stage and television; he was tested often for James Bond but never was cast, and he played Lever in "Magnum, P.I.: Holmes Is Where the Heart Is" (1984). Ed Bishop died on June 8. His professional acting career began in 1961 and he worked on television, stage, screen, and radio. He played Joseph Stangerson in the Cushing/Stock version of "A Study in Scarlet" for BBC radio in 1968, Marvin in "The Baker Street Boys" for BBC television in 1968, Enoch J. Drebbler in the Merrison/Williams BBC Radio 4 broadcast of Bert Coules' adaptation of "A Study in Scarlet" (1989) and Von Bork's agent in "His Last Bow" (1994).
10734. Ron Fish and Ben and Sue Vizoskie have launched a Sherlockian calendar at <www.sherlockiancalendar.homestead.com> where societies can list meetings and events, and where people can find out what's happening where and when. If you would like to have something listed, Ron is at <ronf404@aol.com>.
10735. Chris Martin is "married to a movie star and is a fan of Woody Allen movies (as well as Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes stories), but has no plans to embark on a film career of his own." From Dan DeLuca's interview in the Philadelphia Inquirer (on June 5) with the front man for the band Coldplay; the famous movie star is Gwyneth Paltrow.
10736. "Belly dancers and Sherlock Holmes enthusiasts will be on hand Wednesday to kick off the Tigard Public Library's Adult Reading Program," according to an item in the Portland Oregonian (May 26). The belly dancers got things moving and shaking with performances and refreshments, and then members of The Noble and Most Singular Order of the Blue Carbuncle presented speakers on a variety of topics related to Sherlock Holmes and the Victorian Era.
10737. Nash Entertainment has hired Julie Golden to write the screenplay for a movie "inspired by the many letters sent from all over the world to Sherlock Holmes' London address, 221B Baker St., asking the great detective for help in solving real-life crimes," according to a report in Variety (June 21). The film "will center on a man living at that address who decides to take on a case from one of the letters. In becoming a detective his whole life is turned upside down."

June 2005 #5

10738. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists gathered for drinks and dinner at The Joyce on 4th in Calgary on June 22, at the end of the annual meeting of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, and were welcomed by Jeff Campbell and Charles and Kris Prepolec representing the locals (The Singular Society of the Baker Street Dozen). We will dine next at the Alta Club (100 East South Temple) in Salt Lake City on Oct. 19 during the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America. Our tradition is to discourage scholarly papers, quizzes, and slide shows, with the agenda consisting entirely of toasts (some scholarly, but many not). Fans of Sarah Andrews' mystery series will be happy to know that her geologistdetective Em Hansen will be going next to the Antarctic, since that's where Sarah will be traveling in November, funded by the National Science Foundation's Antarctic Artists and Writers Program.
10739. Trude Marlen died on June 9. She began her film career in 1933 and acted in her last film in 2001, and she was Maria Iretzkaja in "Die Graue Dame" (1937). Ron Randell died on June 11. He began his acting career on Australian radio in the 1930s, moved to the stage in 1937, to films in 1946, and then to television, and in 1975 he was the second actor to play James Larrabee in the Royal Shakespeare Company's revival of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" in New York. Jonathan Adams died on June 13. He acted on stage and then in films and television beginning in 1965, and he played Jonas Oldacre in the Granada version of "The Norwood Builder" (1985).
10740. The Iowa Summer Rep's festival of plays written by Ken Ludwig will include his "Postmortem" (a mystery featuring William Gillette and set at his home in Connecticut), through July 24 at Iowa University's Theatre Building in Iowa City (800-533-4692) <www.iowa.edu/~theatre/production/summerrep.htm>.
10741. "The Baker Street Irregulars have a claim to fame," their web-site reports, "they are the biggest band in Preston." That's Preston in Lancashire, and there are nine people in the pop band (there were only four when the band had its first gig at The Golden Cross on Feb. 5, 2003), and their web-site is at <www.thebakerstreetirregulars.com>. Four of their songs can be heard at <www.hxcmp3.com>. Thanks to Ken Lanza for spotting news of the band.
10742. The American Film Institute's "100 Years" series reached "100 Movie Quotes" this year, with a jury of 1,500 film artists, critics, and historians selecting from a list of 400 nominations. "Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn" (from "Gone with the Wind") was #1, and "Elementary, my dear Watson" (from "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes") was #65; "Gentlemen, you can't fight in here! This is the War Room!" (from "Dr. Strangelove") was #64, and "Get your stinking paws off me, you damned dirty ape" (from "Planet of the Apes") was #66. You can read all about it at <www.afi.com>.
10743. The March issue of the quarterly newsletter published by The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota has a report by Julie McKuras on the recent gift of Sherlockiana from Dale L. Walker, John Bergquist's "50 Years Ago" discussion of Vincent Starrett and a 1955 visit to Chicago by Raymond Chandler, and an update on the collections from curator Tim Johnson; you can request a copy of the newsletter from Richard J. Sveum, 111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455 <sveum001@tc.umn.edu>.

June 2005 #6

10744. Dean Clark reported Ken Waight's "Lying in Ponds" comments on "Challenging the Pundits" at <www.lyinginponds.com>, on evaluating the accuracy (not the partisanship) of pundits; Waight suggests that bloggers could submit challenges, to which others (and the pundits) could respond. As an illustration he chose William Safire's mention in the N.Y. Times (Jan. 24, 2002) of "the failure of a dog named Silver Blaze to bark" in a Sherlock Holmes story, accompanied by Waight's (invented) defense and Safire's correction (Feb. 7, 2002) after he heard from "no fewer than 753 irate Holmes fans."
10745. Forecast: ARTHUR & GEORGE, by Julian Barnes, due from Jonathan Cape in July (352 pp., £17.99); it's a novel based on Conan Doyle's investigation of the George Edalji case. Barnes' web-site is at <www.julianbarnes.com>.
10746. Further to the earlier report (February 05 #7) on plans for a second printing of Les Klinger's THE NEW ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES, with corrections of errors in the first printing (which would make it a second edition), it's easy to identify: the string of numerals from one to zero on the title-page verso runs from two to zero. Les has noted that with more than 2,000 footnotes and almost 1,900 pages, errors were inevitable, and he continues to welcome word of errors not yet reported. Those who would prefer not to buy the revised second printing (which is now available) can find a list of errata at Les' web-site <www.annotatedsherlockholmes.com>, and you can check the website from time to time to see additions to the list.
10747. The Sound of the Baskervilles have celebrated their 25th anniversary with a lapel pin (\$10.00 postpaid to non-members) and a paperweight (\$25.00 postpaid to non-members); from David Haugen (3606 Harborcrest Court NW, Gig Harbor, WA 98332)

10748. Forecast: THE MAN FROM BEYOND, by Gabriel Brownstein (due from W. W. Norton in September; 320 pp., \$23.95); a novel based on the conflict between Conan Doyle and Houdini over the medium Margery. The author will be reading and signing at the Three Lives Bookstore (154 West 10th Street, New York) on Sept. 29; the Odyssey Bookshop (9 College Street, South Hadley) on Oct. 5; and at the Community Bookstore (143 Seventh Avenue, Brooklyn) on Oct. 6.
10749. The British Library publishes a monthly newsletter "What's On", which notes that The Great Omar III ("The Most Remarkable Specimen of Binding Ever Produced") will be on display beginning July 18. There's a great (non-Sherlockian) story involved, and it begins with a magnificent jewelled binding of the Rubiyat of Omar Khayyam made by Sangorski & Sutcliffe that was lost with the Titanic in 1912. Sutcliffe's nephew, Stanley Bray, having decided to recreate the firm's masterpiece, worked in his spare time from 1932 to 1939, using the original design, and more than 1000 gems, 5000 colored inlays, and more than 50 square feet of gold leaf; this copy was destroyed by bombing in 1941. After he retired, Bray spent 4000 hours binding, tooling and reattaching the salvaged jewels; his widow died last year, bequeathing The Great Omar III to the British Library.

July 2005 #1

10750. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London had a fine time on its "Making a Beeline to Switzerland" excursion on June 15-23, and if you have access to the Internet you can see for yourself what it was like at the web-site of The Sherlock Holmes Society of France at <www.sshf.com/index.php3>: there's an English version for those who don't read French, and a link to a sequence of photographs, which in turn has a link to a report by Swiss Radio International, which provides a link to a 4-minute video "Sherlock fans fall for Switzerland". And John Bergquist has reported many more photographs posted at <www.photopress.ch/global/Search.do?what=Sherlock+Holmes&x=10&y=15>.
10751. "People with bigger brains are smarter than their smaller brained counterparts," according to a study by Virginia Commonwealth University researcher Michael A. McDaniel, who reported that in the brain-volume literature there are two general categories of brain-volume measures. The first consists of measures of the external size of the head, such as the circumference of the head, and the second consists of measures of brain volume with an MRI scan. "Shades of the Alpha Inn," noted Wendell Cochran, who spotted the press release at <www.vcu.edu/uns/Releases/2005/june/061705.html>. McDaniel's paper, published in the magazine Intelligence (2005, v. 33, p. 339-346) does not cite "The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle".
10752. Warren Randall spotted a report on "Sherlock for Homes", and annual service event organized by the Creighton University chapter of Alpha Phi Omega; on Apr. 23, students spent part of the day collecting non-perishable food and other items from Omaha residents for donation to local charities.
10753. The California Artists Radio Theatre, at <www.calartistsradiotheatre.org>, was founded more than 50 years ago by Peggy Webber, who adapted, produced, and directed the company's productions of Gillette's play "Sherlock Holmes" and Conan Doyle's story "Selecting a Ghost". Webber worked on the "Sherlock Holmes" radio series in the 1940s and has had a long career on stage, screen, radio, and television; CART's shows were performed in the Cinegrill of the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel, and they're delightful, and available on 2 cassettes or CDs from Oasis Audio (289 South Main Place, Carol Stream, IL 60188) (800-323-2500) <www.oasisaudio.com> for \$17.99 (plus shipping). David Warner (Sherlock Holmes), William Windom (Dr. John Watson), and Samantha Eggar (Alice Faulkner) star in "Sherlock Holmes", and Ian Whitcomb (Mr. D'Odd) in "Selecting a Ghost".
10754. Paul Brundage reminds me that people with access to the Internet might benefit from using Google Alerts: go to <www.google.com> and click on "more" and then on "alerts" to tell Google to let you know when web-sites mention specific words or phrases.
10755. CURIOUS INCIDENTS 2 (Calgary: Mad for a Mystery, 2003; 150 pp., \$15.00) is edited by J. R. Campbell and Charles Prepolec, and an excellent successor to their CURIOUS INCIDENTS (July 02 #2), with seven new Sherlockian stories and artwork by Philip Cornell. The publisher is at 10 Sanderling Close NW, Calgary, AB T3K 2Z7, Canada, and postpaid prices are \$20.00 (to the U.S.)/CA\$27.00 (Canada)/\$25.00 (elsewhere); please pay by check or money order. Charles also has fine web-site at <www.bakerstreetdozen.com>.

July 2005 #2

10756. Evan Hunter died on July 6. THE BLACKBOARD JUNGLE (1954) was his first novel, and in 1956, writing as Ed McBain, he launched his long "87th Precinct" series, essentially inventing the American police procedural; he won the Mystery Writers of America's Grand Master Award for lifetime achievement in 1986, and in 1998 became the first American to receive the Diamond Dagger Award from the Crime Writers Association of Great Britain. McBain's "87th Precinct" novel THE HECKLER (1960) has both cops and crooks acknowledging use of a plot from a Sherlock Holmes story, and he wrote an introduction for Balantine's paperback edition of A STUDY IN SCARLET (1975).
10757. Rodger Garrick-Steele (February 05 #4) is in the news again: an article in the [Plymouth] Western Morning News (May 11) reports that Garrick-Steele has applied to the Church of England for permission to carry out a partial "endoscopic" exhumation of Fletcher Robinson's body, which would coincide with the 100th anniversary of his death in 1907 and might provide evidence that he died of typhoid (as his death certificate states) or of poison (at the hands of Conan Doyle, according to Garrick-Steele's long-standing claims). Garrick-Steele is working with criminologist Paul Spiring, who says that he has "irrefutable" proof that Conan Doyle was a plagiarist. But (according to the Glasgow Herald on July 27) the parochial church council at St. Andrew's Church in Ipplepen has objected: the Rev. Ian Eglin, rector of Ipplepen, said that "people think this is being driven by money because a TV company wants to make a film about it and people want to write books, and they don't think that that is sufficient reason to support this."
10758. THE GRAVEN IMAGES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES is Bill Dorn's colorful calendar for 2006, with daily entries noting Canonical events of interest, and monthly illustrations in full color of Sherlockian sculptures, walking sticks, and the like. \$16.95 postpaid (or \$17.95 to Canada or \$20.95 elsewhere), and checks can be sent to William S. Dorn at 2045 South Monroe Street, Denver, CO 80210; his web-site's at <www.thesherlockstore.com>.
10759. Ken Lanza reports that "The West End Horror" (dramatized by Anthony Dodge and Marcia Milgrom Dodge from Nicholas Meyer's novel) has been scheduled at the Albany Civic Theater, Sept. 9-25 ("Holmes & Watson meet Gilbert & Sullivan", Shaw, Wilde, and more," according to an announcement). Box 6172, Albany, NY 12206 (518-462-1297) <www.albanycivictheater.org>.
10760. James Lipton's AN EXALTATION OF LARKS: THE ULTIMATE EDITION (New York: Viking, 1993; 336 pp., \$16.00) is still in print, and worth mentioning again: first published in 1968, revised in 1977 and 1991, the book explores "the venereal game" (which is not quite what you may think it is). Lipton notes in his introduction that Conan Doyle once played the game, and quotes at length from SIR NIGEL, in which young Nigel demonstrates his knowledge of collective nouns, such as a cete of badgers, a skulk of foxes, etc.
10761. Bill Barnes (19 Malvern Avenue, Manly, NSW 2095, Australia) notes that THE HOUNDS' COLLECTION: VOLUME 10 now is available, offering 82 pages of humor, pastiche, research, scholarship, poetry, conjecture, and artwork by members of The Hounds of the Internet. \$14.00/CA\$17.00/£8.00/E12.00/AU\$13.50 postpaid by air; payment in currency or by PayPal to <bbarnes@ozemail.com.au> preferred, but checks (made out to R. W. Barnes) are acceptable.

July 2005 #3

10762. Byron Press died on July 9. He was an author, and a publisher who specialized in graphic novels and science fiction. Preiss' most Sherlockian title was the graphic novel (illustrated by Ralph Reese) SON OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE WOMAN IN RED (1977); and Philip Jose Farmer's THE GRAND ADVENTURE (Berkley, 1984) and Michael Hardwick's THE REVENGE OF THE HOUND (Villard, 1987) were published under the Byron Preiss imprint.
10763. "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Silk Stocking" stars Rupert Everett as Sherlock Holmes and Ian Hart as Dr. Watson; it aired in Britain on Dec. 26 and in Canada on Dec. 27 last year, and at long last it has been scheduled by PBS-TV on "Masterpiece Theatre" on Oct. 23.
10764. Australians saw the program on July 24, and Jane Fraser had an item in the [Sydney] Australian (July 21) on Sydney jazz musician Dick Hughes, an "old mate" of Rupert Everett. Hughes' father Richard Hughes founded a Sherlockian society in Japan in the 1950s, and in 1956 was sent by Ian Fleming to Moscow, where Hughes interviewed British spies Donald Maclean and Guy Burgess. Everett has portrayed Burgess in a documentary, Fleming in a James Bond special, and now Sherlock Holmes. And Dick Hughes' daughter Christa sang at Everett's birthday party in Paris.
10765. Andrew Malec reports that the City of Portsmouth has established a web-site at <www.portsmouthand.co.uk/history/213.htm> that's devoted to Richard Lancelyn Green's Arthur Conan Doyle Collection, which he bequeathed to Portsmouth (August 04 #2). The first issue of a quarterly newsletter is available at the web-site; Portsmouth hopes to host an introductory exhibition next year and a more substantial display in 2007, and will welcome funding and other support for the collection. If you don't have access to the Internet you can ask to be on their mailing list; the contact is Mark Wright, ECCS 1st Floor, Civic Offices, Guildhall Square, Portsmouth PO1 2AD, England.
10766. "The Strange Case of Sherlock Holmes and Arthur Conan Doyle" aired on BBC-2 on July 27, to mixed reviews. The 90-minute program was David Pirie's version of Conan Doyle's life and career, dramatic but often quite fictional (Pirie is the author of the "Murder Rooms" series), and the show featured Douglas Henshall (Arthur Conan Doyle) and Brian Cox (Dr. Joseph Bell). The ratings offer an interesting look at what people watch in Britain: according to Digital Spy, the early figures for the show were 2.63 million viewers (12.6% of the people watching television at the time). The most popular program that night was "Coronation Street", with 9.54 million viewers (47.1%). The Nielsen Ratings in the U.S. have "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation" as the top-rated show on July 28, with 8.9 million viewers (15%). Do the numbers: the potential viewing audience for "CSI" was about 59 million, and for "Coronation Street" about 20 million; the British are more likely to be watching television than the Americans (the United Kingdom has about 60 million people, and the U.S. about 295 million people).
10767. Peter Ashman has noted an interesting web-site at <www.waybackmachine.org>, where a search for "sherlock holmes" leads to a song called "Changing Sherlock Holmes" recorded by Sockeye, described as "a one of legendary retarded punk band, bad sound, bad songs and bad humor." Sockeye's leader singer is Eric Stacener, who seems to have written the song, whose lyrics are pretty much unintelligible (if anyone can transcribe them, please report on it).
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July 2005 #4

10768. The blue carbuncle was a star sapphire, but there have always been a few who suggest that it was a blue diamond, possibly the 44-carat Hope Diamond, or the 67-carat French Blue, or the 115-carat Tavernier Blue; researchers at the Smithsonian Institution have used historical models and sketches, and computers, to make zirconia replicas of all three diamonds, and have determined that the Hope fits exactly within the French Blue, and that no stone larger than the Hope could have been cut from the French Blue or the Tavernier Blue, "a clear indication" of the lineage of the Hope Diamond.
10769. The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library have published their Occasional Paper Number 1: ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE IN CANADA, by Doug Wrigglesworth; the 18-page pamphlet offers an interesting review of Conan Doyle's travels in Canada, with a description of the relevant material in the Collection; it's available for \$7.00 postpaid (to the U.S. or CA\$7.00 (to Canada) from Doug at 16 Sunset Street, Holland Landing, ON L9N 1H4, Canada (checks to Friends of the ACD Collection, please). For other destinations, contact Doug at <doug.wrig@sympatico.com>.
10770. Gavin Lambert died on July 17. He was a novelist, biographer, and screenwriter, and the author of THE DANGEROUS EDGE (1975), a collection of excellent essays on writers who included Conan Doyle.
10771. There's still time for admirers of the Algonquin Hotel to see "The Talk of the Town" in the Oak Room through Aug. 22; the show is an off-Broadway musical about the legendary Algonquin Round Table and there more information at <www.algonquinhotel.com/cabaret-times-square-hotels.asp>.
10772. Discount DVDs offer an inexpensive way to watch old Sherlockian films: Jim Suszynski spotted Retromedia Entertainment's \$4.99 DVD of Christopher Lee's "Sherlock Holmes and the Deadly Necklace" (the dubbed-into-English version of the 1962 German film "Sherlock Holmes und das Halsband des Todes").
10773. Marcus Geisser, now on holiday in Switzerland (where he participated in the Swiss tour of the Sherlock Holmes Society London), continues to be one of the most far-flung Sherlockians, thanks to his work for the International Committee of the Red Cross: he has worked in the Congo, and in Burma, and is now on his way to Sudan, where he will be working in Darfur. On Aug. 9, following in Sherlock Holmes' footsteps, he will pay a "short but interesting visit" to Khartoum.
10774. Trivia buffs can add January Leighton to the list of actors who have portrayed both Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson, and the name is not familiar, it's because he has been Holmes and Watson in television commercials. He's had a long career: he acted on Broadway (with Lucille Ball) in "Wildcat" in 1960, and in films, and he narrated two stories in THE GREAT ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES for Pendulum Press in 1974. His web-site <www.janleighton.com> has a note that he has been in the Guinness Book of World Records for having performed professionally 3,372 historical notables, and photographs of him as some of those notables (including Holmes and Watson); you can click on many of the photographs to see video clips of him in action. The Inverness cape he used as Holmes will be offered on eBay early in August; that web-site is <www.ebay.com>.
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July 2005 #5

10775. Owners of the first two volumes of Leslie S. Klinger's THE NEW ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES, will not need to be persuaded to buy the third volume, which offers the four long stories, more than 900 pages, nearly 400 illustrations (often showing the same scene drawn by different artists), and almost 1,000 annotations; there's a slip-case, and the dust jacket spine completes the silhouette of Holmes on the first two volumes. It will be published by Norton in November (\$49.95), and you can pre-order at a significant discount at Amazon and Barnes & Noble. I said last year that Les modestly suggests that "this is not a work for the serious student of Arthur Conan Doyle," but he's seriously wrong: you may think you know it all, but you'll find that you don't, and I recommend Les' NEW ANNOTATED to everyone, especially Sherlockians who don't yet have it, or who want something to give to people who need to know what Sherlockians do, and how much fun there can be doing it. <www.annotatedsherlockholmes.com> offers a lot of information about the set, including a list of errata.
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10776. The York Regional Police in Canada held a contest to name the newest addition to the K9 unit, and there were more than 500 entries. The photograph show handler Const. Mark Russell, contest winner Jessica McKenzie (a grand 6 student at Roseland Public School), and (in the middle) Sherlock.
10777. Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine is continuing a year-long tribute to Ellery Queen, and the September/October issues includes Donald A. Yates' "Remembering Fred Dannay" (with a amusing story about Don's visit, as a 16-year-old, with Fred at his home) and Jon L. Breen's "The Misadventures of Ellery Queen" (a discussion of the many, and various, imitation Ellery Queen stories); there are two such imitations in the issue, by Edward D. Hoch, and Josh Pachter and Jon L. Breen. Jon makes a point to distinguish between parodies and pastiches, and suggests that there are also parody-pastiches (a term used by Ellery Queen) when editing the magazine), and indirect pastiches (also described as tributes or homages). Sherlockians tend to use the term "pastiche" for almost everything, from Vincent Starrett's pastiches to Robert L. Fish's parodies to August Derleth's indirect pastiches, but there certainly are differences, and they can be interesting when one considers what to call novels written by Laurie R. King, Carole Nelson Douglas, and M. J. Trow.
10778. The new edition of A STUDY IN SCARLET, with the original text from Beeton's Christmas Annual and more than 600 striking illustrations by Danish artist Nis Jessen (January 05 #7) has arrived, and it's spectacular. The publisher is Hakon Holm (Borgmester Niensens Vej 24, DK-3700 Roenne, Bornholm, Denmark <www.mr-holmes.com>, and there are three versions: standard (E60.00), deluxe (E70.00), and signed and numbered in a slip-case (E78.00), and there are two posters available; there is more information (and lots of artwork) at the publisher's web-site, and you can see more of Jessen's fine work at <home2.inet.tele.dk/fnjessen>.

July 2005 #6

10779. Issue #65 of SHERLOCK has Roger Forsdyke's "Under the Gaslight: The Great Turf Fraud" (a fascinating article that isn't about "Silver Blaze"), Leonard Rose's discussion of Teddy Hayes' new musical "The Baskerville Beast", David Stuart Davies' report on "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Silk Stocking", and as usual much more, Sherlockian and otherwise.
10780. #65 was David Stuart Davies' last issue as editor; the publisher decided to change directions at the magazine, hoping to attract more advertising, and the new magazine, edited by the new co-publisher Teddy Hayes, will focus on crime has a cover story on Steve McQueen, and the Sherlockian content consists of a pastiche by John S. Geddes and a sometimes inaccurate article by Richard Milner on the death of Richard Lancelyn Green. And the magazine's new slogan: "subscribe and become part of Big Sherly's mob."
10781. SHERLOCK is published six times a year and a subscriptions costs £25.00 (or \$45.00) a year anywhere in the world; Atlas Publishing Ltd., Jordan House, Old Milton Green, New Milton, Hants. BH24 6QJ, England; the e-mail address is <www.sherlockholmes.com>. Their American agent is Classic Specialties (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219) <www.sherlock-holmes.com> (877-233-3823); credit-card orders are welcome at both addresses, and there are back issues available.
10782. Forecast: THE FORGOTTEN ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by H. Paul Jeffers (New York: Carroll & Graf, Nov. 2005); 13 stories based on Anthony Boucher's scripts for "The New Adventures of Sherlock Holmes".
10783. Margaret Walsh died on July 7. She worked in the advertising department of The New Yorker for many years, and discovered the Sherlockian world thanks to Tom Stix, whom she met in a bookstore; Maggie was honored by The Baker Street Irregulars as "The Woman" in 1992, and she was an enthusiastic member of The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes ("The Third Cab"). She asked her friends to hold a party in her memory at Kennedy's in New York (as "an Irish wake without the body").
10784. Laurie R. King will hold a random drawing on Aug. 10 for copies of Recorded Books version of four of her novels (including LOCKED ROOMS and THE GAME); if you would like to be entered in the drawing, send an e-mail message to webmaven@laurierking.com>.
10785. The BBC celebrated "Sherlock Holmes Week" the first week in July, reporting that readers of Crime Time Magazine voted Arthur Conan Doyle the best crime writer of all time, and reissuing CDs of the short stories from the BBC Radio 4 programs starring Clive Merrison and Michael Williams, and Clive Merrison and Andrew Sachs in four of the pastiches written by Bert Coules; the 15 sets of CDs are £17.99 each (the long stories cost £12.99 each). BBC's web-site is at <www.bbcshop.com> and their postal address is P.O. Box 308, Sittingbourne, Kent ME9 8LW, England. Their "The Complete Sherlock Holmes Box Set" with all 60 Canonical stories still is available, and a bargain at £129.99.

August 2005 #1

10786. There has been a brief flurry of publicity in the British press (and on the Web) about a new film called "Death Defying Acts" to be shot on location in Edinburgh. The £10 million film, from a script by Brian Ward and Tony Grisoni, will star Guy Pearce as Houdini and Rachel Weisz as his mistress, and Conan Doyle will be portrayed in the film. His mistress? According to the film company's publicity, "During Harry Houdini's tour of Britain in 1926, the magician enters into a passionate love affair with a Scottish woman."
10787. The Sherlock Holmes Festival in Tryon, N.C., on Nov. 11-13 (June 05 #3) has expanded its web-site at <www.sherlockholmesfestival.com> to include a page on William Gillette and Henry Zecher's slide-show presentation (it's listed under "events"). Henry reports that Marilou Trask-Curtin will also be at the festival; she has written a book about Gillette and delivers the manuscript to her publisher in September.
10788. Anyone who has seen Robert Sabuda's books knows how wonderful they are, and if you have never seen one you should visit a bookstore and look at one (or more). He creates incredible pop-up books, and his latest (with co-author Matthew Reinhart) is ENCYCLOPEDIA PREHISTORICA: DINOSAURS (Cambridge: Candlewick Press, 2005; \$26.95). Recommended for everyone who enjoys THE LOST WORLD, and for anyone who wants to be bemused and amazed.
10789. The Drury Lane Theatre in Oakbrook Terrace, Ill., is offering a dinner theater production of Charles Marowitz's "Sherlock's Last Case" through Oct. 2. The theater is at 100 Drury Lane, Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181 (630-530-0111) <www.drurylaneoakbrook.com>.
10790. Film historian Max Alvarez lectured at the Smithsonian this month on "The Essentials: Hollywood's 10 Must-See Movies", but his lecture wasn't quite a match for the title; he spoke instead on the 10 essential Hollywood filmmakers: Buster Keaton, Ernst Lubitsch, Frank Capra, Preston Sturges, Billy Wilder, John Ford, Orson Welles, John Huston, Martin Scorsese, and Anthony Mann. And his choice for the essential film made by Keaton was "Sherlock Jr. (1924).
10791. The June issue of the quarterly newsletter published by The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota has a report by Joe Eckrich on the "Holmes Under the Arch II" conference in St. Louis, Jon Lellenberg's "100 Years Ago" tribute to E. W. Hornung's "Raffles", Gideon Hill's "50 Years Ago" discussion of Wilton M. Krogman, and an update on the collections from curator Tim Johnson; copies of the newsletter are available from Richard J. Sveum, 111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455 <sveum001@tc.umn.edu>.
10792. Peter McIntyre has reported that the East Lynne Theater Company is performing William Gillette's "The Painful Predicament of Sherlock Holmes" through Sept. 3, as part of an evening of four one-act plays, and they are planning to present Edith Meiser's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of

the Copper Beeches" in the style of a 1930s radio broadcast on Nov. 4-5 and Mar. 3-4. The office address is 121 Fourth Avenue, West Cape May, NJ 08204 (609-884-5898) <eastlynnetheater.org>.

August 2005 #2

10793. Peggy Perdue is the new curator of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library, succeeding Victoria Gill, who retired earlier this year (June 05 #3). Doug Wrigglesworth reports that Peggy's background includes special collections, Asian studies, and working with young people; and she says that "classic English literature has been a passion of mine for many years, including anything from late 18th century to the Edwardian age and beyond a bit for the golden age of detective fiction." Her e-mail address is <pperdue@torontopubliclibrary.ca>.
10794. "Artful Sherlock Takes the Cake at Culinary Olympics" was the headline on an article in the Hartford Courant (Oct. 28) about Carol Murdock, whose Sherlockian cake won a gold medal at the International Culinary Olympics in Erfurt. The photograph doesn't do it justice, and you can see the cake in full color at <www.classiccakescm.com>, which is the web-site for her business Classic Cakes in Connecticut. The theme of her cake was the study at 221B Baker Street.
10795. The cake looks spectacular as well as delicious, and there are additional photographs of other cakes at her web-site. But (alas) not the cake that she baked and decorated for William Gillette's birthday at a party at his home in Gillette Castle State Park last month; that was a tiered cake with much about Gillette as Holmes, and some decorations from the castle.
10796. Joe Coppola found an interesting Sherlockian game at the eBaum's World "Media for the Masses web-site at <www.ebaumsworld.com/sherlock.html>.
10797. John Sherwood reports that Sherlock Holmes returns to the Victorian Villa Inn in Union City, Mich., for a mystery weekend on Sept. 16-18; John knows whereof he speaks, because John *is* Sherlock Holmes for the weekend; there is a web-site at <www.geocities.com/jcsherwood//BakerStreet22.htm>.
10798. Carl Miller's new play "Sherlock Holmes: The Athenaeum Ghoul" will have 11 performances at the Theatre Royal in Bury St. Edmunds, from Sept. 8 to 17; their address is Westgate Street, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 1QR, England <www.theatreroyal.org>. The play then goes on tour to 15 cities, and there is a detailed schedule at their web-site.
10799. And Peter Tong's new play "Mrs. H. of Baker Street" will be performed during the Manchester Comedy Festival, from Oct. 24 to 29, at the Salford Theatre in Salford; a comedy about Mrs. Hudson, who uses her detective skills to help a woman find a missing husband. The theater is in Westerham Avenue, Salford, Lancashire M5 4LT, England (0161-925-0111).
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August 2005 #3

10800. Reported by Jay Hyde: THE PRAYER OF THE NIGHT SHEPHERD, by Phil Rickman (London: Macmillan, 2004; 356 pp., \$24.95) (London: Pan Macmillan, 2005; 628 pp., \$8.99); the sixth in a mystery series that features the Reverend Merrily Watkins (Deliverance Consultant to the Diocese of Hereford); it's fiction, but involves Rickman's belief that THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES was inspired in Herefordshire rather than Devon. Rickman had an article in SHERLOCK #60 (June 04 #5) suggesting that Conan Doyle used the legend of Black Vaughan of Kington, and his ghostly Hergest hound.
10801. Gahan Wilson, who was the Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Speaker during this year's birthday festivities (January 05 #1) provided the cover artwork for the souvenir program for the Mystery Writers of America's annual awards dinner on Apr. 28, and the MWA is now offering 58 signed and numbered prints for \$200 each, with proceeds going to the MWA's Author Sponsorship Fund. They may still be available (but you may need to be or know a member of the MWA in order to buy one); 17 East 47th Street, New York, NY 10017 (212-888-8171) <mwa@mysterywriters.org>.
10802. Laura Klotz reports that the new DVD "The Muppet Show: Season One (Special Edition)" has a Sherlockian segment in the third episode (Joel Grey was the guest star) that didn't air in the U.S.; the segment has Rowlf as Holmes, Baskerville as Watson, and Gorgon Heap as the butler. The region 1 DVD was issued by Buena Vista Home Video (\$39.99).
10803. Dennis Lynds died on Aug. 19. Writing as Michael Collins, he launched his series of "Dan Fortune" detective novels in 1967, and won an Edgar and many other awards. His pastiche "Cross of Gold" appeared in Michael Kurland's anthology SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE HIDDEN YEARS (2004).
10804. The "Legend of the Hound Project" opened at Lord's Tearooms in Princetown on Aug. 13. According to a story in the Plymouth Western Morning News, the new visitor center features a room styled similar to Holmes' study at 221b and a life-size model of the Hound. Project organizer Sylvia Agnew has secured the first Hackney carriage licence to be issued to a horse and carriage in the West Devon; the carriage will take visitors along three routes through Dartmoor, and there will be costumes available if visitors want to dress in Victorian clothing while the carriage tours Baskerville territory.
10805. Ev Herzog has reported that there was a stalwart contingent of Sherlockians at the 13th International Convention of the Wodehouse Society this month. "Hooray for Hollywood" at UCLA was hosted by the chapters in San Francisco ("Blandings Castle") and Los Angeles ("The Perfecto-Zizzbaum Motion Picture Corporation") and celebrated Wodehouse's stints in Tinseltown. The Clients of Adrian Mulliner held a Senior Bloodstain on Aug. 12, featuring a dramatic reading of Anne Cotton's play "Sherlock Holmes and the Unsettling Smile" (with a smiling Brian Taves as Mulliner).
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August 2005 #4

10806. The summer issue of The Petrel Flyer (the newsletter from The Stormy Petrels of B.C.) is a Vincent Starrett Special, including Karen Murdock's report on newly discovered information about "The Cold, Lonely Death of Margaret Denniston Starrett" (his mother, who is buried in Vancouver), and other pieces about Starrett; \$8.00 postpaid from the society (1026 West Keith Road, North Vancouver, BC V7P 3C6, Canada).
10807. Kelly Blau reports that the schedule for this year's New York City International Dollhouse Miniature Show includes workshops by Julii Grob on Sept. 1 and 2 devoted to "Sherlock Holmes' Study"; you can see her spectacular miniature at <www.bishopshow.com/nyc05wsten.htm>.
10808. William R. Hanson, MD, who wrote a well-illustrated article in the American Philatelist (October 00 #3) about many of the postage stamps that have honored Sherlock Holmes, has also designed more than 3,000 stamps for some two dozen countries, and an attractive Sherlockian first day cover for the "garden bouquet" of roses stamp issued by the U.S. Postal Service in 2004; the cover (signed on the front or back) costs \$10.00 postpaid (in the U.S.), and signed copies of the magazine with his article cost \$5.95 postpaid. Checks (payable to Mary T. Hanson) should be sent to William R. Hanson at 78 West Notre Dame Street, Glens Falls, NY 12801.
10809. He also wonders if he was the first to describe Holmes as "the greatest man who never lived" (he was art director for the Turks & Caicos Islands when they issued a set of stamps honoring Holmes and Conan Doyle) (July 84 #3). Vincent Starrett honored "two men of note, who never lived and so can never die" (in his sonnet "221B"), and Smithsonian magazine referred to Holmes as "the greatest detective who never lived" in the table of contents in their Dec. 1986 issue (which had Fred Strebeigh's article on Sherlockians). Can anyone cite Hanson's phrase used earlier than 1984?
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August 2005 #5

10810. It's always nice when some of Conan Doyle's best work is back in print: Barnes & Noble now has a "Library of Essential Reading", and it includes three titles of interest: *THE LOST WORLD*, with an introduction by Allen Grove (New York: Barnes & Noble, 2004; 215 pp., \$5.95); *THE COMPLETE BRIGADIER GERARD*, with an introduction by Clifford S. Goldfarb (2005; 384 pp., \$9.95); and *THE WHITE COMPANY AND SIR NIGEL*, with an introduction by Doug Elliott (2005; 792 pp., \$19.95). Cliff and Doug are members of The Baker Street Irregulars and The Bootmakers of Toronto.
10811. It's intriguing to see authors beginning to write fiction about Arthur Conan Doyle: Gabriel Brownstein's *THE MAN FROM BEYOND* (New York: W. W. Norton, 2005; 298 pp., \$23.95) deals with Houdini and the medium Margery and Conan Doyle, and the author warns that "This is a fantasy. Nothing in it should be taken as fact. Names, places, events, actions, dialogue, headlines, and other details out of history have been distorted here for the purposes of fiction." And so they are, from the very start, where the names of Conan Doyle's children are given as Timothy and Joanna. Doyleans will find more than a few distortions, and so will those familiar with Houdini's career, but it's well-written and exciting, with interesting additional characters and some real danger for Houdini. In some ways the book is like Frederick Forsyth's *THE DAY OF THE JACKAL*: just as readers knew that De Gaulle wasn't assassinated, we know that Houdini survives the dire straits he's in, but it's fun to see it all work.
10812. It isn't all that often that one gets a chance to talk about the fatal battle of Maiwand with a descendant of someone who was there: Chris Heath, of Vancouver, is the great-grandson of Capt. Percy Charles Heath, who was shot and killed in the battle on July 27, 1880. His body was never recovered, but his family in Britain has a hoof from the horse on which he was shot (each horse had a serial number, and collecting the hoof was the British Army's system of inventory control).
10813. "The Boast of Heraldry--The Pomp of Power: Titled People in the Adventures" is the title of this year's "Saturday with Sherlock Holmes" (sponsored by the local Sherlockian societies) at the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore on Nov. 12; the festivities commence with morning coffee in the Edgar Allan Poe Room at 10:00, and ends at 1:00. There's no charge, and the library is at 400 Cathedral Street in Baltimore.
10814. This year's The New Yorker Festival, from Sept. 23 to 25, features a paired appearance by Michael Chabon (author of *THE FINAL SOLUTION: A NOVEL OF DETECTION*) and Stephen King on Sept. 23, and they'll sign books on Sept. 24. Details available at <www.newyorker.com>.
10815. "Slick Sleuths" was a silent black-and-white seven-minute "Mutt and Jeff" animation written by Bud Fisher and drawn by Fisher and Edgar Horace, and released in 1926, with Mutt and Jeff in Sherlockian costume; in the 1930s it was colorized by hand and released again with a musical score. The colorized version is included in a "Cartoon Craze" DVD (vol. 22) from Digiview Productions (2004), spotted by Jennie Paton in the \$1.00 bin at Wal-Mart. And for Basil Rathbone's fans, Jennie also discovered a \$1.00 DVD of "The Magic Sword" (1962), in which Rathbone plays the evil sorcerer Lodac.

August 2005 #6

10816. Collectors of translations and foreign editions might wish to pursue *LE CHIEN DE BASKERVILLE* (Beyrouth: Samir Editeur, 2005); the story has been translated into Parisian French, and is the first French translation I've seen published in Lebanon (*THE UNIVERSAL SHERLOCK HOLMES* lists an Arabic translation published in Beirut in 1911). The book's not yet listed at their web-site <www.samirediteur.com>, but they have e-mail at <samir@samirediteur.com> and the cost is \$3.00 plus shipping.
10817. The Hedgerow Theatre will perform "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (likely Tim Kelly's dramatization) from Sept. 23 to Oct. 30; the theater is at 64 Rose Valley Road, Media, PA 19063 (610-565-4211) <www.hedgerowtheatre.org>. Mycroft's League of Philadelphia has planned a theater party for the matinee on Oct. 2, followed by dinner; details are available from Gideon Hill (215-280-2004) <gideonhill221@earthlink.net>.
10818. The U.S. Postal Service has issued a stamp honoring the 50th anniversary of the Presidential Libraries Act of 1955. Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Harry S. Truman were members of The Baker Street Irregulars, and the Roosevelt Library & Museum in Hyde Park, N.Y. has his Sherlockian correspondence and his illuminated membership certificate in the BSI. But the Truman Library & Museum in Independence no longer has its copy of the BSI special edition of *THE BLUE CARBUNCLE*, inscribed to Truman by Edgar W. Smith, thanks to a curator who decided some years ago that the fiction owned by Truman wasn't important to the library and disposed of it (it's now owned by a fortunate collector).
10819. The Bimetallic Question of Montreal celebrated their 25th anniversary with *MUSINGS FROM AN OVERTURNED BEEHIVE*, a 55-page anthology of reminiscence and articles by members; there are 60 copies, cloth-bound, each copy numbered and named for one of the 60 Canonical stories, and the cost is \$39.00 postpaid (checks payable to the society, please,) from Wilfrid M. de Freitas, 369 Kitchener Avenue, Westmount, Montreal QC H3Z 2G1, Canada. You can ask him if your favorite story is still available, or provide a list of three choices (514-935-9581) <wilfrid@defreitasbooks.com>.
10820. Julia Huggins has marked the 10th anniversary of Jeremy Brett's death with an on-line petition intended to encourage Granada to produce a documentary about the Brett series, using deleted footage and out-takes. The petition can be signed at <www.petitiononline.com/gtiitv/petition.html>.
10821. Further to the report (November 04 #4) that Abbey National's shareholders agreed to a takeover bid from Spain's largest bank, Banco Santander Central Hispanico (BSCH), Jay Hyde spotted a Dow Jones news-wire report (Aug. 22) that a syndicate led by Dutch financial-services company ING Groep NV has bought Abbey National's property portfolio for \$2.12 billion. The statue of Sherlock Holmes at the entrance to the Baker Street underground station is not affected: Roger Johnson notes that the statue belongs to the City of Westminster (ownership was formally handed over to the Deputy Lord Mayor during the Statue Festival in 1999).

September 2005 #1

10822. Chief Justice William Rehnquist died on Sept. 3. Nominated as an associate justice of the Supreme Court by President Nixon in 1971, he was confirmed in 1972, and nominated as Chief Justice by President Reagan and confirmed in 1986. And he mentioned Sherlock Holmes at least twice in his opinions: in 1980 (*Harrison v. PPG Industries*) he wrote in his dissenting opinion: "I think that what we know of the matter makes Congress' additions to 307 (b)(1) in the Clean Air Act Technical and Conforming Amendments of 1997 no less curious than was the incident in the Silver Blaze of the dog that did nothing in the nighttime." In 1984 (*Bose Corp. v. Consumers Union*) he said (again dissenting): "There is more than one irony in this 'Case of the Wandering Instruments,' which subject matter makes it sound more like a candidate for inclusion in the 'Adventures of Sherlock Holmes' than in a casebook on constitutional law."
10823. John Bergquist reports that there are more photographs about the London society's Swiss tour at <www.uk.myswitzerland.com/en/news.cfm?mo=v&id=42610>. And Bob Ellis notes that The Sherlock Holmes Society of London's redesigned web-site at <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk> has a detailed report on "A Beelne to Switzerland and more than 500 photographs."
10824. Sherlock Holmes said (in "The Cardboard Box") that he had paid fifty-five shillings for his Stradivarius, and that it was worth at least five hundred guineas. Catherine Cooke reports that the "Viotti ex-Bruce" Stradivarius has been acquired by the Royal Academy of Music; the estate of the violin's last owner gave the violin, valued at £3.5 million, to the British tax authority to wipe out a £1.4 million tax bill, and the Academy has raised £1 million to purchase the violin. Made about 1710 during Stradivari's "Golden Period", it was owned by Catherine the Great of Russia, who gave it to

the musical prodigy Giovanni Battista Viotti, whose concerts in Paris and London in the 1780s and 1790s are credited with establishing Stradivari's reputation.

10825. Those who remember the old student standbys Monarch Notes (with two volumes about the Sherlock Holmes stories) and Cliff Notes may be interested in the on-line SparkNotes at <www.sparknotes.com>. THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES is included, with discussion, analysis, quotations, study questions, and a message board.
10826. The Confederates of Wisteria Lodge (Atlanta), The Nashville Scholars of the Three Pipe Problem, and The Genius Loci (Birmingham) will hold their Second Annual Joint Gathering at the Sheraton Read House in Chattanooga, Tenn., on Apr. 8-9, 2006; information about the event is available from Kent Ross at 6875 Fielder Road, Rex, GA 30273 <kenthross@aol.com>.
10827. Dick Rutter reports that his translation of Gerhardt Totschinger's SHERLOCK HOLMES UND DAS GEHEIMNIS DER SACHERTORTE (April 90 #2) has been published (as SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE MYSTERY OF THE SACHERTORTE) by George Vanderburgh's Battered Silicon Dispatch Box; the story involves the theft of the recipe for the famous Austrian pastry, and international politics just before the start of World War I. The publisher is at Box 204, Shelburne, ON L0N 1S0, Canada; 192 pp., \$37.00 postpaid.

September 2005 #2

10828. Alan Truscott died on Sept. 4. Born in London, he learned to play bridge in an air-raid shelter during the blitz and went on to a long career in the bridge world, serving as bridge editor of the N.Y. Times since 1964. He edited and foot-noted Reginald Johnson's THEY CAME TO BAKER STREET (August 94 #8), and often used and referred to Sherlock Holmes in his bridge column in the N.Y. Times.
10829. There are now (at least) 25 titles in Marjorie Weinman Sharmat's "Nate the Great" series that features Nate in Sherlockian costume. NATE THE GREAT: SAN FRANCISCO DETECTIVE, written with Mitchell Sharman and illustrated by Martha Weston in the style of Marc Simont (New York: Random House/Yearling, 2005; 30 pp., \$4.50), is a fine souvenir for visitors to the Bay Area.
10830. The Mayfield Dinner Theatre is performing David Belke's play "The Reluctant Resurrection of Sherlock Holmes" through Oct. 30 (16615 109th Avenue, Edmonton, AB T5P 4K8, Canada) (800-661-9804) <www.mayfielddinnertheatre.com>.
10831. Tim Evers' one-man play "The Demons of Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at the Bayou Theatre at the University of Houston Clear Lake, Nov. 10-26. The box-office address is: Bayou Building (room 2604), 2700 Bay Area Boulevard, Houston, TX 77058 (281-263-2580).
10832. The summer issue of the Tonga Times (published by the Mini-Tonga Scion Society) offers news about the world of Sherlockian miniatures, including the miniatures created by Lawrence G. Myers (with lots of color photographs; s). The newsletter (\$10.50 for three issues/\$11.50 to Canada/\$13.50 elsewhere) is published by Trish and Jay Pearlman (1656 East 19th Street #2-E, Brooklyn, NY 11229) <www.hometown.aol.com/minitongasociety/mini1.htm>.
10833. I asked (August 05 #4) for a reference earlier for a description of Sherlock Holmes as "the greatest man who never lived" earlier than 1984; Bob Mangler recalled that Orson Welles said something similar, and Fred Levin found it on a recording of the Mercury Theatre broadcast of William Gillette's play (1938): "a gentleman who never lived and will never die." What's interesting is that this is earlier than Vincent Starrett's sonnet "221B" (1942).
10834. Stephen William Theaker has written PROFESSOR CHALLENGER IN SPACE (Birmingham: Silver Age Books, 2000; 160 pp., £5.99) and QUIET, THE TIN CAN BRAINS ARE HUNTING! (2001; 160 pp., £5.99); Mrs. Challenger is featured in the second book, with a brief appearance by the professor, and you can read both on-line at <www.silveragebooks.com> reprinted in Theaker's Quarterly Fiction (spring, summer, and autumn 2004). The stories are more fantasy than science-fiction.
10835. Frank Thomas, who played boyfriend Ted Nickerson in "Nancy Drew, Detective" (1938) and the title role in the 1950s in "Tom Corbett, Space Cadet", went on to write about Sherlock Holmes and bridge, and a series of Sherlockian pastiches, and he will be the guest of honor at a joint dinner meeting of The Blustering Gales from the South-West and The James Phillimore Society on Oct. 15. Additional information about the meeting can be obtained from Paula Salo (4455 Pacific Coast Highway #D-102, Torrance, CA 90505) (310-378-7947) <home.earthlink.net/~bgsww>. He's also to be honored as a special guest at the 64th World Science Convention in Anaheim on Aug. 23-27, 2006.

September 2005 #3

10836. Tyke Niver often wears an Inverness when he appears at Gillette Castle as William Gillette, and has found a company that makes excellent Inverness cloaks (in winter and summer weights, which Tyke finds helpful when he is at the Castle in the summer); prices range from \$280 to \$460 depending on your size. Texas Body Hangings is at Box 547, Mount Enterprise, TX 75681 (800-642-8075) <www.bodyhangings.com>.
10837. Nis Jessen reports that there now are three web-sites about his handsomely illustrated edition of A STUDY IN SCARLET (July 05 #5); you can find them at <home2.inet.tele.dk/fnjessen/scarlet.htm>, <home2.inet.tele.dk/fnjessen>, and <www.mr-holmes.com>.
10838. S. M. Stirling included a minor allusion to Sherlock Holmes and Arthur Conan Doyle in THE PESHAWAR LANCERS (July 02 #4), and Christy Allen has reported a nice discovery in Stirling's new alternate-history trilogy. The first volume was DIES THE FIRE (2004), and the second is THE PROTECTOR'S WAR (New York: Roc/New American Library, 2005; 496 pp., \$24.95), in which the reader will find Sam Aylward, John Hordle, Nigel Loring, and Alleyne Loring (names familiar to anyone who has read THE WHITE COMPANY). The third volume, presumably due next year, will be A MEETING IN CORVALLIS. You can read sample chapters from the first two volumes at <www.smstirling.com>.
10839. Pattie Tierney has designed a collection of attractive mystery game-piece necklaces with Sherlockian themes; \$20.00 each plus shipping. You can request an illustrated flier (Pattie Tierney, 229 Hereford Avenue, St. Louis, MO 603135 <ptierney@umsl.edu>).
10840. Gayle Lange Puhl returns to the pages of Scuttlebutt after almost 20 years, with her IF WATSON WROTE FOR TV: SHERLOCK HOLMES CALENDAR 2006, a convenient (8.5x11" opened) wall calendar with her own artwork showing how Holmes and Watson might fit into recent and current television series. Available from Gayle (501 South Madison Street #12, Evansville, WI 53536) for \$12.83 postpaid.
10841. John Berendt, The Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Speaker during the birthday festivities in 2004, talked about his next book, and about Sherlock Holmes (you can read some of his stories in the summer 2004 issue of The Baker Street Journal), and that next book, about Venice, is THE CITY OF FALLING ANGELS (New York: Penguin, 2005; 414 pp., \$25.95).
10842. Laura Kuhn reported an excellent article about Queen Mary's Dolls' House in Royal Insight for Sept. 2005, available at <www.royal.gov.uk>, the official web-site of the British Monarchy; the article includes a photograph of the library, which includes books commissioned from more than 170 authors, one of which was Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who is represented by the bound manuscript of "How Watson Learned the Trick".
10843. Christopher Morley is still remembered: Gideon Hill found Morley quoted in the Sept. 16 issue of the America's Health Insurance Plans electronic newsletter: "There is only one success--to be able to spend your life in your own way." It's credited to the Wikipedia <www.wikipedia.org>, which has a concise entry on Morley, with various links, one to The Baker Street Irregulars. The Morley quote is from WHERE THE BLUE BEGINS (1922).

September 2005 #4

10844. Robert Wise died on Sept. 14. He began his long film career in the 1930s, and was film editor for Orson Welles' "Citizen Kane" (1941). Best known as director of "West Side Story" (1961) and "The Sound of Music" (1963) (and he won Oscars for both films), he also directed "The Day the Earth Stood Still" (1951), the only known film featuring a member of The Baker Street Irregulars playing himself (Elmer Davis, as a newscaster reporting on the alien spaceship). The DVD of the film (March 03 #1) includes commentary by Wise and by Nicholas Meyer.
10845. Jay Hyde spotted the report that the Algonquin Hotel has been sold (again); HEI Hospitality bought the 174-room hotel for about \$74 million, and HEI's Merritt Hospitality will manage the hotel; the Algonquin has long been the unofficial headquarters for the birthday festivities in January.
10846. "Pride & Prejudice" had its world premiere at the Toronto Film Festival on Sept. 11 and won rave reviews in Variety, the Guardian, and the Observer. Filmed in Britain last year (September 04 #3), its main location was Groombridge Place (the inspiration for Birlstone Manor in "The Valley of Fear"). The film opened in Britain on Sept. 16, and is scheduled to open in the U.S. on Nov. 18.
10847. Jack French has reported that the One Act Players will present a reading of their dramatization of "A Scandal in Bohemia" in the Florence Gould Theatre at the Palace of the Legion of Honor in San Francisco on Oct. 16 at 2:00 pm (415-519-1728) <www.oneact.org/candy>; "The Cable Car Murder" (script from the 1949 Candy Matson series) and "Vengeance in Vegas" (by Hal Glatzer) are on the bill as well.
10848. BOXING'S BEST SHORT STORIES, edited by Paul D. Staudohar (Chicago: Chicago Review Press, 1999; 330 pp., \$24.00) (or paperback, 2001, \$16.95); contents include "The Croxley Master".
10849. The John. D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation selects 25 people every year to receive \$500,000 "genius grants" payable over five years, and one of this year's winners is Terry Belanger, member of The Baker Street Irregulars (he received his investiture as "Cartwright" in 1968) and a professor at the University of Virginia and founder of the Rare Book School (a nonprofit institute dedicated to the history and safekeeping of rare prints, books, and manuscripts). He founded the School at Columbia University in 1968 and moved it to Virginia in 1992; more than 4,000 students have studied preservation of what he calls "the bedrock for the humanities."
10850. Carolyn and Joel Senter (Classic Specialties) have launched The Sherlockian E-Times with news, offers of new Sherlockiana, and links to their website, which offers much more Sherlockiana; you can request an e-mail subscription at <sherlock@sherlock-holmes.com>.
10851. Napoleon may have owned six identical plaster busts of himself, but they're not on display through Jan. 2 in the exhibition "Napoleon: An Intimate portrait" in the National Geographic Museum's Explorer's Hall in Washington. The exhibition does have more than 250 objects and artifacts that belonged to Napoleon and his imperial court, including his signature hats and other clothing, and portraits of him by leading artists of his time.

September 2005 #5

10852. Prescott's Press, published by The Three Garridebs, continues to offer a nice mix of scholarship and whimsy; issue #36 (June) has Ted Friedman's discussion of the Andaman Islands and the stamp issued by India showing the prison at Fort Blair, and issue #37 (Sept.) has Robert Q. Carver's investigation of Cole Porter and Sherlock Holmes. \$14.00 for four issues (\$18 outside the U.S.), from Warren Randall (15 Fawn Lane West, South Setauket, NY 11720).
10853. This year's Christmas card from The Sherlock Holmes Society of London has a photograph of Holmes (Philip Porter) and Watson (Charler Miller) with two St. Bernards, in the shadow of the Matterhorn, taken during the society's trip to Switzerland this year. \$13.00 postpaid for ten cards (£6.50 to the U.K. and Europe or £7.00 elsewhere); checks (payable to the Society) can be sent to Judi Ellis, 13 Crofton Avenue, Orpington BR6 8DC, England.
10854. The Society has also published SHERLOCK HOLMES IN SWITZERLAND, with 24 articles by 19 authors, with subjects that range from Conan Doyle's visit to the country to Holmes route to Switzerland, and hitherto unpublished photographs from many of the Society's pilgrimages. \$38.00 postpaid to the U.S. (£15.00 to the U.K. or £16.00 elsewhere); payment as above.
10855. Irene's Cabinet is an annual anthology edited by Beth Austin for Watson's Tin Box, and this year's issue (38 pp.) offers Andrew Solberg's report on "Les Relations Holmesiennes Franco-Américaines", Paul Churchill's eulogy for Steve Clarkson, and much more; \$10.00 postpaid from Beth Austin (9455 Chadburn Place, Gaithersburg, MD 20886).
10856. Julian Barnes' ARTHUR & GEORGE (London: Jonathan Cape/Random House, 2005; 360 pp., £17.99) is short-listed for the prestigious Man Booker Prize, and deserves the high ranking (the six finalists each received £2,500, and the winner, to be announced at the Guildhall in London on Oct. 10, will get an additional £50,000); it's a novel, offering a joint biography of Arthur Conan Doyle and George Edalji from their childhoods onward, and it is wellwritten and imaginative, firmly grounded on the facts of the case of George Edalji, but also thoroughly inventive when it comes to thoughts and conversations. And it's a handsome book, with an attractive decorated-cloth cover that one seldom sees on commercial books today. The American edition is due from Alfred A. Knopf in January (\$24.95).
10857. Constance Moore died on Sept. 16. She began her long film career in 1937, and was best known for playing Buster Crabbe's girlfriend Wilma Deering in the "Buck Rogers" serials that began in 1939. She also was Sheila Stuart in "Charlie McCarthy, Detective" (1939); Charlie and Mortimer Snerd are in Sherlockian costume in the film, but Constance Moore isn't.
10858. "Cut out the poetry, Watson," said Holmes severely to Watson. Sherlockians have long ignored that command: Edgar W. Smith and others wrote tales-inverse for the BSJ, Vincent Starrett composed delightful sonnets, and Isaac Asimov was renowned for his limericks. William S. Dorn's THE LIMERICKS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Denver: Pencil Productions, 2005, 53 pp.) offers his own limericks, one each for Holmes and Watson, for the Canonical tales, and for two apocryphal stories. \$11.45 postpaid to the US (\$12.45 to Canada, and \$15.45 elsewhere) from Bill (2045 S. Monroe Street, Denver, CO 80210-3734).

September 2005 #6

10859. Gus Mager's "Hawkshaw the Detective" comic strip was published in American newspapers from 1913 well into the 1940s, and Hawkshaw was an amusing "homage" to Sherlock Holmes. Alan Lance Andersen has reprinted seven of the Sunday strips from 1916 in black-and-white in HAWKSHAW THE DETECTIVE (Morrisville: Lulu, 2005; 46 pp., \$10.49). Andersen has also edited an "author's expanded edition" of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's play "The Speckled Band" that's intended for dinner theaters. The revisions in are in large part based on the story, and give the script more conformity with the short story so many people have read; THE SPECKLED BAND: A SHERLOCK HOLMES DRAMA (Morrisville: Lulu, 2005; 112 pp., \$13.10). Lulu is a web-based print-on-demand publisher at <www.lulu.com>, and Andersen offers discounts to bookstores <2004@interdrama.com>.
10860. Elmore Hammes' THE HOLMES AND WATSON MYSTERIOUS EVENTS AND OBJECTS CONSORTIUM: THE CASE OF THE WITCH'S TALISMAN (Morrisville: Lulu, 2004; 186 pp., \$8.95) is a pleasant young-adults novel about young friends who like to be Holmes and Watson. "Oh, damn, is the game afoot *again*?" Watson exclaims in "The Case of the Mysterious Missive", in a new version of the tent joke as a short piece collected in MESSAGE IN A FORTUNE COOKIE: SHORT STORIES & POEMS, by Steve Pulley (Morrisville: Lulu, 2004; 181 pp., \$9.95, or \$1.79 to download).

10861. PROFESSOR CHALLENGER: 5 FANTASTIC TALES, is a collection with a short introduction by Ron Hanna (Morrisville: Lulu, 2004; 428 pp., \$19.99, or \$6.80 to download). THE EXTRAORDINARY AFFAIR OF THE SECOND GREAT HIATUS, by P. Whitney Hughes (Morrisville: Lulu, 2005; 106 pp., \$17.79), is a sciencefiction pastiche involving Holmes, Watson, Challenger, and Malone, with a few echoes from "Star Trek".
10862. Marcel d'Agneau's THE CURSE OF THE NIBELUNG was published in Britain almost 25 years ago (October 81 #2), and now there's an American edition (Morrisville: Lulu, 2005; 290 pp., \$12.95), written by Sam North; it's a pastiche/ parody (or perhaps a parody/pastiche) set in England and on the Continent in 1939, with Holmes and Watson sent on a mission by Winston Churchill, and you can read about d'Agneau and North at <www.hackwriters.com/d-agneau.htm>.
10863. And Will Thomas notes that Lulu has published THE BARTITSU COMPENDIUM, VOL. 1: HISTORY AND THE CANONICAL SYLLABUS, edited by Tony Wolf (2005, 270 pp., \$25.00); bartitsu was invented by E. W. Barton-Wright, and is believed by many Sherlockian scholars to be the baritsu that Sherlock Holmes mentions in "The Empty House" (Will reports that the new book has several mentions of Holmes).
10864. Forecast for October: THE SHERLOCK HOLMES MYSTERIES WITH DVD: a Chamberlain Bros. edition in the Signet Classics series (568 pp., \$14.95); the essential works" (22 stories), two Rathbone/Bruce movies on a DVD, an introduction by Anne Perry, and an analysis by Susannah Gora of the author, book, and film. THE FORGOTTEN ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by H. Paul Jeffers (New York: Carroll & Graf, 2005; 272 pp., \$14.95); short stories based on the radio plays written by Anthony Boucher and Denis Green in the 1940s.

October 2005 #1

10865. David Grann has written a long article in The New Yorker (Sept. 19) about "The Lost City of Z" and his attempt to find traces of British explorer P. H. Fawcett, who spent years trying to uncover a lost civilization hidden in the Matto Grosso in Brazil. On his last expedition, in 1925, Fawcett vanished, never to be heard from again, and there now is a long list of explorers who have tried but failed to find the lost city that Fawcett believed was there. Grann mentions Conan Doyle, who met Fawcett in 1910, and you can read more about them in THE ANNOTATED LOST WORLD, by Roy Pilot and Alvin Rodin (1996): they quote from Fawcett's memoirs EXPLORATION FAWCETT (eventually published in 1953). Fawcett was in London to lecture about his exploration of the Ricardo Franco Hills, and wrote: "They stood like a lost world, forested to their tops . . . So thought Conan Doyle when later in London I spoke of these hills and showed photographs of them! He mentioned an idea for a novel on Central South America and asked for information , which I told him I should be glad to supply. The fruit of it was his 'Lost World'.
10866. Sorry about that: <uk.myswitzerland.com/en/news.cfm?mo=v&id=42610> is the correct URL for photographs from the Swiss tour by the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, reported by John Bergquist (September 05 #1).
10867. Roger Brierley died on Sept. 23. He was a passionate supporter of Manchester United, and a chartered accountant before becoming an actor, in British television and films in the 1960s; he was credited as Roger Brierly when he played Mr. Holmes in "Young Sherlock Holmes" (1985).
10868. The New Yorker has published a long list of Sherlockiana and Doyleana: beginning with discussion of Conan Doyle in "The Talk of the Town" (Feb. 21, 1925), and including material by James Thurber, Robert Benchley, Alexander Woollcott, Frederick Dorr Steele, Kenneth Fearing, Ogden Nash, S. J. Perelman , Mollie Panter-Downes, Hendrik Hertzberg, and many others. Thanks to modern technology, you can buy "The Complete New Yorker" (all 4,109 issues through Feb. 14, 2005) on eight DVDs for \$100, in book stores or at their web-site <www.thenewyorkerstore.com>; it will be a god-send to libraries, and to people who would like to have 80 years of excellent writing.
10869. The official web-site for London is at <www.visitlondon.com>, and you can search for "Sherlock Holmes" or "Conan Doyle" or anything else of interest if you're visiting London.
10870. Les Klinger will be on tour in November and December promoting THE NEW ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE NOVELS, with visits planned to almost a dozen cities in the U.S. and Canada; <www.annotatedsherlockholmes.com> offers a list of the dates and venues, and much more about the book and its author. And of course his appearances on the tour will offer an opportunity to get inscriptions, and to hear his stories about the Canon and his annotations.
10871. There's a paperback edition of THE NEW ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES, issued by the Quality Paperback Book Club and available to its members; same size as the hard-cover edition but in decorated paper covers, and with the text in one color only; advance reading copies are similar, but their front covers state "not for sale" and the spines do not have the silhouettes (there are other differences, but they're not needed to identify the editions).

October 2005 #2

10872. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists met for drinks and dinner at the Alta Club in Salt Lake City on Oct. 19, at the end of the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America, and were welcomed by Mike Homer, Heidi Mason, and other locals. We will meet next in Houston on Apr. 12, and in Philadelphia on Oct. 25. Sarah Andrews' latest book about forensic geologist Em Hansen is DEAD DRY (New York: St. Martin's Minotaur, 2005; 320 pp., \$24.95), and Simon Winchester's new A CRACK IN THE EDGE OF THE WORLD: AMERICA AND THE GREAT CALIFORNIA EARTHQUAKE OF 1906 (New York: HarperCollins, 2005; 480 pp., \$27.95) may be of interest to those who enjoyed Laurie R. King's LOCKED ROOMS (May 05 #6).
10873. Photographs of ghosts, spirit seances, levitation, auras, and ectoplasm can be seen in the exhibition "The Perfect Medium: Photography and the Occult" at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York <www.metmuseum.org> through Dec. 31; the exhibition includes photographs of the Cottingley Fairies that were so persuasive to Conan Doyle.
10874. Spotted by Andrew Blau: THE TUTOR, by Peter Abrahams (New York: Ballantine Books, 2002); suspense, featuring girl-in-peril precocious 11-year-old Ruby Gardner, who is passionate about Sherlock Holmes (published as a paperback in 2003).
10875. Forecast for February: HOLMES ON THE RANGE, by Steve Hockensmith, author of the pastiche "Gustav Amlingmeyer, Holmes on the Range" (set in Montana in 1893), from St. Martin's Minotaur (320 pp., \$22.95). EMPRESS OF INDIA: A PROFESSOR MORIARTY NOVEL, by Michael Kurland, also from St. Martin's Minotaur (320 pp., \$24.95).
10876. John McCabe ("Those Chaldean Roots . . . of the Great Celtic Speech") died on Sept. 27, 2005. He was an actor, a Shakespeare scholar, and a professor who chaired the Department of Drama and Theatre Arts at Lake Superior State University in Sault St. Marie, and his greatest enthusiasm was for Laurel and Hardy: he met both of them in England in 1953, wrote an authorized biography of the comedians in 1961, and founded The Sons of the Desert in 1965 (n which he was the "exhausted ruler"). He was co-founder (with Bill Rabe) of the Unicorn Hunters, and received his investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1966.
10877. "Bank Robber's No Sherlock" was the headline, and "But Police Say Disguise Resembles the Fictional Detective Holmes" was the subhead on an item in the Charlotte Observer (Oct. 20), spotted by Jay Hyde. Two banks in Charlotte were robbed by a man wearing a tweed jacket, a wig, and a glued-on mustache and beard, and police detective Jim Snider told the paper: "he looks like Sherlock Holmes," and added that "if he keeps on going, we'll catch up with him."

10878. Jay also notes an item in the San Francisco Examiner (Oct. 18) about Rachel Weisz, the female lead in the film "The Constant Gardener", who said that when she was a girl, she dreamed of becoming a real-life Sherlock Holmes. "At school," she explained, "I wanted to be a detective or a spy." But she didn't mention any plans for the film "Death Defying Acts" (August 05 #1), in which she has been reported cast as Harry Houdini's mistress (the film also has Sir Arthur Conan Doyle as a character).

October 2005 #3

10879. An interesting example of how useful the Internet can be is the new "Google Print" web-site at <www.print.google.com>. Google has partnered with several major libraries to scan entire texts of books, and the data base can be searched for names (Conan Doyle), phrases (Elementary, my dear Watson), or words (Scuttlebutt); you can view the entire text of books in the public domain, and selected pages from books protected by copyright, and you can use links to purchase books or find libraries that hold them. Lawsuits have been filed by some publishers claiming copyright infringement, but Google hopes that most publishers will welcome an opportunity for more sales.
10880. Robert Bisio ("Shinwell Johnson") died on Sept. 5, 2005. He was a teacher, an enthusiastic singer in barbershop quartets, one of the early members of The Knights of the Gnomon in Redwood City, and a member of The Scowlers and the Molly Maguires. He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1966.
10881. Forecast for November : SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE BIOGRAPHY, by Nick Rennison (London: Atlantic Books, 2005; 240 pp., £14.99); "a meticulous recreation of the secret life and curious times of the great detective."
10882. The next annual STUD-Watsonian Weekend will be held in and near Chicago on Mar. 31-Apr. 2; there will be a dinner (with Les Klinger as featured speaker), a running of The Silver Blaze at Hawthorne Race Course, and a Fortescue Honours brunch. Contact Susan Diamond, 16W603 3rd Avenue, Bensenville, IL 60106 <szdiamond@comcast.net>, for more information.
10883. "I found myself in Florence," Sherlock Holmes told Dr. Watson (in "The Empty"), and the city is well worth a visit by Sherlockians. There's a roomful of paintings by Salvator Rosa (mentioned in "The Sign of the Four") in the Pitti Palace, and an excellent bronze bust of Holmes in the city hall in Sesto Fiorentino (March 02 #6), where (according to careful research by Enrico Solito) Holmes actually arrived. Doyleans also can see something of interest in Florence:
10884. "I have seen old John Hawkwood, the same who has led half the company into Italy, stand laughing in his beard as he heard it," cried an English archer when a gleeman sang "The Song of the Bow" in THE WHITE COMPANY. There was a real Sir John Hawkwood (1320-1394), who fought in the Hundred Years War and in 1360 led a band of mercenaries to Italy, where they fought for various Italian states and factions. He died in Florence, and Paolo Uccello's memorial fresco to Sir John can be seen in the Duomo. His band of mercenaries was called the White Company, and he is credited by many as an inspiration for Conan Doyle's Sir Nigel Loring.
10885. And there's a relatively new book about Hawkwood, by Frances Stonor Saunders: HAWKWOOD: DIABOLICAL ENGLISHMAN (London: Faber and Faber, 2004; 256 pp., £17.00) (paperback, 2005; 384 pp., £8.99). There also is an American edition: THE DEVIL'S BROKER: SEEKING GOLD, GOD AND GLORY IN FOURTEENTH CENTURY ITALY (New York: HarperCollins/Fourth Estate, 2005; 352 pp., \$25.95). And if that's not enough, next year there will be JOHN HAWKWOOD: AN ENGLISH MERCENARY IN FOURTEENTH-CENTURY ITALY, by William Caferro (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2006; 512 pp., \$35.00).
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October 2005 #4

10886. Further to the item (April 05 #6) on "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" (adapted by Steven Dietz from Gillette's play) the schedule has been expanded: at the Tucson Temple of Music and Art in Tucson (Mar. 4-25), at the Phoenix Herberger Center in Phoenix (Mar. 30-Apr. 5); at the Quadracci Powerhouse Theatre in Milwaukee (Apr. 14-May 14); and at the Pasadena Play-house in Pasadena (May 5-June 11).
10887. Congratulations to a new member of The Baker Street Irregulars: Donald J. Terras ("The Politician, the Lighthouse, and the Trained Cormorant"), who received his Investiture from Mike Whelan this month in Chicago, on the evening Don also was elevated to the post of Master of the Hounds, following in the footsteps of Vincent Starrett and Bob Mangler.
10888. Ronald Pearsall died on Sept. 27. He was a prolific writer, beginning at the age of 14 with a thriller, and in 1969 he achieved considerable renown with THE WORM IN THE BUD: THE WORLD OF VICTORIAN SEXUALITY. He went on to write other books about the Victorian world, including CONAN DOYLE: A BIOGRAPHICAL SOLUTION (1977) and SHERLOCK HOLMES INVESTIGATES THE MURDER IN EUSTON SQ. (1989), the latter about an actual crime, ending with a pastiche chapter in which Holmes wraps up the investigation.
10889. Mark Alberstat's 2006 Sherlock Holmes Calendar is illustrated with artwork from The Strand Magazine, and displays important Sherlockian birthdays and William S. Baring-Gould's dates for the cases. The cost is US\$12.00 postpaid, and his address is 5 Lorraine Street, Dartmouth, NS B3A 2B9, Canada.
10890. Reported by Doug Elliott: "King of the Lost World" (now in post-production) is scheduled for home-video release on Dec. 13. Starring Bruce Boxleitner (Challenger), Rhett Giles (Roxton), Jeff Denton (Malone), and Sarah Lieving (Summerlee), the 90-minute film is about four plane-crash survivors who "encounter danger in a world that time forgot" and is billed as "the epic story that inspired 'King Kong' and 'Jurassic Park'." There's cover art at the web-site <www.theasylum.cc> showing a giant ape, which was added "just for fun," according to the director, and to acknowledge Peter Jackson's new film of "King Kong".
10891. Further to the item about the exhibition at the National Geographic Museum (September 05 #4), Mary Burke reports that there are seven busts of Napoleon (but not identical) and five items by Carle Vernet (great grand-uncle of Sherlock Holmes).
10892. Philip Gold (760 East Carlisle Road, Westlake Village, CA 91361 (818-889-2640) <philipgold_221books@yahoo.com> offers four Christmas cards with artwork by Lynne Yencho showing scenes from "The Speckled Band" and "The Blue Carbuncle" for \$2.50 postpaid; a flier showing the artwork is available on request from Philip.
10893. Sherlock Holmes' 152nd birthday will be celebrated on Friday, Jan. 13, with the traditional festivities in New York, but the first formal event will be The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes' ASH Wednesday dinner starting at 6:00 pm at O'Casey's (22 East 41st Street); attendees pay their own checks, but it will be helpful to let Ev Herzog (301 Warren Avenue #203, Baltimore, MD 21230) <herzogbaesch@aol.com> know if you're coming to the event.
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October 2005 #5

10894. On Thursday, The Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Speaker Lecture begins at 6:15 pm on the 6th floor of the Williams Club (24 East 39th Street, between Madison and Park Avenues), and the speaker is Leroy Lad Panek, who won an Edgar in 1988 for INTRODUCTION TO THE DETECTIVE STORY (which has a chapter on Conan Doyle). He'll talk on "Sherlock Holmes and the Emergence of the American Detective Story" (\$11.00); seating will be limited, and you are advised to reserve early (details below).
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10895. On Friday, the William Gillette Memorial Luncheon starts at noon, at Moran's Chelsea Seafood Restaurant at 146 Tenth Avenue at 19th Street; \$43.00 (please request an announcement from Susan Rice, 125 Washington Place #2-E, New York, NY 10014).
10896. Otto Penzler has moved the Mysterious Bookshop to Tribeca (that's the Triangle Below Canal); the address is 58 Warren Street (between West Broadway and Church Street), and that's where he'll hold his traditional open house on Friday, from 11:00 to 5:00. Otto explains that the new shop has twice the space, and that it took only nine moving vans to move 28 years of books and files and stuff from the old shop. There's a parking lot at the corner of Warren and West Broadway, for those brave enough to drive in New York, and the subway station nearest the Algonquin is Times Square (42nd Street between Seventh Avenue and Broadway); you take the 1, 2, or 3 train to the Chambers Street station (one block from the shop). If (or possibly when) you get lost, or are using a different train, you can call the bookshop at 212-587-1011.
10897. The Baker Street Irregulars will gather at 6:00 pm at the Union League Club at 38 East 37th Street. The Baskerville Bash (open to all Sherlockians and their friends) offers dinner and entertainment at 6:30 pm at the Manhattan Club at 201 West 52nd Street (between Broadway and Seventh Avenue); \$70.00 (checks payable to Maribeau Briggs) should be sent to Maribeau (183 Stokes Road, Medford Lakes, NJ 08055); please include your e-mail address and primary Sherlockian society affiliation). There will be more information at their web-site <www.baskervillebash.com>. Early reservations are advised for the William Gillette luncheon and the Baskerville Bash.
10898. Those who wish to have seasonal souvenirs in the dinner packets can send 175 copies (for the BSI) to James B. Saunders (3011 47th Street, Astoria, NY 11103), 125 copies (for the Bash) to Francine Kitts (35 Van Cortlandt Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10301), and 20 copies (for The Women) to Mary Ann Bradley, 7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278; your material should arrive by Dec. 15.
10899. On Saturday a wide variety of Sherlockiana will be offered in the dealers' room on the second floor of the Hotel Algonquin (59 West 44th Street) from 9:30 am until 12:30 pm; Ralph Hall (2906 Wallingford Court, Louisville, KY 40218) (502-491-3148) <bugmanhall@aol.com> will be glad to supply information about dealers' tables. And the Clients of Adrian Mulliner (devotees of the works of both John H. Watson and P. G. Wodehouse) will hold a Junior Bloodstain (a rather less than totally reverent event) on the second floor of the Algonquin at 12:30 pm; if you are planning to attend these festivities, please tell Anne Cotton (12 Hollywood Street, South Hadley, MA 01075) <ladybassett@comcast.net>.

October 2005 #6

10900. Also on Saturday, the BSI annual reception, which is open to all Sherlockians and friends, will be held from 2:00 to 5:00, at 24 Fifth Avenue (between 9th and 10th Streets) [note the different location and time]; there will be passed hors d'oeuvres and an open bar, and traditional and untraditional entertainment. The cost is \$68.00 (details below), or \$78.00 after Dec. 1 or at the door.
10901. The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes will hold an informal brunch on Sunday, from 11:30 am to 2:30 pm at the Oldcastle Pub at 160 West 54th Street (between 7th and 6th Avenues) (and yes, 6th Avenue is the Avenue of the Americas). It's open to all, but space is limited and reservations will be important; the contact is Judith Freeman (280 Ninth Avenue #1-C, New York, NY 10001 <judith-freeman@worldnet.att.net>).
10902. The Baker Street Irregulars are a tax-exempt organization, and Mike Whelan has arranged with the Hotel Algonquin for single or double rooms at \$165.00 a night (Tuesday through Saturday); this is the total cost, since there is no tax due on reservations arranged by the BSI. Breakfast is not included in the price this year. Other charges (telephone calls, meals, room service, drinks, etc.) are not covered. The offer's available to all Sherlockians, and room reservations must be made directly to the Algonquin (mention The Baker Street Irregulars) at 212-840-6800 on or before Dec. 5.
10903. And here are the details: if you've not already received Mike Whelan's announcement with the prices and a reservation form for the Thursday lecture and the Saturday reception, you can request a copy from Michael F. Whelan, 7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278.
10904. Mary Ellen Rich has kindly provided a list of hotels that offer reasonable (as defined by New York landlords) rates, along with a warning about nonoptional extras that include 14% in state and city taxes. Ask for the lowest available rate, don't be shy about asking for discounts (AAA, senior, corporate, weekend specials); if you plan to arrive on Thursday you should confirm that weekend rates apply, and request written confirmation.
10905. Madison Hotel (62 Madison Ave. at 27th St.) from \$90 (800-923-4766); Chelsea Savoy (204 West 23rd St.) from \$99 (866-929-9353); Radio City Apartments (142 West 49th Street) from \$109 (877-921-9321); Comfort Inn Central Park (31 West 71st St.) from \$110 (800-424-6423). Don't neglect web-sites such as <www.nycvisit.com>, <www.nychotels.com>, and <www.travelocity.com>.
10906. The Dr. John H. Watson Fund offers financial assistance to all Sherlockians (membership in the BSI is not required) who might otherwise not be able to participate in the weekend's festivities. A carefully pseudonymous John H. Watson presides over the fund and welcomes contributions, which can be made by check payable to John H. Watson and sent (without return address on the envelope) to Dr. Watson, care of The Baker Street Irregulars, at 7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278; your letters are forwarded unopened, and Dr. Watson will acknowledge your generosity. Requests for assistance should also be mailed (quickly) to Dr. Watson at the same address.

November 2005 #1

10907. An important warning: Dec. 5 is the deadline for reservations at the Algonquin Hotel for the birthday festivities; the Baker Street Irregulars rate is \$165.00 (standard room) and \$265.00 (suite), and their telephone number is (212-840-6800).
10908. There's another event scheduled during the birthday festivities, on Saturday, Jan. 14, when The Curious Collectors of Baker Street/Baker Street West will hold a "Lost in New York with a Bunch of Sherlockians" dinner (open to everyone) at 6:00 pm at Kennedy's Restaurant (327 West 57th Street); \$35.00 per person (including tax and tip, and with a cash bar). You can send your checks to Jerry Kegley (9338 Sophia Avenue, North Hills, CA 91343); please include an e-mail address and your primary Sherlockian society affiliation. More information is available at 818-894-1501 <colwinky@aol.com>.
10909. And a revision to the item (October 05 #4) about The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes' ASH Wednesday dinner at 6:00 pm at O'Casey's (22 East 41st Street): everyone is welcome, attendees will pay their own checks, and it is necessary to tell Susan Rice (125 Washington Place #2-E, New York, NY 10014 (212-989-1768) <srice@virtuoso.com> if you're coming to the event; the change is due to Ev Herzog and her husband John being away at a wedding that day.
10910. Cyril A. Keller ("The Colossal Schemes of Baron Maupertuis") died (on Sept. 9, 2005. He was a teacher, a banker, an excellent magician, and an early member (and Gasogene) of The Six Napoleons of Baltimore. He wrote his thesis at Loyola on "Sherlock Holmes and the Art of Detection", and it was Cy who suggested to Edgar W. Smith that a British shilling should be adopted as "the insignia and talisman" of Irregulars; he received his own Irregular Shilling in 1951.
10911. Carolyn and Joel Senter (Classic Specialties) continue to publisher their Sherlockian E-Times with news, and offers of new Sherlockiana, and links to their web-site, which has much more Sherlockiana; you can request an e-mail subscription at <sherlock@sherlock-holmes.com>.

10912. Further to the report (May 05 #2) about the plan to preserve Liberton Bank House (where Arthur Conan Doyle lived as a child), a story in the Edinburgh Evening News (Oct. 24) reports that developers are on the brink of securing all the cash they need to start work on transforming the house into classrooms and a school, with a "literary garden" in keeping with the property's literary connections.
10913. Julian Barnes' ARTHUR & GEORGE (September 05 #5) was a hot favorite, but the Man Booker Prize (worth £50,000) was won by John Banville's THE SEA, which has soared, as expected, in the sales ranking at www.amazon.co.uk.
10914. Reported: "Count Duckula: The Complete First Season" on DVD (three discs, from Capital Entertainment, \$39.98); a British 30-minute animated series, with David Jason as the voice of Count Duckula, that aired in Britain on Thames Television in 1987, and the U.S. on Nickelodeon in 1988. The series included "All in a Fog" (in which Count Duckula, in an attempt to be a detective, travels to London and encounters Hawkeye Soames and Dr. Potson).

November 2005 #2

10915. The September issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota has a report by Tim Johnson on the Collection's acquisition of 12 letters written by Conan Doyle to Grant Richards (commenting on Theodore Dreiser) and others, Dick Sveum's "100 Years Ago" discussion of Arthur Upston, Julie McKuras' "50 Years Ago" report on Gladys Mitchell's WATSON'S CHOICE, and more; copies of the newsletter can be requested from Richard J. Sveum, (111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <sveum001@tc.umn.edu>.
10916. Hamilton Camp died on Oct. 2. He was a musician and an actor, and was the voice of Prof. Moriarty in the dubbed-into-English version of the 1984 Japanese animated series "Meitantei Holmes" [aka "Sherlock Hound"].
10917. The New Playhouse will perform a reading of Lee Shackleford's play "Holmes & Watson" (1989) at The Temple: A Paul Mitchell Partner School (22-24 West Church Street) in Frederick, Md., at 3:00 pm on Dec. 4; there's no charge for admission, their telephone number is 301-668-8019, and their web-site is at <www.newplayhouse.org>.
10918. Bronner's Christmas Wonderland (25 Christmas Lane, Box 176, Frankenmuth, MI 48734) (800-361-6736) offered a 6" Sherlock Holmes ornament some years ago, and now Ev Herzog has spotted a new "International Snowmen" series of 4" ornaments with one of them, representing England, in Sherlockian costume (item #1105291 (\$14.99). Their website is at <www.bronners.com>.
10919. Reported: The BEST AMERICAN CRIME WRITING series, edited by Otto Penzler and Thomas H. Cook, was begun in 2002; the 2005 volume (New York: HarperCollins/Ecco, 2005; 384 pp., \$14.95), guest-edited by James Ellroy, includes David Grann's "A Reporter at Large: Mysterious Circumstances" (about the death of Richard Lancelyn Green reprinted from The New Yorker.
10920. Januarye Austen's Mr. Darcy has again been voted the greatest hero in literature, as he was two years ago (June 03 #3). The Scotsman has reported (Oct. 13) that 4,000 readers voted in a new poll at <www.books.co.uk>, and Harry Potter ranked second; Frodo was in 10th place, and Sherlock Holmes in 16th place. In a different poll, Helen Fielding's Bridget Jones was voted the greatest literary heroine.
10921. Reported: THE SHORT LIFE AND LONG TIMES OF MRS. BEETON, by Kathryn Hughes (London: Fourth Estate, 2005; 525 pp., £20.00); Isabella Beeton created the famous "Book of Household Management" (which gave Maude Crosse considerable concern in A DUET: WITH AN OCCASIONAL CHORUS), and according to a review in The Times Literary Supplement (Nov. 4), anyone doubting the continuing resonance of her name should reflect on the fact that in 1995, the food company Ginster's paid Beeton's modern publishers, Ward, Lock, £1 million to use the "Mrs. Beeton" name in perpetuity on its pasties and other meat products. She died in 1865, well before her husband began publishing Beeton's Christmas Annual, in which "A Study in Scarlet" appeared in 1887.

November 2005 #3

10922. The first program (combining of "A Study in Scarlet" with "The Speckled Band") from the Russian "Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson" series (1979-1985) aired recently on a cable channel in the Washington area with subtitled in English; the series stars Vasily Livanov and Vitaly Solomin, and it's worth viewing (especially with subtitles). Charles Prepolec reports that all five programs are available subtitled in English in a set of DVDs (recorded in PAL format) for \$69.99, from ALLDVD.CA (Box 57521, 1498 Royal York Road, Etobicoke, ON M9P 3B0, Canada (416-614-7857); their web-site is at <www.aldvd.ca/productDisplay.do?itemId=4282>.
10923. Reported by Lenny Picker: HORROR: ANOTHER 100 BEST BOOKS, edited by Stephen Jones and Kim Newman (New York: Carroll & Graf, 272 pp., \$16.95); includes an essay by Tony Richards on "The Hound of the Baskervilles".
10924. Ursula Howells died on Oct. 15. She began her acting career in repertory theater in 1940, and made her first film in 1946, and she also appeared in many roles on radio and television. She played Joan in "The Case of the Cunningham Heritage" in the Sheldon Reynolds "Sherlock Holmes" series in (1954).
10925. Warren Randall reports that he will be offering a new society pin during the birthday festivities in January, for The Baker Street Arabs, organized by Paul C. Smedegaard while stationed in Iraq. The pin was designed by Paul Churchill, and it costs \$9.00 postpaid (\$11.00 outside North America) from Warren (15 Fawn Lane West, South Setauket, NY 11720).
10926. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London will dine at the House of Commons on Jan. 7 to celebrate Sherlock Holmes' birthday, and there will be a "morning after" gathering at Imperial College on Jan. 8. For those who wish to plan farther ahead, their London Weekend Festival ("Another Capital Idea, Watson") will be held on Apr. 6-9; arrangements are not yet final, and details will be available before too long. R. J. Ellis (13 Crofton Avenue, Orpington, Kent BR6 8DU, England) is their membership secretary; their web-site is as <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk>.
10927. Douglas G. Green offers a new book that will interest Sherlockians: THE ADVENTURE OF THE MURDERED MOTHS AND OTHER RADIO MYSTERIES, by Ellery Queen; it's a collection of 14 scripts from the old "Ellery Queen" radio series, and one of them is "Mr. Short and Mr. Long" (it was broadcast in 1943 and is described as "the case that Sherlock Holmes failed to solve"). It was revised by Frederic Dannay and published in THE MISADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1944) as "The Disappearance of Mr. James Phillimore". Available from Crippen & Landru (Box 9315, Norfolk, VA 23505) <www.crippenlandru.com> for \$45.00 (in cloth, with an additional mini-play in a separate chapbook) or \$20.00 (softcover); shipping extra.
10928. Spotted by Andy Fusco: all 39 episodes of the 1954 Ronald Howard "Sherlock Holmes" series on 5 DVDs (\$19.99), from DVD MegaPacks.com (2445 Nevada Avenue North, Golden Valley, MN 55427 (888-577-0666) <www.dvdmegapacks.com>. Scott Bond reports that the set is marketed by Mill Creek Entertainment and includes the older introduction by Christopher Lee filmed in the sittingroom at the Sherlock Holmes Pub.

November 2005 #4

10929. Pascal Calabrese died on Oct. 13. He made news in the 1960s, when after being convicted of armed robbery in Buffalo, he testified against major Mafia figures and became the first Mafia informant to be given a new identity by the federal government. He lived for a time in Spokane, Wash.,

- where he owned and ran the Sherlock Holmes Case & Precinct House, which closed in 1981 after the revelation that the chief of the intelligence unit of the Spokane Police Department had invested \$50,000 as a secret partner (according to his obituary in the Buffalo News, Oct. 21).
10930. The latest news from New Orleans is that the local Sherlockians (Le Cercle de Sherlock Holmes) met on Nov. 8 at the Polo Bar in the Windsor Court Hotel, only a couple of blocks from the French Quarter. Jens Byskov Jensen notes that "its ownership by the Orient-Express company suits our love for classic mystery perfectly."
10931. The Library of Congress continues to record interesting talking books for its National Library Service, the latest being Jack French's PRIVATE EYELASHES: RADIO'S LADY DETECTIVES (January 04 #3).
10932. Reported: THE SILLY SIDE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Philip Ardagh (London: Faber and Faber, 2005; 64 pp., £7.99), subtitled "A Brand New Adventure Using a Bunch of Old Pictures"; the old pictures are Sidney Paget's illustrations from the Strand Magazine, and the publisher's warning is: "Be prepared for some very silly sleuthing indeed".
10933. Robert Duvall, who starred as Dr. Watson in "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970), was one of those selected for this year's award of the National Medal of Arts. President Bush presented the awards at a ceremony in the Oval Office on Nov. 10, followed by a formal dinner that evening in the White House's State Dining Room.
10934. "Figures resting in an extensive landscape" is the title of an oil painting (32x53") by Sidney Paget that was auctioned at Christie's in London on Nov. 9; it sold for £3,000 including the buyer's premium. The original artwork for Paget's illustration of Holmes and Moriarty grappling at the Reichenbach was sold at Sotheby's on Nov. 16, 2004, for \$220,000 (including the buyer's premium).
10935. John Fowles died on Nov. 5. He was a highly-regarded novelist, best known for his novels THE COLLECTOR (1963), THE MAGUS (1966), and THE FRENCH LIEUTENANT'S WOMAN (1969); he also wrote a perceptive and appreciative foreword and afterword for "The Hound of the Baskervilles" in the 1974 Jonathan Cape edition.
10936. The Hollister Free Lance reported (Sept. 24) that Hollister (Calif.) is not far from the John Steinbeck House in Salinas and Eugene O'Neill's Tao House in Danville. O'Neill owned 8,000 books, and one day his wife Carlotta complained to O'Neill that she felt as if they lived in a library; most of the books soon went into storage, but a representative few are exhibited in the house: "One shelf near his bed exhibits complete sets of detective stories, including Sherlock Holmes and Dashiell Hammett's novels."

November 2005 #5

10937. The autumn dinner of The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes (for members and female guests) was held on Nov. 4 at La Prima Donna in New York, where Ev Herzog announced six new members: Glorja Wachs ("A Bijou Villa"), Susan Cohen ("The Women of Many Nations and Three Separate Continents"), Anita Janda ("Modesty Among the Virtues"), Margaret J. Fleesak ("Lomax the Sublibrarian"), Sabina H. Hollis ("The Science of Deduction and Analysis"), and Rebecca Robare ("Sophy Kratides").
10938. Alfred Shaughnessy died on Nov. 2. He began his film career in Britain as a director in 1952, and also worked as a screenwriter, producer, and script editor; he adapted "The Crooked Man" for the Granada series in 1984.
10939. William R. Hanson, MD, has created another Sherlockian first day cover, for the 3c silver coffee pot coil stamps issued by the U.S. Postal Service in September; the cachet shows Holmes using a well-polished coffee pot to observe Watson in "The Hound of the Baskervilles". The cover (signed on the front or back) costs \$10.00 postpaid (in the U.S.); checks (payable to Mary T. Hanson) can be sent to William R. Hanson at 78 West Notre Dame Street, Glens Falls, NY 12801.
10940. For completist comic-strip fans: the "Paige of the Baskervilles" strip from Bill Amend's "Foxytrot" that ran in various newspapers on Nov. 13, 1993, was reprinted in his TAKE US TO YOUR MALL (Andrews and McMell, 1995).
10941. The American edition of George MacDonald Fraser's FLASHMAN ON THE MARCH has been published (New York: Knopf, 2005; 335 pp., \$24.00); as noted earlier (April 05 #3), the novel is about Flashman's exploits during the Abyssinian War of 1868, so Canonical allusions are unlikely. FLASHMAN AND THE TIGER (October 99 #4) involved Colonel Sebastian Moran, with whom Flashman had three encounters (including one in an empty house in Baker Street in 1894).

November 2005 #6

10942. "Kate Martinelli has seen her share of weird things as a San Francisco cop, but never anything quite like this: an ornate Victorian sitting room straight out of Sherlock Holmes story--complete with violin, tobacco-filled Persian slipper, and gun shots in the wallpaper that spell out the name of the late queen. Philip Gilbert was a true Holmes fanatic, from his antiquated decor to his vintage wardrobe. And no mere fan of fiction's greatest detective, but a leading expert with a collection of priceless memorabilia--a collection some would die for. And perhaps someone did: in his collection is a century-old manuscript purportedly written by Holmes himself--that eerily echoes details of Gilbert's own murder."
10943. That's the publisher's blurb for Laurie R. King's THE ART OF DETECTION, due from Bantam in June, reported in the November issue of Laurie's newsletter. Her blog at <www.laurierking.blogspot.com> includes a link to the newsletter, and a report on her recent joint appearance with Michael Chabon. For those unfamiliar with Laurie's work other than her Mary Russell series, the new book is in her series about Kate Martinelli, a modern-day San Francisco homicide inspector; the first novel in the Martinelli series, A GRAVE TALENT (1994), won Laurie an Edgar for best first novel.
10944. It is interesting to compare Nick Rennison's SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE UNAUTHORIZED BIOGRAPHY (London: Atlantic Books, 2005; 280 pp., £14.99) with William S. Baring-Gould's long-out-of-print biography SHERLOCK HOLMES (1962); they share very little, except the same cover photograph of William Gillette and the same approach to their subject. Rennison does not attempt to create a detailed chronology for all of Holmes' cases, and he dismisses some of the more fantastic Sherlockian scholarship as nonsensical; he also places Conan Doyle firmly in Holmes' world, which may be useful at a time when the general reader might be expected to know more about Conan Doyle than was true more than 40 years ago. Baring-Gould's biography was credible (many of us have encountered people who read it and confessed that they had not known that Sherlock Holmes was a real person), and it is quite likely that Rennison will have the same success. The "unauthorized" in the title is a fine touch, not because there's anything scandalous in the book but rather because it will tend to enforce its credibility with readers who may expect an authorized biography to be boring. Sherlock Holmes, of course, is never boring.
10945. George Ault reports (and doesn't recommend) a shop called Mystery Pizza in Hobart, Ind., with menu items named in honor of various characters in mysteries. The Sherlock Holmes pizza has sausage, pepperoni, ham, mushrooms, green peppers, onion, and black olives; the Dr. Watson has classic Italian beef on a toasted homemade bun served with its own juice and pepperoncini on the side.
10946. Further to the item (October 05 #2) on the exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York on "The Perfect Medium: Photography and the Occult" (through Dec. 31), Susan Dahlinger reports that in addition to photographs of the Cottingley Fairies, there also is a photograph of Denis

Conan Doyle taken about two weeks after his father's death by William Hope; the spirit of Sir Arthur appears above Denis' head and over his left shoulder. And in another photograph showing a stream of ectoplasm issuing from the nose of a medium, a benevolently smiling Conan Doyle appears in the ectoplasm.

November 2005 #7

10947. The fall issue of *The Magic Door* (the newsletter published by The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) offers Dayna McCausland's article about Lady Jean Conan Doyle's journal from her trip to North America in 1914, a report on Chris Redmond's Fifth Annual Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture, and greetings from the new curator Peggy Purdue. Copies of the newsletter are available from Doug Wrigglesworth (16 Sunset Street, Holland Landing, ON L9N 1H4, Canada) <doug.wrig@sympatico.ca>.
10948. The new mail-order catalog from the BBC America Shop (Box 681, Holmes, PA 19043 (800-898-4921) <www.bbcamericashop.com> has DVD sets from the Granada series, "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Silk Stocking" on DVD, and two exclusive offers: an attractive Sherlock Holmes ornament with the Paget illustration showing Holmes and Watson in the railway carriage (\$29.98), and a set of four 20-ounce Sherlock Holmes Pub Glasses (\$29.98). The web-site also has a Sherlock Holmes Mini Bar set (\$19.98).
10949. Another Sherlockian cover, honoring this month's William Gillette Festival in Tryon, N.C., is available from Bob Reynolds (Box 311, Lynn, NC 28750); Morris, Tryon's mascot, is a horse sculpture, 12 feet high, and (during the Festival) wearing a deerstalker and smoking a Sherlockian pipe; the cover costs \$5.00 plus a SASE (or IRCs for foreign orders).
10950. Don Hobbs has located what appears to be the only Sherlockian book translated into Maltese: SHERLOCK HOLMES U L-QAMPIENA TA' NOFS IL-LEJL [SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE MIDNIGHT BELL]; it's a pastiche by David James that was published in English in 2000. The translation has 168 pp. and costs 3.75 Maltese lira (about \$11.03) plus shipping (\$10.00 to the U.S.); it's available from the Malta Online Bookshop (20 Triq ix-Xahda, M' Scala, ZBR10, Malta) <www.maltaonlinebookshop.com/cgi-bin/maltabooks/00273.html>.

November 2005 #8

10951. THE DOGS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by William S. Dorn, with illustrations by Ian Malcolm Earlson (Denver: Pencil Productions, 2005; 100 pp. \$16.95 postpaid to the U.S./\$17.95 to Canada/\$20.95 elsewhere), is an amusing collection of essays written (well, dictated) by 20 of the dogs who appear in the Canon, with their own (and quite often rather different) versions of what happened in the stories.
10952. Reported: THE CHINA MYSTIQUE: PEARL S. BUCK, ANNA MAY WONG, MAYLING SOONG, AND THE TRANSFORMATION OF AMERICAN ORIENTALISM, by Karen J. Leong (Berkeley: Univ. of California Press, 2005; 304 pp., \$55.00 cloth, \$21.95 paper); an academic to three famous Chinese women (Anna May Wong's film career included her appearance in "A Study in Scarlet" (1933). If you've forgotten who Mayling Soong was, she was better known as Madame Chiang Kai-shek.
10953. Spotted by Andrew Blau: a Dressed Beagle by American Kennel Club and Steiff (item 843824, \$60.00) from FAO Schwarz at <www.fao.com>; "this beagle celebrates his proper English background in a tartan plaid overcoat and hat (14" long).
10954. BBC-4 is planning an "Arthur Conan Doyle Season" at Christmas (Dec. 24-28), with documentaries that include "Arthur Conan Doyle for the Defence" (about the Edalji and Slater cases), "The Man Who Loved Sherlock Holmes" ("about the strange but oddly compelling world of Holmes aficionados") "Time Shift: A Study in Sherlock" ("a trawl through various screen and television incarnations"), a repeat of "The Mysterious Affair of Sherlock Holmes and the Visionary Doctor" (1999), and older films and television shows, including Peter Cushing's "The Sign of Four" (1968).
10955. Andrew Gulli continues to edit and publish his new Strand Magazine, and he offers his Sherlock Holmes 2006 Calendar, in full color with illustrations from the original and new Strands and other sources; Box 1418, Birmingham, MI 48012 (800-300-6652) <www.strandmag.com>.
10956. "Pride & Prejudice" (September 05 #4) opened in the U.S. this month, and reviews have been enthusiastic, but only one of them seen so far has mentioned the location shooting at Groombridge Place (the inspiration for Birlstone Manor in "The Valley of Fear").
10957. A diamond necklace/tiara owned by Dame Jean Conan Doyle will be at auction at Bonhams in London on Dec. 8, estimated at £10,000 to 15,000; late 19th century (circa 1890), set throughout with old brilliant and single-cut diamonds. Their web-site is at <www.bonhams.com>.
10958. I reported earlier (April 04 #4) about Stanford University's Community Reading Project, which made Dickens' "A Tale of Two Cities" available by mail and on the Web in serial facsimile; they've done two other novels, and they are now getting ready to publish a collection of Sherlock Holmes stories as they appeared in *The Strand Magazine*. There is no charge for the mailings (although you are asked to donate to the project, and you can subscribe at <www.sherlockholmes.stanford.edu>.

December 2005 #1

10959. Add another event to the birthday festivities: The Beacon Society will hold its annual meeting on Friday at 3:00 pm on the second floor of the Algonquin Hotel, Scott Monty reports, "to bestow the third Beacon Award on a deserving nominee, review our progress in 2005, and discuss opportunities and plans for 2006."
10960. Further to my review (December 04 #5) of Tom Mann's HORROR AND MYSTERY PHOTOPLAY EDITIONS AND MAGAZINE FICTIONIZATIONS: THE CATALOG OF A COLLECTION (Jefferson: McFarland, 2004; 184 pp., \$35.00), Tom repeats an anecdote told by radio historian Jim Harmon about Richard Gordon, who played Sherlock Holmes on the radio in the 1930s: "Fellow radio actor and coincidentally writer of some Holmes pastiche novels Frank Thomas recalls Gordon as something of a John Barrymore type. Once walking down a street at an hour far too early in the day for an actor, Gordon urgently asked Thomas, 'What is that woman's name coming this way? Thomas looked. 'I don't believe I know her. Why?' Gordon shuddered. 'I believe she was my third wife and I need to know how to address her if she speaks.'"
10961. LE RAT GEANT DE SUMATRA is a French translation of Richard L. Boyer's 1976 pastiche (Paris: Editions Mycroft's Brother, 2003; 179 pp., E20.00); John Bennett Shaw enjoyed the pastiche (in English). The publisher is Thierry Saint-Joanis, at 2, impasse de la Serre, Saint-Julien, 632320 Montaigutle-Blanc, France <www.mycrofts.net>, and he has a wide variety of Sherlockiana available in French.
10962. The flier for "ACD at Thirty-Five" (celebrating the 35th anniversary of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library) is now available, and there's an interesting schedule and a fine list of speakers; the event will be held on Oct. 19-22 next year. If you're not already on their mailing list, you can write to ACD@35 (22 Markdale Avenue, Toronto, ON M6C 1T1, Canada) <acd35@sympatico.ca>.
10963. According to the [London] Express, Rupert Everett (who starred in "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Silk Stocking") has rejected repeated overtures from the BBC to play Holmes again in a series of specials, because he would rather star in more up-to-date dramas. "I constantly suggest new things to the BBC," he said, "and they go, 'No, but do you want to do Holmes again?'"
10964. The Oxford Bookworms Library offers a long list of stories adapted for language students, including SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE DUKE'S SON ["The Priory School"] and SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE SPORT OF KINGS (Silver Blaze); Oxford University Press, 64 pp., \$5.67 or £3.20.

10965. One way to see which authors are important to collectors is to compare the prices: a copy of Lippincott's Monthly Magazine (July 1890) containing the first appearance of Oscar Wilde's "The Picture of Dorian Gray" was offered at auction (in a lot with a copy of Conan Doyle's THE PARASITE) at Christie's in London on Nov. 30, estimated at £400-600, and it didn't sell; copies of that issue of the magazine are available at www.bookfinder.com with prices ranging from \$1,800 to \$2,600. Prices for copies of the Feb. 1890 issue (with "The Sign of the Four", range from \$8,500 to \$12,500.

December 2005 #2

10966. Christy Allen discovered www.art.com, where they offer reproductions of two illustrations of fairies by Richard Doyle, artwork by N. C. Wyeth from THE WHITE COMPANY, posters from Rathbone/Bruce movies, and an Andre Renoux print that shows The Sherlock Holmes in London. Barnes & Noble also offer a fine assortment of reproductions of attractive Sherlockian artwork; go to www.bn.com and search prints & posters.
10967. Bob Thomalen reports that "Springtime in Baker Street" (June 05 #4), planned for Apr. 22-23 in 2006, has been moved to the Doubletree Hotel in Norwalk, Conn. More information is available from Bob (82 Highview Drive, Carmel, NY 10512 (845-225-2445) the3garridebs@suscom.net).
10968. L. M. Goode, who supplied the information about the Paget oil painting (November 05 #4), has a web-site at www.sidneypaget.com with details on a new chapbook edition of "A Scandal in Bohemia" with the Paget illustrations in full color, and with a "trifling monograph" on Paget, and a portrait of Paget by Phil Cornell. \$18.98 postpaid; for those who lack Internet and PayPal access, checks payable to the Goode Press can be sent to Box 442, Greendale, WI 53129.
10969. The Off-Broadway Theatre in Salt Lake City ("Utah's Longest Running Improv Comedy Troupe") will perform Cody K. Carlson's new play "The Adventures of Sheer-Luck Homes & Snotson" from Feb. 10 to Mar. 18. Their web-site is at www.theobt.com. "It plays much more like Edmund Blackadder and Baldrick than Holmes and Watson," the playwright notes. "Nevertheless it is a parody of the Victorian sleuth, albeit with monsters, robots, and evil Frenchmen."
10970. Howard B. Gottlieb died on Dec. 1. He spent more than forty years as an archivist at Boston University, gathering personal papers of more than 2,000 Americans and Europeans, including Isaac Asimov, Alistair Cooke, Robert L. Fish, Michael Harrison, Angela Lansbury, and Basil Rathbone. Many stories are told about his efforts to build the archives: a fine example is about CBS anchorman Dan Rather, who donated his papers in 1960 and had his secretary clear off his desk every Friday afternoon and send what she had gathered to Gottlieb.
10971. Reported: Caleb Carr's pastiche THE ITALIAN SECRETARY (April 05 #5), read unabridged by Simon Prebble on 5 CDs (Simon and Schuster, \$43.50).
10972. There's more news about Liberton Bank House, where Conan Doyle lived as a child (November 05 #1): the Cockburn Conservation Trust and the Dunedin School have secured a £100,000 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund; the Edinburgh Evening News reported (Dec. 6) that the rest of the funding to preserve the house is largely in place.
10973. Noted by Ev Herzog: Sherlock (The Game Where Memory and Deduction Are "Elementary"), with a hound in S'ian costume on the box (item 8002), in a catalog from Chinaberry, 2780 Via Orange Way, Spring Valley, CA 91978 (800-776-2242) www.chinaberry.com; \$9.95. And a Peterson Pipe and Zippo Lighter Gift Set, with a Janus-faced silhouette of Sherlock Holmes on the lighter (item 5736-030) in a catalog from Professional Cutlery Direct, 242 Branford Road, North Branford, CT 06471 (800-859-6994) www.cutlery.com; \$99.95.
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December 2005 #3

10974. Stan Berenstain died on Nov. 26. With his wife January he created the Berenstain Bears in 1962, launching a series of children's books that became one of the most successful in children's literature; the series, with about 250 books, has sold more than 260 million copies and the Berenstain Bears have appeared in stage musicals, television series, videocassettes, and toys. THE BEAR DETECTIVES: THE CASE OF THE MISSING PUMPKIN was published in 1975, with Detective Brother and Detective Sister appearing in Sherlockian costume; they've been seen in many later books, and in a set of figurines issued in 1985.
10975. It seems quite worthwhile to check the \$1.00 bin at Wal-Mart: Jennie Paton discovered a "Cartoon Craze" DVD with Mutt and Jeff in "Slick Sleuths" from Digiview Productions (August 05 #5), and now she has found "Sherlock Holmes: The Sign of the Four" (also from Digiview) with the 1985 animation starring Peter O'Toole as Sherlock Holmes.
10976. Stephen Kempiski has reported that the set of 5 DVDs with all 39 episodes of the 1954 Ronald Howard "Sherlock Holmes" television series (November 05 #3) is available for \$14.99 from Heartland America (8085 Century Boulevard, Chanhassen, MN 55317 (800-229-2901) www.heartlandamerica.com). Also "The Best of Sherlock Holmes", a set of 25 CDs with 50 Rathbone/Bruce radio programs (\$19.99).
10977. Clive James has written about Sherlock Holmes before; the Dec. 16 issue of the Times Literary Supplement has his report on his "literary education in sludge fiction" (kindly forwarded by Ken Lanza), in which James comments on Holmes' "appeal to generations of adolescent boys who couldn't keep their rooms tidy and whose laundry was done by their mothers - a point reinforced by the large number of adult males who even today make a cult of the Baker Street bohemian. Invariably the Sherlockologists are permanent adolescents retaining all the trainspotting tendencies of youth."
10978. "Sherlock Holmes: The Missing Years" is a 14-minute video travelogue about where Holmes went during the Great Hiatus, created by Jane Hindsley (18559 Carpenter Street, Homewood, IL 60430 jane@hindseytranscriptions.com); it is available on DVD for \$10.00 postpaid (in the U.S., plus shipping elsewhere), and payment by credit card is welcome. It's a nice demonstration of what can be done with modern technology.
10979. Don Dillstone spotted a story in the Los Angeles Times (Dec. 14) about a murder investigation, quoting police sgt. Rick Longshore: "You threw away the impossible, you dust off the implausible, and what you've got left is what you've got."
10980. Jerry Neal Williamson ("The Illustrious Client") died on Dec. 8. He was a teen-ager when he founded The Illustrious Clients of Indianapolis in 1947, and he went on to edit three Case-Books for the Clients, and, still a teenager, he received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1950. He was an insurance company special agent, and a writer, with more than 30 horror and science-fiction novels to his credit; in one of his horror novels, THE TULPA (1981), his characters names echoed the names of Sherlockians, and one of his murder victims was Mike Whelan. Jerry was the senior surviving Investitured member of the BSI.
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December 2005 #4

10981. The first issue of For the Sake of the Trust (the newsletter of The Baker Street Irregulars Trust) reports on The Baker Street Irregulars Archives, with Glen Miranker's excellent article on the Edgar W. Smith material he has donated to the Archives (and he quotes from Smith's correspondence with Vincent Starrett and Edith Meiser). You can request a copy of the newsletter from Julie McKuras (13512 Granada Avenue, Apple Valley, MN 55124) mike9750@aol.com.
10982. The 25th annual Sherlock Holmes/Arthur Conan Doyle Symposium will be held in Dayton on Mar. 10-12; Cathy Gill (4661 Hamilton Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45223) (513-681-5507) chirpsworth@fuse.net maintains the mailing list.
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10983. THE FORGOTTEN ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by H. Paul Jeffers (New York: Carroll & Graf, 2005; 236 pp., \$14.95), is his third Sherlockian book (the others being THE ADVENTURE OF THE STALWART COMPANIONS and MURDER MOST IRREGULAR); this book offers 13 short stories adapted from radio scripts that were written by Anthony Boucher and Denis Green for the Rathbone/Bruce radio series in 1945 and 1946.
10984. Robert Sheckley died on Dec. 9. He sold his first story in 1951 and played a major role in the development of modern science fiction; he edited an anthology AFTER THE FALL (1980) that included William F. Nolan's Sherlockian story "Sungrab".
10985. Reported: Nancy Springer's THE CASE OF THE MISSING MARQUESS, from Penguin/Philomel in February (224 pp., \$10.99); "an Enola Holmes mystery" (Enola is the younger sister of Mycroft and Sherlock) for children aged 4-8. The author has won Edgars from the Mystery Writers of America in 1995 (best young adult) and in 1996 (best juvenile).
10986. Pasquale Accardo's POETRY COULD BE VERSH: A CATENA OF CANONICAL LIMERICKS was published for the birthday celebrations in 2004; it will please those who enjoy limericks (and perhaps annoy those who don't), and the 71-page booklet costs \$10.00 (plus shipping) from George A. Vanderburgh (Box 204, Shelburne, ON L0N 1S0, Canada) <www.batteredbox.com>.
10987. The Feb. 2006 issue of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine, which will on the newsstands during the birthday celebrations, offers editor Janet Hutchings' annual tribute to Sherlock Holmes: there's nice cover art by Frederick Dorr Steele, Jon L. Breen's round-up of Sherlockian book reviews, and an amusing pastiche by Steve Hockensmith ("Wolves in Winter").
10988. "Mary also said she likes Sherlock Holmes, Jeopardy, has a 'lovely family' and reads the newspaper to keep up with current events." That's Mary Johnson in Lapper, Mich., interviewed by the Lapeer County Press when she celebrated her 101st birthday.
10989. John Sherwood spotted a news story about an exhibition of vaudeville material that includes a letterhead proclaiming the talents of Sherlock Holmes, "Premiere of Dogs", who "Thinks--Talks--and Acts." "Vaudeville Nation" opened at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts in New York on Nov. 15, and will run through Apr. 1. There's much more information about the exhibition at <www.nypl.org/press/vaudeville.cfm>.

December 2005 #5

10990. The British press has reported the collapse of the world-famous gun-maker Webley & Scott, noting that their pistols were used to kill President Lincoln and Grigori Rasputin, that General Custer had a pair of them at the Battle of the Little Big Horn, and that they were used by Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson. The company has made only airguns since 1979. According the FBI's report on their examination of Booth's pistol, it was a Deringer. And in case you're wondering about Holmes and Watson, there is no mention of a Webley in the Canon.
10991. Jess Nevins' THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF FANTASTIC VICTORIANA, with an introduction by Michael Moorcock (Austin: MonkeyBrain Books, 2005; 1200 pp., \$50.00), is an interesting exploration of the fantastic literature of the 19th century, and Conan Doyle is of course included, with entries for Irene Adler, Edward Bellingham, Jack Brocket, Micah Clarke, Brigadier Gerard, Sherlock Holmes, Sir Nigel Loring, Professor Moriarty, and Duncan Warner. And planned for 2006: Kim Newman's THE MAN FROM THE DIOGENES CLUB, set in the 1970s, much later than his Sherlockian pastiche ANNO DRACULA (December 92 #3).
10992. Francine Kitts spotted a "Green Quote Tote Bag" at Barnes & Noble (\$14.95), with "25 quotations from timeless novels" printed on it. And of course one of the quotations is from the Canon: "Exactly, my dear Watson." The stores also have a (free) plastic bag with the same quotes.
10993. Anna Quindlen's IMAGINED LONDON: A TOUR OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST FICTIONAL CITY (Washington: National Geographic Society, 2004; 192 pp., \$20.00) is a delightful book; "I have been to London too many times to count in the pages of books," she explains, "to Dickensian London rich with narrow alleyways and jocular street scoundrels, to the London of Conan Doyle and Margery Allingham with its salt-of-the-earth police officers and troubled aristocrats." Baker Street is only one of many places she visits, and anyone who has enjoyed London will enjoy this book.
10994. And did you expect Barnes & Noble to quote Holmes as saying, "Elementary, my dear Watson"? He doesn't, of course, in any of the 60 Canonical tales. He does say "Exactly, my dear Watson" in three tales (one of them a novel): "The Missing Three-Quarter", "Wisteria Lodge", and "The Valley of Fear".
10995. Les Klinger's THE NEW ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES has its first translation (so far only the first volume of a five-volume set): AS AVENTURAS DE SHERLOCK HOLMES (Rio de Janeiro: Jorge Zahar Editor, 2006; 494 pp., R\$89.50). Published in Brazil, it has been translated into Portuguese; the publisher has a web-site at <www.zahar.com.br>, and there's been no word on how long it will take to get the remaining four volumes out. Les reports that the Spanish rights have been sold, but that translation's still in the works.
10996. The "Arthur Conan Doyle Season" broadcast on BBC-4 over Christmas (November 05 #8), and two new documentaries, "Conan Doyle for the Defence" (dealing with the George Edalji and Oscar Slater cases) and "The Man Who Loved Sherlock Holmes" (about Richard Lancelyn Green) were by far the most interesting of the programs; the second show included footage from the Sherlock Holmes Society of London's recent excursion to Switzerland, and many interviews with Richard's family and friends. There has been no word of plans for broadcast in other countries, or release on cassettes and DVDs.

December 2005 #6

10997. The fall issue of the Tonga Times (published by the Mini-Tonga Scion Society) has news about the world of Sherlockian miniatures, including grand color photographs of Alice Baudet's version of 221 Baker Street, and a miniature version of the Agra treasure map. The newsletter (\$10.50 for three issues/\$11.50 to Canada/\$13.50 elsewhere) is published by Trish and Jay Pearlman (1656 East 19th Street #2-E, Brooklyn, NY 11229) <www.hometown.aol.com/minitongasociety/mini1.htm>.
10998. The East Lynne Theater Company performed a radio-theater adaptation of "The Copper Beeches" (adapted by Gayle Stahlhuth) in Cape May, N.J. on Nov. 4-5, and there will be another production on Mar. 3-4. There's more information at their web-site <www.eastlynnetheater.org>.
10999. The Weekly Standard likes to have a literary cover every once in a while, usually showing an author, and their "holiday reading" issue has Sherlockian artwork (Dec. 12), which you can see in full color at their web-site <www.weeklystandard.com> (click on "recent issues"); there's nothing Sherlockian inside the magazine. The artist is Mark Summers, whose earlier Sherlockian work can be seen in the N.Y. Times Book Review (Jan. 4, 1987) and the Atlantic Monthly (Mar. 1987); you've also seen his work displayed prominently at Barnes & Noble. And his originals are available for purchase (the original for the cover is in the \$3,000-5,000 range); Richard Solomon is his agent, and has a web-site at <www.richardsolomon.com>.
11000. The animations of the four long stories, with Peter O'Toole's providing the voice of Sherlock Holmes, were released (and broadcast) in the 1980s, and they are now available as "The Animated Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" on a DVD (for \$7.95 plus shipping) from Wild Time Comics (703 Washington Street, South Attleboro, MA 02703) <wildtimecomics@aol.com>.

11001. Phil Attwell notes that the winter 2005 catalog from Razamataz offers many Sherlock Holmes DVDs. and a 2-DVD set of "6 Classic 30s Thrillers" (£9.99) that includes Arthur Wontner's "Silver Blaze" (1937) and Raymond Massey's "The Speckled Band" (1931); it may be the first DVD of Massey's film. The company's address is Parkside, Avenue 2, Station Lane, Witney, Oxon. OX28 4YF, England <www.erazamataz.co.uk>.
11002. Further to the report (November 05 #6) on Laurie R. King's THE ART OF DETECTION (her next Kate Martinelli novel), there's more information about the novel (and its Sherlockian content) at Laurie's web-site <www.laurierking.com>, and (to whet readers' appetites) the first chapter of the novel. The website has a link to her blog.
11003. In an interview in the N.Y. Times (Dec. 18), Deborah Solomon asked Julian Barnes (author of ARTHUR & GEORGE): "Is Conan Doyle a sentimental favorite of yours?" Barnes replied: "Not at all. He just happened to come attached to the story. I would have been happier if the story had come attached to Rudyard Kipling, who is a much greater writer."
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December 2005 #7

11004. Further to the item (July 05 #2) about Paul Spiring's proposal to exhume Fletcher Robinson's body in order to conduct an autopsy, a story in the Plymouth Western Morning News (Dec. 20) reports that Spiring believes that Fletcher Robinson died of entirely natural causes, and that "we're on the verge of drawing some conclusions which categorically refute the allegations that Conan Doyle stole the plot of 'The Hound of the Baskervilles' from Fletcher Robinson." And he said that it appears that Conan Doyle never met Fletcher Robinson's wife Gladys; so "if we accept that there was no adulterous relationship or conflict about authorship then there is no motive and the theory of murder must be dismissed."
11005. The Mount Horeb Mustard Museum is located in Mount Horeb, Wis., and (yes) it's devoted to Barry Levinson's collection of mustards (people do collect strange things). And they are sponsoring a Mustard Mystery Contest; they have posted the first chapter at their web-site <www.mustardweb.com>, and contestants are asked to write a second chapter, and there seems to be no requirement that the murderer be "Colonel Mustard, in the lavatory with a plunger." Nor that the mystery be Sherlockian. Thanks to Gayle Harris for reporting the existence of the museum and the contest.
11006. Those who read the electronic text-only version of my newsletter had some trouble doing that in recent weeks, because Comcast's e-mail system seems to have been altered in a way that prevents me from inserting text into a message or into an attachment. I'm testing various work-arounds, and may be successful in getting the November issue to Sherlocktron and the mailing lists late, and the December issue on time.
11007. Those who receive the ink-on-paper version (with occasional illustrations) likely are aware that our domestic postage rate will increase to 39c (from 37c) on Jan. 8; the circulation department will impose a modest increase on subscriptions and renewals at the end of January. International rates will increase also, but the postal service has not announced how much or when.
11008. It has been a few months more than ten years, since I've published an explanation of just what the Spermaceti Press is, and since a reader of the ink-on-paper version has asked, here (again) is the reasoning that led to my choosing the name: Many years ago, when I wanted a whimsical name for the imaginary press from which my seasonal souvenirs were published (following in long Sherlockian tradition of devising interesting names for this sort of thing), it occurred to me that someone whose Investiture in the BSI was "Black Peter" and who lived (at that time) just down the road from Arrowhead, where Herman Melville wrote MOBY DICK, ought to be able to find a name that had something to do with whaling. Of course one wouldn't expect to find printing presses on whaling ships, but some research revealed that there used to be a spermaceti press, which was used for the final processing of whale oil into spermaceti, from which the finest candles were made. And there is just one surviving spermaceti press, preserved at the Nantucket Whaling Museum in Massachusetts, in the original building where in the 19th century millions of candles were made and exported all over the world. Now you know . . .
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January 2006 #1

11009. Travelers from afar found clear skies and pleasant temperatures when they arrived in New York for the birthday festivities (but winter had returned by the time people left on Sunday). The ASH Wednesday supper was held at O'Casey's, the Christopher Morley Walk was led by Jim Cox on Thursday morning (with lunch at McSorley's, where Chuck Kovacic presented the restaurant with a color portrait of Morley). This year's Baker Street Irregulars Distinguished Speaker at the Williams Club on Thursday evening was Leroy Lad Panek, who talked about the impact of Sherlock Holmes on Early American Detective Fiction.
11010. The William Gillette Luncheon attracted a sizeable crowd on Friday at Moran's Chelsea Seafood Restaurant, where Curtis Armstrong introduced Denis, Adrian, and Dame Jean Conan Doyle (impersonated by Paul Singleton, Andrew Joffe, and Sarah Montague); Charles Foley (grandson of Sir Arthur's sister) congratulated them, but only after saying that "my lawyer will be contacting you." Chuck Kovacic presented Moran's with a color portrait of William Gillette. And the traditional open house at Otto Penzler's relocated Mysterious Bookshop offered the usual opportunities to browse.
11011. The Beacon Society held its annual meeting in the Algonquin lobby on Friday afternoon; the group's mission is to encourage and recognize programs that introduce young people to Holmes, and the winners of this year's award were Lynn Beaulieu and Kim Bartolo, teachers in upstate New York, who were honored for their long-standing work introducing fifth-graders to the Canon.
11012. The Irregulars and their guests gathered for the BSI's annual dinner at the Union League Club, where Peter Blau delivered the cocktail-party toast to *the* Woman: Norma Hyder (who went on to dine at the Club with other ladies who have been honored in past years). The agenda of the annual dinner included the usual toasts and traditions; presentations by David Musto and Terry Belanger and Lloyd Rose; Tyke and Teddie Niver in a music-hall performance; and a tribute to an era of old Irregulars (the 1950s) by Art Levine (Art and two other Irregulars at the dinner received their Shillings in the 1950s).
11013. Mike Whelan (the BSI's "Wiggins") announced the Birthday Honours, and Irregular Shillings and Investitures were presented to Richard Olken ("Bob Carruthers"), Regina Stinson ("A Little Ribston Pippin"), Curtis Armstrong ("An Actor and a Rare One"), Paul Churchill ("Corot"), Jerry Kegley ("Nathan Garrideb"), Trevor Raymond ("Horace Harker"), and Jennie Paton ("Laura Lyons").
11014. The Baskerville Bash, held at the Manhattan Club, featured the "Sherl-Oscar Awards" presented by the Academy of Sherlockian Arts and Sciences; categories for the awards were "Least Fearsome Hound of the Baskervilles", "Most Shameless Display of Overacting in a Sherlockian Film", "Best Portrayal of Holmes and Watson in an Alternative Lifestyle", "Best Drug-Induced Hallucination in a Sherlockian Movie", "Best Tribute to Arthur Conan Doyle's Obsession with the Spirit World", "Worst Disguise Featured in a Sherlockian Film", and "Best Choreography in a Sherlockian Film". And miniature Oscars were awarded to those at the table that won the evening's quiz.
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January 2006 #2

11015. On Saturday morning the dealers room at the Algonquin was (as usual) crowded with sellers and buyers, and at 12:30 The Clients of Adrian Mulliner (devotees of the works of both Wodehouse and Watson) gathered for their Junior Bloodstain, which featured a discussion of pig-stealing (methodology, not morality), and a reading of Marilyn MacGregor's dramatization of Robert L. Fish's "The Return of Schlock Homes".
11016. The BSI's Saturday-afternoon cocktail party attracted a goodly crowd to 24 Fifth Avenue, where Mary Ann Bradley introduced the ladies who have been honored as *the* Woman over the years, and Al and Betsy Rosenblatt reported in verse on the events of the previous year and the previous evening. The new winner of the Morley-Montgomery Award (an attractive certificate and a check for \$500) for the best contribution to The Baker Street Journal last year was Catherine Cooke, for her article on "Mrs. Hudson: A Legend in Her Own Lodging House". And the John H. Watson Fund benefited from the raffle prize, kindly donated by Jerry and Chrys Kegley and The Curious Collectors of Baker Street: Maggie Schpak's replica of the snuffbox of old gold, with a great amethyst in the center of the lid, presented to Sherlock Holmes by the King of Bohemia, and from energetic bidding in the traditional auction.
11017. The Watson Fund (administered by a carefully anonymous Dr. Watson) offers financial assistance to all Sherlockians (membership in the BSI is not required) who might otherwise not be able to participate in the birthday festivities. The generous donors to the auction were Joanne Zahorsky-Reeves (a custom-made Inverness cloak with a matching teddy bear); Ron White and The Scowlers and Molly Maguires and The Persian Slipper Club (Ron's framed color photograph of Willy Werby's reproduction of the sitting-room formerly on view in San Francisco), and Paul Smedegaard (a complete set of the six medals issued for the excursions of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London).
11018. And on Sunday a convivial group of visiting long-weekenders were on hand at the Oldcastle Pub & Restaurant for a brunch arranged by the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes.
11019. I've not reported on everything, I hasten to add; if you want more details than I've provided here, there will be much more in The Baker Street Journal, which is published quarterly and costs \$24.95 a year (\$27.50 outside the U.S.), and checks (credit-card payments accepted from foreign subscribers) should be sent to the BSJ (Box 465, Hanover, PA 17331); and there's an option offering a subscription to the BSJ and to the Christmas Annual for \$34.95 (or \$38.50 foreign). You can also subscribe at the BSJ web-site at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>, where there's additional interesting material, such as issues of The Lamp-Post (the BSJ's occasional newsletter), some of the papers that have won Morley-Montgomery Awards for their authors, and news of various BSI publications.
11020. The Baker Street Irregulars are planning a sequel to the excursion into the Valley of Fear (October 04 #6); the next one (open to all) will be to Salt Lake City, Aug. 29 through Sept. 1, 2008; Salt Lake City was an important venue for part of the first published Sherlock Holmes story, of course, and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle visited in 1923 (there's still much to see now that he saw then). Additional details are not yet available, but the contact for the mailing list is Gideon Hill (215-887-8110) <onbridle@verizon.net>.

January 2006 #3

11021. Francine Kitts spotted something worth watching for when there is a repeat of the episode "Hunting" (Nov. 22, 2005) of the TV series "House" (on the Fox network): Dr. Gregory House, played by Hugh Laurie, is seen leaving his home, which has the address 221B. According to TV Guide (Dec. 26), series creator David Shore explained that when they built the set, he said "Let's put Sherlock Holmes' address on it." Shore has often acknowledged that he modeled House after Holmes.
11022. Allen Mackler ("Sarasate") died on Dec. 29. His enthusiasms included cats, classical music, pigs, fine cuisine (he reported often in Baker Street Miscellanea on the grand gourmet Sherlockian dinners at the Culinary Institute of America), and the thoroughly Sherlockian room in his home, and he was an energetic member of Sherlockian societies in Chicago, Washington, and Minneapolis. He became a member of the Baker Street Irregulars in 1990.
11023. The December issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota has Julie McKuras' "100 Years Ago" discussion of the poet Harry Graham, a "50 Years Ago" report on The Five Orange Pips and their first anthology of Canonical scholarship, and news from and about the Collections; copies of the newsletter are available on request from Richard J. Sveum, (111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <sveum001@tc.umn.edu>.
11024. "Smoking Ban Will Leave Theatre World Fuming" was the headline on a story by Mark Fisher in Scotland on Sunday (Jan. 8) about the ban on smoking that will come into force on Mar. 26, when "actors in film, television, and theatre will be forbidden, like the rest of us, from smoking in enclosed public spaces." Other countries allow the use of herbal cigarettes by actors.
11025. Pattie Tierney has added to her collection of Sherlockian jewelry (September 05 #3): the new items are four domino necklaces with photo transfers of portraits of Basil Rathbone, Nigel Bruce, and Jeremy Brett; \$25.00 each plus shipping, and you can request an illustrated flier from Pattie (229 Hereford Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63135 <ptierney@umsl.edu>).
11026. For the "I hear of Sherlock everywhere" department: Peter Ashman reports that in Truman Capote's IN COLD BLOOD (1965), the elderly mail messenger of Holcomb, Kansas, recalls: "Time was wasn't anybody here wasn't my kin. Them days, we called this place Sherlock." And yes, there was a Sherlock, Kansas; according to the Finney county library, the Santa Fe railroad changed the name of its station from Sherlock to Holcomb in 1907. The Sherlockians in Kansas might consider erecting a commemorative plaque there some day.
11027. "Quick, Dogson," cried Whippet, "the game is afoot!" That's Sherlock Whippet and Dr. Dogson, in John Semper Jr.'s THE SINGULAR AFFAIR OF THE MISSING BALL: A SHERLOCK WHIPPET MYSTERY (Toluca Lake: Barker Street Press, 2005; 70 pp., \$24.95); it's an imaginatively illustrated parody, "for children of all ages," and <www.sherlockwhippet.com> offers a sample of the artwork and a link for purchasers. The book also can be ordered through bookstores, or from the publisher (10153.5 Riverside Drive, Toluca Lake, CA 91802); checks or money orders, please. Semper has a long list of credits as a television writer and producer, from "Smurfs (1981) to "Jay Jay the Jet Plane" (2005), and he reports that a sequel, BAST OF THE HOUNDEVILLES, is due soon.

January 2006 #4

11028. Admirers of Bert Coules' BBC Radio 4 series "The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (starring Clive Merrison and Andrew Sachs in programs based on the unrecorded cases) will welcome the news that the BBC has commissioned Bert to write a third five-program series, to be recorded later this year (the first two series aired in 2002 and 2004).
11029. Tina Rhea has noted the 101st annual quiz from King William's College, in The Guardian (Dec. 23) and (one hopes) still available at the paper's website <www.guardian.co.uk/g2/story/0,3604,1673168,00.html>. It's a delightful example of something typically British that one seldom sees here, and Section 17 will be of particular interest to Sherlockians.

11030. Phil Attwell notes that the "Complete Sherlock Holmes Box Set" (November 04 #2) with the entire Canon broadcast by BBC Radio 4, starring Clive Merrison as Holmes and Michael Williams as Watson (48 hours on 64 CDs), together with a book written by Bert Coules (who dramatized many of the programs), has been discounted to £115 at the BBC Shop (P.O. Box 308, Sittingbourne, Kent ME9 8LW, England) <www.bbcshop.com>.
11031. Gordon Lee died on Oct. 16. Credited as Eugene Lee, he starred as Spanky McFarland's chubby little brother Porky in more than 40 "Our Gang" films in the 1930s; two of the films were "Rushin' Ballet" in 1937 (in which he wore a deerstalker) and "Hide and Shriek" in 1938 (in which the kids played detective) Lee told friends that when a growth spurt made him thinner, he was replaced (his replacement was Robert Blake).
11032. Julian Barnes' ARTHUR & GEORGE (September 05 #5) now has an American edition (New York: Knopf, 2006, 390 pp., \$24.95), and his book has been widely and well reviewed. He is on tour in the United States, through Feb. 13 (at least), and you can check his schedule at <www.julianbarnes.com/appearances.html>. And Laura Kuhn reports that ARTHUR & GEORGE is one of the two "main selections" from the Book-of-the-Month Club for February.
11033. Forecast: THE SCIENCE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by E. J. Wagner, from John Wiley & Sons in March (256 pp., \$24.95); "from Baskerville Hall to the Valley of Fear, the real forensics behind the great detective's greatest cases."
11034. Andy Peck notes a Mystery Guild "editor's choice" edition of Les Klinger's THE NEW ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES (the first two volumes) in paper covers (\$39.95); it's likely the same edition offered earlier by the Quality Paperback Book Club (October 05 #2). The Mystery Guild also offers Steve Hockensmith's HOLMES ON THE RANGE and Laurie R. King's LOCKED ROOMS.
11035. The winter issue of The Magic Door (the newsletter published by The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) offers Doug Wrigglesworth's discussion of Conan Doyle's poem "On the Athabaska Trail" (the collection has acquired his notebook with an early draft of the poem), a reminiscence by Peter Wood, a report on the collection by curator Peggy Perdue, and other news. Copies of the newsletter are available from Doug Wrigglesworth (16 Sunset Street, Holland Landing, ON L9N 1H4, Canada) <doug.wrig@sympatico.ca>. The next Cameron Hollyer Lecturer will be Glen Miranker, who will speak at the library on Apr. 1, with a meeting of The Bootmakers of Toronto following.

January 2006 #5

11036. THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, valued at £80,000, came in second in a recent poll of the most valuable works of fiction in the 20th century, according to an article in the January issue of Book and Magazine Collector that ranks first editions in very good condition. James Joyce's ULYSSES led the list (£100,000), and T. E. Lawrence's SEVEN PILLARS OF WISDOM was third (£60,000); only first editions in dust jackets were included in the survey, and a list of the top 100 books was published in The Guardian (Jan. 19). A copy of the first edition of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES in dust jacket was auctioned at £72,000 (plus 15% buyer's premium) in July 1998, and a copy in splendid condition but without dust jacket sold for £5,000 (plus the premium) in December 1998.
11037. Cyril Wecht, whose book MORTAL EVIDENCE quoted the Canon (January 05 #6), has been indicted by a federal grand jury on charges he misused his public office for private gain; the 84-count indictment includes charges that the Allegheny County Coroner traded unclaimed bodies stored by the coroner's office to Carlow University in Pittsburgh in exchange for use of a laboratory there for his private practice.
11038. Gideon Hill has spotted a polyester Sherlock Holmes apron (item T24426) offered (\$18.50) by Linefeed (Gatterburggasse 15, A-1190 Vienna, Austria) <www.linefeed.net>.
11039. Many of us have fond memories of the musical "Baker Street" (1964), which starred Fritz Weaver, Inga Swenson, and Martin Gabel; the original-cast LP has long been out of print, but Decca has issued a new CD (\$14.98).
11040. Laura Kuhn spotted a press release announcing plans for "CBS's Secret Saturday Morning Slumber Party" (three hours of FCC-compliant children's programming) scheduled for this fall; one of the older series to run in the period will be the animated "Sherlock Holmes in the 22nd Century" (August 99 #4).
11041. Guy Deel died on Dec. 13. Best-known for his cover art for western novels, he had more than 250 covers to his credit, as well as a 130-foot mural at the Gene Autry Museum of Western Heritage in Los Angeles. He also painted covers for the eight-volume set of Sherlock Holmes paperbacks published by Berkley in 1977, and the Berkley paperback editions of John Gardner's "Moriarty" novels, and he illustrated the Reader's Digest edition of GREAT CASES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1966).
11042. If you enjoyed Neil Gaiman's story "A Study in Emerald" in SHADOWS OVER BAKER STREET (January 05 #3), it's available as a signed print (\$40.00) and as a poster (\$10.00) at his official on-line store at <www.neilgaiman.net>. Or you can wait for the new version of the web-site to launch in February with the story in PDF format that can be downloaded free. Neil was in New York for the birthday festivities, and to make some recordings for Harper Audio, and "A Study in Emerald" will be issued on a CD later this year.

January 2006 #6

11043. How many members of The Baker Street Irregulars have had songs named for them? Just one (known so far, at least): "The H.C. Potter's Ball" (recorded in 1946 by Johnnie Mercer with Freddie Slack and his Orchestra) released last year by Mosaic Records in a 3-CD set "Mosaic Select: Freddie Slack" (MS-018; \$39.00). Jon Lellenberg heard it played on WAMU-FM's "Hot Jazz Saturday Night" on Jan. 21; host Rob Bamberger talked about Potter's career as a movie director. Potter was "The Final Problem" in the BSI (1971), and he is the only member of the BSI to have a star on Hollywood Boulevard.
11044. Details are now available for the next annual STUD-Watsonian Weekend in and near Chicago on Mar. 31-Apr. 2; there will be a dinner (with Les Klinger as featured speaker), a running of The Silver Blaze at Hawthorne Race Course, and a Fortescue Honours brunch. You can ask Susan Diamond, 16W603 3rd Avenue, Bensenville, IL 60106 <szdiamond@comcast.net> for a registration form.
11045. The Mystery Writers of America have announced their nominations for Edgar awards, including Les Klinger (best critical-biographical) for THE NEW ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE NOVELS; The winners will be announced at the MWA awards dinner in New York on Apr. 27.
11046. History Magazine offers a "Private Investigation" section; their December /January issue has Phill Jones' four-page article on the "Pinkerton Detective Agency" (with a sidebar on "Sherlock Holmes and the Pinkertons"), and the February/March issue his one-page article on "William J. Burns". Back issues can be ordered at their web-site <www.history-magazine.com> (US\$5.55 or CA\$6.65); and you subscribe for a year for US\$24.00/CA\$28.00.
11047. Al Gregory <grimpen@nac.net> offers (e-mail only) his 2006 edition of "The ABC of the BSI" (an alphabetical listing of Investitures, with recipients, from "Abbey Grange" to "Young Stamford") and "The Florin Society" (couples in which both spouses have received Irregular Shillings).
11048. Domestic postage rates went up in January, and so has the cost of my newsletter, to \$10.25 a year (as in the past, for six or more pages a month of whatever gossip I find appropriate, most of it quite trivial, but much of it Sherlockian or Doylean). The new cost to Canada is \$13.15, and overseas it's \$15.65. Thanks to Willis G. Frick, the text (without illustrations) is available at <www.members.cox.net/sherlock1/scuttle.htm>.

11049. And a few commercials: a 16-page list of the Investitured Irregulars, the Two-Shilling Awards, *the* Women, and the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes costs \$1.30 postpaid. An 82-page list of 841 Sherlockian societies, with names and addresses for contacts for 435 active societies, is \$4.85 postpaid. A run of address labels for 357 individual contacts (recommended to avoid duplicate mailings to those who are contacts for more than one society) costs \$10.65 postpaid (checks payable to Peter E. Blau, please). The list of BSIs and others also is available from me by e-mail (at no charge), and both lists are available at Willis G. Frick's "Sherlocktron" home page at <www.members.cox.net/sherlock1/Sherlocktron.html>.

February 2006 #1

11050. Bob Verrey died on Jan. 31. He was an energetic member of The Red Circle of Washington and an enthusiastic performer with The Red Circle Players in various roles in the serial "Upstairs, Downstairs, All Around the Holmes" in the 1970s; he also played Sherlock Holmes in "The Certain and Answerable Story of Irene Adler" for the Adventuress of Sherlock Holmes in New York in 1979, and Billy in "The Painful Predicament of Sherlock Holmes" at Bouchercon in 1980.
11051. Sorry about that: The Baker Street Journal has increased the price of subscriptions, now \$25.95 a year (\$28.50 outside the U.S.), or \$35.95/\$39.50 for the four issues plus the Christmas Annual; credit-card payment can be made only via PayPal at the BJS web-site <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>.
11052. Skeletons in the Closet still offer their Sherlock Mugs and other interesting merchandise (their profits help to support the Los Angeles County Coroner's Department's Youthful Drunk Driver Visitation Program); their address is 1104 North Mission Road, Los Angeles, CA 90033 <www.lacoroner.com>.
11053. This isn't really a trivia question, because I don't know the answer: many people believe that the folks who made the Reginald Owen film "A Study in Scarlet" stole the plot device from Agatha Christie's book, but in fact it was the other way round (the film was released in 1932, while the book was published in 1939). And the question is: was the plot device original when the film was made, and if not, who came earlier, and when and where?
11054. Yes, I've not described the plot device, and I'm not going to, because I'm sure there are people out there who don't know what it is, and I'm not going to spoil the fun. The book was published at TEN LITTLE N****RS, then as TEN LITTLE INDIANS, and now as AND THEN THERE WERE NONE.
11055. Dave Morrill spotted the report that after 145 years Western Union has gone out of the telegram business; effective Jan. 27 they discontinued all Telegram and Commercial Messaging services. Of course they discontinued singing telegrams many years ago, and then stopped having their agents hand-deliver telegrams. According to one article, there were 20 million messages sent in 1929, and 20,000 in 2005. The headline on the story in the Washington Post was "WE REGRET TO INFORM YOU THAT THE TELEGRAM HAS DIED STOP IT IS SURVIVED BY EMAIL CELL PHONE AND THE INTERNET STOP".
11056. And yes, it's quite true that it was the post office that handled telegrams in the U.K. in Sherlockian times, but Holmes did send a telegram to Cleveland in "A Study in Scarlet"; it's likely that Western Union was involved at the American end, and in the reply. The company hasn't gone out of business; according to news reports their revenue last year from money transfers rose 14 percent to \$3.8 billion.
11057. The Company of Animals (Ruxbury Farm, St. Ann's Hill Road, Chertsey, Surrey KT16 9NL, England <www.companyofanimals.co.uk> advertises a wide variety of products, including (in the "not all dogs are angels!" department), their Baskerville muzzle, available in 14 sizes and "suitable for most breeds." Thanks to Phil Attwell for reporting on his discovery.
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February 2006 #2

11058. Further to the item about Western Union going out of the telegram business, Sam Roberts' story in the N.Y. Times (Feb. 12) quotes from Linda Rosenkrantz's TELEGRAM! (2003) with a sampler of "famous, infamous, and apocryphal dispatches"; one of them is "Both Mark Twain and Arthur Conan Doyle supposedly sent similar telegrams to a dozen prominent men, all of whom packed up and left town immediately. FLEE AT ONCE--ALL IS DISCOVERED." The story's widely told, about both authors, but it's always unsourced, and it's not to be found on the CD "The Works of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle"; can anyone provide a source for the quote?
11059. The Royal Mail honored the 50th anniversary of the Independent Television Authority last year with a set of postage stamps featuring six "Classic ITV" series; "The Avengers" included "The Curious Case of the Countless Clues" (1968) with Peter Jones as Sir Arthur Doyle, and "The South Bank Show" had "The Underground of the Imagination" (1987) with a segment showing Bernard Davies leading members of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London on a "Bruce-Partington Plans" tour.
11060. <www.sherlockiancalendar.homestead.com>, maintained by Ron Fish and Ben and Sue Vizoskie, is an excellent list of upcoming Sherlockian events at; if you would like to have something listed, Ron is at <ronf404@aol.com>.
11061. Scott Tate spotted a report about A STUDY IN SCANDAL, by Robyn DeHart (New York: Avon Books, 2006; 368 pp., \$5.99); it's a romance novel, and the Publishers Weekly review noted: "Enthralled by the fictional Sherlock Holmes, Victorian aristocrat Lady Amelia Watersfield has recruited three reluctant friends to form the Ladies' Amateur Sleuth Society." The author has a website at www.robyndehart.com, and according to the Romantic Times Book Club magazine (Mar.), there are to be four books in the series; the second one, tentatively title DELICIOUSLY WICKED, is due in October.
11062. Gary Lovisi's "The Adventure of the Missing Detective" (in SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE HIDDEN YEARS), nominated for an Edgar from the Mystery Writers of America last year, is reprinted in THE ADVENTURE OF THE MISSING DETECTIVE: AND 25 OF THE YEAR'S FINEST CRIME AND MYSTERY STORIES!, edited by Ed Gorman and Martin H. Greenberg (New York: Carroll & Graf, 2005; 336 pp., \$15.95)
11063. John Woodnutt died on Jan. 3. He began his acting career on stage in 1942 and went on to become a prolific character actor on British screen, radio, and television; he played a station master in "The Bruce-Partington Plans" and a pawnbroker in "The Disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax" on television in the 1965 Douglas Wilmer series, Mr. Merryweather in the Granada version of "The Red-Headed League" (1985), and Arthur Frankland in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" on BBC Radio 4 in 1998.
11064. Megan Kean spotted an announcement that New Line Television will bring "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's The Lost World" back into syndication this fall; there were 52 episodes in the series, which ran from 1999 to 2002 and used Conan Doyle's title but not much else from the book. Jennifer O'Dell, the skimpily-dressed local girl was Babe of the Month in Playboy (Sept. 2002).
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February 2006 #3

11065. "Return of the Black Bullet Elementary to Holmes Clan" was the headline on a story in a New Zealand newspaper (Feb. 4), noted by Karen Murdock. A man named Sherlock Holmes (also known as Shock) built and raced the midget speedway car at the Waiwhakaiho Speedway in 1955, and two Taranaki men found the car in Australia and have brought it home. Mr. Holmes died in 1996. survived by his wife Margaret, his daughters Judy and Pauline, and a son Sherlock (who lives in Australia).
11066. David L. Hammer describes A TALENT FOR MURDER as his first book, written in 1958 and published (almost posthumously) in 2000; it's a mystery, dedicated to citizens of Dunleith (a "pleasant little Iowa river town" that resembles Dubuque in many ways), where three murders are committed,
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- and solved (by a young lawyer who might think resembles the author), and there's an admirer of the Sherlock Holmes tales involved in the story. 120 pp., \$15.00 (plus shipping) from George A. Vanderburgh (Box 204, Shelburne, ON L0N 1S0, Canada) <www.batteredbox.com>.
11067. Among the nice things about looking through single issues of *The Strand Magazine* are the occasional surprises: in the Aug. 1943 issue they had "Away from It All" photographs of four "men of fame caught in moments of wartime relaxation," one of them with the caption "Leslie Howard, actor and film producer, takes to clarinet-playing, accompanied by his son." His son was Ronald Howard, who was Sherlock Holmes in the 1954 television series. Thanks to Ted Schulz for tracking down the issue.
11068. If you want to see what people are buying, you can consult the list of "top sellers" at <www.amazon.com> and the best-seller lists in the *N.Y. Times* and the *Los Angeles Times* and other newspaper, but if you want to know what people are reading, you can check the "top 100 books and authors" at Project Gutenberg <www.gutenberg.org>, where they list the top 100 eBooks and authors downloaded yesterday, last 7 days, and last 30 days. Conan Doyle ranks second (behind Mark Twain and ahead of William Shakespeare in all of the three author lists).
11069. *The Silver Blaze*, conceived by Thomas L. Stix, Sr., was run for the first time at Jamaica Race Course on Long Island in 1952; it was revived by The Baker Street Irregulars at historic Saratoga Race Track in upstate New York in 2000, and the next running of the race at Saratoga will be on July 29. It will be a weekend event, with lunch at the track on July 29, and brunch and a program on July 30, all for \$115 and with a maximum of 60 people; you can send your checks (made payable to The Baker Street Irregulars, please) to (and obtain more information from) Lou Lewis (2 Lookerman Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603) <llewis@lewisgreer.com>, and you can visit the web-site for the race at <www.silverblazen.y.homestead.com>. And there's a special rate available for rooms at the Johnstown Holiday Inn.

February 2006 #4

11070. John Baesch spotted the letter to the *Daily Telegraph* (Jan. 29) written by Robert Epps, former chief police officer at the Bow Street Police Office (as it was originally called), lamenting "the neglect and contempt of this Government and the Mayor of London, who appear to be about to sell off the old Bow Street Police Station." Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson visited the Bow Street station at least once (in "The Man with the Twisted Lip").
11071. Yuichi Hirayama maintains an interesting "blog" about "Sherlockiana in Japan" (with content in English) at <ameblo.jp/shinjapan>, and it's helpful to know that you can buy Japanese books on-line at <www.amazon.jp> (there's an "in English" link at the upper right of the opening screen).
11072. Karen Murdock reported a library-catalog record for *BLEAK HOUSES: MARITAL VIOLENCE IN VICTORIAN FICTION*, by Lisa SurrIDGE, (Athens: Ohio University Press, 2005; 272 pp., \$55.00 cloth, \$24.95 paper); the author surveys fact and fiction (from Dickens through Conan Doyle), with a final chapter "Are Women Protected? Sherlock Holmes and the Violent Home" that offers interesting commentary on marital violence recorded in the Canon.
11073. There are those who believe that Arthur Conan Doyle hated Sherlock Holmes, or merely disliked him, and it is interesting to remember what Sir Arthur wrote in *The Strand Magazine* (Mar. 1927), recalling his decision to end the stories at the conclusion of *THE MEMOIRS*: "I did the deed, but, fortunately, no coroner had pronounced upon the remains, and so, after a long interval, it was not difficult for me to respond to the flattering demand and to explain my rash act away. I have never regretted it, for I have not in actual practice found that these lighter sketches have prevented me from exploring and finding my limitations in such varied branches of literature as history, poetry, historical novels, psychic research, and the drama. Had Holmes never existed I could not have done more, though he may perhaps have stood a little in the way of the recognition of my more serious literary work." And he repeated those sentiments in his Preface to *THE CASE BOOK OF SHERLOCK HOLMES*.
11074. Frederick Busch died on Feb. 23. He was a highly-regarded novelist, and a professor at Colgate University, and he wrote an introduction for *THE SHERLOCK HOLMES MYSTERIES* (New American Library, 1985) and an article on Sherlock Holmes' centenary for the *Chicago Tribune* (1987).
11075. Greg Darak has noted an article by Francois Thomas on "Les 'dix grandes interpretations' selon Orson Welles (1938)" in the French film magazine *Positif* (Oct. 2005); according to a clipping found in a scrapbook in the N.Y. Library for the Performing Arts, Welles was one of many people asked by an unknown newspaper in 1938 to list ten great performances. Welles' list included William Gillette in "Sherlock Holmes"; later that year he performed on stage in Gillette's "Too Much Johnson" and then on radio in Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes". The others on Welles' list were Mrs. Patrick Campbell in "The Matriarch", Edith Evans in "The Way of the World", Sir Cedric Hardwicke in "The Barretts of Wimpole Street", Spencer Tracy in the film "Now I'll Tell", Whitford Kane in "Juno and the Paycock", Emil Jannings in the film "The Last Laugh", Fedor Chaliapin in "Boris Goudenov", Charles Chaplin in all his films, and Kirsten Flagstad in "Tristan and Isolde".

February 2006 #5

11076. "Russian Actor LivaNovember to Receive Order of British Empire for Acting Sherlock Holmes" was the headline on a <www.mosnews.com> story on Feb. 23, quoting a Radio Liberty report that Tony Brenton, British ambassador to Russia, had said that the Queen had made that a decision. <news.rin.ru> had more detail: the award is a CBE (Companion of the Order of the British Empire), and Brenton made the announcement during a reception at his residence, and LivaNovember said he was grateful for the honor; he also expressed regret that his friend Vitaliy Solomin, who had played Watson in the series, had died, saying that "I think we would have shared this high award with him." Honours are generally announced in January and June, and by the prime minister rather than an ambassador, and awards are seldom made to a foreigner, but it's not unprecedented.
11077. Don Knotts died on Feb. 24. He began his entertainment career before World War II as a ventriloquist, and after the war appeared on stage, screen, and television, winning five Emmys as Deputy Barney Fife on "The Andy Griffith Show". In the film "The Private Eyes" (1981) he starred as Inspector Winship, wearing Sherlockian costume throughout the film.
11078. Phil Attwell notes that "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: The Real Sherlock Holmes" is available on DVD from Razamataz (Parkside, Avenue 2, Station Lane, Witney, Oxon. OX28 4YF, England) <www.razamataz.co.uk> for £5.95 plus shipping; it's a 57-minute documentary produced, directed, and narrated by Liam Dale in 2004, with (as a "special feature") the radio broadcast of "The Adventure of the Devil's Foot" (1947) starring Nigel Bruce and Tom Conway.
11079. Amy Spencer, in her article on "12 Ways to Remake Your Boring Old Self" (in *New York Magazine*, Feb. 27) suggests as #12 "Disappear Completely"; it may or may not be a coincidence, but she includes information from two sources in Manhattan: Sherlock Investigations <www.sherlockinvestigations.com> and the Holmes Detective Bureau <www.holmesdetective.com>.
11080. Reported: *THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES*, edited (and annotated) by Francis O'Gorman (Peterborough: Broadview Press, 2006; 300 pp., CA\$11.95/US\$9.95/£5.99); O'Gorman's introduction "places the text in the context of numerous literary and cultural debates, about aristocracy, primitivism, biology and criminology, the supernatural, Empire, and spiritualism."
11081. "Sherlock Holmes just might be the man to give the Mary Winspear Centre a jumpstart," according to a report in the *Victoria Times Colonist* (Feb. 16) on how better use might be made of a community center in Sidney in British Columbia. A report with 42 recommendations begins with a suggestion that the center host a series of festivals, with an annual Sherlock Holmes-inspired gathering leading the list. "There are hundreds of

Sherlock Holmes clubs around world, and Japan has a huge number of them," said Michael Wicks, the report's author, "We certainly believe that there's huge mileage in that."

11082. The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection are continuing their annual Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lectures: Glen Miranker is their guest speaker this year, on the topic of "When Is a Book Not a Book?"; the lecture will be at 3:00 pm on April 1, at the Elizabeth Beeton Auditorium in the Toronto Reference Library (no charge for admission).
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February 2006 #6

11083. Further to the item (December 05 #7) on Paul Spiring having concluded that Fletcher Robinson died of natural causes, rather than murder by Conan Doyle, Plymouth's Western Morning News reported (Feb. 20) is still determined to prove his claim of murder. Garrick-Steele and Spiring "went their separate ways," and Garrick-Steele now says that Fletcher Robinson's death certificate is a forgery. The Diocese of Exeter has still not decided to permit an exhumation (which Spiring still hopes to perform). The next day the paper reported that BBC South West had broadcast an "Inside Out" segment about Garrick-Steele on Feb. 20.
11084. William R. Hanson, MD, has created more Sherlockian first day covers, one for "The Blue Carbuncle" (with the 37c Holiday Cookies stamp and his original artwork in the cachet); \$10.00 postpaid. The other was for the Sherlock Holmes/William Gillette festival in Tryon, N.C. (with the festival's pictorial cancel); \$4.50 postpaid, or \$4.00 if ordered with the Christmas cover. Checks or money orders can be sent to Dr. Hanson at 78 West Notre Dame Street, Glens Falls, NY 12801.
11085. "I very much didn't want it to be one of those books for Holmesheads," Juan Barnes said about his novel ARTHUR & GEORGE in an interview published in the Madison Capital Times (Feb. 3), adding that "I didn't want there to be obscure planted references to a detail in 'The Case of the Upturned Saucer,' where they would be able to tug on their deerstalkers and say, 'Ah, yes.'"
11086. If you're unhappy about the increase in U.S. postage to 39c, consider that in April the basic letter rate in Britain will increase to 32p (that's almost 56c); postage in most other countries costs even more. The Internet is a blessing, of course, to those who can use e-mail instead of the postal service.
11087. Ernest Dudley died on Feb. 1. He was an actor, a writer, and a journalist, and in 1930 he married Eille Norwood's step-daughter Jane Grahame; according to Jack Adrian (who wrote Dudley's obituary in *The Independent*), this gave rise to an oft-used conversational gambit: "You don't know it, my dear chap, but you're looking at Sherlock Holmes' stepson-in-law!" He adapted "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" (the 1923 play that starred Norwood) for a new production in 1953, and again for a tour in 1997.
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March 2006 #1

11088. The Baker Street Irregulars' next annual dinner will be held in New York on Jan. 12, 2007, and I expect to have the detailed forecast of weekend events in the end-of-October issue of my newsletter. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London will have their annual dinner in London on Jan. 20.
11089. Further to the report on the Penguin Classics edition of THE LOST WORLD AND OTHER THRILLING TALES (July 04 #1) with an introduction and notes by Philip Gooden and three additional stories ("The Poison Belt", "The Terror of Blue John Gap", and "The Horror of the Heights"), there was a separate Penguin edition of THE LOST WORLD issued as a tie-in to the mini-series (with Bob Hoskins as Challenger) broadcast by BBC-1 in 2001 and by A&E cable in 2002. The separate edition has only "The Lost World" and Gooden's notes on that story, and a ferocious *Tyrannosaurus rex* on the cover.
11090. "It is difficult to be moderate about the charm of these brief portraits," Michael Dirda wrote at the beginning of his review (in the Washington Post Book World on Feb. 5) of Javier Marias' WRITTEN LIVES (New York: New Directions, 2006; 192 pp., \$22.95); one of those portraits is a seven-page essay on "Arthur Conan Doyle and Women", and it's nicely done indeed. The book was originally published in Spanish as VIDAS ESCRITAS in 2000.
11091. The March issue of Golf Digest has a well-illustrated article on "How Golf Saved Sherlock Holmes" (by Charles McGrath), which notes that there are only passing allusions to the sport in the Sherlock Holmes stories, and deals in considerable detail with what golf meant to Arthur Conan Doyle, and whom he played with, and where and when.
11092. Ev Herzog spotted the Gemstone comic book "Mickey Mouse and Friends" (#261, February, \$2.95) with a Sherlockian cover and with a story "Mickey Mouse in Surefoot Jones" (with Jones' smarter assistant Dr. Watsup).
11093. "Rich Seam of Technology Behind the Start of Another Australian Gold Rush" was the headline on a story in the Daily Telegraph (Feb. 6), noted by John Baesh. The gold new rush is in the "Golden Triangle" bounded by the towns of Ballarat and Bendigo. "Mining in the past was a disorganized treasure hunt. Computer modelling means we can be much more accurate about where we think the gold is," explained Joel Forwood, a geologist with Ballarat Goldfields, which poured its first ingot in December; the company hopes to extract 200,000 ounces of gold a year, worth about £60 million. No mention of a modern Black Jack of Ballarat in the article.
11094. John also spotted an editorial in the Daily Telegraph (Feb. 2) that reminds us of just what one of the Moriarty brothers did for a living, in the days when each railway station was looked after by its own dedicated stationmaster. "Stationmasters have been replaced by managers, each responsible for several of the smaller stations," the editorial lamented, leading to an increase in vandalism. "Instead of boasting about the millions that they are spending on CCTV and maintenance, the train operating companies should put an individual member of staff in charge of each station. They should equip him or her with a broom, a pot of paint, and a hanging basket or two. Pride and a spirit of competition will do the rest."
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March 2006 #2

11095. From Tom Deveson's review (in the Sunday Times on Feb. 26) of Jeffrey Archer's FALSE IMPRESSIONS: "Allow one honest sentence to emerge from all this feeble, formulaic footling. Give your elderly aristocrat the chance to say on page 352 that 'we have been giving honours to pop stars, footballers, and vulgar millionaires.' Cherish this tiny seed of self-knowledge, Lord Archer." Deveson obviously didn't like Archer's new the book, and complains (when it comes to plot): "Take an idea from an 1893 Sherlock Holmes story and wrap it in pages of stuff about real and fake Van Goghs."
11096. Pattie Tierney now has a web-site at <www.ptierneydesigns.etsy.com> showing her Sherlockian "wearable art" (including her new "Great Detectives" mystery necklace" that can be customized). The electronically-handicapped can request a copy of her illustrated flier (229 Hereford Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63135).
11097. Further to the item (November 05 #8) on the diamond necklace/tiara owned by Dame Jean Conan Doyle, scheduled to be auctioned at Bonhams in London on Dec. 8 and described as "late 19th century (circa 1890), set throughout with old brilliant and single-cut diamonds," the hammer price was £13,000 (add 20% for the buyer's premium); Lady Doyle's will bequeathed her diamond tiara to her daughter, and of course it's likely that the tiara was a gift from her husband. Is there a photograph somewhere of Lady Doyle wearing the tiara?
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11098. One of the interesting aspects of the Internet is how international it is. <www.romanzieri.com> offers Italian readers links to stories by Conan Doyle (and many other authors) at Project Gutenberg and other web-sites, and to articles in newspapers and magazines in Italy and other countries.
11099. Douglas Johnston, who maintains the web-log "A Million Monkeys Typing: Random Musings from a Primate Mind" at <www.douglasjohnston.net> has launched a new Sherlockian blog "A Study in Sherlock" at <www.astudyinsherlock.net>. The Internet and the World Wide Web offer far more Sherlockian content than anyone has time to read, and the amount of content increases by the minute, but if you want to explore an interesting Sherlock blog, this one's a good place to start.
11100. Scott Monty notes that Ch. Rocky Top's Sundance Kid (affectionately known as Rufus) won best in show at the Westminster Kennel Club dog show in February. Add there's a Sherlockian connection: Rufus is a bull terrier, and <news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2006/02/0215_060215/westminster.html> has a nice photograph of him. Scott also notes that there's another Canonical connection for Rufus (not the red-bearded Duke of Holderness or all those people in "The Red Headed League"); answer below, for those who can't figure out the answer.
11101. The Sherlock Holmes pub at the Gulf Hotel in Bahrain (May 92 #1) now has a web-site at <www.gulfhotelbahrain.com/gulfhotel_sherlock_holmes.asp>. Scott Monty reports. The "events" section at the web-site explains that "Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson lived at 221b Baker Street between 1881-1904. Now he and his partner currently resides at the Gulf Hotel where they hold office and offering their clients live sports coverage, live entertainment, and the best fish and chips in town."

March 2006 #3

11102. It's still possible to dine at the Langham Hotel in London, just as Arthur Conan Doyle and Oscar Wilde did on Aug. 30, 1889, when they were commissioned to write stories for Lippincott's Monthly Magazine, although it costs a lot more now (£36.00 for a three-course dinner) than it did then. The Langham opened in 1865 as Europe's first Grand Hotel, and it eventually was turned into offices for the BBC, and then back into a luxury hotel (December 90 #7) that is now the flagship for the Langham Hotel Group; you will find other Langhams in Auckland, Boston, Hong Kong, and Melbourne, and there's a web-site at <www.langhamhotels.com>. Ewan McDonald began his review of the Auckland Langham's restaurant in the New Zealand Herald (Mar. 8) with the story of that long-ago dinner in London. And in case you don't know the story, Conan Doyle wrote "The Sign of the Four" for Lippincott's, and Wilde "The Picture of Dorian Gray" (there are some Sherlockian scholars who believe that you can see some of Oscar Wilde in the mannerisms of Thaddeus Sholto in "The Sign of the Four").
11103. Further to the item (October 05 #4) about Steven Dietz's play "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure", the script is not yet available, but Dietz has a website <www.dramatists.us/stevendietz/works.htm> with information about this and his other plays.
11104. Don Hobbs put together a "Great Whimsical Sherlockian Tour of Oklahoma and Texas" last year, and it was thoroughly Sherlockian and decidedly whimsical; <members.aol.com/baritsu/diogenes/index.html> (click on "Activities" and then on "2005 Whimsical Tour") has Jim Webb's delightful description of the tour at the web-site of The Diogenes Club of Dallas. There are a few railroad spikes collected at Sherlock, Texas, available as souvenirs (with a small brass plaque commemorating the tour); \$15.00 postpaid from Don at 2100 Elm Creek Lane, Flower Mound, TX 75028.
11105. "Sherlockian Resources on the Internet: A Survey" is the title of a useful web-site maintained by John Bergquist at <www.tc.umn.edu/~bergq003/holmes>, with discussion of many of the better Sherlockian links; its goal being "to help one pick out a few choice strands to follow along the World Wide Web."
11106. Further to the forecast (February 06 #5) of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES WITH "THE ADVENTURE OF THE SPECKLED BAND", edited by Francis O'Gorman (Peterborough: Broadview Press, 2006; 300 pp., CA\$12.95/US\$9.95/£4.99), the book has a long and informative introduction, the stories (with many annotations), nine appendices with excerpts from relevant authors such as Francis Galton, Jack London, Edgar Allan Poe, and Arthur Conan Doyle, and a good list of selected further reading. It's all useful and entertaining for both teach-ers and students.
11107. About the second Canonical connection for Rufus: it was the Red King (William Rufus) who granted the estate of Birlstone to Hugo de Capus.
11108. Google has added Mars to its web-site at <mars.google.com>, which serves as a reminder that they already show the Moon, at <moon.google.com>, where you can see Sherlock Crater (named during the Apollo 17 mission by geologist-astronaut Jack Schmitt in honor of Sherlock Holmes). Unfortunately, they don't identify which crater is Sherlock Crater. For that, try Mia Stampe's "The Universal Sherlock Holmes" at <www.gfy.ku.dk/~ams/sh.universal.html>.

March 2006 #4

11109. Further to the item (February 06 #5) about Vasilij Livanov, the official word is that he received an honorary MBE (honorary because he's not a British subject). Formally, he's a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire; next step up is Officer (OBE), then Companion (CBE), and Knight or Dame (KBE or DBE). Dame Jean Conan Doyle was awarded an OBE in 1948, and a DBE in 1963. OBEs have been awarded in the past to Leslie Bricusse, Peter Cushing, and Penelope Keith (names that may be familiar to Sherlockians and Doyleans); CBEs have been given to Simon Callow, Michael Holroyd, Alan Howard, Deborah Kerr, Christopher Lee, Dudley Moore, and Ian Richardson; Michael Caine, Nigel Hawthorne, and John Mills received CBEs, and later knighthoods. Sherlock Holmes refused a knighthood, and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle accepted one.
11110. Carolyn and Joel Senter (Classic Specialties) have published a new issue of their Sherlockian E-Times with news, and offers of new Sherlockiana, and links to their web-site, which has much more Sherlockiana; you can request an e-mail subscription at <sherlock@sherlock-holmes.com>.
11111. James Taylor & Son note that "Conan Doyle practiced in rooms just a couple of hundred yards away from our shop," and that their "Sherlock Holmes collection" is "true to the styles of the great detective." They are shoemakers ("quality shoemakers since 1857"); the shop is at 4 Paddington Street (London W1U 5QE, England), with a web-site at <www.taylormadeshoes.co.uk>, where you will find the Watson Walker, the Sherlock Shoe, the Gloria Scott, the Baskerville Boot, the Lestrade, and the Hudson Hopper. You "could order something of the same quality as Sherlock Holmes would have worn," the company suggests. "It might cost a few guineas more, but you will detect the quality."
11112. Phil Attwell reports that the first two seasons of the Granada series (with Jeremy Brett and David Burke) are available on zone-2 DVDs with dialogue in French. You can see and hear excerpts at <www.series-tv.fr>; the sets cost E54.00 each per season, but they're discounted at <www.amazon.fr>. Roger Johnson has reviewed the first set in The District Messenger: you can watch the shows in French or in English (with or without French subtitles), and there's added-value material provided by The Jeremy Brett Society of France and La Societe Sherlock Holmes de France.
11113. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists will meet for drinks and dinner in Houston, to honor the world's first forensic geologist, at 7:00 pm on April 12, at Artista (800 Bagby Street at Rusk), during the annual meeting of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists. We traditionally discourage scholarly papers, quizzes, and slide shows, and our agenda consists entirely of toasts (some scholarly, but many not). Visitors and locals are welcome, as always, to attend the festivities.

11114. Maureen Collins reports that the National Library of Medicine is screening a series of films having to do with forensic investigation, in conjunction with an exhibition "Visible Proofs: Forensic Views of the Body". The exhibition will be open through Feb. 16, 2008, and there's an informative website at <www.nlm.nih.gov/visibleproofs>; the Library is at 8600 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20894. "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (1939) was the first film (screened on Mar. 16) in the weekly series.

March 2006 #5

11115. There aren't many authors who can maintain two successful series of mysteries (along with some stand-alone novels): Laurie R. King is one of them, and she has won many fans (and awards) for her series about Mary Russell and her series about Kate Martinelli. Martinelli is a contemporary lesbian San Francisco homicide inspector, and it can be interesting to imagine a Russell fan innocently picking up a Martinelli novel (and, needless to say, vice versa). THE ART OF DETECTION (New York: Bantam Books, 2006; 358 pp., \$24.00) is the latest Martinelli mystery, and it's an intriguing cross-over: a compulsive collector who has turned his home into a Sherlockian museum is murdered, perhaps by a fellow-member of his S'ian society who covets a manuscript that, if it's authentic, is a first-person account of a case Sherlock Holmes solved in San Francisco in 1924 (when he was there with Mary Russell, as recorded in LOCKED ROOMS). The manuscript is part of THE ART OF DETECTION, so there are two murders in the novel, one solved by Holmes and the other by Martinelli.
11116. Michael Chabon's THE FINAL SOLUTION (set on the Sussex Downs and in London in the summer of 1944, and featuring an aged beekeeper detective) won the 2005 National Jewish Book Award in Fiction. Runners-up in the competition were Philip Roth's THE PLOT AGAINST AMERICA and Cynthia Ozick's HEIR TO THE GLIMMERING WORLD.
11117. The U.S. Postal Service has released a set of five "Crops of the Americas" stamps, in booklets and coils, showing squashes, corn, chili peppers, sunflowers, and beans. The famous Blue Carbuncle was described as a "brilliantly scintillating blue stone, rather smaller than a bean in size."
11118. Further to the earlier item (March 05 #3) about Nicholas Twit: The Schoolboy Sherlock Holmes, the fifth (and last) book in the series was published last year (the books are "for mystery readers from 8 to 80"), and author Cenarth Fox has reported that his play "The Real Sherlock Holmes" is in its third year on tour in Australia. There's a web-site at <www.twit.biz> (copies of all the books are still available) and a preview copy of the script can be downloaded free at <www.foxplays.com>; Classic Specialties (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219) (877-233-3823) <www.sherlock-holmes.com> offers a CD recording of the play (\$12.95).
11119. It has been some years since there has been any Sherlockian cross-over into the science fiction magazines; Philip K. Jones reports "The Scarlet Band", by Harry Turtledove, in Analog Science Fiction and Fact (May 2006). It's set in the late 19th century and involves Athelstan Homes, Dr. John Walton, and Captain La Strada.
11120. Further to the item (December 05 #2) about "Springtime in Baker Street" (on Apr. 22-23 in Norwalk, Conn.), Bob Thomalen now has a detailed schedule; some of the events include talks by Gideon Hill on "The Lithium Link: Gout, Mania, and Sherlock Holmes", Charles Meyer on "The Magical Sherlock Holmes", Jim Cleary on "Sounds of Baker Street", Mike Berdan on "Connecticut's Canonical Connections", and Philip Shreffler on "Watson's Weird Tales: Horror in the Canon", plus a dinner performance by the Sherlettes and the Friends of Bogies on Baker Street. Additional details are available from Bob at 82 Highview Drive, Carmel, NY 10512 (845-225-2445) <the3garridebs@suscom.net>.
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March 2006 #6

11121. "My old friend Charlie Peace was a violin virtuoso," Sherlock Holmes said (in "The Illustrious Client"). Holmes was 25 years old when Peace was executed on Feb. 25, 1879; the executioner was hangman William Marwood, and a letter from Marwood confirming that Peace had been executed was sold at auction at Bonhams in Leeds on Feb. 28 for £520 (plus premium and tax).
11122. The Edinburgh Evening News has reported (Mar. 14) that "A decade-long campaign for the village where Arthur Conan Doyle grew up to be given special conservation status has failed due to a glut of home extensions." Planning chiefs have refused to give Nether Liberton special conservation status because they say that residents' work on their homes has damaged the area's character. The decision does not affect restoration of Liberton Bank House (where Conan Doyle lived for four years during the 1860s); that work (December 05 #2) is about to begin.
11123. Don Izban reports that SBIOS (Sherlockians by Invitation Only) will have their next meeting on Oct. 8 at the Ridgemoor Country Club in Chicago, featuring a gourmet dinner, open bar, prizes, and David Hammer's dissertation on why Sherlock Holmes birthday ought to be celebrated on the tenth day of the tenth month. And earlier that day Don will conduct a tour of Graceland Cemetery, where Vincent Starrett and others (both famous and infamous) are buried. Don's events sell out early, and he's accepting reservations now (the all-in cost is \$77.50) at 1812 Rene Court, Park Ridge, IL 60068).
11124. There's no record in the Canon of Sherlock Holmes ever visiting the Sandwich Islands (that's the name that Captain Cook gave to what are now known as the Hawaiian Islands), and the Andaman Islanders of Honolulu are at the moment dormant, but there are (of course) traces of Sherlock Holmes and Arthur Conan Doyle on Oahu, where you can visit the site of the house where Robert Louis Stevenson lived for a while on his way to Samoa (where he corresponded with Conan Doyle about Sherlock Holmes), and on Hawai'i (known as the Big Island), where Mark Twain stayed at Volcano House and was amazed by the eruptions in the Kilauea Caldera (he wrote a Sherlockian parody). And Christopher Morley visited Honolulu in 1933 to lecture at the University of Hawaii; he gave three lectures, which you can read in his book SHAKESPEARE AND HAWAII (1933).
11125. There is a Canonical connection as well, since sandwiches are mentioned in four of the Sherlock Holmes stories; the sandwich was named after John Montagu, 4th Earl of Sandwich, and he was First Lord of the Admiralty in 1778, when Cook arrived in the islands and named them in honor of the Earl.
11126. All of which by way of explaining why this issue of my newsletter may be a bit late, and why there's no news from the last part of March, when I was in Hawaii (having decided it was embarrassing for a geologist never to have seen a working volcano); Hawaii is delightful, with far more to offer than just Waikiki. I also had a chance to see Pam Verrey, who sends regards to all her friends. My apologies to those who have sent material about which I won't report until the next issue.
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April 2006 #1

11127. Three Conan Doyle manuscripts owned by his daughter Dame Jean Conan Doyle went to auction at Bonhams in London on Mar. 28, for the benefit of charities she supported during her life; the mss. were "Brigadier Gerard at Waterloo" (est. £15,000-20,000), "How Brigadier Gerard Lost His Ear" (£8,000-12,000), and "Ypres: September 1915" (£800-1200), and descriptions and photographs may still be available at <www.bonhams.com>. The "Ypres" ms. sold for £900 (add 20% for the buyer's premium), and the two Gerard stories went unsold.
11128. Sorry about that: <www.tc.umn.edu/~bergq003/holmes> is the correct URL for John Bergquist's useful web-site "Sherlockian Resources on the Internet: A Survey" (March 06 #3).
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11129. "Professor Moriarty's is for sale," according to the Saratogian (Mar. 20). The Saratoga Springs (N.Y.) restaurant opened in 1984, and owner Dale Easter is ready to retire, and entertaining offers. The restaurant claims to be the only one with a library (actually a stuffed magazine rack, but there are a lot of Sherlock Holmes book around), the paper reported.
11130. "Celebrity Digs Fetch £700,000" is the headline on a story in the Sheffield Star (Mar. 29) about a pair of Sheffield townhouses, one of which was said to have a connection with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who "wrote about 6 Ashgate Road, possibly while living there, in his story The Sheffield Banker." And which story was that?
11131. Apple has long included a "Sherlock" file-finding utility in the Macintosh operating system (August 98 #5), and of course the utility now does a lot more than that. And Laura Kuhn has reported that Mozilla (a free software/open-source software) project now offers a "Mycroft" collection of search plug-ins for browsers such as Mozilla and Firefox. You can read more about it at <www.mycroft.mozdev.org>, and see artwork showing Mozilla (their version of Godzilla) with a Sherlockian cap and pipe.
11132. Further to the item (December 05 #4) on The Baker Street Irregulars Trust (which supports the BSI Archives at the Houghton Library at Harvard University), the Trust now has a web-site at <www.bsitrust.org> with information about the Trust and the Archives, and photographs of letters written to Edgar W. Smith by Vincent Starrett and Christopher Morley.
11133. Videotaper alert: Jerry Margolin reports an interesting line of dialogue in "King of the Underworld" (1939) which starred Humphrey Bogart as an on-the-lam gangster, and James Stephenson as a writer who is kidnapped and ordered to write the gangster's biography. Bogart (Joe Gurney) suggests a title, and Stephenson (Bill Stevens) replies, "I have a better title to use. How about 'Joe Gurney, the Napoleon of Crime'?"
11134. Carolyn and Joel Senter (Classic Specialties) have published a new issue of their Sherlockian E-Times, with a report on a bottle of Gloria Scott black currant wine received from David Milner (unfortunately, it's not for sale); you can visit their web-site <www.sherlock-holmes.com>, and you can request an e-mail subscription to the newsletter at <sherlock@sherlock-holmes.com>.
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April 2006 #2

11135. It was Ken Kenza who reported the "Sherlock Holmes Action Figure" (August 04 #6), available from Archie McPhee & Co. (Box 3852, Seattle, WA 98113 (425-349-3009) <www.archiemcphree.com>; they offer other action figures with Sherlockian and Doylean connections, including Houdini, Poe, Shakespeare, Wagner, and Wilde. And the "Marie Antoinette Action Figure" may not be Canonical, but it's amusing.
11136. And which story was The Sheffield Banker? "The Adventure of the Sheffield Banker" was an alternate title for "The Case of the Man Who Was Wanted", at one time believed to have been written by Conan Doyle, but in fact written by Arthur Whitaker.
11137. Further to the item (October 05 #4) on "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" (adapted by Steven Dietz from Gillette's play), there are two additional productions scheduled: at the Actors Theatre in Louisville from Jan. 30 to Feb. 24, 2007 (316 West Main Street, Louisville, KY 40202 (502-584-1205) <www.actorstheatre.org>; and at the Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park from Apr. 26 to May 25, 2007 (962 Mount Adams Circle, Cincinnati, OH 45202 (513-421-3888) <www.cincyplay.com>.
11138. An exhibition on "Conan Doyle and Joseph Bell: The Real Sherlock Holmes" is scheduled at the Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh from July 1 to Oct. 29, according to the Sunday Times (Apr. 16), and one of the items on view will be the letter written to Bell in May 1892 in which Conan Doyle said: "It is certainly to you that I owe Sherlock Holmes and though in the stories I have the advantage of being able to place him in all sorts of dramatic positions I do not think that his analytical work is in the least an exaggeration of some effects which I have seen you produce in the outpatient ward." The letter was held in a private collection by Bell's family and recently acquired by the RSCE.
11139. Conan Doyle also was dissatisfied with some of the reviews, and wrote: "I know the public, or the upper public, are much more intelligent than the newspaper editors who are in the position of a man who has to swallow an orange and then an anchovy and then ice and then a rump steak and yet is expected to have a sensitive and discriminating palate. It is disheartening however when you take pains over a work which is essentially one of character drawing and find it pretty generally taken to be a mere book of adventure."
11140. Dorothy Stix has kindly donated to the BSI Archives copies of photographs she has taken at many Sherlockian events over the years. The photographs include a few people who have not been identified, and the Archives would welcome any and all assistance in solving these mysteries; Scott Monty has made the photographs available at his blog at the Baker Street Journal website at <www.bakerstreetjournal.blogspot.com>.
11141. Laurie R. King will be on tour in June in California, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arizona and Washington promoting her new Kate Martinelli novel THE ART OF DETECTION (March 06 #5); it's a Sherlockian cross-over, and the list of her appearances is on-line at <www.laurierking.com/events.php>. Her Mary Russell novel LOCKED ROOMS (May 05 #6) was published in a paperback edition in March (Bantam, \$6.99).
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April 2006 #3

11142. Sherlock Holmes has solved the case of the missing Arctic Ozone, Peter Calamai reported in the Toronto Star (Mar. 19). The Fourier Transform Spectrometer, nicknamed Sherlock Holmes (July 02 #1), is part of the Atmospheric Chemistry Experiment orbiting the Earth on Canada's science satellite SciSat. As it turns out, the problem of the missing Arctic ozone was that it didn't appear to be missing when it should have been, during the Arctic winter of 2005; the SciSat's instruments showed that vast amounts of Arctic ozone had indeed been destroyed, but had been replaced by ozone in masses of air blown in from outside the depletion zone.
11143. Reported: CONAN DOYLE AND THE PARSON'S SON: THE GEORGE EDALJI CASE, by Gordon Weaver (Cambridge: Pegasus/Vanguard Press, 2006; 380 pp., £9.99); an account of the case based on contemporary documents. You can read more at <www.theplebeian.net>.
11144. The U.S. Postal Service has finally issued a 24c stamp (that's the new cost for additional ounces, and it shows a butterfly: a common buckeye (*Junonia coenia*); butterflies are mentioned in four of the stories, including "The Three Gables" (Douglas Maberley was not "a society butterfly").
11145. Christiane Maybach died on Apr. 12. She began her acting career on screen in Germany in 1951 and appeared on stage and on television until 1995; she played Polly Nichols in "A Study in Terror" (1965).
11146. I've mentioned the colorful Edinburgh policeman James McLevy before (September 03 #8); many of his cases were published in 1861 (in CURIOSITIES OF CRIME IN EDINBURGH and THE SLIDING SCALE OF LIFE), and it's intriguing to think that Conan Doyle read and enjoyed the stories. David Ashton encountered McLevy while researching a television play that was broadcast by BBC-2 in its "Encounters" series in 1992 (with Frank Finlay as Conan Doyle and Richard E. Grant as Holmes). Ashton has written four McLevy series for BBC Radio 4, and his first McLevy novel (SHADOW OF THE SERPENT) will be published this year by Polygon (£8.99). The radio series, with Brian Cox as McLevy (Cox played Joseph Bell in BBC-2's "The Strange Case of Sherlock Holmes and Arthur Conan Doyle" (2005). Recent programs in the radio series are available on-line at <www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/arts/afternoon_play.shtml>.
11147. "I have a trade of my own," Sherlock Holmes said (in "A Study in Scarlet"). suppose I am the only one in the world, I'm a consulting detective, if you can understand what that is. Here in London we have lots of government detectives and lots of private ones. When these fellows are at fault, they
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come to me, and I manage to put them on the right scent." There were detectives before Holmes, of course, and the list extends back through Zadig to Daniel and includes one recently discovered by Joe Rainone in the pages of Saturday Night, a story paper published in Philadelphia in 1884. "Old Marvel" first appeared in the issue for Feb. 23, 1884, and Rainone suggests that it's possible that Conan Doyle read the story paper and that "Old Marvel" was an inspiration for Sherlock Holmes. Rainone's "The Amazing Adventure of Old Marvel; or A Baffling Mystery" is in the fall/winter 2006 issue (#12-13) of Blood 'n' Thunder (\$12.00), published by Ed Hulse (2467 Route 10 East, Mountain Club, Building 15, Apt. 4B, Morris Plains, NJ 07950); the web-site is at <www.geocities.com/poppub/>.

April 2006 #4

11148. There was nothing strictly Sherlockian at Malice Domestic this year, but the schedule included panels moderated by Dan Stashower ("Writing the Historical Mystery") and by yours truly ("Stalking Your Prey: How to Choose Your Victim"), and of course any panel with a Sherlockian on board involves some discussion of the Canon. The voting for the Agatha for best children/young adult fiction ended in a tie, and the winners were Carl Hiasen's FLUSH and Peter Abrahams' DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE, which has an eighth-grade Sherlock Holmes fan and amateur actress as the heroine (April 05 #1). And Douglas G. Greene won the Poirot Award for contributions to the genre as publisher (with his wife Sandi) of short-story collections from Crippen & Landru. Malice Domestic XIX will be held on May 4-6, 2007, at the Crystal City Marriott in Arlington, Va., featuring Rochelle Krich as guest of honor, Elaine Vietz as toastmaster, a lifetime achievement award for Carolyn Hart, and Georgette Heyer as ghost of honor; you can register at Box 8007, Gaithersburg, MD 20898 <www.malicedomestic.org>.
11149. The New Play House presented a reading of Lee Shackleford's play "Holmes & Watson" (1989) in Frederick, Md., last year (November 05 #2), and now they have scheduled a full production at the Cultural Arts Center in Frederick, June 15-25, 2006. The box office is at Box 601, Frederick, MD 21705 (301-668-8019) <www.frederickartscouncil.org>.
11150. Felix Morley, winner of the Pulitzer Prize in 1936 for his editorial writing for the Washington Post, is one of two Investitured members of The Baker Street Irregulars to have won a Pulitzer; Karen Murdock reports that one of his editorials is included in PULITZER PRIZE EDITORIALS: AMERICA'S BEST WRITING 1917-2003, edited by Wm. David Sloan and Laird B. Anderson (2003). The other Investitured Irregular who has won a Pulitzer is Michael Dirda, for criticism in 1993 (for his book reviews in The Washington Post).
11151. Stephen Vincent Benet won the Pulitzer twice, for poetry in 1929 (for JOHN BROWN'S BODY) and 1944 (for WESTERN STAR), and William Rose Benet won for poetry in 1942 (for THE DUST WHICH IS GOD). Both were friends of Christopher Morley, and mentioned often in Jon Lellenberg's IRREGULAR MEMORIES OF THE 'THIRTIES as involved in Sherlockian affairs before the era of Irregular Investitures.
11152. Further to the item about the new butterfly stamp, William R. Hanson, MD, chose a different mention for the cachet artwork on a first day cover that showing Beryl Stapleton in the room that held her husband's collection. \$10.00 postpaid (in a signed and numbered edition of 100) from Dr. Hanson at 78 West Notre Dame Street, Glens Falls, NY 10801.
11153. "Case Closed" is the English-language version of "Meitantei Conan" [Detective Conan], a Japanese animation about Shinichi Kudo, a 17-year-old master detective who is turned by villains into a child and assumes the name Conan Edogawa and pursues evil-doers. The 30-minute series aired in English on the Cartoon network (May 04 #6), and it's available here now on a series of DVDs from FUNimation Productions <www.funimation.com>.
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April 2006 #5

11154. David Pirie has updated his web-site at <www.murder-rooms.com>, and he reports that on July 27 the BBC and MPI will release a two-DVD set (\$39.98) with the four 90-minute programs in the "Murder Rooms" series that aired on BBC-1 in 2001 and on PBS-TV in 2002 (with Ian Richardson as Joseph Bell and Charles Edwards as Arthur Conan Doyle). And Pegasus has succeeded St. Martin's Press as his American book publisher: THE DARK WATER (the third in the series) is scheduled for October, and there will be reprints of THE PATIENT'S EYES and THE DARK CALLS; Pirie has begun work on a fourth title THE DEAD TIME.
11155. Scott Monty spotted a list of the 50 best film adaptations of all time, as selected by a panel of experts organized by The Guardian; the list, which includes "The Hound of the Baskervilles", will be voted on by the public in May. The panel didn't identify a particular adaptation of the story.
11156. That's a photograph of Eleonora Suhoviy, who arrived in Britain from the Ukraine 11 years ago and taught herself English mainly by reading the Sherlock Holmes stories, according to a story in the Daily Telegraph (Apr. 19), kindly forwarded by Jay Hyde. Now 24 and an Oxford graduate, Eleonora made the news by winning an appeal against deportation; her mother's temporary permission to remain in Britain ran out in 1999, and the Home Office has spent six years trying to deport them. The Home Office has been turned down by a tribunal, and Eleonora said she was "very relieved" and that her ambition is to join the Royal Navy.
11157. "Sherlock Holmes and the Speckled Band" is a one-man play performed by Neill Hartley; he appears next at the Township of Washington Public Library in Bergen, N.J., on May 6 (201-664-4586). He also will perform the show at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia on Sept. 14-17, and at the Atlantic Highlands Historical Society on Sept. 20; his two other one-man shows are "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" and "The Spirit of Lindburgh", and you can see photographs and a full schedule at his web-site at <www.neillhartley.com>. Thanks to Ted Friedman for news of the show.
11158. Phil Attwell reports that the Granada television series is being released on DVDs in France: the first three seasons are available at <www.amazon.fr> and there are more to come (they're zone 2 DVD sets), and you get to hear Holmes and everyone else speaking French.
11159. Thomas A. Dunn died on Dec. 12. He worked in life insurance and human resources, and an enthusiastic hiker and mountain climber, but his real love was pipes, and he was best known as the founder and president of The Universal Coterie of Pipe Smokers and as the editor and publisher of The Pipe Smoker's Ephemeris, launched in the spring of 1965 as an informal typed and mimeographed newsletter, sent free to anyone who requested it. The Ephemeris was devoted to pipes, smoking, and tobacco, and packed with news from members of the Coterie, many of them Sherlockians who made sure there was S'ian content in each issue. Circulation eventually reached 3,000 copies, and the pages of the Ephemeris are a splendid monument to Tom.
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April 2006 #6

11160. Bill Griffith's "Zippy the Pinhead", a long-running comic strip with fervent admirers among readers of the Washington Post (and other newspapers), occasionally shows Gillette Castle; Mary Ellen Rich has reported that Bill Griffith, who lives in Hadlyme, Connecticut, often uses people and places he likes in his work. The strip for July 31, 2002, shows the Castle (September 02 #3), and so does the strip for Apr. 1, 2006. The strips (as well as those for June 25, 2000, and Oct. 18, 2002) can be seen at the strip's web-site <www.zippythepinhead.com>, where you can also buy original artwork (\$350.00), signed prints (\$155.00 colored/\$55.00 black and white), and annuals (\$19.95).
11161. Further to the item (March 06 #5) about the new set of five "Crops of the Americas" stamps, one of them showing beans (which seemed appropriate for the Blue Carbuncle, described as "rather smaller than a bean in size"), Scott Monty has noted another connection between the stamp and the story: the gem allegedly turned up in the goose's crop.
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11162. It has been a while since I wondered about Investitured members of the Baker Street Irregulars who have appeared in movies as actors (April 01 #1), and at that time there were three: Elmer Davis, Bill Ward, and John E. Pffor. You can add Curtis Armstrong to the list; he received his Investiture last January, and has appeared on screen and television, most recently, as Jerry Margolin notes, in the film "Akeelah and the Bee", which opened on Apr. 28.
11163. People sometimes ask, "How many *other* Sherlock Holmes stories are there?" It's always been hard to quantify, but computers do make things easier: an answer can be found in Philip K. Jones' data-base "Beyond the Gaslight: The Non-Canonical Tales", a 2.6-MB Microsoft Excel file that can be downloaded at <www.candenhouse.ignisart.com/pastiche/index.html>: Philip has identified 5,520 different pastiches, parodies, and related fiction, and expects to increase the total to at least 6,000 with help from people who can add to the data-base. He includes scripts and storyboards for stage, screen, radio, and television, but not recordings, and his "Holmesian Universe" extends to "any fiction that acknowledges the existence of Holmes as a real person, important to the tale being told."
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May 2006 #1

11164. Further to the mention (April 06 #3) of the new paperback edition of Laurie R. King's Mary Russell novel LOCKED ROOMS (Bantam, \$6.99), this is an item for completists, since it contains at the end of the book an excerpt from THE ART OF DETECTION; it's now common for a paperback edition to have this sort of promotion for the next hardback edition. Laurie's next book will be a stand-alone (TOUCHSTONE), due this year, and the novel after that will be a new Mary Russell.
11165. Rebecca J. Bohner (listmom for RUSS-L) reported a delightfully imaginative pastiche at <www.livejournal.com/users/prof_pangaea/115264.html>. If you don't have access to the Internet, go to a neighbor or local library; the pastiche is highly recommended.
11166. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists met for drinks and dinner at Artista in Houston on Apr. 12, at the end of the annual meeting of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, and we were welcomed by local members of the John Openshaw Society. We will dine next at McGillin's Old Ale House in Philadelphia on Oct. 25 during the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America; our tradition is to discourage scholarly papers, quizzes, and slide shows, with the agenda consisting entirely of toasts (some scholarly, but many not). The local societies will be announcing the event to their mailing lists, and others who might want to attend can let me know.
11167. Jay Pearlman reports that <www.pufichek.com/sherlock/nsgsherlock.htm> offers photographs of Nancy Garces-Saroli's miniature of the sitting room at 221B, as well as the full-scale sitting room at the Sherlock Holmes Museum in Lucens, after which the miniature is modeled.
11168. The fifth season of "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation" has been issued as a set of seven DVDs (\$89.99), and the first part of the season is available in Britain as a set of three DVDs (£39.99); each set has the episode "Who Shot Sherlock?" (2005) and special features that include commentary by writers Rich Catalani and David Rambo, who reveal that they named the Holmes-fanatic victim Dennis Kingsley in honor of Conan Doyle's sons.
11169. Noted by Mark Stratton: Dick Riley and Pam McAllister's THE BEDSIDE, BATHTUB, AND ARMCHAIR COMPANION TO SHERLOCK HOLMES (1999) has been reprinted by Barnes & Noble as THE BEDSIDE COMPANION TO SHERLOCK HOLMES (2005, \$7.98).
11170. Henry Zecher has spoken at many events about William Gillette, and his as-yet-unpublished biography THE MASQUE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE OF WILLIAM GILLETTE, and you can see excerpts from that and his other work at his web-site at <www.henryzecher.com>.
11171. Further to the item (January 06 #3) on a ban on smoking by actors in film, television, and theaters, government ministers have announced that they plan to exempt live performances and film and television recordings where smoking is "integral to the plot or storyline" when the ban on smoking in public spaces comes into effect next summer. Actors had complained that it would be difficult to stage plays if "characters such as Sherlock Holmes or Winston Churchill had to stop smoking," the Evening Standard reported.
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May 2006 #2

11172. Further to the item (April 06 #6) about the Investitured members of the Baker Street Irregulars: who have appeared in movies as actors, the list now is a bit longer (thanks to Jon Lellenberg most of the additions): Curtis Armstrong, Elmer Davis, Al Gregory, John E. Pffor, Donald Pollock, H. C. Potter, Bill Ward, and (possibly) Julian Wolff. Elmer Davis played himself in "The Day the Earth Stood Still" (1951), Hank Potter played himself in the documentary "On Stage!" (1949); Al Gregory was an extra in "Diamonds" (1975), and Don Pollock an extra in "Dawn of the Dead" (1978). Julian Wolff is reported to have made a little money, when he was in medical school, as an extra in movies being filmed in New York.
11173. That's Sherlock Holmes, a beagle-border collie-cross, and his owner Blair Anderson; according to a story on the Christchurch Press (May 5), Holmes' barking alerted Anderson to a robbery in progress at the Wainoni Dairy, and the police were quick to respond. And the burglar has been sentenced to 18 months in prison, "a result police say was largely due to Holmes' dogged detection."
11174. Frank Thomas died on May 11. He began acting on Broadway in 1932 (and in 1993 appeared in a dramatization of the Christopher Morley novel THUNDER ON THE LEFT) and he acted in his first Hollywood film in 1934; in 1950 Frank won the title role in the television series "Tom Corbett, Space Cadet" (beating out Jack Lemmon and other actors), and when the series ended he became a radio and television writer, bridge instructor, and author. His Sherlockian bridge columns were published in Popular Bridge (and were collected in two books), his pastiche of August Derleth's "Solar Pons" pastiches appeared in Luther Norris' Pontine Dossier), and a series of Sherlockian novels. He was buried, at his request, in his Tom Corbett costume.
11175. Carolyn and Joel Senter (Classic Specialties) have published the May issue of their Sherlockian E-Times, with (as usual) offers of interesting Sherlockiana; the newsletter's URL is <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times11.htm>. You can also visit their web-site <www.sherlock-holmes.com>, and request an e-mail subscription. And they have a report from David Stuart Davies that he has returned as editor of SHERLOCK, and that after one general-interest issue without him (July 05 #6), the next (and much more Sherlockian) issue (#67) will be published in June.
11176. Further to the items about "The Adventure of the Sheffield Banker" (April 06 1 and 2), it would appear that Richard Lancelyn Green or someone at Penguin chose that title for "The Case of the Man Who Was Wanted" for the reprint in THE FURTHER ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1985); some of the other stories in the collection were retitled so that all were "The Adventure of..." One can assume that the realtors did not carefully read Richard's introduction, which notes the original title, nor for that matter the story, which while it does mention Ashgate Road, has nothing about 6 Ashgate Road.
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May 2006 #3

11177. Reported: THE RISE OF THE DETECTIVE IN EARLY NINETEENTH CENTURY POPULAR FICTION, written by Heather Worthington (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2005; 216 pp., \$65.00); advertised as an academic study of early models that culminate in the figure of Sherlock Holmes and the establishment of the crime genre.
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11178. Jim Vogelsang spotted "Veggie Tales: Sheerluck Holmes and the Golden Ruler" on DVD from Big Idea (\$9.95); it's a 20-minute kid-vid (there's another adventure on the DVD, as well as Sheerluckian special feature), and their web-site <www.bigidea.com> offers coloring pages, computer and buddy icons that show Larry the Cucumber as Holmes (Bob the Tomato plays Watson).
11179. *HOLMES ON THE RANGE*, by Steve Hockensmith (New York: St. Martin's Minotaur, 2006; 294 pp., \$22.95), is an excellent Sherlockian mystery, set in Montana in 1893 and featuring two cowboys: Old Red Amlingmeyer (a devoted admirer of the Sherlock Holmes stories) and his literate brother Big Red (who reads the stories for him); it's an interesting and amusing example of what can be done with the Canon other than trying to write a new Sherlock Holmes story. The Amlingmeyers have appeared in short stories in birthday-festivities issues of Ellery Queen's *Mystery Magazine* (Feb. 2003, 2005, and 2006), and a second novel (with *ON THE WRONG TRACK* as a working title) is due next year. The author has a web-site at <www.stevhockensmith.com>, where you can read the first of the stories published in *EQMM*, and more about Hockensmith and his work.
11180. Marvin Lachman's *THE HEIRS OF ANTHONY BOUCHER: A HISTORY OF MYSTERY FANDOM* (Scottsdale: Poisoned Pen Press, 2005; 199 pp., \$16.95) describes the results of a chain reaction, from Boucher's mystery reviews in the *N.Y. Times* to the founding of *The Armchair Detective* to the creation of Bouchercon after his death; Lachman calls this "the fan revolution," and he does a fine job of explaining what it was and is now. The book is up-to-date through 2004, with sections on "Sherlockian Fandom" and on "Mystery Fandom in Cyberspace", and the index includes the names of many Sherlockians and Sherlockian societies.
11181. Bouchercon is a long-established world mystery convention, run by fans for fans, and named in honor of Anthony Boucher; Bouchercon 38 will be in Anchorage on Sept. 27-30, 2007 <www.bouchercon2007.com>, and Bouchercon 39 in Baltimore on Oct. 9-11, 2008 <www.bouchercon2008.blogspot.com>.
11182. The Morgan Library & Museum in New York reopened on Apr. 29, after an extensive expansion and renovation project, with an inaugural exhibition of "Masterworks from the Morgan" that includes an illustrated manuscript letter from Richard Doyle to his father John Doyle. Richard, a noted artist, was the brother of Sir Arthur's father Charles Doyle, and the Morgan owns 79 letters written by Richard and his brothers: 51 by Richard, 25 by Henry, and 3 by Charles, who once owned all the letters. You can see the letter at the Morgan's web-site at <www.themorgan.org>, and the exhibition is at 225 Madison Avenue (at 36th Street, New York, NY 10016 (212-685-3484)).

May 2006 #4

11183. Further to the item (April 06 #4) about Felix Morley, Karen Murdock has found the Felix Morley Journalism Competition, which awards \$5,000 in prizes annually for "the best published newspaper or magazine articles inspired by liberty." It's administered by the Institute for Humane Studies at George Mason University (3300 North Fairfax Drive #440, Arlington, VA 22201) <www.theihs.org>.
11184. This year's Canonical Convocation and Caper will take place in Door County, Wis., on Sept. 15-17; there's a web-site at <www.cccdoorcounty.com>, or you can request additional information from Jane Richardson, 3427 East Exchange Street, Crete, IL 60417.
11185. "Sherlock Holmes and the Saline Solution" is a new comedy presented by the Sound & Fury Fakespearean Players at the Cafe-Club Fais Do-Do dinner theater in Los Angeles through June 17. The club is at 5257 West Adams Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90016 (323-954-8080), and you can purchase tickets at the Sound & Fury web-site at <sherlock.soundandfury.org>.
11186. Plan ahead: the next Norwegian Explorers conference will be held in Minneapolis on July 6-8, 2007, and the theme will be "Victorian Secrets and Edwardian Enigmas"; the contact is Julie McKuras (13512 Granada Avenue, Apple Valley, MN 55124 <mike9750@aol.com>).
11187. "Japanese to Honour Briton Who Saved Them From Cholera" is the headline on a story in the *Daily Telegraph* (May 8) that begins, "If William Kinninmond Burton is remembered at all in Britain, it is as a childhood friend of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle." Conan Doyle lived for a time with the Burton family, and his book *THE FIRM OF GIRDLESTONE* is dedicated to "my old friend" William K. Burton. Burton became an engineer, and arrived in Japan in 1887 and over 12 years supervised the establishment of fresh-water and sewage systems in most of the major cities in Japan. He died in 1899, and Japanese admirers are planning to erect a monument to him in Edinburgh to commemorate the 150th anniversary of his birth.
11188. Reported: *MURDER IS NO MITZVAH: SHORT MYSTERIES ABOUT JEWISH OCCASIONS*, edited by Abigail Browning (New York: St. Martin's Minotaur, 2004; 304 pp., \$23.95); an anthology of 12 stories, one of them Conan Doyle's "The Jew's Breastplate".
11189. The winter 2006 issue of *Mystery Scene* has a Sherlockian cover (Rupert Everett), articles on "The Eternal Detective" (by Steve Hockensmith) and on "Sherlock Holmes on TV" (by Ron Miller), and lots of interesting non-Sherlockian content. The magazine costs \$7.50 in stores or \$10.00 by mail, or \$32.00 for a five-issue annual subscription; 331 West 57th Street #148, New York, NY 10019, and the web-site's at <www.mysteryscenemag.com>.
11190. Mike Barraclough has reported a new resource for research on British radio and television: the experimental prototype BBC Programme Catalogue available at <open.bbc.co.uk/catalogue/infax>. There are details of 947,368 BBC radio and television programs, dating back 75 years; it doesn't offer anything to listen to or watch, and it isn't complete, but it's fascinating to explore, searching for titles and subjects and contributors (that includes actors, directors, producers, and scriptwriters).

May 2006 #5

11191. Michael S. Greenbaum (Janus Books) has a new saleslist at his web-site at <www.janusbooks.com/unusual_SH.html>; it's an "interesting, unusual, and scarce Sherlockiana," with one item qualifying for all three adjectives: Rosemary Herbert's *A SECOND ADVENTURE OF THE SPECKLED BAND, OR ANOTHER CASE OF IDENTITY* (her personal account of the first woman to infiltrate successfully an all-male scion-society meeting in the guise of a man). Sorry: it's no longer available, but you can read more about it at the web-site.
11192. "Private Eye Popeye" was a 7-minute animation produced by Famous Studios in 1954, with Popeye in Sherlockian costume, and it's one of eight shorts on a "Popeye the Sailor Man Volume Four" discovered by Jennie Paton, and it's in the \$1.00 bin at stores such as Best Buy.
11193. Jennie also spotted a Dollar Tree audiobook-on-CD of "The Boscombe Valley Mystery", well read (by someone unidentified but with a good accent); the price (of course) is \$1.00.
11194. Reported: Andrea Barham's *THE PEDANT'S REVOLT: WHY MOST THINGS YOU THINK ARE RIGHT ARE WRONG* (London: Michael O'Mara Books, 2005; 160 pp., £9.99) (New York: Delacorte Press, 2006; 160 pp., \$15.00); the author exposes "a great many of the common myths and fallacies that have become entrenched in everyday thought," and among the myths exposed is that Sherlock Holmes says "Elementary, my dear Watson" in the stories, as well as that the deerstalker is mentioned.
11195. The March issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota has Julie McKuras' "100 Years Ago" discussion of the June 1906 issue of *The Strand Magazine* (which was Sherlockian as well as Doylean), Randy Cox's "50 Years Ago" reminiscences about his first appearance in a national publication (his article about "Mycroft Holmes, Private Detective" in the *Baker Street Journal*), and news from and about the Collections; copies of the newsletter are available from Richard J. Sveum, (111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <sveum001@tc.umn.edu>. The Sherlock Holmes Collections web-site at

<special.lib.umn.edu/rare/holmes.html> is well worth visiting, especially for its links to Tim Johnson's on-going "Supplement to the Universal Sherlock Holmes".

11196. Christopher Morley and Franz Grillparzer appeared in the January issue of Oprah magazine, not for their connection at the time of the founding of The Baker Street Irregulars, but for quotes on the monthly calendar (reported by Francine Kitts): "There are no precedents: You are the first You that ever was." (Morley) and "I notice well that one stray step from the habitual path leads irresistibly into a new direction."
11197. "Dr. Arthur Conan Doyle and the Case of Congenital Syphilis", by Arthur M. Silverstein and Christine Ruggers (Perspectives in Biology, spring 2006), is an examination of "The Third Generation" based on what late nineteenth-century doctors believed about congenital and hereditary syphilis, rather than more modern beliefs on how the disease is passed from generation to generation; it's an interesting demonstration of why it's better to think late nineteenth-century when reading a story written then.

May 2006 #6

11198. Further to the item (January 06 #5) about the new Decca original-cast CD of the musical "Baker Street" (1964), the accompanying booklet has an interesting article on "The Case of the Singing Detective" by Laurence Maslon, and the CD has some nice bonus tracks: "A Married Man" by Richard Burton with Richard Hayman & His Orchestra, and "Baker Street Mystery" by Kai Winding & His Orchestra. "Baker Street Mystery" was in the show (as "A Veritable Work of Art") in the Boston tryout, but never made it to Toronto or New York.
11199. Ales Kolodrubec notes that "Icons: A Portrait of England" offers people an opportunity to nominate and vote for aspects of British culture. Sherlock Holmes has already been nominated; people who want to vote for (or against) him, or see other icons, can visit the web-site at <www.icons.org.uk>.
11200. Brian Pugh reports that the Portsmouth Museum will hold an exhibition from June 10 to Sept. 24, displaying about 150 items from the more than 16,000 that were bequeathed to Portsmouth by Richard Lancelyn Green; a permanent exhibition should be open next year. The first two issues of the City of Portsmouth's quarterly newsletter about the bequest, with information on on-going cataloguing and some attractive material shown in photographs can be seen at their web-site at <www.portsmouthand.co.uk/history/213.htm>; to enroll on their mailing list, write to Mark Wright (ECCS 1st Floor, Civic Offices, Guildhall Square, Portsmouth PO1 2AD, England).
11201. Sale 5076 ("The Fine Art of Smoking") at Christie's on May 23 with material from the private collection of Alfred Dunhill (1872-1959) included an interesting carved-portrait meerschaum pipe in a silver-mounted leather case engraved "H. A. Saintsbury on His 500th Performance of Sherlock Holmes Dec. 21st 1903"; the pipe sold for £960 (including the buyer's premium). Their web-site is at <www.christies.com>, and the pipe is illustrated in Philip Weller's THE LIFE AND TIMES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1992, p. 15). The pipe was previously owned by Stanley Mackenzie, and was sold at auction at Sotheby's on July 24, 1995, along with a curved shell briar pipe also once owned by Saintsbury; the two pipes were sold as one lot for £2,990 (also including the buyer's premium).
11202. There are still a few spaces open for the next running of The Silver Blaze at Saragota Race Track in upstate New York (February 06 #3), with lunch at the track and the race on July 29 and brunch and a program on July 30; more information is available from Lou Lewis (2 Lookerman Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603) <llewis@lewisgreer.com> and at <www.silverblazeny.homestead.com>.
11203. The BBC America Shop (Box 681, Holmes, PA 19043 (800-898-4921) continues to offer interesting new Sherlockian items, including a Sherlock Holmes Marble Coaster Set (\$49.98) and a Sherlock Holmes Mug Set (\$34.98); their web-site is at <www.bbcamericashop.com>.
11204. SOME DANGER INVOLVED (July 04 #1) was the first of Will Thomas' mystery novels featuring Cyrus Barker (an homage to Holmes' rival in "The Retired Colourman") and with excellent Victorian atmosphere; the series continued with TO KINGDOM COME (2005), and now there's THE LIMEHOUSE TEXT (New York: Simon and Schuster/Touchstone, 2006; 352 pp., \$24.00), reported to be as good as the earlier volumes in the series.

May 2005 #7

11205. "On the one hand, we have a conspiracy that lasts 2,000 years and threatens the very foundations of Christianity, and on the other hand a network of rich dilettantes who resemble a theological branch of the Baker Street Irregulars," suggests Roger Ebert in his review of the film "The Da Vinci Code" in the Chicago Sun-Times (May 17), reported by Jon Lellenberg. One hears of the BSI everywhere . . .
11206. Empire Publishing Services (Box 1344, Studio City, CA 91614) (818-784-8918) <empirepubsvc@att.net> offers a catalog of "novels, plays, television and film scripts, and factual books on Holmes and Conan Doyle" (including many books published by Jack Tracy's Gaslight Publications and by Ian Henry); a sales-list is available on request.
11207. The film archives of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London were auctioned by Christie's in London in a sale of "Cameras, Magic Lanterns, and Photographs" on May 15. There were two lots of 35mm and 16mm films, sold for a total of £552 (including the buyer's premium).
11208. Google (the Internet search engine) often celebrates holiday and events with appropriate logos on its opening page, and they celebrated Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's birthday on May 22. They've been amusing their users with one-day-only logos since 1999, and you can visit their on-line museum at <www.google.com/holidaylogos.html>. Earlier this year they honored Spanish painter Joan Miro's birthday on Apr. 20 with a log in Miro's style, and removed it when they received a complaint from the painter's family that the logo was an infringement of the Miro copyright.
11209. Sherlockians are well aware that "A Study in Scarlet" was first published in Beeton's Christmas Annual; the periodical was named for Isabella Beeton, but it was her husband Samuel who published it, capitalizing on the fame of his late wife Isabella, who was renowned for her BOOK OF HOUSEHOLD MANAGEMENT, first published in 1861. Conan Doyle titled a chapter in his A DUET: WITH AN OCCASIONAL CHORUS (1898) "Concerning Mrs. Beeton", and involves his newly-married couple involved in an amusing discussion of the book. Lytton Strachey planned to write a biography of Mrs. Beeton, but didn't, and there is a new biography: THE SHORT LIFE AND LONG TIMES OF MRS. BEETON: THE FIRST DOMESTIC GODDESS, by Kathryn Hughes (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2006; 480 pp., \$29.95); there was an enthusiastic review in the N.Y. Times on May 17 (spotted by Francine Kitts).
11210. THE BEST OF 'THE SHERLOCK HOLMES JOURNAL' (VOLUME ONE) has been published, edited by Nicholas Utechin from the first eight volumes of the SHJ, with a foreword by the late Anthony Howlett (his last piece of Sherlockian writing before his death). There are 25 "special" copies, numbered and signed by Freda Howlett, Nicholas Utechin, and Philip Porter (£40.00 postpaid to the UK, £41.00/E60.00 to Europe, \$45.00/\$90.00 elsewhere), and a regular edition (£25.00 or £26.00/E40.00 or £30.00/\$60.00); checks made payable to the The Sherlock Holmes Society of London can be sent to Judi Ellis (13 Crofton Avenue, Orpington, Kent BR6 8DU, England <shs1221b@aol.com>.

May 2006 #8

11211. One of the many interesting aspects the Internet is the growing number of opportunities for those who wish to share their personal information to do that. There are blogs, and Facebook, and MySpace, and (reported by Jon Lellenberg) LibraryThing <www.librarything.com>: "an online service to

help people catalog their books easily." You can enter 200 books free, or as many as you want for \$10.00 (a year) or \$25.00 (lifetime), and you can make your information available to others (or not).

11212. THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (\$18.95 hardcover, \$11.95 paperback) and THE MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (\$16.95/\$9.95) are among the titles in the Book series <www.bedbooks.net>. A Bed Book, according to the company publicity, is a book printed sideways, so that it can be read lying on one's side in bed.
11213. Sherlock Holmes said that he had paid 55 shillings for his Stradivarius violin, and it would be worth more now. A Stradivarius (called "The Hammer" from its first recorded owner, the 19th century Swedish collector Christian Hammer) was sold at Christie's in New York on May 16, and set a record for the most valuable musical instrument: \$3,544,000 (including the buyer's premium); the previous record-holder was the "Lady Tennant" Stradivarius that sold at Christie's for \$2,032,000 in April 2005.
11214. The County Seat Theater Company will perform Bill Majeski's play "The Very Great Grandson of Sherlock Holmes" (1976) at the Old Country Church Theater in Atkinson, Minn. on July 27-30; 2185 County Road 61, Atkinson, MN 55718 (218-591-0049).
11215. "Best of Friends: R. Buckminster Fuller and Isamu Noguchi" is the title of an exhibition through Oct. 15 at the Noguchi Museum at 9-01 33rd Road (at Vernon Boulevard, Long Island City, NY 10016) <www.noguchi.org>; they met in 1929 and were friends and collaborators for more than 50 years. Bucky Fuller also was a protege and good friend of Christopher Morley, as well as a member of the Three Hours for Lunch Club, the Grillparzer Sittenpolizeiverein, and the Baker Street Irregulars.
11216. "The calabash pipe is made from a gourd," Gary B. Schrier notes in THE HISTORY OF THE CALABASH PIPE, but there's a lot more to be said about the calabash; the author does exactly that, and does it well, in his 222-page privately printed (and well-illustrated) discussion of the pipe. The book is much more than a mere history of the calabash: there is discussion of the Boer War, manufacturers, collections and collectors (including Robert Storm Petersen, the noted Danish Sherlockian), and Sherlock Holmes in a chapter that includes a reprint of Robert S. Ennis' "The Great Calabash Question" from The Baker Street Journal. Schrier notes that the iconic Sherlockian calabash is non-Canonical, and quotes a report that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle owned one, which was shown to Robert Kagan by Anna Conan Doyle. There's a web-site at <www.calabashpipe.com>, and the book is available at a discount (\$60.00 plus shipping) until Sept. 30 to readers of this newsletter (just say the magic word "Scuttlebutt"). The History of the Calabash Pipe, 14229 Bethel-Burley Road SE, Port Orchard, WA 98367 <gbs@wavecable.com>.

June 2006 #1

11217. "My favorite authors included Conan Doyle, Dickens, Will James on cowboys, Joseph A. Altsheler on Indians, and Dr. Raymond L. Ditmars on reptiles. I read a lot of Conrad; I loved all that sea stuff, all the gloom. I've read everything." Roger Angell (in New York magazine, May 29) on what he read as a youth; his contributions to The New Yorker over many decades have included occasional allusions to the Canon.
11218. Julian Barnes' ARTHUR & GEORGE (January 06 #4) has a new British trade paperback edition (London: Jonathan Cape, 2006; 368 pp., £10.99). The author's web-site is at <www.julianbarnes.com>.
11219. Tom Dunn, editor and publisher of The Pipe Smoker's Ephemeris, died last year (April 06 #5) and requested that there be no obituaries, but there are some heart-felt tributes to Tom, by Ben Rapaport and others, in the spring issue of Pipes and Tobaccos; \$9.95 plus shipping from SpecComm International, 5808 Faringdon Place #200, Raleigh, NC 27609 <www.pt-magazine.com>.
11220. Wikipedia at <www.wikipedia.net> is an interesting Internet encyclopedia, with some surprises in its entries. If you search for "a treatise on the binomial theorem" and then click on the link to "a review of a later journal version of the paper", you'll find an imaginative review written by Ian Parberry, now a professor at the University of North Texas, and published in SIGACT News in 1994.
11221. The Camden House web-site at <www.camdenhouse.ignisart.com> is one of the more interesting Sherlockian web-sites; Rachel Wilcox reports that there's a new "Agony Column" for those who have Sherlockian want-lists, or S'iana for sale or trade.
11222. Christopher Morley and Franz Grillparzer appeared in the January issue of Oprah magazine, not for their connection at the time of the founding of The Baker Street Irregulars, but for quotes on the monthly calendar (reported by Francine Kitts): "There are no precedents: You are the first You that ever was." (Morley) and "I notice well that one stray step from the habitual path leads irresistibly into a new direction."
11223. Arthur Porges died on May 12. He was a mathematics teacher before becoming a professional author, and his first published story appeared in 1950; best known for his science fiction and fantasy, he wrote in many other genres, and his series about Stately Homes began in EQMM in EQMM (Feb. 1957).
11224. Reported: MURDER IS NO MITZVAH: SHORT MYSTERIES ABOUT JEWISH OCCASIONS, edited by Abigail Browning (New York: St. Martin's Minotaur, 2004; 304 pp., \$23.95); an anthology of 12 stories, one of them Conan Doyle's "The Jew's Breastplate".
11225. Sherlockian fans of Wallace & Gromit will want to pursue WALLACE & GROMIT: THE WHIPPET VANISHES, by Simon Furman and Ian Rimmer (London: Titan Books, 2004; 48 pp., £8.99 hardcover, £5.99 paperback) (\$12.95/\$8.95); the graphic novel features the popular claymation characters, with Wallace and Gromit appearing in Sherlockian costume (discovered by Ev Herzog).

June 2006 #2

11226. E. J. Wagner's THE SCIENCE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: FROM BASKERVILLE HALL TO THE VALLEY OF FEAR: THE REAL FORENSICS BEHIND THE GREAT DETECTIVE'S GREATEST CASES (Hoboken: John Wiley, 2006; 244 pp., \$24.95) is a fine demonstration of how the Canon can be used to make a technical subject interesting, and it will be just as interesting to Sherlockians: Wagner tells stories of how science was and is used to solve crimes, and she uses the stories to show how forensics have expanded in scope since Sherlock Holmes' time. Her web-site's at <www.forensic.to/webhome/ejwagner>.
11227. Caleb Carr's THE ITALIAN SECRETARY: A FURTHER ADVENTURE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (April 05 #5) is out in paperback (New York: St. Martin's Paperbacks, 2006; 352 pp., \$7.99); it brings Holmes and Watson to Edinburgh to help Mycroft defend Her Majesty against a plot that involves Holyrood and David Rizzio (who was Queen Mary's secretary and met his death at Holyrood).
11228. The Norwegian Explorers' "Christmas Annual 2005" offers Andrew Malec's report on "An Interesting William Gillette Letter", Pasquale Accardo's discussion of "The Crooked Man", and other scholarship; copies of the 50-page booklet are available from its editor, John Bergquist (3665 Ashbury Road, Eagan, MN 55122) for \$10.00 postpaid (checks payable to The Norwegian Explorers, please).
11229. Robert W. Douty ("The Priory School") died on May 30. He was a teacher and then a pastor and chaplain, ordained in 1990. His middle name was Watson, and Bob was an early member of The Hudson Valley Scientists and The Three Garridebs, and in 1980 co-authored (with Bruce Kennedy) a pamphlet on their explorations IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF BIRDY EDWARDS. He was awarded his Investiture in The Baker Street Irregulars in 1980.
11230. At hand from Will Thomas: a copy of Tony Wolf's article on "Bartitsu: The 'New Art of Self-Defence'" in Classical Fighting Arts #9 (2006); bartitsu. invented by E. W. Barton-Wright, is believed by many Sherlockian scholars to be the baritsu that Sherlock Holmes mentions in "The Empty House"

(the conclusion of the article will appear in issue #10). \$5.95 plus shipping from Dragon Associates (Box 6039, Thousand Oaks, CA 91359) (800-717-6288) <www.dragon-tsunami.org>.

11231. Reported: *FACES OF THE LIVING DEAD: THE BELIEF IN SPIRIT PHOTOGRAPHY*, by Martyn Jolly (London: British Library Publishing Division, 2006; 160 pp., £20.00) (West New York: Mark Batty, 2006; 160 pp., \$39.95); "examines the evolution and photographic technique of spirit photography," with discussion of Conan Doyle's involvement.
11232. Laura Kuhn reports that Stuart M. Kaminsky's Sherlockian pastiche "The Man from Capetown" (which was first published in Martin Greenberg's collection *MURDER IN BAKER STREET* in 2001) can now be read free at Kaminsky's web-site <www.stuartkaminsky.com/man_from_capetown.html>.
11233. Jens Byskov Jensen, founder of Le Cercle de Sherlock Holmes in New Orleans, published some of his Sherlockian scholarship for the birthday party that was held by Hugo's Companions in Chicago on May 27; a few copies of the 24-page pamphlet *THREE STUDIES* are available (\$8.95 postpaid) from William E. Sawisch (149 Rockford Avenue, Forest Park, IL 60130).

June 2006 #3

11234. Further to the item (October 05 #4) on "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" (adapted by Steven Dietz from Gillette's play), another production is scheduled next year, by the Kansas City Repertory Theatre, at the Spencer Theatre in the Performing Arts Center in Kansas City, February 23 through Mar. 18 (the theater's address is 4949 Cherry Street, Kansas City, MO 64110 (816-235-2700) <www.missourirepertorytheatre.org>.
11235. Congratulations to Peter Calamai, national science reporter for the Toronto Star, who has won a Canadian Science Writers' Association's 2005 Science in Society award (\$1,000) for his ten-part series on Albert Einstein's legacy. The series is available on-line at <www.thestar.com>: scroll down to "Feature Sections" and click on "Ideas", scroll down to the picture of Albert Einstein, and click on "The miracle worker"; his stories (beginning Oct. 2) are in the links under "Einstein's Miracle Year".
11236. The Long Beach Playhouse is performing Ken Ludwig's "Postmortem" (a mystery featuring William Gillette and set at his home in Connecticut) through July 15 (562-494-1014) <www.lbph.com>. The play also is being performed by the Old Lyric Repertory Company at the Caine Lyric Theatre in Logan, Utah, from July 6 through Aug. 8 (435-752-1500) <www1.usu.edu/lyric>.
11237. The Baker Street Dispatch, now in its 16th year, is an interesting six-page newsletter edited by Thomas and Janet Biblewski (\$10.50 a year for six issues; Box 5503, Toledo, OH 43613); the May issue includes a humorous report from Sam Stinson on the perils of being a collector.
11238. Emerson G. Wulling died on May 29. He taught English for 40 years, but his real calling was printing: he began at the age of 13, with rubber type on a toy press he received from his parents as a Christmas present in 1915, and he was still printing two years ago at the age of 100; his Sumac Press was famous for its interesting books, pamphlets, and ephemera, including many items published for The Norwegian Explorers.
11239. Something new for Sherlockians visiting Edinburgh: the Scottish Storytelling Centre has opened on the Royal Mile, with a storytelling wall that celebrates famous stories, among them Tom O'Shanter, Greyfriars Bobby, Sherlock Holmes, Inspector Rebus, Maisie from Morningside, and The Gruffalo.
11240. Simon Callow's *ORSON WELLES: THE ROAD TO XANADU* (April 96 #1) was the first installment of a three-volume biography, now followed by *ORSON WELLES: HELLO AMERICANS* (London: Jonathan Cape, 2006; 528 pp. £25.00); Welles is known best to many Sherlockians as the answer to a trivia-quiz question (name an actor who played both Sherlock Holmes and Prof. Moriarty), and Callow is an excellent writer (and actor and director). The new volume covers the years 1941 to 1947.
11241. Barry Day's *SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE APOCALYPSE MURDERS* (September 01 #1) is now available as an audiobook, well read by David Ian Davies, who does a fine job with voices and accents; Holmes (and Watson and Mycroft and Irene) are involved in a battle against a serial killer who intends to destroy London. The recording is offered at <www.audible.com> as a download to your computer (\$16.07); the recording was produced by One Voice Recordings, who offer other S'ian recordings by Davies on CDs at <www.onevoicerecordings.com>.

June 2006 #4

11242. <www.amazon.com> offers a new feature to users: if the picture of the cover of a book shows "search inside" above it, you can click on the cover and get added-value features such as "Statistically Improbable Phrases" and "Capitalized Phrases" that allow you to pursue phrases into other books; you can find for example, how and where "Conan Doyle" is mentioned in Jeffrey C. Kinkley's *CHINESE JUSTICE, THE FICTION: LAW AND LITERATURE IN MODERN CHINA*.
11243. Carolyn and Joel Senter (Classic Specialties) have published the June issue of their Sherlockian E-Times, with their usual offers of interesting Sherlockiana, including a new set of Sherlockian salt and pepper shakers, and the official Col. Sebastian Moran's Gun Club fanny pack. The newsletter's URL is <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times12.htm>, and you can request an email subscription at their web-site <www.sherlock-holmes.com>.
11244. Jesse W. Thornton died on June 5. He acted at the Weston Playhouse in Vermont, and in 1990 played Billy (with Christopher Lloyd as Holmes) in their production of Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes".
11245. Provenance can be important: a copy of the first edition of *THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES*, inscribed by the author, was auctioned at Christie's in London on June 6 (with an estimate of £3,000-5,000); it sold for £45,600. The reason for the high bidding? Inscribed on the title page "with Arthur's love, November 8th/92," the book was a gift to the vendor from a godchild of Conan Doyle.
11246. In other auction news, there was an interesting item at eBay this month: a lined notebook, bound in plum-colored polished leather, with a brass lock and key and gilt edges, inscribed on the first page "Kingsley Conan Doyle, with much love from his Dorothy" and dated June 4th, 1911; the notebook was never used (Kingsley, born in 1892, was Conan Doyle oldest son). The bidding opened at £25 and closed at £609.
11247. Phil Attwell reports that the BBC has discounted its DVDs with five of the 1968 programs starring Peter Cushing as Holmes: "A Study in Scarlet & The Boscombe Valley Mystery" (£8.99), "The Sign of the Four & The Blue Carbuncle" (£6.99), and "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (£8.99); a boxed set is discounted to £13.99 <www.bbcshop.com>. Roger Johnson reports that the BBC plans to issue a larger boxed set with the three Cushing DVDs, Richard Roxburgh's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (2002), Rupert Everett's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Silk Stocking" (2004), and "The Strange Case of Sherlock Holmes and Arthur Conan Doyle" (2005) with Douglas Henshall (Conan Doyle) and Brian Cox (Joseph Bell); all for £39.99.
11248. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London and the Old Court Radio Theatre Company have collaborated on a recording of "The Yellow Face" and "The Three Students" (among the more neglected of the stories); they're dramatized by M. J. Elliott, with Jim Crozier as Holmes and Dave Hawkes as Watson. The 30-minute recordings are excellent, and it's interesting to hear Canonical characters with new voices. Available from the Society (Mole End, Sandford Road, Chelmsford CM2 6DE, England); £5.00 postpaid to the U.K., £6.00/E9.00 to Europe, £9.00/\$12.00 elsewhere (sterling checks payable to Roger Johnson and dollar checks payable to Jean Upton; euros in currency, please).

June 2006 #5

11249. The spring issue of *The Magic Door* (the newsletter published by The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) has Barbara Rusch's report on a Conan Doyle notebook recently acquired by the collection, an amusing Jabez Wilson pastiche by Marilyn Penner, and other news. Copies of the newsletter are available from Doug Wrigglesworth (16 Sunset Street, Holland Landing, ON L9N 1H4, Canada) <doug.wrig@sympatico.ca>.
11250. Paul Martin reports a "super summer sale" at Signals (Box 2599, Hudson, OH 44236) (800-669-9696) <www.signals.com>, with the three volumes of THE NEW ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES discounted to \$69.96; add shipping and it's still cheaper than Amazon's price.
11251. Further to the item (March 06 #4) about Vasiliy LivaNovember receiving an honorary MBE, the ITAR-TASS New Agency reported from Moscow on June 15 that Anthony Brenton, British Ambassador to Russia, presented the award to LivaNovember at a gala party at the embassy; Brenton said that LivaNovember received the award for producing an image of English tolerance and intellectualism in the Russian cinematic art." 500 guests were invited to the birthday party, and treated to "national British meals and drinks."
11252. Reported: A TREASURY OF DECEPTION: LIARS, MISLEADERS, HOODWINKERS, AND THE EXTRAORDINARY TRUE STORIES OF HISTORY'S GREATEST HOAXES, FAKES, AND FRAUDS, by Michael Farquhar (New York: Penguin Putnam, 2005; 320 pp., \$14.00); includes a discussion of Conan Doyle and the Cottingley fairies.
11253. A new catalog at hand from Audio Editions (Box 6930, Auburn, CA 95604 (800-231-4261) <www.audioeditions.com> serves as a reminder that many books now are published on CDs as well as ink-on-paper. Among them: Laurie R. King's LOCKED ROOMS, read by Jenny Sterlin, and THE ART OF DETECTION, read by Alyssa Bresnahan and Robert Ian MacKenzie (both from Recorded Books, \$39.99), as well as three sets of THE NEW ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, each with 12 of the Rathbone/Bruce radio shows that were packaged by Simon & Schuster some years ago (Solution Economy, \$29.95).
11254. Add one more to the list of members of the Baker Street Irregulars who have appeared in movies: Jean Upton, who did voice-overs and dubbing in "Martha, Meet Frank, Daniel and Lawrence" (1998), released in the U.S. as "The Very Thought of You" (1999).
11255. Ken Lanza spotted the web-site for A Victorian Village Inn (Box 112, Clinton, CT 06413) (860-895-9588) <www.avictorianvillage.com>; there are "cottage villas" available by the week (or longer), with different themes, and one of them is a three-story Sherlock Holmes Cottage (\$750-1500 per week).
11256. Michael Gilbert died on Feb. 8. He was a lawyer as well as a prolific mystery writer, and a founding member of the Crime Writers Association; he was named a grandmaster by the Mystery Writers of America in 1988 and received the CWA's Diamond Dagger for lifetime achievement in 1994. He combined his interests in an article on "Sherlock Holmes and the Wombles" in the British magazine *Author* (summer 1977), discussing copyright and characters in literature; the article was reprinted in *Baker Street Miscellanea* (June 1979) with comments by Saul Cohen and Francis M. Nevins, Jr.

June 2006 #6

11257. Alan Rettig has reported that Turner Classic Movies cable will feature Dick Cavett as their "guest programmer" on July 24; his four favorite films, all to be broadcast that evening, are "The Third Man", "A Strange Affair", "To Be or Not to Be", "Sherlock Holmes and the Woman in Green"; Cavett says that he saw "The Woman in Green" while in high school, and it was his first Sherlock Holmes movie and the one during which, figuratively speaking, "I fell in love with Basil Rathbone."
11258. SHERLOCK has returned, as SHERLOCK MAGAZINE, with David Stuart Davies again as editor, and many of the traditional contributors on hand for issue #67, which offers Paul M. Chapman's interesting article on "The Heart of Holmes" (Love, Sex and the Great Detective), M. J. Elliott's examination of "A Tardis on Baker Street" (about Doctor Who and Sherlock Holmes), a "preposterous conclusion" about "Sherlock Holmes & The Da Vinci Code", and much more. SHERLOCK is published six times a year and subscriptions cost £23.70 a year (U.K.) £30.00 (other Europe) £46.00/\$70.00 (rest of the world); Atlas Publishing, Jordan House, Old Milton Green, New Milton, Hants. BH24 6QJ, England <www.sherlockholmes.com>. Their American agent is Classic Specialties (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219) <www.sherlock-holmes.com> (877-233-3823); credit-card orders are welcome at both addresses, and there are back issues available.
11259. Forge/Tom Doherty Associates are continuing their reissues of Carole Nelson Douglas' series about Irene Adler in paperback, with uniform cover artwork by Glenn Harrington and minor revisions and a reader's guide. The fourth reissue is A SOUL OF STEEL, due in December (\$7.99); it's the third volume in the original series (published as IRENE AT LARGE). Carole's web-site is at <www.carolenelsondouglas.com>.
11260. The June 26 issue of *The New Yorker* has eight amusing Sherlockian "spots" drawn by Benoit Jacques, who had a different (single) Sherlockian spot in *The New Yorker* on Aug. 7, 2000 (reprinted on Nov. 2, 2002).
11261. Eric Quayle died in Nov. 2001. He was an energetic collector and a prolific author of books about books; his THE COLLECTOR'S BOOK OF DETECTIVE FICTION (1972) is packed with splendid color photographs of first editions in the genre, including splendid copies of the "Adventures" and the "Memoirs". Many of the books in his collection were sold at auction by Bonhams in London on Mar. 14 and Apr. 11.
11262. Mitch Cullin's A SLIGHT TRICK OF THE MIND (April 05 #2) now has a trade paperback edition (New York: Knopf Publishing Group, 2006; 272 pp., \$13.95).
11263. ELEMENTARY, MY DEAR GROUCHO, by Ron Goulart (New York: Thomas Dunne Books, 1999; \$23.95); features Groucho Marx as a detective. In a Hollywood movie studio where Valley of Fear is being filmed in the '30's, the body of the director has been found murdered. The actor portraying Holmes in the film vies with Groucho to see which one can find the murderer first. The dust-jacket features a superb caricature of Groucho as Holmes (this is the third book by this author featuring Groucho as a detective).

July 2006 #1

11264. A Sherlock Holmes/Arthur Conan Doyle Colloquium will be held at the Newberry Library in Chicago on Oct. 7 (9:30 am to noon) to highlight the C. Fred Kittle Collection of Doyleana at the Library; the speakers will be Dan Posnansky, Paul Martin, and Glen Miranker. The colloquium is open to the public, and the Newberry is at 60 West Walton Street in Chicago.
11265. Further to the item (April 06 #5) on the "Murder Rooms: The Dark Beginnings of Sherlock Holmes" two-DVD set (\$39.98): it's been released, with the four 90-minute programs broadcast on BBC-2 in 2001 and on PBS-TV in 2002 (with Ian Richardson as Joseph Bell and Charles Edwards as Arthur Conan Doyle).
11266. "The Complete Sherlock Holmes Collection" has been released by MPI on five DVDs (\$129.98), with the 14 Rathbone/Holmes movies, and interesting added features: an interview with Robert Gitt (UCLA Film and TV Archive), audio commentaries (including a new discussion of "Dressed to Kill" by Patricia Morrison), footage of Conan Doyle, theatrical trailers, production notes, and photo galleries.

11267. Ken Lanza discovered an interesting web-site at <www.dailyscript.com>; the Daily Script is a collection of movie scripts and screenplays intended "to serve as resource for writers and actors and those who simply enjoy reading movie scripts." One of them is a script for "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970), and you can find other scripts in which Sherlock Holmes is mentioned.
11268. The Barnes & Noble reprint (1992) of THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES (with the introduction by Christopher Morley) is now available in an edition suitable for gifts: in "genuine bonded leather with ribbon marker," with gilt edges (\$19.98).
11269. Reported: HIDE-AND-SEEK WITH ANGELS: A LIFE OF J. M. BARRIE, by Lisa Chaney (New York: St. Martin's, 2006; 432 pp., \$27.95); a new biography of the author of the parodies "The Late Sherlock Holmes" and "The Adventure of the Two Collaborators". And THE MOST FAMOUS MAN IN AMERICA: THE BIOGRAPHY OF HENRY WARD BEECHER, by Debby Applegate (New York: Doubleday, 2006; 527 pp. \$27.95); a new biography of the man whose unframed portrait stood upon the top of Watson's books.
11270. MISSIVES FROM THE MIRE (January 04 #3) is still available for \$27.50 postpaid from Bill Sawisch (418 Gallahad Road, Bolingbrook, IL 60440) (\$27.50 postpaid) (checks payable to Hugo's Companions, please); it's a CD-ROM with the "collected newsletters and other scribblings" covering the 55-year history of Hugo's Companions of Chicago.
11271. The "Sherlock Holmes Festival" held in Tryon, N.C., last year (August 05 #1) included performances of Ike Wilson's 45-minute adaptations of "The Second Stain" and "The Six Napoleons" by the Blue Ridge Radio Players. They are nicely done, and recordings (and five other Sherlockian dramatizations by Hendrik Booraem) are available on cassettes and CDs (\$7.00 each postpaid) (sorry: no credit-card orders) from the National Audio Theater (Box 1197, Tryon, NC 28782) <www.nationalaudiotheater.org>.

July 2006 #2

11272. Lyle Stuart died on June 24. He was a journalist (who feuded with Walter Winchell and sued him and won) and a publisher who was best known for the literary hoax NAKED CAME THE STRANGER (1969) and for THE ANARCHIST COOKBOOK (1971), and a book distributor whose titles included Chris Steinbrunner's classic THE FILMS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, Terrance Dicks' DOCTOR WHO AND THE TALONS OF WENG-CHIANG, and Peter Haining's THE TELEVISION SHERLOCK HOLMES.
11273. "Our country cottage" is what Conan Doyle once called Bignell Wood (in OUR AFRICAN WINTER); he purchased the house in 1926, and it's now for sale (for £1,450,000). It's far grander than a mere cottage: the main house has two stories and 5,568 square feet, with eight reception rooms, eight bedrooms, and three bathrooms; a detached garage has two stories and 676 square feet; and there are five acres of grounds and private-gate access to the New Forest. You can see photographs, a floor plan, and a downloadable brochure at <www.savills.co.uk>: search "so43" in the "area" block, and scroll down to the description of the house.
11274. "Holmes Found Watson, Thanks to a Lakhnavi" was the headline on a story in the Hindustan Times (on May 22) about Conan Doyle's close friend Dr. Mohammed Ebrahim Sufi of Lucknow having suggested that Sherlock Holmes should have a friend and assistant (Conan Doyle relished the idea and instantly created the character of Dr. Watson). It's not known where Joyjit Ghosh, author of the story, got the information: perhaps from Wikipedia, the Internet encyclopedia, where the entry for Conan Doyle was "vandalized" on Dec. 26, 2005, by someone who inserted a paragraph about Sufi (and a photograph); both were removed on Jan. 3, 2006 (previous versions of entries are preserved at the web-site, whence comes the photograph). There's another possible (though less likely) source for the information about Sufi: an article "About the author" in the Sherlock Holmes stories offered on a CD from the Coradella Collegiate Bookshelf <www.collegebookshelf.net>. According to the company, the article is based on [now corrected] information from Wikipedia; one might suspect that the Indian writer relied directly on Wikipedia. Wikipedia exists in other languages, and there are links from <www.wikipedia.com>; the Finnish version of the entry at <fi.wikipedia.com> has not yet been corrected. There are 299 books (including six of the nine volumes of the Canon, each with the "About the author" article) on the CD, which costs \$29.95 from Oberon/The Write Direction, 6346 Rygate Drive, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068) (866-397-2424).
11275. "Just look up the trains in Bradshaw," said Sherlock Holmes (in "The Copper Beeches). George Bradshaw published the first official railway timetable in 1838, and Bradshaw's Guide became indispensable for those who traveled by train. But now the publisher has announced the end of Bradshaw's, according to a story in the Daily Telegraph (July 18), spotted by Catherine Cooke; the Guide's demise is blamed on the Internet, which makes information available without requiring a 2,500-page book that costs £12.00 (and that has sales of only 12,000 copies).

July 2006 #3

11276. Nice news for those who already own the "Crowborough Edition" of Conan Doyle's works, published in 1930 in 24 volumes, with his signature in the first volume: listings at <www.abebooks.com> show an asking price of \$15,000 for in dust jackets (lower prices for sets without the jackets, of course). The Kelmescott Bookshop (32 West 25th Street, Baltimore, MD 21218) (410-235-6810) <www.kelmescottbooks.com> is asking \$14,000 for a set with only one volume lacking a dust jacket.
11277. Watson's House of Ales in Houston is a new addition to a Texas chain that includes nine Sherlock's Pubs and six 221B Baker Street Pub and Grills (two of them in Oklahoma and Colorado); details at <www.watsonshouseofales.com>.
11278. Ken Lanza noted a report on an exhibition "In My Life: The Artwork of John Lennon" in Alexandria, Va., in June, arranged with the assistance of Legacy Fine Art and Productions (300 Clematis Street #117), West Palm Beach, FL 33401) (561-651-1156) (888-278-1969); their web-site is at <www.johnlennonartwork.com> <lennonartwork@aol.com>. The company is selling limited-edition prints (300 copies) of "Sherlock Lennon" (copyright Yoko Ono) (\$2,350 framed). Lennon's self-portrait in Sherlockian costume, first appeared on p. 33 of his A SPANIARD IN THE WORKS (1965), at the end of a Shamrock Wolmbs parody "The Singularge Experience of Miss Anne Duffield"
11279. Noted by Jim Vogelsang: "How to produce a TV show: Have a miserable child-hood. Stay in your room and read commic books and Sherlock Holmes. Don't worry about making friends. Don't worry about sports. Just keep reading." As recommended by Andy Breckman, creator of the television series "Monk", in MONK: THE OFFICIAL EPISODE GUIDE, by Terry J. Erdmann and Paula M. Block (New York: St. Martin's Griffin, 2006; 224 pp., \$19.95); the book has many other references to Sherlock Holmes.
11280. Michael Wharton died on Jan. 23. He was a journalist and a humorist, and was credited in his obituary in the Daily Telegraph for having created the strongest fictional character ever to appear in a newspaper column: Peter Simple, who was in the paper for 49 years. In 1973 he noted that President Tito of Yugoslavia had praised Sherlock Holmes, and Simple suggested that there should be books "in which Marx and his teachings were merged with the life and philosophy of Sherlock Holmes, with Fred Engels as his side, perhaps, as a fox-hunting dialectical Dr. Watson, whose utter inability to understand was getting at would provide light relief."
11281. The manuscript of "The Illustrious Client" was owned by Sir Arthur, by his wife, and by their daughter, and was bequeathed by Dame Jean Conan Doyle to the National Library of Scotland in Edinburgh and delivered to the Library on June 30. Cate Newton, director of development at the Library, said that the story is particularly relevant because "in the course of helping Holmes to solve the case, Dr. Watson himself uses a library to get the

information he needs." The manuscript will be displayed in the exhibition "Conan Doyle and Joseph Bell: The Real Sherlock Holmes" at the Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh through Oct. 29 (April 06 #2).

July 2006 #4

11282. Conan Doyle "often visited the centuries-old Hill House in Habbisburgh and in 1903 wrote 'The Adventure of the Dancing Men' while staying there," according to a story in the Eastern Daily Press (July 17) about a blue plaque that now commemorates the literary significance of the Hill House Hotel. It seems to have been Gavin Brend who first reported that Conan Doyle stayed at the hotel, at the time owned by a man named Cubitt, and was inspired by the stick-figure alphabet in the landlord's son's autograph book to create the dancing men. But there appears to be no evidence for more than one visit, in May 1903. The report about the installation of the plaque also notes that "Hill House's heritage, along with the rest of the picturesque village, is threatened by coastal erosion and the pub may have only 25 years left if no action is taken."
11283. THE SECRET ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Paul E. Heusinger (Centennial: Lifevest, 2006; 147 pp., \$14.95), is a collection of ten stories memorized by Watson and rescued by telepathic clairvoyance; the stories involve Jack the Ripper, Tarzan, the Irish Uprising, and other cases not set to paper by Watson; Authors to Believe In (4901 East Dry Creek Road #160, Centennial, CO 80122) (877-843-1007) <www.authorstobelievein.com>.
11284. Further to the report (February 04 #3) on a newspaper restaurant critic's review of the restaurant at the Undershaw hotel, the most recent use of the house in Hindhead in Surrey, where Conan Doyle lived from 1897 to 1907, the hotel closed, and the company that owns the house left it vacant and unprotected, and recently proposed turning the property into thirteen apartments. There were protests (local and international), and newspaper publicity (including an article by Julian Barnes in the Guardian on July 8), and the application has been withdrawn. The Victorian Society and The Sherlock Holmes Society of London have asked English Heritage to upgrade the property to Grade I-listed status (from the current Grade II status); the upgrade would place Undershaw in the top three percent of Britain's buildings. And the Guardian has published (July 17) a letter supporting that campaign from Doyleans and Sherlockians in the U.K. and the U.S.; you can search for Conan Doyle at the paper's web-site at <www.guardian.co.uk>.
11285. William R. Hanson, MD, has created another new Sherlockian first day cover, for "The Gloria Scott" (with the 39c Sugar Ray Robinson stamp and a cachet showing Holmes as college-days boxer and the explosion of the brig; \$10.00 postpaid. And a postcard postmarked with the Steamboat Rock, Iowa, pictorial cancel showing a frog in Sherlockian costume (perhaps related to a production of a Sherlockian play at a local dinner theater); \$4.50 postpaid or \$4.00 if ordered with the boxing cover. Checks or money orders can be sent to Dr. Hanson at 78 West Notre Dame Street, Glens Falls, NY 12801.
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July 2006 #5

11286. "My name is Joe Sherlock. But almost everybody calls me Sherlock. Never Joe." And with good reason: JOE SHERLOCK: KID DETECTIVE is featured in Dave Keane's THE HAUNTED TOOLSHED and THE NEIGHBORHOOD STINK (New York: HarperCollins, 2006; 120 and 105 pp., \$15.99 cloth, \$3.99 paper); the stories are for kids aged 7-10, and they're written and illustrated with style and humor, and Joe (of course) is an avid fan of Sherlock Holmes. The next title due in the series is THE MISSING MONKEYEYE DIAMOND.
11287. Across the Pond Tours offer independent guided tours in the United Kingdom, including one called "The Game Is Afoot" (which starts at \$2,945 for seven days); mention code SHM06 for a \$250 discount. They're based in Los Angeles (310-373-2720) (866-485-8728) <www.acrossthepondtours.com>.
11288. "Clue into Reading" is the slogan for the Summer Reading Club 2006 in Maryland and the District of Columbia, advertised on buses and fliers and online (the cat seems to be named Sneaks); the website's at <www.web.aacpl.lib.md.us>
11289. Entertainment Weekly published a list of the 50 "greatest sidekicks" in its July 17 issue: first place went to Ed McMahon, with Robin ranking second, followed Robin, George Costanza, Chewbacca, Ethel Mertz, and Dr. Watson (who was ranked ahead of Samwise Gamgee, Ed Norton, Tattoo, and Dwight Schrute; the complete list can be seen at their web-site at <www.ew.com> (search for "50 greatest sidekicks").
11290. "Leaf of orange and red, spiced with tobacco from the Brazils" is the descriptor of Peterson's "Sherlock Holmes" pipe tobacco (50g for \$7.95) in a new catalog from McCranie's (4143 Park Road, Charlotte, NC 28209) (800-523-8554) <www.mccranies.com>. They also offer McClelland's "221-B Black Shag" "221-B Honeydew", and "221-B Arcadia".
11291. Andrew Sachs, who played Dr. Watson in the BBC Radio 4 series of pastiches scripted by Bert Coules in 2002 and 2004, has now played a rather different Watson: Adso of Melk, in a two-hour dramatization of Umberto Eco's "The Name of the Rose" broadcast by BBC Radio 4 this month. Sachs also played the King of Bohemia in "A Scandal in Bohemia" on BBC Radio 4 in 1990, and (a fine example of the scope that radio offers actors) the Spanish waiter Manuel in the television series "Fawlty Towers" (1979).
11292. A question about the date of Nigel Bruce's birth date revealed as-yet-unresolved confusion about whether he was born on Feb. 4 or Feb. 14. A photograph showing three generations of the Bruce family: Sir William Cunningham Bruce, 9th Baronet of Stenhouse (1825-1906); Sir William Waller Bruce, 10th Baronet (1856-1912); Sir Michael William Selby Bruce, 11th Baronet (1894-1957); and (sitting on the 10th Baronet's knee), Sir Michael's younger brother William Nigel Ernle Bruce (1895-1953). The photograph can be found at <web.ukonline.co.uk/members/tom.paterson/BruceStenhouse.htm>, and there is more information about the family at <www.brucefamily.com>.
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July 2006 #6

11293. "Save the date," Lou Lewis has suggested, the date being Oct. 13, when the Dutchess County Bar Association will honor Judge Albert M. Rosenblatt by hosting his retirement dinner at Marist College in Poughkeepsie. Al has been a Dutchess county district attorney and judge, N.Y. state Supreme Court justice, chief administrative judge, and associate justice of the Court of Appeals, and (perhaps more important in the "Sherlockian world") one of those responsible for the many and fondly-remembered gourmet Sherlockian dinners at the Culinary Institute of America in Poughkeepsie. His friends are welcome to attend the retirement dinner, and more information is available from Lou Lewis (2 Lookerman Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603) <lewis@lewisgreer.com> or the Association's executive director Janna Wheatly (845-473-2488).
11294. Reported: Linda Simon's DARK LIGHT: ELECTRICITY AND ANXIETY FROM THE TELEGRAPH TO THE X-RAY (New York: Harcourt, 2004; 357 pp., \$25.00 cloth, \$14.00 paper); a social history of the introduction of electric power in 19th-century America, with discussion of fact and fiction (including Conan Doyle's stories "Crabbe's Practice" and "The Los Amigos Fiasco").
11295. It's difficult to find anything Sherlockian in Alaska, other than Peter Ashman, but Peter has sent an advertisement for Motznik Information Services (831 Briarwood Street #100, Anchorage, AK 99518). with a nicely Sherlockian bear. The company website is a <www.motznik.com>, but there's no bear there.
11296. "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes" is a set of three DVDs issued by the St. Clair Entertainment Group, and spotted at Walgreens (\$9.98); also available at <www.amazon.com> at the price. The set has four Basil Rathbone films, three Arthur Wontner films, Raymond Massey's "The
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Speckled Band", Reginald Owen's "A Study in Scarlet", and Christopher Lee's "Sherlock Holmes and the Deadly Necklace", plus (as bonus features) biographies and Conan Doyle and Holmes, and a radio broadcast of "The Bruce-Partington Plans".

11297. Scott and Alison Ibbitson breed and sell bull terriers at Baker Street Bull Terriers; Alison reports that Scott's first bull terrier was named "Watson" (and it was registered with the American Kennel Club as "Action's Sherlock Holmes"). They're at 121 Pennapacker Road, Trappe, PA 19426, and the website is at <www.bakerstreetbullterriers.com>.
11298. Further to the item (September 05 #4) about the One Act Players, in 2002 they recorded three stories ("The Speckled Band", "A Scandal in Bohemia" and "The Final Adventure"), and the production in San Francisco was the first live performance of any of the dramatizations. You can listen to the shows free at <www.artistlaunch.com> or pay for downloads at <www.spokennetwork.com>. A CD also is available.
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August 2006 #1

11299. The Baker Street Irregulars' running of The Silver Blaze was held at Saratoga on July 29, with about 40 Sherlockians on hand. It costs \$1,000 to have a race named, so the executive committee decided that the third race would be unofficially ours, and many of us bet on Hesanoldsalt, by way of honoring Black Peter and because the horse's colors were red and black, and were of course dismayed when he turned out to be the long shot in race. We were less dismayed when he won, handily, and at nice odds.
11300. William R. Hanson, MD, celebrated The Silver Blaze with an artistic cacheted postcard with a postmark approved by the Postal Service for the event. Checks or money orders can be sent to Dr. Hanson (78 West Notre Dame Street, Glens Falls, NY 12801). The postmark was approved too late for publicity at the race. and was unfortunately available for only 30 days.
11301. Sorry about that: I had an incorrect postal address (July 06 #1). MISSIVES FROM THE MIRE (January 04 #3) is still available for \$27.50 postpaid from Bill Sawisch (149 Rockford Avenue, Forest Park, IL 60130), for \$27.50 postpaid. (checks payable to Hugo's Companions, please); it's a CD-ROM with the "collected newsletters and other scribblings" covering the 55-year history of Hugo's Companions of Chicago.
11302. The third volume of Les Klinger's THE NEW ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES (with the four long stories) has been nominated for an Anthony (for best critical/nonfiction) at Boucheron 2006 in Madison, Wis. The winners will be announced at the convention dinner on Sept. 30. The third volume of the NEW ANNOTATED has also been nominated in the mystery/suspense/thriller category for a Quill Book Award; the Quills are a Reed Business Information/NBC consumers-choice awards program for books, and you can vote on-line (through Sept. 30) at <www.msnbc.msn.com/id/13594096>.
11303. Brian Mills died on June 3. He was a director, mainly for Granada, and had worked on their series "Coronation Street" over almost 40 years, beginning in 1968; he also directed Granada's "Silver Blaze" (1988) and "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1988). And Patrick Allen died on July 28. He began his career as a narrator for the Canadian Broadcasting Corp., acted in films in Hollywood, and went on to work on stage, screen, radio, and television in England; he was an excellent Colonel Sebastian Moran in Granada's "The Empty House" (1985).
11304. There's a new sequel to Jane Hindsley's video travelogue "Sherlock Holmes: The Missing Years" (December 05 #3): "The Devil's Foot" is a 15-minute narrated photographic tour of Cornwall, including a retelling of the Canonical tale. The DVDs cost \$10.00 each (plus \$2.00 shipping per order), and credit-card orders are welcome; you can order from Jane (18559 Carpenter Street, Homewood, IL 60430 <jane@hindsleytranscriptions.com>).
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August 2006 #2

11305. Doug Wrigglesworth has reported THE WIPERS TIMES: THE COMPLETE SERIES OF THE FAMOUS WARTIME TRENCH NEWSPAPER (London: Little Books, 2006; 400 pp., £20.00); the newspaper (which eventually became The B.E.F. Times) was published by British soldiers at the front during World War I, and it contained three parodies featuring Herlock Shomes. And Brian Pugh notes that the 24th Division List of Staff Officers 28 September 1915 (on p. 375) includes Lt.-Col. J.F.I.H. Doyle (Arthur Conan Doyle's brother Innes); his full name was John Francis Innes Hay Doyle.
11306. Our new "Super Heroes" set includes postage stamps honoring Batman and Superman, whose comic books have contained Canonical allusions over the years. And Wonder Woman, who actually appears in the Canon (well, someone is described as a wonder woman). I'm not aware of any connections for the other super heroes in the set: Green Lantern, Plastic Man, Hawkman, Green Arrow, Supergirl, The Flash, and Aquaman.
11307. Fans of August Derleth and Solar Pons will welcome The Solar Pons Gazette, edited by Bob Byrne and available at his website <www.solarpons.com>; the first issue has 28 pages of new material and reprints and colorful art-work by Frank Utpatel and others. It is an excellent successor to Luther Norris' Praed Street Dossier.
11308. Le Cercle de Sherlock Holmes and the English-Speaking Union of New Orleans have scheduled "Autumn in New Orleans" on Oct. 22, featuring a brunch and Baker Street Journal editor Steve Rothman as the guest speaker; more information is available from Jens Byskov Jensen (1045 Acadian Drive, Madisonville, LA 70447) <221b@byskovjensen.com>.
11309. "Sherlock Holmes and the Final Problem" is a new play written by Justin Webb, presented by the Cotton Grass Theatre Company on tour beginning Sept. 8, 2006, at the Village Hall in Cannock Wood. Their address is 2 Overdale, The Hills, Bradwell, Hope Valley, Derbyshire S33 9GZ, England; their web-site's at <www.cottongrass.mirai.co.uk>.
11310. Dick Miller found a web-site for the Baskerville Hall Hotel in Hay-on-Wye (in Wales). According to their history of the hotel, it was built in 1839 by Thomas Mynors Baskerville, and Conan Doyle was a family friend who often stayed there, and learned of the local legend of the hounds of the Baskervilles; at the request of his friends he set the book in Devon "to ward off tourists." The hotel's offers include "stags, hens, and party time" weekends with exotic dancers (female or male) <www.baskervillehall.co.uk>.
11311. Sherlockians Around the World at <www.frappr.com/sherlockians> is an interactive "visual/virtual community" created by Scott Monty. using Google map technology to show the locations of (and information about) Sherlockians, societies, and sites of interest. And since it's interactive, you can add, edit, or comment on entries; visit <www.bakerstreetjournal.blogspot.com> to read Scott's blog (for Aug. 7) to learn more about this new and interesting resource.
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August 2006 #3

11312. Nash Entertainment has been mentioned before: they bought the film, stage, television rights to Rodger Garrick-Steele's story about how Conan Doyle murdered Fletcher Robinson (October 00 #4), and last year they hired Julie Golden to write a screenplay for a movie "inspired by the many letters sent from all over the world to Sherlock Holmes" asking him to help solve crimes (June 05 #5). The project's called "Sherlock' Secretary", and Mark Dindal has been signed as director (he directed the animated Disney film "Chicken Little").
11313. Nash's three-year contract expired, and Garrick-Steele's story is now with Thunderball Films, who are planning to start filming a "reality documentary" in Jan. 2007. Their web-sites at <www.thunderballfilms.com>.
11314. Who knew? Charles Baskerville Jr. was born in 1896 and died in 1994, and his name was observed by Ev Herzog on a brochure accompanying an exhibition (now closed) of "Colorful Tales in Black & White" at the Museum of American Illustration at the Society of Illustrators in New York. "It's a

- nice little two-room museum," Ev notes, "and you can generally always tell what the artist was painting, which is rare enough in these troubled times." You'll find some of his artwork at various web-sites (run a Google search for his name). And no, he's not the son of Sir Charles.
11315. The District of Columbia is well on its way to becoming smoke-free inside all buildings: the ban takes effect at the end of the year, and affects all establishments, including private clubs, which if they want to have "cigar nights" as in the past will need to have them on the roof. Of course tobacconists will still be able to their wares to people who want to smoke at home or in the open air. And there's still at least one Sherlockian tobacconist, in California: BakerStreet Downtown in Napa. It's owned by Brenda Roberts, who has been in business for twenty years, and (of course) has a web-site at <www.bakerstreettime.com>.
11316. "'Another glass, Watson!' said Mr. Sherlock Holmes as he extended the bottle of Imperial Tokay." Imperial Tokay is available again, according to an article in the Daily Telegraph (July 15), kindly forwarded by Ev Herzog and John Baesch. It's called Royal Tokaji, and it's expensive, but well worth the price, according to wine expert Jonathan Ray.
11317. Ev and John also noted spotted an article in the same issue that reported that the mining landscape of Cornwall and West Devon has been recognized by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site (joining Stonehenge, the Taj Mahal, and the Great Wall of China). The area supplied much of the western world's copper and tin for more than 4,000 years, according to the article, and it was the world's greatest producer of the metals in the 18th and 19th centuries. It was in "an old tin mine on an island in the heart of the Mire" that Stapleton kept the Hound of the Baskervilles.
11318. London must be the most written-about city in the world, according to Paul Theroux, quoted by Richard Tames in the introduction to his AMERICAN WALKS IN LONDON (New York: Interlink Books, 1997; 160 pp., \$14.95), also spotted by Ev and John. It's an interesting guidebook and still in print, offering "ten step-by-step itineraries for North American visitors," that are nicely done; there are helpful maps, and mentions of Holmes and Conan Doyle.
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August 2006 #4

11319. It's always nice to discover interesting Sherlockian books made available at web-sites, and one of them is CRIME SCENE SKETCHES: REPRODUCED IN FAC-SIMILE FROM THE PEN AND INK DRAWINGS IN THE NOTE BOOK OF A PRIVATE ENQUIRY AGENT, edited by Thomas F. Hanratty and Daniel P. King and published in 1976 with an introduction by John Bennett Shaw. Hanratty, a forensic investigator, analyzed crime scenes in 17 Sherlock Holmes stories; you can read the book at <www.redbirdstudio.com.CrimeScenes>. Thanks to Russ Mann for the tip.
11320. There's an addition to the list of Arctic and Antarctic explorers who have Sherlockian and Doylean connections: Sir Ernest Shackleton and Robert Falcon Scott (August 03 #4) are now joined by Robert Peary. According to an article in the Portland Press Herald (Aug. 20), Peary's home on Eagle Island (in Casco Bay) has been preserved, and his books are still on the shelves, one of the books being HIS LAST BOW.
11321. Further to earlier reports on interesting things to be found at Wikipedia, Pat Ward has found Muppet Wiki at <muppet.wikia.com/wiki/Main_Page>; it is a collaborative effort to create an encyclopedia for everything related to Jim Henson and The Muppets, and you can search for character names such as Sherlock (Holmes and Hemlock), Watson, and Baskerville.
11322. "L.A.con IV" was the title of this year's World Science Convention, held in Anaheim this month, and there was a session devoted to "Sherlock Holmes and Science Fiction" on Aug. 25, with Fiona Avery as the moderator and John R. Douglas, Jody Lynn Nye, Jon L. Breen, and Barbara Hambly as panelists. According to the program, "We all know the great detective. He's somehow come to fascinate science fiction authors.... What captivates us so about Sherlock Holmes?" Wally Conger gets credit for the discovery.
11323. Bob Thaves died on Aug. 1. He created the comic strip "Frank and Ernest", which was syndicated in 1972 and now distributed to more than 1,300 newspapers. This strip, published on Apr. 12, 1998, it's a fine display of the puns with which he filled the strip.
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August 2006 #5

11324. Dennis Hoey is well-known to Sherlockians as Inspector Lestrade in the Rathbone/Bruce films, but there was far more to his long career; you can read about his life, and his S'ian and non-S'ian work, in Michael A. Hoey's excellent article "Dennis Hoey: A Son's Remembrance" in the summer 2006 issue of Films of the Golden Age. The newsstand price is \$4.95; \$6.00 postpaid (301 East 3rd Street, Muscatine, IA 52761 (800-383-3198) <www.filmsofthegoldenage.com>. The article is available on-line at the web-site (but you'll miss the many photographs and stills).
11325. This year's Sherlock Holmes Festival in Tryon, N.C., on Nov. 3-6 will include theatrical performances, meals, memorabilia, presentations, displays, and a contest. More information is available from the Festival (Box 333, Tryon, NC 28782) (800-440-7848) <www.sherlockholmesfestival.com>.
11326. The Secretary of State for Education and Skills has announced that his department will review the literature curriculum for 11- to 14-year-olds in Britain, and may remove some modern authors from its prescribed list. According to a report in The Guardian (Aug. 9), department head Alan Johnson said that Conan Doyle is one of the writers who are "a crucial part of our national heritage," and he would remain on the list of authors that students can choose to read. The review will begin in February and is not expecting to be implemented until September 2008.
11327. Paul Giovanni's play "The Crucifer of Blood" (1978) will be produced at the Cider Mill Playhouse in Endicott, N.Y. [near Binghamton], from Jan. 25 to Feb. 18, 2007; the box office is at 2 South Nanticoke Avenue, Endicott, NY 13760 (607-748-7363) <www.cidermillplayhouse.com>.
11328. Oxford judge Charles Harris denied an attempt by the City Council to evict Phillip Pledge because he had grown and stored cannabis valued at £3,400 in his council flat. According to a story in the Oxford Times (Aug. 3), the judge said in court that "If you are Sherlock Holmes and you go back to Baker Street and inject yourself with cocaine, as he did, he cannot be called a nuisance. So quietly smoking cannabis at home, not that it is to be encouraged, I'm not at all sure it constitutes a nuisance. If you are simply growing it, it's no more offensive to neighbours than tomato plants."
11329. Ken Lanza found <www.urbandictionary.com>, described as "a veritable cornucopia of streetwise lingo, posted and defined by its readers," with definitions for terms that range from "sherlock" to "sherlocking" and with a definition for "sherlock holmes" that's both imaginative and pornographic.
11330. Ken also spotted an article in the Daily Telegraph (July 27) that provides a Sherlockian connection for "Dog the Bounty Hunter" (which has been airing since 2004 on A&E cable): "Dog" Chapman would like to come to England, both to pass on some of his expertise and to acknowledge one of his crime-fighting heroes. "I have a Sherlock Holmes gig. I love to sit there and think about what Sherlock Holmes would have done."
11331. Julian Barnes' ARTHUR & GEORGE (September 05 #5) has a British paperback edition from Vintage (£7.99). Alex Clark, in his review in the Observer (Aug. 27), noted that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle "'brought detectivism up to date' in the shape of his coolly analytical protagonist, Sherlock Holmes."
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August 2006 #6

11332. Jim French's Imagination Theatre has been airing "The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" for many years (June 98 #4), and it's now available on more than 130 stations, on XM Satellite Radio's "Sonic Theater", and on the Internet at <www.jimfrenchproductions.com>, where you can download the programs (\$7.00) or purchase CDs (\$10.95). The latest Sherlock Holmes issue is #11, with John Patrick Lowrie as Holmes and Lawrence Albert as Watson, in M. J. Elliott's "The Moriarty Resurrection" and Jim French's "The Strange Death of Lady Sylvia Eichhorn". Their new
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series "The Classic Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (two issues now available) offers M. J. Elliott's dramatizations of Canonical stories, and other series available include "Raffles the Gentleman Thief" and "Harry Nile" (you can listen to samples at their web-site). The company's is at 16215 S.E. Roanoke Place, Bellevue, WA 98006. And Jerry Kegley gets credit for the latest news of their work.

11333. Tom Huntington spotted a new reprint of H. R. F. Keating's SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE MAN AND HIS WORLD (1979) (Secaucus: Castle Books, 2006; 160 pp., \$9.99 (\$7.98 at Barnes & Noble). It was (and is) an excellent book, from a fine writer; highly recommended.
11334. The Illustrious Clients of Indianapolis have joined the Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library in sponsoring a "Sherlock Holmes Month" with film screenings, lectures, and story discussions at county libraries. It's an excellent example of society outreach and keeping the memory green, and you can request more information from Pat Ward (5119 Turtle Creek Court #5, Indianapolis, IN 46227) <wardicus2002@yahoo.com>.
11335. The August issue of the Sherlockian E-Times is at hand from Joel and Carolyn Senter (Classic Specialties) with offers of interesting Sherlockiana; the newsletter URL is <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times14.htm>, and you can request an e-mail subscription at their web-site <www.sherlock-holmes.com>.
11336. Further to the report (May 06 #6) on "Icons: A Portrait of England", Sherlock Holmes has been voted onto the list (which now numbers 53): the website is at <www.icons.org.uk>, and each icon has links to additional information.
11337. Robert Sanderson has a fine article about Imagination Theater's Sherlockian work in the latest issue of Sherlock Magazine (#68), which also offers Neil McGaw's first glimpse of Richard Lancelyn Green's collection in Portsmouth, David Stuart Davies' interview with author Nick Rennison (SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE UNAUTHORIZED BIOGRAPHY), and as usual much more. The magazine is a bimonthly; £23.70 a year (U.K.) £35.00 (other Europe) £46.00/\$70.00 (rest of the world) from Atlas Publishing, Jordan House, Old Milton Green, New Milton, Hants. BH24 6QJ, England <www.sherlockholmes.com>. Classic Specialties is the American agent (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219) (877-233-3823) <www.sherlock-holmes.com> credit-card orders are welcome at both addresses, and there are back issues available. David and Kathryn White have moved, so there's a new editorial address: 31 Matthew Lane, Meltham, W. Yorks. HD9 5JS, England.

September 2006 #1

11338. The New American Theater will perform Charles Marowitz's "Sherlock's Last Case" in Rockford, Ill., from Oct. 17 to Nov. 12; 118 North Main Street, Rockford, IL 61101 (815-964-6282) <www.newamericantheater.com>. It's part of a "Mysteries of Rockford" celebration that also includes a presentation of "Sherlock Holmes and the Clocktower Mystery" at the Discovery Center Museum at from Oct. 1 to Jan. 3 <www.discoverycentermuseum.org>. And you'll find more about the celebration at <www.mysteriesofrockford.com>.
11339. Readers who enjoyed Philip Ardagh's THE SILLY SIDE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (November 05 #4) may also enjoy his THE NOT-SO-VERY-NICE GOINGS-ON AT VICTORIA LODGE (London: Faber and Faber, 2004; 64 pp., £7.99); it's similar but non-Sherlockian.
11340. Further to the report on The Island at Newquay in Cornwall (September 01 #3), the house, which stands on a 70-foot-high slab of rock accessible via its own suspension footbridge from the adjacent cliff-top, is again available, offered for £750,000. According to a story in the Independent (Sept. 2), "Locals insist Sir Arthur Conan Doyle visited his friend Sir Oliver Lodge, the man who invented the spark plug, there, when his son was in residence." It was priced at £500,000 when the 4th Viscount Long purchased it in 2001; the "unique island property" (called Towan Island), is being offered by Savills (73 Lemon Street, Truro, Cornwall TR1 2PN, England) <www.savills.co.uk>.
11341. Gideon Haigh's amusing compilation THE UNCYCLOPEDIA (New York: MJF Books, 2004; 159 pp., \$14.95) is subtitled "Everything you never knew you wanted to know," and there's an entry for "221B Baker Street" with a description of the famous house and its contents.
11342. E. S. Turner died on July 6. Described as the "doyen of freelance journalists" in his obituary in the Guardian (July 18), he started his career in 1926 and had his first article published in the Dundee Courier in 1927. He contributed to Punch for more than 50 years; they published his "Variations on a Winter's Tale" (commenting in the styles of various authors, including Conan Doyle, on the high price of electricity).
11343. Go to <www.flickr.com/photos/kaptainkobold/sets/72057594063134397/show> to see a slide show of Alan Saunders' imaginative Sherlockian scenes created with Lego bricks (which now offer far more than mere bricks); take a look at <www.lego.com> to see just how much more the company has to offer. Alan reports that Lego doesn't actually do Holmes and Watson, but you can make things work: Holmes' cape is Obi Wan Kenobi's cloak. Thanks to Vic Lahti for noting Kaptain Kobold's work.
11344. "Exhumation application, B. Fletcher Robinson, believed murdered. Comments to Exeter Diocesan, Pynes Hill, Exeter EX2 5WR, by September 15," according to a notice (and that's the entire notice) in local papers this month; the Diocesan registrar said the Diocesan Consistory Court would make the decision, but the process could take months. According to the story in the Exeter Express & Echo (Sept. 9) "author Rodger Garrick-Steele has for years claimed Mr. Fletcher Robinson was poisoned in 1907 by the creator of Sherlock Holmes, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle."

September 2006 #2

11345. This year's annual Kennedy Center Honors will be presented on Dec. 3, recognizing the life-long artistic achievements of five performers, including Steven Spielberg, executive producer of "Young Sherlock Holmes" (1985), and director of "Jurassic Park" (1993) and "The Lost World: Jurassic Park" (1997); and Andrew Lloyd Webber, the composer of the musical "Cats" and the song "Macavity" (1981). In 1990 Spielberg and Webber were reported as collaborating on a full-length animated film of "Cats" but the project was later described as being "permanently on hold" because "there were too many ego battles."
11346. A poker is mentioned in the Canon, but there's no evidence that anyone indulged in the game that's more popular than ever now, in casinos and on the Internet. According to a press release spotted by Ken Lanza, "the fictional detective Sherlock Holmes was considered a master at using logic and keen observation to solve cases. The same holds true for Poker Sherlock, a high-tech tool that uses its own revolutionary form of reasoning to identify the characteristics of on-line poker players." You can read all about it at <www.pokersherlock.com>.
11347. Peter L. Stern's summer 2006 catalog offered Conan Doyle's pencil drawing of Professor Challenger (with an illustration) for \$7,500 (he purchased it at the auction at Christie's in 2004, and has been sold). And the 143-page manuscript of "The Maracot Deep" (still available) for \$100,000 (formerly owned by Dame Jean, it went unsold at the auction at Christie's in 2003).
11348. Masamichi Higurashi continues to translate good Sherlockian books for Japanese readers, the most recent of them being BAKER-GAI NO YUREI [GHOSTS IN BAKER STREET] Tokyo: Hara Shobo, 2006; 400 pp., 1,900), with an afterword "For Japanese Readers" by Jon Lellenberg and Daniel Stashower.
11349. Barbara Ulan Van Buskirk died on Aug. 30. Barbara was an imaginative artist and an enthusiastic member of the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes (as "Violet Smith"). She designed the ASH membership pin in 1975 and wrote for the ASH newsletters, and her S'ian artwork appeared in Dilys Winn's MURDERESS INK (1979).

11350. British Heritage (Nov. 2006) has Jennifer Dorn's report on "Streetlights of London: Marylebone and the Sherlock Holmes Museum", with an interesting review of the attractions of the neighborhood.
11351. "Dangermouse, the world's greatest detective, and his faithful assistant, Penfold, the world's most obvious coward, operate from a letterbox on Baker Street, helping their boss, Colonel K, solve crises that range from exploding custard that is taking over the world to a weather machine run amok." He was created by Brian Cosgrove and Mark Hall in 1981, and was the star of a ten-minute animated cartoon series that aired in Great Britain, and later on Nickelodeon cable in the United States. He also appeared in a series of children's books and videocassettes, and was one of five children's television characters on a set of stamps issued in Britain in 1996 (September 96 #7), and (of course) he has a web-site at <www.dangermouse.org>. Thanks to Andrew Clark for information on the web-site.
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September 2006 #3

11352. The New Play House will produce Lee Shackelford's play "Holmes & Watson" (1989) at the Cultural Arts Center in Frederick (MD) on Oct. 5-15. The box office address is Box 601, Frederick, MD 21705 (301-668-8019) <www.newplayhouse.org>; Lee will be on hand for the performances on Oct. 7, and there will be a "talk back" session with a Sherlockian panel after the matinee on Oct. 14. And there's a MySpace site for the play, at <www.myspace.com/holmes_and_watson>. It's an imaginative play, enjoyed by Sherlockians who attended a performance during the birthday festivities in New York in 1990. Lee has worked on the "Star Trek: The Next Generation" television series, and wrote the treatment and first draft for "Ship in a Bottle" (the episode in which Moriarty escapes from the holodeck computer).
11353. Ronald Mansbridge ("A Case of Identity") died on Sept. 1 at the age of 100. Born and educated in Britain, he moved to New York in 1928 and in 1930 he was recruited by S. C. Roberts as head of the New York office of the Cambridge University Press, which he ran until he retired in 1970. He was a member of The Baker Street Irregulars, and he attended annual meetings in the 1930s and 1940s, and received his Investiture in 1998. There is much more about this interesting man, and the early days of the BSI, to be found in Jon Lellenberg's archival histories and the 1998 Christmas Annual of the Baker Street Journal, and in an article by Mike Berdan in the summer 2006 issue of the BSI.
11354. Reported: Laurie R. King's cross-over Martinelli/Russell mystery THE ART OF DETECTION (November 05 #6) in a British edition (Bristol: Poisoned Pen Press UK, 2006; 396 pp., £15.95); they've also published a new trade paperback of THE BEEKEEPER'S APPRENTICE (350 pp., £9.95). Nick Rennison's SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE UNAUTHORIZED BIOGRAPHY (November 05 #6) has an American edition (New York: Atlantic Monthly Press, 2006; 304 pp., \$24.00). SHERLOCK HOLMES' GUIDE TO LIFE, edited by Vince Emery (San Francisco: Vince Emery Productions, 2006; 112 pp., \$12.95); a collection of Sherlockian quotations. SHERLOCK HOLMES QUOTATION PUZZLES, VOL. 1, by James E. Irwin (Victoria: Trafford Publishing, 2004; 84 pp., \$13.00); a collection of puzzles based on the Canon.
11355. Forecast for October: RED CARPETS AND OTHER BANANA SKINS, by Rupert Everett (London: Little, Brown, 2006; 416 pp., £18.99); his memoirs, which may or may not include discussion of his television film "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Silk Stocking". An American edition is due from Warner Books in January (\$25.99).
11356. Further to the report on the new set of "Super Heroes" stamps (August 06 #2), Al Gregory has noted that Green Lantern can be found in the Canon, if you are willing to stretch a bit): "Yes, that green lamp at the side" (Inspector Jones, describing the police-boat in "The Sign of the Four").
11357. Raymond Massey played Sherlock Holmes in "The Speckled Band" (1931), his daughter Anna married Jeremy Brett and acted with him in "Rebecca" (1979), and her brother Daniel played Trelawney Hope in Peter Cushing's "The Second Stain" on BBC-1 (1961) and J. Neil Gibson in Brett's "Thor Bridge" (1991). now Anna has written her memoirs, TELLING SOME TALES (London: Hutchinson, 2006; 259 pp., £17.99), with many stories about her family and her career. It is interesting to note that one of her personal quotes is "Actors marrying each other is not a good idea."
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September 2006 #4

11358. Reported: THE AFTERLIFE OF LESLIE STRINGFELLOW: A NINETEENTH-CENTURY SOUTHERN FAMILY'S EXPERIENCES WITH SPIRITUALISM (Fayetteville: Univ. of Arkansas Press, 2006; 140 pp., \$14.95). Leslie Stringfellow died in 1886 at the age of 19, and wrote many letters to his spiritualist parents, who showed the letters to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. LESLIE'S LETTERS TO HIS MOTHER was published in 1926, with two letters from Sir Arthur; the new book reprints the letters, with an added history of the family and the spiritualist movement.
11359. John Conte died on Sept. 4. He began his acting career as a radio announcer in the 1930s, and went on to work in television and on stage and screen; he is credited as the announcer for the Rathbone/Bruce radio series "Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (1939-1940).
11360. "A Phony Fairy Tale" is the title of Phill Jones' article about Conan Doyle and the Cottingley fairies in History Magazine (Aug.-Sept.), forwarded by John Baesch. It may be an old story to Sherlockians and Doyleans, but it continues to reach new readers. \$5.50 (Box 194, Niagara Falls, NY 14304) (877-731-4478) <www.history-magazine.com>.
11361. British Heritage (Nov. 2006) has Jennifer Dorn's report on "Streetlights of London: Marylebone and the Sherlock Holmes Museum", with an interesting review of the attractions of the neighborhood.
11362. Bob Lauderdale has reported some new CDs with Sherlock Holmes stories read by James Alexander at a Dollar Tree store: "A Case of Identity", "The Red-Headed League", "The Blue Carbuncle", and "A Scandal in Bohemia" (they cost \$1.00 each, of course). They're produced by Post Productions and distributed by Greenbrier International; they're also available (but for more than \$1.00) at <www.amazon.com>.
11363. Further to the item about Eleonora Suhoviy (April 06 #5), the Oxford graduate has won her battle to stay in Britain; she arrived in England at the age of 13 and taught herself English by reading the Sherlock Holmes stories, which she already know by heart in Russian translation.
11364. Ian Rankin has written 19 novels featuring modern-day Scots detective John Rebus, who also has appeared in two ITV television series that starred John Hannah and Ken Stott; now BBC-4 is planning a new version of Rebus, renamed Jim Buchan and played by Alec Newman. Filming on "The Acid Test" has begun in Edinburgh, and the program is scheduled to air at Christmas. According to a report in Scotland on Sunday (Sept. 3), "Buchan will cross paths with Sherlock Holmes writer Arthur Conan Doyle," played by Richard Wilson.
11365. Ken Lanza noted an announcement for "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes: The Awakened", a new computer game produced by Frogware and to be released by Focus Home Interactive on Jan. 1. "Join Sherlock Holmes in the most risky adventure of his career: an original confrontation between the universe of Sherlock Holmes and the myth of Cthulhu, for a fight between the rational and the supernatural." It's a 3D game, and you can play either Holmes or Watson, and interact with "more than 60 characters in 5 disturbing universes." Frogware also produced the games "The Mystery of the Mummy" (March 03 #2) and "The Silver Earring" (October 04 #2).
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September 2006 #5

11366. This year's Christmas card from The Sherlock Holmes Society of London offers a full-color facsimile of the cover of Beeton's Christmas Annual for 1887 (it has been argued that the figure seen rising to light the gas lamp is the first sighting of the Great Detective); \$13.00 postpaid for ten cards
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(£6.00 to the U.K., £6.50 to Europe, and £7.00 elsewhere); checks (payable to the Society) can be sent to Judi Ellis, 13 Crofton Avenue, Orpington, Kent BR6 8DC, England.

11367. Ken Lanza spotted a new Linda Ronstadt/Ann Savoy album called "Adieu False Heart" (Vanguard CD SKU-79808, \$16.98) with Richard Thompson's song "King of Bohemia" Alas, the song isn't Sherlockian; you can read the lyrics at <www.lyrics.rare-lyrics.com/R/Richard-Thompson/King-Of-Bohemia.html>.
11368. Robert S. Schultz ("The Gloria Scott") died on Sept. 7. Bob was an executive with the Econometric Institute of New York when he attended his first Baker Street Irregulars annual dinner in 1947, and his first Baker Street Journal article ("The Ballistics of the Empty House") was published in the Oct. 1947 issue. His next article appeared in the Sept. 1997 issue, and he later noted that he had wandered in a "Sherlockian limbo" until he retired to Vermont and rediscovered the BSI. Bob returned to the annual dinners, and received his Investiture in 2002; his article "Upon the Dating of Blood Stains" in the winter 2002 issue of the BSI won him the Morley-Montgomery Award for the best article published that year, and it is unlikely indeed that anyone will surpass his record of imaginative scholarship in the BSI over 55 years.
11369. It has been quite a while since I mentioned Pipeworks & Wilke (January 88 #2); they closed their shop in New York years ago, but they're still in business by mail order, and they still offer their Blend 515 ("exotic tobaccos aged in rare Jamaica rum: smooth, mild, with a delightful aroma"). It was Basil Rathbone's favorite, when he used to walk down to the shop from his apartment on Central Park South, accompanied by his Irish wolfhound, to buy the tobacco. They also supplied Blend 515 to Christopher Lloyd when he played Holmes in William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" at the Weston Playhouse in 1990. Blend 515 costs about \$37.00 a pound (the shop also offers 4-oz and 8-oz packets); according to shop owner Carole Burns, only a couple of people smoke it now, so it's not listed at their web-site <www.vtpipes.com>, but she'll be happy to have new customers (1 Park Avenue, Montpelier, VT 05602) (800-832-8309).
11370. Another forecast for October: Daniel Stashower's THE BEAUTIFUL CIGAR GIRL: MARY ROGERS, EDGAR ALLAN POE, AND THE INVENTION OF MURDER (New York: Dutton, 2006; 336 pp., \$25.95); about the events that led to Poe's "The Mystery of Marie Roget" (Dan promises that there are mentions of Holmes and Conan Doyle in the book). You can read the prologue and see some illustrations at his web-site at <www.stashower.com>.
11371. "Rule, Britannia! Britannia, Rule the Waves! Sherlock Holmes and the Royal Navy" is the theme for this year's "Saturday with Sherlock Holmes" (sponsored by the local Sherlockian societies) at the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore on Nov. 11; the festivities begin with morning coffee in the Edgar Allan Poe Room at 10:00, and end at 1:00. There's no charge, and the library is at 400 Cathedral Street in Baltimore.

September 2006 #6

11372. Reported: SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE BAKER STREET IRREGULARS: THE FALL OF THE AMAZING ZALINDAS, by Tracy Mack and Michael Citrin (New York: Orchard Books, 2006; \$16.99, 272 pp.); the irregulars, assisted by Holmes, with illustrations by Greg Ruth (who has worked on comic books such as The Matrix as well as children's books), in the first of a series.
11373. Oliver Mundy reports a Latin translation of "Silver Blaze" [as "Fulmen Argenteum"] at <ephemeris.alcuinus.net/holmesiac.php>, with the Paget illustrations. And that "Facies Lutea" [that's "The Yellow Face"] will be the next story in the series; translator Stanislaus Tekieli hopes to do all of the Canon eventually.
11374. Al Gregory has visited, and enjoyed, the preliminary exhibition of material from Richard Lancelyn Green's collection at the Portsmouth Museum; work is underway on a larger exhibition next year, and the Museum's planning to begin making the collection accessible to the public (in stages) next autumn. The museum's web-site is at <www.portsmouthmuseums.co.uk> (with the handsome poster), <www.conandoyllection.co.uk> is the URL for the collection's own web-site (with the third and latest issue of their newsletter), earlier issues can be found at <www.portsmouthand.co.uk/history/213.htm>. To enroll on their mailing list, write to Mark Wright (ECCS 1st Floor, Civic Offices, Guildhall Square, Portsmouth PO1 2AD, England).
11375. The Dept. of Performing Arts will present William Gillette's play "Sherlock Holmes" at the Burke Theater at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette on Oct. 19-28 (104 University Circle, Lafayette, LA 70504) (337-482-6357). It will be directed by John Patrick Bray, whose dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" was performed as a reading in New York last year.
11376. The second season of the latest "Doctor Who" television series (with David Tennant as the Doctor) launched on the Sci Fi channel on Sept. 29, and the episode "Tooth and Claw" will air on Oct. 6; the Doctor travels back to the Scottish highlands in 1879 to defend Queen Victoria (Pauline Collins) from a werewolf, and at one point the Doctor mentions a noted Scottish surgeon in Edinburgh.
11377. Further to the item on the new "Super Heroes" set of postage stamps, Bill Mason has noted a Canonical connection for Hawkman, who used the "when you have eliminated the impossible" quote in Detective Comics #500 (Mar. 1981). There is also a remote connection for The Flash: in Flash #35 (Feb. 1990, Elongated Man also uses an "eliminate the impossible" quote and appears on the cover in Sherlockian costume).
11378. "The Unexpected Return of Sherlock Holmes" is a comedy by Jack L. Herman, set three years after Holmes' death at the Reichenbach Falls; Conan Doyle is asked to solve a mystery and brings along the ghost of Sherlock Holmes. At the Sierra Stage (144 Sierra Bonita Avenue, West Hollywood) through Oct. 14 (323-836-6339) <www.sherlockgoeshollywood.com>. It also seems (as noted by Charles Prepolec) to be a revision of David Belke's play "The Reluctant Resurrection of Sherlock Holmes" (1992).

October 2006 #1

11379. Nancy Springer's THE CASE OF THE MISSING MARQUESS (New York: Sleuth/Philomel, 2006; 216 pp., \$10.99) (December 05 #4) is the first of a series (for children aged 4-8) about Enola Holmes, the younger sister of Mycroft and Sherlock (both of whom appear in the story). It's also available from Recorded Books, read by Katherine Keligren, on 4 cassettes (\$39.75) or CDs (\$49.75), and you can rent the story for \$12.50; 270 Skipjack Road, Prince Frederick, MD 20678 (800-636-1304) <www.recordedbooks.com>.
11380. Further to the report on Charles Baskerville Jr. (August 06 #3), Jon Lellenberg notes that some of Baskerville's fine World War II art can be seen at the Pentagon; his portrait of Lt. Gen. Carl Spaatz (whose connection with "Aunt Clara" is noted by Bill Rabe in his WE ALWAYS MENTION AUNT CLARA) on display at <www.afapo.hg.af.mil> (it's catalog number 1950.063).
11381. The Noble Bachelors of St. Louis celebrated their 15th anniversary on Jan. 28, 1984, and the festivities were recorded; now Chuck Lavazzi has (thanks to the wonders of modern technology) been able to make audio of some of the events available at his blog at <jefferson_hope.blip.tv>. Chuck also can supply audio of the entire meeting, which included a staged reading of "The Speckled Band", on two CDs (\$10.00 postpaid); 2619 South 11th Street, St. Louis, MO 63118.
11382. The 26th annual Sherlock Holmes/Arthur Conan Doyle Symposium will be held in Dayton on Mar. 9-11, 2007; Cathy Gill (4661 Hamilton Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45223) (513-681-5507) <chirpsworth@fuse.net> maintains the mailing list.

11383. Further to the item about Jack L. Herman's "The Unexpected Return of Shereock Holmes" (September 06 #6), the play was indeed a revision of David Belke's "The Reluctant Resurrection of Sherlock Holmes" (1992); more to the point, it was a plagiarism: the records of the Playwrights' Guild of Canada show that Herman bought a copy of Belke's script in May 1999 (and by nice coincidence Herman states a 1999 copyright date on his script). The producers in California closed the show after two performances, but might produce it again with proper credit to the real author.
11384. Reported: Peter Costello's CONAN DOYLE, DETECTIVE: TRUE CRIMES INVESTIGATED BY THE CREATOR OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (New York: Carroll & Graf, 2006; 256 pp., \$15.95); an updated and revised edition of his THE REAL WORLD OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE TRUE CRIMES INVESTIGATED BY ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE (October 91 #1).
11385. Also: FAKERS, FORGERS & PHONEYS: FAMOUS SCAMS AND SCAMPS, by Magnus Magnusson (Edinburgh: Mainstream, 2006; 416 pp., £17.99); Magnusson is the quizmaster on the television series "Masterminds" and his book contains 16 case studies, one of them of the Cottingley fairies.
11386. "Enthralled by the fictional Sherlock Holmes, Victorian aristocrat Lady Amelia Watersfield has recruited three reluctant friends to form the Ladies' Amateur Sleuth Society." A STUDY IN SCANDAL is a romance novel written by Robyn DeHart (New York: Avon Books, 2006; 368 pp., \$5.99), reported by Paul Herbert; the next title in the series is DELICIOUSLY WICKED (New York: Avon Books, 2006; 304 pp., \$5.99), and there may well be more to come.

October 2006 #2

11387. "Conan Doyle is a classic example of a novelist of genius who had Asperger's syndrome," according to Michael Fitzgerald; he has a chapter on Conan Doyle in THE GENESIS OF ARTISTIC CREATIVITY: ASPERGER'S SYNDROME AND THE ARTS (London: Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 2005; 256 pp., £13.95/\$19.95). Fitzgerald also found the syndrome in Sherlock Holmes and Prof. Moriarty, and other authors: Jonathan Swift, Hans Christian Andersen, Herman Melville, Lewis Carroll, George Orwell, and Bruce Chatwin, and there are philosophers, painters, and musicians discussed as well. The protagonist of Mark Haddon's THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME (August 04 #4) showed the syndrome, a form of high-functioning autism.
11388. The fall issue of The Magic Door (the newsletter published by The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) is a special 35th anniversary issue, with color illustrations and eight pages of reminiscences from people who have used and contributed to the collection. Copies of the newsletter are available from Doug Wrigglesworth (16 Sunset Street, Holland Landing, ON L9N 1H4, Canada) <doug.wrig@sympatico.ca>.
11389. A new lapel pin honors this year's Sherlock Holmes Festival in Tryon, N.C., the first weekend in November; based on a poster for William Gillette's play, and the cost is \$8.00 postpaid from the Sherlock Holmes Festival (Box 333, Tryon, NC 28782) <www.sherlockholmesfestival.com>. The 2005 lapel pin and T-shirt also are still available.
11390. Six of Laurie R. King's novels about Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes have now been translated into Japanese; you can see the cover art-work at <homepage3.nifty.com/beekeeper> (that's Naomi Tanaka's web-site).
11391. Further to the item (July 06 #4) on the campaign to protect Undershaw (where Conan Doyle lived from 1897 to 1907), Ev Herzog notes that the Aug.-Sept. issue of the e-mail newsletter of the Victorian Society in America reports that "a Holmes fan and Victorian here in the U.S." wishes to purchase the house in order to save it and its history; the newsletter includes a nice color photo of Undershaw <www.victoriansociety.orgnewsletteraugsep06.htm>.
11392. Sorry about that: I omitted the prices for Dr. Hanson's cacheted postcards with a postmark for The Silver Blaze at Saratoga (August 06 #1): \$4.50 postpaid (and \$4.00 for additional cards) to the U.S. and Canada; you can contact Dr. Hanson at <drhanson@localnet.com> for prices to other countries.
11393. San Francisco's Acorn Books, founded in 1980, was one of the few remaining immense used-book stores in major cities; it closed its doors on Sept. 30 with prices marked down 70% and with thousands of Sherlockian items still available: multiple copies of THE SEXUAL ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES and THE PAINFUL PREDICAMENT OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, copies of The Pontine Dossier and other society material, and much much more. Their staff said they had bought the stock of a local dealer who specialized in Sherlock Holmes (most likely the late Bill Berner, who died in 1997); it would appear they only recently got round to moving the material into the store. They were planning to sell their remaining stock to local dealers, and promised to tell whoever buys the Sherlockiana that I'll give them some publicity.

October 2006 #3

11394. "Dear Mr. Dead Sherlock Holmes, I feel stupid writing you this letter because I know you're six feet under. It's my teacher's idea." As Tanya Martin of Dallas wrote to Sherlock Holmes in 1993, in one of a folder of letters available for inspection at the Sherlock Holmes Museum in London, noted by Andrew Mueller in an article in The Guardian (Oct. 7), spotted by Laura Kuhn. Mueller also reports that the ground floor of the museum has "a souvenir shop, stuffed to the gunwales with deerstalker hats, curvy pipes, and fat, braying Americans."
11395. "On the S.S. America, Adrian Conan Doyle, son of Sir Arthur, finds writing comes easy in his spacious and comfortable stateroom," was the caption on a photograph in an advertisement in The New Yorker (Apr. 11, 1953) for the United States Lines. Propped up on the desk is the catalog for "The Sherlock Holmes Exhibition" at the Plaza Galleries; Adrian seems to have been returning to England. Credit John Baesch for discovering the advertisement.
11396. Neil Gaiman's FRAGILE THINGS: SHORT FICTIONS AND WONDERS (New York: William Morrow, 2006, 400 pp., \$26.95) includes his "A Study in Emerald" (reprinted from the anthology SHADOWS OVER BAKER STREET) (January 05 #3) with an introduction in which Gaiman explains how and why he decided to write the pieces in the collection; the book's also available (read by the author) on CD from HarperAudio (\$34.95), and you can listen to Gaiman read from the introduction at his web-site at <www.neilgaiman.com>.
11397. E. J. Wagner has reported that Trillium Productions has optioned the television rights for her book THE SCIENCE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: FROM BASKERVILLE HALL TO THE VALLEY OF FEAR: THE REAL FORENSICS BEHIND THE GREAT DETECTIVE'S GREATEST CASES (June 06 #2) for a documentary based on her book. Her website is at <www.forensic.to/webhome/ejwagner>.
11398. The first Dick Tracy comic strip appeared 75 years ago, and anniversary has been celebrated at <www.americanprofile.com>, where Beverly Keel noted that Chester Gould modelled Tracy after Gould's childhood hero, Sherlock Holmes. Hugo's Companions gave Gould a "Baker Street Tankard Award" at their annual dinner in 1977; the awards honored someone "who thirsts after justice for justice's sake." Thanks to Debbie Clark for reporting the story.
11399. Don Hobbs reports that "Facies Lutea" [that's a Latin translation of "The Yellow Face"] is now available at <ephemeris.alcuius.net/holmesiaca.php>. Scroll to the end to find a link to "Fulmen Argenteum" (translator Stanislaus Tekieli intends to do more stories).

11400. Production has begun on the new film "Death Defying Acts" (August 05 #1); the scenes due to be shot in Scotland were films on sound stage in London (too many tourists on the street in Edinburgh), but exteriors are being filmed in Edinburgh this month. The film stars Guy Pearce as Houdini and Catherine Zeta-Jones (rather than Rachel Weisz) as Mary McGregor, a local psychic who responds to Houdini's reward for anyone who can contact his mother; no word yet on who might portray Conan Doyle in the film.

October 2006 #4

11401. Sherlock Holmes mentioned (in "The Noble Bachelor") a possible "quartering of the Union Jack with the Stars and Stripes," and "Quartering in the Fifties" is the title of The Baker Street Journal's 2006 Christmas Annual, which has been edited by Nicholas Utechin and focuses on the correspondence between Colin Prestige and four American Sherlockians: Nathan L. Bengis, Jay Finley Christ, James Montgomery, and Edgar W. Smith, offering a look at what the Sherlockian world was like half a century ago. If you aren't already scheduled to receive a copy as part of your subscription to the BSJ, the Annual costs \$11.00 postpaid (or \$12.00 foreign); Box 465, Hanover, PA 17331 <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>. Scott Monty has revised the BSJ web-site (there's now a link to "gift certificates" in case you want to hint to family or friends), and he continues to offer interesting news and other material at his "Baker Street Blog".
11402. Further to the report about the computer game "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes: The Awakened" (September 06 #4), there's now a web-site with screenshots and such, at <www.sherlockholmes-thegame.com>.
11403. The Baker Street Journal is always of interest, and the autumn 2006 issue is particularly so, for its article by Harold Billings about "The Materia Medica of Sherlock Holmes". In 1971, employed by the University of Texas, he found in Los Angeles a copy of Alfred Baring Garrod's ESSENTIALS OF MATERIA MEDICA AND THERAPEUTICS (1877) that was owned and annotated by Arthur Conan Doyle during his medical studies, and Billings' article offers a fascinating look at the book and annotations, and investigates the medical aspects of the Canon. The BSJ costs \$26.50 a year (or \$29.00 outside the U.S.), and checks (credit-card payments accepted from foreign subscribers) should be sent to the BSJ (Box 465, Hanover, PA 17331); you can also subscribe to the BSJ and the Christmas Annual (\$36.50/\$40.00), and you can use PayPal at the BSJ web-site at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>
11404. Further to the forecast of Rupert Everett's memoirs RED CARPETS AND OTHER BANANA SKINS (September 06 #3), Catherine Cooke reports that there are a lot of anecdotes and conversations, but nothing about his television film "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Silk Stocking" (2004).
11405. Andrew Joffe has rewritten his dramatization of "The Blue Carbuncle" (with a new two-scene prologue), and it will be performed on Dec. 10 at 6:00 pm at the Jewelbox Theater (312 West 36th Street, between 8th and 9th Avenues) in New York; the theater is on the 4th floor, admission is free, there will be a feedback session after the performance, Paul Singleton will be playing Holmes, and more information is available at <www.singletonactor.com>.
11406. Sherlockians in New York for the birthday festivities had an opportunity to see Lee Shackleford's play "Holmes & Watson" (January 90 #3), and it was performed again this month at the Cultural Arts Center in Frederick, Md. (September 06 #3). The play offers an interesting look at the relationship between Holmes and Watson after Holmes' return to London from the Great Hiatus, and some surprises. Copies of the script are available (\$9.00 postpaid to the U.S.); you can send checks or money orders to Lee Shackleford, Box 55704, Birmingham, AL 35255. If you're outside the U.S. you can ask him for information about costs; Lee's e-mail address is <lee@gulliver.cc>, and his web-site is at <www.gulliver.cc>.
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October 2006 #5

11407. Sherlock Holmes' 153rd birthday will be celebrated on Friday, Jan. 12, with the traditional festivities in New York, but the first formal event will be The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes' ASH Wednesday dinner starting at 6:30 pm at O'Casey's (22 East 41st Street); attendees pay their own checks, but you should let Susan Rice (125 Washington Place #2-E, New York, NY 10014 <susan221bee@gmail.com> know if you're comto the event.
11408. The Christopher Morley Walk, led by Jim Cox and Dore Nash, will leave from the Algonquin Hotel (59 West 44th Street) at 9:30 am on Thursday, followed by lunch at McSorley's at about 1:30 pm; those planning to participate are asked to get in touch with Jim (2240 15th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94116) <jasdcox@yahoo.com>.
11409. The Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Speaker Lecture begins at 6:15 on the 6th floor of the Williams Club (24 East 39th Street, between Madison and Park Avenues); the speaker will be Laurie R. King, Edgar-award-winning author of the Mary Russell and Kate Martinelli series; her latest novel is the cross-over THE ART OF DETECTION. The lecture will cost \$11.00; seating will be limited, and you are advised to reserve early (details below).
11410. Otto Penzler will hold his traditional open house on Friday, from 11:00 to 5:00 at the Mysterious Bookshop, at 58 Warren Street (between West Broadway and Church Street) in Tribeca; the 1, 2, and 3 trains stop at the Chambers Street station (one block from the shop). If you get lost, the bookshop's telephone number is 212-587-1011.
11411. The William Gillette Memorial Luncheon starts at noon, at Moran's Chelsea Seafood Restaurant at 146 Tenth Avenue at 19th Street; \$43.00 for salmon or chicken (\$48.00 for roast beef). Contact Susan Rice (125 Washington Place #2-E, New York, NY 10014) <susan221bee@att.net> for a formal announcement.
11412. The Beacon Society will hold its annual meeting at 3:15 pm in the lobby of the Algonquin to make the Fourth Annual Beacon Award recognizing efforts of individuals to introduce Sherlock Holmes to young people. More information on the award is available at <www.beaconsociety.org>.
11413. The Baker Street Irregulars will gather at 6:00 pm at the Union League Club at 38 East 37th Street. The Gaslight Gala (which is open to all Sherlockians and their friends) will provide dinner and entertainment at 6:30 pm at the Manhattan Club (201 West 52nd Street between Broadway and Seventh Avenue); \$75.00 (checks payable to Will Walsh can be sent to Carol Fish (Box 4, Circleville, NY 10919). Please include your e-mail address and primary Sherlockian society affiliation). There is more information at their website <www.baskervillebash.homestead.com>. Early reservations are advised for the William Gillette Luncheon and the Gaslight Gala.
11414. Those who wish to have seasonal souvenirs in the dinner packets can send 175 copies (for the BSI) to James B. Saunders (3011 47th Street, Astoria, NY 11103), 110 copies (for the Gala) to Francine Kitts (35 Van Cortlandt Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10301), and 20 copies (for The Women) to Mary Ann Bradley, 7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278); your material should arrive by Dec. 15.
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October 2006 #6

11415. On Saturday a wide variety of Sherlockiana will be available in the dealers' room on the second floor of the Algonquin Hotel at 59 West 44th Street, from 9:30 am until 12:30 pm; Ralph Hall (2906 Wallingford Court, Louisville, KY 40218) (502-491-3148) <bugmanhall@aol.com> will be glad to supply information about dealers' tables. The Clients of Adrian Mulliner (devotees of the works of both John H. Watson and P. G. Wodehouse) will
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- hold a Junior Bloodstain (a rather less than totally reverent event) on the second floor of the Algonquin at 12:30 pm; if you plan to attend the festivities, please tell Anne Cotton (12 Hollywood Street, South Hadley, MA 01075) <ladybassett@comcast.net>.
11416. The Baker Street Irregulars' annual reception, open to all Sherlockians and friends, will be held from 1:30 to 4:30 at the New York City Bar Association (42 West 44th Street); there will be hors d'oeuvres (adequate but not replacing lunch or dinner) and an open bar (wine, beer, juice, soft drinks, and juice). \$65.00 (details below) or \$75.00 after Dec. 8 or at the door.
11417. Baker Street West 1 and The Curious Collectors of Baker Street will present a very irregular "Lost in New York with a Bunch of Sherlockians" dinner at 6:00 pm at Kennedy's Irish Pub & Restaurant (327 West 57th Street, between 8th and 9th Avenues); \$35.00 per person (including tax and tip, and with a cash bar). You can reserve by sending your checks (payable to the CCOBS) to Jerry and Chrys Kegley (9338 Sophia Avenue, North Hills, CA 91343); more information is available from them at 818-894-1501, and his e-mail address is <bsw1@socal.rr.com>.
11418. The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes will hold an informal brunch on Sunday, from 11:30 am to 2:30 pm at the Oldcastle Pub & Restaurant at 160 West 54th Street (between 7th and 6th Avenues) (and yes, 6th Avenue is the Avenue of the Americas). It's open to all, but space is limited and reservations will be important; please reserve with Judith Freeman (280 Ninth Avenue #1-C, New York, NY 10001 <judith-freeman@worldnet.att.net>.
11419. And here are the details: if you've not already received Mike Whelan's announcement with the prices and a reservation form for the Thursday lecture and the Saturday reception, you can request a copy from Michael F. Whelan, 7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278.
11420. The Baker Street Irregulars are a tax-exempt organization, and Mike Whelan has arranged with the Algonquin for single or double rooms at \$175.00 (or \$275.00 for a suite), Tuesday through Sunday; this is the total cost, since there is no tax on reservations arranged by the BSI. The offer's available to all Sherlockians, and room reservations must be made directly to the Algonquin (mention The Baker Street Irregulars) at 212-840-6800 on or before Dec. 8.
11421. Mary Ellen Rich kindly continues to provide advice about hotels that offer reasonable (as defined by New York landlords) rates, but it's a mark of the 21st century that the best offers are to be found on the Internet, at websites such as <www.priceline.com>, <www.hotels.com>, <www.travelocity.com>, <www.tripadvisor.com>, and <www.expedia.com>; wise shoppers then check the hotel's web-site and ask for the best rate (and don't forget non-optional extras that include 14% in state and city taxes).

October 2006 #7

11422. The Dr. John H. Watson Fund offers financial assistance to all Sherlockians (membership in the BSI is not required) who might otherwise not be able to participate in the weekend's festivities. A carefully pseudonymous John H. Watson presides over the fund and welcomes contributions, which can be made by check payable to John H. Watson and sent (without return address on the envelope) to Dr. Watson, care of The Baker Street Irregulars, at 7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278; your letters are forwarded unopened, and Dr. Watson will acknowledge your generosity. Requests for assistance should also be mailed (quickly) to Dr. Watson at the same address.
11423. And that's the end of the forecast of the birthday festivities in January. Now back to our regular program: Bill Vande Water reports SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE BASIL RATHBONE ERA: 2007 CALENDAR (Windsor: Tide-Mark Press, 2006; 26 pp., \$13.95); a wall calendar created by Patricia Guy and Vinnie Brosnan.
11424. An interesting assortment of books by Conan Doyle, many of them inscribed or signed, was scheduled at auction at Sotheby's in London on Nov. 1; details and prices will be available at <www.christies.com> (search for "4074 doyle"); they were owned by Rene de Chochoy, who according to the catalog was the director of the Estate of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle from 1956 to 1967; one of the books was a copy of John Dickson Carr's biography of Sir Arthur, inscribed in 1952 by the author and by Adrian (who described de Chochoy as an obstetrical physician and friend).
11425. Maureen Green Van der Flaes ("Kitty Winter") died on Oct. 17. She was an enthusiastic and long-time member of The Bootmakers of Toronto (and she received their Master Bootmaker Award in 1985); Maureen was an Adventuress of Sherlock Holmes ("Mary Sutherland"), honored by the Baker Street Irregulars as *The* Woman in 1988, and received her Investiture from the BSI in 1992.
11426. Laurie R. King's THE BEEKEEPER'S APPRENTICE was dramatized by Shaun Prendergast and broadcast by BBC Radio 4 in four weekly episodes (November 00 #2). Farah Hussin has reported that <www.gaudynight.multiply.com/music/item/7> offers downloads of all four episodes. And THE BEEKEEPER'S APPRENTICE was chosen as this year's "Spokane Is Reading" project; there was an interesting interview with Laurie in the Oct. 11 issue of the Spokane Spokesman-Review <www.makeashorterlink.com/?Q51914BFD>.
11427. YouTube is a video-sharing web-site that was founded in 2005 and now shows more than 100 million video clips each day; this month it was purchased by Google for \$1.65 billion. YouTube's three young founder could afford the start-up costs: their previous start-up company was PayPal, which was sold to eBay in 2002 for \$1.5 billion. You can visit <www.youtube.com> and run a search for "sherlock holmes" [in quotes]; in mid-October there were 134 hits, and there surely will be more now. A search for "Conan Doyle" produced 7 hits, one of them non-Sherlockian: a fan video combining the Cheetah Girls' song "I Won't Say (I'm in Love)" (from Disney's 1997 film "Hercules") with video of Marguerite and Roxton from the 1999 television series "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's The Lost World".

November 2006 #1

11428. Add an event to the birthday festivities: Paul Singleton reports that his article in the spring 2006 issue of The Baker Street Journal on the rediscovery of the Hotel Duane's Grille Room (where the first gathering of The Baker Street Irregulars was held on Jan. 6, 1934), has spurred interest in a commemorative meeting, on Friday, Jan. 12, at 5:00 pm: the Grille Room is now Morgans Bar (237 Madison Avenue, between 37th and 38th Streets), conveniently just one block from the Union League Club. Morgans Bar is a lot fancier than the Grille Room (Paul notes that a Manhattan costs \$16.00, but wine and beer is available); enter the door at the far left of the building and proceed downstairs. An electronic tour of the bar is available at its web-site at <www.morganshotel.com/morgans_hotel_morgans_bar.asp>. If you are planning to attend, please let Paul know at <psingleton@pershing.com>.
11429. And some corrections: Susan Rice's e-mail address (for the William Gillette Luncheon is <susan221bee@gmail.com>, and the Junior Bloodstain of the Clients of Adrian Mulliner (October 06 #6) will begin at noon on Saturday on the second floor of the Algonquin.
11430. <www.abebooks.com/docs/RareBooks/Avid-Collector/Sep06/pick-month.shtml> is the URL for their pick of the month, the first edition of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES; click on "Clues on Collecting Sherlock Holmes Books" to read an essay by book-dealer Phillip Gold. Thanks to Andy Fusco for the report.
11431. Further to the report on Frogware's computer game "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes: The Awakened" (September 06 #4), the game is scheduled for release in the United Kingdom in January and in North America in March, according to a press release at

<www.adventuregamers.com/newsitem.php?id-1325> noted by Ken Lanza. The press release has links to the official web-site, a new trailer, and a playable German demo.

11432. Don Hobbs reports that "Proxenetae functionarius" [that's the Latin translation of "The Stockbroker's Clerk"] has now been added to the web-site at <ephemeris.alcuinus.net/holmesiac.php>. Scroll to the end to find links to other stories translated by Stanislaus Tekieli.
11433. Val Andrews died on Oct. 12. He was introduced to magic when he was five years old, and he went on to perform for decades as a professional ventriloquist and magician. He also wrote articles about magic, and biographies of magicians, and in 1980 he began writing a long series of Sherlock Holmes pastiches that often involved Holmes with magic and magicians and were published by Magico Magazine, Ian Henry, and Breese Books.
11434. Further to the mention of Debby Applegate's THE MOST FAMOUS MAN IN AMERICA: THE BIOGRAPHY OF HENRY WARD BEECHER (July 06 #1), there's an interesting review at <www.amherst.edu/magazine/issues/06summerfall/amh_creates>.
11435. The latest catalog from Acorn (Box 1670, West Chester, OH 45071) (888-870-8047) <www.acornonline.com> offers a Sherlock Holmes Watch (\$39.00) and a Sherlock Holmes Pen and Holder (\$24.00); they suggest that the holder "resembles the briarwood pipe made famous by actor William Gillette," but it doesn't match anything in photographs of Gillette in the r"le.

November 2006 #2

11436. Mosaic Records has issued an excellent jazz CD "Rich In London: Buddy Rich Recorded Live at Ronnie Scott's" (MCD-1009); the recording was made in December 1971, and the tracks include two Sherlockian arrangements by John La Barbera: "Dancing Men" and "Watson's Walk" ("Watson's Walk" was not included in a 2-LP set issued by RCA in 1972). La Barbera is a Sherlock Holmes fan (and says so in album notes written for the CD): he has also written "The Chase on the Moor", "The Tiger of San Pedro", "The Sign of Four", and "The Man on the Tor". The CD costs \$15.00 (35 Melrose Place, Stamford CT 06902) <www.mosaicrecords.com>; you can listen to an excerpt from "Dancing Men" at the web-site.
11437. George Schenk reports that the October-November issue of In Britain has a seven-page illustrated article (by Nick Jenkins) on "Mysterious Moorland", with color photographs and a map of Dartmoor.
11438. Bob Brusich visited the Yale Center for British Art in New Haven, Conn., and its exhibition "Art and Music in Britain" (through Dec. 31), which includes Thomas Rowlandson's watercolor "Old Vauxhall Gardens" (1784). One of the figures in the painting is Georgiana, 5th Duchess of Devonshire, who gave her name to the style of hat worn by Mary Sutherland (in "A Case of Identity"), and whose portrait by Gainsborough was stolen by Adam Worth (who was described as the Napoleon of crime long before that title was given to the evil Prof. Moriarty. Visit <www.artandmusic.yale.edu/A/A1_04.html> to see Rowlandson's watercolor.
11439. Mitch Higurashi has reported an audio CD of "A Study in Scarlet" in Japanese. You can see the flier at <www.tokyoconsurai.co.jp/chirashi.jpg>, and more information at <www.cinfo.jp/holmes>. The recording is a dramatization (rather than a reading), scheduled for release in October at Y2940.
11440. The next annual STUD-Watsonian Weekend will be held in and near Chicago on Apr. 27-29; there will be a dinner, a running of The Silver Blaze at Hawthorne Race Course, and a Fortescue Honours Brunch. You can ask Susan Diamond (16W603 3rd Avenue, Bensenville, IL 60106) <szdiamond@comcast.net> for a registration form.
11441. Three of David Stuart Davies' stories about Johnny Hawke (a one-eyed private eye working in London during World War II) have appeared in SHERLOCK, and now there's a Johnny Hawke novel, FORESTS OF THE NIGHT, due in January (New York: St. Martin's Minotaur, 2006; 244 pp., \$23.95).
11442. The fall 2006 issue of Storytelling: A Critical Journal of Popular Narrative has John G. Cawelti's article "Sherlock Holmes: The Case of the Perpetual Detective"; he opens by suggesting that "Even Sherlock Holmes, that confirmed bachelor and misogynist, would have been stunned by the enormity and variety of his progeny," and discusses the stories that he classifies as imitations, pastiches, and recreations. 1319 18th Street NW, Washington, DC 20036; \$27.00. And the fall 2006 issue of Clues: A Journal of Detection (a theme issue devoted to Victorian detective fiction) offers Jim Barloon's article "The Case for Identity: Sherlock Holmes and the Singular Find"; he suggests that Holmes' popularity results from his focus on individuality at a time when human beings tended to be measure in the aggregate rather than as individuals. Same address; \$32.00.

November 2006 #3

11443. "The Andaman Basin, falling in the trend of occurrence of hydrocarbons in the Myanmar-Andaman-Sumatra belt, has the potential to host sizeable hydrocarbon reserves," according to an article in the August issue of The Leading Edge (published by the Society of Exploration Geophysicists), at hand from Dean Clark; the Andaman Islands lie within the Andaman Basin, of course.
11444. Gordon E. Kelley died on Oct. 23. Gordon was an enthusiastic researcher in the field of Sherlockian sound and screen, a member of The Listeners of the Modern Mazarin Gramophone, and the author of SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS CONSULTING DETECTIVE: BROADCAST AND MOVIE LOG (1991) and SHERLOCK HOLMES: SCREEN AND SOUND GUIDE (1994).
11445. Filming has begun in Dublin for a new two-part television drama "The Baker Street Irregulars", starring Jonathan Pryce (Sherlock Holmes) and Bill Paterson (Dr. Watson). Written by Richard Kurti and Bev Doyle, and produced by RDF Media and Element Films, the series "pits Holmes and the Irregulars against one of Holmes' greatest enemies" (according to a press release).
11446. The New London Day reported on Oct. 26 that UConn-Avery Point students of maritime archeology are at work on the remains of William Gillette's steam yacht, the Aunt Polly, one of only two shipwrecks in Connecticut designated as an archeological preserve. The yacht was Gillette's home while his castle was being built, and it burned and sank in 1932; there were rumors that Gillette burned the yacht himself for the insurance money, but he defended himself in a newspaper, saying there was no insurance. "I did not think of it in time," he wrote in a letter to the editor.
11447. Actress Emma Thompson, on her childhood reading (in New York magazine, Nov. 13): "I'm a narrative junkie. I was obsessive about Arthur Conan Doyle and Ian Fleming and Alistair MacLean. Of course those are very hero-driven, and that's what's been a big part of my life and my questions about life."
11448. Audio Editions offers a wide range of books on cassettes and CDs, including Conan Doyle's Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian stories, read by people such David Timson, Ben Kingsley, Ralph Cosham, Carlos Zambrano (in Spanish); and dramatizations from BBC Radio 4; and pastiches and parodies (Box 6930, Auburn, CA 95604 (800-231-4261) <www.audioeditions.com>
11449. "Famous Novel 'The Lost World' May Not Have Been Fiction" was the headline on a press release for "The Real Lost World"; the two-hour documentary will air on the Animal Planet channel on Dec. 10 and 17 and on Discovery HD Theater on Dec. 14, and it "takes a modern team in the footsteps of 19th-century explorers" to Mount Roraima. The program starts in Los Llanos in Venezuela, 400 miles from Roraima, and the trek offers a look at local wildlife found on the way; there's reenactment footage of the first expedition to Roraima (in 1884), occasional comment by Richard Milner (the historian of science at the American Museum of Natural History in New York who some years ago suggested that Conan Doyle perpetrated the Piltown Hoax) (March 97 #7), scenes from Wallace Beery's "The Lost World" (1925) and Bob Hoskins' BBC-1 "The Lost World"

(2001), and a look at what the modern team found on Roraima. There's a trailer, and more information, available at a web-site at <www.thereallostworld.com>.

November 2006 #4

11450. Joel Rickett reported in the Guardian (Nov. 11) that Headline (an imprint of HodderHeadline, who also now own John Murray) is planning to issue the nine Sherlock Holmes books "with suitably foggy covers" just before Christmas. Stephen Fry has endorsed the project, saying that Conan Doyle "is unique in simultaneously bringing down the curtain on an era and raising one on another," adding that "Personally, I would walk a mile in tight boots to read his letters to the milkman."
11451. Jim Suszynski noted the November issue of Previews (\$4.50) with a colorful cover showing Sherlockian artwork from THE HELMET OF FATE: DETECTIVE CHIMP #1, due on sale on Jan. 17 (\$2.99); it will be a five-part series, and you can see the front-cover artwork at <previews.diamondcomics.com>.
11452. The new issue of the Sherlockian E-Times is at hand from Joel and Carolyn Senter (Classic Specialties) offers interesting Sherlockiana and a report on the latest annual Sherlock Holmes/William Gillette Festival in Tryon, N.C.; the newsletter URL is <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times16.htm>, and you can request an e-mail subscription at <www.sherlock-holmes.com>.
11453. HONORING THE BAKER STREET IRREGULARS is Bill Dorn's colorful calendar for 2007, with daily entries noting Canonical events of interest, and monthly illustrations in full color of "distinguished members of the BSI." \$18.45 postpaid (or \$20.45 to Canada or \$22.95 elsewhere), and checks can be sent to William S. Dorn at 2045 South Monroe Street, Denver, CO 80210; his website's at <www.thesherlockstore.com>.
11454. Forecast for March: ON THE WRONG TRACK, by Steve Hockensmith, from St. Martin's Minotaur (304 pp., \$23.95); there's more information, on the new book and on his earlier HOLMES ON THE RANGE, and on the author, at his web-site at <www.stevhockensmith.com>.
11455. Marian Grudeff died on Nov. 4. She was a pianist, composer, and teacher; she launched her musical career at the age of 11, playing Liszt's "Hungarian Fantasy" with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, and went on to collaborate with Raymond Jessel on the music and lyrics for the musical "Baker Street" (1964).
11456. THE CASE OF EMILY V, by Keith Oatley, originally published in Britain (November 93 #5), now has an American edition (New York: Pleasure Boat Studio, 2006; 384 pp., \$18.00); it's an interesting psychological pastiche: the journal of a young woman who may or may not have murdered the man who seduced her, the lecture-notes of Dr. Sigmund Freud (whose patient she is), and the account of Dr. Watson (after Sherlock Holmes has been retained by the British government to investigate the death of the man who may or may not have been murdered). The principal focus of the book is on Emily, but the development of the plot offers provides an out-of-the-ordinary view of a consistent Holmes and Watson.
11457. The new film "For Your Consideration" (screened at the Toronto Film Festival on Sept. 10 and released in the U.S. on Nov. 17) has a scene with Fred Willard (as "Hollywood Now" co-anchor Chuck Porter) in Sherlockian costume. Click on the gallery at <wip.warnerbros.com/foryourconsideration> or on the studio stills at <www.imdb.com>. Thanks to Stu Shiffman for the news.
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November 2006 #5

11458. Cricket is both Doylean and Sherlockian, and there's Christopher Morley's "A Footnote on Philadelphia Cricket" reprinted in CHRISTOPHER MORLEY'S PHILADELPHIA (May 90 #4), and Simon Worrall's informative article "Cricket, Anyone?" in Smithsonian magazine (October); Worrall doesn't mention Conan Doyle or Holmes, but he does quote Groucho Marx, who is reported to have watched a match at Lord's for an hour, and said: "This is great. When does it start?"
11459. "Harrier Angel" (a "rock remedy for the re generation") is a three-act rock musical with book, music and lyrics by Cassandra von Braun, first performed in 1995 and now available on a CD with the song "Sherlock Jones" (complete with Sherlockian allusions). The lyrics are in the album notes, and (with a sample from the song) at <www.nine3.com/HA-index.html>. You can buy the CD (\$15.00) from CD Baby (5925 NE 80th Avenue, Portland, OR 97218 (800-289-6923) <www.cd.baby.com/cd/cvb>.
11460. Ken Lanza spotted <www.myspace.com/bakerstirregulars>, which offers information about The Baker Street Irregulars, and a chance to hear their song "Reichenbach Falls" (they describe themselves as "Seattle (East-side) based Jam oriented, Funk, Rock and Chamber Pop").
11461. Some years ago the Land Press published a limited edition of THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, with all the Sidney Paget illustrations from The Strand Magazine, a hitherto unpublished full-page portrait of Holmes by Paget, and four different custom-leather bindings (February 89 #2). Priscilla Juvelis (11 Goose Fair, Kennebunkport, ME 04046 is offering a copy for \$2,500, and you can see a detailed description at her web-site at <www.juvelisbooks.com>.
11462. Jack Palance died on Nov. 10. He began his acting career on stage in 1947, and appeared in his first film in 1950; he was twice nominated for an Oscar for his performances in "Sudden Fear" (1952) and "Shane" (1953), and he won the award for "City Slickers" (1992). And there's a Sherlockian connection (recalled by Dave Morrill): the film "Dracula Walks the Night" (reported as planned by Hammer in 1972) was to have featured James Donald (Holmes), Michael Ripper (Watson), Peter Cushing (Von Helsing), Christopher Lee (Dracula), and Palance (Dracula's servant Macata). Alas: the report was based on a hoax press release, perpetrated by Dick Klemensen.
11463. Bonhams offered five interesting lots of Vincent Starrett material at auction on Oct. 17: a copy of THE UNIQUE HAMLET sold for \$1,200 (plus premium and tax), and the other four lots went unsold. You can see all of the lots at <www.bonhams.com>: sale 14243, lots 3371 through 3375.
11464. "Light-houses, my boy!" Holmes said (in "The Naval Treaty"). "Beacons of the future! Capsules with hundreds of bright little seeds in each, out of which will spring the wiser, better England of the future." Holmes was describing the board schools built in response to the 1870 Education Act, and English Heritage says there are still 8,000 Victorian board schools standing, most of them threatened with demolition as the government moves to replace them with modern buildings, according to an article in the Guardian (Nov. 14) spotted by Tina Rhea. Many were built to similar designs, which means they're not distinctive enough to be protected, but preservationists believe that refurbishing the board schools is cheaper than replacing them.
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November 2006 #6

11465. Peter Costello's CONAN DOYLE, DETECTIVE: TRUE CRIMES INVESTIGATED BY THE CREATOR OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Peter Costello (London: Constable & Robinson, 2006; 320 pp., £7.99) (New York: Carroll & Graf, 2006; 256 pp., \$15.95), is an updated and revised edition of THE REAL WORLD OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE TRUE CRIMES INVESTIGATED BY ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE (October 91 #1), and an interesting tour through Conan Doyle's "private calendar of crime" (Costello's phrase for the many cases Conan Doyle was interested in or investigated himself).
11466. Peter Barkworth died on Oct. 21. He began his acting career on stage while still a schoolboy, and went on to perform on film and television; he played Martin Hewitt in two episodes of Thames Television's "The Rivals of Sherlock Holmes" (1971), and Colonel Ross in Granada's "Silver Blaze" (1988).
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11467. Lots of Sherlockiana in the new catalog from the BBC America Shop (Box 681, Holmes, PA 19043) (800-898-4921) <www.bbcamericashop.com>, including four new items: a Sherlock Holmes Umbrella (\$54.98) with a silhouette of Holmes (and a suitably stormy quotation from "The Five Orange Pips"), a Sherlock Holmes Stamp and Coin Collection (\$79.98) with the five British stamps from the Royal Mail in 1993 and two Victorian shillings under glass in a wooden frame, a Sherlock Holmes Ornament (\$29.98) showing Holmes and Watson in a snowy scene (from "The Resident Patient"), a Sherlock Holmes Marble Coaster Set (\$49.98) with Paget illustrations on four coasters hand-cut from Botticino marble imported from Verona.
11468. Reported: WATSON'S SAMPLER: THE LOST CASEBOOK OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by William Watson (Portsmouth: Stagecoach Press, 2006; 246 pp., \$21.99); a collection of new pastiches (also available in paperback format and as an electronic download) <www.lulu.com>. You can also order by mail from the author (35 Hope Avenue, Portsmouth, RI 02871) (401-683-1729); he can tell you what the shipping costs will be.
11469. Mary Burke reports that a "Cartoon America" exhibition in the Great Hall of the Thomas Jefferson Building at the Library of Congress (through Jan. 27) includes a Dick Tracy comic and the explanation that Chester Gould "modeled his chisel-chinned cop after Sherlock Holmes and cashed in on the popularity of detective stories." Visit <www.loc.gov/today/pr/2006/06-165.html> for more information on the exhibition.
11470. Reported: RIPPER SUSPECT: THE SECRET LIVES OF MONTAGUE DRUITT (Stroud: Sutton, 2006; 224 pp., £18.99); the author has "uncovered a web of intriguing connections linking the eldest son of the heir to the throne, the Cambridge Apostles, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Virginia Woolf, and the cricketering legend Prince Kumar Ranjitsinhji."
11471. Walter R. Brooks' "Freddy the Pig" has appeared in Sherlockian costume in illustrations by Kurt Wiese in FREDDY THE DETECTIVE (1932), as noted earlier (September 02 #1), and on the cover, title page, and two interior illustrations in FREDDY AND THE MEN FROM MARS, first published in 1954; it's still in print (New York: Overlook Press, 2002; 246 pp., \$23.95). The Friends of Freddy were founded in 1984, and have a web-site at <www.freddythepig.org> and an irregular quarterly; membership costs \$25.00 for two years (Box 912, Greenbelt, MD 20768).

November 2006 #7

11472. The September issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota has Tim Johnson's discussion of his S'ian contributions to the university's summer continuing-education "curiosity camp", Julie McKuras' article about Emory Lee and his donation of his collection to the university, and other news from and about the collections; you can request a copies of the newsletter from Richard J. Sveum, (111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <sveum001@tc.umn.edu>.
11473. Sergei Petrov, the head of Moscow City Hall's Monuments Committee, has announced the committee's decision that there should be a statue of Sherlock Holmes in Moscow, according to a report from Deutsche Presse-Agentur (Nov. 17); Petrov noted the continuing popularity of the Russian television series that starred Vasilii Livanov, who earlier this year was awarded an MBE (March 06 #4). The statue is to be installed near the British Embassy under the auspices of the non-profit foundation Cultural Dialogue/One World.
11474. But: a different report, from Komsomolskaya Pravda (Nov. 18), showed a photograph of the statue of Holmes and Watson, and it's possible that the photo (in full color) is still available at <www.kp.ru/daily/23809/60014>; the statue was sculpted by Andrei Orlov, and has already been cast in bronze. Thanks to Marina Stajic for translating the report.
11475. Stockton's Pub, described as the place "where Arthur Conan Doyle wrote one of his Sherlock Holmes mysteries," may vanish into the ocean within fifty years, according to a Bloomberg report (Nov. 16) from Happisburgh in Norfolk. The cliffs are eroding, and the government's new Shoreline Management Plan for North Norfolk says that there is "no economic case to be made" for spending more money on defending the coast. Stockton's Pub once was the Hill House Hotel, where Conan Doyle was inspired to write "The Dancing Men".
11476. John Gilbert died in November . He was actor on stage and radio, and for a time a bookseller (he called his shop Old Actor's Used Books). He played Sherlock Holmes in a Seattle production of Paul Giovanni's "The Crucifer of Blood" in 1983, and was a fine Sherlock Holmes from 1998 to 2000 in the new Sherlock Holmes shows in Jim French's syndicated radio series "Imagination Theatre".
11477. VAMPIRE LOVES, by Joann Sfar (New York: First Second Books, 2006; 192 pp., \$16.95) is a graphic-novel collection of humorous stories about a vampire named Ferdinand. Jeff Swindoll at <www.monstersandcritics.com> reported on Nov. 17 that one of the stories has an appearance by Professor Bell ("who taught Arthur Conan Doyle and was the basis of Sherlock Holmes"); according to Sfar's entry at <www.wikipedia.com>, he says there is Ashkenazi humor in his "Professeur Bell" (loosely based on Joseph Bell).

November 2006 #8

11478. Readers with long memories may recall the bank robbers who tunneled into a Lloyds Bank on Baker Street in 1971 and got away with £1.5 million; some of them were caught and convicted in 1973, and of course newspaper and magazine stories noted similarities to "The Red-Headed League". There were reports in 2001 and 2002 of plans for a movie, and we may see one eventually: Ken Lanza noted a report that "Baker Street" is in pre-production, with Roger Donaldson as director, screenplay by Dick Clement and Ian La Frenais, and Jason Stratham as the star; filming is expected to start in the UK next year. Publicity for the film explains that "this is a story that has remained untold for over 35 years due to a government gagging order," and that no arrests were ever made (which will be news to the robbers who were convicted in 1973).
11479. John Hallam died on Nov. 14. He began his acting career on stage, and went on to a long career in films and on television, with appearances in series that ranged from "Doctor Who" to "EastEnders" and included playing Gorgiano in Granada's "The Adventure of the Red Circle" (1994).
11480. Dana Martin Batory's A BAKER STREET DOZEN+: ESSAY EXCURSIONS INTO THE SHERLOCKIAN MYTHOS (Brooklyn: Gryphon Books, 2006; 100 pp., \$16.00) collects 13 articles previously published in Megavore, The Sherlock Holmes Journal, The Baker Street Journal, and Baker Street Miscellanea, plus "Lost Echoes from the Grimpen Mire" (in which he discusses echoes from "The Hound of the Baskervilles" found in "The Lost World"); the publisher is at Box 209, Brooklyn, NY 11228 <www.gryphonbooks.com>.
11481. Further to the report about Liberton Bank House, where Conan Doyle lived as a child (December 05 #2), the Edinburgh Evening News reports (Nov. 3) that fundraising has been completed and that work has started on moving the Dunedin School into the house; plans call for a literary garden commemorating the site's links to Conan Doyle.
11482. For Jeremy Brett fans: Lenny Picker has noted that the 1966 BBC television mini-series "The Three Musketeers" (starring Brett as D'Artagnon and Brian Blessed as Porthos) broadcast in ten 25-minute black-and-white episodes is now available on DVD (\$24.98).
11483. <www.ancestry.com> is an interesting resource for those who want to trace their ancestors; the immigration collection now offers more than 100 million names from the records of more than 100 American port cities. Search was free through the end of November (now you need to join); there are no Garridebs on the list.
11484. Greg Darak reports that the new DVD of the film "It's Always Fair Weather" (1955) issued by Warner Home Video (\$19.98) has added features that include an out-take musical number "Love Is Nothing But a Racket" that was cut from the film. Gene Kelly and Cyd Charisse are in a room in a

television studio where there are a lot of different costumes; they sing the song and go into a dance, putting on different hats and coats, and Kelly is seen, for about five seconds, with a large deerstalker and a pipe.

December 2006 #1

11485. There may still space available Laurie R. King' Distinguished Speaker Lecture on "Meeting Sherlock Holmes" during the birthday festivities, at the Williams Club (24 East 39th Street, between Madison and Park Avenues), at 6:15 pm on Thursday, Jan. 11. \$11.00 each, and since it's so close to the weekend, you should call Mike Whelan (417-293-2212) to reserve tickets.
11486. THE YALE BOOK OF QUOTATIONS, edited by Fred R. Shapiro (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2006; 1067 pp., \$50.00), is an important (and delightful) reference work; it's more up to date than BARTLETT'S FAMILIAR QUOTATIONS, and has far more emphasis on American sources than THE OXFORD DICTIONARY OF QUOTATIONS. There are sections on advertising slogans, film lines, and radio and television catchphrases, 39 quotations for Arthur Conan Doyle (all Sherlockian), a source for "Quick, Watson, the needle," and some pleasant surprises for people who only think they know the sources for many familiar quotations. And as with all good reference works, it's great fun to browse through its pages.
11487. CREATURE COZIES, edited by Jill M. Morgan (New York: Berkley Prime Crime, 2005; 311 pp., \$23.95 cloth, \$6.99 paper) (the cloth-bound edition is discounted to \$5.98 at Barnes & Noble), is an anthology of all-new mysteries involving pets, with a dog in Sherlockian costume in the jacket illustration by Lisa Desimini, and a search dog named Sherlock in January Burke's story "Lost and Found".
11488. A "reflection for the day" appears at <www.reflectionfortheday.com> and in the Boston Globe, and on Oct. 30 they chose "I never remember being tired by work, but idleness exhausts me completely." (from Conan Doyle) Try your hand at remembering what that's from. Spoiler alert: answer below.
11489. Clive Perry died on Nov. 11. He was a famous director in British theater, beginning in 1960 at the Derby Playhouse, and in 1995 turned to teaching, as a professor of drama and theater in Edinburgh. He was artistic director at the Birmingham Repertory Theatre in 1976 for a production of Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" with Alan Rickman as Holmes and David Suchet as Moriarty.
11490. Stanford University's Community Reading Project has published Dickens and Conan Doyle by mail and on the Internet in serial facsimile, and their second series of Sherlock Holmes stories will run weekly from Jan. 26 to Apr. 13. There's a \$20.00 fee for delivery by mail (to the U.S. only), and web access is free of charge everywhere <sherlockholmes.stanford.edu>; click on "sherlock holmes adventures" and then on "choose an issue".
11491. Don Hobbs reports that "Gloria Scott" has been added to the Latin-translation web-site at <ephemeris.alcuinus.net/holmesiac.php>; scroll to the end to find links to other stories translated by Stanislaus Tekieli.
11492. BARTITSU: THE MARTIAL ART OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Kirk Lawson (Morrisville: Lulu, 2006; \$20.00); an 88-minute DVD of Lawson's recent seminar on Bartitsu, invented by E. W. Barton-Wright in 1899 and believed by many Sherlockian scholars to be the baritsu mentioned by Sherlock Holmes (in "The Empty House"). The publisher's web-site is <www.lulu.com/content/511029>.

December 2006 #2

11493. One of the nicer aspects of the Internet is that so many things are free, including podcasts at <www.switchpod.com>; they have four of the 1946 Rathbone/Bruce radio shows now, and soon will offer "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (click on "Podcast Books Now Available!" to see the books that are up and running now). Patrick Horgan reads Plato's "The Republic", Dickens'"A Christmas Carol", and Wells' "The War of the Worlds", and it will be grand indeed if he's their reader for the Canon.
11494. The Sherlockian echoes in Hugh Laurie's television series "House" have received considerable notice, and they're quite deliberate (December 04 #2). Al Gregory notes that a web-site at <www.housemd-guide.com/holmesian.php> has B. E. Warne's detailed comparison of House and Holmes.
11495. Sherlock Holmes said, "I never remember being tired by work, but idleness exhausts me completely," in "The Sign of the Four".
11496. Pattie Tierney has expanded her offers of attractive "wearable art" (some Sherlockian, and some not); <www.ptierneydesigns.etsy.com> is the URL for her web-site, an illustrated flier is available on request (229 Hereford Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63135).
11497. The success of last April's "Springtime in Baker Street" has inspired Bob Thomale to return to fall scheduling: "Autumn in Baker Street" is scheduled for Sept. 1-2, 2007, at the Doubletree Hotel in Norwalk, Conn. There is a web-site at <www.autumninbakerstreet.org>, or you can sign up for his mailing list (82 Highview Drive, Carmel, NY 10512).
11498. Andrew Gulli's "Strand Magazine" 2007 Sherlock Holmes Calendar (\$16.95) has photographs, illustrations by Paget and Fawcett, and four-color artwork by Debbie Hinks. You can order from the Strand Magazine, Box 1418, Birmingham, MI 48012 <www.strandmag.com>.
11499. "The calculation is a simple one," Holmes told Watson (in "Silver Blaze"), and much ink has been spilled over just how Holmes calculated the speed of the train. John Baesch spotted some correspondence in the Daily Telegraph, including a letter from Captain Nigel Calder (Oct. 28), who wrote: "If you divide 900 by the number of seconds it takes to pass between the quarter-mile markers, the result is the train's speed in statute miles per hour." Well, yes, Holmes did explain that he had noted the telegraph posts, but it is tempting to consider that he really used the quarter-mile markers, and mentioned the telegraph posts only to confuse and amaze Watson.
11500. Further to the mention of <www.ancestry.com> (November 06 #8), the 1851 and 1861 Scottish censuses have been added to the records at <www.ancestry.co.uk>; the Glasgow Daily Record noted (Nov. 30) that Alexander Graham Bell and Arthur Conan Doyle are among the people recorded in the censuses.
11501. "Auditioning a Ghost" is Jeannette Jaquish's one-act dramatization of Conan Doyle's amusing story "Selecting a Ghost" (1883); it was first performed in 2000, and has had other productions since then, and there's an excerpt from the script at her web-site at <www.angelfire.com/scifi/auditioningaghost>. And you can request a copy of the complete script by e-mail at the web-site (or send \$10.00 to her at 1423 Louisedale Drive, Fort Wayne, IN 46808).

December 2006 #3

11502. DR. JOSEPH BELL: THE ORIGINAL SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Robert Hume (Broadstairs: Stone Publishing House, 2005; 88 pp., £4.99), is an excellent biography of Joseph Bell, written for young readers; the story covers the essentials of Bell's life and career, which included much more than his association with Conan Doyle, and does it well. The publisher's address is 17 Stone House, North Foreland Road, Broadstairs, Kent CT10 3NT, England, and the book also is available from <www.troubador.co.uk>.
11503. DANCING IN THE MOONLIGHT, by David Stuart Davies (London: MDF The BiPolar Organisation; 122 pp., £14.99), is a "celebration of Jeremy Brett" based on Davies' many meetings with Brett and conversations with his friends.
11504. RAGS TO RICHES: THE CASE OF THE HIRE SHOP FIEND, by Richard Roberts (London: MDF The Bipolar Organization; 40 pp., £7.99); an amusing and nicely-illustrated book for children (the first of a series). There's an interesting web-site at <www.ragsriches.co.uk>.

11505. Both books were launched at the Marylebone Library, which has a nice website at <www.westminster.gov.uk/libraries/marylebone.cfm>; click on "read about the events here" for details, and photographs (including one showing Edward Hardwick and David Stuart Davies). The Library also has a fine website at <www.westminster.gov.uk/libraries/special/sherlock/cfm> devoted to their Sherlock Holmes Collection, with a link to their on-line exhibit on Arthur Conan Doyle.
11506. The second issue (Dec. 2006) of *The Solar Pons Gazette*, edited by Bob Byrne and available at his web-site <www.solarpons.com>, offers interesting material old and new, including a look at the complete painting by Les Edwards that was cropped for the cover of Basil Copper's *SOLAR PONTS: THE FINAL CASES* (2005). The first issue's also available at the web-site.
11507. Val Andrews, who died in October (November 06 #1), was an accomplished author of pastiches and an imaginative plotter: *SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE MAN WHO LOST HIMSELF* (London: Breese Books, 1997; 112 pp., \$12.95) is (according to the back cover) an account of what happens when "a distinctly unfortunate inventor discovers that he doesn't exist." This and many other books by Val Andrews are available at <www.amazon.com> and <www.amazon.co.uk>.
11508. John Pffor reports that Alberene Royal Mail (9 Mill Alley, Box 902, Harrisville, NH 03450) (800-843-9078) <<http://www.alberene.com>> offers Sherlock Holmes pub towels (\$5.95), pub signs (\$16.95), chalkboards (\$39.95), pubin-a-box kits (\$34.95 and \$44.90), and clocks (\$69.96), as well as clocks from some of the railway stations mentioned in the Canon (\$69.95).
11509. Reported: *THE HIGHLY EFFECTIVE DETECTIVE*, by Robert Yancey (New York: St. Martin's, 2006; 288 pp., \$23.95); quirky private detective Teddy Ruzak is a former security guard who "grew up hooked on Sherlock Holmes and Encyclopedia Brown, a guy who got ejected from the police academy after failing the marksmanship tests." Stephen Kendrick's dual pastiche *NIGHT WATCH* (December 01 #5) has been reissued as a mass-market paperback (New York: Berkley, 2006; 272 pp., \$6.99); *Sherlock Holmes and Father Brown. MURDER MOST MERRY*, edited by Abigail Browning (New York: Gramercy, 2002; 384 pp., \$10.99; an anthology of 32 Christmas stories, including "The Blue Carbuncle".

December 2006 #4

11510. *SHERLOCK HOLMES AND DOCTOR WATSON: ABOUT TYPE*, by Bruce Harris, has a punning and appropriate title ("About Type"); Harris offers an interesting discussion of Type A and Type B personalities, and how and why he assigns behavioral types to Holmes and Watson. 105 pp., \$16.00 (plus shipping) from George A. Vanderburgh (Box 204, Shelburne, ON L0N 1S0, Canada) <www.batteredbox.com>.
11511. Further to the report (November 06 #6) on *WATSON'S SAMPLER: THE LOST CASEBOOK OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* (Portsmouth: Stagecoach Press, 2006; 246 pp., \$21.95): the author is William F. Watson, Jr., and there are four pastiches, two of them with Holmes solving macabre mysteries set in Newport, R.I. Available from <www.lulu.com>, also in paperback format and as an electronic download, and from the author (35 Hope Avenue, Portsmouth, RI 02871) (401-683-1729), who can tell you what the shipping costs will be.
11512. Sherlock Holmes battles Dracula in Stephen Seitz's *SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE PLAGUE OF DRACULA* (Shaftsbury: Mountainside Press, 2006; 208 pp., \$16.95); the book offers an interesting approach, with Holmes appropriately skeptical about the supernatural. <www.mountainsidepress.com> is the URL for the publisher's web-site.
11513. *DUBIOUS AND QUESTIONABLE MEMORIES: A HISTORY OF THE ADVENTURESSES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* was the title of The Baker Street Journal's 2004 Christmas Annual, devoted to the history of a society that was for many years XX-rated (with regard to chromosomes), and in 1991 granted full membership (and Investitures) to four men; I modestly refrain from identifying the only one of the four still surviving. Now the Adventuresses have decided that it is time to invite men to make ASHes of themselves by applying for membership; of course there are requirements to be met, and more information is available in the winter issue of *The Serpentine Muse*, and at the ASH web-site at <www.ash-nyc.com>.
11514. Lesley Johnson has reported a new British film in the works: "Where There's a Will", planned by Deepwater Films, with script by David Godfrey and involving the Hereafter Literary Council, upon which sit "such greats as Homer, Dickens, Mary Shelley, Emily Bronte, Robbie Burns, Mark Twain, and Conan Doyle." Among the actors "attached" to the film so far are Simon Callow (Shakespeare) and Michael Kitchen (Dickens); there's more information about the film at <www.deepwaterfilms.co.uk/wherewill/htm>.
11515. The new issue of the Sherlockian *E-Times* is at hand from Joel and Carolyn Senter (Classic Specialties) with news from the Sherlockians by Invitation Only Society, and offers of Sherlockian merchandise; the newsletter's URL is <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times17.htm>, and you can request an e-mail subscription at <www.sherlock-holmes.com>.
11516. The Illustrious Clients of Indianapolis celebrated their 60th anniversary on Dec. 6, and issued two cacheted covers to celebrate the event, one with a photograph of those who attended the first meeting, and the other showing Howard Elcock's illustrations of the newsvendor in their story, and each of them with a stamps.com stamp displaying the society's coat of arms. \$6.00 each postpaid from The Illustrious Clients (9 Calumet Court, Zionsville, IN 46077); if you order just one, make sure you indicate which one.

December 2006 #5

11517. The Feb. 2007 issue of *Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine*, which will on the newsstands during the birthday celebrations, offers editor Janet Hutchings' annual tribute to Sherlock Holmes: a cover photograph of Basil Rathbone as Sherlock Holmes, Jon L. Breen's reviews of S'ian books, and Steve Hockensmith's new (and amusing) Amlingmeyer pastiche.
11518. *SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE LOST CASES*, by Alvin F. Rymsha (Charleston: BookSurge, 2006; 176 pp., \$15.99); a collection of pastiches, most of them taken from the unrecorded cases. You can read the book (and others by Rymsha) without charge at <alvinsbooks.googlepages.com>.
11519. Catherine Cooke reports that Westminster Libraries are working with artist Ian Rees on a display that will open soon at the Marylebone Library. There will be several interactive models showing scenes from the Sherlock Holmes stories, and in the meantime you can see a short (and intriguing) video at <www.westminster.gov.uk/libraries/special/sherlock.cfm>. It's an .avi file that won't run with all media players, but it works with RealPlayer.
11520. Mark Alberstat's 2007 Sherlock Holmes Calendar is illustrated with artwork from *The Strand Magazine*, and displays important Sherlockian birthdays and William S. Baring-Gould's dates for the cases. The cost is US\$14.00 postpaid, and his address is 5 Lorraine Street, Dartmouth, NS B3A 2B9, Canada.
11521. Writer and commentator William Safire was awarded a Presidential Medal of Freedom this month; he has mentioned Sherlock Holmes often in his columns in the *N.Y. Times* and in his books. It was in *SAFIRE'S POLITICAL DICTIONARY* (1978) that he credited a Sherlock Holmes story as the inspiration for phrase "smoking gun" that became so popular during the Watergate era.
11522. Neil Simon was this year's recipient of the Kennedy Center Mark Twain Prize for American Humor, awarded Oct. 15 (the program was broadcast on Nov. 20); Simon's many credits include the screenplay for the film "Murder by Death" (1976), which is notable for the appearance of Keith McConnell as Sherlock Holmes and Richard Peel as Dr. Watson at the end of the film. If you don't remember that, there's a reason: the scene was

cut from the theatrical release (although Ron Haydock has reported that the longer version with the final scene was screened in theaters in Washington and Oregon). The longer version was used for the first television broadcast of the film (1979), but commercial videocassette and DVD releases use the theatrical version (I've not heard that anyone has an off-the-air recording of the 1979 broadcast).

11523. Cecil Adams' column "The Straight Dope" is widely available in print, and of course on the Internet, and he has mentioned Sherlock Holmes from time to time; Henry Hanna spotted an interesting report on "Did Sherlock Holmes Really Exist?" written in 2003 by C. K. Dexter Haven for the Straight Dope Science Advisory Board, at <www.straightdope.com/mailbag/msherlock.html>.
11524. Joseph Barbera died on Dec. 17. He was a pioneer in the field of animation and he collaborated for more than 50 years with William Hanna; they created film and television classics that included "Tom and Jerry", "The Jetsons", "The Flintstones", "Yogi Bear", and "Scooby-Doo". Hanna-Barbera shows often had Sherlockian allusions, including "The Hound of the Scoobyvilles at Baskerville Hall" (1984) and "Scooby-Doo Mysteries: Sherlock Doo" (1985).

December 2006 #6

11525. "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is a popular play in Britain. A new dramatization by Simon Williams (Lord Robert St. Simon in Granada's "The Eligible Bachelor" in 1993) opened at the Brockley Jack Theatre in London on Dec. 6 (running through Jan. 6, 2007); a new dramatization by David Ives is scheduled at the West Yorkshire Playhouse in Leeds, Jan. 19-Feb. 10 and at the Playhouse in Oxford, Mar. 13-17, 2007; and Clive Francis' dramatization (2004) is scheduled at the Theatre Royal in Birmingham, Apr. 23-28, 2007.
11526. Lawrence M. Small, secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, wrote in the June issue of Smithsonian magazine about plans for the new National Museum of African American History and Culture, and about a traveling exhibition called "Let Your Motto Be Resistance: African American Portraiture". His report was accompanied by a photograph of Henry Highland Garnet, who was born a slave and became United States Minister to Liberia, where in 1881 he met Arthur Conan Doyle, then a surgeon on the steamer Mayumba. The title of the exhibition is taken from Garnet's writings: "Let your motto be resistance" appears in Aug. 1843 in "An Address to the Slaves of the United States of America".
11527. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle suffered from a form of schizophrenia, according to a story in the Sunday Times of London (Dec. 17) about Andrew Norman's ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE BEYOND SHERLOCK HOLMES, due in February from Tempus Publishing. Norman, "a GP turned writer," believes that Conan Doyle's father had symptoms consistent with a form of schizophrenia, and that Conan Doyle "displayed psychotic symptoms inherited from his father."
11528. Jon Lellenberg has reported <www.schemingmind.com>, a web-site for people who play correspondence chess; moderator Austin Lockwood acknowledges that he took the name for the web-site from "The Retired Colourman".
11529. The Night Kitchen Radio Theater broadcasts drama on XM Satellite Radio on the first Sunday of every month, and the shows are recorded in the Family Theater at the Kennedy Center in Washington. One of this year's programs was a new Sherlock Holmes case ("The Golden Tooth"), and it was grand indeed to have a chance to watch a radio show. You can purchase the show on a CD (\$14.95 postpaid); checks or money orders to The Night Kitchen Radio Theater, Box 294, Cathedral Station, New York, NY 10025. The company has a web-site at <www.nightkitchenradio.com>.
11530. Pipes and Tobaccos magazines has Sherlockian content from time to time; the winter 2007 issue has Marc Munroe Dion's pastiche "A Study in Smoke"; cover price is \$9.95 (SpecComm International, 5808 Faringdon Place #200, Raleigh, NC 27609 <www.pt-magazine.com>).
11531. L. Frank James' AN OPENED GRAVE: SHERLOCK HOLMES INVESTIGATES HIS ULTIMATE CASE (Roseville: Salt Works, 2006; 230 pp., \$14.95) has Watson accompanying Holmes, via a time machine, to the year 29 AD, and then (pursued by an Arch Druid) from Londinium to Jerusalem so that Holmes can investigate the truth of the Biblical history of Jesus Christ. He is successful, and fortunately the time machine works both ways.

December 2006 #7

11532. Bob Newhart "may also be the only person inspired to write and create humor by the writings of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, creator of Sherlock Holmes and a man not previously associated with punch lines or hearty guffaws," according to Arthur Spiegelman in a Reuters dispatch (Dec. 13). "Crime and comedy are kind of similar," Newhart said. "You kind of hide the guy who did it until the very end and you throw out a lot of false leads." Thanks to Ken Lanza for spotting the report.
11533. Ev Herzog has spotted 50 MYSTERY CLASSICS, a five-DVD set produced by Emson with more than 62 hours of films (\$19.95) available at <www.thpsales.com> and elsewhere; there are three Wontners, one Owen, and four Rathbones.
11534. Many Sherlockians have seen Peter Cook as Holmes and Dudley Moore as Watson in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1978), but that was not the first time they played those roles: there was the skit "Sherlock Holmes Investigates" in the British television series "Goodbye Again" broadcast on ITV in 1968. The script for the skit is included in GOODBYE AGAIN: THE DEFINITIVE PETER COOK AND DUDLEY MOORE, edited by William Cook (London: Century, 2004; 388 pp., £17.99), and the script for "One Leg Too Few" (about a one-legged man auditioning to play Tarzan), which Cook wrote and first performed in 1960 (it was included in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" and they performed it in London in 1989, the last time they appeared onstage together. The book has much more about Cook and Moore, and their talented comedy.
11535. The Unemployed Philosophers Guild has a wide range of interesting merchandise, including a Sherlock Holmes "Little Thinker" soft plush doll (\$16.95), a Sherlock Holmes card that can be customized with sticker quotes (\$3.95), and (due back in stock on Feb. 15) a Sherlock Holmes finger puppet (or refrigerator magnet) (\$5.95). Their address is 68 Jay Street #508, Brooklyn, NY 11201 (800-255-8371) <www.philosophersguild.com>.
11536. There's a new and expanded edition of THE SINGULAR ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Alan Stockwell, now with 17 pastiches, and some interesting plots and occasional surprises (Burgess Hill: Exposure Publishing, 2006; 256 pp., \$12.95/£7.95). There's an excerpt from one of the pastiches at his website at <www.mrsherlockholmes.co.uk>.
11537. The 108th issue of The Sherlock Holmes Journal (winter 2006) has arrived, with Nicholas Utechin's farewell editorial: after 30 years in the editor's chair he's handing his over to Roger Johnson. There's much more of interest in the issue, including a detailed report on the Sixth Annual Cricket Match between the Sherlock Holmes Society of London and the P. G. Wodehouse Society last June. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London welcomes new members: associate members receive only The Sherlock Holmes Journal, and full members also receive notices of meetings. Prices, vary depending on where you are and on whether you're an adult or a junior, and details are available from R. J. Ellis (13 Crofton Avenue, Orpington, Kent BR6 8DU England) and at the society's web-site at <www.sherlock-holmes.org/uk>.

December 2006 #8

11538. I've received by first Sherlockian spam: Candy's Export Company is seeking representatives, and they claim to be located at 14146 Lower Main Street, Sherlock, County Cavan, U.K. Alas, County Cavan is in Ireland rather than the U.K., and the name of the town actually is Shercock. The company is a well-known scammer: <www.jobscams.blogspot.com> is a fine web-site for checking this sort of thing, but of course people who respond to such scams are unlikely to check them out first.

11539. Jon Lellenberg discovered an Irish rugby player named Conan Doyle on the Garryowen team (Conan is his given name rather than part of a compound family name). The photograph shows him being tackled in a match at Dubarry Park this year. As you can see in the second photograph, he looks much better when he's not being tackled.
11540. John Ball reported in *The Baker Street Journal* (Mar. 1971) about his 1970 visit to Dharamsala, where he met the Dalai Lama (then as now in exile in India) and welcomed a "brilliant young teacher" named Jamyang Norbu into the ranks of the Irregulars. Norbu's pastiche *THE MANDALA OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE ADVENTURES OF THE GREAT DETECTIVE IN INDIA AND TIBET* (New Delhi: HarperCollins, 1999) is set in 1892 and told by Holmes' guide Hurree Chunder Mookerjee (whom Kipling mentioned in *KIM*); the book was then published in other countries, and it's still in print in a trade paperback edition (2003).
11541. Ken Lanza spotted <www.sherlockinvestigations.com>, which is the web-site for Sherlock Investigations Inc. Click on the "blogs" link to go to Sherlock's Case Files, where you will find miscellaneous postings by company president Skipp Porteous.
11542. It has been a while since I mentioned <www.cafepress.com>: they now offer 179 Sherlockian designs (some more Sherlockian than others) on a wide variety of merchandise (including mugs and T-shirts with a caricature of David Hammer).
11543. *THE RAVEN LEAGUE: SHERLOCK HOLMES IS MISSING!* (New York: Penguin/Razorbill, 2006; 188 pp., \$10.99) is the first in a new series written by Alex Simmons and Bill McCay: Archie Wiggins, formerly a member of the Baker Street Irregulars, enlists three friends to form the Raven League, and their first case involves rescuing Sherlock Holmes from kidnappers and helping him foil a dire plot planned by a mysterious villain. The series is for teen readers (ages 8 up), and it's well-written, with plenty of excitement and atmosphere. The second title in the series will be *THE RAVEN LEAGUE: BUFFALO BILL WANTED!*, due in January. Simmons and McCay are experienced writers in various genres; Simmons is the author of the two-act play "Sherlock Holmes and the Hands of Othello" that was first performed at the Westbeth Theatre Center in New York in 1987.

January 2007 #1

11544. There seems to be little doubt about global warming, at least with regard to the birthday festivities in New York, where the weather was occasionally rainy but never cold. The now-traditional ASH Wednesday supper was held at O'Casey's, and the Christopher Morley Walk was led by Jim Cox and Dore Nash on Thursday morning (with lunch at McSorley's).
11545. The Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Speaker at the Williams Club on Thursday evening was Laurie R. King, who offered new and interesting Sherlockian scholarship, and announced that Mary Russell will return to Sussex in her next book, which "will have something to do with bees." Laurie also reported that Mary is not pregnant. Laurie's lecture will appear *The Baker Street Journal* this year (see below for information on how to subscribe).
11546. The William Gillette Luncheon attracted a sizeable crowd on Friday at Moran's Chelsea Seafood Restaurant, where Paul Singleton, Andrew Joffe, Sarah Montague, Elyse Locurto, and Curtis Armstrong presented dramatic views of how the telephone was viewed and used at 221B Baker Street. And the traditional open house at Otto Penzler's Mysterious Bookshop offered the usual opportunities to browse and buy.
11547. Paul Singleton arranged for an early-evening gathering at the Hotel Duane's Grille Room (where the first gathering of The Baker Street Irregulars was held on Jan. 6, 1934); the premises are now known as Morgans Bar, and there is talk ("not by me," Paul notes) of making this an annual ritual.
11548. The Irregulars and their guests gathered for the BSI's annual dinner at the Union League Club, and Julie Rosenblatt delivered the cocktail-party toast to the Woman: Candace Lewis (who went on to dinner at the Club with other ladies who have been honored in past years). The dinner featured the usual toasts and traditions, Paxton Whitehead's reminiscences about the play "The Crucifer of Blood", Dan Posnansky's report on a letter that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle wrote about America and Americans, a spirited competition called "Pericolo" (aka "Sherlockian Jeopardy"), and much more.
11549. Mike Whelan (the BSI's "Wiggins") announced the Birthday Honours, and Irregular Shillings and Investitures were awarded to Warren Randall ("Harold Stackhurst"), Dayna McCausland ("Lady Clara St. Simon"), Mike Homer ("Enoch J. Drebber"), Mike Berdan ("Henri Murger"), Maggie Schpak ("The Soup Plate Medal"), Mattias Bostrom ("The Swedish Pathological Society"), and Elaine McCafferty ("Eliza Barrymore"). Mike Whelan also presented the BSI's Editor's Medal to Peter Blau, Steve Doyle, Mitch Higurashi, and Bill Hyder, in recognition of their services as editors of books published by the BSI in the manuscript and international series.
11550. The Gaslight Gala, held at the Manhattan Club, celebrated "The Villains in the Canon" with performances by the Sherlettes (songs such as "Hello Selden", "Don't Mess with Mr. Milverton", and "Get Me to the Court on Time"), toasts, dramatics (Joanne Zahorsky-Reeves and Robert Reeves in "Feeling Skittish: Holmes & Moriarty's First Date"), a game ("Sherlockian Squares"), songs, raffles (a hand-painted tote bag donated by Laurie Frasier Manifold and a hand-painted sweatshirt donated by Cynthia Wein), and an auction.

January 2007 #2

11551. On Saturday morning the dealers room at the Algonquin was (as usual) crowded with sellers and buyers, and at 12:30 The Clients of Adrian Mulliner (devotees of the works of both Wodehouse and Watson) gathered for a Junior Bloodstain, which featured a dramatic reading of Anne Cotton's "Sherlock Holmes and the Horrible Hound" (with Anne starring as the Hound).
11552. The BSI's Saturday-afternoon cocktail party was held at a new location: the New York City Bar Association, conveniently in the same block at the Algonquin Hotel. There was a spacious room for wining and dining and conversation, and a comfortable auditorium for the entertainment. Mary Ann Bradley introduced the ladies who have been honored as the Woman, and Al and Betsy Rosenblatt reported poetically on the events of the previous year and the previous evening. Harold Billings won the Morley-Montgomery Award (an attractive certificate and a check for \$500) for the best contribution to *The Baker Street Journal* last year, for his article on "The Materia Medica of Sherlock Holmes". The John H. Watson Fund's raffle prize, kindly donated by Jerry and Chrys Kegley and The Curious Collectors of Baker Street, was a collection Sherlockian jewelry hand-crafted by Maggie Schpak, and the Fund benefitted from energetic bidding in the traditional auction.
11553. The Watson Fund (administered by a carefully anonymous Dr. Watson) offers financial assistance to all Sherlockians (membership in the BSI is not required) who might otherwise not be able to participate in the birthday festivities. The generous donors to the auction were Bill Dorn (his Sherlockian calendar for 2007, signed by all who were featured in it), Laurie King (naming rights for one of the good or bad characters in the next Mary Russell novel), and the Denizens of the Bar of Gold (a Street Dozen of artistic pillows created by Alice Zalik).
11554. A Saturday evening event was the "Lost in New York with a Bunch of Sherlockians" dinner at Kennedy's, where S'ians from six nations joined Chrys Kegley and The Curious Collectors of Baker Street for additional festivities. And on Sunday morning a convivial group of visiting long-weekenders gathered at the Oldcastle Pub & Restaurant for a brunch arranged by the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes.
11555. I've not reported on everything, I hasten to add; if you want more details than I've provided here, there will be much more in *The Baker Street Journal*, which is published quarterly and costs \$26.50 a year (\$29.00 outside the U.S.), and checks (credit-card payments accepted from foreign subscribers) should be sent to the BSJ (Box 465, Hanover, PA 17331); and there's an option offering a subscription to the BSJ and to the Christmas

Annual for \$36.50 (or \$40.00 foreign). You can also subscribe at the BSJ web-site at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>, where there's additional interesting material such as some of the papers written by past winners the Morley-Montgomery Awards, articles from recent issues of the BSJ, and information about the BSI's publications.

11556. And if you would like to see two slide shows of photographs taken at some of the events during the birthday festivities, Scott Monty has kindly provided two slide shows at <www.bakerstreetjournal.blogspot.com>; there's a link in his entry for January 23.

January 2007 #3

11557. "Holland is a creation of such exquisite period evil that Dickens and Conan Doyle would have gladly fought naked on the frozen Thames for the chance to create her." According to Michael Holden, in the Guardian (Dec. 23), about a character in the television dramatization of Philip Pullman's new novel "The Ruby in the Smoke" that aired on BBC-1 on Dec. 27. One can only hope that the program is broadcast by "Masterpiece Theatre" on PBS-TV: Holden also wrote that "If you can only watch one bloodcurdling Victorian costume drama this Christmas--this should be it."
11558. There were familiar names on the Queen's New Year's honours list: Michael Holroyd received a knighthood for services to literature; Peter Greenaway, Penelope Keith, and John Wood were appointed CBE (Companion of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire); and Hugh Laurie was appointed an OBE (Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire).
11559. Holroyd wrote about the battle between Adrian Conan Doyle and Hesketh Pearson about Pearson's biography of Sir Arthur; Peter Greenaway wrote and dirthe film "The Draughtsman's Contract" (1982), filmed at Groombridge Place, which was the inspiration for Birlstone Manor; Penelope Keith was the receptionist at the massage parlor in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1978); John Wood played Sherlock Holmes in the Royal Shakespeare Company's revival of Gillette's play; and Hugh Laurie read "The Hound of the Baskervilles" on BBC Radio 2 in 2002 (and as Dr. Gregory House in the Fox television series lives in a house numbered 221B).
11560. Helen Wesson died on Sept. 7, 2006. She was an energetic amateur journalist and (with her husband Sheldon) a fine printer, and her enthusiasms included miniatures and Sherlock Holmes: Helen presided over two Sherlockian societies: The Trained Cormorants of Gifu (she had visited the trained cormorants while she lived in Japan) and the H.W., and she exhibited her Sherlockian miniature rooms (the sitting-room and some of his London hideaways) at the Red Circle's miniature meeting in 1983.
11561. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London and the Old Court Radio Theatre Company have issued a new CD, with dramatizations of "The Mazarin Stone" and "The Veiled Lodger" (dramatized by M. J. Elliott); as with their first CD (June 06 #4), the actors and scripts are excellent. Available from the Society (Mole End, Sandford Road, Chelmsford CM2 6DE, England); £5.00 postpaid to the U.K., £6.00/€9.00 to Europe, €9.00/\$12.00 elsewhere (sterling checks should be payable to Roger Johnson and dollar checks to Jean Upton; euros in currency, please).
11562. Further to an earlier item (September 00 #4) about the copy of Conan Doyle's THE GREEN FLAG AND OTHER STORIES OF WAR AND SPORT, brought to the Antarctic in 1910 by Capt. Robert Falcon Scott (it's still there, preserved in the small hut from which he launched his ill-fated attempt to reach the South Pole), Saul Cohen wrote in Baker Street Miscellanea (winter 1982) about a volume of Sherlock Holmes stories brought to the Antarctic by Xavier Mertz on the Australasian-Antarctic expedition led by Douglas Mawson in 1911-1913; Mertz did not survive, but Mawson did, and found Mertz's book, which has now been discovered in Mawson's Hut at Cape Denison. According to a report in the Dec. 22 issue of the Melbourne Age, conservationists working on preserving the hut have found the book: a copy of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES.

January 2007 #4

11563. Much has been written about (and by) Felix Dennis, the British entrepreneur, publisher (he owns Maxim), poet, and (the Sunday Times "rich list" estimates) the 65th richest individual in the UK. He has a web-site at <www.felixdennis.com>, and a Garden of Heroes on his 730-acre estate in Warwickshire. It's a sort of bronze Madame Tussaud's, according to an article in the Guardian (Nov. 3, 2002) with one-and-a-quarter lifesize statues of people he admires, including Galileo, Muhammad Ali, Dorothy Parker, Icarus, Charles Darwin, and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.
11564. SPONGEBOB DETECTIVE PANTS: THE CASE OF THE MISSING SPATULA, written by David Lewman, and illustrated by Harry Moore (New York: Scholastic, 2006; 12 pp., \$5.99), has SpongeBob and Patrick investigating a mystery.
11565. Further to the report on <www.switchpod.com>, "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" has been added to their list of Sherlockian items available for listening on-line. Patrick Horgan reads the stories, and reads them will. They also have some of the old Rathbone/Bruce radio broadcasts.
11566. Arthur Hill died on Oct. 22, 2006. He worked for the Canadian Broadcasting Co. in radio theater while still in school, and acted on stage, screen, radio and television in England and the United States, winning awards for his appearance as George in the original Broadway production of Edward Albee's "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf" in 1962. He played Preston Giles on television in 1984 in "The Murder of Sherlock Holmes" (the pilot for the series "Murder She Wrote").
11567. "Sherlock Holmes investigates a wailing, soul-sucking ghost that turns out to be a banshee," according to a press release spotted by Ken Lanza. "Will Holmes be clever enough to find out the beast's secrets and stop its terrifying reign?" Stay tuned: "Sherlock Holmes and the Banshee" is one of the new films greenlit for development for the SCI FI Channel, which is launching a new slot called "SCI-FI Saturday: The Most Dangerous Night of Television".
11568. Peepolykus [pronounced people-like-us] is a British theater company that is touring with John Nicholson and Steven Canny's dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles"; their schedule is available at <www.peepolykus.com>. Three actors perform all of the roles "with style, grace, and a number of false beards," and the company asks their audiences to "refrain from bringing meat products into the auditorium."
11569. Spotted by Jim Suszynski: "That's the trouble with detective work. . . . Too many clues are worse than none at all." The quote's from FREDDY PLAYS FOOTBALL, accompanied by Kurt Wiese's illustration of Freddy in Sherlockian costume, in THE WIT & WISDOM OF FREDDY AND HIS FRIENDS, by Walter R. Brooks (Woodstock: Overlook Press, 2000; 253 pp., \$23.95); with a new introduction by Michael Cart [discounted to \$4.98 at Daedalus Books and presumably elsewhere. The Friends of Freddy are at Box 912, Greenbelt, MD 20768, and they have a web-site at <www.freddythepig.org>.

January 2007 #5

11570. Those who wonder where Lauriston Gardens really was have difficulty finding a suitable location in London, but it is easier discovering a source for the name: in Edinburgh. Lauriston Place was just round the corner from one of the houses in which Conan Doyle lived when he studied under Dr. Joseph Bell at the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. An article in the Edinburgh Evening News (Jan. 20) notes that the Infirmary moved to a new site in Lauriston Place in 1879, and to a new hospital in Little France in 2002; Lauriston Place is being redeveloped as part of planning for a new district in Edinburgh, and preservationists are objecting to a proposal to replace the Red Home, where the Infirmary's nurses once lived, with an Lshaped restaurant and civic square.

11571. Dorothy Stix spotted Sherlockian artwork in the game DIAMOND DETECTIVE (the trophy for getting to Inspector level is a badge with a portrait of Sherlock Holmes); it's one of the games available at <www.gamehouse.com>, and you can download and play it free for 60 minutes.
11572. The Mystery Writers of America have announced the nominees for Edgars (to be awarded at their gala banquet on Apr. 26 in New York). The nominees include Steve Hockensmith's HOLMES ON THE RANGE (best first novel by an American author), Daniel Stashower's THE BEAUTIFUL CIGAR GIRL: MARY ROGERS, EDGAR ALLAN POE AND THE INVENTION OF MURDER (best fact crime), E. J. Wagner's THE SCIENCE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: FROM BASKERVILLE HALL TO THE VALLEY OF FEAR (best critical/biographical), Nancy Springer's THE CASE OF THE MISSING MARQUESS: AN ENOLA HOLMES MYSTERY (best juvenile), and Steven Dietz's SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE FINAL ADVENTURE (best play). Stephen King, whose pastiche "The Doctor's Case" was published in the anthology THE NEW ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1987), will receive the MWA's Grand Master award. Their website at <www.mysterywriters.org/pages/awards/nominees07.htm> lists the nominees in all the categories.
11573. Jay Pearlman reports that The Mini-Tonga Scion Society is alive and well: the up-dated web-site at <www.hometown.aol.com/minitongasociety/mini1.htm> offers news of the world of miniatures, and colorful photographs of Sherlockian miniatures.
11574. <www.sulgravemanor.org.uk/history/manor_through_ages.htm> links to a website about Sulgrave Manor, home of George Washington's ancestors; Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was a member of the British Peace Centenary Committee that helped raise the money needed to buy the house in 1914 as part of the celebration of the centenary of the Treaty of Ghent, which was the peace treaty that ended the War of 1812. Thanks to Gayle Harris for reporting the site.
11575. Robert Anton Wilson died on Jan. 11. He was renowned at the author of the "Illuminatus" trilogy; MASKS OF THE ILLUMINATI (1981) featured Joyce, Einstein, Crowley, the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn, and many (marginal) allusions to Sherlock Holmes and the Canon.
11576. I've mentioned MySpace before, and Mary Russell has her own profile there, at <www.myspace.com/maryrussell>. Her capsule biography states that she's 99 years old, because that's the limit at MySpace (she's actually 107 years old); Laurie R. King has complained at her own blog about MySpace's ageist policies <www.laurierking.blogspot.com>.

January 2007 #6

11577. Art Buchwald died on Jan. 17. He was a newspaper humor columnist for more than half a century. After the end World War II he went to the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, where he was managing editor of the campus humor magazine (and wrote a parody featuring Hamhock Bones), and moved to Paris to write an entertainment column for the European edition of the N.Y. Herald Tribune. In March 1952 he interviewed Bill Rabe, then an Army officer in Europe, about the Old Soldiers of Baker Street (and in a later column published a letter in which Adrian Conan Doyle complained that his father had been neglected in Bill's interview); Sherlock Holmes was mentioned often in Buchwald's columns over many years, and he assisted Bill in the research that resulted in Bill's WE ALWAYS MENTION AUNT CLARA (1990).
11578. Al Gregory <grimpen@nac.net> offers (e-mail only) his 2007 edition of "The ABC of the BSI" (an alphabetical listing of Investitures, with recipients, from "Abbey Grange" to "Young Stamford") and "The Florin Society" (couples in which both spouses have received Irregular Shillings).
11579. SCANDINAVIA AND SHERLOCK HOLMES, edited and translated by Bjarne Nielsen (New York: The Baker Street Irregulars, 2006; 230 pp., \$39.95), is the second volume in BSI's International Series, which is intended to make available in English some of the fine Sherlockian scholarship published in other languages. The book offers contributions from Denmark, Sweden, and Norway, covering a wide range of topics, including the history of the S'ian societies in Scandinavia, with fine artwork by Henry Lauritzen, Robert Storm-Petersen, and more recent artists. \$43.90 postpaid to the U.S. (\$44.90 elsewhere) from The Baker Street Journal, 2 Dettling Road, Maynard, MA 01754. You can also order on-line at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>.
11580. Roy Pilot, Gianluca Salvatori, and Enrico Solito are the editors of MANDATE FOR MURDER (New York: The Baker Street Irregulars, 2006; 177 pp., \$35.00), is the fifth volume in the BSI's Manuscript Series; there's a facsimile of the original manuscript, with a transcription and notes, accompanied by excellent scholarship on Italy, Italians, and artists by Philip Weller, John Genova, the editors, and others. \$38.95 postpaid to the U.S. (\$39.95 elsewhere); addresses as for SCANDINAVIA AND SHERLOCK HOLMES (above).
11581. The last volume of Leslie S. Klinger's SHERLOCK HOLMES REFERENCE LIBRARY is THE CASE-BOOK OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Indianapolis: Gasogene Books, 2007; 264 pp., \$26.95), with a thoughtful introduction by Chris Redmond. The annotations and appendices are as always based on old and new Sherlockian scholarship, and the nine volumes in the complete series are a splendid resource for those who want more information than is available in THE NEW ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES and older annotated editions. \$30.90 postpaid (\$32.90 outside the U.S.) from the publisher (Box 68308, Indianapolis, IN 46268).
11582. Reported: Roger Jaynes, author of SHERLOCK HOLMES IN A DUEL WITH THE DEVIL (November 02 #1), has a second pastiche SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE CHILFORD RIPPER (London: Breese Books, 2006; 150 pp.); Val Andrews' new pastiche SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE GHOST OF BAKER STREET also is available from Breese Books (156 pp.). Each book costs £7.50 postpaid (to the UK)/€12.50 (Euroland)/\$18.50 (elsewhere), and their address is Endeavour House, 170 Woodland Road, Sawston, Cambridge CB2 4DX, England <www.baker-street-studios.com>.

January 2007 #7

11583. Alan H. Foster ("A Commission from the Sultan of Turkey") died on Oct. 18, 2006. He had a long career in corporate financial planning and risk management, and then was a professor of finance, ethics, and corporate strategy at the University of Michigan. He was a member of The Speckled Band of Boston and The Amateur Mendicants of Detroit; he received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1965, and he won the BSI's Morley-Montgomery Award for the best paper published in the Baker Journal in 1966.
11584. Philip Weller writes that a more complete map of La Gaiola (featured in his article in MANDATE FOR MURDER (The Baker Street Irregulars' manuscript-series volume for "The Red Circle") (January 07 #6) is available on request as an e-mail attachment; his address is <221b@acd-221b.info>.
11585. The new issue of the Sherlockian E-Times is at hand from Joel and Carolyn Senter (Classic Specialties) with news from the Sherlockians by Invitation Only Society, and offers of Sherlockian merchandise; the newsletter's URL is <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times07-1.htm>, and you can request an e-mail subscription at <www.sherlock-holmes.com>.
11586. Jim Cox prepared a "Christopher Morley Souvenir Portfolio" for the Christopher Morley Walk during the birthday festivities, with photocopies (some in color) of a "selection of curiosities" drawn from his collection. \$12.50 postpaid from James D. Cox (2240 15th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94116).
11587. Reported in the Guardian (Jan. 9): Bottom and Titania, the Ancient Mariner and the Albatross, and Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson, are the famous couples from literature featured on a multi-media "Literacy Collection" CD-ROM for Windows offered to schools by 2Simple Software (Enterprise House, 2 The Crest, Hendon, London NW4 2HN, England) <www.2simple.com>.

11588. Jon Lellenberg reports an excellent account of the battle of Maiwand at the web-site <www.britishbattles.com/second-afghan-war/maiwand.htm>; Dr. Watson is mentioned near the end, under "regimental anecdotes and traditions".
11589. <www.oddcast.com/home/demos/tts/frameset.php?frame1=talk> is a fascinating demonstration of modern technology: type and click and listen (in different languages and voices). You can type quotes from the Canon, of course. Or anything else you want to hear.
11590. And a few commercials: a 17-page list of the Investitured Irregulars, the Two-Shilling Awards, the Women, and the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes costs \$1.30 postpaid. An 82-page list of 851 Sherlockian societies, with names and addresses for contacts for 430 active societies, is \$4.85 postpaid. A run of address labels for 357 individual contacts (recommended to avoid duplicate mailings to those who are contacts for more than one society) costs \$10.65 postpaid (checks payable to Peter E. Blau, please). The list of BSIs and others also is available from me by e-mail (at no charge), and both lists are available at Willis G. Frick's "Sherlocktron" home page at <www.members.cox.net/sherlock1/Sherlocktron.html>.
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February 2007 #1

11591. The Sherlockian birthday festivities lasted much longer than the long weekend in New York: the annual dinner of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London took place at the House of Commons on Jan. 20. Mike Whelan awarded Jonathan McCafferty membership in The Baker Street Irregulars (as "Barrymore").
11592. Harvard's Houghton Library will host a symposium and mount a major exhibition honoring Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in 2009, marking the 150th anniversary of his birth. The symposium will be held May 7-9, and the exhibition will run from May 4 to Aug. 15, featuring material from the Houghton's collections, the Baker Street Irregulars archives, and private collections. More information on the Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Sesquicentennial Celebration will be available at <hcl.harvard.edu/libraries/houghton/doyle_symposium.html>.
11593. "The Uncanny Appearance of Sherlock Holmes" (a new musical written by Brad Krunholz for the North American Cultural Laboratory) will be performed at the NAEL Theatre in Highland Lake, N.Y., on Mar. 2 and 3 (the world premiere on Mar. 2 is a fund-raiser) (845-557-0694) and Mar. 9 and 10 at Humber College in Toronto (416-564-6622) <www.nael.org/sherlock.htm>.
11594. John Baesch spotted an article in The Times (Jan. 27) about an auction, at Bonhams in London on Mar. 6, of more than 350 outfits tailored by Angels, the leading costumier for films shot in Britain. The items offered in the auction include a black Victorian-style cape/coat worn by Jeremy Brett in the "Sherlock Holmes" series (estimated at £2,000-2,500), a dressing gown worn by Brett in the series (£1,000-1,200), and a khaki linen shirt worn by Christopher Lee in "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (£100-140).
11595. Michael Dirda reviewed A. N. Wilson's new BETJEMAN: A LIFE in the Washington Post's Book World (Jan. 28), and has reported (although not in his review) that the Betjemann patented tantalus (which has been described as a device designed to prevent the servants from tipling of pilfering) was invented by the poet's grandfather George Betjemann.
11596. One is reminded of the old story about the man who drew lines on the label of the whiskey bottle he kept in his hotel room, so that he would know that no one else was drinking from it. One day he returned to his room to find a note by the bottle: "Please do not draw lines on the label. It is a shame to have to dilute good whiskey."
11597. Nostalgia Ventures has added a collection of 20 programs from the 1948-1949 Mutual Broadcasting System's "Sherlock Holmes" series to its collection of Old Time Radio Shows. The ten-disk boxed set stars John Stanley as Holmes and Ian Martin and Wendell Holmes as Watson in recordings restored from the original disks in the University of Minnesota's Edith Meiser Collection and hitherto unavailable, and retails for \$29.98. It's available in stores, or from the company (888-589-8885); the quality of the recordings is splendid, and it's delightful to listen to the programs. And it's nice to hear that Nostalgia Ventures plans to issue more programs from the season. There's more information about the series at <www.nostalgiatown.com>; click on "enter here" and search for "sherlock" and click on the cover and on "facts" to read commentary by Bill Nadel and Anthony Tollin.
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February 2007 #2

11598. The February issue of Smithsonian magazine has an interesting article about artist Joseph Cornell's box construction "A Swan Lake for Tamara Toumanova: Homage to the Romantic Ballet" on display at the Smithsonian American Art Museum. Cornell met Toumanova in 1940, and used feathers from her costume when he created the box in 1946. Toumanova, who died in 1996 (June 96 #2), portrayed the ballerina Petrova in the film "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970).
11599. Mark Alberstat reports that the Spence Munros are celebrating their 25th anniversary, and are commemorating the event with a lapel pin. US\$3.25 postpaid to North America; \$4.65 elsewhere. His address is 5 Lorraine Street, Dartmouth, NS B3A 2B9, Canada; markalberstat@ns.sympatico.ca is his PayPal account.
11600. Further to the item (July 06 #4) on the campaign to upgrade the protection of Undershaw, the house where Conan Doyle lived from 1897 to 1907, the Department for Culture, Media, and Sport has decided against the proposal. The rejection letter said that "the building lacks the level of special architectural interest which would justify a Grade 1 listing," and that "the integrity of the original design has been compromised," according to the BBC. The Victorian Society, which led the campaign, noted that the department also said that "the writer does not occupy a significant enough position in the nation's consciousness," and "cannot be said to be an author of the standing of...Charles Dickens or Jane Austen." The Victorian Society has appealed, and anyone who wants to object to the decision against the upgrade to Grade 1 listing should write to Tessa Jowell (Secretary of State for Culture, Media, and Sport); her address is: Cockspur Street, London SW1Y 5DH, 5DH, England <tessa.jowell@culture.gsi.gov.uk>.
11601. An editorial in The Guardian (Feb. 8) quoted T. S. Eliot (a "recognized expert on national culture long before the Department of Culture was thought of") as having written: "perhaps the greatest of the Sherlock Holmes mysteries is this: that when we talk of him we invariably fall into the fancy of his existence." "If Undershaw cannot be saved on Doyle's account, the paper suggested, "then it should be on Holmes's; whom he alone could have created." Tessa Jowell responded (Feb. 13), writing that it is "an unremarkable late-19th-century domestic house with a later extension and with many of the original internal features long gone," and that the building most closely associated with Holmes is 221B Baker Street, adding that she "would be only too pleased to consider listing that building" should a request be made.
11602. Roger Johnson spotted "The Valley of Fear" in Bucks County, which is a far classier part of Pennsylvania than the Vermissa Valley. There's a web-site at <www.valleyoffear.com>.
11603. Richard D. Lesh ("The Fatal Battle of Maiwand") died on Feb. 1. Dick was a professor of fine arts at Wayne State Teachers College in Nebraska, and the founder and sparking-plug of The Maiwand Jezails, and he led the society's long campaign to erect a monument to Dr. Watson on the battlefield. He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1965, and their Two-Shilling Award in 1990.
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February 2007 #3

11604. "How much do I owe for 'borrowing' this book for 42 years and 8 months?" Stephen N. Sampogna wrote to his high school library in Richmond, Va., on Dec. 18. The book was a copy of the Doubleday edition of THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES (1960) that Sampogna had neglected to return to the library when he graduated in 1966. The fines totalled \$152.70, according to the librarian, who also noted that Sampogna probably had paid for the lost book in order to graduate, and waived the fines. The book is now displayed in the library, next to his letter and his 1966 yearbook photograph, and a giant sign the reads "It's never too late."
11605. THE ANTHONY BOUCHER CHRONICLES: REVIEWS AND COMMENTARY 1942-1947, edited by Francis M. Nevins (Shreveport: Ramble House, 2005; 470 pp., \$24.00), is an annotated bibliography of Boucher's reviews and commentary published in the San Francisco Chronicle; he was the author of THE CASE OF THE BAKER STREET IRREGULARS (1940), one of the founders of The Scowrers and Mollie Maguires, and a member of the BSI. Nevins has contributed a long and insightful introduction, and a detailed index of the authors Boucher wrote about. There is Sherlockian content, of course, and much more. The publisher is at 443 Gladstone Boulevard, Shreveport, LA 71104 <www.ramblehouse.com>.
11606. Ramble House also plans to publish two pastiche collections: THE UNIVERSAL SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Richard A. Lupoff, and THE SECRET ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Gary Lovisi; \$30.00 hardback, \$18.00 paperback, and \$25.00 hand-made).
11607. Calvin H. Plimpton died on Feb. 3. He served as president of Amherst College from 1960 to 1971, and then as president of the American University of Beirut; he also was a member (as "Mr. Mortimer") of The Five Orange Pips, and his paper on his Canonical namesake was published in The Baker Street Journal in Sept. 1977.
11608. Susan Jewell spotted a "charm school" advertisement for Tiffany & Co. in the N.Y. Times (Jan. 24); they say it's a buggy, but it's obviously a hansom cab viewed straight on. Diamonds, emeralds, and sapphires, set in platinum, \$1,150 (item 21671738) (800-526-0649) <www.tiffany.com>.
11609. It occurs to me that there are more and more URLs in this newsletter, and that more and more of my readers have computers and access to the Internet, where some interesting things can be seen. Such as the first movie of a Pope, at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=ai8DEWmZF34&eurl=>, kindly reported by Ann Lewis. The Pope was Gioacchino Pecci, Pope Leo XIII (1878-1903); it was at his express desire Sherlock Holmes investigated the sudden death of Cardinal Tosca.
11610. "This is the real eggshell pottery of the Ming dynasty," Holmes explained (in "The Illustrious Client"). "No finer piece ever passed through Christie's." The most expensive piece of artwork ever sold at auction in Asia is a tiny ceramic bowl, made during the reign of the Qing dynasty emperor Qianlong (1736-1795); it brought £9.8 million at Christie's in Beijing last November, according to an article in The Times (Nov. 29), spotted by John Baesch. The Manchu-led Qing dynasty conquered the Han-led Ming dynasty in 1644 and ruled until 1912.

February 2007 #4

11611. The December issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota has Julie McKuras' discussion of the manuscript of Conan Doyle's story "Billy Bones" (held in the Children's Research Literature Collection), Jens Byskov Jensen's article about Carl Muusmann's pastiche "Sherlock Holmes pa Marienlyst" (published in Danish in 1906 and in English in 1956), Tim Johnson's report on the growth of the collections, and much more; copies of the newsletter are available from Richard J. Sveum, (111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <sveum001@tc.umn.edu>.
11612. The latest issue of Beaten's Christmas Annual is at hand from The Sound of the Baskervilles in Seattle), with scholarship (including Samuel Fry's article on "Three Friends: Holmes, Stefansson & Doyle"), quizzes, reviews, a burlesque radio play, and news of the society; copies of the 46-page booklet are available from David Haugen, 3605 Harborcrest Court NW, Gig Harbor, WA 98332; \$10.00 postpaid.
11613. Ian Richardson died on Feb. 9. He began his acting career in 1958 and was a founding member of the Royal Shakespeare Company in 1960; he was perhaps most famous as Francis Urquhart in "House of Cards" (1990), and for asking for Grey Poupon Dijon mustard in television commercials. He was awarded a CBE (Commander of the Order of the British Empire) in 1989. Richardson was Sherlock Holmes in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" and "The Sign of Four" (1983), and Dr. Joseph Bell in "Murder Rooms: The Dark Beginnings of Sherlock Holmes" (2000).
11614. Joe Eckrich planned to publish a booklet containing all of the talks given at "Holmes Under the Arch II" in 2005, but reports that he will not be able to complete the project. And due to a water leak and a crashed computer he has only a partial list of those who paid for the booklet; please let him know how many copies you ordered: his address is 914 Oakmoor Drive, Fenton, MO 63026 <jeckrich@sbcglobal.net>.
11615. A run of the first 80 volumes of The Strand Magazine in publisher's cloth, offered at an eBay auction in January, when the final bid of £1,850 did not meet the reserve, was offered again, this time with no reserve, on Feb. 8, when it sold for £1,673 (not including the shipping costs: the total weight was estimated at 100 kilograms).
11616. Single issues of The Strand Magazine can also be interesting: "Royal Editions" (bound in light blue silk over bevelled boards, and on thick paper) were published when the magazine had special articles about Queen Victoria and her family; there were at least three such issues (for Mar. 1891, Dec. 1892, and Nov. 1893). Copies of the latter two issues brought £258.00 each at eBay on Jan. 29.
11617. Of course if you're truly interested in The Strand Magazine, you might consider a run of the magazine offered by Vincent Brosnan from the collection of Theodore G. Schulz: 100 volumes of the British edition, plus 464 single issues in wrappers; 19 volumes of the U.S. edition, plus 201 single issues in wrappers; and a complete run of The New Strand in single issues, all for \$20,000 plus shipping. A colorful brochure is available from Vinnie (1741 1741 Via Allena, Oceanside, CA 92056 (858-630-2013) <sherlockinla@cox.net>.

February 2007 #5

11618. The winter issue of The Magic Door (the newsletter published by The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) has Cliff Goldfarb's report on fragments of an issue of The Strand Magazine found at the site of an excavation in Egypt (abandoned by an archaeologist rather than buried with a pharaoh), and much about the ACD@35 conference held at the library last year. Copies of the newsletter are available from Doug Wrigglesworth (16 Sunset Street, Holland Landing, ON L9N 1H4, Canada) <doug.wrig@sympatico.ca>.
11619. And for those who want to plan ahead: Canadian crime writer Peter Robinson will present this year's Cameron Hollyer Lecture at the Library on Apr. 14; the lecture will be preceded by the annual general meeting of the Friends, and followed by a Bootmaker Pub Night.
11620. Sid Fleischman's THE GIANT RAT OF SUMATRA, OR PIRATES GALORE (2005) is now available in paperback (New York: HarperCollins/Greenwillow, 2006; 194 pp., \$5.99); intended for children ages 10 up, it's a well written and interesting story about "the most notorious pirate ship in the Pacific." It's not Sherlockian, although Fleischman does acknowledge his debt to the Sherlock Holmes story for the name of the ship (and its ferocious figurehead).
11621. E. J. Wagner, author of THE SCIENCE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (June 06 #2), will be one of 12 speakers in a Forensic Science Seminar at the University of Rhode Island in Kingston. The lectures are free and open to the public, and she will speak on "Superstition, Science, and Sherlock Holmes: The Development of Forensic Science During the Gaslight Era" on Apr. 13.

11622. "Holmes and Watson in pursuit of the Hound" isn't the caption of this illustration, which John Lockwood found in National Police Gazette (Sept. 15, 1894). It's "Fitzsimmons Begins Training" and it shows him ("the Australian middle-weight") taking "a lively sprint with his trainer" at New Orleans. That's Bob Fitzsimmons, who began his professional career in Australia in 1883, and went on to make boxing history as its first three-division world champion.
11623. Don W. Baranowski's SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE ADVENTURE OF THE FRANKENSTEIN MONSTER (West Conshohocken: Infinity Publishing, 2006; 164 pp., \$12.95) is the story that Watson told to Mary Godwin when he was courting her, long before he met Mary Morstan (and before she met and married Percy Bysshe Shelley); it was at Watson's request that she left Holmes and Watson out of the story when she wrote her famous novel. There are some problems with chronology, of course: her novel was published in 1818, and she died in 1851.
11624. Philip J. Carraher's SHERLOCK HOLMES IN NEW YORK: THE ADVENTURE OF THE NEW YORK RIPPER (West Conshohocken: Infinity Publishing, 2005; 203 pp., \$14.95) is the third of his pastiches about Simon Hawkes, the alias Holmes used in disguise in New York during the Great Hiatus; the first of them was SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE ADVENTURE OF THE DEAD RABBITS SOCIETY (October 01 #6). This time Holmes is pitted against a serial killer who may be London's Jack the Ripper. The publisher's web-site is <www.infinitypublishing.com>.
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February 2007 #6

11625. "All smokers should be prosecuted as nuisances, and the manufacture and sale of tobacco should be prohibited," George Bernard Shaw announced, according to a story in the N.Y. Times (Dec. 5, 1926). Asked to comment on this, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle remarked: "Sherlock Holmes would smile at that."
11626. Stanford University's Community Reading Project is again publishing Sherlock Holmes stories by mail and on the Internet in serial facsimile (December 06 #1). "The Empty House" (with notes by Mary Eichbauer) is now available at <sherlockholmes.stanford.edu/2007/2007_issue1.pdf>.
11627. Randall Stock noted a story in the Wall Street Journal (Feb. 9) about plans to reissue Playboy on six DVDs, one for each decade. The first two decades will be issued in October, accompanied by 200-page books, at \$100 each (a lot more than you'll pay now for the magazine's first three issues (all had Sherlockian content). The Playboy disks will be created by the same company that created THE COMPLETE NEW YORKER on eight DVDs (October 05 #1).
11628. There's an interesting exhibition of "Victorian Bestsellers" at the Pierpont Morgan Library in New York through May 6; none of Conan Doyle's books are on display, but you can see a copy of Isabella Mary Beeton's THE BOOK OF HOUSEHOLD MANAGEMENT (1861). Their web-site's at <www.themorgan.org>.
11629. "Which word or phrases do you most overuse?" was one of the questions posed to Ellen DeGeneres in the "Proust Questionnaire" in the Mar. 2007 issue of Vanity Fair. "I say 'By Jove!' way too much," she replied. "Either I do or Sherlock Holmes does. Whoever it is, it has to stop." How many times does Sherlock Holmes use that oath in the Canon? Is there any other oath he uses more often?
11630. Dave Morrill spotted the first issue of THE HELMET OF FATE: DETECTIVE CHIMP (DC Comics, \$2.99); it's the first of five-part series, and Detective Chimp is in Sherlockian costume. You can see the cover, and the first six pages, at <www.dccomics.com/comics/?cm=6623>.
11631. Paul Spiring reports a new web-site devoted to Bertram Fletcher Robinson at <www.bfronline.biz>; there are plans to publish ON THE TRAIL OF DR. ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: AN ILLUSTRATED DEVON TOUR, by Spiring and Brian Pugh; A CHRONOLOGY OF THE LIFE OF BERTRAM FLETCHER ROBINSON, by Spiring and Philip Weller, and monographs on Dr. George Turnavine Budd (by Pugh) and Robinson (by Spiring).
11632. Thanks to Joe Coppola for spotting the television film "Written in Blood" (2002). The film stars Michael T. Weiss, Peter Coyote, Maureen Flannigan, and Luke Williams, and was written by David Keith Miller; a serial killer leaves clues taken from the Sherlock Holmes stories.
11633. Al Gregory has reported nice news for those who have charged foreign-currency transactions to their credit cards: credit card companies have agreed to pay up to \$336 million to people who were charged excessive transaction fees from 1996 to 2006. Needless to say, lawyers will receive a lot of the money. There's a lot more information at <www.ccfsettlement.com>, and you can call 800-945-9890 to request a claim form.
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February 2007 #7

11634. "The Backyardigans" is a 30-minute animated series broadcast by Nickelodeon cable, and Pablo ("a precocious penguin") is seen in Sherlockian costume in "Whodunit?" (which first aired in 2006 and is repeated frequently) and in THE MYSTERY OF THE JEWELLED EGGS, adapted by Lara Bergen from a teleplay by Janice Burgess (New York: Simon Spotlight, 2007; 24 pp., \$3.99). Thanks to Jim Suszynski for spotting the book.
11635. The BBC America Shop continues to expand its Sherlockian offers: they now have a framed color reproduction of the poster for John Barrymore's movie "Sherlock Holmes" (1922); item 14003 (\$59.98) (Box 681, Holmes, PA 19043) (800-898-4921) <www.bbcamericashop.com>.
11636. Four Southern Sherlockian societies (in Atlanta, Nashville, Birmingham, and Greenville) will hold their Third Annual Gathering of Southern Sherlockians at the Sheraton Read House in Chattanooga, Tenn., on Apr. 14-15. More information about the event is available from Kent Ross at 6875 Fielder Road, Rex, GA 30273) <kenthross@aol.com>.
11637. Miklos Rozsa's "Concerto for Violin and Orchestra" was written for Jascha Heifetz and premiered by the Dallas Symphony Orchestra in 1956; it was then used in the score for Billy Wilder's "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970). Now Rozsa expert Nic Raine has reconstructed and orchestrated the score for the film, and it has been recorded by the City of Prague Philharmonic Orchestra and will be released on Apr. 18, the 100th anniversary of Rozsa's birth; an added feature on the CD is more than 20 minutes of music composed for scenes that were cut from the final version of the film. The special pre-release price of the CD "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (Tadlow 004) is £12.95 postpaid (world-wide); Tadlow Music (57 High Street, Tadlow, Royston, Herts. SG8 0EU, England) <www.tadlowmusic.com>.
11638. The next gathering of The Sherlock Holmes and All That Jazz Society will be held on May 6, as part of the West End Jazz Band's 6th Annual Hudson Lake Train Trip Concert and Buffet; Hudson Lake is an easy train ride from Chicago; more information is available from Donald B. Izban (1012 Rene Court, Park Ridge, IL 60068) (874-292-1270). You can hear samples of the band's music at their web-site <www.westendjazzband.com>.
11639. The International Guild of Miniature Artisans held its annual show at the Marriott Marquis in New York in February, and one of the dealers was Ferenc J. Albert (449 Capri Court, Marco Island, FL 34145) (239-642-2357); he specializes in handblown glass miniatures, and offers an attractive one-inch scale (that's 1 inch = 1 foot) tantalus; \$132.00.
11640. Greg Darak reports that the 1991 television films "Sherlock Holmes and the Leading Lady" and "Sherlock Holmes: Incident at Victoria Falls" (starring Christopher Lee and Patrick Macnee) are now available in two-disk DVD sets from Madacy Home Video (\$14.98 each).
11641. The February issue of Classic Images has a full-color cover photograph of a six-sheet (81" x 81") poster for "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (1939) that will be sold at auction on Mar. 31 by Heritage Auction Galleries (3500 Maple Avenue, 17th floor, Dallas, TX 75219) (800-872-6467) <www.ha.com>; it is the first known copy of the poster, estimated at \$10,000-15,000.
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February 2007 #8

11642. FACTION PARADOX: ERASING SHERLOCK, by Kelly Hale (Des Moines: Mad Norwegian Press, 2006; 187 pp., \$17.95), is the last novel in a series "based on the spin-off range as created by Lawrence Miles," who invented the Faction Paradox cult in his "Doctor Who" novels; it's set in 1882, and "Rose Donnelly, maid-of-all-work, disguises herself as a boy in order to follow the callow, yet brilliantly determined Sherlock Holmes in his pursuit of a thief." Rose is a time-traveller, and there's considerable sex and violence (the book's not for the faint-hearted). There's much more about the Faction Paradox series at <www.madnorwegian.com>.
11643. That's a mug shot of Gene Morrison, who conned British courts for almost 26 years, falsely claiming to be a forensic investigator and testifying for the prosecution in 700 court cases. Morrison described himself as "Sherlock Holmes" and was paid at least £250,000 for giving evidence from the witness box and writing reports he based on cut-and-paste information from the Internet. His qualifications included three advanced degrees he bought at <www.affordabledegrees.com>. And he received a five-year sentence for his deception.
11644. <www.comicart.dk/group.asp?group=267&page=&sub=239> is the URL for the web-site of Peter Hartung, a Danish dealer who is selling original artwork from Nis Jessen's spectacular edition of A STUDY IN SCARLET (July 05 #6); he also offers copies of the signed and numbered special edition of the book.
11645. Derek Waring died on Feb. 19. He began his acting career on stage and continuing in films and on television; he played Henri Fournay in "The Second Stain" in the Peter Cushing series on BBC-1 (1968), and Dr. Watson in Leslie Bricusse's "Sherlock Holmes: The Musical" in Exeter (1988) and London (1989).
11646. Sorry about that: the CBE mentioned in the report on the Queen's New Years' honours list (January 07 #3) is the abbreviation for Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.
11647. The Serpentine Muse, published by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes, now has an annual award: the WHIMSEY [Whimsy Is My Specialty, Enjoy Yourself] award for the most whimsical piece published in the preceding volume. The award was established by Al Gregory in memory of his wife January Stauber, and this year's winner was Regina Stinson, who received a Canonical check for \$221.17 during a ceremony at the William Gillette Luncheon in January.
11648. There has been considerable publicity recently about scanning books to make them available on the Internet: Google and Microsoft and other archives are working on such projects, and Sandy Kozinn notes that John Kendrick Bangs' amusing R. HOLMES & CO.: BEING THE REMARKABLE ADVENTURES OF RAFFLES HOLMES, ESQ., DETECTIVE AND AMATEUR CRACKSMAN BY BIRTH can be read page-by-page at <www.archive.org/details/holmesbeing00bangrich>. It's an interesting site: with a little exploration you can find books by Conan Doyle, plays by William Gillette, John Dickson Carr's biography of Conan Doyle.

March 2007 #1

11649. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists will honor the world's first forensic geologist at dinner on Wednesday, Apr. 4, at George's Greek Cafe (318 Pine Street in Long Beach, Calif., during the annual meeting of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists; drinks at 7:00 and dinner at 8:00. Come one, come all, as they say, and watch geologists and Sherlockians try not to confuse each other. Dinner will cost \$27.00 per person, and there will be a cash bar (beer and wine). Please let me know if you're going to attend my e-mail address is <blau7103@comcast.net>.
11650. An on-line poll at <www.worldbookday.com> asking people in the United Kingdom and Ireland to name "the books the nation cannot live without" wound up with Jane Austen's PRIDE AND PREJUDICE in first place. THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES was 89th, behind Mitch Alborn's THE FIVE PEOPLE YOU MEET IN HEAVEN and ahead of Enid Blyton's THE FARAWAY TREE.
11651. Further to the report on the manuscript of "The Illustrious Client" (July 06 #3), formerly owned by Dame Jean Conan Doyle and now by the National Library of Scotland in Edinburgh, the winter 2006 issue of Discover NLS has Owen Dudley Edwards' interesting four-page article about the manuscript, and the story (which had an alternative title: "The Adventure of the Blue Saucer"). The postal address is George IV Bridge, Edinburgh EH1 1EW, Scotland, United Kingdom, and <www.nls.uk/about/discover-nls/issues/discover-nls_03.pdf> is the URL for the issue.
11652. "The Secret of Sherlock Holmes" (the play that Jeremy Paul wrote for Jeremy Brett and Edward Hardwicke) will be performed by Shakespeare & Company in Lenox, Mass., Sept. 28 to Oct. 28, with Michael Hammond as Holmes and Dave Demke as Watson; the theater address is 70 Kemble Street, Lenox, MA 01240 (413-637-1199) <www.shakespeare.org>.
11653. SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE GRAND HORIZONTALS, by Frank J. Morlock (Encino: Black Coat Press, 2006; 223 pp. \$20.95), is a collection of seven plays that involve Holmes with French courtesans and Fantomas, Father Brown, Police Com-missioner Theodore Roosevelt, and Count Dracula (not all in the same play, of course).
11654. Further to the item "Smoking Ban Will Leave Theatre World Fuming" (January 06 #3) about a ban on smoking by actors working in film, television, and theater in Scotland, the ban was of some interest to the producers of a BBC-4 program that aired on Mar. 1. "Reichenbach Falls" (based on a story by Ian Rankin) starred Alec Newman as Jim Buchan (a younger and more modern version of Rankin's John Rebus) and Richard Wilson as Arthur Conan Doyle; according to a report by Hugo Rifkind in The Times (Feb. 21), Newman's cigarettes were emptied out and filled with jasmine incense; "He never actually takes a drag," said a producer, "He can't."
11655. Noted by Karen Murdock: The Chess Store (20811 NW Cornell Road #200, Hillsboro, OR 97124) (888-810-2437) offers two Sherlockian chess sets: a handdecorated set with board (\$429.00) <www.thechessstore.com/product/163SSJ> and a different brown-and-ivory antiques-finish set without board (\$199.95) <www.thechessstore.com/product/SH163SA>.

March 2007 #2

11656. The publisher of Andrew Lycett's new biography CONAN DOYLE: THE MAN WHO CREATED SHERLOCK HOLMES, due from Weidenfeld & Nicolson in August (416 pp., £20.00), has started publicizing the book at their web-site <www.orionbooks.co.uk/Item-details.aspx?id=34072&T=HB>. The American edition is due from Free Press in November, and you can pre-order the book at <www.amazon.co.uk> and <www.amazon.com>. Lycett also has written bio-graphies of Ian Fleming, Rudyard Kipling, and Dylan Thomas.
11657. The new issue of the Sherlockian E-Times is at hand from Joel and Carolyn Senter (Classic Specialties) with news from various societies, and offers of Sherlockian merchandise (including an attractive new necktie); the URL is <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times07-3.htm>, and you can request an e-mail subscription at <www.sherlock-holmes.com>.
11658. David Stuart Davies reports that SHERLOCK is closing. Despite David's fine editing and the magazine's interesting content, the publisher wasn't able to find enough paying readers. But David won't be bored: he is now editing a "Mystery & Supernatural" series for Wordsworth Editions, and nine books are planned for 2008, including a collection of new Sherlock Holmes stories by modern authors.
11659. Steve Hockensmith's amusing Amlingmeyers pastiche "Wolves in Winter" (published in the Feb. 2006 issue of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine) was tied for sixth place in the magazine's "Readers Award" poll.

11660. Variety has reported (Mar. 15) that Warner Bros. will "reimagine Sherlock Holmes as an action-adventure sleuth" in a film to be based on Lionel Wigram's unpublished Sherlock Holmes comic book; Wigram, formerly a creative executive at Warner, oversaw the first three "Harry Potter" films, and his "vision has Holmes losing some of his Victorian stuffiness and being more adventuresome, including playing up his skills as a bare-knuckle boxer and expert swordsman as he goes about solving crime." Wigram "intends to play up parts of the detective's character that have been largely overlooked" in previous adaptations of Conan Doyle's books for other media.
11661. This likely is the same film reported on by the Daily Express in a story on Mar. 22 that noted "Hollywood insiders" saying that Russell Crowe is "lined up" to play Holmes. The story also says that Clive Owen is a contender for the role. Of course one should be skeptical of such pre-production gossip.
11662. The latest issue of the August Derleth Society Newsletter has an intriguing cover: a black-and-white reproduction of the Dec. 1970 issue of the comic book CONAN THE BARBARIAN. And with good reason: that issue included a letter from Derleth praising the artwork of Roy Thomas, who drew Conan. There also is a review of the latest book from Arkham House: EVERMORE, edited by James Robert Smith and Stephen Mark Rainey (2006; 237 pages, \$34.95), with 15 essay about Edgar Allan Poe, one of them ("An Author and His Character") by Vincent Starrett. Their web-site is at <www.arkhamhouse.com>. The Derleth society also has a web-site at <www.derleth.org>; membership includes the newsletter and costs \$15.00 a year (Box 481, Sauk City, WI 53583. August Derleth is best known to Sherlockians for his stories about Solar Pons; he was also a friend of and literary executor for H. P. Lovecraft, a poet, and a prolific writer in horror and other genres.

March 2007 #3

11663. Further to the item (February 07 #1) about the sale of costumes at Bonhams on Mar. 6, Jeremy Brett's black Victorian-style cape/ coat (estimated at £2,000-2,500) sold for £1,900 (plus Bonhams' 20% premium); his gray dressing gown (£1,000-1,200) sold for £1,600; and Christopher Lee's khaki linen shirt (£100-140) sold for £160. The sale highlight was the cloak Alec Guinness wore as Obi Wan Kenobi in "Star Wars" (1977), which sold for £54,000.
11664. Liberation Entertainment plans to release 60-minute animations of the four long stories on DVDs in May (\$9.95 each); these are the animations produced by Burbank Films in Australia and released on videocassette in 1984; Peter O'Toole provided the voice of Sherlock Holmes. You can see samples of the films at <www.libent.com>.
11665. Dr. William R. Hanson offers a Sherlockian FDC for "A Study in Scarlet" with a cachet showing a view of Salt Lake City from Harper's New Monthly Magazine, Apr. 1893), and his painting of the Hope party fleeing Salt Lake City. \$10.00 postpaid (to the U.S. and Canada) or \$11.00 (elsewhere); his address is 78 West Notre Dame Street, Glens Falls, NY 12801.
11666. The 27th annual Sherlock Holmes/Arthur Conan Doyle Symposium will be held in Miamisburg, Ohio, on March 7-9, 2008; Cathy Gill (4661 Hamilton Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45223) (513-681-5507) <chirpsworth@fuse.net> maintains the mailing list.
11667. Adam Hime's catalogs are always interesting, not only for the descriptions but also for what he has to offer. Catalog 34 is available at his web-site at <www.bibliotopus.com> with (among other treasures) manuscripts of "Lady Frances Carfax" (\$500,000) and "His Last Bow" (\$375,000). They're still on offer in catalog 35, along with a Sidney Paget portrait of Holmes (\$60,000) and a copy of the first book edition of "A Study in Scarlet" (\$265,000).
11668. Reported: Michael Quinion's GALLIMAUFRY: A HODGE-PODGE OF WORDS VANISHING FROM OUR VOCABULARY (Oxford University Press, 2006; £12.99/\$25.00); according to Dot Wordsworth's interesting review in The Spectator (Oct. 7) it has a section on carriages, "and takes as his guide Conan Doyle, since Holmes was forever clattering around in one." Quinion appears to be an author for people interested in language; he also has written BALLYHOO, BUCKAROO, AND SPUDS: INGENIOUS TALES OF WORDS AND THEIR ORIGINS and PORT OUTBOARD, STAR-BOARD HOME: AND OTHER LANGUAGE MYTHS.
11669. It has been a while since I have mentioned The Sherlock Holmes Collections web-site at <special.lib.umn.edu/rare/holmes.phtml>; it's a fine example of how useful on-line resources can be. It offers Ron De Waal's bibliography "The Universal Sherlock Holmes", seven supplements prepared by Tim Johnson, information about the collections, finding aids, exhibition catalogs, links to other important Sherlockian and Doylean web-sites and to a brochure for the "Victorian Secrets and Edwardian Enigmas" conference scheduled in Minneapolis on July 6-8, and much more.

March 2007 #4

11670. When biographical questionnaires were mailed to living members of the Baker Street Irregulars this month, a cover letter from Julie McKuras and Sue Vizoskie was omitted. The questionnaire is available from them by e-mail and answers can be submitted by e-mail; they also have prepared a questionnaire relating to deceased Irregulars that you can request from Julie or Sue. They hope that friends and family will be able to provide information and memories about those who are "beyond the Reichenbach. If you have obituaries of deceased Irregulars, Julie and Sue would appreciate copies of those as well. Julie McKuras' address is 13512 Granada Avenue, Apple Valley, MN 55124 <mike9750@aol.com>; Sue Vizoskie's is 90 Ralph Avenue, White Plains, NY 10606 <svizoskie@aol.com>.
11671. "Professor Moriarty's is for sale" (April 06 #1), and it now has been sold. Dale Easter opened the restaurant in Saratoga Springs (N.Y.) in 1984, and decided it was time to retire. According to a story in the Saratogian on Mar. 19 (at hand from Ken Lanza), the new owner is Jeff Ames, who plans to change the name of the restaurant to Cantina, and the menu to Californiastyle Mexican cuisine.
11672. "It is a bust to Longfellow, the American," Frank Cross told his wife Maude, "I believe he is more read than any poet in England." Frank and Maude discovered the bust in Westminster Abbey, A DUET: WITH AN OCCASIONAL CHORUS, and were careful to read the inscription: "This bust was placed among the memorials of the poets of England by English admirers of an American poet." A new stamp in our "Literary Arts" series honors Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882) and one his more famous poems, "Paul Revere's Ride".
11673. Roger Johnson notes in the March issue of The District Messenger that Redfield Arts is "in pre-production" on a film called "The Crimes of Sherlock Holmes" (it's to be the first of the series); the company's web-site is at <www.redfieldarts.com>, but they offer no information on script-writers or cast or credits or a date for beginning of filming. He also reports that YouTube has five minutes of video of Roger Llewellyn in excerpts from his one-man play "Sherlock Holmes - The Last Act!". The District Messenger is available at <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/district.php> as well as by mail, and it's full of news from Great Britain and elsewhere in the Sherlockian and Doylean world.
11674. Emory Lee has reported an EasyRead edition of THE VALLEY OF FEAR (244 pp., \$13.99) from <www.readhowyouwant.com>, and from <www.amazon.com>; the company publishes redesigned large-print editions of public-domain books.
11675. Freddie Francis died on Mar. 17. He began his film career as a clapper boy at Elstree Studio, and became a prolific cinematographer and director; he directed "The Deadly Bees" (1967), from Robert Bloch's screenplay based on H. F. Heard's novel A TASTE FOR HONEY (Heard's "Mr. Mycroft" was in Bloch's script but not in the film; according to Bloch, the script was revised by Anthony Marriott, who took vast liberties with Bloch's adaptation, and he had never seen his "deformed offspring"). Francis also directed "The Case of Harry Crocker" and "The Case of the Deadly Prophecy" in the Sheldon Reynolds television series "Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson" (1980).

March 2007 #5

11676. A new biography of Harry Houdini has received considerable attention in the media after its authors announced that they are planning to exhume Houdini's body in hopes of determining whether the magician had been murdered. *THE SECRET LIFE OF HOUDINI: THE MAKING OF AMERICA'S FIRST SUPERHERO*, by William Kalush and Larry Sloman (New York: Atria Books, 2006; 592 pp., \$29.95), raises the possibility of murder, and suggests that Conan Doyle may have been involved, and of course that has been mentioned prominently in many of the news stories and reviews, which certainly reminds one of the continuing campaign to exhume B. Fletcher Robinson's body.
11677. The Houdini story ran on the Associated Press and Reuters wires, and it was picked up by newspapers and magazines and television stations all over the world (you only need to run a Google search), and of course there were many stories that Google didn't report, including an excellent (and amusing) debunking article by David Segal in the Washington Post on Mar. 24 (which may still be available on-line).
11678. One of the experts involved in the exhumation plans is James E. Starrs, who edited the anthology *THE NOISELESS TENOR: THE BICYCLE IN LITERATURE* (April 96 #4), which includes "The Priory School", two excerpts from Christopher Morley, and a splendid Foreword by William Saroyan. He's also well known for forensic investigations of questions such as whether Alferd Packer dined on the party he was supposed to be guiding through the mountains (Starrs dug up the victims, and concluded that they had indeed been murdered, and quite likely butchered).
11679. Getting back to the book, which suggests that when Houdini's first visited London and met with William Melville (who then headed Scotland Yard's Speccial Brach), Melville enlisted Houdini as a spy; Melville went on to head the British intelligence operation that became MI-5. And the book raises the possibility that Houdini's death was not accidental, but rather deliberate murder by a spiritualist organization that sought revenge for his unmasking of fraudulent mediums. The Washington Post article notes that the current publicity given to the plans for an exhumation does seem carefully timed to revive lagging sales of the book.
11680. Bob Byrne, who has an interesting web-site at <www.holmesonscreen.com>, has launched an electronic newsletter: Baker Street Essays discusses the cases and their illustrations, and the first issue (16 pages, with colorful artwork) is available at the web-site.
11681. <www.youtube.com/watch?v=38HgyxMThOw> is the URL for an interesting video compiled by Jeremy Holstein, using photographs and artwork showing William Gillette as visual accompaniment to the audio recording he made in 1936 of scenes from his play. It's the complete recording (rather than the shorter version issued on various records); you can click on "Part 1" and "Part 2" to hear the complete recording. The original recording was made by Harvard professor Frederick Clifton Packard at his home near Boston; Packard read Watson's lines and his wife Alice was Alice Faulkner. Packard went on to found the Harvard Vocarium, which in 2003 was named by the Library of Congress to the National Recording Registry, which is intended to "celebrate the richness and variety of our audio legacy."
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March 2007 #6

11682. Yuichi Hirayama offers *JAPAN AND SHERLOCK HOLMES* (January 05) for those who like signatures: the copies are signed by all three editors and seven of the contributors. The book launched the Baker Street Irregulars' International Series, which makes available in English some of the fine Sherlockian scholarship published in other languages. The price is \$49.95 postpaid (checks for US dollars, and currency for pounds and euros, please); 2-10-12 Kamirenjaku, Mitaka-shi, Tokyo 181-0012, Japan); the number of signed copies is limited, so you might want to use e-mail to ask him if copies still are available <hirayama@parkcity.ne.jp>.
11683. The Lambda Literary Foundation, which celebrates LGBT [Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender] literature, reports that Laurie R. King's *THE ART OF DETECTION* is a finalist for a Lambda Literary Award (Lesbian Mystery). The winners will be announced at an awards ceremony in New York on Mar. 31.
11684. Tim Kline's *THE GAME OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: A COMPREHENSIVE COLLECTOR'S GUIDE* is the result of a decade of collecting, and it covers more than 150 games of all sorts, ranging from the card game issued by Parker Bros. in 1904 to current computer games, with stops along the way for board games, fingerprint kits, and chess sets; there are photographs (almost all in color) of all the games, and identifications of the publishers. The 40-page booklet costs \$30.00 postpaid from Tim (1880 Marsh Lane #1608, Dallas, TX 75287). And Tim has started The Game Masters, a society for collectors of Sherlockian games; e-mail at <mrholmesk@peoplepc.com>.
11685. Geocaching is a modern version of the 150-year-old letterboxing, which is a kind of treasure-hunt for those who don't care if the treasure is valuable; geocachers use Global Positioning System (GPS) devices to find the caches. Geocoins were created in 2001; each coin has a unique number, and thus can be tracked from one person to another on the Internet, similar to the dollar bills you may have seen with rubber stamps telling you to go to the website <www.wheresgeorge.com>. Tim Kline reports a Sherlockian geocoin offered by Star-Beam Enterprises (\$19.99) at eBay; these are collectibles, of course, and unlikely to turn up in a geocache.
11686. "Who is chicsherlock? She is driven by wanderlust, an adventurous spirit that leads her hunting for the elusive." <www.chicsherlock.com> (spotted by John Baesch) is a web-site offering designer jewelry (and only the name is Sherlockian).
11687. Something recent about an older film: "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970). According to Maurice Zolotow, in *BILLY WILDER IN HOLLYWOOD* (1977), In 1963, after the success of "Irma La Douce", Wilder proposed a Technicolor musical with starring Peter O'Toole as Holmes and Peter Sellers as Watson, but was unable to proceed with the project. This month entertainment wires reported that O'Toole, now 75 years old, said that "jealousies, uncertainties, and sexual confusion are not merely the domain of the young," adding that "You can't trust anybody. Billy Wilder once asked me to play Sherlock Holmes without reading the script. He told me I just had to trust him. I said, 'Even if you were Shakespeare, I still wouldn't trust you.'"
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April 2007 #1

11688. Ely M. Liebow ("Inspector Gregory") died on Mar. 30. He taught literature at Northeastern Illinois University for more than 40 years, and was famous (or perhaps notorious) for his deadpan humor; his autobiography at his NEIU web-site notes that "I was born at the age of 12 in a body-and-fender shop just this side of the village of Yehupitz. I was handed over (for two submachine guns) to Portuguese sailors seeking a new trade route to Chicago." He was a member of The Hounds of the Baskerville [sic] and many other Sherlockian societies in and near Chicago, and he received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1979 and their Two-Shilling Award in 1991. His excellent biography *DR. JOE BELL: MODEL FOR SHERLOCK HOLMES* (1982) has been reprinted by the University of Wisconsin Press (286 pp., \$26.95), and you can listen to an excellent memorial to Ely on the Internet at Wisconsin Public Radio's <www.wpr.org/webcasting/audioarchives_display.cfm?Code=uoa>: a one-hour interview with Ely recorded shortly before his death.
11689. The May issue of *Miniature Collector Magazine* has a well illustrated article by Mary Lou Santovec about miniatures created by Janice Brooks, including her replica of the sitting-room at 221B Baker Street (30595 Eight Mile, Livonia, MI 48152 \$5.99).
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11690. Further to the item (March 07 #2) about Hollywood pre-production gossip that Russell Crowe is "lined up" to play Holmes in an action-adventure film from Warner Bros., many web-sites later reported that the producers had instead chosen Nicholas Rowe, who starred in "Young Sherlock Holmes" (1985), as the lead. The story was launched by Scott Monty, and appeared on Apr. 1 in his blog at <www.bakerstreetblog.com>; it was quickly picked up and repeated by people who didn't bother to click on the "Background info" link that brings you to the Museum of Hoaxes list of "The Top 100 April Fool's Day Hoaxes of All Time".
11691. Scott Monty's report about Nicholas Rowe wasn't the only April Fool's Day hoax on the Internet, of course; Dan Baines' announcement that he had found the remains of a mummified fairy while walking his dog in rural Derbyshire received considerable publicity, some of which mentioned Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and the Cottingley fairies. Baines quickly acknowledged the hoax and put the fairy up for auction on eBay, where it was sold for £280. You can see photographs of the fairy at <www.lebanoncircle.co.uk/DeadFairy.htm>.
11692. Marsha Pollak reports that Google now offers a news archive search that explores historical newspaper and magazine archives (some of the pay-per-view and some of them free) at <www.google.com/archivesearch>. There are about 26,500 hits for "conan doyle" and about 79,000 for "sherlock holmes".
11693. *ON THE WRONG TRACK*, by Steve Hockensmith (New York: St. Martin's Minotaur, 2007; 292 pp., \$23.95), is the second in his series about Old Red and Big Red Amlingmeyer, Montana cowboys who enjoy the Sherlock Holmes stories as they appear in the 1890s, and attempt to solve mysteries on their own; the novel has lots of action, humor, and red herrings. There's a third novel in the works, and perhaps more short stories (three have appeared in Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine), and there are amusing samples of Hockensmith's work at his web-site at <www.stevhockensmith.com>.
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April 2007 #2

11694. It has been some time since I asked (March 01 #4) about Investitured members of The Baker Street Irregulars who have appeared in films, and there have been quite a few added to the list (which now includes both films and television): Curtis Armstrong, Elmer Davis, Al Gregory, Jerry Margolin, John Pforr, Donald Pollock, H. C. Potter, Mary Ellen Rich, Philip Shreffler, Richard B. Shull, Jean Upton, Bill Ward, and (possibly) Julian Wolff. Julie McKuras has found one more: Evan Wilson, who appeared (as himself) in the British television series "Palestine" (produced by Thames Television and broadcast on ITV in 1978).
11695. The new CD "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (February 07 #7) is delightful, offering a reconstruction of the score, including scenes cut from the final version of the film. Ken Lanza notes that you can see video of a rehearsal at <www.tadlowmusic.com>, and you can hear some of the tracks from the CD at <www.screenarchives.com/title_details.cfm?ID=6676>. Ken also found the Miklcs Rczsa Society at <www.members.iinet.com.au/agfam/miklos>.
11696. There have been various reports on the Internet about Hercules, the world's biggest dog, according to the Guinness World Records; he's a three-year-old English mastiff who weighs 282 pounds and has a 38-inch neck, and he would certainly make a fine Hound of the Baskervilles.
11697. But of course there's a problem: just because it's on the Internet doesn't mean it's true, and Hercules appears to be a hoax. The Urban Legends website at <www.snopes.com/photos/animals/hercules.asp> shows a photograph of Hercules and debunks the story, and the Guinness World Records web-site has no mention of a world's biggest dog.
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April 2007 #3

11698. The Russian statue honoring Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson (November 06 #7) was to be unveiled on Apr. 27, coinciding with an international festival of crime movies, according to the Russian news agency Novosti; their dispatch noted that the statue "could bring a welcome change to Moscow's sculptural landscape, which is dominated by formal monuments to statesmen, often with a controversial legacy."
11699. Further to the report (February 07) on the six-sheet poster for "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (1939) at auction at Heritage Auction Galleries last month): it is the first known copy of the poster, and there were five bidders, and it sold for \$31,070 (including the buyer's premium). You can see an image at <www.ha.com>.
11700. Ken Lanza spotted Indy Magnoli's "Magnoli Collection of Prop Replicas" on the Internet <www.indyprops.com>; two of replicas on display are the passport Sherlock Holmes used in his travels in five of Universal's Rathbone/Bruce films in the 1940s, and the original document recounting the curse of the Baskervilles.
11701. Michael Dibdin died on Mar. 30. His first mystery novel was the pastiche *THE LAST SHERLOCK HOLMES STORY* (1978), and he went on to win a Gold Dagger Award from the Crime Writers' Association in 1988 for *RATKING*, the first of his series about Italian detective Aurelio Zen.
11702. Further to the report on the Peepolykus touring production of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (January 07 #4), the three-man company has received rave reviews, and they'll open at the Duchess Theatre in London on Apr. 16 for a ten-week run. Their web-site is at <www.peepolykus.com>; you can click on "more show info" to hear a four-minute segment about the show from the BBC Radio 4 program "Today". According to the Daily Telegraph's review, "Only the most po-faced Conan Doyle enthusiast will fail to enjoy this wonderfully barking spoof."
11703. Reported: *A READING DIARY: A PASSIONATE READER'S REFLECTIONS ON A YEAR OF BOOKS*, by Alberto Manguel (New York: Farrar Straus Giroux, 2004; 205 pp., \$22.00); with commentary on "The Sign of Four" as one of his books-of-themonth.
11704. The manuscript of "The Adventure of the Three Gables" will be sold at auction at Sotheby's in New York on June 21. Previously owned by the Marquess of Donegall and then by Walter Pond, the 31-page manuscript has more than a hundred revisions by Conan Doyle, and is signed and bound in vellum. Sotheby's estimate is \$350,000-\$500,000. Walter Pond's Beeton's Christmas Annual for 1887 (a complete copy, with some repairs and restoration) will also be in the sale, estimated at \$75,000-\$125,000.
11705. The spring issue of the *Tonga Times* (published by the Mini-Tonga Scion Society) has an excellent article about Ted Bergman's miniature of 221B Baker Street (with many photographs of the miniatures that fill five rooms), and other news from the world of Sherlockian miniatures. The newsletter costs \$11.00 for three issues/\$12.00 to Canada/\$14.00 elsewhere) from Jay Pearlman (1656 East 19th Street #2-E, Brooklyn, NY 11229), and the society has a fine web-site at <www.hometown.aol.com/minitongasociety/mini1.htm>.
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April 2007 #4

11706. Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson investigate the murder of Lord Westerbrook (in Russian) in an amusing 18-minute animation that was written and directed by Alexander BubNovember and released in 2005; it's now available on the Internet at YouTube, but the best place to view it is at Scott Monty's blog at <www.bakerstreetblog.com>, where you'll find links to the video (subtitled in English), the Russian script, and some preliminary artwork. Scott notes that according to YouTube, the film won the Best Dramaturgy Award and the third-best rating at the Open Russian Festival of Animated Film in 2006; the Mehr News Agency reported (Mar. 2), the awards at the 5th Tehran International Animation Festival included an honorary diploma for the film.
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11707. Bob Clark died on Apr. 4. Best known as the director of the adolescent sex comedy "Porky's" (1982) and the holiday-favorite adaptation of Jean Shepherd's "A Christmas Story" (1983), he began his film career as an assistant director on 1967 and went on to produce "Murder by Decree" (1979).
11708. Francine Kitts notes that the "Solomon/Ex-Lambert" Stradivarius violin went to auction at Christie's in New York on Apr. 2; it sold for \$2,732,000 (including the buyer's premium), rather less than the \$3,544,000 someone paid for the "Hammer" Stradivarius last year (May 06 #8). Sherlock Holmes said that he paid 55 shillings for his Stradivarius.
11709. This year's Canonical Convocation and Caper will take place in Door County, Wis., on Sept. 28-30; there's a web-site at <www.cccdoorcounty.com>, or you can request additional information from Jane Richardson, 3427 East Exchange Street, Crete, IL 60417 (708-672-4303).
11710. There's a bit more to the report (March 07 #5) that plans are afoot to exhume Harry Houdini's body in hopes of determining whether the magician had been murdered. Houdini's grandnephew George Hardeen was in favor of the exhumation but a few days later the Associated Press reported that Bess Houdini's grandnephews John and Jeffrey Blood have objected, saying that "the family believes this is likely being done to promote sales" of the book by William Kalush and Larry Sloman.
11711. THE EMPRESS OF INDIA, by Michael Kurland (New York: St. Martin's Minotaur, 2006; 310 pp., \$24.95), is the fourth in his series about Professor Moriarty, and it's well done indeed (as are the first three: THE INFERNAL DEVICE, DEATH BY GASLIGHT, and THE GREAT GAME); in this one, Holmes is hired by the Bank of England to protect a shipment of gold en route to Britain from India and almost immediately disappears, leaving the story to Moriarty (who is of course suspected of doing away with Holmes). Moriarty and Moran wind up on the same ship with the gold, and a nice assortment of intriguing supporting characters, and adventures and surprises. Kurland's web-site is at <www.michaelkurland.com>.
11712. <vc.hul.harvard.edu:11080/vc/deliver/home?_collection=scarlet> is the URL for another example of how interesting digital collections can be. "Studies in Scarlet" (reported by Les Moskowitz) offers images of full text of more than 420 trial narratives, with "a number of trials of the wealthy and renowned," as well as a verbatim account of the trial of William Palmer in 1856 (Sherlock Holmes mentions Palmer in "The Speckled Band").

April 2007 #5

11713. "The courts have decided that almost any act of license--from a scurrilous biography to filmed close-ups of writhing genitalia --is just what the Founding Fathers had in mind to defend when they wrote the First Amendment to the Constitution." That was written forty years ago by Alistair Cooke, in his foreword to SIX MEN (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1977); it's an excellent book, by a skilled writer, with biographical essays on Charles Chaplin, Edward VIII, H. L. Mencken, Adlai Stevenson, Bertrand Russell, and Humphrey Bogart, all of whom Cooke met during his long career as a journalist. And there's comment on Sherlock Holmes, although not where one might expect it; a few years later Cooke was quoted as saying that "The three most memorable men of the twentieth century so far are Winston Churchill, Adolf Hitler and Sherlock Holmes" (August 85 #1), but that's not the point Cooke makes in SIX MEN: the two-page discussion of Holmes is in the chapter on Bogart. "It is no accident that Bogart can now be seen as a direct descendant of Sherlock Holmes as are most fictional detectives invented since Conan Doyle, in a moment of unconscious social perception, cast the original mold."
11714. I mentioned (February 99 #5) but never got round to reviewing VISITORS FROM OZ: THE WILD ADVENTURES OF DOROTHY, THE SCARECROW, AND THE TIN WOODMAN, by Martin Gardner (St. Martin's Press, 1998/St. Martin's Griffin, 2000); the intrepid trio journey through Oz (where they are assisted by Sheerluck Brown, a private-detective bear who wears a deerstalker) and an alternate-universe Wonderland to New York. Gardner does a fine job of capturing the style and humor of L. Frank Baum. Both editions are out of print, but readily available from Internet booksellers; don't confuse this book with THE VISITORS FROM OZ, by L. Frank Baum (Hungry Tiger Press, 2005), which is a reprint of Baum's "Queer Visitors from the Marvelous Land of Oz" with additional material that includes new illustrations by Eric Shanower.
11715. Further to the report on Mary Russell's MySpace profile (January 07 #5), Laurie R. King notes on her blog <www.laurierking.blogspot.com> that Mary now has her own blog <blog.myspace.com/maryrussell>, on which she has some acerbic comments about her literary agent.
11716. Iwao Takamoto died on Jan. 10. Takamoto learned to draw in an internment camp, and after World War II went on to a long career in animation with Walt Disney and with Hanna-Barbera, where he created Scooby-Doo in 1969.
11717. Scooby-Doo has been seen in Sherlockian costume, on television in "The Hound of the Scoobyvilles" (1983) and on boxes of Nestle Scooby Doo Mystery Pops (in grocery stores now).
11718. The author's given name and the title of Kinky Friedman's SPANKING WATSON (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1999; 218 pp., \$23.00) might lead one to suspect that something truly interesting is going on, but that's not the case: the Kingster merely sets his Village Irregulars competing against each other to determine who's really Watson to his Sherlock Holmes. Of course it's Ratso who has been Friedman's Watson throughout the mystery series, and we have heard of Ratso before: his real name is Larry Sloman, who is a friend of Friedman and co-author with William Kalush of THE SECRET LIFE OF HOUDINI (March 07 #5 and April 07 #4).

April 2007 #6

11719. Laurie R. King's speech on "Meeting Mister Holmes" (presented during the January birthday festivities) has been published in the spring issue of The Baker Street Journal, which also has Sonia Fetherston's entertaining examination of high fashion in the Canon. The BSJ is published quarterly and costs \$26.50 a year (or \$29.00 foreign), and checks (credit-card payments accepted from foreign subscribers) should be sent to the BSJ (Box 465, Hanover, PA 17331). There's an option offering subscriptions to the BSJ and to the Christmas Annual for \$36.50 (\$40.00 foreign); the BSJ's web-site <www.bakerstreetjournal.com> also accepts subscriptions, and offers additional material, including papers written by past winners of the Morley-Montgomery Awards, articles from recent issues, and information about Baker Street Irregulars publications.
11720. Sorry about that: Charles Prepolec has reported that the Dec. 1970 issue of the comic book CONAN THE BARBARIAN (March 07 #2) was written by Roy Thomas, and that the artist likely was Barry Windsor Smith.
11721. Johnny Hart died on Apr. 7. He created the comic strip "B.C." in 1958, and achieved syndication in more than 1,300 papers. He also was co-creator of the comic strip "The Wizard of Id" with Brant Parker, and recognized by the National Cartoonist Society five times, including the Reuben Award as cartoonist of the year in 1968. This "B.C." strip appeared on June 22, 1982.
11722. Brant Parker died on Apr. 15. He created the widely-syndicated comic strip "The Wizard of Id" with Johnny Hart in 1964, and collaborated with others on the strips "Crock" and "Goosemeyer". He won seven awards from the National Cartoonists Society, including their Reuben Award in 1984 and their Elzie Segar Award in 1986. This "Crock" strip ran on Feb. 6, 1981.

May 2007 #1

11723. William Safire's column "On Language" in the N.Y. Times Magazine is entertaining and instructive, and occasionally Sherlockian or Doylean. On Apr. 22 he discussed the word "varmint" and cited various usages, including its appearance "in a 1907 A. Conan Doyle story as an adjective: 'thin, ascetic, varminty'." So: whom did he describe as varminty?
11724. Further to the report (January 07 #3) about the copy of Conan Doyle's THE GREEN FLAG AND OTHER STORIES OF WAR AND SPORT brought to the Antarctic by Capt. Robert Falcon Scott (and it's still there, preserved in the small hut from which he launched his ill-fated attempt to reach the South Pole), the July issue of British Heritage has photographs of the hut, including one showing a visit by Princess Anne in 2003, when she launched a £10 million preservation appeal.
11725. It has been quite a while since I mentioned London Walks (July 83 #1); they are still in business, now with the name the Original London Walks, and a web-site at <www.walks.com>; they offer some interesting Sherlockian walks, and Ripper expert Donald Rumbelow leading a walk through "Jack the Ripper's Haunts".
11726. "The Fat Hound of the Baskervilles" was the headline on a story in the [London] Daily Mail (Apr. 10, 2006). "As spaniels go," the paper reported, "he is hardly a springer. In fact, weighing nearly seven stones [that's 98 pounds], Ashley is at best a sloucher. Given his girth, walkies can be only a short waddle for the dog whose life was in danger after he was fed huge amounts of sausages, bacon, and roast dinners." Eight-year-old Ashley has been rescued by Brenda Baskerville, who runs a dog-grooming shop in Cheshire and has limited Ashley to a strict diet: low-fat dog food and no treats between meals.
11727. There were many Sherlockian nominees for Edgars from the Mystery Writers of America (January 07 #5); the awards were announced at the MWA annual dinner on Apr. 26. E. J. Wagner's THE SCIENCE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: FROM BASKERVILLE HALL TO THE VALLEY OF FEAR won for best critical/biographical, and Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" won for best play. The nominees and winners are listed at the MWA web-site <www.mysterywriters.org>.
11728. Cicada is an interesting magazine for ages 14 and up; the November -December 2006 issue has "The Blue Carbuncle" with attractive black-and-white illustrations by David Wyatt. \$9.95 postpaid; Box 9304, La Salle, IN 61301.
11729. "Can Sherlock Holmes Restore the Reputation of Our Bungling Spies?" was the headline on a story in the Evening Standard (Apr. 14), spotted by Jon Lellenberg. Officers from MI5 and MI6 and civil servants dealing with intelligence material are being sent to a course at King's College in London, and the reading list includes "A Scandal in Bohemia" (in which Holmes warns not to "twist facts to suit theories, instead of theories to suit facts.")

May 2007 #2

11730. Steve Rothman has curated an exhibition on "Thinking about Haverford & Christopher Morley" at the Magill Library at Haverford College in Pennsylvania; Morley grew up on Haverford's campus, and the exhibition, which runs through Sept. 30, commemorates of 50th anniversary of the death of the "local boy made good." Christopher Morley was the founder of The Baker Street Irregulars, and THE STANDARD DOYLE COMPANY: CHRISTOPHER MORLEY ON SHERLOCK HOLMES (1990), edited and with an Introduction by Steve, is still in print from Fordham University Press (\$30.00).
11731. Who was "thin, ascetic, varminty"? The "unspeakable Louis" (better known as Louis XI, fervent adversary of Charles the Bold), in the discussion of Sir Walter Scott's QUENTIN DURWARD in Conan Doyle's THROUGH THE MAGIC DOOR (and yes, it's a book rather than a story).
11732. Stylometry (the study of linguistic style) has been used for centuries to determine who wrote what, and A. Q. Morton may have been the first person to apply stylometry to Sherlock Holmes stories, in 1978 (he compared a pastiche written by Nicholas Utechin and Austin Mitchelson with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's stories). Of course it's all much easier in the computer age: Peter Smith presented a paper on "Stylometric Analysis Using Discriminant Analysis: A Study of Sherlock Holmes Stories" at a conference in Tuebingen in 2002. Smith investigated whether there is any evidence to support the thesis that Conan Doyle may not have written all of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" and concluded "there is absolutely no support for this." The URL for his paper is <www.uni-tuebingen.de/cgi-bin/abs/abs?propid=27>.
11733. Sylvia Agnew opened her "Legend of the Hound Project" two years ago (August 05 #3), and she now offers a "Baskerville Dining Experience" at Lafter Hall, near Princetown on Dartmoor. According to a story in the Plymouth Western Morning News (May 5), the evening includes an atmospheric carriage ride, a five-course dinner with Sherlock Holmes, and mystery. More information is available at her web-site <www.baskervillecarriages.co.uk/index.php?tab=6>, with links to YouTube video.
11734. Further to the item on the National Library of Scotland's plans to acquire the John Murray archives (February 05 #5), the Library won a £17.7 million grant from the national lottery, and received more from the Scottish Executive, but still needs to raise £6.5 million to complete the purchase. Actor Sean Connery and author Ian Rankin have now joined the campaign, and Connery has described the archives as being of "world class importance". The archives include the company's correspondence with its authors, one of whom was Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.
11735. Gyles Brandreth has written a novel OSCAR WILDE AND THE CANDLELIGHT MURDERS (London: John Murray, 2007; 352 pp., £12.99), and in an article in the Daily Telegraph (May 6) mentioned the meeting between Wilde and Conan Doyle at the Langham Hotel in 1889, and made an intriguing point: when Brandreth was in his early teens he knew John Badley, who had been a friend of Wilde; according to Brandreth, "Badley told me that he and Wilde had both been members of an occasional dining society, the Socrates Club. When Conan Doyle, four years after his first meeting with Wilde, introduced his readers to Holmes' elder brother (in The Greek Interpreter), he set him in an armchair in a gentlemen's club named after another Greek philosopher, Diogenes."

May 2007 #3

11736. The new issue of the Sherlockian E-Times is at hand from Joel and Carolyn Senter (Classic Specialties) with a history of The Hansom Wheels and photographs from a recent meeting, and from "A Gathering of Southern Sherlockians", and as always offers of interesting Sherlockian merchandise; the URL is <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times07-5.htm>, and you can request an e-mail subscription at <www.sherlock-holmes.com>.
11737. Bouchercon is a long-established world mystery convention, run by fans for fans, and named in honor of Anthony Boucher; Bouchercon 38 will be in Anchorage on Sept. 27-30, 2007 <www.bouchercon2007.com>, Bouchercon 39 is in Baltimore on Oct. 9-11, 2008 <www.bouchercon2008.blogspot.com>, and Bouchercon 40 will be in Indianapolis on (tentatively) Sept. 10-13, 2009.
11738. Those who fondly remember "Kukla, Fran and Ollie" will surely want to visit The Unofficial Kuklapolitan Web Page at <www.kukla.tv>. Bill Vande Water reports that the URL <www.kukla.tv/magic.html> takes you to the "Magic Gift of Life" in which Helen Bolstad reports that Burr Tillstrom qualified for membership in the Mystery Writers of America thanks to Ollie's fondness for playing "detec-a-tive", and once went to a party honoring Anthony Boucher, where "shortly the two retired to a quiet corner, first, to swap Sherlock Holmes opinions, and second, to discuss learnedly plans for a space ship."

11739. Reported: David Timson's excellent readings of the Canon for Naxos Audiobooks have extended to THE VALLEY OF FEAR on five CDs (£19.99/\$34.98); the Naxos web-site <www.naxosaudiobooks.com> offers an opportunity to listen to a sample of the recording, and an MP3 download (£11.91).
11740. If you're planning to attend the "Victorian Secrets and Edwardian Enigmas" conference in Minneapolis (and there's still time to register), the University of Minnesota Showboat Players are presenting Charles Marowitz's play "Sherlock's Last Case" this summer, and Friday, July 6, will be the night to see it; their web-site <www.showboat.umn.edu/sherlock.html> has more information (and they offer dinner), and you can buy tickets at the web-site or by calling the box office (651-227-1100). The conference web-site URL is <www.tc.umn.edu/~bergq003/norwegianexplorers/2007_conference.html>.
11741. The new catalog from the BBC America Shop (Box 681, Holmes, PA 19043) (800-898-4921) <www.bbccamericashop.com> has more new Sherlockian items: a second Sherlock Holmes Marble Coaster Set (\$49.98) with four more Paget illustrations on coasters cut from Botticino marble imported from Verona, and a set of Victorian Binoculars (\$99.98) with a tripod connection and a tripod (the catalog notes that Holmes used Watson's "very excellent field-glass" during the events recorded in "Silver Blaze").
11742. Further to the item (October 06 #1) about Jack L. Herman's play "The Unexpected Return of Sherlock Holmes" having been plagiarized from David Belke's "The Reluctant Resurrection of Sherlock Holmes" (1992), David Staples' interesting and amusing article in the Edmonton Journal (May 6) reveals that Herman Belke \$2500 in an out-of-court settlement. And what does Herman do when he isn't plagiarizing? He's a police officer in Portage County, Ohio, and was (until he was placed on paid administrative leave pending an investigation of his theft of intellectual property) the detective in charge of the sheriff's concealed-weapons permits.

May 2007 #4

11743. The March issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota has Bob Katz's "100 Years Ago" tribute to THE CROXLEY MASTER (accompanied by a nice story about his Bar Mitzvah), Tim Johnson's report on a library benefit in Savannah that included a visit by Sherlock Holmes, and news from and about the collections; a copy of the newsletter is available from Richard J. Sveum, (111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <sveum001@tc.umn.edu>.
11744. SHERLOCK HOLMES: TA'ALUMAT HABALASH BEN HA'ALMAVET, by Michael Handalzalts (Tel Aviv: Mapa Books, 2007; 170 pp., NIS 64) is an attempt (according to a review by Dror Mishani in Haaretz) to solve "one of the greatest mysteries in the history of detective fiction and European literature over the last two hundred years: the secret of the success of Arthur Conan Doyle's London sleuth." The book is in Hebrew, and the title translates into English as SHERLOCK HOLMES: HOW REAL CAN A LEGEND BE.
11745. Jerry Margolin notes that Debby Applegate has won a Pulitzer Prize for biography for her THE MOST FAMOUS MAN IN AMERICA: THE BIOGRAPHY OF HENRY WARD BEECHER (July 06 #1); Beecher's unframed portrait stood upon the top of Watson's books. Applegate spoke on "Henry Ward Beecher and Victorian America" at Amherst College last year, and you can listen to her one-hour lecture at <www.amherst.edu/~pubaff/events_multimedia/events/2006-09-25/applegate/>.
11746. "As far as I know," Watson wrote (in "The Final Problem"), "there have been only three accounts in the public press: that in the Journal de Geneve on May 6th, 1891, the Reuter's dispatch in the English papers on May 7th, and finally the recent letters to which I have alluded." The 156-year-old news service agreed this month to be acquired by Thomson Corp. for \$17.24 billion. The new company will be called Thomson-Reuters Corp., and it will be the world's largest provider of financial market data and trading systems to investing professionals.
11747. Members of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London celebrated Conan Doyle's birthday on May 22 with members of the cast of the Peepolykus production of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" at the Duchess Theatre (April 07 #3); there's a picture at <www.whatsonstage.com/index.php?pg=20/&story=E8821179993698>. And there's still time to see the play, which closes on June 23.
11748. Lisa Polisar's THE GHOST OF MARY PRAIRIE (Albuquerque: Univ. of New Mexico Press, 2006; 273 pp., \$18.95) is a ghost story and a mystery, set in rural southern Oklahoma in 1961 and well written and nicely told. The protagonist is 15-year-old Jacob Leeds, who enjoys the Sherlock Holmes stories, and quotes from them from time to time.
11749. LOCKED UP, an anthology edited by Sue Pike (Ottawa: Deadlock Press, 2007; 278 pp., CA\$15.95), offers "tales and mystery and mischance" along the Rideau Canal Waterway, which runs from Kingston to Ottawa and is celebrating its 175 anniversary this year; the stories are interesting, and especially Peter Calamai's "The Riddle of the Rideau Rifles" (set in 1894 and featuring a familiar investigator named Sigerson). Amazon may not have the book yet, but it's available from Sleuth of Baker Street, 1600 Bayview Avenue, Toronto, ON M4G 3B7, Canada <www.sleuthofbakerstreet.com>.

May 2007 #5

11750. The Isle of Man works hard to attract tourists and film companies to the island; the web-site at <www.isleofmanfilm.com> has links that include a "film & television catalogue" with a listing for the Roxburgh/Hart "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (2002), filmed in Glen Maye, Jurby and Druidale. An article in the Daily Telegraph (May 12) lists locations elsewhere for films and television series featuring Inspector Morse, Miss Marple, Poirot, Foyle, and Kingdom.
11751. The Friends of Gillette Castle State Park (67 River Road, East Haddam, CT 06423 <www.friendsofgillettecastle.org> publish the Gillette Gazette; the April issue has a two-page article "Tyke and Teddie Star as Will and Helen" (that's Tyke and Teddie Niver) and a report on plans to restore Gillette's electric locomotive. Membership costs \$20.00 a year.
11752. Jon L. Lellenberg, Daniel Stashower, and Charles Foley have edited ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: A LIFE IN LETTERS, due from HarperCollins in Britain in September (£25.00) and from Penguin in the U.S. in November (\$37.95), and it's a book that Doyleans and Sherlockians will welcome: it's an annotated and illustrated collection of letters that Conan Doyle wrote to his mother and other members of his family, starting in 1867, when he left home to attend boarding school. The letters were among the family papers that were locked away for decades because of family disagreements; Dame Jean Conan Doyle received the letters shortly before her death and then bequeathed them to the British Library. Jon notes that the book reads like a far more candid autobiography than his MEMORIES AND ADVENTURES ("which was long on the adventures, but rather guarded where memories were concerned"), and he offers a teaser for Sherlockians: "what happened in October 1890 to make Conan Doyle resurrect Sherlock Holmes in short stories." Jon also notes that everyone should have both editions of the book, because there will be differences.
11753. Randall Stock has an excellent web-page, with much more information about ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: A LIFE IN LETTERS, at "The Best of Sherlock Holmes" at <members.aol.com/shbest/ref/conan-doyle-life-letters.htm#/letters>.
11754. The second edition of Ely M. Liebow's splendid biography DR. JOE BELL: MODEL FOR SHERLOCK HOLMES (April 07 #1) has a British distributor, Roger Johnson has noted: the Popular Press, 3 Henrietta Street, London WC2E 8LU, England (£16.50), and of course it's also available at <www.amazon.co.uk>.

11755. Lee Shackleford's play "Holmes & Watson" was performed last year in Maryland (October 06 #4), offering an interesting look at the relationship between Holmes and Watson after Holmes' return to London from the Great Hiatus, and some surprises; the latest version of the script is now available (Charleston: BookSurge, 2007; 131 pp., \$14.95), with helpful production notes.
11756. Hans-Uno Bengtsson died on May 18. He was Assistant Professor of Theoretical Physics at Lund University in Sweden, a former Assistant Associate Professor at UCLA (where he won the "outstanding teacher" award three years in a row), and an enthusiastic Sherlockian: his articles appeared in *The Baker Street Journal* in the 1980s and 1990s, and his analysis of "The Depth Which the Parsley Had Sunk into the Butter" (which was translated into English in the recent SCANDINAVIA AND SHERLOCK HOLMES) is a fine example of his application of physics to Canonical problems.
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May 2007 #6

11757. One can find Sherlock everywhere, as Mycroft almost said, and while it might be difficult, there tend to be connections from just about anything to Holmes or Conan Doyle. As at Hearst Castle, at San Simeon in southern California, where one can visit the library of William Randolph Hearst, who collected books and manuscripts as well as furniture and tapestries and paintings. His manuscripts were sold in the 1940s, when the Hearst Corp. was in financial difficulties, and his holdings appear to have included "The Abbey Grange", Charles Augustus Milverton", "The Missing Three-Quarter", and "The Valley of Fear", plus "How the Brigadier Took the Field Against the Marshal Millefleurs", "The Last Galley", "The Marriage of the Brigadier", "Michal Clark", "The Leather Funnel", "The Refugees", "Rodney Stone", and "The Striped Chest". One of the best, and by far the most amusing, books about Hearst is Marion Davies' *THE TIMES WE HAD: LIFE WITH WILLIAM RANDOLPH HEARST*; she began recording notes for her memoirs in 1951, a few months before Hearst died, and the book was published in 1975 and is still in print in a paperback reprint. Basil Rathbone's in the book, but not as Holmes (he and Ouida came to one of Hearst's costume parties, with Rathbone dressed as the French ambassador). Marion Davies had a delightful sense of humor, about herself and others, and it shows in the book.
11758. Martin Pope's play "Sherlock Holmes and the Dangerous Game" (an adaption of "The Illustrious Client") was performed in Long Beach (November 03 #4), and revived at the Maplewood Barn in Columbia, Mo., last year; according to a report at [PLAYBACK:stl](#) (May 29), Pope has plans to write a five-play cycle of Holmes plays, "culminating in a showdown between Holmes and Jack the Ripper," and is working on forming a theater company in Los Angeles, which he hopes will be the home for the series.
11759. "My Dear Watson" was a three-act play written by Edward Chodorov in 1941; producer Oscar Serlin is reported to have offered the r"le of Watson to Nigel Bruce; Otto L. Preminger then acquired the play, offering the r"le of Holmes to Basil Rathbone and Brian Aherne; in March 1942, Philip Merivale was under consideration at Holmes, and Melville Cooper at Watson, but as Rathbone later wrote to Vincent Starrett, Adrian Conan Doyle was disgusted with the play and "has absolutely forbidden its production." Susan Dahlinger reports that the William Reese Company (409 Temple Street, New Haven, CT 06511) <www.biblio.com/books/70936591.html> is offering a mimeographed typescript of the play for \$500.
11760. And a reminder: the Sub-Librarians Scion of the Baker Street Irregulars in the American Library Association will dine with the Red Circle of Washington on Monday, June 25, at the National Press Club in Washington; drinks at 6:30 and dinner at 7:30, and everyone is welcome. Dinner will cost \$41.00 including tax and tip, and there will be a cash bar and a choice of entrees (salmon, beef, or vegetarian plate). Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson will be dining with us, and there will be toasts and informal presentations by some of the visitors and locals. The deadline for reservations is Monday, June 18th (by phone) or Thursday, June 21st (by e-mail); payment in advance is neither requested nor required, but please specify your choice of entree when making your reservations.
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June 2007 #1

11761. The British publisher of *ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: A LIFE IN LETTERS* (edited by Jon L. Lellenberg, Daniel Stashower, and Charles Foley) reports that there will be readings from the book broadcast by BBC Radio 4 as its "book of the week" in five 15-minute episodes the week of Sept. 24-28; the program airs on the Internet at <www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/arts/book_week.shtml>, and you can "listen live" or "listen again" for six days afterward.
11762. On Aug. 4, 2004, not long after it was revealed that the Richard Lancelyn Green collection, the Portsmouth News reported that pressure was mounting on the city council to have a building worthy of the collection, and "city museum boss" Sarah Quail said that "I'm absolutely certain that a collection like this could act as a catalyst for funding." Now (May 30) the paper has reported that "culture chiefs in Portsmouth are under fire for allowing the world's largest private collection of Sherlock Holmes memorabilia to collect dust." Simon Boshier, Tory spokesman for economic regeneration, said "we're sitting on a cash cow. It's like a goldmine but we've done nothing but stick it away in a dusty attic." And reporter Emily Pykett wrote "It is feared Portsmouth has broken the terms of the will which stipulated the collection should be catalogued in two years," adding that "This leaves the city open to a potential legal challenge from museums in Oxford and Edinburgh, which stood to get the collection if Portsmouth turned it down." Pykett also reported that the council wants a new super-museum to house the collection, "which could attract up to 250,000 new visitors a year."
11763. Let's see: if the new super-museum were open six days a week for 52 weeks, that's 312 days. That's just over 801 visitors a day (the calculation is a simple one), which is far more than visit to collections in Minneapolis and Toronto. The BBC did a bit more research, and reported the next day that Neil McCaw, academic director of the collection, said that there were more than 40,000 items in the collection, all of them uncatalogued when it came to Portsmouth; the vast majority have been catalogued since then, and work continues. Scirard Lancelyn Green, Richard's brother and the executor of his will, said that Richard's family was "delighted" with the way the city council had dealt with the connection.
11764. The Baker Street Irregulars' running of *The Silver Blaze* has been held at Jamaica, Aqueduct, Belmont, and New York (Wayne B. Swift wrote an excellent history of the races in *The Baker Street Journal's* Christmas Annual 2000); Jamaica was closed and torn down by the end of the 1950s, and now N.Y. governor Eliot Spitzer has proposed that Aqueduct be closed and the land sold to developers. According to a report in the N.Y. Times (May 20), Belmont would be converted and run nearly year-round, and racing would continue at Saratoga, which now has a six-week summer season and was the venue for *The Silver Blaze* in 2006.
11765. The first issue of *Excursionz Magazine* has a well illustrated cover story on Gillette Castle (and one of the visitors shown in the cover photograph is a motorcyclist, which would please William Gillette), and much more information about tourist attractions in the area. \$3.00 postpaid from *Excursionz Magazine*, c/o Larry Kalbfeld, 1300 Boston Post Road, Guilford, CT 06437 <www.excursionzmagazine.com>.
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June 2007 #2

11766. James E. Starrs edited *THE NOISELESS TENOR: THE BICYCLE IN LITERATURE* (1982) (an anthology that included "The Priory School" and two excerpts from Christopher Morley), but he's much better known for the work that resulted in *A VOICE FOR THE DEAD: A FORENSIC INVESTIGATOR'S PURSUIT OF THE TRUTH IN THE GRAVE* (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 2005; 284 pp., \$24.95) (New York: Berkeley, 2006; 304 pp., \$14.00). The book covers his exhumations and research into the cases of Alferd Packer, Jesse James, and others, and of course he mentions Sherlock Holmes. Of special

- interest (in view of current proposals to exhume B. Fletcher Robinson) are the "desiderata for an exhumation" that Starrs discusses in his Introduction (and you can read what he has to say at <www.amazon.com> by using their "search inside" feature and searching for "desiderata").
11767. "On the edge of a jutting pinnacle, three or four hundred feet above him, there stood a creature somewhat resembling a sheep in appearance, but armed with a pair of gigantic horns." ("A Study in Scarlet"). Our postage rates have gone up, and so have ink-on-paper rates for this newsletter); the new 17c stamp for additional first-class ounces shows a bighorn sheep. The bighorn is popular with the U.S. Postal Service, having been shown on six stamps since 1972, and it was included on an endangered species set issued by the United Nations in 2002.
11768. There's no mention of a murderous attack on Sherlock Holmes in a recent article about the Cafe Royal in the Sunday Express (Apr. 8), kindly forwarded by John Baesch, but there's some interesting news: the Crown Estate (that's Her Majesty's property company) plans to sell the lease on the eight-story, 21-suite restaurant as part of a plan to revitalize the area around Regent Street and Piccadilly Circus. The asking price for the lease will be £80 million, according to the paper, and the "smart money" is on the restaurant being turned into a luxury hotel.
11769. As promised earlier (September 06 #5), Sherlock Holmes and Arthur Conan Doyle are indeed mentioned in Daniel Stashower's THE BEAUTIFUL CIGAR GIRL: MARY ROGERS, EDGAR ALLAN POE, AND THE INVENTION OF MURDER (New York: Dutton, 2006; 336 pp., \$25.95); it's a well written account of Poe's life and the events that led to "The Mystery of Marie Roget"; you can read the prologue and see some illustrations at his web-site at <www.stashower.com>.
11770. The first issue of QuinCahier (May 2007) has arrived from the Societe Sherlock Holmes de France, 24 pages all in color (and all in French), with news and scholarship and excellent artwork by Jean-Pierre Cagnat; 8 euros postpaid to France, 10 euros to Europe, and 12 euros elsewhere (36 avenue Jean-Jaures, 63500 Issoire, France). You can see what it looks like at the society's web-site <www.sshf.com>, and order there with PayPal.
11771. Barrie Roberts died on June 10. He was a criminal lawyer, an accomplished musician specializing in folk music, and a mystery writer, with many novels and short stories to his credit. SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE AMERICAN ANGELS (Sutton: Severn House, 2007; 185 pp., £18.99) (and New York: Severn House, \$28.95), is the 9th in his series of novel-length pastiches; it begins in London and moves to Scotland, with Holmes and Watson investigating a possible Jacobite conspiracy and searching for golden lost treasure.

June 2007 #3

11772. I'm not sure how common it is for the names of members of The Baker Street Irregulars to be used for characters in works of fiction, but Bud Livingston reports Otto Penzler as a Waffen SS tank commander for Rommel in Africa in Elmore Leonard's UP IN HONEY'S ROOM (2007). Les Klinger is one of two members of the BSI who can be found as characters in Laurie R. King's THE ART OF DETECTION (2006), and Mike Whelan appears in Jerry Neal Williamson's THE TULPA (1981).
11773. Gayle Harris has forwarded news of a new on-line archive: the University of London Research Library Services <archives.urls.lon.ac.uk>. A search for "conan doyle" [without quotes] turns up 67 records, all apparently from the papers of psychic researcher Harry Price.
11774. Sherlock Holmes is alive and well, and speaking Hindi, on Pogo, the number two kids' television channel in India. Pogo is broadcasting Granada's "The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes" in English and Hindi, with Tom Alter and Aanjan Srivastav dubbing the voices of Holmes and Watson.
11775. The second issue of Bob Byrne's "Baker Street Essays" is available at his web-site <www.holmesonscreen.com>, with 16 pages of discussion of eight of the Canonical cases. And the third issue of The Solar Pons Gazette (June 2007) is available at Bob's <www.solarpons.com>; the on-line newsletter has 30 pages, with an excellent article by Roger Johnson (president of The Solar Pons Society of London), reprints from the Pontine writings of Edgar W. Smith, A. E. van Vogt, and Cecil Ryder, and much more. Earlier issues of the newsletter also are available at the web-site.
11776. Richard Roberts has an amusing teaser for his book RAGS TO RICHES: THE CASE OF THE HIRE SHOP FIEND (December 06 #3) at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=CRUJObnIsiY> (the teaser shows the book's Sherlockian artwork).
11777. "Our coveted Sherlock Holmes Award," Jon Henley reported in the Guardian on Mar. 27, "goes to the Greater Manchester police, who, having been told by several witnesses that suspected thief Aaron Williams repeatedly screamed 'Don't let them take me,' as three men with knives dragged him from a security van outside Salford magistrates court, explained that they had 'not ruled out the possibility that Mr. Williams was taken against his will.'"
11778. Will Thomas' THE HELLFIRE CONSPIRACY (New York: Touchstone/Simon & Schuster, 2007; 316 pp., \$24.00 cloth/\$14.00 paper/\$9.99 eBook) is the fourth in his Victorian mystery series featuring Cyrus Barker (an homage to Holmes' rival in "The Retired Colourman") and his assistant Thomas Llewellyn. As with the preceding novels, it's well written, with interesting characters and an imaginative plot, and appropriate late-Victorian atmosphere.
11779. Charles Press' PARODIES AND PASTICHES BUZZING 'ROUND SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE (Battered Silicon Dispatch Box Press, 2006; 173 pp., US\$21.00 postpaid) is an entertaining examination of the imitations published while Conan Doyle was alive, with excerpts and a bibliography and history. And with humor: I'm sure this is the first Sherlockian book in which the first chapter begins with a quote (and an appropriate quote) from Jimmy Durante; signed (or inscribed) copies are available (\$15.00 postpaid) from the author at 6291 Whiskey Creek, New Era, MI 49445.

June 2007 #4

11780. The murder of Alexander Litvinenko in Britain, perhaps by Andrei Lugovoi, has brought a reminder of "The Valley of Fear": the Regnum News Service reported from Russia (June 6) that Lugovoi claimed that Litvinenko, in an attempt to recruit him to work for British intelligence, gave him Yevgeny Grishkovets' novel RUBASHKA to use as a "means for secure connection." The proposal was to use the novel for a book code, and a Russian specialist in cryptography noted that the book code still is popular among criminals and celebrities; as for British intelligence using a book code, he explained, it reminded him of "the times of Sherlock Holmes." "It is rather strange," the expert added, that "Lugo-voi did not mention a book by Conan Doyle." The Regnum headline read: "Litvinenko Brought British Special Services into the Time of Sherlock Holmes."
11781. Israel Shenker died on June 9. He was a correspondent for Time, and then a reporter for the N.Y. Times, and, according to Margalit Fox in her obituary for Shenker, he was "a scholar trapped in a newsman's body" who was known to readers of the papers "or his vast erudition and sly, subversive wit." In 1974 when the Royal Shakespeare Company's revival of William Gillette's play arrived in New York, Shenker's article "Sherlock Holmes Craze Is Far from Elementary" offered readers a warm and enthusiastic view of the Sherlockian world.
11782. The Wessex Press sponsored its first "From Gillette to Brett" conference in 2003, devoted to Sherlock Holmes on stage, screen, radio, and television, and Steve Doyle reports that "From Gillette to Brett II" will be held Nov. 16-18 at the Indianapolis Hilton North Hotel in Indianapolis. The lists of speakers includes special-guest Jeremy Paul, who wrote many of the Granada series scripts, and the play "The Secret of Sherlock Holmes". The deadline for reservations is Oct. 5, and detailed information is available from the Wessex Press (Box 68308, Indianapolis, IN 46268) <www.wessexpress.com>. A video advertisement can be seen at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=xLP2QJ5hge0>.

11783. Belgium has a portrait of Lord Robert Baden-Powell on a postage stamp honoring the centenary of the founding of Scouting. Baden-Powell is mentioned in Conan Doyle's history THE GREAT BOER WAR, and Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes are mentioned in Baden-Powell's SCOUTING FOR BOYS.
11784. Basil Rathbone was an officer in the 10th (Scottish) Battalion of the King's (Liverpool) Regiment during World War I, and was awarded the Military Cross for "daring and resource" on patrol; according to an article in the Liverpool Daily Post (June 11), the citation read: "Lieutenant Rathbone volunteered to go out on daylight patrol, and on each occasion, brought back in-valuable information regarding enemy's posts, and the exact position and condition of the wire. On 26 July, when on the enemy's side of the wire, he came face to face with a German. He shot the German, but this alarmed two neighbouring posts, and they at once opened a heavy fire with two machine guns. Despite the enemy fire, Lieutenant Rathbone got his three men and himself through the enemy wire and back to our lines. The result of his patrolling was to pin down exactly where the enemy posts were, and how they were held, while inflicting casualties on the enemy at no loss to his own men. Lieutenant Rathbone has always shown a great keenness in patrol work both by day and by night."

June 2007 #5

11785. Ken Lanza spotted the report in Variety (June 12): "Gold Circle Films has picked up feature rights to Thomas Wheeler's fantasyadventure 'The Arcanum' out of turnaround from Miramax." Miramax optioned the story in 1999 along with the publishing rights, and the novel was published in 2004 (August 04 #2). The novel "is set in 1919 and follows the titular secret society comprising the era's leading occult investigators--Arthur Conan Doyle, Harry Houdini, H. P. Lovecraft, and Marie Laveau--as they battle demons descending on New York City." Gold Circle's president Paul Brooks said that "We see this as a potential franchise property."
11786. "What do Van Gogh, Iron Chef Morimoto, Sherlock Holmes, and Tai Shan have in common?"
11787. Malice Domestic XX will be held at the Crystal City Marriott in Arlington, Va., on Apr. 25-27, 2008, featuring Lindsey Davis as international guest of honor, Charlene Harris as guest of honor, a lifetime achievement award for Peter Lovesey, and Daniel Stashower as the toastmaster; the ghosts of honor will be all those so honored in past years (Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was the ghost of honor in 2000). More information is available from the convention (Box 8007, Gaithersburg, MD 20898) <www.malicedomestic.org>.
11788. Laurie R. King has launched the Laurie R. King Virtual Book Club ("a book club where readers don't have to bring cookies, hire a baby sitter, or even change out of their pajamas") at <www.laurierking.com/vbulletin>. The club will discuss one novel a month, and there will be essays from Laurie about the book, and contests and drawings. A GRAVE TALENT was discussed in June, and THE BEEKEEPER'S APPRENTICE will be discussed in July. There is a new URL for Laurie's blog <www.laurierking.com/wp.php>, and Mary Russell's blog will be found at <www.myspace.com/maryrussell>.
11789. And there's an incentive for joining Laurie's Virtual Book Club: there will be a drawing in mid-July for a signed (and inscribed, on request) copy of the first edition of THE BEEKEEPER'S APPRENTICE; you can find signed copies offered by Internet book dealers for \$300 and up.
11790. The June 11 issue of The New Yorker had an interesting article written by D. T. Max about the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center at the University of Texas in Austin. "Ransom, who earned the nickname the Great Aquisitor, not only bought these writers' manuscripts and letters, he tried to gather everything from baby book to death mask," Max reports. As a result, the Center has Arthur Conan Doyle's undershirts. The article may still be on-line at <www.newyorker.com/reporting/2007/06/11/070611fa_fact_max>.
11791. "Victorian Secrets and Edwardian Enigmas: The Riddles of the Rooms of Baker Street" is the title of an exhibition that has just opened in the Elmer L. Anderson Library at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis; the exhibition is open through Aug. 20, and features the miniature that Dorothy Rowe Shaw created for her husband John Bennett Shaw, the full-scale sitting-room that Allen Mackler created for his own home and bequeathed to the University, and other material from the Special Collections. Registration for the Norwegian Explorers' conference on July 6-8 has now closed; if you aren't going, you can get an idea of what you'll miss at the conference web-site at <www.tc.umn.edu/~bergq003/norwegianexplorers/2007_conference.html>.

June 2007 #6

11792. "What do Van Gogh, Iron Chef Morimoto, Sherlock Holmes, and Tai Shan have in common?" is the question on an envelope mailed by the Smithsonian Associates. Needless to say, they've all been subjects of presentations at Smithsonian Associates events, and you can find more information about the program at <www.smithsonianassociates.org/join>.
11793. And what do you get when you cross Father Christmas with Sherlock Holmes?
11794. I suggested some years ago (May 96 #5) that Sherlockians visiting San Diego might wish to stay at the Hotel del Coronado (which is the world's largest wooden hotel, carefully preserved and registered as a national landmark) in the room where William Gillette stayed in December 1898, when he settled in to write his play "Sherlock Holmes". I'm happy to report that the room is quite comfortable, with a balcony overlooking the hotel's courtyard (rather than the ocean), and considerably more expensive than it was in 1898.
11795. People who spend much time on the Internet have surely encountered Internet slang, which is now widely used in text-messaging: abbreviations such as u, brb, lol, and omg. Peter Ashman says this suggests a line of Holmes-Watson text messages: tga!, ykmm, and ysbydno. And for those who don't spend much (or no) time on the Internet, the first set of abbreviations are shorthand for you, be right back, laughing out loud, and oh my god. You get to figure out the Holmes-Watson text messages on your own.
11796. David Kotin (manager of special collections, archives, and digital collections at the Toronto Public Library) plans to retire in July, after a long career at the library and many years of help the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection, and to Sherlockians and Doyleans everywhere. Collections such as the one in Toronto can't survive without strong support from within the library system, and David's efforts have been valuable indeed. His successor will be Mary Rae Schantz, who is currently manager of the library's performing arts & languages, periodicals & newspapers, and urban affairs departments.
11797. <www.ihearofsherlock.com> is the URL for Scott Monty and Burt Wolder's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" twice-monthly 30-minute podcast. A podcast is one of the wonders of modern technology: audio on demand, or radio for your computer; you can listen on the Internet, or download broadcasts to your PC or iPod, or subscribe to have the podcast delivered by e-mail. The first of the podcasts is an interesting conversation between Scott and Burt; future podcasts will include guests.
11798. Steven Dietz's play "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" (it won an Edgar from the Mystery Writers of America) is scheduled at the Fulton Theatre in Lancaster, Pa., Oct. 18 to Nov. 4. The box office address: 12 North Prince Street, Lancaster, PA 17608 (717-397-7425) <www.thefulton.org>.
11799. Walter Pond's copy of Beeton's Christmas Annual for 1887 sold for \$156,000 (including the buyer's premium) at Sotheby's in New York on June 21, setting a new record for Beeton's; the Inslay Blair copy sold for \$153,600 in Dec. 2004. Pond's manuscript of "The Adventure of the Three Gables"

(estimated at \$350,000-\$500,000) wasn't sold when bids didn't reach the seller's reserve. Details (and illustrations) are available at Randall Stock's website <www.members.aol.com/_ht_a/shbest/ref/three-gables-sothebys.htm>.

June 2007 #7

11800. There's still no word on whether or when the British television mini-series "Sherlock Holmes and the Baker Street Irregulars" (which was broadcast by BBC-1 on Mar. 25 and Apr. 1) will be seen in the United States, but you've likely seen Jonathan Pryce (Sherlock Holmes) in one or more of the "Pirates of the Caribbean" films; he has played Governor Weatherby Swan (Elizabeth Swan's father) in all of them. Maggie Schpak's handiwork can also be seen in the films: she created Capt. Jack Sparrow's rings, and jewelry and ornamentation worn by other characters in the films.
11801. And what do you get when you cross Father Christmas with Sherlock Holmes? Santa Clues. According to the Sunday Mirror (Dec. 24, 2006), that's one of the ten worst puns found by researchers in Christmas crackers in Britain.
11802. Boris Yeltsin died on Apr. 23. He was Russia's first freely elected president, and became the leader of post-Soviet Russian. According to the Sherlock Holmes Gazette (spring 1992), the Times reported just before Christmas that Yeltsin was an ardent admirer of Sherlock Holmes, and had ordered from a London store sweaters with a Sherlock Holmes logo for himself and Mikhail Gorbachev.
11803. It was Holmes vs. Holmes in the battle for this year's Tony Award for best performance by a leading actor in a play: Frank Langella was nominated for "Frost/Nixon" and Christopher Plummer for "Inherit the Wind". Langella won the award for his performance as Nixon.
11804. Don Terras has noted Daniel T. Willingham's article "Critical Thinking: Why Is It So Hard to Teach?" in the summer issue of American Educator, with a sidebar by the editors asking "Did Sherlock Holmes Take a Course in Critical Thinking?" (they suggest that "no one better exemplifies the power of broad, deep knowledge in driving critical thinking than Sherlock Holmes"). The article is on-line at <www.aft.org/pubs-reports/american_educator>, and copies of the magazine are available without charge from the American Federation of Teachers (555 New Jersey Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20001).
11805. John Baesch spotted an interesting look at "cultural literacy" in Britain: Gordon Brown, the new prime minister, "is renowned for his ability to make himself scarce at the first hint of political embarrassment," according to Roland White in his "Atticus" column in the Sunday Times (Apr. 29, 2007). "Yet this instinct, which has earned the chancellor a reputation as Macavity the political mystery cat, seems to have failed him last week." White saw no need to explain to his readers who Macavity is, nor to mention T. S. Eliot or OLD POSSUM'S BOOK OF POLITICAL CATS, in which he modelled Macavity after Moriarty.
11806. John also has noted an interesting letter offered by a dealer: "I have always liked Boucher's stuff. He writes like an educated man, and the Seven Sneezes starts as if it were going to be superb. Did you ever read a Sherlock Holmes pastiche of his - I forget the title? Darn good." The letter was written by P. G. Wodehouse in 1967 to Don Benson at Pyramid Books; the pastiche was Anthony Boucher's CASE OF THE BAKER STREET IRREGULARS.
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July 2007 #1

11807. HOUNDING THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES: A POETIC PORTRAIT OF THE DETECTIVE NOVEL, by Yair Mazor (Madison: Goblin Fern Press, 2007; 101 pp., \$12.95), offers an interesting examination of the clues that Conan Doyle offered in the story that would allow a perceptive reader to solve the mystery before all is revealed at the end of the case; Mazor concludes that "the reader is given equal opportunity to solve the case independently, without the detective's help, sometimes even receiving clues (verbal analogies) that are not available to the detective."
11808. Steve Doyle reports that the "From Gillette to Brett II" conference in Indianapolis on Nov. 16-18 (June 07 #4) is already half full, and that there are some additional speakers on the schedule: Michael A. Hoey (son of Dennis Hoey, who played Lestrade in the Rathbone films) and Jenny O'Hara, who played opposite Larry Hagman in "The Return of the World's Greatest Detective" on NBC in 1976 (the film will be screened at the conference); Steve also notes that the Wessex Press web-site at <www.wessexpress.com> now has information about all of their in-print titles, and about the conference. There's also a new trailer for the conference available at YouTube; the URL is <www.youtube.com/watch?v=yn03_oHXASI>.
11809. Ron Weyman died on June 26. He was a Navy veteran who saw HMS Hood go down and landed at Omaha Beach in the invasion of Normandy, and then worked in film and television in Canada for many years. After retiring from the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. in 1980 he started writing novels, short stories, and screenplays; his Sherlockian pastiches included SHERLOCK HOLMES & THE MARK OF THE BEAST (1989), SHERLOCK HOLMES & THE ULTIMATE DISGUISE (1991), and SHERLOCK HOLMES: TRAVELS IN THE CANADIAN WEST (1994).
11810. Forecast: THE CRIMES OF DR. WATSON, by Duane Swierczynski, from Quirk Books in November; an "interactive mystery" with pull-out clues that allow readers to pretend they're Sherlock Holmes and solve a formerly lost case.
11811. Jasper Fforde has delighted book lovers since Thursday Next first appeared in THE EYRE AFFAIR, "a genre send-up hailed as an instant classic," according to publicity for his new FIRST AMONG SEQUELS (New York: Viking, 2007; 400 pp., \$24.95); in this fifth novel in the Thursday Next series she pursues a serial killer in Bookworld. "Sherlock Holmes is killed at Rheinback Falls and his series is stopped in its tracks. And before this can be corrected, Miss Marple dies suddenly in a car accident, bringing her series to a close as well."
11812. Rheinback Falls is a mistake by the publicists; Fforde gets it right, and his use of Sherlock Holmes is intriguing. Thursday's uncle Mycroft Next, appeared in Fforde's first book, and is a continuing character, with nice echoes of Mycroft Holmes. If you get a chance to go to a Fforde book-signing, by all means do so; he's a performer, and a good one, and offers all sort of useful advice: "if there are blue nouns in your students' homework, they have been using Wikipedia." The Thursday Next series is set in Swindon, in Wiltshire, as was Mark Haddon's THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME (and of course Sherlock Holmes once ate lunch there); Swindon now has a Mycroft Street, named in honor of Thursday's uncle.
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July 2007 #2

11813. For the completists: Joyce Carol Oates reviewed Steven Hall's THE RAW SHARK TEXTS (Canongate, 2007; 428 pp., \$24.00) in the N.Y. Review of Books (July 19); she says the book is "essentially a graphic novel in prose," and "by naming a monstrous villain of Victorian times Mycroft Ward ('a creature with one enormous mind inhabiting hundreds of bodies'), Hall would seem to be alluding to Mycroft Holmes, the elder, obese genius-brother of Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes."
11814. Further to the item on Bouchercon (the long-established world mystery convention, run by fans for fans, and named in honor of Anthony Boucher; Bouchercon 40 will be held in Indianapolis on Oct. 15-18, 2009; their web-site's at <www.bouchercon2009.com>.
11815. Doug Marlette died on July 10. He began drawing editorial cartoons for the Charlotte Observer in 1972 and went on to win every major award for editorial cartooning including the Pulitzer Prize in 1988. His comic strip "Kudzu" delighted faithful readers and had occasional Sherlockian allusions (and was adapted into a musical in 1998); there's a web-site about Marlette at <www.dougmartlette.com>. Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC) was one of
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Marlette's favorite targets; this editorial cartoon appeared in the Charlotte Observer in Oct. 1983, when Helms was running for reelection to the U.S. Senate.

11816. Actor Peter Sallis was appointed a CBE (Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) in the Queen's birthday honours list last month. He played Watson in the musical "Baker Street" (1964), and Jonas Oldacre in "The Norwood Builder" on BBC Radio 4 (1993).
11817. Robert D. Jones died on June 15. After a 25-year career in the U.S. Army, he retired and became a sports columnist covering golf on the Monterey Peninsula in California, where he was a long-time member of the Diogenes Club. He wrote four books about golf, including (writing as Bob Jones) SHERLOCK HOLMES SAVED GOLF (1986) and SHERLOCK HOLMES, THE GOLFER (1991).
11818. "Ratatouille" is the latest Pixar/Walt Disney animation, and quite enjoyable, but non-Sherlockian (although Peter O'Toole does provide the voice of Anton Ego). On the other hand: theaters showing "Ratatouille" likely have the trailer for "Underdog" (due from Spyglass/Walt Disney) on Aug. 3; the trailer shows Underdog trying on various superhero costumes, with a brief glimpse of Underdog with Sherlockian deerstalker, cape, and pipe. You can see the trailer on-line at <www.disney.com/underdog>.
11819. "Sherlock Holmes (The Early Years)" is a British "musical parody" that had its world premiere at the Oxford House in Bethnal Green in 2005, and Susan Dahlinger reports that its New York premiere will be at the Theater at St. Clements, Sept. 24 through Oct. 6, during the N.Y. Musical Theatre Festival. The Festival's office is at 242 West 38th Street #1102, New York, NY 10018 (212-664-0979) <www.nymf.org/Show-117.html>. You can see more about the musical at <www.themightyfin.com/MightyFin_SH.html>.
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July 2007 #3

11820. Les Klinger notes that the UCLA Film & Television Archive and Hugh M. Hefner Classic American Film Program will present the 125-minute version of "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970) on Aug. 29 at the Billy Wilder Theater (10899 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90024) (310-206-8013) <www.cinema.ucla.edu>. This is the shorter theatrical release of the film directed by Billy Wilder, with Robert Stephens and Colin Blakely as Holmes and Watson.
11821. Fred Saberhagen died on June 29. He was a prolific writer of science fiction and fantasy, best known for his Berserker and Dracula series; he wrote two Sherlockian pastiches: THE HOLMES-DRACULA FILE (1978) and "The Adventure of the Metal Murderer" (1980).
11822. Dana Richards found a Sherlock Holmes hanging felt ornament (6 inches high) made by St. Nicolas Ltd. and sold by The Christmas Company (item 9148SH, £4.64); 59 High Street, Burford, Oxfordshire OX14 4QA, England) <www.christmascompany.co.uk>.
11823. Dorothy Stix has decided to sell her collection of Sherlockian translations (there are 492 books in the collection, in three dozen languages from Arabic to Ukrainian, and including braille and shorthand, individually priced, on her sales list). Her address is 1342 Hickory Moss Place, Trinity, FL 34655-7015 (727-372-2214) <dorothystix@aol.com>.
11824. "Pulps, videos, comics, sleaze, art, authors, artists, and more!" will be featured at this year's New York City Paperback & Pulp Fiction Expo at the Holiday Inn (440 West 57th Street) on Oct. 7. And some of the authors (Ed Hoch and Ron Goulart among them) have Sherlockiana in their bibliographies. For more information, you can contact Gary Lovisi (Gryphon Books, Box 209, Brooklyn, NY 11228 <www.gryphonbooks.com>).
11825. "Hook Meets Holmes in Floral Fantasy" was the headline on a report in the Maldon Standard (July 18), spotted by Karen Murdock. "Books in Bloom" was the theme of the annual festival of flowers held at St. Michael's Church in Woodham Walter in Essex; "arrangers had interpreted classic fairytales and literature such as Peter Pan and even Victorian detective Sherlock Holmes." Alas, there was no photograph of the Sherlock Holmes arrangement.
11826. For collectors of foreign translations: there's an on-going Brazilian edition of Les Klinger's THE NEW ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES. Four volumes of SHERLOCK HOLMES: EDICAO DEFINITIVA: COMENTADA E ILUSTRADA (AS AVENTURAS DE SHERLOCK HOLMES, AS MEMORIAS DE SHERLOCK HOLMES, A VOLTA DE SHERLOCK HOLMES and O ULTIMO ADEUS DE SHERLOCK HOLMES) have been published so far, by Jorge Zahar Editor <www.zahar.com.br>; R\$89.50 each for vols. 1-3, and \$74.50 for vol. 4.
11827. "Trams Put the Squeeze on the City's Streets" was the headline on a story in the Edinburgh Evening News (July 25); the city's new £594 million tram line, with stops and bus interchanges, will require many changes, including moving the statue of Sherlock Holmes now located in the traffic circle in Picardy Place. There's no word on a new location, but presumably it won't be far from the site of the house where Conan Doyle was born.
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July 2007 #4

11828. There was a delightful variety of interesting presentations at The Norwegian Explorers' conference on "Victorian Secrets and Edwardian Enigmas" in Minneapolis on July 6-8, with an opportunity to see many of the furnishings of Allen Mackler's full-scale 221B sitting-room and other treasures from the Special Collections (the exhibit will be on display through Aug. 20). Christopher Roden offers a far more detailed report on the conference at his "blog" at <www.sirhenry1.blogspot.com>.
11829. <special.lib.umn.edu/rare/holmes/victorianguidefinalcompressed.pdf> is the URL for the Library's colorful 20-page booklet prepared for the exhibition. The booklet (one per customer) costs \$10.00 postpaid (to the U.S. and Canada, \$15.00 elsewhere); checks (U.S. currency please) made payable to the University of Minnesota can be sent to Tim Johnson (111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, Minneapolis, MN 55455).
11830. The society also has published THE NORWEGIAN EXPLORERS OMNIBUS, edited by Phillip G. Bergem, Michael V. Eckman, and John E. Bergquist, with reprints of the now-long-out-of-print THE CROWDED BOX-ROOM (1951), SHERLOCK HOLMES: MASTER DETECTIVE (1952), EXPLORING SHERLOCK HOLMES (1957), and CULTIVATING SHERLOCK HOLMES (1978), with new introductions and an afterword. The 297-page book costs \$30.00 postpaid (\$31.00 to Canada, \$37.00 elsewhere) from Phillip Bergem, 3829 172nd Avenue NW, Andover, MN 55304; checks payable to the Norwegian Explorers, please.
11831. Also available from Phillip are two new works that will be welcomed by collectors of Conan Doyle's writings as they were published in magazines and newspapers: A DOYLEAN AND SHERLOCKIAN CHECKLIST OF THE STRAND MAGAZINE and A BIBLIOGRAPHIC LISTING OF STORIES, POEMS, AND OTHER WRITINGS OF A. CONAN DOYLE. The 37-page CHECKLIST is a detailed listing (with helpful notes) of relevant material in the British and American editions of THE STRAND MAGAZINE, plus THE NEW STRAND and 21 issues of the new STRAND now published by Andrew Gulli; \$17.50 postpaid (CA\$20.00 to Canada, and US\$24.00 elsewhere). And the 158-page BIBLIOGRAPHIC LISTING covers fiction and fact (arranged by story title), plus additional listings by magazine and newspaper appearances and a chronology, with newly discovered material not found in the Gibson/Green bibliography; \$52.00/CA\$56.50/US\$62.00. Checks payable to Phillip Bergem, please.
11832. The Norwegian Explorers' "Christmas Annual 2006" has John Bergquist's discussion of "The Curious Incident of the Policemen's Wives", Sue Vizoskie's report on "Georgiana, the Duchess of Devonshire: An Unusual Mother in the Canon" and other scholarship and entertainment; copies of the 56-page booklet are available from John Bergquist (3665 Ashbury Road, Eagan, MN 55122) for \$8.00 postpaid (checks payable to The Norwegian Explorers, please).
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11833. Add one more to the list of Investitured members of The Baker Street Irregulars who have appeared in films and on television (April 07 #2): Paul Singleton (who has had speaking parts on three daytime television soaps).
11834. Scott R. Kurtz is one of the many modern comic-strip artists who don't get a lot of exposure in newspapers, but are readily available on the Internet; <www.pvponline.com/article/3416/fri-jul-06?y=2007> has a bit of Sherlockian artwork, kindly reported by Samantha Wolov.
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July 2007 #5

11835. It's quite possible that more people saw Arthur Conan Doyle's name in newspaper articles this month than any other month, ever: there was a flood of articles about what was going to happen in J. K. Rowling's HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS, and the legions of ardent fans who were worried that Rowling would kill off Harry Potter in the last book of her series. And of course there were parallels drawn to other authors who put an end to their characters, with prominent mention of Conan Doyle's decision that Holmes should perish at the Reichenbach. No spoilers here, in case there are readers who have not yet found their way to the end of Harry Potter's story. Some writers have suggested other authors for bereft Potter fans, including Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes stories.
11836. Mike Berdan spotted an interesting quote in the Philadelphia Inquirer (July 5): "I'm great at spying. I should have been Sherlock Holmes." Turns out that Russian tennis star Maria Sharapova would also like to be a James Bond girl. You can find photographs of Sharapova (and one of Basil Rathbone) at <www.sportsbybrooks.com/maria-sharapova-bond-girl-fantasy-13250.php>.
11837. "The ghostly gas lamps fail at twenty feet," Vincent Starrett wrote (in his famous sonnet "221B"), and while London hardly has Sherlockian yellow fogs any more, you can still see gas street lights, and lamplighters. This year marks the 200th anniversary of gas lights in London, according to an article spotted by John Baesch in the Daily Telegraph (June 18), and the city's six remaining lamplighters attending the unveiling of a plaque at the site of the first gas lamp, in Pall Mall. Back in the 1960s, there were still gas lamps to be found in the streets behind 221B Baker Street, and I hope they've survived.
11838. James J. DeStefano ("The St. Pancras Case") died on May 9. He worked as an electrical designer, and was an active and enthusiastic member of The Three Garridebs, The Priory Scholars, and Mrs. Hudson's Cliffdwellers; he contributed to The Baker Street Journal and Prescott's Press, and he received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1985.
11839. The Anthony nominees have been announced for Bouchercon 38 in Anchorage on Sept. 27-30 <www.bouchercon2007.com>; the convention and awards are named in honor of Anthony Boucher. Steve Hockensmith (HOLMES ON THE RANGE) has been nominated for best first novel, and Dan Stashower (THE BEAUTIFUL CIGAR GIRL) and E. J. Wagner (THE SCIENCE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES) for best critical nonfiction.
11840. "CSI: The Experience" is an interactive exhibit that will be at the Museum of Science in Boston, Sept. 30 through Jan. 1; the web-site for the exhibit is at <www.mos.org/visitor_info/museum_news/press_release&id=1896>; the intention is to explore the tools and technology behind crime scene investigation, and E. J. Wagner will lecture on "Superstition, Science, and Sherlock Holmes" on Oct. 17.
11841. "Sherlock Holmes and the Baker Street Irregulars" (the mini-series starring Jonathan Pryce as Holmes and broadcast by BBC-1 earlier this year) now is available on DVD in the U.S.; \$24.99 from Acorn (Box 1670, West Chester, OH 47071) (888-870-8047) <www.acornonline.com>; Amazon <www.amazon.com> lists it for release on Sept. 4 (\$22.49 and eligible for free shipping).
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July 2007 #6

11842. The new issue of the Sherlockian E-Times is at hand from Joel and Carolyn Senter (Classic Specialties) with news of Sherlockians and their gatherings, and a report on Jerry Riggs (whose new book THE UNUSUAL SHERLOCK HOLMES is a collection of three pastiches), and as usual offers of S'ian merchandise; <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times07-7.htm> is the URL for the newsletter, and you can request an e-mail subscription at <www.sherlock-holmes.com>.
11843. "Jane Annie, or the Good-Conduct Prize" has been scheduled by the Rockford Operetta Party at the Central Christian Church in Rockford, Ill., on Oct. 19-20; this appears to be the North American premiere of the comic operetta that was written by Arthur Conan Doyle and J. M. Barrie in 1893. More information will be available from Scott Farrell (5288 Granite Drive, Love's Park, IL 61111) <scottfarrell@yahoo.com>.
11844. The New Yorker published a long list of Sherlockiana and Doyleana (beginning with discussion of Conan Doyle in "Talk of the Town" (Feb. 21, 1925), and THE COMPLETE NEW YORKER: EIGHTY YEARS OF THE NATION'S GREATEST MAGAZINE (issued on eight DVDs in 2005) offers a chance to see how fine a magazine it was under its first two editors, Harold Ross and William Shawn. E. J. Kahn, Jr., hired in 1937, wrote for the magazine for five decades and was one of its best writers; his ABOUT THE NEW YORKER & ME: SENTIMENTAL JOURNAL (1979) is his memoir of the year 1977, with many anecdotes about his earlier life (he writes with considerable affection about his first wife, mistress, and second wife), and about his friends at the magazine. Kahn also explains that he and many others disliked Brendan Gill, who wrote HERE AT THE NEW YORKER (1975); Gill, on the other hand, told some great stories but had little to say about Kahn. Kahn's book is not Sherlockian, except for one passing allusion, but it's grand fun to read.
11845. Circulo Holmes is one of the more active Sherlockian societies in Europe; their web-site's at <www.circuloholmes.org.es>, all in Spanish, as is their annual Agony Column, now in its seventh year. Copies of the new (130-page) issue, which has much about Holmes and Watson and Moriarty, and "The Lost World" and the fatal battle of Maiwand, are available for E30.00 postpaid from Miguel Ojeda Peral (Passeig Maragall 23, esc A, 7.o 1.a, 08026 Barcelona, Spain).
11846. Not a politician in sight, nor a trained cormorant, but the Postal Service has honored five Pacific Lighthouses, in the five states with coastlines on the Pacific Ocean.
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August 2007 #1

11847. John Gardner ("Moriarty") died on Aug. 3. Best known for his novels about the cowardly secret agent Boysie Oakes, and 14 novels extending the James Bond saga after Ian Fleming died, he also wrote two fine Moriarty journals, THE RETURN OF MORIARTY (1974) and THE REVENGE OF MORIARTY (1975); according to his obituary in the Independent (Aug. 7), a third volume, with the provisional title THE REDEMPTION OF MORIARTY had been completed just before he died. He received an Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1988, and wrote proudly of the honor at his web-site <www.john-gardner.com>.
11848. Karen Murdock found <www.magicdragon.com/SherlockHolmes>, the URL for the Sherlock Holmes Reference Service, which offers assistance in writing resumes, and with links at the web-sites to the resumes of Sherlock Holmes and James Bond.
11849. Some touring Sherlockians have visited the Brambletye Hotel in Forest Row (it's mentioned in the Canon), and have had a drink or two at the hotel's Black Peter's Bar. And now there's a coffee shop called Sherlocks in nearby East Grinstead, according to the story East Grinstead Courier (July 5) spotted by Karen Murdock. There also is a Sherlocks coffee shop about 13 miles away, in Crowborough.
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11850. Evy Herzog discovered the Museum of Jewelry (401 First Street #205, Richmond, CA 94801 (800-385-2700) <www.museumofjewelry.net>; the company uses name from English literature to title some of their products, which include "Moonstones of Baker Street Earrings" and "Arnsworth Castle Earrings".
11851. The Societe Sherlock Holmes de France provides interesting news at their web-site <www.sshf.com>, and a helpful "Alerte Sherlock Holmes" by e-mail. They recently noted a new set of stamps scheduled for issue Sept. 6 by the Swiss post office honoring "Switzerland as Seen by Foreign Artists--England"; the artists are all writers: Mary Shelley, William Wordsworth, Lord Byron, and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who will be represented by James Peel's photograph of the Reichenbach Falls.
11852. Sir Hans Sloane founded the British Museum (Nathan Garrideb hoped to be the Hans Sloane of his age), and according to an item spotted by John Baesch in Country Life (July 12), also invented milk chocolate. Chocolate-maker Bill McCarrick offers a "Sir Hans Sloane of London" line, priced from £8.00 for four pieces to £36.00 for 25 pieces. Available from Selfridges, and from McCarrick's web-site <www.sirhanssloane.com>.
11853. John also noted a story in Orient Express Magazine about the Langham Hotel (mentioned in three of the Canonical tales), which has recently opened its Artesian bar, named in honor of the 360-foot artesian well that in the 19th century provided "the best water in London" to the hotel. They now serve bottled artesian water for £4.00, and their classic martinis cost £11.00.
11854. The bar's web-site is at <www.artesian-bar.co.uk>. The hotel's web-site is at <www.london.langhamhotels.com>; rooms cost £199 and up.

August 2007 #2

11855. Some new pastiches: SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE HEIR OF ALBION, by Ronan Coghlan (Bangor: Xiphos Books, 2007; 188 pp., \$11.99), is a Sherlockian fantasy, with echoes of H. P. Lovecraft; the story is told by journalist Hector Wace, who substitutes for an absent Watson as Holmes does his best to counter a dire threat against the royal family. And THE UNUSUAL SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Jerry 'B-P' Riggs (West Conshohocken: Infinity Publishing, 2007; 369 pp., \$18.95), offers three stories that Riggs has been telling to Boy Scouts for many years (the 'B-P' in his name honors Baden-Powell, the founder of the movement); they're adventurous tales that deal with stolen rifles in Michigan, space-travel fantasy, and Arthurian roundtable reenactors.
11856. EYE OF THE CROW, by Shane Peacock (Toronto: Tundra, 2007; 250 pp., \$19.95), is announced as the first case in a series about "the boy Sherlock Holmes" ("Sherlock Holmes, just thirteen, is a misfit. His highborn mother is the daughter of an aristocratic family, his father a poor Jew."); it's an exciting and atmospheric story for young readers. The cast of characters includes Andrew C. Doyle (who isn't Arthur Conan Doyle) and Mohammad Adalji (who isn't George Edalji), and a few other names that echo jarringly from the Canon. There's a web-site at <www.theboysherlockholmes.ca>.
11857. "There is cocoa ready in the next room," Sherlock Holmes said ("The Priory School"), and a cup of cocoa is shown on a stamp in a set honoring chocolate that will be issued by the Swedish post office in September. Cocoa beans and chocolate bars have been shown on postage stamps in the past, but this seems to be to be the first philatelic cup of cocoa.
11858. The People's Light & Theatre Company plans to produce Katie Forgette's play "Sherlock Holmes & the Case of the Jersey Lily" in Malvern, Pa., June 13-July 18, 2008; Accompanied by that consummate wit Oscar Wilde, the beautiful actress Lillie Langtry (the Jersey Lily) seeks help from the brilliant detective Sherlock Holmes in a small matter involving blackmail, some missing jewels, and the royal family." The theater's address is 39 Conestoga Road, Malvern, PA 19355 (610-644-3500) <www.peopleslight.org>.
11859. Reported: SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE COMPLETE GRANADA TELEVISION SERIES, a set of 12 DVDs with all 41 programs, for a total of 43 hours, from MPI Home Video (\$229.98); bonus features include three commentary tracks, interviews with Jeremy Brett and Edward Hardwicke, an interview with Adrian Conan Doyle, a report on the Sherlock Holmes Museum, and subtitles in Spanish and English.
11860. Also: LADIES, LADIES: THE WOMEN IN THE LIFE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (San Diego: Aventine Press, 2007; 148 pp., \$11.95), edited by Katherine Karlson and Patricia Guy; an anthology of essays, poems, and music-hall ditties about the ladies in the Canon.
11861. "Tales from the Darkside: The Movie" was released by Paramount in 1990, described as "four ghoulish fables in one modern nightmare." "Lot 249" was one of the four stories, adapted by Michael McDowell from the Conan Doyle story "Lot No. 249", and the cast included Christian Slater, Steve Buscemi, and Julianne Moore. The film was released on DVD in 2001, and is still available.

August 2007 #3

11862. Ken Lanza spotted a report on the American Theatre Wing's website at <www.americantheatrewing.org>, where you can watch or listen to all sorts of interesting material, including video of Frank Langella participating in 90-minute seminars on "Working in the Theatre" taped in Sept. 1984 and in Apr. 2002, and a 48-minute "Downstage Center" program broadcast by XM Radio in May 2007 in which Langella talks briefly about why he has played Sherlock Holmes twice (and he says that he adored playing the title role in William Gillette's play, and was way in over his head when he produced and starred in "Sherlock's Last Case"). There are many more fine actors in programs available at the web-site.
11863. The Friends of Gillette Castle State Park will hold a celebration on Oct. 6 benefiting the restoration of William Gillette's locomotives; there will be hors d'oeuvres, music, beverages, and a silent auctions, and tickets cost \$35.00 each. The Friends are a non-profit organization that helps maintain and restore the trails and grounds of the Castle, and their address is Box 133, East Haddam, CT 06423 <www.friendsofgilletecastle.org>.
11864. Laurie R. King's Virtual Book Club ("a book club where readers don't have to bring cookies, hire a baby sitter, or even change out of their pajamas") at <www.laurierking.com/vbulletin> discussed THE BEEKEEPER'S APPRENTICE in July, and A MONSTROUS REGIMENT OF WOMEN in August; Laurie comments on the book from time to time, and the discussions don't close at the end of the month. A LETTER OF MARY is scheduled for November , and THE MOOR for April 2008. Her new stand-alone novel TOUCHSTONE will be published in January. Laurie's blog is at <www.laurierking.com/wp.php>, and Mary Russell's blog at <www.myspace.com/maryrussell>.
11865. As noted earlier (July 07 #1), Jasper Fforde's FIRST AMONG SEQUELS (2007) is Sherlockian, although Sherlock Holmes doesn't actually appear as a character in the book. Mycroft does appear, in a fashion (he's Thursday Next's uncle, and a ghost), and the book is both interesting and amusing, with a lot of literary puns. Fforde's web-site at <www.jasperfforde.com> is thoroughly intriguing (especially if you've read one or more of his books), and offers upgrades to the books, interviews, merchandise, a helpful emergency "boss approaching" feature, and much more.
11866. Madeleine B. Stern died on Aug. 18. She was a bibliophile, rare-book dealer, and literary sleuth, she and her partner Leona Rostenberg in 1942 identified Louisa May Alcott as the author, under a pseudonym, of a series of (at the time) racy stories, and their reminiscences about their long partnership can be found in OLD BOOKS, RARE FRIENDS: TWO LITERARY SLEUTHS AND THEIR SHARED PASSION (1997) and BOOKENDS: TWO WOMEN, ONE ENDURING FRIENDSHIP (2001); she also wrote about Sherlock Holmes, and in 2001 gave The Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Lecture in 2001 (published in the summer 2001 issue of The Baker Street Journal).

11867. "Baker Street" and "Honour Among Punks" were two series of comic books published by Caliber some years ago (May 90 #3, August 90 #4, December 91 #5) for "mature" audiences (they were quite graphic, although not porno). Karen Murdock has spotted a report of HONOUR AMONG PUNKS: THE COMPLETE BAKER STREET GRAPHIC NOVEL, by Guy Davis and Gary Reed (Ibooks Graphic Novel, 2003; 368 pp., \$19.95).

August 2007 #4

11868. Allen and Pat Ahearne have presided over the book shop Quill & Brush since 1976, and they have written interesting books about collecting; their web-site <www.qbbooks.com> offers a link to "first edition identification" that will be of help to collectors who want to identify first and later editions and printings from many publishers.
11869. The British edition of ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: A LIFE IN LETTERS (edited by Jon Lellenberg, Daniel Stashower, and Charles Foley) will be issued by Harper-Collins on Sept. 17, and it will be featured as BBC Radio 4's "Book of the Week" with five 15-minute readings from the book on Sept. 24-28. You can listen to the program on the Internet (and for seven days after the broadcast date) at <www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/arts/book_week.shtml>.
11870. <www.westminster.gov.uk/libraries/special/sherlock.cfm> is the URL for the web-site for the Marylebone Library's Sherlock Holmes Collection, and there is a link to their "special competition page" and a chance to win a copy of the British edition of ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: A LIFE IN LETTERS (May 07 #5); the contest closes on Oct. 31.
11871. Subscribers to the ink-on-paper edition of Scuttlebutt will find enclosed a copy of the flier for the ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: A LIFE IN LETTERS. If you're reading this in bits and bytes, Randall Stock's comprehensive and interesting web-site at <members.aol.com/shbest/ref/conan-doyle-life-letters.htm> information about the book, and the same images that are on the fliers.
11872. The Baker Street Irregulars and The Sherlock Holmes Society of London (as The Quartering Press) have announced their first joint publication: TO KEEP THE MEMORY GREEN, a collection of essays by friends and colleagues honoring the memory of Richard Lancelyn Green; the contributors include June Lancelyn Green, Scirard Lancelyn Green, Cilla Lancelyn Green, John Michael Gibson, Douglas Wilmer, Sir Christopher Frayling, Owen Dudley Edwards, Philip Porter, Peter Horrocks, Doug Wrigglesworth, Marina Stajic, Brian W. Pugh, David Drummond, R. Dixon Smith, Marina Stajic, John Michael Gibson, Andrew Malec, John Nichols, and Jonathan and Elaine McCafferty, and a bibliographical checklist of Richard's writings compiled by Steven Rothman (224 pp., with 24 pages of illustrations).
11873. The book will be available from both the BSI and the SHSOL in October, but it can be ordered now; there will be a standard edition and a numbered edition limited to 50 copies that's signed by editors Steven Rothman and Nichlas Utechin, Douglas Wilmer, Michael F. Whelan ("Wiggins" of the BSI), and Guy Marriott (Chairman of the SHSOL). Copies of both editions can be purchased on-line at <www.quarteringpress.com>. BSI copies also are available by mail (2 Detting Road, Maynard, MA 01754); \$30.00/\$75.00 plus shipping: \$3.95 (North America) or \$9.95 (elsewhere) plus \$1.50 for each additional copy. SHSOL copies are available from Judi Ellis (13 Crofton Avenue, Orpington, Kent BR6 8DU, England); standard edition £17.50 (UK) £20.00/E30.00 (Europe) £22.50/\$45.00 (elsewhere), and special edition £40.00 (UK) £42.00/E63.00 (Europe) £45.00/\$90.00 (elsewhere).
11874. And the book's editors Steve Rothman and Nick Utechin have been interviewed by Scott Monty and Burt Wolder for episode #8 of their "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" podcast available now at <www.ihearofsherlock.com>.
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August 2007 #5

11875. It has been some years since I mentioned Goshō Aoyama's "Case Closed" (May 04 #6), a 30-minute animated series based on the Japanese manga comic-book "Meitantei Conan" (Shinichi Kudo is a 17-year-old master detective, turned by villains into a child, who assumes the name Conan Edogawa and pursues evil-doers). The series ran on the Cartoon network in English, and there's now a series of paperbacks from VIZ Media (19 volumes and counting, \$9.99 each); only the first volume is of real interest to Sherlock Holmes: the cover shows Conan Edogawa in Sherlockian costume, and there's a page at the end of the book about Aoyama's "mystery library" featuring Sherlock Holmes. The web-site <www.caseclosed.com> has information about the animated series, which is available on DVDs.
11876. Steven Dietz's play "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" (it won an Edgar from the Mystery Writers of America) is scheduled at the Meadow Brook Theatre in Rochester, Mich., Oct. 10 to Nov. 4; box office at 207 Wilson Hall, Oakland University, Rochester, MI 48309 (248-377-3300) <www.mbtheatre.com>. The Amateur Mendicant Society of Detroit will have a theater party on Oct. 14; the society meets quarterly, and Chris Music reports on the society's activities at <www.amateurmendicant.blogspot.com>.
11877. Further to the item about Basil Rathbone receiving the Military Cross (June 07 #4), Paul Churchill notes that the Wikipedia biography for Rathbone mentions that when he joined the London Scottish Regiment as a private, Rathbone served alongside Claude Rains, Herbert Marshall, and Ronald Colman. The entry, at <www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Basil_Rathbone>, displays a portrait of Rathbone as Commissar Dimitri Gorotchenko (in the 1937 film "Tovarich") rather than as Sherlock Holmes, presumably arranged by someone who knew that Rathbone much preferred to be known for his non-Sherlockian work.
11878. What do Edmond Hillary, Moscow mayor Yuri Lushkov, and Sherlock Holmes have in common? According to a story in the Moscow News (Aug. 17), at hand from Ray Betzner, all three men are famous beekeepers. The Russian Union of Apiarists has organized Moscow's 18th annual Honey Festival, opening Sept. 1, and the RUA hopes to increase production of Russian honey. Russia exported 262,000 tons of honey a year to Europe before 1917, but last year produced only 100,000 tons, not enough to supply the domestic market.
11879. E. J. Wagner reports that her THE SCIENCE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: FROM BASKERVILLE HALL TO THE VALLEY OF FEAR: THE REAL FORENSICS BEHIND THE GREAT DETECTIVE'S GREATEST CASES (June 06 #2) has been translated into Italian and Korean. The Italian edition is available from Bollati Boringhieri Editore (E20.00) <www.bollatiboringhieri.it/scheda.php?codice=17498>, and the Korean edition from Han Seung (12,000 won) <www.hansbook.com/index.html>. Her own web-site is at <www.forensic.to/webhome/ejwagner>.
11880. After 40 years of collecting Sherlockian books, Jerry Margolin has sold his collection of books, pamphlets, and parodies to Otto Penzler at the Mysterious Bookshop in New York; his collection included first editions of all of the Canon except for A STUDY IN SCARLET, and many other rare items, many in original dust jackets. If you're seeking a particular item, you can contact Otto (212-587-1011) <ottopenzler@mysteriousbookshop.com>. Jerry has not stopped collecting, and plans to continue adding to his original artwork for Sherlockian illustrations and cartoons.
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August 2007 #6

11881. MC Black is now leading "Detective Walks" in London, offering half a dozen different routes to places mentioned in the Canon and of importance in Conan Doyle's life; if clients have particular interests, he's willing to do the research and include them on a walk. A discount is offered to members of "reputable Holmesian and Sherlockian societies," and he has a web-site at <www.detectivewalks.co.uk>. Additional information is available from him at Hardknott, Chadwell, Ware, Hertfordshire SG12 9JY, England (44(0)1920-467-930) <info@detectivewalks.co.uk>.
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11882. I've reported on Peter Abrahams' *DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE: AN ECHO FALLS MYSTERY* (April 05 #1), and his suspense novel *THE TUTOR* is Sherlockian as well. (New York: Ballantine Books, 2002), available in paperback (New York: Ballantine Books, 2003; 384 pp., \$7.50) and on audiocassettes and a CD read by James Daniels (Brilliance Audio); the novel is a real page-turner, and features a thoroughly nasty villain and a precocious 11-year-old girl-in-peril who is a passionate reader of the Canon, and uses Sherlockian observation and logic to bring the villain to book.
11883. News from Japan: Kitano Ijinkan is a district in Kobe that contains a number of foreign residences built in the late 19th and early 20th centuries after the Kobe was officially opened to foreigners in 1867; Western merchants built their houses in a section that was set aside for foreigners, and about 20 houses (of the more than 100 that were built in the district) have survived and are preserved. Tomoka Sakihara (director of business planning and marketing for the Ijinkan) writes that a recreation of the sitting-room at 221b will open Oct. 7 at English House, which celebrates its 100th anniversary this year. They have had assistance from The Japan Sherlock Holmes Club, and the exhibit will be on permanent display. There are entries for Kobe and the Kitano area at <www.wikipedia.org>.
11884. The DVD of "Sherlock Holmes and the Baker Street Irregulars" (the mini-series starring Jonathan Pryce as Holmes and broadcast by BBC-1 earlier this year) made it into the shops in August, despite a release date of Sept. 4; it's possible that it won't be broadcast here, since it has gone to DVD already; \$22.49 and eligible for free shipping at <www.amazon.com>.
11885. Forecast for October: a new edition (with coverage from the earliest silent films to the latest television films, through 2007) of David Stuart Davies' *STARRING SHERLOCK HOLMES* (London: Titan Books, 2007; 208 pp., £24.99) (distributed in the U.S. by Random House, \$35.00). The first edition was delightful (August 01 #6), and the new edition will be equally interesting.
11886. Steve Doyle reports that there's still some room (but not that much) at the "From Gillette to Brett II" conference in Indianapolis on Nov. 16-18 (July 07 #1). There's another new trailer for the conference on-line at YouTube at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=bMDCEjlsy2U>, and details of the schedule are at <www.wessexpress.com>.
11887. And a warning: the end-of-September issue of this newsletter will be a few days late, with an explanation that may serve as an excuse.

September 2007 #1

11888. "El Misterio de Whitechapel" is a new Spanish pastiche written by Enrique Garcia Diaz and published in January 2007 (in Spanish); "en esta aventura, Holmes se embarca junto a Watson en la investigacion de los atroces asesinatos de prostitutas en el West End de Londres." You can read it without charge at <www.sherlock-holmes.es/archivo/?ir=biblioteca&entry=61>.
11889. And Les Klinger reports that Ripperologist, an electronic journal available at <www.ripperologist.info>, will publish the first complete translation of the early 20th-century Sherlockian pastiche "Jack el Destripador" (in a new translation by Eduardo Zinna, with a brief introduction by Les) in the next three issues, beginning with #83 (Sept. 2007). Anthony Boucher contributed a brief partial translation, with a summary, to Allan Barnard's *THE HARLOT KILLER* (1953); the complete pastiche has more than 18,000 words, and there will be a preface by the translator and new original illustrations by Jane Coram.
11890. Electronic newsletters continue to appear in the Sherlockian world, and it shouldn't be all that surprising, considering that publishing on a web-site or by e-mail avoids the costs of printing and postage. One nice example is *Musgraves Matters*, edited for The Musgraves by Rafe McGregor and available from him <musgravesmatters@aol.com> as a .pdf attachment to an e-mail message (the third issue was published this month).
11891. Forecast (for January): *ON THE TRAIL OF ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: AN ILLUSTRATED DEVON TOUR*, by Brian Pugh and Paul R. Spiring, with an introduction by Roger Johnson (Brighton: Book Guild, 128 pp., £12.99); a German edition is in the works (*AUF DER SPUR VON ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: EINE RUNDREISE DURCH DEVON*, from Dryas in Mannheim), and there are plans for French, Spanish, and Japanese editions.
11892. Canonical Sleuths, Inc., is the Sherlockian society for the students in the senior-citizen class Francine Kitts teaches at the College of Staten Island, and they have a lapel pin, available for \$10.00 postpaid (\$12.00 outside the U.S.) from Francine (35 Van Cortlandt Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10301).
11893. The 32nd annual Toronto International Film Festival opened on Sept. 6, and Toronto chefs worked hard to please the celebrities who attended the festival. According to a story in the *Globe and Mail* (Sept. 5), noted by Karen Murdock, Four Seasons executive chef Robert Bartley themed the hotel's menus to 1920s Hollywood glamour, offering Moroccan-style Casablanca chicken wings and Sherlock Holmes martinis served on magnifying-glass coasters. It's quite likely that it was the coaster that made the martinis Sherlockian.
11894. Scholastic Books, world-famous as the publisher of J. K. Rowling's "Harry Potter" series, still publishes other books, including two written and illustrated by Mark Teague about a wire-haired terrier named Ike LaRue. *DETECTIVE LARUE: LETTERS FROM THE INVESTIGATION* (New York, Scholastic Books, 2004; 32 pp., \$15.95) is suitable for children aged 4-8, and for Sherlockian parents who may be amused by two passing Canonical allusions.

September 2007 #2

11895. The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection of the Toronto Public Library will present a lecture by Andrew Lycett (author of the new biography *CONAN DOYLE: THE MAN WHO CREATED SHERLOCK HOLMES*) on Oct. 25 at 7:00 pm in the Elizabeth Beeton Auditorium at the Toronto Reference Library (798 Yonge Street); there's no charge for admission, and all members of the public are invited.
11896. "I wonder what naked ghosts wear on Halloween," is the question on the cover of a new Halloween card from Hallmark (\$2.99).
11897. There's a Sherlock Mountain (elevation 6,604 ft) in Broadwater County, Montana, recognized by the U.S. Geological Survey in its Geographic Names Information System (but with no information about who named it, or for whom). There's another Sherlock Mountain in Berkshire County, Massachusetts, not recognized by the U.S.G.S., but it's the site of six exclusive home sites (three still available) at Birchridge of Sherlock Mountain. You can read all about it at <www.birchridgeofsherlockmtn.com>.
11898. Further to the report on the death of John Gardner (August 07 #1): Otto Penzler reports that the third Moriarty novel was completed and edited before Gardner's death; *MORIARTY* will be published by Harcourt/Penzler next fall. It's the equal, at least, of the first two, Otto notes.
11899. Otto also reports that he has launched a blog, at <otto.gather.com>; just click on the link to "It's a Mystery to Me" (where's there's a link to an archive of his weekly columns for the *New York Sun*).
11900. "Autumn in Baker Street" (at the Doubletree Hotel in Norwalk, Conn., over the Labor Day weekend) was a delightful gathering; Bob Thomalen did a fine job arranging and presiding over the festivities, and he was excellent performing as Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (with an appropriate Scots accent) in a new one-act play about Houdini and Conan Doyle: "The Other Side" was written by Jerome Coopersmith, who also was the author of the book for the musical "Baker Street" (1964) and was present to enjoy the show.
11901. John Patrick Bray directed a production of Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" at the University of Louisiana (Lafayette) last year (September 06 #6) and his play "Hound" (his adaptation of "The Hound of the Baskervilles") will have its world premiere at the Cite des Arts in Lafayette, Oct. 4-20. The theater's at 109 Vine Street in Lafayette, (337-291-1122) <www.citedesarts.org>.

11902. Alan R. Kaplan ("Charles Augustus Milverton") died on Aug. 20. He was an attorney, and a member of Mrs. Hudson's Cliffdwellers, and received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1985.
11903. David Stuart Davies wrote his one-man two-act play "Sherlock Holmes - The Last Act" for Roger Llewellyn in 1997; it premiered in Salisbury in 1999, and has toured in Britain and overseas. David has written that "I thought I'd really said all I wanted to say about Holmes in 'The Last Act'. Then they played a dirty trick on me: they offered me money." His new play "The Death and Life of Sherlock Holmes" (also starring Llewellyn) will premiere in Guildford on Mar. 6, 2008, and then go on tour, including a two-week run at the Assembly Rooms in Edinburgh during next year's Festival.
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September 2007 #3

11904. LADIES, LADIES: THE WOMEN IN THE LIFE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, edited by Patricia Guy and Katherine Karlson (San Diego: Aventine Press, 2007; 134 pp., \$11.95), is an intriguing anthology of essays, poems, music-hall songs that mention Sherlock Holmes (and some that don't), by way of examining "topics ranging from libations to libido, perfumes to prejudice, in the context of the Sherlock Holmes stories."
11905. "I wonder what naked ghosts wear on Halloween," was the question on a Hallmark Halloween card. The answer inside the card is "No sheet, Sherlock." Thanks to John McGowan and Dante Torrese, who spotted the card early on.
11906. Further to the item (July 07 #3) about the statue of Sherlock Holmes in Edinburgh needing to be moved when the city's new tram line is built, there seems to be no threat to the nearby pub The Conan Doyle: the Evening News reported (Sept. 5) that the pub is planning to fit its entrance with traditional lanterns, and install new seating. A photograph of the pub, and a review and comments, are at <www.edinburgh247.com/pubreview.asp?pubID=11>.
11907. There are many new products available to coin collectors, including colored (or coloured) coins, produced by national and other mints, and there's now a set of four such coins honoring Sherlock Holmes, issued by the New Zealand Mint. They're NZ\$2.00 coins, each minted from one ounce of pure silver and legal tender in the Cook Islands, although people are quite unlikely to want to spend them, because a set of four coins costs NZ\$325.00 (or US\$260.00). The coins feature a portrait of Sherlock Holmes (as played by Vasily Livanov), and characters from "The Sign of the Four", "The Hound of the Baskervilles", and "His Last Bow", and you can see them all in full color and much better detail at <www.newzealandmint.com>. Thanks to Bill Barnes for this numismatic report.
11908. "The Uncanny Appearance of Sherlock Holmes" (a new musical written by Brad Krunholz for the North American Cultural Laboratory) will be performed at the NACL Theatre in Highland Lake, N.Y., on Oct. 5 during the NACL Catskill Festival of New Theatre (845-557-0694) <www.nacl.org>.
11909. Irene's Cabinet is an annual anthology edited by Beth Austin for Watson's Tin Box, and this year's issue (42 pp.) offers Andrew Solberg's investigation of Sherlockian and Doylean material published in the Washington Post in the 1890s and 1900s, John C. Sherwood's amusing full-color two-page comic "The Adventure of the Faux Phillistine", and the winning essays in the society's annual Sherlockian contest for seventh-graders in Howard County, Md. (the student's work is imaginative and intelligent). \$15.00 postpaid Beth Austin (9455 Chadburn Place, Gaithersburg, MD 20886); copies of annuals from 2003 through 2006 also are available (same price).
11910. Baker Street West 1 is "a Sherlockian journal from the western USA" and now in its 13th year; the Sept. issue (46 pp.) offers Chuck Kovacic's report on his discoveries of a five-color sign advertising Campbell's Shag, and Sherlock Holmes on the scorecard glass for a pinball machine ("The Dragonette") produced in 1954, plus other interesting Sherlockian material. \$7.00 postpaid from Jerry Kegley (9338 Sophia Avenue, North Hills, CA 91343); \$12.00 a year (two issues) or \$15.00 outside the U.S.
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September 2007 #4

11911. Tim Johnson's "The Adventure of the Unopened Box: Building the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota" is an excellent history and description of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the university (where Tim presides over all the special collections). Pub-Collections Management (fall 2004), it's also available from Tim as a .pdf file via the Internet <johns976@umn.edu>.
11912. "Undershaw Goes Under the Hammer" was the headline on a story in the Haslemere Herald (Sept. 28), spotted by Laura Kuhn; Undershaw, where Conan Doyle lived from 1897 to 1907, is now on the market. Owned by Fossway Limited, a company registered in the British Virgin Islands, the house and grounds are available to buy or let from estate agents Lambert Smith Hampton in Guildford. The Victorian Society, with support from The Sherlock Holmes Society of London, successfully fought plans to subdivide the house into 13 apartments (July 06 #4 and February 07 #2), and the Waverley Borough Council announced on Apr. 25 that Fossway had ignored several requests to protect the house from further deterioration and the Council had commissioned protective work on the house (and is entitled to recover the costs from the owner). On May 15 the director of the Victorian Society noted that windows had been broken so that vandals could enter the house, and that attempts to steal lead from the roof had resulted in water damage. As of press time, the estate agents have not announced an asking price for Undershaw.
11913. "Louisiana's famous carnival will be celebrated in Bahrain, at the Sherlock Holmes' Mardi Gras Costume Party tomorrow night," according to a story in the Bahrain Gulf Daily News (Sept. 5), spotted by Ken Lanza; it was an end-of-summer festival, and guests were encouraged "to come decked in their favorite gear from the 60s and 70s or in carnival garb." One hopes that one or more guests came in Sherlockian costume, of course.
11914. The Bootmakers of Toronto have launched their web-site, with handsome and imaginative artwork by Jean-Pierre Cagnat, at <www.bootmakers.ca>.
11915. Zoran Kovacic's new play "A Taste of Murder & Not a Crumb of Evidence" will open at the Hedgerow Theatre in Media, Pa., on Oct. 27 and run through Nov. 7; featuring Hesione Holmes, "an American cousin of the famous sleuth Sherlock Holmes." The theater address is 64 Rose Valley Road, Media, PA 19063 (610-566-4211) <www.hedgerowtheatre.org> [click on "our season" and "horizon series"]. Thanks to Francie Monahan for the report.
11916. Mark Alberstat's 2008 Sherlock Holmes Calendar is illustrated with artwork from The Strand Magazine, and displays important Sherlockian birthdays and William S. Baring-Gould's dates for the cases. The calendar costs US\$14.00 postpaid, and his address is: 46 Kingston Crescent, Dartmouth, NS B3A 2M2, Canada.
11917. Frank Middlemass died last year (on Sept. 8). He began acting in 1949 after retiring from the British army as a lieutenant colonel, and had a long career on stage, radio, and television. Well known as Rocky Hardcastle in the long-running BBC television series, Middlemass also played Peterson in Peter Cushing's "The Blue Carbuncle" (1968), Henry Baker in Jeremy Brett's "The Blue Carbuncle" (1984), and Dr. Froelich in Christopher Lee's "Sherlock Holmes and the Leading Lady" (1992).
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September 2007 #5

11918. Prescott's Press, edited by Warren Randall for The Three Garridebs, continues to offer a nice mix of scholarship and whimsy, and the September issue (#45) offers a well-illustrated reprise of the "Baker Street Belles" fashion show ("a fashionable look at Victorian England") presented by
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Cynthia Wein and a posse of models at "Autumn in Baker Street" in 1989. Issue #45 costs \$6.00 postpaid, and a subscription costs \$14.00 for four issues (\$18.00 outside the U.S.) from Warren Randall (15 Fawn Lane West, South Setauket, NY 11720).

11919. ITV3 is a British cable channel that broadcasts the Granada series weekly; according to a report in the Islington Gazette (on Sept. 12), at hand from Ken Lanza, the City and Islington College's Forensic Crime Scene Investigation team will participate in a documentary that will air in November during a Sherlock Holmes week: Richard E. Grant will recreate a murder scene from "A Study in Scarlet" for investigation by the lecturers and students. Grant has played Sherlock Holmes on television in "The Other Side" (1992), Mycroft Holmes in James D'Arcy's "Case of Evil" (2002), and Jack Stapleton in Richard Roxburgh's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (2002).
11920. And Jon Lellenberg reports that the week's broadcasts will include another documentary ("The Shackles of Sherlock") about Holmes and Conan Doyle; Jon was filmed for the program at the British Library this month. It is possible that the Sherlock Holmes week will start in late October; you can see the channel's schedule and watch its programs at <www.itv.com>.
11921. "For the British Grenadiers: Sherlock Holmes and the British Army" is the theme for this year's "Saturday with Sherlock Holmes" (sponsored by the local Sherlockian societies) at the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore on Nov. 10; the festivities begin with morning coffee in the Edgar Allan Poe Room at 10:00, and end at 1:00. There's no charge, and the library is at 400 Cathedral Street in Baltimore.
11922. Dr. William R. Hanson has designed a special cancel for the GlenPex Stamp and Postcard Show in South Glens Falls, N.Y., on Nov. 17; his own cachets will be available after the show, but you can send your own (stamped) covers and postcards to GlenPex Station, c/o Postmaster, 16 Hudson Avenue, Glens Falls, NY 12801; they will be cancelled and returned on Nov. 17.
11923. I mentioned the upcoming American premiere of Jeremy Paul's "The Secret of Sherlock Holmes" in Lenox, Mass., earlier (March 07 #1); the play will have 16 performances, from Sept. 28 to Oct. 28, and now there's news of a special Sherlockian weekend on Oct. 19-21. Events will include a reception at Ventfort Hall (a Gilded Age mansion that was built by George and Sarah Morgan in 1893), three presentations by Sherlockian guests, a performance of the play, and a Victorian (and Sherlockian) brunch. Details are available at Shakespeare & Company's web-site <www.shakespeare.org> and from the theater (70 Kemble Street, Lenox, MA 01240) (413-637-1199). Scott Monty and Burt Wolder interviewed the leading actors and the director for the latest "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" at their blog <www.ihearofsherlock.com>.

September 2007 #6

11924. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration launched its new Phoenix Mars Lander on Aug. 4, and the unmanned spacecraft is expected to land on May 25, 2008, with Sherlock Holmes on board. Tina Rhea has spotted a report about the "Visions of Mars" mini-DVD prepared by The Planetary Society, with 80 stories and articles by leading writers and scientists, a collection of Mars artwork, and classic radio shows, that the lander will carry to Mars. Poul Anderson's Sherlockian pastiche "The Martian Crown Jewels" is one of the stories on the DVD, and two other members of the Baker Street Irregulars (Isaac Asimov and August Derleth) are represented by non-Sherlockian stories. You can read more about the mini-DVD at <www.planetary.org/programs/projects/messages/vom_contents.html>.
11925. ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: A LIFE IN LETTERS is a delightful book. Edited by Jon Lellenberg, Daniel Stashower, and Charles Foley (London: HarperPress, 2007; 710 pp., £25.00), the many letters to his mother, preserved in the family papers, are augmented by other letters to family and friends, with helpful annotations and illustrations. The actor Stephen Fry once said that "Personally I would walk a mile in tight boots to read his letters to the milkman," and one can only agree: Conan Doyle's letters offer an excellent picture of his imagination, humor, and energy, and it is grand that so many of his letters have been preserved and are now available to those who want to know more about him.
11926. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists will honor the world's first forensic geologist at dinner on Wednesday, Oct. 31, at Dixon's Downtown Grill at 1600 16th Street in Denver, during the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America; drinks at 7:00 and dinner at 8:00. Come one, come all, as they say, and watch the geologists and Sherlockians try not to confuse each other. Dinner will cost about \$25.00 per person, and there will be a cash bar. Please let me know if you can attend the festivities; my e-mail address is <blau7103@comcast.net>.
11927. Andrew Lycett's CONAN DOYLE: THE MAN WHO CREATED SHERLOCK HOLMES (London: Weidenfeld & Nicholson, 2007; 527 pp., £20.00) is an impressive biography. Lycett has had access to far more sources than any previous biographer of Conan Doyle: the earlier biographies, Georgina Doyle's OUT OF THE SHADOWS, many of papers and letters now at the British Library (with permission from Dame Jean's estate), and material owned by collectors and in Richard Lancelyn Green's collection. The book is full of information for those interested in the life and career of Conan Doyle, and there's plenty of opinion as well, often tending toward the sensational: Lycett's article about Conan Doyle in The Guardian (Sept. 15) was headlined "Adultery, My Dear Watson".
11928. As predicted (August 07 #6), this issue is a few days late, because I was away from home for almost two weeks; we visited in London, and returned on the Queen Mary 2 and thoroughly enjoyed the "Cunard experience." The ship has many attractions, among them the only planetarium and the largest library afloat; the library has 8,000 volumes, but only one of them is Sherlockian: Donald Thomas' SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE VOICE FROM THE CRYPT AND OTHER TALES (2002).

October 2007 #1

11929. Francine Swift ("The Wigmore Street Post Office") died on Oct. 10. She was proud to be a Texan, faithful to her corgis Prudence and Hatty, and devoted to her husband Wayne. Francine was a librarian when she joined the Sub-Librarians in the late 1960s, moved to Washington in the 1970s, and met Wayne at a running of the Silver Blaze at Pimlico. She was a member of the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes (as "Hatty Doran"), and many other Sherlockian societies; Francine was honored by the Baker Street Irregulars as *The* Woman in 1983, and received her BSI Investiture in 1994.
11930. "We've also recreated Sherlock Holmes' study as an onboard office for one customer," Ewan Foster told Daily Mail reporter Victoria Moore (Sept. 14). Foster is head designer for Sunseeker, a British company that builds superyachts for the very rich. "That was quite a strange request because we put it in a boat that looked very futuristic from the outside," he added. "We had to make certain adaptations. A big mahogany bookcase filled with hardbacks would have been too heavy, so we had trompe l'oeil bookshelves painted onto wooden panels. It looked fantastic." Visit <www.sunseeker.com> to learn more about their boats (but not the one with the Sherlockian office). Thanks to Karen Murdock for spotting the article.
11931. <www.audiobookstandl.com>, spotted by Les Klinger, is an interesting website that offers digital audiobooks that you can buy and download to your PC or portable listening device; searches for "sherlock holmes" and "conan doyle" bring up scores of hits for Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian stories, radio broadcasts, and pastiches.
11932. Bob Robinson has recalled a story about Nigel Bruce, told by Sean Wright, who heard it from Bruce's nephew Ian, almost 30 years ago: in October 1953, Nigel Bruce, seriously ill in a hospital, had been following the World Series between the New York Yankees and the Brooklyn Dodgers on the

- radio, and lapsed into a coma before the final game was played; when he awoke from his coma on Oct. 8, he asked his wife, Bunny, "The Dodgers, did they beat the Yankees? Did they win the World Series?" His wife replied, "No dear, I'm sorry. The Dodgers lost. They did not win the World Series." And Nigel Bruce sank back onto his pillows, sighing, "Oh sh*t," and turned his head and died.
11933. Darlene Cypser discovered <steampunkworkshop.com/lcd.shtml>, where you can see what Sherlock Holmes' computer might have looked like.
11934. DARK AND STORMY NIGHTS (Alma: Yaddog Press, 2001; 71 pp., \$6.00) has five short stories by Bradley H. Sinor, one of them being his atmospheric pastiche "The Adventure of the *Other* Detective". The collection also offers Sherlockian cover art by Laura J. Underwood. Yaddog's address is 710 West Redbud Lane, Alma, AR 72921 <www.yaddogpress.com>.
11935. Ken Lanza noted an announcement for "Sherlock Holmes versus Arsene Lupin", a new computer game produced by Frogware, the company responsible for the earlier game "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes: The Awakened" (September 06 #4). A 90-second trailer is available at <www.sherlockholmes-thegame.com/en/sh>; the game is scheduled for release later this year.

October 2007 #2

11936. The fall issue of The Magic Door (the newsletter published by The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) has Cliff Goldfarb's discussion of Conan Doyle's "Nelson Notebook" (recently acquired for the Collection), Peggy Perdue's report on an intriguing miniature edition of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, and Dayna McCausland's introduction of Mary Rae Shantz, who has succeeded David Kotin as manager of special collections at the Library. Copies of the newsletter are available from Doug Wrigglesworth (16 Sunset Street, Holland Landing, ON L9N 1H4, Canada) <doug.wrig@sympatico.ca>.
11937. The Toronto Reference Library is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year with a gala exhibition showing material from its special collections, and there's a web-site at <ve.torontopubliclibrary.ca/collected_works/acd.html> offering a virtual tour of some of its Sherlockian and Doylean treasures. And if you click on "More" at the upper right you'll find links to two other virtual exhibits: "A Case of Considerable Interest" and "Footprints of the Hound".
11938. The Workshop Theater Company will present Andrew Joffe's two-act dramatization of "The Blue Carbuncle" (in a double bill with O. Henry's "The Gift of the Magi"), Dec. 6-22, at 312 West 36th Street (4th floor) in New York City (212-695-4173 ext 5) <www.workshoptheater.org>. Paul Singleton plays Sherlock Holmes, and Todd Butera is Dr. Watson, and the performances are recommended "for ages 9 to 109."
11939. The September issue of Ripperologist (September 07 #1) has been published, with the first of three parts of "Jack the Ripper: From the Private Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes", an early pastiche (1907) written by Kurt Matull and Theo von Blankensee, translated into English by Eduardo Zinna and illustrated by Jane Coram and introduced by Leslie S. Klinger. The pastiche is one of the long series known to Sherlockians as the "memorias intimas" (although they were first published in German), and Zinna's preface offers a fine history of the series and the many languages in which it appeared. Ripperologist is an electronic journal available at <www.ripperologist.info>; if you want only the three issues with the pastiche, Zinna <editorez@yahoo.co.uk> will be happy to tell you the cost. The September issue also has an excerpt from the Canon in Zinna's "Opium Dens and Other Victorian Delights".
11940. Richard Valley died on Oct. 12. In 1991 he launched the magazine Scarlet Street, offering enthusiastic coverage of classic horror and mystery films, and wrote the album notes for the CD "Sherlock Holmes: Classic Themes from 221B Baker Street" (June 96 #6) and MPI Video's DVD set of the 14 Rathbone/Bruce films (April 03 #4).
11941. Stuart M. Kaminsky's dramatization of his short-story pastiche "The Final Toast" (1987), will have its world premiere during the International Mystery Writers' Festival at the RiverPark Center in Owensboro, Ky., June 12-22, 2008; the festival will also feature the U.S. premiere of Agatha Christie's long-lost play "Chimneys" adapted from her novel THE SECRET OF CHIMNEYS (she wrote the play for performance in London in 1931, but her manuscript was lost during a trip to North America and discovered 70 years later in Canada). The festival's web-site <www.newmysteries.org> will have more information about next year's events.

October 2007 #3

11942. The University of Wisconsin's reprint of Ely M. Liebow's splendid biography DR. JOE BELL: MODEL FOR SHERLOCK HOLMES (April 07 #1) is available for a 30% discount from the \$26.95 retail price, via the Internet <www.wisc.edu/wisconsinpress/books/2150.htm> or by phone (800-821-2736); use the code "AU657" in the "comments or special instructions" box.
11943. It has been many years since I mentioned the J. Peterman Company, possibly because (like so many companies) they now depend more on the Internet than on printed catalogs; Gideon Hill notes that Peterman now offers a "Classic Inverness Cape Coat" (with an atmospheric mention of Sherlock Holmes in the description) for \$699 <www.jpeterman.com> or (888-647-2555). The coat actually appears to be a MacFarlane, Gideon suggests (apparently purists insist that an Inverness is a cape without sleeves).
11944. L. Frank James died on Sept. 2. He was a pastor and an actor, and author of AN OPENED GRAVE: SHERLOCK HOLMES INVESTIGATES HIS ULTIMATE CASE (December 06 #6); Holmes investigates the truth of the Biblical history of Jesus Christ.
11945. The Sherlock Holmes Hotel at 108 Baker Street now is the Park Plaza Sherlock Holmes London, and it's holding Sherlock Holmes Murder Mystery Evenings, according to a press release spotted by Ken Lanza. Actors perform an interactive mystery during dinner, and the next events will be on Nov. 24 and Dec. 13. More information is available at <www.murdermysteryshop.com>.
11946. Twin Engine Productions has published new print-on-demand editions of THE EXPLOITS OF BRIGADIER GERARD and THE ADVENTURES OF GERARD at \$10.95 each; their web-site's at <www.twinengine.se>.
11947. A life mask of Basil Rathbone, "made circa 1939 and used to design make-up appliances for an unknown production," offered by Heritage Auction Galleries on Oct. 6, sold for \$215.10 (including the buyer's premium); of course it's likely that there would have been spirited bidding if the seller had been able to demonstrate that the life mask was made for "The Hound of the Baskervilles". You may still be able to see a photograph of the life mask at <www.ha.com> (auction 648, item 22105).
11948. Reported: ROUND THE RED LAMP AND OTHER MEDICAL WRITINGS, edited and with an introduction by Robert Darby (Kansas City: Valancourt Books, 2007; 348 pp., \$16.95); a reprint of the 1894 book and three other medical stories.
11949. Denny Martin Flinn died on Aug. 24. He acted on stage, screen, and television, and he was a writer: two pastiches, SAN FRANCISCO KILLS (1991) and KILLER FINISH (1991) featured San Francisco private Spencer Holmes (grandson of Sherlock Holmes); he also co-wrote the film "Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country" (1991) with Nicholas Meyer and adapted Meyer's THE SEVEN-PER-CENT SOLUTION for BBC Radio 4 (1993).
11950. There are a few Sherlockians who like to denigrate Petri wine, despite the fact that modern Petri wine is made by an entirely different company than the one that sponsored radio broadcasts by Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce (1943-1946) and by Ben Wright and Eric Snowden (1949-1950); the old company exhibited at the California State Fair and Exposition in 1959, and the medal it won for its grappa sold at eBay this month for \$54.00.

October 2007 #4

11951. Connections between Sherlock Holmes and James Bond are tenuous (although Sherlockian scholars have not neglected them), and it is nice to know that the Royal Mail plans to issue a set of stamps honoring James Bond and Ian Fleming on Jan. 8, showing different editions of six of his most famous novels; there will be a Prestige Stamp Book written by novelist Kim Newman, whose ANNO DRACULA (1992) had many interesting Canonical aspects. And it is of interest that one of the stamps will show the nudest young woman I can recall seeing on a British postage stamp. It's the cover of the current pa-perback edition of one of his novels, which you can see now on-line at Amazon; search for [for your eyes only penguin].
11952. LibriVox is an Internet project for which volunteers read works in the public domain; the have an interesting list of Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian stories by Arthur Conan Doyle, and they're at <www.librivox.org>.
11953. Craig Wichman's Quicksilver Radio Theater broadcast Craig Wichman's dramatization of "The Speckled Band" in 1999, and the East Lynne Theater Company will perform the play in Cape May, N.J., on Mar. 7 and 8, 2008. Their website is at <www.eastlynnetheater.org>.
11954. Jon Lellenberg has reported Christopher Hitchens' article "An Anglosphere Future", which discusses "how a shared tradition of ideas and values--not bloodlines--can be a force for victory," and begins with consideration of Conan Doyle's THE WHITE COMPANY and his views on the common heritage of the Americans and English; it's available on-line at <www.city-journal.org>.
11955. Wanda Dow found amusing a parody "The Adventures of Wassup Holmes" created by Raul E. Duke, at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=wOj-Is2yIA0>; it's another example of the interesting things out there on the Internet.
11956. Mary Schulz died on Oct. 15. Married to Ted Schulz for 54 years, Mary graiously agreed to name their son William Sherlock Schulz; she enjoyed classical music and golf, and was an enthusiastic member of The Scowrers and the Molly Maguires and The Persian Slipper Club in San Francisco; she was honored by The Baker Street Irregulars as *The* Woman in 1998.
11957. The "Sherlock Holmes Weekend" in Lenox, Mass., on Oct. 19-21 offered both scholarship and entertainment (September 07 #5), including a chance to see Jeremy Paul's play "The Secret of Sherlock Holmes", and you can read about it in the Pittsfield newspaper at <www.berkshireagle.com> searching for [sherlock holmes], and hear podcasts by Scott Monty (who performed and recorded) at <www.ihearofsherlock.com>.
11958. Further to the report on "Undershaw Goes Under the Hammer" (September 07 #4), the Daily Telegraph had a well-illustrated story (Oct. 20) that likely still is available to their web-site <www.telegraph.co.uk>. Conan Doyle wrote about the house to his mother (Sept. 1897): "As the house and grounds & furniture stand they represent £6000 without any mortgage or charge of any kind upon it." According to the web-site <www.measuringworth.com>, a calculation of the increase in purchasing power from 1897 to 2006 yields £467,956.16 (far less than what the house will bring on the market). You can read the letter (and much more about the house, and many other things) in ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: A LIFE IN LETTERS (2007).
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October 2007 #5

11959. Sherlock Holmes' 154th birthday will be celebrated on Friday, Jan. 11, with the traditional festivities in New York, but the first formal event will be The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes' ASH Wednesday dinner starting at 6:30 pm at O'Casey's (22 East 41st Street); attendees pay their own checks, but you should let Susan Rice (125 Washington Place #2-E, New York, NY 10014 <susan221bee@gmail.com> know if you're coming to the event.
11960. The Christopher Morley Walk, led by Jim Cox and Dore Nash, will leave from the Algonquin Hotel (59 West 44th Street) at 9:30 am on Thursday, followed by lunch at McSorley's at about 1:30 pm; those planning to participate are asked to get in touch with Jim (2240 15th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94116) <jasdcox@yahoo.com>, and of course are advised to dress appropriately for the weather.
11961. The Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Speaker Lecture begins at 6:15 on the 6th floor of the Williams Club (24 East 39th Street, between Madison and Park Avenues); the speaker will be Sir Christopher Frayling, the rector of the Royal College of Art, an expert on spaghetti westerns, and author of NIGHTMARE: THE BIRTH OF HORROR (1996), a book that accompanied a four-part BBC-TV mini-series that included a detailed examination of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES. The lecture will cost \$11.00; seating will be limited, and you are advised to reserve early (details below).
11962. Otto Penzler will hold his traditional open house on Friday, from 11:00 to 5:00 at the Mysterious Bookshop, at 58 Warren Street (between West Broadway and Church Street) in Tribeca; the 1, 2, and 3 trains stop at the Chambers Street station (one block from the shop). If you get lost, the bookshop's telephone number is 212-587-1011. Many items from Jerry Margolin's collection will be available for purchase.
11963. The William Gillette Memorial Luncheon starts at noon, at Moran's Chelsea Seafood Restaurant at 146 Tenth Avenue at 19th Street; the cost is \$44.00 for chicken taragon or salmon Wellington (\$50.00 for prime rib). You can request a formal announcement from Susan Rice (125 Washington Place #2-E, New York, NY 10014) <susan221bee@gmail.com>.
11964. The Beacon Society will hold its annual meeting at 3:15 pm in the lobby of the Algonquin to make the Fourth Annual Beacon Award recognizing efforts of individuals to introduce Sherlock Holmes to young people. More information on the award is available at <www.beaconsociety.org>.
11965. The Baker Street Irregulars will gather at 6:00 pm at the Union League Club at 38 East 37th Street. The Gaslight Gala (which is open to all Sherlockians and their friends) will provide dinner and entertainment at 6:30 pm at the Manhattan Club (201 West 52nd Street between Broadway and Seventh Avenue); \$75.00 (checks payable to Will Walsh can be sent to Carol Fish (Box 4, Circleville, NY 10919). Please include your e-mail address and primary Sherlockian society affiliation). There is more information at their website <www.baskervillebash.homestead.com>.
11966. Space is limited at the William Gillette Luncheon and the Gaslight Gala, and early reservations are advised.
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October 2007 #6

11967. Those who wish to have seasonal souvenirs included in the various dinner packets can send 175 copies (for the BSI) to James B. Saunders (3011 47th Street, Astoria, NY 11103), and 110 copies (for the Gala) to Francine Kitts (35 Van Cortlandt Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10301), and 20 copies (for The Women) to Mary Ann Bradley, 7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278); your material should arrive by Dec. 15.
11968. On Saturday a wide variety of Sherlockiana will be available in the dealers' room (Covent Garden West) on the second floor of the Algonquin Hotel (59 West 44th Street) from 9:00 am to noon; Ralph Hall (2906 Wallingford Court, Louisville, KY 40218) (502-491-3148) <bugmanhall@aol.com> has information about dealers' tables. The Clients of Adrian Mulliner (devotees of the writings of both John H. Watson and P. G. Wodehouse) will hold a Junior Bloodstain (a rather less than totally reverent event) on the second floor of the Algonquin Hotel at 10:30 am; if you're planning to attend the event, please get in touch with Anne Cotton (12 Hollywood Street, South Hadley, MA 01075) <ladybassett@comcast.net>.
11969. The Baker Street Irregulars' annual reception, open to all Sherlockians and their friends, will be held from 1:00 to 4:30 at the New York City Bar Association (42 West 44th Street); the reception will feature a performance of Jerome Coopersmith's one-act play "The Other Side" (first performed

- at "Autumn in Baker Street" earlier this year) starting promptly at 1:15, and there will be hors d'oeuvres (adequate but not replacing lunch or dinner) and an open bar (wine, beer, juice, and soft drinks). The cost is \$70.00 (details below) or \$80.00 after Dec. 8 or at the door.
11970. Baker Street West 1 and The Curious Collectors of Baker Street will present a very irregular "Lost in New York with a Bunch of Sherlockians" dinner at 6:00 pm at Kennedy's Irish Pub & Restaurant (327 West 57th Street, between 8th and 9th Avenues); details are available from Chrys Kegley (9338 Sophia Avenue, North Hills, CA 91343) (818-894-1501) <ckegley@socal.rr.com>.
11971. "Sherlock: Solo" (the new one-man play written and performed by Victor L. Cahn) will be performed at the Kirk Theatre at Theatre Row (410 West 42nd Street) at 8:00 pm; the box office phone number is 202-279-4200 and their web-site's at <www.resonanceensemble.org>, tickets cost \$20.00. The play opens on Jan. 10 and closes on Feb. 3, so locals will have a chance to see the play on other dates.
11972. The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes will hold an informal buffet brunch on Sunday, from 11:30 am to 2:30 pm at the Oldcastle Pub & Restaurant at 160 West 54th Street (between 7th and 6th Avenues) (and yes, 6th Avenue is the Avenue of the Americas), and the cost will be \$20.00 including tax and tip. It's open to all, but space is limited and reservations will be important; please send your checks to Judith Freeman (280 Ninth Avenue #1-C, New York, NY 10001. Overseas guests are welcome to reserve via e-mail and pay at the door; her e-mail address is <judith-freeman@worldnet.att.net>.
11973. And here are the details: if you've not already received Mike Whelan's announcement with the prices and a reservation form for the Thursday lecture and the Saturday reception, you can request a copy from Michael F. Whelan, 7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278.

October 2007 #7

11974. The Baker Street Irregulars are a tax-exempt organization, and Mike Whelan has made arrangements with the Algonquin for their "classic full" with one bed at \$175.00 (or \$275.00 for a "premiere suite"), Tuesday through Sunday. This is the total cost, since there is no tax on reservations arranged by the BSI. The offer's available to all Sherlockians, and room reservations must be made directly to the Algonquin (mention The Baker Street Irregulars) at 212-840-6800 before Dec. 8 (warning: last January our block of rooms sold out well before the deadline).
11975. Mary Ellen Rich kindly continues to provide advice about hotels that offer reasonable (as defined by New York landlords) rates, but it's a mark of the 21st century that the best offers are to be found on the Internet, at websites such as <www.priceline.com>, <www.tripadvisor.com>, <www.hotels.com>, <www.travelocity.com>, and <www.expedia.com>; wise shoppers will then check the hotel's web-site and ask for the best rate (and don't neglect non-optional extras such as 14% in state and city taxes). John Pforr praises the Super 8 Hotel Times Square at 59 West 46th Street (212-719-5944); \$119.99 plus tax per night.
11976. The Dr. John H. Watson Fund offers financial assistance to all Sherlockians (membership in the BSI is not required) who might otherwise not be able to participate in the weekend's festivities. A carefully pseudonymous John H. Watson presides over the fund and welcomes contributions, which can be made by check payable to John H. Watson and sent (without return address on the envelope) to Dr. Watson, care of The Baker Street Irregulars, at 7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278; your letters are forwarded unopened, and Dr. Watson will acknowledge your generosity. Requests for assistance should also be mailed (quickly) to Dr. Watson at the same address.
11977. And if you can't remember where you put your copy of all of this, detailed information about the birthday festivities is available on the Internet at <www.bsiweekend.com>.
11978. Dan Stashower, one of the editors of the new collection ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: A LIFE IN LETTERS (September 07 #6), will be interviewed on "The Diane Rehm Show" at 11:00 am on Nov. 19 on WAMU-FM (88.5); the show is broadcast by public radio in many other cities and on satellite radio, and is available on-line at <www.wamu.org/programs/dr>.
11979. An exhibition on "Crime Scene Edinburgh: 20 Years of Rankin and Rebus" has opened at the National Library of Scotland, through Jan. 13. The focus of the exhibition is on Ian Rankin, but the exhibits include the original manuscript of "The Illustrious Client". There's additional information at the library's web-site <www.nls.uk/events/rebus20/index.html>.
11980. Scott Monty has launched a "Sherlock Holmes Social Network" on the Internet on an open-source system called Ning, to give Sherlockians a chance to create their own community, at <sherlockholmes.ning.com>. It's an interesting demonstration of one of the many ways people can communicate on the World Wide Web, starting discussions, sharing media files, etc.

November 2007 #1

11981. New information about the birthday festivities in New York in January: on Saturday the dealers' room will be open from 9:00 am to noon.
11982. Forecast: KNIFE POINT, by Lyndsay Faye, from Simon & Schuster. The author is Lyndsay Faye Lehner, a New York actor (Lyndsay Faye is her stage name) who has turned to writing ("the actors outnumber the pigeons in New York," she said in an interview in the Longview Daily News on Oct. 14); her first novel, a mystery about Jack the Ripper and Sherlock Holmes, brought her a \$100,000 advance from the publisher (the book is scheduled for 2009).
11983. Richard E. Crandall's article "The Challenge of Large Numbers" in Scientific American (Feb. 1997) has an interesting variant on the now-famous room full of monkeys typing away to produce Shakespeare's plays: "It would take approximately 10|3,000,000| [that's 10 to the 3 millionth power, for anyone reading this item via the Internet] years before a parrot, pecking randomly at a keyboard, could reproduce by chance *The Hound of the Baskervilles*" Don Dillistone spotted a reprint of the article in a pamphlet published by the magazine last year to encourage readers to renew their subscriptions.
11984. Christopher Roden reports an announcement of "Re-Examining Conan Doyle: Arthur Conan Doyle Symposium" at the University of Regina on Nov. 7-9, 2008. There has been a call for papers about various aspects of Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes have been requested, and there will be a film evening and a stage dramatization of a Holmes story; more information is available from Dr. Nils Clausson (Dept. of English, University of Regina, Regina, SK S4S 0A2, Canada) <www.uregina.ca/hri/Conferences/conan_doyle_2008.shtml>.
11985. Robert F. O'Neill died on Oct. 23. He was a supervising producer and producer for many series for Universal Television from the 1960s through the 1990s, winning two Golden Globes (for "Murder, She Wrote") and an Emmy (for "Columbo"). He produced "The Murder of Sherlock Holmes" (1984), the twohour pilot for "Murder, She Wrote".
11986. The October issue of Ripperologist (October 07 #2) has appeared, with the second of three parts of the early (1907) pastiche "Jack the Ripper: From the Private Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes", and reports on goings-on in the world of students of the infamous murderer. Ripperologist is an electronic journal available at <www.ripperologist.info>; if you want only the three issues with the pastiche, Zinna <editorez@yahoo.co.uk> will be happy to tell you the cost. The October issue also has news of the "Guardian News & Media Archive": the first phase is already on-line offering The Guardian from 1821 to 1975 and The Observer from 1900 to 1975; the remainder of the archives will launch next year, when every edition of the newspapers will be available <mediaguardian.co.uk/presspublishing/story/0,,2191657,00.html>.

11987. Copies of the late Al Hirschfeld's limited-edition lithograph "The Game's Afoot" (showing Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce as Holmes and Watson) still are available (for \$1,600) from the Margo Feiden Galleries at 15 East 9th Street, New York, NY 10003) (212-677-5330) <www.alhirschfeld.com>. The original artwork has been sold, and you would have been wise to buy a copy of the lithograph when it was first offered (March 92 #1) for \$500.

November 2007 #2

11988. The Gotham Book Mart closed earlier this year; the N.Y. Times reported on May 23 on the sale of its contents to satisfy the store's arrears in rent to its landlord. Frances Steloff founded the bookshop in 1920 and made it a gathering place for authors and their readers; her slogan was "Wise men fish here," and one of those wise men was Christopher Morley, who discovered the shop in 1931, and spent many hours helping with publicity and other business matters (such as writing a set of dunning verses to be sent to delinquent customers). When she was arrested in 1935 for selling obscene literature (Random House's edition of Andre Gide's autobiography), Morley came to her defense, in his "Bowling Green" column in the Saturday Review of Literature, and his column was quoted by the judge when he dismissed the case. She died in 1989, at the age of 101; but the shop remained open and was a haven for admirers of Edward Gorey's work.
11989. There's a new "Wordsworth Literary Lives" edition of Conan Doyle's autobiography MEMORIES AND ADVENTURES (reprinting the first British edition), with an excellent introduction by David Stuart Davies (London: Wordsworth, 2007; 368 pp., £3.99). Wordsworth also has a "Library Collection" (£9.99) that will soon include THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES.
11990. Samantha Wolov has found THE SUPERHERO DETECTIVES, written by Beth Engleman Berner and illustrated by Jenna Riggs (Inglewood: Piggy Toes Press, 2005; 5 pp., \$10.95); young children can follow the clues to solve a mystery (the cover shows the superhero detectives' dog Watson).
11991. An article by Jess Blumberg in the November issue of Smithsonian about the *Mary Celeste* ("Phenomena: Abandoned Ship") provides a modern scientific explanation of what might really have happened to ship and its crew, with a mention of Conan Doyle's story "J. Habakuk Jephson's Statement".
11992. Dr. Watson's Pub opened in the early 1970s in Philadelphia, and it's still going strong (at 216 South 11th Street), and (of course) there's a web-site at <www.drwatsonspub.com> with a cute little animated Sherlock Holmes.
11993. The Easton Press (677 Connecticut Avenue, Norwalk, CT 06857 (800-211-1308) <www.eastonpress.com> still offers their three-volume THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES; first issued in 1987, it's a handsome leather-bound reprint (with color frontispieces) of the Heritage Press edition they published in 1952 and 1957; \$59.00 per volume postpaid (item 0135). They also have the PROFESSOR CHALLENGER SERIES in three volumes in a similar format, with an introduction by science-fiction author Robert Silverberg (2005); \$65.00 per volume postpaid (item 1575).
11994. Peter Haining died on Nov. 19. He started his career as a reporter, became editorial director at New English Library, and a full-time writer in 1970s; he edited many anthologies, and reference books devoted to James Bond, Doctor Who, and of course Sherlock Holmes: A SHERLOCK HOLMES SCRAPBOOK (1973), THE FINAL ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1981), and THE TELEVISION SHERLOCK HOLMES (1986).

November 2007 #3

11995. John J. Miller had an interesting essay about Arthur Machen in the Oct. 31 issue of the Wall Street Journal, and discussed his novel THE THREE IMPOSTERS (published in 1895 and reprinted this year by Dover. Miller notes that after borrowing a copy of THE THREE IMPOSTERS, Conan Doyle told his friend Jerome K. Jerome: "Your pal Machen may be a genius all right; but I don't take him to bed with me again!")
11996. Paul B. Smedegaard ("The Randall Gang") died on Nov. 14. He was involved in business administration, and in local politics in Racine, Wis., and an enthusiastic member of many midwestern Sherlockian societies. He enjoyed presiding over his own societies, including C.A.L.A.B.A.S.H. (Convivial Attendant Liaisons Among B.S.I. and Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes) and The Last Dog Hung Post-Prandial Club, and energetically pursued the goal of becoming a member of every one of the all-male Sherlockian societies. He received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1977.
11997. Doug and Laura Marr's play "A Christmas Spirit" (about Conan Doyle and his involvement with Spiritualism) was first staged in 2002, and it will be revived at the Circle Theater in Omaha, Neb. (402-554-4715), through Dec. 22.
11998. In Australia: "Sherlock Holmes and the Unsolved Case at Victor Harbor" is the title of a weekend Steamranger Heritage Train Murder Mystery in Mount Barker and Victor Harbor, scheduled in February and March by the Bearly Together Co. in Adelaide; contact Allen Lyne (8 Redgate Court, Moana Heights, SA 5169, Australia) <www.bearly.net>.
11999. The Sherlock Holmes, the Whitbread theme pub in launched in Northumberland Street in 1957, celebrated it's 50th anniversary with "some small jollification" on Nov. 6, when a selection of ales and popular foods was available in the bar at 1957 prices. The pub still is a fine and atmospheric place to visit, and its web-site at <www.sherlockholmespub.com> explains its history, with lots of photographs.
12000. THE HAMMER STORY: THE AUTHORIZED HISTORY OF HAMMER FILMS, by Marcus Hearn and Alan Barnes (London: Titan Books, 2007; 192 pp., £24.99/\$35.00), is a second revised edition (the first appeared in 1997); it's a fine book, with two pages devoted to the 1959 Cushing/Morrell film "The Hound of the Baskervilles". Wayne Kinsey's HAMMER FILMS: THE BRAY STUDIOS YEARS (Richmond: Reynolds & Hearn, 2002; 356 pp., £19.95) will also be of interest to those who enjoyed the film.
12001. Karen Murdock spotted a story in the Newark Star-Ledger about an exhibition at the Rupert Ravens Contemporary art gallery. Asha Ganpat's "The Marys" (according to the report) is "a votive table covered with scores of 6-inch statues of the Virgin, one of which, as in Sherlock Holmes' 'Adventure of the Six Napoleons,' has a diamond buried in the plaster. Could you smash to Mother of God to find it?"
12002. "Surry Votes Give Holmes Another Term" was the headline on a story in the Newport News Daily Press (Nov. 6), spotted by Ken Lanza; incumbent M. Sherlock Holmes won reelection to the Surry County Board of Supervisors. And he has been active in local politics for decades: a story about him in the N.Y. Times on Jan. 22, 1972, was headlined "Negro Heads Virginia County".

November 2007 #4

12003. <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times07_calendar-special.htm> is the URL for the latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times; it's an advertisement for their new Sherlockian calendar for 2008, with Sherlockian birthdays and events, and new artwork (\$19.99), and for their new Christmas cards (\$19.99 for a pack of ten). The Christmas cards also are available as single cards and in packs of twenty.
12004. Thos. Kent Miller reports that his SHERLOCK HOLMES ON THE ROOF OF THE WORLD (October 91 #3) has a second edition, as THE GREAT DETECTIVE ON THE ROOF OF THE WORLD (Rockville: Wildside Press, 2007; 104 pp., \$14.99); Leo Vincey (whom some will recall from Rider Haggard's SHE and AYESHA) is in Lhasa in 1891, and encounters a Norwegian named Sigerson, who is an excellent detective.
12005. Don Martin's portrait of Sherlock Holmes (or of someone disguised as Sherlock Holmes) appeared in Mad magazine in the early 1970s; you can see it in full color at <www.nachshon.org.il/~its/Don%20Martin/posters/Holmes.jpg>. And it's included in MAD'S GREATEST ARTISTS: THE COMPLETELY MAD DON MARTIN (MAD'S GREATEST ARTIST SERIES), a new two-volume boxed set (Philadelphia: Running Press, 2007; 1200 pages, \$150.00) offering a real fix for his fans.

12006. It's always a pleasure to find that Conan Doyle's work is still in print: *ROUND THE RED LAMP AND OTHER MEDICAL WRITINGS*, edited and with an introduction by Robert Darby (Kansas City: Valancourt Books, 2007; 348 pp., \$16.95), has the 1894 book, three other medical stories, and his non-fiction writings about medicine from 1887 to 1910. Darby's introduction offers an interesting discussion of Conan Doyle's work as a doctor and an author, and the state of medicine when he was in practice; the "realism" of his medical fiction often offended critics, and the reasons for this are intriguing.
12007. Steve Hockensmith's *THE BLACK DOVE* (New York: St. Martin's Minotaur, 2008; 304 pp., \$23.95) is the third in his "Holmes on the Range" series about Old Red and Big Red Amlingmeyer, Montana cowboys who are enjoying the Sherlock Holmes stories as they appear in the 1890s, and solving mysteries on their own; this time they're in San Francisco, mostly in Chinatown and the Barbary Coast, involved with some thoroughly nasty villains. Hockensmith was an Edgar nominee for the first novel in the series, and there are amusing samples of his work at his web-site at <www.stevhockensmith.com>.
12008. Ira Levin died on Nov. 12. Best known for his novels *ROSEMARY'S BABY*, *THE STEPFORD WIVES*, and *THE BOYS FROM BRAZIL*, he also wrote the award-winning Broadway comic thriller "Deathtrap" and the lyrics for "Drat! The Cat", a musical that ran for only eight performances in 1965, and contained a song "Holmes and Watson".
12009. Thierry Saint-Joanis has noted a new French computer game: *CEREBRAL SHERLOCK: LES ENQUETES CEREBRALES DE SHERLOCK HOLMES* (from Anuman Interactive, E19.99); you can see his report at <www.sshf.com> (and you can click on the British for an English version). It's an animated game ("amusant pour les enfants et approuve par les parents"). Thierry maintains the web-site for the Societe Sherlock Holmes de France, and it's well worth a visit.

November 2007 #5

12010. Don Izban reports that SBIOS (Sherlockians by Invitation Only) will hold a Colonel Sebastian Moran Secret Gun Club "Hunt for the Mongoose Named Moriarty" on Feb. 29 (the event takes place only during Leap Years), and they will be celebrating Sherlock Holmes' "real birthday" on Oct. 10. All in Chicago, and additional information is available from Don (1812 Rene Court, Park Ridge, IL 06068).
12011. David Stuart Davies reports that his new pastiche "Sherlock Holmes and the Ghost of Christmas Past" is in the holiday 2007 issue of Andrew Gulli's new Strand Magazine. Subscriptions (four issues) cost \$19.95 (U.S. and Canada) or \$44.95 (elsewhere), and the magazine's address is Box 1418, Birmingham, MI 48012 (800-300-6652) (UK: 800-961-280) <www.strandmag.com>.
12012. The World Fantasy Convention ("Ghosts and Revenants, Memory, History, and Folklore") was held in Saratoga Springs, N.Y. this month, and Barbara and Christopher Roden were special guests, recognizing their Ash-Tree Press and The Ghost Story Society. The convention started in 1975, and you can read about its history at <www.worldfantasy.org>. Note: the Michael Whelan who their award as artist in 1981, 1982, and 1983, isn't the Michael F. Whelan who heads The Baker Street Irregulars.
12013. Harold J. Berman died on Nov. 11. An expert in Russian law, he taught for decades at Harvard Law School and Emory University School of Law; according to his obituary in the N.Y. Times, when he decided to study Soviet law as a World War II army veteran at Yale Law School, there was no one to teach it, so he taught himself, and the first case he ever argued was in 1958 in Moscow, on behalf of the estate of Conan Doyle. The suit was against four Soviet state publishing houses and the Ministry of Culture of the USSR, seeking royalties on the millions of Conan Doyle's books that had been sold in the Soviet Union, and in a Moscow city court he won the right to pursue the case before the Supreme Court of the USSR, where (to no one's surprise) the court ruled that no royalties were owed.
12014. [murmer] is a Canadian documentary oral history project that now includes descriptions of the Arthur Conan Doyle Room at the Toronto Public Library by Barbara Rusch, Doug Wriggleworth, and Peggy Perdue. You can listen to their stories at <www.murmertoronto.ca/trl>; click on "arthur conan doyle room".
12015. Reported: *THE EYE OF JADE*, by Diane Wei Liang (London: Picador, 2007; 240 pp., £12.99); Mei, the heroine, is a private detective in Beijing, as well as an admirer of Sherlock Holmes, and the book's described as "a gripping account of a female gumshoe's search for a Han dynasty artefact in modern Beijing is part thriller and part analysis of the city's past and present." An American edition's due from Simon & Schuster next year.
12016. *MEET ME IN BOHEMIA: A SHERLOCK HOLMES CZECH BOOK* is the excursion book for The Sherlock Holmes Society of London's visit to Prague this year: Bob Ellis and Guy Marriott have edited an excellent anthology of scholarship about the many Canonical aspects of Bohemia and Czechoslovakia; the costs of the handbook is £14.00 (UK), £16.00/E25.00 (Europe), or \$36.00/£18.00 (rest of the world) postpaid from Judi Ellis, 13 Crofton Avenue, Orpington, Kent BR6 8DU, England.

November 2007 #6

12017. Alan Coren died on Oct. 18. He was a writer, magazine editor, and broadcaster, who joined the staff of *Punch* in 1963 and became its editor in 1978; Coren also was a television critic for *The Times*, columnist for many British papers, highly-acclaimed humorist, and author of a children's series that began with *ARTHUR AND THE GREAT DETECTIVE* (1981), and pastiches that included "The Curious Case of the Distressed Gentlefolk" in *Punch* and *THE CRICKLEWOOD DIET* (1982).
12018. There's a new edition of *THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES*, illustrated by Pam Smy (Cambridge: Candlewick Press, 2006; 272 pp., \$17.99); the illustrations are atmospheric and nicely done, and you can see the front cover and an inside spread at <www.candlewick.com>.
12019. Further to the report about Liberton Bank House, where Conan Doyle lived as a child (November 06 #8), the Edinburgh Evening News reports (Nov. 15) that Dunedin School pupils enjoyed their first day at the 18th century house, which has been rescued from neglect after a long restoration campaign.
12020. For admirers of Sherlock Snoopy: I reported the book when it was published (June 82 #3), but only recently have seen *THE SNOOPY COLLECTION: ONE THOUSSAND FABULOUS SNOOPY PRODUCTS*, edited by J-C Soares (New York: Stewart, Tabori & Chang, 1982) (New York: Ballantine Books, 1982); it has photographs of the plush doll and the mini vinyl figure of Snoopy in Sherlockian costume.
12021. Visitors to Australia might want to stop by the Sherlock Holmes Inn in Melbourne; according to a web-site review, "It's about twenty years old, features classic low ceiling (very English pub, we do say) and does big on the traditional idea of having a knees-up."
12022. Dana Richards has for many years specialized in Victorian (as well as modern) puzzles: riddles, conundrums, enigmas, charades, anagrams, acrostics, and many others, and his *VICTORIAN ENIGMAS AND SHERLOCKIAN PUZZLES* offers a fascinating (and challenging) exploration of the genre. His 82-page booklet (published this year by his Petty Puzzle Press) includes solutions, and costs \$12.00 postpaid.
12023. Scott Monty and Burt Wolder have now reached episode #13 of their "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" podcasts at <www.ihearofsherlock.com>, with a 55-minute interview with Jon Lellenberg and Dan Stashower about their work on *ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: A LIFE IN LETTERS*, about their letters, and about Conan Doyle.

12024. Alberene Royal Mail has added a Sherlock Holmes pocket magnifier (\$29.95) a Sherlock Holmes pocket watch (\$59.95), and a Diogenes Club Strangers Room wall clock to their Sherlockian offerings; (Box 902, 9 Mill Alley, Harrisville, NH 03450) (800-843-9078) <<http://www.alberene.com>>.
12025. Ken Lanza spotted a report on The Second Street Irregulars, a group that's "modeled after the Sherlockian Baker Street Irregulars." They're members of the Lizzie Borden Society Forum, who gathered this month in Fall River, Mass., at the Borden House on Second Street. You can read all about it at their web-site at <www.wordpress.com/tag/second-street-happenings>.
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November 2007 #7

12026. Laurie R. King reports that Picador has published new editions of the first four "Mary Russell" books with striking new covers (\$14.00); THE BEEKEEPER'S APPRENTICE, A MONSTROUS REGIMENT OF WOMEN, A LETTER OF MARY, and THE MOOR appeared in October. Her web-site, which has a link to her blog, is at <www.laurierking.com>.
12027. Enola Holmes, the younger sister of Mycroft and Sherlock, was featured in Nancy Springer's THE CASE OF THE MISSING MARQUESS (December 05 #4), and it's now available in paperback (New York: Puffin, 2007; 224 pp., \$4.99). There are two more titles in the series: THE CASE OF THE LEFT-HANDED LADY (New York: Philomel, 2007; 192 pp., \$12.99) and THE CASE OF THE BIZARRE BOUQUETS (New York: Philomel, 2008; 192 pp., \$14.99); for younger readers (ages 9-12).
12028. Reported by Laura Kuhn: THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, read (abridged) by Ben Kingsley on 4 CDs (Ashland: Blackstone Audio, 2007; \$19.95); you can hear a sample at their web-site at <www.blackstoneaudio.com>.
12029. There are two mentions of St. Pancras in the Canon (the St. Pancras Hotel in "A Case of Identity" and the St. Pancras case in "Shoscombe Old Place"), and St. Pancras has been in the news again: the St. Pancras railway station is now the London terminus of Eurostar (that's the company that runs trains through the Channel Tunnel). I'll leave it to the railways experts to provide a list of cases in which Holmes and Watson took trains from the station. St. Pancras Chambers, derelict since the 1980s, is being refurbished as a five-star hotel and apartments; <www.stpancraschambers.co.uk> is the URL for a web-site with interesting photographs, old and new.
12030. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists honored the world's first forensic geologist at dinner in Denver on Oct. 31, during the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America; the visitors were welcomed by Bill Dorn on behalf of Dr. Watson's Neglected Patients. There were two technical sessions, and a public forum, on forensic geology during the convention, with some interesting "war stories" as well as some science. Our next dinners will be in San Antonio on Apr. 23, and in Houston on Oct. 8.
12031. "They Might Be Giants" (the rock group that took its name from the film in which George C. Scott played a psychotic judge who believes that he's Sherlock Holmes) first performed in 1983, and issued its first record in 1986; you may have heard them if you watch "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart" on Comedy Central (they perform the theme). They're on tour now, and were at the 9:30 Club in Washington this month; they're excellent musicians, and if you want to hear them, their tour schedule is available at their web-site at <www.tmbg.com>, where you can also listen to their podcasts.
12032. It has been quite a while since I mentioned The Wolfe Pack (July 96 #1); the society has about 400 members (many of them as fanatic about Nero Wolfe as some Sherlockians are about Holmes), and a web-site at <www.nerowolfe.org>. They have an annual dinner in New York, a literary award called the "Nero" (Laurie R. King won for A MONSTROUS REGIMENT OF WOMEN in 1996) and a lifetime achievement award called the "Archie" (Rex Stout, Agatha Christie, and Arthur Conan Doyle were the first winners in 2005). Membership in the society costs \$35.00 for two years (and includes four issues of The Gazette); Box 230822, Ansonia Station, New York, NY 10023.
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November 2007 #8

12033. Gideon Hill reports "The Complete Conan Doyle Sherlock Holmes" set of 64 CDs with all of the BBC Radio 4 programs that starred Clive Merrison and Michael Williams, released in July by BBC Audiobooks America; it retails for \$250.00 but is discounted to \$139.99 by Tower Books <www.tower.com>. The same CDs were issued earlier by the BBC in Britain as a "Complete Sherlock Holmes Box Set" (November 04 #2) along with a book by Bert Coules offering "a look behind the scenes at the highs and lows that came with the undertaking of such an enormous project," but there's no mention of a book in descriptions of the American set.
12034. The new Disney film "Enchanted" is a delightful and amusing romance, suitable for all ages; if you go to see it you can keep an eye on the jewelry worn by Amy Adams, Susan Sarandon, and others: it was all hand-crafted for the film by Maggie Schpak (whose Investiture in The Baker Street Irregulars is "The Soup Plate Medal").
12035. Frederic Dorr Steele's portrait of Sherlock Holmes appears in full color in the December issue of Smithsonian magazine, on its "This Month in History" page, honoring the appearance 120 years ago of "A Study in Scarlet" in Beeton's Christmas Annual.
12036. MURDER, 'ORRIBLE MURDER (Norfolk: Crippen & Landru, 2006; 238 pp., \$18.00) is a collection of stories by Amy Myers, including her Sherlockian pastiche "The Case of the Faithful Retainer"; Crippen & Landru, Box 9315, Norfolk, 23505 <www.crippenlandru.com>. Her pastiche was first published in Mike Ashley's anthology THE NEW ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (London: Robinson, 1997; 512 pp., £6.99) (New York: Carroll & Graf, 1997, 512 pp., \$10.95).
12037. A gorgeous copy of the first edition of THE LOST WORLD (with Conan Doyle on the front cover, disguised as Prof. Challenger) is shown in full color on the cover of the Oct. 2002 issue of Firsts: The Book Collector's Magazine, which also has Robin H. Smiley's "Books on Film" report on the story. The issue also has Don Herron's article on "Arkham House Ephemera: The Classic Years" (for those who saved, or wish they had saved, August Derleth's brochures, sales lists, and postcards). \$9.00 postpaid; Box 65166, Tucson, AZ 85728 <www.firsts.com>.
12038. G. K. CHESTERTON'S SHERLOCK HOLMES (February 03 #3) offered his essays and his illustrations for a never-published edition of the stories, and the American Chesterton Society now offers a "a 300-pound Christmas gift" (a colorful Christmas-tree ornament). It costs \$24.95 postpaid (4117 Pebblebrook Circle, Minneapolis, MN 55437 <www.chesterton.org>).
12039. Bouchercon 2007 ("Bearly Alive") went well in Anchorage, from all reports. Laurie King moderated a "My Name Is Sherlock Holmes" panel (on "the enduring romance between the great Holmes and his fans"), with Les Klinger, Michael Kurland, and Michael Maslah. Bouchercon 2008 ("Charmed to Death") will be held in Baltimore on Oct. 9-12; the convention's web-site will be found at <www.charmedtodeath.com>. Bouchercon 2009 ("Elementary, My Dear Indy!") will be held in Indianapolis on Oct. 15-18.
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December 2007 #1

12040. The digital world offers more and more opportunities to publish Sherlockian pastiches: "Amazon Shorts" are available at <www.amazon.com> at \$0.49 each, and there are at least three Sherlockian pieces listed "Sherlock Holmes and the Wayward Wife" (by Woodrow W. Walker) and "The Belgian at Baker Street: Did Hercule Poirot Meet Sherlock Holmes" and "A Study in Watson: The Extraordinary Life of the Man Behind Sherlock Holmes" (by Rafe McGregor). Rafe McGregor also has a web-site at <www.rafecmcgregor.co.uk>.
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12041. Rohase Piercy's MY DEAREST HOLMES, was published almost 20 years ago (April 88 #1), and it's now back in print (Charleston: BookSurge, 2007; 144 pp., \$12.99); it's an intriguing book: it is homosexual in its intellectual and emotional approach, but it is neither erotic nor pornographic. It's a twopart pastiche; the first half presenting Watson's account of a new case in 1887, and the second offers a thoroughly revised report on the events that preceded and followed the fateful journey to the Reichenbach.
12042. Further to the item (November 07 #2) on the Easton Press' three-volume THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES: Jon Lellenberg notes that the current edition is not an exact reprint of the Heritage Press edition that appeared in the 1950s, which did not include all the introductions published by the Limited Editions Club. Easton's 1987 edition was a reprint of the Heritage Press set, but Jon recommended that they expand the set to include all the introductions that had appeared only in the Limited Editions set, and the current Easton set has the introductions by Vincent Starrett, Elmer Davis, Fletcher Pratt, Rex Stout, Anthony Boucher, and Christopher Morley. \$59.00 per volume postpaid (item 0135); 677 Connecticut Avenue, Norwalk, CT 06857 (800-211-1308) <www.eastonpress.com>.
12043. The November issue of Ripperologist (November 07 #1) has appeared, with the last of three parts of the early (1907) pastiche "Jack the Ripper: From the Private Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes", and reports on goings-on in the world of students of the infamous murderer. Ripperologist is an electronic journal available at <www.ripperologist.info>. If you want only the three issues with the pastiche, Zinna <editorez@yahoo.co.uk> will be happy to tell you the cost.
12044. Laurie R. King's new stand-alone (and non-Russell) novel TOUCHSTONE will be published on Boxing Day (that's Dec. 26, for those who don't celebrate the holidays in British style), and there's lots of news, as well as a link to her blog, at her web-site at <www.laurierking.com>. The Laurie R. King Online Store at <www.cafepress.com/laurierking/4076810> offers tote-bags and shirts and such that show the covers of the new editions of the first four Mary Russell novels (November 07 #7).
12045. Jean-Paul Gratiis is the editor of SHERLOCK HOLMES DANS TOUS SES ETATS (Paris: Editions Payos & Rivages, 2007; 374 pp., E9.50); the anthology has 13 stories, four by French authors and nine translated from English (including an unpublished out-take from William Kotzwinkle's MURDER IN BUGLAND). Only four of the stories are reprints, and Gratiis has cast his net widely, covering both the old (Stephen Leacock's "Le Mystère qui rend maboul") and the new (Ole Joe's "L'Aventure du clitoris en feu").

December 2007 #2

12046. Francine Kitts has reported THE 101 MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE WHO NEVER LIVED: HOW CHARACTERS OF FICTION, MYTHS, LEGENDS, TELEVISION, AND MOVIES HAVE SHAPED OUR SOCIETY, CHANGED OUR BEHAVIOR, AND SET THE COURSE OF HISTORY, by Allan Lazar, Dan Karlan, and Jeremy Salter (New York: Harper Paperbacks, 2006; 336 pp., \$13.95); Sherlock Holmes is #8.
12047. "It's elementary. EAT SMART" is the title of an imaginative poster (#4417) intended to encourage healthy eating, available from Learning ZoneXpress, Box 1022, Owatonna, MN 55060 (888-455-7003) <www.learningzonexpress.com> for \$14.95. "Find the produce," the poster urges, asking children ("appropriate for grades 1 to 12") to identify "apple, asparagus, beans, Napa cabbage, cantaloupe, dried chili peppers, chives, garlic, grape, lentils, okra, onions, pea, bell peppers, raisins." There are posters with similar "fun food" portraits of Albert Einstein and George Washington, and the company also makes the Sherlock Holmes portrait available on an "It's elementary. READ" poster.
12048. There's a new edition of THE LOST WORLD (London: Headline Review, 2007; 288 pp., £4.99); it's an addition to the "Headline Review Classics" series that included the nine volumes of the Canon (November 06 #4).
12049. Forecast for January: CRITICAL SURVEY OF MYSTERY & DETECTIVE FICTION, edited by Carl Rollyson (Pasadena: Salem Press, 2008; five vols., 2,080 pp., \$399.00); the table of contents and some of the articles (including Terry Heller's discussion of Conan Doyle) can be viewed at the publisher's website at <https://salempress.com/Store/samples/cs_mystery/cs_mystery.htm>. This is a revised and expanded edition; the first (four volume) edition was edited by Frank N. Magill and published in 1988.
12050. Garry James has written about Sherlock Holmes' weapons in the past, and his latest article ("The Guns of Sherlock Holmes") is in the Nov. 2007 issue of Guns & Ammo <www.gunsandammomag.com/classics/ge_sherlock_0711>. Their postal address is 7819 Highland Scenic Road, Baxter, MN 56425 (800-260-6397); \$8.00 postpaid to the US, \$13.00 to Canada, or \$18.00 overseas).
12051. <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times07-12.htm> is the URL for the latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times; in which they offer their S'ian calendar as well as books and other items, as well as some news of recent Sherlockian events.
12052. The 27th annual Sherlock Holmes/Arthur Conan Doyle Symposium ("The Year of the Yard") will be held in Dayton, Ohio, March 7-9, 2008; Cathy Gill manages the mailing list (4661 Hamilton Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45223) (513-681-5507) <chirpsworth@fuse.net>.
12053. Ben Kingsley, who was excellent as Watson in the film "Without a Clue" in 1988, went on to read abridged versions of seven stories from the Canon for Dove Books on Tape (June 89 #4). Kingsley is a fine reader (the stories are (Scan/RedH/Twis/Copp/Card/Croo/Sixn), and the recordings have been reissued on four CDs as THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (\$19.95) by Blackstone Audio (800-729-2665) <www.blackstoneaudio.com>; you can hear a sample reading at their web-site.

December 2007 #3

12054. The American edition of ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: A LIFE IN LETTERS, edited by Jon L. Lellenberg, Daniel Stashower, and Charles Foley (New York: Penguin Press, 2007; 706 pp., \$37.95), is almost the same as the British edition (May 07 #6): there are a few additional explanations of material that might not be familiar to American readers. It's a book that Doyleans and Sherlockians will welcome, and Randall Stock has an excellent web-page, with much more information about the book, at "The Best of Sherlock Holmes" at <members.aol.com/shbest/ref/conan-doyle-life-letters.htm>.
12055. "The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle (Version 2.0)" is Dean Clark's radioplay script, described by Don Hobbs as loosely based on the Canonical tale with a bit of "Without a Clue" thrown in for good measure. The Afghanistan Perceivers of Tulsa and The Diogenes Club of Dallas for performed the play, which Don notes is "a superb stocking-stuffer for silly Sherlockian scion societies." The script is available by e-mail from Dean <dclark@seg.org>.
12056. Pat Ward spotted a three-minute skit from "The Muppet Show" on YouTube, at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=ljrQB2rEtFE>. It's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Disappearing Clues" (with Rowlf as Sherlock Holmes and Baskerville as Dr. Watson); the skit aired on Oct. 18, 1976 (Jim Henson played Rowlf).
12057. Donald J. Terras (whose Investiture in The Baker Street Irregulars is "The Politician, the Lighthouse, and the Trained Cormorant") takes the Investiture seriously: he has been elected president of the American Lighthouse Coordinating Committee, which (of course) has a web-site at <www.alcc.ws>. Don presides over the Grosse Point Light Station near Chicago; its web-site is at <www.grossepointlighthouse.net>. Don lives in the keeper's quarters, and the light station is still in operation as a private aid to navigation on Lake Michigan.

12058. "How tastes change." Denis Welch noted in the New Zealand Listener on Dec. 15. "It was not much more than 60 years ago that the *Listener* authoritatively declared: 'With the possible exception of Sherlock Holmes, the creation of Conan Doyle, no other fiction character is better known to English readers than Captain Kettle.' Captain who?"
12059. Ted Riccardi's THE ORIENTAL CASEBOOK OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (New York: Random House, 2003; 320 pp., \$24.95) was reported earlier (September 03 #3); nine stories about cases Holmes solved during the Great Hiatus in exotic settings, including India, then part of the empire of Edward VII. Riccardi warns in his preface that "the reader who looks to these tales for historical consistency will be disappointed," and that's certainly accurate in this case (Edward traveled to India as Prince of Wales in 1875, and of course Victoria was on the throne during the Great Hiatus).
12060. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London and the Old Court Radio Theatre Company are continuing their CD series, and their latest CD is "The Beryl Coronet and "The Speckled Band" (dramatized by Chris Drake), with a fine cast that includes Jim Crozier as Holmes and Dave Hawkes as Watson. The CD is available from the Society at Mole End, Sandford Road, Chelmsford CM2 6DE, England); £5.00 postpaid to the U.K., £6.00/E9.00 to Europe, £9.00/\$12.00 elsewhere (sterling checks payable to Roger Johnson and dollar checks payable to Jean Upton; euros in currency, please).
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December 2007 #4

12061. Edinburgh's new Conan Doyle Medical Centre was officially opened on Nov. 30; it's located in Nether Liberton Lane, and you will find a color photo at <www.richardmurphyarchitects.com/projects/353>. The medical center, which will serve 3,700 patients, is near Liberton Bank House, where Conan Doyle lived as a child; the long-derelect house has been restored and converted into the Dunedin School (November 07 #6).
12062. Captain who? Captain Owen Kettle was the creation of C. J. Cutcliffe Hyne, as a minor character in HONOUR OF THIEVES (1895) and then in his own story Pearson's Magazine in 1897; he also appeared in THE ADVENTURES OF CAPTAIN KETTLE and other later books, and in silent films. Some of the stories are available on-line at <gaslight.mtroyal.ca/kettmenu.htm>, and there are some interesting web-sites with more information about Cutcliffe Hyne and Kettle at <www.collectingbooksandmagazines.com/hyne.html> and an intriguing blog at <yesterdays-papers.blogspot.com> (use the "search blog" feature to find "kettle").
12063. Admirers of Derham Groves' imaginative work as architect, artist, and writer will be glad to hear that he now has a blog at <www.derhamgroves.com>. There's a long list of categories, including "Sherlock Holmes", where you will find his report on "Conan Doyle's Moustache for Sale". And if you're not familiar with his work, spend some time at his blog.
12064. Dragoncat <www.etsy.com> is the web-site for Earlyynn Collier's hand-painted china and needlework, and she has ten Sherlockian items, including an imaginative night-light. Her postal address is 104 Brunswick Drive, Greenwood, IN 46143.
12065. Bob Katz and Dean Clark spotted a news report about a giant rat discovered in a "lost world" in the remote Foja Mountains in western New Guinea; expedition scientists also found a pygmy possum, one of the world's smallest marsupials. The photograph shows Martua Sinaga with a giant rat that weighed 1.4 kg. Pygmy possums weigh from 10 to 50 grams, and of course one might wonder if giant rats dine on pygmy possums.
12066. Reported: a bit of Conan Doyle in SHORE CHRONICLES: DIARIES AND TRAVELERS' TALES FROM THE JERSEY SHORE 1764-1955, edited by Margaret Thomas Buchholz (West Creek: Down the Shore Publishing, 2003; 368 pp., \$16.95); Conan Doyle visited Atlantic City in 1922, and wrote about it in OUR AMERICAN ADVENTURE (1923), excerpted in Buchholz's book.
12067. Reported: Michael A. Hoey's ELVIS, SHERLOCK & ME (Albany: BearManor Media, 2007; 336 pp., \$24.95); the memoirs (subtitled "How I Survived Growing Up in Hollywood") of the son of Dennis Hoey, who played Lestrade in the Universal "Sherlock Holmes" series.
12068. Scott Monty and Burt Wolder have now reached episodes #14 and #15 of their "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" podcasts at <www.ihearofsherlock.com>, with a two-part interview with Mike Whelan, covering his first experience with Sherlock Holmes, how he became head of The Baker Street Irregulars, and the BSI and its traditions, including the birthday festivities.
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December 2007 #5

12069. The Feb. 2008 issue of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine, which will on the newsstands during the birthday celebrations, offers Sherlockian cover art by Phil Cornell, a new Amlingmeyer brothers pastiche by Steve Hockensmith ("The Devil's Acre"), a pastiche by Ed Hoch ("A Scandal in Montreal"), and reviews of recent Sherlockian and Doylean books by Jon L. Breen.
12070. Miklos Rozsa's "Concerto for Violin and Orchestra" was written for Jascha Heifetz and premiered by the Dallas Symphony Orchestra in 1956; it was then used in the score for Billy Wilder's "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970), and a new recording of the score was issued by Tadlow earlier this year (February 07 #7). Now Naxos has issued a new recording of Rosza's "Violin Concerto" and "Sinfonia Concertante" by the Russian Philharmonic Orchestra on a CD (\$9.98); it's also available from Amazon Digital Services as an MP3 download (\$7.99). This year marks the 100th anniversary of Rosza's birth.
12071. Australia will issue a set of stamps in February honoring the centenary of Scouting in Australia, with a portrait of Lord Robert Baden-Powell on one of the stamps; he is mentioned in Conan Doyle's history THE GREAT BOER WAR, and Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes are mentioned in Baden-Powell's SCOUTING FOR BOYS.
12072. Jeff Falkingham's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE CAPER was published in 2001, and a new "2007 flood edition" was issued this year to benefit flood recovery in Browns Valley, Minn.; there's a brief excerpt at his web-site <www.cccaper.com/excerpt4.html>, and the cost of the 227-page book is \$20.00 postpaid (Box 307, Browns Valley, MN 56219). Falkingham brings Holmes to Browns Valley in 1886 to help solve a series of murders, and the book offers a lot of local history.
12073. Laurie R. King reports that she has started work on her ninth Mary Russell novel, which has the working title THE LANGUAGE OF THE BEES. Her web-site (with a link to her blog) is at <www.laurierking.com>.
12074. Forecast for April: Shane Peacock's DEATH IN THE AIR (Tundra); a sequel to his EYE OF THE CROW (August 07 #3). A flying trapeze artist dies at Holmes' feet, and he notices that the trapeze bar has been cut twice.
12075. Andrew Lycett's THE MAN WHO CREATED SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE (New York: Free Press, 2007; 557 pp., \$30.00) is the American edition of his biography CONAN DOYLE: THE MAN WHO CREATED SHERLOCK HOLMES, published earlier this year in Britain (September 07 #6). Lycett has had access to far more sources than any previous biographer of Conan Doyle, and he was able to make some corrections to statements in the British edition.
12076. Richard L. Kellogg has written for psychologists and children in addition to Sherlockians; his VIGNETTES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (New York: Gryphon Books, 2008; 106 pp., \$16.00) is a collection of 20 essays published in journals that range from The Baker Street Journal to Studies in Psychoanalytic Theory, and the subjects of his essays include James Hilton, Eliot Ness, Allan Pinkerton, and Henry David Thoreau. Gryphon's address is Box 209, Brooklyn, NY 11228 <www.gryphonbooks.com>.
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December 2007 #6

12077. According to a poll commissioned by British health insurer BCWA this year, Dr. Watson "is sadly more well-known to the average Brit than many real-life medics that have actually made a genuine difference to people's lives." Watson was correctly identified by 59% of the respondents, followed by Sir Alexander Fleming (51%), Dr. Kildare (47%), Dr. Frasier Crane (43%), and Florence Nightingale (37%).
12078. Dan L. Hover, Sr., has dramatized "A Study in Scarlet" for a full-cast recording on 4 CDs (\$24.95) available from ACD Productions (Box 191, West Salem, OH 44287) <www.acdproductions.com>; it's well done, with a fine cast, including Ron Cuirle as Holmes and Geoffrey Darling as Watson.
12079. Eleanor Schweickert died on Dec. 13. She was a generous, refined, and gracious lady, the widow of William P. Schweickert, and she was honored by The Baker Street Irregulars as *The* Woman in 1984.
12080. Further to the item (February 07 #2) on the campaign to upgrade the protection of Undershaw, the house where Conan Doyle lived from 1897 to 1907, the Department for Culture, Media, and Sport has rejected the appeal of its decision the building lacks the level of special architectural interest which would justify a Grade 1 listing." The decision (at hand from John Baesch) notes that it cannot be said that the house "survives little-altered from the time when Conan Doyle occupied it," and that "were Conan Doyle to return he would find both the appearance and the 'feel' of his old home much altered."
12081. Dr. William R. Hanson has designed a cachet to accompany his special cancel for the GlenPex Stamp and Postcard Show in Glens Falls, N.Y., on Nov. 17; the cachet shows Holmes and Watson in front of Simpson's on the Strand, and a quote from "The Dying Detective" (which Baring-Gould dated Nov. 19, 1887, almost exactly 120 years before the show opened), and the cancel shows Conan Doyle and James Fenimore Cooper (the show had exhibits on Holmes and Cooper). The cost of the cover is \$4.50 postpaid (to the U.S. and Canada) or \$5.00 (elsewhere); his address is 78 West Notre Dame Street, Glens Falls, NY 12801.
12082. Joe Bevilacqua's 30-minute parody radio series "The Misadventures of Sherlock Holmes" was launched on WKNU-FM (Union City) in 1980 and continued on WBAI-FM (New York) in 1983 and 1984; the programs were available on CDs and cassettes (August 00 #1), and now you can listen to them (and many of his non-Sherlockian programs) without charge at <www.joebev.com> (click on "audio library" and then on "comedy library"). Daws Butler was Joe's good friend and mentor, and wrote the script for the first program ("Sherlock Holmes in Trouble"); go back click on "writings" to find books Joe has written about Daws Butler. There's a photo gallery and more information about the series at <www.comedyorama.com/holmes>.

January 2008 #1

12083. "A long weekend of Sherlockian activities, largely involving too much food and even more drink," was Michel Dirda's forecast in his "Dirda on Books" on-line conversation at <www.washingtonpost.com>, and the description certainly was appropriate. The festivities began with the now-traditional ASH Wednesday supper at O'Casey's, and the Christopher Morley Walk was led by Jim Cox and Dore Nash on Thursday morning (with lunch at McSorley's).
12084. The Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Speaker at the Williams Club on Thursday evening was Sir Christopher Frayling, who presented a fascinating report on the genesis of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" based on new information revealed in Conan Doyle's pocket diary for 1901. You'll be able to read his lecture in The Baker Street Journal later this year (see below for information on how to subscribe).
12085. On Friday members of The Hounds of the Internet met informally at the bar at Moran's Chelsea Seafood Restaurant before the William Gillette Luncheon; the luncheon featured The Friends of Bogie's at Baker Street (Paul Singleton, Sarah Montague, and Andrew Joffe) in a reprise of their 1984 presentation of excerpts from the Canon as written by Chandler, Shakespeare, Pinter, Joyce, and Milne. And Otto Penzler's traditional Mysterious Bookshop open house offered the usual opportunities to browse and buy.
12086. The Gillette Luncheon also featured Evelyn Herzog's announcement of 19 new members of The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes, a society for many years XX-rated (with regard to chromosomes), until 1991, when four men were made full members (with Investitures). At the end of 2006 men were invited to make ASHes of themselves by applying for membership, and the new members are: John F. Baesch ("Cardinal Tosca"), Peter J. Crupe ("The Noble Bachelor"), Allan Devitt ("The Criterion Bar"), Joe Fink ("Tonga"), Alexian Gregory ("The Coptic Monasteries of Syria and Egypt"), Andrew Joffe ("The Dog That Did Nothing in the Night-Time"), Roger Johnson ("Shinwell Johnson"), Robert S. Katz ("Dr. Jackson"), Brad Keefauver ("Something Hunt"), William Nadel ("These Modern Gramophones"), Andrew J. Peck ("The Date Being-?"), Warren Randall ("An Impish Habit"), Christopher Redmond ("The Glamour of His Convictions"), Philip A. Shreffler ("Radix Pedis Diaboli"), Andrew L. Solberg ("Professor Coram"), Thom Utecht ("Montague Street"), Edwin Van der Flaes ("Nonpareil Club"), Bill Vande Water ("A Very Ordinary Individual After All"), and Ben Vizoskie ("Briarbrae").
12087. The Beacon Society gathered for its annual meeting at the Algonquin on Friday afternoon; the group's mission is to encourage and recognize programs that introduce young people to Holmes, and the winner of this year's Beacon award was Watson's Tin Box (the society was honored for its sponsorship of an annual student essay-writing competition).
12088. The Irregulars and their guests gathered for the BSI's annual dinner at the Union League Club, and Heloise Rathbone (granddaughter of Basil Rathbone) was honored as the "highly irregular" guest at the reception, offering some fine stories about her grandfather. The dinner featured the usual toasts and traditions (including Andy Fusco's imaginative and ad-lib rendition of the Constitution and Buy-Laws), Michael Dirda's tribute to Vincent Starrett (this year being the 75th anniversary of the publication of his THE PRIVATE LIFE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES), Betsy Rosenblatt's stirring up-date of Samuel Rosenberg's NAKED IS THE BEST DISGUISE, Ray Betzner's toast to Old Irregular Vincent Starrett, a tribute in song (with words by Henry Boote) to the four senior Irregulars present at the dinner (Art Levine, David Weiss, Peter Blau, and George McCormack), and much more.

January 2008 #2

12089. Mike Whelan (the BSI's "Wiggins") announced the Birthday Honours, awarding Irregular Shillings and Investitures to Betsy Rosenblatt ("Lucy Ferrier"), Dana Richards ("The Priory School"), Dave Morrill ("Count Von Kramm"), Barbara Roisman Cooper ("Mary Maberley"), Randall Stock ("South African Securities"), John Genova ("Harry Pinner"), and Guy Marriott ("The Grand Hotel du Louvre").
12090. Mike also presented the BSI's Two-Shilling Award (for extraordinary devotion to the cause beyond the call of duty) to Sherry Rose-Bond, and the Editor's Medal to Roy Pilot, Al Rosenblatt, and Christopher and Barbara Roden, in recognition of their services as editors of books and Christmas Annuals published by the BSI.
12091. The Gaslight Gala, held at the Manhattan Club, celebrated "Damsels in Distress" with toasts, music and song (by the Gaslight Damsels and Dudes), a skit ("That Was No Lady, That Was My Watson"), Donny Zaldin as "Carnac the Magnificent, Sherlock Style", Don Hobbs' Sherlockian video tour of "Texas, Oklahoma, and perhaps Arkansas", a raffle (a sweatshirt donated by Cynthia Wein), and an auction.

12092. On Saturday morning the dealers room at the Algonquin welcomed (as usual) sellers and buyers, and at 10:30 The Clients of Adrian Mulliner (devotees of the works of both Wodehouse and Watson) gathered for their Junior Bloodstain, which featured a dramatic reading of Marilyn MacGregor's dramatization of Poul Anderson and Gordon R. Dickson's 1953 pastiche "The Adventure of the Misplaced Hound".
12093. The BSI's Saturday-afternoon cocktail party was again at the New York City Bar Association, with entertainment in the auditorium, and dining, and conversation in their reception room. The entertainment began with a performance of Jerome Coopersmith's one-act play "The Other Side" (starring Paul Singleton and Elyse Locurto as Harry and Bess Houdini, and Bob Thomalen and Mary Ellen Rich as Sir Arthur and Lady Conan Doyle), and continued with Al and Betsy Rosenblatt's poetic report on events of the previous year and the previous evening, and Mary Ann Bradley's introduction of the ladies who have been honored by the BSI as the Woman.
12094. Ray Betzner was announced as the winner of the Morley-Montgomery Award (an attractive certificate and a check for \$500) for the best contribution to The Baker Street Journal last year: his article "The Wicked Beginnings of a Baker Street Classic!" And the John H. Watson Fund benefited from energetic sales of raffle tickets (by June Kinnee, Sue Vizoskie, Elaine Coppola, and Carol Cavaluzzi) for a prize donated by Patricia Guy: a bottle of 1985 Masi Amarone ("A census taker tried to quantify me once. I ate his liver with some fava beans and a big Amarone," Hannibal Lecter said, in THE SILENCE OF THE LAMBS).
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January 2008 #3

12095. The Watson Fund (administered by a carefully anonymous Dr. Watson) offers financial assistance to all Sherlockians (membership in the BSI is not required) who might otherwise not be able to participate in the birthday festivities. The generous donors to the this year's auction were Maggie Schpak and the Curious Collectors of Baker Street (a glamorous replica of the Beryl Coronet), Joe Copolla and the Mycroft Holmes Society (an arts-and-crafts style hand-crafted bracket clock), Gail Postal (an oil portrait of Sherlock Holmes), Elaine Coppola (Google's official lapel pin with their Sherlockian logo from May 22, 2005), and Joanne Zahorsky-Reeves (a custom tailored replica of Sherlock Holmes' dressing gown).
12096. A Saturday-evening event was the "Lost in New York with a Bunch of Sherlockians" dinner at Kennedy's Irish Restaurant, where Sherlockian from at least five nations joined Chrys Kegley and The Curious Collectors of Baker Street for additional festivities (including a traditional reading from Ogden Nash's THE PRIMROSE PATH). Many Sherlockians (and a few non-Sherlockians) also attended an evening performance of "Sherlock: Solo", a one-man play that written and performed by Victor Cahn. And Sunday morning a convivial group of visiting and local long-weekenders gathered at the Oldcastle Pub & Restaurant for a brunch arranged by the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes.
12097. I've not reported on everything, I hasten to add; if you want more details than I've provided here, there will be much more in The Baker Street Journal, which is published quarterly and costs \$26.50 a year (\$29.00 outside the U.S.), and checks (credit-card payments accepted from foreign subscribers) should be sent to the BSJ (Box 465, Hanover, PA 17331); and there's an option offering a subscription to the BSJ and to the Christmas Annual for \$36.50 (or \$40.00 foreign). You can also subscribe at the BSJ web-site at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>, where there's additional interesting material such as some of the papers written by past winners of the Morley-Montgomery Awards, articles from recent issues of the BSJ, and information on the BSI's other publications.
12098. And a final note, for those who are planning ahead: The Baker Street Irregulars' next annual dinner will be held on Jan. 9, 2009, honoring the 150th anniversary of the birth of Arthur Conan Doyle and the 75th anniversary of the founding of the BSI. And planning continues for the BSI's "A Study in Scarlet" excursion to Salt Lake City (Aug. 29-Sept. 1), and for the Arthur Conan Doyle Symposium at Harvard University's Houghton Library in Cambridge (May 7-9, 2009).
12099. "A REMARKABLE MIXTURE": AWARD-WINNING ARTICLES FROM THE BAKER STREET JOURNAL, edited and introduced by Steven Rothman (New York: Baker Street Irregulars, 2007; 362 pp., \$35.00), is an anthology of the writings of winners of the Morley-Montgomery Award, from Poul Anderson in 1958 to Harold Billings in 2006. The award was established by Lew David Feldman in honor of Christopher Morley and James Montgomery, and honors the author of the best contribution to The Baker Street Journal in the preceding year; the anthology is a fine demonstration of how interesting the BSJ has been, and is. By mail: (2 Dettling Road, Maynard, MA 01754); \$35.00 plus shipping: \$3.95 (North America) or \$9.95 (elsewhere) plus \$1.50 for each additional copy. You can also order on-line at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>.
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January 2008 #4

12100. George MacDonald Fraser died on Jan. 2. An excellent writer, he was best-known for a long series of novels about the picaresque coward, bully, and womanizer Harry Flashman; Fraser also wrote fine screenplays and insightful introductions to reprints of THE WHITE COMPANY/SIR NIGEL and THE EXPLOITS AND ADVENTURES OF BRIGADIER GERARD. His Flashman series debuted in 1969, and "Flashman & the Tiger" was first published in the Daily Express in 1975 and collected in FLASHMAN AND THE TIGER, AND OTHER EXTRACTS FROM THE FLASHMAN PAPERS (October 99 #4); it's a splendid tale: the "tiger" is Col. Sebastian Moran, with whom Flashman had three encounters (this being the third, in an empty house in Baker Street in 1894).
12101. Fraser's introduction to THE EXPLOITS AND ADVENTURES OF BRIGADIER GERARD is available on-line at <www.nybooks.com/shop/product?product_id=4>; click on "Read the introduction" (kindly reported by Cliff Goldfarb). The book is still in print, as is THE COMPLETE BRIGADIER GERARD, published by Barnes & Noble in 2005 with an introduction by Cliff, and you can read his introduction on-line as well, at <www.barnesandnoble.com> (use their "see inside" feature).
12102. The famous/infamous "tent joke" was unveiled to The Hounds of the Internet in July 1998, and seems to have appeared in print first in the Reader's Digest (Nov. 1998), and it was published here somewhat later (December 01 #6), and it came in second in voting for the world's funniest joke (October 02 #1); it's still being told, by Olivia Wilde (who appears on television in the series "House"), in the January issue of Esquire in their "Funny Joke from a Beautiful Woman" department. You can read the joke (and there's a photograph); go to <www.esquire.com/women> and search for [olivia wilde]. Jim Hawkins noted the magazine's disclaimer: "Esquire cannot guarantee that this joke will be funny to everyone."
12103. <www.cafepress.com> is an interesting web-site with some amusing Sherlockiana: John Pffor has reported a Sherlock Holmes license plate frame (this is one of the six advertised at the site, at \$14.00 each); go to <www.cafepress.com/bakerstreet> and click on "auto accessories" to see all six.
12104. The Mystery Writers of America have announced the nominees for Edgars (to be awarded at their gala banquet on May 1 in New York). The nominees include (best critical/biographical) ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: A LIFE IN LETTERS, edited by Jon L. Lellenberg, Daniel Stashower, and Charles Foley. Their web-site at <www.mysterywriters.org/pages/awards/nominees07.htm> lists the nominees in all the categories.
12105. Tom Dunn launched his The Pipe Smoker's Ephemeris in 1965, and continued to publish it for his Universal Coterie of Pipe Smokers until he died in 2005. Albert Mendez, a stalwart member of the Coterie, has now launched his own The Pipe Smoker's Thing: the first issue (autumn 2006) offered a heart-felt tribute to Tom Dunn, and the third issue (autumn 2007) has 12 pages of almost entirely Sherlockian content. Following in Tom Dunn's
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footsteps, Albert Mendez offers copies on request, "in consideration of a small donation to help defray the costs of printing and postage." His address is 142-35 38th Avenue, Flushing, NY 11354.

January 2008 #5

12106. There were some familiar names on the Queen's New Year's honours list: Sir Ian McKellen and Roy Dotrice. McKellen, who was appointed CBE (Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) in 1979 and knighted in 1991, was appointed to the Order of Companions of Honour (CH) for services to drama and to equality; he appeared in Sherlockian costume in a 4-minute skit ("Hot Air Balloon Mystery Theater") on "Saturday Night Live" (2002). And Roy Dotrice was appointed CBE for services to drama; he played Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in the Disney film "Young Harry Houdini" (1987), and he played Douglas Stone in the BBC-2 dramatization of "The Case of Lady Sannox" (1968).
12107. Edward D. Hoch died on Jan. 17. He was a masterful short story writer, and a novelist and editor. John Dickson Carr once wrote about Hoch that "Satan himself would be proud of his ingenuity"; he had a story in every issue of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine for more than 34 years (sometimes more than one story in an issue, writing under a pseudonym as well as his own name), and 1991 was honored as a Grand Master by the Mystery Writers of America. He wrote many Sherlockian and Doylean pastiches (some of them as R. L. Stevens); his "A Scandal in Montreal" appeared in the February issue of EQMM that was distributed at the Baker Street Irregulars' annual dinner.
12108. "To be a book-collector is to combine the worst characteristics of a dope fiend with those of a miser." Robertson Davies, in THE TABLE TALK OF SAMUEL MARCHBANKS (kindly, or perhaps unkindly, forwarded by Alan Rettig).
12109. "The Case of the Influential Illustrator: Sidney Paget's Sherlock Holmes" is the title of an exhibition that opened on Dec. 1 at the Church Farmhouse Museum in Greyhound Hill, London, and will remain open through May 5. The exhibition honors the centenary of Paget's death in January 1908, and the museum is located near Finchley, where Paget lived for a time and is buried in Marylebone Cemetery. There's more information about the museum at its web-site at <www.churchfarmhousemuseum.co.uk>
12110. <www.westminster.gov.uk/libraries/special/sherlock.cfm> is the URL for the web-site for the Marylebone Library's Sherlock Holmes Collection, with news of the discovery of two portraits painted by Sidney Paget; there's a link to Catherine Cooke's interesting discussion of the portraits.
12111. Interesting things turn up at auction (thanks to Wilfrid de Freitas for observing this item): a copy of Mary Conan Doyle's A VISIT TO HEAVEN (1899), inscribed "With the Author's loves" (Arthur Conan Doyle's daughter was nine year old at the time); it sold for £780 (plus premium and tax) at Bonhams in Bath on Oct. 30. And Alec Guinness' handwritten 20-page script for his dramatization of "The Adventure of the Dying Detective" (done in 1929, when he was a 15-year-old schoolboy) went for £360 (also plus premium and tax) at Bonhams in Knightsbridge on June 20.
12112. The Norwegian Explorers' "Christmas Annual 2007" has fine tributes to Allen Mackler and his 221B room (now on display at the University of Minnesota), a tour of other reproductions of the sitting-room, and additional scholarship, entertainment, and poetry; the 46-page booklet is available from John Bergquist (3665 Ashbury Road, Eagan, MN 55122) for \$8.00 postpaid (checks payable to The Norwegian Explorers, please).
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January 2008 #6

12113. Lionsgate will have its premiere for "The Bank Job" in London on Feb. 25. The film had the working title "Baker Street" and claims to be based on the bank robbers who tunneled into a Lloyds Bank on Baker Street in 1971 and got away with £1.5 million; some of the culprits were caught and convicted in 1973, and of course newspapers and magazines noted similarities to "The Red-Headed League" (November 06 #8). A story by John Millar, spotted by John Baesch in The Express on Sunday (Jan. 6), reports that in the film it's a safety-deposit box robbery, set up by MI5 to recover sexually compromising photographs of a British princess, and that there was a note scribbled on the inside of the safe: "Let Sherlock Holmes try to solve this."
12114. Benton Wood ("A Scandal in Bohemia") died on Dec. 8, 2007. He was an educator, chaplain, philatelist, and numismatist, and for many years the Recorder of The Pleasant Places of Florida. He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1979, succeeded the Rev. Leslie Marshall as the Chaplain of the BSI; and received the BSI's Two-Shilling Award in 1997.
12115. "World Book Club" is a 27-minute weekly series broadcast by the BBC World Service, and Harriett Gilbert's interview with Umberto Eco about THE NAME OF THE ROSE aired on Dec. 29. You can download the interview (and earlier broadcasts) at <www.bbc.co.uk/podcasts/worldservice/wbc>.
12116. RBC Computers made some of the Soviet "Sherlock Holmes" television series starring Vasily Livanov available on cassettes and DVDs with English subtitles some years ago (November 02 #1); the company's now called RussianDVD.com (269 Brighton Beach Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11235) (800-901-5543), with a website at <www.russiantvd.com>, and the DVDs are in NTSC format. Phil Bergem reports that if you order all five titles, they arrive as a boxed set.
12117. Interesting and useful things continue to turn up on the Internet: Ken Lanza has noted Chris Haycock's web-site at <www.sherlockandwatson.com>, where he offers a download of the text of all the Sherlock Holmes stories, with a long list of Conan Doyle's other fiction and non-fiction, all for \$19.97.
12118. Another example of how interesting the Internet can be: "The Author Trail" at <www.authortrail.eu> offers you a chance to identify some of the sites in East Sussex, Medway (in Kent), and the Somme associated with famous authors (including Conan Doyle, for whom the East Sussex map provides links for Crowborough, Forest Row, Groombridge, Newhaven, Rotherfield, and Winchelsea).
12119. Jon Lellenberg has reported an interesting review of Matthew Hughes' novel MAJESTRUM: A TALE OF HENGHIS HAPTHORN: Publishers Weekly called Hapthorn a "sleuth who combines the confident brilliance of Sherlock Holmes with the amusing voice of P. G. Wodehouse's Bertie Wooster, in a fantastical mystery reminiscent of Randall Garrett's Lord Darcy novels." A second novel (THE SPIRAL LABYRINTH has already been published, and a third is in the works. Hapthorne first appeared in six imaginative stories published in The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction in 2004 and 2005, and they've been collected in THE GIST HUNTER AND OTHER STORIES. Night Shade Books is the publisher, with a web-site at <www.nightshadebooks.com>, and you can read excerpts from the two novels at <www.archonatebooks.com>.
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January 2008 #7

12120. Raymond Betzner has edited the 75th anniversary edition of Vincent Starrett's THE PRIVATE LIFE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Indianapolis: Gasogene Books, 2008; 221 pp., \$29.95); the new edition is a splendid tribute to Starrett and his book (which Julian Wolff said was "the greatest book about Sherlock Holmes that has ever been written"), with a facsimile of the first edition (1933), an appreciation of Starrett by Robert J. Mangler, a discussion of the origins of Starrett's book, and a bibliography of the many subsequent editions. \$37.20 postpaid (to the U.S.) from the publisher (Box 68308, Indianapolis, IN 46268) <www.wessexpress.com>; costs of shipping outside the U.S. available at the web-site.
12121. Gasogene has also published BAKER STREET RAMBLES, by Leslie S. Klinger (210 pp. \$18.95), reprinting his Sherlockian essays and reviews (and a radio-play script) that appeared in various journals and newspapers from 1994 to 2005. \$24.45 postpaid (to the U.S.); publisher's address as above).
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12122. THE QUINTESSENTIAL SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Richard L. Boyer (Alexander: Alexander Books, 2008; 496 pp., \$75.00), is a collection of five pastiches, from "The Giant Rat of Sumatra" (1976) to "The Wilton Water Horror" (2007); it's a deluxe leather-bound and boxed edition, with atmospheric illustrations by Phil Hawkins. Four of the stories are reprints, but they have been revised and expanded for this volume. The publisher's at 65 Macedonia Road, Alexander, NC 28701 (800-472-0438) <www.sherlockholmeslives.com>. Boyer won an Edgar (for best novel) in 1983 for his BILLINGSGATE SHOAL, the first in his series of "Doc Adams" mysteries.
12123. The March issue of Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine has "The Adventure of the Red Circle" with annotations by Leslie S. Klinger, who also contributed a guest editorial ("The Immortal Sherlock Holmes") on Holmes' enduring appeal to modern readers. Les reports that several of the annotations are new, bringing the scholarship current.
12124. Add another site to a tour of places associated with THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES: Parnham House, near Beaminster in Dorset. The Wrenwood Hotel's web-site states that "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, awoken by the baying of the hounds during a night's stay at Parnham, is said to have been inspired by the sound to write his famous classic THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES." But the Automobile Association's EXPLORING BRITAIN'S HISTORIC HOUSES (by Penny Wicks, 1995) offers a rather different story: "In the 1920s Parnham was a fashionable country club, and its patrons included the Prince of Wales and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Conan Doyle always stayed in what is now the Country Room, and was convinced that it was haunted."
12125. "The Madness of Sherlock Holmes: Conan Doyle and the Realm of the Faeries" is a 70-minute DVD written, directed, and narrated by Philip Gardiner, who has written books that include QUANTUM MIND OF GOD and GATEWAYS TO THE OTHERWORLD. Produced by Reality Entertainment (\$24.95), the DVD explores the gnostic, theosophist, and mystic aspects of Holmes and Conan Doyle; there's a 3-minute preview at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=cbUczdKhDQ8>. There's also an audiobook, available at <www.real2can.com/storeaudiobooks.htm> for purchase (oe10.99) or MP3 download (\$10.99). And you can interview with Gardiner about some of his non-Sherlockian books can be heard at a metaphysical talk show at <www.exploreyourspirit.com/podcasts.html>.

January 2008 #8

12126. The Toronto Public Library has made available a digital edition of Lady Conan Doyle's diary for Conan Doyle's tour of Canada in 1914. You can turn pages, zoom in and out, and click on related text notes and images; the URL is <ve.torontopubliclibrary.ca/showcase/lcd_diary>, and it's a grand example of what can be done with up-to-date digitization (and the Internet), and it is well worth a visit.
12127. Yuichi Hirayama has resumed his English-language blog about "Sherlockiana in Japan" at <ameblo.jp/shinjanpan>, and his web-site for the Shoso-in Bulletin is at <www1.parkcity.ne.jp/hirayama>.
12128. Karen Murdock reports her discovery of Kessinger Publishing's Rare Reprints <www.kessinger.net>; they publish "thousands of rare, scarce, and out-of-print books," and there are many titles available if you search for [conan doyle] or [sherlock holmes].
12129. Patricia Guy's BACCHUS AT BAKER STREET was published some years ago (November 95 #6), and it's now back in print (Lincoln: iUniverse, 2007; 150 pp., \$13.95) with the subtitle "Sherlock Holmes & Victorian Drinking Lore" and new (and attractive) cover art by Gianni Burato. She discusses the wine, beer and spirits found in the Canon, and the brewers, vintners, barkeepers and winemercants, with flavor and humor and an occasional surprise.
12130. <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times08-1.htm> is the URL for the latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times, in which they offer their S'ian calendar as well as books and other items, as well as Sherlockian news and web-links.
12131. Ten years ago Ramute Plioplys, a member of The South Downers near Chicago, created a series of attractive Sherlockian eggs, to hang on your Christmas tree or elsewhere; they were decorated in the Lithuanian tradition (using heated beeswax and multiple dye baths) and featured dancing men and S'ian mottos. Ramute died last year, and her brother has showcased her art on a new web-site at <www.ramute-plierplys.com>, where you can see her Sherlock Holmes Eggs and her other creations.
12132. Reported by Phil Attwell: the Royal Mail's presentation pack for the set of stamps honoring James Bond, issued on Jan. 8, includes a time-line for Bond and his creator Ian Fleming; the entry for Bond in 1964 states "Bond--like Sherlock Holmes--declines a knighthood." There are links to more information about the stamps at <www.royalmail.com/portal/stamps>.
12133. Ales Kolodrubec reports that a Czech publisher (Garamond) has issued a series of bilingual editions (English on one page and Czech on the other) of Sherlock Holmes stories (three short stories or one novel per volume) and some of Conan Doyle's non-Sherlockian stories. The books cost from \$9.00 to \$14.00 each plus shipping, and if you're interested you should send an e-mail to Ales at <ales@sherlockholmes.cz> and ask for more information. Another company is publishing Czech translations of some of Conan Doyle's non-Sherlockian work, and Ales has information about them as well.

February 2008 #1

12134. The "Sherlock Holmes Weekend" in Cape May, N.J., on Mar. 7-9 will include a new mystery ("Sherlock Holmes and the Music Box Murders") presented by Midsummer Night Productions, and a performance of Craig Wichman's dramatization of "The Speckled Band" by the East Lynne Theater Company. The festival web-site at <www.capemaymac.org/tours/winter/special/sherlock.html> has more information (the Sherlock Holmes weekends have been held in the spring and fall for many years).
12135. I began last month's issue quoting from Michael Dirda's weekly on-line conversation "Dirda on Books" at <www.washingtonpost.com>, and I might as well do it again: he was asked to recommend a collection of the Sherlock Holmes stories that can be read without the assistance of a magnifying glass, and he had three suggestions: the Heritage Press edition, the OXFORD ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES, and THE NEW ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES, noting that for the last of the three that you "would have to enjoy or put up with the bizarre kind of playful scholarship associated with the Baker Street Irregulars."
12136. <www.sherlockiancalendar.homestead.com>, maintained by Ron Fish and Ben and Sue Vizoskie, is an excellent list of upcoming Sherlockian events, for anyone who would like to know what's happening when, and where; if you want to have something listed, Ron is at <ronf404@aol.com>.
12137. "Despot Bigwigs Ban Sherlock Holmes Carriage" was the headline on a story in the Hampstead & Highgate Express (Jan. 18), at hand from Ken Lanza. The historic hansom cab (which is billed as London's only Victorian horse-drawn taxi) has been banned from the Royal Parks because it advertises the Sherlock Holmes Museum. A spokesman for Royal Parks (which include Hyde Park, Green Park, and Regent's Park) said that "managing the parks is about balance and we seek to limit commercialization and advertising where we can." John Aidiniantz, director of the museum, said that "it is not reasonable or practical for us to cover up our advertising," and that the museum has been trying to get a commercial license to travel through the Royal Parks for 15 years. Aidiniantz said the latest refusal is "the last straw," and the cab has now been taken off the

streets, because "you cannot take the cab around London without going through the parks because you have to go around them which is no good for the horses."

12138. An addition to the familiar names on the Queen New Year's honours list (January 08 #5): June Lancelyn Green (Richard Lancelyn Green's mother) was appointed MBE (Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) for services to the community in Merseyside. Thanks to Steve Rothman for the report.
12139. Michael Cox, the executive producer of the Granada "Sherlock Holmes" television series, was the keynote speaker at the first Sherlock Holmes Review symposium at Indiana University in Bloomington in 1987, offering his audience the inside story of the creation of the series. His talk was recorded, and it's a delight to hear his account of the imagination and hard work involved in launching and continuing the series. "A Study in Celluloid" is a 58-minute CD available from the Wessex Press (Box 68308, Indianapolis, IN 46268) <www.wessexpress.com>. \$18.45 postpaid (to the U.S.); see the website for shipping costs outside the U.S.

February 2008 #2

12140. OLD DEVIL MOON, by Christopher Fowler (London: Serpent's Tail, 2007; 296 pp., £7.99/\$14.95); his tenth collection of "dark and sometimes uneasily humorous" short stories, including "The Lady Downstairs" (an amusing Sherlock Holmes story told by his landlady, who has an entirely different perspective on the Great Detective); the story was read by Hannah Gordon in the BBC 7 radio series "Cult Holmes" in 2005.
12141. Nancy Springer's "Enola Holmes" mysteries continue with THE CASE OF THE BIZARRE BOUQUETS (New York: Philomel, 2008; 170 pp., \$14.99); the series is for young readers, and the stories and characterizations are excellent (THE CASE OF THE MISSING MARQUESS and THE CASE OF THE LEFT-HANDED LADY are the previous books). Enola is the younger sister of Mycroft and Sherlock, and is hiding from them in London and solving mysteries on her own.
12142. Al Gregory <gaslightandfog@earthlink.net> offers (by e-mail only) his 2008 edition of "The ABC of the BSI" (an alphabetical listing of Investitures, with recipients, from "Abbey Grange" to "Young Stamford") and "The Florin Society" (couples in which both spouses have received Irregular Shillings).
12143. The Pleasant Places of Florida are sponsoring a Sherlock Holmes Film Festival at St. Petersburg College on Mar. 29; it's open to the public without charge, and the films are "The Case of the Whitechapel Vampire" (2002, with Matt Frewer), "The Musgrave Ritual" (1986, with Jeremy Brett), and "Sherlock Holmes and the Baker Street Irregulars" (2007, with Jonathan Pryce). This is the sort of event that brings new members to a society, of course, in addition to helping "keep the memory green."
12144. Rupert Holmes (who is perhaps best known as the author of the musical "The Mystery of Edwin Drood" and whose pen name reflects his enjoyment of Rupert Knickerbocker beer and the Canon) has joined the executive committee of the International Mystery Writers' Festival, and he has adapted two episodes of his delightful television series "Remember WENN" (1996) for performance (as "Armchair Detective: A Remember WENN Musical Mystery") in Owensboro, Ky., June 12-22. "Remember WENN" was a 30-minute series about a fictional radio station in Pittsburgh during the golden age of radio, and "Armchair Detective" had the station doing a Sherlock Holmes broadcast. The festival website <www.newmysteries.org> will have more information about the schedule, which also will feature Stuart Kaminsky's dramatization of his short-story pastiche "The Final Toast" (1987).
12145. "In lighter moments she turns to Conan Doyle," Wilson Harris wrote, in an article on "The Education of a Queen" in the Atlantic Monthly (Dec. 1943), also reported by Jon Lellenberg. The article was about Princess Elizabeth, then 17 years old, and Harris hoped that she read THE WHITE COMPANY as well as SHERLOCK HOLMES. You can read the entire article at the Atlantic's website at <www.theatlantic.com/doc/194312/queen-elizabeth>.
12146. Plan ahead (but decide quickly): the announcement for the Baker Street Irregulars' "A Study in Scarlet" excursion to Salt Lake City on Aug. 29-Sept. 1 is being mailed to those who asked Mike Whelan to put them on the mailing list; space will be limited, so if you haven't asked to be on the mailing list already, write to Michael F. Whelan (7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278).

February 2008 #3

12147. "There have been millions of detective stories over the years. Many of them are forgettable. Somehow Sherlock Holmes has endured, mainly because no one could write a detective story as brilliantly as Conan Doyle and nobody could come up with a character as interesting and flawed as Sherlock Holmes." Stan Lee (who has created some enduring characters himself), interviewed at <www.forbes.com> on Feb. 7. Thanks to Ken Lanza for spotting this.
12148. Laurie R. King discusses THE ART OF DETECTION on a new 38-minute DVD "Mysterious California: Four Authors" created by Pamela Beere Brings and William McDonald for the California Center for the Book, which offers a "book club in a box" without charge to libraries in California <www.calbook.org>. The other authors are Kirk Russell (SHELL GAMES), Nina Revoyr (SOUTHLAND), and Nadia Gordon (SHARPSHOOTER), and all four of them have written mysteries set in California and have interesting things to say about their books. The DVD is available for purchase by out-of-state libraries (\$85.00 to public libraries, and \$150.00 to college and university libraries) at the website or by phone (800-343-5540). The filmmakers also have kindly made it available to individuals for home use only at a "writer's discount" price of \$35.00 until June 1 (same phone number: 800-343-5540).
12149. Laurie already has written more than 100 pages of her next book, THE LANGUAGE OF BEES. It's the new Mary Russell/Sherlock Holmes novel, of course, and you'll find more information about Laurie and her work and her blog at her web-site <www.laurierking.com>.
12150. And Laurie will be on tour, making appearances in the Detroit area on Apr. 16-18, discussing THE BEEKEEPER'S APPRENTICE and signing books. Details at their web-site <www.everyonesreading.info/meetathr.hrm>
12151. Barry Morse died on Feb. 2. Best known as Lt. Philip Gerard, who pursued Richard Kimble in the 1960s television series "The Fugitive", he began his acting career when he received a scholarship to the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts in the 1930s, and went on to act on stage and screen and television for more than 60 years. He played Carter Morstan in CBS-TV's "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" (1987).
12152. Reported: L'AFFAIRE DU CHIEN DES BASKERVILLE, by Pierre Bayard (Paris: Les ditions de Minuit, 2008; 166 pp., E14.50; Bayard is a psychoanalyst and a professor of French literature, and the author of HOW TO TALK ABOUT BOOKS YOU HAVEN'T READ, and in his latest book he concludes that Sherlock Holmes got it wrong, and that Sir Charles Baskervilles wasn't killed by Jack Stapleton with the help of a gigantic dog. In other books Bayard has suggested that Hamlet got it wrong (Claudius didn't kill his father) and that Poirot also got it wrong (in THE MURDER OF ROGER ACKROYD). The new book is available only in French (so far).
12153. Sherlockian societies in southern cities (Atlanta, Nashville, Birmingham, and Greenville) will hold their Fourth Annual Gathering of Southern Sherlockians at the Sheraton Read House in Chattanooga, Tenn., on Apr. 12-13; the festivities will include a performance of Brad Keefauver and Bill

February 2008 #4

12154. There may be Sherlockians still alive who saw Basil Rathbone on stage as Sherlock Holmes in 1953, and there certainly are some who could have but didn't, because they didn't attend the try-outs in Boston or the (only) three performances in New York. Susan Dahlinger and Glen Miranker have researched the history of the play for The Baker Street Journal's Christmas Annual for 2007 ("Rathbone Returns! A Misadventure Called Sherlock Holmes), and it is a delight to read their story of how the play came to be written and produced, and about why it failed. \$11.00 postpaid (or \$12.00 outside the U.S.) from the BSJ at 2 Dettling Road, Maynard, MA 01754; you can also order on-line at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>.
12155. SIR HUGO'S LITERARY COMPANION: A COMPENDIUM OF THE WRITINGS OF HUGO'S COMPANIONS, CHICAGO, ON THE SUBJECT OF MR. SHERLOCK HOLMES, edited by David C. Humphrey (Lincoln: iUniverse, 2007; 167 pp., \$22.95 cloth or \$12.95 paper or \$6.00 eBook), is very much what the subtitle announces: the authors include Vincent Starrett, Jay Finley Christ, and Robert J. Mangler, and their works range from scholarship to parody. Signed copies are available from the editor (1843 Winnetka Avenue, Northfield, IL 60093); \$28.95 postpaid.
12156. Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" will be performed at the Western Stage (156 Homestead Avenue, Salinas, CA 93901), from Aug. 15 to Sept. 14. Box office at (831-375-2111) <www.westernstage.com>.
12157. If you're still seeking an attractive Sherlockian calendar for 2008, Bill Dorn's colorful calendar is illustrated with scenes from 24 films and television shows, notes more than 250 events from the Canon television, and includes a dozen original limericks; it's discounted to \$10.00 postpaid (to the U.S.) or \$12.00 to Canada or \$15.00 elsewhere), from William S. Dorn at 2045 South Monroe Street, Denver, CO 80210. You can see sample pages (and other Sherlockian offers) at his web-site at <www.thesherlockstore.com>.
12158. Further to the report (January 08 #8) on the new Czech bilingual editions (English on one page and Czech on the other), Don Hobbs reports there are similar Arabic/English, Danish/English, French/English, German/English, Japanese/English, Korean/English, Russian English, Spanish/English, and Swedish/English editions. If you can add to the list, please let me know.
12159. Shirley Dickensheet ("Ivy Douglas") died on Feb. 8. She was an energetic member of The Trained Cormorants and then The Scowlers and Molly Maguires, and she one of the speakers at John Bennett Shaw's Sherlockian seminar at Stanford University in 1987. She was working for the Fireman's Fund when they insured in Loch Ness Monster in 1969, and paid off when it sank during the filming of "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (the submersible is now at the bottom of the Loch, waiting to be found by one of the many people who still pursue "Nessie"). Shirley and her husband Dean were the sparking plugs for Vamberry's Ltd. (Wine Merchants) and The Beaune Press, and she received her Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1993.
12160. The Sound & Fury Fakespearean Players performed their "Sherlock Holmes and the Saline Solution" in Los Angeles in 2006 (May 06 #4), and they're planning to repeat the show during the Fringe Festival in Winnipeg in July. You can see their poster at <sherlock.soundandfury.org>, and you can purchase the DVD (\$20.00) <www.soundandfury.org>; click on [Product] at the left.
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February 2008 #5

12161. Emory Lee has spotted an advertisement for SHERLOCK IN SHANGHAI: STORIES OF CRIME AND DETECTION, by Cheng Ziaoping (Honolulu: University of Hawai'i, 2006; 214 pp., \$24.00); Cheng Ziaoping (1893-1976), described as the most popular author of Chinese detective fiction in the first half of the 20th century, wrote many stories about Huo Sang and Bao Lang (his fictional counterparts to Holmes and Watson) set in Shanghai in the 1920s and 1930s (and a 1940s edition of the Huo Sang stories ran to 40 volumes).
12162. The December issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota has Julie McKuras' discussion of Edith Meiser, Philip Bergem's "100 Years Ago" report on the scrapbook from the wedding of Sir Arthur and Lady Jean Conan Doyle, Jon L. Lellenberg's amusing story about a damaged portrait of Conan Doyle that Jon has donated to the Collections, and other news from Minneapolis. Copies of the newsletter are available from Richard J. Sveum, (111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <sveum001@tc.umn.edu>.
12163. <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times08-2.htm> is the URL for the latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times from Classic Specialties; their new offers include T-shirts and sweatshirts displaying a "Cogitavit ergo sum" design, based on a design by Tom Rieschick. The Latin paraphrases Descartes' famous dictum "Cogito ergo sum" and translates as "He [Conan Doyle] thought, therefore I am."
12164. A poll of 3,000 teenagers in Britain revealed that 27% think that Florence Nightingale was a mythical character, and 20% believe that Winston Churchill was fictional. And that 58% believe that Sherlock Holmes really lived at 221B Baker Street, and 51% think that Robin Hood actually lived in Sherwood Forest. 77% admitted they didn't read history books, and 61% changed channels rather than watch historical programs on television. The poll was commissioned by the cable channel UKTV Gold, which has launched a new "Robin Hood" series; UKTV Gold's Paul Moreton said that "the elevation of mythical figures to real life showed the impact good films could have in shaping the public consciousness." "Stories like Robin Hood are so inspiring," he added, "that it's not surprising people like to believe these characters really existed." The story was picked up by many newspapers, demonstrating that UKTV Gold knew how to get attention for its "Robin Hood" series.
12165. The next annual STUD-Watsonian Weekend will be held in and near Chicago on Apr. 11-13; the schedule includes a dinner (with Julie McKuras as the featured speaker), a running of The Silver Blaze at Hawthorne Race Course, and a Fortescue Honours brunch. Registration forms are available from Susan Z. Diamond (16W603 3rd Avenue, Bensenville, IL 60106) <szdiamond@comcast.net>.
12166. Michael A. Hoey's ELVIS, SHERLOCK & ME: HOW I SURVIVED GROWING UP IN HOLLYWOOD (Albany: Bear Manor Media, 2007; 335 pp., \$24.95) is written with humor and style, about the author's interesting career in Hollywood, but (more important for Sherlockians) it offers an excellent account of the stage and screen career of his father, Dennis Hoey, who played Lestrade in six of the Basil Rathbone films made by Universal in the 1940s.
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February 2008 #6

12167. "Battered by talk of national decline and chronic instability, Italy has rediscovered a forgotten hero," Richard Owen wrote in a dispatch to The Times (Feb. 18). The forgotten hero is Dorando Pietri, who was the first to cross the finish line in the marathon in the Olympics in 1908, only to have the prize withdrawn because he had been assisted toward the finish line by officials on the track. It has been alleged that Pietri was helped by Conan Doyle, but he actually was in the stands, covering the race as a correspondent for the Daily Mail.
12168. Billy E. Ross ("The Abergavenny Murders") died on Jan. 28. He entered the Sherlockian world as a member of The Maiwand Jezails, and after moving east to be a professor of educational administration at the University of Delaware was a member of The Sons of the Copper Beeches and The Six Napoleons. Billy received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1977.
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12169. The winter issue of *The Magic Door* (the newsletter published by The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) has Barbara Rusch's report on Andrew Lycett's talk at the Library in October, Peggy Perdue's discussion of new acquisitions from the family archives, and greetings from Mary Rae Shantz, the new manager of special collections at the Library. Doug Wigglesworth (16 Sunset Street, Holland Landing, ON L9N 1H4, Canada) <doug.wrig@sympatico.ca> will be happy to send you a copy of the latest issue.
12170. Karen Ellery has found an interesting web-site for people who want to read translations into Russian: <www.fictionboon.ru> offers (according to their count) 17,273 books, including some of the Sherlock Holmes stories, SIR NIGEL, and Frank Thomas' SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE GOLDEN BIRD.
12171. <www.hclibrary.org/partners/holmescontest.php> is the URL for this year's Sherlock Holmes Essay Contest for seventh-grade students in Howard County, Md. The contest is sponsored by Watson's Tin Box, and students will write a five-paragraph analytical essay on "The Speckled Band"; the web-site has a link to a booklet that teachers and students can use for the content.
12172. *THE CRIMES OF DR. WATSON*, by Duane Swierczynski (Philadelphia: Quirk Books, 2007; 60 pp., \$24.95), is an "interactive mystery" with pull-out clues that allow readers to pretend they're Sherlock Holmes and solve a formerly lost case; the format's reminiscent of the murder dossiers edited by Simon Goodenough in the 1980s, but the adventure is a new one, with some interesting twists and turn.
12173. An interesting letter written by Conan Doyle about "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be at auction at Bonhams in London on Mar. 18 (sale 16199, lot 276) <tinyurl.com/2ng6pj>. Conan Doyle wrote to Cecil P. Turner that "My story was really based on nothing save a remark of my friend Fletcher Robinson's that there was a legend about a dog on the Moor connected with some old family. I had no place in my eye." Turner seems to have written to Conan Doyle asking if the story had been based on the Black Dog of Hergest Croft, which haunted the Vaughan family in Herefordshire.

March 2008 #1

12174. The winter 2007 issue of the *Soci,t, Sherlock Holmes de France's QuinCahier* has arrived; 24 pages all in color (and all in French), with news, scholarship, a quiz, and grand artwork by Jean-Pierre Cagnat; 8 euros postpaid to France or 10 euros to Europe or 12 euros elsewhere (36 avenue Jean-Jaurès, 63500 Issoire, France). You can see what it looks like at their web-site at <www.sshf.com>, and order there with PayPal. The web-site also offers a fine look at the imaginative things the French are up to.
12175. For completists: *CELEBRATING BOARD GAMES*, by Nine Chertoff and Susan Kahn (New York: Sterling Publishing Co., 2006; 144 pp., \$10.00), is a colorful review of board games, from 1861 to the present, with two pages devoted to "Alfred Hitchcock Presents Why" (a 1958 game with a character piece named Shylock Bones).
12176. There haven't been any Sherlockian comic books in quite a while, but Greg Darak reports a S'ian panel in *DONALD DUCK: THE CASE OF THE MISSING MUMMY* (published by Gemstone in 2007, \$8.99); Gemstone seems to be the successor to Gladstone, and the comic's available at their website at <www.gemstonepub.com/disney>.
12177. Mimi Langley died on Feb. 24. She was for many years a member of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London, and one of the volunteers who answered the letters written to Sherlock Holmes at 221b Baker Street, when they were delivered to the Abbey National Bank.
12178. And now for something non-Sherlockian and non-Doylean: a computerized geography quiz at <www.travelpod.com/traveler-iq> that allows you to test your knowledge of the world. You get points for being close, and fast, and no one else need know how you scored. Compliments to Peter Ashman for finding and reporting the quiz.
12179. Roger Llewellyn's tour in David Stuart Davies' new play "The Death and Life of Sherlock Holmes" (September 07 #2) started on Mar. 6 in Guildford, and it continues in Britain through Sept. 6; The Sherlock Holmes Society of London's web-site <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/event_info.php?id=120> has a detailed schedule.
12180. *ANTHONY BOUCHER: A BIOBIBLIOGRAPHY*, by Jeffrey Marks (Jefferson: McFarland & Co., 2008; 213 pp., \$35.00), is a delightful tribute to a multi-talented man: Boucher wrote novels, short stories, radio scripts, and book reviews, and edited magazines and mystery libraries, and Bouchercon, the world mystery convention, was named in his honor. When Boucher's novel *THE CASE OF THE BAKER STREET IRREGULARS* was published in 1940, Edgar W. Smith was for a time suspicious that the book had been written by a member of our BSI under a pseudonym. Boucher soon became a member of the BSI as well as The Scowrers and Molly Maguires of San Francisco, and wrote scripts for the "Sherlock Holmes" radio series, and Marks offers an excellent account of Boucher's life and career, and a detailed bibliography of his published and unpublished work (and there are many unpublished titles in his papers at the Lilly Library at the University of Indiana).

March 2008 #2

12181. It's always nice to be reminded of Rex Stout, and his biographer John McAleer: *MYSTERY WRITING IN A NUTSHELL*, by John and Andrew McAleer (Rockville: James A. Rock, 2007; 100 pp., \$9.95), is subtitled "The World's Most Concise Guide to Mystery and Suspense Writing" and it includes brief but interesting excerpts from John's *ROYAL DECREE: CONVERSATIONS WITH REX STOUT* (1983).
12182. Sam Fry spotted an Acme Metropolitan Whistle ("still standard issue to London bobbies") offered by The J. Peterman Company (\$19.00); they're at 888-647-2555 and <www.jpeterman.com>. The whistle was invented in 1883, and I don't recall that anyone has proposed a connection between its inventor and someone of note in the Canon: Mrs. Hudson. Police whistles are mentioned in half a dozen of the Sherlock Holmes stories, and its inventor was Joseph Hudson; biographical information and a photograph are available at the company's web-site at <www.acmewhistles.co.uk>.
12183. William F. Buckley, Jr., died on Feb. 27. He was a committed conservative, and he wrote more than 50 books and more than 5,600 biweekly columns "On the Right". The *National Review*, which he founded in 1955, was launched with the claim that it "stands athwart history yelling Stop!" and his book *CANCEL YOUR OWN GODDAM SUBSCRIPTION* (2007) featured correspondence he received at the magazine, including this exchange with someone who wrote in 1967: "You are the mouthpiece of that evil rabble that depends on fraud, perjury, dirty tricks, anything at all that suits their purposes. I would trust a snake before I would trust you or anybody you support." To which Buckley replied, "What would you do if I supported the snake?" Brad Linaweaver's "A Scandal in Transylvania" in May 1977 in *New Guard: The Magazine of Young Americans for Freedom* had Buckley and D. Keith Mano in pursuit of Professor Goreviarty.
12184. *CLASSICS FOR PLEASURE*, by Michael Dirda (New York: Harcourt, 2007; 341 pp., \$25.00), is a collection of 89 excellent essays that range from Lao-tse to Edward Gorey; Conan Doyle be found in the section on "Realms of Adventure".
12185. Julian Rathbone died on Feb. 28. He was a prolific author, twice nominated for Britain's Booker Prize, and the great-nephew of Basil Rathbone, and his pastiche "Baz" (about a thoroughly modern Holmes and Watson) was published in Maxim Jakubowski's anthology *NEW CRIMES 3* (1991).
12186. Greg Darak has reported a new British two-CD set "Did You Know These Stars Also Sang?" (Jasmine Music, 2007) with 108 tracks, one of them Basil Rathbone singing "I Do Like to Be Beside the Seaside" from "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (1939).

12187. "A Scandal in Bohemia" is a new two-act chamber opera written by Nathalie Anderson (libretto) and Thomas Whitman (music), and "A Window on the Work" (an unstaged concert version of Act I) was performed at Swarthmore College on Mar. 2. Orchestra 2001 is planning a concert version of the entire opera next year, tentatively at the Kimmel Center in Philadelphia on Feb. 6 and at Swarthmore College on Feb. 8.

March 2008 #3

12188. "I had played Watson to his Holmes," Dr. Sheppard said, about Hercule Poirot, in Agatha Christie's "The Murder of Roger Ackroyd". Not in the book, but rather in the 90-minute dramatization (by Michael Bakewell) that was broadcast by BBC Radio 4 in December 1987 (and repeated this month on BBC 7). John Woodvine played Sheppard, and John Moffatt was Poirot. Thanks to Phil Attwell for spotting this.
12189. The 27th annual Sherlock Holmes/Arthur Conan Doyle Symposium was held this month despite a blizzard, and the organizers have surrendered to the weather and scheduled next year's Symposium ("The Merry Wives of Watson") on May 15-17 in Dayton, Ohio; Cathy Gill manages their mailing list (4661 Hamilton Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45223) (513-681-5507) <chirpsworth@fuse.net>.
12190. Further to the item (February 08 #6) on the new Italian stamp honoring Dorando Pietri, the design is based on the now (in)famous finish-line photograph that shows all of the people who might have been, but weren't, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. And I have some extra copies, which I will be happy to share with readers who request them (they'll be mailed with your next issue).
12191. E. Gary Gygax died on Mar. 4. In 1974 he collaborated with Dave Arneson to create the fantasy game Dungeons & Dragons, and in his ADVANCED DUNGEONS & DRAGONS MONSTER MANUAL (1979) Gygax listed a "Rat, Giant (Sumatran)". And in an article the Nov. 1979 issue of the computer-gaming magazine Dragon he suggested that his readers "imagine a game based on the exploits of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's magnificent sleuth Sherlock Holmes. Which of the participants wouldn't like to play the role of the great detective? Or, at the very least, Dr. Watson? The subject matter for any such game would be particularly difficult to handle, and what would the participants do if Holmes were slain? Or merely made a fool of, for that matter?"
12192. Retno Nindya Prastiwi has launched a "Sherlock Holmes Indonesia" web-site at <www.kappachan.com/sherlockholmes>, adding one more country to the list of those that have Sherlockians.
12193. Faithful readers may recall my enthusiasm for Terry Jones and Brian Froud's LADY COTTINGTON'S PRESSED FAIRY LETTERS (December 97 #6), and it is welcome news that a book of letters written to Lady Cottington has been returned to the Cottington Archive, and published in facsimile (verified and presented by Brian Froud and Ari Berk) as LADY COTTINGTON'S PRESSED FAIRY LETTERS (New York: Harry N. Abrams, 2005; 48 pp., \$19.95); the newly discovered letters came from dignitaries such as Wendy Darling, J. M. Barrie, and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.
12194. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London has three interesting events on its forward schedule: "Capital Watson: London Festival" (May 23-25), a cricket match against the P. G. Wodehouse Society (June 22), and their "Portsmouth Weekend" (Sept. 5-7), and their web-site <www.sherlockholmes.org> ought to have details by the time you read this. Events are open to people who are not members if there's room; contact Catherine Cooke (15 Copperfield Court, 146 Worple Road, Wimbledon, London SW20 8QA, England)<avaa61@dsl.pipex.com> and mention that you're not a member.
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March 2008 #4

12195. There's an interesting "The Whole Story" edition of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES with attractive artwork by Nicollet and annotations and additional illustrations appropriate to the story (New York: Viking, 2004; 190 pp., \$25.99). An earlier edition was published by Gallimard in Paris (2002), and the American edition also was available in paper covers (\$17.99).
12196. Philip Sherman ("The Six Napoleons") died on Mar. 10. He retired from the Maryland National Guard in 1987, after more than four decades service, with the rank of Brigadier General, and was a lawyer, historian, and a bibliophile, and an enthusiastic member of The Six Napoleons of Baltimore (Phil was Napoleon XL, and in 1966 became Gasogene XI). He launched the annual Sherlockian weekend at the Enoch Pratt Free Library and he presided over it for many years. Phil received his Investiture in the Baker Street Irregulars in 1969, and their Two-Shilling Award in 1984.
12197. Further to the review of Jerry 'B-P' Riggs' collection THE UNUSUAL SHERLOCK HOLMES (August 07 #2), Jerry has created a Sherlockian Scout Badge to honor Baden-Powell's admiration of Holmes. It's enameled in seven colors and costs \$6.95 postpaid (303 South Norton Street, Corunna, MI 48817).
12198. Miles Kington died on Jan. 30. He reviewed jazz for The Times, and joined the staff of Punch in 1965, eventually becoming its literary editor, and in 1976 he became a highly respected columnist for The Independent. He enjoyed Sherlock Holmes, and his S'ian parodies began in Punch in 1968 and continued in The Independent; Kington also wrote "The Death of Tchaikovsky: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" (which he described as a "comic musical enigma") performed in Bath in 1996.
12199. Malice Domestic will announce the winners of its Agatha awards at it's convention next month, and the nominees (chosen by fans rather than committee) include (best non-fiction) ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: A LIFE IN LETTERS, edited by Jon L. Lellenberg, Daniel Stashower, and Charles Foley. Dan will be toastmaster at the convention.
12200. Admirers of the Russian television series that starred Vasilij LivaNovember as Sherlock Holmes and Vitaliy Solomin as Dr. Watson may be interested in Igor Maslennikov's autobiography BEIKER-STRIT NA PETROGRADSKOI [BAKER STREET TO PETROGRAD] (St. Petersburg: Seans/Amphora, 2007; 255 pp., \$31.00); available from MIPP International at <www.mippbooks.com>. Maslennikov was the director of the series, and of course has much to say about it (in Russian, but there are lots of nice photographs for those who don't read Russian).
12201. Randall Stock has reported Neil McCaw's booklet "A Study in Sherlock: Uncovering the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection" (with details on the bequest by Richard Lancelyn Green, and a foreword by Stephen Fry), available for £3.50 from the Portsmouth City Museum Gift Shop (Museum Road, Portsmouth, Hants. PO1 2LJ, England); <www.portsmouth.gov.uk/yourcouncil/11596_11804.html> has more information about the booklet, and you can order the booklet on-line at <www.portsmouthmuseumshop.co.uk/acatalog/A_Study_in_Sherlock.html>. And the web-site at <www.conandoylcollection.co.uk> offers an interesting look at the collection itself.
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March 2008 #5

12202. Paul Scofield died on Mar. 20. Best known for his performance as Sir Thomas More in "A Man for All Seasons" on stage in London and New York (where he won a Tony) and in the film (for which he won an Oscar), he also starred as Thomas ... Becket in Caedmon's recording of T. S. Eliot's "Murder in the Cathedral" (1968), which contains the exchange with the Second Tempter that Eliot borrowed from "The Musgrave Ritual".
12203. "The Bank Job" (January 08 #6) has opened in the United States. I've not seen any mentions of Sherlock Holmes or "The Red-Headed League" in reviews; the film's official web-sites in both Britain <www.bankjobmovie.co.uk> and the U.S. <www.thebankjobmovie.com>
12204. THE TRAINED CORMORANTS 60TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE is an interesting tribute edited by Vinnie Brosnan and Jim Coffin; the contents include comments by members on the history of the society, photographs, recollections of its founders Bob Patrick and Don Hardenbrook, a new
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- Cockroach Bones parody by Kevin Reed, and amusing cover art by Colin Bailey. The cover artwork also is available on a T-shirt. \$20.00 postpaid for the book, and \$12.00 postpaid for the T-shirt (S-M-L-XL); both can be ordered from Vincent Brosnan, 1741 Via Allena, Oceanside, CA 92056.
12205. "Sherlock Holmes: Nemesis" is the new title for the computer game "Sherlock Holmes versus Arsène Lupin" (October 07 #1), due for release from Frogwares in April, there's more information about the game (under the old name) at the web-site <www.sherlockholmes-thegame.com/en/sh>.
12206. Reported: Michael Farquhar's A TREASURY OF FOOLISHLY FORGOTTEN AMERICANS: PIRATES, SKINFLINTS, PATRIOTS, AND OTHER COLORFUL CHARACTERS STUCK IN THE FOOTNOTES OF HISTORY (New York: Penquin, 2008; 272 pp., \$15.00) includes a chapter on "America's Sherlock Holmes". And who's that? Luke May? Ellis Parker? Encyclopedia Brown?
12207. Reported: Jeffery Deaver's "The Westphalian Ring" (first published in Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine, Sept.-Oct. 2004) in his MORE TWISTED: COLLECTED STORIES, VOL. II, by Jeffery Deaver (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2006; 448 pp., \$24.95) (New York: Pocket Books, 2007; 544 pp., \$7.99).
12208. Gyles Brandreth's OSCAR WILDE AND THE CANDLELIGHT MURDERS (May 07 #2) featured Wilde and his friends Arthur Conan Doyle and Robert Sherard in pursuit of a murderer, and it was reprinted in the U.S. as OSCAR WILDE AND A DEATH OF NO IMPORTANCE; the second book in the series will be OSCAR WILDE AND THE RING OF DEATH, due from John Murray in London in May (oe14.99).
12209. Who's "America's Sherlock Holmes" in Michael Farquhar's book? William J. Burns, the Pinkerton detective who opened his own agency (and who knew Conan Doyle, although that's not mentioned in the book). The title also has been used to describe Luke May, a pioneering scientific detective in Seattle; Ellis Parker, the chief of detectives in Burlington County, N.J., when the Lindburgh baby was kidnapped; and Encyclopedia Brown, a fictional boy detective in a series of book by Donald J. Sobol.

March 2008 #6

12210. Reported: a new recording of THE LOST WORLD, read unabridged by Glen McReady on seven CDs, from Naxos Audiobooks (\$34.98); it's also available as an MP3 download at <www.naxosaudiobooks.com> for \$24.49, and you can listen to a sample at the web-site). They also offer most of the Canon (read unabridged by David Timson), four non-Sherlockian stories (read abridged by Carl Rigg), and Hesketh Pearson SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: A LIFE (read abridged by Tim Pigott-Smith). Timson also has a free 13-minute podcast at <naxosaudiobooks.com/AUDIO/sherlock_holmes_podcast.mp3>.
12211. The Admirable Beach Society was founded to promote reading of the Sherlock Holmes stories at an "admirable beach" (there's a mention of one in "The Lion's Mane"); the society's web-site is at <www.admirablebeach.com>, and members are encouraged to post appropriate photographs. The society's four-color enamel lapel pin costs \$10.00 postpaid (to the U.S.) or \$12.00 (elsewhere) from Beverly Ellis (48132 Colony Farm Circle, Plymouth, MI 48170).
12212. Collectors of foreign translations of the Sherlock Holmes stories will welcome Don Hobbs' "The Galactic Sherlock Holmes". Don happily bills himself as "The Maniac Collector" and he has a splendid collection of translations, and offers a CD electronic bibliography of non-English and foreign-language editions in PDF format on a CD. A one-year subscription (with two to three updated CDs) costs \$15.00 (to the U.S.); \$20.00 elsewhere.
12213. Joseph and Elaine Coppola have edited VOICES FROM THE STRANGERS' ROOM (San Diego: Aventine Press, 2008; 108 pp., \$14.00) for The Mycroft Holmes Society; it's an anthology of interesting contributions from its members, among them Judith Freeman (who offers considerable sympathy for the goose in her alternative view of "The Blue Carbuncle") and Nancy Beiman (who provided an artistic cover).
12214. Dr. William R. Hanson has designed a special cancel for the Clif-Pex Stamp Show in Clifton Park, N.Y., on Apr. 5; you can send your own (stamped) covers and postcards to the Postmaster, Clif-Pex Station, Clifton Park, NY 12065, with your request for the Sherlock Holmes cancel (requests must be postmarked by May 4).
12215. Gary Lovisi's SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE GREAT DETECTIVE IN PAPERBACK (June 90 #8) has been revised and expanded with a new title: SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE GREAT DETECTIVE IN PAPERBACK AND PASTICHE: A SURVEY, INDEX & VALUE GUIDE, available from Gryphon Books (Box 209, Brooklyn, NY 11228) for \$55.00 postpaid (180 pp., spiral bound). It's a delightful and extensive survey, with introductions by John Bennett Shaw (from 1990) and Michael Kurland, many illustrations in full color, wide coverage (from 1888 to 2007), and interesting commentary and annotations by Gary, who defines paperback broadly (including publisher's proofs, advance reading copies, print-on-demand books in paper covers, pamphlets published by Sherlockians and Sherlockian societies, and some British and other foreign editions).

April 2008 #1

12216. Cheng Ziaoping's SHERLOCK IN SHANGHAI: STORIES OF CRIME AND DETECTION (Honolulu: University of Hawai'i, 2007; 214 pp., \$24.00) offers a selection of fascinating stories by a Chinese author who was inspired by the Canon, but created his own detective, just as August Derleth did with his Solar Pons stories. Cheng's detective is Huo Sang, who is assisted by Bao Lang, and the stories are set in Shanghai in the 1920s and 1930s. Translator Timothy C. Wong discusses Chinese detective fiction in his preface, and also provides a short biography of Cheng.
12217. It has been quite a while since I mentioned Steve Trussel's "Detectives on Stamp" web-site at <trussel.com/detfic/detect.htm>; it's delightful, as is his "Philatelic Sherlock" web-site at <www.trussel.com/detfic/sholmes.htm>. He includes stamps, covers, postmarks, and Cinderella issues, with almost everything illustrated in full color.
12218. One hardly ever hears of The Great Mouse Detective any more, since Disney gives far more emphasis to characters more important (to them) than Basil of Baker Street, but Evy Herzog spotted DISNEY'S WONDERFUL WORLD OF WORDFINDS: THE ANIMATED MOVIES (Blue Bell: Kappa Books, 2006; 98 pp., \$3.95), with a one-page word-puzzle based on the film.
12219. Stephen Baker's HOW TO LIVE WITH A NEUROTIC CAT, first published in 1985, is still in print (New York: Gramercy Books, 1999; 128 pp., \$7.99), with illustrations by Sherlockian artist Jackie Geyer, who (of course) included a Sherlockian illustration.
12220. The Wessex Press continues to use YouTube to make things interesting; their advertisement for their 75th anniversary edition of Vincent Starrett's THE PRIVATE LIFE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (January 08 #7) includes audio of Starrett reciting his famous poem "221B". <www.youtube.com/watch?v=rpkATM554HI> will let you hear how Starrett pronounced "view-haloo".
12221. Tom Pitner has reported Arthur Wontner's "The Sleeping Cardinal" (1931) on DVD from Amazon (\$14.95); that's the British title of the film (which was released in the U.S. as "Sherlock Holmes's Fatal Hour"), and the DVD actually has the American release, presumably recorded from a copy (or perhaps a copy of a copy) of the 16mm print once owned by William K. Everson. Roger Johnson has reported that the print was screened for the Sherlock Holmes Society of London in 1951, at their first film evening, with Wontner in the audience, and the print also was screened for The Priory Scholars of Fordham in 1956. Moonlight Cinema offered the film on VHS cassette some years ago (September 99 #6).
12222. It's likely that the DVD is a bootleg, since the box has no address or contact information for the company (Reel Classic Films) other than a URL that leads nowhere. The film's also available on DVD at eBay, where one seller kindly notes that he has downloaded the film onto DVD-R from an NTSC

MPEG copy stored on his hard disk, and it is likely that the DVD offered at Amazon was made the same way. The quality of the DVD is average at best (the VHS cassette was somewhat better), but it's nice that more people will have a chance to see an interesting film with Wontner as Sherlock Holmes.

April 2008 #2

12223. Randall Stock has expanded his interesting "The Best of Sherlock Holmes" web-site to include a new "Sidney Paget Original Drawings and Artwork: A Preliminary Census and Checklist". He has lots of new information, and illustrations, and he extends his coverage to include Paget's non-Sherlockian work. And of course he'd like to hear from anyone who can add to the census by reporting unrecorded originals or identifying where some of the non-Sherlockian work has been published; the new web-site is <www.members.aol.com/_ht_a/shbest/ref/sidney-paget-original-art.htm>.
12224. If you would like to read one of the textbooks Conan Doyle studied before he took his medical degree in 1881, Peter Wood has discovered Joseph Bell's A MANUAL OF THE OPERATIONS OF SURGERY FOR THE USE OF SENIOR STUDENTS, HOUSE SURGEONS, AND JUNIOR PRACTITIONERS on the Internet at web-sites the include <www.gutenberg.org/files/24564/24564-h/24564-h.html>. Bell wrote the book in 1866, and Project Gutenberg has the fifth edition (revised and enlarged) published in 1883.
12225. McMurdo's Camp is the newest Sherlockian society; it meets in Charlevoix, Mich., and has a web-site at <www.mcmurdoscamp.wordpress.com>. There are many society web-sites now, and you'll find links to many of them at Chris Redmond's <www.sherlockian.net/societies/index.html>. If your society has a web-site that's not linked from Chris' site, you should let him know.
12226. Ken Lanza spotted a report in the Harrogate Advertiser that a copy of Beeton's Christmas Annual for 1887 was discovered by two Oxfam volunteers in a pile of donated books. It will be sold at auction at Bonhams in Oxford on May 20, and the charity hopes that it "will produce a four-figure addition to Oxfam's funds." According to Bonhams, the Beeton's lacks the original wrappers and advertisements and is bound with four other works (all apparently Christmas annuals from other publishers); it's estimated at £7,000-9,000. There's more to the story, of course, and you can read all about it at Randall Stock's <members.aol.com/shbest/ref/bonhams-2008-beetons.htm>
12227. Philip K. Jones has compiled (and continues to compile) an excellent data base for Sherlockian pastiches. There are 6,875 entries (and more to come, of course), and it's available on the Internet at the Illustrious Clients' web-site at <www.illustriousclients.org/index.php?name=Content&pid=5>.
12228. Robert H. Steele ("The Scowrers") died on Feb. 28. He was a banker and a leader of the Republican party in San Francisco, and an enthusiastic member of the Scowrers and Mollie Maguires of San Francisco, serving as its Bodymaster for forty years until he retired in 1999. He received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1959.
12229. Dave Smith discovered a Krone limited edition "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Sherlock Holmes" fountain pen, and it's an impressive pen indeed: solid sterling silver, intricately detailed with three-dimensional elements to help you solve a mystery that has 14 clues, and with a piece of notebook paper from Conan Doyle's personal writing pad embedded atop the cap. The edition was limited to 50 pens (with a suggested retail price of \$12,500), and it sold out in a few days. The web-site <www.pensinasia.com> displays images of the pen, and you can see other equally imaginative (and still available) Krone pens at <www.kronepen.com>.
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April 2008 #3

12230. The Town & County Public Library in Elburn, Ill., sponsors an annual Dewey Dash, named in honor the Dewey Decimal System, as a fund-raiser for the library. The event started in 2005 and has a different literary theme each year. This year's Dewey Dash was held on Apr. 13 and called "The Game Is Afoot". It was led by its mascot Dr. Watson, with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle as a "ghost runner".
12231. Joe Eckrich has begun selling Sherlockian books and ephemera on eBay. Go to <www.ebay.com>, click on "Advanced Search, click on "Items by Seller", and search for "eckrich221".
12232. Watson's Tin Box will host "A Scintillation of Scions" at Amherst House in Columbia, Md., with the intent of bringing together members of mid-Atlantic (and east-coast) Sherlockian societies for "an afternoon of fun, scholarship, and social time." The afternoon event will run from 1:30 to 6:30 and will include afternoon tea, papers, a limerick contest, and a dramatic presentation. More information is available at <www.watsonstinbox.org>.
12233. Content is important when material comes to auction: the letter written by Conan Doyle about "The Hound of the Baskervilles" at auction at Bonhams in London last month (February 08 #6) sold for £3,700 (plus premium and tax).
12234. The late Peter Cushing was a painter as well as an actor, and some of his artwork was sold at auction last month, with a total estimate of £12,000. The sale total was more than £20,000, and one of the watercolors sold for £2,000. Holger Hasse displays some of the paintings in full color at his blog <www.hammerandbeyond.blogspot.com/2007/12/peter-cushing-calendar.htm>.
12235. Further to the item (July 07 #3) about Edinburgh's new tram line, the Edinburgh Evening News has reported (Apr. 3) that "fans of Sherlock Holmes are angry that the statue of the sleuth in Picardy Place is to be stored up for two years during the city's tram works." The story quoted Roy Upton-Holder as saying "Many feel that the Edinburgh Council will have succeeded where Moriarty and Conan Doyle failed: in getting rid of Sherlock Holmes." Upton-Holder is the founder of the Deerstalkers of Welshpool (a city on England's border with Wales); there is no Sherlockian society in Edinburgh.
12236. A few days later the paper published a letter from C. S. Lincoln of Edinburgh (Apr. 8), who noted that the statue had been erected in Picardy Place to mark the site of Conan Doyle's birthplace, but the building had been demolished in 1969. Lincoln suggested that the statue should be moved to Infirmary Street, where Conan Doyle, in the old infirmary, clerked for Joseph Bell and observed the "amazing, deductive methods of this great doctor."
12237. THE SHADOW OF REICHENBACH FALLS, by John R. King (New York: Forge/Tom Doherty, 2008; 350 pp., \$25.95); Thomas Carnacki, at the Reichenbach on May 4, 1891, "rescues an amnesiac gentleman from the base of the falls only to find himself and his companion pursued by an evil mastermind whose shadowy powers may reach from the bloody crime scenes of Whitechapel to beyond the grave." Sherlockians will have no trouble identifying the amnesiac gentleman and the evil mastermind, and Thomas is William Hope Hodgson's Carnacki, before he became Carnacki the Ghost-Finder, so there's a strong supernatural content in the story.
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April 2008 #4

12238. ON THE TRAIL OF ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: AN ILLUSTRATED DEVON TOUR, by Brian W. Pugh and Paul R. Spiring (Sussex: Book Guild, 2008; 125 pp., £12.99), offers narrative chronologies of Conan Doyle, George Turnavine Budd, and Bertram Fletcher Robinson, and discusses their connections with Devon (Budd lived in Plymouth, where Conan Doyle doctored with him for a short period, and Fletcher Robinson assisted Conan Doyle with "The Hound of the Baskervilles"); the book also includes an "Arthur Conan Doyle Devon Tour" for those who want to drive to places associated with the three men. Pugh is the curator of the Conan Doyle (Crowborough) Establishment, and has a web-site at <www.the-conan-doyle-crowborough>
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establishment.com, and Spiring has a Fletcher Robinson web-site at <www.brfonline.biz>, and they present an interesting look at the three men and what they did in Devon. The book also is available in German: AUF DER SPUR VON ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: EINE RUNDREISE DURCH DEVON (Mannheim: Dryas Verlag, 2008; 146 pp., £12.95).

12239. The Hallmark Channel uses late-night slots to broadcast programs for teachers to record for use in the classroom; "The Royal Scandal" (2001) will air May 29, and "The Case of the Whitechapel Vampire" (2002) on June 26 (both at 3:00 am). The programs starred Matt Frewer Kenneth Welsh as Holmes and Watson, and there is a 27-page "Educator Guide" available for download at <www.hallmarkchannel.com/publish/etc/medialib/shared/educator_guides.html>.
12240. Samantha Wolov has reported some Sherlockian artwork at the opening page of AOL Stalker at <www.aolstalker.com>; it's a data-base of 36,389,569 searches made by AOL users in March, April, and May 2006. AOL removed the data, but the information still is available elsewhere (as is so often the case on the Internet); it is difficult but not impossible to identify searchers.
12241. It may be possible to find out who actually had the telephone number XX.31 (announced by Colonel Damery in "The Illustrious Client"): John Baesch has spotted a story in The Times (Nov. 28) about a new archive of 280 million telephone numbers in the first 104 years of British telephone directories, now available to subscribers at <www.ancestry.com>.
12242. Conan Doyle fought hard to protect mediums from prosecution by the authorities, and eventually the Witchcraft Act (1735) was replaced by the Fraudulent Mediums Act (1951), under which prosecutors must prove fraud and dishonest intent to secure a criminal conviction. Now, according to a story in the Observer (Apr. 6), Britain plans to replace the Fraudulent Mediums Act (under which there have been fewer than ten convictions in the past 20 years) with Consumer Protection Regulations that apply to anyone charging or accepting gifts in exchange for a service, and allow disgruntled customers to sue. Spiritualists, according to the story, are worried that they will be forced to issue disclaimers such as "this is a scientific experiment, the results of which cannot be guaranteed," and to prove they did not "mislead, coerce, or take advantage of" vulnerable customers.
12243. Yuichi Hirayama has resumed his English-language blog about "Sherlockiana in Japan" at <ameblo.jp/shinjanpan>. One of the recent entries displays the stamps issued for the recent convention of The Japan Sherlock Holmes Club (as in some other countries, the Japanese postal service allows you to put your own photographs on stamps). His web-site for the Shoso-In Bulletin is at <www1.parkcity.ne.jp/hirayama>.

April 2008 #5

12244. Charlton Heston died on Apr. 5. His acting career spanned more than 60 years, and his starring r"les included Moses, Ben-Hur, Gen. Charles "Chinese" Gordon, El Cid, Cardinal Richelieu and Michelangelo. Heston also played Sherlock Holmes in Paul Giovanni's play "The Crucifer of Blood" in Los Angeles in 1980 (with Jeremy Brett as Watson), and in a television version of the play in 1991.
12245. ELIMINATE THE IMPOSSIBLE by Alistair Duncan (Stanstead Abbots: MX Publishing, 2008; 260 pp., £9.99), is subtitled as "An Examination of the World of Sherlock Holmes on Page and Screen". Duncan discusses the Canon, focusing on the major characters and providing a synopsis for and comments on each of the stories, and then turns to the major screen and television actors, from Arthur Wontner to Jonathan Pryce. Duncan's commentary is interesting, both when he writes about the stories and the actors, and when he discusses previous Sherlockian scholarship.
12246. Variety has reported (Mar. 31) that Paramount has bought the film rights to David Grann's "The Story of Z" and that Brad Pitt plans to produce and star in a film about Col. P. H. Fawcett, the explorer who vanished in the Matto Grosso in Brazil in 1925. Grann's article was published in The New Yorker (Sept. 19, 2005), and Doubleday plans to publish a book based on the article. Grann mentions Conan Doyle, who met Fawcett in 1910, and there's much more about their meeting in my newsletter (October 05 #1).
12247. Marina Stajic forwards a report from the Kings of Scandinavia that there is a Sherlock Holmes Pub in Denmark. The pub is in Aarhus, which is where the late Henry Lauritzen lived, and I'm sure that Henry would have enjoyed visits to the establishment. The pub's web-site is <www.sherlock-holmes.dk>, where you'll find a photograph of Holmes and Watson sitting in front of the pub, flanked by two of its waiters.
12248. Plan far ahead: the Marple Newton Players will present William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" in Newton Square, Pa., Sept. 19-Oct. 4; the box office is at 610-353-9181 <www.playersstage.org>. The Irving Community Theatre will present Charles Marowitz's "Sherlock's Last Case" in Irving, Tex., Jan. 19-31, 2009 (972-594-6104) <www.irvingtheatre.org>. Vertigo Theatre will present Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" in Calgary, Apr. 25 to May 17, 2009 (403-221-3708) <www.vertigotheatre.com>.
12249. Reported: THE RIVALS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, edited and with an introduction by Nick Rennison (Manchester: No Exit Press, 2008; 320 pp., £9.99); an anthology of stories about other fictional detectives in Victorian and Edwardian London. Presumably similar to Hugh Greene's THE RIVALS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: EARLY DETECTIVE STORIES (1970).
12250. Ralph E. Edwards ("Dr. Barnicot") died on Apr. 2. He was an actuary and vice president of the Baltimore Life Insurance Co., and for many years one of the sparking plugs of The Six Napoleons of Baltimore, as Napoleon #41, Gasogene IX, and Commissionaire #7. Ralph also happily participated in the Carlton Club of Baltimore, and in the electronic mailing list The Hounds of the Internet, contributing each week a set of scholarly and often-amusing "Canon Queeries" for the Canonical tales. He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1963, and their Two-Shilling Award in 1983.

April 2008 #6

12251. Laphroaig scotch, Lapsang souchong tea, and lemon balm are the ingredients in the rich, smoky Sherlock Holmes, according to a story in the Washington Post (Apr. 4) about new cocktails. The cocktail is available at PX, a 1920s-style speak-easy in Alexandria, Va. Proportions aren't given in the article, but you can ask PX founder Todd Thrasher; the phone number for PX is 703-299-8384.
12252. Sir Christopher Frayling's splendid paper on "The Writing of The Hound of the Baskervilles" (presented during the January birthday festivities) has been published in the spring issue of The Baker Street Journal, with photographs of entries in Conan Doyle's diary for 1901, and considerable detail on just what Conan Doyle was doing when and where while to story was being written. The BSJ, published quarterly, costs \$26.50 a year (\$29.00 foreign), and checks (credit-card payments accepted from foreign subscribers) should be sent to the BSJ (Box 465, Hanover, PA 17331); the BSJ website <www.bakerstreetjournal.com> also accepts subscriptions.
12253. Lawrence Goldman's THE ANATOMY OF DECEPTION (New York: Delacorte, 2008; 352 pp., \$24.00) is a medical thriller that's set in Philadelphia in mid-March 1889; in the first chapter the narrator states that "as Holmes' popularity soared, it thus became sport among physicians to match wits with the fictional detective, eager to demonstrate that if they applied themselves to murder, theft, mayhem, they would achieve similarly sterling results." The first three chapters of the book are available on-line at Bookreporter.com <www.bookreporter.com/reviews2/9780385341349-excerpt.asp>.
12254. <www.hulu.com> is another example of interesting things to be found on the Internet: a joint venture between NBC Universal and News Corp., and advertiser supported (so you don't pay anything), it offers a chance to watch a long list of films and television series, old and new. Sherlockians may

be interested in Vincent Price's "Dr. Goldfoot and the Bikini Machine" (1965), and the "Remington Steele" episodes "Steele's Gold" (1983) and "Elementary Steele" (1984). And I'm sure there's other material of interest, but those are the titles that turned up in a quick scan of the web-site's contents. "Are you more in the mood for Farrah Fawcett, or Mr. T?" was the teaser title on a review in New York magazine (Apr. 7).

12255. For racing fans: Karen Murdock spotted a horse named Sherlock Holmes running the 11th race (the Cotejo De Potrillos Stakes) in Santiago, Chile, on Apr. 9 and (according to Kate Karlson) finished third.
12256. Phil Attwell reports that the "Doctor Who" episode "The Talons of Weng-Chiang" (1977) is available on a DVD from the BBC Shop <www.bbcshop.com> discounted to £15.99. The Doctor appears in Sherlockian costume, battling giant rats, and there also is a passing mention of a Mrs. Hudson. According to the BBC this is the first release of an unedited version of the episode, and the DVD's added features include interviews with some of the stars, 25 minutes of behind-the-scenes footage, and an Easter egg. But: the DVD was released in 2003, and it's available for £7.98 at <www.amazon.co.uk> (note: the DVD is in PAL format).
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May 2008 #1

12257. An update on the item about International Mystery Writers' Festival at the RiverPark Center in Owensboro, Ky. (February 07 #2): there will be seven performances (June 13-21) of Stuart Kaminsky's dramatization of his short-story pastiche "The Final Toast" (1987) and five performances (June 14-22) of Rupert Holmes' adaptation of two episodes (one of them is Sherlockian) of his television series "Remember WENN" (1996); the festival's address is 101 Daviess Street, Owensboro, KY 42303 (877-639-6978) <www.newmysteries.org>.
12258. Sorry about that: the web-site for the Shoso-In Bulletin (January 08 #8) now is at <shoso.ninja-web.net> (English) and <page.freett.com/Shoso> (Japanese).
12259. Christopher Paul Carey notes that the Subterranean Press (Box 190106, Burton, MI 48519) <www.subterraneanpress.com> offers two books that will be of interest to admirers of Philip Jos, Farmer's Sherlockian (and other) work. PEARLS FROM PEORIA (2006, 769 pp., \$45.00) offers reprints of "The Two Lord Ruftons" and "A Scarlet Study" and "The Doge Whose Barque Was Worse Than His Bight". And Carey has edited VENUS ON THE HALF-SHELL AND OTHERS (2008, 328 pp., \$38.00), which includes "The Adventure of the Peerless Peer" and "The Problem of the Sore Bridge--And Others". Both titles also are available at Amazon and elsewhere.
12260. Carey also reports that issue #12 of the magazine Farmerphile is Sherlockian; you can see Keith Howell's cover art showing Farmer in S'ian costume at <www.pjfarmer.com/farmerphile.htm>; the contents include Farmer's "Sherlock Holmes and Sufism" (a paper delivered to The Mexborough Lodgers in El Paso in the 1975 and now published for the first time). \$11.00 postpaid to North America (\$15.00 postpaid elsewhere); checks to Michael Croteau, 393 James Street SW, Lilburn, GA 30047 (ask for issue #12). Or you can order on-line at the web-site.
12261. "Street Name Shake-Up Offers Public Chance to Have a Say" was the headline on a story in the Edinburgh Evening News (Mar. 24); Edinburgh will create "banks" of street names for different areas of the city, for use when new developments are built. Local residents will be able to suggest names with connections to the area (in the past the Edinburgh Council made such decisions), and the possibilities noted by the paper include political figures, great thinkers, sporting heroes, and the world of literature, including Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.
12262. There are many interesting aspects of book collecting, and it can be argued that the most interesting of those aspects is the collectors. You can read about many of them in Nicholas A. Basbanes' splendid AMONG THE GENTLY MAD: STRATEGIES AND PERSPECTIVES FOR THE BOOK HUNTER IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY (Henry Holt and Co., 2002, and Owl Books, 2003); Basbanes tells wonderful stories about collectors, with five pages about Daniel Posnansky (who has collected Conan Doyle for decades, and calls himself as an elitist rather than a completist, and explains the distinction), and two pages about Fred Kittle (who collects the entire DoYLES and Conan Doyle family). Basbanes has an excellent web-site at <www.nicholasbasbanes.com>, with discussion of all of his books, a link to the syndicated weekly radio program "The Book Guys" (with an archive of past programs), and much more.
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May 2008 #2

12263. Derham Groves, the first Australian to become a member of The Baker Street Irregulars (in 1985, as "Black Jack of Ballarat"), has had a long career as architect, artist, and writer, and his new THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOLMES: EXPLORING SENSE OF PLACE THROUGH CRIME FICTION (Black Jack Press, 178 pp.) is a delightful collection of essays that discuss his own work (including his detailed design for a Sherlock Holmes Centre) and the work of his students (who designed rooms and houses inspired by Canonical tales, and a Sherlock Holmes Hotel in New York); there are many illustrations, often in full color.
12264. Derham also reprints an article by R. Thurston Hopkins (from the Melbourne Herald, Aug. 31, 1933) in which he explains that he once asked Conan Doyle where Holmes actually lived, and was told that "that is one of the secrets Mr. Holmes refuses to divulge." But Conan Doyle acknowledged that he had a certain house in his mind's eye, adding that "there are clues in the Sherlock Holmes stories which may help you to locate the house quite definitely in Baker Street." And Hopkins, after considerable research identified the house (93 Baker Street). And Derham publishes, for the first time, an introduction by John Bennett Shaw, written in 1987 for the catalog for Derham's exhibition "Holmes Away from Home" (a different introduction by John appeared in the catalog, and "The Sherlock Holmes Phenomenon" is a nice reminder of John's enthusiasm and expertise).
12265. You can order the book from Michael Jorgensen (392 Station Street, Carlton North, VIC 3054, Australia) <mickjorg@alphalink.com.au>; US\$41.00 postpaid by airmail, US\$36.00 postpaid by seairmail. Checks payable to Peter E. Blau can be sent to me at 7103 Endicott Court, Bethesda, MD 20817.
12266. David H. Galerstein ("Bert Stevens") died on Apr. 29. He was a teacher and a principal, and a member of the New York City Board of Education. He also was a member of many Sherlockian societies in and around New York, and with Marlene Aig edited the anthology A SINGULAR SET OF PEOPLE (1990), and with Carolyn Bryan A SINGULAR SENSE OF HUMOR: A COMPLICATION OF STUFF AND NONSENSE BY AND FOR SHERLOCKIANS (1993). He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1972.
12267. There's a new (well, recent) edition of MURDER IN BAKER STREET: NEW TALES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, the 2001 anthology edited by Martin H. Greenberg, Jon L. Lellenberg, and Daniel Stashower (New York: MJF Books, 2006; 277 pp., \$7.98 at Barnes & Noble); hardcover, with an atmospheric dust jacket.
12268. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists honored the world's first forensic geologist at dinner in San Antonio on Apr. 23, during the annual meeting of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, and the visitors received a friendly Texas welcome from Ben Fairbank and Richard Lackritz on behalf of The Strange Old Book Collectors. Our next dinners will be in Houston on Oct. 8, and in Denver on June 10.
12269. Paul Spiring has reported the launch of "The Baskerville Weekend" (excursions arranged by Baskervilles Carriages); the inaugural weekend was held this month; the featured guest was Edward Hardwicke, who was Dr. Watson in the Granada television series. More information is available at Spiring's B. Fletcher Robinson web-site at <www.bfronline.biz>.
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May 2008 #3

12270. Sherlockian societies in southern cities (Atlanta, Nashville, Birmingham, and Greenville) will hold their Fifth Annual Gathering of Southern at the Sheraton Read House in Chattanooga, Tenn., on Apr. 18-19, 2009; "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be the conference theme, and the mailing list is maintained by Kent Ross (721 Hartford Road, Springfield, OH 45503) (678-464-8321) <kenthross@aol.com>.
12271. Alan C. Olding ("Cooee") died on May 6. He was serving in the British Royal Corps of Signals when he participated in the Normandy invasion, and in 1951 he emigrated to Australia, where he founded The Sherlock Holmes Society of South Australia (which became The Sherlock Holmes Society of Australia, and eventually merged with The Sydney Passengers). He edited the appropriately-named newsletter News from the Diggings, and received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1988.
12272. Bochym Manor in Cornwall is for sale for £3 million, according to a story in The Sunday Times (May 25). The house is located on the Lizard peninsula and was once owned by Robert, Count of Mortain (half-brother of William the Conqueror); it is built in stone and laid out in four wings, with ten bedrooms, seven reception rooms, three bathrooms, and 18 acres of grounds with holiday cottages. "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was there just before the first world war," according to the story, and "even set a Sherlock Holmes story on the estate." There's more information about the house at the website <www.struttandparker.com>.
12273. It's always a pleasure to discover Conan Doyle's fiction included in anthologies: A SKELETON AT THE HELM, edited by John Richard Stephens (New York: Metro Books, 2008; 343 pp., \$9.98 at Barnes & Noble), contains "The Striped Chest" (one of Conan Doyle's fine "stories of pirates and blue water").
12274. <www.walrusmagazine.com/blogs/2008/05/08/cut-out-the-poetry-watson> is the URL for a blog entry by Jared Bland about the new eight-volume set of paperbacks of the Canon that Penguin has issued in Britain in their Red Classics series at £6.99 each (they've combined HIS LAST BOW and THE CASE-BOOK in one volume). Penguin's senior copywriter Colin Brush has blogged about the set at <www.thepenguinblog.typepad.com/the_penguin_blog/2008/02>, calling them "dramatic, Hammer-horror-film-poster-style" editions. Series designer Coralie Bickford-Smith wrote: "Many people will have a fixed set of idea about Holmes and I wanted to confound these expectations and show that there's more to the character. The vibrant, two-toned covers use typefaces that evoke the Victorian era and an early cinema poster aesthetic emphasizes the adventure and excitement of the stories." The series also includes THE EXPLOITS AND ADVENTURES OF BRIGADIER GERARD (oe7.99).
12275. Michael Chabon won a Pulitzer Prize for his novel THE AMAZING ADVENTURES OF CAVALIER & CLAY (April 01 #3), and his THE FINAL SOLUTION: A STORY OF DETECTION was an intriguing Sherlockian pastiche (October 04 #3). His MAPS AND LEGENDS: READING AND WRITING ALONG THE BORDERLANDS (San Francisco: McSweeney's Books, 2008; 222 pp., \$24.00), his first non-fiction book, is a collection of interesting essays that include "Fan Fictions: On Sherlock Holmes" (revised from its first appearance in the N.Y. Review of Books in Feb. 2005). Chabon's enthusiasms extend to Colman McCarthy, M. R. James, and Will Eisner, and it's an excellent book.

May 2008 #4

12276. The Sub-Librarians Scion of the Baker Street Irregulars in the American Library Association will gather at 4:00 pm on Sunday, June 29, in room 207-D at the Anaheim Convention Center (that's Anaheim in California); Les Klinger will be their featured speaker, discussing "Dracula, Sherlock Holmes, and Other Victorian Friends". More information about event is available from Marsha Pollak (Sunnyvale Public Library, 665 West Olive Avenue, Sunnyvale, CA 94086) <mpollak@ci.sunnyvale.ca.us>
12277. Jon Lellenberg has reported that "The Lost Cases of Sherlock Holmes" is the first computer game officially licensed by the Conan Doyle Estate. Legacy Interactive describes it as "a whodunit casual computer game of theft, espionage, and murder" in which players must tap their own powers of observation to solve puzzles and identify the culprits. The game has 16 different cases and more than 100 visual puzzles and mini-games; there is a demo online at <www.wolfgaming.net/forums/showthread.php?t=39219>, and Legacy offers a trial download (without charge) and the game itself (\$19.95) on-line <www.legacygames.com/download_games/394/the_lost_cases_of_sherlock_holmes>.
12278. The March issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota offers Dick Sveum's "100 Years Ago" discussion of "The Flag" (Conan Doyle's 1908 addition to "A Duet"), Julie McKuras' "50 Years Ago" tribute to Page Heldenbrand, and Tim Johnson and Gary Thaden's report on Victor Cahn's performance in his play "Sherlock: Solo" in New York, as well as other news from and about the collections. Copies of the newsletter are available from Richard J. Sveum, (111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <sveum001@tc.umn.edu>.
12279. "Elementary, My Dear Indy!" is the motto for Bouchercon 40, to be held in Indianapolis on Oct. 15-18, 2009 (Bouchercon is the long-established world mystery convention, run by fans for fans, named in honor of Anthony Boucher, and with a web-site at <www.bouchercon2009.com>). There will be a preconference event on Oct. 14 at the Lilly Library in Bloomington; click on "Breaking News" to read all about "Doyle, Boucher, Fleming-- This Will Blow You Away" (The Lilly has excellent collections of all three authors). The postal address is Bouchercon 2009, c/o The Mystery Company, 233 Second Avenue SW, Carmel, IN 46032.
12280. The spring issue of For the Sake of the Trust (the newsletter of The Baker Street Irregulars Trust) offers Julie McKuras's tribute to David A. Weiss, and news of some recent additions to The Baker Street Irregulars Archives (including a letter written by Christopher Morley in which he noted that "The only clubs I have founded are the Three Hours for Lunch, the Grillparzer Club, and the Baker Street Irregulars--which are all phases of the same great idea: to avoid publicity!") Copies of the newsletter are available on request from Julie McKuras (13512 Granada Avenue, Apple Valley, MN 55124) <mike9750@aol.com>.
12281. Andy Peck has reported that the Mystery Guild is now offering a "exclusive softcover" edition of ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: A LIFE IN LETTERS (May 07 #5/September 07 #6) for \$21.99 (order no. 05-6751); their address is Box 6325, Indianapolis, IN 46206 <www.mysteryguild.com>. Their "exclusive" edition may or may not be the same as the Quality Paperback Book Club edition.

May 2008 #5

12282. E. J. Wagner reports that her THE SCIENCE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: FROM BASKERVILLE HALL TO THE VALLEY OF FEAR: THE REAL FORENSICS BEHIND THE GREAT DETECTIVE'S GREATEST CASES (June 06 #2) has been translated into German: WISSENSCHAFT BEI SHERLOCK HOLMES UND DIE ANFÄNGE DER GERICHTSMEDIZIN (Weinheim: Wiley-VCH, 2008; 234 pp., E14.95). E. J. has an interesting web-site at <www.forensic.to/webhome/ejwagner>.
12283. Gyles Brandreth's OSCAR WILDE AND THE RING OF DEATH (London: John Murray, 2008; 395 pp., £14.99) is the second in his series of mysteries featuring Wilde as the detective, assisted by Robert Sherard as his Watson, and by his friend Arthur Conan Doyle; the mystery is ingenious and the story well told, with excellent period flavor. The U.S. title will be OSCAR WILDE AND A GAME CALLED MURDER (from Touchstone later this year, \$24.00). The first novel in the series, OSCAR WILDE AND THE CANDLELIGHT MURDERS (May 07 #2), was published here as OSCAR WILDE AND A DEATH OF NO IMPORTANCE, and there's a fine web-site at <www.oscarwildemurdermysteries.com>.

12284. "Faeries" is a new musical about the Cottingley fairies, written by Stephen Langston and Wendy McPike, scheduled for the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in August; there's a web-site at <www.sl-p.org/Edinburghfaeries.thm>.
12285. The newly-discovered copy of Beeton's Christmas Annual (April 08 #2) sold at auction at Bonhams in London this month for £15,500 (well above the estimate of £7,000-9000); add 20% for the buyer's premium. The Northern Echo reported (May 21) that it was bought "by a collector from the north west of England who describes himself as a Sherlock fanatic." According to a story in the Oxford Mail (May 21), the 45-year-old Holmes fanatic from the north of England, who asked not to be named, said, "I'm elated and now I need to sort out the money--I'm lucky I have an understanding wife," and that "I'm very happy because I've been collecting Conan Doyle for about 30 years now. Randall Stock has more information about the Oxfam Beeton's at his web-site at <members.aol.com/shbest/ref/bonhams-2008-beetons.htm>.
12286. Bruce Holmes is continuing to expand his explorations of Sherlockian philately (and philatelic Sherlockiana) (August 03 #1/November 04 #5/January 05 #4), and a colorful catalog of his philatelic offerings is available as a .pdf file by e-mail from Bruce at <ebh221b@eastlink.ca>.
12287. Robert H. Schutz ("The Arnsworth Castle Business") died on Apr. 26. He was a chemist, director of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health's Testing and Certification Laboratory, and an enthusiastic amateur printer, presiding over the Plane Tree Press, from which he published many issues of The Arnsworth Castle Business Index. He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1961.
12288. Martin Heath reports that Bigwood Auctioneers in Stratford upon Avon will have a 42-piece set of silver cutlery at auction on June 27. The cutlery, discovered in Baskerville Hall, is engraved with the Baskerville crest, and there's a press release at <www.bigwoodauctioneers.com> with photographs of the silver. This Baskerville Hall is Clyro Court in Hay-on-Wye, where the owners have said for many years that Conan Doyle visited the family often, and found inspiration there for his story (the family asked Conan Doyle to change the setting so that they wouldn't be overrun by tourists).

May 2008 #6

12289. Dick Martin died on May 24. He was a fine actor and comedian, most famous for the long-running television series "Laugh-In" that he launched with Dan Rowan in 1968. They impersonated Holmes and Watson in Victor Herbert's "The Red Mill" in St. Louis in 1960, and there is a photograph of them in Canonical costume on p. 250 in Chris Steinbrunner and Norman Michael's THE FILMS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1978).
12290. Steven Dietz's play "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" continues to be popular with regional theaters: it's on at the Park Square Theatre in St. Paul, Minn., through June 22; 20 West 7th Place, St. Paul, MN 55102 (651-291-7005) <www.parksquaretheatre.org>. It's also scheduled at the Hedgerow Theatre in Media, Pa., Oct. 16 through Nov. 16. 64 Rose Valley Road, Media, PA 19063 (610-565-4211) <www.hedgerowtheatre.org>.
12291. "The Death and Life of Sherlock Holmes" is a two-act puppet play adapted by Bob Brock from "The Final Problem" and "The Empty House", first performed at the Hole in the Wall Puppet Theatre in Lancaster, Pa., in 2000; they'll perform it again on June 6-7 and 13-14. 126 North Water Street, Lancaster, PA 17603 (717-394-8398) <www.holeinthewallpuppettheatre.com>; click on Over 21 Club.
12292. ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: A LIFE IN LETTERS, edited by Jon L. Lellenberg, Daniel Stashower, and Charles Foley, won an Agatha from Malice Domestic (best nonfiction), and an Edgar from the Mystery Writers of America (best critical/ biographical).
12293. Plan ahead: The Baker Street Irregulars' next annual dinner will be held on Jan. 9, 2009, honoring the 150th anniversary of the birth of Arthur Conan Doyle and the 75th anniversary of the founding of the BSI. And The Sherlock Holmes Society of London's next annual dinner will be held on Jan. 17, 2009.
12294. It was in January 1968, during the William Gillette Luncheon in an upstairs room at Keen's Chop House in New York, that a Baker Street Irregulars suggested that The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes might consider picketing the BSI's annual dinner. And so they did. And much earlier, in 1946, the William Gillette Memorial Luncheon was held at Keen's. But Keen's is famous for much more than that: Keen's Pipe Club has a long and distinguished history, and Bruce Harris has an interesting article about the restaurant and the club in the summer issue of Pipes and Tobaccos. \$7.95; 5808 Farrington Place #200, Raleigh, NC 27609 <www.pt-magazine.com>.
12295. Postage rates increased this month, and my newsletter will cost \$10.70 (to the U.S.), \$13.90 (to Canada), and \$16.50 (elsewhere); my circulation department will remind you when it's time to renew.
12296. And my apologies to anyone who sent in something that didn't make it into this month's issue: I've recovered from a computer crash, but lost a few very recent notes that weren't backed up. "Have two copies of anything you ever want to see again" is excellent advice.

June 2008 #1

12297. Mike Whelan reports that The Baker Street Irregulars' 'A Study in Scarlet Expedition' to Salt Lake City on Aug. 30, 31, and Sept. 1 (with a Welcome Reception on Friday evening, Aug. 29) promises to be a very special event. It's open to all Sherlockians, and "participation in this conference will be a singular experience in scholarship and fellowship in the historic atmosphere of Utah, a backdrop for Holmes' first published case." It's open to all Sherlockians, and there are a few places available for the conference. Additional information is available from Mary Ann Bradley (317-514-8566); if you leave a message, please tell her your e-mail address.
12298. Ken Lanza spotted an interesting article posted by Jem Bloomfield on May 20 at the web-site of the California Literary Review at <calitreview.com/682>; "The Right Side of the Tracks" discusses railways in the classic whodunnit, with due attention to the Canon, and an interesting photograph of a train leaving Paddington Station in 1892.
12299. Amnon Kabatchnik has long been interested in drama, and he has written two books due to be published by Scarecrow Press: BLOOD ON THE STAGE: MILESTONE PLAYS OF CRIME, MYSTERY AND DETECTION: AN ANNOTATED REPERTOIRE, 1900-1925 (384 pp., \$90.00) and SHERLOCK HOLMES ON THE STAGE: A CHRONOLOGICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA OF PLAYS FEATURING THE GREAT DETECTIVE (208 pp., \$55.00).
12300. Harvey Korman died on May 29. He was a dedicated comedian whose first major television appearance was in skits in "The Danny Kaye Show" from 1964 to 1967, and when that series was cancelled he went to work on "The Carol Burnett Show" (for which he won four Emmys), and he starred in many films, including "Blazing Saddles" (1974). It was on "The Carol Burnett Show" in 1972 that he played Watson in a skit in which Anthony Newley was Holmes.
12301. The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <www.sherlock-holmes.com>; there's a report on the 4th Annual Gathering of Southern Sherlockians with lots of photographs (with captions, so that you can tell who's who), and offers of Sherlockian books and other items of interest.
12302. I still have extra copies of the new Italian stamp honoring Dorando Pietri (March 08 #3), who didn't win the marathon in the 1908 Olympics (and wasn't assisted by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle); if you would like to have one of the stamps, just let me know. And if you would like to know more about those Olympics, Jon Lellenberg has noted THE FIRST LONDON OLYMPICS 1908, by Rebecca Jenkins (London: Piatkus Books, 2008; 288 pp., £16.99). Also available is THE 1908 OLYMPICS: THE FIRST LONDON GAMES, by Keith Baker (Cheltenham: Sportsbooks, 2008; 224 pp., £7.99).

12303. "Buckminster Fuller: Starting with the Universe" is the title of an exhibition at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York (through Sept. 21) <www.whitney.org>. Bucky Fuller was a protege and good friend of Christopher Morley in the 1930s, and a member of the Three Hours for Lunch Club, the Grillparzer Sittenpolizeiverein, and The Baker Street Irregulars, and he installed one of his Dymaxion bathrooms in Morley's "Knothole" writing studio, now on display in Christopher Morley Park in Roslyn on Long Island.

June 2008 #2

12304. WHAT'S YOUR STORY? WATERSTONE'S EXCLUSIVE COLLECTABLE POSTCARD BOOK will be published in a limited edition in July, to benefit the National Year of Reading. Each postcard contains a (very) short story, including a Harry Potter prequel by J. K. Rowling, and a Sherlockian pastiche by Neil Gaiman. You can read about (and pre-order) the book (£5.00 plus shipping) at <www.waterstones.com>, and you can read all of the stories at <www.waterstoneswys.com>. The manuscript for Rowling's story sold for £25,000 at a charity auction at Waterstone's this month.
12305. Mel Ferrer died on June 2. He was an actor, director, and producer who was involved in more than 100 films, including "Lili" (1953), "War and Peace" (1956), and "Wait Until Dark" (1967); he played Moriarty (with Peter Lawford as Holmes and Donald O'Connor as Watson) in the "Save Sherlock Holmes" episode of "Fantasy Island" (1982).
12306. Something for collectors of Sherlockian comic books to pursue: there were three issues of Classics Illustrated Giants, the second one being "An Illustrated Library of Exciting Mystery Stories", published in 1949; it contained "Doctor Jekyll and Mr. Hyde", "3 Famous Mysteries", "The Moonstone", and Edgar Allan Poe's "Mysteries", and "3 Famous Mysteries" included "The Sign of the Four". It was described as "probably the scarcest comic book to feature Sherlock Holmes" when a copy (in "fantastic condition") was offered at Heritage Auctions this month with a "buy it now" price of \$3405.75 (it wasn't sold).
12307. Reported by Tom Huntington: Bruce Wexler's THE MYSTERIOUS WORLD OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Philadelphia: Running Press, 2008; 192 pp., \$14.98); "the illustrated guide to the famous cases, infamous adversaries, and ingenious methods of the great detective".
12308. John Baesch spotted an imaginative "stacked books accent table" (\$169.00) in a recent catalog from Charles Keath (Box 2789, Cedar Rapids, IA 52406) (888-918-4000) <www.charleskeath.com>; the second book from the bottom has a silhouette of Sherlock Holmes on the spine.
12309. The manuscript of "Lady Frances Carfax" was offered by Mark Hime (Bibliotopus) at the Antiquarian Book Fair in London this month for £250,000 (essentially the same as the \$500,000 he has priced it in his catalogs in recent years), but it did not sell; according to the Calcutta Telegraph (June 15), Hime said he believes the manuscript will find a buyer eventually: "if you want to play, you have to pay." The incomplete manuscript of "His Last Bow" (which Hime has been advertising for \$375,000) was at auction at Sotheby's in New York on June 19 (estimated at \$150,000-200,000), and also went unsold.
12310. THE CASE OF THE LEFT-HANDED LADY (New York: Sleuth/Philomel, 2007; 234 pp., \$12.99) is the second of the three novels in Nancy Springer's series about Enola Holmes, who is the younger sister of Mycroft and Sherlock, and hiding from them in London and solving mysteries on her own; the stories are well written and interesting, and the books are for children aged 9 to 12. THE CASE OF THE PECULIAR PINK FAN and THE CASE OF THE CRYPTIC CRINOLINE will be the fourth and fifth titles in the series. Springer describes herself as a writer/organic word farmer at her web-site at <www.nancyspringer.net>.
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June 2008 #3

12311. DEATH IN THE AIR, by Shane Peacock (Toronto: Tundra, 2008; 254 pp., \$19.95) is the second in his series about "the boy Sherlock Holmes" (who is on his own in London and trying to learn how to be a detective); the characters are interesting and the mystery intriguing. The first novel in the series, EYE OF THE CROW, won the Crime Writers of Canada's Arthur Ellis Award for best young adult crime novel; the Arthur Ellis Awards are imaginatively named after the "nom de travail" of Canada's official hangman. The author's web-site is at <www.shanepeacock.ca>.
12312. Kula Shaker is a British psychedelic rock band that has a Sherlockian promo video for its single "Second Sight" (2007) at YouTube, Mattias Boström has reported; the URL is <www.youtube.com/watch?v=ndwfyeKMX-Y>.
12313. Jon Lellenberg spotted a story in the Salisbury (N.C.) Post (June 19) about a new band called Resident Patient (which takes its name from the Sherlock Holmes story); they say that "this delightful quartet has travelled far and wide to assemble the most unique equipment for creating sound, everything ranging from exotic instruments to hand-made circuitry. Their web-site is at <www.residentpatient.jimdo.com>, and you can hear four of their songs at <www.myspace.com/residentpatient>.
12314. The U.S. Postal Service has issued a sheetlet of stamps honoring the husband-and-wife team Charles and Ray Eames, who were famous for their Eames chair and other modern designs; four of the stamps are shown below. They also produced "The Singular Case of the Plural Green Mustache" for the IBM Pavilion at the N.Y. World's Fair (1964-1965); this mechanized puppet show that had Holmes and Watson explained what was then called "2-valued" logic. An early version of the script (as "The Case of the Purloined Train") was published in Esquire (Oct. 1963) and a later version ("The Case of the Elusive Train") in The Baker Street Journal (Dec. 1964).
12315. Karen Murdock spotted a report in the Lancaster New Era (June 11) that Jeremy Sherlock Holmes, 34, was arrested for possession of controlled substances and possession of drug paraphernalia after a vehicle stop in Lancaster County, Pa. And a report in the Evening Standard (June 17) by their "City Spy" columnist, who wrote that new PR companies find it hard to resist giving themselves new names, but he "quite likes Threepipe, so called because founder Jim Hawker is a Sherlock Holmes fan."
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June 2008 #4

12316. Further to the report (March 07 #2) about the Warner Bros. film that will "re-imagine Holmes as an action-adventure sleuth," the Hollywood Reporter noted (June 3) that Guy Ritchie has been hired to write and direct the film, now tentatively planned for 2010. Ritchie, at the moment, is best known as the husband of Madonna (who has not been mentioned as Irene Adler or Mrs. Hudson). Nicole Sperling reported in Entertainment Weekly's "Hollywood Insider" blog that Robert Downey Jr. (who is in theaters now in "Iron Man") "has had his eye on" the project.
12317. Illyria is a British open-air touring company that will be performing their own dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" from July 20 through Sept. 7 (with a stop at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Aug. 5-16). Their schedule is available at their web-site at <www.illyria.uk.com>.
12318. Tina Rhea spotted a report on a new exhibition on "Jack the Ripper and the East End" at the London Museum's new Docklands branch (through Nov. 2); it is a comprehensive display of photographs, police reports, and curios, and of course the East End was part of Sherlock Holmes' London. The web-site is at <www.museumindocklands.org.uk>.
12319. Spotted by Paul Martin: Wayne Petherick's CRIMINAL PROFILE INTO THE MIND OF THE KILLER (London: Modern Books, 2005); the book has pertinent quotes from the Canon and two full pages describing Holmes as "The First Profiler" (exemplified by his deductions from Watson's watch).
12320. HOLMES: HAYDN'S HEAD was a four-issue comic-book mini-series by Omaha Perez (June 05 #2), and it's now available as a graphic novel (San Francisco: AiT/Planet Lar, 2008; 144 pp., \$12.95); Perez called it "a vicious skewering of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's creations," with a Holmes who has
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"more in common wit with Iggy Pop than Basil Rathbone." He reports that he has retouched dozens of pages and redrawn pieces he wasn't satisfied with; he has a blog at <www.searchintodestroy.blogspot.com>, and the publisher is at 2034 17th Street, San Francisco, CA 94116 <www.ait-planelar.com>.

12321. Holmes and Watson appeared in Andy Lane's "Doctor Who" novel ALL-CONSUMING FIRE (July 94 #4) and Conan Doyle in John Peel's EVOLUTION (February 95 #6); if you missed them, copies are available (\$6.00 and \$8.00) from the Alien Entertainment Co. (888-734-7386) <www.alientertainmentstore.com>.
12322. Jay Pearlman has his computer up and running again, and the spring issue of the Tonga Times is well worth the wait. Published by the Mini-Tonga Scion Society, the newsletter has colorfully-illustrated articles about the miniature sitting rooms constructed by Yves Charles Fercoq in France and by Per Engelson in Sweden, and other news from the wide world of Sherlockian miniatures. A membership covering three issues costs \$11.00 (\$12.00 to Canada/ \$14.00 elsewhere) from Jay Pearlman (1656 East 19th Street #2-E, Brooklyn, NY 11229), and visitors are welcome at the society's excellent web-site at <www.hometown.aol.com/mini-tongasociety/mini1.htm>.
12323. Randall Stock notes a report on a "Sherlock Holmes" five-reel, 25-payline progressive video slot with bonus free spins; there's a review and a "free spins preview" at <www.slotsjam.com/bonusgame/sherlock-holmes.html>. One-arm bandits sure are a lot fancier now than when I last played one.

June 2008 #5

12324. "Found: The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes" was the headline on a story in the Glasgow Daily Record (June 27) about the records of noted pathologist Sir Bernard Spilsbury, unearthed by one of his heirs and to be sold at auction at Sotheby's in London on July 17 (estimated at £7,000-9,000). Spilsbury was described as "Britain's living successor to mythical Sherlock Holmes" in a story in Time magazine (July 2, 1934) and is considered the father of professional forensic pathology.
12325. Tina Rhea spotted Vic Lee's "Pardon My Planet" in the Seattle Post-Intelligencer (June 20). The pun's an old one, but of course a good puns never die.
12326. ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: A LIFE IN LETTERS, edited by Jon L. Lellenberg, Daniel Stashower, and Charles Foley, has been nominated for an Anthony (best critical work) at Bouchercon to be held in Baltimore in October, and for a Macavity (for best mystery non-fiction) from Mystery Readers International (also presented at Bouchercon); MRI is "the largest mystery fan/reader organization in the world." The book already has won an Agatha at Malice Domestic (best non-fiction), and an Edgar from the Mystery Writers of America (for best critical/ biographical).
12327. Another Anthony nomination (best short story) went to Steve Hockensmith's "Dear Dr. Watson"; it appeared in Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine (in the Feb. 2007 issue), and you can read it on-line at Hockensmith's web-site at <www.stevhockensmith.typepad.com> (look for Archives at the right, click on Big Red's Blog, and scroll down to Aug. 15, 2007).
12328. Films that were never made (unfortunately) include a Warner Bros. version of "The Speckled Band" (Conan Doyle's play); there was a copy of the Samuel French script (apparently a 1930 printing) in their research library (it's now owned by a collector). It is possible, and perhaps even likely, that the British film "The Speckled Band" (1931) that starred Raymond Massey as Holmes preempted plans by Warner Bros. Or they may just have decided to go with "gangster studio" films such as Edgar Robinson's "Little Caesar" and James Cagney's "Public Enemy" (both released in 1931).
12329. Bruce Montgomery ("The Red Circle") died on June 21. He was an excellent and accomplished musician, director the Gilbert & Sullivan Players of Philadelphia and director of musical studies and the University of Pennsylvania (including the Penn Glee Club, the Mask and Wig Club, the University Band, and the Penn Singers), and he earned his first paycheck at the age of five when he was cast in "Trial by Jury". Bruce was a second-generation Sherlockian, the son of James Montgomery (who made the song "We Never Mention Aunt Clara" part of the traditions of the S'ian world). Bruce followed in his father's footsteps with the song "We Always Mention Aunt Clara" (which he once described as "Father's Folly, or Great-Aunt Clara Revisited"), and The Baker Street Irregulars awarded him his father's Investiture in 1994.

June 2008 #6

12330. The graphic novel (well, collection) ROSEBUD GRAPHIC CLASSICS: ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE (April 02 #7) is now out of print, but two of the stories are reprinted (along with seven other new stories and poems) in GRAPHIC CLASSICS: ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE (SECOND EDITION); the contents of the new volume include "The Copper Beeches" and "The Engineer's Thumb". And: ADVENTURE CLASSICS [GRAPHIC CLASSICS VOLUME TWELVE includes "The Crime of the Brigadier"; both collections are available in comic-book shops (\$11.95) and from the publisher: Eureka Productions (878 Grove Road Horeb, WI 53572) <www.graphicclassics.com>. Their GRAPHIC CLASSICS: SPECIAL EDITION (2008) was distributed on Free Comic Book Day, has "John Barrington Cowles"; the company offers a free copy if you purchase any two of their titles.
12331. Phillip Gold (221Books) has bought the Sherlockian collection of the late Jack Kerr (October 00 #1), and is offering them for sale at the Advanced Book Exchange <www.abebooks.com/home/221books>. If you have any specific wants you can let him know at 760 East Carlisle Road, Westlake Village, CA 91361 (800-889-2640) <phillipgold_221books@yahoo.com>
12332. "I'm a huge fan of Sherlock Holmes, always was," novel Lee Child told the Chicago Sun-Times (June 22). "In a couple of the books I've put in little Conan Doyle-style tributes to Sherlock Holmes, in the same kind of language Holmes would have used." Child has written 12 books in his "Jack Reacher" series of thriller novels.
12333. The latest issue of Clues: A Journal of Detection (v. 26, n. 1, 2008) is a theme issue devoted to Victorian detective fiction, and it has Maria Cairney's article on "The Healing Art of Detection: Sherlock Holmes and the Disease of Crime in the Strand Magazine". \$30.00 (or \$40.00 a year for two issues) from McFarland, Box 611, Jefferson, NC 28640 (800-253-2187); Clues' web-site's at <www.clues.com>.
12334. Les Klinger spotted an item in The Hollywood Reporter (June 25) about plans by Central Partnership (described as Russia's largest independent film producer and distributor) to make a \$16 million, 32-episode, "Sherlock Holmes" television series. Shooting will begin in the summer of 2009 and continue through 2010; half of the episodes are to be based on the Livanov/Solomin series (1979-1986), and the other half on new adaptations.
12335. Some obituaries for British actors: David Atkins died on Apr. 23; he had a long career as a supporting actor on stage and screen and television, and played Mordecai Smith in Granada's broadcast of "The Sign of Four" (1987). Bernard Archard died on May 1; he had many roles on stage, screen, and television, often appearing as doctors or policemen. He played the coroner Dr. Davidson (with John Neville as Dr. Thorndyke) in a dramatization of R. Austin Freeman's "A Message from the Deep Sea" in the television series "The Rivals of Sherlock Holmes" (1971). Margot Boyd died on May 20; she was a student at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, appearing in a play directed by George Bernard Shaw; she acted for many years on stage, radio, and television, and played Frau Mathis in a dramatization of Baroness Orczy's "The Woman in the Big Hat" in the same television series.

July 2008 #1

12336. John Baesch reports that Frederic Raphael, reviewing GRAHAM GREENE: A LIFE IN LETTERS (London: Little, Brown, 2008) for the Times Literary Supplement (Jan. 25), writes that "in a mock-modest late letter, to a postulant bibliographer, Greene denied being a literary man, to excuse 'preferring Conan Doyle to Virginia Woolf or E. M. Forster.'" Raphael adds, "who doesn't?"
12337. Richard D. Altick died on Feb. 7. He was a noted literary scholar who had a long career at Ohio State University and wrote often about Victorian life and literature. His essay "Mr. Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Samuel Johnson" was published in Vincent Starrett's 221B: STUDIES IN SHERLOCK HOLMES (1940).
12338. "The Edwardians" was an excellent eight-part television series broadcast by the BBC in 1972; "Conan Doyle" featured Nigel Davenport in the title role, and four of the programs (including "Conan Doyle" were broadcast by PBS-TV in the U.S. in 1974 with commentary by Alistair Cooke. I'm not aware that any of the programs were ever issued on VHS cassettes, and it was nice to hear from Jon Lellenberg that the series will be issued in October by BBC Video and Warner Home Video as a DVD set (\$49.98).
12339. Bruce Montgomery died last month (June 08 #5), and there will be a memorial service for him on Oct. 4, at the Zellerbach Theater of the Annenberg Center at the University of Pennsylvania; the program will feature performances of several of his favorite pieces by some of the many performers whose lives and careers he guided. If you would like to know more, you should go to <www.montyart.com> and "click here to subscribe to this site's general mailing list."
12340. "Without Robin, there is no Batman. Sherlock Holmes without Watson? Unthinkable." That's the blurb for "Loyal Sidekick" sweatshirts (\$27.95 to \$29.95) and T-shirts (\$17.95 to \$19.95) offered in the new Wireless catalog (Box 2599, Hudson, OH 44236) (800-669-9999) <www.thewirelesscatalog.com>. Reported by John Baesch.
12341. The Hounds of the Baskerville (sic) are co-sponsoring the Second Newberry Library Sherlock Holmes-Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Symposium at the Library in Chicago at 9:30 am on Oct. 4; the event is open to the public, and the program will feature Roy E. Pilot ("The White Company: Why an Annotated Version?"), Donald J. Terras ("The Sign of Four and Development of Sherlockian Chicago"), and Julie McKuras ("I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere...").
12342. Artist Steven McGovney sculpts interesting literary teapots, some of which were in the shop at the de Young Museum in San Francisco earlier this year, and one of his sculptures is "The Hound of the Baskervilles". This black-and-white newsletter won't do justice to it, but you can see the teapot at <www.detailsart.com/index.asp?PageAction=VIEWPROD&ProdID=3063>.
12343. Evy Herzog discovered ANNABEL THE ACTRESS STARRING IN: HOUND OF THE BARKERVILLES, written by Ellen Conford and illustrated by Renee W. Andriani (New York: Alladin, 2002; 83 pp., \$15.00 cloth, \$3.99 paper); for ages 9 to 12. "Mystery! Suspense! And a slobbering dog named Binky?!" (it's not Sherlockian except for the allusion in the title of the play).

July 2008 #2

12344. Further to the report on the death of Bernard Archard (June 08 #6): Dave Morrill has reported that Gordon E. Kelley's SHERLOCK HOLMES: SCREEN AND SOUND GUIDE lists Archard in "The Absence of Mr. Glass" (broadcast by BBC Radio 4 on Nov. 28, 1989); based on a Father Brown story written by G. K. Chesterton, the radio dramatization starred Archard as Dr. Hood (who may be a retired Holmes) and Andrew Sachs as Father Brown.
12345. <www.the-turds.co.uk/turds/No-Sh*t-Sherlock.aspx> is the URL for the Unofficial Turds Website's new handpainted poly-resin figurine (11 cm high) available for £9.80 and certainly one of the more unusual Sherlockfigurines. Note: that asterisk is in the URL so that the electronic version of this newsletter will make it through obscenity filters; just type the actual word. Thanks to Mattias Boström for reporting this item.
12346. John Baesch spotted a report in the Sunday Times (Mar. 30) that a new edition of T. S. Eliot's OLD POSSUM'S BOOK OF PRACTICAL CATS will be published next year by Faber & Faber to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the first edition, and the 80th anniversary of Faber & Faber. The new edition will have illustrations by Axel Scheffler; you can see samples of his earlier work at <www.imagesofdelight.com/client.asp?id=67>. The Times' art editor Richard Brooks suggested that Scheffler's new creations "are likely to be as eagerly awaited by figures in the political world as by young families," because British prime minister Gordon Brown's modus operandi "is said to bear more than a passing resemblance to that of the Mystery Cat, Macavity, who honed the knack of slinking away at times of mayhem and mideameanour."
12347. Randall Stock spotted a story in the Clitheroe Advertiser and Times (July 16) about Stonyhurst College, where Conan Doyle was a student from 1868 to 1875; the college offers a guided tour that includes the table on which Oliver Cromwell slept before the Battle of Preston, and the desk on which Conan Doyle carved his name. According to the college web-site (the URL for the guided tour is <www.stonyhurst.ac.uk/article-854.shtml> you can visit "the Dark Walk which provided Sir Arthur Conan Doyle with his inspiration for Sir Henry Baskerville's murder."
12348. The fourth issue of Albert Mendez' eight-page newsletter The Pipe Smoker's Thing (spring 2008) includes his article "Some Account of the Holmesian Society" (a peripatetic society founded in 1966 and "precipitated from the heights of prosperity to the depths of adversity" in 1988, when a copy of Beeton's Christmas Annual for 1887 was stolen from the society's bookroom in Paris. Copies are available on request "in consideration of a small donation to help defray the costs of printing and postage" from Albert Mendez (142-35 38th Avenue, Flushing, NY 11354).
12349. The N.Y. Times has reported (July 22) on a surprise infestation of lion's mane jellyfish along the coast of New Jersey and New York. And on July 20 many of the athletes swimming in the New York City Triathlon were stung by the jellyfish; a 32-year-old triathlete died after being pulled unconscious from the Hudson River, but autopsy reports were said to be inconclusive.

July 2008 #3

12350. Reported: ALAS, POOR SHERLOCK: THE IMPERFECTIONS OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST DETECTIVE (TO SAY NOTHING OF HIS MEDICAL FRIEND), by Joseph Green and Peter Ridgway Watt (Beckenham: Chancery House Press, 2007; 370 pp., £16.95); "it would appear that no attempt has been made, since Dakin's classic work, to review comprehensively the vast number of imperfections in the Sherlock Holmes Canon."
12351. Columbia Pictures has announced plans to film a comedy that will star Sacha Baron Cohen as Holmes and Will Ferrell as Watson. "Just the idea of Sacha and Will as Sherlock Holmes and Watson makes us laugh," Columbia co-president Matt Tolach told Variety (July 1), "Sacha and Will are two of the funniest and most talented guys on the planet, and having them take on these two iconic character is frankly hilarious."
12352. And further to the report that Warner Bros. has hired Guy Ritchie to write and direct a film portraying Holmes as an "action-adventure sleuth" (June 08 #4), it appears unlikely that his wife Madonna will appear in the film: the [London] Sunday Mirror reported that she has decided to move permanently to America, while Ritchie plans to stay in England and wants their son Rocco raised there. "The £50 million he could receive from a divorce settlement planes into insignificance compared to his love for his son," a friend of Ritchie told the newspaper.
12353. Variety has reported (July 9) that Robert Downey Jr. has been cast as Sherlock Holmes in the Warner Bros. action film, which will go into production before the Columbia Pictures comedy. Marni Soupcoff wrote in Canada's National Post (July 18) about some of "the more intriguing entries in

Google's latest Hot Trends, an index that tracks the search engine's fastestrising queries." One of the queries is "deerstalker", Soupcoff said, adding that "the best guess I can offer is that the hat owes its renewed prominence to the limited imaginations of reporters sharing the news" that Downey has been cast as Sherlock Holmes.

12354. "We're trying to bring a completely contemporary and entertaining perspective on an intellectual action hero true to his origins where he was more of an action guy originally," Ritchie told MTV at Comic Con in Los Angeles this month. Producer Joel Silver explained that "It's like James Bond in 1891. "Nobody ever did the 'Sherlock Holmes' story as an action movie, and he really was an action guy originally." Ritchie also said that Professor Moriarty will appear in the film, which will not be based on any one story of novel; "it's true to the period, and authentic from where it derives its influence."
12355. Sherlock Holmes' comments on Edgar Allan Poe and Dupin were less than complimentary (in "A Study in Scarlet"), but Conan Doyle offered high praise to Poe in a speech on "The Poe Centenary" at the Hotel Metropole in London on Mar. 1, 1909. The Bronx Historical Society has started work on restoring the five-room Poe Cottage in which Poe lived his last years; the work will cost \$250,000 and is expected to be completed next year, in time for the 200th anniversary of Poe's birth. Construction already is underway on a \$4.2 million visitor center, also to be completed next year. The cottage has a web-page at <www.nycgovparks.org/sub_about/about_parks.html>; click on [historic house museums].
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July 2008 #4

12356. Baron Von Herling's "huge 100-horse-power Benz car" was blocking the country lane (in "His Last Bow"), and Fraser Smythe, in an article in the Sherlock Holmes Journal (winter 1992) identified the car as a Benz 39/100 PS. Now Carl Heifetz has found a photograph of the car at <www.peo.de/document/11395/benz-39100-ps-1912-1920.html>, and it's indeed an impressive vehicle.
12357. Spotted by Evy Herzog: ONE-MINUTE MYSTERIES AND BRAIN TEASERS, by Sandy Silverthorne and John Warner (Harvest House, 2007), with Sherlockian (and Watsonian) artwork on the cover of and in the book.
12358. If you've been wondering whether the Baskerville cutlery (May 08 #5) actually sold at the auction on June 27, and how much someone might have paid for it, so am I. Neither Martin Heath nor Bigwood Auctioneers have responded to my queries.
12359. Peter Calamai notes that this year's Scene of the Crime Festival will be held on Aug. 9 at Wolfe Island in Ontario, the birthplace of Canada's first crime writer: Grant Allen. There's an interesting web-site for the festival at <www.sceneofthecrime.ca> with a link to information about Allen, who was a friend of Conan Doyle, and may well have given Conan Doyle a copy of THE ATTIS OF CAIUS VALERIUS CATULLUS TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH VERSE, WITH DISSERTATIONS ON THE MYTH OF ATTIS, ON THE ORIGIN OF TREE-WORSHIP, AND ON THE GALLIAMBIC METRE BY GRANT ALLEN (1892), which in turn may have inspired the titles of some of the books mentioned in "The Empty House"; Conan Doyle completed Allen's unfinished novel HILDA WADE after Allen died in 1899. <ehlt.flinders.edu.au/english/GA/GAHome.html> is the URL for a detailed web-site about Grant Allen (reported by Christopher Roden).
12360. The new Sherlockian society McMurdo's Camp (April 08 #2) has a blog, as more and more societies do now, and the Internet offers an excellent way of making scholarship available: Bill Briggs has written an interesting and nicely-illustrated article ("That Train") about the railroad train that brought Jack McMurdo into the Valley of Fear, and it's available at their web-site at <www.mcmurdoscamp.wordpress.com/2008/05/06/that-train>.
12361. Pat Ward has reported that Christopher Plummer's autobiography IN SPITE OF MYSELF: A MEMOIR will be published this year (it's due from Knopf in October, \$29.95). Plummer played Sherlock Holmes in the 30-minute television film "Silver Blaze" (1977) and in "Murder by Decree" (1979)
12362. More film news: it has been quite some time since the first report on the film "Death Defying Acts" (August 05 #1); Guy Pearce stars as Harry Houdini, and Catherine Zeta-Jones as Mary McGarvie, an Edinburgh psychic who tries to claim Houdini's reward for anyone who can contact his mother. The film was screened at the Toronto Film Festival on Sept. 13, 2007, and it premiered in Australia on Mar. 13, 2008; it was scheduled for limited release in the U.S. on July 11. There is no mention of Conan Doyle in the cast and credits.
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July 2008 #5

12363. And there's more of interest to Houdini's fans: Houdini acted in silent films from 1919 to 1923, and HOUDINI: THE MOVIE STAR, a three-DVD set from Kino International (\$39.95), has three of his feature films (some color-tinted as in the original release), almost all of his 15-episode serial "The Master of Mystery", and special features that include films of his escapes and an audio recording.
12364. The Independent has reported (July 27) that the University of London Library may sell the "magical library" of Harry Price because the Higher Education Funding Council has cut support to the university's libraries. Price was a famous psychic investigator and ghost hunter who clashed with Conan Doyle about spiritualism in the 1920s, and Price kept Conan Doyle's correspondence. <www.ull.ca.uk/exhibitions/harryprice.pdg> is the URL for a catalog of an exhibition of "The Magical Library of Harry Price" at the University in 2004; one of the highlights of the collection is a copy of MALLEUS MALEFICARUM [THE HAMMER OF WITCHES], a treatise on witchcraft that was published in 1487 and is considered by modern magicians as the first book to reveal the secrets of magic.
12365. The summer issue of The Baker Street Journal offers Michael Dirda's amusing "A Study in Starrett" (the paper he presented at this year's annual dinner of the Baker Street Irregulars), Sally Sugarman's "Sherlock Holmes and the Children" (about Sherlock Holmes pastiches written for young readers), and much more, including editor Steve Rothman's announcement that the next BSJ Christmas Annual will be David F. Morrill's "SIGNS of the Times" (his discussion of film versions of "The Sign of the Four" from Arthur Wontner in 1932 to Matt Frewer in 2001). The BSJ, published quarterly, costs \$26.50 a year (or \$29.00 foreign), and checks (credit-card payments accepted from foreign subscribers) can be sent to the BSJ (Box 465, Hanover, PA 17331). There's an option for subscriptions to the BSJ and to the Christmas Annual for \$36.50 (\$40.00 foreign); Steve warns that the Christmas annual likely will go quickly out of print, as last year's did. The BSJ's web-site, at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>, also accepts subscriptions, and offers other material, including papers written by past winners of the Morley-Montgomery articles from recent issues, and additional BSI publications.
12366. Randall Stock continues to add to his "Sidney Paget Original Drawings and Artwork: A Preliminary Census and Checklist"; there's more detail, and minor corrections, and new entries for more of Paget's non-Sherlockian work: <www.members.aol.com/_ht_a/shbest/ref/sidney-paget-original-art.htm>.
12367. The summer issue of The Sherlock Holmes Journal (winter 2006) has "The Master's Birthday" (David L. Hammer's attempt to demonstrate that Holmes was born on Oct. 10), a fine article on "Sherlock Holmes and the Beginnings of Forensic Science" (by Vincent J. and Paul L. Cirillo), "Phantoms and Fairies" (June Thomson's discussion of Conan Doyle's belief in Spiritualism), and additional news and scholarship from Britain and elsewhere. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London welcomes new members: associate members receive only The Sherlock Holmes Journal, and full members also receive notices of meetings. Prices vary depending on where you are and on whether you're an adult or a junior, and details
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July 2008 #6

12368. The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection of the Toronto Public Library will present a lecture by Leslie Klinger on Oct. 23 at 7:00 pm at the Lillian H. Smith Library (239 College Street) on his NEW ANNOTATED DRACULA, and a lecture by Steven Rothman on Nov. 15 at 3:00 pm in the Elizabeth Beeton Auditorium at the Toronto Reference Library (798 Yonge Street); on "Tincture of Conan Doyle: Christopher Morley on Sherlock Holmes". There's no charge for admission to the events, and all members of the public are invited.
12369. THE FATE OF FENELLA (1892) was an early round-robin novel, with each chapter written by a well-known British author, one of them being Conan Doyle; it's a tale of mesmerism and murder, and there's a new edition of the novel (Kansas City: Valancourt Books, 2008; 268 pp., \$17.95), edited and introduced by Andrew Maunder.
12370. The June issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota has Don Hobb's "100 Years Ago" discussion of "The Foreign Language Collector", John Bergquist's "50 Years Ago" report on Edgar W. Smith's THE INCUNABULAR SHERLOCK HOLMES, and curator Tim Johnson's announcement that he has won a Staff Development Grant from the Friends of the Libraries that he plans to use for a trip to Portsmouth to do research in the Richard Lancelyn Green Collection. Copies are available from Richard J. Sveum, (111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <sveum001@tc.umn.edu>.
12371. It was 25 years ago (September 83 #2) that I reported on "Angst in My Pants" (an LP recorded issued in 1982 with songs by the rock group Sparks). One song was "Sherlock Holmes" (with amusing Sherlockian lyrics), and you can read the lyrics on-line at <www.sparks-lyrics.co.uk/angst-in-my-pants.html>; you can also purchase an MP3 download of the song for \$0.99 at <www.amazon.com> (or listen to a brief sample). Ken Lanza gets credit for this discovery.
12372. Ken also spotted a report in the Daily Mail (June 6) on Rachel Rice, who at the age of 10 played Marina Savage in the Granada dramatization of "The Dying Detective" in 1994. She's now starring in the British reality television series, and you can see recent pictures of her at <www.imdb.com>.
12373. Another Internet item noted by Ken is Rod Mollise's "Sherlock Holmes Page: Homage to the Master" at <www.skywatch.brainiac.com/holmes>, where Mollise offers his own annotated versions of seven of the stories, and his paper on "The Erotic Hound" (an examination of the story "using the discourse of Roland Barthes").
12374. The summer issue of The Magic Door (the newsletter published by The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) has reports by Stephanie Thomas on cigarette cards held in the collection, and by Peggy Perdue on some recently acquired "realia", plus news of the handover of the chairmanship of the Friends by Doug Wrigglesworth to Cliff Goldfarb. Copies of the newsletter are available from Doug Wrigglesworth (16 Sunset Street, Holland Landing, ON L9N 1H4, Canada) <doug.wrig@sympatico.ca>.
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August 2008 #1

12375. Logan Clendening was an early Sherlockian, friend of Vincent Starrett and Alexander Woollcott, and author of the amusing and often-reprinted pastiche "The Case of the Missing Patriarchs" (1934). He was an ardent Dickensian, and his A HANDBOOK TO PICKWICK PAPERS (1936), recently noted by Jon Lellenberg, is a delightful and well-written example of how much fun can be found in the pursuit of literature. His description of "Pickwick Papers" begins: "Humble and meek in its beginning, acclaimed by no reviews, it and its successors were soon rescued by the good taste of the man in the street, and they were read as no books have ever been read before or since. They were read so diligently, in fact, that the critics were somewhat alienated: for while they recognize that this is the ultimate function of a book, the extent to which Dickens is read has always struck the professional litterateur as slightly vulgar." As apt, surely, for the Sherlock Holmes stories as for "Pickwick Papers".
12376. Dick Rutter has reported SHERLOCK HOLMES Y EL CASO DE LA JOYA AZUL, adapted for children by Rosa Moyat and with colorful illustrations by Roger Olmos, published this year by Lumen in Spanish and in Catalan (€13.95). There is no Spanish version of Amazon, but <www.fnac.es> is a good web-site, and you can see the cover in full color. Thanks to Antonio Iriarte for identifying the useful web-site.
12377. "With help from Arthur Conan Doyle, the Doctor and his friends discover a plot to take over the world" is the blurb for Terrance Dicks' new "Doctor Who" novel REVENGE OF THE JUDOON (London: BBC Books, 2008; 112 pp., £1.99). John Baesch kindly forwarded a report from the Sunday Times (Mar. 16) "the Doctor originally fought to save Balmoral and Edward VII with the help of Winston Churchill. Unfortunately the television people liked the idea, and thought they might keep Winston in reserve for a future episode," so Dicks had to make do with a cameo from Arthur Conan Doyle instead.
12378. Further to the report (July 08 #3) on two different Sherlock Holmes films, from Warner Bros. and from Columbia, work on the Warner Bros. film, originally scheduled for 2010, will start on Oct. 6. As for the second film, to star Sacha Baron Cohen and Will Ferrell, Warner Bros. director Guy Ritchie said that "they don't even have a script yet." And there's more: in an interview in the Montreal Gazette (Aug. 6), Downey said that his mind's a total blank when it comes to figuring out how to portray Holmes. "I'm like: 'Okay they're going to pay me to do this movie and I don't have a f---ing idea in my head.'" He's also having trouble with his English accent. "I go: 'Wait! maybe it should be more like this.' Then: 'No! You don't want to do that!' Damn it! I hope I figure this out before we start shooting. Now, I'm in fear and anxiety."
12379. THE FATE OF FENELLA appeared in The Gentlewoman beginning with the Christmas number in 1891, and it was an early round-robin novel by 24 well-known British authors, including Arthur Conan Doyle and Bram Stoker; the new edition (Kansas City: Valancourt Books, 2008; 268 pp., \$17.95) has a long introduction by Andrew Maunder, who sets the novel in context, describes its reception by the critics, and explains who the authors were (they may have been well known at the time, but most of them aren't now).
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August 2008 #2

12380. Joseph Green and Peter Ridgway Watt's ALAS, POOR SHERLOCK: THE IMPERFECTIONS OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST DETECTIVE (TO SAY NOTHING OF HIS MEDICAL FRIEND) (Beckenham: Chancery House, 2007; 370 pp., £16.95) draws upon earlier scholarship for a discussion of the many contradictions, inconsistencies, and errors that are to be found in the Canon; they rely in great part on annotations by William S. Baring-Gould and Leslie S. Klinger, and the relatively brief treatment of the later stories seems to have been the result of Klinger's "reference library" not having been completed when their book went to press.
12381. Andrew Lycett spoke about his biography of Conan Doyle at the Toronto Public Library on Oct. 25, 2007, and you can listen to his 79-minute lecture (with introductions by Peggy Perdue and Doug Wrigglesworth) at the web-site of the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection www.acdcollection.org [click on "Links"].
12382. Alfred Weiner wants to sell his collection of Sherlockian books, magazines, and recordings, and is asking \$695.00 plus shipping; you can request a catalog of his material: 4105 Marietta Drive, Vestal, NY 13850 (607-722-6251) <almar@stny.rr.com>.
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12383. John Baesch has provided news of Queen Victoria's bloomers at auction this month in England. Her modest cotton drawers with a 50-inch waist and monogrammed with a tiny VR, sold for £4,500 to a "lady of Leisure" from Canada. A royal chemise with a 66-inch bust sold for £3,800 and the Queen's nightdress, measuring 50 inches from shoulder to hem, sold for £5,200. Her Majesty's unmentionables were kept by one of her ladies-in-waiting, and were sent to auction by a family from Lincolnshire. Another set of her bloomers was on display at Sherlock's Baker Street Pub in Houston in 1982, and may still be there.
12384. Joseph H. Gillies ("The Aluminium Crutch") died on Aug. 4. He was an executive with the Philco-Ford Corp., and a long-time member of The Sons of the Copper Beeches; he received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1962.
12385. More news (well, gossip) about the Warner Bros. film that will star Robert Downey Jr. as Holmes: the web-site <www.showbizspy.com> reported on Aug. 8 that "British hardman Jason Statham is hoping to land the role of Dr. Watson" in the film," and that Ritchie is reportedly planning to cast his wife Madonna to play an unfortunate victim of a serial killer being pursued by Holmes. Other reports have Mark Strong cast to play the villain, and Liverpool being scouted for locations. And you can see a faked photograph of Robert "Iron Man" Downey Jr. in Sherlockian costume by searching for "sherlock" at <www.network.nationalpost.com/np/blogs>.
12386. There's also gossip about the Columbia film starring Sacha Baron Cohen and Will Ferrell: screenwriter Etan Cohen told MTV that "what's been exciting is to do a giant comedy but at the same time try to be true to the mechanics of a Sherlock Holmes story like using the Victorian forensics that Conan Doyle used." Cohen added that he has "books about Victorian forensics, all the stories, and dictionaries for Victorian slang," and that "it looks like I'm writing a bad senior thesis on Holmes."

August 2008 #3

12387. "Art in the Blood: Sherlock Holmes and the Arts" is the theme for this year's "Saturday with Sherlock Holmes" (sponsored by the local Sherlockian societies) at the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore on Nov. 8; the festivities will begin with morning coffee in the Edgar Allan Poe Room at 10:00 am, and end at 1:00 pm. There's no charge, and the library is at 400 Cathedral Street in Baltimore.
12388. Terence Rigby died on Aug. 10. He had a long career on stage, screen, and television; he played Dr. Watson in Tom Baker's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1982), and Inspector Layton in Ian Richardson's "The Sign of Four" (1983). The British Library has an interesting interview with Rigby at its web-site <www.bl.uk/projects/theatrearchive/rigby.html>.
12389. And the British Library's Theatre Archive Project is well worth exploring: it also has interviews with Edward Hardwicke and Ian Richardson, and a useful search engine for finding others.
12390. <www.cbc.ca/wordsatlarge/blog/2008/08/the_game_is_afoot_experts_on_s.html> is the URL for interesting Canadian audio from the CBC: a 15-minute interview with Thelma Beam, Mark Hacksley, and Wilfrid de Freitas (1987), and a 23-minute interview with Peggy Perdue, Charles Prepolec, and Peter Calamai (2006). Thanks to Ken Lanza for this discovery.
12391. Mark Terry (at Facsimile Dust Jackets, 1568 48th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94122 <www.facsimiledustjackets.com> offers reproductions of dust jackets for collectors who lack authentic dust jackets; the company has some 4,000 jackets in its archive (which he plans to expand), and each jacket has the printed statement "Facsimile Dust Jackets L.L.C." on the front or back flap (\$22.00 each). The facsimiles are excellently produced in full color, and of course there are Sherlockian and Doylean jackets in the archive. Andy Moursund offers the same images as posters (\$25.00 each); there's a "poster" link at the web-site, or you can contact Andy directly at 11303 Soward Court, Kensington, MD 20895 (301-922-8081) <andym108@yahoo.com>.
12392. LADYBUG GIRL is an imaginative book for young readers, written by Jacky Davis and illustrated by David Soman (New York: Dial/Penguin, 2008; \$16.99), with Lulu (aka Ladybug Girl) in Sherlockian costume on the rear endpapers.
12393. Peter L. Stern is offering an interesting set of the "Crowborough Edition" of Conan Doyle's works (published in 1930 in 24 volumes, with his signature in the first volume); the set has the dust jackets and is in the original shipping crate, lacking the lid but with the contemporary shipping labels. \$20,000; 15 Court Square, Boston, MA 01208 (617-542-2376) <psbook@aol.com>.
12394. Eldridge Plays and Musicals has a web-site at <www.histage.com> where they offer three plays of interest to Sherlockians: Billy St. John's "Fantastical Friends" has a scene from "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes", Robert Mattson's "The Four Biggest Guys in Rock and Other Comedies" includes his short play "The Retirement Holmes", and Mattson's "The Man Who Thought He Was Sherlock Holmes" is a comedy featuring a man who is so psychiatrically challenged that he thinks he's Sherlock Holmes and his psychiatrist is Dr. Watson. You can download PDF previews at their web-site, and their postal address is Box 14367, Tallahassee, FL 32317.

August 2008 #4

12395. Reported: SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE THREE POISONED PAWNS (Breese Books, 2008; 204 pp., \$18.95), with three pastiches: "Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of Hamlet" (Emanuel E. Garcia), "Sherlock Holmes and the Belgravian Letter" (Roger Jaynes), and "Sherlock Holmes and the Highcliffe Invitation" (Eddie Maguire). Available (\$18.95 plus shipping) from Classic Specialties (Box 1958, Cincinnati, OH 45219) and at their web-site <www.sherlock-holmes.com/aug08_special.htm>.
12396. Will Thomas' THE BLACK HAND (New York: Touchstone/Simon & Schuster, 2008; 289 pp., \$14.00) is the fifth in his Victorian mystery series featuring Cyrus Barker (an homage to Holmes' rival in "The Retired Colourman") and his assistant Thomas Llewelyn. It's an excellent continuation of the series, with Barker and Llewelyn involved in a battle between the Camorra and the Mafia, and as always there's excellent late-Victorian atmosphere.
12397. OSCAR WILDE AND A GAME CALLED MURDER, by Gyles Brandreth (New York: Touchstone/Simon & Schuster, 2008; 402 pp., \$24.00 cloth, \$14.00 paper) is the American edition of his OSCAR WILDE AND THE RING OF DEATH (May 08 #5); it features Oscar Wilde as the detective, assisted by Robert Sherard (as his Watson), and by his friend Arthur Conan Doyle; the mystery's ingenious and the story well told, with excellent period flavor.
12398. The New York City Collectible Paperback & Pulp Fiction Expo will be held on Oct. 19 at the Holiday Inn on 57th Street, between Ninth and Tenth Avenues, Gary Lovisi reports; the guests will include Marvin Kaye, Ron Goulart, and Peter Straub. More information is available from Gary (call 718-646-6126 after 5:00 pm).
12399. Jon Lellenberg reports that the new British trade paperback of ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: A LIFE IN LETTERS (from HarperPerennial, £12.99) contains a few minor corrections, including typos. The American trade paperback is due from Penguin Books in September.
12400. Gary E. Combs Autographs (3 Sheridan Square #7-H, New York, NY 10014 (212-242-7209) <www.combsautographs.com> recently offered (for \$1,500) an interesting letter from Conan Doyle: Jane Dewey Rinear, who had met Conan Doyle at a seance, wrote to him in 1927 on the stationery of the Associated True Story Clubs of America asking him to tell their 10 million readers a few of his ideas on what constitutes a charming woman. His response, written at the top of her letter (as often was the case in his later years), was: "I find all that I could imagine in my own wife. She is on

the one hand practical and capable in the affairs of every day life. On the other hand she has always preserved that touch of romance which gives a glamour to existence. When a woman is good & kind right through she gets a hold of a man which is permanent and which his reason as well as his emotions endorses."

12401. Irene's Cabinet is an annual anthology edited by Beth Austin for Watson's Tin Box, and this year's issue (46 pp.) offers Andrew Solberg's account of his first meeting with Sherlock Holmes, John Sherwood's "Jack the Ripper: A Sherlockian Approach", and the winning essay in the society's annual contest for seventh-graders in Howard County, Md. \$15.00 postpaid Beth Austin (9455 Chadburn Place, Gaithersburg, MD 20886); copies of annuals from 2003 through 2007 also are available (same price).
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August 2008 #5

12402. Larry Townsend died on July 29. Townsend was active in the gay and leather communities for decades, and (writing as J. Watson) was the author of THE SEXUAL ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1971); it was hardcore homosexual pornography, far more shocking in 1971 than it was when it was reprinted in 1993 (and still not for the easily shocked or annoyed).
12403. Clive Francis' play "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (starring Peter Egan as Holmes and Philip Franks as Watson) will be performed at the Theatre Royal in Bath on Oct. 13-18, on its way to the West End in London. The box office address is Sawclose, Bath BA1 1ET, England <www.theatreroyal.org.uk>.
12404. Anyone who has seen Robert Sabuda's books knows how wonderful they are, and if you have never seen one you should visit a bookstore and look at one (or more). He creates incredible pop-up books, and his ENCYCLOPEDIA MYTHOLOGICA: FAIRIES AND MAGICAL CREATURES, designed with co-author Matthew Reinhart (Cambridge: Candlewick, 2008; \$27.99) includes the Cottingley Fairies (but without any mention of Conan Doyle). Go to www.candlewick.com and click on [advance search] and search for Sabuda as author to see photographs of inside spreads from his books (and there's video for many of his books).
12405. You can go to <www.tripadvisor.com/PressCenter-i200-c1-Press-Releases.html> to read a press release from the TripAdvisor Media Network that rates the "Top 10 Literary Destinations" (according to its editors): London, Stratford-upon-Avon, Edinburgh, Dublin, New York, Concord, Paris, San Francisco, Rome, and St. Petersburg. Sherlock Holmes is cited for both London and Edinburgh.
12406. An auction forecast: a first book edition of A STUDY IN SCARLET will be at auction at Christie's in London in November, estimated at £5,000-8,000. It isn't described at their web-site yet.
12407. David Ian Davies offers an imaginative new Sherlock Holmes pen based on a design by Tom Richmond, available for \$12.95 (plus shipping) from One Voice Recordings, 1685 Halpert Street, Encino, CA 91436 (818-501-8145); you can see the pen at his web-site at <www.onevoicerecordings.com>.
12408. David Palmer's "Spirit of Place" is a hand-crafted stained-glass portrait of Arthur Conan Doyle, with appropriate Portsmouth landmarks in the background, and it's now on display at the Cochrane Gallery in London through Nov. 28; the exhibition moves to the Stained Glass Museum at Ely Cathedral in January. You can see the portrait in full color at the society's website at <www.bsmgp.org.uk/Events/40cm2_exhibition_panels_and_prices.htm>, and it's for sale for £975; if you're interested, Palmer's e-mail address is <davidnpalmeruk@comcast.net>.
12409. A bibliographic query: Dell published two comic books under the title "New Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" in 1961 and 1962, and they were reprinted by Eternity Comics/Malibu Graphics as "Sherlock Holmes Casebook" in 1989, all without credits for stories or artwork. But the listings in "The Universal Sherlock Holmes" credit Edith Meiser for the stories and Frank Giacoia for the artwork. If anyone has any evidence identifying the author and artist, please let me know (the artwork looks like Giacoia's, but I don't know of an actual credit for him); the writer seems to have been Paul S. Newman.
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August 2008 #6

12410. Steven Dietz's play "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" will be produced by the Peninsula Players at the Theatre in a Garden in Fish Creek, Wis., Sept. 3 through Oct. 19, 2008 (W-4351 Peninsula Players Road, Fish Creek, WI 54212) (920-868-3287) <www.peninsulaplayers.com>. And the Abbeville Opera House in Abbeville, S.C., on Mar. 13-21, 2009; Box 247, Abbeville, SC 29620 <www.theabbevilleoperahouse.com>.
12411. John Ruyle ("Baron Dowson") died on Aug. 15. John was an imaginative and prolific printer whose Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian work included books, bookmarks, programs, souvenirs, and letterheads. He invented Turlock Loams (who appeared in a long series of parodies), composed limericks and other poetry, and presided over the Pequod Press (which was only one of the many intriguing names he devised from which to publish his work). John received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1983.
12412. Doug Elliott notes that RATTUS HOLMES IN THE CASE OF THE SPOILSPORTS also features Felis Watson in "a tale of sport and athletes who cheat by taking banned drugs." The story is a comic strip published in English, Spanish, and French by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) at <unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0016/001618/161868E.pdf>. The illustration (below) also shows the evil coach Moriarty, and the comic strip was published just in time to tie in with the Olympics in Beijing.
12413. Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine (Nov. 2008) has Len Moffatt's poem "What a Friend We Have in Sherlock (A Hymn to Holmes)"; his "The Raving: A Poe-etic Version of the Baskerville Legend" was published in the Feb. 1998 issue of EQMM. Len and his wife June co-chaired Bouchercon in Culver City in 1976, in Los Angeles in 1972, and in Pasadena in 1991; they were the fan guests of honor in 1985, and received the lifetime achievement award in 1999.
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September 2008 #1

12414. "Do the Strand" (Roxy Music): The Sherlock Holmes Archetype and Its Influence is the title of the Sherlockian panel at Bouchercon on Oct. 11 at 8:30 am, with Sophie Hannah (moderator), Peter E. Blau, Steve Hecox, Laurie R. King, and Hank Phillippi Ryan; there's more information about Bouchercon at <www.charmedtodeath.com>. And in case you're wondering who Roxy Music is (I sure didn't know), they're an English art rock group that was founded in 1971, and one of their songs is "Do the Strand" (according to the lyrics, available on the Internet, the strand is a dance rather than an avenue or a magazine).
12415. I asked about the comic books "New Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" published by Dell in 1961 and 1962 (August 08 #5). I recently learned that the stories were written by Paul S. Newman, and they weren't his only Sherlockian work. His widow Carol Newman has reported that in 1954 he wrote the proposal that sold the "Sherlock Holmes" comic strip, which was to be illustrated by Don Komisarow and Lou Fine, to the N.Y. Herald Tribune syndicate; the syndicate took 50% of the proceeds, and Adrian Conan Doyle demanded half of the other 50%, the team bowed out and the syndicate brought in Edith Meiser and Frank Giacoia. Newman then wrote the stories for the Dell's comic books, and in 1962 Henry Lester, representing the Conan Doyle estate, optioned a Sherlock Holmes screen treatment from Newman. And according to the GUINNESS BOOK OF
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WORLD RECORDS (1998), Newman was the most prolific comic-book writer, with more than 4,000 published stories for 360 different comic-book titles.

12416. The new book WHO THE HELL IS PANSY O'HARA? has one of the most imaginative titles that I've seen recently. Jenny Bond and Chris Sheedy explore "the fascinating stories behind 50 of the world's best-loved books" (New York: Penguin Books, 2008; 318 pp., \$13.00), and the best-loved books include (of course) THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES. Pansy O'Hara, in case you haven't figured it out, is the heroine of a book written by Peggy Walsh, who wrote as Margaret Mitchell and changed the name of her heroine to Scarlet.
12417. BERTRAM FLETCHER ROBINSON, by Brian W. Pugh and Paul R. Spiring (London: MX Publishing, 2008; 234 pp., £18.99/\$28.95 cloth or £12.99/\$19.95 paper), is subtitled "A Footnote to The Hound of the Baskervilles", but it's far more than a footnote: the authors offer detailed documentation of the life and career of Fletcher Robinson (who did much more than provide assistance to Conan Doyle with THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES), and a final chapter discussing the controversy over that assistance, plus a detailed bibliography of Fletcher Robinson's writings.
12418. Plan ahead: the L.A. Theatre Works will perform "The Lost World" on May 13-17, 2009, at the Skirball Cultural Center in Los Angeles, and later broadcast a recording of the show on their weekly series "The Play's the Thing" on KPCC-FM. This is the adaptation by John de Lancie and Nat Segaloff that was issued on an "Alien Voices" audiocassette and starred with Armin Shimerman as Challenger and Dwight Schultz as Malone (November 97 #6); the performance was videotaped and later broadcast by the Sci-Fi channel (July 98 #6). Visit <www.latw.org> and <www.scp.org/programs/latw> for more information about the production company and the radio series. And thanks to Ken Lanza for spotting the announcement.

September 2008 #2

12419. Reported: Mary Ann Gillies' THE PROFESSIONAL LITERARY AGENT IN BRITAIN, 1880-1920 (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2007; 304 pp., \$65.00); there's considerable attention paid to A. P. Watt, who is generally acknowledged as having been the world's first professional literary agent, and who had Conan Doyle as a client for many years. Also: SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE MONTANA CHRONICLES, by John S. Fitzpatrick (Atlanta: Riverbend Publishing, 2008; 239 pp., \$12.95); Holmes solves four mysteries in Montana in the late 1880s.
12420. You probably won't read movie gossip in every issue, but: the [London] Sun reported on Sept. 1 that Russell Crowe had been cast as Watson in the new film that will star Robert Downey Jr. as Holmes; the article (with a doctored photograph of Crowe "as he might look in Baker Street") may still be seen at <www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/showbiz/bizarre/article1630338.ece>. And the Guardian reported (Sept. 2) that director Guy Ritchie told reporters that "I don't have a Watson. Somebody just told me that I have Russell Crowe lined up but that's news to me."
12421. The latest catalog from Video Collectables offers a Sherlock Holmes Clock made of Botticino marble with an illustration by Sidney Paget, similar to the sets of coasters available earlier (November 06 #6 and May 07 #3), for \$49.98. Box 385, Lewiston, NY 14095 (800-268-3891) <www.collectables.com>.
12422. "The Lost Special" (1932) was a 12-episode Universal Pictures serial based on Conan Doyle's story (considered by many to be Apocryphal), up-dated and set in the American west, and it's now available (I believe for the first time) on a single DVD (212 minutes) for \$10.00 (postpaid to U.S. addresses) from Dale Knott (Serials & Such, 7159 Hope Hill Road, Brooksville, FL 34601) <www.serialsandsuch.com>. Prints of the serial were screened in the past by Chris Steinbrunner and others, and although the quality of the DVD is only fair, it is great fun to see what they've done with (and to) the story.
12423. Kevin Parker reports that the full-cast audio drama DOCTOR WHO: ASSASSIN IN THE LIMELIGHT (written by Robert Ross) has Arthur Conan Doyle in Washington in 1865 [yes, that's 1865]; available on two CDs (\$25.82) or as a download (\$12.95) from Big Finish (PO Box 3787, Maidenhead, Berks. SL6 3TF, England) <www.bigfinish.com>.
12424. Things change rapidly on the Internet: Musgraves Matters, published by Rafe McGregor for The Musgraves (September 07 #1) morphed into Cobwebby Bottles, and that's been succeeded by his blog, which has frequent Sherlockian content, at <www.rafemcgregor.blogspot.com>.
12425. There's more about "The Lost Special": a 30-minute dramatization, with Orson Welles in the leading role, was broadcast in the "Suspense" radio series on WABC (New York) on Sept. 30, 1943; it also aired on the Armed Forces Radio Service, and an AFRS transcription disk survived and is now available on the Internet at <randsesotericotr.podbean.com/category/suspense> (scroll down to the entry for May 3, 2008).

September 2008 #3

12426. The 'A Study in Scarlet Expedition' to Salt Lake City over the Labor Day weekend was great fun, and due attention was paid to Sherlock Holmes and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle; participants received A TANGLED SKEIN: A COMPANION VOLUME TO THE BAKER STREET IRREGULARS' EXPEDITION TO THE COUNTRY OF THE SAINTS (edited by Leslie S. Klinger, with copies of the papers that were presented during the weekend). A few copies of the 159-page book are still available for \$21.95 plus shipping (\$3.00 to the U.S.), and the expedition's colorful lapel pin also is available for \$10.00 postpaid; checks payable to Michael W. Homer can be sent to Mike at Switter Axland, 8 East Broadway #200, Salt Lake City, UT 84111 <mhomer@sautah.com>.
12427. Les Klinger reports that there's plenty of Sherlockian content in his THE NEW ANNOTATED DRACULA (New York: W. W. Norton, 2008; 672 pp., \$39.95); the official publication date is Oct. 13, but the book likely will be available earlier than that. Les explains that he mentions "The Sussex Vampire" in the introduction, and discusses the intersection of Holmes and Dracula in an essay on "Dracula after Stoker", and introduces the Sherlockian "game" to the world of Dracula (Stoker said in one of his introductions that the whole thing is true, and Les follows that path).
12428. Further to the item on the Baskerville cutlery at auction at Bigwood Auctioneers on June 27, Martin Heath has reported that the cutlery went unsold when bidding failed to meet the reserve (£4,000), adding that "perhaps it may carry a curse!" Bigwood's press release, with photographs, can still be seen at <www.bigwood.co.uk/Default.aspx?id=447247>.
12429. The Exeter Diocese Consistory Court has dismissed the application by Rodger Garrick-Steele to exhume Bertram Fletcher Robinson's body, according to an article in the Mid-Devon Advertiser (Aug. 29). Garrick-Steele has for many years accused Conan Doyle of murdering Fletcher Robinson, and filed the application two years ago (September 06 #1). Sir Andrew McFarlane, the chancellor of the court, said that Garrick-Steele's theory implicated not only Conan Doyle but also Fletcher Robinson's wife, her brother, the doctor who signed the death certificate, the undertakers, and the rector of Ipplepen, and Sir Andrew said that Garrick-Steele's allegations are "empty and self-serving," and that "on the basis of the material that he has placed before this court he appears to be a totally unreliable historian."
12430. "Holmes Again" is the title of a non-credit course being taught at Indiana State University in Terre Haute this fall, with lectures on five Monday evenings from Oct. 20 to Nov. 17. Judith Francis reports that she will use films and radio shows and television programs, with discussion of different actors' interpretations, and the class will read A STUDY IN SCARLET and one short story. She has offered the course before, and says that it attracts variety of adults "including nuns from St. Mary of the Woods College and a gentleman who likes to arrive for the last class wearing a deerstalker."

12431. Ed Hoch was a prolific short-story author, with a dozen excellent Sherlockian pastiches published in magazines and anthologies beginning in 1973, and they've now been collected in *THE SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES OF EDWARD D. HOCH* (Brooklyn: Gryphon Books, 2008; 171 pp., \$20.00), with an introduction that Ed wrote last year, and an appreciation by Gary Lovisi. Gryphon's address is Box 209, Brooklyn, NY 11228 <www.gryphonbooks.com>.

September 2008 #4

12432. Jennet Conant's *THE IRREGULARS: ROALD DAHL AND THE BRITISH SPY RING IN WAR-TIME WASHINGTON* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2008; 391 pp., \$27.95) has been widely reviewed, and some of the reviews report that Dahl and other members of the British Security Coordination (BSC) were known as the Baker Street Irregulars. Jon Lellenberg has pointed out that it was the Special Operations Executive (SOE) that were known by that nickname, because their original offices in 1940 were in Baker Street.
12433. Don Izban has announced plans for his birthday party for Sherlock Holmes, whose birthday, Don insists, was on Oct. 10. But the party will be held on Oct. 18, at the Ridgemoor Country Club in Chicago, with dinner, entertainment, and prizes, and on Oct. 19 Don's famous tour of Graceland Cemetery, followed by breakfast at legendary Jack's Restaurant. More information is available from Donald B. Izban (1012 Rene Court, Park Ridge, IL 60068).
12434. Aziz Bin Adam has reported two translations of Sherlock Holmes stories into Bahasa Melayu (Indonesian): *SHERLOCK HOLMES: PERUNDING DETEKTIF PERTAMA DUNIA* and *SHERLOCK HOLMES 2: DETEKTIF YANG PENUH KEJUTAN*. You can view them at <pts.com.my/index.php/buku/2047> and <pts.com.my/index.php/buku/2178>, and order the second one at <www.mph.com.my>.
12435. Joe Coppola has found an interesting resource for images: the N.Y. Public Library's Digital Gallery at <digitalgallery.nypl.org>. Search for [conan doyle] and [sherlock holmes]; you'll find prints from four scenes from "A Squeedunk Sherlock Holmes" (1909), a short film made by the Edison Manufacturing Co. (and except for the title, non-Sherlockian). As well as lots of other images.
12436. I've reported on Logan Clendening's *A HANDBOOK TO PICKWICK PAPERS* (August 08 #1), and I also recommend *SKYE HIGH: THE RECORD OF A TOUR THROUGH SCOTLAND IN THE WAKE OF SAMUEL JOHNSON AND JAMES BOSWELL* (1938); it's Sherlockian in a minor way, with a short chapter on "Sherlock Holmes" and a few other references to Conan Doyle, and it's well written and of great interest to anyone who enjoys Johnson and Boswell, and a vicarious tour with two excellent writers.
12437. <www.estudioenesarlata.com> is the URL for a mystery-specialist bookstore in Madrid. It has a Sherlockian section, and the owner, Juan Salvador, has a blog (the Spanish word for "blog" is "blog") with a truly amusing "Alice in Wonderland" illustration.
12438. *WILDE ABOUT HOLMES*, by Milo Yeleseyevich (New York: Comic Masque, 2008; 363 pp., \$19.95), is a pastiche that brings Sherlock Holmes and Oscar Wilde and Lillie Langtry to New York in 1884 and involves them in Grover Cleveland's campaign for the presidency; there's a lot of dialogue lifted from the Canon, and from Wilde and Wittgenstein (carefully footnoted), and situations also recycled from the Canon.
12439. The Knothole is the occasional newsletter from The Christopher Morley Knothole Association, and the July issue has pictures of the cabin where Morley did so much of his writing on Long Island (there's now also a Gissing Commemorative Dog Run); members of the Association pay \$20.00 a year (checks to the CMKA, c/o The Bryant Library, Paper Mill Road, Roslyn, NY 11576).
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September 2008 #5

12440. John Entwistle, best known as the bass guitarist for The Who, also was an artist whose work has been collected and released in limited-edition reproductions. Four of his sketches of a character he called "Cosmic Sherlock Holmes" will be sold by the Heritage Auction Galleries on Oct. 5, and you can see the artwork at their web-site <www.ha.com> (search for lot #50075); the opening bid is \$600.
12441. The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's *The Sherlockian E-Times* will be found at <www.sherlock-holmes.com>, with news of their Sherlockian calendar for 2009, reminiscences of the S'ian conference held in Bennington in 1994, and offers of new S'ian prints, as well as books and other material.
12442. Many Doyleans (and Sherlockians) enjoy a good ghost story, and M. R. James wrote some fine ones; Robert Lloyd Parry will perform "Oh Whistle, and I'll Come to You, My Lad" and "The Ash Tree" at the 76th Street Theater Lab, 236 West 78th Street, in New York from Oct. 22 to Nov. 8 (212-362-0329). He'll also be performing in Portland, Maine, and Washington, D.C.; details at his web-site <www.nunkie.co.uk>.
12443. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London has published two new books: *HOLMES & WATSON COUNTRY: TRAVELS IN SEARCH OF SOLUTIONS*, by Bernard Davies, is a two-volume collection of his scholarship and research (£50.00 for the special edition and £30.00 for the regular edition); and *HOLMES AND WATSON: A NEW CHRONOLOGY OF THEIR ADVENTURES*, by Vincent Delay (chairman of the Societe d'etudes holmesiennes de la Suisse romande), is a revised translation (from the French) of his dating of all the recorded and unrecorded adventures (£10.00); shipping is extra, and costs vary; information is available from Judi Ellis (13 Crofton Avenue, Orpington, Kent BR6 8DU, England) and at <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk> (click on features). Her e-mail address is <shsl221b@aol.com>.
12444. Laurie R. King has been posting to her blog about this and that, and occasionally about the next Mary Russell mystery, *THE LANGUAGE OF BEES*, which (in August) had reached the rewrite stage. Her blog, and much else, will be found at her web-site <www.laurierking.com>.
12445. There are more Sherlockian and Doylean web-sites than one can visit in anything less than unlimited time, but you might want to take a look at Marsha Perry's "The Chronicles of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle" at <www.siracd.com>; the web-site offers some amusing games, and a way to create and send your own Sherlockian greeting cards.
12446. Andrew Clark has reported that he was passing through the Marylebone underground station this month and heard an announcement over the public address system: "Inspector Lestrade to the office, please." And he wondered for a moment whether this was a code phrase intended to alert railway staff to an emergency (hospitals sometimes use such phrases: "paging Dr. Firestone to three west" can mean "there's a fire in the west wing of the third floor"). Andrew also reports that the underground is considering replacing the faded Sherlockian tile murals that decorate the platforms and concourses at the Baker Street station (and he hopes they will continue the S'ian theme), and that the refurbishment of the former Abbey National building on the site of 221B Baker Street is nearing completion.
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September 2008 #6

12447. Craig Bowsby's two-act play "The Hound of London" (first performed in Canada in 1987) was produced for Canadian television and broadcast in 1993, with Patrick Macnee as Holmes and John Scott-Paget as Watson. It was available some years ago on VHS, and you can now buy a DVD (\$15.00 plus shipping) at <stores.ebay.com/appletonmanor> or from Cathy A. Connor (171-A Rink Street #222, Peterborough, ON K9J 2K6, Canada). If ordering by mail, shipping is \$5.00 to the U.S., \$4.00 to Canada, and \$7.00 elsewhere, and you can pay by personal check.
12448. Further to the report (June 08 #3) on the recent postage stamps honoring Charles and Ray Eames, Dr. William R. Hanson has designed a cachet for a first day cover that honors the N.Y. World's Fair IBM Pavilion and its Sherlockian puppet show. The cost of the cover (with one of the stamps) is
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\$10.00 postpaid to the U.S. (\$11.00 elsewhere); his address is 78 West Notre Dame Street, Glens Falls, NY 12801, and he asks that you pay with currency or U.S. postal money orders.

12449. A bit more about Guy Ritchie's new "Sherlock Holmes" film: he was interviewed by the Associated Press in Toronto (Sept. 5) and said: "One of the schools I went to was a boarding school. If we shut up, behaved ourselves at night, they used to play us a Sherlock Holmes story through the speakers. They used to pipe them down to us. I suppose I've had an affection for Sherlock Holmes even since then." And Variety reported (Sept. 18) that Jude Law is "in talks" for the role of Dr. Watson, to star with Robert Downey Jr. as Sherlock Holmes. According to the Hollywood Reporter (Sept. 25), Rachel McAdams has been cast as Irene Adler (Sienna Miller, previously rumored as Irene Adler, dropped out of the project, it seems, because she didn't want to work with her former fiance Jude Law). And the villain, played by Mark Strong, is named Blackwood.
12450. You can go to hcl.harvard.edu/libraries/houghton/doyle_symposium.html for an update on "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: A Sesquicentennial Assessment" (the symposium that will be held at Harvard's Houghton Library on May 7-9, 2009. Details on registration will be available later this year.
12451. "Christopher Morley was an actor and female impersonator who specialized in cross-dressing roles," according to the Internet Movie Data Base. And no, that's not the founder of The Baker Street Irregulars; the actor flourished in the 1970s and 1980s, and his character on "General Hospital" was "possibly the influence for Larry Gelbart's screenplay for 'Tootsie'." You can read more about this at www.imdb.com/name/nm0606869/bio. Credit Ann Marlowe for this discovery.
12452. Clive Francis' play "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (starring Peter Egan as Holmes and Philip Franks as Watson) will be touring in England, opening at the Theatre Royal in Plymouth on Oct. 7 and closing at the Royal & Derngate Theatre in Northampton on Nov. 8. More information on the tour is available at www.baskervillehound.co.uk.

September 2008 #7

12453. Plan ahead: The Baker Street Breakfast Club has announced their second conference at Bennington College in Vermont, on June 24-27, 2010; if you would like to be on the mailing list for "Sherlock Holmes: The Man and His Worlds", you can contact Sally Sugarman (Box 407, Shaftsbury, VT 05262) sugarman@bennington.edu. Their first conference, held 15 years ago (July 94 #1) was well-attended (with more than 100 people on hand) and offered an excellent program.
12454. SHERLOCK HOLMES WAS WRONG: REOPENING THE CASE OF THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, by Pierre Bayard (New York: Bloomsbury USA, 2008; 193 pp., \$20.00), is the English translation of his L'AFFAIRE DU CHIEN DES BASKERVILLE (February 08 #3). He is a psychoanalyst and a professor of French literature, and he believes that "the world that the literary text produces is an incomplete world." Taking that approach to the Canon, Bayard explains that Sherlock Holmes got it wrong: Sir Charles Baskerville wasn't killed by Jack Stapleton with the help of a gigantic hound. And he identifies a different murder victim in the story, and a different murderer, and does it with style and scholarship.
12455. Yet another production of Steven Dietz's play "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure": at the Indiana Repertory Theatre in Indianapolis through Oct. 10. The theater is at 140 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204 (317-635-5277) www.irtlive.com.
12456. A new catalog from the BBC America Shop offers discounts on BASIL RATHBONE IN THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES COLLECTION (all 14 films, plus special features, on 5 DVDs), now \$110.98; JEREMY BRETT AS SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE ULTIMATE COLLECTION (all 41 episodes, plus special features, on 12 DVDs), now \$195.95; THE COMPLETE CONAN DOYLE SHERLOCK HOLMES COLLECTION (all 60 stories, with Clive Merrison and Michael Williams, on 64 CDs, now \$169.98); and THE EDWARDIANS (8 episodes, one with Nigel Davenport as Conan Doyle, on 41 DVDs), now \$42.98.
12457. Georgiana Cavendish, 5th Duchess of Devonshire, gave her name to the style of hat worn by Mary Sutherland (in "A Case of Identity"), and her portrait by Gainsborough was stolen by Adam Worth (who was described as the Napoleon of crime long before that title was given to the evil Prof. Moriarty). And Keira Knightly plays the title role in the film "The Duchess", which opened in the U.K. on Sept. 5 and in the U.S. on Sept. 19; Ralph Fiennes plays the Duke of Devonshire.
12458. Carl Heifetz has noted an amusing (and Sherlockian) "MacNelly's Shoe" comic strip in the St. Petersburg Times (Sept. 21); Jeff MacNelly died in 2000, and the strip is being continued by Chris Cassatt and Gary Brookins. You can see the strip at macnelly.com/archives.php.
12459. When in England: if you've enjoyed Conan Doyle's THE WHITE COMPANY and SIR NIGEL, you're in good company (Charles Addams, Barbara Tuchman, President Eisenhower, P. G. Wodehouse, George Macdonald Fraser, Nicholas Meyer, and John Ford, among others). And you can visit Sir Nigel Loring's tomb, which is in All Saints Parish Church, Chalgrave, Dunstable, Bedfordshire. It was consecrated in 1220, and it's included in Simon Jenkins' ENGLAND'S THOUSAND BEST CHURCHES. The church's web-site is at www.allsaintschalgrave.co.uk.

September 2008 #8

12460. Freddy the Pig continues to delight his many fans, most recently in THE WIT & WISDOM OF FREDDY AND HIS FRIENDS, by Walter R. Brooks, with illustrations by Kurt Wiese and a warm introduction by Michael Cart (Woodstock: Overlook Press, 2000; 251 pp., \$23.95). The book's a compilation, and some of the illustration are Sherlockian, and it's now available at a discount: \$11.00 postpaid from Kevin W. Parker (3 Ridge Road #E, Greenbelt, MD 20770). The Friends of Freddy have a web-site (of course), at www.freddythepig.org.
12461. Spotted by Ev Herzog: A FIELD GUIDE TO MONSTERS, by Dave Elliott (Irvington: Hylas, 2004; 191 pp., \$19.95), has an introduction by Abraham Van Helsing and an entry for the Hound of the Baskervilles; now on discount tables at \$4.99.
12462. One hears of Sherlock everywhere. Luke Harding, the Guardian's correspondent in Moscow, interviewed Andrei Lugovoi earlier this year (May 21); Lugovoi is the man British prosecutors claim murdered the Russian dissident Alexander Litvinenko in London by poisoning his tea with radioactive polonium (the Russian government has refused to extradite Lugovoi for trial in Britain). "Surprisingly, given his status as a fugitive from British justice, Lugovoi turns out to be an Anglophile," Harding wrote. "He says that he still likes many things about Britain--whisky, football, and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle--a copy of the complete Sherlock Holmes stories sits on a bookshelf. 'I've read all of Sherlock Holmes,' he says, adding that he is especially fond of Conan Doyle's dinosaur adventure novel, The Lost World." A tip of the deerstalker to Dough Elliott, who spotted the report.
12463. Terri Haugen has reported that John Nassivera's play "The Penultimate Problem of Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at the Bellingham Theatre Guild Playhouse from Jan. 30 through Feb. 15, 2009; 1600 H Street, Bellingham, WA 98225 (360-733-1811) www.bellinghamtheatreguild.com.
12464. The Shanghai Daily reported (Sept. 15) that a Nanjing-based club is organizing the world's largest competition (2009 players) of the murder-mystery game "Police and Killer" and has applied to the Guinness World Records for recognition. There are four roles in the game: police, killer, civilian, and judge, determined by drawing lots, and players keep their identity secret, except for the judge. The game is "believed to have had its origins in Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's stories about Sherlock Holmes" and to have been "introduced to the Chinese mainland in the late 1990s by overseas Chinese students who had been to Silicon Valley in the U.S."

12465. Forecast: THE ADVENTURES OF ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE, by Russell Miller (London: Harvill Secker, 480 pp., £20.00, due in October); a new biography.
12466. SHERLOCK HOLMES IN PORTRAITS AND POSES is the title of Bill Dorn's imaginative calendar for 2009, with time lines for the cases, notations of holidays, and Ian Malcolm Earls's portraits of Conan Doyle and various Canonical characters. \$13.95 postpaid from William S. Dorn (2045 South Monroe Street, Denver, CO 80210); his web-site's at <www.thesherlockstore.com>.
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October 2008 #1

12467. Bouchercon 39 in Baltimore was enjoyable, especially for the editors of ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: A LIFE IN LETTERS (Jon L. Lellenberg, Daniel Stashower, and Charles Foley); the book won an Anthony for best critical work, and Dan was on hand to accept the award, which made for a proverbial hat trick: the book also has won an Agatha from Malice Domestic and an Edgar from the Mystery Writers of American.
12468. Bouchercon 40 will be held in Indianapolis on Oct. 15-18, 2009; Bouchercon 41 in San Francisco, Oct. 14-17, 2010 (Laurie R. King will be guest of honor); and Bouchercon 42 in St. Louis (Sept. 15-18). Bouchercon is the longestablished world mystery convention, run by fans for fans, named in honor of Anthony Boucher, and it's a grand opportunity to meet authors and fans. You can register now for "Elementary, My Dear Indy!"; their web-site is at <www.bouchercon2009.com>.
12469. You can read more about Bouchercon in Baltimore in various blogs, including Laurie's, which you can find at <www.laurierking.com>. Laurie had quite a few fans sitting up front at her various panels, and I'm sure they will be posting to Yahoo groups such as Letters of Mary; you can sign up for that one at <www.groups.yahoo.com/group/Letters_Of_Mary>. And if you'd like to see nominees and winners of awards for books, films, and albums, there's the Award Annals web-site at <www.awardannals.com> that you can search by author or title to see who's won what over the years.
12470. The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times08-9.htm>, offering a report on this year's Sherlock Holmes and All That Jazz Society gathering in Cincinnati (next year's event will be in St. Louis) and news of new items available: Tracy J. Revels' book SHERLOCK HOLMES: MOSTLY PARODIES; Donald Thomas' THE EXECUTION OF SHERLOCK HOLMES AND OTHER TALES FEATURING THE WORLD'S GREATEST DETECTIVE; a CD reissue of Anthony Smith-Masters' FAVOURITE MUSIC OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (September 91 #6); and a CD of Eddie Maguire's pastiche SHERLOCK HOLMES: DEATH AT THE CRICKET (August 96 #4) read by Nicholas Utechin.
12471. "Truth, betrayal, and passion collide as the world's most famous detective and his beloved Watson investigate a prank turned deadly." That's in C. P. Stanchich's new play ("Sherlock Holmes and the Doom of Devilsmoor") that was presented this month by the Theater Company of Lafayette; the play will run through Nov. 8 at the Mary Miller Theater (300 East Simpson Street, Lafayette, CO 8026 (720-209-2154) <www.tclstage.org>.
12472. Chris Roden reports the British Library will soon issue two three-CD sets in their "Spoken Word" series, one being "British Writers", which will include the recording made by Conan Doyle in 1930, as well as recordings by P. G. Wodehouse, Virginia Woolf, Ian Fleming, Rudyard Kipling, and Harold Pinter; each set will cost £19.95. "British Writers" is not yet listed at the British Library's web-site <www.bl.uk/shop>, but it can be pre-ordered (at a discount) at <whsmith.co.uk> at. The Conan Doyle recording was included in a set issued by the British Library in 2003; Chris reports that the earlier set was withdrawn because of copyright issues.
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October 2008 #2

12473. It has been a bit more than 30 years since the first two books in John Gardner's "Moriarty" series were first published, and many readers may not remember just how good a writer he was. MORIARTY (Orlando: Harcourt, 2008; 300 pp., \$24.00) is a fine reminder: Moriarty is as evil and intelligent as ever, and the story is well told. There's also a British edition (London: Quercus, 2008; 320 pp., £14.99). Gardner, who was a member of The Baker Street Irregulars (with the Investiture "Moriarty"), died last year (August 07 #1), but fortunately was able to complete the trilogy before his death; he has written about his life and career, and about Moriarty, and his many other books, at his web-site <www.john-gardner.com>, and new readers will want to pursue THE RETURN OF MORIARTY (1974) and THE REVENGE OF MORIARTY (1975).
12474. Les Klinger has been on tour promoting his THE NEW ANNOTATED DRACULA (September 08 #3), and the tour continues into November. You can find the schedule at <www.lesliesklinger.com> (click on Events). Les was interviewed about the book at Zombo's Closet of Horror last month; do a Google search for [zombos klinger].
12475. <www.youtube.com/watch?v=RAnor9cdC2Q> is the URL for a three-minute video from a press conference marking the start of work on the "Sherlock Holmes" film Guy Ritchie is making for Warner Bros., with most of the principals on hand, including Kelly Reilly, who will play Watson's love interest Mary.
12476. The Internet does make it easy to share images as well as words: it didn't take long for photographs to be taken during filming for Guy Ritchie's "Sherlock Holmes" in London to reach the Internet. <www.justjared.buzznet.com> offers a good assortment; search for [sherlock holmes], and click on Link. Many bloggers reported that Robert Downey Jr. has decided to reinvent Sherlock Holmes as Charlie Chaplin, but some of them realized that Holmes was a master of disguise.
12477. Randall Stock has a new URL for his excellent web-site "The Best of Sherlock Holmes": <www.bestofsherlock.com>.
12478. And Randall is continuing to expand his "Sidney Paget Original Drawings and Artwork: A Preliminary Census and Checklist"; there's information about one of the illustrations for "The Hound of the Baskervilles" and other updates, at <www.bestofsherlock.com/sidney-paget-original-art.htm>.
12479. "The Case of the Portsmouth Doctor" was the first exhibition from Richard Lancelyn Green's collection at the Portsmouth City Museum, in 2006, and a specially-adapted version of the exhibition opened in Portsmouth's sister city Maizuru in Japan on Oct. 18, running through Nov. 30; you can see the poster at <www.conandoyllection.co.uk/lancelyn-green-downloads/Maizuru> and you can request more information about the exhibition from Hiroshi Kojima <shoukou@post.city.maizuru.kyoto.jp>.
12480. John S. Fitzgerald's SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE MONTANA CHRONICLES (Helena: Riverbend Publishing, 2008; 239 pp., \$12.95) has Holmes and Watson twice visiting western Montana to solve four cases; Fitzgerald tells his readers a great deal about the history of the area and its mining industry.
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October 2008 #3

12481. Further to the report (September 08 #1) that L.A. Theatre Works will perform "The Lost World" in Los Angeles next year, it turns out that there's a company touring the U.S. through Apr. 4, with a double bill of "The Lost World" and "War of the Worlds". The schedule of their tour is available at <www.ltw.org/Tour/tour/Tours.html>.
12482. The Rosenbach Museum & Library in Philadelphia held a hands-on tour called "Sleuths & Spies" on Oct. 8, and their manuscript of "The Empty House" was one of the feature items. It will be repeated on Dec. 1, and there's more information at their web-site at <www.rosenbach.org/program>.
12483. The September issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota has Robert Brusic's "100 Years Ago" discussion of Freeman Tilden's early parody "The Last Return of Sherlock Holmes", Jon Lellenberg's "50 Years Ago" tribute
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to Elmer Davis, and news from and about the collections. Copies of the newsletter are available from Richard J. Sveum, (111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <sveum001@tc.umn.edu>.

12484. There will be three performances of Andrew Joffe's two-act dramatization of "The Blue Carbuncle" (as a staged reading with music, and with Paul Singleton as Sherlock Holmes) at the Theatre Encino on Nov. 15 and 16; 17500 Burbank Boulevard, Encino, CA 91316 (818-973-2262) <www.singletonactor.com>.
12485. <www.library.upenn.edu/exhibits/lifeinboxes.html> is the URL for an exhibition of "Life in Boxes: Comic Art & Artifacts" at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia through Mar. 22. The exhibition is drawn from BSI editor Steve Rothman's recent donation of more than 5,000 books and 20,000 comic books to the Penn Libraries. Steve reports that Sherlockian comics are included in the exhibition. You can read an article about the exhibition (and Steve) at <www.upenn.edu/almanac/volumes/v55/n09/pow.html>.
12486. The Park Plaza Sherlock Holmes London (formerly the Sherlock Holmes Hotel) at 108 Baker Street will celebrate Christmas with a "Sherlock Holmes Murder Mystery" (according to an announcement spotted by Ken Lanza). The events will be offered beginning Nov. 1, and there's more information available at <www.murdermysteryshop.com>.
12487. We may get to see a movie based on Conan Doyle's "Brigadier Gerard" stories. According to a story in the Hollywood Reporter (Oct. 15), Steve Carell has been "attached to" a film about the Brigadier; Carell appeared in "The 40 Year Old Virgin" (2005) and "Get Smart" (2008), and now stars in the television series "The Office". "King of the Hill" writers John Altshuler and David Krinsky are at work on the script. "Attached to" appears to be Hollywood-speak for "he's interested."
12488. Brigadier Gerard has been in films before, starting with "Brigadier Gerard" (1915, with Lewis Waller as Gerard). "The Fighting Eagle" (1927) with Rod La Rocque as Gerard) is available on DVD from Grapevine Video (Box 46161, Phoenix, AZ 85063 <www.grapevinevideo.com>), and "The Adventures of Gerard" (1970, with Peter McEnery as Gerard) was broadcast by BBC-2 in Britain in 1994, but seems not to be available commercially (although off-the-air recordings do exist).

October 2008 #4

12489. Further to the report on the new film "The Duchess" (in which Keira Knightly plays Georgiana Cavendish, 5th Duchess of Devonshire), there also are some Doylean connections. Phil Bergem has reported that Charles Altamont Doyle (Conan Doyle's father) was one of the illustrators of Grace and Philip Wharton's THE QUEENS OF SOCIETY (1860), which contains his illustration of "The Beautiful Duchess of Devonshire: A Kiss for a Vote." And Ruth Berman has noted that in Conan Doyle's A DUET: WITH AN OCCASIONAL CHORUS (1899) Mrs. Hunt Mortimore talks about going to a fancydress ball as the "Duchess of Devonshire" and discusses the details of her costume.
12490. Dave Buchanan's "The Baker Street Kids: The Riverbank Chase" is a new oneact play based on "The Sign of Four" and written for a mixed cast of 11-14 year olds, and it's nicely done. Spotlight Publications, 259 The Moorings, Dalgety Bay, Fife KY11 9GX, Great Britain <www.spotlightpublications.com>.
12491. If you've ever wondered why Nero Wolfe lives on West 35th Street, here's a reminder from almost thirty years ago: John J. McAleer reported in The Armchair Detective (winter 1979) that it's because Rex Stout remembered seeing William Gillette in "Sherlock Holmes" at the Garrick Theater on West 35th Street in New York. Bantam has reissued four of Stout's Nero Wolfe novels: FER-DE-LANCE/THE LEAGUE OF FRIGHTENED MEN and SOME BURIED CAESAR/THE GOLDEN SPIDERS (\$15.00 each); for those who came in late, John D. Clark suggested many years ago that Nero Wolfe inherited his father's deductive prowess and his uncle's gargantuan physique (Stout would neither confirm nor deny this, but said that when the world was ready, the Baker Street Irregulars would be the first to know).
12492. Gayle Lange Puhl shepherded groups of Evansville High School to Europe in 2006 and 2008, and made sure they were aware of the Sherlockian and Doylean aspects of places they visited. And she has described their trips, in some detail, at <www.cheeseheadintheuk.blogspot.com>.
12493. UNESCO (The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization) made Edinburgh the first "world city of literature" (November 04 #5), and the city launched a "One Book--One Edinburgh" reading campaign. THE LOST WORLD has been chosen for 2009, and thousands of free copies will be distributed through libraries, schools, and supporting partner organizations. The book's cover will feature Wallace & Gromit (courtesy of Aardman Animations), you can learn more about the campaign, and see the cover design, at <www.cityofliterature.com>.
12494. Mark Alberstat's 2009 Sherlock Holmes Calendar is illustrated with artwork from The Strand Magazine, and displays important Sherlockian birthdays and William S. Baring-Gould's dates for the cases. The calendar costs US\$14.00 postpaid, and his address is: 46 Kingston Crescent, Dartmouth, NS B3A 2M2, Canada.
12495. Andrew Lycett's CONAN DOYLE: THE MAN WHO CREATED SHERLOCK HOLMES has been reissued as a trade paperback (London: Phoenix, 2008; 600 pp., £10.99); the American edition, titled THE MAN WHO CREATED SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE, has a trade paperback due in November (New York: Free Press, 2008; 576 pp., \$16.95).

October 2008 #5

12496. Sherlock Holmes' 155th birthday will be celebrated on Friday, Jan. 9, with the traditional festivities in New York, but the first formal event will be The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes' ASH Wednesday dinner starting at 6:00 pm at O'Casey's (22 East 41st Street); attendees pay their own checks, but you should let Susan Rice (125 Washington Place #2-E, New York, NY 10014 <susan221bee@gmail.com> know if you're coming to the event.
12497. The Christopher Morley Walk, led by Jim Cox and Dore Nash, will leave from the Algonquin Hotel (59 West 44th Street) at 9:30 am on Thursday, followed by lunch at McSorley's at about 1:30 pm; those planning to participate are asked to get in touch with Jim (2240 15th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94116) <jasdcx@yahoo.com>, and of course are advised to dress appropriately for the weather.
12498. The Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Speaker Lecture begins at 6:15 on the 6th floor of the Williams Club (24 East 39th Street, between Madison and Park Avenues); the speaker will be John Lescoart, an author and a musician, whose twenty books include SON OF HOLMES (1986) and RASPUTIN'S REVENGE (1987), featuring Auguste Lupa; his web-site <www.johnlescoart.com> offers samples from his books and records. The lecture will cost \$11.00; seating will be limited, and you should purchase tickets early (details below); no tickets will be sold at the door.
12499. The Beacon Society's annual meeting will be held at 10:00 am on Friday on the second floor of the Algonquin to present Annual Beacon Award recognizing efforts of individuals to introduce Sherlock Holmes to young people.
12500. Otto Penzler will hold his traditional open house from 11:00 to 5:00 at the Mysterious Bookshop, at 58 Warren Street (between West Broadway and Church Street) in Tribeca; the 1, 2, and 3 trains stop at the Chambers Street station (one block from the shop). If you get lost, the bookshop's telephone number is 212-587-1011.

12501. The William Gillette Memorial Luncheon starts at noon, at Moran's Chelsea Seafood Restaurant at 146 Tenth Avenue at 19th Street; the cost is \$44.00 for chicken tarragon or salmon Wellington (\$50.00 for prime rib). You can request a formal announcement from Susan Rice <susan221bee@gmail.com> (125 Washington Place #2-E, New York, NY 10014); early reservations are advised for this event.
12502. The Baker Street Irregulars will gather at 6:00 pm at the Union League Club at 38 East 37th Street. The Gaslight Gala (which is open to all Sherlockians and their friends) will provide dinner and entertainment at 6:30 pm at the Manhattan Club (201 West 52nd Street between Broadway and Seventh Avenue); \$75.00 (checks payable to Will Walsh can be sent to Carol Fish (Box 4, Circleville, NY 10919). <www.gaslightgalanyc.org> is the URL for their web-site (you are advised to reserve early, and requested to include your e-mail address and primary Sherlockian society affiliation).
12503. People who aren't ready for bed after the annual dinner or the gala might wish to join an informal gathering at O'Lunney's Times Square Pub (145 West 45th Street between 6th Avenue and Broadway).
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October 2008 #6

12504. Those who wish to have seasonal souvenirs included in the various dinner packets can send 175 copies (for the BSI) to James B. Saunders (3011 47th Street, Astoria, NY 11103), and 110 copies (for the Gala) to Francine Kitts (35 Van Cortlandt Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10301), and 20 copies (for The Women) to Mary Ann Bradley (7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278); your material should arrive by Dec. 15.
12505. On Saturday a wide variety of Sherlockiana will be available in the dealers' room (Covent Garden West) on the second floor of the Algonquin Hotel (59 West 44th Street) from 9:30 am to noon; Ralph Hall (2906 Wallingford Court, Louisville, KY 40218) (502-491-3148) <bugmanhall@aol.com> has information about dealers' tables. The Clients of Adrian Mulliner (devotees of the writings of both John H. Watson and P. G. Wodehouse) will hold a Junior Bloodstain (a rather less than totally reverent event) on the second floor of the Algonquin Hotel at 10:30 am; if you're planning to attend the event, please get in touch with Anne Cotton (12 Hollywood Street, South Hadley, MA 01075) <ladybassett@comcast.net>.
12506. The Baker Street Irregulars' annual reception, open to all Sherlockians and their friends, will be held from 1:00 to 4:30 at the New York City Bar Association (42 West 44th Street); there will be hors d'oeuvres (adequate but not replacing lunch or dinner) and an open bar (wine, beer, juice, and soft drinks). The cost is \$75.00 (details below) or \$85.00 after Dec. 8 or at the door.
12507. Baker Street West 1 and The Curious Collectors of Baker Street will present a very irregular "Lost in New York with a Bunch of Sherlockians" dinner at 6:00 pm at Kennedy's Irish Pub & Restaurant (327 West 57th Street, between 8th and 9th Avenues); space at the event is limited, and more information is available from Chrys Kegley (9338 Sophia Avenue, North Hills, CA 91343) (818-894-1501) <ccobsla@socal.rr.com>.
12508. The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes will hold an informal buffet brunch on Sunday; more information to come later (as they say, stay tuned).
12509. And here are the details: if you've not already received Mike Whelan's announcement with the prices and a reservation form for the Thursday lecture and the Saturday reception, you can request a copy from Mary Ann Bradley, 7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278 <mabmfw@aol.com>.
12510. The Baker Street Irregulars are a tax-exempt organization, and Mike Whelan has made arrangements with the Algonquin for their "classic full" with one bed at \$185.00 (or \$285.00 for a "premiere suite"), Tuesday through Sunday. This is the total cost, since there is no tax on reservations arranged by the BSI. The offer's available to all Sherlockians, and room reservations must be made directly to the Algonquin; call 212-840-6800 and mention The Baker Street Irregulars (and make the call soon: the rooms sell out earlier and earlier each year).
12511. Mary Ellen Rich kindly continues to advise about hotels that offer reasonable (as defined by New York landlords) rates, but it's a mark of the 21st century that the best offers are to be found on the Internet, at web-sites such as <www.priceline.com>, <www.tripadvisor.com>, <www.travelocity.com>, <www.hotels.com>, <www.expedia.com>, and <www.quikbook.com>; it would be wise if you then to check the hotel's web-site and ask for the best rate (and you shouldn't forget about non-optional extras such as 14% state and city taxes). The Seafarers International GuestHouse near Union Square Park (212-677-4800) <www.sihnyc.org> also has inexpensive accommodations.
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October 2008 #7

12512. The Dr. John H. Watson Fund offers financial assistance to all Sherlockians (membership in the BSI is not required) who might otherwise not be able to participate in the weekend's festivities. A carefully pseudonymous John H. Watson presides over the fund and welcomes contributions, which can be made by check payable to John H. Watson and sent (without return address on the envelope) to Dr. Watson, care of The Baker Street Irregulars, at 7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278; your letters are forwarded unopened, and Dr. Watson will acknowledge your generosity. Requests for assistance should also be mailed (quickly) to Dr. Watson at the same address.
12513. And (returning to our regular programming) it's always a pleasure to discover August Derleth's "Solar Pons" stories in print: "The China Cottage" is one of 58 stories in ALFRED HITCHCOCK: TALES OF TERROR, edited by Eleanor Sullivan (1986), which has been reprinted this year by Gallahad Books for Barnes & Noble (\$9.98).
12514. Paul Brundage spotted a story about 12 minutes of silent-film footage taken in London in 1904 and recently discovered in Australia; you can see some of the footage at <www.skynews.com>; search for [London 1904]. The documentary ("Living London") was made by American film pioneer Charles Urban.
12515. Celia Gregory died on Sept. 8. She began her acting career on stage early in the 1970s, and went on to appear on the Sunday Times list of Britain's most promising actresses. She also worked in television, and played Maria Gibson in Granada's "Thor Bridge" (1991).
12516. John Baesch spotted a report in the Daily Mail (Oct. 17): "Benedict Cumberbatch will play Sherlock Holmes in a modern-day setting. Holmes will actually be a contemporary detective, not some sort of time traveller. Steve Moffat, who works on the Dr. Who dramas, has written an hour-long pilot episode with Mark Gatiss. If senior executives at the BBC like what they see, a series will be commissioned."
12517. The Baker Street Irregulars' triennial running of The Silver Blaze will be combined with the 50th annual running of the Chicago Silver Blaze at Hawthorne Race Course on Oct. 31, 2009, and there will be a brunch at the Butterfield Country Club in Oak Park on Nov. 1. A block of rooms has been reserved at the Oak Brook Doubletree with a special rate of \$89.00 per night (plus 9% tax); the number of rooms at the special rate is limited, and you are advised to reserve early (and you can cancel later if you can't come). Call 800-222-8733, and be sure to request the BSI-Watsonian rate. More details are available from Susan Z. Diamond (16W603 3rd Avenue, Bensenville, IL 60106) (630-227-9127 <szdiamond@comcast.net>).
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November 2008 #1

12518. A late addition to the list of events during the birthday festivities: The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes have arranged an informal buffet brunch on Sunday, Jan. 11, from 11:30 am to 2:30 pm at the Oldcastle Pub & Restaurant at 160 West 54th Street (between 7th and 6th Avenues) (and yes, 6th Avenue is the Avenue of the Americas), and the cost will be \$20.00 including tax and tip. It's open to all, but space is limited and reservations

will be important; please send your checks to Lyndsay Faye Lehner (450 West 162nd Street, New York, NY 10032). Overseas guests can reserve via e-mail, and pay at the door; her e-mail address is <lyndsayfaye@hotmail.com>.

12519. Russell Miller's *THE ADVENTURES OF ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE* (New York: St. Martin's Press/Thomas Dunne Books, 2008; 544 pp., \$27.95) is an excellent addition to a shelf of biographies of Sir Arthur; the book is well written, and it offers new and interesting information, because Miller has had access to, and has made good use of, not only the family papers and correspondence but also material collected by the late Richard Lancelyn Green and bequeathed to the Portsmouth Library. Green cast his net widely, and owned letters from, to, and about Conan Doyle and his family, and all of this has helped Miller create an excellent, and entertaining biography. And there's a British edition (London: Harvill Secker, 2008; 480 pp., £20.00).
12520. Baker Street West 1 is "a Sherlockian journal from the western USA" and now in its 14th year; the summer issue (50 pp.) has Joella D. Hultgren's "Sher-Do-Ku #2 (Sudoku can be played with letters as well as numerals), plus other interesting S'ian material. \$7.00 postpaid from Jerry Kegley (9338 Sophia Avenue, North Hills, CA 91343); \$12.00 a year (two issues) or \$15.00 outside the U.S.
12521. *Sherlockiana: Meddelelser fra Sherlock Holmes Klubben i Danmark*, is now in its 53rd year, offering news of Sherlockian goings-on in Denmark (and now color illustrations; it's all in Danish, and a fine demonstration of what one of the older Sherlockian societies is doing. Bjarne Rother Jensen is the editor (Sjaellandsgade 16, 3.th, 8800 Viborg, Denmark).
12522. "India's multibillion rupee film industry, which has been fuming over a ban on smoking scenes in films, now has reason to smile. The health ministry is ready to allow the depiction of iconic characters with their favourite poison stick, according to a report (Oct. 20) by the Indo-Asian News Service. Winston Churchill and Sherlock Holmes can now be shown smoking in new films --although with a warning at the beginning and ending of the film about the dangers of smoking. The Indian government banned smoking in public places as of Oct. 2, and the health minister has estimated that on-screen smoking is accountable for more than 60 percent of new smokers. Credit Karen Murdock for spotting the story.
12523. Audrey Peterson died on Feb. 12. She was a college English teacher as well as an author (one of her series was about English professor Claire Camden); her *VICTORIAN MASTERS OF MYSTERY: FROM WILKIE COLLINS TO CONAN DOYLE* (1984) included a chapter on "Arthur Conan Doyle and the Great Detective", and she was one of the speakers at the special program "Sherlock Holmes at 100" at UCLA in 1987.

November 2008 #2

12524. John Entwistle's sketches of "Cosmic Sherlock Holmes" went to auction this month (September 08 #5) and were bought by Jerry Margolin, who says they will go very nicely with his Entwistle drawing of Pete Townshend as Holmes. Entwistle and Townshend were both members of the rock band The Who. So far no one seems to have identified anything Sherlockian in any of The Who's recordings.
12525. Modern technology certainly makes things more interesting: the web-site for Bouchercon 2009 <www.charmedtodeath.com> has video of one-hour interviews with guests of honor Lawrence Block, Laura Lippman, John Harvey, and Robert Rosenwald and Barbara Peters.
12526. More modern technology: Paul Singleton's web-site <www.singletonactor.com> has photographs of him as Sherlock Holmes in Andrew Joffe's dramatization of "The Blue Carbuncle" and a clip showing Paul as a doctor in a scene with Susan Lucci on the television series "All My Children" earlier this year.
12527. Len Deighton's "Sherlock Holmes and the Titanic Swindle" is the first short story he has written in more than 30 years (and imaginatively Sherlockian rather than a pastiche), and it's one of the 17 stories in *THE VERDICT OF US ALL: STORIES BY THE DETECTION CLUB FOR H.R.F. KEATING*, edited by Peter Lovesey (Norfolk: Crippen & Landru, 2006; 223 pp., \$43.00 cloth or \$20.00 paper); the special cloth edition is signed by the editor and has an additional story in a separate pamphlet. Box 9315, Norfolk, VA 23505 (877-622-6656) <www.crippenlandru.com>. Douglas G. Greene, the proprietor of Crippen and Landru, does an excellent job of finding interesting short stories, old and new, for his anthologies and collections.
12528. "Where are they now?" department: Guy Henry, who made his small-screen debut in the title role of Granada series "Young Sherlock Holmes: The Mystery of the Manor House" (1982), played Cassius in the HBO series "Rome" (2005-2007) and this year was Jonathan Sewall in the HBO series "John Adams".
12529. Reported: Sigmund Freud in Sherlockian costume on the cover of *IT DIDN'T MEAN ANYTHING: A PSYCHOANALYTIC READING OF AMERICAN DETECTIVE FICTION*, by Alexander N. Howe (Jefferson: McFarland & Co., 2008; 296 pp., \$35.00); "the first chapter identifies several instances of hysteria within the fiction of two of the genre's pioneers, Edgar Allan Poe and Arthur Conan Doyle."
12530. Andrew Gulli launched his new Strand Magazine in 1998, and has reached issue #25 (and of course is now well established rather than new); the latest issue (June-Sept. 2008) offers an excellent mix of fiction, interviews, and articles, including Michael Kurland's short story "The Picture of Oscar Wilde" (which of course features Moriarty rather than Holmes). \$6.95 (Box 1418, Birmingham, MI 48012) (800-300-6652) <www.strandmag.com>.
12531. Jonathan Goodman died on Jan. 10. Widely praised as Britain's leading historian of crime, he edited the "Celebrated Trials" series and many anthologies, and wrote books about true crimes; his *BLOODY VERSICLES: THE RHYMES CRIME* (1971), included a "chryme" about Sherlock Holmes.

November 2008 #3

12532. *IN SPITE OF MYSELF: A MEMOIR*, by Christopher Plummer (New York: Knopf, 2008; 656 pp., \$29.95), is his autobiography; he played Sherlock Holmes in "Silver Blaze" (1977) and "Murder by Decree" (1979), and as General Chang in "Star Trek: The Undiscovered Country" (1991) exclaimed "The game's afoot!" (but Chang was quoting Shakespeare rather than the Canon). Plummer is a wonderful story teller, and an interesting writer. He explains that he got along like a house afire with Basil Rathbone (they acted together in the play "J.B."), and he enjoyed playing Holmes with James Mason ("who turned in the best Watson I've ever seen"). The book lacks an index, who may be frustrating for some readers (the secret numbers are 288-289 and 564-565).
12533. The Penguin trade paperback edition of *ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: A LIFE IN LETTERS*, edited by Jon Lellenberg, Daniel Stashhower, and Charles Foley) is now available (706 pp., \$18.00).
12534. The latest issue of the SBIOS Post is at hand from Don Izban (the SBIOS is the Sherlockians By Invitation Only Society), with his announcement of the next SBIOS national gathering: a Burger Bust, in or near Chicago, on Aug. 1; more information will be available some time next year (1012 Rene Court, Park Ridge, IL 60068).
12535. The Centerstage Theatre Arts Conservatory will present Paul Giovanni's "The Crucifer of Blood" Feb. 27-Mar. 15 at the Knutzen Family Theater (200 S.W. Dash Point Road, Federal Way, WA 98023) <www.centerstagetheatre.com> (253-661-1444).
12536. James B. Hillestad, who presides over the Toy Soldier Museum, has written an interesting article about "The Legendary Sherlock Holmes" for Toy Soldier & Model Figure magazine (Dec. 2008): it's a well-illustrated exploration of Sherlockian miniature figures, and you can read it on-line at his web-site <www.the-toy-soldier.com> (click on "articles"). Some of the sets of figures may be available from Jim (1343 Paradise Falls, Cresco, PA 19326 (750-629-7227) <jmhill@ptd.net>; you can ask him for details.

12537. Tutis Digital Publishing in India has launched an on-line catalog of more than 4,000 "Tutis Classics" now available at Amazon and many other on-line stores; their web-site's at <www.tutis.com>, and they offer 23 volumes of Conan Doyle's work (Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian).
12538. The November issue of The Dispatch (edited by Vic Lahti for The Afghanistan Perceivers of Oklahoma) calls attention to The Word Detective, a newspaper column written by Evan Morris for many years and now available on-line at <www.word-detective.com>. The web-site includes an extensive archive, and one of the phrases he discussed (in Dec. 2005) was "brown study", with mention of its use in "The Resident Patient". It's a fine web-site for anyone interested in words and language.
12539. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists (aka The Friends of Sherlock Holmes) honored the world's first forensic geologist with drinks and dinner at Artista in Houson on Oct. 8, with a warm welcome to the visiting geologists provided by members of The John Openshaw Society. Our next meetings will be in Denver on June 10, and in Portland on Oct. 21.

November 2008 #4

12540. Cultural literacy is an interesting concept that has been described as requiring "the broad range of trivia and the use of that trivia in the creation of a communal language and a collective knowledge." An interesting example of this occurred in the Washington Post on Nov. 4, when the lead editorial was headlined "The War That Didn't Bark". The editorial contained no mention of Sherlock Holmes or a Sherlock Holmes story, and the copy editor who wrote the headline obviously expected that readers would understand the context without any explanation.
12541. Another interesting example of cultural literacy is the frequent use of the phrase "the --% solution" without reference to Nicholas Meyer's novel. The writers who use the phrase assume that their readers know what's going on. One also reads descriptions of someone villainous as a "Moriarty", without mention of who Moriarty was and where he's to be found; the readers are expected to know that.
12542. Paul G. Churchill ("Corot") died on Nov. 7. He had a long career in education and was an enthusiastic member of the Six Napoleons and other nearby Sherlockian societies; Paul enjoyed appearing as Watson, and even more in presenting his "evidence boxes" at society meetings: he had souvenirs for each of the Canonical cases, and when he couldn't find authentic material he was happy to provide skillful forgeries. His "evidence box" for "The Illustrious Client" was especially interesting, because he had Baron Gruner's "lust diary" complete with the Baron's photographs and descriptions (in French, of course) of his conquests.
12543. <www.genericradio.com> offers a wide variety of old-time radio scripts that you can read on-line or download, and three of them are Sherlockian: "The Musgrave Ritual" (Dec. 11, 1939), "The Case of the Dead Adventuress" (Feb. 5, 1945), and "The Adventure of the Tolling Bell" (Apr. 7, 1947). And "The Lost Special" from "Suspense" (Sept. 30, 1943).
12544. The Crowded Kitchen Players will perform Ara Balieb's play "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Christmas Goose", Dec. 5-21, at McCoolle's Arts and Events Place in Quakertown, Pa., Dec. 5-21. The box-office phone number is (610-395-7176) <www.barliebwallace.com/sherlock.html>.
12545. The saga of The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen continues with THE BLACK DOSSIER, a new graphic novel written by Alan Moore and illustrated by Kevin O'Neill (from Wildstorm, 2007); the story's set in 1958, but there are mentions of Sherlock and Mycroft Holmes, the Diogenes Club, and Moriarty. The book is available in softcover (\$19.95), hardcover (\$29.95), and as an "absolute edition" (\$99.00).
12546. N. Elrod (better known in Sherlockian circles as Patti Nead Elrod, creator of the "Baker Street Irragulars") began her THE VAMPIRE FILES book series with BLOODLIST and LIFE BLOOD (June 90 #3), featuring Jack Fleming (once a reporter and now a vampire) and his private-detective friend Charles Escott (whose name is not the only S'ian echo in the series, which is set in gangland Chicago in the 1930s). The series reached #11 IN 2006 with SONG IN THE DARK, and the next book will be DARK ROAD RISING, due from Ace as a trade paperback next year. Her web-site at <www.vampwriter.com> has news and some of her short stories about Fleming and Escott.

November 2008 #5

12547. Michael Crichton died on Nov. 4. He was a prolific author, of books and scripts, and a film director, who began his career in 1969 with THE ANDROMEDA STRAIN (which he dedicated to Conan Doyle). Before his movie "Jurassic Park" opened in 1993 he said in a N.Y. Times interview that "We're both failed doctors who found storytelling more congenial than healing. Sometimes I think I've devoted my life to rewriting Conan Doyle in different ways." And in 2003 he wrote in his introduction to the Modern Library edition of Conan Doyle's THE LOST WORLD that "Conan Doyle did something far more influential than invent a character, he invented a particular kind of fantasy story, and demonstrated a successful way to tell it."
12548. Reported: SIGERSON AT THE POLE, by Mary Ellen Daugherty (Scion of the Green Dragon, 1997) has been reprinted by Classic Specialties (\$5.95). And SHERLOCK HOLMES AT THE RAFFLES HOTEL, by John Hall (new from Breese Books, 172 pp., \$18.95). Both pastiches are available from Classic Specialties (Box 1958, Cincinnati, OH 45219) <www.sherlock-holmes.com>.
12549. John Baesch has kindly forwarded the results of a poll of book critics published in the Daily Telegraph (Sept. 20) that ranked the 50 greatest villains in literature. #46 was Moriarty (from "The Final Problem"), between Long John Silver (from Robert Louis Stevenson's "Treasure Island") at #47 and the White Witch (from C. S. Lewis' "The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe") at #45). #2 was Samuel Whiskers (from Beatrix Potter's "The Tale of Samuel Whiskers", and #1 was Satan (from John Milton's "Paradise Lost").
12550. Reported: Bob Garcia's DUEL EN ENFER: SHERLOCK HOLMES CONTRE JACK L'EVENTREUR [DUEL IN HELL: SHERLOCK HOLMES VS. JACK THE RIPPER (Paris: Editions du Rocher, 2008; 352 pp., E19.90). And his earlier pastiche LE TESTAMENT DE SHERLOCK HOLMES [THE WILL OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (2005) is still in print.
12551. BERTRAM FLETCHER ROBINSON: A FOOTNOTE TO THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, by Brian W. Pugh and Paul R. Spiring (September 08 #1), now has a paperback edition (London: MX Publishing, 2008; 248 pp., £12.99). And their ON THE TRAIL OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: AN ILLUSTRATED DEVON TOUR (March 08 #1) has been published in Spanish: TRAS LAS HUELLAS DE ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: UN VIAJE ILUSTRADO POR DEVON (London: MX Publishing, 2008; 168 pp., £12.99). Both are available at Amazon in the US and the UK, and at other on-line bookshops.
12552. REICHENBACH FALLS is the title of the indie-pop band Ravens & Chimes' first CD (Los Angeles: Better Looking Records, 2007; \$14.98). "I grew up reading a lot of old stuff, fairy tales, Sherlock Holmes, and stories," band member Asher Lack told an interviewer, explaining that the album title comes from the Sherlock Holmes stories.
12553. Marjorie Laidee has spotted a Novosti report (Nov. 10) from Novgorod: statuettes of Sherlock Holmes have been awarded to the 16 best police officers in Russia's Novgorod region; the awards were carved out of marble by local craftsmen, and the event was held to mark Police Officer's Day. "The prize event is a rare positive news story for Russian police, who have been criticized of late over a series of fatal and near-fatal attacks," according to Novosti. "The most shocking of these came at the end of October when three police officers in the Russian Volga city of Saratov admitted to burning an Armenian national alive after attempting to beat a confession out of him."

November 2008 #6

12554. Shane Peacock's *EYE OF THE CROW: THE BOY SHERLOCK HOLMES* (August 07 #2) was one of five finalists for the TD Canadian Children's Literature Award for "the most distinguished book of the year" written in English. The winner of the \$20,000 prize was *ELIJAH OF BUXTON*, by Christopher Paul Curtis (the other four authors will receive \$2,500 each).
12555. Petri Wine sponsored the "Sherlock Holmes" radio series from 1943 to 1950, and bottled and sold wine that was far better than the wine sold more recently under that name, and if you would like to know more about the history of the original company, you can run a Google search for [petri family wine industry]. That will turn up "The Petri Family in the Wine Industry", an oral-history interview with Louis Petri that's part of a wine-industry archive at the Bancroft Library at the University of California (Berkeley), and the text is available on-line (look for "View the book" at the left).
12556. W. H. Auden praised Sherlock Holmes in his essay "The Guilty Vicarage" (in Harper's Magazine, May 1948), but I only now learned about the play "Sherlock Holmes Chez Duhamel" that he wrote in 1932, while he was teaching at the Larchfield School in Helensburgh (northwest of Glasgow). The play is mentioned in *THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO W. H. AUDEN*, edited by Stan Smith (2004), which quotes the Helensburgh and Gareloch Times as saying that the play was performed by pupils at the annual Prize Day in 1932. Smith says that the play is "now lost."
12557. Imaginative and artistic statues of Holmes, Watson, and Moriarty, created by James Black, were distributed by Luther Norris in the 1970s, and one of Black's Sherlock Holmes statues (signed and dated 1973) will be at auction at Midwest Auction Galleries <www.liveauctioneers.com/item/5880125> on Dec. 7 (it's lot 881); the postal address is 665 North Lapeer Road, Oxford, MI 48371 (877-236-8181).
12558. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London's new Christmas card is titled "It's a cold night" and has an attractive full-color design by Gemma Tiley; you can see the artwork (and order packets of the cards) at the Society's website <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk>. The Society will hold its annual dinner on Jan. 17 in the Members' Dining Room at the House of Commons; the guest of honor will be Gyles Brandreth, who has written two pastiches about Oscar Wilde and Arthur Conan Doyle. The Society's announcement notes that Brandreth is a sought-after after-dinner speaker, and is featured in the Guinness Book of Records for having made the world's longest-ever after-dinner speech: to raise funds for the National Playing Fields Association he spoke non-stop for twelve hours.
12559. Jon Lellenberg reports an announcement from Google that it has begun to digitize Life magazine's archives (about 10 million images), and has already completed 20% of the project; only a small fraction of the images were ever published in the magazine. Go to <www.images.google.com> and search for a subject followed by source:life; [conan doyle source:life] turns up 146 images, most of them are illustrations from the stories, but a dozen of them are photographs of various members of the family. A search for [sherlock holmes source:life] produces 160 images, again most of the illustrations, but with some interesting photographs on the last screen (you're invited to figure out who's in the photographs, and where and when they were taken).

November 2008 #7

12560. Reported: *SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE CASE OF THE BIZARRE ALIBI*, by Frank Thomas (Philadelphia: Xlibris, 2008; 136 pp., \$20.99); he was a prolific author of pastiches, and died in 2006 (this title apparently was first published by Xlibris in 2004). Thomas' *THE SECRET FILES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* (2002), *SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE SACRED SWORD* (2003), and *SHERLOCK HOLMES & THE PANAMANIAN GIRLS* (2004) also are available from Xlibris. And there's an interesting entry for him at <www.wikipedia.org>.
12561. *Sherlockiana: Meddelelser fra Sherlock Holmes Klubben i Danmark*, is now in its 53rd year, offering news of Sherlockian goings-on in Denmark (and now color illustrations; it's all in Danish, and a fine demonstration of what one of the older Sherlockian societies is doing. Bjarne Rother Jensen is the editor (Sjaellandsgade 16, 3.th, 8800 Viborg, Denmark).
12562. Fans of Peter Cushing may want to pursue Christopher Gullo's biography *IN ALL SINCERITY...PETER CUSHING* (Philadelphia: Xlibris, 2004; 420 pp., \$34.99 cloth, \$24.99 paper); Cushing played Sherlock Holmes on screen and television, and wrote forewords for Sherlockian books. Gullo also presides over the Peter Cushing Association at <www.petercushing.co.uk>.
12563. The October issue of *The Moor* (published in Swedish by The Baskerville Hall Club of Sweden) reports that Ted Bergman, now 80 years old, is continuing to work on his "Sherlock Holmes i Sverige--en bibliografi" (bringing it up to 2008). It's available on the Internet (with a nice photograph of Ted) at <www.sherlockholmesisverige.wordpress.com>; all in Swedish, but if you scroll down to the end of the screen you'll find a link to "Ted Bergman Archive File" where there's a link to "221B Baker Street Model House" (which has some excellent color photographs of Ted's miniature of the premises at 221B).
12564. Ed. Lange's play "Sherlock's Legacy" was produced at the N.Y. State Theatre Institute in 2005, and it's now available in the Institute's "Family Classic AudioBook" series on two CDs in an original-cast recording; \$16.96 (37 First Street, Troy, NY 12180) <www.nysti.org/merchandise.htm>. His earlier play "Sherlock's Secret Life" (1997) also is available at the same price.
12565. Further to the report on plans for a film based on the "Brigadier Gerard" stories (October 08 #3), Michael Chabon had some nice things to say about the Brigadier in a four-minute segment on National Public Radio's "All Things Considered: You Must Read This" on Jan. 30. Chabon's "Charmed by a Dashing Brigadier" can still be read and heard on-line at the National Public Radio web-site at <www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=18521656>.
12566. The Northwest Classical Theater Company is performing "Sherlock Holmes: The Speckled Band" (that's Conan Doyle's play) at the Shoe Box Theater in Portland through Dec. 28. The theater is at 2110 SE 10th Avenue, Portland, OR 97214 (971-244-3740) <www.nwctc.org>.
12567. Watch for a repeat: "Live from Lincoln Center: Shaham @ the Penthouse" was broadcast by PBS-TV this month to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the death of Pablo de Sarasate. Violinist Gil Shaham played some of Sarasate's works, and at the end of the program the announcer discussed Sarasate and "The Red-Headed League".

November 2008 #8

12568. "Law & Order" creator and executive producer Dick Wolf received the International Emmy Founders Award this month; the International Academy of Television Arts & Sciences honored him for extending the reach of his "Law & Order" franchise into almost every corner of the globe. Five years ago he won a special Edgar award from the Mystery Writers of America; "I grew up with Conan Doyle," he once told a reporter (May 03 #4), "That's what I read when I was growing up. Sherlock Holmes is still my favorite fictional character. I started with the Hardy Boys, and then moved on to Sherlock Holmes."
12569. Holmes & Watson Real Estate Inspection offers their services in California, Ken Lanza reports; their web-site's at <www.holmes-watson-inspection.com>.
12570. "They Might Be Giants" (the rock group that took its name from the film in which George C. Scott played a psychotic judge who believes that he's Sherlock Holmes) first performed in 1983, and issued its first record in 1986; they continue to tour, and there was an interesting article about them

in the Washington Post (Nov. 28). Go to <www.washingtonpost.com> and search for [they might be serious]. Their tour schedule's available at their website at <www.tmbg.com>, where you can also listen to their podcasts.

12571. Reported: AMERICAN LIGHTNING: TERROR, MYSTERY, MOVIE-MAKING, AND THE CRIME OF THE CENTURY, by Howard Blum (New York: Crown, 2008; 339 pp., \$24.95); an account of the bombing of the Los Angeles Times building in 1910 (the lead investigator was William J. Burns, who later met Conan Doyle and may well have helped inspire the writing of THE VALLEY OF FEAR).
12572. The autumn issue of The Magic Door (the newsletter published by The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) has the first part of an article on "Grant Allen & Arthur Conan Doyle: A Victorian Odd Couple" (by Peter Calamai), a report on "The Case of the Misattributed Letter" (by Peggy Perdue), and greetings from the new head of the Friends (Cliff Goldfarb); copies of the newsletter are available on request from Clifford S. Goldfarb (22 Markdale Avenue, Toronto, ON M6C, 1T1, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>).
12573. The [Norwich] Eastern Daily Press has reported (Nov. 24, 2008) the discovery at a local antiques fair the autograph book in which Conan Doyle first saw the stick drawings that inspired the dancing men cipher; he was staying at a hotel in Happisburgh in May 1903, when he was asked for an autograph and saw in the autograph book the owner's young son Gilbert Cubitt's stick figures. Thanks to Sandy Kozinn, you can read the story, and see the page in the autograph book, at <tinyurl.com/57bu9t>.
12574. Michael Mallory's THE EXPLOITS OF THE SECOND MRS. WATSON (Dallas: Top Publications, 2008; 280 pp., \$14.95) is a collection of 13 stories (previously published in magazines and an anthology) about Amelia Watson, who has a talent for detection as well as a sense of humor. She also has appeared in THE ADVENTURES OF THE SECOND MRS. WATSON (2000) and in the novel MURDER IN THE BATH (2003).

December 2008 #1

12575. Updating the previous report on Don Hobbs' "The Galactic Sherlock Holmes" (March 08 #6): his CD electronic bibliography of translations of the Sherlock Holmes stories, including both English in non-Roman alphabets and foreignlanguage editions, is a splendid example of what can be done in the electronic world. The CD is in PDF format, now with 685 pages and 89 alphabets and languages, and with full-color illustrations of the covers of many of the translations. A one-year subscription (with two to three updated CDs) costs \$15.00 (to the U.S.) or \$20.00 elsewhere.
12576. THE CHRONICLES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Paul D. Gilbert (London: Robert Hall, 2008; 224 pp., £18.99), is a collection of seven new pastiches based on the unrecorded cases. His earlier THE LOST FILES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (2007) had seven other new pastiches.
12577. Al Gregory spotted a press release from Serica Energy, a British oil company that holds offshore leases in the East Irish Sea; Serica has identified two prospects in the Triassic Sherwood sandstone, and has named them Conan and Doyle. They hope to drill Conan in 2009, and estimate the potential to be as much as one trillion cubic feet of natural gas (the U.S. used about 23.1 tcf of natural gas in 2007).
12578. Robert Q. Carver ("The Case of Mme. Montpensier") died on Nov. 27. Bob was one of the founders of The Diogenes Club of Brooklyn (one of the interesting older societies included in Jon Lellenberg's archival-history volume on the late 40s) and more recently of The Three Garridebs (Sue Vizoskie noted his very humorous, and occasionally bawdy, songs and dramatic presentations at their meetings). He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1962.
12579. Frogwares continues to produce Sherlockian adventure games for computers: "Sherlock Holmes vs. Jack the Ripper" is to be released in Europe in March. You can see screen shots now at <www.sherlockholmes-thegame.com/en/sh>.
12580. Gasogene Books/The Wessex Press continues to make excellent use of YouTube to promote conferences and books, the latest being a two-minute trailer for their upcoming THE APOCRYPHA OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (the tenth volume edited by Les Klinger for their Sherlock Holmes Reference Library); you can see the video at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=0VrQyj-o3mg>. The book will go on sale in the dealers room during the birthday festivities in New York in January.
12581. YouTube does have interesting video: Jim Henson conducted an international workshop on "Puppetry for Film and Television" in France in 1987, and you can view a six-minute video at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=CRYUIRYGz5E&NR=1> that has two appearances by a Sherlock Holmes puppet.
12582. Stuart Kaminsky's dramatization of his pastiche "The Final Toast" had its world premiere at the International Mystery Writers' Festival in Kentucky last June, and it is now scheduled by Theatre Northwest at the Theatre on the Square in Tacoma from Feb. 13 to Mar. 1, 2009 (901 Broadway, Tacoma, WA 98402) (253-591-5894); there's a blog about the play at the company's website at <www.theatrenorthwest.net>.

December 2008 #2

12583. Interesting Sherlockiana continues to appear in Japan, discovered by Masamichi Higurashi: a CD with an audio dramatization (in Japanese) of "A Study in Scarlet" from Act One Co. (2006); Y2,800. And two manga (graphic-novel) adaptations of tales from the Canon (with an occasional pastiche or parody) by women writers and artists: THE NEW ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES were published by Aoba Shuppan in 2006 and 2007; Y876 each.
12584. Forrest J Ackerman died on Dec. 4. A legend in the world of science fiction and horror, and as editor of the fanzine Imagination! published Ray Bradbury's first story in 1938, and as a literary agent represented Bradbury and Isaac Asimov. He coined the phrase "sci-fi" in 1954 when he was listening to a car radio and heard the announcer mention "hi-fi" (Forry's wife told him "Forget it, it will never catch on"), and launched the magazine Famous Monsters of Filmland in 1958. His greatest accomplishment, to the thousands of people who visited his "Ackermansion" in Los Angeles, was his collection of books, magazines, photographs, and memorabilia: his treasures included the bolts from the neck of Boris Karloff's Frankenstein monster, Bela Lugosi's Dracula ring, and the small models of pterodactyls used by Willis H. O'Brien in the films "The Lost World" and "King Kong".
12585. Reported: SHAMAN OR SHERLOCK?: THE NATIVE AMERICAN DETECTIVE, by Gina Macdonald and Andrew Macdonald, with Mary Ann Sheridan (Westport: Greenwood, 2002; 312 pp., \$131.95); an academic discussion of Native American fiction.
12586. GASLIGHT GRIMOIRE: FANTASTIC TALES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES is an excellent anthology edited by J. R. Campbell and Charles Prepolec (Calgary: Edge, 2008; 336 pp., \$16.95); eleven new pastiches, each with an atmospheric full-page illustration by Phil Cornell. "Expect a few shivers along the way," David Stuart Davies warns in his foreword. The publisher has an interesting website at <www.gaslightgrimoire.blogspot.com>.
12587. Ken Lanza spotted the Sherlock Holmes Collection at a web-site called The Voice of Reason <www.thevoiceofreason.com/sherlock/index.html>; they offer free e-book downloads of much of the Canon, three episodes from the Ronald Howard television series, and four of the Rathbone/Bruce films.
12588. Jasper Jones is an 11-year-old student/detective who's known as "Sherlock Jones" and is featured with his friend Penny Gordon in four Christian-fiction mysteries written by Ed Dunlop and published by the Bob Jones University Press for readers aged 9-12. SHERLOCK JONES: THE ASSASSINATION PLOT (Greenville: JourneyForth, 2005; 116 pp., \$8.99) is the first in the series, followed by THE WILLOUGHBY BANK ROBBERY, THE MISSING DIAMOND, and THE PHANTOM AIRPLANE.

12589. The television series "House" (broadcast by Fox) continues to include Sherlockian references and allusions (among them: House's apartment number is 221B). The episode "Joy to the World" (Dec. 9) has House receiving a copy of Joseph Bell's MANUAL OF THE OPERATIONS OF SURGERY as a Christmas present and his associate Wilson explaining that it was given to House by a former student named Irene Adler ("the one who got away"); the book is real (April 08 #2). If you don't want to wait for a repeat, you can watch the episode on-line at <www.fox.com/house>.

December 2008 #3

12590. The Italian film "Gomorra" won five European Film Awards this month: best picture, best director, best actor, best cinematography, and best screenplay. The drama is based a book by Roberto Saviano (the English translation, GOMORRAH: A PERSONAL JOURNEY INTO THE VIOLENT INTERNATIONAL EMPIRE OF NAPLES' ORGANIZED CRIME SYSTEM, was published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux last year); Saviano has round-the-clock police protection, after receiving death threats, and Sherlockians will recognize the name of the organized crime system in Naples: the Camorra.
12591. The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times08-12.htm>, with some nice photographs of the late Paul Churchill and his Sherlockiana, and offers of old and new Sherlockian merchandise.
12592. "A miniature library held on a video game cartridge is being launched for Christmas to get kids reading," the [London] Sun reported (Dec. 9); Nintendo, partnered with HarperCollins, has announced a "100 Classic Book Collection" for the Nintendo DS. Sherlock Holmes is included, and the cartridge costs £19.99. A company spokesman said that they hope to target a new generation of readers.
12593. Warren Randall's new lapel pin honors the 75th anniversary of The Baker Street Irregulars as well as the BSI bus excursion to Christopher Morley's Knothole on Long Island on Jan. 11: Tom Stix, Julian Wolff, Edgar W. Smith, and Morley himself are passengers on the bus driven by Sherlock Holmes. Pin collectors who will not be at the birthday festivities in New York can order the pin from Randall (15 Fawn Lane, South Setauket, NY 11720); \$11.00 postpaid.
12594. John Ringham died on Oct. 20. He had a long career on stage and television in Britain, and played Inspector Lanner in Granada's "The Resident Patient" (1985).
12595. The fall issue of Jay Pearlman's Tonga Times (published by the Mini-Tonga Scion Society) has a long and well-illustrated article about gasogenes and seltzogenes, and news from the wide world of Sherlockian miniatures. Membership includes three issues of the newsletter and costs \$12.00 (\$13.00 to Canada/\$15.00 elsewhere) from Jay (1656 East 19th Street #2-E, Brooklyn, NY 11229); payment in U.S. dollars, please.
12596. British publisher Atlantic Books has launched a "Crime Classics" series of reprints with afterwords by Robert Giddings (£7.99) that will include (in May) "Favourite Sherlock Holmes Stories" (based on Conan Doyle's choice of the best of the Canon).
12597. "Better late than never" department: Kathleen Kaska's THE SHERLOCK HOLMES TRIVIOGRAPHY AND QUIZ BOOK (Dallas: Taylor Trade Publishing, 2000; 210 pp., \$10.95) is out of print, but available at reasonable prices at web-sites; it has concise summaries of each story, mini-histories of their publishing background, quizzes on each story, and interesting bits of Sherlockian and Doylean trivia, plus a chapter on Doyle as writer and spiritualist and some Sherlockian crossword puzzles as well.
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December 2008 #4

12598. Peter Ashman has reported a fine web-site for people who want Sherlockian (and other) audio: <www.audible.com>; you need not be a member, but members get a discount when they download, and the company offers more than 50,000 titles. You can listen on your computer, or burn a CD, and they have a wide selection, including Derek Jacobi's unabridged readings of the four long stories and THE MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES.
12599. Production is underway on Laurie R. King's THE LANGUAGE OF BEES (which is due in April); you can see a picture of the cover at <www.randomhouse.com>, and read her blog about the book at <www.laurierking.com/wp/php/?cat=26>.
12600. Herlock Solmes is a great detective who appears in "The Adventures of Sherlock Mario" (broadcast on Oct. 3, 1989, in the syndicated television series "The Super Mario Bros. Super Show!"). The television series was based on the classic video game, and at one point in the episode Mario dons Solmes' deerstalker and calls himself Sherlock Mario. There's more about Herlock Solmes at <www.mariowiki.com/The_Adventures_of_Sherlock_Mario>.
12601. The East Lynne Theater Company has announced their 2009 season, which will include Craig Wichman's radio-theater dramatization of "The Speckled Band" on Mar. 20-21, and his dramatization of "The Blue Carbuncle" on Nov. 6-7, at the First Presbyterian Church in Cape May, N.J. The box-office address is 121 Fourth Avenue, West Cape May, NJ 08204 (609-884-5898); web-site at <www.eastlynnetheater.org>.
12602. Hugh A. Mulligan died on Nov. 26. He joined the Associated Press in 1951 and retired in 2000 after visiting 146 countries, and once said that he was "most happy that I never became an expert on anything," and that "not being anything allowed you to cover everything." He filed many stories over the years about Holmes and Conan Doyle and Sherlockians, and his books included an amusing pastiche A CHRISTMAS TO FORGET AT 221B (2002). The book is still in print at <www.hilliardandharris.com>.
12603. Mitch Higurashi continues to make Sherlock Holmes and Sherlockiana available to Japanese readers: his translations of all nine volumes of the Canon have been published by Kobunsha, and his translation of Steve Hockensmith's HOLMES ON THE RANGE has been published by Hayakawa. The Dec. 2007 issue of Hayakawa's Mystery Magazine had Sherlockian content that included Mitch's report on recent events around the world, and he has edited the Japan Sherlock Holmes Club's 30th anniversary volume for The Black-Headed League.
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December 2008 #5

12604. Editor Janet Hutchings notes that the Feb. 2009 issue of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine, which will on the newsstands during the birthday celebrations, marks the 66th consecutive year that copies have been distributed at the Baker Street Irregulars' annual dinner; the issue has Barry Waldman's Sherlockian cover art, Steve Hockensmith's new Amlingmeyer brothers pastiche ("Greetings from Purgatory" has them on the way to their next novel, which will be CRACK IN THE LENS), a reprint of a pastiche by Edward D. Hoch ("The Adventure of the Dying Ship"), and Jon L. Breen's review of recent Sherlockian books.
12605. There were some interesting scripts offered in a Profiles in History auction on eBay this month: one lot of 42 scripts included 23 story outlines and screenplays (including variant drafts and typescripts) from Basil Rathbone's 1940s series for Universal, two variant treatments for Clive Brook's "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" (1929), a script from "Paramount on Parade" (1930, with Brook as Holmes), and scripts for Roger Moore's television film "Sherlock Holmes in New York" (1976), Gene Wilder's "The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes' Smarter Brother" (1975), and George C. Scott's "They Might Be Giants" (1971). Another lot with 45 items had screenplays and drafts from Irwin Allen's films, including "The Lost World" (1960), and other material. The Collectors Book Store opened in Hollywood 1965 and specialized in rare comics books, science-fiction pulp magazines, and movie memorabilia. The store began to focus on movie and television memorabilia in 1983, and when it closed recently the owners decided to sell everything by auction. The hammer price on the Irwin Allen lot was \$3,750 (add 20% buyer's premium), and the hammer price on the Sherlockian lot was \$2,750.
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12606. "The London fog rolls in, and out of the darkness emerge two figures. One is tall, eccentric in his habits, always in search of mysteries and puzzles; the other is his brave and loyal companion, clearly a military man ... Holmes and Watson? No, Prince Florizel of Bohemia and Colonel Geraldine, the dashing heroes of Robert Louis Stevenson's *NEW ARABIAN NIGHTS* (1882)." Michael Dirda, in his excellent discussion of Stevenson in the Book World section of the Washington Post (Dec. 14); you can read the rest of the article at their web-site <www.washingtonpost.com>.
12607. The Public Radio Exchange at <www.prx.org> has some interesting Sherlockian audio, including the Quicksilver Radio Theater's recordings of Craig Wichman's dramatizations of "The Speckled Band" and "The Blue Carbuncle" (the latter program is accompanied by Wichman's adaptation of "The Painful Predicament of Sherlock Holmes"); register for a free account that allows you to listen to their audio on-line).
12608. "From Out of That Shadow" is the title of an exhibition that's scheduled at the University of Virginia, Mar. 7 through Aug. 1, and at the University of Texas (Austin), Sept. 8 through Jan. 4, honoring the bicentennial of Edgar Allan Poe. Exhibition highlights will include Poe's writing desk, records of his student days, a brooch containing his hair, manuscripts and letters, and Arthur Rackham's original artwork for *TALES OF MYSTERY & IMAGINATION*. Co-curator Richard Oram noted in a University of Texas press release that the exhibition's scope extends outside Poe's lifetime to include his considerable and often overlooked importance to authors such as Conan Doyle, "whose Sherlock Holmes owes much to Poe's brainy detective Dupin."

December 2008 #6

12609. Further to the item (October 08 #7) on plans for a television series starring Benedict Cumberbatch as Sherlock Holmes in a modern-day setting, the Daily Telegraph reported (Dec. 19) that Martin Freeman will play Watson; filming will begin in January in Wales on a one-hour pilot scheduled to air on the BBC next fall. Charles Prepolec has reported that Mark Gatiss, one of the writers, discusses the project in an interview with Bill Hussey at <www.horrorreanimated.com>.
12610. The latest issue of For the Sake of the Trust (the newsletter of The Baker Street Irregulars Trust) offers Peter X. Accardo's report from the Houghton Library at Harvard (where the Trust archives are held), a photograph of the presentation of the trophy at the 1962 running of The Silver Blaze at Aqueeduct (with Tupper Bigelow, Rex Stout, Alec Robb, Julian Wolff, and Tom Stix Sr.), and a report from Trust chairman Tom Francis. You can request copies of the newsletter from Julie McKuras (13512 Granada Avenue, Apple Valley, MN 55124) <mike9750@aol.com>.
12611. At hand from John Baesch is a report in National Geographic (June) on the Index Translationum maintained by UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization); it's an international bibliography of translations, created in 1932 and now computerized: the data base contains about 1.7 million bibliographic entries for books published in more than 130 countries and more than 800 languages. The URL's far too long for this newsletter, but you can run a Google search for [index translationum]. The "top 50" authors start with Walt Disney Productions at 8,941, followed by Agatha Christie at 6,516, Jules Verne at 4,162, and William Shakespeare at 3,550. Arthur Conan Doyle ranks #18 at 1,944, between Papa Joannes Paulus II at 1,960, and Alexandre Dumas Pere at 1,917. The on-line data-base contains entries from 1979 onward.
12612. *AN HONORABLE SOLDIER--THE TRUE STORY OF COLONEL SEBASTIAN MORAN*, by Jerry Kegley (North Hills: Curious Tiger Press, 2006), takes a new and interesting look at Moran's life and career. The 28-page pamphlet, illustrated in color and black and white, costs \$10.00 postpaid from Jerry, at 9338 Sophia Avenue, North Hills, CA 91343.
12613. Planning continues for The Baker Street Breakfast Club's "Sherlock Holmes: The Man and His World" conference in June 2010 (September 08 #7); the "call for papers" is available from Sally Sugarman (Box 407, Shaftsbury, VT 05262), and at the society's web-site at <www.bakerstreetbreakfastclub.org>.
12614. "Mad Movies with the L.A. Connection" was a 30-minute series broadcast by Nickelodeon cable in 1985; they removed original soundtracks and edited the films down to about 20 minutes, adding new dialogue, sound effects, and music, and the results were hilarious. They parodied Rathbone's "Dressed to Kill" and "Sherlock Holmes and the Secret Weapon", and then a one-hour parody of "The Woman in Green". John Sherwood reports that the parody of "The Woman in Green" aired on A&E cable some years ago; and that it's now available (without commercials) on DVD (as "Movie Madness Mystery with the L.A. Connection") from A&E for \$24.95; (800-380-5692) <www.aetv.com>.

January 2009 #1

12615. Sherlockians and Holmesians from many nations and three separate continents gathered in New York to celebrate Sherlock Holmes' 155th birthday, and the festivities started with the traditional ASH Wednesday supper at O'Casey's, and continued with the Christopher Morley Walk led by Jim Cox and Dore Nash on Thursday morning (with lunch at McSorley's).
12616. The Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Speaker at the Williams Club on Thursday evening was author John Lescroart, who read his pastiche "The Adventure of the Giant Rat of Sumatra". The pastiche was first published in Mary Higgins Clark Mystery Magazine in 1997 and reprinted in *THE BEST AMERICAN MYSTERY STORIES* 1988. And can hear him read the story at the web-site <www.kqed.org/arts/programs/writersblock/episode.jps?essid=10424>.
12617. The Beacon Society held its annual meeting at the Algonquin on Friday morning (the group's mission is to encourage and recognize programs that introduce young people to Holmes). The William Gillette Luncheon featured the The Friends of Bogie's at Baker Street (Paul Singleton, Sarah Montague, and Andrew Joffe) in alternate-universe versions of some of the Canonical stories. And Otto Penzler's traditional Mysterious Bookshop open house offered the usual opportunities to browse and buy.
12618. The Irregulars and their guests gathered for the BSI's annual dinner at the Union League Club, honoring two ladies (Priscilla Juvelis and Sharon Klinger as *The* Woman. The dinner featured the usual toasts and traditions, plus a thoroughly British debate between Nick Utechin and Guy Marriott on whether Sherlock Holmes attend Oxford or Cambridge, David Stuart Davies' version of one of the old Bromo Quinine radio broadcasts, Jens Byskov Jensen's performance on violin of Sherlockian music, and Henry Boote's musical tribute to Old Irregular Bruce Montgomery.
12619. Mike Whelan (the BSI's "Wiggins") announced the Birthday Honours, awarding Irregular Shillings and Investitures to Bill Barnes ("The *Gloria Scott*"), Susan Dahlinger ("The Bruce-Partington Plans"), Robert Ellis ("The Illustrious Client"), Walter Jaffee ("The Resident Patient"), Allan Devitt ("The Dancing Men"), Greg Darak ("The Engineer's Thumb"), Michael Pollak ("The Blue Carbuncle"), Sebastien Le Page ("The Six Napoleons"), Jens Byskov Jensen ("The Blanched Soldier"), Joel Schwartz ("The Three Students"), and Barbara Rusch ("The Mazarin Stone").
12620. Mike also presented the BSI's Two-Shilling Award (for extraordinary devotion to the cause beyond the call of duty) to Daniel Posnansky, and the Editor's Medal to Yuichi Hirayama, Doug Elliott, Bill Barnes, John Bergquist, Susan Rice, and Nicholas Utechin, in recognition of their services as editors of books and Christmas Annuals published by the BSI.
12621. The Gaslight Gala, held at the Manhattan Club, celebrated "Disguises in the Canon", and the agenda featured performances of "Sherlock Holmes, M.D." (by Joanne Zahorsky-Reeves and Robert Reeves) and "Two English-Speaking Persons on Holiday in Switzerland, Discussing the Recent Death of Sherlock Holmes, Consulting Detective" (by Timothy Evers and Becky Robare), and other entertainment.

January 2009 #2

12622. And while Sherlockians were celebrating in Manhattan on Jan. 9, Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson were in Brooklyn: Robert Downey Jr. and Jude Law were on location at the Marcy Street Armory being filmed for Guy Ritchie's "Sherlock Holmes".
12623. On Saturday morning the dealers room at the Algonquin welcomed (as usual) sellers and buyers, and at 10:30 The Clients of Adrian Mulliner (devotees of the works of both Wodehouse and Watson) gathered for their Junior Blood-stain, which featured a dramatic reading of John Sherwood's script for an episode of "Wooster, M.D."
12624. The BSI's Saturday-afternoon cocktail party was again at the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, with entertainment in the auditorium, and wining, dining, and conversation in the reception room. Al and Betsy Rossenblatt reported poetically on the events of the previous year and of the previous evening, and Mary Ann Bradley introduced ladies present who have been honored by the BSI as *The* Woman.
12625. Mattias Bostrom was announced as the winner of the Morley-Montgomery Award (an attractive certificate and a check for \$500) for the best contribution to The Baker Street Journal last year: his article "The Humble Dr. Morimer: On the Real Swedish Pathological Society." And the Watson Fund benefited from energetic sales of raffle tickets by Sue Vizoskie, Elaine Coppola, and Carol Cavaluzzi for a prize donated by Maggie Schpak and the Curious Collectors of Baker Street: a replica of the "Mazarin" stone in a handsome and appropriate Persian box.
12626. The Dr. John H. Watson Fund (administered by a carefully anonymous Dr. Watson) offers financial assistance to all Sherlockians (membership in the BSI is not required) who might otherwise be unable to participate in the birthday festivities. The generous donors to this year's auction were Robert J. Stek (a box set of The Electronic Sherlock Holmes, issued in 1987 and the first computerized edition of the Canon), Andy Moursund (five posters showing Sherlockian and Doylean dust jackets), Bob Hess (two colorful posters designed by the late Steve Emmons), and Neil Gaiman (naming rights in one of his next books).
12627. One of the Saturday-evening events was the "Lost in New York with a Bunch of Sherlockians" dinner arranged by The Curious Collectors of Baker Street at O'Lunney's Restaurant, where a new Sherlockian society was founded: The O'Lunnays of Helston Asylum. There were two Sunday events this year, one being a brunch arranged by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes at the Oldcastle Pub & Restaurant, and the other a BSI "Knothole on Wheels" excursion by bus to Roslyn, Long Island, to visit the cabin where Christopher Morley wrote much of his work, and to lay a wreath on Morley's grave.
12628. And a final note, for those who are planning ahead: The Baker Street Irregulars' next annual dinner will be held on Jan. 15, 2010. And the Sherlock Holmes Society of London's annual dinner will be on Jan. 9, 2010.
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January 2009 #3

12629. I've not reported on everything, I hasten to add; if you want more details than I've provided here, there will be much more in The Baker Street Journal, which is published quarterly and costs \$26.50 a year (\$29.00 outside the U.S.), and checks (credit-card payments accepted from foreign subscribers) should be sent to the BSJ (Box 465, Hanover, PA 17331); and there's an option offering a subscription to the BSJ and to the Christmas Annual for \$36.50 (or \$40.00 outside the U.S.). You can also subscribe at the BSJ web-site at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>, where there are interesting features such as some of the papers written by past winners of the Morley-Montgomery Awards, articles in recent issues of the BSJ, and information on the BSI's other publications.
12630. There was a video crew recording interviews and parts of the birthday festivities for two one-hour shows that are expected to air on the Discovery Channel, shortly before the Guy Ritchie film is released later this year, and the shows also will be on the DVD of the film.
12631. The Norwegian Explorers' "Christmas Annual 2008" has Fred Levin's article on "Sherlock Holmes in Yiddish", Pj Doyle's history of the 1954 television series that starred Ronald Howard and H. Marion Crawford, and other scholarship and entertainment; the 58-page booklet is available from John Bergquist (3665 Ashbury Road, Eagan, MN 55122) for \$8.00 postpaid (checks payable to The Norwegian Explorers, please).
12632. Jim Webb has reported a helpful resource for translating British into American, at <www.bbcamerica.co/content/141/dictionary.jsp>; BBC America is the BBC's television channel in the U.S.
12633. "A Scandal in Bohemia" is a new two-act chamber opera written by Nathalie Anderson (libretto) and Thomas Whitman (music), and it will be performed in a concert version by Orchestra 2001 at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts in Philadelphia at 8:00 pm on Feb. 6 and at the Lang Concert Hall at Swarthmore College at 7:30 pm on Feb. 8.
12634. Paola Amadesi's imaginative 14-minute two-part animation of Conan Doyle's story "The Silver Mirror" is available at <www.youtube.com>; run a search for [silver mirror doyle].
12635. Watson's Tin Box will host their second "Scintillation of Scions" at Claret House in Clarksville, Md., on Aug. 15, with the intent of bringing together members of mid-Atlantic (and east-coast) Sherlockian societies for "an afternoon of fun, scholarship, and social time." Last year's gathering was entertaining, and this year's event will run from 1:00 to 7:00 pm. Additional details are available from Jacquelynn Morris (3042 Old Channel Road, Laurel, MD 20724) <www.watsonstinbox.org>.
12636. Two issues of Beaten's Christmas Annual have been published by The Sound of the Baskervilles in Seattle, both edited by Terri Haugen. The first is a 291-page book celebrating the society's first 25 years, offering the best of the society's scholarship, pastiches, parodies, as well as some historical notes. The second is the 2008 issue, with 42 pages of fact, fiction, puzzles, and humor. The 2007 issue costs \$24.95 postpaid to the U.S. (and \$27.95 elsewhere); the 2008 issue costs \$12.00 postpaid to the U.S. (\$15.00 elsewhere); payments from overseas in U.S. dollars, please). Checks payable to The Sound of the Baskervilles should be sent to Terri Haugen (3606 Harborcrest Court NW, Gig Harbor, WA 98332).
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January 2009 #4

12637. David F. Morrill, who is described as having "a collection of a bazillion books and old movies, including many of a Sherlockian bent," is the author of The Baker Street Journal Christmas Annual for 2008 ("Reading the Signs: Some Observations and Apercus on Film and Television Adaptations of *The Sign of the Four*"), and he has done a wonderful job of describing and comparing seven screen and television versions of the story, discussing the casts and characters (including Toby), missing links, additions and changes, and grand finales, with skill and humor. 64 pp., \$11.00 postpaid (\$12.00 outside the U.S.); you can order on-line at the BSI's website <www.bakerstreetjournal.com> or by mail (Michael H. Kean, 3040 Sloat Street, Pebble Beach, CA 93953); checks payable to The Baker Street Irregulars, please.
12638. The Baker Street Irregulars' international series has already made available in English excellent Sherlockian scholarship from Japan and Scandinavia, and the third volume, edited by Doug Elliott and Bill Barnes, does the same for Australia. AUSTRALIA AND SHERLOCK HOLMES (2008) has two articles about Richard Hughes (distinguished for having had characters modeled after him in books by Ian Fleming and John le Carre, as well as having been a spy for both the British and the Soviets, simultaneously), Phil Cornell's survey of Sherlockian films that never were (illustrated with his

- versions of the posters that might have promoted the films), and other interesting material, including Neil P. Hillcrop's demonstration of Australian writing before translation into English. The 208-page book costs \$43.90 postpaid to the U.S. (\$52.90 elsewhere), from the BSI (as above).
12639. The Bartitsu Society honors Edward William Barton-Wright, creator of a "new art of self-defense" that Watson may well have misheard or misspelled when he recorded what Holmes said about bartitsu in "The Empty House". The society has a web-site at <www.bartitsu.org>, and there also is an interesting article at <artofmanliness.com/2009/01/05/bartitsu-gentlemen> with links to two videos about bartitsu. Thanks to Steph Dawson for the report.
12640. Baker Street Miscellanea was an interesting Sherlockian (and Doylean) journal published from 1975 to 1993, and all 76 issues are now available in PDF format on a CD for \$40.00 (postpaid) from Donald Pollock, 521 College Avenue, Niagara Falls, NY 14305; non-U.S. buyers are welcome to use PayPal and can contact Don at <donaldkpollock@gmail.com>.
12641. Ricardo Montalban died on Jan. 14. He was a leading man in Mexican films, and moved to Hollywood in the 1940s. He also acted on film and television, perhaps best-remembered as Mr. Roarke in the series "Fantasy Island"; the episode "Save Sherlock Holmes" (1982) had Mr. Roarke welcoming Ron Ely (as a department store detective) to the island to fulfill a fantasy that had him saving Sherlock Holmes (played by Peter Lawford) from Professor Moriarty (Mel Ferrer).
12642. "The Remarkable Characters of Arthur Conan Doyle" is the title of a symposium and exhibition at the Lilly Library at Indiana University in Bloomington on Sept. 26. It's a day-long event with eight presenters, sponsored by The Friends of the Lilly Library and The Illustrious Clients of Indianapolis, and additional information is available from Lilly Library Conference, Calumet Court, Zionsville, IN 46077 <lillylibraryconference@yahoo.com>.

January 2009 #5

12643. The National Film Preservation Act of 1988 created a National Film Preservation Board in the Library of Congress, responsible for selecting no more than 25 films a year for the National Film Registry, "based on their historic, cultural, or aesthetic importance." The Registry includes "Sherlock, Jr." (1924), selected in 1991; "The Lost World" (1925), selected in 1998; and "The Invisible Man" (1933), added last year.
12644. And "The Invisible Man" *is* Sherlockian, in a way. Chris Steinbrunner delighted in this sort of connection, because his spectacular visual memory (as well as his love of old films) helped him recognize them. You may remember the scene in Universal's "Sherlock Holmes and the Voice of Terror" (1944) in which unseen saboteurs move a railroad switch in order to derail a train; the studio took that footage from "The Invisible Man".
12645. Rafe McGregor's blog <www.rafemcgregor.blogspot.com> has frequent Sherlockian content, and a "free books" contest that closes on Feb. 26; the prize is a hamper of six books (S'ian and non-S'ian), signed by their authors and editor, and you appear to be able to win without knowing the answer to his question.
12646. Edward D. Cartier died on Dec. 25. He was a renowned artist from the Golden Age of science fiction; he started illustrating Walter B. Gibson's "The Shadow" novels in 1936, and went on to illustrate hundreds of stories for science-fiction magazines and books, and his striking portrait of Sherlock Hoka for Poul Anderson and Gordon R. Dickson's "The Adventure of the Misplaced Hound" appeared in Universe Science Fiction in 1953 and in the collection EARTHMAN'S BURDEN in 1957.
12647. Al Gregory <gaslightandfog@earthlink.net> offers (by e-mail only) his 2008 edition of "The ABC of the BSI" (an alphabetical listing of Investitures, with recipients, from "Abbey Grange" to "Young Stamford") and "The Florin Society" (couples in which both spouses have received Irregular Shillings).
12648. Pattie Tierney reports that there's a new restaurant in Cottleville, Mo.: Sherlock's Steak and Seafood; the web-site's at <www.sherlockssteaks.com>. Pattie is still making interesting jewelry, and some of it's Sherlockian, including an imaginative pin; she's at 229 Hereford Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63125 <www.ptierneydesigns.etsy.com>.
12649. If you've read all the pastiches and parodies, there's always the web-site <www.fanfiction.net>; a search for [sherlock holmes] brings up 396 records.
12650. David Timson has completed his reading of the Canon, making him the first to have recorded all of the stories. And he is an excellent reader, good with voices and accents of all sorts. His recordings are available on DVDs from Naxos Audiobooks (3 Wells Place, Redhill, Surrey RH1 3SL, England, or 416 Mary Lindsay Polk Drive #5089, Franklin, TN 37067); their web-site's at <www.naxosaudiobooks.com>. The last set in the series is THE CASEBOOK OF SHERLOCK HOLMES II on 4 CDs (\$28.98), with six stories ("The Veiled Lodger", "The Illustrious Client", "The Three Gables", "The Retired Colourman", "The Lion's Mane", and "Shoscombe Old Place") and Timson's own imaginative pastiche "The Wonderful Toy". The Naxos catalog is well worth exploring; they have other interesting Sherlockian and Doylean recordings.

January 2009 #6

12651. Felix Leiter: "I give up. I know the diamonds are in the body, but where?" James Bond: "Alimentary, my dear Leiter." That's from Ian Fleming's DIAMONDS ARE FOREVER (1971), reported (and I don't recall seeing this before) in a review of JOINED-UP THINKING: HOW TO CONNECT EVERYTHING TO EVERYTHING ELSE, by Stevyn Colgan (London: Macmillan, 2008). The exchange also is in the film, and scriptwriter Tom Mankiewicz tells a delightfully obscene story about it at <www.mysterymanonfilm.blogspot.com>; just search for [alimentary].
12652. Patrick McGoochan died on Jan. 13. He began his theatrical career as a stage manager in British repertory in the 1940s and went to act on stage, screen, and television. He was best known as Number Six in the television series "The Prisoner", and in 1968 appeared in Sherlockian costume in the episode "The Girl Who Was Death".
12653. Wood from a tree in the garden of Conan Doyle's childhood home will be used to make a violin in tribute to Sherlock Holmes, according to stories at hand from the U.K. A 170-year-old sycamore at Liberton Bank House in Edinburgh has to be cut down due to disease, and the Dunedin special school, which now occupies the house where Conan Doyle lived when he was five to seven years old, has commissioned a local violin maker to use the wood to make a violin, honoring both Conan Doyle, who may have played in the tree, and Holmes, who enjoyed playing the violin. Joan Foulner, a history teacher at the school, said that "It's been here for so long and, with its connections with Arthur Conan Doyle, there was no way we could just knock it down and have it turned into woodchips." Students at the school will use the violin for music lessons, and it is hoped that wood from the tree can be carved into a giant pipe.
12654. On-line registration for "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: A Sesquicentennial Symposium" at the Houghton Library at Harvard is now open, and you're advised to reserve for the event sooner rather than later, since space is limited. Go to <hcl.harvard.edu/libraries/houghton/doyle_symposium.html> for details. this will be one of the major celebrations of the 150th anniversary of the birth of Conan Doyle and the 75th anniversary of the founding of The Baker Street Irregulars.

12655. Gary Lovisi's *SOUVENIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: COLLECTED ARTICLES ON THE CANON AND THE PASTICHES* (New York: Gryphon Books, 2002; 122 pp., \$15.00) reprints articles published in magazines and journals in the U.S. and Japan, on subjects that range from hard-cover pastiche first editions to Tauchnitz editions to George MacDonald Fraser's *FLASHMAN AND THE TIGER*. It's available (along with other Sherlockiana and Doyleana, by Gary and others) from Gryphon Books (Box 209, Brooklyn, NY 11228) <www.gryphonbooks.com>.
12656. "The Cultural Afterlives of Arthur Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes" is the title of a conference at the University of Hull on July 4, celebrating the 150th anniversary of Conan Doyle's birth; possible topics include Holmes as an icon of Englishness, feminist revisions of Holmes, and Holmes in cyberspace. Additional information about the conference is available from the Dept. of English, University of Hull, Kingston-upon-Hull, HU6 7RX, England <www.hull.ac.uk/english/events/conferences/cultural-afterlives.html>.
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January 2009 #7

12657. Thanks to Stu Shiffman for the news that Project Gutenberg has three issues of *The Strand Magazine* in its on-line book catalog: Apr. and May 1893, and Jan. 1894; the first two have Sherlockian content, and the third has Inspector Maurice Moser's article about handcuffs. There are thousands of titles available at <www.gutenberg.org>, including much of Conan Doyle's Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian work.
12658. Tristan Jones' pastiche "Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of the *Mary Cel*-*este*" was published in *SAIL* magazine more than twenty years ago; Jones was a devoted sailor and a prolific author, and the pastiche also was published in his collection *YARNS* (still in print from Sheridan House; \$14.95).
12659. John Mortimer died on Jan. 16. He was a lawyer, and a specialist in freespeech issues (defending the publisher of Lawrence's *LADY CHATTERLEY'S LOVER* and the *Sex Pistols*), a playwright and screenwriter, and an author who created "Rumpole of the Bailey" for television in 1975. Mortimer enjoyed the Sherlock Holmes tales, and in 1995 he attended the annual dinner of *The Speckled Band of Boston*. In 1975 he was planning to write the book for the musical "Sherlock!" (with music and lyrics by Leslie Bricusse). Rex Harrison was under consideration to play Holmes, but the project was shelved until 1988, when "Sherlock: The Musical" was produced in England with book, music, and lyrics by Bricusse.
12660. Apparently there's no end to new Sherlock Holmes films. Guy Ritchie's film starring Robert Downey Jr. is in production, and the BBC is underway with its pilot starring Benedict Cumberbatch, and Columbia hasn't announced it is cancelling its film starring Sacha Baron Cohen, and now the *Daily Telegraph* has reported (Jan. 20) that Simon Wilson, Britain's deputy high commissioner in Calcutta is playing Holmes in an Indian remake of "The Sign of the Four". Directed by Ashoke Viswanathan, the film stars Victor Bannerjee as detective Prashant Saigal, who is investigating a series of murders but hits a dead end and "seeks inspiration from the iconic British detective," who "in true Bollywood fashion" emerges from a misty river, complete with cape and pipe, to come to Saigal's assistance. It's a cameo role for Wilson, who saw an opportunity to "promote English literature and its ties to India," and Viswanathan praised Wilson as a fine actor who could handle a pipe and speak at the same time ("most Indian actors can't do that").
12661. You can see Benedict Cumberbatch (who will be Sherlock Holmes in the pilot for a BBC television series) in the film "The Other Boleyn Girl" (2008); he played William Carey, husband of Mary Boleyn.
12662. <www.raindance.co.uk/site/picture/upload/image/books/Sherlock_Holmes.pdf> is the URL for a "first draft revisions" script dated Mar. 14, 2008 for the Guy Ritchie film. Thanks to Bert Coules for the report.
12663. The Three Garridebs continue to celebrate their 35th anniversary (the celebration seems to have expanded to a second year), and their journal *PRESCOTT'S PRESS* offers a nice mix of history, scholarship, and humor, including Drew Thomas's amusing report on the Cafe Sherlock in Odessa (the cafe has made a strenuous attempt to ensure that its menu is Sherlockian). The journal (four issues) costs \$14.00 to U.S. addresses (and \$18.00 elsewhere) from Warren Randall (15 Fawn Lane West, South Setauket, NY 11720).
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January 2009 #8

12664. Donald E. Westlake died on Dec. 31. His first mystery was *THE MERCENARIES* (1960), launching a career that won him three Edgars and a Grand Master award from the Mystery Writers of America, and an Oscar nomination for his screenplay for "The Grifters" (1990). He employed many pseudonyms, and as Samuel Holt he wrote *WHAT I TELL YOU THREE TIMES IS FALSE* (1987) in which the sleuths (and suspects) included actors noted for playing Miss Marple, Charlie Chan, and Sherlock Holmes.
12665. Roberta Pearson reports an interesting article on "An Eminent British Series: 'The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes' and the Stoll Film Company 1921-1923", by Nathalie Morris, in the *Journal of British Cinema and Television* (May 2007). The full text may still be available from the University of Edinburgh at <www.eupjournals.com/doi/abs/10.3366/JBCTV.2007.4.1.18>.
12666. "We are the Sherlock Holmes English Speaking Vernacular; Help Save Fu Manchu, Moriarty, and Dracula." That's from Ray Davies' lyrics for "The Village Green Preservation Society" recorded by The Kinks and included in the album "The Kinks Are the Village Green Preservation Society" (1968). Credit for the report goes to Bjarne Rother Jensen, president of The Sherlock Holmes Klubben i Danmark and editor of its journal *Sherlockiana*. You can see and hear The Kinks perform the song at YouTube.
12667. Further to the report (October 08 #4) on the "One Book-One Edinburgh" reading campaign, the program isn't restricted to Edinburgh; many other cities will participate, and you can see the cover of the new edition of *THE LOST WORLD* (featuring Wallace & Gromit) at <www.lostworldread.com>. The campaign was launched on Jan. 30, and Catherine Cooke has been invited by the Westminster Libraries to lecture on the book on June 15. The actor Brian Blessed, who explored Mount Roraima in 1998 (April 00 #1) is helping to publicize the campaign, and 200,000 copies of the book will be distributed without charge in the U.K. this year.
12668. "CERTAIN RITES, AND ALSO CERTAIN DUTIES" continues Jon Lellenberg's exploration of the early history of The Baker Street Irregulars; he describes it as "a compendium of surprises about the origins, customs and rituals of The Baker Street Irregulars and the men who created them," and it's all of that and more: the topics include Christ Cella's speakeasy, the Friendly Sons of St. Vitus, Edgar W. Smith's early history, an amusing story about the continuing battle between Adrian Conan Doyle and Doubleday, and other discoveries. The book has 84 pp.; \$14.00 postpaid to the U.S. (\$15.00 to Canada, \$19.50 elsewhere) from the author at Hazelbaker & Lellenberg, 211 East Delaware Place #605, Chicago, IL 60611.
12669. Dennis Lesica reported on That Videogame Blog on Nov. 21 that Frogwares is planning to bring their Sherlock Holmes computer games to the Wii. Frogwares has four games available, with a fifth due for release soon; more information is available at <www.sherlockholmes-thegame.com/en/sh>. The Wii is a home video-game console invented by Nintendo that uses a wireless controller so that you can play games on your television set. The name's pronounced "we" (it's "for everyone," the company explains).
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February 2009 #1

12670. The editor is solely responsible for the errors, omissions, outright falsehoods, misrepresentations, misattributions, occasional insights, inexcusable inaccuracies, fleeting moments of genius, failed witticisms, and calumnies within. A wonderful disclaimer, cribbed from Peter L. Stern's recent catalog of New England writers and New England connections.
12671. The "Sherlock Holmes Weekend" in Cape May, N.J., on Mar. 20-22 will offer a new mystery ("Sherlock Holmes and the Case of Mistaken Identity") presented by Midsummer Night Productions, and a performance of Craig Wichman's dramatization of "The Speckled Band" by the East Lynne Theater Company; the festival web-site at <www.capemaymac.org/content/sub-age_tours.aspx?id=96> has more information (the Sherlock Holmes weekends have been held in the spring and fall for many years).
12672. Sorry about that: one new member of The Baker Street Irregulars was omitted from last month's report (January 09 #1): Jeff Bradway ("A Case of Identity").
12673. Discount book dealer Edward R. Hamilton also offers audio and video; among recent offers is a DVD (\$7.95) with "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1978) starring Peter Cook and Dudley Moore (one of the most unusual film versions of the story). Falls Village, CT 06031-5000 <www.edwardrhamilton.com>.
12674. "I am lost without my Boswell," Holmes said to Watson (in "A Scandal in Bohemia"). And "posterity has anointed Boswell Johnson's Watson," Leah Price wrote in the N.Y. Times Book Review (Feb. 1), in a review of two new biographies of Samuel Johnson. Al Gregory noted the progress from Watson as Boswell to Boswell as Watson.
12675. Chris Redmond notes that on Jan. 15 the British Museum celebrated the 250th anniversary of its opening to the public; the British Museum actually was established in 1753, when parliament voted to accept a bequest by Sir Hans Sloane of his extensive collection. He is credited with the invention of milk chocolate, and Sloane Square in London is named in his honor; he also is mentioned in the Canon: Nathan Garrideb said that "I shall be the Hans Sloane of my age."
12676. The Sub-Librarians Scion of the Baker Street Irregulars in the American Library Association will gather at noon on Sunday, July 12, at Blackie's Restaurant in Chicago; Jon Lellenberg will be their featured speaker, and his topic will be "History Detective: Researching the BSI Archival Histories". Marsha Pollak (Sunnyvale Public Library, 665 West Olive Avenue, Sunnyvale, CA 94086) <mpollak@ci.sunnyvale.ca.us> will be happy to provide more information about the meeting.
12677. "Fifteen Weeks of Bees: A Laurie R. King Celebration" began on Feb. 1, by way of publicizing the new Mary Russell novel THE LANGUAGE OF BEES, with a wide range of special events: go to <www.laurierking.com> and click on the cover of the new book to see what a full-scale campaign looks like. "Laurie's Mutterings" are an interesting example of what can be done on the Internet: she has posted some of the corrected typescript pages, and some of the corrected proofs, showing how a story evolves.

February 2009 #2

12678. Further to the item on the symposium on "The Remarkable Characters of Arthur Conan Doyle" scheduled at the Lilly Library at Indiana University on Sept. 26 (January 09 #4), those who want more information and don't have e-mail should write to Lilly Library Symposium (attn: Steven Doyle), 9 Calumet Court, Zionsville, IN 46077.
12679. Darlene Cypser's dramatization of "The Six Napoleons" was performed for Dr. Watson's Neglected Patients in Denver last month, and her script is available online at <www.theconsultingdetective.com/sixnapoleonsscript.pdf>.
12680. Lyndsay Faye's DUST AND SHADOW (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2008; 225 pp., \$25.00) is a well-written mystery about the pursuit of Jack the Ripper by Holmes and Watson; there's an excellent sense of time and atmosphere, and the dialogue and supporting cast of characters are nicely done. She has a web-site at <www.lyndsayfaye.com>.
12681. "If every man who owed his inspiration to Poe was to contribute a tithe of his profits therefrom he would have a monument greater than the pyramids," Conan Doyle wrote (in OUR AMERICAN ADVENTURE), "and I for one would be among the builders." Our new postage stamp honors the 200th anniversary of the birth of Edgar Allan Poe. The striking portrait of Poe is by Michael J. Deas.
12682. "A Little Wodehouse on the Prairie" will be the theme the next convention of The Wodehouse Society in St. Paul on June 12-14, and there will be a Senior Bloodstain by The Friends of Adrian Mulliner (devotees of the works of both Wodehouse and Watson); more information about the convention is available from Kris Fowler, 1338 Wellesley Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55105 <www.northwodes.org>.
12683. George A. Vanderburgh's "Battered Silicon Dispatch Box" now has a backlist with hundreds of titles, Sherlockian and otherwise, and you can explore it at his web-site at <www.batteredbox.com>.
12684. Karen Murdock has forwarded a report from the Xinhua News Agency (Feb. 18) that in April VisitBritain [that's the new name for the old British Tourist Authority] will launch a £6.5 million campaign to attract visitors to Britain this year. "Film tourism will play a sure part in the campaign especially after the release of Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince and Sherlock Holmes, as 40 percent of potential visitors to Britain are inspired by something they've seen in films or on TV."
12685. More movie news/rumors: "I had a few words with Guy. He could be offering me a role in his new 'Sherlock Holmes' movie," Paris Hilton said, according to various gossip blogs. And Steve Doyle reports that he had a chance to chat with Lionel Wigram, one of the producers of the movie, and author of the comic book on which the movie's based, and asked him to sign a copy of the script. Wigram wasn't aware that the script was available anywhere but was happy to sign Steve's copy, noting that the script is five versions out of date, and that "there are characters in the film now who aren't even in this draft." Availability of the "first draft revisions" script dated Mar. 14, 2008, on-line was publicized earlier this year (January 09 #7)

February 2009 #3

12686. Bill Rabe's phonograph records VOICES FROM BAKER STREET (I, II, and III) offered a splendid opportunity to hear excerpts from the proceedings of Sherlockian societies such as The Baker Street Irregulars, The Hounds of the Baskerville [sic], The Maiwand Jezails, The Amateur Mendicant Society, and The Old Soldiers of Baker Street. The records were issued in 1961, 1965, and 1983, and are highly prized by people who still have phonographs (and some who don't), and it's nice indeed that the complete set now is available on two CDs, with an introduction, explanations, and postscript by Mark Gagen, from the Wessex Press. The earliest recording is from 1952, and the most recent from 1982, and can hear notables such as Vincent Starrett, Edgar W. Smith, Rex Stout, Jim Montgomery, William S. Baring-Gould, Julian Wolff, John Bennett Shaw, Nathan L. Bengis, and many more; highly recommended. VOICES FROM BAKER STREET costs \$25.45 postpaid (\$31.45 to Canada and \$38.45 elsewhere) from the publisher (Box 68308, Indianapolis, IN 46256) <www.wessexpress.com>.
12687. Leslie S. Klinger has completed his SHERLOCK HOLMES REFERENCE LIBRARY with THE APOCRYPHA OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Indianapolis: Gasogene Books, 2009; 178 pp., \$19.95); there's an introduction by Daniel Stashower, followed by annotated presentations of eight of Conan Doyle's Sherlockian but non-Canonical stories and plays. As he did in past volumes of the series, Klinger plays the game that many Sherlockians enjoy:

assuming that the world of the Canon (and the Apocrypha) is a real one. And it is nice indeed to have the non-Canonical material back in print in a convenient and interesting book. Available from the Wessex Press (postpaid prices as above).

12688. James Whitmore died on Feb. 6. He was an early student at the Actors Studio in New York in the early 1940s, and won a Tony Award for his performance in "Command Decision" on Broadway in 1949, and went on to a long career on stage, screen, and television; he was best known for his one-man shows portraying Will Rogers, Harry Truman, and Theodore Roosevelt, and he starred with Margorie Main in "Mrs. O'Malley and Mr. Malone" (1950), billed as "the wackiest pair of crime hunters you've ever met." The film was based on stories written by Stuart Palmer (a member of The Baker Street Irregulars) and Craig Rice about J. J. Malone and Hildegard Withers. Both stars were photographed wearing deerstalkers in a publicity still used to promote the film.
12689. THE PROBLEM OF THE NINE SAZERACS, by Donald B. Izban and Patricia Nowak Izban, brings Holmes and Watson to New Orleans for a detailed discussion of Crescent City hotels, restaurants, bars, cuisine, and cocktails, and there is an added end-of-the-book two-page memoir by the publisher; the book has 78 pages and it costs \$20.00 postpaid from George A. Vanderburgh (Box 204, Shelburne, ON L0N 1S0, Canada) <www.batteredbox.com>.
12690. Ken Lanza spotted <www.alsolikelife.com/shooting/?p=711>, which offers an interesting discussion of "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970) and links that allow you watch the film on-line (courtesy of Hulu) and download a copy of the script. And a Sherlockian costume at <www.mycostumes.co.uk>; search for [sherlock] to see a complete costume (coat, hat, pipe, and magnifying glass) for £49.99, or only the pipe and magnifying glass for £4.99.

February 2009 #4

12691. Sarah Lyall's story "A Call to Action for Sherlock Holmes" ran in the International Herald Tribune on Jan. 23 and as "Is That You, Sherlock" in the N.Y. Times on Jan. 25, reporting on the up-coming Guy Ritchie film. And two letters were published in the N.Y. Times on Feb. 1, one from Peter Sokolowski noting that Jude Law, who stars as Watson, also appeared in Granada's "Sherlock Holmes" television series. And so he did, as Joe Barnes, in "Shoscombe Old Place" (1991).
12692. Debbie Clark has spotted a "Sherlock Magnifier Watch" (item ES581, \$69.96) in a catalog from Herrington (3 Symmes Drive, Londonderry, NH 03053) (800-903-2878) <www.herringtoncatalog.com>. The wristwatch has a flip-up magnifying glass, a built-in LED emergency light, and other features that Holmes might have appreciated (if he ever wore a wristwatch).
12693. The Societe Sherlock Holmes de France reports that Monaco has issued a postage stamp honoring the 150th anniversary of Conan Doyle's birth. Monaco's postal service has a website at <www.oetp-monaco.com>. And the SSHF has an interesting web-site at <www.sshf.com> where you'll find reports on a new French comic book LES QUATRE DE BAKER STREET, Bob Garcia's new pastiche DUEL EN ENFER: SHERLOCK HOLMES CONTRE JACK L'EVENTREUR, Lucien-Jean Bord's DICTIONNAIRE SHERLOCK HOLMES, an attempt to determine Conan Doyle's height when he visited Paris and was photographed in front of the Hotel Regina (1.87 meters) (6 feet 1.6 inches), Pierre Veys and Nicolas Barral's BAKER STREET: LE CHEVAL QUI MURMURAIT A L'OREILLE DE SHERLOCK HOLMES [yes, that's THE HORSE THAT WHISPERED IN SHERLOCK HOLMES' EAR], and much more, including their wiki Encyclopedie Sherlock Holmes.
12694. There's still space available at "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: A Sesquicentennial Symposium" at the Houghton Library at Harvard is now open; this will be one of the major celebrations of the 150th anniversary of the birth of Conan Doyle and the 75th anniversary of the founding of The Baker Street Irregulars. More information is available (and you can register on-line) at <hcl.harvard.edu/libraries/houghton/doyle_symposium.html>.
12695. "Fake" is a new play by Eric Simonson that was read at the Manhattan Theatre Club in New York in 2008 ("the Piltdown hoax is exposed by none other than Sherlock Holmes"), and it will be performed at the Steppenwolf Theatre in Chicago, Sept. 10 through Nov. 8, 2009 ("it's a time-traveling mystery drama revolving around a house party held by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle"). The theater is at 1650 North Halstead Street, Chicago, IL 60614 (212-335-1650) <www.steppenwolf.org>. If you want a more sensible description, try "alternating between 1914 and 1953, journalists and scientists set out to uncover who planted the Piltdown Man skull, and everyone's a suspect, including Sir Arthur Conan Doyle."
12696. Jeff Falkingham's SHERLOCK HOLMES: IN SEARCH OF THE SOURCE (Philadelphia: Xlibris, 2009; 132 pp., \$29.99 hardcover, \$19.99 softcover) brings Holmes to St. Paul in 1896, ten years after SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE CAPER (December 07 #5); there's a great deal of local history and color, and a mystery that isn't easy for Holmes to solve. The author's web-site at <www.cccaper.com> has more information about both books.

February 2009 #5

12697. Christopher Roden and Cliff Goldfarb have noted that the late John Mortimer (January 09 #7) did not defend the publisher of Lawrence's LADY CHATTERLEY'S LOVER, despite frequent mentions in his obituaries. Valerie Grove, his authorized biographer, and Tony Lacey, his editor at Penguin, explained things after Mortimer died, but that was too late for most of the obituaries. But he did successfully defend Hubert Selby's LAST EXIT TO BROOKLYN in 1969.
12698. Hugh Leonard died on Feb. 12. He was a prolific dramatist whose play "Da" won four Tony Awards in 1978 (Leonard described it as "pretty nearly totally autobiographical") and a well-known acerbic columnist for the Sunday Independent. He dramatized "A Study in Scarlet" and "The Hound of the Baskervilles" for the 1968 BBC-1 television series that starred Peter Cushing and Nigel Stock, and wrote the play "The Mask of Moriarty", which was first performed during the Dublin Theatre Festival in 1985 with Tom Baker playing Sherlock Holmes.
12699. <www.bfronline.biz/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=212&Itemid=9> is the URL for the latest version of Paul Spiring's "B. Fletcher Robinson Bibliography" (which now lists 279 items that he authored, co-authored, or edited); it's an interesting demonstration of how wide Fletcher Robinson's interests ranged.
12700. "The Year of the Hound" is the theme of this year's "Gathering of Southern Sherlockians" at the Sheraton Read House in Chattanooga, Tenn., on Apr. 18-19; the mailing list is maintained by Kent Ross (721 Hartford Road, Springfield, OH 45503) (678-464-8321) <kenthross@aol.com>.
12701. It's always nice to see Conan Doyle's non-Sherlockian work in print: there is a new edition of THE POISON BELT (London: Hesperus Press, 2008; 124 pp., £7.99), with an interesting introduction by Matthew Sweet; he suggests that the real value of the book "is not the efficacy of its crystal-gazing, but in its exploration of the mechanics of early twentieth-century despair."
12702. Sherlockian societies in southern cities (Atlanta, Nashville, Birmingham, and Greenville) will hold their Fifth Annual Gathering of Southern at the Sheraton Read House in Chattanooga, Tenn., on Apr. 18-19, 2009. The conference theme is "The Year of the Hound", and Kent Ross (721 Hartford Road, Springfield, OH 45503) (678-464-8321) <kenthross@aol.com> is the contact.
12703. It's not Sherlockian or Doylean, but it's a delightful book: THE UNCOMMON READER, by Alan Bennett (2007, also available as a trade paperback and an audiobook); it's a fantasy about Queen Elizabeth II, full of philosophy and satire, and with a wonderful surprise at the end.

12704. Jean-Pierre Ohl's MR. DICK, OR THE TENTH BOOK (Sawtry: Dedalus Books, 2008; 220 pp., £9.99/\$15.99) was first published in French as MONSIEUR DICK, OU LE DIXIEME LIVRE (2004), the book is a surrealistic exploration of Charles Dickens, the world of Dickensians, and THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD, with entertaining scholarship (real and otherwise), and it includes Arthur Conan Doyle's "My First Spiritist Seance", a report on a seance held in 1884 when Dickens spoke from beyond the veil (Conan Doyle did indeed write about having heard from Dickens at a seance, but many years later).

February 2009 #6

12705. There's an interesting new collectible for Sherlockians to pursue. According to Tim Walker's story in the Daily Telegraph on Feb. 14 about Guy Ritchie's new film, "For one scene the stage hands had to help mock up the massive hull of a ship at Chatham Docks," whispers my man with the clapperboard. "It was a tough, dirty job involving a lot of black paint. When they'd finished the job, Guy arranged for everyone involved to get a fleece jacket thing emblazoned with the words Sherlock Holmes. There was a flat cap, too--just like Mr. Ritchie wears."
12706. George Vanderburgh now has a blog <www.batteredbox.wordpress.com> as well as a web-site <www.batteredbox.com>, and he reports on his blog on recent activities, including his reprint of a poster stamp August Derleth created in the 1940s to celebrate his Sac Prairie Saga (with a nice photograph of Derleth). George will be happy to send one of the reprints (on request) as a premium with any book purchase, or to anyone who sends a self-addressed stamped envelope or \$1.00; his address is Box 204, Shelburne, ON L0N 1S0, Canada.
12707. St. Martin's Minotaur Books has acquired its first non-fiction crime book: Dan Stashower's account of the plot to assassinate president-elect Abraham Lincoln in Baltimore during his inaugural trip to Washington in 1861. The book is to be published in late 2010 (Lincoln was elected president on Nov. 6, 1860).
12708. Black Coat Press has discovered "La Mort de Herlock Sholmes, ou Bandits en habit noir", a play that was written by Pierre de Wattyne and Yorril Walter and briefly produced in Brussels in 1914, and have published an English translation as SHERLOCK HOLMES VS. FANTOMAS (2009; 176 pp., \$16.95). Fantomas, one of the most popular anti-heroes in French crime fiction, was the creation of Marcel Allain and Pierre Souvestre in 1911, and still has many enthusiastic fans. The play's a fine example of what popular melodrama was like, all those years ago, and an excerpt from the play is available at the publisher's web-site at <www.blackcoatpress.com>.
12709. Black Coat Press also has published TALES OF THE SHADOWMEN: THE VAMPIRES OF PARIS, edited by Jean-Marc and Randy Lofficier (2009; 309 pp., \$22.95); the Shadowmen are the heroes and villains of French pulp fiction, and this is the fifth in a series of anthologies of pastiches involving characters such as Lecoq, Rouletabille, Arsene Lupin, Doctor Omega, Madame Atomos, and many others, In this volume the others include Sherlock Holmes, John H. Watson, Isadore Persano, and Professor Moriarty (not all in the same story); obviously not all of the characters are taken from French pulp fiction. One of the more unusual stories is Stu Shiffman's "The Milkman Cometh", in which the supporting characters include Boris Badenov, Natasha, Ivan Dragomiloff, and Teyve Milkhiker. And there's an attractive set of tarot-card illustrations by Michelle Bigot, with Sherlock Holmes as XVIII: Le Soleil.
12710. Brian Stableford's SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE VAMPIRES OF ETERNITY (Encino: Black Coat Press, 2009; 346 pp., \$24.95) is a greatly expanded version of his THE HUNGER AND ECSTASY OF VAMPIRES (March 97 #3); the story is a fantasy, involving time travel, space travel, and philosophy, and the major characters include William Hope Hodgson, Oscar Wilde, Dracula, and a Great Detective who will be familiar to Sherlockians.

February 2009 #7

12711. The Pondicherry Lodgers of West 44th Street, launched informally five years ago, are now more formal, with a constitution and with Christopher and Barbara Roden as organizers; they meet for dinner at an Indian restaurant on the Saturday during the birthday festivities in New York. This year dined at the Jewel of India, where Richard Olken offered the toast to Jonathan Small's wooden leg.
12712. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London and the Old Court Radio Theatre Company have extended their CD series of dramatizations by M. J. Elliott and Chris Drake, with Jim Crozier as Holmes, Dave Hawkes as Watson and a fine supporting cast. There are now five CDs ("The Yellow Face" and "The Three Students", "The Mazarin Stone" and "The Veiled Lodger", "The Beryl Coronet" and "The Speckled Band", "Shoscombe Old Place" and "The Five Orange Pips", and "The Gloria Scott" and "Wisteria Lodge"), and they're nicely done indeed. Available from the Society (Mole End, Sandford Road, Chelmsford CM2 6DE, England) at £5.00 each postpaid to the U.K. (£6.00/£9.00 to Europe and £9.00/\$12.00 elsewhere); sterling checks payable to Roger Johnson and dollar checks payable to Jean Upton (euros in currency, please).
12713. The December issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota offers Dick Sveum's "100 Years Ago" discussion of the special Sherlockian and Doylean issue of Collier's magazine published on Aug. 15, 1908, Tim Johnson's report on recent visitors, a letter from Georgina Doyle, and other news about the collections. Copies of the newsletter can be requested from Richard J. Sveum (111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <sveum001@tc.umn.edu>.
12714. Shades of Sherlock and Baker Street Collecting were published by The Three Students Plus from 1966 through 1972, and Steve Rothman has discovered them on-line at Brad Kjell's web-site at <www.shadesofsherlock.org>. The website is a work in progress, Brad explains, and he calls the journals fanmagazines, but they're fine examples of what young Sherlockians were doing in those distant days of ditto and mimeograph machines.
12715. Taelen Thomas, an actor who has portrayed Jack London in one-man shows on the Monterey Peninsula, brought a special presentation of "Jack London on Conan Doyle" to a meeting of The Diogenes Club some years ago (August 93 #6), and the text was published was been published by the society as an 18-page pamphlet; Mike Kean has discovered a few copies of the original print run, and they're available for \$7.50 postpaid (checks made payable to the Diogenes Club, please). Mike's address is 3040 Sloat Road, Pebble Beach, CA 93953; he suggests that you ask him by e-mail <sherlockkean@gmail.com> before sending checks.
12716. I confess to knowing very little about some (well, most) aspects of the Internet, including Facebook <www.facebook.com>. Having heard from Steve and Linda Morris that they've created a group for The Red-Headed League of Jersey, I was intrigued to find five different Red-Headed Leagues there. And 199 Arthur Conan Doyle groups and more than 500 Sherlock Holmes groups, the most active Sherlock Holmes group being The Sherlock Holmes Museum in London, with (at the moment) 10,812 fans. Facebook describes itself as a "social utility," and says it has more than 150 million active users.

February 2009 #8

12717. Warren Randall's lapel pin (December 08 #3) was not the only souvenir of the excursion to Christopher Morley's Knothole on Long Island on Jan. 11; Warren has also published an attractive 16-page pamphlet with color photographs and descriptions of the places visited, and extracts from the writings of Morley, Ely Liebow, and Arthur Guiterman. \$5.75 postpaid from Randall (15 Fawn Lane, South Setauket, NY 11728).
12718. The Sun, a British tabloid generally regarded as less than reliable as the National Enquirer and other supermarket tabloids here, reported on Feb. 18 that Warner Bros. had told Guy Ritchie to reshoot five weeks of footage of his new "Sherlock Holmes" film because the studio bosses were unhappy

with an early cut. And the news was spread rapidly across the Internet by people who likely also believe that Elvis has been discovered alive and well on the Moon. Warner Bros. quickly issued a statement noting that inserts and pickup shots, a standard part of film-making, were being completed this month, and the Hollywood Reporter ran that under the headline "No Reshoot, 'Sherlock'".

12719. Paul Spiring has discovered something of interest pertaining to the history of B. Fletcher Robinson's collaboration with Conan Doyle in the writing of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES: Fletcher Robinson's story "The Debt of Heinrich Hermann" was reprinted in The Novel Magazine in July 1905 with an introduction in which he wrote about Conan Doyle: "It was from assisting him in 'The Hound of the Baskervilles' that I obtained my first lesson in the art of story construction." There's more about this at Spiring's web-site at <www.bfronline.biz>; click on [BFR Matters (Blog)] and then scroll down to [Fletcher Robinson & The Hound].
12720. Fox's television series "House" continues to be popular, and Mike Kean has reported Henry Jacoby's HOUSE AND PHILOSOPHY: EVERYBODY LIES (Hoboken: John Wiley, 2009; 272 pp., \$17.95) with Jerold J. Abrams's chapter on "The Logic of Guesswork in Sherlock Holmes and House".
12721. The second edition of Chris Redmond's QUOTATIONS FROM BAKER STREET, first published in 1994, is available from Chris (523 Westfield Drive, Waterloo, ON N2T 2E1, Canada); 52 pp., \$10.00 postpaid (US or CA) and \$12.00 (elsewhere). It's an uncommonplace book, offering a wide range of interesting, amusing, and occasionally outrageous quotations Sherlockians, Doyleans, and others. You get to choose your own favorites; one of them might be: "The Adventure of the Illustrious Client" is an unusual Sherlock Holmes story in two ways: it contains no mystery, and it is drenched in sex.
12722. "I hear of Sherlock everywhere," as someone once said. That's also true of the Canon, of course, and some of the ways one hears of the Canon are quite intriguing. Chap O'Keefe's BLAST TO OBLIVION (London: Robert Hale, 2009; 160 pp., £12.25) opens with an epigraph from "The Valley of Fear", and with good reason: the book is a western, with plenty of color and atmosphere and violence, and a mystery that will not be a surprise to those who have read and remember Conan Doyle's story. The author also has discussed the book at www.blackhorsewesterns.com; look for [Blast from the Literary Past].

March 2009 #1

12723. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists (aka The Friends of Sherlock Holmes) will honor the world's first forensic geologist at dinner at Dixon's Downtown Grill in Denver on June 10, when local Sherlockians will have a chance to meet geologists in town for the annual meeting of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists; if anyone would like to attend the festivities, just let me know.
12724. The Smithsonian Associates have scheduled a Conan Doyle evening on June 17. Similar to their Edgar Allan Poe event earlier this year, the program will have Dan Stashower talking about Conan Doyle, and actor Scott Segar reading from Conan Doyle's work. The formal announcement should be in the Smithsonian Associates schedule in April, by mail to their members and at their web-site <www.smithsonianassociates.org>; the general public is welcome to attend (members receive a discount). There may be a reception at the end of the evening (the Poe reception featured a birthday cake, brandy, and a rose for everyone).
12725. Variety has reported (Mar. 10) that Central Partnership's proposed Sherlock Holmes television series (June 08 #6) has been delayed; shooting was to have started this summer, but has been postponed six months because of scripting problems and Russia's acute financial crisis.
12726. "I Like Mountain Music" was a 7-minute "Merrie Melodie" cartoon produced by Warner Bros. Pictures in 1933, with Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson joining briefly in pursuit of a thief. Tyke Niver has reported that the cartoon is one of the special features on a DVD of "Flying Down to Rio" (1933) issued by Warner Home Video in 2006. It's also available (of course) at YouTube, at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cq2i2ZnJf38>, but in very low fidelity.
12727. Lyndsay Faye's first book-signing for her new novel DUST AND SHADOW (February 09 #2) will be at Otto Penzler's Mysterious Bookshop in New York on May 5; the book is excellent, and there will be tequila available at the signing, what with it also being Cinco de Mayo. Her web-site's at <www.lyndsayfaye.com>.
12728. "A drug addict chases a ghostly dog across the midnight moors" was the onesentence description of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES in a list of 100 novels everyone should read in the Daily Telegraph (Jan. 17), kindly forwarded by John Baesch. THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES was #41, well behind MIDDLEMARCH (#1) and well ahead of THE LORD OF THE RINGS (#100).
12729. The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times09-2.htm>, with a report on and photographs from a meeting of The Noble Bachelors of St. Louis on Jan. 17, and offers of old and new Sherlockian merchandise.
12730. Natasha Richardson died on Mar. 18. She was the fourth generation of the famous Redgrave acting dynasty, and her first film role was as a flowergirl in a wedding scene in "The Charge of the Light Brigade" (1968), which was directed by her father Tony Richardson and starred her mother Vanessa Redgrave. She went on to perform on stage and screen and television, and was a fine Violet Hunter in Granada's "The Copper Beeches" (1985).

March 2009 #2

12731. Phil Bergem has researched two British trawlers that were named in honor of Conan Doyle (one of them, he reports, sank a German submarine during World War I). A web-site at <www.hulltrawler.net> offers more information, and a photograph; click on [vessels] and then on [sidewinder]. Phil notes that both trawlers had engines built by Holmes, and he will gladly provide his article as a Word or PDF file <pbergem@att.net>.
12732. Jeffrey Marks has been nominated for an Agatha (best non-fiction) for his ANTHONY BOUCHER: A BIOBIBLIOGRAPHY (March 08 #1). The Agathas are awarded by vote of those attending Malice Domestic on May 1-3 in Arlington, Va. The convention's web-site is at <www.malicedomestic.org>.
12733. Philip Jose Farmer died on Feb. 25. He launched his writing career in 1952 with a story "The Lovers" that was rejected by two leading science-fiction editors because of his description of sex with an alien (the story won Farmer his first Hugo award as the year's most promising new writer), and he went on to write more than 75 books. He wrote for Luther Norris' The Pontine Dossier, The Baker Street Journal, and Baker Street Miscellanea, and his book TARZAN ALIVE (1972) began his complicated Wold Newton series that included a long list of Canonical and non-Canonical characters; he presented a paper on "Sherlock Holmes and Sufism" at a meeting of The Mexborough Lodgers in El Paso in 1975, and wrote humorous pastiches for Fantasy & Science Fiction. He also was one of the founders of The Hansoms of John Clayton in Peoria, and there's much more about his life and career at the website <www.pjfarmer.com>.
12734. The photograph was taken in China, rather than Sumatra, but it's certainly a giant rat, displayed by a ratcatcher named Mr. Xian, who captured it in Fuzhou, a city on China's south coast. "Chinese bamboo rats are sold for meat in Chinese markets." The photograph was published in the Daily Telegraph (Feb. 18).
12735. Alistair Duncan offered an interesting examination of the Canon in ELIMINATE THE IMPOSSIBLE (April 08 #5), and he has now turned his attention to Sherlockian and Doylean geography in his new CLOSE TO HOLMES (London: MX Publishing, 2009; 203 pp., £9.99/\$19.95); Duncan explores some of

the neighborhoods in London of interest to admirers of Holmes and Conan Doyle, discussing history and displaying contemporary and more modern photographs of buildings, streets, and notables (fictional and otherwise).

12736. Karen Murdock has reported Richard Davies' interesting article "Cheap, Eye-Catching & Victorian: Discover Yellowbacks" at <www.abebooks.com>; click on [Rare Book Room]. It was in "The Boscombe Valley Mystery" that Watson "lay upon the sofa and tried to interest myself in a yellow-backed novel."
12737. Merry Christmas: Daily Variety has reported (Feb. 26) that Warner Bros. has announced that it will delay the release of Guy Ritchie's "Sherlock Holmes" until Dec. 25. The film was previously scheduled for Nov. 20, and it will now open the same day as Disney's "The Princess and the Frog" and Twentieth Century Fox's "Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakuel" (unless, of course, the studios change their schedules again).

March 2009 #3

12738. Ken Lanza has kindly forwarded a report that Sam Weller's Zion Bookstore in Salt Lake City has renamed its Nancy Drew Mystery Book Club; the Sherlock Holmes Mystery Book Club will meet monthly at the Beehive Tea Room, with light refreshments and discussion of Conan Doyle's works. The Zion is one of the few remaining old-time shops, with more than a million old and new books on its shelves (some of them from Ron De Waal's collection), and its web-site is at <www.samwellers.com>.
12739. "The murder of Sherlock Holmes didn't remain a mystery for long," Richard Abshire wrote in the Dallas Morning News (Feb. 5). Sherlock Holmes Sr., of Plano, Tex., was found beaten to death in his home on Jan. 29, and police have charged Ronald Steven Davis with the crime; in the days after the murder Davis was seen by several people with the victim's cellphone, and records showed that calls were made with that phone to several of Davis' relatives.
12740. Reported: "The Secret Policeman's Balls" is a three-DVD set released this year by Shout! Factory (\$39.95); "The Secret Policeman's Ball" (1979) was the first in a series Amnesty International fund-raisers that featured members of Monty Python's Flying Circus and Beyond the Fringe, Stephen Fry and Hugh Laurie, and others, and completists might want to have the DVD of "The Secret Policeman's Biggest Ball" (1989), which has Peter Cook appearing in a deerstalker in a non-Sherlockian skit with Dudley Moore.
12741. "Sherlock Holmes and the Golden Vampire" is one of the more unusual Sherlockian films that were never produced; it was announced in 1975 with Frank R. Saletri as writer, producer, and director, and with Keith McConnell as Holmes and Alice Cooper as the Vampire. Script City (8033 Sunset Boulevard #1500, Hollywood, CA 90046) (800-676-2522) <www.scriptcity.com> offers copies of a first-draft screenplay (\$14.99), and has many other S'ian scripts available (there's no shipping charge for e-mail delivery as a PDF file).
12742. David Grann's long article "The Lost City of Z" in the New Yorker (October 05 #8) is now an even longer book (New York: Doubleday, 2009; 352 pp., \$27.50) in which Grann writes about his attempt to find traces of British explorer P. H. Fawcett, who spent years trying to uncover a lost civilization hidden in the Matto Grosso in Brazil. Fawcett vanished on his last expedition in 1925, never to be heard from again, and there's now a long list of explorers who have tried but failed to find Fawcett's lost city. Grann mentions Conan Doyle, who met Fawcett in 1910, and you can read more about them in THE ANNOTATED LOST WORLD, by Roy Pilot and Alvin Rodin (1996): they quote from Fawcett's memoirs EXPLORATION FAWCETT (eventually published in 1953). Fawcett was in London to lecture about his exploration of the Ricardo Franco Hills. "They stood like a lost world, forested to their tops," Fawcett wrote. "So thought Conan Doyle when later in London I spoke of these hills and showed photographs of them! He mentioned an idea for a novel on Central South America and asked for information, which I told him I should be glad to supply. The fruit of it was his 'Lost World'." Paramount bought the rights to the story last year, and Brad Pitts plans to produce and star in the film; in an interview available on-line at Amazon, Grann said they have hired a screenwriter and director and "seem to be moving forward at a good clip." Grann also said that he is a "huge Sherlock Holmes fan," and every few years reads the stories again.

March 2009 #4

12743. Catalogs from Mark Hime at Biblioctopus are always interesting, and his catalog 39 ("Whims of Iron or, The Sins of Plagiarism, 1553-2000") offers two manuscripts ("The Disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax" for \$300,000, and "His Last Bow" for \$125,000), a Sidney Paget original portrait of Holmes (for \$45,000), and the signed limited edition of THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES (1953) (for \$4,500). Biblioctopus is at 120 South Crescent Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90212 (310-271-2173).
12744. Thomson Gale's SHORT STORY CRITICISM series was launched in 1987, and they have now published 114 volumes; volume 83 (2006; 474 pp., \$207.00) covers four authors (Arthur Conan Doyle, Gabriel Garcia M^orquez, Toshio Mori, and Salman Rushdie), with 146 pages devoted to Conan Doyle. There are articles and essays reprinted from academic, scholarly, and literary journals from 1989 (Kate Karlson Redmond in the Baker Street Journal) to 2003 (Steven T. Doyle in the BSJ). Most of the material is taken from other journals, and an earlier survey of Conan Doyle was published in volume 12 (1993). Thanks to Andy Solberg for reporting volume 83 (which also has one of his articles from the BSJ). Thomson Gale's web-site is at <www.gale.cengage.com>.
12745. Harry Warren died on Feb. 21. According to his obituary in the Modesto Bee (Mar. 3) he began his radio career as a sound effects man on popular shows that included Basil Rathbone's "Sherlock Holmes"; he went on to work as an announcer, producer, and reporter, and retired in 1984.
12746. Publication of the magazine Scarlet Street ended with the illness and death of Richard Valley, but Kevin G. Shinnick has launched a successor, Scarlet: The Film Magazine. The first issue (spring 2008) has interesting articles about Edgar Allan Poe and the 1934 film "The Black Cat", and a few mentions of Sherlock Holmes, including discussion of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" in a review of Marcus Hearn and Alan Barnes' THE HAMMER STORY; the second issue has appeared, and a subscription to issues #2 through 4 costs \$25.00. You can remit via PayPal to <scarletthefilmmag@yahoo.com>, or send a check (mention the special subscription rate) to the magazine (Box 2092, Cleona, PA 17042). Shinnick was interviewed about his plans for the Scarlet at the web-site <www.classic-horror.com>.
12747. Forrest J Ackerman died last year (December 08 #2), and began collecting horrorfilm material in the days when studios would have thrown it away if Forry hadn't taken it off their hands. Some of his most spectacular items, one of them Bela Lugosi's "Dracula" ring, will be sold in a "Hollywood Memorabilia" auction at Profiles in History on Apr. 30 and May 1, and their website's at <www.profilesinhistory.com>; they're still working on their catalog, and I don't know if the auction will include the model pterodactyls Willis H. O'Brien made for "The Lost World" (1925) and "King Kong" (1933).
12748. Bertram Fletcher Robinson, well known to Sherlockians for his assistance to Conan Doyle with the story of the Hound of the Baskervilles, was a prolific author who wrote articles, poems, and more than 50 short stories, most of which dealt with mystery, murder, and revenge. Paul Spiring has collected some of them, reprinted in facsimile from their first magazine appearances, in ASIDE ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: TWENTY ORIGINAL TALES (London: MX Publishing, 2009; 230 pp., £12.99/\$22.95); there are endnotes for each of the stories, and a detailed bibliography of Fletcher Robinson's work.

March 2009 #5

12749. More on Guy Ritchie's "Sherlock Holmes" film: "There's a fantastic sequence where we duel to the death on a half-built London Bridge," Mark Strong explained in an interview the Total Film, "It's a perfect way to end the movie, Robert and I hammering seven bells out of each other on top of this swinging bridge with Victorian London as a backdrop." Strong's character is the villain, Lord Blackwater, an occult-dabbling Satanist who (according to Strong) is based on Alastair Crowley. You can credit Peter Ashman for this report.
12750. Ken Lanza found "Dartman's World of Wonder" on the Internet, with an opportunity to download "Rudyard Kipling: Selections the Jungle Books, Read by Basil Rathbone" at <rs311.rapidshare.com/files/33397460/Jungle_Books.zip>. Rathbone did much more than Sherlock Holmes, and did it all well; this is an LP record issued by Decca (DL-9109) in 1962.
12751. John Baesch spotted an unusual two-part pastiche in The Scottish Rite Journal (Jan.-Feb. and Mar.- Apr.): Michael Halleran's "Bro. Brother's Journal: Ignorance Abroad" has Bro. Brother visiting Jabez Wilson's pawnshop, with attractive illustrations by Ted Bastien. Both parts are available on-line at <www.scottishrite.org/what/educ/srj-index.html>, and you purchase both issues for \$6.00 postpaid from the society (1733 16th Street NW, Washington, DC 20009).
12752. The 28th annual Sherlock Holmes/Arthur Conan Doyle Symposium, to be held in Dayton, Ohio, on May 15-17, will have the theme "The Merry Wives of Watson: And All Things Watsonical", and registration is now open; Cathy Gill manages their mailing list (4661 Hamilton Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45223) (513-681-5507) <chirpsworth@fuse.net>.
12753. Charles E. Lauterbach's BAKER STREET BALLADS was published in 1971, and his MORE BAKER STREET BALLADS in 1979, and the two collections were reprinted, along with LAST BAKER STREET BALLADS, by Gasogene Books in 2005 as THE COMPLETE BAKER STREET BALLADS (129 pp., \$16.95). The book is a nice reminder of the days when many Sherlockians were poets, and there's also a fine introduction by Edward and Karen Lauterbach and appropriate illustrations by Henry Lauritzen. The book is still available, for \$25.45 postpaid (\$31.45 to Canada and \$38.45 elsewhere) from the publisher (Box 68308, Indianapolis, IN 46256) <www.wessexpress.com>.
12754. The modern version of The Strand Magazine, published by Andrew Gulli, has an interesting web-site at <www.strandmag.com>, with on-line content that includes a pastiche by Barrie Roberts ("The Disappearance of Daniel Question"), a story by H. R. F. Keating ("Wistaria Lodge") that's not Sherlockian but has Canonical echoes, and an interesting interview with Christopher Lee.
12755. Shakespeare & Company in Lenox, Mass., performed Jeremy Paul's "The Secret of Sherlock Holmes" in 2007, and they've announced that they will present a new version of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (written by Steven Canny and John Nicholson) from Sept. 26 to Nov. 6 <www.shakespeare.org>. According to their web-site, the play is "a Monty Python-like spoof in the best tradition of British beer hall comedy." If that sounds familiar, there's good reason: it's the play presented by Peepolykus on tour in England in 2007.

March 2009 #6

12756. Donald Thomas' SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE KING'S EVIL (New York: Pegasus Books, 2009; 324 pp., \$25.00) is the latest in his series of pastiches, with five stories that have Holmes involved with Arthur Saville (otherwise found in a story by Oscar Wilde), blackmail and forgery perpetrated by Charles Augustus Howell (who was an inspiration for Charles Augustus Milverton in Conan Doyle's story about the worst man in London), the siege of Sidney Street, and two other adventures.
12757. Tim Johnson, curator of the Special Collections at the University of Minnesota, has reported in his blog <www.umbookworm.blogspot.com> on his trip to England (thanks to a staff development grant); he spent five days in Portsmouth, much of the time devoted to research in the Richard Lancelyn Green Collection. And while you're connected to the Internet, you should visit <www.conandoyllecollection.co.uk/doyle-collection-video.html> and play the four-minute video that Stephen Fry (Patron of the Collection) as made about Richard and Conan Doyle and the Collection.
12758. Katie Forgette's play "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily" is scheduled at the Park Square Theatre in St. Paul, Minn., May 28 to June 23, 2010 <www.parksquaretheatre.org>.
12759. Dynamite Entertainment has announced a new comic-book series THE TRIAL OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, due in May, written by Leah Moore and John Reppion, with cover artist John Cassaday and interior artist Aaron Campbell. There's an interview with the writers at <www.newsarama.com>, and the publisher's website is at <www.dynamiteentertainment.com>.
12760. THE CHILDREN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Ben F. Eller (Raleigh: Pendium, 2008; 243 pp., \$14.95), is a vivid reminder that there was much more to Victorian London than is shown in the Canon: the children of the poor were exploited and mistreated, and that's depicted in often gruesome detail by Eller in a story that involved Holmes and Watson in an attempt to prevent some of the abuse.
12761. Further to the item (February 09 #7) about Taelen Thomas' "Jack London on Conan Doyle", his presentation has been reprinted in The Wolf--'09 (prepared for the Annual Jack London Birthday Banquet in Santa Rosa, Calif., on Jan. 17); available from David H. Schottmann (929 South Bay Road, Olympia, WA 98506) for \$4.95 postpaid.
12762. Reported: SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE MORPHINE GAMBIT, a new pastiche by a new pasticheur, Jason Cooke, just published by Breese Books (185 pp., \$18.95), available from Classic Specialties (Box 1958, Cincinnati, OH 45219) and at their web-site <www.sherlock-holmes.com/breese.htm#MG>.
12763. The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh has announced its second "Arthur Conan Doyle: Edinburgh and Medicine Conference" on May 22-23. Owen Dudley Edwards and Andrew Lycett have been invited to speak, and the College has issued a call for papers (contact Dawn Kemp at <d.kemp@rcsed.ac.uk>); for registration details, contact Emma Black at <e.black@rcsed.ac.uk>.

April 2009 #1

12764. Further to the earlier report (October 08 #7) that the Baker Street Irregulars' triennial running of The Silver Blaze will be combined with the 50th annual running of the Chicago Silver Blaze at Hawthorne Race Course on Oct. 31, if you haven't received detailed information and a registration from Susan Z. Diamond there may still be time to register (there's a limit of 60 people); Susan's address is 16W603 3rd Avenue, Bensenville, IL 60106) (630-227-9127) <szdiamond@comcast.net>.
12765. SHERLOCK HOLMES IN AMERICA, edited by Martin H. Greenberg, Jon L. Lellenberg, and Daniel Stashower (New York: Skyhorse, 2009; 378 pp., \$24.95), is the latest in their series of anthologies of pastiches; most of them bring Sherlock Holmes to the U.S., and their authors include Lyndsay Faye, Lloyd Rose, and Paula Cohen (Harry Houdini is the detectives in Dan Stashower's story, Christopher Redmond has contributed an essay on Conan Doyle's first visit, and the anthology ends with Conan Doyle's own remarks about "The Romance of America").
12766. Carl Heifetz reports two Sherlock Holmes 1000-piece mystery-solver jigsaw puzzles are available from The Paragon (Box 4068, Lawrenceburg, IN 47025) (866-752-3714) <www.theparagon.com>: "Case of the Fallen Actress" (#40097) "Watson's Inheritance" (#40098) cost \$16.99 each or \$24.99 for both. These are new versions of puzzles available ten years ago (October 99 #6).

12767. Al Gregory has reported "22 Cases of Sherlock Holmes in Science Fiction" at io9.com/5178945; Alasdair Wilkins discusses some of the cross-over genre, and provides video of items such as "Bravestarr" and "Elementary, My Dear Turtle" (that's from "Teenage Ninja Mutant Turtles").
12768. The Easton Press (677 Connecticut Avenue, Norwalk, CT 06857) (800-243-5160) <www.eastonpress.com> still offers their three-volume THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES; first issued in 1987, it's a handsome leather-bound reprint (with color frontispieces) of the Heritage Press edition that they published in 1952 and 1957; \$59.00 per volume postpaid (item 0135). And the PROFESSOR CHALLENGER SERIES in three volumes in a similar format, with an introduction by science-fiction author Robert Silverberg (2005); \$65.00 per volume postpaid (item 1575).
12769. One hears of the dog in the night-time everywhere, but not quite like "the I.R.S. is a dog that doesn't have a bark." The quote's from Sen. Charles E. Grassley (R-IA), then chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, reported in the N.Y. Times (Apr. 6, 1991), and more recently in Playboy (Apr. 2009) in an article about the current pursuit of Barry Bonds by the I.R.S.
12770. Bjarne Nielsen has a new catalog on-line at <www.sherlockiana.dk>; click on [Antiquariat] and then on [Sherlockiana]. One of the items is particularly interesting: a copy of the first edition of T. S. Eliot's MURDER IN THE CATHEDRAL (1935) together with a copy of the second printing of the John Murray edition of SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE COMPLETE SHORT STORIES (1928) signed by Eliot; Bjarne suggests that this must have been the copy of the short stories that Eliot used when he quoted from "The Musgrave Ritual" in MURDER IN THE CATHEDRAL [sorry: the books no longer are available].

April 2009 #2

12771. E.J. Wagner's THE SCIENCE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: FROM BASKERVILLE HALL TO THE VALLEY OF FEAR: THE REAL FORENSICS BEHIND THE GREAT DETECTIVE'S GREATEST CASES (June 06 #2) is now available in Italian, Korean, German, Japanese, and Braille, with Russian due soon; details on the translations are available at her web-site <www.forensic.to/webhome/ejwagner>. And there's a Kindle edition, so you can read it on your iPhone or iPod.
12772. I recommended it once (December 05 #5), and am happy to do so again (I seldom recommend books twice, and sometimes don't recommend them once): IMAGINED LONDON: A TOUR OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST FICTIONAL CITY (Washington: National Geographic Society, 2004; 192 pp., \$20.00) is Anna Quindlen's evocative tour of literary London: it's a personal essay, full of insight and humor (and of course Baker Street and Sherlock Holmes are mentioned).
12773. Further to the report about Liberton Bank House, where Conan Doyle lived as a child (November 07 #6), Phil Bergem has found a web-site that has photographs of the renovation of the derelict 18th-century house and its conversion into the Dunedin School <www.dunedin.edin.sch.uk/page11.html>.
12774. Barbapapa is the title character in a series of French children's books written in 1970s by Annette Tison and Talus Taylor, and the series has been translated into more than 30 languages. One of the characters is Barbabravo, who with deerstalker, magnifying glass, and the help of his faithful hound Lolita tries to act like a great detective. There are films and television shows, and toys and other merchandise, and more information at <www.barbapapa.fr/gb/barbapapa.html>, and (of course) video available at <www.youtube.com>
12775. A proponent of intelligent design has cited Conan Doyle in a blog arguing against Darwinian evolution: go to <www.arn.org> and search for [deyes conan doyle] to find Richard Deyes' blog entry, which is based on the BBC-1 mini-series "The Lost World" (2001). Intelligent design is the most recent version of creationism.
12776. Further to the report (January 09 #8) on the Lost World Read 2009 campaign, all sorts of interesting things are available at <www.lostworldread.com>, among them views of the covers of both new versions of THE LOST WORLD (a reprint with a new cover of the Oxford World's Classics edition, and the children's adaptation with a Wallace and Gromit cover), the text of the adaptation and a study guide, and a free download of the BBC's unabridged recording read by Matthew Rhys.
12777. OSCAR WILDE AND THE DEAD MAN'S SMILE, by Gyles Brandreth (London: John Murray, 2009; 371 pp., £14.99) (New York: Touchstone/Simon & Schuster, 2009; 371 pp., \$24.00 cloth, \$14.00 paper), is the third in his series featuring Oscar Wilde as the detective in a new mystery set in London, Leadville, and Paris. This time Wilde's friend Arthur Conan Doyle is present only at the beginning and end of the story, but he has an important role to play in the real solution to the mystery. Brandreth is an excellent story-teller, with a special knack for cliff-hanger endings to many of his chapters and a sure hand in his portrayal of Wilde. The British edition is due in May, and the American edition in September, and Brandreth's web-site provides a fine introduction to the first two books <www.oscarwildemurdermysteries.com>.

April 2009 #3

12778. I recently received a query from a professor who said that he had an Iranian student who wanted to read "The Greek Interpreter" in Farsi and wondered if there is such a translation. And the question was easy enough to answer, thanks to Don Hobbs' "The Galactic Sherlock Holmes"; his electronic bibliography of translations is a splendid example of what can be done in the world of bits and bytes. The CD is in PDF format, now with 685 pages and 89 alphabets and languages, and with full-color illustrations of covers of many of the translations; a one-year subscription (with two to three up-dated CDs) costs \$15.00 (to the U.S.) or \$20.00 (elsewhere), from Don at 2100 Elm Creek Lane, Flower Mound, TX 75028. And yes, the story is available in a Farsi translation.
12779. "Sherlock Holmes, Lyon, et les debuts de la police scientifique" is the title of a conference scheduled by the Societe Sherlock Holmes de France on May 22-24. Details are available at the society's web-site <www.sshf.com>.
12780. Bill Briggs notes that McMurdo's Camp <www.mcmurdoscamp.wordpress.com> has a series of "story info sheets" that may be useful to societies preparing for discussion of one of the stories (they have done about half the short stories so far). Another source of discussion points for the stories is a collection of posts to The Hounds of the Internet electronic mailing list, at <www.sherlockian.net/hounds/introduction/intro.html>.
12781. The Notorious Canary Trainers of Madison, Wis., celebrated their 40th anniversary on Apr. 20, with a broadcast on "The Access Hour" on WORT-FM that featured interviews with members of the society; you can listen to the program on-line at <www.wort-fm.org/listen.php>. There's much more about the society at their web-site <www.madison.com/communities/canary>.
12782. Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" will be performed at the Vertigo Theatre (115 9th Avenue SE, Calgary, AB T2G 0P5, Canada) (403-221-3707) <www.vertigotheatre.com> from Apr. 26 through May 17.
12783. Douglas Wilmer's STAGE WHISPERS: THE MEMOIRS (Tenbury Wells: Porter Press International, 2009; 232 pp., £19.99) is a delightful autobiography, with much about his appearance as Holmes on BBC television in the 1960s, and a bit about "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes' Smarter Brother" (1975), and he has written about his Canonical recordings, his friends in the world of Sherlock Holmes, and of course his other work and fellow actors. There is also a limited edition, signed and in a special binding (£45.00); P.O. Box 2, Tenbury Wells, WR15 8XX, England <www.porterpress.co.uk>.

12784. Edward Judd died on Feb. 24. He began his acting as a teen-ager and made his film debut in "The Small Voice" (1948); he went on to a long career on stage, screen, and television, and was Barrymore in Ian Richardson's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1983).
12785. "What if Sherlock Holmes and Angelina Jolie had a baby and he grew up?" was the way Bruno Heller pitched the television series "The Mentalist", according to Peter Roth, head of Warner Bros. Television, quoted by Greg Braxton in the Los Angeles Times (Mar. 22). The series airs on CBS-TV, with Simon Baker starring as Patrick Jane, an independent consultant with the California Bureau of Investigation.
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April 2009 #4

12786. Thierry Saint-Joanis has announced that the first room of the museum of the Societe Sherlock Holmes de France is now open to the public, in the town of Saint-Sauvier (about 275 km south of Paris); you can read all about it (and see some photographs) at the society's web-site at <www.sshf.com>. The title of the story is "Reportage: le futur musee de la SSHF" (and if you scroll down the page you'll find a neat Google feature that translates the story into a variety of languages).
12787. Millard Kaufman died on Mar. 15. He was best known for his Oscar-nominated screenplays for "Take the High Ground" (1953) and "Bad Day at Black Rock" (1955), he also wrote the screenplay for "Ragtime Bear" (1949), the animated film that introduced Mr. Magoo, a character he said was based on one of his uncles (Mr. Magoo appeared as Dr. Watson, assisting Sherlock Holmes, in a 30-minute television program in 1964).
12788. A statue of Castor Oyl in Sherlockian costume will be added to the "Popeye & Friends Character Trail" in Chester, Ill., this year, Michael McClure has reported. The Chester Baskerville Society is sponsoring the five-foot-high granite statue, which will be unveiled on Sept. 12. Elzie C. Segar, who created Popeye, was born in Chester; "Castor Oyl, the Detective" appeared in a "Little Big Book" in 1937. If you would like to honor a friend (or yourself), contact Michael (618-826-5125) <watson@egyptian.net> to contribute an engraved "brick" in the column (\$150) or a larger site on the base (\$500).
12789. "The Curious Case of a Birthday for Sherlock" was the headline on Jennifer 8. Lee's story in the N.Y. Times on Jan. 6. The story ran in their on-line City Room blog, and it's a fine example of what can be done on line: there are 18 links to other sites and stories, Sherlockian and otherwise, allowing readers to explore for more information. Go to <www.nytimes.com> and search for [birthday sherlock].
12790. Laurie R. King has written a Mary Russell short story ("A Venomous Death") that has been published as a 14x20" broadside with a woodcut by Katie Wynne by the Lavendier Press, signed by the author and the artist (\$38.00 for the numbered edition, or \$125.00 for the lettered edition). You can e-mail to the publisher at <mlavendier1@cox.net>. Laurie will hold a drawing on May 15 for a free broadside for people who purchase THE LANGUAGE OF BEES from an independent bookseller; send your receipt to Laurie at Box 1152, Freedom, CA 95019, or a scan to <info@laurierking.com>. Additional details at <www.laurierking.com/?p=2614>.
12791. And her latest Mary Russell novel was published this month: THE LANGUAGE OF BEES (New York: Bantam Books, 2009; 433 pp., \$25.00) opens in England after Russell and Holmes have returned from their adventures in San Francisco (as recorded in LOCKED ROOMS) and quickly receive a visit from Holmes' son Damian. And Damian Adler (Irene was his mother) needs their assistance: his wife and daughter are missing. Soon Damian is missing as well, and Holmes and Russell (with help from Mycroft and hindrance from the official police) are hard at work solving a complicated mystery.
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April 2009 #5

12792. Bruce Holmes has continued his pursuit of Sherlockian philately (philatelic Sherlockiana), and his MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: ILLUSTRATED WITH POSTAGE STAMPS displays the eleven stories represented by color illustrations of postage stamps and covers; the selection is as usual appropriate and imaginative, and there's a short monograph on the Vernets, with similar illustrations. 3170 Joseph Howe Drive, Halifax, NS B3L 4G1, Canada; US\$29.50 postpaid.
12793. Actors' memoirs can be interesting and amusing, and one that qualifies on both counts is Roger Moore's MY WORD IS MY BOND (New York: Collins, 2008; 336 pp., \$27.95); there's a chapter titled "Elementary, Dr. Watson" (with only one page about "Sherlock Holmes in New York"), and elsewhere a story about why Oliver Reed refused to play Moriarty in the film. There's also a British edition from Michael O'Mara Books (£18.99).
12794. The Hampton Roads Virginian-Pilot reported (Mar. 23) that Sherlock Holmes "fancies himself an investigator and a business consultant," even though (as Evan F. Holmes) he has convictions for credit-card fraud, forgery, and uttering dating back more than 30 years. He spent more than 20 years in jails and prisons in Virginia, and was last released in Oct. 2007.
12795. The Beacon Society (whose mission is "supporting and recognizing exemplary educational experiences that introduce young people to the Sherlock Holmes stories") has resurrected its web-site at <www.beaconsociety.com>; you can see the sort of activities they carry out to achieve that goal, and learn about their new grant program. And there's a June 1 deadline for applications for its pilot funding project, the January Stauber Grant (details available at the web-site).
12796. It's an interesting concept: MYSTERY MUSES: 100 CLASSICS THAT INSPIRE TODAY'S MYSTERY WRITERS, edited by Jim Huang and Austin Lugar (Carmel: Crumb Creek Press, 2006; 224 pp., \$15.00), is an anthology of essays, about and by good writers; David Thurlo praises "The Speckled Band", and Aaron Elkins THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES, and the coverage ranges from Edgar Allan Poe to Dennis Lehane.
12797. A bibliographic query: Edgar W. Smith and Lord Donegall published a facsimile edition of Beeton's Christmas Annual in 1960, and there are three variants: with a red-ink stamp on the title page (numbered copies sold in the U.S.), or a purple-ink stamp at the end of the publisher's note at the rear (numbered copies sold in the U.K.), or without any stamp (unnumbered copies sold after Smith died). It would be interesting to know how many copies of Smith's numbered edition were sold: if you have a copy numbered higher than 186, please let me know.
12798. THE FILE ON COLONEL MORAN: VOLUME ONE: THE LURE OF MORIARTY, by Vernon Meador (Cardiff: Clyvedon Press, 2008; 81 pp., £10.00), focuses on Moran and Moriarty, offering Moran's account of his encounters with Sherlock Holmes (before, during, and after the Great Hiatus), and two stories about Moran's early adventures with Moriarty. The cost of shipping is £3.00 (to the UK and Europe) and £4.70 (elsewhere); 95 Maes-y-Sarn, Pentyrch, Cardiff CF15 9QR, Great Britain <www.clyvedonpress.com>.
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April 2009 #6

12799. Spotted by Dave Morrill: SHERLOCK HOLMES & KOLCHAK: THE NIGHT STALKER, is a new three-issue comic-book series (\$3.99 for each issue) published by Moonstone Books (582 Torrence Avenue, Calumet City, IL 60409) <www.moonstonebooks.com>; the story was written by Joe Gentile, and is a spin-off from the television series starring Darren McGavin (1974) and Stuart Townsend (2005).
12800. Moonstone has also published DOMINO LADY: SEX AS A WEAPON, edited by Lori Gentile (222 pp., \$16.95). The Domino Lady was a masked heroine who first appeared in the May 1936 issue of Saucy Romantic Adventures; there were six stories about her in pulp magazines that year. The new book is a collection of eight new pulp-magazine-style stories, one of them Nancy Holder's "The Strange Case of the Domino Lady and Sherlock Holmes".
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12801. For the completists: Robert Pohle's story "The Flowers of Utah" is included in SHERLOCK HOLMES IN AMERICA (April 09 #1); Pohle has written westerns, including THE FLEDGLING OUTLAW (1978), of which John Bennett Shaw once wrote to Pohle that he actually liked the book, but that "you do have everything in it except Bing Crosby as a drunken Irish priest!" One of the characters in the novel is described by Pohle as "a suspiciously Holmesian Pinkerton detective," but the novel is set too early to have true Sherlockian echoes.
12802. The June issue of Realm: Celebrating Britain's Rich Past and Historic Present has Vicky Sartain's nicely-illustrated full-color four-page article on "The Chronicles of Conan Doyle" (in the magazine's Great Britons series). Box 215, Landisburgh, PA 17040 <www.realm-magazine.com>; \$6.99.
12803. The spring issue of The Magic Door (the newsletter published by The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) has the conclusion of an article on "Grant Allen & Arthur Conan Doyle: A Victorian Odd Couple" (by Peter Calamai), a report on "Arthur Conan Doyle in Winnipeg" (by Barbara Rusch), and other news from and about the collection; copies of the newsletter are available on request from Clifford S. Goldfarb (22 Markdale Avenue, Toronto, ON M6C, 1T1, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>).
12804. CSA Word (formerly CSA Teltapes) offers two volumes of THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES on CDs, each with six stories read by Edward Hardwicke (and read well) for £17.01/\$31.95; these are reissues of the earlier audiocassette sets issued from 1993 to 2000). The company's address is 6a Archway Mews, London SW15 2PE, England <www.csaword.co.uk>. Hardwicke was a splendid Watson in the Granada television series, and it's somehow comforting to hear Watson read aloud what he wrote.
12805. Further to the item (December 07 #6) on the campaign to upgrade the protection of Undershaw, the house where Conan Doyle lived from 1897 to 1907, there's a new effort to rescue the house: Hindhead Together has launched a campaign to preserve the house and use it as a Conan Doyle center welcoming visitors to the Heathlands of the Surrey Hills area. They have asked for pledges of support at <www.surreyhills.org/Hindhead-Together.aspx>. They've not yet appealed for funds, but the Surrey County Council estimates that acquisition and restoration of Undershaw will cost about £3.5 million; The National Trust has said that it might be persuaded to develop an action plan "if there's any interest out there in taking the project on.

April 2009 #7

12806. Macmillan's Children's Books has announced a three-book series of the adventures of the young Sherlock Holmes, to be written by Andy Lane, who has used Holmes, Watson, and other Canonical characters in the "Doctor Who" tie-in ALL CONSUMING FIRE (July 94 #4). This is Lane's first book for children, and the series begins "in the 1860s with the fourteen-year-old Sherlock sent to spend the summer with eccentric relatives as his soldier father heads for India; Sherlock is drawn into a sinister international plot with a brilliantly imagined villain at its heart."
12807. Charles Prepolec has reported that the German film "Der Mann, der Sherlock Holmes war" (1937) is now available on DVD with English subtitles (as "The Man Who Was Sherlock Holmes"); released this year by Televista (\$24.95) and available at Amazon and elsewhere. The film's imaginative and amusing, and it's nice that it's now accessible to people who don't understand German.
12808. Frogwares' latest Sherlockian adventure game for computers "Sherlock Holmes vs. Jack the Ripper" will be released in May; you can see screen shots and much more at <www.sherlockholmes-thegame.com/en/sh>.
12809. The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times09-4.htm>; the offers of Sherlockian merchandise include some interesting "scrimshaw" items (carved from antlers rather than whalebone or whale's teeth), and there's discussion of Meiringen (and meringue) and British coinage.
12810. Reported by Dante Torrese: Beau Ties Ltd. of Vermont (69 Industrial Avenue, Middlebury, VT 05753 (800-488-8437) <www.beautiesltd.com> offers "Watson" bow ties (\$45.00) and neckties (\$55.00) honoring Conan Doyle, Holmes, and Watson in a "handsome black, brown, and tan woven silk plaid."
12811. Players Press/Empire Publishing Service (Box 1344, Studio City, CA 91614) (818-784-8918) <empirepubsvc@att.net> offers a long list of Sherlockian and Doylean pastiches, novels, and plays, and Jack Tracy's THE ULTIMATE SHERLOCK HOLMES ENCYCLOPEDIA (including many books published by Jack Tracy from his Gaslight Publications).
12812. Douglas Fairbanks played Coke Enneyday (in Sherlockian costume) in the silent film "The Mystery of the Leaping Fish" (1916); it has been available on VHS cassette, and was included on the DVD "The Gaucho" by Kino Video in 2001 (\$29.95). Greg Darak notes that "The Mystery of the Leaping Fish" also is available in "Douglas Fairbanks: A Modern Musketeer" (2008), a five-DVD set with 11 Fairbanks films, issued by Flicker Alley (\$89.99).
12813. Greg also reported a two-DVD set "Discovering Cinema" (2003), released by Flicker Alley (\$29.99); the DVDs are "Learning to Talk" and "Movies Dream in Color", and the first DVD includes the Fox-Case Movietone newsreel interview "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle" (1929).
12814. Reported: Tracy Barrett's THE SHERLOCK FILES (for readers aged 9-12) is now a series of two books: THE 100-YEAR-OLD SECRET (New York: Henry Holt, 2008; 160 pp., \$15.95) and THE BEAST OF BLACKSLOPE (2009; 176 pp., \$15.99) have Xena and Xander Holmes, descendants of Sherlock Holmes, pursue solutions to cases that their famous ancestor couldn't solve.

April 2009 #8

12815. Sherlockian programs continue to show up on animated television series for children: Holmes and Watson appear in "Trials of the Demon!" in the series "Batman: The Brave and the Bold" on the Cartoon Network and at their web-site <www.cartoonnetwork.com/tv-shows/batmanbb>. And Candace and Stacy are seen in Sherlockian costume in "Elementary, My Dear Stacy" in the series "Phineas and Ferb" on the Disney Channel.
12816. Martha McCormack died on Apr. 11. Martha was the wife of George McCormack ("Hosmer Angel") and they would have celebrated their 50th anniversary in June; she was honored by The Baker Street Irregulars as The Woman (2004).
12817. IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN 2!: MORE NEW STORIES OF OLD-TIME RADIO, edited by Jim Harmon (Albany: BearManor Media, 2000; 224 pp., \$15.00), is an anthology of stories about the heroes and villains who had so many fans in days gone by. There are stories by various authors about Vic and Sade, Baby Snooks, The Great Gildersleeve, Red Ryder, and Harmon's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Duplicate Daughter". BearManor's address is Box 71426, Albany, GA 31708 <www.bearmanormedia.com>.
12818. Mentorn Media is planning to produce a television series called "John Sergeant's Tourist Trail" (about tourism to the United Kingdom) to be broadcast on ITV and then distributed worldwide. They want to interview Sherlockians from the U.S. and Italy who will be in the U.K. between May 18 and July 13; if you are going to visit, and would like to be filmed, you should contact Lindsay Walsh at <lwalsh@mentorn.tv>.
12819. Postage rates are going up (again) in May, and the cost of the envelopes, and the cost of printing, so subscriptions to the ink-on-paper version of this newsletter will cost more as well: \$11.55 (to the U.S.), \$15.30 (to Canada), and \$18.05 (elsewhere).
12820. The main reason why postage rates are going up is that the U.S. Postal Service's income continues to decline while its costs don't. The USPS has estimated that it moved 213 billion pieces of mail in 2006, and expects that number to fall to 180 billion in 2009, a drop of more than 15%. While

- some of that drop is due to lower telephone costs (many companies are now offering a flat monthly rate for unlimited calls anywhere in the country), the Internet has had a far greater impact (many people now pay their bills online, and of course use e-mail rather than mail letters).
12821. The circulation of this newsletter offers a fine example of this: 321 copies were printed in Jan. 1998, and 166 copies in Jan. 2009. Readership has not declined, of course, since the text of the newsletter is available free on two electronic mailing lists and at Willis Frick's "Sherlocktron" website at <www.members.cox.net/sherlock1.htm>.
12822. I hasten to note that the decline in paid circulation has had no effect on profits, since the cost of the newsletter is calculated on a break-even basis. That seems to be the goal of most rational Sherlockians who produce things for sale: don't lose money.
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May 2009 #1

12823. "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: A Sesquicentennial Symposium" at the Houghton Library at Harvard (February 09 #4) was a delightful gathering, with more than 100 people on hand for papers (scholarly and otherwise), a film showing, dinner and entertainment, and an exhibition of treasures from the Houghton's collections. The URLs <www.hcl.harvard.edu/news/2009/doyle_symposium.html> and <www.news.harvard.edu/gazette/2009/05.14/11-doyle.html> offer two articles about the symposium. The exhibition will run through Aug. 8.
12824. "SO PAINFUL A SCANDAL" unveiled at the symposium, is the latest volume in The Baker Street Irregulars' Manuscript Series; there's a facsimile of the manuscript of "The Adventure of the Three Students", and commentary on the manuscript and the story by Sherlockian scholars, all edited by John Bergquist. There's an attractive full-color dust-jacket showing a previously unpublished Frederic Dorr Steele drawing for the story, and the cost of the book is \$35.00 (\$38.95 postpaid to North America and \$49.50 elsewhere) from The Baker Street Irregulars (3040 Sloat Road, Pebble Beach, CA 93953); you can also order on-line at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>.
12825. The presentations at the symposium will be published as PAPERS AT AN EXHIBITION (not yet available, but it will cost \$35.00 plus shipping (as above) and you can pre-order from the BSI. There will also be a limited-edition boxed set in three volumes, that will include SO PAINFUL A SCANDAL and PAPERS AT AN EXHIBITION in a uniform Harvard crimson cloth binding stamped in gold, and EVER WESTWARD: ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE AND AMERICAN CULTURE, the annotated catalog of the exhibition, in a special soft-cover binding; you can pre-order now (the set won't be published until October), and only by mail, by sending checks (\$203.95 to North America and \$229.50 elsewhere) to the BSI (address as above).
12826. <www.bakerstreetblog.com/2009/05/man-of-excellent-birth-and-education.html> is the URL for Scott Monty's informative blog about goings-on at the symposium at Harvard.
12827. "The Spirits of Sherlock Holmes" is the title of the conference planned by The Norwegian Explorers in Minneapolis on July 30-Aug. 1, 2010. More information on the conference will be available later this year, and you can enroll on their mailing list by contacting Gary Thaden (2301 Aldrich Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55404) <norwegianexplorers@gmail.com>. The conferences have been held every three years, with interesting events and good attendance.
12828. Catherine Cooke notes that the Westminster Libraries has a "Gateway" website at <www.westminster.gov.uk/libraries/gateway/history.cfm#local>, with much of possible interest to Sherlockians, including "Old London Maps" and "Proceedings of the Old Bailey".
12829. "Sherlaw Kombs and the Odd Impersonators" is the title of Andrew Lycett's article in The Times (May 22) about Sherlockian pastiches and parodies. He notes that at <www.fanfiction.net> Sherlock Holmes ranks among the top 20; Harry Potter leads with more than 400,000 examples, and Holmes had 1,517. There are many other fan-fiction web-sites, of course.
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May 2009 #2

12830. Registration has now opened for the symposium and exhibition on "The Remarkable Characters of Arthur Conan Doyle" at the Lilly Library at Indiana University in Bloomington on Sept. 26 (January 09 #4); their web-site's at <www.lillylibraryholmesconference.ning.com>; or you can write to Mary Ann Bradley, 7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278.
12831. Conan Doyle's sound-on-film news-reel interview is widely available, as is the phonograph recording he made for The Gramophone Company in 1930. Who was the first Conan Doyle to make a radio broadcast? And when and where?
12832. The March issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota has two tributes to Wayne and Francine Swift (their Sherlockian collection is now in Minneapolis), a "100 Years Ago" discussion of Conan Doyle's contribution to THE PRESS ALBUM (by Christy Allen and Julie McKuras), a "50 Years Ago" examination of the anthology LEAVES FROM THE COPPER BEECHES (by John Bergquist), and news from and about the collections; copies of the newsletter can be requested from Richard J. Sveum (111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <sveum001@tc.umn.edu>.
12833. Catherine Cooke spotted an interesting zippered tote bag created by Quotable (they offer other quotes from other authors) available for (\$22.95) <www.quotablecards.com>; their affiliated at <www.fridgedoor.com/quotoba.html> has the same quotations on flat magnets (\$4.95); both sites offer store locaters for those who want to save shipping costs. The quote, in case you haven't got the Canon memorized, is from "A Case of Identity".
12834. Paul Spiring's continuing research into the life and career of B. Fletcher Robinson has resulted in THE WORLD OF VANITY FAIR, BY B. FLETCHER ROBINSON (London: MX Publishing, 2009; 300 pp., £75.00, \$145.00). Fletcher Robinson edited Vanity Fair from 1904 to 1907, and wrote 15 articles titled "Chronicles in Cartoon" for The Windsor Magazine from 1905 to 1907, discussing many of the delightful caricatures that had appeared in Vanity Fair; some of the subjects of the caricatures are mentioned in the Canon, but his selections unfortunately do not include the magazine's caricature of William Gillette (Spiring reports that Fletcher Robinson planned five additional articles, and that the series would have concluded with "The Stage" (but the series ended when he died in 1907). The articles (and the caricatures) are reproduced in full color, and he has many stories to tell about the people who appeared in the series.
12835. The manuscript of "The Creeping Man" has been delivered to the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection in Portsmouth. Dame Jean Conan Doyle owned three Sherlock Holmes manuscripts (the others were "The Illustrious Client" and "The Retired Colourman"); she died in 1997 and bequeathed the three manuscripts to the British Library, a museum in Edinburgh, and a museum in Portsmouth or Southsea (to be chosen by her trustees). "The Illustrious Client" went to the National Library of Scotland in Edinburgh, and "The Retired Colourman" to the British Library.
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May 2009 #3

12836. Faithful readers may recall the famous (perhaps infamous) Sherlock Holmes "tent joke" being voted (temporarily) the funniest joke in the world in a "Laughlab" experiment (October 02 #1); the joke came in second in the final voting. British psychologist Richard Wiseman explains his contest in a 5-minute video at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=PANxw3vcwY> and tells the winning joke.
12837. So: who was the first Conan Doyle to make a radio broadcast? It was Lady Doyle, in April 1923 in New York. In OUR SECOND AMERICAN ADVENTURE, Conan Doyle wrote that "My wife was asked to send out a broadcast wireless message, upon spirit-teaching whilst we were at New
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- York, and she did so from the Westinghouse Instalment on the top of the Ritz-Carlton Hotel. To me it was very impressive." And he reprints the text of her message.
12838. You can still visit the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in New York, at 50 Central Park South, but (alas) it's not the same hotel. The one he visited was on the west side of Madison Avenue between 46th to 47th Street, and it was in its kitchens that Louis Diat is credited with inventing vichyssoise.
12839. Warner Bros. has contracted with Gameloft to develop a mobile game for the new Guy Ritchie film "Sherlock Holmes" (still scheduled for release on Dec. 25). A mobile game is (apparently) a video game played on a mobile phone, smartphone, PDA, hand-held computer, or portable media player. This seems to be just the thing for those who don't have anything to tweet about.
12840. And there's a new 2-minute trailer for the film, likely showing in theaters now. And if it's still available, you can also watch the trailer on-line at YouTube at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=X29IKOauNnw>.
12841. The Camden House web-site at <www.camdenhouse.ignisart.com> is an interesting web-site maintained by Rachel Wilcox, Julia Huggins, and Oliver Mundy, with a "Pinotheca Holmesiana" section for artwork, an "Epistolary" section for Sherlockian scholarship, and much more.
12842. John Patrick Bray's "Hound" (2005), will be presented off-off-Broadway during the Planet Connections Festivity, with 6 performances from June 17 to June 25 at the Robert Moss Theater Space (440 Theaters, Astor Place and Lafayette) (212-352-3101) <www.planetconnectionsfestivity.com>; it's his 90-minute dramatization of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES.
12843. An article in the Daily Telegraph (May 13) reports that "a deadly peril is creeping up on the wisterias of Old England: the wisteria scale insect." Wisteria has long suggested respectable Victoria villas, such as Wisteria Lodge in the Sherlock Holmes story, according to the writer, who notes that ordinary remedies have failed to thwart the villain, and yearns for the aid of "'the most indispensable man in the country,' Sherlock's more brilliant brother, Mycroft. Wisteria hath need of him."
12844. Michael Cox died on Mar. 31. He wrote a well-received biography of M. R. James before joining Oxford University Press as an editor, and he included Conan Doyle stories in many of his anthologies, including VICTORIAN GHOST STORIES (1992), VICTORIAN TALES OF MYSTERY AND DETECTION (1992), VICTORIAN DETECTIVE STORIES (1994), and THE OXFORD BOOK OF HISTORICAL STORIES (1995).

May 2009 #4

12845. YouTube has a seven-minute video of appropriate British landscape, with Laurie R. King reading from THE BEEKEEPER'S APPRENTICE, at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q-WLgFV05w0>. She continues on tour to promote THE LANGUAGE OF BEES; she appeared at the Westport Public Library on May 2, and there is a one-hour recording of her presentation available at <www.westportlibrary.org/events/podcasts>. And Rick Kleffel's "The Agony Column" offers an interesting one-hour audio interview with Laurie at <www.bookotron.com/agonny/audio/2009/2009-news/041009-laurierking.mp3>. And THE LANGUAGE OF BEES, read unabridged by Jenny Sterlin, had been issued by Recorded Books on CDs (\$34.99); it's also available as a download (\$7.49) at <www.audible.com>. Laurie's next book, an immediate sequel to THE LANGUAGE OF BEES, is tentatively titled THE GREEN MAN.
12846. The 29th annual Sherlock Holmes/Arthur Conan Doyle Symposium, to be held in Dayton, Ohio, on May 14-16, will have the theme "Investigating the Ameri-Canon"; Cathy Gill manages their mailing list (4661 Hamilton Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45223) (513-681-5507) <chirpsworth@fuse.net>.
12847. If you haven't been able to see Steven Dietz's play "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" (2006), you can read the acting-edition script, published by the Dramatists Play Service in 2007; \$7.50. They also offer an acting-edition script of Dennis Rosa's play "Sherlock Holmes and the Curse of the Sign of the Four" (1975); \$7.50. 440 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016 (212-683-8960) <www.dramatists.com>.
12848. "Privatdetektiv Arthur Conan Doyle" is the title of a 55-minute program on WDR3 (Deutschlandfunk) that was broadcast on May 16, about the George Edalji and Oscar Slater cases. It was presented by Christian Blee, who interviewed Michael Ross, Thomas Toughill, and Andrew Lycett. It was almost all in German, and you can listen to it on-line at <www.funksreiber.de>; click on "Downloads" and the Passwort (case-sensitive) is [Berlin]. You can also listen to a three-hour program "Watson, die Jagd beginnt!" broadcast by WDR on May 23, also presented by Blee, who interviewed Ross, Toughill, Lycett, Alistair Duncan, Marcus Geisser, and Paul Spiring.
12849. "It was twenty-five to eight as we passed Big Ben, and eight struck as we tore down the Brixton Road," Watson wrote (in "Lady Frances Carfax"); Darlene Cypser has reported a recording of Big Ben (striking three) on the Internet at <www.champsclock.com/downloads.htm>.
12850. Joseph Fink ("The Martyrdom of Man") died on May 8. He was a chemist and a professor of marketing and management at Fairleigh Dickenson University, president of Plastodent, and an enthusiastic member of many Sherlockian societies whose members enjoyed Joe's delightful sense of humor. He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1986, and was "Tonga" in the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes.
12851. Jerry Margolin has reported that in the new film "Star Trek" (released this month) Spock (played by Zachary Quinto) quotes Holmes: "When you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, no matter how improbable, must be the truth!" This is an echo from "Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country" (1991), in which Spock (played by Leonard Nimoy) said, "an ancestor of mine maintained that . . ."

May 2009 #5

12852. BBC Radio Scotland has broadcast three new 30-minute programs to celebrate Conan Doyle's birthday; one hopes they'll be repeated. "In the Footsteps...of Conan Doyle" (May 18) featured Val McDermid touring Sir Arthur's Edinburgh (with assistance from Owen Dudley Edwards). "Vote for Conan Doyle!" (May 22), written by Bert Coules, dramatized Conan Doyle's campaign for Parliament in 1900 (John Sessions played Conan Doyle). And "The Lost World of Arthur Conan Doyle" (May 29) had Louise Welsh investigating how he became an apostle of Spiritualism.
12853. Further to the item (January 09 #6) about plans to use wood from a 170-year-old sycamore at Liberton Bank House in Edinburgh to make a violin that would honor Conan Doyle and Holmes, The Times has reported (May 19) that Steve Burnett has completed work on the violin, and believes that Holmes "would appreciate the fine Italian tone and the look of the instrument." Burnett played the violin on May 22 at a concert at the Dunedin School, and hopes to raise funding to carve a string quartet (two violins, a cello, and a viola) to be played by a Conan Doyle Quartet.
12854. Brian W. Pugh's A CHRONOLOGY OF THE LIFE OF SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE (London: MX Publishing, 2009; 202 pp., £13.99/\$22.95) offers a splendid collection of information about Conan Doyle: the chronology is based on books and articles by and about him, and public records, and where there are contradictions Pugh has noted them. All of his sources are cited, and there's also a chronological listing of first and early appearances of his work, as well as lists of his residences, burial sites of family and friends, and statues and plaques dedicated to Conan Doyle, Holmes, and others. The publisher is at 335 Princess Park Manor, Royal Drive, London N11 3GX, England, and their web-site's at <www.mxpublishing.co.uk>.
12855. SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE THREE POISONED PAWNS, edited by Anthony J. Richards (Cambridge: Breese Books, 2008; 204 pp., £7.50/\$18.50), contains three new pastiches: Emanuel E. Garcia, who is an Oxfordian, presents Holmes solving a mystery in the text of "Hamlet"; Roger Jaynes has

Holmes investigating a mysterious death and a case of blackmail; and Eddie Maguire involves Holmes with the Kaiser some years before World War I. The publisher's web-site is at <www.breesebooks.com>.

12856. Reported: Thomas Bruce Wheeler's THE NEW FINDING SHERLOCK'S LONDON: TRAVEL GUIDE TO OVER 300 SHERLOCK HOLMES SITES IN LONDON (iUniverse.com, 2009; 328 pp., \$22.95); a new and expanded edition of his FINDING SHERLOCK'S LONDON (March 03 #4).
12857. "Finding Feisty Fungi" is the title of an article in Smithsonian magazine (May) about the discovery that fungal decay is affecting the three wooden huts built during attempts to reach the South Pole between 1901 and 1915. The article is illustrated with a photograph of the hut that was built at Cape Evans 1910 by Robert Falcon Scott, when he launched his ill-fated expedition (all five members of his team died). The hut still contains the world's southernmost copy of a book by Arthur Conan Doyle: THE GREEN FLAG AND OTHER STORIES OF WAR AND SPORT, brought there by Scott and left behind when he began his last attempt to reach the Pole.
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May 2009 #6

12858. Scott Brown's "The Giant Nerds of Sumatra" (with an attractive illustration by Alexis Rom) discusses Sherlockians, and some of the strange things they do, in Wired (May); it's the "mystery" issue of the magazine, and there are many interesting articles, including an interview with Teller (the silent partner of Penn and Teller). John Bergquist notes a nice summary of Conan Doyle's career (with a link to Brown's article) at Wired's web-site <www.wired.com/thisdayintech/2009/05/dayintech_0522>.
12859. For the completists: the nine volumes of THE OXFORD SHERLOCK HOLMES, first published in 1993, were revised and reprinted as a World's Classic (1994) and then as an Oxford World's Classic (1998); they're available again in the Oxford World's Classics series with slightly different covers, still displaying Frederic Dorr Steele artwork.
12860. The new edition of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES was chosen for the monthly "Readers' Review" book club on "The Diane Rehm Show" broadcast by WAMU-FM (Washington) on May 20; the panel consisted of Carla Coupe, Daniel Stashower, and Peter Blau, and the broadcast's archived at <www.drshow.org>.
12861. <www.abebooks.com/books/sherlock-holmes-professor-challenger/arthur-conandoyle.shtml> is the URL for an interesting (and well-illustrated) article by Richard Davies about "Arthur Conan Doyle's Life Beyond Sherlock Holmes" spotted by Ken Lanza at the AbeBooks web-site; if you scroll to the bottom of the page to find informative "More to Investigate" links.
12862. Plan well ahead: "Arthur Conan Doyle: A Study in Scandal" is the title of the next conference in Toronto, scheduled by The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection, the Toronto Public Library, and The Bootmakers of Toronto on Oct. 13-16, 2011; the Canadians arrange excellent conferences, and more information will be available at <www.acdfriends.org>. Barbara Rusch maintains the conference's mailing list (36 Macauley Drive, Thornhill, ON L3T 5S5, Canada) <ephemeradiva@rogers.com>.
12863. "Happy New Year," Raymond Chandler wrote to his agent H. N. Swanson on Jan. 2, 1952, "and many thanks to you for the tie with the Sherlock Holmeses and the bloody footprints on it. I intend to wear this sometime to a post mortem." The letter will be offered at auction at Bonhams in New York on June 10, estimated at \$1,000-\$1,500 (sale 17109, lot 3204). Alas, the tie does not accompany the letter, and I'm not aware of any Sherlockian necktie that matches this description.
12864. Also to be auctioned at Bonhams, in Los Angeles on June 14: two capes worn by Steve Allen on various television shows, with a letter written by Allen explaining that "the plaid cape/coat was one in one instance when I played Sherlock Holmes on one of my comedy shows." (sale 17018, lot 6157, estimated at \$500-\$700). And at Knightsbridge on June 16: two waistcoats worn by Christopher Lee, one of them as Sherlock Holmes (sale 16808, lot 247, estimated at £100-£150).
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June 2009 #1

12865. Fans of Mary Russell will want to read MARY RUSSELL: MY STORY, which first appeared in 15 weekly installments on her MySpace blog; it's an amusing 16-page account of how and why Laurie R. King was chosen to receive Russell's manuscripts and you can read it at <www.tinyurl.com/lfqd4t>. Laurie hopes to publish the story eventually, and you may see it in the February issue of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine next year.
12866. And then there's a special-edition booklet of Holmes' PRACTICAL HANDBOOK OF BEE CULTURE (considerably fancier than the booklet Laurie provided for the annual-dinner packets in January), available to those who donate to Heifer International (one of Laurie's favorite charities); additional information is available at <www.laurierking.com/?p=3118>.
12867. <www.tinyurl.com>, by the way, offers a handy method of providing web-site links that are too long to fit on one printed line. It's free, and doesn't expire.
12868. The National Aquarium in Baltimore had an exhibition of "Jellies: Phantoms of the Deep" from 1996 to 1998, and they have just opened a new exhibition "Jellies Invasion: Oceans Out of Balance"; up to nine species are on display, including the Lion's Mane, and you can read more about the exhibit at <www.baltimoresun.com/entertainment/bal-jellyfish-a-5020,0,7213904.story>.
12869. London mayor Boris Johnson has proposed that Scotland Yard's "Black Museum" be opened to the public; a new "Blue Light Museum" would showcase exhibits from the crime museum along with artifacts from the city's fire and ambulance services. Scotland Yard now offers only restricted access to the museum, for training new police officers and as an attraction for important visitors to the Yard, Over the years those important visitors are reported to have included Edward VII (as Prince of Wales), Laurel and Hardy, Gilbert and Sullivan, Harry Houdini, and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.
12870. The above news from the June issue of Ripperologist, an electronic journal available at <www.ripperologist.info>; this issue also has editor Eduardo Zinna's detailed (and enthusiastic) review of Lyndsay Faye's new Sherlock Holmes novel DUST AND SHADOW.
12871. Sorry about that: <www.acdfriends.org> is the correct URL for The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection; they'll have more information on the symposium scheduled for Toronto on Oct. 13-16, 2011.
12872. Cliff Goldfarb reports that the Canadian television series "Murdoch Mysteries" has been acquired by American Public Television. APT is an American company that syndicates programs to public television and has started its own Create TV channel. "Murdoch Mysteries" will be available to local stations beginning June 30; the one-hour series aired in Canada in 2008 and is based on Maureen Jennings' mystery novels and three television films, with Yannick Bisson starring as a detective in Toronto in the 1890s. There are two episodes ("Elementary, My Dear Murdoch" and "Belly Speaker") that feature Geraint Wyn Davies as Arthur Conan Doyle, and both are included in the Season One set of 4 DVDs available from Acorn Media (\$59.99).
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June 2009 #2

12873. The Sub-Librarians Scion of the Baker Street Irregulars in the American Library Association will gather at 12:00 pm on Sunday, July 12, at Blackie's in Chicago; the luncheon will cost \$24.00 (send your checks quickly to Marsha Pollak (Sunnyvale Public Library, 665 West Olive Avenue, Sunnyvale, CA 94086). The featured speaker will be Jon L. Lellenberg, discussing "History Detective: Researching to BSI Archival Histories" (explaining the detective work behind some of his most interesting discoveries about the BSI's origins and early decades). Additional information is available from Marsha at <mpollak@ci.sunnyvale.ca.us>.
12874. Paul Spiring's campaign for a memorial to Bertram Fletcher Robinson in Ipplepen (where Fletcher Robinson lived) has been successful: the parish council has installed a memorial bench (with a plaque) in the village, outside Caunter's Close. You can see photographs at <www.sherlockholmes.ning.com>; search for [memorial].
12875. And just so this issue will have something about the new Guy Ritchie film, Anna Pickard had an amusing review of the trailer (and with a link to the trailer, in case you haven't seen it) in The Guardian (June 2); here's the convenient TinyURL: <www.tinyurl.com/qqoqsa>. You can also see two imaginative posters (one for Holmes and one for Watson) promoting the film in the U.K. at <www.empireonline.com/news/story.asp?NID=25101>
12876. If you've been wondering what happened to the "Sherlock Holmes" film starring Sasha Baron Cohen as Holmes and Will Ferrell as Watson, you can listen to a one-minute interview with Ferrell at the Hollywood Outbreak web-site <www.hollywoodoutbreak.com/2009/06/05/will-ferrell-still-on-for-sherlock>. Ferrell said that they have a script, and they're still talking about the film, but realize that Guy Ritchie's film is likely to be a hit, and might start a franchise, and they don't want to appear to be copying the film.
12877. A reminder about the next meeting of The Sub-Librarians Scion of the Baker Street Irregulars in the American Library Association, at noon on Sunday, July 12, at Blackie's Restaurant in Chicago; Jon Lellenberg will be their featured speaker, and his topic will be "History Detective: Researching the BSI Archival Histories". If you've not reserved already, and still want to attend, get in touch with Marsha Pollak <mpollak@ci.sunnyvale.ca.us>.
12878. Further to the item (April 09 #7) on Hindhead Together's campaign to protect Undershaw, the house where Conan Doyle lived from 1897 to 1907, there's an Internet petition at <www.ipetitions.com/petition/undershaw>.
12879. E.J. Wagner reports that Blitzwarez, apparently a file-sharing web-site at <www.blitzwares.net>, offers free downloads of Sherlockian books and games, including her book THE SCIENCE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, and she warns that this may be a web-site that attempts to spread viruses with downloads; neither she nor her publisher has authorized the web-site to distribute her book.
12880. Many of the Sherlock Holmes stories were syndicated to newspapers not long after first appearances periodicals. One of the newspapers was Philadelphia's Evening Bulletin, and it was interesting to discover that the paper began serializing A STUDY IN SCARLET on May 26 at their web-site. The URL is <www.thebulletin.us>; click on "Arts" and then "Literary Excerpts".

June 2009 #3

12881. Jon Lellenberg has forwarded a report that the first season of the British television series "The Rivals of Sherlock Holmes" (1971) is scheduled for release by Acorn Media this summer as a set of four DVDs (\$59.99). The series was based on anthologies edited by Hugh Greene, and the programs starred fine actors such as John Neville (Dr. John Thorndyke), Robert Stephens (Max Carrados), and Roy Dotrice (Simon Carne).
12882. Michael Robertson's THE BAKER STREET LETTERS (New York: Minotaur, 2009; 277 pp., \$24.95) offers an interesting approach to letters written to Sherlock Holmes: Reggie Heath is a London lawyer who has offices in the building at 221B Baker Street, and a lease that requires him to answer Sherlock Holmes' mail. Heath's brother Nigel, assigned to respond to the letters, discovers a 20-year-old mystery in one of them and goes to Los Angeles to investigate; Reggie, after his clerk is murdered, follows and does some detecting on his own. It's an interesting pursuit, and Warner Bros. has bought the television rights.
12883. The new Pixar/Disney animation "Up" is a delightful film ("by tying thousands of balloons to his home, 78-year-old Carl Fredricksen sets out to fulfill his lifelong dream to see the wilds of South America, according to one synopsis). And there's a visual homage to "The Lost World": Fredricksen's goal is Paradise Falls, which flows down the side of a plateau that has an isolated separate pinnacle, just as in the book and the films based on it.
12884. Edward S. Lauterbach ("Thornycroft Huxtable, M.A., Ph.D., etc.") died on June 3. He was a professor in the English Department at Purdue University for 34 years, and a long-time member of The Illustrious Clients of Indianapolis. He was a scholar (Sherlockian and otherwise), and a fine poet (he was hailed at the poet laureate of the Baker Street Irregulars); his BAKER STREET BALLADS (1971) offers a fine selection of his work. Ed received his Investiture from the BSI in 1965.
12885. Mike Kean reports that a special-clearance offer will be launched on July 1 at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com> with a discount on the Baker Street Irregulars' manuscript-series volume of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (February 02 #1) discounted to \$25.00). Click on "Items for Sale" and then on "Deal Table"; the offer's limited-time-only, so if you don't have this volume, act quickly (details on the book are available at the web-site).
12886. "Inspector Hector makes brushing fun!" (according to the Vi-Jon web-site at <www.inspector-hector.com>; they offer a pre-brush rinse and a fluoride rinse. Thanks to Paul Herbert, who noted an advertisement in the Sunday-newspaper inserts.
12887. I've mentioned the John Wayne film "The Quiet Man" (1952) before (May 04 #8): Francis Ford, who played Sherlock Holmes in the film "A Study in Scarlet" (1914) played Dan Tobin (the old man with the grand white beard), and when the locals arrived at the newlyweds' cottage, they sang "Mush, Mush" (the music's now used by Sherlockians when they sing "We Never Mention Aunt Clara"). The movie was inspired by one of the stories in Maurice Walsh's delightful collection GREEN RUSHES (1335), which has been reprinted as THE QUIET MAN AND OTHER STORIES (1992); I recommend reading the book from the beginning, so that you'll know who's who.

June 2009 #4

12888. Amanda J. Field's ENGLAND'S SECRET WEAPON: THE WARTIME FILMS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (London: Middlesex University Press, 2009; 250 pp., £11.99) is far more than a review of the Rathbone/Bruce films (and for the British, the Twentieth Century-Fox films also were wartime films); the author sets the films in context, and she writes about them well. There is new and interesting information about the production of the films, and the studios' negotiations with Denis and Adrian Conan Doyle; it's fascinating to imagine films that Edith Meiser might have written (two to four a year, according to a proposal by one of Denis' agents in 1940). Field's sources include studio archives at UCLA, and the Richard Lancelyn Green collection at Portsmouth, and there's much to be learned from her enjoyable book.
12889. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists (aka The Friends of Sherlock Holmes) honored the world's first forensic geologist with drinks and dinner at Dixon's Downtown Grill in Denver on June 10, when the visiting geologists were welcomed by members of Dr. Watson's Neglected Patients. Our next meetings will be in Portland on Oct. 21, and in New Orleans on Apr. 14.
12890. Gray Thaden spotted a photograph of Rounder's Arthur Conan Doyle, an American Staffordshire Terrier, at the Pedigree Database; their web-site's at <www.tinyurl.com/lz4ovo>. Rounder's Kennels is in Texas <www.roundersruffians.com>.

12891. "The Secret Life of Mrs. Beeton" is an 85-minute television film that was broadcast in Britain by the BBC in 2006, and the U.S. by PBS-TV on "Masterpiece Theatre" in 2007; it's available on a DVD (\$24.95) from Video Collection (Box 1380, Ottawa, IL 61350 (800-538-5856) <www.videocollection.com>. It was Isabella Beeton who created the famous "Book of Household Management" (the book that gave Maude Crosse considerable concern in A DUET: WITH AN OCCASIONAL CHORUS); she died in 1865, well before her husband began publishing Beeton's Christmas Annual (in which "A Study in Scarlet" appeared in 1887).
12892. Video Collection also offers "The Life and Crimes of William Palmer" on two DVDs (\$34.95); the two-part mini-series was broadcast in Britain by ITV and in the U.S. by PBS-TV on "Mystery!" in 1998. Holmes said that "Palmer and Pritchard were among the heads of the profession" (in "The Speckled Band"); he also noted that "When a doctor does go wrong he is the first of criminals," and the mini-series shows just what he meant.
12893. One hears of Sherlock everywhere: in this case Sherlock Holms. Naomi Tanaka reports that the Hotel New Otani Plaza Chateau in Osaka has a Sherlock Holms Boutique; the boutique sells Persian rugs, original women's wear, accessories, shawls, handbags, and shoes; you can see more about the boutique at <www.osaka.newotanic.jp/plaza/usa/26_sherlockHomes/MISE.htm>.
12894. The recent edition of A STUDY IN SCARLET, with spectacular illustrations by Nis Jessen (July 05 #6) is still available, in the standard edition (E39.00) and a special deluxe edition, signed and numbered in a slip-case (E78.00); posters, postcards, and stickers also are available, and you can see some of his artwork at <www.mr-holmes.com/Default.asp?ID=381>.

June 2009 #5

12895. Edwin V. King, Jr. ("Captain Arthur Morstan") died on Apr. 11. He was a chemical engineer when he joined the Army at the start of World War II (and he served on Eisenhower's staff in the European theater), and after the war had a long career with Union Carbide. Early in his Army years he discovered that he shared an interest in Sherlock Holmes with fellow-officer Robert Keith Leavitt, who gladly arranged an invitation for his friend to attend the 1943 annual dinner of The Baker Street Irregulars. He also attended the 1946 annual dinner, and lost contact with the BSI but found the society again in the 1990s and reminisced about the early years for Jon L. Lellenberg's BSI archival histories of the early and mid 1940s. He received his Investiture in 1991.
12896. Jezail Bulletin is the quarterly journal of Circulo Holmes (the Sherlockian society in Barcelona), and the latest issue (#33) includes an interesting a report on the Sherlock Holmes pub in Valencia. The pub seems not to have its own web-site, but there are quite a few hits with a Google search. The society's web-site is at <www.circuloholmes.org.es>.
12897. Discount book dealer Edward R. Hamilton has some interesting items in his latest discount catalog: "Sherlock Holmes Collection" of six films on two black-and-white DVDs (\$9.95); the Peter Cook/Dudley Moore "The Hound of the Baskervilles" on DVD (February 09 #1) (\$7.95); Donald Thomas' THE EXECUTION OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (October 08 #1) (\$9.95); Martin H. Greenberg's SHERLOCK HOLMES IN AMERICA (April 09 #1); and Pierre Bayard's SHERLOCK HOLMES WAS WRONG: REOPENING THE CASE OF THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (September 08 #7) (\$13.95); his address is: Falls Village, CT 06031-5000 <www.edwardrhamilton.com>.
12898. Ev Herzog discovered Cinni-Mini Crunch at her local supermarket, it's a private brand from SuperValu, which is the third-largest food-retailing company in the U.S., so the Richfood label isn't the only one.
12899. Thomas Bruce Wheeler's THE NEW FINDING SHERLOCK'S LONDON: TRAVEL GUIDE TO OVER 300 SHERLOCK HOLMES SITES IN LONDON (Bloomington: iUniverse.com, 2009; 302 pp., \$22.95) is a new and greatly expanded edition of his FINDING SHERLOCK'S LONDON (March 03 #4). The book offers discussion of each story, and the London locations mentioned in them; listings of locations near each underground and railway station, and along each underground line; as well as a few short walking tours. It's an excellent guide for people who want to explore the London of Sherlock Holmes.
12900. If you know someone who is vision-impaired, there's a fascinating new product available from K-NFB Reading Technology (a joint venture between Kurzweil Technology and the National Federation for the Blind); a special Nokia cell phone is used for print-to-speech reading, and there's a translation feature as well. A real god-send for reading menus in restaurants and figuring out the denomination of currency, and of course for reading the Canon or anything else away from home. The company's at Box 620128, Newton Lower Falls, MA 02462 (877-547-1500) <www.knfbreader.com>.

June 2009 #6

12901. The summer issue of The Serpentine Muse has news from, about, and by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes, including Dana S. Richards' Spooneristic toast given at the 2009 annual dinner of The Baker Street Irregulars, and Gayle Lange Puhl's amusing pastiche "The Case of the Curious Culprit". It's published quarterly and costs \$10.00 a year (checks payable to the Adventuresses, please) from Evelyn A. Herzog (31 Warren Avenue #203, Baltimore, MD 21230).
12902. Greg Darak reports that Kino International (333 West 39th Street #503, New York, NY 10018) (8000-562-3330) <www.kino.com/video> has issued "The John Barrymore Collection" on four DVDs (\$59.95); Barrymore's "Sherlock Holmes" (1922) is one of the films, and it's also available separately (\$24.95).
12903. On Oct. 8 the Royal Mail will issue a set of stamps honoring ten Eminent Britons: Fred Perry (lawn tennis champion), Mary Wollstonecraft (pioneering feminist), Henry Purcell (composer and musician), Donald Campbell (water speed record broken 1959), William Gladstone (statesman and prime minister), Sir Matt Busby (footballer and football manager), Samuel Johnson (lexicographer, critic, and poet), Judy Fryd (campaigner and founder of Mencap), Sir Martin Ryle (radio survey of the universe 1959), and [of course] Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (writer and creator of Sherlock Holmes). It can't be seen in the image, but the background of the Conan Doyle stamp shows a manuscript. The Royal Mail will also offer a set of stamp cards, an official first day cover (from Edinburgh), and a presentation pack.
12904. Michael Chisholm died on June 27. He was a member of the Australian Public Service, working the Department of Veterans Affairs, and according to Steve Duke a keen amateur actor, crossword puzzle enthusiast, scrabble champion, founding member of The Sherlock Holmes Society of Victoria (aka The Elementary Victorians), and Chief Canard of The Dark Rumours of Moriarty.
12905. The Alley Theatre in Houston will produce Paul Giovanni's "Sherlock Holmes and the Crucifer of Blood" from July 15 to Aug. 16. Their box office is at 615 Texas Avenue, Houston, TX 77002 (713-220-5700) <www.alleytheatre.org>.
12906. The Harvard Film Archive will screen three Sherlockian double features on July 25-27, and on Aug. 2 "The Lost World" (1925), and Dick Olken reports that "all friends of Sherlock Holmes" are invited to Harvard on July 25 for "an afternoon of good company, Doylean scholarship, and Sherlockian fun." From 4:00 to 5:00 pm there will be "a casual lemonade/sherry reception" at the Houghton Library, with a tour of the Houghton's exhibition "'Ever Westward': Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in American Culture", followed by dinner on Harvard Square (Dutch treat) and the film program at 7:00 pm (\$8.00); the two films shown will be "The Hound of the Baskervilles" with Basil Rathbone (1939) and Peter Cushing (1959). Dick

July 2009 #1

12907. The Baker Street Irregulars will celebrate the centenary of Ronald Knox's ground-breaking essay "Studies in the Literature of Sherlock Holmes" (his parody of biblical higher criticism that gave rise to the grand game that Sherlockian scholars play). Christopher Morley, the BSI's founder, was a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford and recalled hearing Knox read when Morley called a "new frolic in criticism." The international competition is open to all Sherlockians not already members of the BSI, and it calls for essays that "demonstrate originality in approaching unanswered Canonical questions or in resolving those issues that have been unsatisfactorily addressed heretofore." The deadline for papers is Oct. 1, 2010, and the winner of the competition will be invited to deliver his or her paper as a guest of the BSI at the annual dinner in Jan. 2011. Details on the contest (and a link to a PDF copy of Knox's paper) are at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>; just click on "Essay Contest".
12908. Further to the item (June 09 #6) about the Royal Mail's plans to honor Sir Arthur Conan Doyle on a stamp to be issued on Oct. 8, the manuscript shown in the background is "The Maracot Deep". You can see the photograph at the Corbis web-site as <www.corbis.com> [search for DWF15-456300]; it was taken on Oct. 16, 2003, and shows Christie's manuscript specialist Thomas Venning examining the manuscript.
12909. The Pub Sign Store at <www.sherlock.pubsignstore.com> offers an imaginative Sherlock Holmes Personalized Pub Sign (item 3252) for \$95.95; use the coupon code [spermaceti] to get a 10% discount.
12910. Ray Betzner has reported video at YouTube showing Robert Downey Jr. at Comic-Con International talking about the new "Sherlock Holmes" film, and appearing on a along panel with producers Susan Downey, Joel Silver, and Lionel Wigram, and co-star Rachel McAdams. The URL is <www.youtube.com>; you can search for [comic-con sherlock].
12911. This year's Queen's Birthday Honours list included a knighthood for Christopher Lee, for services to drama and charity. His dramatic roles have included Sherlock Holmes, Dr. Watson, and Sir Henry Baskerville, and he has made audio recordings of some of the Canonical tales.
12912. Edward Starr ("The Bogus Laundry Affair") died on June 21. He taught public relations at Hofstra University, served as manager of public relations at NBC-TV, and was executive vice president of Hill & Knowlton. He was a co-founder with Bill Rabe of The Old Soldiers of Baker Street, attended annual dinners of The Baker Street Irregulars in the 1950s, and received his Investiture from the BSI in 1959. His Sherlockian specialty (according to Bill Rabe) was the role of facial hair in the Canon, with unpublished papers that included "Those Whiskers Weren't False" and "Why Sherlock Holmes Never Used an Electric Razor".
12913. The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times09-6.htm>; there's a nicely illustrated report on Vin Mariani, an offer of attractive "Holmes and Irene" dolls created by Marcy Mahle, and other interesting Sherlockiana.

July 2009 #2

12914. The Occupants of the Empty House have been publishing The Camden House Journal monthly for more than 30 years, and have presented many of the interesting papers delivered at their meetings. Now THE CAMDEN HOUSE JOURNAL 1979-2008: AN INDEX TO THE MONTHLY MUSING lists each issue by editor and publication date, by author, and by subject. The cost is \$20.95 postpaid (\$22.95 outside the U.S.), from the Occupants (c/o Stan Tinsley, Box 21, Zeigler, IL 62999). They also offer THE CAMDEN HOUSE COOKBOOK 3: RECIPES FROM THE EMPTY HOUSE; \$11.00 postpaid (\$12.00 outside the U.S.) from the same address.
12915. Forecast for November : Roger Straughan's A STUDY IN SURVIVAL: CONAN DOYLE SOLVES THE FINAL PROBLEM (O Books); "Here is dramatic new evidence for the survival of our individual personalities after death. Providing this is an astonishing series of recent communications from a man who died in 1930 and whose mission, when alive, was to bring just such evidence to the notice of the widest possible audience: Sir Arthur Conan Doyle."
12916. I don't recall ever seeing a report on a set of six Royal Doulton miniature character jugs showing Sherlock Holmes, Dr. Watson, Mrs. Hudson, Prof. Moriarty, Inspector Lestrade, and Jefferson Hope; designed by William Harper, the set was issued in 1995 in a limited edition of 2500 that's now advertised on the Internet for \$450 (it's also called the Sherlock Holmes Tinies Collection). You can see a better picture at <www.doultonpriceguide.com> if you search for [sherlock]. They also show a Royal Doulton Sherlock Holmes book-end, designed by Martyn Aylcock and issued 1996-2001, that sells for about \$150. Sherlockian themes have been popular with Royal Doulton for many years, startwith "The Sleuth" in 1972 and continuing with "The Detective" in 1976.
12917. Barnes & Noble no longer offers its "Green Quote Tote Bag" with "25 quotations from timeless novels" printed on it (December 05 #5), but the stores still offer a similar (free) plastic bag for carrying your books away; one of the quotations is "Exactly, my dear Watson," which is indeed taken from a Sherlock Holmes novel. Which one?
12918. Karen Ballard has reported that Mark Churchill has donated his father's delightful "evidence boxes" to Watson's Tin Box; it's grand that Paul's elaborate creations, one for each of the Canonical tales, will be preserved and displayed at meetings of the society, and (eventually) elsewhere.
12919. "Las Casos Misteriosas de Charlotte Holmes" (from East West Entertainment) is a Spanish-dubbed version of the British videocassette "Sherlock and Me" (distributed by Portland Films in 2002), which had two episodes of a Japanese animated series plus live introductions that feature Michael Evans as Holmes and Bernard Fox as Watson, and with Charlotte said to be the niece of Sherlock Holmes. The Japanese series, "Jouo Heika no Petite Ange", was produced by Nippon Animation, with 26 25-minute episodes broadcast in 1977 and 1978; Charlotte is a plucky young detective who assists Scotland Yard, but she's not said to be related to Sherlock Holmes. Jennie Paton reports that she found the new DVD at a Dollar Store; it's likely available at other discount outlets.

July 2009 #3

12920. <www.sshf.com/index.php3?file=news&num=696> is the URL for an interesting (and colorfully-illustrated) article in Le Figaro (July 10) about Thierry Saint-Joanis titled "Les extravagants: Le francais qui se prent pour Sherlock Holmes"; Thierry was recently in England to be taped for an episode of a mini-series "John Sergeant's Tourist Trail" that is scheduled for ITV.
12921. "Exactly, my dear Watson," will be found in "The Valley of Fear" (as well as "The Missing Three-Quarter" and "Wisteria Lodge").
12922. "Five minutes had not passed before we were flying in a hansom down Baker Street," Watson reported (in "Lady Frances Carfax"). "But even so it was twenty-five to eight as we passed Big Ben, and eight struck as we tore down the Brixton Road." Big Ben's 150th birthday was celebrated this month; the bell first pealed on July 11, 1859, only a few weeks after the clock in the tower above the Houses of Parliament began keeping time. "Big Ben" is the nickname for the Great Bell, but many people now refer to the bell, clock, and tower as Big Ben.
12923. Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" will be performed at the Phipps Center for the Arts (109 Locust Street, Hudson, WI 54106) (715-386-2305) <www.thehipps.org>, Sept. 17-27.

12924. Paul Spiring's *BOBBLES & PLUM: FOUR SATIRICAL PLAYLETS BY BERTRAM FLETCHER ROBINSON AND P.G. WODEHOUSE* (London: MX Publishing, 2009; 108 pp., £9.99/ \$16.95) is the result of the discovery of an interesting collaboration; the playlets were published in the *Daily Express* (1903), *Vanity Fair* (1904 and 1905), and the *World* (1907), and the political satires have been reprinted in facsimile from the original sources, with a foreword and introduction by three Wodehouseans (Hilary Bruce, Norman Murphy, and Tony Ring), and commentary and annotations by Spiring.
12925. Ed. Lange's "Sherlock's Secret Life" is being performed at the Coaster Theatre Playhouse through Sept. 19; 108 North Hemlock Street, Cannon Beach, OR 97110 (503-426-1242) <www.coastertheatre.com>.
12926. "Finkelstein's Castle" is described as "a(nother) one-man operatic thriller" and "an epic, tongue-in-cheek, Sherlock Holmes 'whodunnit' that takes us from deserted castles in Scotland to a sinister hydro-demolition operating in New York via the half-submerged town of Gallumphing-on-Twee." The play was written and composed by Pete M. Wyer and is performed by cellist Matthew Sharp; it's scheduled at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival (Aug. 7-31) and the New Theatre Royal in Portsmouth (Oct. 23); you'll find more information about the show at <www.sharpwire.org>.
12927. The June issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota has Tim Johnson's report on his visit to London and Portsmouth, Julie McKuras' "100 Years Ago" discussion of Robin E. Dunbar and *THE DETECTIVE BUSINESS*, and Dick Sveum's "50 Years Ago" essay on Evelyn Waugh and Ronald Knox, plus other news about the collections; copies of the newsletter are available from Richard J. Sveum (111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, Univ. of Minnesota, Minne-apolis, MN 55455) <sveum001@tc.umn.edu>.
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July 2009 #4

12928. Further to the item (April 08 #3) on Edinburgh's new tram line, the bronze statue of Sherlock Holmes in Picardy Place has been moved into storage for two years; the statue will return in 2011, although not in the same place. But there's more to the story: workmen moving the statue found a time capsule underneath the statue, installed by the Federaation of Master Builders, who funded the statue in 1991; the Federation's officials have refused to reveal what's in the time capsule, which will be stored in a vault and buried again when work is completed.
12929. Articles about Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes turn up in interesting magazines, such as *mental_floss*; the July-August issue contains Ransom Riggs' "The Surreal Life of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. To see what else the magazine does, look for it on newsstands or in bookstores, or at their web-site <www.mentalfloss.com>.
12930. "FETCH! with Ruff Ruffman", a 30-minute children's program that's produced by WGBH-TV (Boston) and broadcast by PBS-TV, is getting ready for its fifth season, which will include a segment about a visit by contestants Emmie and Marco (in Sherlockian costume) to the Museum of Natural History at Amherst College. There's a report on the visit (with photographs of Emmie and Marco) at <www.amherst.edu/aboutamherst/news/campusbuzz/node/117907>.
12931. The N.Y. Times web-site's section on obituaries has a "From the Archives" feature that each month links to past obituaries published each month, and in July they had "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Creator of Sherlock Holmes, Dies at 71 (July 7, 1930). It was a long tribute, and you can read it on-line at <www.nytimes.com/learning/general/onthisday/bday/0522.html>.
12932. "Clues Beyond Sherlock Holmes: The Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at Michigan" is the title of an exhibition at the University of Michigan's Special Collections Library in Ann Arbor, through Aug. 31. The exhibition opened on Apr. 27, and there was a special celebration on May 17 that honored Dr. Philip Parker, who donated the collection; the celebration included a reception featuring foods mentioned in Conan Doyle's books. Thanks to Christie Allen, who reported the announcement of the celebration.
12933. The "Sherlock Holmes and Friends" film series at the Harvard Film Archive (June 09 #6) was promoted with a long article in the *Boston Globe* (July 19), and the paper had an amusing "who played Holmes" quiz (with photographs) at its web-site at <www.boston.com/ae/movies/gallery/holmesquiz>.
12934. *Variety* reported on July 15 that the BBC has approved production of three 90-minute episodes of a "comic reworking of Sherlock Holmes" co-created by Mark Gatiss and Steven Moffat, and starring Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman as Holmes and Watson; Cumberbatch played detective Luke Fitzwilliam in the recent PBS-TV broadcast of "Miss Marple: Murder Is Easy".
12935. It's commonly believed that frequent fliers don't watch the instructional videos the airlines use to explain safety and such, but Al Gregory, returning to the U.S. from France on a Continental flight, both saw and observed an in-flight video explaining how to fill out a U.S. Customs form. The instructions started out with filling in your name and address, and the address used was "221b Baker Street, Brooklyn, NY".
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July 2009 #5

12936. Nancy Springer's series about Enola Holmes has now reached five novels, all imaginative and entertaining. Enola, 14 years old, is the younger sister of Mycroft and Sherlock, hiding from them in London and solving mysteries on her own. The series is published by Philomel (a division of the Penguin Young Readers Group), and *THE CASE OF THE PECULIAR PINK FAN* (2008) and *THE CASE OF THE CRYPTIC CRINOLINE* (2009) are the most recent titles.
12937. The Stanford Theatre in Palo Alto is a grand old (and carefully restored) movie theater that opened in 1925; they had a Sherlock Holmes and British Classics film program in 2001, and this year they're celebrating the 70th anniversary of the first Basil Rathbone films, screening "The Hound of the Baskervilles" and "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" as a double bill on Aug. 25-27. The theater's address is 221 University Avenue (650-324-3700) and their web-site's at <www.stanfordtheatre.org>; Randall Stock's web-site at <www.bestofsherlock.com/movies/stanford.htm> has more information about the theater's Sherlockian history.
12938. The Chautauqua Silent Film Series is held each year in Boulder, Colo., at the Chautauqua Concert Hall, which was built in 1898 as part of the nationwide Chautauqua movement; this year's series will include "The Lost World" (1925) on Aug. 26, and there's more information and a complete film schedule at <www.chautauqua.com/silent_film_series.htm>.
12939. "A Gallery of Rogues" is the theme for this year's "Saturday with Sherlock Holmes" (sponsored by the local Sherlockian societies) at the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore on Nov. 7; the festivities will begin with morning coffee in the Edgar Allan Poe Room at 10:00 am, and end at 1:00 pm. As in the past, there's no charge; the library is at 400 Cathedral Street in Baltimore.
12940. "The Beach Invasion with a Sting in the Tail" was the headline on a story in the *Sunday Telegraph* (June 14), spotted by John Baesch: blooms of jellyfish covering 62 square miles have been spotted off the coast of Wales, and among them were the lion's mane. The number of jellyfish in British waters has increased sharply in recent years, according to experts, possibly as a result of warming seas linked to climate change.
12941. John has also noted a story headlined "Pupils Expelled After Tryst in Dormitory" in the *Daily Telegraph* (June 13): two pupils who were caught in bed together at Stonyhurst College have been asked to leave the school; the boy and girl were caught together in bed by a member of staff. Stonyhurst now charges £22,000 a year, rather more than when Conan Doyle attended (and the article mentioned that he was a former pupil). Needless to say, the school wasn't coeducational in those long-ago days.
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12942. Stephen Clarkson's THE CANONICAL COMPENDIUM (January 01 #5) started as a joint project with the late Bill Fleischauer, and the results of their research are both interesting and useful, with citations for five different editions of the Canon; long out of print, it's now available from Christopher Roden as a PDF file for \$5.00 (electronic download) or \$13.50 postpaid (CD). You can pay by credit card, PayPal, or personal check; Christopher Roden (Box 1360, Ashcroft, BC V0K 1A0, Canada) <srhenry@telus.net>.

July 2009 #6

12943. Doug Greene reports that Crippen & Landru have added THE CASEBOOK OF GREGORY HOOD (258 pp., \$29.00 cloth or \$20.00 paper) to their "Lost Classics" series; the book is a collection of 14 previously unpublished scripts written by Anthony Boucher and Denis Green. And there's a tenuous Sherlockian connection: "The Casebook of Gregory Hood" began on the Mutual Broadcasting System on June 3, 1946, as a replacement for "The New Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (also written by Boucher and Green) when Basil Rathbone left that series. "The New Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" debuted as a new series on WJZ/ABC on Oct. 12, 1946, starring Tom Conway as Holmes and with scripts by Green and Boucher. Crippen & Landru' address is Box 9315, Norfolk, VA 23505 (877-622-6656) <www.crippenlandru.com>.
12944. Forecast: "The Private Wife of Sherlock Holmes", a new Irene Adler novella by Carole Nelson Douglas, in SEX, LIES, AND PRIVATE EYES (from Moonstone). Her debut novel in the Irene Adler series, GOOD NIGHT, MR. HOLMES (1991), will be reissued by Tor as a trade paperback with a new cover in November .
12945. The July-August issue of Dollhouse Miniatures magazine has a photograph of an attractive lady in Edwardian costume that was created by Cindy Gates for Deb Weissler's Sherlock Holmes roombox. The magazine is the successor to Nutshell News, to which the late Dee Snyder was a contributing editor; the issue costs \$6.95, and the address is 68132 250th Avenue, Kasson, MN 55944 (866-606-6587) <www.dhminiatures.com>.
12946. The cape that Christopher Lee wore as Dracula sold for £26,400 (including the buyer's premium at an auction at Bonham's in Knightsbridge on June 16; The same sale (May 09 #6) includes two waistcoats worn by Lee, one of them as Sherlock Holmes, estimated at £100-£150, sold for £360. Another auction lot, at Bonhams in Los Angeles on June 14, had two capes worn by Steve Allen on various television shows, one of them as Sherlock Holmes, estimated at \$500-\$700, sold for \$122. The letter Raymond Chandler wrote in 1952 to thank his agent for a Sherlockian tie, at auction at Bonhams in New York on June 10, estimated at \$1,000-\$1,500, did not sell.
12947. The Sept. issue of British Heritage has Sian Ellis' well-illustrated article "On the Trail of Sherlock Holmes", as well as a quote from the Canon in "A Commonplace Book" at the end of the magazine. And there's a brief item noting that the South Downs has been designated as a National Park; there's a good map at <www.wikipedia.org>, and the park extends from Winchester on the west to Eastbourne on the east. It's not clear whether the South Downs National Park includes the site of Sherlock Holmes' retirement cottage.
12948. The city of Portsmouth recently completed restoration of the bells in the Guildhall Clock Tower, and held a contest to choose names for four of the bells (the largest bell already is inscribed in honor of Queen Victoria). Conan Doyle made the short list, but came in eighth in the voting, well behind John Pounds (a founding member of the Ragged Schools movement), Harry Redknapp (he led the local football club to its first FA Cup final victory in 69 years in 2008, Victory (the ship best known for her role in the Battle of Trafalgar), and Lord Nelson (the victor at that battle).
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August 2009 #1

12949. Sherlockians (and there are many of them) who have wondered about the first edition of the "Reminiscences of John H. Watson, M.D." (the only mention of which being the announcement that "A Study in Scarlet" in Beeton's Christmas Annual was a reprint) will surely be interested in M. J. Morris' article about his discovery of a copy of Watson's ECHOES FROM INDIA AND AFGHANISTAN (privately printed in Calcutta in 1883) published in the spring 2006 issue of The Private Library, the quarterly journal of the Private Libraries Association. The author notes sadly that his copy was destroyed in a fire in his flat in 2002, but he was able to rescue his descriptive bibliography and a photocopy of the title page (the pseudonymous author is Paul W. Nash). Copies of the issue still are available and cost \$5.00 to members of the PLA (\$10.00 to non-members), plus shipping (\$2.50 by sea-mail or \$4.50 by air); checks payable to the Private Libraries Association can be sent to W. A. Klutts (145 East Jackson, Box 289, Ripley, TN 38063) with a note asking him send an e-mail message with your name and address to David Chambers at <dchambrs@aol.com>.
12950. Sorry about that: Christopher Lee's (July 09 #1) roles have included Sherlock Holmes, Mycroft Holmes, and Sir Henry Baskerville, but not Dr. Watson.
12951. And: to find the Pub Sign Store's imaginative Sherlock Holmes Personalized Pub Sign (item 3252), the URL is <www.pubsignstone.com>; search for [sherlock] and use the coupon code [spermaceti] to get a 10% discount.
12952. It's commonly believed that frequent fliers don't watch the instructional videos the airlines use to explain safety and such, but Al Gregory, returning to the U.S. from France on a Continental flight, both saw and observed an in-flight video explaining how to fill out a U.S. Customs form. The instructions started out with filling in your name and address, and the address used was "221b Baker Street, Brooklyn, NY".
12953. Otto Penzler's Mysterious Bookshop has a fine web-site, and a monthly newsletter (now in its 17th year), and a weekly update, and advice and information, and much more, all at <www.mysteriousbookshop.com>. Otto always has interesting Sherlockiana available.
12954. Harry Towb died on July 24. He had a long career as an actor in supporting roles on stage, screen, and television; credited as Harris Towb he appeared in three episodes of the "Sherlock Holmes" television series that starred Ronald Howard and H. Marion Crawford in 1954, and he played John Forman in the Royal Shakespeare Company's revival of William Gillette's play in London and New York in 1974 and 1975.
12955. The "Sherlock Holmes Weekend" in Cape May, N.J., on Nov. 6-8 will offer a new mystery ("Sherlock Holmes and the Case of Mistaken Identity") presented by Midsummer Night Productions, and a performance of Craig Wichman's dramatization of "The Blue Carbuncle" by the East Lynne Theater Company; their web-site at <www.capemaymac.org/content/sub-age_tours.aspx?id=96> has more information (the Sherlock Holmes weekends have been held in the spring and fall for many years). You can also contact the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts (1048 Washington Street, Cape May, NJ 08204 (800-275-4278).
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August 2009 #2

12956. Ronald Knox created the grand game that many Sherlockians like to play, but he was best known during his lifetime as a scholar who translated the Bible for the Catholic church and fervently defended his faith. David Rooney, in his THE WINE OF CERTITUDE: A LITERARY BIOGRAPHY OF RONALD KNOX (San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2009; 427 pp., \$17.95), has examined all of Knox's work, emphasizing his religious scholarship, and the book is an interesting companion to Evelyn Waugh's RONALD KNOX (1959) and Penelope Fitzgerald's THE KNOX BROTHERS (1977).
12957. "Biography: Sherlock Holmes: The Great Detective" (1995) was an excellent one-hour program broadcast by A&E cable; it includes a dozen members of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London at dinner at The Sherlock Holmes pub with Dr. Watson (portrayed by David Burke), and it's available from A&E Entertainment on a DVD (\$24.95).
12958. Further to the item about the exhibition "Clues Beyond Sherlock Holmes: The Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at Michigan" (July 09 #4), the special collections has published an interesting 32-page catalog, which is available on request as a PDF file from <special.collections@umich.edu>.
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12959. Harry Alan Towers died on Aug. 2. He was a child actor in Britain, and a radio writer with the Royal Air Force during WW2, and after the war became a radio producer (his credits included the BBC's "Sherlock Holmes" series that starred John Gielgud and Ralph Richardson in 1954). Towers went on to produce and write many films, sometimes as Peter Welbeck: he produced "Incident at Victoria Falls" and "The Leading Lady" for Harmony Gold in 1992 (starring Christopher Lee and Patrick Macnee), and wrote and produced "The Lost World" and "Return to the Lost World" for Harmony Gold in 1994 (with John Rhys-Davies as Challenger).
12960. Further to the item about Continental's in-flight safety video (July 09 #4), Scott Monty has reported an Air New Zealand in-flight safety video that's non-Sherlockian but interesting <www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Mq9HAE62Y>.
12961. THE CRACK IN THE LENS, by Steve Hockensmith (New York: Minotaur, 2009; 307 pp., \$24.99) is the fourth novel in his "Holmes on the Range" series about Old Red and Big Red Amlingmeyer, Montana cowboys who are enjoying the Sherlock Holmes stories as they appear in the 1890s, and solving mysteries on their own; Big Red says that his brother is a Sherlockitarian, or perhaps a Holmesodist, and they're now in Texas, trying to solve a five-year-old murder and avoid being lynched. It's a fast moving story, well told. Hockensmith's excellent web-site (which offers an attention-grabbing excerpt from THE CRACK IN THE LENS) is at <www.stevhockensmith.com>.
12962. Diversicon is an annual convention for fans of speculative fiction (that's science fiction and fantasy) held each year in Minneapolis or St. Paul, and Ruth Berman has reported that this year's posthumous honorees were Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Edgar Allan Poe, and the convention slogan was "When you eliminate the impossible, what's left is Diversicon." Panels devoted to Conan Doyle included "Lost Worlds--Who Needs Them", "Starring Sherlock Holmes" (on film versions), and "Return to the Lost World" (a role-playing game); Ruth was one of the panelists for "Eliminating the Impossible" (on Conan Doyle's detective, fantasy, science fiction, and historical work).

August 2009 #3

12963. "The Beginning of the Presumed End" is the title of a Sherlockian outing scheduled for Sept. 27 in Lucerne, celebrating the revival of The Reichenbach Irregulars. The event will include a cruise in a historical paddle steamer on the Lake of Lucerne, a discussion of Conan Doyle's visit to Lucerne, and a visit to the H"tel de l'Europe where Conan Doyle stayed. Markus Geisser will be happy to provide more information on request by e-mail <the.reichenbach.irregulars@googlemail.com>.
12964. The new catalog from Collectables Direct offers a new and expanded edition of Alan Barnes' SHERLOCK HOLMES ON SCREEN: THE COMPLETE FILM AND TV HISTORY (\$27.95) and Christopher Plummer's "Murder by Decree" on DVD (\$22.89); Box 385, Lewiston, NY 14092 (800-268-3891) <www.collectablesdirect.com>.
12965. The TD Bank Financial Group, the Toronto Public Library, and Archives Canada are sponsoring "Agent 009 (TD Summer Reading Club)" with attractive artwork by Werner Zimmerman. You can see it in full color at <www.td-club-td.ca/2009/index-e.html>.
12966. Steve Leadley's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE CIRCLE OF BLOOD (Encino: Black Coat Press, 2009; 249 pp., \$20.95/oe12.99) offers three pastiches: "The Circle of Blood" was first published as "Sherlock Holmes in Cape May" in 2006 and has much about the history and architecture of the town, and the two new stories are "The Highland Intrigue" (a bizarre mystery set in Dundee) and "The Medium Problem" (involving Spiritualism in London).
12967. Conan Doyle's delightful stories about the pirate Captain Sharkey, collected in THE GREEN FLAG AND OTHER STORIES OF WAR AND SPORT (1900), are back in print, available from Amazon as a Kindle edition and as one of 13 non-Sherlockian titles digitized and published as books by the Cornell University Library Digital Collections <www.bookstore.library.cornell.edu>.
12968. The Daily Telegraph reports (May 27) that Banco Santander, the Spanish bank that bought Abbey National Bank in 2004, has decided to rebrand its banks in the U.K., and "the Abbey name will disappear from the high street." Has anyone recently received a reply to a letter to Sherlock Holmes at 221b Baker Street? I've been told that the Sherlock Holmes Museum now answers his mail.
12969. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists (aka The Friends of Sherlock Holmes) will honor the world's first forensic geologist at dinner in Portland, at Gracie's at the Hotel deLuxe on Oct. 21, when local Sherlockians will have a chance to meet geologists in town for the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America; if you anyone would like to attend the festivities, just let me know.
12970. Some years ago Bill Sawisch reported (August 98 #1) a hair salon called Shearlock Combs in Naperville, Ill. Now Al Gregory has noted a news report in a suburban Chicago newspaper about an accident on Conan Doyle Road in Naperville. This isn't the only Conan Doyle Road: there's another one in Sykesville, Md., in a development called Sherlock Holmes Estates, which also has Sherlock Holmes Street, Watson Court, Baskerville Drive, Elementary Drive, Silver Blaze Drive, Hudson Drive, Mycroft Street, and Silver Blaze Drive.

August 2009 #4

12971. "I have always liked Boucher's stuff. He writes like an educated man, and the Seven Sneezes starts as if it were going to be superb. Did you ever read a Sherlock Holmes pastiche of his -- I forget the title? Darn good." P. G. Wodehouse, in a letter written in 1967 that was advertised by David Schulson Autographs in 2007. The reference is to Anthony Boucher's THE CASE OF THE BAKER STREET IRREGULARS (1940).
12972. Dr. William R. Hanson has created a Sherlockian society for philatelists: the Sherlock Holmes Philatelic Society will have its first meeting on Sept. 26 in Albany, N.Y., during StampExpo 400 (Sept. 25-27) on the concourse of the Empire State Plaza. The show's web-site is at <www.stampexpo400.org>; information about the new society (and plans for a special pictorial postmark, cacheted cover, and exhibits) is available from Dr. Hanson (78 West Notre Dame, Glens Falls, NY 12801) (518-798-9592) <drhanson@localnet.com>.
12973. Lurid covers on Canonical books are not a new phenomenon: Bantam issued a paperback edition of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES in 1949 showing a buxom lady in an off-the-shoulder dress tied to a post. Now there's another: Hard Case Crime specializes in hardboiled crime fiction, and they'll publish THE VALLEY OF FEAR in December, explaining that "Years ago, a PI out of Chicago brought justice to a dirty town. Now he's going to pay." The cover artist is Glen Orbik, and his work can be seen in full color at <www.hardcasecrime.com>.
12974. "Brad Pitt to Star as Sherlock Holmes' Arch Enemy in Guy Ritchie Film," according to a report on the Daily Mirror web-site (Aug. 17). The tabloid reported that studio execs had ordered Ritchie to include Moriarty in the film, and that there would be filming in London and on location at Clivedon House (the backdrop for Moriarty's home). The story was quickly picked up by Us magazine, and Warner Bros. immediately responded, saying that "the report is completely inaccurate," and that any additional filming would be for inserts and pick-up shots, standard film-making practice. And E! Online reported "No Pitt, Sherlock!" It wasn't all that long ago (February 09 #8) that the Sun announced that the studio had ordered Guy Ritchie to reshoot five weeks of footage because studio bosses were unhappy with an early cut. Exciting tabloid reporting certainly keeps things from getting dull, and of course gives hand-wringers something to talk and write about (especially if they don't observe that the breath-taking report originated in a tabloid).

12975. On the other hand, Adam Rosenberg reported on <www.moviesblog.mtv.com> on Aug. 19 that Guy Ritchie has said that Moriarty will make an appearance in the film. Ritchie told MTV's Josh Horowitz that "some kind of an appearance is probably the best way to describe it." When pressed, and asked if an actor is credited as Moriarty, Ritchie replied "I believe not," adding that "I don't know how to answer that other than to say there is some kind of appearance." "All will be revealed," he promised. "I'm afraid I have to be slightly ambiguous about this but you'll understand what I'm talking about when you see the movie."

August 2009 #5

12976. Masamichi Higurashi is continuing to make Sherlock Holmes and Sherlockiana available to Japanese readers: he has translated E.J. Wagner's THE SCIENCE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Kawade Shobo Shinsha, 2009), Michael Hardwick's SHERLOCK HOLMES: MY LIFE AND CRIMES (Hara Shobo, 2009), Steve Hockensmith's ON THE WRONG TRACK (Hayakawa, 2009), and Mike Ashley's anthology THE MAMMOTH BOOK OF NEW SHERLOCK HOLMES ADVENTURES (Hara Shobo, 2009). He has also edited SHERLOCK HOLMES IRREGULARS: CATALOG OF THE CASES NOT MADE PUBLIC (Enterbrain, 2008), with essays and articles by Mitch, Yuichi Hirayama, Minoru Harada, and many others, and has written an article on the birthday festivities ("From N.Y. to Washington") for Hayakawa's Mystery Magazine (Aug. 2009). Finally, he reports BOOK MANGA: CARTOONS WITH BOOKS AS THEIR SUBJECT, illustrated by Makoto Wada (Mainichi Shinbun Sha, 2009), with a Sherlockian cartoon.
12977. THE WORLD OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Peter Brimacombe (Andover: Pitkin Publishing, 2009; 32 pp., £4.99), is an attractive and well-illustrated addition to the wide-ranging Pitkin Guide series; the publisher has an informative web-site at <www.pitkin-guides.com>.
12978. "I Am Joe's Chapter 11 Reorganization Plan" was Paul Farhi's suggestion in the Washington Post (Aug. 18) for the title of an article that might appear in the Reader's Digest. The Reader's Digest Association, which was bought by an investor's group in 2007 has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy for its U.S. holdings, slashing its debt to \$550 million (from \$2.2 billion); earlier this year the company announced it would cut circulation of the magazine, publish 10 times a year rather than 12, and focus the magazine on socially conservative values. The Reader's Digest published a condensed version of "The Speckled Band" (July 1942), and many Sherlockian articles over the years, and the company published five volumes of Canonical tales (with excellent new illustrations) in the 1980s and 1990s.
12979. The delightful Sherlockian dolls made by Martha Heller ("Martha-My-Dear") in the 1980s can now be seen in action, so to speak, in two amusing videos ("The Case of the Missing Afikomen" and "The Darkened Room") created by Amy Mantell; visit her web-site <www.sherlockshorts.com>.
12980. Walter Young reports that he has found an article by W. J. Johnston titled "Detective Fiction Defies the Law" in the British journal The Empire Review (Oct. 1927); the article discusses problems that might arise were some of the villains in the Canon represented were by competent lawyers if actually brought to trial in British courts. The article is available as a DOC file <sir.james.walter@gmail.com>.
12981. "Baltimore Gives Edgar Allan Poe the Funeral He Should Have Had," on Oct. 11 (almost exactly 160 years after he died on Oct. 7, 1849), according to Jeff Jerome (curator of the Poe House and Museum). Sir Arthur Conan Doyle will be among the featured speakers at the event, which will take place at Westminster Hall (519 West Fayette Street). There will be two services, at 12:30 pm and 4:30 pm, and tickets cost \$35.00 each (\$40.00 at the door, but it's likely the services will sell out early). Checks (payable to Director of Finance) can be sent to CHAP/POE (8th floor), 417 East Fayette Street, Baltimore, MD 21202; your checks will be returned if the event's sold out. There's more information at <www.poebicentennial.com>.
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August 2009 #6

12982. Lee A. Matthias' THE PANDORA PLAGUE, first published by Leisure Books (April 81 #4) and (considerably shortened) by Unicorn-Star Press in 1984, is back available again in a revised and expanded third edition (Charleston: BookSurge, 2009; 309 pp., \$16.99); the pastiche involves Holmes and Watson with Harry and Bess Houdini, anarchists, Mycroft Holmes, and the Curies in a battle to thwart an attempt to bring down governments world-wide. Matthias' interesting web-site is at <www.pandoraplague.com>.
12983. Plan ahead: The Pleasant Places of Florida will celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Wessex Cup with a "Wessex Weekend" on Feb. 12-14, 2010. Information about the event will be available from Carl L. Heifetz (1220 Winding Willow Drive, New Port Richey, FL 34655) <microdoc@verizon.net>.
12984. Cliff Goldfarb has reported an interesting article by Alan M. Petrillo in Antique Trader (May 6) about Conan Doyle, the Arthur Conan Doyle Society, and the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection in Toronto; the URL is <www.antiquetrader.com/article/Bio_and_literatur_of-Arthur-Conan/#>.
12985. Michael Viner died on Aug. 8. He was a music and television producer who launched Dove Books-on-Tape in 1985 and went on to produce a wide range of high-brow and low-brow audiocassettes that included Bennett Cohen's novelization of the film WITHOUT A CLUE (read by Ben Kinglsey), THE TREASURY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (also read by Kingsley), Mark Frost's THE LIST OF 7 (read by Rene Auberjonois) and THE SIX MESSIAHS (read by David Warner), and anthologies that included Sherlockian stories by Vincent Starrett, Ed Hoch, and Andrew Joffe.
12986. Al Gregory found "character posters" for Guy Ritchie's up-coming "Sherlock Holmes" showing Robert Downey Jr. as Holmes and Jude Law as Watson at eBay <www.ebay.com>; they're printed on both sides, with everything lighter and in reverse on the backs.
12987. Jason Kirkfield reports that he has visited the Baker Street Pub & Grill in Boulder, Colo. Sherlock's Pub Co. owns a chain of 20 such establishments (some named Sherlock's Baker Street Pub or Watson's House of Ales) in Colorado, Oklahoma, and Texas; see their web-site at <www.sherlockspubco.com>.
12988. MR. HOLMES & DR. WATSON: THEIR STRANGEST CASES (Canton: Transfuzion, 2009; 135 pp., \$17.99) offers four of the grand comic strips that were written by Edith Meiser and drawn by Frank Giacoia for the N.Y. Herald Tribune syndicate in 1954 and 1955; Mark Ellis, in his Foreward, notes that Gil Kane and Mike Sekowsky were the primary artists for almost all of the stories in the comic strip (they worked for Giacoia and received no credit), and the book also has Ron Haydock's "Sherlock Holmes and the True Legend of the Hound of the Baskervilles" (reprinted from E-GO Col-lectors Series, 1975).
12989. Another title published by Transfuzion is SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE CASES OF THE TWISTED MINDS (106 pp., \$14.99), with three stories first published by Caliber/Tome in the 1990s: "The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Holmes" (story by Steven Philip Jones and art by Seppo Makinen), "The Adventure of the Opera Ghost" (story by Steven Philip Jones and art by Aldin Baroza), and "The Amazing Mr. Holmes" (story by Gary Reed and art by Wayne Reid). Specializing in graphic novels, the company has a web-site at <www.transfuzion.biz>.
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August 2009 #7

12990. Thierry Saint-Joanis has reported on the discovery in Poland of a copy of the last Sherlock Holmes silent film: "Der Hund von Baskerville" (1929); starring Carlyle Blackwell (Holmes) and Georges Seroff (Watson), the film was released on Aug. 28, 1929, only a few weeks before the release on Oct. 18 of the first Sherlock Holmes sound film ("The Return of Sherlock Holmes" starring Clive Brook and H. Reeves-Smith). The film is now at the

Polish National Film Archive in Warsaw, undergoing cleaning and conservation. You can read more (in French or English) at the web-site of the Soci,t, Sherlock Holmes de France at <www.sshf.com>.

12991. "Famous guests include Vincent Van Gogh, Charles Dickens, Sherlock Holmes, George Bernard Shaw, Benjamin Disraeli, and William Gladstone," according to the history of a famous restaurant in London. Bill Briggs has reported the web-site: <www.simpsonsinthestrands.co.uk>.
12992. Irene's Cabinet is an annual anthology edited by Beth Austin for Watson's Tin Box, and this year's issue (46 pp.) continues the society's tradition of offering interesting articles, toasts, and poetry, this year including Dana Richards' appreciative history of Petri Wine, and Joyce Ludwig's report on her imaginative "Silver Blaze" stained-glass window. \$18.00 postpaid from Beth Austin (9455 Chadburn Place, Gaithersburg, MD 20886); copies of annuals from 2004 through 2008 also are available (\$15.00 postpaid).
12993. Laurie R. King will be on tour in England promoting THE LANGUAGE OF BEES, Sept. 9-21, with appearances in Newcastle upon Tyne, Reading, London, Luton, Oxford, and Cambridge; details at <www.laurierking.com/page_id=1263>.
12994. Aziz Bin Adam reports that there's a new Malay (Bahasa Malasia) translation of Sherlock Holmes stories: SHERLOCK HOLMES: WIRA KOTA LONDON, available at the web-site <www.pts.com.my/index.php/buku/3432>. The title translates as SHERLOCK HOLMES: HERO OF THE CITY OF LONDON" and the book's cover uses artwork from promotion for the new Guy Ritchie film.
12995. Cliff Goldfarb notes that the Quality Paperback Book Club continues to offer Sherlockiana in discounted softcover editions. The Club has web-sites at <www.qpb.com> and (for Canadians) <www.qpb.ca>, and its current titles include ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: A LIFE IN LETTERS (\$9.99), THE SHERLOCK HOLMES NOVELS (\$9.99), John R. King's THE SHADOW OF REICHENBACH FALLS, Leslie S. Klinger's THE NEW ANNOTATED DRACULA (\$22.99), Russell Miller's THE ADVENTURES OF ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE (\$15.99), and John Gardner's MORIARTY (\$14.99).
12996. Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" will be performed at the Wayside Theatre (7853 Main Street, Middletown, VA 22645) (540-869-1776) <www.waysidetheatre.org> from Oct. 10 through Nov. 7. And there will be a production at the Cider Mill Playhouse (2 South Nanticoke Avenue, Endicott, NY 13760 (607-748-7363) <www.cidermillplayhouse.com> from Apr. 15 through May 2, 2010. And another at the Phipps Center for the Arts.
12997. Will Thomas' THE BLACK HAND has been nominated for a Shamus Award (best paperback original) from the Private Eye Writers of America; the winners will be announced on Oct. 16, during the PWA banquet at Bouchercon in Indianapolis. It's the fifth in Will's Victorian mystery series that features Cyrus Barker (an homage to Holmes' rival in "The Retired Colourman") (August 08 #4).

August 2009 #8

12998. A reminder: "From Out of That Shadow", the exhibition that was on view at the University of Virginia earlier this year, will open at the Ransom Center at the University of Texas in Austin on Sept. 8 and run through Jan. 4, honoring the bicentennial of Edgar Allan Poe. Exhibition highlights will include Poe's writing desk, records of his student days, a brooch containing his hair, Arthur Rackham's original artwork for TALES OF MYSTERY & IMAGINATION, manuscripts and letters, and the typescript of Robert Barr's "A Chat with Conan Doyle" (first published in The Idler, Oct. 1894) in which Conan Doyle acknowledges his debt to Poe. The exhibition's "Poe Mania" web-site <www.hrc.utexas.edu/exhibitions/2009/poe> will (as of Sept. 4) have digital imagery, including the typescript.
12999. Robert Crichton is featured in Milk Bottle Production's "The Complete Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" at the Quay Theatre in Sudbury (Suffolk); the series of weekly readings began on Sept. 16. Crichton will read 15 stories this year, and the remainder of the Canon next year; there are photographs of Crichton in Sherlockian costume at <www.milkbottleproductions.co.uk>.
13000. There are now two titles in the SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE BAKER STREET IRREGULARS series by Tracy Mack and Michael Citrin published by Orchard Books/Scholastic Press for readers ages 9-12. THE FALL OF THE AMAZING ZALINDAS (2006, 255 pp., \$6.99) involves Wiggins and the irregulars (and Holmes and Watson) in an investigation that involved murder and the theft of a royal treasure, and THE MYSTERY OF CONJURED MAN (2009, 195 pp., \$6.99) deals with the pursuit of a malevolent gang of swindlers. The books are well-written and nicely appropriate for their target audience.
13001. The U.S. Postal Service issued a stamp this year honoring Bob Hope. There's a caricature of Bob "Sherlock" Hope at his official web-site at <www.bobhope.com/JokePage.html>, where you can click on the image and listen to him telling jokes. He's shown in Sherlockian costume in advertising for the film "My Favorite Brunette" (1947), although there's no S'ian costume in the film itself. And it would be nice indeed if someone could find video of his reported appearance in a skit on the "Donny and Marie Show" (1977) as Inspector Wonderful, with Jay Osmond as Doctor Watson.
13002. The long-running controversy over the spelling of wisteria/wistaria seems to have been resolved, at least as far as The Times is concerned, according to an opinion piece (June 5) forwarded by Evy Herzog and John Baesch. The plant was named by eminent British botanist Thomas Nuttall in honor of Caspar Wistar, but Nuttall spelled it wisteria. THE TIMES STYLE GUIDE has for many years insisted on the spelling wistaria, but the venerable newspaper has now decided that "wisteria rules." This by no means is the first time The Times has made changes: in 1966 the paper began printing news on its front page, and Rupert Murdoch bought the company in 1981; it has been a tabloid since 2004. Today's Times is considerably different from what it was when Holmes and Watson and others consulted it (the paper is mentioned in six of the Sherlock Holmes stories).

September 2009 #1

13003. Nicholas Meyer is touring to promote his new THE VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE: MEMORIES FROM STAR TREK AND A LIFE IN HOLLYWOOD (New York: Viking, 2009; 272 pp., \$25.95), and on Aug. 28 he was interviewed by John Rabe for "Off-Ramp" on KPCC-FM (Los Angeles). You can listen to (and download) the entire 45-minute interview at <www.tinyurl.com/lcxceg>. Both the interview and the book, of course, have Sherlockian content; Meyer wrote THE SEVEN-PER-CENT SOLUTION (1974) and two other pastiches.
13004. Barnes & Noble's reprint (1992) of THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES (with the introduction by Christopher Morley) available for some time in an edition in "genuine bonded leather with ribbon marker" and with gilt edges, nicely suitable for gifts (July 06 #1) was out of print for a while, but it's now available again in a new edition (2009), with a new introduction by Christopher and Barbara Roden. The covers, front and back, are highly decorated with a Sherlockian motif, and the price still is \$19.98. And it really is a new edition: the type has been reset, with a new pagination; I've not checked to see whether any of the errors in the Doubleday edition have been corrected.
13005. Further to the report on Sherlock Holmes Estates in Sykesville, Md. (August 09 #3), Les Moskowitz reports that the list of Canonical street names was incomplete; there are Conan Doyle Way, Sherlock Holmes Street, Watson Court, Mycroft Street, Hudson Drive, Moriarty Court, Baskerville Drive, Elementary Drive, Silver Blaze Drive, Mycroft Street, Baskerville Drive, Silver Blaze Drive, Elementary Drive, and Musgrave Ritual Drive.

13006. Sorry about that: The Times (August 09 #8) is mentioned in seven of the Sherlock Holmes stories. That's more often than any other newspaper named in the Canon.
13007. Karen Murdock noted a press release about Tod Leavitt's performance of "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" for "contrabass and characters" at a faculty recital at Valdosta State University on Aug. 28. It was the first scene of a concert version of "The Speckled Band" that Leavitt has commissioned from Jon Deak. It's not Deak's first Sherlockian work: he was commissioned by Richard Hartshorne to create a concert version of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" for contrabass and six voices (October 89 #5 and January 98 #3).
13008. THE IMPROBABLE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, edited by John Joseph Adams (San Francisco: Night Shade Books, 2009; 454 pp., \$15.95), is a wide-ranging anthology. A few of the stories are published for the first time, with many reprints and a short Sherlockian Primer by Christopher Roden; many of the reprints are from anthologies of Sherlockian pastiches, but Adams has cast his net widely to include pastiches from the BBC Cult homepage and the webzine <www.shredofevidence.com>; some of the authors are well known (Anthony Burgess, Stephen King, Anne Perry, Neil Gaiman), while others will be less familiar. You'll find mystery, fantasy, science fiction, parody, and good writing. And <www.johnjosephadams.com/sherlock-holmes/?page_id=16> is the URL for the book's web-site, which offers interviews with some of the authors, a chance to read some of the stories on-line without charge, and a free "ebook sampler" download.

September 2009 #2

13009. Further to the item (April 09 #6) on the campaign to upgrade the protection of Undershaw, the house where Conan Doyle lived from 1897 to 1907, the BBC reported (Aug. 25) that the house likely will be converted into flats. Waverly Borough Council chairman Matthew Evan said that there had been talks with the National Trust and the Youth Hostel Association to determine whether plans could be drawn up for community use of the house, but "the reality is that those don't seem to be viable options." He also said that the developer who owns the house is now proposing to knock down an extension that was built in the 1930s and convert the property into 11 flats, and that the new plans are "much more sensitive to the character of Undershaw."
13010. Karen Murdoch reports a Sherlock Holmes chess set available from Glen Call International (4 Balgedie Court, Glenlomond, Kinross-shire KY13 9HF, Great Britain) <www.glencall.co.uk>; pieces only (natural cream and brown finish) £80.54, pieces only (hand decorated) £135.67, recommended board £62.77.
13011. Lenny Picker has reported that Synergy Entertainment will release SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE ARCHIVE COLLECTION in October (\$24.95); three DVDs with a long list of interesting films: "The Copper Beeches" (1912), "The Man with the Twisted Lip" (1921), "The Limejuice Mystery" (1930), "Sherlock Holmes' Fatal Hour" (1931), "Lost in Limehouse" (1933), "The Strange Case of Hennessy" (1933), "The Screaming Bishop" (1944), "The Speckled Band" (1949), "The Man Who Disappeared" (1951), "A Case of Hypnosis" (1952), and "The Sting of Death" (1955), plus bonus features. Some of these are first-time-on-DVD, and a few are first-time-ever.
13012. Philip K. Jones has compiled an interesting spread-sheet data base of Sherlockian pastiches with (at the moment) more than 7,900 entries, and it is available for inspection (or download) at the web-site of the Illustrious Clients of Indianapolis <www.illustriousclients.ning.com>.
13013. "Discover the Real Sherlock Holmes" is the invitation from the Royal Society of Medicine and the Royal Society of Surgeons of Edinburgh to an exhibition that opened at the RSM's Library on Sept. 1 and will run through Jan. 29. The focus of the exhibition is on Joseph Bell and Arthur Conan Doyle, and on Oct. 29 there will be a free public afternoon meeting on "Sherlock Holmes: Forensic Medicine and Fictional Crime Fighters". M.C. Black also provides a link <www.rsm.ac.uk/public/exhibitions.php>.
13014. Bob Mangler spotted a real bargain: the Quality Paperback Book Club edition of the first two volumes of Les Klinger's THE NEW ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES for \$19.98. The Club's address is Box 6000, Columbia, MD 21045 (800-396-2665) <www.daedalusbooks.com>.
13015. David Haugen reports that John Longenbaugh's play "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol" will have it's world premiere at the Taproot Theatre in Seattle, Nov. 20 through Dec. 30. 204 North 85th Street, Seattle, WA 98103 (206-781-9707) <www.taproottheatre.org>. "After being presumed dead for three years, a hardened Sherlock Holmes resurfaces, turning his back on the people who need him most. Three unexpected callers arrive on Christmas Eve uncovering clues from the detective's past, present, and future. Can they save Holmes and his world from a dire end?"

September 2009 #3

13016. The Scotsman reported (Aug. 30) that Robin Harper, chairman of the Scottish Parliament's arts advisory group, has launched a campaign to move the Richard Lancelyn Green collection from Portsmouth to Edinburgh. Harper said that "it is clear that Portsmouth is having a very difficult time handling this collection," noting cataloguing has not been completed, and that Portsmouth has not created a special museum to display the collection. Lee Hunt, the Portsmouth city councillor responsible for culture, responded that the collection is the central point of the city's bid to become a European City of Culture and was also being used to try to get the city included in England's football World Cup bid. "I think there is as much wind in this idea . . . as there is in your Scottish bagpipes," Hunt said, adding that "basically, the collection belongs to us and if Edinburgh thinks it's going to get it, it's not going to happen."
13017. There's a Baker Street in Amsterdam, spotted by Samantha Wolov on a recent visit.
13018. "Kosher Version of Sherlock Holmes Released" was the headline on a story that Al Gregory spotted at <www.isrealnationalnews.com>; the The Israeli branch of the Bilson publishing company has released a version of the Canon "adapted for the religious public." According to the publisher, hareidi-religious rabbis approved the content and vouched that "it doesn't contradict the spirit of Judaism (Hareidi Judaism is the most theologically conservative form of Orthodox Judaism). Intended to teach English to Israeli students, the book is accompanied by a CD recorded by American narrators to help Israeli students grasp American-accented English.
13019. It's "in development" (which means that someone's thinking about it): "It's based on these stories by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, the Sherlock Holmes guy, that were written whatever, 100 some years ago, they're just really funny," Mike Judge told the Los Angeles Times (Sept. 3). Judge's film is "Brigadier Gerard" and John Altschuler and David Kinsky are working on a script. Variety reported last year that Steve Carrell is "attached" to play Gerard (October 08 #3).
13020. Karen Murdock discovered costumes for Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson at the Dallas Vintage Shop <www.dallasvintageshop.com/index.php?s=sherlock>. You can see lots of other costumes if you click on "Home Page".
13021. Further to the forecast of Eric Simonson's play "Fake" at the Steppenwolf Theater in Chicago (February 09 #4), it will run through Nov. 8. Their web-site <www.steppenwolf.org> has "Watch & Listen" audios, videos, photo galleries, and podcasts about the play, which features Francis Guinan as Conan Doyle.

13022. A reminder: Eric Simonson's new play "Fake" (February 09 #4) opened at the Steppenwolf Theater in Chicago on Sept. 10, and runs through Nov. 8; the play begins in 1914, when Conan Doyle invites four guests to his English country home," and the play investigates how the Piltdown Hoax "rattled assumptions about evolution, faith, and science." The theater's at 1650 North Halstead Street, Chicago, IL 60614 (212-335-1650) <www.steppenwolf.org>.

September 2009 #4

13023. Forecast for October: the first four titles from Titan Books in their new series "The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (at £7.99 each) will be reprints of David Stuart Davies' pastiches THE SCROLL OF THE DEAD (1998) and THE VEILED DETECTIVE (2004), Daniel Stashower's THE ECTOPLASMIC MAN (1985), and Wade Wellman and Manly Wade Wellman's THE WAR OF THE WORLDS (1975); Titan's web-site is at <www.titanbooks.com>.
13024. Further to the forecast of The Pleasant Places of Florida's "Wessex Weekend" on Feb. 12-14, 2010, Carl L. Heifetz is at <microdoc@tampabay.rr.com> (a new e-mail address).
13025. Randall Stock notes that the typescript for "A Chat with Conan Doyle" (August 09 #8) is now on-line, and it turns out not to be the typescript for Robert Barr's "A Chat with Conan Doyle" but rather the typescript for the recording that Conan Doyle made for His Master's Voice on May 14, 1930; the HMV recording was issued in 1930 as "Conan Doyle Speaking". The first page of the transcript is titled (apparently in Conan Doyle's handwriting) "A Chat 'with' Conan Doyle" and you can see it at <www.tinyurl.com/lrr95e>.
13026. Sorry about that: to find the Pub Sign Store's imaginative Sherlock Holmes Personalized Pub Sign (item 3252), go to <www.sherlock.pubsignstore.com>; use the coupon code [spermaceti] to get a 10% discount.
13027. Reported: Partha Basu's THE CURIOUS CASE OF 221B: THE SECRET NOTEBOOKS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Noida: HarperCollins India; 288 pp., Rs299.00); "In this brilliant retelling that turns the Holmesian canon on its head, Partha Basu brings back a host of characters who have captivated generations of readers, except that they are no longer what we had made them out to be."
13028. Michael Lawrence is selling his collection of Sherlockian books: they are mostly modern, and mostly pastiches; if you want to fill gaps in your own collection you can request his sales list <mwlawrence99@aol.com>.
13029. Mark Alberstat's 2010 Sherlock Holmes Calendar is illustrated with artwork from The Strand Magazine, and displays important Sherlockian birthdays and William S. Baring-Gould's dates for the cases. The calendar costs US\$14.00 postpaid, and his address is: 46 Kingston Crescent, Dartmouth, NS B3A 2M2, Canada.
13030. F. Andrew Leslie's 1978 play "The Hound of the Baskervilles" opened at the Repertory East Playhouse in Newhall, Calif., on Sept. 18, and it will run through Oct. 17. 24266 San Fernando Road, Newhall, CA 91321 (661-288-0000) <www.repeastplayhouse.org>.
13031. Richard M. Lackritz died on Sept. 5. He was an obstetrician and fertility specialist, and an enthusiastic collector; "find a book you like, you get it in paperback," he told a reporter in 2002, "and then you say, 'that book was so good, I'll get it in hardcover,' and then you say, 'a first edition would be great,' and then a different dust jacket or one signed by the author." His collection was sold at Christie's in 2002 and 2003, and he had some nice material, including an inscribed "Starrett copy" of "The Adventure of the Unique Hamlet", and (something he didn't send to auction) the manuscript of "The Three Garridebs".
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September 2009 #5

13032. Jamyang Norbu's pastiche THE MANDALA OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1999), which was published in the U.S. as SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE MISSING YEARS, has been translated into seven languages (Dutch, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, and Spanish), according to an interesting interview with Norbu in the Latse Library Newsletter (fall 2004). The Latse Contemporary Tibetan Culture Library is in New York and the newsletter is available on-line at <www.latse.org>.
13033. An interesting Sherlock Holmes trompe l'oeil painting (described as American School, 20th Century) went to auction at Skinner Auctioneers in Marlborough (Mass.) on Sept. 11; estimated at \$400-600, it sold for \$830. You can see an image in full color at <www.tinyurl.com/l8d6rc>.
13034. Dynamite Entertainment's comic-book mini-series SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE TRIAL OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (March 09 #6) has now reached the fourth (of five) issues, and a hardcover collection is due in October: SHERLOCK HOLMES VOL. 1: THE TRIAL OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (\$24.95) will include bonus material such as annotations, script pages, and a complete Sherlock Holmes story with new illustrations. Dynamite's web-site is at <www.dynamitentertainment.com>.
13035. Thad Holt has reported that a great deal of material in The Strand Magazine has been scanned and is available at Google <www.books.google.com>; enter [editions:LCCN09034301] in the search field. Full text of the magazine is available for 1891-1908, and other volumes as "snippet" views.
13036. Fans of Mary Russell (heroine of Laurie R. King's continuing series) have a Yahoo group, and two different designs on a variety of merchandise (shirts, buttons, caps, mugs, coasters, mousepads, totebags, ornaments) available at <www.cafepress.com/lettersofmary>. The Yahoo group has lots of fanfic, and you can sign up at <www.groups.yahoo.com/group/Letters_Of_Mary>. There's a tentative publication date (June 2010) for the next book in the Mary Russell series, which will not, after all, be called THE GREEN MAN (since her publisher didn't like it, and has persuaded Laurie to change it); the new title is THE GOD OF THE HIVE). And there's a new way to promote books: a book trailer; Two Rock Media created an interesting one for THE LANGUAGE OF BEES, and you can view it on-line at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=sG2f3Q9yDm8>.
13037. Donald Thomas' new play "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" had its premiere at the Manor Pavilion Theatre in Sidmouth on Sept. 24-30. He has written many pastiches, the most recent collection being SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE KING'S EVIL (March 09 #6); the play is a dramatization of his "The Case of the Phantom Chambermaid", which was published in THE EXECUTION OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (October 08 #1).
13038. Richard S. Warner ("High Tor") died on Sept. 19. Dick was a historian, an avid researcher, and an energetic Sherlockian. He was one of the founders of The Afghanistan Perceivers of Tulsa, and responsible for the naming of Holmes Peak, the first and still the only geographic feature in the United States named in honor of Sherlock Holmes and officially recognized by the Interior Department's U.S. Board of Geographic Names. Dick published a delightful GUIDEBOOK AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE ASCENT OF HOLMES PEAK in 1985, and received his thoroughly appropriate Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1987.
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September 2009 #6

13039. Charterhouse Auctions had some interesting Conan Doyle material on offer on Sept. 25: a black-and-white photograph, inscribed by A. Conan Doyle, and a sword with hilt inscribed "P. Leckie Forbes, from his uncle A. Conan Doyle, 1915". According to Charterhouse, Forbes served with the Middlesex Regiment, attached to the RAF during WW1, and the sword was sent to auction by his grandson. Forbes's father was married to Jean Leckie's sister Sara, according to an article by Philip Bergem in the Newsletter of the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections (Dec. 2007). Estimated at £1,000-1500, the lot sold for £2,300.
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13040. Patrick Leckie Forbes' father was Patrick Forbes, a friend of Conan Doyle who worked with him on THE LOST WORLD and is acknowledged by Conan Doyle in his foreword to the book. Forbes appears twice (as both Summerlee and Roxton) in the photograph of "the members of the exploring party" (with Conan Doyle impersonating Challenger); the story of the photograph is told in Appendix B in THE ANNOTATED LOST WORLD, by Roy Pilot and Alvin Roden (1996).
13041. The summer issue of The Magic Door (the newsletter published by The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) has Barbara Rusch's report on Michael Dirda's 2009 "Cameron Hollyer Lecture", Cliff Goldfarb's interesting account of Peggy Perdue's inspired sleuthing that identified a poster advertising one of the "Brigadier Gerard" stories, and other news from and about the collection; copies of the newsletter are available on request from Clifford S. Goldfarb (22 Markdale Avenue, Toronto, ON M6C, 1T1, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>).
13042. Ken Rozek has reported that San Marino issued a postage stamp honoring Sir Arthur Conan Doyle on June 16, one of three stamps in a set paying homage to writers (the others being Edgar Allan Poe and Raymond Chandler); you can see them in full color at <www.aasfn.sm>. Conan Doyle's is the E0.85 stamp, with an image of a bloodhound following footprints, and you can purchase singles, sheets of 20 stamps with a descriptive strip, and first day covers (Conan Doyle's is the O.85E stamp, with a bloodhound following footprints); if the web-site "cart" doesn't work, you can order by e-mail at <aasfn@omniway.sm>; shipping costs E7.00.
13043. The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times09-9.htm>, with offers of interesting Sherlockiana, old and new. The previous issue has an amusing and "really terrifying image of an incredibly vicious Hound" that you can view at <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times09-8.htm>.
13044. Here a rat, there a rat, everywhere a giant rat. They've been turning up almost everywhere, in southeast Asia, at least. It was more than 25 years ago that Guy G. Musser and Cameron Newcomb published "Malaysian Murids and the Giant Rat of Sumatra" in the Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History (December 83 #4), and explorers have been encountering them ever since. Most recently in Papua New Guinea, where the BBC Natural History Unit paid a visit to Mount Bosavi, a dormant volcano, and found at least 30 new species, including the Bosavi woolly rat, which measures more than 32 inches from nose to tail and weighs more than three pounds.

September 2009 #7

13045. There's more on the Guy Ritchie film "Sherlock Holmes" (August 09 #4): on Sept. 21 the Hollywood Reporter announced that Warner Bros. is developing a sequel, with Brad Pitt in talks to play Moriarty in the next film. And there's a real possibility that Pitt will have an uncredited cameo in the first film: the story notes that Moriarty is in the first film, but in shadow and unrecognizable. Warner Bros. has firmly denied rumors that Pitt will be in the first film, but of course if they were to confirm the rumors that would spoil any planned surprise.
13046. There's plenty of precedent for uncredited cameos, including "FairyTale: A True Story" (1997), which starred Peter O'Toole as Conan Doyle; at the end of the film there's a brief scene with Frances Griffith's father, played by Mel Gibson (who's president of the company that co-produced the film). And at the end of Kevin Costner's "Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves" (1991) there is an appearance by King Richard, played by Sean Connery.
13047. Karen Murdock discovered <www.perkydesigns.net>, which has 18 Sherlockian designs available on address labels, ID name tags, note cards, magnets, and other merchandise; roll over "Site Map" and look for the category "Sherlock Holmes".
13048. The September issue of The Mysterious Bookshop Newsletter is now available; go to <www.mysteriousbookshop.com> and click on "Newsletter" in the column at the left. All sort of signed editions, plus a section of Sherlockiana, and news of THE VAMPIRE ARCHIVES: THE MOST COMPLETE VOLUME OF VAMPIRE TALES EVER PUBLISHED, edited by Otto Penzler and due from Vintage in Oct. (1,056 pp., \$25.00); there's a preface by Neil Gaiman, and stories by a long list of fine writers in the genre, including Conan Doyle ("The Sussex Vampire" and "The Parasite").
13049. The Chester Theatre Group will present Tim Kelly's play "The Hound of the Baskervilles" from Oct. 9 through Oct. 24 at the Black River Playhouse in Chester, N.J. The address for the box office address is Box 38, Chester, NJ 07930 (908-879-7304) <www.chestheatregroup.org>.
13050. Les Klinger is described as "today's foremost expert on society's fascination with bloodsuckers" in the "Playbill" in the October issue of Playboy. And the cover proclaims: "Vampire Love: Bloodlust! Why the Undead Are Hot Again!" Les' essay accompanies a pictorial on "Love Bites: Vampire Lovers Turn Fear into Fantasy".
13051. Peter Abrahams' DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE: AN ECHO FALLS MYSTERY (April 05 #1) won an Agatha (childrens/young adults fiction) at Malice Domestic, and the series continued with BEHIND THE CURTAIN (New York: Laura Geringer/HarperCollins, 2006; 346 pp., \$15.99) and INTO THE DARK (2008; 300 pp., \$16.99); the heroine is Ingrid Levin-Hill, eighth-grade Sherlock Holmes fan and amateur actress, who is involved in seriously-adult problems and mysteries that are well written, with interesting characters and plenty of suspense. Stephen King gave BEHIND THE CURTAIN an enthusiastic blurb (saying that "Nancy Drew was never like this; it's the real deal"), and he was correct indeed.

October 2009 #1

13052. "The Sherlock Holmes Effect: How the Arthur Conan Doyle Classics Influence Contemporary Mysteries" is the title of a symposium that will be presented by the New York chapter of the Mystery Writers of America at 6:30pm on Jan. 26 at the Mid-Manhattan Library at 40th Street and 5th Avenue in New York; it will be open to the public at no charge, and the moderator will be E.J. Wagner, who will be assisted by Lyndsay Faye, Jonathan Maberry, Reggie Nadelson, and Andrew Jay Peck. There's an illustrated flier with more information at <www.mwan-y.org/pdf/NYPL_flyer_2010-01-26-sherlock-holmes.pdf>. E.J. has a new Sherlockian blog at <www.ejdissectingroom.wordpress.com>.
13053. Paramount Home Video has released a new DVD "Alvin and the Chipmunks Go to the Movies: Star Wreck" (\$16.99) with three episodes from the series, one of them "Elementary, My Dear Simon" (30 minutes, 1988); "Simon introduces this special mystery episode and then stars in it as monocled ace detective Sherlock Holmes," with Theodore as Watson and Alvin as Moriarty.
13054. Legacy Interactive is preparing to issue a sequel to its computer game "The Lost Cases of Sherlock Holmes" (May 08 #4). Vol. 2 will be available online in December and in retail shops early next year. Six screenshots can be seen now <www.gamershell.com/news_83320.html>.
13055. William Safire died on Sept. 27. He was a speechwriter for President Nixon, a Pulitzer Prize-winner political columnist for the N.Y. Times, a pundit, and an excellent writer. His column "On Language" ran for 30 years in N.Y. Times Magazine, with assistance from correspondents he called his Lexicographic Irregulars, and he mentioned Sherlock Holmes often in his columns in the N.Y. Times and his books; it was in SAFIRE'S POLITICAL DICTIONARY (1978) that he credited a Sherlock Holmes story as the inspiration for phrase "smoking gun" that became so popular during the Watergate era.
13056. Forecast from MX Publishing in 2010: THE NORWOOD AUTHOR: ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE AND THE NORWOOD YEARS (1891-1894), by Alistair Duncan. Duncan's the author of ELIMINATE THE IMPOSSIBLE (April 08 #5) and CLOSE TO HOLMES (March 09 #2).
13057. Peter L. Stern's catalogs always are interesting: his fall 2009 catalog has a copy of the first edition of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES inscribed "I perambulated Dartmoor before I wrote this book. A. Conan Doyle." (\$85,000) and an original wash drawing by Frederic Dorr Steele that was

described by a New York bookshop in 1962 as an unpublished drawing of Sherlock Holmes, and it's attractive even though it's not Holmes (\$750). Peter's address is 15 Court Square, Boston, MA 02108 (617-542-3263).

13058. Forecast for March: David Grann's THE DEVIL AND SHERLOCK HOLMES: TALES OF MURDER, MADNESS, AND OBSESSION (Doubleday, \$25.95); presumably including his New Yorker article about Richard Lancelyn Green (January 05 #7).
13059. Further to the report (August 09 #8) about the long-running controversy over the long-running controversy over the spelling of wisteria/wistaria, Karen Ellery notes that there is also a long-running controversy over the pronunciation of the word wisteria; and you can read an interesting discussion at <www.collinslanguage.blogspot.com/2009/07/normal-0-false-false-false.html>.
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October 2009 #2

13060. It's not Sherlockian, but it's highly recommended: the Folger Shakespeare Theatre in Washington had a new production of "Macbeth" last year, directed by Teller (as in Penn &) and Aaron Posner, with fine actors and astounding magic devised by Teller; it's now available on a DVD with a new Folger edition of the play with a foreword by the directors (they describe the play as "a supernatural horror thriller"). The DVD has the play, and 50 minutes of interesting special features, and the book+DVD is published by Simon & Schuster (\$16.00 and well worth it).
13061. John Longenbaugh's new play "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol" will be produced in the Tap Root Theatre in Seattle, Nov. 20 through Dec. 30; the box-office address is 204 North 85th Street, Seattle, WA 98103 (206-781-9707) <www.taproottheatre.org>.
13062. Chronicling America is a searchable digital data base of American newspaper pages from 1880 to 1922; it's sponsored jointly by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Library of Congress, and it now has more than a million pages. The URL is <chroniclingamerica.loc.gov> and a recent search for [sherlock holmes] turned up 352 hits; a search for [conan doyle] yielded 303 hits.
13063. Nis Jessen reports that there's a new web-site displaying handsome artwork, including his work on an illustrated edition of A STUDY IN SCARLET (July 05 #5): <www.jessen-gallery.dk>.
13064. Andy Solberg notes that "It's a Mystery, Charlie Brown" (1974), with Snoopy as the Sherlockian detective, is one of six 30-minute television specials in a new two-DVD set PEANUTS 1970'S COLLECTION, VOLUME 1 (from Warner Home Video, \$29.98).
13065. VICTIMS & VILLAINS: BARBIE AND KEN MEET SHERLOCK HOLMES (Vancleave: Ramble House, 2009; 169 pp., \$17.99) is the latest book by Derham Groves, who continues to offer interesting Sherlockian challenges to his architecture students at the University of Melbourne: this time they each read a Sherlock Holmes story and portrayed a victim or villain in the story by changing the appearance of a Barbie or Ken doll, and Derham notes that they produced "a horrifying collection of dolls that had been bludgeoned, garroted, hanged, mauled, poisoned, scared, shot, stabbed, and strangled," and the students obviously had fun with the project. The book has photographs of the dolls, and discussion of the exhibition "Murderous Melbourne" that was on display at the University last year. You can also view a podcast about the exhibition at <www.visions.unimelb.edu.au/episode/47>; there's an interview with Derham, and views of the exhibition, all in the second half of the 5-minute podcast.
13066. Further to the report (January 09 #4) on THE COMPLETE BAKER STREET MISCELLANEA on CD, Randall Stock has provided an excellent in-depth review of the CD at <www.bestofsherlock.com/journal/bsm-review.htm#summary>, including helpful tips on using the CD; the CD is available for \$40.00 (postpaid) from Donald Pollock, 521 College Avenue, Niagara Falls, NY 14305; non-U.S. buyers are welcome to use PayPal and should contact Don at <donaldkpollock@gmail.com>. Randall also offers an informative look at "The e-World of Sherlock Holmes" at <www.bestofsherlock.com/eworld/ewhome.htm>.
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October 2009 #3

13067. Profiles in History (26901 Agoura Road #150, Calabasas Hills, CA 81391 (310-859-7701) <www.profilesinhistory.com> is offering three interesting letters: one (non-Doylean) by Joseph Bell; one written by Conan Doyle to the actor O. P. Heggie, who in 1911 was appearing as Holmes in "The Speckled Band"; and one written by Harry Houdini to Conan Doyle in 1922, after the famous seance in Atlantic City. You can see them on-line; go to the web-site and search for [conan doyle].
13068. In 2004 Nicholas Utechin recorded new introductions for the BBC Digital Radio 7 series "Sherlock Holmes with Carlton Hobbs" (12 of the stories that the BBC broadcast in 1959, starring Carlton Hobbs and Norman Shelley), and BBC Audio plans to release the 12 programs in "The Carlton Hobbs Sherlock Holmes Collection" on three CDs in January (£30.00).
13069. Sorry about that: to find The Strand Magazine at <www.books.google.com> you search for [editions:LCCN09034341] to get the various scanned issues of the magazine.
13070. James Barry's play "Sherlock Holmes' Excellent Adventure" will be performed at the Coronado Playhouse, Oct. 30 through Nov. 29 (1835 Strand Way, Coronado, CA 92118) (619-435-4856) <www.coronadoplayhouse.com>; "this delightful parody uses visual and theatrical jokes, wordplay, and audience participation to skewer Holmesian traditions."
13071. The script for the play can be read (and purchased) on-line from Lazy Bee Scripts <www.lazybeescripts.co.uk>, and there are other Sherlockian scripts available: "The Double-Headed Penny-Farthing" (by Robert Black), "Sherlock Holmes & the Emerald of Alcazar" (by Geoff Bamber), "The Death of Sherlock Holmes" (by Richard James), "Sherlock Holmes and the Pirates of the Horn" (by Vithal Rajan), "Sherlock Holmes' Last Case" (by Charlie Cook), "Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of Mallen Hall" (by Richard James), "Sherlock Holmes--The Panto" (by Jenny Gilbert), "The Sinister Mrs. Eaves" (by Robert Black), and "The Man Who Died Twice" (by Robert Black).
13072. Forecast: SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE'S SHERLOCK HOLMES, from A&E Home Video in December, on 2 DVDs (\$29.95); the five surviving broadcasts from the 1968 BBC television series starring Peter Cushing and Nigel Stock ("The Hound of the Baskervilles" in two parts, "A Study in Scarlet", "The Sign of Four", "The Blue Carbuncle", and "The Valley Mystery").
13073. There's always something new: a Sherlockian comic book that's available only on the Internet: John Arcudi's MENS INIURIA IN CORPORE SANO: A PANGOLIN CLASSIC at <www.myspace.com/darkhorsepresents?issuenu=26&storynum=1>. It's issue #26 in a series from Dark Horse, and they'll publish it next year in an ink-on-paper collection. Thanks to Les Klinger for reporting this.
13074. Forecast for November: VICTORIAN UNDEAD, from Wildstorm; the first issue of six in comic book mini-series written by Ian Edginton ("the undead are returning to life, hungry for flesh and threatening all of Victorian London," and Holmes and Watson face "the most extraordinary case of their career"). Also: GASLIGHT GROTESQUE: NIGHTMARE TALES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, edited by J. R. Campbell and Charles Prepolec, from Edge in November; it's a follow-up to their GASLIGHT GRIMOIRE (December 08 #2).
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October 2009 #4

13075. Ken Lanza spotted a story in the North Wales Daily Post (Oct. 1) about location work in Caernarfon on a new Sherlock Holmes that will star Ben Snyder as Holmes and David Gareth-Lloyd as Watson; the film is expected to be available on DVD in January. The production company explains that "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's famous detective faces the ultimate challenge when enormous monsters attack London."
13076. It's not quite "Conan Doyle slept here," but a house he's said to have visited is for sale: Green Lane in Dalston in Cumbria, was built in the early 1700s and has been home to seven generations of the Trimble family and is now on the market for £1.3 million. Ron Trimble, the current owner, told the Cumberland News (Oct. 11) that Conan Doyle was a "not-infrequent visitor" to Green Lane because his sister Angel had married the local curate, and they lived at Whitesmiths at the top of the Green Lane drive. Presumably that was Conan Doyle's sister Dodo, who married Charles Cyril Angell.
13077. Jerry Margolin is selling Sherlockian artist Jeff Decker's portrait in oils of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. You can request an image and price from Jerry (10007 S.W. Quail Post Road, Portland, OR 97219) <221bee@comcast.net>.
13078. If you would like to be among the first to see Guy Ritchie's new "Sherlock Holmes" film, plan to be in Hong Kong or Malaysia on Dec. 24, which is the release date posted at the Internet Movie Data Base. And the film will be in theaters on Dec. 25 in Singapore and five countries in Europe (they're a few hours ahead of the U.S.). There is a new trailer for the film (you get to see Mrs. Hudson, and Dr. Watson's bull pup), and it may still be available at <www.iwatchstuff.com/29/1/new_sherlock_holmes_trailer_du.php>.
13079. Stuart M. Kaminsky died on Oct. 9. He was a prolific writer who won an Edgar from the Mystery Writers of America for Best Novel (1989), and the MWA Grand Master award in 2006. His novel THE HOWARD HUGHES AFFAIR (1979) featured hard-boiled Los Angeles detective Toby Peters and amateur Sherlockian detective Basil Rathbone, and HE DONE HER WRONG (1983) had Peters appearing as guest speaker at a monthly meeting of The Engineer's Thumbs. He wrote a pastiche "The Final Toast" (1987) and dramatized it for performance at the International Mystery Writers' Festival in 2008.
13080. Reported (new pastiches): THE MERCHANT OF DEATH, by June Dixon and Donald Monat (from iUniverse); SHERLOCK HOLMES: REPORTS FROM THE DARK SIDE, by Tom Cavenagh (from iUniverse); VANISHING GIRL, by Shane Peacock (the third in his series about "the boy Sherlock Holmes," from Tundra)
13081. Karen Murdock spotted the debut album titled "Theories to Suit Facts" from the Bristol-based indie/electronica band JetKing; the album features Conan Doyle on the cover. It was in "A Scandal in Bohemia" that Sherlock Holmes told Watson that "It is a capital mistake to theorize before one has data. Insensibly one begins to twist facts to suit theories, instead of theories to suit facts." The band has a web-site at <www.jetking.info>, and the album is available as a CD (£7.99) or as an MP3 file (£6.99). Vaughn Atkinson (guitars and programme) explains that the band really liked the thought behind the quotation, and examples of that kind of thinking are still very much evident today, and that once the album was in place it seemed logical to feature Conan Doyle on the cover.

October 2009 #5

13082. Ransom Riggs' article on "The Surreal Life of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle" was published earlier this year in the magazine mental_floss (July 09 #4), and his new book THE SHERLOCK HOLMES HANDBOOK (Philadelphia: Quirk Books, 2009; 221 pp., \$16.95) offers an interesting and sometimes off-beat look at "the methods and mysteries of the world's greatest detective" (with helpful hints on "How to Outwit a Criminal Mastermind" and "How to Survive a Plunge Over a Waterfall"). There's a "look inside" feature, with a sample of Eugene Smith's artwork, at <www.amazon.com>.
13083. Jennie Paton spotted two deeply-discounted offers from Daedalus Books (800-395-2665) <www.daedalusbooks.com>: DVDs with "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970/Robert Stephens and Colin Blakely) and "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1978/Peter Cook and Dudley Moore) at \$6.98 each.
13084. Sean Wright has reported that TCM (Turner Classic Movies) will broadcast a "Sherlock Holmes Orgy" Dec. 25-27: "Sherlock Holmes" (1922/John Barrymore), "Sherlock Holmes' Fatal Hour" (1931/Arthur Wontner), almost all of the Basil Rathbone, "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1959/Peter Cushing), "A Study in Terror" (1965/John Neville), and "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970/Robert Stephens).
13085. Peter H. Wood has donated his reference collection of Sherlockian and Doylean books and journals to the Rare Books Library at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, British Columbia; he is the author of the pastiche THE WINGED WHEEL (1995) and a long-time member of The Bootmakers of Toronto (from whom he received a Master Bootmaker Award in 1983).
13086. Reported: POWERLESS, by Matthew Cody (New York: Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2009; 288 pp., \$16.99); "superhero kids meet comic-book mystery" (12-year-old Daniel has a sharp mind and is fond of Sherlock Holmes stories).
13087. Milton Supman died on October 22. He began his television career in the 1950s and became the star of the widely-syndicated television program "The Soupy Sales Show" in the 1960s; he developed pie-throwing into an art form, and claimed that he and his guests had been hit by pies more than 20,000 times during his career. He also had puppets on his show, including White Fang ("the meanest dog in the U.S.A."), whose howl was taken from a radio broadcast of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (Sales got his start in entertainment in the Navy, broadcasting over a ship's radio station, where he found, and kept, a recording of the story that had been distributed Armed Forces).
13088. Andy Peck has noted that the Mystery Guild is offering book-club editions of THE IMPROBABLE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, edited by John Joseph Adams (September 09 #1) for \$12.99 (order no. 25-8783), and THE LANGUAGE OF BEES, by Laurie R. King (April 09 #4) for \$14.99 (77-8398); Box 6325, Indianapolis, IN 46206 <www.mysteryguild.com>.
13089. Further to the forecast (August 09 #1) of the "Sherlock Holmes Weekend" coming up in Cape May, N.J., on Nov. 6-8, the next weekend celebration will be held on Mar. 19-21, with a repeat of the mystery "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of Mistaken Identity"; you can contact the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts (1048 Washington Street, Cape May, NJ 08204) (800-275-4278) or visit the web-site <www.capemaymac.org/content/sub-age_tours.aspx?id=96>.

October 2009 #6

13090. Sherlock Holmes' 156th birthday will be celebrated on Friday, Jan. 15, with the traditional festivities in New York, but the first formal event will be The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes' ASH Wednesday dinner starting at 6:00 pm at O'Casey's (22 East 41st Street); attendees pay their own checks, but you should let Susan Rice (125 Washington Place #2-E, New York, NY 10014 <susan221bee@gmail.com> know if you're coming to the event.
13091. The Christopher Morley Walk, led by Jim Cox and Dore Nash, will leave from the Algonquin Hotel (59 West 44th Street) at 9:30 am on Thursday, followed by lunch at McSorley's at about 1:30 pm; those planning to participate are asked to get in touch with Jim (2240 15th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94116) <jasdcx@yahoo.com>, and of course are advised to dress appropriately for the weather.

13092. The Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Speaker Lecture begins at 6:15 pm on the 6th floor of the Williams Club (24 East 39th Street, between Madison and Park Avenues); the speaker will be Joan Winterkorn, an internationally recognized appraiser and archivist who evaluated the seven-generation John Murray & Sons archives; she will talk about Holmes, Conan Doyle, and other Murray authors' archival adventures. The lecture will cost \$11.00; seating is limited, and you should reserve early (details below). Tickets will not be sold at the door.
13093. The Beacon Society's annual meeting will be held at 10:00 am on Friday on the second floor of the Algonquin to present Annual Beacon Award recognizing efforts of individuals to introduce Sherlock Holmes to young people.
13094. Otto Penzler will hold his traditional open house from 11:00 to 5:00 at the Mysterious Bookshop, at 58 Warren Street (between West Broadway and Church Street) in Tribeca; the 1, 2, and 3 trains stop at the Chambers Street station (one block from the shop). If you get lost, the bookshop's telephone number is 212-587-1011.
13095. The William Gillette Memorial Luncheon starts at noon, at Moran's Chelsea Seafood Restaurant at 146 Tenth Avenue at 19th Street; the cost is \$45.00 for chicken or salmon (\$50.00 for prime rib). Susan Rice (125 Washington Place #2-E, New York, NY 10014) <susan221bee@gmail.com> is the contact for a formal announcement.
13096. The Baker Street Irregulars will gather at 6:00 pm at the Yale Club at 50 Vanderbilt Avenue (across the street and just north of Grand Central Station); attendance is by invitation only. The Gaslight Gala (which is open to all Sherlockians and their friends) will provide dinner and entertainment at 6:30 pm at the Manhattan Club (201 West 52nd Street between Broadway and Seventh Avenue); \$75.00 (checks payable to Will Walsh can be sent to Carol Fish at Box 4, Circleville, NY 10919/phone 845-361-4320). Please include your e-mail address and primary Sherlockian society affiliation.
13097. Space is limited at the William Gillette Luncheon and the Gaslight Gala, and early reservations are advised.

October 2009 #7

13098. Those who wish to have seasonal souvenirs included in the various dinner packets can send 170 copies (for the BSI) to James B. Saunders (3011 47th Street, Astoria, NY 11103), and 100 copies (for the Gala) to Francine Kitts (35 Van Cortlandt Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10301), and 20 copies (for The Women) to Mary Ann Bradley, 7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278; your material should arrive by Dec. 15.
13099. On Saturday a wide variety of Sherlockiana will be available in the dealers' room (Covent Garden West) on the second floor of the Algonquin Hotel (59 West 44th Street) from 9:00 am to noon; for information about dealers' tables, contact Ralph Hall (2906 Wallingford Court, Louisville, KY 40218) (502-491-3148) <bugmanhall@aol.com>. And the Clients of Adrian Mulliner (devotees of the writings of both John H. Watson and P. G. Wodehouse) will convene for a Junior Bloodstain (a considerably less than totally reverent event) in the lobby of the Algonquin Hotel at 10:30 am; if you're planning to attend, please contact Anne Cotton (12 Hollywood Street, South Hadley, MA 01075) <ladybassett@comcast.net>.
13100. The Baker Street Irregulars' annual reception, open to all Sherlockians and their friends, will be held from 1:00 to 4:30 at the New York City Bar Association (42 West 44th Street); there will be hors d'oeuvres (adequate but not replacing lunch or dinner) and an open bar (wine, beer, juice, and soft drinks). The cost is \$79.00 (details below) or \$89.00 after Nov. 25 or at the door.
13101. The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes will hold an informal buffet brunch on Sunday, from 11:15 am to 2:30 pm at the Oldcastle Pub & Restaurant at 160 West 64th Street (between 6th and 7th Avenues) (and yes, 6th Avenue is the Avenue of the Americas), and the cost will be \$20.00 including tax and tip. It's open to all, but space is limited and reservations will be important; please send your checks to Lyndsay Faye (450 West 162nd Street #25-E, New York, NY 10032). Guests from overseas can reserve by e-mail and pay at the door; her e-mail address is <lyndsayfaye@hotmail.com>.
13102. The Algonquin Hotel has been the weekend home for the birthday festivities for more than 50 years, and rooms may be available (details below).
13103. And here are the details: if you've not already received Mike Whelan's announcement and reservation form (including prices) for the Algonquin Hotel, the Thursday lecture, and the Saturday reception, you can visit the Baker Street Journal web-site <www.bakerstreetjournal.com> and click on BSI Weekend, or contact Mary Ann Bradley <mabmfw@aol.com>.
13104. Mary Ellen Rich kindly continues to advise about hotels that offer reasonable (as defined by New York landlords) rates, but it's a mark of the 21st century that the best offers are to be found on the Internet, at web-sites such as <www.priceline.com>, <www.tripadvisor.com>, <www.travelocity.com>, <www.hotels.com>, <www.expedia.com>, and <www.quikbook.com>; you would be wise then to check the hotel's web-site and ask for the best rate (and you should not forget about non-optional extras such as almost 18% in state and city taxes).

October 2009 #8

13105. The Dr. John H. Watson Fund offers financial assistance to all Sherlockians (membership in the BSI is not required) who might otherwise not be able to participate in the weekend's festivities. A carefully pseudonymous John H. Watson presides over the fund and welcomes contributions, which can be made by check payable to John H. Watson and sent (without return address on the envelope) to Dr. Watson, care of The Baker Street Irregulars, at 7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278; your letters are forwarded unopened, and Dr. Watson will acknowledge your generosity. Requests for assistance should also be mailed (quickly) to Dr. Watson at the same address.
13106. And if you can't remember where you put your copy of all of this, detailed information about the birthday festivities is available on the Internet at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com> and <www.bsiweekend.com>. News of additional events will be found in this newsletter, and at the web-sites.
13107. Vic Mizzy died on Oct. 17. He had a long career as a composer for film and television, and was best known for his "Addams Family" theme (unless you're a fan of "Green Acres"); Dave Morrill notes that much of Mizzy's score for William Castle's "The Night Walker" (1964) was used again in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1972, with Stewart Granger).
13108. Reported: tales of a "bloodsucking plant, a heat-draining Eskimo vampire, and a fang-bearing femme fatale" in THE VAMPIRE TALES OF SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE, edited by Robert Eighteen-Bisang, with an introduction by Martin H. Greenberg (from Skyhorse, \$14.95).
13109. There's a new special-clearance offer at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com> for a "six pack" of BSJ Christmas Annuals. You should click on "Items for Sale" and then on "Deal Table"; the offer's limited-time-only.
13110. Christopher Morley called H. F. Heard's A TASTE FOR HONEY (1941) "the most original and enchanting crime story of the year," and it is grand to have the book back in print (Nevada City: Blue Dolphin, 2009; 180 pp., \$16.95) as the first in "The Mr. Mycroft Commemorative Series". The book is about "Mr. Mycroft" (many have suspected he's really an elderly and retired Sherlock Holmes); the book was adapted for television as "The Sting of Death" (1955) with Boris Karloff as Mr. Mycroft (kinescopes survive, but are not available commercially), and the film "The Deadly Bees" (1967) was based on the book, with a script by Robert Bloch (who was so annoyed when a British writer removed the Mr. Mycroft character and "juiced up the script" that Bloch never saw what he called his "deformed offspring"). The new edition has an informative foreword by Stacy Gillis, and an interesting afterword by John Roger Barrie, who addresses the question, "Who Is Mr. Mycroft?"

13111. An accidental discovery on Wikipedia: "The Menagerie" (described as a dark fantasy-novel series written by Christopher Golden and Thomas E. Sniegowski) has four titles published by Ace Books: THE NIMBLE MAN (2004), TEARS OF THE FURIES (2005), STONES UNTURNED (2006), and CRASHING PARADISE (2007), all of them featuring Arthur Conan Doyle as a major character named Mr. Doyle, who is the second most powerful sorcerer in the world, according to the Golden's web-site <www.christophergolden.com/menagerie>.

November 2009 #1

13112. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London also celebrates the Great Detective's birthday in January: a reception honoring "Conan Doyle and Joseph Bell" on Jan. 8 at the Royal Society of Medicine, an annual dinner (the title this year is "The Blackmailer's Banquet") on Jan. 9 in the Members' Dining Room at the House of Commons (Ruth Rendell will be guest of honour), and a morning-after gathering on Jan. 10 at the Centre Page in Knightbridge Street.
13113. The September issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota has Charles Press' "100 Years Ago" essay on Bertram Atkey and his early golfing pastiche, Jon Lellenberg's "50 Years Ago" discussion of the ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE CENTENARY ALBUM, Tim Johnson's report on a visit by John Bennett Shaw's son Patrick, and other news about the Collections; copies of the newsletter are available from Richard J. Sveum (111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <sveum001@tc.umn.edu>.
13114. Bouchercon 40 ("Elementary, My Dear Indy!") was held Oct. 15-18 in Indianapolis, and the program included a well-attended panel ("A Canonical and Conanical Confluence") with Mike Whelan as moderator, and Steve Doyle, Laurie King, Les Klinger, and Roy Pilot as panelists. Jeffrey Marks received an Anthony (best nonfiction critical work) for his ANTHONY BOUCHER: A BIOBIBLIOGRAPHY (March 08 #1).
13115. Bouchercon 41 will be held in San Francisco, Oct. 14-17, 2010 (with Laurie King as the American guest of honor) <www.bcon2010.com>; Bouchercon 42 will be in St. Louis (Sept. 15-18) <www.bouchercon2011.com>, and there has been no selection of a city for Bouchercon 43 in 2012. Bouchercon is the longestablished world mystery convention, run by fans for fans, named in honor of Anthony Boucher, and it's a grand opportunity to meet authors and fans.
13116. Technology continues to make things interesting: Mattias Bostrom's Swedish web-site at <www.sherlockholmes.se> has a "Google Translate" feature that translates from Swedish into 34 other languages, and while it's not a polished translation, you can get a good idea of what's going on in Sweden and elsewhere in the world.
13117. Further to the discussion (October 09 #1) of wisteria and wistaria, Steve Rothman notes that Caspar Wuster anglicized his name to Wistar (the Wistar Institute in Philadelphia is named in his honor); his brother John used the spelling Wister (and one of his descendants was Owen Wister, author of THE VIRGINIAN). It is unlikely that the Worcesters and Woosters are branches of the same family tree.
13118. Titan Books' reprint series "The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" has launched with four excellent pastiches: David Stuart Davies' THE SCROLL OF THE DEAD (1998) and THE VEILED DETECTIVE (2004), Daniel Stashower's THE ECTOPLASMIC MAN (1985), and Manly Wade Wellman and Wade Wellman's THE WAR OF THE WORLDS (1975); £7.99/\$9.95 each (trade paperbacks, with attractive covers). H. Paul Jeffers' THE STALWART COMPANIONS (1981) and Barrie Roberts' THE MAN FROM HELL (1997) are scheduled for February 2010. The publisher's web-site is at <www.titanbooks.com>.
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November 2009 #2

13119. Frank S. Beckman ("Lord Backwater") died on Oct. 16. He was a mathematician, the founder and chairman of the Dept. of Computer and Information Science at Brooklyn College of the City University of New York, and then the founder and executive director of the computer science Ph.D. program at the CUNY Graduate Center in New York; he received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1984.
13120. "Science is cool!" is the motto of Pulse of the Planets' Kids' Science Challenge, which has a Sherlockian emblem for its "Detective Science" section; their web-site's at <www.kidsciencechallenge.com>.
13121. Susan Diamond has reported that the running of The Silver Blaze at the Hawthorne Race Course in Chicago (April 09 #1) went very well, and that there are extra copies of two commemorative booklets and a commemorative pin; \$18.00 postpaid for all three items (please make your check payable to The Watsonians) from Susan at 16W603 3rd Avenue, Bensenville, IL 60106.
13122. The race also was the occasion for the publication of TWO CELEBRATIONS: THE FIFTIETH ANNUAL RUNNING OF THE CHICAGO BLAZE AND THE TRIENNIAL SILVER BLAZE OF THE BAKER STREET IRREGULARS by the BSI; edited by Candace Lewis, the 56-page book includes 14 black-and-white and color photographs is available for \$12.95 (plus shipping) <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>. Candace Lewis offers a description of flat-racing as shown in 19th-century art, Roger Donway investigates the fun and logic of "Silver Blaze", and Art Levine reminisces about runnings of the race in New York. The BSI's special offer of copies of BSI Christmas Annuals (\$7.00 each or \$35.00 for six), also available at the web-site, expires at the end of December .
13123. The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times09-11.htm>, with offers of interesting Sherlockiana, old and new, including their calendar for 2010 featuring the imaginative work of Joshua Green. There's also news from societies (including The Hansom Wheels), and an auction for an overlooked and recently-discovered copy of Bill Dorn's Sherlock Holmes bobble-head doll.
13124. The Beavercreek Community Theatre will present Tim Kelly's version of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" from Dec. 4 to 13; 3868 Dayton-Xenia Road, Beavercreek, OH 45432 (937-429-4737) <www.bcttheatre.org>.
13125. "The Empty House" is a new and imaginative set of figures (Holmes, Watson, Lestrade, Moran, a bobby, and Mrs. Hudson), designed by Jim Hillestad, and available for \$155.00. The Toy Soldier Museum <www.the-toy-soldier.com>, offers many other attractive figures, and you can see the Sherlockian set in full color at <www.tinyurl.com/yknl3au>.
13126. Anthony J. Richard reports that Breese Books is offering Douglas Wilmer's memoirs STAGE WHISPERS (April 09 #3), and will soon publish Emanuel E. Garcia's pastiche THE CASE OF THE MISSING STRADIVARIUS and reprint Abbey Pen Baker's IN THE DEAD OF WINTER (1994) and then publish her new Myrl Norton Adler pastiche DEATH AT THE ROUND TABLE; details are (or will be) available at his web-site at <www.crime4u.com/officialbreesebo.html>.
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November 2009 #3

13127. VANISHING GIRL (Toronto: Tundra, 2009; 307 pp., \$19.95) is the third in his series about "the boy Sherlock Holmes" (who is on his own in London and learning how to be a detective); the book has interesting characters, an intriguing mystery, and imaginative twists and turns. Peacock maintains the quality of his series, and Tundra is producing good books, with decorated covers and two-sided dust jackets. The author's website is at <www.shanepeacock.ca>.
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13128. Sorry about that: the Mid-Manhattan Library, site of the symposium on "The Sherlock Holmes Effect: How the Arthur Conan Doyle Classics Influence Contemporary Mysteries" on Jan. 26 (October 09 #1) is at 40th Street and 5th Avenue in New York.
13129. Samantha Wolov has spotted a cute hand-crafted felt Sherlock Holmes mouse from Eden & Eden (560 Jackson Street, San Francisco, CA 94133) (415-983-0490); you can see it in full color at <www.edenandeden.com/item.php?p=499>.
13130. Archie McPhee offered their attractive Sherlock Holmes Action Figure some years ago (August 04 #6); it's still available at the same price (\$8.95), along with a wide variety of amusing items such as absinthe dental floss and an avenging narwhal play set (Box 30852, Seattle, WA 98113) <www.mcphee.com>.
13131. AbeBooks has reported the results from BookFinder's compilation of the most sought-after books from July 2008 to June 2009: in the "mystery and thrillers" category William S. Baring-Gould's ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES ranked IN 7th place. If you want to see the top-ten titles on all of the lists, just visit <www.abebooks.com/book/rare-scarce/most-wanted-out-of-print.shtml>.
13132. David Morrill has reported that Douglas Wilmer's version of "The Illustrious Client" (1965), at YouTube. All of it, in fact, in five parts. Go to <www.youtube.com>, search for [illustrious client wilmer], and then click on the "five videos" link.
13133. "Elementary, My Dear Watson: The Man Behind Sherlock Holmes" is a new video by Philip Gardiner, who has written books that include SECRETS OF THE SERPENT: IN SEARCH OF THE SACRED PAST and THE BOND CODE: THE DARK WORLD OF IAN FLEMING AND JAMES BOND; produced by Reality Entertainment, the DVD attempts to answer the question "What secrets lurk hidden behind the enigmatic counterpart to Sherlock Holmes?" and concludes that there's much of Conan Doyle in both Watson and Holmes. Produced by Reality Entertainment (\$24.95), the DVD includes the new 55-minute video and Gardiner's earlier 70-minute "The Madness of Sherlock Holmes: Conan Doyle and the Realm of the Faeries" (January 08 #7). There are previews of both videos at <www.youtube.com>.
13134. Admirers of "Macavity: The Mystery Cat" and "Gus: The Theatre Cat" will enjoy a new edition of T. S. Eliot's OLD POSSUM'S BOOK OF PRACTICAL CATS (July 08 #2); book has had many illustrators, including the author (who designed the dust jacket for the first edition), Nicolas Bentley, and Edward Gorey, and Axel Scheffler has created attractive artwork for the new edition (London: Faber and Faber, 2009; 80 pp., £14.99) and (Boston: Harcourt Children's Books, 2009; 64 pp., \$16.00).

November 2009 #4

13135. There's a long series of early pastiches known to Sherlockians as the "memorias intimas" (actually first published in German, they first came to the attention of Sherlockian collectors translated into Spanish). The original title of the series was "Detektiv Sherlock Holmes und Seine Weltberuhmten Abenteuer" (1907), and Holmes was assisted by Harry Taxon; eventually the hero became Harry Dickson, assisted by Tom Wills, and the stories are still being published, in translation and pastiche. HARRY DICKSON: THE AMERICAN SHERLOCK HOLMES (Encino: Black Coat Press, 2009; 247 pp., \$20.95/£12.99) offers translations by Jean-Marc and Randy Lofficier of four stories first published in the 1930s. The publisher has a web-site at <www.blackcoatpress.com>.
13136. Ken Lanza discovered the first issue of Dynamite Entertainment's comic-book mini-series SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE TRIAL OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (September 09 #5) online in full color <www.newsarama.com/php/multimedia/album.php?aid=31844>. It's an interesting way to promote a series.
13137. Alderney (one of the Channel Islands, and part of the Bailiwick of Guernsey) has about 2,400 inhabitants and an extremely active philatelic bureau, and it is the fourth country to issue stamps honoring Conan Doyle this year. There's a set of six stamps, sheets of ten stamps (with illustrated margins), a presentation pack, a first day cover, and a "mystery pack" that includes a special lens and hidden clues that will help you solve a case called "Sherlock Holmes and the Curious Case of the Alderney Bull" (a pastiche written by Keith Robinson, who also designed the stamps). You can order all of the items from the Guernsey Philatelic Bureau (Envoy House, La Vrangue, St. Peter Port, Guernsey, Channel Islands GY1 5SS, Great Britain) and from their web-site at <www.guernseystamps.com>.
13138. Bert Coules has reported that "Arthur & George", a new play by David Edgar based on the novel by Julian Barnes about Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and George Edalji (September 05 #5) is scheduled at the Birmingham Repertory Theatre, Mar. 19 through April 10, 2010. Broad Street, Birmingham, West Midlands B1 2EP, England <www.birmingham-rep.co.uk>.
13139. VAMPIRE STORIES: SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE, edited by Robert Eighteen-Bisang and Martin H. Greenberg (New York: Skyhorse, 2009; 271 pp., \$14.95), casts its net widely: the contents include nine stories (three Canonical and six non-Canonical), a new pastiche ("The Case of the Vanished Vampire") by Bill Crider, and a comprehensive "Sherlock Holmes Vampire Bibliography" of short stories, books, and comic books. And the editors offer interesting explanations for their choices (in case you're wondering, the other two Canonical stories are "The Illustrious Client" and "The Three Gables"). Skyhorse also published the anthology SHERLOCK HOLMES IN AMERICA (April 09 #1); their web-site's at <www.skyhorsepublishing.com>.
13140. Ely M. Liebow's excellent biography DR. JOE BELL: MODEL FOR SHERLOCK HOLMES (1982) is now available in French as L'HOMME QUI TAIT SHERLOCK HOLMES: UNE BIOGRAPHIE DU DOCTEUR JOE BELL, with a new preface by Thierry Saint-Joannis (Paris: Editions Baker Street, 2009; 304 pp. E21.00); the translation was published by Ely's daughter Cynthia, and the book is available from Amazon in France <www.amazon.fr>.

November 2009 #5

13141. Peter Calamai reports that the Canadian Wildlife Federation's 2010 calendar includes a colorful photograph of a fluorescing Lion's Mane. The Federation's web-site is at <www.cwffcf.org.en>; search for [2010 calendar]. If you'd like to see the photograph (in vivid color), go to <www.mindenpictures.com> and search for [cyanea].
13142. The Societe Sherlock Holmes de France has reported on the new Centara Grand Mirage Beach Resort Pattaya in Thailand, which is advertised as a "unique and exciting Lost World themed hotel." Alas, there is nothing related to Conan Doyle's "Lost World" except some jungle. You can read more (in both French and English) at <www.sshf.com/index.php3?file=news&num711>. And the hotel's web-site's at <www.centarahotelsresorts.com/pattaya_hotels.asp>.
13143. Thanks to the Internet, we are able to provide advance news of some of the items that will be in the auction and raffle that will benefit the Dr. John H. Watson Fund during the reception on Saturday, Jan. 16; here's the URL: <www.bakerstreetjournal.com/bsiweekend/auction.html>.
13144. Christopher Lee received a knighthood in the Queen's Birthday Honours list for services to drama and charity (July 09 #1); he was knighted on Oct. 30 at Buckingham Palace by Prince Charles. Sir Christopher's dramatic roles have included Sherlock Holmes, Mycroft Holmes, and Sir Henry Baskerville, and he has made audio recordings of some of the Canonical tales.
13145. Vector graphics uses points, lines, curves, and polygons based on mathematical equations to display images in computer graphics, and Sean Wright found an interesting and imaginative set of Sherlockian images offered for sale by ClipartLab. Their web-site is at <www.clipartlab.com>; search for [sherlock].

13146. "Treasures at the National Library of Scotland" is an exhibition in Edinburgh through Jan. 8, and one of the "ten iconic items" from the Library's collections is the manuscript of "The Illustrious Client".
13147. More information is available on The Pleasant Places of Florida's 20th-anniversary celebration of the Wessex Cup on Feb. 12-14, 2010. The "Wessex Weekend" includes meals, presentations, and other festivities, as well as the running of the race. Carl L. Heifetz (1220 Winding Willow Drive, New Port Richey, FL 34655) <microdoc@verizon.net> will be happy to provide details on request.
13148. Randall Stock continues to add interesting and useful material to his "The Best of Sherlock" web-site, the latest being his census of the known pages from the manuscript of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (35 pages are known to exist: 25 pages are held by libraries and 6 by private collectors, and the owners of 4 more pages are not known). You can see the results of his research at <www.bestofsherlock.com/baskervilles-manuscript.htm>. And he has prepared a list of Sherlock Holmes gifts, for those who are preparing their Christmas lists or who are wondering what to give Sherlockians; he has suggestions for new fans and for long-time S'ians, and you will find his lists at <www.bestofsherlock.com/sherlock-gifts.htm>.

November 2009 #6

13149. Edmond and Leon Bloch were specialists in disguised and hidden "detective" cameras; they made Physiographe cameras (disguised as minoculars and binoculars), and a Photo-Cravate (with the camera hidden behind a necktie), and the rarest of their designs is Le Sherlock Holmes, a magazine box camera that's disguised as a small briefcase; it's very rare, and nearly all of the handful of examples known worldwide are in museums. All of this according to WestLicht, which is offering Le Sherlock Holmes at auction in Vienna on Dec. 5 (estimated at E16,000 to E20,000, with a starting bid of E8,000). The camera is dated c.1912, and there's a photograph at <www.westlicht-auction.com/index.php?id=175121&acat=175121&_ssl=off>.
13150. Robert Crichton is continuing his readings of "The Complete Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (August 09 #8); he'll perform 12 stories at the Barons Court Theatre at the Curtains Up pub in London, Jan. 5-10, 2010. The pub address is 28a Comeragh Road, London W14 9HR, England (020-8932-4747), and there's a web-site at <www.offwestend.com/index.php/theatres/view/42>.
13151. Sir Andrew Sloan died on Nov. 11. He was a career detective, and in 1979 he was appointed national coordinator for the regional crime squads of England and Wales, and was one of the specialists invited to review the investigation into the Yorkshire Ripper case, which led to the creation of a new computer called the Home Office (Large) Major Enquiry System [HOLMES] (April 85 #6). HOLMES eventually was succeeded by HOLMES 2, and Sloan received a knighthood in 1991.
13152. Cookie Beck offers miniatures, dolls houses, and dolls, including Sherlock Fox (\$550.00) and his assistant Miss Mouse (\$425.00) at Cookie's Bits and Pieces (21 Field Rock Road, Monroe, CT 06468) (203-268-8610), and you can see them in full color at her web-site <www.cookiesbitsandpieces.com>; the dolls are 6 in. high.
13153. "Sherlock Holmes in Miniature" is the title of Robert Nicol's interesting web-site at <webpace.webring.com/people/us/shnicoll/index-English/html>. the site displays many miniatures and figures, old and new, some of them still available for purchase (including the imaginative "Pixi" collection from Alexis Poliakoff).
13154. Reported: THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES, a "luxury edition" celebrating the 150th anniversary of the birth of Conan Doyle, with a new introduction by P. D. James, from Random House UK, £25.00. SHERLOCK HOLMES IN RUSSIA, seven pastiches edited by George Piliev and translated by Alex Auswaks, from Robert Hale, £18.99. THE CASE NOTES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Guy Adams and Lee Thompson, from Andre Deutsch, £19.99; a scrapbook of evidence, some of it in evidence bags, for six of the Canonical tales. SHERLOCK, JOHN, AND TREVOR, three pastiches by C. C. Williamsen, from AuthorHouse, \$15.99. THE PENGUIN COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES, with a new introduction by Ruth Rendell, from Penguin, £30.00 cloth, £16.99 paper.
13155. A new catalog from Alberene Royal Mail (Box 902, 9 Mill Alley, Harrisville, NH 03450) (800-843-9078) <www.alberene.com> has many Sherlockian items, including pub glasses, a pub chalkboard, a pub-in-a-box, a pub sign from The Sherlock Holmes, a pocket magnifier, a pocket watch, a movie poster, and a wall clock (as well as a Diogenes Club wall clock).

November 2009 #7

13156. The Red Circle of Washington continues to look for politicians who display some Sherlockian expertise, and we can now add Vice President Joe Biden to the list. Dan Stashower spotted him on "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart" on Comedy Central on Nov. 17, discussing the Recovery Act: "One thing you haven't seen is that old thing about the dog that hadn't barked: you haven't seen the big waste."
13157. Forecast: SHERLOCK HOLMES FOR DUMMIES, by Steven Doyle, from For Dummies in March; 384 pp., \$19.99. The series began in 1991 with DOS FOR DUMMIES, and there are now more than 1,700 titles; according to the publisher, "It's elementary! SHERLOCK HOLMES FOR DUMMIES is an indispensable guide for students and fans alike!"
13158. Pattie Tierney has created an attractive Sherlock Holmes Holiday Greeting Photo Card (\$3.50) that comes with a recipe for Sherlock's gingerbread; you can see it at <www.etsy.com/view_listing.php?listing_id=35011606>.
13159. Edward Woodward died on Nov. 16. He began his acting career on stage at an early age, and went on to star as "Callan" on television from 1967 to 1972, and as "The Equalizer" from 1986 to 1989, and received an OBE [Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire] in 1978. Woodward played Mason in "Shoscombe Old Place" in the BBC Peter Cushing television series in 1968, Dr. Watson in John Kane's play "Murder, Dear Watson" in 1983, and Sherlock Holmes in the television film "Hands of a Murderer" in 1990.
13160. Pat Ward discovered the American Library Association's series of READ posters, including one showing Robert Downey Jr. and Jude Law from the upcoming Guy Ritchie film, with the quotation "When you have eliminated all which is impossible, then whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth." \$16.00 at their web-site <www.alastore.ala.org>. Early purchasers may have acquired a first edition with a typo ("improbably"). Another poster shows Rachel McAdams, but in a different film ("The Time Traveller's Wife").
13161. Further to the report (September 09 #2) on SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE ARCHIVE COLLECTION, the three-DVD set from Synergy Entertainment (\$24.95) is a splendid collection of early films. Produced by Ronnie James, one of the earliest and most energetic collector of old and not-so-old films, the set has some real treasures, including "The Sting of Death" (1955), a one-hour dramatization for television of H. F. Heard's A TASTE FOR HONEY that starred Boris Karloff as Mr. Mycroft that has never been available before. The same is true of "Lost in Limehouse, or Lady Esmerelda's Predicament" (1933), a 20-minute short with Olaf Hytten as Sheerluck Jones, and "A Case of Hypnosis" (1952), a short detective film with an all-chimpanzee cast (with a detective in Sherlockian costume). There are many other films in the set, with Holmes played by Georges Treville, Eille Norwood, Arthur Wontner, Alan Napier, and John Longden, and the quality of the transfers is splendid. Recommended.

13162. Raymond B. Browne died on Oct. 22. He founded Bowling Green State University's Center for the Study of Popular Culture in 1967, and its department of popular culture in 1973. With his wife Pat he founded the Popular Press in 1970, and in 1982 they published the first edition of Ely Liebow's DR. JOE BELL: MODEL FOR SHERLOCK HOLMES.

November 2009 #8

13163. William Gurstelle's ABSINTHE & FLAMETHROWERS (Chicago: Chicago Review Press, 2009; 208 pp., \$16.95) has an intriguing title, and an explanatory subtitle: PROJECTS AND RUMINATIONS ON THE ART OF LIVING DANGEROUSLY; the section on "The Physical Arts" discusses bullwhips, knife throwing, and bartitsu (invented by E. W. Barton-Wright, and quite likely misspelled as baritsu in the Canon).
13164. Warner Bros. continues to come up with imaginative ways to promote the new Guy Ritchie film: Ken Lanza spotted the game "221B" at <www.221b.sh>; it's a two-player game (but you can play it alone) connected to Facebook, and it has excellent graphics taken from the film. Hot-drink sleeves at 7-Eleven stores ask "How Holmes are you?" and direct you to <www.7-11.221b.sh> (noted by Debbie Clark); 7-11 also will have window banners and point-of-purchase signage for the film, and there's some pay-back in the game, in which one piece of evidence is a vintage newspaper that features a front-page advertisement for "Joe C. Thompson's Coffee Emporium--Open from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m." (in 1927, Joe C. Thompson Jr. founded the Southland Ice Company, the precursor to the 7-Eleven chain).
13165. And there's more: if you would like to tour the film's locations, the studio has teamed up with VisitBritain (the national tourism agency) to offer a list at <www.visitbritain.us/campaigns/british-film/index.aspx>; click on "British Locations" to learn about six sites for the films, and many others of Sherlockian and Doylean interest. Holmes is on Facebook, of course, at <www.facebook.com/SherlockHolmes>. Anne Mitchell's colorful blog for the film is at <www.thesherlockholmesmovie.com>. The California Lottery offers four "scratchers" cards with poster artwork; there are images of the cards at <www.calottery.com/Games/Scratchers/Gallery/SherlockHolmes.htm> (reported by Gordon Adelman).
13166. Warner Bros. also was one of two sponsors for the 30-minute special "Family Guy Presents: Seth & Alex's Almost Live Comedy Show" broadcast on Nov. 8 by Fox; Warner Bros. replaced Microsoft when that company withdrew after seeing the script and presumably deciding it wasn't appropriate for their customers). The commercial was introduced by Stewie Griffin, the one-year-old member of the family.
13167. John Baesch spotted the November issue of Script: Celebrating the Writer, which has a long article by Ray Morton about the writing of the filmscript, and Morton's long interview with Nicholas Meyer about his memoirs THE VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE (September 09 #1).
13168. Presumably there's a long line of people hoping to piggy-back on publicity for Guy Ritchie's new film, but the Visit Kent web-site is off and running; <mediafiles.thedms.co.uk/Publication/TK-Kent/cms/pdf/Sherlock_Holmes.pdf> is the URL for a "Sherlock Holmes Mystery Tour of Kent" that guides visitors to Chatham (where the film company worked on location) and other Sherlockian and Doylean locales. And it is possible that the other "Sherlock Holmes" (with Ben Snyder as Holmes and David Gareth-Lloyd as Watson) will be available on DVD on Jan. 26 <www.tinyurl.com/yf2jzs9>.
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January 2010 #1

13169. Sherlock Holmes' 156th birthday was celebrated heartily in New York on Jan. 15, and others date during a never-boring long weekend that began with the traditional ASH Wednesday supper at O'Casey's and continued with the Christopher Morley Walk led by Jim Cox and Dore Nash on Thursday morning (with the usual lunch at McSorley's).
13170. The Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Speaker at the Williams Club on Thursday evening was Joan Winterkorn (archivist and appraiser for the British bookseller Bernard Quaritch), who spoke about evaluating the papers of seven generations of Conan Doyle's publisher John Murray.
13171. The Beacon Society held its annual meeting at the Algonquin on Friday morning (the group's mission is to encourage and recognize programs that introduce young people to Holmes), and the William Gillette Luncheon at Moran's featured The Friends of Bogie's at Baker Street (Paul Singleton, Sarah Montague, and Andrew Joffe) in a reprise of their imaginative "Holmes in the Nursery". The luncheon also was the occasion for Al Gregory's presentation of the January WHIMSEY award (in memory of his wife January Stauber) for the most whimsical piece published in The Serpentine Muse last year; the winner was Philip Shreffler, who received a certificate and a check for the Canonical sum of \$221.17. And Otto Penzler's traditional open house at the Mysterious Bookshop offered the usual opportunities to browse and buy.
13172. The Irregulars and their guests gathered for the BSI's annual dinner at the Yale Club, with Jerry Margolin offering the first toast to Karen Gurian as *The Woman*. The dinner featured the usual toasts and traditions, and Nils Nordberg's proposal that Sherlock Holmes was Norwegian, a report by Hartley Nathan on an authentic Penang lawyer that security concerns prevented him from bringing onto the plane in Canada, Sue Vizoskie's discussion of what might have happened in Sherlock Holmes had been a woman, and a toast to Old Irregular Bill Rabe, singing of "Aunt Clara" by Henry Boote to the original music that was composed by Bud Willis in 1936, followed by a performance by Ray Jessel (who was one of the authors of the musical "Baker Street").
13173. Mike Whelan (the BSI's "Wiggins") announced the Birthday Honours, awarding Irregular Shillings and Investitures to Tom Cynkin ("Lord Bellinger"), Pj Doyle ("Ettie Shafter"), Sir Christopher Frayling ("Vernet"), Patricia Guy ("Imperial Tokay"), Laurie King ("The Red Circle"), Sarah Montague ("Violet Smith"), Daniel Polvere ("Holloway and Steele"), Sally Sugarman ("The Three Gables"), and Maria Carmen Veiga-Hayzen ("Isadora Klein").
13174. Mike also presented the BSI's Two-Shilling Award (for extraordinary devotion to the cause beyond the call of duty) to John Bergquist, Bob Coghill, and Steve Doyle; and Editor's Medals were awarded to John Bergquist, Susan Dahlinger, Glen Miranker, Gianluca Salvatore, and the late Paul Jeffers in recognition of their services in editing books and Christmas Annuals published by the BSI. Mike also presented an engraved crystal vase to Freda Howlett, recognizing her as co-founder, honorary member, and past president of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London.
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January 2010 #2

13175. The Gaslight Gala, held as usual at the Manhattan Club, celebrated "Poisons in the Canon" with toasts and songs (including a performance by Cynthia and Richard Wein's of Warren Randall's "You've Got to Pick a Poison or Two"), plus a skit (Warren Randall's "Watson's Agency, or a Case of Double Indemnity" acted by Elyse Locurto and Don Hobbs), a quiz game (Donny Zaldin's "Who Wants to Be a Sherlockian Millionaire"), and other entertainment.
13176. On Saturday morning the dealers room at the Algonquin welcomed (as usual) sellers and buyers, and at 10:30 The Clients of Adrian Mulliner (devotees of the works of both Wodehouse and Watson) gathered for their Junior Bloodstain, which featured a dramatic reading of Anne Cotton's script for "Sherlock Holmes and the Sure Thing".
13177. The BSI's Saturday-afternoon cocktail party was again at the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, with wining, dining, and conversation in the Great Hall, and entertainment in the Meeting Room: Mary Ann Bradley introduced ladies present who had been honored by the BSI as *The Woman*, and Al and Betsy Rosenblatt reported poetically on the events of the previous year and of the previous evening.
13178. Mike Berdan was announced as the winner of the Morley-Montgomery Award (an attractive certificate and a check for \$500) for the best contribution to The Baker Street Journal last year: his article "Holmes Alone: Glimpses of Post-Watson Baker Street in 'The Mazarin Stone'". And the
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Watson Fund benefited from energetic sales of raffle tickets by June Kinnee, Sue Vizoskie, Elaine Coppola, and Carol Cavaluzzi for a bottle of vintage (and well traveled Madeira donated by Patricia Guy <www.patriciaguy.com>.

13179. The Dr. John H. Watson Fund (administered by a carefully anonymous Dr. Watson) offers financial assistance to all Sherlockians (membership in the BSI is not required) who might otherwise be unable to participate in the birthday festivities. The generous donors to this year's auction were The Denizens of the Bar of Gold (a pillow hand-crafted and decorated by Alice Zalik that commemorated "The Abbey Grange", Joseph Coppola (a diploma issued by the Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh and signed by the father of Joseph Bell), The Curious Collectors of Baker Street and Jerry and Chrys Kegley (a set of five medals crafted by Maggie Schpak), Chuck Kovacic of Baker Street Los Angeles (posters and fake lottery tickets for Guy Ritchie's new film), and Scott Monty (the annual-dinner packet he left behind at the Yale Club and kindly bought back from the Fund).
13180. There was an informal "The One Fixed Point Dinner" at Kennedy's on Saturday evening, with the traditional reading from Ogden Nash's work and the traditional toasts ("the Guinness flowed like wine," one of the participants has reported); and on Sunday a brunch arranged by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes at the Oldcastle Pub & Restaurant.
13181. A final note for those who want to plan ahead: The Baker Street Irregulars' next annual dinner will be held on Jan. 7, 2011. And the Sherlock Holmes Society of London's annual dinner will be on Jan. 15, 2011.

January 2010 #3

13182. I've not reported on everything, I hasten to add; if you want more details than I've provided here, you can visit Scott Monty's well-illustrated blog at <www.bakerstreetblog.com>, or wait for the reports that will be published in the spring issue of The Baker Street Journal. The BSJ appears quarterly, and subscriptions (four issues plus the Christmas Annual) cost \$37.50 (to the U.S.) or \$47.50 (international); checks can be sent to the BSJ (Box 465, Hanover, PA 17331), and credit-card payments are accepted from foreign subscribers. You can also subscribe at the BSJ web-site at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>, which also has interesting features such as some of the papers written by winners of the Morley-Montgomery Awards, articles from recent issues of the BSJ, and information on the BSI's other publications.
13183. Al Gregory <gaslightandfog@earthlink.net> offers (by e-mail only) his 2010 edition of "The ABC of the BSI" (an alphabetical listing of Investitures, with recipients, from "Abbey Grange" to "Young Stamford") and "The Florin Society" (couples in which both spouses have received Irregular Shillings).
13184. Highly recommended: "The Rivals of Sherlock Holmes" is a set of four DVDs issued by Acorn Media last year (\$59.99) with the 13 programs in the first series broadcast by ITV in 1971. The series was based on the anthology edited by Hugh Greene, and featured excellent performances by fine actors in good stories, including John Neville as Dr. John Thorndyke, Robert Stephens as Max Carrados, Roy Dotrice as Simon Carne, Peter Vaughan as Horace Dorrington, and Donald Pleasance as Carnacki. It will be nice indeed if Acorn Media follows up with the second season.
13185. Donald J. Terras (whose Investiture in The Baker Street Irregulars is "The Politician, the Lighthouse, and the Trained Cormorant") presides over the Grosse Point Light Station near Chicago, and lives in the keeper's quarters (the station is still in operation as a private aid to navigation on Lake Michigan). And he happily reports that the federal government has awarded \$165,000 to help preserve the lighthouse.
13186. David Levine died on Dec. 29. His artistic caricatures were a trademark for the New York Review of Books, which published more than 3,800 of his drawings over 40 years. His work appeared on the cover of Time, and in many other magazines and newspapers, and his art is in the permanent collections of the Library of Congress and the National Portrait Gallery in London. His subjects included both Arthur Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes; this portrait of Conan Doyle appeared in the New York Review of Books on Aug. 17, 1978, accompanying Julian Symons' long review of Michael Dibdin's THE LAST SHERLOCK HOLMES STORY.
13187. William Safire's death (October 01 #1) has not ended his interesting N.Y. Times column "On Language": Erin McKean wrote (Dec. 17, 2009) about Wordnik.com, a new on-line dictionary (she's its founder and chief executive) that "uses text-mining techniques and the unlimited space of the Internet to show as many real examples of word use as we can, as fast as we can." The URL is <www.wordnik.com>, and there are (as I write this) 300 million example sentences, 4.7 million unique words, and 29,177 Wordniks who contribute. You are welcome to join their ranks, if only to add to the examples for sherlock, Sherlock, and Sherlock's (or for moriarty, Moriarty, and Moriarty's).

January 2010 #4

13188. Phillip Bergem has compiled two extensive checklists of Sherlockian and Doylean television programs, with more than 800 entries, annotated for date, country, actors who played Holmes and Watson (or Conan Doyle), production company, and alternate titles. It's available by e-mail from Phil <pbergem@att.net> as a PDF or Excel file.
13189. This year's Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture of the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library will be given by Peter Calamai on May 29, and the Friends have announced that a "revitalization" of the Library will involve creation of a new Special Collections Centre on the 5th floor that will allow access to the Arthur Conan Doyle Room whenever the Library is open.
13190. Further to the item (July 09 #4) on the statue of Sherlock Holmes in Edinburgh, the Scotsman has reported (Dec. 21) that planning calls for development of Picardy Place as a public square that will include a new hotel, part of a £850 million commercial development. There's no word on where the statue now in storage will wind up.
13191. The "Sherlock Holmes Weekend" in Cape May, N.J., on Mar. 19-21, 2010 will offer a new Sherlockian mystery ("The Case of the Demons in a Padded Room") written by John K. Alvarez. The weekends have been held in the spring and fall for many years, and there's more information at the festival web-site at <www.capemaymac.org/tours/winter/special/sherlock.html>, and from 1048 Washington Street, Cape May, NJ 08204 (800-275-4278).
13192. "The membership of Holmes societies around the world is of high intellectual caliber," Theodore Dalrymple suggests in a long piece on "The Eternal Detective" in the National Review (Dec. 31, 2009). "Their publications are learned and ingenious. Never is pedantry more joyously or innocently employed, for example, than in the ferreting out of the details of the biography of Sherlock Holmes (and Dr. Watson, of course)."
13193. Donal Donnelly died on Jan. 4. He described himself as "an itinerant Irish actor," and had a long career on stage, screen, and television. He played a fine Watson to Frank Langella's Holmes in "Sherlock's Last Case" in Washington and New York in 1987.
13194. The series of Sherlockian mystery jigsaw puzzles was launched quite a few years ago (March 96 #3), and two of the 1000-piece puzzles ("The Kent Chapel Murder" and "Watson's Inheritance") are back, with a twist: they're now bilingual, with English and French booklets in each puzzle box (\$29.99); you "assemble the puzzle, read the mystery booklet, search for clues, and solve the crime!"
13195. Will Thomas reports that the Bartitsu Forum is receiving increased attention, thanks to Guy Ritchie's new "Sherlock Holmes"; the Bartitsu Society's web-site at <www.bartitsu.org> offers an interesting interview with Richard Ryan, who choreographed the fight scenes in the film. There's also a link to a 4-minute preview of an up-coming documentary ("Bartitsu: The Lost Martial Art of Sherlock Holmes") about E. W. Barton-Wright's "new art of selfdefense" that Watson may well have misheard or misspelled when he told his readers what Holmes said about baritsu in "The Empty House".

January 2010 #5

13196. The January-February issue of Dollhouse Miniatures (successor to Nutshell News) has an interesting and well-illustrated article by Deb Weissler about her Sherlockian room box. And the magazine is honoring the 30th anniversary of the founding of The Mini-Tonga Scion Society with a new room-box contest, open to all miniaturists and collectors; you should submit one or more photographs of your Sherlockian room box with a brief description (up to 250 words) to the magazine (68132 250th Avenue, Kasson, MN 59994) <kim@dhminiatures.com>, and the contest deadline is Mar. 10). The magazine costs \$6.95 (866-606-6587) <www.dhminiatures.com>.
13197. The 2009 issue of Beaten's Christmas Annual has been published by The Sound of the Baskervilles of Seattle, with 48 pages of scholarship and occasional whimsy; the scholarship includes Terri Haugen's report on the research by the late Samuel C. Fry for his paper "The Influence of Mr. Sherlock Holmes on Twentieth Century Arctic Exploration". \$13.00 postpaid (\$18.00 outside the U.S.), with checks payable to The Sound of the Baskervilles, from Terri Haugen, 3606 Harborcrest Court NW, Gig Harbor, WA 98332. Their 2007 annual also is available, with 290 pages celebrating the society's 25th anniversary with a compilation of the best material published in earlier issues; the cost is \$24.95 postpaid to the U.S. (\$27.95 to Canada, \$35.95 elsewhere).
13198. L'HOMME QUI ETAIT SHERLOCK HOLMES: UNE BIOGRAPHIE DU DOCTEUR JOE BELL (Paris: Editions Baker Street, 2009; 355 pp., E21.00) is the French translation of Ely Liebow's DR. JOE BELL: MODEL FOR SHERLOCK HOLMES (1982), and it is nicely done indeed, with a new preface by Thierry Saint-Joanis; it's interesting to see that it has been "traduit de l'americain" (the French obviously are aware that Yanks and Brits don't use the same language). You can buy the book easily at <www.amazon.fr>.
13199. Patrick Stewart was knighted by the Queen in her New Year's Honours List, for services to drama. As Captain Jean-Luc Picard he commanded the Enterprise in the series "Star Trek: The Next Generation", and in "Lonely Among Us" (1987) he mentioned "the immortal Sherlock Holmes" (this was the first episode of the series to pay tribute to Holmes).
13200. Watson's Tin Box will host their third "Scintillation of Scions" at Claret House in Clarksville, Md., on Aug. 28, with the intent of bringing together members of mid-Atlantic (and east-coast) Sherlockian societies for "an afternoon of fun, scholarship, and social time." It's an entertaining gathering, and additional information is available from Jacquelynn Morris (3042 Old Channel Road, Laurel, MD 20724) <www.watsonstinbox.org>.
13201. Alastair B. Martin ("Colonel Sebastian Moran") died on Jan. 12. He was an art collector, and chairman of the Brooklyn Museum from 1984 to 1989, and a devotee of tennis, many times an amateur champion in court tennis (the game dating back to the Middle Ages and played on walled courts) and in the more modern United States Open; as president of the U.S. Lawn Tennis Association he supported opening its amateurs-only tournaments to professionals. And he was a Sherlockian: he was a member of the Five Orange Pips of Westchester County, and he owned the four surviving pages of the manuscript of "The Crooked Man" and first contributed to The Baker Street Journal in 1970 with a paper suggesting that Moriarty was a woman. He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1972.

January 2010 #6

13202. "During one of the Church of England's more gruesome civil wars recently, I happened to meet the Archbishop of Canterbury at a literary festival," A. N. Wilson wrote in the December issue of the British edition of the Reader's Digest. "I asked how he managed to stay sane. 'I just keep reading the Sherlock Holmes stories,' he said." The article was titled "Sherlock Holmes: What *is* the Secret of His Success?"
13203. "Sherlock Holmes" is the title of a new DVD released on Jan. 26 by The Asylum Home Entertainment (\$24.95), nicely timed to benefit from the attention given to Guy Ritchie's film. This one's billed as "an explosive, creaturefilled mystery adventure in the vein of Harry Potter and Hellboy," and it's a low-budget film produced last year in Wales. Sherlock Holmes is played by Ben Snyder and Watson by David Gareth-Lloyd, and they're supported by a cast that includes a sea monster, dinosaurs, fantastic steam-punk machinery and a robot; the film's not to be taken seriously (the box for the DVD carries a warning that it "contains scene of creature and sci-fi action"), and there is more about the film (and the company) at <www.theasylum.cc>. "Attack of the Clones" is a long and interesting article by Brian Raftery about The Asylum that appeared in the January issue of Wired; according to Raftery, the company's planning to make "a meteor film, an airplane-disaster movie, a western, and something called 'MILF'."
13204. Tim O'Connor reports that "The Sherlock Holmes Collection" (a two-sided DVD from Echo Bridge Entertainment in 2009) has three of the Matt Frewer television films ("The Hound of the Baskervilles"/"The Case of the Whitechapel Vam Vampire"/"The Royal Scandal") in a box with artwork echoing the colors of the posters for Guy Ritchie's "Sherlock Holmes" (sold on discount racks at Target for \$5.00). And there's a variant with more sedate generic artwork in black and white (sold on discount racks at Walmart for \$5.00).
13205. "Majoring in the Memoirs" is the theme of this year's "Gathering of Southern Sherlockians" in Chattanooga, Tenn., on Apr. 17-18; their mailing list is maintained by Kent Ross (721 Hartford Road, Springfield, OH 45503) (678-464-8321) <kenthross@aol.com>.
13206. The Norwegian Explorers' "Christmas Annual 2009" includes Timothy Reich's amusing "A Theft Forgiven: A Newspaper Vendor's Letter to Watson", Robert Brusic's "A Baker Street Visit from St. Nicholas", and other entertainment and scholarship; the 50-page booklet is available from John Bergquist (3665 Ashbury Road, Eagan, MN 55122) for \$8.00 postpaid (please make checks payable to The Norwegian Explorers).
13207. Reported: Michael Chabon's MANHOOD FOR AMATEURS: THE PLEASURES AND REGRETS OF A HUSBAND, FATHER, AND SON (New York: Harper, 2009; 320 pp., \$25.99) includes an essay titled "The Ghost of Irene Adler" (not really Sherlockian).
13208. There's a new date for the conference planned by The Norwegian Explorers in Minneapolis (May 09 #1): "The Spirits of Sherlock Holmes" will be held on Aug. 6-8 at the Elmer L. Anderson Library at the University of Minnesota. You can enroll on the mailing list by contacting Gary Thaden (2301 Aldrich Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55404) <norwegianexplorers@gmail.com>. The conferences have been held every three years, with interesting events and good attendance.

January 2010 #7

13209. "Sherlock Holmes. Duration: 2 hours and 6 minutes. Can you hold it that long?" Kelly Blau discovered <www.runpee.com>, a website devoted to "helping your bladder enjoy going to the movies as much as you do." "Sherlock Holmes" is one of the films, with synopses provided for four points recommended by the site for bathroom breaks.
13210. Guy Ritchie's "Sherlock Holmes" obviously is a commercial success: according to the Box Office Mojo web-site, as of Jan. 27 (32 days after the film opened, the film had grossed \$389.1 million worldwide (\$192.1 million domestic and \$197.0 million foreign), and ranked #121 in the list of biggest grossing films ("Avatar" is #1 with \$1.878 billion, and "Titanic" is 2 with \$1.848 billion). And the attention devoted to the film has had some interesting side-effects: reviews and side-bar stories included interviews with local Sherlockians and publicity for local Sherlockian societies, and (according to the Hollywood Reporter) sales of the MPI Media set of "Sherlock lock Holmes" DVDs increased by nearly one-third in the first week after the film's release.

13211. Dennis Palumbo, blogging about the film to the Huffington Post on Jan. 5, recalled and told once again the famous (perhaps infamous) "tent joke" that was posted to The Hounds of the Internet in July 1998 and apparently first published in the Nov. 1998 issue of the Reader's Digest. I've reported the full text of the joke some years ago (December 01 #6); I won't reprint it here.
13212. "Sherlock Holmes (well-cut trenches) meets Edwardian dandy (slick, elegant, eight-button double-breasted suits) meets...Hong Kong Phooey? (silk boxer briefs)." That's GQ's description of John Galiano's fall 2010 collection, unveiled in Paris this month; thanks to Mitch Higurashi for a URL that has lots of photographs <www.gq.com/fashion-shows/brief/F2010MEN-JGMEN>. One suspects, of course, that Galiano was inspired by the Guy Ritchie film.
13213. Robert Downey Jr. received the Hollywood Foreign Press Association's Golden Globe Award for best performance as an actor in a motion picture (musical or comedy) for his performance in "Sherlock Holmes" (winning over Matt Damon, Daniel Day-Lewis, Joseph Gordon Levitt, and Michael Stuhlborg), and in his acceptance speech (one of the more interesting during the evening) he quoted the Canon: "Art in the blood is liable to take the strangest forms," he said, noting that the Hollywood Foreign Press Association is a "strange bunch."
13214. The Critics' Choice Awards (bestowed by the Broadcast Film Critics Association) included a nomination for Hans Zimmer ("Sherlock Holmes"); the winner in the category was Michael Giacchino ("Up"); nominations were announced on Dec. 14, and the awards were made on Jan. 15.
13215. Jacquelynn Morris reports that Laurie R. King will speak (and sign books) at East Columbia Branch of the Howard County Library at 5:00 pm on Apr. 30; 6000 Cradlerock Way, Columbia, MD 21045. More information will be available at <www.hclibrary.com>. Laurie will be on tour promoting the new Mary Russell novel THE GOD OF THE HIVE.

February 2010 #1

13216. The papers presented at "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: A Sesquicentennial Symposium" at the Houghton Library at Harvard last May have been published as PAPERS AT AN EXHIBITION, and it is a delightful volume, with 14 papers about Conan Doyle, Sherlock Holmes, and Sherlockians, and a full-color dust jacket showing a portrait of Holmes by Frederic Dorr Steele. \$38.95 postpaid to the U.S. (or \$49.50 elsewhere) from The Baker Street Irregulars (3040 Sloat Road, Pebble Beach, CA 93953) <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>.
13217. Jeremy Paul's play "The Secret of Sherlock Holmes" (originally commissioned by Jeremy Brett in 1988) will be performed at the People's Light & Theatre, from July 7 through Aug. 8; 39 Conestoga Road, Malvern, PA 19355 (610-544-3500) <www.peopleslight.org>.
13218. Spotted by Joan Betzner: THE GRAPHIC NOVEL ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Vincent Goodwin, from the ABDO Publishing Co.; six titles, \$28.50 each, tgfkm, \$19.95 each at the company's web-site <www.abdopub.com>; you can also request a catalog (8000 West 78th Street #310, Edina, MN 55439 (800-800-1312).
13219. THE CARLTON HOBBS SHERLOCK HOLMES COLLECTION (BBC Audiobooks, 2010; £30.00) is a set of three CDs with twelve programs from the old 30-minute Carlton Hobbs/Norman Shelley series and new introductions by Nicholas Utechin, that were broadcast by BBC Digital Radio 7 in 2004; Hobbs and Shelley did (and Utechin does) well indeed.
13220. There's a trailer for The Asylum's DVD "Sherlock Holmes" (January 10 #6); Lloyd Rose spotted it at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=DbJgOYupRT>.
13221. Catherine Wynne discusses the connections, both literary and personal, between Arthur Conan Doyle and Bram Stoker in her interesting introduction to a new reprint of Conan Doyle's THE PARASITE and Stoker's THE WATTEY'S MOU' (Kansas City: Valancourt Books, 2009, 163 pp., \$16.95); the book also reprints Conan Doyle's "John Barrington Cowles", Stoker's "The Coming of Abel Behenna", and an interview written by Stoker after a visit with Conan Doyle at Hindhead in 1907, and offers a fine look at authors who are much better known for Sherlock Holmes and Dracula. Valancourt has reprinted two other books by Conan Doyle, and has many other authors in print; their website's at <www.valancourtbooks.com>.
13222. Frogwares' latest Sherlockian adventure game for computers "Sherlock Holmes vs. Jack the Ripper" was released last year (April 09 #7); Dreamcatcher plans to release the game for Xbox 360 in March. There are screen shots and much more at <www.sherlockholmes-thegame.com/en/sh>.
13223. The December issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota has Dana Richards' "50 Years Ago" discussion of Martin Gardner, accompanied by Gardner's "Remembering John Bennett Shaw", Russell Merritt's reminiscences about Chris Steinbrunner, and other news from and about the Collections; copies of the newsletter are available from Richard J. Sveum (111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <sveum001@tc.umn.edu>.

February 2010 #2

13224. Jeff Katz has reported an 87th language for translations of the Canon: HANETA is A STUDY IN SCARLET translated into Tigrigna (a language in Eritrea). It's available from Ibex (a Swedish on-line company that specializes in African books) for 125kr (about \$17.50); you can order at <www.ibexbook.com/book/haneta>. The new discovery will be listed in the next edition of THE GALACTIC SHERLOCK HOLMES, Don Hobbs' electronic bibliography of translations; a one-year subscription (with two to three up-dated CDs) costs \$15.00 (to the U.S.) or \$20.00 (elsewhere), from Don at 2100 Elm Creek Lane, Flower Mound, TX 75028.
13225. The Westport Community Theatre has scheduled F. Andrew Leslie's dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" for Apr. 9-21; Town Hall, Westport, CT 06880 (203-226-1983) <www.westportcommunitytheatre.com>.
13226. The Mystery Writers of America have announced the nominees for Edgars (to be awarded at their gala banquet on Apr. 29 in New York). The nominees include (best juvenile) Nancy's Springer's THE CASE OF THE CRYPTIC CRINOLINE, (the latest in her series featuring Sherlock Holmes' younger sister Enola). The MWA web-site <www.mysterywriters.org/pages/awards/nominees07.htm> lists the nominees in all the categories.
13227. YOUNG SHERLOCK HOLMES: DEATH CLOUD is the title of the first book in Andrew Lane's new series for children (April 09 #7); it's due from Macmillan in the UK on June 4, and there's a one-minute trailer at <www.youngsherlock.com>.
13228. "Walk in the footsteps of Sherlock Holmes," advises MC Black, who offers to guide visitors to appropriate Canonical locales, with the price discounted to £5.00 for those who say the magic word [scuttlebutt]. He has a web-site at <www.detectivewalks.co.uk>, and he's at Hardknott, Chadwell, Ware, Hertfordshire SG12 9JY, England <info@detectivewalks.co.uk>.
13229. Sorry about that: the correct dates for the conference ("Spirits of Sherlock Holmes") planned by the Norwegian Explorers in Minneapolis (January 10 #6) at Aug. 6-8.
13230. Francine Kitts reports that there's a third Sherlockian mystery jigsaw (January 10 #4): it's "The Case of the Fallen Actress" and she discovered all three of them priced at \$2.99 each at her local Christmas Tree Shop (which is a discount-store chain that seems to be open throughout the year).
13231. Boa Sr. died this month. She was 85 years old, a member of the Great Andamese tribe, and the last person to be able to speak Bo, one of the ancient tribal dialects in the Andaman Islands; it is not known whether Tonga was a speaker of Bo, but (thanks to the BBC) you can listen to a recording of Boa Sr. speaking Bo <news.bbc.co.uk/today/h/today/newsid_8499000/8499752.stm>.

13232. THE FRENCH ARTILLERY OFFICER, by Lawrence Fischman (Dallas: Gram's Group, 2009; 491 pp., \$26.95 cloth/\$18.95 paper) is billed as "a Sherlock Holmes/John Watson adventure" and offers plenty for both of them to do, working to help save Alfred Dreyfus from a second conviction, and involved with Winston Churchill, La belle Otero, Auguste Escoffier, Cesar Ritz, Mycroft, and a variety of villains of various nationalities and allegiances; you can order on-line at <www.thefrenchartilleryofficer.com>.

February 2010 #3

13233. It's nice news indeed that "The Rivals of Sherlock Holmes: Set 2" will be issued by Acorn Media in March with the second set of 13 programs that were broadcast in the U.S. in 1972 and in the U.K. in 1973 (\$59.99). As with the first set (January 10 #3), there are excellent performances by actors who include Douglas Wilmer (Prof. Augustus S. F. X. Van Dusen), Charles Gray (Eugene Valmont), Barrie Ingham (Dr. John Thorndyke), and John Thaw (Lieutenant Holst).
13234. SHERLOCK HOLMES CASEBOOK: FAMOUS CRIME SCENES, a series of attractive artwork by Larry Gosser, now runs to nine scenes (\$9.95 each). and you can see them all in full color at his web-site <www.drawingroomg.com>; just click on "gallery" to see his Sherlockian and other art.
13235. "Is It Inevitable, My Dear Watson?" was the headline on Lenny Picker's informative article in Publishers Weekly (Jan. 18), reflecting on the likelihood of another "boom" resulting from all the attention that has been given to Guy Ritchie's new film; you can read all about it at their web-site at <www.publishersweekly.com/article/CA6715287.html>.
13236. Rod Mollise's web-site <skywatch.brainiac.com/holmes/index.htm> is an interesting "Homage to the Master"; he offers newly annotated versions of the first eight short stories, and his paper on "The Erotic Hound: Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES as a Text of Pleasure".
13237. THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES: A SHERLOCK HOLMES GRAPHIC NOVEL is the first in a new series adapted by Ian Edginton and illustrated by I. N. J. Culbard (London: SelfMadeHero, 2009; 132 pp., £14.99); it's nicely done, with fine artwork, and there's an American edition from Sterling (\$14.95). A STUDY IN SCARLET is next, followed by THE SIGN OF FOUR and THE VALLEY OF FEAR.
13238. The Falls Players will perform Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" at the Lunda Theater Stage on Apr. 16-18; Box 371, Black River Falls, WI 54615 (715-896-4123) <www.fallsplayers.org>.
13239. The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times10-1.htm>, with offers of interesting Sherlockiana, old and new, including a CD with Joel Senter's radio drama "The Golf Stroker's Quirk" from its premiere performance during the Canonical Convocation and Caper in Door County, Wis., in 1996.
13240. "Lively and cogent speculations on the life and times of Sherlock Holmes, including a new theory on the site of 221B," was Edgar W. Smith's description of Gavin Brend's MY DEAR HOLMES (London: Allen & Unwin, 1951). Francine and Richard Kitts have found mint copies of the second impression of this classic, in dust jacket, and are offering them for \$30.00 postpaid to the U.S. (\$35.00 elsewhere); you can contact Francine at 35 Van Cortlandt Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10301 <fkitts@aol.com>.
13241. The script for K. C. Brown's play "Sherlock's Veiled Secret" has been published by the Dramatists Play Service (440 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016) <www.dramatists.com>; \$5.25 plus postage. The play is set in 1920, when young Violet Sheridan discovers she has a family connection to Sherlock Holmes and collaborates with him on a case involving blackmail.
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February 2010 #4

13242. THE SHERLOCK HOLMES COMPANION: AN ELEMENTARY GUIDE, by Daniel Smith (London: Aurum Press, 2009; 192 pp., £20.00/\$27.95), is an interesting, attractive, and useful book; he offers summaries for each of the stories (without spoilers), essays on Conan Doyle and Holmes and the Canon, interviews with actors and authors, and a wealth of artwork and illustrations. It's an excellent demonstration of how much fun the world of Sherlock Holmes can be.
13243. The detailed schedule and registration form for "Sherlock Holmes: The Man and His Worlds" (to be held at Bennington College in Bennington, Vt., June 24-27, 2010) is now available from Sally Sugarman (Box 407, Shaftsbury, VT 05262) and at <www.bakerstreetbreakfastclub.com>.
13244. The March issue of Playboy has a Sherlockian cartoon by Clive Colins, and news of GAHAN WILSON: 50 YEARS OF PLAYBOY CARTOONS (Seattle: Fantagraphics Books, 2010; 942 pp., \$125.00); three volumes in a slipcase, with introductions by Neil Gaiman and Hugh Hefner. Gahan's first Sherlockian contribution to Playboy was in the Dec. 1959 issue, and he has had many S'ian cartoons in later issues.
13245. Ken Lanza found a new Sherlockian first day cover for the new "Seabiscuit" stamped envelope created by Tris Fall at Baker Street Cachets, which began last year with the Edgar Allan Poe stamp and now has four different covers available <www.tinyurl.com/ycbcyzu>.
13246. Malice Domestic has reported that Nancy Springer's THE CASE OF THE CRYPTIC CRINOLINE, the fifth in her series featuring Enola Holmes, 14 years old and the younger sister of Mycroft and Sherlock, has been nominated for an Agatha (best children's/young adult novel); the winners will be announced at the convention banquet on May 1.
13247. The comic book mini-series VICTORIAN UNDEAD: SHERLOCK HOLMES VS ZOMBIES has reached it's third issue (March, \$2.99 from Wildstorm), with an interesting story by Ian Edginton and fine artwork by Davide Fabbri; there are previews at the web-site <www.dccomics.com/wildstorm/comics/?cm=13662>.
13248. Pj Doyle reports: "Fringe's annual 'Five Fifths of...' is tackling a Sherlock Holmes story this year." That's the Minnesota Fringe, and the event will be at the Ritz Theatre in Minneapolis on May 3; the Fringe has invited five different performing arts companies to "tear apart and piece back one of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's stories" More information will be available at <www.fringefestival.com>.
13249. Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine has added podcasts to its web-site, and one of them is Steve Hockensmith and Michael Wilttrout reading Steve's "Dear Dr. Watson" (from the Feb. 2007 issue). Go to <www.themysteryplace.com/eqmm> and scroll down to the podcast link.
13250. Michael Procter has discovered Retrovision Internet TV, a web-site that has a wide variety of films and television programs that you can watch on-line at <www.retrovision.tv>; the Sherlockian offerings range from Arthur Wontner's "The Sleeping Cardinal" (1931) to Christopher Lee's "Sherlock Holmes and the Leading Lady" (1992).
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February 2010 #5

13251. DREAMS OF FUTURE PAST: THE SCIENCE FICTION WORLDS OF ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE AND H. G. WELLS, by Dana Martin Batory (Indianapolis: Wessex Press, 2010; 141 pp., \$13.95), is a collection of essays published in the 1980s and 1990s in hard-to-find magazines such as Riverside Quarterly and The Age of the Unicorn, and Batory offers interesting insights into the work of Conan Doyle and Wells. The publisher's address is: Box 68308, Indianapolis, IN 46256 <www.wessexpress.com>.
13252. The Baker Street Irregulars were born and nurtured in the pages of the Saturday Review of Literature, but the SRL was not the first American literary magazine to aid and abet Sherlockians: The Bookman came first, and did so during its entire history from 1895 to 1933. The editors (Harry
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Thurston Peck and Arthur Bartlett Maurice) debated "The Hound of the Baskervilles" as each episode was published in the American edition of The Strand Magazine, and in Feb. 1903 an editor described a contributor to The Bookman's Letter-Box as a "true Sherlockian," the first known usage of the word. And over the years The Bookman published commentary, articles (by authors that included Arthur Conan Doyle and Vincent Starrett), and pastiches and parodies (by Charlton Andrews, Corey Ford, and others). SHERLOCK HOLMES, CONAN DOYLE & THE BOOKMAN, edited and annotated by S. E. Dahlinger and Leslie S. Klinger (Indianapolis: Gasogene Books, 2010; 271 pp., \$29.95), is a fascinating demonstration of just how much Sherlockians and Doyleans owe to The Bookman. Gasogene Books is an imprint of the Wessex Press; see above for the publisher's address.

13253. Forecast for March (from Doubleday): THE DEVIL AND SHERLOCK HOLMES: TALES OF MURDER, MADNESS, AND OBSESSION, by David Grann (352 pp., \$26.95) (and from Simon & Schuster in the U.K., £12.99); Grann is a staff writer for The New Yorker, and the collection includes his 2004 article "Mysterious Circumstances" about the death of Richard Lancelyn Green.
13254. There's a new 30-second animated Sherlockian commercial, for Red Bull, and you can watch it at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=M0FykOCcX1E>. There's also a Sherlockian puppet in two 1-minute commercials (Episodes 2 and 3) at <www.nikebasketball.com>; check the "Crew" to see more of The Detective.
13255. "Arthur & George" (the new play by David Edgar based on the novel by Julian Barnes about Conan Doyle and Edalji) will premiere at the Birmingham Repertory Theatre from Mar. 19 to Apr. 10 (November 09 #4), and will then move to the Nottingham Playhouse from Apr. 22 to May 8 (Wellington Circus, Nottingham, NG1 5AF, England (0115-941-0410) <www.nottinghamplayhouse.co.uk>
13256. Spotted by Evy Herzog: COLOR YOUR OWN GRAPHIC NOVEL: SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, adapted and illustrated by John Green (Mineola: Dover Publications, 2009; 46 pp., \$4.99); an imaginative approach, and it's nicely executed. Dover also has issued SHERLOCK HOLMES PAPER DOLLS, by Tom Tierney (32 pp., \$9.99); Holmes, Watson, Moriarty, Lestrade, and Irene Adler, with different costumes, and interchangeable heads for many actors who have played Holmes and Watson over the years. And a SHERLOCK HOLMES ACTIVITY BOOK, by David Schimmell (48 pp., \$4.99); 32 puzzles for young detectives. Also the SHERLOCK HOLMES STICKER ACTIVITY BOOK, by Arkady Roytman (4 pp., \$1.50); you create your own crime scenes with 20 reusable stickers. The publisher's web-site is at <www.doverpublications.com>.

February 2010 #6

13257. Forecast for April (from Bantam Books, 368 pp., \$25.00): Laurie R. King's THE GOD OF THE HIVE, her tenth Mary Russell/Sherlock Holmes novel. There are excerpts from the novel at <www.laurierking.com>, weekly episodes of a new short story ("A Case of Correspondence"), contests (she's now well into "Twenty Weeks of Buzz!"), links to blogs (both ladies have their own blogs) and to Russell's tweets at <www.twitter.com>.
13258. SHERLOCK HOLMES - THE DEATH AND LIFE, a two-CD set from Big Finish (PO Box 3787, Maidenhead, Berks. SL6 3TF, England) <www.bigfinish.com>, is a twoact play written by David Stuart Davies and performed by Roger Llewellyn in 2008 in Guildford, and then on tour. It's an imaginative script and a fine performance, and the CD set costs \$24.40 (or \$12.99 as a download); the set includes interviews with Llewellyn, Davies, and director Nicholas Briggs. SHERLOCK HOLMES - THE LAST ACT, written by Davies for Llewellyn and first performed in 1999 and then on tour, was recorded and issued last year on a similar two-CD set, available from Big Finish (same address, same price).
13259. It's nice when radio station keep their program available in archives: Doug Wrigglesworth and Karen Campbell were on the CBC series "Fresh Air" on Feb. 7 discussing the new film, Sherlock Holmes, Sherlockians, and The Bootmakers of Toronto, and you can listen to the 13-minute segment at the CBC website at <www.cbc.ca/freshair/2010/02/sherlock_holmes_livesontario_m.htm>.
13260. Martin Gardner is an entertaining and knowledgeable writer; there are Canonical allusions in his THE ANNOTATED CASEY AT THE BAT (1984) and THE ANNOTATED NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS (1991), and many other books, and his WHEN YOU WERE A TADPOLE AND I WAS A FISH: AND OTHER SPECULATIONS ABOUT THIS AND THAT (New York: Hill and Wang, 2009; 246 pp. \$26.00) is an interesting collection of essays about science, bogus science, mathematics, and other topics; Conan Doyle appears in two essays, both about bogus science.
13261. Guy Ritchie's "Sherlock Holmes" won two Oscar nominations: Sarah Greenwood and Katie Spencer (best art direction) and Hans Zimmer (best achievement in music written for motion pictures, original score); the winners will be announced on Mar. 7. And Robert Downey Jr. won an Irish Film and Television Award (best international actor) on Feb. 20 in Dublin.
13262. According to the Box Office Mojo web-site, the film has grossed more than \$462 million worldwide, and is now in the top 100 all-time films ("Avatar" is #1, with \$2.463 billion).
13263. Entertainment web-sites have reported that Warner Home Video plans to issue the film on Blu-ray disc and on DVD on Mar. 30; the Blu-ray disc (\$35.99) will have many additional features that aren't listed for the DVD (\$28.98), but the company likely will also issue a special DVD with that includes the features. The success of the film has won some attention from film-makers who are said to be considering up-dated "action" version of "The Three Musketeers" and "Treasure Island". And Al Gregory spotted a report in Retail Jeweller (Jan. 21) that jewellers have noted an increase in demand for fob or pocket watches coinciding with the release of the movie.

March 2010 #1

13264. If you're a member of the generation that still wishes your mother hadn't thrown out your collection of comic books, the record for the world's most expensive magazine is now held by a very-fine copy of Detective Comics #27 (May 1939), in which The Bat-Man first appeared: it brought \$1,075,500 (including the buyer's premium) at auction last month.
13265. Tom Tierney's SHERLOCK HOLMES PAPER DOLLS (February 10 #5) is artistic and imaginative, with Holmes, Watson, Moriarty, Lestrade, Irene Adler, Irene Adler, and Mrs. Hudson in different costumes, and a set of interchangeable heads for 30 pairs of actors who have played Holmes and Watson, from Gillette and Mason to Downey and Law (and Cohen and Ferrell, who may or may not get to make a Sherlock Holmes film). Published by Dover in 2009 (32 pp., \$9.99) <www.doverpublications.com>.
13266. Jon Lellenberg has noted Douglas Kerr's interesting article "The Straight Left: Sport and the Nation" in the March issue of Victorian Literature and Culture. His title alludes to "The Solitary Cyclist" ("It was a straight left against a slogging ruffian"), and Kerr explains persuasively why Conan Doyle's enthusiastic participation in sports, his writing about the subject, and his understand of sporting culture have a great deal to tell us about Victorian Britain." The journal is published by the Cambridge University Press, and the article is available on the Internet as a PDF file at <www.journals.cambridge.org>.
13267. Roger Johnson has reported in his excellent newsletter The District Messenger that BBC Radio 4 will air a new program in their series written by Bert Coules and starring Clive Merrison and Andrew Sachs as Holmes and Watson. "The Marlbourne Point Mystery" will be broadcast in two parts on Apr. 5 and 6, and you can listen to it on-line. The program will be included with two others in THE FURTHER ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: VOLUME FOUR, from BBC Audiobooks in April (£17.99).

13268. The District Messenger (launched in 1985 and now with more than 300 issues) is available by mail from Roger, at 41 Sandford Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 6DE, England, and on-line at <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/district.php>.
13269. Laurie R. King's Mary Russell short story "A Venomous Death" was published as a 14x20" broadside last year (April 09 #4), and her new broadside story is "Birth of a Green Man" (illuminating a character in her upcoming THE GOD OF THE HIVE); 250 copies, numbered and signed by Laurie and artist Jean Lukens (\$25.00 plus shipping). Details at <www.laurierking.com>, where you will also find contests and an invitation to a Russell/Holmes Twitter Party at <www.twitterfall.com/#hivegod> (sorry, the party will be over by the time you read this, but you can read what those at the party have tweeted).
13270. THE GOD OF THE HIVE (New York: Bantam Books, 2010; 368 pp., \$25.00) continues the story that began last year in THE LANGUAGE OF BEES. Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes and Mycroft Holmes are all being pursued by the official police, Holmes' son Damian and granddaughter Estelle are in serious peril, and there's a villainous opponent behind it all; the supporting characters are interesting, and there are interesting twists and turns.
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March 2010 #2

13271. THE DARK DETECTIVE: SHERLOCK HOLMES began last year as a three-issue comic-book mini-series from Black House Comics in Australia (AU\$5.00 each), but there are now four issues (with more to come, presumably; macabre and gruesome, with stories by Christopher Sequeira and art by Australian Sherlockian Phil Cornell and others. You can order at their web-site <www.blackhousecomics.com/the-dark-detective-sherlock-holmes.html> and download a free preview of the series.
13272. Francine Kitts discovered Read How You Want, which offers a wide variety of large-print books in sizes from 16pt to 24pt, and in Braille editions, with many of Conan Doyle's Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian books available. The web-site is at <www.readhowyouwant.com>.
13273. The Los Angeles Chronicle reported (Feb. 25) that a new annual independent paranormal film festival will debut at the 2010 Paranormal Symposium in Angel Fire, N. Mex., Sept. 9-12; the festival will present Sir Arthur Awards to winning submissions, honoring his interest in spiritualism and the paranormal. The symposium is sponsored by the Alliance Studying Paranormal Experiences, and more information is available at <www.aspefiles.org>.
13274. CNN sent Katie Walmsley to record some of the birthday festivities in New York, and broadcast a 3-minute segment on Jan. 21. You can view the segment (which includes interviews with some of the Sherlockians on hand for the festivities) at <www.tinyurl.com/ydwb34j>.
13275. William Gillette's play "Sherlock Holmes" will be produced at the Rochester Civic Theatre, Sept. 10-26; 20 Civic Center Drive SE, Rochester, MN 55904 (507-282-8481) <www.rochestercivictheatre.org>.
13276. The Noble and Most Singular Order of the Blue Carbuncle will hold its 35th annual Reichenbach Day at Mulnomah Falls, near Portland, Ore. It's a festive event, and more information is available from Kent Teynor (910 NW Island Terrace #B-4, Beaverton, OR 97006) <kent@teleport.com>.
13277. The registration form for "The Spirits of Sherlock Holmes" (the conference in Minneapolis on Aug. 6-8) is now available from Gary Thaden (2301 Aldrich Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55404) <norwegianexplorers@gmail.com>. The University of Minnesota's Anderson Library will have an exhibition with the same title from June 1 through Aug. 29, exploring "the many meanings of the word 'spirits' and how they relate to Sherlock Holmes, Arthur Conan Doyle, and the Victorian Era. And the Library's gallery will have an exhibition highlighting the collection of the late Allen Mackler (whose replica of the sitting-room also is on display at the Library).
13278. Jon Lellenberg has noted Douglas Kerr's interesting article "The Straight Left: Sport and the Nation" in the March issue of Victorian Literature and Culture. His title alludes to "The Solitary Cyclist" ("It was a straight left against a slogging ruffian"), and Kerr explains persuasively why Conan Doyle's enthusiastic participation in sports, his writing about the subject, and his understand of sporting culture have a great deal to tell us about Victorian Britain." The journal is published by the Cambridge University Press, and the article is available on the Internet as a PDF file at <www.journals.cambridge.org>.
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March 2010 #3

13279. A commemorative Green Plaque has been installed at the Langham by the City of Westminster, the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, the Oscar Wilde Society, and the hotel. Unveiled by Gyles Brandreth on Mar. 19, the plaque reads "Oscar Wilde and Arthur Conan Doyle dined here with the publisher of 'Lippincott's Magazine' on 30 August 1899, a meeting that led to 'The Sign of Four' & 'The Picture of Dorian Gray'." The plaque is green not because of the Irish heritage of the two authors, but rather because the City of Westminster uses green to distinguish its plaques from the blue plaques installed by English Heritage.
13280. The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times10-3.htm>, with news of their plans for a 2011 calendar featuring likenesses of Sherlockians pets, plus offers of interesting Sherlockiana, old and new.
13281. The latest catalog from Acorn (Box 1670, West Chester, OH 45071) (888-870-8047) <www.acornonline.com> offers "Sherlock Holmes: Collector's Edition" (\$39.99) with Christopher Lee's "Incident at Victoria Falls" and "Sherlock Holmes and the Leading Lady", and the documentary "The Secret Identity of Jack the Ripper" narrated by Peter Ustinov, on a 5-DVD set with a 32-page booklet in a gift tin.
13282. Well known for his assistance to Conan Doyle with THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, B. Fletcher Robinson was a prolific writer, and his RUGBY FOOTBALL, first published in 1896, offers a detailed look at a sport that's perceived by many Americans as merely an excuse for post-game drinking and singing. Of course rugby also is of interest to Sherlockians, and his book explains well just what a three-quarter does, and why it can be a disaster if he's missing. RUGBY FOOTBALL DURING THE NINETEENTH CENTURY (London: MX Publishing, 2010; 338 pp., £9.99/\$15.99/E12.99) is a facsimile reprint of Fletcher Robinson's book, accompanied by some modern essays, all compiled by Paul R. Spiring.
13283. Some Americans do take rugby seriously, Paul notes, and are pleased that it will be reinstated as an Olympic sport in 2016 in Rio de Janeiro. The U.S. will be the defending champion, having won gold medals the last time rugby was an Olympic sport, in 1924.
13284. The Hollywood Reporter announced (Feb. 22) that PBS-TV will co-produce the BBC "Sherlock" television series co-created by Mark Gatiss and Steven Moffat (July 09 #4); Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman will star as Holmes and Watson. This Holmes will be a modern-day detective, giving the series a "21st century spin." Filming is now underway, Gatiss has said that "the fact that Steven, myself, and millions of others are still addicted to Conan Doyle's brilliant stories is testament to their indestructibility."
13285. Jim Suszynski has noted Caroline Lawrence's "The Roman Mysteries" series, from Orion's Children's Books in London; the detective is a young girl in ancient Rome, and there are 17 books in the series, which started in 2002 and ended this year. THE LEGIONARY FROM LONDINIUM AND OTHER MINI-MYSTORIES (176 pp., £6.99) is an additional collection of short stories that fills in gaps and wraps up loose ends, and two of the stories were inspired by tales from the Canon. The author has a web-site at <www.romanmysteries.com>.
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March 2010 #4

13286. The next annual STUD-Watsonian Weekend will be held in and near Chicago on Apr. 23-25; the schedule includes a dinner (with a musical tribute to Sherlock Holmes), a running of The Silver Blaze at Hawthorne Race Course, and a Fortescue Honours brunch. Registration forms are available from Susan Z. Diamond (16W603 3rd Avenue, Bensenville, IL 60106) <szdiamond@comcast.net>.
13287. The Beacon Society has announced a May 15 deadline for teachers, librarians, Sherlockian literary societies, and others to apply for a January Stauber Grant, which funds (up to \$250) development of a project that will introduce young people to the Canon. An application form, guidelines, and other details are available at the society's web-site at <www.beaconsociety.com>.
13288. "Duke Ellington Meets Sherlock Holmes" is being performed by the University of New Hampshire Dance Company from Mar. 30 through Apr. 3 (83 Main Street, Durham, NH 03824) (603-62-2290) <www.unh.edu/threatre-dance>; it's a jazz, tap, and aerial production paying homage to Sherlock Holmes through the music of Ellington, who read the Sherlock Holmes stories when he was a child (May 85 4).
13289. Ken Ludwig's play "Postmortem" (involving a mystery at William Gillette's home in Hadlyme, Conn.) will be performed by the Kanata Theatre Company on Mar. 23 through Apr. 3 (1 Ron Maslin Way, Kanata, ON K2V 1A7, Canada) (613-831-445) <www.kanatatheatre.com>.
13290. "The Strange Case of the Too Few Suspects" is a new one-act play written by Dan Hurwitz, available on-line at <writersnotebook.org>
13291. Mystery Scene Magazine has published more than a hundred issues, and it's a fine way to keep up with what's happening in the mystery genre. Edited by Kate Stine, it is published five times a year (\$32.00 a year to the U.S.) and you can subscribe by mail at 331 West 57th Street #148, New York, NY 10019, or on-line <www.mysteryscenemag.com>; the web-site offers links to articles from the current and past issues, and to all the book reviews published in the magazine.
13292. Kenneth Smookler is planning a tour "In the Footsteps of Sherlock Holmes" from Toronto to England (Sept. 28-Oct. 9), with Switzerland an additional option (Oct. 9-15); there is much more information available at a web-site <www.cwttravelsource.com/SherlockHolmes2.html>.
13293. The BBC America Shop's spring catalog (Box 681, Holmes, PA 19043) (800-898-4921) <www.bbcamericashop.com> offers a set of two "Book Lovers Mugs" (item 15137) for \$24.98; bone china, 12 ounces, decorated with "cherished, gilded leather-bound novels," from PRIDE AND PREJUDICE and JANE EYRE to SHERLOCK HOLMES and THE HOBBIT.
13294. Barry Grant's THE STRANGE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Sutton: Severn House, 2010; 13 pp., \$27.95) is an intriguing pastiche: correspondent James Wilson has been invalided home after a brief stint in Afghanistan in 2008, and encounters a mysterious detective named Cedric Coombes, who often calls Wilson Watson, and is thoroughly Sherlockian; there are mysteries to be solved (and more to come, presumably), and it's an entertaining novel.

March 2010 #5

13295. A bibliographic query from Nicholas Utechin, who is conducting research on Ronald Knox's ESSAYS IN SATIRE (1928): there was a signed and numbered limited edition of the book, and he would be delighted to hear from anyone who has a copy of the limited edition in a dust jacket. You can reach him at Highfield Farmhouse, 23 Highfield Avenue, Headington, Oxford OX3 7LR, England <highfieldfarmhouse@yahoo.co.uk>.
13296. The list of Sherlockian societies with web-sites continues to grow, and the newest one is The Crew of the S.S. May Day, in Northern Ireland; their URL is <www.thessmayday.org.uk>. The best round-up of society web-sites I know of is provided by Chris Redmond <www.sherlockian.net/societies/index.html>.
13297. Ripperologist, an electronic monthly journal edited by Eduardo Zinna, casts its net widely, and has had Sherlockian content in all three issues so far this year: "Ripping Yarns: Sherlock Holmes on Screen" (#110/Jan) is Zinna's long review of the Guy Ritchie film and retrospective review of the Rathbone films, followed by "Jeremy Brett: An Appreciation" (#111/Feb) by Jon Rees, and (also by Rees) "The BBC TV's Sherlock Holmes: Productions of the Past Decade" (#112/Mar); information on subscriptions is available on request from Zinna <editorez@yahoo.co.uk>.
13298. The campaign to preserve Undershaw, the house where Conan Doyle lived from 1897 to 1907, continues, and Jim Ballinger has reported a story on the BBC web-site that includes a two-minute video showing what the house looks like now, inside and out <www.tinyurl.com/yaa8c6c>.
13299. The Birmingham-Southern College Library now has a Sherlock Holmes Collection: Richard Green and his son Joshua have placed their Sherlockian collection on indefinite loan to the Library. The Greens are both members of the Genius Loci, the local S'ian society, which was founded at the college in 1980.
13300. The delightful Sherlockian dolls made by Martha Heller ("Martha-My-Dear") in the 1980s can again be seen in action, so to speak, in an amusing video ("Rule, Brettannia") by Amy Mantell at <www.sherlockshorts.com>, along with two earlier Sherlockian videos (August 09 #5).
13301. Al Gregory has found the web-site for Craig-a-Bella Sherlock, described as a "newly refurbished centrally heated two bedroom apartment, perched on the cliff above Poldhu Cove" <www.tinyurl.com/ybgepm2>; it's available for rental by vacationers, and the web-site says that it's the "little whitewashed house" where Holmes and Watson stayed in "The Devil's Foot".
13302. Michael Procter offers "an elegant solution for a Sherlock Holmes library" using Internet images to create attractive labels for book-shelf boxes used to store magazines and other ephemera; there is a PDF file of what he has done at <www.michael-procter.com/SHLib.pdf> and he's at <micproc@aol.com>.
13303. The Minnesota Fringe boasts that it "celebrates the wacky and the sublime (and the sublimely wacky)," and this year their sixth annual "Five-Fifths of..." event will feature five different theatrical companies or artists in five pieces of "A Study in Scarlet" on May 3 at the Ritz Theater in Minneapolis. Tickets go on sale on Apr. 1 at <www.fringefestival.org>.

March 2010 #6

13304. Peter Egan and Philip Franks had a well-received tour as Holmes and Watson in Clive Francis' "The Hound of the Baskervilles" in Britain in 2007-2008, and now they are playing Holmes and Watson once again in Jeremy Paul's "The Secret of Sherlock Holmes" (first performed by Jeremy Brett and Edward Hardwicke in 1988); the tour opened in Bath on Mar. 8 and will close in Cambridge on Apr. 24.
13305. PLANETARY: LEAVING THE 20TH CENTURY is the third in a four-volume graphic novel by Warren Ellis and John Cassaday that offers "a complete new Elijah Snow astonishing adventure" (Wildstorm, 2004, \$24.95 hardcover and \$14.99 softcover); the third volume includes issue #13 (Feb. 2001), which has an aged Holmes. Published by Wildstorm <www.dccomics.com/wildstorm>.
13306. Tracy Mack and Michael Citrin now have three titles in print in their SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE BAKER STREET IRREGULARS series for readers ages 9-12, the latest being IN SEARCH OF WATSON (December 09 #5), and there was an interesting feature article about them in the Jan.-Feb. issue of Berkshire Living (their home is in Ashley Falls, Mass.). You can read the article online at <www.berkshirelivingmag.com>.
13307. Paramount has joined The Asylum (January 10 #6) in releasing DVDs in boxes with covers in the same colors Warner Bros. is using for Guy Ritchie's "Sherlock Holmes": "Young Sherlock Holmes" (1985) has been reissued, but according to reviewers the cover is all that's new; the DVD \$19.99) is the same one that was released (\$19.99), and there are no extra features.

13308. "Sherlock Holmes" has been nominated for Saturn Awards from the Academy of Science Fiction, Fantasy & Horror Films in eight categories: best action/ adventure/thriller film, best actor (Robert Downey Jr.), best supporting actor (Jude Law), best supporting actress (Rachel McAdams), best director (Guy Ritchie), best music (Hans Zimmer), best costume (Jenny Beavan), and production design (Sarah Greenwood); the winners will be announced on June 24 in Burbank. And Jameson Empire Awards (sponsored by Jameson Irish Whiskey and Empire magazine and voted for by British film fans) went to "Sherlock Holmes" (best thriller) and Jude Law (Empire Hero)
13309. And the film continues to do extremely well at the box office: it has now grossed more than \$500 million worldwide. Department of placing things in perspective: according to Walter Scott (Parade, Mar. 28) Daniel Radcliffe will be paid \$40 million for starring in both parts of the last "Harry Potter" film, and Emma Watson and Rupert Grint will each be paid \$30 million; that's a total of \$100 million for three actors, more than the entire cost of Ritchie's "Sherlock Holmes".
13310. John Watkiss, an artist who has worked on Neil Gaiman's "Sandman" series, was commissioned by Lionel Wigram to create a set of "pitch illustrations" for the film, and is reported to have credited Watkiss' work as the leverage needed to convince Warner Bros. to proceed with the project. You can see the artwork at <www.gallerynucleus.com>; search for [watkiss]. Some of the original artwork still is available for purchase.
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April 2010 #1

13311. Christopher Redmond's A SHERLOCK HOLMES HANDBOOK (1993) was a comprehensive guide to all things Sherlockian, and the second edition (Toronto: Dundurn Press, 2009; 336 pp., \$32.00/£19.00) is even more comprehensive: Chris discusses the Sherlock Holmes stories, their author, pastiches, parodies, fans and followers, Sherlock Holmes in the media, and much more, offering intelligent comment and insight. And the book is thoroughly up to date, exploring in depth the many Sherlockian aspects of the Internet. Recommended.
13312. Sorry about that: the link for Katie Walmsley's CNN video segment about the birthday festivities in New York doesn't work. You can go to <www.cnn.com> and search for [sherlock holmes intrigues fans], or you can try this URL <www.tinyurl.com/ybcqhht>.
13313. Reported: BAKER STREET MYSTERIES is a series for readers aged 9-12, written by Tim Pigott-Smith (who has played Watson on stage and Holmes on radio), published by Hodder Children's Books in London. There are three titles so far: THE DRAGON TATTOO (2008), THE ROSE OF AFRICA (2009), and THE SHADOW OF EVIL (2009); £5.99 each.
13314. If you want to read twelve Sherlock Holmes stories on your iPod, just visit <www.notescasts.com/booksnew/sherlockholmesnotescast.html>, where you can download THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES for \$0.99.
13315. A new "Sherlock Holmes Shaped Puzzle" available from Bits and Pieces (Box 4150, Lawrenceburg, IN 47025) (866-503-6395) <www.bitsandpieces.com> comes in two formats (300 pieces or 750 pieces) (items 45849 and 45850) and costs \$16.99.
13316. Records are meant to be broken: the very-fine copy of Detective Comics #27 (May 1939) that sold for \$1,075,500 at auction in February (March 10 #1) was surpassed by the \$1.5 million paid for a copy in even better condition of Action Comics #1 (June 1938), which featured the first appearance of Superman, in March. Thanks to Paul Herbert for the report.
13317. LibraryThing is an interesting user-generated Internet project for people who want to catalog their books and make that information available to others (May 06 #8), and it's now possible to catalog someone else's library. Benjamin L. Clark has done just that for Conan Doyle, and you can see 403 titles at <www.librarything.com/profile/acdoylelibrary>. He has cast his net widely, and includes books about which Conan Doyle wrote (as in THROUGH THE MAGIC DOOR), books inscribed to Conan Doyle, books inscribed by Conan Doyle to others, and books that have the bookplate commissioned by Adrian Conan Doyle (and placed in some books purchased by Adrian and added to the library at the Chateau de Lucens). And he would be happy to hear from anyone who can add titles to the list; he's at <benjaminlclark@gmail.com>.
13318. It has been a while since I mentioned the Internet Archive (February 07 #8); the web-site offers a wide variety of scanned books. Allyn Gibson has reported that the site now offers Ellery Queen's classic anthology of pastiches and parodies THE MISADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1944), not easy to find ink-on-paper, at <www.archive.org/details/scriblio_test_044>.
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April 2010 #2

13319. Jon Lellenberg has forwarded an announcement of the 2010-2011 season at the City Lit Theater in Chicago <www.citylit.org>. A new dramatization of "The Sign of the Four" by Terry McCabe begins previews on May 27, 2011, and run through July 3. Sherlock Holmes will be played by Don Bender, who previously was Holmes in the their productions of "Holmes and Watson" (2006) and "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (2007).
13320. Anglofile, offering detailed coverage of British entertainment and formerly available by mail, now is a blog by Leslie King, and you can read her reports at <anglofileplus.livejournal.com/6322.html>.
13321. Al Gregory has noted a report in the Glasgow Herald (Apr. 1) that Liberton Bank House in Edinburgh, where Conan Doyle lived as a child, is one of 16 nominees for a Scottish Civic Trust Place Award that recognizes "good local design and conservation." The formerly-derelict 18th-century house was renovated and converted into the Dunedin School (April 09 #2).
13322. Our new set of four stamps honoring "Cowboys of the Silver Screen" includes one commemorating Roy Rogers, who starred in the western "San Fernando Valley" (1944). When a herd of horses is rustled one dark evening, Roy deduces that it must have been an inside job, because of the ranch dog; Roy noted that "If they'd a been strangers, he would've barked, and there wasn't a peep out of him." William S. Hart, Gene Autry, and Tom Mix are the other three cowboys, so far with no known Sherlockian connections.
13323. GRAPHIC CLASSICS is an attractive series of collections and anthologies edited by Tom Pomplun and featuring imaginative artwork; vol. 2 was devoted to Conan Doyle's work (April 02 #7), and it was followed by vol. 12 (ADVENTURE STORIES) with "The Crime of the Brigadier", a "special edition" with "John Barrington Cowles", and a revised and expanded second edition of vol. 2 (June 08 #6). Vol. 17 (SCIENCE FICTION CLASSICS), published in 2009 (144 pp.) included "The Disintegration Machine". Almost all of the issues can be ordered at <www.graphicclassics.com>: vol. 2 (second edition) and vol. 12 cost \$11.95 each, the special edition is \$6.95, and vol. 17 is \$17.95; you can also see samples of the artists' work at the web-site. Eureka Productions is the publisher (8778 Oak Grove Road, Mount Horeb, WI 53572), and (due in October) their CHRISTMAS CLASSICS will include British cartoonist Hunt Emerson's new adaptation of "The Blue Carbuncle".
13324. There was an interesting run of The Strand Magazine at auction at PBA Galleries in San Francisco on Mar. 18, from the collection of Roger Wagner, who had a nearly complete run from Jan. 1891 to Mar. 1950 in publisher's cloth, library cloth, and single issues in wrappers. Estimated at \$6,000-9,000, the lot went unsold.
13325. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists (aka The Friends of Sherlock Holmes) met to honor the world's first forensic geologist with drinks and dinner at Ralph and Kacoo's in New Orleans on Apr. 14, when the visiting geologists were welcomed by Dr. Rennie Culver on behalf of the local Sherlockians (Le Cercle de Sherlock Holmes). Our next meetings will be in Denver on Nov. 3, in Houston on Apr. 13, in Minneapolis on Oct. 12.
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April 2010 #3

13326. Thomas A. Stetak ("The Head of the Police at Cleveland") died on Apr. 12. He owned a company that restored historic buildings and energetically pursued history, both local and Victorian, and he presided over Mrs. Hudson's Lodgers of Cleveland; as a resident of Cleveland he was delighted when he received his thoroughly appropriate Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1990.
13327. "Jack el Destripador contra Sherlock Holmes" is the name of a tour that Luz Retamar has led for five years for Spanish tourists who want to join Holmes in pursuing Jack through the actual locations in London. You can read more about the tour (in Spanish) at <viajesconimaginacion.com> and (in English) in issue #113 of Ripperologist, an electronic monthly journal edited by Eduardo Zinna <editorez@yahoo.co.uk>.
13328. Recently discovered: THE ADVENTURE OF THE SOLITARY CYCLIST (Mankato: Creative Education, 1991); it's a 48-page book with attractive design and imaginative dust-jacket artwork. The company also published similar editions of "The Red-Headed League", "Silver Blaze", and The Speckled Band", all out of print but available at <www.abebooks.com> and other web-sites.
13329. Sherlock Parlour is the name of a head shop in Dinkytown, newly opened and offering a store-wide sale to celebrate, according to a story in the Minnesota Daily (Apr. 19), reported by Don Pollock. Dinkytown adjoins the University of Minnesota, and the store is offering an occasional 20-percent student discount on its selection of glass and pipe products. A head shop (for those who aren't familiar with the phrase) specializes in paraphernalia related to consumption of cannabis, other recreational drugs, and New Age herbs, as well as counterculture art, magazines, music, clothing, and home decor.
13330. "Give Jeremy Brett a Posthumous BAFTA Award" is the title of an on-line petition at <www.petitiononline.com/JBBAFTA2/petition.html> launched by Charlotte Smith. BAFTA is the British Academy of Film & Television Arts, and you can see more about the campaign at <www.bafta4jb.com/To>.
13331. Reported: the television film "The Crucifer of Blood" (1991, with Charlton Heston and Richard Johnson), previously available on VHS cassette (1998), has now been issued on DVD from Warner Home Video (\$14.98).
13332. Donald Pickering died on Dec. 19. He made his stage debut in 1951 and went on to a long career on stage, screen, and television. He played Watson in Sheldon Reynolds' second television series "Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson" (1980, with Geoffrey Whitehead as Holmes), and recorded "The Speckled Band" for an audiocassette in 1982.
13333. Tweet, tweet . . . messages from an estimated 105 million users of Twitter will be archived by the Library of Congress, and of course there are Sherlockian corners in what's known as the Twitterverse; you can read Sherlockian tweets at Scott Monty's Baker Street Blog <www.bakerstreetblog.com>, at other web-sites, and on your cell phones. For those who came in late: some 50 million messages limited to 140 characters) are posted each day, and you can read all about it at <www.twitter.com> (where the slogan is "discover what's happening right now, anywhere in the world").
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April 2010 #4

13334. Further to the report (December 08 #1) that the British oil company Serica Energy had named two natural-gas prospects in the East Irish Sea "Conan" and "Doyle", Jon Lellenberg spotted an announcement that Serica has entered into a farm-out agreement with Agora Oil & Gas (UK) for the prospects, and that drilling on Conan will begin in May. Serica holds the lease, Agora will drill the test well, and the two companies will share the proceeds if exploration is successful.
13335. Last year's THE WIND OF CERTITUDE: A LITERARY BIOGRAPHY OF RONALD KNOX, by David Rooney (August 09 #2), has been followed by another new biography: RONALD KNOX AND ENGLISH CATHOLICISM, by Terry Tastard (Leonminster: Gracewing, 2009; 232 pp., £12.99), favorably reviewed in the Sunday Telegraph (Feb. 6).
13336. Dr. William R. Hanson has designed Sherlockian cachets for a first day cover for last year's "Early TV Memories" (with his portrait of Ronald Howard and the artwork from the closing credits on the 1954 series) and for a cover honoring the 30th anniversary of Altamont's Agents (with his portraits of society founder Tom Dandrew and Sherlock Holmes); the covers cost \$10.00 each postpaid to the U.S. (\$11.00 elsewhere). His address is 78 West Notre Dame Street, Glens Falls, NY 12801; please pay with currency or U.S. postal money orders.
13337. The iPad (\$499.00), Apple's response to Amazon's Kindle, is much more than a just new way to read books, and there's already a Sherlockian adventure game for the iPad available at <www.itunes.com/appstore> (\$2.99). "Sherlock Holmes Mysteries" is inspired by the Guy Ritchie film. Also available is "The Sherlock Holmes Experience" (\$2.99), which has "The Speckled Band" and "The Man with the Twisted Lip" accompanied by "videos that provide historical perspective and annotations from academics and experts."
13338. Katie Forgette's 2008 play "Sherlock Holmes & the Case of the Jersey Lily" will be performed at the Barter Theatre from Oct. 1 through Nov. 13; Box 867, Abingdon, VA 24212 (276-628-3991) <www.barthertheatre.com>.
13339. An interesting signed baseball was offered at auction at Heritage Auction Galleries on Apr. 23: signed by Babe Ruth, Jack Johnson, Clarence Darrow, Jack Dempsey, Bob Muesel, Ted Williams, and Arthur Conan Doyle (the auction house considered describing the lot as "the strangest multi-signed baseball on Earth"); it sold for \$1,792.50 (including buyer's premium). It wasn't the only signed baseball in the auction; the most expensive was a baseball signed by Babe Ruth alone that sold for \$11,950 (ditto).
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April 2010 #5

13340. The Times has reported (Apr. 25) that a painting of the ghosts of dead Australian soldiers in the Gallipoli campaign, bought by Conan Doyle in 1928, has been found in Australia, and will be offered at auction by Bonhams in Sydney in June. The painting is by Will Longstaff; the story says that Conan Doyle kept in his home until his death, and it is estimated at AU\$20,000-40,000. You can see the painting in full color at <www.tinyurl.com/35t9qow>.
13341. The U.S. Postal Service has issued a stamp honoring cartoonist Bill Mauldin, who died in 2003. He became famous for his creation of Willie and Joe in World War II cartoons, and went on to a long career as an editorial cartoonist. He won two Pulitzer prizes, and used Sherlockian themes in at least three of his editorial cartoons, including this one, which was published on July 1, 1987; Ed Meese is shown with the caption "He's got a rear-view mirror on his magnifying glass."
13342. Further to the report (May 09 #5) about the violin that Steve Burnett made from wood from a 170-year-old sycamore at Liberton Bank House in Edinburgh, the "Sherlock" violin will be used in a concert celebrating Conan Doyle at the Usher Hall in Edinburgh on May 15. Concert proceeds will aid the SOS Children's Haiti Appeal and the program is to include shorter pieces of music from the era of Conan Doyle and the world premiere of "Elsie and Frances" by the Scottish composer James Clapperton (inspired by the girls who invented the Cottingley Fairies), plus short dramatic excerpts by storyteller Mike Maran.
13343. Keir Helberg is offering for sale 19 transcription disks for "The Falcon", "Sherlock Holmes", and "Bulldog Drummond" radio broadcasts from the 1940s, and will be happy to supply details on request. He's in England; his telephone numbers are 020-8809-4991 (home) and 07747-611889 (cell); his e-mail address is <sthellusson@googlemail.com>.
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13344. Reported from India: a graphic novel of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, adapted by J. R. Parks and illustrated by Vinod Kumar, published in 2009 by Campfire (72 pp., \$9.99 postpaid); some of the artwork can be seen at their web-site <www.campfire.co.in>.
13345. Joe and Brad Dickinson's 1992 comedy-spoof "Sherlock Holmes: The Melodrama" is being performed at the Pocket Sandwich Theatre through May 15 (5400 East Mockingbird Lane #119, Dallas, TX 75206) (214-821-860) <www.dallas.net>.
13346. Long-lost old films do turn up from time to time: a copy of "When Lincoln Paid" was discovered in an old barn in New Hampshire, according to newspaper reports this month. The 30-minute film, released in 1913, survived on nitrate stock and has now been preserved and restored; Francis Ford, older brother of director John Ford, directed and played Lincoln in the film. It is nice to think that someone may some day find a copy of "A Study in Scarlet" (1914); Francis Ford directed that film as well, and played Sherlock Holmes (John Ford, credited as Jack Ford, played Watson).

April 2010 #6

13347. <www.books.google.com> is a useful resource for research: Thad Holt reports that Google has digitized OUT OF DOORS: A SELECTION OF ORIGINAL ARTICLES ON PRACTICAL NATURAL HISTORY, by the Rev. J. G. Wood (1874), a book which Sherlock Holmes quotes in "The Lion's Mane" (Thad also notes that Holmes actually misquoted Wood).
13348. Arkham House was founded by August Derleth and Donald Wandrei in 1939, and published many Solar Pons stories from their Mycroft & Moran imprint; the company continues to publish interesting books, including (due in November, \$39.95) Jon Lellenberg's BAKER STREET IRREGULAR, a novel that begins in the 1930s and involves the BSI in mystery and espionage. There's a brief history of Arkham House at <www.arkhamhouse.com>, and much more about Derleth at the web-site of the August Derleth Society <www.derleth.org>.
13349. Laurie R. King's new Mary Russell novel THE GOD OF THE HIVE (March 10 #1) has been published, and Laurie reports from Lisbon (where she's in the midst of researching and writing the next book in the series) that Russell has been dragged into an absurd film venture and is sailing off for Portugal in the company of a megalomaniacal director making a movie about pirates. You can read all of that and much more at <www.laurierking.com>; click on "God of the Hive, day one" and then on the link to the interview.
13350. "Baffling clues, astonishing Holmesian deductions, nimble repartee, catch-your-breath scenes of one slam thing after another" is the description of the Guy Ritchie film on the DVD box. And there's a reason to buy the "deluxe edition" of the DVD from Target (\$24.99): it includes a limited edition (30,000 copies) of a 52-page booklet with the John Watkiss "pitch illustrations" that Lionel Wigram used to convince Warner Bros. to make the film (March 10 #6). Still available at Target stores and at their web-site <www.target.com>. Early publicity for the film said that it was going to be based on a comic book written by Wigram, but since no such comic book or graphic novel has been published, it's quite possible that the pitch illustrations are all there is; Wigram's original story only vaguely resembles the film.
13351. And there's more: the Los Angeles Times reported (Apr. 23) that Kieran and Michele Mulroney, the writers working on the sequel, have said that "there have been a number of serious conversations at Warner Bros." about producing the new film in 3-D. The Mulroneys have also said that Brad Pitt has been reading the script to see if he wants to play Moriarty. "I hope Brad likes it," Kieran Mulroney said, "Let's leave it at that."
13352. The film has now grossed more than \$515.6 million at the box office worldwide. It also headed the list of DVD rentals in the U.S. in mid-April.
13353. Finally, Ken Lanza has reported an amusing story about the DVD of the film: KSFN-TV (Fresno) said (Apr. 21) that a woman who bought a copy of the DVD at Wal-Mart discovered when she got home that someone had replaced the DVD with a pornographic video with a fake "Sherlock Holmes" label; Wal-Mart has replaced the porno video with a real DVD without charge.

May 2010 #1

13354. One of the more interesting copies of Beeton's Christmas Annual will go to auction at Sotheby's in London on July 15. Previously owned by William S. Hall and then by William R. Smith, it is one of two surviving copies signed by Conan Doyle, and it's inscribed "This is the very first independent book of mine which ever was published" and dated Jan. 9, 1914, on an extra leaf. Bill Hall wrote about this copy in the June 1963 issue of The Baker Street Journal, reproducing Conan Doyle's inscription and discussing some of the points of the two variants of Beeton's.
13355. If you would like to know more about the surviving copies of Beeton's, you can go to <www.bestofsherlock.com/beetons-christmas-annual.htm>, where Randall Stock offers an excellent survey. And if you're wondering what to bid in July, the record price for a copy of Beeton's is \$156,000 (including the buyer's premium) for Walter Pond's copy, at Sotheby's in New York in 2007; that one's unsigned, and complete except for having the spine in facsimile, and some repairs and restorations (the inscribed copy going to auction in July is complete except for four leaves of advertisements).
13356. The March issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota has Tim Johnson's report on how the Collection benefited from publicity for Guy Ritchie's new film ("The Adventure of the Media Buzz"), Julie McKuras' examination of a 100-year-old parody, and other news from and about the Collections; copies of the newsletter are available from Richard J. Sveum (111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <sveum001@tc.umn.edu>.
13357. Phil Attwell has reported that Legacy Interactive's computer game "The Lost Cases of Sherlock Holmes 2" (October 09 #1) is now available on-line: you can download a 60-minute demo (243 MB) without charge at <www.virginmedia.com>; "find hidden objects and decipher clues alongside Sherlock and Watson, as you travel to Stonehenge, Marisbury Castle, and London's Music Hall."
13358. Tony Harries, who had been Sherlock Holmes' secretary at 221B Baker Street, toured the U.S. and Canada in 1990. And he kept a journal, which has now been published: THE CASE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES' SECRETARY (Morrisville: Lulu, 2010; 185 pp., \$11.15 paper/\$9.40 download/\$3.92 download) offers an interesting and amusing look at Sherlockian (and non-Sherlockian) America, and at many of the Sherlockians who provided him with hospitality (and only a few of their names have been changed); you can order the book from the publisher <www.lulu.com>, and it will soon be available from major bookstores and web-sites. If you would like to have a signed bookplate, you can send a request to Tony; his address is 11 Longridge, Colchester, Essex CO4 3FD, England <rhinehart@sky.com>.
13359. Further to the report of the discovery of a giant rat in a "lost world" in the remote Foja Mountains in western New Guinea (December 07 #4), there's an article about a new expedition to the area in the June issue of National Geographic, with a handsome photograph of the woolly giant rat, which has been named *Mallomys* sp. nov. (it's the photograph that's handsome, rather than the rat). The article is available on-line at <www.ngm.com/foja>, with the photograph and (scroll down) links to earlier reports and photographs.

May 2010 #2

13360. Felony & Mayhem Press has an interesting catalog of good books by fine authors, and one of their books is a reprint of WHAT I TELL YOU THREE TIMES IS FALSE, by Samuel Holt (March 87 #1); it's an entertaining murder mystery in which the sleuths (and suspects) include actors noted for portraying Miss Marple, Charlie Chan, and Sherlock Holmes. Samuel Holt is one of the many pseudonyms used by the late Donald E. Westlake, and if you'd like to know what the others are, you can visit his web-site at <www.donaldwestlake.com>.

13361. Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" will be performed at the Footlight Players Theatre, June 24-July 3 (20 Queen Street, Charleston, SC 29401) (843-722-4487) <www.footlightplayers.net>.
13362. Al Gregory reports a nice seven-page article about Sherlock Holmes ("Elementary, My Dear Watson") in the Feb.-March issue of Britain (the official magazine of VisitBritain) [the new name for the old British Tourist Authority]; you can read the story (and many others) at the magazine's web-site at <www.britain-magazine.com/articles/sherlock-holmes-feature>.
13363. Ken Lanza noted a listing for an imaginative event: "Horror at the Museum--Mummy Stories by Conan Doyle" at the Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology at University College London on May 14. British actor Steven Wickham read "The Ring of Thoth" and "Lot 249" in the "atmospheric surroundings" of the museum, and "in the break between the stories the museum will be available to explore by torch light--if you dare!"
13364. Kids on Stage will present Thomas W. Olsen's play "Sherlock Holmes and the Baker Street Irregulars" (1989) at the Main Street Theater (Chelsea Market) from May 7 to May 9 (4617 Montrose Boulevard, Houston, TX 77006) (713-524-6706) <www.mainstreettheater.com>.
13365. Reported: PETER PAN'S FIRST XI: THE EXTRAORDINARY STORY OF J. M. BARRIE'S CRICKET TEAM, by Kevin Telfer (London: Sceptre, 2010; 336 pp., £16.99); the cricket team was the Allahakbarries, and its members included Barrie's fellow authors A. A. Milne, E. W. Hornung, Jerome K. Jerome, P. G. Wodehouse, A. E. W. Mason, and Arthur Conan Doyle.
13366. Malice Domestic (the Washington-area convention celebrating the traditional mystery) was enjoyable, and included a panel ("The Game Is Afoot: Sherlock Holmes' Influence on Modern Sleuths") moderated by John Betancourt and with panelists Parnell Hall, William Link, Daniel Stashower, and Steven Steinbock. Malice 23 will be held in Bethesda, Md., Apr. 29 through May 1, 2011 <www.malicedomestic.org>.
13367. Further to the item about the set of four stamps honoring "Cowboys of the Silver Screen" (April 10 #2), Paul Herbert reports that Eleanor Packer's GENE AUTRY IN PUBLIC COWBOY NO. 1 (Big Little Book #1433, Whitman, 1938) has a mention of Frog (Autry's assistant) wearing Sherlockian costume, and a photograph of Frog (Smiley Burnette) with a deerstalker and a curved pipe (p. 190). The book is based on the film "Public Cowboy No. 1" (1937), which is available on DVD, restored to its full 61 minutes, from Image Entertainment (2007); there's a one-minute scene with Frog in S'ian costume, and the special features include two stills and one lobby card.

May 2010 #3

13368. A STUDY IN SCARLET is the second in the new series of graphic novels adapted by Ian Edginton and illustrated by I. N. J. Culbard (London: SelfMadeHero, 2010; 130 pp., £14.99) and (New York: Sterling, \$14.95) as with THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (February 10 #3) the artwork's excellent and the adaptation is faithful. THE SIGN OF FOUR and THE VALLEY OF FEAR and next in line.
13369. Bob Byrne published two issues of his electronic newsletter "Baker Street Essay" in 2007, and he has returned to his keyboard, so to speak, with the third issue (spring 2010), and he offers 16 pages of interesting Canonical comment and analysis; all three issues are available at Bob's web-site at <www.solarpons.com/BakerStreetEssays.htm>.
13370. Further to the report (April 10 #5) about the Edinburgh concert at which the "Sherlock" violin will be played, there's a two-minute video of Ani Batikian playing the violin at <www.tinyurl.com/39ktnwk>.
13371. Doug Wrigglesworth notes that Peggy Perdue has created a tribute to "Sidney Paget: Iconic Illustrator of Sherlock Holmes" on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of his birth; it's nicely done, and well illustrated, and there are interesting examples of Paget's work for other magazines as well as the Strand. You can view the tribute at the Toronto Public Library's web-site at <ve.torontopubliclibrary.ca/sidney_paget/index.html>.
13372. Waterstone's (the British bookstore chain) held a contest for a new design for their electronic gift cards, and one of the winners was Rochelle Donald of Inverness; her design features a silhouette of Holmes and page from "The Blue Carbuncle", and the card now can be purchased in Waterstone's 315 stores across the U.K.
13373. Bert Coules spotted a report that the BBC and Warner Home Video are planning to release (on Sept. 14) a set of two-DVDs with 11 of the delightful "Sherlock Holmes" television programs that starred Douglas Wilmer and Nigel Stock in 1964 and 1965; two programs ("The Abbey Grange" and "The Bruce-Partington Plans") will not be included in the set, which will be priced at \$11.98 in the U.S.
13374. Nice news for researchers (eventually): the Daily Telegraph reported (May 19) that the British Library will digitize up to 40 million pages of newspapers from its archive over the next ten years, and will make them available on-line. The project will be funded by Brightsolid, a private company that owns the Friends Reunited and Genes Reunited web-sites; the data-base will be available free at the British Library, and for a charge at Brightsolid's web-sites.
13375. BBC Radio 7 continues to air web-site repeats of the Clive Merrison/Michael Williams dramatizations; it was a fine series, and the only one to do all 60 stories with the same actors and Holmes and Watson. You can listen to the repeats at <www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/radio/bbc_7>.

May 2010 #4

13376. Laurie R. King's new THE GOD OF THE HIVE made the best-sellers list in the N.Y. Times Book Review on May 16, ranked at #11 in its first week on the list. You can download a copy of her short story "A Case of Correspondence" (an imaginative story told in postcards and other correspondence, released on the Internet during the run-up to the launch of the book); it's available on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/32lwcfj>
13377. There's an interesting discount offer at the Deal Table at the Baker Street Journal's web-site <www.bakerstreetjournal.com> (click on "items for sale" and then on "deal table"): IRREGULAR PROCEEDING OF THE MID-FORTIES and IRREGULAR CRISES OF THE LATE-FORTIES are available at \$25.00 (plus shipping) for the two books. And Henry Boote has recorded a CD with selection of the period Doylean and Sherlockian music performed during the Harvard symposium in 2009 <www.bakerstreetjournal.com/doyleat150.html>; \$9.95 plus shipping.
13378. Les Klinger spotted "Letters with Character: Letters Written to Fictional Characters by Real People", an imaginative (and sometimes amusing) blog at <www.letterswithcharacter.blogspot.com>; there is a letter to Dr. Watson, and of course you're welcome to write your own letter to a character in the Canon.
13379. "The Suite Life on Deck" (a 30-minute series that airs on the Disney channel) has a Sherlockian episode ("Rollin' with the Holmies") that was first broadcast on Jan. 29, 2010; "Cody attempts to solve a mystery surrounding a stolen book that belongs to Queen Elizabeth II." Episodes repeat often on the Disney channel.
13380. The comic book mini-series VICTORIAN UNDEAD: SHERLOCK HOLMES VS ZOMBIES has reached its final (sixth) issue (June, \$2.99 from Wildstorm); story by Ian Edginton and artwork by Davide Fabbri, and there are previews at their website <www.dccomics.com/wildstorm/comics/?cm=13662>. It's quite likely that a graphic-novel collection will appear sooner rather than later.
13381. Christy Kinahan, dubbed the "Irish Godfather" and believed to be head of a gang operating on the Costa del Sol, was arrested this month by Spanish police in Malaga. According to a blogger's report on May 25, Malaga's police headquarters is located on Calle Conan Doyle.

13382. Mark Hime's catalogs are always interesting, and his latest (Bibliotopus #44) offers a portrait of Sherlock Holmes by Sidney Paget (\$45,000); the portrait reportedly was torn in half by the artist and the top portion recovered by his wife from a waste-paper basket. It was shown at the Sherlock Holmes Exhibition at Abbey House in London in 1951 and the Plaza Art Galleries in New York in 1952, and published in The Cornhill Magazine (summer 1951).
13383. SHERLOCK HOLMES FOR DUMMIES, by Steven Doyle and David A. Crowder (Indianapolis: Wiley, 2010; 360 pp., \$19.99) is a useful addition to a series that began in 1991 with DOS FOR DUMMIES and now has more than 1,700 titles; it's up to date (with mention of Guy Ritchie's "Sherlock Holmes") and of course nicely timed to take advantage of the renewed interest in Holmes. The book is an excellent introduction to the Canon, Conan Doyle, the world of Sherlock Holmes, Sherlockiana, and Sherlockians.
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May 2010 #5

13384. Martin Gardner died on May 22. Born in Tulsa, he grew up with John Bennett Shaw (and reminisced delightfully about their long friendship in the Dec. 1990 issue of The Baker Street Journal), and went on to write more than 70 books about mathematics, magic, Alice in Wonderland, the Wizard of Oz, Casey at the Bat (an annotated edition in which he paid tribute to John by including a mention of Moorville, Kans.), religion, philosophy, and the paranormal and supernatural (which he happily and energetically debunked, sometimes with unkind comments about Conan Doyle).
13385. Katie Forgette's play "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily" is scheduled at the Park Square Theatre, June 4 to July 3; the dates are different from those announced earlier (May 09 #6). The theater is at 20 West 7th Place, St. Paul, MN 55102 (651-291-7005) <www.parksquaretheatre.org>.
13386. Macmillan had a launch party at the English-Speaking Union in London in April for Andrew Lane's YOUNG SHERLOCK HOLMES: DEATH CLOUD, the first in his new series for children, due to be published on June 4. The photograph (by Carl Court), forwarded by Jon Lellenberg, shows a copy of the book in the hands of Joshua Conan Doyle, the great-grandson of Sir Arthur's younger brother Innes. You can see a one-minute trailer for the book at <www.youngsherlock.com>.
13387. MUPPET SHERLOCK HOLMES, a new fourpart comic-book mini-series (reported to be "in development" by BOOM! Studios) with a story by Patrick Storck and artwork by Amy Mebberson and David Petersen. Gonzo appears as Holmes, and Fozzy Bear as Watson; you can see some preliminary cover artwork at the web-site <www.muppet.wikia.com/wiki/Muppet_Sherlock_Holmes>.
13388. The Muppet Wiki, by the way, has some interesting features, including entries for characters in "The Muppet Show", including Sherlock Holmes' cat, Sherlock Holmes (whale), and Baskerville the Hound. And, of course, Sherlock Hemlock in "Sesame Street".
13389. Keith Topping blogged on May 14 that BBC dumped all the footage for the 60-minute pilot of "Sherlock" (starring Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman) after deciding to turn the drama into a three-part 90-minutes series; the production cost of the pilot was reported to be £800,000. The series (March 10 #3) has Holmes as a modern-day detective. A BBC spokeswoman confirmed the decision not to air the pilot, and said that the series is expected to air in July or August.
13390. Oscar Ross spotted an announcement for "Tom and Jerry Meet Sherlock Holmes" (an original animation) to be released by Warner Home Video in August. The film will run 75 minutes, and the DVD has been announced at \$18.95 in the U.S. and £9.99 in the U.K. There also will be a Blu-ray version (\$19.99). You can see the cover artwork at <www.amazon.com>.
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May 2010 #6

13391. Cameo Auctioneers <www.cameo-auctioneers.co.uk> had an interesting sale of material from films and television productions on May 23: the lots included a dinner jacket worn by Nigel Bruce as Watson in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (£850), a frock-coat worn by Jeremy Brett as Holmes (£340), a waistcoat worn by Michael Caine as Reginald Kincaid in "Without a Clue" (£100), and a tail coat worn by Christopher Lee as Mycroft in "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (£60). Some items went unsold: a woolen tweed jacket worn by Alan Arkin as Sigmund Freud in "The Seven-PerCent Solution" (estimated at £50-80) and a jacket worn by Ben Kingsley as Watson in "Without a Clue" (£80-120).
13392. Alex Braun has reported "The Watson Files", a new radio series that's produced by Strobie Studios, in Riverside, Iowa, and is available on the Internet at <www.strobiestudios.com>; the series debuted on Apr. 11, and you can listen to it on-line, on YouTube, and on iTunes. Written and directed by Scott Strohsal, the series features the grandchildren of Holmes and Watson: Spencer Holmes (played by Michael Helgens) and Dr. Jack Watson (Greg Kilberger).
13393. Robert Downey Jr. has already started work on provoking buzz for the "Sherlock Holmes" sequel: according to a message posted at the LiveJournal website Downey has announced that "I'm doing Sherlock Holmes again so I'm going be going back and reading all the Conan Doyle books again. I just finished them, I'm gonna start over again, at volume 1." He also joked that there will be a "pantsless" nude scene between him and co-star Jude Law in the sequel.
13394. The film has won an Excellence in Production Design Award (for period film) from the Art Directors Guild, and ITV's National Movie Award (best action/ thriller); the ITV awards are voted for by the public in the U.K. (Robert Downey Jr. and Jude Law were nominated for the ITV best performance award, which went to Robert Pattinson for his performance in "The Twilight Saga: New Moon"). Accepting the ITV award, Guy Ritchie made a brief speech, explaining that "We set out to make a comedy but we'll take it where we can get it."
13395. The John Watkiss "pitch illustrations" for the film aren't the only artwork available; <www.heyuguys.co.uk/2010/05/13/sherlock-holmes-concept-art> has six atmospheric images that Warner Bros. made available in Britain during promotion for the DVD there.
13396. The "Sherlock Holmes" Blu-ray disk (\$35.99) has a 31 minute "special feature" that isn't found on the commercial DVD: a sequence of "focus points" that includes a 3-minute segment ("The Sherlockians") in which "the experts at a Sherlockian conference in New York explain why Sherlock Holmes is one of fiction's most enduring characters." That footage was filmed during the birthday festivities in 2009 and offers glimpses of (and brief interviews with) some of those who were on hand for the festivities. It is possible, of course, that the special feature will be included on a later version of the DVD of the film.
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June 2010 #1

13397. It is nice, as we approach the centenary of Ronald Knox's classic "Studies in the Literature of Sherlock Holmes", to see a renewed interest in Knox: last year saw David Rooney's THE WIND OF CERTITUDE: A LITERARY BIOGRAPHY OF RONALD KNOX (August 09 #2), and now there is Terry Tastard's RONALD KNOX AND ENGLISH CATHOLICISM (Leominster, Gracewing, 2009; 215 pp., £12.99). Both books were published exactly 50 years after Evelyn Waugh's excellent biography of Knox, and Tastard takes the reader through Knox's spiritual life: Knox was born and raised in a Protestant family, became a convert to Catholicism and chaplain to Oxford University, and created a new translation of the Bible, and Tastard suggests that Knox's story reflects the revival of Catholicism in England in the first half of the 20th century.
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13398. TCM (Turner Classic Movies) will celebrate summer with a weekly series of "family-time favorites" hosted by John Lithgow; "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (1939) will air on Aug. 1.
13399. For the completists: Phil Jones reports that SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE BAKER STREET IRREGULARS: THE FALL OF THE AMAZING ZALINDAS, by Tracy Mack and Michael Citrin (September 6 #6), was first published as THE FALL OF THE AMAZING WALENDAS ; an advanced reader's edition exists, with different cover, title, text, and pagination, and can be found (if you're lucky) at web-sites such as Alibris and Abebooks. It is possible that the authors or publisher received a complaint from the Amazing Wallendas (that's the correct spelling of the circus act's name).
13400. Anthony D. P. Mann, who earlier produced a Canadian version of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (July 04 #4) is now in production on "Sherlock Holmes and the Shadow Watchers", which is scheduled for release on DVD later this year. His web-site <www.anthonypmann.com> has more information about the new film, and a 2-minute trailer.
13401. "Of all ghosts the ghosts of our old loves are the worst," is a thoroughly romantic sentiment, written by Arthur Conan Doyle and quoted in "A Commonplace Book" in the May issue of British Heritage. Who spoke those words, and in what work?
13402. The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times10-5.htm>, with offers of interesting Sherlockiana, old and new, including Art Schroeder's SHERLOCKIAN SHTICK!, other books, lapel pins, notecards, and much more.
13403. Catherine Cooke reports that the Folio Society is planning a new edition of THE LOST WORLD, in pictorial binding and with a new introduction by Andrew Lycett and illustrations that include the drawing and photographs that Conan Doyle commissioned for the first edition of the book. The new edition will cost \$48.95, and you can read more about the book and see some of the illustrations at <www.foliosociety.com/book/LWR/lost-world>. And if you'd like to join the society, Catherine will be happy to introduce you, since she's a member and gets vouchers for introducing people; she's at 15 Copperfield Court, 146 Worple Road, Wimbledon SW20 8QA, England, and her e-mail address is <ccooke@westminster.gov.uk>.

June 2010 #2

13404. The new independent film "Cold Weather" (not yet in theaters) appears to be Sherlockian: according to one review, Cris Lankenau (Doug) moves in with his sister and quickly finds himself thrust into a real-life who-done-it when his ex-girlfriend suddenly vanishes; being an admittedly big fan of Sherlock Holmes, Doug sets out to play real-life detective.
13405. It was Justice of the Peace Trevor who said that "Of all ghosts the ghosts of our old loves are the worst" (in "The *Gloria Scott*"). He was offering an explanation of the initials tattooed in the bend of his elbow, but the sentiment isn't all that romantic when one realizes that the initials were his own: J.A. (for James Armitage).
13406. The "It's That Time Again" series edited by Jim Harmon continues, offering stories about the popular heroes and villains from those long-ago days of old-time radio. IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN 3: (Boalsburg: BearManor Media, 2006; 236 pp., \$15.00) has imaginative encounters that include Martin Grams Jr.'s "Hold the Press: Palladin vs. Dillon" (Gunsmoke/Have Gun Will Travel), Michael Leannah's "Vacation in Hollywood" (Jack Benny/Richard Diamond), and Gareth Tilley's "The Singular Affair of the Gentleman Cracksman" (Sherlock Holmes/Raffles). IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN, VOLUME IV (Albany: BearManor Media, 2009; 278 pp., \$19.95) Harmon's "Sherlock Holmes Out West" (with Sherlock Holmes and Tom Mix), and other non-Sherlockian tales that include two nostalgic stories by Jack French. Ben Ohmart, proprietor of BearManor Media, offers many other OTR radio titles at <www.bearmanormedia.com>.
13407. Arthur Conan Doyle, on tour in the United States in 1894, visited Rudyard Kipling at his home in Vermont, and gave Kipling golf lessons in a field near the house (March 05 #1). And Kipling's home, which he named Naulakha, carefully restored and with his original furniture, is now a vacation rental: Anne Lawrence Guyon wrote an interesting report about the house for the N.Y. Times <www.nytimes.com/2010/03/19/travel/escapes/19kipling.html>, and there's an on-line slide show of the house and its rooms.
13408. Sherlock Holmes stories have been translated into Croatian, and so have six of Laurie R. King's series about Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes, with interesting new cover artwork. Available from Algoritam in Zagreb priced at 69 to 79 kuna (that's about \$11.38 to \$13.02) <www.algoritam.hr>.
13409. Rue McClanahan died on June 3. She made her stage debut at the age of 4 in "The Three Little Kittens" and went on to a long career on stage, screen, and television, where she became famous as Blanche Devereaux in the series "The Golden Girls" from 1985 to 1992; Her autobiography was titled MY FIRST FIVE HUSBANDS...AND THE ONES WHO GOT AWAY (2007), and she acted with George C. Scott as Justin Playfair's supportive sister Daisy in "They Might Be Giants" (1971).
13410. Prescott's Press, edited by Warren Randall for The Three Garridebs, continues its nice mix of scholarship and whimsy, and the March issue (#55) has Mike McKuras' "Variety Is the Spouse of Life" (in which he offers an amused look at Sherlockians and their world). Subscriptions cost \$15.00 for four issues (\$20.00 outside the U.S.), and issue #55 costs \$5.00/\$6.00 postpaid, from Warren Randall (15 Fawn Lane West, South Setauket, NY 11720).

June 2010 #3

13411. "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" is an "interactive murder mystery comedy theatre" show that was written by Matthew D. Osmun first performed at the Broker Restaurant in Denver on Mar. 6; it is still being presented in repertory on Saturdays, at least through July 24. The Broker Restaurant's address is at 621 17th Street, Denver, CO 80202 (303-292-5065) <www.thebrokerrestaurant.com/mysterydinner.htm>, and there's more about MO Productions at <www.moproductions.net>.
13412. The Oxford University Press has an "English Language Teaching" series that includes SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE SPORT OF KINGS, retold by Jennifer Bassett and illustrated by Ron Tiner; first published in 2003, it was reissued with new cover artwork in 2007 (56 pp., \$6.75/£4.75).
13413. SparkNotes, an on-line version of the old student standbys Cliff Notes and Monarch Notes, will be found at <www.sparknotes.com>. They have long offered "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (September 05 #1), and now have added "The Red-Headed League" to their repertoire. SparkNotes provides analysis, discussion, quotations, study questions, and other assistance to those who are studying good literature.
13414. Howard Ostrom has reported that the Orlando Jai-alai and Race Book in Fern Park, Fla., offers a "Sherlock's Sure Shot" promotion on Thursdays and Fridays: "Sherlock" posts a horse pick for the day, and you buy a \$10.00 win ticket and you either win the money the horse pays for winning or you can get \$10.00 worth of food or drink in exchange for the losing ticket. And suggest, in their e-mail promotion, "be sure to read Arthur Conan Doyle's 'Silver Blaze' if you don't think Sherlock knows a thing or two about the Sport of Kings!" <www.orlandojaialai.com>.
13415. It is interesting to see how many good Sherlockian books are being written for young reader: the latest is Andrew Lane's YOUNG SHERLOCK HOLMES: DEATH CLOUD (London: Macmillan Children's Books, 2010; 311 pp., £6.99), and it's a fine start to a new series. Fourteen-year-old Sherlock, on holiday from school, is quickly involved in investigating a bizarre murder, learning deductive skills from an American tutor whose tomboy daughter helps Sherlock combat sinister villains and foil a plot against the Empire.
13416. Roger Johnson notes that it's possible to pre-order "Sherlock Holmes: The Rediscovered Railway" ("four more thrilling Sherlock Holmes adventures from John Taylor, the creator of 'The Unopened Casebook of Sherlock Holmes'") at the BBC Shop <www.bbcshop.com>; £12.99, or £9.09 at the

web-site. "The Unopened Casebook" was a series of six stories broadcast by BBC Radio 5, with Simon Callow as Holmes and Nicky Henson as Watson (March 93 #1).

13417. The phrase "flash fiction" seems to have originated in 1992, and the genre has quickly found a home on the Internet, where fiction with a limited number of words is welcome. HOLMES IN A FLASH: NEW SHORT HOLMES STORIES, edited by Stephen Abbott (Manchester: Abbott ePublishing, 2010, \$2.49); offers 13 new stories (1,100 words or less) and Conan Doyle's own short parody "How Holmes Learned the Trick", and can be downloaded from the publisher's web-site <www.abbottpub.com>. Some pieces are atmospheric snapshots rather than plot-driven stories, and the eBook is an interesting introduction to a new format for pastiche and parody.
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June 2010 #4

13418. Sonia Fetherston has noted that the Sherlock Building in Portland has been bought by the Church of Scientology. The building, which has been on the National Register of Historic Places since 1977, is named for William Sherlock, who came to the United States from Ireland in the 1840s and completed construction of the property in 1893, and it has an interesting web-site at <www.sherlockbuilding.com>. A development company paid \$9.75 million for the building in 2007, and sold it to the Scientologists for \$6.4 million.
13419. Kelly Blau reports that she received a message from Amazon saying that because she had bought the "Sherlock Holmes" DVD, they had some suggestions that might be of interest to her: "Crack in the World" (with Dana Andrews), "Thanks for the Memories Collection" (with Bob Hope), and "Freud" (with David Suchet). She thinks it must say something profound about Sherlockians.
13420. Himan Brown died on June 4. His career in radio began in the late 1920s, and he was best known as the producer of series such as "Inner Sanctum Mysteries", "Bulldog Drummond", "Dick Tracy", and "The Adventures of the Thin Man"; he estimated that he created more than 30,000 radio shows over seven decades. In 1974 Brown launched the "CBS Radio Mystery Theater", which ran for nine years and won a Peabody Award; the series included many dramatizations of Sherlock Holmes stories and, "Nightmare in Gillette Castle" (with Kevin McCarthy as William Gillette/Sherlock Holmes).
13421. The Waverley Borough Council met on June 9 to consider the future of Undershaw, the house where Conan Doyle lived from 1897 to 1907, and approved the developer's latest plan: the house will be converted into three homes, with a public pavilion with information about Conan Doyle, and a new second wing will be built to provide five town houses; the developer said the project would provide restoration of the building, including the historic details and leaded windows, and enhance the landscape. According to a story posted at the web-site <www.getsurrey.co.uk>, Conan Doyle's grand-nephew Richard Doyle was at the meeting, and said afterward that "It is just such a shame that all that history will be lost forever. The family had been trying to come up with ways of buying it, but the price was so high we could not afford it. We just wish there was something we could do." Actor Stephen Fry described the proposal as "a foolish, short-sighted, and wanton act of vandalism. The Surrey County Council estimated last year (April 09 #6) that acquisition and restoration of Undershaw would cost about £3.5 million.
13422. E.J. Wagner, author of THE SCIENCE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (June 06 #2) discussed Holmes and forensics in a 5-minute interview on BBC Radio Ulster on May 22. You can listen to the interview at <www.ejwagner-crimehistorian.com>; the link is under "What's new".
13423. <www.huffingtonpost.com/2010/06/14/sherlockian-graham-moores_n_609293.html> is the URL for an advance report on Graham Moore's pastiche THE SHERLOCKIAN (with favorable comments by Christopher Hitchens and Rupert Holmes, and a 2-minute video; the book's due from Twelve/Grand Central in December. According to a post by Amy Hertz: "When literary researcher Harold White is inducted into the preeminent Sherlock Holmes enthusiast society, The Baker Street Irregulars, he never imagines he's about to be thrust onto the hunt for the holy grail of Holmesophiles"
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June 2010 #5

13424. Catherine Cooke's article on the collection at the Marylebone Library appeared in the first issue of CADS: Crime and Detective Stories (September 85 #3), and publisher Geoff Bradley has included Sherlockiana in many issues since then. The magazine is celebrating its first 25 years of publication with the June issue, and it leads with an interesting discovery: George Bellairs' article "Sherlock Holmes and the Bankers" (reprinted from the spring 1954 issue of Martins Bank Magazine). There's other S'iana as well in the 80 pages in CADS 58, and many interesting articles about old and new books. You can order a copy of CADS 58 from the publisher (9 Vicarage Hill, South Benfleet, Essex SS7 1PA, England); £5.75 to the U.K./\$12.00 to the U.S./£7.00 or £10.00 other.
13425. One of the useful features of CADS is Marvin Lachman's "Death of a Mystery Writer" section of brief obituaries for writers and others associated with the genre. John Dankworth died on Feb. 6; he was an accomplished musician, and wrote the music (Benny Green wrote the score) for "The Diamond and the Goose" an oratorio first performed in Birmingham in 1981. Jim Harmon died on Feb. 16, 2010; he was a great enthusiast for old time radio, and a prolific writer; his pastiche "Confidence Game" appeared in Galaxy (June 1957) and "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Duplicate Daughter" in IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN 2 (2004). Robert Weverka died on May 19, 2010; his MURDER BY DECREE (1972) was an adaptation of the film (he adapted many non-Sherlockian films as well).
13426. Frogwares continues to engineer new Sherlockian computer games; their website <www.sherlockholmes-thegame.com/en/index.php?rub=news> offers links to "Sherlock Holmes: The Mystery of Osborne House" (for Nintendo DS) and "The Testament of Sherlock Holmes" (only a trailer, since the next game in the series has not been released).
13427. Go to <www.bestofsherlock.com/ref/sothebys-2010-beetons.htm#description> if you'd like to see Randall Stock's updated report on the inscribed copy of Beeton's Christmas Annual that will be at auction at Sotheby's on July 15 (May 10 #1); it includes links to Sotheby's five-page catalog description, and to news articles about the sale.
13428. Dollhouse Miniatures' room-box contest for Sherlockians (January 10 #5) was won by Judy Rosshirt, and they have a description (and full-color photograph of her impressive room in the May-June issue, along with photograph from three other miniaturists (including Joe Coppola), and a story about Jay Pearlman and the Mini-Tonga Society. \$6.95 (866-606-6587) <www.dhminiatures.com>.
13429. "The Man Who Murdered Sherlock Holmes" is a new 60-minute "drama documentary" from Electric Theatre in Britain; so far all that's available is a 4-minute trailer at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=OOix4QgTCi8>, with brief comments by Owen Dudley Edwards, Roger Johnson, and Catherine Cooke.
13430. "What man wouldn't pass up a necktie for a chance to be associated with an educated, supermacho giant rat?" asked Nicholas D. Kristof in an op-ed column about Father's Day in the N.Y. Times (June 16). African giant pouched rats have been trained by a Dutch company, Apopo, to detect landmines and cases of tuberculosis, and you can read about (and donate to) the HeroRATS program at <www.globalgiving.org>.
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June 2010 #6

13431. The Bulwer-Lytton Fiction Contest, which since 1982 has sought "the opening sentence to the worst of all possible novels," has named Dennis Pearce as the runner-up in the "detective" category this year, and his entry was: "As Holmes, who had a nose for danger, quietly fingered the bloody knife and eyed the various body parts strewn along the dark, deserted highway, he placed his ear to the ground and, with his heart in his throat, silently mouthed to his companion, 'Arm yourself, Watson, there is an evil hand ahead.'" The best of this year's entries can be read on-line <www.bulwer-lytton.com>; the contest's motto is "Where www means 'Wretched Writers Welcome.'" A Sherlockian entry previously won in the "detective" category (August 92 #4).
13432. Will Longstaff's painting of the ghosts of dead Australian soldiers in the Gallipoli campaign, bought by Conan Doyle in 1928, was sold at auction by Bonhams in Sydney this month; estimated at AU\$20,000-40,000, the painting went for AU\$72,000 including the buyer's premium (that's about \$62,586). More information at <www.tinyurl.com/2dftf6s>.
13433. Peter Egan and Philip Franks began their British tour in Jeremy Paul's "The Secret of Sherlock Holmes" last spring (March 10 #6), and the play will now begin an eight-week run at the Duchess Theatre in London's West End on July 15 <www.nimaxtheatres.com>. Robert Daws will play Watson.
13434. Laurie R. King will be on tour in England and Scotland, signing in libraries and bookshops, from July 15 through Aug. 2 (Allison and Busby are publishing British editions of her books with attractive cover art); you will find a detailed schedule at <www.laurierking.com/events/whereslaurie>. And she will be guest of honor at Bouchercon 41 in San Francisco, Oct. 14-17; there's more information the convention at <www.bcon2010.com>.
13435. Elephant Family (a financial support organization for endangered Asian elephants) draws attention to its work with an Elephant Parade of decorated life-size model baby elephants displayed in major cities around the world; the parade has now reached London, where 258 elephants are to be sold in an auction that will end on July 4. Cherrie Waltho has reported (and photographed) a Sherlock Holmes elephant in Baker Street (Nick Utechin notes that it's almost outside #109, which was James Holroyd's choice for 221B). More information, along with color photographs, is available at their web-site at <www.elephantparadelondon.org>, where there's also a shop that sells miniature reproductions in four sizes, from 10 cm (£27.50) to 35 cm (£199.00). The artist who created the Sherlock Holmes elephant is Turdsak Piromkraipak, and it was sponsored by the Evening Standard. The organizers are hoping for an audience estimated at 25 million, and that the auction will raise £2 million.
13436. Apologies for being a few days late with this month's newsletter: the Sherlockian conference ("Sherlock Holmes: The Man and His Worlds") in Bennington was great fun, and I'll report more about the event next month.

July 2010 #1

13437. "Sherlock Holmes: The Man and His Worlds" (the conference held at Bennington College on June 24-27) was nicely done (as was the first conference, 16 years ago); Sally Sugarman and her accomplices offered a varied schedule of lectures by authors, scholars, and others; late night (and early morning) movie screenings; tours of local attractions (including the Park-McCullough House, a spectacular Victorian mansion where the tour featured a champagne tea); an exhibition of Sherlockian art and artifacts; a Victorian Musicale and a performance of a (non-Sherlockian) play by the Oldcastle Theatre Company. There was an article about the conference in the Bennington Banner; go to <www.benningtonbanner.com> and search for [sherlock holmes].
13438. One of the nicer extracurricular opportunities at the conference was a visit (at Lloyd Rose's recommendation) to Owl Pen Books in Greenwich, N.Y. It is one of the last of the grand old book barns, and one of my finds was Elmer Davis' novel GIANT KILLER, published by John Day in 1928 and reprinted by the Readers Club in 1943 (the Readers Club, a competitor of the Book-of-the-Month Club, had Clifton Fadiman, Sinclair Lewis, and Carl Van Doren as its judges). The novel is not Sherlockian (except for having been written by a future member of The Baker Street Irregulars and The Red Circle), but it's great fun (according to Lewis "is a lively, well-colored and sometimes ribald restoration of King David the Psalmist, Joab who was his field marshal, his other sanguinary and difficult relatives, and their innumerable girls.")
13439. One of the panelists at the conference in Bennington was M. Lee Alexander, whose course on "Detective Fiction: From Victorian Sleuths to the Present" includes a lecture on "Arthur Conan Doyle, Sherlock Holmes, and the Victorian Era"; the course is available on CD (\$98.75) or as a download (\$59.75), and there's a course description at <www.tinyurl.com/2ckpfqo>. You can also listen to a 7-minute interview with her (June 14) at The Modern Scholar Blog at <www.themodernscholar.ordwpres.com>.
13440. Dr. William R. Hanson designed a colorful cachet and an official postmark for the conference (there was someone from the local post office on hand to sell and cancel stamps), and the covers cost \$6.00 postpaid (to the U.S.) or \$7.00 (elsewhere); please pay with currency or U.S. postal money orders, and his address is 78 West Notre Dame Street, Glens Falls, NY 12801.
13441. Further to the report (June 10 #4) on the Waverley Borough Council decision to approve the developer's latest plan for Undershaw, the house where Conan Doyle lived from 1897 to 1907, John Gibson, who is chairman of the Undershaw Preservation Trust <www.saveundershaw.com> is challenging the decision on legal grounds, and Lynn Gale has more information about the campaign at <www.undershawhelp.blogspot.com>. Gibson was co-author with Richard Lancelyn Green of the landmark A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF A. CONAN DOYLE (1983), and coeditor with him of volumes of Conan Doyle's previously uncollected work.

July 2010 #2

13442. "A Keyboard to Make Sherlock Holmes Proud" was the title of a post to the Tom's Guide web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/2fg8sx7>, reported by Ken Lanza. The item is an imaginative steampunk computer keyboard created by Richard R. Nagy of <www.datamancer.net>, offered at eBay this month; bidding began at \$1,500, and the keyboard sold for \$2,646.
13443. "Dr. Watson's 158th Birthday Celebration" is the title of a joint meeting of Rochester Row, The Mycroft Holmes Society of Syracuse, An Irish Secret Society of Buffalo, and Watson's Holmestead of Binghamton, on Aug. 7, 2010, in Rochester, N.Y. More information on the all-day event is available from Lewis Neisner (585-360-4715) <lewisneisner@yahoo.com>.
13444. Youngsters know all about Silly Bandz, which are die-molded with non-toxic silicone; they're worn by kids as bracelets that return to their original shapes when taken off. Ray Betzner spotted the new "Guess Who?" pack (\$5.49 from PII Industries) with twelve bandz that feature the outlines of six famous people, including Marilyn Monroe, Alfred Hitchcock, and (of course) Sherlock Holmes. The pack is shown in full color (and you can order it) at <www.amazon.com/Rubba-Bandz-Rubba-Bracelets-Guess/dp/B003MA9OIE>.
13445. THE FICTIONAL 100, by Lucy Pollard-Gott (Bloomington: iUniverse, 2010; 475 pp., \$25.95), is a ranking of "the most influential characters in world literature and legend," and the author casts her net widely to include less-well-known characters from Asian and African literature as well as those to be found in European and American books; it is fascinating to read (or to browse) what she has written. Sherlock Holmes ranks #9, and you can read an excerpt from his chapter at <www.fictional100.com>.
13446. The Baker Street Irregulars have two new items available for purchase. The original of the Sherlockian switch plate that Edgar W. Smith installed in his cottage in Morristown, N.J., has been reproduced in unfinished aluminum (\$55.00 postpaid to the U.S., \$57.50 elsewhere); proceeds from the

sale directly benefit the BSI Archives at the Houghton Library at Harvard, where the original switch plate has been preserved. Jens Byskov Jensen's FIFTY YEARS IN BAKER STREET (95 pp.) is a history of The Cimbrian Friends of Baker Street, and is published jointly by the two societies (\$11.95, shipping extra). You can order at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>.

13447. Ceil Baring-Gould died on June 27. She married Bill Baring-Gould in 1936 and happily shared his varied interests over many years; they jointly authored the well-received THE ANNOTATED MOTHER GOOSE (1962), and it was Ceil who saw THE ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES (1967) into print after his untimely death. She once complained that Bill's most popular book seemed to be THE LURE OF THE LIMERICK (1967), judging by the number of letters received from readers who sent him obscene limericks they felt ought to be in second edition. In 1969 Ceil was honored by The Baker Street Irregulars as *The* Woman in 1969, and in 1992 she was the first (and still the only) woman ever to dine with The Five Orange Pips, at the home of the late Ben Clark.

July 2010 #3

13448. SHERLOCK ALIVE, compiled and annotated by Karen Murdock, is a delightful collection of the Sherlockiana that Vincent Starrett wrote for his "Books Alive" column in the Chicago Daily News and the Chicago Tribune from 1942 to 1967 (and a bit more, since he contributed to other columns in the paper). There's an appreciative Introduction by Susan Rice, and a dozen appendices, including brief biographies of many of the people mentioned by Starrett, and the book offers a splendid view of the literary talents and knowledge of one of the early and most knowledgeable Sherlockians. The publisher is George Vanderburgh (2010; 503 pp., \$35.00); visit <www.batteredbox.com/VincentStarrett/25-Starrett-SherlockAlive.htm> for a detailed description of (and an excerpt from) the book, and information on how to order is at <www.batteredbox.com/contactus.html>. It's not a book to be read quickly, and the annotations will be most helpful to people who aren't familiar with all the things that Starrett (and his audience) knew in those distant Sherlockian days.
13449. Bret M. Herholz's SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE PAINFUL PREDICAMENT OF ALICE FAULKNER is a graphic-novel adaptation of William Gillette's play from Alterna Comics (2009; 128 pp., \$11.99); the artwork is quite atmospheric, reminiscent of Edward Gorey, and you can see a sample at the publisher's web-site at <www.alternacomics.com/#/sherlock-holmes/4535753000>.
13450. Christopher Roden has noted that some interesting Conan Doyle letters have been advertised by Classic Bindings Ltd. (61 Cambridge Street, London SW1V 4PS, England) <www.classicbindings.net>. One lot (priced at £4,300) is an exchange of correspondence in 1919 between Lord Alfred Douglas (son of the Marquess of Queensbury and intimate friend of Oscar Wilde) and Conan Doyle; Douglas accused Conan Doyle of promoting Spiritualism for the sake of money and notoriety and "with the same flat-footed low persistence as you worked your idiot 'Sherlock Holmes' business," and Conan Doyle replied that "It is only your approval which could in any way annoy me." The letters are accompanied by a label written by Lady Doyle: "A splendid answer from my darling to that rat Alfred Douglas."
13451. The other lot (priced at £8,300) is a collection of eleven letters he wrote to his wife Jean in 1923 from Pittsburgh, Cleveland, and Cincinnati; they are affectionate and amusing: in one he says that he has "Nothing to read all day but the Bible which is interesting but old fashioned rather," and in another that Pittsburgh is "a hateful place--hell upon earth." Both of the lots were in the family papers sold at auction at Christie's in 2004, when they sold for £1,912 and £3,585 (including buyer's premium).
13452. Tina Rhea has reported a spectacular color photograph of a Lion's Mane, the "picture of the day" (for July 6) at the National Geographic's web-site; it is possible to download it as wallpaper for your monitor, and you see it at <www.tinyurl.com/37zntft>.
13453. THE MAN WHO MURDERED SHERLOCK HOLMES is an interesting 63-minute documentary from Electric Theatre Productions; it was written, produced, and presented by Richard Jones, and features interviews with Roger Johnson, Catherine Cooke, Owen Dudley Edwards, and others, and it's available on a DVD in PAL format only (£15.99) at <www.amazon.co.uk>. And you can see a brief clip from the series at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=GFzgZTw2D2A>.

July 2010 #4

13454. Dixie Haywood (aka The Little Georgia Magnet), "known for being able to withstand the strength of some of the world's strongest men," including Eugene Sandow, is the subject of a book by Susan and Hugh Harrington <www.annieabbott.com>; it's a fine example of the strange things that Sherlockians get do (Hugh is "Wisteria Lodge" in The Baker Street Irregulars, class of 1996).
13455. Ken Lanza spotted a blog (July 5) with some interesting ideas for a Sherlock Holmes Party (posted by a homeschooling parent); you'll find the blog at <www.syndiluhu.blogspot.com/2010/07/sherlock-holmes-party.html>.
13456. "A Study in Pink", "The Blind Banker", and "The Great Game" are the titles of the three-part mini-series "Sherlock", according to Wikipedia; the entry is informative, and has links to older articles and the BBC's latest press release. Go to <www.wikipedia.org> and search for [sherlock (tv series)]. Oscar Ross kindly reported this entry; one might say that anything important has an entry on Wikipedia (of course one does need to be careful about blithely believing everything found there).
13457. I can't do it justice in my newsletter, but a search for [jacques camory] at <www.amazon.com> will display an image of his attractive giclee poster print of a scene in "The Dancing Men" ("Sherlock Holmes Studies the Case at His Desk") offered in various sizes and priced from \$34.99 to \$179.99.
13458. THE CASE OF THE ILL-FATED PLAYWRIGHT, by Fred W. Edmiston (Scotts Valley: CreateSpace, 2010; 155 pp., \$13.99), has Holmes and Watson involved in an attempt to rescue Oscar Wilde from dire peril at the hands of the Marquess of Queensbury; their attempt was not successful, of course, but there are many Wildean epigrams in the book.
13459. Bidding on the inscribed copy of Beeton's Christmas Annual (June 10 #5) opened at £140,000 and stopped at £240,000, not reaching the reserve, Nick Utechin has reported, and the Beeton's did not sell. It was estimated at £250,000 to £400,000; the buyer's premium was 25% on the first £25,000 and 20% thereafter, so the person who bid £240,000 was willing to pay £289,000 (a bit more than \$444,000). Randall Stock has lots of information on this copy at <www.bestofsherlock.com/ref/sothebys-2010-beetons.htm#description>.
13460. THE SECRET FIEND (Toronto: Tundra, 2010; 244 pp., \$19.95) is the fourth in Shane Peacock's series about "the boy Sherlock Holmes" (still on his own in London and learning how to be a detective); Peacock has won many awards for his books, and deserves them: he's good at character, atmosphere, and mystery. And his web-site's at <www.shanepeacock.ca>.
13461. MX Publishing <www.tinyurl.com/34725mh> is offering its five books by and about B. Fletcher Robinson as a set and at a significant discount to members of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London: £81.96/\$148.41 postpaid (if bought separately the books cost £131.96/\$238.95 plus shipping). The titles are BERTRAM FLETCHER ROBINSON: A FOOTNOTE TO THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (September 08 #1), ASIDE ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: TWENTY ORIGINAL TALES (March 09 #4), THE WORLD OF VANITY FAIR (May 09 #2), BOBBLES AND PLUM: FOUR SATIRICAL PLAYLETS BY BERTRAM FLETCHER ROBINSON AND P.G. WODEHOUSE (July 09 #3), and RUGBY FOOTBALL DURING THE NINETEENTH CENTURY (March 10 #3).

July 2010 #5

13462. Alan Plater died on June 25. He trained as an architect, and became a full-time writer in 1961, earning more than 200 stage, screen, radio, and television credits. He was appointed CBE (Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire), for services to drama, in 1995, and he dramatized two of the stories for Granada's television series: "The Solitary Cyclist" (1984) and "The Man with the Twisted Lip" (1986).
13463. Sad news for researchers: the web-sites for The Times and The Sunday Times are now available "exclusively by subscription" (£1 for 30 days and then £2 a week); free access will continue, I expect, at libraries that subscribe to the web-sites.
13464. Barry S. Brown's *THE UNPLEASANTNESS AT PARKERTON MANOR* (Santa Fe: Sunstone Press, 2010; 260 pp., \$22.95) is the first in a projected series that stars Mrs. Hudson doing the detecting, with assistance of Holmes and Watson; the unpleasantness involves two murders, and exotic heroines and villains.
13465. "Can Holmes solve the mystery of the Hound of the Baskervilles and 27 other crimes before Moriarty tightens his grip? And just who does keep sending postcards from Reichenbach Falls?" Answers to those questions may be found in the play "Sherlock (Abridged)" performed on Aug. 8-10 during the Camden Fringe in London. <www.camdenfringe.com>
13466. The play "Sherlock Holmes in the Crucifer of Blood" (by Paul Giovanni) will be produced at Theatre Three ("the theatre-in-the-round at the quadrangle") from Aug. 5 to Sept. 5; 2800 Routh Street #168, Dallas, TX 75201 (214-871-3300) <www.theatre3dallas.com>.
13467. Reported: *THE FICTIONAL 100*, by Lucy Pollard-Gott (Bloomington: iUniverse, 2010; 496 pp., \$25.95); Sherlock Holmes ranks #9, and you can read an excerpt from his chapter at <www.fictional100.com>. *KILLER'S DOZEN*, by Richard A. Lupoff (Rockville: Wildside, 2010; 252 pp., \$14.95); 13 of his previously uncollected stories, including "Inga Sigerson Weds" reprinted from *SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE AMERICAN YEARS*.
13468. <www.canada.com> is a web-site maintained by Canwest Communications Corp. (Canada's largest media company), and Laura Kuhn has reported their interesting (and well illustrated) story (by Robert Evans) about Meiringen and Sherlock Holmes, at <www.tinyurl.com/23rxkw8>.
13469. Spoken Ink: The Audio Story Website <www.spokenink.co.uk> offers a wide variety of downloadable recordings by authors who include Conan Doyle: four of the Sherlock Holmes stories read by Edward Hardwicke (£2.99 each), "The Brazilian Cat" read by Graham Seed (£2.99), and "B24" read by Ben Whybrow (£1.99).
13470. Cambridge Scholars Publishing has issued a CSP Classic Texts edition of *THE COMPLETE WORKS OF ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE IN 56 VOLUMES*, with an introduction by Neil McCaw (he's academic director of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection in Portsmouth) (2009; 10,988 pp., £399.00); Jonathan Barnes reviewed the set in the Times Literary Supplement (June 23), noting that it's not comprehensive (no plays, letters, or journalism), almost entirely without illustrations, not scholarly, and poorly copy-edited.

July 2010 #6

13471. Paul Spiring spotted a BBC report (July 16) about the possible closing of the 200-year-old Dartmoor Prison; a Ministry of Justice study has suggested the "permanent closure of old and inefficient existing capacity." The prison, mentioned (as the Princetown Prison) in "The Sign of the Four", "The Hound of the Baskervilles", and two "Brigadier Gerard" stories, is now a Category C facility for less violent offenders; the Prison Reform Trust said earlier in July that the prison "should eventually be closed because it was too isolated and too old."
13472. Karen Ellery has kindly noted Russell Stutler's web-site <www.stutler.cc>, where you will find his striking birds-eye view of 221B Baker Street in an improved version with annotations and a link to <www.zazzle.com>, where you can purchase his artwork in various formats and sizes. He also has a link to his imaginative Japanese hiragana version of the Dancing Men code.
13473. "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is a delightful parody that was written by Steven Canny and John Nicholson in 2007; it debuted at the Central Square Theatre on July 22 and will run through Aug. 22. 450 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02139 (617-576-9278) <www.centralsquaretheater.com>.
13474. "From the tiny scratches on your mobile, I deduce that your brother is an alcoholic and that you don't get on with him," is something that Benedict Cumberbatch says, according to The Guardian (July 17), in the new television mini-series "Sherlock", which was debuted on BBC-1 on July 25; it will premiere on "Masterpiece Mystery" on PBS-TV on Oct. 24, and they will begin running a promotion on Aug. 4 at <www.pbs.org/masterpiece>. "Sherlocking" (a fan site devoted to the series) is at <www.sherlocking.org>; preview reports and reviews in the British press have been quite favorable.
13475. John Sherwood reports that Holmes and Watson are expected to be on hand for "The Adventure of the Nameless Corpse" as part of the Sherlock Holmes Mystery Weekend at the Victorian Villa Inn on Sept. 24-26 (John will impersonate Sherlock Holmes). Additional information is available from the management (601 North Broadway, Union City, MI 49094) (800-348-4552); the e-mail address is <info@avictorianvilla.com>.
13476. Randall Stock notes that this is the 150th anniversary of the birth of Sidney Paget, and Randall has updated and expanded his census of Paget's original artwork at <www.bestofsherlock.com/sidney-paget-original-art.htm>. It would be nice indeed if unrecorded originals could be added to the census.
13477. "I hear of Sherlock everywhere." The Associated Press reported (July 19) that Patti Blagojevich has been reading "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" on her cell phone during less-riveting stretches of her husband's corruption trial. She is the wife of former Illinois governor Rod Blagojevich, who is on trial for scheming to sell President Barak Obama's former Senate seat (and other offences); she says she's also fond of Jane Austen.
13478. Wait, wait, there's more: the TPM Muckraker reported (July 19) that the 41-page memorandum filed by Blagojevich's attorneys in support of a motion for acquittal quoted Conan Doyle: "It is a capital mistake to theorize before one has data. Insensibly one begins to twist facts to suit theories, instead of theories to suit facts." Judge James Zagel denied the motion.

July 2010 #7

13479. Rugby is not the only British sport with rules and jargon that are incomprehensible to most Americans: there's cricket, which is Canonical (barely) and which the Sherlock Holmes Society of London and the P. G. Wodehouse Society have played against each other nine times in the last decade. Nicholas Utechin's *WYCOMBE WONDERS* is a 30-page pamphlet that was published by the SHSOL for this year's match, and it's interesting, amusing, and generally understandable. £3.50 to the U.K., £5.00 to Europe, \$9.00 elsewhere; available at <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/shop.php> (credit cards accepted).
13480. There are now (at least) 25 titles in Marjorie Weinman Sharmat's "Nate the Great" series that features Nate in Sherlockian costume; some of the early volumes have been reissued by Yearling/Random House (with "extra fun activities inside!"), and there's a musical first performed by Theatreworks USA in New York in the spring of 2008 and then on tour.

13481. Further to the discussion of miniature Sherlockian room-boxes (June 10 #5), a letter from Ann Dickerson in Dollhouse Miniatures (July-Aug. 2010) notes (with a color photograph) a miniature of 221B Baker Street in the collection of Samie Keith's dollhouses at the Mining Museum in Butte, Mont. (the museum's open from June to September); the cost of the issue is \$6.95 (866-606-6587) <www.dhminiatures.com>.
13482. For Sherlockian golfers: Nick Utechin observed that up until the end of the second day of the Open at St. Andrews, the players included Holmes, Watson, and Moriarty. And Overton, Garcia, and ("so nearly," Nick notes) Garrido.
13483. Further to the report (June 10 #6) on the Sherlock Holmes elephant in Baker Street, installed during a fund-raising campaign by Elephant Family (a financial support organization for endangered Asian elephants), the campaign raised more than £4 million, and the Sherlock Holmes elephant sold at auction for £9,750. Needless to say, one hopes to see it eventually on some Sherlockian's front lawn (or in some Sherlockian's very large living room).
13484. Lion's mane jellyfish seem to be invading British waters every year; last month John Baesch spotted an astounding color photograph in the Daily Telegraph (June 15) showing a diver making a close inspection of a lion's mane <www.tinyurl.com/3xrz9o3>. It's difficult to decide whether the diver was brave or foolhardy.
13485. According to a story in the Hollywood Reporter (May 27), Warner Bros. has announced that Guy Ritchie's "Sherlock Holmes" sequel will open in the U.S. on Dec. 16, 2011; the date was included on a slide during a presentation by Warner chairman and CEO Barry Meyer during Time Warner's investor day. And the Sun reported (June 29) that Ritchie plans to shoot the sequel in 3D and has hired some of the crew that worked on "Avatar" (truth alert: the Sun is regarded by many as the least reliable of the British tabloids). And there is continuing Internet buzz about candidates to play Moriarty: in addition to Brad Pitts, the list now includes Daniel Day-Lewis, Sean Penn, Gary Oldham, and Javier Bardem.

August 2010 #1

13486. "The Spirits of Sherlock Holmes" (the conference in Minneapolis on Aug. 6-8) was delightful (as always for these triennial gatherings), with excellent panels and exhibits. Four librarians (Tim Johnson, Neil McCaw, Catherine Cooke and Peggy Perdue) talked about the present and future in Minneapolis, Portsmouth, London, and Toronto; Ev Herzog reminisced about the beginnings of the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes; Gideon Hill reported on Watson's possible dipsomania; Dick Sveum and Jon Lellenberg debated whether Ronald Knox should be honored as the creator of the Grand Game that (some) Sherlockians play; Ray Betzner paid tribute to Vincent Starrett (only a few of the items on the agenda).
13487. And there was an important announcement: the university has reached its \$1 million goal for the E. W. McDiarmid Fund that will endow a curator for the Sherlock Holmes Collections, and the first endowed curator is Tim Johnson, who received thunderous applause, a plaque, and a handsome medallion handcrafted by Maggie Schpak.
13488. Tim Johnson would like people to know about the Elmer L. Anderson Research Scholars Program, which supports scholarly research projects that use material from the rare and special collections at the University of Minnesota Libraries. The deadline for applications this year is Sept. 30, and there is more information at <www.tinyurl.com/38ecc9w>.
13489. Tim also has reported on new links at the Sherlock Holmes Collections website: the proceedings of "Rogues, Rascals, and Ruffians" (the Norwegian Explorers' conference in 1993 are now available at <www.tinyurl.com/2vgvau2>. And there's a preliminary inventory of the John Bennett Shaw correspondence at <www.tinyurl.com/358tqyz>, and of the "Lumber Room" collection of John's miscellaneous and single-issue periodicals <www.tinyurl.com/3xvudkp>. And of the Vincent Starrett papers <www.tinyurl.com/37cc39c>. There has been additional upgrading on the Sherlock Holmes Collections web-site, including material from the conference this year, and it's well worth exploring <special.lib.umn.edu/rare/holmes.phtml>.
13490. The souvenirs from the conference included THE SPIRITS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, a 58-page pamphlet edited by Michael Eckman, with articles such as the editor's discussion of Sherlockian in Mad magazine, and Lucy Brusich's analysis of changes Edith Meiser made over the years in her scripts for radio broadcasts of "The Red-Headed League"; \$12.00 postpaid from John Bergquist (3665 Ashbury Road, Eagan, MN 55122).
13491. Oliver Sacks' "A Neurologist's Notebook: A Man of Letters" in The New Yorker (June 28) tells the story of "the novelist who suddenly couldn't read." The novelist is Howard Engel: after a stroke, he could no longer read, but he could write, and it's a fascinating article. Engel is the author of the Benny Cooperman mysteries, and of MR. DOYLE & DR. BELL: A VICTORIAN MYSTERY (November 97 #3), a fiction-based-on-fact pastiche that has Conan Doyle still a medical student in Edinburgh in 1879, involved with Joe Bell in solving a mystery full of echoes from the decades-later Oscar Slater case. Sacks, in his article "An Anthropologist on Mars" in The New Yorker, Dec. 23, 1993, noted that Sherlock Holmes showed some of the symptoms of autism.

August 2010 #2

13492. Ann Marlowe has discovered Gallica, an interesting Internet resource that you can visit at <www.gallica.bnf.fr>; it's the digital library of the Bibliotheque nationale de France, and allows users to download and read books published in France. There are 389 hits for [conan doyle] and 436 hits for [sherlock holmes]; note: you can't get full access to some of the more recent titles.
13493. You're able to "check which famous writer you write like" at <www.iwl.me>. Maybe, maybe not: I pasted in a few paragraphs from my June newsletter, and was told I write like H. P. Lovecraft. Thanks to Ann Lewis for the discovery of the web-site. The domain is .me for Montenegro; Wikipedia says that "the dot-ME top-level domain replaced the dot-YU (Yugoslavia) domain previously used by Serbia and Montenegro, in addition to declaring .me independent of .yu" (someone has a sense of humor).
13494. And there's more: Jason Kirkfield has discovered a blog by Steve Tuttle at <www.newsweek.com/2010/07/23/consider-the-crowded.print.html>; Tuttle found that "I Write Like" is the brain-child of 27-year-old Dmitry Chestnykh, who founded a software-development company called Coding Robots, and whose website had had (as of July 23) more than a million visitors since July 12 and 4.4 million page views. Tuttle also discovered an amusing parody called "I Actually Write Like" at <www.richardclegg.org/write>.
13495. Noted by Karen Murdock: Peter Macinnis' THE KILLER BEAN OF CALABAR AND OTHER STORIES (published in Australia in 2004, and in the U.S. in 2005 as POISONS: FROM HEMLOCK TO BOTOX AND THE KILLER BEAN OF CALABAR); passing references to Conan Doyle and Holmes, and lots of interesting stories.
13496. The June issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota has Thaddeus Holt's "100 Years Ago" discussion of Lyndon Orr and his Sherlockian contribution to The Bookman, Dick Sveum's "50 Years Ago" tribute to Fred Kittle, and other news and other news from and about the Collections; the newsletter is available from Richard J. Sveum (111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <sveum001@tc.umn.edu>.
13497. It is interesting to see how authors and publishers are using the Internet to publicize their books: Graham Moore, author of the THE SHERLOCKIAN (June 10 #4), which is due in December, has a blog about the book (and many other things) at <www.thesherlockian.com/about-graham-moore>.

13498. The spring issue of *The Magic Door* (the newsletter published by The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) has Cliff Goldfarb's report on Conan Doyle's connection with the 1916 Olympics, Barbara Rusch's discussion of "Arthur Conan Doyle Among the Fairies", and Peggy Perdue's essay on the Library's Virtual Exhibit on Sidney Paget; copies of the newsletter are available from Clifford S. Goldfarb (22 Markdale Avenue, Toronto, ON M6C 1T1, Canada) <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.
13499. Forecast: *THE BEST AMERICAN MYSTERY STORIES 2010*, edited by Lee Child and Otto Penzler (from *Mariner* in September) will include Lyndsay Faye's "The Case of Colonel Warburton's Madness" (reprinted from last year's anthology *SHERLOCK HOLMES IN AMERICA*).
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August 2010 #3

13500. It may (or may not) be true that there are some security clearances that are so secret that those who have them can't tell you unless they know you know anyway. According to the three-part story in the *Washington Post* about "Top Secret America", there now are 854,000 Americans with Top Secret clearances, 265,00 of them private contractors; David Sarasohn (Portland Oregonian, July 27) quoted a Senator who said that all that is needed is "someone responsible for keeping everyone on the same page and making sure the dots are connected." Sarasohn also quoted Sherlock Holmes' statement about the abilities of his brother, who "could get separate advices from various departments, focus them all, and say off-hand how each factor would affect the other." Sarasohn ended by lamenting that "Mycroft Holmes just isn't available" now. Credit Sonia Fetherston for the report.
13501. *THRILLERS: 100 MUST-READS*, edited by David Morrell and Hank Wagner (Longboat Key: Oceanview, 2010; 378 pp., \$27.95), casts its net widely, and is an interesting survey of the genre, from the ancient Greek myth of Theseus and the Minotaur (1500 B.C.) to Dan Brown's *THE DA VINCI CODE* (2003). And of course *THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES* is a thriller, discussed by Laura Benedict. Carol Nelson Douglas has an intriguing chapter on Bram Stoker's *DRACULA* (managing to include a mention of Irene Adler).
13502. Jeff Bradley spotted a set of artistic "Great Moments in Literature Note Cards" available from Bas Bleu (Box 2599, Hudson, OH 44236) (800-433-1155) <www.basbleu.com>; four cards each of four designs ("Gulliver's Travels", "Peter Pan", "The Three Musketeers", and "The Hound of the Baskervilles"), and the Sherlock Holmes artwork also is on the cover of the box. \$12.00 (item UD2842).
13503. Randall Stock continues to expand the scope of his "Best of Sherlock" website and has added a census of known copies of the first edition of Vincent Starrett's classic pastiche "The Adventure of the Unique Hamlet", including the copy inscribed by Starrett and sent to Conan Doyle in 1920. Needless to say, Randall hopes to locate more copies, and will be happy to hear from those whose copies aren't listed. Go to <www.bestofsherlock.com> to read the census, which includes a careful description of the first edition and a link to the text of the pastiche.
13504. Jim Ballinger spotted a news release about *CHARM* (The Centre for the History and Analysis of Recorded Music) at King's College London; they've made almost 5,000 history recordings available on-line, one of them the recording Conan Doyle made for the Gramophone Company on May 14, 1930. The quality of the recording is splendid <www.charm.kcl.ac.uk/sound/sound.html>.
13505. Forecast: a Japanese translation (by Masamichi Higurashi) of *ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: A LIFE IN LETTERS*, edited by Jon Lellenberg, Daniel Stashower, and Charles Foley, from *Toro Shorin* next year.
13506. The late David Levine caricatured both Holmes and Conan Doyle in the *N.Y. Review of Books* (January 10 #3); Lucy Pollard Gott reports that the magazine's web-site has a gallery of many of his caricatures, and offers made-to-order print of his Sherlock Holmes (\$150.00) <www.tinyurl.com/34o7osx>. His Conan Doyle, unfortunately is not available as a print.
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August 2010 #4

13507. Molly Carr's *THE SIGN OF FEAR* (London: MX Publishing, 2010; 310 pp., £12.99/\$19.95/€16.99) is an entertaining pastiche in which just about everyone is a bit (or more) different from what they are in the Canon: Mrs. Watson is the detective, working with Mrs. Neville St. Clair, encountering Prof. Moriarty, John Clay, J. Neil Gibson, and others who include Raffles, Bunny, Hercule Poirot's father, and Miss Marple's mother (to name only a few); the detectives travel to Australia and the Vatican, and manage to solve quite a few mysteries (some but not all with the assistance of Dr. Watson).
13508. Reported: *KILLER'S DOZEN*, by Richard A. Lupoff (Rockville: Wildside, 2010; 252 pp., \$14.95); 13 of his previously uncollected stories, including "Inga Sigerson Weds" reprinted from *SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE AMERICAN YEARS*.
13509. Aaron Smith's *SEASON OF MADNESS: A DOCTOR WATSON ADVENTURE* (Metairie: Cornerstone, 2009; 190 pp., \$21.95) has Watson and John Seward pursuing a macabre and grotesque mystery that involves other characters from the worlds of the Canon and *Dracula*; there are two stories in the book, and the second ("Attack of the Electric Shark") features Hound Dog Harker (the son of Jonathan and Mina Harker).
13510. Tina Rhea spotted a report in *The Independent* (Aug. 11) that the web-site <www.ancestry.com> now offers a data base that contains more than six million British wills, dating from 1861 to 1941; one of them is the will of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who left an estate of £63,491 (nearly £3 million today, according to the article).
13511. Plan well ahead: *NATMEET* is what Sherlockians in Australia call their national meeting of Sherlockian societies, and Steve Duke has reported that *NATMEET 6* will be held in Adelaide in 2012, on Easter Weekend (Apr. 7-8).
13512. It's hard to imagine Conan Doyle "knew his title character would be the inspiration for an electro-pop band from down under made up of four guys and a sultry lead singer," David Dennis Jr. wrote at <www.spinner.com> on Feb. 25; the sultry lead singer is Tanya Horo, who said that Conan Doyle is one of her favorite writers, and "I think I'm slightly obsessed with him om a really unhealthy way [laughs]." Their music is pleasant to listen to, and you'll find it easily on the Internet; search for [sherlock's daughter].
13513. Forecast: Andrew Lane's "Young Sherlock Holmes" series (June 10 #3) continues with *RED LEECH*, which is due from Macmillan in November; the first title in the series was *DEATH CLOUD*, scheduled for an American edition from Farrar, Straus and Giroux in February.
13514. James J. Kilpatrick died on Aug. 15. He was a journalist and author, and a fervent conservative, and his great interest in language was expressed in his column "The Writer's Art". In 1989 he discussed the coinage of verbs, complaining that Conan Doyle used the verb "disillusionize" in "The Reigate Squires". He heard from many readers who could find only "disillusion" in the story, and later explained (one paper used the headline "Schlock Holmes Says It's Elementalized, Dr. Watson") that the offending word does appear in the story (and indeed it does, in *The Strand Magazine* and British editions of the Canon).
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August 2010 #5

13515. Anne Perry wrote an afterword for a new Signet Classics edition of *THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES* (December 02 #5), and an introduction for a new Signet Classics edition of *THE SHERLOCK HOLMES MYSTERIES: 22 STORIES* (2005, \$5.95), and an introduction for a Modern Library edition of *A STUDY IN SCARLET* (2003, \$9.00); all nicely done.
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13516. And there's more about the campaign to preserve Undershaw, the house where Conan Doyle lived from 1897 to 1907 (July 10 #1): "Conan Doyle and the Barbarians" was the headline on a letter published in *The Times* (July 31) with signatures from 53 people who included authors, actors, relatives of Conan Doyle, and Sherlockians from a dozen different countries. *The Times* also had a story about the campaign.
13517. The discussion of Sherlock Holmes in *The Times* that day also focused on a suggestion by Jeremy Hunt, the government's Culture Secretary, that funding for the BBC could be cut, with a story that quoted Steven Moffat: "If you want shows like 'Sherlock' and 'Doctor Who', you are going to need the BBC." Moffat, co-creator of "Sherlock" and lead writer for "Doctor Who", must have welcomed a review of "Sherlock" by Caitlin Moran, who announced: "Sherlock is so good, if BBC funding is ever called into question I'll pay for it myself."
13518. A later story in the *Petersfield Post* (Aug. 15), forwarded by Al Gregory, reports that John Gibson, chairman of the Undershaw Preservation Trust, is seeking a judicial review of the Waverley Borough Council decision to approve the application of a developer to convert the house into three flats. According to the story, Max Norris, a professional developer who wants to keep Undershaw as a single dwelling, with limited public access, submitted his own application shortly before the Council meeting, too late for formal consideration; the Trust said that the house was valued at £600,000 before the Council's decision, which increased the value to £1.5 million, which is more than Norris can afford to pay. And Paul Spiring reports that there's a recently-updated Wikipedia entry for Undershaw; it's a work-in-progress, at <www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Undershaw>.
13519. Ken Ludwig's play "Postmortem" (involving a mystery at William Gillette's home in Hadlyme, Conn.) will be performed by the Minstrel Players at Houghton Hall (on Long Island), Nov. 13-21 (120 Main Street, Northport Village, N.Y. 11768) (631-732-2926) <www.minstrelplayers.org>.
13520. George Vanderburgh has published Hugh T. Harrington's RE: SHERLOCK, A COLLECTION OF OBSERVATIONS & COMMENTARIES (2005; 80 pp., \$12.00); the book reprints his interesting Sherlockian scholarship from magazines and newsletters from 1987 to 1999. The publisher's at Box 50, R.R. #4, Eugenia, ON N0C 1E0, Canada <www.batteredbox.com>.
13521. The spring issue of *For the Sake of the Trust* (the newsletter of The Baker Street Irregulars Trust) offers a report (with photographs) from the 2009 sesquicentennial symposium at the Houghton Library, Tom Francis' discussion of the Trust's activities, and archivist Bob Coghill's description of his work on the correspondence that has been donated to the Trust. Copies of the newsletter are available on request from Marshall S. Berdan (2015 Main Street, Glastonbury, CT 06033) <editor@bsitrust.org>.

August 2010 #6

13522. Alan Stockwell's pastiche "The Singular Adventure of the Vanishing Nobleman" was published in his *THE SINGULAR ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* (2003) and then dramatized as "The Singular Adventure of the Gloved Pianist" and performed for the Sherlock Holmes Society of London in 2008; Stockwell has turned the play back into a pastiche, and his *SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE SINGULAR ADVENTURE OF THE GLOVED PIANIST* (Ashford: Vesper Hawk, 2010; 128 pp., £6.95/\$12.95/€10.00); it's an entertaining mystery (in more ways than one with opportunities for audience participation. The publisher's web-site is at <www.vesperhawk.com>.
13523. "The Great Mouse Detective" is now available on a "Mystery in the Mist Edition" DVD from Disney (\$19.99); it's an "all-new digital restoration" with special features that include a "So You Think You Can Sleuth" game, a "making of" featurette, and a "World's Greatest Criminal Mind" sing-along.
13524. "Sherlock Holmes and the Baker Street Irregulars" is a new play written by Heather Wallen and scheduled at the York Little Theatre, Oct. 29 to Nov. 7; 27 South Belmont Street, York, PA 17403 (717-854-3894) <www.ylt.org>.
13525. Steve Rothman delivered the annual Cameron Hollyer Lecture at the Toronto Public Library on Nov. 15, 2008, and his remarks (titled "Tincture of Conan Doyle: Christopher Morley on Sherlock Holmes") were published for members of The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection. A limited number of copies are available if you join the Friends now <www.acdfriends.org> (or contact Cliff Goldfarb, 22 Markdale Avenue, Toronto, ON M6C 1T1, Canada); the minimum donation is \$25.00. Michael Dirda's 2009 lecture ("The Press Is a Most Valuable Institution: Conan Doyle as Essayist and Journalist") will be sent to members of the Friends later this year.
13526. The "Sherlock Holmes Weekend" in Cape May, N.J., on Nov. 5-7, will include a repeat performance of "The Case of the Demons in a Padded Room" (written by John K. Alvarez. The weekends have been held in the spring and fall for many years; there's more information available from 1048 Washington Street, Cape May, NJ 08204 (800-275-4278) and at the festival's web-site, which is at <www.capemaymac.org/tours/winter/special/sherlock.html>.
13527. Gene Grossman's "Peter Sharp Legal Mysteries" feature a former lawyer and private detective who is legal guardian of 12-year-old Suzi, who's a better detective than he is, and the series has reached #15, *THE SHERLOCK HOLMES CAPER* (Magic Lamp Press, 2010; 167 pp., \$12.95); there's imaginative use of clues from the Canon, and you can read the first chapters of earlier books in the series at <www.legalmystery.com> (the author reports that there are Sherlockian allusions in other titles in the series).
13528. Acorn Media continues to issue interesting old film and television on DVDs, and Randall Stock spotted a review of *RAFFLES: THE COMPLETE COLLECTION* on six DVDs (\$59.99); Anthony Valentine played Raffles in a British television film in 1975, and then in a 13-episode television series; you can read the review at <www.dvdtalk.com/reviews/42814/raffles-complete-collection>. As far as I know, neither the film nor the series has ever been broadcast in the U.S., and there's nothing Sherlockian about them (other than the fact that Raffles was created by Conan Doyle's brother-in-law). But Valentine did play Baron Gruner in Granada's "The Illustrious Client" (1991).

August 2010 #7

13529. Leo Sauvage was a journalist and author, the N.Y. correspondent for *Le Figaro* from 1950 to 1975, and then the drama critic for the *New Leader*, and he was a Sherlockian (investitured as "Victor Savage" in the Baker Street Irregulars). When he died in 1988 he had been working on a book about Holmes, and most of his first draft has been found and has now been published. *SHERLOCKIAN HERESIES*, edited by Julie McKuras and Sue Vizoskie (Indianapolis: Gasogene Books, 2010; 233 pp., \$19.95), offers fine Sherlockian scholarship; there are reprints of his earlier work (he wrote articles for *The Baker Street Journal* in 1958, 1983, and 1984) and there's much that's new.
13530. Gasogene also has published *MURDER IN THE VATICAN: THE CHURCH MYSTERIES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES*, by Ann Margaret Lewis (2010; 151 pp., \$18.95); there are three pastiches that involve Pope Leo XIII: "The Death of Cardinal Tosca", "The Vatican Cameos" (recorded by His Holiness), and "The Second Coptic Patriarch", and they're all nicely done. The publisher's at Box 63808, Indianapolis, IN 46268 <www.gasogenebooks.com>.
13531. Michael Capuzzo's *THE MURDER ROOM: THE HEIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES GATHER TO SOLVE THE WORLD'S MOST PERPLEXING COLD CASES* (New York: Gotham Books, 2010; 439 pp., \$26.00) is a history of the Vidocq Society, which is named in honor of the brilliant 18th-century detective Eugene Vidocq; it is a group of forensic experts based in Philadelphia who use joint forensic expertise to attempt to solve "cold case" homicides and other crimes. Capuzzo reports that they are similar to the Baker Street Irregulars (both societies being "strictly fraternal"), and that forensic psychologist and forensic profiler Richard Walter has been described by Scotland Yard as "the living Sherlock Holmes."

13532. But Walter doesn't like that description: when one of his colleagues said that Walter looks like Basil Rathbone in "The Hound of the Baskervilles": "he talks like him, thinks like him, Walter responded that "Whenever someone says that, I look away and wait for the moment to pass, as if someone just farted." Sherlockian allusions aside, it's a fascinating book; there will be a segment about the society (and the book) on "20/20" on ABC-TV on Sept. 21.
13533. "Miss Marple is aiming to break up the illustrious duo to prevent herself being demoted from the ranks of Britain's foremost detectives, and the pair must set out to prevent Watson from being framed for the murder of one of the aristocratic Baskervilles." That's the Scotsman's description of the play "Sherlock Holmes and the Sound of the Baskervilles" performed by Two Shades of Blue during the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in August. It was so well received that they added three matinee performances at the end of the one-week run.
13534. The British Film Institute has renewed its "BFI Most Wanted" campaign with a list of 75 films it would like to find, preserve, and make available from its archives, and the "ten most wanted" films include "A Study in Scarlet" (1914), described as the first British feature film to be based on the adventures of "the immortal detective". You can read more about the project, and the film, at <www.bfi.org.uk/nationalarchives/news/mostwanted>; there are some interesting stills and a publicity release at the web-site.
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August 2010 #8

13535. Oscar Ross reported a story at the Digital Spy web-site (July 26) about ratings for the first episode of BBC-1's "Sherlock", which attracted 7.5 million viewers (30.4% of people watching television). "Antiques Roadshow" ran second that night, with only 4.82 million viewers (24.3%). The population of the U.K. was estimated at 61.8 million people in mid-2009 (according to Wikipedia). "The Strange Case of Sherlock Holmes and Arthur Conan Doyle" (the first program in David Pirie's series), aired on BBC-2 in 2005 with 2.63 million viewers (12.6%); the most popular show that night was "Coronation Street" with 9.95 million viewers (47.1%).
13536. You can watch "Sherlock" on the Internet, even though the BBC web-site does not allow access from the United States; <www.youtube.com> has the episodes in (I think) nine parts each, and the episodes are available at web-sites such as <www.megaupload.com> (well, at least they were available) (one never knows how long it will be before they're removed). If you want to know where their 221B Baker Street is, the address is 185 North Gower Street and you can dine (as they do) at Speedy's Sandwich Bar on the ground floor of the building.
13537. Or you can wait until Oct. 24, when the series will begin on PBS-TV's "Masterpiece Mystery". <www.pbs.org/wgbh/masterpiece/sherlock/index.html> is the URL for their promotion, which includes a few video clips. I can report that the series is extremely good overall, with intelligent scripts, delightful humor, and good acting; it's quite Canonical (if you accept the basic premise that the Canon is set in modern London).
13538. And things do change: as with Guy Ritchie's "Sherlock Holmes", the new series generated a mild flurry of press and Internet comment about suggestions that Holmes and Watson were gay; I don't recall that sort of publicity when the Granada series aired in the 1980s.
13539. Nice news: the BBC, encouraged by the 7 million people who tuned in for the third episode of the series, has announced that there will be more programs ("We're having a meeting to talk about how many and when," series producer Sue Vertue said). She should know: her husband Steven Moffat is co-creator of the series. Mark Gatiss, the other co-creator, can be seen in the series, uncredited, as Holmes' brother Mycroft.
13540. Nicer news: according to <www.amazon.co.uk>, the series will be released on region 2 DVD and Blu-ray on Aug. 30, and the disk will include the 60-minute pilot that was never broadcast; region 2 is the U.K., but those in other regions will be able to watch the DVD on their computers (if their computers have the nice software that plays DVDs from any region) or on multiregion DVD players.
13541. And the Bookseller reported (Aug. 12) that the series has boosted sales of books such as Penguin's THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (up 83%), Wordsworth Classics' THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (up 431%), Macmillan's YOUNG SHERLOCK HOLMES: DEATH CLOUD by Andrew Lane (up 18%), and Quirk's THE SHERLOCK HOLMES HANDBOOK by Ransom Riggs (up 57%).
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September 2010 #1

13542. Good news: Ken Ludwig has written a new play about William Gillette. The first play was "Dramatic License", a murder mystery set in Gillette's home that had its premiere in 1983, starring Patrick Horgan as Gillette; renamed "Postmortem", it has had more than two dozen productions by local theater groups. The new play is "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays", a "comedy-mystery-thriller" that's also set in Gillette's home, and it is absolutely hilarious; there was a staged reading, directed by Ludwig, at the Terrace Theatre of the Kennedy Center in Washington on Sept. 6 as part of a free "Page-to-Stage" festival over the Labor Day weekend.
13543. Bad news: that was the only performance of the play, and there are no plans for a full-scale production. The author said that he is hoping to find a producer (one does wonder how hard it is for Ken Ludwig to get a play produced).
13544. Jon Lellenberg's BAKER STREET IRREGULAR (Sauk City: Mycroft & Moran, 2010; 404 pp., \$39.95) is a novel about the early days of the BSI: it begins in 1933, when New York lawyer Woody Hazelbaker gets into conversation with the librarian of the Harvard Club, Earle Walbridge, who takes him to lunch at Christ Cella's and introduces him to Christopher Morley and other members of the Three Hours for Lunch Club. Woody soon becomes a member of the BSI, finds romance and intrigue, and with the assistance of other Irregulars is heavily involved in intelligence operations during World War Two, turning the novel into a thriller rather than an Irregular history. \$44.95 postpaid to the U.S. from Arkham House Publishing, Box 122, Sauk City, WI 53585 <www.arkhamhouse.com>.
13545. Jon also has created a web-site at <www.bsiarchivalhistory.org>; it's full of interesting material, including links to some of his published essays, excerpts from his books, his blog, and departments that include "The Editor's Gas-Bag" and "Ask Thucydides!" (in which Jon attempts to answer his readers' questions about the web-site and about BSI history). And if you click on "novel" you'll find a link to "Woody's World" in which there are weekly posts about the new book. The web-site's a lively read, including his links to non-Sherlockian but intriguing web-sites.
13546. Januaryice Fisher has noted an intriguing trivia question from Nancy Friedman at her "Fritinancy" web-site: "What do Grace Kelly, Kurt Vonnegut, Johnny Weir, and Sherlock Holmes have in common?"
13547. "Previously unseen colour footage of London during the Blitz has been discovered after lying in an attic for almost 70 years," the Daily Telegraph reported on Sept. 6 (noted in a post by an admirer of Mary Russell to the "Letters of Mary" group at Yahoo); go to <www.westendatwar.org.uk> to see the film. Click on "Rare Colour Film Footage" and then on Part 5 of "Pages from St. Marylebone's War Diary" to see "Baker Street Bazaar (Druce & Co.) Is Burnt Out, May 10, 1941". The Baker Street Bazaar was on the west side of Baker Street, between Dorset Street and King (now Blandford) Street, and had an entrance at what is now 59-63 Baker Street, according to Catherine Cooke, who notes that the Bazaar is on the end-paper maps in James Edward Holroyd's SEVENTEEN STEPS TO 221B (1967).
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September 2010 #2

13548. "What do Grace Kelly, Kurt Vonnegut, Johnny Weir, and Sherlock Holmes have in common?" They've all had asteroids named after them. Actually, you should add Dr. Watson and Prof. Moriarty to the list: three of the many asteroids discovered and named by American astronomer Edward L. G. Bowell are 5048 Moriarty, 5049 Sherlock, and 5050 Doctorwatson (and the names have been approved by the International Astronomical Union's Committee on Small-Body Nomenclature).
13549. Jon Lellenberg has reported "Literary Worlds: Illumination of the Mind", an impressive exhibition at the L. Tom Perry Special Collections of the Harold B. Lee Library at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, running through June 2011; their web-site is <www.lib.byu.edu/exhibits/literaryworlds>, and you can click on "Arthur Conan Doyle" to see their images of the manuscript of THE REFUGEES, an interesting letter about his work on THE WHITE COMPANY, and other material.
13550. Pat Ward has noted that Cracker Barrel restaurants have shops that offer a Sherlockian resin basset hound figure that's also available on-line at <www.crackerbarrel.com> (click on "Halloween"); item #329933 (\$24.99). And Karen Murdock reports a similar (and smaller) shelf-sitter figure (\$6.00) that apparently is available only in the shops and not on-line.
13551. It's not often that one finds allusions to O.J. Simpson, Madonna, and the Rat Pack in a book of Sherlockian essays, but those who have heard Bill Mason speak at S'ian conferences won't be a bit surprised. PURSUING SHERLOCK HOLMES (Philadelphia: Xlibris, 2010; 151 pp., \$29.99 cloth, \$19.99 paper, \$9.99 Ebook) offers conference presentations, reprints of earlier limited-circulation articles, and new pieces, all nicely done, and more important, interesting and amusing. Signed copies can be ordered from Bill (2367 Lights Chapel Road, Greenbrier, TN 37073); \$24.00 postpaid for cloth, or \$16.00 for paper.
13552. Further to the report (May 10 #5) on rhw four-issue comic-book mini-series MUPPET SHERLOCK HOLMES due from BOOM! Studios, there's going to be a book edition coming out in March (\$9.99/£6.63), noted at <www.amazon.com> and at <www.amazon.co.uk>.
13553. Corbis Motion <www.corbismotion.com> offers easy access to "motion content" (more than 500,000 clips, of which more than 300,000 are in HD); they can be viewed at the web-site (but you need to pay to download and use them). Four clips tagged for [sherlock holmes], and three actually are Sherlockian (two clips at the Sherlock Holmes Museum, and one at the statue in Baker Street).
13554. THE PONTINE DOSSIER was a delightful journal published from 1967 to 1977 by Luther Norris for The Praed Street Irregulars; the contributors wrote about Solar Pons, of course, and many other things, and it's grand to find it all available again, this time on a CD (in PDF format) issued by George Vanderburgh (\$10.00). If you were a contributor and don't yet have a copy of the CD, let him know and he'll send you a free copy; Box 50, R.R. #4, Eugenia, ON N0C 1E0, Canada <gav@cablerocket.com> <www.batteredbox.com>.

September 2010 #3

13555. H. Ripley Cromarsh's THE SECRET OF MOOR COTTAGE was published in 1906, and has been reprinted by various public-domain publishers ; it's available at Amazon and AbeBooks, and is of interest because H. Ripley Cromarsh was a pseudonym used by Bryan Mary Angell, Arthur Conan Doyle's youngest sister Dodo. She wrote two other books, THE EPISODES OF MARGE: MEMOIRS OF A HUMBLE ADVENTURESS (1903) and AT THE WATERS OF STRIFE (1913), but they haven't been reprinted. I suspect that none of the current publishers know who Cromarsh actually was.
13556. A reminder that Willis Frick's "Sherlocktron" web-site has links to lists of Sherlockian societies; at the moment there are 874 societies, including 415 active societies in 21 countries. And many other links, of course; the URL is <www.members.cox.net/sherlock1/sherlocktron>.
13557. And Willis, back from vacation in Africa, reports that he found a copy of Les Klinger's THE NEW ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES in the library of Abu Camp in the Okavango Delta in Botswana; there's a photograph of the library at the bush camp's web-site <www.abucamp.com> (alas, you can't quite make see the books).
13558. Just in time for Halloween: BuyCostumes.com (5915 South Moorland Road, New Berlin, WI 53151) (866-726-7886) <www.buycostumes.com> offers a nice selection of costumes and accessories for men and women who want to dress up as Holmes or Watson.
13559. You can live like a Baskerville: Paul Spiring has reported that Honeysuckle Cottage in Ipplepen is for sale; two bedrooms, one bathroom, garden, asking price £210,000. It's the former home of B. Fletcher Robinson's coachman, Harry Baskerville, who received a copy of the first edition of the book inscribed by Fletcher Robinson with thanks for the use of the name.
13560. <www.sherlockpeoria.net> is the URL for Brad Keefauver's weird and wonderful Sherlock Peoria web-site, now in its ninth year, offering personal essays, contribution from The Maniac Collector, interesting links, and an imaginative "Action Sherlock Brain Theater" (all well worth checking out).
13561. Sherlock Holmes: The True Story" was broadcast on the Discovery channel in 2003 (October 03 #1); it's a 46-minute documentary about Dr. Joseph Bell, with interviews with Owen Dudley Edwards and Ely Liebow, and Dorothy Young has reported that it's now available on the Internet at YouTube and other websites.
13562. Singer/songwriter Brian McKnight's group "The Baker Street Irregulars" has issued a CD "Hanging on for Dear Life" (Atomic Mouse Recordings, 2006). It is available at Amazon (\$10.98) and as MP3 downloads of the albums and each track (you can also listen to samples).
13563. THE WORLD'S SHORTEST STORIES, edited by Steve Moss (Philadelphia: Running Press, 1998; 224 pp., \$8.95); some of the results of a "Fifty-Five Fiction" contest, which challenged authors to write short stories exactly 55 words long. And one of them is Sherlockian: Tom Ford's "The Mystery". The story also appears in a CoasterBook edition with fewer stories (but you can use the stories as coasters), issued in 2001 (\$6.95) and now out of print.

September 2010 #4

13564. The Green Bag was (and still is) a monthly magazine published for lawyers, and early issues had items of Sherlockian interest: J. B. Mackenzie's "Sherlock Holmes' Plots and Strategy" (Sept. 1902) and Donald B. Richberg's "Sherlock Holmes, Witness: The Famous Detective Testifies" (Aug. 1907); Les Klinger has dscovered both of the articles at <www.books.google.com> (search for the titles).
13565. Ken Ludwig's play "Postmortem" (involving a mystery at William Gillette's home in Hadlyme, Conn.) will be performed by the Townhouse Players at the Powerhouse Performing Arts Center, Oct. 29-Nov. 13. Box 201, New Canaan, CT 06840 (203-966-7371) <www.tpnc.org>.
13566. Further to reports on the campaign to preserve Undershaw, the house where Conan Doyle lived from 1897 to 1907, there was a two-minute segment about the house on the BBC-1's "South Today" news program in March, with views of the outside and inside of the derelict house, and statements by John Gibson and Richard Doyle. You can see it at <www.youtube.com>; search for [arthur conan doyle's house].
13567. Cindy & Bert (Jutta Gusenberger and Norbert Berger) are a German vocal duo; you can watch them perform their hit song "Der Hund von Baskerville" (1970) at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=pIYRFvQMh7A> (reported by the Baskerville Hall Club of Sweden).
13568. Kieron Freeburn's THE OFFICIAL PAPERS INTO THE MATTER KNOWN AS 'THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES' (London: MX Publishing, 2010; 162 pp., £14.99/£17.99/ \$22.95) is an imaginative reprint of the files of the Metropolitan Police and the Devon County Constabulary, offering an instructive and often entertaining look at what the police did during the case, and what they thought about what Sherlock Holmes did.

13569. Mystery Readers Journal has been published quarterly for many years by Mystery Readers International, and many back issues are available for purchase and download at their web-site <www.mysteryreaders.org>. Their fall 1996 issue (v. 12, n. 3) was devoted to Sports Mysteries, and included Philip L. Scowcroft's article "Sport and Sherlock Holmes".
13570. THE BAKER STREET PHANTOM, by Fabrice Bourland (London: Gallic Books, 2010; 185 pp., £7.99), was published in France in 2008 and is now available in an English translation; it's set in London in 1932, when American detectives James Trelawney and Andrew Singleton become involved with the widow of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and the ghosts of Sherlock Holmes and a variety of fictional (and non-fictional) characters.
13571. Al Gregory is trying to assemble a complete run of The Baker Street Journal and needs a copy of the March 1965. If you have one for sale, he's at 118 South Prospect Street, Verona, NJ 07044 <gaslightandfog@earthlink.net>.
13572. Further to the report (April 10 #5) about the violin that Steve Burnett made from wood from a 170-year-old sycamore at Liberton Bank House in Edinburgh, the "Sherlock" violin has been presented to Edinburgh University's instrument collection. Burnett plans to make a "Conan Doyle" string quartet (two violins, a cello, and a viola) next year using more wood from the tree.
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September 2010 #5

13573. The wonders of modern technology: many Sherlockian societies in non-English-speaking countries have on-line web-sites and newsletters, and they're easily found at Chris Redmond's <www.sherlockian.net>. And Google has a useful "translate" feature that will automatically translate from other languages into English, not fluently but good enough that you can figure out what's going on there, wherever there might be. Google Translate also works for English into other languages, needless to say, and there are more than fifty languages available.
13574. Sherlockians and Doyleans have long been interested in Charles Dickens' unfinished novel THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD, as long ago as 1905, when Andrew Lang's pastiche-solution appeared in Longman's Magazine; Conan Doyle himself discussed the story with Dickens, who explained that "Edwin is alive and Chris is hiding him" (the discussion took place during a seance, needless to say). And there still are Dickensians who debate ins and outs and possible endings, including Ray Dubberke, who wrote DICKENS, DROOD, AND THE DETECTIVES (May 92 #5), and now DICKENS, DROOD, AND REDEMPTION (New York: Vantage Press, 2010; 169 pp., \$22.95); the new book is not Sherlockian, but begins by quoting Vincent Starrett, who wrote that the story is "the greatest detective-story in the world."
13575. Irene's Cabinet is the annual anthology edited by Beth Austin for Watson's Tin Box, and this year's issue (42 pp.) offers the usual interesting mix of articles, toasts, and poetry, including Fred Glueckstein's essay on Conan Doyle as a baseball fan, Andrew Solberg's investigation of reports in the press when "A Study in Scarlet" was first published, and Deborah Belchis' "Dancing Men Gangsta Rap"; \$15.00 postpaid from Beth Austin (9455 Chadburn Place, Gaithersburg, MD 20886).
13576. There's more information on "Tom and Jerry Meet Sherlock Holmes", the animation released on DVD by Warner Home Video (May 10 #5): Michael York is the voice of Holmes, John Rhys-Davies is Watson, and Malcolm McDowell is Moriarty.
13577. WHODUNITS: MORE THAN 100 MYSTERIES FOR YOU TO SOLVE, by Tom Bullimore, Hy Conrad, Derrick Niederman, and Stan Smith (New York: Sterling Innovation, 2008; 275 pp., \$6.98), includes Holmes and Watson in Bullimore's SHERLOCK HOLMES' PUZZLES OF DEDUCTION (1997) and Holmes' great-great-grandson Sherman Oliver Holmes in Conrad's WHODUNIT CRIME PUZZLES (2002); it's a reprint of CLASSIC WHODUNITS (December 03 #5).
13578. Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" will be performed at Centre Stage, Feb. 10-26, 2011; the theater's at 501 River Street, Greenville, SC 29601 (877-377-1339) <www.centrestage.org>.
13579. ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE, SHERLOCK HOLMES, AND DEVON: A COMPLETE TOUR GUIDE AND COMPANION, by Brian W. Pugh, Paul R. Spiring, and Sadru Bhanji (London, MX Publishing, 2010; 255 pp., £12.99/\$19.95/£14.99), is a valuable and interesting guidebook for those who want to tour Devon, and for those who want to know more about an area that includes much more than Dartmoor. The book has five sections, about Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, George Turnavine Budd, Sir George Newnes, Bertram Fletcher Robinson, and (the largest) Devon itself, all carefully researched and well illustrated.
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September 2010 #6

13580. Stuart Kaminsky died on Oct. 9, 2009. A film historian, screenwriter, and prolific novelist, he had Sherlockian allusions in two of his "Toby Peters" mysteries: Basil Rathbone was Peters' Sherlockian assistant in THE HOWARD HUGHES AFFAIR (1979), and Peters attended a meeting of a Sherlockian society called The Engineer's Thumbs in HE DONE HER WRONG (1983). He also wrote two Sherlockian pastiches, one of which ("The Final Toast") he dramatized for performance at the International Mystery Writers' Festival in 2008.
13581. Ken Lanza spotted the "Sherlock Holmes" shoe at <www.keepcompany.com/detail.aspx&id=115>; it looks much better in full color, needless to say. The unisex tweed-and plaid shoe is made by Keep (\$75.00 at their web-site).
13582. Further to the report on NATMEET, which is what Sherlockians in Australia call the national meeting of their Sherlockian societies (August 10 #4), Steve Duke now reports that something likely will be going on down under in 2012, but not on Easter Weekend. Stay tuned, as they say.
13583. Worth a look: Shahan Cheong's web-site <www.scheong.wordpress.com> offers a link to "The Encyclopedia Sherlockian".
13584. This year's "Saturday with Sherlock Holmes" at the Enoch Pratt Free Library will be on Nov. 6, from 10:00 to 1:00; 400 Cathedral Street in Baltimore. The event, open to the public and free, is sponsored by the local Sherlockian societies, and this year's theme is "Is There a Doctor in the House?".
13585. What's the most valuable modern Sherlockian periodical? A likely candidate is the first issue of Playboy, which included an excerpt from "The Sign of the Four"; it sold for 50c in Dec. 1953 and had a press run of 53,991 copies, and a copy sold at auction this month for \$3,032. It would have sold for much more, of course, if it had been signed by Hugh Hefner (and signed copies do exist).
13586. There are some aspects of Sherlock Holmes' world that tend to be neglected by most commentators, one of those aspects being sanitation. Ripperologist (an interesting electronic journal edited by Eduardo Zinna) has been running Tim Mosley's intriguing multi-part article "The House That Jack Built" (it's a pun, since in Britain the common term for "privy" was "jakes" (believed to be derived from "Jack's house" rather than having anything to do with Jack the Ripper); the article began in issue #115 (July 2010) and is continuing. Contact Zinna at <editorez@yahoo.co.uk> for information about subscriptions.
13587. The story of the meeting between Conan Doyle and Chaplin has been told by many, but the source is never stated. The original, in Conan Doyle's own words, was reported in the N.Y. Times (Dec. 7, 1925) about his speech at the annual dinner of the Savage Club in London: "At one theatre," he said, they had a boy playing the page in 'Sherlock Holmes'. If I had said to him 'we will go halves for all our lives,' I should have made a great deal, for that little boy was Charlie Chaplin." It should be noted that Conan Doyle did not say that he actually had met Chaplin.
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September 2010 #7

13588. I'm not sure it's worth buying the DVD with the complete first season, but the Canadian one-hour series broadcast (and now in repeats) by Syfy cable included "Revelations" (a two-part story that first aired on Dec. 29, 2008, and Jan. 5, 2009) in which Dr. James Watson (played by Peter Wingfield) is described as having been Conan Doyle's inspiration for Sherlock Holmes (and this Dr. Watson was modest, and satisfied to have his name used for the secondary character in the stories).
13589. Heather Brown's creative Knitwits include Sherlock Holmes (2.5 in. high and in appropriate colors); you can see a full-color image at <www.flickr.com/photos/londonmatt/3190604849>. \$27.00 postpaid (they're knitted to order); you can contact Heather at <heatherjanebrown-at-googlemail.com>.
13590. "A character so sinister he makes Arthur Conan Doyle's Professor Moriarty look like a common shoplifter" is how the publisher described Fantomas when a new translation of the novel by Marcel Allain and Pierre Souvestre appeared in 1986. FANTOMAS was first published in 1911. launched a flood of novels and silent films; a new DVD will show you just how sinister he was. The DVD has five films (1913-1914), plus additional features, and you can see a trailer at <www.kino.com>.
13591. Audio Editions offers a long list and wide range of books on CDs and as MP3 downloads; searching their web-site <www.audioeditions.com> yields 153 hits for [conan doyle] and 131 for [sherlock holmes]. Their more-limited catalog is available by mail (Box 6930, Auburn, CA 95604 (800-231-4261)).
13592. SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE AMERICAN YEARS, edited by Michael Kurland (New York: Minotaur, 2010; 347 pp. \$25.99), is an anthology of ten new stories about Sherlock Holmes in America, by authors who include Rhys Bowen, Peter Tremayne, and Steve Hockensmith (whose has arranged a meeting between Holmes and William Gillette).
13593. Bernard Davies ("A Study in Scarlet") died on Sept. 21. A stalwart member of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London, he was its chairman from 1983 to 1986, and became an honorary member in 1995. His specialty was the locations of the Sherlock Holmes stories, and he was an expert guide to the geography of the Canon and wrote many articles based on his research. He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1985.
13594. The artist Charles Wysocki (1928-2002) specialized in Americana, and there is a web-site at <www.charleswysocki.com> that shows his work, including a print "Hound of the Baskervilles" that was published in 1997. The print is available at eBay for \$425.00, Ken Lanza reports, along with a less-expensive plate and calendar.
13595. Tina Rhea noted a story in the Observer (Sept. 26) about a television commercial in which John Lennon footage is used to advertise the Citroën DS3. But the footage was dubbed; the original footage, shot by the BBC in June 1968, shows Lennon talking about reading the Sherlock Holmes stories in Tahiti, before he went on to write about Shamrock Wolms and Doctored Whopper in a story in A SPANIARD IN THE WORKS (1965). You can see both versions of the footage at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=ipyUk5-wlFg>.

September 2010 #8

13596. The Scowlers and Molly Maguires invite people who are coming to San Francisco for Bouchercon to a reception on Saturday, Oct. 16, 6:00-8:00 pm, at Schroeder's Restaurant (240 Front Street); there will be a cash bar, and you're asked to RSVP by Oct. 9 to <sfbsi221@gmail.com>. The Bouchercon schedule is now available at <www.bcon2010.com>, and there's still time to register for the whole convention, or just one day (hint: the Sherlockian panel will be on Oct. 14, at 3:00 pm).
13597. The BBC mini-series "Sherlock" started on Showcase in Canada on Sept. 10, which gave viewers there access before viewers in the U.S., where the series starts on PBS-TV on Oct. 24. There's a 2-minute preview available at <www.pbs.org/wghb/masterpiece/sherlock/index.html> (it also can be seen at YouTube). The American version of the two-DVD set is scheduled for release in the U.S. on Nov. 9 on DVD (\$34.98) and on Blu-ray (\$39.98), and the set will include audio commentaries, a making-of featurette, and the unbroadcast pilot episode.
13598. "Masterpiece Mystery" will screen the first episode at New York Comicon at 10:00 pm on Oct. 8. And there will be a Twitter Party during the broadcast on Oct. 24.
13599. The BBC has announced that they have commissioned three new episodes of the mini-series, for broadcast next autumn. The BBC press release quoted cocreators Mark Gatiss and Steven Moffat as saying "there'll be baffling new puzzles, old friends, and new enemies--whether on two or four legs. And we might be seeing the cold master of logic and reason unexpectedly falling. But in love? Or over a precipice? Who can tell?" And (sorry about that): Sue Vertue's husband (August 10 #8) is Steven Moffat.
13600. The nifty little hand lens that Sherlock Holmes uses in the new "Sherlock" mini-series is a designo slide-out magnifier made by Eschenbach in Germany, and you can win one the write-a-pastiche contest at <www.sherlocking.org> (click on "The Contest"); the fan-site is maintained by Sean Duncan and Liz Elcessor, and they have other interesting news and links.
13601. I guess it's time for some gossip about Guy Ritchie's "Sherlock Holmes 2": according to the Hollywood Reporter (Sept. 11), Noomi Rapace (who starred in "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo") has been signed as the female lead, perhaps playing a French gypsy (although Irene Adler is reported to be returning). Mycroft and Moriarty are to appear in the film. And Jon Lellenberg reports that principal photography will begin in early October (so you can expect a lot more gossip).
13602. And Stephen Fry has announced on a BBC radio show that he will be playing Mycroft in the film. There have been rumors as far back as 1991 of a television series in which he would star with Hugh Laurie as Holmes and Watson, but it was reported (January 05 #6) that Fry said at annual dinner of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, that he had realized that he doesn't resemble Holmes ("there's no description in the Canon of Holmes looking like 'a bin liner full of yoghurt'"), and that the project had been scrapped.

October 2010 #1

13603. Thad Holt has noted the impressive Wikipedia entry at <www.wikipedia.org> for "Sherlock Holmes Baffled" (the very first Sherlock Holmes film, made in 1900). There are interesting aspects to Wikipedia, such as the "View history" feature (at the upper right) that allows you to review the work that Wikipedia's editors have done, starting with Mary Read (who describes herself as "a goofy pirate chick with a penchant for crazed copy-editing") and others since she launched the entry on Jan. 26, 2007. It has been selected as a "featured article" (click on the gold star at the upper right); there are at the moment 3,075 featured articles out of 3,453,810 articles on the English Wikipedia.
13604. And it is intriguing to consider that by the time of "His Last Bow" Holmes would have had a chance to see a "Sherlock Holmes" film (perhaps one of the eight films that were made by the Franco-British Film Co. in 1912 starring Georges Treville).
13605. The Baker Street Irregulars is a reggae rock group in Seattle and Bellevue, with a presence at <www.youtube.com>; search for [irregulars mars]
13606. Peter Ashman reported an interesting entry in the "Lens" blog at the N.Y. Times web-site at <www.nytimes.com>; search for [artistry and artifice in the times studio]. Slide #2 shows Charles Laughton as Hercule Poirot, but more important is a mention of Basil Rathbone in a "Sexiest Men" feature in 1926. And so he was, in the Rotogravure Picture Section on Dec. 26, 1926. Headlined "The Matinee Idols of 1926: Florenz Ziegfeld, America's

- Most Famous Judge of Beauty, Selects the Handsomest Men of Broadway", who was then playing the lead in "The Captive". On Feb. 9, 1927, "The Captive" was one of three plays raided by the police on charges of obscenity, but that, as they say, is another story.
13607. Randall Stock has added new information to his "Best of Sherlock" census of known copies of the first edition of Vincent Starrett's pastiche "The Adventure of the Unique Hamlet" (August 10 #3); go to <www.bestofsherlock.com> to see the latest version.
13608. John Longenbaugh's new play "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol" will be performed at the Taproot Theatre, from Nov. 26 through Dec. 30, with previews on Nov. 19-20; 204 North 85th Street, Seattle, WA 98103 (206-781-9707) <www.taproottheatre.org>.
13609. John Baesch spotted a report in the N.Y. Times (July 27) about the discovery of bone fragments of a giant rat in caves on East Timor; the rat, which may have lived as recently as 1,000 years ago, is estimated to have weighed 13 pounds. It has been many years since Guy G. Musser and Cameron Newcomb published their article "Malaysian Murids and the Giant Rat of Sumatra" in the Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History (December 83 #4), and the new discovery is described by K. P. Aplin and K. M. Helgen in "Quaternary Murid Rodents of Timor" (Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History (n. 341). The giant rats are in the genus *Coryphomus*, and one of the new discoveries was named *Coryphomus musseri* in honor of Musser; you can read the Bulletin on-line at <digitallibrary.amnh.org/dspace/handle/22466077>.
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October 2010 #2

13610. Mr. Frankland, of Lafter Hall, was not the last person to try to prevent people from crossing his land on Dartmoor: John Baesch has forwarded a story in the Sunday Telegraphy (Aug. 8) about what the paper calls "the battle of Vixen Tor". For generations Vixen Tor has been a highlight for people walking across Dartmoor (and for Sherlockians, since it's mentioned in "The Hound of the Baskervilles"), but in 2003 Mary Alford bought the land and barred access to the site. Last year the Devon County Council's public rights of way committee unanimously called for two footpaths to be opened across Vixen Tor on the grounds that a right of way had existed before Mrs. Alford bought the land; she has appealed to the Planning Inspectorate, forcing a public inquiry into the case.
13611. Earle W. Jacobs' THE GRIMPEN MIRE AFFAIR (Bloomington: AuthorHouse, 2010; 101 pp., \$10.99) involves Holmes, Watson, their landlady Mrs. Grimes, and Inspector LeStrade in an adventure that has nothing to do with the Hound, and is told by Watson as a journal entry rather than a story.
13612. Anne Cotton reports that The Clients of Adrian Mulliner (who are devotees of the writings of both John H. Watson and P. G. Wodehouse) will convene a Junior Bloodstain (a considerably less than totally reverent event) during the annual convention of the Wodehouse Society on October 13-16, 2011, in Dearborn, Mich. Additional information is available from Anne (12 Hollywood Street, South Hadley, MA 01075) <ladybassett@comcast.net>.
13613. Evy Herzog found a new Sherlockian T-shirt sold by Literary Threads; the color is mustard, and it is available in various sizes (\$20.00 postpaid) (904-557-3479) <www.literarythreads.com>.
13614. Jack Cassin-Scott died on June 9. An artist, author, and actor, he was also an expert model-maker; his attractive Cassin Baker Street Series of 12-inch latex figures (1969-1971) included Sherlock Holmes, Dr. Watson, Irene Adler, Prof. Moriarty, and Mycroft Holmes.
13615. There's almost always something new for fans of Mary Russell at Laurie R. King's web-site <www.laurierking.com>; click on the Bouchercon page for a virtual tour of many of the locations in LOCKED ROOMS and THE ART OF DETECTION. There's news of STUDIES IN SHERLOCK HOLMES, an anthology edited by Laurie and Les Klinger, with an interesting list of contributors, due from Random House for Christmas 2011. Laurie also offers A MARY RUSSELL COMPANION as a free e-Book, with excerpts from all the books, an essay by Laurie describing the writing process, and lots of extra features. The COMPANION will be up-dated when additional books in the series are published (PIRATE KING is due next year).
13616. There's something new in Scotland: The Sherlock Holmes Society of Scotland has held its first meeting, and plans to meet monthly in Glasgow. It's the first Sherlockian society in Scotland, and its founder is Barry Young; his postal address is 19 Windsor Court, Dirleton Drive, Glasgow G41 3BG, Great Britain, and the society's e-mail address is <sherlockscotland@btinternet.com>. They have a web-site at <www.sherlockscotland.blogspot.com>.
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October 2010 #3

13617. Martha Stewart is now firmly in the world of Sherlock Holmes: in the Grandinroad catalog, which has a "Martha Stewart Detective Woman's Halloween Costume" (cape, collar, and cap) at \$119.00 (item #41814), and you can see it in full color at <www.grandinroad.com>; thanks to Evy Herzog, who noted the item. It's too late for Halloween this year, of course, but you'll be in plenty of time for next year.
13618. But this isn't the first Sherlockian connection for Martha Stewart: "Where there is no imagination there is no horror" was the appropriate Halloween quote in Martha Stewart Living (Oct. 2008), credited to Conan Doyle. And where did he write that?
13619. LONDON QUIZ, by Travis Elborough and Nick Rennison, is a handy pocket-size collection of "400 provocative, curious, and humorous questions to enlighten and entertain" (New York: The Little Bookroom, 2010; 240 pp., \$14.95), and it offers a pleasant challenge for people who think they know all about the city and its history (at least three of the questions are Sherlockian or Doylean).
13620. Tsukasa Kobayashi ("Baritsu") died on Sept. 27. He was a psychologist, an educator, a novelist, and an active Esperantist, and he was a co-founder of the Japan Sherlock Holmes Club in 1977. He received his Investiture in The Baker Street Irregulars in 1985.
13621. Plan ahead: The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection, the Toronto Public Library, and The Bootmakers of Toronto have scheduled a conference on "Arthur Conan Doyle: A Study in Scandal" in Toronto on Oct. 13-16, 2011; their website's at <www.acdfriends.org> and more details are available on request from Barbara Rusch (36 Macauley Drive, Thornhill, ON L3T 5S5, Canada) <ephemeradiva@rogers.com>. The Wessex Press is sponsoring its third "From Gillette to Brett" weekend in Indianapolis on Nov. 11-13, 2011; more information (and an impressive video trailer at <www.wessexpress.com>. The Baker Street Irregulars and the UCLA School of Theater, Film, and Television will hold a Labor Day conference on "Sherlock Holmes: Behind the Canonical Screen" in Los Angeles on Aug. 31-Sept. 3, 2012; details to come. And The Sherlock Holmes Society of London has scheduled a new Swiss Pilgrimage for Sept. 9-16, 2012; they'll spend four days in Interlaken and three days in Meiringen, presumably all in appropriate Sherlockian costume.
13622. "Such Suite Music with Holmes" was the headline on a story by John Gibson in the Scotsman (Oct. 20), spotted by Scott Monty. The Electric Light Orchestra will include Patrick Gowers' "Sherlock Holmes Suite" (from the Granada series) in a concert at the Queen's Hall in Edinburgh on Nov. 6.
13623. News from Toronto: three manuscripts that were owned by Adrian Conan Doyle and were bequeathed by his widow Anna to the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection have arrived at the Toronto Reference Library: "The Crown Diamond" (a play that was first performed in 1921 and then adapted as "The Mazarin Stone"), "Some Personalia about Mr. Sherlock Holmes" (an article first published in The Strand Magazine in 1917), and "On the Intemperance of Our Country, the Cause of Its Prevalence, and the Means of Its Suppression" (an essay that was written for a competition in 1878). Randall Stock discusses all three manuscripts at <www.bestofsherlock.com/ref/crown-diamond-manuscript.htm>.
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October 2010 #4

13624. Bouchercon 41 ("Bouchercon by the Bay") was nicely done indeed, with registration about 1,400 plus about 400 one-day attendees. There were two Sherlockian panels: "Going Home" (with Michael Kean, Peter E. Blau, Chris Goetz, and Richard Sveum) and "Letters from the Grave" (with Les Klinger, Steve Hockensmith, Laurie R. King, Michael Kurland, and Graham Moore), and a third non-Sherlockian "A Trout in the Milk" about sex in mysteries (none of the panelists were familiar with the trout in the milk in the Canon). The titles of the panels presented their own mystery, and it was revealed at the end of the convention that the titles of all the panels were titles of (appropriately) of the television series "The Streets of San Francisco".
13625. The Scowrers and Molly Maguires hosted a Saturday-evening reception to welcome the Sherlockian visitors, and the conventional also offered an opportunity to visit an exhibition on "Sidney Paget's Sherlock Holmes: A Sesquicentennial Exhibition" at the Arion Press Gallery. The exhibition honors Paget's 150th birthday, runs through Nov. 17, and features six original illustrations (from the collection of Glen Miranker); there's more about the gallery and the exhibition at <www.arionpress.com/paget.html>.
13626. Future Bouchercons will be held in St. Louis, Mo., on Sept. 15-18, 2011; in Cleveland, Ohio, Oct. 4-7, 2012; in Albany, N.Y., Sept. 19-22, 2013; and in Long Beach, Calif., Nov. 13-16, 2014. More information about Bouchercons past, present, and future will be found at <www.bouchercon.info>.
13627. "Where there is no imagination there is no horror" was said by Holmes, to Watson, in A STUDY IN SCARLET.
13628. Mark Alberstat's 2011 Sherlock Holmes Calendar is illustrated with artwork from The Strand Magazine, and displays important Sherlockian birthdays and William S. Baring-Gould's dates for the cases. US\$14.00 postpaid, and his address is: 46 Kingston Crescent, Dartmouth, NS B3A 2M2, Canada.
13629. Dennis Wickline's audience-participation mystery "Sherlock Holmes Is Coming to Dinner" opened at the Broadway Onstage Live Theatre on Oct. 22, and will run through Nov. 20. 21517 Kelly Road, Eastpointe, MI 48021 (586-771-6333) <www.broadwayonstage.com>.
13630. Paul Singleton has reported that F. Andrew Leslie's play "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1978) will be performed by the Gotham Radio Theatre on Nov. 8 at the Mint Theater (311 West 43rd Street #307, New York, NY 10036) (866-992-9263) <www.gothamradiotheatre.com>. There will be two performances, at 7:00 and 9:00 pm.
13631. David F. Musto ("Dr. Anstruther") died on Oct. 8. He was for many years a professor at Yale University, and a leading historian of U.S. drug policy. His essay "A Study in Cocaine: Sherlock Holmes and Sigmund Freud" appeared in the Journal of the American Medical Association in 1968, and was cited by Nicholas Meyer as one of the inspirations for his novel THE SEVEN-PERCENT SOLUTION. Dave also was founder of the Yale Sherlock Holmes Society, orchestrating annual summer meetings that featured guest speakers and the screening of a Basil Rathbone film. He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1969.

October 2010 #5

13632. Sherlock Holmes' 157th birthday will be celebrated on Friday, Jan. 7, with the traditional festivities in New York, but the first formal event will be The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes' ASH Wednesday dinner starting at 6:00 pm at O'Casey's (22 East 41st Street); attendees pay their own checks, but you should let Susan Rice (125 Washington Place #2-E, New York, NY 10014) <susan221bee@gmail.com> or Evy Herzog (301 Warren Avenue #203, Baltimore, MD 21230) <herzogbaesch@aol.com> know if you are coming to the event.
13633. The Christopher Morley Walk, led by Jim Cox and Dore Nash, will leave from the Algonquin Hotel (59 West 44th Street) at 9:30 am on Thursday, followed by lunch at McSorley's at about 1:30 pm; those planning to participate are asked to get in touch with Jim (2240 15th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94116) <jasdcx@yahoo.com>, and of course are advised to dress appropriately for the weather. Burt Wolder reports that The Three Hours for Lunch Club will honor Frederic Dorr Steele's memory at 1:00 pm at The Players (16 Gramercy Park South).
13634. The Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Speaker Lecture begins at 6:15 pm on the 2nd floor of the Midtown Executive Club (at 40 West 45th Street); the speaker will be Michael Sims, editor of the anthology THE PENGUIN BOOK OF GASLIGHT CRIME and the upcoming THE DEAD WITNESS: A CONNOISSEUR'S COLLECTION OF VICTORIAN DETECTIVE STORIES. The lecture will cost \$11.00; seating is limited, and you should reserve early (details below). Tickets will not be sold at the door.
13635. The Beacon Society's annual meeting will be held at 10:00 am on Friday in the Park Suite at the Roosevelt Hotel (45 East 4th Street) to present their Annual Beacon Award recognizing efforts of individuals to introduce Sherlock Holmes to young people. Their web-site's at <www.beaconsociety.com>.
13636. Otto Penzler will hold his traditional open house from 11:00 to 5:00 at the Mysterious Bookshop, at 58 Warren Street (between West Broadway and Church Street) in Tribeca; the 1, 2, and 3 trains stop at the Chambers Street station (one block from the shop). If you get lost, the bookshop's telephone number is 212-587-1011.
13637. The William Gillette Memorial Luncheon starts at noon, at Moran's Chelsea Seafood Restaurant at 146 Tenth Avenue at 19th Street; the cost is \$45.00 for chicken or salmon (\$50.00 for prime rib). Susan Rice (125 Washington Place #2-E, New York, NY 10014) <susan221bee@gmail.com> is the contact for a formal announcement.
13638. The Baker Street Irregulars will gather at 6:00 pm at the Yale Club at 50 Vanderbilt Avenue (across the street and just north of Grand Central Station); attendance is by invitation only. The Gaslight Gala (which is open to all Sherlockians and their friends) will provide dinner and entertainment at 6:30 pm at the Manhattan Club (201 West 52nd Street at Seventh Avenue); \$75.00 (checks payable to Will Walsh can be sent to Carol Fish at Box 4, Circleville, NY 10919 (845-361-4320).
13639. Space is limited at the William Gillette Luncheon and the Gaslight Gala, and early reservations are advised.

October 2010 #6

13640. Those who wish to have seasonal souvenirs or other mementos included in the various dinner packets can send 170 copies (for the BSI) to Al Gregory (118 South Prospect Street, Verona, NJ 07044), 110 copies (for the Gaslight Gala) to Francine Kitts (35 Van Cortlandt Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10301), and 20 copies (for The Women) to Mary Ann Bradley (7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278); your material should be mailed to arrive by Dec. 15.
13641. On Saturday a wide variety of Sherlockiana will be available from vendors in the Merchants Room (Covent Garden West) in the Vanderbilt Suite on the second floor of the Roosevelt Hotel (45 East 45th Street) from 9:00 am to noon; for information about dealers' tables, contact Ralph Hall (2906 Wallingford Court, Louisville, KY 40218) (502-491-3148) <bugmanhall@aol.com>.
13642. The Baker Street Irregulars' annual reception, open to all Sherlockians and their friends, will be held from 1:00 to 4:00 at the New York City Bar Association (42 West 44th Street); there will be hors d'oeuvres (adequate but not replacing lunch or dinner) and an open bar (wine, beer, juice, and soft drinks). The cost is \$79.00 (details below) or \$89.00 after Nov. 26 or at the door.
13643. For those who wish to continue partying, there are as yet no plans (firm or infirm) for sporting events at Kennedy's or other venues on Saturday evening; stay tuned (as they say) for a further report.

13644. The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes will hold an informal buffet brunch on Sunday, from 11:15 am to 2:30 pm at the Oldcastle Pub & Restaurant at 160 West 54th Street (between Sixth and Seventh Avenues) (and yes, Sixth Avenue is the Avenue of the Americas), and the cost will be \$20.00 including tax and tip (payable by cash or check at the door). The brunch is open to all, but space is limited; please let Lyndsay Faye (450 West 162nd Street #25-E, New York, NY 10032) <lyndsayfaye@hotmail.com> know if you are coming.
13645. Arrangements have been made for a block of rooms at the Roosevelt Hotel (45 East 45th Street) at a special tax-free rate; the special rate is available only for reservations made through The Baker Street Irregulars (details below).
13646. And here are the details: if you've not already received Mike Whelan's announcement and reservation form (including prices) for the Roosevelt Hotel, the Thursday lecture, and the Saturday reception, after Nov. 1 you can visit the Baker Street Journal web-site <www.bakerstreetjournal.com> and click on "BSI Weekend".
13647. Mary Ellen Rich kindly continues to advise about hotels that offer reasonable (as defined by New York landlords) rates, but it's a mark of the 21st century that the best offers are to be found on the Internet, at web-sites such as <www.priceline.com>, <www.tripadvisor.com>, <www.travelocity.com>, <www.hotels.com>, <www.expedia.com>, and <www.quikbook.com>; special rates also are available at <www.travelzoo.com/top20/82851294-890255>. You will be wise then to check the hotel's web-site and ask for the best rate (and you should not forget about non-optional extras such as almost 20% in state and city taxes).
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October 2010 #7

13648. The Dr. John H. Watson Fund offers financial assistance to all Sherlockians (membership in the BSI is not required) who might otherwise not be able to participate in the weekend's festivities. A carefully pseudonymous John H. Watson presides over the fund and welcomes contributions, which can be made by check payable to John H. Watson and sent (without return address on the envelope) to Dr. Watson, care of The Baker Street Irregulars, at 7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278; your letters are forwarded unopened, and Dr. Watson will acknowledge your generosity. Requests for assistance should also be mailed (quickly) to Dr. Watson at the same address.
13649. And if you can't remember where you put your copy of all of this, detailed information about the birthday festivities is available on the Internet at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com> and <www.bsiweekend.com>. News of additional events will be found in this newsletter, and at the web-sites.
13650. More television news: BBC Worldwide has said it has sold its mini-series "Sherlock" for broadcast in France, Russia, the Czech Republic, Slovenia, Estonia, Serbia, New Zealand, South Africa, Latin America, and Ireland, in addition to Canada and the U.S. And co-creator Steven Moffat offered some clues about the next series in an interview on Oct. 15 on National Public Radio's "Morning Edition": Linda Wertheimer asked for hints, and Moffat replied "The critical words, I'd say, would be--Adler, Hound, Reichenbach." You can go to <www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyid=13572175> for audio and a transcript.
13651. The new British government's call for budget cuts totaling £83 billion includes a 30% reduction in funding for the Arts Council, which supports the BBC. The Financial Times noted (Oct. 22) that Benedict Cumberbatch, Simon Pegg, and Liam Nesson have all asked that the arts be spared, and the paper's columnist Jonathan Guthrie asked, "Who can gainsay the combined economic wisdom of men who between them have personated Sherlock Holmes, Scotty from 'Star Trek', and Jedi Knight Qui-Gon Jin?"
13652. The U.S. broadcast of the first episode was marked by a Sherlockian first: PBS-TV created a live Twitter chat in which on-line viewers could watch and comment on the program. Scott Monty was one of the hosts, and reports that there were more than 1,500 tweets in less than 90 minutes; you're can visit <www.bakerstreetblog.com/2010/10/more-to-me-than-twitter-illu.html> to read all about it at Scott's "Baker Street Blog".
13653. More movie news: Jared Harris (he plays Lane Pryce on "Mad Men" series) has been cast as Moriarty in Guy Ritchie's "Sherlock 2" (putting to rest those rumors about Brad Pitt, Daniel Day-Lewis, Sean Penn, and others). And production has started on "Sherlock 2"; go to <www.dailymail.co.uk> and search for [downey law richmond] to see a story (Oct. 19) with photographs taken during filming in Richmond Park, which reportedly was turned into a gypsy camp. The photographs don't show Noomi Rapace, who may be playing a French gypsy in the film (September 10 #8); if you would like to know how to pronounce her name, do a Google search for [pronounce noomi rapace].
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November 2010 #1

13654. Sorry about that: the Beacon Society's annual meeting will be held at 10:00 am on Saturday, Jan. 8, during the birthday festivities in New York, in the Park Suite at the Roosevelt Hotel (at 45 East 4th Street) to present their Annual Beacon Award recognizing efforts of individuals to introduce Sherlock Holmes to young people. Their web-site's at <www.beaconsociety.com>.
13655. And Chrys Kegley of The Curious Collectors of Baker Street will once again host The Very Irregular Lost in New York with a Bunch of Sherlockians Dinner at Kennedy's Irish Restaurant & Pub (327 West 57th Street, between 8th and 9th Avenues) on Saturday at 6:00 pm; \$44.50 for dinner, one alcoholic drink, tax, and tip. Please send checks (payable to the CCOBS) to Chrys at 18014 Sherman Way #275, Reseda, CA 91235, to arrive by Dec. 28; if you have questions, she's at (818-675-5581) <bswl@socal.rr.com>.
13656. Al Gregory requests everyone cooperation in ensuring that material intended for the packets at the annual dinner of The Baker Street Irregulars will be received by Dec. 15; his address is 118 South Prospect Street, Verona, NJ 07044 <gaslightandfog@earthlink.net>.
13657. Julie Snell has discovered The Nostalgia League, an interesting on-line resource that includes a department called The Diogenes Club, where you can read two Sherlockian parodies: Sir James M. Barrie's "The Adventure of the Two Collaborators" (1893) and P. G. Wodehouse's "Dudley-Jones, Bore-Hunter" (1903) <www.thenostalgialeague.com/olmag/doyle.html>.
13658. The Strand Magazine (published by Andrew Gulli) offers its "Sherlock Holmes 2011 Wall Calendar" accompanied by a bonus DVD that has five Holmes films from 1921 to 1945). \$24.95 (Box 1418, Birmingham, MI 48012) (800-300-6652) <www.strandmag.com>.
13659. Karen Murdock has noted a "The Doctor Is In... Literature" list on-line at <www.abebooks.com>; the doctors include Mengele, Doolittle, Moreau, Jekyll, Fu-Manchu, Nikola, Van Helsing, No, Zhivago, and Watson.
13660. E.J. Wagner's THE SCIENCE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (June 06 #2) is now available (unabridged) as an audio book at <www.audible.com>; she narrates the book, with the assistance of Simon Prebble. And she has an interesting web-site at <www.ejwagner-crimehistorian.com>
13661. Geoffrey Crawley died on Oct. 29. He was for many years editor-in-chief of the British Journal of Photography, and wrote a ten-part series of articles in 1982 and 1983 that exposed the photographs of the Cottingley fairies as fakes. It is an interesting coincidence that Conan Doyle wrote a series of articles about photography that were published in the magazine from 1881 to 1885.
13662. TWITTERATURE: THE WORLD'S GREATEST BOOKS IN TWENTY TWEETS OR LESS, by Alexander Aciman and Emmett Rensin (New York: Penguin, 2009; 224 pp., \$12.00), the contents include "Sherlock Holmes". The book was published in Britain as TWITTERATURE: THE WORLD'S GREATEST BOOKS RETOLD THROUGH TWITTER. Thanks to John Baesch for spotting the latest version of the Canon.
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November 2010 #2

13663. Mystery Scene Magazine (March 10 #4) is informative and colorful; the fall issue has Cheryl Solimini's interesting interview with Nancy Springer about her Enola Holmes young-adult mystery series (which is ending with the sixth book this year), Laurence Block's column (intriguing but non-Sherlockian) about Charles Willeford, and a great deal more. The magazine is edited by Kate Stine and is published five times a year (\$32.00 a year to the U.S.); you can subscribe by mail (331 West 57th Street #148, New York, NY 10019, or on-line <www.mysteryscenemag.com>. The web-site has links to articles from the current and past issues, and to all of the book reviews published in the magazine.
13664. Further to the death of David F. Musto (October 10 #4), the 27th annual Sherlock Holmes Lecture at Yale was given by Dr. Thomas Duffy on June 12, 2008, on "Sherlock Holmes' Syringe"; there's a 23 minute video of the lecture at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=JYsuQbo3FM>.
13665. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists (also known as The Friends of Sherlock Holmes) met to honor the world's first forensic geologist with drinks and dinner at Dixon's Downtown Grill in Denver on Nov. 3, and the visiting geologists were welcomed by Bill Dorn and other members of the local Sherlockian society (Dr. Watson's Neglected Patients). Our next dinners will be in Houston on Apr. 13 and in Minneapolis on Oct. 12.
13666. Jill Lepore's "A Critic at Large" essay in The New Yorker (Oct. 18) can be read at their web-site <www.newyorker.com>: it's titled "Too Much Information: Books about the Birds and Bees" and opens with an amusing (and quite appropriate) quotation from the Canon.
13667. "Research papers and essays for all" is the motto at <www.oppapers.com>, a paid-access data-base at <www.oppapers.com>, spotted by Francine Kitts. At the moment they have more than 200,000 papers, including some of interest to Sherlockians or would-be Sherlockians. "Submitting papers to a website and reviewing other users' papers is not plagiarism," the company explains, adding that "submitting another's work as your own is plagiarism. Please never turn in any articles from this web-site as your own."
13668. Apologies to all those who reported (and some quite a while back) amusing T-shirts available at <www.snorgtees.com>; they're available for \$15.16 and in various sizes, and you can search for [velocholmes] or [sedimentary].

November 2010 #3

13669. Phil Bergem has found an amusing "Literary Pets" calendar for 2011 at Half Price Books; it's written and illustrated by Chet Phillips, and the page for September features Sir Arthur Canine Doyle (author of THE WHINE OF FOUR and THE HOUND OF THE BASSETVILLES) and the famed detective Curlock Holmes. The calendar is available only in stores and is free with a purchase of \$30.00 or more.
13670. Reported: a 2011 Sherlockian calendar that features Sherlockian pets (photographs of pets of Sherlockians, that is), available from Classic Specialties <www.cafepress.com/sherlockholmes2.478406128>; \$19.95.
13671. Hemlock Holmes was one of the character on the animated series "The Dick Tracy Show"; there were 130 five-minute episodes produced by UPA from 1961 to 1963, and they're all available on a set of four DVDs that was issued in 2006 (\$14.97 at Amazon). Hemlock Holmes (voice by Jerry Hausner) was a canine assistant to Tracy, and is non-Sherlockian except for his name.
13672. Aziz Bin Adam reports that "Elementary, My Dear View" (a documentary presented by Richard E. Grant) is available at YouTube in four parts (46 minutes total); the documentary is nicely done, and was broadcast in the U.K. by ITV3 on Nov. 17, 2007.
13673. "I know what I loved about Conan Doyle's work was he made his characters so real. I mean not only me, but the people that read Sherlock Holmes felt that they knew him." Comic industry legend Stan Lee, in an interview with L. Vincent Poupard at FanFare in Detroit (thanks to Jon Lellenberg for the report). To read more of the interview, go to <www.associatedcontent.com> and search for [stan lee interview with associated content].
13674. The September issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota has much about the recent conference that was devoted to "The Spirits of Sherlock Holmes" (including Jon Lellenberg's reminiscences about Allen Mackler); copies of the newsletter are available from Richard J. Sveum (111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <sveum001@tc.umn.edu>.
13675. Bill Dorn's "Sherlock Holmes Calendar" for 2011 is devoted to "Dr. John H. Watson, M.D., on Film and Television" (with photographs of many Watsons and a few Holmeses); the postpaid price is \$12.95 to the U.S., \$13.95 to Canada, and \$17.95 elsewhere. You can see the calendar, and take an interesting trivia quiz, at <web.me.com/billdorn/2011_Holmes_Calendar/Home.html>.
13676. "Watson" (subtitled "The Last Great Tale of the Legendary Sherlock Holmes") is a new play written and directed by Jaime Robledo, running at the Sacred Fools Theater through Dec. 11 (600 North Heliotrope Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90004) (310-281-8337) <www.sacredfools.org>.
13677. CONAN DOYLE AND THE DIVORCE LAW REFORM UNION is a well-researched monograph that Dana Richards has written about a relatively-unknown aspect of Sir Arthur's life; he served as president of the Union from 1909 to 1920, and the 62-page pamphlet offers interesting coverage of a campaign to which he devoted a great deal of effort and enthusiasm. It costs \$10.00 postpaid from the author (10814 Rippon Lodge Drive, Fairfax, VA 23032).

November 2010 #4

13678. If you collect Sherlockian records, you may want to extend your search to include wax cylinders: it would appear that the earliest known audio recording to mention Sherlock Holmes was issued in 1910. The song is "The Jingle of Jungle Joe" (words by Jack Mahoney and music by Theodore Morse); the sheet music was published by the Theodore Morse Music Co. in 1910, and there were at least two recordings, one performed by Collins & Harlan in 1910 (Columbia 967) and the other by the American Quartet in 1911 (Edison Amberol 638). You can listen to and download the song from the Internet: the mention of Sherlock Holmes is in the second verse. And if you have trouble understanding the song, I can provide the lyrics, copied from the sheet music.
13679. Halloween pumpkins can be quite artistic: Debbie Belchis of Ellicott City celebrated this year with a Sherlockian jack-o-lantern.
13680. THE CASE FILES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Dr. John Watson (New York: Fall River Press, 2009; 62 pp., \$22.50), is done with imagination (and without identifying the author); a scrapbook of six of the cases, accompanied by actual artefacts that include interesting items such as a love letter written by Stapleton to Laura Lyons. It was published in Britain (as THE CASE NOTES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES) by Andre Deutsch (£19.99), and the American edition has been seen discounted to \$14.98.
13681. Penguin has published THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES in their Penguin Hardcover Classics Series with an attractively lepidopterous cover designed by Coralie Bickford-Smith (\$20.00); this is a reissue of the Penguin Classics edition with the informative introduction and notes by Christopher Frayling (June 01 #5).
13682. Herbert P. Tinning ("Dr. Leon Sterndale") died on Nov. 7. He worked as an association executive, and was a dedicated deacon in the Episcopal church and an active Sherlockian as a member of societies in the midwest and then in the northeast; his special enthusiasms included the Antarctic (where he believed Dr. Watson visited during the Great Hiatus) and his namesake story "The Devil's Foot". He was awarded his Investiture in The Baker Street Irregulars in 1974.

13683. The fall issue of *The Magic Door* (the newsletter published by The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) has Cliff Goldfarb's discussion of anniversaries celebrated this year of people who had Sherlockian or Doylean connections: Frederic Chopin (200), Sidney Paget (150), J. M. Barrie (150), and Theodor Herzl (150), plus Peggy Perdue's report on manuscript acquisitions, and other news from and about the collection. Copies are available on request from Clifford S. Goldfarb (22 Markdale Avenue, Toronto, ON M6C, 1T1, Canada) <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.
13684. Paul Spiring has reported that Frederick Moy Thomas' *FIFTY YEARS OF FLEET STREET: BEING THE LIFE AND RECOLLECTIONS OF SIR JOHN R. ROBINSON* (1904) has been reprinted, and you can read it at <books.google.com>; it includes an enthusiastic letter that Conan Doyle wrote to Robinson from Amherst, Mass., in 1894, saying (among other things), "It's a great country, Sir."
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November 2010 #5

13685. Aziz Bin Adam has noted a story on CNN that will be of interest to anyone who wants to see and hear what Mecca was like in 1885 (only a few years before Sherlock Holmes "looked in" there); it was Dutch adventurer Christiaan Snouck Hurgronje who made the photographs and recordings, some of which are now on display in Dubai. The full report, by Barry Neild, is at <www.tinyurl.com/2ukqkbw>.
13686. Gayle Harris has reported that a catalog from Alberene Royal Mail (Box 902, Harrisville, NH 03450) (800-843-9078) <www.alberene.com> has many Sherlockian items, including pub glasses, a pub chalkboard, a pub-in-a-box, a pub sign from *The Sherlock Holmes*, a pocket magnifier, a pocket watch, a movie poster, and a wall clock (as well as a Diogenes Club wall clock).
13687. Dynamite Entertainment has announced their new comic book mini-series *SHERLOCK HOLMES: YEAR ONE*, with six issues written by Scott Beatty. There's a blog (with art-work) at <www.comicbookresouces.com/?page=article&id=29431>, and the publisher's web-site is at <www.dynamiteentertainment.com>.
13688. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London's new Christmas card is titled "The Snow Queen" and has an intriguing photograph from the Victoria and Albert Museum, dated ca. 1890, of a man who's wearing a deerstalker and making a snow sculpture of Queen Victoria; you can see the artwork and order packets of the cards at the Society's web-site <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk>. And the Society's annual dinner will be held on Jan. 15 in the Members' Dining Room at the House of Commons; the guest of honor will be Andrew Horowitz, a prolific author and editor, and creator and writer of the television series "Foyle's War".
13689. There's an interesting discount offer at the Deal Table at the Baker Street Journal's web-site at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>: the International Series volume *SCANDINAVIA AND SHERLOCK HOLMES* (January 07 #6) is now available at a 25% discount. The book offers English translations of fine scholarship from Denmark, Sweden, and Norway.
13690. Randall Stock has added a new feature to his "Best of Sherlock" web-site at <www.bestofsherlock.com>; "What's New in 2010: Top Holmes Gifts for Long-Time Sherlockians" offers nice choices for Christmas presents, and there's also a list of "Holmes Gifts for New Fans".
13691. Peter Cushing recorded *THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* for the Royal National Institute for the Blind in 1971, and his work at long last is available to the general public: Cosmic Hobo Productions is issuing his readings on CDs, with new notes by David Stuart Davies. The first volume, with four stories, is available now (£19.99) at <www.cosmichobo.com>; if you order before Jan. 31 and enter the discount code [moriarty] at check-out, you'll get a 25% discount. They are excellent readings, needless to say, and he demonstrates well the visual imagery at which Conan Doyle was so skilled.
13692. Cosmic Hobo also has a reissue of Cushing's (abridged) reading of his first autobiography *PAST FORGETTING* (1988) on two CDs (£14.99); 144 minutes, plus a bonus 16-minute documentary featuring some of the people who worked with him, and with new album notes written by Mark Gatiss (co-creator of the BBC mini-series "Sherlock").
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November 2010 #6

13693. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London and the Old Court Radio Theatre Company have issued a new audio recording of William Gillette's play "Sherlock Holmes", adapted for radio by Roger Johnson and starring Jim Crozier and Dave Hawkes as Holmes and Watson, nicely done indeed. The 110-minute recording can be heard or downloaded free at the Society's web-site <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk> and is available on two CDs from the Society (Mole End, 41 Sandford Road, Chelmsford CM2 6DE, England) for £12.00 or \$32.00 postpaid; sterling checks should be payable to Roger Johnson and dollar checks to Jean Upton.
13694. John Baesch notes that the J. Peterman Company (1001 Primrose Court, Lexington, KY 40811) (888-647-2555) <www.jpeterman.com> still offers items of interest to Sherlockians, and so they do: a deerstalker (\$128.00), a Sherlock Holmes pipe (\$295.00), a blackthorn walking stick (\$120.00), a herringbone caped coat (\$750.00), and an Acme Metropolitan whistle (\$19.00).
13695. It's now possible to view at least some of the first known Sherlockian film produced in color: Alexis Barquin has noted a four-minute excerpt available at YouTube. The film is "My Grandfather's Clock", and it's a parody, a 17-minute "musical murder mystery" produced in Technicolor and released by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer on Oct. 27, 1934. The film stars Charles Judels (Philo Holmes) and Franklin Pangborn (Dr. Watkins), and one of the musical numbers has everyone singing "For he's a jolly good Philo." A second (shorter) excerpt also is available; search for [bizarre musical number from 1934].
13696. Dr. William R. Hanson designed a cachet for a first day cover for the Edgar Allan Poe stamp, showing a scene from "The Murders in the Rue Morgue" and a Canonical quote about Dupin. \$10.00 postpaid to the U.S. (and \$11.00 elsewhere); payment only in U.S. currency or postal money orders, please, but other arrangements can be made for overseas buyers; his address is 78 West Notre Dame Street, Glens Falls, NY 12801 <drhanson@localnet.com>.
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November 2010 #7

13697. Japanese Sherlockiana: Daniel Stashower's *TELLER OF TALES: THE LIFE OF SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE* has been translated by Masamichi Higurashi (Tokyo: Hara Shobo, 2010; 568 pp., Y3,600), and Hayakawa's *Mystery Magazine* (Nov. 2009) honored the 150th anniversary of the birth of Conan Doyle with a selection of pastiches (by Steve Hockensmith, Kim Newman, Len Deighton, Edward D. Hoch, and Peter Lovesey), and essays about Holmes and Conan Doyle. And Hara Shobo has reissued Mitch's translation of Dick Riley and Pam McAllister's *THE BEDSIDE, BATHTUB, AND ARMCHAIR COMPANION TO SHERLOCK HOLMES*, first published in 2000 (July 01 #5).
13698. John Baesch and Evy Herzog have kindly forwarded a first day cover of the postage stamp issued this year by the Vatican in honor of the 200th birthday of Pope Leo XIII, who reigned from 1878 to 1903, and who twice was the client of Sherlock Holmes (see "Black Peter" and "The Hound of the Baskervilles").
13699. J. L. Hazen's *SOJOURN: AN ACCOUNT OF THE QUEEN'S BENCH* (Bloomington, iUniverse, 2009; 400 pp. \$22.95) is set in 1903, and begins with the murder of Sherlock Holmes; the story involves Mycroft and Watson and secret societies, and offers a complicated mystery.
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13700. Laurie R. King and Leslie S. Klinger are editing A STUDY IN SHERLOCK for publication by Bantam in Dec. 2011; it's an anthology of new stories to be written by authors who range (alphabetically) from Alan Bradley to Jackie Winspear, and there's a web-site at <www.astudyinsherlock.com>.
13701. Late-breaking news: there will be some interesting Sherlockiana at auction at Sotheby's in London on Dec. 16: a copy of the pre-publication dummy of the first American edition of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (estimated at £15,000-20,000) and a copy of the first state of the first American edition (£30,000-40,000), plus the letter from Conan Doyle to Robert Collier (Apr. 3, 1903) announcing the resuscitation of Sherlock Holmes (£15,000-20,000). There's more information on the items at <www.sothebys.com>.
13702. The Literary Encyclopedia is an interesting on-line reference work launched in 2000 and available by subscription at <www.litencyc.com>; there are previews of the entries, which include Nils Clausson's new discussion of THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (and he's now at work on THE LOST WORLD).
13703. Michael Procter has noted an interesting Internet web-site called The Victorian Dictionary <www.victorianlondon.org>, which offers a great deal of information, and much more than a dictionary. One intriguing item is the "Stanford's Map of Central London 1897", which provides large-scale views of a digitized version of the map.
13704. CONVERSATIONS WITH...ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE, by Simon Parke (Guildford: White Crow, 2009; 137 pp., £14.99/\$21.99 cloth or £8.99/\$12.99 paper), is an interesting (and imagined) interview with Conan Doyle in 1930; his comments are taken from his published work, and the interview deals mostly with his belief in Spiritualism. White Crow also offers reprints of THE NEW REVELATION, THE VITAL MESSAGE, THE EDGE OF THE UNKNOWN, and D. D. HOME: HIS LIFE AND MISSION (which was edited by Conan Doyle) <www.whitecrowbooks.com>.

November 2010 #8

13705. Edward Hardwicke was on hand for the renaming of a theater in honor of his father, Sir Cedric Hardwicke, according to a story in the Stourbridge News (Nov. 9). The Hardwicke Theatre is at Thorns Community College in Lye, where Sir Cedric was born in 1893. He played Sherlock Holmes in "The Speckled Band" on the BBC Home Service in 1945, and he appeared in the film "I Remember Mama" (1948) as a boarder, reading to the family from THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES and ending his reading with the classic line "Mr. Holmes, they were the footprints of a gigantic hound."
13706. Les Klinger was interviewed by Mark Coggins in the San Francisco Chronicle (Nov. 29), and you can read the interview on-line at <www.sfgate.com>. And there's a mention of Coggins' serial pastiche "The Adventure of the Black Bishop", which ran in five weekly parts beginning on Oct. 25; you can read it at the web-site as well (you'll need to adjust your search to include 90 days). The story also is available at <www.amazon.com> as a Kindle short for 99c.
13707. Graham Moore's pastiche THE SHERLOCKIAN (New York: Twelve, 2010; 350 pp., \$24.99) has two mysteries: one set in 1900, when Conan Doyle decides to do his own detecting, and the other in 2010, when Harold White, newly made a member of The Baker Street Irregulars, investigates the murder of a Sherlockian who has announced that he has discovered Conan Doyle's missing diary from the last three months of 1900. It's an interesting (and sometimes amusing) story, and you can read more about the book (and other things) at Moore's blog at <www.thesherlockian.com>.
13708. Work on Guy Ritchie's "Sherlock 2" continues. And Joel Silver (producer of the series) was quoted in a story in Variety (Nov. 13) as saying that "I'd like to believe that we could keep going with these stories as long as we can. I know that my 9-year-old has started reading the books now, and he would not have done that had he not seen the movies."
13709. By now many if not most of you have seen the new BBC mini-series "Sherlock" (starring Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman), but if you watched the programs on PBS-TV you haven't seen everything: WGBH-TV has edited the programs, and some bits and pieces are missing. If you want the shows as they were broadcast by the BBC, you can see everything on the U.S. DVD set (but you won't see the introductions by Alan Cumming). Another reason for buying the DVD set is the closed captioning, helpful to those who have trouble understanding people who speak quickly in British. There's a Blu-ray version of the mini-series, which of course offers high definition, but it appears not to have any features that are not on the regular DVD.
13710. Abbie Bernstein interviewed Steven Moffat and Mark Gatiss for Assignment X <www.assignmentx.com>, and Gatiss said that their favorite Sherlock Holmes films starred Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce; their favorite is "Spider Woman", and Moffat added that "it has more plot than any other movie you're ever going to see. It's extraordinary. There's a fantastic friendship at the heart of it, and I think a great time, it's full of ludicrous lurid details."

December 2010 #1

13711. The Red Circle of Washington is alive and well and on the World Wide Web, as many of you already know. We launched our web-site at our dinner meeting on Dec. 10, and the URL is <www.redcircledc.org>. We are fortunate to have an enthusiastic web-master (Alan Rettig) and a knowledgeable technical guru (Bob Howard).
13712. Karen Murdock spotted news of a new Sherlock Holmes slot machine unveiled at the European iGaming Congress this month. It is described as a 5-reel, 25-line slot game based on the Sherlock Holmes stories; players will get to search for clues and collect prizes for winning combinations, and in a bonus round help Holmes and Watson solve a murder (there's also a progressive jackpot to be won). And there's a brief video at <www.sherlockholmes.com>; the game is manufactured in Europe, and will in full production next year. And your friendly neighborhood casino can get in touch with GTECH G2; their web-site's at <www.gtech2.com>.
13713. Reported: THE HORROR OF THE HEIGHTS AND OTHER STRANGE TALES (New York: Fall River Press, 2010; 334 pp., \$6.98); fourteen of Conan Doyle's non-Sherlockian stories (apparently an exclusive at Barnes & Noble).
13714. "Story Hour in the Library" (at the University of California Berkeley) featured Laurie R. King on Nov. 4, 2010; there's a 51-minute video at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=TzLHUK5pQVM>, and you can see and hear her read an excerpt from the next Mary Russell novel (THE PIRATE KING).
13715. Forecast: SHERLOCK HOLMES AND CONAN DOYLE LOCATIONS: A VISITOR'S DIRECTORY, by Allan Foster, from McFarland, spring/summer 2011 (\$35.00); more information at <www.mcfarlandpub.com>.
13716. Laura Kuhn reports a long interview with Raymond Massey (done in the 1970s) in the summer issue of Films of the Golden Age; Massey was asked about his film "The Speckled Band" (1931) and said that he got the job because he was recommended by Gerald du Maurier, who was the first choice but said, "I'm feeling rather tired, old boy, so you try it on, will you?" According to Massey, he was the "worst ever Holmes."
13717. Robert J. Mangler ("Sir Hugo Baskerville") died on Nov. 29. He was an attorney, and was the first and longest-serving (27 years) corporation counsel of Wilmette, Ill. Bob also was an ardent Sherlockian, and in 1960 he resurrected both The Hounds of the Baskerville (sic) and Hugo's Companions; he received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1962.

13718. Ripperologist is an interesting electronic journal edited by Eduardo Zinna, and almost always has discussion of something Sherlockian; the latest issue (#177) reports that Sony Pictures Home Entertainment has started an online service that offers more than 100 classic films from its Columbia Pictures catalog, available for the first time on burn-on-demand DVDs and in high-quality transfers, priced at \$19.94. And one of them is "A Study in Terror" (1965). Go to <www.columbia-classics.com> and search for the title of the film. Contact Zinna at <editorez@yahoo.co.uk> for information about subscriptions to Ripperologist.

December 2010 #2

13719. The Feb. 2011 issue of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine, which will be on the newsstands during the birthday celebrations, has imaginative Sherlockian artwork on the cover, Donald A. Yates' pastiche "A Study in Scarlatti", Jon L. Breen's review of recent Sherlockian books, and editor Janet Hutchings's explanation of why THE ADVENTURE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES was so important to Fred Dannay and to EQMM.
13720. Further to the item on plans for an Indian remake of "The Sign of the Four" (January 09 #7), Aziz Bin Adam spotted a report in the Calcutta Telegraph (Aug. 27) that "Gumshuda" (directed by Ashoke Viswanathan) stars Rajit Kapur as private detective Prashant Saigal, and former British deputy high commissioner Simon Wilson as a "British gentleman with a hooked pipe, an overcoat, and a tendency to use the word 'elementary' more than once." The film is in Hindi, and Aziz has also noted a brief trailer at <www.youtube.com>; search for [gumshuda (2010)].
13721. Richard Luman died on May 21. He was a professor of religion at Haverford College from 1969 to 1995; he also taught courses on Victorian and Edwardian detective novels, and Icelandic sagas, and his Baker Street Journal article on "The Second Hand in The Second Stain" (Sept. 1978) won the Morley-Montgomery Award for the best contribution to the BSJ that year.
13722. Les Klinger has reported "The Game Is Afoot!: The Significance of Gratuitous Transfers in the Sherlock Holmes Canon", by Stephen R. Alton (professor law at Texas Wesleyan School of Law); it's a pastiche that discusses the inheritances, wills, and trusts in the stories, and it can be read or downloaded at <papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1676852>.
13723. Chris Music reports that The Amateur Mendicant Society of Detroit will celebrate their 65th anniversary at their winter meeting on Jan. 29. More information's available at their web-site <www.amateurmendicant.blogspot.com>
13724. The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times10-12.htm>, with offers of interesting Sherlockiana, old and new, including their Sherlock Holmes 2011 Calendar (featuring Sherlockian pets), pastiches, notecards, and much more.
13725. Further to the report (August 10 #5) on a possible judicial review of the Waverly Borough Council's decision to approve the application of a developer to convert Undershaw (the house where Conan Doyle lived from 1897 to 1907) into three flats, Paul Spiring has forwarded reports from the BBC News and the Daily Telegraph (Dec. 16), the Undershaw Preservation Trust has filed a formal request with Britain's High Court in hopes of overturning the decision.
13726. Tom Bosley died on Oct. 19. He acted on stage and television, and was best known as Mr. Cunningham on the series "Happy Days". He also played sheriff Amos Tupper on the series "Murder, She Wrote" and Father Dowling in "Father Dowling Mysteries". In 1976 he narrated a 30-minute program "That's Hollywood!: Sherlock Holmes" broadcast by WABC-TV (New York), and in the "Father Dowling Mysteries" episode "The Consulting Detective Mystery" (1991) he was assisted in investigating a murder by his mentor Sherlock Holmes (played by Rupert Frazer), whom only Dowling could see.
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December 2010 #3

13727. Prescott's Press, edited by Warren Randall for The Three Garridebs, has (as always) a nice mix of scholarship and whimsy; the September issue (#75) has Susan Rice's affectionate tribute to John Bennett Shaw. Subscriptions cost \$15.00 for four issues (\$20.00 outside the U.S.), and issue #75 is available for \$6.00/\$7.00 postpaid from Warren at 15 Fawm Lane West, South Setauket, NY 11720.
13728. There is a wide variety of Sherlockian web-sites, including Charles Prepolec's colorful "Sherlock Holmes News" <www.sherlockholmesnews.com>, where you will find news, reviews, and what he describes as "unsavory opinions."
13729. The three interesting Sherlockian items at auction at Sotheby's in London on Dec. 16 (November 10 #7) went unsold when the bids did not reach the reserves. The pre-publication dummy of the first American edition of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES was estimated at £15,000-20,000, the first state of the first American edition at £30,000-40,000, and the letter from Conan Doyle to Robert Collier (Apr. 3, 1903) announcing the resuscitation of Sherlock Holmes at £15,000-20,000.
13730. Shakespeare & Company in Lenox, Mass., performed "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (written by Steven Canny and John Nicholson) in 2009, and they're reviving the show from July 21 to Sept. 4; it's the play presented by Peepolykus on tour in England in 2007, and it's a delightful spoof. 70 Kemble Street, Lenox, MA 01240 (413-637-3353) <www.shakespeare.org>.
13731. Dr. William R. Hanson designed a colorful cachet for a first day cover for the Seabiscuit stamped envelope, showing Shoscombe Prince and a Shoscombe spaniel. \$10.00 postpaid to the U.S. (\$11.00 elsewhere); payment only in U.S. currency or postal money orders, please, but other arrangements can be made for overseas buyers; his address is 78 West Notre Dame Street, Glens Falls, NY 12801 <drhanson@localnet.com>.
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December 2010 #4

13732. "Girls with Slingshots" is an on-line comic strip drawn by Danielle Corsetto, available at <www.girlswithslingshots.com>; the cast of characters includes cats as well as people of various genders and persuasions, and there are (of course) collections of older strips. GIRLS WITH SLINGSHOTS: VOLUME FIVE (2010) has a sequence with Jamie McJack as a "Romance Detective" in Sherlockian costume (she's also on the cover), and it's available at the web-site (\$19.95).
13733. Robert C. Clyne ("The Opal Tiara") died on Dec. 12. He was an attorney and long interested in history and literature, and was a founder of The Diogenes Club of Brooklyn and co-editor of their newsletter The Growler (which they boasted was published every eight years). He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1959.
13734. The Strand Magazine (published by Andrew Gullii) offers a "221B Baker Street Magnifying Glass" (\$19.95) that has a hand-crafted rosewood panel inscribed "Sherlock Holmes/221B Baker Street London" (Box 1418, Birmingham, MI 48012) (800-300-6652) <www.strandmag.com221b.htm>.
13735. Quite a few Christmas shoppers have reported a new Sherlockian nutcracker, at Target stores and at <www.target.com> (\$12.99); search for [holiday nutcracker detective].
13736. The 2010 issue of Beaten's Christmas Annual has been published by The Sound of the Baskervilles of Seattle, with 57 pages of scholarship, quizzes, and pastiches; the scholarship includes John Longenbaugh's "The Curious Case of Jack the Ripper: An Unsolvably Sherlock Holmes Mystery", Allen Nelson's "To Joseph, Without Whom?--The Story of an American Publisher and the Future of Sherlock Holmes", and Stu Shiffman's "Holmes, Agatha, and Jeeves". The annual costs \$13.00 postpaid (\$18.00 outside the U.S.), with checks (in U.S. dollars, please) payable to The Sound of the
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Baskervilles, from Terri Haugen, 3606 Harborcrest Court NW, Gig Harbor, WA 98332. The 2007 annual also is available, with 290 pages celebrating the society's 25th anniversary with a compilation of the best material published in earlier issues; \$24.95 postpaid to the U.S. (\$27.95 to Canada, \$35.95 elsewhere); other details as above.

13737. Dynamite Entertainment's new comic book mini-series SHERLOCK HOLMES: YEAR ONE (November 10 #5) will launch in January, and Michael Bershak has reported an interesting preview by Cliff Biggers, with artwork by Daniel Indro, in the weekly Comic Shop News <www.csnsider.com/1222.htm>.
13738. Steve Hockensmith's WORLD'S GREATEST SLEUTH (New York: Minotaur, 2011; 324 pp., \$24.99) is the fifth in his series about Old Red and Big Red Amlingmeyer, who are summoned to the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago for a contest with some of the world's most famous detective, and are confronted with a real mystery when the contest organizer is found murdered, face down in the Mammoth Cheese from Canada; it's interesting and amusing. He has another series for non-Sherlockians: PRIDE AND PREJUDICE AND ZOMBIES; DAWN OF THE DREADFULS was published in 2009, and DREADFULLY EVER AFTER is due in 2011, and his web-site's at <www.stevhockensmith.com>.

December 2010 #5

13739. Michael Dirda delivered the annual Cameron Hollyer Lecture at the Toronto Public Library last year, and his remarks (titled "Arthur Conan Doyle as Essayist and Journalist") were published for members of The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection. A limited number of copies are available if you join the Friends now <www.acdfriends.org>; you can also contact Cliff Goldfarb, 22 Markdale Avenue, Toronto, ON M6C 1T1, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>, and the minimum donation (which includes three issues of the Friends' newsletter "Through the Magic Door) is \$25.00. This year's lecture by Peter Calamai ("The Real World of Sherlock Holmes: How Does Historical London of 1895 Compare with the London Described by Arthur Conan Doyle in the Sherlockian Canon?") will be sent to members of the Friends next year.
13740. Michael H. McCoy has noted the "Sherlock Holmes Drinking Game", devised by Jill Brumer and published at <www.examiner.com> <www.tinyurl.com/2uopbpz>; she has more on the game, and a recipe for a "Blue Carbuncle" cocktail, at <www.tinyurl.com/2ekx4kb>.
13741. The Wildstorm comic book mini-series VICTORIAN UNDEAD: SHERLOCK HOLMES VS ZOMBIES has been followed by the one-issue story SHERLOCK HOLMES VS JEKYLL/HYDE, written by Jim Edginton and with artwork by Horacio Domingues (Dec., \$4.99) and the first issue of a five-issue mini-series SHERLOCK HOLMES VS DRACULA with story by Edginton and artwork by Davide Fabbri (Jan., \$3.99); the publisher's web-site is at <www.dccomics.com/wildstorm/comics>.
13742. It's no secret that pirated copies of movies are now available on web-sites such as BitTorrent, and it's not surprising that someone keeps track of how people use the web-site. Another web-site, TorrentFreak, has reported that the most frequently downloaded film this year was "Avatar" (with 16,580,000 downloads), with "Kick-Ass" (11,400,000) and "Inception" (9,720,000) next; "Sherlock Holmes" ranked 8th (7,160,000 downloads).
13743. Dave Itzkoff blogs about "The Culture at Large" for the N.Y. Times, and reported (Dec. 20) on an interview with Steven Moffat (who is co-creator of the mini-series "Sherlock") about the latest Doctor Who special "A Christmas Carol"; responding to Itzkoff's question "Are you being asked all the time when the Doctor and your Sherlock Holmes will meet up?", Moffat said "I think everyone who's passing me in the streets is suggesting that at the moment. I think there are problems of doing that, because then you would say that Sherlock Holmes lives in the same world as the Doctor, and there are Daleks and all sorts of things. If a Sherlock Holmes story depends on time travel being impossible, it's quite hard if he's a personal friend of the Doctor, isn't it?"
13744. I seldom run full-page illustrations, but this captioned photograph of Benedict Cumberbatch in "Sherlock" is well worth it; the photograph (see next page) was submitted by "Greg" to <www.roflrazzi.com>, which is a sub-set of <www.icanhascheezburger.com>, and was spotted by Samantha Wolov. For those who aren't reading this issue ink-on-paper, go to <www.tinyurl.com/26c642n> to see the photograph.

January 2011 #1

13745. Sherlockians (and Holmesians) gathered in New York for the celebration of the Great Detective's 157th birthday during the long weekend around Jan. 7, enjoyed nice weather as well as new venues that meant the walk from hotels to most functions were short and easy. People who had rooms on the eighth floor of the Yale Club were pleased to observe that the decorations in the corridor near the elevator included a color photograph of last year's annual dinner at the Club.
13746. The festivities were launched with the Adventuresses' traditional ASH Wednesday supper at O'Casey's and continued with the Christopher Morley Walk led by Jim Cox and Dore Nash on Thursday morning (with the usual lunch at McSorley's).
13747. The Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Speaker at the Midtown Executive Club on Thursday evening was Michael Sims, who edited THE DEAD WITNESS: A CONNOISSEUR'S COLLECTION OF VICTORIAN DETECTIVE STORIES and other anthologies; you will be able to read his amusing paper in The Baker Street Journal's next issue.
13748. The William Gillette Luncheon at Moran's was well attended, as always, and featured the Friends of Bogie's at Baker Street (Paul Singleton, Sarah Montague, and Andrew Joffe) in an entertaining new "Holmesian Guide to the Internet" that involved Holmes and Watson in social networking. The luncheon also was the occasion for Al Gregory's presentation of the annual January WHIMSEY award (in memory of his wife January Stauber) for the most whimsical piece in The Serpentine Muse last year; the winners (Elaine and Joe Coppola, authors of "The Fayetteville Fairies") received a certificate and a check for the Canonical sum of \$221.17. And Otto Penzler's traditional open house at the Mysterious Bookshop offered the usual opportunities to browse and buy.
13749. The Irregulars and their guests gathered for the BSI's annual dinner at the Yale Club, with Susan Rice offering the first toast to Gail Postal as The Woman. The dinner featured the usual toasts and traditions, John Linsenmeyer's learned discussion of Ronald Knox (this year being the centenary of his landmark paper on "Studies in the Literature of Sherlock Holmes"), contest winner James Zych's new look at Moriarty, and Andrew Joffe, Sarah Montague, and Paul Singleton in dramatic portrayals of Arthur Conan Doyle, Dorothy L. Sayers, Sherlock Holmes, and Lord Peter Wimsey. Mike Whelan (the BSI's "Wiggins") announced the Birthday Honours, awarding Irregular Shillings and Investitures to Vinnie Brosnan ("That Gap on That Second Shelf"), Terence Faherty ("Sir Charles Baskerville"), Lyndsay Faye ("Kitty Winter"), Frank Ferry ("Dr. Leon Sterndale"), David W. Houle ("The British Museum"), and Peggy Perdue ("Violet Westbury"). And Andrew Fusco, Steve Rothman, and Les Klinger presented Mike with the first-ever "Wiggie" (a handsome medal designed and executed by Maggie Schpak honoring him as the "benign dictator of the BSI."
13750. Gaslight Gala at the Manhattan Club has "Stately Homes in the Canon" as its theme and featured toasts, songs, and skits that included "States Homes of the Dead and Fictitious" and "A Little Problem: A Three Dimensional Tragedy in Three Acts and Five Prologues".

January 2011 #2

13751. On Saturday morning Covent Garden West (the dealers room at the Roosevelt Hotel) welcomed sellers and buyers, and authors and editors delighted to inscribe or sign their books. And The Beacon Society presented its annual Beacon Award (recognizing someone who introduces young people to the Sherlock Holmes stories) to Peggy Perdue; the society has a fine web-site at <www.beaconsociety.com>.
13752. The BSI's Saturday-afternoon reception at the Association of the Bar of the City of New York offered entertainment in the Meeting Room and wining, dining, and conversation in the Great Hall; the entertainment included the usual traditions, and a performance of the song "Let Yourself Fall" from the work-in-progress musical "Dust and Shadow" (based on Lyndsay Faye's book).
13753. Michael Pollak was announced as the winner of the Morley-Montgomery Award (an attractive certificate and a check for \$1000) for the best contribution to The Baker Street Journal last year: his article on "The Spies Who Never Were: With Some Observations on Holmes' Retirement". And the Watson Fund benefited from energetic sales of raffle tickets (designed by Scott Bond) by June Kinnee, Sue Vizoskie, Elaine Coppola, and Carol Cavaluzzi for Maggie Schpak's replica of the King of Bohemia's flaming beryl brooch, and an auction of literary and artistic donations to the Fund.
13754. The principal Saturday-evening event was the "Lost in New York with a Bunch of Sherlockians" dinner arranged by The Curious Collectors of Baker Street at Kennedy's Irish Pub, attended by diners from far (New Zealand) and near (New York's five boroughs), and a goodly crowd gathered at the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes' brunch at the Oldcastle Pub & Restaurant on Sunday morning.
13755. Al Gregory <gaslightandfog@earthlink.net> offers (by e-mail only) his 2011 edition of "The ABC of the BSI" (an alphabetical listing of Investitures, with recipients, from "Abbey Grange" to "Young Stamford") and "The Florin Society" (couples in which both spouses have received Irregular Shillings).
13756. A final note for those who want to plan ahead: The Baker Street Irregulars' next annual dinner will be held on Jan. 13, 2012. And the Sherlock Holmes Society of London's annual dinner likely will be on Jan. 7, 2012.
13757. I've not reported on everything, I hasten to add; there will be much more detailed reports in the spring issue of The Baker Street Journal. The BSI appears quarterly, and subscriptions (four issues plus the Christmas Annual) cost \$38.50 (to the U.S.) or \$49.00 (elsewhere); checks can be sent to the BSI (Box 583, Zionsville, IN 46077), and credit-card payments are welcome from foreign subscribers. You can also subscribe at the BSI web-site at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>, which also has interesting features such as some of the papers written by winners of the Morley-Montgomery Awards, articles from recent issues of the BSI, and information on the BSI's other publications. And in the meantime, you can also read Scott Monty's report at his blog at <www.bakerstreetblog.com>.
13758. The BSI's other publications include three new books, and if you don't have access to the Internet, more information is available from The Baker Street Irregulars, c/o Michael H. Kean, 3040 Sloat Road, Pebble Beach, CA 93953.

January 2011 #3

13759. The Baker Street Irregulars Manuscript Series continues with BOHEMIAN SOULS, edited by Otto Penzler and with a facsimile of the original manuscript of "A Scandal in Bohemia" and a careful transcript, annotations, commentary, and artwork. All of the Canonical manuscripts are interesting, of course, because they are as close as you can get to the moment of creation when an author writes a story, and this one particularly interesting, because it is written in two different hands (and the "mystery of the second hand" is still unsolved). 199 pp., \$35.00 plus shipping to the U.S. and elsewhere.
13760. ITALY AND SHERLOCK HOLMES is the new volume in the BSI's International Series ; edited by Enrico Solito and Gianlucca Salvatori, the book has translations of a wide variety of Italian scholarship, from Alessandra Calanchi's "Notes on the Italian Sherlockscape" to Luca Martinelli's "The Great Hiatus: Five Hypotheses for Five Mysteries" to Stefano Guerra's "Between Antigone and Creon: Holmes, Law, and Justice". 208 pp., \$39.95 plus shipping to the U.S. and elsewhere.
13761. And THE GRAND GAME: A CELEBRATION OF SHERLOCKIAN SCHOLARSHIP: VOLUME ONE: 1902-1959, edited by Laurie R. King and Leslie S. Klinger, is just what the subtitle implies, offering reprints of Ronald A. Knox's cornerstone "Studies in the Literature of Sherlock Holmes", earlier and later criticism, and King's new introduction "The Grand Game: Textual, Higher, Radical, and Midrashic Criticism". The book is dedicated to the late Bernard Davies, who once wrote, "How wonderful to discover that, even if you are slightly mad, you are not alone," and it demonstrates well just how interesting it can be to play the Grand Game. 437 pp., \$39.95 (to the U.S.)/\$49.95 (elsewhere) plus shipping.
13762. WNYC-FM offers listeners interesting reports on Sherlock Holmes and Sherlockians, mainly thanks to Sarah Montague, who interviewed Laurie R. King and Les Klinger about THE GRAND GAME during the birthday festivities; go to <www.culture.wnyc.org/articles/features/2011/jan/13/study-sherlock> to hear what they had to say. And earlier WNYC-FM material still is available on the Internet: <www.wnyc.org/news/articles/120760> aired on Jan. 11, 2009; <www.studio360.org/episodes/2009/12/25> is a one-hour "Studio 360" program; and <www.culture.wnyc.org/articles/features/2010/jan/26/sherlock-love> has audio and video from last year's Gillette Luncheon.
13763. RONALD KNOX AND SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE ORIGIN OF SHERLOCKIAN STUDIES, edited by Michael J. Crowe (Indianapolis: Gasogene Press, 2011; 126 pp., \$32.95), adds to the celebration of Knox's work: there's an interesting introduction by the editor, reprints of five pieces of Sherlockiana written by Knox (including "Studies in the Literature of Sherlock Holmes" with annotations by the editor), and (reprinted in full) the letter that Conan Doyle wrote to Knox in 1912. The publisher's address: Box 68308, Indianapolis, IN 46256 <www.wessexpress.com>.
13764. "I hate to see you leave/With tears all over your face/Just like Sherlock Holmes/The whole world is on my case" is from a song performed by Johnnie Taylor in 1973 (written by Frank Lee Johnson and Donald Davies), and discovered by Peter Ashman. You can hear Johnnie Taylor performing the song on YouTube at <www.youtube.com>.

January 2011 #4

13765. Tyke Niver has reported a story about Gillette Castle, written by Ben Amato and posted at SalemPatch (a web-site on Long Island) <www.sachem.patch.com/articles/gillette-castle-state-park>; click on the "video" link to view Amato's narrated 7-minute video tour of the Castle (and if you watch to the end you'll see Tyke and Teddie impersonating Gillette and his wife).
13766. Sorry about that: I praised Charles Prepolec's colorful web-site "Sherlock Holmes News" (December 10 #1); the correct URL is <www.sherlocknews.com>.
13767. Edward R. Hamilton, who specializes in remaindered books, offers interesting Sherlockian and Doylean books, DVDs, and CDs at nicely discounted prices ; you can request a catalog (Falls Village, CT 06031) or visit his web-site <www.edwardrhamilton.com>.
13768. Tim Johnson, curator of special collections as well as curator of the Sherlock Holmes collections at the University of Minnesota, maintains an interesting blog called "Special & Rare on a Stick", and his new entry "Sherlock Holmes on U Media" <www.tinyurl.com/2cbujx5> offers an interesting look at what can be done now with digital media: there are two audio files featuring John Bennett Shaw, and scans of three-dimensional objects from his collection.

13769. The Arthur Conan Doyle Collection in Toronto also has some nice publicity on the Internet at [blogTO <www.tinyurl.com/45mmm32>](http://blogTO.tinyurl.com/45mmm32), with excellent photographs of some of the interesting items in the collection.
13770. Does anyone know what happened to Father Francis Hertzberg? He was based in Bebington, Wirral, and active as a dealer in Sherlockiana and Doyleana in the 1970s and 1980s; he also had a letter in the Sunday Telegraph that he signed as coordinator of Backlash: The Man's Movement for True Equality.
13771. The Serpentine Muse continues to offer news from, about, and by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes; the winter issue has the second part of Evelyn Herzog's presentation ("Boys and Girls Together") at last year's conference in Minneapolis (her reminiscences about the history of ASH), and the first part of Brad Keefauver's dinner speech ("Changing History"), and much more. It's published quarterly and costs \$15.00 a year from Evelyn A. Herzog (301 Warren Avenue #203, Baltimore, MD 21230).
13772. Robert DeFreest reports on his campaign to get Paul-Felix Montez' new play "Sherlock Holmes and the Edwin Drood Mystery" produced: you can see a short trailer at www.sherlockproject.blogspot.com, and support the project by purchasing their merchandise at www.zazzle.com; search for [sherlock project].
13773. Charles E. Henry ("The Lion's Mane") died on Dec. 29. He was a researcher, an educator, and a pioneer in electroencephalography, in 1990 honored with an invitation to be the patron of the Charles E. Henry Society of Electroneurodiagnostic Technologists (which includes a Sherlockian silhouette in its logo). He was highly regarded for his spectacular mustache, his everpresent pipe, and his enthusiasm for Sherlock Holmes, and he received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1980.

January 2011 #5

13774. Gerry Rafferty died on Jan. 4. A Scottish singer and songwriter, he wrote the best-selling hit "Baker Street" (1978), which is not Sherlockian other than the mention of Baker Street; Christopher Roden reported in 2000 that he had heard from Rafferty that he had titled the song in reference to the street in London. You can see him performing the "Baker Street" at www.youtube.com/watch?v=WkS169P_Eeo (Mike McCoy kindly reported the link).
13775. The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times11-1.htm, with offers of interesting Sherlockiana, old and new, and a report on the visit by The Sherlock Holmes and All That Jazz Society to Clarendo, Iowa (the birthplace of Glenn Miller).
13776. The theme of the Norwegian Explorers' "Christmas Annual 2010" is "Heroism, Courage, and Valor", and the essays range from "Canonical Heroism" (by Pasquale Accardo) to "Holmes Gets a 'C' in Courage" (by Michael Eckman), with nice artwork by Soren Everson (a fourth-grader who is an active member of the society). The 46-page booklet is available from Tim Reich (6809 Pillsbury Avenue, Richfield, MN 55423) for \$8.00 postpaid (checks payable to The Norwegian Explorers, please).
13777. The Calabash Press has published many interesting Sherlockian and Doylean book over the years, and Chris Roden reports that he is having a New Year Warehouse Clearance Sale with deeply discounted prices on selected titles. The catalog's available at www.ash-tree.bc.ca/Calabash Sale.pdf [and yes, there's a space in that URL] or from the Press (Box 1360, Ashcroft, BC V0K 1A0, Canada).
13778. Forecast: a new (as yet unnamed) pastiche by Anthony Horowitz (from Orion in September); he's the creator of the television series "Foyle's War" and the author of the best-selling "Alex Rider" children's series, and was the keynote speaker at the annual dinner of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London. His web-site's at www.anthoniyorowitz.com; the pastiche has the approval of the Conan Doyle Estate.
13779. And "Anthony Horowitz Is a Self-Confessed Literary Serial Killer--and the Perfect Choice to Take on Sherlock Holmes" is the headline (presumably not written by Horowitz) on a piece he wrote for The Times (Jan. 22) in which he explains the ten rules he devised "to help avoid the most obvious pitfalls." It's likely still available at www.thetimes.co.uk.
13780. Steven Dietz's play "Sherlock Holmes: Final Adventure" will be performed by the Circle Players from Feb. 25, to Mar. 13. 416 Victoria Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854 (732-968-7555) www.circleplayers.com.
13781. The campaign to "Give Jeremy Brett a Posthumous BAFTA Award" continues online at www.bafta4jb.com. BAFTA is the British Academy of Film & Television Arts, and you're invited to click on "The Petition" to sign one of the three versions: one for actors, directors, producers, and the world of the theater; one for Sherlock Holmes societies and associations, and the third for the general public. Sally Hastings-Thomas reports that they have 3,500 signatures so far, and they hope to have 5,000 soon.

January 2011 #6

13782. Anne Francis died on Jan. 2. She was a child model, and then an actress, best known as Altaira in the film "Forbidden Planet" (1956) and as the star of the television series "Honey West" (1965); in 1978 she made an appearance disguised as Sherlock Holmes on "Masquerade Party" on channel 2 in New York.
13783. WHEELS OF ANARCHY by Max Pemberton (London: MX Publishing, 2010; 397 pp., £14.99/E17.99/\$24.95), is a thriller written by a friend of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Bertram Fletcher Robinson and first published in 1908; it was Fletcher Robinson who suggested the story to Pemberton, and Hugh Cooke and Paul Spiring, who edited this reprint, have added a preface and introductory notes that discuss both the book and the connections between the three men. There's a nice web-site at www.mxpublishing.com with a nice discount offer for readers of this newsletter; the promo code is [scuttlebutt] (25% off on all books, and a surprise bonus book if you buy two or more books).
13784. The Conan Doyle Estate Ltd. is a British-registered company run by descendants of the Doyle family, and beneficiaries of the estate of his daughter, the late Dame Jean Conan Doyle, and there's more information about the company at their web-site www.conandoyleestate.co.uk. The three directors of the company of Richard Doyle and his sister Cathy Doyle Beggs, children of Sir Arthur's nephew the late Brigadier John Doyle, and Richard Pooley, a step-grandchild of Dame Jean. And among the family members party to it are Charles Foley, grandson of Sir Arthur's sister Ida, and Georgina Doyle, the Brigadier's widow. The agents of CDE Ltd. are Jon Lellenberg in the U.S. and Robert Kirby of United Agents in London.
13785. The Mystery Writers of America have announced the nominees for Edgars (the winners will be announced at the MWA banquet in New York on Apr. 26. Steve Doyle's SHERLOCK HOLMES FOR DUMMIES has been nominated for best critical/ biographical. And the Robert L. Fish Memorial Award (for best first short story by an American author) has been won by Evan Lewis for "Skylar Hobbs and the Rabbit Man" (a nice comic mystery about a modern would-be Sherlock Holmes that appeared in Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine).
13786. There's a nice article about the University of Minnesota's Sherlock Holmes Collections, and their curator Tim Johnson, in the Chronicle of Higher Education (Jan. 16) www.chronicle.com/article/article-content/125958.
13787. The December issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota has Julie McKuras' article about Richard Caplan (who corresponded with Sherlock Holmes in the 1990s), Jon Lellenberg's "50 Years Ago" tribute to Julian Wolff

(describing his parody "Still Waters" and his work as the Baker Street Irregulars' Commissionaire), and news from and about the collections. Copies of the newsletter are available from Richard J. Sveum (111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <sveum001@tc.umn.edu>.

13788. "Holmes & Watson Save the Empire: A Musical Mystery" will be performed at the Oregon Cabaret Theatre from Apr. 6 through June 5. Written by Jahna Beecham and Malcolm Hillgartner, the play premiered (as "Holmes & Watson: A Musical Mystery") in Milwaukee in 2009. The theater's address is Hargadine Street, Ashland, OR 97520 (541-488-2902) <www.oregoncabaret.com>.

January 2011 #7

13789. Jason Rouby ("Vanderbilt and the Yeggman") died on Jan. 15. He was a journalist, a regional planner, and an enthusiastic Sherlockian, contributing to the literature in the 1960s and 1970s. He was a member of the Maiwand Jezails in Omaha and then founded The Arkansas Valley Investors, Ltd., in Little Rock, and received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1968. An interesting memorial to him, prepared by his grandson David Aaron Rouby, at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=kGC7DPUvb5Y>.

13790. Forecast: THE MAGIC BULLET: A LOCKED ROOM MYSTERY FEATURING SHADWELL RAFFERTY AND SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Larry Millett (from the University of Minnesota Press in April).

13791. Some years ago (November 94 #2) Gibraltar issued eight one-crown coins honoring "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" (six of the designs with Canonical scenes, the seventh showing Watson and Holmes meeting Conan Doyle in Baker Street, and the eighth the Mary Celeste, which is noted as "Gibraltar's own story of the great detective"). Stan Hill is offering a complete set of the cupro-nickel coins for \$80.00 (rather less than you'll pay at eBay); you can send him an e-mail message <stanhill@richerassociates.com> or call him at (845-518-9093) to confirm that someone else hasn't already taken advantage of the offer.

13792. "Cold Hearted Murder" is a new pastiche written by Stephen Gaspar, available chapter by chapter on the Internet at <www.stephengaspar.blogspot.com> (the first chapter was posted on Jan. 22, and others will follow).

13793. Tweet, tweet. "Twitter is a rich source of instantly updated information," according to the web-site at <www.twitter.com>. I'm not sure who the first Sherlockian to tweet was (Scott Monty, Laurie R. King, and Les Klinger have been tweeting for a while), but there are now tweets from The Baker Street Journal, thanks to editor Steve Rothman <www.twitter.com/BakerStJournal>.

13794. Further to the item about the miniature of 221B Baker Street in the Samie Jane Keith Collection at the World Museum of Mining (July 10 #7), Mike Berdan has visited the museum, and was thoroughly impressed; there's more information about the collection at <www.miningmuseum.org/samiekeith.html>.

13795. Michael Robertson's THE BAKER STREET LETTERS (June 09 #3) has been reissued in a trade paperback edition (New York: Minotaur, 2011; 277 pp., \$13.99). The second book in the series, THE BROTHERS OF BAKER STREET, will be published by Minotaur in March (\$24.99) "the letters to Sherlock Holmes are piling up—including one from someone who claims to be the descendant of Professor James Moriarty".

13796. THE GALACTIC SHERLOCK HOLMES (Don Hobbs' electronic bibliography of translations) has been updated, and edition 11.01 includes Mando'a, making the bibliography truly galactic. Mando'a (which also is known as Mandalorian) is the language of Mandalore, which can be found in the Star Trek "expanded universe" novels written by Karen Traviss. You can read "Te Ge'Tal-Headed League" at <www.tinyurl.com/2dl2saj>. The bibliography on CD costs \$15.00 (to the U.S.)/\$20.00 (elsewhere), from Don at 2100 Elm Creek Lane, Flower Mound, TX 75028 <221b@verizon.net.>; Don offers a free CD to those who contribute information on something not already in the bibliography.

January 2011 #8

13797. It's always interesting when Sherlockians bring their own knowledge and experience to bear on Canonical research: Walter W. Jaffee is a captain in the merchant marine and he has written THE SHERLOCK HOLMES ILLUSTRATED CYCLOPEDIA OF NAUTICAL KNOWLEDGE (Palo Alto: Glencannon Books, 2009; 242 pp., \$39.95 hardcover and signed, \$24.95 paper). He offers informed definitions and descriptions of relevant aspects of the Canon, and he casts his net widely, covering waters both salt and fresh; the book has a bonus appendix with Michael H. Kean's "Who Was Bruce-Partington?"

13798. "Big Nate" is a comic strip written and drawn by Lincoln Peirce, and there was a Sherlockian story arc from Jan. 14 through Jan. 22. you can see the comic strip at <www.comics.com/big_nate>.

13799. WATSON'S AFGHAN ADVENTURE, by Kieran McMullen (London: MX Publishing, 2010; 216 pp., £9.99/£12.99/\$16.95), is a Watsonian pastiche that offers his own account of his adventures in Afghanistan, which were far more colorful than his brief report in the Canon; it's a story of romance and treasure and the battles of the Afghan War.

13800. SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE ZOMBIE PROBLEM, by Nick S. Thomas (Newport: Swordworks, 2010; 254 pp., \$9.99), is a retelling of "The Final Problem". Except for the zombies, and the guns, swords, wholesale slaughter, and narrow escapes.

13801. The official opening ceremony for the new research room at the Conan Doyle Archive in Portsmouth will be held on Feb. 21, with Conan Doyle biographer Andrew Lycett, academic expert Neil McCaw, and other local experts on hand, launching a week of events that will show the breadth of Richard Lancelyn Green's bequest of his collection to Portsmouth. There's more information available at <www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=179482045406255&index=1>, and soon at <www.conandoylcollection.co.uk>.

13802. As (as usual, nowadays) there is more news from the world of film and television. Warner Bros. is hard at work getting publicity for its sequel to "Sherlock Holmes": "Entertainment Tonight" visited the set, and footage of Downey in disguise as a woman went viral on the Internet; <www.youtube.com> has it, if you search for [robert downey jr in drag].

13803. The electronic universe continues to make life interesting, and easier for people who have access to the Internet, and for people who know other people who volunteer to do the technical work required to make things easier. New from and about The Red Circle of Washington is available at the society's web-site <www.redcircledc.org>. And Scott Monty kindly is making this newsletter available at his blog, where you will be able to click on links rather than laboriously type or cut-and-paste URLs into your browser; go to <www.bakerstreetblog.com/search/label/scuttlebutt> to see how much fun this can be (for readers, and for me, since Scott is doing almost all the work). Searchable text of all the issues of Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press since March 1985 continues to be available at Willis Frick's "Sherlocktron" <www.members.cox.net/sherlock1/scuttle.htm>.

February 2011 #1

13804. Graham Moore's THE SHERLOCKIAN (November 10 #8) has been published in Britain as THE HOLMES AFFAIR (London: Century, 2011; 368 pp., £12.99), perhaps because the publisher thought British book-buyers may not be sure just what a Sherlockian is. The late John Bennett Shaw liked to explain the difference: in the U.S. the Holmesians are called Sherlockians, and in the U.K. the Sherlockians are called Holmesians. I'm not aware of any definitive pronunciation for "Holmesian".

13805. Graham continues to update his web-site <www.theshlockian.com>, where you can watch an interview that ran on the BBC, and listen to an interview by John Rabe (son of the late Bill Rabe) on KPCC-FM (Los Angeles).
13806. Flo Gibson died on Jan. 7. After working as an actress on radio, she recording talking books for the blind for the Library of Congress in the mid-1970s and went on to found Audio Book Contractors, which specializes in unabridged readings of the classics. She narrated more than 1,100 books, including many of Conan Doyle's Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian works, and 95 of her recordings are available at <www.audible.com>.
13807. Paul Spiring continues to update his Bertram Fletcher Robinson web-site at <www.bfronline.biz>, where you can listen to a recent interview on BBC Radio Wales.
13808. Carl Heifetz and Mary Ellen Rich spotted 19-year-old Richard Dornbush, who competed (and placed second) in the U.S. Figure Skating Championships last month, skating to Hans Zimmer's music for Guy Ritchie's "Sherlock Holmes" (2009). You can see him perform at <www.youtube.com>; seach for [dornbush 2011].
13809. "Holmes, Watson, Move Forward" was the headline on an AP story in the Albany Times Union (Feb. 26) about the Match Play Championship in Marana, Ariz. J. B. Holmes and Bubba Watson are golfers; they made it to the quarter-finals (competing against each other). Watson won, but lost the semi-finals.
13810. "Murder at Mount Hope Mansion" is an interactive dinner-theater performance (with Holmes and Watson in the cast) on weekends at the Mount Hope Estate & Winery from Mar. 4 through Apr. 9 during the Pennsylvania Renaissance Fair; the menu will feature items from Julie Rosenblatt and Fritz Sonnenschmidt's DINING WITH SHERLOCK HOLMES. 2775 Lebanon Road, Mannheim, PA 17545 (717-665-7021) <www.parenfaire.com>.
13811. "Enticement from the Adventures" is the theme of this year's "Gathering of Southern Sherlockians" in Chattanooga, Tenn., on Apr. 8-10; their mailing list is maintained by Kent Ross (721 Hartford Road, Springfield, OH 45503) (678-464-8321) <kenthross@gmail.com>.
13812. Paul Spiring spotted a report in the Guardian (Feb. 1) on "The U.K.'s Crime Hotspots" that includes statistics on London's "crime and antisocial behavior" from a web-site at <www.police.uk>, where you can see how your street or neighborhood is doing. In Dec. 2010, "Baker Street, residence of Sherlock Holmes, recorded 22 offenses--plenty for the sleuth to work on."

February 2011 #2

13813. Lybrary.com, founded in 2000 by Chris Wasshuber, with the idea of making hard-to-get magic books available in electronic form, also has fiction and non-fiction available, but of particular interest to magicians is Stephen Tucker's SHERLOCK (\$15.00), which offers instructions for five "self-working Holmes-related mysteries to baffle the cleverest of minds." You can order at <www.lybrary.com/sherlock-p-94740.html>. But you aren't going to be able to use the instructions unless you know how to do a false shuffle. Thanks to Dan Stashower for discovering the book.
13814. John Barry died on Jan. 30. He described himself as a "musical dramatist" and composed and conducted music for more than 100 films, winning five Oscars and composing what he called "million-dollar Mickey Mouse music" for many of the James Bond films; his credits include writing and supervising the music for the film "They Might Be Giants" (1971), which starred George C. Scott as a psychotic judge who thinks he's Sherlock Holmes.
13815. The late Laverne Sullivan was an accomplished miniaturist, and you can go to <www.home-and-garden.webshots.com/album/207383548yfqV?start=24> to see two photographs of her Sherlock Holmes room-box, Kelly Blau reports.
13816. "The Man Who Murdered Sherlock Holmes" (July 10 #3), an interesting one-hour video with interviews with Roger Johnson, Catherine Cooke, Owen Dudley Edwards, and others, was issued earlier this year in Britain; it's now available on a region 1 DVD (\$19.99) from Kultur International Films (800-573-3782) <www.kultur.com>. Kultur also offers a region 1 DVD (\$14.99) of "The Strange Case of the End of Civilisation as We Know It" (1977), the amusing and weird British television program that starred John Cleese (Arthur Sherlock-Holmes) and Arthur Lowe (Dr. William Watson).
13817. David Belke's play "The Reluctant Resurrection of Sherlock Holmes" (1992) is being performed by the Central Alberta Theatre at the Black Knight Inn Dinner Theatre in Red Deer through Mar. 26; 2929 50th Avenue, Red Deer, AB T4R 1H1, Canada (800-661-8793) <www.centralalbertatheatre.ca>.
13818. The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times11-2.htm>, with offers of interesting Sherlockiana, old and new, including some attractive lapel pins, and photographs from a meeting of The Fresh Rashers of Estero Island (yes, that's a Sherlockian society).
13819. Paul Giovanni's "The Crucifer of Blood" (1978) will be performed by Theatre Three from Aug. 5 through Sept. 5; 2800 Routh Street #168, Dallas, TX 75201 (214-871-3300) <www.theatre3dallas.com>.
13820. Synergy Entertainment's SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE ARCHIVE COLLECTION: VOLUME TWO is a three-DVD set (\$24.95) that's a worthy companion to the first volume (November 09 #7). Produced by Ronnie James, one of the earliest and most energetic collectors of old and not-so-old films, the new set also offers some unusual items, some of them available for the first time on commercial DVD; the more unusual items include the Our Gang comedy "The Mysterious Mystery! (1924), "Sherlock Holmes and the Secret Weapon (1942) and its Spanish version "Sherlock Holmes y La Mira Secreta"), and a (non-Sherlockian) screen test with Nigel Bruce and Leslie Banks (1934).

February 2011 #3

13821. You can add Brazil to the list of countries with Sherlockians, and a Sherlockian society: Carlos Orsi Martinho and two friends have founded the Isadora Klein Amateur Mendicant Society. His address is r. Zacarias de Goes, 404, ap. 92, Jundiái-SP 13201-800, Brazil; his essay on "The Brazilian Villainesses of the Canon" is in the winter 2010 issue of The Baker Street Journal.
13822. Eugen Sandow became famous as a champion of "physical culture" and in 1901 he arranged a competition at the Royal Albert Hall to find the man with the world's best physique; Conan Doyle was one of the judges, and wrote a foreword to Sandow's book THE CONSTRUCTION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF THE HUMAN BODY (1907). Ann Marlowe has reported that there's an interesting discussion of Sandow at <www.thehumanmarvels.com/?p=138>, with a link to YouTube video of a short film made of Sandow by the Edison Studios in 1894 (and YouTube has a second film of Sandow made in 1903). And there's much more about Sandow at <www.sandowplus.co.uk/sandowindex.htm>.
13823. Ines Hall died on Oct. 29, 2010. She was the widow of Christopher Morley's colleague (and early Irregular) William S. Hall, and she was honored by The Baker Street Irregulars as *The Woman* in 1973.
13824. Philip K. Jones has compiled (and continues to compile) an excellent data base for Sherlockian pastiches, parodies, and related fiction; he had entries for 5,520 different items some years ago (April 06 #6), and his count now stands at more than 8,500. The data base is interesting and informative, and available on-line at <www.michael-procter.com/holmes>.
13825. Tim Johnson continues to add digitized images and audio to the University of Minnesota's new UMedia Archive's section for their Sherlock Holmes Collections <www.umedialib.mn.edu/taxonomy/term/740>; if you search for [sherlock holmes] you will find a nicely indexed display of (at the moment) 484 entries.

13826. There has been quite a bit of publicity this month about the appearance of Watson on "Jeopardy" (that's I.B.M.'s computer, rather than the doctor, although some writers don't know that the computer wasn't named for the doctor). Doug Elliott notes an interesting article in the N.Y. Times Magazine <www.nytimes.com/2010/06/20/magazine/20computer-t.html?pagewanted=all> back in June that explains how the computer might respond to "The name of this hat is elementary, my dear contestant." Watson won handily, defeating two reigning (human) champions.
13827. Kieran McMullan, author of WATSON'S AFGHAN ADVENTURE (January 11 #6) has some interesting posts at <www.kieranmcmullen.wordpress.com>, including (in December) the results of his research into "The Weapons of Maiwand".
13828. If you missed the "Bloch Sherlock Holmes Camera" at auction some months ago (November 09 #6), Cliff Goldfarb has spotted another one (well, perhaps the same one) offered by Auction Team Breker in Cologne on Mar. 26; it's a magazinestyle camera disguised as a small briefcase (dated c.1912). There are photographs at <www.breker.com/english/index.htm>; click on "New Highlights" at the right and then on "Photographica & Film". It's estimated at E10,000 to E15,000, with a reserve of E6,500.
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February 2011 #4

13829. THE BROTHERS OF BAKER STREET, by Michael Robertson (New York: Minotaur, 2011; 274 pp., \$24.99), is an imaginative sequel to his THE BAKER STREET LETTERS (June 09 #3): Reggie Heath, a London barrister who has offices at 221B Baker Street, is pursuing another murderer, and the author of a letter to Holmes from someone who claims to be a descendant of Professor Moriarty, and the mystery offers interesting twists and turns.
13830. Anthony Trongone's TRADING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: BALANCING PROBABILITIES FOR SUCCESSFUL INVESTING (Cedar Falls: Traders Press, 2010; 186 pp., \$24.95) uses quotations from the Canon to describe both the market and market forces, and to illustrate his approach to investing: analysis and discipline. The publisher's at <www.traderspress.com>.
13831. Randall Stock has reported some important and useful additions to The Baker Street Journal web-site <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>: downloadable PDF files of Donald A. Redmond's Cumulated Indexes to the BSJ for 1946-1969 and 1970-1993, Randall's tips on searching the indexes on the CD-ROM version of the BSJ for 1946-2000, and Adrian Nebbett's indexes to eight of the books published by The Baker Street Irregulars in recent years.
13832. Henry Zecher reports a new 30-minute television series "Portlandia" broadcast by IFC cable; the first episode ("Farm") had a four-minute "Hide and Seek" segment showing the Sherlock Holmes in a game of hide and seek. You watch the segment at <www.ifc.com/videos/portlandia-hide-and-seek>.
13833. Crowborough, which for some years has had a handsome statue of Conan Doyle (April 01 #3), now has additional honors for him in a local housing estate: the town council has approved the names of Sherlock Shaw and Watson Way for two roads in the Antler Homes development. Crowborough also has a block of flats known as Conan Doyle Court, and in Whitehall Road a Windlesham Close (named after his home on Hurlts Hill).
13834. Ken Lanza spotted a report that Christopher Lee received a Fellowship Award from the British Academy of Film and Television Arts this month; it's the highest award that BAFTA bestows. Lee is credited by the Guinness Book of Movie Facts and Feats as the international star with the most screen credits (including Sherlock Holmes, Mycroft Holmes, and Sir Henry Baskerville).
13835. "Two Great Capitals--Two Great Detectives" is an exhibition that opened at the Russian State Library for the Arts in Moscow on Feb. 15 and will close on Mar. 5; the capitals are London and Moscow, and the detectives are Sherlock Holmes and Boris Akunin's Erast Fandorin. The Voice of Russia had an interesting article on Feb. 15 <english.ruvr.ru/_print/44488963.html>, and there's a web-site for the exhibition <www.liart.ru/site/index.php?id=1330> (the web-site's in Russian, but Google Translate will give you a good idea of what it has to say in English, and in other languages).
13836. Byook is a French company that has created a new version of "The Speckled Band" in which the text is enhanced with sound and visual effects; it plays on iPods and iPads, and you can see a brief teaser at <www.byook.com>. The cost is \$1.99/£1.91, but (according to an analysis in the Scotsman on Feb. 18) you don't get the whole story; a third of the way through have to pay again to find out what happens next.
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February 2011 #5

13837. Reported: Michael Foster and Barbara Foster, in their A DANGEROUS WOMAN: THE LIFE, LOVES, AND SCANDALS OF ADAH ISAACS MENKEN, 1836-1968, AMERICA'S ORIGINAL SUPERSTAR (Guilford: Lyons Press, 2011; 368 pp., \$24.95), say that "Her memory has captivated Arthur Conan Doyle, Jerome Kern, Billy Rose, and George Cukor, and she has been played in movies by Sophia Loren, Charlotte Rampling, and almost by Marilyn Monroe." They suggest that Irene Adler was a "miniature portrait" by Conan Doyle, but do not mention William D. Jenkins, who proposed in the Mar. 1986 issue of The Baker Street Journal that Menken was the prototype for Irene Adler; Charlotte Rampling never played Menken on the screen, but did play Irene in the television film "Sherlock Holmes in New York" (1979).
13838. OTHER PEOPLE'S BOOKS: ASSOCIATION COPIES AND THE STORIES THEY TELL (Chicago: The Caxton Club, 2011; 214 pp., \$75.00) will be published next month; it's a collection of essays, including Jon Lellenberg's "The Hound upon My Bookshelf", which is Vincent Starrett's own (and extra illustrated) copy of the first edition. The book's available at <www.oakknoll.com>, where there links to an excerpt from the book, and to the table of contents.
13839. The Caxton Club and the Newberry Library will hold a symposium on the book at the Newberry (60 West Walton Street in Chicago) on Mar. 19; it's open to the public, and details are available at <www.caxtonclub.org>. You can also click on "Meetings and Speakers Schedule" for a catalog of DVDs of Caxton Club presentations available for purchase, including "Sherlock Holmes, Vincent Starrett, and Literary Memory" (Jon Lellenberg in 1998), "Spitoons and Spiritualism: Conan Doyle in America" (Daniel Stashower in 2001), and "Mothers, Don't Let Your Sons Grow Up to Be Biographers" (Jon Lellenberg in 2008).
13840. Stephen Gaspar is continuing the chapter-by-chapter posting of his pastiche "Cold Hearted Murder" (January 11 #1) at <www.stephengaspar.blogspot.com>, and there's a promo video for the book at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=ydPh44KG1I>.
13841. Detective Chimp wore Sherlockian costume in the first issue of the comic-book mini-series THE HELMET OF FATE (February 07 #6), and there's now a hand-painted 4-inch lead figurine, accompanied by a magazine detailing the history of the character (spotted by Mitch Higurashi); it's available at eBay <www.ebay.com> and elsewhere.
13842. Scott Monty has launched an effort to catalog the "Sherlockian Entities on Facebook", where you can find a list (with links) and a form you can use to report additions <www.bakerstreetblog.com/p/holmes-on-facebook.html>. It is fascinating to see the Sherlockian aspects of social networking.
13843. Greg Darak notes that the world-famous detective Merlock Jones appeared (in Sherlockian costume) in E. C. Segar's "Popeye" 1930s comic strip, and that the strips have been reprinted in POPEYE, VOL. 3: LET'S YOU AND HIM FIGHT! (Seattle: Fantagraphic, 2008; 168 pp. \$29.99). Greg also reports that the book is available for \$9.95 from Edward R. Hamilton (Box 15, Falls Village, CT 06031) <www.edwardrhamilton.com>.
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February 2011 #6

13844. Laurie King reports that her schedule's now set for four years: 2011 will see Mary Russell in THE PIRATE KING, with another Mary Russell in 2012, a sequel to the non-Russell TOUCHSTONE in 2013, and another Mary Russell in 2014. Her web-site at <www.laurierking.com> always is interesting; one of the features is A MARY RUSSELL COMPANION, a 58-page booklet you can download free.
13845. A new set of miniature versions of the Canon, created by Lee Ann Borgia, is available at <www.picturetrail.com/leeann1948>, where she offers miniatures of a long list of authors; her Sherlockian miniatures (priced from \$11.75 to \$19.50) are shown at <www.picturetrail.com/sfx/album/view/3194486>.
13846. The stick figure of Sherlock Holmes on the note cards from Bas Bleu (August 10 #3) first appeared in Jeffrey Metzner's book STICK: GREAT MOMENTS IN ART, HISTORY, FILM, AND MORE (Clarkson Potter, 2006) (and published in Britain by Aurum Press, 2007) it's out of print, but readily available from on-line booksellers.
13847. "Harry Houdini and Arthur Conan Doyle get drawn into investigating a series of brutal murders in 1920s Los Angeles" in a graphic novel EDGE OF THE UNKNOWN written by Jon Vinson and illustrated by Marco Roblin and published by Dub Comics in 2010; H. P. Lovecraft appears. It's available as a four-issue comic-book mini-series and as a collected edition (\$18.00) from Indy-Planet <www.indyplanet.com>. "Charles Fort will be a big part of EDGE OF THE UNKNOWN VOL. 2," Vinson promises.
13848. Forecast: THE BASKERVILLE LEGACY: A CONFESSION, by John O'Connell (due from Short Books in Sept.); "a thrilling exploration of friendship and rivalry, love and lust, ambition and the limits of talent" (the story of how Conan Doyle and Fletcher Robinson collaborated to write "The Hound of the Baskervilles").
13849. "Her planned novel is inspired by Sherlock Holmes and American crime writer Mickey Spillane," according the Guardian (Jan. 27) in a story about Patti Smith, who is a singer, song-writer, poet, and author of more than a dozen books; this will be her first detective story.
13850. Oh for the days when Britain invented the penny post: their postage rates will increase in April. At the moment a one-ounce letter inside the country costs £0.41/\$0.65, and to the U.S. £1.46/\$2.35 (by airmail) or £1.00/\$1.61 (by surface). In the U.S. a one-ounce letter costs \$0.44 inside the country, and \$0.98 to Britain.
13851. Further to the various celebrations this year of the centenary of his paper "Studies on the Literature of Sherlock Holmes", Michael Procter reports that there's a Ronald Knox Society of North America, with a nice discussion of his contributions to detective literature <www.ronaldknoxsociety.com>.
13852. IDW Publishing has now published three volumes of its SHERLOCK HOLMES series, with striking artwork by Kelley Jones; they're sometimes described as graphic novels, but in reality they present the text (handsomely designed), with full-color illustrations. They're priced at \$16.99 or \$17.99, and you can see Jones' art at the publisher's web-site <www.idwpublishing.com>.

February 2011 #7

13853. "From 1984 to 1994, a perfect storm of people and circumstances changed the face of animation forever," is Disney's description of a 86-minute documentary "Waking Sleeping Beauty" (2009), which includes footage from "The Great Mouse Detective" (1984); the film premiered at the Telluride Film Festival on Sept. 5, 2009, and was released by Walt Disney Home Entertainment on a DVD (\$29.99) last November (the trailer can be seen at the Internet Movie Data Base).
13854. Neil Hunt and Stephen Harvey Johnson have launched an Internet-only comedy series called "The Blog of Dr. Watson" at <www.drwatsonsblog.com>, with a brief video teaser.
13855. Steven Dietz's play "Sherlock Holmes: Final Adventure" is being performed at the Grand Theatre through Mar. 5; Chris Redmond has seen the production, and recommends it. 471 Richmond Street, London, ON N6A 3E4, Canada (800-265-1593) <www.grandtheatre.com>.
13856. Entertainment news: Variety reported (Feb. 9) that DreamWorks purchased a script for "Voices from the Dead" from J. Michael Straczynski (who created and wrote the television series "Babylon 5" and "Jeremiah"). The project "centers on a fictional story of magician Harry Houdini and Sherlock Holmes creator Arthur Conan Doyle using a psychic to solve a set of murders in New York during the 1920s."
13857. And there's more: according to the web-site Deadline Hollywood (Feb. 11), the Syfy television channel is at work on a dramatic series "Among the Spirits" based on a self-published graphic novel by Steve Valentine and Paul Chart; the series was described as a turn-of-the-century "Fringe" in which Houdini and Conan Doyle, "with the help of a female cop, try to solve bizarre murders and strange occurrences that look like hauntings and other supernatural events using steampunk technology."
13858. And yet still more: according to the Hollywood Reporter (Feb. 18), Summit Entertainment has hired Noah Oppenheim to write a script based on William Kalush and Larry Sloman's THE SECRET LIFE OF HOUDINI: THE MAKING OF AMERICA'S FIRST SUPERHERO (March 07 #5); the book suggested that Houdini acted as a spy for Britain, and that Houdini's death was not accidental, but rather deliberate murder, by a spiritualist organization that sought revenge for his unmasking of fraudulent mediums (with, of course Conan Doyle involved). The paper added that "the studio is not looking to make a biopic but rather an action thriller featuring a character who is part Indiana Jones and part Sherlock Holmes, documenting his rise as a magician along with his covert involvement with the Secret Service."
13859. Finally, Warner Bros. has announced that "Sherlock Holmes 2" (the working title for the sequel to Guy Ritchie's "Sherlock Holmes") will be released as "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows" on Dec. 16. One assumes they are not worried about confusing people who recall the book written by Mark Fairan-Wada and Lance Williams: GAME OF SHADOWS: BARRY BONDS, BALCO, AND THE STEROIDS SCANDAL THAT ROCKED PROFESSIONAL SPORTS (2007).

March 2011 #1

13860. The number of Sherlockian societies with web-sites continues to grow, and The Pleasant Places of Florida have done well at capturing and presenting their history and their archives <www.ppofl.net>. If you'd like to browse web-sites of other societies, Chris Redmond has an excellent set of links at his "Web Portal about the Great Detective" <www.sherlockian.net>; click on [Societies and events].
13861. "Ha Ha Holmes! The Beast of the Blistervilles" opened at the Croydon Warehouse Theatre on Mar. 11 and will run through Apr. 3, then going on tour in Britain; it's a "gripping comedic thriller" from London-based Jamie Wilson Productions, and there's more information (including tour dates) at their web-site <www.jamiewilsonproductions.com> (reported by Phil Attwell).
13862. Further to the discussion of miniature versions of the Canon (February 11 #6), Don Pollock reports a miniature THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES from Miniaturbuchverlag Leipzig (2007), bound in leather and in two sizes: 18x25 mm (\$69.00 in a gilt box) and 38x53 mm (\$29.00 in a slipcase and \$44.80 gilt-edged). You can see both sizes in color at <www.miniboox.de>; their mailing address is Isarweg 2 c, D-85375 Neufarn bei Freising, Germany.

13863. Januarye Russell died on February 28. She made her movie debut and achieved instant stardom in "The Outlaw" (1943), and was once introduced by Bob Hope on radio as "the two and only Jane Russell." She made many more films, including "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes" (1953), in which she told Elliott Reed (who played Detective Malone), "Go away, Sherlock! You're a wrong guy!"
13864. Andrew Lane was interviewed in the e-mail newsletter of Andrew Gulli's The Strand Magazine, and said that A STUDY IN SCARLET was one of the first two books he ever bought with his own pocketed money, around 1974, when he was 11 or 12 years old; it was a second-hand 1930s reprint without a cover. Lane has completed the third book in his YOUNG SHERLOCK HOLMES series, and has signed a contract for a total of six books. The magazine's web-site is at <www.strandmag.com>.
13865. Karen Murdock offers e-mail copies of her paper on "Figures of Speech Found in the Sherlock Holmes Canon", giving definitions and examples of 35 figures of speech such as alliteration, aposiopesis, hendiadys, polysyndeton, simile, and zeugma. Her e-mail address is <murdock1212@gmail.com>.
13866. Karen also notes the Gramwardog Guides, on-lines exercises that can be used to teach grammar, style, and proof-reading, available on CDs or as Internet downloads (\$14.95 each); go to <www.gramwardog.com/samples.php> to see samples of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" and "Sherlock Holmes Stories".
13867. THE SHERLOCK HOLMES COLLECTED EDITION was published by John Murray and Jonathan Cape in 1974 in nine volumes with introductions by noted authors, and is well-known to Sherlockian collectors; the publishers extended their uniform set from 1975 to 1979 to include non-Sherlockian titles, and they are worth pursuing: SIR NIGEL (introduction by Mary Renault), THE WHITE COMPANY (Anthony Burgess), THE EXPLOITS OF GERARD (Fitzroy MacLean), ADVENTURES OF GERARD (Elizabeth Longford), and THE LOST WORLD (Alistair Maclean).

March 2011 #2

13868. Jane Royle died on Dec. 13. She was a highly-regarded film and television make-up artist who specialized in prosthetics she called "the stickies". Her long of film credits included "Who Framed Roger Rabbit", "Harry Potter", "Batman Begins", and "Young Sherlock Holmes"; the Guardian said in her obituary (Mar. 7) that for "Murder by Decree" (1979) she simulated "the wrenched-out innards of prostitutes killed by Jack the Ripper."
13869. The Livestock Players Youtheatre will present Tim Kelly's dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" at the City Arts Studio Theatre in Greensboro on May 19-22. 200 North Davis Street, Greensboro, NC 27401 (336-335-6426) <www.thedramacenter.com>.
13870. MPI Home Video has issued "The Complete Sherlock Holmes Collection" on DVDs (April 03 #4) with high-quality restorations of all 14 Rathbone/Bruce films, and with additional features that include new commentary by Patricia Morrison on "Dressed to Kill"; this month MPI released the collection as a highdefinition set of five Blu-ray disks (\$129.98).
13871. Ev Herzog spotted an advertisement for "Peeking Duck", one of a series of "Figures of Speech" sculptures by Marsha Tosk; it is hand-painted polyresin (with monocle) and 19« inches high, and costs \$950.00. It's also far more attractive in full color at <www.mashatosk-figuresofspeech.com>, where you can see other sculptures in her series.
13872. The late Ian Richardson's ashes were buried last year at the new Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon, in the foundations in front of the stage, at the bottom of the central aisle, according to a story in The Times (Nov. 22), noted by John Baesch; his son Miles, also an actor, said "My father will be in the front row for every performances and just where liked to be, center stage." Richardson was Sherlock Holmes in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" and "The Sign of Four" (1983), and Dr. Joseph Bell in "Murder Rooms: The Dark Beginnings of Sherlock Holmes" (2000); he died in 2007.
13873. Did anyone know or know of Nicholas Francis Sardone? He was born in 1948, and died last month in Branchville, N.J., and he was an energetic collector of Sherlockiana, old and new (and was just as enthusiastic about "Snoopy" collectibles).
13874. Ken Lanza has discovered Street Jewelry Place at <www.jewelryonstreet.com>; it's a clearing house for people who sell more than jewelry, but their offers include "Baker Street Irregulars custom jewelry". You can also search for [sherlock holmes] and [conan doyle].
13875. Reported: THE QUEEN'S DOLLS' HOUSE, by Lucinda Lambton (The Royal Collection, 2010, £12.95); in an excerpt in the Telegraph Magazine (Oct. 16), she notes that Ursula Ridley, daughter of the house's designer Edwin Lutyens, remembered Conan Doyle arriving at the Lutyens' home in Mansfield Street to hand-deliver the manuscript of the pastiche "How Watson Learned the Trick" (which is still in the library of the dolls' house at Windsor).

March 2011 #3

13876. The first time that Peter Cook and Dudley Moore played Holmes and Watson was in a six-minute skit "Sherlock Holmes Investigates" in their ATV television series "Goodbye Again" in 1968, well before their version of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1978); the script for the skit was published in GOODBYE AGAIN: THE DEFINITIVE PETER COOK AND DUDLEY MOORE (December 06 #7), and the skit itself is available in the British DVD "The Very Best of Goodbye Again" (region 2 only). The skit is no more serious than the later film.
13877. Lloyd Rose discovered a web-site with some interesting Sherlockian artwork <www.spicysteweddemon.deviant.art.com/gallery/23656984> (sorry: black-andwhite won't do justice to the full-color art at the web-site).
13878. "You are the stormy petrel of crime, Watson," Sherlock Holmes exclaimed (in "The Naval Treaty"). Sonia Fetherston has reported a story in the Portland Oregonian about two Portland birders who discovered a new species of stormy petrel during a visit to Chile. To read the story (and see a photograph), go to <www.oregonlive.com> and search for [storm petrel].
13879. Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" runs through Apr. 17 at the Pacifica Spindrift Players Theatre (1050 Crespi Drive, Pacifica, CA 94044) (650-359-8002) <www.pacificaspindriftplayers.org>.
13880. Laurie King is continuing to post at <www.astudyinsherlock.com> about the new anthology that she and Les Klinger are editing for Bantam Books. You can see the cover, and a list of contributors, and late-breaking news: the book will include Les' Twiterview (that's an interview in 140 characters) with Mary Russell.
13881. Carl Heifetz notes that Brian Crane's "Pickles" (Mar. 8) was almost Canonical: Sherlock Holmes said (in "A Study in Scarlet") that "I consider that a man's brain originally is like a little empty attic, and you have to stock it with such furniture as you choose."
13882. Ken Ludwig's new comedy-mystery-thriller "The Game's Afoot, on Holmes for the Holidays" was performed at a staged reading in Washington (September 10 #1), and it's nice news indeed that the play will have its world premiere at the Cleveland Play House, Nov. 25 to Dec. 18; 8500 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44105 (216-795-7000) <www.clevelandplayhouse.com>. It's a murder mystery set in William Gillette's home, and it's wonderfully hilarious.

March 2011 #4

13883. The 9th annual STUD-Watsonian Weekend will be held in and near Chicago on Apr. 15-17; there will be a dinner at the Sheraton Four Points in Schiller Park, the 52nd annual running of The Silver Blaze at Hawthorne Race Course, and a Fortescue Honours brunch. The registration form is available from Susan Z. Diamond (16W603 3rd Avenue, Bensenville, IL 60106) <szdiamond@comcast.net>.

13884. Danielle Corsetto's web-comic (that's an on-line comic strip) "Girls with Slingshots" featured Jamie McJack in Sherlockian costume as a "Romance Detective" (December 10 #4); Tina Rhea notes that a necklace pendant's available in antique silver (\$25.00) from the Girls with Slingshots Shop at <www.etsy.com/listing/70660207/girls-with-slingshots-necklace-jamie>.
13885. The chapter "On Dress and Other Matters" in Michael Harrison's THE LONDON OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1972) offered an excellent summary of the clothes that Holmes and others wore, and now Jason MacLochlainn provides a detailed and discussion of how men's clothing actually was made in THE VICTORIAN TAILOR: AN INTRODUCTION TO PERIOD TAILORING (New York: St. Martin's Griffin, 2011; 160 pp., \$29.99); the British edition, from Batsford, is VICTORIAN TAILORING: TECHNIQUES AND PATTERNS. MacLochlainn studied period training manuals and examined surviving garments to learn what tailors did, and explains in detail how costumers can create appropriately Victorian clothing reflecting a time when suits, vests, and coats were made to measure.
13886. The Arizona Theatre Company has commissioned a new play by Jeffrey Hatcher: "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club" is based on Robert Louis Stevenson's story "The Suicide Club" and involves the club's new member, Sherlock Holmes. The play will be performed in Tucson (Sept. 17-Oct. 8) and Phoenix (Oct. 13-30); there's more information available at the ATC web-site <www.arizonatheatre.org>.
13887. Allan Foster's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND CONAN DOYLE LOCATIONS: A VISITOR'S GUIDE (Jefferson: McFarland & Co., 2011; 156 pp., \$35.00) offers a delightful exploration of Scotland and England; the author is a writer and tour operator in Edinburgh, where there's much to be found that relates to Arthur Conan Doyle, Joseph Bell, and others. And there's a lot to be learned from the coverage of England (both the counties and London). Foster would be a fine guide to it all, and his book is well-researched, written, and illustrated.
13888. Katie Forgette's play "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily" is at being performed at the Chautauqua Playhouse through Apr. 17; 5325 Engle Road, Carmichael, CA 95608 (916-489-7529) <www.cplayhouse.org>. And then at the Nevada Theatre from Apr. 22 through May 15; 401 Broad Street, Nevada City, CA 95959 (530-265-6161) <www.nevadatheatre.com>.
13889. Paul W. Nash's pastiche "The Adventure of the Scarlet Thorn" was featured in the Feb. 2010 issue of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine (the annual tribute to the birthday of Sherlock Holmes), and it's one of seven pastiches in his collection THE REMAINS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Moreton-in-the-Marsh: Strawberry Books, 2011; 229 pp., £12.00); there's more adventure than mystery in some of the stories, and one might infer from the author's "editor's note" that there may be more tales to be told.

March 2011 #5

13890. Michael Gough died on Mar. 17. He made his acting debut at the Old Vic School in 1936, and went on to a long career on stage, screen, and television as a supporting actor. He was best known as Alfred the butler in four of the "Batman" films (1989-1997), and he played Russel Partridge in "The Case of the Perfect Husband" (1955) in the Ronald Howard television series, and the Governor in "Cell 13" (1973) in the series "The Rivals of Sherlock Holmes".
13891. George John ("Sir Jasper Meek") died on Feb. 6. He had a long career as a doctor, in South Dakota, Nebraska (where he encountered the world of Sherlockians in The Maiwand Jezails), and Texas. He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1969.
13892. Barnes & Noble continues to issue inexpensive reprints, including THE HORROR OF THE HEIGHTS AND OTHER STRANGE TALES (hardbound, \$6.98) has 14 of Conan Doyle's tales of the macabre.
13893. Margaret Newman Turner's ARTHUR, LOUISE, AND THE TRUE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (Almeley: Logaston Press, 2010; 98 pp., £10.00) tells the story of the Hound of the Vaughans of Hergest Court, and much more. The author is the daughter of Cecil P. Turner, who wrote to Conan Doyle enquiring if the family legend had inspired THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES; Conan Doyle replied that "My story was really based on nothing save a remark of my friend Fletcher Robinson's that there was a legend about a dog on the Moor connected with some old family. I had no place in my eye." The letter was sold at auction in 2008 for £3,700 (plus premium and tax), and the new book explores some additional connections: Hergest Court is in Herefordshire (on the border with Wales), and Mrs. Turner believes that Conan Doyle's first wife, Louise Hawkins, whose family owned land in the area, told the story of the spectral hound to her husband, and that her support also was important when he wrote the early Sherlock Holmes stories. Mrs. Turner relies on Georgina Doyle's OUT OF THE SHADOWS for family history, but tells interesting stories of her own about the Hawkins and Vaughan families. There's a BBC television news story at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=uxm1zgZl6i0> with an interview about Mrs. Turner and her book.
13894. Derham Groves, the first Australian to become a member of The Baker Street Irregulars (in 1985, as "Black Jack of Ballarat"), has had a long career as architect, artist, and writer, and (thanks to the Internet) you can see his interest work at <www.derhamgroves.com/category/sherlock-holmes>, <special.lib.umn.edu/rare/exhibit/holmesgardens.html>, and <www.youtube.com>; search for [murderous melbourne] at YouTube.
13895. Go to <www.youtube.com/watch?v=ztkWkWi2bQ> to see "The Adventures of Sherlock Hounds", an imaginative and amusing promotional video for the "Catch a Clue" summer reading program in the library system of King County, Wash.
13896. The Byook version of "The Speckled Band" (created by a French company that enhances the text with sound and visual effects) is an interesting demonstration of how modern technology can be used by people who have iPods and iPads. You can see a brief teaser at <www.byook.com>, and the app can be downloaded for \$1.99/£1.91; the first half of the story is available now, and the second half in April (no additional charge).

March 2011 #6

13897. Al Gregory reports that Sutton Foster and Joel Grey are starring in a revival of Porter's classic musical "Anything Goes" (1934) at the Stephen Sondheim Theatre in New York; at one point the hero, trying to escape capture aboard ship, appears on deck in disguise with Inverness, deerstalker, calabash pipe, and an absurd beard. There's a brief glimpse in a video montage at <www.anythinggostonbroadway.com>.
13898. Matthew Ward and Jimmy Black became famous when they solved the 'Jack the Ripper' murders in WR.Park's FATAL INCISION (2010), and PHANTOM HOUNDS: THE CURSE OF THE BASKERVILLES RETURNS (Castroville: Black Rose Writing, 2011; 236 pp., \$16.95) is the next adventure, bringing them to Dartmoor to solve a new mystery that involves a brief meeting with Sherlock Holmes, renewed danger to Sir Henry Baskerville, and (more than half the book) a perilous excursion to Egypt. The author's web-site is at <www.wrparkbooks.com>.
13899. The 30th annual Sherlock Holmes/Arthur Conan Doyle Symposium, to be held in Dayton, Ohio, on May 13-16, has the theme "Holmes: Then, Now, & Forever"; Cathy Gill manages their mailing list (4661 Hamilton Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45223) (513-681-5507) <chirpsworth@fuse.net>.
13900. The Wildstorm comic-book five-issue mini-series VICTORIAN UNDEAD: SHERLOCK HOLMES VS DRACULA, written by Jim Edginton and with artwork by Horacio Domingues is complete with the May issue; presumably a graphic novel will appear soon. <www.dccomics.com/wildstorm/comics> is the URL for the publisher's web-site.
13901. In other comic-book news, Image Comics will begin a MORIARTY mini-series, written by Daniel Corey and drawn by Anthony Diecidue, scheduled in stores in May; there's more information, and cover art, at Charles Prepolec's web-site at <www.sherlocknews.com>.

13902. H.R.F. Keating died on Mar. 27. He was a fine writer, best known for his "Inspector Ghoti" stories, and an expert commentator on mystery and crime fiction. He also wrote Sherlockian pastiches, and co-wrote the Christopher Lee television film "Sherlock Holmes and the Leading Lady" (1991), and his THE WORLD OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1979) was a splendid piece of scholarship.
13903. Mitch Higurashi and Yuichi Hirayama report that Sherlockians in Japan all seem to have survived the earthquake and tsunami. There's still great concern about the reactors and fuel-rod pools, of course, and much to be done to assist refugees from the area directly affected.
13904. Darlene Cypser's THE CRACK IN THE LENS (Morrison: Foolsap & Quill, 2010; 286 pp., \$14.95) is a well-written story of Sherlock Holmes' early life in Yorkshire, with his father Siger Holmes, his brothers Sherrinford and Mycroft, his tutor Prof. James Moriarty, and a local girl named Violet Rushdale. There's romance and adventure, nice local flavor, and a good look at what set young Sherlock on the path to becoming what he is in the Canonical tales. Cypser has an excellent web-site at <www.crackinthelens.com>, with excerpts and easy access to various ways to buy the book.
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April 2011 #1

13905. Karen Ellery reports that WGBH-TV has a splendid web-site for various Sherlockian programs that have aired on "Masterpiece Theatre": "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Silk Stocking" (2005), "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (2002), and "Murder Rooms" (1999 and 2001). Visit the over-all web-site at <www.pbs.org/wgbh/masterpiece/silkstocking/retro.html> to find all sorts of useful content, including a comparison of three versions of a scene in "The Hound of the Baskervilles": the text from the story, the script, and video of the scene as broadcast.
13906. Al Gregory notes that the Undershaw Preservation Trust is selling items on eBay to benefit their campaign: a badge (lapel pin) for £7.99 and a set of postcards (one signed by their patron Mark Gatiss) for £51.00. You can go to <www.ebay.com> or <www.ebay.co.uk> and search for [undershaw].
13907. Eric Simonson's play "Fake" premiered at a reading in New York in 2008 and was performed in Chicago in 2009, and tells the story of the Piltdown hoax ("it's a time-traveling mystery drama revolving around a house party held by Sir Arthur Conan"); it was recorded by L.A. Theatre Works and released in their Audio Theatre Collection last year as a 2-CD set (\$25.95); Francis Guinan played Conan Doyle. Their recording of "The Lost World" (adapted by John de Lancie and Nat Segalof) was issued as a single CD in 2009 (\$13.22) The company's web-site is at <www.latw.org>.
13908. <www.zavvi.com> is an excellent British source for discounted DVDs, including some older Sherlockian and Doylean DVDs not often seen at American web-sites.
13909. THE MUPPET SHOW: SEASON ONE (SPECIAL EDITION) is a four-DVD set issued in 2005 (\$39.99) with the original pitch reel, the original pilot, and all of the season's programs, including the one with Joel Grey as the guest star, which is of interest because it included "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Disappearing Clues" (starring Rowlf as Holmes, Baskerville the Hound as Watson, Miss Piggy as the maid, and Gorgon Heap as the butler). And if you don't remember it, the reason is that it was cut from the program when it aired in the U.S. on Oct. 18, 1976. But the segment did air in Britain and fortunately is included in the set of DVDs.
13910. YOUNG SHERLOCK HOLMES: RED LEECH (London: Macmillan Children's Books, 2011; 339 pp., £6.99) is the second book in Andrew Lane's well-written series for young adults; Sherlock Holmes is 14 years old and involved in desperate adventures. The series has an excellent web-site at <www.youngsherlock.com>, with features such as the original proposal and author's notes, and (if you sign up for their newsletter) deleted scenes and other items of interest. An American edition is due later this year. And the next book in the series will be BLACK ICE.
13911. Anthony D. P. Mann's film "Sherlock Holmes and the Shadow Watchers" (June 10 #1) had its premiere at the Empire Theatre in Kingston on Apr. 6; the film is scheduled for release on DVD later this year. You can see a six-minute trailer at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=vxqN3tfdlp8&feature=player_embedded>. Mann's web-site is at <www.anthonypmann.com>.
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April 2011 #2

13912. "The Writing of my Autograph/Makes me nearly frantic/But all is well today. We're half/Way over the Atlantic!!" That's a bit of verse that Conan Doyle wrote to accompany his autograph on Apr. 5, 1922 (aboard the *Baltic*, en route to the United States for the lecture tour he described in OUR AMERICAN ADVENTURE). Framed and glazed, and with a photograph of Sir Arthur, it was offered at auction by William J. Jenack on Apr. 17, estimated at \$800-\$1200.
13913. "As Sherlock Holmes would have no doubt said to his sidekick, 'Baker Street Recordings are mighty spiffing, it's elementary, my dear Watson,'" is the motto of a company spotted by Jerry Margolin. It's based in Leeds, and was founded in 2006 by Paul Hardy and Jacob Kelly; they specialize in "house music" (a style of electronic dance music), and you can go to <www.bakerstreetrecordings.com> to listen to some of their musicians. Downloads can be purchased at <www.amazon.com> and other web-sites (where they use a different version of the silhouette).
13914. "Set in a Victorian world where Sherlock Holmes is king, four lesser-known detectives are pitted against one another," is the premise of "The Rivals", a BBC radio drama written by Chris Harrald and due in October (spotted by Phil Attwell).
13915. Information for people who don't have e-readers but want to read e-books: Darlene Cypser reports that Amazon is happy to let you download free software so that you can read Kindle editions of books on your desk-top or laptop or just about any hand-held device. Barnes & Noble does the same for their Nook editions.
13916. "H2G2: The Guide to Life, the Universe, and Everything" is an interesting BBC on-line collaborative encyclopedia project (similar to a wiki), and one of entries is an informative discussion of the film "The Lost World" (1925) <www.bbc.co.uk/h2g2/entry/A83345132>. The web-site was founded in 1999 by Douglas Adams (author of THE HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY), and if you would like to buy it, it's for sale: the BBC announced in January that the BBC Online budget will be cut by £34 million, and they plan to dispose of H2G2. The BBC is funded by license fees that no longer increase to match the inflation rate (a license for a color television set now is £145.50 a year, and a black-and-white set costs £49.00 a year).
13917. Ask Jeeves (the British version of the web-search Ask.com) commissioned a survey after noticing an increase in the number of queries received asking for biographies and other personal details such as a family tree for fictional characters, according to an article in the Daily Mail (Apr. 5); the survey polled 1,000 adults discovered that 21% thought Sherlock Holmes was a real person. One third of those surveyed believed that Long John Silver was real, and Robin Hood won the support of two thirds.
13918. Additional thanks to Gary for news of Conan Doyle's amusing appearance on "A Prairie Home Companion with Garrison Keillor" on American Public Media (Oct. 16, 2010), in a six-minute segment from "the adventures of Ruth Harrison, reference librarian" You can read the script (and listen to the segment) at <www.prairiehome.publicradio.org/2010/10/16/scripts/ruth.shtml>.
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April 2011 #3

13919. Larry Millett's pastiches set in Minnesota began with SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE RED DEMON (September 96 #5) and went on through four more books, eventually involving colorful Saint Paul saloon keeper Shadwell Rafferty, who also is an ingenious detective. THE MAGIC BULLET (University of Minnesota Press, 2011; 347 pp., \$24.95) offers a complicated locked-room murder mystery investigated and eventually solved by Rafferty, with a bit of assistance from Holmes from London.
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13920. The University of Minnesota Press also is reissuing Millett's earlier pastiches, starting with SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE RED DEMON (319 pp.) and SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE ICE PALACE MURDERS (320 pp.); \$14.95 each. Holmes and Watson travel to Minnesota to solve both mysteries.
13921. Kelly Blau has discovered Watson, who is a cute little raccoon as well as an "interactive story buddy" designed to help young people learn to read: you read the book aloud and whenever he hears certain phrases he responds. For \$34.89 you get Watson and the first book (WATSON AND THE CASE OF THE SNEAKY STEALER), and he will interact with two more books (THE MISSING ACORN and THE LITTLE LOST CATERPILLAR). You can see Watson in action in a threeminute video available from Hallmark at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=65QVvEfr2ul>.
13922. THE HOUSE OF SILK is the title of the new pastiche by Anthony Horowitz (January 11 #5), due from Orion Books (in the UK) and from Mulholland Books (in the US) in November ; Horowitz has a three-minute teaser video at <www.amazon.co.uk>.
13923. WILLIAM GILLETTE, AMERICA'S SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Henry Zecher (Bloomington: Xlibris, 2011; 733 pp., \$23.95), is a splendid biography of the actor/playwright who did so much to make Sherlock Holmes so popular. There was much more to Gillette's life and career than Sherlock Holmes, and the author has told the story well, with careful research and readable style; recommended. The author's web-site is at <www.henryzecher.com>.
13924. BuzzerBeater is an "on-line basketball simulation game" discovered by Karen Murdock, who reports that one of them teams is the Baker Street Irregulars, managed by Sherlock Holmes <www.buzzerbeater.com/team/28544/overview.aspx>.
13925. SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE SHAKESPEARE LETTER, by Barry Grant (Sutton: Severn House, 2011; 185 pp., \$27.95), is a sequel to THE STRANGE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (March 10 #4); Sherlock Holmes, revived after having been frozen in a Swiss glacier for 90 years, is again detecting in London, assisted by James Wilson, a correspondent invalidated home after an assignment in Afghanistan, and this time they're attempting to recover a letter that may or may not have been written by Shakespeare, and that involves them in an intricate international conspiracy.

April 2011 #4

13926. The March issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota has Tim Johnson's report on the Sherlockian and Doylean aspects of the new UMedia Archive, Julie McKuras' "100 Years Ago" discussion of the cartoonist TAD (Thomas Aloysius Dorgan), Dick Sveum's "50 Years Ago" review of Peter A. Ruber and William Swift Dalliba's THE DETECTIVE SHORT STORY (A BIBLIOGRAPHY), and news from and about the collections. Copies of the newsletter are available from Richard J. Sveum (111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <sveum001@tc.umn.edu>.
13927. Samantha Wolov has reported that Les Klinger's THE NEW ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES will be found at Dan Wilbur's amusing web-site at <www.betterbooktitles.com>; according to Wilbur, his blog provides assistance to "people who do not have thousands of hours to read book reviews of blurbs or first sentences. I will cut through all the cryptic crap, and give you the meat of the story in one condensed image. Now you can read the greatest literary works of all time in mere seconds!"
13928. "This film is frequently hampered by the fact that it's horrible," according to James Lileks' review of Reginald Owen's "A Study in Scarlet" (1933); Lloyd Rose discovered Lileks' blog at <www.lileks.com/institute/100mysteries>, where he comments on eight Sherlock Holmes films. Lileks also provides a link to Brian Taves' much longer and more knowledgeable user review of "A Study in Scarlet" at the Internet Movie Data Base.
13929. "Sherlock Holmes and the Volcano Horror" (an imaginative two-act play dramatized by Hal Glatzer from "The Devil's Foot") was first performed in Honolulu in 1978; a revised version, performed in Hilo last year, is now available for \$20.00 as a 95-minute DVD (\$20.00) that can be bought at his web-site <www.halglatzer.com>, where he also has information about the play and a video trailer.
13930. There are many interesting and useful aspects of Chris Redmond's web-site at <www.sherlockian.net>: click on "The original Sherlock Holmes stories" at the top of the list at the left to explore what people have had to say about the tales, such as "Redmond's Delicate Question" for each story. And his links can be weird and wonderful: if you explore "The Hound of the Baskervilles" you'll find a link to Laura Lyons as Playmate of the Month.
13931. Gary Thaden discovered a truly unusual edition of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, commissioned by Penguin Books in Malaysia to publicize the "unputdownable" nature of classic literature; an image of the new edition can be seen at <www.theinspirationroom.co/daily/2009/penguin-books-unputdownable>.
13932. Karen Murdock discovered Fancy That of London, a firm that sells all sorts of Sherlockiana, including a colorful Sherlock Holmes Tea Towel (£1.03); go to <www.fancythatoflondon.co.uk> and then click on "Sherlock Holmes Gifts" in the list at the left. And there are William and Kate Wedding Gifts that include a Royal Wedding Condom (for novelty purposes only). But apparently no Sherlockian William and Kate Wedding Gifts.

April 2011 #5

13933. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London will celebrate its diamond jubilee with a long weekend of events that's scheduled for May 19-22; you can read all about it at <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk>. One of the events is "The Sound of the Baskervilles" (Laurence Owen's "Cinema for the Ears" presentation of "The Hound of the Baskervilles") at the Trafalgar Tavern in Greenwich, and the web-site has a link to a three-minute video trailer for what Owen calls a "radio film".
13934. One of the more attractive souvenirs of the Society's jubilee is The Agra Treasure Brooch: just go to the web-site, click on [shop] and then on the brooch to see it in full color. The brooches are hand-crafted by Kim Woodyer-Byers. The web-site also has a link to The Newsletter, where you can read all 310 issues of The District Messenger, which Roger Johnson launched on Dec. 1, 1982; it's the excellent British equivalent of Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press (which is a bit older, and written in American rather than British).
13935. "Sherlock Holmes: The Science of Deduction" is a proposed exhibition for science museums whose plan will be unveiled at the annual meeting of the American Association of Museums in Houston, May 22-25. Created by principle designer Geoffrey M. Curley and the Exhibits Development Group of St. Paul, Minn., and licensed by the Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Estate Ltd., the family's new business entity now that the Estate of Dame Jean Conan Doyle has been closed, the interactive exhibition will focus on Conan Doyle and Holmes, and the forensic science of both the Sherlockian and modern eras, and is expected to go on tour beginning in 2013.
13936. One of the more colorful detectives in pre-Sherlockian England was Francis "Tanky" Smith, who was one of the first detective appointed to the city of Leicester's police force in 1836; he was a master of disguise, and after he retired in 1864 he set himself up as a private detective. He died in 1888, and of course there have been suggestions that his exploits were known to Conan Doyle, who in part modeled Holmes after Smith. He's commemorated in Leicester with a blue plaque and sixteen carved heads showing him in various disguises; go to <www.leicester.gov.uk> and search for [francis smith] to see the plaque and the disguises.
13937. Further to the report (October 10 #7) on Steven Moffat's hinting about the next Benedict Cumberbatch "Sherlock" series ("The critical words, I'd say, would be--Adler, Hound, Reichenbach"), Mark Gatiss has announced at a media event in London that he will update "The Hound of the

Baskervilles", Moffat will do "A Scandal in Bohemia", and Steve Thompson (who wrote "The Blind Banker" in the first series) will take care of "The Final Problem".

13938. And Moffat, interviewed by Garth Johnston for www.gothamist.com on Apr. 21 (search for [moffat]), said that "There are genre similarities in 'Doctor Who' and 'Sherlock Holmes', no question about it. The Doctor is Sherlock in space, and Sherlock Holmes is the Doctor on Baker Street. But then you look at it a bit more closely, and Sherlock Holmes is cruel, lonely, loveless, and the Doctor is lovely and flopsy and embraces all the things that Sherlock runs away from." And that "Sherlock Holmes should never be a nice guy. And we're also doing a young Sherlock Holmes. This is before, twenty years before he becomes Basil Rathbone."

April 2011 #6

13939. Ted Riccardi's *BETWEEN THE THAMES AND THE TIBER* (New York: Pegasus, 2011; 317 pp., \$25.00), subtitled "the further adventures of Sherlock Holmes in Britain and the Italian Peninsula", is the sequel to his *THE ORIENTAL CASEBOOK OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* (September 03 #3); Holmes and Watson are as comfortable in Italy as they are in Britain (although Holmes is much more fluent in Italian than Watson), and the echoes from the Canon include their involvement with Pope Leo XIII, and with Isadora Persano (who turns out to be female medium rather than a male journalist and duellist, without a trace of a remarkable worm).
13940. The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's *The Sherlockian E-Times* will be found at www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times11-3.htm, with a report (with photographs) on the December meeting of The Torists International, offers of books and other merchandise, and links to interesting web-sites.
13941. Bill Scott's new play "The Death of Sherlock Holmes" will be performed on tour in western England and southern Wales by the Miracle Theatre, opening in Porthtowan on June 1 and closing in Falmouth on Aug. 29. More information is available at the company web-site at www.miracletheatre.co.uk.
13942. Cocktails are making a comeback, and Mike Kean notes a recipe for a "Hound of the Baskervilles" created by Gary Regan (author of *THE JOY OF MIXOLOGY* and other books) and reported in the *San Francisco Chronicle* (Feb. 27). Mike reports the result as interesting, though perhaps lethal if taken in quantity.
13943. Theatre Aquarius will perform Steven Dietz's play "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" from Sept. 23 to Oct. 8. 190 King William Street, Hamilton, ON L8R 1A8, Canada (905-522-7529) www.theatreaquarius.org.
13944. Catherine Cooke is helping sell some of Anna Smyth's Sherlockiana (and at reasonable prices); you request an e-mail sales list from Catherine c.cooke@dsl.pipex.com.
13945. The British Academy of Film & Television Arts has announced the nominees for its television BAFTAs; they include nominatons for "Sherlock" (drama series) Benedict Cumberbatch (leading actor), and Martin Freeman (supporting actor); the awards will be announced on May 22.
13946. "Sherlock" also has been nominated for the YouTube Audience Award, the only BAFTA voted on by the public. The British public, that is; Brits can vote at www.youtube.com/baftaonline until May 20.
13947. And yes, there was something Sherlockian about the Royal Wedding: the guest list at Westminster Abbey included Guy Ritchie, the director of the films "Sherlock Holmes" and "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows".

May 2011 #1

13948. I recently had an opportunity to watch an episode of "The \$64,000 Question" (1956) on which Air Force Captain Thomas O'Rourke and his wife Bobbye each won \$32,000 on concealment of identity in the Sherlock Holmes stories: they were each given seven names and asked to give the name of the story and another name by which the character was known. Test your own knowledge: Waldron ; Signora Victor Dorando; Henry Peters; Jack McMurdo; James Armitage; Vandeleur the schoolmaster; James Winter; Arthur Harry Pinner; Sutton; Mrs. Norlett; Don Juan Murillo; Hosmer Angel; Sergius, the nihilist; Mr. Cornelius. Note: they had only 30 seconds to think about their answers.
13949. When and where did Sherlock Holmes wear an Inverness cape? There's no mention of an Inverness in the Canon, but many actors have worn one when playing Holmes; nowadays it seems to be worn mainly by members of pipe bands as a raincape, in nylon, polyester, or cotton, rather than tweed. Karen Murdock has found a source for the modern version at www.misterantony.com.
13950. An unusual print of a blueprint inscribed "Bruce Partington Submarine, Issued by The Royal Navy Research Department" is scheduled for auction by Adam Partridge in England on June 23, estimated at £30-£50; the catalog description states that the print may have been used as a prop during filming of a Sherlock Holmes television program. Go to www.adampartridge.co.uk/lots/ and search for [bruce].
13951. "How Sherlock Kept Me Out of the Gulag" is the title of an article by Bohdan Kachmar posted at the web-site of the Ukrainian Bible Translation Project on May 30, 2009; go to www.ukrainianbible.org and search for [sherlock]. Kachmar's recollection of a Sherlock Holmes story did just that.
13952. The spring issue of *The Magic Door* (the newsletter published by The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) has Cliff Goldfarb's discussion ("A Letter from Bosie") of the correspondence between Lord Alfred Douglas and Sir Arthur (whose wife Jean noted that his response was "a splendid answer from my darling to that rat"), plus other news from and about the collection. Copies of the newsletter are available on request from Clifford S. Goldfarb (22 Markdale Avenue, Toronto, ON M6C, 1T1, Canada) cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca. And there's still time to register for "A Study in Scandal" in Toronto on Oct. 13-16 www.acdfriends.org.
13953. More cocktails: Al and Julie Rosenblatt stopped by the Hotel Pierre in New York and visited the Two-E Bar/Lounge, which had a "Movie Cocktail Festival" that included the "Sherlock Holmes" (Laphfroig Scotch, chilled Lapsang Souchong tea, honey simple syrup, and fresh lemon juice).
13954. *Mystery Scene* magazine has reached its 118th issue (winter 2011), which has Cheryl Solimini's "Steve Hockensmith: Holmes on the Range" and Stephen J. Gertz's (non-Sherlockian) "Bawdy Bibliophiles" and much more. Their web-site www.mysteryscenemag.com also has many interesting articles, including "The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (Jon L. Breen's review of the series of reprints from Titan Books), "Two Authors for Teenage Girls" (Oline H. Cogdill's discussion of Laurie R. King and Alan Bradley), and a samples from the spring issue.

May 2011 #2

13955. Bill Blackbeard died on Mar. 10. He spent a lifetime collecting newspaper comic strips, rescuing old newspapers from people's basements and attics, and from the Library of Congress, and other libraries, and wrote and edited many books about the classic comic-strip artists and their work. Bill presided over what he called the San Francisco Academy of Comic Art in his home, and by the 1990s he estimated that he had clipped and organized more than 2.5 million Sunday and daily comic strips. In 1998 most of his collection was transferred (in six semi-trailer trucks) to Ohio State University's Cartoon Library & Museum. His cornerstone contribution to our literature was his book *SHERLOCK HOLMES IN AMERICA* (1981), which contained his essay on "The Image of Sherlock Holmes in Popular Art and Literature" and a wide variety of comic strips and cartoons, story illustrations, advertising, and reviews extracted from his collection.

13956. And why was Guy Ritchie invited to the Royal Wedding? There have been reports that Will and Harry had been invited to the set while work on "Sherlock Holmes" was underway, and they attended the premiere in London on Dec. 14, 2009, arriving at the theater with Kate Middleton, as shown in a photograph that was published in the Daily Mail.
13957. "You don't happen to have a Raphael...without knowing it?" Holmes asked (in "The Three Gables"). Having a Vernet would be almost as nice: Joan Moore spotted a report in the Wall Street Journal (April 29) that Claude-Joseph Vernet's painting "A Grand View of the Sea-Shore Enriched with Buildings, Shipping and Figures" went to auction at Sotheby's in New York on Jan. 27, estimated at \$1.5 million-\$2 million, and it sold for more than \$7 million; the article reported that 20 bidders duelled for the painting, which went to a private American buyer. Claude-Joseph Vernet was Holmes' great-great-grandfather. If you would settle for Holmes' grand-uncle Emile-Jean-Horace Vernet, his "Portrait of Colonel Auguste-Frederic-Bon-Amour, marquis de Talhouet" sold for only \$50,000.
13958. Further to the item on the poetic accompaniment to Conan Doyle's autograph at auction at William J. Jenack on Apr. 17 (April 11 #2), bidding didn't make the reserve, and the lot didn't sell.
13959. Henry Becton has been made an Honorary Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (CBE), receiving the honor from Prince Charles at the British Embassy in Washington on May 5. Becton joined WGBH (Boston) as a producer in 1970 and served as its president from 1984 to 2007, presiding over the co-production of Granada's "Sherlock Holmes" series and many other "Mystery!" and "Masterpiece Theatre" favorites.
13960. And "Masterpiece" executive producer Rebecca Eaton has been named to Time magazine's annual list of the 100 most influential people in the world; she received an honorary OBE on Dec. 10, 2003, for "her services to Anglo-American film and television."

May 2011 #3

13961. Ken Lanza spotted a reference to "the Sherlock Holmes of America," who was Ellis Parker, the first chief detective in Burlington County, N.J. Parker had an illustrious career, until he decided he knew who had kidnapped the Lindbergh baby, and was in turn tried and convicted of kidnapping his alternative suspect. And there's a book: MASTER DETECTIVE: THE LIFE AND CRIMES OF ELLIS PARKER--AMERICA'S REAL-LIFE SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Jim Reisinger (2006). Parker died in prison in 1940, and his grandson Andrew Sahol now is seeking a posthumous presidential pardon for his grandfather.
13962. Jeremy Paul died on May 3. He was a skillful dramatist and playwright who wrote the "Conan Doyle" episode for the BBC's "The Edwardians" television series (1972), dramatized many of the tales for Granada's "Sherlock Holmes" series (his version of "The Musgrave Ritual" won an Edgar from the Mystery Writers of America), and wrote the script for the play "The Secret of Sherlock Holmes" for Jeremy Brett and Edward Hardwicke (1988).
13963. The Postal Service has honored Helen Hayes as "The First Lady of the American Theater" on a new postage stamp. While she is not known to have acted in anything Sherlockian or Doylean, she did appear with William Gillette in the Broadway production of J. M. Barrie's play "Dear Brutus" in 1918, when she was only 18 years old, winning praise in reviews of the play. She greatly admired Gillette; you can read what she said about him in her memoirs in Henry Zecher's WILLIAM GILLETTE: AMERICA'S SHERLOCK HOLMES (April 11 #3).
13964. The nominees for this year's Anthony Awards have been announced, and they include Graham Moore's THE SHERLOCKIAN (best first novel) and Steve Doyle's SHERLOCK HOLMES FOR DUMMIES (best critical/non-fiction). The voters will be those who attend Bouchercon 2011 in Saint Louis, and the winners will be announced on Sept. 18.
13965. The Undershaw Preservation Trust is continuing its campaign to rescue Conan Doyle's home from a developer who plans to convert the house into flats (December 10 #2). The BBC reported that the Trust handed out 500 deerstalkers in Hindhead and asked locals to wear something inspired by Sherlock Holmes on May 14 to show their support for keeping the house as a single building or turning it into a museum. The Waverley Borough Council has approved the developer's plans, and the Council's head of planning, Matthew Evans said, "If Undershaw was to be bought by campaigners or another purchaser with a view to an alternative use for the building and promoting it to tourists, we would be happy to discuss the proposals with them," and added that "it would be a substantial burden on the taxpayer for Waverley Borough Council to make a compulsory purchase of the property, with no assurance that any scheme would be financially viable."
13966. Scott Monty's "Baker Street Blog" continues to expand its reach, which now includes Steve Doyle's "From the Dummy's Chair". A recent installment is "Sherlockian Myth-Busters: Thor Bridge", a five-minute video in which Steve and fellow Sherlockians conduct a test to see whether the disappearing-gun trick in "Thor Bridge" actually works. Go to <www.bakerstreetblog.com> to see the solution.

May 2011 #4

13967. Nicholas Selby died in on Sept. 14, 2010. He had a long career as a supporting actor on stage, screen, radio, and television; he appeared in the cast of the Hobbs/Shelley radio version of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" on the BBC in 1958, and played James Larrabee in the Royal Shakespeare Company's revival of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" in London, Washington, and New York in 1974.
13968. Image Comics has launched a new MORIARTY comic-book mini-series, written by Daniel Corey and drawn by Anthony Diecidue. Charles Prepolec has a colorful report on the new comic (and as usual on other interesting things) at <www.sherlocknews.com>.
13969. "So I wrote another of my first books and sent it off to the publishers," Conan Doyle wrote in "My First Book" (in The Idler, Jan. 1893). The book was THE NARRATIVE OF JOHN SMITH, and the manuscript was lost in the post. "But I must in all honesty confess that my shock at its disappearance would be as nothing to my horror if it were suddenly to appear again--in print," he added. And, more than a hundred years later, it was a surprise to find the manuscript of the story in the Conan Doyle papers at auction at Christie's in London in 2004. It wasn't the original manuscript, it turns out, but rather a second version that he rewrote from memory, as he wrote to his mother in Feb. 1884 in a letter published in ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: HIS LIFE AND LETTERS (2007).
13970. That manuscript was purchased by the British Library, which will publish it later this year, with an introduction by Jon Lellenberg, Daniel Stashower, and Rachel Foss (144 pp., £9.95) <publishing.bl.uk> (there also will be an audiobook, and both versions will be distributed in the U.S. by the University of Chicago Press). "Through John Smith," the British Library notes, "Conan Doyle sets down his thoughts and opinions on a range of subjects--including literature, science, religion, war, and education--with no detectable insecurity or diffidence."
13971. SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE LYME REGIS HORROR, by David Ruffle (Peterborough: FastPrint Publishing, 2009; 168 pp., £8.99); Holmes and Watson are in Lyme Regis pitted against the vampire Count Olana in 1896 (Bram Stoker's DRACULA was published in 1897).
13972. The Library of Congress and Sony have launched a new web-site that allows listeners to stream an archive of more than 10,000 pre-1925 recordings of music, speeches, poetry, and comedy. It's called the National Jukebox, and it's at <www.loc.gov/jukebox>, and it's well worth a visit. And a search for [sherlock] quickly turned up "Mrs. Holmes taught Sherlock all he knew" on a recording made by the Victor Military Band on Apr. 26, 1917. It's a

sprightly tune, and a mystery: the title of the record is "When It's Circus Day Back Home--Medley One-Step" and the Sherlockian title is listed only as one of the four tunes in the medley; one would think it's a song, but there are no results from a Google search other than the record.

13973. Marvin Cheiten's new play "The Golden Spy & The World at War" opened at the Off-Broadstreet Theatre on May 13 and is running through June 3. The theater is at 5 South Greenwood Avenue, Hopewell, NJ 08525 (609-466-2766), and the web-site's at <www.off-broadstreet.com>.

May 2011 #5

13974. The manuscript of "The Story of Pedegue's Dropper" went to auction at Bloomsbury Auctions in London on May 25, estimated at £4,000-£6,000. The title of the manuscript's not a misprint: the story was published as "The Story of Spedegue's Dropper" in *The Strand Magazine* (Oct. 1928), and Randall Stock has much more information about the manuscript at <www.bestofsherlock.com/ref/spedegues-dropper-bloomsbury.htm>. The hammer price was £15,000 (before buyer's premium and taxes).
13975. The BBC has announced that filming has started on the second season of its "Sherlock" mini-series (starring Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman), and Steven Moffat has revealed that the three new programs will be "A Scandal in Belgravia", "The Hounds of Baskerville", and "The Reichenbach Fall".
13976. And the British Academy of Film & Television announced its BAFTA awards on May 22: "Sherlock" won for best drama series, Martin Freeman for best supporting actor, and "A Study in Pink" for best fiction editing.
13977. Edward Hardwicke died on May 16. He began his acting career in a film at the age of 10, and performed as well on stage, radio, and television. His first Canonical role was Davenport in the Peter Cushing/Nigel Stock version of "The Greek Interpreter" (1968), and he was a splendid Watson in the Granada series (1986-1994) and in Jeremy Paul's play "The Secret of Sherlock Holmes" (1988). He also read many of the tales for CSA Telltapes and other companies, and he played Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in the film "Photographing Fairies" (1997); there's an interesting ten-minute interview with Hardwicke at Scott Monty's Baker Street Blog <www.bakerstreetblog.com>.
13978. "Sheer-Luck Holmes: Clueless Again" is a new parody that opened at the Desert Star Playhouse on Apr. 28, and it will run through June 11. 4861 South State Street, Murray, UT 84107 (801-266-2600) <www.desertstar.biz>. There is a one-minute trailer at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=HSAff273-8k>.
13979. There was nothing particularly Sherlockian at Malice Domestic in Bethesda at the end of last month, except for Carole Nelson Douglas being the guest of honor, and Steve Doyle and Dan Stashower participating on non-Sherlockian panels, but it was interesting to see a trend in book titles such as A HARD DAY'S FRIGHT, TOMB WITH A VIEW, NIGHT OF THE LOVING DEAD, TOMBS OF ENDEARMENT, and DEAD MAN TALKING, all part of Casey Daniels' "Pepper Martin" series; Pepper is an heiress turned cemetery tour guide who assists ghosts who need a private investigator. Many other authors like amusing puns in their book titles, including Donna Andrews; her latest is STORK RAVING MAD, and you can find more at <www.donnandrews.com>. The next Malice Domestic will be held Apr. 27-29, 2012, at the Hyatt Regency in Bethesda, Md.; January Burke will be guest of honor, Simon Brett will receive a lifetime achievement award, and there's more information at <www.malicedomestic.org>.
13980. OSCAR WILDE AND THE VAMPIRE MURDERS (New York: Touchstone/Simon & Schuster, 2011; 366 pp., \$24.00) is the fourth title in Gyles Brandreth's excellent series featuring Oscar Wilde as the detective and Arthur Conan Doyle as his friend and sometimes student; this time they're involved with royalty and murder, and they story's full of twists and turns. The British edition is titled OSCAR WILDE AND THE NEXT OF VIPERS (from John Murray), and Brandreth has an interesting web-site at <www.oscarwildemurdermysteries.com>.
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May 2011 #6

13981. Cinema St. Louis held a ten-day "Vincentennial" this month, in honor of Vincent Price (who was born there in 1911), with interviews, screenings, discussions, and special events; there's a web-site at <www.vincentennial.com>. The films shown include "Champagne for Caesar" (1950), which has a Sherlockian connection: for Disney's "The Great Mouse Detective" (1986), their artists modeled Ratigan after Price's performance in the earlier film, and Price provided the voice for Ratigan. Price also hosted the PBS-TV "Mystery!" series from 1981 to 1989, offering interesting comments on the Granada series; he won an Edgar from the Mystery Writers of America in 1988 for his "contributions to the world of mystery."
13982. The German Sherlock Holmes Society has reported that the first issue of *The Baker Street Chronicle* will appear in June; there will be 32 pages, and the *Chronicle* will be a quarterly, all in German. And (of course) there is a web-site at <www.baker-street-chronicle.de>.
13983. John and Connie Cullen have come up with a way to combine real books with e-readers: their inBOOK is a hardback case that looks like a book and protects your Kindle or Nook. One of the inBOOKS comes with a Sherlock Holmes cover, 16 pages with "The Musgrave Ritual", and a custom-made case for your e-reader (\$49.95). There's more information at <www.goinbook.com>.
13984. Anthony D. P. Mann's film "Sherlock Holmes and the Shadow Watchers" (April 11 #1) has been issued on DVD; it's a 62-minute Canadian production, filmed in Kingston, Ont. (which has some appropriately Victorian locations), written by Mann, who also performs as Holmes. The DVD costs CA\$15.00 plus shipping (613-767-2776) <www.sherlockholmesadventures.ca>, and Mann has his own web-site at <www.anthonypmann.com>.
13985. Al Gregory notes that Thucydides is mentioned in the Sherlock Holmes stories (in "The Three Students"), and now Sherlock Holmes is mentioned in Thucydides. Well, an appendix in Robert B. Strassler's *THE LANDMARK THUCYDIDES* (2001): "Greek religion in Thucydides is much like the dog in the famous Sherlock Holmes tale who provided a clue because he did *not* bark in the night: Thucydides' comparative silence on Greek religious practices and institutions dramatically illustrates the rationalizing and secular nature of his work."
13986. More auction news: Australian Book Auctions' sale on May 30 included a copy of Beeton's Christmas Annual that's a new addition to Randall Stock's census. The copy lacks the covers, and has been rebound, and was estimated at AU\$40,000-AU\$80,000, There's much more information about this new copy of Beeton's at <www.bestofsherlock.com/ref/australia-2011-beetons.htm>.
13987. Rochester Row, The Mycroft Holmes Society of Syracuse, and An Irish Secret Society at Buffalo will hold their second annual summer conference on Aug. 6 in Rochester, highlighted by a tour of the George Eastman International House of Photography (which preserved John Barrymore's 1922 film "Sherlock Holmes"). More information's available from Lewis Neisner (501 Rivers Run, Rochester, NY 14623 (585-360-4715) <lewisneisner@yahoo.com>.
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June 2011 #1

13988. Roger Johnson reports that Memorial Auctioneers (104 Kennington Road, London SE11 6RE, England) <www.ms.gb.co.uk> will offer the Lordship of the Manor of Manaton in Devon at auction in London in July. Roger Smith, chairman of the Manorial Society of Great Britain, believes that Manaton was the inspiration for *THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES*, and notes that Conan Doyle was a regular visitor in the neighborhood, and that Heatree House (now an "adventure centre") "receives thousands of visitors a year who are looking for the literary roots of Sherlock Holmes."
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13989. Faithful readers of this newsletter may recall that a few years ago Manorial Auctioneers offered for sale the barony of Pencelli Castle, which was said to have inspired THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (June 03 #6), and that the Memorial Society had been described as "one of the most ruthless, vindictive, arrogant, and dangerous of all business enterprises related to titles in the world."
13990. Catherine's Cooke's article on "Sherlock Holmes and the Festival of Britain" (celebrating the 60th anniversary of that landmark exhibition) is one of the featured articles in the spring issue of Canadian Holmes, which is published by The Bootmakers of Toronto for its members; it's a lively journal (\$35.00 a year); TDC Postal Station Box 1157, 77 King Street West, Toronto, ON M5K 1P2, Canada <www.sherlockian.net/bootmakers>.
13991. The Easton Press is publishing a deluxe edition of LONDON: A PILGRIMAGE, by Gustave Dore and Blanchard Jerrold, first published by Grant & Co. in London in 1872. Dore provided 180 engravings for Jerrold's portrait of London that was published only a few years before Conan Doyle's first visit to the city at the end of 1874. It's a leather-bound limited edition that costs \$496.00 postpaid; 47 Richards Avenue, Norwalk, CT 06857 (800-367-4534).
13992. Registration is now open for "Gillette to Brett III", the conference scheduled by the Wessex Press in Bloomington on Nov. 11-13. They'll celebrate the 35th anniversary of "The Seven-Per-Cent Solution" (with Nicholas Meyer on hand), and there will be many other interesting speakers. You can register at the web-site <www.wessexpress.com>, or request information by mail (Box 68308, Indianapolis, IN 46077).
13993. Karen Murdock has found a web-site for the Sherlock Holmes Outpost in Fort Texas. The Outpost claims that Holmes visited Fort Davis during the Great Hiatus <www.teamyellow.net/SherlockHolmesOutpost/index.html>. Fort Davis is described as "only 220 miles east of El Paso or 175 miles southwest of Midland, and the Outpost offers food in Mrs. Hudson's Dining Room and drink in Dr. Watson's Club.
13994. The electronic journal Ripperologist continues Tim Mosley's multi-part article "House That Jack Built" (September 10 #6) with an appendix in issue #120 on "A Look Inside the Chamber Pot" in which Mosley suggests that "One may have difficulty visualizing the suave detective using a chamber pot, but that is likely how it would have been even in the 1880s." The issue also includes a tribute to the late Edward Hardwicke; contact the editor Eduardo Zinna at <editorez@yahoo.co.uk> for information about subscriptions.

June 2011 #2

13995. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London and the Old Court Radio Theatre Company have issued a CD with recordings of "The Long Man" (a story written by Rafe McGregor and dramatized by M. J. Elliott) and "The Grace Chalice" (written and adapted by Roger Johnson); Jim Crozier and Dave Hawkes return as Holmes and Watson, and the productions and acting are excellent. The programs can be heard or downloaded free at the Society's web-site <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk> and the CD is available from the Society (Mole End, 41 Sandford Road, Chelmsford CM2 6DE, England) for £5.00 postpaid to the UK, £6.00 or £9.00 to Europe, and £9.00/\$12.00 elsewhere; sterling checks payable to Roger Johnson and dollar checks to Jean Upton.
13996. The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times11-5.htm>, with tributes to the late Edward Hardwicke and Jeremy Paul, and offers of books, other merchandise, and links to interesting web-sites.
13997. Sherlock Holmes never appeared in Oz, at least in the official series written by L. Frank Baum and annointed successors, but Toto was drawn with the Sherlockian icons by Frank Kramer in Jack Snow's THE MAGICAL MIMICS OF OZ (1946). Atticus Gannaway's "Frank Kramer: The Lost Illustrator of Oz" in the spring issue of The Baum Bugle. He illustrated only two Oz books, but he has a long list of credits for work in magazines and books, including illustrations for "A Scandal in Bohemia" and other non-Sherlockian stories in Rosamund Morris' anthology GREAT DETECTIVE STORIES (1965) and dust-jacket art for Mary Hoehling's THE REAL SHERLOCK HOLMES: ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE (1965). The Baum Bugle is published three times a year by The International Wizard of Oz Club (Box 2657, Alameda, CA 94501) (www.ozclub.org); \$25.00 a year.
13998. The print of a blueprint inscribed "Bruce Partington Submarine, Issued by The Royal Navy Research Department" (May 11 #1) was sold at auction on May 12 for £180, well above the estimate of £30-£50. You see a different plan in Granada's version of "The Bruce-Partington Plans".
13999. The East Haddam Stage Company's production of William Gillette's "All the Comforts of Home" opened at Gillette Castle on June 18, and it runs through Aug. 6. The play is a 30-minute condensation of a Victorian drawing room comedy that Gillette debuted in 1890, and it will be performed outdoors on the Castle grounds. and indoors at the East Haddam Historical Society. Box 176, East Haddam, CT 06423 (960-873-3521) <www.ehsco.org>.
14000. The company's also planning to perform a new play about the first time that Gillette adapted Conan Doyle's tales for the stage; "Sherlock Holmes: From Page to Stage" is a scheduled at the East Haddam Historical Society, July 29 to Aug. 7.
14001. Paul Spiring has reported that there is a three-bedroom apartment for sale in Park House in Ipplepen in Devon. Park House was the residence of Bartram Fletcher Robinson (Conan Doyle wrote to his mother from Princetown in 1901 that he intended to visit Park House), and there is much more information at <www.tinyurl.com/3ulh43x>. The asking price is £189,950.

June 2011 #3

14002. The Sherlock Holmes Gazette was launched in 1991, became Sherlock Holmes: The Detective Magazine in 1997, and in 2003 simply Sherlock, reaching a total of 68 issues before ending its run in 2006. It offered excellent content, Sherlockian and otherwise, and all 68 issues are now available as a digitized CD-ROM archive for £49.95. The disk has useful navigation features, and it's easily searchable; you can buy it at the magazine's colorful web-site <www.sherlockmagazine.co.uk> or from the publisher: Atlas Publishing Ltd., Jordan House, Old Milton Green, New Milton, Hants. BH25 6QJ, England.
14003. Christer Holmqvist (a member of the Baskerville Hall Club in Sweden) notes that Out of Print Clothing offers a HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES T-shirt for \$28.00; the company "celebrates the world's great stories through fashion," selling T-shirts decorated with vintage book covers; for every shirt sold, one book is sent to a child in Africa through their charity partner Books for Africa. Their web-site's at <www.outofprintclothing.com>.
14004. HOUND, John Patrick Bray's dramatization of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, has been performed in Louisiana (September 07 #2) and New York (May 09 #3), and the script is now available from Next Stage Press (9810 Westcliff Parkway #927, Westminster, CO 80021) <www.shop.nextstagepress.net>; \$8.00 printed or digital (no shipping charge for digital copies).
14005. Laurie R. King launched her Mary Russell series in 1994 with THE BEEKEEPER'S APPRENTICE, which opened with Russell's account of her first meeting with Holmes. BEEKEEPING FOR BEGINNERS, an e-novella available on July 6, is an imaginative look at that meeting, from Holmes' point of view, which is quite different from Russell's. The Kindle and Nook editions cost 99¢, and there will be others; check for details at <www.laurierking.com>. And Laurie says there later will be an ink-on-paper print version, and on June 6 she posted an excerpt on her blog <www.laurierking.com/blogs>, along with publicity for the next Mary Russell novel (PIRATE KING), which will be published Sept. 6. Gilbert & Sullivan fans may wish to try singing her "The Major-Criminal's Song" (she has kindly supplied some karaoke music to help you out).

14006. Sept. 19 is "Talk Like a Pirate Day" (an event that began in 1995, and is now international); they don't seem to be aware of Conan Doyle's "Captain Sharkey", but there's an interesting web-site at <www.talklikeapirate.com>.
14007. Waterlogg Productions has announced their reissue of Joe Bevilacqua's parody radio series "The Misadventures of Sherlock Holmes" (December 07 #6) as "The Best of the Comedy-O-Rama Radio Hour, Season One" as a download (\$9.95) at <www.amazon.com>. There's more information about Bevilacqua's many other productions at <www.comedyorama.com> and <www.joebev.com>.
14008. Tryon, N.C., has in the past honored local resident William Gillette with Sherlock Holmes Festivals, and this year there will be a gathering on July 23, with a breakfast featuring Henry Zecher, author of the recent WILLIAM GILLETTE: AMERICA'S SHERLOCK HOLMES (April 11 #3), and afterwards an opportunity to tour the Polk County Historical Museum, which has a large collection of Gillette material; you can make reservations for the breakfast with Robert Reynolds (828-859-9388) <boblo1@windstream.net>.
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June 2011 #4

14009. The Serpentine Muse (published by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes) always has interesting content: the spring issue offers Benoit Guilielmo's "Prolegomena to a Basic Invisible Holmesian Library" (on the authorities cited by Ronald Knox in his classic essay), and the summer issue has Susan Rice's "By Way of Introduction" (about how a solitary Sherlockian found and joined the wider world of Sherlockians). It's published quarterly and costs \$15.00 a year from Evelyn A. Herzog (301 Warren Avenue #203, Baltimore, MD 21230).
14010. Further to the item about plans to publish Conan Doyle's THE NARRATIVE OF JOHN SMITH (May 11 #5), Randall Stock has prepared an excellent report on the manuscript and its history, and on the book, at his "Best of Sherlock" web-site <www.bestofsherlock.com/ref/narrative-john-smith-ms.htm>.
14011. From time to time one makes accidental discoveries at <www.wikipedia.org>, such as the "List of authors of new Sherlock Holmes", which in turn has a link to "Non-canonical Sherlock Holmes works", where you'll find a link to "Popular culture references to Sherlock Holmes" (all less than complete, so you can help Wikipedia with additions, and for that matter corrections).
14012. Stephen Gaspar's THE CANADIAN ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES was published by George Vanderburg in 2004; it's a 224-page collection of nine pastiches set during Holmes and Watson's visit to Canada in 1897, and the tales have quite a bit of Canadian history and geography as well as mysteries. Autographed copies are available from the author (9805 Holly Crescent, Windsor, ON N8R 1Y6, Canada) CA\$23.50 postpaid to Canada, US\$27.50 to the US). He has some promotional videos at <www.youtube.com/user/stephengaspar58> and an interesting blog at <stephengaspar.blogspot.com>, where you can read his continuing Sherlockian serial pastiche "Cold Hearted Murder".
14013. Paul Spiring has reported (and will soon publish) "The Grave Accusation", an amusing pastiche that has Holmes and Watson investigating Rodger Garrick Steele's story that Bertram Fletcher Robinson was poisoned by his wife And Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Dicky Neely's pastiche was published in the Coastal Bend Sun, and that at Neely's blog in 2007.
14014. The Ocular Helmsman <www.jadedcompass.com/ocular_helmsman> is Virginia Aldrich's "Vade Mecum Upon the Personal Effects & Environs of Mssrs. Sherlock Holmes & John H. Watson of 221B Baker Street for the Victorian Layman", and it's nicely done.
14015. Richard R. Nagy's Datamancer web-site at <www.datamancer.net> is well worth exploring: his imaginative steampunk computer keyboard was offered at eBay last year, described as "a keyboard to make Sherlock Holmes proud" (July 10 #2), and Ken Lanza has reported that Nagy is now accepting pre-orders (at \$5,500) for his spectacular Victorian/Steampunk Laptop.
14016. Paul Spiring has reported another example of how useful the Internet can be for researchers: the National Library of New Zealand has now digitized more than one million pages of the country's newspapers covering the years 1839 to 1945 (and they're still adding to the data base). The Papers Past web-site's <www.paperspast.natlib.govt.nz>; a search for [conan doyle] turned up 8016 hits, and there were 6801 hits for [sherlock holmes].
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June 2011 #5

14017. Otto Penzler, proprietor of the Mysterious Press and the Mysterious Bookshop, has teamed with digital publisher Open Road Integrated Media <www.openroadmedia.com> to launch MysteriousPress.com to move Mysterious Press into electronic publishing, with both classic and original mystery and crime titles as ebooks. Otto also publishes The Mysterious Bookshop Newsletter monthly, always with a "Sherlock Holmes" section that offers new, used, and rare Sherlockiana; go to <www.mysteriousbookshop.com> and click on "Newsletter" at the left.
14018. Andrew Lycett's biography of Conan Doyle has an Italian translation: CONAN DOYLE: L'UOMO CHE CREO SHERLOCK HOLMES (from Excelsior 1881, E26.50); it's available at <www.amazon.it> and elsewhere.
14019. Heritage Auctions offered some interesting fossils in their Natural History auction on June 12 in Dallas, including "The Fighting Pair--Allosaurus vs. Stegosaurus", a pair of fossils discovered in 2007 in Wyoming and estimated at \$2,240,000-\$3,360,000; the description of the Allosaurus noted that "it bears the distinction of being one of the first dinosaurs to be depicted on the silver screen, the apex predator of the 1912 novel and 1925 cinema adaptation of Conan Doyle's THE LOST WORLD." And the lot sold for \$2,748,500 (including the buyer's premium) to an unidentified museum outside the U.S. There's a full description, and a four-minute video, at <www.ha.com>.
14020. David Schulson Autographs (973-379-3800) <www.schulsonautographs.com> has advertised an interesting medical bill in Conan Doyle's hand for one "first night visit" 7/6 and "two subsequent visits" 7/0 for a total of 14/6, noted "received with thanks" on Aug. 2, 1887.
14021. Esri Allbritten's CHIHUAHUA OF THE BASKERVILLES (New York: Minotaur Books, 2011; 274 pp., \$23.99) is an amusing homage to the Sherlock Holmes story, with a spectral dog (in Manitou Springs, Colo.), and a Baskerville family (some them involved in the Emma Crawford Memorial Coffin Race); the author's web-site is at <www.esriallbritten.wordpress.com/author/elvesamongus>, where she describes the crime as "kind of like Scooby Doo for grown-ups."
14022. Les and Carol Moskowitz, vacationing in Europe, visited Bordeaux and discovered a Sherlock Holmes Pub <www.sherlockholmespub.fr> that offers British beer and ale, jacket potatoes, darts, pool, and a pleasant atmosphere. They also found a Sherlock Holmes Pub in Hellesylt in Norway; alas: it was closed, and doesn't have a web-site, but a photograph at Wikimedia Commons shows a rural Scandinavian exterior.
14023. And Oscar Ross spotted a report in The Guardian (June 8) on "10 of the Best Barrio Bars in Barcelona", one of them being the Barcelona Pipa Club, described as being dedicated to pipe smoking and as having a Sherlock Holmes theme <www.bpipaclub.com/gourmet.htm>.
14024. Greg Darak reports that Marvel Comics has revived Ruse, which was published by Crossgen from 2001 to 2004; there's a new mini-series, apparently with four issues. It's not directly Sherlockian, but there's lots of good Victorian flavor, and some nice artwork. Mark Waid is again the writer, and Mirco Pierfederici is the new illustrator; there's more information about the comic at <www.marvel.com/comic_books/series/13555/ruse_2010_1_present>.
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June 2011 #6

14025. More auction news: two of Basil Rathbone's costumes as Sherlock Holmes in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" were sold by Profiles in History in Beverly Hills on June 18, as part of Debbie Reynolds' collection of movie memorabilia; his tan and black square-checked wool cape overcoat (estimated at \$20,000-\$30,000) sold for \$61,500 (including the buyer's premium), and his tweed wool herringbone double-breasted jacket (estimated at \$8,000-\$12,000) brought \$11,685. The star of the sale was Marilyn Monroe's "subway" dress from "The Seven Year Itch" (estimated at \$1,000,000-\$2,000,000); it sold for \$5,658,000.
14026. Al Gregory spotted Adam Whyte's review at <www.obsessedwithfilm.com> of the new British film "Albatross" that was screened at the Edinburgh Film Festival this month. The film stars Jessica Brown Findlay as Emilia, whose surname is Conan Doyle and introduces herself as the great-great-granddaughter of Arthur Conan Doyle.
14027. "Learn to fight like Sherlock Holmes!" The New York Historical Society is presenting "A Study in Scarlet: An Evening of Sherlockian Splendor" on July 23 as part of an Antagonistics weekend that's billed as bartitsu's New York City debut. Misspelled "baritsu" by Watson, bartitsu was the Victorian art of self-defense. There's more information at <www.nycsteampunk.com>.
14028. Dr. William R. Hanson designed a colorful cachet for last year's "Holiday Evergreen"; the door and doorway are modeled after the set for the Ronald Howard television series (1954). The cost is \$10.00 postpaid (in the U.S.) and you're requested to make payment in currency or with U.S. postal money orders; his address is 78 West Notre Dame Street, Glens Falls, NY 12801.
14029. MRS. HUDSON AND THE IRISH INVINCIBLES, by Barry S. Brown (Santa Fe: (Sunstone Press, 2011; 236 pp., \$22.95), is the second book in his "Mrs. Hudson of Baker Street" series; as in the first book THE UNPLEASANTNESS AT PARKERTON MANOR (July 10 #5), Mrs. Hudson does the real detecting, with assistance from Holmes and Watson, this time in a case involving Irish revolutionaries and imaginative plotting. Omnimystery News offers an interesting interview view with Brown at <www.tinyurl.com/5t34m2t>.
14030. Jason Lethcoe's NO PLACE LIKE HOLMES (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2011; 207 pp., \$9.99) is the first in a new series of books about Griffin Sharpe, a young American who arrives in London expecting to spend the summer of 1903 with his uncle, who lives at 221 Baker Street. Only to discover that his uncle is Rupert Snodgrass, who is a would-be consulting detective who lives at 221A, much in the shadow of the more famous detective who lives at 221B. There's plenty of adventure involved in a battle with the Moriartys (yes, there are two of them). And there's more to come. The author has a web-site at <www.jasonlethcoe.com>, with a link to his Griffin Sharpe blog.

July 2011 #1

14031. This year still is the centenary of Ronald Knox's landmark paper on "Studies in the Literature of Sherlock Holmes", and it was nice to find Robert Speaight long essay on "Ronald Knox the Writer" in RONALD KNOX (published by Sheed and Ward in 1965. In a discussion of Knox's "Satire and Fantasy" Speaight makes an interesting point: "The humorist is out to make a lot of people laugh; the satirist is out to make certain people squirm . . . "Humour sought identity with the victim; it ran with the hare whereas the satirist hunted with the hounds."
14032. Oliver Mundy posed an interesting challenge: what Canonical character first appeared outside the Canon, in a work by an author other than Conan Doyle? The character actually participates in a story (as opposed to merely being mentioned by name), and has something to say.
14033. Frank Billerbeck died on June 29. He served in France during WWII, and began his show business career there in 1948 using the name Billy Beck. He returned to the U.S. in 1960 and went on to a long acting career on screen and in television. His first credited part in the Ronald Howard "Sherlock Holmes" television series, as Cookson in "The Mother Hubbard Case" (1954); he also played a hansom driver in "The Case of the Tyrant's Daughter" and Coco/station manager in "The Night Train Riddle" (1955).
14034. Daniel Corey's MORIARTY comic-book mini-series (May 11 #4) has strong artwork and an interesting story; his media company is DangerKatt, and he has a web-site at <www.professorjamesmoriarty.com>.
14035. It's a long-standing urban legend that the Mormon Church has banned A STUDY IN SCARLET because of its unflattering portrayal of the Mormons. Actually, he was welcomed to Salt Lake City in 1923, and lectured on spiritualism in the Mormon Tabernacle, and the book still is easily available at the public library in Salt Lake City. But things seem to be rather different in Albemarle County, Virginia, where a parent complained that she did not want her sixth grader, or any other student, to read "the terrible connotations made in the novel," according to a story at Newsplex.Com (June 28). She asked the county to remove the book from its approved reading list, and a committee created by the county school board recommended that the book be removed from the list.
14036. "I did feel that there was some obvious bias or misrepresentation of Mormon history," school board chair Steve Koleszar said, adding that "I felt that I could easily see how sixth graders might not understand that it was fiction, that it was from a particular point of view." When the school board met on July 14 they had a long discussion on the issue, and decided to keep the book on the approved reading list.
14037. Those who recall the days when the phrase "Banned in Boston" was so helpful in making Kathleen Winsor's FOREVER AMBER a best-seller are aware that the people who attempt to ban things just make them more attractive. One wise Sherlockian father carefully told his son that he wasn't old enough to appreciate the Sherlock Holmes stories, thus guaranteeing that he would begin reading them immediately.

July 2011 #2

14038. Laurie R. King's e-novella BEEKEEPING FOR BEGINNERS (June 11 #3) is now available, and her latest newsletter has information on how to buy it <www.laurierking.com/author/lrk-newsletter>, plus some fine Howard Pyle-ish artwork and a link to an amusing book trailer at YouTube. There's also a nice book trailer for the upcoming Mary Russell novel PIRATE KING at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=h2L7s7ZDJDQ>.
14039. Mark Twain is the latest author to be honored by the U.S. Postal Service in its on-going "Literary Arts" series of commemoratives. His parody "A Double-Barrelled Detective Story" is Sherlockian, and he was a good friend of Will-Gillette.
14040. Ken Lanza discovered the web-site of The Baker Street Irregular Astronomers <www.bakerstreetastro.org.uk>, which have a Sherlockian logo and occasional quotes from the Canon. Co-organizer Tom Kerss has explained that the name was chosen because they meet monthly in Regents Park and because the organizers work at London's only telescope showroom (the Widescreen Centre) just off Baker Street.
14041. What Canonical character first appeared outside the Canon, in a work by an author other than Conan Doyle? Billy the page, who appears for the first time in William Gillette's play "Sherlock Holmes" (long before he plays a part in three of the tales).
14042. Peter Falk died on June 23. He began his acting career on the stage in the 1950s, appeared in many films, and became most famous for his performance as Lt. Columbo (many of his obituaries mentioned him as saying "I've always said that Columbo was an ass-backwards Sherlock Holmes"). He also played Reverend Theo Kerr in the television film "The Lost World" (2001) that featured Bob Hoskins as Challenger.
14043. "Crime-fighting Vultures? What Could Go Wrong?" was the headline on a story spotted by Tina Rhea in The Independent (July 1): the police commissioner in Hanover (Germany) decided to use turkey vultures to find missing corpses, but the vultures proved less than proficient at the task;

you can read the story at <www.tinyurl.com/628vatb> with a photograph of Sherlock, one of the vultures who was too frightened to leave the bird park where he had been raised.

14044. The newly-reported copy of Beeton's Christmas Annual was offered at auction in Australia in May (estimated at AU\$40,000-AU\$80,000) didn't sell, and has been "returned to vendor." Randall Stock has more information about this Beeton's at <www.bestofsherlock.com/ref/australia-2011-beetons.htm>.
14045. Kenanza spotted a story in the Sunday Mirror (July 10) about the impact of British budget problems on the nation's police, who are targeted for 20-percent cuts over the next four years: further work on Holmes 2020 has been canceled. The new massive computer system, on which £3 million has already been spent, was intended to replace Holmes 2 (December 00 #4), which stores fingerprints, photographs, and even the recorded voices of suspects; the first HOLMES was a backronym for the "Home Office (Large) Major Enquiry System", which was created in 1985.
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July 2011 #3

14046. This month's demise of the News of the World resulted in a story in the Guardian that offers a (remote) Canonical connection spotted by Oscar Ross. "The Sunday newspaper has thrived on a formula of crime, sex, and sensation since its first edition in 1843," Esther Addley wrote. Shortly into the 20th century, Frederick Greenwood, editor of the Pall Mall Gazette, is reputed to said that he had looked at the paper "and then I put it into the waste paper basket. And then I thought, 'If I leave it there the cook may read it'--so I burned it." The Pall Mall Gazette is mentioned in the Canon (in "The Blue Carbuncle").
14047. Another trivia question, this one from J.P. Van Gordon: name the actor who has played by Moriarty and Lestrade?
14048. shirt.woot! is an interesting web-site at (naturally) <www.shirt.woot.com>; they offer a daily \$10.00 special, and this month one was Sherlockian. It's still available (for \$15.00); go to the web-site and click on "reckoning" and then on the image to read all about "Ruff Justice" (aka "Olfactory, my dear Watson").
14049. The "CBS Radio Mystery Theater" had a total of 1,399 episodes from 1974 to 1982; it was a delightful series created by Himan Brown. E. G. Marshall was the host for most of the series, succeeded by Tammy Grimes in the final year. And of course there were many Sherlockian and Doylean stories. <www.cbsrmt.org> is devoted to the series, and offers information about and downloads of the programs.
14050. One of the more interesting programs was "The Silver Mirror" (1981), which is credited to James Agate Jr. as writer, but actually is based on the story by Conan Doyle with additional characters: Arthur Conan Doyle (played by Gordon Gould) and Louise Doyle (Marian Seldes).
14051. Stan Buchholtz has sculpted an attractive plaster bust of Sherlock Holmes, and is offering a few copies for \$110.00 postpaid; he'll be glad to send a picture of the bust to anyone interested <sbuchholtz1@earthlink.com>.
14052. Merrily Taylor noted Clare Toohey's post on CriminalElement.com about "The Plushest 'Sherlock' Ever" <www.tinyurl.com/6ffzahn>; Malanie Fletcher has created plush dolls for Mycroft Holmes, Sherlock Holmes, and Dr. Watson (in the BBC's "Sherlock" mini-series. Click on [melanie fletcher] to see more photographs of her Sherlockian plushies, and one of the artist.
14053. Les Moskowitz reports that Conan Doyle is included in Tim Foley's LITERARY GREATS PAPER DOLLS (New York: Dover Publications, 2011; 128 pp., \$9.99), as Sherlock Holmes, Dr. Watson, and one of the Cottingley fairies.
14054. "The Sherlock Holmes Daily" is one of the many interesting features found at Scott Monty's Baker Street Blog <www.bakerstreetblog.com>; it's a summary of what's being said about Sherlock Holmes on Twitter in the style of a daily newspaper. Well, some things aren't strictly Sherlockian, including "Tweet Naked with Jessie Northey" <www.fingercandymedia.com/?s=naked>.
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July 2011 #4

14055. Lo Jui-ching was minister of Public Security and chief of the Army General Staff until he was purged in 1966, the first victim of Mao Tse-Tung's Cultural Revolution; the reason being his suggestion that public-security personnel should emulate "exceptional" men like Sherlock Holmes, who was called by Lo's superiors a "watch-dog of the British bourgeoisie." Things are quite different now: Al Gregory and Aziz bin Adam both reported a story in the China Daily (July 6) that described the country's top forensic expert Wu Guoqing as "China's Sherlock Holmes".
14056. The actor who has played both Moriarty and Lestrade is Colin Jeavons, who was Moriarty in "The Winged Scarab" (1983), one of the episodes in the television series "The Baker Street Boys" and Lestrade in the Granada series.
14057. Some on-line publicity for "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows" has Jared Harris playing a cameo role in Guy Ritchie's first film, but don't watch it again looking for him. According to the Internet Movie Data Base, the actor who played Moriarty in "Sherlock Holmes" (2009) was Ed Tolputt.
14058. The June issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota has Tim Johnson's report ("To the Success of Our Little Expedition") on a visit to the collections by local middle school students, offering a good demonstration of attracting young readers to Sherlock Holmes; Dick Sveum's "100 Years Ago" tribute to O. Henry, Julie McKuras' "50 Years Ago" discussion of address on "Sherlock Holmes" delivered by Lord Paul Gore-Booth in Delhi, and news from and about the collections. Copies of the newsletter are available from Richard J. Sveum (111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <sveum001@tc.umn.edu>.
14059. It's likely that most Sherlockians enjoy reading books. Some Sherlockians may occasionally think about what might happen when there aren't any books. Jennie Paton found Johann Hari's interesting comments about this in The Independent (June 24) <www.tinyurl.com/6j7fyhw>.
14060. SHERLOCK HOLMES & KOLCHAK: THE NIGHT STALKER was a three-issue comic-book series (April 09 #6); the story was written by Joe Gentile, with artwork by Andy Bennett and Carlos Magno, and is a spin-off from the television series that starred Darren McGavin (1974) and Stuart Townsend (2005). And there's a graphic novel (\$11.95) that includes all three issues and the alternate covers, published by Moonstone <www.moonstonebooks.com>. It's an interesting story, with imaginative artwork.
14061. Sculptor David Cornell has accused the Crowborough town council of ruining his statue of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle with sloppy cleaning methods, according to a story in the Sussex Courier (July 22), told by Al Gregory. The statue, unveiled ten years ago with members of Conan Doyle's extended family on hand for the ceremony (April 01 #3). "I think they have used an industrial cleaner," Cornell said, adding "All it needed was a wash with soapy water, then waxed and polished up the following day." Council operations manager David Foot told the paper that "It doesn't look brand new but then anything bronze left outside for ten years wouldn't and, to be honest, some people like things that look weathered." The council plans to decide soon whether to spend £450 to restore the statue, which originally cost £48,000.
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July 2011 #5

14062. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London and the Oscar Wilde Society installed a plaque at the Langham Hotel last year honoring the dinner that led to Lippincott's commissioning of "The Sign of Four" and "The Picture of Dorian Gray" (March 10 #3); Nicholas Utechin wrote a delightful account of the meeting and its aftermath, with an introduction by Gyles Brandreth, and copies of the 26-page pamphlet 'A GOLDEN DAY' are available (£5.00/£6.50/\$12.00) at <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk>.
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14063. Sherlock Holmes said that he had paid 55 shillings for his Stradivarius violin, and it would be worth more now. The "Lady Blunt" Stradivarius, one of the best-preserved in existence, set a new world's record of £9.8 million when it was sold at auction last month. It also set a record when it sold for £84,000 at Sotheby's in 1971.
14064. Dicky Neely's *THE CASE OF THE GRAVE ACCUSATION* (London: MX Publishing, 2011; 87 pp., £7.99/£8.99/\$10.95) is an amusing pastiche that has Holmes and Watson investigating Roger Garrick-Steele's claim that Bertram Fletcher Robinson was poisoned by his wife and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle; Paul Spiring has added a detailed and up-to-date rebuttal. The publisher's web-site is at <www.mxpublishing.com>.
14065. Al Gregory spotted Spies Online, a web-site with links to investigative resources, with some feline Sherlockian artwork <www.spiesonline.net>.
14066. A story on Benedict Cumberbatch's new "Sherlock" mini-series in the Daily Mail attracted some comments from readers: Felix, in Worthing, noted that "these shows have elements of several plots in each episode so maybe this is the Offenbach falls(?) revisited." And (spotted by Lloyd Rose) Nick M., in Birmingham, wrote that "Felix Offenbach was a composer, I think you mean Reichenbach Falls, falling off a medium-sized composer is rarely, if ever fatal."
14067. "Did you ever hear a bittern booming?" Stapleton asked Dr. Watson (in "The Hound of the Baskervilles"). Judith Freeman has reported a story that BBC One television broadcast last year <www.tinyurl.com/3phearp> with what experts believed was the first footage of a male bittern booming in daylight in the UK.
14068. Suvudu is an interesting web-site for fantasy and science fiction fans that was launched in 2008; last year there as an on-line "Cage Match: Villains!" that started off with a match between Sauron and Professor James Moriarty in the Slytherin Division. Moriarty was quickly eliminated, and eventually so was Sauron; the winner was The Mountain That Rides (Ser Gregor Clegane). Details at <www.suvudu.com/cage-match-villains-2010-bracket>.
14069. There's now a finding aid for the Archives of The Baker Street Irregulars Trust, prepared by the Houghton Library at Harvard, where the Archives are housed. The finding aid is now on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/44vvr8>, where scholars can see what's available at the Houghton. The Trust continues to add to the BSI Archives, of course, and there's more information about the Trust at <www.bsitrust.org>.

July 2011 #6

14070. Dick Olken has noted the Baker Street Babes, who describe themselves as "sexy fans of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and his lovely creation, Mr. Sherlock Holmes." Visit <www.bakerstreetbabes.blogspot.com> to listen to their podcasts and their theme song. "Older than teenagers, but not yet taking herbal soothers for our hips, we're an intelligent bunch who fangirl by writing essays on the Canon while also giggling crazily at cracky fan comics."
14071. Chris and Barbara Roden's New Year Warehouse Clearance Sale of books published by the Calabash Press (January 11 #5) is still on; the catalog's available at <[www.ash-tree.bc.ca/Calabash Sale.pdf](http://www.ash-tree.bc.ca/Calabash%20Sale.pdf)> [and yes, there's a space in that URL] or from the Press (Box 1360, Ashcroft, BC V0K 1A0, Canada).
14072. Ken Ludwig's play "Postmortem" (involving a mystery at William Gillette's home in Hadlyme, Conn.) will be performed by the Licking County Players on Aug. 4-14 at their theater at 131 West Main Street, Newark, OH 43055 (740-349-2287) <www.lickingcountyplayers.org>. His new comedy-mystery-thriller "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" will have its world premiere at the Cleveland Play House, Nov. 25 to Dec. 18 (March 11 #4).
14073. Alfred Burke died on Feb. 16. Born in London, he began his acting career on the stage in the 1930s, appearing also in films and on television, and his last role was in "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets" (2002); in March 1952 he played the lead in Birmingham Repertory Theatre's production of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes".
14074. There are occasional Sherlockian references in the films of The Three Stooges, and Laura Kuhn has discovered Shopkuckleheads.com, where you'll find a Three Stooges CSI T-shirt <www.tinyurl.com/3b4uz21> and a Miracle Detective Agency magnet <www.tinyurl.com/3eece9n>.
14075. News for Sherlockian racing fans: there's a new running of The Silver Blaze coming up, on Sept. 17 at Monmouth Park in Oceanport, N.J.; it's sponsored by The Epilogues of Sherlock Holmes and Kate Karlson (organizer of The Turf Builders of Baker Street), and more information on the event is available from Peter McIntyre (732-765-1240) <psipete@optonline.net>.
14076. *SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE GHOSTS OF BLY* (New York: Pegasus Books, 2010; 364 pp., \$25.00) is the latest in Donald Thomas' series of collections of pastiches; there are three stories in the new volume, nicely plotted and well executed.
14077. Greg Darak has reported Franz Lidz's article about ransom notes in the N.Y. Times (July 1), honoring the centennial of the comic short film "The Ransom of Red Chief" (based on O. Henry's story), "which may have started it all." Lidz also cites Arden Stern, a doctoral candidate at the University of California, Irvine, who has said that *THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES* features the first popular example of a cut-and-paste note. Stern's thesis, not yet completed, is titled "The Ransom Note Effect: Cut-and-Paste Typography in American Visual Culture".

August 2011 #1

14078. Laurie R. King's new novel about Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes is *PIRATE KING* (New York: Bantam Books, 2011; 204 pp., \$25.00); it's set in 1924, and has Russell undercover investigating a British movie company that's making a movie about a movie company that's making a movie of Gilbert & Sullivan's "Pirates of Penzance". There are visits to Portugal and Morocco, real pirates, plenty of surprises, and a truly splendid set of opening paragraphs. Laurie's web-site is at <www.laurierking.com>, where she has details on her book tour, which begins on Sept. 6 and takes her as far east as Chicago. A British edition (with a different cover) is due on Sept. 12.
14079. Romance detective Jamie McJack returns (in Sherlockian costume) in Danielle Corsetto's on-line comic strip available at <www.girlswithslingshots.com> (December 10 #4). The cast of characters includes cat as well as people of various genders and persuasions; check the archive for July 25-28.
14080. John Baesch spotted an article in the N.Y. Times (June 9) with quotes from Jacki Mari, also known as Sherlockjacki; she and her husband are "intuitive information specialists, free-lance psychic profilers, and corporate intuitives," and her web-site at <www.sherlockjacki.com> more information about their services, as well as Sherlockian artwork.
14081. What actor played Dr. Watson in 35 "Sherlock Holmes" programs on American radio in the 1940s, but isn't mentioned in any of the Sherlockian reference books? This isn't really a trivia question, of course, since it isn't easy to find him.
14082. Roger Johnson reports "The Legacy of Sherlock Holmes", a 55-minute documentary written and produced by James Hodder and broadcast by the British radio station Resonance104.4fm on July 26. The program includes interviews with Sherlockians, actors, and authors, and can be heard at and downloaded from <www.soundcloud.com/radiohodder/the-legacy-of-sherlock-holmes>.
14083. Anglofile, offering detailed coverage of British entertainment and formerly available by mail, now is a blog by Leslie King, and you can read her latest news at <anglofileplus.livejournal.com>; she offers early news of programs to come on PBS-TV and on BBC America.

14084. Tina Rhea spotted an amusing basset hound in Sherlockian costume in a tenminute video ("The Mysterious Adventures of Sherlock Hounds") that was created by Charlie Foley to promote the King County (Washington) Library System's "Catch a Clue at the Library!" summer reading program in 2007. Monty stars as Sherlock Hounds at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=ztkWkWi2bQ>
14085. Robert A. Moss' "Arthur Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes: A Philatelic Celebration" is the cover story in the August issue of The American Philatelist (the journal of the American Philatelic Society); Moss, a member of The Baker Street Irregulars as well as a philatelist, has done an excellent job of surveying the many stamps that have honored Conan Doyle and Holmes, and the article is profusely illustrated in full color. \$4.95; 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte, PA 16823 <www.stamps.org>. Bob has kindly made the article available on-line at <www.box.net/shared/f607ed808skv5egbo1m6>.
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August 2011 #2

14086. A STUDY IN SHERLOCK: STORIES INSPIRED BY THE HOLMES CANON, edited by Laurie R. King and Leslie S. Klinger (New York: Bantam Books, 2011; 385 pp., \$15.00), is an excellent and interesting anthology of new stories, with authors ranging from Alan Bradley to Jacqueline Winspear; some of the stories are pastiches, but many others are indeed, and in various ways, inspired by the Canon.
14087. Peter H. Wood ("The Second Stain") died on July 31. He was originally from the Isle of Man, and was a teacher there, and after he emigrated to Canada, in Saskatchewan and Alberta, where he founded The Edmonton Deerstalker and The C.P.R. Stockholder's Society; when he retired he moved to Vancouver and was an energetic member of The Stormy Petrels. The Bootmakers of Toronto made him a Master Bootmaker in 1983, and he received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1985.
14088. What actor played Dr. Watson in 35 "Sherlock Holmes" programs on American radio in the 1940s, but isn't mentioned in any of the Sherlockian reference books? Wendell Holmes. The "Sherlock Holmes" series broadcast by WOR-MBS in 1948-49 is widely listed as starring John Stanley as Sherlock Holmes and Ian Martin as Dr. Watson, but the story's quite different if one listens to the series (and they're widely available now). Watson was played by Martin in only the first four of the 39 episodes, and in the remaining episodes by George Spelvin, who really was Wendell Holmes. "George Spelvin" has been used as a theatrical alias for many years, and the producers of the series seem to have decided that listeners would be confused if Watson was played by someone named Holmes.
14089. As far as I know, Daniel J. Morrow was the first to confirm (from Stanley) that the series used "George Spelvin" as an alias. There doesn't appear to be much information about Wendell Holmes: the Internet Movie Data Base notes that he was born in 1914 (as Oliver Wendell Holmes) and died in 1962, and appeared often in films and on television. Here's what he looked like in 1949, when he had a supporting role in the film "Lost Boundaries".
14090. The electronic journal Ripperologist casts its net widely: the July issue (#121) reprints "Lot No. 249" with an interesting introduction and annotations by the journal's editor Eduardo Zinna. There is also an article by Jeff Mudgett with the intriguing title "Jack Is Holmes"; but it's not our Holmes: Mudgett's new book BLOODSTAINS tells the story of his great-greatgrandfather Herman Webster Mudgett, better known as H. H. Holmes, who admitted to killing 27 people in Chicago in 1893. You can contact the editor at <editorez@yahoo.co.uk> for information about subscriptions.
14091. D. James wrote TALKING ABOUT DETECTIVE FICTION (2009) at the request of the Bodleian Library, which benefits from sales of the book, and there is an interesting chapter on "The Tenant of 221B Baker Street and the Parish Priest from Cobhole in Essex". The limited edition, signed and slipcased, is now out print, but the British edition is still available (Bodleian Library, £12.99); the American edition from Knopf is out of print, but there is a trade paperback published this year (Vintage, \$14.00). Fans of G. K. Chesterton will know that the parish priest is Father Brown.
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August 2011 #3

14092. The Kennedy Center's Mark Twain Prize for American Humor will be awarded to Will Ferrell on Oct. 23. He is noted for his appearances on "Saturday Night Live" and in films and his one-man comedy show on Broadway, but (so far) not for playing Dr. Watson with Sasha Baron Cohen as Holmes in a film announced by Columbia Pictures (July 08 #3); that film's in what's politely described as "development hell".
14093. Brit Movie Tours offers Sherlock Holmes tours in London that include locations featured in film and television adaptations, with public walks, private group walking tours, and car and coach tours; you can visit their web-site at <www.britmovietours.com/bookings/sherlock-holmes-london-tour>.
14094. The U.S. Postal Service has honored the centennial of Ronald Reagan's birth. He wrote to O. Dallas Baillio (director of the public library in Mobile, Ala.) in 1977, describing his debt to public libraries and the books he read as a young boy in Dixon, Ill.: "Then came the Zane Grey phase, Horatio Alger and Sherlock Holmes, and, of course, Mark Twain with Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn." In 1992 the Reagans dined at The Sherlock Holmes in Northumberland Street and were greeted by Holmes and Watson (costumed actors Stewart Quentin Holmes and John Barrett-Watson); there's more about that in a story in the Sherlock Holmes Gazette (spring 1993).
14095. "Even Sherlock Holmes would have been perplexed by this mystery," an advertisement by GovMint.com proclaimed in the Washington Post (Aug. 5). It's "a real-life mystery Sir Arthur Conan Doyle couldn't write. And Sherlock Holmes couldn't solve," the advertisement promised, but the only connection seems to be that Conan Doyle killed off Holmes in a book published in 1894, and a hoard of Roman bronze coins was found in England in 1895. 1,661 of the coins were sold at auction last year for £46,694 [\$76,251], and they're now being offered at \$179 (if you buy five or more); the calculation is a simple one, as someone once said: anyone who acted quickly could have had them all for a mere \$279,319.
14096. The Internet Archive is a fine resource for researchers: Virginia Aldrich reports that they have links to scans of the first 64 volumes of The Strand Magazine (from bound volumes); some scans are faster to open than others, but <www.archive.org/details/TheStrandMagazineAnIllustratedMonthly> gives you slow-speed access to all 64 volumes.
14097. Forecast: WINTER AT DEATH'S HOTEL, by Kenneth Cameron (from Orion in November, £12.95); Arthur Conan Doyle and his wife Louisa arrive in New York in January 1896 to begin his first American tour and there is a series of brutal murders, and with the help of a hard-bitten detective and an ambitious female news reporter, "Louisa starts to piece together a story of madness, murder, and depravity."
14098. The auction for the Lordship of the Manor of Manaton in Devon (June 11 #1) is underway, and details are available at the web-site of Manorial Auctioneers <www.msgb.co.uk>; they believe that Manaton inspired THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, and estimate the Lordship at £20,000 to £30,000 (and if you intend to bid, you'll need to pay £25 for a "Baskerville Pack").
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August 2011 #4

14099. The school board of Albemarle County, Va., has reached a final decision on whether A STUDY IN SCARLET should be dropped from the approved reading list for sixth graders (July 11 #1): the book has been removed from the list. A local parent complained that the book was unfair to Mormons, but the board decided that the book was not "age appropriate" for the sixth grade. The parent has suggested that THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES ("a better introduction to mystery") could be substituted for A STUDY IN SCARLET. The board's decision has been widely reported,

more often than not in stories and blogs that said (incorrectly) that A STUDY IN SCARLET has been banned from school library shelves. As might be expected, there was a quick increase in the number of downloads of A STUDY IN SCARLET from Project Gutenberg.

14100. John Wood died on Aug. 6. He began his acting career in the mid-1950s with the Old Vic Company in London, and went on to perform often with the Royal Shakespeare Company in London and New York, and in films and on television. He won a well-deserved Tony nomination for his title role in their revival of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" in 1974.
14101. The Pleasant Places of Florida show what can be done with a society's web-site <www.pprof.net>: they have made available PDF files of all 306 issues of their newsletter Communications (from Mar. 1972 onward) as well as their other publications.
14102. Further to the report (July 11 #5) about sculptor David Cornell's complaints that his statue of Conan Doyle had been ruined by sloppy cleaning methods, Brian Pugh reports that the Crowborough town council has decided to pay a specialist £450 to clean up the statue this year, and £300 a year in future to maintain it.
14103. "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Unraveling Strand" is the title of a mystery weekend scheduled in Cambridge, Ohio, on Jan. 6-7. More information is available at <www.visitguernseycounty.com>; click on "What To Do" and then on "Sherlock Holmes Weekend".
14104. Another (non-Sherlockian) Murder Mystery Weekend is scheduled at Madden's at Gull Lake in Brainerd, Minn., Sept. 30-Oct. 2. Details are available at <www.maddens.com/?page=112390>.
14105. "How to Make Phosphorus Out of Pee" is an intriguing (and amusing) blogpost by Ether Inglis-Arkell, who says that her first introduction to phosphorus was reading THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES; I haven't experimented to determine whether it works, but will be happy to hear from anyone who gives it a try <www.io9.com/5832776/how-to-make-phosphorus-using-pee>.
14106. CBS News conducts a monthly "60 Minutes/Vanity Fair Poll" (of 1,045 adults nationwide, interviewed by telephone), and one of the questions, reported in the Sept. issue was "Which of these fictional character would you most like to go on adventures with?". Sherlock Holmes came in second overall, and for men and for people older than 45; James Bond ranked first, and Captain Jack Sparrow third (except for women and people younger than 45, with whom he outranked Holmes). Harry Potter came in fourth for everyone, and Lara Croft fifth.

August 2011 #5

14107. Stephen R. Alton's impressive article "The Game Is Afoot!: The Significance of Donative Transfers in the Sherlock Holmes Canon in the spring issue of the Real Property, Trust and Estate Law Journal is a fine example of what happens when someone with specialized knowledge brings it to bear on the Sherlock Holmes stories. It's a long article (47 pages) because the author assumes his readers may not have read the Canon and reviews events in some details, but he has discovered a few twists and turns that appear to be new to Sherlockian scholarship. Sonia Fetherson's husband Ben noted the article, and she reports that the best way for Sherlockians to read it will be to find someone who's a member of the American Bar Association and can download it from <www.americanbar.org>; search for [rpte journal].
14108. The Hounds of the Baskerville (sic) are co-sponsoring The Fourth Newberry Library Sir Arthur Conan Doyle-Sherlock Holmes Symposium on Oct. 1; 60 West Walton Street in Chicago, from 9:30 am to noon. The event is open to the public without charge, and the speakers will be Jon Lellenberg and Daniel Stashower (on Conan Doyle's THE NARRATIVE OF JOHN SMITH), Jacquelynn Morris (on the continuing campaign to save Undershaw), and Henry Zecher (on William Gillette).
14109. The British Library will mount a small exhibition showcasing the manuscript THE NARRATIVE OF JOHN SMITH and other material from their extensive Conan Doyle, exploring "the context of his literary apprenticeship and his early struggles to gain professional recognition," Sept. 9 through Jan. 5. in the Sir John Ritblat Gallery <www.bl.uk/whatson/exhibitions/acdoyle/index.htm>.
14110. Jim Ballinger has spotted a bone china Baker Street Mug with an imaginatively stylized Sherlockian design (with "221B Baker Street NW" imprinted on the other side) available from Whittard of Chelsea <www.whittard.co.uk> for £8.00.
14111. Lara Bergen's SOPHIE THE SNOOP (New York: Scholastic, 2011; 102 pp., \$4.99) is part of a series for readers ages 9-12; the cover and illustrations (by Laury Tallardy) show Sophie in Sherlockian costume; the text has Sophie hoping to be Sherlock Holmes. Megan McDonald's JUDY MOODY, GIRL DETECTIVE (Somerville: Candlewick Press, 2010; 170 pp., \$15.99) is Sherlockian only for Peter H. Reynolds' cover and title-page artwork, but it's an amusing story for readers in grades 1-3.
14112. People who want to watch DVDs recorded in other regions, and who don't have multi-region software installed on their computers, should download the VLC freeware from <www.videolan.org>; it's useful and efficient.
14113. A movie trivia challenge: Julie McKuras recently watched the film "Friends of Mr. Sweeney" (1934), which was based on a novel by Elmer Davis, and she notes that Berton Churchill, one of the actors in the film, also appeared in "Danger on the Air" (1938), which was based on the novel DEATH CATCHES UP WITH MR. KLUCK, by Xantippe (a pen name used by Edith Meiser); Jon Lellenberg adds that Berton Churchill also appeared in "The Spanish Cape Mystery" (1935), based on the novel by Ellery Queen (Fred Dannay and Manfred Lee). Are there other actors who have appeared in films that were based on novels written by different members of The Baker Street Irregulars?

August 2011 #6

14114. Les Klinger reports an interesting, and perhaps useful data base at <www.oldbaileyonline.org>, where "The Proceedings of the Old Bailey, 1674-1913" are easily searchable. On Nov. 21, 1887, James Moriarty (aged 17) was one of three defendants tried for violent theft and robbery, but "the prosecutor, a sailor, did not answer when called upon his recognisances." With no evidence entered for the prosecution, the defendants were found not guilty. And there's much more to the web-site, including an excellent discussion of "Currency, Coinage, and the Cost of Living"; click on "Research and Study Guides" and then on "London and its Hinterlands".
14115. Sandy Kozinn notes that <www.smithsonian.com/taj> has information about and a fine photograph of the "old fort at Agra" (as in "The Sign of the Four").
14116. William R. Cochran's THINKING OUTSIDE THE TIN-DISPATCH BOX: THE POST REICHENBACH SHERLOCK HOLMES is a collection of his essays about the chronology and many other aspects of the Canon; Bill was a co-founder of The Occupants of the Empty House and has enthusiastically pursued Sherlockian scholarship for more than 30 years. The 168-page book costs \$20.00 from George A. Vanderburgh (Box 122, Sauk City, WI 53583 and Box 50, R.R. 4, Eugenia, ON N0C 1E1, Canada) <www.batteredbox.com>.
14117. It's well worth checking sales offers at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com> once in a while: four books in the Baker Street Irregulars International Series have been available as a set at half price, and there's one set remaining; click on [items for sale] and then on [deal table].
14118. The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times11-7.htm>, with offers of Sherlockiana, old and new, books and more, and a report (with photographs) of the annual summer picnic of the Nashville Scholars of the Three-Pipe Problem.

14119. Yuri Rasovsky notes that AudioFile's web-site <www.audiofilemagazine.com> has a "Listener's Guide to Sherlock Holmes" with samples, reviews, interviews, and an excellent audiography of recordings of Conan Dole's Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian stories.
14120. Peggy Perdue's "Letters from Lomax" is a continuing series of reports from the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection of the Toronto Reference Library, and in the summer issue she offers an interesting discussion of Doylean and Sherlockian music and musicals; the quarterly journal is published by The Bootmakers of Toronto (TDC Postal Station Box 1157, 77 King Street West, Toronto, ON M5K 1P2, Canada <www.sherlockian.net/bootmakers> (\$35.00 a year).
14121. It has always been a bit embarrassing, as a geologist, not ever having been in an earthquake, and although it has taken a while to achieve that goal, I'm happy to report that on the afternoon of Aug. 23 the earth moved, and the house shook, thanks to a magnitude 5.8 earthquake epicentered in Virginia about 87 miles southwest of Washington. And there were a few crooked pictures to prove to doubters that there really had been a quake.
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September 2011 #1

14122. Jennie Paton reports that all 26 episodes of the animated children's series "Sherlock Holmes in the 22nd Century" (1999) can be viewed using Amazon Instant Video (streaming on-line); \$1.99 per episode, \$13.99 for all 26, and at no charge if you're a member of Amazon Prime (which also gets you unlimited fast shipping and costs \$79.00 a year). They also offer all 26 episodes of the animated children's series "The Adventures of Sherlock Hound" (1983); \$1.99 per episode, \$28.99 for all 26. And Maurice Sendak's "Little Bear" series, which includes "Little Sherlock Bear" (a segment in episode 18); \$1.99.
14123. YouTube continues to offer a fertile field for distribution of amateur videos, Sherlockian and otherwise: Susan Rice and Mickey Fromkin's niece Melissa Kelley has reported an amusing animation by Beth Milgate, which can be seen at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=icSNeG-kurE> it's well worth taking a look at other Sherlockian videos posted by yrti0121.
14124. The Postal Service has issued a set of stamps with images from various Disney-Pixar films, among them the animation "Up" (2009) which offers an nice visual homage to "The Lost World" (Carl Frederickson's goal is Paradise Falls, which flows down the side of a plateau that has an isolated separate pinnacle, just as in the book and the films based on it). Other stamps in the set honor "Cars", "Ratatouille", "Toy Story", and "Wall-E".
14125. Joe Cooper died on Aug. 16. He was an enthusiastic promoter of astrology and psychic investigation, and his sympathetic approach to Elsie Wright and Frances Griffiths persuaded them to describe to him how they had faked the famous photographs that he discussed in detail in THE CASE OF THE COTTINGLEY FAIRIES (1990).
14126. Harry Stephen Keeler, according to Google Books, is to some an overlooked genius, and to others the Ed Wood of detective fiction. And his novel THE RIDDLE OF THE TRAVELING SKULL (1934) features Milo Payne, who appears with a "long-beaked Sherlockholmsian cap" (noted by Paul Williams in Ineffable Twaddle, the monthly newsletter of The Sound of the Baskervilles). Keller seems to have invented the word (with that spelling).
14127. The Byook (February 11 #4) isn't the only opportunity to have an enhanced reading experience on your iPhone, iPad, or iPod Touch. Booktrack now offers sound effects and soundtracks for stories that include "The Speckled Band" (their web-site <www.booktrack.com> has previews of their "soundtracks for books").
14128. Lenny Picker notes that Publishers Weekly held an on-line "Sherlock Holmes Best Narrator Poll" that was won by David Timson (38.81%); Edward Hardwicke came in second (25.37%), and Simon Prebble was third (8.96%). The runnersup were John Gielgud, Ralph Richardson, and Orson Welles (as a trio), Ralph Cosham, Charlton Griffin, and Edward Raleigh. Charles Griffin, a new discovery, has recorded the entire Canon for Audio Connoisseur; you can listen to samples and download the recordings at <www.audiofile.com>.
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September 2011 #2

14129. "Wanted: A Home for Holmes So Portsmouth Can Cash in on Sherlock" was the headline on a story Al Gregory discovered in the Portsmouth News (Aug. 23). Councillor Lee Hunt, who's in charge of cultural issues, has asked the public to suggest permanent venues for an exhibition called "Sherlock Holmes: Made in Portsmouth"; according to Hunt, "221b Baker Street attracted two million visits in its first few years, so if we were to charge £10 per head that would be £20 million coming into the city from the exhibition alone, forgetting the money which will come from hotels and restaurant visits." Of course The arithmetic is interesting: 1000 people a day for 365 days makes 365,000 people a year, and it would take more than five years to get to two million. And a skeptic might wonder whether the Sherlock Holmes Museum ever had 1,000 visits in a single day.
14130. The Postal Service has commemorated the 150th anniversary of statehood for Kansas, where John Garrideb was a counsellor at law in Moorville.
14131. You can visit <www.cracked.com> and search for [mental illnesses] to see their discussion of "6 Beloved Characters That Had Undiagnosed Mental Illnesses"; it leads with Sherlock Holmes (Asperger's Syndrome), and includes Ariel (disposophobia), Belle (schizoid personality disorder), Holden Caulfield (post-traumatic stress disorder), and Glinda the Good Witch (sadistic personality disorder). Kindly reported by Ann Lewis.
14132. Town Head, on the southern tip of Windermere, is for sale for £5.25 million (Telegraph, Aug. 27, 2011); the article mentions that the Grade II listed house allegedly inspired "The Adventure of the Speckled Band" (no further information seems to be available). Carter Jonas <www.carterjonas.co.uk> is the realtor; search for [ulverston].
- J. F. Simpson died on Aug. 31. Kenneth Tynan said he was "the most gifted comic writer the English stage had discovered since the war," and Simpson had great success as a writer from the 1950s to the 1980s, widely praised an absurdist playwright. He wrote the script for "Elementary, My Dear Watson" (a 30-minute program broadcast by the BBC in its "Comedy Playhouse in 1973 starring John Cleese and William Rushton as Holmes and Watson).
14133. Anthony Horowitz's THE HOUSE OF SILK, due in November, is going to be widely read: Jon Lellenberg reports that translations rights have been sold to publishers in Brazil, Bulgaria, China, France, Germany, Korea, Latvia, the Netherlands, Poland, Russia, Serbia, and Spain.
14134. There's an unusual event, open to the public, scheduled at Harvard University in Cambridge on Nov. 3, thanks to the Houghton Library and The Speckled Band. The festivities start pm a sherry reception at the Houghton at 5:30 pm, with a viewing of an exhibition from the Band's H. W. Bell Collection, followed by a gourmet dinner at the Harvard Faculty Club and a presentation by Dan Posnansky on Bell and his classic SHERLOCK HOLMES AND DOCTOR WATSON: THE CHRONOLOGY OF THEIR ADVENTURES. The evening's cost is \$100 per person, payable through PayPal to SpeckledBand@comcast.net, or by check (made out to The speckled Band) mailed to Richard Olken (1313 Washington Street #306, Boston, MA 02118).
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September 2011 #3

14135. The Bookseller has reported (Aug. 24) that BBC Books is planning to publish some of the Canon as a tie-in with the television series "Sherlock". The first title will be CONAN DOYLE'S SHERLOCK: A STUDY IN SCARLET, with an introduction by series co-creator Steven Moffat (Sept. 15; £6.99; THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, with an introduction by Mark Gatiss will follow (Oct. 27). Three more titles will follow next spring: THE SIGN
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- OF FOUR, THE MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, and THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES. And next fall there will be THE CASEBOOK "as a hardback gift guide that will revisit all the mysteries solved throughout the series" (£14.99).
14136. Lloyd Rose found Red Scharlach's amusing cartoon (posted at his blog on Sept. 6); he's at <www.redscharlach.livejournal.com>.
14137. "Sherlock Holmes Strikes Back!" was performed and recorded by the Wireless Theatre Company in August in London during the Camden Fringe Festival. The amusing one-hour show, written by Peter Davis and Matthew Woodcock, features the authors playing Holmes and Watson; go to go to <www.wirelesstheatrecmpny.co.uk> to listen to and download the recording (there's no charge).
14138. Roy Ward Baker died on Oct. 5, 2010. He began his career in 1934 fetching coffee for staff members at Gainsborough Pictures, and by 1938 was assistant director on Alfred Hitchcock's "The Lady Vanishes"; he continued on to a long and distinguished career as a director in film and on television and was best known for directing "A Night to Remember" (1958). He also directed four episodes of the Sheldon Reynolds television series "Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson" (1980) and Peter Cushing "The Masks of Death" (1984).
14139. Takeshi Shimizu has succeeded in arranging for a plaque honoring Dr. Joseph Bell to be installed at his last residence, at 2 Melville Crescent in Edinburgh. The house is now the Japanese General Consulate, and the plaque is to be unveiled on Oct. 8, the first Saturday after the centenary of Bell's death on Oct. 4, 1911. The unveiling ceremony will be followed by a reception at the General Consulate, which now is an interesting addition to the list of Sherlockian sites for visitors to Edinburgh.
14140. The Theatre Arts Guild will present David Belke's play "The Reluctant Resurrection of Sherlock Holmes" at the Pond Playhouse, Apr. 19 through May 5; the theater's address is 6 Parkhill Road, Halifax, NS B3P 1R3, Canada (902-477-2663) <www.tagtheatre.com>.
14141. Bill Barnes spotted a report in the Moscow Times (Aug. 11) that Lenfilm has fallen on hard times. Lenfilm, one of Russia's oldest movies studios, was founded in 1918 and has made more than 1,500 films, including the well-received television series "Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson" (1979); it now makes only three to four films a year and is struggling to stay afloat, according to the article. A Russian tycoon wants to buy the company and use the studio for lucrative construction projects.

September 2011 #4

14142. As with many other web-sites the Smithsonian has blogs, including Karen Abbott's "'Mrs. Sherlock Holmes' Takes on the NYPD"; search for [humiston] at <www.smithsonian.com>. Grace Humiston was a lawyer-turned-investigator who fought against "white slavery"; according to a story in the N.Y. Times (on June 24, 1917), "It was like dropping in at Baker Street and having Holmes throw the pipe, the violin, and hypodermic out of the window and begin to discuss how many strawberries make a shortcake." And the reporter continued: "Frankly, so far as appearances go, Mrs. Humiston is badly miscast in the role of sleuth extraordinary, or as the program might say--'Mrs. Sherlock Holmes.'" Reported by Tina Rhea.
14143. Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" is scheduled by the University of Wisconsin-Waukesha Theatre Department on Oct. 21-23, at the Fine Arts Center, 1500 North University Drive, Waukesha, WI 53188 (no phone number or URL available).
14144. Mia Trona, an Italian admirer of Jeremy Brett, has donated funds to establish a scholarship program at the Central School of Speech & Drama at the University of London, where Brett studied, graduating in 1954. There are five scholarships available in 2011-12, and an additional two awards in the 2012-13 and 2013-14 school years. Additional information is available at <www.cssd.ac.uk/content/news>.
14145. The last time I mentioned Lego bricks (September 06 #1) there wasn't a Sherlockian minifigure available but there is one now, spotted by Samantha Wolov; search for [lego minifigure detective] to find it at Amazon and eBay and elsewhere, priced as low as 25¢ (plus far more for shipping).
14146. Jacquelyn Applegate's SELENA JONES: TRIAL AND ERROR: FEATURING SHERLOCK HOLMES (Charleston: CreateSpace, 2010; 155 pp., \$13.00) is the first book in a projected series featuring a young woman who has detective skills and manages to attract the attention of Sherlock Holmes, who plays a supporting role in her adventures and who winds up demonstrating a rather emotional attachment to Selena; there's more information about the book and the author at <www.sites.google.com/site/selenajonesmysteries>.
14147. Bryce L. Crawford Jr. ("The Solitary Cyclist") died on Sept. 16. He was a Professor of Chemistry at the University of Minnesota, one of the founders of The Norwegian Explorers in 1948, co-editor of their anthology CULTIVATING SHERLOCK HOLMES (1978) and a stalwart member of the society over many decades. He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1985.
14148. The Hollywood Reporter carried a story (Sept. 13) about CBS having ordered a script for a modern-day "Sherlock Holmes" drama from CBS Television Studios, producers Sarah Timberman and Carl Beverly, and scriptwriter Rob Doherty; one assumes that someone at CBS has seen Benedict Cumberbatch's series and decided that there's a better way to do it. Copycatting is hardly new in the entertainment industry: news of the Warner Bros. film starring Robert Downey Jr. and Jude Law inspired Columbia Pictures to announce plans for a comedy with Sacha Baron Cohen as Holmes and Will Ferrell as Watson (July 08 #3); the world is still waiting for that one.

September 2011 #5

14149. Further to the report (August 10 #2) on the web-site that allows you to "check which famous writer you write like" <www.iwl.me>, Karen Murdock has an interesting and imaginative article "Do You Write Like Arthur Conan Doyle?" in the fall issue of The Serpentine Muse. The Muse is published quarterly by the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes; \$15.00 a year from Evelyn A. Herzog (301 Warren Avenue #203, Baltimore, MD 21230).
14150. The Toronto Reference Library's "Re:vitalize" project includes a new Arthur Conan Doyle Room to be built within a new Special Collections Centre; work on the new room begins on Oct. 3, when the existing room will close. There is a brief blog by curator Peggy Perdue at <www.tinyurl.com/3kxc4cB>.
14151. "Darlock Holmes & Dalek Watson" was drawn by freelance cartoonist Anthony Naylor, whose caption is "When you exterminate the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must also be exterminated." The cartoon is on display in full color at <www.tonecartoons.co.uk/blog/archives/559>. Tina Rhea gets credit for reporting it.
14152. Steve Emezc has announced that MX Publishing will sponsor a worldwide electronic debate on Nov. 10; the topic of "The Great Sherlock Holmes Debate" will be "BBC's Sherlock vs. Guy Ritchie's Movies: Which Is More Beneficial to Holmes in the 21st Century"; there will be two teams, and free on-line seats for 100 audience members. Go to <www.mxpublishing.com/page/Debate> for additional information about the event.
14153. MX also has published BAREFOOT ON BAKER STREET, by Charlotte Ann Walters, who has set herself a "blogging challenge" and started on Sept. 20 writing a blog a day on each of the 56 short stories in the Canon. You'll find her blog at <www.barefootonbakerstreet.wordpress.com>.
14154. For the completists: Andy Peck reports that there's a Mystery Guild edition of A STUDY IN SHERLOCK, at <www.mysteryguild.com>, where you'll find other Sherlockian titles available to members; search for [sherlock]. And if you search for [conan doyle] you'll also find Graham Moore's THE SHERLOCKIAN.
14155. Michael Pointer reported in THE PUBLIC LIFE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1975) that "On one occasion Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce appeared a guests on a comedy radio show and swapped their regular parts, with Rathbone as a bumbling Watson and Bruce as a sharp detective Holmes." The

radio show was "Request Performance" (a 30-minute series sponsored by Campbell Soup and broadcast by CBS in 1945 and 1946), and the five-minute Sherlockian segment aired on Nov. 4, 1945. It's nice indeed that we can listen to the segment, kindly reported by Bert Coules (who in turn thanked Steven Moffat) on the Internet at <www.basilrathbone.net/radio/mp3/requestperf1945.mp3>.

14156. The web-site's title is "Basil Rathbone: Master of Stage and Screen" and it is maintained by Marcia Jessen, who has created an excellent catalog of his appearances on stage, screen, radio, television, and records, with opportunities to listen and view. This may be your first time to see a photograph of Rathbone (as Holmes) and Dagmar (as Dagmar) on television in the 1950s.

September 2011 #6

14157. In addition to the exhibition showcasing the manuscript of THE NARRATIVE OF JOHN SMITH (August 11 #5), the British Library will present a public event on Nov. 27 with Anthony Horowitz, the author of the upcoming pastiche HOUSE OF SILK, and Roger Johnson, the editor of the Sherlock Holmes Journal; 2:30 to 4:00 pm at the British Library Conference Centre (96 Euston Road in London) and tickets will cost £7.50.
14158. Joan Proubasta has kindly forwarded Alberto Lopez Aroca's SHERLOCK HOLMES Y LOS ZOMBIS DE CAMFORD (Palma de Mallorca: Dolmen Editorial, 2011; 280 pp., E16.95); it's the latest of his Sherlockian pastiches. His earlier story, ("El problema del la pequena cliente") appears to be unique for including Mary Poppins as a character in a Sherlockian pastiche.
14159. "The Travels of Sherlock Holmes--It's All About Location, Location, Location" is the theme of the annual "Saturday with Sherlock Holmes" at the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore on Nov. 5th; the sponsors are the local Sherlockian societies, and the library is at 400 Cathedral Street in Baltimore. The event's sponsored by the local Sherlockian societies, and there is no charge.
14160. Work has started on a new Russian "Sherlock Holmes" series, according to a report from Bert Coules. There will be 16 episodes, filmed in St. Petersburg, with Igor Petrenko as Holmes and Andrey Panin as Watson, and you can visit <www.rt.com/news/prime-time/sherlock-holmes-russian-adaptation-875> to see a brief video report.
14161. Lenny Picker has reported a Sherlockian episode of the animated childrens' series "Curious George" that aired on Sept. 6: in "The Great Monkey Detective" George imagines himself as a detective and watches a take-off of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" on television. The episode is scheduled to repeat on Oct. 12 and Nov. 14 on PBS-TV.
14162. Maria Konnikova contributes a guest blog to Scientific American's web-site <blogs.scientificamerican.com/guest-blog>, and has been discussing Sherlock site, including David Bresan's "It's sedimentary, my dear Watson" (part of his discussion of the history of geology). Thanks to Les Klinger and Dan Stashower for reporting the Konnikova blogs.
14163. Sherlock Holmes will return to the Victorian Village Inn for a special seven-course champagne English countryside dinner on Oct. 22; more information is available from the management (601 North Broadway, Union City, MI 49094) (800-348-4552) <www.avictorianvilla.com>. John Sherwood, who serves as Mr. Holmes' scheduler, reports that he plans a series of activities to augment the grand meal, but regrets that Dr. Watson will not be able to attend.
14164. John Longenbaugh's play "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol" will be performed at the Artists Repertory Theatre from Nov. 15 through Dec. 24; "literature's favorite quirky inquisitor is infused with the spirit of crotchety Ebenezer Scrooge in an unusual holiday show." 1515 SW Morrison, Portland, OR 97205 (503-241-1278) <www.artistsrep.org>.
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October 2011 #1

14165. Reported: Sherlock Holmes is mentioned three times in Lonely Planet's 1,000 ULTIMATE SIGHTS (Oakland: Lonely Planet, 2011; 352 pp., \$22.99), in entries for Reichenbach Falls (most impressive waterfalls), Baker Street (best literary sites), and Baker Street (most interesting subway stations).
14166. Kandie Carle's one-act play "Sherlock Holmes: From Page to Stage" will be presented by the East Haddam Stage Company at the Mark Twain House Museum on Dec. 8 and 9; the play "explores William Gillette's journey from Victorian stage actor to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's master sleuth." 351 Farmington Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105 (860-280-3130) <www.marktwainhouse.org>.
14167. Criminal Element, "a community web-site featuring daily content for fans of the crime and mystery genres in all of their forms," recently published Guy Bergstrom's "Death Brackets", a contest in which he matched "master detectives" against "spies, assassins, and anti-heroes"; Sherlock Holmes was one of the master detectives, and made it into the semi-finals. You can read all about it at <www.criminalelement.com/features/series/death-brackets>.
14168. ISO [that's "in search of" in the personal ads] a postal or e-mail address for Millard Cecil, reported to be contact for a Sherlockian society called The Crouching Lions.
14169. For the completists: Judith Solberg found a new version of the Sherlockian nutcracker that was available from Target last year (December 10 #4); it's exactly the same, except that the date on the base is 2011 rather than 2010. It still costs \$12.99, and is available at their stores or their web-site <www.target.com/p/Decorative-Nutcracker-Detective/-/A-13508848>.
14170. "Make a Bid, Seller Is Motivated" was the headline on a listing spotted by Garth Hazlett in Forbes (Sept. 12): Updown Court, Windlesham, Surrey, England, has been on the market since 2005; the current asking price of \$124 million. It's not Conan Doyle's home Windlesham, which is in Crowborough in Sussex (Windlesham also is the name of a town in Surrey). Updown Court is England's most expensive home, and has 103 rooms (including two indoor pools) and a heated marble driveway. And of course there's an informative web-site at <www.updowncourt.com>.
14171. Garth also has spotted a Sherlockian connection for Moammar Gadhafi, in the Toronto Star (Sept. 21): Diane Sawtch's article about Foyles mentions that Gahaffi once deposited £500,000 with the legendary bookstore to supply him and his government departments with books; the authors requested included John le Carre, Barbara Cartland, and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.
14172. The fall issue of The Magic Door (the newsletter published by The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) has Thelma Beam's report on a newly-acquired collection of letters Conan Doyle wrote to his wife during their American tour in 1923, Barbara Rusch's discussion of "The Ring of Thoth" (the story that launched a flood of movies about mummies), and other news from and about the collection. Copies of the newsletter are available from Clifford S. Goldfarb (22 Markdale Avenue, Toronto, ON M6C, 1T1, Canada) <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.
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October 2011 #2

14173. The September issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota has Dan Stashower's report on four recently-acquired manuscript letters, three written by Conan Doyle about the medium Margery and one by Margery herself, and a "50 Years Ago" tribute by Jon Lellenberg and Peter Blau to Bill Rabe and his landmark SHERLOCKIAN WHO'S WHO & WHAT'S WHAT, and other new from and about the collections. Copies of the newsletter are available from Richard J. Sveum (111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <sveum001@tc.umn.edu>.
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14174. John Garden, the keyboard player and musical director of the American band Scissor Sisters ("spawned by the suzzy gay nightlife scene of New York") has composed an original score for the silent film "The Lost World" (1925), which was screened with live accompaniment in England in October; audio and video samples are available at <www.johngarden.net>.
14175. Otto Penzler reports that there will be reading and signing at the Mysterious Bookshop in New York on Nov. 7, from 6:30 to 8:00 pm, featuring Anthony Horowitz (author of the new pastiche THE HOUSE OF SILK) and Michael Dirda (author of the new ON CONAN DOYLE, OR THE WHOLE ART OF STORYTELLING; signed copies also will be available for those who can't attend. 58 Warren Street in New York <www.mysteriousbookshop.com>.
14176. Paul Singleton reports that he will perform as Sherlock Holmes in a staged reading of Alex Simmons' play "Sherlock Holmes and the Hands of Othello" in the Workshop Theater Company's Jewel Box Theater at 6:00 pm on Dec. 4. No charge for admission; 312 West 36th Street (4th floor), between 8th and 9th Avenues in New York City (212-695-4173) <www.workshoptheater.org>.
14177. Peter Hammond died on Oct. 12. He began his theatrical career as an actor, and went on to become a prolific television director, with credits ranging from "The Avenger" (1960) to eight of the programs in Granada's "Sherlock Holmes" series.
14178. Work continues on the museum exhibit "Sherlock Holmes" The Science of Deduction" (April 11 #5); there's a preliminary web-site display of information at <www.exhibitsdevelopment.com/InDevelopment.html>, and there are links to descriptions of other exhibits already on tour. The "Sherlock Holmes" exhibit will begin touring in 2013. And in the meantime there's a "Sherlock Holmes: The Science of Deduction" cocktail: Dewar's, Cointreau, fresh lemon juice, and bitters.
14179. Tracy Revels' SHADOWFALL: A NOVEL OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (London: MX Publishing, 2011; 193 pp., £9.99/E12.99/\$16.95) is a thriller that involves Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson in the world of the wizards and wizardry, and in a battle for "the safety of the British Empire, and Doctor Watson's mortal soul." The publisher's web-site is at <www.mxpublishing.co.uk>.
14180. Also from MX Publishing: RENDEZVOUS AT THE POPULAIRE: A NOVEL OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (2011; 203 pp., £9/99/E12.99/\$16.95): Kate Workman's version of the battle between Sherlock Holmes and the Phantom of the Opera. THE OUTSTANDING MYSTERIES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (2011; 317 pp., £12.99/E14.99/\$19.95); 13 short stories written and illustrated by Gerard Kelly.

October 2011 #3

14181. Conan Doyle's THE NARRATIVE OF JOHN SMITH (London: British Library, 2011; 138 pp., £10.00/\$16.00) offers a delightful look at an author at the start of his career, with an interesting introduction by Jon Lellenberg, Daniel Stashower, and Rachel Foss, and excellent footnotes. It's much more of a journal than a novel, and it offers the author's philosophy and opinions, as well as intriguing foreshadowing of many themes and phrases found in his later work, Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian. There's an impressive report on the manuscript, and on the book, at <www.bestofsherlock.com/ref/narrative-john-smith-ms.htm>, Randall Stock's "Best of Sherlock" web-site.
14182. Michael Dirda discovered Sherlock Holmes in THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES at a time when a dollar bought "two or three candy bars, a box of Cracker Jack, and a cold bottle of Orange Crush" (all of which he enjoyed while he read the book). He tells that story, and many more, in ON CONAN DOYLE: OR, THE WHOLE ART OF STORYTELLING (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2011; 210 pp., \$19.95), which is far more than a delightful introduction to Conan Doyle and his work, and to The Baker Street Irregulars (described by Dirda as a "mysterious literary society" that surely will be less mysterious now to those who read this book): those who need no such introduction will find many pleasant surprises in his insights and infectious enthusiasm for Conan Doyle. Recommended.
14183. Mark Alberstat's 2012 Sherlock Holmes Calendar is illustrated with artwork from The Strand Magazine, and displays important Sherlockian birthdays and William S. Baring-Gould's dates for the cases. US\$15.00 postpaid, and his address is: 46 Kingston Crescent, Dartmouth, NS B3A 2M2, Canada.
14184. The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection, The Toronto Public Library, and The Bookmakers of Toronto presented an excellent symposium on "Arthur Conan Doyle: A Study in Scandal" this month; the speakers included Les Klinger (an illustrated presentation on "The Other Victorians: A Study of Pornography and Pornographers in the Time of Arthur Conan Doyle") and Bill Mason ("Arthur Conan Doyle on Trial: The Murder of Sherlock Holmes"), and a chance to see an exhibit of some of the treasures in the Collection. "What fun we had!" the symposium web-site explains, "And now it's over. Nothing left but gossip and rumour." Another symposium is possible in 2016.
14185. Another interesting presentation at the symposium was Doug Elliott's "The Piltdown Code" (available thanks to the wonders of modern technology): in Australia, Doug offered a documentary that carefully examined the suggestion that Conan Doyle perpetrated the famous Piltdown hoax. Modern technology (Skype) also enabled a question-and-answer session after the presentation. And there's more: the documentary, which exonerates Conan Doyle, is available on-line in two 15-minute segments at <www.youtube.com>; search for [piltdown code].
14186. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists (also known as The Friends of Sherlock Holmes) met to honor the world's first forensic geologist with drinks and dinner at the Market Bar-B-Que in Minneapolis on Oct. 12, when visiting geologists were welcomed by Julie McKuras and other members of the local Sherlockian society (The Norwegian Explorers). Our next dinners will be in Long Beach on Apr. 12 and in Charlotte on Nov. 7.

October 2011 #4

14187. Will there be a third "Sherlock Holmes" film that stars Robert Downey Jr. and Jude Law? Will they become the Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce of the 21st century? According to Law, "I always steal a line that Robert said: if everyone else is as happy and enthusiastic for us to carry on doing it, then we'll probably carry on doing it." Not that one need be in any doubt: Variety has reported (Oct. 23) that Warner Bros. has hired Drew Pearce to write the new script; Pearce also is writing a script for "Iron Man 3" (which will star Downey as Tony Stark/Iron Man).
14188. And Brenda Rossini spotted an amusing story in the Guardian (Oct. 26) that compares the new film with the Benedict Cumberbatch series; the categories include "best exploding tree sequence" and "sexiest female lead". You can go to <www.guardian.co.uk> and search for [mongolian costume].
14189. Otto Penzler's MysteriousPress.com (June 11 #5) is now up and running as an electronic publisher, at <www.mysteriouspress.com>, with about 40 books already available, and many more to come. The e-books are available from Amazon, iTunes, and Barnes & Noble, and include a wide range of classic mystery, crime, suspense, and espionage.
14190. Thanks to Andy Solberg, who has observed and reported an entry at the Sherlockian Who's Who web-site, there is news of an active Sherlockian society in mainland China: it's The Chinese Sherlockian Society, which has an attractive and interesting web-site at <www.sherlockian.org/sh/home.php>; the web-site's even more interesting if you have Google's "Translate" installed on your computer. Their forum at <www.sherlockian.org/sh/forum/index.php> also is worth a visit.
14191. The Sherlockian Who's Who at <www.sh-whoswho.com> also is well worth a visit ; it's maintained by La Societe Sherlock Holmes de France, and it offers an easy way to locate and contact individual Sherlockians as well as Sherlockian societies that have provided that information to the Who's Who.

14192. Further to the report (September 10 #4) about the "Sherlock" violin made by Steve Burnett from wood from the 170-year-old sycamore at Liberton Bank House in Edinburgh, Burnett has now made a new "Conan Doyle Quartette": two violins, a cello, and a viola. According to the Edinburgh Evening News (Oct. 25), the quartet will debut at the Concert for Trees at the Usher Hall on Nov. 26, when the St. Patrick's Baroque Ensemble will play the quartet and Ani Batikian will play the Sherlock violin.
14193. Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" is scheduled by the Broadhollow Theatre at the Elmont Memorial Library, Nov. 12-27 (700 Hempstead Turnpike, Elmont, NY 11003) (516-775-4420) <www.broadhollow.org>.
14194. William Hyder's INTRODUCING SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE GREAT DETECTIVE ACCORDING TO DOYLE (2011; 311 pp., \$24.00) has been published by George Vanderburgh; the book includes reprints of eight stories and an excerpt from A STUDY IN SCARLET, with informative introductions and explanations, and what Bill has called "biographical assumptions" that provide the reader with an imaginative account of Holmes' early life and his career that often differs from William S. Baring-Gould's proposed biography. The publisher's at Box 50, R.R. #4, Eugenia, ON NOC 1E0, Canada <www.batteredbox.com>.
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October 2011 #5

14195. Sherlock Holmes' 158th birthday will be celebrated on Friday, Jan. 13, with the traditional festivities in New York, but the first formal event will be The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes' ASH Wednesday dinner starting at 6:00 pm at O'Casey's (22 East 41st Street); attendees pay their own checks, but you should let Susan Rice (125 Washington Place #2-E, New York, NY 10014) <susan221bee@gmail.com> or Evy Herzog (301 Warren Avenue #203, Baltimore, MD 21230) <herzogbaesch@aol.com> know if you are coming to the event.
14196. The Christopher Morley Walk, led by Jim Cox and Dore Nash, will leave from the Algonquin Hotel (59 West 44th Street) at 9:30 am on Thursday, followed by lunch at McSorley's at about 1:30 pm; those planning to participate are asked to get in touch with Jim (2240 15th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94116) <jasdcx@yahoo.com>, and of course are advised to dress appropriately for the weather.
14197. The Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Speaker Lecture begins at 6:15 pm on the 2nd floor of the Midtown Executive Club (at 40 West 45th Street); the speaker will be Dr. Lisa Sanders of Yale University, technical advisor to the television series "House", which of course owes much to the Sherlock Holmes stories, including the address of his apartment (221B). The lecture will cost \$11.00; seating is limited, and you should reserve early (details below); tickets will not be sold at the door.
14198. Otto Penzler will hold his traditional open house from 11:00 to 5:00 at the Mysterious Bookshop, at 58 Warren Street (between West Broadway and Church Street) in Tribeca; the 1, 2, and 3 trains stop at the Chambers Street station (one block from the shop). If you get lost, the bookshop's telephone number is 212-587-1011.
14199. The William Gillette Memorial Luncheon starts at noon, at Moran's Chelsea Seafood Restaurant at 146 Tenth Avenue at 19th Street; the cost is \$45.00 for chicken or salmon (\$52.00 for prime rib). Susan Rice (125 Washington Place #2-E, New York, NY 10014) <susan221bee@gmail.com> is the contact for a formal announcement.
14200. The Baker Street Irregulars will gather at 6:00 pm at the Yale Club at 50 Vanderbilt Avenue (across the street and just north of Grand Central Station); attendance is by invitation only. The Gaslight Gala (which is open to all Sherlockians and their friends) will provide dinner and entertainment at 6:30 pm at the Manhattan Club (201 West 52nd Street at Seventh Avenue); \$78.00 (checks payable to Will Walsh can be sent to Carol Fish at Box 4, Circleville, NY 10919 (845-361-4320).
14201. Space is limited at the William Gillette Luncheon and the Gaslight Gala, and early reservations are advised.
14202. If you want to send seasonal souvenirs or other mementos to be included in the various dinner packets you should send 170 copies (for the BSI) to Al Gregory (118 South Prospect Street, Verona, NJ 07044), 100 copies (for the Gaslight Gala) to Carol Fish (Box 4, Circleville, NY 10919), and 20 copies (for The Women) to Mary Ann Bradley (7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278); your material must be mailed to arrive by Dec. 15.
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October 2011 #6

14203. On Saturday a wide range of Sherlockiana will be available vendors in the Merchants Room (Covent Garden West) in the Vanderbilt Suite on the second floor of the Roosevelt Hotel (45 East 45th Street) from 9:00 am to noon; you can contact Ralph Hall (2906 Wallingford Court, Louisville, KY 40218) (502-491-3148) <bugmanhall@aol.com> for information about dealers' tables.
14204. The Beacon Society will hold their annual meeting from 10:00 to 11:30 am in the Park Suite at the Roosevelt Hotel, where they will present their annual Beacon Award recognizing the efforts of individuals to introduce Sherlock Holmes to young people. Their web-site's at <www.beaconsociety.com>.
14205. The Baker Street Irregulars' annual reception, open to all Sherlockians and their friends, will be held from 1:00 to 4:00 at the New York City Bar Association (42 West 44th Street); there will be hors d'oeuvres (adequate but not replacing lunch or dinner) and an open bar (wine, beer, juice, and soft drinks). And, of course, the usual (or perhaps unusual) entertainment; the cost is likely to be \$79.00 (details below) or \$89.00 after Nov. 26 or at the door.
14206. For those who wish to continue partying, there are as yet no plans (firm or infirm) for sporting events at Kennedy's or other venues on Saturday evening; stay tuned (as they say) for a further report.
14207. The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes will hold an informal buffet brunch on Sunday, from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm at a venue not yet confirmed (needless to say, the price is not confirmed either). As always, the brunch is open to all, but space is limited; Lyndsay Faye (450 West 162nd Street #25-E, New York, NY 10032) <lyndsayfaye@hotmail.com> will be happy to provide more information about a fine way to end a long weekend.
14208. Arrangements have been made for a block of rooms at the Roosevelt Hotel (45 East 45th Street) at a special tax-free rate of \$199.00 per night (single or double room); the special rate is available only for reservations made through the Baker Street Irregulars by Nov. 19. In addition, there may be some rooms available at the Yale Club (50 Vanderbilt Avenue) at a special tax-free rate of \$200.00 per night (details on both below).
14209. And here are the details: if you've not already received Mike Whelan's announcement and reservation form (including prices) for the Roosevelt Hotel and the Yale Club, the Thursday lecture, and the Saturday reception, visit the Baker Street Journal web-site <www.bakerstreetjournal.com> and click on BSI Weekend, or contact Mary Ann Bradley <mabmfw@aol.com>.
14210. Mary Ellen Rich kindly continues to advise about hotels that offer reasonable (as defined by New York landlords) rates, but it's a mark of the 21st century that the best offers are to be found on the Internet, at web-sites such as <www.priceline.com>, <www.tripadvisor.com>, <www.travelocity.com>, <www.hotels.com>, <www.expedia.com>, and <www.quikbook.com>; special rates also are available at <www.travelzoo.com/top20/82851294-890255>. You will be wise then to check the hotel's web-site and ask for the best rate (and you should not forget about non-optional extras such as almost 20% in state and city taxes).
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October 2010 #7

14211. The Dr. John H. Watson Fund offers financial assistance to all Sherlockians (membership in the BSI is not required) who might otherwise not be able to participate in the weekend's festivities. A carefully pseudonymous John H. Watson presides over the fund and welcomes contributions, which can be made by check payable to John H. Watson and sent (without return address on the envelope) to Dr. Watson, care of The Baker Street Irregulars, at 7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278; your letters are forwarded unopened, and Dr. Watson will acknowledge your generosity. Requests for assistance should also be mailed (quickly) to Dr. Watson at the same address.
14212. And if you can't remember where you put your copy of all of this, detailed information about the birthday festivities is available on the Internet at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com> and <www.bsiweekend.com>. News of additional events will be found in this newsletter, and at the web-sites.
14213. The 31st annual Sherlock Holmes/Arthur Conan Doyle Symposium, to be held in Dayton, Ohio, on May 18-20, has the theme "Cheetahs and Adders and Hounds, On My!"; Cathy Gill manages their mailing list (4661 Hamilton Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45223) (513-681-5507) <chirpsworth@fuse.net>.
14214. Sherlock Crater, named in honor of Sherlock Holmes by astronaut-geologist Jack Schmitt in preparation for the Apollo 17 mission to the Moon in 1972, can be seen at Google; go to www.google.com/moon and search for [sherlock].
14215. For San Franciscans: Laurie King and Les Klinger (editors) and Tony Broadbent and January Burke (contributors) will appear at the San Francisco Public Library (at 100 Larkin Street at Grove) on Nov. 8 at 6:00 pm to talk about (and sign) the new anthology A STUDY IN SHERLOCK (August 11 #2).
14216. Bill Dorn's "Sherlock Holmes Calendar" for 2012 features to actors who have played Professor Moriarty on the screen and on television; the price (postpaid) is \$17.95, but if you mention the magic word [scuttlebutt] you get a \$2.00 discount. You can see (and order) the calendar (and other offerings) at <www.me.com/billdorn/Holmesian_Films>.
14217. Spiritualists in Edinburgh have opened a new church that's named in honor of Conan Doyle, according to a report in the Edinburgh Evening News (Oct. 19); formerly housed in a tenement, the church has about 150 members, and funding from a trust allowed them to move into the Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Centre. They have a web-site at <www.edinburghspiritualists.com>.
14218. Irene's Cabinet is the annual anthology edited by Beth Austin for Watson's Tin Box, and this year's issue (58 pp.) offers the usual interesting mix of articles, toasts, and poetry, including Debbie Clark's discussion of various attempts to assassinate Queen Victoria, Russell Wm. Hultgren's examination of the recordings of the Canon David Timson made for Naxos Audiobooks, and Emily Doss' winning essay for this year's Clarkson Prize, sponsored by the society for seventh-graders in Howard County, Md.; \$15.00 postpaid from Beth Austin (9455 Chadburn Place, Gaithersburg, MD 20886).

November 2011 #1

14219. There's more information about the birthday festivities in New York: Chrys Kegley of The Curious Collectors of Baker Street will once again host The Very Irregular Lost in New York with a Bunch of Sherlockians Dinner on Saturday, Jan. 14, at 6:00 pm at Pete's Tavern (129 East 18th Street, between Irving Place and Third Avenue); \$42.00 including tax and tip for dinner and two drinks, and details are available from Chrys (18014 Sherman Way #275, Reseda, CA 91235) (818-675-5399) <ckegley@socal.rr.com>.
14220. The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes will hold an informal buffet brunch on Sunday, from 11:30 am to 3:00 pm at the Irish Rogue (356 West 45th Street between Eighth and Ninth Avenues); \$20.00 payable by cash or check at the door. As always, the brunch is open to all, but space is limited; details about a fine way to end a long weekend are available from Lyndsay Faye (450 West 162nd Street #25-E, New York, NY 10032) <lyndsafaye@hotmail.com>.
14221. And a reminder: seasonal souvenirs or other mementos intended for various dinner packets should be mailed to arrive by Dec. 15: 170 copies (for the BSI) to Al Gregory (118 South Prospect Street, Verona, NJ 07044), 100 copies (for the Gaslight Gala) to Carol Fish (Box 4, Circleville, NY 10919), and 20 copies (for The Women) to Mary Ann Bradley (7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278).
14222. The "Sherlock Holmes Shaped Puzzle" (April 10 #1) offered by Bits and Pieces (Box 4150, Lawrenceburg, IN 47025) (866-503-6395) <www.bitsandpieces.com> has been discounted to \$8.49 each for either of the two formats (300 pieces or 750 pieces) (items 45849 and 45850).
14223. The White Ghost Shivers are a seven-piece band that plays (according to one reviewer) "an insane collision of ragtime, jazz, swing, bluegrass, cabaret, vaudeville, burlesque, Hostess Twinkie, caffeine, and Tilt-a-Whirl." Their web-site is at <www.whiteghostshivers.com>, and their latest CD is "Nobody Loves You Like We Do" (\$12.17); it's of Sherlockian interest because one of the tracks is "We Never Mention Aunt Clara" (which is described as "the anthem of The Baker Street Irregulars") sung by Cella Blue, who is the daughter of Sherlockian book-dealer Vinnie Brosnan. The CD (and possibly an LP) will be available in the Merchants Room at the Roosevelt Hotel during the birthday festivities in January.
14224. A page from the manuscript of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be offered at auction on Dec. 3, estimated at \$115,000-125,000; the auction will be at Ira & Larry Goldberg Auctioneers <www.goldbergcoins.com> in Los Angeles. Currently owned by David Karpeles, the page was advertised at \$22,500 by Pepper & Stern in 1994. Randall Stock has compiled an excellent census of pages from the manuscript; it's available at his "Best of Sherlock" web-site at <www.bestofsherlock.com>.
14225. Sean Wright has reported a delightful segment from "The Morecambe and Wise Show" broadcast on July 27, 1969, with guest Peter Cushing as King Arthur, introduced by Ernie Wise (in costume as Merlin) and with a surprise appearance by Eric Morecambe as Sherlock Holmes. And of course it's available at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=IT6e58r3bv0>.

November 2011 #2

14226. E.J. Wagner's THE SCIENCE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: FROM BASKERVILLE HALL TO THE VALLEY OF FEAR: THE REAL FORENSICS BEHIND THE GREAT DETECTIVE'S GREATEST CASES (June 06 #2) is available translated into French; her web-site <www.ejwagner-crimehistorian.com> has details on how to order the book (which also is available in Italian, Korean, German, Russian, Japanese, Spanish, and Braille, and in a Kindle edition and as an audiobook).
14227. The Sussex Courier reported (Oct. 28) on Brian Pugh's efforts to promote Crowborough as the home of Arthur Conan Doyle: Brighton and Hove Buses have named one of their buses in honor of Sir Arthur. According to the company operations and commercial manager, "about 75 per cent of our buses are dedicated to local heroes like Thomas Kemp and Dusty Springfield." That's Brian Pugh in the photograph.
14228. "Sublime Sherlocks: The Great Detective's Brainy Descendants" is an interesting interactive web-site reported by Tina Rhea. Wired offers 18 candidates at <www.wired.com/underwire/2010/10/best-sherlocks-ever>, and there are some amusing surprises among them.
14229. Computers make it quite easy to produce personalized books, and a personalized edition of THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES is available from Book By You <www.bookbyyou.com> for \$49.95 (hardcover) or \$29.95 (paperback); you get to select new names for Holmes, Watson, Lestrade, Irene Adler, and Mrs. Hudson, and you can create a free preview sample at the web-site.
14230. James H. Bready ("The Disappearance of James Phillimore") died on Oct. 29. He served in the Army's Counterintelligence Corps in the European Theater during World War II, and in 1945 began his long career as a journalist with the Baltimore Sun; his enthusiasms were sports, Maryland's pre-

Prohibition rye whiskey, and Sherlock Holmes. Jim was an early member of The Six Napoleons and served as its Gasogene in the 1950s; he received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1955.

14231. There will be two "Sherlock Holmes Weekends" in Cape May, N.J., next year, on Mar. 16-18 and Nov. 2-4, and you can find out what happened this year at <www.capemaymac.org/tours/winter/special/sherlock.html?terms=sherlock>; information about next year's events will be available from 1048 Washington Street, Cape May, NJ 08204 (800-275-4278).
14232. "The musical begins when Sherlock Holmes and his trusty partner Dr. John H. Watson are dispatched to solve the case of the Anderson family and a missing woman," according to an article in the Jeju Weekly about the Korean musical "Sherlock Holmes", which premiered in Anyang City on July 29 and went on to play in Seoul and Jeju. I am not aware of any previous Sherlockian theatrical production, musical or otherwise, in Korea, and there have been two articles (in English) about the musical in the Jeju Weekly, whose web-site is <www.jejuweekly.com>; search for [sherlock].
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November 2011 #3

14233. Ken Ludwig's new comedy-mystery-thriller "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" (March 11 #3) opened its world premiere at the Cleveland Play House on Nov. 25; it's a murder mystery set in William Gillette's home, and it's wonderfully hilarious. You can see images of the set and costumes at <www.clevelandplayhouse.com>.
14234. French Connection U.S. is promoting their fashion brand with a sweepstakes contest that's tied to "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows" (the winner and a guest will be flown to New York for a preview of the film, and a shopping spree) <www.usa.frenchconnection.com/content/sherlock-holmes/index.htm>.
14235. The Langham in London "lays claim to being instrumental in the creation of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's most famous character, Sherlock Holmes," according to its web-site, and displays a commemorative Green Plaque (March 10 #3); the hotel also is offering a "Sherlock Holmes Package" celebrating the launch of the new film "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows" (the package is available through Mar. 31). You get to stay in the Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Suite and enjoy a gift from the Langham Book Butler, as well as an English breakfast <www.londonlanghamhotels.co.uk/rooms/sherlock-holmes-package.html>.
14236. Dr. William R. Hanson has designed a colorful cachet for the stamp issued this year in honor of Mark Twain, who wrote "The Double-Barrelled Detective Story"; the artwork shows the mining camp in Hope Canyon in the Esmeralda region of California (where the story takes place in October 1900). \$10.00 postpaid (to U.S. addresses), and you are requested to make payment in currency or by U.S. postal money order to Dr. Hanson at 78 West Notre Dame Street, Glens Falls, NY 12801; for information on prices outside the U.S. contact him at <drhanson@localnet.com>.
14237. The fall issue of For the Sake of the Trust (the The Baker Street Irregulars Trust newsletter) offers Peter Accardo's report on the completion of the BSI Archives cataloguing project, editor Mike Berdan's account of his visit to the Archives at the Houghton Library, and other news. All issues of the newsletter have been posted (the latest in full color) at the Trust web-site at <www.bsitrust.org>, and copies of the current issue are available on request from Marshall S. Berdan (2015 Main Street, Glastonbury, CT 06033) <editor@bsitrust.org>.
14238. William Hyder, author of INTRODUCING SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE GREAT DETECTIVE ACCORDING TO DOYLE (October 11 #4), now has an informative web-site about the book, and other things, at <www.introducingsherlockholmes.com>.
14239. J. Warren Scheideman ("Count Von und Zu Grafenstein") died on Aug. 25. He taught English and American literature at De Paul University, and then at De Paul's School for New Learning; he was a member of Hugo's Companions and The Hounds of the Baskerville of Chicago, and wrote many learned articles for Sherlockian journals in the 1970s and 1980s. He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1982.
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November 2011 #4

14240. Sherlock Holmes is (or at least will be) one of the characters in THE FIFTH HEART, a book that has not yet been written by Dan Simmons. Lenny Picker has noted that Simmons blogged about it in July 2010 <www.dansimmons.com/news/message/2010_07.htm>; the blog offers an interesting look at how an author thinks about a book.
14241. There are many Android Apps available for Google's Android phone, and you can explore them at <www.android-apps.com>; just search for [conan doyle] to find a number of free downloads, and a few more at modest cost.
14242. Die Deutsche Sherlock Holmes Gesellschaft is celebrating the 125th anniversary of the first appearance of Sherlock Holmes in Beeton's Christmas Annwith a colorful calender (E12.50 plus shipping), and there's a preview at their at web-site <www.deutsche-sherlock-holmes-gesellschaft.de/?p=1205>; it's an interesting web-site, with lots of news about Sherlock Holmes and Sherlockians in Germany.
14243. Two sets of four Sherlock Holmes Marble Coasters with Sidney Paget illustrations (\$39.95 each), cut from Botticino marble imported from Verona, are again available (along with other nice Sherlockiana) from The Strand Magazine (Box 1418, Birmingham, MI 48012) (800-300-6652) <www.strandmag.com>.
14244. "Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of the Frozen City" is a new computer game designed for the Nintendo 3DS; it's due for release in 2012, but there are images available now at <www.gonintendo.com/?mode=viewstory&id=162111>.
14245. Jim Ballinger has found Spineless Classics at Foyles in London; the company offers full-text books in four-point print on single sheets of quality paper, and with interesting silhouette artwork. Their titles include THE LOST WORLD and THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (£44.99 each unframed), and you get a 20% discount through Christmas if you say the magic word [scuttlebutt]; the concept is imaginative and attractive, and you can send orders to the company at The Granery, 4 High Street Eton, Windsor, Berks. SL4 6AS, England) <www.spinelessclassics.com/voucher/scuttlebutt>.
14246. "Sherlock Holmes Neveben" [In the Name of Sherlock Holmes"] is a Hungarian film now in post-production and due for release next year. There's a oneminute teaser at <www.sherlockfilm.hu>. Click on the Facebook icon at the web-site to see a poster for the film.
14247. Bill Crider, who contributes a "Blog Bytes" column to Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine, has noted Tony Renner's interesting blog "Pfui", which can be found at <www.louderthanecessary.blogspot.com> and will be enjoyed by fans of Rex Stout and his work; Renner is reprinting contemporary reviews of Stout's work, as well as interviews with him and reviews written by him (one of them a review of M. F. K. Fisher's AN ALPHABET FOR GOURMETS).
14248. Al Gregory spotted a report in the Thorne and District Gazette (Oct. 8) on a one-year suspension imposed on a teacher at the Hayfield School in Auckley, in South Yorkshire, for failing to follow the school's procedure for teaching and marking English coursework; omissions included teaching only THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES to pupils and failing to cover other Sherlock Holmes short stories. The teacher was later dismissed.
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November 2011 #5

14249. WHO WAS JACK THE RIPPER?, by Hartley R. Nathan, is the result of his deep interest in the continuing mystery; there is discussion of Conan Doyle in the chapter on "Why Was the Ripper Not Caught?". The 88-page book costs \$18.60 postpaid (and signed on request), and you can mail checks to Hartley (Minden Gross LLP, 145 King Street West #2200, Toronto, ON M5H 4G2, Canada).
14250. Bryan Ford notes the Classic Tales Podcast <www.classictales.libsyn.com>, where B. J. Harrison reads (and well) classic tales that include "The Red-Headed League" and "Playing with Fire".
14251. Visitors to the historic city of York can still raise a glass at the Brigadier Gerard, discovered by Ely Liebow some years ago (August 95 #2); the pub is named in honor of the famous racehorse ("the only English classic winner of the present century to have lost only one race in 18 or more starts"), and the horse was named in honor of Conan Doyle's swashbuckling hero. And Al Gregory has found the Brigadier Gerard Stakes, a flat race that is run each year at Sandown Park; the event was established in 1953, as the Coronation Stakes commemorating the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, and the race was renamed in 1973 in honor of the famous racehorse.
14252. Raymond C. Murray first encountered forensic geology in 1973, when he was teaching geology at Rutgers University and received a request for assistance from a federal agent; he went on to co-author the first textbook (FORENSIC GEOLOGY) in 1975, and then alone wrote EVIDENCE FROM THE EARTH: FORENSIC GEOLOGY AND CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION (October 04 #3), which now has a second edition, revised and expanded and with Sherlockian cover art (Missoula: Mountain Press, 2011; 240 pp., \$16.00). It's an up-to-date review of the science, and gives due credit to Sherlock Holmes as the first forensic geologist you'll find some Sherlockian artwork.
14253. John Neville died on Nov. 19. He began his acting career in the 1950s, and performed at the Old Vic, alternating the roles of Othello and Iago with a young Richard Burton, and in films, and in 1972 emigrated to Canada to direct and act for the National Arts Centre Theatre Company; he continued to act in films such as "The Adventures of Baron Munchausen" and on television as "the well manicured man" in "The X-Files". He played Sherlock Holmes in film "A Study in Terror" (1965), on stage in the Royal Shakespeare Company revival of "Sherlock Holmes" in New York (1974) and in a Canadian production of the play (1975), and on radio in "The Incredible Murder of Cardinal Tosca" (1978).
14254. "Sherlock Holmes and the Alien Abduction" is a new short story by Phillip Duke, available as an Amazon Kindle ebook (\$0.99); Kindle software can be downloaded without charge to desktops and other devices in addition to the Kindle, and Amazon offers a free sample from the story.
14255. Watson's Tin Box will host the fifth "Scintillation of Scions" at the Comfort Suites at Laurel Lakes, Md., on June 9, 2012, the intent is to bring together members of mid-Atlantic (and east-coast) Sherlockian societies for "an afternoon of fun, scholarship, and social time." It's an entertaining gathering, and additional information is available from Jacquelyn Morris (3042 Old Channel Road, Laurel, MD 20724) <www.scintillation.org>.

November 2011 #6

14256. "A campaign is underway to turn one of London's most iconic but underwhelming roads into a thriving business quarter," according to a report in the Hampstead & Highgate Express (Sept. 18). The Portman Estate, hoping to turn the area into a Business Improvement District, wants to include Baker Street between Marylebone Road and Oxford Street as well as many surrounding roads. But the Baker Street BID is in the early stages: "consultation with local businesses is earmarked for early 2013.
14257. "Pendergast thinks like Sherlock Holmes, fights like James Bond, and looks like Andy Warhol," Will Boisvert reported in a review of THE WHEEL OF DARKNESS (2007), perhaps the first time Holmes, Bond, and Warhol have appeared in the same sentence. FBI special agent Aloysius Xingu L. Pendergast will be found in a series of books written by Douglas Preston and Lincoln Child, who have an interesting web-site at <www.prestonchild.com>.
14258. Michael Cox's A STUDY IN CELLULOID: A PRODUCER'S ACCOUNT OF JEREMY BRETT AS SHERLOCK HOLMES, first published by Rupert Books (May 00 #4), has been reissued (Bloomington: Gasogene Books, 2011; 222 pp., \$28.95), and it's grand that the book's again in print. Cox was the producer of the Granada series from 1984 to 1991, and he offers insightful discussion of the entire series and a new "re-introduction" to the book, which includes a touching account of the memorial service for Jeremy Brett in 1995, some of Dame Jean Conan Doyle's comments on the series, and much else of interest. Those who own the first edition value it highly: if they have it, they keep it, and there are very few copies available on the used-book market, and at three-figure prices. Recommended.
14259. The 20th and final chapter of Stephen Gaspar's pastiche "Cold Hearted Murder" is now available at <www.stephengaspar.blogspot.com>, along with the earlier chapters (he started posting the pastiche in January).
14260. 4-D films are a relatively new phenomenon; they combine 3-D film with special effects in the theater, and tend to be shown in venues such as amusement and theme parks (although the films also can be screened without the special effects in normal theaters). "Sherlock Holmes 4D" is an 11-minute "comedy mystery adventure" being produced by Red Star 4D of Sheffield, England, authorized by the Conan Doyle Estate Ltd., according to Jon Lellenberg. There's a one-minute teaser available at <www.sherlockholmes4d.com>. No word yet as to when or where the film can be seen (and experienced).
14261. Steve Emezc reports that MX Publishing will follow up on their "Great Sherlock Holmes Debate" (September 11 #5) with a monthly light discussion, the first one being scheduled on Dec. 14 from 8:00 to 10:00 pm GMT, open to all; you can register at <www3.gotomeeting.com/register/592595902>.
14262. Some truly unusual Conan Doyle material will be included in a sale at Wellers Auctioneers on Dec. 3 <www.wellersthesurreyauction.com/Film.html>: lot 752 (estimated at £100-£150) is described in the catalogue as "a group of ladies bed jackets and undergarments of silk and cotton with lace and broderie anglaise, formerly the property of Lady Jean Conan Doyle of Windlesham, Crowborough, some bearing name tape 'Conan-Doyle', comprising: seven long bodices/nightdresses, three pairs of separate leg drawstring bloomers, two petticoats, and three bed jackets."

November 2011 #7

14263. "'Meow'trage at Algonquin" was the headline on a story in the N.Y. Post on Nov. 23 about Matilda III, the latest of the Algonquin Hotel's free-ranging cats: the Department of Health told the hotel that live animals are not allowed in food-service establishments unless a patron needs a service dog; the Algonquin, which serves food in the lobby, has been forced to end a tradition that began in 1932. The Algonquin will close on Jan. 1 for four months for a \$15-million renovation.
14264. Daniel Corey's MORIARTY comic-book mini-series from Image (July 11 #1) has completed its first four-issue story ("The Dark Chamber"). also now available as a trade paperback (\$14.99), and has begun a second story ("The Lazarus Tree"); his media company is DangerKatt, and you can see some of his work at his web-site <www.professorjamesmoriarty.com>.

14265. The late Peter Woods' article on "The Lost Special" (an excellent detailed investigation of Conan Doyle's Apocryphal story) is one of the featured articles in the fall issue of Canadian Holmes (published by The Bootmakers of Toronto for its members); a subscription's included with membership (\$35.00 a year). TDC Postal Station Box 1157, 77 King Street West, Toronto, ON M5K 1P2, Canada <www.sherlockian.net/bootmakers>.
14266. "Sherlock Holmes: Voices of the Celts" is a new play that presents Holmes and Watson solving a mystery that involves the Celtic Sacred Book of Kells, "just in time for the Winter Solstice and Christmas," at the Walnut Street Theatre Studio 5 from Dec. 2 to Dec. 11; 825 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107 (609-703-3906) <midsummernightplayers@comcast.net>.
14267. Francie LeVillard is the great-granddaughter of the famous French detective who consulted with Sherlock Holmes (as Holmes reported in "The Sign of the Four"), and is a detective in her own right, on the Monterey Peninsula, and appears in mysteries written by Tony Seton and available as on-line serials at <www.montereymystery.com>.
14268. Warner Bros. is hard at work publicizing "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows" (and will be working even hard in December, when the film will open in Hong Kong on Dec. 15, and then in the U.S. and the U.K. on Dec. 16. And of course there are all sorts of colorful posters available on the Internet, including one from Hong Kong that shows Gladstone (the dog who lives at 221B Baker Street); needless to say, it looks much better in a larger size and in full color, and you can see it at <www.comicbookmovie.com/fansites/Wolvie09/news/?a=50072>.
14269. There's also pleasant news about the BBC television series "Sherlock" that stars Benedict Cumberbatch: PBS-TV has announced that the second season's three new episodes will air in the U.S. beginning on May 6. Sorry: as far as I know, the BBC has not yet announced an air date for the U.K.
14270. Peter C. Shumway's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND 'THE KISS OF DEATH' was published by BookSurge in 2005, and a second, slightly revised edition is available online at <www.epix.net/~pshumway/kod.htm>; the pastiche has Holmes and Watson investigating a series of bizarre murders committed by an evil and vindictive magician.

November 2011 #8

14271. Peter Calamai delivered the annual Cameron Hollyer Lecture (on "The Real World of Sherlock Holmes"), at the Toronto Public Library last year, and his remarks were published for members of The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection; a limited number of copies are available if you join the Friends now. The web-site's at <www.acdfriends.org>; or you can contact Cliff Goldfarb, 22 Markdale Avenue, Toronto, ON M6C 1T1, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>, and the minimum donation (which includes three issues of their newsletter "Through the Magic Door) is \$25.00. This year's lecture by Tom Ue ("Sherlock Holmes and Shakespeare") will be sent to members of the Friends next year. A few copies of past lectures (Steven Rothman on Christopher Morley in 2008 and Michael Dirda on Conan Doyle as an Essayist and Journalist in 2009) are available at \$10.00 each.
14272. THE PUNISHMENT OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Bob Burr and Philip K. Jones (London: MX Publishing, 2011; 292 pp., £11.99/E12.99/\$18.95), is an astonishing anthology of Sherlockian humor, some of it Sherlockian directly and some by association only, including puns, jokes, spoonerisms, feghoots, shaggy dog stories, and the occasional feghoot; the majority of them were written or adapted by Burr, and all have been catalogued by Jones in his ever-expanding data base. The publisher's web-site is at <www.mxpublishing.com>.
14273. Also from MX Publishing: Charlie Roxburgh's THE CASE OF THE RUSSIAN CHESSBOARD (2011; 108 pp., £6.99/E7.99/\$9.95); the pastiche involves Holmes and Watson in the world of Russian radicals, idealists, and extremists in London, and it's a world full of treachery and conspiracies.
14274. And: Thomas Bruce Wheeler's THE LONDON OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (2011; 391 pp., (£13.99/E17.00/\$22.95) is a greatly enhanced version of his THE NEW FINDING SHERLOCK'S LONDON (June 09 #5); there are discussions of each story, and the London locations mentioned in them, and listings of locations near each underground and railway station and along each underground line, plus a few walking tours. The enhancement comes with the e-book edition, which costs \$9.00 to \$10.00 and will run on desktops, tablets, phones, and what-not; it is an impressive introduction (for me, at least) to what can be done with modern technology: clicking on geographical coordinates in the book brings up Google maps and allows you to maneuver through 360-degree photographic street views.
14275. And: Tracy Revels' SHADOWBLOOD: A NOVEL OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (2011; 193 pp., £10.99/E12.99/\$19.95) is a sequel to her SHADOWFALL (October 11 #2); Holmes and Watson are again in the world of wizards and wizardry, and in Florida, this time in pursuit of villains who in turn are in hot pursuit of the legendary Fountain of Youth.
14276. Ryan Jacobson and Deb Mercier have taken an interesting approach to the Canon in their CAN YOU SURVIVE: SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE'S ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Minneapolis: Lake 7 Creative, 2011; 157 pp., \$8.95), which is written for readers aged 9 to 13; it's a "choose your path" book that combines three of the stories and offers readers opportunities to decide how to proceed. Their web-site's at <www.lake7creative.com>.

December 2011 #1

14277. One does hear of Sherlock everywhere: Paul Martin reports that Tim Johnson, curator of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota, and the staff of the Brookings Public Library in South Dakota are collaborating on a four-month "A Life Explored" program on Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in Brookings. Go to <www.brookingslibrary.org> and click on "Newsletter" for more information.
14278. The official web-site for Frogwares' computer game "The Testament of Sherlock Holmes" (June 10 #5) is now live at <www.sherlockholmes-thegame.com>; click on "Collection" to review five earlier games from Frogwares.
14279. Further to the report (October 11 #4) about the "Sherlock" violin made by Steve Burnett from wood from the 170-year-old sycamore at Liberton Bank House in Edinburgh, musicians from the Royal Scottish National Orchestra performed on his new "Conan Doyle Quartette" (two violins, a cello, and a viola) at a concert that was broadcast on BBC-1's "The One Show" on Nov. 2; Burnett has a web-site at <www.burnettviolins.co.uk>, where you can listen to the musicians play a piece by Mendelssohn. The web-site also offers images of his instruments, and audio and video of his "Sherlock" violin in performance.
14280. Karen Ellery found Rikki Little's grotesque "Custom Zombie" artwork at his web-site at <www.etsy.com/shop/customzombie>; search for [sherlock] to see his "Sherlock Bones" and "Sherlock Holmes" prints. Little also does custom portraits for people who want to see what they'd look like as zombies.
14281. Alan Sues died on Dec. 1. He began his acting career on stage and continued in vaudeville, and then appeared in films and on television, where he was best known for his comic roles on the long-running series "Rowan & Martin's Laugh In". Sues also played Moriarty in a touring company in William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" in 1976 with Robert Stephens as Holmes in Toronto and with Leonard Nimoy in Detroit, Cleveland, Los Angeles, Denver, and Chicago. Lee Gibson has reported that he saw one performance in Chicago in which Nimoy and Sues exchanged roles: Sues was "a very fine Holmes" and Nimoy "a better Moriarty than he was a Holmes."

14282. THE DEAD WITNESS, edited by Michael Sims (New York: Walker & Company, 2011; 576 pp., \$20.00), is aptly subtitled "a connoisseur's collection of Victorian detective stories," and he offers an insightful introduction and an excellent selection that includes old favorites (the first two chapters of A STUDY IN SCARLET), familiar authors such as Poe and Dickens, and many stories that will be new to many if not most readers.
14283. Criminal Element is community web-site "featuring daily content for fans of the crime and mystery genres in all of their forms," and of course there's frequent Sherlockian content; you can sample their Sherlockian content at <www.criminalelement.com/features/series/sherlockiana?WTmc_id=undefined>, where you'll find "Sherlock Season 2 Scenes" (clips from the new mini-series), Lyndsay Faye's "Testosterone and a Powder Keg of Glitter" (her review of "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows"), Cathy Zhu Chen's "Holmes Coping with Alzheimers Comedy Sketch: Depressing?" (her comments on a skit "That Mitchell and Webb Look"), and much more.
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December 2011 #2

14284. Kim Newman describes his PROFESSOR MORIARTY: THE HOUND OF THE D'URBERVILLES (London: Titan Books, 2011; 488 pp., \$14.95) as a "novel disguised as a collection," and the book is a fine demonstration of the fact that villains continue to attract excellent writers; the story is told by Col. Moran (some chapters are reprints, and some are new), and the book is full of interesting characters, some borrowed from other authors. It's all grand fun, and recommended.
14285. And Newman's ANNO DRACULA (London: Titan Books, 2011; 547 pp., \$14.95) is an expanded new edition of his earlier imaginative novel (December 92 #3); it's an alternate-universe novel, with considerable cross-over: Queen Victoria has married Vlad Tepes, who is ruling as Prince Consort and as Lord Protector, and Mycroft Holmes is far more involved in a resistance movement than his brother. The new material includes annotations, an alternate ending, and an excerpt from Newman's movie script. ANNO DRACULA was the first of a series, and Titan will be publishing expanded new editions of the next two titles, and a brand new fourth title.
14286. Newman has an excellent web-site at <www.johnnyalucard.com>, and his essay on "Everything You Need to Know about Professor Moriarty" is available at <www.tinyurl.com/89oao4y>.
14287. The Pawky Humorists, one of the more unusual of the Sherlockian societies, was founded by Peter G. Ashman in 1974, revived by Norman M. Davis in 1989, was revived again by Linda Crane this year in an electronic version to be found at Facebook; just go to <www.facebook.com> and search for [pawky humorists].
14288. Reported: Barbara Roden's THE THAMES HORROR AND OTHER ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES is a new eBook published by the Ash-Tress Press; a collection of four stories, one of them new and the others reprints (\$5.99 for Kindle, Nook, etc.) <www.ash-tree.bc.ca/ebooks.htm>
14289. Digiview Entertainment has issued CDs of public-domain fiction, including (in 2006) CASE OF IDENTITY and THE RED-HEADED LEAGUE, nicely read by James Hadley; they're available inexpensively here and there on the Internet.
14290. John Linsenmeyer offers a discovery for anyone who's investigation forensic or medico-legal aspects of the Canon: important textbooks written by Alfred Swaine Taylor (1806-1880), who has been called the father of British forensic medicine, are readily available (free) at <www.books.google.com>. Just search for [alfred swaine taylor].
14291. The Wick Theatre Company will perform Tony Brownings' new dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" on Jan. 11-14 at the Barn Theatre (Southwick Street, Southwick, West Sussex BN42 4RE) <www.wicktheatre.co.uk>.
14292. THE DRAGON TURN (Toronto: Tundra, 2011; 220 pp., \$19.95) is the fifth book in Shane Peacock's series about "the boy Sherlock Holmes" (still on his own in London and learning how to be a detective, with the help of his friends Irene Doyle and Beatrice Leckie, and his mentor Sigerson Bell); the series is well written (and attractively produced by Tundra), and Peacock's web-site is at <www.shanepeacock.ca>.
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December 2011 #3

14293. The Feb. 2012 issue of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine, which will be found on newsstands during the birthday celebrations, has a Sherlockian cover photograph by Kurt Paris, a pastiche ("Shikari") by James Lincoln Warren, a sonnet ("Immortal Londoners") by Donald A. Yates. and a Sherlockian cartoon by Bob Schochet. You can see some of Schochet's non-'S'ian work at <www.dialanartist.com/portfoliolist.htm?it=4&ar=176>.
14294. Reported: a 25th anniversary edition of SCARLET IN GASLIGHT, the comic-book series and graphic novel written by Martin Powell and illustrated by Seppo Makinen (May 88 #5), from CreateSpace (\$9.99); Sherlock Holmes vs. Dracula.
14295. SPOT THE PLOT, by J. Patrick Lewis (San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2009; 28 pp., \$15.99), is an amusing "riddle book of book riddles" with Sherlockian artwork by Lynn Munsinger on the cover and on inside pages.
14296. Some film costumes are worth more than others: Basil Rathbone's wool cape overcoat used in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" sold for \$61,500 when Debbie Reynolds' collection of movie memorabilia was sold at auction (June 11 #6), but a brown shirt that was used by Patrick Macnee in "Sherlock Holmes in New York" (1976), estimated at £30.00-50.00 by Cameo Auctioneers in a sale on Dec. 6, went unsold.
14297. John Baesch has reported an attractive deerstalker in a catalog from the J. Peterman Company (888-647-2555) <www.jpeterman.com>; it's item 2914 and costs \$128. The catalog notes that "This is not the hat of an urban detective. But don't blame Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. It was the famed illustrator Sidney Paget who was a fan of the stylish 'fore and aft,' and sketched Sherlock in it for the Strand Magazine in 1881. It just sort of fit."
14298. Deb Weissler, a fervent Sherlockian miniaturist (July 09 #6 and January 10 #5), has a colorful article about her Sherlockian room box in the October issue of Dolls House and Miniature Scene; you can see photographs of her excellent work at <www.tinuurl.com/7eovvgu>.
14299. Arthur Twidle is perhaps best known for his illustrations of the Sherlock Holmes stories in The Strand Magazine, but he was a prolific artist; some of his non-Sherlockian art will be available at Leland Little Auction & Estate Sales on Jan. 4 <www.tinyurl.com/73g2vrq>.
14300. Steven Dietz's play "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" will be produced at the Long Beach Playhouse, Feb. 25 to Mar. 24; 5021 East Anaheim Street, Long Beach, CA 90804 (562-494-1014) <www.lbplayhouse.org>.
14301. Willis Frick reports that Cox has shut down Sherlocktron (along with everyone else's Personal WebSpace), explaining that declining usage of the service "has highlighted the need to focus our resources on other priorities, such as increasing our Internet speeds and providing new services." Willis quickly found a new host <www.sherlocktron.hostoi.com/Sherlocktron.html>.
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December 2011 #4

14302. The Edinburgh Scotsman has reported (Dec. 22) that the family of Dr. Joseph Bell has donated all of his papers, and other material, to the Royal College of Surgeons; one item in the collection is the letter to Bell from Conan Doyle in which he wrote "It is most certainly to you that I owe Sherlock Holmes." The collection is part of an exhibition at the Surgeons' Hall Museum, and planning is underway for a special "Conan Doyle Day" in the New Year.
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14303. The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's *The Sherlockian E-Times* will be found at <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times11-12.html>, offering Sherlockiana, old and new, books and much more, and an opportunity to see a colorful rendition of one of Jim Vogelsang's "Olmes 'n Watso" Christmas cards.
14304. The modern version of *The Strand Magazine*, published by Andrew Gulli, continues to offer interesting (and occasionally Sherlockian) fiction and reviews; the latest issue is #35 (\$6.95) and includes Lyndsay Faye's new pastiche "The Adventure of the Vintner's Codex" (a new version of the case of Vamberry, the wine merchant).
14305. A *Wall Street Journal* blog, kindly forwarded by Bob Katz, noted on Dec. 18 that wide-release franchise films failed to match what their previous installments earned, continuing a domestic box-office slump; the highest boxoffice receipts went to "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows", which grossed \$39.6 million over the three-day weekend. "Sherlock Holmes" grossed \$62.3 million on a "magical" weekend in 2009 when the Christmas holiday fell on a Friday and children were already out of school, according to Dan Fellman, Warner Bros.' president of domestic distribution, and he was pleased with the reception of the sequel, which cost \$125 million and attracted a 59% male audience.
14306. <www.boxofficemojo.com> is a fine web-site for tracking how movies do (and have done) at the box office. As of Dec. 29, the new film had grossed \$159 million world-wide. The web-site offers daily and weekly figures only for domestic gross: the first film in the franchise grossed \$146.6 million in the first two weeks, and the second film grossed \$110 million.
14307. WaterTower Music has issued the soundtrack of "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows" as a CD (\$9.99) and as an MP3 download (\$4.99). According to the Internet Movie Data Base, people who purchase the 18-track album will also be able to download three free additional tracks from the film, along with a video chronicling composer Hans Zimmer's trip to Slovakia to record the music of the Roma people.
14308. And "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Good Music" is a blog by Anastasia Tsioulcas at <www.npr.org/blogs/deceptivecadence> [scroll down to the title of the piece]; she praises Zimmer's "clever score" and is pleased that for once "it's not just the villain who loves classical music."
14309. National Public Radio <www.npr.org> has much of interest: you can listen to interviews on programs such as "All Things Considered" (Anthony Horowitz, Les Klinger, and Laurie King on Dec. 19), "Morning Edition" (Michael Sims on Dec. 22) and read blogs. Search for [sherlock holmes] or [conan doyle], and don't neglect older material in the archives.

December 2011 #5

14310. M. Diane Vogt's *THE LITTLE BOOK OF BATHROOM CRIME PUZZLES* (New York: MJF Books, 2005) is Sherlockian only for a small picture of a rubber duckie in Sherlockian costume on the front cover of the book, similar (but not identical) to the real rubber duckie in Sherlockian costume that was briefly in shops a few years ago. You can see the front cover of the book at Amazon, and elsewhere on the Internet images of the real rubber duckie (which seems not to be available for purchase anywhere).
14311. For completists: Sherlockian artwork on the cover of David Levinson Wilk's *REALLY CLEVER CROSSWORDS* (New York: Puzzlewright Press, 2004; 95 pp., \$8.95). The puzzles are full of wordplay, and the collection is described at Amazon as an "official MENSA puzzle book."
14312. Anthony Horowitz's new pastiche *THE HOUSE OF SILK* (London: Orion Books, 2011; 304 pp., £18.99) (New York: Mulholland Books, 2011; 294 pp., \$27.99) has been reviewed widely and promoted heavily, and he tells an interesting story that involves Holmes and Watson in two intersecting mysteries and a "dire conspiracy that threatens to tear apart the very fabric of society." The publisher has described the book as the first Sherlock Holmes novel to be authorized by the Arthur Conan Doyle Estate Ltd. (the heirs of Dame Jean Conan Doyle), but of course it isn't. Horowitz is the creator of the television series "Foyle's War" and the author of the "Alex Rider" children's series, and his web-site's at <www.anthonyhowitz.com>.
14313. Spotted at eBay: a publicity still from "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (1939) signed by Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce; the auction ends on January 3, and the opening bid is \$6,000. It will be interesting, of course, to see if anyone bids.
14314. Mary Losure's *THE FAIRY RING: ELSIE AND FRANCES FOOL THE WORLD* (Somerville: Candlewick Press, 2012; 181 pp., \$16.99) is an interesting approach to the story of the Cottingley fairies: the book is written for children ages 10 and up, and it's carefully researched and tells the story of Elsie, Frances, and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle well.
14315. The Long Beach Shakespeare Company performed a reading of "The Blue Carbuncle" on Dec. 22, with Richard MacPherson as Holmes, and (thanks to the Internet) you can listen to a web-cast at <www.lbshakespeare.org/audio.php>.
14316. "It is a truth universally acknowledged," Michael Dirda suggested, "that a restless reader in possession of a quiet evening must be in want of a mystery." That's the opening of his review in the *Washington Post* (Dec. 8) of P. D. James' new *DEATH COMES TO PEMBERLEY*, a mystery devised as a sequel to Jane Austen's *PRIDE AND PREJUDICE*, and all of Jane Austen's fans will know how appropriate his language is.
14317. Detective novelist N. Narasimhaliah died on Dec. 25. He had written more than 550 detective novels, and according to stories in the Indian press he often said that while people described him as the Sherlock Holmes of Kannada, "they might have wanted to call me Arthur Conan Doyle."

December 2011 #6

14318. The second season of the television series "Sherlock" that stars Benedict Cumberbatch will begin on the BBC beginning on Jan. 1, and on PBS-TV on May 6, but people outside Britain don't have to wait that long to see the series if you can play region 2 DVDs: the British set will be released on Mar. 5 (£12.99), according to <www.amazon.co.uk>. There is a lot of information about "Sherlock" at <www.sherlockology.com>; the folks who maintain Sherlockology describe it as "a fan-site dedicated to the BBC drama Sherlock."
14319. The *Daily Telegraph* reported (Dec. 30) that the first series has been sold to 180 countries, and provided a link <www.tinyurl.com/6q48eux> that allows you to watch a 3-minute video with Holmes and Watson speaking fluently in Italian, Russian, Spanish, and French.
14320. It has been about 40 years since this newsletter was founded as quite informal "information sheets" mailed to John Bennett Shaw by way of sharing Sherlockian and Doylean gossip with him (the "about" being due to the fact that the earliest pages were not dated). The gossip was of course written on what some now blithely call a "steam typewriter" at a time when postage cost 8c an ounce, and the paragraphs were full of arcane abbreviations that John had no difficulty in understanding.
14321. Soon there were other readers, and eventually actual subscribers, and then a more formal name, and the manual typewriter was succeeded by an electric and in March 1985 by a computer. Those who want more history are welcome to read the opening page at <www.sherlocktron.hostoi.com/scuttle.htm>.
14322. Which of course brings us to the Internet, which in the early days was managed for the academic community by the National Science Foundation, which imposed on users a strict "acceptable use policy" intended to prevent commercial use of the Internet; somewhere in my archives there's a copy of the letter I wrote to the NSF asking if reports of things offered for sale by others was acceptable, and a reply confirming that the newsletter was not in violation of the rules.

14323. Of course now the newsletter is full of URLs and a new jargon. And there are no doubt many people who are quite happy to read all of the gossip in bits and bytes. Certainly there are fewer people now who actually pay for a subscription: there were more than 300 subscribers to the newsletter in 1995 (when subscribers in the U.S. paid \$8.90 a year), and fewer than 150 now.
14324. How times change. I acquired my first videocassette a few years after the information sheets were launched, and my first VCR a few years later (the reason for that sequence being part of my occasional lecture on Sherlockian pornography). Now there are DVDs and streaming audio and video on the Internet, and of course electronic books and stories that are available only in that format, which makes things interesting for people who collect first printings of first editions. How do you collect first editions of e-books? What will book collectors be collecting 40 years from now?
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January 2012 #1

14325. Sherlockians (and Holmesians) gathered in New York to celebrate the Great Detective's 158th birthday during the long weekend from Jan. 11 to Jan. 15. The festivities began with the traditional ASH Wednesday dinner sponsored by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes at O'Casey's and continued with the Christopher Morley Walk led by Jim Cox and Dore Nash on Thursday morning, followed by the usual lunch at McSorley's).
14326. The Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Speaker at the Midtown Executive Club on Thursday evening was Dr. Lisa Sanders, author of a "Diagnosis" column for the N.Y. Times and the technical advisor for the television series "House, M.D."; the title of her talk was "Is Holmes Crazy As a Fox, or Just Plain Crazy?", and you will be able to read her paper in the next issue of The Baker Street Journal.
14327. The William Gillette Luncheon at Moran's was well attended, as always, and featured Donny Zaldin and Hartley Nathan in a Sherlockian "Carnac the Magnificent" skit and the Friends of Bogie's at Baker Street (Paul Singleton, Sarah Montague, and Andrew Joffe) in a Sherlockian tribute to the centenary of the sinking of the Titanic. The luncheon also was the occasion for Al Gregory's presentation of the annual January Whimsey award (named in memory of his wife January Stauber) for the most whimsical piece in The Serpentine Muse last year; the winner (Karen Murdock, author of "Do You Write Like Arthur Conan Doyle?") received a certificate and a check for the Canonical sum of \$221.17. And Otto Penzler's traditional open house at the Mysterious Bookshop offered the usual opportunities to browse and buy.
14328. The Irregulars and their guests gathered for the BSI's annual dinner at the Yale Club, with Les Klinger offering the preprandial first toast to Connie Kean as The Woman. The dinner's theme was "His Last Bow" (in celebration of the centenary of the beginning of Holmes' involvement in the case), and it featured the usual toasts and traditions, as well as papers and tributes and a hilarious "dramatic homage" by Paul Singleton and Scott Monty to the BSI's 2000 Year Old Man.
14329. Mike Whelan (the BSI's "Wiggins") presented the BSI Trust's first Benefactor's Medal to Glen Miranker, an editor's medal to Mary Ann Bradley for her work on the 2011 Baker Street Journal Christmas Annual (a tribute to Lenore Glen Offord), and a Two-Shilling Award to Henry Boote (for maintaining the BSI musical tradition launched by Harvey Officer in the 1940s and continued by Jim and Bruce Montgomery). And this year's Birthday Honours (Irregular Shillings and Investitures were presented to Mark Samuel Schwartz ("Thucydides"), Phil Bergem ("Birdy Edwards"), Helen Dorey ("Helen Stoner"), Peter Accardo ("Thornycroft Huxtable"), Akane Higashiyama ("Baritsu"), Don Hobbs ("Inspector Lestrade"), Donny Zaldin ("John Hector McFarlane"), and Mary Ann Bradley ("Mary Morstan").
14330. "Jewels in the Canon" was the theme of the Gaslight Gala at the Manhattan Club, where the entertainment included toasts, old songs with new Sherlockian lyrics, skits, door prizes, a raffle, an auction, and a "Questionable Crossword" quiz that required punned answers in a "yell it out if you know it" format.
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January 2012 #2

14331. Some of the more fervent (or possibly hard core) Sherlockians have been known to gather after the dinners at O'Lunney's Irish Pub to honor long-standing traditions such as staying until at least 2:21; another tradition calls for newly-Investitured Irregulars to buy a round of tequila shots, and it has been reported that this year was no exception.
14332. On Saturday morning Covent Garden West (the dealers room at the Roosevelt Hotel) welcomed sellers and buyers, and authors and editors delighted to inscribe or sign their books. And The Beacon Society presented its annual Beacon Award (recognizing someone who introduces young people to the Sherlock Holmes stories) to William S. Dorn; the society has an excellent web-site <www.beaconsociety.com> where you can read excerpts from Bill's "Study Guide to Sherlock Holmes".
14333. The BSI's Saturday-afternoon reception at the Association of the Bar of the City of New York offered entertainment, conversation, wining, and dining; the entertainment included a Sherlockian "Gallagher & Shean" duet performed by James Saunders and Henry Boote. Sonia Fetherston was announced as the winner of the Morley-Montgomery Award (an attractive certificate accompanied by a check) for the best contribution to The Baker Street Journal last year (her article on "I Met Harry Murcher"). And the Watson Fund benefited from energetic sales of raffle tickets for Maggie Schpak's handsome replica Lady Frances Carfax's antique Spanish jewellery, and an auction of literary and artistic donations to the Fund.
14334. The principal Saturday-evening event was the "Lost in New York with a Bunch of Sherlockians" dinner arranged by The Curious Collectors of Baker Street at Kennedy's Irish Pub, and then on Sunday morning a goodly crowd gathered at the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes' brunch at the Oldcastle Pub & Restaurant.
14335. A final note for those who want to plan ahead: The Baker Street Irregulars' next annual dinner will be held on Jan. 11, 2013. And the Sherlock Holmes Society of London's annual dinner likely will be on Jan. 19, 2013.
14336. I've not reported on everything, I hasten to add; there will be much more detailed reports in the spring issue of The Baker Street Journal. The BSJ appears quarterly, and subscriptions (four issues plus the Christmas Annual) cost \$38.50 (to the U.S.) or \$49.00 (elsewhere); checks can be sent to the BSJ (Box 583, Zionsville, IN 46077), and credit-card payments are welcome from foreign subscribers.
14337. You can also subscribe at the BSJ web-site at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>, which also has interesting features such as some of the papers written by winners of the Morley-Montgomery Awards, articles from recent issues of the BSJ, and information on the BSI's other publications and activities. And in the meantime, you can read Scott Monty's reports on the birthday festivities at his blog at <www.bakerstreetblog.com>.
14338. Al Gregory <gaslightandfog@earthlink.net> offers (by e-mail only) his 2012 edition of "The ABC of the BSI" (an alphabetical listing of Investitures, with recipients, from "Abbey Grange" to "Young Stamford") and "The Florin Society" (couples in which both spouses have received Irregular Shillings).
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January 2012 #3

14339. Plan ahead: The Baker Street Irregulars' running of The Silver Blaze will return to Saratoga Springs Race Track in upstate New York on Aug. 4; it will be a weekend gathering, and details will be available soon from Lou and Candace Lewis (2 Lookerman Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603) (845-471-0296) <www.silverblazeny.homestead.com>.
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14340. Plan farther ahead: registration is now open for the BSI's weekend conference in Los Angeles on Aug. 30-Sept. 3. "Sherlock Holmes: Behind the Canonical Screen" will be held at UCLA and will feature actors, producers, and directors, as well as presentations on screenwriting, casting, costuming, lighting, and sound. And screening of several rare and recently-restored films. Details at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com/losangeles2012.html>.
14341. Alice Wright posted to the "Letters of Mary" mailing list noting an interesting post to the Earth Observing System blog at <www.tinyurl.com/7zx7oq6> by Eos Chater about what it was like teaching Benedict Cumberbatch how to portray Holmes as a violin player. She performs in the Bond String Quartet <www.bondmusic.net>.
14342. If you'd like to add Esperanto to your collection of Sherlock Holmes stories in translation, Don Hobbs has found LA PLANOJ DE BRUCE PARTINGTON (36 pp., €5.00 from Books on Demand GmbH at <www.amazon.de>).
14343. Don also has some nice news for those who want a translation in Piemontese (a language of the Piedmont region in northwest Italy): SHERLOCK HOLMES: EL MASTIN DIJ BASKERVILLE is available from <www.libreriauniversitaria.it> for €15.00; search for [9788889768389]. The number of languages for Canonical translations is now 90.
14344. Willis Frick continues to add material to Sherlocktron, which can be found at <www.sherlocktron.hostoi.com/Sherlocktron.html>, the latest being Phil Bergem's checklists of "Sherlock Holmes (and Holmes Related) Film and Television Programs" and "Non-Sherlockian Conan Doyle Films and Television Programs".
14345. "Felted Soap Sherlock Holmes" is handcrafted by Zoe Djukic at Sofino <www.etsy.com/shop/sofino>; it's a 4-ounce bar of sage and lemongrass soap encased in soft Merino wool (and you can reuse the pouch when the soap's gone); \$18.00 plus shipping. The folks at Criminal Element suggest that "perhaps this fun, woolly Sherlock will wash away your iniquities."
14346. The Beacon Society has announced a Mar. 1 deadline for teachers, librarians, Sherlockian literary societies, and others apply for a January Stauber Grant, which funds (up to \$250) development of a project that will introduce young people to the Canon. The application form, guidelines, and additional details are available at the society's web-site at <www.beaconsociety.com>.
14347. "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is a delightful parody that was written by Steven Canny and John Nicholson in 2007, and it will be produced by the New Jersey Repertory Company from Apr. 19 to May 20; 179 Broadway, Long Branch, NJ 07740 (732-229-3166) <www.njrep.org>.

January 2012 #4

14348. Don Christian spotted a story on National Public Radio's "All Things Considered" (Jan. 2) that might be of interest to those who recall that Sherlock Holmes owned a Stradivarius: 17 blindfolded expert violinists were asked to identify whether an excerpt from Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto in D Major was played on a Strad or on a modern violin. Only three of the experts got it right. You can listen to the story, and take the test yourself, at <www.tinyurl.com/75hhehb>.
14349. Ronald Searle died on Dec. 30. He was a well-known cartoonist, caricaturist, and cover artist for newspapers and magazines in Britain, France, and the United States. Most famous, perhaps, for creating "The Belles of St. Trinian's" and "Molesworth", Searle also drew the sitting room at 221B Baker Street for the catalog of the Abbey House exhibition in 1951, reprinted in Punch (June 20, 1951); other Sherlockian work included an illustration in Punch (July 6, 1953) and a cartoon in The New Yorker (Dec. 16, 1991).
14350. The publicity still from "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (1939) signed by Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce that was offered at eBay with an opening bid of \$6,000 (December 11 #5) went unsold when no one entered a bid.
14351. Nice news for friends of Matilda (described by the N.Y. Times as the "Algonquin's Roaming Diva Cat"): after the Department of Health expressed concern about a live animal that isn't a service dog being present in a foodservice establishment (November 11 #7), the Algonquin has installed an electric fence that will ensure that Matilda stays in a safe section of the lobby. You can read all about it at <www.tinyurl.com/89sswdz>.

January 2012 #5

14352. Big Finish continues to issue excellent Sherlockian audio, the latest being THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, dramatized by Richard Dinnick and starring Nicholas Briggs as Holmes and Richard Earl as Watson, on two CDs (\$23.91) and as a download (\$12.99); PO Box 3787, Maidenhead, Berks. SE6 3TF, England) <www.bigfinish.com>. It's a full-cast recording, with featurette interviews with cast and crew.
14353. Briggs and Earl also star in Big Finish recordings of THE FINAL PROBLEM AND THE EMPTY HOUSE, in George Mann's interesting pastiche THE REIFICATION OF HANS GERBER, and Brian Clemens 1988 play HOLMES AND THE RIPPER, each on two CDs and as downloads (same prices). Other similar sets available from Big Finish include their earlier recordings (February 10 #6) of Roger Llewellyn in David Stuart Davies' plays SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE LAST ACT (1999) and SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE DEATH AND LIFE (2008). They're all well done, and there are more to come (check their web-site).
14354. Laurie R. King has reported on her Facebook page that the next Mary Russell novel (GAME OF SHADOWS) will be published in September. It's all about Fez (in Morocco), and she has noted that she had its title, which is central to the theme of the novel, long before she heard of the new Robert Downey Jr. movie, and she sees no reason to change her title.
14355. Harvey Mackie's dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is scheduled at the Jewel Box Theatre, Mar. 1-25. 3700 North Walker Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK 73188 (405-521-1786) <www.jewelboxtheatre.org>.
14356. Friends of the late Bill Rabe will recall the "List of Words Banished from the Queen's English for Misuse, Overuse, and General Uselessness" that he launched in 1976. Lake Superior State University in Michigan continues the tradition, and there was a fine story about this year's list, with mention of Bill, on "All Things Considered" on National Public Radio on Jan. 1. You can listen to (and read) the story at <www.tinyurl.com/8ymo38m>. Thanks to Jon Lellenberg for noting the report.
14357. Jonathan Cecil died on Sept. 22, 2011. He began his acting career in cabaret at Oxford with Dudley Moore and Alan Bennett, made his television debut in 1964, and went on to a long career, also acting on stage and screen and specializing in comic roles. He also was the Honeymoon Groom in "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970), but in the "naked honeymooner" segment that was cut from the film before it was released.
14358. Ben Stephenson, controller of drama for the BBC refused earlier this month to confirm that there would be more than two seasons of the BBC's mini-series "Sherlock", and co-creator Steven Moffat told BBC News that there was ""no guarantee we'll be bringing him back." But as soon as the "Reichenbach" episode aired Moffat told fans "Yes, of course there's going to be a third series--it was commissioned at the same time as the second. Gotcha!"
14359. Judith Freeman's useful index to The Serpentine Muse (published by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes since 1975); the index is available from her by e-mail as an Excel spreadsheet <judith-freeman@hotmail.com>, and the ASH web-site <www.ash-nyc.com> has information on subscribing to the Muse (back issues are unfortunately not available).

January 2012 #6

14360. "What Scott Learned" was the headline on a story in the Washington Post on Jan. 3 <www.tinyurl.com/6u3wtz2>, about Robert Falcon Scott's ill-fated attempt to be the first to reach the South Pole. One of the photographs with the story shows Scott writing in his journal in a wooden hut at Cape Evans, with shelves of books behind him, and two books on his bed. One of the books he took with him to the Antarctic was Conan Doyle's THE GREEN FLAG AND OTHER STORIES OF WAR AND SPORT, and it's still there, preserved as the southernmost copy of a book written by Sir Arthur.
14361. Anglofile, offering detailed coverage of British entertainment and formerly available by mail, now is a blog by Leslie King, and you can read her latest news at <anglofileplus.livejournal.com/9043.html>; she offers early reports on programs to come on PBS-TV and on BBC America.
14362. Sarah Montague reports from time to time on Sherlockian affairs for WNYC-FM (New York), and this year she has honored Sherlock Holmes' birthday with a story about A STUDY IN SHERLOCK, the anthology edited by Laurie R. King and Leslie S. Klinger; she interviewed the editors and some of the contributors (including Neil Gaiman and S. J. Rozann), and you can hear her broadcast at <www.tinyurl.com/7sv7p2w>.
14363. News from Don Izban: the Colonel Sebastian Moran Secret Gun Club will hold its quadrennial "Hunt for the Mongoose Named Moriarty" in Chicago on Feb. 29 (the event takes place only during Leap Years); contact Don (1812 Rene Court, Park Ridge, IL 06068) (847-292-1270) for more information.
14364. Compliments to eagle-eyed Nick Utechin, whose letter to The Times (Jan. 19) had the headline "If One Is Paying Careful Attention, Inside One Sherlock Holmes One May Well Find...Another Sherlock Holmes"; Nick was grateful to Steven Moffat and Mark Gatiss for their choice of the actor who played the perturbed gentleman in the Diogenes Club in "The Reichenbach Fall" (that's the third episode of the new "Sherlock" mini-series). The actor was Douglas Wilmer, who has played Holmes many times, and has just celebrated his 92nd birthday.
14365. The Woodland Opera House Theatre Company is performing Steven Dietz's play "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" through Feb. 12. 340 Second Street, Woodland, CA 95695 (530-666-9617) <www.woodlandoperahouse.org>
14366. The Vigilante Theatre Company is performing Bruce Hurlbut's new play "House Arrest: The Curious Events Surrounding the Retirement of Sherlock Holmes" on tour in Montana, with a stop at Quinns Hot Springs Resort in Paradise on Feb. 11-12; their web-site's at <www.vigilantetheatrecompany.com>.
14367. The Daily Telegraph reported (Jan. 13) that the one-bedroom flat just above Speedy's on North Gower Street in London is available for rent for £300 per week. The building is used for exterior shots for the BBC mini-series that stars Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman (interiors scenes are filmed elsewhere). The story noted that the estate agent's listing does not mention whether living in the flat will "give you preternatural observational powers, a doting landlady, or a network of homeless friends." The agent's listing at <www.mchughandco.com/Lettings/Letting.aspx#&&s=0> may still be viewed (if the flat has not already been taken).
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January 2012 #7

14368. The Mystery Writers of America have announced the nominees for this year's Edgar awards, which include Michael Dirda's ON CONAN DOYLE; OR, THE WHOLE ART OF STORYTELLING (best critical/biographical), Neil Gaiman's "The Case of Death and Honey" (best short story), and Jeffrey Hatcher's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club" and Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot" (competing head-to-head for best play); Neil's story appeared in the anthology A STUDY IN SHERLOCK. The winners will be announced at the MWA Gala Banquet in New York on Apr. 26.
14369. Distinctive Dummies, founded in 2010, creates attractive 12" custom action figures for fans of science fiction, horror, and Hammer Films, and the last of those categories has brought them to Peter Cushing as Sherlock Holmes in the 1959 film "The Hound of the Baskervilles"). The figure costs \$99.99 postpaid worldwide, and if you want to see it in full color you can visit their web-site at <www.distinctivedummies.net/the_hammer_collection.html>. If they're successful with Cushing, they hope to follow up with Basil Rathbone and Jeremy Brett.
14370. Mill Creek Entertainment is planning to release a three-DVD set with all 26 episodes of the animated children's series "Sherlock Holmes in the 22nd Century" on Feb. 21 (\$12.98), along with a single "best-of" DVD with 10 episodes (\$9.98). And for completists: there will be different artwork on the boxes.
14371. Sarah Greenwood, the production designer for both of Guy Ritchie's "Sherlock Holmes" films, will recreate her production studio for an exhibition at the Arts Gallery at the University of the Arts London, through Mar. 9; she has mocked up her studio, including research material, scripts, notebooks, drawings, schedules, and models. More information about the exhibition can be found at <www.tinyurl.com/78l87hx>.
14372. CBS announced plans for a modern-day "Sherlock Holmes" drama last year (September 11 #5), and the entertainment trade press has now reported (Jan. 17) that CBS has green-lighted the project, which is now called "Elementary" and is a step closer to actual production. The new pilot will have Holmes living in New York City.
14373. Welcome to our new postage rates, which are now 45¢ per ounce (domestic), 85¢ (Canada), and \$1.05 (international). The old rates were 44¢/80¢/98¢. The cost of printed envelopes also has increased, and the new subscription rates for the ink-on-paper version of Scuttlebutt are \$11.70 (domestic) and \$16.50 (Canada) and \$18.90 (international). Electronically enabled readers can of course read the newsletter on-line without charge: searchable text of all issues since Mar. 1985 is available at Willis Frick's "Sherlocktron" <www.members.cox.net/sherlock1/scuttle.htm>, and Scott Monty's archive of scanned images of issues since Jan. 2011 can be found at Scribd's web-site <www.scribd.com/collections/2854548/Scuttlebutt-from-the-Spermaceti-Press>.
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February 2012 #1

14374. The Internet certainly makes things interesting (or frustrating) for people want to be surprised when they see films or television: web-sites have been flooded with discussion of the BBC's second series, and it's not going to be easy for American viewers who won't see the series until it is broadcast here in May to avoid spoilers. And then there are the DVDs, which are now available to anyone who can play region 2 DVDs on a computer or on a multiregion DVR. But it will be reasonably safe to read this newsletter, where you won't find anything about the shocking revelations in Laura Lyons' diaries in "The Hounds of Baskerville".
14375. MovieViral.com is web-site that offers news and analysis of viral and ARG [alternate reality game] campaigns for films and other forms of entertainment, and they ran a story by Anne Kirn on Feb. 4 <www.tinyurl.com/78bpuyq> about the fan-based "Believe in Sherlock" movement launched after the finale of the BBC's second "Sherlock" television series.
14376. And sales of Sherlock Holmes books have increased in Britain: a representative of Waterstone's (the nation's largest chain of book stores) has said, "The BBC's stunning adaptation has succeeded in making Holmes relevant to a new generation of readers. Whilst the original books may lack references to blogging and cyberspace, the stories remain utterly compelling."
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14377. THE GRAND GAME: A CELEBRATION OF SHERLOCKIAN SCHOLARSHIP: VOLUME TWO: 1960-2010, edited by Laurie R. King and Leslie S. Klinger, is a splendid companion to the first volume (January 11 #3), demonstrating how enjoyable it can be watching experts play the Sherlockian game; Klinger's introduction "Why We Write" explains the rules and notes correctly that "the Grand Game is alive and well!" 390 pp., \$39.95 to the U.S./\$49.95 elsewhere, plus shipping). The publisher's web-site is at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>.
14378. Nicol Williamson died on Dec. 16 He began his acting career in repertory theater and joined the Royal Shakespeare Company in 1962, quickly becoming a highly-regarded star on stage, screen, and television, and was compared to Charles Laughton, Laurence Olivier, and Marlon Brando. His film roles included an appearance as Sherlock Holmes in "The Seven-Per-Cent Solution" (1976).
14379. The "news" has been reported all over the Internet, but it originated with the [London] Sun, which is widely regarded as the least reliable newspaper published in the U.K.: "Guy Ritchie is making a third Sherlock Holmes movie --but this time it will be based in Hollywood." Needless to say, the story is credited to "a source."
14380. "The Radio Adventures of Dr. Floyd" is an audio and video series created by Grant Baciocco and Doug Price for Dementia Radio in 2004 and now distributed via podcast; there were three 10-minute Sherlockian episodes, podcast on Oct. 13, 21, and 27, 2008, that are notable for the actor who played Sherlock Holmes: Stan Freberg; the first episode (#708) ends with a set-up and the story continues in episodes #709 and #710. You can listen to and download the programs at <www.doctorfloyd.com/media/season7>. Bill Anselm gets credit for discovering and reporting the series.

February 2012 #2

14381. Mike Kean reports that the Diogenes Club of Carmel-by-the-Sea will hold a special meeting in San Francisco on Nov. 10 aboard the SS Jeremiah O'Brien, the only surviving operational World War II Liberty ship. The gathering will include other Sherlockian societies in northern California, and all Sherlockians are welcome to attend; there will be a private tour of the vessel, cocktails, a catered dinner, and a program on "The Nautical Sherlock Holmes". Additional information about the event is available from Capt. Walter W. Jaffee <merships@yahoo.com>. And the ship has its own web-site at <www.ssjeremiahobrien.org>.
14382. Michael Dirda's ON CONAN DOYLE; OR, THE WHOLE ART OF STORYTELLING has been nominated for an Agatha (best nonfiction) from Malice Domestic; the winners of the Agathas will be announced at the Malice Awards Banquet in Bethesda, Md., on Apr. 30. There's still time to register for the convention; their web-site's at <www.malicedomestic.org>.
14383. The 2011 issue of Beaten's Christmas Annual has been published by The Sound of the Baskervilles of Seattle, with 64 pages of scholarship, quizzes, and pastiches; the scholarship ranges from Stephen Adkins' "Is Sherlock Holmes a Drug Addict?" to Bill Mason's "Diagnosing 'The Resident Patient': Questions About a Sherlockian Tale". The annual costs \$13.00 postpaid (\$18.00 outside the U.S.), checks (in U.S. dollars, please) payable to The Sound of the Baskervilles should be sent to Terri Haugen, 3606 Harborcrest Court NW, Gig Harbor, WA 98332. There's also news of a handsome Sherlockian giclee print by Gayle Holmes shown in full color at <www.gayleholmesfineart.com>; if you mention The Sound of the Baskervilles when you place your order, she will donate 10% of the proceeds to the society's treasury.
14384. A limited-edition linocut print (38/75), signed in pencil, of Edward Bawden's frontispiece for the Folio Society edition of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (1987) was sold at Sworders Fine Art Auctioneers on Jan. 10, with an estimate of £400-£500; it sold, with a hammer price of £400.
14385. Chris Martin, front man for the rock band Coldplay, and husband of Gwyneth Paltrow, has long enjoyed the Sherlock Holmes stories (June 05 #4), and (according to director Guy Ritchie) suggested Stephen Fry for the role of Mycroft in "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows".
14386. Sherlockiana continues to appear in Japan, thanks to translations by Masamichi Higurashi; Mitch's latest are Carole Nelson Douglas' GOOD NIGHT, MR. HOLMES (Tokyo Sogensha, 2 vols., ¥940 each), and Daniel Stashower's "The Second Treaty" for MYSTERIES! (v. 48, ¥1,200), which also has Mitch's essay on Sherlockian pastiches in 2000-2001.
14387. Josef Skvorecky died on Jan. 3. He was a famous Czech writer and an energetic promoter and publisher of Czech literature. His SINS FOR FATHER KNOX (1989) was a delightful tribute to Ronald A. Knox; it's a collection of ten stories, each of which violates one of the "decalogue" rules Knox invented for writing detective fiction (Skvorecky challenged his readers not only to identify the murderer but also to decide which rule had been broken).

February 2012 #3

14388. IN THE SHADOW OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, edited by Leslie S. Klinger (San Diego: IDW, 2011; 350 pp., \$16.99), is a fine anthology of early stories about other detectives by authors who range from Thomas Bailey Aldrich (1862) to Arthur Conan Doyle (1898) to William MacHarg and Edwin Balmer (1910), with atmospheric artwork by Michael Manomivibul, and an introduction and (needless to say) annotations by the editor.
14389. The Racine Theatre Guild will produce Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" on Apr. 13-22. 2519 Northwestern Avenue, Racine, WI 53404 (262-633-4218) <www.racinetheatre.org>.
14390. STARRETT SPEAKS: THE LOST RECORDINGS is a delightful new CD from the Wessex Press, with recently discovered recordings; there are 40 minutes of audio, including Robert Cromie's interview with Starrett and Orlando Park on WTTWTV in 1964), and Starrett's readings of his own Sherlockiana. \$12.95 from the publisher (Box 68308, Indianapolis, IN 46256) <www.wessexpress.com>.
14391. Also from the Wessex Press (as the Gasogene Press): THE ILLUSTRATED SPECKLED BAND: THE ORIGINAL 1910 STAGE PRODUCTION IN SCRIPT AND PHOTOGRAPHS, edited by Leslie S. Klinger (104 pp., \$19.95), offering the script of Conan Doyle's play (from Samuel French in 1912), photographs and discussion (from Playgoer and Society Illustrated, 1910), and a reprint of R. Dixon Smith's article on "The Story, the Play, and the Snake"; it's as close as you will ever get to the original production of the play, and great fun.
14392. Judith Freeman's index to The Serpentine Muse (January 12 #5) is now available Sherlocktron <www.sherlocktron.hostoi.com/Serpentine.Muse.pdf>, along with the other material Willis Frick kindly makes available.
14393. THE REALLY RAGGED SHAW: BEING THE EXPANDED RAGGED SHAW was published by David L. Hammer from his Gasogene Press in 1994 as a birthday tribute to John Bennett Shaw, offering splendid examples of the imagination and inspiration and humor to be found in the quizzes devised by the Sage of Santa Fe. It's now back in print with an additional new preface by Saul Cohen, from George Vanderburgh (176 pp., \$20.00); Box 50, R.R. #4, Eugenia, ON NOC 1E0, Canada <www.batteredbox.com>.
14394. Les and Carol Moskowitz, who discovered Sherlock Holmes pubs in France and Norway (June 11 #5), have continued their search and have added Australia to their life list, with the Sherlock Holmes Inn at 415 Collins Street in Melbourne (415 Collins Street <www.thesherlockholmes.com.au>).
14395. Reported by Christopher Roden: CONAN DOYLE CONTRE SHERLOCK HOLMES, a new biography (in French) by Emmanuel Le Bret (Paris: Editions du Moment, 2011; 204 pp., €18.50).
14396. BBC Books has published new tie-in editions of A STUDY IN SCARLET, with an introduction by Steven Moffat, and THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, with an introduction by Mark Gatiss (£6.99 each), each with cover art from the "Sherlock" mini-series. The series will continue on Mar. 29

February 2012 #4

14397. Jim French's Imagination Theatre has been airing "The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" for many years (June 98 #4), on many radio stations, on Sirius XM Book Radio <www.siriusxm.com/bookradio>, and on the Internet at <www.jimfrenchproductions.com>, where you can download single programs (\$1.99), purchase CDs (\$12.95), and listen to a weekly web-stream. And if you would like to see what radio drama is like before it's broadcast, 11 scripts from the series are available in M. J. Elliott's SHERLOCK HOLMES ON THE AIR (London: MX Publishing, 2012; 340 pp., £14.99/€16.99/\$22.95), with an interesting introduction and notes by the author. The publisher's web-site is at <www.mxpublishing.com>.
14398. One sees Sherlock everywhere: Roland C. (of the Baskerville Hall Club) has noted a link to the three-minute official music video for Nabiha's single "Deep Sleep", which you can see at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=r0BDpG4k4M0>.
14399. Ian Abercrombie died on Jan. 26. He began his stage career as a dancer in England in 1934, came to the U.S. in 1951, and acted on stage, screen, and television; best known as Elaine's demanding boss Mr. Pitt on "Seinfeld", he also played a train conductor in Stewart Granger's television version of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1972) and Inspector Lestrade in the "Save Sherlock Holmes" episode of "Fantasy Island" (1982).
14400. Clive Francis' play "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be produced at the Lawrence Batley Theatre, Mar. 12-17; Queen's Square, Queen Street, Huddersfield, West Yorks. HD1 2SP (01484-430528) <www.thelbt.org>.
14401. There's more news about the CBS "Elementary" project (January 12 #7), about a modern-day Sherlock Holmes living in New York City: according to the Hollywood Reporter (Feb. 14), Jonny Lee Miller (who played Jordan Chase in the Showtime series "Dexter") has been signed to play the title role. Benedict Cumberbatch was Miller's co-star on stage in London in "Frankenstein" last year, alternating the roles of Frankenstein and the monster, and now they both will be playing Sherlock Holmes. You can see them (briefly) in a oneminute promotion for "Frankenstein" <www.youtube.com/watch?v=0FEakgJj-uA>.
14402. So: what other films and television shows have had Holmes living in (rather than traveling to) cities other than London? Larry Hagman's "The Return of the World's Greatest Detective" (1976) is one. Any others?
14403. "Sherlock Holmes Averts World War Using Mathematics" was the headline on a article by Jessica Hamzelou in the CultureLab blog of the New Scientist on Jan. 9: the producers of the film asked Oxford mathematicians Alain Goriely and Derek Moulton to write the equations seen on Moriarty's blackboard, and they also created the code in Moriarty's red pocket notebook, and wrote the lecture that Holmes attended in disguise. You can read all about it in the blog at <www.tinyurl.com/6p8egal>.
14404. Radio Litopia is an interesting British web-site, and their series "Litopia After Dark" had a Sherlockian evening on Feb. 5 with a 54-minute interview with Bert Coules, who has dramatized a long series of Sherlockian (Canonical and extra-Canonical) broadcasts for BBC Radio. You can read all about it (and see a photograph of Bert) and listen to or download the program at <www.litopia.com/radio/the-man-behind-sherlock-holmes>.
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February 2012 #5

14405. NINE LIVES OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE, by Graham Holderness (London: Continuum, 2011; 215 pp., £18.99/\$27.95) is an interesting literary biography in which Holderness uses a combination of critical essays and fictional narratives to explore nine aspects of Shakespeare's life and career. "The Adventure of Shakespeare's Ring" is a pastiche that has Holmes, Watson, Lord Alfred Douglas, and Oscar Wilde examining the possibility that Shakespeare was a homosexual.
14406. Bruce Holmes died on Dec. 21. An early member of the Bimetallic Question of Montreal, he was an energetic philatelist and greatly enjoyed publishing Sherlockian pamphlets illustrated with carefully-selected and appropriate postage stamps and cancellations.
14407. BMW has launched the Baker Street Mini (a special limited edition, which will go on sale on Mar. 1; the car will be priced from £16,365 in Great Britain and available world-wide. It's named for the area of London where Sherlock Holmes lived (one press report noted that Baker Street also is the name of a hit song by Gerry Rafferty, and suggested that the car might be come with a saxophone rather than a horn).
14408. The next annual STUD-Watsonian Weekend will be held in and near Chicago on Mar. 30-Apr. 1, with a dinner at the Sheraton Four Points in Schiller Park, the annual running of The Silver Blaze at Hawthorne Race Course, and a Fortescue Honours brunch, and the registration form is available from Susan Z. Diamond (16W603 3rd Avenue, Bensenville, IL 60106) <szdiamond@comcast.net>.
14409. "Studying Sherlock Holmes" is the theme of this year's "Gathering of Southern Sherlockians" in Chattanooga, Tenn., on Apr. 20-21; their program will feature a tribute to "A Study in Scarlet" and "The Sign of the Four", and their mailing list is maintained by Kent Ross (721 Hartford Road, Springfield, OH 45503) (678-464-8321) <kenthross@gmail.com>.
14410. The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times12-2.html>, offering Sherlockiana, old and new, books and much more, including news and views of society meetings here and there, and a nice photograph of the Senters.
14411. The Sherlockian "Mr. Gallagher & Mr. Shean" duet performed by Jim Saunders and Henry Boote during the birthday festivities last month is now available to a wider audience, at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=cHYsNsL1VTO>.
14412. The December issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota offers a "100 Years Ago" discussion by Dick Sveum of early Danish translations of the Canon and a "50 Years Ago" tribute by Julie McKuras to H. W. Starr and Ron Haydock, plus other new from and about the collections; copies of the newsletter are available from Richard J. Sveum (111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <sveum001@tc.umn.edu>.
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February 2012 #6

14413. SHERLOCK HOLMES ON SCREEN, by Alan Barnes (London: Titan Books, 2011; 320 pp., £16.99/\$19.95) carries the accurate subtitle THE COMPLETE FILM AND TV HISTORY, and is a well-illustrated treasure trove of information; it's up to date through "Tom and Jerry Meet Sherlock Holmes" and the first "Sherlock" series from the BBC. The first version of Barnes' book was published in 2001, and the new edition has an enthusiastic foreword by Steven Moffat. It is a valuable reference book, and recommended. The publisher's web-site is at <www.titanbooks.com>.
14414. Titan continues to extend its series "The Continuing Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" with pastiches new and old. THE WEB WEAVER, by Sam Siciliano (394 pp., £7.99/\$9.95) is new; the story's told by Holmes' cousin Dr. Henry Vernier and his wife Michelle, and offers an interesting mystery, tragedy, and romance.
14415. The older pastiches are interesting as well: Richard L. Boyer's THE GIANT RAT OF SUMATRA (1976) has one of the more interesting (and perhaps improbable) identifications of the ferocious beast, and Sam Siciliano's THE ANGEL OF THE OPERA (1994) is an earlier tale told by Vernier, about Holmes' trip to Paris to confront the Phantom of the Opera (both 309 pp., £7.99/\$9.95).
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14416. Titan's new and expanded edition of Kim Newman's ANNO DRACULA: THE BLOODY RED BARON (587 pp., £7.99/\$14.95) is a sequel to his ANNO DRACULA (December 11 #12); the Diogenes Club (and Mycroft Holmes) have helped the British overthrow the Prince Consort Count Dracula, who is now providing assistance to the German armies in World War I. There's a very brief appearance by Sherlock Holmes, as well as an aftermath story set in 1923, annotations, and a screenplay Newman wrote for Roger Corman. Newman has a fine way with vampires and an imaginative skill with colorful language.
14417. Titan also has reprinted two of the Harry Houdini mysteries written by Daniel Stashower: THE DIME MUSEUM MURDERS (2000) and THE FLOATING LADY MURDER (2000); the novels are set in the late 1890s, when Houdini was still trying to launch his career as an escapologist (and liked to quote from the Sherlock Holmes stories). Finally, "Imagine a person, tall, lean, and feline, high-shouldered, with a brow like Shakespeare and a face like Satan." That would be Dr. Fu-Manchu, the insidious villain created by Sax Rohmer; Titan has reprinted THE MYSTERY OF DR. FU-MANCHU (1913) and THE RETURN OF DR. FUMANCHU (1916) and plans to continue with twelve more novels.
14418. Carole Nelson Douglas' "Irene Adler" novella THE PRIVATE WIFE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, previously anthologized in SEX, LIES, AND PRIVATE EYES (July 09 #6) is now available as an Amazon Kindle e-book (\$2.99) from Wishlist Publishing; it's an amusing story, involving Holmes and Irene meeting the Prince of Wales in a house of ill repute.
14419. The winter issue of The Magic Door (the newsletter published by The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) has Dayna Nuhn's interesting (and timely) survey of Valentine's Day cards, reports on last year's "A Study in Scandal" conference, and other news from and about the collection; copies of the newsletter are available on request from Clifford S. Goldfarb, 22 Markdale Avenue, Toronto, ON M6C, 1T1, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.

February 2012 #7

14420. Daniel McGachey's SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE IMPOSSIBLE CASES (Colusa: Dark Regions Press, 2010; 273 pp., \$18.95) is a collection of five pastiches, echoing the unrecorded cases and with considerable emphasis on the supernatural. Dark Regions also has published William Meikle's SHERLOCK HOLMES: REVENANT (2011; 135 pp., \$14.95); Holmes and Watson, on the run from the official police, travel to Scotland and back to London in pursuit of an evil genius with supernatural powers. The publisher has a web-site at <www.darkregions.com>.
14421. John Baesch spotted a profile of Umberto Eco in the Sunday Times (Oct. 30) that reports that Eco was astounded by the success of his novel THE NAME OF THE ROSE, and that he regarded the film as a travesty.
14422. "Remember kicking back in the 1890s? There was nothing better than relaxing with the latest Sherlock Holmes adventure in The Strand Magazine and a Gilbert and Sullivan cylinder on the phonograph." According to CNET story (Feb. 6), spotted by Bill Barnes. Michael Greensmith has made a Steampunk iPhonograph that will play music from your iPad. You can read all about it at <www.tinyurl.com/84xmruh>.
14423. Joan Proubasta, who presides over Círculo Holmes, the Sherlockian society in Barcelona, has donated his Sherlockian collection to La Biblioteca Arús, and there's a 4-minute video showing the library's exhibition (and Joan) at <www.tinyurl.com/7e83xqz>.
14424. The latest Sherlockian audio from Big Finish is THE TANGLED SKEIN, adapted by Richard Dinnick from David Stuart Davies' book (1992) and starring Nicholas Briggs as Holmes, Richard Earl as Watson, and Giles Watling as Count Dracula; on two CDs (\$23.91) and as a download (\$12.99); PO Box 3787, Maidenhead, Berks. SL6 3TF, England) <www.bigfinish.com>. It's a full-cast recording, with featurette interviews with cast and crew, and nicely done.
14425. Noted by Greg Darak: MR. MAGOO: THE COMPLETE TELEVISION COLLECTION, 1960-1977, a new set of 11 DVDs from Shout! Factory (\$79.97); the contents include the 30-minute NBC animated television series "The Famous Adventures of Mr. Magoo", in which "Mr. Magoo's Sherlock Holmes" (1965) featured Jim Backus (Mr. Magoo/Dr. Watson) and Paul Freas (Sherlock Holmes). Mr. Magoo also appears briefly in Sherlockian costume at the end of "Mr. Magoo's Dick Tracy and the Mob" (1965). If you're willing to settle for lower fidelity, both episodes are available on the Internet at YouTube <www.youtube.com>.
14426. Greg also reports that LOOK I MADE A HAT, the second volume of Steven Sondheim's collected lyrics, includes "I Never Do Anything Twice" (the song he wrote for the film "The Seven-Per-Cent Solution"), and that an article in the spring issue of The Sondheim Review that lists Steven Sondheim's favorite films, one of which is "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (1939); the magazine's web-site is at <www.sondheimreview.com>.
14427. "People sometimes wonder why I belong to The Baker Street Irregulars," Michael Dirda wrote in his blog at the N.Y. Review of Books, adding that "the answer, of course, is elementary: friendship, collegiality, fellowship." A sentiment that applies equally to the wider world of Sherlockians; the blog can be read at <www.nybooks.com/blogs/nyrblog/2012/feb/02/sherlock-lives>.

February 2012 #8

14428. Joe McDonald reports that there will be a "Conan Doyle Weekend" in Haslemere (Surrey) on June 15-17, with events that include a performance of David Stuart Davies' play "Sherlock Holmes-The Last Act", a screening of Peter Cushing's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1959), presentations by Andrew Lane, Andrew Lycett, Catherine Cooke, and Roger Johnson, and a murder-mystery dinner. You can go to <www.haslemerehall.co.uk> and click on "Events" for more information.
14429. The Machickanee Players will perform Tim Kelly's play "The Adventure of the Speckled Band" at the Park Avenue Playhouse from May 4 to May 13. 408 Park Avenue, Oconto, WI 54153 (920-834-4353) <www.machickaneeplayers.org>.
14430. Alfred A. Levin ("Abe Slaney") died on Feb. 17. Fred was an organic chemist and an enthusiastic Sherlockian; with a special interest in the Reichenbach Falls (which he visited many times); he was an active member of many of the Sherlockian societies in the Chicago area, and received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1993.
14431. Randall Stock continues to enhance the contents of his excellent "Best of Sherlock" web-site, which now offers an entry on another new book by Conan Doyle <www.bestofsherlock.com/ref/diary-arctic-adventure.htm>. DANGEROUS WORK will feature the journal he kept in 1880 during his voyage to the Arctic aboard the SS Hope in pursuit of seals and whales, and it will be published this fall by the British Library in the U.K. and by the University of Chicago Press in the U.S.
14432. Taz Rai's THE ART OF DEDUCTION: THE WAY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (2011; 102 pp., \$17.97) is an eBook that offers a detailed academic discussion of Holmes' use of rationality, logic, and observation, with examples from the Canon, by way of helping readers learn how to use Holmes' methods themselves. The author's web-site's at <www.artofdeduction.com>.
14433. The Sherlockian Calendar, maintained Ron Fish and Ben and Sue Vizoskie at <www.sherlockiancalendar.homestead.com>, is an excellent list of upcoming Sherlockian events, for anyone who would like to know what's happening when (and where); you can contact Ron at <rnf404@aol.com> if you would like to have a meeting or conference listed.

14434. Karen Ellery reports that the Ash-Tree Press is now offering three e-books: Barbara Roden's THE THAMES HORROR AND OTHER ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (December 11 #2), David Stuart Davies' BENDING THE WILLOW: JEREMY BRETT AS SHERLOCK HOLMES (March 97 #2) (\$9.99), and Stephen Clarkson's THE CANONICAL COMPENDIUM (January 01 #5) (\$7.99); <www.ash-tree.bc.ca/ebooks.htm>.
14435. Further to the report on Laurie R. King's next "Mary Russell" novel GAME OF SHADOWS, due in September (January 12 #5), Laurie reports on her blog that she will go to Japan in April to do research on what the country was like in 1924, when Russell and Holmes were there (between the earlier novels THE GAME and LOCKED ROOMS); the next installment of the Russell saga, not yet named, is due in 2014. Laurie's web-site is at <www.laurierking.com>.
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March 2012 #1

14436. Baker St, a New York-based pop-rock band made up of former and current Columbia University students, has just released their third CD: Irregulars. You can download the album at <www.cdbaby.com/cd/bakerst>, and there will be an EP available there soon; you can find their music videos at YouTube, and their web-site is at <www.bakerstband.com>. Michelle Hutt, the band's songwriter, explains that they decided on the name because she has been a huge fan of the Sherlock Holmes stories since high school; they also feel that in some ways their musical style is a bit more like that of rock music in the UK right now.
14437. Booktrack reports that its "enhanced" edition of "The Speckled Band" (with sound effects and a soundtrack) for reading on your iPhone, iPad, or iPod Touch (September 11 #4) has been downloaded more than 100,000 times, and is one of the most downloaded global eBooks of 2011. It helped, of course, that it was available without charge. Booktrack's books can now also be played on Androids, PCs, and Macs <www.booktrack.com>.
14438. Lenny Picker has reported that Benedict Cumberbatch has played a young Rumpole of the Bailey on BBC Radio 4: "Rumpole and the Penge Bungalow Murders" (2009) and "Rumpole and the Family Pride" and "Rumpole and the Eternal Triangle" (2010) featured Timothy West as the older Rumpole, and they played the same parts in "Rumpole and the Man of God" and "Rumpole and the Explosive Evidence" in March.
14439. SN2apps has released four "Sherlock Holmes Interactive Radio Apps" for the iPads (other devices to follow): the stories are "The Speckled Band", "The Speckled Band", "The Five Orange Pips", and "The Man with the Twisted Lip", and the apps (\$2.99 each) come with radio scripts and dramatizations that star Edward Petherbridge and David Peart (from the fine Independent Radio Drama Productions series broadcast by National Public Radio in the 1990s), a map of London, colorful artwork, and a treasure hunt. There's more about the series at <www.sn2apps.com>, and the apps are available at Apple's apps store.
14440. There's a Puffin Classics edition of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (London: Puffin Penguin, 2011; 243 pp., £6.99/\$4.99) with a new introduction by Judith Kerr and cover art by Bill Sanderson.
14441. "In the beginning there was Sherlock Holmes," according to someone who uses the on-line pseudonym daasrrll, "And from Holmes was brought forth House, played by Hugh Laurie. Who in Fortysomething as Peter Slippery was father to Rory Slippery, played by Benedict Cumberbatch. Who grew up to play Sherlock. And then my head exploded." Cindy Coppock spotted daasrrll's mash-up of all this at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=kXpyCa9IcEM>.
14442. Bill Crider's monthly "Blog Bytes" column in Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine recommends interesting sites such as "Stop, You're Killing Me" (maintained by Lucinda Surber and Stan Ulrich); it won an Anthony (best blog) at Bouchercon last year, and it lists more than 3,800 authors, with chronological lists of their books (more than 43,000 titles) and much more information, including lists for characters <www.stopyourekillingme.com>.
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March 2012 #2

14443. "The Black Swan is an inn of repute in the High Street," Watson wrote (in "The Copper Beeches"), and the Black Swan is one of the very few real hotels found in the Canon. According to an article in the Hampshire Chronicle (Feb. 10), Winchester's headless statue of a black swan is being repaired. A statue originally marked the Black Swan Hotel, which was demolished for road-widening in 1935, and then on the Black Swan Buildings office block that was built on the site of the hotel; the statue was damaged about ten years ago, and a new head and neck will be provided. But it's not the original statue, which fell to pieces in 1945, when members of the public raised £35 to pay a local craftsman to carve a new swan.
14444. People like a good ghost story (well, perhaps people ought to like a good ghost story) and MX Publishing offers "IN THE NIGHT--IN THE DARK": TALES OF GHOSTS AND LESS WELCOME VISITORS (2011; 366 pp., £13.99); it's subtitled as "a complete ghostly crew and a full complement of ghostly passengers," and there's humor as well as horror and terror, although nothing Sherlockian, except that the author is Roger Johnson and the cover photograph is by Jean Upton. The book is full of grand stories and poems.
14445. Marino C. Alvarez's A PROFESSOR REFLECTS ON SHERLOCK HOLMES also is available from MX Publishing (2012; 162 pp., £9.99); the author is a professor emeritus at Tennessee State University's College of Education and a member of The Nashville Scholars of the Three Pipe Problem, and the book is a collection of papers old and new, including an analysis of Eric L. Conklin's first Sherlock Holmes Mystery Painting (which you can see in full color at <www.ericconklin.com/sherlockholmes1.html> and a report on a trip to Trinity College Oxford to inspect the Ronald A. Knox papers and the Gryphon Club Book of Minutes.
14446. MX Publishing has many pastiches: Wilfred Huettel's MARK OF THE BASKERVILLE HOUND (2011; 211 pp., £10.99) begins in 1982 with a retired New York police officer recounting his visit to Dartmoor and an encounter with a terrifying modern version of the hound. Kieren E. McMullen's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE IRISH REBELS (2011; £10.99) has Holmes and Watson in Dublin in 1916, deeply involved in espionage and the Irish Rebellion. Fred Thursfield's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE DISCARDED CIGARETTE (2012; 100 pp., £6.99) brings Holmes and Watson to a meeting with H. G. Wells, whose Time Machine has been used by a crafty art forger. Margaret Park Bridges' MY DEAR WATSON (2011; 217 pp., £9.99) was written in English and published in Japanese some years ago (January 99 #3) and is now available in English; Holmes is a woman (unknown to Watson and everyone else) and engaged in a desperate struggle with Constance Moriarty, daughter of the evil professor.
14447. David Ruffle's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE LYME REGIS HORROR, first published in 2009 (May 11 #4), has been reissued by MX Publishing in a second expanded edition (2012; 173 pp., £9.99); the title story has Holmes and Watson in Lyme Regis, pursuing the vampire Count Olana in 1896 (Bram Stoker's DRACULA was published in 1897), and there are additional short stories, poems, and fragments. Ruffle's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE LYME REGIS LEGACY (2012, 174 pp., £9.99) offers more Sherlockian tales (with some non-Sherlockian ghost stories), and he's the editor of TALES FROM THE STRANGER'S ROOM (2012, 241 pp., £10.99), an anthology of pastiches, vignettes, and poetry written by members of the on-line forum <www.holmesian.net>.
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March 2012 #3

14448. Michael Saler's *AS IF: MODERN ENCHANTMENT AND THE LITERARY PREHISTORY OF VIRTUAL REALITY* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2012; 283 pp., \$27.95) is an interesting examination of the fantasy worlds created by authors ranging from Verne to Tolkien, with a delightful chapter ("Clap if You Believe in Sherlock Holmes: Arthur Conan Doyle and Animistic Reason") that discusses naive believers, ironic believers, and the strange behavior that's found in the world of Sherlockians.
14449. The Hollywood Reporter confirmed (Feb. 27) that the CBS-TV pilot "Elementary" will feature Lucy Liu as Watson; she is currently starring as Officer Jessica Tang in the TNT television series "Southland"; Deadline Hollywood (Feb. 27) had details on the premise: Jonny Lee Miller stars as eccentric Brit Sherlock Holmes, a former consultant to Scotland Yard whose addiction problems led him to a rehab center in New York City; just out of rehab, he now lives in Brooklyn with "sober companion" Joan Watson, a former surgeon who lost her license after a patient died, while consulting for the NYPD.
14450. Some reports have suggested that Lucy Liu will be the first female Watson. Well, not quite: there have been at least three (in films and on television). Care to identify them?
14451. A later report has Aidan Quinn joining the cast of "Elementary" as Gregson, a captain in the NYPD who worked with Holmes previously at Scotland Yard. Quinn recently starred in the NBC-TV series "Prime Suspect".
14452. E. W. Barton-Wright's *THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SCHOOL OF SELF-DEFENCE: THE MANLY ART OF BARTITSU AS USED AGAINST PROFESSOR MORIARTY* (Lewes: Ivy Press, 2011; 127 pp., £6.99) is an amusing compilation of his articles in Pearson's Magazine, with enhancements that include Marcus Tindal's "Self-Protection on a Cycle"; Bartitsu is mentioned in the Canon (misspelled as baritsu), and it probably is just as well that Violet Smith had not read Tindal's article.
14453. *THE MORIARTY PAPERS*, compiled by Colonel Sebastian Moran (London: New Holland, 2011; 160 pp., £7.99), is collection of Moriarty's surviving papers in the form of a full color scrapbook, with entertaining marginal comments by Moran; it would appear that Moriarty was involved in most of Holmes' cases.
14454. Don Hobbs reports that the total number of languages known to have at least one Canonical translation has reached 92, the latest being Breton, in which there's a translation *KI AR VASKERVILLED* (272 pp., €9.00 from Coop Breizh at <www.coop-breizh.fr>). Breton is a Celtic language spoken in Brittany, and Vaskervilled is Baskerville in English.
14455. "The book is a rather silly story about a governess and two haunted children. I am afraid that in it Mr. James exposes the extent of his ignorance. He knows little about children and nothing at all about governesses." Governess Hester Barrow, in Diane Setterfield's *THE THIRTEEN TALE* (2006).
14456. There was a discussion of the phrase "jumping the shark" on the Letters of Mary e-mailing list (for fans of the Mary Russell books), and Kathy Elliott recommended <www.tvtropes.org>; it's a wiki "catalog of the tricks of the trade for writing fiction," and of course a search for [sherlock] brings up a long list of interesting commentary.

March 2012 #4

14457. Greg Darak has noted a Russian CD "Vladimir Dashkevich: Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson" issued by Bomba Music in Moscow in 2002 with tracks from the Russian television series (Dashkevich was the composer of the scores); copies of the CD turn up at eBay, and some of his music is available on the Internet for listening or download.
14458. January Berenstain died on Feb. 24. With her husband Stan she created the Berenstain Bears in 1962, launching a series of children's books that became one of the most successful in children's literature; the series, with more than 300 books, has sold more than 260 million copies, and the Berenstain Bears have been seen in stage musicals, television series, videocassettes and DVDs, and as toys. *THE BEAR DETECTIVES: THE CASE OF THE MISSING PUMPKIN* was published in 1975, with Detective Brother and Detective Sister appearing in Sherlockian costume; they've been seen in many later books, and in a set of figurines issued in 1985.
14459. Gayle Harris recommends the web-site Old Maps Online as an excellent portal for inspecting digital historical maps in libraries around the world. The URL is <www.oldmapsonline.org>, and one can explore Baker Street as well as a world of other locations.
14460. According to a story in the *Sussex Courier* (Feb. 17), Crowborough historian Michael Tuffley has begun a campaign to erect a statue of Sherlock Holmes in the town, and hopes to raise £50,000 to cover the costs. But town councillor George Moss, noting that Crowborough already has a statue of Conan Doyle, felt there was no need for another statue, and that the money might be best spent elsewhere.
14461. Philip K. Jones has compiled (and continues to compile) an excellent data base for Sherlockian pastiches, parodies, and related fiction; he had entries for 5,520 different items some years ago (April 06 #6), and his count now stands at more than 9,000. The data base is interesting and informative, and available on-line <www.michael-procter.com/holmes/_index.html>.
14462. And who are the women who have played Watson? Joanne Woodward (Dr. Mildred Watson) in "They Might Be Giants" (1971), Jenny O'Hara (Doctor Watson) in "The Return of the World's Greatest Detective" (1976), and Margaret Colin (Jane Watson) in "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" (1987). There's a fourth, (though likely seen by fewer people): Gina Ryder (Dr. Emma Watson) in the pornographic film "The Secret of Harlot Hill" (2001).
14463. The earlier question (February 12 #4) was about films and television shows (other than CBS-TV's "Elementary") that have had Holmes living in (rather than traveling to) cities other than London? Larry Hagman's "The Return of the World's Greatest Detective" (1976) is one, and Judith Freeman adds Anthony Higgins' "1994 Baker Street: Sherlock Holmes Returns" (1993) to the list.
14464. Something else for fans of the Benedict Cumberbatch series: a four-minute montage of a scene from the first program, dubbed into four different languages <www.radiotimes.com/news/2012-02-25/je-m'appelle-sherlock-holmes>. And there's <www.benedictcumberbatch.co.uk/Sherlock/press.html>, reported by Karen Murdock; it's an unofficial fan-site with links to newspaper and magazine articles and much more.

March 2012 #5

14465. "At the main pilgrimage temple he paid his respects to the head Lama, who gave him 'a bag of tiny pills which would preserve me from every possible mischance.'" Spotted by John Baesch in the *Daily Telegraph* obituary (Jan. 31) for Augusto Gansser, a Swiss geologist who died at the age of 101. He visited Tibet in 1936, disguised as a Buddhist pilgrim, and he met the head Lama at Mt. Kailash. And his geological expertise was not limited to the Himalayas: another technical paper "The Roraima Problem, South America" was published in 1974.
14466. "Sherlock & Shylock: The Sleuths of Venice" will be the theme of the No Fog Countries Meeting II, scheduled by Uno Studio in Holmes in Venice on Oct. 12-14; details at <www.unostudioinholmes.org/inglese/ing_homepage.htm>, and you can expect wining, dining, lectures, tours, and a concert.

14467. Mona Morstein's THE CHILDHOOD OF SHERLOCK HOLMES was first published by the Galde Press (February 00 #6), and it has been reissued by UCS Press in two volumes as THE HOLMES BOYS: SHERLOCK AND MYCROFT (\$14.95 per volume); it's an imaginative and well-written history of the Holmes family, both parents and children, told by the butler who served them.
14468. Tim Kelly died on Dec. 7, 1998. According to an obituary in Playbill, he was thought to be the most-published playwright in America, under his own name and at least four pseudonyms, writing more than 300 comedies, dramas, one-acts, mysteries, melodramas, children's shows, and musicals. His work continues to be popular in the amateur market: in 1998, the Pioneer Drama Service (one of his publishers) licensed more than 3,000 productions of his plays worldwide. His Sherlockian credits include more than a dozen plays, among them an adaptation of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" and dramatizations of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" and "The Speckled Band".
14469. Titan's recent reprint of Sax Rohmer's THE MYSTERY OF DR. FU-MANCHU (February 12 #6) has at the end an interesting essay by Les Klinger on "Appreciating Dr. Fu-Manchu". A separate section "About the Author" notes the truly ironic fact that Rohmer died in 1959, "a victim of an outbreak of the type A influenza known as the Asian flu."
14470. One assumes that many Sherlockians have ordered the British region 2 DVDs of the second series of the BBC's "Sherlock" (at least those Sherlockians who can play the DVDs on multi-region DVRs or computers). The box for the British DVDs carries a "12" rating ("Suitable only for persons of 12 years and over"), which is similar to the Motion Picture Association of America's "PG-13" rating ("Parents Strongly Cautioned: Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13"). But that's not because Lara Pulver is seen wearing nothing but a pair of Louboutins: the box for the British DVDs with the first series carries the same "12" warning.
14471. Christopher Roden has reported that the Arthur Conan Doyle Society has received a message from the Parish Church of St. Oswald's Thornton in Lonsdale, Yorkshire, where Arthur Conan Doyle married Louisa Hawkins in 1885: St. Oswald's proposes to commission a special "Arthur Conan Doyle Plaque" to be affixed to the lych gate entrance to the church and graveyard, and hopes to raise £20,000 for the project, which will also enhance the church facilities with a new kitchen area and disabled toilet.

March 2012 #6

14472. "It Seems There's Gnome Place Like Holmes," according to a story in Radio Times (Mar. 9): Disney will start production this fall on "Gnomeo & Juliet: Sherlock Gnomes", a 3D animation that's a sequel to their "Gnomeo & Juliet" (2011); the new film is reported to have Gnomeo and Juliet enlisting the help of Sherlock Gnomes, the world's greatest ornamental detective, when gnomes start disappearing from the suburban gardens of England. Elton John will write songs for the film.
14473. Thad Holt discovered an article in the Daily Telegraph about an exhibition at the Wandsworth Museum of photographs of historic London (including some striking scenes from the Victorian era <www.tinyurl.com/77oucy>).
14474. This year is the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic, and William Seil's THE TITANIC TRAGEDY (London: Titan Books, 2012; 261 pp., £7.99/\$9.95) is the latest addition to the publisher's series of reprints in its "The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" series; the pastiche was first published in 1996 and has Holmes and Watson aboard the ship, on secret assignment by the government and facing an assortment of villains. The publisher's web-site is at <www.titanbooks.com>.
14475. Further to the item about the "Conan Doyle Weekend" in Haslemere (Surrey) on June 15-17, there's a web-site at <www.haslemere.com/conandoyle> giving more information about events and lodging.
14476. Peter Bergman died on Mar. 9. He was one of the four founders of the Firesign Theatre in 1966 (the Washington Post once described the Firesign experience as "an impolite talk show where the host has lost control"). The Sherlockian world welcomed their 1974 record "The Tale of the Giant Rat of Sumatra" (also known as "A Thrilling Mis-Adventure from 'The Cheque Book of Hemlock Stones'").
14477. <www.bookshelfporn.com>, noted by Samantha Wolov, is a "photo blog collection of all the best bookshelf photos from around the world." Pay special attention to <www.bookshelfporn.com/post/1262757876>.
14478. Those who wonder about Victorian slang may wish to read the story (spotted by Karen Rhodes) in the Daily Telegraph (Feb. 24) about the on-line availability of the 2nd edition of Francis Grose's A CLASSICAL DICTIONARY OF THE VULGAR TONGUE (1811) at Project Gutenberg <www.tinyurl.com/8a3c9ss>. And Darlene Cypser has noted a more recent resource: J. Redding Ware's PASSING ENGLISH OF THE VICTORIAN ERA: A DICTIONARY OF HETERODOX ENGLISH, SLANG, AND PHRASE (1909) <www.tinyurl.com/86wfxhk>.
14479. Hellokids.com is an imaginative web-site reported by Karen Murdock: among the many features are print-out coloring pages with an assortment of British authors, including Conan Doyle <www.tinyurl.com/6rcnq7t>.
14480. Ken Lanza reports that Holmes & Watson, a British-style pub in Troy, N.Y., will close on Apr. 13. The British-style pub opened in 1978 and has been sold to new owners and will reopen in June as Finnbar's Irish Pub. Holmes & Watson offered for some years a "world tour" prize to customers who tried all of the pub's approximately 100 draft and bottled beers within a year. Ken also reports that he was one of the pub's first customers.

March 2012 #7

14481. The BBC has reported that filming on the third "Sherlock" season will begin early next year. One reason for the hiatus, of course, is that the stars have other work: Benedict Cumberbatch is filming the next "Star Trek" movie and Martin Freeman is working on "The Hobbit". In the meantime, "Masterpiece" is running a count-down clock for the second season (which starts on May 6), with a variety of video and other links that include a "reader discretion advised" interview with Cumberbatch and a feature on Andrew Scott (who definitely is one of the more imaginative Moriartys). The series will be released in the U.S. on Blu-ray and DVD on May 22 with the three new episodes, audio commentary for the first two, and a behind-the-scenes featurette ("Sherlock Uncovered").
14482. The Browser bills itself as a "21st-century library of Writing Worth Reading", and one of its offerings is an interview with Michael Dirda about the world of Sherlockians and about his favorite Sherlockian and Doylean books <www.thebrowser.com/interviews/michael-dirda-on-sherlock-holmes>.
14483. "Sherlock Holmes Complains about Fake Sherlock Holmeses" is an amusing twominute video spotted by Lloyd Rose at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/7jo7asj>.
14484. The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times12-3.html>, offering Sherlockiana, old and new, books and much more, including news and views of society meetings, and a CD recording of the late Art Schroeder's audio drama "The Forgotten Victim" (the story of "The Speckled Band" as told by the snake).
14485. "Steampunk Holmes: Legacy of the Nautilus" is a work-in-progress discovered by Karen Murdock at <www.steampunkholmes.com>; there's a two-minute trailer for a planned interactive book.

14486. Martin Breese died on Feb. 23. He was an important figure in the world of magicians, as a historian and a publisher of books, CDs, and DVDs, and in 1995 began publishing a series of Sherlockian pastiches written by fellow magician Val Andrews and others; in 2005 he sold his mystery series to Antony J. Richards, but maintained his enthusiastic interest in magic.
14487. The Société Sherlock Holmes de France now holds a record for the most frequent Sherlockian society publication: their attractive Ironmongers Daily News appears daily (in French) via the Internet, and you can subscribe at their web-site <www.sshf.com> without charge.
14488. There are 166 scripts available for download from The Generic Radio Workshop's Vintage Radio Script Library <www.genericradio.com>, five from the long-running "Sherlock Holmes" series (1939-1947).
14489. There seems to be no end to interesting uses of the Internet: companies are making full-length films and uploading them to YouTube for viewing or downloading without charge; you can even skip most of the commercials. One of the films is "Sherlock Holmes" (2011), length 77 minutes, produced by Anton Pictures, inspired by Universal's "The Woman in Green" (1945), directed by George Anton, with Kevin Glaser (Sherlock Holmes) and Charles Simon (Watson). You can find it at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vez-PSHINSw>. Thanks to Thierry Saint-Joanis for his report on the film.
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March 2012 #8

14490. Timothy M. Brenner's LUMINARIES (Charleston: CreateSpace, 2011; 252 pp., \$9.99) involves Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Harry Houdini, and Orson Welles (all with psychic powers) in an alternate-history pursuit of a vicious serial killer; Welles is gifted with the power of mental telepathy, Houdini with telekinesis, and Conan Doyle can sense the history of objects by touching them, and they need all of those powers to defeat their adversary.
14491. Neil Gaiman's pastiche "The Case of Death and Honey" was selected by editor Jonathan Strahan as one of the stories in THE BEST SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY OF THE YEAR, VOLUME SIX (Night Shade Books, 2011; 600 pp., \$19.99); it is reprinted from the anthology A STUDY IN SHERLOCK (August 11 #2).
14492. The Royal Mail's postage rates are going up on Apr. 30: first class (next working day) service will cost 60p (96¢) for 100g (3.5oz) and second class (third working day) will cost 50p (80¢). For our British readers, Americans pay 45¢ for the first ounce, 65¢ for 2 oz, 85¢ for 3 oz, and \$1.50 for 4 oz.
14493. Laurie R. King's PIRATE KING (August 11 #1) will be issued as a trade paperback by Bantam in April with some bonus material: a print version of BEEKEEPING FOR BEGINNERS (June 11 #3) and an excerpt from the next Mary Russell novel GARMENT OF SHADOWS; previously available only as an e-novella, BEEKEEPING FOR BEGINNERS is an imaginative look, from Holmes' point of view, at his first meeting with Russell.
14494. Randall Stock continues to enhance the contents of his excellent "Best of Sherlock" web-site, where he has updated his census of copies of Beeton's Christmas Annual <www.bestofsherlock.com/beetons-christmas-annual.htm>; he has added a newly-reported copy at Tulane University, as well as new photographs and other information.
14495. The limited-edition slip-cased set of THE GRAND GAME (with both volumes and FROM PIFF-POUFF TO BACKNECKE: THE FULL STORY) is now available for purchase from The Baker Street Irregulars; more information on the set and on prices will be found at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com/grandgamelimited.html>.
14496. "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows" has now grossed \$534.8 million worldwide (\$186.8 million domestic and \$348.0 million foreign), more than "Sherlock Holmes" (the first film in the franchise), which grossed \$524.0 million world-wide (\$209.0 million domestic and \$315.0 million foreign); the films rank #83 and #87 in all-time world-wide box-office grosses.
14497. Lyndsay Faye's first novel was the well-received pastiche DUST AND SHADOW (February 09 #2), and her second is THE GODS OF GOTHAM, just out from Amy Einhorn Books/Putman; it's set in New York City in 1845 and thus isn't Sherlockian. You can read an excerpt at <www.tinyurl.com/6tx5ecw>, and there is a review by Claire Toohey at <www.tinyurl.com/73uo8ll>. Lyndsay also is an energetic blogger: you can read her sprightly report on the BSI annual dinner at <www.tor.com/blogs/2012/03/inside-the-baker-street-irregulars>.
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April 2012 #1

14498. The Exhibits Development Group has released an exhibition announcement for "Sherlock Holmes: The Science of Deduction", an interactive exhibition that will tour science museums from 2013 to 2016; the project, which is licensed by the Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Estate Ltd., is impressive, and you can view the announcement at <www.tinyurl.com/6ou6hrs>. Click on the two links at the bottom of the blue field to see the concept document and the brochure. The tour will begin at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry in Portland in 2013. If you would like to receive the company's e-mail announcements, send a request to Angela Noble <angelan@exhibitsdevelopment.com>.
14499. Brad Keefauver's weird and wonderful "Sherlock Peoria" web-site celebrates its tenth anniversary on June 12, when Brad plans to shut it down. There's still time to visit the web-site <www.sherlockpeoria.net> and see how imaginative it is; his announcement of the impending post-Sherlock Peoria world was made in his blog on Mar. 4. The April issue of The Gaslight Gazette, published by The Survivors of the Gloria Scott, opens with an appropriately imaginative protest; ask editor David J. Milner at <openshaw@bellsouth.net> for an electronic copy of the issue.
14500. Later: Brad reports that he has decided to keep his web-site up on the Internet for the foreseeable future, but will abandon the weekly updates, going for a more irregular format. Tune in to his web-site for news of what will happen.
14501. Brad recommends the Baker Street Babes as the new face of Sherlockiana, and they're at <www.bakerstreetbabes.com>; they have a podcast, and a sprightly theme song: "They call us the Irregulars, but baby, we're always on time. Baker Street Babes always leave the rest of them behind. So when Scotland Yard, they send you home, you feel like you're losing your mind. If this quotidian world has got you cryin', won't you 221 be mine?"
14502. Sorry about that: <www.sshf.com> is the correct URL for the web-site of The Société Sherlock Holmes de France, publisher of the Ironmongers Daily News (March 12 #7).
14503. "Masterpiece" is working hard at promoting the second season of "Sherlock": there's a web-site <www.pbs.org/wgbh/masterpiece/sherlock>, and a Facebook page at <www.facebook.com/masterpiecepbs>, and there will be a live Twitter discussion during each of the three broadcasts, with the Baker Street Blog, the Baker Street Babes, Lyndsay Faye, and Les Klinger, @masterpiecepbs.
14504. A BOOK, by Mordecai Gerstein (New York: Roaring Brook Press, 2009; 48 pp., \$16.99), is a charming book to read to children; grown-ups will enjoy it as much as their kids, and (of course) there is Sherlockian artwork. Compliments to Jennie Paton for spotting the book.
14505. "A Parliament of Lines" is the title of an exhibition at the City Art Centre in Edinburgh (May 15 through July 8), showing the work of 15 contemporary Scottish artists, one of them Marie Harnett, who creates miniature pencil portraits. Three of them show Robert Downey Jr., Jude Law, and Rachel McAdams, and you can see her portrait of Law at <www.tinyurl.com/d5eja7m>.
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April 2012 #2

14506. The Fireman's Fund is one of the more unusual insurance companies: they're the go-to insurer for the American entertainment industry, and they once insured the Loch Ness monster. They paid the studio when the monster sank during filming of "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970);
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- the monster still lurks at the bottom of the loch, awaiting discovery by some intrepid diver who doesn't know about the history of the film. The N.Y. Times had an interesting article (Mar. 24) about the company, but without any mention of the monster <www.tinyurl.com/7kenh3m>.
14507. Don Hobbs has discovered a new language for Canonical translations: Friulan (spoken in the Friuli region of northeastern Italy): LIS AVENTURIS DI SHERLOCK HOLMES was published in 2009 by the Società Filologica Friulana, which has a web-site at <www.filologicafriulana.it>; search for [doyle].
14508. Pamela Bruxner ("The British Government") died on Mar. 28. She was a medical secretary and was involved with several musical and literary societies; for many years she was meetings secretary of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London, and she edited or co-edited nine of the Society's expedition handbooks. Pam was an Honorary Member of the Society, and received her Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1998.
14509. "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is a delightful parody that was written by Steven Canny and John Nicholson in 2007; it will be performed by the Penguin Rep Theatre, May 18 through June 10. 7 Crickettown Road, Stony Point, NY 10980 (845-786-2873) <www.penguinrep.org>.
14510. Add Uruguay to the list of countries that have Sherlock societies: Ana Fernández is the contact for The Blue Scarves' Society, and you can find them at <www.facebook.com/groups/368486129842276>. The name of the society is a tribute to the blue scarf that's worn by Benedict Cumberbatch in the BBC's "Sherlock" mini-series.
14511. Murder Squad is a collective of five excellent British writers, and Martin Edwards has edited their BEST EATEN COLD AND OTHER STORIES (Stroud: Mystery Press, 2011; 190 pp., £6.99/\$12.95); one of the 13 stories is Edwards' own Sherlockian pastiche "The Case of the Musical Butler".
14512. Ted M. Cowell reports an article in the Daily Mail (Mar. 31) about "Sweeps, nomads, quacks, and crawlers: The exotic down and outs of Victorian London captured on camera in the 1870s" <www.tinyurl.com/7zfgxd5> with some striking photographs of what Holmes might have seen when he arrived in London as a young man.
14513. Carolyn and Joel Senter offer an imaginative "Vamberry the wine merchant" corkscrew <www.sherlock-holmes.com/collect.htm#VWM> (with a hand-engraved handle) for \$42.50. And other interesting Sherlockiana.
14514. Hans Sodertalje has reported to The Baskerville Hall Club that Andrew Taylor's BÖCKER SOM FÖRÄNDRADE VÄRLDEN: 50 VIKTIGASTE BÖCKERNA GENOM TIDERNA (published in Sweden in 2009) includes an essay on EN STUDIE I ROTT. For those who don't read Swedish, that's BOOKS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD: 50 MOST IMPORTANT BOOKS OF ALL TIME and (of course) A STUDY IN SCARLET. Scandinavian books can be ordered on-line at <www.adlibris.com>.

April 2012 #3

14515. The Bristol Riverside Theatre will present the world premiere of Allan Knee's play "Faery Tales", which the theater describes as "the true story" of the Cottingley Fairies (Conan Doyle sent the photographs to his good friend Harry Houdini, "pitting the two men, each famous for their own brand of bringing the fantastic to life, against each other in a war over reality and magic"), Jan. 29-Feb. 17. 120 Radcliffe Street, Bristol, PA 19007 (215-785-0100) <www.brtstage.org>. Conan Doyle and Houdini were involved with the Cottingley Fairies in the film "Fairy Tale: A True Story" (1997), but that wasn't true, either (there's no record of Houdini having been involved in the investigation). Knee's earlier play "The Man Who Was Peter Pan" (1998) was adapted for the film "Finding Neverland" (2004), in which Ian Hart was seen briefly as Arthur Conan Doyle.
14516. The Eastbourne Herald has reported (Mar. 19) on how the locals are honoring Sherlock Holmes and his retirement at East Dean: there's a plaque, and a 6 km walk, and an informative web-site at <www.beachyhead.org.uk>; search for [sherlock holmes].
14517. The film "Titanic" (1997) has been reissued as "Titanic 3D" as part of the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the ship's sinking. It's not a compelling reason to see the film again, but: near the beginning, when the salvagers discuss whether 100-year-old Rose Calvert could be a survivor of the disaster, one of them says the other, "There's your first clue, Sherlock."
14518. A marginal item for record collectors: "Back into the Future" is a double-LP album issued by the Welsh psychedelic/progressive rock band Man in 1973 with a cover photograph that shows Sherlock Holmes standing on the platform of an Edwardian railroad station; you can see the cover at the album's entry at Wikipedia <www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Back_Into_The_Future>. The album has been reissued as a CD with the same cover photograph.
14519. Those who fondly remember the grand gourmet Sherlockian dinners at the CIA (that's the Culinary Institute of America) may wish to attend the celebration of the 40th anniversary of The Hudson Valley Scientists in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., on May 27; the theme of the gathering will be "Sherlock Holmes on the Hudson River", and the dinner will be supervised by CIA award-winning chef Fritz Sonnenschmidt. Details are available from Lou and Candace Lewis (2 Lookerman Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601) <llewis@lewisgreer.com>.
14520. Christopher Boone, narrator of Mark Haddon's award-winning best-seller THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME (2003) is an autistic teenager who enjoys the Sherlock Holmes stories, and turns detective himself; the National Theatre in London has commissioned a dramatization of the novel, for performance starting in July.
14521. "Cloud Lovers, Unite!" is the motto of the Cloud Appreciation Society, reported by Karen Ellery, and one of the attractive photographs at the society web-site shows "Sherlock Holmes' smoking pipe over Teglio, Italy." The URL is <www.cloudappreciationsociety.org/?s=sherlock+holmes&g=1>. According to a society press release there will be a Sherlockian cloud in CLOUDS THAT LOOK LIKE THINGS, by Gavin Pretor-Pinney (London: Sceptre, 2012; 112 pp., £12.99), due in April.

April 2012 #4

14522. "This house, built in 1881, and was once occupied by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle," reads a plaque at 2151 Sacramento Street in San Francisco. The house was offered for sale in 1985 for \$1.3 million (October 85 #2) and was sold in 1986 for just under \$1 million (January 87 #2), and you can now buy one of the building's four apartments (with 3 bed bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 2,528 square feet) for \$2.5 million. But: Conan Doyle never lived in the house. He was a visitor, in June 1923, to meet Dr. Albert Abrams, who did live there. Abrams had invented a "radio heterodyne" that he used to detect cancer, syphilis, and other diseases, and Conan Doyle was greatly impressed; he discusses his visit to San Francisco, and Abrams, in OUR SECOND AMERICAN ADVENTURE (1924). He stayed at the Clift Hotel, which is much fancier now than it was then; the current rate for a standard room is \$255 a night.
14523. Tina Rhea spotted some interesting T-shirts at <www.redbubble.com>; search for [sherlock holmes].
14524. I've noted in past issues that members of The Baker Street Irregulars have acted in films, and I suppose that children should not be ignored. Jenny Ashman (daughter of Peter Ashman) has played Madeline in "The Karaoke King" (2007), and has other credits at the Internet Movie Database.
14525. "I love Sherlock Holmes. My life is so untidy and he's so neat." Dorothy Parker, interviewed by Marion Capron on "The Art of Fiction" in the Paris Review, summer 1956.

14526. "Hercule et Sherlock" (1996) is a French film, available on DVD (in French, although there is a version subtitled in Spanish); "when a counterfeiter is captured, two of his thugs have to work with two counterfeit money-sniffing dogs named Hercule and Sherlock to find the lost cash." Credit Irene Mihklin for spotting the film.
14527. The spring issue of For the Sake of the Trust (the The Baker Street Irregulars Trust newsletter) has Andy Solberg's report on the Trust's Oral History Project, Vinnie Brosnan's "A Collector Recollects", and other news of and about the Trust; all issues of the newsletter are available on-line at the Trust web-site <www.bsitrust.org>, and copies of the current issue are available from Marshall S. Berdan (2015 Main Street, Glastonbury, CT 06033) <editor@bsitrust.org>.
14528. Peter Calamai recommends the Book Depository for buying in-print books from Britain; they're in Guernsey, and at <www.bookdepository.com>, and there's no charge for world-wide shipping to more than 100 countries.
14529. The Hounds of the Baskerville (sic) describe themselves as Chicago's original, senior, and most singular Sherlockian society, and one of their annual dinners featured a presentation by fight director and coordinator Tony Wolf (a co-founder of the Bartitsu Society), who performed a demonstration and previewed his upcoming documentary "Bartitsu: The Lost Martial Art of Sherlock Holmes" (there's been no word on whether any Hounds were harmed during the demonstration). The DVD was released last year by Broken Art (\$29.95), and it is nicely done indeed; the Bartitsu enthusiasts interviewed include authors Neal Stephenson and Will Thomas.

April 2012 #5

14530. Debbie Clark has reported Peter Tonkin's THE HOUND OF THE BORDERS (2003), which has Elizabethan sleuth Tom Musgrave on the Scottish borders in pursuit of the Barquest (a mythical hound of terrifying proportions); it's the third of four books in the his "Master of Defense" series, which has been described as "James Bond meets Sherlock Holmes meets William Shakespeare."
14531. Plan well ahead: the Segal Centre for Performing Arts in Montreal will present a new Sherlockian play written by Greg Kramer and starring Jay Baruchel as as Holmes, May 5-26, 2013 <www.segalcentre.org>.
14532. The Société Sherlock Holmes de France has reported on "L'extravagant mystère Holmes", a play written by Christian Chevalier and Christophe Guillon that premiered in 2010 and is still being performed by the Compagnie Kelanotre; their web-site at <www.kelanotre.com> has artwork, photographs, and a three-minute video.
14533. Universal Pictures was founded on Apr. 30, 1912, and is now the oldest operating film producer and distributor in the United States. The UCLA Film & Television Archive is celebrating Universal's centenary with a seven-week film festival, showing films that range from "Traffic in Souls" (1913) to "Inglourious Basterds" (2009); details at <www.tinyurl.com/85vhvlp>. Alas: none of Basil Rathbone's "Sherlock Holmes" films made the list.
14534. A new Russian television series "Sherlock Holmes" has been in the works for some time, from Central Partnership, which was described as Russia's largest independent film producer and distributor (June 08 #6); there were many delays, but Alexander Orlov has reported that the production of the series is now underway, starring Igor Patrenko (Sherlock Holmes) and Andrey Panin (Dr. Watson) in eight two-part stories. Additional information is available at <www.tinyurl.com/723crts> (the Russian version of Wikipedia); Google Translate is a useful (and free) program that helps you read all sorts of languages on-line.
14535. The Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research surely is one of the more unusual places to find "The Valley of Fear" cited. Karen Murdock discovered "Sherlock Holmes and the Strange Case of the Missing Attribution" (by Jamie Reilly and Jamie Fisher) in the Feb. 2012 issue: the authors note echoes of the story in "The Grandfather Passage", which is used by aphasiologists and others to elicit speech and reading errors. Copies are available from Prof. Reilly <jjreilly@phhp.ufl.edu>.
14536. "You've Got Mail" is a weekly feature on the Houghton Library blog, and you can read Peter Accardo's report on an interesting letter from Christopher Morley to Edgar W. Smith at <www.tinyurl.com/7s2sl3y>. The letter is part of the Baker Street Irregulars Archive at the Houghton.
14537. The next "Sherlock Holmes Weekend" in Cape May, N.J., will be on Nov. 2-4, with participants at work solving the mystery "Sherlock Holmes and the Trial of Moriarty's Challenge"; there also will be a performance of "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Norwood Builder" by the East Lynne Theater Company. Visit <www.capemaymac.org/tours/winter/special/sherlock.html> for more information on the weekend, or write to Box 340, Cape May, N.J. 08204.

April 2012 #6

14538. The Arthur Conan Doyle Weekend in Haslemere on June 15-17 (February 12 #8) now has its own web-site <www.haslemere.com/conandoyle>; Conan Doyle and first wife Touie rented Grayswood Beeches in Haslemere, and stayed at the Moorlands Hotel in Hindhead, before they moved into their new home, Undershaw, in the fall of 1897.
14539. The Puzzle Society has "games for your brain" as its motto, and a web-site at <www.puzzlesociety.com>, and a long series of pocket-size themed Pocket Posh puzzle books, the latest of which is POCKET POSH: SHERLOCK HOLMES: 100 PUZZLES & QUIZZES (Kansas City: Andrews McMeel, 2012; 135 pp., \$7.99), and the book offers interesting mental exercise for fans.
14540. Steve Hockensmith's first story about Old Red and Big Red Amlingmeyer was published in Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine (Feb. 2003), and he went on to write more stories and five novels about the two cowboys: Old Red is a devoted admirer of the Sherlock Holmes stories, and Big Red is his literate brother who reads the stories to Old Red as they appear in magazines in the 1890s. DEAR MR. HOLMES: SEVEN HOLMES ON THE RANGE MYSTERIES (Charleston: CreateSpace, 2012; 202 pp., \$11.99) collects seven stories reprinted from EQMM and the anthology GHOST TOWNS (2010); there's lots of detection, oldwest flavor, and humor, and even the title-page verso copyright information is funny. The author has a web-site at <www.stevhockensmith.com>.
14541. The March issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota offers warm tributes to Norman Schatell by Julie McKuras and Don Pollock, "50 Years Ago" memories of John C. Hogan, and other new from and about the collections; copies of the newsletter are available from Richard J. Sveum (111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <sveum001@tc.umn.edu>.
14542. Plnow (the "trusted network of private investigators") pitted 16 fictional private investigators against each other in a "March Madness" contest, and (as might be expected) Sherlock Holmes was the winner, matched in the finals against Magnum (who won a separate prize for "best private investigator mustache"). Details at <www.tinyurl.com/cp8ephl>.
14543. Tyke and Teddie Niver continue to present their "Sherlock Holmes: An Evening with the Gillettes" at Gillette Castle and at other venues in Connecticut; more information is available at <www.sherlockholmesct.com>.
14544. Acorn Media is continuing its evolution from distribution into content ownership and television production, recently acquiring a 64% interest in the Agatha Christie estate. They continue to offer a wide range of television series on DVDs at <www.acornonline.com>, and free episodes of many of

their series at <www.acornonline.com/acornrtv>, and if you purchase premium status (\$24.99 a year) you can watch complete series on-line, and they're planning to make their service available to Roku and NOOK devices.

14545. Daniel Corey's MORIARTY comic-book mini-series from Image (November 11 #7) will be turned into a stage musical, according to a Comic Book Resources story (Feb. 27) that said "it will be a very gritty and dark piece with a sense of high adventure" with music based in hard rock. Corey's media company is DangerKatt, and you can see his work at <www.professorjamesmoriarty.com>.

April 2012 #7

14546. Further to the report (March 12 #7) on "Steampunk Holmes: Legacy of the Nautilus" (the first in a "multi-channel" series that's going to be available both in print and electronically), the publishers are asking for financial support for the project; pledges start at \$1.00, with premiums offered at various levels (the campaign ends on May 3). There's an interesting web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/blgusuz> with more information, artwork, and a five-minute video.
14547. LUKOLI CHIKCHIKA APISA (a Choctaw translation of "The Speckled Band") was commissioned by Don Hobbs, who offers it as a 40-page pamphlet for \$20.00 postpaid (to the U.S.); his address is 2100 Elm Creek Lane, Flower Mound, TX 75028 <221b@verizon.net>.
14548. There's a nice assortment of new pastiches from MX Publishing, all of them (and more) available at their web-site <www.mxpublishing.com>: Tim Symonds' SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE DEAD BOER AT SCOTNEY CASTLE (2012; 277 pp., £11.99) pits Holmes and Watson against the Kipling League, a sinister society that manages to outwit Holmes (who understandably did not want this account published). Dean P. Turnbloom's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE WHITECHAPEL VAMPIRE (2012; 246 pp., £10.99) has Holmes and Watson in pursuit of the Ripper, who is a sophisticated vampire who has fallen in love with the niece of Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sir Charles Warren. Amy Thomas' THE DETECTIVE AND THE WOMAN (2012; 204 pp., £9.99) sends Holmes and a widowed Irene Adler to Florida during the Great Hiatus, meeting Thomas Edison and foiling complicated villainy.
14549. Also from MX Publishing is Dan Andriacco's HOLMES SWEET HOLMES (2012; 260 pp., £10.99), a murder mystery in which the victim is writer-actor-director Peter Gerard, whose latest film "221B Bourbon Street" had Holmes and Watson in New Orleans in the 1920s and triggered a storm of protest from Sherlockian purists, one of whom may or may not be the murderer.
14550. The winners of Edgars awarded by the Mystery Writers of America this year included Michael Dirda's ON CONAN DOYLE; OR, THE WHOLE ART OF STORYTELLING (for best critical/biographical) and Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot" (for best play).
14551. "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" is an interview podcast by Scott Monty and Burt Wolder, and the latest episode (#41) runs 62 minutes and includes an interview with Lara Pulver, who plays Irene Adler in "A Scandal in Belgravia" (the first episode of the second series of "Sherlock", airing on PBS-TV on May 6). Listen to or download the podcast at <www.ihearofsherlock.com>; earlier episodes also are available, and there are no spoilers in Pulver's interview. It has been rumored that she was fully clothed during her interview, but Monty and Wolder weren't.
14552. The Missing Three-Quarter has been to Japan. The manuscript, that is. The British Library sent "two major treasures" (the manuscript, and a copy of Shakespeare's First Folio) to Tokyo as highlights in an exhibition at the British Embassy, Apr. 23-25, promoting British culture and education.

May 2012 #1

14553. July 15 is the deadline for registration for "Sherlock Holmes: Behind the Canonical Screen" (the Baker Street Irregulars' conference in Los Angeles on Aug. 30-Sept. 3), which will feature actors, producers, and directors, and presentations covering screen-writing, casting, costuming, sound, and lighting. And screening of several rare and recently-restored films. Details at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com/losangeles2012.html>.
14554. The Ironmongers Daily News (published almost daily by the Société Sherlock Holmes de France) reports "Sherlock Yack" (2011), a French animated television series with 52 13-minute episodes. You can see artwork and watch a few episodes at <www.vodgratuite.cm/go/tf1/sherlock-yack-1334640800>.
14555. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists (also known as The Friends of Sherlock Holmes) met to honor the world's first forensic geologist with drinks and dinner at Gladstone's in Long Beach on Apr. 25, when visitors attending the annual meeting of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists were welcomed by members of the local Sherlockian societies. An article on forensic geology and Sherlock Holmes and Sherlockians appeared in the AAPG Explorer's April issue <www.aapg.org/explorer/2012/04apr/spotlight0412.cfm>. Our next dinners will be in Charlotte on Nov. 7, and in Pittsburgh on May 22, 2013.
14556. Michael Procter died on May 3. He trained at the Royal Academy of Music in London and went on to specialize in Renaissance music; he was a performer, conductor, teacher, and editor and publisher, and his web-site's still active at <www.michael-procter.com>. Based in Germany, he was an energetic Sherlockian, this year founding the Sherlock Holmes Club of Karlsruhe; he also combined his two interests in an impressive monograph MELANCHOLIA IN MUSIC: THE POSTHUMOUS MOTETS OF ORLANDUS LASSUS, BY SHERLOCK HOLMES, published this year and available from Amazon in most countries.
14557. Philip K. Jones' data base for Sherlockian pastiches, parodies, and related fiction now has more than 9,000 entries; previously hosted at Michael Procter's web-site, the data base is now available at Christopher and Barbara Roden's web-site <www.ash-tree.bc.ca/Sherlock.htm>.
14558. Sherlockians who have attended the birthday festivities will recall, fondly or perhaps otherwise, West 44th Street institutions such as the Algonquin, the Iroquois, the Royalton, the Red Flame, and the N.Y. City Bar Association, will enjoy Alex Shoumatoff's long and interesting article "Positively 44th Street" in the June issue of Vanity Fair (alas, only a teaser's available at the magazine's web-site). There's history galore, and gossip and scandal, in the block between Fifth and Sixth Avenues, and Shoumatoff gives the reader a fine tour of the area.
14559. Jon Lellenberg reports Arcadia Falcone's recent contribution to the Harry Ransom Center's "Cultural Compass" blog on "The Adventure of the Immortal Detective: Discovering Sherlock Holmes in the Archives" with a set of interesting images; they have a copy of Beeton's Christmas Annual, Paget originals, manuscripts, and other nice material. You can read all about it at <www.utexas.edu/opa/blogs/culturalcompass/tag/baker-street-irreglars>.

May 2012 #2

14560. The Daily Telegraph reported (May 3) that Buckingham Palace insiders have said that Queen Elizabeth has taken part in a film that will be broadcast during the opening ceremony of the summer Olympics, bestowing a knighthood on James Bond (as portrayed by Daniel Craig). Jake Kerridge, the paper's crime critic, noted that two of Britain's most famous literary characters turned down knighthoods: one of them was James Bond, at the end of THE MAN WITH THE GOLDEN GUN, and the other was Sherlock Holmes, in "The Three Garridebs" (Kerridge also said that he didn't object to Britain "broadcasting to the world a film in which the monarch gives one of the country's highest honors to a bigoted manipulative satyromaniac"). You can watch the film when it airs on July 27.

14561. The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's *The Sherlockian E-Times* will be found at <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times12-4.html>, with news and offers of Sherlockiana from Classic Specialties, plus reports from other societies.
14562. CBS-TV has scheduled its one-hour series "Elementary" (March 12 #3) at 10:00 pm on Thursdays in its fall line-up; you can watch a four-minute trailer at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=yrDVSxNycKc>. There's also a more recent five-minute trailer at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=ff-XiZzJLxw>. A helpful hint for people in countries where CBS-TV isn't available on television (if you have access to the Internet): American networks tend to make their series available on-line; see <www.cbs.com> for a sample of what's available now.
14563. "The next I heard of Frank," Hatty Doran told Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson (in "The Noble Bachelor"), "he was in Montana, and then he was prospecting in Arizona, and then I heard from him from New Mexico." Our new stamps honor the 100th anniversary of statehood for Arizona and New Mexico; Montana's centennial was celebrated earlier (January 89 #5).
14564. "Bloody Scotland", Scotland's first international crimewriting festival, Sept. 14-16 in Stirling, will have Ian Rankin as keynote speaker and many other writers on hand for the weekend event, which will include panels, workshops, a short-story contest, master-classes, and a Sherlock Holmes Dinner (on Sept. 15) with David Stuart Davies as the toastmaster. There's a web-site at <www.bloodyscotland.com>, and if you're asked for a password, it's [welcome].
14565. George Anton's YouTube video "Sherlock Holmes" (March 12 #7), with Kevin Glaser as Holmes and Charles Simon as Watson, also is available commercially as a DVD (\$19.99) and from Amazon Instant Video (\$1.99).
14566. Laurie R. King will be guest of honor at Malice Domestic 25 (May 3-5, 2013, at the Hyatt Regency in Bethesda, Md.); it's a long-running conference for mystery writers and readers, and it offers a fine opportunity to meet your favorite authors (and get them to sign their books for you). Details will be found (eventually) at <www.malicedomestic.org>, but you can register now (and that's advised if you want full registration including the Agatha banquet, at which attendance will be limited).

May 2012 #3

14567. "Masterpiece" promoted the second season of "Sherlock" with an excerpt screening, Q&A, and autograph reception in New York on May 2, with Benedict Cumberbatch, co-creator Stephen Moffat, and producer Sue Vertue, and there were 10,000 on-line applications for the 400 seats at the preview. You can watch a 48-minute video of the Q&A session at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=-MltF5YNPac>. Rebecca Eaton said that filming for the third season will begin in early 2013, and the series will air in the U.S. in 2013.
14568. Karen Murdock spotted the "Locations" section of Sherlockology, where you can find out where scenes were shot for all six episodes of "Sherlock" (you can click on "Series 1" or "Series 2" and then on scenes to find out what's where). And the British Academy of Film & Television announced its BAFTA Television Craft Awards on May 13, with "Sherlock" winning in three categories for "A Scandal in Belgravia": best editing/fiction, best sound: fiction, and best writer (Steven Moffat).
14569. And "Sherlock" co-creator Mark Gatiss, who also plays Mycroft, has revealed that his Mycroft has a real-life inspiration: "I'd just auditioned to play Peter Mandelson in a TV film and we'd already discussed how reptilian and Mandelsonian we wanted Mycroft to be." Mandelson is a Labour Party politician who has had a colorful and checkered career; a trusted advisor to Tony Blair, Mandelson was twice a member of Blair's cabinet and twice resigned amid accusations of corruption, and there's much more about him in an entry at Wikipedia.
14570. Plan well ahead: Jeffrey Hatcher's play "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club" will be performed at the Alley Theatre from May 24 to June 23, 2013. The theater is at 615 Texas Avenue, Houston, TX 77002 (713-220-5700) <www.alleytheatre.org>.
14571. The Sell a Door Theatre Company will perform Tim Kelly's play "The Hound of the Baskervilles" at the Greenwich Theatre, July 2-8. Croom's Hill, London SE10 8ES, England (020-8858-7755) <www.greenwichtheatre.org.uk>.
14572. "Sherlock Holmes awarded title for most portrayed literary human character in film & TV," Guinness World Records announced this month. According to Guinness, Holmes has been depicted on screen 254 times, by more than 75 actors, and Guinness adjudicator Claire Burgess commented that the title reflects Holmes' "enduring appeal and demonstrates that his detective talents are as compelling today as they were 125 years ago." The runner-up for the record was Hamlet, with only 206 appearances. But Holmes isn't the overall most portrayed literary character, according to Guinness: that title's held by the non-human Dracula who has been portrayed 272 times.
14573. A novel that includes a papal exorcist in its list of characters promises to be interesting, and Gyles Brandreth's OSCAR WILDE AND THE VATICAN MURDERS (New York: Touchstone, 2012; 337 pp., \$14.00) certainly fulfills that promise; it's the fifth in his series featuring Oscar Wilde and Arthur Conan Doyle as the detectives (Wilde, as always, is the better detective) in an imaginative mystery, narrated this time by Conan Doyle, that brings them to the Vatican in 1892. The next book in Brandreth's series will be OSCAR WILDE AND THE MURDERS AT READING GAOL.

May 2012 #4

14574. The television series "House, M.D." completed its long run on 21 with a one-hour retrospective special ("Swan Song") that included a brief segment with a Sherlockian discussion by Hugh Laurie (Gregory House) and series creator David Shore, and the final episode ("Everybody Dies") ended with an interesting echo of the Canon. Shore has often acknowledged that Holmes was part of the inspiration for House; the series has included occasional allusions over the years, among them the number of House's apartment: 221B.
14575. "An Indian Sherlock" is the title of a possible Indian film project, based on British author Tarquin Hall's series of novels about Vish Puri, a modern Punjabi detective described as "India's Most Private Investigator". Anand Tucker has been signed to direct the film, which may star Anil Kapoor, and there seems to be nothing Sherlockian about the film other than the title.
14576. A one-hour version of Jeremy Paul's play "The Secret of Sherlock Holmes" (commissioned by Jeremy Brett in 1988) will be performed at Theatre Asylum on June 9-24, during the Hollywood Fringe Festival. 6320 Santa Monica Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90038 (323-962-1632) <www.theatreasylum-la.com>.
14577. THE SECRET ARCHIVES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (London: Allison & Busby, 2012; 285 pp., £19.99) is June Thomson's latest collection of pastiches, with seven new stories; she started her series of collections with THE SECRET FILES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (December 90 #5), and continues to entertain her readers. There will be an American edition in September.
14578. The Société Sherlock Holmes de France has noted a new film project: "Sherlock Holmes vs. Frankenstein" from Marteau Films Production, with filming scheduled to start this winter: "Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson travel to Germany to investigate a strange case in the village of Darmstadt. Who is the mysterious scientist who digs up corpses and steals their limbs? Could these events be related to the nearby presence of Castle Frankenstein? Everyone is a suspect." Gautier Cazenave wrote the script and will direct, with Holmes and Watson played by Nicholas Rowe and Alan Cox, who played the same characters in the film "Young Sherlock Holmes" (1985). You can see a colorful poster at <www.holmes-frank.com>.

14579. Filming has been completed on the new Russian television series "Sherlock Holmes" (April 12 #5); the eight two-part programs are scheduled for broadcast next year.
14580. Enid Schantz died on Aug. 12. She and her husband Tom launched the Aspen Bookhouse in 1970 and went on to publish a series of reprints of early pastiches from their Aspen Press, many of which were imaginatively illustrated by Enid. They continued to sell and publish books from The Rue Morgue in Boulder, Colo., and were delighted to meet old and new friends and customers at Bouchercon, Malice Domestic, and Left Coast Crime.
14581. Jennie Paton discovered that an Australian company (Madman Entertainment) has released Roger Moore's "Sherlock Holmes in New York" (1976) on a region 4 (PAL) DVD (AU\$19.95); it's available for the first time on DVD, and there is a special-feature audio-commentary interview with Moore recorded in Oct. 2011. Details at <www.madman.com.au/catalogue/view/16563>.

May 2012 #5

14582. The BBC reported (Apr. 23) on the opening of the Kent History and Library Centre in Maidstone, where researchers can consult documents that date back to 699 AD; one of the items on display is a ledger that shows that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was fined £10/9s for driving his car more than 20 mph in the Folkestone area.
14583. Charles Higham died on Apr. 21. He was a poet, journalist, critic, and an energetic celebrity biographer who specialized in Hollywood figures such as Errol Flynn, Charles Laughton, and Cary Grant. Higham described Flynn as a bi-sexual Nazi spy, and Grant as a wife-beating closeted homosexual; some of his obituaries noted that one critic suggested that Higham's biography of Howard Hughes was so salacious that Higham "had reached the point where most of his subjects have slept with one another." His THE ADVENTURES OF CONAN DOYLE: THE LIFE OF THE CREATOR OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1976) was an exception: the book was not well researched and, without sex and scandal, it seemed to have bored its author.
14584. "You Know My Methods: A Collector's Approach to the Sherlockian Canon" is the title of an exhibition at the Book Club of California in San Francisco from June 4 through Sept. 10; the exhibition celebrates the 110th anniversary of the publication of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, and features rare items from the collection of Glen Miranker <www.bccbooks.org>.
14585. I'm not aware of any Sherlockian connection for the prediction that the world will end on Dec. 21, but it's worth noting that Belgium has issued a souvenir sheet with five stamps that show a detail from the prophetic panel of the Mayan calendar. Why Belgium? Because the complete panel is in Brussels, on display at the Royal Museums for Art and History.
14586. What's the most valuable modern Sherlockian periodical? A likely candidate is the first issue of Playboy, which included an excerpt from "The Sign of the Four"; it sold for 50¢ in Dec. 1953 and had a press run of 53,991 copies, and a copy sold at Heritage Auctions month for \$8,365 (including the buyer's premium). That's up nicely from the \$3,032 that a copy brought at an auction a few years ago (September 10 #6).
14587. Christopher Boone, the narrator of Mark Haddon's award-winning best-seller THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME (2003) is an autistic teen-ager who loves the Sherlock Holmes stories and turns detective himself; he will be played by Luke Treadaway in a dramatization by Simon Stephens at the National Theatre in London, July 24 through Sept. 12. There's more information at <www.nationaltheatre.org.uk>. Una Stubbs (Mrs. Hudson in the BBC's "Sherlock" mini-series, will play Mrs. Alexander.

May 2012 #6

14588. Scott Monty has reported that the Post-Meridian Radio Players' "Summer Radio Mystery Theatre" July 27-28 will offer new versions of three classic programs, including "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (adapted from the CBS Radio Mystery Theatre) in Somerville, Mass., on July 27-28. Details at <www.huboftheuniverseproductions.com>.
14589. A high court judge heard arguments on May 23 in the Undershaw Preservation Trust's campaign to block conversion of Conan Doyle's home into flats (May 11 #3); the judge is expected to rule soon on whether the Waverly Borough Council properly considered a third-party offer to purchase the house.
14590. There's a new version of the delightful parody of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" that was written by Steven Canny and John Nicholson in 2007: it's a radio-theater adaptation that will be performed at the Bath Fringe Festival on June 4 <www.bathfringe.co.uk>. It was inspired by a performance with a live audience that was recorded for BBC Radio 4 in March; the program will air as the Saturday Drama on July 7. Nick Hern Books publish the original script and license it for amateur productions <www.nickhernbooks.co.uk>; the company also offers David Edgar's dramatization of Julian Barnes' novel ARTHUR AND GEORGE.
14591. There was a flurry of publicity last month about the discovery in the John Murray Archives at the National Library of Scotland of Conan Doyle stories that were considered to be "not very good and not used as the quality was too poor." The stories, none of them unpublished, were found in a set of typescripts that likely were prepared for possible reprinting in THE CONAN DOYLE STORIES (1929); they've been republished since, in the volume of UNCOLLECTED STORIES (1982) edited by Richard Lancelyn Green.
14592. "Forensic Firsts" begins on the Smithsonian channel on June 17 and the series offers an interesting look at how forensic sciences are used by detectives today <www.smithsonianchannel.com/site/sn/show.do?series=826>. They may even mention Sherlock Holmes.
14593. Les Klinger reports that Ronald Unz has digitized The Bookman [London] and The Bookman [New York] the files are searchable, and of course contain much about Sherlock Holmes and Arthur Conan Doyle. <www.unz.org/Pub/BookmanUK> and <www.unz.org/Pub/Bookman>. Unz has digitized many other magazines that contain Sherlockiana and Doyleana.
14594. "Good Bad Books" is the title of an essay by George Orwell in Tribune (Nov. 2, 1945) and reprinted SHOOTING AN ELEPHANT AND OTHER ESSAYS (1950); he acknowledges G. K. Chesterton for coining the phrase, which Orwell applies to "the kind of book that has no literary pretensions but which remains readable when more serious productions have perished." And his list of "obviously outstanding books in this line" includes "Raffles", "Dracula", "Uncle Tom's Cabin", and the Sherlock Holmes stories. Orwell had earlier written a Sherlockian parody "The Adventure of the Lost Meat-Card" for Eton College's Election Times (June 3, 1918), unmentioned in his essay, which can be read on-line at <www.orwell.ru/library/reviews/books/english/e-books>.

June 2012 #1

14595. The Undershaw Preservation Trust won its suit to prevent conversion of Conan Doyle's home into flats (May 11 #3) when a high court judge ruled that the Waverley Borough Council had not adequately met statutory requirements to pay special regard to the preservation of heritage assets and planning policy when it approved the developer's plans. The judge awarded £20,000 in legal costs to Trust founder John Gibson, and gave the Council time to consider whether to appeal; the Council later announced that it would not contest the decision, but Fossway, the developer, has decided to appeal.
14596. Guy Ritchie is keeping busy while waiting to proceed with a third "Sherlock Holmes" film for Warner Bros. Trade journals report that he is working on a film version of "The Man from U.N.C.L.E." and on a proposed new version of "Treasure Island" (both for Warner Bros.).

14597. The Book Club of California has more information about its celebration of the 110th anniversary of the publication of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES at the club's web-site <www.bccbooks.org/exhibit.htm>. The exhibition runs through Sept 10, and Glen Miranker reports that the material on display includes manuscript pages, original artwork by Sidney Paget and Frederic Dorr Steele, and Conan Doyle's Norwood notebook (1885-1896).
14598. Philip K. Jones' data base for Sherlockian pastiches, parodies, and related fiction now has more than 9,200 entries; the data base is now available at Christopher and Barbara Roden's web-site <www.ash-tree.bc.ca/Sherlock.htm> and (with Philip's article "The Untold Tales--Analyzed") at Miguel Herrera Baena's web-site at <www.sherlock-holmes.es/database.php>.
14599. Further to the item about Alex Shoumatoff's excellent article "Positively 44th Street" in the June issue of Vanity Fair (May 12 #1), Scott Monty has kindly provided a link to the article <www.tinyurl.com/75nen68>.
14600. The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times12-6.html>, offering Sherlockiana, old and new, books and much more, including a tribute to Bob Burr accompanied by photographic proof that Bob does occasionally leave Peoria.
14601. Qiu Xiaolong is the author of the political detective novel DON'T CRY, TAI LAKE (Minotaur, 2012), which was praised by Patrick Anderson in his review in the Washington Post (May 21); it's not Sherlockian, but Xiaolong reports that he was a teenager in China during the Cultural Revolution (1966-1976) when almost all literature was banned. He succeeded in borrowing a copy of the Sherlock Holmes stories from a friend, and to avoid getting into trouble read them concealed inside the red plastic cover of QUOTATIONS OF CHAIRMAN MAO. He has lived in the United States since 1988, and has a web-site at <www.qiuxiaolong.com>.
14602. Clothes on Film <www.clothesonfilm.com> is an interesting web-site devoted to "examining costume and identity in movies; in May 2010 there was a twopart discussion by Chris Lavery of Robert Downey Jr.'s "Sherlock Holmes" (2009), and this month a two-part discussion of "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows" (2011), with input from the film's costume designer Jenny Beavan.

June 2012 #2

14603. The 8th Annual Convention of The Reichenbachian Cliff-Divers is to be held in Peoria on Aug. 15-17, according to an announcement in the June issue of the Gaslight Gazette (published by The Survivors of the Gloria Scott); details of one of the more unusual Sherlockian gatherings are available by e-mail from Dave Milner <openshaw@bellsouth.net>. It's possible that this is a rescheduling of the convention announced for May 11-13 in Succasunna, N.J., in a message to the Sherlock Holmes Social Network <www.sherlockholmes.ning.com>.
14604. Danish artist Nis Jessen has applied Sherlockian quotations to some of the illustrations in his spectacular edition of A STUDY IN SCARLET (July 05 #6), and you can see the results at his Facebook page <www.tinyurl.com/7bf2dl9>. His own web-site is at <www.jessen-gallery.dk>, and copies of his book are available: contact his wife Flerida at <flerida-jessen@jessen-gallery.dk>.
14605. It's not Sherlockian, but it's a fine book for collectors: Miles Harvey's THE ISLAND OF LOST MAPS: A TRUE STORY OF CARTOGRAPHIC CRIME (2000) explores the story of Gilbert Bland Jr., whose cartomania doesn't seem all that far removed from bibliomania. The author's web-site is <www.milesharvey.com>.
14606. "Writing Britain: Wastelands to Wonderlands" is a major exhibition at the British Library through Sept. 25, examining "how the landscapes of Britain permeate great literary works"; the section on "Wild Places: Terror of the Wild" includes THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES. There's an interesting web-site at <www.bl.uk/whatson/exhibitions/writingbritain>.
14607. The U.S. Postal Service has issued a set of stamps honoring four Great Film Directors: Frank Capra, John Huston, John Ford, and Billy Wilder, three of whom have Sherlockian connections. Billy Wilder directed "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970), John Huston played Moriarty in "Sherlock Holmes in New York" (1976), and John Ford (billed as Jack Francis) played Watson in "A Study in Scarlet" (1914), directed by his older brother Francis Ford, who also played Holmes.
14608. "Sherlock Holmes: Game of Shadows" ended its run in theaters in the U.S. on Apr. 12 after 112 days on screens in 3,703 theaters, according to the Box Office Mojo web-site; the film's world-wide gross is now stands at \$543.8 million. "Sherlock Holmes" (the first Robert Downey Jr. film) ran for 126 days in 3,626 theaters in the U.S. and grossed \$524.0 million world-wide.
14609. The Serpentine Muse continues to offer news from, about, and by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes; the summer issue has Susan Rice's discussion of "Lighthouses of the Past and Future" (about how young women have joined the Sherlockian world from the 1960s through the 2010s), and much more of interest; it's published quarterly and costs \$15.00 a year from Evelyn A. Herzog (301 Warren Avenue #203, Baltimore, MD 21230).

June 2012 #3

14610. An article in the Aberdeen Press & Journal (June 16) noted that Arthur Conan Doyle was born at 11 Picardy Place in Edinburgh, and that a plaque on another building on the street notes that on a certain date, on this very spot, nothing much happened. But the real focus of the article is on the building at 12 Picardy Place, where today one will find the Mark Greenaway Restaurant; Mark Greenaway earlier this year became the only Scottish chef to be awarded three rosettes from the Automobile Association for outstanding cuisine.
14611. Anglofile is a blog by Leslie King, offering detailed coverage of British entertainment; she offers early reports on programs to come on PBS-TV and on BBC America at <anglofileplus.livejournal.com>; the blog's also on Facebook at <www.facebook.com/anglofileplus>
14612. For those who don't already have the book (and there shouldn't be many of you), copies of ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: A LIFE IN LETTERS, edited by Jon Lellenberg, Daniel Stashower, and Charles Foley (May 07 #5) are available discounted to \$4.98 at <www.daedalusbooks.com>. Thanks to Tina Rhea for the report.
14613. Januaryet Rudolph has announced that Anthony Horowitz's pastiche THE HOUSE OF SILK (December 11 #5) has been nominated for a Macavity Award (best mystery novel) from Mystery Readers International/Mystery Readers Journal. Winners of the awards (named for T. S. Eliot's creation in OLD POSSUM'S BOOK OF PRACTICAL CATS) will be announced at Bouchercon in October.
14614. Tumblr is an imaginative and useful web-site that at which people can post text, photos, links, music, and videos; it was founded in 2007 and now has more than 63 million posts a day in twelve languages, and of course some of the posts are from people who are "addicted to Sherlock." You can see what it's all about at <www.shaddicted.tumblr.com>.
14615. "Enjoy the 100 Greatest Books of All Times and Never Have to Read a Word!" is the offer from the Library of Classics; for only \$99.00 you receive the books in audio format and an MP3 player, and one of the books is THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES. Go to <www.buythe classics.com> to see the titles of all of the books.

14616. Patricia Gore-Booth died on Feb. 2. She was born in Japan and educated in Australia, and returning to Japan when war broke out in Europe she went to work in the British Embassy assigned to work in Paul Gore-Booth's department. They were married in September 1940, interned by the Japanese, sent back to Britain, and then posted to the British Embassy in Washington, and she was with her husband during all his long diplomatic career, and during all his Sherlockian career. Their photograph, costumed as Sherlock Holmes and Irene Adler during the Sherlock Holmes Society of London's first Swiss Pilgrimage, appeared in *The Times* on May 1, 1968.
14617. Catherine Cooke reports that Abbey House still stands at the site of 221B Baker Street, with the central facade and clocktower preserved. According to the developer, the overall site has 92 luxury residential units and 40 affordable units, with underground car parking, and there's a nice photograph at <www.flickr.com/photos/ddtmmm/3909629026>.
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June 2012 #4

14618. "The Adventure of the Immortal Detective: Discovering Sherlock Holmes in the Archives" is the title of an interesting post by Arcadia Falcone to the Cultural Compass blog at the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas. The collection has some wonderful Sherlockian and Doylean material (including two pairs of his socks); you can read her post at <www.utexas.edu/opa/blogs/culturalcompass/2012/05/03/sherlock-holmes>, and the slide show is fascinating (there's a button to turn on captions).
14619. ARMCHAIR MYSTERIES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES is a new collection of pastiches by Alan Downing, available (without charge) via the Internet as PDF and Kindle files at <www.sites.google.com/site/armchairmysteries>.
14620. There will be some intriguing Conan Doyle material at auction on July 10 at Sworders <www.sworder.co.uk/index.php?_a=viewBlog+blogId=17>. Mary Jakeman was working as a servant in Surbiton in 1909, when she applied for a position as lady's maid in the Conan Doyle household, and Conan Doyle's letter offering her the job ("The wages start at £26. The servants find their own beer or wine.") is included in the collection, along with other correspondence from the family (she left their employ in 1932) and photographs, and signed and inscribed books; she is mentioned in *THE WANDERINGS OF A SPIRITUALIST* (1921) and *MEMORIES AND ADVENTURES* (1924).
14621. Richard Carpenter died on Feb. 26. He was acted on stage and television, and in the 1970s turned to writing for ITV and the BBC, becoming a popular and prolific screenwriter for children's television, including two of the four programs in the series "The Baker Street Boys" (1983).
14622. Twickenham Film Studios has closed, one year short of celebrating 100 years of British film-making. Founded as St. Margaret's Studios in 1913, it was renamed in 1929 by the company's owners producer Jules Hagen and director Leslie Hiscott. Films made at Twickenham included the Beatles' "Help!" and "A Hard Day's Night", Michael Caine's "Alfie", Angela Lansbury's "The Mirror Crack'd", Meryl Streep's "The Iron Lady", and most of Arthur Wontner's Sherlockian films in the 1930s.
14623. Further to the report (December 01 #4) on the "Hound of the Baskervilles effect" (the conclusion that fatal heart attacks and stress are linked in fact as well as fiction), Don Pollock has noted references to a "Hound of the Baskervilles pattern" <www.tinyurl.com/6nb6kp3>. It's a financial phenomenon, "when a pattern or anticipated behaviour in prices does not occur in spite of compelling recent evidence," and it seems to have been named by someone who thought that the dog that did nothing in the night-time was the Baskerville hound.
14624. The latest Sherlockian audio from Big Finish is *SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE ADVENTURE OF THE PERfidious MARINER*, on a CD (\$14.07) and as a download (\$7.99); PO Box 3787, Maidstone, Berks. SL6 3TF, England <www.bigfinish.com>. Nicholas Briggs stars as Holmes, and Richard Earl as Watson, with Michael Maloney as J. Bruce Ismay (the most hated man in England, blamed for the Titanic disaster); it's an intriguing mystery, and as always well-acted and recorded. There's a 30-minute podcast at the web-site, and downloadable copies of the company's monthly magazine *Vortex*, as well as information about their Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian recordings.
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June 2012 #5

14625. The "casting thread" is pervasive on the Internet, where people often imagine various actors playing various characters, and in 2009 Regan Payne, a Canadian free-lance writer and director, was inspired by the first Robert Downey Jr. film to propose imaginative combinations of actors and directors for never-made Sherlock Holmes movies for each decade from 1929 to 1999 (for 1939, for example, he had Michael Curtiz directing William Powell as Holmes and Buster Keaton as Watson). The entire blog can be read at <www.tinyurl.com/cdauzud>.
14626. Alyson Kuhn has an interesting (and well illustrated) report on "The Case of the Sherlockian Miranker" at the Felt and Wire web-site on the exhibition "You Know My Methods: A Collector's Approach to the Sherlockian Canon" at the Book Club of California in San Francisco (May 12 #5); you can read all about it at <www.tinyurl.com/6q6jnuw>.
14627. Benedict Cumberbatch, interviewed by TVLine (June 14), said that "I'll always do 'Sherlock'--it's something I'm not going to give up on," and that "there's no reason for us to stop if it's still being adored and we still enjoy doing it." Cumberbatch also said that he'd like to see Holmes getting older: "We're starting quite young. It's rare to see Holmes and Watson at the beginning of their relationship; we usually join them in their mid-to-late 40s or 50s. I've got a way to go. I mean, I'm only 35."
14628. And "Getting Sherlock Holmes Right Onscreen" is the title of a perceptive essay by Michael Sragow at the New Yorker's "culture desk" blog, where he has nice things to say about the Cumberbatch/Freeman series, and about the Rathbone/Bruce films <www.tinyurl.com/7cbsd7>.
14629. Last month President Obama awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom to 11-time Grammy winner Bob Dylan, noting that "there is not a bigger giant in the history of American music" (the medal is awarded "for having made especially meritorious contributions to the security or national interests of the United States, to world peace, or to culture or other significant public or private endeavours." In 1963 Dylan refused appear on "The Ed Sullivan Show" when CBS refused to allow him to sing "The Talking John Birch Society Blues" (the song's lyrics include a mention of Sherlock Holmes).
14630. Caroline John died on June 5. She began her acting career on screen at the age of 15, performed on stage, and was best known for her role as Liz Shaw in the "Doctor Who" television series. She also had a supporting role in "Madame Sara" in "The Rivals of Sherlock Holmes" (1971), and played Laura Lyons in Tom Baker's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1982).
14631. Karen Murdock reports the Craig Calvert has constructed 1:6 scale diorama of the sitting room at 221B, and there are lots of photographs at his web-site at <www.bakerstreetdiorama.com>.
14632. Phil Bergem continues his research into matters Doylean, and has written an excellent article on "Residences of Arthur Conan Doyle"; there are detailed descriptions, contemporary maps, coordinates, and latitudes and longitudes (so you can use Google Earth to see what locations look like now). It is available as a PDF file at the "Conan Doyle" group at Yahoo (the file name is "ACD-residences") and by e-mail from Phil <pgbergem@gmail.com>.
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June 2012 #6

14633. Daniel Stashower's *THE HOUDINI SPECTER* (2000) has been reissued by Titan Books (\$12.95), completing his trio of "The Harry Houdini Mysteries"; as in *THE DIME MUSEUM MURDERS* and *THE FLOATING LADY MURDER* (February 12 #6), Houdini, beginning his career as an escapologist, succeeds in solving a well-written mystery. The books have passing mentions of Sherlock Holmes, and it's a pity there are only three in the series. The publisher's web-site is at <www.titanbooks.com>.
14634. Christopher Challis died on May 31. He was a newsreel camera assistant as a teenager, and began his film career as a cinematographer in 1947 and went on to have a long association with Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger, and became best known for his spectacular color work. He was director of photography for "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes".
14635. An interesting photograph of Conan Doyle will be available at International Autograph Auctions on July 14-15; it's lot 529, estimated at £250-£350 <www.autographauctions.co.uk>. It shows a younger Conan Doyle, and is signed, and is particularly interesting because it was taken by Elliott & Fry of Baker Street (the photograph studio was at 56 & 56 Baker until 1919, when it moved to another location), and it is interesting because it shows that Conan Doyle was forgetful when he once told an interviewer that he did not recall ever having been in Baker Street in his life.
14636. Anthony Horowitz is keeping busy: he's writing new episodes for "Foyle's War" and working on a sequel to his pastiche *THE HOUSE OF SILK* that will not feature Sherlock Holmes. "The recent Robert Downey films are great," Horowitz said to the *Yorkshire Post* (June 12), but they're what I call Indiana Holmes and, what I really want to do is explore the world in which he lives. So it's set in 1890 and the main character is Watson. By that time he and Holmes were already working together, but I want to look at Watson's partnership with another younger detective." Thanks to Randall Stock for the report.
14637. The Société Sherlock Holmes de France's Ironmongers Daily News has reported an amusing Russian parody of the Robert Downey Jr. and Benedict Cumberbatch versions of Sherlock Holmes at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=nIsHIBi_yZM>, and with English subtitles at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=v10idzSEN4Q>.
14638. Michael Kurland's *VICTORIAN VILLAINY* (Rockville: Wildside Press, 2011) is a collection of reprints of four short stories about Professor Moriarty, and they are written with style, imagination, and humor; \$4.19 as an eBook, or \$15.99 with Kurland's *THE TRIALS OF QUINTILIAN* in a trade-paperback reprise of the old Ace Double format (Quintilian was an early crime-solver, in the time of the Emperor Vespasian). Wildside specializes in mystery, fantasy, and adventure, and their web-site's at <www.wildsidebooks.com>. Kurland's own web-site's at <www.michaelkurland.com>; *THE INFERNAL DEVICE*, his first Moriarty novel, has been dramatized by James Geisel as a one-act play, and had its world premiere this month in South Bend, Ind.

July 2012 #1

14639. Julian Barnes' *ARTHUR & GEORGE* (September 05 #5) was a novelized joint biography of Arthur Conan Doyle and George Edalji, well written and imaginative, and it was dramatized by David Edgar (February 10 #5); Edgar's script (London: Nick Hern Books, 2010; 131 pp., £8.99) offers a welcome opportunity to see how interesting and intelligent a good dramatization can be. The publisher also offers a script for the parody version of *THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES* dramatized by Steven Canny and John Nicholson for Peepolykus (April 07 #3); the script (2012; 100 pp., £9.99) is delightful, and offers some pleasant surprises for those who have seen more recent productions of the play. The scripts are available from Nick Hern Books, 14 Larden Road, London W3 7ST, England <www.nickhernbooks.co.uk>.
14640. Willis Frick reports happily that he now has a new URL for Sherlocktron, at <www.sherlocktron.com>; this should take care of problems people have been having when their ISPs blocked access to Sherlocktron at his previous host.
14641. The summer issue of *The Magic Door* (the newsletter published by The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) has Al Dawson's account of research into a Conan Doyle letter (now owned by the Collection) along a trail that involved Oscar Wilde and his wife Constance, Peter Calamai's tribute to Conan Doyle's story "The Three Correspondents", and news from and about the collection; copies of the newsletter are available on request from Clifford S. Goldfarb, 22 Markdale Avenue, Toronto, ON M6C, 1T1, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>. And the Friends will celebrate the centennial of "The Lost World" on Sept. 15, when Roy Pilot will deliver the 2012 Cameron Hollyer Lecture at the Library.
14642. Charles Marowitz's "Sherlock's Last Case" will be produced at the Lakewood Playhouse, Sept. 14 through Oct. 14. 5729 Lakewood Towne Center Boulevard, Lakewood, WA 87488 (253-588-0042) <www.lakewoodplayhouse.org>.
14643. Laurie R. King's *GARMENT OF SHADOWS* (New York: Random House, 2012; 264 pp., \$26.00) is subtitled "A novel of suspense featuring Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes," and it lives up to its billing. The new novel is set immediately after *PIRATE KING* (August 11 #1), and opens with Russell in dire peril in Fez. She (and Holmes) wind up deeply involved in Moroccan colonial politics and tribal warfare, and encounter some old friends from earlier days. The next Mary Russell novel will be set in Japan (before *LOCKED ROOMS*), and you can read about her research, and other things, in her "Mutterings" blog at <www.laurierking.com>.
14644. Fans of Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes may want to attend a "twitter garden party" at the Russell-Holmes cottage on the South Downs on Aug. 19; details at <www.maryrussellholmes.com>, where you will find much more by and about Mary Russell, including a short story and some correspondence.
14645. "Sherlock Holmes Through Time and Place" will be the theme of the next conference in Minneapolis, on Aug. 9-11, 2013, sponsored by the Norwegian Explorers, the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections, and the University of Minnesota Libraries; if you'd like to be on their mailing list, contact Gary Thaden <norwegianexplorers@gmail.com>.

July 2012 #2

14646. "Campaigning for Statue of Sherlock" was the headline on a story in the *Sussex Courier* (July 6): Mike Tuffley wants to raise £50,000 for a statue of Sherlock Holmes to be erected in Crowborough; Tuffley believes that the statue will attract visitors from all over the world, and has created the Sherlock Holmes Trust Fund and is asking for donations (which can be made at any branch of Lloyds Bank).
14647. Karen Murdock discovered an amusing custom vinyl decal for Macbooks, laptops, car windows, or other flat non-porous surfaces; created by Benjamin Daniels for Perfectly Aligned Decals, it measures 8.0 by 2.2 in. and costs \$5.00; two more Sherlockian designs available, and many others for non-Sherlockians <www.tinyurl.com/76odguy>.
14648. Andy Griffith died on July 3. He was a musician, a monologist, and then an actor. He starred on Broadway in "No Time for Sergeants" in 1955, and acted in films and on television, starring as Andy Taylor of Mayberry on "The Andy Griffith Show" and as Ben Matlock on "Matlock"; in one episode of the *Matlock* series he said "I've always felt that the wrong Holmes is taught in law school; it ought to be Sherlock and not Oliver Wendell," and in another episode he delivered a two-minute courtroom summation of the plot of "The Red-Headed League".
14649. The parody of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" written by Steven Canny and John Nicholson in 2007 will be performed at the American Heartland Theatre, Jan. 11 through Feb. 13; 2450 Grand Boulevard, Kansas City, MO 64108 (816-842-9999) <www.ahtc.com>.

14650. Vinnie Brosnan is in search of information on two busts, of Holmes and Watson; they are 4 in. high, marked on the bases as made in London, and numbered. Who was the artist, and when were they sold, and by whom, and at what price? He's at <sherlockinla@cox.net> and would be happy to hear from anyone who can help.
14651. Eric Sykes died on July 4. He began his entertainment career writing radio scripts, and went on to act and write on stage, screen, radio, and television, achieving renown both as a comic and character actor. He played Horace Harker in Granada's "The Six Napoleons" (1986).
14652. "Solves that violin-case-need mystery that's been confounding you" is the slogan that Elderly Instruments uses for their elegant Baker Street Violin Case, spotted by Peter Ashman <www.elderly.com/accessories/items/221B.htm>.
14653. The June issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota offers an appreciative tribute to Fred Levin by Tim Johnson, a "50 Years Ago" look at Elliot Kimball by Julie McKuras, and other news from and about the collections; copies of the newsletter are available from Dick Sveum (111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <sveum001@tc.umn.edu>.
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July 2012 #3

14654. Dale Fututani's new THE CURIOUS ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES IN JAPAN (Charleston: CreateSpace, 2011; 228 pp., \$12.99) is an interesting collection of stories set in 1892-1893, when Holmes is living in disguise as the guest of a Japanese doctor, and solves a series of mysteries; the stories have fine local flavor, and it's intriguing to see how Holmes reacts to a thoroughly different culture and environment. The author's web-site is at <www.dalefututani.com>.
14655. Conan Doyle's 'DANGEROUS WORK': DIARY OF AN ARCTIC ADVENTURE offers a welcome look at some of his earliest writing: the illustrated journal that he kept on the whaler Hope; he celebrated his 21st birthday during the voyage, and the journal is full of detail on what that sort of adventure was like. There's also much humor, directed at himself as well as at others, and the journal is reproduced in facsimile, with a transcript, letters he wrote to his mother during the voyage, and later articles and stories that reflect his experiences on the ship. Edited and annotated by Jon Lellenberg and Daniel Stashower, the 368-page book will be published soon by the British Library (£25.00) and the University of Chicago Press (\$35.00), and Randall Stock offers a fine discussion of the book, and the history of the journal (which was preserved in the family papers and is now owned by the British Library) at <www.bestofsherlock.com/ref/diary-arctic-adventure.htm>.
14656. Jon and Dan will discuss and sign the book at the Centuries & Sleuths bookstore in Forest Park, Ill., on Sept. 29, from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm; 7419 West Madison Street (708-771-7243).
14657. Guy Adams had Holmes and Watson involved in the world of the supernatural in SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE BREATH OF GOD (2011), and he has turned to fantasy in SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE ARMY OF DR. MOREAU (London: Titan Books, 2012; 284 pp., \$12.95), with an interesting celebration of both H. G. Wells and Conan Doyle. The author's web-site's at <www.guyadamsauthor.com>, and the publisher's at <www.titanbooks.com>
14658. Titan continues to reprint Sax Rohmer's stories about Fu-Manchu (who "makes Professor Moriarty seem an under-achiever," according to Max Collins); THE HAND OF FU-MANCHU (266 pp., \$9.95) is the third in the series, setting Sir Dennis Nayland Smith and Dr. Petrie against the Si-Fan.
14659. "The movies you want at your local theater" is the motto of Tugg, a company that will help you set up a screening of John Barrymore's "Sherlock Holmes" (1922) and many other (non-Sherlockian) films. There's more information at their web-site <www.tugg.com>.
14660. Sorry about that: ARMCHAIR MYSTERIES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, the new collection of pastiches by Alan Downing (June 12 #4), is available (without charge) via the Internet at <www.sites.google.com/site/armchairmysteries>.
14661. Ernest Borgnine died on July 8. He acted on stage and television and then on film, winning an Oscar for his role in "Marty" (1955), and liked to say that "You don't have to be tall, dark, and handsome to be a movie star, but I was the first one to prove it." Alas, there's no photograph known, but he played Watson (with Dennis Allen as Holmes) on television in a skit in the "Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In" series in 1973.
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July 2012 #4

14662. Pam Verrey spotted YOUNG MISS HOLMES, CASEBOOK 1-2 (New York: Seven Seas, 2012; 384 pp., \$16.99), the English translation of Kaoru Shintani's manga CHRISTIE: HIGH TENSION (2007-2008); Christie is the niece of Sherlock Holmes, and the book offers her versions of some of her uncle's recorded cases. There's a web-site with cover and interior artwork at <www.us.macmillan.com/youngmissholmescasebook12/KaoruShintani>; CASEBOOK 3-4 is due later this year.
14663. Plan well ahead: Jeffrey Hatcher's play "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club" will be performed at the Park Square Theater from June 7 through July 14, 2013; 20 West 7th Place, Minneapolis, MN 55102 (651-291-7005) <www.parksquaretheater.org>.
14664. Evan Lewis' "Skyler Hobbs and the Rabbit Man" (a comic mystery about a modern would-be Sherlock Holmes) was published in Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine (Feb. 2010), and won the Mystery Writers of America's Robert L. Fish Memorial Award (for best first short story by an American author); his Skyler Hobbs and the Garden Gnome Bandit" is in the Sept.-Oct. issue of EQMM.
14665. Jean M. White died on July 14. She started her career in journalism as a city desk reporter at the Washington Post in 1953, and worked for the paper for almost 30 years as a writer, editor, and reviewer, reporting often on Sherlockian books and on Sherlockians.
14666. Total-E-Bound Publishing, obviously aware of the success of 50 SHADE OF GREY, has launched a series of Clandestine Classics, presenting "classics as they have never been seen before," and taking readers "behind the closed bedroom doors of our favorite, most beloved British characters. One of the classics, needless to say, will be A STUDY IN SCARLET, by A. C. Doyle and Sarah Masters, due later this year <www.total-e-bound.com>.
14667. Sherlock at the Olympics? Not quite, but almost, if you were watching the BBC on July 27, when they aired a nice 4-minute video about London narrated by Benedict Cumberbatch <www.youtube.com/watch?v=rvK1X_MdMN0>. Thanks to Debbie Clark for the report.
14668. The Conan Doyle material owned by Mary Jakeman, who worked for the family from 1909 to 1932, brought nice prices at Swords on July 10 (June 12 #4). The star of the sale was a signed copy of the first American edition of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, estimated at £400-800, which was sold for £3,900 at the auction.
14669. Smithsonian magazine's interesting "Design Decoded" blog had two Sherlockian entries in July, by Jimmy Stamp on "The Mystery of 221B Baker Street" (with splendid photographs of various recreations of the sitting-room), and by Sarah C. Rich on "The Deerstalker: Where Sherlock Holmes' Popular Image Came From" (with many images of items in Glen Miranker's collection); the blog is at <www.blogs.smithsonianmag.com/design/2012/07>.
14670. Randall Stock continues to enhance the contents of his excellent "Best of Sherlock" web-site, where he has updated his census of original artwork by Sidney Paget: Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian illustrations, oil paintings, and watercolors <www.bestofsherlock.com/sidney-paget-original-art.htm>.
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July 2012 #5

14671. Christopher Boone, the narrator of Mark Haddon's award-winning best-seller *THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME* (2003) is an autistic teen-ager who enjoys the Sherlock Holmes stories, and turns detective himself; the National Theatre in London has commissioned a dramatization of the novel, and the production has been recorded and will be broadcast to selected theaters around the world in September. Information on the play, and on dates and venues for the broadcast, can be found at <www.nationaltheatre.org.uk>.
14672. Sherlock at the Olympics? Actually, yes. If you count Wenlock, one of the two official mascots; the name honors the town in Shropshire that helped inspire the modern games. There are fiberglass statues of Wencock in various costumes here and there in London, and Sherlock Wenlock can be found in Regent's Park. No word yet on whether there will be smaller figurines available as Olympic souvenirs.
14673. Kelly Blau has reported Sherlockian artwork on the cover of the children's book *SECRET AGENT SPLAT!*, by Rob Scotton (New York: HarperCollins, 2012; 40 pp., \$16.99); it's the latest title in his "Splat the Cat" series.
14674. Donald J. Sobol died on July 11. He was a journalist and then an author, best known for his "Encyclopedia Brown" series of mysteries, for which he won a special Edgar from the Mystery Writers of America in 1976; Sobol described Encyclopedia Brown as "America's Sherlock Holmes in sneakers."
14675. The Arthur Conan Doyle/Sherlock Holmes Symposium at the Newberry Library in Chicago on Sept. 29, starting at 9:00 am, is open to the public with no admission charge, and will feature Jon Lellenberg and Dan Stashower (on "Dangerous Work: Conan Doyle's Diary of Arctic Adventure"), Carter Lupton (on "Literary Icons of 1912: Prof. G. E. Challenger"), and Todd Rosenthal (on "Recreating Sherlock Holmes' Baker Street"). There's more information at <www.newberry.org/09292012-arthur-conan-doyle-sherlock-holmes-symposium>.
14676. Simon Ward died on July 20. He began his acting career on stage, and went on to star in films and on television; best known for his role as Winston Churchill in the film "Young Churchill" (1972), he also played Stephen Barrow in an adaptation of "The Leather Funnel" (1973) in a British series of "Great Mysteries" hosted by Orson Welles on ITV.
14677. YouTube's PBS Idea Channel has an amusing 6-minute video by Mike Rugnetta at <www.youtube.com/user/pbsideachannel?feature=watch> that offers his answer to the question "How Did Sherlock Holmes Pave the Way for 50 Shades of Grey?"
14678. Berkswell Grange, the childhood home of Jeremy Brett, is for sale, offered for £1.68 million; the 17th-century house, a few miles outside of Coventry, has six bedrooms, 15.7 acres of grounds, and a brick in the wall bearing a child's handprint, authenticated by Brett as his own. The estate agent is Knight Frank <www.knightfrank.com/str120124>.

July 2012 #6

14679. Doc Watson died on May 29. Arthel Watson, blind almost from birth, became an outstanding acoustic guitarist, known for his baritone voice and vast repertoire of bluegrass, folk, country, and blues. He once explained that he acquired his nickname during a live radio broadcast in 1941 when the announcer asked for an easy nickname, and someone in the audience shouted "Call him Doc." His album "Elementary Doctor Watson!" was issued by Poppy Records in 1972 and has some fine tracks (but no Sherlockian significance other than the title).
14680. The new series "Elementary" (with Jonny Lee Miller and Lucy Liu as Holmes and Watson) debuts on CBS-TV on Sept. 27 at 10:00 pm (on the east coast). And there's now an official web-site at <www.cbs.com/shows/elementary>.
14681. My birthday party on the Mall on July Fourth featured the usual spectacular fireworks, although not as spectacular as in San Diego, where a faulty computer fired off twenty minutes of fireworks in twenty seconds; fortunately there were on barges, and no one was hurt. It was also nice to receive a few birthday cards, and an especially nice telegram (delivered, of course, via the postal service, as telegrams are now).

August 2012 #1

14682. The BBC/PBS "A Scandal in Belgravia" has received 13 nominations for primetime Emmy Awards from the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, including outstanding mini-series or movie, lead actor (Benedict Cumberbatch), supporting actor (Martin Freeman), and writing (Steven Moffat); the awards are to be announced on Sept. 23. It's possible that the producers decided to submit "Sherlock" as a mini-series rather than as a drama series to avoid competition with the extremely-popular "Downton Abbey".
14683. "Why didn't you tell me about this reading thing? This reading business, Dad, I really recommend it. Maybe you should give it a try." A quote from the younger generation in Australia, in an opinion piece by the Dad in the Sydney Morning Herald, July 28 <www.tinyurl.com/cdtkyas>, written after his son saw the "Sherlock" mini-series and discovered that it was possible to read stories about Sherlock Holmes.
14684. There's also a blog by Lynnette Porter <www.tinyurl.com/c8ztnmh> reporting on an Internet survey that generated some interesting numbers from fans of the mini-series: more than 68 percent have read Conan Doyle's stories about Sherlock Holmes. And more than 70 percent read or write fanfiction, which suggests that at least a few people who prefer fanfiction to the originals, and possibly base their fanfiction on television or films, rather than the printed page.
14685. Ely Liebow reported The Brigadier Gerard many years ago (August 95 #2); it is a pub in York, named not in honor of the hero of Conan Doyle's stories, but rather for the famous race horse (which was named for Conan Doyle's swashbuckling hero). It's not unique: there's another Brigadier Gerard in Eastleigh in Hampshire, and of course both can be found with a Google search.
14686. Martin H. Greenberg died on June 25, 2011. He was the dean of the school of international studies at Florida International University, and the first director of graduate studies at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, and was a well-known editor in the fields of mystery, horror, and science fiction, winning an Ellery Queen Award from the Mystery Writers of America in 1995. Anthologies he helped edit included *SHERLOCK HOLMES THROUGH TIME AND SPACE* (1986), *THE NEW ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* (1987), *SHERLOCK HOLMES IN ORBIT* (1995), *HOLMES FOR THE HOLIDAYS* (1996), *MORE HOLMES FOR THE HOLIDAYS* (1999), *MURDER IN BAKER STREET* (2001), *MURDER, MY DEAR WATSON* (2002), *GHOSTS IN BAKER STREET* (2004), and *SHERLOCK HOLMES IN AMERICA* (2009).
14687. The Wildclaw Theatre Company will present (one performance only) a dramatization of Neil Gaiman's pastiche "A Study in Emerald" during its "Masque of the Red Death Gala Benefit" at the Strawdog Theatre on Sept. 15. The theater's at 3829 North Broadway, Chicago, IL 60613 <www.wildclawtheatre.com>.
14688. *THE LOST CASEBOOKS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES*, by Donald Thomas (New York: Pegasus Books, 2012; 873 pp., \$35.00), is a one-volume reprint of his earlier *THE SECRET CASES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* (1997), *SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE VOICE FROM THE CRYPT* (2002), and *THE EXECUTION OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* (2008); he is one of the better authors of pastiches, and this collection offers 18 of his stories, some based on true crimes and others new inventions.

August 2012 #2

14689. Those who have access to the Internet likely have seen images inspired by the "Believe in Sherlock" movement launched after the finale of the BBC's second "Sherlock" mini-series (February 12 #1); the person who launched the movement was Mika Hallor, and you can read more about her

at <www.tinyurl.com/cqnbwfg> and in an article in the summer issue of The Baker Street Journal by three members of the Baker Street Babes (Taylor Blumenberg, Jenn Eaker, and Amy Thomas), along with an imaginative report (by Leslie S. Klinger) on his discovery of a press account of the memorial service for Sherlock Holmes in 1891.

14690. The BSJ appears quarterly, and subscriptions (four issues plus the Christmas Annual) cost \$38.50 (to the U.S.) or \$49.00 (elsewhere); checks can be sent to the BSJ (Box 583, Zionsville, IN 46077), and credit-card payments are welcome from foreign subscribers. You can also subscribe at the BSJ web-site at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>, which also has interesting features such as some of the papers written by winners of the Morley-Montgomery Awards, articles from recent issues of the BSJ, and information on the BSJ's other publications and activities.
14691. Great Britain has honored the 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Dickens by issuing a set of attractive stamps that show some of his characters, drawn by Joseph Clayton Clarke. One of the stamps shows Mr. Pickwick, who is mentioned in the Canon: "There was something of Mr. Pickwick's benevolence in his appearance, marred only by the insincerity of the fixed smile and by the hard glitter of those restless and penetrating eyes." That's from Watson description of the worst man in London (Charles Augustus Milverton).
14692. Bob Katz has noted an interesting "Literary Detectives Deathmatch" at the Huffington Post (Nov. 29, 2011) <www.tinyurl.com/coytdp9>. The challenge was posed by books editor Andrew Losowsky, and the responses are all his, including the imaginative finale between Miss Marple and Sherlock Holmes. You can click through the brackets to follow the battle.
14693. NBC Today ran a four-minute segment titled "It's Elementary: On the Trail of Sherlock Holmes" from London on Aug. 2, with Keith Miller interviewing Roger Johnson and two of the Baker Street Babes (Kristina Manente and Katherine Ryan); you may still be able to see it at <www.tinyurl.com/cwnt98w>.
14694. The Epilogues of Sherlock Holmes and the Turf Builders of Baker Street have organized another "no frills" version of The Silver Blaze on Oct. 6 at Monmouth Park in Long Branch, N.J. The organizers promise free handicapping, along with a warning: caveat bettor. Additional information is available from Peter McIntyre (732-765-1240) <psipete@optonline.net> and Kate Karlson <kkarlson@stny.rr.com>.
14695. The Ironmongers Daily News (published almost daily by the Société Sherlock Holmes de France) reports a Spanish film "Holmes y Watson: Madrid Days" due for release by Atla Films on Sept. 7, with Gary Piquer as Holmes and José Luis Garci as Watson (in pursuit of Jack the Ripper). There's a two-minute trailer at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=U95o3Ee4Kno>. The film's listed at the Internet Movie Data Base and Wikipedia as "Holmes: Madrid suite 1890".

August 2012 #3

14696. "Join Sherlock Holmes at the Edgar Allan Poe Mystery Writers of America Awards Dinner" is the title of the 56-page dinner program published for the dinner on Apr. 26, and the contents include tributes by Dana Stabenow, Peter Abrahams, Donna Andrews, January Burke, Kristine Kathryn Rusch, Carole Nelson Douglas, Lyndsay Faye, Steve Hockensmith, Leslie S. Klinger, Laurie R. King, Toni L. P. Keiner, David Wright, Barbara Peters, SJ Rozan, and David Wright. The bad news is that it appears that the only way to acquire a copy is to beg, borrow, or steal one from a member of the MWA.
14697. Smithsonian magazine's interesting "Design Decoded" blog (July 12 #4) continued its Sherlockian entries with Jimmy Stamp's "Sherlock Holmes and the Tools of Detection" and "A Modern Sherlock Holmes and the Technology of Detection" and Sarah C. Rich's "The Architecture of Memory"; you can find the entire series at <www.blogs.smithsonianmag.com/design/2012/08>.
14698. Maria Konnikova, who is working on a Ph.D. in psychology at Columbia University, has written Sherlockian essays for to the Scientific American blog (September 11 #6) and elsewhere, and you can read them all (and other non-Sherlockian pieces) at her interesting web-site <www.mariakonnikova.com>.
14699. Philip José Farmer's imaginative science fiction included the world of the Wold Newton Family, which included Sherlock Holmes, Tarzan, and many other fictional characters, and THE OTHER LOG OF PHILEAS FOGG (1973) demonstrated just how complicated the affairs of the Family could be; dedicated to H. W. Starr, it included a reprint of Starr's article "A Submersible Subterfuge, or Proof Impositive" (first published by The Sons of the Copper Beeches). The book has been reissued (London: Titan Books, 2012; 306 pp., \$9.95) with a helpful afterword and chronology by Win Scott Eckert, and the new edition is also dedicated to the members of The Hansoms of John Clayton of Peoria (where Farmer lived for many years). Titan plans to publish more titles in the Wold Newton series, and their web-site is at <www.titanbooks.com>.
14700. Jeffrey Hatcher's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club", previously scheduled at the Round House Theatre in Bethesda, Md., May 29-June 23, 2013, has been cancelled; the theater's new artistic director decided that Gina Gionfriddo's comedy "Becky Shaw" was more to his taste.
14701. Carole Nelson Douglas (author of the Irene Adler series) will be inducted into the Texas Literary Hall of Fame on Oct. 19. Founded by the Friends of the Fort Worth Library in 2004, the Hall of Fame "honors authors whose body of work enhances Texas' literary heritage, is original and first published in this country, and has already been recognized for its literary significance."
14702. Edinburgh's was recognized as the first "world city of literature" (August 04 #5) by UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization), and there are others now, including Iowa City, whose City of Literature web-site at <www.cityofliteratureusa.org/node/1> displays city resident Al Dawson's article in the latest issue of The Magic Door (July 12 #1). Iowa City also claims Nicholas Meyer, who graduated from the University of Iowa's Department of Theatre Arts and went on to write THE SEVENPERCENT SOLUTION and other pastiches.

August 2012 #4

14703. Darlene Cypser's THE CONSULTING DETECTIVE TRILOGY: PART I: UNIVERSITY (Morrison: Foolscape & Quill, 2012; 323 pp., \$14.99) is a sequel to her THE CRACK IN THE LENS (March 11 #6); Holmes is now at university (Cambridge) and beginning the studies that led him to his career as a detective, and "The Gloria Scott" is only one of the mysteries he solves. Again, there's nice local flavor, interesting psychology, and good writing. Two more volumes are to come, covering the years until Holmes meets Watson.
14704. ANOMALOUS, by Samuel Williams, Jr. (London: MX Publishing, 2012; 220 pp., £9.99), is a pastiche by a black author who involves Holmes and Watson with Steve Dixie and Lucy Hebron, and with Jack Johnson, Big Jim Colosimo, Johnny Torrio, Frankie Yale, Al Capone, in Chicago and in London.
14705. William Windom died on Aug. 16. He had a long career as a character actor in films and on television, including playing Dr. Seth Hazlitt in more than episodes of the series "Murder, She Wrote". He also was Watson in a California Artists Radio Theatre production in the 1990s of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" with David Warner as Holmes and Samantha Eggar as Alice Faulkner.
14706. The CART broadcast of "Sherlock Holmes" is available on CD (\$20.00) and as an MP3 download (\$10.00) at their web-site <www.cartradio.com>, along with their broadcast of Conan Doyle's "Selecting a Ghost" (\$15.00/\$7.50) (July 05 #1).

14707. More Olympics: "26 Miles" is a new radio play written by Anthony Sergeant for the Wireless Theatre Company <www.wirelesstheatrecompany.co.uk>; it's fact and then fantasy about the Marathon in 1908, and Conan Doyle is mentioned twice. You can listen or download (there's no charge) at their web-site, where you'll also find their amusing "Sherlock Holmes Strikes Back!" (September 11 #3).
14708. The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times12-7.html>, offering Sherlockiana, old and new, books and much more, including a set of photographs from the Gathering of Southern Sherlockians in Chattanooga in April.
14709. "There were one hundred and forty-three diamonds of the first water," Jonathan Small explained (in "The Sign of the Four"), "including one which has been called, I believe, 'the Great Mogul.'" The Great Mogul also was the title of any of the Muslim emperors of India from 1526 to 1857, during what is called the Mughal Empire. "Mughal India: Art, Culture, and Empire" will be on display at the British Library from Nov. 9 through Apr. 2. There's an illustrated announcement at <www.bl.uk/whatson/exhibitions>, and if you would like to see some of the Mughal treasures in the British Museum, there is an interesting web-site at <www.mughalindia.co.uk>.
14710. Mary Loving has noted an announcement in the Marshfield News Herald (Aug. 13) that the University of Wisconsin/Marshfield/Wood County will present a "Sherlock Holmes learning cluster" in the fall semester, with three interconnected courses, a lecture series open to the general public, and a film series, plus a community read of "The Hound of the Baskervilles". There's more information at <www.tinyurl.com/96asmq4>.

August 2012 #5

14711. Robert E. Robinson ("The Hansom Cab") died on Aug. 11. He was an organic chemist and co-founder and president of Lindau Chemicals, and enthusiastic about classical music, opera, and Sherlock Holmes; he was program chairman for The Hansom Wheels of Columbia and wrote and he produced many plays for the society. He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1986.
14712. The A. D. Players plan to produce Steven Dietz's play "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" at the Grace Theatre, Sept. 5-Oct. 7. 2710 West Alabama Street, Houston, TX 77098) (713-526-2721) <www.adplayers.org>.
14713. If you have enjoyed seeing jellyfish in aquariums and think you'd like to have some of your own, they're available from Jellyfish Art, with tanks and food; they're not inexpensive, and the varieties offered do not include the lion's mane, but the company's web-site is at <www.jellyfishart.com>.
14714. The Pittsburgh Irish & Classical Theatre will present Paul Giovanni's "The Crucifer of Blood" at the Charity Randall Theatre on Dec. 4-21, 2013. 4301 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15260 (412-561-6000) <www.picttheatre.org>.
14715. Michael Hecht will appear in "What I Learned from Sherlock Holmes" at the Stoughton Opera House on October 3. 381 East Main Street, Stoughton, WI 53589 (608-877-4400) <www.tinyurl.com/4bhbo8y>; according to the publicity, "Local visual and literary artist Michael Hecht explores the times and artistic influences that gave birth to the great detective," and Hecht's personal view is expressed through the writings of Poe, Darwin, Wilde, and great events including Krakatoa to the Oxford dictionary; visual pieces and music will also be utilized to tell this story." Thanks to Tom Drucker for spotting this unusual event, which is open to the public, with a free-will donation requested.
14716. "Sherlock Holmes--A Study in Fear" is a new play, written by John Goodrum (based on "The Final Problem"), with Nicholas Briggs starring as Sherlock Holmes, to be performed on tour in Britain by the Rumpus Theatre Company from Sept. 11 to Oct. 27 <www.rumpustheatrecompany.co.uk/future.htm>.
14717. More Sherlock Holmes at the Olympics: Kelly Blau noted a report in the N.Y. Times (Aug. 7) that the Kazakhstan women's synchronized swimming team (Anna Kulkina and Aigerem Zhexembinova) performed to music from "Sherlock Holmes" (the Robert Downey Jr. film); Zhexembinova explained that "we pretended to make pistols with our hands." Alas, they didn't qualify for the finals.
14718. Finally, I've not heard from anyone who observed a Sherlockian quote amid all the newsprint that was used in the set designs during the closing ceremonies; of course we couldn't see it all watching NBC-TV, and what we did see wasn't all that legible.
14719. Grubwithus (a social-networking web-site) will host Sherlock-themed dinners tied to the upcoming CBS-TV series "Elementary" on Sept. 13 in ten cities (New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago, Washington, Philadelphia, Boston, Seattle, Dallas, and Atlanta) <www.tinyurl.com/8wvhw2f>; the meal (with an appropriate menu) costs \$25.00 and includes a "free DVD screener" of the show.

August 2012 #6

14720. The Exhibits Development Group has announced additional venues for "Sherlock Holmes: The Science of Deduction", an interactive exhibition that will tour science museums starting in 2013 (April 12 #1); the tour begins at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry in Portland, Oct. 10, 2013-Jan. 5, 2014, continuing at the Center for Science & Industry in Columbus, Feb. 6-Sept. 8, 2014, and then at the Dallas Museum of Nature and Science, Oct. 9, 2014, to Jan. 4, 2015, with an additional stop at the Discovery Science Center in Santa Ana, Calif., June 11-Sept. 6, 2015. Visit <www.exhibitsdevelopment.com/SherlockHolmes.html> for additional information about the exhibition.
14721. Colin Mochrie, who appeared in the improv show "Whose Line Is It Anyway?" and is now on "Trust Us with Your Life" on ABC-TV, has written a book "Not Quite the Classics" due this fall from Penguin. "I take the first and last line of 12 famous novels and make up a different middle," he told USA Weekend (Aug. 3-5). "One is based on 'The Hound of the Baskervilles'; my story is how Sherlock Holmes decided he wants to be a stand-up comedian."
14722. Darlene Cypser has reported the web-site goodreads, where there is a page <www.tinyurl.com/9yndugd> allowing people to rank their favorite Sherlockian pastiches. Not many people seem to be voting, although of course that may change as more Sherlockians start visiting the web-site; at the moment the winner (with 21 votes) is Luke Benjamin Kuhns' THE UNTOLD ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, with Nicholas Meyer's THE SEVEN-PER-CENT SOLUTION second (with 19 votes). Another list (Beyond Conan Doyle--Best of the Continuing Cases of Sherlock Holmes) <www.tinyurl.com/9m8pvse> has different results.
14723. He's back! The statue of Sherlock Holmes is once again on view in Picardy Place in Edinburgh. Removed in 2009 because it blocked construction of a new tram line (July 09 #4), the bronze statue was commissioned by the Federation of Master Builders to mark its 50th anniversary in 1991, and has been reinstalled near the site of the house where Conan Doyle was born.
14724. An intriguing item is coming up for auction at the Rock Island Auction Company on Sept. 9: the Waterloo Bravery Medal Awarded to Corporal Brewster, estimated at \$3,500-6,500. It's a silver medal presented to Corporal Brewster from the officers of the Coldstream Guards, in fine condition, and the author of the catalog description was not able to confirm the link between the medal and Conan Doyle's character in "A Straggler of '15" (further research, the catalog notes, "could provide some interesting results"); there is more information at <www.rockisland.com/viewitem/aid/56/lid/3432>.
14725. The web-site Badass Digest has reported (Aug. 14) that Paramount has asked Chris Columbus to "steer" a remake of their "Young Sherlock Holmes" (1985); the original film, directed by Columbus, starred Nicholas Rowe and Alan Cox and had a total domestic gross of \$19.7 million. "Sherlock

Holmes: A Game of Shadows" had a domestic gross of \$39.6 million its first weekend. Paramount's plans likely fall into the "wouldn't it be a good idea" category of copycat films such as Columbia Pictures' announcement (July 08 #3) of a film starring Sacha Baron Cohen as Holmes and Will Ferrell as Watson.

September 2012 #1

14726. The London Organizing Committee of the Olympic Games is now auctioning memorabilia in hopes of recovering some of the £9.3 billion cost of the Games; the imaginatively decorated statue of Sherlock Wenlock (July 12 #5) has already been sold, for £6,520. The folks at Sherlockology have kindly posted photographs and an explanation of the 13 references to the Canon displayed on the statue <www.tinyurl.com/8m7c9kr>.
14727. And there is one last note on the Olympics: viewers of the closing ceremonies will recall seeing sheets newspaper with quotations from the works of literary and cultural figures. One of them was Conan Doyle (represented by a quote from "The Hound of the Baskervilles"); this was not visible during the broadcast on NBC-TV in the U.S., and no one has reported seeing it in the U.K., and (alas) there seems to be no archive of official photographs of the more than 100 quotations.
14728. Stuart M. Kaminsky's play "The Final Toast" (2008) will be performed by the St. Jude's Players Nov. 14-24. St. Jude's Hall (444 Brighton Road, Brighton, SA 5048, Australia (08-8296-2628) <www.stjudesplayers.asn.au>.
14729. The official launch party for Laurie R. King's GARMENT OF SHADOWS (July 12 #1) was held this month at the Poisoned Pen Bookstore in Phoenix, and there is a 90-minute video at <www.livestream.com/poisonedpen/LRK> of Laurie interviewed by Poisoned Pen proprietor Barbara Peters.
14730. The Hedgerow Theatre will present Paul Giovanni's "The Crucifer of Blood" (1978) from Oct. 4 to Nov. 5. 64 Rose Valley Road, Rose Valley, PA 19063 (610-565-4211) <www.hedgrerowtheatre.org>.
14731. "Sherlock Holmes: Behind the Canonical Screen" (the conference presented by the UCLA School of Television, Film & Theater and The Baker Street Irregulars over the Labor Day weekend) was thoroughly delightful. The speakers included John Landis and director-screenwriter Nicholas Meyer ("From Paper to Celluloid: Adapting Holmes for the Screen"), directors John Musker and Ron Clements ("The Great Mouse Detective"), author Lyndsay Faye ("The Women: Sex and Success in the Canon, the BBC, and Warner Brothers"), film historian Russell Merritt ("How Holmes Crashed the Silents Without His Boswell and Fell to Moriarty"), lawyers Betsy Rosenblatt and Jonathan Kirsch ("Intellectual Property and Copyright"), and many others, and had a chance to see a true film rarity (Eille Norwood's "The Sign of Four" accompanied by expert Philip Carli on piano) and the pilot episode of "Elementary" (with producer Rob Doherty on hand to tell stories and answer questions).
14732. Those who want to know more about the conference can read tweets by Lyndsay Faye and others; just go to <www.twitter.com> and search for #UCLASherlock or @lyndsayfaye.
14733. Mary Burke reports that Condé Nast Traveler offers a "Literary World Tour" of "7 Famous Authors' Homes You Can Visit" <www.tinyurl.com/9pb6jld>. The list includes The Sherlock Holmes Museum ("Okay, so Sherlock Holmes is neither a writer nor a real person. But the character, created by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, remains one of the literary world's most famous").
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September 2012 #2

14734. The animated movie "Gnomeo & Juliet: Sherlock Gnomes" (March 12 #6) now has a director: John Stevenson, who directed "Kung Fu Panda". Elton John's Rocket Pictures is producing the film, and there are reports the production will start early next year, for a release in 2014. Gnomeo and Juliet enlist the help of Sherlock Gnomes, the world's greatest ornamental detective, to investigate why gnomes are disappearing from England's suburban gardens.
14735. Steven Dietz's play "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" can be seen at the Nashville Children's Theatre through Oct. 7 (25 Middleton Street, Nashville, TN 37210) (615-252-4675) <www.nashvillechildrenstheatre.org>; and at the Repertory East Playhouse through Oct. 20 (24266 Main Street, Newhall, CA 91321) (611-288-0000) <www.repeastplayhouse.org>.
14736. "The Virgin and the Book Dealer" is the theme for this year's NYC Vintage Paperback & Pulp Fiction Expo at the Holiday Inn (440 West 57th Street in New York) on Oct. 14; it's organized by Gary Lovisi (Sherlockian author and editor), and the guest authors will include Sherlockian pastichists Carolyn Bugge and Marvin Kaye <www.gryphonbooks.com>.
14737. Jerry Nelson died on Aug. 23. He worked as a puppeteer with Bil Baird and then went to work for Jim Henson, creating Sherlock Hemlock and many other memorable muppet characters on "Sesame Street" and "The Muppet Show".
14738. Betty G. Birney's MYSTERIES ACCORDING TO HUMPHREY (New York: G. P. Putnam's Son, 2012; 146 pp., \$14.99) is a pleasant book for young readers; Humphrey is a hamster (in deerstalker on the dust jacket) who resides in room 26 of Longfellow School, and listens as the class learns about "an unspeakably smart detective named Sherlock Holmes" and does some detecting on his own.
14739. "The Murder of the World's Most Famous Detective" was an interesting pastiche published in 1908 (as "L'Assassinat de plus Célèbre Détective"), the first in a series of "fascicules" written by Antonin Reschal about the exploits of "Miss Boston: La seule détective-femme du monde entier"; the most famous detective was indeed Sherlock Holmes, and Miss Boston, with the help of Dr. Watson, captures the murderer. THE ADVENTURES OF MISS BOSTON: THE FIRST FEMALE DETECTIVE (Encino: Black Coat Press, 2012; 306 pp., \$22.95) is a collection of eleven stories, translated by Nina Cooper, who also wrote an informative introduction. Miss Boston was of course not the only female detective in the entire world at the time, and Reschal knew (or cared) very little about American geography; Miss Boston's adventures take place in a New York that few of his readers had ever visited.
14740. The publisher <www.blackcoatpress.com> also offers a nice list of books by Maurice Leblanc (and pastiches by others) about Arsène Lupin, including reprints of Sherlockian stories in Leblanc's THE PHANTOM BLONDE and THE HOLLOW NEEDLE in a new collection THE MANY FACES OF ARSENE LUPIN.
14741. The Los Angeles Times web-site has an interesting set of photographs titled "Sherlock Holmes: Revealing the Detective's Place in Pop Culture", and it's well worth taking a look <www.tinyurl.com/coorjbr4>, because they have come up with some unusual items, including a reference to the Canon in the lyrics of the song "Waiting for Sex" by the English synth-pop duo Erasure.
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September 2012 #3

14742. "The Art of Jonathan Barry" was exhibited this month at the No Grants Gallery in Dublin; Barry specializes in painting scenes from literary classics and has just turned his attention to the Canon. You can see his portrait of Sherlock Holmes (in full color) in an article noted by Karen Murdock in the Irish Times (Sept. 1) <www.tinyurl.com/9o5bn6b>.
14743. Karen Murdock spotted a report that Benedict Cumberbatch will make a guest appearance on the next season of "The Simpsons" in an episode titled "Love Is a Many-Splintered Thing", playing both the British Prime Minister and a snake-like character; he was in Los Angeles for four months shooting "Star Trek 2" and asked the series producers if he could have a cameo role. And there was a report in the Daily Express (Sept. 8) that the
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next season of "Sherlock" will be the last, because Cumberbatch and Freeman are enjoying flourishing film careers. "It's a question of schedules," an unidentified source told the paper, "they will no doubt be signing off in style."

14744. "Sherlock Holmes and a Most Irregular Tea Party" is an "interactive drama" being presented by the Milwaukee Entertainment Group at the Brumder Mansion through Oct. 14; 3046 West Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53208 (414-388-9104) <www.milwaukeeentertainmentgroup.com>.
14745. Stephanie Watson's ROBERT DOWNEY JR.: BLOCKBUSTER MOVIE STAR (Minneapolis: ABDO, 2012; 112 pp., \$23.95) is part of ABDO's "Contemporary Lives" series (which also includes Justin Bieber, Eminem, Lady Gaga, Jay-Z, Kim Kardashian, Taylor Swift, and Justin Timberlake); it's written for younger read-, with many illustrations, and with two pages on Downey's "Sherlock Holmes". The publisher's web-site's at <www.abdopublishing.com>.
14746. Lloyd Rose spotted an amusing Sherlockian birthday cake, which you can see in full color at "Police Boxes and Death Frisbies...and Aeroplanes Too" on Tumblr <www.tinyurl.com/8z3e284>.
14747. Irene's Cabinet is the annual anthology edited by Beth Austin for Watson's Tin Box, and this year's issue (62 pp.) celebrates the founding of the society with a series of reminiscences about the early days, and about founders that included Steve Clarkson and Paul Churchill (the third founder, Rod McCaslin has contributed his own essay), and Matt Rutkowski's winning essay for this year's Clarkson Prize, named in honor of the late Steve Clarkson and sponsored by the society for seventh-graders in Howard County, Md. The cost is \$15.00 postpaid, from Beth Austin (9455 Chadburn Place, Gaithersburg, MD 20886).
14748. Sorry about that: if you are planning to see Jeffrey Hatcher's play "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club" at the Park Square Theater next year (July 12 #4), the theater is in St. Paul, not Minneapolis.
14749. The panels have been announced for Bouchercon in Cleveland on Oct. 4-7, and one of them is "Elementary My Dear Cleveland" (How Sherlock Holmes Is Still Influencing Fiction Today) with Les Klinger, Michael Robinson, Dan Andriacco, Laurie King, Sara Paretsky, and Dan Stashower). Laurie will also be on a panel on "Our Inspirations" (What Books/Plays/ Films/TV Shows/Music Made Us the Writers We Are Today?). Go to <www.bouchercon2012.com> for the complete schedule.

September 2012 #4

14750. The delightful parody "The Hound of the Baskervilles" written by Steven Canny and John Nicholson in 2007 is being performed by the Virginia Repertory Theatre at the Hanover Tavern until Nov. 4. The tavern is at 13181 Hanover Court Courthouse Road, Hanover, VA 23069 (804-282-2620), and the company's web-site is at <www.va-rep.org>.
14751. Karen Murdock noted a report that the Royal Western India Turf Club's "Live Legend Plate" was run at Pune on Sept. 9. Snow Mountain won the race, with Persian finishing second and Theology third, with Sherlock Holmes fourth. Sherlock Holmes is a three-year-old gelding, and you can see the race results at <www.racingpulse.in/Code/rupdate.aspx?pgId=34670>; there also is video at <www.indiarace.com/fullvedio.aspx?venue=Pune&date=09/12/2012>.
14752. The Serpentine Muse continues to offer news from, about, and by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes; the fall issue offers Bill Vande Water's report on his discovery of the ASH Constitution and Buy-Laws (now published some years after his report at one of their dinners), and Judith Freeman's refutation of the spurious document, accompanied by a reprinting (for the first time since 1975) of the actual ASH Bylaws (there seems never to have been an ASH Constitution). The Muse is published quarterly; \$15.00 a year from Evelyn A. Herzog (301 Warren Avenue #203, Baltimore, MD 21230).
14753. "Sherlock Holmes in Brentwood" is a new play-reading series scheduled next year; it's a Sunday-afternoon series of readings by professional actors in a concert-hall venue in Brentwood, Calif., curated by Les Klinger. Plays read in the first season will include Jeremy Paul's "The Secret of Sherlock Holmes" and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's dramatization of "The Speckled Band". The web-site's at <www.sherlockholmesinbrentwood.com>.
14754. The Postal Service has celebrated the 150th anniversary of the birth of William S. Porter, who adopted the pseudonym "O. Henry" while an inmate at the Ohio State Penitentiary and went on to become a successful author. His Sherlockian parodies include "The Adventures of Shamrock Jolnes" (1911) and "The Detective Detector" (1917). And if you've ever wondered what that initial abbreviated, there's an answer, from O. Henry himself, in the N.Y. Times (Apr. 4, 1909): A newspaper once wrote and asked what the O stands for, and he replied, 'O stands for Olivier, the French for Oliver.'
14755. "Cosplay" is an aspect of modern culture that has its own entry at Wikipedia; it's a shortening of "costume play" and is described as a type of performance art in which participants don costumes and accessories to represent a specific character or idea. Cosplayers often interact to create a subculture centered on role play. A broader use of the term applies to any costumed role play in venues apart from the stage, regardless of the cultural content.
14756. If that sounds familiar, it certainly should: Sherlockians have been doing that for decades, especially The Sherlock Holmes Society of London, which has just returned from its latest pilgrimage to Switzerland. There was a report at the N.Y. Times on Sept. 17 <www.tinyurl.com/9c4bfwz>, and there is video from the BBC at <www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-19598997>.

September 2012 #5

14757. Don Libey's THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (San Francisco: Campbell & Lewis, 2012; 132 pp., \$15.00) is an interesting approach to the Canon: the book was written by Holmes in 1929, after Watson's death, and it turns out that there were many things that Watson invented, including their address in London and the name of their landlady; the voice of Holmes is authentic, and his account of his life and career is intriguing.
14758. Watson's Tin Box will host the sixth "Scintillation of Scions" at the Hilton Garden Inn in Hanover, Md., June 7-9, 2013; it's an entertaining gathering, and details are available from Jacquelynn Morris (3042 Old Channel Road, Laurel, MD 20724) <www.scintillation.org>. They have moved to a new venue because they outgrew the old one, and registration is limited to 100.
14759. John Addy's SHERLOCKIAN PICTURE PUZZLES: A MONOGRAPH ON ELIOT KEEN'S 1905 ILLUSTRATIONS (2012; 28 pp.) offers a fascinating look at puzzles published in the N.Y. Herald and other American newspapers; they're a type of rebus picture puzzle, and they appeared at a time when puzzles were quite different than they are today (the first "word-cross" puzzle appeared in the N.Y. World in 1913). Created for children, they will challenge today's adults. The book is available from The Musgraves (Anne Jordan, Hallas Lodge, Greenside Lane, Cullingworth, Bradford BD13 5AP, England) and costs £7.50 (UK)/£10.00 (Europe)/\$25.00 (US+Canada)/\$30.00 (rest of world), all postpaid.
14760. "The Life and Times of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Creator (Literary Agent) of Mr. Sherlock Holmes" will be the theme for the next "Saturday with Sherlock Holmes" at the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore from 10:00 to 1:00 on Nov. 3; the event is sponsored by the local Sherlockian societies, the library is at 400 Cathedral Street, and there is no charge to attend.

14761. The Postal Service has honored Edgar Rice Burroughs and Tarzan; "Tarzan of the Apes" was first published in 1912. Philip José Farmer explained in *TARZAN ALIVE* (1972) that Tarzan was related to Sherlock and Mycroft Holmes, as well as many other members of the Wold Newton family, which originated when a radioactive meteor landed in Wold Newton, England, in the year 1795. The family's web-site <www.pjfarmer.com/woldnewton/Pulp.htm> has a fine introduction by Win Scott Eckert, and an image of Farmer's amusing calling card.
14762. "It is said that one measure of the popularity of a public personality is the number of rumours and urban legends that have grown up around him" is how Cliff Goldfarb begins his article on "Arthur Conan Doyle and the Dorando Affair" in the 2012 issue of the *Journal of Olympic History*. He offers a definitive history (and refutation) of the oft-repeated story that Conan Doyle assisted Dorando across the marathon finish line at the Olympics in London in 1908, tracking the story back to 1948. Copies of the journal are available from Anthony Bijkerk <tony.bijkerk@planet.nl>.
14763. Cliff also has an interesting article on "Winston Churchill and Arthur Conan Doyle" in *Finest Hour: The Journal of Winston Churchill* (summer 2012), explaining the relationship between the two "Great Britons". The magazine costs \$5.95; Box 740, Moultonborough, NH 03254 <www.winstonchurchill.org>.

September 2012 #6

14764. The three-page manuscript of Conan Doyle's "Mr. Sherlock Holmes to his Friends" went to auction at Freeman's in Philadelphia on Sept. 20, estimated at \$5,000-8,000. The essay was published in *The Strand Magazine* (Mar. 27) as "Mr. Sherlock Holmes to His Readers" and revised and reprinted as the preface to *THE CASE BOOK OF SHERLOCK HOLMES*; Randall Stock has provided details on the manuscript, and on other items in the auction, at <www.bestofsherlock.com/ref/sherlock-friends-ms-freemans.htm>. The manuscript sold for \$65,000 (plus buyer's premium, for a total of \$80,500).
14765. "Sherlock" co-creator Steven Moffat offered a hint about the second season of the series: "The critical words, I'd say, would be--Adler, Hound, Reichenbach." (October 10 #7). The teaser words for the third season are Rat, Wedding, and Bow (reported by the *Guardian* from the Sherlock Holmes Masterclass in Edinburgh on Aug. 24). Shooting for the new season is expected to begin in January, for broadcast in August (producer Sue Vertue is "determined" to close the gap between broadcast dates in Britain and the U.S.). Speculation on the teaser words is rife, of course; Benedict Cumberbatch marrying Lara Pulver is low on the list of explanations for Wedding.
14766. And Pulver, who was seen (to put it mildly) as Irene Adler in "A Scandal in Belgravia" but wasn't at the Masterclass, has denied rumors on the blogosphere that she will be the first woman to play Doctor Who.
14767. Don Hobbs, always in pursuit of new Sherlockian translations, has found a quote in Gallifreyan. The quote is "When you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth," and you can see the translation at <www.tinyurl.com/9v499hm>. Old High Gallifreyan was the language of the Time Lords; by the time of the Doctor, it had evolved into Modern Gallifreyan and Circular Gallifreyan. The Doctor, of course, is Doctor Who. And the artist is Vyctoria Hart (aka Phantoms Siren); you can see more of her work (and let her know if you would like to commission a different quote) at <www.tinyurl.com/8jav4ja>. And you can wear her artwork as a tattoo <www.tinyurl.com/0bub5nc>.
14768. Peggy Perdue has reported that the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library now owns the autograph book in which Conan Doyle first saw the stick-figure alphabet that inspired the dancing men cipher (July 06 #4); the autograph book was discovered at an antiques fair in Norwich (November 08 #8) and was recently purchase by the Collection. There's an interesting and well-illustrated blog about the book at <www.tinyurl.com/9ely93c>.
14769. Just in time for Halloween: Steve Rothman notes "The Valley of Fear" (which is billed as "America's Most Horrifying Woods") also offers the "Original Haunted Hayride" through Nov. 3 at the Phoenix Sport Club (301 West Bristol Road, Feasterville, PA 19053 (216-942-9787) <www.valleyoffear.com>; apparently not Sherlockian except for the name. And there are Sherlockian costumes at available at <www.partycity.com>, including an quite adult detective costume for women that costs more and covers less than their Sherlock Holmes costume for men. Finally, Jennie Paton spotted a "Sherlock Holmes Halloween Pumpkin Carving Stencil" at <www.tinyurl.com/9mqckby>.

October 2012 #1

14770. Carol McCleary's *THE FORMULA FOR MURDER* (New York: Forge/Tom Doherty, 2012; 336 pp., \$24.99) is the third in her series of mysteries featuring Nellie Bly, the adventurous American journalist; investigating the apparent suicide of a friend, Nellie travels to London, and Bath and Dartmoor, in 1890, and becomes involved with H. G. Wells, Oscar Wilde, and Arthur Conan Doyle (who is conducting research on the legends of ghostly hounds). The author has a web-site at <www.carolmccleary.com>.
14771. John Linsenmeyer noted a report in the N.Y. Times (Sept. 17) that the Regency Hotel will close on Jan. 1 for a wholesale renovation that could last an entire year. The Baker Street Irregulars' annual dinner was held at the Regency from 1972 through 1986.
14772. "Sherlock Holmes Baffled" (1900) is credited as the first Sherlockian film (although it was made for a Mutoscope rather than a projector); how old is the first film known to have been shot in color?
14773. It isn't new, but rather newly reported: there is an on-line "Great Mouse Detective" fan club at <www.fanpop.com/spots/the-great-mouse-detective>; it is an active web-site with 141 fans (at the moment) of the movie starring Basil of Baker Street.
14774. Electronic cigarettes are a modern invention that give users a nicotine hit but are unaffected by bans on smoking, and Liberro (a British company) also offers electronic pipes; both can use the Holmes blend e-liquid, which has a "robust woody tobacco flavor" and is named in honor of Sherlock Holmes. Details at <www.liberro.co.uk>. Credit eagle-eyed John Baesch for spotting a mention of the blend in an advertising supplement in *The Times* (June 14).
14775. Patricia Guy, author of *BACCHUS AT BAKER STREET: SHERLOCK HOLMES AND VICTORIAN DRINKING LORE* (January 08 #8), has an article on "Sherlock Holmes and Alcohol: Partners in Solving Crime" on-line at *Wine-Searcher Magazine*; go to <www.tinyurl.com/9tbgaqw>.
14776. Robin Rigby reports that there will be a memorial service in London on Nov. 2 for Michael Procter, who died earlier this year (May 12 #1); details at his web-site at <www.michael-procter.com>.
14777. Tracy Mack and Michael Citrin's *SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE BAKER STREET IRREGULARS* series for readers ages 9-12, ended in 2010 with the fourth book *THE FINAL MEETING* (Orchard Books/Scholastic Press, 248 pp., \$7.99); the series is interesting, with the Irregulars receiving as much attention as Holmes and Watson.
14778. The Société Sherlock Holmes de France has reported on Chris Schweitzer, an imaginative artist who has created a spectacular set of Sherlock Holmes paper figures based on the BBC's "Sherlock" series available on five pages in full color at <www.employeepages.scad.edu/~cshweitz/BBC-SHERLOCK-7380.pdf>. And for those who are not dedicated fans of "Sherlock" there's a more traditional but nevertheless just as artistic set of eight figures for \$10.00 postpaid <www.croganadventuresstore.blogspot.com/p/merchandise.html>.

October 2012 #2

14779. "The Real Sherlock Holmes" is a one-hour documentary that was broadcast by the History Channel in Canada on Sept. 28, but it did not air in the U.S., because the History Channel hasn't purchased the program. The program is aimed at a general audience and has commentary by Steve Doyle, Nick Utechin, E.J. Wagner, Mark Gatiss, and others. The production company is Storyline Entertainment, which will be happy to sell the documentary to a U.S. television channel. In the meantime, their web-site <www.realsherlock.com> offers a look what viewers outside Canada missed.
14780. The first film shot in color was made in London in 1901 or 1902, and it has been preserved, and digitized, at the National Media Museum in Britain; you can read all about it at <www.tinyurl.com/96bf9c7>. The first Sherlockian film shot in color was "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1959).
14781. The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times12-9.html>, offering Sherlockiana, old and new, books and much more.
14782. The OScholars is "an electronic journal for the exchange of information on current research, publications, and productions concerning Oscar Wilde and his worlds," and there has been a call for papers (3000 to 4000 words) for a special issue devoted to Conan Doyle, edited by Sarah E. Maier; the deadline for abstracts (250 words) is Dec. 1, and more information is available at <www.call-for-papers.sas.upenn.edu/node/47971>.
14783. The Postal Service has issued a set of stamps honoring "The Solitary Cyclist" (well, not really, but it does seem that way). Which leads to the question: who was the solitary cyclist? Violet Smith or Bob Carruthers? There is an answer to the question, and those who don't know the answer are invited to read the story and decide for yourselves (but if you read the story in THE NEW ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES, don't read the annotations, because Les Klinger gives the answer, which will also be revealed in this issue of my newsletter).
14784. Don Petkus has noted that Skeletons in the Closet (the store operated by the Los Angeles County Coroner's Department) still offers Sherlockian merchandise, including T-shirts with a skeleton in Sherlockian costume (in black or white); they also sell a mug with a Sherlockian design. 1104 North Mission Road, Los Angeles, CA 90033 <www.lacoroner.com>.
14785. Doug Wrigglesworth reports that Terry Fallis' UP AND DOWN (Toronto: Douglas Gibson, 2012; 432 pp., \$22.99) is a humorous novel whose Canadian protagonist is a serious Sherlockian and bibliophile.
14786. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London's pilgrimage to Switzerland (September 12 #4), and as usual with the Society's excursions, there was a handsome handbook published: RETURN TO THE REICHENBACH: A SHERLOCK HOLMES SWISS ACCOUNT BOOK (2012, 114 pp.) is an excellent gathering of scholarship, artwork, and humor, and the postpaid cost is £17.50 (to the U.K.)/£20.00 (to Europe)/£25.00 (elsewhere) from the Society <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk>.

October 2012 #3

14787. The September issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota has the "Sherlockian Memories" of Donald Yates, a "50 Years Ago" tribute to Henry T. Folsom and his Canonical chronologies by Julie McKuras, and other news from and about the collections. You can request a copy of the newsletter from Dick Sveum (111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455 <sveum001@tc.umn.edu>.
14788. Randall Stock reports the discovery of one more page from the manuscript of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" to be offered at auction at Christie's in New York on Dec. 7. Randall has a detailed description of the page at his web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/9pyvz8p>.
14789. Jim Weiss continues to offer his excellent recordings younger audiences as CDs (\$13.95) and MP3 downloads (\$10.95): SHERLOCK HOLMES FOR CHILDREN ("The Mazarin Stone"/"The Speckled Band"/"The Musgrave Ritual"/"The Blue Carbuncle") and MYSTERY! MYSTERY! ("The Red-Headed League" and tales by Chesterton and Poe); Greathall Productions, Box 5061, Charlottesville, VA 22905 (800-477-6234) <www.greathall.com>. And there's Sherlockian artwork at the home page of his web-site.
14790. John Longenbaugh's play "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol" will be performed at the Taproot Theatre from Nov. 16 through Dec. 29; the theater is at 204 North 85th Street, Seattle, WA 98103 (206-781-9707) <www.taproottheatre.org>.
14791. Titan continues to reprint Sax Rohmer's stories about Fu-Manchu (who "makes Professor Moriarty seem an under-achiever," Max Collins has noted); DAUGHTER OF FU-MANCHU (236 pp., \$9.95) is the fourth in the series, setting Sir Dennis Nayland Smith and Dr. Petrie against the evil Fah Lo Suee in 1913. And Titan has other non-Sherlockian series, including Kevin J. Anderson's alternative histories: THE MARTIAN WAR: A THRILLING EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT OF THE RECENT ALIEN INVASION involves H. G. Wells with Dr. Moreaux, Dr. Cavor, T. H. Huxley, and Percival Lowell, on Earth, the Moon, and Mars (342 pp., \$12.95). The publisher's web-site is at <www.titanbooks.com>.
14792. Mark Alberstat's 2012 Sherlock Holmes Calendar is illustrated with artwork from The Strand Magazine, and displays important Sherlockian birthdays and William S. Baring-Gould's dates for the cases. US\$15.00 postpaid, and his address is: 46 Kingston Crescent, Dartmouth, NS B3A 2M2, Canada.
14793. Who was the solitary cyclist? Bob Carruthers. The manuscript of the story is titled "The Adventure of the Solitary Man", a discovery made by Andrew Jay Peck, whose article "The Solitary Man-Uscrip" was published in The Baker Street Journal (June 1972) and won Andy the Morley-Montgomery Award for the best paper published in the BSJ that year. His article was reprinted by The Baker Street Irregulars in "A REMARKABLE MIXTURE" (January 08 #3), still available at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com> (\$35.00 plus shipping).
14794. David Haugen (of The Sound of the Baskervilles) reports that Mimi Noyes is organizing a Seattle Sherlock Convention to be held Nov. 3-4. The convention focus will be on the BBC series, but there will also be panels on the Canon, and on "After ACD" pastiches; details at <www.sherlock-seattle.org>.

October 2012 #4

14795. MX Publishing <www.mxpublishing.com> continues to publish interesting Sherlockiana: SHERLOCK'S HOME: THE EMPTY HOUSE, edited by Steve Emecz (2012; 224 pp., \$16.95) is an anthology of pastiches, poems, and vignettes from participants of <www.sherlockology.com>, issued in support of the Undershaw Preservation Trust, with additional contributions from supporters of the Trust who include Mark Gatiss, Douglas Wilmer, Stephen Fry, and many others well known to Sherlockians. Completists may want to have the Russian translation, to be published soon by Amphora; you can watch a 3-minute television news report at <www.ntv.ru/novosti/344118>.
14796. Also from MX Publishing is P. C. Martin's STEAMPUNK HOLMES: LEGACY OF THE NAUTILUS (2012; 142 pp., \$14.95); it's a steampunk retelling of "The Bruce-Partington Plans" featuring Sherlock Holmes, a bionic Dr. Watson, and Sherlock's sister Mycroft (steampunk's a modern Victorian science-fiction genre generally set in alternative universes). There's much more about steampunk projects at <www.steampunkholmes.com>.
14797. And: Fiona-Jane Brown's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE ADVENTURE OF THE JACOBITE ROSE (2012; 87 pp., \$10.95) is the script for a two-act play that involves Holmes and Watson with Mycroft and forgers and thieves. Charlotte Smith's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE MURDER AT LODORE FALLS AND OTHER MINOR TALES (2012; 154 pp., \$12.95) has Holmes and Watson battling a villainous gang with evil plans afoot (the minor tales are Christmas vignettes rather than cases).

14798. And: a reprint of Steven Seitz's *SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE PLAGUE OF DRACULA* (2012; 178 pp., \$18.95), first published in 2006; Holmes is appropriately skeptical about the supernatural, but quite mistaken.
14799. Henry Zecher and Gay Zurich offer ideas for Christmas: Henry's biography of William Gillette, and Gay's artwork on personalized cartoons and magnets; go to <www.artandsoulinc.com> and "Product Search" for [sherlock].
14800. Ken Rozek reports a new set of eight stamps from Liechtenstein that honors famous figures from classical literature, all drawn by Swiss artist Oskar Weiss, and one of them being Sherlock Holmes; the cost of the set is 8.00 CHF (that's Swiss francs, for a total of about \$8.55) and their web-site's at <www.tinyurl.com/8hk6783>.
14801. Randall Stock's gift-buyer's guide to the "Best 2012 Sherlock Holmes Books and Movies" <www.bestofsherlock.com/sherlock-gifts.htm> will be posted at his web-site on Nov. 3.
14802. Jacques Barzun died on Oct. 25, aged 104. He was a highly-regarded scholar with wide-ranging interests, and he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2003. One of his special interests was detective fiction, and he was co-author of *A CATALOGUE OF CRIME* (1971), a classic survey of the genre that won a special Edgar Award from the Mystery Writers of America; he also contributed often to *The Baker Street Journal*, wrote Sherlockian clerihews, and in *SIMPLE AND DIRECT: A RHETORIC FOR WRITERS* (1975) revealed that "to keep a bull pup" was, in the 1880s, British army slang for "to have a bad temper" (a revelation for which many Sherlockians have vainly sought supporting evidence).
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October 2012 #5

14803. Sherlock Holmes' 158th birthday will be celebrated on Friday, Jan. 11, with the traditional festivities in New York, but the first formal event will be The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes' ASH Wednesday dinner starting at 6:30 pm at O'Casey's (22 East 41st Street); attendees pay their own checks, but you should let Susan Rice (125 Washington Place #2-E, New York, NY 10014) <susan221bee@gmail.com> or Evy Herzog (301 Warren Avenue #203, Baltimore, MD 21230) <herzogbaesch@aol.com> know if you are coming to the event.
14804. The Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Speaker Lecture begins at 6:15 pm on Thursday on the 2nd floor of the Midtown Executive Club (40 West 45th Street); Kim Newman, author of *ANNO DRACULA* (1992), *THE MAN FROM THE DIOGENES CLUB* (2005), and *PROFESSOR MORIARTY: THE HOUND OF THE D'URBERVILLES* (2011) will be the speaker. \$11.00; seating is limited, and you should reserve early (details below); tickets will not be sold at the door.
14805. The Baker Street Babes will present a new birthday-festivities event: their "Daintiest Thing Under a Bonnet Charity Ball" at 8:00 pm at the Salmagundi Club at 47 Fifth Avenue (between 11th and 12th Streets), offering a buffet dinner, cash bar, and entertainment; formal attire and Sherlockian costume are strongly encouraged. The cost is \$45.00, and proceeds will benefit the Wounded Warriors Project; more information at <www.bakerstreetbabes.com> or from Lyndsay Faye <lyndsay@bakerstreetbabes.com>.
14806. Otto Penzler will hold his traditional open house on Friday from 11:00 to 5:00 at the Mysterious Bookshop, at 58 Warren Street (between West Broadway and Church Street) in Tribeca; the 1, 2, and 3 trains stop at the Chambers Street station (one block from the shop). If you get lost, the bookshop's telephone number is 212-587-1011.
14807. The William Gillette Memorial Luncheon starts at noon, at Moran's Chelsea Seafood Restaurant at 146 Tenth Avenue at 19th Street; the cost is \$47.00 for chicken or salmon (\$52.00 for prime rib). Checks can be sent to Susan Rice (125 Washington Place #2-E, New York, NY 10014) <susan221b@gmail.com>.
14808. The Baker Street Irregulars will gather at 6:00 pm at the Yale Club at 50 Vanderbilt Avenue (across the street and just north of Grand Central Station); attendance is by invitation only. The Gaslight Gala (which is open to all Sherlockians and their friends) will provide dinner and entertainment at 6:30 pm at the Manhattan Club (800 Seventh Avenue at 52nd Street); checks for \$78.00 (payable to Will Walsh) should be sent to Becky Robare at 111 North 9th Street #300, Philadelphia, PA 19107 (917-817-1608). The Gala web-site has more information at <www.gaslightgalanyc.wordpress.com>.
14809. Space is limited at the William Gillette Luncheon and at the Gaslight Gala, and early reservations are advised if you wish to attend these events.
14810. If you want to send seasonal souvenirs or other mementos to be included in the various dinner packets you should send 170 copies (for the BSI) to Al Gregory (118 South Prospect Street, Verona, NJ 07044), 100 copies (for the Gaslight Gala) to Carol Fish (Box 4, Circleville, NY 10919), and 18 copies (for The Women) to Mary Ann Bradley (7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278); your material must be mailed to arrive by Dec. 15.
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October 2012 #6

14811. On Saturday a wide range of Sherlockiana will be available from vendors in the Merchants Room (Covent Garden West) in the Vanderbilt Suite (on the second floor of the Roosevelt Hotel at 45 East 45th Street) from 9:00 am to noon; you can contact Ralph Hall (2906 Wallingford Court, Louisville, KY 40218) (502-491-3148) <bugmanhall@aol.com> for information about dealers' tables.
14812. The Beacon Society will hold their annual meeting from 10:00 to 11:30 am in the Roosevelt Hotel, where they will present their annual Beacon Award recognizing the efforts of individuals to introduce Sherlock Holmes to young people. Details at their web-site <www.beaconsociety.com>.
14813. The Baker Street Irregulars' annual reception, open to all Sherlockians and their friends, will be held from 1:30 to 4:30 at a Delmonco family midtown restaurant (to be named later); there will be hors d'oeuvres (adequate but not replacing lunch or dinner) and an open bar (wine, beer, juice, and soft drinks). And, of course, the usual (or perhaps unusual) entertainment; the cost is \$69.00 (details below) or \$79.00 after Nov. 26 or at the door.
14814. For those who wish to continue partying, there are as yet no plans (firm or infirm) for sporting events at Kennedy's or other venues on Saturday evening; stay tuned (as they say) for a further report.
14815. The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes will hold an informal buffet brunch on Sunday, from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm at the Irish Rogue (356 West 44th Street, between Eighth and Ninth Avenues); \$20.00 payable by cash or check at the door. As always, the brunch is open to all, but space is limited; details about a fine way to end a long weekend are available from Lyndsay Faye (450 West 162nd Street #25-E, New York, NY 10032) <lyndsayfaye@hotmail.com>.
14816. Arrangements have been made for a block of rooms at the Roosevelt Hotel (45 East 45th Street) at a special tax-free rate of \$199.00 per night (single or double room); the special rate is available only for reservations made through the Baker Street Irregulars by Nov. 19. In addition, there may be some rooms available at the Yale Club (50 Vanderbilt Avenue) at a special tax-free rate of \$200.00 per night (details on both below); guest cards for the Club's second-floor lounge are available to all Sherlockians.
14817. And here are the details: if you've not already received Mike Whelan's announcement and reservation form (including prices) for the Roosevelt Hotel and the Yale Club, the Thursday lecture, and the Saturday reception, visit the Baker Street Journal web-site <www.bakerstreetjournal.com> and click on BSI Weekend, or contact Mary Ann Bradley <mabmfw@aol.com>.
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14818. Mary Ellen Rich kindly continues to advise about hotels that offer reasonable (as defined by New York landlords) rates, but it's a mark of the 21st century that the best offers are to be found on the Internet, at web-sites such as <www.priceline.com>, <www.tripadvisor.com>, <www.travelocity.com>, <www.hotels.com>, <www.expedia.com>, and <www.quikbook.com>; special rates also are available at <www.travelzoo.com/top20/82851294-890255>. You will be wise then to check the hotel's web-site and ask for the best rate (and you should not forget about non-optional extras such as almost 20% in state and city taxes).

October 2012 #7

14819. The Dr. John H. Watson Fund offers financial assistance to all Sherlockians (membership in the BSI is not required) who might otherwise not be able to participate in the weekend's festivities. A carefully pseudonymous John H. Watson presides over the fund and welcomes contributions, which can be made by check payable to John H. Watson and sent (without return address on the envelope) to Dr. Watson, care of The Baker Street Irregulars, at 7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278; your letters are forwarded unopened, and Dr. Watson will acknowledge your generosity. Requests for assistance should also be mailed (quickly) to Dr. Watson at the same address.
14820. And if you can't remember where you put your copy of all of this, detailed information about the birthday festivities is available on the Internet at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com> and <www.bsiweekend.com>. News of additional events will be found in this newsletter, and at the web-sites.
14821. "Sherlock & Shylock: The Sleuths of Venice" (the second conference arranged by the No Fog Countries) (Spain, Italy, and France) was an splendid gathering, thanks to hard work by members of Uno Studio in Holmes, who welcomed visitors as far-flung as Australia, Canada, Japan, and the U.S. The major event at the conference was the launch of SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: VIAGGIO IN ITALIA-ITALIAN JOURNEY, edited by Gianluca Salvatori, Enrico Solito, and Roberto Vianello; the book is a carefully-researched exploration of two albums of postcards and photographs devoted to Conan Doyle's visits to Italy, purchased at the auction at Christie's in 2004 by Richard J. Sveum. Everything in the book (Rome: Bobi Bazlen; 146 pp., E30.00) is presented in both Italian and English. You can purchase the book directly from the publisher (using PayPal) <info@bobibazlenservice.it>. Recommended.
14822. One of the nice things about eBooks is that they're a fine way to keep authors' books in print. The late Stuart Kaminsky wrote 24 novels about Toby Peters (described by Kaminsky as "the anti-Philip Marlowe"), and they are all available from Otto Penzler's Mysterious Press; two of them are of particular interest: THE HOWARD HUGHES AFFAIR (1979), in which Basil Rathbone does some detecting, and HE DONE HER WRONG (1983), which involves a Sherlockian society called The Engineer's Thumbs. \$7.99 each on-line, and you can see all of the titles at <www.mysteriouspress.com>.
14823. Electronic publishing also helps readers find short fiction, such as Roger Johnson's pastiche "The Adventure of the Grace Chalice" (first published in 1997 in THE MAMMOTH BOOK OF NEW SHERLOCK HOLMES ADVENTURES), now available in a Kindle edition for \$1.20.
14824. Richard H. Miller ("The Grice Patersons in the Island of Uffa") died Oct. 21. He served the U.S. Army (nuclear artillery) and in the U.S. Naval Reserve (intelligence, although he sometimes claimed to be in charge of disposing of all enemy mines discovered in New Mexico), and he worked for many years as lawyer at the Los Alamos National Laboratory. Dick was one of the founders of The Brothers Three of Moriarty, and he received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1982.
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November 2012 #1

14825. There's more information about the birthday festivities in New York in January: the Beacon Society will meet in the Park Suite at the Roosevelt Hotel from 10:00 to 11:15 am on Saturday, Jan. 12. Details at their web-site at <www.beaconsociety.com>.
14826. Chrys Kegley of The Curious Collectors of Baker Street will once again host The Very Irregular Lost in New York with a Bunch of Sherlockians Dinner on Saturday at 6:00 pm at Pete's Tavern (129 East 18th Street, between Irving Place and Third Avenue); \$45.00 (including tax and tip) for two drinks and dinner, and the details are available from Chrys (18014 Sherman Way #275, Reseda, CA 91235) (818-675-5399) <ckegley@socal.rr.com>.
14827. And a reminder: seasonal souvenirs or other mementos intended for various dinner packets should be mailed to arrive by Dec. 15: 170 copies (for the BSI) to Al Gregory (118 South Prospect Street, Verona, NJ 07044), 100 copies (for the Gaslight Gala) to Carol Fish (Box 4, Circleville, NY 10919), and 18 copies (for The Women) to Mary Ann Bradley (7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278).
14828. Amanda L. Goode's SHERLOCK CLYDE AND THE CHICKEN CAPER (Randy Goode, 2008; 64 pp., \$11.96) is an amusing mystery for young readers: Clyde is a retired draft horse who lives on a south Texas ranch and investigate why chickens are going missing at an alarming rate. Available at <www.lulu.com>.
14829. Scotland Yard is for sale. Not Great Scotland Yard, the original home of the Metropolitan Police, but rather New Scotland Yard, which has served as police headquarters since 1967; it also houses the Home Office Large Major Enquiry System (HOLMES). The police hope to save more than £500 million a year from an annual budget of £3.6 billion, and expect to receive as much as £150 million for the building after they move to a smaller building near Whitehall.
14830. Katie Forgette's play "Sherlock Holmes & the Case of the Jersey Lily" will be presented by the Greenville Little Theatre from Feb. 2 to Mar. 9, 2013. The theater is at 444 College Street, Greenville, SC 29601 (864-233-6238) <www.greenvillelittletheatre.org>.
14831. Nicholas Utechin's AMAZING & EXTRAORDINARY FACTS: SHERLOCK HOLMES (Newton Abbott: David & Charles, 2012; 140 pp., £9.99) is an informed and informative exploration of the Canon and its major characters, of its author and of what other authors and actors have brought to the Sherlockian world, all explained for general readers with style and occasional humor; it's a fine gift for people who have read the Sherlock Holmes stories and want to know more about them.
14832. Bouchercon 2012 in Cleveland was quite successful, by all reports, with an agenda that included a Sherlockian panel ("Elementary, My Dear Cleveland"). Bouchercon 2013 ("A New York State of Crime") will be held in Albany Sept. 19-20, Bouchercon 2014 ("Murder at the Beach" in Long Beach on Nov. 13-16, and Bouchercon 2015 (no slogan as yet) in Raleigh on Oct. 8-11. Their web-sites are at <www.bouchercon201x.com> (substitute a numeral for the x).
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November 2012 #2

14833. Nielsen's "live plus same day" data credited the "Elementary" pilot episode with 13.4 viewers, winning its network time slot, and the series has continued to do well, with most newspaper and Internet reviews quite favorable. According to CBS, the series is up 17% over the same time period last year for adults aged 18-49 (the prime target for such shows), and the network has ordered the "back nine" for the series, for a total of 22 episodes. CBS also has announced that a special episode of the series will receive the coveted post-Super Bowl time slot on Feb. 3. The previous Super Bowl had an estimated 111.3 viewers, and about 38 million of them stayed tuned in to watch the next program.
14834. KY TEYLU BASKERVILLE is the latest language for Canonical translations reported by Don Hobbs; the language is Cornish, and the book is available at <www.amazon.com> (232 pp., \$16.95). Don notes that there now are 98 languages with at least one translation.
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14835. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists (also known as The Friends of Sherlock Holmes) met to honor the world's first forensic geologist with drinks and dinner at the King's Kitchen in Charlotte on Nov. 7, welcomed by Fred Mende (founder of The Saxe-Coburg Squares of Mecklenburg County). The city is named in honor of Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, and there's a Sherlockian connection: she was Queen Consort of the United Kingdom, married to George III, the monarch whose folly Holmes mentioned (in "The Noble Bachelor").
14836. The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times12-10.html>, offering Sherlockiana, old and new, books and much more.
14837. Kelly Blau has kindly forwarded Diane Birnberg's colorful article on "Life at 221B Baker Street" in the Sept.-Oct. issue of Dollhouse Miniatures; she and her husband have a complete house, based on books, films, and television. \$6.95 (\$5.95 digital) (886-606-6587) <www.dhminiatures.com>.
14838. It has been many years since the "Mazarin" stone was identified (BSJ, Sept. 1974, p. 141-145) as a 78.96-carat yellow diamond that was then among the crown jewels of Iran, and it's nice to learn that it is still in Teheran, one of the "Iranian Yellows" described in a catalog published by the Iran Chamber Society and available on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/268kwn>.
14839. There will be some yellow diamonds available at auction at Sotheby's in New York on Dec. 5, including a 47.14-carat diamond formerly in the collection of the Duchess of Windsor, part of a diamond pendant necklace estimated at \$1,500,000-2,000,000, and (if you want something a bit bigger) a 52.73 diamond ring estimated at \$3,000,000-4,000,000.
14840. Nicole Marie Charlotte Pierette Jeanne Schneider Milinaire-Russell, Dowager Duchess of Bedford, died on Sept. 6. Nicole Milinaire was associate producer for Sheldon Reynolds' 1954 television series "The New Adventures of Sherlock Holmes". After her marriage to the Duke in 1964 she helped make Abbey the most popular stately home in Britain, and her NICOLE NOBODY: THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF THE DUCHESS OF BEDFORD (1974) has a short chapter dealing with her work with Reynolds.

November 2012 #3

14841. The November issue of Ineffable Twaddle (the monthly newsletter of The Sound of the Baskervilles has news of Richard Milner's acquisition of the contents of a safe deposit box that had belonged to Sir Arthur Conan. There were two pistols, one of them originally purchased by Conan Doyle's brother Innes in 1893, and both weapons were left with Conan Doyle's solicitors in 1921 when the Firearms Act first became law. You can read more about the discovery at <www.soundofthebaskervilles.com>.
14842. The newsletter also has a report of some interesting cufflinks that feature pages from a copy of a Sherlock Holmes adventure (\$34.50) available at Etsy <www.tinyurl.com/a5nakgp>.
14843. "Will Arsène Lupin Meet Sherlock Holmes in Hollywood Return?" was the headline on a blog by Graham Fuller on Nov. 16 <www.tinyurl.com/b5uvfa7>. "Lupin is known as being to the French what Sherlock Holmes is to the Englishspeaking world," according to Liza Forman <www.tinyurl.com/ar97hzi>; Lupin encountered Holmes in stories written by Maurice Leblanc, and the new film (tentatively titled "Arsene Lupin AKA Once a Thief") is "set up at Warner Bros." (and is not yet even listed at the Internet Movie Data Base, which means that it hasn't reached the "in development" stage).
14844. Nice news for Canonical chronologists: Jody Baker has reported a new "complete chronology" for Sherlock Holmes; it was prepared by Chris J. Miller and is available on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/7qcpwxk>. He includes a link to an interesting essay by David Richardson on "Some Chronological Crankiness" via the Wayback Machine, something that people may recall from "The Rocky and Bullwinkle Show". Today's Wayback Machine is a digital time capsule created by the Internet Archive in San Francisco, with more than 150 billion web pages from 1996 onward; it's a splendid way to recapture material from defunct web-sites.
14845. Jody also has posted to The Hounds of the Internet a warm tribute to Christopher Morley, explaining that "Morley (and that little band of intellectual ruffians with whom he associated) set a tone that still exists today. They were a literate, talented, free-spirited, fun loving bunch of devotees who held nothing Canonical to be sacred. Everything was subject to their humor and became the objects of their spoof. They had their fun. It was clean fun, with refinement and civility. It is among the highest forms of entertainment."
14846. Edward R. Hamilton, who specializes in remaindered books, offers interesting Sherlockian and Doylean books, DVDs, and CDs at nicely discounted prices; you can request a catalog (Box 15, Falls Village, CT 06031) or visit his web-site <www.hamiltonbook.com>.
14847. Fossway, the developer that owns Undershaw, where Arthur Conan Doyle lived from 1897 to 1907, has been denied permission to appeal a high court ruling that the house may not be converted into flats (June 12 #1). The Don't Go Into the Cellar theater company will offer a free performance of their oneman show "Ho Ho Holmes" (which they describe as "Holmes in time for Christmas with some seasonal Sherlockian capers") at the Devil's Punchbowl Hotel in Hindhead on Dec. 23, in support of the Undershaw Preservation Trust; additional information available at <www.saveundershaw.com>.

November 2012 #4

14848. Harry Stephen Keeler, according to Google Books, is to some an overlooked genius, and to others the Ed Wood of detective fiction. And his novel THE RIDDLE OF THE TRAVELING SKULL (1934) features Milo Payne, who appears with a "long-beaked Sherlockholmsian cap" (noted by Paul Williams in Ineffable Twaddle, the monthly newsletter of The Sound of the Baskervilles). Keller apparently invented the word (with that spelling).
14849. Paul Kurtz died on Oct. 20. He was a noted secular humanist and for decades debunked paranormal phenomena and pseudoscience; he founded the Center for Inquiry and the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal, and in 1969 created Prometheus Books, which published books by Martin Gardner, Isaac Asimov, and many others.
14850. Jim Webb spotted Beth Carswell's essay "Great Gumshoes: A Guide to Fictional Detectives at the AbeBooks.com <www.tinyurl.com/d4febqq>, with a report (courtesy of The Guardian) on an essay written by Agatha Christie in 1945 at the behest of the Ministry of Information in which she praised the excellence of British crime fiction, with lavish praise of Conan Doyle, and harsh comments about her won Hercule Poirot (with whom she had become bored to tears). You can read the Guardian article at <www.tinyurl.com/bysomda>, but to read Christie's essay you'll need to buy a copy of the new reprint of the collaborative novel ASK A POLICEMAN, recently published by Harper-Collins with the first-ever publication of her essay in the U.K. (according to The Guardian, it was first published in a Russian magazine in 1947).
14851. David Marcum's THE PAPERS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES has been published by George Vanderburgh (2011; 311 pp., \$25.00); the collection of nine pastiches has Holmes and Watson visiting Tennessee (where the author lives) and solving cases in England, with one of them explaining a family connection between Holmes and Solar Pons. The publisher's address is Box 50, R.R.4, Eugenia, ON N0C 1E0, Canada <www.batteredbox.com>.
14852. And for a newer generation who may not be familiar with Solar Pons, you can consult Bob Byrne's web-site at <www.solarpons.com> and Charles Prepolec's discussion at <www.bakerstreetdozen.com/pons.html>.

14853. Sabrina Herrera reports that "Doctor Who: The Great Detective" is the title of a "prequel" to the next Christmas Special "The Snowmen" (which will air in Britain on the BBC and in the U.S. on BBC America on Dec. 25); you can read all about it (and watch the 4-minute prequel and a trailer at the BBC web-site <www.tinyurl.com/bty67z5>. The current "Doctor Who" is created by Mark Gatiss and Steven Moffat, so it's understandable that there seem to be at least a few echoes of Sherlock Holmes in the upcoming Christmas Special.
14854. When in London: the Geological Society of London will mark the centenary of the reading of Charles Dawson's "Pitdown Man" paper to the Society with a one-day conference on Dec. 18. There will be tours of the Natural History Museum's "Pitdown Centenary Exhibit" in the morning, and the papers in the afternoon will include David Martill's "Arthur Conan Doyle and the Pitdown Forgery"; details at <www.tinyurl.com/cow6fkx>. In 1994 Martill and Eberhard Frey described and named "Arthurdactylus conan-doylei" from a fossil found in northeastern Brazil (August 95 #6 and September 95 #2); it's a pterodactyl with a wing-span of 4.6 meters.
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November 2012 #5

14855. Joe Fay (the manager of rare books at Heritage Auctions) "will attempt to solve the mystery of why one man from Flower Mound owns 3,000 books he can't read," in Dallas on Dec. 11 at 6:00 pm. The man in question is Don Hobbs, the "maniac collector" who specializes in Canonical foreign translations and will speak at the event; additional information is available from Heritage Auctions (800-872-2467) <rsvp@ha.com>.
14856. Further to the report on "Sherlock & Shylock: The Sleuths of Venice" (October 12 #7), those who attended the conference were fortunate to have escaped a more recent extreme weather event: <www.tinyurl.com/cmpwmbh>.
14857. Titan Books <www.titanbooks.com> continues to reissue Philip José Farmer's science fiction and fantasy: A FEAST UNKNOWN (303 pp., \$12.95) is an introduction to the non-Sherlock world of Lord Grandrith and Doc Caliban (Farmer's versions of Tarzan and Doc Savage), with much sex and violence, and a Postscript by Theodore Sturgeon, and a new Afterword by Arthur C. Sippo.
14858. The Strand Magazine offers a full-color Sherlockian calendar for 2013, with more than a hundred illustrations, including original artwork (\$19.95). Go to <www.tinyurl.com/dxrh7w> for more information.
14859. Roger Johnson and Jean Upton's THE SHERLOCK HOLMES MISCELLANY (Port Stroud: History Press, 2012; 223 pp., £9.99) has an appreciative foreword by Gyles Brandeth and entertaining descriptions of how interesting Sherlockians and Sherlockiana can be; it's an excellent introduction for beginners, and old hands will also find it a valuable guide to what admirers of Holmes and the Canon have done and are doing.
14860. "The Arthur Conan Doyle Appreciation Society" is a new play written by Steven Canny and John Nicholson (who wrote "The Hound of the Baskervilles" for Peepolykus in 2007) and performed by Nicholson, Javier Marzan, and Gabriel Quigley at the Traverse Theatre, Dec. 4-22; according to the theater, "this riotous show fuses lecture, storytelling, slapstick comedy, and lightningfast costume changes to explore some pretty big ideas" about Arthur Conan Doyle and his life and work. 10 Cambridge Street, Edinburgh EH1 2ED, Scotland (0131-228-1404) <www.traverse.co.uk>.
14861. Another Christmas show coming up is "Sherlock Holmes: The Panto-Crime" at St. Ambrose Church Hall in Leyland, Dec. 4-8. The St. Ambrose Players are presenting "a highly traditional Christmas pantomime" in which Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer is kidnapped by Toyland's evil Mrs. Moriarty, and Santa calls in Holmes and Watson to solve the crime. Moss Lane, Leyland, Lancs. PR25 4XA, England (0743-243-286) <www.stambroseplayers.co.uk>.
14862. Keep an eye out for "The Starving Games", a new film now in production by the Safran Company; according to Variety (Oct. 22), it's a parody of "The Hunger Games", "The Avengers", "Sherlock Holmes", and "Harry Potter".
14863. The Société Sherlock Holmes de France has found Heroes and Villains Miniatures, who offer a pair of attractive miniature busts of Holmes and Watson (€39.95), sculpted in resin at 1/12 scale by Raúl García Latorre; the company is in Spain, and their web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/c8xcxa3> has detailed instructions for assembling and painting the busts.
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November 2012 #6

14864. Richard Lancelyn Green's copy of Beeton's Christmas Annual is now on display at the City Museum of Portsmouth, by way of celebrating the 125th anniversary of the publication of "A Study in Scarlet"; the City Council's press release at <www.tinyurl.com/apn7vl8> has a photograph of museums volunteer Aneta Martiskova wearing appropriate fingernail polish and lipstick. The copy of Beeton's will be exhibited until Jan. 31; Randall Stock has more about this copy at <www.tinyurl.com/az4m9ka>.
14865. The Wrap (a web-site covering Hollywood) has reported on plans for a remake of "Young Sherlock Holmes" (1985); Chris Columbus wrote the screenplay for the original film and will produce the remake for Paramount. The studio is "in talks with" Evan Spiliotopoulos to write a new script.
14866. Tina Rhea spotted "Skull Panda Loves Everything" (a web-site that features Sam Logan's imaginative cartoons) and an amusing approach to the Canon published on Oct. 26 <www.skullpanda.com/post/34346166573>.
14867. "The Sussex Vampire" wasn't a vampire, but there have been quite a few vampires in Sherlockian pastiches, starting in 1973, according to Bill Mason's list at <www.sherlockian.net/pastiches/vampires.html>.
14868. "Jack the Ripper: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery Musical" had a two-performance run in Australia this month; the show is described as "the gothic, grizzly Jack the Ripper story, set in the backdrop of the seedy 'Arse End of London' Music Hall, investigated by a humorous Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson" and is scheduled at the Adelaide Fringe on Feb. 23 and Mar. 2 and 9. There is Facebook page [fans of jack the ripper a sherlock holmes mystery] with lots of photographs.
14869. Alan Rettig spotted an imaginative two-minute animation ("The Case of the Broken Lamp") created by Alberto Beguierie, a student at the Ringling College of Art & Design in Sarasota, who offers a combination of film noir and youthful fun <www.vimeo.com/42728658>.
14870. John R. Lavas has published a lavish "collector's centenary edition" of THE LOST WORLD in a limited edition of 300 copies (US\$115.00 plus shipping from New Zealand) with color illustrations and additional essays by other authors on topics such as "The Geology of the Lost World" and "The Lost World in Popular Culture"; more information is available from the publisher (Box 14-421, Panmure, Auckland 1741, New Zealand) <j.lavas@auckland.ac.nz>.
14871. The Société Sherlock Holmes de France has reported a Benedict Cumberbatch Mask that "will transform you into an English film, television, and theater actor" (£3.49), at <www.mymask.co.uk/benedict-cumberbatch-177p.asp>.
14872. Larry Hagman died on Nov. 23. He began his long career as an actor on the stage and went on to star in television, best known for his roles as Capt. Tony Nelson on "I Dream of Jeannie" (1965-1970) and as J. R. Ewing on "Dynasty" (1981-1989), he also played Sherlock Holmes in the television film "The Return of the World's Greatest Detective" (1976).
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December 2012 #1

14873. There's more information about the birthday festivities in New York in January: the Clients of Adrian Mulliner will hold a Junior Bloodstain in the Park Suite at the Roosevelt Hotel at 11:15 am on Saturday, Jan. 12. There will be a performance of "The Riddle of the Starving Swine", a play written by Gayle Lange Puhl, adapted by William Hyder, and with puppets created by Ken Vogel.
14874. And those heading to New York may find some useful hints in Scott Monty's handy-dandy guide for newbies and veterans <www.bit.ly/bsitips>.
14875. The Baker Street Irregulars will issue a new version of the electronic Baker Street Journal in January: the eBSJ v2 will be on sale on Saturday during the birthday festivities in Covent Garden West (that's the dealers room in the Roosevelt Hotel's Vanderbilt Suite) for \$149.95 (or \$49.95 to owners of the old BSJ CD-ROM who bring and surrender disk 4); the new DVD has all issues through 2011 on one disk, and will be more easily searchable. Go to <www.bakerstreetjournal.com/pdf/ebsj-cd-trade-in.pdf> for more information on the eBSJ v2. After the birthday festivities the new DVD will be available by mail at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com/ebooks/ebsj.html> (the trade-in expires on May 1).
14876. "Confessions of a Bookplate Junkie" (reported by Don Hobbs) is a blog that offers Lew Jaffe's "random thoughts from a passionate bookplate collector" <www.bookplatejunkie.blogspot.com>, and on Nov. 25 he displayed images of five bookplates showing fingerprints. One of the bookplates (with Frederic Dorr Steele artwork) is from S. Davis Levin's "A. Conan Doyle Collection" and is dated as early 20th century. A Google search has turned up a letter dated 1937 in which he said that he had been collecting bookplates for more than thirty years; does anyone know of him as a Conan Doyle collector?
14877. SCARLET IN GASLIGHT was a comic-book series, written by Martin Powell and illustrated by Seppo Makinen and published by Eternity Comics in 1987 and 1988, with Sherlock Holmes engaged in a battle against Count Dracula. Now there's a 25th-anniversary reprint as a graphic novel (Los Angeles: Pulp 2.0 Press, 2011), with remastered artwork and an introduction by Win Scott Eckert, an interview with Powell.
14878. James O'Brien's THE SCIENTIFIC SHERLOCK HOLMES: CRACKING THE CASE WITH SCIENCE AND FORENSICS (New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012; 172 pp., \$29.95) offers an informed review of forensics both in the Canon and at the time the stories were written; O'Brien is a chemist, and pays particular attention to that area of forensics, offering a rebuttal to Isaac Asimov's claim that Holmes was a "blundering chemist" (in Science Digest in 1980).
14879. O'Brien ends his book with a brief but entertaining discussion of Charles L. Scamahorn, whose "Probaway--Life Hacks" blog includes detailed explanations of how Conan Doyle was a prolific hoaxster, responsible for Piltown Man, Sir Francis Drake's Plate. and the Kensington Rune Stone, and in addition was Jack the Ripper; go to <www.probaway.wordpress.com> and search for [conan doyle].

December 2012 #2

14880. John Bennett Shaw once gained fame, or perhaps notoriety, when he explained at an annual dinner of The Baker Street Irregulars why he had decided that the Canon was unsuitable for younger readers, and his paper ("To Shelve or to Censor") was published in Shades of Sherlock in Aug. 1971; Tina Rhea spotted a more recent list of "the top 10 suggestive lines from the Sherlock Holmes canon" can be found at the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog at <www.tinyurl.com/c8jexy7>.
14881. There will be a sequel to A STUDY IN SHERLOCK, an anthology of "stories inspired by the Holmes Canon" edited by Laurie R. and Leslie S. Klinger (August 11 #2); the new volume will be IN THE COMPANY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, due from Bantam in the fall of 2013. Laurie listed the authors whose stories will be in the new book at her web-site on Nov. 18 <www.laurierking.com/blogs>.
14882. Spain Rodriguez died on Nov. 23. He was an influential radical cartoonist, a founder (with Robert Crumb) of ZAP Comix, and an important contributor to underground comics. He also illustrated five Canonical stories in SHERLOCK HOLMES' STRANGEST CASES (November 01 #2).
14883. Jean Marie Whaley has reported "Epic Rap Battles of History" is a series of short videos you can view at YouTube; the latest being "Batmam vs. Sherlock Holmes" <www.youtube.com/watch?v=17CLIZuiBkQ>. Parental warning: there are crude lyrics involved.
14884. The fall issue of For the Sake of the Trust (the The Baker Street Irregulars Trust newsletter) has Greg Darak's report on 1940s correspondence between Edgar W. Smith and Basil Rathbone, plus other news of and about the Trust; past issues of the newsletter can be read on-line at the Trust web-site <www.bsitrust.org>, and the current issue is available from Mike Berdan (2015 Main Street, Glastonbury, CT 06033) <editor@bsitrust.org>.
14885. "Descent Into Madness: The Truth About Mary Russell" is the title of David Marcum's quite different view of the relationship between Holmes and Russell, presented as a pastiche that you can read on-line at Carolyn and Joel Senter's "Classic Specialties" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/czf42ax>.
14886. The page from the manuscript of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" at auction at Christie's in New York on Dec. 7 (October 12 #3) sold for \$158,500 (including the buyers premium), twice as much as the last page from the manuscript that sold at auction for \$78,000 (November 04 #4). Randall has a detailed description of the page at his web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/9pyvz8p>.
14887. The electronic journal Ripperologist continues to cast a wide net: the December issue (#129) has an interesting article ("Taken as Magnificent: The Lydia Manton Affair") by Robert Linford, David O'Flaherty, and John Savage, that discusses in some detail a royal scandal involving Prince Albert Victor, Duke of Clarence. The Duke of Clarence, the eldest son of the Prince of Wales, is one of the many people suspected of being Jack the Ripper, and there's a Sherlockian connection: the solicitor George Lewis, who had royal connections, was present at the inquest into the death of Miss Manton and is mentioned in "The Illustrious Client" (a case that some Sherlockians believe involved the Prince of Wales). For information about subscriptions, you can contact editor Eduardo Zinna at <editorez@yahoo.co.uk>.

December 2012 #3

14888. Last year's Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture was presented at the Toronto Public Library by Tom Ue (on "Sherlock Holmes and Shakespeare"), and his remarks were published for members of The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection; a limited number of copies are available if you join the Friends now. The web-site (with PayPal and credit-card capability) is at <www.acdfriends.org> or you can contact Cliff Goldfarb, 22 Markdale Avenue, Toronto, ON M6C 1T1, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>; the minimum donation (which includes three issues of their newsletter "Through the Magic Door") is \$25.00. This year the lecturer was Roy Pilot (on "The Lost World") and his talk will be sent to members of the Friends next year.
14889. "Sherlock Holmes, Past and Present" is the title of a conference planned by Jonathan Cranfield and Tom Ue at Senate House in London on June 21-22; they have issued a call for papers (with a deadline of Jan. 15), and more information is available at <www.filmint.nu/?p=6377>.
14890. The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times12-11.html>, offering Sherlockiana, old and new, books and much more, including a report on a recent conference in Seattle (there are plans for a second one next year), and news that there might be a 25th-anniversary Canonical Convocation and Caper in Door County next September.
14891. Ken Ludwig's play "Postmortem" (involving a mystery at William Gillette's home in Hadlyme, Conn.) will be performed by the Minstrel Players at Houghton Hall (on Long Island), Nov. 13-21 (120 Main Street, Northport Village, N.Y. 11768) (631-732-2926) <www.minstrelplayers.org>.

14892. Penguin has relaunched its Penguin English Library ("100 of the best novels in the English language") in attractive new covers, all of the books priced at £5.99. And one of those novels is THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES. But they also are not taking the limitation seriously: another of their titles is THE FIVE ORANGE PIPS AND OTHER CASES.
14893. COMPLETE WORKS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, with an introduction by Robert Ryan, has been published by Simon & Schuster. It's available without charge at Amazon, and can be read by anyone who has a Kindle, or Kindle software installed on your computer <www.amazon.com/dp/B00AHE20W0>.
14894. As noted earlier (April 12 #6) Steve Hockensmith's story "Water Indian" (featuring Old Red and Big Red Amlingmeyer) was first published in the anthology GHOST TOWN, edited by Martin H. Greenberg and Russell Davis (New York: Pinnacle Books, 2010; 336 pp., \$6.99); there are 15 original stories (the others non-Sherlockian) by authors who include Loren D. Estleman and Louis L'Amour.
14895. Peter Calamai reports that Stella Bella Wines (Margaret River, Australia) is selling a range of Skuttlebutt wines that have reached Canada, and perhaps soon will be available in the U.S.; their Shiraz/Cabernet 2008 is reviewed at WineCompanion.com as a "hedonistic style offering year-in, yearout enjoyment." Skuttlebutt seems to be a variant spelling of Scuttlebutt, but (not for the faint-hearted) there's a seriously different definition at <www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=skuttlebutt>.

December 2012 #4

14896. "The Magical Illustration of Arthur Rackham" a nice tribute to the artist at Abebooks.com <www.tinyurl.com/ctgzx2>, but they don't mention Rackham's illustrations for a book that's of marginal Sherlockian interest: Christopher Morley's WHERE THE BLUE BEGINS (1922), which was written by the founder of The Baker Street Irregulars and is available from dealers at prices ranging up to \$3575 <www.tinyurl.com/cj5v9e3>.
14897. Benedict Cumberbatch has been nominated by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association for a Golden Globe Award for best actor in a miniseries or motion picture made for television. The awards ceremony will be broadcast by NBCTV on Jan. 13.
14898. Roger Johnson and Jean Upton report an impressive "Ronald Searle Tribute" blog by Matt Jones at <www.ronaldsearle.blogspot.com>; Jones' entry on Apr. 27, 2009, about Searle's involvement with the Festival of Britain, includes two versions of his wonderful depiction of the recreation of the sittingroom at 221b Baker Street.
14899. The autumn issue of The Magic Door celebrates the 100th anniversary of "The Lost World" and includes fine articles by Dayna Nuhn, Doug Wrigglesworth, Peggy Perdue, and others, all devoted to Professor Challenger. Copies of the newsletter are available on request from Cliff (as above). The Friends will celebrate the science of Arthur Conan Doyle on May 4, when the Hollyer Lecturer will be Bernard Lightman.
14900. Craig Wichman's STANDING IN THE SPIRIT AT YOUR ELBOW: A HISTORY OF DICKENS' CHRISTMAS CAROL AS RADIO/AUDIO has been published by Bear Manor Media (238 pp., \$19.95) <www.tinyurl.com/bsgtr95>; Wichman has played Scrooge, and so has Basil Rathbone, and the book includes recollections by Rathbone (Edith Meiser wrote the script) and many others. Signed copies are available from the author <quicksilvervt@aol.com>; \$25.00 postpaid.
14901. What if Conan Doyle had named his detective something other than Sherlock, like Keith or Francis, asked a blogger on the web-site of the Topeka Capital-Journal (May 26). Well people would be saying "No kidding, Keith" or "No fooling, Francis."
14902. Ronald A. Knox is well known to Sherlockians for his landmark paper "Studies in the Literature of Sherlock Holmes", but he did much more, including translating the Bible from the Latin Vulgate into English. Ann Lewis has reported a web-site at <www.knoxbible.com> for a work that was approved for liturgical use and endorsed by Pope Pius XII.
14903. Ken Ross has posted video at YouTube showing nine minutes of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London in action against the P. G. Wodehouse Society in their first cricket match, in 2001 <www.tinyurl.com/buqde9m>; the video includes footage showing the appropriately costumed spectators.
14904. Next year's "Sherlock Holmes Weekends" in Cape May, N.J., will be on Mar. 15-17 and Nov. 1-3; there will be a new mystery to solve, and a performance by the East Lynne Theater Company. More information is available from the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts & Humanities (Box 340, Cape May, NJ 08204) (800-275-4278 ext 185) <www.capemaymac.org>.

December 2012 #5

14905. The Feb. 2012 issue of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine, which will be found on newsstands during the birthday celebrations, has Sherlockian artwork on the cover, pastiches by Howard Engel, Terence Faherty, and Amy Myers, a birthday tribute by editor Janet Hutchings, and reviews by Steve Steinbock of new Sherlockian books.
14906. F. Andrew Leslie's dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be produced at the Cloverdale Performing Arts Center from Feb. 22 through Mar. 3. The theater is at 209 North Cloverdale Boulevard, Cloverdale, CA 95425 (707-894-2214) <www.cloverdaleperformingarts.com>.
14907. "Department of Celebrities Wearing Deerstalkers" ... who's the celebrity?
14908. "Sharing Sherlock: The Story of a Pompey Lad" is a project that has won a £90,000 grant from Britain's Heritage Lottery Fund. The Conan Doyle Collection in Portsmouth will create a new on-line exhibition and run 30 outreach and education workshops for schools and local residents, and produce 10 touring exhibitions for local communities.
14909. AudioGO (a new name for BBC Audiobooks) now offers the entire Canon, read unabridged (and very well) by Derek Jacobi, on CDs and as downloads; their web-site is at <www.audiogo.co.uk>. THE LOST WORLD also is available, both read unabridged by Matthew Rhys and as a radio dramatization broadcast by the BBC in 1975, plus many Sherlockian pastiches by other authors. There also is a great deal of Sherlockian and Doylean audio offered as downloads at Amazon's <www.audible.com>.
14910. Booger is back! Curtis Armstrong (BSI 2006, as "An Actor and a Rare One") starred as Booger in "Revenge of the Nerds" (1984), and he will return in "King of the Nerds" (an unscripted eight-episode series on TBS cable), and he and Robert Carradine will host a competition for nerdy hopefuls competing for a \$100,000 prize. The series starts on TBS on Jan. 17.

December 2012 #6

14911. "Mr. Culverton Smith is in," Watson was told (in "The Dying Detective"). Donald A. Redmond, in his SHERLOCK HOLMES: A STUDY IN SOURCES (1982), was unable to determine a source for the name Culverton Smith, and it's unusual indeed. A Google search reveals a song "Culverton Smith is the Boogie Man" at YouTube (but it's Sherlockian), and there was a Culverton Smith who graduated from Holmes Elementary School in Spring Lake, Mich., in the class of 1904, according to the web-site <www.classmates.com> (but one must be skeptical). Now Bob Katz has reported Culverton Smith as a character (played by Muriel Hutchinson) in the movie "Another Thin Man" (1939).
14912. So who's the celebrity wearing a deerstalker? "Elton John dining al fresco with his cat at Caribou Ranch, Colorado, 1974," in a photograph spotted and kindly forwarded by Samantha Wolov.

14913. Gail H. Curry's *THE MINIATURE SHERLOCK HOLMES: A SOURCE BOOK FOR SHERLOCK HOLMES BOOKS PUBLISHED IN MINIATURE FORMAT* (2011; revised and reprinted in 2012; 36 pp., \$25.00 postpaid) is exactly what the subtitle promises, covering both the Canon and Sherlockiana, with many full-color illustrations, from 1915 (Little Leather Library) to 2010 (Peter and Donna Thomas). Completists may be unhappy to discover that there are three variants of John Bennett Shaw's *THE WHOLE ART OF DETECTION*, but that's an indication of how widely the author has spread her net. Gail Curry-Books, 12016 Ballantine, Overland Park, KS 66213.
14914. Get out your running shoes: Kate Karlson reports that there will be a London Bridge Half Marathon and 5K on Apr. 13 (that's the old London Bridge at Lake Havasu, Ariz., rather than the new London Bridge in London). Details are available at <www.londonbridgehalf.com>. You get to see the bridge as one of the locations filmed for "The Return of the World's Greatest Detective" (1976), which starred Larry Hagman as Sherman Holmes. And if you run in the 5K you may see Kate as well.
14915. This newsletter has come a long way from the ancient days when it was produced on a typewriter and distributed as photocopies: for one thing, it now costs more to print and mail (and the subscription price will increase next year to reflect a slight increase in printing costs). And making the newsletter available on the Internet has reduced the number of subscribers (the print run of more than 300 in 1985 is now fewer than 150). The electronic edition started as text posted free to two electronic mailings lists, and now, thanks to the wizardry of Randall Stock, it is also published scanned, with illustrations in full color and with live links, at two web-sites: one of them Willis Frick's *Sherlocktron* <www.sherlocktron.com/scuttlebutt.htm>, and the other *The Red Circle of Washington* <www.tinyurl.com/d8uoo8o>. As for the future, god only knows (there are no plans for a podcast, nor for a live-action video edition at YouTube).
14916. And Kate Karlson, who presides over *The Turf Builders of Baker Street*, offers an enthusiastic tip on Bridgetta at Aqueduct on Jan. 13, for the punters who have any money left at the end of the birthday festivities.

January 2013 #1

14917. Sherlockians (and Holmesians) gathered in New York to celebrate the Great Detective's 159th birthday during the long weekend from Jan. 9 to Jan. 13. The festivities began with the traditional ASH Wednesday dinner sponsored by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes at O'Casey's and continued with the Christopher Morley Walk led by Jim Cox and Dore Nash on Thursday morning, followed by the usual lunch at McSorley's.
14918. The Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Speaker at the Midtown Executive Club on Thursday evening was Kim Newman, author of *ANNO DRACULA*, *THE HOUND OF THE D'URBERVILLES* and other fine fantasies, who discussed the many incarnations of the evil Prof. Moriarty; and as with previous distinguished speakers, you will be able to read his paper in *The Baker Street Journal*.
14919. The next event that evening was a new one: a "Daintiest Thing Under a Bonnet Charity Ball" hosted by the Baker Street Babes at the Salmagundi Club, where a capacity crowd enjoyed a buffet dinner, music, a pop quiz, serious costumery, and an auction, all benefiting the Wounded Warriors Project; go to <www.tinyurl.com/awzf46m> to see lots of photographs, including Lyndsay Faye as Robert Downey Jr. as Sherlock Holmes.
14920. The William Gillette Luncheon at Moran's was well attended, as always, and featured a performance of two scenes from "A Requiem for Sherlock Holmes" (a new play written by Gregg Oliver Bodine), and an appearance by Mr. and Mrs. Gillette (who were impersonated by Tyke and Teddie Niver). The luncheon also was the occasion for Al Gregory's presentation of the annual January Whimsey award (named in memory of his wife January Stauber) for the most whimsical piece in *The Serpentine Muse* last year; the winner was Melinda Caric (author of "An Open Apology to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle"), and the award was a certificate and a check for the Canonical sum of \$221.17. And Otto Penzler's traditional open house at the Mysterious Bookshop offered the usual opportunities to browse and buy.
14921. The Irregulars and their guests gathered for the BSI's annual dinner at the Yale Club, with Sue Vizoskie offering the preprandial first toast to Elaine Coppola as *The Woman*. The dinner's theme was tributes to past leaders of the BSI, and it featured the usual toasts and traditions, as well as papers and tributes and musical entertainment.
14922. Mike Whelan (the BSI's "Wiggins") presented editor's medals to John Bergquist, Andy Solberg, Bob Katz, and Sonia Fetherston, and the Two-Shilling Award to Michael Kean, and Birthday Honours (Irregular Shillings and Investitures) were awarded to Rosane McNamara ("Lady Mary Brackenstall"), Mark Levy ("Don Juan Murillo"), Tom Horrocks ("Colonel Sebastian Moran"), Stefano Guerra ("Count Negretto Sylvius"), Philip Cunningham ("Abe Slaney"), Daniel Moss ("Culverton Smith"), January Burke ("The Most Winning Woman"), and Frank Saksena ("Jonathan Small").
14923. "Adventure" was the theme of the Gaslight Gala at the Manhattan Club, where the entertainment included toasts (musical and otherwise), theatrics (from a script written by Dean Clark), scholarship (edifying and amusing), music, and an auction.

January 2013 #2

14924. Some of the more fervent (or possibly hard core) Sherlockians have been known to gather after the dinners at O'Lunney's Irish Pub to honor long-standing traditions such as staying until at least 2:21; another tradition calls for newly-Investitured Irregulars to buy a round of tequila shots, and it has been reported that this year was no exception.
14925. On Saturday morning Covent Garden West (the dealers room at the Roosevelt Hotel) welcomed sellers and buyers, and authors and editors delighted to inscribe or sign their books. And The Beacon Society presented its annual Beacon Award (recognizing someone who introduces young people to the Sherlock Holmes stories) to Shannon Carlisle, an accelerated learning teacher in Franklin, Tenn.; the society's web-site is at <www.beaconsociety.com>. The Beacon Society also awards January Stauber Grants, funded by contributions and a \$1,000 matching fund pledged by Al Gregory.
14926. The BSI's Saturday-afternoon reception at Delmonico's Kitchen offered entertainment, conversation, wining, and dining; the entertainment included Al and Betsy Rosenblatt's traditional irreverent recap of the year's events (Sherlockian and otherwise), and Peter Calamai was announced as the winner of the Morley-Montgomery Award (an attractive certificate accompanied by a check) for the best contribution to *The Baker Street Journal* last year (his article on "Why He Isn't Sir Sherlock Today"). The Watson Fund benefited from energetic sales of raffle tickets for Maggie Schpak's handsome replica of Mrs. Hudson's chatelaine (the tickets were sold by Elaine Coppola, Peggy Perdue, and Linda Hunt), and an auction of alcoholic and artistic donations to the Fund.
14927. The principal Saturday-evening event was the "Lost in New York with a Bunch of Sherlockians" dinner arranged by The Curious Collectors of Baker Street at Kennedy's Irish Pub, and then on Sunday morning a goodly crowd gathered at the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes' brunch at the Oldcastle Pub & Restaurant.
14928. A final note for those who want to plan ahead: The Baker Street Irregulars' next annual dinner will be held on Jan. 17, 2014. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London's annual dinner likely will be on Jan. 11, 2014.

14929. I've not reported on everything, I hasten to add; there will be much more detailed reports in the spring issue of The Baker Street Journal. The BSI appears quarterly, and subscriptions (four issues plus the Christmas Annual) cost \$38.50 (to the U.S.) or \$49.00 (elsewhere); checks can be sent to the BSI (Box 583, Zionsville, IN 46077), and credit-card payments are welcome from foreign subscribers.
14930. You can also subscribe at the BSI web-site at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>, which also has interesting features such as some of the papers written by winners of the Morley-Montgomery Awards, articles from recent issues of the BSI, and information on the BSI's other publications and activities.
14931. Al Gregory <gaslightandfog@earthlink.net> offers (by e-mail only) his 2012 edition of "The ABC of the BSI" (an alphabetical listing of Investitures, with recipients, from "Abbey Grange" to "Young Stamford") and "The Florin Society" (couples in which both spouses have received Irregular Shillings).

January 2013 #3

14932. "Doctor Who: The Snowmen" (November 12 #4) did indeed have Sherlockian echoes, undoubtedly thanks to Steven Moffat, who wrote the script. You learn how Conan Doyle got the idea for his stories, and Matt Smith, as the Doctor, is seen in Sherlockian costume. And there's more to be found in the annotated look at the show (with lots of spoilers) by Alan Kistler at SpinOff Online <www.tinyurl.com/d2zq6yy>. And you've seen Richard E. Grant (Dr. Simeon) before: he played Holmes in "Encounters: The Other Side" on BBC 2 in 1992.
14933. The new eBSJ v2 is now available: a DVD with all issues of The Baker Street Journal through 2011 in PDF format, and it's nicely done indeed. The price is \$149.95, but there's a trade-in offer open (through May 1) to those who already have the old BSI CD-ROM set (send in your old disk #4 and the price of the DVD is only \$49.95); more information and some helpful hints can be found at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com/ebooks/ebsj.html>. Don't neglect the link to Randall Stock's helpful "Tips for using the eBSJ".
14934. The latest volume in the Baker Street Irregulars Manuscript Series is THE WRONG PASSAGE, edited by Robert Katz and Andrew Solberg, with a facsimile of the original manuscript of "The Golden Pince-Nez", a careful transcript, annotations, history, commentary, and artwork. Manuscripts bring you close to the moment of creation when an author writes a story, and the accompanying history and scholarship are fascinating, informative, and occasionally surprising. 248 pp., \$35.00; details, including the table of contents and a brief excerpt, are at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com/wrongpassage.html>.
14935. Robert Veld's THE STRAND MAGAZINE & SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE TWO FIXED POINTS IN A CHANGING AGE (Indianapolis: Gasogene Books, 2012; 100 pp., \$24.95) is a detailed and carefully-researched exploration of the many Sherlockian aspects of The Strand Magazine, including its publisher, editors, and illustrators; it's a grand story, and told well indeed. Box 68308, Indianapolis, IN 46256 <www.wessexpress.com>.
14936. Gasogene also has published Nicholas Utechin's "OCCASIONALLY TO EMBELLISH" (319 pp., \$18.95), which is modestly subtitled "some writings on Sherlock Holmes"; it's a collection of reprints of some of Nick's literate and often humorous scholarship, from 1969 through 2009. There are new postscripts to many of the pieces, and the book offers a fine look at how much fun can be found in Canonical criticism.
14937. Paul Herbert has reported something that surely sets a record for the most extreme application of esoteric non-Canonical knowledge to something Sherlockian: Ben Lindbergh's "Overthinking It: The Craziest Half-Inning in History" is his analysis of the televised baseball game that Holmes and Watson watched in the opening episode of "Elementary" on CBS-TV. Posted on-line at Baseball Prospectus <www.tinyurl.com/9wad2vz> on Jan. 18, the piece is well worth a visit.
14938. There will be a full-length reading of Greg Oliver Bodine's new play "A Requiem for Sherlock Holmes" (previewed at the William Gillette Luncheon) by the Workshop Theater Company in the Jewel Box Theater on Mar. 10 at 6:00 pm (no charge, and reservations not needed); 312 West 36th Street (4th floor), New York, NY 10018 <www.workshoptheater.org/node/2263>.

January 2013 #4

14939. Maria Konnikova's MASTERMIND: HOW TO THINK LIKE SHERLOCK HOLMES (New York: Viking, 2013; 273 pp., \$26.95) uses the Canon well to explain to lay readers how Sherlock Holmes thinks, and how readers can follow his methods to improve their own thinking. She is working on a doctorate in psychology at Columbia University and has written for periodicals that include Scientific American and the N.Y. Times; her book is instructive, insightful, and entertaining. And recommended. She also has an interesting web-site at <www.mariakonnikova.com>.
14940. James E. Smith II ("Winner of the Jackson Prize") died on Dec. 24. After serving in the U.S. Army during World War Two, he had a long career as a psychiatrist for the Baltimore County Circuit Court. Jim was an enthusiastic member of The Six Napoleons, and received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1998.
14941. The 2012 issue of Beaten's Christmas Annual has been published by The Sound of the Baskervilles of Seattle, with 70 pages of scholarship, quizzes, and pastiches, including the late Michael Doyle's script for "Henry Baker--Your Goose Is Cooked", James Romnes' discussion of "Sherlock's Armoire: Wearable Victoriana", and Steve Duke's "ACD in Melbourne". The annual costs \$13.00 postpaid (\$18.00 outside the U.S.), checks (in U.S. dollars, please) payable to The Sound of the Baskervilles should be sent to Terri Haugen, 6710 51st Street Court West, University Place, WA 98467.
14942. Kindle users can pretend they're reading a real book if they conceal their Kindle in a vintage book cover that's offered by Signals (Box 2599, Hudson, OH 44236) (800-699-9696) <www.signals.com> for \$49.95; one of them (HN3982) being the cover of SHERLOCK HOLMES SELECTED STORIES published by the Oxford University Press in 1951. They're made in Britain by the Manor Bindery and their web-site's at <www.klevercase.co.uk>.
14943. Admirers of Bert Coules' dramatizations of the entire Canon with same actors as Holmes and Watson (and if you're not, you should be) can visit his excellent new web-site at <www.merrisonholmes.com>; it's full of information about the background, the shows, the stars, and much more.
14944. Further to the mention of John Bennett Shaw's classic paper "To Shelve or to Censor" (December 12 #2), it's nice indeed that the paper is available online at <www.shadesofsherlock.org/SOS18.pdf>. The Three Students Plus and Shades of Sherlock editor Bruce Kennedy had great fun in the long-ago days of the junior scions.
14945. 221b Con ("a con for all things Sherlockian") has been announced for Apr. 13-14, 2013, at the Holiday Inn Select in Atlanta, arranged by Taylor Blumenberg (one of the Baker Street Babes), and an energetic committee; there's more information at their web-site <www.221bcon.com>.
14946. The next "Sherlock Holmes Weekend" in Cape May, N.J., will be on Nov. 2-4, with participants at work solving the mystery "Sherlock Holmes and the Trial of Moriarty's Challenge"; there also will be a performance of "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Norwood Builder" by the East Lynne Theater Company. Visit <www.capemaymac.org/tours/winter/special/sherlock.html> for more information on the weekend, or write to Box 340, Cape May, N.J. 08204.

January 2013 #5

14947. The Serpentine Muse continues to offer news from, about, and by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes; the winter issue offers Gayle Lange Puhl's report on the history of the Criterion Restaurant, which was frequented not only by Dr. Watson but also by Adam Worth, and Patricia Guy's account

of the Sherlockian conference in Venice last year. Published quarterly, the Muse costs \$15.00 a year from Evelyn A. Herzog (301 Warren Avenue #203, Baltimore, MD 21230).

14948. A handsome four-volume boxed set of THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES is available from Thomas & Mercer/Amazon in their "Heirloom Collection" for \$78.96 (\$2.99 Kindle), with attractive full-color illustrations by Jacqui Oakley. Thomas & Mercer is named for the streets that flank Amazon's headquarters in Seattle.
14949. Peter Tremayne's AN ENSUING EVIL AND OTHERS (New York: St. Martin's Minotaur, 2006; 331 pp., \$15.99) is a collection of 14 historical mysteries by the author of the "Sister Fidelma of Cashel" mysteries; five of the stories are reprints of Sherlockian pastiches set in Ireland (Tremayne believes that Holmes' background was Anglo-Irish).
14950. Don Izban confirms that there will be a 25th-anniversary Canonical Convocation and Caper in Door County, Wis., in September or October; more information will be available this summer, and if you'd like to be on his mailing list, he's at 1012 Rene Court, Park Ridge, IL 60068.
14951. The "Apollo Lunar Surface Journal" (an on-line record of the surface operations on the Moon from 1969 to 1972, edited by Eric M. Jones and Ken Glover) will be found at <www.nasa.gov>; search for [sherlock crater] to find Jones' account of "The Valley of Taurus-Littrow" with details on the Apollo 17 landing site and on the crater names. Other links include the Mission Transcripts: the last (and longest) contains discussion by Jack Schmitt (in the landing module on the Moon) and Joe Allen (at CapComm in Houston) that still holds the record for the longest-distance conversation about Sherlock Holmes. Thanks to Janice Portante, who reported about the NASA web-site in The Northumberland Dispatch (published by The Northumberland Fusiliers).
14952. An exhibition on "Murder in the Library: An A-Z of Crime Fiction" opened at the British Library this month, and will run through May, offering a "journey through the development of crime and detective fiction," with Sherlock Holmes of course included (the manuscript of "The Retired Colourman" will be on display). There's more information about the exhibition and exhibition events at <www.tinyurl.com/cga7vjk>, and Randall Stock has much about the manuscript at <www.tinyurl.com/bbr7zmj>.
14953. One of my nicer Christmas presents was an imaginative one-of-a-kind "Sherlock Holmes" figurine sculpted by Deana Demko, who creates "little replicants" hand-made to order <www.littlereplicants.com>.
14954. Ginger Aldrich continues to expand her Ocular Helmsman ("A Vade Mecum Upon the Personal Effects & Environs of Mssrs. Sherlock Holmes & John H. Watson of 221B Baker Street for the Victorian Layman"), and now includes scans of all of the public-domain Canon published in The Strand Magazine, in the Archives at <www.jadedcompass.com/ocular_helmsman>.

January 2013 #6

14955. Robert C. Burr ("The Rascally Lascar") died on Jan. 9. He was a chemist, and worked for the Dept. of Agriculture; Bob claimed "curmudgeon" as both his vocation and avocation, and happily (almost) never left Peoria. He was an energetic member of The Hansoms of John Clayton and an editor of their journal Wheelwrightings, and for many years Bob presided over his own Plugs & Dottles. He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1987, and in 1990 "Robbie Burr" (attending the annual dinner as a life-size photograph) received the Irregular Ha'penny and the Investiture "The Trap Door" from The Baker Street Irregulars.
14956. The Mystery Writers of America have announced the nominees for this year's Edgar awards. Among them: Lyndsay Faye's non-Sherlockian THE GODS OF GOTHAM (best novel), James O'Brien's THE SCIENTIFIC SHERLOCK HOLMES (best critical/ biographical), and Peter Blake's "Elementary: Child Predator" and Steven Moffat's "Sherlock: A Scandal in Belgravia" (best TV episode teleplay). Winners will be announced at the MWA Gala Banquet in New York on Apr. 26.
14957. The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times13-1.html>, offering Sherlockiana, old and new, and commentary and challenges.
14958. There are many Sherlockian blogs, including Leah Cummins Guinn's "The Well-Read Sherlockian <www.wellreadsherlockian.com>; her "12th Night Giveaway" contest featured (on Jan. 1) an amusing publicity photograph of Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce "rehearsing with the truly vicious Baskerville stunt doubles." Mary Loving won the photograph, and reported on it to The Hounds of the Baskerville.
14959. SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE QUEEN OF DIAMONDS, by Steve Hayes and David Whitehead (London: Robert Hale, 2012; 223 pp., £18.99), is a pastiche from two authors of westerns (Hayes also co-wrote the script for the 1979 film "Time After Time"); essentially a western set in Sherlockian London, with Holmes and Watson in pursuit of outlaws.
14960. This year's "Sherlock Holmes Weekends" in Cape May, N.J., will be on Mar. 15-17 and Nov. 1-3; there will be a mystery ("Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Anima Orbis") to solve, and performances by the East Lynne Theater Company, and more information is available from the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts & Humanities (Box 340, Cape May, NJ 08204) (800-275-4278 ext 185) <www.capemaymac.org>.
14961. Judith Freeman's useful index to The Serpentine Muse (published by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes since 1975); the index is available from her by e-mail as an Excel spreadsheet <judith-freeman@hotmail.com>, and the ASH web-site <www.ash-nyc.com> has information on subscribing to the Muse (back issues are unfortunately not available).
14962. The Norwegian Explorers' "Christmas Annual 2012" has the theme "Deception", and the essays range from Ray Riethmeier's "A Double Deception" (about the "Mycroft" novel A TASTE FOR HONEY) to Phil Bergem's "Thoughts of Refuges in London" (about Holmes' hideaways). The 54-page booklet is available from John Bergquist (3665 Ashbury Road, Eagan, MN 55122); \$8.00 postpaid (checks payable to The Norwegian Explorers, please).

January 2013 #7

14963. The December issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota has Julie McKuras' seasonal commentary on Sherlockian Christmas cards, Dana Richards' discussion of Conan Doyle's involvement with divorce reform, and other news from and about the collections; copies of the newsletter are available on request from Dick Sveum (111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455 <sveum001@tc.umn.edu>.
14964. Theodore G. Schulz ("The Amateur Mendicant Society") died on Jan. 24. Ted served with merit in the U.S. Army and then worked in education; he was in the Army in the Far East when he began corresponding with Edgar W. Smith in 1957, and was a member of The Illustrious Clients and then of many of the societies in the San Francisco Bay area. He also presided over The Praed Street Irregulars, succeeding Luther Norris as Lord Warden of the Pontine Marshes, founded The Old Soldiers of Praed Street; he proudly named his son William Sherlock Schulz, and was an energetic and generous collector with a legion of friends world-wide. He received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1961, and the BSI's Two-Shilling Award in 1986. There is much more about Ted at his fine web-site at <www.tedschulz.com>.

14965. Dr. William R. Hanson designed a nice cachet for last year's stamp honoring John Huston, showing him as Moriarty (in "Sherlock Holmes in New York" and Humphrey Bogart (who was directed by Huston in "The Maltese Falcon"). The first day cover costs \$10.00 postpaid (in the U.S.) with payment in currency or by U.S. postal money order sent to him at: 78 West Notre Dame Street, Glens Falls, 12801.
14966. The Saturday Review of Literature has returned, and it's very nice to see it again: it was in its pages that The Baker Street Irregulars first came to the attention of literate readers, since Christopher Morley was one of the editors, and the Jan. 2013 issue (edited by George Fletcher, Jon Lellenberg, Don Pollock, and Phil Shreffler) offers some interesting history and reviews. \$5.00 postpaid from Donald Pollock (521 College Avenue, Niagara Falls, NY 14305).
14967. Facebook is a social networking service that was launched in 2004 and now boasts more than 1 billion users, and Scott Monty maintains a growing list of "Sherlockian Entities on Facebook" at <www.tinyurl.com/azuk87m>, and of course allows you to add your group or page to the data-base.
14968. "To India with Sherlock Holmes" is the theme of the next pilgrimage by The Sherlock Holmes Society of London, from Feb. 17 to Mar. 2, 2014; the tentative agenda includes a Victorian bathing party, a Holmes cricket match, a screening of an Indian-made Sherlock Holmes film, and a day at the races in Calcutta or Mumbai. Louise Nicholson <indianicholson@nyc.rr.com> will be glad to provide more information; a preliminary announcement of the event is at <www.sherlock-holmes.org/india.php>, and you can see details of some of her non-Sherlockian tours at her web-site <www.louiseindia.com>.
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January 2013 #8

14969. Doug Wrigglesworth reports that Peggy Perdue has selected some spectacular material from the Toronto Reference Library's Arthur Conan Doyle Collection for the new exhibition "Adventures with Sherlock Holmes: Life and Times of the Master Sleuth" in the library's new exhibition gallery through Mar. 10 <www.tinyurl.com/acvekyj>.
14970. The Veterans History Project (part of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress) has added 14 scans of cartoons by Norman Schatell to its web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/ad8jndt>; the full-color cartoons are not Sherlockian, but instead date from his service in the U.S. Navy from 1943 to 1946. Norm served as a gunner's mate in the Pacific, and it is delightful to see another aspect of his artistic humor.
14971. Thanks to the Société Sherlock Holmes de France you can watch one minute of Fox Film Corp. silent newsreel footage of Conan Doyle and his family (Lady Doyle and their children Adrian, Jean, and Denis) on June 24, 1922, as they prepared to return to Europe on board the Adriatic after the tour that he wrote about in OUR AMERICAN ADVENTURE (1923). You can watch the video at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/a3advfp>, and read what the French wrote about it in their Ironmongers Daily News <www.tinyurl.com/aytnko>. They were also filmed by Pathé in New York in April, but that footage has been lost.
14972. Welcome to our new postage rates, now 46¢/ounce (domestic) and \$1.10 (international); the old rates were 45¢ (domestic), 85¢ (Canada and Mexico), and \$1.05 (overseas). Printing costs also have increased slightly, and the new subscription rates for the ink-on-paper version of this newsletter are \$12.25 (domestic) and \$20.00 (international).
14973. Electronically enabled readers can read the newsletter on-line free: text of all issues from Mar. 1985 can be found at Willis Frick's "Sherlocktron" <www.tinyurl.com/b6nka8l> and scans of issues from 2012 at "Sherlocktron" and the Red Circle of Washington's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/d8uoo8o>. The increase in postage rates came as a surprise to anyone who didn't see the brief Associated Press report on an announcement from the Postal Service in October 2012.
14974. The next meeting of The Red Circle of Washington will be on Friday, March 8; our guest speaker will be drama critic and author Lloyd Rose, who will discuss "Sherlock Holmes on Television in the 21st Century". Details about the meeting will be found at the society's web-site <www.redcircledc.org>, which also has a link to the Smithsonian magazine excerpt from Dan Stashower's new book THE HOUR OF PERIL: THE SECRET PLOT TO MURDER LINCOLN BEFORE THE CIVIL WAR.
14975. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists (aka The Friends of Sherlock Holmes) will honor the world's first forensic geologist with dinner at the Spaghetti Warehouse in Pittsburgh on May 22, when local Sherlockians will have a chance to meet geologists who are in town for the annual meeting of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists; if you would like to attend the festivities, just let me know.
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February 2013 #1

14976. Sorry about the calendar error: for those who want to plan ahead, The Baker Street Irregulars' next annual dinner will (correctly) be held on Jan. 17, 2014. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London's annual dinner likely will be on Jan. 11, 2014.
14977. And another correction: Al Gregory <gaslightandfog@verizon.net> offers by (by e-mail only) his 2013 edition of "The ABC of the BSI" (an alphabetical listing of Investigations, and the recipients, from "Abbey Grange" to "Young Stamford") and "The Florin Society" (couples in which both spouses have received Irregular Shillings).
14978. The Baker Street Journal's web-site is well worth exploring, for selections from the BSJ, news about new publications by The Baker Street Irregulars, and the recent statement by Mike Whelan about "A World of Sherlockians" at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com/sherlockians.html>.
14979. "And it is always 1895," as Vincent Starrett wrote in his classic sonnet; it's certainly 1895 this year, since the 1895 calendar works for 2013.
14980. Noted by Pam Verrey: Kaoru Shintani's YOUNG MISS HOLMES CASEBOOK 3-4 (New York: Seven Seas, 2012; 384 pp., \$16.99); the second volume of the English translation of her manga CHRISTIE: HIGH TENSION (2007-2008). Christie is the niece of Sherlock Holmes, and the book offers her own versions of some of her uncle's recorded cases.
14981. <www.contactmusic.com> has reported that the Nielsen numbers show that the episode of "Elementary" broadcast after the Super Bowl scored 20.8 million viewers (with a 7.8 rating for adults 18-49), making it the highest-rated entertainment broadcast of the year. But it's far from being the highest-rated post-Super-Bowl broadcast; that was an episode of "Friends" that had 42.9 million viewers in 1999. "Downton Abbey" on PBS-TV during the Super Bowl drew 6.6 million viewers on Sunday, the highest-rated program broadcast at the same time as the Super Bowl, which had 108.4 million viewers.
14982. Dhanil Ali's new play "The Curse of Sherlock Holmes" is about Jeremy Brett: "We find Jeremy entering the Maudsley psychiatric hospital. The combined strain of playing Holmes coupled with the death of his wife sees his mental health deteriorate as fiction blurs with reality." The play will tour from March 6 through 30 in Blakemere, Chester, Liverpool, Shrewsbury, and Warrington, and there's a web-site for the tour at <www.tinyurl.com/bggxesm>.
14983. David Stuart Davies' 1992 pastiche THE TANGLED SKEIN: SHERLOCK HOLMES MEETS COUNT DRACULA (with a foreword by Peter Cushing) is now available as a Piccadilly Publishing e-book (\$2.99) at the usual U.K. and U.S. web-sites.
14984. Department of "what might have been": Douglas Wilmer, in a video interview in 2002, recalled that after he declined the second "Sherlock Holmes" series for the BBC in 1968, they offered the role to Eric Porter (who turned it down), and then to John Neville (who turned it down), and then to
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Peter Cushing (who agreed); John Neville had played Holmes in "A Study in Terror" (1965), and Eric Porter eventually played Moriarty in the Granada series.

February 2013 #2

14985. "Sherlock Holmes Nevében" [In the Name of Sherlock Holmes"] is a Hungarian film (November 11 #4) that premiered in 2011; "the movie follows two boys, Holmes and Watson, in their investigation into the disappearance of the city's children that eventually leads to a dark journey into the supernatural." The film has a web-site at <www.sherlockfilm.hu> and Greg Darak has reported a soundtrack CD released by Howlin' Wolf Records at <www.howlingwolfrecords.com> (\$13.95).
14986. Phillip Bergem has updated his two extensive checklists of Sherlockian and Doylean films and television programs, annotated for date, country, actors who played Holmes and Watson (or Conan Doyle), production company, and alternate titles; they're available by e-mail from Phil <pgbergem@gmail.com>, and at Willis Frick's "Sherlocktron" <www.sherlocktron.com>.
14987. Fans of the BBC's "Sherlock" will enjoy Guy Adams' SHERLOCK: THE CASEBOOK (London: BBC Books, 2012; 160 pp., £14.99); it's a fully illustrated examination of the first six programs in the series, imaginatively written with great humor in the voice of Watson. There will be an American edition from It Books/HarperCollins (\$17.99), due in July.
14988. Maria Konnikova's web-site <www.mariakonnikova.com> offers much about her new book MASTERMIND: HOW TO THINK LIKE SHERLOCK HOLMES (January 13 #4), including a blog with links to audio and video of her appearances on tour promoting the book; you can also listen to her interview for the London Guardian "Science Weekly" podcast at <www.tinyurl.com/argmbwl>.
14989. Plan ahead: PBS-TV has announced plans for a two-hour special on "How Sherlock Holmes Changed the World" to air this fall; the program "will reveal for the first time the astonishing impact that Holmes has had on the development of real criminal investigation and criminal techniques." The press release is at <www.tinyurl.com/bc282lr>.
14990. WINTER AT DEATH'S HOTEL, by Kenneth Cameron (London: Orion, 2011; 389 pp., £7.99) is set in New York in 1896, when Louisa Conan Doyle has accompanied her husband on a trip to the United States, where she becomes involved in investigating a series of murders; there's good description of New York at the end of the century, but it's a brutal book, not for the faint-hearted. And yes, he actually toured in 1894, and Louisa stayed home, but that was before Teddy Roosevelt became commissioner of police in New York City, as he is in this book.
14991. THE PERILS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Loren D. Estleman (Blue Ash: Tyrus Books, 2012; 208 pp., \$24.95), is a collection of short stories (and one amusing play), almost all reprinted from various Sherlockian anthologies. The play (subtitled "A Comedy in One Unnatural Act") has been performed many times by Sherlockian societies.
14992. "Mr. Selfridge" is the title of a new British (ITV) series that begins on PBS-TV on Mar. 31; it's the story of the "flamboyant and visionary American founder" of the department store in London. In the seventh episode Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (played by John Sessions) visits the store for a Sherlock Holmes book signing. Go to <www.tinyurl.com/aa2guym> to see what Sessions looks like as Conan Doyle.
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February 2013 #3

14993. Planning for the "Sherlock Holmes, Past and Present" conference in London on June 21-22 (December 12 #3) continues apace. "My Particular Friend" (an interesting blog by Jennifer Petkus) shows a colorful poster at <www.tinyurl.com/bdnf2ed>, and advance information for participants is available from Jonathan Cranfield <j.l.cranfield@jmu.ac.uk>.
14994. "Search over 21,790,000 old New York State historical newspaper pages" is the offer from Old Fulton NY Post Cards <www.fultonhistory.com/Fulton.htm>, and while I can't vouch for the 21,790,000 the data-base is delightful.
14995. Fred Dannay was a member of The Baker Street Irregulars, and with his cousin Manfred Lee wrote as Ellery Queen; you can see their sons Richard Dannay and Rand Lee in a nice 2-minute video tribute to Queen posted by Otto Penzler at his Mysterious Press web-site <www.tinyurl.com/afgzqnf>.
14996. Otto also has been nominated for an Edgar (best critical/biographical) from the Mystery Writers of America (January 13 #6) for his editing of IN PURSUIT OF SPENSER: MYSTERY WRITERS ON ROBERT B. PARKER AND THE CREATION OF AN AMERICAN HERO.
14997. "The Sherlock Holmes Society of London 1959-1974" is a wonderful set of two DVDs issued in PAL format by the Society last year, and available only to members; it's a collection of films featuring members of the Society, made between 1959 and 1974, plus a collection of film coverage of the Society's first pilgrimage to Switzerland in 1968. If you're not already a member, you can join the society at their web-site <www.sherlock-holmes.org> or by writing to David Jones, The North Wing, Groton Place, Groton Street, Groton, Boxford, Sudbury CO10 5EE, England, and the DVD set costs £16.50 (UK)/£17.00 (Europe)/\$36.00 (elsewhere), from Robert Ellis, 13 Crofton Avenue, Orpington, Kent BR6 8DU, England <shsl221b@aol.com>.
14998. "Sherlock Holmes in Brentwood" is a new play-reading series curated and introduced by Les Klinger (September 12 #4), and their first production will be Conan Doyle's "The Speckled Band" (1910) at the Contrapuntal Performance Hall in the Brentwood area of Los Angeles on Mar. 23. Details at their web-site <www.sherlockholmesinbrentwood.com>.
14999. The March-April issue of Harvard Magazine has an excerpt from Maria Konnikova's MASTERMIND: HOW TO THINK LIKE SHERLOCK HOLMES, with imaginative artwork by Boris Kulikov; it won't reproduce well here, but you can see it in full color at <www.tinyurl.com/a4a4dd5>.
15000. Oscar Ross spotted news reports that the Café Royal is open again on Regent Street in London, now as a luxury five-star hotel <www.hotelcaferoyal.com>. Hotel publicity claims that Conan Doyle was a patron of the restaurant, and he may well have been; it was outside that Café Royal that Sherlock Holmes was attacked by two men armed with sticks (see "The Illustrious Client").
15001. Kent Ross reports that "The Untold Tales from the Tin Dispatch Box" will be the theme of the next "Gathering of Southern Sherlockians" in Chattanooga, Tenn., on Apr. 6-7, and there will be a meeting of The Wigmore Street Post Office on Apr. 5; the mailing list's maintained by Kent (721 Hartford Road, Springfield, OH 45503) (678-464-8321) <kenthross@gmail.com>.
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February 2013 #4

15002. Donald Thomas has earned a well-deserved reputation as the author of excellent pastiches, both short stories and novels, and his new novel DEATH ON A PALE HORSE: SHERLOCK HOLMES ON HER MAJESTY'S SECRET SERVICE (New York: Pegasus Books, 2013; 346 pp., \$25.95) offers an exciting account of Holmes and Watson's struggle against Sir Augustus Moran's elder son Rawdon Moran, even more dangerous a foe than his younger brother.
15003. Fans of Laurie R. King have a new e-book available: LAURIE R. KING'S SHERLOCK HOLMES (2013) is a collection of reprints of eight essays (\$2.99 for just about every device on the market). And MRS. HUDSON'S CASE (2012) is a short story in which Mrs. Hudson stars as the detective (\$0.99).
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15004. Don Hobbs' SHERLOCKING: AN ADVENTURE IN AESTHETIC SHERLOCKIAN REALISM is a collection of amusing drawings inspired by Chaim Koppleman, who defined the genre as "the oneness of opposites" (such as showing people in places they never visited), and the 216-page book is available from Don for \$29.99 plus shipping (\$4.00 to the U.S., more elsewhere); 2100 Elm Creek, Flower Mound, TX 75028 <221b@verizon.net>.
15005. And Don continues to update "The Galactic Sherlock Holmes" (January 11 #7), now with 98 foreign languages (plus 8 versions of English such as Braille and Pitman Shorthand), showing covers in color and bibliographic information; the bibliography on CD costs \$15.00 postpaid (to the U.S.) or \$20.00 (elsewhere), or free to anyone who reports something not already in the bibliography).
15006. The Beacon Society awards annual January Stauber Grants of up to \$350 to help fund development of projects that will introduce young people to the Sherlock Holmes stories; the deadline for applications is May 1, and there is more information at <www.beaconsociety.com/JanStauberGrant.html>.
15007. Steven Dietz's play "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" will be produced at the Douglas Morrison Theatre through Mar. 10 (22311 North Third Street, Hayward, CA 94546 (510-881-6777) <www.dmtonline.org>.
15008. "Holmes & Watson Save the Empire: A Musical Mystery" (with book and lyrics by Jahna Beecham and Malcolm Hillgartner, is being performed at the First Impressions Theatre through Mar. 11; 4360 Gallant Avenue, North Vancouver, BC V7G 1L2, Canada (604-929-9456) <www.firstimpressionstheatre.com>
15009. Foyles, founded 110 years ago, has long been a landmark in London for book collectors and book buyers, offering more than 200,000 books in its flagship five-story building on Charing Cross Road, and it soon will be moving, just down the street, into better-designed premises. Graham and Lissa Muscatine, owners of Politics and Prose bookstore in Washington, have recently blogged about "The Bookstore of the Future", reporting on a conference that was arranged by Foyles to consider how bookstore can survive; you can read their report at <www.politic-prose.com/bookstore-future>.
15010. An additional reason to visit the Toronto Reference Library's web-site for its exhibition "Adventures with Sherlock Holmes: Life and Times of the Master Sleuth" <www.tinyurl.com/acveky> is the Virtual Exhibit; you can click on that link and see some excellent images of material that's on display.

February 2013 #5

15011. SHERLOCK HOLMES IN PARIS, by Séamus Duffy (Encino: Black Coat Press, 2013; 255 pp., \$20.95) offers three pastiches, two from the unrecorded cases; Black Coat has published quite a few pastiches over the years, and is now making them available as e-books, including Frank J. Morlock's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE GRAND HORIZONTALS (March 07 #1), Brian Stableford's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE VAMPIRES OF ETERNITY (February 09 #6). and two translations from the French by Morlock: SHERLOCK HOLMES VS JACK THE RIPPER and SHERLOCK HOLMES VS FANTOMAS. Details at <www.blackcoatpress.com> about these and other Sherlockian and Doylean titles.
15012. The Shard is the informal name for the tallest building in London (in fact, in Europe) at 1,016 feet and with 72 floors of offices, restaurants, hotel rooms, residences, and observation lounges. And it costs £25.00 to get to the top floor, according to Will Pearson, who provides a 360-degree virtual tour at <www.tinyurl.com/74xk7ew>, where you can maneuver with your mouse and zoom in and out, and it's well worth a visit. Thanks to Dean Clark for reporting this.
15013. "There is nothing new under the sun," Sherlock Holmes said (in "A Study in Scarlet"), but those who visited the dealers room during the birthday festivities in New York definitely saw something new (even if it was more than 70 years old). Javier Doria of Madrid displayed (and hoped to sell) a pair of metal plates apparently created in 1940 to celebrate Macmillan's publication of Vincent Starrett's 221B: STUDIES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES. There's no firm information on the history of the plates, but there's some speculation on "The Mystery of the Two Irregular Plates" at Jon Lellenberg's Archival History web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/ajv9k6s>.

February 2013 #6

15014. THE BAKER STREET TRANSLATION, by Michael Robertson (New York: Minotaur, 2013; 278 pp., \$24.99) is the third in his series of novels about Reggie Heath, a London barrister who has offices in the building at 221B Baker Street, and a lease that requires him to answer Sherlock Holmes' mail; this time Reggie and his brother Nigel and actress Laura Rankin are involved in a case that opens with a rich American who wants to bequeath her fortune to Sherlock Holmes and develops into a race to prevent an attack on a royal event. As with the first two books in the series, THE BAKER STREET LETTERS (June 09 #3) and THE BROTHERS OF BAKER STREET (February 11 #4), the story is imaginative and well told.
15015. Howard Ostrom is an enthusiastic collector of autographs of actors who have played Holmes and Watson, and (thanks to the wonders of the Internet) you can tour his collection at <www.tinyurl.com/cano7js>. He has almost all of the usual suspects, and some surprising and interesting candidates as well.
15016. Les Klinger has filed a lawsuit against the Arthur Conan Doyle Estate, asking a federal court to rule that the characters of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. John H. Watson are no longer protected by federal copyright laws, and that writers, filmmakers, and others are free to create new stories about Holmes and Watson without paying license fees to the owners of the remaining copyrights on the stories. Les has a web-site at <www.free-sherlock.com> with more information about the suit, and Jennifer Schuessler's report for the N.Y. Times "ArtBeat" blog can be read at <www.tinyurl.com/brd6owa>.
15017. The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times13-2.html>, offering Sherlockiana, old and new, commentary and challenges, and limited quantities of old Sherlockian lapel pins.
15018. Frogwares Studio has announced that "Crimes & Punishments: Sherlock Holmes" will be the next title in its series of Sherlockian computer games. There are six games in the series so far, the most recent being "The Testament of Sherlock Holmes" <www.sherlockholmes-thegame.com>.
15019. For those who want to emulate Tonga: David Haugen notes that BLOWGUN TECHNIQUES: THE DEFINITIVE GUIDE TO MODERN AND TRADITIONAL BLOWGUN TECHNIQUES, by Anante P. Marinas Sr. (2010), is offered discounted to \$7.95 from Edward R. Hamilton <www.tinyurl.com/aeojn9o>.
15020. Winston Churchill is of interest to Sherlockians and Doyleans for many reasons, among them the five letters from Churchill to Conan Doyle in the family papers sold at auction in 2004. And according to Rex Stout, Churchill "knew the Holmes stories fairly well and thought them 'perfect entertainment.'" While there's no Sherlockian connection to the widespread belief that Churchill kept secret a warning that German bombers were to bomb Coventry during World War Two in order to protect his secret intelligence, an interesting article by Peter J. McIver at the Churchill Centre and Museum web-site <www.tinyurl.com/2appa76> shows that the often-repeated story is not at all true.

March 2013 #1

15021. Lion Heart Autographs is offering a page from the manuscript of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" for \$175,000 <www.tinyurl.com/cvxa6wc>; it's the first page of Chapter XIII ("Fixing the Nets"), included in Randall Stock's census as H31 <www.bestofsherlock.com/baskervilles-manuscript.htm>. A different page from the manuscript was sold at auction last December for \$158,500 (including the buyer's premium) (December 12 #2).
15022. Conan Doyle's home at 12 Tennyson Road in Norwood, where he lived from 1891 to 1894, went to auction last month, estimated at £875,000; bidding reached £725,000, and the property didn't sell. The house, which displays a Greater London Council blue plaque noting that Conan Doyle lived there, was converted for use as a residential care home in the 1990s; according to an Internet post by the South Norwood Tourist Board, a company that provided autistic care "did a bunk a year ago, leaving the place empty," and the house is now an "absolute horror of a tip," divided into "cell-like one-room bedsits in a disgusting condition." The photographs below show the house as it was in 2007 (photographed by Roger Johnson), and as it is today.
15023. The auction house then advertised the property as available for £750,000; it is quite likely that a buyer would be interested only in the land, and that the house is a tear-down. The official blue plaque was installed on May 18, 1973, and was reported in The Times on May 19 in an article imaginatively headlined "Case of the Left-Handed Arsenal Bricklayer".
15024. The manuscript of Conan Doyle's poem "Ypres" will be offered at auction at Bonhams in London on Apr. 10, estimated at £1,500-2,000. Details from the catalog at <www.tinyurl.com/crrg342>. Owned by Dame Jean Conan Doyle, it was last at auction in 2006, when it sold for £1,080 (including the buyer's premium). Randall Stock has information about the manuscript at his "Best of Sherlock" web-site at <www.bestofsherlock.com/ref/200603bonhams.htm>.
15025. Members of the Japan Sherlock Holmes Club have awarded the society's annual Sherlock Holmes Grand Prize to Jon Lellenberg, Dan Stashower, and Charles Foley, the editors of ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: A LIFE IN LETTERS (translated into Japanese by Masamichi Higurashi and published by Toro Shorin); over the past 35 years the winners of the Grand Prize have almost all been Japanese.

March 2013 #2

15026. TO KEEP THE MEMORY GREEN, a collection of essays by friends and colleagues honoring the memory of Richard Lancelyn Green, was published by The Quartering Press (a joint venture by The Baker Street Irregulars and The Sherlock Holmes Society of London) (August 07 #4). It was a splendid tribute, and copies found discovered in the BSI's warehouse are now available for \$15.00 (half-price) plus shipping from the BSI; goto the BSI web <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>; click on [items for sale] and then on [deal table]. Also available at the web-site is the lapel pin designed by Maggie Schpak for the "Sherlock Holmes: Behind the Canonical Screen" conference at UCLA last September (\$15.00).
15027. The script for Dhanil Ali's new play "The Curse of Sherlock Holmes" (February 13 #1) has been published (London: MX Publishing, 2013; 106 pp., £7.99/£8.99/ \$10.95); it's an imaginative presentation of Jeremy Brett hospitalized and unable to distinguish between fiction and reality <www.mxpublishing.com>.
15028. Richard Briers died on Feb. 17. He had a long career as an actor on stage, screen, radio, and television, appearing as Hector MacDonald in 23 episodes of the BBC television series "Monarch of the Glen" (2000-2005), and on BBC Radio 4 in 11 episodes of "Two Pipe Problems" (2007-2012) as retired actor (and self-styled Sherlock Holmes) William Parnes.
15029. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London continues to offer interesting events <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/events.php>, including cricket matches on May 4 and June 23, and a running of the Silver Blaze Wessex Cup on June 18.
15030. Aziz Bin Adam has discovered A. J. Low's SHERLOCK SAM AND THE MISSING HEIRLOOM IN KATONG (Singapore: Epigram Books, 2012; 105 pp., S\$10.59); Sherlock Sam is Singapore's greatest kid detective, assisted by a robot Watson, and there's a second volume SHERLOCK SAM AND THE GHOSTLY MOANS IN FORT CANNING. Sherlock Sam has a blog at <www.sherlocksam.wordpress.com>.
15031. The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times13-3.html>, offering Sherlockiana, old and new, commentary and challenges, and limited quantities of old Sherlockian lapel pins.
15032. The Chorley Little Theatre will present a new dramatization of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES by Mark Jones, June 17-22. Dole Lane, Chorley, Lancs. PR7 2RL, England (01257-264362) <www.chorleylittletheatre.com>.
15033. Sabina Carpenter and John Quincannon, private detectives in San Francisco in the 1890s, are the protagonists in short stories and novels written by Marcia Muller and Bill Pronzini; their latest is THE BUGHOUSE AFFAIR (New York: Forge/Tom Doherty, 2013; 269 pp., \$24.99), which offers lots of local color and an imaginative appearance by a rival detective who claims to be Sherlock Holmes.
15034. Thanks to Tom Drucker for a copy of Lisa Berglund's interesting article "'I Am Lost Without My Boswell': Samuel Johnson and Sherlock Holmes" in The Age of Johnson: A Scholarly Annual (Dec. 2012); the article's not available online, and the journal is published by AMS Press, Brooklyn Navy Yard, Bldg 292 #417, 63 Flushing Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11205.

March 2013 #3

15035. The next annual STUD-Watsonian Weekend will be held in and near Chicago on Oct.25-27, with a dinner, the 54th annual running of The Silver Blaze, and a Fortescue Honours brunch. Susan Z. Diamond (16W603 3rd Avenue, Bensenville, IL 60106) <szdiamond@comcast.net> will be happy to send you a reservation form.
15036. "You are in for an absolute stonker!" Benedict Cumberbatch said after the read-through for the first program in the new series of "Sherlock" for the BBC (there's more than one meaning for "stonker" according to the on-line Urban Dictionary); filming on the new series began on Mar. 18. And there's some additional news: Cumberbatch has said that he and Martin Freeman have signed to make a fourth series, and that he'd love to do a fifth series.
15037. "Lego Sherlock Holmes Outed in Lego City: Undercover?" was the headline on a report from NowGamer on Mar. 14 that suggested that "Lego Sherlock Holmes could be the next licensed Lego game coming from Travellers Tales, according to teasers in Lego City: Undercover." And now for some explanation: "Lego City: Undercover" is a new action-adventure video game designed for the Wii U video-game console from Nintendo. NowGamer's Alex Evans spotted Lego's (Sherlockian) Detective (September 11 #4) on a billboard in the background of a scene in the new game, and asked Nintendo if a Sherlock Holmes game would be coming next; Nintendo declined to comment. You can read the full story (and see a better screenshot) of the billboard) at <www.tinyurl.com/a3rsgwp>.
15038. Don Libey, author of THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (September 12 #5) and Don and Joanne Yates have launched an imaginative enterprise: 221B Cellars, which each year will offer bottles of limited first edition wines. Their web-site at <www.221bcellars.com> is well worth exploring, and there's an essay contest offering the winner a bottle of the 2103 vintage.
15039. Don Libey also is a bookseller, and is offering items from Don Yates' Sherlockian collection at <<http://www.tinyurl.com/a2m28o3>>.

15040. Credit Philip J. Atwell for the discovery that some of the Moriarty's were good guys, including C. C. H. Moriarty, author of POLICE LAW: ARRANGEMENT OF LAW AND REGULATIONS FOR THE USE OF POLICE OFFICERS (1929), written, according to the author, "with the view of assisting police officers in attaining a working knowledge of the law that they have to enforce." Cecil Charles Hudson Moriarty distinguished himself at Trinity College in Dublin, and joined the Royal Irish Constabulary in 1902, advancing to the rank of Chief Constable in 1935; he retired in 1941 and died in 1958, and his book went through 24 editions, the latest published in 1981.
15041. Rex Stout is famous for creating Nero Wolfe (who many Sherlockians like to believe is the son of Sherlock Holmes), but Stout was an excellent writer before Nero Wolfe; some of Stout's earlier stories have been reprinted as e-books by Otto Penzler's Mysterious Press <www.mysteriouspress.com>, and they're well worth a look. The same is true of the Mysterious Bookshop's monthly newsletter, which always offers Sherlockiana; you can sign up for the newsletter at <www.mysteriousbookshop.com>.
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March 2013 #4

15042. You now have a chance to buy Baskerville Hall (one of them, at any rate): Baskerville Hall (formerly Clyro Court) near Hay-on-Wye is available with an asking price of £3 million, according to a story at Wales Online <www.tinyurl.com/c75benv>. The mansion (presently used as a hotel) has nine bedroom suites, five principal reception rooms, and much more; the agents are Russell Baldwin & Bright, and there's a detailed description, with many photographs, at <www.tinyurl.com/d6v84bu>. The Baskerville family lived there from 1839 to 1945, and the owners have said for many years that Conan Doyle visited the family often, finding inspiration there for his story (the family asked Conan Doyle to change the setting so that they wouldn't be overrun by tourists).
15043. Ben Langley's comedy "Ha Ha Holmes! The Beast of the Blistervilles" (March 11 #1) has been retitled "Ha Ha! Holmes and the Hound of the Baskervilles" and will tour in Britain beginning Sept. 14; details at <www.hahaholmes.com>. Thanks to Oscar Ross for the report.
15044. SHERLOCK HOLMES: HIS GREATEST CASES (London, White's Books, 2009; 501 pp., £19.95) is an attractive collection, with "The Hound of the Baskervilles" and Conan Doyle's selection of "the twelve best Sherlock Holmes stories," an afterword by Andrew Lycett, and a handsome binding illustrated by Michael Kirkham.
15045. A new edition of THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES in two volumes from Barnes & Noble (2012, \$6.98 per volume) has introductions and afterwords (different in each volume) and annotations by Christopher and Barbara Roden.
15046. "The Ghost of Sherlock Holmes" is 28-page PDF file offered by magician Paul Voodini at <www.readerofminds.co.uk> for £5.00; described as "a compendium of Sherlock Holmes-inspired bizarre and story-telling magic utilizing playing cards, pendulums, and other common objects," the booklet includes both patter and instructions on how to do the magic.
15047. After 17 episodes, the CBS-TV series "Elementary" is averaging 11.02 million viewers, with a rating of 2.35 in the important age 18-49 demo, beating all the other programs in its Thursday-evening time slot.
15048. The Huntsville-Madison County Library in Huntsville, Ala., has chosen THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES for its month-long "community read" in April, with book discussions, film screenings, and imaginative events for adults, teens, and children and family. Their web-site <www.guides.hmpl.org/cr13> offers an overview of what they have planned.
15049. Frank Thornton died on Mar. 16. He had a long career on stage and in films and television, and was best known as Captain Peacock in the television series "Are You Being Served?" (1972-1985); he also played the one-armed doorman at the Diogenes Club in "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970).
15050. The Popular Culture Association met in Washington this month, and the program included a session on "Sherlock" with papers by Rebecca McLaughlin ("A Study in Sherlock"), Nancy Steffen-Fluhr ("The Semiotics of Desire: Billy Wilder as Sherlock Holmes"), and Rachele Hansen ("Sherlock Holmes"). More anon, if someone reports on the session.
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March 2013 #5

15051. And there's more news about the BBC series "Sherlock": Mark Gatiss has revealed the title of the opening episode of the third season. Fans of the series will recall that the second season ended with "The Reichenbach Fall" and the next season will begin with a delightful and thoroughly appropriate pun: "The Empty Hearse".
15052. John Aidiniantz, who founded the Sherlock Holmes Museum in Baker Street in 1990, is the target of a lawsuit brought by his mother Grace Riley and her daughter Jennifer Decoteau over who is entitled to almost £2 million in admission fees collected in the last two years; the High Court has issued an injunction freezing his assets, including £535,000 that he kept a safe in his home. The case is scheduled to be heard in May. According to a report in The Times (Feb. 28), when the women found last October that only 22p remained in the Museum's bank account, Mrs. Riley withdrew £175,000 from the bank account of Rollerteam Limited (an Aidiniantz company that deals in the "operation of arts facilities"), and her assets also have been frozen.
15053. Morphic Graffiti will present "The Revenge of Sherlock Holmes" (Leslie Bricusse's revision of his "Sherlock Holmes: the Musical") at Hoxton Hall from Apr. 10 to May 10. 130 Hoxton Street, London, N1 6SH, England (020-7684-0060) <www.hoxtonhall.co.uk>.
15054. January Read died on Nov. 29, 2012. He began his career as a scriptwriter in 1949, and is best known for helping create the character of Dixon of Dock Green, who was featured in a BBC television series that ran for more than twenty years; he also wrote the scripts for Peter Cushing's "The Man with the Twisted Lip" and "The Retired Colourman" (1965).
15055. The Royal Family visited the Baker Street Station this month, celebrating the 150th anniversary of the London Underground, and they were welcomed by Sherlock Holmes (or someone dressed like him), as you can see (briefly) in video posted by the Times of Malta (Mar. 20) <www.tinyurl.com/c9cmdv3>.
15056. Al and Julie Rosenblatt have just discovered on the Gotham Radio Theatre, a bit too late for their production of "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Speckled Band" this month. Their web-site <www.gothamradiotheatre> is well worth exploring: click on "Sherlock Holmes!" for information on a previous Sherlockian production ("Redheads and Bohemians"), and on "More" and then on "Podcasts" to hear their podcast of the earlier show.
15057. Does anyone know if Julian Wolff's many interests included Lewis Carroll? I've been asked about a bookplate that apparently has Julian's signature, with artwork and verse from "The Walrus and the Carpenter".
15058. Ken Ludwig's comedy-mystery-thriller "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" had its world premiere in Cleveland in November 2011, winning an Edgar (best play) from the Mystery Writers of America, and it now has its second production, at the Asolo Repertory Theatre; it opened on Mar. 27 and runs through May 12. It's a new (and much better) version of his earlier play "Postmortem" (about a murder at William Gillette's home in Hadlyme), and highly recommended. 555 North Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL 34243 (941-351-8000) <www.asolorep.org>. There's a preview of the play in the Sarasota Herald-Tribune (Mar. 23) at <www.tinyurl.com/cy9yswk>.
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March 2013 #6

15059. Mark Catley's new play "Sherlock Holmes: The Best Kept Secret" will have its premiere at the West Yorkshire Playhouse on May 18 through June 8 (Mycroft is arrested for treason, and Holmes, assisted by Watson and Irene Adler, must save Mycroft's life); Playhouse Square, Quarry Hill, Leeds LS2 7UP, England (0113-213-7700) <www.wyp.org.uk>. After the premiere the play will tour to Woking, Cardiff, and Manchester.
15060. Brian W. Pugh's A CHRONOLOGY OF THE LIFE OF SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE (May 09 #5) was a valuable resource for those interested in Conan Doyle's life and work, and a new revised and expanded edition (London: MX Publishing, 2012; 267 pp., £14.99/E16.99/\$22.95) is even more valuable, with a detailed index, citations of sources, excellent illustrations, and an impressive list of the many statues and plaques that honor Conan Doyle, his daughter Jean, Holmes, and Watson in Britain, the U.S., Australia, Japan, France, Italy, Russia, and Switzerland <www.mxpublishing.co.uk> <www.mxpublishing.com>.
15061. Also from MX Publishing: Charlotte Anne Walter's 56 SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES IN 56 DAYS (2012; 184 pp., £9.99); the author of BAREFOOT ON BAKER STREET (2011) has collected her blogs about the short stories, and has added comments on the long stories, and has made some interesting choices in rating the stories for best and worst. Kevin McMullen's THE MANY WATSONS (2012; 149 pp., £7.99) is a collection of 53 essays about actors who have played Watson on stage, screen, radio, television, and YouTube; some of them male and some female, some major and some minor, but all offering a nice reminder of the different ways in which Watson has been portrayed. Luke Benjamin Kuhns' SHERLOCK HOLMES & THE CASE OF THE CRYSTAL BLUE BOTTLE (2012, 38 pp., £6.99) is a graphic novel, with illustrations and artwork from a dozen Internet contributors.
15062. And: THE LOST STORIES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Tony Reynolds (2012; 210 pp., £9.99); the first edition was published in 2010 with eight pastiches, and this second edition includes one additional story. THE ART OF DEDUCTION: A SHERLOCK HOLMES COLLECTION, edited by Hannah Rogers (2013; 176 pp., £9.99), is a collection of vignettes, artwork, and poems. SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE TEXAS ADVENTURE, by Dicky Neely (2012; 110 pp., £6.99), brings Holmes and Watson to Texas, via Portsmouth, New Orleans, and Corpus Christi, and lets them play cowboy. SHERLOCK HOLMES: HAVE YOURSELF A CHAOTIC LITTLE CHRISTMAS, by Gwendolyn Frame (2012; 125 pp., £6.99); a collection of Christmas advent-calendar vignettes.
15063. "Devotees of Sherlock Holmes are a famously obsessive bunch," according to Jennifer Schuessler, in her follow-up story in the N.Y. Times on the lawsuit Les Klinger filed against the Arthur Conan Doyle Estate (February 13 #6). You can read the new story at <www.tinyurl.com/aoubs3t>.
15064. eBay can be addictive, especially since it operates in more than 30 countries. If you can't find what you're looking for at <www.ebay.com>, there also are <www.ebay.co.uk>, <www.ebay.fr>, <www.ebay.dk>, <www.ebay.de>, and many more. Thanks to Walt Colby of The Baker Street Breakfast Club for the reminder about how wide-spread eBay is.

April 2013 #1

15065. Boris Berezovsky died on Mar. 23. A Russian tycoon who became wealthy during the privatization of Soviet assets during the 1990s, and was one of the "political oligarchs" who picked Vladimir Putin as the head of the Russian state; Berezovsky then fell out with Putin, fled to London, sought political asylum, and then aligned himself with other critics of Putin. Nikita Krushchchev's son Sergei once said that Berezovsky was "the Professor Moriarty of the 21st Century" (February 00 #2). The police consider his death to be "unexplained," and have launched an investigation.
15066. "He had a remarkable gentleness and courtesy in his dealings with women," Watson wrote of Holmes (in "The Dying Detective"). Of course that's only one side of the coin: Watson continued with "He disliked and distrusted the sex." And then Watson went on to write that Holmes "was always a chivalrous opponent." So much contradiction in two sentences.
15067. Tina Rhea has spotted some interesting "wallpaper": a montage of 30 people who have portrayed Sherlock Holmes (with pop-up identifications) created by Mark C. Robinson, at <www.tinyurl.com/d8xu4ma>. Similar wallpaper with 30 Watsons will be found at <www.tinyurl.com/ctoka4k>.
15068. The Geographic Names Information System maintained by the U.S. Board on Geographic Names now contains entries for more than 2 million features in the U.S., 37 of them named Sherlock (or variants thereof). The data base also shows 11 features named Sherlock in other countries, and you can search for Sherlock (or any other name) at <www.tinyurl.com/d6nfv6p>.
15069. If you're planning a trip to Hungary: there's now a Sherlockian society in Budapest. Zsófia Marinczák <zmarinczak@gmail.com> is the contact for the Hungarian Sherlock Holmes Club.
15070. There has been plenty of news for television fans. The "Elementary" series has been renewed by CBS (not surprising considering how well it has done in the ratings). And Martin Freeman's long-time partner Amanda Abbington will be in the first episode of the new season of "Sherlock" in a role that will "significantly impact" the lives of Watson and Holmes, which has triggered a flood of suggestions that she will play Mary Morstan, which seems to be quite likely, since it has been revealed that the title of the second episode in the season will be "The Sign of Three".
15071. Sarawen Perfume Art sells a set of four "Sherlock Holmes Inspired Perfumes" (\$48.50 for all four in 5-ml bottles); the names of the scents are "Logical Delusion", "Logical Deduction", "Scandal in London", and "Tea with Watson", and their web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/cdgct8t> has an artistic photograph of the bottles.
15072. Conan Doyle knew Eugen Sandow and Harry Houdini, and is mentioned in John F. Kasson's HOUDINI, TARZAN, AND THE PERFECT MAN: THE WHITE MALE BODY AND THE CHALLENGE OF MODERNITY IN AMERICA (New York: Hill and Wang, 2001; 286 pp., \$18.00); Sandow was "the perfect man" (and an inspiration for Angelo Siciliano, who is better known as Charles Atlas), and Kasson offers an interesting exploration of turn-of-the-century sociology.

April 2013 #2

15073. Reported by Andrew Malec: PETER CUSHING: THE COMPLETE MEMOIRS (London: Titan, 2013; 424 pp., £19.99); a reprint of his memoirs (AN AUTOBIOGRAPY and PAST FORGETTING) with extensive new material from his private collection (there's an American edition due from Signum). And: PETER CUSHING: A LIFE IN FILM, by David Miller (London: Titan, 2013; 1,928 pp., £18.99); with previously unpublished correspondence and new interviews with Cushing's friends and colleagues. Cushing has portrayed both Sherlock (on screen and in television) and Conan Doyle (in television).
15074. Tina Rhea has reported some spectacular color photographs of jellyfish published by The Guardian (Feb. 26) at <www.tinyurl.com/a8e2s7m>; half of them are lion's manes.
15075. Forecast by Roger Johnson: FORGOTTEN STARS, by Jonathan Croall (from Fantom Films in June, £16.99); a biography of his father John Stuart, who played Sir Henry Baskerville in Robert Rendell's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1932). Fantom also sells a recording of PATRICK TROUGHTON: THE BIOGRAPHY, by Michael Troughton (£17.99); about his father, who played the second Doctor Who, and Mortimer Tregennis in Douglas Wilmer's "The Devil's Foot" for the BBC-1 (1965).

15076. Roger edits The District Messenger, a newsletter that was launched in 1982 as the "grapevine service" of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London; it's available free via e-mail <rojerjohnson@yahoo.co.uk>, and all of the back issues are archived at <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/district.php>. It's an excellent round-up of what's going on in the Sherlockian and Doylean world in Britain and elsewhere.
15077. The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times13-4.html>, offering Sherlockiana, old and new, limited quantities of old Sherlockian lapel pins, and a link to color photographs of Denny Dobry's spectacular full-scale reproduction of the sitting-room at 221b Baker Street.
15078. Frank Mentzel has reported Adagio Teas at <www.adagio.com>, where you can search for [sherlock] and find a wide range of teas (including one called "Moriartea") inspired by the BBC "Sherlock" series.
15079. "Sometimes I wake up and think, I want to look like Sherlock Holmes today," British cover girl Edie Campbell told Vogue (Mar. 27), "and other times I want to look like a witch from Macbeth." Alas, no pictures are available showing just how she's inspired by Baker Street or Scotland.
15080. Noted by Marsha Pollak: Simon Rich's pastiche "The Adventure of the Spotted Tie", in his collection THE LAST GIRLFRIEND ON EARTH (New York: Reagan Arthur Books, 2013; 224 pp., \$19.99).
15081. W. P. Lawler's MYSTERY AT ST. ANDREWS (2012; 241 pp., \$14.95 postpaid) is a pastiche written by a golf enthusiast for golf enthusiasts; Watson visits St. Andrews and plays a lot of golf (there's a glossary by way of assistance for ordinary folk) and with Holmes and Irene Adler becomes involved in a battle against evil-doers. Available from the author: Bill Lawler, 208 Hilltop Drive, West Wyoming, PA 18644 <rankambill@comcast.net>.

April 2013 #3

15082. Basil Copper died on Apr. 4. He was a writer, journalist, and editor, and had a long relationship with August Derleth's Arkham House. Copper was the author of many macabre stories and novels, and mysteries, and extended the world of Derleth's Solar Pons, editing (and revising) THE SOLAR PONS OMNIBUS (1982) and writing his own series of stories about Solar Pons.
15083. Catherine Cooke has discovered a new "Sherlock" (a centralized knowledge management system launched last year by the National Health Service's Business Services Authority). The new system has won an award from the Customer Contact Association, and you can read about "Sherlock" at <www.tinyurl.com/d5j96ha>; extra points to anyone who can figure out just how it works.
15084. The manuscript of Conan Doyle's poem "Ypres" at auction at Bonhams in London on Apr. 10, and estimated at £1,500-2,000 (March 13 #1), sold for £5,250 (including the buyer's premium). Randall Stock has more detailed information about the manuscript, and its history, at his "Best of Sherlock" web-site at <www.bestofsherlock.com/ref/200603bonhams.htm>.
15085. Hugh Ashton's TALES FROM THE DEED BOX OF JOHN H. WATSON MD (Torrance: Inkbeans Press, 2012; 140 pp., \$8.99) offers three pastiches, two of them inspired by the Unrecorded Cases. Information on Ashton, and on other Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian titles, is at <www.tinyurl.com/cb63453>.
15086. It has been quite a while since we have seen a Sherlockian story for children, David Ruffle's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE MISSING SNOWMAN fills the bill nicely; it's a sentimental story with charming illustrations by Rikey Austin (London: MX Publishing, 2012; 32 pp., £6.99/E7.99/\$9.95). The publisher's web-sites are at <www.mxpublishing.co.uk> and <www.mxpublishing.com>.
15087. Also from MX Publishing: THE DETECTIVE, THE WOMAN, AND THE WINKING TREE, by Amy Thomas (2013; 197 pp., £9.99), is a sequel to her THE DETECTIVE AND THE WOMAN (April 12 #7) and has Holmes and Watson paying a visit to Irene Adler in Fulworth, and the three of them solving a complicated local murder mystery. SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE CASE OF THE BULGARIAN CODEX, by Tim Symonds (2012; 168 pp., £7.99); Holmes and Watson on a scenic journey to Sofia, with lots of local color and with a grotesque mystery to solve. SHERLOCK HOLMES AND YOUNG WINSTON: THE JUBILEE PLOT, by Mike Hogan (2013; 243 pp., £9.99), has Holmes and Watson, assisted by twelve-year-old Winston Churchill, foiling a fiendish (and complicated) plot during Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee; the web-site is at <www.mikehoganbooks.co.uk>.
15088. And: SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE CASE OF THE EDINBURGH HAUNTING, by David Wilson (2012; 210 pp., £9.99), has Holmes and Watson solving a mystery in Edinburgh, where Watson's cousin has invited them so that they can meet Dr. Joseph Bell, who wants to meet the man who is using Bell's methods (Holmes, of course, wants to meet the man who is using Holmes' methods in the practice of medicine); their meeting is unfortunately brief, but nicely done. THE 1895 MURDER, by Dan Andriacco (2012; 227 pp., £9.99), is the third in his series about Jeff Cody and Sebastian McCabe, and McCabe's new Sherlockian play "1895"; there's a murder (of course), and amusing sub-plots; Dan has an entertaining blog at <www.bakerstreetbeat.blogspot.com>.

April 2013 #4

15089. LAURIE R. KING'S SHERLOCK HOLMES (2013; 213 pp.) is a welcome collection of eight essays and introductions, all of them previously published, but not necessarily in easily accessible sources; \$2.99 as an e-book, \$9.95 at stores with print-on-demand Espresso Book Machines, and signed copies are available from Bookshop Santa Cruz. Details at her web-site at <www.laurierking.com>.
15090. "Benefit Presents the Curious Case" is the title of a Sherlockian 2-minute video promotion uploaded to YouTube on Feb. 11 <www.tinyurl.com/c6w7tv2>. The Chinese version was uploaded on Mar. 11 <www.tinyurl.com/cuzebek>.
15091. BOBBY BASKERVILLE SOLVES A CASE, by Richard L. Kellogg, illustrated by Gary Kato (Fort Collins: Airship 27, 2013; 28 pp., \$9.99), is another fine book for young readers, with an interesting story and attractive artwork. Bobby (needless to say) wants to be a detective, and (of course) succeeds.
15092. The spring issue of The Magic Door (the newsletter published by The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) has Chris Redmond's discussion of the Canonical and other aspects of THE PARASITE, Donny Zaldin's exploration of the "dancing men" cipher (the Collection now owns young John Gilbert Cubitt's album, which offered inspiration for the cipher), and much more new from and about the Collection; copies of the newsletter are available from Clifford S. Goldfarb, 22 Markdale Avenue, Toronto, ON M6C, 1T1, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.
15093. The Promethean Theatre Ensemble will perform "A Study in Scarlet" from May 3 to June 1. Athenaeum Theatre, 2936 North Southport Avenue, Chicago, IL 60647 (773-935-6860) <www.prometheantheatre.org>; it's a new dramatization by Paul Edwards.
15094. Novel Poster offers interesting "book posters", one of them being a framed silhouette of Sherlock Holmes composed of the entire text of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (\$40.00) <www.tinyurl.com/bva42nm>.
15095. The John H. Watson Society, which "seeks a level of equality in scholarship and enthusiasm for the life and work of John H. Watson, M.D.," will publish a scholarly journal "The Watsonian" twice a year; the society's web-site at <www.johnhwatsonociety.com> has information on dues and such. Don Yates is the founding chairman <info@johnhwatsonociety.com> (the web-site notes that "it's always 1895; there are no telephones yet," and they'll welcome submissions for the journal).

15096. Philip K. Jones' data-base for Sherlockian pastiches, parodies, and related fiction now has more than 10,000 entries; it's available at Miguel Herrero Baena's web-site <www.sherlock-holmes.es/database.php> and Christopher and Barbara Roden's web-site <www.ash-tree.bc.ca/Sherlock.htm>.
15097. MC Black reports that the "Sherlock Holmes: Past and Present" conference at the University of London on June 21-22 (February 12 #3) now has its own web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/czy3ft9>. And his Detective Walks is offering a guided walk during the evening of June 20 to places mentioned in the Canon and of importance in Conan Doyle's life; more information is available on request from MC at <mc.black@hardknott.org>.
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April 2013 #5

15098. The Croydon Advertiser reported (Apr. 15) that plans have been submitted to Croydon Council to turn Conan Doyle's former home in Norwood into a 12-bedroom apartment building. The building, which was described (March 13 #1) as an "absolute horror of a tip," divided into "celllike one-room bedsits in a disgusting condition," did not sell when bidding reached £725,000 at auction earlier this year, and it's now on the market with an asking price of £750,000. Some locals, as might be expected, want the house to be restored to a one-family home; according to a British realty web-site, one-bedroom apartments on Tennyson Road are available priced from £162,995 to £164,950 (multiply by 12 to see what a 12-apartment building might be worth). A five-bedroom semi-detached house on Tennyson Road is available for £379,950.
15099. The Illustrious Clients News reports that two Sherlockian rooms, created by Laverne Sullivan, are being showcased at the Museum of Miniature Houses in Carmel, Ind.; go to <www.museumofminiatures.org/exhibits.html> and scroll down to find links to photographs of Holmes sitting-room and bedroom.
15100. Stephanie Osborn reports that 221bCon ("a con for all things Sherlockian") in Atlanta on Apr. 13-14 (January 13 #4) was thoroughly successful: they filled the convention hotel and alternate hotels, and wound up with about 1,000 on hand; their web-site's at <www.221bcon.com>. There's an article about the convention at <www.tinyurl.com/c6l3zvj>. Brad Keefauver also was on hand for the festivities, and blogged about it several times at Sherlock Peoria <www.sherlockpeoria.blogspot.com>; check April, and look for the 221B Con entries.
15101. One of the interesting items owned by the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library is the diary kept by Conan Doyle's wife Jean on their trip to Canada in 1914. And thanks to the wonders of modern technology you don't need to travel to Toronto to read the diary, which has been scanned and is available at <www.tinyurl.com/bn7x4x2>. There's a sliding bar at the top that allows you to navigate from page to page, image notes you can click on for more information, and a button at the top that brings up a transcript of each page. It's a fine example of what libraries can do to display material on the Internet.
15102. The Royal Mail's set of stamps honoring Eminent Britains that was issued in 2009 included Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, and this month's set honoring Great Britons includes Peter Cushing (who was born in 1913). He played Sherlock Holmes three times, in the film "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1959), in a BBC television series (1968), and in the television film "The Masks of Death" (1984); he was scheduled to play Holmes for the fourth time, in a sequel ("The Abbot's Cry"), but he retired in 1987, explaining that it was time to "nail my toupee to the wall." Cushing also played Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in the television film "The Great Houdinis" (1976).
15103. ENCOUNTERS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, edited by George Mann (London: Titan Books, 2013; 352 pp., \$14.95), is an imaginative anthology of pastiches by authors from the worlds of steampunk, fantasy, and science fiction; the stories involve notables such as Sir Richard Burton and Raffles, Mrs. Hudson as a detective, and a Martian.
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April 2013 #6

15104. OSCAR WILDE AND THE MURDERS AT READING GAOL, by Gyles Brandreth (New York: Touchstone, 2013; 327 pp., \$18.00), is the sixth in his series about Wilde and Conan Doyle (who is mentioned only occasionally this time); the story is told by Wilde, who has been convicted and imprisoned, and solves a series of murders at Reading Gaol. It's a dark story, with a detailed view of how brutal prison life was in Britain at the end of the 19th century, and it's imaginative and well-written, with a surprising twist as a finale. The story ends the arc of Wilde's life, but there may be more books in the series: Brandreth has said that eventually "it's back to Oscar and Arthur. I think it has to be." And the next book will be well worth waiting for.
15105. THE AYLESFORD SKULL, by James P. Blaylock (London: Titan Books, 2013; 425 pp., \$14.95), is an entertaining adventure in which Arthur Conan Doyle is one of the supporting characters (on behalf of the good guys, of course); steampunk is a modern Victorian science-fiction genre generally set in alternative universes, and you'll find much more about steampunk projects at <www.steampunkholmes.com>.
15106. "Sherlock Hemlock: World's Greatest Detective" is an interesting article by Ryan Dosier at the Mystery Scene web-site <www.tinyurl.com/dxafgan>. It's reprinted from Dosier's blog The Muppet Mindset ("the go-to blog for everything Muppet") <www.themuppetmindset.blogspot.com>, where there's lots more about Sherlock Hemlock, and other Muppets such as Baskerville the Hound and Spamela Hamderson.
15107. Irving Kamil ("Monsieur Oscar Meunier, of Grenoble") died on Apr. 26. Irv wrote often for The Baker Street Journal and Baker Street Miscellanea, and was for many years one of the sparking plugs for Mrs. Hudson's Cliffdwellers. Irv and Selma travelled widely over the years, creating ad hoc Sherlockian societies at the Great Wall of China, on the Amazon, and in Sicily, Thailand, New Zealand, Vietnam, Jordan, Antarctica, the Galapagos, and other exotic locales, and he received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1981.
15108. Andrew Lane, who has written five books in his YOUNG SHERLOCK HOLMES series, has turned his attention to Young Calum Challenger, who is the great grandson of Professor George Edward Challenger. LOST WORLDS (London: Macmillan, 2013; 357 pp., £5.99) is the story of an expedition into the Caucasus in search of a supposedly mythological creature in hopes that its DNA will be useful (and that it can be protected); the book's principal characters are mostly teenagers, occasionally in dire peril, and the story's well told.
15109. THE BEST OF THE STRAND MAGAZINE, with an introduction by Andrew Roberts, is a digital book from Endeavour Press (£2.99/\$3.99) that offers a fine essay on "The Story of the Strand" (the street rather than the magazine) and text (without illustrations) of a dozen articles and stories, including "Silver Blaze" and an article on "A Night in an Opium Den" that was published not long before Conan Doyle wrote "The Man with the Twisted Lip".
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May 2013 #1

15110. The deadline for the trade-in offer for the new eBSJ v2 has been extended to June 15; the DVD has all issues of The Baker Street Journal through 2011 in PDF format, and is nicely done indeed. The price is \$149.95, but there is a trade-in offer open to those who already have the old BSJ CD-ROM set (send in your old disk #4 and the price is only \$49.95); more information is available at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com/ebooks/bsj.html>. Don't neglect the link to Randall Stock's helpful "Tips for using the eBSJ".
15111. The Baker Street Irregulars are going to publish a biography of Bliss Austin, which will be written by Sonia Fetherston; readers of The Baker Street Journal will be familiar with her work, and she invites Sherlockians worldwide to share personal reminiscences of Bliss with her. Sonia's e-mail address is <soniafetherston@comcast.net>.
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15112. There's a lot to be found at YouTube, including an amusing French animation "Les Dalton contre Sherlock Holmes" ["The Daltons vs. Sherlock Holmes"], an episode from the series "Les Nouvelles Aventures de Lucky Luke" (broadcast on France 3 on Sept. 23, 2001 <www.tinyurl.com/cns42zx>).
15113. Further to the report on the British stamp honoring Peter Cushing as one of the "Great Britons" (April 13 #5), the stamp is a composite: the portrait is a studio publicity photograph for "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1959), obtained from a commercial archive (not identified here because they wanted to be paid to let you see the photograph, and I ain't gonna give them publicity), with the background imagery showing the Baker Street address added for the stamp. Cushing doesn't wear such a hat in the film, but he can be seen wearing one in posters.
15114. Nancy J. Parra's GLUTEN FOR PUNISHMENT (New York: Berkley, 2013; 304 pp., \$7.99) is the first in her "Baker's Treat Mystery" series (a cozy mystery series set in a gluten-free bakery), apparently non-Sherlockian except for the nicely punned series title. Her web-site's at <www.nancyjparra.com>.
15115. Ray Harryhausen died on May 7. His stop-motion photography was a staple of fantasy and science-fiction films for decades, in a career launched when at the age of four he saw Willis H. O'Brien's work in "The Lost World" (1925); "I always remember the dinosaur falling off the cliff," Harryhausen said in an interview in 2001. He also made some brief test footage at the end of the 1970s for a new version of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" that was to star Peter Cushing.
15116. Further to the review of Andrew Lane's LOST WORLDS (April 13 #6), there's a colorful web-page for the book at <www.panmacmillan.com/lostworlds> with attractive artwork, imaginative links, a game, and much more.
15117. "You know a talk on a new book isn't going to go well when the crowd comes clutching a pile of your old DVDs," Anthony Horowitz told the Sunday Telegraph (Mar. 4, 2012), discussing what he described as a "recent disastrous Sherlock Holmes tour." Horowitz was touring to promote his pastiche novel THE HOUSE OF SILK, but his fans were more interested his television series "Foyle's War". Thanks to John Baesch for the report.

May 2013 #2

15118. The Exhibits Development Group has announced the world premiere of The International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry in Portland on Oct. 10. There's a web-site at <www.sherlockholmesexhibition.com> with a link to a press release on the exhibition, which will tour ten cities in North America before touring overseas. The forward schedule already also includes Columbus, Ohio; Dallas, Texas; and Santa Ana, Calif.
15119. The Sub-Librarians Scion of The Baker Street Irregulars will hold a meeting in Chicago on June 30, from 4:30 to 5:30 pm, during the annual meeting of the American Library Association. Additional information is available from Marsha Pollak <mpollak@sunnyvale.ca.gov>.
15120. BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH: BEHIND THE SCENES, by Neil Simpson, is a digital book from Endeavour Press (£1.99/\$2.99) that includes discussion of his life and his career, including but not limited to his work in "Sherlock".
15121. "What is your favorite book?" "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes." From a Q&A interview in The Guardian (Apr. 19) with Carla Bruni-Sarkozy, formerly a model and a folk singer, and now the wife of former French president Nicolas Sarkozy. Thanks to Jim Ballinger for the report.
15122. Further to reports on Conan Doyle's former home at 12 Tennyson Road in Norwood (April 13 #5), previously unsold at auction and then listed at £750,000 by the auctioneer (Barnett Ross), the property is now listed at their web-site as "sold after"; no word as yet as to plans for the house by the new (unidentified) owner. It's possible that the new owner is Revivit Walker, from Bromley, who asked Croydon Council to approve plans to turn the house into a 12-bedroom apartment building.
15123. Two Sherlockian works have won Edgars from the Mystery Writers of America this year: James O'Brien's THE SCIENTIFIC SHERLOCK HOLMES (best critical/ biographical), and Steven Moffat's "Sherlock: A Scandal in Belgravia" (best TV episode teleplay).
15124. The Sherlockian Calendar, maintained Ron Fish and Ben and Sue Vizoskie, has a new URL <www.sherlockiancalendar.com>; it's an excellent list of upcoming Sherlockian events, for anyone who would like to know what's happening when (and where); you can contact Ron at <ronf404@aol.com> if you would like to have a meeting or conference listed.
15125. "Great Lives" is a 30-minute series broadcast by BBC Radio 4. On Apr. 30 host Matthew Parris talked with Gyles Brandreth and Andrew Lycett about Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, and it's nice indeed that the BBC keeps the series up for listening at their web-site <www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b01s4g7j>.
15126. The Telegraph recently blogged about "Ten British TV Shows That Crossed the Pond," and one of them was "Coupling" (described as "the raunchy, semi-auto-biographical sitcom based on the writer Steven Moffat meeting his wife Sue Vertue"). When it was adapted for the American audience in 2003, the series "was deemed to be too sexually explicit" and was cancelled by NBC-TV with just four episodes broadcast. Moffat is better known now as the creator of the BBC-TV series "Sherlock", which is produced by Vertue.

May 2013 #3

15127. The seventh episode of "Mr. Selfridge" has now been seen in the U.K. and the U.S., with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (played by John Sessions) coming to the store for a book signing, and he was happy to sign THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES for Agnes Towler; it was a copy of the American edition, the "special limited edition" reprint (stated to be the fourth impression) published by Grosset & Dunlap. And yes, the book says it's the fourth impression. Then he inscribed for Rose Selfridge THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (apparently the British edition) and THE EXPLOITS OF BRIGADIER GERARD (apparently the first British edition).
15128. The series was inspired by Lindy Woodhead's biography SHOPPING, SEDUCTION & MR. SELFRIDGE, published in Britain in 2007 and now available as a reprint from Profile Books (£8.99) and Random House (\$16.00). Conan Doyle is mentioned only in passing, as a friend of Sir Oliver Lodge (a fellow-spiritualist who was given his own reserved table in the store's Palm Court Restaurant).
15129. A bit more about the third season of "Sherlock": according to a VH1 report (May 12), Benedict Cumberbatch has said that there's a possibility that the new programs will be broadcast simultaneously in the U.K. and the U.S., so viewers in the U.S. may not have to wait to see the new series.
15130. Jonny Lee Miller's "Elementary" has ended its season on CBS (no discussion here of what happened, since it's still being broadcast in Britain). The series averaged 10.8 million viewers and was the most-watched new series, which certainly pleased the network: work already is underway on the second season, which will open with Holmes and Watson in London. The DVD set for the first season (\$69.99 for the 24 episodes) is now available for pre-order (\$48.99 at Amazon).
15131. And Variety reported (Apr. 30) that CBS Interactive will produce an on-line series "Baker Street Irregulars" based on "Elementary" that's due this fall and follows "a motley crew of characters who assist the modern-day Sherlock in solving cases with their unique talents," to air on <www.cbs.com>, where you can already watch "Elementary" and play a "3 Truths and a Lie" game to "see if you have what it takes to keep up with Sherlock."

15132. Don Hobbs bought the late Fred Levin's collection of foreign translations of the Canon, and is now offering some duplicates for sale. An illustrated sales list is available by e-mail from Don <221b@verizon.net>.
15133. Martin Wallace is developing a computer game based on Neil Gaiman's Holmes/ Lovecraft pastiche "A Study in Emerald" (which won a Hugo award) for Treefrog Games <www.treefroggames.com>; there are links to the company's page at Facebook, and a two-minute video trailer for the game. And if you have wondered what his library looks like, go to <www.tinyurl.com/y8vI5xw>.
15134. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists (also known as The Friends of Sherlock Holmes) met to honor the world's first forensic geologist with drinks and dinner at the Spaghetti Warehouse in Pittsburgh on May 22, welcomed by members of The Fifth Northumberland Fusiliers, with the toasts including a birthday tribute to Arthur Conan Doyle. Our next dinners will be in Denver on Oct. 30, and in Houston on Apr. 9.
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May 2013 #4

15135. The American edition of Guy Adams' SHERLOCK: THE CASEBOOK (February 13 #2) will be titled THE SHERLOCK FILES: THE OFFICIAL COMPANION TO THE HIT TELEVISION SERIES, due from It Books in July; it's a fully illustrated examination of the first six programs in the series, imaginatively written and with great humor, in the voice of Watson.
15136. "London in 1927" is six minutes of nostalgic color footage uploaded to the Internet by Tim Sparke, and kindly reported by John Linsenmeyer, who notes that that was the year in which the last four Sherlock Holmes stories were published <www.vimeo.com/7638752?>.
15137. The second Can-Am Silver Blaze event will be held on July 13-14 in Toronto. with a buffet luncheon and the race at Woodbine Racetrack, a special story meeting, and a breakfast and tour of Toronto; more information is available from Donny Zaldin (416-565-9555) <donaldzaldin@rogers.com>.
15138. I'd like to hear from anyone who subscribes to the N.Y. Review of Books and can supply a copy of Michael Dirda's "Not So Elementary, Watson" (May 9); the full text is hidden behind a paywall at the magazine's web-site.
15139. Further to the item on the pair of metal plates displayed by Javier Doria during the birthday festivities in New York (February 13 #5), it turns out that there are three plates: one of the pair is reported to have been sold to a collector, and the other two were offered at auction in England this month, estimated at £30,000-£50,000 and £5,000-£10,000; they attracted no bids at all. Jon Lellenberg has written about all three of the plates at his Archival History web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/ajv9k6s>; anyone interested in purchasing the unsold plates can contact Richard Westwood-Brookes at Mullock's at <rchrwdstwdbrks8@googlemail.com>.
15140. Scott Monty notes that Copper Beech Farm is available for purchase. It's not in Hampshire, but rather in Greenwich, Conn., and it's the most expensive property for sale in the U.S. (the asking price is \$190 million). You can read a Wall Street Journal story (May 17) <www.tinyurl.com/ocfgh75> and see a slide show at <www.tinyurl.com/pdt47rn>; 50.5 acres and a 12-bedroom Victorian mansion that needs work. And there are lots of copper beeches.
15141. You can add The Netherlands to the list of countries with active Sherlockian societies: The Baarn Baskervilles meet in Baarn, and Jan-Just Middel is their contact. Cornelis Helling founded and presided over The Crew of the S.S. "Friesland", which was active until he died in 1995. Willis Frick's Sherlocktron web-site <www.sherlocktron.com> offers just-updated lists of 901 Sherlockian societies (419 active and 482 inactive) with names and addresses of contacts for the active societies.
15142. Willis also has revised his listings of Sherlockian purveyors and Sherlockian publications; new information and corrections can be reported to him at <sherlock1@cox.net>.
15143. Dorothy Ramsey is offering an extensive collection of Sherlockian books and memorabilia, asking \$1,500 for the entire collection. Anyone interested is invited to request an e-mail copy of her color-illustrated description; her address is <dorothyramsey@gmail.com>.
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May 2013 #5

15144. Otto Penzler, proprietor of the Mysterious Bookshop, continues to publish a monthly Mysterious Bookshop Newsletter, always with a "Sherlock Holmes" section offering new, old, and rare books, pamphlets, and magazines, and of course other non-Sherlockian but interesting material; go to <www.mysteriousbookshop.com> and click on "Newsletter" to see the latest issue.
15145. "Quote Investigator: Dedicated to Tracing Quotations" is a useful web-site maintained by Garson O'Toole <www.quoteinvestigator.com>; there's nothing by Conan Doyle, but the web-site has imaginative Sherlockian artwork.
15146. There's lots of news from the world of the theater: Greg Kramer's new play "Sherlock Holmes" (starring Jay Baruchel as Holmes) opened in Montréal on May 5 (April 12 #5) and quickly sold out the entire run (including two additional performances).
15147. Jeffrey Hatcher's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club" opened at the Alley Theatre in Houston on May 24, and will run through June 23 <www.alleytheatre.org>. Dramatists Play Service (440 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016) (212-683-8960) <www.dramatists.com> has published the script (\$8.00); the play premiered in Tucson (March 11 #4) and was nominated for an Edgar from the Mystery Writers of America.
15148. "Magic! Mystery! Romance! Adventure! Fairies! A master detective in a ridiculous hat!" That's the description of a new play "Sherlock Holmes" performed by the Pantaloons Theater Company <www.thepantaloons.co.uk> on tour in England beginning at Burton Constable Hall in Hull on June 9.
15149. It's not necessarily the farthest-flung Sherlockian theatrical performance, but the Silent Hands Creative Circle will present Ed Lange's play "Sherlock Holmes' Secret Life" at the Lionel Wendt in Colombo, Sri Lanka, June 14-16 <www.silent-hands.com/creative_circle.php>; the poster artwork shows a fine assortment of Sri Lankan actors in costume for the play. And the play also is scheduled at the Tillamook Theater in Tillamook, Ore., Aug. 30-Sept. 15. <www.tillamooktheater.com>
15150. The Theatre at the Mill will present an outdoor version of "Sherlock Holmes and the Hound of the Baskervilles" (in a new dramatization by Laura Turner) in Mossley Hill Civic Square in Newtownabbey (near Belfast) on July 4. Details at <www.theatreatthemill.com>.
15151. "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (the fine parody by Steven Canny and John Nicholson) will be presented by Cut to the Chase at the Queen's Theatre in Hornchurch, East London, Oct. 16-Nov. 17 <www.queens-theatre.co.uk>.
15152. C. P. Stancich's play "Sherlock Holmes and John Watson's Body" premiered in Lafayette, Colo., last year, and will be performed again at the Camino Real Playhouse, Oct. 18 through Nov. 3; 31176 El Camino Real, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675 (949-489-8082) <www.caminorealplayhouse.org>.
15153. "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (a new dramatization by David Pichette and R. Hamilton Wright) will have its world premiere at the Seattle Repertory Theatre, Nov. 15-Dec. 15 <www.seattlerep.org>.
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May 2013 #6

15154. "Hammer Housing Estate of Horror" was the headline on a story from the Daily Mail (Apr. 27), at hand from Roger Johnson: the owner of Bray Studios in Berkshire has announced that the iconic location is no longer viable for movie-making and wants to build up to seven homes on the site. The "Hammer" is Hammer Films, and Bray Studios is where many of their films, including "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1959) were made.
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15155. Department of What Might Have Been: Benedict Cumberbatch, in an interview with Amber M. Ray published in Metro New York (May 6), said that HBO wanted to air "Sherlock" but turned it down because there were only three episodes and "we do series."
15156. Litographs <www.litographs.com> demonstrates the wonders of modern technology: literary T-shirts (\$34.00) and posters (\$29.00) offering artistic designs created from the text of books, including THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES. Kindly reported by Tina Rhea.
15157. The spectacular edition of A STUDY IN SCARLET that was published by Hakon Holm in 2005 with the original text from Beeton's Christmas Annual and more than 600 striking illustrations by Danish artist Nis Jessen (July 05 #5) has been reissued (with 200 illustrations) as a printed book (€43.95) and in a Kindle edition (€29.99). But the only way to order it appears to be from Amazon in Germany <www.tinyurl.com/pa3fjpv> (there's no cost for shipping for a Kindle edition).
15158. There was a Steampunk World's Fair in Piscataway, N.J., May 17-19, according to Steve and Linda Morris, with all sorts of events, including Professor Moriarty's Deadly Dinner (with four seatings) and a Bartitsu Workshop; go to <www.steampunkworldsfair.com> and search for [sherlock] and [doyle] and [moriarty]. Bartitsu (and Sherlock Holmes) also made the front page of the Wall Street Journal (May 24) <www.tinyurl.com/oxnvrwn>.
15159. And there was discussion of bartitsu (and baritsu) in "Timeshift: Everybody Was Kung Fu Fighting: The Rise of Martial Arts in Britain" (a one-hour television program broadcast by BBC-4 on Feb. 24). Of particular interest was the voice-over statement that the first mention of baritsu in print was in The Times. Thanks to Catherine Cooke for tracking down an article on "Japanese Wrestling at the Tivoli" about an exhibition by instructors at "Mr. Barton-Wright's school of physical culture in Shaftesbury-avenue, where the 'baritsu' system of self-defence is taught," published Aug. 23, 1901 (much earlier than the appearance of "The Empty House" in The Strand Magazine in Oct. 1903).
15160. The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times13-5.html>, offering Sherlockiana, old and new, and a report (with a photograph) of an intriguing copy of vol. 42 of The Strand Magazine (Jul-December 1911) with a fore-edge painting showing an illustration from "The Disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax" and a portrait of Conan Doyle, offered by Buckingham Books for \$3,750; the web-site for the dealer is <www.buckinghambooks.com>.

June 2013 #1

15161. The Canadian one-hour series "Murdoch Mysteries" is now in its sixth season and is popular in Canada and Britain (but still not available in the U.S.); it's set in Toronto in the 1890s and stars Yannick Bisson as Inspector Murdoch. Geraint Wyn Davies appeared as Arthur Conan Doyle in two episodes in 2008 (January 09#1), and he returns in "A Study in Sherlock" (broadcast in Canada on Jan. 28); the program also features Andrew Gower as a man claiming that he is Sherlock Holmes.
15162. A new Sherlock Holmes comic's due from Madefire, with an adaptation of "The Greek Interpreter" by Liam Sharp and Bill Sienkiewicz; you can see a sample of their artwork in full color at <www.tinyurl.com/lu3a8h7>; Madefire is a company that creates and markets "motion books" that are downloaded as apps for the iPhone and iPad.
15163. Gary Lovisi notes that the 25th Anniversary Annual NYC Collectable Paperback & Pulp Fiction Expo will be held on October 13 at the Holiday Inn at 440 West 57th Street in New York. Go to <www.gryphonbooks.com> for details on authors who will attend, and on his Sherlockian and other books.
15164. There was a bit of publicity in the British press about a Twitter exchange: "Sherlock" co-creator Mark Gatiss tweeted "Isn't Roger Moore wonderful in The Man Who Haunted Himself? I have such a soft spot for the film." Moore (who played Holmes in "Sherlock Holmes in New York") responded with "@Markgatiss thank you. I might be equally wonderful in Doctor Who or Sherlock if asked." And Gatiss tweeted "My life is complete! Will be in touch. My dad was once mistaken for you by two old ladies in Whitley Bay!" Fans were excited, with one tweeting "You mean Roger Moore playing Sherlock Holmes in a Doctor Who episode? Awesome idea."
15165. Colin Dexter's amusing pastiche "A Case of Mis-Identity" (in which he offered an amusing analysis of the Canonical case that Holmes may or may not have solved correctly) was published in WINTER'S CRIMES 21 (1989) and reprinted in MORSE'S GREATEST MYSTERY AND OTHER STORIES (1993). Now Jennifer Reeve's story "A Case of Mis-Identity" has been published in Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine (Aug. 2013); it's an imaginative tribute to Dexter, sent to EQMM at his suggestion.
15166. "Great Reverence at the Famous" is the title chosen by Scott Monty (who has a talent for finding appropriate Canonical quotes) for his blog about last month's birthdays of three legendary Sherlockian actors; you can read this entry in his Baker Street Blog at <www.tinyurl.com/ls9pu5a>.
15167. A comment on the finale of "Elementary" on-line at the Stabley Times (May 21) from Jerry Miller, who knows much more about modern technology than I do: "Sherlock Holmes and Watson make a breakthrough in a case by deducing that a series of unrelated iPhone 5 units may be connected because they've been jailbroken in order to run the same homebrew app to communicate with Moriarty. And while it was a small aside in the plot, it marked the first time the word 'jailbreak' has been used on a mainstream TV drama in reference to the iPhone 5 hacking group." If you want to know more about this, you can read the story at <www.tinyurl.com/mb4efs2>.

June 2013 #2

15168. Bev Wolov discovered the Lavolta Press <www.lavoltapress.com>, which publishes books of historical clothing patterns. FASHIONS OF THE GILDED AGE, VOLUME 1 (\$49.00) contains "160 authentic women's patterns for Victorian reenactment and theatrical costuming, suitable for Old West/Wild West; Oregon Trail; British-Zulu Wars; Victorian teas, dances, and weddings; Sherlock Holmes events; and productions of operettas by Gilbert & Sullivan and Johann Strauss II" (\$49.00). And THE VOICE OF FASHION (\$42.00) offers "79 patterns for women's styles from 1900 through 1906, suitable for Edwardian garden parties; teas and weddings; ragtime dances; historic house tours; Sherlock Holmes and steampunk events; and productions of plays by Chekhov and Shaw" (\$42.00). And they have more titles for anyone interested in the Sherlockian era.
15169. "Bloody Scotland" is Scotland's international crime-writing festival, and it's scheduled for Sept. 13-15 in Stirling. The program is available online at <www.bloodscotland.com>; nothing Sherlockian or Doylean (so far).
15170. Paul Jones had some predictions about possible plot twists in the next season of "Elementary" in the Radio Times (May 29), one of them that Jonny Lee Miller will swap roles with Benedict Cumberbatch: they've alternated roles before (in the National Theatre's play "Frankenstein"), and "Benedict Cumberbatch's detective will be taking over Miller's New York beat while he in turn joins forces with a very confused John Watson." You can read more of the predictions at <www.tinyurl.com/qbcxstm>.
15171. Don Pollock has reported Redbubble <www.redbubble.com>, where you'll find all sort of artwork on T-shirts, iPhone cases, stickers, posters, and much more. A recent search turned up 3,501 hits for [sherlock holmes], 239 hits for [conan doyle], 201 hits for [irene adler], 50 hits for [baskervilles], and 3 hits for [scuttlebutt].
15172. Olaf Maurer has reported that the Deutsche Sherlock-Holmes-Gesellschaft has launched a competition, in company with the Sherlock Holmes Museum in Meiringen and Haslital Tourism, offering an attractive prize to anyone who can solve all of the clues to the Canonical tales hidden on or

associated with John Doubleday's life-sized statue of Sherlock Holmes at Meiringen. There is more information (in German) at <www.sherlock-gesellschaft.de>, and (in English) at <www.sherlock-holmes-gesellschaft.ch>. This isn't an easy competition: according to Olaf, the current record holder is Michael Meer, who has solved 54 of the 60 clues.

15173. SHINee is a South Korean contemporary R&B boy group, and the lead single on their fourth EP is "Sherlock" (which was an instant success when it was released in 2012). It's at YouTube at <www.tinyurl.com/k8j9fts> along with other videos by the band. Thanks to Aziz Bin Adam and Les Klinger for reporting the song.
15174. Jean Stapleton died on May 31. She had a long career as an actor on stage, screen, and television, and was best known for her role at Edith Bunker in the 1970s television series "All in the Family"; she also appeared as busybody investigator Miss Tweed in a production of the murder-mystery musical "Something's Afoot" that was broadcast by Showtime in 1984, singing "I owe it all to Agatha Christie and Arthur Conan Doyle."

June 2013 #3

15175. Noreen Malone reported in the New Republic (May 23) that Amazon keeps track of which passages Kindle readers have highlighted the most and #19 on the list is from THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: "I have no data yet. It is a capital mistake to theorize before one has data. Insensibly one begins to twist facts to suit theories, instead of theories to suit facts." The most-highlighted book, of course, is THE HOLY BIBLE. You can consult the lists at <www.kindle.amazon.com/most_popular>.
15176. Neil Patrick Harris (perhaps best known for four seasons in the title role in the television series "Doogie Howser, M.D.") hosted the Tony Awards in New York this month and won high praise. The photograph shows him with his partner David Burka in costume at the themed mystery wedding of Becky Bailing and Kris Lythgoe on Apr. 27.
15177. David Marcum has reported that THE PAPERS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, a collection of pastiches, one explaining the family connection between Holmes and Solar Pons (November 12 #4) has been reissued by MX Publishing in two volumes at \$16.95 each.
15178. Holmes and Watson in a new film (sort of): "Dom Hemingway" will star Jude Law as a safecracker known for his profane and dangerous ways, and Richard E. Grant as his partner Dickie. Jude Law plays Watson in the Warner Bros. "Sherlock Holmes" series, and Grant played Holmes in "Encounters: The Other Side" in 1992 (and Mycroft in "Sherlock" and Stapleton in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" in 2002). The film is due for release in 2014.
15179. Scott Monty has reported that his Sherlock Holmes Social Network, which has been on-line since 2007, will be shutting down as of July 15 because of the increasing amount of spam and fake accounts <www.sherlockholmes.ning.com>. But there's an alternative: his Sherlock Holmes Community at Google+; all that's required is a Google account <www.bit.ly/SHCommunity>.
15180. Tim Johnson, curator of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota, blogs from time to time, and more than occasionally on matters Sherlockian or Doyleans. He has perpetrated a Sherlockian pastiche for the "Three-Minute Fiction" competition was announced on "All Things Considered" on National Public Radio, and while he didn't win, you can his blog about the pastiche at <www.tinyurl.com/lp9nmq2>. He also has blogged with pleasure about a Doylean competition he did win <www.tinyurl.com/kqkxxwu>; it would appear he was the only competitor, but it's a grand story.
15181. "Baker Street Irregulars: Hanging on for Dear Life" is a CD issued by Atomic Mouse Recordings in 2006 and available at <www.amazon.com> (\$11.53); you can also purchase individual tracks on-line. The Baker Street Irregulars is described on Myspace as the "nom de guerre" of Brian McKnight's one-man; none of the tracks are Sherlockian but he explains the Sherlock Holmes has always been one of his heroes, and he was mesmerized when at the age of 12 he saw the HBO broadcast of Frank Langella in the Gillette play.

June 2013 #4

15182. The "Algonquin Round Table Mysteries" (a series of novels from J. J. Murphy) are set in the Algonquin Hotel in New York during the 1920s and feature Dorothy Parker, her fellow members of the Round Table, and others including William Faulkner in MURDER YOUR DARLINGS; Harry Houdini in YOU MIGHT AS WELL DIE; and Arthur Conan Doyle in A FRIENDLY GAME OF MURDER (New York: Penguin/Obsidian, 2013; 316 pp., \$6.99); Murphy takes some liberties (but has fun) with the Algonquin as well as with its famous (and infamous) inhabitants <www.roundtablemysteries.com>.
15183. Sonia Fetherson notes that Matt Laffey has reported that The Spectator has created an archive of issues from 1828 to 2008, searchable on-line without charge. The Spectator published many items of interest to Sherlockians and Doyleans; it's intriguing that a search for [sherlock holmes] produces 221 hits.
15184. Admirers of "Sherlock" and admirers of "Elementary" argue (sometimes strenuously) about the merits of one series or the other; occasionally the argument is amusing, as with a post by Jack Moore to BuzzFeed last year. Obviously, CBS was not persuaded.
15185. Andrew Lane, who turned his attention to the great grandson of Professor George Edward Challenger in LOST WORLD (April 13 #6), launched his earlier YOUNG SHERLOCK HOLMES series with DEATH CLOUD (June 10 #3); there are five titles in the series, the latest being FIRE STORM (London: Macmillan, 2011; 344 pp., £12.99/\$17.99) and SNAKE BITE (London: Macmillan, 2012; 312 pp., same). Lane has said that he plans to continue the series, and there is an interesting web-site at <www.youngsherlock.com>.
15186. The Sherlock Holmes Society of India (March 05 #5) now has an on-line journal Proceedings of the Pondicherry Lodge, with 60 pages and nicely done. There's a link at the society's homepage <www.sherlockholmessociety.in>.
15187. "The Adventure of the Mysterious Safe" is the title of an imaginative project devised by Shannon Carlisle, an accelerated-learning elementary-school teacher in Nashville; she was this year's winning of The Beacon Society's Beacon Award, and you can read all about the project in a special edition of Joel and Carolyn Senter's Sherlockian E-Times <www.tinyurl.com/mv374q3>.
15188. There's a north-of-the-border equivalent of the BBC America cable channel: BBC Canada (which is showing the CBS-TV series "Elementary"), and of course there's a BBC Canada Shop offering (among other things) a Sherlock Holmes Coaster Set (#16903) decorated with Sherlockian silhouettes, discounted to \$19.99 <www.tinyurl.com/k52886f>; kindly reported by Jack Winn.
15189. Shane Peacock's BECOMING HOLMES ends his series about Sherlock Holmes as a young man, and it has been nominated for an Arthur Ellis Award (best juvenile/ young adult) from the Crime Writers of Canada; the awards are imaginatively named after the "nom de travail" of Canada's official hangman. The author has a web-site at <www.shanepeacock.ca>.

June 2013 #5

15190. The Serpentine Muse continues to offer news from, about, and by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes; the summer issue has Evy Herzog's imaginative "Toast to Spring Cleaning" and Brad Keefauver's enthusiastic report on 221BCon in Atlanta; next year's convention will be held Apr. 4 to

6 <www.221bcon.com). The Muse is Published quarterly, and costs \$15.00 a year from Evelyn A. Herzog (301 Warren Avenue #203, Baltimore, MD 21230).

15191. "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" (a podcast created by Scott Monty and Burt Wolder) now has 53 episodes, the latest of them being a 61-minute program featuring an interview with Tom Francis, who chairs the Baker Street Irregulars Trust, which collects and archives primary material about the history of the BSI and its members. You can listen to or download the podcast at <www.ihearofsherlock.com>; earlier episodes also are available.
15192. Gary Thaden has discovered just the thing for Sherlockian bathrooms: "No Shit Sherlock Lavatory Mist" sold by Blue Q (\$11.99), with a light lemon and cedar scent and suitable "for crime scenes of all types and sizes"; their web-site's at <www.tinyurl.com/om9p8jl>.
15193. Thomas Wheeler, the author of THE LONDON OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (November 11 #8), has used Google Maps Engine to create an imaginative map of the London area with icons for some of the sites in his book; you can zoom in and out using the icons at the lower right, and navigate with your mouse. Ask him <londonsecrets@london.com> to share it with you.
15194. Viator ("travel with an insider") offers various guided tours, including a "Sherlock Holmes Film Location Tour in London": the two-hour walking tour, which is led by a film-expert guide, visits film sites from "Murder by Decree" to "Sherlock" (\$15.36) <www.tinyurl.com/mt385ch>.
15195. AIDE-DE-CAMP TO CONAN DOYLE: THE BOER WAR DIARY OF CHARLES BLASSON, by Ken Cooper (London: Createspace, 2013; 64 pp., £6.99), is the diary of a young medical student who served as one of the dressers in the privately-funded Langman Field Hospital during the Boer War in South Africa, where he served under Dr. Arthur Conan Doyle and was for a time his secretary. Ken Cooper found the diary in his wife's family papers, and his annotated transcription offers a fascinating account of what the war was like for the British who fought in it, and a look at Conan Doyle himself.
15196. MX Publishing has now sponsored four Great Sherlock Holmes Debates on the Internet since the first one was held on Nov. 10, 2011 (the latest was held on June 8 this year). Colorful slides from all four debates are available at <www.slideshare.net>, and recordings of the second and third can be seen at <www.youtube.com>; just search for [great sherlock holmes debate].
15197. Scott Monty reports that his Sherlock Holmes Social Network will shut down in July, because of the growing number of spammers and the cost of keeping the site running; if you have content at the site you'd like to keep, you need to download it now, because the site will be deleted. But there's a substitute: the Sherlock Holmes Community <www.bit.ly/SHCommunity>.
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June 2013 #6

15198. With regard to Les Klinger's lawsuit against the Arthur Conan Doyle Estate (February 13 #6), asking a federal court to rule that the characters of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. John H. Watson are not protected by federal copyright laws, and that writers, filmmakers, and others can use the characters in new stories without paying any license fees to the owners of the remaining copyright on the stories, Les has posted a brief update at his web-site at <www.free-sherlock.com>: "The Arthur Conan Doyle Estate has failed to file a formal appearance or any other responsive pleading in the matter within the time granted to it. We are considering our next actions in the case and will keep you posted."
15199. Scott Monty has a "Holmes on Facebook" link at the top of the opening page of his Baker Street Blog, where you can find a list (with links) and a form you can use to report additions <www.bakerstreetblog.com>. There seems to be no end to Sherlockian social networking.
15200. The First Annual John H. Watson Society Treasure Hunt will be launched at noon on Aug. 1; details at the society's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/lhrk8ob> (you don't need to be a member to participate).
15201. The Book Depository offers lists of Top Heroes and Top Villains (as voted by customers) <www.tinyurl.com/lq7payx>, and of course Holmes and Moriarty are near the top of their lists; what's really interesting is whether you can identify all of the heroes and villains.
15202. The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times13-6.html>, offering Sherlockiana, old and new, and reports from society's near and far.
15203. The Bay Area Sherlock Con, now in its second year, will be held on Aug. 17 at Santa Clara University in California <www.bayareasherlockcon.com>; it's a "fan-run celebration of Sherlock Holmes" and there's additional information at their Tumblr site <www.bayareasherlockcon.tumblr.com>.
15204. Further to the report (May 13 #6) on the British television program "Timeshift: Everybody Was Kung Fu Fighting: The Rise of Martial Arts in Britain" that included discussion of bartitsu and baritsu, Aziz Bin Adam notes that it's available at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=St0-JDpJAIQ>.
15205. The new CD "Twisted Tales" (Chops not Chaps, \$15.00) is a collaboration between the late rock keyboardist Ray Manzarek and blues slide guitarist Roy Rogers, and the lead track is a new song "Just Like Sherlock Holmes" (which you can sample or purchase as a download at <www.amazon.com>).
15206. Ladbrokes opened a betting market on who will be the next Doctor Who (Matt Smith, the current Doctor, leaves the series at the end of this year), and the early front-runner (at 3/1) was Rory Kinnear (Bill Tanner, M's Chief of Staff, in the current "James Bond" films). But not far behind (at 6/1) was Benedict Cumberbatch (who of course is well known to Steven Moffat and Mark Gatiss (co-creators of both "Doctor Who" and "Sherlock")). When the odds on Kinnear dropped to 2/1, Ladbrokes suspended betting. Rory Kinnear's father was the late Roy Kinnear, who played Moriarty's assistant in "The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes' Smarter Brother" (1975)
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June 2013 #7

15207. "MAD" is a 15-minute animated series that airs on the Cartoon Network, and offers parodies similar to those in its namesake magazine, and on June 17 the program included an amusing 3-minute spoof of the CBS series "Elementary" (with Mary Poppins helping Watson and Gregson investigate the mysterious disappearance of Sherlock Holmes. You might be able to see the segment at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/msq9xkn>, if it's still there (if not, you can search for "Umbrellamentary").
15208. More theater news: Jeffrey Hatcher's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club" opened at the Park Square Theater in St. Paul, Minn., on June 7 and will close on July 14 <www.parksquaretheater.org>; there's a 2-minute video trailer at <www.tinyurl.com/mf3olkn>.
15209. Laura Turner's new outdoor version of "Sherlock Holmes and the Hound of the Baskervilles" (May 13 #5), first performed by the Chapterhouse Theatre at Wentworth Castle Gardens in Barnesley, is now touring in Great Britain and Ireland. The full schedule's at <www.chapterhouse.org>.
15210. "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (the excellent parody by Steven Canny and John Nicholson) is being performed at the Hackmatack Playhouse in Berwick, Maine, through July 6 <www.hackmatack.org>. And at the Lakeview Arts Barn in Bobcaygeon, Ont., through July 6 <www.lakeviewartsbarn.com>. And it's being performed at the Seaside Repertory Theatre in Santa Rosa Beach, Fla., through Aug. 3 <www.seasidereptheatre.wordpress.com>. For those who want to plan far in advance, it has been scheduled by Theatre Works at the Mountainview Center for the Performing Arts in Palo Alto, Calif., on Apr. 2-27 <www.theatreworks.org>.
15211. "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" (Steven Dietz's play) is being performed at the Pierson Playhouse in Pacific Palisades, Calif., through July 14 <www.theatrepalisades.org>. And at the Commonwealth Theatre in Lanesboro, Minn., through Oct. 28 <www.commonwealththeatre.org>.
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15212. Don't Go Into the Cellar <www.dontgotothecellar.com> is a Victorian theater company performing in Britain; click on "What's On" to find dates and venues for their tours of "The Singular Exploits of Sherlock Holmes" (from July 11), "Holmes Alone" (from Oct. 12), and "Ho Ho Holmes" (from Nov. 23).
15213. Radio Spirits continues to offer a wide variety of old-time radio programs on CDs, some Sherlockian but most non-Sherlockian, and the company's catalogue and web-site are well worth inspection (3107 Wallingford, CT 06494) (800-833-4248) <www.radiospirits.com>. They also have a blog, and an archive of their own radio broadcasts.
15214. Go to YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/nso9d4r> to hear 35 minutes of a longer recording of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" issued on a CD by Verglas Music (February 02 #6); words and music are by Clive Nolan and Oliver Wakeman, and the narrator is Robert Powell, who also plays Dr. Watson (Powell was Sherlock Holmes in the BBC radio broadcast of "A Study in Scarlet" in 1974, and on stage in a touring production of "Sherlock Holmes: The Musical" in 1993).

July 2013 #1

15215. THE LIGHTER SIDE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (London: MX Publishing, 2013, 289 pp., £18.99/€22.99/\$29.95) offers an extensive look at the Sherlockian artwork of Norman Schatell; compiled by his son Glenn, the book is a splendid tribute to a truly imaginative artist whose artwork appeared in many Sherlockian publications and on envelopes of the letters he sent to his correspondents. You'll see for yourself why his friends waited impatiently for his letters, and miss receiving them now. There's also a trade paperback edition. "Let me recommend this book," as Sherlock Holmes once said.
15216. EAST WIND COMING, by Yuichi Hirayama and John Hall (London: MX Publishing, 2013; 233 pp., £9.99/€12.99/\$16.95), is a welcome collection of their articles and essays first published in the Shoso-in Bulletin, the Baker Street Journal, and other Sherlockian periodicals, many of them offering interesting Japanese insights into the Canon.
15217. Article IV of the Constitution of The Baker Street Irregulars states that the "duties of the Commissionaire shall be to telephone down for ice, White rock, and whatever else might be required and available." White Rock still is available for purchase, although Psyche (the company's symbol of purity since 1894) is rather more decorous now than she was when Elmer Davis wrote the Constitution. You can see a slide show at <www.whiterockbeverages.com> and (explore the section for Collectors) see video of Ernie Kovacs' brief encounter with Psyche.
15218. CBS Consumer Products has announced that they have licensed Titan Publishing Group to create a series of original novels, that will be released in 2014. The novels will be new stories, tie-ins to the CBS television series "Elementary"
15219. Wilfrid de Freitas has noted an interesting article in the London Evening Standard (June 6) <www.tinyurl.com/o6v6f5p> about Simon Wright, who was arrested for violating an Asbo [anti-social behaviour order] that banned him from begging in London. He has been earning £50,000 a year as a beggar and lives in a £300,000 flat in Fulham, happily following the example that was set by Neville St. Clair.
15220. If you're considering a trip to India in August, the Sherlock Holmes Society of India is holding its annual meeting in Mumbai on Aug. 24-25; details at their web-site <www.sherlockholmessociety.in>.
15221. The second annual Sherlock Seattle Convention will be held at the Broadway Performance Hall on Oct. 4-6; the guests of honor will be Laurie R. King, Les Klinger, and Lee Eric Shackleford, and there will be panels, cosplay, and other entertainment <www.sherlock-seattle.org>.
15222. Alan Barnes' "Sherlock Holmes Suite" for jazz octet and narrator was first performed at the Appleby Festival in Cumbria in July 2002 and then issued as a two-CD set from Woodville Records (WVCD102); the CD set's still available at <www.amazon.co.uk>, and the tracks as downloads from Amazon in the U.K. and the U.S.. Barnes has a talent for swing, and pays tribute to Duke Ellington; you can listen to the music free at <www.tinyurl.com/o8ntrt4>.

July 2013 #2

15223. "A Curious Night at the Theatre" was a one-night fund-raising gala in aid of two charities (the National Autistic Society and Ambitious about Autism) at the Apollo Theatre in London on July 1, and the evening included an imaginative live-and-video sequel to the National Theatre production of "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time" (dramatized from the novel by Mark Haddon). Luke Treadaway again played Christopher Boone, whose regular game of Tetris was invaded by Doctor Who (Matt Smith), who sent Christopher on a mission to combat the evil Moriarty (Andrew Scott); needing help, Christopher turned to the Queen (Helen Mirren), who granted access to the computer wizardry of Q (Ben Whishaw). And if the names of the supporting actors are familiar, it's because they have played the same roles on screen and television; Jude Law also was in the play, not as Watson but rather as Christopher's supply teacher.
15224. THE SAGE OF SANTA FE: THE ADVENTURES AND PUBLIC LIFE OF JOHN BENNETT SHAW, by Susan Rice and Vinnie Brosnan (Oceanside: Sherlock in L.A. Press, 2013), is a delightful and nicely illustrated 28-page tribute to a man who was admired by more than one generation of Sherlockians, and justly so; available for \$7.00 postpaid from Vinnie (1741 Via Allena, Oceanside, CA 92056).
15225. The Hungarian Sherlock Holmes Club (April 13 #1) now has two web-sites, one of them in Hungarian <www.sherlock-sorozat.hu>, and the other one in English <www.sherlockian-sherlock.com>.
15226. The Museum of London has scheduled a major exhibition on Sherlock Holmes to open next autumn. According to a story in The Times (June 26), "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's first scribbled notes about Sherlock Holmes" may be among the exhibits; Alex Werner, head of history collections at the museum, said that he hopes to obtain permission to show the author's manuscript notebooks in which the detective first appeared, as well as manuscripts for some of the stories.
15227. Thomas Wheeler's imaginative interactive map of the London area (June 13 #5) is now available at Google Maps Engine <www.tinyurl.com/n2dweuu>; you can zoom in and out using the icons at the lower right, and navigate with your mouse to see information from his THE LONDON OF SHERLOCK HOLMES.
15228. Basil Rathbone continues to be popular, and is well represented on the Internet: "The Great Baz" <www.thegreatbaz.wordpress.com> is delightful blog maintained by Neve Rendell.
15229. Allen J. Hubin likely has read more crime fiction than anyone else, alive or dead: his CRIME FICTION IV: A COMPREHENSIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY 1749-2000 has been undated to 2010 and includes 143,200 books, 79,200 stories, and 5,100 movies, and it's a treasure for anyone interested in the genre. He began publishing his bibliography in "The Armchair Detective" (which he launched as a fanzine in 1967) and told the story of his work in a splendid article on "My Life Crime Fiction" in Janet Rudolph's magazine Mystery Scene. You can read the article at the magazine's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/ly8x5xd>. The bibliography is available in a CD edition (\$49.95) from Locus Magazine <www.locusmag.com>. The current (summer) issue of Mystery Scene includes Joseph Goodrich's "Nicholas Meyer: An Appreciation" and Carole Nelson Douglas' "Why Can't They Get Irene Adler Right?" (not available on-line).

July 2013 #3

15230. Catherine Cooke reports that Abbey House, for years the headquarters of the Abbey National Bank, now is the Park View Residence, and it's quite grand <www.parkviewresidence.co.uk>. Its flats are available for rental from Knight Frank <www.tinyurl.com/mjhuolb> at £5,416 to £6,608 per month. Abbey House was the site of the Sherlock Holmes Exhibition during the Festival of Britain in 1951.
15231. Donna Andrews has a continuing series about Meg Langslow (a successful decorative blacksmith and amateur sleuth), all with nicely punned titles (including COCKATIELS AT SEVEN, SOME LIKE IT HAWK, and OWLS WELL THAT ENDS WELL). the 15th title in the series is THE HEN OF THE BASKERVILLES (New York: Minotaur, 2013; 308 pp., \$24.99), in which livestock is stolen from a country fair (the owners aren't really named Baskerville, but many people do think so). There's a murder, and other mysteries, and a Sherlockian allusion or two in the book, which has amusing cover art. The author's at <www.donnaandrews.com>.
15232. Martin Freeman and Benedict Cumberbatch weren't in San Diego to attend Comic-Con, but they sent an amusing 4-minute video in which Cumberbatch revealed how he survived the fall from the roof of Bart's at the end of the second season; it may still be seen at <www.tinyurl.com/p3wehot>. You can also watch Digital Spy's 4-minute video interview with Steven Moffat, Sue Vertue, and Mark Gatiss at <www.tinyurl.com/mfaq6p8>. They were on a panel together, and according to the Los Angeles Times (July 18), they confirmed that there will be a wedding coming up: "Hot off the presses from 110 years ago, John does get married," Moffat said, "We hoped that you wouldn't sneak ahead and read the books." They also explained why Andrew Scott was seen on the set during filming of "The Empty Hearse": Moriarty's in the episode, as a corpse (Gatiss said that "it was cheaper to get Andrew Scott than a mannequin").
15233. Andrew Malec has recommended Stephen J. Gertz's blog Booktryst (subtitled "a nest for book lovers") <www.booktryst.com>; the postings are only occasionally Sherlockian or Doylean, but they're interesting nonetheless.
15234. "Desert Island Discs" has been broadcast by the BBC since 1942: each week distinguished guests are asked to choose eight pieces of music they'd take if they were castaways on a desert island. They also get to choose a book, which occasions Sherlockian allusions by some castaways, who include violinist Itzhak Perlman, the Right Reverend David Jenkins (Bishop of Durham and the guest of honor at the annual dinner of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London), Mark Gatiss, and most recently Beryl Vertue (founder and chairman of Hartswood Films, the company that produces "Sherlock" for the BBC). It is especially nice that there is an on-line archive of more than 1,500 programs at <www.tinyurl.com/6cs8hsp>. Search for [conan doyle] you'll get nine hits.
15235. One of Beryl Vertue's music choices was David Arnold's "SHERlocked" played by the London Session Orchestra; the piece was written for the second season of "Sherlock" and is available on a soundtrack CD and as an MP3 download from on-line booksellers.

July 2013 #4

15236. Andrea Ross has reported an intriguing project carried out by Ariane DeVere (aka Callie Sullivan), who has posted transcripts for all episodes of the BBC "Sherlock" television series at her Live Journal web-site <www.tinyurl.com/oul7sek>. The pilot for the series and the special features from the DVD are included in the transcripts, which will be quite helpful for those who aren't quite sure just what people are saying in the series.
15237. Reggie Musgrave died on June 24. An enthusiastic member of both The Sherlock Holmes Society of London and The Poor Folk Upon the Moor, he was formerly Roger Matthews. Not liking his original name he changed it to that of the character he often impersonated when the Society held its costumed excursions. As far as I know, he's the only person to be that devoted to the Canon).
15238. Jody Baker's the contact for The Friends of a Soldier Named Murray, a Sherlockian society at an assisted-living facility in Chattanooga, Tenn., and he's happy to offer support and assistance to anyone who planning to start such a society elsewhere. He's at <josiahbaker@bkhcw.com>.
15239. Simon Corble's two-act play "The Hound of the Baskervilles" was first performed in an outdoor venue in Britain in 1995, and the script's now available (London: MX Publishing, 2012; 109 pp., £7.99/€8.99/\$10.95); Corble's introduction explains how the play came to be written, and why it differs from the book. It can be interesting indeed to read scripts when you have already read the story.
15240. SHERLOCK HOLMES AND PHILOSOPHY: THE FOOTPRINTS OF A GIGANTIC MIND, edited by Josef Steiff (Chicago: Open Court, 2011; 376 pp., \$19.95), is part of a long series on Popular Culture and Philosophy that presents essays written by academic philosophers about icons of popular culture. Holmes certainly is one of those icons, and the essays explore the stories, pastiches, film, and television.
15241. David Miller's PETER CUSHING: A LIFE IN FILM (London: Titan, 2013; 192 pp., £18.99/\$24.95) is both a biography and a filmography, and it's entertaining and informative, with (of course) discussion of his appearances as Sherlock Holmes and as Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. There's an interesting photograph in the book (page 77) that shows Peter Cushing on the set of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" in 1958 with Stanley Mackenzie (identified only as a member of the Sherlock Holmes Society) and Humphrey Morton (who acted with Cushing in a touring company in "Private Lives" in 1942). Stanley Mackenzie was an enthusiastic collector and stage manager for the Royal Shakespeare Company revival of Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" in 1973, and Morton was the founder and chairman of The Milvertonians of Hampstead.
15242. SHERLOCK HOLMES AND FRANKENSTEIN'S DIARY (Sutton: Severn House, 2013; 183 pp., \$28.95) is the fourth in Barry Grant's series; Sherlock Holmes, frozen in a Swiss glacier for 90 years, has been revived and is again detecting in London, assisted by James Wilson, a correspondent invalided home after an assignment in Afghanistan. This time they're in pursuit of (and under attack from) tabloid king Gerald Gurloch, who seems to be corrupting, blackmailing, or hacking everyone in sight.

July 2013 #5

15243. Jennie Paton has discovered a new (well, new to me) Sherlockian genre: a video of Rebecca van Tassel performing her strip-tease "Elementary My Dear Watson" at India Starr's Cabaret Nouveau in Leicester; the finale is properly (or improperly) S'ian, and there's a 4-minute video is available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/kwef8l2>.
15244. Jennie has found something else new: a surviving print of the one-reel silent film "Burstup Homes' Murder Case" (1913), starring Fraunie Fraunholz in the title role <www.youtube.com/watch?v=RDb16rCGnB8>; you get to watch the first 6 minutes twice, but then the film's complete.
15245. The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times13-7.html>, offering Sherlockian news, and old and new Sherlockiana.
15246. There was a lot of discussion on the Internet about the title of the third episode of the third season of "Sherlock": the title of the first episode is "The Empty Hearse" and the second episode will be "The Sign of Three"; Steven Moffat gave fans a clue for the third episode earlier ("Bow"), and the BBC announced there would be clues planted in reruns of the second season in the U.K. And so there were: the clue in the first episode was the word "HIS"), leading to conclusions about "His Last Bow". A delay in the repeat broadcast of the third episode led the producers to reveal the full title in the second episode: it's "His Last Vow".

15247. Marc Simont died on July 13. He was a noted author, but was best known as an illustrator of children's books; his artwork appeared in nearly a hundred books, and he was a winner of the Caldecott Award and the illustrator of the first 20 titles in Marjorie Weinman Sharmat's "Nate the Great" series about a boy who enthusiastically follows in Sherlock Holmes' footsteps.
15248. SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE NEEDLE'S EYE, by Len Bailey (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2013; 302 pp., \$15.99), is subtitled "The World's Greatest Detective Tackled the Bible's Ultimate Mysteries"; Holmes, Watson, and (for one mystery) Mrs. Hudson time-travel to Biblical times to offer the author's own textual criticism and disputation.
15249. There's nothing Sherlockian about Laurie R. King's TOUCHSTONE (2008), and it's unlikely that there will be anything S'ian about its upcoming sequel THE BONES OF PARIS, but her publicity campaign for the new book includes a thoroughly imaginative and amusing 6-minute video; you can read about the book (and watch the video) at <www.tinyurl.com/ln3eq7z>.
15250. Some of you are accustomed to seeing announcements of meetings of The Red Circle of Washington as part of the newsletter, but (edging into the 21st century) we now have an electronic mailing list, which you are welcome to join; requests to me, please, at <blau7103@comcast.net>.
15251. Since it's summer, there's lots of theater coming up, here and there. The East Haddam Stage Company is presenting "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Speckled Band" (a 30-minute live-action radio drama using the script from William Gillette's 1930 broadcast) at Gillette Castle in East Haddam, Conn., through Aug. 11 <www.tinyurl.com/m43smbm>.

July 2013 #6

15252. Chris Hibbs' play "The Curious Case in the Colony: A Sherlock Holmes Adventure" is being performed in the Newman Wine Vaults, Provincial Historic Site, in St. John's, Newfoundland, through Aug. 18 as part of the Shakespeare by the Sea Festival <www.tinyurl.com/k5qghuu>.
15253. "Sherlock Holmes and the Charleston History Mystery" is an audience-participation parody being performed at the Black Fedora Comedy Mystery Theatre in Charleston, S.C., through Aug. 30 <www.tinyurl.com/mdoasno>.
15254. Two scenes from Greg Oliver Bodine's "A Requiem for Sherlock Holmes" were performed during the William Gillette Luncheon during the birthday festivities, and the complete play was presented at a sold-out staged reading last March; there will be three readings of the latest version of the play, with Paul Singleton starring as Holmes, at the Workshop Theater Company in New York on Aug. 8-10 <www.requiemforsherlockholmes.com>, and reservations are recommended <www.theaterworkshop.org/node/2358> although there's no charge to attend the show.
15255. The Porters of Hellsgate will present Gus Krieger's new two-act play "Sherlock Through the Looking-Glass" (based on the works of Arthur Conan Doyle and Lewis Carroll) at the Whitmore Theatre in North Hollywood, from Aug. 16 to Sept. 22 <www.whitmorelindleytheatrecenter.com>: if you don't find the play at the web-site, the theater's phone number is 818-679-6160).
15256. Broken Holmes Productions will offer Robin Johnson's comedy "Broken Holmes" during the Edinburgh Festival Fringe at the Space on the Mile on Aug. 19-24 <www.brokenholmes.co.uk>.
15257. Ed Lange's play "Sherlock's Secret Life" will be performed at the Barn Community Playhouse <www.tillamooktheater.com> in Tillamook, Ore., from Aug. 30 through Sept. 15.
15258. "Sherlock Holmes--Knight's Gambit" (a new play by Paul Falzone) is scheduled at the Cider Mill Playhouse in Endicott, N.Y., Sept. 19 through Oct. 13 <www.ciderhillplayhouse.org>. And by the Oldcastle Theatre Company in Bennington, Vt., Sept. 27-Oct. 13 <www.oldcastletheatre.org>. And at the Bickford Theatre at the Morris Museum in Morristown, N.J., Oct. 24-Nov. 10 <www.morrismuseum.org>.
15259. William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" is scheduled by the Spotlight Players Theatre Troupe at the Meridian Habitat Community Center in Puyallup, Wash., Sept. 28-Oct. 5 <www.valleyartsunited.org/Spotlight_Players.html>.
15260. Chris Bange's "Sherlock Holmes: The Case of the Hansom Cab Killer" will be performed at The Gladstone in Ottawa on Oct. 15-26 <www.thegladstone.ca>.
15261. And you can plan farther ahead: two Sherlockian plays will be presented by Vertigo Theatre in Calgary next year: Chris Gibbs' "Antoine Feval" on Jan. 15-25, and Clive Francis' dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" from May 10 to June 8 <www.vertigotheatre.com>.

August 2013 #1

15262. Catherine Cooke reports that the Sherlock Holmes Collection has moved from the Marylebone Library to the Westminster Reference Library, and that its new postal address is "Sherlock Holmes Collection (Third Floor), Westminster Reference Library, 35 St. Martin's Street, London WC2H 7HP, England. She has also posted to the "Irregular Observations" blog an amusing account (nicely illustrated) of "The Case of the Leicester Square Furniture Van" at <www.wcclibraries.wordpress.com/category/irregular-observations>.
15263. Spotted by Marsha Pollak: PRACTICAL CLASSICS: 50 REASONS TO REREAD 50 BOOKS YOU HAVEN'T TOUCHED SINCE HIGH SCHOOL, by Kevin Smokler (Amherst: Prometheus Books, 2013; 300 pp., \$18.00); with a 7-page chapter on "The Work/Life Balance of Sherlock Holmes".
15264. "A Triceratops Skull, a Giant Robot, and a Fantastic Flying Machine: Christie's Displays Lots for Out of the Ordinary Sale" read the headline on the Independent's story (Aug. 5) on an auction scheduled in London on Sept. 5. The "fantastic flying machine" is the Waxflatter Ornithopter used in "Young Sherlock Holmes" (1985); it's estimated at £50,000 to £80,000.
15265. Judith Freeman has prepared a useful guide to "How to Start and Run a Sherlockian Group"; available on request <judith-freeman@hotmail.com>.
15266. The Daily Telegraph ran a colorful photograph of a lion's mane jellyfish in a story (July 30) on hundreds of thousands of jellyfish having descended on Britain; the Marine Conservation Society conducts an annual national jellyfish survey, and is asking people to report jellyfish sighting. People are warned, however, that the lion's mane has a powerful sting, and anyone taking part in the survey should look but not touch jellyfish that they see.
15267. The Hungarian Sherlock Holmes Club has discovered an on-line "how to draw" web-site at <www.drawingnow.com> that offers a helpful tutorial on "how to draw Sherlock Holmes" <www.tinyurl.com/mvqcpmu>.
15268. Gayle Lange Puhl's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE FOLK TALE MYSTERIES, published by George Vanderburgh in 2012, is a 192-page collection of imaginative pastiches inspired by children's folk tales and nursery rhymes (plus a Wodehouse pastiche), and with cover and interior art by Gayle. \$25.00 postpaid (signed or inscribed on request), available from Gayle at 501 South Madison Street #12, Evansville, WI 53536.
15269. Frogwares has released a 2-minute trailer for its new computer game "Crimes & Punishments" (the next title in its series of Sherlockian computer games) <www.tinyurl.com/mr258kk>; I have never played any of these games, but the graphics continue to improve, and are now truly spectacular.
15270. Peter G. Ashman ("Peter Steiler, the Elder") died on Aug. 5. He was a lawyer in the Washington area, and a member of The Red Circle, and then a District Court Judge in Alaska, serving rural communities and especially Alaskan Natives. Peter founded The Pawky Humorists in 1974, but unfortunately never was able to complete his projected magnum opus "The Annotated Schlock Homes"; his Investiture was awarded by The Baker Street Irregulars in 1982.

August 2013 #2

15271. Douglas G. Greene has presided over Crippen & Landru for many years, and his recently-updated web-site is well worth a look <www.crippenlandru.com>. He specializes in publishing collections of mystery short stories, often previously uncollected and sometimes previously unpublished, and he offers a treasure trove for those who enjoy the genre. He will soon issue the first edition in English of Balduin Grollers' DAGOBERT, SLEUTH OF OLD VIENNA (1910); Dagobert Trostler was one of "The Rivals of Sherlock Holmes" in the fine 1970s television series that was based on anthologies edited by Hugh Greene.
15272. Les Klinger spotted an advertising campaign by Steimatsky (Israel's largest bookstore chain) with the slogan "The Right Book Will Always Keep You Company" (and needless to say, one of the right books is the Sherlock Holmes stories).
15273. Harry Houdini's A MAGICIAN AMONG THE SPIRITS (1924) included discussion of his relationship with Conan Doyle; Houdini was not satisfied with the book, cut by the publisher to 75,000 words from the nearly 175,000 words that Houdini wrote, and he soon began work on a revised edition that was unfinished when he died in 1926. The 409-page typed manuscript, hand-corrected and signed, was previously owned by magician Milbourne Christopher, and offered at RR Auctions on July 17, estimated at \$40,000-\$50,000, but it went unsold. The manuscript was published in facsimile, edited and introduced by his widow Maurine, in 1996.
15274. The spring issue of For the Sake of the Trust (The Baker Street Irregulars Trust newsletter) celebrates the tenth anniversary of the Trust, with looks back and forward, and an announcement that the newsletter will be available electronically, both at the web-site <www.bsitrust.org> and by e-mail. If you would like to be added to the e-mailing list, you can send a request to <trust221b@gmail.com>.
15275. "Evaline and Mina didn't mean to get into the family business" is the hook for Colleen Gleason's THE CLOCKWORK SCARAB (San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2013; 350 pp., \$17.99), and it's an imaginative proposition: Evaline Holmes is the niece of Sherlock, and Mina Stoker is the sister of Bram, and their adventures are set in a steampunk Victorian London. The book is a youngadult novel aimed at teen-age girls, with romance, villainy, plenty of reasons for a sequel, and a web-site <www.stokerandholmes.com>.
15276. "Click to Play: Web Adaptations of Sherlock Holmes" is the title of a recent essay by Kristina Manente at the Baker Street Babes blog. It's easy enough to see (and sometimes difficult to escape) various television series, but there's an entirely different genre available on the Internet: web series. Kristina's blog <www.tinyurl.com/kpkz3e4> has interesting comment on and links to three current series.

August 2013 #3

15277. The latest issue of the electronic journal Ripperologist notes a BBC report that Ian Brady, convicted Moors Murderer, has told a mental health tribunal that he used "method acting" to be classed insane. Speaking of the media, Brady asked, "Why are they still talking about Jack the Ripper after a century?" His answer was "Because of the dramatic background, the fog, cobbled streets. Mine's the same ... Wuthering Heights, Hound of the Baskervilles." Brady, convicted in 1966, wants to be transferred from a psychiatric hospital to a Scottish prison. For information on how to subscribe to Ripperologist, you can contact editor Eduardo Zinna at <editorez@yahoo.co.uk>.
15278. Reported by Al Gregory: ESTUDIO EN ESCARLATA, a commemorative translation of the story as it appeared in Beeton's Christmas Annual, published last year by Debolsillo in Barcelona (€.95) <www.tinyurl.com/bs7gwlk>.
15279. A bibliographic query received from Nick Utechin: Helan Halbach published a new edition of William Gillette's play "Sherlock Holmes" in 1974, using the original plates for the 1935 edition; according to the 1974 edition's limitation statement, there were 1,000 copies, 250 of them numbered, and some of the copies are thought to have been sold accompanied by an original plate used to produce the new edition. Nick has the plate for page 85 (acquired separately from the book), and a dealer in California is offering a copy of the book with the plate for page 182; plates certainly were made available, although not necessarily with copies of her edition. Nick would like to hear from anyone who has an original plate, and about how the plate was acquired <highfieldfarmhouse@yahoo.co.uk>.
15280. William and Helen Gillette (impersonated by Tyke and Teddie Niver) traveled on the Essex Steam Railway & Riverboat on Aug. 17 and 18, and you can watch a short promotional video at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=6JoawaS3R>.
15281. Jonathan Cranfield and Tom Ue, who presided over an academic conference on "Sherlock Holmes, Past and Present" in London earlier this year, have issued a call for papers for a similar symposium titled "Challenger Unbound" in London on Dec. 9; the symposium will be "dedicated to re-evaluating the narratives, their author, the wider culture that he inhabited, and the legacy of his work for the twentieth and twenty-first centuries." Details are available from <j.l.cranfield@ljmu.ac.uk> and <ue_tom@hotmail.com>.
15282. You still have time to register for Bouchercon 2013 ("A New York State of Mind") in Albany, Sept. 19-22 <www.bcon2013.com>; this is the 44th annual event, named in honor of the late Anthony Boucher, and always a lot of fun. There will be a panel on "And So It Goes: Beyond Doyle and Holmes" (panelists are Terence Faherty, Lyndsay Faye, Les Klinger, and Michael Robertson, moderated by yours truly).
15283. Thomas Wheeler's imaginative interactive map of the London area (June 13 #5) now includes information from Bernard Davies' guidebooks; the map is available at Google Maps Engine <www.tinyurl.com/n2dweuu>, where you can zoom in and out using the icons at the lower right, and navigate with your mouse to see information from Wheeler's THE LONDON OF SHERLOCK HOLMES.

August 2013 #4

15284. Bill Barnes has reported on a new discovery about Conan Doyle's visit to Australia in 1920: his visit to Penfolds Winery near Adelaide. Conan Doyle mentioned visiting a winery in WANDERINGS OF A SPIRITUALIST (writing that his children were "wildly excited over the possibility of concealed snakes") but didn't identify the winery. Members of the Sherlock Holmes Society of South Australia (aka The Unscrupulous Rascals) have identified Penfolds and found a visitor's book with the signatures of Conan Doyle and his wife in the National Museum of Australia in Canberra. The book has been loaned to the South Australian Museum in Adelaide, where there will be champagne reception on Sept. 9. Penfolds still produces excellent wine, including Grange shiraz, Australia's most expensive wine (the 2008 vintage costs AU\$785.00 per bottle).
15285. Carole Nelson Douglas' essay on "Why Can't They Get Irene Adler Right?" is now online at <www.mysteryscenemag.com>, along with other interesting content published in Janet Rudolph's magazine.
15286. Finding excellent Sherlockian books that one can't read easily can be frustrating, but if you're reasonably fluent in Swedish, you'll enjoy Mattias Boström's FRÅN HOLMES TILL SHERLOCK (Stockholm: Pirat Förlaget, 2013; 514 pp., SEK 195). The title translates as FROM HOLMES TO SHERLOCK, and Mattias reports on his research into Conan Doyle, and Sherlock Holmes, early and more recent Sherlockians, Sherlockian societies in various countries, pastiches, and stage, screen, radio, and television, and he's thoroughly up to date, with discussion of Sherlockiana on the Internet Holmes and the BBC's "Sherlock" television series. Readers in other countries will find sources for ordering the book at <www.tinyurl.com/n4jg2pf>.
15287. "Elements of the Elementary" was an exhibition of modern multi-media art at White Lady Art in Dublin this month. There's information about the exhibition at Facebook <www.tinyurl.com/kczpm7w>, and Oscar Ross has noted interesting videos at <www.tinyurl.com/l8sqfoe> and

<www.youtube.com/kl3oy4v>. His web-site for The Crew of the S.S. May Day <www.thessmayday.co.uk> is a fine way to keep up with what's going on in Northern Ireland and elsewhere.

15288. William Gillette's (non-Sherlockian) play "Too Much Johnson" has been made into films in 1919, directed by Donald Crisp, and again in 1938, directed by Orson Welles for a planned Mercury Theatre stage-and-screen production; the play was performed briefly without the film, which has never been seen by the public. A copy of the film was discovered in Italy in 2008 and has been restored, and the film will have its world premiere at the Pordenone Silent Film Festival on Oct. 9, and its U.S. premiere at the George Eastman House in Buffalo on Oct. 16. The restoration was supported by the National Film Preservation Foundation, which hopes to make the film available on the Internet later this year.
15289. Laurie R. King's next (and non-Sherlockian) novel will be THE BONES OF PARIS, a sequel to TOUCHSTONE (2008), and her promotion campaign is underway; details at <www.tinyurl.com/murcwzr>. The launch party will be on Sept. 10 in San Francisco, and then she'll be touring (including Bouchercon in Albany). Laurie has not abandoned Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes, and is now writing the next novel in that series; Russell and Holmes will visit Japan, and there's information about that at <www.laurierking.com>.

August 2013 #5

15290. The Baskerville Hall Club's DÖDEN PÅ EXCELSIOR is a collection of Swedish translations of nine of P. G. Wodehouse's Sherlockian writings, together with interesting contemporary illustrations, a foreword by Bengt Malmberg, and an afterword by Tomas Prenkert; it's available (\$6.00 plus \$5.00 for shipping to the U.S.) from Anders Wiggström (Byggmästarvägen 29, SE-16832 Bromma, Sweden <wiggstrom@telia.com>. Wouldn't it be nice (hint, hint) if a similar collection were available in English?
15291. It's not the Blue Carbuncle, but a 7.59-carat round brilliantcut internally-flawless blue diamond called the "Premier Blue" will be offered at auction by Sotheby's in Hong Kong on Oct. 7; according to a story in the N.Y. Times (Aug. 19) Sotheby's expects the stone to bring about \$19 million, a record per-carat price for any diamond.
15292. Peter Capaldi will be the next Doctor Who, succeeding Matt Smith, who will leave the series at the end of this year. Earlier this year (June 13 #6). Ladbrokes' odds on Benedict Cumberbatch were 6/1 (the odds on Capaldi were 20/1, but rose to 5/1 before the announcement).
15293. You can visit <www.cbs.com/shows/elementary> for official news of the second season of "Elementary" (which premieres on Sept. 26); there are firstlook photographs from filming on location in London, and (at various web-sites) more on-set fan photos.
15294. Aziz Bin Adam has reported a 56-minute speech delivered on July 4, 2011, by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle via trance medium Arthur Kakalani Pacheco at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/ljapt3t>; you can read transcripts of more messages from Conan Doyle at <www.tinyurl.com/lby62xv>.
15295. Aziz also has noted a Comedy Central television series "Drunk History" in which "booze helps bring out the truth of our nation's history," with historical reenactments presented by inebriated storytellers; on Aug. 13 the program included a 3-minute segment on Houdini and Conan Doyle and Spiritualism, which you can watch at <www.tinyurl.com/lIg6gl3>.
15296. Oscar Ross has kindly forwarded the Sherlockology link to the imaginative teaser for the third season of "Sherlock" that aired this month at the end of the BBC repeat of "The Reichenbach Fall" <www.tinyurl.com/mfbbhbh>.
15297. ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: A LIFE IN LETTERS (the excellent annotated collection of letters he wrote to his mother and others) has been discounted to \$4.95 by Edward R. Hamilton <www.tinyurl.com/n3zs49j> for the hardbound edition, and to £0.85 by Bibliophile Books <www.tinyurl.com/klz2mx> for the paperbound edition. Value for money indeed.
15298. VOYAGE OF THE BLUE CARBUNCLE, by Carl L. Heifetz (Denver: Outskirts Press, 2013; 45 pp., \$8.95) is subtitled "journey into a parallel universe," and it's exactly that: an homage to the worlds of Star Trek and Holmes. Commander S. Verner, the chief science officer on the space-exploration ship Clipper, has a blue carbuncle acquired by an ancestor in or about 1899, and it has mysterious powers; there's also an appearance by space pirate Sebastian Moran, a bit of sex, and a successful conclusion.

August 2013 #6

15299. Barry Grant's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE SWEDISH ENIGMA (Sutton: Severn House, 2012; 180 pp., \$27.95) is the third in his series of four novels featuring the original Sherlock Holmes (no longer frozen in a Swiss glacier) and his modern-day assistant James Wilson; there is more Wilson than Holmes (just as Holmes wasn't on hand for much of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES), with two mysteries to be solved; a gigantic hound (not at all supernatural) makes a brief appearance.
15300. Snoo Wilson died on July 3. He was an anarchic playwright in the vanguard of British theater from the end of the 1970s onward; earlier he is reported to have worked on a script for the Royal Shakespeare Company revival of Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" (1974), and then he wrote two plays about Conan Doyle: "In Defence of Fairies" (1997) starred Simon Callow, and "Moonshine" (1999) featured Robin Soans in the same role.
15301. The Norwegian Explorers and Sherlock Holmes Collections' conference "Sherlock Holmes Through Time and Space" in Minneapolis was thoroughly successful, with 156 people on hand for the festivities (plan ahead for the next conference in the summer of 2016). The St. Paul Pioneer Press had a nice article (Aug. 12) about the gathering <www.tinyurl.com/l6vflnv> with a link to an audio recording of the Red-Throated League's performance of the Edith Meiser script for "Sherlock Holmes and the Monster of Gyre" (1944) as a radio play. The Minnesota library's "Continuum" interviewed Les Klinger during the conference, and posted a 6-minute video <www.tinyurl.com/kq3ujnf> at their web-site.
15302. One of the souvenirs of the conference was J. RANDOLPH COX: A SHERLOCKIAN FESTSCHRIFT, a 137-page book nicely edited by Philip Bergen, with tributes to and writings by Randy, a long-time member of the Explorers. It's available from Phil (3829 172nd Avenue NW, Andover, MN 55304); \$13.00 postpaid.
15303. And if you'd like to see what you missed, Mike McCoy digitized and posted the 16-page conference program <www.twl.sh/174FdNC>.
15304. Barbara Mertz died on Aug. 8. She was an Egyptologist and a prolific writer, with many series in print; better known as Elizabeth Peters and Barbara Michaels, she once joked that "Peters supplies me with a comfortable living, Michaels buys me lily ponds and gazebos." She acknowledged that her Elizabeth Peters series about Amelia Peabody Emerson owed much to the Canon, and as Barbara Michaels she wrote OTHER WORLDS (1999), a novel in which Frank Podmore, Nandor Fodor, Harry Houdini, and Arthur Conan Doyle suggest (and briefly debate) possible solutions to two unsolved ghostly 19th-century mysteries.
15305. The Bay Area Sherlock Con (June 13 #6) featured a panel with Mike Kean, Randall Stock, and Marsha Pollak, and the Nerdophiles blog had a long article about the event <www.tinyurl.com/lboz6uq>.
15306. There's an intriguing 4-minute trailer for the new "Sherlock Holmes" series due soon on Russian television, and it may or may not be available at You-Tube <www.tinyurl.com/mu36nxk>. If this link has been taken down, you may still be able to find it the trailer, since it comes and goes. The series stars Igor Petrenko as Holmes, and Andrei Panin as Watson.

August 2013 #7

15307. Imagine Sherlock Holmes applying for a license as a private detective. The BBC reported (July 31) that Britain's Home Office has announced that it wants to "ensure rigorous standards" in an industry where "rogue investigators" have been infringing privacy. Private investigators will be required to be licensed by the Security Industry Authority beginning in the autumn of 2014.
15308. If you're seeking an excuse to watch the colorized version of Basil Rathbone's "The Woman in Green" (1945), it was on "Classic Movies with Ron McCloskey" on Aug. 1 on Edison TV (New Jersey) with a four-segment interview with Al Gregory <www.tinyurl.com/k7czbbp>.
15309. "The Arthur Conan Doyle Experience" was a display of drawings and paintings from the scrapbook kept by Charles Altamont Doyle at the Arthur Conan Doyle Centre in Edinburgh, which also is the home of the Edinburgh Association of Spiritualists <www.25palmerstonplace.com>. The Edinburgh Evening News had an article about the exhibit on Aug. 9 <www.tinyurl.com/l2uxf8s>.
15310. David Marcum's THE PAPERS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, published earlier with nine pastiches (November 12 #4) is again available (edited and revised) from MX Publishing in two volumes (£9.99/€12.99/\$16.95 each); Volume I (194 pp.) has six pastiches and Volume II (200 pp.) has three. Holmes and Watson visit Tennessee (where the author lives), and solve cases in England, with one of story explaining a family connection between Holmes and Solar Pons. There will be a book launch for both volumes at the Sherlock Holmes Plaza Hotel in Baker Street in London on Sept. 26; the author will be on hand for a Q&A session <www.eventbrite.co.uk/event/7835495177>, and other authors as well.
15311. Also from MX Publishing: Mike Hogan's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE MURDER AT THE SAVOY AND OTHER STORIES (2013; 213 pp., same prices); five stories, with a bit of Gilbert & Sullivan, and with Holmes challenged to a duel, arrested for murder, and brought in to solve a mystery at Windsor Castle (not all in the same story).
15312. Al Gregory found a Wooster Sherlock Frame at Home Depot, and it might be of interest to fans of Sherlock Holmes as well as Bertie Wooster. Or not: it is a professional paint roller frame, widely available at hardware stores and on the Internet; if you'd like to see just how professional it is, you can watch a 4-minute video at <www.tinyurl.com/kmc9juo>.
15313. The Epilogues of Sherlock Holmes and the Turf Builders of Baker Street have organized their third "no frills" version of The Silver Blaze on Sept. 21 at Monmouth Park in Long Branch, N.J. Additional information is available from Peter McIntyre (732-765-1240) <psipete@optonline.net> or Kate Karlson (607-669-4653) <kkarlson@stny.rr.com>
15314. The Arthur Conan Doyle/Sherlock Holmes Symposium at the Newberry Library in Chicago on Oct. 12, starting at 9:30 am, is open to the public with no admission charge, and will feature David Spadafore (president of the library) on "Working with the Kittle Collection", Jon Lellenberg on "A. Conan Doyle: A Nineteenth-Century Man", and a team from Exhibits Design Group on "Recreating Sherlock Holmes' World" for the exhibition opening soon in Portland; more information at <www.newberry.org/programs-and-events>.

August 2013 #8

15315. There was a panel about "Sherlock" at Comic-Con International in San Diego on July 18, with Mark Gatiss, Steven Moffat, and Sue Vertue, with video at YouTube <www.youtube.com>; search for [comic-con 2013 sherlock heidi] to find all three parts of the video. There also was a less-official "Nerd HQ" conversation with the trio; there's a 57-minute video at <www.tinyurl.com/kgrrmm3q>.
15316. Reported: Margarlit Fox, in her THE RIDDLE OF THE LABYRINTH: THE QUEST TO CRACK AN ANCIENT CODE (New York: Ecco, 2013; 384 pp., \$27.99), uses Conan Doyle's dancing men to explain principles of cryptographic analysis.
15317. Elizabeth Shipe's new play "Sherlock Holmes and the Final Vow" will be performed by the Milwaukee Entertainment Group at the Brumder Mansion in Milwaukee from Sept. 20 to Oct. 13 <www.milwaukeeentertainmentgroup.com>.
15318. Ken Ludwig's Edgar Award-winning comedy-mystery-thriller "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" will be produced at the Meadow Brook Theatre in Rochester, Mich., Oct. 2-27 <www.mbtheatre.com>. And at the Houghton Hall in Northport Village, N.Y., Oct. 25-Nov. 2, 2014 <www.minstrelplayers.org>.
15319. "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (the parody by Steven Canny and John Nicholson) will be presented by Bad Dog Productions at the Newton Cultural Centre in Surrey, B.C., on Oct. 23-31 <www.baskervilles.org>.
15320. Katie Forgette's "Sherlock Holmes and the Jersey Lily" will be performed at the Waterloo Community Playhouse in Waterloo, Iowa, from Oct. 25 to Nov. 2 <www.wcpbhct.org>.
15321. The East Lynne Theater Company will perform a radio-play version of "The Norwood Builder" (dramatized by Gayle Stalhuth) on Nov. 4-5, 2011, and Mar. 16-17, 2012.
15322. Theatre Mill will present Max Gee's new adaptation of "The Speckled Band" at the Treasurer's House in York on Nov. 14-24 <www.theatre-mill.co.uk>.
15323. The Florida Repertory Theatre in Fort Myers will present "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (the excellent parody by Steven Canny and John Nicholson) on Feb. 11-Mar. 5 <www.floridarep.org>.
15324. The Encore Stage & Studio will present Craig Sodaro's play "The Secret Case of Sherlock Holmes" at the Thomas Jefferson Community Theatre in Arlington, Va., Feb. 28-Mar. 9 <www.encorestage.org>.
15325. The "International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes" will open at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry in Portland on Oct. 10 and runs through Jan. 5; tickets will go on sale at <www.oms.edu> on Sept. 5. Galleries in the exhibition will include recreations of Conan Doyle's study and the sittingroom at 221B Baker Street, interactive displays of science and history and on becoming a detective, and exhibits devoted to displaying the culture of Sherlock Holmes <www.sherlockholmesexhibition.com>.

September 2013 #1

15326. The first volume of Les Klinger's THE NEW ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES is now available as an e-book in various formats, including Kindle and Nook, and the second and third volumes presumably will follow, making things easier for those who don't want to lug the print editions around with them. But not much cheaper: the Kindle version costs \$25.14, and version for the Nook \$22.99. You can read all about it at <www.lesliesklinger.com> (the second volume of the short stories is coming soon).
15327. Sorry about that: here's a repeat of the item about the Frogwares computer game (August 13 #1) with the correct URL: Frogwares has released a two-minute trailer for its new computer game "Crimes & Punishments" (the next title in its series of Sherlockian computer games) <www.youtube.com/mr258kk>; I have never played any of these games, but the graphics continue to improve, and are now truly spectacular.
15328. And the video of Tyke and Teddie Niver impersonating the Gillettes (August 13 #3) was taken down from the web-site before the end of August.
15329. Kent Ross reports that "The Ambience & Residents on Baker Street" will be the theme of the next "Gathering of Southern Sherlockians" in Chattanooga, Tenn., on Apr. 27-27, 2014; Kent (721 Hartford Road, Springfield, OH 45503) (678-464-8321) <kenthross@gmail.com> maintains the mailing list.

15330. All eight of Carole Nelson Douglas' novels about Irene Adler and Sherlock Holmes are now available as e-books, and with readers' guides. The titles are GOOD NIGHT, MR. HOLMES; THE ADVENTRESS [GOOD MORNING, IRENE]; A SOUL OF STEEL [IRENE AT LARGE]; ANOTHER SCANDAL IN BOHEMIA [IRENE'S LAST WALTZ]; CHAPEL NOIR; CASTLE ROUGE; FEMME FATALE; AND SPIDER DANCE.
15331. J. Wright has noted Sherlock's Mystery Dinner Theatre in Columbus, Ga. <www.sherlockscolumbus.com>; they don't seem to have any Sherlockian plays in their repertoire, but there's S'ian artwork in their logo.
15332. Declan Hughes' dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" was broadcast by RTÉ Radio (Irish Republic) in two one-hour parts on Oct. 24 and 31, 2010, with Robert O'Mahoney as Holmes and Owen Roe as Watson. You can find two web-sites where you can buy downloads by searching for [declan hughes baskervilles].
15333. Thomas F. Hanratty's THE SINGULAR ADVENTURE OF CHARLES GOODFOOTE (Charleston: CreateSpace, 2012; 292 pp., \$13.46) is subtitled "a thrilling tale of a perilous escapade set in the old west," and it's that with bells on; it also features a young Sherlock Holmes, who's in the U.S. to help Pinkerton agent Goodfoote pursue a villain, and who learns quite a bit from Goodfoote during the pursuit.
15334. "Lost Land of the Volcano" (a three-part series broadcast by BBC-1 on Sept. 8-22, 2009) featured Mount Bosavi in New Guinea, where an expedition discovered a giant rat. The series is available in segments at YouTube, and you can see the Bosavi giant rat in two segments: <www.tinyurl.com/ln4m5bz> and <www.tinyurl.com/mf9ows6>.

September 2013 #2

15335. There are two versions of the set of DVDs for the first season of the CBS series "Elementary": the six-disk set available from Amazon and elsewhere (\$27.99) and a seven-disk set available only from Target (also \$27.99). The seventh disk has bonus additional features: "Elementary" Supersized; CBS Launch Promo: Behind the Scenes; Photo Montage; and Actor Biographies.
15336. Jerry Margolin is offering original art that shows five actors who have played Sherlock Holmes by artist SanJulian (\$1500); go to <www.tinyurl.com/nxkuu7q> to see a much better (and larger) image, and you can contact Jerry at <221bee@comcast.net>.
15337. Stuart Palmer was a member of The Baker Street Irregulars (his amusing essay "The I-O-U of Hildegard Withers" ran in The Baker Street Journal (Jan. 1948), discussing the great debt that Hildegard Withers owed to Sherlock Holmes). Otto Penzler's Mysterious Press is reissuing Palmer's work as e-books, and 17 titles are available (some about Withers and some not) <www.tinyurl.com/mdw334r>. The web-site has some interesting links, among them "In Search of the Classic Mystery Novel" (which last month reviewed A STUDY IN SCARLET).
15338. Susan Dahlinger noted a report in The Bookseller (Nov. 30) that A. P. Watt, the world's first literary agency (founded in 1875), has been acquired by United Agents; Arthur Conan Doyle was a client of Watt for many years.
15339. "Before Sherlock: The Novel Art of Detection" is an event scheduled at the Old Swan Hotel in Harrowgate on Oct. 27 <www.tinyurl.com/pnfwvfr>; the list of speakers includes Nick Rennison, author of SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE UNAUTHORIZED BIOGRAPHY (2005) and Robert Ryan, author of the pastiche DEAD MAN'S LAND (2013).
15340. Wilfrid de Freitas is selling material from Don Redmond's collection; you can ask Wilfrid for a sales-list <wilfrid@defreitasbooks.com>.
15341. Douglas Kerr's CONAN DOYLE: WRITING, PROFESSION, AND PRACTICE (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013; 273 pp., \$55.00) suggests that "Arthur Conan Doyle was, arguably, Britain's last national writer," an intriguing concept that is explored in six sections: Sport, Medicine, Science, Law and Order, Army and Empire, and Spirits. Kerr is knowledgeable and interesting, and offers informed insights into Conan Doyle's life and career.
15342. It can be interesting indeed when people you know only as names in credits turn out to be famous, or infamous, or sometimes both, as is the case with Harry Alan Towers: MR. TOWERS OF LONDON: A LIFE IN SHOW BUSINESS (Albany: BearManor Media, 2013; 157 pp., \$19.95) is his autobiography (subtitled "a life in show business"). Sherlockians may remember him as the producer of the 1954 radio series that starred John Gielgud, Ralph Richardson, and Orson Welles, the and two films in the 1992 television mini-series "The Golden Years of Sherlock Holmes" with Christopher Lee and Patrick Macnee, and as writer and producer of the 1994 television mini-series "The Lost World" starring John Rhys-Davies as Challenger. Towers knew and worked with just about everyone in the business during six-decades career, and tells enjoyable stories about them.

September 2013 #3

15343. "Sherlock Holmes and the Stolen Emerald" had its world premiere at a theater in London in June; the delightful 6-minute silent comedy was written by Céline Terranova and funded by an IndieGoGo campaign; you can see the promotion for the campaign at <www.tinyurl.com/ml67b8t> and see trailers for the film and the sequel at <www.stolenemerald.com>, where you can also order a DVD or a download of the film.
15344. The blurb reads: "A desolate moor, a diabolical dog in need of a muzzle, and some inbred locals; Sherlock Holmes is really up against it," from imprint Pulp! The Classics for their new edition of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (Harpden: Oldcastle Books, 2013; 192 pp., £5.99). They reissue classics with new covers in a pulp fiction style, with a dash of wry humor," in this case with a cover showing Rathbone and Bruce, and a promise of "Murder...Mystery...Walkies."
15345. Further to the mathematics behind "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadow" (February 12 #4), Alain Goriely and Derek E. Moulton wrote about their work for Warner Bros. in the Apr. 2012 issue of SIAM News (the Newsjournal of the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics) <www.tinyurl.com/l6ub8gs>.
15346. Turns out that Rebecca van Tassel (July 13 #5) is only one of the Sherlockian strippers at YouTube: Lauren Langley has uploaded the 9-minute "A Study in Pink: A Sherlock Holmes Burlesque" at <www.tinyurl.com/5r2ncv>.
15347. For admirers of Dr. John H. Watson: "Before speaking of present day English writers, I must first pay tribute to Conan Doyle, the pioneer of detective writing, with his two great creations Sherlock Holmes and Watson---Watson perhaps the greater creation of the two. Holmes after all has his properties, his violin, his dressing gown, his cocaine, etc., whereas Watson has just himself--lovable, obtuse, faithful, maddening, guaranteed to be always wrong, and perpetually in a state of admiration! How badly we all need a Watson in our lives!" Agatha Christie, in her article "Detective Writers in England" (written in 1945 at the request of the Ministry of Information for publication in a Russian magazine), published in English for the first time as the Preface to a new edition of the Detective Club's collaborative novel ASK A POLICEMAN (London: Harper, 2013; 312 pp., £7.99); the novel was first published in 1933.
15348. Hartley Nathan appeared (with deerstalker, pipe, and magnifying glass) on the cover of the September issue of Canadian Lawyer Magazine, and (together with Cliff Goldfarb) in an article "The Penang Lawyer" reporting on their Sherlockian and lawyerly work <www.tinyurl.com/nl8t7yv>.
15349. A fine example of what can be done with Internet technology is an interactive map for "The Bruce Partington Plans" (reported by Diane Gilbert Madsen) <www.mapbox.com/tutorial-sherlock>.

15350. "The Many Faces of Sherlock" will be the theme for the next "Saturday with Sherlock Holmes" at the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore from 10:00 to 1:00 on Nov. 2; the event is sponsored by the local Sherlockian societies, the library is at 400 Cathedral Street, and there is no charge to attend. You can see the flier at <www.tinyurl.com/lvrcl9v>.

September 2013 #4

15351. There have been many changes in London since the time of Sherlock Holmes, including the skyline: a 37-story skyscraper under being built at 20 Fenchurch Street is reflecting sunlight at such intense levels that cars are being melted. For more about what's being called the "solar death ray" just run a Google search for [walkie talkie tower].
15352. There hasn't been a really good dog toy for Sherlockians (and Sherlockian dogs) since "The Hound of the Baskervilles by A Collie Dog" (February 89 #5), but a "Zombie Foot Dog Toy" certainly ought to qualify; it's made by GAMAGO (\$9.99) and is available at Amazon and elsewhere. The label carries the warning "Not a Toy" (but with an image of a baby, suggesting that the company feels babies need more protection than pets).
15353. The admirers of Brigadier General Sir Harry Flashman VC, whose papers were edited by George MacDonald Fraser, may be shocked to discover that Flashman "was nothing more than a Paris-based remittance man and a plagiarizing fraud," according to the writings of Captain Jasper Speedicut, whose papers have been found and are being edited by Christopher Joll. THE SPEEDICUT PAPERS: BOOK 1 (1821-1848): FLASHMAN'S SECRET (Bloomington: AuthorHouse, 2013; 290 pp., \$31.70/£23.47) was reported by John Baesch as reviewed in The Times on Apr. 1 by Thomas Arnold (if you're worried about the date of the review, it may help that the book is available from Amazon and Barnes & Noble). Speedicut's web-site is at <www.tinyurl.com/nyr3lfu>.
15354. "Sherlock Holmes Nevében" [In the Name of Sherlock Holmes"] is a Hungarian film that premiered in 2011 (February 13 #2); it will have its British premiere (with English subtitles) on Oct. 12 during the Cinemagic International Film & Television Festival for Young People in Belfast. There's a trailer (also with subtitles) at <www.youtube.com/watch?V=H_pUCQ_lg8> and a web-site for the film at <www.sherlockfilm.hu>.
15355. News from the Toronto Film Festival: the next project for Bill Condon (director of the new Wikileaks movie "Fifth Estate") will be "A Slight Trick of the Mind" with Ian McKellen as a retired Sherlock Holmes, and a screenplay by Jeffrey Hatcher based on Mitch Cullin's novel (April 05 #2), and BBC Films is a co-producer. Hatcher wrote "The Duchess" (2008), in which Keira Knightly starred as Georgina, Fifth Duchess of Devonshire. If you'd like to see what McKellen looked like playing Sherlock Holmes in 2002, there is an image at <img-www.theonering.net/images/170302-snlmckellen30.jpg> showing him in the "Hot Air Balloon Mystery Theater" skit that aired on Saturday Night Live" on Mar. 16, 2002.
15356. Scott Monty has announced that his long-running "The Baker Street Blog" is merging with his web-site "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" (the last official post to the blog was on Aug. 28); you can read his announcement about the merger at <www.tinyurl.com/ktsqnpq>. "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" was founded as a podcast in 2005 and has become far more than that; it is now billed as "News and Information About Sherlock Holmes in Popular Culture," and that's just what it is (the only word missing from the description is "Timely"). Scott and his contributors do an excellent job of making interested news and commentary available on the Internet.
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September 2013 #5

15357. John Baesch has forwarded a report in the Daily Telegraph (Apr. 4) on the campaign by the South Norwood Tourist Board to rename one of its two lakes Conan Doyle Lake; the board also want South Norwood to be declared the true Lake District, on the grounds that its great literary hero is far more popular than Wordsworth.
15358. John also spotted a report in The Times (June 17) that the Policy Exchange think tank closing 30 of Britain's best-known but run-down prisons, including Dartmoor in Princetown, selling them to developers, and replacing them with huge prison "justice villages" holding up to 3,000 inmates.
15359. "Great myths turn on simple pairs," Adam Gopnik wrote in the Sept. 9 issue of The New Yorker, "God and Lucifer, Sun and Moon, Jerry and George-- and so an author who makes a vital duo is rewarded with a long-lived audience. No one in 1900 would have thought it possible that a century later more people would read Conan Doyle's Holmes and Watson stories than anything of George Meredith's, but we do."
15360. "Cocktail Party Physics" is the Scientific American blog by Jennifer Oullette, who discussed "Sherlock Holmes and the Dynamics of an Asteroid" (Aug. 27) with particular attention to the film "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows" <www.tinyurl.com/mua6bjm>.
15361. Further to the bibliographic query (August 13 #3) about the plates that were used to produce Helan Halbach's edition of Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" in 1974, Nick Utechin has heard from a few people who own plates (Rudy Faist, Jim Vogelsang, Bob Hess, and the dealer 221Books, has located nine plates (including his own). Nick will report in more detail on his discoveries in the Baker Street Journal, but there are many more of the book's 191 plates to be found in other hands; he's at <highfieldfarmhouse@yahoo.co.uk>.
15362. "Elementary, My Dear Holmes!" is a new computer game under development by Victory Square Games after a successful Kickstarter campaign that wound up raising more than \$50,000 from on-line contributors; you can read about the game, and the campaign, at <www.tinyurl.com/mvwwpaw>.
15363. David Frost died on Aug. 31. He was a British journalist and broadcaster, perhaps best known for his groundbreaking interview with former president Nixon. Frost skyrocketed to renown as the host of the BBC television series "That Was the Week That Was" in 1962-1963; this caricature by Nicolas Bentley, published in the Sunday Telegraph, show Holmes and Watson examining Frost, presumably hoping to determine the reason for his rise to fame. The original artwork may still be available from dealer Peter Harrington (£400) <www.tinyurl.com/nzyzor9>.
15364. John Cox is "wild about harry" (that's the name of his blog, which is all about Harry Houdini. Cox has blogged about the Houdini/Conan Doyle segment that was broadcast on "Drunk History" last month (August 13 #5), with a nice photograph showing the two families relaxing on the beach in Atlantic City in 1922 <www.tinyurl.com/l13qqmh>. He also has reported that the History channel has greenlit a four-hour Houdini mini-series, with Adrien Brody as Houdini and a script written by Nicholas Meyer <www.tinyurl.com/lrw9285>.
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September 2013 #6

15365. Plan well ahead: the Wessex Press has announced "From Gillette to Brett IV: Basil, Benedict, and Beyond" at Indiana University in Bloomington on Sept. 12-14, 2014 <www.wessexpress.com/html/g2b4.html>. Steve Doyle and Mark Gagen have attracted enthusiastic audiences for their past three conferences; the web-site has a link to show you what went on at the third one in 2011.
15366. Fans of Benedict Cumberbatch and "Sherlock" will welcome Lynnette Porter's BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH: IN TRANSITION (London: MX Publishing, 2013; 347 pp., £12.99/€14.99/\$18.95; subtitled as "an unauthorized performance biography," the book is an informative and carefully-researched discussion of all his work as an actor, and his relationship with his fandom, which includes both Sherlockology <www.sherlockology.com> (for the series) and Cumberbatchweb <www.benedictcumberbatch.co.uk> (for the actor). The 412 sourcenotes demonstrate the depth of the research, and the results are interesting indeed.
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15367. THE DISAPPEARANCE OF MR. JAMES PHILLIMORE, by Dan Andriacco (MX Publishing, 2013; 240 pp., £9.99/€12.99/\$16.95) is the fourth book in his series about Jeff Cody (in London for the second half of a honeymoon) and Sebastian McCabe (in London to debate Holmes-vs-Poe); there are two Phillimores (one of them Canonical and one quite modern), more than two murders, and some interesting sleuthing. The author's entertaining (and Sherlockian) blog is at <www.bakerstreetbeat.blogspot.com>.
15368. Andriacco also is the co-author (with Kieran McMullen) of MX Publishing's THE AMATEUR EXECUTIONER (2013; 175 pp., £7.99/€8.99/\$11.95), which is set in London in 1920 and features American reporter Enoch Hale, Wiggins (now a Chief Inspector in Scotland Yard), various literary and political figures, and Holmes, Watson, and others familiar from the Canon. There's a series of murders, and plenty of mystery.
15369. Matthew J. Elliott has written scripts for Sherlockian radio, some reprinted last year in SHERLOCK HOLMES ON THE AIR (February 12 #4), and pastiches; six atmospheric pastiches, first published in S'ian magazines and anthologies, have been collected in SHERLOCK HOLMES IN PURSUIT (MX Publishing, 2013; 182 pp., £7.99/€8.99/\$12.95).
15370. More from MX Publishing: Fred Thursfield's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE MYSTERY WRITER (2013; 196 pp., £8.99/€10.99/\$14.95); the story is set in 1920 and told by Watson's widow Mary, and involves her mystery-writer friend, both Holmes brothers, and World War skulduggery. Ross K. Foad's HOLMES IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS (2013; 161 pp., £7.99/€8.99/\$12.95) has Sherlock and Mycroft Holmes and Irene Adler solving a series of Christmas murders: it's a print version of a seven-part video produced by the author, available at YouTube (search for the title).
15371. Foad has created much more than his Christmas story, and has written about it all in MX Publishing's THE STORY AND SCRIPTS BEHIND NO PLACE LIKE HOLMES (2013; 231 pp., £9.99/€12.99/\$16.95): his web-site <www.nplh.co.uk> offers links to all his videos, as well as (click on "More") to the Howard Ostrom Holmes and Watson Collection, showing the results of his 30 years of collecting autographs of the people who have portrayed them on stage, screen, radio, television, and in other media.

September 2013 #7

15372. Brad Keefauver has kept his promise to stop updating his "Sherlock Peoria" web-site (April 12 #1), which is still available at <www.sherlockpeoria.net> if you want to explore its archives, but "Sherlock Peoria" continues as a blog <sherlockpeoria.blogspot.com>, where Brad continues to report on topics that range from "Plan 221 from Outer Spice" to "Irene Adler in a pile of naked ladies".
15373. The Waxflatter Ornithopter used in "Young Sherlock Holmes" (1985) was estimated at £50,000 to £80,000 last month at Christie's (August 13 #1), and the final price was £55,875 (which includes the buyer's premium); the Triceratops skull sold for £193,875.
15374. The John H. Watson Society has announced the names of winners of its First Annual Treasure Hunt (June 13 #6): the Open Team competition was won by the Sound of the Baskervilles (of Seattle) with a perfect score, and the Open Individual competition by Denny Dobry with 98 out of a possible 100. You can find details at the society's web-site <www.johnhwatsonociety.com> and see the questions and answers; the questions for the Second Annual Treasure Hunt will be posted on May 1 (the contest will end on May 31).
15375. The DVD set for "Sherlock: Season Three" has already been listed at Amazon <www.tinyurl.com/q563yzt>, where you can pre-order the set (for \$23.99) and read amusing comments ("Amazon, Thou Hast Forsaken the Fangirls" and "What a Twist!") by reviewers.
15376. PBS-TV's two-hour special on "How Sherlock Holmes Changed the World" (February 24 #2) will air in two parts on Nov. 19 and 26. The program "will reveal for the first time the astonishing impact that Holmes has had on the development of real criminal investigation and criminal techniques," and there's more information about the program at <www.tinyurl.com/bc282lr>.
15377. "The Baskerville Beast" is a British musical written by Teddy Hayes, first performed in 2004, and a script and full musical score are now available to amateur theatrical groups. There's more information, including a 3-minute video trailer at their web-site <www.thebaskervillebeast.co.uk>.
15378. There was a charity auction on eBay (benefiting Kidscape) last month offering naming rights in Anthony Horowitz's sequel to "House of Silk" (which is due next year); there were 49 bids and the winning bid was £3,700 (about \$5,723); that ensured that winner's character will meet Sherlock Holmes (a bid of more than £5,000 would have gotten the character killed off). But: one should note that in an interview with The Sunday Times (Mar. 24) Horowitz said that he has given up writing about Sherlock Holmes, and that the sequel won't have Holmes in it ("it is quite a dark thriller set after the supposed death of Sherlock Holmes at the Reichenbach Falls). In an interview in the Observer (Sept. 14) Horowitz said that "Sometimes you just have to rewrite a book: the new Sherlock Holmes novel wasn't working, so 42,000 words in I'm back to the beginning."
15379. Oscar Ross has noted a Lego recreation of the sitting-room at 221B at the Lego CUUSOO web-site <www.tinyurl.com/nlb5a8a>. CUUSOO is a Japanese partner of the Lego Group ("cuusoo" reported means "wish" in Japanese), and you can search the web-site for [sherlock] to see some other interesting work.

September 2013 #8

15380. With regard to Les Klinger's lawsuit against the Arthur Conan Doyle Estate (June 13 #6), asking a federal court to rule that the characters of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. John H. Watson are not protected by federal copyright laws, and that writers, filmmakers, and others can use the characters in new stories without paying license fees to the owners of the remaining copyright on the stories, the Estate has filed to oppose the motion, and Les has filed his response. All the documents in the case (and many of the reports in the press) are available at <www.free-sherlock.com>.
15381. Y CYLTH BRITH is the newest addition to the list of foreign languages into which a Sherlock Holmes story has been translated; it's "The Speckled Band" in Welsh, and the translation, arranged by The Deerstalkers of Welshpool, was featured by BBC News Mid Wales on Aug. 31. The report (and some audio of a bit of the story read in Welsh) is at <www.tinyurl.com/owuvtj3>, and you can order the pamphlet (£6.00 plus shipping) from Roy Upton-Holder, the head of the Welsh society <ruptonholder@onetel.com>.
15382. And as usual there's no shortage of Sherlockian dramatics, old and new:
15383. Brandon Palmer's new play "Sherlock Holmes and the Whitechapel Murders" is being performed by the Byers-Evans House Theatre Company in Denver through Oct. 12 (303-620-4933).
15384. Jeffrey Hatcher's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club" is being performed at the Fort Gordon Dinner Theatre in Fort Gordon, Ga., through Oct. 12 <www.fortgordon.com/theatre/php>.
15385. "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (the fine parody by Steven Canny and John Nicholson) is being presented by the Theater Project at the Burgdoff Center in Maplewood, N.J., through Oct. 13 <www.thetheaterproject.org>.
15386. Charles Marowitz's "Sherlock's Last Case" can be seen the Ankeny Community Theatre in Ankeny, Iowa, Oct. 4-20 <www.ankenycommunitytheatre.com>. And at the Fountain Hills Theater Mainstage in Fountain Hills, Ariz., Oct. 25-Nov. 10 <www.fhtaz.org>.
15387. John DeGaetano's "Sherlock Holmes 10 Minute Plays" will be at the Leicester Square Theatre in London, Oct. 2-5 <www.leicesterquaretheatre.com> and at the Kings Head Theatre in Islington, Oct. 8-12 <www.kingsheadtheatre.org>. The author's web-site is at <www.johndegaetanoproductions.com>, and there's a book with nine plays available at Amazon and elsewhere, and some videos at YouTube.

15388. Ken Ludwig's Edgar Award-winning comedy-mystery-thriller "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" can be seen at the Summit Playhouse in Summit, N.J., Nov. 1-16 <www.summitplayhouse.org>.
15389. Theatre Mill will present Max Gee's new adaptation of "The Speckled Band" at the Treasurer's House in York, Nov. 14-24, and at Ripley Castle in Harrogate, Nov. 26-28 <www.theatre-mill.co.uk>.
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October 2013 #1

15390. Nick Utechin has noted evidence that the debate over whether the Sherlock Holmes stories qualify as literature has ended, at least according to The Times, whose recent (Sept. 17) "quick guide to everything you should know about culture" includes 25 books "that changed the course of literature." The chronological list starts with THE ILIAD and goes on to include A STUDY IN SCARLET.
15391. Don Libey's THE BIOGRAPHY AND AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Santa Rosa: Campbell & Lewis, 2013; 238 pp., \$17.00) offers both Mycroft's MY BROTHER, SHERLOCK and Sherlock's MONTAGUE NOTATIONS (September 12 #5). Just as Sherlock Holmes showed that there's a great deal of invention in Watson's writings, Mycroft Holmes explains that his brother is similarly unreliable.
15392. Bouchercon 2013 in Albany was enjoyable, including the Sherlockian panel. Bouchercon 2014 ("Murder at the Beach" will be held in Long Beach, Nov. 13-16; Bouchercon 2015 (no title yet) in Raleigh, N.C., Oct. 8-11; Bouchercon 2016 ("Down in New Orleans") in New Orleans, Sept. 15-18; Bouchercon 2017 ("Passport to Murder") in Toronto, Oct. 12-15; and Bouchercon 2018 ("Crime in the Sunshine") in Saint Petersburg, Sept. 13-16.
15393. "A Stout Heart in the Great Cesspool: Arthur Conan Doyle in London" was the title of an interesting lecture given by Richard Burnip at Gresham College on July 2, 2012, part of a series on "Literary London Crime"; thanks to the wonders of modern technology, there's audio, video and a transcript available at <www.tinyurl.com/n8vgbq5>.
15394. "Sherlock Phone-Box Shrine Desecrated" was the eye-catching headline on the story on the Londonist web-site (Sept. 14) that "one of London's most cherished fan sites has been stripped bare" <www.tinyurl.com/ol552o7>. The fan site is red phone box outside St. Bart's Hospital, where fans of "Sherlock" left cards, ribbons, graffiti, and other mementos after Holmes jumped from the roof of the hospital at the end of the second series. A "cultural vandal" removed most of the messages, according to the story, and "the naked phone box is bereft of its individuality" (one assumes that it wasn't naked for very long).
15395. D. A. Joy's MURDER IN WHITECHAPEL: THE ADVENTURE OF THE POST MORTEM KNIFE (Domnall Publishing, 2013; 481 pp., \$15.25) has Holmes and Watson solving the mystery of Jack the Ripper, and includes retellings (with some differences from the Canon) of the end of "The Greek Interpreter" as well as four other recorded and unrecorded cases from the time of the Ripper.
15396. The results of Howard Ostrom's investigation of the first Sherlockian movie that actually was filmed ("Sherlock Holmes Baffled" was created to be shown on Mutoscopes) have been published at the Baker Street Babes' web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/msg89lg>; the film in question is "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (or Held for a Ransom)", released by Vitagraph in 1905. Filmographers have long tended to rely on earlier filmographers, and there's a lengthy list of film resources that identify Maurice Costello as the actor who play Holmes; Howard explaining in detail why it couldn't have been Costello, and suggests who the actor really was.
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October 2013 #2

15397. There's nothing truly Sherlockian in Mark Leibovich's dishy new book THIS TOWN, but nevertheless there's a connection: Roxanne Roberts and Amy Argetzinger had an item about the book in their column "The Reliable Source" in the Washington Post <www.tinyurl.com/onqddsp> mentioning his account of a book party Tammy Haddad hosted for the son of Michelle Obama's chief of staff Susan Sher. The host actually was Jill Biden, and the party was at the official home of vice president Joe Biden; the book's author was Susan Sher's son Graham Moore, and his book was THE SHERLOCKIAN (November 10 #8). Roberts and Argetzinger's earlier item on the book party can be found at <www.tinyurl.com/oskb6gf>. There's more about the party, and the book, and the author, at his web-site <www.thesherlockian.com>.
15398. The Museum of London's major exhibition on Sherlock Holmes (July 13 #2) will open on Oct. 14, 2014, and close on Apr. 12, 2015; there's a web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/mp263ux>.
15399. Further to the item (June 13 #7) about Radio Spirits <www.radiospirits.com>, the company offers two sets of CDs of particular interest, each with program notes by Bill Nadel: "The New Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (16 programs starring Tom Conway and Nigel Bruce) and "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (16 programs starring John Gielgud and Ralph Richardson (at \$31.95 each)).
15400. John Moffatt died on Sept. 12, 2012. He had a long career as an actor, on stage, screen, radio, and television; in the 1980s he was a member of the BBC's Radio Drama Company, and played both Holmes (in "Sherlock Holmes vs. Dracula" in 1981) and Watson (with Roy Marsden in a series written by Grant Eustace, and with Dinsdale Landen in "Sherlock's Last Case" all in 1987).
15401. Oscar Ross spotted a British web-site maintained by Penny Golightly, whose motto is ("who cares if we're broke, let's have fun anyway"), and has provided some helpful hints on a "221B Baker Street Makeover on a Budget with Argos" <www.tinyurl.com/m5jfggb> for anyone who wants to decorate a living room in the style of the sitting room seen in the BBC's "Sherlock" television series (Argos is a British on-line shopping web-site).
15402. Anthony Hinds died on Sept. 30. He had a long career in the film business, and in the 1950s was one of the founders of Hammer Films. He was the producer of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1959), and he also dramatized the story as a three-act play performed by the Steeple Aston Players in 1982.
15403. Pierre Decourcelle adapted William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" as a fiveact play performed in Paris in 1907 (the fifth act was provided by Decourcelle); if you'd like to see (or download) the television film "Une aventure de Sherlock Holmes" based on the play (as broadcast by ORTF in 1967), it is available at <www.ina.fr>, along with other interesting Sherlockian and Doylean video.
15404. PBS-TV's two-hour special on "How Sherlock Holmes Changed the World" aired on the National Geographic channel in Britain on Oct. 8, giving Holmesians a leg up on Sherlockians, who won't see the program until it airs on PBS-TV in the U.S. in two parts on Nov. 19 and 26. There's more information about the program at <www.tinyurl.com/bc282lr>.
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October 2013 #3

15405. The "Knickerbocker Classics" (from Race Point Publishing) now includes THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES, clothbound and in a slip case, with an insightful (as might be expected) foreword written by Daniel Stashower (2013; 1,200 pp., \$35.00/£20.00). Dan says he's very pleased to be able to give his two boys an edition of the Canon that has a foreword by their old man.
15406. TeeFury is an interesting retailer: their T-shirt designs are available for only one day <www.teefury.com>. "The Science of Deduction" (with artwork by Megan Lara) was sold on Sept. 16. You can vote to bring designs back, but of course you need to visit the web-site daily to find out if the design's available again. Or you can go to her web-site <www.tinyurl.com/Inssnk9> and buy the design on clothing or as a print or stickers.
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15407. Bryan Talbot, a well-known British comic-book artist, has designed the colorful new Sherlock Holmes Society of London Christmas Card. Packets of ten cards cost £7.50 postpaid to the U.K., £8.50 to Europe, and £12.00/\$20.00 to the U.S.; details at the Society web-site <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk>.
15408. You can see more of his artwork at his web-site <www.bryan-talbot.com>.
15409. "There is as much sense in Hafiz as in Horace, and as much knowledge of the world," Sherlock Holmes said (in "A Case of Identity"). Michael Dirda gave high marks to *FACES OF LOVE: HAFEZ AND THE POETS OF SHIRAZ*, translated from the Persian by Dick Davis (2013) in a review in the *Washington Post* (Sept. 18) <www.tinyurl.com/o4aknw7>. And yes, there's more than one way to spell the name of the 13th-century poet.
15410. It's always nice when long-lost Sherlockian films are discovered, and even nicer when they're made available on DVD, as is the case with "Der Hund von Baskerville" (1914); it's a German silent film, directed by Rudolf Meinert, with Alwin Neuss as Holmes. It's available, or soon will be, with English subtitles, from Editions Filmmuseum <www.edition-filmmuseum.com>.
15411. Ruth Berman has reported Eleanor Arnason's science-fiction pastiche "Holmes Sherlock: A Hwarhath Mystery" available on-line <www.tinyurl.com/kdxphwd> and reprinted in Gardner Dozois' anthology *THE 30TH ANNUAL YEAR'S BEST SCIENCE FICTION* (St. Martin's Press, 2013); the Hwarhath first appeared in her novel *RING OF SWORDS* (1993), and she has written a series of stories about them.
15412. If you'd like to see what a splendid copy of the first British edition of *THE LOST WORLD* in dust jacket looks like, go to <www.tinyurl.com/mstucyu>; it went to auction at Swann Galleries in New York on June 20, estimated at \$6,000-9,000, and it sold for \$22,800 (including the buyer's premium).
15413. The Speckled Band of Boston will present a special event, open to the public, on Nov. 15 at Harvard University in Cambridge: there will be a sherry reception at the Houghton Library and a viewing of treasures from the H. W. Bell Speckled Band Collection, cocktails and dinner at the Harvard Faculty Club, and a presentation by Daniel Posnansky on "Frederic Dorr Steele, The Baker Street Irregulars, and Vincent Starrett: A Perfect Storm". More information is available from Richard Olken <speckledband@comcast.net>.

October 2013 #4

15414. Irene's Cabinet is the annual anthology edited by Beth Austin for Watson's Tin Box, and this year's issue (62 pp.) offers an interesting mix of Sherlockian and Doylean poetry and prose, including Andrew Vetsch's amusing analysis of the Cumberbatch/Freeman "The Blind Banker", Andrew L. Solberg's thoughts about the future of the S'ian world, and Jisoo Choi's winning essay for this year's Clarkson Prize, named in honor of the late Steve Clarkson and sponsored by the society for seventh-graders in Howard County, Md. The cost is \$15.00 postpaid, from Beth Austin (9455 Chadburn Place, Gaithersburg, MD 20886).
15415. Catching up: John O'Connell's *THE BASKERVILLE LEGACY* (February 11 #6) also has a trade paperback edition as *BASKERVILLES: THE MYSTERIOUS TALE OF SHERLOCK'S RETURN* (London: Short Books, 2012; 190 pp., £7.99) (New York: Marble Arch, 2013; 190 pp., \$16.00); it's an extremely fictionalized account of how Conan Doyle and Fletcher Robinson wrote *HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES*.
15416. The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's *The Sherlockian E-Times* will be found at <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times13-10.html>, offering Sherlockian news, commentary, and discussion.
15417. Compliments and congratulation to retired Court of Appeals Judge Albert M. Rosenblatt: on Sept. 26 the Dutchess County Courthouse was dedicated in his honor. Al served as Dutchess County assistant district attorney, district attorney, and county judge from 1964 to 1981, and then in the state judiciary and on the Court of Appeals until he retired in 2006.
15418. Anyone interested in Canonical birds will welcome Phil Attwell's report of the "Tweet of the Day" on BBC Radio 4. You can hear (and hear about) more than a hundred British birds, including a cormorant, a storm petrel, and a ringed plover <www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b01s6xyk>.
15419. The "International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes" (August 13 #8) opened at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry in Portland on Oct. 10, and closes on Jan. 5; there's a colorful web-site at <www.sherlockholmesexhibition.com>. The exhibition is scheduled next at the Center of Science and Industry in Columbus, Ohio, opening on Feb. 6 and closing on Sept. 8. There was a 3-minute report on KOIN-TV on Oct. 9 <www.tinyurl.com/kfh9u36> (Conan Doyle's great-grand-nephew Richard Doyle was on hand to open the exhibition).
15420. The summer issue of *The Magic Door* (the newsletter published by The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) has its focus on Donald Redmond, whose personal papers have been donated to the Collection: Chris Redmond writes about his father's work on the Library's "Bigelow Index" (he also indexed *The Baker Street Journal* for many years), and Peggy Perdue describes his work in and for the Collection. Copies of the newsletter are available from Clifford S. Goldfarb, 22 Markdale Avenue, Toronto, ON M6C, 1T1, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.
15421. Further to the item (September 13 #5) on the campaign by the South Norwood Tourist Board to name a local lake in honor of Conan Doyle, the board now proposes the name Lake Conan (keeping the tradition of giving lakes one-word names) <www.southnorwoodtouristboard.com>, but has opened a poll to allow you to vote on various names <www.micropoll.com/a/mpview/1143074-3806016>.

October 2013 #5

15422. "How Benedict Cumberbatch and Alan Turing Helped a Writer Find Success in Hollywood" was the title on a long report by E. A. Hanks on *Buzzfeed* (Sept. 27) <www.tinyurl.com/ktagu5a>, noted by Samantha Wolov. The writer is Graham Moore, author of the pastiche *THE SHERLOCKIAN* (2010), and the screenplay is for the film "The Imitation Game" (due next year, starring Cumberbatch as Turing).
15423. The late Robert Joynt wrote five pastiches published in *Neurology*, and an unfinished sixth pastiche was found on his computer, and there's now a contest to complete the story (the deadline is Nov. 11). Details and the text can be found at <www.neurology.org/content/81/11/1018.full>, with links to the first five stories.
15424. It's probably merely a coincidence, but many viewers of the first episode of the second season of CBS-TV's "Elementary" noted that one of the commercials also was briefly Sherlockian <www.tinyurl.com/k5cl2hb>; for those who haven't read "The Second Stain" (or don't remember the story), Eduardo Lucas was the secret agent found murdered in his flat in Godolphin Street.
15425. Jack Tracy, when he died in 1996, left behind many frustrated customers, as well as a wealth of interesting stories; many of those stories can be found in Phil Dematteis' "The Strange Life and Death of Jack Tracy" (a paper Phil delivered at a recent meeting of The Hansom Wheels and available at their web-site) <www.hansomwheels.com>.
15426. Ales Kolodrubec has posted a nice tribute to John Bennett Shaw at the web-site of the Ceska spolecnost Sherlock Holmese, on the occasion of the centenary of John's birth on Oct. 10, 2013 <www.tinyurl.com/lve5qvo>. If you aren't fluent in Czech can read it in English (thanks to Google Translate) at <www.tinyurl.com/mv5gwgu>.
15427. Benedict Cumberbatch was on the cover of *Time* magazine (Oct. 28), but only on the cover of the international edition. Concerned "about what it says for feminism," he no longer refers to his female fans as Cumberbitches, suggesting that "Cumberbabes might be better". He was inside the U.S.

edition, but not the cover. Radio Times provided its readers with a 1-minute video of the shoot <www.tinyurl.com/nl7xulu>, and there's much more about him at <www.benedictcumberbatch.co.uk>.

15428. If you're wondering what Time magazine thought was more important for its domestic edition, the cover showed "The United States of Texas" (by way of highlighting a long story on "Why Texas Is Our Future" that was subtitled "It's not an accident that three of the five fastest-growing cities are in Texas. It's more like destiny.")
15429. HOUNDS OF THE BASKERVILLES: FROM DEMON DOGS TO SHERLOCK HOLMES (New Brunswick: Global Communications, 2012; 273 pp., \$17.06.) is edited by Timothy Green Beckley, who says he is "a friend of all things weird and unknown," and explains that "since an early his life has more or less revolved around the paranormal." The book includes accounts of phantom black dogs in Britain, Canada, the United States, and other countries; a reprint of the story by Conan Doyle, and other related material.
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October 2013 #6

15430. Sherlock Holmes' 159th birthday will be celebrated on Friday, Jan. 17, with the traditional festivities in New York, but the first formal event will be The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes' ASH Wednesday dinner starting at 6:30 pm at O'Casey's (22 East 41st Street); attendees pay their own checks, but you should let Susan Rice (125 Washington Place #2-E, New York, NY 10014) <susan221bee@gmail.com> or Evy Herzog (301 Warren Avenue #203, Baltimore, MD 21230) <herzogbaesch@aol.com> know if you are coming to the event.
15431. The Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Speaker Lecture begins at 6:15 pm on the 2nd floor of the Midtown Executive Club (at 40 West 45th Street); the speaker will be James O'Brien, author of THE SCIENTIFIC SHERLOCK HOLMES (2012); his book won an Edgar (best critical/biographical) from the Mystery Writers of America. The lecture will cost \$11.00; seating is limited, and you should reserve early (details below); tickets will not be sold at the door.
15432. The Baker Street Babes' "Daintiest Thing Under a Bonnet Charity Ball" will start at 8:00 pm at The Players (16 Gramercy Park South), offering appetizers, live music, toasts, a costume competition, prizes, and an auction; the cost is \$35.00, and the proceeds will benefit the Wounded Warriors Project (last year's event raised nearly \$3,000 for the project). More information be posted soon at <www.bakerstreetbabes.com>.
15433. Otto Penzler's traditional open house on Friday from 11:00 to 5:00 at the Mysterious Bookshop, at 58 Warren Street (between West Broadway and Church Street) in Tribeca; the 1, 2, and 3 trains stop at the Chambers Street station (one block from the shop). If you get lost, the bookshop's telephone number is 212-587-1011.
15434. The William Gillette Memorial Luncheon starts at noon, at Moran's Chelsea Seafood Restaurant at 146 Tenth Avenue (at 19th Street), with entertainment (an original presentation) provided by the Friends of Bogie's; the cost is \$47.00 for chicken or salmon (\$52.00 for prime rib). Send checks to Susan Rice (125 Washington Place #2-E, New York, NY 10014) <susan221b@gmail.com>.
15435. The Baker Street Irregulars will gather at 6:00 pm at the Yale Club at 50 Vanderbilt Avenue (across the street and just north of Grand Central Station); attendance is by invitation only. The Gaslight Gala (which is open to all Sherlockians and their friends) will provide dinner and entertainment at 6:30 pm at the Manhattan Club (201 West 52nd Street at Seventh Avenue); details are available from Becky Robare (111 North 9th Street #300, Philadelphia, PA 10107 (917-817-1608) <robareowl@gmail.com>.
15436. Space is limited at the William Gillette Luncheon and at the Gaslight Gala, and early reservations are advised if you wish to attend these events.
15437. If you want to send seasonal souvenirs or other mementos to be included in the various dinner packets you should send 175 copies (for the BSI) to Al Gregory (118 South Prospect Street, Verona, NJ 07044), 100 copies (for the Gaslight Gala) to Carol Fish (Box 4, Circleville, NY 10919), and 18 copies (for The Women) to Mary Ann Bradley (7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278); your material must be mailed to arrive by Dec. 16.
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October 2013 #7

15438. On Saturday a wide range of Sherlockiana will be available from vendors in the Merchants Room (Covent Garden West) in the Vanderbilt Suite (on the second floor of the Roosevelt Hotel at 45 East 45th Street) from 9:00 am to noon; you can contact Ralph Hall (2906 Wallingford Court, Louisville, KY 40218) (502-491-3148) <bugmanhall@aol.com> for information about dealers' tables.
15439. The Beacon Society's annual meeting will be at 10:00 am in the York Suite at the Roosevelt Hotel, where they will present their annual Beacon Award recognizing individuals' efforts to introduce Sherlock Holmes to young people; details are at their web-site <www.beaconsociety.com>. The Clients of Adrian Mulliner will hold a Junior Bloodstain, also in the York Suite, at 11:15 am, with Wodehousean entertainment.
15440. The Baker Street Irregulars' annual reception, open to all Sherlockians and their friends, will be held from 1:30 to 4:30 in the second-floor lounge at the Yale Club at 50 Vanderbilt Avenue (across the street and just north of Grand Central Station); there will be a cocktail-party buffet and an open bar (wine, beer, juice, and soft drinks), and the usual (perhaps unusual) entertainment; the cost is \$69.00 (details below) or \$79.00 after Nov. 29 or at the door.
15441. For those who wish to continue partying, there are as yet no plans (firm or infirm) for sporting events at Kennedy's or other venues on Saturday evening; stay tuned (as they say) for a further report.
15442. The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes will hold their informal buffet brunch on Sunday, from 11:30 am until "the last egg is exterminated" at Harley's Smoke Shack and BBQ at 356 West 44th Street (between Eighth and Ninth Avenues); \$20.00 payable by cash or check at the door. The brunch is open to all, but reservations are requested; details about a fine way to end a long weekend are available from Lyndsay Faye (450 West 162nd Street #25-E, New York, NY 10032) <lyndsayfaye@hotmail.com>.
15443. Arrangements have been made for a block of rooms at the Roosevelt Hotel (45 East 45th Street) at a special tax-free rate of \$189.00 per night (single or double room); the special rate is available only for reservations made through the Baker Street Irregulars by Nov. 22. Guest cards for the Club's second-floor lounge are available to all Sherlockians.
15444. And here are the details: if you've not already received Mike Whelan's announcement and reservation form (including prices) for the Roosevelt Hotel and the Yale Club, the Thursday lecture, and the Saturday reception, visit the Baker Street Journal web-site <www.bakerstreetjournal.com> after Nov. 8 and click on BSI Weekend, or contact Mary Ann Bradley <mabmfw@aol.com>.
15445. Other hotels offer reasonable (as defined by New York landlords) rates, but it's a mark of the 21st century that the best offers are to be found on the Internet, at web-sites such as <www.priceline.com>, <www.tripadvisor.com>, <www.travelocity.com>, <www.expedia.com>, and <www.hotels.com>; you will be wise then to check the hotel's web-site and ask for the best rate (do keep in mind that there are non-optional extras such as almost 20% in state and city taxes).
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October 2012 #8

15446. The Dr. John H. Watson Fund offers financial assistance to all Sherlockians (membership in the BSI is not required) who might otherwise not be able to participate in the weekend's festivities. A carefully pseudonymous John H. Watson presides over the fund and welcomes contributions, which can

be made by check payable to John H. Watson and sent (without return address on the envelope) to Dr. Watson, care of The Baker Street Irregulars, at 7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278; your letters are forwarded unopened, and Dr. Watson will acknowledge your generosity.

Requests for assistance should also be mailed (quickly) to Dr. Watson at the same address.

15447. And if you can't remember where you put your copy of all of this, detailed information about the birthday festivities is available on the Internet at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>. News about additional events will be found in next month's issue of this newsletter.
15448. Howard Ostrom and Ray Wilcockson have a well-illustrated article on "Voices from the Darkness: A Look at African-American Sherlock Holmes" available at Ross K. Foad's "No Place Like Holmes" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/kpa28ad>, and it's not just Sherlock-Holmes: they start with Conan Doyle's campaign against what he called "The Crime of the Congo" and his invitation to referee the heavyweight contest between Jim Jeffries and Jack Johnson, and includes detailed coverage of films, television, records, and Internet video.
15449. Save the date: Marcus Geisser reports that there will be a conference honoring Conan Doyle's visits to Davos (in Switzerland) on Sept. 26-28, 2014. Save another date: the Baker Street Irregulars Trust will sponsor a conference at Harvard University on June 5-7, 2015, focusing on the bibliophilic aspects of Sherlock Holmes and Arthur Conan Doyle, with the possibility of field trips to Boston and Vermont. Save still another date: the BSI will hold a conference celebrating Sherlock Holmes and the Arts in mid-September 2016 at the Chautauqua Institution in far southwestern New York state. Details on all of these will be reported when they're available.
15450. Those who pursue the Canon in other languages will welcome a first Klingon translation: "The Blue Carbuncle" (Minneapolis: 221T Press, 2013; 31 pp., \$13.74); the translation's by Bing, with assistance from Karen Ellery, and you can order from Lulu <www.tinyurl.com/mtspvkt>.
15451. Madeleine George's new play "The (Curious Case of the) Watson Intelligence" will be produced at the Playwrights Horizons Mainstage Theater in New York, Nov. 17-Dec. 29 <www.playwrightshorizons.org>; this Watson is "trusty sidekick to Sherlock Holmes, loyal engineer who built Bell's first telephone, unstoppable super-computer that became reigning "Jeopardy!" champ, and amiable techno-deweeb who, in the present day is looking for love." There's a five-minute video about the play's background at <www.tinyurl.com/phd7ahv>.
15452. Finally, nicely in time for holiday hinting (or shopping), Randall Stock's annual informative nominations for "the best Sherlock Holmes books and DVDs of the year" is on-line at <www.bestofsherlock.com/sherlock-gifts.htm>.

November 2013 #1

15453. There's more information about the birthday festivities in New York in January: The Gaslight Gala (open to all Sherlockians and their friends) has a new venue: The Dover Parlour (228 Thompson Street, located between Bleeker and West 3rd Streets in Greenwich Village); the event will run from 7:00 to 11:00 pm on Friday, with a cost of \$105 for dinner, entertainment, and open bar (discounted to \$75 for people younger than 21). Details are available from Becky Robare (111 North 9th Street #300, Philadelphia, PA 10107 (917-817-1608) <robareowl@gmail.com>.
15454. Saturday-morning visitors to the Merchants Room (Covent Garden West) will be able to buy books (some signed or inscribed) from the collection of the late Ted Schulz, with proceeds kindly donated by Vinnie Brosnan to the Baker Street Irregulars Trust. The books will be on sale at Bob Hess' table.
15455. Chrys Kegley of The Curious Collectors of Baker Street will host The Very Irregular Lost in New York with a Bunch of Sherlockians Dinner on Saturday at 6:00 pm at O'Lunney's Times Square Pub (145 West 45th Street, between Sixth and Seventh Avenues); \$47.00 (including tax and tip) and the details are available from Chrys (18014 Sherman Way #275, Reseda, CA 91235) (818-675-5399) <ckegley@socal.rr.com>.
15456. It's not quite a birthday-festivities event, but everyone surely will want to be home in time to watch the U.S. premiere of the third season of "Sherlock" on PBS-TV on Jan. 19. The first episode will of course reveal just how Benedict Cumberbatch survived his fall from the roof of St. Bart's.
15457. There's an exhibition on "Edgar Allan Poe: Terror of the Soul" at the Morgan Library (225 Madison Avenue at 36th Street) that includes some of the authors he influenced, one of them being Conan Doyle, who's represented by the first page of the manuscript of Chapter XI of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (on loan from the Berg Collection of the N.Y. Public Library). Also on display is a copy of Poe's "Tamerlane" with a mention of the article "Have You a Tamerlane in Your Attic" (but Greg Darak reports, without mention of the author of the article: Vincent Starrett).
15458. MC Black suggests that anyone coming to London for the annual dinner of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London (on Jan. 11) may be interested in one of his Detective Walks. He offers a discounted price of £5.00 to readers of this newsletter, and he's at <mcb@detectivewalks.co.uk>.
15459. Tina Rhea spotted a report on Chironius challenger, a newly-named species of snake that was found at Maringma Tepui in the Pakamaraima Mountains on the Guyana-Brazil border. The species was named by Philippe J. R. Kok in 2010 in honor of Professor Challenger, and you can read all about it at the Reptile Database <www.tinyurl.com/lbrpu6>.
15460. It's not Sherlockian, but here's your chance to see Christopher Lee, accompanied by sexy back-up dancers and a goblin, singing about booze in an effort to corrupt an alcoholic super-hero into falling off the wagon. It's a clip from an Australian musical comedy "The Return of Captain Invincible" (1983), kindly made available by Dread Central <www.tinyurl.com/mth3vr3>.

November 2013 #2

15461. Benedict Cumberbatch continues to be busy: he'll play Lt. Col. Percival Fawcett in the film "The Lost City of Z" (based on the book by David Grann). Fawcett spent many years trying to find a lost civilization hidden in the Matto Grosso in Brazil, and on his last expedition, in 1925, he vanished, never to be heard from again. He met Conan Doyle in 1910, and you can read more about them in THE ANNOTATED LOST WORLD, by Roy Pilot and Alvin Rodin (1996): they quote from Fawcett's memoirs EXPLORATION FAWCETT (eventually published in 1953). He was in London to lecture about his exploration of the Ricardo Franco Hills, and later wrote: "They stood like a lost world, forested to their tops ... So thought Conan Doyle when later in London I spoke of these hills and showed photographs of them! He mentioned an idea for a novel on Central South America and asked for information, which I told him I should be glad to supply. The fruit of it was his 'Lost World'."
15462. Gerald N. Wachs ("Sir James Saunders") died on Nov. 8. Jerry was a dermatologist who presided over the annual recertification examination of The Sir James Saunders Society (the professional society for Sherlockian dermatologists), co-author of the definitive bibliography of Tom Stoppard, and a collector whose interests ranged from 19th-century English poetry to Sherlockian lapel pins. He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1995.
15463. Further to the mention of the Canadian one-hour television series "Murdoch Mysteries" (June 13 #1), it's now available in the United States on the Ovation channel as "The Artful Detective". It's nicely done, set in Toronto in the 1890s, and stars Yannick Bisson as Inspector Murdoch. Geraint Wyn Davies has appeared as Arthur Conan Doyle in four episodes ("Elementary, My Dear Murdoch", "Belly Speaker", "A Study in Sherlock", and "Return of Sherlock"), with the last two also featuring Andrew Gower as a man who claims that he is Sherlock Holmes.

15464. Tim Federle's *TEQUILA MOCKINGBIRD: COCKTAILS WITH A LITERARY TWIST* (Philadelphia: Running Press, 2013; 148 pp., \$15.00) contains atmospheric illustrations by Lauren Mortimer and amusing instructions and recipes for cocktails such as "The Blizzard of Oz", "The Malted Falcon", and "Romeo and Julep", and "The Adventures of Sherbet Holmes" (which combines berry sherbet, Champagne, ginger ale, and blueberries).
15465. *SHAATJ!* That's "Sherlock Holmes and All That Jazz" (now under the auspices of The Sherlockians by Invitation Only Society), and there will be an extravaganza held in Davenport, Iowa, birthplace of Dixieland great Bix Beiderbecke, in July or August 2014. If you would like to be on their mailing list, contact Donald B. Izban (1012 Rene Court, Park Ridge, IL 60068).
15466. Jim Weiss continues to offer his excellent recordings for younger audiences and has added *THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES* to his list (\$13.95 on CD). It is nicely done, as are his earlier *SHERLOCK HOLMES FOR CHILDREN* ("The Mazarin Stone"/"The Speckled Band"/"The Musgrave Ritual"/"The Blue Carbuncle") and *MYSTERY! MYSTERY!* ("The Red-Headed League" and tales by Chesterton and Poe); you can listen to samples at his web-site <www.greathall.com>. There are many non-Sherlockian tales in his catalog (Greathall Productions, Box 5061, Charlottesville, VA 22905 (800-477-6234)).
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November 2013 #3

15467. "Sherlock Holmes in Brentwood" (the new play-reading series curated and introduced by Les Klinger) was launched earlier this year with Conan Doyle's "The Speckled Band" (February 13 #3), and will continue with Bonnie MacBird's dramatization of "The Blue Carbuncle" at the Contrapuntal Performance Hall in Brentwood (Los Angeles) on Dec. 8. Details at their web-site <www.sherlockholmesinbrentwood.com>.
15468. Barbara Hicks died on Sept. 6. She had a long career on stage, screen, and television in supporting roles, not all of them serious (her obituaries in the British press noted that Mel Brooks considered her the funniest woman he had ever met). She also played Emily Garrideb in Granada's "The Mazarin Stone" (1994).
15469. Ann Treneman's *FINDING THE PLOT: 100 GRAVES TO VISIT BEFORE YOU DIE* (London: Robson Press, 2013; 307 pp., £12.00/\$16.99) offers a delightful tour of what she calls the "dead interesting" inhabitants of British graveyards, including Conan Doyle (the cover photographs show her at his grave-site); her essays are informative and interesting, and her choices range from the famous to the infamous, from the well known to those who ought to be.
15470. If you remember Cliff Notes and Monarch Notes (happily used for many years by pre-Internet students), you won't be surprised that there now are Mojo Notes <www.watchmojo.com>, noted by Andrew Vetsch. Their book videos include "The Hound of the Baskervilles" <www.tinyurl.com/k8x928l>.
15471. Alan Rettig has reported on his visit to Moriarty, N.M. (which now proudly calls itself "the crossroads of opportunity"); the city has a web-site, at <www.cityofmoriarty.org>, but the Frontier Saloon has vanished, and there isn't even an historical plaque honoring the site of the Moriarty Memorial Manure Pile invented by John Bennett Shaw. What the town does have (and this would surely please John) is the Sierra Blanca Brewing Company, which has a web-site <www.sierrablancabrewery.com> and craft beer that "is brewed in the wild west and is out of this world!" (according to the company, not Alan). But Alan did try a bottle of Rodeo Cold lager, right off the line, and describes as a very good lager from a most charming brewery.
15472. Don Pollock has reported that the Easton Press has announced a new edition of *THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES* <www.tinyurl.com/kg4n27s>; leather-bound, with new illustrations by Matthew Stewart, signed by the artist, and limited to 1,200 copies (\$267.00).
15473. The manuscript of "The Marriage of the Brigadier" has been added to the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library; it's the last of the stories he wrote about the Brigadier Etienne Gerard, and the manuscript was one of many Conan Doyle manuscripts owned by William Randolph Hearst. Randall Stock offers more information about the manuscript at his "Best of Sherlock" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/mo37d9m>.
15474. There's a short list of actors who have played Sherlock Holmes and who also have played actors who have played Sherlock Holmes. One of them is Christopher Plummer, who starred as John Barrymore in "Barrymore" (which ran for more than seven months on Broadway in 1997). The play was filmed in 2011, and it will air on "Great Performances" on PBS-TV on Jan. 31.
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November 2013 #4

15475. Matt Laffey offers all sorts of Sherlockian comment and information at his "Always 1895" web-site, including an interesting discussion of "The Secret of Sherlock Holmes" (the play written by Jeremy Paul for Jeremy Brett and Edward Hardwicke <www.tinyurl.com/kehjv6p>. Look for the link (in the first paragraph) to an audio recording of the play, as performed by Brett and Hardwicke.
15476. *SHERLOCK HOLMES VS. DRACULA* (1978) was Loren D. Estleman's first Sherlockian pastiche, and he has now edited the anthology *SONS OF MORIARTY AND MORE STORIES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* (Blue Ash: Tyrus Books, 2013; 207 pp., \$24.99), which includes his own title novella and reprints of seven fine older pastiches by others ranging from Arthur Conan Doyle (1896) to Lenore Carroll (2002).
15477. Otto Penzler has edited *THE BIG BOOK OF CHRISTMAS MYSTERIES* (New York: Vintage Crime/Black Lizard, 2013; 672 pp., \$25.00); it's billed on the cover as "the most complete collection of Yuletide whodunits ever assembled," and it contains 60 stories, five of them Sherlockian. One of them (of course) is "The Blue Carbuncle" with others by Peter Todd, S. C. Roberts, Edward D. Hoch, and Gillian Linscott.
15478. The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's *The Sherlockian E-Times* will be found at <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times13-10.html>, offering Sherlockian news, commentary, and discussion.
15479. "Nova: Cold Case JFK" aired on PBS-TV on Nov. 13, examining whether modern forensic science can uncover fresh clues about the assassination of President Kennedy; Greg Darak reports that at the end of the program one of the investigators says, "if you rule out that which is impossible, that which remains, no matter how seemingly improbable, is the truth." There was no mention of the source of the quote, and it's possible that it's now getting to be part of cultural literacy (things people are expected to know), along with "Moriarty" and "the dog in the night-time" (often seen now without any mention of Sherlock Holmes). You may still be able to view the program online at <www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/tech/cold-case-jfk.html>.
15480. "Willkommen to Reichenbach Hall" is the motto of Reichenbach Hall, noted by Will Walsh at 5 West 37th Street in New York <www.reichenbachhall.com>. He has not yet found anything Sherlockian on the menu, but is investigating.
15481. The two-hour special on "How Sherlock Changed the World" aired on the National Geographic channel in Britain on Oct. 8, and it will be broadcast by PBS in the U.S. on Dec. 17 (delayed from the November dates that were originally announced). You can go to <www.tinyurl.com/bc282lr> for more information about the program.
15482. The Crime Writers' Association (the British equivalent of the Mystery Writers of America) is celebrating its 60th anniversary and has polled its members to determine the Best Ever Crime Writer: the winner was Agatha Christie (Conan Doyle came in second). Christie's *THE MURDER OF ROGER ACKROYD* won as Best Ever Crime Novel (*THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES* came in third, behind Christie's *MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS*). "Sherlock Holmes" did win as The Best Ever Crime Series.
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November 2013 #5

15483. Alexander Orlov reports that the new Russian "Sherlock Holmes" series, with Igor Petrenko as Holmes and Andrei Panin as Watson, premiered his month. You can see many of the episodes [look for the (approximately) 90-minute links] at <www.tinyurl.com/ovo9nmv>; it's all in Russian, of course, but one hopes that when the series is released on DVDs there will be subtitles in English. The programs may also be available at YouTube. The episodes were broadcast in Russia in two parts, each 45 minutes, four days a week (Monday through Thursday), which explains why they are so quickly on the Internet.
15484. Rebecca Eaton has presided over the PBS/WGBH "Masterpiece" series for more than 25 years, and she has many excellent stories to tell in MAKING MASTERPIECE (New York: Viking, 2013; 300 pp., \$29.95); her memoirs cover both her life and her career as an Emmy award-winning producer (of "Masterpiece Theatre" and "Mystery!"), and her behind-the-scenes stories, Sherlockian and otherwise, are a delight.
15485. It's official: the "International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes" (currently at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry in Portland) (October 13 #7), will open at the Center of Science and Industry in Columbus, Ohio, on Feb. 8 and close on Sept. 1 <www.tinyurl.com/k3sapom>.
15486. Basil Rathbone often wore an iconic deerstalker as Sherlock Holmes, but not always: he's sometimes seen in a tweed hat (as in "Spider Woman" and other Universal films). That hat (authenticated) was auctioned by Premiere Props on Nov. 23; estimated at \$5,000-\$8,000, and it sold for \$1,000.
15487. Phil Attwell reports that the Royal Mail has conducted a survey of possible themes for postage stamps for the next three years, and one of them is "Famous Hoaxes" (with the Cottingley Fairies, the Piltdown Man, and the Loch Ness Monster as examples).
15488. Benoit Guilielmo has noted "Conan Doyle/Sherlock Holmes Primary References in the Early Works of P. G. Wodehouse (through 1922)"; it's an interesting survey by John Dawson <www.madameulalie.org/articles/pgwconandoyle.html> of the writings of an author who knew Conan Doyle and greatly admired his work (Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian).
15489. SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE KNAVE OF HEARTS, by Steve Hayes and David Whitehead (London: Robert Hale, 2013; 224 pp., £19.99), brings Holmes and Watson to France, solving an intricate mystery that involves Jules Verne and his family, and a dastardly political plot.
15490. Peter Melonas offers interesting Sherlockian artwork, by various artists, at <www.fineartamerica.com/art/all/sherlock+holmes/all> (there are nearly 200 images to inspect).
15491. "Coin of the Canonical Realm" is a 55-page monograph by Nicholas Utechin, to be published in mid-December by The John H. Watson Society; it's a detailed discussion of Canonical coins and notes (illustrated in full color), and comparisons of "then and now" values. \$9.00 (plus shipping) and there is more information at the society's web-site <www.johnhwatsonociety.com>.
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November 2013 #6

15492. The fanatic completist may (or may not) welcome a report from Mark Hime in Bibliotopos catalog 51 (2013) that the much rarer (earlier?) of two states (issues?) of the first issue of Playboy has page 3 numbered; he's asking only \$9,000 for a presentation copy (with page 3 numbered) sent by Hugh Hefner to John Basil in 1955 from Playboy's editorial file, accompanied by a letter typed by Janet Pilgrim and signed by Hefner. This issue's important to Sherlockian collectors because it contains an excerpt from "The Sign of the Four". Hime also notes that Playboy codified two ideas: "that sex was the poor man's private jet, and that while sexual innocence is enchanting in young people, it's a needless aberration in mature adults." His catalogs are entertaining and instructive, and available at his web-site <www.bibliotopos.com>.
15493. The John H. Watson Society has published the first issue of its semi-annual journal "The Watsonian", with 152 pages of comment, commentary, reminiscences, and bibliographic research, and it's an excellent tribute to a man who does not always receive the attention he deserves. Membership in the society (including the journal) costs \$40.00 for two years, and its web-site's at <www.johnhwatsonociety.com>.
15494. "The Empty Hearse" (the first episode of the new season of "Sherlock") will be screened at the British Film Institute in London on Dec. 15, and lucky ticket-holders will also be able to see a live Q&A session with some of the actors in the series; tickets to the screening sold out almost instantly, of course. The BBC has not yet announced an air date for the series (as we went to press), but there seems to be a strong possibility that it will be Jan. 1 (well before the U.S. launch on Jan. 19). Needless to say, the Internet will be full of news about "The Empty Hearse" as people tweet live from the screening on Dec. 15, and comment quickly on blogs and such, with or without spoiler alerts. One wonders whether purists will decide to shun the Internet, to avoid reading spoilers, so that they can be surprised when the series actually airs.
15495. "A Dickens of a Murder" (an interactive murder-mystery dinner-theater production) takes place after the events of "A Christmas Carol" with Ebenezer Scrooge a changed man, but when he doesn't show up at a Christmas party and is found dead, audience members assist none other than Sherlock Holmes in finding the murderer. The show's performed by Without a Cue Productions at the Resorts Casino in Atlantic City, N.J. <www.resortsc.com> and at Fisher's Tudor House in Bensalem, Pa. <www.fisherstudor.com> through Dec. 21.
15496. "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (the fine parody by Steven Canny and John Nicholson) will be performed at Playhouse on Park in West Hartford, Conn., Dec. 4-22 <www.playhouseonpark.org>. And at the Straz Center for the Performing Arts in Tampa, Fla., Jan. 8 to Feb. 2 <www.strazcenter.org>.
15497. Next year's "Sherlock Holmes Weekends" in Cape May, N.J., will be on Mar. 14-16 and Nov. 7-9; there will be a mystery to solve, and performances by the East Lynne Theater Company of Gayle Stahlhuth's radio-theater dramatization of "The Copper Beeches" <www.eastlynntheater.org>.
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December 2013 #1

15498. A federal judge has issued a declaratory judgment in Les Klinger's lawsuit against the Arthur Conan Doyle Estate (September 13 #8), ruling that Holmes, Watson, and other story elements that appear in the 50 stories now in the public domain can be used freely by others without permission from the Estate. Story elements that appear only in the ten stories still protected by copyright cannot be used by others without permission. IN THE COMPANY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, an anthology of new stories edited by Les and Laurie R. King and originally scheduled for publication this year without payment of a licensing fee to the Estate, is now scheduled for 2014. You can read all the details about the lawsuit and the decision at <www.free-sherlock.com>, and there was a story in the N.Y. Times on Dec. 28 <www.tinyurl.com/mmssof9>.
15499. More information is available about "Alpine Adventures: Arthur Conan Doyle and Switzerland", the conference planned by The Reichenbach Irregulars in Davos on Sept. 26-28; they promise a weekend devoted to "an author, a skier, a detective--and a ghost." The society's web-site is at <www.221b.ch>, and the full program for the conference is at <www.tinyurl.com/lzvxxqk>.
15500. BelTA (the Belarusian Telegraph Agency) reported (Dec. 3) on plans to build a Sherlock Holmes house in the town of Orsha <www.tinyurl.com/kydo8h>; the story quotes Oleg Shchukin, director of the company Protege By, which has designed the building and is seeking investors for the project. Alexander Orlov has kindly provided links to the company's web-site <www.protege.by> and to details <www.tinyurl.com/ignambd>; it's all in Russian, but Google Translate is extremely helpful.
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15501. It's official: the third season of "Sherlock" will begin on BBC One on Jan. 1, and the announcement was as imaginative as other publicity for the series: tweets to #sherlocklives alerted fans to a handsome black hearse being driven through London with a flower arrangement spelling out "Sherlock" and "01 01 14". The title of the season's first episode is "The Empty Hearse".
15502. This is going to create an interesting situation for at least some American viewers: those who don't want spoilers, so that they can be surprised when the series begins on PBS-TV on Jan. 19. Not only will the Internet be full of comment, and perhaps bootleg uploads to YouTube and other web-sites, but there will be Brits at the birthday festivities who will have seen the series, and may or may not kindly refrain from revealing secrets.
15503. In the meantime, on Dec. 24 the BBC broadcast a spectacular 7-minute teaser ("Many Happy Returns") for the series (without spoilers); you can watch it at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=JwntNANJCOE>. And PBS-TV has scheduled a one-hour special "Unlocking Sherlock Holmes" for Jan. 12, offering interviews with writers and actors; if you don't want to wait until Jan. 12, the program is available on-line at <www.video.pbs.org>
15504. Admirers of Aunt Clara may be interested in Svend Ranild's Danish translation "Min Tante Claras Meriter" in the latest issue of Sherlockiana (published by the Sherlock Holmes Klubben i Danmark), available on request from Svend at <sr@ranild.dk>. There's colorful artwork, and you don't need to worry about learning a new melody.

December 2013 #2

15505. Compliments to David Milner, who reports in the December issue of The Gaslight Gazette (published by The Survivors of the Gloria Scott) on something new under the sun, so to speak: there actually is a blue garnet, which will be of interest to those who have discussed whether the Blue Carbuncle was a sapphire or a diamond; according to Wikipedia, the blue garnet was first found in the 1990s in Bekily, Madagascar, and is also known in the United States, Russia, Kenya, Tanzania, and Turkey. However: blue garnets seem to be a color-change garnet variety, similar to the beryl variety alexandrite; you can see the wide range in color of blue garnets at <www.tinyurl.com/m7vavhu>.
15506. Episodes of the new Russian "Sherlock Holmes" television series can still be seen (in Russian) at <www.tinyurl.com/ovo9nmv>, and Tina Rhea has noted that the older Livanov/Solomin series (with English subtitles) can be seen on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/3d22ahf>.
15507. Samantha Wolov spotted "Elementary My Dear Watsonville" (a pizza with red sauce, mozzarella, artichokes, and tomato) offered by Escape from New York Pizza in San Francisco; the restaurant is 90 miles from Watsonville.
15508. LitKids offers imaginative literary artwork by Matt Hinrichs, including a portrait of Sherlock Holmes on actual pages from the Canon (\$15.00) <www.tinyurl.com/lpjqpj>.
15509. Admirers of pastiches surely realize that the Sherlock Holmes stories aren't the only stories to be pastiched. Sebastian Faulks, authorized by the Wodehouse heirs, has written JEEVES AND THE WEDDING BELLS, was favorably reviewed by Christopher Buckley in the N.Y. Times on Dec. 1 <www.tinyurl.com/l55my43>. But Scott Daniels has reported other less favorable reviews, by Isaac Chotiner in the New Republic <www.tinyurl.com/myabna7> and by Alexandra Petri in the Washington Post <www.tinyurl.com/lbt43fy>, neither of the reviews being at all fond of fan fiction, authorized or otherwise.
15510. From Stephen Booth's DEAD AND BURIED (2012): "Even Sir Arthur Conan Doyle had once said: 'All this country is hollow. Could you strike it with some gigantic hammer it would boom like a drum.'" And where will that quote be found?
15511. Dan Crowe, when he was editor of the literary magazine Zembl, asked a series of living authors to interview their dead literary heroes. Ian Rankin, creator of Inspector Rebus, chose Arthur Conan Doyle; the interview, first published in 2004, has now been reprinted in the collection DEAD INTERVIEWS (London: Granta, 2013; 202 pp., £12.99). It's not the first time that Rankin has channeled Conan Doyle, who's featured in Rankin's short story "The Acid Test" in the winter 1998-99 issue of Edit (the University of Edinburgh magazine) <www.tinyurl.com/kjnpf3b>.
15512. The fall issue of "For the Sake of the Trust" (the newsletter of the Baker Street Irregulars Trust) has news about the Trust, and about recent additions to the Archives at the Houghton Library, and it's available both at the Trust web-site <www.bsitrust.org> and by e-mail; if you would like to be on the mailing list, send a request to <trust221b@gmail.com>.

December 2013 #3

15513. Further to the item (October 13 #4) about the campaign by the South Norwood Tourist Board to arrange for the naming of a local lake in honor of Conan Doyle, Jason E. Cooper has reported that the lake will be (unofficially) named Conan Doyle Lake on Feb. 1 (he hopes to persuade the local council to make things official). He also has launched a fund-raising effort to commission a sculpture of Conan Doyle to be displayed in the center of South Norwood <www.gofundme.com/5en97s>.
15514. Oscar Ross reports that his daughters Andrea and Deborah spotted an attractive "Sherlock Chair" offered at Next in Belfast (Next is a chain with many branches in the U.K. and Europe), available in a wide range of fabrics and colors, including Darwin (fabric) and Espresso (color) <www.tinyurl.com/m9g8yfd>.
15515. "Wholock: Sherlock Meets the Doctor!" is an imaginative 6-minute crossover video produced by John Smith, who explains his concept as: "Months after an encounter with a mysterious 'Doctor', Sherlock becomes obsessed with discovering more about this impossible man...until the man makes an unexpected return." You can watch it at <www.tinyurl.com/lm3ya9z>, along with a spectacular 5-minute "VFX Breakdown" showing the sort of thing that can be done with modern technology. It has been reported that the BBC was so impressed with the video that they authorized it.
15516. "All this country is hollow. Could you strike it with some gigantic hammer it would boom like a drum." It isn't all that often that one finds an author quoting Conan Doyle from something other than the Canon. This quote's from "The Terror of Blue John Gap".
15517. Neil Gaiman's pastiche "A Study in Emerald" has inspired a board game, designed by Martin Wallace for Treefrog Games (\$75.00/€55.00/£48.00); details at <www.treefroggames.com/a-study-in-emerald>.
15518. "The Quiet Man" is one of the 25 films in this year's list of additions to the Library of Congress' National Film Registry (an archive of American motion pictures "earmarked for preservations because of their cultural, historic, or aesthetic significance"). It's a fine film, and it has a remote Sherlockian connection: when the locals arrive at the newlyweds' cottage, they sing "Mush, Mush" (the music's now used by Sherlockians when they sing "We Never Mention Aunt Clara").
15519. The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times13-12.html>, offering Sherlockian news, commentary, and discussion.
15520. Peter O'Toole died on Dec. 14. He began his acting career with the Bristol Old Vic in 1955, played a small part in the television series "The Scarlet Pimpernel" in 1956, and won fame for "Lawrence of Arabia" in 1962, the film for which he won the first of his eight Oscar nominations. In 1963 he was considered by Billy Wilder for the title role in "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (eventually released starring Robert Stephens in 1970), and he played Holmes on stage in a touring production of "Dead Eyed Dicks" (1976). He also provided the voice of Holmes in four animations of the long stories (1983), and played Conan Doyle in "FairyTale: A True Story" in 1997.

December 2013 #4

15521. Further to the report (March 11 #2) on the statue of a black swan that adorns Winchester's Black Swan Building Block, the Southern Daily Echo has noted that there's now a polished steel plaque that explains that the building is the site of the Black Swan Hotel, which Holmes and Watson visited in "The Copper Beeches".
15522. DEATH BY MISADVENTURE (North Charleston: Beach Reeds, 2013; 136 pp., \$9.99) is a new pastiche by Steve Leadley that involves Holmes and Watson with a mysterious murder, Nicolas Tesla, and Russian anarchists.
15523. Mike Hogan's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND YOUNG WINSTON series continues; THE GIANT MOLES (London: MX Publishing, 2013; 203 pp., £9.99) has Holmes, Watson, and a precocious 13-year-old Churchill involved in a investigation of missing papers, a mad doctor, and (possibly) giant moles. Hogan's web-site is at <www.mikehoganbooks.co.uk> and the publisher's at <www.mxpublishing.co.uk>.
15524. MX Publishing also has launched a new Sherlockian lending library with more than 100 different titles in Watson's Lounge at the Sherlock Holmes Hotel in Baker Street; there's also a bookshop for those who want permanent additions to their shelves.
15525. Another interesting video is a "Saturday Night Live" skit "The Robert Goulet Holiday Special" broadcast on Dec. 8, 2001; Jennie Paton has found it at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=Plm8nO8nVuk>.
15526. Warren Dunn, a managing partner of Thomson OPI LLP, is seeking investors in a new project "Sherlock Holmes and the Canary Girls" (initially a play to be produced in English and Mandarin, and then possibly a film or television series); contact Dunn <warren@thomsonopi.com> to request a prospectus and director's statement.
15527. The Literary Gift Company <www.literarygiftcompany.com>, spotted by Michele Kaminski has an assortment of appropriate gifts; just search for [sherlock] and [baskervilles] and [conan doyle].
15528. J. Randolph Cox still teaches "Sherlock Holmes": one two-hour class a week for eight weeks in January and February at the Cannon Valley Elder Collegium in Northfield, Minn.; he reports that the class filled on the first day of registration.
15529. Older collectors will remember Sherlock's Home, Chris Caswell's bookstore in southern California in the 1980s and 1990s; he's now selling old and new items at Etsy <www.etsy.com/shop/aSherlockshome?ref=si_shop>.
15530. Chris Gay's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE FINAL REVEAL (Manchester: Suesea Press, 2013; 60 pp., \$10.00) is Watson's account of his last meeting with Holmes, and the background to a case that Holmes was never able to solve.
15531. "I like artifacts," Glen Miranker told a reporter for Forbes Magazine, and you can see some of those artifacts in the photogallery accompanying an article in Forbes Magazine, including a \$15.00 copy of THE CASE-BOOK OF SHERLOCK HOLMES that he now confesses is "the world's costliest book." You can read the article on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/pqypnvh>.
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December 2013 #5

15532. Nancy J. Parra's GLUTEN FOR PUNISHMENT (2013) stars Toni Ryder, "who inherits the family homestead and brings her gluten-free bakery to Oiltop's Main Street only to discover that owning a gluten-free bakery can be murder." It's Sherlockian only in that it's the first in a projected series of Baker's Treat mysteries. The author has a web-site at <www.nancyjparra.com>.
15533. BBC Books is continuing its series of tie-in editions of the Canon: THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (introduction by Mark Gatiss) and HIS LAST BOW (introduction by Steven Moffat) with "Sherlock" cover art were published this month (£6.99 each).
15534. Tacit Theatre will present a new dramatization of "A Study in Scarlet" by Lila Whelan and Greg Freeman at the Southwark Playhouse in London, Mar. 19 through Apr. 12 <www.southwarkplayhouse.co.uk>. Tacit also will provide a series of 20-minute podcasts starting on Jan. 19: the "Sherlock Holmes Series" will offer discussions with Sherlockian experts, and the theater web-site's at <www.tacittheatre.co.uk>.
15535. Otto Penzler's THE BIG BOOK OF CHRISTMAS MYSTERIES (2013) had a brief review in the newspaper insert Parade magazine (Dec. 22), with a link to an on-line version of "The Blue Carbuncle".
15536. Judith Freeman's useful index to The Serpentine Muse (published by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes since 1975), now complete through 2013, is now available <judith-freeman@hotmail.com> as an Excel spreadsheet; the ASH web-site at <www.ash-nyc.com> has information on subscribing to the Muse.
15537. SHERLOCK HOLMES & THE MASTER ENGRAVER, by Ross Husband (Norfolk: Glen Ross Editions, 2013; 449 pp., £11.95/\$16.95), has Holmes and Watson involved in thwarting a thoroughly complicated plot to flood Britain with counterfeit currency printed from the Bank of England's own plates on authentic paper; there's murder and mayhem and atmosphere, and two sample chapters from the next installment in a series with the overall title "The Revival of Sherlock Holmes"
15538. "The Case of the Scarlet Membrane" was a skit burlesquing Holmes and Watson broadcast on "Saturday Night Live" on Apr. 8, 1978, starring Michael Palin as Holmes and Dan Aykroyd as Watson. Janice Portante reports that the skit is available on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/la2lu4s>.
15539. Wilfrid de Freitas' new sales-list for material from Don Redmond's collection (with writings on the writings, society publications, and monographs) will be available in January <wilfrid@defreitasbooks.com>.
15540. Howard Ostrom's enthusiastic interest in Sherlockian silent films extends far beyond his research into who played the title role in "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (1905): his interesting (and well illustrated) 20-part essay "Silent Sherlock" is available on-line in the "Original Essays" section of the "Diogenes Club Library" at Ross K. Foad's extensive "No Place Like Holmes" web-site <www.nplh.co.uk/original-essays.html>. His five-part essay "The Original Baker Street Babes" discusses the many women who have played Holmes and Watson, and have worked as directors and writers.
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December 2013 #6

15541. "Chinese fans go potty for the BBC's Sherlock," according to an article in Radio Times (Dec. 9). After British prime minister David Cameron set up a profile on the Chinese social media site Sina Weibo, the most popular message posted was "Please urge Sherlock crew to be quick! They have had us waiting for two years for every season!" He replied that he couldn't tell the BBC what to do, since it's an independent company, and suggested that "of course people can always go back and read the original Conan Doyle stories, which are wonderful." The Chinese call Benedict Cumberbatch "Curly Fu" (because of his curly hair and a shortening of his name in Chinese) and Martin Freeman "Peanut" (because the Chinese version of his name Hua Sheng" sounds like the Mandarin word for the nut). Thanks to Oscar Ross for spotting and reporting this news.
15542. The Feb. 2014 issue of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine, which will be found on newsstands during the birthday celebrations, has Sherlockian artwork on the cover, pastiches by Terence Faherty and Evan Lewis, a birthday tribute by editor Janet Hutchings, and reviews by Steve Steinbock of new Sherlockian books.

15543. Vinnie Brosnan ("That Gap on the Second Shelf") died on Dec. 28. He issued his first mail-order catalog from "Sherlock in L.A." in 1982, and over many years helped collectors near and far expand their collection. Vinnie began publishing Sherlockiana in 1985, was active in many Sherlockian societies in southern California, and received his quite appropriate Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 2011.
15544. MORIARTY RETURNS A LETTER (New York: Minotaur, 2013; 262 pp., \$24.99) continues Michael Robertson's series of novels about Reggie Heath, the London barrister who has offices in the building at 221B Baker Street, and a lease that requires him to answer Sherlock Holmes' mail; this time Reggie and his fiancée Laura Rankin are pursued by a vicious killer, amidst fun and games galore.
15545. There were some interesting items in Bonhams' ("What Dreams Are Made Of: A Century of Movie Magic" auction in New York on Nov. 25: the wool tweed suit worn by Richard Greene in the "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1939) sold for \$1,625 (including the buyer's premium), and the wool tweed jacket worn by Basil Rathbone in the same film sold for \$13,750 (the same jacket went for \$11,685 in 2011, in an auction of Debbie Reynolds' collection). Someone paid \$461,000 for the 1940 Buick Phaeton that was seen in "Casablanca" (1942), and the star of the sale was an authenticated Maltese Falcon, which sold for \$4,085,000.
15546. Lots of theater upcoming in Texas: Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" at will be performed at the Dallas Theater Center, Apr. 25 to May 25 <www.dallastheatercenter.org>; Dennis Rosa's "Sherlock Holmes and the Curse of the Sign of the Four" at the First United Methodist Church in Dallas, May 16-24 <www.fumcdal.org>; and Katie Forgette's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily" at Rover Dramawerks in Plano, Sept. 11-27. Plano <www.roverdramawerks.com>

January 2014 #1

15547. Sherlockians (and Holmesians) gathered in New York to celebrate the Great Detective's 160th birthday during the long weekend from Jan. 15 to Jan. 19. The festivities began with the traditional ASH Wednesday dinner sponsored by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes at O'Casey's and continued with the Christopher Morley Walk led by Jim Cox and Dore Nash on Thursday morning, followed by the usual lunch at McSorley's.
15548. The Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Speaker at the Midtown Executive Club on Thursday evening was James O'Brien, author of THE SCIENTIFIC SHERLOCK HOLMES: CRACKING THE CASE WITH SCIENCE & FORENSICS (2013); the title of his talk was "Reassessing Holmes the Scientist", and you will be able to read his paper in the next issue of The Baker Street Journal.
15549. The William Gillette Luncheon at Moran's was well attended, as always, and the Friends of Bogie's at Baker Street (Paul Singleton, Sarah Montague, and Andrew Joffe) entertained their audience with a tribute to an aged Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson. The luncheon also was the occasion for Al Gregory's presentation of the annual January Whimsey Award (named in memory of his wife January Stauber) honoring the most whimsical piece in The Serpentine Muse last year; the winners (Susan Rice and Mickey Fromkin) received certificates and shared a check for the Canonical sum of \$221.17. And Otto Penzler's traditional open house at the Mysterious Bookshop provided the usual opportunities to browse and buy.
15550. The Irregulars and their guests gathered for the BSI annual dinner at the Yale Club, where John Linsenmeyer proposed the preprandial first toast to Marilyn Nathan as The Woman. The dinner agenda featured the usual toasts and traditions, and an energetic and amusing debate on whether the Constitution and Buy-Laws of the BSI should be amended (the decision was that the 80-year-old document will serve quite well for another 80 years).
15551. Mike Whelan (the BSI's "Wiggins") presented the BSI's first Edgar W. Smith Intrepid Irregular Award to Les Klinger; A Tip of the Deerstalker Awards to Andy Peck, Mitch Higurashi, Susan Rice, Don Curtis, and Maggie Schpak; and a Two-Shilling Award to Randall Stock. This year's Birthday Honours (Irregular Shillings and Investitures) were presented to Peter McIntyre ("Arthur Cadogan West"), SJ Rozan ("The Imperial Palace of Peking"), Chris Music ("Wagner Night at Covent Garden"), Sonia Fetherston ("The Solitary Cyclist"), Mark Alberstat ("Halifax"), Jacquelynn Morris ("The Lion's Mane"), and Terry Hunt ("The Something Hunt").
15552. An enthusiastic crowd attended this year's Gaslight Gala at the Manhattan Club, where the agenda included Karen Wilson's parody-song-arama "The Sign of the Sussex Hound in the Cardboard Box", a performance (by Nick Martorelli and Tiffany Knight) of Gayle Lange Puhl's skit "How Much Is That Hound Dog in the Window", and much much more.
15553. Some of the more fervent (or perhaps hard core) Sherlockians gathered after the dinners at O'Lunney's Irish Pub to honor long-standing traditions such as staying until at least 2:21; another tradition calls for newly-Investitured Irregulars to buy a round of tequila shots.

January 2014 #2

15554. On Saturday morning Covent Garden West (the dealers room at the Roosevelt Hotel) welcomed sellers and buyers, and authors and editors delighted to inscribe or sign their books. The Beacon Society presented its annual Beacon Award (recognizing those who introduce young people to the Sherlock Holmes stories) to Timothy S. Greer; the society has an excellent web-site at <www.beaconsociety.com>. And the Junior Bloodstain of The Clients of Adrian Mulliner featured "The Riddle of the Hunted Hound" (a new play by Gayle Lange Puhl, performed by Ken Vogel's hand puppets).
15555. The BSI's Saturday-afternoon reception at the Yale Club offered entertainment, conversation, wining, and dining; the entertainment included a performance of a short play written by Jerome Coopersmith, and Anastasia Klimchynskaya was honored as the winner of the Morley-Montgomery Award (an attractive certificate accompanied by a check) for the best contribution to The Baker Street Journal last year. The John H. Watson Fund benefited from energetic sales of raffle tickets for Maggie Schpak's attractive handcrafted assortment of jewelry and other memorabilia inspired by "The Valley of Fear", and an auction of edible, oenological and artistic donations to the Fund.
15556. The principal Saturday-evening event was the annual "Very Irregular Lost in New York with a Bunch of Sherlockians" dinner arranged by Chrys Kegley and The Curious Collectors of Baker Street at O'Lunney's Times Square Pub, with 54 on hand for the festivities, and on Sunday morning a goodly crowd gathered at the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes' brunch at the Oldcastle Pub & Restaurant.
15557. A final note for those who want to plan ahead: The Baker Street Irregulars' next annual dinner will be held on Jan. 9, 2015. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London's annual dinner likely will be on Jan. 17, 2015.
15558. I've not reported on everything, I hasten to add; there will be much more detailed reports in the spring issue of The Baker Street Journal. The BSI appears quarterly, and subscriptions (four issues plus the Christmas Annual) cost \$38.50 (to the U.S.) or \$49.00 (elsewhere); checks can be sent to the BSI (Box 583, Zionsville, IN 46077), and credit-card payments are welcome from foreign subscribers.
15559. You can also subscribe at the BSI web-site at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>, which also has interesting features such as some of the papers written by winners of the Morley-Montgomery Awards, articles from recent issues of the BSI, and information on the BSI's other publications and activities.
15560. Al Gregory <gaslightandfog@verizon.net> offers (by e-mail) his 2014 edition of "The ABC of the BSI" (an alphabetical listing of Investitures, with recipients, from "Abbey Grange" to "Young Stamford") and "The Florin Society" (couples in which both spouses have received Irregular Shillings).

15561. There were, needless to say, a treasure trove of new books available in the dealers room, but you'll need to wait until next month to read reviews. In the meantime you can find many of the books at the web-sites of publishers such as the Baker Street Journal <www.bakerstreetjournal.com> and the Gasogene Press <www.wessexpress.com>.

January 2014 #3

15562. Further to the report (December 13 #1) on the decision in Les Klinger's lawsuit against the Arthur Conan Doyle Estate (September 13 #8), the ruling has received lots of publicity in the press and on the Internet. Sutin, Thayer & Browne (the Estate's law firm) has announced that they will appeal the decision to Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals; you can read their press release at <www.tinyurl.com/myqx8wj>.
15563. The torrent of stories about the lawsuit included one in the Sunday Express (Jan. 12) <www.tinyurl.com/ntk4jmv>, notable for a colorful (and undated) photograph of Andrea Reynolds Plunket, presumably seen at home in Livingston Manor, N.Y.; Andrea continues to claim control of the characters, despite a series of court rulings against her.
15564. "Sherlock Enters Top Baby Name List" was the headline on a story in Radio Times (Dec. 2), spotted by Oscar Ross. The Office for National Statistics has released its lists of baby names in England and Wales in 2012, and yes, Sherlock is on the list, with 5 babies, in a tie for 3,416th place. Harry ranked first (with 7,168 babies), and for girls it was Amelia (with 7,061 babies). One should note that all it took to make the lists was 3 babies with the same name (which does make it a stretch for Radio Times to use the word "top"). You can find the lists at <www.tinyurl.com/k4vykmz>.
15565. In plenty of time for Christmas (or any other occasion, for that matter): "Handmade Geeky Goodness!" is the motto of Ursula and Olive, an Etsy shop maintained by Darlene Belisle, who offers Sherlockian (and Doylean) lockets, earring, and magnifying glasses <www.ursulaandolive.etsy.com>. She'll also do custom orders, such as Moriarty or Benedict Cumberbatch.
15566. Leonard Cochran ("Cardinal Tosca") died on Mar. 30, 2013. He worked in advertising, served in the Air Force, and in 1956 became a Dominican Friar; he was ordained as a priest in 1962, and went on to a long career in education. He was published in The Baker Street Journal in 1967 and 1972, and was an active members of Hugo's Companions in Chicago; he received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1973.
15567. Chuck Schaden "Speaking of Radio" web-site offers some 200 interviews with the people responsible for radio's "golden age" (and much else that's worth exploring) <www.speakingofradio.com>; one of the interviews (99 minutes) is with Himan Brown, who produced more than 30,000 radio shows over seven decades (including series such as "Inner Sanctum Mysteries", "The Adventures of the Thin Man", and "Bulldog Drummond"). His "CBS Radio Mystery Theater" was launched in 1974 and ran for nine years; it won a Peabody Award, and of course included many Sherlockian and Doylean stories. The series has its own web-site <www.cbsmt.org> with information about and downloads of the programs.
15568. "Holmes & Moriarty" is a 9-page PDF file offered by magician Paul Voodini at <www.readerofminds.co.uk> for £1.50; all you need to perform the trick is a deck of cards and some practice. And learning the patter, of course. Note that the real secret of magic is not what the magician does (you can easily find explanations of this in books and on-line); the real secret is how the magician does the trick, and that includes the story the magician tells, all of which requires imagination and practice.
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January 2014 #4

15569. The Grillparzer Club of the Hoboken Free State (which commemorates the life and work of Christopher Morley) has published the first issue of its newsletter Hoboken Nights, with 16 pages, a report on the first annual Morley birthday lunch (on May 15, 2013, in New York), toasts, commentary, and photographs. Society membership includes two issues of the newsletter and costs \$15.00 a year per household; Harrison and Linda Hunt (113 North Street, Catskill, NY 12414).
15570. This month's trivia question is: what film, now in theaters nationwide, has actors who have played Sherlock Holmes, Dr. Watson, and Mycroft Holmes?
15571. Well, the long wait is over, for all those who wondered about how Sherlock survived the fall, and about how Watson met and married Mary Morstan, and about other things. The BBC blocked access to the series from outside the United Kingdom, but of course there are work-arounds: Hola! <www.hola.org> and TunnelBear <www.tunnelbear.com> work well with most operating systems, come highly recommended, and are free downloads, and of course this sort of thing was quite popular with Yanks who didn't want to wait for the series to air in the U.S. No spoilers here, since some people won't yet have seen the series.
15572. The overnight ratings for "The Empty Hearse" in the U.K. were 9.2 million viewers, and a 33.8% share (of those who were watching television); these were highest ratings of any of the seven episodes. Add 3.5 million viewers who watched the episode in the following week after recording it; the 12.7 million total doesn't include people who watched the episode on-line at the BBC web-site. The BBC did a fine job of promoting the new series, and Nick Utechin has reported that The Times gave the debut of "The Empty Hearse" a page-3 news story, a four-star review, a leader [editorial], and an amusing allusion in a political cartoon.
15573. Overnight ratings for "His Last Vow" in the U.K. were 8.8 million viewers, and 31.9% share; for "The Empty Hearse" the numbers were 8.8 million viewers and a 32.1% share. The 12-month average for the time slot on BBC-1 was 4.9 million, and a 19.7% share, so both the BBC and the production company obviously are delighted with the audience response to the series.
15574. There were all sorts of interesting homages to the Canon in the series, and the producers had some fun with casting: in "The Empty Hearse" there was a scene with Sherlock's parents visiting him, and his parents were played by Benedict Cumberbatch's parents Wanda Ventham and Timothy Carlton. In "His Last Vow" the young Sherlock Holmes was played Louis Moffat, son of series co-creator Steven Moffat.
15575. And if you'd like to see more of Appledore (the evil Charles Augustus Magnussen's home), it's really the £30 million Swinhay House, the home of Sir David McMurtry. The Daily Mail had a well-illustrated story (Jan. 14) on the house <www.tinyurl.com/lhtsk9>.
15576. As for the future, Steven Moffat has said that he and Mark Gatiss have already planned the future of the series. "We plotted out the whole of series four and five." And they hope that there won't be as long a wait for the fourth season as there was for the third.
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January 2014 #5

15577. SHERLOCK HOLMES IN THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, by Jennifer Adams, illustrated by Alison Oliver (Layton: Gibbs Smith, 2013; 22 pp., \$9.99), is one of the titles in an imaginative BabyLit "Sounds Primer" series that's intended to help parents introduce the concept of sounds to their children. The sounds are for the toddlers, and the "literature" for the parents, by way of keeping them entertained <www.babylit.com>. The artwork's also available on prints and totes, and other authors in the series include Tolstoy, Dickens, Stoker, Melville, and Shakespeare.
15578. I asked what film, now in theaters nationwide, has actors who have played Sherlock Holmes, Dr. Watson, and Mycroft Holmes? "The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug" stars Benedict Cumberbatch as Smaug, and Martin Freeman as Bilbo Baggins.
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15579. Ray Betzner's new "Studies in Starrett" blog <www.vincentstarrett.com> is a delightfully lively exploration of Vincent Starrett and his Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian work. Those who visited the Morgan Library's exhibition on "Edgar Allan Poe: Terror of the Soul" and viewed the three copies of TAMERLANE AND OTHER POEMS (only 12 copies are known to exist) can learn from Ray about Starrett's connection with one of them.
15580. Bob Byrne's "The Solar Pons Gazette" has returned, after a five-year hiatus, at <www.solarpons.com>, offering 44 pages about August Derleth and his delightful homage, which Vincent Starrett once described as "the best substitute for Sherlock Holmes known."
15581. There now are 171 scripts available as free downloads from the Radio Script Library of the Generic Radio Workshop <www.genericradio.com>, six from the long-running "Sherlock Holmes" series (1939-1947).
15582. Sabina Carpenter and John Quincannon, private detectives in San Francisco in 1895, return in Marcia Muller and Bill Pronzini's THE SPOOK LIGHTS AFFAIR (New York: Forge/Tom Doherty, 2013; 250 pp., \$24.99), once again accompanied by Sherlock Holmes (or a man who claims to be Holmes), this time as a minor supporting character in an entertaining mystery.
15583. The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times14-1.html>, offering Sherlockian news, an explanation of a Sherlockathon, an announcement of the opening on Feb. 8 of the "International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes" in Columbus, Ohio, after a successful run in Portland, and news that the annual Sherlock Holmes/Arthur Conan Doyle Symposium in Dayton, Ohio, has been relaunched by The Agra Treasurers as "Holmes, Doyle, & Friends" on Mar. 14-15. More information on the goings-on in Dayton is available from Martin Arbagi, whose e-mail address is <martin.arbagi@gmail.com>.
15584. The "International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes" will run through Sept. 1 in Columbus, and then move to the Saint Louis Science Center in Saint Louis, Mo., from Oct. 9 through Jan. 4. It's scheduled next at the Perot Museum of Science & Nature in Dallas, Texas, opening Feb. 2, 2015, and at the Discovery Science Center in Santa Ana, Calif., opening June 11. The exhibition web-site's at <www.sherlockholmesexhibition.com>, and the web-site for the Coumbus visit is at <www.cosi.org/exhibits/sherlock>.

January 2014 #6

15585. I know: I asked what film, now in theaters nationwide, has actors who have played Sherlock Holmes, Dr. Watson, and Mycroft Holmes, and the answer was ("The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug"). But I didn't identify the actor who has played Mycroft Holmes; it's Stephen Fry, who played the Master of Lake-town (as well as Mycroft in the film "Sherlock Holmes: Game of Shadows").
15586. "Hound of the Baskervilles" is a three-minute band composition written by Mekel Rogers and based on the final chase scene; designed for middle-school bands (because that's when students often read the story), it is available at <www.tinyurl.com/lchkydx>, where you can also listen to the piece.
15587. It didn't take long: the new Russian "Sherlock Holmes" television series, with Igor Petrenko as Holmes and Andrei Panin as Watson, is being subtitled in English. The first episode ("221B Baker Street"), broadcast in Russia on Nov. 18-19, was uploaded with sub-titles on Jan. 12, and you can watch it at <www.tinyurl.com/p733zry>.
15588. Not for the squeamish: the blog of Barts Pathology Museum, which has an illustrated entry on the effects of wearing Victorian corsets, a discussion of The Death Salon, and much more, including a section on "Barts and Sherlock Holmes" <www.potts-pots.blogspot.co.uk>.
15589. Further to the mention of John Dawson's "Conan Doyle/Sherlock Holmes Primary References in the Early Works of P. G. Wodehouse (through 1922)" (November 13 #5), the web-site Madame Eulalie's Rare Plums <www.madameeulalie.org> has a link not only to the article (click on Notes & Lists), but also to text of all of those early works (click on Items by Publication). It's nice indeed to have Wodehouse's pre-1923 writings so readily available.
15590. HOMES AND DR. WILLIAMS, by Roy S. Purcell (Bloomington: Xlibris, 2013; 339 pp., \$26.99), stars Stanley Homes (whose boyhood hero was Sherlock Holmes) and his companion Dr. Williams (a veterinarian). Homes opens a detective agency, with disastrous results, and the book is full of broad (very broad) humor.
15591. Don Hobbs has discovered Novial, an artificial language devised by the Danish linguist Otto Jespersen in 1928. Similar to Esperanto and Ido, Novial seems to have no translations of the Canon, but there is a study guide for THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES on-line <www.en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Novial>.
15592. Watson's Tin Box will host the seventh "A Scintillation of Scions" at the Hilton Garden Inn in Hanover, Md., June 6-7. It's an entertaining gathering of local and far-flung Sherlockians, with a fine list of speakers, and details are available from Jacquelynn Morris (3042 Old Channel Road, Laurel, MD 20724) <www.scintillation.org>. The event sold out last year, so you're advised to register sooner rather than later.
15593. "Going Shopping, Honey? Be a Dear and Pick Up My Arsenic." That was the headline on the N.Y. Times preview of "American Experience: The Poisoner's Handbook" (broadcast by PBS-TV on Jan. 7). The program was based on Deborah Blum's book, which was published in 2010 with the imaginative subtitle "Murder and the Birth of Forensic Medicine in Jazz Age New York".

January 2014 #7

15594. Jayantika Ganguly describes THE HOLMES SUTRA (London: MX Publishing, 2014; 120 pp., £6.99/€7.99/\$9.95) as a birthday gift for Sherlock Holmes, and for those who now thinking about the KAMA SUTRA, it should be noted that a sutra is a collection of aphorisms; Jay is general secretary and editor for The Sherlock Holmes Society of India, and she presents 160 aphorisms from the Canon and from other sources, with commentary, and with an imaginative "Holmes Mania Quotient Test".
15595. SHERLOCK HOLMES: STUDIES IN LEGACY, by Luke Benjamin Kuhns (London: MX Publishing, 2013; 247 pp., £9.99/€12.99/\$16.95), has four short stories about Holmes and Watson's battle against a mysterious evil organization, and two bonus stories, one of which sets them in pursuit of Frankenstein's monster.
15596. The Norwegian Explorers' "Christmas Annual 2013" has the theme "Anniversaries" and the authors range from Randy Cox ("My First Meeting with the Norwegian Explorers") to Dick Caplan ("An Anniversary Theme?") to Ruth Berman ("Sherlockian Governesses"). The 54-page booklet, edited by Timothy Reich, is available from John Bergquist (3665 Ashbury Road, Eagan, MN 55122); the cost is \$8.00 postpaid (checks payable to The Norwegian Explorers, please).
15597. Further to the mention (December 13 #5) of the link in Parade magazine to an online version of "The Blue Carbuncle" (on Dec. 22), the link received about 3,000 hits, presumably from people who hadn't read the story before (or had and were happy to have an easy way to read it again).
15598. Otto Penzler has reported Gabe Hasbash's blog at Publishers Weekly (Jan. 8) about "The 9 Best Books That Don't Exist" <www.tinyurl.com/qyo83tp>, one of them being Prof. James Moriarty's THE DYNAMICS OF AN ASTEROID. Wikipedia has an entry for the book, and another for A TREATISE ON THE BINOMIAL THEOREM.

15599. David Greenlee is offering his collection of Sherlockiana (with more than 300 books, booklets, pamphlets, magazines, cassettes, and records) as one lot, and a list is available from him at <sdgcollection@xemaps.com>.
15600. Nicholas Utechin's COIN OF THE CANONICAL REALM is the first monograph from The John H. Watson Society; 50 pages, with an interesting discussion of the Canonical coins and notes and with full-color illustrations, and "then and now" comparisons of values. \$9.00 plus shipping, and you can order at the society's web-site <www.johnhwatsonociety.com>.
15601. An addendum to the obituary for Peter O'Toole (December 13 #3). He was reported to have been considered as a possible Holmes in three films: "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970), "The Seven-Per-Cent Solution" (1976), and "Murder by Decree" (1979).
15602. Dramatic Publishing offers interesting Sherlockian and Doylean scripts, including "The Hound of the Baskervilles: A Comic Thriller Starring Shirley Holmes and Jennie Watson" (by Kent R. Brown), "The Death and Life of Sherlock Holmes" (by Suzan L. Zeder), "The Sign of the Four" (by Dr. Shanghai Low), "The Very Great Grandson of Sherlock Holmes" (by Bill Majeski), and "The Lost World" (by Nat Segaloff and John de Lancie for "Alien Voices"). 311 Washington Street, Woodstock, IL 60098 <www.dramaticpublishing.com>.
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January 2014 #8

15603. The Times has reported (Dec. 3, 2013) that the Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh has received a £2.7 million grant to redevelop its Surgeons' Hall Museum. The displays are to include the letter to Joseph Bell from Conan Doyle in which he wrote that "It is most certainly to you that I owe Sherlock Holmes." And a leather wallet made from the skin of the infamous murderer William Burke (as in Burke and Hare).
15604. News from Laurie R. King, in the latest issue of her newsletter (News and Nonsense), which you can read at <www.tinyurl.com/klescba>. The title of the next Mary Russell novel is DREAMING SPIES; set in Japan and Oxford, it is due in Feb. 2015. Laurie has also published a Kindle edition of her BA thesis (FOOLISH WISDOM, 1977) and her MA thesis (FEMININE ASPECTS OF GOD, 1984), with a new introduction (Laurie calls herself a recovering academic, and you can see what she's recovering from); 99¢ at <www.amazon.com>.
15605. The BBC now offers a "Sherlock: The Network" iPhone and iPad app, with more than 30 minutes of new video content, games, and a mystery to solve. £2.99 in the U.K. and \$4.99 in the U.S.; details at <www.sherlockthenetwork.com>.
15606. The New York Society Library (at 53 East 79th Street) has an exhibition on "From the Western Front and Beyond: The Writings of World War One" through Nov. 15 that displays books by members of the Wellington House, described as "a secret arm of the British Foreign Office" that included Conan Doyle and 25 other well-known authors "who were recruited to create propaganda on behalf of the Allied forces," according to an article in DNAinfo New York (Jan. 24). "Wellington House" was the informal name of the War Propaganda Bureau.
15607. Brad Schwartz's interesting contribution to the blog "Sounding Out!" on Jan. 9 <www.tinyurl.com/lce34zc> discusses and contrasts (with audio) Orson Welles' performances as Holmes and Moriarty, and explores the influences of the Canon on Welles' career.
15608. Some additional news about the BBC series "Sherlock": The Wrap has reported that Benedict Cumberbatch, executive producer Stephen Moffat, and his wife producer Sue Vertue were at the Television Critics Association press tour on Jan. 20. Moffat said that Ben Stephenson, head of drama at the BBC, has commissioned the series for 50 years, and that it will continue "until Benedict gets too famous." Vertue commented that "he gets precious and just doesn't want to do it," and Cumberbatch said that he's not in any danger of burning out in the role, as some of his predecessors had, noting that "I'm younger than any of them were or are."
15609. Welcome to our new postage rates, now 49¢/ounce (domestic) and \$1.15 (international); the old rates were 46¢ (domestic) and \$1.10 (international). The new subscription rates for the ink-on-paper version of this newsletter are \$12.50 (domestic) and \$20.50 (international). You're also welcome to read the electronic version without charge (and with illustrations in color and live URLs) at the Red Circle's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/d8uoo80> or at Willis Frick's Sherlocktron <www.tinyurl.com/kl9gcll>.
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February 2014 #1

15610. A bit more on the birthday festivities: "Baker Street Irregulars Turns 80" was the headline on the story by Peter Cannon's story in Publishers Weekly (Jan. 22) <www.tinyurl.com/lmogyj5>. And Amanada Hopluch's story on "Sherlockians Gather as Americans Get the Chance to View the Latest BBC Series" ran in the Guardian (Jan. 19) <www.tinyurl.com/ks5e4bq>.
15611. The title of The Baker Street Journal's 2013 Christmas Annual is "Disaster at the New Century" (it's now in the hands of subscribers to the BSI, and not otherwise available unless you can find it at eBay or wherever), and it offers the text of Ouida Rathbone's "Sherlock Holmes: A New Play in Three Acts" (1953), published for the first time ever, with a fine introduction by Nicholas Utechin. The 2014 Christmas Annual will be Elaine and Jonathan McCafferty's tribute to Douglas Wilmer, also available only to subscribers to the BSI. \$38.50 (to the U.S.) or \$49.00 (elsewhere) for four issues and the Annual; checks can be sent to the BSI (Box 583, Zionsville, IN 46077), and credit-card payments are welcome from foreign subscribers; you can also subscribe at the BSI web-site at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>.
15612. The latest volume in the Baker Street Irregulars Manuscript Series is IRREGULAR STAIN, edited by Robert Katz and Andrew Solberg, with a facsimile of the original manuscript of "The Second Stain", an annotated transcript, history, commentary, and artwork. The commentary includes Bob Katz's explanation of why Lancaster Avenue is second only to Baker Street in importance for Sherlockians, a facsimile of the only known galleys for a Sherlock Holmes story, and an explanation by John Baesch and William Walsh of their belief that Holmes attended Haverford rather than Oxford or Cambridge. 188 pp., \$39.95; details, including the table of contents and a brief excerpt, are at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com/stain.html>.
15613. Also from the BSI is THE REMARKABLE CHARACTERS OF ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE, edited by Joel M. Silver; it's the proceedings of a conference at the Lilly Library in 2009 that focused almost entirely on Conan Doyle's non-Sherlockian work, and it's nice indeed to have a chance to read some excellent papers. 138 pp., \$35.00; details at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com/characters.html>. The books can also be ordered by mail (checks payable to The Baker Street Irregulars) from Michael H. Kean, 3040 Stoa Road, Pebble Beach, CA 93593; shipping costs for one book are \$5.95 (to the U.S.)/\$22.95 elsewhere, and for two books are \$7.45/\$27.95.
15614. "Oggy et les cafards: Le film" ["Oggy and the Cockroaches: The Film"] is a French animation <www.tinyurl.com/lnl2wx9> that had its premiere in France last year and is scheduled in the U.S. on June 27. Jennie Paton discovered a 26-minute Sherlockian sequence at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/ltyb3hq>. If you want to see the entire film, it's at <www.tinyurl.com/kntjau9>.
15615. "Sherlock Holmes Is Alive and Well!" notes a recent blog from the University of Texas <www.tinyurl.com/kp8vcz2>, offering excellent scans of some of the rare items at the Harry Ransom Center. Images of original Sherlockian artwork by Sidney Paget are spectacular, showing how much was lost when the engraving were made. Last year the center launched a new on-line collection that includes Holmes highlights (links are provided in the blog).
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February 2014 #2

15616. Many admirers of Sherlock Holmes also admire Nero Wolfe, whose creator Rex Stout was an excellent writer as well as an enthusiastic Sherlockian; Stout's Nero Wolfe series has been continued by Robert Goldsborough, whose most recent book is MURDER IN THE BALL PARK, just published by the Mysterious Press <www.tinyurl.com/kfwag2d>. There was a long interview with Goldsborough by J. Kingston Pierce at his blog The Rap Sheet on Jan. 21 <www.therapsheet.blogspot.com>.
15617. THE ONE FIXED POINT IN A CHANGING AGE: A NEW GENERATION ON SHERLOCK HOLMES (Indianapolis: Gasogene Books, 2014; 271 pp. \$24.95) is a resounding refutation of the often-seen lament that a younger generation of Sherlockians has nothing to offer the Sherlockian world beyond youth and enthusiasm; edited by Kristina Manente, Maria Heischhack, Sarah Roy, and Taylor Blumberg, and with an apt introduction by Laurie R. King, the essays collected in the book offer insightful scholarship into the Canon as well as its modern manifestations. It also is interesting to see how many of the sources cited are from Internet archives, blogs, and YouTube; "the times they are a-changin'" for scholars, too.
15618. Also from Gasogene: Ann Margaret Lewis' THE WATSON CHRONICLES: A SHERLOCK HOLMES NOVEL IN STORIES (2014; 283 pp., \$22.95), with six connected stories that begin in 1900 as Holmes contemplates retirement and offer an interesting view of Sherlock and Mycroft Holmes, and Watson; the stories are told with sentiment and imagination. Gasogene is at Box 63808, Indianapolis, IN 46268 <www.gasogenebooks.com>.
15619. The admirers of the writings of Jules Verne are dedicated indeed: the North American Jules Verne Society <www.najvs.org> is publishing a long series of his books, plays, and articles, many translated into English for the first time. BANDITS & REBELS (Albany: BearManor Fiction, 2013; 214 pp., \$19.95) includes his "The Siege of Rome" (a historical adventure in the tradition of Alexandre Dumas), with series editor Brian Taves' comment that Verne, in 1857, reviewed a painting with that title by Horace Vernet, noted as a relation of Sherlock Holmes.
15620. Conan Doyle also admired Verne's works, and read some of them in French at Stonyhurst at the age of 14, encountering the Nautilus long before he wrote "Danger!" (1914). BANDITS & REBELS also has the first story ("San Carlos") Verne wrote about submarines, long before he wrote TWENTY THOUSAND LEAGUES UNDER THE SEA.
15621. Steve Kious' SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE CRATER LAKE ADVENTURE (Mechanicsburg: Sunbury Press, 2013; 132 pp., \$9.99) has Holmes and Watson to Paris in 1896 to solve a mystery for Jules Verne, and then Holmes, Watson, and Verne visit Oregon to investigate a mysterious flying machine; lots of local history and geography.
15622. One of the nice films screened at the "Sherlock Holmes: Behind the Canonical Screen" conference at UCLA in 2012 was Eille Norwood's silent "The Sign of Four" (1923); Jennie Paton has reported that you can see some clips from the film at <www.vimeo.com/84890479>. Russ Merritt notes that there also are clips from "The Bruce-Partington Plans" (which suggests that additional films have been found).

February 2014 #3

15623. Maria Konnikova's MASTERMIND: HOW TO THINK LIKE SHERLOCK HOLMES (January 13 #4) has been nominated for an Agatha (best nonfiction) at Malice Domestic. Also nominated in the same category is Daniel Stashower's THE HOUR OF PERIL: THE SECRET PLOT TO MURDER LINCOLN BEFORE THE CIVIL WAR (Dan has explained that he was not able to persuade his publisher to include a mention of Sherlock Holmes in the book).
15624. Benedict Cumberbatch has recorded a segment for "Sesame Street" appearing with his arch-nemesis Murray-arty; there's no word on when the segment will air, but in the meantime you can watch it at <www.youtube.com/pf6gfk>.
15625. Further to the mention (January 14 #5) of Bob Byrne's web-site for admirers of Solar Pons <www.solarpons.com>, he also has a mailing list for occasional announcements about Solar Pons; if you'd like to be on his mailing list, he is at <bob@solarpons.com>.
15626. The second issue of the resurrected Saturday Review of Literature was published in January, edited by George Fletcher, Jon Lellenberg, Don Pollock, and Phil Shreffler, and with what they describe as "history, mystery, and science," including reviews and an interesting article by Elizabeth T. Gray Jr. (on "A Case of Identity: Holmes and Hafiz"). \$5.00 postpaid from Donald Pollock (521 College Avenue, Niagara Falls, NY 14305).
15627. "Your Friend Elle" has offered some imaginative Sherlock Holmes Party Ideas at her web-site <www.tinyurl.com/lhsz8ks>, with a ReichenBingo Falls game and a cake decorated to match the wallpaper at 221B Baker Street.
15628. Terminally cute? Waffles is a ginger cat who has his own web-site and many fans, including someone who has supplied artwork showing Waffles dressed as nine different characters in the "Sherlock" series; you can find "Sherlick Holmews" at <www.tinyurl.com/m3yrlhh>.
15629. SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE ADVENTURE OF THE MODERN CINDERELLA, by Thomas Owen (Amazon Digital Services, 2013; 53 pp., \$5.95), presents Holmes and Watson in an Edwardian version of the classic fairy tale.
15630. John Aidiyantz, who founded the Sherlock Holmes Museum in Baker Street in 1990, is in the news again: according to the Daily Mail (Jan. 18) he is using money from the Sherlock Holmes Museum in a bid to win a reversal for a convicted murderer <www.tinyurl.com/l6s7qaa>. Last year he was sued by his mother Grace over control of almost £2 million in admission fees from the Museum (March 13 #5), but he has now told the paper he had settled the case and is good terms with his mother.
15631. When in Houston: there's a new Baker Street Pub & Grill in Cypress (a suburb of Houston) <www.tinyurl.com/mykkboa>, offering 40 taps with about 96 different beers, and a lengthy happy hour.
15632. Further to earlier mentions of a Lego minifigure of Sherlock Holmes (September 11 #4) and someone's Lego recreation of the sitting-room at 221B (September 13 #4), a CNET story (Feb. 4) reports that Lego is considering the possibility of a set of "Sherlock" minifigures as one of six Winter Lego Review qualifiers. And they're colorful indeed <www.tinyurl.com/k3cgdtf>.

February 2014 #4

15633. Phil Attwell has reported some news from a story in Radio Times (Feb. 8) about the magazine's Covers Party: "Doc Martin" stars Caroline Catz and Martin Clunes had a new project to announce: they're making Julian Barnes' book ARTHUR AND GEORGE into a two-parter for ITV, coming out in 2015. None of the other entertainment web-sites have anything about this, but we'll see if anything develops.
15634. Kelly Blau spotted a story headlined "His Friends Know Him as Petrowskonicovick" in the N.Y. Times (Feb. 1) <www.tinyurl.com/mlpg8pn> that reports that other Brazilians are oddly named: "A strange name like Sherlock Holmes da Silva, pronounced SHARE-Lockee WHOLE-mess in Brazil, certainly does have a distinctive ring to it."
15635. The winter issue of The Magic Door (the newsletter published by The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) honors the Brigadier Gerard, celebrating the Library's acquisition of the manuscript of "The Marriage of the Brigadier" with articles by admirers of one of the most interesting characters created by Sir Arthur. You can request a copy of the newsletter from Clifford S. Goldfarb, 22 Markdale Avenue, Toronto, ON M6C, 1T1, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.
15636. The 2012 Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture was presented at the Library by Roy Pilot (on "The Lost World Revisited"), and his remarks have been published for members of The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection; a limited number of copies are available if you join the Friends now. Their web-site at <www.acdfriends.org> has PayPal and credit-card capability), or you can contact Cliff Goldfarb (addresses above); the minimum

donation of \$25.00 brings three issues of their newsletter and a copy of the 2013 Memorial Lecture (by Bernard Lightman on "Conan Doyle and the Scientific Naturalists").

15637. The Library will celebrate the opening of its new Arthur Conan Doyle Room on May 9, and Lyndsay Faye will deliver this year's Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture ("Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: Storytelling and the Passion of the Narrator"); details at <www.acdfriends.org/events.htm>.
15638. When in Reading: Denny Dobry has for many years welcomed those who want to visit his splendid recreation of the sitting-room at 221B Baker Street in his home in Reading, Pa. <www.facebook.com/221binReading>, and he is holding an open house on Apr. 26, 1:00 to 6:00 pm. You can contact him to RSVP and to ask for directions <dendobry@ptd.net>.
15639. Barbara Hicks died on Sept. 6. She had a long career in supporting roles, and many fans (her obituary in The Times, noted that Mel Brooks considered her the funniest woman he had ever met); she played Emily Garrideb in Granada's "The Mazarin Stone" (1994).
15640. Andrew Malec has noted Denis Gohin's splendid archive of illustrations by Frederic Dorr Steele, Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian, and in full color, on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/lnuolf6>, and that there is additional Steele artwork in the Cabinet of American Illustration at the Library of Congress web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/laua5r5> and at Paul Giambarba's web-site devoted to "100 Years of Illustration and Design" <www.tinyurl.com/l3nsglx>.
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February 2014 #5

15641. Plans to name a South Norwood lake in honor of Conan Doyle (December 13 #3) were unofficially successful, with 100 supporters gathering on Feb. 1 for a ceremony that also included enjoy Morris dancing and poetry. The Croydon Council's head of public safety refused to give formal approval, but the South Norwood Tourist Board is nevertheless proud of Lake Conan Doyle.
15642. "The Ambience & Residents on Baker Street" will be the theme of this year's "Gathering of Southern Sherlockians" in Chattanooga, Tenn., on Apr. 26-27; details are available from Kent Ross at <kenthross@gmail.com>. The Wigmore Street Post Office will also meet in Chattanooga on Apr. 25; their contact is Dave Milner <dmycroft@bellsouth.net>.
15643. Some who visited New York for the birthday festivities were able to see the spectacular "Edgar Allan Poe: Terror of the Soul" exhibition at the Morgan Library, where one could view three of the twelve known copies of the first edition of TAMERLANE AND OTHER POEMS, quite likely together for the first time since they were printed in 1827. Many items displayed were from the collection of Susan Jaffe Tane, who contributed "A Poe Collector's Memoir" to the catalog; she's a fine writer and an interesting collector, and you can learn more about her at <www.tinyurl.com/mh5fzo7> (click on "biographies" and "exhibition catalog introduction").
15644. "Sherlock Holmes Returns from the Dead" was the headline on a France24 story (Jan. 2) <www.tinyurl.com/myy4wpm>, notable for a delightful photograph of Ed Johnson performing as a living statue near King's Cross Station in London. There's video at YouTube of the opening ceremony of the living-statues area in King's Cross Square on Sept. 26 <www.tinyurl.com/ln84785>. Careful readers will recall that the station is mentioned by Sherlock Holmes in the Canon: "King's Cross Station," said he (in "The Missing Three Quarter"). There's another important series of stories that mention King's Cross, where Harry Potter and his friends board the Hogwarts Express, and where fans can now have their pictures taken at Platform 9-¾.
15645. If you're wondering about which king was commemorated at the cross, it was King George IV, whose statue stood from 1830 to 1845 at the crossroads of Gray's Inn Road, Pentonville Road, and New Road (now known as Euston Road). And there are allusions to him in the Canon: he served as the Prince Regent before becoming king and the Regency is mentioned in three stories.
15646. The Beacon Society <www.beaconsociety.com> offers January Stauber grants of up to \$500 to fund development of programs that will introduce young people to Sherlock Holmes; the deadline for grant applications is May 1; details are available at the web-site and from Alan Devitt <adevitt@comcast.net>.
15647. Oscar Ross spotted an article in The Sunday Times (Jan. 26) about a pair of teenage sweethearts who ran away from Stonyhurst College to the Dominican Republic, where they lived off their parents' credit cards until the police traced them to the five-star Punta Cana resort. What's of interest is that Stonyhurst now costs £30,000 a year; Conan Doyle attended the school from 1867 to 1875 (no one seems to know what it cost at that time).
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February 2014 #6

15648. Simon Vance, winner of many awards for his audiobooks, has recorded more than 700 books over the last 20 years, and you can sample some of them at his web-site <www.simonvance.com>; Of particular interest to Sherlockians is his new THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES (Grand Haven: Brilliance Audio, 2013; 50 CDs, 59 hours, \$99.99). It's unabridged and nicely done indeed: Vance has an excellent voice and pays careful attention to the text and the various characters.
15649. "Baker Street Vienna" is a Sherlock Holmes convention planned for June 14-15 in (of course) Vienna <www.bakerstreetvienna.at>; the convention will be bilingual (German and English), and registration is open now.
15650. The CBS-TV series "Elementary" is about to set some records: when the second season ends, Jonny Lee Miller and Lucy Liu will have played Holmes and Watson 48 times (more than any actors on film and television); Jeremy Brett played Holmes 41 times in the Granada series. "Elementary" also will have aired for 48 hours (another record); the Granada series ran for 46 hours. And it's possible that there's a third record: according to the Hollywood Reporter (Feb. 14), the network will receive about \$3 million per episode from a just-signed agreement that covers cable (WGN America), subscription-video-on-demand (Hulu Plus), and an unnamed broadcast component.
15651. Anthony Hinds died on Sept. 30. He had a long career in the film industry, and made Hammer Studios famous for a series of horror films that often featured Peter Cushing and Christopher Lee; one of them was "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1959). Hinds also wrote a three-act dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1982), and (as John Elder) the script for "The Masks of Death" (1984).
15652. NPW (the retail division of Natural Products and Worldwide) <www.npw.co.uk> has created an amusing set of "Great Literary Moustaches" (£4.95) that anyone can wear, thanks to the adhesive backing; look for them on-line at Amazon. Conan Doyle is at the right in the second row (and the others are Shakespeare, Kipling, Hemingway, Twain, and Orwell).
15653. Vincent J. Cirillo's interesting discussion of "Arthur Conan Doyle: (1859-1930): Physician During the Typhoid Epidemic in the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902)" in the Journal of Medical Biography (Feb. 2014) covers new ground in Conan Doyle's medical career; copies are available by e-mail from the author <vcjcirillo@optonline.net>.
15654. Further to British prime minister David Cameron's discussion of "Sherlock" (December 13 #6), The Times reported (Jan. 29) he was interviewed on BBC Radio 2 and said that he had received the boxed DVD set of "Elementary" from Father Christmas. "That was good of Father Christmas," he added, "Good pick."
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15655. That earlier item noted that the headline on a story in Radio Times (Dec. 9) read "Chinese fans go potty for the BBC's Sherlock." That seems to be true: according to the Shanghai Daily (Jan. 25), after "The Empty Hearse" debuted on the video web-site Youku.com the program was viewed more than 5 million times in the first two hours. And there now is a cafe named Sherlock on Ruijin Road South in Shanghai.

February 2014 #7

15656. WHO THINKS EVIL, by Michael Kurland (New York: Minotaur, 2014; 286 pp., \$25.99), is the latest in his delightful series about Professor Moriarty, offering great fun as well as a good story. Sherlock Holmes appears as a supporting character, and so does Mycroft, but as usual it's Moriarty who's responsible for solving the mystery. The author's web-site is at <www.michaelkurland.com>.
15657. The Sherlock Holmes Hospitality Group owns five pubs in Edmonton (Alberta) <www.sherlockshospitality.com>: Duggan's Boundary Pub, the Rose and Crown Pub, and three pubs all called The Sherlock Holmes. Their first Sherlock Holmes pub was opened in 1985.
15658. Laurie King and Dan Stashower discussed "The Enduring Popularity of Sherlock Holmes" on "The Kojo Nnamdi Show" on WAMU-FM on Feb. 13, and you can listen to a podcast (and read a transcript) at <www.tinyurl.com/k8kwp7s>.
15659. Sid Caesar died on Feb. 12. A master of television sketch comedy on "The Admiral Broadway Review" (1949), "Your Show of Shows" (1950-1954), "Caesar's Hour" (1954-1957), and "Sid Caesar Invites You" (1958), he went on to star on stage and screen; he was nominated for an Emmy every year from 1951 to 1958, and won the award twice. There's a report that when Basil Rathbone appeared on "Sid Caesar Invites You", Caesar introduced him as "Sherlock Holmes".
15660. The Lion's Mane is a giant jellyfish, but apparently not as large as it appears in this photograph (the diver can be seen at the left); the photograph was posted by Craig McClain to Deep Sea News <www.deepseanews.com> on Jan. 23, 2012, with his explanation that the Lion's Mane is "really big, just not that big."
15661. Lisa Daniely died on Jan. 24. She made her film debut in "Lilli Marlene" (1951) and went on to a long career with roles that included Queen Elizabeth II in "Princess in Love" (1996). She also played Nancy Barclay in the Granada version of "The Crooked Man" (1984).
15662. A company called Nightlight Designs offers an imaginative Sherlock Holmes Pub Nightlight (\$17.99 with light) <www.tinyurl.com/m5xy7jm>; you can also find it at Amazon.
15663. Jennie Paton spotted an interesting 56-minute video interview with Benedict Cumberbatch at BAFTA New York on Feb. 13 <www.vimeo.com/87020140>; he discusses "Sherlock" and much more. BAFTA is the British Academy of Film and Television Arts, which holds events in New York from time to time.
15664. Asked about the future of "Sherlock" in an interview with Assignment X on Jan. 31, co-creator Stephen Moffat said that "I can envision doing it for a while--quite a while." He added that eventually he'll stop doing "Doctor Who" but he imagines that "we'll come back and do 'Sherlock' fairly often for many years, rather than very often for a few years." You can read the entire interview at <www.tinyurl.com/kfwgtcg>. Assignment X also offers an interview with Benedict Cumberbatch on Jan. 24 <www.tinyurl.com/lrts36q>.
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February 2014 #8

15665. The Portsmouth City Council has been reported to be considering a proposal to create a £25 million "world-class visitor attraction" in the city. According to the Portsmouth News (Feb. 17), Steve Pitt, of Portsmouth Cultural Partnership, which came up with the idea, said "what we are talking about is a world-class Sherlock Holmes experience." There was a flurry of publicity in the British press, but there was no confirmation of actual planning for the project other than the publicity.
15666. Joseph W. Moran ("Sir Augustus Moran, C.B.") died on Feb. 18. Joe was an actuary for the N.Y. Life Insurance Co., a Fellow of the Society of Actuaries, and for more than 30 years a member of The Three Garridebs. He delighted in defending the memory of the much maligned Col. Sebastian Moran. He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1991.
15667. Pop-up books can be delightful works of art, and there is now one that is properly Sherlockian: THE ILLUSTRATED SHERLOCK HOLMES (San Diego: Canterbury Classics, 2013; 58 pp., \$19.95) is nicely illustrated in full color by Chris Coady and contains two stories ("A Scandal in Bohemia" and "The Blue Carbuncle") with eight splendid pop-up creations. Recommended.
15668. SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE ESSENTIAL MYSTERIES IN ONE SITTING, by Jennifer Kasius (Philadelphia: Running Press, 2013; 207 pp., \$5.95), offers capsule summaries in a miniature edition (2½ by 3 in.) of a dozen Canonical tales, along with descriptions of the characters and settings.
15669. Also from the Running Press: Denis O. Smith's THE MAMMOTH BOOK OF THE LOST CHRONICLES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (2014; 503 pp., \$13.95), with a dozen nicely plotted stories (most of them new). There's a British edition from Constable & Robinson (£8.99).
15670. Some theater news: L. Don Swartz's new dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is being performed at the Ghostlight Theatre in North Tonawanda, N.Y. through Mar. 9 <www.starrynighttheatre.com>. Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" is on at the Gulfshore Playhouse in Naples, Fla., through Mar. 16 <www.gulfshoreplayhouse.org>. Katie Forgette's "Sherlock Holmes and the Jersey Lily" is being produced at Theatre Suburbia in Houston, Tex., through Mar. 22 <www.theatresuburbia.org>. Stephen Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" has been scheduled at the Chatham Playhouse in Chatham, N.J., Mar. 7-22 <www.chathamplayers.org>. Tim Kelly's dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is scheduled at Loyola University New Orleans, Mar. 14-22 <www.tinyurl.com/l9q5emb>, and his adaptation of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" will be produced in Owasso, Okla., Apr. 10-12 <www.octok.org>.
15671. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists (aka The Friends of Sherlock Holmes) will honor the world's first forensic geologist with drinks and dinner at the Black Labrador in Houston on Apr. 9, when local Sherlockians will have a chance to meet geologists who are in town for the annual meeting of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists; if you would like to attend the festivities, just let me know.
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March 2014 #1

15672. Sorry about that: it's on May 3 that the Toronto Public Library will celebrate the opening of its new Arthur Conan Doyle Room, with Lyndsay Faye delivering this year's Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture ("Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: Storytelling and the Passion of the Narrator"); details can be found at <www.acdfriends.org/events.htm>.
15673. The saga continues: the Conan Doyle Estate has filed its appeal against the judge's ruling (December 13 #1) that Les Klinger (and everyone else) can use the Sherlock Holmes characters and story elements in the 50 stories now in the public domain without permission from the Estate, arguing that the judge's ruling was erroneous. You can read the Estate's brief (53 pages, plus 35 pages of appendix) at <www.free-sherlock.com>; click on "Court Filings" and then scroll down to the last entry. And yes, it's called a brief (I've no idea how long a document can be before the lawyers no longer are allowed to call it a brief). Les Klinger's brief is due the first week in April, and the Estate gets to file a reply, and Les then files a reply to the reply. Oral arguments may take place in May.
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15674. Computer games get only passing mentions here, because I don't play them, but Frogwares Studio has a continuing series, the most recent being "Crimes & Punishments: Sherlock Holmes"; you see what they're like at YouTube, because people have made videos walking you through the games; if you'd like to see the previous game in the series, go to <www.youtube.com> and search for [testament of sherlock holmes walkthrough].
15675. Having said that, Maureen Mosher recommends a simpler game called "Sherlock Holmes Escape" available (without charge) at Nickelodeon's Adding Games web-site <www.tinyurl.com/mk82nju>.
15676. Tom and Marie O'Day noted a report from Michael Allan Mallory at the DOROTHY-L mailing list linking to Denise Martin's interesting story on "Steven Moffat Explains the Origins Sherlock's Best-Man Speech" on-line in Vulture (Jan. 27) <www.tinyurl.com/knzhy7m>.
15677. "The Secrets of Sherlock's Mind Palace" is the title of an interesting discussion by Sarah Zielinski, who suggests that the memory technique was invented by the ancient Greeks; you can read the piece on-line at the Smithsonian magazine web-site <www.tinyurl.com/lrtua6y>.
15678. Don Hobbs continues to update his "The Galactic Sherlock Holmes"; the January edition has now with 100 foreign languages (and 9 versions of English such as Braille and Pitman Shorthand), showing covers in color and bibliographic information; the bibliography on a CD costs \$15.00 postpaid (to the U.S.)/\$20.00 (elsewhere), or free to those who report something not already in the bibliography).
15679. "Sherlock Holmes Under the Magnifying Glass" is the Smithsonian Associates title for what they call "A Conan Doyle Birthday Celebration" scheduled at the Ripley Center in Washington on May 22. Dan Stashower will discuss both Holmes and Conan Doyle, and Scott Sedar will read from some classic Conan Doyle works. Tickets are available on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/mkpwof2>.
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March 2014 #2

15680. A collection of John Lennon manuscripts will go to auction at Sotheby's in New York on June 4. According to a story in the N.Y. Times (Feb. 25), the material is from the collection of Tom Maschler, who in the 1960s was the literary director of Jonathan Cape, Lennon's publisher in Britain. The highlight of the material is the manuscript of "The Singulare Experience of Miss Anne Duffield" (a parody that was published in A SPANIARD IN THE WORKS in 1965, and featured Shamrock Wolms and Doctored Whopper), with an estimate of \$70,000. And Lennon's original artwork for the illustrations for the story also will be in the sale. You can read the parody on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/7sfdvrl>.
15681. Ray Majors has written a new song "The 7% Solution" on an album of the same name, released on Jan. 14 by Angel Air Records as a CD (£9.35/\$18.41) and as an MP3 download. Now in his 5th decade as a guitarist, Majors has survived stage 3 throat cancer, and having experienced the numbing qualities of painkillers during his treatment, recalled Sherlock Holmes' recreational use of cocaine.
15682. Wikipedia Portals are useful entry points to Wikipedia content, and there now are 1,132 portals on Wikipedia, one of them Sherlockian; you can find the Holmes Portal at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portal:Sherlock_Holmes>, and it's well worth exploring.
15683. The Royal Mail has issued a set of ten stamps honoring the 150th anniversary of Middlesex County Cricket Club; it was in 1877 that Lord's Cricket Ground in St. John's Wood became the club's permanent home ground, and it remains the club's home today. Lord's, of course, has special significance for Sherlockians: in 1946 Dorothy L. Sayers wrote (in her Foreword to UNPOPULAR OPINIONS) that "The rule of the game is that it must be played as solemnly as a county cricket match at Lord's." You can see an image of the sheet of stamps at <www.tinyurl.com/kbcdk6q>.
15684. "Urlach Holmes" is "the greatest football detective" in an amusing 5-minute segment that aired on Fox Football Daily on Mar. 4, starring Brian Urlacher (who played 13 seasons with the Chicago Bears) <www.tinyurl.com/ljfc3b>. Thanks to Jennie C. Paton, who spotted the video.
15685. Ken Lanza spotted a mention of an interesting collectible: "Walther. Carl Walther" is the title of an article by Mark Keefe in the American Rifleman (Oct. 2013) <www.tinyurl.com/mdxx7bq>. According to Keefe, in 1979 a company called Umarex made a blank-firing revolver sold in a book-shaped package with a magnifying glass and paid the Conan Doyle heirs 25¢ for each set sold; according to the Umarex web-site <www.tinyurl.com/l69mwfj>, where you will find an image of the set, it sold at a rate of 80,000 a year.
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March 2014 #3

15686. Readers will have noted that I make use of <www.tinyurl.com> to avoid the long strings of characters (letters and numerals) in URLs. The company uses 33 characters, so there are some 42 billion encoded URLs available; they're not going to run out soon. They're certainly useful: I see that I used 24 of them in the February issue. TinyURL, launched in 2002, was the first company to offer this sort of service, but there are many others in the field now.
15687. Further to reports on the film "Gnomeo & Juliet: Sherlock Gnomes" announced by Rocket Pictures some time ago (March 12 #6 and September 12 #2) as a sequel to their "Gnomeo and Juliet" (2011), the company filed a trademark application for "Sherlock Gnomes" last year, and the Conan Doyle Estate is opposing it.
15688. The new film, still "in production," was reported to have Gnomeo and Juliet enlisting the help of Sherlock Gnomes, the world's greatest ornamental detective, when gnomes start disappearing from the suburban gardens of England.
15689. Ross Husband died on Jan. 2. His pastiche SHERLOCK HOLMES & THE MASTER ENGRAVER (December 13 #5) was the first of six novels in a planned series titled "The Revival of Sherlock Holmes".
15690. The Pioneer Drama Service <www.pioneerdrama.com> continues to publish plays for production by schools and community theater groups: their first was Tim Kelly's "Sherlock Meets the Phantom" (1975), and their latest is Craig Sodaro's "The Secret Case of Sherlock Holmes" (2012).
15691. Playscripts Inc. <www.playscripts.com> offers two scripts: "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily" (by Katie Forgette) and "Sherlock Holmes and the West End Horror" (adapted by Marcia Milgrom Dodge and Anthony Dodge from Nicholas Meyer's novel); \$8.99 each.
15692. Further to an earlier report of a Sherlock Holmes slot machine (December 10 #1), Dan Andriacco has spotted one of the machines at a casino in the U.S.; the machine's made by Aristocrat <www.aristocrat-us.com/#!sherlock/c1102>.
15693. The latest Sherlockian audio from Big Finish is a set titled THE ORDEALS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, containing four one-hour adventures ("The Guttering Candle", "The Gamekeeper's Folly", "The Bermondsey Cutthroats", and "The Sowers of Despair"); the stories are written by Nicholas Barnes and performed by a cast that includes Nicholas Briggs as Holmes and Richard Earl as Watson. They're nicely done indeed, and are available as 4 CDs (\$48.87) and as a download (\$25.00); P.O. Box 3787, Maidenhead, Berks. SL6 3TF, England, or <www.bigfinish.com>. The web-site also has downloadable copies of the company's monthly magazine Vortex, as well as information about their other Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian recordings.
15694. Peter A. Ruber ("Camden House") died on Mar. 6. He was an executive with the advertising agency Kenyon & Eckhardt in the 1960s, when his enthusiasms included Sherlock Holmes, Arthur Conan Doyle, Vincent Starrett, and August Derleth; he edited and published four issues of The Baker Street Gasogene in 1961 and 1962, and continued with a series of pamphlets and books that culminated with THE LAST BOOKMAN, a tribute to Starrett published in 1968. He received his Investiture from Baker Street Irregulars in 1964.
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March 2014 #4

15695. "The Musical Sherlock Holmes: A Bloody Game" was performed at the BBC Theater in Sinsa-dong, Korea, with 36 performances in March, directed by Noh Woo-sung and starring Song Yong-jin and Kim Do-Hyun (alternating as Holmes) and Lee Young-Mi (Jane Watson); you can read about it in the Korea JoongAng Daily <www.tinyurl.com/n77e7hh>. It's the second Sherlock Holmes musical in Korea: "Sherlock Holmes: The Secret of the Anderson Family" was performed in 2011 (November 11 #2); there's a 3-minute clip from that show available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/ll2bu6y>.
15696. Alexander Orlov has noted an entry at KinoPoisk (it's also at the Internet Movie Data Base) about "Sherlock Holmes and the Saint Ax Colossus" (scheduled for 2015; there's little information there other than mentions of the company Adventurous Arts, Doug Elliott (producer), and Aaron Webster (producer and writer), and no information at all found anywhere else.
15697. "A Cottage on Dartmoor" (aka "Escape from Dartmoor") is a British 87-minute 1929 silent film notable for some gloomy exteriors shot on Dartmoor; it was spotted by Greg Darak on a DVD issued by Kino International (2007); the DVD also has "Silent Britain" (2006), an 88-minute documentary produced by the British Film Institute for BBC-4. "Silent Britain" is notable for a 2-minute segment about Oswald Stoll and the Eille Norwood films, with a tinted and toned clip from "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1921); the BFI owns a copy of the film, but has not released it on cassette or DVD.
15698. Larry Millett's latest mystery novel is STRONGWOOD (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2014; 265 pp., \$24.95); it's a complicated and interesting story, nicely told with excerpts from newspapers, trial transcripts, diaries, and letters: Addie Strongwood is on trial for murder in 1904, and her lawyer is assisted by Shadwell Rafferty and his friends Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson. The author's web-site is at <www.larrymillett.com>.
15699. It's not Sherlockian, but: "Bees Saal Baad" [Twenty Years After] is an Indian 158-minute film produced by Geetanjali Pictures and released in 1962. It's obvious that Dhruva Chatterjee, who wrote the story, was familiar with THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, and you can see for yourself, since the film is available (with subtitles) on a Bollywood Entertainment DVD, and in Hindi only from other companies.
15700. The Leeds Teaching Hospitals Charitable Foundation is attempting to set a world record for the largest gathering of people dressed as Sherlock Holmes <www.sherlockworldrecord.com>; the challenge will be held at Temple Newsam in Leeds on Aug. 31 to help raise funds for a new Yorkshire Brain Research Centre, and you can read more about it at their web-site, where you can also enter a raffle to win signed memorabilia from the "Sherlock" television series. Thanks to the Baker Street Babes for the alert; their interesting web-site and podcast can be found at <www.bakerstreetbabes.tumblr.com>.
15701. Barry S. Brown's MRS. HUDSON IN THE RING (Santa Fe: Sunstone Press, 2014; 266 pp., \$22.95), is the third in his "Mrs. Hudson of Baker Street" series, in which Mrs. Hudson does the real detecting, with assistance from Holmes and Watson, this time in a case involving old-style boxing, Lillie Langtry, and murder (Mrs. Hudson gets to go undercover, so to speak, as the Jersey Lily's ladies maid).

March 2014 #5

15702. Steampunk is a modern Victorian science-fiction genre generally set in alternative universes, and it includes some interesting pastiches: one of them is SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE CASE OF THE MAN-MADE VACUUM, by Roy C. Booth and Nicholas Johnson, from the Harren Press (2014; 78 pp., \$5.39), in which a mechanically enhanced Holmes appears with Jack the Ripper and the Baroness von Frankenstein.
15703. THE SHERLOCK HOLMES ANIMATED COLLECTION, released by Liberation Entertainment in 2007 (\$29.99) is a boxed set of the four animated versions of the long stories that were produced in Australia in the 1980s by Burbank Films, with Peter O'Toole providing the voice of Sherlock Holmes. Slightly cheaper at Amazon, with a chance to save some money on all four DVDs.
15704. Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" continues to offer interesting content, including podcasts recorded by Scott and Burt Wolder. Their latest podcast (#62) is "Inside the BSI Weekend" <www.tinyurl.com/p3zoqm6> and it includes interviews with people who attended the birthday festivities in New York, among them Art Levine (who has been attending the Baker Street Irregulars' annual dinners since 1954).
15705. Vaughn Entwistle's THE REVENANT OF THRAXTON HALL (New York: Minotaur, 2014; 322 pp., \$25.99) is the first novel in his series taken from "the paranormal casebooks of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle," and it involves Conan Doyle (who is dealing with readers upset by his decision to kill off Sherlock Holmes) and Oscar Wilde in an investigation of a murder that hasn't yet been committed and that involves Daniel Dunglas Home, and to Society for Psychical Research, some weird goings on in the English countryside. The author has a web-site at <www.vaughnentwistle.com>.
15706. "Solves Circus Murder! Who killed Felipe, the Lion Tamer? Even the indefatigable Sherlock Holmes is worn with worry because of the important yet stubborn supernatural clue!" That's the promotion for a Rathbone/Bruce radio program, sponsored by the Petri Wine Company, in a newspaper advertisement possibly published in 1944. But which program was it? Which program involved the murder of Felipe?
15707. Now offered at the Baker Street Journal web-site <www.tinyurl.com/kac3ros> is "The Texas Set" (\$185.00); the limited-edition boxed set contains copies of BOHEMIAN SOULS and THE WRONG PASSAGE (about the two manuscripts at the University of Texas) in special bindings, together with a pamphlet with indexes to the two books.
15708. Francine Kitts has reported "Sherlock's Great Afghan Adventure Mystery Read & Knit-Along" created by Susan Woodley at Ravelry; it's a year-long project with a different pattern each month inspired by one of the stories, and you can read all about it at <www.tinyurl.com/jvu2y72>.
15709. The Cedars Spiritualist Church in Ipswich, where Conan Doyle attended seances in the 1920s, was offered at auction on Mar. 5, estimated at £500,000 to £700,000, according to the Daily Mail (Feb. 24); the newspaper story has pictures of the building <www.tinyurl.com/ktgnabf>. The building went unsold at the auction, but was sold afterward for £500,000; you can see more images at the auction-house web-site <www.tinyurl.com/oefmgr6>.

March 2014 #6

15710. Clarissa Dickson Wright died on Mar. 15. She became famous on the irreverent cooking show "Two Fat Ladies" broadcast by the BBC and the Food Network from 1996 to 1999, when her partner Jennifer Paterson died (August 99 #3); she also appeared on "Clarissa and the Countryman" from 2000 to 2003, and her BBC News obituary <www.tinyurl.com/mk54l6e>, reported by Scott Monty, included a photograph of her wearing a deerstalker.
15711. The Two Fat Ladies enjoyed traveling on a motorcycle and sidecar for their programs. Scott recalls that in the episode "Barristers at Lincoln's Inn" Clarissa said "Turn into Queer Street, Jennifer," to which Jennifer replied "They probably call it Gay Street now." "Not that sort of queer," Clarissa explained, "It's because the bankruptcy courts are here." And that reminded Scott of Lestrade telling a constable (in "The Second Stain") that "It's lucky for you, my man, that nothing is missing, or you would find yourself in Queer Street."
15712. "Nothing on Earth Can Hold Houdini" opened at the Axis Theater in New York on Feb. 27, and runs through Apr. 5 <www.axiscompany.org>; it's a new play by Randall Sharp, and stars George Demas (Houdini) and Spencer Aste (Arthur Conan Doyle), and has received favorable reviews in the N.Y. Times (Mar. 7) and elsewhere. Thanks to Ray Betzner for the report.

15713. "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" (a new play by Ken Ludwig) is to have its world premiere next year at the Arena Stage in Washington, D.C., Jan. 16-Feb. 22 <www.arenastage.org> and then moves to the McCarter Theatre Center in Princeton, N.J., Mar. 10-29 <www.mccarter.org>.
15714. Another new play is "Sherlock Holmes & the Ice Palace Murders" (dramatized by Jeffrey Hatcher from the novel by Larry Millett) scheduled for its world premiere at the Park Square Theatre in Minneapolis, June 19-July 19, 2015 <www.parksquaretheatre.org>.
15715. And there's lots more theater to report: Jerry R. Montoya's comedy "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" is being performed by the Children's Theatre of California at the B Street Theater in Sacramento, Calif., through Apr. 13 <www.bstreettheatre.org>. Jahanna Beecham and Malcolm Hillgartner's musical "Holmes and Watson Save the Empire" is due at the Evergreen Cultural Centre in Coquitlam, B.C., Apr. 1-5 <www.evergreenculturalcentre.ca>. Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" will be performed at George Fox University in Newberg, Ore., Apr. 3-13 <www.georgefox.edu>.
15716. Stephen Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" has two productions coming up: at the State Theatre in Bay City, Mich., from Apr. 24 to May 4 <www.baycityplayers.com>, and at the Coronado Playhouse, in Coronado, Calif., Apr. 11-May 18 <www.coronadoplayhouse.com>. Jeffrey Hatcher's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club" will be performed at the Playhouse in the Park in Cincinnati, Sept. 20-Oct. 12 <www.cincyplay.com>. Katie Forgette's "Sherlock Holmes and the Jersey Lily" is scheduled at the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre in Winnipeg, Oct. 1-25 <www.mtc.mb.ca>.
15717. "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" is a new British play performed by the Chapterhouse Theatre Company; it opens at Lacock Abbey, nr. Chippenham, on June 13 and then tours in Britain and Ireland <www.chapterhouse.org>.

March 2014 #7

15718. Sherlock Holmes is returning to Japanese television, this time as a puppet, and as a 15-year-old high-school student. According to a story in the Japan Times (Mar. 22), Koki Mitani, a popular playwright and director, is preparing a 20-episode series for NHK. Bunta Inone designed the puppets, and there are images and more information on the series at <www.tinyurl.com/p5g5qpm>. The first three shows were broadcast as a preview in March, and the next three will be seen in August; the entire series will air in October. Mitch Higurashi has kindly reported that you can see additional images at <www.nhk.or.jp/sh15>; click on the four blue boxes below the large image.
15719. Marlene Aig's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE LUFTON LADY (London: MX Publishing, 2013; 95 pp., £6.99/€7.99/\$9.95) is a welcome reminder of a fine writer who died far too young; set in 1878, it's a tale of a younger and more romantic Holmes, nicely told, and with an appreciative forward by written by Susan Dahlinger. The publisher's web-sites are at <www.mxpublishing.com> and at <www.mxpublishing.co.uk>.
15720. Also from MX Publishing: Matthew J. Elliott's THE IMMORTALS: AN UNAUTHORIZED GUIDE TO SHERLOCK AND ELEMENTARY (2013; 208 pp., £9.99/€12.99/\$16.95) is an interesting analysis/critique/comparison of the first two seasons of "Sherlock" and the first season of "Elementary"; the author notes that the whole book is a spoiler, and so it is, but it will be enjoyed by those who enjoy the series.
15721. And there's more: Stephen Seitz's NEVER MEANT TO BE (2013; 122 pp., £6.99/ €7.99/\$9.95) involves time traveler Cynthia Kenyon, who has a complicated romantic relationship with Watson. IS THAT MY HOLMES? and IS THAT MY WATSON? are amusing rhymed picture books written by Andrew Murray, with artwork by Deakin Brook (2013; 24 pp., £6.99/€7.99/\$9.95 each), that are inspired by recent film and television versions of Holmes and Watson. Eddy Webb's WATSON IS NOT AN IDIOT (2013; 201 pp., £9.99/€12.99/\$16.95) is not a rehabilitation of Watson (who doesn't really need one any more), but rather (as it's subtitled) "an opinionated tour of the Sherlock Holmes canon" that offers insights into the stories. Luke Benjamin Kuhns' SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE HORROR OF FRANKENSTEIN is a graphic novel with artwork by Marcie Klinger (2013; 32 pp., £7.99/€8.99/\$10.95).
15722. And Clair Daines' SHERLOCK HOLMES: A STUDY IN REGRET (2013; 242 pp., £6.99/€7.99/\$9.95) has Holmes and Mary Watson in pursuit of villains led by Col. Moran, who shot and killed Watson at the Reichenbach; the conclusion of the two-part series will be THE FINAL SOLUTION. W. P. Lawler's MYSTERY AT ST. ANDREWS (2013; 246 pp., £9.99/€12.99/\$16.95) is a reissue of the pastiche published in 2012 (April 13 #3); Watson, Holmes, Irene Adler, and much golfing. Andrew Murray's THE SHERLOCK HOLMES QUIZ BOOK (2013; 164 pp., £8.99/€10.99/\$12.95) offers 100 10-question quizzes on the Canon, television, and films.
15723. Andrew Clark has reported an interesting item from BBC News in Pictures on Feb. 26 <www.bbc.com/news/in-pictures-26339275> with a slide show of hybrid images of London street scenes (some of them at Canonical locations). The images are from Museum of London's "Streetmuseum" app, which is explained at <www.tinyurl.com/bvbnfca> and is available at the iPhone App Store.

March 2014 #8

15724. I suggested earlier that Watson doesn't really need rehabilitation any more. Nigel Bruce wasn't the first or the last actor to portray Watson as "boobus Britannicus" or Holmes' "rather stupid friend" (a phrase that Conan Doyle used in the Fox Movietone film interview (1929) after he had seen earlier Sherlock Holmes films). Younger generations of Sherlockians have been introduced to Watson by actors such as Robert Duval, David Burke, Edward Hardwicke, Jude Law, Martin Freeman, and Lucy Liu, all of whom present a Watson much closer to the Watson found in the Canon.
15725. The Huffington Post reported on Mar. 11 that Benedict Cumberbatch would be appearing as a celebrity guest at the Wizard World Minneapolis Comic Con on May 2-4, setting off a flurry of interest and an almost instant denial from the convention. But there are lots of other celebrities appearing at the convention <www.wizardworld.com/home-minneapolis.html>.
15726. C. Michael Forsyth's SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE AND HARRY HOUDINI IN THE ADVENTURE OF THE SPOOK HOUSE (Freedom's Hammer, 2014; 173 pp., \$13.46) involves Conan Doyle and Houdini and the medium Eva C. in an investigation of multiple murders and a haunted house in Virginia; Eva Carrière was a prominent spiritualist who was investigated by both Conan Doyle and Houdini, and she has an interesting entry at Wikipedia.
15727. One of the nicest things about the Internet is that it makes it possible to offer access to archives; Ted Bergman has done that quite nicely providing access to a wide variety of his work, Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian, in Swedish and in English <goto.glocalnet.net/tedbe> (there are some excellent photographs of his model of 221B Baker Street).
15728. Marc Pastor's BARCELONA SHADOWS was first published in Catalan in 2008, and has now been translated into English (London: Pushkin Press, 2014; 265 pp., £12.99/\$18.95); it's fiction, but based on the story of the very real Enriqueta Martí, who was a child murderer, kidnapper, and procurer of children who victimized Barcelona until she was arrested in 1912. It's a gripping novel, often grotesque and chilling, not for the faint of heart; it's also an excellent police procedural, but Sherlockian only because Inspector Moisès Corvo has read about Holmes.
15729. The Domino Lady, a masked heroine who first appeared in the May 1936 issue of Saucy Romantic Adventures, appeared with Sherlock Holmes in a story by Nancy Holder in Lori Gentile's anthology DOMINO LADY: SEX AS A WEAPON (August 09 #6); they're together again in a two-issue comic-book mini-series DOMINO LADY/SHERLOCK HOLMES from Moonstone Entertainment (2013; \$3.99 each) with artwork by Reno Maniquis <www.moonstonebooks.com>.

15730. Moonstone also has published SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE CROSSOVER CASEBOOK (2012; 300 pp., \$18.95); edited by Howard Hopkins, the anthology has 14 pastiches by authors such as Win Scott Eckert, Joe Gentile, Barbara Hambly, Christopher Sequeira, and Martin Powell, involving Holmes with characters who include Lawrence of Arabia, Harry Houdini, Calamity Jane, Arsene Lupin, and Dr. Thorndyke.

April 2014 #1

15731. The saga continues: Les Klinger filed his brief in opposition to the Conan Doyle Estate's appeal against the ruling (December 13 #1) that Les (and everyone else) can use the Sherlock Holmes characters and story elements in the 50 stories that are now in the public domain without getting permission from the Estate, and the Estate has responded; all of the filings are available at Les' web-site <www.free-sherlock.com>; click on "Court Filings" and then scroll down to the last entries. There will be oral arguments in the case in Chicago on May 22.
15732. The DFN Charitable Foundation has announced that it has exchanged contracts to purchase Undershaw (the former home of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle), and will create "the schools at Undershaw" with Undershaw as the upper school and an existing school, Stepping Stones in Hindhead as the junior school; the goal of the schools will be to create a 'gold standard' special-needs school for children and young adults who have mild learning and physical difficulties, and there's more information at <www.dfnfoundation.org>. And there's a 5-minute video at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=D8x0MUA15cw>.
15733. The foundation was established this year by David Forbes-Nixon, co-founder, chairman, and chief executive of Alcentra, a company that works "with investors around the world to help them make the most the market opportunities.
15734. Some treasures from the late Norman Nolan's collection will be offered at auction at Christie's in New York on June 19: the manuscript of "The Adventure of Black Peter", the original artwork for Sidney Paget's illustration showing Holmes and Watson in the railway carriage (in "Silver Blaze"), and a pair of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's surgical scissors. Christie's web-site is at <www.christies.com>; if you'd like to be on their mailing list for an announcement of the auction, you should ask Diane Nolan at <n2913@aol.com>. And Randall Stock's "Best of Sherlock" report on the items will be found at <www.tinyurl.com/mgwh55r>.
15735. The question was: "Who killed Felipe, the Lion Tamer?" (March 14 #5), asked in an advertisement for one of the Rathbone/Bruce radio programs. And the answer seems to be: no one. Alexander Orlov has reported that "Under the Big Top" was broadcast on Nov. 6, 1944, and you can listen to the program at <www.tinyurl.com/lc5a4fp>. What's really interesting is that there's no Felipe, the Lion Tamer in the story: victim of the murder is Giselle, the tightrope walker.
15736. Caroline Bryan Atkins has found an interesting Sherlockian game available (free) at Google Play <www.tinyurl.com/qb9exsa>; there's a lot more Sherlockian material at the web-site, which is well worth exploring.
15737. The Internet reverberated earlier this month with news of new photographs of fairies: the Manchester Evening News reported that Manchester lecturer John Hyatt had photographed what appeared to be fairies in the Rossendale Valley, and that the photographs would be exhibited at the Whitaker Museum in Rossendale <www.tinyurl.com/q58gn86>. The story was published on Apr. 2, which suggests that the announcement was made on Apr. 1. Caveat lector.
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April 2014 #2

15738. Fergus Hume's THE MYSTERY OF A HANSOM CAB (1886) isn't at all Sherlockian, but it's an interesting example of a truly popular Victorian mystery novel: it was self-published in Australia by the author, who sold all the rights for £50 and then watched sales rise to a reported 375,000 copies by the end of 1887, when A STUDY IN SCARLET made far less of an impression on readers. The State Library of New South Wales is reported to hold the only known copy of the first edition. Michael Dirda's perceptive review of a new edition of the book from Text Classics was published last month in the Washington Post last month <www.tinyurl.com/k7zun7j>.
15739. The amusing comment that "Though he might be more humble, there's no police like Holmes" is credited to Conan Doyle's brother-in-law E. W. Hornung; but what is the source? When and where did he say or write it?
15740. Mickey Rooney died on Apr. 6. He was born Joe Yule Jr., went on stage as a toddler in his parents' vaudeville act, and made his first appearance in films in at the age of six. The next year, in 1927, he made the first of his Mickey McGuire short films, and took half of his acting name from his role in the series; he went on to a long career as an actor, and never retired. In "Mickey the Detective" (1928) he ran a detective school, planning "to make Sherlock Holmes look like a cross-eyed house detective." You can see the film (in two parts) at <www.youtube.com>, as well as an excerpt from "Mickey's Disguises" (1933), which includes an amusing bit with Sherlockian artwork.
15741. The Société Sherlock Holmes de France's web-site has much to offer, including "The Conan Doyle Encyclopedia" <www.sshf.com/encyclopedia> which will reward those who explore it thoroughly. One such item is an entry for "Le Quadrille des Diamants" (a French television program that was broadcast in 1957), with a link to the film at <www.ina.fr>; it's based on Conan Doyle's "The Story of the Jew's Breastplate" and new to Doylean filmography.
15742. The French society also helpfully provides images and transcripts of Conan Doyle's contributions to the N.Y. Times, as well as many other periodicals <www.sshf.com/encyclopedia/index/php/Main_Page>; click on "Periodicals" in the column at the left.
15743. Howard Ostrom's extensive research on "The Original Baker Street Babes" is available on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/qyooq7g>, offering a survey of women actors, directors, and writers who have been involved in presenting Sherlockian drama, and you can see an interesting four-part video documentary based on his research at <www.tinyurl.com/p6qwz4d>.
15744. Curtis Armstrong continues to appear on television, currently guest-starring as God's scribe Metatron in "Supernatural" (a series broadcast by the CW Television Network series). In the episode "Meta Fiction" (Apr. 15) he quotes from the Canon; the episode may still be available at the web-site for the series <www.cwtv.com/series/supernatural>, and it will surely repeat. Curtis reports that Robbie Thompson (the writer) tweeted during the East Coast feed of the show that he put the quote in because he had heard that Curtis was a Sherlockian. The show wound up seven minutes long, so it had to be cut; he was afraid that Holmes would wind up on the cutting-room floor, and was delighted when he didn't.
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April 2014 #3

15745. The April issue of Laurie R. King's "News and Nonsense" offers news for fans of Mary Russell: THE MARY RUSSELL COMPANION will be published as an e-book in May, there's a Laurie R. King Channel at You-Tube, and you can see an image of the cover of the next Mary Russell novel, DREAMING SPIES. You can read the newsletter at <www.tinyurl.com/l7xdj5r>.
15746. Don Libey reports that last year's 221B Cellars "A Study in Scarlet" vintage is no longer available (unless you know someone who is willing to share a bottle); this year's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" vintage will be ready soon; you can read all about it, and order, at <www.221bcellars.com>.
15747. The Washington Post has held a Peeps Diorama Contest since 2007, and this year's winners can be seen at <www.tinyurl.com/mmllbxb>. The St. Paul Pioneer Press, however, has been running a contest since 2003, and this year's winner, accompanied by a story written by Seth Johnson and
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Candace Okeson, was Sherlockian: "The Adventure of the Speckled Cand(y)". You can read the story, and see the diorama, at <www.tinyurl.com/n3xucq4>.

15748. JEWEL OF THE THAMES: A PORTIA ADAMS ADVENTURE, by Angela Misri (Fierce Ink Press, 2014; 243 pp., \$11.99) is the first of a series featuring a 19-year-old Canadian girl who when her mother dies in the 1930s discovers that she is the granddaughter of Dr. Watson, inherits 221 Baker Street, and acquires a mysterious (and generous) guardian who takes Portia to London, where she studies the journals and books she finds in the house, and shows a talent for detective; it's nicely done, with some interesting twists and turns.
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April 2014 #4

15749. Further to the earlier mention of Baskerville the Hound (April 13 #6), there is a nice blog about his debut on "The Muppet Show" on Oct. 18, 1976 (with a link to "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Disappearing Clues") on Scott Monty's web-site "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" <www.tinyurl.com/nwos386>. Credit where credit is due: Jim Henson (Rowlf) as Sherlock Holmes, and John Loveday (Baskerville the Hound) as Watson.
15750. Dave Thompson's SHERLOCK HOLMES FAQ (Milwaukee: Applause Books, 2014; 283 pp., \$24.99) promises "all that's left to know about the world's greatest private detective," and offers a well-illustrated and sometimes irreverent guide to Conan Doyle, the Canon, selected pastiches, Sherlockian drama, and the world of Sherlock Holmes.
15751. More about Lego minifigures of Sherlock Holmes (February 14 #3): Maureen Mosher notes some interesting videos at <www.youtube.com>; just search for [lego sherlock].
15752. Further to the item on the three mysterious metal plates discovered by Javier Doria (May 13 #4), one of them, honoring Sherlock Holmes and the publication of Vincent Starrett's 221B: STUDIES IN SHERLOCK HOLMES, went unsold at Heritage Auctions on Apr. 2, estimated at \$15,000; the plate still is available (for \$9,375), and there are images and a detailed description at <www.tinyurl.com/ow4ejs3>.
15753. PwC (the new brand for PricewaterhouseCoopers) is a professional services and auditing company with headquarters in London; Jennie Paton has spotted their new amusing Sherlockian commercial at <www.vimeo.com/89868475>.
15754. "Here at Oxford University Press we occasionally get the chance to discover a new and exciting piece of literary history," said an announcement on the OUP blog at the beginning of the month. "Never before published, our editorial team has acquired 'The Mystery of the Green Garden,' now believed to be Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's first use of the Sherlock Holmes character in his writing. Written during Doyle's time at Stonyhurst College before entering medical school, the short story displays an early, amateur style of writing not seen in his later published works." You can read the complete announcement at <www.tinyurl.com/nsp35v9>.
15755. J. C. Jones' THE SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES AND COMBUSTION SCIENCE is a splendid example of how much fun experts can have using their expertise to analyze the Canon (and in this case also the Apocrypha and a few pastiches). A few of the pieces in this collection were first published as letters in The Sherlock Holmes Journal, but most of them are new, and all are interesting. For information on how to purchase the book, you can contact the author at <j.c.jones@abdn.ac.uk>.
15756. WATSON AND HOLMES is a new comic-book mini-series created by Brandon Perlow and Paul Mendoza, and written by Karl Bollers; there are six issues so far (\$1.99 each), and a graphic novel WATSON AND HOLMES: A STUDY IN BLACK that combines the first five issues (2013; \$16.99). Holmes and Watson are African Americans living and battling criminals in modern-day Harlem, and the series offers strong and colorful artwork by Rick Leonardi and Larry Stroman; you can see samples at <www.newparadigmstudios.com>.
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April 2014 #5

15757. Steve Moore died on Mar. 16. He was a co-founder of The Fortean Times, and claimed he "was obviously destined to be either a werewolf or a lunatic." He also worked as an editor and a writer, and according to his obituary in The Telegraph (Apr. 13), produced the SHERLOCK HOLMES & DOCTOR WATSON ANNUAL (1979), a tie-in for Sheldon Reynolds' television series starring Geoffrey Whitehead and Donald Pickering.
15758. Still another playscript: John Longenbaugh's play "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol" premiered in Seattle in 2010, and the script is available from the Dramatists Play Service <www.dramatists.com> (\$8.00); the company has published other Sherlockian plays over the years.
15759. "Nevada Barr on Addiction" is an amusing and intriguing (although non-Sherlockian) essay at the Mystery Scene web-site <www.tinyurl.com/lr9o4jk>.
15760. No one seems to be able to identify the source of E. W. Hornung's "Though he might be more humble, there's no police like Holmes," but we have it on good authority that the comment was Hornung's: Dan Stashower reports that Conan Doyle (in the chapter "Some Notable People" in his autobiography MEMORIES AND ADVENTURES) quotes Hornung's "criticism upon my Sherlock Holmes." Conan Doyle also describes Hornung as "a Dr. Johnson without the learning but with a finer wit," and added that "No one could say a neater thing, and his writings, good as they are, never adequately represented the powers of the man, nor the quickness of his brain."
15761. The 55th annual running of the Chicago Silver Blaze (the world's oldest and still-active annual Sherlockian horse race) will be held on Oct. 18 at the Hawthorne Race Course; if you'd like to attend the festivities, details are available from Susan Diamond <szdiamond@comcast.net>.
15762. Tony Gray died on Apr. 14. A member of what the Telegraph called "the most famous trio of musical clowns in London" in the 1950s and 1960s, he and his partners were credited with inspiring Monty Python. He also acted in films and television, appearing (according to the Telegraph obituary) in an uncredited walk-on role in "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970).
15763. Ray Celestin's THE AXEMAN'S JAZZ (London: Mantle, 2014; 426 pp., £19.66) is set in New Orleans in 1919, when Ida Davis (a fledgling Pinkerton employee who's a fan of Sherlock Holmes), young Lewis Armstrong (still on his way to becoming a famous musician), and a vivid cast of characters all are in pursuit of a fiendish serial killer in a city described with a fine sense of place and time.
15764. For readers in Maryland (and for the amusement of readers elsewhere): this year's "Search for Unclaimed Property" features Sherlock Franchot in print and at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/nrkafv4>. Peter V. Franchot is the Comptroller of Maryland.
15765. Rick Etchells' FINDING SHERLOCK HOLMES IN AMERICA is an e-book travel guide to the United States, offering a state-by-state guide to Holmes-named cities and places, bookstore, societies, and much more, available for \$3.95 at Amazon <www.tinyurl.com/kgpha46>, where you can review the opening pages, which will take you through Arkansas and into California.
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April 2014 #6

15766. SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE BLACK WIDOWER, by Keiran McMullan (London: MX Publishing, 2013; 189 pp., \$16.95) offers an interesting approach to the Canon: Holmes, in 1908, investigates the deaths of Watson's three wives, hoping to prove his friend is not a murderer. The publisher's web-sites are at <www.mxpublishing.com> and <www.mxpublishing.co.uk>. THE WIDOW OF DARTMOOR, by Warwick Downing (2014; 234 pp., \$16.95),
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- is an imaginative courtroom drama: the Widow of Dartmoor is Beryl Stapleton, who now is the wife of a nobleman and on trial for murdering Prof. Christian Vandeleur; her barrister's Jeremy Holmes, the nephew of Sherlock Holmes, and the story is full of twists, turns, and surprises.
15767. Also from MX Publishing: P. James Macaluso Jr. has used Legos to illustrate *A SCANDAL IN BOHEMIA*, *THE RED-HEADED LEAGUE*, and *A CASE OF IDENTITY* in full color (each \$9.95); it's an imaginative concept, and done well. David Marcum's *SHERLOCK HOLMES AND A QUANTITY OF DEBT* (2013; 183 pp., \$19.95) is a novel-length addition to his earlier short stories in *THE PAPERS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* (August 13 #7); Holmes and Watson investigate (and succeed in solving) a 50-year-old murder.
15768. And there's more: John Worth's *THE MAKING OF A MAN* (2013; 249 pp., \$16.95) echoes both Dickens and the Canon, offering the story of how young Shiloh Coombs survives the squalor and perils of the East End to become Sherlock Holmes. Peter A. Andersson's *THE COTSWOLDS WEREWOLF AND OTHER STORIES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* (2014; 214 pp., \$16.95) presents one long pastiche and four short ones, set in the country and in London. Fiona James-Brown's *SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE AFFAIR OF THE CONTENTIOUS CONTRALTO* (94 pp., \$10.95) is set in 1910, when Holmes and Watson attend Irene Adler's final performance and meet her daughter Sophie, solving a terrible murder.
15769. The Dali Museum in St. Petersburg, Fla., which is devoted to the philosophy and art of Salvador Dali, offers lectures called "Coffee with a Curator". On May 7 the curator will be Elise Trucks, speaking about "Dali, Freud, & Sherlock Holmes"; details at <www.tinyurl.com/mummzgx>.
15770. Alexander Orlov has reported from Russia on what is perhaps the strangest sort-of-Sherlockian film ever produced: "Selden: Deep in the Grimpen Mire" (2010). There's some comment (in Russian) at <www.tinyurl.com/m9xop4e> and a trailer made in 2008 at <www.tinyurl.com/mdzrovvr>, and Bill Barnes found the complete film (66 minutes) at <www.tinyurl.com/n4narya>. Described as a "bio-pic" of Selden, it's notable for showing a lot of Selden but not the Hound, nor Holmes or anyone else from the Canon other than (in a very brief glimpse) Barrymore. It's an amateur film, directed by Dmitry Lesnikov and starring Maxim Sveshnikov as Selden, it was uploaded to YouTube on Jan. 16, 2012.
15771. Marsha Pollak reports The Sub-Librarians Scion of the Baker Street Irregulars in the American Library Association will meet on June 30, during the annual conference of the ALA, this year in Las Vegas, with Laurie R. King as the guest speaker. Marsha will be delighted to provide more information <mpollak@earthlink.net>.

May 2014 #1

15772. The saga continues: the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals heard oral arguments on May 22 (by interesting coincidence, Conan Doyle's birthday), in *Leslie S. Klinger (Plaintiff-Appellee) vs. Conan Doyle Estate Ltd. (Defendant-Appellant)*; the judges were Richard Posner, Joel Martin Flaum, and Daniel Anthony Mannion and each side was allowed 15 minutes in which to present and defend their arguments. You can listen to the arguments at the court web-site <www.tinyurl.com/ogswbd6>, and you can read comments by Brenda Rossini (who attended the proceedings) at Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.tinyurl.com/ptf4yqu>. There's no predicting how long it will take for the court to render its decision in the case.
15773. It was interesting to hear Judge Posner ask Les Klinger's attorney Jonathan Kirsch whether Les was "the author of the annotated volumes," because Posner reviewed *THE NEW ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES* for *The New Republic* (Oct. 11, 2004), and offered a decidedly unfavorable opinion of the scholarship and pseudo-scholarship detailed in the annotations.
15774. Congratulations to Daniel Stashower, who makes it look easy. This month he won the Mystery Writers of America's Edgar (best fact crime) and Malice Domestic's Agatha (best non-fiction work) for *THE HOUR OF PERIL: THE SECRET PLOT TO MURDER LINCOLN BEFORE THE CIVIL WAR*. Dan also won an Edgar and an Agatha in 2008 for *ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: A LIFE IN LETTERS*, and in 2000 for *TELLER OF TALES: THE LIFE OF ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE*; it's rare for an author to win more than one award the same year. Ever rarer is a hat trick: Dan also won an Anthony at Bouchercon in 2008.
15775. Sorry about that: material from Norman Nolan's collection (April 14 #1) will be offered at auction at Christie's in New York on June 19 (which gives you more time to get ready to bid). Randall Stock's "Best of Sherlock" report on the items will be found at <www.tinyurl.com/mgwh55r>, where you can see just how spectacular Sidney Paget's original artwork is (the engraved versions in *The Strand Magazine* are nowhere near as nice).
15776. The Wessex Press has announced that Mark Gatiss will be a special guest at "From Gillette to Brett IV: Basil, Benedict, and Beyond" at Indiana University in Bloomington on Sept. 12-14, 2014. Steve Doyle and Mark Gagen have attracted enthusiastic audiences for their past three conferences, and registration is now open <www.wessexpress.com>. Fans of the BBC series "Sherlock" will know that Gatiss has series credits as co-creator, producer, actor, and writer. Other special guests are Paul Annett, first director of the Granada "Sherlock Holmes" series, and Michael Hoey, son and biographer of Dennis Hoey, who played Lestrade in the Rathbone/Bruce films.
15777. Aziz Bin Adam has discovered the British Library's English and Drama blog, with an entry on "The Spirit Voice of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle" and links to the recording Conan Doyle made in 1930 for His Master's Voice, and to the recording made in 1934 during a seance at the Aeolian Hall; you can listen to both recordings at <www.tinyurl.com/on5k32l>. BBC Radio 4 broadcast a 30-minute program ("What Grandad Did in the Dark") on Jan. 4, 2002, and you can listen to the program at <www.tinyurl.com/ng6a9p9> (but the Conan Doyle recording isn't included in the program).

May 2014 #2

15778. *LADIES, LADIES: THE WOMEN IN THE LIFE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES*, edited by Patricia Guy and Katherine Karlson (September 07 #3), is now available from Amazon as an e-book (\$2.99) <www.tinyurl.com/m5sr4ko>; it's intriguing anthology of essays, poems, music-hall songs that mention Sherlock Holmes (and some that don't), by way of examining "topics ranging from libations to libido, perfumes to prejudice, in the context of the Sherlock Holmes stories."
15779. <www.somethingisgoingto happen.net> is a blog started in May 2012 by Janet Hutchings, editor of *Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine*, and it is full of interesting posts by Janet and other EQMM authors. Needless to say, some of the posts are Sherlockian, and they're easy to find by searching the blog for [sherlock] and [conan doyle]. Kenneth Wishnia has written a two-part piece about "Conan Doyle's Sly Subversion of English Society", and in March Dana Cameron contributed "Solving for Sherlock Holmes" (she was preparing for a panel on "Sherlock Holmes and TV" at Boskone, and starting to write a Sherlockian pastiche).
15780. If you've never heard of Boskone, it's the longest-running science-fiction convention in New England; it attracts more than a thousand fans and professionals, and this year's was its 52nd gathering. Science-fiction fans have been convening far longer than mystery fans, by the way: Worldcon (the World Science Fiction Convention) was launched in 1939, and the first Bouchercon was held in 1970.
15781. Charles A. Adams ("The Winter Assizes at Norwich") died on May 18. Charlie taught English literature at Norwich Free Academy in Connecticut for almost 40 years; he was a long-time member of The Men on the Tor, founded and led The Winter Assizes at Norwich, and he received that as his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1990.
15782. *SHERLOCK: EVERY CANON REFERENCE YOU MAY HAVE MISSED IN BBC'S SERIES 1-3*, by Valerie Estelle Frankel (Sunnyvale: LitCrit Press, 2014; 196 pp., \$9.99), is a detailed exploration of "Sherlock" (all nine episodes and the mini-episode), discussion allusions to and echoes of not only the Canon

but also other films and television series, accompanied by commentary by Mark Gatiss in print and on DVDs. The author's web-site's at <www.vefrankel.com>.

15783. The attractive young lady is 23-year-old Rebecca Case, and her costume consists entirely of body paint, the handiwork of an artist known as Pashur, according to an article in LA Weekly (May 22); she is part of a triptych, with Watson and a foggy London night on the backs of two other girls (not photographed for the article) available at <www.tinyurl.com/pt96lts>. You can see more of Pashur's work at <www.canvasalive.com>.
15784. Nicholas Utechin's "OCCASIONALLY TO EMBELLISH" (January 13 #3) has won the Tony & Freda Howlett Literary Award, which is awarded by The Sherlock Holmes Society of London for the best piece of Holmesiana published in the preceding year; it's a collection of reprints of some of his literate and often humorous scholarship, with new postscripts to many of the pieces, and it is still available from the Gasogene Press (\$18.95) <www.wessexpress.com>.

May 2014 #3

15785. Alexander Orlov has reported two Canonical stories translated into Lidepla (Lingwa de Planeta). Lidepla is a worldlang (international auxiliary language), and you can read both stories on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/kdydb53> and <www.tinyurl.com/la7lrsq>. There's more information about Lingwa de Planeta at <www.lingwadeplaneta.info>.
15786. And Don Hobbs found Dave McLeod, who has translated part of "A Scandal in Bohemia" into Occidental <www.page30.com/search/label/Sherlock%20Holmes>.
15787. Ian Schoenherr has responded to my query about E. W. Hornung's "Though he might be more humble, there's no police like Holmes" (April 14 #5), noting a stanza in Harry Graham's poem "The Policeman" in FAMILIAR FACES (1907):
- A. He may not be as bright, forsooth,
 - B. As Dr. Watson's famous foil,--Sherlock, that keen unerring sleuth
 - C. Immortalised by Doyle,
 - D. And Patti who, where'er she roams,
 - E. Asserts "There's no Police like Holmes!"
 - F. Harry Graham also wrote a long poem "Sherlock Holmes" in MORE REPRESENTATIVE MEN (1905). Both poems can be read on-line at Project Gutenberg. Ian also discovered Ogden Nash's "Macbeth Has Murdered Sleep? or Don't Make Me Laugh" (1933), which ends with the quatrain:
 - G. I've watched with fascinated eyes
 - H. Detectives fall, detectives rise,
 - I. And racing through a thousand tomes,
 - J. Reflect, There's no police like Holmes."
15788. Nash's poem was published in the N.Y. Herald Tribune (July 16, 1933) and in HAPPY DAYS (1933). The complete poem's at <www.tinyurl.com/lwxjj8v>. Ian also is enthusiastic about Howard Pyle, and has blogged about Pyle and Conan Doyle at <www.tinyurl.com/m985796>, and about his interest in Sherlock Holmes at <www.tinyurl.com/kkhlcua>.
15789. "When Arthur Conan Doyle tried to kill off Sherlock Holmes in 1893," Gregory Cowles wrote in the N.Y. Times Book Review (May 25), "readers objected so strenuously that Doyle--after trying to mollify them with a prequel--finally gave in and resurrected the character as a cross-dressing mixed martial artist played by Robert Downey Jr."
15790. ITV has commissioned a three-part dramatization of Julian Barnes' novel ARTHUR & GEORGE about Arthur Conan Doyle and George Edalji (September 05 #5); Conan Doyle will be played by Martin Clunes (star of the "Doc Martin" series) and the script will be written by Ed Whitmore ("Silent Witness" and "Waking the Dead"). Production is set to begin this fall.
15791. There's now a Dancing Men Brewery in Happisburgh (where Conan Doyle was inspired to write "The Dancing Men") and needless to say there's web-site at <www.dancingmanbrewery.co.uk> with an amusing video (click on "Follow the Dancing Man"); the brewery is located at the Hill House Inn (formerly Hill House, where Conan Doyle stayed with the Cubitt family in 1905).

May 2014 #4

15792. Ruth Voboril is a fine example of what can happen when one becomes an enthusiast: not old enough (as some of us are) to have watched the original broadcasts of Ronald Howard's "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" in 1954, she found the series (thanks to the wonders of DVD), and after much work has created an excellent web-site devoted to Howard's life and career <www.sherlockhoward.homestead.com>.
15793. Francis M. Nevins' ELLERY QUEEN: THE ART OF DETECTION (Baltimore: Perfect Crime Books, 2013; 362 pp., \$19.95) is described on the cover as "the story of how two fractious cousins reshaped the modern detective novel," and it's that and much more. "Ellery Queen" was the pseudonym adopted by Frederic Dannay and Manfred B. Lee, and the name of their detective, but Dannay and Lee were far more than authors of books, short stories, and radio scripts; they edited classic anthologies, and Dannay, an inspired collector, was the founder and first editor of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine (and a member of The Baker Street Irregulars). Nevins' book is a thorough biography, and includes detailed discussion of their books, stories, and scripts.
15794. If you're wondering about the "fractious" in the description of the relationship between Dannay and Lee, it's a mild adjective when one is able to take a closer look at the conflicts between the two authors. You get that closer look in BLOOD RELATIONS, also published by Perfect Crime (2012, 150 pp., \$14.95); edited by Joseph Goodrich, it's a selection of their letters to each other from 1947 to 1950, offering a fascinating at how they created excellent work in the midst of mutual conflict. The publisher's web-site is at <www.perfectcrimebooks.com>.
15795. Richard L. Kellogg's BARRY BASKERVILLE RETURNS (Fort Collins: Airship 27, 2014; 34 pp., \$10.99) is his latest entertaining story for young readers, attractively illustrated by Gary Kato; Barry wants to be a detective, and (of course) succeeds in solving a case.
15796. "The Many Lives of Sherlock Holmes" is a session scheduled at DashCon, in Schaumburg, Ill., on July 11-13; Schaumburg is near Chicago, and they are expecting more than 3,000 people at the convention)which is billed as "For Tumblr Users, by Tumbler Users"); three of the Baker Street Babes will be on hand, and there's more information at <www.dashcon.org>.
15797. "Sherlock Holmes: The Man Who Never Lived and Will Never Die" is the title of the Museum of London's major exhibition, opening on Oct. 14 and closing on Apr. 12, 2015. The official announcement on May 20 gathered lots of publicity in the press, and the exhibition's web-site is at <www.tinyurl.com/mp263ux>. They are seeking patrons for the exhibition, and you can read about that at <www.tinyurl.com/mptwx7v>. Exhibition visitors will see the Sidney Paget portrait of Conan Doyle (1897), the manuscript of "The Empty House", and much more.

15798. Further to the report (March 14 #7) about Koki Mitani's 20-episode Japanese television puppet series, Mitch Higurashi reports that the first three programs will be released on DVD on July 16. There's an announcement (in Japanese) at <www.dogpatch.jp/smph/news/nhk/25140>; it's helpful, of course, to have Google Translate installed on your computer.

May 2014 #5

15799. The spring issue of "For the Sake of the Trust" (the newsletter of the Baker Street Irregulars Trust) has news about the Trust, and about recent additions to the Archives at the Houghton Library, and it is available both at the Trust's web-site <www.bsitrust.org> and by e-mail; if you would like to be on the mailing list, send a request to Mike Berdan at <editor@bsitrust.org>.
15800. Charles Marowitz died on May 2. He directed and wrote plays, led theater companies, and was a drama critic and an author of books about acting theory. Using the pseudonym Matthew Lang he wrote a one-act play "Sherlock's Last Case" (which was based on the Basil Rathbone-Nigel Bruce films rather than the Canon, which he admitted he never read before writing his play), first performed in London in 1974. Then using his own name he added a second act to the play; the new version was first performed in Los Angeles in 1984 and in Washington and New York in 1987 with Frank Langella and Donal Donnelly as Holmes and Watson). Spoiler alert: Holmes turns up in the second act as a Holmes imposter, and Langella appeared disguised as Tom Baker as Holmes in the BBC's 1984 production of "The Hound of the Baskervilles"; non-Sherlockians who attended the play understandably were puzzled by the reaction from Sherlockians who recognized the echo.
15801. "I was obsessed with Sherlock Holmes as a young kid," said Laura Linney, in an interview in the Guardian (May 8). "You know how some people are into Dungeons and Dragons? I was into Sherlock Holmes. I loved the atmosphere of the stories. I loved the intrigue, his personality." She'll play Mrs. Munro, Sherlock Holmes' housekeeper in the film based on Mitch Cullen's A SLIGHT TRICK OF THE MIND (with Ian McKellen as Holmes).
15802. The National Literacy Trust is working with Wild in Art on a "Books About Town" project planned to create trails of benches shaped as open books in London. The Sherlock Holmes BookBench was designed by Valerie Osment and is now in production, sponsored by the Conan Doyle Estate, and at the end of the summer all of the benches will be auctioned to raise funds for the Trust. There's a project web-site at <www.booksabouttown.org.uk>.
15803. Don Hobbs was interviewed by Scott Monty and Burt Wolder for their "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog ("Sherlock Holmes in Translation" is episode 64), and you can hear the 72-minute interview at <www.tinyurl.com/kdtfsc>. Scott and Burt also have a colorfully-illustrated report on "Bow Ties for Sherlock Holmes Fans" <www.tinyurl.com/knpoccc> showing some of the offerings by Beau Ties of Ltd. of Vermont.
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May 2014 #6

15804. Steimatsky (Israel's largest bookstore chain) continues to run imaginative Sherlockian advertisements (August 13 #2), and their latest can be seen at the Mediabistro web-site <www.tinyurl.com/numsmjf>. Scott Monty was reminded of a different artistic advertising campaign from Colsubsidio Libraries, which he reported on at "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" <www.tinyurl.com/mw97r7q> on Apr. 13, 2012.
15805. Charlton Heston (1923-2008), added this year to the "Legends of Hollywood" series, played Sherlock Holmes in "The Crucifer of Blood" on stage (1980) and television (1991).
15806. Sublibrarian A. Davenport Lomax, a friend of Dr. Watson, consults Sherlock Holmes about a rare (and dangerous) volume in Lyndsay Faye's THE GOSPEL OF SHEBA, the latest in the series of short bibliomysteries published by Otto Penzler's Mysterious Bookshop <www.tinyurl.com/m6rxezb>; it's an imaginative pastiche, nicely written and with occasional touches of romance, available in a limited signed and hard-bound edition (\$100.00 or \$50.00) and a paperback edition (\$4.95), and (eventually) as an e-book.
15807. Ron Brackin's SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE ADVENTURE OF THE DEADLY ILLUSION (Little Elm: Weller & Bunsby, 2013; 106 pp. \$9.99) has Holmes and Watson, assisted by Charles Dodgson, investigating robbery and murder, and encountering the magician John Neville Maskelyn and Jules Verne. The author's web-site is at <www.ronbrackin.com>.
15808. The John H. Watson Society has published the second issue of its semi-annual journal "The Watsonian", with 173 pages of scholarship, puzzles, commentary, and other research by its members. There's more information about the society, and it's journal, at <www.johnwatsonsociety.com>.
15809. Angela Buckley's THE REAL SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE HIDDEN STORY OF JEROME CAMINADA (Barnesley: Pen & Sword, 2014; 157 pp., \$34.95) is the biography of a Manchester policeman who began his career as a police constable in 1868 and had risen to the rank of superintendent of the city's police force when he retired in 1899 and became a private detective. Two volumes of his memoirs were published as TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF DETECTIVE LIFE in 1895 and 1901, and was widely celebrated in the local press, so his story's hardly hidden, but he was a dedicated and skilled police officer, and his story offers a vivid picture of what life was like in Manchester in the Sherlockian era.
15810. "Plunging into 'the Full Tide of Human Existence': The Charing Cross Neighborhood in the Sherlock Holmes Adventures" is the latest of seven interesting scholarly papers Leslie Katz has posted to the Social Science Research Network, and you can find them all at <www.tinyurl.com/m7k8fsu>.
15811. Alexander Orlov has noted <www.aparchive.com>, the film and video archive of the Associated Press, where you can easily search for [sherlock holmes] and [conan doyle] and find "Holmes Lives Again", a British Movietone Newsreel (Jan. 8, 1953) showing Carlton Hobbs in costume as Sherlock Holmes unveiling the plaque at the Criterion. You can rank search results by "relevance" or "newest first" or "oldest first" (the most interesting ranking), And wait hopefully for more material to be digitized.
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May 2014 #7

15812. Brian W. Pugh continues to revise his A CHRONOLOGY OF THE LIFE OF SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE (March 13 #6); the third edition (London: MX Publishing, 2014; 303 pp., \$24.95) delightful and valuable as a resource for information about the life and work of Conan Doyle. The chronology starts in 1755 (the birth of James Doyle) and ends in 1998 (the memorial service for Dame Jean), and there are splendid photographs (old and new), a list of statues and plaques around the world, a new section detailing his Arctic voyage in 1880, careful citations of sources, and much more. The publisher's colorful web-sites can be found at <www.mxpublishing.com> and <www.mxpublishing.co.uk>.
15813. Also from MX: Diane Gilbert Madsen's THE CONAN DOYLE NOTES: THE SECRET OF JACK THE RIPPER (2014; 346 pp., \$28.95) is the latest in her series featuring insurance investigator DD McGil, this time involved in a hunt for the manuscript of THE WHITE COMPANY, in which Conan Doyle accidentally inserted his notes about his (and Dr. Joseph Bell's) identification of the Ripper; one of the characters is Chicago rare-book dealer Tom Joyce (conveniently echoing the real Chicago rare-book dealer Thomas J. Joyce), and many others have names taken from the Sherlock Holmes stories. The author has a web-site at <www.dianegilbertmadsen.com>.
15814. And there's more: Phil Growick's THE REVENGE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (2014; 294 pp., \$8.95) is a sequel to THE SECRET JOURNAL OF DOCTOR WATSON; Holmes encounters the Romanovs, the Mafia, Sidney Reilly, David Lloyd George, Doug Fairbanks, and Mary Pickford. John A. Little's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE MUSICAL MURDERS (2014; 149 pp., \$11.95) is set in 1925, with Holmes and Watson back in practice, assisted by the
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next generation (Jasper Lestrade and Lily Hudson), and in pursuit of a bizarre serial murderer connected to the Bloomsbury Group ("musical" being urban slang for "homosexual"). THE POISONED PENMAN, by Dan Andriacco and Kieran McMullen (2014; 172 pp., \$11.95), is a sequel to their THE AMATEUR EXECUTIONER (September 13 #6); it's 1922 in London, and Enoch Hale and Dorothy L. Sayers are pursue the murderer of Langdale Pike (again, Sherlock and Mycroft Holmes are involved in the mystery).

15815. And still more: SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE MYSTERY OF EINSTEIN'S DAUGHTER, by Tim Symonds (2014; 193 pp., \$14.95) takes Holmes and Watson to the Balkans to investigate persistent rumors that Albert Einstein had an illegitimate daughter Lieserl. Dean P. Turnbloom's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE BODY SNATCHERS (2014; 322 pp., \$18.95) is a sequel to his earlier SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE WHITECHAPEL VAMPIRE (April 12 #7); this time the vampire's in New York, pursued by local detectives, and of course by Holmes and Watson. John Heywood's THE INVESTIGATIONS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (2014; 201 pp., \$14.95) offers six short pastiches set both in London and the countryside.
15816. Dan Andriacco has written four books about Jeff Cody and Sebastian McCabe, the latest being THE DISAPPEARANCE OF MR. JAMES PHILLIMORE (September 13 #6), and he now has added a short story ("The Revengers") that's available (free) as a Kindle e-book at <www.amazon.com> and in other formats if you join MX's Sherlock Holmes Books newsletter <www.tinyurl.com/k6lrz62>. Dan's entertaining (and Sherlockian) blog is at <www.bakerstreetbeat.blogspot.com>.

June 2014 #1

15817. The saga continues: the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals has issued its final judgment in the Conan Doyle Estate's appeal of the lower-court decision in Les Klinger's lawsuit against the Estate: Judge Castillo ruled in favor of Les, and the Appeals Court affirmed the ruling, also awarding costs, which Les will now be able to recover from the Estate. All the filings and decisions are available at Les' web-site <www.free-sherlock.com>; just click on "Court Filings" to find earlier documents in the case. The Estate also has commented on the judgment in a press release at <www.tinyurl.com/nf4eldo>, saying that the Estate is considering an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.
15818. "Sherlock Holmes Attracts 69 Million Viewers in China Despite Being Banned in Country for Being Too Risque" was the headline on one report; the third season of "Sherlock" was banned by the government's censors from the Chinese Central Television network and other channels, but still found an audience thanks to video web-sites.
15819. The three Sherlockian and Doylean lots at auction at Christie's on June 19 brought nice prices: the manuscript of "The Adventure of Black Peter" (estimated at \$250,000-350,000) sold for \$317,000 (including buyer's premium), the original artwork for Sidney Paget's illustration showing Holmes and Wat Watson in the railway carriage (in "Silver Blaze") (estimated at \$40,000-60,000) sold for \$112,500, and the pair of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's surgical scissors (estimated at \$5,000-7,000) sold for \$4,625. And it has been reported that both the manuscript and the artwork went to the same bidder (present at the auction). Randall Stock's "Best of Sherlock" report on the items is at <www.tinyurl.com/mgwh55r>.
15820. The Baker Street Irregulars have organized excursions to the Vermissa Valley (2004), the Country of the Saints (2008), and the University of California in Los Angeles (2012), and (hold the dates) the next event will be a conference at the Chautauqua Institution in western New York on Sept. 16-18, 2016. Details to come.
15821. The collection of John Lennon manuscripts brought good prices at Sotheby's in New York on June 4 (March 14 #2). The manuscript of "The Singulare Experience of Miss Anne Duffield" (a parody that was published in A SPANIARD IN THE WORKS in 1965, and featured Shamrock Wolmbis and Doctored Whopper), was estimated at \$50,000-70,000 and sold for \$209,000 (including the buyer's premium), and illustrations for the story also sold well above estimates.
15822. A new Sherlockian society for numismatists and coin collectors will hold an organizational meeting in Rosemont, Ill. (near Chicago), on Aug. 9, during the American Numismatic Association's World Fair of Money. Details available from Greg Ruby <greg@gregrubyconsulting.com>.
15823. "Metal Knight" is a new digital album from Charlemagne Productions featuring songs by Christopher Lee, who at 92 years old still has a fine voice; there's a sample at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/msng5b9>, kindly reported by Alexander Orlov. It's not Sherlockian, but still nicely done. And there's an interesting web-site at <www.charlemagneproductions.org>.

June 2014 #2

15824. Henry Cauvin's THE KILLING NEEDLE (New York: Locked Room International, 2014; 152 pp., \$15.99) features an amateur detective skilled at observation, deduction, and forensic science, who occasionally takes drugs, and whose story is told by a doctor who becomes his friend and associate. This all may sound familiar, but he's not Sherlock Holmes; instead he's Maximilien Heller, and the book was first published in French in 1871, leading to speculation that it may have inspired Conan Doyle to create his own similar detective. The translation is by John Pugmire, whose web-site <www.lockedroominternational.com> is devoted to English translations of foreign-language locked-room mysteries. THE KILLING NEEDLE is an interesting mystery, French rather than English, and of course Conan Doyle (who read and spoke French) might well have been familiar with it.
15825. Ron De Waal suggests that Les Klinger seems to have set a record (some time ago). THE NEW ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES, which weighs 15.8 pounds, likely is the heaviest Sherlock Holmes book or set ever published. Of course the single issues of The Strand Magazine that contain the 58 stories published in the magazine would weigh more, but they include a lot of non-Sherlockian material.
15826. When in Russia: Alexander Orlov has reported a Sherlock Holmes restaurant/ bar/museum in Obninsk (62 miles southwest of Moscow); their web-site is (in Russian) at <www.sherlockbar.ru>.
15827. William Freeman's DICTIONARY OF FICTIONAL CHARACTERS (1963) contains brief entries for the names of "20,000 characters from over 2,000 literary works --novels, short stories, poems, plays, and operas--by 500 British and American authors," and it's a frustrating and intriguing book. Frustrating because there's no author index, so one can't easily locate all of the characters created by a particular author. And intriguing because it's impossible to figure out why particular characters were or were not chosen. The major characters from Conan Doyle's best-known books are included, not only the stars of the Canon, but also from the Challenger and Gerard stories and from THE WHITE COMPANY, SIR NIGEL, RODNEY STONE, and UNCLE BERNAC, and with some of the minor characters from those novels. But Freeman appears not to have read THE VALLEY OF FEAR: Birdy Edwards and Jack Douglas are missing, and the only McMurdo listed is Bartholomew Sholto's servant in THE SIGN OF FOUR.
15828. Samantha Wolov noted a Facebook reference to a hair salon in Chico, Calif., called Shear Locks Home; it's not there any more, but there is a Shear Lock Home in Delhi, Iowa, a Shear Lock Combs in Edmonton, Alberta, and a ShearLock Combs West in St. Charles, Mo. <www.shearlockcombs.com>.
15829. Howard Ostrom's five-part essay on "The Original Baker Street Babes" at the No Place Like Holmes web-site <www.tinyurl.com/qyooq7g> (December 13 #5) has now been supplemented by Lexi Wolfe's four-part video documentary at YouTube; go to <www.youtube.com/watch?v=VH7FfQ4J7co> for the first part, with links at the right to the other three parts. Howard's latest essay is about the many Russian presentations of Sherlock Holmes on stage, screen, and television, available at <www.tinyurl.com/qd3mu5e>; "From Russia with

Love" was written with assistance from Alexander Orlov and others and it demonstrates how valuable Internet archives in other countries and languages can be.

June 2014 #3

15830. Lenny Picker has reported the just-released direct-to-DVD film "Baby Geniuses and the Treasures of Egypt" (\$14.99); there's a trailer at YouTube <www.youtube.com/k6g4y8r>. "An adorable group of talking baby detectives travel to the deserts of Egypt to track down the naughty baby-criminal mastermind Big Baby and his partner, the supervillain Moriarty (Jon Voight).
15831. The BBC's "Sherlock" series is thoroughly popular world-wide, and if you'd like to see a grand example of youth, energy, and enthusiasm, take a look at the video of the "I Am Sherlock Dance Mob" performed earlier this year in St. Petersburg <www.youtube.com/watch?v=cqIFjX3lpz0>. Thanks to Alexander Orlov for reporting the video.
15832. Tom Wheeler has expanded his THE LONDON OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (November 11 #8) into five "New Generation Travel" e-books with active Internet links now available from Amazon Digital Services <www.amazon.com>; just search for [thomas bruce wheeler]. He also offers an impressive set of presentation notes for "The London of Sherlock Holmes" with color photographs and active links; it will run on any computer that has Microsoft Word installed, and it's available on request from Tom <londonsecrets@europe.com>.
15833. Not only "Fleet-street was choked with red-headed folk," John Bergquist has suggested, after spotting a news report about what happened in Montréal on May 3, when ginger-haired Celine Dompierre, who wanted to foster a greater sense of community among those who shared her hair color, used Facebook to organize a gathering in a park on Mount Royal. You can find stories (and video) with a Google search for [redheads montreal].
15834. Fran Martin reported in the June issue of The Petrel Flyer (the newsletter of The Stormy Petrels of B.C.) that her daughter Becky had interviewed Dan Aykroyd, who said that his great-grandfather corresponded with Conan Doyle. Asked if he was a Holmes fan, Aykroyd replied, "Oh yes. Absolutely, sure. Who isn't, really?" Go to <www.tinyurl.com/odbqb6n> to read the entire interview. It should be noted that Aykroyd played Watson in "The Case of the Scarlet Membrane" (a skit broadcast on "Saturday Night Live" in 1978).
15835. The protagonist of Steven Galloway's THE CONFABULIST (New York: Riverhead, 2014; 304 pp., \$27.95) is Martin Strauss, the man who killed Harry Houdini (twice); the novel's an imaginative and interesting tale of magic and magicians, espionage, and murder, and it includes a fictionalized account of Houdini's meetings with Conan Doyle.
15836. The second annual "Holmes, Doyle, and Friends" symposium will take place in Dayton, Ohio, on Mar. 21, 2015, and more information is available from Martin Arbagi <martin.arbagi@gmail.com>.
15837. The Second Annual John H. Watson Society World Invitational Canonical Treasure Hunt will be launched at noon on Aug. 1 as a challenge to Sherlockian teams and individuals world-wide; Don Libey promises that this year's challenge will be more difficult than last year's. The rules and regulations are available at <www.tinyurl.com/ndaamme>. Don also announced on June 17 that the society's journal The Watsonian will also be available as a digital edition; details at <www.johnhwatsonociety.com/index.html>.
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June 2014 #4

15838. "Enduring War: Grief, Grit, and Humour" is the title of a British Library exhibition (open through Oct. 12) that commemorates the centenary of the First World War <www.tinyurl.com/mgjkfk2>; one item on display is the letter Conan Doyle wrote to his mother in 1917 about his son Kingsley: "I do not fear death for the boy for since I became a convinced spiritualist death became rather an unnecessary thing, but I fear pain and mutilation very greatly." There's also a link to the Library's World War One web-site, which has images of the manuscript original of Conan Doyle's "Petition in Support of Roger Casement" <www.tinyurl.com/n974fae>.
15839. The second vintage from 221B Cellars honors "The Hound of the Baskervilles" with a Sonoma County Zinfandel and an attractive label; as last year, it's a limited first edition wine, and you can read all about it, and order your bottles, at <www.221bcellars.com>. Don Libey and Don and Joanne Yates obviously are having fun with their project.
15840. Benedict Cumberbatch briefly had green hair, according to Claire Pritchard-Jones. She's the make-up artist for the BBC series "Sherlock" and appeared this month at the Sherlock Holmes Convention in Vienna. You can read all about it (and much more) in a Radio Times story <www.tinyurl.com/lf7otms>; don't neglect the link in the second paragraph to the Q&A, which is really just a report on the stories she told.
15841. Alexander Orlov has noted <www.attaboyclarence.com>, a web-site maintained by Adam Roche and devoted to classic movies and old-time radio, with interesting podcasts, three of them with Basil Rathbone material.
15842. The Undershaw Set is now available from the Baker Street Irregulars Press <www.bakerstreetjournal.com/undershaw.html>. The slip-cased set contains signed, numbered, and specially-bound copies of two books: Michael Dirda's ON CONAN DOYLE: OR, THE WHOLE ART OF STORYTELLING (October 11 #2) and Joel Silver's THE REMARKABLE CHARACTERS OF ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE (February 14 #1); all profits from the set will go to the Undershaw Preservation Trust to help preserve Conan Doyle's former home.
15843. Congratulations (again) to Dan Stashower, whose THE HOUR OF PERIL: THE SECRET PLOT TO MURDER LINCOLN BEFORE THE CIVIL WAR has been nominated for a Macavity (best nonfiction) by Mystery Readers International. The book also has won the Mystery Writers of America's Edgar (best fact crime) and Malice Domestic's Agatha (best non-fiction work).
15844. Patricia Guy's BACCHUS AT BAKER STREET: SHERLOCK HOLMES & VICTORIAN DRINKING LORE (November 95 #6), now available as an e-book (\$2.99), presents an expert's examination of the wine, beer, and spirits found in the Canon, and the brewers, vintners, barkeepers and wine-merchants, with flavor and humor and an occasional surprise; it's another fine example of how useful e-books can be bringing interesting books to a new generation of readers.
15845. Eli Wallach died on June 24, after a long career on stage and screen. He acted for more than 60 years. He was best known for his role as the bandit Tuco in "The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly" (1965), he titled his memoirs THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND ME: IN MY ANECDOTAGE (2005); he also played Napoleon Bonaparte in the film "The Adventures of Gerard" (1970).
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June 2014 #5

15846. Edith Pargeter (as Ellis Peters), best known for her long series of Medieval mysteries starring Brother Cadfael, also wrote imaginative short stories and novelettes for newspapers, magazines, and anthologies; her THE TRINITY CAT AND OTHER MYSTERIES (Norfolk: Crippen & Landru, 2006; 262 pp., \$19.00), part of Crippen & Landru's "Lost Classics Series", includes one (almost) Sherlockian story that was inspired by one of the Canonical tales. The publisher specializes in collections and anthologies of short stories, with a web-site at <www.crippenlandru.com>.
15847. UNDILUTED HOCUS-POCUS: THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF MARTIN GARDNER (Princeton University Press, 2013; 233 pp., \$24.95) is a delightful book. Gardner, who died in 2010 (May 10 #5), grew up in Tulsa with John Bennett Shaw, and had many enthusiasms, including Sherlock Holmes, and in
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these memoirs he tells grand stories about John and the many other interesting people he Gardner met during his long career as a writer and debunker of the paranormal and supernatural.

15848. A brief story about the wonders of a computerized world: it took me three visits to the Maryland Motor Vehicles Administration, and two to the Social Security Administration, to renew my driver's license, because the MVA has to confirm my identity with the SSA. And someone at the SSA had typed my name into their system as Blaie. But now I'm officially me.
15849. It's well known among Sherlockians, and more and more among others (thanks to the efforts of Cliff Goldfarb) that it wasn't Conan Doyle who assisted Dorando Pietri across the finish line at the 1908 Olympics in London. But it's less well known that it was Pietri's ordeal that inspired a young man in New York to write his first complete song, about an Italian barber who sells his barber shop and bets all the money on Pietri. The songwriter was Irving Berlin; there seems to be no recording of the song on the Internet, but the lyrics of "Dorando" are available at <www.tinyurl.com/kq6q5xv>.
15850. Jennie Paton reports that "The Final Problem" (the seventh program in the Russian television series that stars Igor Petrenko and Andrei Panin) is now available with English subtitles at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/lh7fyd8>. One more to go to complete the series with subtitles.
15851. Credit Thierry Saint-Joanis for noting a report that the Baker Street tube station is being refurbished, which will involve removal of tiles showing a silhouette of Sherlock Holmes. Cleshar Contract Services is doing the work <www.tinyurl.com/ozooocvd> and plans to reinstall some of the tiles in a few areas, and send the rest of the tiles to auction to benefit Sparks, a children's benefit medical research charity <www.sparks.org.uk>. You can read all about it in French and English, and see colorful images of the station, at <www.tinyurl.com/odauxne>.
15852. Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" continues to offer interesting content, including podcasts recorded by Scott and Burt Wolder. Their latest podcast (#65) is "Art in the Blood" <www.tinyurl.com/ndfy6l3>; they interviewed Tom Richmond (described as one of the "usual gang of idiots" at Mad Magazine), and they offer a full-color view of Richmond's panorama of eight actors who have portrayed Sherlock Holmes (prints are available from the artist) and a series of links that portray more of his work.

June 2014 #6

15853. Fans of Sherlockian poetry will welcome the news that there are a few copies of Ellay Aitcheson's ACD MYSTERY SONNETS, issued by the Hansom Press in 1998) still available, with "Five and twenty sonnets culled from the Canon". You can order the booklet from Len Haffenden (1026 West Keith Road, North Vancouver, BC V7P 3C6, Canada) for \$15.00 postpaid, with checks payable to Len, please.
15854. "Dr. Watson and Mr. Holmes" (recorded by the Spirits of Rhythm for Decca in 1934) has been available on the Internet for some time (October 01 #2), but now there's something new, spotted by Alexander Orlov: the song accompanied by clips from the Granada series, at <www.tinyurl.com/lbtvlp8>.
15855. Since it's summer, there's lots of theater coming up, here and there. The East Haddam Stage Company will repeat last year's production of "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Speckled Band" (July 13 #5); it's a 30-minute live-action radio drama using the script from William Gillette's 1930 broadcast) at Gillette Castle in East Haddam, Conn., July 5 through Aug. 11 <www.tinyurl.com/kag2zqm>.
15856. "Sherlock Holmes and the Whitechapel Murders" (adapted by Jeremy Holstein from William S. Baring-Gould's "Jack the Harlot Killer") will be one of the three plays in "Summer Radio Mystery Theatre: Super Sleuths" at Responsible Grace Church in Somerville, Mass., on July 11-19 <www.tinyurl.com/m8mcbta>. The other super sleuths are Hercule Poirot and Lady Molly of Scotland Yard. "Jack the Harlot Killer" is a chapter in Baring-Gould's biography SHERLOCK HOLMES OF BAKER STREET (1962).
15857. "Sherlock Holmes: The Pantomime" with words by Jenny Gilbert will be performed at the Playhouse Theatre in Glen Eden, New Zealand, from July 12 to 25 <www.playhousetheatre.co.nz>.
15858. The Rumpus Theatre Company will offer "Sherlock Holmes: The Scandal of the Scarlet Woman" (based on "A Scandal in Bohemia") at the Fairfield Halls in Croydon on Sept. 18-20 <www.fairfield.co.uk>, and at the Chelmsford Civic Theatre in Chelmsford, Oct. 16-17 <www.chelmsford.co.uk/sherlock-holmes>.
15859. "Sherlock Holmes: The Baker Street Irregulars" is a new play by Eric Coble, based on a series of four graphic novels by Tony Lee and Dan Boulwood, due for its world premiere by First Stage at the Todd Wehr Theater in Milwaukee from Oct. 17 to Nov. 15 <www.tinyurl.com/q8a7hsz>.
15860. Katie Forgette's "Sherlock Holmes and the Jersey Lily" is scheduled by the Kirk Players in Mundelein, Ill. Mar. 27-29, 2015 <www.kirkplayers.org>.
15861. The news of the British play comes from Roger Johnson's excellent newsletter The District Messenger, which is published by The Sherlock Holmes Society of London and offers excellent coverage of what's going on in Britain, Europe, and elsewhere; it's available without charge by e-mail and at the Society's web-site <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/district.php>. His e-mail address is <rojerjohnson@yahoo.co.uk>.

July 2014 #1

15862. The saga continues: Les Klinger has applied to the Court of Appeals to recover his expenses in his lawsuit against the Conan Doyle Estate, quoting the Court's statements that the Estate's argument lacked "any ground known to American law," and that the appeal "borders on the quixotic." He is requesting about \$68,000 for expenses for the entire case. The Estate then asked the Court of Appeals to stay its ruling that only the characters and story elements in the last ten stories are protected, while the Estate asks the U.S. Supreme Court to hear the case, because recent "movies and television shows demonstrate that the Sherlock Holmes character is more popular than ever," and because allowing "the Court's opinion to have immediate effect will have a chilling effect on the Estate's ability to manage" promotion and development of the character through licensing agreements."
15863. The Court of Appeals denied the Estate's motion for a stay, and the Estate then asked Elena Kagan (the Supreme Court's Circuit Justice for the Seventh Circuit) to delay implementation of the Court of Appeals decision while the Estate petitions the Supreme Court to review the case; Justice Kagan dismissed the request without comment, and the Court of Appeals decision remains in effect while the Supreme Court decides whether to accept a petition that the Estate has said it plans to submit in a few months. The Supreme Court receives about 10,000 petitions a year, and accepts (and hears oral arguments) in about 75 to 80 cases. As always, you can read the documents in the case at <www.free-sherlock.com>.
15864. It's time for a challenge (repeated from October 88): A non-Sherlockian friend reports recently riding in a taxi driven by a man who said that there were only four people in the Sherlock Holmes stories who smoked pipes. Who were they? The answer's in this month's issue.
15865. The Kent & Sussex Courier reported (June 14) on a fire at Windlesham Manor, formerly the home of Conan Doyle and now a home for the elderly. An alarm was raised at 12:44 am: smoke was reported in one of the rooms, and three fire engines were sent from Crowborough and Uckfield. One person was taken to hospital suffering from smoke inhalation and several others were checked over by ambulance crews. Brian Pugh heard from the manager that there was only minor damage to one of the rooms.

15866. "Mad Movies with the L.A. Connection" (a syndicated television series that aired in 1985 and 1986) spoofed old movies by editing them to fit a 30-minute slot and overdubbing new dialogue. The series included new versions of "Sherlock Holmes and the Secret Weapon" and "Dressed to Kill" that are now available on-line at <www.madmoviesonline.com>; they went on to parody "The Woman in Green" in 1993, available at their web-site (\$3.79).
15867. "Anna May Wong: In Her Own Words" (2013) aired on PBS this year, and it's worth watching for a repeat. The one-hour documentary was written by Yunah Hong, with quotes from her letters, and you can watch a six-minute preview at <www.tinyurl.com/m6nrzd5>. She was a fine actress, and the documentary includes a production still showing her as Mrs. Pyke in Reginald Owen's "A Study in Scarlet" (1933); she also was parodied earlier in the marionette burlesque "Herlock Sholmes in Be-a-Live Crook, or Anna Went Wrong" (1930).
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July 2014 #2

15868. Taxi drivers are not always experts. At least seven people who are named in the Canon smoked pipes (as you might have discovered from the entry for "tobacco" in Jack Tracy's THE ENCYCLOPAEDIA SHERLOCKIANA). Sherlock Holmes, of course, and Dr. Watson. John Straker also smoked a pipe ("Silver Blaze"), and so did Grant Munro ("The Yellow Face"). Thaddeus Sholto smoked a hookah ("The Sign of the Four"), and Isa Whitney smoked opium ("The Man with the Twisted Lip"). Peter Carey owned a tobacco pouch ("Black Peter"). But: who's the eighth person named in the Canon who appears to have smoked a pipe? The answer will be found on the next page.
15869. The "International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes" was a fine excuse for a visit to Columbus, Ohio, where it's open through Sept. 1 at the Center of Science and Industry. COSI (pronounced coh-seye, so that it's not mistaken for the restaurant chain) is very much a hands-on museum, which makes it a fine venue of the exhibition, which is a well-designed combination of artifacts and hands-on activity.
15870. The exhibition consists of three rooms, the first devoted to London, Arthur Conan Doyle, Joseph Bell, and Sherlock Holmes, with displays that include a copy of Beeton's Christmas Annual for 1887, original manuscripts, and artwork by Sidney Paget and Frederic Dorr Steele. The second room has a fine recreation of the sitting-room, and an opportunity to investigate a mystery (designed by Dan Stashower) that offers young and old first-hand experience with observation and deduction. And the third room is devoted both to modern times and to the collectibles that fascinate Sherlockians; the displays include costumes and props from modern films (Downey) and television series (Cumberbatch and Miller), and items such as the Czarina's specially-bound copies of the Canon from John Bennett Shaw's collection, and copies of the old and new series of The Baker Street Journal.
15871. There's lots to see and do, and the exhibition is thoroughly engaging (and was well-attended). The labels are easily read (nice for people who have extremely-middle-aged eyes), and visitors can learn a lot (if they want to) about Victorian times and the Sherlockian world. There's a fine video introduction to the exhibition by Conan Doyle's grand-nephew Richard), and an assortment of videos showing modern forensics (including an explanation of forensic toxicology by Marina Stajic). Bottom line: go if convenient--if inconvenient, go all the same.
15872. The exhibition's scheduled next at the Saint Louis Science Center in Saint Louis, Mo., from Oct. 9 through Jan. 4, 2015; then at the Perot Museum of Science & Nature in Dallas, Texas, opening Feb. 2; at the Discovery Science Center in Santa Ana, Calif., opening on June 11; the Denver Museum of Nature & Science, in Denver, Colo., opening Oct. 15; and at the Pacific Science Center in Seattle, opening Oct. 13, 2016. The exhibition web-site's at <www.sherlockholmesexhibition.com>, and the web-site for Columbus is at <www.cosi.org/exhibits/sherlock>.
15873. The Bolton News reported (June 8) that "Burnt Copies of the Bible and Sherlock Holmes" were found next to a torched 10-foot wizard's chair in Tonge Moor. The wizard's chair was installed in a woodland playground near Bolton (in Lancashire); there has been no further word on whether the vandals have been apprehended, nor (of course) why they chose those two Canons.
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July 2014 #3

15874. Jim Browner ("The Cardboard Box") is the eighth person named in the Canon who appears to have smoked a pipe. And not because the cardboard box was a "yellow, half-pound honeydew box," since he could, after all, have obtained the box anywhere. There is much better evidence. What's that better evidence? Again, the answer's on the next page.
15875. "We just think Holmes is really cool, but having always been attracted to the darker side of life, Moriarty just stood out as a basis for our music. He is clever, devilish and unrepentant--what more do you want from a band?" The British two-man band is called Moriarty [that's their spelling], and the musicians are Jordan Macneil West and Matthew Partridge; they're based in Devon, and their web-site's at <www.moriarty.co.uk>. They have an EP ("Lord Blackwood") and a new album ("The Devil's Child"), and a 30-minute documentary at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=5y8k73POMm4>.
15876. Here's Ian McKellen as the 93-year-old Sherlock Holmes in "Mr. Holmes" (that's the new title for the film based on Mitch Cullin's A SLIGHT TRICK OF THE MIND), now filming and scheduled for release next year.
15877. "It's Queen Vic, Talking Statue, on the Line" was the headline in the Sunday Times (July 6) on a story spotted by Oscar Ross: the Talking Statues Speak Their Minds project, which will run for a year starting on Aug. 19, allows people with smartphones to hear what statues have to say. Anthony Horowitz wrote the script for the statue of Sherlock Holmes outside the Baker Street tube station, and the recording is by British actor Ed Stoppard (son of Tom Stoppard). Best known for his role as Henryk in "The Pianist" (2002), Stoppard also played Sir Hallam Holland, the Foreign Office diplomat who inherited 165 Eaton Place, in the latest "Upstairs Downstairs" series.
15878. Pennie Mae Cartawick's series of almost two dozen pastiches offers a good demonstration of what can be done with digital publishing: all of them are available for Amazon Kindle (99¢ each), and there are collections for Kindle and on paper, and readings at Amazon and Audible (which you can sample on-line). The author has a blog at <www.tinyurl.com/l8y7h5f> with news and promotions and special offers.
15879. Andrew Page ("Lord Saltire") died on May 10, 2013. He became interested in Sherlock Holmes during his high school years, and in 1971 became an energetic author, editor, and publisher, receiving his investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1974. He went on to a career as a teacher of high school English and then community college mathematics; there is much more about his contributions to the Sherlockian world in The Baker Street Journal's 2003 Christmas Annual, which was devoted to what was called the Junior Sherlockian Movement.
15880. It was 125 years ago that J. M. Stoddart invited Arthur Conan Doyle and Oscar Wilde to dinner at the Langham Hotel and commissioned both authors to write stories for Lippincott's, and the Sherlock Holmes Society of London will honor the event at dinner in the Grand Ballroom at the Langham on Aug. 30; consult the Society's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/pns2xza> for more information on The Stoddart Dinner.
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July 2014 #4

15881. Oscar Ross has noted a BBC news story about Britain's Foreign and Commonwealth Office showing at least one program from the "Sherlock" series at a film festival held in Pyongyang in 2012, in hopes of "encouraging change" in North Korea. The episode wasn't "The Empty Hearse" (which the
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- BBC explained involves Holmes identifying a British minister and peer as a North Korean spy who attempts to blow up Parliament); that episode hadn't been filmed, and wasn't broadcast until Jan. 1, 2014.
15882. The better evidence for Jim Browner having been a pipe-smoker is found in *The Strand Magazine*, where Sidney Paget illustrated Jim Browner smoking a pipe. D. Martin Dakin seems to be the first person to have mentioned this in print (in *A SHERLOCK HOLMES COMMENTARY*).
15883. The 198 competitors in the Tour de France started this year's event in Leeds, England (the cycling race covers 3,664 kilometers in four countries over three weeks before ending in Paris), and the Associated Press provided this photograph of a man dressed as Sherlock Holmes with cycling fans in Leeds.
15884. Sam Siciliano's *THE GRIMSWELL CURSE* (London: Titan, 2013; 233 pp., £7.99/ \$9.95) is a sequel to his *THE WEB WEAVER* (February 12 #6); the narrator is Sherlock Holmes' cousin Dr. Henry Vernier, who with his wife Michelle (also a doctor), assists Holmes in investigating the case of a young woman who may be subject to a long-standing family curse.
15885. There was more original artwork by Sidney Paget at auction last month, at Reeman Dancie Auctioneers in Colchester <www.tinyurl.com/ncnvfoz>: an oil-on-canvas painting of sheep on a hillside, was estimated at £100-150 but went unsold.
15886. Ray Betzner's "Studies in Starrett" blog <www.vincentstarrett.com> continues to offer interesting commentary, including his recent "Found and Lost: The Manuscript of *THE PRIVATE LIFE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES*" (the manuscript did exist, and may still, and of course Ray would like to hear from the owner). Ray also has blogged about Starrett's *THE PRIVATE LIFE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES*, reprinting (and commenting) on three reviews from the 1930s, with colorful illustrations that include the seldom-seen dust jacket of the first British edition.
15887. Kelly Blau has noted *THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES* as a "personalized literary classic" offered by Signals <www.tinyurl.com/qy5my4n>. You're able to change the names of one to six major characters, and add a personal dedication on the opening page (\$39.95).
15888. Val Biro died on July 4. He was a prolific children's author, artist, and illustrator, perhaps most famous for a series of 37 picture books about a car he called Gumdrop. Nick Utechin has noted that Biro's work appears on covers of John Murray paperback editions of *THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES*, *THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES*, and *TALES OF BRIGADIER GERARD*, as well as in Fanny Cradock's *THE SHERLOCK HOLMES COOKBOOK*. Some of his covers and original artwork can be seen at <www.abebooks.com>; just search for [biro sherlock] and [biro gerard] as author.
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July 2014 #5

15889. Steve Emecz at MX Publishing has posted a statement by Norman Stromsoy, the project manager for the Stepping Stones School's restoration of Undershaw, Conan Doyle's former home, with details on their plans for the house. He also hopes that the Undershaw Preservation Trust "will want to use the new facilities to hold events to celebrate the life and times of Conan Doyle," and that he looks forward to "welcoming you to Undershaw in the autumn of 2015 when you will be able to see for yourself what has been achieved. The full statement's at <www.tinyurl.com/mhl356x>.
15890. John Michael Gibson (the founder and director of the Undershaw Preservation Trust) has said that he welcomes the latest developments but is concerned "that the stables that have stood for 120 years that housed Doyle's horse Brigadier and his carriage and the well that he drew his water from may be lost in the new plans." And he filed an appeal asking for a review of the English Heritage decision to continue the Grade II listing for Undershaw; you can read the text of his appeal at <www.saveundershaw.com>.
15891. An upgrade of the listing would have imposed strong controls over development that could have caused problems for the school's conversion of Undershaw into a school, but English Heritage denied the appeal, concluding that "the interest conferred on the building by its association with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle is not sufficient to warrant upgrading given its modest architectural quality."
15892. Escape Hunt is a chain of themed game rooms; the Sherlock Holmes room opened recently at the Concorde Hotel & Shopping Mall in Singapore. Each room is meant for two to five players, who have an hour to solve a mystery and escape from the room <www.singapore.escapehunt.com> (the young ladies likely were posing for a publicity photo).
15893. The BBC announced (via Twitter at 2:21 pm on July 2) that shooting will begin in January on a "Sherlock" special, and that shooting for the next season will begin later next year; the special is likely to air at Christmas in 2015, with the next season starting the following year. Scott Monty had details on the BBC's tweeting at his "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/pzok5pt>.
15894. "Celebrity Deathmatch" was a 30-minute claymation series that was broadcast by MTV cable, and on July 20, 2000, the program included a 5-minute segment "Sherlock Holmes vs. Jack the Ripper" that's now available on Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/o84j379>. Note: it's not for the faint of heart.
15895. Orion Books launched its publicity campaign for Anthony Horowitz's second pastiche with a giveaway of advance proofs of "Moriarty" to twelve of the "most influential names in the book world" at the Rookery Hotel in Clerkenwell this month, according to a story in *The Bookseller* (July 16). But there were more than twelve influential people at the event, and 100 proof copies bound in velvet and lettered in silver, and Arifa Akbar reported on the party for the *Independent* (July 17) <www.tinyurl.com/kzweckm>. There has been no report (so far) of one of the copies for sale, but it shouldn't take long.
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July 2014 #6

15896. *THE GRAPHIC NOVELS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* is an attractive series of individual short stories, adapted by Vincent Goodwin and illustrated by Ben Dunn (Minneapolis: Magic Wagon/ABDO, 2010-2013, each with 48 pp., \$20.95), intended for young readers, and nicely done indeed. There are 18 titles in the series, and you can see cover artwork at the company's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/oyxvm7l>.
15897. The colorful Gold Bubble "Sherlock Holmes Collection" received lots of publicity this month. The California company, inspired by the BBC's "Sherlock" television series, used the wallpaper, the mind palace, the front door of 221B, and the iconic Belstaff Millford coat for themes Millford coat. There are additional images at the company's web-site at <www.goldbubbleclothing.com>, and more publicity photographs at <www.images.google.com>; search for [gold bubble sherlock] to see this image and many others.
15898. Otto Penzler notes that the Mysterious Bookshop has published his annotated bibliography of first editions of mystery fiction set in the world of books (1849-2000). *BIBLIOMYSTERIES* (\$75.00) includes 130 full-color photographs or rare or especially interesting dust jackets and covers, and is limited to 200 signed and numbered copies. And there is Sherlockian content: not only Vincent Starrett's *THE UNIQUE HAMLET*, but also books by Robert Richardson, August Derleth, Christopher Morley, S. C. Roberts, and others.
15899. "Whom do you consider your literary heroes?" "The author of the plays attributed to William Shakespeare; I am also a great fan of A. Conan Doyle." John Paul Stevens, former Supreme Court justice, in a "By the Book" interview in the *N.Y. Times* (Apr. 6), spotted by John Baesch.
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15900. MediaWeek reported (July 22) that BBC Worldwide, the commercial arm of the BBC, generated sales of £1.04 billion in the year that ended Mar. 31, due to the popularity of series such as "Doctor Who" and "Sherlock" (which has been licensed to 224 territories). BBC Worldwide's pre-tax profit for the year was £126.5 million.
15901. Benedict Cumberbatch and John Malkovich will star together in a new movie: "Penguins of Madagascar" (animated in 3D and scheduled for a Thanksgiving release): Cumberbatch provides the voice for Agent Classified, a wolf who's head of an animal spy organization that teams up with the penguins to save the world from the evil octopus Dr. Octavius Brine (voiced by Malkovich).
15902. THE DISAPPEARANCE OF MR. JAMES PHILLIMORE (September 13 #6) was the most recent title in Dan Andriacco's series about Jeff Cody and Sebastian McCabe, and his next book (ROGUES GALLERY) will have two novellas and three short stories. He has launched a crowd-funding campaign to get the book published, and you can read about it at <www.pubslush.com/books/id/2568>. He is using Pubslush, which says it is "the gateway to the literary world" and a "niche crowd-funding platform," and it's an interesting concept. His entertaining Sherlockian blog is at <www.bakerstreetbeat.blogspot.com>.
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July 2014 #7

15903. Phil Attwell spotted a story in Radio Times (July 22) about the revival on BBC Radio 4 of the 30-minute series "Dead Ringers" on which impressionists will parody various public figures, including Benedict Cumberbatch as Sherlock Holmes; the first of six weekly episodes aired on July 30; the series can be heard on-line, but you may need to spoof the BBC into thinking you're in the UK (there are programs such as Hola! that help one do this) <www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b04brr99>.
15904. A dastardly crime reported on the blotter of the police department on Bainbridge Island, Wash. (July 10): Someone stole a cell phone from a vehicle at the Day Road Park-and-Ride lot. The car owner had left the doors to his Honda unlocked at the time of the prow. The pipe was glass and shaped in a "Sherlock Holmes style." It was in a brown leather case. The phone and pipe were valued at approximately \$230.
15905. There were 113 people on hand at University College in London on July 19, all of them wearing Sherlockian costume, to celebrate Benedict Cumberbatch's 38th birthday and to try to set a Guinness World Record for the most people gathered in one place dressed as Sherlock Holmes. Roger Johnson and Jean Upton were on hand for the festivities, and you can see them (briefly) in a video report by Charlotte Pamment, available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/q2736r3>. She has other interesting (although non-Sherlockian) video on the Internet, one being a report on an upside-down house in London <www.vimeo.com/86097204>.
15906. The event was organized to raise awareness of the National Literacy Trust, and Roger Johnson has posted pictures from the gathering, and of the Sherlock Holmes BookBench (May 14 #5), at <www.tinyurl.com/ntoek3p>. You can click on each image to read Roger's captions.
15907. "Madame Tussaud ain't in it," Sam Merton said (in "The Mazarin Stone"), but Sherlock Holmes (well, Benedict Cumberbatch) will be on display for visitors to Madame Tussauds in London beginning in October. You can see colorful photographs of him being measured for his waxwork figure in a Radio Times story (July 21) <www.tinyurl.com/qyzttel>. Cumberbatch was among the celebrities at Comic-Con in San Diego; the Guardian reported (July 25) that Hall H (the largest venue, with a capacity of 6,500) was filled completely, with many attendees dressed in Sherlockian costume, "despite this being a presentation that had nothing to do with the show whatsoever."
15908. WinTrillions Casino offers a wide range of on-line games; based in Cyprus, it's the gaming division of Ledonford Gaming Services (licensed in Alderney, which is one of the Channel Islands). The casino's slot-machine-style games include one called "Sherlock Mystery", which you can find (with many other games) at <www.wintrillionscasino.com>.
15909. If you'd like to spend a night at the Abbey Grange, Nick Utechin has found an Abbey Grange Hotel in Llangollen (you need to speak Welsh to be able to pronounce that properly): <www.abbey-grange-hotel.co.uk>. Completists may wish also to stay at the Abbey Grange Hotel in Nuneaton; their web-site's at <www.pierresrestaurant.co.uk>. There's also an Abbey Grange Church of England Academy in Leeds <www.abbeygrandacademy.co.uk>.
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July 2014 #8

15910. Spotted by Nick Utechin: I Love Mel (which "started out life as a few badges that were made and handed out to make Mel Elliott feel better after her boyfriend dumped her") offers a "Colour Me Good: Benedict Cumberbatch" unofficial colouring book (£7.50) and other merchandise honoring the "Sherlock" television series <www.tinyurl.com/nuw9mo6>.
15911. Upcoming theater: Katie Forgette's "Sherlock Holmes & the Case of the Jersey Lily" is running at the Cortland Repertory Theatre in Cortland, N.Y., through Aug. 9; their web-site's at <www.cortlandrep.org>. And the play's scheduled by the Richmond Hill Players in Geneseo, Ill., Oct. 2-12; their web-site's at <www.rhplayers.com>.
15912. "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (the excellent parody by Steven Canny and John Nicholson) is being performed at the B Street Theatre in Sacramento, Calif., through Aug. 10 <www.bstreettheatre.org>. And it will be produced at the Actors' Theatre in Columbus, Ohio, Sept. 5-14; their web-site is at <www.theactorstheatre.org>.
15913. Chris Hibbs' "The Curious Case in the Colony: A Sherlock Holmes Adventure" is on at the Newman Wine Vaults in St. John's, Newfoundland, through Aug. 16 <www.tinyurl.com/k5qghuu>.
15914. "Sherlock Holmes: A Working Hypothesis" is a new interactive (audience-participation) play written by Alexander Wright that will be produced by the Flanagan Collective and the York Theatre Royal in York, Aug. 11 to Sept. 21 <www.yorktheatreroyal.co.uk> <www.theflanagancollective.co.uk>.
15915. Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" is scheduled at the Drury Lane in Oakbrook, Ill., from Aug. 28 to Oct. 19; the theater web-site's at <www.drurylaneoakbrook.com>. And it will be produced by the Minstrel Players at Houghton Hall, Trinity Episcopal Church, in Northport Village, N.Y., Oct. 25-Nov. 2 <www.minstrelplayers.org>.
15916. Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" runs at the Randall L. Jones Theatre at Southern Utah University in Cedar City, Utah, Sept. 20 to Oct. 18 <www.bard.org>. And at the CAT Theater in Henrico, Va., Oct. 24-Nov. 8 <www.richmondvatheater.com>.
15917. Greg Oliver Bodine's "A Requiem for Sherlock Holmes" will be performed as a reading in the Sundays@Six series at the Jewel Box Theatre in New York on Sept. 21 <www.workshoptheater.org>.
15918. The British publisher Titan Books has a nice run of pastiches in print, and 29 of them are listed at Titan's web-site <www.titanbooks.com>, along with an interesting blog about how their covers are designed. Not listed is ELEMENTARY: THE NEXT VICTIM, a pastiche spin-off from the CBS television series, first announced for Sept. 30 and now scheduled for May 26, 2015. They haven't said who the author is, and the book's not available for pre-order at Amazon and Barnes & Noble. Fans of the series are now waiting patiently for the debut of the third season, scheduled for Oct. 30.
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August 2014 #1

15919. The saga continues: 7th Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Richard Posner has ordered the Conan Doyle Estate to pay Les Klinger the full \$30,679.93 requested to cover his costs in the Estate's appeal of the lower court decision that copyright protects only characters and story elements unique to the ten stories still under copyright. As always, you can read the documents in the case at <www.free-sherlock.com>. Judge Rubén Castillo has not yet decided on Les' request for \$39,123.44 to cover his costs in the original case. According to a Reuters dispatch (Aug. 5) Estate lawyer Benjamin Allison said that he will appeal both of the Appeals Court rulings to the Supreme Court.
15920. "Masterpiece Mystery" started a new season of "Poirot" on July 30 on PBSTV, with a dramatization of "The Big Four" by Mark Gatiss and Ian Hallard; the program was quite different from the book and had none of the Canonical echoes found in the book (but there was a new Doylean echo). The season will complete David Suchet's appearances as Poirot in every major literary work by Christie that features the famous Belgian detective: 70 episodes over 25 years, and there are brief clips from all of them available at <www.agathachristie.com/poirot-tv>.
15921. The Florence Freedom are a Frontier League professional baseball team based in Florence (near Cincinnati), Ohio, and on July 26 they presented a Sherlock Holmes Night that featured actors from the Murder Mystery Theater Company acting out a "Take 'em out at the ball game" Murder Mystery Theater, and the team wearing Sherlock Holmes Baseball Caps, which also were available for purchase by fans. They're now out of stock, but you can see photographs at <www.tinyurl.com/nyv97fk>.
15922. At long last Sherlockians have a reason to watch "Downton Abbey" (not that most Sherlockians are not watching the series already): Richard E. Grant, who played Sherlock Holmes in "The Other Side" (a television program broadcast by BBC-2 in 1992), will appear in four episodes of "Downton Abbey" as Simon Bricker, an art historian and houseguest of the Crawley family (Grant said in an interview that "my knees will be taken off" if he reveals anything else about his character).
15923. If you'd like to own a fancy car: Silverstone Auctions' Salon Privé Sale on Sept. 4 will include a 1931 Pur Sang Bugatti Type 51 estimated at £150,000-£170,000. The catalog notes that Bugatti's cars were bought and raced by elite customers such as Achille Varzi, Marcel Lehoux, Jean Pierre Wimille, Louis Chiron, and Arthur Conan Doyle. And yes, it's quite likely that it was Adrian Conan Doyle who was among their elite customers. You can read more about the car at <www.tinyurl.com/lghpesh>.
15924. Alan Rettig has discovered Gutenberg Labo, a Japanese font foundry that has created a nice Dancing Men font that's available as a free download, and of course far more accessible than the first Dancing Men reported in my newsletter many years ago (March 92 #5). If you'd like to install the Gutenberg Labo font on your computer, it's at <www.tinyurl.com/q8sv652>. Alas, there seems to be no program that can be used to translate dancing men into something more easily readable.

August 2014 #2

15925. The British Film Institute has launched a search for a copy of the first feature-length Sherlock Holmes film made in Britain, now high on the BFI's list of most-wanted films. This year is the centenary of the release of "A Study in Scarlet" (1914), directed by George Pearson and starring James Braginton as Holmes, and the BFI would love to hear from anyone who has a copy of the film.
15926. It's not the first feature-length Sherlock Holmes film, however. That was "Der Hund von Baskerville" (A German film released a few months earlier in 1914), directed by Rudolf Meinert and starring Alwin Neuss as Holmes; that film also is not known to have survived. If you find either film in your basement or attic, keep in mind that they were made on nitrate film, which is extremely flammable (it has essentially the same chemical composition as gun cotton), and may even auto-ignite.
15927. For those who haven't figured out the Doylean reference in the television adaptation of "The Big Four": Conan Doyle self-experimented with the drug gelsemium, and in 1879 wrote about the results in the British Medical Journal; the unusual poison used in the television episode was gelsemine.
15928. The new owners of the Crowborough Cross Pub, located in the heart of Crowborough, asked residents of the town to consider new names for the establishment, including Willet's Cross, the Red Cross Inn, and the Sir Arthur Conan Doyle; in June the owners announced that they had decided to keep the name the Crowborough Cross. But you can still have a drink (or two) at the Conan Doyle in Edinburgh.
15929. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration has provided details on the next rover NASA will send to Mars, in 2020; the press release is at <www.tinyurl.com/oxrv26g>. The payload proposals include a spectrometer called SHERLOC (an acronym for Scanning Habitable Environments with Raman and Luminescence for Organics and Chemicals); go to <www.tinyurl.com/onfxzqxq> to read the Jet Propulsion Laboratory's detailed description of SHERLOC. The instrument, named by deputy principal investigator Rohit Bhartia, is indeed a tip-of-the-deerstalker to Sherlock Holmes: if you look closely at the shadow cast on the surface of Mars, you will see a thoroughly familiar profile. It should be noted that NASA has not asked people to rename the instrument so that the acronym will end with the letter K.
15930. Brandon Daniel spotted the Kings Wild Project (a collection of products designed and produced by artist Jackson Robinson) <www.tinyurl.com/15g62m2>; search for [sherlock] to see their sets of attractive Sherlock Holmes playing cards (and a dealer's coin). The decks have nicely and appropriately decorated boxes, backs, court cards and jokers, and you can see excellent images at the web-site.

August 2014 #3

15931. Watson's Tin Box will host the eighth "Scintillation of Scions" on June 12-13, 2015, at the Sheraton Baltimore-Washington Airport. It's an entertaining gathering of both local and far-flung Sherlockians, with a fine list of speakers. More information's available from Jacquelynn Morris (3042 Old Channel Road, Laurel, MD 20724); the Scintillation sold out last year, and has moved to a slightly larger venue, but you are advised to register sooner rather than later <www.scintillation.org>.
15932. I'm not sure that 221b Con ("a con for all things Sherlockian") in Atlanta in 2013 was the first of its kind, but there have been more since then, including GridLOCK DC, in Alexandria, Va., this month <www.gridlockdc.com>, when 195 fans turned out for the fun and games. Some of the conventioners were old hands, but the vast majority were young (high school, college, and professional) and female, and fans of film and television (both "Sherlock" and "Elementary"); informal polling at panels revealed that about half had not (yet) read all of the Canon. There was some imaginative cosplay, table games (including Nea Dodson's Sherlockian version of Fluxx, and an assortment of vendors, and it was nice to find a younger generation interested in the Canon as well as in its dramatizations. The older generation(s) had a chance to learn some new vocabulary, including "headcanon" (Baring-Gould's SHERLOCK HOLMES OF BAKER STREET is headcanon); "cosplay" is costume play, and you can look Fluxx up at Wikipedia.
15933. On Oct. 14 Great Britain will issue a set of stamps honoring eight significant Prime Ministers; one of them being William Gladstone, who held the office four times, and is believed by some Sherlockian scholars to have been the real Lord Bellingham (in "The Second Stain").
15934. Michael A. Hoey died on Aug. 17. He was the son of Dennis Hoey, who played Lestrade in Universal's "Sherlock Holmes" series, and had a long career in Hollywood as an editor, director, and writer. His memoirs ELVIS, SHERLOCK & ME were published in 2007 (with the subtitle "How I

survived growing up in Hollywood"), and his SHERLOCK HOLMES & THE FABULOUS FACES (2012) was an affectionate look at the supporting actors in what he called "William Roy Neill's stock company."

15935. Winston Churchill also is in the British set of stamps honoring significant Prime Ministers. He served in office twice, corresponded with Conan Doyle, and appears as a character in many Sherlockian pastiches. John McAleer reported in his biography REX STOUT that in Dec. 1931 Stout, then a prospective bridegroom, had "a night out with the boys" at a private club where Churchill was one of the guests (at half-past one, Stout remembered, Churchill "was sipping bourbon and discussing Sherlock Holmes with me and three other men." According to Stout, "Churchill knew the Holmes stories fairly well and thought them 'perfect entertainment.'"
15936. Jennie Paton reports that the eighth and final program in the Russian television series that stars Igor Petrenko and Andrei Panin is now available with English subtitles at YouTube; it's their version of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" and has little to do with Conan Doyle's story, but there are two nice jokes at the end <www.tinyurl.com/q7pe7n4>.
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August 2014 #4

15937. There was some discussion on the Hounds of the Internet mailing list this month about the failure of many histories of science fiction to credit Conan Doyle for writing in THE LOST WORLD about explorers finding dinosaurs alive and well in modern times, and Denny Dobry reported that Edward Douglas Fawcett's book SWALLOWED BY AN EARTHQUAKE (1894) also included an encounter live dinosaurs (in an underground world). It is interesting that Conan Doyle met Fawcett's brother, the noted explorer Col. Percy H. Fawcett, in 1910; there's more about this in Roy Pilot and Alvin Rodin's THE ANNOTATED LOST WORLD (1996) and in David Grann's THE LOST CITY OF Z (2009).
15938. The next book to be published by the Baker Street Irregulars Press will be SHERLOCKIAN SATURDAYS AT THE PRATT, edited by William Hyder; it's a selection from the many papers (both scholarly and pseudoscholarly), presented at the annual gatherings at the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore from 1980 to the present. The book will be available for order (\$21.95) starting Sept. 10 <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>.
15939. Strictly for the purists (and there are at least a few left): spelling usage now calls for optical CDs and DVDs being discs, and magnetic floppies being disks.
15940. Stewart McPherson's LOST WORLDS OF THE GUIANA HIGHLANDS (2008) is now out of print, but it received an enthusiastic review in Country Life (Jan. 7, 2009), at hand from John Baesch. The tepuis at Mount Roraima are thought to be as close as one can get now to the Lost World of Conan Doyle.
15941. Alexander Orlov has reported a nicely Sherlockian excuse to visit Saint Petersburg: a map of locations where scenes were filmed for the Russian series starring Vasili LivaNovember and Vitali Solomin. It's interactive (you can click on locations to bring up imagery <www.221b.ru/geo/geo-spb.htm>, and of course it's helpful if you can read Russian (but Google Translate is as always a useful assistant).
15942. Photography is not permitted at the "International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes" (now at COSI in Columbus, Ohio), but exceptions are made: you can see a slide show, thanks to WHY's Artworks, at <www.tinyurl.com/qgtrfwp>, and get an idea of how well designed the exhibition is.
15943. The summer issue of The Magic Door (the newsletter published by The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) honors the new Arthur Conan Doyle Room, with descriptions of the room and of the festivities that celebrated the opening. You can request a copy of the newsletter from Clifford S. Goldfarb, 22 Markdale Avenue, Toronto, ON M6C, 1T1, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.
15944. I don't recall any mention of Joseph Joachim by Sherlockian scholars, but there seems to be a connection, noted by John Baesch: John Fowler wrote a letter to the BBC Music Magazine (Christmas 2013) pointing out that Joachim was a violin virtuoso, and the first to record music for unaccompanied violin; he made five recordings in 1903, one of them being the recording heard by the villains in "The Mazarin Stone". If you'd like to hear some of the recordings, there's a web-site at <www.josephjoachim.com>.
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August 2014 #5

15945. MX Publishing continues to offer interesting pastiches. David Ruffle's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE LYME REGIS TRIALS (2012; 125 pp., \$9.95) brings Holmes and Watson back to back to the coastal town for an investigation of mysterious goings-on (there's also an account of what happened in the Grosvenor Square furniture van). Charlotte Anne Walters' CHARLIE MILVERTON AND OTHER SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES (2014; 138 pp., \$11.95) is a retelling of five Canonical tales, set in modern times. Amy Thomas' THE DETECTIVE, THE WOMAN, AND THE SILENT HIVE (2014; 192 pp., \$16.95), the third in her series about Irene Adler, has her coming to London in search of Holmes' assistance involving a mystery triggered by one of Holmes' old cases. Fred Thursfield's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE ESCAPE ARTIST (2014; 200 pp., \$14.95) has Watson's widow Mary and Sherlock Holmes in New York, and assisting Harry and Bess Houdini in solving a mystery created by a villainous spiritualist. The publisher's web-sites are at <www.mxpublishing.com> and <www.mxpublishing.co.uk>.
15946. Also from MX: Mike Hogan's SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE SKULL OF KOHADA KOHEIJI AND OTHER STORIES (2013; 193 pp., \$16.95) has five macabre mysteries, with one of them involving a seance also attended by Dr. Arthur Conan Doyle. SHERLOCK HOLMES AND YOUNG WINSTON: THE DEADWOOD STAGE (2012; 226 pp., \$16.95) is the first of Hogan's four novels that feature Holmes, Watson, and their new assistant: 12-year-old Winston Spencer-Churchill, who is a quick learner, precocious (as might be expected), and often amusing; Hogan's web-site is at <www.mikehoganbooks.co.uk>. J. Andrew Taylor's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE: THE WORMWOOD SCRUBS ENIGMA (2012; 140 pp., \$9.95) begins with a locked snow-covered field mystery: two headless prison guards are found near Wormwood Scrubbs, with no traces of a perpetrator; Holmes and Watson discover the solution.
15947. The Ice Bucket Challenge has gone viral. It's intended to raise awareness of and collect funds for research on ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis), and Benedict Cumberbatch has participated: there's a 3-minute video available at YouTube <www.youtube.com/o7vhy6k>.
15948. Lyndsay Faye (who is proud of her Investiture in The Baker Street Irregulars as "Kitty Winter") has some interesting things to say about her namesake at the Baler Street Babes web-site <www.tinyurl.com/pzzxu69>.
15949. The Langham Hotel, mentioned more than once in the Canon, and the site of the famous dinner at which Conan Doyle was commissioned to write "The Sign of the Four", is offering an "exclusive commemoration package for Sherlock Holmes aficionados." Their "Sherlock Holmes Package" costs £329 per night for two people, including an English breakfast and two tickets to the exhibition at the Museum of London, and you can upgrade to the Arthur Conan Doyle suite at £529 per night. Read all about it at the hotel's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/paszmv4>, where you may (or may not) still find the hotel media center's statement that it was at the Langham that "the famous series of Sherlock Holmes mysteries was born."
15950. Empire Online reported (Aug. 21) that Nicholas Rowe, who starred in "Young Sherlock Holmes" (1985), will appear again as Holmes in "Mr. Holmes" (the new title for "A Slight Trick of the Mind"). Ian McKellen stars in the new film as an aged Holmes, and Rowe will have a cameo as a younger Holmes.
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August 2014 #6

15951. Fans of Jeremy Brett and David Burke and Edward Hardwicke (and the Granada series) will welcome the news that the entire series has now been released by MPI Home Video on Blu-ray (\$59.98 for the disc with the first 13 episodes). Blu-ray is a digital optical-disc data-storage format that provides higher definition and requires a special player.
15952. HOW TO THINK LIKE SHERLOCK, by Daniel Smith (New York: MJF Books, 2012; 192 pp., \$15.95), is a do-it-yourself guide to improving "your powers of observation, memory, and deduction" (with riddles and tests and solutions).
15953. The 55th annual running of The Chicago Silver Blaze will take place at the Hawthorne Race Course on Oct. 18. All the details are available from Susan Z. Diamond (16W603 3rd Avenue, Bensenville, IL 60106); her e-mail address is <szdiamond@comcast.net>.
15954. The "International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes" opens at the Saint Louis Science Center in Saint Louis, Mo., on Oct. 9, and their web-site's up and running <www.slsc.org/sherlock-holmes>.
15955. "I have done a new cat," T. S. Eliot once wrote, "modeled on the late Professor Moriarty, but he doesn't seem very popular, too sophisticated, perhaps." That was in a letter to Frank Morley, cited by David E. Chinitz in A COMPANION TO T. S. ELIOT (John Wiley and Sons, 2009, p. 231). Thanks to Alexander Orlov for noting this direct reference to "Macavity the Mystery Cat", which actress Kelsey Williams reads (with artwork from various sources) in a YouTube video uploaded <www.tinyurl.com/q8k9poq> by Ross K. Foad.
15956. Thomas Mengert's THE CONFESSIONS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE THEOLOGICAL ODYSSEY OF THE GREAT DETECTIVE: VOLUME 1: THE WAGER AT REICHENBACH FALLS (Keypoint: Victorian Gentlemen's Press, 2014; 230 pp., \$24.95) is the first of seven volumes offering an alternative account of the adventures of Holmes and Watson, with a lot of philosophy (religious and otherwise). The complete work will total more than 820,000 words (more than the Canon itself); there's a sample from the book, and two video interviews with the author, at <www.tinyurl.com/owhjfb>.
15957. The Stanford Theatre in Palo Alto, Calif., opened in 1925 and is still operating, carefully restored, complete with Wurlitzer organ, and screening a full schedule of classic films <www.stanfordtheatre.org>. On Thursdays and Fridays into October they're showing weekly double features pairing the Fox and Universal "Sherlock Holmes" and Fox "Charlie Chan" films.
15958. Internet fandom is awash with hopeful comment about a possible "Doctor Who" cross-over with "Sherlock" (Stephen Moffat and Mark Gatiss are showrunners for both series), and that may or may not happen, some day. In the meantime, there were Sherlockian echoes in "Doctor Who: The Snowmen" (broadcast on Dec. 25, 2012), and Les Klinger was the first to report many additional echoes in "Deep Breath" (the new season's first episode, broadcast on Aug. 23; Madame Vastra, the Victorian lizard lady, and Inspector Gregson are involved, and there are mentions of the Conk-Singleton forgery case and the Camberwell poisoner. If you're able to watch the BBC on-line, there's an 11-minute "Doctor Who Extra: Deep Breath" <www.tinyurl.com/mnofkjf> with a brief glimpse of a deerstalker (but not on the Doctor).

August 2014 #7

15959. There are many options available to authors who don't care if their work is not published in what now are called "dead tree books" by the many people who are happy to use e-books. One of those options is BookBaby, with an interesting web-site <www.tinyurl.com/qjdve2y>; it's a partner of Booktrack, which has published an "enhanced" version of "The Speckled Band" (March 12 #1).
15960. Ray Betzner's "Studies in Starrett" blog <www.vincentstarrett.com> is well worth visiting frequently: his most recent entries are a two-part piece on "The World's Most Famous Bookplate" (and it's a fine example of how much an energetic researcher can discover).
15961. Howard Ostrom, continuing his research on Sherlock Holmes on stage, screen, and television, has a new two-part essay ("Who's on First, It's Not So Elementary") about the first Sherlock Holmes performers in more than 40 countries; it's nicely illustrated, and you can read it at Ross K. Foad's "No Place Like Holmes" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/mwdhy5g>.
15962. Walter Harmidarow's THE FINAL SOLUTION (Oakville: LTDBooks, 2001; 155 pp., \$18.99) pits Holmes and Watson against Moriarty; Holmes is found red-handed at the scene of murder, and Watson suffers personal tragedy, but they eventually prevail. It's out of print, but copies are available from the author for \$15.00 <walterharmidarow@bell.net>.
15963. L.A. Theatre Works recorded "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (dramatized by David Pichette and R. Hamilton Wright) in June, with Seamus Dever as Holmes and Geoffrey Arend as Watson, and you'll be able to purchase a CD or download at their web-site <www.latw.org> on Sept. 15. The national broadcast is scheduled for Oct. 25, when they'll also stream the show at their web-site; details at <www.latw.org/radio.html>.
15964. The Sherlock Breakfast Club and The Curious Collectors of Baker Street are planning an "All-Holmes' Eve" celebration in Brentwood (a suburb of Los Angeles) on Oct. 25, with food, a costume party and contest, and entertainment, ranging from strictly Canonical to wildly imaginative. Details will be announced at their Meetup web-page <www.tinyurl.com/ltxaumq>.
15965. "The Carlton Club will find me," said Sir James Damery (in "The Illustrious Client"). The Carlton Club was founded in 1832, and now offers reciprocity to members of 137 clubs in 36 countries; if you'd like to see what it looks like now, visit the web-site <www.carltonclub.co.uk>. John Baesch spotted a handsome advertisement for the Carlton in Country Life (Oct. 9, 2013).
15966. The Common Core standards, widely used for teaching language, literature, and mathematics, have received a lot of publicity, some favorable and some unfavorable. If you would like to see how Sherlock Holmes was used in this year's New York Regents High School Examination in English Language Arts, it's nicely available on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/nld46rc>. Try your hand at testing your reading comprehension of something written by Arthur Conan Doyle. Or Langston Hughes. Or Carl Sagan. Thanks to Christopher Blau for finding the link to the exam. A Washington Post web-site blog (June 27) <www.tinyurl.com/n8doqxc> offers an explanation by two state educators of why they think the new exam is not a good test of college readiness.

August 2014 #8

15967. The BBC's "Sherlock" television series collected four Creative Arts Emmy Awards from the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences ("His Last Vow" was nominated in the Miniseries or Movie category): Cinematography, Single-Picture Editing, Music Composition, and Sound Editing. And Primetime Emmy Awards were won by Benedict Cumberbatch (Best Actor), Martin Freeman (Best Supporting Actor), and Best Writing (Steven Moffat).
15968. And there's no shortage of productions of Sherlockian plays, some old and some new. Ken Ludwig's Gillette play "Postmortem" (recently rewritten as the comedy "The Game's Afoot") is being performed at the Tater Patch Players Theatre in Jasper, Ga., until Sept. 6 <www.taterpatchplayers.org>.
15969. The West End Studio Theatre in Santa Cruz, Calif., has included "Sherlock Holmes" in its schedule of classes, starting Sept. 10; it's a "teen production" for grades 7-12, and there will be public performances on Dec. 5-6, at the Broadway Playhouse <www.westperformingarts.com>.
15970. "Sherlock Holmes and the Canary Girls" (a new play by Keith Digby and John Clark) will be produced at the Kenton Theatre in Henley-on-Thames on Sept. 18-27 <www.kentontheatre.co.uk>.
15971. "Sherlock Holmes and the West End Horror" (dramatized by Anthony Dodge and Marcia Milgrom Dodge from Nicholas Meyer's novel) will be performed at Theatre Burlington in Burlington, Ont. <www.theatreburlington.on.ca> Sept. 19-Oct. 4.

15972. "Sherlock Holmes and the Hound of the Baskervilles" (a new dramatization by Philip Grecian) will be performed at the Break Room Restaurant and Dinner Theater in Topeka, Kan., Sept. 19-27 <www.breakroomdowntown.com>.
15973. "Sherlock Holmes and the Hound of the Baskervilles" (a new dramatization by Richard Rose) will be produced at the Barter Theatre in Abingdon, Va., from Sept. 25 to Oct. 12 <www.bartertheatre.com>.
15974. The LifeHouse Theater will produce Tim Kelly's play "The Hound of the Baskervilles" in Redlands, Calif., Oct. 25-Nov. 16 <www.lifehousetheater.com>.
15975. The East Haddam Stage Company will perform "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Speckled Band" at the Oliver Wolcott Library in Litchfield, Conn., on Oct. 29.
15976. "Sherlock Holmes and the Masters of Crime" (a new play by C. P. Stancich) is scheduled by the Theatre Company of Lafayette at the Mary Miller Theatre in Lafayette, Colo., Oct. 31-Nov. 23 <www.tclstage.org>.
15977. The Lamplighters Music Theatre specializes in productions of Gilbert & Sullivan, and this year's champagne gala and auction will be a satire titled "Sherlock Who?, or A Scandal in Barataria" at the Palace of Fine Arts Theatre in San Francisco, Nov. 2, and at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts on Nov. 9 <www.lamplighters.org>.
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September 2014 #1

15978. The saga continues: the Conan Doyle Estate has filed a petition for a Writ of Certiorari with the U.S. Supreme Court, asking it to review the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals decision that copyright protects only characters and story elements unique to the ten stories still under copyright. As always, you can read the documents in the case at <www.free-sherlock.com>. The Supreme Court receives about 10,000 petitions a year, and accepts (and hears oral arguments) in fewer than 100 cases.
15979. Alan Rettig has reported a nice discovery by his friend Bruce Louiselle: a Sherlock Holmes Pub in the Grand Hotel in Hellesylt (a small village on the west central coast of Norway <www.tinyurl.com/qyyypmu>.
15980. The "Victorian Fiction" section of the latest issue of the electronic journal Ripperologist has E. W. Hornung's "Gentlemen and Players" (edited with an introduction and notes by Eduardo Zinna). Hornung, Conan Doyle's brother-in-law, created Raffles, the Amateur Cracksman, and Zinna offers both a fine review of Hornung's life and work, and nicely helpful annotations to the story. Ripperologist is devoted to all aspects of Jack the Ripper (who is mentioned in Hornung's story); for information on how to subscribe, contact editor Eduardo Zinna at <editorez@yahoo.co.uk>.
15981. It's "Erie's downtown party headquarters! The home of rock-n-roll!" according to the Facebook page for Sherlock's/Park Place in Erie, Pa. The photographs at Yelp suggest that it's a lively venue.
15982. More and more Sherlockian societies are using web-sites to make their history available, among them the Pleasant Places of Florida <www.ppofl.net>; click on "Publications" to see scans of their newsletter Communications all the way back to the first issue (Mar. 1972), as well as their round-robin pastiches and much more.
15983. The latest result of Howard Ostrom's continuing Sherlockian exploration is "Talk to the Animals, Sherlock; or, Animaltry, My Dear Watson" (a nicely illustrated exploration of the animals who have portrayed Sherlock Holmes in various media); it's amusing and instructive to see how many different animals have appeared in Sherlockian roles. You can read it for yourself at <www.nplh.co.uk/animaltry.html>.
15984. Oscar Ross reports an upcoming event at the Belfast Comedy Festival on Oct. 3: Crazy Cat Comedy will present "No Sith, Sherlock" (billed as "an intergalactic night of Star Wars themed murder mystery comedy") that apparently is Sherlockian only for the punning title <www.tinyurl.com/my8hgwa>.
15985. The John H. Watson Society has announced the names of winners of its Second Annual Treasure Hunt (June 14 #3): the Open Team competition was won (again) by the Sound of the Baskervilles (of Seattle) with a perfect score, and the Open Individual competition by Denny Dobry (also again). You can find the details at the society's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/pq4hyfz>, and the questions (and answers) at <www.tinyurl.com/osorwt6>. Next year's event will be launched at noon on Aug. 1, 2015, and almost certainly will be even more difficult than this year's competition.
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September 2014 #2

15986. There were 443 people dressed as Sherlock Holmes at Temple Newsam in Leeds on Aug. 31 to help the campaign to raise funds for the Yorkshire Brain Research Centre, setting a new Guinness World Record.
15987. Steven Moffat and Sue Vertue sent a video message that's available on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/n98x3cj>, and contributed a signed copy of the script for "The Empty Hearse" as a prize for the "best dressed Sherlock". There are lots of photographs accompanying the report by the Daily Mirror (Aug. 31) <www.tinyurl.com/qe9x8f2>.
15988. SHERLOCK HOLMES VS. HARRY HOUDINI is a new five-issue comic-book mini-series due from Dynamite Entertainment in October. Anthony Del Col and Conor McCreery are the writers, and Carlos Furuzono the artist, and the web-site is at <www.tinyurl.com/n8xyy63>.
15989. "Celtic New Bhoys Murarak Wakaso Posts Bizarre Tribute to Sherlock Holmes After Mistaking Detective Outfit as Parkhead Tradition" was the headline on a story in the Glasgow Daily Record (Aug. 31): Wakaso, newly arrived from Ghana to join Glasgow Celtic, thought he was shown in local costume in a fan's photoshopped photograph, and reposted it on Instagram.
15990. Translating some of the strange words: Celtic is the Glasgow football team, bhoys is a Celtic fan (or tough or thug), and football, of course, is what Americans call soccer. Instagram, now owned by Facebook, is a service that allows people to share video and photographs on social media.
15991. The second season of "Elementary" has been released (discounted to \$39.84 at Amazon). And there's a "Elementary 2015 Wall Calendar" (discounted to \$13.49).
15992. William Gillette's (non-Sherlockian) play "Too Much Johnson" has been made into films in 1919, directed by Donald Crisp, and again in 1938, directed by Orson Welles for a planned Mercury Theatre stage-and-screen production; the play was performed briefly without the film, which was never shown to the public. But a copy of the film, discovered in Italy in 2008, has been restored (August 13 #4), and (thanks to the National Film Preservation Foundation) a 66-minute work print of the film now is available on the Internet, with informative film notes by Scott Simmon, at <www.tinyurl.com/msppnrk>.
15993. The Museum of London exhibition "Sherlock Holmes: The Man Who Never Lived and Will Never Die" opens on Oct. 14 <www.tinyurl.com/mp263ux>, and there already is tie-in merchandise: Christys' Hats and Lovat Mill have launched a new tweed inspired by Sherlock Holmes, and deerstalkers are available at Christys' web-site <www.tinyurl.com/kfasfqo>. And there's an interesting blog, with a short trailer, at <www.tinyurl.com/k48o8z8>.
15994. There now are six books in Andrew Lane's YOUNG SHERLOCK HOLMES series, the latest being KNIFE EDGE (London: Macmillan, 2013; 356 pp., £12.99), which brings Sherlock back to England, where he continues his struggle with the Paradol Chamber. The next book in the series will be
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September 2014 #3

15995. Many of you will now have seen "Houdini" (the television film that aired in two two-hour episodes on the History Channel this month), but some of you have not, so I will avoid spoilers, except to say "don't believe everything you see." Nicholas Meyer's script draws heavily from THE SECRET LIFE OF HOUDINI: THE MAKING OF AMERICA'S FIRST SUPERHERO, by William Kalush and Larry Sloman (2006), which presents problems if you know a lot about Houdini and are annoyed when fiction is mixed with fact. Conan Doyle is in the film, played by David Calder; Lady Doyle is played by Linda Marlowe.
15996. John Cox comments on the film in great detail at his excellent web-site at "Wild About Harry" <wildabouthoudini.com>; there are a lot of spoilers, so you might want to see the film before going to the web-site. He notes that an extended version of the film was broadcast in Britain; American who want to see the additional 26 minutes will need to buy the two-disc DVD set.
15997. Further to the report (March 04 #2) on THE MCGOVAN CASEBOOK: EXPERIENCES OF A DETECTIVE IN VICTORIAN EDINBURGH, by James McGovan [a pseudonym of William C. Honeyman], a story by Tom Hunt in the Wellington Dominion Post (Sept. 6) <www.tinyurl.com/pr5649u> tells of a direct link between Honeyman and Conan Doyle: Norval Scrymgeour wrote in The Scotsman (Nov. 1930) about a meeting with Conan Doyle: "He told me that when a student at Edinburgh University he read with zest the detective stories of James McGovan, and although he did not say so, I took it that these then immensely popular sensations, as much as the queer foible of his teach teacher, the eccentric Bell, influenced him towards evolving the logical processes that in time flowered in the Sherlock Holmes stories." THE MCGOVAN CASEBOOK, reissued in 2003, is still in print.
15998. Kudos to Bev Wolov for spotting the "Sherlock Coffee" mug (and for giving it to me as a birthday present). It may still be available at eBay <www.tinyurl.com/k7jr7ec>.
15999. Maxim Jakubowski, a prolific author and editor of anthologies, has issued a call for submissions to THE MAMMOTH BOOK OF PROFESSOR MORIARTY ADVENTURES, to be published by Constable Robinson; visit his blog <www.tinyurl.com/meza8ke> for more information.
16000. Fans of 2048 (the fairly addictive computer game that runs on smart phones as well as computers) may not know that there are versions of the game keyed to the BBC series "Sherlock" easily found on-line, one of them at <www.tinyurl.com/nzd8qg2>. If none of the versions available suits you, there's a link that allows you can make your own.
16001. "How Watson Learned the Trick" (an amusing story handwritten by Conan Doyle in 1922 in the miniature book now found in the Queen's Dolls' House Library at Windsor Castle) will be published for the first time as a miniature book on Oct. 2, by Walker Books in collaboration with the Royal Collection Trust (£12.99); you can read the announcement at <www.tinyurl.com/mcp6w27>, and see images of the new edition on-line at the web-sites of Amazon, Waterstones, and other retailers.
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September 2014 #4

16002. William Atkins' THE MOOR (London: Faber & Faber, 2014; 371 pp., £18.99) is a delightful book: the moors encompass much more than Dartmoor, and Atkins writes vividly about the landscape and the people who have lived in and on it, with passing mentions of Conan Doyle and Fletcher Robinson and Baring-Gould. The "names on the land" are fascinating, and so is the land itself.
16003. Don Hobbs (aka The Maniac Collector), not content with merely pursuing foreign translations of the Canon, also blogs about them, and other things, at Inspector Lestrade's Blotter Page <www.tinyurl.com/qamstup>.
16004. Petr Kopl's SHERLOCK HOLMES: A SCANDAL IN BOHEMIA (London: MX Publishing, 2014; 159 pp., \$16.95) is an imaginative comic-book adaptation of more than one story, with spectacular full-color artwork and a preface by Aleš Kolodrubec. First published in Czech and now translated into English, it's a welcome sample of Kopl's "Victoria Regina" series. He has an interesting web-site at <www.petrkopl.cz> (if your computer runs Google Translate you can pretend you're fluent in Czech, and if it doesn't you can pretend you are); the publisher's at <www.mxpublishing.com> <www.mxpublishing.co.uk>.
16005. Another MX title is PROJECT TWO, TO ONE, BE: SHERLOCK HOLMES AND A HOUSE OF LIGHT, SHADOWS, AND VIEWS (2014; 162 pp., \$16.95); edited by Carrie Carlson and Lynn Gale, it's an anthology of tributes to Undershaw, with a foreword by Laurie R. King, and essays, photographs, and artwork by other supporters of the campaign to preserve Conan Doyle's home.
16006. This Sherlock Holmes is a 3-year-old Appaloosa gelding, resident in Sunnyside, Wash., and offered for sale this month for \$550; his owner says she named his because of his "serious and inquisitive personality." You can see more photographs at <www.tinyurl.com/nxsb9x3>.
16007. Further to the report (November 12 #1) that Scotland Yard was to be sold, it has gone on the market with an asking price of £250 million (significantly more than the £150 million reported previously). And City Hall hopes that the sale might raise more than £300 million, according to a story in the Guardian (Sept. 2). But it's not the historic Great Scotland Yard, but rather New Scotland Yard, which has served as police headquarters since 1967.
16008. There has been quite a bit of publicity for Russell Edwards' new book NAMING JACK THE RIPPER, who turns out to be Aaron Kosminsky, at least according to the author. Donald Rumbelow, who has a long record of expertise in Jack the Ripper research, is skeptical, and Lyndsay Faye, who did a lot of research for her pastiche DUST AND SHADOW (2009) is even more so, and explains her objections at her blog <www.tinyurl.co/kj8p4ak>.
16009. "The history of the mega franchise as we've come to recognize it--a bundle of different intellectual properties or a story world that is used across multiple mediums--arguably began with Sherlock Holmes." According to David Forbes, who also suggests that Conan Doyle's resurrection of Sherlock Holmes was a response to "the Victorian version of a hashtag Twitter campaign." This from an essay he posted on Sept. 8 at the Forbes web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/k93zeax>.
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September 2014 #5

16010. Further to the discussion of Joseph Joachim (August 14 #4), Laura Kuhn has noted that the violin virtuoso is mentioned by Jeremy Brett in the Granada series: in "The Resident Patient" Holmes says that he made a slight error in recalling Joachim's credenza in the Beethoven Violin Concerto (Holmes and Watson had seen and heard Joachim in concert the previous evening).
16011. Sarah-Lambert Cook presides over a "Pen, Lens, and Paintbrush" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/px5hvyr>, where she reported (Sept. 11) on her recent visit to the Reichenbach Falls, with lots of colorful photographs, including one showing an amusing "Sherlock cut-out" available at the Falls for those who want their picture taken there in Sherlockian costume.
16012. FAN PHENOMENA: SHERLOCK HOLMES, edited by Tom Ue and Jonathan Cranfield, is the latest in a series that's published by Intellect Books (Bristol/Chicago, 2014; 153 pp., £15.50/\$22.00); the contributors examine the many ways that enthusiasm for the Sherlock Holmes stories has been manifested over the years: there are interviews with authors who include Anthony Horowitz, Ellie Ann Soderstrom, and Jonathan Barnes; plus
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- interesting articles such as Russell Merritt's carefully-researched "Holmes and the Snake Skin Suits: Fighting for Survival on 50s Television" (history for which the world is now prepared). You'll find the publisher's web-site at <www.intellectbooks.com>.
16013. "He's the Sherlock Holmes of entertainment, if Sherlock Holmes had a flair for comedy." That's forensic mindreader Colin Cloud, whose web-site is at <www.colincloud.com>.
16014. Alfred Weiner wants to sell an assortment of Sherlockiana (including a set of 16-2/3 rpm recordings of Basil Rathbone reading four stories, issued by the Audio Book Co. in 1958); he's at <almar@stny.rr.com>, and you can request a copy of his sales list from him.
16015. Irene's Cabinet is the annual anthology edited by Beth Austin for Watson's Tin Box, and this year's issue (50 pp.) offers (as always) an interesting mix of Sherlockian and Doylean poetry and prose, including Hanna Al-Kowisi's imaginative winning essay for this year's Clarkson Prize, which honors the late Steve Clarkson and is sponsored by the society for seventh-graders in Howard County, Md. It's nicely done, including the cover art: Holmes' certificate of proficiency from the British Bee-Keepers' Association (from the collection of the late Paul Churchill). The cost is \$15.00 postpaid, from Beth Austin (9455 Chadburn Place, Gaithersburg, MD 20886).
16016. People who fondly remember the Livanov/Solomin television series will enjoy the insights in Zlata Serysheva's blog "The Amazing Adventures of Sherlock Holmes and His Friend the Soviet Censorship" <www.tinyurl.com/nqa785b>.
16017. Admirers of Conan Doyle know that his grandfather John Doyle was noted for his political caricatures (signed with his pen name HB). He was a painter as well, and an oil-on-canvas painting of a moonlit landscape, attributed to him, will be at auction at Auctionata in Berlin on Oct. 6, with a starting bid of £3,000 <www.tinyurl.com/lo6dxh9>.

September 2014 #6

16018. BBC Home Entertainment is getting ready to release a "Sherlock Limited Edition Gift Set" (\$197.50) in a Blu-ray/DVD combination, with the first three seasons, new commentary, never-before-seen outtakes, a deleted scene, busts of Holmes and Watson, and two collectible art cards. And it's discounted to \$138.25 at Amazon.
16019. I reported (August 14 #2) on the British Film Institute's search for a copy of "A Study in Scarlet" (1914), noting that it wasn't the first feature-length Sherlock Holmes film, and that "Der Hund von Baskerville" (1914), released a few months earlier, was not known to have survived. But it has survived: a copy was found in the Moscow film archive, and has been screened at European films festivals, but the film is not yet available on commercial DVD; Russell Merritt, who has seen the film, reports that it's "arguably the zaniest "Hound" ever made" and that "you won't soon forget Holmes disguised as Stapleton struggling with Stapleton disguised as Holmes in a fight broken up by Barrymore hidden in a suit of armor."
16020. One wonders what Conan Doyle would have thought about the campaign for the independence of Scotland (he did, after all, favor Home Rule for Ireland). W. Gordon Smith, in a tribute to the late Eddie Boyd, recalled a story that Boyd once told on a weekly program broadcast by BBC Scotland: "Once upon a time there was a Scotsman, and Englishman, and an Irishman. His name was Conan Doyle."
16021. But there's also Holmes' comment about a quartering of the Union Jack with the Stars and Stripes (in "The Noble Bachelor"). If this month's vote had been for independence, that would have launched consideration of revising the Union Jack to remove Scotland's blue, leaving only red and white.
16022. Marvin E. Aronson ("Penrose Fisher") died on Sept. 6. He was chief medical examiner in Philadelphia from 1971 to 1985, and then was a medical consultant. Marv was a long-time and dedicated member of The Sons of the Copper Beeches, and drew upon his expertise in forensic pathology in his contributions to The Baker Street Journal and in his article on "Sherlock Holmes: Father of Forensic Pathology" in Transactions & Studies of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia (July 1978). He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1968.
16023. "He Who Laughs: Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Serial Chuckler" is the title of Joe Queenan's essay in the Weekly Standard (Sept. 15), and it's a piece that would have delighted John Bennett Shaw. There are quotes from Leigh Ashton-Hinds' THE HOUSE OF SUPPRESSED MIRTH: CHUCKLING IN LATE-VICTORIAN LITERATURE, and Adele Piggott-Gynne's SHERLOCK HOLMES, BOOTYMASTER, and you can read it all at <www.tinyurl.com/qf9q4se>.
16024. The Waverley Borough Council has voted unanimously to approve plans to convert Undershaw, Conan Doyle's former home, into a school (July 14 #5). John Michael Gibson appeared at the hearing to testify against the proposal, but his opposition was in vain. Norman Stromsoy, CEO of Stepping Stones, said at the hearing that the school's plans for Undershaw had the backing of two of Conan Doyle's relatives, one of them his great nephew Richard Doyle, who wrote in a letter to the school that "I don't believe that Undershaw should be preserved in aspic, but lived in and laughed in."

September 2014 #7

16025. Broadway World ran a report (Aug. 28) that Sherlock Holmes may be headed to Broadway: Tony Award nominated producer Antonio R. Marion ("Big Fish" and "Evita") is said "to be shepherding the project that is currently in the development stage." The new play will be accompanied by a live orchestra, and the show is rumored to have workshop productions planned for this fall both in New York and the U.K.
16026. Sarah Rosenbaum spotted the Olde Book Pillow Classics at ThinkGeek; one of them is Sherlockian (\$17.99) <www.thinkgeek.com/product/1545/?srp=1>, and it "will look great in your reading nook."
16027. There has been a lot of Internet publicity for "The Great Ace Attorney" (an addition to the Japanese Nintendo 3DS series from Capcom); the new game is set in the Meiji period, and Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson are in the cast of characters. You can see artwork at <www.capcom.co.jp/dai-gyatuken> (the text's in Japanese) and read comments at <www.tinyurl.com/qdtnxw> (in English). There's a trailer at <www.tinyurl.com/n4puuse>.
16028. This may be a first for Sherlockian collectors: Warpzone Prints uses a 3D printer to make an assortment of "geeky themed cookie cutters," and Holmes and Watson are included (based on the BBC's "Sherlock" series). There's a Sherlock Profiles Cookie Cutter Set (\$7.00), and a Sherlock Portraits Cookie Cutter Set (\$10.00) <www.warpzoneprints.com>.
16029. The Wessex Press' conference "From Gillette to Brett IV: Basil, Benedict, and Beyond" at Indiana University in Bloomington on Sept. 12-14 went quite well, by all accounts. See the blog at <www.tinyurl.com/qbyqj34> for details on the festivities, and Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog for longer reports by Tim Greer, Ann Margaret Lewis, and Ray Betzner <www.ihearofsherlock.com>.
16030. The Barbican Centre in London says it "exists to inspire people to discover and love the arts," and it has a wonderful series of "Landmark silent films about the world's greatest detective" next year: they'll screen Eille Norwood's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1921) on Feb. 15, three short films from his series for Stoll (1921-1923) on Mar. 8, and his "The Sign of Four" (1923) on Mar. 29. Their web-site's at <www.tinyurl.com/owkf24p>.
16031. Hayakawa Shobo, one of Japan's leading publishers of mysteries, has a cafeteria called Christie on the ground floor of their building; it's named for one of their authors, of course, but occasionally it is renamed for temporary exhibitions honoring other authors, and this year it was the Pub Sherlock Holmes from July 30 to Aug. 29, when because it was so popular, it was extended to Sept. 12. Mitch Higurashi advised them on the

exhibition, the food menu and cocktails, and items offered for sale; there's a colorful report on the Pub at the Dramafever web-site <www.tinyurl.com/q9zj2jt>.

16032. Derham Groves, who teaches architecture at the University of Melbourne set his students the task of designing a Conan Doyle Mystery Theatre last year, and the results of his students' work have been published as SPARKS 4; the 106-page booklet has the details of the assignment, and photographs of the imaginative results. Derham <derham@unimelb.edu.au> will be happy to send you a copy of the booklet.

September 2014 #8

16033. THE PHILOSOPHY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, edited by Philip Tallon and David Baggett (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2012; 206 pp., \$40.00), is part of the Press' "The Philosophy of Popular Culture" series; the academic articles range from Dorothy L. Sayers' "Aristotle on Detective Fiction" to Andrew Terjesen's "Was It Morally Wrong to Kill Off Sherlock Holmes?", with some interesting stops along the way.
16034. L.A. Theatre Works recorded "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (dramatized by David Pichette and R. Hamilton Wright) in June (August 14 #7), with Seamus Dever as Holmes and Geoffrey Arend as Watson, and it's now available on two CDs (\$29.99) or as a download (\$4.99) at <www.store.latw.org>. It's an energetic, interesting, and amusing production. The set includes a 10-minute "live audience talkback" with Les Klinger; there will be a national broadcast on Oct. 25, when they also will stream the show at their web-site; details at <www.latw.org/radio.html>.
16035. And as usual, there's theater on-going and upcoming: The Red Monkey Theater Group will present "Sherlock Holmes: The Adventure of the Speckled Band" (a new dramatization by Tal Aviezer), at the College of Mount Saint Vincent in Riverdale, N.Y., Oct. 4-18 <www.redmonkeytheater.org>.
16036. Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot" is running at the McLean Community Center in McLean, Va., through Oct. 12 <www.mcleanplayers.org>. It also will be produced at the Boathouse Theatre in Blenheim, New Zealand, Nov. 27-Dec. 6 <www.boathousetheatre.co.nz>, and at the Carpenter Square Theatre in Oklahoma City, from Nov. 28 through Dec. 20 <www.carpentersquare.com>.
16037. "Sherlock Holmes" (a new dramatization by Jeff Sanders) is playing at the Northwest Children's Theater in Portland, Ore., through Oct. 26; their web-site's at <www.nwcts.org>.
16038. "Holmes and Watson: A Scandal in Bohemia and The Final Problem" (dramatized by Terry McCabe) will be performed at the City Lit Theater in Chicago, Nov. 7-Dec. 14 <www.citylit.org>.
16039. C. P. Stancich's new play "Sherlock Holmes: Assassins at Sea" will be performed at Camino Real Playhouse in San Juan Capistrano, Calif., Nov. 14-23 <www.caminorealplayhouse.org>.
16040. Craig Hewlett's pantomime "Young Sherlock Holmes and the Case of Dick Whittington's Cat" is scheduled by Morpheus Theatre in Calgary, Alta., Dec. 5-14 <www.morpheustheatre.ca>.
16041. Jamie L. Robledo's "Watson: The Last Great Tale of the Legendary Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at the Dorset Playhouse in Dorset, Vt., Mar. 6-15, 2015 <www.dorsetplayers.org>.
16042. Dennis Rosa's "Sherlock Holmes and the Curse of the Sign of the Four" will be performed at the Spokane Civic Theater in Spokane, Wash., Apr. 10 to 26, 2015 <www.spokanecivictheater.com>.

October 2014 #1

16043. "Alpine Adventures: Arthur Conan Doyle and Switzerland" was delightful; the Reichenbach Irregulars presented a splendid conference in Davos last month <www.tinyurl.com/lzvxxqk>, and provided a welcome excuse for sightseeing. My first visit to Switzerland was in 1966, to attend the party that Adrian Conan Doyle gave to inaugurate the Château de Lucens, and this time I was able to see much more, including both Reichenbach Falls, spectacular scenery, and both Sherlock Holmes Museums.
16044. And yes, there are two Reichenbach Falls, one of them where Sherlock Holmes and Professor Moriarty met for the last time, and the other at Giessbach, where Jeremy Brett battled Eric Porter in the Granada series. As for the two Sherlock Holmes Museums, they are both delightful: one is in Meiringen <www.sherlockholmes.ch>, and the other in Lucens <www.tinyurl.com/n2atqw>, where one can view the sitting-room formerly at the Château as well as some fascinating relics of Conan Doyle and his family.
16045. This year's Sherlock Holmes Society of London's Christmas Card is as usual both interesting colorful, showing a poster for the first London production of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes"; you can see an image and order the card at <www.tinyurl.com/nveom62>
16046. IN THE COMPANY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, edited by Laurie R. King and Leslie S. Klinger (New York: Pegasus, 2014; 260 pp., \$24.95), is a welcome sequel to their earlier anthology A STUDY IN SHERLOCK (August 11 #2), again with stories that were "inspired by the Holmes Canon" and that range from the Victorian era to very modern times, with Michael Dirda's "By Any Other Name" well worth the price of admission.
16047. The Mysterious Bookshop is publishing a limited edition of IN THE COMPANY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, specially bound and signed by all contributors; \$150.00 for the numbered edition <www.tinyurl.com/mlaghw4>. A more expensive lettered edition is already sold out.
16048. Prose 'n Cons, a new quarterly edited by Stephanie Hoover "for fans of mystery, crime, and suspense," costs \$14.00 per year (digital)/\$29.00 per year (print and digital); the 38-page first issue (fall/winter 2014) includes an article by E.J. Wagner ("The Field of Forensic Science...and What We Must Do to Improve It"), an interview with Ian Kern about The Mysterious Bookshop <www.prose-n-cons.com> (Box 4921, Harrisburg, PA 17111).
16049. "221B Baker Street: Fictional Evaluation" is an interesting estimation by Natalie Grigson of the price of Sherlock Holmes' apartment if it were offered for sale today <www.tinyurl.com/mtqu88f>. £1,691,028, in case you're in the market, and she explains why.
16050. Michelle Spring and Laurie R. King, both quite successful authors (Spring is British and King is American), have edited CRIME AND THRILLER WRITING: A WRITERS' & ARTISTS' COMPANION (London: Bloomsbury, 2013; 279 pp., \$25.95); it's an interesting and useful guide that they describe as "a collection of Things We Wish We'd Known When We Started," and it includes both their own suggestions and commentary by 26 guest contributors.

October 2014 #2

16051. Further to the items on metal plates apparently created in 1940 by way of celebrating Macmillan's publication of Vincent Starrett's 221B: STUDIES IN SHERLOCK HOLMES, displayed by Javier Doria during the birthday festivities in New York (February 13 #5 and May 13 #4): two of the plates were offered at Heritage Auctions in Beverly Hills on Oct. 8, estimated at \$9,200-\$13,800, and sold for \$7,187.50 each (including the buyer's premium). There are images and descriptions of the plates at the Heritage Auctions web-site <www.tinyurl.com/kooucgs> and <www.tinyurl.com/nejtllj>. A third plate was sold to a private collector last year.
16052. "Sherlock Holmes Character Held on Forgery Charge" was the headline on the story at the KOIN-TV web-site on Sept. 12 <www.tinyurl.com/mequlw9> about Quentin G. Stanhope, who was being held in Portland, Ore., on first-degree forgery, first-degree theft, and identity theft charges. Quentin G. Stanhope is a "spy character in a Sherlock Holmes book," the story explained, but didn't say which Sherlock

Holmes book. It didn't take authorities long to identify the perpetrator as Gerard Marcel Beaudoin III, who had been using the Stanhope alias since 2005. A story in the Lincoln County Dispatch (Sept. 16) noted that a large collection of Sherlock Holmes literature was found in Beaudoin's home and office. Beaudoin is now being held in Lincoln City jail on \$2 million bond.

16053. The third Sherlock Seattle Convention will be held at the Broadway Performance Center in Seattle, Jan. 9-11 <www.sherlock-seattle.org>; the guest of honor, mentalist Joe Riggs (known as "The Real Sherlock Holmes"), has his own web-site at <www.theworldofjoeriggs.com>.
16054. Reported: Leslie S. Klinger's THE NEW ANNOTATED H. P. LOVECRAFT (New York: Liveright, 2014; 928 pp., \$39.95); Lovecraft was a fine writer of weird and supernatural fiction, as well as a friend of August Derleth and an admirer of Sherlock Holmes. Neil Gaiman has suggested that "Annotator Les Klinger is the man you want to have by your side, as you explore the Lovecraftian Darkness."
16055. Donald A. Redmond ("Good Old Index") died on Oct. 22. Described by his son Chris as a library scientist, Meccano genius, churchman, and family patriarch, Don was the author of SHERLOCK HOLMES: A STUDY IN SOURCES (1982) and SHERLOCK HOLMES AMONG THE PIRATES (1990), and for many years prepared the annual indexes for The Baker Street Journal. He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1969, and their Two-Shilling Award in 1994.
16056. If you are still wondering which Sherlock Holmes book Quentin G. Stanhope can be found in, there actually are four, although the character does not have a middle initial. Stanhope is a British spy in four of Carole Nelson Douglas' "Irene Adler" novels, appearing first in IRENE AT LARGE (1992).
16057. Curtis Armstrong's fans will recall that he quoted from the Canon (as God's scribe Metatron) in the "Meta Fiction" episode of the CW series "Supernatural" (April 14 #2). He guest-starred again in the "Reichenbach" episode on Oct. 14, but hopes that the episode title promised Sherlockian content were not fulfilled. Curtis explains that "the author of the script had read an article which mentioned that I was a BSI, and put it in as a private joke."

October 2014 #3

16058. Some years ago (June 11 #5) The Mysterious Press and Open Road launched MysteriousPress.com, offering a long list of new and classic crime, mystery, suspense, and espionage. The Mysterious Press.com Classic list includes the first eight volumes of the Canon, with a new introduction by Otto Penzler aimed at very casual readers; it's the same introduction in each volume. Go to <www.tinyurl.com/new38aw> to see all of the 44 titles now available in the series.
16059. Irwin F. Deutsch ("The Intricate Matter from Marseilles") died on Sept. 8. He wrote a Letter to Baker Street at the age of 15, published in the Baker Street Journal in 1948, founded The Reigate Squires of Scarsdale, N.Y., and went on to be a lawyer in Washington and New York before moving to Florida. Irv received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1962.
16060. A (non-Sherlockian) watercolour by Sidney Paget of "figures on a path" will be offered at auction on Nov. 5 <www.tinyurl.com/pez69f3>.
16061. The Museum of London's exhibition "Sherlock Holmes: The Man Who Never Lived and Will Never Die" opened on Oct. 17; there was a lot of publicity in the press and on television for the first major Sherlock Holmes exhibition in London since the Festival of Britain in 1951, and the new exhibition offers a chance to view some wonderful things. Randall Stock offers an overview at his "Best of Sherlock" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/qbvql43>, with links to video and recommended news articles, and the Museum has its own web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/mj3nld>. The exhibition is open through Apr. 12, and the Museum's shop <www.museumoflondonshop.co.uk> offers a wide range of Sherlockian merchandise.
16062. "Start the Week" is a 45-minute series broadcast by BBC Radio 4; their program "Crime Stories and Ghost Stories" (Oct. 13) featured a panel that included Alex Werner (Head of the Museum of London's History Collections; you can listen to the broadcast at <www.tinyurl.com/opoo3nv>).
16063. BBC Radio 4 Extra is celebrating the exhibition with "The Holmes Service" a (a series of broadcasts on Saturdays from Oct. 18 to Nov. 15, featuring repeats of dramatizations and documentaries); they will also be available for listening on-line <www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02814f2>. Other Sherlockian and Doylean programs will be found in the series "In Search of Sherlock" at <www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0285193>.
16064. If you're wondering about the Sherlock Holmes exhibition during the Festival of Britain in 1951 was like, a delightful 3-minute video can be seen at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/nu458so>; you can see Denis Conan Doyle and Arthur Wontner, and Jean Conan Doyle (in glasses, behind the left shoulder of the Mayor of Marylebone).
16065. "Sherlock Holmes, Unlikely Style Icon" is the title of an article spotted by Alice Wright in The Atlantic (Oct. 27) <www.tinyurl.com/nfy4xuh>, with discussion of the many ways Holmes has influenced (and continues to influence) fashion, with links to articles in other magazines, comments on Watson's wardrobe (well, Lucy Liu's wardrobe), and an interesting and colorful 15-minute video about the new Sherlock Holmes tweed commissioned by the Museum of London.

October 2014 #4

16066. "The Sting of Death" (1955), a one-hour dramatization for television of H. F. Heard's A TASTE FOR HONEY that featured Boris Karloff as Mr. Mycroft, is included in the three-DVD set SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE ARCHIVE COLLECTION, and it's now, spotted by Keith Stump and reported by Michael Halm, also available on-line at <www.hulu.com/watch/121619>.
16067. Daniel P. Griffin ("General de Merville") died on Apr. 25, 2012. He was a product marketing manager in the Norden Division of United Aircraft and pioneered in the field of analog to digital conversion. He contributed to our literature, was appointed Ambassador Cockroach in the Worshipful Company of Ailing Cockroaches (a literary society that honored Guy Gilpatrick's "Glencannon" series), and received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1968.
16068. The University of Nebraska at Omaha has issued a call for papers for "Lippincott's Legacy" (a literary conference honoring the 125th anniversary of the publication of "The Sign of the Four" and "The Picture of Dorian Gray" scheduled for May 29-31; it's open to academicians and enthusiasts, and the deadline for submissions is Feb. 20; additional information about the conference is available at <www.lippincottlegacy.org>.
16069. Rodney A. Mannion ("Shoscombe Old Place") died on Sept. 23, 2013. He was a physician, and entered the world of Sherlockians thanks to one of his patients, Jay Finley Christ. A member of Hugo's Companions and The Hounds of the Baskerville (sic), Dr. Mannion was awarded his Investiture by The Baker Street Irregulars in 1969.
16070. William Gillette's silent film "Sherlock Holmes" (1916) has long been considered the Holy Grail for Sherlockians, and at long last it has been discovered: a nitrate dupe negative, with French flash titles and color annotations, was found in the vaults of the Cinémathèque française, and it is now being restored in collaboration with the San Francisco Silent Film Festival. Russell Merritt reports that there are mysteries yet to be solved, including how and when the film got to France (since trans-Atlantic shipping was at a minimum during the war), and whether it actually was shown in France (at the end of one reel there's an announcement that the film was to be shown as a four-part weekly serial. The European premiere will be at a film festival in Paris in January, and the American premiere (with English titles) will be at a film festival in San Francisco in May.

16071. The Green Bag, a law journal based in Washington, publishes an annual "Almanac & Reader" of good legal writing, each year with additional material. The theme for the additional material in 2015 will be "The Norwood Builder" and they have issued a call for annotations on the story, with a deadline of Dec. 24. Details at <www.greenbag.org/callNBldr.pdf>.
16072. The new miniature-book edition of Conan Doyle's parody "How Watson Learned the Trick" (September 14 #3) is a delightful production, even though it's not a true facsimile: to avoid over-using the original book and damaging it, just enough pages were scanned to capture all of the letters needed, and a special font was created to produce the new miniature book. Randall Stock has prepared an excellent web-page on both the original and the new editions at his "Best of Sherlock" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/n9369dr>.
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October 2014 #5

16073. Arthur Morrison created Martin Hewitt to fill the gap created in the pages of The Strand Magazine after Holmes and Moriarty perished at the Reichenbach; Hewitt, the first of many "rivals of Sherlock Holmes," appeared in 25 stories published in the Strand, Windsor Magazine, and London Magazine. David Marcum has concluded that Hewitt actually was Sherlock Holmes, beginning his career in 1876, has "Holmes-ed" and edited the stories in three volumes of SHERLOCK HOLMES IN MONTAGUE STREET (London: MX Publishing, 2014; 237/243/241 pp., \$16.95 per volume); it's an interesting proposition, and he has carried it out well. The publisher's web-sites are at <www.mxpublishing.com> and <www.mxpublishing.co.uk>.
16074. More from MX: Derrick Belanger has edited two volumes of A STUDY IN TERROR: SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE'S REVOLUTIONARY STORIES OF FEAR AND THE SUPERNATURAL (2014; 274+288 pp., \$16.95 each); the non-Sherlockian stories, with interesting introductions and commentary (including Chuck Davis on "Aviation and the Horror of the Heights"; the editor on "Arthur Conan Doyle and the Mary Celeste Mystery" and "The Making of the Modern Mummy"; and Joel K. Jensen on "Horror and The Mystery of Cloomber").
16075. Petr Macek's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE ADVENTURE OF THE COLD-SERVED REVENGE (2014; 227 pp., \$16.95) opened with Watson summoned by Mrs. Hudson to Fulworth to provide medical assistance to Holmes, who has suffered a coronary; he recovers, and they are launched on an investigation that takes them from Venice to Scotland in pursuit of a mysterious villain.
16076. Charles Press has edited A BEDSIDE BOOK OF EARLY SHERLOCKIAN PARODIES AND PASTICHES (2014; 352 pp., \$19.95), an anthology that offers a welcome selection from the almost 400 parodies and pastiches published during Conan Doyle's life. Sherlockians today use the word "pastiche" to include a multitude of sins: actual pastiches, and parodies, and homages. This anthology shows how much fun people had with Sherlock Holmes, from 1891 onward.
16077. David Ruffle's HOLMES AND WATSON: END PEACE (2012; 119 pp., \$9.95) presents Watson in 1929, in hospital and at the end of his life, in a warm and reminiscent conversation with Holmes; it's a nice concept, well written. Geri Shear's A BIASED JUDGEMENT: THE SHERLOCK HOLMES DIARIES: 1897 (2014; 319 pp., \$18.95) is Holmes' own account of a complicated case that involves a dire threat to the Empire, and some surprises; the attempt to capture the voice of Holmes is quite successful. Daniel D. Victor's THE FINAL PAGE OF BAKER STREET (2014; 229 pp., \$14.95) has a young Raymond Chandler serving as Billy, and assisting Holmes and Watson in solving a mystery in 1903.
16078. Thomas M. Russo ("The Boscombe Valley Mystery") died on Apr. 18. He had a 40-year career in the U.S. Air Force and was a member of the P.O.B.O.B. Motorcycle Club, Hugo's Companions, and The Hounds of the Baskerville (sic). He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1983.
16079. The Sherlock Holmes Exhibition at the Museum of London isn't the only literary attraction in London at the moment: the British Library's "Terror and Wonder: The Gothic Imagination" is running through Jan. 20. Billed as "the UK's biggest ever Gothic exhibition," it traces the history of the Gothic movement over 250 years <www.tinyurl.com/nveom62>; one of the 200 objects on display is a vampire-slaying kit.
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October 2014 #6

16080. Sherlock Holmes' 161st birthday will be celebrated on Friday, Jan. 9, with the traditional festivities in New York, but the first formal event will be The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes' ASH Wednesday dinner starting at 6:30 pm at O'Casey's (22 East 41st Street); attendees pay their own checks, but you should let Susan Rice (125 Washington Place #2-E, New York, NY 10014) <susan221bee@gmail.com> or Evy Herzog (301 Warren Avenue #203, Baltimore, MD 21230) <herzogbaesch@aol.com> know if you are coming to the event.
16081. The Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Speaker Lecture begins at 6:15 pm on the 2nd floor of the Midtown Executive Club (at 40 West 45th Street); the speaker will be Alan Bradley, co-author of MS. HOLMES OF BAKER STREET (2004), the thoroughly controversial "truth about Sherlock Holmes", and the author of the award-winning "Flavia de Luce" series <www.flaviadeluce.com>; the sixth volume (THE DEAD IN THEIR VAULTED ARCHES) was published last January. The lecture will cost \$11.00; seating is limited, and you're advised to reserve early (details below); tickets won't be sold at the door.
16082. The Baker Street Babes invite one and all to their "Daintiest (Bee) Under Your Bonnet Charity Ball/Sussex Flapper Party" which starts at 8:00 pm at The Players (16 Gramercy Park South), offering a buffet dinner, cash bar, live music, prizes, toasts, and entertainment, with formal attire and Sherlockian costume strongly encouraged. The cost is \$45.00, and proceeds will benefit the Wounded Warriors Project. More information is available from Lyndsay Faye <lyndsay@bakerstreetbabes.com> and at the Babe's web-site at <www.bakerstreetbabes.com>.
16083. Otto Penzler's traditional open house on Friday from 11:00 to 5:00 at the Mysterious Bookshop, at 58 Warren Street (between West Broadway and Church Street) in Tribeca; the 1, 2, and 3 trains stop at the Chambers Street station (one block from the shop). If you get lost, the bookshop's telephone number is 212-587-1011.
16084. The William Gillette Memorial Luncheon starts at noon, at Moran's Chelsea Seafood Restaurant at 146 Tenth Avenue at 19th Street; the cost is \$47.00 for chicken or salmon (\$52.00 for prime rib). Checks can be sent to Susan Rice (125 Washington Place #2-E, New York, NY 10014) <susan221b@gmail.com>.
16085. The Baker Street Irregulars will gather at 6:00 pm at the Yale Club at 50 Vanderbilt Avenue (across the street and just north of Grand Central Station); attendance is by invitation only. The Gaslight Gala (which is open to all Sherlockians and their friends) will provide dinner and entertainment at 6:30 pm at the Manhattan Club (201 West 52nd Street at Seventh Avenue); \$85.00 (checks or PayPal), and details are available from Christopher Zordan (184 Blew Court, East Brunswick, NJ 08816 <gaslightgal@gmail.com>; information about the Gala is at <www.gaslightgalanyc.wordpress.com>.
16086. If you want to send seasonal souvenirs or other mementos to be included in the various dinner packets you should send 170 copies (for the BSI) to Al Gregory (118 South Prospect Street, Verona, NJ 07044), 100 copies (for the Gaslight Gala) to Carol Fish (Box 4, Circleville, NY 10919), and 18 copies (for The Women) to Mary Ann Bradley (7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278); your material must be mailed to arrive by Dec. 15.
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October 2014 #7

16087. On Saturday a wide range of Sherlockiana will be available from vendors in the Merchants Room (Covent Garden West) in the Vanderbilt Suite (on the second floor of the Roosevelt Hotel at 45 East 45th Street) from 9:00 am to noon; you can contact Ralph Hall (2906 Wallingford Court, Louisville, KY 40218) (502-491-3148) <bugmanhall@aol.com> for information about dealers' tables.
16088. The Beacon Society's annual meeting will be at 10:00 am in the York Suite at the Roosevelt Hotel, where they will present their annual Beacon Award recognizing individuals' efforts to introduce Sherlock Holmes to young people; details are at their web-site <www.beaconsociety.com>. The Clients of Adrian Mulliner will hold a Junior Bloodstain, also in the York Suite, at 11:15 am, with Wodehousean entertainment that will include the premier performance of "The Riddle of the Refurbished Room". Additional information is available from Elaine Coppola <emcoppol@syr.edu>.
16089. The Baker Street Irregulars' annual reception, open to all Sherlockians and their friends, will be held from 1:15 to 4:15 in the grand ballroom on the 22nd floor of the Yale Club at 50 Vanderbilt Avenue (across the street from just north of Grand Central Station); there will be a cocktail-party buffet and an open bar (wine, beer, juice, and soft drinks), and the traditional (and perhaps unusual) entertainment; the cost is \$69.00 (details below) or \$79.00 after Nov. 29 or at the door. A warning for drivers: the Yale Club block of Vanderbilt Avenue is only one lane only due to construction, and one-way only northbound.
16090. For those who wish to continue partying, Chrys Kegley of The Curious Collectors of Baker Street will host The Very Irregular Lost in New York with a Bunch of Sherlockians Dinner at 6:00 pm at O'Lunney's Times Square Pub in a private room on the second floor (145 West 45th Street, between Sixth and Seventh Avenues); additional details are available from Chrys (18014 Sherman Way #275, Reseda, CA 91235) (818-675-5399) <ckegley@social.rr.com>.
16091. The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes will hold their informal buffet brunch on Sunday, at a venue yet to be determined; it's open to all, and more information will be available in the next issue of this newsletter.
16092. Space is limited at the William Gillette Luncheon and at the Gaslight Gala on Friday, and early reservations are advised if you wish to attend these events.
16093. Arrangements have been made for a block of rooms at the Roosevelt Hotel (45 East 45th Street) at a special tax-free rate of \$179.00 per night (single or double room); the special rate is available only for reservations made through the Baker Street Irregulars by Nov. 22. Guest cards for the Club's second-floor lounge are available to all Sherlockians, and it's a fine venue for socializing and relaxing.
16094. And here are the details: if you've not already received Mike Whelan's announcement and reservation form (including prices) for the Roosevelt Hotel and the Yale Club, the Thursday lecture, and the Saturday reception, visit the Baker Street Journal web-site <www.bakerstreetjournal.com> after Nov. 8 and click on BSI Weekend, or contact Mary Ann Bradley <mabmfw@aol.com>.

October 2014 #8

16095. Other hotels offer reasonable (according to New York landlords) rates, but it's a mark of the 21st century that the best offers are to be found on the Internet, at web-sites such as <www.priceline.com>, <www.tripadvisor.com>, <www.travelocity.com>, <www.expedia.com>, and <www.hotels.com>; you will be wise if you then check the hotel's web-site and ask for the best rate (do keep in mind that there are non-optional extras such as almost 20% in state and city taxes).
16096. The Dr. John H. Watson Fund offers financial assistance to all Sherlockians (membership in the BSI is not required) who might otherwise not be able to participate in the weekend's festivities. A carefully pseudonymous John H. Watson presides over the fund and welcomes contributions, which can be made by check payable to John H. Watson and sent (without return address on the envelope) to Dr. Watson, care of The Baker Street Irregulars, at 7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278; your letters are forwarded unopened, and Dr. Watson will acknowledge your generosity. Requests for assistance should also be mailed (quickly) to Dr. Watson at the same address.
16097. And if you can't remember where you put your copy of all of this, detailed information about the birthday festivities is available on the Internet at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>. News about additional events will be found in next month's issue of this newsletter.
16098. Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson appear in a political advertisement supporting the North Dakota Clean Water, Wildlife, and Parks Amendment (aka Measure 5) that would amend the state constitution to earmark five percent of the state's oil extraction tax revenue for environmental protection. You will find arguments pro and con at Ballotpedia <www.tinyurl.com/ppd6y8c>, where all content must be "neutral, accurate, and verifiable," and you can watch the 1-minute video at <www.tinyurl.com/lu39tdh>.
16099. Sherlockians of a certain age fondly recall the appearance of Laura Lyons as Playboy's "Miss February 201976"; she now is Laura Aldridge, featured in New York magazine (Oct. 20) in Noreen Malone's article on "The View from a Centerfold" <www.tinyurl.com/kh7fa5g>.
16100. Lloyd W. Brown Jr. died on Oct. 13. Bill was a professor of journalism at the University of South Carolina, a stalwart member of The Hansom Wheels, and the author of a long series of one-act radio plays, filled with broad humor and excellent puns, performed by the society and published in three volumes over the years as THE UNKNOWN SHERLOCK HOLMES.
16101. Jennie C. Paton has noted that Tom Baker's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1982) has been issued as a commercial DVD (\$30.99) with audio commentary by Baker, and an image gallery <www.tinyurl.com/o6grsky>. The DVD is from Australia, and in PAL format.
16102. Finally, nicely in time for holiday hinting (or shopping), Randall Stock's annual informative nominations for "the best Sherlock Holmes books and DVDs of the year" is on-line at <www.bestofsherlock.com/sherlock-gifts.htm>.

November 2014 #1

16103. There's more information about the birthday festivities in New York in January: The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes will hold an informal brunch on Sunday, from 11:30 to 3:00, at the Churchill Tavern (45 East 28th Street); \$25.00 payable by cash or check at the door. The brunch is open to everyone, but reservations are requested: e-mail to <lyndsayfaye@hotmail.com>.
16104. The Supreme Court has denied the Conan Doyle Estate's petition asking them to consider the Estate's appeal of a lower court's decision that copyright protects only the characters and story elements unique to the ten stories still protected by copyright. The denial was not unexpected: the Supreme Court receives about 10,000 petitions each year and accepts fewer than 100 cases. You can read the documents in the case at <www.free-sherlock.com>. John Rabe interviewed Les Klinger for KPCC-FM's "Off-Ramp" on Nov. 3, and you can listen to a 6-minute audio at <www.tinyurl.com/q2kxlw>; look for the "Listen Now" button at the right.
16105. The October issue of the electronic journal Ripperologist has Neil Bell's interesting article "'So Help Me God': Becoming a Victorian Policeman" (it wasn't all that easy to become a policeman in the 1880s), Adam Wood's kind remembrance of Camille Wolff (who died on Sept. 4, aged 102, and whose Grey House Books was a great resource for Sherlockian collectors), and Jon Rees' guest editorial "'Eighteen Out of Twelve Apostles Are Buried in Spain': The Problem with Ripper Relics" (with discussion of Russell Edwards' new book NAMING JACK THE RIPPER). Ripperologist is

devoted to all aspects of Jack the Ripper (who is mentioned in Hornung's story); for information on how to subscribe, contact editor Eduardo Zinna at <editorez@yahoo.co.uk>.

16106. Sorry about that: the article on "The Field of Forensic Science...and What We Must Do to Improve It" in *Prose 'n Cons* (October 14 #1) was written by Stephanie Hoover.
16107. There were rumors in 1991 of a Sherlock Holmes television series starring Stephen Fry as Holmes and Hugh Laurie as Watson, and a more valid report in 2004 of pilot script for a television series that never was produced, but of course it's well known that Hugh Laurie's performance as Gregory House was modeled after Holmes, and that Stephen Fry played Mycroft in the film "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows". "Fry and Laurie Reunited" was a 69-minute program that was broadcast on cable television in Britain in 2010, and now available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/p2fqarr>.
16108. Reported: Michael Sims, *The Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Speaker* in Jan. 2011, has edited *THE PHANTOM COACH* (New York: Bloomsbury USA, 2014; 320 pp., \$17.00); it's subtitled "a connoisseur's collection of Victorian ghost stories," and includes Conan Doyle's "The Captain of the Pole-Star".
16109. Congratulations (again) to Dan Stashower, who won an Anthony Award at Bouchercon for *THE HOUR OF PERIL: THE SECRET PLOT TO MURDER LINCOLN BEFORE THE CIVIL WAR* (best critical or non-fiction work), making this his second hat trick (he also won the Mystery Writers of America's Edgar and Malice Domestic's Agatha for the book). His first hat trick came in 2008, for *ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: A LIFE IN LETTERS*.

November 2014 #2

16110. Arthur Conan Doyle lectured at the Norwich Free Academy in Connecticut in 1894, and he paid a return visit to Norwich on Nov. 1, impersonated by Jeff Bradway in an imaginative program arranged by *The Men on the Tor*. You can read more about the event (and see some video) at <www.tinyurl.com/lnzolfx> and <www.tinyurl.com/maxmx4x>.
16111. Ian Fraser died on Oct. 31. He was a director, composer, and conductor for musicals on stage and television, winning 11 Emmy Awards, and he was musical supervisor for Ron Moody's "Sherlock Holmes: The Musical" (1988).
16112. It isn't often that a brief announcement in *The Times* results in worldwide headlines, but this one, published on Nov. 5, certainly did: "Forthcoming Marriages: Mr. B. T. Cumberbatch and Miss S. I. Hunter. The engagement is announced between Benedict, son of Wanda and Timothy Cumberbatch of London, and Sophie, daughter of Katharine Hunter of Edinburgh and Charles Hunter of London." They were photographed together at a French Open tennis match in June <www.tinyurl.com/o4famgv>.
16113. Thanks to the wonders of digitization, you can read Conan Doyle's interesting article on "Mr. Stevenson's Methods in Fiction" (published in *The National Review*, Jan. 1890, and reprinted in *The Living Age* (Feb. 15, 1890) at <www.tinyurl.com/mlkkmqn>.
16114. "I just wish it could take selfies and sign autographs," said Benedict Cumberbatch, when he was unveiled at Madame Tussauds last month. His waxwork appearance was deas "premiere ready" by Tussauds.
16115. Anthony Richards reports two new items from Baker Street Studios Limited: Roger Riccard's pastiche *SHERLOCK HOLMES & THE CASE OF THE TWIN PAPERS* and J. P. Sperati's game *A SHERLOCK HOLMES MONOPOLY*. The publisher's web-site is at <www.baker-street-studios.com>.
16116. BBC Radio 4 now makes its programs available on-line for four weeks, so you have a chance to listen to Sir Ian McKellen reading "The Valley of Fear" as abridged by Neville Teller in ten 15-minute episodes; the "Book at Bedtime" series began on Nov. 10 <www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b04nrqsr>. BBC Radio 4 also broadcast Val McDermid reading from her new book *FORENSICS: THE ANATOMY OF CRIME* in five 10-minute episodes in their "Book of the Week" series beginning on Nov. 10 <www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b04nrh0s>.
16117. People who have made presentations over the years at Bob Thomalen's "Autumn in Baker Street" gathering can now purchase CDs with video of their presentations for \$10.00 postpaid; contact Francine Kitts at <fkitts@aol.com>.
16118. *THE BOARDWALK*, edited by Nancy Sakaduski (Lewes: Cat & Mouse Press, 2014; 223 pp., \$15.95), is an anthology of the winning stories from the Rehoboth Beach Reads Short Story Contest sponsored by Browseabout Books for fiction or non-fiction related to Rehoboth Beach in Delaware. Joseph Crossen won first place with "The Case of the Artist's Stain"; the artist Howard Pyle (who illustrated some of Conan Doyle's non-Sherlockian stories) spent many summers in Rehoboth Beach, and Holmes and Watson visit to solve a case of forgery. The publisher's at <www.catandmousepress.com>.

November 2014 #3

16119. Alan Rettig has reported a "Literary London Map" created by the graphic artist Dex in collaboration with interior designer Anna Buries: it's a graphic rendition of the city's literary history, with Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson duly honored. Their shop is *Run for the Hills* <www.runforthehills.bigcartel.com>, and they also offer an imaginative "A Study in Sherlock".
16120. Alan is the extremely helpful web-master for the Red Circle of Washington's web-site, where he has reported on his discovery of two Sherlockian quizzes at an on-line dating web-site called OkCupid that uses a math-based matching system to help you find other people who share your interests. You'll find the details in the Inner Circle at <www.redcircledc.org>.
16121. The new movie "Paddington" is being promoted all over London with 50 life-size (3'6") statues of Paddington Bear, designed by celebrities. Benedict Cumberbatch's statue is, as might be expected installed near the Museum of London, home of the ongoing exhibition "Sherlock Holmes: The Man Who Never Lived and Will Never Die". The statues will eventually be auctioned to benefit charity. Paddington Bear first appeared in 1958, and is featured in more than 20 books written by Michael Bond, and Paddington Bear has his own web-site at <www.paddington.com>.
16122. The statues of Paddington Bear will be auctioned by Christie's on-line at their web-site from Dec. 10 to Jan. 15, with bids starting at £500; you can sign up for further information at <www.tinyurl.com/q7on235>.
16123. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists (also known as The Friends of Sherlock Holmes) met to honor the world's first forensic geologist with drinks and dinner at Mahony & Sons in Vancouver on Oct. 22, welcomed by members of The Stormy Petrels of British Columbia. Our next meetings will be in 2015 in Denver on June 3, and Baltimore on Nov. 4.
16124. Raphael Ravenscroft died on Oct. 19. He played the saxophone solo on the original 1978 track of Gerry Rafferty's "Baker Street" and reportedly was paid only £27 for the session, with a check that bounced. Ravenscroft went on to work with icons such as Pink Floyd, Abba, and Marvin Gaye; in 2011 he recorded a tribute "Forgiveness" to commemorate Rafferty's funeral. Christopher Roden reported in 2000 that he had heard from Rafferty that he had titled the song in reference to the street in London.
16125. Sergei Magnitsky, a Russian lawyer who alleged that Russian state officials had carried out large-scale theft, died in prison in Moscow in 2009 after being held without trial for eleven months <www.tinyurl.com/yg6735m>; his death received world-wide publicity, and eventually resulted in enactment of the Magnitsky Act in the U.S., which imposed sanctions on Russian officials believed to be responsible for his death

<www.tinyurl.com/c7s3gs9>. Alexander Orlov reports a 25-minute documentary ("The Letter M") narrated by Vasily LivaNovember (who won high praise as Sherlock Holmes in the 1979-1986 Russian television series); the "M" is Moriarty, and the video presents arguments for a complicated world-wide conspiracy managed by William Browder (a noted critic of Vladimir Putin). There's a voice-over translation into English, and you can the video at <www.tinyurl.com/qyw452k>.

November 2014 #4

16126. The "Books About Town" project (May 14 #5) that created trails of benches shaped as open books in London was quite successful, raising £251,000 for the National Literary Trust when the BookBenches were auctioned on Oct. 7; the highest bid for a bench was £9,500 (for Jeeves and Wooster). The Sherlock Holmes BookBench brought £4,000. There's a project web-site at <www.booksabouttown.org.uk>.
16127. Sir Sidney Chapman died on Oct. 9. He was a Tory member of parliament for many years, and his obituary in The Times noted that he could claim to have planted the seed that led to the growing of more than 20 million trees in Britain over five decades, and that he had sponsored the annual dinner of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London in the House of Commons, adding that "many deerstalkers were in evidence," and that "by the end of the evening a pall of pipe smoke would envelop the tables."
16128. Just the thing for your favorite Sherlockian: the Valextra Sherlock Holmes Bag. Valextra, based in Milan offers a redesigned briefcase protected by a patented three-dial safe-style lock, for only £3,900; there's a nice photograph at the Financial Times' web-site <www.tinyurl.com/nfqnbvp>.
16129. There's an addition to the list of Sherlock Holmes/Doctor Who crossovers: "Exterminentry" is the title of the artwork on a mug created by Carol Mallas that shows Doctor Who's Daleks as Holmes and Watson; it's available (\$11.46 plus shipping from the U.K.) at Etsy <www.tinyurl.com/lnlpd2f>.
16130. The BBC Books series of tie-in editions of the Canon has now reached seven volumes, each with "Sherlock" cover art and introductions that are both interesting and entertaining (£4.99 each): the introductions are by Benedict Cumberbatch, Martin Freeman, Mark Gatiss, Steven Moffat, and Steve Thompson (who has written three episodes). It's nice to see the BBC using the television series to attract readers to the original stories. Still to come: THE VALLEY OF FEAR and THE CASEBOOK OF SHERLOCK HOLMES.
16131. An alert for Los Angelenos: Les Klinger will be featured at a book-reading and signing for IN THE COMPANY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES at Contrapuntal Hall in Los Angeles on Dec. 13; tea, cookies, and champagne. It's free, but reservations are recommended. Details at <www.lesklingersigning.bpt.me>.
16132. Steve Tribe offers the background and inside story of the BBC's "Sherlock" television series, complete with interviews with the principals, color photographs on every page, images of deleted scenes, and much more, in SHERLOCK: CHRONICLES (London: BBC Books, 2014; 320 pp., £25.00); it's a splendid book, and a grand way to understand and how much enthusiasm, and hard work, the creators, cast, and crew have brought to the series, and why it is so popular. Recommended.
16133. Production is underway on ITV's three-part dramatization of Julian Barnes' novel ARTHUR & GEORGE (May 14 #3). The cast includes Martin Clunes as Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Arsher Ali as George Edalji, and Hattie Morahan as Jean Leckie, and the Daily Mail ran a story on Nov. 12 with colorful on-set photographs of Clunes in costume <www.tinyurl.com/nhravev>.

November 2014 #5

16134. Daniel Smith's excellent THE SHERLOCK HOLMES COMPANION: AN ELEMENTARY GUIDE, first published in 2009 (February 10 #4), now has a second edition (London: Aurum Press, 2014; 224 pp., £16.99/\$27.99), brought up to date; it's an interesting, attractive, and useful book, with summaries for each of the stories, essays on Conan Doyle, Holmes, and the Canon, interviews with actors and authors, and splendid artwork and illustrations, many in full color. It's nicely done indeed, and suitable for both beginners and old hands. Recommended.
16135. Here's the logo for Shopping Sherlock, an on-line shopping app that "instantly finds the best deals and lowest prices on millions of products"; the app is free, but there's also a system of usage and team commissions if you want to become an affiliate and persuade others to be affiliates, so it's a shopping pyramid scheme. Details at <www.shoppingsherlock.com>.
16136. William Bruce Briggs died on June 11. Bill was an engineer, a sports fan, and an enthusiastic Sherlockian, presiding over McMurdo's Camp, which was both a Sherlockian society and an extensive and imaginative web-site that's still live and well worth exploring <www.mcmurdoscamp.wordpress.com>.
16137. David Stuart Davies will be one of the speakers (on "221B Baker Street") at the Crime Writers Festival in New Delhi, Jan. 17-18; their web-site is at <www.crimewritersfestival.com>.
16138. Chris Caswell, former owner of the Baker Street Emporium, now offers a variety of Sherlockiana at Sherlock's Home at Etsy, one of his items being an (empty) bottle of Sherlock's Claret commissioned by the Emporium in 1995; <www.tinyurl.com/kxvzxba>. The magic word "Scuttlebutt" will get you a 10% discount.
16139. People who buy British books should keep the Book Depository in mind: owned by Amazon, it offers Amazon-style discounts and free shipping to the U.S., and this is quite useful for books like Steve Tribe's SHERLOCK: CHRONICLES (November 14 #4), which so far doesn't have an American edition. See for yourself at <www.bookdepository.com>.
16140. Evy Herzog reports that the Easton Press is offering a leather-bound signed edition of Nicholas Meyer's THE SEVEN-PER-CENT SOLUTION for \$99.00; details at <www.tinyurl.com/k7vqokq>. You can search for [sherlock holmes] to see other Sherlockian titles.
16141. WHITE FIRE, by Douglas Preston and Lincoln Child (New York: Grand Central Publishing, 2013; 368 pp., \$27.00), is the seventh in their series of suspense novels about FBI special agent Pendergast; it begins with their account of the dinner at which Arthur Conan Doyle met Oscar Wilde, proceeds to modern-day Colorado, and involves (among other things) a search for the manuscript of the long-lost last Sherlock Holmes story.
16142. The Spanish artist Marco Navas is offering a "Sherlockians" collection of twelve 7-cm figurines of Sherlock Holmes, Dr. Watson, and others from the Canon, hand-crafted in resin and hand-painted for €35.00 each; details at <www.marconavas.com> or by e-mail <marconavas@telecable.es>.

November 2014 #6

16143. And there's plenty of theatrics to consider: Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot; or Holmes for the Holidays" is being performed at the Barn Community Playhouse in Tillamook, Ore., through Dec. 6; their web-site's at <www.tillamooktheater.com>. And at the Rochester Repertory Theatre, Rochester, Minn., through Dec. 6 <www.rochesterrep.org>, at the Vertigo Theatre, Calgary, Alta., through Dec. 7 <www.vertigotheatre.com>, at the Knoxville Downtown, Knoxville, Tenn., through Dec. 14; their web-site is at <www.theatreknoxville.com>. Also at the Santa Paula Theater Center, Santa Paula, Calif., until Dec. 21 <www.santapaulatheatercenter.org> and the Live Theatre Workshop, Tucson, Ariz., through Dec. 28 <www.livetheatreworkshop.org>. It's also coming up at TheatreWorks, Milford, Conn., Dec. 5-Jan. 3 <www.theatreworks.us>, and at Community Players, Beatrice, Neb., Dec. 11-14 <www.beatricecommunityplayers.com>.

16144. Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" is being performed at the Lower Columbia College's Rose Center in Longview, Wash., through Dec. 6 <www.lcc.ctc.edu>. And it's scheduled at the Doris Harper-White Community Playhouse in Flagstaff, Ariz., Jan. 30-Feb. 15, 2015 <www.theatrikos.com>.
16145. Jeffrey Hatcher's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club" is being produced at the Repertory East Playhouse in Santa Clarita, Calif., through Dec. 13 <www.repeastplayhouse.org>.
16146. Katie Forgette's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily" is being performed at the Austin Playhouse in Austin, Texas, through Dec. 21; their web-site's at <www.austinplayhouse.com>.
16147. John Longenbaugh's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol" is playing at the Chemainus Theatre Festival in Chemainus, B.C., through Dec. 22 <www.chemainustheatrefestival.ca>.
16148. Bob and Barry Cryer's new play "Mrs. Hudson's Christmas Corker" is set in the kitchen at 221B Baker Street, and will be presented at Wilton's Music Hall in London, Dec. 2-31 <www.wiltons.org.uk>. The subtitled of the play is "Your Goose Is Cooked, Mr. Holmes..."
16149. "Sherlock Holmes in Brentwood" (the new play-reading series curated and introduced by Les Klinger) will reprise Bonnie MacBird's version of "The Blue Carbuncle" at the Contrapuntal Performance Hall in Brentwood (Los Angeles) on Dec. 6 and 7 <www.brownpapertickets.com/event/940506>.
16150. "Sherlock Holmes: The Musical" will be performed at the Owen Street Community Arts Centre in Atherstone (Warwickshire), Dec. 11-12; presented by the Leading Players, written by R. Sandland and J. Kitchen, and adapted by Dawn Teagles <www.oscacentre.co.uk>.
16151. Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" will have its second production at the McCarter Theatre Center in Princeton, N.J., Mar. 10-29, 2015 <www.mccarter.org>.

December 2014 #1

16152. Breaking news (as CNN and other networks like to proclaim): The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes have announced that their ASH Wednesday dinner at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, Jan. 7, will be held at Annie Moore's (50 East 43rd Street, between Madison and Vanderbilt Avenues). O'Casey's, established in 1974 and where the ASH have met for years, has abruptly closed.
16153. Scott Monty advises on "How to Get the Most Out of the #BSI Weekend" at his "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.tinyurl.com/l3ekamc>, offering a "series of tips for the veteran attendees and the newbies alike." And yes, there's a #BSIWeekend hashtag that people who understand what hashtags are can follow "to get real-time updates on the weekend festivities on the social network of their choice." Oh for the days when people called the # an octothorpe.
16154. Welcome news for people who don't read Swedish: Mattias Boström has reported that the German publisher Bertelsmann has purchased translation rights for his FRÅN HOLMES TILL SHERLOCK [FROM HOLMES TO SHERLOCK] (August 13 #4) and that a German translation is underway. And there are plans for a translation into English with publication possible in 2016.
16155. TopFoto <www.topfoto.co.uk> is a British agency that offers access to some three and a half million images, many of them quite interesting; search for [sherlock holmes] and [conan doyle] to see what's available.
16156. Alexander Orlov has reported "The Return of Mukhtar", a Russian 45-minute television series (2007) about a police investigation team that includes a brave and loyal dog (Mukhtar); one of the episodes was called "The Hound of the Baskervilles" and Alexander reports many Sherlockian allusions in the program, which you can view (in Russian) at <www.tinyurl.com/n8d2nqr>.
16157. "He was always Sherlock Holmes-ian. He was Basil Rathbone. In other words he was always musing about something." Adam West, in an interview reported by Digital Spy (Nov. 12), occasioned by the release of the Blu-ray set of "Batman: The Complete TV Series".
16158. The Museum of London has posted some nice video at YouTube, by way of publicizing their on-going exhibition <www.tinyurl.com/ns8s66n>, including an interesting three-minute "Sir Ian McKellen on Sherlock Holmes".
16159. Bob Byrne presides over an interesting blog called "Black Gate: Adventures in Fantasy Literature" and casts his net widely, recently posting on "The Public Life of Sherlock Holmes: Solar Pons" <www.tinyurl.com/mjudnrk>, including a link to his Solar Pons web-site <www.solarpons.com>, where you'll find the latest (Nov. 2014) issue of The Solar Pons Gazette.
16160. D. James died on Nov. 27. Highly regarded for her mystery novels featuring Chief Inspector Dalgleish, she also wrote science fiction, a sequel to Jane Austen's PRIDE AND PREJUDICE, an introduction to the Random House/Vintage Books edition of THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES (2009), and an interesting chapter about "The Tenant of 221B Baker Street and the Parish Priest from Cobhole in Essex" in her TALKING ABOUT DETECTIVE FICTION (2009).

December 2014 #2

16161. Graham Moore's pastiche THE SHERLOCKIAN (November 10 #8), published in Britain as THE HOLMES AFFAIR (February 11 #1), was a N.Y. Times best seller; if you have been wondering what he has been doing since then, he has written the screenplay for "The Imitation Game" (the new film that stars Benedict Cumberbatch as Alan Turing).
16162. Heuer Publishing <www.hitplays.com> offers scripts of four Sherlock Holmes plays. Three of them are two-act plays by C. P. Stanchich: "Sherlock Holmes and the Devil of Dooms Moor" (2008), "Sherlock Holmes and the Spinsters of Blackmead" (2010), and "Sherlock Holmes: John Watson's Body" (2012); \$7.50 each. And Roy C. Booth's 10-minute one-act play "The Unmasking of Sherlock Holmes" (2007) can be read without charge at their web-site.
16163. Tom Tierney died on July 12. Credited in his N.Y. Times obituary as having almost single-handedly revived the lost art of paper-doll making, he created more than 400 paper-dolls books, including a delightful SHERLOCK HOLMES PAPER DOLLS (2009); it's still in print and available at <www.amazon.com>.
16164. Col. Percy H. Fawcett, who met Conan Doyle in 1910 and then disappeared into the Amazon jungle, is discussed by Roy Pilot and Alvin Rodin's THE ANNOTATED LOST WORLD (1996) and David Grann's THE LOST CITY OF Z (2009); Radio Times reported earlier this year that Benedict Cumberbatch will star in the film based on Grann's book, with production scheduled to begin early next year in Belfast.
16165. Stu Shiffman died on Nov. 26. He was an inspired artist who contributed to the worlds of Sherlock Holmes and of science fiction, an enthusiastic member of The Sound of the Baskervilles in Seattle, and for many years a frequent poster to The Hounds of the Internet, for whom he created an impressive logo <www.sherlockian.net/hounds>.
16166. Holmes on the Range (previously known as The Desert Prospectors of Arizona) have created a magnifying-glass tie/lapel pin for the society with Sherlock Holmes' initials on the handle; it's 20 mm long and available to everyone for \$5.00 postpaid (or in exchange for a pin from another society). Bob StClair <bbobstclair@gmail.com> will be happy to provide more information.

16167. Further to the report (March 11 #6) that the Roundabout Theatre Company production of Cole Porter's musical "Anything Goes" includes a scene in which the hero, trying to escape capture aboard ship, appears on deck in disguise with Inverness, deerstalker, calabash pipe, and an absurd beard, there is video of the entire show at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/m3ajjtx>; the 2-minute Sherlockian scene starts at 57:13.
16168. The Scottish Book Trust celebrated Book Week Scotland last month by asking people to vote in an on-line poll for the nation's favorite literary character, and the winner was Francis Crawford of Lymond, followed by Begbie, Detective Inspector Rebus, and then Sherlock Holmes. Frances Crawford appears in the late Dorothy Dunnett's Lymond Chronicles, and it is possible that there was a campaign by fans of Crawford, who was described as an exile, a scholar, a soldier, a musician, a master of disguise, an outlaw, and a noble, in six novels set in 16th-century Europe.
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December 2014 #3

16169. George Sturm ("Neil Gibson") died on Nov. 25. He was a special agent for the FBI, and enthusiastic about both Sherlock Holmes and the Civil War, writing for The Baker Street Journal about a Civil War antecedent for the Porlock cipher. George also was a dedicated member of Mrs. Hudson's Cliffdwellers, and received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1979.
16170. Kelvin I. Jones has written and published a long list of books and articles about Sherlock Holmes, and about horror, supernatural, and crime, over the years, and many of them are available now as e-books. There are descriptions and much more at his web-site <www.cunningcrimebooks.co.uk>.
16171. Ashvin Rajan reports that there's a biography of Prof. Moriarty on-line in the MacTutor History of Mathematics Archive <www.tinyurl.com/pgcqk4v>, and (thanks to the wonders of digitization) you can read H. W. Gould's article "The Case of the Strange Binomial Identities of Professor Moriarty" (1972) <www.tinyurl.com/myywbcl>, and Bradley E. Schaefer's article on "Sherlock Holmes and Some Astronomical Connections" (1993) <www.tinyurl.com/ox3tjo3>.
16172. Sherlock to the rescue: KLM's commercial shows how they use a dog detective to find owners of forgotten items left on planes <www.tinyurl.com/mxd22s3>. The commercial was spotted by Eric Blau, but (alas) it's only a commercial: KLM doesn't really have a dog who really does that.
16173. The late John Ruyle, a delightful humorist and a skilled printer who wrote, printed, bound, and published a long series of parodies that featuring Turlock Loams and Dr. Fatso, also presided over the Quaker Street Irregulars and is sadly missed. THE CANON OF TURLOCK HOLMES, with commentary by Ray and Greta de Groat and an introduction by Michael Kean, offers a nice look at John's delightful work, and it has been published by George Vanderburgh (203; 262 pp., \$30.00). The publisher's address is Box 50, R.R.4, Eugenia, ON N0C 1E0, Canada <www.batteredbox.com>.
16174. "Wait Wait...Don't Tell Me" is an amusing series broadcast by National Public Radio, and Samantha Wolov reports that the program that aired on Nov. 8 was partly Sherlockian: "Elementary, My Dear (Dale) Watson" featured country singer Dale Watson answering questions about Sherlock Holmes. You can listen to the program at <www.tinyurl.com/l6hl7cz>.
16175. The California Artists Radio Theatre was founded more than 50 years ago by Peggy Webber, who worked with Rathbone and Bruce on their old radio series, and adapted, produced, and directed the CART productions of Gillette's play "Sherlock Holmes" and Conan Doyle's story "Selecting a Ghost" (July 05 #1). Those recordings, and many other non-Sherlockian productions, are available on CDs and as downloads at their web-site <www.cartradio.com>.
16176. Alexander Orlov has reported that Yuri Grymov's dramatization of "The Lost World" is now playing in Moscow (in Russian), and it's grand that the Internet makes both information and a video preview so easily available: the URLs are <www.tinyurl.com/jwkrw4w> and <www.tinyurl.com/maytw86>. Google Translate will help with the text. This isn't the first dramatization of the story: there's at least one other, by Nobby Dimon, and it was performed at the Queen's Theatre in Hornchurch in 2003 <www.tinyurl.com/m6oej7a>.
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December 2014 #4

16177. Samuel M. Gerber ("The Final Problem") died on Jan. 9. He had a long career with the American Cyanamid Company, specializing in the chemistry and technology of dyes, and it was his enjoyment of Sherlock Holmes, he explained, that led to his interest in forensic chemistry. He lectured often on "Sherlock Holmes, Chemist" and edited CHEMISTRY AND CRIME: FROM SHERLOCK HOLMES TO TODAY'S COURTROOM (1983), and co-edited MORE CHEMISTRY AND CRIME: FROM MARSH ARSENIC TEST TO DNA PROFILE (1997). He received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1980.
16178. The artist Charles Wysocki (1928-2002) specialized in Americana, and there is a web-site at <www.charleswysocki.com> that shows his work. His print "Hound of the Baskervilles" was published in 1997 (September 10 #7), and now is available as a 1000-piece jigsaw puzzle (\$13.95).
16179. Collectors may own one or both of the editions of THE BLUE CARBUNCLE published by The Baker Street Irregulars in 1948. Christopher Morley's introduction is delightful, and so is a discovery reported by William R. Cochran in the December issue of The Camden House Journal (published by The Occupants of the Empty House): a book dealer once offered a copy of the trade edition, noting that "A contemporary member of the BSI reveals, in a long inscription, that the BSI remaindered these volumes at \$1.00 each and he is thus sending them as Christmas cards." The inscription is dated in 1950, but the dealer didn't identify who it was wrote it. Does anyone have one of these Christmas-card copies?
16180. Jerry Margolin spotted Sherlockian cover art on the reissue CD album "Has Anyone Here Seen Sigfried?" recorded by a progressive rock band called Pavlov's Dog in 1977 but not released officially until 2007; also available as MP3 downloads, the songs can be sampled at Amazon.
16181. Arguments about the preservation of Undershaw, Conan Doyle's former home, continue: the DFN Foundation plans to convert the house into a school (September 14 #6), but the BBC reported (Dec. 14) that English Heritage has said that a proposed extension might mean the building "no longer warranted its listed status," and the Victorian Society also has opposed the conversion. David Forbes-Nixon said in response that "we can do something very special to preserve the existing house," adding that "we can create the best special needs school in the south of England and it would be a wonderful site to do that." The BBC story <www.tinyurl.com/kguv8jf> includes a rendering of the house and the proposed extension.
16182. The WCRS [Written Communications Radio Service] RadioStage presented original radio dramas for a radio reading service for the blind between 2000 and 2004, including "The Sherlock Holmes Assignment" (30 minutes). The program was written by Michael Elliott and David Binkley, and you can listen to it at <www.reallybadmovie.weebly.com/daves-radio-plays.html>.
16183. The Sherlockian Calendar, maintained by Ron Fish and Sue and Ben Vizoskie, is at <www.sherlockiancalendar.com>; it's a helpful list of upcoming Sherlockian events, for anyone who would like to know what's happening when and where; you can contact Ron at <ronf404@aol.com> if you would like to have a meeting or conference listed.
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December 2014 #5

16184. "The Rivals" is a 30-minute series that began on BBC Radio 4 in 2011: "Inspector Lestrade was made to look a fool in the Sherlock Holmes stories," and he is now writing his memoirs while working with Holmes' rivals. Phil Attwell reports four new programs, beginning on Dec. 31 with Ernest
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Bramah's "The Knight's Cross Signal Problem"; you can listen to all four of the new programs at <www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b04vkmhh>, and you can purchase earlier programs from iTunes.

16185. There's now a trade paperback edition of Michael Robertson's *MORIARTY RETURNS A LETTER* (New York: Minotaur, 2014; 263 pp., \$15.99); it's the fourth in his series about Reggie Heath, the London barrister who has offices in the building at 221B Baker Street, and a lease that requires him to answer Sherlock Holmes' mail (December 13 #6), and it's nicely done indeed.
16186. Ian Stewart's *PROFESSOR STEWART'S CASEBOOK OF MATHEMATICAL MYSTERIES* (New York: Basic Books, 2014; 307 pp., \$16.99) is his third collection of mathematical puzzles, tricks, curiosities, and problems, many of them involving Hemlock Soames and Dr. John Watsup, who live across the street from Holmes and Watson and add a lot of humor. Here's your chance to learn all about hexakosioihexekontahexaphobia, and much more.
16187. Alexander Orlov has noted the BBC Genome Product <www.genome.ch.bbc.co.uk>, which "contains the BBC listings information which the BBC printed in Radio Times between 1923 and 2009," and will be useful to those who want to track down programs broadcast by the BBC in those years.
16188. The Beeman's Christmas Annual for 2014 is a 36-page booklet offering tributes to the late Wally Walthen and a series of scholarly papers devoted to "The Musgrave Ritual", all by members of The Occupants of the Empty House; the cost of the Annual plus all twelve issues of The Camden House Journal for 2015 is \$21.00 postpaid, and checks (payable to the society) should be sent to: The Camden House Journal, Box 21, Zeigler, IL 62999.
16189. Further to the report (September 14 #7) that producer Antonio R. Marion was said developing a new Sherlock Holmes play, he has now announced that "Sherlock Holmes" will be coming to Broadway in 2017: the play will be written by Rachel Wagstaff and Duncan Abel and will offer "a new and deeply theatrical exploration of the mind of the famous detective, while remaining faithful to the mysterious world created by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle."
16190. Robert Veld, author of the excellent *THE STRAND MAGAZINE & SHERLOCK HOLMES* (January 13 #3), is now researching copies of the Royal Edition of the Strand; at least three issues are known (Mar. 1891, Dec. 1892, and Dec. 1893), and he would appreciate hearing from anyone who owns these or other issues of the Royal Edition (which was printed on heavy paper and specially bound). His e-mail address is <robveld@bigpond.com>.
16191. Warren Randall has formed a new Sherlockian society, The Khyber By-Passers, with membership open to those who have undergone heart surgery, know someone who has done so, and (at the request of Bob Katz) are pathologists or share the society's morbid interests. Warren notes that the actions of Violet de Merville caused her father to suffer a broken heart, thus justifying the name of the society. You can contact Warren at <whirdy@aol.com>.

December 2014 #6

16192. Further to the report (September 14 #4) about the pending sale of New Scotland Yard, the site has been sold to Abu Dhabi Investment Group for £370 million, well over the asking price of £250 million, and the site will become a "mixed-use residential development." It's not the historic Great Scotland Yard, well-known to Sherlock Holmes; New Scotland Yard has served as police headquarters since 1967. Proceeds from the sale will be invested in new technology for police officers, including body cameras and tablet computers.
16193. *THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* (Beverly: Rockport Publishers, 2014; 320 pp., \$25.00) is the latest in the publisher's "Classics Reimagined" series, offering a dozen cases colorfully illustrated by Sophia Martineck. Visit her web-site <www.martineck.com/e/projekt.php?number=170> to see her imaginative approach to the stories.
16194. Jennie Paton has noted the latest from World Wrestling Entertainment: Sherlock Holmes vs. Vladimir Putin. Well, actually, it's from Ultimate Destiny Wrestling; you can watch the video at <www.tinyurl.com/kt6xazj>.
16195. In case you're seeking a belated Christmas present for a Sherlockian collector: a copy of the Bazaar Number of *The Student* (Nov. 20, 1896) with the first appearance of Conan Doyle's parody "The Field Bazaar" will be offered at auction at Lyon & Turnbull in Edinburgh on Jan. 28, estimated at £1,000-£1,200, with a starting bid of £900 <www.tinyurl.com/nrmbsq7>.
16196. David Harnois has recorded "A Scandal in Bohemia" for his "I Am Lost Without My Boswell" web-site <www.iamlostwithoutmyboswell.com>, where you can listen to the 44-minute dramatized reading; it's nicely done, and "The Red-Headed League" is scheduled for January.
16197. "Thank you Arthur Conan Doyle for creating the enigmatic character of Sherlock Holmes. It has always been an inspiration to us." That's from the opening credits of the new Indian film "Samrat & Co."; you can see a trailer at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/p9tbksc>, and while the DVD (in Hindi with English subtitles) is not yet available here, you might find it at eBay. The film's an interesting modern mystery, with hints of Robert Downey Jr., Benedict Cumberbatch, and even a bit of Tony Shalhoub.
16198. "Includes a rules & solutions book, case cards, a detective's notebook, & an egg timer," according to the box that contains *THE SHERLOCK HOLMES PUZZLE CASE* (New York: Sterling Innovation, 2014; \$12.95); the case cards present 120 puzzles and riddles, and they make for a nice parlor game.
16199. *SHERLOCK HOLMES: A SELECTION OF HIS GREATEST CASES* (London: Arcturus, 2014; 372 pp., \$24.95) offers "The Hound of the Baskervilles" and a dozen short stories, with some of Sidney Paget's illustrations and an appreciative introduction by Martin Edwards; cloth-bound and in a handsome slipcase.
16200. Judith Freeman's useful index to *The Serpentine Muse* (published by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes since 1975) is available from her by e-mail as an Excel spreadsheet <judith-freeman@hotmail.com>, and the ASH web-site <www.ash-nyc.com> has information on subscribing to the Muse (back issues are unfortunately not available).

December 2014 #7

16201. The Order of Canada was established in 1967 to recognize outstanding merit or distinguished service, and one of its newest members is Peter Calamai, who was honored "for his achievements as a science journalist and for his contributions to the cause of literacy." Congratulations to Peter Calamai, now C.M. as well as B.S.I.
16202. *INVESTIGATING SHERLOCK HOLMES: SOLVED & UNSOLVED MYSTERIES* (Oakville: Mosaic Press, 2014; 239 pp., \$17.95) is a collection of Sherlockian scholarship by Hartley R. Nathan and Clifford S. Goldfarb (with assistance from Joseph Kessel and John Linsenmeyer), and it's nice indeed to have the results of their investigations conveniently available; they have focused on the many Jewish aspects of the Canon, with side trips into lawyering, restaurants, and weaponry, and they present their discoveries with careful attention and with considerable humor.
16203. Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" continues to offer interesting content, including podcasts recorded by Scott and Burt Wolder. Their latest podcast (#72) was posted on Blue Carbuncle Day, and they invite you to celebrate a belated Christmas by listening to "The Sherlockian Tannenbaum" at <www.tinyurl.com/mwpqcu>.

16204. Sabina Carpenter and John Quincannon, private detectives in San Francisco in 1895, return in Marcia Muller and Bill Pronzini's *THE BODY SNATCHERS AFFAIR* (New York: Forge/Tom Doherty, 2014; 219 pp., \$25.99), the third book in their entertaining series; once again they're occasionally assisted (and annoyed) by Sherlock Holmes (or a man who claims to be Holmes).
16205. Paul Laudiero's amusing *SH*T ROUGH DRAFTS* (San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2014; 135 pp., \$12.95), is subtitled "pop culture's favorite books, movies, and TV shows as they might have been, and The Classics include one-page alternatives for "The Speckled Band", "The Red-Headed League", and "The Hound of the Baskervilles".
16206. Colin Mochrie, most famous for his appearances on the television improvisation program "Whose Line Is It Anyway?", has obviously enjoyed writing *NOT QUITE THE CLASSICS* (New York: Diversion Books, 2013; 192 pp., \$14.99); he bookends the first and last lines of classic books and poems around his own versions, one of which ("A Study in Ha Ha") is Sherlockian.
16207. Fred Thursfeld's *SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE TERRIBLE SECRET* (London: MX Publishing, 2012; 183 pp., \$14.95) offers a capsule history of the First World War, and an account of Holmes' pursuit of an exotic dancer in hopes of retrieving the dire scientific secret she received from a Swiss patent clerk in Zurich. Mike Hogan's *SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE SCOTTISH QUESTION* (2014; 196 pp., \$14.95) involves Holmes and Watson in a pursuit of the long-lost Crown of Scotland and a battle against Scots nationalists. And Gary Lovisi's *THE MYSTERY SURROUNDING WATSON'S LOST DISPATCH BOX* (2014; 152 pp., \$9.95) is a story set in modern Boston, where a bookstore owner finds an author's copy of *The Strand Magazine* and what appears to be a page torn from Watson's diary, and quickly becomes involved with drug dealers and corrupt politicians and police; he's assisted by a street-smart young man, and they use Sherlockian methods in their investigation. The publisher's web-sites are at <www.mxpublishing.com> and at <www.mxpublishing.co.uk>.

December 2014 #8

16208. The Guardian reported (Dec. 10) that BBC Worldwide (the commercial arm of the BBC) has struck a deal with Kuwait-backed London Resort Company Holdings that allows BBC programs and characters to be "brought to life" at a new £2 billion theme park and holiday resort that's planned to be built by the Thames estuary in north Kent, scheduled to open in 2020. The Guardian's story was headlined "Sherlock World?"
16209. And as usual, there's Sherlockian theater afoot: Michael Mendenian and John Weagly's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Goose" is playing at the Raven Theatre in Chicago through Jan. 4 <www.raventheatre.com>.
16210. Katie Forgette's play "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily" is being performed at the Jericho Arts Centre in Vancouver, B.C., through Jan. 10 <www.jerichoartscentre.com>.
16211. Daniel and Tom Clarkson's "Potted Sherlock" ("all 60 Sherlock Holmes stories in just 80 elementary minutes") is running at the Vaudeville Theatre in London through Jan. 11 <www.pottedsherlock.com>.
16212. Madeleine George's "The (Curious Case of the) Watson Intelligence" will be produced at B Street Theatre in Sacramento, Calif., Jan. 6 through Feb. 7 <www.bstreettheatre.org>; this Watson is the "trusty side-kick to Sherlock Holmes, loyal engineer who built Bell's first telephone, unstoppable supercomputer that became reigning "Jeopardy!" champ, and amiable techno-deweeb who, in the present day is looking for love." There's a five-minute video about the play's background at <www.tinyurl.com/phd7ahv>.
16213. Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" is scheduled at the Flint Community Players in Flint, Mich., Jan. 29-Feb. 8; their website is at <www.flintcommunityplayers.com>. Also at Theatre 98 in Fairhope, Alaska, July 23-Aug. 2, 2015 <www.theatre98.org>, and at the Cannery Stage in Penticton, B.C., Nov. 12-Dec. 15, 2015 <www.manyhatstheatre.com>.
16214. Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" is scheduled at the Doris Harper-White Community Playhouse in Flagstaff, Ariz., Jan. 30 to Feb. 15, 2015 <www.theatrkos.com>. Also at the Magenta Theater in Vancouver, B.C., Sept. 25-Oct. 10 <www.magentatheater.com>.
16215. Anthony and Marcia Milgrom Dodge's "Sherlock Holmes and the West End Horror" is scheduled by the Cortland Repertory Theatre in Cortland, N.Y., July 29-Aug. 6, 2015 <www.cortlandrep.org>.
16216. "The Modern Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" offers an interesting approach to the Canon, with the Jet City Improv responding to an audience member's presentation of a mystery; the theater is in Seattle, and performances are from Jan. 8 to Feb. 13 <www.tinyurl.com/oqljxxc>.
16217. Alden Nowlan and Walter Learning's "The Incredible Murder of Cardinal Tosca" on the schedule at the Scarborough Guild Theatre in Scarborough, Ont., Jan. 9-24 <www.theatrescarborough.com>.

January 2015 #1

16218. Sherlockians (and Holmesians) gathered in New York to celebrate the Great Detective's 161st birthday during the long weekend from Jan. 7 to Jan. 11. The festivities began with the traditional ASH Wednesday dinner sponsored by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes at Annie Moore's, and continued with the Christopher Morley Walk led by Jim Cox and Dore Nash on Thursday morning, followed by the usual lunch at McSorley's.
16219. The Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Speaker at the Midtown Executive Club on Thursday evening was Alan Bradley, co-author of *MS. HOLMES OF BAKER STREET* (2004), and author of the award-winning "Flavia de Luce" series; the title of his talk was "Ha! The Stars Are Out and the Wind Has Fallen" (his paper will be published in the next issue of *The Baker Street Journal*).
16220. The William Gillette Luncheon at Moran's Restaurant was well attended, as always, and the Friends of Bogie's at Baker Street (Paul Singleton and Andrew Joffe) entertained the audience with an updated version of "The Sherlock Holmes Cable Network" (2000). The luncheon also was the occasion for Al Gregory's presentation of the annual January Whimsey Award (named in memory of his wife January Stauber), which honors the most whimsical piece in *The Serpentine Muse* last year: the winner (Jenn Eaker) received a certificate and a check for the Canonical sum of \$221.17. And Otto Penzler's traditional open house at the Mysterious Bookshop provided the usual opportunities to browse and buy.
16221. The Irregulars and their guests gathered for the BSI annual dinner at the Yale Club, where Paul Martin proposed the preprandial first toast to Inez Bergquist as *The Woman*. The dinner's agenda featured the traditional BSI toasts and rituals, Michael Dirda's report on Langdale Pike's participation in the Civil War and other important events, Terry Hunt's tribute to Christopher Morley, and David Stuart Davies' one-man multi-voice performance of an unrecorded but almost Canonical episode at Baker Street and elsewhere.
16222. Mike Whelan (BSI's "Wiggins") presented the BSI's Tip of the Deerstalker Awards to Marsha Pollak, Ralph Hall, George McCormack, and Jim Saunders, and a Two-Shilling Award to Mary Ann Bradley. This year's Birthday Honours (Irregular Shillings and Investitures) were awarded to Bill Mason ("White Mason"), James O'Brien ("Knowledge of Chemistry.--Profound"), Chrys Kegley ("Rachel Howells"), Kiyoshi Arai ("The Shoso-in Near Nara"), Emily Miranker ("Lady Hatty St. Simon"), Kristina Manente ("Grace Dunbar"), Marino C. Alvarez ("Hilton Soames"), and Jeffery Hart ("Henry Baker").

16223. An enthusiastic crowd attended this year's Gaslight Gala at the Manhattan Club, where the agenda featured toasts, music, a show-and-tell by Bob Zatz ("On Dr. Watson's Guns"), and theatrics that included performances of William Gillette's "The Painful Predicament of Sherlock Holmes" and some original skits, and much more.
16224. Some of the more fervent (or perhaps hard core) Sherlockians gathered after the dinners at O'Lunney's Irish Pub to honor long-standing traditions such as staying until at least 2:21; another tradition calls for newly-Invetistured Irregulars to buy a round of tequila shots.
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January 2015 #2

16225. On Saturday morning Covent Garden West (the dealers room at the Roosevelt Hotel) welcomed sellers and buyers, and authors and editors delighted to inscribe or sign their books. The Beacon Society held its annual meeting, and the Junior Bloodstain of The Clients of Adrian Mulliner featured Gayle Lange Puhl's new play "The Riddle of the Refurbished Room" (performed by Ken Vogel's hand puppets).
16226. The BSI's Saturday-afternoon reception at the Yale Club offered entertainment, conversation, wining, and dining; Timothy S. Greer was honored as the winner of the Morley-Montgomery Award (a check accompanied by an attractive certificate) for the best contribution to The Baker Street Journal in 2014. The John H. Watson Fund benefited from energetic sales of tickets for the raffle prize (the set of five medals handcrafted by Maggie Schpak for The Curious Collectors of Baker Street), and an auction of attractive donations to the Fund.
16227. The main Saturday-evening event was the annual "Very Irregular Lost in New York with a Bunch of Sherlockians" dinner arranged by Chrys Kegley and The Curious Collectors of Baker Street at O'Lunney's Times Square Pub, with 54 on hand for the festivities, and on Sunday morning a goodly crowd gathered at the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes' brunch at the Churchill Tavern.
16228. A final note for those who want to plan ahead: The Baker Street Irregulars' next annual dinner will be held on Jan. 15, 2016. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London's annual dinner likely will be on Jan. 9, 2016.
16229. I've not reported on everything, I hasten to add; there will be much more detailed reports in the spring issue of The Baker Street Journal. The BSI appears quarterly, and subscriptions (four issues plus the Christmas Annual) cost \$39.95 (to the U.S.) or \$52.00 (elsewhere); payment by credit card or PayPal is welcome, or you can pay by check sent to the BSJ (Box 583, Zionsville, IN 46077).
16230. You can also subscribe at the BSJ web-site at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>, which has interesting features such as articles from recent issues of the BSJ, some of the papers written by winners of the Morley-Montgomery Awards, and information on the BSI's other publications and activities.
16231. The title of The Baker Street Journal's 2014 Christmas Annual is "The Only Actor Who Ever Got It Right" (it's now in the hands of BSJ subscribers, and not otherwise available unless you can find it at eBay or wherever), and it is a warm tribute to Douglas Wilmer, now 95 years old, and it includes his speech to the Sherlock Holmes Society of London's annual dinner in 1994.
16232. The BSI's 2015 Christmas Annual will be a 40th-anniversary tribute to Nicholas Meyer's THE SEVEN-PER-CENT SOLUTION, both the book and the film; the Annual, edited by Steven Doyle, will commemorate the spark that ignited the great Sherlockian "boom" of the 1970s.
16233. Al Gregory <gaslightandfog@verizon.net> offers (via e-mail) his 2015 edition of "The ABC of the BSI" (an alphabetical listing of Investitures, with recipients, from "Abbey Grange" to "Young Stamford") and "The Florin Society" (couples in which both spouses have received Irregular Shillings).
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January 2015 #3

16234. OUT OF THE ABYSS is the latest volume in the Baker Street Irregulars Manuscript Series (2014; 229 pp., \$39.95); edited by Andrew Solberg, Steven Rothman, and Robert Katz, it offers a facsimile of the original manuscript of "The Empty House", an annotated transcript, interesting commentary on both the manuscript and the story, artwork by Frederic Dorr Steele on the dust jacket, and a nice surprise if you (carefully) remove the dust jacket to inspect the cloth binding. Details, on the book, including the table of contents and one of the articles, are available at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>.
16235. Sonia Fetherston's PRINCE OF THE REALM: THE MOST IRREGULAR JAMES BLISS AUSTIN (2014; 174 pp., \$21.95) is the second volume in the BSI's biographical series, and it's a fine tribute to a fascinating man who was a collector, scholar, and mentor, and a good friend to many Sherlockians.
16236. Also from the BSI is SHERLOCKIAN SATURDAYS AT THE PRATT, edited by William Hyder (2014; 192 pp., \$21.95), offers a splendid survey of three decades of Canonical scholarship from the annual gatherings at Baltimore's Enoch Pratt Free Library. All of the BSI's books can be ordered using the BSI web-site or by mail (checks payable to The Baker Street Irregulars) from Michael H. Kean, 3040 Stoa Road, Pebble Beach, CA 93593; shipping for one book costs \$5.95 to U.S./\$22.95 elsewhere. Add \$1.50/\$5.00 for each additional book in the same shipment.
16237. THE DRURY LANE THEATRE MYSTERY is Dennis Hoey's only screenplay, unproduced and only now published, found by Michael A. Hoey after his father died, and now available accompanied by Michael's account of his father's life and career, and a description and history of the Drury Lane (Indianapolis: Gasogene Books, 2014; 85 pp., \$12.95) <www.gasogenebooks.com>. Dennis Hoey had a long career on stage, screen, radio, and television, almost always as a supporting character in roles that included Inspector Lestrade in Universal's "Sherlock Holmes" series, and of course Holmes, Watson, and Lestrade are all involved in Hoey's mystery at the Drury Lane.
16238. One of the nicest things about modern technology is it offers access to so much information, as can be seen easily in Gasogene's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND CONAN DOYLE IN THE NEWSPAPERS, VOLUME 1, 1881-1892, edited (and annotated) by Mattias Boström and Matt Laffey (2014; 306 pp., \$32.95). They've scoured digitized archives and extracted and reprinted a treasure trove of articles that offer a fascinating look at what was to be found in print in those years, including (for example) the first commentary on the many mistakes in "Silver Blaze" (and the critics were not at all kind). There will be more volumes to come in the series, and that's nice news indeed for anyone who want to see just how valuable an institution the Press can be.
16239. Also from Gasogene: 221 BBC, by Bert Coules (2014; 297 pp., \$22.95) is an expanded and revised second edition of the 76-page booklet published by the Northern Musgraves in 1998, and it will be welcomed by all who have enjoyed Bert's work on the BBC's radio series, which not only was the first (and the only) series to have dramatized all of the Canon but also was extended by Bert to include 15 apocryphal stories. Bert tells grand stories about how the series was made, and has a fine chapter ("Sherlock Speaks!") in which he discusses earlier appearances of Holmes and Watson on radio.
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January 2015 #4

16240. Wipro Ltd. is a global information technology, consulting, and outsourcing company based in India, and The Times of India reported (Dec. 23) that Wipro has developed a cognitive computing system the company has named Holmes (as in heuristics and ontology-based learning machines and experimental systems). The newspaper wondered whether Wipro's Holmes would partner with IBM's Watson. It should be noted that IBM's Watson has nothing to do with the Canon; its name honors Thomas J. Watson, for many years the head of IBM.
16241. There's no shortage of Sherlockian commercials, now on the Internet as well as on television; here's one from Sephora <www.tinyurl.com/l3ah2f4>, noted by Samantha Wolov.
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16242. The statues of Paddington Bear (November 14 #3) were sold at auction at Christie's web-site, but Sherlock Paddington, designed by Benedict Cumberbatch, was one of the select number of statues that were sold in a by-invitationonly live auction before the on-line event. The hammer price for Sherlock Paddington was £17,000 (not the most expensive Paddington, which was a W2 1RH bear designed by artist Tracey Quinn that sold for £58,000). You can see images of all the bears at <www.tinyurl.com/nt7qtqe>.
16243. Further to the report (October 14 #8) of the new commercial DVD of Tom Baker's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1982), the voice-over commentary by Baker includes his recollection of playing both Holmes and Moriarty on stage, in the same play. And so he did, which qualifies him for the list of actors who have played both roles.
16244. Alexander Orlov has been exploring the Associated Press' digitized archives and has found a nice photograph of the passport Sir Arthur Conan Doyle used when he visited the front during World War One <www.tinyurl.com/q2lfsmk>; it should be noted that the descriptive text isn't accurate.
16245. Andrew Lane's YOUNG SHERLOCK: STONE COLD (London: Macmillan, 2014; 307 pp., £12.99) is the seventh in his imaginative series; Sherlock now is a student at Oxford, but quickly becomes involved with bizarre crimes and criminals. And Lane has a second novel about Caleb Challenger, grandson of Professor George Edward Challenger: LOST WORLDS: SHADOW CREATURES (London: Macmillan, 2014; 320 pp., £12.99) has Caleb and his friends still in pursuit of supposedly mythological creatures, and still in conflict with a sinister corporation that wants to exploit them. The books are nicely written and the stories well told, and both series will be interesting for young adults.
16246. There's now a Sherlock Holmes Hostel in Vladivostok. Images are available at <www.booking.com/hotel/ru/sherlock-holmes-hostel.html>, and the cost is \$7.00 a night for a bed in four-bed mixed dormitory room.
16247. Shane Peacock's THE BOY SHERLOCK HOLMES is another well-written series for young adults, with a total of six books providing an interesting back-story for Holmes, Moriarty, Lestrade, and Irene Adler; the last in the series was BECOMING HOLMES (Toronto: Tundra, 2012; 245 pp., \$9.99), and all of the titles are available as trade paperbacks. Peacock's interesting web-site for the series is at <www.theboysherlockholmes.com>, and there's more about his other work at <www.shanepeacock.ca>.

January 2015 #5

16248. And when did Tom Baker play both Holmes and Moriarty on stage, in the same play? In 1985, in Dublin, in the premiere of Hugh Leonard's "The Mask of Moriarty". There are other actors have appeared in the role(s) in that play, including Geoffrey Palmer and Paxton Whitehead, and the script's available from Samuel French <www.samuel french.com>. But: name another performer who has appeared as both Holmes and Moriarty in an entirely different production.
16249. The February issue of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine, continues a long annual tradition of honoring Sherlock Holmes' birthday, with Sherlockian artwork on the cover, an amusing pastiche by Terence Faherty, and reviews by Steve Steinbock of new Sherlockian books.
16250. The Museum of London continues to offer intriguing events tied to its Sherlock Holmes Exhibition, including "Sleeping with Sherlock" on Feb. 14 and Mar. 28: the all-night event includes a three-course dinner, talks by detective specialists, comedy performances and improvised story-telling, the secrets of fingerprinting and blood-splatter analysis, grizzly ghost stories in the thick of night, a movie marathon, and a full English breakfast (all for £175.00). Their web-site <www.tinyurl.com/qg68kht> has details on all of the museum's Sherlockian events.
16251. Y CYLCH BRITH (a Welsh translation of "The Speckled Band" that was arranged by The Deerstalkers of Welshpool) is now available from Y Lolfa, unofficial printers to the activist Welsh Language Society as a 60-page trade paperback (£3.95) <www.ylolfa.com> and <www.amazon.co.uk>.
16252. The December issue of the electronic journal Ripperologist has Adam Woods' interesting article "Sherlock Holmes and the Polish Jew" (which includes a reprint of Sir Robert Anderson's 1903 article "Sherlock Holmes, Detective, As Seen by Scotland Yard"); Anderson was Assistant Commissioner of the London Metropolitan Police, and the Polish Jew was Aaron Kosminski, whom Anderson believed was Jack the Ripper. Woods' article discusses Conan Doyle and Scotland Yard as well as Sherlock Holmes. Ripperologist is devoted to all aspects of Jack the Ripper (who is mentioned in Hornung's story); contact editor Eduardo Zinna at <editorez@yahoo.co.uk> for information on how to subscribe.
16253. Alexander Orlov has reported on a new HOLMES in Tajikistan <www.holmes.tj>; it's billed (in Russian) as the first search engine in the country, making it "convenient to look for the right information in your home town in Tajikistan."
16254. It has been a long wait for fans of Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes (GARMENT OF SHADOWS was published in 2012), and Laurie R. King's DREAMING SPIES (New York: Bantam, 2015; 352 pp., \$26.00) will welcome indeed. Russell and Holmes are en route from India to San Francisco (between events in THE GAME and LOCKED ROOMS), and are diverted to Japan and presented with a mystery that's finally solved only after they return to England; the characters are interesting and the plot both imaginative and complicated. Laurie has an excellent web-site at <www.laurierking.com> that's fun for both newcomers and old hands (you can also subscribe to her newsletter "Between the Lines: The Buzz from Laurie R. King").

January 2015 #6

16255. And what other performer has appeared as both Holmes and Watson on stage in an entirely different production? Kenneth Macmillan, who was seen as both The Great Detective and The Infamous Professor in the ballet "The Great Detective" at Sadler's Wells in London in 1953. Bert Coules has suggested another candidate: Jeremy Brett, in the play written for him by Jeremy Paul, in which Professor Moriarty actually was Sherlock Holmes (or at least "a conjuration of his fevered mind").
16256. "Mr. Holmes" (the film that stars Ian McKellen as an aged Holmes, based on Mitch Cullen's A SLIGHT TRICK OF THE MIND), will be screened at the Berlin International Film Festival in February <www.berlinale.de>, and it should not be long before it's in theaters. And PBS-TV has announced that it will air "Arthur and George" (the television series based on Julian Barnes' novel, with Martin Clunes as Conan Doyle) on "Masterpiece" later this year.
16257. Filming has begun on the "Sherlock" special and according to Mark Gatiss, in an interview with Paul Jones of Radio Times, it will "completely" solve the mystery of Moriarty's appearance at the end of the third season. The special may or may not air at Christmas. There's a (very) brief glimpse of Benedict Cumberbatch in BBC One's "Enjoy 2015" trailer available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/lqx2js6>.
16258. "Missing since Jan. 4: Gillette Castle. Age 100+. Description: Castle-like and stony." That's the promotion for the Connecticut Humanities Council's "The Great Connecticut Caper" ("12 chapters, 12 authors, 12 illustrators, 1 story"), an imaginative on-line weekly serial that's well worth exploring <www.ctcaper.cthumanities.org>.
16259. Anthony Horowitz's publisher reports that THE HOUSE OF SILK (December 11 #5) has sold more than 450,000 copies in more than 35 countries, so there will be a wide audience for his MORIARTY (London: Orion, 2014; 310 pp., £19.99) (New York: HarperCollins, 2014; 285 pp., \$26.99). They'll not be disappointed: it's a well-written page-turner, finely plotted and with a surprise ending.

16260. The story is set after the fateful battle at the Reichenbach, with Holmes and Watson only mentioned; the major characters are Scotland Yard Inspector Athelney Jones, Pinkerton investigator Frederick Chase, and American master criminal Clarence Devereux, and they're accompanied by interesting supporting characters.
16261. For completists: the British edition of MORIARTY has extra content (a Sherlockian pastiche "The Three Monarchs"), and a variant sold exclusively at Waterstone's also included a Canonical crossword puzzle; Horowitz did not make a American signing tour, but the U.S. edition with an exclusive laid-in bookmark signed by the author is available the from Mysterious Bookshop <www.themyteriousbookshop.com>.
16262. The web-site of The Priory Scholars of NYC now offers a chance to listen to three of the Priory Scholars of Fordham's broadcasts over WFUV in the very old days: "The Priory School" (1969), "The Second Stain" (1970), and "The Bruce-Partington Plans" (1970); go to <www.prioryscholarsnyc.wordpress.com> and click on "Radio Programmes" at the right. You will hear some familiar voices (some of the people who participated still come to the birthday festivities in New York in January).

January 2015 #7

16263. The Norwegian Explorers' "Christmas Annual 2014" has the theme "Pairings" and the authors range from Robert Brusic's thoughts about Sherlock Holmes and Helena Modjeska to Michael Eckman's nice tribute to Baring-Gould's ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES. Edited by Timothy Reich and Ray Reithmeier, the 50-page booklet can be ordered from Timothy Reich (6809 Pillsbury Avenue, Richfield, MN 55423; the cost is \$8.00 postpaid (checks payable to The Norwegian Explorers, please).
16264. Laurie R. King's MARY'S CHRISTMAS is an imaginative short story available as an e-story (\$2.99) and as a signed 33-page paper copy (\$10.00). Russell tells Holmes about one her thoroughly unusual Uncle Jake, and there's more information at Laurie's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/q96d4ko>.
16265. The third issue of the resurrected Saturday Review of Literature was published this month, edited by George Fletcher, Jon Lellenberg, Don Pollock, and Phil Shreffler, and with articles that include James B. Saunders' memories of his teenage years with Chris Steinbrunner ("Irregulars of Auld"), Harrison Hunt's tribute to Christ Cella ("Christopher Morley's Beloved Punchinello"), and Derham Groves' report on a project carried out by his architecture students ("Designing the Conan Doyle Mystery Theatre"). \$5.00 postpaid from Donald Pollock (521 College Avenue, Niagara Falls, NY 14305).
16266. Patrick Gowers died on Dec. 30. He was an accomplished composer, and wrote a guitar concerto for John Williams, a Toccato for organ for Simon Preston, and (certainly most important for Sherlockians) he composed and conducted the splendid music for the Granada "Sherlock Holmes" television series.
16267. The Fourth Garrideb is a new Sherlockian society devoted to coin collecting in connection with the Canon; Greg Ruby presides over the society, and he has created an interesting and colorfully-illustrated web-site that covers coins, medals, orders, decorations, wooden nickels, cryptocurrency, tokens, and much more <www.fourthgarrideb.com>.
16268. Austin J. McLean ("The London Library") died on Jan. 16. He was the right man in the right place at the right time: as head of special collections at the University of Minnesota Library, he found the funds for and negotiated their acquisition of John Bennett Shaw's collection, and thus was instrumental in creating the wonderful Sherlock Holmes Collections in Minneapolis. He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1990.
16269. Bill Dorn has compiled a 42-minute DVD "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes: A Comparison of Actors in Identical Scenes" with brief scenes from film and television versions of ten of the stories; it's not for sale, but he'll be happy to send copies for use in classroom environments <billdorn@mac.com>.
16270. Sherlockian philately: Alexander Orlov has reported that last year Zanzibar issued 16 Cinderella mini-sheets, each with a different photograph of Conan Doyle, framed by an image of Watson (Vitaly Solomin) and Holmes (Vasily LivaNovember playing chess. Steve Trussel displays images of these and many other Sherlockian and Doylean stamps at his excellent (and colorful) web-site The Philatelic Sherlock Holmes <www.trussel.com/detfic/sholmes.htm>. It should be noted that Cinderellas are not real postage stamps, and that Zanzibar no longer is a country and thus has no postal service.

January 2015 #8

16271. Mike Poteet reported in a message to The Hounds of the Internet that this year is the 50th anniversary of the Broadway premiere of the musical "Baker Street", and Rod Mollise noted that once was included in the catalog of the Tams-Witmark Music Library. And is still is, in case you want to try to suggest that a local theater or school produce the show <www.tams-witmark.com>.
16272. The birthday-festivities performance by Andrew Joffe and Paul Singleton at the William Gillette luncheon (January 15 #1) was recorded by Greg Oliver Bodine, and he has kindly made it available at YouTube (copyright 2015); you can watch it at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=4BoTmQVueYg>.
16273. And if you want to see what things were like in London, the Sherlock Holmes Society of London proudly displays 125 photographs from this year's annual dinner <www.tinyurl.com/mjatsh9>; they're nicely captioned (roll your mouse over the images).
16274. The gas-lamp era is has not ended: Michael Bragg notes that NPR's Ari Shapiro reported on NPR's "All Things Considered" on Jan. 15 that British Gas employs five lamplighters to tend to London's 1,500 gaslamps, still working and protected by law, thanks to British Heritage. You can read (and listen to) the story at <www.tinyurl.com/pjkk8nj>.
16275. Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot" is running at the Little Theatre of Alexandria in Alexandria, Va., through Feb. 7 <www.thelittletheatre.com>. And at the Academy of Performing Arts Playhouse in Orleans, Mass., through Feb. 15 <www.apacape.org>.
16276. "The Speckled Band: An Adventure of Sherlock Holmes" (a new play by Timothy N. Evers) is scheduled at the Classical Theatre Company in Houston, Tex., Feb. 4-22 <www.classicaltheatre.org>.
16277. Katie Forgette's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily" will be performed at the Carrollwood Players Theatre in Tampa, Fla., Feb. 13-Mar. 7 <www.carrollwoodplayers.org>
16278. "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (by R. Hamilton Wright and David Pichette) is scheduled at the Indiana Repertory Theatre in Indianapolis, Feb. 18-Mar. 1 <www.irtlive.com>.
16279. The Frisco Area Children's Theater will present Flip Kobler and Cindy Marcus' new play "Baker Street Irregulars" at the Frisco Discovery Center in Frisco, Tex., Feb. 27-Mar. 7 <www.friscoacts.com>.
16280. Alas: printing costs for this newsletter have risen slightly, and the new subscription rates for the ink-on-paper version now are \$13.50 (domestic) and \$21.50 (international). The electronic version is available (without charge, and with illustrations in color and live URLs) at the Red Circle's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/d8uoo80> as well as at Willis Frick's Sherlocktron <www.tinyurl.com/kl9gcll>.

February 2015 #1

16281. Still more news about last month's birthday festivities in New York: Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, almost certainly the tallest author of a Sherlockian pastiche (MYCROFT HOLMES, due from Titan later this year) attended the annual dinner of The Baker Street Irregulars, and you can read more about it in Jonathan Blitzer's report for The New Yorker at <www.tinyurl.com/mb49798>, Randall Stock kindly notes that if you encounter a payroll, you run a Google search for ["best impression of someone with a low profile"] (you need to include the quotation marks).
16282. Blitzer's story appeared in print in The New Yorker on Feb. 2, preceded by Nick Paumgarten's comments on the move of the magazine's offices from its headquarters at 4 Times Square to join the rest of its parent company Condé Nast at 1 World Trade Center. Paumgarten noted that there are "islands of safety" in the Times Square neighborhood, including one that will be familiar to those who fondly remember the Algonquin Hotel: the Red Flame diner, "still sincere in spite of a series of face-lifts."
16283. Tim Dedopulos' THE SHERLOCK HOLMES PUZZLE COLLECTION (London: Carlton/SevenOaks, 2011; 288 pp., \$5.99) offers 150 enigmas to test your logic, non-Sherlockian but presented by Holmes and others in the Canon. Such as: "I'd like you to consider the following sequence of numbers, Watson. They are 2, 5, 8, 11, 16, 14. What number less than 20 is the next in the line? I assure you that you do not need mathematical aptitude to arrive at the correct answer."
16284. The winter issue of The Magic Door (the newsletter published by The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) honors Conan Doyle's trip to Canada in 1914, and you can request a copy of the newsletter from Clifford S. Goldfarb, 22 Markdale Avenue, Toronto, ON M6C, 1T1, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.
16285. The 2013 Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture was presented at the Library by Bernard Lightman (on "Conan Doyle and the Scientific Naturalists"), and his paper has now been published for members of The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection; a limited number of copies are available if you join the Friends now. Their web-site at <www.acdfriends.org> has PayPal and creditcard capability, or you can contact Cliff Goldfarb (addresses above); the minimum donation of \$25.00 brings you three issues of their newsletter and a copy of the 2014 Memorial Lecture (by Lyndsay Faye on "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: Storytelling and the Passion of the Narrator").
16286. Cliff Goldfarb will deliver the Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture this year (on "Arthur Conan Doyle's Waterloo") on June 27, in honor of the 200th anniversary of the Battle, and Canadian actor Robert H. Thomson will present a reading of Conan Doyle's one-act play "Waterloo".
16287. Ravelry <www.ravelry.com> is a free knit-and-crochet on-line community and Melissa Ennis has noted their pattern for a "Dancing Men Muff" (there are quite a few other Sherlockian patterns available). Melissa also has found a Sherlock Holmes dog costume pattern available from McCall's (one of their "sewing patterns for today's fashion trends" <www.tinyurl.com/qch3jdc>).

February 2015 #2

16288. It's time for another mention of the delightful web-site "Basil Rathbone: Master of Stage and Screen" maintained by Marcia Jessen, who presents an excellent catalog of his work on stage, screen, radio, television, and records <www.basilrathbone.net>. There are opportunities to listen and view, and there's also a gallery of photographs: the page for the 1940s <www.tinyurl.com/nggwdhh> includes one that shows him with Nigel Bruce and Rupert Hughes, receiving his certificate of membership in The Baker Street Irregulars. The presentation was on Apr. 17, 1944, when Bruce also received a certificate of membership.
16289. What number is next in the sequence 2, 5, 8, 11, 16, 14? The answer is 17. Why?
16290. Bradford Morrow's THE FORGERS (New York: Mysterious Press, 2014; 242 pp., \$24.00) is an imaginative mystery (and thriller) involving collectors, book dealers, forgers, and forgeries that include revelations in letters written by Arthur Conan Doyle; it's a well-written book, with an intriguing plot.
16291. Jim Saunders has a proposal for the next Sherlock Holmes movie: Jabez Wilson receives reward money for exposing bank robber Vincent Spaulding, and moves to Indonesia, where he goes into business distilling gin using a special process and recipe; he heats the gin in a huge cauldron, more than 25 feet high, the largest cauldron in the world, and is quite successful, but has to call in Sherlock Holmes when saboteurs try to destroy the cauldron. The name of the movie? "The Giant Vat of Sumatra".
16292. David Hale Smith's "Return of the Great American Indie Bookstore" is in the January issue of the in-flight magazine American Way, with a colorful report on how nice an independent brick-and-mortar bookstore can be; you can read the article on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/ph4x8r5>.
16293. Michele B. Slung edited two interesting anthologies: I SHUDDER AT YOUR TOUCH (1991) and SHUDDER AGAIN (1993), each containing "22 tales of sex and horror"; the second anthology has stories by Ray Bradbury, Harlan Ellison, J. G. Ballard, and 19 others, according to the dust jacket, and one of the 19 others is Arthur Conan Doyle, whose "The Parasite" is described as a "masterpiece of sexual mesmerism and demonic destruction."
16294. The Financial Post had a story (Jan. 30) about Tweed Marijuana Inc., Canada's first publicly-traded pot producer. The company uses "creative and engaging titles for its products," taking cues from "famous people who have worn tweed fabric throughout history." And one of their brands ("Bakerstreet") is named in honor of the street on which Sherlock Holmes lived. Their web-site's at <www.tinyurl.com/nmhxn3u>.
16295. More than 30 years ago a young Mitch Cullin visited John Bennett Shaw and Dorothy Shaw at their home in Santa Fe and filmed a delightful interview; footage from the visit has now been edited into a 25-minute "Conversation with John Bennett Shaw" <www.vimeo.com/118371969>, kindly reported by Jennie Paton. And yes, that's the Mitch Cullin who went on to write A SLIGHT TRICK OF THE MIND (2005), which has been dramatized as "Mr. Holmes" (starring Ian McKellen), due in theaters this year.

February 2015 #3

16296. Ken Ludwig's new play "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" premiered at Arena Stage in Washington to enthusiastic reviews in the press and from local Sherlockians; there's lots of energy and drama, and even more humor, in the script, acting, direction, and set design. The next productions will be at the McCarter Theatre Center in Princeton N.J., Mar. 10-29 <www.mccarter.org>, and at the Old Globe in San Diego, Calif., July 24-Aug. 23 <www.theoldglobe.org>. Recommended.
16297. What number is next in the sequence 2, 5, 8, 11, 16, 14? The answer is 17. Why? The numbers are in increasing length when spelled out as words. Two has three letters, five has four, and 14 has eight. The only number less than 20 with nine digits is seventeen.
16298. LeRoy Lad Panek offers an interesting survey in his AFTER SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE EVOLUTION OF BRITISH AND AMERICAN DETECTIVE STORIES, 1891-1914 (Jefferson: McFarland, 2014; 214 pp., \$40.00); he begins earlier than 1891, continues with a discussion of what's unique about a detective story, and goes on to examine and review the Canon and the best of many authors who helped make the genre so much fun for such a wide and enthusiastic audience. The publisher's at <www.mcfarlandpub.com> (800-253-2817).
16299. The next running of The Baker Street Irregulars' "The Silver Blaze" at Saratoga Racetrack in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., is scheduled for Aug. 1; more information is available from Candace Lewis <clewis1880@aol.com>.

16300. The owners of Simpson's-in-the-Strand are looking for someone "to revitalize this magnificent space and name," which may well be bad news indeed for those who have fond memories of dining, and dining well, in an establishment that was known to Holmes and Watson (and mentioned in "The Dying Detective" and "The Illustrious Client"). Founded in 1828 as a coffee house and chess club, Simpson's became famous as a properly British restaurant serving properly British food, but that sort of tradition seems to be less important now both to locals and to tourists. You can visit their web-site <www.simpsonsinthestrang.co.uk> for what may be a last look at a true landmark of a vanishing era.
16301. There's a sample from the new film "Mr. Holmes" (starring Ian McKellen) at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/otnf6un>. And McKellen has provided a teaser poster at his Facebook page <www.tinyurl.com/orwh2zu>.
16302. Stepping Stones School has won final approval of its plan to convert Undershaw, Conan Doyle's former home, into a school for special-needs children (September 14 #6); the main part of the house will be largely preserved and restored, with changes to floor plans to allow for classrooms and bedrooms, and an extension will be built to house studios and other facilities.
16303. There are three titles in Christian Klaver's series THE SUPERNATURAL CASE FILES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Charleston: CreateSpace, 2014): THE ADVENTURE OF THE SOLITARY GRAVE, THE ADVENTURE OF THE INNSMOUTH WHALER, and THE ADVENTURE OF THE LUSTROUS PEARL (each \$6.00); we find Holmes and Watson involved with vampires, and with the Esoteric Order of Dagon, and Klaver has a web-site <www.christianklaver.com> (his personal motto is "writing the fantastic until it bleeds").

February 2015 #4

16304. Further to the item on Col. Percy H. Fawcett and the film based on David Grann's THE LOST CITY OF Z (December 14 #2), Benedict Cumberbatch won't be playing Fawcett, and will instead star in the title role in "Doctor Strange". Charlie Hunnam has now been cast as Fawcett; there's no word on whether the film will show Fawcett's meeting with Conan Doyle.
16305. Benedict Cumberbatch and Sophie Hunter celebrated Valentine's Day by marrying, at St. Peter and St. Paul's Church in Mottistone on the Isle of Wight.
16306. William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" has been restored, and had its world premiere in Paris on Jan. 31; it will be screened next during the San Francisco Silent Film Festival, May 28-June 1, and tickets will go on sale in March <www.silentfilm.org> (don't neglect the link to their "The Gillette Jollification" blog entry). You can also, thanks to the BBC News Magazine, see a three-minute clip from the film at <www.tinyurl.com/n5apa2r>.2
16307. The Société Sherlock Holmes de France have published LE GUIDE DU FIM SHERLOCK HOLMES (1916), a 64-page profusely-illustrated discussion of the film and its actors, with articles by Thierry Saint-Joanis and Bernard Oudin; it is almost all in English, and costs €20.00 at <www.sshf.com/boutique.php>, where you can see thumb-nail images showing the results of their splendid research. Recommended.
16308. The Beacon Society <www.beaconsociety.com> offers January Stauber grants of up to \$500 to fund development of programs that will introduce young people to Sherlock Holmes in the U.S. and Canada; the deadline for grant applications is May 1, and details are available at the web-site.
16309. Nicely timed to coincide with publicity for Martin Clunes' television series "Arthur & George": a series of thirty Conan Doyle letters pertaining to the Edalji Case <www.tinyurl.com/m5y2h25>, coming to auction at Bonhams in London on Mar. 18. The mini-series is scheduled to air on ITV in Britain in three weekly one-hour episodes beginning on Mar. 2; there's a one-minute trailer at <www.tinyurl.com/mq8d8ct>.
16310. And Clunes has told Radio Times (Feb. 16) that he hopes to extend his role as Conan Doyle into a full series; Philippa Braithwaite, Clunes' wife and producer of the mini-series, explained that a longer series could combine real events from the author's life with fictional elements: "We have told only a few months of Conan Doyle's life in 'Arthur & George' so there's so much more there."
16311. Adam Zanzie has launched an Indiegogo campaign to raise funds for his thesis project: adapting Conan Doyle's "The Parasite" into a short film; contributors get a copy of the film, and other perks depending on the amount contributed, and you can see a brief trailer at <www.tinyurl.com/lqnt4tz>.
16312. Further to the item (November 11 #6) on "Sherlock Holmes 4D" (an 11-minute "comedy mystery adventure"), visitors can enjoy the experience at Paultons Park in Hampshire when the park opens for the season on Mar. 20. The film also is being screened at the Allou! Fun Park near Athens in Greece. 4D films combine 3D film with special effects in the theater, and you can see a oneminute teaser of the 3D version of the film at <www.tinyurl.com/nczkmqt>.

February 2015 #5

16313. B. J. Rahn's THE REAL WORLD OF SHERLOCK (Stroud: Amberley Publishing, 2014; 264 pp., £20.00) explores both the character and his creator (and Edgar Allan Poe and Dupin, and Joseph Bell), and the police and the forensic science of the Victorian era, providing an excellent background for exploring the world of the Canon.
16314. CONAN DOYLE'S WAR (Stroud: Amberley Publishing; 160 pp., £7.99) is part of Amberley's "Great Writers on the Great War" series, and it's an edited version (omitting details of which units fought where, and when) of the first of the six volumes of his THE BRITISH CAMPAIGN IN FRANCE AND FLANDERS, offering a fine opportunity to see how well Conan Doyle wrote about World War One. The publisher's web-site is at <www.amberley-books.com>.
16315. Anthony Horowitz's pastiche "The Three Monarchs" was published only in the British edition of his MORIARTY (January 15 #6), but it's available on-line as an e-story (\$1.99) for Kindle and Nook and the like.
16316. DC Smith has noted a 3-minute YouTube video of Mary Ciccolella's spectacular miniature room-box recreation of the sitting-room at 221B Baker Street <www.tinyurl.com/ku2obwv>, and there are close-up photographs of the room at <www.tinyurl.com/px6tdzr>. I've not heard that anyone has done a miniature of the sitting-room in the "Sherlock" television series, but I'm sure someone will.
16317. Congratulations to Graham Moore, who won an Oscar (best adapted screenplay) for "The Imitation Game"; he also is the author of the pastiche THE SHERLOCKIAN (November 10 #8), and you can listen to his interview with Scott Monty and Burt Wolder on "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" <www.ihose.co/ihose30>.
16318. Brad Keefauver is the energetic proprietor of Sherlock Peoria <www.sherlockpeoria.blogspot.com> as well as an enthusiastic fan of the television series "Elementary"; see his post for Feb. 5 for information on his new society The Thursday Night Elementals.
16319. At long last: you can read the Sherlock Holmes story "Discovering the Border Burghs and, by Deduction, the Brig Bazaar" (first published in 1903 in THE BOOK O' THE BRIG and only recently found by Walter Elliott when a copy of the 48-page pamphlet turned up in his attic). Conan Doyle appeared at the bazaar, which was held to raise funds to replace a wooden bridge that was destroyed by a flood in the town of Selkirk in Scotland in 1902. Read all about it at <www.tinyurl.com/kduqaro> (there's a link to the story) and watch a two-minute video at <www.tinyurl.com/mno5kyn>.
16320. It should be noted that, even faster than with "The Case of the Man Who Was Wanted" in 1948 (when there was no Internet), people have expressed doubts that the story actually was written by Conan Doyle; Mattias Boström is one of the doubters, based in part on research in what

was published about the bazaar in local papers, and you can read his conclusions at Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.tinyurl.com/p5x5sz5>. Digitized data-bases are a wonderful resource, as one can see in SHERLOCK HOLMES AND CONAN DOYLE IN THE NEWSPAPERS, 1881-1892 (January 15 #3), the results of careful research by Mattias and Matt Laffey.

February 2015 #6

16321. Neil Gaiman's TRIGGER WARNING (New York: William Morrow, 2015; 310 pp., \$26.99) is aptly subtitled as "short fictions and disturbances"; it's a collection of short stories and poems by a writer whose talents for story-telling allow him to engage his readers with thoroughly imaginative humor and horror; one of the stories is "The Case of Death and Honey" (reprinted from A STUDY IN SHERLOCK: STORIES INSPIRED BY THE HOLMES CANON).
16322. "Before being eclipsed by Howard Pyle, Doyle and Holmes were the objects of my obsession, and I still dip into their worlds from time to time," notes Ian Schoenherr, who has an interesting blog devoted to Howard Pyle; recent entries are devoted to Pyle's illustrations for Conan Doyle's poem "A Forgotten Tale" (1895) <www.tinyurl.com/mbmdk5p> and his novel "The Parasite" (1984) <www.tinyurl.com/n6xkg4h>.
16323. "PaleyFest Made in NY" (celebrated by the Paley Center for Media in October 2013) included a 38-minute session on "Elementary" with the series' executive producers and leading actors <www.tinyurl.com/qaogbr4>; it's available (with a session on "The Americans") at Amazon <www.tinyurl.com/lg6r7ag>.
16324. Shafquat Towheed has edited an interesting edition of THE SIGN OF FOUR (Peterborough: Broadview Press, 2010; 218 pp., \$13.95) that offers far more than an arresting cover photograph of an Andaman Islander: there's an insightful introduction that sets the story in context, followed by an annotated version of the story, and five appendixes reprinting extracts from contemporary accounts of events in India, Afghanistan, and the Andaman Islands, and reviews of the newly-published book. It's availfrom the publisher <www.broadviewpress.com>.
16325. Benedict Cumberbatch is keeping busy: he'll play the title role in the National Theatre's production of "Hamlet"; previews at the Barbican Theatre in London begin on Aug. 5; all the tickets have already been sold, but the production will be filmed and shown in theaters worldwide in October. Details at <www.tinyurl.com/pdee6b3>.
16326. University of Southern Maine media student Kate Tracy's web-series "S(her)lock" (described as "a feminist LGBTQIA positive take on Sherlock Holmes") is underway. You can see her Kickstarter promotion and clips from four of the six episodes on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/o9ufwvp>, and there are posts about the web-series at Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.tinyurl.com/lws8gye> and <www.tinyurl.com/lmvz4wm>.
16327. Benedict Cumberbatch as you've never seen him before: on the cover of Radio Times (Feb. 21); actually, on three different covers, with portraits in the styles of Rembrandt, Warhol, and Van Gogh <www.tinyurl.com/nxtucuq>.
16328. Alan Howard died on Feb. 14. He had a distinguished career as an actor on stage, screen, and television, and his list of credits includes Theophilus St. James in "The Willow House School" in a BBC television series of Conan Doyle's non-Sherlockian stories (1967) and the Duke of Holderness in the Granada version of "The Priory School" (1986). "The Willow House School" was the BBC's title for Conan Doyle's "The Usher of Lea House School".
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February 2015 #7

16329. The Black Phoenix Alchemy Lab specializes in "formulating body and household blends with a dark, romantic Gothic tone" and has introduced a 221B Baker Street line that's inspired by Canonical characters and stories; their web-site's at <www.blackphoenixalchemy.com>. They're affiliated with the Black Phoenix Trading Post which offered (it's out of stock, but there's a waiting list) an "A Study in Emerald Neil Gaiman Pendant" <www.blackphoenixtradingpost.com>.
16330. Three non-Sherlockian manuscripts ("The Nightmare Room", "The Parish Magazine", and "Through the Veil") and some Conan Doyle letters will be offered at auction at Swann Galleries in New York on Mar. 19. Read all about it at Randall Stock's "Best of Sherlock" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/m4dh2l7>.
16331. Lynnette Porter's BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH: IN TRANSITION (September 13 #6) was a delightful examination of his work as an actor and his relationship with his fandom, and she now offers BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH: TRANSITION COMPLETED (London: MX Publishing, 2014, 286 pp., \$18.95); her research is just as careful, and her reporting covers his recent work on stage, screen, radio, and television, including what's known about some things not yet completed, or even not yet in production. It is an excellent book, and the earlier book still is available; the publisher's web-sites are at <www.mxpublishing.com> and <mxpublishing.co.uk>.
16332. Also from MX: P. James Macaluso Jr. uses Legos to illustrate the Canon in full color, his latest being THE BOSCOMBE VALLEY MYSTERY, THE FIVE ORANGE PIPS, and THE MAN WITH THE TWISTED LIP (\$9.95 each), with imaginative recreations of Sidney Paget's illustrations for each story.
16333. And there's more: ROGUES GALLERY (2014; 232 pp., \$14.95) is the latest in Dan Adriacco's series of about Sebastian McCabe and Jeff Cody, his modernday Holmes and Watson, with the sleuths at work in five short stories; Dan has a blog at <www.bakerstreetbeat.blogspot.com> that's interesting, entertaining, and Sherlockian. THE LAST CONFESSION OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Kieran Lyne (2014; 206 pp., \$14.95), is a retelling of the conflict leading to the battle at Reichenbach Falls, and then an account of Holmes' return to London and his pursuit of a new Jack the Ripper. Kim H. Krisco's SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE GOLDEN YEARS (2014; 345 pp., \$18.95) has Holmes and Watson in retirement, reunited with Irene Adler and battling a malevolent villain in London and Battle Creek, and then involved in colonial complications with Leander Starr Jameson in South Africa.
16334. Fans of Basil of Baker Street may wish to bid on a production two-cell setup showing Basil and Dawson from "The Great Mouse Detective" coming to auction at Heritage Auctions on Apr. 9 <www.tinyurl.com/lcdvexr>.
16335. THE LAST AMERICAN VAMPIRE (New York: Grand Central, 2015; 398 pp., \$27.00), by Seth Grahame-Smith, is a sequel to his ABRAHAM LINCOLN: VAMPIRE HUNTER (2010) and it offers an interesting look into a thoroughly popular genre; the last American vampire is Henry Sturges, and one of the many famous people he encounters is Arthur Conan Doyle, in London in 1888, while pursuing Jack the Ripper. Special compliments to Elizabeth Connor, who designed the truly imaginative dust jacket, which is on display, along with a video preview of the book, at <www.sethgrahamesmith.com>.
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February 2015 #8

16336. The spiritualist Noah Zerdin held a seance at the Aeolian Hall in London in 1934 and made recordings on 26 acetate disks that were discovered by Zerdin's son in 2001; he donated them to the British Library, and it is now possible to listen to the message that Conan Doyle delivered to the seance. Josh Jones posted about the seance to the blog Open Content on May 7, 2014 <www.tinyurl.com/kyzmczr>, and included links both to a recording Conan Doyle made before his death and to the 1934 recording; Steve Cleary's blog at a British Library web-site <www.tinyurl.com/on5k32l> offers more information about Zerdin and the seance.
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16337. Sherlocked: The Official Sherlock Convention will be held in London on Apr. 24-26, organized in association with Hartswood Films (the production company for "Sherlock") at the ExCel convention center in London; you can sign up at the web-site <www.massiveevents.co.uk/sherlocked> for e-mail messages with more information about the convention.
16338. And there's some Sherlockian theater: The Garland Civic Theatre will perform Jaime Robledo's "Watson: The Last Great Tale of the Legendary Sherlock Holmes" in Garland, Texas, Mar. 6-28 <www.gardlandcivictheatre.org>.
16339. On the Fly's improvisational "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" is scheduled at the Grace Emily Hotel in Adelaide, Australia, on Mar. 9-11, during the Adelaide Improv Festival <www.onthefly.org.au>.
16340. "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (the excellent parody by Steven Canny and John Nicholson) is being performed at the Curtain Call Theatre in Latham, N.Y., through Mar. 28 <www.curtaincalltheatre.com>. And it's scheduled at the Breckinridge Backstage Theatre in Breckenridge, Colo., Mar. 12-Apr. 4 <www.backstagetheatre.org>.
16341. "Sherlock Holmes and the House of Dead Lords" will debut at the Victorian Players Theater in Youngstown, Ohio, Mar. 13-29 <www.victorianplayers.org>.
16342. Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" is scheduled by the Cheyenne Little Theater Players at the Cheyenne Little Theatre in Cheyenne, Wyo., Mar. 13-29 <www.cheyennelittletheatre.org>.
16343. Katie Forgette's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily" will be performed at the Mundelein High School Auditorium in Mundelein, Ill., Mar. 27-29 <www.kirkplayers.org>. And at the Dorset Theatre Festival in Dorset, Vt., July 9-25 <www.dorsettheatrefestival.org>.
16344. "The bleak tale of a Norfolk village that's slowly falling into the sea" is how the Royal Geographical Society's magazine Geographical began its report (Feb. 12) about what's happening to Happisburgh, and to the Hill House Pub (where Conan Doyle was inspired to write "The Dancing Men"). The Norfolk coastline is eroding, and it's estimated that it would take £15 million to close the gap in protective sea defenses, and that "if the pub's luck holds then it may have another 30 years left before the sea claims it." You can read the story at <www.tinyurl.com/owdecym>.

March 2015 #1

16345. Lyndsay Faye's next book will be THE FATAL FLAME (a sequel to her THE GODS OF GOTHAM and SEVEN FOR A SECRET in her series set 1840s New York), due in May from G. P. Putnam's Sons in May. She offers some insightful thoughts on "The Art of Pastiche" in an interview on Scott Monty's blog "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" <www.tinyurl.com/putaf72>, and has her own interesting blog at <www.lyndsayfaye.com>.
16346. Leonard Nimoy died on Feb. 27. Best known as Mr. Spock on "Star Trek", he wrote two autobiographies, I AM NOT SPOCK (1975) and I AM SPOCK (1995), and appeared as Sherlock Holmes on television in "The Interior Motive" (1975) and on stage in William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" (1976). It was thanks to Nicholas Meyer, who wrote and directed "Star Trek IV: The Undiscovered Country" (1991), that Nimoy said (as Spock) "An ancestor of mine maintained that if you eliminate the impossible, whatever remains, no matter how improbable, must be the truth." He also was the host of the television series "In Search of..." that in 1978 went "In Search of...Sherlock Holmes".
16347. And Howard Ostrom has a new essay "Beam Me Up Sherlock" at Ross Foad's "No Place Like Holmes" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/oqv5ljo> with details on the many actors, including Leonard Nimoy, who have been part of the Star Trek and Sherlock Holmes franchises.
16348. Three non-Sherlockian manuscripts ("The Nightmare Room", "The Parish Magazine", and "Through the Veil") and some Conan Doyle letters at auction at Swann Galleries in New York on Mar. 19 (February 15 #7) all were sold, and with prices nicely above the estimates. You'll find all the details at Randall Stock's "Best of Sherlock" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/m4dh2l7>.
16349. There's more news about the recently discovered Sherlock Holmes story "Discovering the Border Burghs and, by Deduction, the Brig Bazaar" (February 15 #5): a second copy of THE BOOK O' THE BRIG has been found in Scotland, this one signed on the cover by Conan Doyle. Mattias Boström has provided what he calls "The Final Word on the Lost Sherlock Holmes" story in a long essay at "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" <www.tinyurl.com/qjooldn>, with some interesting information on Conan Doyle's positive and negative reactions to other pastiches.
16350. Deadline Hollywood has reported that Sony Pictures TV has sold "Houdini and Doyle" (a ten-episode mini-series) to Fox, ITV, and Shaw Media; the project involves David Shore (creator of "House") and David Hoselton (producer and writer of "House").
16351. THE ANGEL OF MONS: A WORLD WAR I LEGEND, by Jerred Metz (Columbia: Singing Bone Press, 2014; 227 pp., \$19.95) is a novel about the battle of Mons and its aftermath; the battle of Mons was the war's first major engagement, and there soon were reports of supernatural forces supporting the British army. Metz paints a vivid picture of the battle, and his characters include Malcolm Leckie (who died of wounds received at Mons); the second part of the novel focuses on a seance conducted by Lily Loder-Symmons for Arthur Conan Doyle and his wife (Malcolm Leckie's sister Jean), Sir Oliver Lodge and his wife, and Sherlock Holmes.

March 2015 #2

16352. SOURCES AND METHODS, by Jon Lellenberg (Santa Fe: Hazelbaker & Lellenberg, 2015; 154 pp., \$20.00 postpaid to the US) is a companion volume to his BAKER STREET IRREGULAR, his novel about the early days of the BSI (September 10 #1), with detailed annotations about the people, places, and events, factual and fictional, in the novel, and a running account of how the novel was written. Available from the publisher (Box 32181, Santa Fe, NM 87594) or by PayPal to <jonlellenberg@gmail.com>.
16353. Peter Jacoby has formed a discussion group, called The Napoleons of Crime, that will focus on Moriarty's potential behind-the-scenes role in various high-profile crimes and international incidents prior to May 1891. Their inaugural meeting will be at the Public Library in Princeton, N.J., on May 29, and their web-site's at <www.thenapoleonsofcrime.com>.
16354. Fans of Sherlockian and Doylean and other Old Time Radio will be interested in exploring the Times Past web-site <www.timespast.ning.com>, where a wide variety of audio is available to listen to or download; the Groups include a "Definitive Sherlock Holmes Group" and the OTRR Library's a real treasure trove. Try <www.tinyurl.com/mgxp85a> to hear the readings Nigel Stock made for the BBC of nine short stories in 1976 and 1977, and "The Sign of Four" in 1980. There's also Doyle material available, including "The Lost Special" starring Orson Welles (an episode of "Suspense" in 1943).
16355. Don Pollock has noted an imaginative new typeface called Sherlock Pro, designed by Kimmy Kirkwood with a variety of ligatures, swashes, glyphs, and other embellishments; go to <www.tinyurl.com/kjgdgcj> to see for yourself.
16356. The Lost World isn't quite as lost as it used to be, according to a report from Planet Ark (Feb. 18) <www.planetark.org/wen72776>, noted by The Sydney Passengers in their on-line CyberSignals; Venezuela's Mount Roraima now is visited by 3,000 to 4,000 people a year, some of the more affluent arriving by helicopter.
16357. Time for another trivia question: name an actor who has played both Sherlock and Mycroft Holmes.

16358. Michael Hayes died on Sept. 16. He had a long career as an actor and then as a director; best known for having directed 14 episodes of the Tom Baker "Doctor Who" series, he also directed "The Retired Colourman" in the 1965 Douglas Wilmer series.
16359. Ross E. Davies has an interesting article in the latest issue of The Journal of Law ("Giving It Away at The Strand"), discussing the manuscript of "The Golden Pince-Nez" and reprinted a recently-discovered newspaper version of the story published in the N.Y. World in 1911; you can read the article on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/pgooqgi>.
16360. The modern Strand Magazine is an interesting successor to the original, and has occasional Sherlockian content; it's published quarterly, and its web-site <www.strandmag.com> offers links to content from past issues, including (click on "Stories") H. R. F. Keating's amusing homage "Wisteria Lodge" and Barrie Roberts' "The Disappearance of Daniel Question".
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March 2015 #3

16361. Name an actor who has played both Sherlock and Mycroft Holmes. Christopher Lee played Mycroft in "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970) and Sherlock in "Sherlock Holmes and the Leading Lady" and "Incident at Victoria Falls" (1992). But there's more: name an actor who played both Sherlock and Mycroft Holmes in the same production.
16362. "Finding Neverland" is a new musical that began previews on Mar. 15, and is scheduled to open at the Lunn-Fontanne Theatre in New York on Apr. 15, with Matthew Morrison as J. M. Barrie and Kelsey Grammer as Charles Frohman; it is based on the film (2004) and is the story of how Barrie was inspired to write "Peter Pan". Conan Doyle had a cameo appearance in the film, but is not listed as a character in the musical, which had its world premiere at Curve in Leicester in 2012, with a reworked version premiering at the American Repertory Theatre in Cambridge in 2014; there's video and audio at the musical's official web-site at <www.findingneverlandthemusical.com>, and a detailed history of the musical is at Wikipedia <www.tinyurl.com/nv2awjy>.
16363. Admirers of the Brigadier Gerard will enjoy watching "How the Brigadier Won His Medal" (a 30-minute "Schlitz Playhouse of the Stars" program broadcast by CBS-TV on July 2, 1954) <www.tinyurl.com/ltqbtwz>. Thanks to Greg Ruby, who reported the video at his web-site <www.fourthgarrideb.com>.
16364. An official 2-minute teaser for Ian McKellen's film "Mr. Holmes" is available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/kgm723g>. And you'll be able to see the film in theaters starting June 19 in the U.K. and July 17 in the U.S.
16365. Gerry Fisher died on Dec. 20. He first worked in British films as a clapper boy in 1946, became an assistant cameraman in 1947, and then went on to a world-wide career as director of photography, with a list of credits that included "The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes' Smarter Brother" (1975).
16366. Inspired by the discovery of the Sherlockian parody in THE BOOK O' THE BRIG (February 15 #5), Ian Schoenherr has found two early Sherlockian poems written by Charles Joseph Colton and collected in Colton's VOLUME OF VARIOUS VERSE (1899). Read all about it at Ian's blog <www.tinyurl.com/la4ncuz>.
16367. It's nice to know that good Sherlockian books find a wide audience: an article in Publishers Weekly (Mar. 6) notes that Pegasus Books has reported that more than 10,000 hardcover copies were sold last year of IN THE COMPANY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, the fine anthology edited by Laurie King and Les Klinger (October 14 #1).
16368. Phil Attwell notes the death of Britain's last Victorian: Ethel Lang, the last person to have been born during the reign of Queen Victoria, has died at the age of 114. She had lived independently until the age of 105, when she moved to a nursing home.
16369. Gillian Barr has noted Lee Jackson's new book DIRTY OLD LONDON: THE VICTORIAN FIGHT AGAINST FILTH (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2014; 304 pp., \$34.20), which doesn't mention Sherlock Holmes, but does offer considerable detail on the world into which Holmes was born, and in which he lived. Lee Jackson was interviewed on "Fresh Air" on National Public Radio on Mar. 12, and you can listen to the 14-minute interview at <www.tinyurl.com/mgz7kdm>.
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March 2015 #4

16370. Roger Johnson has published 350 issues of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London's newsletter The District Messenger, and after 32 years at his editorial desk he has handed the excellent newsletter over to Carrie Chandler (who also manages the Society's presence on Facebook and Twitter); current and (all) past issues of the newsletter can be read at the Society's web-site <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk>, and it always is a grand way to keep up with what's going on in the U.K. and elsewhere.
16371. DREAMING SPIES, Laurie R. King's 13th Mary Russell novel (January 15 #5) made the N.Y. Times best-seller list, and has been well reviewed; she's now at work on her next novel, THE MURDER OF MARY RUSSELL, due next spring.
16372. Howard Ostrom has reported that "Moi Nezhny Liubimyi Detektiv" (1986) now is available at YouTube with English subtitles <www.tinyurl.com/l2lkwac>. "My Dearly Beloved Detective" is a Russian television comedy about the adventures of Shirley Holmes and Jane Watson, who have a detective agency in Baker Street.
16373. Congratulations to Patricia Morison, who celebrated her 100th birthday on Mar. 19. She began her acting career in 1935, and her roles included the evil Mrs. Hilda Courtney in Basil Rathbone's "Dressed to Kill" (1946); she has some nice stories to tell, which you can read in her interview in the L.A. Times <www.tinyurl.com/lvkhf88>.
16374. "The original BBC Sherlock is back" is the delightful slogan devised by the British Film Institute for its new four-DVD set (region 2 only) with all of the Douglas Wilmer television series from 1964 and 1965 (two of the shows have been reconstructed, since only some of the original footage survived); there are nice added features, and the set costs £39.99 at the BFI's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/maba5df>. It's unlikely (alas) that there will be a region 1 or multi-region version of the set.
16375. If you'd like to see a larger image of the BFI's imaginative poster, it's available at the Red Circle's web-site <www.redcircledc.org>. Or you can take the Underground at the Baker Street station, where the poster's up on the walls.
16376. They're off and running: The Baker Street Irregulars' triennial running of The Silver Blaze at Saratoga Raceway in Saratoga, N.Y., is set for Aug. 1 (with a brunch and scholarly presentations on Aug. 2). To enroll on their mailing list, contact Lou Lewis <llewis@lewisgreer.com>.
16377. They're also off and running at Pimlico Race Course in Maryland, where Greg Ruby has revived The Silver Blaze (Southern Division), set for May 23; you can read all about it at <www.fourthgarrideb.com/silver-blaze> (the deadline for reservations is May 8).
16378. Name an actor who has played both Sherlock and Mycroft Holmes in the same production; it's Igor Petrenko, in the last episode ("The Hound of the Baskervilles") of the recent Russian "Sherlock Holmes" series (2013). Petrenko plays Sherlock disguised as Mycroft, but both Sherlock and Mycroft are seen (thanks to trick photography) in a scene near the end of the episode.
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March 2015 #5

16379. Barrie Ingham died on Jan. 23. He began his acting career on stage and performed with the Old Vic and the Royal Shakespeare Company, and also appeared in many British and American films and television shows. Sherlockians heard (but didn't see) him when he provided the voice for Basil of Baker Street in "The Great Mouse Detective" (1986).
16380. Lyn McConchie's SHERLOCK HOLMES: REPEAT BUSINESS (Rockville: Borgo Press, 2013; 244 pp., \$14.99) is a collection of short stories presenting new mysteries brought to Holmes and Watson by clients they know from Canonical cases; her web-site's at <www.lynmconchie.com>.
16381. "The Crime Museum Uncovered" will be the next major exhibition at the Museum of London, opening Oct. 9. Popularly known as the "Black Museum", the Metropolitan Police's Crime Museum was established in 1875 and was (and is) open only to police professionals and invited guests (one of whom was Sir Arthur Conan Doyle). Now everyone will be able to see some of the collection's original evidence from crimes such as the Acid Bath Murders and the Great Train Robbery <www.tinyurl.com/odstl7s>.
16382. The Baker Street Babes continue to offer interesting material at their web-site <www.bakerstreetbabes.com>. There's a weird video parody ("The Case of the Missing Shoulder") posted on Mar. 14, an announcement of a new book by Maria Fleischhack (DIE WELT DES SHERLOCK HOLMES) on Mar. 15, a book review by Ardy the Shakespearean Ukulele on Mar. 20, and much more.
16383. Steven Moffat has confirmed what fans of "Sherlock" who have access to the Internet already knew: the Christmas special is going to be Victorian (fans posted photographs taken during on-location shooting that showed everyone in Victorian costume). He also explained to Entertainment Weekly (Mar. 16) that the special won't involve a costume ball or a dream sequence, but is "kind of in its own little bubble." So: no Tardis, and no explanation (until the start of the fourth season) of Moriarty's reappearance at the end of the third season.
16384. The series of thirty Conan Doyle letters <www.tinyurl.com/m5y2h25> pertaining to the Edalji Case that came to auction in London Mar. 18 (estimated at £20,000-£40,000) didn't sell. Another item did sell: a copy of THE MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1894) with Conan Doyle's inscribed calling card, and a typed letter from George Newnes Limited congratulating the winner of a competition in Tit-Bits in 1893; it sold for £1,125 <www.tinyurl.com/l8hyazb>.
16385. The three-part mini-series "Arthur & George" aired on ITV in Great Britain this month, starring Martin Clunes as Conan Doyle, and with a script by Ed Whitmore based on the book by Julian Barnes. The script is inventive, and less than faithful to the book as well as to the actual events in the case.
16386. WHITECHAPEL'S SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE CASEBOOK OF FRED WENSLEY, OBE, KPM--VICTORIAN CRIME BUSTER, by Dick Kirkby (Barnsley: Pen & Sword Books, 2014; 254 pp., £25.00) is the story of a man who became a police officer in 1888 and spent 25 years in Whitechapel, becoming Chief Constable in 1924, and retiring in 1929; the book offers a detailed picture of Whitechapel and real police work in the Sherlockian era (a rather different view that is found in the Canon). It's published in the U.S. by Casemate (\$50.00).

March 2015 #6

16387. Don Libey died on Mar. 14. He was a highly-regarded expert in the direct marketing industry as well as an author and speaker, an enthusiastic Sherlockian. He was the energetic "Buttons" and Director-at-Small of The John H. Watson Society, wrote the inventive THE BIOGRAPHY AND AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (October 13 #1), and produced two excellent vintage recordings from 221B Cellars. You can read Ariana Maher's nice tribute to Don at the society's web-site <www.johnwatsonsociety.org>.
16388. Sherlocked: The Official Sherlock Convention in London on Apr. 24-26 (February 15 #8) continues to add to its list of expected guests; the price of tickets ranges from £29 for a one-day pass to £2995 for a VIP pass. Details at <www.sherlocked.com>.
16389. Alfred Weiner wants to sell an assortment of Sherlockiana (including a set of 16-2/3 rpm recordings of Basil Rathbone reading four stories, issued by the Audio Book Co. in 1958); he's at <almar@stny.rr.com>, and you can request a copy of his sales list from him.
16390. The British company Don't Go into the Cellar continues to tour their "The Singular Exploits of Sherlock Holmes", due at The Place in Bedford on Apr. 4 <www.theplacebedford.org.uk> and elsewhere afterward; you can find information on their shows at <www.dontgotothecellar.com>.
16391. The North Platte Community Playhouse will present Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" at the Neville Center for the Performing Arts in North Platte, Neb., Apr. 10-19 <www.northplattecommunityplayhouse.com>. The play's also being performed at the Tent Theatre at Missouri State University in Springfield, Mo., June 25-July 3 <www.tenttheatre.com>.
16392. "The Valley of Fear" is scheduled at the Ebenezer Maxwell Mansion in Philadelphia, Apr. 17-19 <www.ebenzermaxwellmansion.org/sherlock-holmes>; it's the fourth in their series of Sherlock Holmes mysteries.
16393. "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (the excellent parody by Steven Canny and John Nicholson) will be performed at St. Stephen's Theater in Philadelphia, May 28-June 28 <www.lanterntheater.org>. And at the Mountain Playhouse in Jennerstown, Pa., Sept. 15-27 <www.mountainplayhouse.org>. And the Globe Theatre in Regina, Sask., Jan. 20-Feb. 7 <www.globetheatrelive.com>.
16394. Mark Jones' new play "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Problem" is scheduled at the Chorley Little Theatre in Chorley (Lancashire), June 15-20; their web-site's at <www.chorleylittletheatre.com>.
16395. Chris Hibbs' "The Curious Case in the Colony" will be performed in the Newman Wine Vaults in St. John's, Newfoundland, July 3 to Aug. 15, during the Shakespeare by the Sea Festival <www.shakespearebytheseafestival.com>.
16396. "Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of the Crown Jewel" (a new musical by Janet Yates Vogt and Mark Friedman) has been scheduled at the Kalamazoo Civic Theatre in Kalamazoo, Mich., in Oct. 2015 <www.kazoocivic.com>.

April 2015 #1

16397. There were two intriguing Sherlockian celebrations of April Fool's Day this year: one from Minneapolis with a headline announcing "Professor Moriarty's Skull Delivered to the University of Minnesota" <www.tinyurl.com/kwharco>, and the other from Portsmouth reporting "Archive Discovery Proves Sherlock Holmes Was a Real Person" <www.tinyurl.com/qz4pgc9> (with an amusing video at the link at the end of the announcement).
16398. There's still time to register for "Lippincott's Legacy" (a literary conference honoring the 125th anniversary of the publication of "The Sign of the Four" and "The Picture of Dorian Gray") scheduled for May 29-31 at the University of Nebraska at Omaha (October 14 #4); more information is available at <www.lippincottlegacy.org>.
16399. David Fable's THE MURDER OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Studio City: Highflyer Press, 2014; 283 pp., \$12.99) begins in 1912, with a London coroner and Dr. Watson examining the body of Sherlock Holmes, and continues with Watson and young Christopher Hudson, the son of Holmes' landlady, investigating a complicated mystery that offers twists and turns, and a new look at the man Watson calls "the perfectly imperfect Sherlock Holmes."
16400. British Pathé continues to add material to its web-site archives, which now offer some 90,000 historic clips <www.britishpathe.com>, and a search for [sherlock holmes] and [conan doyle] turns up interesting material. Thanks to Alexander Orlov for the reminder about this delightful resource.

16401. The Museum of London's spectacular exhibition "Sherlock Holmes: The Man Who Never Lived and Will Never Die" has closed, and if you'd like to see what you missed, or recall what you saw, a Catalogue of the Exhibition will soon be published by the Quartering Press. It was compiled by Nicholas Utechin and Catherine Cooke and has a foreword by Exhibition curator Alex Werner, and is illustrated with color plates. The cost of the 96-page catalogue is \$20.00 plus shipping, and you will be able to order it on and after May 11 at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>.
16402. Tom and Marie O'Day report that Hounds of the Baskervilles is a shop that offers "bespoke electric tattooing" and a "traditional barber and shaving parlour" in Singapore; there's a 2-minute video at <www.vimeo.com/72817640> and their web-site's at <www.houndsofthebaskervilles.net>.
16403. Betsy Rosenblatt's 70-page article on "The Adventure of the Shrinking Public Domain" (just published in the University of Colorado Law Review) is a detailed discussion of intellectual-property protection for literary characters in general, and of Sherlock Holmes in particular, considering both copyright and trademark protection, and the complicated history of the Conan Doyle copyright. Betsy is the director of the Center for Intellectual Property Law and Whittier Law School, and ends her article with some interesting suggestions, which she has summarized with a nod to the cable that Conan Doyle sent to William Gillette: "Creators should be able to draw on public domain characters with confidence--to marry them, murder them, or do what they like with them." You can read (and download) her article without charge at <www.tinyurl.com/obdc4mx>.
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April 2015 #2

16404. THE STRANGE CASE OF DR. DOYLE, by Daniel and Eugene Friedman (Garden City: Square One, 2015; 339 pp., \$29.95), is subtitled as "a journey into madness & mayhem," and is written in alternate chapters, offering a biography of Conan Doyle and a description of a tour he led in 1910 along the trail of Jack the Ripper's murders. The tour is invented, but allows the authors to explain their conclusions about the Ripper, and the dust jacket's front flap promises: "if you maintain a sharp mind and a keen eye, at the end of your journey you may just uncover a truth you never expected to find." They're certainly correct.
16405. "Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson will be looking for a rich legacy in Azerbaijan" is the premise of a new comedy "1,000,000 Manat" now being filmed in Baku, according to a report from Alexander Orlov. You can see a photo gallery in Trend Life (Mar. 30) <www.tinyurl.com/o8rrzqk>.
16406. The "International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes" will run through May 10 at the Perot Museum of Science & Nature in Dallas, Texas, and then move to the Discovery Science Center in Santa Ana, Calif., from June 13 to Sept. 7. The exhibition's also scheduled at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science in Denver, Colo., opening Oct. 15; and at the Pacific Science Center in Seattle, Wash., opening Oct. 13, 2016. <www.discoverycube.org> is the web-site for Santa Ana, and <www.sherlockholmesexhibition.com> is the web-site for the exhibition.
16407. James C. O'Leary has an interesting essay on "Canonical Connections in Conan Doyle's 'The Winning Shot'" at Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/l44fqbt>; the story was published in 1883 in Bow Bells.
16408. Don Pollock has reported THE CHINA COLLECTORS: AMERICA'S CENTURY-LONG HUNT FOR ASIAN ART TREASURES, a new book by Karl E. Meyer and Shareen Blair Brysac (from Palgrave Macmillan). Don notes that while Meyer is a member of The Baker Street Irregulars, the book does not have a section on Baron Gruner, most likely because of its focus on American collectors.
16409. Dana Richards has discovered the Redbeard Brewing Company in Staunton, Va. (their taproom motto is "small batches of big beers"); they describe their 221 Baker Brown as an English Brown Ale "to crave like a Hostess cupcake" <www.redbeardbrews.com>.
16410. David Harnois has added "The Red-Headed League" to his "I Am Lost Without My Boswell" web-site <www.iamlostwithoutmyboswell.com>; you can listen to or download the dramatized reading, which is done well. "A Case of Identity" is next on his schedule, and you can read Peter Holstrom's interview with David at <www.tinyurl.com/qfxm9th>.
16411. Greg Ruby continues to provide interesting content related to Sherlockian numismatics at The Fourth Garrideb's web-site <www.fourthgarrideb.com>, including a nicely-illustrated discussion of "Where Would Dr. Lysander Starr Have Done His Banking?" And older news of general interest, such as plans by British banks to end the check-clearing system in 2018; according to a spokeswoman for the payments council, "the next generation probably won't even have a checkbook."
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April 2015 #3

16412. The DFN Foundation's plans to convert Undershaw, Conan Doyle's former home, into a school (December 14 #6) can now proceed; the BBC reported (Mar. 30) that the Secretary of State will not consider objections raised by the Victorian Society and English Heritage; Norman Stromsoy, the project manager for the school's restoration project, said that Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes enthusiasts could be reassured that Undershaw would be saved, and that its Grade II listing was not in doubt.
16413. A life-size chocolate statue of Benedict Cumberbatch was commissioned by UKTV this month as part of their promotion of a new on-demand channel, and (as might be expected) received a lot of publicity; there's lots of video available at YouTube if you search for [cumberbatch chocolate], including this one <www.tinyurl.com/mea2sv3>, which shows what happened when the 80-pound Belgian chocolate statue was put on display in a London shopping center.
16414. "Sweet pipe tobacco, cherry wood, and fresh rain" is the way Frostbeard Studio aromatically describes its "Sherlock's Study" soy candle (\$16.00) <www.frostbeardstudios.com>; it's also available as a set of six tarts (\$6.00). If you are wondering about the tarts, you just put one in your electric tart warmer and turn it on. An electric tart warmer may not be what you're thinking it is; Frostbeard advises that it's a "great alternative where candles are prohibited or unsafe."
16415. Plan ahead: "The Misadventures of Sherlock Holmes" is the title of the next conference in Minneapolis, on June 17-19, 2016, sponsored by the Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota, the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections, and the University of Minnesota Libraries.
16416. The Norman B. Leventhal Map Center at the Boston Public Library has mounted an exhibition of "Literary Landscapes" featuring "maps of imaginary places that have accompanied literature for centuries." One of the maps on display is "The Sherlock Holmes Mystery Map" created by Jim Wolnick and Susan Lewis and published in 1987 <www.tinyurl.com/lfl5cpb>.
16417. The Brambletye Hotel in Forest Row, one of the few hotels to appear in the Canon under its own name, still is an attractive destination for Sherlockian (and other) tourists. Long the home of the Black Peter Bar, the hotel now also boasts a 221 Restaurant <www.brambletyehotel.co.uk>.
16418. Trevor Smith died on Jan. 6. He acted as Trevor Hancock, and began his career on stage in Britain in 1991; he was best known as Kevin Dolan in the television series "Coronation Street", had a small role in Granada's "The Cardboard Box" (1994), and appeared on stage as Selden in the Found Theatre production of Simon Corble's play "The Hound of the Baskervilles" in 2007.
16419. The 2015 issue of Beaten's Christmas Annual has been published by The Sound of the Baskervilles of Seattle, with 52 pages of scholarship, quizzes, pastiches, and recipes, as well as news of the society and its members. The cost of the annual is \$13.00 postpaid (\$18.00 outside the U.S.); checks (in U.S. dollars, please) payable to The Sound of the Baskervilles can be sent to Terri Haugen, 6710 51st Street Court West, University Place, WA 98467.
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April 2015 #4

16420. Stan Freberg died on Apr. 7. Sometimes described as "the father of recorded comedy, he launched his career in 1951 with the soap-opera satire "John and Marsha" and went on to stellar performances on records and radio, and in advertising. He played Sherlock Holmes in three episodes of "The Radio Adventures of Dr. Floyd" (created by Grant Baciocco and Doug Price for Dementia Radio) in 2008; you can listen to episodes 708, 709, and 710 at <www.doctorfloyd.com/media/season7>.
16421. An official 2-minute trailer for the UK release of Ian McKellen's film "Mr. Holmes" is available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/k7nse8a>; the film opens there on June 19 (and on July 17 in the U.S.).
16422. Bill Peschel's anthology THE EARLY PUNCH PARODIES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Hershey: Peschel Press, 2014; 281 pp., \$15.99) is the result of a wide-ranging search through a magazine that was full of Sherlockiana and Doyleana; the contents include not only parodies but also commentary, reviews, and a story by Conan Doyle himself, all annotated by the editor, who has included an amusing excerpt from the autobiography of Mark Twain: an account of Twain's encounter with Dr. Watson. Peschel's web-site's at <www.peschelpress.com>.
16423. Radio Spirits publishes and markets old-time-radio programs, and their web-site offers an interesting Elizabeth McLeod's "spotlight article" on "The Forgotten Holmes: John Gielgud on the Air" <www.tinyurl.com/nq67btg>.
16424. M. J. Carter's THE STRANGLER VINE (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 2015; 369 pp., \$27.95) is a grand tale set in India in 1837, with interesting heroes and villains; it won high praise from Bernard Cornwell ("an exotic mystery that captivated me"), and according to the publisher contains "sly references to Conan Doyle." And so it does: one of the protagonists is as skilled in observation and deduction as Sherlock Holmes. The novel also offers an interesting and educational look at events that eventually resulted in the Indian Mutiny and Afghan Wars more familiar to Sherlockians and Doyleans. The author's web-site is at <www.mj-carter.com>.
16425. Anyone planning to attend the screening of the film at the San Francisco Silent Film Festival may wish to attend a reception hosted by the Scowrers and Molly Maguires at the Firewood Cafe on the afternoon of May 30. There also will be a luncheon at the historic Catch Restaurant at noon on May 31, and the film will be shown at the Castro Theatre at 7:00 pm. Details are available from Cade Deverell <hattydoran221@gmail.com>.
16426. Bonnie MacBird has reported on the film's world premiere in Paris: "Gillette was riveting. In motion you see both the gravitas and humor we expect from the character. Though aging and a bit heavy at the time of the filming, he knew his profile was still good and showed it often. The film offered a rare glimpse at Watson's surgery, and although the Watson character was hardly in it, the actor impressed me with his vitality and handsome looks. The storyline was preposterous and some of the acting laughable. But frankly it held up well and was entertaining. I was pleasantly surprised at Gillette. He avoided the melodramatic posing we come to expect from the silent films, and there were a great many subtle and satisfying moments." And Oscar Ross notes that there's an excellent article about the film in Sight & Sound (Apr. 14) <www.tinyurl.com/qywlpmf>.
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April 2015 #5

16427. I WAS THE CAT (Portland: Oni Press, 2014; 191 pp., \$24.99), a graphic novel written by Paul Tobin and illustrated and colored by Benjamin Dewey, offers the story of Burma, a cat who has spent his nine lives trying to achieve world domination; at one point he says, "Let's talk about Sherlock Holmes," and then explains "First...I wasn't associated with Sherlock Holmes, but rather Moriarty, his nemesis," and "Second...it wasn't actually Moriarty, either, but rather Jonathan Wild, one of the men on whom Moriarty was based." That was in one of Burma's previous lives, of course, and neither Burma nor Wild survives that chapter in Burma's story.
16428. Sarah Rosenbaum reports that ThinkGeek offers interesting Sherlockian keychains (and other items) <www.tinyurl.com/o36o5oo>.
16429. The new Japanese "Sherlock Holmes" television series featuring delightful puppets designed by Bunta Inone (March 14 #7) is being released on DVDs, and Alexander Orlov has reported that three episodes are available on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/kbab32l>. That's the link to the first episode; click on "Episodes" at the lower left to see links to all three episodes.
16430. Adam Zanzie reports that his Indiegogo campaign to raise funds for his thesis project (adapting Conan Doyle's "The Parasite" into a short film) (February 15 #4) has been successful: 48 people donated, with a total slightly higher than his goal of \$4,000 <www.tinyurl.com/lqnt4tz>.
16431. Big Chief Studios, which produces a series of 1:6 scale Doctor Who figures, has made a pair of licensed figures showing Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman as Holmes and Watson <www.bigchiefstudios.co.uk>; their Signature Edition (limited to 400 copies, with display placards signed by the actors and a lithographic print by Alice X. Zhang) costs £439.98 for the pair, and the Limited Edition (1,000 copies) costs £339.98 for the pair. You'll find more information (and better illustrations) at io9.com's Observation Deck <www.tinyurl.com/mk7m79d>.
16432. "The Secret History of Hollywood: A Modern Guide to the Golden Age of Cinema" is a series of podcasts by Adam Roche, and "The Game Is Afoot!" (Feb. 5, 2015) is a 138-minute documentary about the Rathbone/Bruce films and radio programs; go to <www.tinyurl.com/ptkfmn8> to listen or download. It's nicely done, with some great stories, nicely told.
16433. Robert Ryan's DEAD MAN'S LAND (London: Simon & Schuster UK, 2013; 467 pp., £7.99) is a thriller as well as a mystery: World War I has begun, and Dr. Watson, now a major in the Royal Army Medical Corps, is at the front, with wounded to tend and a series of murders to solve, in a story that shows the reader just how terrible trench warfare was; there are heroes and villains and excellent supporting characters, and the story's well-told indeed.
16434. And there's a sequel: THE DEAD CAN WAIT (2014; 463 pp., £7.99), with Watson back in England, involved in the project that led to the development of the "land-ship" that's intended to end the stalemate on the Western Front; this time there are politicians as well as heroes and villains, and agents and spies, and (at last) Sherlock Holmes, along with some nice surprises and a cliff-hanger ending. The series will continue with A STUDY IN MURDER, and the author's interesting web-site's at <www.robtryan.com>.
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April 2015 #6

16435. Howard Ostrom's "In Search of...Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: A Chronological Reference List of Autobiographies, Biographies, and Quasi-Biographies" is a new annotated compilation, and an excellent demonstration of how much has been written by so many about Conan Doyle; Ross K. Foad has made the file available for download at his "No Place Like Holmes" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/o929622>.
16436. Tom Alderman reviewed Dan Simmons' Henry James/Sherlock Holmes pastiche THE FIFTH HEART for the Huffington Post (Apr. 21), noting that there are 18,536 Sherlock Holmes titles on Amazon. "Certainly a strong testament to the enduring quality of the series and the several authors who have kept the series thriving all these years."
16437. There's an annual Letters About Literature Essay Contest in which students (grades 4 through 12) write to an author who has changed their view of the world or themselves, and of this year's winners in Minnesota this year was Soren Eversoll, who wrote to Arthur Conan Doyle. Soren became a member of The Norwegian Explorers at the age of 7 and is now 13. His winning letter is available on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/q8fp6ka>.
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16438. Ross E. Davies' interesting article about "The Regulatory Adventure of the Two Norwood Builders: Sherlock Holmes Crosses Paths with Congress, the President, the Courts, and the Administrative State, in the Press" has appeared in the 2015 Green Bag Almanac & Reader, and it's also nicely available online at <www.tinyurl.com/k3c4wcr>.
16439. Thomas Watson's THE TRUE MYSTERY OF HAMLET, PRINCE OF DENMARK (Greentown: Wicked Good Books, 2015; 142 pp., \$7.95) actually was written by Alf Dotson to amuse Sherlockian and Shakespeareans; allegedly found in the Jamestown Shakespeare Manuscripts, the story's an account of the involvement of Sherlock Homes James (who in the cover photograph looks remarkably like Robert Downey Jr.) in events later dramatized by William Shakespeare. There also is a contest, with a cash prize offered to the person who reports the most Conan Doyle titles concealed in the text. Details on the contest, and much more, will be found at <www.wickedgoodbooks.com>.
16440. "Long Live the Personal Library" is the title of a blog by Gracy Olmstead for The American Conservative (Apr. 21) <www.tinyurl.com/l4cyxjl>, kindly reported by Paul Herbert. It was occasioned by William Giraldi's "Object Lesson" essay for the New Republic (Apr. 19) <www.tinyurl.com/pok99xn>, and both will be interesting to bibliophiles.
16441. One hears of Conan Doyle everywhere: Ian Schoenherr has discovered J. H. A. Gunther's A MANUAL OF ENGLISH PRONUNCIATION & GRAMMAR FOR THE USE OF DUTCH STUDENTS (Groningen: J. B. Wolters, 1899), with many citations from Conan Doyle's writings (Sherlockian and otherwise); the manual is available (and searchable) on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/oqo34cp>.
16442. Randall Stock reports that the enhanced version of the Baker Street Irregulars Trust web-site is up and running <www.bsitrust.org>, with historical information about BSI annual dinners (from 1934 through 1951, with more to come), the oral history project (inaugurated with the reminiscences of Russell Merritt), correspondence, memorabilia, and much more.

April 2015 #7

16443. The Proms, the world's largest music festival, was launched in 1895 at the Queen's Hall in London, and this year will include "Sherlock Holmes: A Musical Mind" at the Albert Hall on Aug. 16, saluting "a crime-fighting violin virtuoso who wrote a pioneering study of Dutch sacred music, tussled with a contralto from the Warsaw Opera, and used Offenbach to outwit a pair of jewel thieves" <www.bbc.co.uk/events/egnrzc>. The event will be broadcast live on BBC Radio 3 (and available at the BBC web-site for 30 days).
16444. There was far more to H. F. Heard's "Mr. Mycroft" than is found in A TASTE HONEY (1941), available in a Blue Dolphin reprint (October 09 #8). Many have suspected that Mr. Mycroft is really an elderly Sherlock Holmes, and Heard wrote about him in two more novels and two short stories, all now available from Blue Dolphin in REPLY PAID, with a foreword by Paul D. Herbert (2014; 199 pp., \$16.95), and THE NOTCHED HAIRPIN, with a foreword by Christopher Pittard (2014; 147 pp., \$15.95). Heard was an inventive writer, and had a lot of fun with Mr. Mycroft; Christopher Morley is reported to have said of REPLY PAID: "For tastes that are Baker Street and Irregular, this as good as Mrs. Hudson's curried kedgeriee."
16445. The 56th annual running of the Chicago Silver Blaze (the world's oldest and still-active annual Sherlockian horse race) will be held on Oct. 17 at the Hawthorne Race Course; if you'd like to attend the festivities, details are available from Susan Diamond <szdiamond@comcast.net>.
16446. The Royal Mail has commemorated the bicentenary of the birth of Anthony Trollope (1915-1892) famous as a novelist, he also introduced the freestanding postbox in 1852, when he was working at the Post Office, and the stamps show his portrait and the first pillar box. And of course there's a Sherlockian connection: "The Great Trollope Mystery", an amusing pastiche that was written by Angela Milne and published in Punch (July 9, 1980), in which she has Holmes analyzing and explaining an apparent error in Trollope's THE WARDEN, in much the same way that Sherlockian scholars and pseudo-scholars have, for so many years, years explained (or explained away) the mistakes and contradictions they've found in the Canon.
16447. Scott Monty and Burt Wolder continue their series of podcast interviews for "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" with a discussion with the editors of the latest volume in the Baker Street Irregulars' manuscript series OUT OF THE ABYSS (devoted to "The Empty House"); you can listen to (and download) the conversation at <www.tinyurl.com/pg2aun4>. Scott also reports a new subtitled-in-English version of the amusing Russian animation "Sherlock Holmes and I" (1985) at <www.tinyurl.com/otqdaq>.
16448. "Saturday-Night Theatre: Conan Doyle Investigates" was a 90-minute program broadcast by BBC Radio 4 on May 6, 1972, written by Roger Woddis and dramatizing Sir Arthur's involvement in the George Edalji case, starring Carleton Hobbs as Conan Doyle. The program has been uploaded to YouTube, and is available at <www.tinyurl.com/masr5c6>. Add Carleton Hobbs to the list of actors who have portrayed both Conan Doyle and Holmes.

April 2015 #8

16449. Roger Johnson notes that Valerie Osment, who designed the imaginative Sherlock Holmes BookBench last year (May 14 #5), has now designed a Sherlock Holmes Dragon for the GoGo Dragons 2015 festival in Norwich <www.gogodragons.co.uk>. GoGo Dragon Sherlock, sponsored by a real estate agency called Watsons, tweets at <www.twitter.com/gogoshlock>.
16450. And (as usual) there's theater: Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" will be performed at the Pocahontas County Opera House, in Marlinton, W.V., May 15-16 <www.pocahontasoperahouse.org>.
16451. "The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes" (a new open-air production by the Chapterhouse Theatre Company) will have its premiere at East Town Park in Haverhill (Suffolk) on June 12 and then go on tour; their schedule's available at <www.chapterhouse.org/show5.html>.
16452. The Twin Beach Players will present "Sherlock Holmes and the Most Amazing Case!" (a new play by Matthew Konerth) in North Beach, Md., on June 18-28 <www.twinbeachplayers.com>.
16453. The Ottawa Story Tellers will present "The Game's Afoot: Stories of Sherlock Holmes" at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa, Ont., on June 18, 2015 <www.nac-cna.ca>.
16454. "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (the excellent parody by Steven Canny and John Nicholson) will be performed at the Florida Studio Theatre in St. Petersburg, Fla., July 1-Aug. 2 <www.floridastudiotheatre.org>.
16455. David Stuart Davies will present his new one-man show "The Game's Afoot: An Encounter with Sherlock Holmes and Conan Doyle" during the Edinburgh Festival Fringe at the Arthur Conan Doyle Centre, Aug. 12-14 <www.edfringe.com>.
16456. Aquila Theatre's touring production of "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (a new play written by Desiree Sanchez) opens at the Pollak Theatre in Monmouth, N.J., on Oct. 1 and continues on tour until Mar. 20, 2016; details can be found at <www.aquilatheatre.com/touring>.
16457. Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" is due at the Erie Playhouse in Erie, Pa., Oct. 16-Nov. 1 <www.erieplayhouse.org>.
16458. "Sherlock Holmes' Adventure of the Red-Headed League" is scheduled by the East Lynne Theater Company at the First Presbyterian Church in Cape May, N.J., on Nov. 6-7, 2015 <www.eastlynnetheater.org>.

16459. "Sherlock Holmes & the First Baker Street Irregular" (a new play by Brian Guehring) will be performed at the Rose Theater in Omaha, Neb., Nov. 6-22 <www.rosetheater.org>.
16460. Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is scheduled by the Philadelphia Theatre Company at the Suzanne Roberts Theatre in Philadelphia on Nov. 27-Dec. 27 <www.philadelphiatheatrecompany.org>.
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May 2015 #1

16461. William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" (1916) will be released on Blu-ray/DVD by Flicker Alley on Oct. 20, with subtitles in French or English, an original musical score and other added features <www.tinyurl.com/mu8kfrk>, and you can pre-order now from Flicker Alley (\$29.95).
16462. Criminal Element is an interesting blog, with plenty of Sherlockian content <www.criminalelement.com>. Search for [Lyndsay faye] to find "Strangers on a Train, or When Sherlock Met Jane" (in which Lyndsay and Ashley Weaver describe a thoroughly imaginative encounter between Sherlock Holmes and Miss Jane Marple), and for [chad eagleton] to find his discussion of "Sherlock Holmes and the Killer Bees" (about H. F. Heard's A TASTE FOR HONEY).
16463. A fine example of outreach: Tim Johnson, the curator of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota Library, recently paid a visit to the Rushford-Peterson High School to talk to the students, and KIMT-TV had a nice report on the event <www.tinyurl.com/nor7v6w>.
16464. The catalog for the Museum of London's exhibition "Sherlock Holmes: The Man Who Never Lived and Will Never Die" (April 15 #1) is now available for purchase at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com/london.html>, and Randall Stock has a fine report on the exhibition and on the catalog at his "Best of Sherlock" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/otqkpxz>, with some interesting links to follow. The catalog is spectacular, with full-color illustrations of original artwork by Sidney Paget and Frederic Dorr Steele (a rough sketch of Holmes in disguise as an old woman in "The Mazarin Stone"), a bust of Sherlock Holmes sculpted by Frederick L. Wilkins and presented to Conan Doyle in the 1890s, and much more.
16465. The Leisy Premiere Theatre, a television series broadcast in Cleveland in 1963 to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the founding of the Leisy Brewing Company, presented full-length feature films and was hosted by Basil Rathbone; you can see him in action at <www.tinyurl.com/mdckrb5>.
16466. There's another trailer for Ian McKellen's film "Mr. Holmes" available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/phju2yg>; the film opens in the U.K. on June 19, and on July 17 in the U.S.
16467. John F. Farrell ("The Tiger of San Pedro") died on May 7. He loved music and theater, and for many years wrote reviews for newspapers in the Los Angeles area, and he was an enthusiastic Sherlockian, collaborating with Sean Wright on their SHERLOCK HOLMES COOKBOOK (1976), and presiding over three Sherlockian societies: The Tigers of San Pedro, The Great Hiatus (for Sherlockians who corresponded by foreign translations), and The 140 (for Sherlockians who smoked tobacco). He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1981.
16468. "Sherlock Holmes and the Clocktower Mystery" (the interactive exhibit with much Victorian flavor, and a mystery that visitors can solve) is scheduled at the Science Museum of Minnesota in St. Paul <www.smm.org> from Oct. 14 to Jan. 3, 2016. More information on the exhibit is available at the Wonderworks web-site <www.tinyurl.com/24b4fyy>.
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May 2015 #2

16469. "All the Sherlock Holmes stories were enthusiasms of mine," Agatha Christie wrote in 1966 in a letter to Evelyn B. Byrne; the letter is coming to auction on June 11 at Profiles in History (estimated at \$2,000-\$3,000) <www.profilesinhistory.com>; Christie's letter was published in ATTACKS OF TASTE (1971), edited by Byrne and Otto M. Penzler, along with letters and essays by other authors on their childhood literary influences (New York: Gotham Book Mart, 1971). Holmes and Conan Doyle also were mentioned by Eric Ambler, Kay Boyle, John Cheever, Ralph Ellison, Christopher Isherwood, Henry Miller, Ogden Nash, and Louis Simpson, but their letters aren't in the auction.
16470. Karen Murdock spotted Detective Handswell, created by Chris Whitmore Associates <www.cwa.co.uk/hanswell> for Hull Trains in England; he appears in on-board notices that advise passengers to stay safe, by avoiding accidents with hot drinks, being cautious at level crossings, and standing clear of closing doors.
16471. Grant Eustace's ABSOLUTE DISCRETION, published by Calabash Press in 1997, is an interesting novel that is set in Somerset and features a young detective who is visiting from Oxford and calls himself Arthur Vernet. There are nice (and nicely appropriate) echoes from the Canon, and the book is available at Amazon and at Abebooks.
16472. "Goodness Gracious Me" was a British 30-minute series broadcast on BBC Radio 4 from 1996 to 1998, and on BBC-2 television from 1998 to 2001; Howard Ostrom notes that there was a "Goodness Gracious Me Reunion Special" that was broadcast on BBC-2 in 2014, with a 1-minute segment ("Everything Comes from India") in which Sanjeev Bhaskar explains to Kulvinder Ghir why "Sherlock" is such a good series <www.tinyurl.com/qz6cpfs>.
16473. The awards ceremony of the British Academy of Film and Television Arts included a Radio Times Audience Award to "Sherlock"; it's the only BAFTA on which the public votes, from a list of nominees selected by an expert jury ("Sherlock" beat out "Game of Thrones" and "EastEnders").
16474. Nigel Terry died on Apr. 30. He began his acting career on stage in repertory in Britain, went on to perform with the Royal Shakespeare Company, appeared as King John in the film "The Lion in Winter" (1968) and as King Arthur in "Excaliber" (1981), and in many roles on television, including Harold Latimer in Peter Cushing's "The Greek Interpreter" (1968).
16475. Neil Gaiman has an official Tumbler, where he recently was asked: "What's the BSI like? Do you all plot world domination behind those doors? Also--if you're allowed to say this out loud--what's your title there?" You can read his answers at <www.tinyurl.com/p62w5nh>.
16476. Alphonse Bertillon and his system for identifying criminals are mentioned in two stories in the Canon ("The Naval Treaty" and "The Hound of the Baskervilles"), and the Independent had an excellent story (May 17) about Bertillon <www.tinyurl.com/lm8sbz2>, with mention of an exhibition on "Forensics: The Anatomy of Crime" at the Wellcome Museum in London through June 21 <www.wellcomecollection.org/forensics>.
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May 2015 #3

16477. VICE News (a global news channel founded in 2013) has an interesting on-line interview with Marcel Jaurant Singer, at the age of 94 the last living member of the Baker Street Irregulars. This BSI was the Special Operations Executive, which had its headquarters Baker Street during World War Two (and was sometimes called the "Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare") <www.tinyurl.com/kac3dlv>.
16478. Al Gregory has discovered The Sherlockian Violin Society (for Sherlockians who play or appreciate the violin) <www.sherlockianviolinsociety.com>. The web-site includes links to sheet music for the themes for the Jeremy Brett and Benedict Cumberbatch television series.
16479. Robert Rietti died on Apr. 3. A British actor best known for his voice, he worked in films and on radio and television, and specialized in voice dubbing; according to his obituary in the Guardian, in the 1970 film "Waterloo" he was heard talking to himself four times while providing no fewer than 98 voices. Credited as Robert Rietty, he acted in the Gielgud/Richardson radio series in 1954, and then in the Hobbs/Shelley radio series (he played Gennaro in "The Red Circle" (1969).
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16480. Sherlockian who are still writing old-fashioned paper checks will welcome Greg Ruby's report that Sherlock-Holmes-themed personalized checks now are available in four designs, which you can see in full color at the web-site of The Fourth Garrideb <www.tinyurl.com/q8h4jy3>.
16481. Some will recall the "five orange peeps" that were sent to Sherlockians in 2003, in a devious plan conceived by the John Farrell and executed by Kevin Reed (December 03 #5). Peeps are gooey little marshmallow chicks that have been made for more than 60 years, and they're now theatrical, in a fashion: the Washington Post has held a Peeps Diorama Contest since 2007, and this year one of the more than 400 entries was "The Many Faces of Benedict Cumberpeep", submitted by Pamela Winston and Leonard Bailey, who honored Benedict Cumberbatch's performances as Julian Assange, Alan Turing, Sherlock Holmes, Khan, and Smaug. They didn't win, unfortunately, but they made the top 50, and you can see them all in a slide-show at <www.tinyurl.com/otwe496>. Benedict Cumberpeep is in image #11.
16482. Laurie R. King and Leslie S. Klinger's *IN THE COMPANY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: STORIES INSPIRED BY THE HOLMES CANON* is one of the nominees for an Anthony Award (best anthology or collection) at Bouchercon 2015 in Raleigh, N.C., Oct. 8-11.
16483. Fans of "Sherlock" may enjoy hearing some of the love letters exchanged by Sherlock Holmes and Molly Hooper: there's an 11-minute video of them reading the letters at <www.simongarfield.com>. Okay (spoiler alert): they're actually letters exchanged by Chris Barker and Bessie Moore during the Second World War, published in Simon Garfield's *MY DEAR BESSIE: A LOVE STORY IN LETTERS* (2015). Some of the letters were read by Benedict Cumberbatch and Louise Brealey (aka Sherlock and Molly in the television series) at the Hay Festival last year (there are two videos at Garfield's web-site, and at YouTube), and for a 45-minute program broadcast by BBC Radio 4 on Apr. 20.

May 2015 #4

16484. T. S. Eliot's poem "Macavity: The Mystery Cat" has long been a favorite of Sherlockians because of its amusing homage to Moriarty, and a new book suggests a possible source for the name: Eliot went to high school with a boy named Ronald A. MacAvity, as noted by Robert Crawford in his *YOUNG ELIOT: FROM ST. LOUIS TO THE WASTE LAND* (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2015; 512 pp., \$35.00).
16485. Ruth Rendell died on May 2. She was a noted mystery writer with more than 60 books to her credit, many of them featuring her most famous detective, Chief Inspector Reginald Wexford. She was the Sherlock Holmes Society of London's guest of honor at their annual dinner in 2009, and contributed an interesting introduction to that year's new edition of *THE PENGUIN COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES*.
16486. Gloria Alden's *THE SHERLOCK HOLMES MYSTERY CLUB* (Willow Knolls Press, 2013; 199 pp., \$7.95) has students in a third-grade class involved in an exchange of correspondence with an elderly woman who's in pursuit of jewel thieves; the author's web-site is at <www.gloriaalden.com>.
16487. The 2015 edition of the *Green Bag Almanac & Reader* includes a "new lawyerly edition" of "The Norwood Builder" with annotations by Sherlockians and non-Sherlockians who responded to the journal's request for contributions last year (October 14 #4), and other interesting Sherlockian content (together with much non-Sherlockian material such as a selection of "exemplary legal writing" from 2014). It's nicely done indeed, and a few copies of the 662-page volume available without charge to those who send requests (with postal addresses) to Ross E. Davies <rdavies@greenbag.org>. Ross reports that similar attention will be paid to "The Reigate Puzzle" in the next edition; you will find more information about this at <www.greenbag.org>.
16488. If you remember the MG as a classy British two-seat open sports car, that's what it used to be: the company was founded in 1924, but the MG marque now owned by SAIC Motor, a Chinese company that has hired Benedict Cumberbatch to help launch the new MG GS <www.tinyurl.com/mhvpj8k>. The commercial has nice Sherlockian echoes.
16489. Russian tycoon Alexander Perepilichnyy has died in England under mysterious circumstances; he was a major critic of Vladimir Putin, as was Sergei Magnitsky, who had alleged that Russian officials has carried out large-scale theft and then died in prison in Moscow in 2009 (November 13 #3). Prepilichnyy was thought to have died from natural causes, but an autopsy showed traces of a rare plant poison in his stomach and British authorities have launched a full inquest. The rare plant poison was gelsemium, and the British press has noted that Arthur Conan Doyle wrote about gelsemium in the *British Medical Journal* in 1879, after experimenting on himself with the poison to see if it was effective in treating pain.
16490. It is reported (although not confirmed) that BBC Radio 4 will broadcast a dramatization of Laurie R. King's "The Beekeeper's Apprentice" on June 9-12, in four 30-minute episodes; you can check the schedule at the BBC Radio 4 web-site <www.tinyurl.com/otakyuk>. The mini-series was first broadcast in 2000, with Monica Dolan (Mary Russell), James Fox (Sherlock Holmes), and Shaun Prendergast (Dr. Watson).

May 2015 #5

16491. The Conan Doyle Estate has filed a copyright and trademark lawsuit against Miramax and others, alleging that Ian McKellen's new film "Mr. Holmes" has infringed on the last ten Sherlock Holmes stories still protected by copyright. The lawsuit targets Miramax (the producer of the film), Roadside Attractions (the film's distributor in the U.S.), William Condon (the film's director), Mitch Cullin (who wrote the book *A SLIGHT TRICK OF THE MIND*, on which the film is based, and shares credit for writing the film's script), and Penguin Random House (which published the book in 2005).
16492. The Estate demands a jury trial, an injunction against the release of the film (now scheduled for July 17 in the U.S.), and payment to the Estate of its costs and all profits from the film. You can read the entire 24-page "Complaint for Injunctions and Damages" at <www.tinyurl.com/qdryu5o>.
16493. Museum Replicas offers an interesting variety of Sherlockian merchandise, including a Sherlock Holmes statue (\$95.00), coat (\$65.00), and deerstalker (\$19.00), and a Victorian sword cane (\$95.00). Box 840, Conyers, GA 30012 (800-883-8838) <www.museumreplicas.com>.
16494. Joseph C. Camana died on Apr. 27. He worked as an artist for more than 70 years, in the U.S. Army during World War II and then as a freelance commercial artist, including illustrations for *CASES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES*, adapted by William Kottmeyer and published in 1947.
16495. National Public Radio's "Weekend Edition" (May 3) celebrated Orson Welles' 100th birthday with a 6-minute segment that focused on his work on radio, with (of course) due attention to his appearance as Sherlock Holmes for the Mercury Radio Theatre in 1938 <www.tinyurl.com/npzrnd>.
16496. Barry S. Brown's *MRS. HUDSON IN NEW YORK* (London: MX Publishing, 2015; 273 pp., \$16.95) is the fourth in his "Mrs. Hudson of Baker Street" series, in which Mrs. Hudson does the real detecting, with assistance from Holmes and Watson, this time in a case involving the attempted murder of J. P. Morgan, an encounter with Samuel Clemens, and combat with the Pinkertons. The publisher's web-sites are <www.mxpublishing.com> and <www.mxpublishing.co.uk>.
16497. More from MX: *THE EGYPTIAN CURSE* (2015; 178 pp., \$9.95) is the third in a series by Dan Andriacco and Kieran McMullen that stars Enoch Hale, an American reporter in London in 1924 and now a suspect in a murder, which he has to solve himself; his investigation involves P. G. Wodehouse, Leonard and Virginia Woolf, T. S. Eliot, Howard Carter, Agatha Christie, and (eventually) Sherlock Holmes. David Ruffle's *HOLMES AND WATSON: AN AMERICAN ADVENTURE* (2015; 140 pp., \$9.95) brings Holmes and Watson to New York, so that Holmes can lecture at a training academy for the city's police force (and help solve a murder), and to Fall River, where Holmes solves two more murders and has a chance to meet Lizzie Borden and review the records of the murders of her father and stepmother. Daniel D. Victor's *SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE BARON OF BREDE PLACE* (2015;

235 pp., \$14.95) is the second in his "Sherlock Holmes and the American Literati" series, presenting a somewhat different version of "Charles Augustus Milverton" that has Stephen Crane as another victim of blackmail, in case that also involved Joseph Conrad and H. G. Wells.

May 2015 #6

16498. Elliott M. Black has died. He had a long career in engineering and marketing, and was a member of Sherlockian societies in and near Chicago; he also was an avid magician and mentalist (performing as Michael Elliott): he presented "The Sherlock Holmes of Thought" at Bouchercon in Baltimore in 1986, and at the Baskerville Bash during the birthday festivities in 1999, and greatly enjoyed entertaining his fellow Sherlockians.
16499. And as always, there's Sherlockian theater, on-going and up-coming: "Holmes and Watson Save the Empire: A Musical Mystery" (by Jahna Beecham and Malcolm Hillgartner) will be produced at the Metro Theatre in Vancouver, B.C., June 17-28 <metrotheatre.com>.
16500. Ed. Lange's "Sherlock's Secret Life" will be performed at the Pioneer Playhouse in Danville, Ky., July 21-Aug. 1 <www.pioneerplayhouse.com>.
16501. "Impossible" (a new play by Robert Khan and Tom Salinsky about Harry Houdini and Arthur Conan Doyle) is scheduled at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in Scotland, Aug. 5-31 <www.edfringe.com>.
16502. The Fringe also will include a presentation by the Ghostwriters of "Adventures of the Improvised Sherlock Holmes" (Aug. 6-30) and David Stuart Davies' solo performance of his "The Game's Afoot: An Encounter with Sherlock Holmes and Arthur Conan Doyle" (Aug. 12-14).
16503. Stephen Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" is due at the Magenta Theater in Vancouver, Wash., Sept. 25-Oct. 17 <www.magentatheater.com>. And it will be presented by the Lake Dillon Theatre Company at their theater in Dillon, Colo., Nov. 20-Dec. 13 <www.lakedillontheatre.org>.
16504. "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (by David Pichette and R. Hamilton Wright) will be performed at the Garvin Theatre in Santa Barbara, Calif., Oct. 16-31 <www.theatregroupsbcc.com>.
16505. John Longenbaugh's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol" is scheduled at the Renton Civic Theatre in Renton, Wash., from Dec. 4 to Dec. 19 <www.rentoncivictheatre.org>.
16506. Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" is scheduled at the Blackfriars Theatre in Rochester, N.Y., from Dec. 11 to Jan. 3, 2016 <www.blackfriars.org>.
16507. "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Great Nome Gold Rush" (a new comedy by Joseph Vass) will debut at North Coast Repertory Theatre in Solana Beach, Calif., Jan. 13-Feb. 7, 2016 <www.northcoastrep.org>.
16508. "Sherlock Holmes and the West End Horror" (dramatized from Nicholas Meyer's novel by Anthony and Marcia Milgrom Dodge) is due at the Black Box Theatre in Colorado Springs, Colo., Jan. 15-24, 2016 <www.blackboxdrama.com>, and at the Hylton Performing Arts Center on the Prince William Campus of George Mason Univ. in Manassas, Va., Mar. 11-20, 2016 <www.hyltoncenter.org>.
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June 2015 #1

16509. William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" had its American premiere in San Francisco on May 31, and was well received by Sherlockians and non-Sherlockians alike. As was the case at the screening Culpeper, Va., on June 13, during the fourth annual "Mostly Lost" conference at the Library of Congress' National Audio-Visual Conservation Center <www.tinyurl.com/o9be5jc>. It is wonderful that the film has been found and can be seen again after so many years, and it's a delight to be able to watch Gillette's performance. His last performance as Holmes was at the McCarter Theatre in Princeton, N.J., on May 12, 1930, which suggests that there's no one left who actually saw him perform live, but now everyone can see him as Holmes on film.
16510. Those who enjoyed seeing the film in San Francisco also have a nice lapel pin to commemorate the occasion. There's much to praise about the film, which is a restoration of the four-part serial discovered in Paris, rather than an attempt to recreate the film as originally screened in the U.S. It's grand indeed to be able to see Gillette's underplayed natural acting style, praised so highly in print for more than a century: he doesn't need to show that he's the smartest person in the room, because you can see for yourself that he really is just that. One of the nicest accolades for Gillette, by the way, came from Orson Welles, who said that "it's too little to say that William Gillette resembled Sherlock Holmes; rather, Sherlock Holmes looked exactly like William Gillette." And the film is being screened widely: at Gillette Castle in Hadlyme, Conn., on Sept. 18-20, and quite possibly elsewhere.
16511. As noted last month (May 15 #1), the film will be released on Blu-ray/DVD by Flicker Alley on Oct. 20, with subtitles in French or English, an original musical score and other added features <www.tinyurl.com/mu8kfrk>; you can pre-order now from Flicker Alley (\$29.95), and it's highly recommended. There has been considerable publicity for the film, both in the press and on-line, and you can read Tim Greer's review (from San Francisco) at Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/pwxpk6z>. Issue 59 of the blog EatDrinkFilms <www.tinyurl.com/p4b4nrx> offered Thomas Gladysz' interesting commentary on Gillette, with a video trailer that includes a brief glimpse of Paul Singleton as Holmes.
16512. And there's a bit more: if you'd like to know what it was like to see William Gillette performing on stage, you can read what Vincent Starrett had to say, in Ray Betzner's blog "Studies in Starrett" <www.tinyurl.com/oxw3rv9>.
16513. Finally (perhaps), there's a splendid accompaniment to the film: The Société Sherlock Holmes de France's LE GUIDE DU FILM SHERLOCK HOLMES (1916), a 64-page profusely-illustrated discussion of the film and its actors, with articles by Thierry Saint-Joanis and Bernard Oudin, with press reviews from the original release; it's almost all in English (Thierry has said that he has been asked by members of the Société if he's going to publish a French translation of the book), and costs €20.00 at <www.sshf.com/boutique.php>, where you can see thumb-nail images showing the results of their splendid research. It has been a long time since I've devoted an entire page of the newsletter to anything, but the film and the book are well worth it.
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June 2015 #2

16514. The Broadway production of "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time" has won five Tony awards. The play, dramatized by Simon Stephens from Mark Haddon's novel, won for best play, best performance by an actor in a leading role (Alex Sharp), best scenic design (Bunny Christie and Finn Ross), best lighting design (Paule Constable), and best direction (Marianne Elliott).
16515. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists (also known as The Friends of Sherlock Holmes) met to honor the world's first forensic geologist with drinks and dinner at the Fadó Irish Pub in Denver on June 3, welcomed by members of Dr. Watson's Neglected Patients. Our next meetings will be on Nov. 4 in Baltimore, and on June 22, 2016, in Calgary.
16516. Julie Harris died on May 30. She had a long career as a costume designer in British films, perhaps best-known for her work for The Beatles in 1965, when she said "I must be one of the few people who can claim they have seen John, Paul, George, and Ringo naked." She preferred creating period costumes, and is credited for "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970) and "The Hound of the Baskervilles" and "The Sign of Four" (1983).
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16517. Nicholas Utechin is preparing a short monograph on the British society The Milvertonians of Hampstead, which was founded by Humphrey Morton and Peter Richard in 1958. Nick is in urgent need of a photograph of Peter Richard, and would welcome hearing from anyone who can help; you can reach Nick at <highfieldfarmhouse@gmail.com>.
16518. MYCROFT HOLMES, by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Anna Waterhouse (New York: Titan Books, 2015; 323 pp., \$25.99), is set in 1870, when Mycroft, 23 years old, a secretary to the Secretary of State for War, and in love with a beautiful blonde, finds himself involved in a bizarre intrigue that takes him to the Caribbean, where he finds perilous adventure and an interesting assortment of friends and foes.
16519. "What Happened After Sherlock Rescued Irene?" was the question Steven Moffat was asked at the "Sherlocked" convention in London in April, and you can read his amusing answer at the Sherlockology web-site: click on the "News & Events" link at <www.sherlockology.com>. The short answer is that he wrote but didn't film a scene that would have ended with Sherlock naked. You can also read transcripts of the opening panel with the creators of the series, and of Benedict Cumberbatch's panel, and there's lots more to be found at this interesting web-site.
16520. Tim Dedopulos' SHERLOCK HOLMES' ELEMENTARY PUZZLES (London: Carlton, 2014; 143 pp., £7.99) offers 71 "riddles, enigmas, and challenges," non-Sherlockian but presented by Holmes and others in the Canon.
16521. Bill Peschel's anthology THE EARLY PUNCH PARODIES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Hershey: Peschel Press, 2014; 281 pp., \$15.99) is the result of a wide-ranging search through a magazine that was full of Sherlockiana and Doyleana; the contents include not only parodies but also commentary, reviews, and a story by Conan Doyle himself, all annotated by the editor, who has included an amusing excerpt from the autobiography of Mark Twain: an account of Twain's encounter with Dr. Watson. Peschel's web-site's at <www.peschelpress.com>.

June 2015 #3

16522. Further to the report (May 15 #2) on Agatha Christie's letter to Evelyn B. Byrne, Ray Betzner has blogged about the letter from Vincent Starrett that wasn't included in ATTACKS OF TASTE, and about Byrne and Otto Penzler, and about their book and their correspondence with Starrett; you can read all about it at <www.tinyurl.com/qeqbodc>.
16523. They're off and running: The Baker Street Irregulars' triennial running of The Silver Blaze at Saratoga Raceway in Saratoga, N.Y., is set for Aug. 1 (with a brunch and scholarly presentations on Aug. 2). For details on how to register, contact Lou Lewis <llewis@lewisgreer.com>.
16524. Christopher Lee died on June 7. A consummate actor, he made more than 250 films, often as villains, but also as heroes and supporting characters. He played Sir Henry Baskerville in Peter Cushing's film "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1959), Sherlock Holmes in "Sherlock Holmes und das Halsband des Todes" [Sherlock Holmes and the Necklace of Death] (1962), Mycroft Holmes in Robert Stephens' film "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970), and Holmes again in the television films "Sherlock Holmes and the Leading Lady" and "Sherlock Holmes: The Incident at Victoria Falls" (1992); he also was the host of the television documentary "The Many Faces of Sherlock Holmes" (1986), and read "The Valley of Fear" for Listen for Pleasure (1993).
16525. The Bootmakers of Toronto's annual running of The Silver Blaze at Woodbine Racetrack will be held on July 11 <www.torontobootmakers.com>.
16526. It isn't just people who are trying to buy homes that have been affected by the soaring real-estate prices in London: rents are going up as well. Criterion Capital, landlord of the Criterion Restaurant, has increased the annual rent to £850,000 (up from £525,000), and the 140-year-old restaurant has gone into administration [which is essentially the same as filing for bankruptcy]. The restaurant's still open, so you can visit the plaque honoring Watson and Stamford's historic meeting at the Criterion's Long Bar
16527. Ron Moody died on June 11. He was most famous as Fagin in the musical "Oliver" on stage in the West End and Broadway and on film (1968), and went on to many roles on stage, screen, and television, including Sherlock Holmes in Leslie Bricusse's "Sherlock Holmes: The Musical" (1988).
16528. Marcus Geisser and Helen Dorey were married on May 23 at the Church of St. Cross in Winchester, and have now honeymooned, reporting that "Frau Geisser passed the ultimate honeymoon test: crossing the Splügen Pass successfully and reaching the lovely village of Splügen. For those who have not read the entire Canon, the ultimate honeymoon test will be found in "The Illustrious Client".
16529. "I bear warmest felicitations from Her Majesty The Queen, Professor Stephen Hawking, James Bond, Sherlock Holmes, and the entire cast of Downton Abbey. I think that covers all the important people in England." That was the opening of the speech given at Hillsdale College's commencement ceremony this year by Michael Ward (fellow of Blackfriars Hall, University of Oxford, and professor of apologetics at Houston Baptist University), reprinted in the May/June issue of Imprimis (Hillsdale College's readers monthly). The complete speech is available on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/nsylo18>.

June 2015 #4

16530. There were some familiar names on the Queen's New Year's honors list: Benedict Cumberbatch was appointed CBE (Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire), for services to the performing arts and to charity, and Martin Clunes and Steven Moffat were appointed OBEs (Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire), for services to drama. In case you haven't been watching television, Benedict Cumberbatch plays Sherlock Holmes in the "Sherlock" series co-created by Steven Moffat. and Martin Clunes played Conan Doyle in the mini-series "Arthur & George".
16531. Ralph Wroblewski ("Captain Teddy Marvin") died on Apr. 25. He had a long career as a teacher and principal in Catholic high schools in Cleveland, and in 1972 he was a founder and charter member of Mrs. Hudson's Lodgers of Cleveland, and served as their secretary. He received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1976.
16532. "Sherlock Holmes: Consulting Detective" was first a board game (December 81 #3) and then a CD-ROM disk game (December 91 #1), and then a DVD game (November 99 #4). Now Flickering Myth has reported <www.tinyurl.com/q9tvayk> that Zojoi has remastered the three 30-minute games for PC on Steam. The Zojoi web-site for the game is at <www.zojoi.com/sherlock>.
16533. On Oct. 15, 1969, The Times and the Daily Mirror reported (based on a dispatch from Reuters) that Moscow television seemed to think that Dr. Watson was a secret communist, noting that a television program broadcast in the Soviet Union the day before showed Watson reading the Morning Star, a Communist newspaper published in Britain. Alexander Orlov has discovered that the program apparently was a dramatization of "The Second Stain" (part of a longer program titled "Ministers and Detectives"); does anyone have additional information on the broadcast?
16534. THE DEAD ASSASSIN, by Vaughn Entwistle (New York: Minotaur, 2014; 338 pp., \$26.99) is the second novel in his series taken from "the paranormal casebooks of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle," and it has Arthur Conan Doyle and Oscar Wilde dealing with bizarre murders and a dire plot against the realm in a story that's more science fiction than paranormal. The author's web-site is at <www.vaughnentwistle.com>.
16535. Transformative Works and Cultures (a journal published by the Organization for Transformative Works) has issued a call for papers for a special issue on "Sherlock Holmes Fandom, Sherlockiana, and the Great Game" (to be published in Mar. 2017); the deadline for submissions is Mar. 1, 2016, and you will find more information at their web-site <www.tinyurl.com/nckrpor>.

16536. Patrick Macnee died on June 25. Best known for playing John Steed in the television series "The Avengers", he began his acting career in Britain at the age of 11 on stage in a production of "Henry V" (with a young Christopher Lee), and had a long list of film and television credits, among them Dr. Watson in "Sherlock Holmes in New York" (1976), David Worth (a psychotic former British secret agent who believes he's Sherlock Holmes) in "Magnum, P.I.: Holmes Is Where the Heart Is" (1984), Watson in "Sherlock Holmes and the Leading Lady" and "Sherlock Holmes: The Incident at Victoria Falls" (1992), and Holmes in the television film "The Hound of London" (1993).
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June 2015 #5

16537. The spring issue of "For the Sake of the Trust" (the newsletter of the Baker Street Irregulars Trust) has news about the Trust, its new web-site, additions to the Archives at the Houghton Library, and an article by Harvard student George Mills on his research in the Archives for his senior thesis on the BSI as a pioneering fan community. The issue is available both at the Trust's web-site <www.bsitrust.org> and by e-mail; if you would like to be on the mailing list, send a request to Mike Berdan at <editor@bsitrust.org>.
16538. David B. Pearce ("The Khalifa at Khartoum") died on June 1. He practiced ophthalmology in New York for more than 40 years, and enjoyed the arts, music, literature, sailing, and lacrosse. He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1977.
16539. Randall Stock has revised his "Best of Sherlock" web-site page for Sidney Paget <www.tinyurl.com/qg6pvd9>; he has added a few non-Sherlockian items, and (far more important) images of original artwork for some of the Sherlockian illustrations, so that one can see how wonderful his original artwork is. You can see much larger full-color images of artwork that was on view at the Museum of London in the spectacular "Catalogue of the Exhibition" that's available for purchase at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>.
16540. Congratulations to Scott Monty, who has reached the 1,000th entry on his "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.tinyurl.com/peb2bvX>. The web-site and its podcasts are entertaining, interesting, and informative.
16541. "Murder on the Bluebell Line" was a 35-minute program that was broadcast by BBC-1 in 1987; it was based on Charles Blinderman's book THE PILTDOWN INQUEST (1986), and starred Hugh Fraser as Holmes and Ronald Fraser as Watson (Hugh Fraser will be remembered as Hastings in the "Poirot" television series). You can watch the program now, thanks to Alexander Orlov, who has found the program at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/qy9bghe>.
16542. The "International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes" will run through Sept. 7 at the Discovery Science Center in Santa Ana, Calif., and The Curious Collectors of Baker Street are presenting a Mini-Symposium at the Discovery on July 18, featuring Leslie S. Klinger, Laurie R. King, Bonnie MacBird, and Mary Platt; details at <www.ccobs.org>.
16543. There has been progress on the television series "Houdini and Doyle" (March 15 #1). Stephen Mangan has been cast as Conan Doyle, and Michael Weston as Houdini; the executive producer is David Shore (creator of "House"). The ten-part mini-series is scheduled for broadcast next spring on Fox in the U.S., ITV Encore in the U.K., and Global in Canada. According to one report, Houdini and Conan Doyle "grudgingly join forces with New Scotland Yard to investigate inexplicable crimes with a supernatural slant."
16544. Bonnie MacBird's ART IN THE BLOOD (London: HarperCollins, 2015; 306 pp., \$25.99) takes Holmes and Watson to Paris and to bleak northern England in an attempt to rescue the illegitimate son of a French chanteuse, recover stolen art, and thwart a vicious criminal conspiracy. The author's web-site is at <www.macbird.com>, and she has helpfully supplied annotations for the book on-line at <www.aitbnotes.com>.
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June 2015 #6

16545. The spring issue of The Magic Door (the newsletter published by The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) offers Peter Calamai's report on "Conan Doyle's Journalist Circles", Doug Wrigglesworth's investigation of "Arthur Conan Doyle and the South African War", and other news from and about the collection; copies of the newsletter are available from Clifford S. Goldfarb, 22 Markdale Avenue, Toronto, ON M6C, 1T1, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.
16546. The "tale in verse" has a long Sherlockian tradition, in the pages of The Baker Street Journal and other publications from the 1940s onward. Edgar W. Smith, Bliss Austin, and many others enjoyed presenting both the Canon and their own stories as poetry, and now Allan Mitchell has written SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE MENACING MOORS (London: MX Publishing, 2015; 122 pp., \$8.95), bringing Holmes and Watson back to Dartmoor for another case, told almost entirely in poetic quatrains, and with a nice comment in the introduction: "Sherlock is as real as we want him to be." The publisher's web-sites are at <www.mxpublishing.com> and <www.mxpublishing.co.uk>.
16547. Also from MX: Wendy C. Fries' SHERLOCK HOLMES AND JOHN WATSON: THE DAY THEY MET (2015; 302 pp., \$18.95) is an entertaining collection of "50 new ways the world's most legendary partnership might have begun," short vignettes ranging from 1879 to 2015. Dick Gillman's SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE JULIA MORIARTY TRILOGY (2015; 139 pp., \$8.95) collects three stories about Holmes and Watson's confrontation with the evil professor's sister, who is trying to avenge her brother's death. GC Rosenqist's SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE PEARL OF DEATH AND OTHER EARLY STORIES (2015; 222 pp., \$14.95) offers ten short pastiches.
16548. And as usual, there are theatrics to report: Charles Marowitz's "Sherlock's Last Case" will be performed at the Charity Randall Theatre in Pittsburgh, Pa., July 9-26 <www.kinetictheatre.org>.
16549. The Namron Players are presenting "Plays Written by Kids (And Performed by Adults)" in the Andrews Park Amphitheater in Norman, Okla., on July 11-12. One of the plays is reported to feature "Sherlock Holmes rescuing all the penguins from an evil mastermind, even though Sherlock cannot pronounce the word 'penguin' himself." The web-site's at <www.namronplayers.com>.
16550. "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (the excellent parody by Steven Canny and John Nicholson) is scheduled at the Hangar Theatre in Ithaca, N.Y., on July 16-25 <www.hangartheatre.org>. Also at Portland Stage in Portland, Maine, on Jan. 26-Feb. 21, 2016 <www.portlandstage.org>.
16551. The Filament Theatre Ensemble will present Jessica Wright Buha's new play "Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of Portage Park" in Chicago on July 18-19 <www.filamenttheatre.org>; "Sherlock Holmes on bike or on foot, searching for clues in and around Portage Park."
16552. Ed. Lange's "Sherlock's Secret Life" will be performed at the Pioneer Playhouse in Danville, Ky., July 21-Aug. 1 <www.pioneerplayhouse.com>.
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July 2015 #1

16553. There's a nice two-minute trailer for William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" (1916), due for release in a Blu-ray/DVD set by Flicker Alley on Oct. 20, and you can watch the trailer at Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog at <www.tinyurl.com/odlmopw>. If you weren't able to see the film when it was screened in Paris in January and in San Francisco in May, the Red Circle of Washington has arranged for a theater screening on Sept. 26 in Bethesda, Md.; tickets still are available, and you'll find more information at <www.redcircledc.org>.
16554. On-line registration for GridLOCK DC in Washington on Aug. 8-9 has closed, but you can also register on-site <www.gridlockdc.org>. People coming from out of town may wish to arrive one day early to attend The Evil League of Ecdysiasts' presentation of "Sherlock Holmes: The Adventure of the

Black Cat" <www.blackcatdc.com/shows/burlesque2.html> at 9:00 pm on Aug. 7 at the Black Cat. The promise of the League is "We do the weird stuff... And you can sing along."

16555. Sorry about that: William Gillette's last appearance on stage as Sherlock Holmes was not in 1930 (June 15 #1), but rather at The Playhouse in Wilmington, Del., on Mar. 19, 1932.
16556. It is nice to be able to report that Simpson's-in-the-Strand still is serving its traditional and properly British dinners (although meals cost more than they did when I first dined there some fifty years ago), and it likely will continue to do so. Rumors of possible changes to the restaurant (February 15 #3) caused some concern earlier this year, but it appears that management only is seeking to provide late-night and early-morning music in the restaurant's upstairs rooms.
16557. Ben Gibson's *THE GHASTLY DANDIES DO THE CLASSICS* (New York: Penguin Young Readers, 2013; 64 pp., \$17.95); spotted by Evy Herzog in a bargain bin at Staples, the classics in the book include Sherlock Holmes (with six pages on "The Dancing Men"), and the artworks imaginative (and you should take a close look at the cover).
16558. BBC Radio 4 Extra is broadcasting a "True Crime" series of repeats of older programs, one of which is "Conan Doyle's Strangest Case" (the story of the George Edalji case, first broadcast in 1995, starring Peter Jeffrey as Conan Doyle). You can listen to their programs for a month after they air at <www.tinyurl.com/p5sq7mg>.
16559. Richard Johnson died on June 6. He had a long career as an actor on stage, screen, radio, and television, and played Dr. Watson in Charlton Heston's television version of "The Crucifer of Blood" (1991).
16560. Willy Werby has created two versions of the sitting-room at 221B, one for display at the restaurant S. Holmes, Esq., in San Francisco, and the other at the Grosvenor Resort Hotel at Disney World in Orlando. Both rooms are now in storage, and she is offering the second room for sale; you can see some nice images of the room at <www.holmesroom.com> (move your cursor to the top of the screen to open captions).
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July 2015 #2

16561. "Kevin Spacey Fowler: 5 Fun Facts about the Actor," India.com announced on May 10, and one of those fun facts was: "It is because of Sherlock Holmes that Kevin Spacey got into acting. During a trip to London when he was 10 years old and after seeing a production of Sherlock Holmes, the actor made his decision to be what he wanted to be." The actor turned ten years old on July 26, 1969, and of course one wonders what production that was.
16562. Alexander Orlov has reported an interesting video at YouTube: 38 minutes of behind-the-scenes footage from the making of Ian McKellen's "Mr. Holmes" at <www.tinyurl.com/pmjr6s>; it's a fine look at what's involved in creating a movie. And don't neglect the links to interviews and trailers.
16563. "Sherlock Holmes' Fictional Baker Street Home in London Subject to Ownership Mystery" was the headline on a story in The Independent (July 22) on who owns the block of property at 215-237 Baker Street, which includes the site of the former Abbey National, where mail addressed to Sherlock Holmes was for many years answered by Holmes' secretary. A non-governmental organization called Global Witness has reported that the property is included in a portfolio of real estate in London worth L147 million that's owned by someone with ties to Rakhat Aliyev, a former Kazakh secret police chief accused in the European Union of money laundering and murder. You can read the full report at <www.globalwitness.org>.
16564. Laurie R. King reports that she has finished work on the next Mary Russell novel, *THE MURDER OF MARY RUSSELL*, due for publication in April. Laurie's excellent web-site's at <www.laurierking.com>; scroll down to Laurie's Muttering at lower right and read "This Is Mrs. Hudson?" to see what Mrs. Hudson was wearing in 1875.
16565. The Sherlockian Calendar, maintained by Ron Fish and Sue and Ben Vizoskie, is at <www.sherlockiancalendar.com>; it's a helpful list of upcoming Sherlockian events, for anyone who would like to know what's happening when and where; you can contact Ron at <ronf404@aol.com> if you would like to have a meeting or conference listed. And Ron reports that the calendar is now on Twitter as @SianCalendar.
16566. Phil Austin died on June 18. The official lead guitarist of the Firesign Theater, he was a co-author and performer on their album "The Giant Rat of Sumatra" (1974), which featured Hemlock Stones and Flotsam. You can listen to the album at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/ob85wsz>.
16567. Georges Treville directed and starred as Sherlock Holmes in a series of silent films made by Eclair in 1912, and it's nice indeed that two of these old films have survived: "The Copper Beeches" (24 minutes) has been available for some time, and "The Musgrave Ritual" (18 minutes) was discovered a few years ago. Search for [georges treville] at <www.youtube.com> to see both films.
16568. Oscar Ross has spotted a mention of Sherlock Holmes in the lyrics of B. A. Robertson's song "Bang Bang" issued by Asylum Records as a single in 1979. There's a promotional video at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/psetzwc>, and Sherlockian artwork on the sleeve (which you can see easily at eBay).
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July 2015 #3

16569. Adam Frost and Jim Kynvin have created an artistic and interesting graphic analysis of the Canon ("Sherlock Holmes: Examining the Evidence--in Charts"), published in the Guardian on June 30, and well worth examining at the web-site <www.tinyurl.com/pcst3dg>. Don't neglect their presentation of "Other Cases Are Referenced--Which Sound Far More Exciting Than the One We're Reading".
16570. Mel Ruiz ("Jack Douglas") died on Feb. 25, 2014. Proud to be a fourth-generation Californian, he had many enthusiasms, including tennis, old movies, nature, photography, and of course Sherlock Holmes. He was a member of the Sherlockian societies in San Francisco, and received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1988.
16571. Anne Martinetti's *ALIMENTAIRE, MON CHER WATSON!* was published in France in 2010 and is now out of print, but a Google search will turn up copies offered for sale, and it's well worth searching for: it's a delightful French cookbook, with many full-page full-color illustrations, Sherlockian as well as alimentary. The author talks about her book in a three-minute video at <www.tinyurl.com/qfh8ea4>.
16572. Further to the report (February 14 #6) that CBS had syndicated the first season of "Elementary" about \$3 million per episode, WGN America will start airing the series this fall in the cable channel's "Prime Crime" weeknights lineup. There's a trailer for the line-up at <www.tinyurl.com/pcomzxs>.
16573. Buckminster Fuller was a protege and good friend of Christopher Morley in the 1930s, and a member of the Three Hours for Lunch Club, the Grillparzer Sittenpolizeiverein, and The Baker Street Irregulars, and he installed one of his Dymaxion bathrooms in Morley's "Knothole" writing studio in Roslyn on Long Island. *THE SENSE OF SIGNIFICANCE: THE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN CHRISTOPHER MORLEY AND BUCKMINSTER FULLER* is a splendid tribute to the two men, written by Chris' daughter Louise Morley Cochrane, based on the Morley and Fuller papers and on long taped interviews with Fuller.
16574. The 158-page book offers a fascinating look at their relationship, and it has now been privately published by her children as part of the celebration of the 125th anniversary of Morley's birth. A few copies still are available, and are being used to help raise funds for the Knothole: \$25.00 for the
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book and \$5.00 for shipping; you can contact Terry and Linda Hunt (516-596-1590) <18goldini95@gmail.com> to see if the book's available, and ask for payment details.

16575. And with regard to the Three Hours for Lunch Club, Greg Ruby has posted at The Fourth Garrideb <www.fourthgarrideb.com> with new information about the Club's medal, together with commentary on the club by Christopher Morley.
16576. Angela Misri's *THRICE BURNED* (Fierce Ink Press, 2015; 271 pp., CA\$16.99) is the second in her series about the adventures of Portia Adams, a sequel to her *JEWEL OF THE THAMES* (April 14 #3); Portia has discovered that she is the granddaughter of both Dr. Watson and Sherlock Holmes, and that her mysterious guardian is Irene Adler, and continues to develop her talents as a detective. The book can be ordered on-line at <www.amazon.ca> and from the publisher <www.fierceinkpress.storenvy.com>.

July 2015 #4

16577. The DFN Foundation's plans to convert Undershaw, Conan Doyle's former home, into a school (April 15 #3) are continuing: the BBC reported (July 7) that a judge has ruled against an appeal by John Michael Gibson, from the Undershaw Preservation Trust, for a review of the Waverley Council's approval of the Foundation's plans. School project manager Norman Stromsoy welcomed the decision, and said that work on the site is "progressing very well," adding that the vast majority of the building has been maintained. Gibson said that he is taking legal advice on his next steps, and he has applied for an oral hearing in front of another judge.
16578. The letter in which Agatha Christie wrote to Evelyn B. Byrne in 1966 that "All the Sherlock Holmes stories were enthusiasms of mine" (May 15 #2) sold for \$2,250 (including the buyer's premium).
16579. The series of thirty Conan Doyle letters pertaining to the Edalji Case that went to auction at Bonhams on Mar. 18 <www.tinyurl.com/m5y2h25> (February 15 #4) with an estimate of L20,000-L40,000 went unsold, but they were bought after the auction by the Portsmouth City Council (for L13,750), and have now been added to the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection. Michael Gunton, the Collection senior archivist, reports that a selection from the letters has been put on display at the Central Library <www.conandoyllection.co.uk>.
16580. Omar Sharif died on July 10. He began his acting career in Egyptian films and went on to stardom in "Lawrence of Arabia" (1962) and "Doctor Zhivago" (1965). He also was a highly-ranked bridge player, and with Charles Goren and then Tannah Hirsch, wrote widely-syndicated bridge columns that occasionally involved Sherlock Holmes.
16581. Residents of Widecombe-in-the-Moor are campaigning to block installation of four towering mobile phone masts on Dartmoor, and Norman Cowling, chairman of the Dartmoor Preservation Association, has cited Dr. Watson, who wrote to Holmes that "when you are out upon its bosom, you have left all trace of modern England behind." Landscape enthusiasts point out that the L300,000 in public funding for each mast would give improved mobile coverage to just 47 residences, at a cost of L6,383 per property.
16582. MX Publishing has announced a Kickstarter campaign to help cover the cost of creating a three-volume *THE MX BOOK OF NEW SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES* with 60 stories whose authors have pledged all their royalties to the renovation of Conan Doyle's home Undershaw by the Stepping Stones school. David Marcum is editing the anthology, and you can contribute to the campaign at the Kickstarter web-site <www.tinyurl.com/nfxkpnn>.
16583. The Collector's Library <www.collectors-library.com> from CRW Publishing in London offers a lengthy list of titles in cloth-bound pocket-size editions, including the complete Canon in a boxed set of six volumes (L45.00) and as separate volumes: *A STUDY IN SCARLET* and *THE SIGN OF THE FOUR* (L7.99), *THE ADVENTURES* (L8.99), *THE MEMOIRS* (L7.99), *THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES+THE VALLEY OF FEAR* (L8.99), *THE RETURN+HIS LAST BOW* (L8.99), and *THE CASEBOOK* (L7.99), each volume with an interesting and instructive afterword by David Stuart Davies. *THE BEST OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* and *SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE DARK MYSTERIES* (L8.99 each) have introductions by Davies; he also has edited anthologies of crime, detective, and other stories for the Library.

July 2015 #5

16584. It made headlines in Britain when the BBC realized that it had paid thousands of pounds in royalties to a man who had the same name as actor Neil Fitzpatrick, who played John Horner in Peter Cushing's "The Blue Carbuncle" (1968) and died in 2008; the man who received the royalties said he had never cashed the checks, and the BBC said it was trying to contact the dead actor's estate to make amends.
16585. Dean Clark recommends Nathan Gelgud's "An Illustrated History of Sherlock Holmes" (and so do I); it's an amusing tribute he posted (July 11) at Word & Film, a blog at the "intersection of books, movies, and television." You will find his post at <www.tinyurl.com/odcvq4j>.
16586. Roger Rees died on July 10. He started his acting career on stage with the Royal Shakespeare Company, and went on to win Olivier and Tony awards for his performance in the title role in "The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby"; he had many other roles in film and television, and was Sherlock Holmes in the BBC's radio dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1988). He also was seen as Sherlock Holmes' friend Alistair Moore in two episodes of the CBS-TV series "Elementary" in 2012 and 2014. You can listen to him in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" at <www.tinyurl.com/ogsg78u> (the Crew of the Barque Lone Star offers a long list of Sherlockian radio).
16587. The BBC has launched its first trailer for the "Sherlock" Christmas special with some intriguing homages to Granada's "Sherlock Holmes" series; you can watch the trailer, and read about the homages in Paul Jones' excellent article in Radio Times (July 10) <www.tinyurl.com/p5jasdt>. And there's some news from San Diego: Steven Moffat announced at Comic-Con that the Christmas special also will have a theatrical release.
16588. Further to the item (October 14 #2) about Gerard Marcel Beaudoin III, who used the alias Quentin G. Stanhope (who was a character in Carole Nelson Douglas' "Irene Adler" novels) while he committed theft, identity theft, forgery, and tampering with a witness in Lincoln City, Ore., was sentenced to eight years in prison on July 22 after pleading guilty to seven counts of aggravated theft and ID theft. The judge ordered Beaudoin to serve the sentence without the possibility of parole. Beaudoin said that he planned to pay back his victims after earning a theology Ph.D. while in prison and then working as a college professor, but the judge said that he thought "the likelihood of your paying restitution is very limited."
16589. Aubrey Morris died on July 15. He made his stage debut in 1944, performed in the West End and on Broadway, and went on to a long career as a supporting actor in film and on television; he played the Coach Driver in "The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes' Smarter Brother" (1975).
16590. Marvin Lachman's *THE VILLAINOUS STAGE: CRIME PLAYS ON BROADWAY AND IN THE WEST END* (Jefferson: McFarland, 2014; 254 pp., \$45.00) is a comprehensive survey, organized by subject matter, with an extensive chapter on "Sherlock Holmes: Baker Street on Stage"; the book discusses more than 900 plays that have been produced from the 18th century to the 2013-14 season, and offers a fascinating look at a wide variety of criminous theater. The publisher's web-site is at <www.mcfarlandpub.com> (800-253-2187).

July 2015 #6

16591. Stephen Hunter is a journalist turned author (he won a Pulitzer Prize as a film critic for the Washington Post, and he has now written 18 novels), and his latest is a gripping and often-graphic account of Jack the Ripper's "autumn of terror," offering twists and turns aplenty and an imaginative

- solution to the mystery. I, RIPPER (New York: Simon & Schuster, 309 pp., \$27.99) offers a well-written story, with many appropriate mentions of both Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes by characters who have read the just-published A STUDY IN SCARLET.
16592. "We have not yet met our Waterloo, Watson," Sherlock Holmes said (in "The Abbey Grange"), and Britain has issued an attractive set of stamps honoring the bicentenary of the Battle of Waterloo. Conan Doyle, it should be noted, was quite familiar with the battle: his story "A Straggler of '15" was published in 1891 and dramatized as "A Story of Waterloo" for Henry Irving, who first appeared in the play in 1894 as Corporal Gregory Brewster, hero of the defense of Hougoumont (which is shown in the first of the six stamps, at upper left).
16593. Greg Ruby has an interesting discussion of "2015 Coins and Medals Commemorating The Battle of Waterloo" at the web-site for The Fourth Garrideb; read all about them at <www.tinyurl.com/q6q5wp6>. The Brigadier Gerard also was at Waterloo, and earlier posts about that are at <www.tinyurl.com/ooa5ha4>.
16594. John E. Stephenson, who sold Sherlockiana at eBay (as "houndbook") for many year, has retired and moved to Florida, and his sister Peggy Steele now is selling his collection in a series of sales lists, which you welcome to request from her at <elizmoll@comcast.net>; there are lists available so far for lapel pins, tie tacks, cuff links, comics, and coffee mugs, and there are more to come.
16595. The Conan Doyle Estate lawsuit against Miramax and others charging that the new film "Mr. Holmes" infringes on the Estate's copyright (May 15 #5) has been settled out of court, according to a report in the Santa Fe New Mexican (July 16). Mitch Cullin, who wrote the book A SLIGHT TRICK OF THE MIND (on which the film is based) and shares credit for writing the film script, said on his Facebook page when the lawsuit was filed that it was "an extortion attempt pure and simple, brought on by the desire to make money once the film version of the book came to their attention," and he posted again on July 18, noting that the lawsuit succeeded in holding up the U.S. film tie-in edition of the book, which will appear soon.

July 2015 #7

16596. The "International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes" runs through Sept. 7 at the Discovery Science Center in Santa Ana, Calif., and it's then scheduled at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science in Denver, Colo., opening on Oct. 15; at the Pacific Science Center in Seattle, Wash., opening on Oct. 13, 2016; and then in Sydney, Australia. The web-site for Santa Ana is <www.discoverycube.org>, and the web-site for the exhibition is <www.sherlockholmesexhibition.com>.
16597. MY PARTICULAR FRIEND: A CHARLOTTE HOUSE AFFAIR, by Jennifer Petkus (Denver: Mallard Press, 2012; 297 pp., \$14.00) offers six stories inspired by Jane Austen and set in Bath during war with Napoleon; Charlotte is a investigator whose deductive style echoes the Canon (and one of the stories has some amusing echoes of P. G. Wodehouse) <www.myparticularfriend.com>.
16598. The Fourth Garrideb has scheduled its annual meeting in Chicago on Aug. 11, during the American Numismatic Association's World's Fair of Money; details are available at <www.fourthgarrideb.com>.
16599. Susan Rice has reported nice news for those planning to attend the birthday festivities in New York in January: Moran's Restaurant, where the William Gillette Luncheon has been held since 1994, did close, but it has been reborn as the Fillmore Room (named for the San Francisco music hall, rather than the president), and the luncheon will continue to be held there.
16600. Further to the review of MYCROFT HOLMES, the pastiche written by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Anna Waterhouse (June 15 #2), Alexander Wolff's excellent article "Kareem Abdul-Jabbar as Comfortable as Ever as a Public Intellectual" appeared in Sports Illustrated on July 6 <www.tinyurl.com/ph3b234>.
16601. Michael King died on May 27. In the 1970s he and his brother Roger transformed King World Productions into a syndicator of television megahits that they sold in 1999 to CBS for \$2.5 billion in CBS stock. Their most popular shows were "Wheel of Fortune", "Jeopardy!", and "The Oprah Winfrey Show", and at one time they owned the rights to the Rathbone/Bruce films; according to his obituary in the N.Y. Times, he once told an interviewer, "I love owning Sherlock Holmes. If anybody wants to run Sherlock Holmes, anywhere in the world, they have to call Roger and me. Isn't that wild?"
16602. A page from the manuscript of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" was offered at eBay this month for \$169,000 <www.tinyurl.com/o8s2moz>. It's the first page of Chapter XIII, and is listed as leaf H31 in Randall Stock's census <www.bestofsherlock.com/baskervilles-manuscript.htm>.
16603. Ian McKellen's "Mr. Holmes" received excellent reviews, with a score of 88% on the tomatometer at <www.rottentomatoes.com>, where you'll find links to 128 reviews by critics. The film also did well at the box office, according to another useful web-site <www.boxofficemojo.com>, with a first-weekend gross of \$2.43 million at 361 theaters, excellent for a film that did not "open wide"; Robert Downey Jr.'s "Sherlock Holmes" did open wide, and had a first-weekend gross of \$62.3 million at 3,625 theaters. If you read (and remember) Mitch Cullin's A SLIGHT TRICK OF THE MIND (April 05 #2), you know that the film-makers made some interesting changes; it's a fascinating book, and there are new tie-in editions with cover art that shows McKellen.

July 2015 #8

16604. The "International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes" runs through Sept. 7 at the Discovery Science Center in Santa Ana, Calif., and it's then scheduled at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science in Denver, Colo., opening on Oct. 15; at the Pacific Science Center in Seattle, Wash., opening on Oct. 13, 2016; and then in Sydney, Australia. The web-site for Santa Ana is <www.discoverycube.org>.
16605. And there's more theater coming up: Brian Clemens' "Sherlock Holmes & the Ripper Murders" opened at the Devonshire Park Theatre in Eastbourne on June 30, and is now touring in Britain <www.tinyurl.com/pyfzcg>.
16606. "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (the excellent parody by Steven Canny and John Nicholson) is scheduled at the Fortune Theatre in Dunedin from Aug. 8 to Sept. 5, and then will tour in New Zealand <www.fortunetheatre.co.nz>.
16607. And at the Kamali Auditorium in Delhi, Aug. 22-23, and the Tata Theatre in Mumbai, Oct. 3-4 <www.in.bookmyshow.com>.
16608. Raleigh Welch's new "Sherlock Holmes in the Raven's Court" will be read at the Paper Wing Theatre Fremont in Monterey, Calif., on Aug. 9, during the company's summer play reading series <www.paperwingtheatre.com>.
16609. Jeffrey Hatcher's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club" will be presented by the Woy Woy Little Theatre at the Peninsula Theatre in Woy Woy, NSW, Australia, Aug. 14-30 <www.woywoylt.com.au>. And at the Acadia Repertory Theatre in Mt. Desert, Maine, Aug. 18-Sep. 6; their web-site is at <www.acadiarep.org>.
16610. Melbourne Steam Theatre has scheduled "Sherlock Holmes: Era's End" (a new play) at the Mooroolback Community Centre in Victoria on Sept. 4-5, and at the Mezzanine in Melbourne on Sept. 18-19 (both in Australia); you can go to <www.facebook.com> and search for [melbourne steam theatre].
16611. Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" will be performed at the Sunset Playhouse in Elm Grove, Wis., Sept. 10-27; their web-site is at <www.sunsetplayhouse.com>.
16612. Charles Marowitz's "Sherlock's Last Case" will be performed at the Colonial Players in Annapolis, Md., Sept. 4-26 <www.thecolonialplayers.org>.

16613. Terry McCabe's dramatization of Nicholas Meyer's "The Seven-Per-Cent Solution" will be performed at the City Lit Theater in Chicago, Oct. 12-Nov. 15 <www.citylit.org>.
16614. I've long described this newsletter as six or more pages of whatever gossip I find appropriate, much of it quite trivial, but most of it Sherlockian or Doylean, and anyone who wants to do a word-search on a large (more than 13-MB) file of all of the text since March 1985 can now do just that, thanks to Steve Mason, who compiled the file, and will update it, and has kindly made it available for download from the Crew of the Barque Lone Star's web-site <www.dfw.sherlock.org/scuttlebutt-from-the-spermaceti-press>.
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August 2015 #1

16615. William Gillette's 1916 film "Sherlock Holmes" will be screened at the Arlington Theatre in Santa Barbara, Calif., on Sept. 13 (accompanied by Dennis James on the theater organ) <www.tinyurl.com/oooe6p> and at the Chicago International Film Festival, Oct. 15-29 <www.chicagofilmfestival.com>.
16616. If you can't get to Santa Barbara or Chicago, and want to see the film in a theater, the way your grandparents or great-grandparents did, there also is the screening in Bethesda, Md., on Sept. 26, conveniently the morning after the next dinner meeting of The Red Circle of Washington; for details (and a link to the box office), go to <www.redcircledc.org>.
16617. The three-part mini-series "Arthur & George" aired on ITV in Great Britain in March, starring Martin Clunes as Conan Doyle, with a script by Ed Whitmore based on the book by Julian Barnes; the script is inventive, but less than faithful to the book as well as to the actual events in the George Edalji case. The mini-series is scheduled on "Masterpiece" on PBS-TV beginning on Sept. 6.
16618. "I had all the WILLIAM books by Richmal Crompton," John Mortimer recalled, "their covers picturing the hero with his cap and tie askew and his socks like concertina around his ankles. But I didn't really want to read about schoolboys, I had quite enough of them in real life. I much preferred to become the sage of Baker Street, wearing a dressing gown, playing the violin, and shooting the pips out of playing cards stuck up above the mantelpiece. That's from his contribution to THE PLEASURE OF READING, edited by Antonia Fraser, published in 1992, and now in a second (expanded) edition (New York: Bloomsbury, 2015; 345 pp., \$18.00); it's an excellent book that allows you to read about how some fine writers discovered reading, and the books that inspired them.
16619. THE MYSTERY WRITERS OF AMERICA COOKBOOK (Philadelphia: Quirk Books, 2015; 175 pp., \$24.95) is edited by Kate White, who has assembled an assortment of "wickedly good recipes" from MWA members including Laurie R. King ("Mrs. Hudson's Coffee Sheet Cookies"), Ken Ludwig ("Lenore Schneiderman's Gourmet Quiche") and Lyndsay Faye "Valentine Wilde's Chicken Fricassee"), there also is a sidebar from E.J. Wagner on "The Food Hound of Baker Street".
16620. James Carlopio's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE JULY CRISIS (London: MX Publishing, 2015; 148 pp., \$9.95) is a story created with an interesting approach: he has used words, phrases, sentences, and paragraphs taken from the Canon to devise a new pastiche, resulting in a tale told very much in the style of Conan Doyle; some of the plot devices will be familiar, but Carlopio has succeeded in achieving what he calls "creative editing." The author has a web-site at <www.jamescarlopio.com>. And the publisher's web-sites are at <www.mxpublishing.com> and <www.mxpublishing.co.uk>.
16621. Also from MX: SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE SWORD OF OSMAN, by Tim Symonds (2015; 229 pp., \$14.95) is set in 1906, with Holmes and Watson in Stamboul hoping to foil an attempt to topple the Ottoman Empire. Dean P. Turnbloom's SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE RETURN OF THE WHITECHAPEL VAMPIRE (2015; 230 pp., \$16.95) is the final volume in his trilogy about Holmes and Watson and their pursuit of the undead Baron Antonio Barlucci.
16622. Zach Dundas' THE GREAT DETECTIVE: THE AMAZING RISE AND IMMORTAL LIFE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (New York: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2015; 320 pp., \$16.00) is a delightful exploration of the Sherlock Holmes stories and the world of Sherlockians; Dundas, at the age of 13, founded a correspondence society he called The Street Arabs and was published in The Baker Street Journal (Dec. 1988), and his book is entertaining and instructive: a well-written guide that will inform old hands as well as neophytes. Recommended.
16623. There's a new line of imaginative vinyl Pop! figurines due from Funko in October: Sherlock Holmes (two versions), Dr. John Watson, Irene Adler, Jim Moriarty, and Mycroft Holmes; from Entertainment Earth <www.tinyurl.com/p67vz73> and the BBC Shop <www.tinyurl.com/nddx5fs> \$9.99/L10.99 each.
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August 2015 #2

16624. David McLaughlin spoke at the Transatlantic Dialogues conference in Liverpool in July on "Imagined Histories and Intangible Heritages: Walking the World of Sherlock Holmes"; it was a delightful tribute to the travel books written by David L. Hammer, and you can read the paper at his "Travelling Histories" blog at <www.tinyurl.com/pqtdcea>.
16625. Flicker Alley, the distributor of the Blu-ray/DVD set of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" (1916) reports that the set will be multi-region.
16626. W. E. Dudley ("The Papers of Ex-President Murillo) died on Nov. 14, 1995. Bill worked in industrial security and once wrote that "I am a retired investigator and am sure the Canon led me into that field." He contributed often to The Baker Street Journal, presided over The Travelers for Nevada, and received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1976.
16627. "Conan Doyle Sues Own Estate from Beyond the Grave" was the headline on the report from Tweenhauken, Pa., tweeted on June 11 by Burt Wolder; it was the first in a continuing weekly series, and you can read all of the reports at <www.burtwolder.wordpress.com>.
16628. "The legendary literary detective comes alive in the Sherlock Holmes Tarot" is the announcement from Aeclectic Tarot <www.tinyurl.com/nzswowe>, noted by Oscar Ross; the cards are colorful and artistic, and the web-site offers links to tarot card meanings and stories. The pack contains 79 Sherlockian cards and a 160-page illustrated guidebook.
16629. A major exhibition on "The Power of Poison" opened at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science on July 10 and runs through Jan. 10, 2016; it's reported to be informative and interesting, and of course poisons in the Canon are not neglected <www.dmns.org/the-power-of-poison>.
16630. Plan well ahead for "Michael Chabon and Sherlock Holmes" at the Peter Jay Sharp Theater at Symphony Space in New York on Dec. 9; it will be the live recording of "Selected Shorts" (a weekly radio series distributed by Public Radio International and available as a podcast). Chabon, author of THE FINAL SOLUTION: A NOVEL OF DETECTION (2004), "hosts and curates an evening of readings from some of the most sensational and confounding cases of Sherlock Holmes" <www.selectedshorts.org/onstage/detail/8854>.
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August 2015 #3

16631. "Call yourself a Cumberfan or a Cumberbitch?" BBC Radio 4 asks. "See how much you really know about bounteous Benedict with our Cumberquiz." It's a brief and amusing quiz, with a link to his performance as the young Rumpole in "Rumpole of the Bailey" <www.tinyurl.com/ouwgu4p>. You may find that the BBC wants you to be in the UK, in which case you can use handy little software such as Hola! <www.hola.org> to be anywhere you want to be.
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16632. Cumberbatch's performance in the title role in the National Theatre's production of "Hamlet" is reported to be the hottest ticket in London, but you don't need to go to London to see the show: a recording will be screened in theaters in the U.K. and in other countries (including the U.S.) on Oct. 15 and later in the year; details at <www.tinyurl.com/pd2y3h4>.
16633. The Royal Mail is installing 50 plaques on postboxes around the United Kingdom, each featuring a popular stamp associated with the area, and one of the postboxes is the one closest to 221B, located at 210 Baker Street at the corner of Melcombe Street; the plaque shows one of the commemorative stamps that honored Sherlock Holmes in 1993.
16634. The Australian government is reported to have banned hundreds of mobile and web-based games that have "questionable content" (including "crude humor" and "scary elements"), and according to Ars Technica (June 30), one of the banned games is "Sherlock: Criminal Case" on Google Play. Titles that have been refused classification "cannot be sold, hired, advertised, or legally imported in Australia," but it's far from clear how the ban can be enforced in the modern era of digital distribution. Go to <www.play.google.com> to find the game; you can also search for [sherlock] to find many more games and apps (lots of them free).
16635. George Cole died on Aug. 5. He began his acting career on stage in 1939, and became best known for playing Alistair Sim's crooked accomplice Flash Harry in the "St. Trinian's" films in the 1950s and 1960s, and Arthur Daley in the television series "The Minder" (1979-1994). He also played Josiah Amberley in Clive Merrison's "The Retired Colourman" on BBC Radio 4 (1995).
16636. Greg Ruby reports that The Fourth Garrideb has issued a medal and a lapel pin, available at the society's web-site <www.fourthgarrideb.com>; if you order quickly you'll also receive one of the society's wooden nickels.
16637. The Cresco Times ran a story on July 15 about Sherlock Shrimp: Elementary, My Dear <www.tinyurl.com/ovsagxk>; Sherill and Jeff Ryan own a shrimp farm in Ridgeway, Iowa, where they opened their business last year in a former elementary school. Their logo, which you can see at their Facebook page, also is nicely Sherlockian.
16638. It's out of print, but worth looking for: MANAGING THE MYSTERY COLLECTION: FROM CREATION TO CONSUMPTION was edited by Judith Overmeier and Rhoda Harris Taylor for the Haworth Press in 2004, and it includes articles by Victoria Gill ("The Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library") and Timothy J. Johnson ("The Adventure of the Unopened Box: Building the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota Libraries").

August 2015 #4

16639. THE FIFTH HEART, by Dan Simmons (New York: Little, Brown, 2015; 617 pp., \$28.00), is an unusual pastiche, set mostly in gildedage Washington and featuring Sherlock Holmes and Henry James. The mystery involves the death of Clover Adams; a cast of characters that includes Henry Adams, John Hay, Clarence King, Samuel Clemens; and the attempted assassination of Grover Cleveland. And the book is intriguing metafiction, with Sherlock Holmes occasional wondering whether he's really a fictional character in stories written by Watson (or perhaps Conan Doyle).
16640. Dan Stashower discovered "Veglock" (British artist Red Scharlach's tribute to the BBC series); obviously she's a candidate for membership in The Pawky Humorists. You can see her artwork (and her puns) at <www.tinyurl.com/99c6n4m> much larger and in full color.
16641. Les Klinger has reported J. Redding Ware's PASSING ENGLISH OF THE VICTORIAN ERA: A DICTIONARY OF HETERODOX ENGLISH, SLANG, AND PHRASE [1909]; the book offers 271 pages in which one can explore words and phrases that the author calls "fugitive language," and it's nice indeed that it's all digitized at <www.tinyurl.com/qxulaec>. Sherlockians may be interested to find that the Pink 'un had competitors that included the Brown 'un and the Blue 'un, and there likely will be other discoveries to be made.
16642. GridLOCK DC in Bethesda on Aug. 8-9 was an interesting conference, and it's more than likely to repeat next year; about 200 people on hand, with a variety of panels and a fashion show/costume contest (the best of show award went to Basil of Baker Street). Go to <www.gridlockdc.com> to see details on the programming and the conference in general.
16643. "It's my understanding that naked women generally don't carry knives" is a great opening sentence for a story. The best opening sentences are those that encourage the reader to continue reading ("To Sherlock Holmes she is always the woman" is a more familiar example), and you will find both the naked woman and the knife at the beginning and at the end of S. G. Browne's LUCKY BASTARD (New York: Gallery Books, 2012; 358 pp., \$15.00), reported by Samantha Wolov. The book features Nick Monday, a San Francisco private investigator who's also a luck poacher and has a sidekick who wants to be the Watson to Monday's Holmes. Browne, who also has written about zombie gigolos and alien sex toys, presides over an entertaining web-site and blog at <www.sgbrowne.com>.
16644. Karen Murdock found the "221 Bakery Street" web-site ("a place for Sherlock inspired food, drinks, and recipes") <www.sherlockfood.tumblr.com>; scroll down to see Red Scharlach's amusing "Sherl-ices". Beth Gallego also noted an imaginative "221B Bakery Street" T-shirt designed by Themoreiarty at the Qwertee web-site <www.tinyurl.com/noz32bx>.
16645. Ray and Joan Betzner visited New Jersey recently and discovered Spermaceti Cove, which turns out to be the only geographic feature with the name Spermaceti in the United States officially recognized by the U.S. Board of Geographic Names; it also was the site of the Spermaceti Cove Life-Saving Station, the first station in the country, erected in 1848. The proprietor of the Spermaceti Press is of course glad that it's so official and historic.

August 2015 #5

16646. Scott Palmer's SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE BASIL RATHBONE YEARS & OTHER FILMS (Bloomington: Xlibris, 2015; 242 pp., \$131.99 (hard-cover) \$121.99 (softcover) \$24.99 (e-book) is a well-illustrated filmography with detailed synopses, thumbnail portraits, and screenshots; there are samples at <www.tinyurl.com/ornb3j6> and <www.sherlockholmesonscreen.com>.
16647. J. Devereaux deGozzaldi ("The Speckled Band") died on Aug. 18. Dev was an advertising sales manager for Newsweek, and after retirement he devoted his time to restoring antique cars, sailing, and serving as a part-time member of the board of directors of a bank. He joined The Speckled Band of Boston in 1958, and was for many years its devoted Poker (secretary); he received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1980.
16648. THE RIVALS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: A COLLECTION OF VICTORIAN DETECTIVE TALES, edited by Stefan Dziemanowicz (New York: Fall River Press, 2015; 707 pp., \$7.98 at Barnes & Noble), offers an introduction by Leslie S. Klinger and 40 stories (including six Sherlockian satires and homages) published from 1845 to 1916.
16649. Underground Toys has a new "Sherlock" articulated action figure, with his violin, skull, and mobile phone, 5 inches high (\$19.95 pre-order <www.bigbadtoystore.com>).
16650. An "international celebration of Jeremy Brett's life, love, and laugh" is set for Sept. 12 (the 20th anniversary of his death) at Clapham Common (his last home was a penthouse flat with views of the Common), where a com-memorative bench will be dedicated, and tributes paid by his colleagues and friends. And Wyndham's Theatre has offered access that morning to the Royal Circle Bar that morning to view a commemorative plaque and a display of Keith Harding's photographs of Brett and Edward Hardwicke in "The Secret of Sherlock Holmes". Details at <www.tinyurl.com/nk5t4kc>.

16651. It is always nice when a Sherlockian society can celebrate one of its founders: Freda Pearce helped mount the Sherlock Holmes Exhibition for the Festival of Britain in 1951 and then (with Jack Thorne, Anthony Howlett, and Colin Prestige) founded The Sherlock Holmes Society of London. She married Tony Howlett, served as president of the Society, and now, at the age of 97 Freda Howlett has written the preface for a book to be published next year in honor of the Society's 65th anniversary.
16652. The argument over converting Undershaw, Conan Doyle's former home, into a school (July 15 #4) is not over: a High Court judge has granted John Gibson, director of the Undershaw Preservation Trust permission to mount a full judicial review challenging the Waverley Council's approval of the DFN Foundation's plans. Gibson's attorney said that the council had shown a "cavalier disregard" for Undershaw's "irreplaceable" status, and the judge ruled that the complaints were "at least arguable." A Council spokesman said "we are disappointed that the judge has determined that the case is to be heard and a full hearing is to take place, despite the fact that the High Court previously supported the council decision to grant planning permission." A statement from the DFN Foundation said that "we will continue to repair Undershaw and build our school," and that "we trust that the court will throw out this ridiculous case."
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August 2015 #6

16653. Dorling Kindersley's Eyewitness Travel Guides have long been a standby for travelers to just about anywhere. Now part of Penguin Random House, DK also publishes a long list of Visual Guides on subjects such as Shakespeare, science, politics, religion, and (now) Sherlock Holmes. THE SHERLOCK HOLMES BOOK (2015; 352 pp., \$25.00) has David Stuart Davies and Barry Forshaw as consultant editors, and provides an enjoyable guide to the Canon and to the world of Sherlock Holmes.
16654. September will be "Conan Doyle Month" at Groombridge Place, with "Sherlock Holmes and The Valley of Fear" guided tours, a Sherlock Holmes murder mystery and dinner, and "Remembering Conan Doyle" theater evenings; details at <www.groombrideplace.com>.
16655. The British (region 2) Blu-ray/DVD of Ian McKellen's "Mr. Holmes" will be released on Oct. 26. No word yet on when the U.S. release will be.
16656. The Second Street Irregulars, are a non-Sherlockian society that describes themselves at their web-site as "armchair sleuths dedicated to solving the Borden Case of 1892." They have annual awards, an official mutton-eaters song, and interesting web-site video <www.secondstreetirregulars.com>.
16657. "Both were oddballs who took refuge in detective novels, and they quickly bonded over their mutual love of Sherlock Holmes and the Rover Boys," according to Alexandra Alter's story in the N.Y. Times (Aug. 9) about Harper Lee and Truman Capote, reporting on Greg Neri's novel "Tru and Nelle" due from HMH Books for Young Readers in March (spotted by Ray Betzner).
16658. "A luxurious large-scale flock design of a dark-chocolate fleur-de-lys motif within a trellis pattern" is the manufacturer's description of the "Sherlock Wallpaper Ladies' Tank Top" spotted by Pam Weiner at Think Geek (\$24.99) <www.tinyurl.com/oyd758m>.
16659. Peter L. Stern <www.sternrarebooks.com> is offering some interesting Sherlockiana and Doyleana: copyright editions (duplicates once held by the Library of Congress) of Conan Doyle's WESTERN WANDERINGS (1915), THE EVIDENCE FOR FAIRIES (1921), and THE MARACOT DEEP AND OTHER STORIES (1929); and two archives of correspondence, one of his letters to Major Pond (who managed Conan Doyle's lecture tour of the U.S. in 1894), and the other of letters to H. Greenhough Smith (his editor at The Strand Magazine) in which he praises P. G. Wodehouse's "Psmith" series and discusses THE LOST WORLD.
16660. THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (New York: Barnes & Noble, 2014; 416 pp., \$10.00) is the latest in the store's colorfully-bound gift editions, with six short stories, "The Hound of the Baskervilles", and 27 illustrations by Sidney Paget.
16661. The Arthur Conan Doyle/Sherlock Holmes Symposium at the Newberry Library in Chicago on Oct. 24, starting at 9:00 am, is open to the public with no admission charge; the speakers will be Zach Dundas (author of THE GREAT DETECTIVE) on "Cracking the Casebook" and Tim Johnson (curator of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the Univ. of Minnesota) on "Is It Always 1895?" There's more information at <www.newberry.org/programs-and-events>.
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August 2015 #7

16662. More and more Sherlockian societies now have web-sites, and you will find a comprehensive set of links at Chris Redmond's "web portal about the Great Detective" at <www.sherlockian.net>; click on [fans, societies, events]. You might also click on [the original Sherlock Holmes stories] to see what people have had to say about the Canon (don't neglect "Redmond's Delicate Question" for each story); his links can be weird and wonderful: if you explore "The Hound of the Baskervilles" you will find a link to Laura Lyons as Playmate of the Month.
16663. "Masterpiece" repeated the second season of "Sherlock" this month, and the on-line promotion <www.tinyurl.com/p9qeljv> included a selection of video features and an observation game, all possibly still available.
16664. Ray Jessel died on July 17. Best known to Sherlockians as one of the authors of the musical "Baker Street" (1965), he had a long list of credits as writer and story editor for television series that included "The Love Boat" and "The Carol Burnett Shows". He attended (and performed at) the annual dinner of The Baker Street Irregulars in 2010. You can hear him perform "A Married Man" at <www.tinyurl.com/qcxmbbv>.
16665. The Sherlock Holmes Dragon, designed by Valerie Osment for the GoGo Dragons 2015 festival in Norwich (April 15 #8) will be displayed until Sept. 5 and will be auctioned for charity on Oct. 1. There's a larger image of Dragon Sherlock (#54) in a story in the Eastern Daily Press <www.tinyurl.com/req4j7h>.
16666. The Solitary Runners of Sherlock Holmes is a virtual race club focused on Sherlock Holmes, and its goals include promoting physical activity, giving fans the chance to earn exclusive limited-edition medals, and donating money to worthy charities. Their motto is "Run if convenient...if inconvenient, run anyway," and you can enroll on the society's mailing list with a request to Nea Dodson at <solitaryrunners@outlook.com>.
16667. The Vista sports bar Wild Hare in Columbia, S.C., has closed, but it will reopen in the fall as the Irish pub Moriarty's, named after the evil professor, according to an article in the Columbia State (Aug. 15).
16668. Adam Christopher's ELEMENTARY: THE GHOST LINE (London: Titan Books, 2015; 319 pp., \$7.99) is "based on the CBS television series," with a new story that captures the flavor and style of the series. BLOOD AND INK is due in Feb. 2016, and a third title is planned <www.adamchristopher.ac>.
16669. "Sherlock Holmes & the Internet of Things" <www.sherlockholmes.io> is described as an attempt "to build a massive connected crime scene consisting of smart story-telling objects," sponsored by the Columbia University Digital Storytelling Lab for people who want to participate in a "massive connected crime scene, with a global challenge set for Oct. 24-25, according to a story in Variety (Aug. 18).
16670. Registration for the 56th annual running of the Chicago Silver Blaze (the world's oldest and still-active annual Sherlockian horse race) at the Hawthorne Race Course on Oct. 17 is now open; details are available from Susan Diamond <szdiamond@comcast.net>.
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August 2015 #8

16671. The "How I Got Started" department in the summer issue of Fine Books & Collections has a nice interview with Ray Betzner, who talked about Sherlock Holmes and Vincent Starrett, and the magazine has an excellent web-site at <www.finebooksmagazine.com> (although the interview isn't yet available on-line). Ray's own web-site "Studies in Starrett" also is well worth a visit <www.vincentstarrett.com>.
16672. Dramatic news: John Chaffin's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Problem and The Empty House" is being performed at the Backstage at Chaffin's Barn Dinner Theatre in Nashville, Tenn., through Sept. 12 <www.dinnertheatre.com>.
16673. "The Improvised Adventures of Sherlock Holmes & Dr. Watson" (a weekly series) began at the Under the Gun Theater in Chicago on July 9 and will continue through Oct. 29 <www.undertheguntheater.com>; their web-site includes a link to Watson's blog, which recaps previous performances.
16674. The Raconteur Radio troupe will perform their radio play "Sherlock Holmes and the Hound of the Baskervilles" at the Kearny Public Library in Kearny, N.J., on Sept. 12 <www.kearnylibrary.org>.
16675. "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (the excellent parody by Steven Canny and John Nicholson) will be performed at the Mountain Playhouse in Jennerstown, Pa., Sept. 15-27 <www.mountainplayhouse.com>.
16676. Madeleine George's "The (Curious Case of the) Watson Intelligence" will be performed at Theater Wit in Chicago, Sept. 17-Nov. 14 <www.theaterwit.org>.
16677. The American Lyric Theater has scheduled "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Fallen Giant" (a new opera by composer Evan Meier and librettist E. M. Lewis) at the Living Libretto workshop at the National Opera Center in New York on Sept. 28, and at an InsightALT concert reading at the Baruch Performing Arts Center in New York on May 26, 2016 <www.altnyc.org>.
16678. Aquila Theatre's touring production of "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (a new play written by Desiree Sanchez) opens at the Pollak Theatre in Monmouth, N.J., on Oct. 1 and continues on tour until Mar. 20, 2016; details can be found at <www.aquilatheatre.com/touring>, and it's well worth checking to see if it will be at a nearby venue.
16679. Tal Aviezer's "Sherlock Holmes: The Adventure of the Red-Headed League" has been scheduled at the Cahill Theater at the College of Mount Saint Vincent in Riverdale, N.Y., Oct. 10-25 <www.redmonkeytheater.org>.
16680. Greg Kramer's "Sherlock Holmes" (which had its world premiere in Montreal in May 2013) now has a touring Canadian production; the U.S. premiere will be at the Ricardo Montalban Theatre in Los Angeles, Oct. 15-18, followed by performances at Ed Mirvish Theatre in Toronto, Oct. 27-Nov. 8, at the Warner Theatre in Washington, Nov. 17-22, and the Oriental Theatre in Chicago, Nov. 24-29 <www.sherlockholmesonstage.com>; TV stars David Arquette and Michael Trevino play Holmes and Watson.

September 2015 #1

16681. Some Sherlockians have had a chance to attend theater and other screenings of William Gillette's restored silent film "Sherlock Holmes" (1916), and it soon will be available on the small screen: it will be broadcast on Turner Classic Movies cable on Oct. 18 at 9:30 pm, and it will be issued by Flicker Alley as a Blu-ray/DVD set on Oct. 20; you can pre-order the set now at Amazon and Barnes & Noble and elsewhere on-line, but the best price is the discount offer at <www.flickeralley.com>.
16682. Don't neglect a delightful accompaniment to the film: The Société Sherlock Holmes de France's LE GUIDE DU FILM SHERLOCK HOLMES (1916), a 64-page profusely-illustrated discussion of the film and its actors, with articles by Thierry Saint-Joanis and Bernard Oudin, with press reviews from the original release; it's almost all in English and costs €20.00 at the society's web-site <www.sshf.com/boutique.php>, where you can see thumb-nail images showing the results of their splendid research.
16683. The script for Simon Stephens' dramatization of Mark Haddon's best-selling novel THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME (2003), which was commissioned for and performed by the National Theatre in London in 2012, has now been published by the Dramatists Play Service <www.dramatists.com>. In the book Christopher Boone is an autistic teen-ager who enjoys the Sherlock Holmes stories and turns detective himself, but there's no mention of Sherlock Holmes in the play.
16684. The New York Comic Con on Oct. 8-11 <www.newyorkcomiccon.com> will include a CBS TV Studios session on Oct. 9 devoted to the "Elementary" series, with Jonny Lee Miller, Lucy Liu, John Noble (Sherlock's father Morland Holmes) and executive producer Rob Doherty on hand for a panel and a sneak peek at the new season.
16685. Dynamite Entertainment has completed its five-issue comic-book mini-series SHERLOCK HOLMES VS. HARRY HOUDINI (September 14 #2); the writers are Anthony Del Col and Conor McCreery, and the artists is Carlos Furuzono the artist, and a trade paperback is now available (\$15.29).
16686. And IDW has launched its mini-series of SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE SEVEN-PER-CENT SOLUTION (\$3.99 each), written by David and Scott Tipton, based the book by Nicholas Meyer, and the artist is Ron Joseph www.idwpublishing.com
16687. This year marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of mathematician George Boole; his great idea was Boolean logic, the basis for the Boolean search, been used by everyone who has run a keyword search such as "sherlock" AND "holmes" (you can also use NOT and OR). Boole spent much of his career in Ireland, and at the George Boole Mathematical Science Conferences held at University College Cork last month, professor Des MacHale presented what he believes is "compelling evidence" that Boole was the inspiration for another Irish mathematician made famous by Arthur Conan Doyle. MacHale suggests that "Every computer scientist, mathematician, electrical engineer, and logician on the planet already knows about George Boole," adding that "If the Boole-Moriarty link can be established, then every literate person on the planet will know about George Boole too."

September 2015 #2

16688. Jack Carter died on June 28. He was a fearless comedian, with rapid-fire delivery, and an excellent mimic who began his acting career in high school and had a long career on stage, screen. According to his N.Y. Times obituary, his first paid role was in summer stock in Christopher Morley's "The Trojan Horse" (1940), and Carter horsed around so much during rehearsals that Morley suggested that Carter turn to comedy.
16689. Susanna Lazarus had an interesting article in Radio Times (Aug. 30) <www.tinyurl.com/ph6mjqu> with the headline asking "Did you notice these film and TV costumes have been recycled?" One of the costumes was an elegant Victorian dress worn by Janet Fielding as the fifth Doctor's companion Tegan in "Doctor Who: Enlightenment" (1983) and by Gayle Hunnicutt as Irene Adler in Granada's "A Scandal in Bohemia" (1984). There are more repeats (non-Sherlockian, alas) shown in the story and even more to be found at the web-site "Recycled Movie Costumes" <www.recycledmoviecostumes.tumblr.com>.
16690. Benjamin Allison, attorney for the Conan Doyle Estate, has said that the company is "very pleased" that its lawsuit against Miramax and others about the Ian McKellen film "Mr. Holmes" has been settled (July 15 #6), according to a report in Entertainment Weekly (Sept. 3). Allison also announced that an "agreement in principle" had been reached with the filmmakers, and that a second agreement finalized with author Mitch

Cullen and with the publisher of A SLIGHT TRICK OF THE MIND will add an acknowledgement to the e-book version of use of material from the copyrighted Sherlock Holmes stories.

16691. "Danger Mouse" was a British 10-minute animated series first broadcast in the U.K. in 1981, it starred "the world's greatest detective and his faithful assistant Penfold, the world's most obvious coward," who operated from a letterbox on Baker Street," and it was nice to learn that a new series of 52 11-minute episodes was launched on CBBC on Sept. 28 (the original series aired in the U.S. on Nickelodeon, and the new series will be available here on Netflix.
16692. A Japanese real estate agent called Home's has some imaginative Sherlockian television commercials <www.box.homes.co.jp/cm/mirai>; Mitch Higurashi has reported that the young man who plays Holmes is a member of a vocal group Arashi [Storm], which is highly popular with young women; the group's English-language web-site is at <www.tinyurl.com/qjapy9f>.
16693. Otto Penzler's The Mysterious Press will publish a limited edition of Bonnie MacBird's ART IN THE BLOOD (June 15 #5): sixty copies only, in marbled boards with a leather spine, numbered and signed, and containing (only in this edition) annotations by the author, a forward by Leslie Klinger, and illustrations in black and white (\$150.00); details (and one of the illustrations) at <www.tinyurl.com/p8y637v>.
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September 2015 #3

16694. "The Empire of Corpses" is a new Japanese animation, scheduled for release in Japan on Oct. 2, and in North America next year. According to The News Hub (Aug. 22), "John Watson, a medical student at the University of London, is recruited by the British government for a covert mission in Afghanistan. His cover job is a newly recruited medic for the British army, where he learns that humans are being brought back from the dead in the form of Frankenstein's monster."
16695. Further to the report (July 15 #3) that CBS had syndicated the first season of "Elementary" for about \$3 million per episode, WGN America began airing the series on Aug. 31 in the cable channel's "Prime Crime" weeknights lineup. There's a trailer for "Prime Crime" at <www.tinyurl.com/pcomzxs>.
16696. Greg Ruby seeks information about a hitherto-unknown Sherlock Holmes medal cast in aluminum, and has posted an image of the medal at The Fourth Garrideb's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/poma4qt>.
16697. Joseph A. Kestner died on Aug. 24. He was the McFarlin Professor of English and the founded the Department of Film Studies at the University of Tulsa; he specialized in Victorian literature, and he explored the Canon is SHERLOCK'S MEN: MASCULINITY, CONAN DOYLE, AND CULTURAL HISTORY (1998), SHERLOCK'S SISTERS: THE BRITISH FEMALE DETECTIVE, 1864-1913 (2003), and THE EDWARDIAN DETECTIVE, 1901-1915 (2004).
16698. The "international celebration of Jeremy Brett's life, love, and laugh" on Sept. 12 (August 15 #5) was well attended, and there's a Facebook event page at <www.tinyurl.com/nk5t4kc>.
16699. Long runs of The Strand Magazine are few and far between, but a recent auction at PBA Galleries included the first 74 volumes in publisher's cloth and a nearly-complete run of the remaining 44 volumes in cloth and as single issues; the lot sold for \$6,000 <www.tinyurl.com/q7j9nsy>.
16700. SARATOGA: AT THE RAIL: FROM "SILVER BLAZE" TO "SHOSCOMBE OLD PLACE" is the book published to accompany this year's running of The Silver Blaze at Saratoga Racetrack, with essays that focus on the Canon's two racing stories (New York: Baker Street Irregulars, 2015; 79 pp., \$18.95); it's available from the BSI <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>.
16701. Gautier Cazenave's fund-raising campaign for his film "Sherlock Holmes vs. Frankenstein" continues at Indiegogo <www.tinyurl.com/fxbx7s>; he hopes to film the first scenes in December, and complete the film next spring.
16702. Jack W. Schmidt died on July 25. He served in the Air Force in World War Two, worked as a financial analyst in the aerospace industry, raised a family, and then became an actor, performing as Count von Stalburg in John Michael'ski's tour of Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" (1976-1977), and then both on- and off- Broadway.
16703. Michael Dirda spent a year writing weekly personal essays for The American Scholar's web-site, and they've now been collected as BROWSINGS (New York: Pegasus Books, 2015; 246 pp., \$24.95); the essays are interesting and literary, and occasionally deal with matters Sherlockian.
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September 2015 #4

16704. The National Coalition Against Censorship has reported that the principal of Lincoln High School in Tallahassee, Fla., canceled the summer reading assignment of Mark Haddon's THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME because a few parents had complained about "profanity and religious references" in the book <www.tinyurl.com/op4oz3f>. The story includes op-ed comments by Lincoln High School senior Jaclyn Weinell published in the Tallahassee Democrat opposing the decision, and she notes that required reading in past years has included FAHRENHEIT 451, CATCHER IN THE RYE, and THE GREAT GATSBY.
16705. This year's Christmas card from the Sherlock Holmes Society of London will show Sidney Paget's portrait of Arthur Conan Doyle, exhibited this year in Britain for the first time during the exhibition at the Museum of London, in full color and in packs of ten; there's an order form (and much more of interest) at the Society's web-site <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk>.
16706. Sherlockians visiting or living in Columbia, S.C., may wish to stop by at the new Starbucks in the basement of the Sheraton on Main Street: according to an item in the Columbia Free Times (Sept. 7), the new Starbucks occupies the space that used to be the Sherlock Holmes pub.
16707. The Anime News Network reported (Sept. 12) on plans by the Japanese on-line clothing store Sukiyaki to release a new fashion collection that is based on the Japanese animated series "The Adventures of Sherlock Hound" (1983) <www.tinyurl.com/qhqsqz4>. You can read all about the new line (in Japanese) and place your orders at <www.tinyurl.com/p5ycnvg>.
16708. Charles Veley's THE LAST MORIARTY (Seattle: Thomas & Mercer, 2015; 287 pp., \$15.95) is set in London in November 1895, with Holmes back from the Great Hiatus (although the public's not yet aware of his return) and on behalf of John D. Rockefeller, J. P. Morgan, Andrew Carnegie, and Her Majesty's government solving a crime that involves some twists and turns with regard to people from Holmes' past.
16709. The Unemployed Philosophers Guild continues to add new items to their Sherlockian offerings: the Sherlock Holmes Mystery Bar (\$4.95) is a "delicious fruit and nut bar" that comes in a box "full of clever diversions" that include a Sherlock Holmes Rogues Gallery <www.tinyurl.com/nkkjjeu>.
16710. The Stillwater Public Library (in Oklahoma) has arranged a month-long series of imaginative events publicizing Sherlock Holmes (and of course reading) <www.library.stillwater.org/sherlock.php>, tied to the performance in Stillwater on Oct. 29 of Aquila Theatre's touring production of "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" <www.aquilatheatre.com/touring>.
16711. The "International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes" is on its way to the Denver Museum of Nature & Science in Denver, Colo., where it will open on Oct. 15 and close on Feb. 15, 2016 <www.dmsns.org>. Then it will open at the Pacific Science Center in Seattle, Wash., Oct. 13, 2016, and close on Jan. 8, 2017. Other dates are available, in case your local science museum is interested; contact <info@exhibitsdevelopmentgroup.com>. The
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September 2015 #5

16712. Some of the better pastiches are being written for younger readers, and the SHERLOCK, LUPIN & ME series is an excellent example: written by Irene Adler [Alessandro Gatti] and launched in Italy beginning in 2011 (11 titles so far), the series is now appearing in English translations. The first book is THE DARK LADY (North Mankato: Stone Arch Books, 2014; 239 pp., \$12.95), presenting 12-year-old Irene Adler in Saint-Malo, where she encounters slightly-older Sherlock Holmes and Arsène Lupin, and joins them in investigating (and solving) a case that involves robbery and murder. In the second, THE SOPRANO'S LAST SONG (2015) the third, THE MYSTERY OF THE SCARLET ROSE (2015), the three children are London and solving more mysteries; there's also attractive art by Jacopo Bruno.
16713. "The Art of Music" is Christie's title for its private exhibition and sale of a collection of Stradivari and other violins and cellos, and the auction house's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/oso6xeh> is well worth a visit; click on "View the Interactive" to see the instruments and hear them played, and of course learn what made Sherlock Holmes' violin so special.
16714. Arthur L. Levine (The Cutter Alicia) died on Sept. 16. He worked for the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics in Cleveland, where he was one of the founders of The Creeping Men, and when NACA became NASA Art's first job was recruiting astronauts (including Neil Armstrong and John Glenn); he became the first administrator of NASA's Goddard Institute, and went on to be a professor of public administration at the City University of New York. He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1955, and was a long-time member of The Three Garridebs, and was interviewed in an "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" podcast <www.tinyurl.com/pyxl5ab>.
16715. Laurie R. King reports that she has handed the manuscript of THE MURDER OF MARY RUSSELL over to her editor, and has posted a teaser for the novel (and an account of her research) at Between the Lines: Buzz from Laurie R. King <www.tinyurl.com/npkhsae>; the new book will be published in April 2016.
16716. A SHERLOCK HOLMES DEVOTIONAL, by Trisha White Priebe (Uhrichville: Shiloh Run, 2015; 320 pp., \$12.99), uses the Canon as an inspiration for a series of short lessons aimed at "uncovering the mysteries of God."
16717. Mandarin Companion's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE CASE OF THE CURLY HAired COMPANY (Shanghai: Mind Spark Press, 2014; 78 pp., \$12.95 at Amazon and Barnes & Noble) is a simplified translation for people who have been studying Chinese for about a year (there are no red-heads in China, but curly hair's as rare there as red hair is in the west); the story's set in Shanghai in the 1930s, and it's an imaginative approach to learning a language.
16718. "Holmes and the Stolen Stones" is a new on-line slot machine from Yggdrasil Gaming; you can read all about it, see the Sherlockian graphics, and play for free at <www.tinyurl.com/qehjuhe>.
16719. Malware: somehow I wound up with a malware program that created pop-up ads whenever I opened Mozilla Firefox. And thanks to a recommendation in Consumer Reports I found that downloading and running the free Malware Anti-Malware scanner identified and removed the offensive program. You can do the same, if you have problems, from <www.malwarebytes.org>.
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September 2015 #6

16720. Randall Stock continues to expand his "Best of Sherlock" web-site page for Sidney Paget, and has added memorabilia associated with his Sherlockian illustrations <www.tinyurl.com/q555rzr> as well as treasures such as the silver cigarette case Paget received as a wedding present from Sherlock Holmes (who had it inscribed for the occasion).
16721. Greg Ruby reports at The Fourth Garrideb web-site www.tinyurl.com/ps4v6hq on a new Kingdom of Great Britain £10 banknote featuring Sherlock Holmes; it's a "fantasy banknote" that's quite artistic, and it's available at eBay for \$9.99 <www.tinyurl.com/opz2n49>.
16722. Books Space <www.books-space.com> is offering subscribers THE COMPLETE CONAN DOYLE COLLECTION, with a hardback book and a magazine delivered by mail every two weeks for £7.99 an issue; there will be 50 volumes, with THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES and THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES as the first two volumes.
16723. "The Celebrity Voicemail Show" is a British 15-minute series, starring Kayvan Novak and broadcast by BBC Radio 4; on Sept. 23 Novak imagined what it would be like to hear Benedict Cumberbatch's voicemail message, and you can listen to the program at <www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b06bp5tt>.
16724. The 2015 edition of the Green Bag Almanac & Reader (May 15 #4) presented an interesting variety of articles devoted to "The Norwood Builder" written by Sherlockians and non-Sherlockians, and much of the issue's contents are now available on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/n14nxhh>. There also was a detailed map, available as two (extremely large) files at www.tinyurl.com/nbp4x9y and <www.tinyurl.com/ohykkcb>.
16725. "Big Nate" is a comic strip written and drawn by Lincoln Peirce, and there was a Sherlockian story arc from July 22 through July 25; you can see the comic strip at <www.comics.com/big_nate>.
16726. Tom Dunn, who presided over The Universal Coterie of Pipe Smokers and edited and published The Pipe Smoker's Ephemeris until he died in 2005 (April 06 #6), also was a collector, and material from his collection (including a copy of my long-out-of-print seasonal souvenir for 1970 advertised at the flattering price of \$25.00) are now being sold by the Good Times Bookshop <www.goodtimesbookshop.com>.
16727. BBC One has released a new trailer that promotes its upcoming season, with brief bits from the "Sherlock" special that's due (in the U.K. at least) at Christmas <www.youtube.com/olsbl4s>. The folks responsible for "Sherlock" are experts at generating rumors and of course publicity; the best web-site for the latest (accurate) news is <www.sherlockology.com>.
16728. Despite Sherlock Holmes' derogatory comment about Edgar Allan Poe's Dupin (in "A Study in Scarlet"), Conan Doyle acknowledged the great debt that he and other mystery writers owed to Poe. Jeff Jerome, who presided over the Edgar Allan Poe House in Baltimore until 2012 (when the city withdrew its funding), still arranges annual celebrations of Poe's birth and death, and has a fund-raising campaign in support of this year's event at the Westminster Hall and Graveyard; you can contribute at <www.gofundme.com/s543f947>.
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September 2015 #7

16729. Marcia Wilson's YOU BUY BONES: SHERLOCK HOLMES AND HIS LONDON THROUGH THE EYES OF SCOTLAND YARD (London: MX Publishing, 2015; 269 pp., \$14.95) is a police procedural and thriller from the early 1880s; the policemen are Lestrade, Hopkins, Bradstreet, and Murcher, encountering Holmes after his arrival in London and again after Watson joins Holmes, and the book offers both an interesting picture of London and a perilous mystery that involves Watson rather than Holmes. The publisher has web-sites at <www.mxpublishing.com> and <mxpublishing.co.uk>.
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16730. MX has also published Petr Kopl's *THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES* (2014; 164 pp., \$16.95) and *THE FINAL PROBLEM* (2015; 208 pp., \$16.95) are the latest in his imaginative and attractive graphic-novel adaptations of the Canon; the second book has more than one case, and both have amusing echoes from other parts of his "Victoria Regina" series; his interesting web-site is at <www.petrkolp.cz>.
16731. And there's more from MX: Hamish Crawford's *THE BEST AND WISEST MAN* (2015; 238 pp., \$16.95) is subtitled "being a reprint of the reminiscences of Mrs. Mary Watson, née Morstan," and presents Mary Morstan's own comments on her husband's relationship with Holmes, followed by extracts from the memoirs of the Watsons' daughter. Mark Mower's *A FAREWELL TO BAKER STREET* (2015; 169 pp., \$9.95) offers five stories, ranging from the beginning to the end of Watson's partnership with Holmes.
16732. Also from MX: John A. Little's *THE CASE OF THE HAMPSTEAD PONIES* (2015; 186 pp., \$11.95) offers five stories, set in 1925, with Holmes and Watson back at 221B (where the landlady now is Mrs. Hudson's Cockney niece Lily), solving cases that involve cannibalism and other dire perils. Petr Maceks' *GOLEM'S SHADOW: THE FALL OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* (2015; 175 pp., \$16.95) presents Holmes and Watson in pursuit of a missing husband, which leads to a series of brutal murders and takes them to Paris and Prague. And Thomas Gwinner's *SHERLOCK HOLMES AS A PIPE SMOKER* (2015; 100 pp., \$14.95) surveys and analyzes all of the mentions of Sherlock Holmes' pipes and pipe-smoking in the 60 stories and in the illustrations in the first appearances of the stories in British and American periodicals.
16733. Alexander Orlov has made an interesting discovery at the Find My Past blog: Sherlock Holmes and his brother Mycroft Holmes, recorded as living in Yorkshire, in the 1911 census of England and Wales <www.tinyurl.com/pqjo9q8>; the blog includes an image of the census page, and you can click on the image to enlarge it and read it easily.
16734. David Grann, author of *THE LOST CITY OF Z*, was at a Smithsonian event this month for a book signing, and was asked about the film (February 15 #4), which is now in production; the British scenes have been done (in Northern Ireland), and they're now on their way to Colombia to work there.
16735. Dennis Drabelle, in his Washington Post review of three (non-Sherlockian) books by Malcolm Mackay, gives a wonderful description of a writer's three great strengths: he knows (or, what is equally good, persuades us that he knows); he is a natural storyteller, able to jump from one hurtling train of action to another without making the reader feel manipulated; and he's got a voice to which we're happy to surrender. A nice compliment indeed.

September 2015 #8

16736. Paula Berinstein's *AMANDA LESTER AND THE PINK SUGAR CONSPIRACY*, (Aguoura Hills: The Writing Show, 2015; 357 pp., \$9.99), features a 12-year-old descendant of Inspector Lestrade who's expected to continue in the family's tradition; despite her not wanting to be an investigator she nevertheless is sent to a mysterious British school for descendants of famous detectives, where she encounters a real mystery and a villainous conspiracy. It's the first of an interesting series, and the author has a web-site (with sample chapters) at <www.amandalester.net>.
16737. New theater: Tony Macaulay's new musical "Sherlock in Love" (with Sherlock Holmes pursuing Jack the Ripper) is running at the Cocoa Village Playhouse in Cocoa, Fla., through Oct. 11 <www.cocoavillageplayhouse.com>.
16738. Ken Ludwig's "Postmortem" (his first version of "The Game's Afoot") is on at the Newport Theatre Arts Center in Newport Beach, Calif., through Oct. 11 <www.ntaconline.com>. It will also be performed at the Rivoli Theatre in South Fallburg, N.Y., Oct. 9-18 <www.scdw.net>.
16739. "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (the excellent parody by Steven Canny and John Nicholson) is running at the Lost Nation Theater in Montpelier, Vt., through Oct. 25 <www.lostnationtheater.org>.
16740. Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" has been scheduled at the Malcolm Field Theatre in University Center, Mich., Oct. 7-11 <www.svsu.edu/theatre/showschedule>. And at the Hickory Community Theatre in Hickory, N.C., Oct. 16-Nov. 1 <www.hickorytheatre.org>.
16741. Tim Kelly's dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed by the Actors Co-op at the Crossley Theatre in Hollywood, Oct. 14-Nov. 22 <www.actorsco-op.org>.
16742. The CAB Theatre Halloween show "MaCABre III, Hex and the City" at the University of Wisconsin/Barraboo/Sauk County on Oct. 16-17 will include "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Misplaced Dipstick"; details at their Facebook page <www.facebook.com/cabtheatre>.
16743. C. P. Stancich's new play "Sherlock Holmes: The Maple Leaf Murder" will be performed at the Camino Real Playhouse in Capistrano, Calif., Oct. 16-Nov. 1 <www.caminorealplayhouse.org>.
16744. The Phoenix Repertory Players will perform a new dramatization of "Sherlock Holmes and the Speckled Band" at Theatre Rocks! in Ennis, Tex., Oct. 29 to Nov. 1 <www.phoenixrepertoryplayers.com>.
16745. Bill Daniel's new play "Holmes vs. Holmes" will debut at the Heartland Studio Theatre in Chicago, Nov. 5-29 <www.edgeoforion.com>.
16746. Madeleine George's "The (Curious Case of the) Watson Intelligence" will be performed at Bard's Town Theatre in Louisville, Ky., Nov. 5-15; web-site at <www.thebardstown.com>.

October 2015 #1

16747. The National Theatre's production of "Hamlet" is spectacular, and not just because it stars Benedict Cumberbatch in the title role; the performance on Oct. 15 was broadcast live to theaters in the U.K. and other countries, and there will be encore (recorded) theater screening coming up. To find out when and where near you, go to <www.ntlive.com> and click on "Hamlet" (or use the "what's on near you" button to check on all their productions. You can see a brief trailer for the show at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/ptc7g2e>.
16748. Readers of *THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES* will be familiar with the forensic work of Alphonse Bertillon, but he did much more than merely measure criminals, as explained by Kate Summerscale in an article in *The Telegraph* (Oct. 2) headlined "How to Frame a Murder: The Suspicions of Monsieur Bertillon" <www.tinyurl.com/oqm93c9>.
16749. Chilean art director Javier Jensen has use GIF technology to animate iconic book covers, including *THE ADVENTURES AND MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES*; *The Guardian* has kindly put them on-line (Sept. 10) <www.tinyurl.com/nqjw3ph>.
16750. William S. Kirby's *VIENNA* (New York: Forge, 2015; 318 pp., \$26.99) features Vienna (a mysterious autistic savant) and Justine (a glamorous high-fashion model) in a modern-day thriller that echoes "The Six Napoleons" in a story that involves a series of murders as well as interesting twists and turns in the plot.
16751. Samuel French <www.samuel french.com> has published the script for Madeleine George's imaginative play "The (Curious Case of the) Watson Intelligence" (88 pp., \$9.95); this Watson is the "trusty side-kick to Sherlock Holmes, loyal engineer who built Bell's first telephone, unstoppable super-computer that became reigning "Jeopardy!" champ, and amiable techno-deweeb who, in the present day is looking for love." You can watch her five-minute video about the play's background at <www.tinyurl.com/phd7ahv>.
16752. "The Abominable Bride" (that's the title of the upcoming special episode of "Sherlock") will be screened in theaters and broadcast by BBC-1 in the U.K. and by PBS-TV in the U.S. on Jan. 1, offering Holmesians and Sherlockians a nice way to start the New Year. Theater screenings (on Jan. 5 and 6

in the U.S.) will have extra material, including Stephen Moffat's guided tour of 221B Baker Street and behind-the-scenes footage from the making of the episode. Locations in the U.K. are available at <www.tinyurl.com/pdrbavk> and in the U.S. they'll be available at <www.fathomevents.com> on Nov. 6. The program has been scheduled for release on DVD and Blu-ray on Jan. 12, and is available for pre-order on-line at Amazon and elsewhere. 16753. The headline in the Daily Mail (Oct. 13) pretty much says it all: "A Case for Sherlock Holmes Himself: Founder of Baker Street Museum Is Accused of 'Embezzling' His Mother's Money in Bitter Court Battle with His Half-Sisters and Brother Over the Lucrative Tourist Trap"; the judge said that "a survey of this lamentable litigation history shows that whenever one side enjoys any success, the other immediately takes steps to blunt the advantage." You can read much more about John Aidinantz and his litigious family at <www.tinyurl.com/qhyySod>.

October 2015 #2

16754. Further to the report (June 15 #3) on the Criterion Restaurant, which after 140 years in business encountered difficulties when the landlord increased the rent), a representative of the property managers said on Aug. 20 that "due to the downturn in trade and no interested party being found to acquire the restaurant despite all avenues being exhausted the restaurant was closed yesterday evening." The Criterion's Long Bar was where Watson and Stamford had their historic meeting (as noted in A STUDY IN SCARLET).
16755. "Elementary" starts season 4 on Nov. 5 <www.tinyurl.com/q2x4u29>, and the series has a web-site "The Deductionist" www.thedeductionist.net
16756. Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Va., has announced a "Sherlock Holmes in London" spring break program, Mar. 4-11, 2016. The program will be led by English Department instructor Alicia DeFonzo; more information is available at <www.tinyurl.com/onsz13k>.
16757. C. Frederick Kittle ("Jack Stapleton") died on Oct. 18. He was an oncologist and a cardiologist, a dedicated student of medical history, and an ardent Sherlockian and Doylean; as a collector he specialized in Doyles (all of them), and donated his manuscripts, books, letters, and original artwork to the Newberry Library in Chicago. Fred received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 2000.
16758. Eduardo Zinna (editor of Ripperologist) reports that Clam Radio (hosted by John Tabacco on WUSB-FM) has a 19-minute audio interview with Daniel Friedman, who with his father wrote THE STRANGE CASE OF DR. DOYLE (April 15 #2), in which they suggest that Conan Doyle was Jack the Ripper. You can listen to the interview at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/p4jb3pz>.
16759. The DVD of Ian McKellen's "Mr. Holmes" will be released on Nov. 10, and is available for pre-order now on-line.
16760. Baker Street, now a southbound one-way street, would be converted to two-way traffic under a proposal to "return Marylebone to how it was originally intended: a place for people" <www.bakerstreettwo-way.co.uk>; there has been considerable opposition to the plan, and no final decision has been made.
16761. Eugene T. (Sherlock) Holmes is one of three candidates who are campaigning against incumbent Rick Murphrey to serve as mayor in Kings Mountain, N.C. According to the Kings Mountain Herald, Holmes is a convicted felon who in 1985 was sentenced to 10 years in prison for larceny of more than \$200 (he was released in 1990); last year he was arrested on disorderly conduct and trespassing charges while protesting at a local church, and this year was arrested on the same charges at a local flea market for spouting vulgarities and harrasing vendors. Holmes, a 78-year-old Korean War veteran, has said he is a member of the Church of God, and that if elected he "would get the D.A. to swear out a warrant on any man who says he's gay." He also admitted that he doesn't actually want the job, saying, "I don't want to be mayor no more than I want to fly. I don't know about my chances in this. I'm a newcomer--and I don't give one hoot about politicians." You can see his picture (and his mug shot) in a story published in the Advocate (Sept. 18) <www.tinyurl.com/nz2knwj>.
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October 2015 #3

16762. "According to Pingk's biography, the debut author-illustrator ran away from the circus to join a normal family," according to a Publisher's Weekly interview with Rubin Pingk (Sept. 17). Simon & Schuster has just published his (non-Sherlockian) SAMURAI SANTA: A VERY NINJA CHRISTMAS, and he is hoping that they will publish his middle-grade graphic novel about Sherlock Holmes' granddaughter Padlock Holmes.
16763. "Whosolvedit? Take Our Famous Literary Detectives Quiz!" was the challenge from the Christian Science Monitor <www.tinyurl.com/mytqjgg>; the question about the Canon won't be difficult, but getting all thirty correct answers presents more of a problem.
16764. "Worn with pain, and weak from the prolonged hardships which I had undergone," Watson wrote (in "A Study in Scarlet") "I was removed, with a great train of wounded sufferers, to the base hospital at Peshawar." Alexander Orlov has found some interesting photographs of the Peshawar Valley Field Army during the Second Anglo-Afghan War, at <www.tinyurl.com/q6x5z7b> and <www.tinyurl.com/qgw4c3c> and <www.tinyurl.com/p4tygzc>. The photographs were taken by James Burke, the first photographer ever to work in Afghanistan, and you can read an interesting discussion of his life and career at <www.simonnorfolk.com/burkenorfolk/conversation.html>.
16765. George A. Hough ("The Duke of Balmoral") died on Sept. 22. He was a journalist, working as a reporter, editor, and publisher, and went on to teach journalism at Michigan State University and Georgia State University until he retired in 1990. He was one of the founding members of The Greek interpreters in East Lansing in 1959, and he received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1983.
16766. Karen Murdoch spotted a story published in the Derby Telegraph on Oct. 11 <www.tinyurl.com/oxaz9eu> about the upcoming sale at auction of two paintings by Peter Cushing; they're landscapes in watercolor, and the story includes images. The auction will be held on Dec. 2, and details will be online at Hansons Auctioneers' web-site <www.hansonsauctioneers.co.uk> about a week early.
16767. The International Sherlock Holmes Exhibition has opened the Denver Museum of Nature & Science opened this month, and will run through Jan. 31; their web-site's at <www.tinyurl.com/pc557jw>. The museum had an impressive video Q&A training session for volunteers, about Sherlock Holmes and forensic science, featuring E.J. Wagner; you can watch that (and see a brief appearance by her Havanese Wiggins) at <www.tinyurl.com/n9cm53v>.
16768. Roger Johnson reports that The Sherlock Holmes in Northumberland Street has closed for extensive refurbishment, and that Sue Collier has left after 16 years as manager. Owned by Whitbread & Co. when it opened in December 1957 with an upstairs display of Sherlock Holmes' sitting-room (for which Roger and Jean Upton are now the curators), the pub now is owned by Greene King, a British brewery established in 1799 by Benjamin Greene, the great-grand-grandfather of author Graham Greene (who wrote an introduction for the Murray/Cape edition of THE SIGN OF FOUR in 1974) and his brother Hugh Greene (who was director-general of the BBC and the editor of the "Rivals of Sherlock Holmes" series of books). The pub is expected to reopen in December .
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October 2015 #4

16769. Bouchercon 2105 in Raleigh was enjoyable, especially for Laurie R. King and Leslie S. Klinger, who won an Anthony Award (best anthology or collection); there was a Sherlockian panel (with Laurie, Les, Michael Robertson, Bonnie MacBird, and yours truly), and Laurie had an opportunity to dine with friends and fans of Mary Russell. Named in honor of the late Anthony Boucher, Bouchercon is the major annual event for mystery authors and readers, and is always great fun.
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16770. Bouchercon 2016 will be in New Orleans ("Blood on the Bayou"), Sept. 15-18; followed by Toronto ("Passport to Murder") Oct. 12-15, 2017; Saint Petersburg ("Crime in the Sunshine"), Sept. 13-16, 2018; Dallas ("Denim, Diamonds and Death") Oct. 31-Nov. 4, 2019; and Sacramento ("Where Murder is a Capitol Crime"), Oct. 15-18, 2020. Information about Bouchercon, with links to future events, is on-line at the Bouchercon web-site <www.bouchercon.info>.
16771. "Project 39" is an Indiegogo crowd-funding campaign by ComicFlix that will convert all 39 episodes of the Ronald Howard television series "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" into graphic novels; there's more information and a video at <www.tinyurl.com/oxcxb6>.
16772. "Imagine a house that breathes when the wind blows through its chimneys. A home that bleeds through its pipes when you fill the bathtub with red clay water." That's the beginning of Arturo Conde's NBC News review (Sept. 21) of Guillermo del Toro's new movie "Crimson Peak" (which opened on Oct. 16); the review concludes by noting: "the ghosts of 'Frankenstein' author Mary Shelley, Sherlock Holmes creator Arthur Conan Doyle, horror fiction master Edgar Allan Poe, and many others not only shape Del Toro's imagination, but also could help you uncover hidden stories in your own life."
16773. Howard Ostrom's "From Watson with Love" is a video examination of the history of Sherlock Holmes on screen in Russia www.youtube.com/okjsp2j>. The 16-minute video is presented by Samantha Rae in Ross K. Foad's series "The Diogenes Documentaries".
16774. Nikki Stafford's INVESTIGATING SHERLOCK: THE UNOFFICIAL GUIDE (Toronto: ECW Press, 2015; 229 pp., \$18.95) is an insightful companion to the first three seasons of the series, with discussions of its history, analysis of and commentary on each episode, and interviews with Canadian Sherlockians (Chris Redmond, Charles Prepolec, and Peter Calamai).
16775. Barton A. Eberman ("The Hound of the Baskervilles") died on July 8. He was a member of The Hounds of the Baskerville, edited The Grimpen Mire Gazette (the newsletter of Hugo's Companions), and received their Most Notable Companion Award in 1988. Bart received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1986.
16776. Irene's Cabinet is the annual anthology edited by Beth Austin for Watson's Tin Box, and this year's issue (60 pp.) offers the usual mix of essays and articles, including Zachary Pamukcoglu's winning essay for the 2015 Clarkson Prize (which honors the late Steve Clarkson and is sponsored by the society for seventh-graders in Howard County, Md.) and Denny Dobry's explanation of how one goes about "Recreating 221B"; the cost is \$15.00 postpaid, from Beth Austin (9455 Chadburn Place, Gaithersburg, MD 20886).

October 2015 #5

16777. Further to the reports (June 10 #6 and July 10 #7) on the Sherlock Holmes elephant in Baker Street, installed during a fundraising campaign by Elephant Family (a financial support organization for endangered Asian elephants) and sold at auction for £9,750, those who purchased miniature reproductions of the Sherlock Holmes elephant will want to read the article in Vanity Fair (Nov. 2015) <www.tinurl.com/o4y8ydm> about Mark Shand, who founded the charity in 2002; he died in New York last year, and the story in Vanity Fair is headlined "The Untamed Aristocrat".
16778. The Agra Treasurers will hold their "Holmes, Doyle, and Friends Three" conference in Dayton, Ohio, Apr. 15-16, 2016. More information is available from Ann Siefker <annsiefker@yahoo.com>.
16779. THE BIG BOOK OF SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES, edited by Otto Penzler (New York: Vintage Crime/Black Lizard, 2015; 780 pp., \$25.00), is a worthy successor to Ellery Queen's landmark anthology THE MISADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1944). The new anthology offers many more pastiches and parodies, as one would expect, with seven more decades to draw from, and the authors are an excellent and varied selection of classic and modern admirers of Holmes and Watson; the quality of the selections is high indeed, and the new anthology is a fine demonstration of how much enjoyment imaginative writers can offer their readers.
16780. Bill Peschel's anthology SHERLOCK HOLMES: EDWARDIAN PARODIES AND PASTICHES I: 1900-1904 (Hershey: Peschel Press, 2015; 319 pp., \$15.99) is the latest in his 223B Casebook Series, offering the results of a wide-ranging search through newspapers, magazines, and books, all annotated by the editor, who has included a pastiche of his own. His web-site, for both his press and his books, is at <www.peschelpress.com>.
16781. Matthew Fox ("Vigor, the Hammersmith Wonder") died on Sept. 11. He served in the U.S. Navy, earned degrees in engineering and business, and went on to work for Coopers and Lybrand, an American Home Products. He was a member of The Hounds of the Baskerville, and a serious book collector. He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1972.
16782. Martin Edwards' THE GOLDEN AGE OF MURDER (London: HarperCollins, 2015; 481 pp., £20.00) is subtitled "the mystery of the writers who invented the modern detective story," and examines members of the Detection Club and other authors of the 1920s and 1930s who followed the trail blazed by Conan Doyle but found new ways to entertain their readers. There's an occasional surprise for Doyleans, including discussion of Bruce Hamilton, who solicited a quote from his godfather Conan Doyle to support Hamilton's first novel TO BE HANGED (1930); Conan Doyle confided that not only had he forgotten the "transaction" of becoming Bruce's godparent, but that he felt the book faltered after a good start. According to Andrew Lycett's THE MAN WHO CREATED SHERLOCK HOLMES, Bruce's father Bernard Hamilton dedicated his novel A KISS FOR A KINGDOM (1899) to Conan Doyle and was a neighbor when Conan Doyle was living at Undershaw.
16783. Finally, nicely in time for holiday hinting (or shopping), Randall Stock's annual informative nominations for the best Sherlock Holmes books and DVDs of the year is on-line at <www.bestofsherlock.com/sherlock-gifts.htm>.

October 2015 #6

16784. Sherlock Holmes' 162nd birthday will be celebrated on Friday, Jan. 15, with the traditional festivities in New York, but the first formal event will be The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes' ASH Wednesday dinner starting at 6:30 pm at the Press Box (932 Second Avenue between 49th and 50th Streets); attendees will pay their own checks, but need to reserve with Susan Rice (125 Washington Place #2-E, New York, NY 10014) <susan221bee@gmail.com> or Evy Herzog (301 Warren Avenue #203, Baltimore, MD 21230) <herzogbaesch@aol.com>.
16785. The Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Speaker Lecture begins at 6:15 pm on the 2nd floor of the Midtown Executive Club (at 40 West 45th Street), and the speaker will be Jeffrey Hatcher, who has written the plays "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club" and "Sherlock Holmes and the Ice Palace Murders", and the screenplay for the film "Mr. Holmes". The cost of the lecture will be \$11.00; seating is limited, and you're advised to reserve early (details below); tickets won't be sold at the door.
16786. The Baker Street Babes happily invite one and all to their "Daintiest Thing in a Dressing Gown Pyjama Party" which starts at 8:00 pm at The Players (16 Gramercy Park South) and will be hosted by William Gillette; there will be a buffet dinner, cash bar, live music, prizes, toasts, and entertainment, and the cost is \$45.00, with proceeds benefiting the Wounded Warriors Project. Go to the Babes' web-site <www.bakerstreetbabes.com> for more information, and to purchase tickets.

16787. Otto Penzler's traditional open house on Friday from 11:00 to 5:00 at the Mysterious Bookshop, at 58 Warren Street (between West Broadway and Church Street) in Tribeca; the 1, 2, and 3 trains stop at the Chambers Street station (one block from the shop). If you get lost, the bookshop's telephone number is 212-587-1011.
16788. The William Gillette Memorial Luncheon starts at 12:30 at the Fillmore Room (the new name for Moran's Chelsea Seafood Restaurant) at 146 Tenth Avenue at 19th Street; the cost is \$47.00 for chicken or salmon (\$52.00 for prime rib). Checks should be sent to Susan Rice (125 Washington Place #2-E, New York, NY 10014) <susan221b@gmail.com>.
16789. The Baker Street Irregulars will gather at 6:00 pm at the Yale Club at 50 Vanderbilt Avenue (across the street and just north of Grand Central Station); attendance is by invitation only. The Gaslight Gala (which is open to all Sherlockians and their friends) will provide dinner and entertainment (with the theme "Thieves, Scoundrels, and Rogues") at 6:30 pm at the Manhattan Club (201 West 52nd Street at Seventh Avenue); \$85.00 (checks or PayPal), and details are available from Christopher Zordan (184 Blew Court, East Brunswick, NJ 08816 <gaslightgal@gmail.com>; information is available at <www.gaslightgalanyc.wordpress.com>.
16790. If you want to send seasonal souvenirs or other mementos to be included in the various dinner packets you should send 175 copies (for the BSI) to Al Gregory (118 South Prospect Street, Verona, NJ 07044), 100 copies (for the Gaslight Gala) to Carol Fish (Box 4, Circleville, NY 10919), and 18 copies (for The Women) to Mary Ann Bradley (7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278); your material must be mailed to arrive by Dec. 15.

October 2015 #7

16791. On Saturday a wide range of Sherlockiana will be available from vendors in the Merchants Room (Covent Garden West) somewhere in the Roosevelt Hotel (45 East 45th Street) from 9:00 am to noon; see the hotel directory for the location. Vendors can contact Ralph Hall (2906 Wallingford Court, Louisville, KY 40218) (502-491-3148) <bugmanhall@aol.com> to request information about dealers' tables.
16792. The Beacon Society's annual meeting will be at 10:00 am in the York Suite at the Roosevelt Hotel, where they will present their annual Beacon Award recognizing individuals' efforts to introduce Sherlock Holmes to young people; details are at their web-site <www.beaconsociety.com>. The Clients of Adrian Mulliner will hold a Junior Bloodstain, also in the York Suite, at 11:39 am, for devotees of the work of John H. Watson and P. G. Wodehouse; additional information is available from Elaine Coppola <emcoppol@syr.edu>.
16793. The Baker Street Irregulars' annual reception, open to all Sherlockians and their friends, will be held from 1:15 to 4:15 in the grand ballroom on the 22nd floor of the Yale Club at 50 Vanderbilt Avenue (across the street and just north of Grand Central Station); there will be a cocktail-party buffet and an open bar (wine, beer, juice, and soft drinks), and the traditional (and perhaps unusual) entertainment; the cost is \$69.00 (details below) or \$79.00 after Nov. 29 or at the door.
16794. For those who wish to continue partying, Chrys Kegley of The Curious Collectors of Baker Street will host "The Very Irregular Lost in New York with a Bunch of Sherlockians Dinner" at 6:00 pm at O'Lunney's Times Square Pub (145 West 45th Street, between Sixth and Seventh Avenues); more information is available from Chrys (18014 Sherman Way #275, Reseda, CA 91235) (818-675-5399) <ckegley@socal.rr.com>.
16795. The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes will end the birthday festivities with their informal buffet brunch on Sunday, at 11:30 am at the Black Sheep (583 Third Avenue, at 38th Street); \$25.00 (payable at the door, cash or check); RSVP to Lyndsay Faye <lyndsaysfaye@hotmail.com>, please.
16796. Space is limited at the William Gillette Luncheon and at the Gaslight Gala on Friday, and early reservations are advised if you wish to attend these events.
16797. Arrangements have been made for a block of rooms at the Roosevelt Hotel (45 East 45th Street) at a special tax-free rate available only on reservations made through the Baker Street Irregulars by Nov. 22; details will be found soon at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com/bsiweekend.html>. Guest cards for the Yale Club's second-floor lounge are available to all Sherlockians, and it's a fine venue for socializing and relaxing.
16798. Other hotels offer reasonable (according to New York landlords) rates, but it's a mark of the 21st century that the best offers are to be found on the Internet, at web-sites such as <www.priceline.com>, <www.tripadvisor.com>, <www.travelocity.com>, <www.expedia.com>, and <www.hotels.com>; you will be wise if you then check the hotel's web-site and ask for the best rate (do keep in mind that there are non-optional extras such as almost 20% in state and city taxes).

October 2015 #8

16799. And here are the details: if you've not already received Mike Whelan's announcement and reservation form (including prices) for the Roosevelt Hotel and the Yale Club, the Thursday lecture, and the Saturday reception, go to <www.bakerstreetjournal.com/bsiweekend.html> after Nov. 8, or contact Mary Ann Bradley <mabmfw@aol.com>.
16800. The Dr. John H. Watson Fund offers financial assistance to all Sherlockians (membership in the BSI is not required) who might otherwise not be able to participate in the weekend's festivities. A carefully pseudonymous John H. Watson presides over the fund and welcomes contributions, which can be made by check payable to John H. Watson and sent (without return address on the envelope) to Dr. Watson, care of The Baker Street Irregulars, at 7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278; your letters are forwarded unopened, and Dr. Watson will acknowledge your generosity. Requests for assistance should also be mailed (quickly) to Dr. Watson at the same address.
16801. And if you can't remember where you put your copy of all of this, detailed information about the birthday festivities is available on the Internet at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>. News about additional events will be found in next month's issue of this newsletter.
16802. On the stage: "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (the excellent parody by Steven Canny and John Nicholson) is being performed at the Black Box Theatre at the University of Nevada Las Vegas through Nov. 8 <www.unlv.edu/pac>.
16803. Madeleine George's "The (Curious Case of the) Watson Intelligence" will be performed at the Hickory Community Theatre in Hickory, N.C., from Nov. 6 to 21 <www.hickorycommunitytheatre.org>; and at the Moxie Theatre in San Diego, Calif., Nov. 8-Dec. 6 <www.moxietheatre.com>.
16804. John Longenbaugh's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol" is on tour by the Baroque Theatre Company, opening at the Weymouth Pavilion in Weymouth on Nov. 1, 2015 <www.baroque theatre.com>. And at the Springs Park Playhouse in Lititz, Pa., on Dec. 17-20 <www.springsparkplayhouse.com>.
16805. Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" is scheduled at the Pierson Playhouse in Pacific Palisades, Calif., from Nov. 6 to Dec. 13 <www.theatrepalisades.org>; at the Javeenbah Theatre in Nerang, Queensland, Nov. 13-18 <www.javeenbah.org.au>; at the Port Angeles Community Playhouse in Port Angeles, Wash., Nov. 20 to Dec. 6 <www.pacomunityplayers.com>; at the Minnedosa Community Conference Center in Minnedosa, Manitoba, Nov. 26-28 <www.facebook.com/minnedosa.dramaclub>; at the Olympia Little Theatre in Olympia, Wash., Nov. 27 to Dec. 20 <www.olympialittletheatre.org>; and at the Virginia Beach Little Theatre, in Virginia Beach, Va., Jan. 15-Feb. 7 <www.ltvb.com>.

16806. Katie Forgette's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily" will be performed by the Vicksburg Theatre Guild in Vicksburg, Miss., Nov. 13 to 23 <www.vicksburgtheatreguild.com>. And by the Alvin Community College Drama Department in Alvin, Tex., Dec. 5-12, 2015 <www.alvincollege.edu/drama>.

November 2015 #1

16807. There's more information about the birthday festivities in New York in January: Jim Cox and Dore Nash will lead the Christopher Morley Walk on Thursday, leaving at 9:30 am from the lobby of the Roosevelt Hotel (entrance on 45th Street east of Madison), and the walk will conclude with the Christopher Morley Luncheon at 1:30 pm at McSorley's Old Ale House at 15 East 7th Street (between First and Second Avenues); details are available from Jim Cox <jasdcox@yahoo.com>. The correct price for the Gaslight Gala on Friday is \$90.00; cazordan@aim.com for PayPal. The Baker Street Irregulars table in the Merchants Room on Saturday will be accepting credit-card payments. Scott Monty suggests an addition to the web-sites offering alternatives for places to stay: <www.airbnb.com>.
16808. Scott also notes that episode 84 of "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" offers listeners' suggestions for Sherlockian gifts for the holiday, and a link to a shopping page on the web-site <www.ihose.co/ihose84>; and that episode 85 <www.ihose.co/ihose85> features with author/screenwriter Nicholas Meyer in which he discusses his creative process and his Sherlockian work. The 2015 Baker Street Journal's Christmas Annual will honor the 40th anniversary of THE SEVEN-PER-CENT SOLUTION; it is available only to subscribers, and you can still subscribe to the BSJ for 2015 at <www.tinyurl.com/j6msg9y>.
16809. Further to the review of MYCROFT HOLMES, the pastiche written by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Anna Waterhouse (June 15 #2), John Rabe had a nice 15-minute interview with Kareem on John's "Off-Ramp" radio series on KPCC-FM on Sept. 22 <www.tinyurl.com/pmc9y6u>.
16810. Further to the item about plans to convert Baker Street to two-way traffic (October 15 #2), there's another change due: according to Nicholas Lezard (in the New Statesman) <www.tinyurl.com/pc5ghmo>, "The underpass under Marylebone Road will be transformed...into a urine-free Wonderpass." The Baker Street Quarter Partnership's proposal, with attractive artwork, can be seen at <www.tinyurl.com/pywkfp3>.
16811. Alexander Orlov reports a fascinating two-minute "demo reel" showing (with scenes from the Russian television series starring Igor Petrenko) just how much can be done with computer-generated imagery [CGI] nowadays. You can see the wonders for yourself at <www.vimeo.com/98542378>.
16812. The International Sherlock Holmes Exhibition, now at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science through Jan. 31, will next be seen at the Telus World of Science in Edmonton, Mar. 25-Sept. 5 <www.telusworldofscienceedmonton.ca>. It moves to the Pacific Science Center in Seattle, Wash., opening on Oct. 13, 2016, and then to Sydney, Australia.
16813. Mike Collins' SHERLOCK: THE MIND PALACE (London: BBC Books, 2015; 80 pp., £9.99) is an official "colouring book adventure" with imaginative artwork that recreates scenes from the series (with hidden clues from each of the nine episodes) and offers enthusiasts an opportunity to be artistic. The hidden clues have already triggered discussions on the Internet among fans who have detected hints about future developments in the series; one of the (possible) discoveries will be found at <www.tinyurl.com/qa3pude>.
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November 2015 #2

16814. Reported: THE CLASSIC ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (from Jim French Productions \$39.95 each): four sets of 12 full-cast audio dramatizations by M. J. Elliott, featuring John Patrick Lowrie as Holmes and Lawrence Albert as Watson; the sets are the start of a project aimed at recording the entire Canon with the same actors as Holmes and Watson. More information is available at <www.jimfrenchproductions.com>.
16815. "Stop, You're Killing Me!" <www.stopyourekillingme.com> is an interesting web-site maintained by Lucinda Surber and Stan Ulrich, with lists of authors (4,700) and their books (more than 54,000 titles) and their characters, with indexes and other neat features; it's well worth exploring.
16816. "It's kindergarten, my dear," is the attractive sample artwork from BABY SHERLOCK: THE CRUMBS OF BASKERVILLE, a children's book by S. Mickey Lin with artwork by Elle Shengxuan Shi; Alexander Orlov discovered a Kickstarter campaign at www.tinyurl.com/q2h88yb
16817. Gordon R. Shriver's BORIS KARLOFF: THE MAN REMEMBERED (Baltimore: PublishAmerica, 2004; 208 pp., \$23.00 postpaid) is a fine biography of the actor, and includes information about his appearance as Mr. Mycroft in "The Sting of Death" (1955) and his many other roles on stage, screen, radio, television, and records. Gordon still has a few copies for sale, and you can order direct from him <sgord57@aol.com>, and pay by check or PayPal.
16818. Leslie S. Klinger has edited the anthology IN THE SHADOW OF EDGAR ALLAN POE (New York: Pegasus Crime, 2015; 320 pp., \$24.95), presenting twenty classic stories of horror and terror published from 1816 to 1914; there's an interesting introduction, with the authors ranging from the famous to the almost forgotten, and Conan Doyle is represented by "The Leather Funnel".
16819. N. Quentin Woolf presides over the interesting podcast "Londonist Out Loud" <www.londonist.com/podcasts/londonist-out-loud-sherlock-squared>; on Oct. 3 he posted a 46-minute interview with Bonnie MacBird, author of the pastiche ART IN THE BLOOD (June 15 #5).
16820. "Seeing Is Believing" is an exhibition of early 20th-century spirit photographs at the John Michael Kohler Arts Center in Sheboygan, Mich., through Jan. 17; the exhibition features of photographs from the collection of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, on loan from the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas in Austin <www.tinyurl.com/q8jc9hu>.
16821. Reported: the new Crime Scene Magazine is advertised as "the ultimate guide to crime drama!"; it's a quarterly, published in Britain, and it has a page at Facebook <www.tinyurl.com/oxaf4yj> with a link to a detailed review at the GamesRadar web-site.
16822. The modern Strand Magazine is an interesting successor to the original, and has occasional Sherlockian content; it's published quarterly, and managing editor Andrew Gullis has a knack for finding previously unpublished stories. The July-Oct. issue has that sort of intriguing story, by F. Scott Fitzgerald, plus a pastiche by Larry Millett ("The Opera Thief"). Subscriptions cost \$24.95 a year at their web-site <www.strandmag.com>.
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November 2015 #3

16823. Further to the report (May 15 #3) about Marcel Jaurant Singer, the last living member of the Baker Street Irregulars (the Special Operations Executive, which had its headquarters in Baker Street during World War Two (and was sometimes called the "Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare"), Susan Elia MacNeal is writing an on-going series of mystery novels featuring Maggie Hope, a member of the SOE. The latest (fifth) title in the series is MRS. ROOSEVELT'S CONFIDANTE, just out from Bantam.
16824. The L.A. Theatre Works recording of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (dramatized by David Pichette and R. Hamilton Wright) with Seamus Dever as Holmes and Geoffrey Arend as Watson (September 14 #8) has won an Audie Award (best audio drama) from the Audio Publishers Association. The two-CD set is available at <www.latw.org/radio.html>.
16825. Maureen O'Hara died on Oct. 24. She started her acting career on stage in Ireland, and became a movie star at the age of 19, as Esmeralda in Charles Laughton's "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" (1939). She acted in many other fine films, and the one with a tenuous Sherlockian connection
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- is "The Quiet Man" (1952): the morning after Mary Kate Danaher's marriage to Sean Thornton the newlyweds are serenaded by the locals singing "Mush, Mush" (the music's now used by Sherlockians when singing "We Never Mention Aunt Clara").
16826. Just in time for Christmas: a Sherlock Holmes Meerkat (10 in. high) from Acorn (#19742) (\$69.95) <www.tinyurl.com/q2aoq2f>; there's also a Hercule Poirot Meerkat (same item number and price).
16827. Karen Murdock discovered a locksmith using the company name Surelock Homes <www.surelockathome.com>; there is no Sherlockian artwork at the web-site, nor any mention of Conan Doyle, but the company's is conveniently located in Portsmouth in the U.K.
16828. Jim Clark has used modern technology to create a fascinating virtual movie of Basil Rathbone reciting Vincent Starrett's classic sonnet "221B"; it's available at <www.youtube.com/watch?V=12iCXXzKQSU>.
16829. You can now register for "The Misadventures of Sherlock Holmes" (the title of the next conference in Minneapolis, June 17-19, 2016, sponsored by the Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota, the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections, and the University of Minnesota Libraries); details, including a registration form, are available at <www.tinyurl.com/nuzvg3w>.
16830. Kate Tracy reports a 1-minute video teaser for "S-her-lock: the Web Series" at <www.vimeo.com/142970359>, with a link to a screening of the first two episodes in Portland, Maine, on Nov. 13.
16831. David Jaher's THE WITCH OF LIME STREET: SÉ@ANCE, SEDUCTION, AND HOUDINI IN THE SPIRIT WORLD (New York: Crown, 2015; 436 pp., \$28.00) is the carefully-researched and detailed history of Mina Crandon, whose performances as the medium Margery provided a real test of the Scientific American challenge in the 1920s; Houdini was her most energetic and fervent opponents, and Conan Doyle one of her principal advocates in the 1920s, and the book is a well-written account of their histories and the battle over whether her powers were real or fraudulent.

November 2015 #4

16832. The Surgeon's Hall Museums of the Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh have reopened after a £4 million renovation, and publicity for the event included mention of an exhibit related to Dr. Joseph Bell. The college was an active bidder at Christie's when the Conan Doyle family papers went to auction in 2004, buying three lots, one of which included a poem that Conan Doyle wrote about the college.
16833. The "Caganer" (translated from Catalan, that's the merry fertilizer, or another phrase that might not get through obscenity filters) has been featured in Christmas crèches in Catalonia at least since the 18th century, enriching the soil and bringing good health and calm to the body and soul. Joan Proubasta, in 1996, commissioned a Sherlock Holmes Caganer and sent it to his friends, and now there's a commercial version, in two variants <www.tinyurl.com/ntkuvh3>. The Amics del Caganer www.amicsdelcaganer.com has an interesting web-site (Google Translate will be of great assistance to those who are less than fluent in Catalan), and of course there is a Wikipedia entry for the Caganer. Joan reports that there will be a Caganer fair in December, with more than 200 celebrities displayed and sold.
16834. There's a new edition of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, from Universe and Andrew McMeel (366 pp., \$14.99); the reason why there are 366 pages is that it's also a day-by-day calendar for 2016 <www.tinyurl.com/nzgczb>.
16835. A new "Penguin Classics Deluxe Edition" of SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE NOVELS (New York: Penguin Books, 2015; 571 pp., \$25.00) has an insightful introduction by Michael Dirda, and jacket artwork by Adam Simpson that's imaginative and attractive.
16836. Jens Byskov Jensen provides vocals and fiddle for his country and western swing show band "Doctor Django and His Nurses" now performing in Denmark, surely a new musical genre for a member of The Baker Street Irregulars; his web-site is at <www.byskovjensen.com>, and you can listen to his music at YouTube <www.youtube.com/user/byskovjensen>.
16837. The Jersey Devil Press, an on-line magazine, has issued a call for submissions for a January issue devoted to Sherlock Holmes; their deadline is Dec. 31 <www.jerseydevilpress.com/?p=6911>.
16838. SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE ADVENTURE OF THE GRINNING CAT, by Joseph W. Svec III (London: MX Publishing, 2015; 410 pp., \$9.95), brings Holmes and Watson into the world of Wonderland, where they find H. G. Wells' time machine and some Carrollian logic puzzles as well as many of the characters Alice encountered there. The publisher's web-sites are at www.mxpublishing.com and <www.mxpublishing.co.uk>.
16839. Greg Kramer's "Sherlock Holmes" (which had its world premiere in Montréal in May 2013) has toured to Los Angeles, Toronto, Washington, and Chicago, starring David Arquette and James Maslow as Holmes and Watson. The play's an amusing mix, with scenes taken from the Canon, broad comedy, a new mystery, and imaginative staging. There's an interesting web-site (with some nice links) at <www.sherlockholmesonstage.com>, and the playbill's on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/pwyp27t>.

November 2015 #5

16840. Who's your favorite fictional hero or heroine?" was the question in a "By the Book" interview in the N.Y. Times Sunday Book Review (Nov. 8). "Sherlock Holmes," was Nathan Lane's answer. "Talk about an enduring creation. Brilliant, flawed, and lonely. And it made Benedict Cumberbatch a star. Hear, hear, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle." Kindly reported by Ray Betzner; the complete interview is at <www.tinyurl.com/nrdm2q8>.
16841. Reported: Richard Tomlinson's AMAZING GRACE: THE MAN WHO WAS W.G. (London: Little, Brown, 2015; 432 pp., £25.00); a biography of the famous cricketer who once played against Conan Doyle.
16842. Collider (a web-site for entertainment news) had an interview with Charlie Hunnam (who stars in "Crimson Peak") about the film and Sherlock Holmes and Arthur Conan Doyle <www.tinyurl.com/qxkvnu7>. Hunnam is now at work starring as Col. Percy H. Fawcett in "The Lost City of Z" (February 15 #4).
16843. The team that maintains a non-profit and unofficial fan-site for the television series "Elementary" has announced that they will shut down the web-site in December take a look before it vanishes <www.thedeductionist.net>.
16844. There's nice news for people who have enjoyed the delightful three-man version of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" that was dramatized by John Nicholson and Steven Canny for Peepolykus (2007) and has had many productions in the U.K., the U.S., and other countries: their new play "The Massive Tragedy of Madame Bovary" will open in Liverpool on Feb. 5. "Marvel at how many parts a Spanish man with limited English can play with only one moustache," they promise, adding that "there will be vermin, visual absurdity, wild animals, and a nun." <www.peepolykus.com>.
16845. Mikel Jaso's artwork (titled "Ceci n'est pas Sherlock Holmes") accompanied a review of Sherlockian books in the Sunday Book Review of the N.Y. Times <www.tinyurl.com/p92pwgc>; it's a delightful artistic homage to René Magritte's iconic surrealist painting "La trahison des images".
16846. Noted: Stephen Bates' THE POISONER: THE LIFE AND CRIMES OF ENGLAND'S MOST NOTORIOUS POISONER (London: Duckworth, 2014; 320 pp., £16.99) is a detailed account of the nefarious activities of the infamous William Palmer; "Palmer and Pritchard were among the heads of their profession," according to Sherlock Holmes (in "The Speckled Band").
16847. Keith Michell died on Nov. 20. Best-known for his portrayals of King Henry VIII on stage, screen, and television, Michell had a long career as an actor, including his appearance as Sherlock Holmes in "The Crucifer of Blood" in London in 1979.

16848. Rachel and Rebecca Oshlag are professional story-tellers, and they perform as "Stories Galorious"; they will presenting "An Evening at Baker Street: The Adventure of the Speckled Band" for the Sherlockian society Rochester Row on Dec. 7 in Rochester, N.Y., and on Dec. 21 in Greece, N.Y., and Feb. 15 in Williamsville, N.Y. They're also doing "Holmes for the Holidays: The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle" on Dec. 10 in Gorham, N.Y., and their web-site's at <www.storiesgalorious.com>.

November 2015 #6

16849. There seem to be fewer and fewer Sherlockians who share Sherlock Holmes' penchant for smoking, but one company, at least, still sells appropriate Sherlockian pipe tobacco: "Black Shag", "Honeydew", and "Arcadia" all are available in McClelland's "221B Series" in a catalog from Pipe and Cigars (800-494-9144) <www.pipesandcigars.com>.
16850. And on stage: Madeleine George's "The (Curious Case of the) Watson Intelligence" is on at the Dudley Experimental Theatre in Duluth, Minn., through Dec. 5 <www.sfa.d.umn.edu>.
16851. John Longenbaugh's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol" is being presented by the Forte Theatre Society at the Burnaby Village Museum in Burnaby, B.C., through Dec. 13 <www.tinyurl.com/ohuguw4>.
16852. Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" is running at the Stage Coach Theatre in Boise, Idaho, through Dec. 19 <www.stagecoachtheatre.com> and the West Valley Playhouse in Canoga Park, Calif., through Dec. 29 <www.wvplayhouse.com>. And it's due at the Rogers City Community Theatre in Roger City, Mich., from Jan. 29 to Feb. 7 <www.rctheatre.org>.
16853. Michael Menendian and John Weagley's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Goose" will be performed at the Raven Theatre in Chicago, Dec. 9-Jan. 3 <www.raventheatre.com>.
16854. Tim Kelly's dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed at the Conejo Players Theatre in Thousand Oaks, Calif., on Jan. 8-30 <www.conejoplayers.org>.
16855. "The Man Who Murdered Sherlock Holmes" is scheduled at the Mercury Theater in Chicago Jan. 20-Mar. 20 <www.mercurytheaterchicago.com>. The new musical is by John Reeger (book) and Julie Shannon and Michael Mahler (lyrics and music).
16856. "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (the excellent parody by Steven Canny and John Nicholson) will be performed on tour by the Royal Manitoba Theatre in Manitoba province, Jan. 25 to Feb. 26 <www.royalmtc.ca>. Also at the Portland Stage in Portland, Maine, Jan. 26-Feb. 21 <www.portlandstage.org>, and at the Northern Stage in White River Junction, Vt., from February 24 to Mar. 12 <www.northernstage.org>.
16857. The Sugar Creek Players have scheduled Craig Sodaro's "The Secret Case of Sherlock Holmes" at the Vanity Theater in Crawfordsville, Ind., Feb. 12-21, 2016 <www.sugarcreekplayers.org>.
16858. C. P. Stancich's "Sherlock Holmes and the Doom of Devilsmoor" is upcoming at Theatre Suburbia in Houston, Feb. 26-Mar. 26 <www.theatresuburbia.org>.
16859. "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (a new dramatization by Althos Low) will be presented by the Idle Muse Theatre Company at the EDGE Theatre in Chicago, Mar. 3-Apr. 3, 2016 <www.idlemuse.org>.
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December 2015 #1

16860. Scott Monty's "Here Are Your #BSIWeekend Tips" at his "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.ihose.co/bsi2016tips>, offers a "series of tips for the veteran attendees and the newbies alike" that include ride-hailing apps such as Uber, Lyft, and Via (with codes for freebies and credits). Scott aptly suggests that "whether you're making the trip for the first or twenty-first time, you know that the Weekend provides the same level of excitement, anticipation, and giddiness as Christmas morning does for a child."
16861. There's more than one edition of SHERLOCK HOLMES: CATALOGUE OF AN EXHIBITION HELD AT ABBEY HOUSE, BAKER STREET, LONDON, MAY-SEPTEMBER 1951; starting with the first edition (59 numbered pages); the second edition (60 numbered pages) also has a limited edition with 50 numbered copies, and I hope any fortunate owners of numbered copies will let me know (including whether there are inscriptions or signatures).
16862. It's grand when Sherlockian societies have archives, and even grander when there's a good editor to put together a history. That's what Christopher Music has done, and done well, for The Amateur Mendicants of Detroit: FROM THE LOWER VAULT (2015; 183 pp., \$25.00 postpaid), covers the early years of the society, from 1946 to 1964, and it's great fun to see what Sherlockians did in those distant years. Checks (payable to Amateur Mendicants Society) can be sent to Chris at 6717 Snow Apple Drive, Clarkston, MI 48346.
16863. Nicholas Smith died on Dec. 6. Best known as Mr. Rumbold on the long running BBC television series "Are You Being Served?", he also played Hunkston, the landlord, in the film "The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes' Smarter Brother" (1975), and Milverton in the Middle Ground Theatre Company's 1997 revival of Ernest Dudley's play "The Return of Sherlock Holmes".
16864. Plan well ahead: Denny Dobry has for many years welcomed those who want to visit his splendid recreation of the sitting-room at 221B Baker Street in his home in Reading, Pa. <www.facebook.com/221binReading>, and he is holding an open house on Apr. 9, 2016, from 1:00 to 6:00 pm; one of the nicest things about his sitting-room is that it's hands-on, and full of interesting artifacts. You can contact him to RSVP for the event (and to ask for directions <dendobry@ptd.net>).
16865. The animated movie "Gnomeo & Juliet: Sherlock Gnomes" was first reported as a work-in-progress a few years ago (March 12 #6 and September 12 #2), with Gnomeo and Juliet enlisting the help of Sherlock Gnomes, the world's greatest ornamental detective, to investigate why gnomes are vanishing from England's suburban gardens. It's still a work-in-progress, but Johnny Depp has been announced as the voice of Sherlock Gnomes, and the film's scheduled for release on Jan. 12, 2018.
16867. Sherlock Holmes' granduncle, Horace Vernet, was a photographer as well as an artist; he visited Egypt with his nephew Frédéric Goupil-Fesquet, and in 1838 they exposed a daguerrotype that was the first photograph ever taken on the African continent. Leslie Katz reports that the photograph is reprinted in Jeff Koehler's article "Capturing the Light of the Nile" in the Nov.-Dec. issue of AramcoWorld <www.tinyurl.com/pac3v8x>.
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December 2015 #2

16868. Further to the item about Eugene T. (Sherlock) Holmes, candidate for mayor in Kings Mountain, N.C. (October 15 #2), it was not a surprise to locals when he came in last, with three votes. He also was arrested at a polling site the morning of the election and charged with obstruction of justice, communicating threats, and resisting arrest, after he shouted obscene statements and refused to leave.
16869. BBC One had an amusing trailer for Christmas 2015: "Sprout Boy Meets a Galaxy of Stars" (with a fleeting glimpse of Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman); you can see it at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=XnoxGr_sTz4>.
16870. At long last, after all these years, there's a Sherlockian cross-over collectible from the world of Star Wars. Well, it's Doylean rather than Sherlockian, but no matter: Randall Stock spotted on eBay a press kit for "Star Wars" (1977) that includes a press release that begins with an almost-correct quote of Conan Doyle epigraph poem from THE LOST WORLD. The press kit attracted 43 bids, and sold for \$414.00.
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16871. And in case you don't remember Conan Doyle's delightful poem, he wrote: "I have wrought my simple plan/If I give one hour of joy/To the boy who's half a man/Or the man who's half a boy."
16872. Actually, there is another connection between "Star Wars" and the world of Sherlock Holmes. Clive Revill, who provided the voice for the villainous Emperor in "The Empire Strikes Back" (1980), also appeared in "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970) as Nikolai Rogozhin, the director-general of the Imperial Russian Ballet.
16873. There is no shortage of giant rats in southeast Asia: archaeologists with the Australian National University have discovered fossils of seven species of giant rat on East Timor, with the largest weighing about five kilos, the size of a small dog (a large modern rat would weigh about half a kilo); a press release will be found at <www.tinyurl.com/oq8na6o>.
16874. Anthony Valentine died on Dec. 2. He began his acting career on screen in 1949 and was best known as Luftwaffe officer Max Mohn in the BBC-2 series "Colditz" (1974) and as A. J. Raffles in Yorkshire Television's "Raffles" (1975-1977); he also was seen as Baron Gruner in Granada's "The Illustrious Client" (1991), and narrated "Sherlock Holmes: The Great Detective" (1995) for A&E cable's "Biography" series.
16875. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists (also known as The Friends of Sherlock Holmes) met to honor the world's first forensic geologist with drinks and dinner at Dempsey's Brew Pub & Restaurant in Baltimore on Nov. 4, welcomed by members of the local Sherlockian societies. Our next dinners will be on June 22, 2016, in Calgary, and Sept. 28 in Denver.
16876. Book collectors do like dust jackets, especially if they are colorful and artistic, and you can see how attractive they can be with a set of Mysterious Classics Cards showing more than sixty high spots, available (\$14.95) from The Mysterious Bookshop <www.tinyurl.com/nenaou9>; the titles include A. A. Milne's THE RED HOUSE MYSTERY (in which two of the characters assume the roles of Holmes and Watson).

December 2015 #3

16877. According to Philip José Farmer, the Wold Newton family originated when a radioactive meteor landed in Wold Newton, England, in the year 1795; the radiation caused a genetic mutation in those who were present, which endowed many of their descendants with extremely high intelligence and strength, and an exceptional capacity and drive to perform good (or evil) deeds. The family includes Sherlock Holmes, Tarzan, and a host of other fictional characters (and it still is growing, thanks to what is called the "Crossover Universe"). The Crossover Universe is now so large, in fact, that it has been described in great detail by Win Scott Eckert in the two-volume CROSSOVERS: A SECRET CHRONOLOGY OF THE WORLD (Encino: Black Coat Press, 2010; 460+480 pp., \$30.95 each), where you'll find a lot about Holmes, Watson, Moriarty, Sir Nigel Loring, Professor George Edward Challenger, and other characters from the Conan Doyle book's and stories (and of course from many pastiches and parodies). You can read more about Eckert's work at <www.blackcoatpress.com/crossovers.htm>.
16878. Steven Spielberg has received the Presidential Medal of Freedom; he was the executive producer for the film "Young Sherlock Holmes" (1985), and there's more information about the ceremony, and the medal, at Greg Ruby's web-site for The Fourth Garrideb <www.tinyurl.com/zdnc7vu>.
16879. Carter Burwell is not well known to the general public, but he's a prolific composer for films <www.tinyurl.com/p29mlmw> and has written scores for six Bill Condon films, among them Ian McKellen's "Mr. Holmes"; the soundtrack for that film is available on CD and as a download at Amazon and elsewhere. And Karen Murdock reports an interesting interview with Burwell in the Los Angeles Times (Dec. 10) <www.tinyurl.com/heumf3x>.
16880. Marjorie Lord died on Nov. 28. She began acting on stage in 1935, and in films in 1937, and was most successful on the long-running television series "The Danny Thomas Show"; she also played Nancy Partridge in "Sherlock Holmes in Washington" (1943).
16881. The Portsmouth City Council has unveiled a new proposal to create a "worldclass Sherlock Holmes visitor attraction" in the city, with the cost estimated at £7 million, but noted that there's no funding for the project. A similar plan was publicized last year (February 14 #8), with an estimated cost of £25 million, but the city was unable to find a financial backer.
16882. Jon Lellenberg has reactivated his archival-history blog, and has started posting what he calls "Edgar W. Smith: Prolegomena to Any Future Biography" as a serial, a few thousand words at a time from what he calls a work-in-progress <www.tinyurl.com/owbwq62>.
16883. Michael Hardwick's PRISONER OF THE DEVIL (1979) was approved by Dame Jean Conan Doyle and well received, and it is nice news indeed that after many years out-of-print the novel has a new edition, by Michael Hardwick, with Simon Haugh (New York: Meantime Books, 2016; 414 pp., \$15.95). Mike Brecher, editor of the first edition, explains in his introduction that it was Simon Haugh who provided the concept and plot of the pastiche, with Michael Hardwick contributing both his Sherlockian sensibilities and his knowledge of Conan Doyle's style. The new edition includes an alternative ending to the novel, discovered by Simon Haugh in his files on the project.

December 2015 #4

16884. THE ELEMENTARY SHERLOCK HOLMES (London: Portico, 2014; 160 pp., \$16.95) is, according to the publisher (Pavilion Books), based on THE SHERLOCK HOLMES ENCYCLOPEDIA, but they don't say which one (it most likely is Matthew Bunson's); there's lots of artwork, and pages of "things you didn't know about literature's greatest detective."
16885. Adam Zanzie has completed his 31-minute dramatization of Conan Doyle's "The Parasite" (April 15 #5), and it's an impressive production. You can watch a trailer, and download the video (\$4.99) at <www.theparasite.vhx.tv>.
16886. There's an addition to the list of actors who have played Sherlock Holmes: many American actors have appeared in television commercials in other countries, and one of them is Kirk Douglas, in a Japanese 30-second commercial for Maxim instant coffee <www.tinyurl.com/opszb5m>, discovered by Jennie C. Paton.
16887. I recall seeing a faked Time magazine cover with Sherlock Holmes as the Man of the Year, but can't remember the name of the artist, or where or when it appeared; I'd love to hear from anyone who has a better memory than I do.
16888. Reported by Bev Wolov: Ingrid Mida and Alexandra Kim's THE DRESS DETECTIVE (London: Bloomsbury, 2015; 224 pp., £75.00) is subtitled "a practical guide to object-based research in fashion," and opens with two pages devoted to an excerpt from "The Blue Carbuncle" (noting that "unlocking the personal and cultural narratives hidden in the folds of a garment is a little bit like being Sherlock Holmes").
16889. Ryan Britt's "17 Hilarious Honest Definitions of Sci-Fi and Fantasy Terms" appeared on BuzzFeed on Dec. 9, Samantha Wolov reports, and one of the 17 was Sherlock Holmes; you'll find them all at <www.tinyurl.com/qd45hhj>.
16890. The Baker Street Irregulars Trust continues to expand its holdings, and its web-site <www.bsitrust.org>, where there's much of interest, including current and past issues of its newsletter "For the Sake of the Trust" (click on [News]), reports on its annual dinners (click on [Images]), and links to some of its oral history (click on [Recordings]).
16891. Kate Karlson reports that Mrs. Hudson, a three-year-old filly by Dark Bay out of Street Cry, made her second lifetime win at Aqueduct on Dec. 10 in a \$67,000 allowance race at six furlongs, and paid \$4.50 to win.

16892. Basil of Baker Street and his friend Major Dawson still have fans: studiosed maquettes prepared for animators were sold at Heritage Auctions this month for \$2,031.50 and \$1,195.00 <www.tinyurl.com/h9h4hen>.
16893. The auction at Swann Galleries on Nov. 10 had some interesting Sherlockian and Doylean items (#92-113); the most interesting, perhaps, was a copy of the first American edition of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES in Tabard Inn library binding with dust jacket (estimated at \$4,000-6,000), which brought \$8,125 (including the buyer's premium). A copy of the Once a Week Library pirated edition of THE SIGN OF FOUR (the first separate American edition) was estimated at \$7,000-10,000 and sold for \$8,125 (including the premium) <www.tinyurl.com/p2c965u>.
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December 2015 #5

16894. Fyodor Pavlov's interesting artwork, reported by Carla Coupe, has appeared on the cover of the Sherlock Holmes Mystery Magazine, and his Sherlockian images are available as greeting cards and stickers, and as original art; go to <www.fyodorpavlov.com> and click on [Shop]. Warning: some of his other artwork may not be for the faint of heart.
16895. Patricia Guy's interview with Umberto Eco appeared in the Oct. 26 issue of Publishers Weekly, and of course included an amusing discussion of his THE NAME OF THE ROSE <www.bit.ly/1HiqndI>.
16896. "AUNT CLARA" CLARIFIED is a delightful 19-page booklet published by William Hyder "unearthing the original tune of "We Never Mention Aunt Clara" in the year of its 80th anniversary" and available to musical Sherlockians on request from Bill <shawgas29@gmail.com>, who has contributed new insights on the music of what has become a Sherlockian anthem.
16897. THE ADVENTURE OF THE PLATED SPOON AND OTHER TALES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, edited by Loren Estleman (Blue Ash: Tyrus Books, 2014; 272 pp., \$26.99), offers an interesting mix of a dozen reprints and new stories (including one of his own).
16898. Greg Ruby has noted Red Scharlach's artwork <www.tinyurl.com/o2hlqvw> for a new British £10 note; the Bank of England has announced that Jane Austen will appear on the £10 note in 2017, but Red suggests that they switch to Cumberquids.
16899. The N.Y. Times reported (Nov. 1) that the St. Regis in New York offers its guests a Kindle that's encased in a custom-made Thornwillow Press leatherbound cover, with digital versions of 58 titles from the original collection of its founder John Jacob Astor IV; one of them is THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES.
16900. Andrew "Sherlock" Holmes died on Oct. 18, in Nortonville, Ky., at the age of 86. It's possible that more and more people named Holmes are proud to have the nickname, but it's also possible that it's only that the Internet makes it easier to hear about them.
16901. The fall issue of The Magic Door (the newsletter of The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) has a Napoleonic theme, honoring the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo; copies of the newsletter are available from Clifford S. Goldfarb, 22 Markdale Avenue, Toronto, ON M6C, 1T1, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.
16902. The 2014 Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture was presented at the Library by Lyndsay Faye (on "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: Storytelling and the Passion of the Narrator"), and her paper has been published for members of The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection; a limited number of copies are available if you join the Friends now. Their web-site <www.acdfriends.org> has PayPal and credit-card capability, or you can contact Cliff Goldfarb (addresses above); the minimum donation of \$25.00 brings you three issues of their newsletter and a copy of the 2015 Memorial Lecture (by Clifford Goldfarb on "Arthur Conan Doyle's Waterloo"). The 2016 Memorial Lecture will be given by Russell Merritt (on the William Gillette film) on May 28.
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December 2015 #6

16903. "Epic Rap Battles of History" is a continuing series of short videos you can view at YouTube; there was "Batmam vs. Sherlock Holmes" (December 12 #2), and Jennie Paton reports there now is "Sherlock Hound vs. Montana Jones" <www.tinyurl.com/oxmhewc>. "Montana Jones" was another Japanese/Italian animated series (with big cats rather than the dogs that were featured in "Sherlock Hound").
16904. "9 Auction Oddities--The Craziest Prices for the Loopest Lots Ever to Go Under the Hammer" was the headline on a story in The Mirror (Oct. 27); one of the lots was an envelope kept by Lady Jean Conan Doyle labeled "My beloved's moustache hairs" that was sold at an auction in 2007 for £156. The Mirror noted that "the buyer was bristly about being identified..."
16905. Ray Betzner has reported on a "Review Contest" on the N.Y. Times blog "The Learning Network": in October teenagers were challenged "to go out and experience works of culture that were new to them, and then write about it." More than 1,600 students responded, and one of the winners was 14-year-old Maya J. Sekhar, who reviewed the BBC's "Sherlock" series. Details on the contest, and her winning entry, will be found at <www.tinyurl.com/h7pew42>.
16906. Don Marquis, perhaps most famous today for creating "archy and mehitabel", was a multi-talented newspaper columnist, poet, playwright, and novelist, as well a good friend of and collaborator with Christopher Morley. There is an interesting and amusing web-site <www.donmarquis.com> presided over by Jim Ennis and John Batteiger and devoted to Marquis and his "tall tales and light verse," and there are plans afoot for an archyFest next year to celebrate archy's 100th birthday on Mar. 29.
16907. Robert Adey died on Jan. 4. He was a devoted scholar in the field of mysteries, compiling the landmark bibliography LOCKED ROOM MURDERS AND OTHER IMPOSSIBLE CRIMES (1991) and edited many fine anthologies, including AS IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN: A COLLECTION OF SHERLOCKIAN PARODIES FROM UNLIKELY SOURCES (December 99 #6) based on his research in humor magazine from the 1890s onwards.
16908. And there's theater, starting with "Sherlock Holmes et le chiens des Baskerville" (the francophone premiere of the parody by Steven Canny and John Nicholson) running at the Théâtre Denise-Pelletier in Montréal through Jan. 18 <www.denise-pelletier.qc.ca>.
16909. Madeleine George's "The (Curious Case of the) Watson Intelligence" will be performed at the Springs Ensemble Theater in Colorado Springs, Colo., Jan. 21-Feb. 7 <www.springsensembletheater.org>.
16910. "The Secret Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (by Alex H. Coy and Andrew Moritz) is first episode of a monthly series scheduled at the Overtime Theater in San Antonio, Tex., Jan. 29-30 <www.tinyurl.com/grwx44z>.
16911. The Elkhart Civic Theater is presenting "The Baker Street Irregulars" (by Flip Kobler and Cindy Marcus) at the Bristol Opera House in Bristol, Ind., Feb. 5-7 <www.elkhartcivictheater.org>.
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January 2016 #1

16912. Sherlockians (and Holmesians) gathered in New York to celebrate the Great Detective's 162nd birthday during the long weekend from Jan. 13 to Jan. 17. The festivities began with the traditional ASH Wednesday dinner sponsored by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes at the Press Box and continued with the Christopher Morley Walk led by Jim Cox and Dore Nash on Thursday morning, followed by the usual lunch at McSorley's.
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16913. The Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Speaker at the Midtown Executive Club on Thursday evening was Jeffrey Hatcher, author of the plays "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club" and "Sherlock Holmes and the Ice Palace Murders", and the screenplay for the film "Mr. Holmes"; his talk was titled "Casting Holmes" (and it will be published in the next issue of The Baker Street Journal).
16914. The Baker Street Babes's festivities (this year called the "Daintiest Thing in a Dressing Gown Pyjama Party") at The Players featured drinking and dining, as well as costumes, revelry, and an auction benefiting the Disabled American Veterans Trust.
16915. The William Gillette Luncheon at the Fillmore Room was well attended, and the Friends of Bogie's at Baker Street (Paul Singleton, Andrew Joffe, and Sarah Montague) entertained the audience with a look at what happened when Dr. and Mrs. Watson sought marriage counseling. The event also was the occasion for Al Gregory's presentation of the annual January Whimsey Award (named in memory of his wife January Stauber), which honors the most whimsical piece in The Serpentine Muse last year: the winner (Steve Mason) received a certificate and a check for the Canonical sum of \$221.17. And Otto Penzler's traditional open house at the Mysterious Bookshop provided the usual opportunities to browse and buy.
16916. The Irregulars and their guests gathered for the BSI annual dinner at the Yale Club, where Glen Miranker proposed the preprandial first toast to Nancy Browning as The Woman. And the agenda of the dinner featured the traditional BSI toasts and rituals, a tribute to Edith Meiser by Bert Coules, a "Duet: With an Occasional Chorus" account of the role of women in the BSI from 1934 to the present by Peter Blau and Evy Herzog (which concluded with the singing for the first time at an annual dinner of the BSI of the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes' "Reindeer Song"), a discussion of the rational roots of Holmes' feelings about women by Susan Rice, musical performances by Susan Dahlinger and Betsy Rosenblatt, and a reading of the Constitution and Buy-Laws by the BSI's most senior member, Tony Montag.
16917. Mike Whelan (the BSI's "Wiggins") honored Tony Montag more than fifty years as an Irregular, and presented a Two-Shilling Award to Tom Francis. There were Birthday Honours (Irregular Shillings and Investitures) awarded to Dana Cameron ("The Giant Rat of Sumatra"), Bert Coules ("The Whole Art of Detection"), John Durein ("Wilson, the Notorious Canary Trainer"), Jenn Eaker ("Mary Sutherland"), Jayantika Ganguly ("The Great Agra Treasure"), Timothy Greer ("The Ragged Shaw"), and Will Walsh ("Godfrey Norton"). Mike Whelan also appointed two more officers of the BSI: Michael Kean (as "Cartwright") and Bob Katz (as "Billy the Page").

January 2016 #2

16918. An enthusiastic crowd attended this year's Gaslight Gala at the Manhattan Club (with members of 40 Sherlockian societies from three continents and six nations); the agenda included musical tributes to a series of Canonical villains (Karen Wilson honored Irene Adler with "The Lady Is a Scamp").
16919. Some of the more fervent (or perhaps hard core) Sherlockians gathered after the dinners at O'Lunney's Irish Pub to honor long-standing traditions such as staying until at least 2:21; another tradition calls for newly-Investitured Irregulars to buy a round of tequila shots.
16920. On Saturday morning Covent Garden West (the dealers room at the Roosevelt Hotel) welcomed sellers and buyers, as well as authors and editors happy to inscribe or sign their books. The Beacon Society held its annual meeting, and the Junior Bloodstain of The Clients of Adrian Mulliner featured a dramatic reading of P. G. Wodehouse's "From a Detective's Notebook", followed by discussion of Adrian's deductions.
16921. The BSI's Saturday-afternoon reception at the Yale Club offered entertainment, conversation, wining, and dining; Chris Redmond was honored as winner of the Morley-Montgomery Award (a check accompanied by an attractive certificate) for the best contribution to The Baker Street Journal in 2015. The John H. Watson Fund benefited from energetic sales of tickets for the raffle prize (the golden sovereign Irene Adler gave to Holmes, and Irene's wedding jewelry handcrafted by Maggie Schpak for The Curious Collectors of Baker Street), and an auction of attractive donations to the Fund.
16922. The main Saturday-evening event was the annual "Very Irregular Lost in New York with a Bunch of Sherlockians" dinner arranged by Chrys Kegley and The Curious Collectors of Baker Street at O'Lunney's Times Square Pub, with 54 on hand for the festivities, and on Sunday morning a goodly crowd gathered at the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes' brunch at the Black Sheep.
16923. A final note for those who want to plan ahead: The Baker Street Irregulars' next annual dinner will be held on Jan. 6, 2017. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London's annual dinner likely will be on Jan. 14, 2017.
16924. I've not reported on everything, I hasten to add; there will be much more detailed reports in the spring issue of The Baker Street Journal. The BSJ appears quarterly, and subscriptions (four issues plus the Christmas Annual) cost \$41.95 (to the U.S.) or \$55.00 (elsewhere); payment by credit card or PayPal is welcome, or you can pay by check sent to the BSJ (Box 583, Zionsville, IN 46077).
16925. You can also subscribe at the BSJ web-site at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>, which has interesting features such as articles from recent issues of the BSJ, some of the papers written by winners of the Morley-Montgomery Awards, and information on the BSI's other publications and activities.
16926. Al Gregory <gaslightandfog@verizon.net> offers (via e-mail) the 2016 edition of his "The ABC of the BSI" (an alphabetical listing of Investitures, with recipients, from "Abbey Grange" to "Young Stamford") and "The Florin Society" (couples in which both spouses have received Irregular Shillings).

January 2016 #3

16927. The title of The Baker Street Journal's 2015 Christmas Annual is "Together Again for the First Time" (a tribute to Nicholas Meyer and his best-selling THE SEVEN-PER-CENT SOLUTION and the film based on his book, which helped launch the "Sherlock Holmes Boom" of the 1970s; it's now in the hands of BSJ subscribers, and otherwise unavailable unless you can find it on eBay or wherever.
16928. The BSJ's 2016 Christmas Annual is going to be a centennial tribute to William Gillette's film "Sherlock Holmes", edited by Russell Merritt and included as part of subscriptions to the BSJ.
16929. There were new many books available for the first time during the birthday festivities, and they will be reviewed in next month's issue, when I've had a chance to read them. As they say, stay tuned.
16930. The February issue of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine continues a long annual tradition of honoring Sherlock Holmes' birthday, with Sherlockian artwork on the cover, an amusing pastiche by Terence Faherty, an editorial on the Sherlockian traditions of EQMM by Janet Hutchings, a reprint of a pastiche by Robert Arthur, a new pastiche by Keith Hann, and reviews by Steve Steinbock of new Sherlockian books.
16931. Beryl Vertue was included on the Queen's New Year's honours list, appointed CBE (Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) for services to television drama; she founded Hartswood Films in the 1980s and is the company, and is executive producer of the BBC series "Sherlock" (which is produced by her daughter Sue Vertue and co-written by her son-in-law Steven Moffat).
16932. SHARK DETECTIVE! is an amusing book for children (ages 4-8), with a story and artwork by Jessica Olien (New York: Balzer+Bray, 2015; 32 pp., \$17.99).
16933. The latest issue of the August Derleth Society's newsletter offers Bob Byrne's interview ("A Preponderance of Pons"); Bob presides over a web-site devoted to Solar Pons, Derleth's delightful homage to Sherlock Holmes. The August Derleth Society's web-site is at <www.derleth.org>;

membership in the society costs \$25.00 a year and includes four issues of its newsletter. Bob Byrne's interesting web-site's at <www.solarpons.com>.

16934. Oscar Ross has reported The Telegraph Casino <www.tinyurl.com/zuteqd3>, a web-site maintained by the newspaper that offers punters a chance to play various games, one of them "Sherlock Holmes: The Hunt for Blackwood"; it's pay to play, and you will need to use a program such as Hola! to spoof the web-site into thinking you're in the U.K.
16935. Howard Ostrom has compiled a data-base with more than a thousand actors who have portrayed Sherlock Holmes, most of them with photographs; you can access it at the "No Place Like Holmes" web-site maintained by Ross K. Foad at <www.nplh.co.uk>; use the "More" button to get to The Diogenes Club Library (where you'll find the data-base and additional essays by Howard, as well as Diogenes Documentaries based on his research).

January 2016 #4

16936. Further to the report (October 15 #2) on the Criterion Restaurant, which after 140 years in business encountered difficulties when the landlord increased the rent, and closed, it's nice news indeed the restaurant is open again under a new name: The Savini London, according to its web-site <www.savini london.co.uk> open every day but with little other information. The Criterion's Long Bar was (as noted in A STUDY IN SCARLET) where Watson and Stamford had their historic meeting (and it's even nicer news the plaque honoring that meeting is still in place on the wall of the restaurant).
16937. The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes have a new (and interesting) web-site <www.ash-nyc.com>, thanks to web-mistress Monica Schmidt. You'll find history, scholarship, and news from a society that's now approaching its 50th anniversary.
16938. Alexander Orlov has noted Ankur Agarwal's imaginative Sherlock Holmes sand animation art in a video at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/hrvlcp>.
16939. "Sherlock Holmes and the Clocktower Mystery" (the interactive exhibit with much Victorian flavor, and a mystery that visitors can solve) opened at the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium in Dubuque, Iowa, on Jan. 15 <www.rivermuseum.com>. More information on the exhibit is available at the Wonderworks web-site <www.tinyurl.com/24b4fyy>.
16940. Antonio Iriarte reports SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY, a series of graphic novels published (in French) by Editions Soleil; there's a web-site, with attractive art-work, at <www.tinyurl.com/jx8hxx6>. The publisher offers a wide range of Sherlockian graphic novels at <www.tinyurl.com/pdne29f>.
16941. The world of energetic Sherlockians includes both the young and the not-so-young: Soren Eversoll became a member of The Norwegian Explorers at the age of seven, and now, twice as old, he and his recreation of the sitting-room at 221B Baker Street have been featured in an interesting story in the St. Paul Pioneer Press <www.tinyurl.com/on7n9c3>.
16942. Nando Gazzolo died on Nov. 16. He had a long career as an actor on stage, screen, and television in Italy, and dubbed the voices of many American and English actors; he appeared as Sherlock Holmes on Italian television in "La valle della paura" and "L'ultimo dei Baskerville" (1968); both programs are available for viewing at YouTube.
16943. "Reichenbach and Beyond: The Final Problem Revisited" is the theme of The Reichenbach Irregulars' next conference in Switzerland, in September 2017; more information is available at their web-site <www.221b.ch>. Their previous conference ("Alpine Adventures: Arthur Conan Doyle and Switzerland" in 2014) was delightful <www.tinyurl.com/lzvxxqk>.
16944. Hollywood actress Cate Blanchett has purchased Conan Doyle's former home in Crowborough, according to some press accounts, but in fact she has bought Highwell House, which was listed at £3,250,000 <www.tinyurl.com/hjed9rz>; it's rather more grand than Conan Doyle's former home Windlesham, which has been converted to offer residential care and is now called Windlesham Manor <www.tinyurl.com/zzykthe>.

January 2016 #5

16945. An interesting web-site <www.merrisonholmes.com> celebrates the BBC's being the first production company in the world to dramatize all 60 of the Sherlock Holmes stories with the same actors (Clive Merrison and Michael Williams); there are many links to follow, including (at Trivia) podcast interviews with Bert Coules at "Litopia" and at "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere". Bert maintains the web-site and updates it from time to time.
16946. The Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts & Humanities in Cape May, N.J., will hold its Sherlock Holmes Weekends on Mar. 18-20 and Nov. 4-6, featuring a new three-day mystery "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of Melpomene's Mask"; details at <www.tinyurl.com/h2bc4j4>.
16947. Bubble and Geek <www.bubble-and-geek.com> offers geek-themed fragrances and other scented products, and one of the geek themes is Sherlock Holmes; you can purchase 221B Baker Street ("a smart, sexy, and sophisticated fragrance that combines smoky, woody cedar notes with suede, brightened with notes of citrus and mint") roll-ons, soy wax melts, and soy candle jars.
16948. Patricia Guy's interesting interview with Umberto Eco for Publishers Weekly is available on-line <www.tinyurl.com/p87btj6>; of course she asked him how he came to write his first novel THE NAME OF THE ROSE (he offered five different reasons).
16949. Paul Singleton has reported "10 Sherlock Holmes Words Worth Investigating" (an interesting article at the Merriam Webster web-site. "The language in Sherlock Holmes is as intriguing as the stories," they suggest, and one of the words they've chosen is "gooseberry" (not Canonical, but nevertheless Sherlockian); you can find out why at <www.tinyurl.com/jut5yqn>.
16950. The article does not mention the phrase "gooseberry lay" (a phrase brought to everyone's attention by Dashiell Hammett); Erle Stanley Gardner told the story of "gooseberry lay" (and "gungel") in The Atlantic in 1965, and you can read what he had to say at <www.tinyurl.com/jhjsqcc>.
16951. Evy Herzog reports (but doesn't recommend) Shopping Sherlock, which seems to be some sort of pyramid scheme; they have a Sherlockian logo at the top of the opening screen and a more artistic Sherlockian logo in their video <www.shoppingsherlock.com>.
16952. "The Abominable Bride--We're Not in Baker Street Anymore" is the title of an amusing post by M. M. McMahon at Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" <www.tinyurl.com/h94jjmb>, notable for its link to a YouTube video of "BBC Sherlock--Wizard of Oz Style" (and stay tuned for the next video "Sherlock's The Wizard of Oz").
16953. One might safely assume that everyone has watched "Sherlock: The Abominable Bride" (except for those who plan never to watch it). If you would like to see just how committed fervent fans are, Nea Dodson recommends the Tumblr web-site multifandom-madness <www.tinyurl.com/gpxad4y> for a comprehensive collection of commentary and homages, and a transcript; and "The Annotated Abominable Bride" <www.tinyurl.com/guyajpw> for detailed discussion of the many Canonical allusions in the program.

January 2016 #6

16954. Jack D. Key ("Pritchard") died on Dec. 22. He began his career as a medical librarian in 1965, and went on to serve as director of the Mayo Medical Center Library for more than twenty years, contributing often to both Sherlockian and medical journals. Jack was co-author (with Alvin E. Rodin) of the classic THE MEDICAL CASEBOOK OF DOCTOR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: FROM PRACTITIONER TO SHERLOCK HOLMES AND BEYOND (1984), and he received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1989.

16955. Jennie Paton has reported that the N.Y. Public Library has made more than 187,000 of the public-domain items in its Digital Collections available online <<http://digitalcollections.nysl.org>>; many hits for [sherlock holmes] and for [conan doyle], including the scripts for the plays "The Adventures of Gerard" (1903), "The Sign of the Four" (1903), and "The Fires of Fate" (1909).
16956. Alan Rickman died on Jan. 14. He began his acting career on stage in 1974 and went on to star in film and on television; he was best known, perhaps, for his portrayals of the Sheriff of Nottingham in "Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves" (1991) and Severus Snape in the "Harry Potter" films (2001-2011), and played the title role in a Birmingham Repertory Theatre production of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" (with David Suchet as Professor Moriarty) in 1976.
16957. The Broadway production of "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the NightTime" (which won five Tony awards last year (June 15 #2) is now in its second year at the Ethel Barrymore Theater in New York. It's dramatized from Mark Haddon's novel, which is well worth reading.
16958. The Independent reported (Nov. 5) that the BBC has launched a challenge to iTunes by opening its first digital store <www.store.bbc.com> where you can purchase downloads of current and past programs, including "Sherlock" (but so far nothing else Sherlockian or Doylean); the archive will grow as more programs are added. As often is the case with the BBC, one needs to be in the U.K. to purchase downloads.
16959. This year's 221B Con in Atlanta on Apr. 1-3 is billed as "a fan con for all things Sherlock Holmes," and it promises to be as spectacular as in years past; details and registration at <www.221bcon.com>.
16960. The argument over converting Undershaw, Conan Doyle's former home, into a school (August 15 #5) seems to be over: a High Court judge has ruled against the challenge by John Michael Gibson, director of the Undershaw Preservation Trust, to the Waverley Council's approval of the DFN foundation plans to convert the house for use as a school. The judge said that the planning committee was "amply justified in proceeding on the basis that single residential use was not a viable option however optimum it might be in theory."
16961. Don Hobbs continues to update his "The Galactic Sherlock Holmes"; the January edition has now with 106 foreign languages (and 9 versions of English in non-Roman alphabets such as Braille and Pitman Shorthand), showing covers in color and with bibliographic details for more than 6,700 entries; a thumb drive costs \$15.00 postpaid (to the U.S.) or \$20.00 (elsewhere) from Don (2100 Elm Creek Lane, Flower Mound, TX 75028).

January 2016 #7

16962. If you've not bought your Blu-ray/DVD set of William Gillette's film "Sherlock Holmes" (1916), it's still available from Flicker Alley; their web-site also has an interesting essay ("Move Over, Irene Adler: Meet the Only Sherlock Love Interest Arthur Conan Doyle Approved") that includes Gillette's explanation of why he introduced romance into the play, along with additional comments in a letter he wrote to Vincent Starrett. There's also an offer of a limited-edition T-shirt with Wayne Shellabarger's cover artwork (\$19.99).
16963. The Mystery Writers of America have announced the nominees for this year's Edgar awards. Among them: Martin Edwards' THE GOLDEN AGE OF MURDER (October 15 #5) (best biographical/critical); winners will be announced at the MWA Gala Banquet in New York on Apr. 28.
16964. William Deason painted delightful cover art for paperback editions of the Canon published Dell and Berkley, and Evy Herzog has noted that five of the paintings can be seen at <www.williamdeason.com>; the web-site also shows some of his cover art for Agatha Christie paperbacks, and there are more of them at <www.raggedclaws.com/category/william-teason>.
16965. The fourth issue of the resurrected Saturday Review of Literature was published this month, edited by George Fletcher, Jon Lellenberg, Don Pollock, and Phil Shreffler, and with articles that include Kate Donley's "Hounding the Paratexts of the Game" (she notes that "the packaging and repackaging of the Sherlock Holmes stories affects the reading experience"), Tyke and Teddie Niver's report on "Giggles and Guffaws from Gillette Castle", Donald Pollock's discussion of "The Conan Doyle Prize" established at the University of Edinburgh in 1902, and much more. The issue costs \$5.00 postpaid from Donald Pollock (521 College Avenue, Niagara Falls, NY 14305).
16966. John Linsenmeyer reports the "oldest footage of London ever" at YouTube: an 11-minute video <www.tinyurl.com/mv2989t> of movies made between 1890 and 1920, showing what London looked like in those days, often paired with film showing the same locations now; the video also has the oldest know recording of Big Ben, made in 1890.
16967. Joseph Bell's copy of THE CAPTAIN OF THE POLESTAR AND OTHER TALES (a third edition published in 1892), inscribed by Conan Doyle to Bell, goes to auction on Feb. 5, estimated at £2,000-£3,000 <www.lawrences.co.uk>.
16968. The Norwegian Explorers' "Christmas Annual 2015" has the theme "Histories and Futures Deduced", with contributions ranging from Ruth Berman's "Building Oldacre's Secret Rooms" to Peter H. Jacoby's "Some Oddities in the CV of Colonel Sebastian Moran"; the 54-page booklet, edited by Timothy Reich and Ray Reithmeier, can be ordered from Timothy Reich (6809 Pillsbury Avenue, Richfield, MN 55423, and the cost is \$8.00 postpaid (checks payable to The Norwegian Explorers, please).
16969. Glittering Gold Guineas from the Fourth Garrideb is a 52-page anthology edited edited by Greg Ruby, with material ranging from an article by Jay Finley Christ that was first published in 1951 to a new exploration of "Where Would Dr. Lysander Starr Have Done His Banking?"; \$13.00 postpaid or \$10.00 for a PDF download, with details at <www.tinyurl.com/hho2o8p>.

January 2016 #8

16970. The television series "Houdini and Doyle" (June 15 #5) now has a one-minute trailer <www.tinyurl.com/jb3rr86>, Stephen Mangan is Conan Doyle, Michael Weston is Houdini and David Shore (creator of "House") is executive producer. Tune in this spring on Fox in the U.S., ITV Encore in the U.K., and Global in Canada.
16971. The British weekly magazine Look and Learn offered famous works of literature as serial graphic novels, with titles that included SIR NIGEL (1966-1967), THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (1967-1968), THE SIGN OF FOUR (1968), and THE LOST WORLD (1972-1973), and the four stories have been collected in one volume of ILLUSTRATED BRITISH CLASSICS, with an introduction by Norman Wright that includes discussion of the artists; available for £15.99 from The Book Palace <www.tinyurl.com/z6gkv5l>. RODNEY STONE also appeared in the magazine in 1966, but isn't in this collection.
16972. And some theatrical news: Ken Ludwig's "Postmortem" (an earlier version of "The Game's Afoot") will be performed as a reading at the Caltech Athenaeum in Pasadena, Calif., on Feb. 2 <www.tinyurl.com/jubl5cj>.
16973. The Village Players will be performing Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" at the James McCabe Theater in Valrico, Fla., through Feb. 6 <www.thevillageplayersvalrico.com>.
16974. Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" is being performed at the Rogers City Community Theater in Rogers City, Mich., through Feb. 7 <www.rogerscitytheater.com>; also at the Onstage Theatre in Makati City in the Philippines through Feb. 7 <www.repertoryphilippines.ph>. And it's scheduled at the Fort Smith Little Theatre in Fort Smith, Ark., Nov. 10-19 <www.fslt.org>.

16975. C. P. Stanchich's "Sherlock Holmes: Assassins at Sea" will be presented by the Theatre Company of Lafayette in Lafayette, Colo., from Mar. 4 to Mar. 26 <www.ctlstage.org>.
16976. Gayle Stahlhuth's radio-theater dramatization "Sherlock Holmes: Adventure of the Red-Headed League" will be performed by the East Lynne Theater Company at the First Presbyterian Church in Cape May, N.J., on Mar. 18-19 and Nov. 4-5 <www.eastlynnetheater.org>.
16977. "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (by David Pichette and R. Hamilton Wright) is scheduled by the Sacramento Theatre Company at the Main Stage in Sacramento, Calif., Apr. 20-May 15, 2016 <www.sactheatre.org>.
16978. The Seattle Repertory Theatre will present "Sherlock Holmes and the American Problem" (a new play by R. Hamilton Wright) at the Bagley Wright theatre in Seattle, Apr. 22-May 22, 2016 <www.seattlerep.org>.
16979. Mike Druce's "Sherlock Holmes and the Portal of Time" will be performed at the Huntington Beach Playhouse in Huntington Beach, Calif., Apr. 29-May 21 <www.hbplayhouse.com>.

February 2016 #1

16980. The Proceedings of the "Lippincott's Legacy" conference are now available (the conference was held at the University of Nebraska at Omaha on May 29-30 last year to honor the 125th anniversary of the publication of "The Sign of the Four" and "The Picture of Dorian Gray"). The Proceedings are a 160-page booklet in the style and format of the original Lippincott's Monthly Magazine, and cost \$10.00 postpaid <www.lippincottslegacy.org>, and it includes seven papers about Sherlock Holmes. It's nicely done, and you need to act quickly if you want one of the few remaining copies.
16981. The Baker Street Irregulars have organized conferences in the Vermissa Valley (2004), the Country of the Saints (2008), and the University of California in Los Angeles (2012); the next event will be a weekend conference at the Chautauqua Institution in western New York, Sept. 9-11, 2016.
16982. Terry Hunt reports an attractive necktie with a pattern displaying one of Frederic Dorr Steele's artistic portrayals of Sherlock Holmes, advertised by Frederick Thomas of London (£9.99) <www.tinyurl.com/zrnv8oz>. There are two other less-artistic Sherlock Holmes designs available as well; search for [sherlock] at their web-site.
16983. Reeder Brand Management <www.reederbrandmanagement.com> is a "boutique licensing and representation agency" that says at its web-site that "we directly represent the commercial licensing interests of consumer brands and iconic personalities" such as Evil Knievel, Charlie Chaplin, Alfred Hitchcock, Chris Farley, Bo Derek, Orson Welles, and "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and all literary copyrights (Sherlock Holmes, Watson, Professor Challenger, et al)." They explain that "We've introduced these personalities as commercially viable entities for licensing and advertising uses while maintaining the essential integrity that made them cultural icons."
16984. Roger Johnson reports that The Sherlock Holmes in Northumberland Street is now open for business again, after being closed for three weeks for refurbishment and essential structural work, and that visitors can again see the sitting-room at 221B. See the earlier report (October 15 #3) for the history of the pub and the sitting-room display.
16985. Frank Finlay died on Jan. 30. He began his acting career on stage in 1951 and went on to many performances on stage, screen, radio, and television. He played Inspector Lestrade twice, in the films "A Study in Terror" (1965) and "Murder by Decree" (1979), and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle twice, on BBC Radio 4 in "The Man Who Was Sherlock Holmes" (1980) and on television in BBC-2's "Encounters: The Other Side" (1992); his other roles included Professor Coram on television in Granada's "The Golden Pince-Nez" (1994), Manfred on film in "The Deadly Bees" (1967) and Police Captain Davies in the film "The Molly Maguires" (1970).
16986. Malice Domestic has announced the nominees for this year's Agatha awards, including: Laurie R. King's DREAMING SPIES (for best historical novel), and Zach Dundas' THE GREAT DETECTIVE, Martin Edwards' THE GOLDEN AGE OF MURDER, and Kate White's THE MYSTERY WRITERS OF AMERICA COOKBOOK (best non-fiction) Winners will be announced at Malice's banquet in Bethesda on Apr. 30.

February 2016 #2

16987. "Sherlock: The Abominable Bride" attracted a huge audience in the U.K.: Radio Times reported (Jan. 10) that the program had a consolidated total of 11.6 million viewers and an audience share of 40.2% (the percentage of the people watching television who watched the program). The U.S. has about five times as many people as the U.K., but the ratings here were much lower because PBS-TV is a niche channel that has far fewer viewers than the major channels.
16988. "'Detective Pikachu' Is Pokémon's New Game/Fever Dream" read the headline on a story in Forbes <www.tinyurl.com/zcrwsze>, and there's a trailer at <www.tinyurl.com/zydskod>, kindly reported by Howard Ostrom. Detective Pikachu is seen in Sherlockian costume; so far the game's available only in Japanese, but of course there are hopes for a version in English.
16989. CBS-TV is juggling its schedule: "Elementary" moves to 10:00 pm on Sundays on Mar. 20, and the new series "Rush Hour" will take the 10:00 pm slot on Thursdays. Ratings for "Elementary" are declining, triggering rumors that the current fourth season may be the last. If that turns out to be true, the series will end with a total of 96 episodes, and Jonny Lee Miller and Lucy Liu will have been seen as Holmes and Watson for more hours in more episodes than any pair of actors except Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce.
16990. Grace Aidinantz has died. According to Linda Riley, her mother died of a broken heart after being devastated by a family dispute over the Sherlock Holmes Museum (October 15 #1); Riley's brother John Aidinantz has been accused of robbing other family members of their share in the profits of the Museum, which has brought in £20 million since it opened in 1990.
16991. The Sweet Geek Paper Company offers Lesley Jones' amusing SHERLOCK COLORING BOOK: 12 PAGES OF SOCIOPATHIC COLORING FUN (\$6.00), plus other imaginative items (both Sherlockian and otherwise) <www.sweetgeek.etsy.com>.
16992. "I think my favorite books were LIFE OF THE MISSISSIPPI by Mark Twain, THE WHITE COMPANY by Conan Doyle (also SIR NIGEL by the same author)," Charles Addams wrote in 1967 to Evelyn B. Byrne, "and some interest still remains in the form of a small armor collection. And TREASURE ISLAND with the wonderful Wyeth illustrations and of course the Sherlock Holmes books." The macabre cartoonist's letter wasn't included in ATTACKS OF TASTE (1971), edited by Byrne and Otto M. Penzler, but it went to auction on Jan. 28 at University Archives (estimated at \$200-\$300) and sold for \$575.
16993. Agatha Christie's letter to Byrne also mentioned the Sherlock Holmes stories; it went to auction last year (May 15 #2), estimated at \$2,000-\$3,000, and was bought for \$2,250.
16994. A copy of the Al Hirschfeld's limited-edition color lithograph "The Game's Afoot" (showing Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce as Holmes and Watson) will be at auction at the Bitterscotch Auction Gallery on Mar. 13, estimated at \$500-\$700 <www.bitterscotchauction.com>; the lithograph's also still available for \$1,800 (along with many other originals and prints) from the Margo Feiden Galleries <www.alhirschfeld.com>.

February 2016 #3

16995. Sabina Carpenter and John Quincannon, private detectives in San Francisco in 1895, return in Marcia Muller and Bill Pronzini's *THE PLAGUE OF THIEVES AFFAIR* (New York: Forge/Tom Doherty, 2016; 252 pp., \$25.99), the fourth in their entertaining series; in this book Sabina and John have separate mysteries to solve, and Sabina is hired to find the man who continues to claim he's Sherlock Holmes and persuade him that he isn't (she's only partly successful).
16996. *NERVE AND KNOWLEDGE: DOCTORS, MEDICINE AND THE SHERLOCKIAN CANON* is aptly titled and subtitled; edited by Robert S. Katz and Andrew L. Solberg, it's an imaginative anthology of Canonical and medical scholarship, focusing on the stories but also including the best of the actors who have played Watson on screen and television (New York: Baker Street Irregulars, 2015; 222 pp., \$39.95) <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>.
16997. Also from the BSI: *SPAIN AND SHERLOCK HOLMES*, edited by Maria C. Veiga-Hayzen and Donald J. Hobbs (2015; 195 pp., \$39.95); this is the fifth volume in the BSI's International Series, and it offers an excellent selection of Spanish scholarship and pastiche from The Amateur Mendicant Society of Madrid, available for the first time in English. The society was founded in 1993 by seven Sherlockian who describe themselves as "a social, philanthropic, eminently cultural and occasionally ethical society," and the extracts from their "foundational letter" (and the contributor biographies) are well worth attention.
16998. And there's more from the BSI: *ART IN THE BLOOD: CARTOONIST & ILLUSTRATOR SCOTT BOND MEETS SHERLOCK HOLMES* (2016; 103 pp., \$23.95) is edited by Mark Gagen and offers a wide-ranging selection of Scott's artwork, from 1981 to 2015, from Baker Street Miscellanea, the Baker Street Journal, menus of the BSI annual dinners, and many other sources, some in full color and everything nicely done.
16999. *BAKER STREET ELEMENTARY: THE FIRST ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES AND JOHN WATSON* is a series of amusing comic strips created by Joe Fay, Steve Mason, and Rusty Mason; there were 46 installments in 2015, and you can see them at The Crew of the Barque Lone Star's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/j29mukf>.
17000. Callie Meaney's "Literary Candles" are book-inspired hand-poured soy candles, and her "221B Baker Street" candle is scented with black currant tea and leather books and available from Uncommon Goods (\$16.00 for a 12-ounce candle in a glass jar) <www.tinyurl.com/glnbk3>; she has other candles inspired by Alice in Wonderland, Jane Eyre, and Pride & Prejudice.
17001. A discovery in the archives of the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh: class rolls that show that Conan Doyle attended classes, demonstrations, and excursions in 1877, studying medical botany and vegetable histology while he was at Edinburgh University Medical School <www.tinyurl.com/jv444up>.
17002. Phillip Bergem has updated his two extensive checklists of Sherlockian and Doylean films and television programs, annotated for date, country, actors who played Holmes and Watson (or Conan Doyle), production company, and alternate titles; they're available by e-mail from Phil <pgbergem@gmail.com>, and at Willis Frick's "Sherlocktron" <www.sherlocktron.com>.

February 2016 #4

17003. Alexander Orlov and Phil Bergem have reported a new version of *THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES*: a fake book for people who want somewhere to hide their liquor. The "booze book" is from Bender Bound <www.tinyurl.com/q8swwap> and has attractive cover art as well; the company motto is "hiding booze in books since 2011," and there's a similar volume for admirers of Edgar Allan Poe.
17004. Leah Guinn and Jaime N. Mahoney have edited *A CURIOUS COLLECTION OF DATES: THROUGH THE YEAR WITH SHERLOCK HOLMES* (Indianapolis: Gasogene Books, 2016; 344 pp., \$34.95) <www.gasogenebooks.com>; it's an interesting day book with one or more entries for every day in the year, with entries based on careful research and covering events, people (characters, authors, and actors), cases, and much more, Canonical and otherwise.
17005. Also from Gasogene: *SHERLOCK HOLMES AND CONAN DOYLE IN THE NEWSPAPERS, VOLUME 2, JANUARY-JUNE 1893*, edited and annotated by Mattias Boström and Matt Laffey (2016; 197 pp., \$28.95); it covers only six months, rather than the first volume's eleven years, demonstrating how much more newsworthy Holmes and Conan Doyle were by 1893, and it's full of reviews, commentary, the occasional pastiche, and amusing examples of how Holmes was even then becoming part of the cultural literacy. Of special interest is the seven-page list of digitized newspapers and magazines (and the archives in which they were found), showing how useful modern technology can be for this sort of research.
17006. And again from Gasogene: Christopher Redmond's *A QUICK SUCCESSION OF SUBJECTS: LECTURES AND SPEECHES ON SHERLOCK HOLMES* (2016; 275 pp., \$19.95) is a collection of almost 40 years of Chris' scholarship, some published for the first time, and the contents are interesting, instructive, philosophical, amusing, and (perhaps most important) well written.
17007. Willis H. O'Brien filmed stop-motion dinosaurs for "The Lost World" (1925), but he wasn't the only person working in the field: Ann Marlowe has found film of sculptress Virginia May, who was seen in "Pathé Review: Monsters of the Past" (1923) <www.tinyurl.com/hst7h2h>.
17008. Judith Freeman's useful index to *The Serpentine Muse* (published by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes since 1975) is available from her by e-mail as an Excel spreadsheet <judith-freeman@hotmail.com>, and the ASH web-site <www.ash-nyc.com> has information on subscribing to the Muse (back issues are unfortunately not available).
17009. Customers of Amazon may be interested in the company's new warning labels, suggested by John Doppler <www.tinyurl.com/zhhbzx4>; some of the new labels might be useful attached to reviews of Sherlockian pastiches.
17010. Fans of Rupert Holmes' television series "Remember WENN" on AMC (1996-1998) will recall the episode "Armchair Detectives" (1996), which was creatively Sherlockian; it's now available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/h4x3tr5>. Note Prison Warden Otto Pelzler, who was Otto Penzler in the script but not in the broadcast; Rupert Holmes has said he believes the producers changed the name to avoid being sued (the real Otto is delighted when his name appears in other people's works).

February 2016 #5

17011. Further to the item about Eugene T. (Sherlock) Holmes, candidate for mayor in Kings Mountain, N.C. (December 15 #2), he represented himself at his trial in Cleveland County District Court on various charges, and was threatened with contempt of court by the judge, who then declared a mistrial because of a mistake by the District Attorney. Holmes is now facing charges in four counties.
17012. Raymond Hughes died on Dec. 15. He attended the Liverpool College of Art (with John Lennon as a fellow student), and began a career in costume design in television and films in 1968; one of his films was "Young Sherlock Holmes" (1985).
17013. The photograph of Dorando Pietri at the end of the marathon at the Olympic Games in London in 1908 is well known, since some people claim (incorrectly) that it shows Conan Doyle helping Pietri across the finish line of the race; Cliff Goldfarb has reported that there's also an interesting 8-minute highlights film at British Pathé's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/job7xwo> that includes brief footage of Dorando (what's even more interesting in how informal things were more than a century ago).

17014. The Beacon Society offers annual January Stauber grants of up to \$500 to fund development of programs that introduce young people to Sherlock Holmes in the U.S. and Canada; the deadline for grant applications is May 1, and details are available at the society's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/ha8chix>.
17015. Howard Ostrom's "The A-Z of Sherlock Holmes Performers" is now available at Ross Foad's "No Place Like Holmes" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/hgfjnsv>, with more than 1,300 performers listed and with more than 2,500 photographs.
17016. Conrad Phillips died on Jan. 13. He began his acting career on screen in 1948, starred as William Tell in a British television series in 1958-1959, and played many other roles, among them Sir Eustace Brackenstall in Granada's "The Abbey Grange" (1986).
17017. The animated movie "Gnomeo & Juliet: Sherlock Gnomes" (December 15 #1) still is a work-in-progress, scheduled for release in 2018, but you can watch their brief trailer at <www.tinyurl.com/hgsnsg5>.
17018. Maria Konnikova's THE CONFIDENCE GAME: WHY WE FALL FOR IT...EVERY TIME (New York: Viking, 2016; 340 pp., \$28.00) is the second book from the author of the well-received MASTERMIND: HOW TO THINK LIKE SHERLOCK HOLMES (January 13 #4) and it's an instructive exploration of the reasons why con men and women are so successful: the "why" is more important than the "how" (and she explains both aspects of what she calls "the (real) oldest profession." The book is not Sherlockian (except for the story about how the mother of someone whose name will be familiar to readers of this newsletter was taken in by a woman who made a modest living as a professional imposter). The author's interesting web-site's at <www.mariakonnikova.com>.
17019. Mattias Boström reports a previously-unpublished photograph of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, driving his 20-horsepower Dietrich-Lorraise during an AngloGerman motor race (the Prince Henry Tour) on July 5, 1911. You can view it at the Facebook page of Skånelaholms Slott <www.tinyurl.com/j2jrhkd>.

February 2016 #6

17020. Charlie Cook has noted in The Sound of the Baskervilles' newsletter Ineffable Twaddle two of the late Henry W. Gould's mathematical papers ("The Case of the Strange Binomial Identities of Professor Moriarty" and "The Design of the Four Binomial Identities: Moriarty Intervenes") the Fibonacci Quarterly are now available on-line, thanks to the modern wonders of digitization, at <www.tinyurl.com/hjn5qtu>, in issues 10(4), 10(6), and 12(4).
17021. Alexander Orlov has noted a report in the Guardian (Feb. 13) headlined "From Battleship Potemkin to Baker Street: Sightseeing with Sergei Eisenstein" about Eisenstein's six-week visit to Britain in 1929, and an exhibition of his work at the Gallery for Russian Arts and Design in London <www.tinyurl.com/z2yl8el>. The exhibition runs through Apr. 30, and the article has an illustration, in full color, of one of Eisenstein's costume designs (from the Bakhrushin Theatre Museum) for a 1922 play that would have pitted Holmes against Nick Carter during the early years of Soviet experimental theater. The article also reports that Eisenstein's interest in Holmes continued: in 1934 he ordered a copy of Vincent Starrett's THE PRIVATE LIFE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES from a London bookshop.
17022. Tim Symonds, who has written four pastiches available from MX Publishing, wonders which cap or tunic badge Watson would have been wearing at the fatal battle of Maiwand: the 5th Northumberland Fusiliers' "quo fata vocant" badge, some other badge, or no badge at all? And Watson was a surgeon in the Army Medical Department (later the RAMC), would he have worn the insignia of the AMD? Does anyone recall this being discussed in print? Or have any suggestions? Tim is at <tim.symonds@shevolution.com>.
17023. The Scarborough Book Festival ("Books by the Beach") will feature two presentations of David Stuart Davies' "The Game's Afoot: Encounter with Sherlock Holmes and Arthur Conan Doyle" on Apr. 13 and 17 in Scarborough (North Yorkshire) <www.booksbythebeach.co.uk>.
17024. Harper Lee died on Feb. 19. Her novel TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD (1960) quickly became a classic, and a highly regarded film starring Gregory Peck (1962); She received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from George W. Bush, and the National Medal of Arts from Barack Obama. One of her childhood friends was Truman Capote: "Both were oddballs who took refuge in detective novels, and they quickly bonded over their mutual love of Sherlock Holmes and the Rover Boys," according to a story in the N.Y. Times last year about Greg Neri's novel TRU AND NELLE (due from HMH Books for Young Readers in March).
17025. Iconic statues in London, including Sherlock Holmes in Baker Street, were given a makeover to celebrate London Fashion Week this month. You can see Holmes and others decorated with SensatioNail Polish to Gel Transformer in the Get West London gallery at <www.tinyurl.com/znzlccd>.
17026. Get West London also has reported <www.tinyurl.com/jjgbgoc> that the Baker Street "Wonderpass" (November 15 #1) is now open; there's a photo galley of the new pedestrian underpass, with no views of anything Sherlockian. Nicholas Lezard notes in the New Statesman <www.tinyurl.com/jg5hnjz>, however, that there is a diorama honoring Sherlock Holmes.

February 2016 #7

17027. "Missing Movie: A Case for Sherlock Holmes" was a one-hour program broadcast by BBC Radio 2 in 1994, with Betty Marsden narrating the story behind the missing footage from "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970) and with interviews with many of the people who worked on the film. The audio is available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/hk5wdq4> (spotted and kindly reported by Jennie Paton).
17028. THE MX BOOK OF NEW SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES, edited by David Marcum (London: MX Publishing, 2015), is an anthology of straight-forward pastiches, carefully selected from what Marcum calls the "Great Watsonian Oversoul." Marcum believes that "there never can be enough good Holmes stories, relating the activities of the true, correct, and traditional Holmes," and he offers more than sixty stories, almost all previously unpublished, by authors who are old hands at writing pastiches or newcomers to the genre. The stories (and occasional poems and scripts) are nicely done indeed, and the collection consists of three volumes (439/416/418 pp., \$44.95 each. Recommended. MX's web-sites are at <www.mxpublishing.com> and <mxpublishing.co.uk>.
17029. The authors have donated their royalties to the preservation of Undershaw, Conan Doyle's former home, which is being converted by the DFN Foundation into a school <www.steppingstone.org.uk>, and the success of the anthology and triggered work on three more volumes <www.tinyurl.com/goj4jap>.
17030. Also from MX: Dan Andriacco's BOOKMARKED FOR MURDER (MX Publishing, 2015; 243 pp., \$16.95) is the latest in his series about Jeff Cody and Sebastian McCabe, now back in Erin, Ohio, and presented with various mysteries, one of them the murder of the owner of the only used-book store in town (he has been clubbed with a replica of the Maltese Falcon); it is a lively story, and the author presides over an entertaining (and often Sherlockian) blog <www.bakerstreetbeat.blogspot.com> that's well worth a visit.
17031. More from MX: Luke Benjamin Kuhns' THE SCARLET THREAD OF MURDER (2015; 255 pp., \$16.95) offers three pastiches, the longest involving Sherlock Holmes (and Watson), Martin Hewitt (and Brett), and (the real) Detective Inspector Edmund Reid; the others bring Holmes and Watson and Irene Adler to America, and (briefly) Holmes and Watson into the world of ballet in London.

17032. Umberto Eco died on Feb. 19. An esteemed semiotician, cultural critic, and author, he became world-famous at the age of 48 when his first novel became a sensational best-seller: *THE NAME OF THE ROSE* (1980) featured William of Baskerville, a Franciscan monk who arrived at an abbey in Italy in 1327 and found he needed to solve a series of murders, succeeding by using methods that were thoroughly Sherlockian. The novel was made into a movie (1986) starring Sean Connery and Christian Slater; the film has scenes not found in the novel, which makes it easy to detect whether Sherlockians who claim to have read the novel actually are remembering the movie. Patricia Guy's recent interesting interview with Umberto Eco for *Publishers Weekly* can be read on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/p87btj6>.
17033. In Eco's obituary in the *Washington Post* (Feb. 21), Matt Schudel noted that Eco named many of his characters after type fonts such as Baskerville, Garamond, Palatino, and Bodoni. And that he had a personal library of 50,000 books and near-total recall of their contents.
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February 2016 #8

17034. The television series "Houdini and Doyle" (January 16 #8) will begin on Fox in the U.S. and on Global in Canada on May 2; the series features Stephen Mangan (Conan Doyle) and Michael Weston (Houdini), with David Shore (creator of "House") as executive producer. The ten-part mini-documentary digital series "Houdini and Doyle: World of Wonders" will start on <www.globaltv.com> and Global Go on Apr. 11; if you use a program such as Hola! you can spoof the Canadian web-site into thinking you're in Canada.
17035. Norman Hudis died on Feb. 8. He had a long career writing screenplays for films and television, first in Britain and then in the United States. Best known for writing the first six "Carry On..." comedy films in the 1950s and 1960s, he fantasized about writing one more in the series, according to his obituary in the *Daily Telegraph* (Feb. 12). "Carry On Shylock Holmes" would have featured a Jewish Holmes and Watson and ended with a line of dialogue: "Elementary--you schmuck."
17036. The International Sherlock Holmes Exhibition will open at the Telus World of Science in Edmonton, Mar. 25, and will run through Sept. 5; the web-site is at <www.telusworldofsciencemontion.ca>. The exhibition then moves to the Pacific Science Center in Seattle, Wash., opening on Oct. 13, 2016, and on to the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney Australia, opening on May 6, 2017.
17037. Bill Peschel's anthology *SHERLOCK HOLMES EDWARDIAN PARODIES AND PASTICHES II: 1905-1909* (Hershey: Peschel Press, 2015; 388 pp., \$15.99) is the latest in his 223B Casebook Series, offering the results of his continuing wideranging search through newspapers, magazines, and books, annotated by the editor, who also includes year-by-year commentary on Conan Doyle's life and career. Visit <www.peschelpress.com> for more information on Bill's press and books.
17038. Theatrics: Steven Canny and John Nicholson's comedy "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is running at the MADs Little Theatre in Macclesfield, Cheshire, through Mar. 5 <www.madstheatre.org>.
17039. William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" (presented by Lincoln Northeast Drama) will be performed at the Northeast Drama Center in Lincoln, Neb., Mar. 1-4 <www.lps.org/post/detail.cfm?id=10701>.
17040. Thomas R. Gordon's new play "Arsène Lupin vs Sherlock Holmes" will be presented by the Onomatopoeia Theatre Company at the Gene Frankel Theatre in New York, Apr. 22-May 14 <www.theonomatopoeiatheatrecompany.com>.
17041. I've long described this newsletter as six or more pages of whatever gossip I find appropriate, much of it quite trivial, but most of it Sherlockian or Doylean, and anyone who wants to do a word-search on a large (more than 13MB) file of all of the text since March 1985 can now do just that, thanks to Steve Mason, who compiled the file, and will update it, and has kindly made it available for download from the Crew of the Barque Lone Star's web-site <www.dfw.sherlock.org/scuttlebutt-from-the-spermaceti-press>.
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March 2016 #1

17042. "The Mind and Art of Sherlock Holmes" is the title of the Baker Street Irregulars excursion this year to the Chautauqua Institution in southwestern New York state, Sept. 9-12, and the festivities will include meals, tours, entertainment, more than 20 speakers and panelists, and screening of three of Eille Norwood's silent films, shown in the U.S. for the first time. Details on the event (and a registration form) will be available on and after Apr. 3 at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>, and as with all of the BSI's excursions, everyone is welcome to share the fun.
17043. Major news from the manuscript market: the auction at Bonhams in New York on Apr. 11 will include a single page from the manuscript of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (estimated at \$100,000-\$150,000), and the manuscripts of "The Greek Interpreter" (\$380,000-\$420,000), "The Problem of Thor's Bridge" [that is the title of the manuscript] (\$250,000-\$350,000), "Rodney Stone" (\$80,000-\$120,000), and "The Prisoner's Defence" (\$20,000-\$30,000). Also Christopher Morley's "Where the Blue Begins" (\$12,000-\$18,000). Detailed descriptions of the Conan Doyle items are available at Randall Stock's "The Best of Sherlock" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/zeetnbx>.
17044. More major news from the manuscript market: five Brigadier Gerard stories, not widely known to have survived, are advertised in the current catalog of the New York dealer James S. Jaffe for \$115,000. Randall Stock's detailed descriptions of these manuscripts are at <www.tinyurl.com/h8qzpgv>.
17045. And there's some non-manuscript Sherlockian auction news: Heritage Auctions <www.tinyurl.com/z94vbkg>; search for [conan doyle] to find some nice material in an on-line auction closing on Apr. 6, including a run of all of the Sherlock Holmes stories in single issues of *The Strand Magazine*, first book editions of *A STUDY IN SCARLET* (both first and second printings), "The Lost World" in single issues of *The Strand Magazine*, and much more.
17046. They're off and running at Pimlico Race Course in Maryland, where Greg Ruby has revived *The Silver Blaze* (Southern Division), set for May 14; you can read all about it at <www.sherlockinmaryland.com/silver-blaze>.
17047. Laurie R. King's *THE MURDER OF MARY RUSSELL* (New York: Bantam Books, 2016; 384 pp., \$28.00) offers an attention-grabbing ending to the first chapter, and a detailed and provocative look at the life of Mrs. Hudson; it's nicely done indeed, and a grand addition to the Mary Russell series. Laurie has an interesting web-site at <www.laurierking.com>; click on "Events" to see where she'll be appearing, and on "Blogs" to read Laurie's Mutterings and Mary Russell's Blog.
17048. Laurie's *THE MARRIAGE OF MARY RUSSELL* is a new short story, available (so far) only as an e-book; she has posted some essays about the story at her web-site <www.tinyurl.com/jbhak4s>.
17049. Frogwares calls "Sherlock Holmes: The Devil's Daughter" the most ambitious game they have worked on yet in their continuing series of game engineered for Playstation 4, Xbox One, and PC; it will be released on May 27, and you can see their "cinematic reveal trailer" at <www.tinyurl.com/jrvo3lg>.
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March 2016 #2

17050. Theresa Thomalen died on Mar. 2. "It ain't easy," Terry once wrote. "I am married to a lunatic, but he's a nice guy. He was always a nice guy, but he wasn't always a lunatic." The nice guy was Bob Thomalen, and Terry joined him in *The Three Garridebs* and in presiding over a long series of
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delightful Autumns in Baker Street. She was awarded The Baker Street Irregulars' Queen Victoria Medal in 1992, and then was toasted by the BSI as The Woman in 1994.

17051. Good news of fans of "Elementary": CBS has renewed the series for a fifth season, extending Johnny Lee Miller and Lucy Liu's record for the most performances of any pair of actors at Holmes and Watson in every medium other than radio (where Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce reign supreme).
17052. It's called "The Great Detective" (but the label on the base reads "Sherlock Holmes"): a new statue from Creations & Collections Ltd. <www.creationsandcollections.com> is 10½" high in cold cast bronze with a blue wash over the coat (\$74.95), and is advertised as "sure to catch the attention of any detective and mystery enthusiast out there."
17053. Magda Jozsa is an Australian author who has written in many genres. RETURN TO THE WILD FRONTIER (Charleston: CreateSpace, 2013; 332 pp., \$13.99) is a sequel to her SHERLOCK HOLMES ON THE WILD FRONTIER (April 05 #5), and brings Holmes and Watson back to the Wild West, where they encounter old acquaintances and survive more adventures with desperados and other villains. Her THE PRIVATE DIARIES OF DR. WATSON (2013; 414 pp., \$14.99) is a collection of stories that offer a more personal view of Watson, and of Holmes and his family, and SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE FEMME FATALES (2014; 323 pp., \$12.73) is the second installment of stories in the same vein. INTRODUCING NEPTUNE KING (2002; 502 pp., \$14.99) is the first of a series of 24 collections of short stories, set in England in the 1960s, featuring a young Oxford professor-turned-detective who is an admirer of Sherlock Holmes. Her titles also are available as e-books, and her web-site is at <www.read4life.com>.
17054. Bjarne Nielsen ("The Veiled Lodger") died on Mar. 19. Bjarne was a collector, bibliographer, translator, and publisher; he first contributed to the Sherlockian literature (in Danish) in 1964, presided over Antiquariat Pinkerton (his bookshop and private press), founded a small society called The Two Thurstons and The Great Greenland Expedition Society, and was president of the Sherlock Holmes Klubben i Danmark from 1988 to 2006. He was awarded his Investiture in The Baker Street Irregulars in 1984.
17055. Another "Sherlocked: The Official Sherlock Convention" is scheduled in London on Sept. 23-26 <www.sherlocked.com>; it's organized in association with Hartswood Films (the production company for "Sherlock"), and they're looking venues and dates for a "Sherlocked USA" event.
17056. THE ADVENTURE OF THE OLD CAMPAIGNERS, by James Wearne (Charleston: CreateSpace, 2011; 235 pp., \$11.85) has Watson (and Holmes) come to the aid of Watson's old colleague Col. Pickering, Prof. Henry Higgins, and Higgins' wife (the former Eliza Doolittle); Watson winds up visiting a bordello in London and a Japanese castle in West Africa in an attempt to rescue one of Eliza's friends who seems to have been kidnapped by white slavers.

March 2016 #3

17057. Among the "Dating Profiles of the Literary Lovelorn" at the Bas Bleu "Bluestocking Salon" blog <www.tinyurl.com/jzqsufd>, noted by Janice Weiner: "Busy no-nonsense bachelor seeks intelligent verbal sparring partner. Applicants must be thoroughly honest, accepting of my keeping late hours, and willing to dress in disguise on occasion. Tidying and cooking skills a plus. Those in possession of these qualities--and who are not averse to being intimate with a smoker--may request an interview with myself and my colleague and advisor, Dr. Watson, at our rooms at 221B Baker Street, London. I strongly advise against telling even the slightest fib."
17058. The television series "Houdini and Doyle" (February 16 #8) started on ITV and ITV Encore in Britain this month; according to a story in Radio Times (Mar. 2), Steve Mangan was ordered to grow a Magnum-style moustache for the series, and shaved it off the day shooting ended. But he has signed a five-year option for the series, and may need to grow the moustache again. The series starts on Fox on May 2; here's a new trailer: <www.tinyurl.com/zj52qv8>.
17059. Mrs. Hudson's Cliffdwellers of New Jersey will celebrate their 40th anniversary at a luncheon meeting on July 10; for more information, contact Ron Fish <ronf404@aol.com>.
17060. SHERLOCK HOLMES' FIENDISH PUZZLES, by Dr. John Watson [Tim Dedopulos] (London: Carlton Books, 2016; pp., £7.99) is a collection of "riddles, enigmas, and challenges inspired by the world's greatest crime-solver." Also from Carlton: Martin Fido's SHERLOCK: THE FACTS AND FICTION BEHIND THE WORLD'S GREATEST DETECTIVE (2015; 224 pp., £16.99) is a revised and expanded second edition of his THE WORLD OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (March 99 #1), updated to include modern films and television, and with many colorful illustrations. And THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE CASE NOTES, by Dr. John Watson [Guy Adams] (2015; 63 pp., £19.99), is a reprint of the earlier edition (November 09 #6); an imaginative boxed scrapbook of evidence, some of it in evidence bags, for six of the Canonical tales.
17061. Fandom Post reported on Feb. 20 that Titan Comics plans to publish an English version of the Japanese "Sherlock: A Study in Pink" manga in June, in print and digital formats.
17062. "Sherlock" producer Sue Vertue, at the BBC Worldwide Showcase in Liverpool last month, said "We start shooting in April, finish shooting at the end of July." Mark Gatiss, asked what Benedict Cumberbatch brought to the role at the beginning of the 2010 series, replied "He brought his own trousers."
17063. Alexander Orlov notes that Dmitri Varkin has created an interesting metal sculpture he calls "The Lost World"; it's imaginative, and there are images in a slide show at <www.tinyurl.com/gvhrvyyq>.
17064. "An eight-day train voyage through the Swiss Alps with Ranulph Fiennes" is being promoted by the Daily Telegraph <www.tinyurl.com/hq4axj9>, departing from London on Sept. 8, for only £2,795 per person. The tour includes two nights at the "Englischer Hof" in Meiringen, where author Anthony Horowitz will give a private lecture on Sherlock Holmes.

March 2016 #4

17065. Further to the item about Eugene T. (Sherlock) Holmes, candidate for mayor in Kings Mountain, N.C. (February 16 #5), he has now spent more than a hundred days in jail, and has been ordered to undergo a mental evaluation or face more time in jail. "I've had mental evaluation," he said, "My wife is my caretaker." Holmes' political campaign made local headlines last year when he promised, if elected mayor, to arrest homosexuals, and then disrupted voting on election day; Holmes got three votes and finished last.
17066. In other crime news, from Monticello, Ark., Patrick Sherlock Holmes was arrested for possession of drugs and drug paraphernalia during the Operation Safe Watch" compliance check on registered sex offenders in Monticello.
17067. The Beacon Society has presented its 2015 Beacon Award (recognizing educators who introduce young people to the Sherlock Holmes stories) to Michael J. Brady, who developed and used a Sherlock Holmes curriculum at the California Youth Authority and other schools in California and Tennessee; there is more about him, and his work, at <www.beaconsociety.com>.
17068. Ryan Britt's LUKE SKYWALKER CAN'T READ, AND OTHER GEEKY TRUTHS (New York: Plume/Penguin Random House, 2015; 208 pp., \$16.00) is a collection of provocative essays about science fiction and fantasy, including "Baker Streets on Infinite Earths: Sherlock Holmes as the Eternal Sci-Fi Superhero". It's a revised and expanded version of "Sherlock Holmes and the Science Fiction of Deduction" published in Clarkesworld (Nov. 2010)

and available on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/2ddvtg>. Britt begins his book with a nice quotation from Isaac Asimov: "Those people who think they know everything are a great annoyance to those of us who do."

17069. Sorry about that: Henry W. Gould is not "late" (February 16 #6): he's alive and well and publishing; his latest book is COMBINATORIAL IDENTITIES FOR STIRLING NUMBERS (2015), and he has an impressive entry at Wikipedia, as well as an interesting page at Facebook <www.facebook.com/henry.gould.16>.
17070. Yuichi Hirayama's THE ANNOTATED JELLAND'S VOYAGE (January 01 #3) offered a reprint of Arthur Conan Doyle's only story set in Japan, with annotations and an interesting discussion of the historical and literary background of the story; the 20-page pamphlet is now available as a Kindle e-book from Amazon (\$3.00).
17071. Alexander Orlov has noted "Charlotte and Frogson" (a new Russian animated series under development by LadyBug Animation Studio); there's a brief clip at <www.filmpro.ru/material/45484>, and a trailer at Ladybug's web-site at rinatgaz.com/charlotte.html. And "The Case of Sherlock Holmes" (1987) at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/j5wmpoe>; this is an interesting 70-minute documentary, narrated by Tim Pigott-Smith and broadcast by the BBC (it includes video from a visit with John Bennett Shaw).
17072. A "Jubiläumsfest Sherlock Holmes" will be held in Meiringen on May 27-29 to celebrate the 125th anniversary of Sherlock Holmes' fateful encounter with Professor Moriarty, and the 25th anniversary of the opening of the Sherlock Holmes Museum in Meiringen. Visit <www.tinyurl.com/ztsude9> to find more information on the program (which includes a video contest open to all).
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March 2016 #5

17073. "Shisha no teikoku" ["The Empire of Corpses"] is a new Japanese animation (September 15 #3), released in Japan in October and due for release in the U.S. in April; Marsha Pollak saw the film at the Cinequest Film Festival in San Jose, and thought the film was very well done. John Watson is recruited by the British government for a covert mission in Afghanistan, where he poses as a newly recruited medic for the British army and learns that humans are being brought back from the dead in the form of Frankenstein's monster."
17074. Josh Lanyon is a prolific author of male/male romance fiction, including a "Holmes & Moriarity" series starring mystery author Christopher Holmes and former police officer J.X. Moriarity, and with occasion allusions to Sherlock Holmes; the first two titles in the series are SOMEBODY KILLED HIS EDITOR (Macon: Samhain, 2010; 268 pp., \$15.00) and ALL SHE WROTE (2011; 270 pp., \$15.00). The author's web-site is at <www.joshlanyon.com>.
17075. Dan Stashower has noted Jennibick Custom Journals at <www.jennibick.com>; they produce handsome blank notebooks, among them an attractive series of paperblanks that includes a Sherlock Holmes journal decorated with a passage from a Sherlock Holmes manuscript (\$14.95) <www.tinyurl.com/zmyfj46>.
17076. The International Sherlock Holmes Exhibition is at the Telus World of Science in Edmonton <www.telusworldofscienceedmonton.ca> through Sept. 5, and at the Pacific Science Center in Seattle, Wash., Oct. 13-Jan. 8. The exhibition then goes overseas, to the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney, Australia, May 6-October 8, 2017, and to the Huashan 1914 Creative Park in Taipei, Taiwan, Dec. 1-Mar. 4, 2018.
17077. The exhibition "J.M.W. Turner & The Art of Watercolor" (open through Apr. 10) at the Higgins Art Gallery and Museum in Bedford) includes his iconic 1804 painting of the Reichenbach Falls, which is owned by the Museum. The painting has been seen twice in the BBC's "Sherlock" television series, at the end of the second season, and in the recent Christmas special, and was loaned for display at last year's Sherlock Holmes exhibition at the Museum of London; it's on-line in full color at <www.tinyurl.com/hptv8q5>.
17078. Greg Ruby has reported readings (audio only) of "The Poetry of Arthur Conan Doyle" at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/zvbohog>; they're nicely done.
17079. Earle Wilkinson's THE ADVENTURES OF SWEARLOT HOLMES (London: MX Publishing, 2015; 117 pp., \$9.95) comes with a "Parental Advisory: Explicit Content" on the cover and offers a collection of obscene and profane vignettes inspired by illustrations in The Strand Magazine; the author also writes children's books, and has a web-site at <www.deanwilkinson.net>. Tracy Revels' SHADWWRAITH: A NOVEL OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (2011; 206 PP., \$14.95) is the third in her series, with Holmes and Watson again in the world of wizards and wizardry, in pursuit of a spell on one of the pages missing from the Devil's Bible, and in a battle with the spirit of "the most evil man who ever lived."
17080. Hannah Rogers' A GUIDE TO DEDUCTION (2015; 130 pp., \$9.95) is subtitled as "the ultimate handbook for any aspiring Sherlock Holmes or Doctor Watson" and offers 500 tips on how and what to observe, and what to deduce from the observations, along with some helpful hints from Holmes himself. MX's web-sites are at <www.mxpublishing.com> and <www.mxpublishing.co.uk>.
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March 2016 #6

17081. Howard Ostrom's data-base of actors who have portrayed Sherlock Holmes now has more than 1,800 entries, most of them with photographs; you can access it at Ross K. Foad's "No Place Like Holmes" web-site <www.nplh.co.uk>; use the "More" button to go to The Diogenes Club Library (where you'll find the data-base and additional essays by Howard, as well as some Diogenes Documentaries based on Howard's research).
17082. Theatrics: The Aquila Theatre's bus-and-truck production of "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" is still touring, and it will be in Brooklyn in April and in Queens in May; details on the New York at <www.aquilatheatre.com>. It's a new dramatization of three Canonical stories by Desiree Sanchez, and it is done with grace and style and humor. Recommended.
17083. Ken Ludwig's comedy "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is running at the Gaslight Dinner Theatre in Dickson, Tenn., through Apr. 9; web-site at <www.gaslightdinnertheatre.org>. And it will be performed at the Syracuse Stage in Syracuse, N.Y., May 11 through 29 <www.syracusestage.org> and at the Weathervane Playhouse in Newark, Ohio, July 14-23; that web-site is at <www.weathervaneplayhouse.org>.
17084. Jerry R. Montoya's "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" will be produced at the Sutter Street Theatre in Folsom, Calif., Apr. 9-May 8; their web-site's at <www.sutterstreettheatre.com>.
17085. Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Last Adventure" has been scheduled at the Pierce College Theatre in Woodland Hills, Calif., from Apr. 22 to May 1 <www.info.piercecollege.edu/theater>, and at the Dutch Country Players Theatre in Telford, Pa., Nov. 4-19 <www.dcptheatre.com>.
17086. Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" is scheduled at Trinity Fulton Church in Clinton, Ohio, Apr. 29-May 9; their web-site's at <www.tinyurl.com/quyazq8>.
17087. Katie Forgette's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily" will be performed at the Vertigo Theatre in Calgary, Alta., from May 2 until May 31 <www.vertigotheatre.com>.
17088. The Baker Street Players will offer the world premiere of "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the American Twins" (a new play by Chelsea Quinn Yarbro) at Baker Street West in Jackson, Calif., from May 20 to June 11; Baker Street West has a Facebook page, but no web-site.
17089. Jessica Wright Buha's "Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of Portage Park" is scheduled by the Filament Theatre Ensemble in Chicago from May 21 to July 23 <www.filamenttheatre.org>; "Sherlock Holmes on bike or on foot, searching for clues in and around Portage Park."
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17090. Madeleine George's "The (Curious Case of the) Watson Intelligence" will be performed at the Creede Repertory Theatre in Creede, Colo., May 27- July 10 <www.creederep.org>.

April 2016 #1

17091. Douglas Wilmer ("The Lyceum Theatre") died on Mar. 31. He made his stage debut in London in 1945, had a long career as an actor, with many Sherlockian credits: he was a splendid Sherlock Holmes in the 1964-1965 BBC television series, played Holmes again in the film "The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes' Smarter Brother" (1975), and read twenty of the stories released by Penguin on audiocassettes in 1998 (many Sherlockians got to meet him when he toured the U.S. promoting the audiocassette sets. He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 2000, and had a cameo as an outraged member of the Diogenes Club, happily wearing his BSI bow tie in an episode ("The Reichenbach Fall") in the BBC "Sherlock" television series. Scott Monty has a nice tribute to Wilmer at <www.tinyurl.com/jy78l23>.
17092. "The Sacred Flame Coal Fire" (1943) is an amusing British film found by Alexander Orlov at the British Pathé web-site <www.tinyurl.com/hoyqa4r>, with Holmes and Watson encouraging the Brits to save fuel.
17093. There was one successful bidder at the auction of Conan Doyle manuscripts at Bonhams in New York on Apr. 11 (March 16 #1): the manuscript of "The Problem of Thor's Bridge" sold for \$220,000 (or \$269,000 including the buyer's premium). Bidding on the other manuscripts did not reach the reserves, so the manuscripts went unsold. The manuscript of Christopher Morley's "Where the Blue Begins" sold for \$12,000 (or \$15,000 including the buyer's premium). Detailed descriptions of the Conan Doyle items are available at Randall Sock's "The Best of Sherlock" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/zeetnbx>.
17094. The Epilogues of Sherlock Holmes and the Turf Builders of Baker Street have organized their next "no frills" version of The Silver Blaze on Sept. 18 at Monmouth Park in Long Branch, N.J. More information is available from Peter McIntyre (732-765-1240) <psipete@optonline.net>.
17095. And the 57th annual running of The Silver Blaze at Hawthorne Race Course in Chicago will be held on Oct. 22. Susan Diamond <szdiamond@comcast.net> is in charge of their mailing list.
17096. Ernie Chan's original artwork for the cover of the DC comic book THE JOKER #6
17097. (March/April 1976), from the collection of Jerry Margolin, will be offered by Heritage Auctions at a sale in New York on May 13; the issue featured Denny O'Neil's story "Sherlock Stalks the Joker" (and the cover shows "the Master Sleuth" and "the Clown Prince of Crime"). You can see the artwork at <www.tinyurl.com/hx6r9ld>.
17098. Further to an earlier item (January 07 #3) about copies of Conan Doyle's books that were brought to the Antarctic (THE GREEN FLAG AND OTHER STORIES OF WAR AND SPORT, brought by Capt. Robert Falcon Scott, and THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, brought by Xavier Mertz), the Royal Geographic Society has carefully examined a photograph of Sir Ernest Shackleton's cabin on the Endurance, taken in March 1915, and identified his books: one of them was E. W. Hornung's RAFFLES, dedicated by Hornung to his brother-in-law Conan Doyle. The Endurance became trapped in the ice and eventually sank; all the members of the crew survived, but not the books. You can see the photograph, and a list of all the books, at <www.bbc.com/news/magazine-35633374>.
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April 2016 #2

17099. Anthony Read died on Nov. 21, 2015. He worked as an actor and then as an advertising copywriter, and joined the BBC in 1963; beginning a long career as a scriptwriter and producer, with more than 200 television credits. He worked on Douglas Wilmer's "Sherlock Holmes" series (1965) and "The Baker Street Boys" (1983); he also wrote the script for one of the shows in Erich Schellow's "Sherlock Holmes" television series (1967) and a long series of young-adult THE BAKER STREET BOYS novels.
17100. Sean Wright has noted an early (sort of) Sherlockian calabash in Stan Laurel's "The Sleuth" (1925): Laurel (detective Webster Dingle) is seen with a deerstalker and (twice) with a parody calabash in the film, which is conveniently available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/he69cwr>.
17101. The world of comic books sure has changed. Robyn Hood has her own series, published by Zenescope <www.zenescope.com>, with alternate covers for each issue (quite common now); what's new is "exclusive" additional alternate covers "printed on a brilliant piece of metal" in an edition limited at 25 copies; issue 19 (Jan. 2016) costs \$250.00 for cover E (the same artwork, by Elias Chatzoudis, appears on cover D, only \$15.00). Note: only the cover artwork for the issue is Sherlockian.
17102. Joseph Bell's copy of THE CAPTAIN OF THE POLESTAR AND OTHER TALES (a third edition published in 1892), inscribed by Conan Doyle to Bell, went to auction at Laurences Auctioneers on Feb. 5, estimated at £2,000-£3,000, and it sold for £1,800.
17103. "Sherlock Holmes: Celebrating 125 Years of Perfection in Detection" is the title of an evening event honoring the anniversary of the publication of "A Scandal in Bohemia" in The Strand Magazine, at the Mid-Manhattan Branch of the N.Y. Public Library (Fifth Avenue at 40th Street) on June 14, 6:30 to 8:00 pm. The event will feature a panel that includes Lyndsay Faye, Otto Penzler, and SJ Rozan, and is open to all at no charge.
17104. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London has announced details of its London Mini-Festival Weekend on May 19-22, and the publication (at the end of May) of its facsimile edition of the manuscript of "The Abbey Grange"; more information is available at the society's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/jxwkq4o>.
17105. The Cleveland Museum of Natural History has an exhibition on "The Power of Poison" through July 24 <www.cmnh.org>, organized by the American Museum of Natural History in New York, with a mini-display exploring the use of poisons in books about Sherlock Holmes and Harry Potter; Dan Stashower reports it's an excellent exhibition, and there's an interesting web-site about it at <www.tinyurl.com/h2nuvwm>.
17106. Does anyone recognize this pastiche? "In a Sherlock Holmes story, a friend of Dr. Watson is due to receive an inheritance on the New Year's Day of the year of his 21st birthday. The law deprives him of the money as he was born on Feb. 29. Holmes eventually helps him to fake his death long enough for his grandson, who is the appropriate age to receive the inheritance, to establish his claim and receive the money himself." From a story in the Lima (OH) News (Feb. 28) on interesting aspects of Leap Day.
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April 2016 #3

17107. Fans of "Elementary" will recall the episode in which a villain used a lap-top computer to commit murder by taking control of the victim's pacemaker. Jennie Paton has noted a report that the Food and Drug Administration has issued draft guidance that directs manufacturers to evaluate their devices to ensure that "security vulnerabilities won't affect clinical performance" <www.tinyurl.com/jmd8ot2>.
17108. Christy Allen reports that The Sub-Librarians Scion of The Baker Street Irregulars has a new web-site <www.scholarexchange.furman.edu/sublibrarians>; the web-site offers interesting information on past meetings and on library collections dedicated to Sherlock Holmes or Arthur Conan Doyle (there are more of them than you might expect).
17109. A "Downton Abbey" crossover with "Sherlock Holmes" (noted by Paul Herbert): Hugh Bonneville (who played Robert Crawley, Earl of Grantham), was known as Richard Bonneville earlier in his career, when he played Victor Savage in Granada's "The Dying Detective" (1994).
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17110. Booktrack's "enhanced" version of "The Speckled Band" (February 11 #4) offered sound effects and a soundtrack for reading the story on your a wide variety of digital platforms, and they've now done "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (with all 12 stories) (\$1.99) <www.tinyurl.com/zoobsme>. You can sample "A Scandal in Bohemia" at the web-site.
17111. Adrienne Corri died on Mar. 13. She made her film debut in 1949, and went on to many other performances on stage, screen, and television in Britain; including the unfortunate Angela Osborne in John Neville's "A Study in Terror" (1965).
17112. Lyndsay Faye's JANE STEELE (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 2016; 422 pp., \$27.00) is inspired by Charlotte Brontë's JANE EYRE, and far more interesting; it's difficult not to keep reading when a novel starts "Of all my many murders, committed for love and for more better reasons, my first was the most important." Lyndsay says her novel is a romantic satire, and so it is (and it's great fun).
17113. Alexander Orlov reports that it's possible to see a display of some of the props used in the Russian Livanov/Solomin television series (1979-1986) at Lenfilm Studios in St. Petersburg <www.tinyurl.com/h3jsffk>.
17114. M. J. Carter's THE INFIDEL STAIN (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 2016; 417 pp., \$27.00) is a sequel to her THE STRANGLER VINE (April 15 #4); it's set in London at the beginning of the 1840s, with Jeremiah Blake having returned from India and working as a private enquiry agent, skilled in observation and deduction, and assisted once again by his friend William Avery. There is a series of brutal murders, a complicated mystery, and a vivid picture of London in the time of Charles Dickens. Carter's interesting web-site is at <www.mj-carter.com>.
17115. Kent H. Ross died on Mar. 23. He served as Gasogene of the Confederates of Wisteria Lodge in Atlanta, and then was a member of the Agra Treasurers of Dayton, and in 2005 was the founder and director of the Gathering of Southern Sherlockians in Chattanooga.

April 2016 #4

17116. FURTHER to the item on metal plates apparently created in 1940 by way of celebrating Macmillan's publication of Vincent Starrett's 221B: STUDIES IN SHERLOCK HOLMES, displayed by Javier Doria during the birthday festivities in New York (October 14 #2), Greg Ruby has an updated and detailed history of the plates at the web-site of The Fourth Garrideb <www.tinyurl.com/gn5dz4e>.
17117. The 2016 issue of Beaten's Christmas Annual has been published by The Sound of the Baskervilles of Seattle (it's their 33rd annual issue), offering 65 pages of scholarship, quizzes, pastiches, recipes, reports on the society and its members, and reprint of an amusing item in the Tacoma Daily Register occasioned by Sir Arthur's visit to the Pacific northwest in 1923. The cost of the annual is \$13.00 postpaid (\$20.00 outside the U.S.); checks (in U.S. dollars, please) payable to The Sound of the Baskervilles can be sent to Terri Haugen, 6710 51st Street Court West, University Place, WA 98467.
17118. There are Sherlockian pins and buttons and medals, and a newly-reported patch that represents the BSI, or at least some organization with those initials. Bill Mason would greatly appreciate hearing from anyone who can provide any information about this patch: who issued it, where, when, and why; his e-mail address is <www.billemason@aol.com>.
17119. Sherlock Seattle has scheduled its first "Watson Washington" convention on Oct. 21-23; they will be celebrating all things Watson, and there's additional information at www.sherlock-seattle.org
17120. STX Entertainment has acquired the film rights to David Jafer's THE WITCH OF LIME STREET: SÉANCE, SEDUCTION, AND HOUDINI IN THE SPIRIT WORLD (November 15 #3); the book is a carefully-researched and detailed history of Mina Crandon, whose performance as the medium Margery involved both Houdini and Conan Doyle.
17121. Kate Karlson is disposing of some of her Sherlockian collection, including some books signed or inscribed by their authors, and will be happy to send you her sales list <kkarlson@stny.rr.com>.
17122. Further to the report (February 16 #1) on the reopening of The Sherlock Holmes in Northumberland Street: its web-site www.sherlockholmes-stjames.co.uk has an interesting photo-gallery (note that the on-tap offerings at the bar include The Sherlock Holmes Ale and Watson's Wallop!
17123. Chris Caswell, formerly the proprietor of Sherlocks Home Mystery Bookstore in Long Beach, Calif., and the Baker Street Emporium in Seal Beach, Calif., has a shop at Etsy <www.tinyurl.com/kxvzxba>, called aSherlocksHome, where he offers a variety of Sherlockiana, including an empty bottle of the 1995 vintage of Sherlock's Claret; say the secret word [Scuttlebutt] to receive a 10% discount on any of merchandise.
17124. The Plymouth Herald reported (Mar. 4) that a blue plaque will be installed at 6 Elliot Terrace on the Hoe, where Conan Doyle lived when he worked with George Turnavine Budd in 1882; Conan Doyle left Plymouth to set up his own practice in Southsea, where he wrote A STUDY IN SCARLET.

April 2016 #5

17125. "The Telephone Girl" was a series of two-reel shorts released in 1924 starring Alberta Vaughn (Gladys Murgatroyd); the fourth film in the series was "Sherlock's Home" with Edward Hearne (light heavyweight champion of the world "Hurricane" Sherlock), and Jennie Paton notes that you can see the film at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/j24l852>. The film's Sherlockian only for its title and the name of the boxer.
17126. Greenpeace activists protesting dangerous air-quality levels in London strapped emergency face masks on the faces of iconic statues in the city on Apr. 18, as part of a campaign calling for a clean-air zone covering a large part of London; the most prominent of the statues was the one of Lord Nelson, on top of the 170-foot-high Nelson's Column in Trafalgar Square. Other statues included Oliver Cromwell and Winston Churchill outside Parliament, Queen Victoria opposite Buckingham Palace, and (of course) Sherlock Holmes near the Baker Street underground station.
17127. Dilys Winn died on Feb. 5. She opened Murder Ink, the world's first bookshop devoted solely to mystery fiction, in New York in 1972; she sold the bookshop to Carol Brener in 1975, and went on to edit MURDER INK: A MYSTERY LOVER'S COMPANION, which won an Edgar from the Mystery Writers of America in 1978. Dilys also edited MURDERESS INK: THE BETTER HALF OF THE MYSTERY (1979), and a revised and expanded edition of MURDER INK (1984). She appeared on the television show "To Tell the Truth" in 1972, and you can see her segment at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/jqj7spy>.
17128. Gareth Thomas died on Apr. 13. A British actor, best known for his role as Roj Blake in the television series "Blake's 7" (1978-1981), he also played Joseph Harrison in Granada's "The Naval Treaty" (1984).
17129. Moriarty's Irish Pub (August 15 #7) is now open in Columbia, S.C. Named after the evil professor, it offers an Irene Adler cocktail: vodka, ripe strawberries, lemon juice, cane sugar, and mint ("like the woman it's named for, it's sweet, beautiful, and more dangerous than you realize").
17130. Diane Vallere's A DISGUISE TO DIE FOR (New York: Berkley Prime Crime, 2016; 283 pp., \$7.99) is the first in a new series about Margo Tamblin, who runs a family costume shop called Disguise DeLimit; one of her customers rents a Sherlock Holmes costume for a mystery-themed party and is murdered, so Margo needs to come up with a solution to a mystery that has many suspects and possible motives.
17131. The Loch Ness Monster has been found! Well, one Loch Ness Monster has been found: a Norwegian company has been using an underwater robot equipped with sonar imaging to explore the loch, and has located the model of Nessie made for the movie "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970). The model sank during filming, and BBC News <www.tinyurl.com/zlrkupg> had an interesting report on the discovery. There's an additional

Sherlockian connection with the monster: Shirley Dickensheet ("Ivy Douglas" in *The Baker Street Irregulars*), who was working for the Fireman's Fund when the model sank in 1969, noted that the company paid the claim for the loss (and got some nice publicity); anyone who wants to rescue the monster as a Sherlockian souvenir will need to have a discussion with the insurance company.

April 2016 #6

17132. Another demonstration of T. S. Eliot's enthusiasm for Sherlock Holmes: in a letter to Charles Cyrus Hare, thanking him for his praise of FOUR QUARTETS, Eliot said that "They give me no less pleasure for being recognized by me as exaggerated, though, like Sherlock Holmes, I am ready to praise myself when I deserve it." The letter will be offered at Leslie Hindman Auctioneers in Chicago on May 5 <www.tinyurl.com/gtsy4b4>, estimated at \$800-\$1,200. So: where in the Canon is Sherlock Holmes ready to praise himself when he deserved it?
17133. UIG Entertainment has released "Doctor Watson: The Riddle of the Catacombs" (a new "3D Hidden Object" game for your computer) (\$7.99); it's previewed at <www.steampowered.com/app/446440>.
17134. "Adapting Sherlock Holmes" is a free virtual issue of the Oxford University Press' academic journal *Adaptation* <www.tinyurl.com/ja39svp>, offering interesting articles by Benjamin Poore, Ashley D. Polasek, Stephen Greer, and Richard Hewett.
17135. Anglotopia ("the web-site for Anglophiles") has just the thing for tourists in Britain: A Guide to "Sherlock" Filming Locations Across the UK., posted on Feb. 2 by John Rabon <www.tinyurl.com/j73lqct>.
17136. Flicker Alley (the distributor for Gillette's film "Sherlock Holmes") calls attention to a new development in preserving films for posterity: Technicolor (the company is celebrating its 100th anniversary) has preserved the classic George Méliès film "A Trip to the Moon" (1902) using a DNA process that may some day replace DVDs for archival storage. Read all about it at <www.tinyurl.com/z8rg9wf>.
17137. Flicker Alley also offers a 93-minute version of "The Lost World" (1925) on DVD <www.tinyurl.com/h7zbxhn>; 93 minutes and newly restored, which is as good as it gets until a complete archival copy of the film turns up.
17138. Bill Dunning has noted "Dinosaur Comics" (described at Wikipedia as a "constrained webcomic") by Ryan North; he claims that he can't draw, and happily uses the same artwork for each strip but with different dialogue. North has won several awards for his work, and his web-site <www.qwantz.com> has a search engine that allows one to search for [sherlock holmes] and find a long list of Sherlockian strips; a search for [moriarty] will turn up one strip that doesn't mention Sherlock Holmes.
17139. SecretBuilders, a company that makes mobile and on-line educational games for children, offers six hidden-object games based on the Canon, available without charge at <www.secretbuilders.com/home.html>.
17140. AN ISTANBUL ANTHOLOGY, edited by Kaya Genç (American University in Cairo, 2015; 147 pp., \$18.95), is part of the publisher's series of "Travel Writing through the Centuries" and offers an interesting look at an exotic city through the eyes of writers such as Giacomo Canova, Ernest Hemingway, Herman Melville, Mark Twain, and Arthur Conan Doyle (who is represented by two excerpts from his autobiography MEMORIES AND ADVENTURES); Conan Doyle and his wife visited the city on their honeymoon, in 1907, when the Sultan Abdul Hamid sent a message saying that he had read Conan Doyle's books.
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April 2016 #7

17141. Madame Tussauds in London plans to open "Sherlock Holmes: The Experience" on July 15; it's described in the press release as an "interactive theatre experience" that offers "theatrical sets, illusion, actors, sound effects, and spectacle" <www.tinyurl.com/jlkknd9>. And there will be a summer-season run starting on July 14 of "The Game's Afoot" in which visitors get to play detective.
17142. A new addition to the genre of Sherlockian porno: "Sherlock: A XXX Parody" (2016) a 176-minute DVD produced by Digital Playground and available from Adult Empire <www.adultdvdempire.com> (\$29.99); the company also offers the earlier "The Secret of Harlot Hill" (2001).
17143. Mario Faraone's SU IL SIPARIO WATSON! (Rome, Sapienza Università Editrice, 2012; 620 pp., €18.00) is a detailed discussion (in Italian) of four Sherlockian plays: William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" and "The Painful Predicament of Sherlock Holmes", Arthur Conan Doyle's "The Crown Diamond", and Anthony Nathan O'Malley's "Footsteps", and with Italian translations of the plays. O'Malley's "Footsteps" is a one-act play based on Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes", published by the author in Haslemere in 1949 and catalogued by the British Library; apparently the play was neither formally published nor performed. Faraone's book is available at <www.amazon.it>.
17144. Nick Utechin spotted a report that "Church Hatch" in Christchurch, Dorset, is for sale by Denisons <www.tinyurl.com/jaenkb> for £1,550,000; the house "is very unique and rumour has it that when Sir Arthur Conan Doyle stayed in the house it inspired the Sherlock Holmes story 'The Speckled Band'."
17145. Kit West died on Apr. 20. He was responsible for the "old school" mechanical effects on the 1981 film "Raiders of the Lost Ark" (1981), for which he won an Oscar; his many other films included "Dune" (1984) and "Star Wars VI: Return of the Jedi" (1993), and he was nominated for an Oscar for his work on "Young Sherlock Holmes" (1985).
17146. David Harnois continues to add to his dramatized readings of the Canon, and now has the first four stories at his "I Am Lost Without My Boswell" web-site <www.iamlostwithoutmyboswell.com>; you can listen to or download the dramatized readings, which are nicely done.
17147. DC Smith has reported some new (and interesting) miniature books from the Bo Press <www.tinyurl.com/gn97ykh>: not copies of the Canon, but rather all of the known books, pamphlets, and monographs written by Holmes, but also books written by Moriarty and Moran. \$460 for twenty volumes (blank books) in a double-sided bookcase (according to Pat Smith, the proprietor of the press, the books are blank because "negotiations with the Moran and Moriarty heirs about permissions have been a bit fraught").
17148. Michael Robertson's THE BAKER STREET JURORS (New York: Minotaur, 2016; 260 pp., \$24.99) is the fifth in his series about Reggie and Nigel Heath, who have their offices in the building at 221B Baker Street, and a lease that requires them to answer Sherlock Holmes' mail, which in this book includes a jury summons for Holmes; Nigel also receives a summons, and serves on a jury in a murder trial, which provides readers with an interesting look at the British judicial system, and a complicated mystery.
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April 2016 #8

17149. There is a report at the Get Surrey web-site (Apr. 22) that the DFN Foundation has announced that its Stepping Stones School at Undershaw, Conan Doyle's former home, will open at the start of the autumn term on Sept. 9 <www.tinyurl.com/zcvh5p>. And there will be an exhibition about the development of the school and Undershaw at the Haslemere Museum starting in June. You can watch a time-lapse video of work in progress at Undershaw at the Foundation's web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/j5njkat>.
17150. Lee Eric Shackelford, author of the play "Holmes & Watson" (1989), has created an interesting web-series ("Herlock") that stars Alana Jordan (Jonny Watts) and Gia Mora (Sheridan Hume). The pilot episode ("Silver Blade") is available at YouTube and at the series web-site <www.herlock.us>.
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17151. Theater news: Paul Giovanni's "The Crucifer of Blood" will be presented by the National Institute for the Deaf at the Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, N.Y., May 5-8 <www.tinyurl.com/gr2y663>.
17152. Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" has been scheduled at the Roswell Community Little Theatre in Roswell, N.M., from May 6 to May 15 <www.roswelltheatre.com>.
17153. Old West Melodrama will present "Holmes Sweet Homicide" (featuring Hemlock Holmes and his female sidekick Whatsun) at Puffabellys Depot Restaurant in Old Town Spring, Tex., May 13-28 <www.oldwestmelodrama.com>.
17154. Malcolm Sircom's "Olivia: A Musical for Junior Schools" will be performed at the Wellington Arts Centre in Wellington, Somerset, June 22-25; there's no web-site, but the box-office's phone number is 01823-662780. Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson are characters in the show).
17155. Andy Diemer's new play "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of National Secrets" will be performed at the Master Arts Theatre in Grand Rapids, Mich., June 3-11 <www.masterarts.org>.
17156. Tim Kelly's dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed at the Prana Center Yoga and Acting Studio in Holliston, Mass., July 8-9 <www.pranacenter.org>.
17157. Kandie Carle's play "William Gillette: Senator's Son to Super Sleuth" will be performed by the East Haddam Stage Company at Gillette Castle State Park in East Haddam, Conn., July 9-Aug. 14. The company also will tour performing Gillette's 1930 radio script for "The Speckled Band", Sept. 9-Oct. 15, and they plan to produce "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Christmas Goose", from Thanksgiving to Christmas <www.ehsco.org>.
17158. Ken Ludwig's comedy "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" will be performed at the Millbrook Playhouse in Mill Hall, Pa., July 22-31; web-site <www.millbrookplayhouse.org>; at the Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage in Vancouver, B.C., Sept. 8-Oct. 9 <www.artsclub.com>; and at the Meadow Brook Theatre in Rochester, Minn., Oct. 5-30 <www.mbtheatre.com>.

May 2016 #1

17159. Sherlockians who remember the early Sherlockian PC games, and Sherlockians who aren't that old, will enjoy an article by Justin Andress on "The History of Sherlock Holmes in Video Games, on-line at the Inverse web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/zrofvqg>; Andress notes the early appearance of "Sherlock" (released by Beam Software in 1984). But that certainly wasn't the first Sherlockian computer game: Radio Shack's "Quick Watson" ("one computer game that old Sherlock would surely have found fascinating!") was reported (September 80 #1) in their TRS-80 software library, available for \$4.95. Does anyone know of anything earlier?
17160. "It's Elementary, My Dear Watson That I Owe My Life to William Gillette" is an interesting 41-minute broadcast on WNPR-FM (Hartford) on Feb. 10, available for listening or download <www.tinyurl.com/gwtyena>; the program featured interviews with Henry Zecher, Susan Dahlinger, and Shera Cohen, who has written a one-act play "Elementary, My Dear Fellow") about Gillette.
17161. "Our mission: build better brains" is the motto of Marbles: The Brain Store, and they offer excellent and challenging puzzles and games, including "The Sherlock" (an imaginative puzzle created by the company) and available from them (\$49.95) in their stores or on-line at their web-site <www.tinyurl.com/z7kfskn>.
17162. Manuscript alert: one page from "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will go to auction at Christie's in New York on June 16, estimated at \$80,000-120,000 <www.tinyurl.com/jkavuf6>. Randall Stock's detailed discussion of the page will be found at <www.tinyurl.com/h2rwnzc>.
17163. There may be something Sherlockian in the new "Star Trek: All Access" television series announced by CBS-TV for Jan. 2017: one of the writers on the series is Nicholas Meyer, who wrote the screenplay for "Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country" (1991) and directed the film; Meyer had Christopher Plummer (as Klingon General Chang) say "The game's afoot." While Chang was quoting from Shakespeare rather than the Canon, there's an additional interesting story, told by Ryan Britt at the Den of Geek web-site on Feb. 29: according to Britt, Meyer is the reason why "Star Trek" made it out of the 80s: without his direction and writing of "The Wrath of Khan" in 2009, we could live in an alternate universe in which J. J. Abrams never makes "Star Trek" and by extension "The Force Awakens" never exists. Meyer's bar mitzvah present for a very-young J. J. Abrams was a copy of THE ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES.
17164. Each year the American Library Association's Office for Intellectual Free dom compiles a list of the ten most frequently challenged books (based on reports and media stories noted by the ALA of written complaints filed with a library or school requesting that materials be removed because of content or appropriateness. In 2015 the fifth most frequently challenged book was Mark Haddon's THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME, challenged for "offensive language, religious viewpoint, unsuited for age group, and other (profanity and atheism)." There's more information about the list at <www.tinyurl.com/p8vccjd>.

May 2016 #2

17165. "The Case of the Curious Trademark and Contemptible Registration" is what Michael Lee calls the filing by Conan Doyle Estate Ltd. opposing an application by Universal to register a trademark for "Sherlock Homeboy", saying that Universal's use of the mark will "tarnish and degrade the positive associations and prestigious connotations" of the CDEL trademarks. You can read Lee's post at the Pirated Thoughts web-site <www.tinyurl.com/hjxoods>; his blog has other interesting entries dealing with battles over copyright, trademarks, counterfeits, and much more.
17166. Philip K. Jones' database of Sherlockian pastiches, parodies, and related fiction now has 11,198 entries; the 3-MB EXCEL file is available on request from Phil <pkenj@wowway.com>. It's far more than merely a list of authors and titles, and an excellent (some might say frightening) demonstration of how popular Sherlock Holmes is.
17167. Martin Edwards' THE GOLDEN AGE OF MURDER (October 15 #5) has won an Edgar (best biographical/critical) from the Mystery Writers of America, and an Agatha (best non-fiction) from Malice Domestic. Laurie R. King's DREAMING SPIES (January 15 #5) also won an Agatha (best historical novel).
17168. David Stuart Davies and Barry Forshaw have been nominated for an H. R. F. Keating Award (best biographical or critical book related to crime fiction) for THE SHERLOCK HOLMES BOOK at CrimeFest in Bristol May 20, as was Martin Edwards for THE GOLDEN AGE OF MURDER. Laurie R. King's DREAMING SPIES also was nominated for the Kobo eDunnit Award (best crime fiction e-book). And Edward's THE GOLDEN AGE OF MURDER has been nominated for an Anthony (best critical of nonfiction book at Bouchercon in New Orleans, Sept. 15-18).
17169. "The Abbey of Crime Extensum" is an on-line adventure game inspired by Umberto Eco's THE NAME OF THE ROSE (both the novel and the film); it's available free at <www.store.steampowered.com/app/474030>.
17170. Bill Peschel has continued his 223B Casebook Series, presenting the results of his pursuit of the many parodies and pastiches published in newspapers, magazines, and books, reprinted with annotations and brief year-by-year accounts of what Conan Doyle was doing at the time. The latest volumes are SHERLOCK HOLMES: EDWARDIAN PARODIES AND PASTICHES II: 1905-1909 (Hershey: Peschel Press, 2016; 385 pp.) and SHERLOCK HOLMES: GREAT WAR PARODIES AND PASTICHES II: 1915-1919 (379 pp.) (each \$15.99), and it's grand fun to see such a wide variety of

homages to the Great Detective. His web-site is at <www.peschelpress.com>. The first volume of "Great War Parodies and Pastiche" will be published soon.

17171. Bill does not restrict his literary endeavors to Sherlockian pastiches and parodies: he also enjoys Dorothy L. Sayers, and his *THE COMPLETE, ANNOTATED WHOSE BODY?* includes discussion of the Sherlockian allusions in her novel in his 500 footnotes and nine essays. He has blogged about the book at his web-site Planet Peschel <www.tinyurl.com/zy8ldv7>.
17172. Bill also has published three volumes devoted to Dr. William Palmer (who's mentioned in the Canon: "Palmer and Pritchard were among the heads of their profession"). Palmer was considered "the prince of poisoners, and you'll find Bill's books at <www.tinyurl.com/gw95q29>.
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May 2016 #3

17173. Lenny Picker has noted a second "Downton Abbey" crossover with "Sherlock Holmes" (April 16 #3): Hugh Bonneville (Robert Crawley, the Earl of Grantham) appeared as Victor Savage in Granada's "The Dying Detective" (1994) and as Merridew in "The Remarkable Performance of Mr. Frederick Merridew" in the BBC radio series "The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (2008).
17174. "Sherlock Holmes & the Internet of Things" was launched last year as an attempt "to build a massive connected crime scene consisting of smart storytelling objects," sponsored by the Columbia University Digital Storytelling Lab (August 15 #7); it's now a going concern, and registration for this year's MOOC [Massive Online/Offline Collaboration] opened on May 24. This year's first crime scene will be staged at Lincoln Center in New York during the New York Film Festival (Sept. 30-Oct. 16), and a Sherlock Global Challenge is scheduled for Oct. 24-25 <www.2106.sherlockholmes.io>. There are videos about last year's event available at YouTube <www.youtube.com>.
17175. Aziz Bin Adam notes that you can watch more than 15 minutes of gameplay for the upcoming computer game "Sherlock Holmes: The Devil's Daughter" due from Frogwares on May 27 <www.tinyurl.com/jbqu36u>.
17176. Don Pollock has noted an interesting post to The Key Reporter by Samantha Yates <www.tinyurl.com/zazetaq> about the Westminster Detective Library, an on-line work-in-progress with the goal of cataloguing and making available all of the short fiction dealing with detectives and detection published in the United States before Conan Doyle's "A Scandal in Bohemia" in July 1891 (and there's a lot of it) <www.tinyurl.com/3u7lzu9>.
17177. [April 16 #2] I asked if anyone recognized a pastiche: "In a Sherlock Holmes story, a friend of Dr. Watson is due to receive an inheritance on the New Year's Day of the year of his 21st birthday. The law deprives him of the money as he was born on Feb. 29. Holmes eventually helps him to fake his death long enough for his grandson, who is the appropriate age to receive the inheritance, to establish his claim and receive the money himself."
17178. Compliments and thanks to Pat Villacrusis and Michael W. McClure: the pastiche is the Rathbone/Bruce radio program "The Case of the Iron Box" (Dec. December 31, 1945), and you can listen to it at <www.tinyurl.com/h6tybk9>.
17179. "Sherlock Holmes: Behind the Canonical Screen" offers papers from the Baker Street Irregulars' conference at UCLA in 2012 (257 pp., \$29.95); edited by Lyndsay Faye and Ashley D. Polasek, with eighteen papers, many of them illustrated, and all of them interesting. Recommended both to those who attended the festivities and to those who would like to see what they missed. Details on the volume, and the chapter on "The Great Mouse Detective" (by two of its directors) are at <www.tinyurl.com/zhvut5y>.
17180. Donald Sosin, who wrote the score for the four musicians who performed at the San Francisco premiere of the restoration of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" last year, has been commissioned by the Odessa International Film Festival to expand his score for a 45-piece orchestra. He has created an Indigogo campaign to fund the project (which he calls "Sherlock Holmes: The Odessa Connection"); details at <www.tinyurl.com/hpb3hvj>.
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May 2016 #4

17181. Laura C. Berry will present a course on "The Long Life of Sherlock Holmes" at Arizona State University beginning June 7, and you can see her video promotion of the course at <www.tinyurl.com/jsvqzx3>. It's an excellent demonstration of modern technology: the company that made the video recorded her in front of a green screen, and their final version has her (as Alexander Orlov has observed) at Lenfilm Studios in St. Petersburg in the display of some of the props used in the Russian Livanov/Solomin television series (1979-1986).
17182. For those who have jumbo television screens at home, there's a new 4K technology that offers higher definition, and Ian Richardson's television films "The Hound of the Baskervilles" and "The Sign of Four" (1983) are available in a new 4K restoration courtesy of Second Sight (with new audio commentary by David Stuart Davies). The films are in Blu-ray (region B) and DVD (region 2), and you can buy them at Amazon UK; you'll need multi-region players or computers to run the disks in other regions.
17183. The Hounds of the Internet are still going strong, but the electronic mailing list has not always been exclusively bits-and-bytes: ten volumes of *THE HOUNDS COLLECTION* were published, from 1996 onward, offering those who preferred ink-on-paper a dead-tree selection of material that had been posted to the mailing list. Ron Lies <rlies1@msn.com> wants to complete his run, and would appreciate hearing from anyone who is willing to part with the first two volumes.
17184. Leslie Katz has noted an interesting web-site "Survey of London: Recording the History of London's Built Environment Since 1894" maintained by the University College London, where there's a new posting about the Langham Hotel <www.tinyurl.com/htfhenq>; the Langham's mentioned in three of Sherlock Holmes' cases. And the web-site's well worth exploring for other Canonical geography.
17185. The 2016 edition of the Green Bag Almanac & Reader includes a "new lawyerly edition" of "The Reigate Puzzle" with extensive annotations by Sherlockians and non-Sherlockians, a reprint and discussion of "The Field Bazaar" (with a for-the-first-time facsimile of Conan Doyle's pastiche's first appearance in *The Student* in 1896) and other interesting Sherlockian content. It's a splendid contribution to Sherlockian scholarship, and you can find extracts on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/nl4nxhh> (with extracts from 2015 as well). If you go to <www.ssrn.com> and search for [arthur conan doyle] and [Sherlock holmes], you'll get even more hits, from the Green Bag and elsewhere. Ross Davies (editor of the Green Bag) reports that next year's edition will have less Sherlockian content, but we can expect a flip-book version of "Sherlock Holmes Baffled" (1900).
17186. The Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Literary Estate has revised its web-site, which can be found at <www.arthurconandoyle.com>; the web-site reports that Andrea Plunket became gravely ill in December 2014 and that the company now is managed by the remaining family of Andrea's mother Lady Etelka Duncan. Another company, Arthur Conan Doyle Characters Ltd., is reported to own the European trademark rights to Conan Doyle characters, and there's an account of the on-going battles with the Conan Doyle Estate Ltd. The CDEL's web-site is at <www.conandoyleestate.com>.
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May 2016 #5

17187. Ernie Chan's original cover artwork for the DC comic book *THE JOKER* #6
17188. (March/April 1976) was offered by Heritage Auctions on May 13; the issue featured Denny O'Neil's story "Sherlock Stalks the Joker" (April 16 #1), and the artwork sold for \$8,365 (including the buyer's premium). You can see the artwork at <www.tinyurl.com/hx6r9ld>.
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17189. "It all begins with the words," Steven Philip Jones explains in his introduction to *SHERLOCK HOLMES IS ON THE AIR!* (Caliber Comics, 2015; 172 pp., \$17.99), and it's an apt explanation of why it's so much fun to read radio scripts; the book contains two scripts by Jones and two scripts by Matthew J. Elliot from the long series produced by Jim French Productions for his Imagination Theater. The publisher's web-site's at www.calibercomics.com and you'll find all of the radio series at www.jimfrenchproductions.com.
17190. Caliber also has published a graphic novel *SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE RETIRED DETECTIVE* (2015; 52 pp., \$8.99), written by Gary Reed with artwork by Wayne Reid, accompanied by a second story "Amazing Mr. Holmes" as well as "A Case of Identity" with illustrations by Reid. And *MURDER AT THE CABARET* (2016; 58 pp., \$8.99), written by Gary Reed and illustrated by Michael Zigerlig, a revised second edition (first published in 2010 as *SHERLOCK HOLMES: MURDER AT MOULIN ROUGE* and retitled after they received a letter from the Moulin Rouge complaining about trademark infringement).
17191. Further to the report (January 16 #4) on the Criterion Restaurant, open again as the Savini at Criterion www.saviniatcriterion.co.uk, there was a lengthy (and unenthusiastic) review of the restaurant in the Daily Telegraph on Apr. 11 www.tinyurl.com/hrcoe2t.
17192. "The Lost Special" (1932) was a 12-episode Universal Pictures serial based on Conan Doyle's story (considered by many to be Apocryphal), updated and set in the American west, and available on a DVD www.tinyurl.com/zne3ebg (September 08 #2); Greg Ruby reports that you can also now view it (free) at YouTube www.tinyurl.com/znumhba. Many Sherlockians believe that the Apocrypha are stories that involve Holmes (even though he's not named) and should be considered for possible inclusion in the accepted Canon.
17193. Ross E. Davies, noting the lack of a go-to web-site for Sherlockian Toasts, has remedied that lapse www.rossdavies.org/toasts. If you have given an appropriate toast, you can send the text and other details to Ross (at the link at his web-site).
17194. There are two interesting Conan Doyle items in the spring/summer 2016 catalog from Peter L. Stern www.sternrarebooks.com: an archive of letters to Maj. J. B. Pond about Conan Doyle's American lecture tour in 1894 (\$65,000) [item 24096P] and the original corrected typescript of Conan Doyle's 1906 play "Brigadier Gerard" (\$22,500) [item 31067P].
17195. There are a few Sherlockians who fondly remember seeing the Rathbone/Bruce film "Terror by Night" when it was screened by Chris Steinbrunner on board the Essex Steam Train in the Connecticut Valley; the train's still running, this summer hosting "Passengers from the Past" who included (on June 25-26) William and Helen Gillette (impersonated by Tyke and Teddie Niver). They can be seen in costume and in color at www.tinyurl.com/h8ch94w.

May 2016 #6

17196. Further to reports (September 14 #7 and December 14 #5) of a new "Sherlock Holmes" coming to Broadway in 2017, Playbill reported (May 11) that the play will have its British premiere in the summer of 2017 en route to Broadway; Daniel Evans will direct the play, which has been written by Rachel Wagstaff and Duncan Abel: "Staged as a mystery within a mystery, the case presented to Holmes forces him to confront his murky past. But is the unravelling of his childhood just a dangerous diversion?"
17198. Jeffrey Hatcher's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club" is on at the Lowe Auditorium in Upper Fern Gully, Vic. (Australia) through June 4 www.1812theatre.com.au.
17199. Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" is scheduled at the Wilson Theatre in South Bend, Ind., June 3-12 www.sbct.org. And at the Whittier Community Theatre in Whittier, Calif., June 3-18; web-site at www.whittiercommunitytheatre.org.
17200. "Sherlock Holmes and the Invisible Thing" (a new play by Greg Freeman and Ken McClymont) will be performed at the Tabard Theatre in London, June 7-July 16 www.tabardweb.co.uk.
17201. The KSP Theatre Group will present Simon Denver's panto "Sheer Luck Holmes" at the KSP Theatre in Burpengary, Qld., Australia, from June 10 to June 19 www.ksptheatreinc.net.
17202. "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Hidden Notes" (a new play) is due at The Meteor in Hamilton, New Zealand, June 29-July 2 www.themeteor.co.nz.
17203. "Sherlock's Veiled Secret" (by K. C. Brown and Arne Zaslove), is due at the Hopewell Playhouse in Hopewell, N.J., July 1-30 www.off-broadstreet.com
17204. "Sherlock Holmes and the Beast of Whitechapel" (a new play by Lawrence Burgess and John Johnson) will be performed by the Astral Theatre Collective at the Alban Arts and Conference Center in St. Albans, W. Va., July 8 to 17 www.astraltheatrecollective.wordpress.com, and then will tour in W. Va.
17205. Millie Hardy Sims' adaptation of "Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at the Theatre Royal in Workington, July 16-17 www.workington-playgoers.org.uk.
17206. Steven Canny and John Nicholson's comedy "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is due at the Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre in Pittsburgh, Pa., July 21-Aug. 7 www.kinetictheatre.org.
17207. Gus Kaikonen's new play "Sherlock!" will be performed at the Peterborough Players Theatre in Peterborough, N.H., Aug. 20-27; the theater's web-site is at www.peterboroughplayers.org.
17208. The Servant Stage Company will present "Sherlock Holmes: The Detective and the Doctor" at the Black Box Theatre at the Trust Performing Arts Center in Lancaster, Pa., Aug. 25-Sept. 11 www.servantstagecompany.com.

June 2016 #1

17209. The Get Surrey web-site noted (June 11) that the Waverley Borough Council has approved plans for a games area, paths, and an outdoor learning area at the Stepping Stones School at Undershaw, Conan Doyle's former home; according to a report by the Council's planning officers, "the proposal would not harm the special interest of the listed building nor cause harm to its significance including its setting and would appear visually acceptable." The school will re-site the historical airing shed that Conan Doyle had built for his wife Touie, who suffered from tuberculosis while they lived there.
17210. Colonel Sebastian Moran's Secret Gun Club, one of the many weird and wonderful Sherlockian societies, held its Quadrennial Mongoose Hunt this year (organized, as always, by Don Izban), and you can see photographs from the event in the May issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's "Baker Street Bulletin" www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times16-5.htm. The next hunt is scheduled for Feb. 29, 2020.
17211. Dame Ngaio Marsh had (and has) many admirers who continue to enjoy her novels about Inspector Roderick Alleyn. She wrote much more than that: there is an interesting volume of *COLLECTED SHORT MYSTERIES* (New York: Felony & Mayhem, 2015; 236 pp., \$14.95), edited and introduced

- by Douglas G. Greene. First published as *THE COLLECTED SHORT FICTION OF NGAIO MARSH* (1989), the book includes two essays ("Roderick Alleyn" and "Portrait of Troy") about her characters and their creation, and the essays include some insightful commentary on Conan Doyle and Holmes.
17212. They're off and running: the 2016 Wessex Cup (For the Sake of the Trust) is scheduled Oct. 8 at Laurel Park in Laurel, Md. Greg Ruby is organizing the event, and there's more information at <www.tinyurl.com/zq9r4vg>.
17213. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists (also known as The Friends of Sherlock Holmes) met to honor the world's first forensic geologist with drinks and dinner at The James Joyce in Calgary on June 22, welcomed by members of The Singular Society of the Baker Street Dozen. The geologists' next dinners will be on Sept. 28 in Denver, and on Apr. 5, 2017, in Houston.
17214. "The Case of Sherlock Holmes" was a 70-minute documentary narrated by Tim Piggot-Smith and broadcast by the BBC in 1987, with appearances by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes, and by John Bennett Shaw and The Brothers Three of Moriarty (in Moriarty, N.M.). You can watch (almost all of) it at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/jy57kfw>.
17215. Howard Ostrom has reported an amusing appearance by Basil Rathbone on "The Frank Sinatra Show" on CBS-TV (Mar. 24, 1951): Rathbone, wearing Sherlockian costume, helps Sinatra find his missing lucky bow tie. You can watch the 7-minute skit at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/hr9g5e5>.
17216. The world of Lego extends far beyond the mere bricks they started with, and it now includes a variety of MOC [My Own Creation] Legos (that's pronounced "mock" according to an on-line Lego glossary). BrickWarriors produces what it calls a "gentleman's pipe" that you can see in an imaginative Sherlockian scene at <www.tinyurl.com/jh86xyg>.

June 2016 #2

17217. It's likely we'll see many more episodes of the CBS-TV series "Elementary": Les Moonves (chairman of the CBS Corp.) said this month that CBS had made approximately an \$80 million profit from the series last year. And Rob Doherty (creator, executive producer, and showrunner of the series) has closed a new three-year deal with CBS Television Studios; he'll continue as executive producer and showrunner on the series, and will develop and supervise new projects.
17218. "Sherlock Holmes and the Clocktower Mystery" (the interactive exhibit with much Victorian flavor, and a mystery that visitors can solve) opened at the Gulf Coast Exploreum Science Center in Mobile, Ala., on May 28 and will run through Sept. 5 <www.exploreum.com>. <www.rivermuseum.com>.
17219. "Mycroft Holmes and the Apocalypse Handbook" is a new comic-book mini-series from Titan Comics; written by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Raymond Obstfeld, artwork by Joshua Cassara. Previewed at <www.tinyurl.com/j20poar>.
17220. THE SHERLOCK HOLMES BOOK (a new "bookazine" from Imagine Publishing) costs £9.99/\$19.99; it's subtitled "the facts & fiction behind the world's greatest detective" and is part of Imagine's "Curious Minds" series; it's interesting and well illustrated, but difficult to find in the U.S., and apparently available on-line only at <www.tinyurl.com/h9jvxnz>.
17221. "They say good fortune breeds bad luck in the heart of the Cariboo. Whispers in the mines told of a hellish hound intent on keeping the gold in Barkerville, prompting superstitious miners to refrain from making a spectacle of their spoils. Especially on full moon nights." That's according to the label on Hound of the Barkerville Brown Ale, from the Barkerville Brewing Co. in Quesnel, B.C., discovered by Bob Coghill. "Keep the hounds at bay with this malt-forward brown ale, copper in colour with a satisfying and silky finish, the company promises, noting that it's malty, fierce, and mystical.
17222. Does anyone have a copy of the March 1945 issue of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine? It contains "The Curious Incident of the Dog" (by Ralph Norman Weber), and I wonder if the story is Sherlockian in some way other than the allusion in the title.
17223. Glenn Laxton ("Mr. James M. Dodd") died on June 8. He was a journalist and a historian; he began his career in journalism at WEOK-AM in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., and worked for WPRI-TV in Providence, R.I., for more than 40 years. He contributed an article on "Sherlock Holmes and the Six O'Clock News" to The Baker Street Journal, and was a member of The Hudson Valley Scientists and The Cornish Horrors, as well as The Sons of the Desert and the Screen Actors Guild. He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1975.
17224. Litographs (May 13 #6) has expanded its line of literary T-shirts and posters to include tote bags, all with artistic designs created from the text of books, including THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES <www.litographs.com>. Of more interest, perhaps, are their packets of temporary literary tattoos, one of the packets offering six Sherlockian designs. And you can click on "Tattoo Chain" to see an imaginative (non-Sherlockian) work-in-progress.

June 2016 #3

17225. Further to the review of the UCLA conference proceedings SHERLOCK HOLMES: BEHIND THE CANONICAL SCREEN (May 16 #3), the Baker Street Babes' podcast 74 <www.tinyurl.com/zc4fpqv> has 56 minutes of audio commentary on the conference and on the book, as well as links to video of the presentations by Ashley Polasek ("A Study in Terror vs. Murder by Decree") and Lyndsay Faye (on "The Women: Sex and Success in the canon, Warner Brothers, and the BBC's Sherlock"), and their following Q&A. And there is much more of interest at the Babes' web-site.
17226. The page from the manuscript of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" offered at auction at Christie's in New York on June 16 (May 16 #1) with an estimate of \$80,000-\$120,000 did not make the reserve and thus went unsold. Randall Stock's notes on the page will be found at <www.tinyurl.com/h2rwnz>.
17227. Jennie Paton has kindly reported a splendid 64-minute post-mortem on "The Abominable Bride" (the tenth episode of the BBC's "Sherlock" series), and it's well worth watching <www.tinyurl.com/groqxnz>: Boyd Hilton hosts Sue Vertue, Mark Gatiss, Steven Moffat, and Amanda Abbington.
17228. G. S. Denning's WARLOCK HOLMES; A STUDY IN BRIMSTONE (London: Titan Books, 2016; 373 pp., \$14.95) features (from the back cover) Warlock Holmes (incompetent detective), Vladislav Lestrade (nihilist vampire), Torg Grogsson (house-proud ogre), and John Watson (terrified); it's an amusing spoof of six of the Canonical cases, and nicely done. Also from Titan: Stuart Douglas' THE ALBINO'S TREASURE (2015; 249 pp., \$9.95); Holmes and Watson are in pursuit of an inventive villain. Cavan Scott's THE PATCHWORK DEVIL (2016; 297 pp., \$14.95); a science-fiction adventure that starts with the discovery of a hand, freshly severed from a soldier who had died two years earlier. James Lovegrove's THE THINKING ENGINE (2015; 301 pp., \$14.95) brings Holmes and Watson to Oxford to investigate a computing device with far more power than Charles Babbage's difference engine, and Holmes finds himself in competition with the machine to solve a series of crimes perpetrated by an arch villain. Sam Siciliano's THE WHITE WORM (2016; 337 pp., \$9.95) adds to his series of accounts of the adventures of Holmes and his cousin Dr. Henry Vernier, in a story inspired by Bram Stoker's THE LAIR OF THE WHITE WORM. There are many other pastiches available from Titan; see their web-site at <www.titanbooks.com>.

17229. "Dear Mr. Holmes," Agatha Christie wrote in September 1970. "How nice of you to send me a birthday card of greeting. I much appreciate your kindness and good wishes. I am so glad my books have given you pleasure. All good wishes to you. And many happy returns on your birthday on Sept. 23rd. Yours sincerely." The letter, offered on June 15 at Lion Heart Autographs graphs <www.tinyurl.com/jb3dobz>, indicates that Christie corresponded with Sherlock Holmes, that Holmes was alive in 1970, and that Holmes was born in September rather than January; estimated at \$400-\$600, the letter sold for \$450.
17230. Cultural literacy: we so often read of people who are "the Sherlock Holmes" of whatever (anything and everything), most recently with Samuel K. Wasser <www.tinyurl.com/zbtbek4>, noted by Ray Betzner; his Google search for [the Sherlock Holmes of] turned up 497 hits. Other numbers: 21 for Miss Marple, 7 for Hercule Poirot, and 1 for Nero Wolfe.
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June 2016 #4

17231. The spring issue of "For the Sake of the Trust" (the newsletter of the Baker Street Irregulars Trust) has news about the Trust, and Bob Katz's report on "Becoming Dr. Watson" and the history of the John H. Watson Fund, revealing at least some details about the continuing effort to help Sherlockians (membership in the BSI is not required) who might otherwise not be able to participate in the birthday festivities in January. The issue is available both at the Trust's web-site <www.bsitrust.org> and by e-mail; if you would like to be on the mailing list, you can send a request <editor@bsitrust.org>.
17232. The new issue of Proceedings from the Pondicherry Lodge, published by The Sherlock Holmes Society of India <www.tinyurl.com/h5en3cp>, is an excellent example of what's now available (free) on the Internet: 119 pages of Sherlockian essays, pastiches, and much more, including Howard Ostrom's interesting report on the history and content of the Russian television series that starred Igor Petrenko and Andrei Panin.
17233. Charles Harold St. John Hamilton was a prolific English writer who specialized in long-running series of stories published in boys' school magazines; his pseudonyms included Martin Clifford and Peter Todd, and one of his creations was Herlock Sholmes who appeared in magazines such as the Greyfriars Herald, the Magnet, the Gem, and the Penny Popular. He has fans, and (of course) a web-site <www.friardale.co.uk> that offers access to all of his Herlock Sholmes stories <www.tinyurl.com/jo4dmtk>. A note for completists: "Grundy's Guilt!" (The Gem Library #465, Jan. 6, 1917) was reprinted with the new title "Sherlock Grundy Esq." (The Gem #1,601, Oct. 22, 1938).
17234. Spotted by Jennie C. Paton: an amusing 15-minute video of Steven Moffat and Sue Vertue being interviewed by their son Louis Moffat, available at YouTube <www.youtube.com/q6hlo97>. Louis (credited as Louis Oliver) appeared as Young Sherlock in "His Last Vow" (2014); Stephen Moffat has said elsewhere that he's a firm believer in nepotism.
17235. Maurice Leblanc's Arsène Lupin has long been popular, and not just because he sometimes outwitted Sherlock Holmes (or Herlock Sholmes). Two "Arsène Lupin" television series aired in France in 1971 and 1973, with Henry Virlojeux as Herlock Sholmes in four episodes, and three of them are available at YouTube. <www.tinyurl.com/zehkbp> is the link for "Arsène Lupin contre Herlock Sholmes" (103), and you can look at the right for "Herlock Sholmes lance un défi" (201) and "L'homme au chapeau noir" (205); the other episode is "Le secret d'aiguille" (204), not available (so far). Thanks to Howard Ostrom, who spotted the Arsène Lupin material.
17236. "Literary Sleuth Unmasks Conan Doyle as Plot Thief" was the headline on a story in The Sunday Times (June 5), reporting that British anthologist Hugh Lamb had found that Conan Doyle had taken the idea of suicide made to look like murder from "The Red Haired Pickpocket" (written by Frank Froest and George Dilnot and published in 1915, seven years earlier than "The Problem of Thor Bridge" appeared in The Strand Magazine). Of course the idea was not original with Froest and Dilnot: Lillian de la Torre noted (in The Baker Street Journal in Oct. 1948) that Dr. Hans Gross had written about such a crime much earlier. Gross' SYSTEM DER KRIMINALISTIK (1891) was published in English in 1907.
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June 2016 #5

17237. Denny Dobry suggests collectors note listings by a new seller at eBay: wiggins221b. That's Denny, who will be offering material donated to the Baker Street Irregulars Trust, in order to help with funding the work of the Trust; the first item, opened for bidding on June 30, is a copy of the slip-cased limited edition, signed by Dame Jean Conan Doyle, of John Michael Gibson's splendid facsimile of Beeton's Christmas Annual for 1887. More material will be offered, and information about the work of the Trust can be found at <www.bsitrust.org>.
17238. Neil McCaw (Professor of Victorian Literature and Culture at the University of Winchester) has created a delightful 5-minute TED-Ed lesson on "Who IS Sherlock Holmes?" (with amusing animation by Lasse Rützou Bruntse); available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/zcmrbb>.
17239. "The Misadventures of Sherlock Holmes" (the title of this month's conference in Minneapolis, sponsored by the Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota, the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections, and the University of Minnesota Libraries) was a delightful gathering, well-attended and with interesting papers; their next conference will be in 2019, and surely as enjoyable as this one.
17240. Zach Dundas, author of THE GREAT DETECTIVE: THE AMAZING RISE AND IMMORTAL LIFE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (August 15 #2) happily reported at the conference that the new trade paperback edition (New York: Manner Books, 336 pp., \$15.95) is a new edition, with corrections that make it "99% more accurate."
17241. Andrea Reynolds Plunket's death in April was reported in Richard Turley's colorful obituary in Orb Magazine <www.tinyurl.com/gmfw2n5> that described her as "the Mitteleuropa manipulator whose talent for self-invention propelled her to the upper echelons of international society and whose propensity for self-destructiveness eventually alienated all who loved her." She spent years unsuccessfully contesting the ownership of the Sherlock Holmes copyrights <www.tinyurl.com/gs6wras>.
17242. ELEMENTARY: BLOOD AND INK, by Adam Christopher (London: Titan Books, 2016; 297 pp., \$7.99) is the second volume in his tie-in series, following ELEMENTARY: THE GHOST LINE (August 15 #7); it's a new mystery that captures the flavor and style of the CBS-TV television series. The author's web-site is at <www.adamchristopher.ac>.
17243. It's not clear just how Sherlockian the new Scotland Yard restaurant in San Francisco is, but there's a Sherlockian silhouette at the gastropub's web-site <www.scotlandyardsf.com>.
17244. The "British Library Crime Classics" series offers trade paperback reprints of excellent novels and short stories (£8.99 each), including four anthologies edited by Martin Edwards, each with one story by Conan Doyle: SILENT NIGHTS: CHRISTMAS MYSTERIES ("The Blue Carbuncle"), CAPITAL CRIMES: LONDON MYSTERIES ("The Case of Lady Sannox"), MURDER AT THE MANOR: COUNTRY HOUSE MYSTERIES ("The Copper Beeches"), and SERPENTS IN EDEN: COUNTRYSIDE CRIMES ("The Black Doctor"); Edwards provides both enthusiastic introductions and a careful selection of stories, some old favorites and some neglected but well worth reading (U.S. editions are published by the Poisoned Pen Press).
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June 2016 #6

17245. Theatrics: Ken Ludwig's comedy "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is being performed at the StageNorth Theatre in Washburn, Wis., through July 9 <www.stagenorth.com>. And it will be performed at the Leshner Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek, Calif., Oct. 21-Nov. 19 <www.centerrep.org>, and at the Riffe Center's Studio Two Theatre in Columbus, Ohio, Jan. 25-Feb. 12, 2017 <www.catcoistheatre.com>.
17246. Terry O'Brien's new play "Sherlock Holmes and the Werewolf of London" will be performed at Elaine's dinner theater in Cape May, N.J., July 12 through late November <www.elainescapemay.com>.
17247. There will be a lot of Sherlock Holmes and Arthur Conan Doyle at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe <www.edfringe.com>, including "Sherlock Holmes' Smarter Brother in the Case of a Study in Blood", Aug. 4-20; "Adventures of the Improvised Sherlock Holmes", Aug. 4-28; "Spontaneous Sherlock", Aug. 6-28; "Arthur Conan Doyle--Man of Mystery", Aug. 8-12; "The Accidental Adventures of Sherlock Holmes", Aug. 8-29; and "Arthur Conan Doyle, an Edinburgh Man", Aug. 9-23. And David Stuart Davies will perform his "The Game's Afoot" on Aug. 15-19.
17248. Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" will be performed at the Lakeshore Players Theatre in White Bear Lake, Minn., Sept. 8 through 23 <www.lakeshoreplayers.org>; and at Theatre Knoxville Downtown in Knoxville, Tenn., Apr. 21-May 7, 2017 www.theatreknoxville.com
17249. Brock D. Vickers' new dramatization "Storyboard: The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed at the Hedgerow Theatre in Media, Pa., Sept. 9-18 <www.hedgerowtheatre.org>.
17250. "Miss Holmes" (a new play by Christopher M. Walsh, with a female Holmes and Watson) will be performed at the Lifeline Theatre in Chicago, Ill., Sept. 9-Oct. 30 <www.lifelinetheatre.com>.
17251. Madeleine George's "The (Curious Case of the) Watson Intelligence" will be performed at Theater Wit in Chicago, Sept. 17-Nov. 14 <www.theaterwit.org>.
17252. John Charles Nassivera's "The Penultimate Problem of Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at the Ouachita Little Theatre in Mena, Ark., in October. The web-site's at <www.ouachitalittletheatre.org>.
17253. Katie Forgette's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily" will be performed at the Sitnik Theater in Hackettstown, N.J., from Oct. 7 to Oct. 23 <www.centenarystageco.org>.
17254. The 1965 musical "Baker Street" will be performed at the Eureka Theatre in San Francisco, Calif., Nov. 2-20 <www.42ndstmoon.org>.
17255. Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot" is scheduled by the Windham Theatre Guild at the Burton Leavitt Theatre in Willimantic, Conn., Nov. 4-13 web-site at <www.windhamtheatreguild.org>.

July 2016 #1

17256. Otto Penzler has received Bouchercon's David Thompson Special Service Award for "extraordinary efforts to develop and promote the crime fiction field." Otto presides over the Mysterious Bookshop and founded the Mysterious Press in 1975; he also published the quarterly journal *The Armchair Detective* for many years, and has edited a long list of anthologies and reference books, and has an interesting web-site at <www.mysteriousbookshop.com>.
17257. The spring issue of *The Magic Door* (the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library newsletter) offers Angela Misri's discussion of the "universal themes" in Conan Doyle's letters to his Strand editor Greenhough Smith, Richard Sveum's examination of Conan Doyle's novel *A DUET WITH AN OCCASIONAL CHORUS*, and other news from the Library; copies of the newsletter are available from Clifford S. Goldfarb, 22 Markdale Avenue, Toronto, ON M6C, 1T1, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.
17258. *PROFESSOR CHALLENGER: NEW WORLDS, LOST PLACES*, edited by J. R. Campbell and Charles Prepolec (Calgary: Edge, 2015; 250 pp., \$15.95), is a nice tribute to another of Conan Doyle's great characters; the anthology offers ten stories by authors who tell tales of new adventures of Challenger and his companions from *THE LOST WORLD* and other stories.
17259. Everett C. Hoffman ("Merridew of Abominable Memory") died on May 7, 2013. He had a successful career in public relations at McGraw Hill, and was an enthusiastic artist, teaching at the Cooper Union and the Pratt Institute in New York and the Academy of Arts in Newark, and exhibiting in galleries, art centers and museums. He was a member of Bill Rabe's Old SOB'S (The Old Soldiers of Baker Street) and provided Sherlockian artwork for an article by Bill in *The Woods-Runner* in Jan. 1984; Everett received his Investiture in *The Baker Street Irregulars* in 1958.
17260. Those who attended "The Misadventures of Sherlock Holmes" (this year's conference in Minneapolis, sponsored by the Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota, the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections, and the University of Minnesota Libraries) received copies of *THE MISSING MISADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES*, an interesting anthology edited by Julie McKuras, Timothy Johnson, Ray Riethmeier, and Philip Bergem, offering at least some of the stories that Dannay and Lee noted were omitted from their 1944 anthology. It's an interesting selection, and a nice companion to the original *MISADVENTURES* (219 pp., postpaid \$30.00 US/\$40.00 Canada, and you should order from Phil Bergem, 3829 172nd Avenue NW, Andover, MN 55304) (for other countries, contact Phil at <pgbergem@gmail.com>).
17261. The June issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota offers Mitch Cullin's article about his donation of his papers (on his novel *A SLIGHT TRICK OF THE MIND* and much else) to the Special Collections, Julie McKuras' "100 Years Ago" tribute to Stephen Leacock, Evelyn Herzog's "50 Years Ago" account of the birth of a Sherlockian society at Albertus Magnus College, and other news from and about the collections; copies of the newsletter are available on request from Dick Sveum (111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455 <sveum001@tc.umn.edu>).

July 2016 #2

17262. John D. Constable ("The Crooked Man") died on June 6. He was educated at Harvard, graduating with honors, and had a long and distinguished career as a doctor, plastic surgeon, and teacher. His enthusiasms included Asian art, travel, and (of course) Sherlock Holmes; after joining *The Speckled Band of Boston* in 1953 he went on to preside over the Band, serving as its Keeper, for three decades and received his Investiture from *The Baker Street Irregulars* in 1986.
17263. Alexander Orlov has kindly forwarded Vitaly Podvitsky's cartoon comment on the Brexit, published by RIA Novosti in Russia on June 28; Sherlock Holmes is saying, "Watson, I seem to have underestimated our housekeeper!"
17264. Reported *SHERLOCK HOLMES: CRIME ALLEYS*, a new graphic novel from Dark Horse Books, written by Sylvain Corduri  and illustrated by Nespolino Alesandro; 104 pp., \$17.99 (it's a translation of an earlier French version).
17265. The Television Academy has announced its nominations for this year's Emmy Awards, and "Sherlock: The Abominable Bride" won nominations in six categories: one for Benedict Cumberbatch (lead actor in a limited series or movie) and five for the program (television movie; cinematography for a limited series or movie; movie; sound editing for a limited series, movie, or special; sound mixing for a limited series or movie; and visual effects in a supporting role). The Emmy Award presentations will be broadcast on ABC-TV on Sept. 18.

17266. There are many web-sites that offer audio of old-time radio shows. Thanks to Alex Kane for the report that you can listen to 138 Sherlockian programs (1933-1983) at <www.archive.org/details/OTR_Sherlock_Holmes_smurfmeat>.

July 2016 #3

17267. It was on the "Today" show on NBC-TV in 1999 that Al Roker and Matt Lauer celebrated Sherlock Holmes' 145th birthday (January 99 #3), and Randall Stock has noted that Roker has contributed a short piece on THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES to THE BOOKS THAT CHANGED MY LIFE, edited by Bethanne Patrick (New York: Regan Arts, 2016; 304 pp., \$24.95); the first book that Roker remembers is GREEN EGGS AND HAM, but reading Sherlock Holmes made him feel that he was "in on something, both a kind of secret, a way of reading the world, and also a club, people who loved Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson and wanted to learn more about their methods."
17268. You can now rent William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" (1916) from Flicker Alley <www.flickeralley.com>, paying \$4.95 to watch it as many times as you want for 30 days. But you can't capture it: if you want to keep the film you will need to purchase the DVD (which has nice added features).
17269. Greg Ruby reports that the Numismatic Friends of Sherlock Holmes will meet for dinner in Anaheim, Calif., on Aug. 11, during the American Numismatic Association's World's Fair of Money; details at <www.tinyurl.com/zxvtjx>.
17270. Further to the query (June 16 #2) about "The Curious Incident of the Dog" in Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine (Mar. 1945): Greg Darak kindly reports that the story's about a modern-day police inspector who stops a robbery using a clue based on a seeing-eye dog.
17271. "Just like Wimbledon, Stella Artois started from humble beginnings," is the slogan for the Belgian company's beer, and they have an amusing commercial in which Sherlock Holmes appears <www.tinyurl.com/jpv6gu4>.
17272. Scott Monty and Burt Wolder have posted their 100th "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" podcast: it's a look back at their favorite moments, and an excellent celebration of their nine years of podcasting with a wide-ranging assortment of guests <www.ihose.co/ihose100> and #IHOSE100.
17273. Phil Rosette is offering material from the Sherlockian collection of Bill Rothman: a list of individual books and pamphlets, and images of a single lot of about 400 books, are available on request <prosette@group41.com>.
17274. Dan Stashower reports that the National Library of Scotland has digitized a detailed town plan of Edinburgh that was published as a supplement to the Illustrated London News on July 18, 1868 (nine years after Conan Doyle was born in Edinburgh); you can zoom in and out, and navigate, and get a sense of how the city looked in those long-ago days.
17275. The gray herringbone wool jacket that Basil Rathbone wore in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1939) was offered by Heritage Auctions in Beverly Hills on June 22, with an opening bid of \$7,500. But no one bid, and the jacket did not sell.
17276. Big Chief Studios, which produced a set of licensed 1:6-scale figures showing Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman last year (April 15 #5), is going to issue a new set showing the pair in costume from "The Abominable Bride"; they're due for release next March, but you can pre-order now. They cost £189.99 each <www.bigchiefstudios.co.uk/collectibles/sherlock>.
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July 2016 #4

17277. David Jaher's THE WITCH OF LIME STREET: SÉANCE, SEDUCTION, AND HOUDINI IN THE SPIRIT WORLD (November 15 #3) told the story of Mina Crandon, the medium known as Margery in the 1920s (Conan Doyle was one of her principal advocates, and Houdini her most energetic and fervent opponents; Jaher will be the featured speaker on Aug. 30 at Ventfort Hall, the Gilded Age house museum in Lenox, Mass. <www.gildenage.org>, built as their summer home by George and Sarah Morgan (she was the sister of J. Pierpont Morgan).
17278. Bearlock Holmes was one of 62 teddy bears made predominantly from straw that were displayed this month at the Teddy Bear Trail in Great Ellingham in South Norfolk. Money raised from the festival goes to local charities.
17279. Foreign translations of the Canon are not restricted to ink-on-paper: "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is now available as a radio drama in Bengali at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/hupnmka> (with English subtitles); it was produced by Asha Audio for Radio Mirchi, and runs 5 hours and 35 minutes.
17280. Pokémon Go, described at Wikipedia as a free-to-play location-based augmented reality mobile game, has become one of the most-used smart-device apps; it has created controversy due to reports of causing accidents and being a public nuisance at some locations. It's a world-wide phenomenon, and businesses can attract visitors by arranging to be a PokéStop, as (it has been reported) has the Sherlock Holmes Museum in London. The National Park Service has announced that there will be ranger-led Pokémon hunts on the National Mall.
17281. Donald Sosin's campaign for "Sherlock Holmes: The Odessa Connection" (May 16 #3) has been successful: William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" (1916) was screened, accompanied by a 45-piece orchestra, to thousands of people who gathered at Odessa's famous Potemkin Stairs <www.tinyurl.com/glrlpx5>.
17282. The second annual "International Sherlockian Summit of Societies" has been scheduled for Nov. 5 in Mount Vernon, Wash. Last year's summit had attendees from seven societies in the U.S. and Canada, and you can read a report on the summit at <www.tinyurl.com/hk5zc74>; details on this year's summit are available from David Haugen <dave@soundofthebaskervilles.com>.
17283. Legendary Entertainment has bought the rights to the Pokémon computer game "Detective Pikachu" (February 16 #2), which has the title character in Sherlockian costume, and is preparing a live-action film franchise that's expected to start production next year.
17284. Add Mark Caven to the list of actors who have played Sherlock Holmes: he's seen at the end of "The Pall of LaPier" (the last episode of the ten-part Fox mini-series "Houdini and Doyle"); viewership numbers were low for the U.S. (2.6 million for the first episode, and 1.7 million for the last one). But if you enjoyed the series, you'll want to read interviews with cast and other talent at the Assignment X web-site <www.tinyurl.com/gr4vxfmf>.
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July 2016 #5

17285. Sherlockian.Net was launched in 1994 by Chris Redmond, and has long been a valuable resource for the growing population of Internet-savvy Sherlockians. Chris has announced that he plans to close the web-site by the end of the year, and would be happy to hear from anyone who would like to take over the web-site entirely or in part, and he welcomes suggestions about how its content might be preserved. You can visit Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" web-site www.tinyurl.com/gvc7593 to learn more about Chris' web-site and listen to his recent interview on the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog.
17286. Jennie Paton reports that Trader Joe's recently ran a "name this product" challenge asking for an "original, descriptive, memorable" name for their new cookie-mix-in-a mason jar product (offering the winner \$100 and a case of the product when it becomes available later this year).
17287. It's now official: the next season of the BBC's "Sherlock" will be broadcast in 2017 (according to the brief series 4 teaser at YouTube) <www.tinyurl.com/hmq63ub> (you get a brief glimpse of Toby Jones as Culverton Smith). And at a "Sherlock" panel at San Diego's Comic-Con Mark Gatiss, Amanda Abbington, and Benedict Cumberbatch revealed the three now-traditional code-word hint for the new season: Sherrinford, Smith, and Thatcher; the panel also included Stephen Moffat and Sue Vertue, but there are only three clues. Smith and Sherrinford seem obvious to devoted fans, who are serious puzzled by Thatcher.
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17288. Craigslist is a classified-advertisements web-site that began as an e-mail distribution list in San Francisco in 1995; it became web-based in 1996 and now covers 70 countries. Someone recently advertised a copy of THE ANNOYED SHERLOCK HOLMES, which turned out to be Baring-Gould's THE ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES.
17289. There's a new on-line Cosplay Convention Center that's just the thing for people who enjoy thematic costume play <www.cosplayconventioncenter.com>: you can select a theme (one of them is Sherlock Holmes) and find what's going on where (Sherlockian cosplay is coming up in Seattle and Topeka).
17290. Petr Kopl's THE LOST WORLD (London: MX Publishing, 2016; 120 pp., \$16.95) is an imaginative full-color graphic novel, with some amusing additions to Conan Doyle's story; it is part of Kopl's "Victoria Regina" series (which also includes three Sherlockian titles), and he has an attractive web-site at <www.petrkopl.cz>. Diane Gilbert Madsen's CRACKING THE CODE OF THE CANON: HOW SHERLOCK HOLMES MADE HIS DECISIONS (2016, 371 pp., \$18.95) is an interesting compilation of her research for THE CONAN DOYLE NOTES: THE SECRET OF JACK THE RIPPER (May 14 #7); it's a detailed analysis of the Canon, with discussion of the cases (and their outcomes), the crimes, the victims, the villains, and much more. MX's web-sites are at www.mxpublishing.com and at <www.mxpublishing.co.uk>.

July 2016 #6

17291. Reported: James Lovegrove, author of three pastiches (SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE STUFF OF NIGHTMARES, SHERLOCK HOLMES: GODS OF WAR, and SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE THINKING ENGINE) for Titan, is about to launch a new series he calls THE CTHULHU CASEBOOKS (SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE SHADWELL SHADOWS, SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE LABYRINTH OF DEATH, and SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE DEVIL'S DUST); the first title is due in November .
17292. Jeannette Powers won Trader Joe's contest: her name for the new product was "It's Sedimentary, My Dear Cookie!" Details at <www.tinyurl.com/hyevbkl>.
17293. Planning to sell the former Sunnyside Royal Hospital is being finalized, the Dundee Courier reported on July 13 <www.tinyurl.com/j2ym8p6>. Once the oldest and largest psychiatric hospital in Scotland, the facility closed in 2011 and has been vacant since then. Conan Doyle's father Charles Altamont Doyle was a patient at Sunnyside in the 1880s, when he wrote and illustrated the journal that was eventually published by Michael Baker in 1978 as THE DOYLE DIARY: THE LAST GREAT CONAN DOYLE MYSTERY.
17294. "'Largest Number' of Sherlock Holmes Versions Being Filmed Blamed for Disruptive London Fog This Week" was the headline on an amusing story at the Voice of Reason web-site in Nov. 2015 <www.tinyurl.com/jqxukg4>.
17295. The Retired Beekeepers of Sussex, an all-inclusive Sherlockian society for members of the LBGTQ+ community, have now published their third Practical Handbook of Bee Culture (this time devoted to "Experience of Women"), with articles, fiction, poetry, and artwork. All three issues of the handbook are available for download at <www.retiredbeekeepers.tumblr.com>.
17296. I hear of Sherlock everywhere, as someone once said: including Australia, where there's a company called Sherlock Holmes Sewing Machines; their web-site's at <www.sherlockholmesqld.com>.
17297. The "Beast of Dartmoor" mystery may (or may not) have been solved: a report in the Daily Telegraph (July 22) suggests that the ferocious animal sometimes called the Beast of Exmoor or the Beast of Bodmin) may not be a local myth. Circus owner Mary Chipperfield, after her zoo in Plymouth was forced to shut down, may have released three of her five pumas into the wild. But her husband, who now breeds white tigers in Spain, has denied that his late wife ever released any wild animals on Dartmoor. You can read all about it at <www.tinyurl.com/zzmmyyy>; thanks to Richard Mackintosh for the link.
17298. "Evaline and Mina didn't mean to get into the family business" is the hook for Colleen Gleason's series about Evaline Holmes (the niece of Sherlock) and Mina Stoker (the sister of Bram), set in a steampunk Victorian London. THE CLOCKWORK SCARAB was the first in the series (August 13 #2), which continues with THE SPIRITGLASS CHARADE (San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2014; 354 pp., \$17.99) and THE CHESS QUEEN ENIGMA (2015, 351 pp., \$17.99); they are young-adult novels aimed at teen-age girls, with romance, villainy, lots of energy and excitement, and a web-site <www.stokerandholmes.com> with interesting "bonus materials."

July 2016 #7

17299. The Farnham Herald reported (July 24) www.tinyurl.com/zdmjegd that building work is now complete at Undershaw, Conan Doyle's former home in Surrey. The David Forbes-Nixon Foundation spent £800,000 on the restoration, and the cost of the entire Stepping Stones School project was about £7 million. Norman Stromsoy, chief executive of the Foundation, said, "We wanted to make sure that the building can still be 'read' as it was in Conan Doyle's day, and to be as faithful to the original as we can."
17300. The [Darlington] Northern Echo reported (July 7) that the York Theatre Royal publicized its production of a new musical "Sherlock Holmes: The Hound of the Baskervilles" with a contest for members of the public who were asked to submit photographs of pets wearing deerstalkers. The responses included Mark Gatiss' labrador Bunsen; the story's at <www.tinyurl.com/zmfwb3>.
17301. According to a review of the film "Crimson Peak" (2015), "the ghosts of 'Frankenstein' author Mary Shelley, Sherlock Holmes creator Arthur Conan Doyle, horror fiction master Edgar Allan Poe, and many others not only shape Del Toro's imagination, but also could help you uncover hidden stories in your own life." The film is now available on cable television: while Conan Doyle is mentioned, he's not in the film as a ghost.
17302. "Every time I check into a hotel, I sign my name Sherlock Holmes Evans. I like to see the clerk look over his shoulder and wonder why I didn't sign Smith." On July 22 the Massillon (Ohio) Independent quoted him in a brief item on native sons; he was born there in 1906 and was an attorney, humorist, actor, and circus performer. He titled his autobiography FATHER OWNED A CIRCUS, and explained that his father, an admirer of William Gillette, named his son after the actor's most famous role. Evans died in 1987.
17303. James M. Nederlander died on July 25. He built the Nederlander Organization into a theatrical powerhouse that owns nine Broadway theaters and many more in other cities and countries; he produced or co-produced more than a hundred shows, and received a special Tony Award for lifetime achievement in 2004. When Glenda Jackson played Lady Macbeth at one of his theaters, he agreed with a friend that it was a great play, "but Jesus, it's talky." He also believed that "there are no bad theaters, only bad shows." Charles Marowitz's "Sherlock's Last Case" (starring Frank Langella) ran at the Nederlander Theatre for 136 performances in 1987.
17304. Fred Taraba's MASTERS OF AMERICAN ILLUSTRATION: 41 ILLUSTRATORS & HOW THEY WORKED (2011) has been reprinted in a second edition (St. Louis: The Illustrated Press, 2016; 432 pp., \$60.00 plus \$9.00 shipping); it's a spectacular book, with interesting essays on the artists, accompanied by full-color illustrations, and two of the artists are of particular interest: Wladyslaw T. Benda illustrated "The Sussex Vampire" and non-Sherlockian writings by Conan Doyle, and Robert Fawcett provided artwork for pastiches (Arthur Whitaker's "The Case of the Man Who Was Wanted" and the series written by Adrian Conan Doyle and John Dickson Carr), and the book includes one Sherlockian illustration by Fawcett. It's available on-line

July 2016 #8

17305. An appeal for assistance for Nick Utechin, who is working on a monograph on artists who provided jacket artwork for the British publisher John Murray, and is seeking information on Frank Marston, who did the jackets for Murray's editions of THE MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES and THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES. If you don't have those editions, you can see Marston's work in The Strand Magazine (Jan. 1930 and June 1930). And if you have any personal information about Marston (including birth/death dates), please contact Nick at <highfieldfarmhouse@gmail.com>.
17306. Theater news: a new musical version of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is on at the York Theatre Royal through Aug. 27 www.yorktheatreroyal.co.uk; there's a link at the web-site to two short rehearsal videos.
17307. The Minnesota Fringe in Minneapolis <www.fringefestival.org> has two plays of interest on its schedule: Neil Gaiman's "A Study in Emerald" at Intermedia Arts, Aug. 5-13; as well as "And to Think That I Saw It at 221B Baker's Street" (by John Newstrom and Tim Wick) at the Southern Theatre, Aug. 6-14.
17308. Opera Tennessee will present Thomas Whitman's opera "A Scandal in Bohemia" (with libretto by Nathalie Anderson) at the Barking Legs Theater in Chattanooga, Tenn., Aug. 11-14 <www.barkinglegs.org>.
17309. Fired Up Theatre is touring their production of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (dramatized by Mal Dewhurst and Simon Quinn) in Suffolk, Staffordshire, Derbyshire, Warwickshire, and Lancashire, from Aug. 12 through Dec. 2; details at <www.fireduptheatre.co.uk>.
17310. Kristen Brewer's new play "Sherlock Holmes: The Detective and the Doctor" is scheduled at the Black Box Theatre at the Trust Performing Arts Center in Lancaster, Pa., Aug. 25-Sept. 11 <www.lancastertrust.com>.
17311. Dennis Rosa's "Sherlock Holmes and the Curse of the Sign of the Four" has been scheduled at the Pulse Opera House in Warren, Ind., Sept. 9-25; web-site at <www.pulseoperahouse.org>.
17312. Steven Canny and John Nicholson's comedy "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is to be performed at the Lakewood Playhouse in Lakewood, Wash., Sept. 9-Oct. 9 <www.lakewoodplayhouse.org>; also at the Gulfshore Playhouse in Naples, Fla., Feb. 11-Mar. 12, 2017 <www.gulfshoreplayhouse.org>.
17313. Ken Ludwig's "Postmortem" (an earlier version of "The Game's Afoot") will be presented by Autumn Nights at the Plaza at Ehlers Event Center in Buena Park, Calif., Sept. 16-24 <www.buenapark.com/index.aspx?page=556>.
17314. "Sherlock Holmes and the Unrecorded Case (by Special Request) of the Electric Lady's Bicycle Protector and the Consequences Thereof Including World War I" (a new play by Robert Fridjhon) will be performed at the Studio Theatre in Montecasino, Johannesburg, Nov. 30-Jan. 2017; their web-site's at <www.pietertoerien.co.za>.
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August 2016 #1

17315. Steve Mason has announced an interactive map, developed by his son Rusty, showing all of the world's active geographical Sherlockian societies, with links to the web-sites of societies that have them; it's readily available at The Crew of the Barque Lone Star's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/hvt37sx>.
17316. Sherry Thomas, an established writer of historical romances, has launched a new "Lady Sherlock" series with A STUDY IN SCARLET WOMEN (New York: Berkley Books, 2016; 323 pp., \$15.00); it's an exciting book, with an interesting mystery and complicated characters, and a thoroughly imaginative (and different) Holmes. It's nice to know that there will be sequel, scheduled for 2017, and the author's web-site is at <www.sherrythomas.com>.
17317. "If Sherlock Holmes Had Investigated the Bible..." is the title of a lecture by Rev. Stuart Lamont, who will speak at the Arthur Conan Doyle Centre in Edinburgh on Oct. 11 <www.tinyurl.com/zqm6sxf>; the center is the home of the Edinburgh Association of Spiritualists.
17318. Repeating, because the link in the previous issue (July 16 #3) was broken: Big Chief Studios, which produced a set of licensed 1:6-scale figures showing Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman last year (April 15 #5), is going to issue a new set that shows them in costume from "The Abominable Bride"; they're due for release next March, but you can pre-order them now (£189.99 each <www.tinyurl.com/gpthl25>).
17319. Jennie Paton spotted Hive Riot <www.hiveriot.com>, described as "a synthy, dance-fueled party hosted by the electric chemistry that is Dustin Gledhill and Mindy Gledhill." Go to Youtube <www.youtube.com> and search for [hive riot sherlock] to watch their Sherlockian music video.
17320. And, while you're at YouTube, you can also watch an imaginative use of the theme music from the BBC's "Sherlock" <www.tinyurl.com/zlqqkw4>.
17321. Susan Dahlinger reports that the new "Ghostbusters" film is (tangentially) Sherlockian: in the major fight scene, there's a big billboard in the background advertising plays running on Broadway, and one of them is the musical "Baker Street".
17322. Yuichi Hirayama is the web-master for the Japan Sherlock Holmes Club, which is available in English as well as Japanese <www.holmesjapan.jp>.
17323. The Voice of America has a "Learning English" blog, and their topic on July 30 was "smoke" (and of course it was nice to see that they mentioned Arthur Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes); you can read (and listen to) the blog at <www.tinyurl.com/jo36kya>.
17324. The television mini-series "Houdini and Doyle" has been canceled by Fox; as noted earlier (March 16 #3), Steve Mangan, who played Conan Doyle, shaved off his Magnum-style moustache the day shooting ended, but since he had signed a five-year option for the series obviously was prepared to grow it again. He's now back to playing one of the leads in the Showtime/BBC series "Episodes" (which launched in 2011 and will conclude in 2017).
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August 2016 #2

17325. ECHOES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, edited by Laurie R. King and Leslie S. Klinger (New York: Pegasus Books, 2016; 348 pp., \$24.95), is the third in their series of anthologies of "stories inspired by the Holmes Canon," and it's a fine companion to their A STUDY IN SHERLOCK (August 11 #2) and IN THE COMPANY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (October 14 #1); they have again rounded up excellent authors and artists whose contributions demonstrate the many and imaginative ways in which one can enter the world of Sherlock Holmes. You can watch Les and Laurie talk about IN THE COMPANY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES at the Poisoned Pen bookstore (in Scottsdale, Ariz.) in a 57-minute video at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/z7vdwpl>.
17326. The Mysterious Bookshop will be publishing its own limited edition of ECHOES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, signed by the editors and all of the contributors and in a special binding; \$275 for one of the 25 lettered copies, and \$150 for one of the 60 copies <www.tinyurl.com/h7h33dn>.
17327. One of the nice Christmas presents I received last year was a donation to Apopo by my sister-in-law Kelly Blau. Apopo <www.apopo.org> trains African giant pouched rats to sniff out unexploded landmines in countries in Africa and Asia (the rats don't weigh enough to set off mines, which can then be disarmed); my giant rat, appropriately named Sumatra, has been trained to identify TNT, and has recently identified its first
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- (deactivated) anti-personnel mine (that's Sumatra in the photograph). When its training is completed, Sumatra will set to work on the real thing. There's more about the interesting program in Bec Crew's blog by Bec Crew at the Scientific American web-site <www.tinyurl.com/ptzrmkh>.
17328. "Sherlock Holmes Is Based on a Real Guy (Who Was Even Cooler), according to a 2-minute animation at YouTube <www.youtube.com/knfew93>; and no, the real guy (who was even cooler) wasn't Joseph Bell.
17329. Alexander Orlov has noted an interesting six-minute enhanced video of film taken in Edwardian Britain <www.tinyurl.com/nbqo64r>; you get to see what Holmes and Watson actually saw, rather than what we see in the films and on television.
17330. Further to the mention of the Cosplay Convention Center (July 16 #5), if you are planning an event you are welcome to use their "contact us" button to get your event listed <www.cosplayconventioncenter.com>.
17331. Those who attended "The Misadventures of Sherlock Holmes" (the conference at the University of Minnesota) had a chance to see the delightful exhibition of treasures from the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the Elmer L. Anderson Library, which runs through Sept. 30. Those who didn't attend the conference can watch a four-minute video tour narrated by Darren Terpstra (who designed the exhibition) and Tim Johnson (curator of the collections) <www.tinyurl.com/hux82l5>.
17332. Tim's blog "Special & Rare on a Stick" also is of interest: he blogged in 2015 about his discovery that Wind Cave (in Wind Cave National Park in the Black Hills of South Dakota) has a room called Baker Street, and his continuing attempt to determine whether the name honors the street where Sherlock Holmes lived <www.tinyurl.com/hylhc3c>.
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August 2016 #3

17333. "No one been fatally stung by the Lion's Mane in the UK, apart from in a Sherlock Holmes story," according to Peter Richardson (head of biodiversity and fisheries at the Marine Conservation Society; he was interviewed for a BBC News story on "How Dangerous are Britain's Jellyfish?" <www.bbcnews.com/news/uk-scotland-36922998>. "Not very," he said. As far as he is aware, no one has ever died from a jellyfish sting in the UK--but plenty have had a nasty shock.
17334. Fans of the Frogwares computer game "Sherlock Holmes: The Devil's Daughter" will enjoy John-Paul Jones' long interview with the Ukrainian developer of the game PlayStation Universe (Aug. 2) <www.tinyurl.com/zkfq82q>. The next game from Frogwares will be "The Sinking City" (not Sherlockian, but rather inspired by H. P. Lovecraft).
17335. Peter Melonas has been creating interesting Sherlockian (and other) artwork since the 1980s, and his offers (at eBay) include five Sherlockian prints <www.tinyurl.com/zwhsrhw>.
17336. "Have you ever thought of putting a collection of Sherlock Holmes-related books together but thought it might be too daunting or too expensive?" Otto Penzler asks. The Mysterious Bookshop recently bought three collections, and is offering to send you 500 books for \$5,000. All different, all first editions, and all in fine collectors' condition, combining critical works, studies, parodies, and pastiches; Otto chooses the books, and pays for the shipping <ottopenzler@mysteriousbookshop.com>.
17337. "Cimarron Strip" was a 90-minute Western series broadcast by CBS-TV at the end of the 1960s (when networks still aired 90-minute series); the episode "Knife in the Darkness" (1968) was written by Harlan Ellison, and there's a mention of Arthur Conan Doyle <www.tinyurl.com/jlo6oba>. Thanks to Brenda Rossini for this addition to the list of slightly Doylean television.
17338. Alan Rettig has reported on "a proper Sherlockian breakfast" served at The Store in Staunton, Va. Their special is Eggs Cumberbatch, and you'll find the details at the Red Circle's web-site <www.redcircledc.org>.
17339. Further to the report (July 16 #4) on the new score for William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" (1916), written by Donald Sosin for a 45-piece orchestra and performed at a screening on Odessa's famous Potemkin Stairs for a crowd estimated by some at 10,000 and by others at 15,000: Russell Merritt notes a 2-minute video showing what the performance was like; it's available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/jr8qu9k>.
17340. The Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts & Humanities in Cape May, N.J., will hold its next Sherlock Holmes Weekends on Nov. 4-6, featuring a new three-day mystery "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of Melpomene's Mask"; details at <www.tinyurl.com/h2bc4j4>.
17341. Peggy Perdue has the Toronto Public Library hard at work digitizing photographs from the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection and making them available online; you can see some of them now, and there are many more to come. Just go to <www.torontopubliclibrary.ca> and search for [arthur conan doyle] and click on "Images" in the left-hand column.
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August 2016 #4

17342. Conan Doyle has long been suggested as the perpetrator of the Piltdown Man hoax, despite the absence of any persuasive evidence, and the search for the culprit continues. New research by Isabella De Groote, a paleoanthropologist at Liverpool John Moores University, and a team of scientists who used modern technology to analyze the bones, has led to the conclusion that Charles Dawson, the amateur geologist who made the discovery in 1912, was responsible for the hoax. There is a story in Science magazine (Aug. 9) <www.tinyurl.com/hz3w49x>, with a link to their full report in Royal Society Open Science.
17343. In other news (well, not really news): The Piltdown Men, a 1960s rock-and-roll instrumental studio group, recorded songs that included "Brontosaurus Stomp" and "Piltdown Rides Again" (which you can hear at <www.youtube.com>).
17344. THE YALE BOOK OF QUOTATIONS, edited by Fred R. Shapiro (December 06 #1), is an important and delightful reference work, and his search for reliable sources continues. Mark Peters' article on "The Plague of Incorrect Quotation" in the Boston Globe (Aug. 10) <www.tinyurl.com/hcx3lh5> is an interesting account of some of Shapiro's new discoveries. And for the latest update on the search for "Elementary, my dear Watson", consult the Quote Investigator web-site <www.tinyurl.com/zyrl2mo>.
17345. Willy Werby reports interesting vintage photographs of London fog and smog (from 1909 to 1959) at <www.tinyurl.com/j282yet>; you can see what Holmes and Watson saw (or couldn't see through).
17346. Quite a while back (July 08 #3) Columbia Pictures announced plans to film a comedy that would star Sacha Baron Cohen as Holmes and Will Ferrell as Watson. "Just the idea of Sacha and Will as Sherlock Holmes and Watson makes us laugh," Columbia co-president Matt Tolach told Variety (July 1), "Sacha and Will are two of the funniest and most talented guys on the planet, and having them take on these two iconic characters is frankly hilarious." The film wound up in what is politely described as "development hell," but it's alive again, tentatively titled "Holmes and Watson" and starring Ferrell as Holmes and John C. Reilly as Watson. According to Deadline Hollywood (Aug. 16) <www.tinyurl.com/j2vo2tx>, production is planned to start after Thanksgiving.
17347. A reminder that the "no frills" version of The Silver Blaze, organized by the Epilogues of Sherlock Holmes and the Turf Builders of Baker Street will be held at Monmouth Park in Long Branch, N.J., on Sept. 18. Contact Peter McIntyre (732-765-1240) <psipete@optonline.net> for more information.
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17348. And the 57th annual running of The Silver Blaze at Hawthorne Race Course in Chicago will be held on Oct. 22. Susan Diamond <szdiamond@comcast.net> is the contact for more information.

17349. TERROR LIES UNDERGROUND, by Greg Jameson (London: Artellus, 2016; 303 pp., £2.31) is the first in his "The Diogenes Cases" e-book series; set during the Great Hiatus, the novel features surgeon Jacob Wrayburn, American nurse Faith Hobson, and Mycroft Holmes in a desperate struggle against terrorists who want to subvert the government (the Diogenes Club, as so often is the case in pastiches, is far more than merely a club for unsocial members).

August 2016 #5

17350. THE MX BOOK OF NEW SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES: PART IV--2016 ANNUAL (London: MX Publishing, 2016; 473 pp., \$24.95) is the latest in the series edited by David Marcum, and it is an excellent companion to the first three volumes (February 16 #7), with almost two dozen traditional pastiches, a poetic toast, and a radio script; the authors, some old hands at the game, and some new to it, maintain the high quality of the series, and it's nice news indeed that there are more volumes to come. MX's web-sites are at <www.mypublishing.com> and <www.mxpublishing.co.uk>.
17351. Also from MX: Daniel D. Victor's SEVENTEEN MINUTES TO BAKER STREET (2016; 221 pp., \$14.95) opens with an amusing scene: Sherlock Holmes in a state of shock after reading Mark Twain's THE DOUBLE-BARRELLED DETECTIVE STORY; it turns out that Samuel Clemens also was involved in solving "The Problem of Thor Bridge" (a case that's imaginatively different from the one described by Watson). SHERLOCK HOLMES IN THE NAUTILUS ADVENTURE, by Joseph W. Svec III and Lidia B. Svec (2016; 187 pp., \$9.95) also has an intriguing opening: a new client explains that he is Captain Nemo and hopes that Holmes can find the missing Jules Verne; it's the second volume in a "missing authors" series (the next volume will involve Sir Percival and Alfred, Lord Tennyson).
17352. And there's more: THE MYSTERY OF THE SCARLET HOMES OF SHERLOCK, by Richard Krevolin and John Raffensperger (2016; 294 pp., \$14.95), is the first volume of their "Lost Diaries of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle"; it is set in 1878, when Joseph Bell and his medical assistant travel to Chicago to investigate a series of mysterious murders and foil a nefarious plot against President Hayes. THE BIRD AND THE BUDDHA, by A. S. Croyle (2016; 282 pp., \$16.95), is the second in her "Before Watson" series; Dr. Poppy Stamford is now in practice in London and again meets Sherlock Holmes, who has graduated from Oxford and is beginning his career as a consulting detective, and they are still involved both in solving mysteries and in avoiding romantic entanglement with each other. E. A. (Bud) Livingston's SOME OF MY FAVOURITE SHERLOCKIAN THINGS (2016; 193 pp., \$14.95) is aptly subtitled "a compendium of pawky and outre monographs, toasts, and whatnots," and he has investigated both usual and unusual aspects of the Canon.
17353. Jeffrey Montgomery ("Inspector Montgomery") died on July 18. A life-long Detroitier, he worked in public relations and in 1984 became heavily engaged in LGBT advocacy, for which he received many awards and honors, including a special tribute from the Governor of Michigan in 2003. Jeff was an active member of The Amateur Mendicants in the 1970s and 1980s, and received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1979.
17354. Nominations for this year's Beacon Award, offered by The Beacon Society to recognize educational activities that expose young people to the Sherlock Holmes stories, are due by Nov. 15; details at <www.tinyurl.com/jd5xzd>.
17355. The Hillywood Show web-site's "Sherlock Parody" went viral this month, and you can view it at <www.thehillywoodshow.com>, along with 63 minutes of behind-the-scenes footage, and 30 minutes of Sherlock's video diary. Hilly Hindi and Hannah Hindi as Holmes and Watson, and the parody also has cameos appearances by Steven and Louis Moffat. You can read the lyrics to the parody at <www.tinyurl.com/hx8bat>.

August 2016 #6

17356. The second "Sherlocked: The Official Sherlock Convention" will be held in London on Sept. 23-26 <www.sherlocked.com>, and the first "Sherlocked USA" convention has been announced for Los Angeles on May 26-28, 2017 <www.sherlockedusa.com>; the conventions are organized in association with Hartswood Films (the production company for "Sherlock"). The prices for the event in Los Angeles range from \$125 (for a standard ticket) to \$2,995 (for a VIP ticket), and it will feature guest appearances, photo shoots, a vendors hall, and screen-used sets, props, and costumes on view for the first time outside the U.K.
17357. "Sherlock Holmes and the Curious Case of Scotland's First Movie Star" was the headline in a story in the Glasgow Daily Record and Sunday Mail (Aug. 28), offering new details about an actor who made 300 movies after leaving Glasgow in 1919, acting in small parts on Broadway, and then moving to Hollywood to launch a film in 1925 <www.tinyurl.com/z2ogjn5>. The actor was Mary Gordon, who played a memorable Mrs. Hudson in many of the Basil Rathbone films.
17358. Upcoming theater: "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (by David Pichette and R. Hamilton Wright) is scheduled by the Chapin Theatre Company at the Harbison Theatre in Irmo, S.C., Sept. 9-18 <www.chapintheatre.org>.
17359. Synergy Theater will perform "The Improvised Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" at the Leshner Center for the Performing Arts in Walnut Creek, Calif., Sept. 22-24 <www.lesherartscenter.org>.
17360. F. Andrew Leslie's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed at the Long Beach Playhouse in Long Beach, Calif., Sept. 24-Oct. 22; the web-site is at <www.lbplayhouse.org>.
17361. Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot" will be produced at the Church Hill Theatre in Church Hill, Md., Nov. 4-20 <www.churchhilltheatre.org>.
17362. Ken Ludwig's comedy "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is due at the Spreckels Performing Arts Center in Rohnert Park, Calif., Sept. 16-Oct. 9 <www.tinyurl.com/ze9zc9r>. And at the Ivy Tech John Waldron Auditorium in Bloomington, Ind., Sept. 23-Oct. 9 <www.tinyurl.com/zhquvb6>; at the Allen Playhouse in Cleveland, Ohio, Jan. 27-Feb. 12 <www.clevelandplayhouse.com>; and at the Mayfield Dinner Theatre in Edmonton, Alta., from Feb. 7 through Apr. 2 <www.mayfieldtheatre.ca>. The play also is touring in British Columbia <www.artsclub.com/shows/on-tour>.
17363. Eric Coble's "Sherlock Holmes: The Baker Street Irregulars" (based on the series of graphic novels by Tony Lee and Eric Boulwood) will be presented by the Garden Suburb Theatre at the Lund Theatre in London, Feb. 14 to 19 <www.gardensuburbtheatre.co.uk>.
17364. Madeleine George's "The (Curious Case of the) Watson Intelligence" will be performed at the Park Square Theatre in St. Paul, Minn., Apr. 7-30, 2017 <www.parksquaretheatre.org>.

September 2016 #1

17365. "Of all 'historical' liars the writer of this book takes the cake. To anyone who knows the facts Conan Doyle's book looks more like one of his novels than a serious account of what actually took place. 'Fairy Photos' seem more in his line." That's what Francis William Reitz (who was State Secretary of the South African Republic from 1898 to 1902) wrote in his heavily-annotated copy of Conan Doyle's THE GREAT BOER WAR. The book went to auction at Stephan Welz & Co. in Johannesburg on Aug. 30, with an estimate of R1,500-R3,000 (about \$108-\$215); it sold for R5,000 (\$346).
17366. The BBC's "Sherlock: The Abominable Bride" has won two Emmy Awards from the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences: for outstanding television movie and for outstanding special visual effects in a supporting role. The next season of the series is scheduled for broadcast in 2017.

17367. In other news from the Emmy Awards, Amanda Abbington (who joined Sue Vertue Beryl Vertue, and Stephen Moffat to accept the television-movie award for "Sherlock") reported on Twitter that when she returned to her seat she discovered that "some bastard had nicked my purse from under my seat."
17368. In case someone offers to sell you a page from the manuscript of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES: it might be hot merchandise, stolen in 2009 from the collection of the late David S. Light. Randall Stock has more information on this at his "Best of Sherlock" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/jmgrt2o>; the page is one of only a dozen known pages to be privately held, and the FBI is seeking assistance in recovering the page.
17369. "Is Sherlock Holmes Rich?" was a question asked at the web-site Quora, and Kynan Eng provided an answer: to live in modern London, Holmes would need a before-tax income of £12,828 per month to live on his own. Read all about it at <www.quora.com/Is-Sherlock-Holmes-rich>.
17370. The Wolfe Pack (The Official Nero Wolfe Society) was founded in 1978 and is still going strong, and of course has a journal (The Gazette), a web-site <www.nerowolfe.org> and a presence on social media (although one does wonder what Wolfe would have thought of the Internet); the web-site search engine makes it easy to find material related to Holmes and Conan Doyle, in The Gazette and elsewhere. Needless to say, due attention is paid to the long-held (by some) belief that Nero Wolfe was the son of Sherlock Holmes and Irene Adler.
17371. "Sherlock Holmes and the Long Island Cave Mystery" is the title of a "Book & Bottle" series lecture scheduled by Terry Hunt at Suffolk County Historical Society in Riverhead, N.Y., on Oct. 27. The Long Island cave mystery is mentioned in "The Red Circle", and Sherlockian scholars have noted for many years that there are no caves on Long Island, but Steve Doyle reported in 2006 in MANDATE FOR MURDER (the Baker Street Irregulars manuscript series volume on the story) that there was indeed a cave mystery near Islip in 1891, involving a series of underground bunkers described in period newspapers as caves; Terry will reveal more information about the mystery, including his identification of the site where the Long Island caves were located <www.suffolkcountyhistoricalsociety.org>.

September 2016 #2

17372. "Treasure Island, Beau Geste, all of Sherlock Holmes novels & stories, and a book about newspaper people called My Last Million Readers," was Charles Schulz's response to Evelyn B. Byrne in a letter, on his personal stationery that showed Charlie Brown and Snoopy, that was not published in ATTACKS OF TASTE (1971), edited by Byrne and Otto M. Penzler. The letter went to auction at University Archives on Aug. 23 (estimated at \$200-\$300), but did not make the reserve.
17373. Those who fondly remember Basil of Baker Street (aka The Great Mouse Detective) will be glad to hear that he hasn't been forgotten by Disney: Sonia Fetherston notes that the Disney Store <www.tinyurl.com/hww5ekj> is offering an attractive Christmas tree ornament that shows Basil and Dawson (\$16.95), and it can be personalized for an additional \$5.95.
17374. Les Klinger notes a Kickstarter project for Lucy Keifer's "Sherlock Holmes and Moriarty's Web" (a collaborative crime-solving game played on a board of moving tiles); details at <www.tinyurl.com/huw2mx4>.
17375. Randall Stock reports an interesting leaflet produced by Dartmoor National Park: "The Hound of the Baskervilles Trail" is a helpful guide for a six-mile walk through the Dartmoor of "The Hound of the Baskervilles", and it's available for £1.50 at the park's visitor center. You can see a two-page sample from the guide at <www.tinyurl.com/jmhr9gt>.
17376. "The Mind and Art of Sherlock Holmes" (the Baker Street Irregulars' conference held in Chautauqua this month) was a delightful gathering, with a program that included preview excerpts from Jeffrey Hatcher's new play "Holmes and Watson" (due to premiere in Arizona next spring), performed without rehearsal by members of the audience, a centennial screening of William Gillette's silent film "Sherlock Holmes" with Philip Carli providing live piano accompaniment, and the first-ever screening in America of three of Eille Norwood's silent shorts: "The Stockbroker's Clerk" and "The Musgrave Ritual" (1922), and "The Crooked Man" (1923), also with piano accompaniment by Philip Carli.
17377. It was wonderful to see Norwood's films; he received high praise from Conan Doyle, and filmed 47 stories from the Canon. There was more films news at the conference: Russell Merritt reported on the recent discovery of a copy of "Der Hund von Baskerville" (1929), the last silent film based on the Canon; it was filmed in Germany and directed by Richard Oswald, with an international cast that included Carlyle Blackwell as Holmes and Georges Seroff as Watson. The film will be restored, and Russell expects the film to be available for viewing by 2020.
17378. Dan Stashower has discovered Sherlock Shaving Soap (a tallow shaving soap with a warm tobacco-based scent, blended with toasted caramel, black pepper, and moist dirt, finished nicely with a touch of leather, moss, mandarin, honey, and rose, available from the Chiseled Face Groomatorium (\$12.99 for 4 ounces) <www.chiseledface.com>. It's homemade in Rancho Cucamonga, Calif., and the tin has Sherlockian artwork; the company has noted in the past that "due to concerns from members of our military and government services, we no longer use hempseed oil in this product."

September 2016 #3

17379. "Political Correctness Ruins Great Literature" was the headline on a letter in the Chicago Tribune (Aug. 10), reported by Janice Weiner in The Scotland Yarders' News-Gazette; the letter suggested that "given political correctness, more people are reacting to great literature like simple-minded computer programs designed to screen out offensive elements," and as one of the examples cited THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES: "if the heroine gets tied up and rescued...the story must be perpetuating sexist stereotypes."
17380. Gene Wilder died on Aug. 28. He was an actor, screenwriter, novelist, and director, and once said that he directed "in order to protect what I wrote, which I wrote in order to act," and his specialty was combining comedy and tragedy. He wrote and directed the film "The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes' Smarter Brother" (1975), in which he also starred as Sigerson Holmes.
17381. Jim Hawkins, recently at the Reno-Lake Tahoe airport, spotted a slot machine that features Robert Downey Jr. and Jude Law; there's a 4-minute video at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/j72gmnz>.
17382. The Chapterhouse Theatre Company debuted a touring production of "Sherlock Holmes and the Hound of the Baskervilles" (dramatized by Laura Turner) at Wentworth Castle Gardens in Barnsley in 2013, and they have continued to perform the play in Great Britain and Ireland. And now much farther afield: they will tour China in October and November, and you can buy tickets at <en.damai.cn/tickets_106265>. Chapterhouse has a web-site at <www.chapterhouse.org>.
17383. The MacArthur Fellows Program (sometimes called the Genius Grants) has made annual grants (now \$625,000 paid over five years in quarterly installments) as investments in people's originality, insight, and potential, and there have been three fellowships awarded over the years to people with Sherlockian or Doylean connections.
17384. Paleontologist Stephen Jay Gould (1981) wrote a letter to the magazine Science 83 responding to an article by John Hathaway Winslow and Alfred Meyer that accused Conan Doyle of perpetrating the Piltown hoax, and described their article as "an evidence-free argument based on speculations about motive." He also enjoyed Sherlockian films, and in THE FLAMINGO'S SMILE: REFLECTIONS ON NATURAL HISTORY (1985)

described the Universal series as "the unnumberable, yet wonderful, Rathbone-Bruce anachronisms that pit Holmes against Hitler and assorted enemies."

17385. Magician James Randi (1986), who has followed the path blazed by Houdini in exposing fake mediums and psychics, going after them with great glee, had in his book FLIM-FLAM!: PSYCHICS, ESP, UNICORNS AND OTHER DELUSIONS (1982) a chapter on Conan Doyle and "Fairies at the Foot of the Garden".
17386. And rare book preservationist Terry Belanger (2005) was the youngest member of The Sons of the Copper Beeches when he came a meeting with a Sherlockian jack o'lantern. His article "Travels with a Pumpkin" appeared in the Baker Street Journal (Mar. 1967), and he became a member of The Baker Irregulars ("Cartwright") in 1968.

September 2016 #4

17387. Many newspapers publish news from the past: the Traverse City Record-Eagle's "110 Years Ago" for May 25 last year noted that the paper was going to publish "the greatest and most engaging feature in fiction" (the thirteen mysteries in THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, to which the paper had exclusive publication rights in its section of Michigan); the paper also reported that the American Drug Store specialized in a Chop Suey Sundae, and warned bicyclists that they were allowed to ride the side-walks of the city from 5 a.m. to 7 a.m. and at no other time (the reason for that warning likely was a horrible accident caused by a bicyclist who was going at least ten miles an hour when he attempted to pass a group of young ladies on the sidewalk on Washington Street. If you'd like to know what else was going on in town then, go to <www.tinyurl.com/ohuswpl>.
17388. The Haslemere Herald <www.tinyurl.com/gr2wmc> has reported that Undershaw, Conan Doyle's former home, is now open as the new Stepping Stones senior school, after two years of restoration and renovation by David Forbes-Nixon's Charitable Foundation; the opening included the unveiling of a blue plaque celebrating Conan Doyle's time at Undershaw, and the photograph shows Stepping Stones school head Melissa Farnham, foundation chairman David Forbes-Nixon, Haslemer mayor Sahran Abeyundara, Conan Doyle's grand-nephew Richard Doyle, and the plaque. You can see many more images from the opening at the web-site of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London <www.tinyurl.com/hudc4cj>.
17389. Luke Benjamin Kuhns' WELCOME TO UNDERSHAW (London: MX Publishing, 2016; 107 pp., \$28.95 hardbound) is subtitled as "a brief history of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: the man who created Sherlock Holmes" and offers a well-illustrated examination of Conan Doyle's early life, the history of the house, and an interesting exploration of what happened while he was living there. It's nicely done indeed, and will be welcomed by anyone who has visited or plans to visit Undershaw. The MX web-sites are at <www.mxpublishing.com> and <www.mxpublishing.co.uk>.
17390. The new season of "Elementary" (starring Jonny Lee Miller and Lucy Liu) begins on CBS-TV on Oct. 2, and by the end of the fifth series Miller and Liu will have played Holmes and Watson in 120 programs, more than any pair of actors other than Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce (15 films and 220 episodes on radio). That 15 is not a misprint; the real fans will easily be able to name the 15th film.
17391. If you visited The Sherlock Holmes pub in London in the distant past, you may remember an earlier version of the pub sign, which is now available for bidding at eBay <www.tinyurl.com/z4wd5x3>. Bidding started at £195 and the auction ends on Oct. 19.
17392. Mary Ann Madden died on July 26. She presided over the New York Magazine Competition for more than 30 years, creating word-play challenges that attracted as many as 9,000 responses. In one of her competitions she challenged competitors to sully by anagram one familiar name of fact or fiction and provide for it a brief description similarly altered by a one-word jumble. The examples she offered included: "Sherlock Sholem-Israeli detective in relentless pursuit of his nemesis, Professor Yom Tirra."

September 2016 #5

17393. If you're in or near Princeton, N.J.: B.J. Rahn, author of THE REAL WORLD OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (February 15 #5) will be speaking at the Princeton branch of the English-Speaking Union on Jan. 17 on "how the Sherlock Holmes stories help us understand crime and detection in the Victorian era; details on the event are at <www.esuus.org/princeton>.
17394. "Shall We Date? Guard Me, Sherlock!" is a Japanese anime social-based dating sim game just released by NTT Solmare <www.shallwedate.jp/en>. There was a report on the Business Wire on Sept. 5 <www.tinyurl.com/grq4nsf>, and there is a 32-minute video at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/j24j9g6>.
17395. This year's Christmas card from the Sherlock Holmes Society of London features a full-color reproduction of a Christmas issue of The Strand Magazine (Dec. 1913, which contained "The Dying Detective"); \$20.00 postpaid for a packet of ten cards and envelopes <www.tinyurl.com/hhegqh>.
17396. Tom Moses is selling some of his Sherlockian books, and offers a sales list by e-mail <tomjmoses@yahoo.com>.
17397. "Holmes and Watson 1916-2016" is an imaginative video tribute tied to the song "Something Good (Will Come from That)" <www.vimeo.com/171431158> that makes good use of clips from a wide variety of Sherlockian film and television. And there's a link to a cheat-sheet, in case you don't recognize all the sources.
17398. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists (also known as The Friends of Sherlock Holmes) honored the world's first forensic geologist with drinks and dinner at the Fadó Irish Pub in Denver on Sept. 28, during the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America. We were welcomed by members of Dr. Watson's Neglected Patients, and our next meetings will be on Apr. 5, 2017, in Houston, and Oct. 25 in Seattle.
17399. Sarah Andrews, one of our members, received this year's Presidential Medal from the GSA, in recognition of her "outstanding support of the geosciences." Praised as an "author, pilot, artist, and teacher," she's the author of twelve novels about geologist-turned detective Em Hansen; Sarah has described the novels as "geology with a plot," and she has an excellent web-site at <www.sarahandrews.net>.
17400. One of the things that geologists discuss at their conferences is the consequences of climate change and global warming: geologists don't doubt that the earth is warming (in Victorian times explorers died in vain attempts to find an ice-free Northwest Passage from the Atlantic to the Pacific across the top of North America, but it's now possible to make the trip in comfort on tourist cruises). New York magazine had an excellent article by Andrew Rice this month <www.tinyurl.com/zjxtknu> discussing "New York in the not-so-distant future" (although the Yale Club is not mentioned in the article, it's likely to be high and dry, but difficult to reach by train or subway).
17401. The BBC is continuing its publicity campaign for the new season of "Sherlock" and revealed this month that the first two episodes will be "The Six Thatchers" and "The Lying Detective" (the on-line personal blog of Dr. John H. Watson <www.tinyurl.com/j8q3sqd> explains the six Thatchers.

September 2016 #6

17402. Jeans for Genes Day was celebrated in Britain on Sept. 23, in aid of Genetic Orders UK, in a partnership with Gap, and iconic statues in London were dressed in denim. The statue of Sherlock Holmes near Baker Street Station was outfitted with an attractive denim cape, and you can see it in full color at <www.tinyurl.com/zqcswh6>.

17403. And, as usual, some theater news: Rick White's "Sherlock Holmes: The Whitechapel Murders" is running at the Way Off Broadway Community Players in Leander, Tex., through Oct. 15 <www.wobcp.org>.
17404. Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" will be performed at at the Depot Theater Company in Dodge City, Kans., Oct. 7-22; web-site at <www.depotheaterco.com>; and at the Old Opera House in Charles Town, W.Va., Oct. 14-23 <www.oldoperahouse.org>; and at the Glendale Center Theatre in Glendale, Calif., Oct. 14-Nov. 19 <www.glendalecentertheatre.com>.
17405. The East Haddam Stage Company tour of the William Gillette radio script for "The Speckled Band" (1930) will include a performance on Oct. 14 at Ventfort Hall, the Gilded Age house museum in Lenox, Mass. <www.gildedage.org>, built as their summer home by George and Sarah Morgan (she was the sister of J. Pierpont Morgan).
17406. "The Baker Street Irregulars" (a new play written by Dominic Pope and David Redstone) is due at the Redannick Theatre in Truro, Cornwall, on Oct. 20-22 <www.taods.co.uk>.
17407. "The 21st Century Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" is a monthly series improvised and performed by Brian Paul and Sam Bennett at the Players' Ring in Portsmouth, N.H., from Oct. 20 to June 15 <www.playersring.org>.
17408. John Charles Nassivera's "The Penultimate Problem of Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at the Ouachita Little Theater in Mena, Ark., from Oct. 21 to Oct. 30 <www.ouachitalittletheater.org>.
17409. Alice Coghlan's "Sherlock Holmes and the Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed by Wonderland Productions at Kildare Street Hotel in Dublin, Oct. 24-Nov. 24 <www.wonderlandtheatre.com>.
17410. Ken Ludwig's "Postmortem" (an earlier version of "The Game's Afoot") will be presented by the Montgomery Playhouse and Arts on the Green at the Arts Barn in Gaithersburg, Md., Nov. 4-20 <www.tinyurl.com>.
17411. Tim Kelly's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed at the Capitol Theatre in Waterloo, Ill., Nov. 4-13 <www.masctheatre.org>.
17412. The Lanikai Mortgage Players (who are also known as Those Strange People in the Park) will present "Sherlock Holms and the Case of the Vanishing Swain, or Alimentary, My Dear Watson" at the Nelson and Lucille Shreve Theater in the Lanikai Community Center on Oahu, Hawaii, Nov. 4-13; their web-site is at <www.lanikaimortgageplayers.org>.

October 2016 #1

17413. Congratulations to David Stuart Davies on his invitation to join the Detection Club, founded in 1930 and the oldest society for British mystery writers; there's a sinister but tongue-in-cheek initiation ceremony, and David chose lines from "The Hound of the Baskervilles" as his motto; he's a prolific author of Sherlockian pastiches and plays, and has written books on Sherlock Holmes in film and on Jeremy Brett, and will contribute a Sherlock Holmes story to an upcoming Detection Club anthology.
17414. The Detection Club was founded by Anthony Berkeley Cox in 1930, with support from G. K. Chesterton, Dorothy L. Sayers, and others, and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was asked to become the Club's Honorary President; unfortunately his health was poor, and he had to decline the invitation.
17415. Martin Edwards' THE GOLDEN AGE OF MURDER (October 15 #5), which previously won an Edgar (best biographical/critical) from the Mystery Writers of America, and an Agatha (best non-fiction) from Malice Domestic, has also won a Macavity Award (best critical/biographical) from Mystery Readers International (announced last month at Bouchercon in New Orleans).
17416. Bouchercon 2017 will be in Toronto ("Passport to Murder") Oct. 12-15, 2017; followed by Saint Petersburg ("Crime in the Sunshine"), Sept. 13-16, 2018; Dallas ("Denim, Diamonds and Death") Oct. 31-Nov. 4, 2019; and Sacramento ("Where Murder is a Capitol Crime"), Oct. 15-18, 2020. Bouchercon is the largest gathering of mystery authors and readers, and there's (almost) always a Sherlockian panel; this year in New Orleans Les Klinger was the moderator for "Wherefore and Why: Sherlock Holmes" (with Lois Gresh, Michael Robertson, Bonnie MacBird, Terence Faherty, and Laura Caldwell).
17417. There are a few copies available of the 22-page printed program for The Baker Street Irregulars' conference in Chautauqua, last month, for those who weren't able to attend the gathering; there are articles and illustrations, and "The Mind and Art of Sherlock Holmes" can be bought (\$10.00 plus shipping at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com/sherlock2016p.html>).
17418. Upcoming in Florida: Diane Gilbert Madsen will be appearing at Copperfish Books in Punta Gorda, Fla., on Nov. 3, as part of the city's fine arts festival, speaking about her latest book CRACKING THE CODE OF THE CANON: HOW SHERLOCK MADE HIS DECISIONS (July 16 #5) <www.copperfishbooks.com>.
17419. The web-site Bustle had a story on Sept. 30 <www.tinyurl.com/hrcn15z> about the Ghost Club, a paranormal investigation and research organization that was founded in London in 1862 and widely believed to be the oldest such organization in the world; the article is about Charles Dickens, a dedicated ghost hunter, but Conan Doyle also was a member.
17420. Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine continues to add podcasts to its web-site, and one of them is Steve Hockensmith and Michael Wiltrout reading Steve's "Dear Dr. Watson" (from the Feb. 2007 issue). Another is a dramatization of Edward D. Hoch's "The Problem of the Covered Bridge" (Dec. 1974); there is an appropriate Sherlockian allusion in the story. There are 85 podcasts now, with more to come <www.themysteryplace.com/eqmm>.

October 2016 #2

17421. Spotted by Jennie Paton at YouTube: "Whitlock: A Study in Starlet" (described as "a modern-day web-series adaptation of Sherlock Holmes that follows cantankerous consulting detective Sophie Whitlock and her New-Agey assistant Fawn Watkins as they solve crimes in sunny, sordid L.A."); there are five episodes beginning at www.tinyurl.com/jczz2kp with a total of 31 minutes. It's also offered at Amazon (\$9.99) as a playonly DVD that may not run on all DVD devices.
17422. Warren Murphy died on Sept. 4, 2015. Best-known for his series about "The Destroyer", he also wrote a short story "Highly Irregular on Baker Street", which starred P.I. Devlin Tracy investigating a murder at the present-day 221B Baker Street; it was published in THE PRIVATE EYE WRITERS OF AMERICA PRESENT MYSTERY STREET: THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY PWA ANTHOLOGY (2001).
17423. "A planet might as well leave its orbit," Sherlock Holmes said (in "The Bruce-Partington Plans"), adding that "Jupiter is descending today." A recent sheet of stamps offering "Views of Our Planets" includes an image of Jupiter taken by the Hubble Space Telescope's near-infrared camera and multi-object spectrometer in 2004.
17424. It's possible, of course, that it was the god that was descending, rather than the planet. Which raises the question: which of the other planets is mentioned by name in the Canon?
17425. William B. Beeson ("The Barque Lone Star") died on Oct. 23. Bill was a computer programmer at Texas Instruments, a magician, one of the founders of The Crew of The Barque Lone Star, an ardent Texan who delighted in parading in costume wearing a ten-gallon deerstalker. He also arranged for

- a supply of cloth saddlebags to hold the souvenirs distributed at annual dinners of The Baker Street Irregulars, and happily performed (as Boris) in a Dallas production of "The Incredible Murder of Cardinal Tosca". Bill received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1983.
17426. Nick Digilio has a three-hour series on WGN Radio, and on Oct. 18 the show included a 29-minute interview with Bob Madia about "Sherlock Holmes: Peter Cushing, Monster Encounters, and Extensive Collections"; you can listen to the segment at <www.tinyurl.com/z3pz5ou>.
17427. The now-immortal phrase "Elementary, my dear Watson" is first known to have been spoken by Sherlock Holmes in the film "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" (1929), which starred Clive Brook and H. Reeves-Smith. The phrase also is found in P. G. Wodehouse's "Psmith, Journalist: His Adventures in New York" (which was serialized in *The Captain: A Magazine for Boys* and "Old Boys" in 1909-1910); Psmith murmured those words in the Jan. 1910 issue. The story was published as a book in 1915, and you can read it on-line at Project Gutenberg <www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/2607>.
17428. You possibly have read or heard that the phrase was first used by William Gillette, but it's not to be found in any of the scripts for his play used or published during his lifetime. Holmes did say those words in the Royal Shakespeare Company's revival of Gillette's play in 1974; that script was published by Samuel French in 1976 and by Doubleday in 1977.
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October 2016 #3

17429. Which of the other planets is mentioned by name in the Canon? It's our own, of course. How on Earth could anyone have forgotten that often-used phrase? If your answer was Mercury, which was suggested by Bob Thomalen when I first asked that question in 1991, there is indeed a mention of Mercury, but it's not the planet: it's a newspaper (the Leeds Mercury, mentioned in "The Hound of the Baskervilles").
17430. THE OBSIDIAN CHAMBER, by Douglas Preston and Lincoln Child, is the latest in their series of suspense novels about FBI special agent Pendergast; it is not Sherlockian or Doylean, but you can watch an amusing video of Child signing 4,000 copies of the book at <www.youtube.com/gpe6jcv>. Their WHITE FIRE (November 14 #5) began with their account of the dinner at which Arthur Conan Doyle met Oscar Wilde, and involved a search for the manuscript of the long-lost last Sherlock Holmes story.
17431. "Well, I quit my job so I could work all alone,/Then I changed my name to Sherlock Holmes./Followed some clues from my detective bag/And discovered they was Red stripes in the American flag!/That ol' Betsy Ross..." That's one version of the lyrics of "The Talkin' John Birch Society Blues" (1962), a song written by Bob Dylan that CBS-TV refused to allow him to sing on the Ed Sullivan Show in 1963. This month Dylan won the Nobel Prize in Literature; considered by many to be the poet laureate of the rock era, he is the first musician to win the award, which recognized his "having created new poetic expressions within the great American song tradition."
17432. Further to the report (September 16 #4) that an earlier version of the sign for the Sherlock Holmes pub in London was up at auction on eBay, it's pleasant to be able to report that it was acquired by a Sherlockian: Nick Utechin now is the proud owner of the sign. It remains to be seen whether Nick plans to become the proprietor of a pub in Oxford.
17433. Michael Robertson's THE BAKER STREET JURORS (April 16 #7) featured Reggie and Nigel Heath, who have offices in the building at 221B Baker Street, and a lease that requires them to answer Sherlock Holmes' mail, which includes a jury summons. Robertson has contributed to the Criminal Element blog an amusing discussion of "Why Sherlock Holmes Could Be Summoned for Jury Duty in the 21st Century--and How He Might Feel About It" <www.tinyurl.com/j2xqvf>.
17434. Laurie R. King's MARY RUSSELL'S WAR AND OTHER STORIES OF SUSPENSE (Scottsdale: Poisoned Pen Press, 2016; 300 pp., \$15.95) is a welcome addition to what Mary Russell's fans call the Kanon: a collection of ten short stories (nine reprints and one new) that illuminate and explain some of the gaps in the history of Russell and Holmes.
17435. Charles J. Rzepka's interesting essay on "'The Unofficial Force': Irregular Author Love and Love and the Higher Criticism" has been published in TRANSATLANTIC LITERATURE AND AUTHOR LOVE IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2016; 371 pp., \$109.00), and it offers an excellent review of the world of Sherlockians and their societies. Edited by Paul Westover and Ann Wierda Rowland, the book is the latest in the "Palgrave Studies in Nineteenth-Century Writing and Culture" series.
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October 2016 #4

17436. Gordon R. Speck (Colonel James Barclay) died on Oct. 10. Gordon served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War, taught English at the Menard Correctional Center in southern Illinois, and was an enthusiastic member of The Occupants of the Empty House and many other midwestern Sherlockian societies; he also was one of the three founders of The Victoria Station Idlers, a society that met only once, at St. Louis International Airport, and presided over the Speck Led Band when he and friends traveled to Sherlockian event. He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1986.
17437. Just in time for holiday hinting (or shopping), Randall Stock's annual informative nominations for the best Sherlock Holmes books/DVDs of the year will be on-line at <www.bestofsherlock.com/sherlock-gifts.htm> on Nov. 1.
17438. The Société Sherlock Holmes de France has launched a new magazine: The Illustrated Holmesian News (Published Monthly When It's Published), and you can read all about it (in French) at <www.mycrofts.net/magazine-sh>; there is a link "(Commandez-le ici!" in purple) to their shop, where you can order the first issue of the magazine, and other publications by the SSHF.
17439. The BBC offers an interesting (and amusing) list of "14 Ways to Know You've Got Too Much Stuff" <www.tinyurl.com/h7aoj59>; of course that's stuff other than books, but nevertheless ...
17440. Boo! Someone in Takoma Park, Md., has read "The Hound of the Baskervilles" and created an imaginative frontlawn Halloween decoration, spotted by Alison Rosenberg. If the image isn't clear enough, the gravemarker reads "Here Lies Sir Charles Baskerville".
17441. Emma Jane Holloway's "The Baskerville Affair" trilogy offers an imaginative mix of steampunk and magic, featuring Evalina Cooper (niece of Sherlock and Mycroft Holmes) and a plot that involves romance, rebellion, sorcery, heroines, heroes (including her uncles), and villains, all in a Victorian alternative-universe England. The books are A STUDY IN SILKS (New York: Del Rey, 2013; 549 pp., \$7.99); A STUDY IN DARKNESS (2013; 535 pp., \$7.99); and A STUDY IN ASHES (2013; 662 pp., \$7.99); and there's an additional e-book THE BASKERVILLE TALES (2014; 133 pp., \$0.99) with three short stories tied to the novels. The author's web-site at <www.emmajaneholloway.com> provides an interesting introduction to the series.
17442. Anyone who fondly remembers Ely Liebow (and I don't think there is anyone who remembers Ely who doesn't remember him fondly) will enjoy a delightful tribute to him written by Ray Betzner and posted to his "Studies in Starrett" blog <www.tinyurl.com/zszjdv>.
17443. The American Museum of Natural History's traveling exhibition on "The Power of Poison" is now at the Natural History Museum of Utah in Salt Lake City through Apr. 16; the exhibition highlights poison's cultural impact, from Egyptian and Indian mythology through Shakespeare Sherlock Holmes, Agatha Christie and Harry Potter, and there's an interesting web-site about it at <www.tinyurl.com/h2nuvwm>. The Salt Lake City exhibition's web-site is at <www.nhmu.utah.edu/poison>.
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October 2016 #5

17444. A friend of The Sound of the Baskervilles (the Sherlockian society in Seattle), hoping to encourage someone to write an article based on the premise that Sherlock Holmes was a Catholic priest before he met Watson, has given the society a collection of books that might be useful in writing the article; Dale Crakes <horta_981121@yahoo.com> will be glad to provide a list of the books, and to answer questions about the project (there will be no cost for shipping, and it's an interesting list).
17445. "Our Favorite Books" is an occasional one-hour series on Utah Public Radio, and on Oct. 18 the subject was "Sherlock Holmes"; Tom Williams interviewed Utah State University Associate Professor of English Brian McCuskey and local expert Sherlockian and Doylean Michael Homer. The program's available at <www.upr.org/post/our-favorite-books-sherlock-holmes>.
17446. Benedict Cumberbatch made the cover of the November issue of Vanity Fair, and you can read the story on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/zclqfdz>, where you also can "Watch Benedict Cumberbatch Perform Magic" in a short video. He also will host "Saturday Night Live" on NBC-TV on Nov. 5, perhaps, or perhaps not, doing something Sherlockian. Finally, PBS-TV and the BBC will air the first episode of the next season of "Sherlock" on New Year's Day (it's "The Six Thatchers").
17447. Upcoming in Phoenix, Ariz.: the Herberger Theater and ASU Center of Film, Media and Popular Culture will present a "Sherlock Holmes Film Festival" on Mar. 24-25, 2017; there will be four Sherlockian films in the program, with discussion/Q&A by playwright Jeffrey Hatcher and film expert Russell Merritt <www.herbergertheater.org>.
17448. Richard L. Kellogg has added to his entertaining series of books for young readers (with attractive artwork by Gary Kato): the first titles were BARRY BASKERVILLE SOLVES A CASE (April 13 #4) and BARRY BASKERVILLE RETURNS (May 14 #4), and now there are BARRY BASKERVILLE TRAPS A THIEF (Fort Collins: Airship 27, 2015; 34 pp., \$10.99) and BARRY BASKERVILLE'S BLUE BICYCLE (2016; 38 pp., \$10.99).
17449. TransProse, created by Hannah Davis, is a computer program that translates text into music, based on the density of eight different emotions; she has generated music from this year's presidential debates, and from literature that includes "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes", which you can listen to at <www.musicfromtext.com/novels.html>.
17450. Reported: Brad Ricca's MRS. SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE TRUE STORY OF NEW YORK'S GREATEST FEMALE DETECTIVE AND THE 1917 MISSING GIRL CASE THAT CAPTIVATED A NATION (due from St. Martin's in January); the detective was Mary Winterton Quackenbos Humiston, and the missing girl was Ruth Cruger; in the meantime you can read Karen Abbott's article ("Mrs. Sherlock Holmes' Takes on the NYPD") at the Smithsonian magazine web-site <www.tinyurl.com/hk6hc7c>.
17451. The debate about whether Sherlock Holmes attended Oxford or Cambridge will continue as long as there are Sherlockians prepared to argue for or against one college or the other, but a story in the Oxford Mail (Sept. 29) reports that Sherlock Holmes once taught physical education and English at the City of Oxford High School for Boys <www.tinyurl.com/jsppok>.

October 2016 #6

17452. Samantha Wolov, who recalls that the Algonquin was an unusual aspect of her childhood, has reported a story that will be of interest to those who remember when the hotel was the center of the Sherlockian world in New York: the Algonquin's iconic cat now is the star of a children's book MATILDA, THE ALGONQUIN CAT, written by Leslie Martini and nicely illustrated by Massimo Mongiardo (Deadwood: Wyatt-MacKenzie, 2016; 44 pp., \$26.00). The N.Y. Post story's at <www.tinyurl.com/zgamsdg>.
17453. The latest stamp in our Literary Arts series honors Henry James (1843-1916), a prolific and highly-regarded author who appears not in the Canon, but rather as a major character in Dan Simmons' pastiche THE FIFTH HEART (August 15 #4); the portrait is by Los Angeles artist Kate Simmons (no relation to Dan).
17454. Nicholas Utechin's FROM ABBEY TO WILES (London: Sherlock Holmes Society of London, 2016; 26 pp., \$20.00) is a splendid (and full-color) examination of the work of the seven artists who illustrated the dust jackets for the John Murray editions of the Canon, providing an excellent demonstration of the reason why dust jackets can be so important to collectors, and to those who enjoy seeing how various artists have portrayed the Sherlock Holmes. One shudders to think of how many readers have not protected the dust jackets on their books, making it both difficult and expensive to see the artwork. You can purchase Nick's book (\$20.00 postpaid) at www.tinyurl.com/zzxnm82 (that's the Society's shop, where you'll find a nice variety of interesting Sherlockian scholarship).
17455. "An Elementary Buy!" was the headline in the Daily Mail (Oct. 3) on a story noting that Masongill Cottage, near Ingleton in North Yorkshire, in on the market priced at £575,000 <www.tinyurl.com/j22fbbv>. Conan Doyle's mother moved into Masongill Cottage in the mid-1880s and lived there until 1917, and the article has some nice photographs of the exterior and interior of the cottage. And some thoroughly inaccurate suggestions that it was there that Conan Doyle was inspired to create Sherlock Holmes.
17456. Sherlockian societies often publicize Sherlock Holmes with interesting programs arranged at local libraries, and The Crew of the Barque Lone Star in Dallas offers a fine example: an evening devoted to "The Women of Sherlock Holmes" at the Allen Public Library on Nov. 7 <www.tinyurl.com/gpe3qpe>.
17457. The N.Y. Times Book Review has a continuing series "By the Book", and they recently ran an interesting interview with Otto Penzler. Among the questions: "How old were you when you discovered mysteries? What book got you hooked?" Otto's answer was: "I was 21, and--I know it's trite because everyone starts here--when I read 'The Complete Sherlock Holmes' I was hooked for life." The complete interview's on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/j8ykf7l>.
17458. Work continues on getting the third "Sherlock Holmes" film starring Robert Downey Jr. into production: Variety reported (Oct. 27) that Warner Bros., Village Roadshow, and Team Downey have created a "writers' room" to work on the script. The concept, commonly used in television, is becoming a trend for films, and the team that will be working on "Sherlock Holmes" includes some talented writers; the full story is at <www.tinyurl.com/jm6lebu>.

October 2016 #7

17459. Sherlock Holmes' 163rd birthday will be celebrated on Friday, Jan. 6, with the traditional festivities in New York, but the first formal event will be The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes' ASH Wednesday dinner starting at 6:30 pm at the Annie Moore (22 East 41st Street); attendees will pay their own checks, but need to reserve with Susan Rice <susan221bee@gmail.com> (125 Washington Place #2-E, New York, NY 10014) or with Evy Herzog <herzogbaesch@aol.com> (301 Warren Avenue #203, Baltimore, MD 21230).
17460. As for the rest of the long weekend, this forecast will be shorter than in past years, because details about the Baker Street Irregulars' events and the William Gillette Luncheon are not yet available. The final forecast, which will include both events and hotel reservations, will be on-line early in November at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com/bsiweekend.html>.

17461. One bit of news: The Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Speaker Lecture will be held on Thursday at a new venue: the Yale Club. The speaker will be Sara Parestky; she's the author of the continuing series of novels about V. I. Warshawski, and the Sherlockian pastiche "The Curious Affair of the Italian Art Dealer" published in the anthology *IN THE COMPANY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* (2014), and in 2011 she won the Grand Master Award from the Mystery Writers of America, recognizing work that is both significant and of consistent high quality.
17462. The Baker Street Babes happily invite one and all to their "Daintiest Thing Under a Palm Tree Tiki Party" at the Salmagundi Club (47 Fifth Avenue); the party will start at 8:00 pm and will include dinner, toasts, a quiz, a costume competition, and a live auction that will benefit the Disabled American Veterans Trust (donations for the auction are welcome, and you can contact Lyndsay Faye at <lyndsay@bakerstreetbabes.com>; you'll soon be able to purchase tickets at the Babes' web-site <www.bakerstreetbabes.com>.
17463. Otto Penzler will host his traditional open house on Friday from 11:00 to 5:00 at the Mysterious Bookshop, at 58 Warren Street (between West Broadway and Church Street) in Tribeca; the 1, 2, and 3 trains stop at the Chambers Street station (one block from the shop); authors will be on hand to sign their books, and Otto promises a lot of older material at discount prices.
17464. If you get lost, the bookshop's telephone number is 212-587-1011. Susan Rice reports that plans are afoot for The William Gillette Memorial Luncheon on Friday, but the venue has not been confirmed.
17465. The Gaslight Gala, open to all Sherlockians and their friends, will provide dinner and entertainment at 6:30 pm at the Butterfield 8 Restaurant (5 East 38th Street; the cost is not yet available, but you can check soon at the Gala web-site <www.gaslightgalanyc.wordpress.com>.
17466. If you want to send seasonal souvenirs or other items to be included in the various dinner packets, you can send 175 copies (for the BSI) to Nick Martorelli (Penguin Random House, 1745 Broadway, New York, NY 10019); and 90 copies (for the Gala) to Chris Zordan (184 Blew Court, East Brunswick, NJ 08816; and 18 copies (for The Women) to Mary Ann Bradley (7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278); your souvenirs must arrive by Dec. 15.

October 2016 #8

17467. On Saturday a wide range of Sherlockiana will be available from vendors in the Merchants Room (Covent Garden West) somewhere in the Roosevelt Hotel (45 East 45th Street) from 9:00 am to noon; consult the hotel directory for the location. Vendors should contact Ralph Hall (2906 Wallingford Court, Louisville, KY 40218) (502-491-3148) to request information about dealer's tables; his e-mail address is <bugmanhall@aol.com>.
17468. The Beacon Society's annual meeting will be at 10:00 am in the York Suite at the Roosevelt Hotel, where they will present their annual Beacon Award recognizing individuals' efforts to introduce Sherlock Holmes to young people; details are at their web-site <www.beaconsociety.com>. The Clients of Adrian Mulliner will hold a Junior Bloodstain, also in the York Suite, at 11:30 am, for devotees of the work of John H. Watson and P. G. Wodehouse; additional information is available from Elaine Coppola <emcoppol@syr.edu>.
17469. For those who wish to continue celebrating, The Curious Collectors of Baker Street will host "The Very Irregular Lost in New York with a Bunch of Aherlockians Dinner" at 6:00 pm at O'Lunney's Times Square Pub (145 West 45th Street, between Sixth and Seventh Avenues); more information is available from Chrys Kegley (18014 Sherman Way #275, Reseda, CA 91235) (818-675-5399) <ckegley@socal.rr.com>.
17470. The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes will end the birthday festivities with an informal buffet brunch on Sunday, at 11:30 am at St. Andrews (140 West 46th Street (between 6th and 7th Avenues); \$25.00. On-line sales will open mid-November at <www.ash-nyc.com>; please reserve to ashbrunch@gmail.com (it's possible that there will be room for late-comers).
17471. There will be blocks of rooms available at the Yale Club and the Roosevelt Hotel, but other hotels offer reasonable (for New York) rates: the best offers will be found on the Internet at web-sites such as <www.expedia.com>,
17472. <www.priceline.com>, <www.tripadvisor.com>, <www.travelocity.com> (which is owned by Expedia), and <www.hotels.com>; you will be wise if you then check the hotel's web-site and ask for the best rate (do keep in mind that there are non-optional extras such as almost 20% in state and city taxes).
17473. The Dr. John H. Watson Fund offers financial assistance to all Sherlockians (membership in the BSI is not required) who might otherwise not be able to participate in the weekend's festivities. A carefully pseudonymous John H. Watson presides over the fund and welcomes contributions, which can be made by check payable to John H. Watson and sent (without return address on the envelope) to Dr. Watson, care of The Baker Street Irregulars, at 7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278; your letters are forwarded unopened, and Dr. Watson will acknowledge your generosity. Requests for assistance should also be mailed (quickly) to Dr. Watson at the same address.
17474. Again, you should check at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com/bsiweekend.html> in November to find more complete information about registering for events and making hotel reservations; space is limited at some events, so don't delay registering after information's available at the web-site.

November 2016 #1

17475. Updating the truncated report in the last issue on the birthday festivities in New York: details on all of the events, from the ASH Wednesday dinner on Jan. 4 to the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes' informal brunch on Jan. 8, will be found at Scott Monty's informative web-site <www.bsiweekend.com>, which includes links to registration forms and to Scott's helpful "Here Are Your #BSIWeekend Tips".
17476. McSorley's Old Ale House (the venue for the lunch following the Christopher Morley Walk on Jan. 5) had quite a bit of publicity this month when for the first time in its 162 years the establishment was closed by the Department of Health for rat activity. The rats apparently came from reconstruction in nearby Cooper Square; the problems were quickly remedied and McSorley's was open again after only a few days. The East Village Patch reported that the bar was open temporarily to hold a wedding reception for a couple who had booked a year in advance; the bride and groom, who were diehard fans of McSorley's, were able to hold their reception at the bar, even though food and drink and drink weren't allowed to be served.
17477. *THE CANONICAL CEREBRATIONS OF GORDON R. SPECK* has been edited by William R. Cochran as a tribute to Gordon, and the 68-page pamphlet offers a grand opportunity to see how much fun he had with his contributions to *The Camden House Journal* (the monthly newsletter of *The Occupants of the Empty House*); \$21.00 postpaid (to the U.S.), with checks payable to *The Occupants*, sent to Bill at 614 South Terrace Drive, Carbondale, IL 62901.
17478. Charles Veley's *THE WILHELM CONSPIRACY* (Seattle: Thomas & Mercer, 2016; 266 pp., \$15.95) is the second in his "Sherlock Holmes and Lucy James" series; Lucy James is Sherlock Holmes' daughter, and this time the mystery involves Nikola Tesla, the Prince of Wales, Kaiser Wilhelm II, and weapons research. The first in the series was *THE LAST MORIARTY* (2015), and there are more to come. The author's also a Gilbert and Sullivan enthusiast, and has written the book and lyrics for a musical "The Pirates of Finance".

17479. Denis O. Smith's *THE MAMMOTH BOOK OF THE NEW CHRONICLES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* (New York: Skyhorse Publishing, 2016; 531 pp., \$16.95) is a collection of seven new traditional pastiches; he has been writing short-story pastiches since the 1980s, and does well with fidelity to the Canon. He has a list of his earlier books at his author's page at <www.tinyurl.com/hjvm9dc>.
17480. Also from Skyhorse: *THE MAMMOTH BOOK OF THE ADVENTURES OF PROFESSOR MORIARTY* (2015; 577 pp., \$16.99), edited by Maxim Jakubowski, is an anthology of 37 high-quality short stories "about the secret life of Sherlock Holmes' nemesis," most by authors new to the Sherlockian genre who explore interesting aspects of the life and career of Holmes' arch-enemy.
17481. A rifled aircane, late 19th century, .36 calibre, with a silver band around the upper section inscribed "Colonel Sebastian Moran/Bagatelle Card Club" is one of three aircanes in a lot coming to auction at Thomas Del March Ltd. in London on Dec. 7 from the collection of Stanley Victor Durrant, with an estimate of £400-600 for the three aircanes <www.tinyurl.com/jj6wwxo>. It would appear that someone had a Canonical sense of humor.

November 2016 #2

17482. Richard Whittington-Egan died on Sept. 14. He was an author, historian of British crime, and a dedicated Ripperologist; his many books included an expanded edition of *THE STORY OF MR. GEORGE EDALJI* (1985), edited with his wife Molly, and *THE OSCAR SLATER MURDER STORY: NEW LIGHT ON A CLASSIC MISCARRIAGE OF JUSTICE* (2001).
17483. Brad Keefauver gives Howard Ostrom credit for spotting the amusing 4-minute video "Elemental (mi querido Watson)" at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/jxno5yj>.
17484. Publicity continues for the "Sherlocked USA" convention to be held in Los Angeles on May 26-28, 2017; it's organized in association with Hartswood Films (the company that produces the BBC series "Sherlock") <www.sherlockedusa.com>, and Sherlocked now has an official bear, named Furlock, created by the Great British Teddy Bear Company and available only from the convention <www.tinyurl.com/zvxmc26> (£39.99 plus shipping). Many of the series stars attend the Sherlocked conferences, and the cost of tickets ranges from \$125 to \$2995.
17485. The Great British Teddy Bear Company offers its own Sherlock Holmes (£29.95) <www.britishteddies.com>. Last year company announced plans to open more than 100 Great British Teddy Bear Cafes in China, offering customers afternoon tea "in a truly British atmosphere," early this year, but there has not been any announcement that cafes are open.
17486. "Under the Clock, Sherlock--Still Rockin' After All These Years" is the title of a nicely-illustrated compilation by Howard Ostrom and Ray Wilcockson showing the influence of Sherlock Holmes on the music industry, beginning with the Royal Court Theatre revue in 1893 and extending through jazz, hip-hop, punk rock, rap, orchestration, and much more. There are 198 pages in the file, which can be read or downloaded at Ross K. Foad's "No Place Like Holmes" web-site <www.nplh.co.uk/under-the-clock-essay.html>.
17487. Howard also has updated his "Silent Sherlock" file, which now has 355 Sherlockian silent films (including three made in 2016); it also will be found at "No Place Like Holmes" <www.nplh.co.uk/si-lock.html>.
17488. Further to the report (October 16 #7) that Warner Bros., Village Roadshow, and Team Downey had created a "writers' room" to work on a script for the third "Sherlock Holmes" film, it appears that the committee approach lasted only a week, and there's now one writer working on the script.
17489. Howard Ostrom spotted a delightful (and unofficial) trailer for the BBC's "Sherlock" on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/hnpstq7>.
17490. Robert Vaughn died on Nov. 11. He began his acting career on stage in 1944 at the age of 12, made his first appearance on television in 1955, and was perhaps best known as Napoleon Solo in the television series "The Man from U.N.C.L.E." (1964-1968); he also starred in many films, including "The Magnificent Seven" (1960) and "Bullitt" (1968), and he played Sherlock Holmes in a skit on "The Hollywood Palace" on ABC-TV in 1968, with Charlie Manna as Watson and Phyllis Diller as Prof. Moriarty.

November 2016 #3

17491. Plan ahead: The Practical, But Limited, Geologists (also known as The Friends of Sherlock Holmes) will celebrate the world's first forensic geologist with drinks and dinner Birraporetti's Downtown in Houston on Apr. 5, during the annual meeting of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists. Members of The John Openshaw Society will also be on hand, and the festivities are open to all.
17492. Wladyslaw T. Benda (1873-1948) illustrated "The Sussex Vampire" in Hearst's International Magazine (Jan. 1924), as well as some of Conan Doyle's non-Sherlockian work. Fred Taraba (at Taraba Illustration Art) <www.tarabaillustrationart.com> is advertising Benda's original artwork for a "Tropical Beauty"; Benda also was famous for creating masks, and British Pathé has posted some interesting footage from 1922 showing him and some of his masks at <www.tinyurl.com/pytjjs2>.
17493. And here's what Brad Keefauver had to say at his Sherlock Peoria blog about "Elemental (mi querido Watson)": <www.tinyurl.com/jqo9at6>.
17494. Hayao Miyazaki, who directed the first six episodes of "The Adventures of Sherlock Hound" and went on to a stellar career as one of Japan's greatest animation directors, is coming out of retirement for the third time to direct a new full-length film ("Boro the Caterpillar"), according to a report at Dazed <www.tinyurl.com/gotrck>. The film expected to take five years to complete, and Miyazaki will be 80 years old when it's released. Thanks to Samantha Wolov for spotting the story.
17495. One doesn't often see original artwork for "The Great Mouse Detective" at auction, and when it's available it's usually animation cels; Profiles in History is offering more than 50 production drawings for the film at auction on Dec. 9: it's lot 390 in the catalog at <www.tinyurl.com/nr9wru7>.
17496. There are some new comic-book mini-series: *THE BAKER STREET PECULIARS* (four issues), written by Roger Langridge, from KaBOOM! <www.tinyurl.com/htyj3tb> (Sherlock Holmes is a fictional character, created by Mrs. Hudson, who enlists three children to help her in her detective work); *NICHOLAS MEYER'S THE SEVEN-PER-CENT SOLUTION* (five issues), adapted from his pastiche, from IDW <www.idwpublishing.com>, also available as a graphic novel; *SHERLOCK: A STUDY IN PINK* (five issues), the English version of the Japanese manga series based on the BBC television program, from Titan <www.titan-comics.com>, to be collected as a graphic novel due next year, and with *THE BLIND BANKER* due as a second mini-series; and *MYCROFT HOLMES AND THE APOCALYPSE HANDBOOK* (five issues), written by Kareem Abdul-Jabar as a continuation of his *MYCROFT HOLMES* pastiche, also from Titan, and to be collected as a graphic novel next year. The IDW and Titan mini-series have a variety of multiple covers, which seems to be a growing trend in the world of comics.
17497. Don Hobbs continues to update his "The Galactic Sherlock Holmes"; the latest edition has now with 108 foreign languages (and 9 versions of English in non-Roman alphabets such as Braille and Pitman Shorthand), showing covers in color and with bibliographic details for thousands of entries, on a 4-GB reusable thumb drive (\$15.00 postpaid to the U.S. or \$30.00 elsewhere) from Don at 2100 Elm Creek Lane, Flower Mound, TX 75028.

November 2016 #4

17498. Gary Reed died on Oct. 2. He was a freelance writer and novelist, a radio-show host, a bookstore owner, a convention organizer, a comic-book retailer, and a video-game consultant, and he was best known as the founder and publisher of Caliber Comics, a company that published many Sherlockian comic books and graphic novels.

17499. Go to <www.joyofsocks.com> and search for [sherlock] to find three pairs of imaginative socks with Sherlockian motifs, kindly reported by Ron Lies.
17500. And a bit more about "Elemental (mi querido Watson)": the famous (perhaps infamous) "tent joke" (apparently the joke that will never die) was posted to The Hounds of the Internet in July 1998, and apparently first published in the Nov. 1998 issue of the Reader's Digest. If you'd like to read it in English, you'll find it in a past issue of my newsletter (December 08 #6), which is conveniently available on-line <www.sherlocktron.com/2001.pdf>.
17501. Are there any connections between Holmes and Conan Doyle and current politics in the United States? Yes indeed: "When the other fellow has all the trumps, it saves time to throw down your hand," Holmes said (in "The Mazarin Stone"). And "This is the first fault of our politics, where one party rejoices to break what the other has bound," Conan Doyle suggested (in "Through the Magic Door"). He ran for Parliament for the Border Burghs in 1906, and proclaimed his platform in an election poster that was among the items offered in Christie's auction of the Conan Doyle family archives in 2004 (thanks to Dan Stashower for remembering that the poster was shown in the auction catalog). You'll find a much more readable image of the poster at the web-site of The Red Circle of Washington <www.redcircledc.org>.
17502. The Agra Treasurers have announced their next "Holmes, Doyle, and Friends" conference in Dayton, Ohio, for Mar. 24-25, 2017; there's more information about the festivities at their web-site <www.tinyurl.com/h8v87os>.
17503. John Connolly's "Holmes on the Range: A Tale of the Caxton Private Library & Book Depository" was (deservedly) the lead story in the anthology ECHOES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (August 16 #2); it's also available, along with another (non-Sherlockian) story about the Caxton, in his NIGHT MUSIC: NOCTURES VOLUME 2 (London: Hodder & Stoughton, 2015; 436 pp., £14.99) (New York: Atria/ Emily Bestler, 2015; 464 pp., \$17.00). The other stories in the collection also are excellent, and you can see how versatile Connolly is by visiting his web-site <www.johnconnollybooks.com>.
17504. Yet another comic-book mini-series: SHERLOCK HOLMES: STEAM DETECTIVE (four issues), written by Robby Bevard and David Hutchison, from Antarctic Press <www.antarctic-press.com>, also available as a graphic novel.
17505. President Barack Obama has awarded Kareem Abdul-Jabbar the Presidential Medal of Freedom, saying that "the reason we honor Kareem is more than just a pair of goggles and a skyhook," adding that "he is an American who both illuminates our most basic freedoms and our highest aspirations." He also is the author of the pastiche MYCROFT HOLMES (2015) and this year's comic-book mini-series MYCROFT HOLMES AND THE APOCALYPSE HANDBOOK.

November 2016 #5

17506. Dramatists Play Service has published the (photocopied) script for Jeffrey Hatcher's "Sherlock Holmes and the Ice Palace Murders" (dramatized from the novel by Larry Millett) (\$20.00); the full DPS catalog at <www.dramatists.com> also has older Sherlockian scripts by K. C. Brown, Stephen Dietz, Jeffrey Hatcher, F. Andrew Leslie, John Longenbaugh, Charles Marowitz, and Dennis Rosa.
17507. Goyard of Paris has provided custom-made luggage to celebrities for decades, and one of their many customers was Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, whose "writing trunk" (commissioned in 1925), owned by the Goyard Museum, was exhibited at the Salon Art+Design show in New York this month. Featured in an article in Architectural Digest <www.tinyurl.com/jcjk6fx>, it includes a table, bookcase, typewriter, and storage space. Goyard president Michel Signoles said that Conan Doyle wanted "a custom-made trunk that would enable him to comfortably pursue his writing on his continuous world-wide forays." Goyard has its own interesting web-site at <www.goyard.com>.
17508. Ross Davies reports that the Winterthur Museum has issued a call for papers for a scholarly conference on Mar. 29-30, 2018, on "Images, Copyright, and the Public Domain in the Long Nineteenth Century"; the long nineteenth century (1789-1914, according the entry at Wikipedia) includes the career of Sherlock Holmes. Details at <www.tinyurl.com/h6q7hxz>.
17509. When in Spain: there's a Sherlock Holmes Pub in Málaga, without a web-site but with a Facebook page. Málaga also has a Calle Conan Doyle, as reported some years ago (May 10 #4).
17510. Reported: Therese Oneil's UNMENTIONABLE: THE VICTORIAN LADY'S GUIDE TO SEX, MARRIAGE, AND MANNERS (Boston: Little, Brown, 2016; 307 p., \$25.00) was reviewed by Caitlin Flanagan in the Washington Post (Nov. 6) with the headline "If you're besotted by the Victorian world, beware the era's reality." You can read the review at <www.tinyurl.com/jub7mt5>.
17511. Mattias Boström reports that the British Film Institute has made available a 16-minute silent film from the Wessex Film and Sound Archive: "Arthur Conan Doyle Relaxes with His Family at Windlesham" (1929) includes scenes at Windlesham and other locations such as Egypt, Brisbane and Victoria Falls. The BFI's Facebook page had a 30-second teaser <www.tinyurl.com/zywrbs6>, posted on Nov. 19, and the complete film may still be available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/jyppydv>; if not, you can see the film at the BFI web-site <www.tinyurl.com/zab5zo5>, but only if you're in Britain or have a program such as Hola! that allows you to spoof the BFI into thinking that you're in Britain.
17512. "All of British Literature in 45 Seconds" is an amusing animation spotted by Alexander Orlov at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/gnglxb4>, and it's nice that "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is included; the animation was created by Visit Britain as a promotion to potential Russian tourists (the narration's in Russian, and you can enjoy figuring out what the other books are).

November 2016 #6

17513. Those who have seen enjoyed performances of Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" and "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" have something non-Sherlockian in store: his new play "Robin Hood!" (billed as filled with thrills, romance, and laughs), will have its world premiere at the Old Globe in San Diego, Calif., July 22-Aug. 27, 2017, and it will surely have many of local productions thereafter.
17514. Dan Andriacco's ERIN GO BLOODY (MX Publishing, 2016; 235 pp., \$14.95), the latest in his series about Jeff Cody and Sebastian McCabe, offers more mysteries to solve in Erin, Ohio, where St. Benignus College is now a University and Jeff is now a father; it's an entertaining story with an interesting plot, and there are, as usual, many Canonical echoes. Andriacco has a lively blog at <www.bakerstreetbeat.blogspot.com>.
17515. Also from MX: Daniel D. Victor's THE OUTRAGE AT THE DIOGENES CLUB (2016; 156 pp., \$12.95) is the fourth in his "Sherlock Holmes and the American Literati" series; this mystery involves a meeting with Jack London and the discovery that London's unfinished book THE ASSASSINATION BUREAU, LTD. Was based on a real criminal organization that was thwarted by the efforts of Holmes and Watson. Alan Lance Andersen's THE AFFAIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, BY SAX ROHMER, in two volumes (2016; 154/389 pp., \$14.95/\$21.95) is an interesting approach to pastiche: Rohmer wrote many stories featuring protagonists other than Dr. Fu Manchu, one of them being Paul Harley, found in BAT WING and TALES OF CHINATOWN, and Andersen has turned the stories into entertaining period Sherlockian pastiches.
17516. More from MX: Christopher James' SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE JEWELLER OF FLORENCE (2016, 251 pp., \$14.95) sends Holmes and Watson in pursuit of a lost play by William Shakespeare in a case that involves many crimes as well as a mysterious criminal organization.

17517. Esther M. Friesner's amusing story "The Cat Bell" in the November /December issue of the Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction was inspired by a visit to Gillette Castle, the former home of William Gillette; the story is not Sherlockian, but it will certainly entertain anyone who has enjoyed a tour of the Castle.
17518. Reported: Damien Lewis' THE MINISTRY OF UNGENTLEMANLY WARFARE: HOW CHURCHILL'S SECRET WARRIORS SET EUROPE ABLAZE AND GAVE BIRTH TO MODERN BLACK OPS (New York: Quercus, 2015; 352 pp., \$24.99); a detailed history of the SOE, which had its headquarters in Baker Street (they happily called themselves the Baker Street Irregulars).
17519. "Just opposite the Wigmore Street Office they have taken up the pavement," Holmes said (in "The Sign of the Four"), "and thrown up some earth, which lies in such a way that it is difficult to avoid treading in it in entering. The earth is of this peculiar reddish tint which is found, as far as I know, nowhere else in the neighbourhood. So much is observation. The rest is deduction." GEO Ex Pro has reported <www.tinyurl.com/jysepjh> on a new web-site and smart-phone app for geologists "that brings the pavements and buildings of London to life," and it's a fascinating resource (even if the Wigmore Street Post Office isn't in the data-base).

November 2016 #7

17520. THRICE THE BRINDED CAT HATH MEW'D, by Alan Bradley (New York: Delacorte Press 2016; 326 pp., \$26.00) is the latest title in his award-winning "Flavia de Luce" series, and there are occasional Sherlockian allusions. Bradley was the co-author of MS. HOLMES OF BAKER STREET (2004), and The Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Speaker during the birthday festivities in 2015; his lecture was published in the spring 2015 issue of The Baker Street Journal.
17521. Radio Times has reported (Sept. 26) on the results of a poll asking Britons what their favorite home is, and the winner was Doctor Who's Tardis, with Highclere Castle second, and Southfork Ranch third. 221B Baker Street was eighth, just ahead of Frasier's penthouse <www.tinyurl.com/gn5wfx>.
17522. Reported: Philip Hensher has edited THE PENGUIN BOOK OF THE BRITISH SHORT STORY (London: Penguin, 2015; two volumes, 769/784 pp., £25.00 each), and "Silver Blaze" is one of the stories.
17523. There's a growing number of Sherlockian and Doylean crowd-funding projects that allow people to help fund interesting projects, at web-sites such as Kickstarter and Indiegogo; I confess that I've not paid much attention to them, but it is time I started. David Marcum has edited HOLMES AWAY FROM HOME: ADVENTURES FROM THE GREAT HIATUS (two volumes of new pastiches, and there's more information at <www.tinyurl.com/jubda8x>.
17524. And there's a campaign to fund production of a film of Conan Doyle's "The Disintegration Machine" (the last of his stories about Prof. Challenger); Sterling Van Wagenen (co-founder of the Sundance Film Festival) is executive producer, and Peter C. Davidson the director; there's more information about the project at <www.thedisintegrationmachine.com>.
17525. ELEMENTARY: BLOOD AND INK, by Adam Christopher (London: Titan Books, 2016; 297 pp., \$7.99), is his second novel based on the CBS-TV series that stars Jonny Lee Miller and Lucy Liu, offering a new story with style and panache <www.adamchristopher.ac>.
17526. Howard Ostrom has quite a few data-bases, including his extensive "The A-Z of Sherlock Holmes Performers" where he has information on thousands of actors who have played the role, quite often with images of the actors in an out of character. Howard wonders about Burt Grosselfinger, who may have played Holmes at a theater in (or near) Bridgeport, Conn., possibly around 1975, and Howard would greatly appreciate hearing from anyone who can help <howardostrom@gmail.com>.
17527. Laurie R. King continues to entertain her fans on the Internet: her November News <www.tinyurl.com/hvz9qsm> offers video of her Maryorama (formerly known as Russellscape), news of her next book (a stand-alone thriller LOCKDOWN, due next year), and much more. Her web-site at www.laurierking.com also is colorful and interesting (you can click on "Blogs" to read Laurie's "Mutterings" and "Mary Russell's Blog"), and Laurie has her own channel at YouTube <www.youtube.com/user/laurierking>. Finally, you can hear Laurie and Les Klinger interviewed by Scott Monty and Burt Wolder in episode 105 of their podcast "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" <www.tinyurl.com/jgv6csn>.

November 2016 #8

17528. "We are glad to see, however, that a person who was capable of writing a monograph on 140 different varieties of pipe, cigar, and cigarette ash was still sufficiently human to fail at first in solving the mystery of 'the man with the twisted lip.'" From a review of THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, spotted by Alexander Orlov in the Manchester Guardian (Oct. 25, 1892).
17529. Theatrical news: "Sherlock Holmes: The Adventure of the Copper Beeches" (a new dramatization by Tal Aviezer) is now running at the Lyndhurst Mansion in Tarrytown, N.Y., through Dec. 4 <www.lyndhurst.org>.
17530. Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is on at the Austin Playhouse in Austin, Tex., through Dec. 18 <www.austinplayhouse.com>. It's also due at the Phoenix Theatre in Phoenix, Ariz., Jan. 25 through Feb. 12 <www.phoenixtheatre.com>.
17531. "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (newly dramatized, with a comedy element, by Thomas P. Jordan) is on tour in Britain through Jan. 7 ("four actors, one mystery, no clue") <www.rainorshine.co.uk>.
17532. "Sherlock Holmes et le chiens des Baskerville" (the francophone version of the parody by Steven Canny and John Nicholson) is touring in the province of Quebec through May 19 <www.theatreapp.com>.
17533. William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" is scheduled at the Bridewell Theatre in London, Dec. 13-17 <www.towertheatre.org.uk/sherlock_holmes.htm>.
17534. Steven Canny and John Nicholson's comedy "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is to be performed at the Jack Studio Theatre in London, Dec. 13-Jan. 7; web-site at <www.brockleyjack.co.uk>. And during the Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival at DeSales University's Labuda Center in Center Valley, Pa., June 21-July 16 <www.pashakespeare.org>.
17535. "The Terrible Case of Sherlock Holmes: The Excruciating Affair of the Ivy House Academy" (a new play by Darren Gooding) will open at the Colchester Arts Centre in Colchester, Essex, on Dec. 15, and then go on tour in Britain <www.ihearvoicestheatre.co.uk>.
17536. Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot" will be performed at the Hinton Centre in Hinton, Alta., Jan. 13-21, 2017 <www.breakalegtheatre.com>, and at the Performing Arts Theatre at Bossier Parish Community College in Bossier City, La., Mar. 9-19 <www.bpcc.edu/theatre>.
17537. "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of Scrooge's Ghoulies" (which sounds like a holiday panto) is to be performed at the Saxby All Saints Village Hall in Brigg, N. Lincs., Jan. 21-22 <www.tinyurl.com/hbnm567>.
17538. "The Baker Street Irregulars" (written by Flip Kobler and Cindy Marcus) is to be performed at the First Presbyterian Day School in Macon, Ga., on Jan. 26-27 <www.fpdtheatre.org>.

December 2016 #1

17539. Coming to auction on Jan. 11 at the Doyle auction house in New York: a model of the Arctic Whale Ship Hope, fully rigged, built to a scale of 1:96 by Lt. Col. Colin B. Gray, a descendant of the Gray whaling family of Peterhead, Scotland <www.tinyurl.com/z2dvulk>. It was in 1880 that Conan Doyle sailed on the Hope as ship's surgeon, keeping the journal published as DANGEROUS WORK: DIARY OF AN ARCTIC ADVENTURE (2012). The model, estimated at \$4,000-\$6,000, is from the collection of Nelson Doubleday Jr., grandson of Frank Nelson Doubleday, whose company published many of Conan Doyle's books in the U.S., and hired, as a publicist and publisher's reader, a young Oxford graduate named Christopher Morley, launching his literary career.
17540. Michael Dirda had high praise for IT'S ALL ONE CASE: THE ILLUSTRATED ROSS MACDONALD ARCHIVES in his Washington Post review www.tinyurl.com/jpckrxx of the new book about Kenneth Millar (MacDonald's real name). There's no mention in the book of his first published story "The South Sea Soup Co." (a parody featuring Herlock Sholmes and Sotwum) in his school yearbook The Grumbler (1931), but there's a photograph of the yearbook staff.
17541. The British Library offers much more than books: their adult learning courses will include a "Crime Classics Weekend" on Jan. 21-22, billed as offering participants to see rare publications and manuscript material, including the manuscript of "The Retired Colourman" <www.tinyurl.com/jq2ws4o>.
17542. Next year's Crowborough Community Festival will run from May 1 to May 27, and will begin with "The Lost World Fun Day" (which will include a "Dinosaur Roar Children's Workshop"), and the list of events later in the month features two performances of "Beyond Baker Street" (an "immersive theatrical experience" that will offer audiences an exploration of Conan Doyle's life and works <www.crowboroughcommunityfestival.org>. Festival chairman Denis Hart has promised that Sherlock Holmes also will be making several appearances during the festival.
17543. The Strand Magazine (the modern version edited by Andrew Gulli) continues to publish quarterly, and its on-line shop offers a variety of Sherlockian merchandise, including a full-color Sherlock Holmes wall calendar for 2017 (\$19.99) <www.strandmagazine.com/product/sherlock-holmes-calendar-2017>.
17544. THE BIG BOOK OF JACK THE RIPPER, edited by Otto Penzler (New York: Vintage Crime/Black Lizard, 2016; 825 pp., \$25.00), is billed as "the most complete compendium of Ripper stories ever assembled," and its contents include Ellery Queen's A STUDY IN TERROR (their revised novelization of the 1965 film that starred John Neville and Donald Houston), Howard Waldrop's "The Adventure of the Grinder's Whistle", and Gwendolyn Frame's "Guardian Angel".
17545. Mike Ashley's ADVENTURES IN THE STRAND: ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE AND THE STRAND MAGAZINE (London: British Library, 2016; 188 pp., £25.00) is a delightful addition to anyone's shelf of biographies of Conan Doyle; Ashley uses his expertise in the history of popular fiction to provide a new focus for an exploration of Conan Doyle that centers on the magazine founded by George Newnes and edited by H. Greenhough Smith, but not to the exclusion of the many other aspects of Conan Doyle's life and work.

December 2016 #2

17546. Donald A. McDonough ("Bodmaster McGinty") died on Nov. 26. He began his career in journalism operating a newsstand in Philadelphia and then landed a job as a copyboy at the Inquirer, and became an award-winning reporter and columnist for the paper before moving into public relations. He was a stalwart member of The Sons of the Copper Beeches, and received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1976.
17547. The BBC has done a grand job with teasers, trailers, and other publicity for the next season of "Sherlock" (which will be broadcast in the U.K. and the U.S. on New Year's Day), and it isn't a surprise that there's an addition to the cast, and to the Watson family, all three of whom are seen, with Sherlock Holmes, in a warm and cuddly portrait.
17548. The BBC's publicity campaign for "Sherlock" included an announcement of the name of the Watson baby in the register of births, marriages, and deaths in The Telegraph on Dec. 12 <www.tinyurl.com/ho9gtmz>: "Congratulations!—To John and Mary Watson on the birth of their beautiful baby daughter, Rosamund Mary Watson. From your friends, Mrs. Hudson, Molly, and Sherlock, although he hasn't helped us with this at all as he's always on his phone."
17549. Netimperative, which offers "digital intelligence for business, reported on Dec. 15 on research by eBay Advertising that reveals the huge impact that television broadcasts have on shopper behavior: the day after "The Abominable Bride" aired last January interest in deerstalkers rose by 55% on eBay, and searches for tweed items were up by 35%.
17550. "Sherlock: The Final Problem" (the third and last episode in the new season) will be screened in theaters in the U.S. on Jan. 16 and 18; details at <www.fathomevents.com/event/sherlock-season-4-finale>. There will be additional content (as was the case when "Sherlock: The Abominable Bride" had a similar screening in theaters); it should be noted that the additional content in the earlier theatrical screening was included in the DVD release, so it's likely that that will happen again.
17551. "Masterpiece" is running a sweepstakes through Mar. 15; you can enter once a day <www.pbs.org/sweepstakes>, and one of the prizes will be a cast-autographed copy of the script for "The Abominable Bride". There's also a Podcast & Book Club <www.tinyurl.com/gvnofce> that features podcasts by Louise Brealy and (upcoming) Amanda Abbington and Martin Freeman.
17552. Proceedings of the Pondicherry Lodge is the semi-annual electronic newsletter edited by Jayantika Ganguly for The Sherlock Holmes Society of India; it's now in its fourth year, and it's an excellent example of what can be done with modern technology: the current issue (with 94 colorful pages) is available on request from the editor <ruling_jay@yahoo.com>. An interesting item reported in the newsletter is Sherlockoji (a Sherlock emoji app), something that surely will be useful to those who enjoy decorating messages with emoji. It was developed by Meghashyam Chirravoori, and it's available at his SherlockHolmes-Fan web-site <www.tinyurl.com/zrubfek>. If you don't know what emoji are, they're defined at Wikipedia as ideograms and smileys used in electronic messages and web-pages. Those who don't understand that should consult with your grandkids.

December 2016 #3

17553. Jonathan Clowes died on Nov. 18. He was a successful (and colorful) literary agent, and there was an excellent obituary for him in The Guardian <www.tinyurl.com/jzfay9v>. Clowes represented Princess Nina Mdivani, widow of Denis Conan Doyle, when she acquired the Conan Doyle copyright and created Baskerville Investments Ltd. in the 1970s; his firm's still listed as the agent at the web-site <www.tinyurl.com/gs5pu9m> of the late Andrea Plunket.
17554. "Back to my love" is the title on the back of this oil-on-masonite artwork, dated as mid-20th century, sold at auction in November to Jerry Margolin, who would appreciate hearing from anyone who might be able to identify the artist, and whether and when and where the artwork was used as an illustration in a book or magazine <221bee@comcast.net>.

17555. The Washington Consumer's Checkbook had an interesting item in August 2013 explaining how to "eRead for Free" <www.tinyurl.com/j6ombba>: the options include web-sites such as ManyBooks, Open Library, and Project Gutenberg, all of which offer much more than the text of the Canon. Search for [sherlock holmes] and [conan doyle]; you'll find surprises, old and new, among the results.
17556. Fritz Weaver died on Nov. 26. He received a Tony nomination for his Broadway debut in "The Chalk Garden" (1955), and later said that "the stage is where I began." He went on to play many roles on stage and in films and on television, and starred as Sherlock Holmes in the musical "Baker Street" in 1964. He also read the part of Conan Doyle in a staged reading of Attilio Favorini's "Bones" (described as "a post-modern suspense drama based on the events of the Piltdown Man hoax") in Pittsburgh in 1986.
17557. SHERLOCK HOLMES FOR LAWYERS, by Cecil C. Kuhne III (Chicago: American Bar Association, 2016; 101 pp., \$14.95), offers "100 clues for litigators from the master detective," quotes from the Canon (and some non-Canonical work) with explanations of how the concepts can be quite useful to lawyers (and often to non-lawyers).
17558. "In the summer of 1879, an English medical student named Arthur Conan Doyle began experimenting," Jeffrey E. Stern noted in a long article ("The Poison Flower") in the Jan./Feb. issue of The Atlantic <www.tinyurl.com/zayzmv3>. The poison was gelsemium, a rare plant poison that Conan Doyle wrote about in the British Medical Journal, and Stern's article is about the possible use of the poison to murder Russian tycoon Alexander Perepilichny in England in 2012 (May 15 #4).
17559. "It begins in a musical theater, almost Rex Harrison kind of way, and then it turns into a full-on '70s pop/soft rock love extravaganza, with an operatic interlude in the middle," is lyricist Glen Slater's description of the same-sex love song he and composer Alan Menken have written for Will Ferrell and John C. Reilly, who are now at work filming "Holmes & Watson". A second song in the film, according to Menken, will be a "a tongue-in-cheek busker by a one-man band. Menken and Slater were interviewed by the Hollywood Reporter <www.tinyurl.com/hz9jdxr>. And the film's actually in production, at the Historic Dockyard at Chatham, and in London).

December 2016 #4

17560. Andrew Sachs died on Nov. 23. Best known as Manuel, the Spanish waiter, in the British television series "Fawlty Towers", he had a long career as an actor, on stage, screen, radio, and television. Sachs provided one of the best examples of how radio work doesn't depend on the physical appearance of an actor, portraying the King of Bohemia in "A Scandal in Bohemia" (dramatized by Bert Coules for BBC Radio 4 in 1990) and Dr. Watson in "The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (Coules' dramatization of unrecorded cases for BBC Radio 4 from 2002 to 2010).
17561. Basil Rathbone was asked in an interview whether he preferred playing Sherlock Holmes in films or on the radio. "On the radio," he replied, "because no one knows what you look like."
17562. Litographs demonstrated the wonders of modern technology with an artistic design created from the text of THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (May 13 #6), and Bev Wolov notes something new in that genre: BOUNDLESS BOOKS: 50 LITERARY CLASSICS TRANSFORMED INTO WORKS OF ART, by Postertext (San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2016; 128 pp., \$40.00), with an imaginative Sherlockian design using the text of A STUDY IN SCARLET (also on the cover).
17563. "Dr. A. Conan Doyle in His Tent at Bloemfontein, South Africa" is the title of this stereograph held by the Library of Congress; special viewers allowed people to see the images in 3D, and this image is available on-line at <www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2016645958>.
17564. Jerry Margolin is offering to sell some of the artwork from his collection; you can e-mail him <221bee@comcast.net> to request images and details.
17565. Judith Freeman's useful index to The Serpentine Muse (published by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes since 1975) is available from her by e-mail as an Excel spreadsheet <judith-freeman@hotmail.com>, and the ASH web-site <www.ash-nyc.com> has information on subscribing to the Muse (back issues are unfortunately not available).
17566. "The Great Big Beautiful Podcast" is a continuing series hosted at GeekDad; episode 105 (Nov. 29) offers an interesting interview with Nicholas Meyer <www.geekdad.com/2016/11/gbbp-105-nicholas-meyer> that includes discussion of "The Seven-Per-Cent Solution".
17567. Peter Vaughan died on Dec. 6. He was a consummate character actor, and began his career on stage in Britain; he then appeared mostly on television and was most recently seen as Maester Aemon Targaryen in the series "Game of Thrones". He was seen as Arthur Morrison's detective Horace Dorrington in two episodes of "The Rivals of Sherlock Holmes" (1971), and John Turner in Granada's "The Boscombe Valley Mystery" (1991).
17568. The Penguin English Library, relaunched as offering "100 of the best novels in the English language" in attractive new covers and priced at £5.99 (December 12 #3) now includes seven Canonical titles: THE FIVE ORANGE PIPS AND OTHER CASES, THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, A STUDY IN SCARLET, THE SIGN OF FOUR, THE VALLEY OF FEAR, THE ADVENTURE OF THE ENGINEER'S THUMB AND OTHER CASES, and THE ADVENTURE OF THE SIX NAPOLEONS AND OTHER CASES.

December 2016 #5

17569. Ray Betzner's new post to his "Studies in Starrett" blog about Ellery Queen's four-page review in the Jan. 1934 issue of Mystery League of Vincent Starrett's THE PRIVATE LIFE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES. And it's an interesting review, because it discusses in considerable detail the "inadequacies" in Starrett's book (and nevertheless ends with hearty praise for the work that Starrett did <www.vincentstarrett.com>.
17570. The question "what's your favorite Sherlock Holmes story?" has a long history, and now there's a definitive answer: Christopher Redmond asked sixty Sherlockians to write essays answering that question and explaining their answers, for each of the stories. ABOUT SIXTY (Rockville: Wildside, 2016; 250 pp., \$14.99) has sixty-one (yes, sixty-one) interesting responses, and it's nicely done indeed.
17571. Mattias Boström has discovered an interesting deerstalker in an illustration for a Sherlock Holmes story, in an advertisement in the Butler Citizen (Feb. 28, 1895). "But wait," Mattias notes, "it's Jonathan Small wearing it." The paper was published in Butler, Pa., at a time when many newspapers carried popular fiction.
17572. Mark Hime's Bibliotopus offers delightful treasures for collectors at a web-site and in catalogs "with an attitude" in which items are "described with a presumption of familiarity, and in our unruly, bawdy, and quixotic style, many with rants and assaults from the scrolls of book collecting." Such as "a run of all the Holmes stories in The Strand Magazine" (56 short stories and 2 novels in single issues of the magazine), offered at \$85,000 <www.tinyurl.com/hw97xx6>.
17573. The Bookseller reported on Dec. 15 www.tinyurl.com/harsnka that Hodder & Stoughton has acquired H. B. Lyle's novel THE IRREGULAR: A DIFFERENT CLASS OF SPY for publication in May; it is set in London in 1909, and Wiggins, now an ex-soldier, is persuaded to join the Secret Service. And the novel has been acquired by See-Saw Films for development as a TV series; See-Saw has some major co-production credits, including "The King's Speech" (2010) and Ian McKellen's "Mr. Holmes" (2015).

17574. Sherlockian.Net, launched in 1994 by Chris Redmond, has long been a truly valuable resource for Internet-savvy Sherlockians, and Chris has now turned the web-site over to new owners and editors: the Center for Writing, Information, and Digital Experience, a research center at Michigan State University, as announced at his own web-site <www.tinyurl.com/hgtmv3h>.
17575. KILLING DR. WATSON, by Matt Ferraz (London: MX Publishing, 2016; 245 pp., \$14.95), offers an imaginative concept: someone is murdering the actors who played Watson in the BBC television series "The Baker Street Sleuth", and Jeremy Bellamy, an ardent fan of the series, winds up assisting Sir Barthomew Neville (who played Holmes) in pursuing the murderer. Viktor Messick's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND A HOLE IN THE DEVIL'S TALE (2016; 130 pp., \$9.95) has Holmes and Watson in London in the 1890s, investigating a series of murders committed by the Tarot Master.

December 2016 #6

17576. Bernard Fox died on Dec. 14. He started his acting career in British repertory theater and went on to many supporting roles on screen and in television. Best known as Colonel Crittenden in "Hogan's Heroes" (1965) and Dr. Bombay in "Bewitched" (1967), he also played Dr. Watson in Stewart Granger's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1972).
17577. Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is due at the Edison Theatre in Mammoth Lakes, Calif, Feb. 9-12, 2017 <www.edisontheatre.org>; at the PBK Memorial Hall at William & Mary in Williamsburg, Va., Apr. 20-23 <www.events.wm.edu>; at the Playhouse in the Park in Cincinnati, Ohio, Apr. 22 to May 20 <www.cincyplay.com>; at the Hanesbrands Theatre in Winston-Salem, N.C., June 2-11 <www.twincitystage.org>; at the Pioneer Playhouse in Danville, Ky., July 25-Aug. 5 <www.pionerplayhouse.com>; and at the Oregon Cabaret Theatre in Ashland, Ore., Sept. 14-Nov. 5 <www.oregoncabaret.com>.
17578. "The Devil's Acre: A Sherlock Holmes/Jekyll and Hyde Mystery" (a new play by John Martin) will be performed during the Adelaide Fringe Festival, Feb. 25-Mar. 11 <www.adelaidefringe.com.au>.
17579. Geoffrey Sherman's new play "Sherlock Holmes" is due at the State Theatre in Montgomery, Ala., Mar. 9-May 7 <www.asf.net>.
17580. John K. Alvarez's new play "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Discarded Woman" will be performed during the "Sherlock Holmes Weekend" in Cape May, N.J., Mar. 17-19 <www.tinyurl.com/h7syt4h>. The weekend event is arranged by the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts & Humanities, and includes a Search for Clues on Mar. 18.
17581. The American Lyric Theater has scheduled "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Fallen Giant" (a new opera by composer Evan Meier and librettist E. M. Lewis) at the Merkin Concert Hall in the Kaufman Music Center in New York on Mar. 26 <www.altnyc.org>.
17582. The Arizona Theatre Company will present the premiere of Jeffrey Hatcher's "Holmes and Watson" from Apr. 15 to May 6 in Tucson, and May 11-28 in Phoenix <www.arizonatheatre.org>; Watson takes on the case of Sherlock Holmes' supposed death. Hatcher wrote the plays "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club" (2011) and "Sherlock Holmes and the Ice Palace Murders" (2015), and the screenplay for the film "Mr. Holmes" (2015), and he was the distinguished lecturer at the Sherlockian birthday festivities in New York last January.
17583. "Sherlock Holmes and the West End Horror" (dramatized from Nicholas Meyer's novel by Anthony and Marcia Milgrom Dodge) will be performed at Rover Dramawerks in Plano, Tex., Oct. 26-Nov. 18 <www.roverdramawerks.com>.
17584. The February issue of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine continues a long annual tradition of honoring Sherlock Holmes' birthday, offering Sherlockian artwork on the cover, pastiches by Terence Faherty and Jonathan Turner, and reviews by Steve Steinbock of new Sherlockian books.

January 2017 #1

17585. Sherlockians (and Holmesians) gathered in New York to celebrate the Great Detective's 163rd birthday during the long weekend from Jan. 4 to Jan. 8. The festivities began with the traditional ASH Wednesday dinner sponsored by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes at Annie Moore's, and continued with the Christopher Morley Walk led by Jim Cox and Dore Nash on Thursday morning, followed by the usual lunch at McSorley's).
17586. The Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Speaker on Thursday evening was Sara Paretsky, author of the continuing series of novels about private eye V. I. Warshawski; her lecture was about Victorian women crime writers, and it will be published in The Baker Street Journal. This year the event was held at the Yale Club, a convenient venue that offered room for an audience of more than 200.
17587. The William Gillette Luncheon at Connolly's was well attended, as always, and the Friends of Bogie's at Baker Street entertained the audience with an updated look at Sherlock Holmes' encounters with the telephone. The luncheon also was the occasion for Al Gregory's presentation of the annual January WHIMSEY Award (named in memory of his wife January Stauber), which honors the most whimsical piece in The Serpentine Muse last year: the winner was Bob Stek, who received both a certificate and a check for the Canonical sum of \$221.17. And Otto Penzler's traditional open house at the Mysterious Bookshop provided the usual opportunities to browse and buy.
17588. The Irregulars and their guests gathered for the BSI annual dinner at the Yale Club, where Al Rosenblatt proposed the traditional pre-prandial first toast to Nancy Boote as The Woman. The annual-dinner agenda featured Steve Rothman's discussion of "Why January 6th?", the traditional BSI toasts and rituals, an imaginative performance (inspired by Rex Stout's classic suggestion that "Watson Was a Women") by Sarah Montague, Paul Singleton, and Andrew Joffe, and a Shakespearean explication by Tim Greer.
17589. Mike Whelan (the BSI's "Wiggins") presented Steve Rothman with an engraved crystal Milestone Award, honoring him as the longest serving editor of The Baker Street Journal, and made a Two-Shilling Award to Ben Vizoskie. This year's Birthday Honours (Irregular Shillings and Investitures) were awarded to Ross Davies ("The Temple"), Tamar Zeffren ("The London Library"), Chris Zordan ("Bunsen Burner"), Charles Blanksteen ("Cavendish Square"), Bonnie MacBird ("Art in the Blood"), Michael Quigley ("A Large Brass-Bound Safe"), and Charles Prepolec ("The Man with the Twisted Lip"). And near the end of the evening Mike Whelan received a Golden Sovereign from the Baker Street Irregulars, honoring his twenty as the leader of the society.
17590. An enthusiastic crowd attended this year's Gaslight Gala at Annie Moore's, where the agenda included traditional (and untraditional) toasts, quizzes, songs, dramatic readings, and much much more.
17591. Some of the more fervent (or perhaps hard core) Sherlockians gathered after the dinners at O'Lunney's Irish Pub to honor long-standing traditions such as staying until at least 2:21; another tradition calls for newly-Investitured Irregulars to buy a round of tequila shots.

January 2017 #2

17592. On Saturday morning Covent Garden West (the dealers room at the Roosevelt Hotel) welcomed sellers and buyers, and authors and editors delighted to inscribe or sign their books. The Beacon Society held its annual meeting, and the Junior Bloodstain of The Clients of Adrian Mulliner featured a performance of Headon Hill's "The Tenth Green" (edited by George Vanderburgh and Carol Cavalluzzi, and adapted by Bill Hyder).
17593. The BSI's Saturday-afternoon reception at the Yale Club offered entertainment, conversation, wining, and dining; Bill Mason was honored as the winner of the Morley-Montgomery Award (a check and an attractive certificate) for the best contribution to The Baker Street Journal in 2016. The

John H. Watson Fund benefited from energetic sales of tickets for the raffle prize (jewelry from "A Study in Scarlet" created by Maggie Schpak), and an auction of attractive donations to the Fund.

17594. The main Saturday-evening event was the annual "Very Irregular Lost in New York with a Bunch of Sherlockians" dinner arranged by Chrys Kegley and The Curious Collectors of Baker Street at O'Lunney's Times Square Pub, with 54 on hand for the festivities, and on Sunday morning a goodly crowd gathered at the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes' brunch at the Churchill Tavern.
17595. A final note for those who want to plan ahead: The Baker Street Irregulars' next annual dinner will be held on Jan. 12, 2018. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London's annual dinner likely will be on Jan. 6, 2018.
17596. I've not reported on everything, I hasten to add; there will be much more detailed reports in the spring issue of The Baker Street Journal. The BSJ appears quarterly, and subscriptions (four issues plus the Christmas Annual) cost \$41.95 (to the U.S.) or \$55.00 (elsewhere); you can pay by check sent to the BSJ (Box 583, Zionsville, IN 46077), or by credit card or PayPal at the BSJ web-site at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>, which has interesting features such as articles from recent issues of the BSJ, some of the papers written by winners of the Morley-Montgomery Awards, and information on the BSI's other publications and activities.
17597. Al Gregory <gaslightandfog@verizon.net> offers (via e-mail) his 2017 edition of "The ABC of the BSI" (an alphabetical listing of Investitures, with recipients, from "Abbey Grange" to "Young Stamford") and "The Florin Society" (couples in which both spouses have received Irregular Shillings).
17598. DANCING TO DEATH is the latest volume in the Baker Street Irregulars Manuscript Series (2016; 234 pp., \$39.95); edited by Ray Betzner and David F. Morrill, it features a facsimile of the original manuscript of "The Dancing Men", an annotated transcript, interesting commentary on the manuscript and on the story, and a nice surprise if you carefully remove the dust jacket to inspect the cloth binding. Details on the book, including the table of contents are available at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>.
17599. Also from the BSI: CANADA AND SHERLOCK HOLMES, edited by Peter Calamai and Mark Alberstat (2016; 232 pp., \$39.95); the sixth volume in the BSI's International Series offers a splendid selection of scholarly, whimsical, artistic, poetical, and musical contributions from a country that Conan Doyle happily visited four times.

January 2017 #3

17600. Researchers at Ancestry have reported that Benedict Cumberbatch and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle are related: they are 16th cousins, twice removed, and their common ancestor was John of Gaunt, the 1st Duke of Lancaster and fourth son of King Edward III (who ruled from 1327 to 1377). John of Gaunt had that name not because he was thin, but rather because he was born in Ghent (when people didn't spell as well as they do now). His oldest son and heir was Henry Bolingbroke, who overthrew King Richard II to become King Henry IV. Ancestry <www.ancestry.com> is a useful web-site for anyone who is pursuing ancestors.
17601. The first episode of the new season of "Sherlock" was the most-watched television program in Britain on New Year's Day, with 8.1 million viewers and a 32.8% share of the viewing audience, according to the Guardian. And the show was the second most popular program of the holiday period, beaten only by the New Year's Eve countdown and midnight fireworks.
17602. Season 4 of "Sherlock" has aired, and you either watched it or you didn't, and if you did watch, you either enjoyed it or you didn't, and you may or may not be waiting for the next season, but in the meantime you may want to look for "The Mrs. Hudson Adventures Annual 2017"; the cover was created by Andrew-Mark Thompson, who describes himself as a 51-year-old former teenager based in the city of Derby. His principal interest is in Doctor Who <www.andydrewz64.blogspot.com>.
17603. And it should be noted that presidential candidates aren't the only targets of Russian hackers: the final episode of the fourth season was uploaded to the Internet 24 hours before it was broadcast by the BBC. Series producer Sue Vertue tweeted that the leak had come from Russia, and asked fans not to share it.
17604. Needless to say, the BBC Shop <www.shop.bbc.com> offers the series on DVD and Blu-ray, along with other merchandise that includes a Sherlock Holmes desk magnifier, a deerstalker in grey tweed, and a Sherlock Holmes infinity book scarf with text from "The Hound of the Baskervilles".
17605. The classic "crime green" cover of the Penguin edition of THE CASE-BOOK OF SHERLOCK HOLMES also is available as an umbrella (£14.99), a mug (£8.99), a tote bag (£12.95), and a notebook (£8.99), at British bookstores and at the Penguin web-site <https://shop.penguin.co.uk/search?q=sherlock+holmes>.
17606. VisitEngland has declared 2017 the "Year of Literary Heroes," celebrating "some of the publishing phenomena that have helped put England on the map." One of the heroes is Sherlock Holmes, and VisitEngland has noted that this year is the 125th anniversary of the publication of THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES <www.tinyurl.com/god27gp>.
17607. Don "Duck" Edwing died on Dec. 26. He was a gag cartoonist for Mad Magazine from 1962 to 2012. He used a duck as his signature and had duck calls on his answering machine (his wife Claire was known as Cluck Edwing), and his "The Adventures of Headlock Holmes" appeared in DUCK EDWING'S MADVENTURES OF ALMOST SUPERHEROES (1990), and "The Adventures of Shirley Holmes (Headlock Holmes' Ugly Sister)" in MAD'S CREATURE PRESENTATION (1993).

January 2017 #4

17608. The Detection Club, founded in London in 1930, has honored Peter Lovesey (its current president) with MOTIVES FOR MURDER, an anthology of new stories written by its members, edited by Martin Edwards (London: Sphere, 2016; 416 pp., £9.99) (Norfolk: Crippen & Landru, 317 pp., \$19.00); the American edition also is available cloth-bound and signed by Lovesey and Edwards (\$45.00) <www.crippenandlandru.com>. The stories are nicely done, and they include David Stuart Davies' pastiche "The Adventure of the Marie Antoinette Necklace: A Case for Sherlock Holmes".
17609. "I hear of Sherlock everywhere," including South Australia, noted by Howard Ostrom <www.tinyurl.com/gpedrtb>. The Hundred of Sherlock was proclaimed in 1899 and named after one of South Australia governor Sir Thomas Foxwell Buxton's friends.
17610. Mitch Higurashi has been busy making sure that Japanese readers have access to Sherlockiana: he has translated David Marcum's THE MX BOOK OF NEW SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES (Hara Shobo, 2016); David Stuart Davies' THE SHERLOCK HOLMES BOOKS (Sanseido, 2016); Bonnie MacBird's ART IN THE BLOOD (HarperCollins Japan, 2015); Daniel Smith's THE SHERLOCK HOLMES COMPANION (Kokusho Kankokai, 2016); THE SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES OF EDWARD D. HOCH (Hara Shobo, 2012); Carole Nelson Douglas' GOOD MORNING, IRENE (Tokyo Sogensha, 2013); Maurice Leblanc's ARSENE LUPIN CONTRE HERLOCK SHOLMES: LA DAME BLONDE (Kodansha, 2014); Alex Werner's SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE MAN WHO NEVER LIVED AND WILL NEVER DIE [the catalog of the exhibition at the Museum of London] (Hara Shobo, 2016); and Maria Konnikova's MASTERMIND (Hayakawa Shobo, 2016).
17611. And there's more from Japan: NHK PUPPET ENTERTAINMENT SHERLOCK HOLMES FAN BOOK (Shogakukan, 2014) and NHK PUPPET ENTERTAINMENT SHERLOCK HOLMES MEMORIAL BOOK (Shogakukan, 2015) [tie-ins for Koki Mitani's delightful television puppet series]; and (last

but certainly not least) Mitch's own essays SHERLOCKIAN HONYAKUKA SAISHO NO AISATSU [THE FIRST BOW BY A JAPANESE TRANSLATOR] (Hara Shobo, 2013).

17612. "Fog and Ribbon" promises "A Lovely Time for Bibliophiles" at both their shop in Tokyo and on-line <www.kiri-to-ribbon.com>, and there are three teas in their "An Ode to Sherlock Holmes" offers: attractive packages of "Mycroft at the Diogenes Club", "Mrs. Hudson Breakfast" and "Moriarty London". There also are "Three to One, However" and "Earl Grey Good and Noble" (honoring Jerome K. Jerome's "Three Men in a Boat").
17613. A bit of history about Naval Support Facility Thurmont, the official name for the military installation that's now called as Camp David. First known as Camp Hi-Catoctin, it was built by the Civilian Construction Corps as a camp for federal government agents and their families (construction started in 1938 and was completed in 1938). Warren Randall has noted that Douglas Brinkley, in his new RIGHTFUL HERITAGE: FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT AND THE LAND OF AMERICA (2016), reports that when FDR first visited Hi-Catoctin, he exclaimed, "This is a Shangri-La." FDR was a Sherlockian, and eventually an honorary member of The Baker Street Irregulars, and it amused him to have his Secret Service agents at his presidential retreat living in cabins on Baker Street, as you can see on the official map of Shangri-La, first published in Life magazine on Oct. 15, 1945.
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January 2017 #5

17614. Watson's Tin Box will host the tenth "Scintillation of Scions" on June 9-10, at the Sheraton Baltimore-Washington Airport. It is an entertaining gathering of both local and far-flung Sherlockians, with a fine list of speakers <www.tinyurl.com/grzllu>, and registration is now open; the event sells out early and you're advised not to wait to reserve.
17615. The conference of The Reichenbach Irregulars ("Reichenbach and Beyond: The Final Problem Revisited") will be held in Hasliberg-Reuti (near Meiringen in Switzerland, Aug. 31-Sept. 3 <www.221b.ch>), and it will be followed by Uno Studio in Holmes' conference ("Another Week Later") in Florence, Italy, Sept. 8-10 <www.unostudioinholmes.org>; previous conferences by both societies have been thoroughly enjoyable, and this year they are commemorating the beginning of The Great Hiatus.
17616. Paul D. Herbert's UNMITIGATED BLEAT: SELECTED WRITINGS ON SHERLOCK HOLMES (Indianapolis: Gasogene Books, 2017; 221 pp., \$19.95) is a welcome collection of the work of a long-time Sherlockian (his first article appeared in The Baker Street Journal in 1974); Paul's interests and research have been varied indeed, and the results are both insightful and entertaining. Gasogene is at <www.gasogenebooks.com>.
17617. Also from Gasogene: SHERLOCK HOLMES AND CONAN DOYLE IN THE NEWSPAPERS, VOLUME 3, JULY-DECEMBER 1893, edited and annotated by Mattias Boström and Matt Laffey (2017; 226 pp., \$32.95); it's often suggested that journalism is the first rough draft of history, and this new volume in the series offers an excellent look at what was being said about Holmes and Conan Doyle in newspapers and magazines (in her perceptive introduction, Anastasia Klimchynskaya notes that they were the mass media in Victorian times, much like the Internet today).
17618. CBC News British Columbia has reported that a group of amateur filmmakers are planning a movie in western Canada that will dramatize Stephen King's pastiche "The Doctor's Case" (published in THE NEW ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES in 1988 and reprinted in his NIGHTMARE AND DREAMSCAPES in 1993); the story is at <www.tinyurl.com/hyowhvt>.
17619. The Conan Doyle Estate Ltd. has launched a new web-site promoting its new "legacy brand" www.conandoyleestate.com
17620. "Clever Criminals and Daring Detectives" is the title of the next exhibition at the Rosenbach in Philadelphia <www.tinyurl.com/zwr8zxe> from Apr. 8 to Sept. 1. The treasures on display will include the manuscript of "The Empty House" and Ellery Queen's thoughts on collecting detective fiction, and everyone is invited to "A Sherlock Holmes Rosenbachanal" at the Rittenhouse Hotel on May 1 <www.tinyurl.com/hyq3w26> (the event is the Rosenbach's annual gala); Dan Stashower will be the guest speaker, and single tickets are available for \$500 each).
17621. The Mystery Writers of America have announced the nominees for this year's Edgar awards, and they include "Sherlock: The Abominable Bride" (best television episode/teleplay) and Lyndsay Faye's (non-Sherlockian) JANE STEELE (best novel); winners will be announced at the MWA Gala Banquet in New York on Apr. 17.
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January 2017 #6

17622. LE DÉTECTIVE DÉTRAQUÉ, OU LES MÉSAVENTURES DE SHERLOCK HOLMES (Paris: Éditions Baker Street, 2016; 286 pp., €18.00) is a nice anthology, edited by Cynthia Liebow and dedicated to her father Ely Liebow, offering pastiches and parodies that were published from 1892 to 2012, in English (now translated) or in French. She also has published L'AFFAIRE DE LA BELLE ÉVAPORÉE (2016; 336 pp., €21.00), a translation of J. J. Murphy's A FRIENDLY GAME OF MURDER (June 13 #4), a title in her "Algonquin Round Table Mysteries" series that features Dorothy Parker, Arthur Conan Doyle, and many others. Her web-site's at <www.editionsbakerstreet.com>.
17623. As usual, some theatrical news: William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" is being performed at the Heritage Center Theatre in Morrisville, Pa., through Feb. 5 <www.actorsnetbucks.org>.
17624. The Cascade Theatre's production of Ken Ludwig's comedy "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" is running at the Riverfront Playhouse in Redding, Calif., through Feb. 11 <www.cascadetheatre.org>. And the Somerset Valley Players' production is running at the Somerset Valley Playhouse in Hillsborough, N.J. through Feb. 12 <www.svptheatre.org>.
17625. Gayle Stahlhuth's radio-theater dramatization of "Sherlock Holmes: Adventure of the Red-Headed League" will be performed by the East Lynne Theater Company at the First Presbyterian Church in Cape May, N.J., on Mar. 17-18 <www.eastlynnetheater.org>.
17626. Greg Ruby reports that The Numismatic Friends of Sherlock Holmes will hold dinner meetings this year, at the National Money Show in Orlando, on Mar. 10 and at the World's Fair of Money in Denver on Aug. 2. Details available at the web-site of The Fourth Garrideb www.fourthgarrideb.com
17627. The Beacon Society offers annual January Stauber grants of up to \$500 to fund development of programs that introduce young people to Sherlock Holmes in the U.S. and Canada; the deadline for grant applications is May 1, and details are available at the society's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/h7acxds>.
17628. For the completists: the Unemployed Philosophers Guild's "Magnetic personalities" Sherlock Holmes finger puppet (or refrigerator magnet) now has a variant: the first version (December 06 #7) wore a green deerstalker and cape, and the new version is dressed in brown <www.philosophersguild.com>.
17629. The new tenants of The Royal Oak, a pub in Ashburton, Newton Abbot, plan to reopen the pub in February, with a Hound of the Baskervilles theme that's thoroughly appropriate, since Ashburton is located on the southeastern edge of Dartmoor.
17630. Howard Ostrom has revised and expanded his "Footprints on Film" examination of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" on film and television, which now has 66 dramatizations, pastiches, and parodies <www.tinyurl.com/zxa67ug>. He has many other interesting data-bases available at Ross Foad's "No Place Like Holmes" web-site <www.nphl.co.uk>.
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February 2017 #1

17631. Little is known about the Sherlock Holmes Club, which appears to have been a social club in Germany in the early 1900s; there's a green postcard listing some of its members, and Nicole Glüecklich, of the Deutsche Sherlock Holmes Gesellschaft, would greatly appreciate hearing from anyone who has a copy of the postcard, or any information about the society or its members. You can contact her at <n.gluecklich@sherlock-holmes-gesellschaft.de>.
17632. The Retired Beekeepers of Sussex, an all-inclusive Sherlockian society for members of the LGBTQ+ community, have now published their fourth Practical Handbook of Bee Culture (with the theme "A Small Farm Upon the Downs) with 41 pages that include poetry, artwork, and pastiche; all four issues of the handbook are available at <www.retiredbeekeepers.tumblr.com>.
17633. Monica Schmidt's presentation ("The Seven-Per-Evaluation: A DSM-5 Analysis of Sherlock Holmes' Cocaine Use") at the Sherlockian conference in Minneapolis in 2016 offered a truly professional examination of the topic, and it is conveniently available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/jlxaq38>.
17634. "Have You a Tamerlane in Your Attic?" was the title of Vincent Starrett's article in the Saturday Evening Post (on June 27, 1925); at the time there were only four known copies of Edgar Allan Poe's first-published poems, and Starrett hoped that a nation-wide search would turn up a fifth copy of the pamphlet. What happened next is an interesting story, and Ray Betzner has told it well at his "Studies in Starrett" blog <www.vincentstarrett.com>.
17635. Real Wood Crafts <www.tinyurl.com/zak78ss> offers some interesting and attractive Sherlockian items such as bookmarks and name signs. Albert Baggetta is the craftsman, and he does custom work as well.
17636. "Sherlock Holmes and the Clocktower Mystery" (the interactive exhibit with much Victorian flavor, and a mystery that visitors can solve) opened at the Fleet Science Center in San Diego, Calif., on Feb. 11, and will run through June 4 <www.rhfleet.org/exhibitions/sherlock-holmes-clocktower-mystery>.
17637. Scott Monty and Burt Wolder have launched a weekly 15-minute podcast called "Trifles" <www.sherlockholmespodcast.com> that focuses on the Canon, with discussion of "details, questions, and conundrums" in the stories. They're not neglecting their longer twice-a-month "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" podcast that covers "the intersection of Sherlock Holmes and popular culture" <www.ihearofsherlock.com>, and both of their podcasts are interesting and entertaining.
17638. William R. Cochran's THE BREND CODE AND "THE SECOND STAIN" (2015) is now in a revised second edition; the 60-page monograph costs \$20.00 postpaid, and Bill is having great fun with Sherlockian scholarship.
17639. H. Thompson will deliver this year's Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture on Apr. 20 at the Toronto Reference Library; his topic will be "War, Words & Writers: 100 Years on at Vimy, Passchendaele and Hill 70" (discussion how writers like Conan Doyle can influence the way we view history, in the context of the key battles of 1917 <www.acdfriends.org>).
17640. February 2017 #2
17641. Admirers of Jeremy Brett and Edward Hardwicke will be pleased by Alexander Orlov's report that the audio recording of Jeremy Paul's play "The Secret of Sherlock Holmes" (made by Lisa Woods and Linda Pritchard on Mar. 20, 1989), has been re-mastered by Alison Carter, who has posted it on the Internet at SoundCloud at <www.tinyurl.com/zgvmdsn> and at <www.tinyurl.com/hc33c44>.
17642. The model of the Arctic Whale Ship Hope (on which Conan Doyle sailed as the ship's surgeon), at auction on Jan. 11 (December 16 #1) sold for \$5,312 (including the buyer's premium); a model of a Peterhead whaleboat sold for \$1,375.
17643. "Nobody shoplifts from a store that knows 3,214 ways to murder someone" is the lede on the story in the N.Y. Times (Feb. 1) <www.tinyurl.com/j3lvahz> about The Mysterious Bookshop, whose proprietor Otto Penzler notes that detective stories "are essentially fairy tales ... they're the battle between good and evil."
17644. The Baskerville Hall Club (in Sweden) recently posted an intriguing image of the cover of a Super-Team Family comic book that featured Batman and Sherlock Holmes in "An Empty Grave in Gotham!" Super-Team Family was a comic-book anthology series published by DC Comics from 1974 to 1978, with 15 issues; none of them had this cover. But there is a delightful web-site for Super-Team Family...The Lost Issues! that tries "to spark the imagination with what could have been," and is quite successful at it, offering a new cover every day. Ross Pearsall has created three Sherlockian covers (the others pair Holmes with Daredevil and with Detective Chimp <www.tinyurl.com/jomgmhf>), and Pearsall has great fun with his ghostly comic-book match-ups.
17645. Barbara Hale died on Jan. 26. She began her acting career on screen, but is best known as Della Street, secretary to Raymond Burr's Perry Mason, in a long running television series and then in a series of television films. It was in "Perry Mason: The Case of the Reckless Romeo" (1992) that she had a delightfully Sherlockian exchange with her boss; the film's available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/zopqlen>, and the dialogue is timed at 1:30:25.
17646. It's not true that computers have taken over Sherlockian game-playing: Keifer Art has developed an interesting "collaborative moving board game" that can be played (and enjoyed) more than once (\$34.99). "Sherlock Holmes and Moriarty's Web" can be ordered at their web-site <www.tinyurl.com/j22evsn>, where there are a trailer, instructions, interviews and podcasts.
17647. "Save the date," says Susan Diamond: the 58th annual running of the Silver Blaze in Chicago will be on Oct. 14 at the Hawthorne Race Course.
17648. Variety has reported (Feb. 2) <www.tinyurl.com/z5nmgy2> that Snapper Films has unveiled plans for "Sherlock North", a new ten-hour television series that has Holmes in Lapland, in northern Finland, during the Great Hiatus. According to Snapper Films <www.snapperfilms.com/project/sherlock-north>, the film's premise is "Consulting detective Mr. Sherlock Holmes in subzero Northern Scandinavia, featuring a female Dr. Watson from Finland, and the coldest Moriarty you have ever seen."

February 2017 #3

17649. "Holmes, Sweet Holmes" (a 1968 episode of a Canadian 30-minute television series called "Telescope") presented "a visit with Adrian Conan Doyle" at the Chateau de Lucens, and it's now nicely available in three parts at YouTube; The first part's at <www.tinyurl.com/hllmqpj>, and links to the other two are at the right. There's a lot of Adrian, and a brief view of him driving his Ferrari 250 GTO.
17650. "Was Sherlock Holmes Irish?" is a 48-minute audio documentary posted to the Internet on Jan. 21 by Newstalk in Dublin <www.tinyurl.com/j8s5c96>. Luke McManus produced the documentary, which includes interviews with Owen Dudley Edwards, Des McHale, Clare Clarke, Rob Byrne, Colm McCarthy, and Barry McCrea.
17651. It's not quite the same as a Time magazine "man of the year" issue, but Life magazine has published a special issue offering "the story behind the world's greatest detective" with 96 pages, often in full color (\$13.99); J. J. Baker is the editor and writer, and the issue's now on the newsstands and available at Amazon and elsewhere on the Internet.

17652. Personal detective Sidney Grice and his ward March Middleton are the interesting protagonists in M. R. C. Kasasian's *THE MANGLE STREET MURDERS* (London: Head of Zeus, 2013; 329 pp., £16.99) (New York: Pegasus, 2015; 320 pp., \$25.95) (there are trade paperbacks available); the story is set in London in 1882, and there's an amusing brief appearance in chapter 68 by a doctor who will be familiar to all Sherlockians.
17653. Joe Petrosino, an Italian immigrant who joined the New York Police Department and in 1908 was placed in charge of the NYPD's Italian Squad (which was charged with battling the Camorra, the Mafia, and other criminal organizations, was murdered in Palermo in 1909; he was a national hero in Italy (where he was known as "Il Sherlock Holmes d'Italia") and he was the hero of "Il Piccolo Sherlock Holmes" (1909), a one-reel Italian film released in the U.S. as "The Italian Sherlock Holmes" (1910). Stephan Talty's new book *THE BLACK HAND: THE EPIC WAR BETWEEN A BRILLIANT DETECTIVE AND THE DEADLIEST SECRET SOCIETY IN AMERICAN HISTORY* (2017) has been bought by Paramount Pictures for a film that will star Leonard DiCaprio.
17654. Christopher Morley (who founded The Baker Street Irregulars) loved Sherlock Holmes, of course, and many other things, including journalism, travel, and (especially) trains; he wrote about trains in an era when they were magic carpets for travelers, and you can read some of the best of what he had to say about them in *MR. MORLEY TAKES THE TRAIN*, edited by Jon Lellenberg and Donald Pollock (Mainline Press, 2016; 171 pp., \$14.95).
17655. What goes around, comes around, at least for Guy Henry. The web-site Empire reports <www.tinyurl.com/zl99n9u> that "Rogue One" director Gareth Edwards said that Henry (who succeeds Peter Cushing as Grand Moff Tarkin in "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story") was cast because of Sherlock Holmes. Henry played Holmes in the Granada television series "Young Sherlock" (1982) and "got into the role" by watching Cushing in Sherlockian films; Henry "kept Cushing in him throughout the years," and when Edwards saw a clip of Henry, that was enough to persuade Edwards to cast Henry as Tarkin.

February 2017 #4

17656. The Baker Street Irregulars' "Behind the Canonical Screen" conference at UCLA in 2012 included presentations by Lyndsay Faye ("The Women: Sex and Success in the Canon, BBC, and Warner Brothers") and Ashley Polasek ("The Evolving Role of Women in Sherlockian Film"), and you can see what they had to say uploaded at YouTube www.tinyurl.com/hbujuyb and <www.tinyurl.com/h4p2ono> and <www.tinyurl.com/jshpgth>.
17657. Sony Pictures has announced Aug. 3, 2018, as the release date for their new film "Holmes & Watson" (the comedy starring Will Ferrell as Holmes and John Reilly as Watson); the cast also includes Ralph Fiennes, Rebecca Hall, Hugh Laurie, and Kelly Macdonald.
17658. The East Haddam Stage Company, now officially known as the Resident Theatre Company at Gillette Castle State Park, has announced that their summer season will include weekend performances of Kandie Carle's "William Gillette: Senator's Son to Super Sleuth". They will also tour New England with their "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Speckled Band" this fall.
17659. Jennie Paton has found an interesting example of Sherlockian publicity: a facsimile five-dollar bill promoting "The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes" at the Imperial Theatre. We'd be delighted to hear from anyone who can identify when and where and why it was used.
17660. The Sherlocks (the Sherlock Consortium for Investigation) were seen on an episode ("16 Years") of NCIS on CBS-TV last year, and they're back in a new episode ("Nonstop") that was broadcast on Feb. 7 and may still be available at <www.tinyurl.com/jf0l82u>.
17661. A query about Argosy: The All-Fiction Magazine (published quarterly by Richard Kyle Publications); the Aug. 1991 issue had an attractive Sherlockian cover by Jim Steranko, and Part One of Ellery Queen's "A Study in Terror"; was the next issue, with Part Two, ever published? If so, when?
17662. *BAKER STREET ELEMENTARY: THE HOWLING HOUNDS* is the second series of amusing comic strips created by Joe Fay, Steve Mason, and Rusty Mason; you can see the 2015 and 2016 strips (and some character profiles) at The Crew of the Barque Lone Star's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/j29mukf>.
17663. "Life Imitates Art: Silver Blaze Division" is the comment by Kate Karlson on a story in the Feb. 9 issue of the Daily Racing Form about the suspension of a horse identifier at Delta Downs in Louisiana and an investigation into the possibility that two horses made starts in the state under swapped identities <www.tinyurl.com/zl3o5rl>. It appears that the horse identifier did not check the lip tattoos on the horses involved in the scheme.

February 2017 #5

17664. Ann Milam notes an interesting Smithsonian magazine on-line article <www.tinyurl.com/jf5ecy5> about "the seedy reality of a London long gone"; Charles Booth's classic *INQUIRY INTO LIFE AND LABOUR IN LONDON* has been catalogued and digitized, and you can now view the poverty maps and police notebooks that describe the streets and street life of London between 1898 and 1900. They portray the London of Sherlock Holmes in a way one doesn't find in the Canon.
17665. "Second Holmes" (the BBC's 1983 series, written by Grant Eustace, about the grandsons of Holmes and Watson) is being repeated by BBC Radio 4 Extra, and you can listen to all six episodes at www.tinyurl.com/gwmgwt4
17666. *BAKER STREET IRREGULARS* is a new anthology edited by Michael A. Ventrella and Jonathan Maberry (New York: Diversion Books, 2017; 302 pp., \$16.99); it offers "thirteen authors with new takes on Sherlock Holmes," and their versions of Holmes are new (and decidedly different), including his being the host of a reality show, a vampire, and an eighteen-year old female college student.
17667. Ron Lies <relies1@msn.com> would like to hear from those who shares his interest in Sherlockian jigsaw puzzles, and who would like to buy, trade, or sell duplicates.
17668. Thierry Saint-Joanis reports a delightful example of what can be done with modern computer technology: an article at the 80 Level web-site on "Building Sherlock Holmes' Flat in 3D" <www.tinyurl.com/hqktvk8>. Elliot Lambert (a junior CGI artist at Whitecrow Studios in England) explains what he did, and how he did it, and has a brief video of the results.
17669. "London Police Get Sherlock Holmes-Era Guns Off the Streets" was the headline on a story at Guns.com (Feb. 13) <www.tinyurl.com/zhtw7zu>; one of the guns shown was a Webley Bulldog. "Paging Dr. Watson," the web-site notes. "Mickey Spillane and his ilk killed Sherlock Holmes," Basil Rathbone once said, according to Heritage Auctions in its description of a pair of fencing foils given to Spillane by Rathbone, scheduled for auction on Mar. 8. But Spillane was kinder to Rathbone, saying that "he was the neatest fellow around, kind, considerate" <www.tinyurl.com/hng75b8>.
17670. "What's Sherlock Holmes Got to Do with Teesside?" asked the Daily Mail in a story (Feb. 16) <www.tinyurl.com/jnap82w> about angry complaints from Middlesbrough locals when the local council spent taxpayers' money on literacy-inspired artworks that include a mural that displays a page from "The Five Orange Pips"; actually, there is a connection: Conan Doyle's brother-in-law E. W. Hornung was born in Middlesbrough, and the town has an Orange Pip Market on Baker Street.
17671. Miniaturists continue to have fun with Sherlock Holmes: Orsi Skultéti has created a spectacular miniature version of the kitchen at 221B Baker Street (as in the BBC's "Sherlock" series), shown in full color in articles in *The Dolls' House Magazine* (Feb. 2014) and *American Miniaturist* (Feb. 2017); one (and perhaps both, when her web-site's updated) of the articles can be seen at <www.orsiminiatures.com>.

February 2017 #6

17672. The Grillparzer Club of the Hoboken Free State (which commemorates the life and work of Christopher Morley) will hold its annual Morley Birthday Lunch at Arthur's Restaurant in the Sacred City of Hoboken on Apr. 30, and more information about the event is available from Terry and Linda Hunt <18goldini95@fmail.com>.
17673. Lloyd Rose reports that the BBC has made the scripts for the first season of "Sherlock" available for download (free) at its Writersroom web-site at <www.bbc.co.uk/writersroom/scripts/sherlock>. Their Scripts Library offers other scripts from its TV Drama archive (for those who have other favorite shows).
17674. Crowborough will hold its first community festival May 1-27, according to a report in the Kent and Sussex Courier <www.tinyurl.com/jr6nmsq>; the festival will include "Beyond Baker Street" (an improvised theatrical experience with actors scattered throughout the town, a Sherlock Holmes trail, a workshop themed around "The Lost World", and a talk by Conan Doyle biographer Andrew Lycett).
17675. The Baker Street Players are presenting Stuart Kaminsky's "The Final Toast" at the Hein & Co. Bookstore in Jackson, Calif., through Mar. 4, and on other weekends in 2017 <www.bakerstreetwest.com>.
17676. "Shamrock Holmes" (a new play by Penny Kohut) will be performed at Theatre-NOW in Wilmington, N.C., through Mar. 25 <www.theatrewilmington.com>.
17677. C. P. Stancich's "Sherlock Holmes: John Watson's Body" [don't worry: Watson isn't dead] is running at Theatre Suburbia in Houston, Tex., through Mar. 25 <www.theatresuburbia.org>.
17678. Ken Ludwig's comedy "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" will be performed at the Kansas City Kansas Community College Performing Arts Center, Mar. 2-5 <www.tinyurl.com/h5kp9sf>. And at the Center Stage of the Community Light Opera and Theatre Association in Ridgecrest, Calif., Mar. 17-Apr. 1 <www.facebook.com/RCCLOTA>.
17679. "Sherlock Holmes" (Geoffrey Sherman's new adaptation of William Gillette's play) will be performed at the State Theatre in Montgomery, Ala., Mar. 8-May 13 <www.asf.net/project/sherlock-holmes>.
17680. The Baker Street Players will present Beth Barnard's dinner mystery theatre "Murdering Moriarty" at the National Hotel in Jackson, Calif., on Mar. 11 and 25, and Apr. 1 and 8 <www.bakerstreetwest.com/events>.
17681. Tim Kelly's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be presented at the Riverhead Theatre in Louth, Lincs., Mar. 13-18 <www.louthplaygoers.com>.
17682. "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Problem (a new dramatization by Tal Aviezer) is due at Cahill Theatre at the College of Mount Saint Vincent in Riverdale, N.Y., Apr. 1-23 <www.redmonkeytheater.org>.

March 2017 #1

17683. Stephen Fry has recorded the complete Canon, with his own introductions for each of the nine volumes, for Audible: SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE DEFINITIVE COLLECTION <www.tinyurl.com/zmjpanq> costs \$82.77 (or free with a 30-day trial membership), and there's a five-minute sample at the Audible web-site. A Google search for [stephen fry sherlock holmes] will turn up video. Note: there are two variants, and you need to be sure that you're getting the one that runs 71 hours and 58 minutes.
17684. GOTHIC TALES, edited by Darryl L. Jones (London: Oxford Univ. Press, 2016; 549 pp., \$27.95), is an imaginative collection of Gothic stories written by Conan Doyle, who is described by Jones as "the greatest genre writer Britain has ever produced." There are 34 stories in this Oxford World's Classics volume, and Jones has supplied an interesting introduction and careful explanatory notes for each of the stories.
17685. Phil Attwell reports that the BBC and Radio Times Television Festival upcoming in London includes three Sherlockian events of interest on Apr. 9: "Mark Gatiss: From League of Gentlemen to Sherlock" (interviewed by Alison Graham), "The Sound of Sherlock" (a panel with Mark Gatiss, Sue Vertue, and composers David Arnold and Michael Price), and "Gala Event: Steven Moffat in Conversation with Frank Skinner" <www.tinyurl.com/jrp7dgc>.
17686. There is a Klingon translation of "The Blue Carbuncle" (done by Bing, with assistance from Karen Ellery) <www.tinyurl.com/mtspvkt>, but there's also an empty eBook case labeled "Sherlock Holmes" in Klingon, used as set decoration in Trip Tucker's quarters (in the television series "Star Trek: Enterprise"), included in a collection of eBook cases at auction at Propworx this month <www.tinyurl.com/jukmwws>; the lot sold for \$500 (plus the 23% buyer's premium). There were four seasons of the series, with 98 episodes, so there's plenty to do if anyone wants to confirm that the eBook case actually was seen in the series.
17687. How many actors who have played Holmes or Watson have won Oscars? Not for Sherlockian roles, since no one has, but Howard Ostrom has identified more than 20 actors who have won Oscars for non-Sherlockian work, and discusses them in an interesting 15-minute video "Watson, the Envelope, Please" that is available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/jgu9ph3>.
17688. "Erkunde Leute, Die Britische Polizei und noch mehr!" [or Explore People, the British Police, and more!] is the title of an interesting collection of 19th- and 20th-century images recently posted at the Pinterest web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/za37nxq>.
17689. David Shepard died on Jan. 31. He was a dedicated film preservationist who began buying old films as a teenager, with money earned from his newspaper route; he went on to work for the American Film Institute, and then joined Blackhawk Films, where in the 1970s he was instrumental in finding and restoring the Fox-Case Movietone newsreel interview with Conan Doyle that was released in 1929. His obituary in the N.Y. Times www.tinyurl.com/hpoymm8 is well worth reading, and you can listen to him talk about his career in a Modern Times Podcast <www.tinyurl.com/gworeqc>.

March 2017 #2

17690. Reported: SCIENTIFIC ROMANCE: AN INTERNATIONAL ANTHOLOGY OF PIONEERING SCIENCE FICTION, edited by Brian Stableford (New York: Dover, 2017; 335 pp., \$14.95); "scientific romance" is what its early fans called the genre until Hugo Gernsback coined the word "scientifiction" (for what is now called "science fiction"), and the anthology begins with Poe's "The Conversation of Eiros and Charmion" (1839) and ends with Conan Doyle's "The Horror of the Heights" (1913).
17691. "Treasury of Literature" (described as an integrated reading and language arts program offering a wealth of literature to touch the hearts and minds of its readers) was launched in 1995 by Harcourt Brace & Company, and the Teacher's Edition for VOICES AND REFLECTIONS: VOLUME ONE includes two Sherlockian items: T. S. Eliot's "Macavity: The Mystery Cat" (with drawings by Edward Gorey) and the Michael and Mollie Hardwick radio play "The Speckled Band" (with full-color illustrations by Sergio Martinez); it's out of print but possibly available at Abebooks and elsewhere on-line. Martinez's artwork is attractive, and appears not to have been published elsewhere. And there's also a boxed set with two Literature Cassettes; one of the audiocassettes includes readings of both items.

17692. Robert Osborne died on Mar. 6. He was an actor, a film critic for the Hollywood Reporter for 26 years, a dedicated film historian, and since 1994 a genial host for films (Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian) broadcast by Turner Classic Movies.
17693. Further to the report (February 12 #4) on the first time that Benedict Cumberbatch and Jonny Lee Miller played the same role (before they played Sherlock Holmes in "Sherlock" and "Elementary"): Jenny Paton notes that their performances alternating as Frankenstein and the Creature in the National Theatre's production of "Frankenstein" in London in 2011 are now available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/gtmdfuz> and www.tinyurl.com/z5pksfw.
17694. "Discover your Sherlock Holmes story name" is the offer made by Epic Reads <www.tinyurl.com/hm4uxew>, kindly reported by Dan Stashower. "The Incident of the Insidious Meme" would be Sherlock Holmes' story name. Mine is "The Tragedy of the Meticulous Toaster".
17695. Larry Millett's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE EISENDORF ENIGMA (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota, 2017; 226 pp., \$25.95) is the latest in his series of well-written mysteries about Holmes, Watson, and Shadwell Rafferty; Holmes, who is now 66 and suffering from emphysema, has returned to the Mayo Clinic for treatment, and winds up in pursuit of the Munich Monster (a serial killer Holmes failed to capture in 1892).
17696. Jim French's Imagination Theater has ended its 17-year run of live recordings. He began his radio career in 1943, served with Armed Forces Radio in Japan, settled in Seattle, and went on to write and produce nearly 500 original shows, including "The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes", a series which now includes dramatizations of the entire Canon, all adapted by M. J. Elliot and starring John Patrick Lowrie as Holmes and Larry Albert as Watson. The program logs at <www.old-time.com/otrlogs2> offer details on his broadcasts (see "Jim French Shows", "The Classic Adventures of Sherlock Holmes", and "The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes").

March 2017 #3

17697. Sabina Carpenter and John Quincannon, private detectives in San Francisco in 1895, are at work again in Marcia Muller and Bill Pronzini's THE DANGEROUS LADIES AFFAIR (New York: Forge/Tom Doherty, 2017; 252 pp., \$25.99), the fifth in their entertaining series; Sabina and John again have separate mysteries to solve, and there's blackmail and attempted murder, and (as usual) an interesting look at turn-of-the-century San Francisco.
17698. Bill Barnes reports an article in the Australian press that was headlined "Sherlock Holmes to Suss out the Valley"; not the Valley Fear, but rather the Moonee Valley Racecourse in Melbourne. And this Sherlock Holmes is an Irish-born five-year-old gelding who's not doing as well in Australia as he did in Ireland <www.tinyurl.com/jp4yytw>.
17699. "With Sherlock Holmes, is pastiche just a fancy word for fanfiction?" asks Lyndsay Faye, who offers advice on "how to successfully imitate Arthur Conan Doyle" at the Literary Hub web-site <www.tinyurl.com/jpnpcng>.
17700. "Trumpets and Confetti" is the title of Laurie R. King's announcement that an English production company has purchased the rights to the Mary Russell stories for a television series that will have Laurie as an active consultant <www.laurierking.com/2017/03/trumpets-russell-holmes>. That's all the news that's fit to print, but more (as they say) to come.
17701. "Pop Sherlock!" is the title of a new exhibition in the TD Gallery at the Toronto Public Library, Aug. 19-Oct. 22 <www.tinyurl.com/grnc2q5>, nicely timed for those attending Bouchercon on Oct. 12-15 www.bouchercon2017.com to see the exhibition (and tour the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection).
17702. Further to the announcement (May 16 #1) of plans for a new "Star Trek: All Access" television series, the series is now called "Star Trek: Discovery" and (according the entry at Wikipedia) filming began last month in Toronto. Nicholas Meyer is the consulting producer, and has written the script for the second episode.
17703. Simpson's-in-the-Strand was founded in 1828, and has long been a destination for Sherlockians who want to visit (and dine at) establishments mentioned in the Canon; Simpson's web-site at www.simpsonsinthestrland.co.uk announces that the restaurant will close on Apr. 17 for a six-to-ten-week restoration of the entrance and the Grand Divan.
17704. Mattias Boström has reported an interesting article about the Mdivani family in the Dec. 2016 issue Los Angeles Magazine <www.tinyurl.com/mlz5m9e>; the family (known in their time as the "marrying Mdivanis") included Nina, who was married to Denis Conan Doyle. Another article, about Nina and Barbara Hutton, was published in the "Jewels du Jour" blog (Apr. 9, 2014); you can read it at <www.tinyurl.com/mqzv7k>.
17705. "A cunning preparation of phosphorus," said Sherlock Holmes (in "The Hound of the Baskervilles"). According to an article in The New Indian Express <www.tinyurl.com/hx8ffl3>, phosphorus was discovered by the German alchemist Hennig Brand in the 17th century, and you can read how he did it in the article (which has the subhead "from pee to P").

March 2017 #4

17706. The notable nerve-regenerative properties of lion's mane mushrooms have drawn the attention of researchers, according to a report in the Huffington Post a while back <www.tinyurl.com/o6se96v>. And you can buy them at local market (for \$15 a pound), according to a recent story in the Portland Oregonian, noted and forwarded by Sonia Fetherston. "You can make a small amount stretch," according to the article, "because they have so much flavor." There is a long entry at Wikipedia, for those who want to know more about a lion's mane rather different from the one in the Canon.
17707. The winter issue of The Magic Door (the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library newsletter) has a tribute to Marilyn Penner, who has retired after 36 years at the Library (and her imaginative "Canon Fodder" look at "Silver Blaze"), and more news from and about the Library and the Collection; as always, copies of the newsletter can be requested from Clifford S. Goldfarb, 22 Markdale Avenue, Toronto, ON M6C, 1T1, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.
17708. THE FOUR PILLARS OF THE ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE COLLECTION, a 93-page pamphlet published by the Friends in 2014 when the new Arthur Conan Doyle Room was opened, described the acquisitions of the Baillie, Mortlake, Bigelow, and Bengis collections; it was a limited edition with only 100 copies, and it's now available on-line as a free download at <www.tinyurl.com/l2up68j>.
17709. The 2015 Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture was presented at the Library by Clifford S. Goldfarb (about "Arthur Conan Doyle's Waterloo"), and his paper has now been published for members of The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection; a limited number of copies are available to people who join the Friends now. Their web-site at <www.acdfriends.org> has PayPal and credit-card capability, or you can contact Cliff Goldfarb (addresses above); the minimum donation of \$35.00 brings you three issues of their newsletter and a copy of the 2016 Memorial Lecture.
17710. "I have learned that the world consists of two types of people -- those for whom no explanation for why I collect is necessary, and those for whom no explanation is possible." Clifford S. Goldfarb (in "Arthur Conan Doyle's Waterloo").
17711. Reported: THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, published this year by W. H. Smith in a yellowback edition that celebrates the 225th anniversary of the of the founding of the company as a news vendor <www.tinyurl.com/hhbt6cf>. Yellowbacks, described by Richard Altick as "the

most inspired publishing invention" of the Victorian era, provided good books at inexpensive prices at newsstands in railway stations. W. H. Smith has much to brag about, including the invention, in 1966, of the nine-digit code for uniquely identifying books that in 1974 became the ISBN system.

17712. The famous/infamous "tent joke" is alive and well, in Ray V. Batvinis' FBI Studies blog at <www.tinyurl.com/inv8e68>. A bit of history: the joke was unveiled to The Hounds of the Internet in July 1998, and seems to have appeared in print first in the Reader's Digest (Nov. 1998); it came in second in voting for the world's funniest joke (October 02 #1), and possibly now has become the joke that will never die.

March 2017 #5

17713. The autumn issue of "For the Sake of the Trust" (the newsletter of the Baker Street Irregulars Trust) has news about the Trust, Francine Kitts' history of the BSI's "standing on the terrace" ceremony at their annual dinners, and much more; the issue is available both at the BSI Trust's web-site <www.bsitrust.org> and by e-mail; if you would like to be on the mailing list, you can send a request <editor@bsitrust.org>.
17714. Colin Dexter died on Mar. 21. Best known for his 14 novels about Inspector Morse (adapted for the highly popular ITV television series), he also wrote an amusing pastiche "A Case of Mis-Identity" (first published in WINTER'S CRIMES 21 in 1989, and then reprinted in MORSE'S GREATEST MYSTERY AND OTHER STORIES in 1993).
17715. Spanish artist Iñaki Aliste Lizarralde has prepared a colorful floor plan for 221B Baker Street as seen in the BBC television series "Sherlock" (he has done the same for Carrie Bradshaw and Mary Richards), and you can see his work at <www.nikneukdeviantart.com>.
17716. The Jersey Devil Press, an on-line magazine that's edited by Mike Sweeney, published a 54-page Sherlock Holmes issue in Jan. 2016, and you can read it on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/zfm9t5m>. The magazine is now planning a Victorian Mash-up special issue for Aug. 2017, and has issued a call for submissions <www.jerseydevilpress.com/?p=7476>; their deadline is July 7, and any of the Canonical characters can be combined with other characters from the Victorian era.
17717. Michael Sims' ARTHUR AND SHERLOCK: CONAN DOYLE AND THE CREATION OF HOLMES (New York: Bloomsbury, 2017; 245 pp., \$27.00) is a welcome addition to anyone's shelf of biographies of Conan Doyle; as promised by the subtitle, it explores his early life and career (ending with the publication of THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES), Sims offers an interesting and readable account of the world in which Conan Doyle lived, his family, and the inspirations for his Sherlockian (and non-Sherlockian) writings. Recommended.
17718. "Sherlock Holmes' Sublime Failures" is the title of Barry S. Brown's post at <www.tinyurl.com/k55kdgw> (look at the upper left for more Sherlockian posts); he has written four pastiche novels in which Mrs. Hudson's the real detective, and his web-site's at <www.barrysbrown.com>.
17719. Dana Gavin, who is researching the experiences of female-identifying fans of Sherlock Holmes for a chapter in an anthology on Geek Feminism, offers an on-line anonymous survey on "Women in the Sherlock Holmes Community"; details are at <www.tinyurl.com/keeedlf>, and the deadline for responses is Apr. 12.
17720. Marsha Pollak reports that the Sub-Librarians Scion of the Baker Street Irregulars in the American Library Association will be celebrating their 50th anniversary this year, at a meeting on June 29, during the ALA conference in Chicago. The Sub-Librarians are the oldest "professional" Sherlockian society, founded by John Bennett Shaw, and Marsha would welcome congratulatory messages from other societies <mlpollak@icloud.com>. If you'd like to attend the festivities, Marsha will be happy to provide details, by e-mail or postal mail (1318 Mildred Avenue, San Jose, CA 95125).
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March 2017 #6

17721. Flickering Myth has reported that Action Lab Entertainment will publish a new "Kid Sherlock" comic-book mini-series this year: "John Watson is nervous being the only dog at his new school Baker Elementary. But when he takes an interest in fellow student Sherlock Holmes, the two become unlikely, and sometimes contentious, friends." You can see the cover artwork at <www.tinyurl.com/mx4sdhr>.
17722. The Daily Mail had a nicely illustrated article on Mar. 28 about the Stepping Stones School's restoration of Undershaw, Conan Doyle's former home, with before-and-after photographs <www.tinyurl.com/mmrgj6v>; the school also has a colorful web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/k5sddp7>.
17723. Michael W. McClure's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE CRYPTIC CLUES: A GRAVE UNDERTAKING (Chester: Baskerville Productions, 2016; 269 pp., \$32.99 in cloth or \$21.95 in paper covers) has a Foreword by the late John Bennett Shaw (who wrote it in 1994 when work on the book started), and a "tour of the resting places" of more than 300 characters in the Canon; Michael and John were cofounders of Stimson & Co. (a professional Sherlockian society for funeral directors). Images on many of the tombstones display McClure's portraits of members of The Baker Street Irregulars and The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes who have been Investitured with the names of the characters, and are accompanied by irreverent (and punny) commentary by the author. Available at <www.baskervilleproductions.com>.
17724. Further to the forecast of a manga edition of "Sherlock: A Study in Pink" (March 16 #3), the six-issue mini-series is now available as a graphic novel from Titan Comics (224 pp., \$12.99). Adapted from Steven Moffat's script, it has striking artwork by Jay.
17725. Gary Lovisi's SHERLOCK HOLMES & MR. MAC IN: THE AFFAIR OF LADY WESTCOTT'S LOST RUBY/THE CASE OF THE UNSEEN ASSASSIN (Eureka: Black Gat Books, 2017; 163 pp., \$9.99) brings back Inspector Alec MacDonald (from "The Valley of Fear"), investigating two new mysteries (with the assistance of Holmes and Watson).
17726. Jeff Falkingham's blog about "Doyle vs. Clemens: A New Perspective" tells the story of a "feud" between the two authors, and you can read his essay (and about his other Sherlockian activities) at <www.tinyurl.com/jymlquo>.
17727. "Did you know that his [F. Scott Fitzgerald] first appearance in print was 'The Mystery of the Raymond Mortgage,' a Holmes pastiche?" That's from Jim Huang's review (Mystery Scene #143, winter 2016) of Maureen Corrigan's SO WE READ ON: HOW THE GREAT GATSBY CAME TO BE AND WHY IT ENDURES (2014). The story was first published in the St. Paul Academy school magazine "Now and Then" in 1909, discovered by Fred Dannay, and reprinted in Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine (Mar. 1960) and ELLERY QUEEN'S 15TH MYSTERY ANNUAL (1960); it's not a pastiche, and Sherlockian only in that someone makes some nice deductions.
17728. Alexander Orlov has noted Alexander Sedov's report from Live Journal (Mar. 20) about new statues of Holmes and Watson (sculpted by Andrei Orlov) that are display in Yekaterinburg <www.tinyurl.com/mjv3rkl>; it's all in Russian (Google Translate helps), and there are lots of images of the statues.
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March 2017 #7

17729. THE DAUGHTER OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Leonard Goldberg (New York: Minotaur, 2017; 305 pp., \$25.00) has Joanna Blalock (Sherlock Holmes' daughter) joining forces with Dr. John H. Watson, and his son Dr. John Watson Jr., in pursuit of a vicious killer (the son of one of the Canonical villains); the story offers mystery and danger, and some romance. The author's web-site's at <www.leonardgoldberg.com>. Note: Goldberg also has written nine books about a modern Joanna Blalock (the same name for the protagonist, but she's not Sherlockian).
17730. "London's high society goes to Sherlock Holmes. The rest go to Arrowood" is the cover blurb for Mick Finlay's ARROWOOD (Don Mills: MIRA, 2017; 350 pp., \$15.99); Arrowood is an "emotional agent" rather than the "deductive agent" he calls Holmes, and Arrowood has some harsh things to say
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- about how Holmes has (or hasn't) solved some of his cases in a story that offers interesting characters and an intriguing mystery. There's also a British edition from HQ (£12.99). And the British production company Cave Bear is planning to make a television series based on the book.
17731. And, as usual, there's Sherlockian theatrics: Ken Ludwig's "Postmortem" (an earlier version of "The Game's Afoot") is on at the Archway Theatre in Los Angeles through Apr. 30 <www.archwayla.com>. The Peninsula Players will stage a public reading of Christopher M. Walsh's "Miss Holmes" at Björklunden in Bailey's Harbor, Wis., on Apr. 3; web-site at <www.peninsulaplayers.com>.
17732. Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Last Adventure" has been scheduled at the Olivet Covenant Presbyterian Church Theater in Philadelphia, Apr. 21-May 7 <www.beacontheatreproductions.org>.
17733. Steven Canny and John Nicholson's comedy "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is to be performed at the Whippoorwill Hall Theatre in Armonk, N.Y., Apr. 28- May 13 <www.hudsonstage.com>.
17734. The British Comedy Company will perform Peter Wear's parody of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" at the St. Michael and All Angels Church in Chiswick, London, on Apr. 30 <www.britishcomedycompany.co.uk>.
17735. Ken Ludwig's comedy "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" will be performed at the Dorset Playhouse in Dorset, Vt., July 13-29; their web-site is at <www.dorsettheatrefestival.org>. And at the Heagney Theatre in Webster Groves, Mo., Oct. 12-29 <www.insighttheatrecompany.com>.
17736. "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (dramatized by R. Hamilton Wright and David Pichette) will be performed at the Arrow Rock Lyceum Theatre in Arrow Rock, Mo., Aug. 5-13 <www.lyceumtheatre.org>.
17737. Hamilton Wright's "Sherlock Holmes and the American Problem" is due at the Barter Theatre in Abingdon, Va., Sept. 28-Nov. 11; their web-site's at <www.bartertheatre.com>.

April 2017 #1

17738. Benedict Cumberbatch is keeping busy: he will star in "The Child in Time" (now in production for BBC One and PBS), based on Ian McEwan's award-winning novel. So is Martin Freeman, who is filming in "Black Panther" (part of the Marvel comic-book franchise). Jonny Lee Miller is now in theaters in "T2 Trainspotting", Lucy Liu will appear in "Future World" (a science-fiction film now in post-production). Robert Downey Jr. is continuing as Tony Stark/Iron Man, and Jude Law is starring as Vortigern in "King Arthur: Legend of the Sword" (due this year).
17739. Brenda Rossini has reported that the Newberry Library in Chicago will hold a one-day seminar on "Sherlock Holmes and the Popular Imagination" on June 10 <www.newberry.org/S17Sherlock>.
17740. And a correction: the Sub-Librarians Scion of the Baker Street Irregulars in the American Library Association will celebrate their 50th anniversary this year, at a meeting on June 25, during the ALA conference in Chicago. The Sub-Librarians are the oldest "professional" Sherlockian society, and they were founded by John Bennett Shaw. Marsha Pollak would welcome congratulatory messages from other societies <mpollak@icloud.com>. If you'd like to attend the festivities, Marsha will be happy to provide details, by e-mail or postal mail (1318 Mildred Avenue, San Jose, CA 95125).
17741. Asmodee <www.tinyurl.com/kso9hol> has announced for release this fall "The Thames Murders and Other Cases" (ten fully-revised cases for the table-top game "Sherlock Holmes Consulting Detective"); there's a link to an interview with Space Cowboys about "The Evolution of Sherlock Holmes: Consulting Detective" (at upper right).
17742. Tim Pigott-Smith died on Apr. 7. He began his acting career on stage with the Bristol Old Vic in 1969 and made his Broadway debut in 1974 as Dr. Watson in the Royal Shakespeare Company's revival of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes"; he went on to star on screen, radio, and television, playing Sherlock Holmes in "The Valley of Fear" for BBC Radio 4 (1986) and narrating the BBC-2 television documentary "The Case of Sherlock Holmes" (1987). Pigott-Smith also recorded Hesketh Pearson's ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: A LIFE for Naxos AudioBooks (2001), read an abridgement of Conan Doyle's "The Case of Lady Sannox" in the BBC Radio 4 series "Beyond the Surgery" (2005), wrote three pastiches for Hodder Children's Books (2008-2009), played Inspector Lestrade in the BBC Radio 4 series "The Rivals" (2013), and was interviewed in "How to Be Sherlock Holmes" in the BBC Four series "Timeshift" (2014). He also was appointed OBE (Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) for services to drama in the 2017 New Year's Honours List. A nice resumé indeed.
17743. The Sherlockian Calendar, maintained by Ron Fish and Sue and Ben Vizoskie, is at <www.sherlockiancalendar.com>; it's a helpful list of upcoming Sherlockian events, for anyone who would like to know what's happening when and where, and it offers an interesting look at how many society events are being held hither and yon. You should contact <ronf404@aol.com> if you would like to have a meeting or conference listed. The calendar also is available on Twitter as @SianCalendar.

April 2017 #2

17744. E.J. Wagner's THE SCIENCE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: FROM BASKERVILLE HALL TO THE VALLEY OF FEAR: THE REAL FORENSICS BEHIND THE GREAT DETECTIVE'S GREATEST CASES now has a second edition (New York: Fall River, 2016; 254 pp., \$7.98 at Barnes & Noble) with a new afterword; it's a fine demonstration of how the Canon can be used to make a technical subject interesting, and it will be just as interesting to Sherlockians: she offers stories of how science was and is used to solve crimes, and shows how forensics have expanded in scope since Sherlock Holmes' time. Her web-site is at <www.ejwagnercrimehistorian.com>.
17745. A complete run of all of the Sherlock Holmes stories published in The Strand Magazine (58 stories in 79 issues) sold on Apr. 9 for \$18,812.50 (including the buyer's premium) at Heritage Auctions <www.ha.com>.
17746. Terry Hunt reports in the latest issue of The Bowling Green (the newsletter of the Grillparzer Club of the Hoboken Free State) that Christopher Morley will be inducted into the New York State Writers Hall of Fame on June 5, at the Hall of Fame Dinner at the Princeton Club in New York. If you want to subscribe to the newsletter, contact Terry at <18goldini95@gmail.com>.
17747. Jack Ziegler died on Mar. 29. Once described as "the godfather of contemporary New Yorker cartoonists," he began his career in 1973 by selling an idea that was illustrated by Charles Addams, and had his own cartoon in the magazine on Feb. 11, 1974. He went on to contribute more than 1,600 cartoons to the New Yorker, including this one (on Jan. 11, 1988). You can read Bob Mankoff's tribute to Ziegler in the New Yorker at <www.tinyurl.com/mann25q> and Michael Cavanaugh's appreciation in the Washington Post <www.tinyurl.com/n4cofcl>.
17748. Melvin Regin (better known by his nickname "Wah Wah Watson") is a guitarist famous for his use of the wah-wah pedal (which provides special effects for the electric guitar). The album cover of his 1976 LP "Wah Wah Watson: Elementary" showed him with a deerstalker and calabash pipe, and he has a web-site at <www.wahwah.com>; Jennie Paton has found the album (with cover art and music) at YouTube <tinyurl.com/lo84x8u>.
17749. Further to the review of Leonard Goldberg's THE DAUGHTER OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (March 17 #7), the modern Joanna Blalock is intended (but not stated) to be the granddaughter of the Joanna Blalock who is Holmes' daughter.
17750. Evy Herzog has kindly reported the monthly blog from the Victorian Trading Co. <www.tinyurl.com/kdk8ll8>, which this month is devoted to "Bad Boys of the Victorian Era" (one of them being Joseph Caminada). Angela Buckley's THE REAL SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE HIDDEN STORY OF JEROME

CAMINADA (May 14 #6) is the biography of a Manchester policeman who began his career as a police constable in 1868 and had risen to the rank of superintendent of the city's police force when he retired in 1899 and became a private detective.

April 2017 #3

17751. Lyndsay Faye's new collection *THE WHOLE ART OF DETECTION: LOST MYSTERIES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* (New York: Mysterious Press, 2017; 352 pp., \$25.00) offers fifteen pastiches, two of them new and the others reprinted from magazines and other sources, and they're nicely done indeed; she has done an excellent job of capturing the voices of Watson and Holmes, and in offering interesting characters and mysteries.
17752. "The Lost City of Z" opened in theaters this month, starring Charlie Hunnam as Col. Percy H. Fawcett, who met Conan Doyle in 1910 and then disappeared in the Amazon jungle, but one is listed as Conan Doyle in the cast list at the Internet Movie Data Base, so it's unlikely that Conan Doyle appears in the film. Fawcett and Conan Doyle are discussed by Roy Pilot and Alvin Rodin's *THE ANNOTATED LOST WORLD* (1996) and David Grann's *THE LOST CITY OF Z* (2009); the film is based on Grann's book. Fawcett was British, so the Z is pronounced Zed by everyone. There's a trailer for the film at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/moosuhh>.
17753. There are (at least) two sides to every story, of course: Hugh Thompson's article about "how to lose friends and make enemies in the jungle" in the Washington Post <www.tinyurl.com/ml9cjh> suggests that Fawcett was not at all the intrepid explorer described by Grann.
17754. Ray Betzner has kindly reported a different Sherlockian rubber duckie, from Oriental Trading <www.tinyurl.com/mv3fgdr>; it is one of four "reading rubber duckies" (2" high), and is holding a book with the spine title "mystery". It's available from various sources on the Internet, individually or in the set of four.
17755. Buster Keaton's silent film "Sherlock Jr." (1924) is well known (although not actually Sherlockian); Howard Ostrom has now discovered Buster Keaton wearing a deerstalker in the non-Sherlockian film "Battling Butler" (1926), which nicely is available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/kzk3j5a>; the scene begins at 4 minutes into the film.
17756. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists (also known as The Friends of Sherlock Holmes) met to honor the world's first forensic geologist with drinks and dinner at Birraporetti's in Houston on Apr. 5, during the annual meeting of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, welcomed by members of The John Openshaw Society. Our next meetings will be on Oct. 25 in Seattle, and on May 23, 2018, in Salt Lake City.
17757. Some interesting Conan Doyle manuscript material is coming up at auction at Swann Auction Galleries on May 4 <www.tinyurl.com/m7a4cpv>; not Sherlockian (but two of the lots are from his tour of the United States in 1894). Randall stock has details on the 1894 material at <www.tinyurl.com/ky7wtas>.
17758. Ted Friedman ("The Commonplace Book") died on Apr. 21. He was a university professor (teaching marketing at Long Island University) and a licenced investigator (at a management consulting firm), a stamp collector specializing in Sherlockian philately, and a stalwart member of Mrs. Hudson's Cliffdwellers and other society in an near New York. He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1995.
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April 2017 #4

17759. There's a new SHERLOCK, an inexpensive diagnostic tool for detecting nucleic acids from disease-causing microbes: SHERLOCK is an acronym, of course, for the Specific High Sensitivity Enzymatic Reporter unLOCKing that has been developed from CRISPR (an acronym for Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats), a laboratory tool used for editing genes. You'll find Joel Achenbach's article about the new SHERLOCK in the Washington Post (Apr. 14) <www.tinyurl.com/kdm7w6b>.
17760. Richard A. Roth died on Mar. 17. He launched his career as a film producer with "Summer of '42" (1971), had a bit part in Gene Wilder's "Frankenstein" (1974), and then produced Wilder's "The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes' Smarter Brother" (1975).
17761. Vicki Delany's *ELEMENTARY, SHE READ* (New York: Crooked Lane, 2017; 308 pp., \$25.99) is a pleasantly-cozy "Sherlock Holmes bookshop mystery" that stars Gemma Doyle (the proprietor of the Sherlock Holmes Bookshop) and her friend Jayne Wilson (the proprietor of the next-door Mrs. Hudson's Tea Room) trying to investigate two murders and a mysterious copy of Beeton's Christmas Annual for 1887.
17762. Kathryn Schulz has an interesting article ("Polar Expressed") on writings about polar exploration in the 19th century, with nice discussion of Conan Doyle's "The Captain of the Pole-Star" and the journal he kept while serving on the arctic whaler Hope <www.tinyurl.com/mx99me3>.
17763. Howard Ostrom spotted an interesting set of optical-illusion puzzles created as part of an ad campaign for the Colsubsidio Book Exchange (with the tag line "Come with one story and leave with another"); you're challenged to find two literary references in each puzzle <www.tinyurl.com/lnwgovc>. One of them has a fairy-tale princess as one of the references.
17764. Jennifer Petkus' *OUR MUTUAL FRIENDS: A CHARLOTTE HOUSE AFFAIR* (Denver: Mallard Classics, 2017; 353 pp., \$16.99) is sequel to her *MY PARTICULAR FRIEND* (July 15 #7); Charlotte House and her ward Jane Woodson are now involved in investigations in London. The tale is told in the style of Jane Austen and is set in that era, and yes: the names are echoes, and not the only echoes from the Canon <www.myparticularfriend.com>.
17765. Mattias Boström's *FRÅN HOLMES TILL SHERLOCK* (August 13 #4) has now been translated from Swedish into English as *FROM HOLMES TO SHERLOCK* (New York: Mysterious Press, 2017; 571 pp., \$27.00), and it's welcome indeed. The book's subtitle is "the story of the men and women who created an icon," and Mattias reports on his detailed research on Conan Doyle and his family, Sherlock Holmes, early and more recent Sherlockians, Sherlockian societies in various countries, pastiches, and stage, screen, radio, and television, and he's thoroughly up to date, with discussion of Sherlockiana on the Internet and the BBC's "Sherlock" and CBS's "Elementary" television series. His research included family papers that offer a new and interesting look at the battles over archives and copyright that were launched by Denis and Adrian are not yet over. Well-written and recommended. And there will be a British edition from Head of Zeus titled *THE LIFE AND DEATH OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: MASTER DETECTIVE, MYTH AND MOVIE STAR* (£25.00 hardcover/£8.99 paperback).
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April 2017 #5

17766. Mercedes Lackey's *A STUDY IN SABLE* (New York: DAW Books, 2016; 313 pp., \$27.00) is the latest title in her otherwise-non-Sherlockian "The Elemental Masters" series; two young women, one a psychic and the other a medium, team up with John and Mary Watson, themselves elemental masters, to investigate weird and magical cases that are too occult for the more prosaic Sherlock Holmes.
17767. Interweave, an on-line company, offers a pattern for a "Conan Doyle Vest" (a cable vest, accented by a wide collar, for this season's big-shoulder look) <www.tinyurl.com/lhuvgyb>. They don't say how this is related to Conan Doyle, however.
17768. "The Hound of the Baskervilles" has been adapted for the stage many times since 1902 (in Australia), and it is always interesting to see how people present the Hound for theater audiences. And if you can't see a play performed, you can at least enjoy the script: Claire Malcomson's dramatization was staged in Britain in 2013, and it has been published (London: MX Publishing, 2014; 80 pp., \$10.95) <www.mxpublishing.com> <www.mxpublishing.co.uk>.
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17769. Wildside Press, publisher of the Sherlock Holmes Mystery Magazine, edited by Marvin Kaye (now up to issue #22), also offers books, Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian, with many titles by Conan Doyle <www.tinyurl.com/l3nbxy4>.
17770. Randall Stock has reported an amusing blog post at the web-site of Unbiased <www.tinyurl.com/m5e272b> that notes that "every tax return tells a story" (with discussion of the various business-expense deductions that might be claimed by Captain Hook, Mary Poppins, and Sherlock Holmes); Holmes wears no official uniform, so he couldn't claim clothing expenses for his deerstalker, but he could claim the cost of what he wears when in disguise.
17771. Don't Go Into the Cellar (a theatrical touring company that's based in the West Midlands) is taking bookings for its 2018 season. Their productions include "The Singular Exploits of Sherlock Holmes" (first staged in 2011) <www.dontgointothecellar.com>. They've also done "The Supernatural Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (2012), "Ho Ho Holmes" (2012), and "Holmes Alone" (2013).
17772. "How much would fictional houses cost in real life?" was the question, and CNN had some answers on Apr. 27 <www.tinyurl.com/n95uu8m>, including an estimate by the real estate advisor Savills that 221B Baker Street (where the Sherlock Holmes Museum is now) is worth \$5 million.
17773. The manuscript of "The Missing Three-Quarter" is on its way to China, included in a cultural exchange program between the British Library (owner of the manuscript) and partner institutions in China. "Shakespeare to Sherlock: Treasures of the British Library" is a joint exhibition that opened this month at the National Library of China in Beijing. Information about the exhibition is available on-line in Mandarin <www.tinyurl.com/kbgr8p>; Google Translate will be a great help in seeing that they have to say about Conan Doyle, and there are links to articles that include Prof. Li Ou-fan's discussion of the translation and dissemination of Sherlock Holmes in China, especially in the late Qing Dynasty (early 20th century).

April 2017 #6

17774. The 2017 issue of Beaten's Christmas Annual has been published by The Sound of the Baskervilles of Seattle (it is their 34th annual issue), offering 54 pages of scholarship, quizzes, pastiches, artwork, and reports on the society and its members. The annual costs \$13.00 postpaid (\$20.00 outside the U.S.); checks (in U.S. dollars, please) payable to The Sound of the Baskervilles should be sent to Terri Haugen, 6710 51st Street Court West, University Place, WA 98467.
17775. St. James' Court (a Taj Hotel in London) has launched a series of "English Classics Revisited" that now includes a "bespoke limited-edition hardback" edition of Sherlock Holmes stories <www.tinyurl.com/n4nw5j>; the hotel also offers a "Sherlock Holmes Afternoon Tea" (£35.00) with a Canonical menu.
17776. And the usual theatrical alerts: "The Game Is Afoot" (a new play written by Kate Clabough) will be staged by the Blount Home Education Association Drama Club at the River Oaks Community Church in Maryville, Tenn., May 5 and 6 ("Sherlock Holmes meets Harry Houdini").
17777. "The Adventure of the Speckled Band" will be performed at the Tudor House at Lake Arrowhead, Calif., June 9-17 <www.tudorhouseentertainment.villas>; this is Conan Doyle's script from 1910.
17778. Ken Ludwig's comedy "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" will be performed by the Walnut Street Theatre at Independence Studio on 3 in Philadelphia, Pa., Jan. 2-Feb. 4, 2018 <www.walnutstreettheatre.org>, and then on tour; the schedule for the tour will be available this summer, but in the meantime includes Wilkes Barre PA (Feb. 7); Elmira NY (Feb. 8); Galloway NJ (Feb. 10); Manassas VA (Feb. 11); Grand Rapids MN (Feb. 14); Collegeville MN (Feb. 16-17); Hamilton, Bermuda (Feb. 20-21); Albuquerque NM (Feb. 23); Glendora CA (Feb. 23); Palm Desert CA (Feb. 27-28); Hampton VA (Mar. 2); Fairfax, VA (Mar. 3); and Frederick MD (Mar. 4). Ludwig's "Baskerville" is also scheduled (by local companies) at the Ocean State Theatre in Warwick, R.I., Mar. 28-April 15 <www.oceanstatetheatre.org> and the Park Square Theatre in St. Paul, Minn., June 15-Aug. 5, 2018 <www.parksquaretheatre.org>.
17779. The East Lynne Theater Company will perform Craig Wichman's radio-style adaptation of "Sherlock Holmes' Adventure of the Speckled Band" at the First Presbyterian Church in Cape May, N.J., Nov. 3-4 <www.eastlynnetheater.org>; also on Mar. 16-17, 2018.
17780. The Goodspeed Opera House in East Haddam, Conn., will present "A Connecticut Christmas Carol" (a new musical with book by L. J. Fecho and music and lyrics by Michael O'Flaherty) Nov. 17 to Dec. 24. "Famed actor and local legend William Gillette leaves his castle on the Connecticut River to adapt Charles Dickens' holiday classic in the 1920s" (Mark Twain, Harriett Beecher Stowe, and P. T. Barnum support Gillette as Scrooge).
17781. "Sherlock Holmes: The Baker Street Irregulars" (by Eric Coble, based on the graphic novels by Tony Lee and Dan Boulwood), will be performed at the Dobama Theatre in Cleveland Heights, Ohio, Dec. 1-30 <www.dobama.org>.

May 2017 #1

17782. Big Brother is indeed watching you. Your mail not only is delivered by the U.S. Postal Service, but the sorting machines also scan and store images of the envelopes (so people can keep track of who's sending mail to you). You can also sign up for "informed delivery" (a daily e-mail message with images of the letter-size envelopes that will be delivered that day); you can check on-line to see if "informed delivery" service is available in your area.
17783. Audible has released a recording of "Sherlock Holmes: The Speckled Band Retold for Children" (written by Mark Williams and narrated by Joseph Tweedale); 55 minutes, \$3.95 (or free with a 30-day trial membership); details at <www.tinyurl.com/lu8of5o>.
17784. A long-range forecast: The Norwegian Explorers are planning to hold their next Sherlockian conference in Minneapolis on Aug. 9-11, 2019, and you can get on their mailing list by contacting Julie McKuras <mike9750@aol.com>.
17785. The song "Let Yourself Fall" from the then-work-in-progress musical "Dust and Shadow" (based on Lyndsay Faye's book) was previewed at the Saturday-afternoon reception of The Baker Street Irregulars in Jan. 2011; the complete musical will have its first public performance at the Highline Ballroom in New York on July 17 <www.tinyurl.com/k8djuqb>. The novel (and the musical) have Holmes and Watson in pursuit of Jack the Ripper. And there's another Sherlockian connection: Jenny Ashman (who plays Mary Jane Kelly) is the daughter of the late Peter G. Ashman ("Peter Steiler, the Elder" in the BSI).
17786. Jennie Paton has reported the country western song "Just Call Me Sherlock Holmes" with words and music by Richard Grossman (1987); it's available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/mt2m4yf>.
17787. It has been quite a while since DINING WITH SHERLOCK HOLMES was published in 1976, but people still are interested in Canonical dining: the [London] Evening Standard's upcoming "Food Month" will include the Literary Hour's presentation of "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes & the Scandalous Supper Club" at the Manor House in London on June 28-30 <www.tinyurl.com/lq92dxo>. According to the newspaper <www.tinyurl.com/mpjkzmy>, there will be drinks, a five-course dinner, and a mystery to solve.
17788. Paul Herbert has noted Andrew M. Greeley's IRISH EYES: THE DARK BEGINNINGS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (2000) at Amazon <www.tinyurl.com/kjjop6e>, but the book seems to have no Sherlockian connection other than the subtitle (which is not given in other listings of the book). It's one of twelve novels about "Nuala Anne McGrail, that beautiful Irish spitfire," and the "Look inside" feature at Amazon turns up no

mention of Sherlock Holmes in the text other than mention of a character who "looked like the last Basil Rathbone playing Sherlock Holmes in the old movies."

17789. Jennie Paton reports that there's a "Sinister Image" series at Vimeo, with David Del Valle as host, and with his commentary on each film. There are two Rathbone films in the series (so far): "Sherlock Holmes and the Secret Weapon" (1943) and "Terror by Night" (1946) <www.tinyurl.com/lepdk2>.

May 2017 #2

17790. Further to the report (January 17 #6) on plans to reopen the former Royal Oak pub in Ashburton, Newton Abbot, with a new theme, the pub is now open as The Hound of the Baskervilles, and thoroughly Sherlockian (including Baskervilles IPA from the Dartmoor Brewery on draft) (or on draught, as it's spelled on Dartmoor). There was a colorful report, complete with videos, at Devon Live (May 5) <www.tinyurl.com/kdet8rg>.
17791. Bob Mankoff is retiring from The New Yorker after 20 years as cartoon editor and 20 more as a contributor, and there's a fine Washington Post article about him at <www.tinyurl.com/mqo7ppu>. The caption on his Sherlockian cartoon is "Elementary, my dear Watson, the cartoonist did it" (in the Saturday Review, Nov. 15, 1975). And his story about his own famous "How about never" caption is at <www.tinyurl.com/jlbaot9>.
17792. Reported by Dana Richards: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: STUDIES IN THE BIBLICAL TEXT IN HONOUR OF ANNELI AEJMELEUS (CONTRIBUTIONS TO BIBLICAL EXEGESIS AND THEOLOGY), published by Peeters Bvba in 2014, with no mention of Sherlock Holmes other than in the title. Kristin De Troyer, one of the editors of the book, explained by e-mail that "text critics work with data and have to put all the data together in order to solve the text critical problem."
17793. It's old news, but we're catching up now: there was a report from BBC News last year <www.tinyurl.com/jcqnwdw> on how researchers at University College London have taught a computer to imitate anyone's handwriting. They call their system "My Text in Your Handwriting" and they have tried it out on samples of handwritten text from historical figures that include Abraham Lincoln and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. If you'd like to see "Elementary, my dear Watson" in Conan Doyle's handwriting (produced by their computer) go to the UCL web-site <www.visual.cs.ucl.ac.uk/pubs/handwriting> (and don't neglect the video).
17794. Further to the item about Stephen Fry's recording for Audible of SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE DEFINITIVE COLLECTION (March 17 #1), there's a six-minute video of Fry discussing Holmes at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/lv7scsz>. Note: the complete collection (71 hours and 58 minutes) is available only in Britain (and in the U.S. only if you have a program that allows you to pretend you are in Britain); the shorter version that's available in the U.S. has only the stories that are in the public domain in the U.S.
17795. Simon Callow has a long (and enthusiastic review of THE DEFINITIVE COLLECTION in the N.Y. Times <www.tinyurl.com/mzqnzyj>; Callow is a British director, writer, and actor, and he has played Holmes on radio, and Lestrade on television.
17796. Ben Abramson presided over the Argus Book Shop, published the old series of The Baker Street Journal from 1946 to 1949, and of course was an early member of The Baker Street Irregulars. He was a good friend of Vincent Starrett, and there's a nice blog entry about Ben at Ray Betzner's "Studies in Starrett" <www.tinyurl.com/lde82gl>.

May 2017 #3

17797. The Strand Magazine (the modern version edited by Andrew Gulli) continues to publish quarterly, and its on-line shop offers a wide variety of Sherlockian merchandise, including notepads, colorful Hound of the Baskervilles socks, bookmarks, mousepads, lapel pins, and refrigerator magnets <www.strandmag.com/shop-new>. They have other literary offerings, including some imaginative Count of Monte Cristo socks.
17798. Samantha Wolov spotted a story in the Japanese edition of Harper's Bazaar about Miu Miu's pop-60s-style pre-fall collection <www.tinyurl.com/khv8bsc>, inspired by Twiggy; there are eight images of models in fashionable deerstalkers, with a link to behind-the-scenes video.
17799. Further to the long-ago report (June 83 #1) on The Baskerville Hounds, the band has a web-site <www.baskervillehounds.com>, with links to some of their music at YouTube.
17800. The Illustrious Clients of Indianapolis have an interesting event coming up on Aug. 26: "Nerve and Knowledge II" will take place in the operating theater in the Old Pathology Building at the Indiana Medical History Museum; it is the oldest intact pathology facility in the U.S. (it opened in 1896) and offers visitors a chance to see the sort of operating theater described in Conan Doyle's "His First Operation" (which is available on-line at Project Gutenberg as well as in ROUND THE RED LAMP and other collections). Contact Steve Doyle <sdoyle221@sbcglobal.net> for more information attendance is limited to 98, the seating capacity in the operating theater); there is a nice web-site for the Museum (with video) at <www.imhm.org>.
17801. The title of the event in Indianapolis was inspired by NERVE AND KNOWLEDGE: DOCTORS, MEDICINE, AND THE SHERLOCKIAN CANON, published by The Baker Street Irregulars in 2015, and still available (\$39.95) at the Baker Street Journal web-site <www.bakerstreetjournal.com/nerve.html>.
17802. Margaret H. Laing honored Arthur Conan Doyle's birthday by posting to the Chicago Tribune's "Chicago Now" blog the amusing "Tale of John Thomas" excerpted from DANGEROUS WORK: DIARY OF AN ARTIC ADVENTURE (2012). Here's a link to her blog <www.tinyurl.com/kb2vc9a>. For those of you who do not have access to the Internet, but do have the book, you'll find John Thomas in the entries for June 3-6 and June 10, 1880. Randall Stock has an excellent discussion of the diary and the book at <www.tinyurl.com/ycabhd8>. Reported: a new recording of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" starring Derek Jacobi as Holmes, due from Cadabra Records in July (\$29.00); there's more information at <www.tinyurl.com/mk8jamq>. And there's an audio sample at <www.tinyurl.com/n53m99o>.
17803. Paul Schullery's DIAMOND JUBILEE: SHERLOCK HOLMES, MARK TWAIN, AND THE PERIL OF THE EMPIRE (Charleston: CreateSpace, 2016; 246 pp., \$18.00) involves Holmes and Watson with Mark Twain, who is visiting London for the celebration of Queen Victoria's Jubilee in 1897, and all three men in thwarting a dire assassination plot. Schullery (a member of the Mark Twain Forum) does an excellent job of capturing Twain's voice and style, and has a web-site at <www.paulschullery.com>.

May 2017 #4

17804. Sherlockian.Net was launched in 1994 by Chris Redmond, and has long been a valuable resource for the growing population of Internet-savvy Sherlockians (July 16 #5) (December 16 #5), and it is now owned and edited at the Center for Writing, Information, and Digital Experience, located at Michigan State University. One of its important features is the list of Sherlockian societies' web-sites; societies that aren't included, and would like to be, should contact Liza Potts <lpotts@msu.edu>.
17805. One of the traditional features of Malice Domestic (the long-running conference for mystery writers and readers in the Washington area) is the hospitality room, where authors and publishers leave stacks of bookmarks and other publicity for their books. One of the cards available this year promoted the Skyler Foxe Mysteries, written by Haley Walsh <www.skylerfoxemysteries.com>. "This LGBT rom-com mystery series follows the

teaching and unwitting sleuthing career of Skyler Foxe, high school teacher," but there isn't anything Sherlockian about the books (despite the imaginative publicity image).

17806. Malice Domestic is an excellent opportunity to meet your favorite authors, and get them to sign their books for you, this year's "Sherlock Lives" panel featured John Gregory Betancourt, Dana Cameron, Carla Coupe, and Vicki Delaney, with Peter E. Blau as moderator. Next year's Malice will be held on Apr. 27-29 <www.malicedomestic.org>.
17807. Good news for fans of "Elementary": the series has been renewed for a sixth season. According to Deadline Hollywood, the series has "soft" ratings in its slot (7.4 million viewers), but "Elementary" also is syndicated to WGN America, Hulu Plus, and other broadcast stations, for as much as \$3 million per episode; a year ago Les Moonves (CEO of CBS Corp. which owns the series) said that "Elementary" made about \$80 million profit for the corporation the preceding year. With 120 hours over five seasons, Jonny Lee Miller and Lucy Liu already hold a record for any pair of actors as Holmes and Watson except for Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce.
17808. CBS has asked for only 13 new episodes of "Elementary" (rather than a full 24-episode season), and the new season will be a mid-season replacement for a new series that doesn't do as well as CBS hoped. The network surely will be paying attention to how many protests from "Elementary" fans there are when the series does not air in September, and what the ratings the series gets when it does air again.
17809. And Lucy Liu will have a busy year, the Hollywood Reporter notes: she has signed on for a multiple-episode arc on the Hulu series "Difficult People" (as Veronica, "a morally corrupt, taste-challenged, and highly successful alpha female").
17810. Further to the report about a manga edition of "Sherlock: A Study in Pink" from Titan Comics, the series will continue with "Sherlock: The Blind Banker" in October, and then "Sherlock: The Great Game" (all based on the BBC television series). And Insight Editions is publishing English versions of "The Baker Street Four" (a graphic novel written by Olivier Legrand and J. B. Dijan and published by Vents d'Ouest in France in 2009); the first volume is available now, and additional volumes are due in August and October.
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May 2017 #5

17811. More news from the Stepping Stones School, which has carefully restored Undershaw, Conan Doyle's former home: the school has launched a year-long "Arthur Conan Doyle Lecture Series". Michael Gunton, senior archivist at the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection in Portsmouth, gave the first lecture this month (on "Conan Doyle: The Hampshire/Surrey Connection"), and the series will finish next May with a weekend of events; more information about the series can be found at <www.tinyurl.com/mleq56y>.
17812. There was a nice story about the school, and the series, in the Alton Herald (May 13) <www.tinyurl.com/mh3b6nd>, with a photograph of "pupils and volunteers at Undershaw" that includes (presumably a volunteer rather than a student) what appears to be Freddy the Pig. It isn't Freddy the Pig, actually, but rather Sherlock Hams. Haslemere is celebrating a Festival of Hogs, using local artists and schools to decorate fiberglass Hogs that will be displayed in the area and then sold at auction. The school is sponsoring Sherlock Hams, decorated by Alison Saunders <www.tinyurl.com/l3kt6ks>, and it's well worth clicking on this link to see Sherlock Hams.
17813. "What To Do with Too Many Books (Is There Such a Thing?)" is the title of Chris Redmond's interesting contribution to the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.tinyurl.com/lwl7wgu>.
17814. There aren't many bookshops left that specialize in the mystery genre, but The Sleuth of Baker Street is going strong in Toronto <www.sleuthofbakerstreet.ca>. J.D. Singh and Marian Mister are the proprietors, and their monthly newsletter "The Merchant of Menace" offers discussion of many of the Sherlockian and Doylean books published in Canada, the U.S., and the U.K., and available from their shop. And of course it's nice that their logo is Sherlockian.
17815. The Rookies web-site has noted <www.tinyurl.com/k4w8rw4> that the Royal National Institute for the Blind is now planning a mini-exhibition display that will include a newly-commissioned bust of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. There are images and a brief video at the web-site. Dame Jean Conan Doyle bequeathed her copyrights to the Institute, and the Institute later sold them to the Conan Doyle Estate Ltd.
17816. According to Laura Weston (the education and learning officer at the Conan Doyle Collection in Portsmouth), the mini-exhibition, prepared by the Collection to be transported by car to various locations, is intended to allow people who are blind or partially sighted to access the Collection, and to attract other audiences such as children or younger people, and people with disabilities. There will be audio about the Collection and the life of Conan Doyle, and two boxes of unique handling-objects that will include the bust and a 3D printed version of battle at the Reichenbach Falls that will be cold to the touch (thanks to a refrigeration unit), all designed to be as sensory as possible.
17817. William Hjortsberg died on Apr. 22. He was an author of novels and screenplays, including Ridley Scott's cult film "Legend" (1985); his novel NEVERMORE (1994) was a mystery featuring Harry Houdini, Arthur Conan Doyle, and a serial killer who copies the murders described by Edgar Allan Poe.
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May 2017 #6

17818. Larry L. Elliott has created interesting artwork for a "Sherlock Holmes" jigsaw puzzle that's now available from Piecetime Puzzles <www.piectimepuzzles.com> (\$16.95); there also a "Sherlock Holmes Gift Tower" available from Thingamajigsaw <www.thingamajigsaw.com> and more expensive, because it has hand-cut wooden pieces, including special pieces tied to the Canon).
17819. Samantha Wolov notes a menu of Sherlockian loose-leaf teas at The Dartealling Lounge in San Francisco <www.dartealling.com/menu.html>; they also offer teas that are an homage to Downtown Abbey, as well as tea services and sandwiches.
17820. Further to the item (September 14 #7) on "The Great Ace Attorney" (an addition to the Japanese Nintendo 3DS series from Capcom), a new game set in the Meiji period, with Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson, in the cast of characters: you can watch a demo with English subtitles <www.tinyurl.com/kkpsk2c>. Nintendo has announced that "The Great Ace Attorney 2" will be released in Japan on Aug. 3 and there's a trailer at <www.tinyurl.com/nyczlvi>.
17821. Dr. Watson takes on the case of Sherlock Holmes' supposed death in Jeffrey Hatcher's new play "Holmes and Watson" (performed in Tucson and Phoenix in April and May, to good reviews). You can hear Hatcher talk about the play in an interview for Arizona's KJZZ-FM <www.tinyurl.com/lskuwry>.
17822. iClassics offers some colorful and interesting combinations of literature, art, and technology, and one of the stories they've done is "A Scandal in Bohemia" <www.iclassicscollection.com/en/project/idoyle>. It's available in four languages (English, Spanish, French, and Portuguese), and it's an impressive demonstration of how modern technology can make reading enjoyable for a generation that needs to be persuaded that reading can be fun. It's an on-line app (\$2.99) available at Amazon and other sites, and they have done others authors as well (Washington Irving, Charles Dickens, Edgar Allan Poe, H. P. Lovecraft, Oscar Wilde, and Edgar Allan Poe. The company also offers attractive stickers that can be used when sending messages using iOS 10 (click on Stickers in the iClassics drop-down menu), and Sherlock Holmes stickers are available.
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17823. Cliff Goldfarb kindly reported that "lust-house" was featured on May 17 at the A.Word.A.Day web-site <www.tinyurl.com/k4zormc>, with credit to Conan Doyle. By nice coincidence, the "thought for today" was from Alan Kay, the spouse of Sherlockian author Bonnie MacBird.
17824. The web-site also honored Conan Doyle's birthday on May 22 with a "thought for today" that he once wrote: "I should dearly love that the world should be ever so little better for my presence. Even on this small stage we have our two sides, and something might be done by throwing all one's weight on the scale of breadth, tolerance, charity, temperance, peace, and kindness to man and beast. We can't all strike very big blows, and even the little ones count for something."
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May 2017 #7

17825. If you viewed "Elementary: Dead Man's Tale" on Mar. 26, you saw Nadia Alexander as Hope Nelligan. Nadia, a member of The Sound of the Baskervilles (the Sherlockian society in Seattle), was interviewed by James C. O'Leary for the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog; you can read the interview at <www.tinyurl.com/knd4u23>. Spoiler alert: if you've not watched the episode, you might want to wait for a repeat or the DVD before reading the interview.
17826. "Sherlock's 7 Cent Solution" is a new wooden puzzle designed by Diamond Jim Tyler (\$14.95) <www.tinyurl.com/l49u47k>. Tyler is a magician as well as a puzzle designer, and has some intriguing promo videos at his web-site [ABOUT DJT].
17827. Who knew? May 22 has been designated "International Sherlock Holmes Day" by someone posting to The Sherlock Forum in 2014, suggesting that people "celebrate by reading Sherlock Holmes books, watching Sherlock on TV, watching a Sherlock Holmes movie, dressing up in a costume, solving a mystery, etc." May 22 also is sometimes noted as "Sherlock Holmes Day" (and of course it's the birthday of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle).
17828. Laurie R. King offers a bit of news about the next Mary Russell novel, due next year: the working title is ISLAND OF THE MAD. The book is set in the spring of 1925, when Mary travels across Europe to Venice, and to Poveglia (an island asylum built on the bones of centuries of plague victims); one assumes that her husband is involved somehow. Laurie has a colorful web-site at <www.laurierking.com>, with lively blogs and much more.
17829. One of the interesting features of the long-running Mystery Scene magazine are the crossword puzzles in each issue. Verna Suit's "A Case of Identity" puzzle is nicely Sherlockian, and you can find it on-line at the magazine's web-site <www.mysteryscenemag.com/fun-games?id=5532>.
17830. The Bradford Telegraph & Argus has reported on events that will celebrate the centenary of the Cottingley Fairies hoax. There are exhibitions now at Cliffe Castle Museum in Keighley <www.tinyurl.com/mehysrz> and at the National Science and Media Museum in Bradford <www.tinyurl.com/kntnw68>, and there will be a Cottingley Community Association Fun Day on July 8, and a Cottingley Fairy Festival on July 29, both taking place at the Cottingley Recreation Ground. The museum in Bradford owns the two cameras used by the young girls who took the photographs that fooled Conan Doyle.
17831. The Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia, maintained on-line by Alexis Barquin <www.arthur-conan-doyle.com>, is a fascinating and extensive resource for information about the life and work of Conan Doyle, and well worth exploring. There are images and transcripts, including the encyclopedia entry, noted by Alexander Orlov, for the thesis Conan Doyle wrote to earn his M.D. <www.tinyurl.com/l57xjd7>.
17832. A much younger-than-now Steve Doyle played Watson in the first act of "The Case of Black Peter" recorded at Indiana University in Apr. 1983; you can see him perform at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/kapng5s>. This was his second performance as Watson, the first being in high school, in a film "Sherlock Holmes vs. the Wolfman" (1976) (not yet available at YouTube).
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May 2017 #8

17833. "Jinsei ni Kiku! The World of Sherlock Holmes" ["Enriching Your Life: The World of Sherlock Holmes"] is a 90-minute interactive documentary scheduled for broadcast by NHK in Japan (and only in Japan) on July 8; the production company has recorded segments in the U.S. and Britain, and viewers will be able to answer quiz questions using their remotes (they'll also be able to see interviews with Sherlockians in the U.S., with voice-over in Japanese).
17834. Roger Moore died on May 23. The actor was best known for his roles as "The Saint" in the 1960s television series and then as the longest-running James Bond in six films in the 1970s and 1980s, he also played the title role in the NBC television film "Sherlock Holmes in New York" (1976). He received a knighthood in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in 2003.
17835. Howard Ostrom spotted an announcement by Spookhouse Productions of "Puppet Holmes" (described as "the Odd Couple meets Ernie and Bert in the world of Arthur Conan Doyle"); you can see an announcement trailer at their web-site <www.spookhouseproductions.weebly.com/puppet-holmes.html>, and if you click on the "short films" link you will find their earlier "221B: The Sherlock Holmes Web-Series" (2013).
17836. And the usual theatrical update: Ken Ludwig's comedy "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is running at the Coach House Theatre in Akron, Ohio, through June 4 <coachhousetheatre.com>.
17837. Steven Canny and John Nicholson's comedy "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is on at the English Theatre Frankfurt in Frankfurt am Main, Germany, through June 30 <www.english-theatre.de>. And it's scheduled at the Shubert Theatre in Center Valley, Pa., June 21-July 16 <www.pashakespeare.org>.
17838. Jonathan Josephson's immersive-theater "Mystery Lit: Holmes, Sherlock, and the Consulting Detective" will be performed at the Santa Anita Train Depot on the grounds of the Los Angeles County Arboretum, from June 2 to July 1 <www.unboundproductions.org>.
17839. The Baker Street Players and KVC Radio will present double bills of live radio theater of programs from the old "Sherlock Holmes" series at the Hein & Co. Bookstore in Jackson, Calif., on June 3-4, Aug. 4-5, and Aug. 17-18; more information at <www.bakerstreetwest.com>. The Players also will perform Ken Ludwig's comedy "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" Sept. 8-Oct. 7 (there's lots more about Baker Street West, noted at the web-site).
17840. "The Baker Street Irregulars" (written by Flip Kobler and Cindy Marcus) is to be performed at the Liberty Lake Theatre in Liberty Lake, Wash., June 7-15 <www.libertylaketheatre.com>.
17841. Jami-Leigh Bartschi's musical "My Dear Watson" will be performed at the Peter Jay Sharp Theater in New York, July 11-16 <www.nymf.org>. The web-site for the musical <www.mydearwatsonmusical.com> has the history of the musical, and an audio interview with Bartschi.
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June 2017 #1

17842. The Baker Street Irregulars are holding a (July only) 50% discount sale on four titles: TO KEEP THE MEMORY GREEN (August 07 #4), "A REMARKABLE MIXTURE" (January 08 #3), THE GRAND GAME: VOLUME 2 (February 12 #1), and THE REMARKABLE CHAR ACTERS OF ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE (February 14 #1). The books are a bargain, as well as "just the thing to fill that gap on that second shelf" (as someone once said); they're available only at the web-site www.bakerstreetjournal.com and only using PayPal or credit cards.
17843. Sorry about that: the link for seeing "Elementary, my dear Watson" in Conan Doyle's handwriting (May 17 #3) is broken; <www.tinyurl.com/ycqttv5r> is a working URL.
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17844. "The cavemen in a lounge suit" is Gautham Shenoy's description of Professor George Edward Challenger in a nice tribute to Challenger on the Daily Factor blog <www.tinyurl.com/ycbr7zz2>, repeating Edward Malone's description of Challenger in "When the World Screamed". Challenger's much better known as the hero of "The Lost World" (in print and on film). The restored (and most complete) version of "The Lost World" (1925), released on DVD by Image Entertainment in 2012 <www.tinyurl.com/luphdmv>, will be available on Blu-ray from Flicker Alley on Sept. 12 with added features (\$29.95 if you preorder now, and \$39.95 after it's issued) <www.tinyurl.com/ycy4wd5s>.
17845. There are some nice clips from old British television shows uploaded by Jim Clark on YouTube: a segment from "The South Bank Show: The Underground of the Imagination" (1987) <www.tinyurl.com/y9zaaz7m>, interviews with Stanley MacKenzie [possibly from "Collectors' Lot"] <www.tinyurl.com/y9g9q62r> and Anthony Howlett at The Sherlock Holmes [possibly from "Something to Treasure"] <www.tinyurl.com/yb3es6t4>, and (in the interview clips) footage of The Sherlock Holmes Society's excursion to Switzerland in 1987. The interview clips are compilations, and the descriptions aren't correct.
17846. Leonardo DiCaprio is planning to star in a film based on Erik Larson's THE DEVIL IN THE WHITE CITY (2003), playing America's first serial killer Herman Webster Mudgett, who built and ran the World's Fair Hotel in which many of his victims died. Mudgett used the alias H. H. Holmes in Chicago, and while some have suggested that he was inspired by Sherlock Holmes, Mudgett first registered as Holmes in July 1886. Martin Scorsese is scheduled to direct the film, which does not yet have a script.
17847. There is, however, a real Sherlockian connection for H. H. Holmes: it was one of the pseudonyms used by author and critic Anthony Boucher, who wrote THE CASE OF THE BAKER STREET IRREGULARS (1940) and was an early member of the BSI.
17848. Beau Riffenburgh's PINKERTON'S GREATEST DETECTIVE (New York: Penguin, 2014; 384 pp., \$18.00) is the newest biography of James McParland, the inspiration for Birdy Edwards (in "The Valley of Fear"); Ben Macintyre, reviewing the book in the N.Y. Times, called it "the fullest and fairest biography to date," and he was accurate indeed. The Penguin edition is the trade paperback, and (an interesting trend in publishing now) the notes and references and other material have been omitted, but are available at a web-site.

June 2017 #2

17849. Elizabeth Eulberg's THE GREAT SHELBY HOLMES (New York: Bloomsbury, 2016; 243 pp., \$16.99) is written for young readers and has a delightful opening: eleven-year-old John Watson has just moved into his new home in Harlem, and begins the book by complaining that his whole life has been boring. "Then we moved from Maryland to New York City, and my new neighbor tried to blow up the building." His neighbor, of course, is nine years old, and nicely Sherlockian, and the story's told well. The author's web-site is at <www.elizabetheulberg.com>.
17850. "What is huge and furry, has vicious fangs, big ears and a long tail, and sings 'My Way'?" Roger Johnson asked in The District Messenger (many years ago).
17851. Radio Times has announced that the BBC's video-on-demand store will close on Nov. 1, only 18 months after it was launched <www.tinyurl.com/ycsjjhq2>. The BBC was unable to compete with other steaming services such as Netflix and Amazon Prime, but the BBC and ITV have not closed their own streaming service BritBox, available in the U.S. but not in Britain. At the moment, BritBox offers four seasons of the Granada series, "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Silk Stocking" (with Rupert Everett as Holmes), and "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (with Tom Baker as Holmes).
17852. The Red Circle of Washington keeps an eye out for political Sherlockian (and Sherlockian politicians): Asher Schwartz's editorial cartoon "Sherlock Trump and the Missing Peace" was published by the Jewish Press on May 22.
17853. Steven Spielberg has many Sherlockian and Doylean connections: he was executive producer of "Young Sherlock Holmes" (1985) and director of "Jurassic Park" (1993) and "The Lost World: Jurassic Park" (1997). He also was executive producer and head writer for the animated television series "Animaniacs" that in 1995 included a segment "Deduces Wild" (1995) that's available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/ybtzhejj>.
17854. Julie McKuras has reported Graphic 45, a company that specializes in scrapbook and paper crafting; their products include a "Master Detective" collection <www.tinyurl.com/ycrj2xdm> that's attractive, colorful, and nicely Sherlockian.
17855. The International Sherlock Holmes Exhibition is now at the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney, Australia, through Oct. 8, and the museum is offering a long list of imaginative events and programs <www.tinyurl.com/yb8wcaca>. Roy Barraclough died on June 1. He began his acting career in 1962 in provincial pantomime in Britain, became a fixture at the Rovers Return (in the British television series "Coronation Street"), and played Dr. Watson (with Robert Powell as Holmes) in a 1993 touring production of Leslie Bricusse's "Sherlock Holmes: The Musical".
17856. Watson's Tin Box sponsors an annual Sherlock Holmes Essay Contest for 7th Graders, and in 2014 the winner of the first prize was Hanna Al-Kowski, who went on to make an impressive 14-minute video for her Girl Scout Gold Award project. "A Study in Sherlock" is available at <www.tinyurl.com/y7mmbuw3>.

June 2017 #3

17857. A note about TinyURL, which was launched in January 2002 and is credited as the first notable URL-shortening service: I started using TinyURL in 2008, when the service used six-character extensions. The service eventually graduated to seven-character extensions and has just begun using eight-character extensions. Mathematicians are welcome to calculate how many times the TinyURL will be used before the service needs to go to nine-character extensions (they don't use "one" or "zero").
17858. "What is huge and furry, has vicious fangs, big ears and a long tail, and sings 'My Way'?" "The giant rat of Sinatra." The Smithsonian Institution has issued an exclusive CD "Frank Sinatra: Lost & Found: The Radio Years" (\$14.99) with 26 live radio performances (including 24 that have never been released commercially, and 14 songs not available on any other CD). It's not Sherlockian (as far as I know), but Basil Rathbone is reported to have appeared in Sherlockian costume on "The Frank Sinatra Show" on CBS-TV (May 24, 1951), helping Sinatra find his missing bow tie.
17859. Our new commemorative honors the bicentenary of the birth of Henry David Thoreau, who is quoted by Sherlock Holmes (in "The Noble Bachelor"). Thoreau wrote in his JOURNAL (on Nov. 11, 1854) "Some circumstantial evidence is very strong, as when you find a trout in the milk," but it is of interest that his JOURNAL was not published until 1906, many years after the case took place, which raises a question of how Holmes could have read about the trout in the milk. The question is answered in an article "In Memoriam: Henry David Thoreau" (published in the Sept. 1969 issue of The Baker Street Journal, and illustrated with a reproduction of the commemorative issued by the U.S. in 1967).
17860. "1920s Pac Heights Condo with Views of Lafayette Park Asks \$3.9 Million" is the headline on a story at Curbed San Francisco <www.tinyurl.com/ybmygdgg> about a top floor condo at 2151 Sacramento Street. "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Once Hung Out Here" is the sub-head, and he did indeed visit the house, in June 1923, to meet Dr. Albert Abrams, who had invented a "radio heterodyne" that he used to detect cancer, syphilis, and other diseases. Conan Doyle was greatly impressed and discussed his visit to San Francisco, and Abrams, in OUR SECOND AMERICAN ADVENTURE (1924). The entire house was purchased in 1986 for close to \$1 million, and one of the four condos was available for \$2.5 million in

2012. The top-floor condo, is advertised at \$3,995,000 and has 2,528 square feet (that's \$1,580 per square foot), which will give you an idea of how expensive real estate in San Francisco is.

17861. Austin Mitchelson died in February. He was a journalist, and with Nicholas Utechin co-authored two pastiches (THE EARTHQUAKE MACHINE and HELLBIRDS) in 1976; he also wrote THE BAKER STREET IRREGULAR: THE UNAUTHORIZED BIOGRAPHY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1994) and the graphic novel HOLMES AND HUDSON (2016).
17862. Randall Stock has updated his report on the Swann Galleries sale of Conan Doyle manuscript material on May 4 <www.tinyurl.com/ky7wtas>; three drafts of the lecture that he gave on his tour of the United States in 1894 sold for \$10,625 (including the buyer's premium). All of the material was from the collection of the late Milton R. Slater, who also owned manuscripts for three of Conan Doyle's non-Sherlockian stories, sold at Swann in 2015.

June 2017 #4

17863. Raymond Smullyan died on Feb. 6. He was a magician, a mathematician, and a world-famous creator of puzzles; he had a grand sense of humor (he once said "Why should I worry about dying? It's not going to happen in my lifetime!"), and THE CHESS MYSTERIES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1979) was one of his many books. The Guardian's obit included his puzzle "The Mystery of Portia's Caskets" <www.tinyurl.com/z4lsrnu> (there's a link to the answer, which some if not many will find useful).
17864. Daedalus Books <www.daedalusbooks.com> is an excellent on-line resource for remaindered books and DVDs offered at deep discounts: searches for [conan doyle] and [sherlock holmes] will turn up many bargains.
17865. Tina Rhea kindly reported a post by Chris Foster to The Veterans Site blog <www.tinyurl.com/y6vsv3j9> with a headline that read "No One Knew Why Cows Were Vanishing from This Ranch in the '20s Until Ranchers Found This!" The ranch was in Elko, Nev., where rustler J. R. "Crazy Tex" Hazelwood made himself an interesting pair of shoes (perhaps after reading "The Priory School").
17866. Purina's Mmmysteries Presents the Case of the Bargain Bandit is a new advertising campaign <www.tinyurl.com/yb7yq7lm> that features an image of a deerstalkered hound named Detective Wigglesby.
17867. Two copies of a "color print of Arthur Conan Doyle being haunted by Sherlock Holmes produced by Gahan Wilson" were included in a group of portfolios and prints <www.tinyurl.com/y75pcydw> offered at Heritage Auctions on June 6. The person actually being haunted by Holmes might be amused, one suspects, by the confusion.
17868. Susan Diamond reports that Mike Shenk's "Acrostic" in the Wall Street Journal (June 3) is nicely Sherlockian, and it may still be available on-line <www.tinyurl.com/yd96ofws>.
17869. Thornwillow Press is running a Kickstarter campaign for their new "Sherlock Holmes Hexalogy" <www.tinyurl.com/yct49rxe>: six letter-press printed and hand-bound volumes, each with one of Conan Doyle's favorite Sherlock Holmes stories, each in different bindings and at different prices; a fancy copy themed for "The Speckled Band" comes bound in genuine python skin and black Morocco leather, and each volume has the introduction written by Randall Stock for the Hexalogy.
17870. Thornwillow also offers (available now) an attractive broadside leaflet AN EMBELLISHMENT OF LIFE: THOUGHTS ON ROSES (\$5.00) with quotations from eight authors (including Conan Doyle) <www.tinyurl.com/ychtz2po>.
17871. The Craven Herald & Pioneer reported <www.tinyurl.com/y9zk7jj3> on plans to celebrate Sherlock Holmes' connections to the Yorkshire Dales. Martin Sutton, who runs Uncle Jeremy's Household, a gift shop in Ingleton, believes that the detective's name was inspired by Conan Doyle's visits to the area (he married his first wife Louise Hawkins there in 1885, the same year his short story "Uncle Jeremy's Household" was published). Sutton's gift shop has a Facebook page <www.facebook.com/unclejeremys>.

June 2017 #5

17872. "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and His Campaign to Save the Lives of British Tommies" is an exhibition open through Aug. 31 at the Bankfield Museum in Halifax, West Yorks. His letter in The Times (July 27, 1915) suggested that better helmets and armor would reduce the casualties caused by shrapnel, rifle, and machine gun fire. Philip Abbot wrote an interesting four-part blog on the campaign for the Royal Armouries, available at <www.tinyurl.com/y9wrca7u>.
17873. Since it's certain that newcomers may well not know what he looked like, it was Isaac Asimov, not Arthur Conan Doyle who was haunted by Sherlock Holmes in Gahan Wilson's print (June 17 #4). The artwork also was used on the dust jacket and as the frontispiece for ASIMOV'S SHERLOCKIAN LIMERICKS (1978).
17874. THE SHERLOCK HOLMES TAROT, by John Matthews and Wil Kingham (London: Connections Book Publishing, 2014) described earlier (August 15 #2) is now out-of-print but available on the Internet; Matthews is a modern-day shaman and Kingham is a shamanic artist, and they have produced a 160-page illustrated guidebook and 79 attractive Sherlockian cards.
17875. "If there were no Books there would be no Hound of the Baskervilles" is the title of an attractive letterpress broadside illustrated by Alan James Robinson for the Cheloniidae Press, offered by Wonder Book <www.tinyurl.com/yda7d5rk> for \$95.00; they also offer the same image on a T-shirt (\$15.99) <www.tinyurl.com/y7nuodge>.
17876. Proceedings of the Pondicherry Lodge is the semi-annual electronic newsletter edited by Jayantika Ganguly for The Sherlock Holmes Society of India; it's now in its fifth year, and the current issue (with 85 colorful pages) is available at <www.tinyurl.com/yat9h3ed>. David Marcum's "Automobiles in Sherlock Holmes" offers nicely-illustrated original research; note also the imaginative paper jewelry available from Patralankaar.
17877. Many years ago (June 79 #1) I noted that Peter Cook and Dudley Moore are reported to have played Holmes and Watson about ten years earlier in a five-minute sketch in "Not Only... But Also", asking for more information. The BBC television series aired from 1965 to 1970, and here's another request for more information.
17878. "Calls within the network won't steal a minute on the entire tariff range," according to an advertisement in Yekaterinburg <www.tinyurl.com/yb2httof>, noted by Alexander Sedov and reported by Alexander Orlov. The next building to the right, Alexander adds, is where the latest statues of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson are located (March 17 #6) <www.tinyurl.com/mjv3rkl>.
17879. "Homespun from Ireland" (an LP issued by Marble Arch Records in 1966) featured Michael O'Duffy with the Bill Shepherd Orchestra and Chorus, and it is of interest to Sherlockians because one of the tracks has O'Duffy singing the traditional Irish song "Mush, Mush"; you can hear the track at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/y82lckgk>. The song is of interest to Sherlockians because the late James Montgomery decided that the lyrics of "We Never Mention Aunt Clara" were better suited to the music of "Mush Mush" than to the original music written by Bud Willis and his wife.

June 2017 #6

17880. Samuel V. Wilson died on June 10. He was a retired Army lieutenant general who served in the Office of Special Services and the Central Intelligence Agency, and then as director of the Defense Intelligence Agency; the Washington Post obituary <www.tinyurl.com/y8xtclxp> for him noted that he once said: "Intelligence's real hero is Sherlock Holmes, not James Bond." The obit's well worth reading if you like to travel (see his detailed description of what he did roaming the five continents and the seven seas).
17881. For the completists: THE GLEN MICHAEL CAVALCADE ANNUAL [1974] has Sherlock Haggis on the cover, and includes a four-page comic strip "Sherlock Haggis and Dr. Neeps"; Michael was the presenter of a television series that ran for 26 years on Scotland's STV.
17882. The Basil Rathbone/Nigel Bruce film "Sherlock Holmes in Washington" (1943) is one of the best in Universal's series, and not just for those who live in Washington. The film is readily available at YouTube, in English and dubbed into Italian, Spanish and German. This poster for the film will be offered at Heritage Auctions on July 29, estimated at \$1,500-\$3,000; Its attractive graphics are quite different from the much more common version and the auction house explains that it's one of only two copies known to exist.
17883. It has taken almost two years to decide (October 15 #2), but Westminster City Council has given final approval to convert Baker Street to two-way traffic (taking it back, Catherine Cooke notes, to the way it was in Sherlock Holmes' day). Details at <www.bakerstreettwo-way.co.uk>.
17884. Richard Hughes, founder of The Baritsu Chapter of the BSI (the first Sherlockian society in Japan) had a fascinating and colorful life and career, as noted recently in the Japan Times <www.tinyurl.com/y9zthr29>. He liked to say he had been a spy during the Cold War (for both sides), and his memoirs FOREIGN DEVIL (1972) and Norman Macswan's biography THE MAN WHO READ THE EAST WIND (1982) are well worth reading.
17885. The Sherlocks. a British indie/rock band from Sheffield that plays on tour, have a web-site <www.thesherlocksmusic.co.uk> with links to their singles and to a video, and the BBC has a nice web-page <www.tinyurl.com/yd5ko2p6>; their first album ("Live for the Moment") will be issued on Aug. 18.
17886. "The Radio Detectives" (an interesting five-part 30-minute series broadcast by BBC Radio 4 in 1998) is now available as a repeat by BBC Radio 4 Extra <www.tinyurl.com/yc4jlf3l>. The second episode is "The Voice of Sherlock Holmes" (and the other episodes are devoted to The Shadow, The Saint, Paul Temple, and Sexton Blake).
17887. Dana Richards has found Doyle's Delight (or rather that there is such a place): according to Wikipedia, it is the highest peak in Belize, and was named by Sharon Matola in 1989 in honor of "The Lost World" ("there must be something wild and wonderful in a country such as this, and we're the men to find it out"). Belize, for those who learned geography when I did, long ago, is the new name for British Honduras, in Central America.

June 2017 #7

17888. THE MX BOOK OF NEW SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES: PART VI--2017 ANNUAL (London: MX Publishing, 2017; 671 pp., \$48.95) is the latest in the series edited by David Marcum, and an excellent companion to earlier volumes, with almost three dozen traditional pastiches, a poetic tribute, and a radio script; the authors, old hands and new, ably show how nice it can be to have new and well-written short stories. MX's web-sites are at <www.mxpublishing.com> and <www.mxpublishing.co.uk>.
17889. Also from MX: Kieren McMullen's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE MYSTERY OF THE BOER WAGON (2012; 225 pp., \$16.95) has Holmes, Watson, and Conan Doyle in South Africa during the Boer War; Watson and Conan Doyle are at work in the Langman Field Hospital, Holmes is in disguise investigating a spy ring on behalf of Mycroft (assisted by Watson and Conan Doyle, of course), and Winston Churchill is on hand as a war correspondent.
17890. Brenda Rossini's GRACELAND CEMETERY IN CHICAGO: A SHERLOCKIAN WALK MIDST THE TOMBSTONES (2017; 54 pp., \$8.95) provides visitors with a guided tour of the graves of Vincent Starrett and many others (accompanied by notes on their sometimes-tenuous Sherlockian connections), plus "The Story of Gina" (a lady who had a colorful life, and a thoroughly outré demise).
17891. And: Viktor Messick's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND A HOLE IN THE DEVIL'S TALE (2016; 130 pp., \$9.95) has Holmes and Watson in London in the 1890s, investigating a series of murders committed by the Tarot Master. Petr Macek's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND HITLER'S MESSENGER OF DEATH (2017; 258 pp., \$16.95) begins with Holmes and Watson preventing an assassination of Queen Victoria, and ends with a battle against German espionage that brings them to the U.S. on the airship Hindenberg. John Raffensperger and Richard Krevolin's THE DIARY OF YOUNG ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: ADVENTURES IN THE WILD WEST, 1878 (2017; 221 pp., \$16.95) is set in 1878, when Dr. Joseph Bell brings his young medical assistant to Chicago to help solve a case that involves a series of murders and an attempt to assassinate President Rutherford B. Hayes.
17892. And: James Moffett's THE TRIALS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (2017; 228 pp., \$14.95) offers eight connected cases that culminate in a confrontation with a villain who nurses a long-standing grievance against Holmes. Michael Druce's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE PORTAL OF TIME (2017; 210 pp., \$14.95) has Holmes and Watson involved with H.G. Wells and his wife, and Albert Einstein, involved in a wormhole time-travel battle against Moriarty in 1918 and 1939.
17893. John A. Little's THE FINAL TALES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (VOLUME FOUR): THE CASE OF THE KEW GARDENS GNOMES (2017, 156 pp., \$11.95) brings his series about Holmes and Watson in their 70s to a close, offering five stories that end with Watson deceased, and Holmes again in retirement on the Sussex Downs.
17894. And: Thomas Kent Miller's SHERLOCK HOLMES ON THE ROOF OF THE WORLD (2017; 102 pp., \$9.99) is a reprint from 1991; Leo Vincey (whom some will recall from Rider Haggard's SHE and AYESHA) in Lhasa in 1891, when he and Horace Holly encounter a Norwegian named Sigerson. Richard T. Ryan's THE STONE OF DESTINY (2017; 253 pp., \$24.95) sends Holmes and Watson in pursuit of the Coronation Stone, stolen from Westminster Abbey by Irish nationalists after the death of Queen Victoria; the stone is recovered, as would be expected, and King Edward is duly crowned. Allan Mitchell's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE LEY LINE MURDERS (2017; 331 pp., \$16.95) challenges Holmes and Watson with gruesome murders near Stonehenge, and the mysterious "ancient ways".

June 2017 #8

17895. Michael Conan the grand-uncle and godfather, and namesake, or Arthur Conan Doyle. Conan was a journalist and art critic in Paris, where young Arthur visited and met him (and wrote about the meeting in MEMORIES AND ADVENTURES (1923). There is much more about Conan at The Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia <www.tinyurl.com/ydhkgos9>, which is maintained and edited by Alexis Barquin; it's a detailed and delightful source for information about Sir Arthur.
17896. The Portsmouth City Council and Winchester University Press have published a facsimile edition of the manuscript of "The Creeping Man" (with an introduction and annotated transcription by Neil McCaw, who is professor of Victorian literature and culture at the University); £35.00 (postpaid) to the U.K. and £50.00 elsewhere <www.tinyurl.com/yd44skqx>.
17897. Further to the item about Steve Doyle playing Watson in 1983 (May 17 #7), Jennie Paton has noted that you can see an even-younger Steve as Watson in his high-school film "Sherlock Holmes vs. the Wolfman" (1976) at YouTube: <www.tinyurl.com/ydgasdpm>.

17898. Peter Sallis died on June 2. He had a long career as an actor, and for 37 years he played Norman Clegg on the BBC television series "Last of the Summer Wine". He also voiced Wallace in the "Wallace and Gromit" films, and played Dr. Watson in the original production of the musical "Baker Street" (1964) and Jonas Oldacre in the BBC Radio 4 "The Norwood Builder" (1993). You can hear Sallis sing "A Married Man" from "Baker Street" at Scott Monty's tribute at "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" <www.tinyurl.com/yd589wo4>.
17899. And there's theater: Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" is scheduled at the Bridges Covenant Church in Tavares, Fla., July 1-16 <www.tavarestheater.org>.
17900. Jeffrey Hatcher's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club" is scheduled at the Village Meadows Baptist Church in Sierra Vista, Ariz., July 20-23 <www.tinyurl.com/ydujdygw>. Also at Sanborn-Skyline County Park in Saratoga, Calif., Aug. 4-Sept. 3 <www.svshakespeare.org>.
17901. Ken Ludwig's comedy "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is due at the Ruth Caplin Theatre at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Va., July 22-29 <www.tinyurl.com/y6vraozb>; and at the CAT Theatre in Richmond, Va., Sept. 1-16 <www.cattheatre.com>; and at the Wade James Theater in Edmonds, Wash., Sept. 8-24 <www.tinyurl.com/y7yfzqn5>.
17902. Hamilton Wright's "Sherlock Holmes and the American Problem" is scheduled at the Vertigo Theatre in Calgary, May 12-June 10, 2018; web-site at <www.vertigotheatre.com>.
17903. The next best thing to seeing theatrical entertainment on stage is to read scripts; many scripts have been published and are in print, and there's an on-line clearing house where you can find many of them listed and available for purchase: just search for [sherlock holmes] at <www.stageplays.com>.

July 2017 #1

17904. Mattias Boström's FRÅN HOLMES TILL SHERLOCK (August 13 #4) has now been translated from Swedish into English as FROM HOLMES TO SHERLOCK (New York: Mysterious Press, 2017; 597 pp., \$28.00); it was reviewed here at length (April 17 #4) and it's grand to see it formally in print. Subtitled "the story of the men and women who created an icon," it's well-written and heartily recommended.
17905. THE ADVENTURES OF TWO BRITISH GENTLEMEN IN SWITZERLAND/DIE ABENTEUER ZWEIER BRITISCHER GENTLEMEN IN DER SCHWEIZ is a delightful book, edited by Nicole Glücklich and published by the Deutsche Sherlock-Holmes-Gesellschaft (248 pp. in English and 270 pp. in German), presenting a colorfully-illustrated account of Conan Doyle's four visits to Switzerland, and Holmes' one visit, plus detailed discussion of Holmes' presence there today, on the ground, in pastiches, and in films and on television. Available in Germany from Amazon <www.amazon.de> (€29.00) and in the United States from the Mysterious Bookshop <www.mysteriousbookshop.com> (\$49.95). Recommended.
17906. Conan Doyle was deceived by photographs of the Cottingley Fairies, and you can now have your very own, to decorate your garden (or home): Jennie Paton reports that the Victorian Trading Company is offering a colorful pair of them (in metal) for \$24.95 <www.tinyurl.com/y7seh9h3>; there is a blog at the web-site with a display of the five photographs taken by Frances Griffiths and Elsie Wright.
17907. This year marks the 100th anniversary of the fairy photographs taken by the two girls, and an article in the Daily Telegraph www.tinyurl.com/y72nf952 attempts to answer the question "Why Do So Many People Still Believe in the Cottingley Fairies?"
17908. And the journal Cognitive Research: Principles and Implications published an article this month <www.tinyurl.com/y8meurpn> on a study that investigated whether people can identify original and manipulated photos of real scenes. You can test yourself on five photographs at the Washington Post's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/yccj7vuj>, where you're asked an up-to-date question: "Can You Tell Fake News When You See It?"
17909. Steve McGarry's "KidTown" is a Sunday comic strip aimed at children, and it was Sherlockian on July 1 <www.gocomics.com/kidtown/2017/07/01>. There are similar comic strips, including "Slylock Fox" (now drawn by Bob Weber Sr. and Jr.) www.comicskingdom.com/slylock-fox-and-comics-for-kids/2017-07/01 in which Slylock always appears in Sherlockian costume.
17910. "I shall be the Hans Sloane of my age," Nathan Garrideb said (in "The Three Garridebs"), and you can now read a biography of Sloane: James Delbourgo's COLLECTING THE WORLD: THE LIFE AND CURIOSITY OF HANS SLOANE (London: Allen Lane, 2017; 544 pp., £25.00); the American edition is COLLECTING THE WORLD: HANS SLOANE AND THE ORIGINS OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM (from Belknap Press) and you can hear Delbourgo talk about his book in an interesting History Extra podcast available on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/y966eu5p>, and read a review of the book in The Economist at Greg Ruby's The Fourth Garrideb's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/yb2428jh>.

July 2017 #2

17911. Greg Darak reports TAKING DETECTIVE STORIES SERIOUSLY: THE COLLECTED CRIME REVIEWS OF DOROTHY L. SAYERS (Perth: Tippermuir, 2017; 321 pp., £15.00); it is edited by Martin Edwards, who has assembled all of the book reviews that she wrote for The Sunday Times in the 1930s, including her perceptive review (Feb. 6, 1949) of John Dickson Carr's THE LIFE OF SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE.
17912. "What the deuce is it to me?" said Sherlock Holmes impatiently (in "A Study in Scarlet"). "You say that we go round the sun. If we went round the moon it would not make a pennyworth of difference to me or to my work." It will make a difference to people who will have a chance to view a rare total eclipse of the sun on Aug. 21 (you'll need to be in a narrow band that crosses the U.S. diagonally from Salem, Oreg., to Charleston, S. Car.), and the Postal Service has honored the event using special heat-activated technology to create stamps printed with thermochromic ink: you can press on the black circle of the stamp with your finger, and an image of the full moon will be revealed.
17913. The Postal Service is becoming more and more creative: they've also issued a sheet of eight tactile "Have a Ball" stamps <www.tinyurl.com/ybejrhc>: each of the eight balls has a distinctive feel, and they showcase football, volleyball, soccer, golf, baseball, basketball, tennis, and kickball. Note that four of them are Sherlockian or Doylean.
17914. "Shisha no teikoku" ["The Empire of Corpses"] was a Japanese animation (March 16 #5); John Watson, recruited by the British government for a covert mission in Afghanistan, poses as a newly recruited medic for the British army and learns that humans are being brought back from the dead in the form of Frankenstein's monster. But the film's also Sherlockian: there's a cameo appearance by Holmes, with Watson, in the midst of the closing credits.
17915. Howard Ostrom reports that people who make their own soap can make a "Sherlock Holmes-Inspired Masterpiece" ("221 Baker Street" soap) following instructions provided by Kate Carson (Royalty Soaps) and Bee (Sorcery Soap): there's a 20-minute video at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/y8b9vzms>.
17916. "Smoking Gun or Distraction" was the headline on an article by Marc Fisher and David Nakamura in the Washington Post (July 13) about whether Donald J. Trump Jr.'s e-mails are important or not (which depends on how people feel about the issue <www.tinyurl.com/y8ms45bh>); the article notes the origin of the "smoking gun" phrase in "The Gloria Scott" (quoting the YALE BOOK OF QUOTATIONS), and Ben Panko digs deeper in a post at the Smithsonian Institution blog <www.tinyurl.com/y9lc4wju>. noting William Safire's comments on the phrase in his "On Language" column in the N.Y. Times Magazine in 2003.

17917. Mo Lebowitz ("Arthur H. Staunton, the Forger") died on June 25. He had a long career as an art director, and he was highly regarded as a graphic designer, as the proprietor of the Antique Press, and as a bluegrass mandolinist. The Antique Press, located in the basement of his home, used handset letter press type and other old equipment to produce attractive booklets and broadsides, including some striking Sherlockiana. He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1970.

July 2017 #3

17918. The Serpentine Muse continues to offer news from, about, and by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes, and the summer issue includes Donny Zaldin's interesting essay about "The Cubitt Family Autograph Album as a Source of the Cipher in 'The Dancing Men'"; published quarterly, the Muse costs \$15.00 a year from Evelyn A. Herzog (301 Warren Avenue #203, Baltimore, MD 21230), and a copy of the summer issue costs \$5.00 postpaid.
17919. One sees Sherlock everywhere, but seldom as cute as in an Italian television commercial <www.tinyurl.com/y8ny6ps4> advertising Amadori's new Würstel 100%, kindly reported by Howard Ostrom.
17920. The Wistow Maize Maze is an annual event in Leicestershire, and this year it celebrates the 130th anniversary of the publication of the first Sherlock Holmes story; it's open through Sept. 17, and you'll find details at <www.wistow.com/wistow-maze>.
17921. The BBC had a story about the "A-maze-ing Sherlock Puzzle" accompanied by a short video <www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/40574499>. One assumes that the maize will be harvested in September, and possibly sold, creating an imaginative agricultural Sherlockian souvenir; the maze, alas, is planted in maize (for animal feed) rather than in sweet corn.
17922. Canadian Holmes, published quarterly by The Bootmakers of Toronto, always is interesting; the winter 2016 issue included Hartley R. Nathan's "Mortimer's Penang Lawyer 1884" (an imaginative investigation Mortimer as well as of his walking-stick), and the spring 2017 issue offers John Linsenmeyer's "The Island of Uffa" (presenting a new candidate for the island mentioned in passing in "The Five Orange Pips"). There is much more to be found in the 40-page issues, which cost CA\$12.00 postpaid, and you can subscribe for a year for \$30.00 (US or CA), by mail to the Bootmakers at 3304-2045 Lakeshore Boulevard West, Etobicoke, ON M9B 2Z6, Canada, or at their web-site <www.torontobootmakers.com>.
17923. The summer 2017 issue of Canadian Holmes also is of interest: there always is something new to be said about the Canon, and Sonia Fetherston has done just that, in her "Canonical Canoodling: Kisses from the Pages of Sherlock Holmes"; Thelma Beam also discusses letters Conan Doyle wrote to his wife during their Canadian tour, and Kariaa Kuusisto examines the improvements over the years in the Strand Magazine's illustration by Sidney Paget.
17924. Nelsan Ellis died on July 8. He was a playwright, and an actor in film and on television, and played Shinwell Johnson in eleven episodes of the "Elementary" series.
17925. Further to the report (October 11 #4) about the "Sherlock" violin made by Steve Burnett from wood from the 170-year-old sycamore at Liberton Bank House in Edinburgh, Roger Johnson reports an excellent web-site devoted to the violin <www.tinyurl.com/y97dj8hm>, where you can read about its history, and listen to it being played by Ari Batikian in Usher Hall in Edinburgh.
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July 2017 #4

17926. Michael Bond died on June 27. Bond created Paddington Bear in 1957, found a publisher in 1958, and went on to write 14 books about Paddington that sold 35 million copies worldwide and were translated into 40 languages, including Latin. Paddington also starred in a BBC television series in the 1970s and in a film in 2014, and his creator was appointed OBE in 1997 and CBE in 2015 for services to literature. Paddington used Sherlockian methods, and dialogue, in "Paddington Turns Detective" in MORE ABOUT PADDINGTON (1959) and PADDINGTON ON STAGE (1977). There is an image of Sherlock Paddington (designed by Benedict Cumberbatch) in the Nov. 2014 issue of this newsletter <www.tinyurl.com/yad7rhba>; the statue later sold in a charity auction for £17,000.
17927. "Oscar Wilde called on us again, and I am quite sure no good will come of it this time either" is a grand way to begin a story, for those who like to collect great opening sentences; this one will be found in a new Irene Adler story by Carole Nelson Douglas. Her "A Spirited Death" is one of the thirty stories in MALICE DOMESTIC 12: MYSTERY MOST HISTORICAL (Rockville: Wildside Press, 2017; 371 pp., \$19.99), an anthology of stories by some of the conference's best authors.
17928. Tim Johnson, curator of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota, has an interesting blog "Special & Rare on a Stick" in which he occasionally offers Sherlockian posts, such as "Regarding Sherlock" in February, when he made some intriguing comments on the BBC television series <www.umbookworm.blogspot.com/2017/02>.
17929. The British Museum is planning to bring its world-famous Reading Room "to life again." The Reading Room, where Conan Doyle held a reader's card, was located in the Great Court of the British Museum, and was the main reading room of the British Library until 1997, when the Library was moved to a new building in St. Pancras.
17930. The Television Academy has announced its nominations for this year's Emmy Awards, and "Sherlock: The Lying Detective" won nominations in four categories: one for Benedict Cumberbatch (lead actor in a limited series or movie) and three for the program (outstanding television movie; outstanding sound mixing for a limited series, movie, or special; and outstanding sound editing for a limited series, movie, or special). The Emmy Award presentation will be broadcast in September.
17931. Further to the item about the giant rat of Sinatra (June 17 #3), Basil Rathbone did indeed appear on "The Frank Sinatra Show" on Mar. 24, 1951; there is a link to the 7-minute segment at Greg Ruby's "The Fourth Garrideb" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/yc2sexof>, along with diffusion of the Congressional Gold Medal awarded to Sinatra in 1998.
17932. The list of Sherlockian collections at libraries continues to grow: Michael Bragg blogged on June 23 in the Parallelogram (the newsletter of the Parallel Case of St. Louis) <www.tinyurl.com/yddsdzde> about the St. Louis Sherlockian Collection at the main branch of the St. Louis Public Library. The collection was started by Mary Schroeder in the 1990s and recently expanded by material donated by Bill Cochran. Cataloguing is underway, and the collection is scheduled to be unveiled this fall.
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July 2017 #5

17933. Louis Le Prince, a French inventor who filmed the first moving pictures (on paper film with a single-lens camera) and is credited as the father of cinematography, filmed his first moving pictures in 1888 and then mysteriously vanished from a train in 1890, before he could demonstrate his invention to the public. Irfan Shah, co-author of the documentary "The First Film: The Greatest Mystery in Cinema History" (2015), is writing a biography of Le Prince and has an interesting web-site about him <www.tinyurl.com/yaelqhw7> that offers brief glimpses of films he made in Oct. 1888 (less than a year after "A Study in Scarlet" was published).
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17934. THE CASE OF THE VANISHING PRAIRIE, by John Parr (Simcoe: Davus Publishing, 2015; 112 pp., \$12.00) is a comic pastiche: Watson decides to strike out on his own in the Old West, becomes a veterinarian, encounters Dr. Acula (and his assistant Igor), deals with local ranchers, Indians, and a mysterious Old Timer; available from the publisher <www.davuspublishing.com>.
17935. Will Thomas' THE FATAL ENQUIRY (New York: Minotaur, 2014; 293 pp., \$25.99) is an exciting addition to his series featuring Cyrus Barker (an homage to Holmes' rival in "The Retired Colourman"); Barker is assisted, as usual, by Thomas Llewelyn (they battle a vicious killer who is Barker's long-time adversary, and we learn some details about Barker's mysterious back-story).
17936. Charlotte Montague's CREATING SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE REMARKABLE STORY OF SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE (New York: Chartwell Books, 2017; 192 pp., \$14.99) is a colorful introduction to Conan Doyle's heritage, career, and writings, with synopses of each of the Canonical tales, and a final chapter on "The Sherlock Holmes Legacy" (all in all a nice gift for someone who's just entering the Sherlockian/Doylean world).
17937. "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Forged Stradivari: Did We Miss a Vital Clue for 130 Years?" is the title of an interesting post by Rachael Durkin (lecturer in music at Edinburgh Napier University) about the violins owned by Sherlock Holmes, and by another detective whose memoirs Conan Doyle may have read <www.tinyurl.com/ttd6ruq>.
17938. Howard Ostrom reports that Riva del Garda (in northern Italy) is celebrating Sherlock Holmes in this year's "Notte di Fiaba" on Aug. 24-27; details at <www.tinyurl.com/y7vau3th>. Click on the WWW button for information on all of the events, and play the YouTube video to see a preview for an app game that will be available during the festival.
17939. Further to earlier reports (March 04 #1
17940. and September 09 #1) on the Sherlockian and Doylean names of streets in Sherlock Holmes Estates in southeastern Carroll County, Md., Julie Snell reports that a number of homes are available for purchase by anyone who might want to live there <www.tinyurl.com/yccwto8a>.
17941. The Historical Society of the New York Courts publishes a series of calendars devoted to "Literature in the New York Courts", and this year they've chosen the title "Cases & Quotations" (presenting a colorful discussion of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle for June). The society's president, the Hon. Albert M. Rosenblatt, creates the calendars, and copies of this year's version are available from AI for \$4.00 postpaid (300 Freedom Road, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569).

July 2017 #6

17942. Howard Ostrom reports audio of Jack Benny as Sherlock Holmes on "The Jell-O Program at YouTube: on June 4, 1939, the show previewed the following week's performance of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" <www.tinyurl.com/ycsr9I9I>, and on June 11 the program included a 12-minute segment parodying the story (with a fine performance by Andy Devine as the Hound) <www.tinyurl.com/ydxm3jqc>.
17943. Harris Pest Control in South Carolina displays a modest silhouette of Sherlock Holmes at its web-site <www.harrispestcontrolinc.com>, and (spotted by Jennie Paton) a much more Sherlockian animation "Sherlock and the Case of the Termites" at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/ybgszmvvy>.
17944. Artwork for "The Old Grey Fox" at auction, at Menzies in Sydney, Australia, on Aug. 10 <www.menziesartbrands.com/items/old-grey-fox>: six paintings by George Goodwin Kilburne, conceived as illustrations to accompany the poem, which was published in Conan Doyle's SONGS OF ACTION (1898) and THE POEMS OF ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE--COLLECTED EDITION (1922); does anyone know when and where and by whom the poem was published with these illustrations?
17945. The Magic Door IV in Pomona, Calif., is the fourth in a series of used-book stores owned by Dwain Kaiser, who in 1967 named his first store in honor of the book written by Arthur Conan Doyle. Kaiser unfortunately was shot and killed this month, but his widow Joann plans to keep the store open and to continue his legacy.
17946. Trevor Baxter died on July 16. He had a long acting career on television, stage, and screen, and was a playwright as well. Sherlockians will recall him as Prof. Litefoot in "Doctor Who: The Talons of Weng-Chiang" (1977).
17947. "Would Sherlock Holmes Pay £1.7m for 221B Baker Street?" was the question asked by Which? Mortgage Advisors. That's £1.7 million, and you can read about Paul Ryan's estimates for Holmes' two-bedroom Georgian flat and other (mostly) fictional properties at their web-site <www.tinyurl.com/ybjgn29f>.
17948. Theodora Goss' THE STRANGE CASE OF THE ALCHEMIST'S DAUGHTER (New York: Saga Press, 2017; 402 pp., \$24.99) was inspired, she notes, by a question: Why did so many of the mad scientists in nineteenth-century narratives create, or start creating but then destroy, female monsters? Her answer involves characters from books written by Stevenson, Wells, Hawthorne, Shelley, and Stoker; Holmes and Watson appear in the story, consulted by Mary Jekyll and assisting the ladies in an imaginative tale.
17949. "Sherlock Holmes and the Clocktower Mystery" (the interactive exhibit with much Victorian flavor, and a mystery that visitors can solve) opened at the Wilbur D. May Museum in Reno, Nev., on July 29, and will run through Oct. 29 <www.maycenter.com>.
17950. One can find just about everything important on-line at Wikipedia, and it's interesting to see that their explanation of "Canon (fiction)" notes that "the term was first used by analogy in the context of fiction to refer to the Sherlock Holmes stories and novels." Thanks, of course, to Ronald Knox and his landmark biblical analysis, with a tip of the hat to Sabrina Flynn, who noted the explanation in a post to the Mary Russell e-mail list.

July 2017 #7

17951. Further to the item (April 17 #2) about Joseph Caminada, the Manchester policeman who began his career as a police constable in 1868 and had risen to the rank of superintendent of the city's police force when he retired in 1899 and became a private detective (some have suggested that he was an inspiration for Sherlock Holmes), Mancunian Matters reported on July 19 that a 15-bedroom hotel and pub in Manchester is to be named in honor of Caminada <www.tinyurl.com/y995vvy9>.
17952. When in Dijon: you can visit "221B Baker Street" (le bar des passionnés de Sherlock Holmes) <www.tinyurl.com/y9dstcgk>. Kindly reported by Howard Ostrom, who spotted it on-line (rather than in Dijon).
17953. Lora Roberts' THE AFFAIR OF THE INCOGNITO TENANT (Palo Alto: Perseverance Press/John Daniel & Co., 2004; 264 pp., \$13.95), subtitled "a mystery with Sherlock Holmes," stars Charlotte Dodson, a housekeeper in Sussex, who discovers that her tenant, a Mr. Sigerson, is of great assistance in solving a mystery; it's an amusing story, and the book's still in print (and available at deep discount at Amazon).
17954. Nick Utechin discovered a 221B cocktail on the menu at the St. James Bar at The Balcon in London: Metaxa Greek brandy, creme de fig infused with chai tea, liquorice bitters, lime juice, honey, and dark chocolate syrup, shaken with egg white (for only £16.00) <www.thebalconlondon.com>. There's also a Jekyll & Hyde cocktail, with recipe (and price) just as awful.
17955. Orlando Pearson's THE REDACTED SHERLOCK HOLMES is a three-volume series of collections of pastiches, a mix of "what came after" extensions of Canonical cases, and other cases that involve Holmes and Watson with tax evasion, climate change, the royal family, cricket and the rise of Hitler in 1930, and much more; the first volume was published by Clink Street in 2015 (86 pp., \$8.99) and the second and third by MX Publishing in 2016

(173/227 pp., \$12.95/\$14.95). The author's web-site is at <www.orlandopearson.com>, and MX's web-sites are at <www.mxpublishing.com> and <www.mxpublishing.co.uk>.

17956. Note that MX books are available at Amazon and elsewhere, but also at The Strand Magazine's web-site <www.strandmag.com> at better prices, and if you put "Hounds" in the order notes you'll also get a free Sherlockian bookmark as well as a discount on anything Sherlockian.
17957. That's "Hounds" as in "The Hound of the Internet" (they're perhaps the old-on-going Sherlockian list-serv). Details on the Hounds of the Internet can be found at <www.sherlockian.net/hounds>, the web-site that was created by Chris Redmond in 1994, and recently was transferred to Michigan State University's WIDE Research Center (it's a valuable resource for the ever-growing population of Internet-savvy Sherlockians).
17958. H. B. Lyle's THE IRREGULAR (New York: Quercus, 2017; 294 pp., \$26.99) features Wiggins, as a young man employed by Sherlock Holmes, and as an Army veteran in 1909 involved in the creation of the Secret Service Bureau (later split into MI5 and MI6); it's a colorful story, and the start of a series. The British edition is THE IRREGULAR: A DIFFERENT CLASS OF SPY (from Hodder & Stoughton, £17.99), and Mike Stotter's interview with Lyle is online at <www.shotsmag.co.uk/interview_view.aspx?interview_id=302>.

July 2017 #8

17959. And (as always) there's theater: the Illyria theater company is touring its open-air production of "The Lost World" in Britain through Sept. 3; the schedule is available at <www.illyria.uk.com>, and a photograph of the cast (without the company's "debutant dinosaur") ran with a story in the Lancashire Evening Post <www.tinyurl.com/ybnbm2o2>. This is not the first time the story has been staged (it was performed in England in 2003 and in Russia in 2014).
17960. Kandie Carle's "William Gillette: Senator's Son to Super Sleuth" is being performed by the East Haddam Stage Company at Gillette Castle State Park in East Haddam, Conn., on weekends through Aug. 13 <www.ehsco.org>.
17961. Ken Ludwig's comedy "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is being performed at the Lighthouse Festival Theatre in Port Dover, Ont., through Aug. 12 <www.lighthouse theatre.com>, And it's due at the Melbourne Civic Theatre in Melbourne, Fla., Oct. 6-Nov. 12 <www.mymct.org>; at the Playhouse in Liverpool, Dec. 7-Jan. 13 <www.everymanplayhouse.com>; and at Stage West in Calgary, Feb. 9-Apr. 15, 2018 <www.stagewestcalgary.com>.
17962. Steven Canny and John Nicholson's comedy "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is being performed at Sand Harbor in Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park through Aug. 23 <www.tinyurl.com/yc5mafzd>. And at the Bauer Theatre at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, N.S. through Aug. 26 <www.stfx.ca>. And it is scheduled at the New Theatre Royal in Portsmouth, Hants., Aug. 30-Sept. 2 <www.newtheatreroyal.com>.
17963. Linda Hein has reported from Baker Street West <www.bakerstreetwest.com> in Jackson, Calif.: the Baker Street Players Radio Theatre: will perform "The Problem of Thor Bridge" and "Murder in the Casbah" on Aug. 4 and 5, and "A Scandal in Bohemia" and "The Tolling Bell" on Aug. 17 and 18 (all from the old radio series starring either Basil Rathbone or Tom Conway). The Baker Street Players also will perform "A Study in Sherlock: The Last Voyage" as dinner mystery theater on Oct. 28 and Nov. 4 and 11.
17964. "The Baker Street Irregulars" (written by Flip Kobler and Cindy Marcus) is scheduled at the Phillips County Events Center in Holyoke, Colo., Aug. 11-13 <www.phillipscountyplayers.weebly.com>.
17965. Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" is scheduled at St. Stephen's Anglican Hall in Adamstown, N.S.W., Aug. 11-Sept. 2; web-site at <www.theatreonbrunker.com>. Also at The Mowlen in Swanage, Dorset, Aug. 24-29 <www.mowlemtheatre.co.uk>.
17966. Jennifer Berman's "The Last Séance, the Odd Friendship of Harry Houdini and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle" is due at the Hudson Guild Theater in New York from Sept. 25 to Oct. 1 <www.tinyurl.com/y7o2fbzz>.
17967. "Sherlock Holmes and the Hooded Lance" (a new play by Pat Whymark and Julian Harries) will be performed at the New Wolsey Studio in Ipswich, Suffolk, Jan. 8-13, 2018 <www.wolseytheatre.co.uk>.

August 2017 #1

17968. Bonnie MacBird's UNQUIET SPIRITS: WHISKY, GHOSTS, MURDER (London: Collins Crime Club, 2017; 492 pp., £14.99) delivers on the promise of its subtitle; it's a sequel to her ART IN THE BLOOD (2015), with a complicated mystery in France and Scotland, and revelations about Holmes' life before he became a detective; the American edition is due in October. The author has an interesting web-site <www.macbird.com> where she blogs and offers annotations on both books, and there's a third novel (DEVIL'S DUE) in the works to extend the series.
17969. Further to the mention of Anthony Boucher (June 17 #1), you can learn a lot more about him in a recent post at Ray Betzner's blog "Studies in Starrett" <www.tinyurl.com/ycps74zy>. Boucher and Starrett were correspondents and friends.
17970. Denny Dobry has kindly volunteered to raise funds for the BSI Trust, selling material donated to the Trust that is not historically tied to the BSI, and you can find this material at eBay; his seller name is wiggins221b, and you can make him a favorite seller. At the moment he is offering a first day cover, signed by Dame Jean Conan Doyle, of the set of Sherlock Holmes stamps issued by the Royal Mail in 1993, and there's more to come. You can contact Denny at <dendobry@ptd.net>.
17971. June Foray died on July 26. She began her career as a voice actress on radio at the age of 12, and provided voices for an astounding range of characters; animator Chuck Jones once said that "June Foray is not the female Mel Blanc; Mel Blanc was the male June Foray." She voiced Rocket J. Squirrel on the long-running series "The Rocky and Bullwinkle Show" and was Natasha Fatale in the same series (in one episode Natasha pretended to be Dr. Watkins to Boris Badenov's Herlock Soames), and she participated in a KPFF- FM (Los Angeles) reading of the entire Canon produced by Mike Hodel in Dec. 1980.
17972. Further to the item (June 17 #1) on Flicker Alley's upcoming Blu-ray edition of "The Lost World" (1925), with added features, you can still order at a discount <www.tinyurl.com/ycy4wd5s>, and see a short but colorful preview.
17973. For those who want to know where you can stand with one foot in North America and the other foot in Europe: Iceland. That's where the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, which separates the two tectonic plates comes to the surface and one can stand on the boundary without getting one's feet wet. We also saw the original geyser, which is located in the Haukadalur valley. The Great Geysir (from the Icelandic verb geysa, which means "gush") is the first geyser described in print, and it has been active for about 10,000 years and has given its name to all the others.
17974. Paul Voodini is a professional mind-reader, psychic, and mentalist, and a magician, and is happy to share some of his routines: his NINJA MIND-READING SECRETS is a 56-page PDF file that includes "The Baker Street Tarot" (allegedly reprinted from the Christmas 1892 issue of The Strand Magazine), available (£20.00) at <www.readerofminds.co.uk>. He also has written a "gas-lamp mystery" THE CURIOUS CASE OF JACK THE RIPPER, CONAN DOYLE, & HOUDINI, available (124 pp., \$14.00) at <www.lulu.com>.

August 2017 #2

17975. "Looking for ice cream? Just call Furlock Holmes" was the slogan used last year by Blue Bunny ice cream, kindly reported by Eric Sveum <www.bluebunny.com/where-to-buy>. A Google search for [furlock holmes] reveals a company called Furlock Holmes Animal Care (in Whitchurch, Hants.), as well as some amusing videos and Cheezeburger images. Dog-lovers might want to do a search for [furlock bones].
17976. "The Reconstruction of the Crime" is a previously-unpublished play, written by J. M. Barrie and E. V. Lucas, and now in print for the first time in the latest issue of The Strand Magazine <www.tinyurl.com/y85uv7we>. The play is subtitled "a sensational scene in which the victim requests the audience to assist him in the detection of a criminal," and it has been described by some as "a hilarious send-up of a Sherlockian story." It's nice to recall that Barrie and Lucas each wrote Sherlockian or Doylean parodies.
17977. The modern Strand Magazine is an interesting successor to the original, and has occasional Sherlockian content; it's published quarterly, and managing editor Andrew Gulli has a knack for finding previously unpublished stories. Subscriptions cost \$24.95 a year at their web-site <www.strandmag.com>.
17978. More news from the Stepping Stones School, which has carefully restored Undershaw, Conan Doyle's former home: the school will participate in the Heritage Open Day program, opening to the public on Sept. 10, with tours led restoration architect Mark Goodchild, and a talk by Bonnie MacBird, author of the pastiches ART IN THE BLOOD and UNQUIET SPIRITS; there's more information at <www.tinyurl.com/y88pnzys>.
17979. Many readers will have enjoyed this month's eclipse of the Sun, either total or partial, depending on where you were. So: "I had a chat with him on eclipses. How the talk got that way I canna think; but he had out a reflector lantern and a globe, and made it all clear in a minute." Now: who said that? And with whom did he have a chat?
17980. The list of members of The Baker Street Irregulars who have written autobiographies isn't all that long, but it now includes Curtis Armstrong ("An Actor and a Rare One"). His REVENGE OF THE NERD (New York: Thomas Dunne/St. Martin's Press, 2017; 336 pp., \$26.99) is subtitled "Or...the singular adventures of the man who would be Booger," and he notes that in 1964 "Mr. Sherlock Holmes, and his friend and associate John H. Watson burst into my consciousness like a couple of drunken uncles into a bar mitzvah, forever altering my reality." He has more to say about Sherlockians, and of course much more about his long career as an actor, and it's nicely done indeed. If you would like to hear Scott Monty and Burt Wolder in conversation with Curtis, visit "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" <www.tinyurl.com/ycku4few>.

August 2017 #3

17981. Robert Hardy died on Aug. 3. He started his long career as an actor on stage in 1949, and is perhaps best remembered as Siegfried Farnon in the BBC television series "All Creatures Great and Small" (1978-1990) and as Minister for Magic (Cornelius Fudge in four "Harry Potter" films (2002-2007); he also played Sherlock Holmes on records in 1970 (with Nigel Stock as Watson), read from the Canon on records in 1984-1985, and was a grand Charles Augustus Milverton in Granada's "The Master Blackmailer" in 1992 (with Jeremy Brett as Holmes).
17982. "Lion's Mane Jellyfish Alert on Ulster Beach" warned the headline on a story in the Belfast Telegraph this month <www.tinyurl.com/ycde2no7>. Michelle Hay of the Mulroy Coast Guard said the one sting "can cause potentially deadly anaphylactic shock," and that the Lion's Mane is the largest jellyfish to be found in Irish waters.
17983. The uncommon variant of the poster for The Basil Rathbone/Nigel Bruce film "Sherlock Holmes in Washington" (1943) offered at Heritage Auctions on July 29 (June 17 #6) sold for \$2,509.50 (including the buyer's premium); the only other known copy sold for \$2,151.00 on Nov. 21, 2015. A copy of the common variant sold for \$4,780.00 on July 30, 2016.
17984. How many of you recognized that chat on eclipses (without looking it up in an index or running a text search)? Inspector MacDonald chatted with Professor Moriarty (in "The Valley of Fear").
17985. Groombridge Place is in the news, boasting it has the longest and highest treetop walkway in Britain <www.tinyurl.com/y98xglds>; a story in the Independent noted that Conan Doyle often visited Groombridge, and that it was the inspiration for Birlstone Manor in THE VALLEY OF FEAR. Groombridge has a lot more to offer: their web-site's at <www.groombridgeplace.com>. Visitors can tour the grounds, but view the house only from across the moat.
17986. Conan Doyle's non-Sherlockian story "The Case of Lady Sannox" was adapted for television and broadcast in the series "Suspense" on CBS-TV on Dec. 27, 1949. And you can watch it at <www.tinyurl.com/yaq63km8>, in an entry in "The Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia" (which, as always, has much of Sherlockian and Doylean interest).
17987. The Baker Street Journal always is interesting, but the summer 2017 issue is especially interesting. Mattias Boström's article "Ouida Before Rathbone" tells the colorful story of Eula Branch, who re-invented herself as Ouida Bergère, married Basil Rathbone, and wrote the ill-fated play "Sherlock Holmes". You can subscribe to the BSJ at www.bakerstreetjournal.com (\$41.95 a year for four issues plus the Xmas Annual).
17988. Bruce Forsyth died on Aug. 18. A British television presenter and entertainer for more than 75 years, he was recognized by the Guinness World Records in 2012 as having had the longest television career for a male entertainer. One of the game shows he hosted was "You Bet!" on ITV, and on Feb. 24, 1990, one of the contestants was 15-year-old Sarah Elliott, answering questions about Granada's "Sherlock Holmes" series; Oscar Ross has kindly reported the segment available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/yb9xrlkn>.

August 2017 #4

17989. The Swindon Advertiser has noted that John Blick, 45, charged with three counts of assault in March, will face trial before Chippenham magistrates on Sept. 20. This would not be all that important to readers of this newsletter, except that Mr. Blick lives on Conan Doyle Walk; it's one of the streets in a development that includes Conrad Close, Thackeray Court, Austen Crescent, and Carroll Close, and one can only assume that they were named by someone who liked to read.
17990. The inaugural Irene Adler Prize has been awarded to Kiley Bense for her essay "A History of One's Own". The prize offers a \$1,000 scholarship to a woman pursuing a degree in journalism, creative writing, or literature, and was established by Lucas Aykroyd, an award-winning writer and public speaker in Vancouver, B.C.; it is indeed named for the heroine of "A Scandal in Bohemia", and you can learn more about the prize, and read the winning essay, at <www.lucasaykroyd.com/scholarships>.
17991. Daniil Doubshin hopes to learn more about the statuette of Professor George Edward Challenger that appeared in a photograph in the Jan. 1913 issue of The Strand Magazine, promoting the publication of "The Poison Belt" (which began in March); the statuette was displayed "at the largest bookshop and bookstalls" where the public could buy THE LOST WORLD. Daniel believes that statuette was owned by Conan Doyle; does anyone know the identity of the artist, or where the statuette is now? The statuette does bear a striking resemblance to a photograph of Challenger in THE LOST WORLD <www.tinyurl.com/y9he2j2w>.
17992. Reported: Otto Penzler has edited BIBLIOMYSTRIES: STORIES OF CRIME IN THE WORLD OF BOOKS AND BOOKSTORES (New York: Pegasus, 2017; 144 pp., \$26.95); it's an anthology of short mystery stories specially commissioned by Otto, and they include Lyndsay Faye's "The Gospel of Sheba"

(May 14 #6), a tale that involves sublibrarian A. Davenport Lomax, a friend of Dr. Watson, who consults Sherlock Holmes about a rare (and dangerous) volume. You can read more about the bibliomysteries at <www.tinyurl.com/ycxr6ebp>.

17993. Les Klinger notes that Douglas P. Lyle has posted about "Holmes, Thorndyke, Locard, Gross, and the Modern CSI" at the Crime Writer's Forensics Blog at <www.tinyurl.com/yc4oaya2>. Lyle, the author of FORENSICS FOR DUMMIES, has written for "CSI: Miami", "Monk", "Law & Order", and many other programs.
17994. Charles Altamont Doyle's "The spirits of the prisoners" (which he painted at the Montrose Asylum) is on display in an exhibition of "Victorian Watercolors" at the Art Gallery of New South Wales in Sydney through Dec. 3; the painting, which is owned by the Gallery <www.tinyurl.com/y7w4wutp>, was purchased at auction at Christie's in New York in 2012 for \$16,500.
17995. "A Yorkshire Fairie Tale" was a two-act play written by Thomas Diggs that was presented by On the Leesh Productions in New York in 2007; it was based on the Cottingley Fairies hoax, and Conan Doyle wasn't in the play. Nor is he in the musical based on the play, with music by Jay D'Amico: there's a web-site for "The Fairy Hoax" at <www.thefairyhoax.com>, with information about the musical and a chance to sample some of the songs.

August 2017 #5

17996. Further to the list of Sherlockian collection at libraries (July 17 #4), add another one: the Donald J. Hobbs Sherlockian Collection, which Don has donated to Southern Methodist University. His extensive collection of translations of the Canon now includes 108 foreign languages (and 9 versions of English in non-Roman alphabets); he will work with SMU and continue to help curate the collection, pursuing new languages and continuing his search for three languages known but still missing from the collection.
17997. Clarendon Serviced Apartments, based in London, offers floor plans for the apartments of seven famous fictional characters, including (of course) Sherlock Holmes in the series "Sherlock" <www.tinyurl.com/ycx9cea6>.
17998. "A Leg to Stand On; the Law and the Sign of Four" is the title at E.J. Wagner's EJDissectingRoom blog for the brief filed by Senior Assistant Hennepin County Attorney Michael B. Miller, in which he quoted from the Canon <www.tinyurl.com/y7v6sg43>. The case was argued in 2008, and the defendants (including the county) won, both in federal district court and in the 8th circuit court of appeals.
17999. Steve Mason reports that The Beacon Society has formed a new Junior Sherlockian Society for children and youth "eager to develop an understanding of the great detective Sherlock Holmes." They have an interesting web-site <www.juniorsherlockian.com> and an imaginative program.
18000. The Irish Independent had a story on Aug. 8 <www.tinyurl.com/y9ldnuvw> on "three blokes from Russian who decided to make a Sherlock-esque game with echoes of monster hit Pokémon Go by setting up a company in Ireland." The game is "Silent Streets" and it's 19th-century Victorian but not Sherlockian; you can preview it at <www.silent-streets.com/#overview>.
18001. Finally: something for Sherlockian fans of "Game of Thrones". Joanna Robinson, in a blog for Vanity Fair <www.tinyurl.com/ydg4cf5u>, draws an analogy, suggesting that Varys' network of Little Birds was inspired by Sherlock Holmes' Baker Street Irregulars.
18002. The Wireless Theatre Company <www.wirelesstheatrecompany.co.uk> was founded in 2007, and offers an interesting variety of audio drama as MP3 downloads (£1.49 each); they're now celebrating summer by offering one free download, and there are two Sherlockian dramas: "Sherlock Holmes Strikes Back!" and "The Trial of Sherlock Holmes" (use the code FREESUMMER2017).
18003. Sherlock Holmes fan Kaden Taylor tested his memory skills on July 24 on the one-hour Fox television series "SuperHuman" and received some publicity in the Phoenix New Times <www.tinyurl.com/y96q4vgj>; if any of my readers captured (and kept) this episode, please let me know.
18004. Father J. Michael Venitti's A READER'S COMPANION TO SHERLOCK HOLMES (Pittsburgh: Dorrance, 2017; 137 pp., \$22.00) is, he notes, intended as a "handy and simple guide" to help navigate the Canon, and the book offers a brief biography of Conan Doyle and commentary on each of the stories, presented in the order in which they were first published.

August 2017 #6

18005. Stephen Moffat, interviewed at Comic-Con San Diego, explained that one episode of "Sherlock" is "becoming a period piece before our eyes." The episode ("The Blind Banker") had a map being used to crack the code; "At that point [in 2010] it was absolutely true that everybody in London, including you, if you were visiting London, owned an A TO Z," he said. "A very small number of years later absolutely nobody owns an A TO Z, it's all on their iPhones--it doesn't work." Actually, the book is still print: a 2016 edition is available from Amazon.
18006. Ben Kingsley recorded seven stories for Dove Books on Tape some years ago (June 89 #8): A TREASURY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Scan, RedH, Twis, Croo, Card, Copp, and SixN) is now available for download as an unabridged audiobook at Audible <www.audible.com>.
18007. "I am a strong man with a J pen and a weakling with a Waverley," wrote Conan Doyle to Russell Goodwin-Smith, in one of three autograph letters that sold for £11,000 at auction in March 2015 <www.tinyurl.com/q8a3q5x>. It's a nice reminder of the distant days when people wrote with wooden pens and steel nibs. J pens are mentioned in the Canon (in "The Cardboard Box" and in "The Greek Interpreter"), and Conan Doyle later used (and endorsed) the Parker Duofold fountain pen. It's intriguing to note that the Waverley was made by Macniven and Cameron, an Edinburgh-based company, and that the pen was named in honor of the Waverley novels written by Conan Doyle's literary hero Sir Walter Scott.
18008. And for those who have a fondness for fountain pens: Dante Torrese reports that the Goulet Pen Company offers a wide variety of pens, inks, paper, and accessories, including a night blue De Atramentis Sherlock Holmes ink handmade by Dr. Franz-Joseph Jansen in Germany. \$12.95 for a 35ml bottle that has a Sherlockian image on the label <www.tinyurl.com/y8volfdc>.
18009. The first issue of The Newspapers (an "Irregular Journal of Sherlockiana" edited by Greg Ruby for The Sherlockians of Baltimore) has been published, with 120 pp. of toasts, poems, articles, and much more, many by members of the SOB's; \$20.00 <www.fourthgarrideb.com/shop>.
18010. Further to the item (January 17 #5) about plans to film Stephen King's pastiche "The Doctor's Case" in western Canada, there's now an interesting web-site for the film <www.thedoctorsmovie.com>.
18011. THE MAGICIAN AND THE SPIRITS, by Deborah Noyes (New York: Viking, 2017; 152 pp., \$18.95) is the story of "Harry Houdini and the Curious Pastime of Communicating with the Dead" told for young readers (ages 10 and up), and told nicely, with discussion, of course, of Houdini's relationship with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.
18012. Greg Ruby has reported the "Merrie Melodies" cartoon "Have You Got Any Castles?" (1938), nicely available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/y9b5re94>; you get a brief glimpse (at 6:03 minutes) of books titled "The White Company" and "The Hound of the Baskervilles". It's an interesting challenge to try to identify all the people being parodied, but here's one: Alexander Woollcott, who had a radio program called "The Town Crier" (and was a member of The Baker Street Irregulars in the days before Investitures were awarded).

August 2017 #7

18013. Liu Zhen reports from China that Sherlock Holmes is very popular there, and that there are more than 500 translations of the Sherlock Holmes stories into Chinese, including THE NEW ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES. The most popular of the translations is the complete Canon, from the Qunzhong Publishing House, with more than 1.8 million copies in print. There's also a Murder Pen project that publishes translations of golden-age detective fiction and non-fiction, and there are translations of three essays from Dorothy L. Sayers' SAYERS ON HOLMES (2001) at their web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/yc6qhf7s>. You can also ask Liu Zhen <ellry@163.com> for information about The Chinese Sherlock Holmes Society in Shanghai.
18014. The colorful edition of THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (published by O'Mara in England and by the Mysterious Press in the U.S. in 1987) included all of Frederic Dorr Steele's illustrations for Collier's (including the covers in full color) and an insightful introduction by Andrew Malec, and is available in a Kindle edition at Amazon (\$0.99) <www.tinyurl.com/ycy2pbft>.
18015. Simpson's-in-the-Strand, which has long been a destination for Sherlockians who want to visit (and dine at) establishments mentioned in the Canon, was closed for renovation on Apr. 17 (March 17 #3); it's now open again, with an enhanced-but-still-traditional menu, and you can read all about it at the Big Hospitality web-site <www.tinyurl.com/yahtexab>. Their web-site also has been renovated <www.simpsonsinthestrand.co.uk>, and (alas) now has no discussion of the restaurant's long and colorful history.
18016. Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese in London "once boasted Samuel Johnson and Arthur Conan Doyle as regulars," according to a story in the Independent on July 2 <www.tinyurl.com/y93tpjkm>, inspired by the decision of the Samuel Smith pub chain (which owns the Cheshire Cheese) to ban swearing at all its establishments. Devotees of Johnson have long cast doubt on his ever having frequented the Cheshire Cheese, and there's no evidence whatsoever that Conan Doyle ever visited.
18017. Kenneth Manzanara has been charged with killing his wife Kristy on an Alaska-bound cruise ship, The Emerald Princess, on a night the entertainment was a murder-mystery theater about a death on a cruise ship; according to one of the passengers, "we were at a Sherlock Holmes murder mystery" when an announcement a medical alert was announced over the intercom, and people thought it was part of the play <www.tinyurl.com/y8zvpdhf>.
18018. Jerry Lewis died on Aug. 20. He was a master slapstick comedian who began his career with Dean Martin at a nightclub in 1946, and starred with him on "The Colgate Comedy Hour" (which included a skit in 1952 with Lewis playing Sherlock Fink) <www.tinyurl.com/yd6tzo8d>. He also played Skylock Peyton (with Sebastian Cabot as Dr. Matson in the film "Family Jewels" (1965).
18019. David Harnois continues to add to his dramatized readings of the Canon, and now offers the first six stories at his "I Am Lost Without My Boswell" web-site <www.iamlostwithoutmyboswell.com>; you can listen to or download the dramatized readings, which are nicely done. He also has links to an audio recording of Jeremy Paul's play "The Secret of Sherlock Holmes" (which was made by Lisa Woods and Linda Pritchard on Mar. 20, 1989); it has been remastered by Alison Carter.

August 2017 #8

18020. "Calling all Anglophiles to the third annual Britsburgh Festival" was the headline on an announcement of six days and twenty events scheduled on Sept. 5-10 in Pittsburgh <www.britsburgh.com>; at one of the events, on Sept. 9, people will have an opportunity to discuss "The Six Napoleons" with members of the Fifth Northumberland Fusiliers (the local Sherlockian society) and to hear a talk by historian Len Bacousky about Conan Doyle's visit to Pittsburgh in 1923.
18021. And there's theater: "A Scandal in the Weimar" (a new play by Claire Bowen and Jennifer Piper featuring "Lady Sherlock Holmes, Nazis, and cabaret") is on at the Bluestone Church Arts Space in Footscray, Vic., through Sept. 9 <www.witinc.com.au>.
18022. Paul Giovanni's "The Crucifer of Blood" is running at the DAPA Theatre on Beaumont in Hamilton, N.S.W, through Sept. 9 <www.tinyurl.com/ycp7upyb>.
18023. "The Return to Baker Street" (a new play from by Dan Bray and Jacob Sampson) is being performed at the Waiting Room in Halifax, N.S., through Sept. 10 <www.tinyurl.com/y8vz6m9h>.
18024. Madeleine George's "The (Curious Case of the) Watson Intelligence" is being performed at the Ashley Stage in Berkeley, Calif., through Sept. 10; web-site at <www.shotgunplayers.org>.
18025. "Sherlock Holmes and the Crimson Cobbles" (a new play by Toby Hulse) will be performed at the Salisbury Playhouse in Salisbury, Wilts., Sept. 12-16 <www.tinyurl.com/yadjzll9>; click on "further information" to see a colorful Education Pack, and there is a trailer at <www.tinyurl.com/yaluurg9>. The play then will be performed at the Theatre Chipping Norton in Chipping Norton, Oxon., Sept. 19-24 <www.tinyurl.com/y8yzzk4a>, and after than tour in Britain.
18026. Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" will be performed at the West Allis Central Auditorium in West Allis, Wis., from Oct. 6 to Oct. 15 <www.westallisplayers>.
18027. Ken Ludwig's comedy "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is due at The ZACK in St. Louis, Mo., on Oct. 12-19 <www.insighttheatrecompany.com>; and by the Fairbanks Drama Association at the Riverfront Theatre in Fairbanks, Alaska, Oct. 20-Nov. 5 <www.fairbanksdrama.org>.
18028. The play also will tour after its production by the Walnut Street Theatre in Philadelphia, Jan. 2-Feb. 4, and the full schedule for the tour's available at <www.baylinartists.com/walnut-street-theatre>.
18029. Steven Canny and John Nicholson's comedy "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is to be performed at the Orlando Shakespeare Theatre in Orlando, Fla., Oct. 11-Nov. 19 <www.orlandoshakes.org>; and at the Chesil Theatre in Winchester, Hants., Nov. 18-25 <www.chesiltheatre.org.uk>; and at the Little Theatre in Colne, Lancs., Mar. 5-9, 2018.

September 2017 #1

18030. "The Strange Case of the Megatherium Thefts" is an amusing pastiche written by S. C. Roberts, first published in 1945 and then included in his collection HOLMES AND WATSON: A MISCELLANY in 1953, involving thefts from the library of the Megatherium in London. And it turns out that there really was a Megatherium Club, in Washington rather than in London. Its members were scientists who lived in the Smithsonian Castle in its early years and their club was named in honor of a recently-discovered giant sloth. There's more about the Megatherium, and its four young naturalists, in a recent blog at the Smithsonian Institution's web-site <www.si.edu/megatherium>.
18031. "Ninety percent of intelligence comes from open sources. The other ten percent, the more clandestine work, is just more dramatic. The real intelligence hero is Sherlock Holmes, not James Bond." According to the late Lt. Gen. Sam Wilson, former Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, quoted by Van Hipp on Fox News <www.tinyurl.com/y9np5ygw>.
18032. Further to the item about Goyard of Paris and the "writing trunk" they made on commission from Conan Doyle in 1925 (November 16 #5), the company has opened a flagship store on Rodeo Drive in Beverly Hills; the company's impressive web-site is at <www.goyard.com>.

18033. The winter issue of *The Magic Door* (the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library newsletter) has an interesting article by Al Dawson ("Six Steps to Douglas Ainslie" that connects Ainslie, Seymour Hicks, Ellaline Terriss, William Terriss, Bert Coules, and Arthur Conan Doyle); and more news from and about the Library and the Collection. Copies of the newsletter are available from Clifford S. Goldfarb, 22 Markdale Avenue, Toronto, ON M6C, 1T1, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.
18034. Pierre Berloquin's *SOLVING SHERLOCK HOLMES: PUZZLE YOUR WAY THROUGH THE CASES* (New York: Wellfleet, 2017; 192 pp., \$21.99) is an imaginative approach to the Canon; the author has written more than 50 books of puzzles, and in this attractively-illustrated volume uses six stories to present 144 puzzles of varying complexity.
18035. Pan Macmillan is celebrating its 70th anniversary of the first Pan paperback with a "Pan 70th Collection" of 20 of their "best-loved, best-selling" stories, with redesigned covers, and one of them is *THE LOST WORLD*; you can see the new cover designs at <pages.panmacmillan.com/pan-70>.
18036. Hazel Gaynor's *THE COTTINGLEY SECRET* (New York: William Morrow, 2017; 389 pp., \$15.99) is a well-written novel that tells the stories of two women: Olivia Kavanagh in modern-day Ireland, and Frances Griffiths, whose diary Olivia finds, and it's a delightful and warm celebration of the centenary of the Cottingley Fairies.
18037. There's no shortage of knitted brows in the Canon, but the "dear old ruddy-faced woman in a country cap" is the only person who actually knitted (in "His Last Bow"). Sherlockian knitters surely will be interested in Joanna Johnson's *SHERLOCK KNITS: PATTERNS INSPIRED BY THE WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS CONSULTING DETECTIVE* (Loveland: Slate Falls Press, 2016; 48 pp., \$12.95).

September 2017 #2

18038. Further to the item about the statuette of Professor George Edward Challenger (August 17 #4), the image of the statuette disappeared from the web-site, but you can see it in the Inner Circle at the Red Circle's web-site <www.redcircledc.org>. Daniil Doubshin believes that Conan Doyle owned a copy of the statuette, and would like to know where the statuette is now, and the name of the artist. Daniil's at <txt@list.ru>.
18039. Mattias Boström's *FROM HOLMES TILL SHERLOCK* (April 17 #4) is receiving excellent and widespread reviews, and interesting podcast interviews, including his conversation with Jacke Wilson in "The History of Literature" series at <www.tinyurl.com/yalw4ebj> and his conversation with Burt Wolder and Scott Monty at "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" <www.tinyurl.com/y89egfls>.
18040. Catherine Cooke found an imaginative Sherlock Bones Pug figurine (about 10" tall) in a shop in London (£15.99); it benefits the British Heart Foundation <www.bhf.org.uk> but isn't available at their web-site. Their web-site does, it should be noted, have two Sherlockian birthday cards www.tinyurl.com/y9tbbkuy <www.tinyurl.com/ycy2t47o>.
18041. What was the "A.D.P. brier-root pipe" that was owned by John Straker (in "Silver Blaze")? Sherlockian scholars have long wondered, with many if not most suggesting an Alfred Dunhill Pipe, but now Dino Argyropoulos, editor of the *Grimpen Mire Gazette* (published by Hugo's Companions), has discovered an advertisement for a trademarked A.D.P. pipe in 1885 in the *British Trade Journal*. If you'd like to know more, you can request a PDF copy of the newsletter from Dino <dargy@sbcglobal.net>.
18042. Another Sherlockian cocktail, from the St. James Bar at The Balcon in London: the 221B (Metaxa Greek brandy, chai tea-infused crème de fig, liquorice bitters, lime juice, honey, and dark chocolate syrup, shaken with egg white), described as complex and velvety, dangerously easy to drink, in an article in *The Telegraph* (July 14) <www.tinyurl.com/yzof5gft>.
18043. The animated movie "Sherlock Gnomes" (formerly known as "Gnomeo and Juliet: Sherlock Gnomes" and scheduled for release on Jan. 12) will now be released on Mar. 23. Johnny Depp voices the title character: the world's greatest ornamental detective, who is called in to investigate why gnomes are vanishing from England's suburban gardens.
18044. Richard Masloski sculpted Holmes and Watson in the 1980s. Alexander Orlov has kindly reported Masloski's post at Facebook www.tinyurl.com/y8esf7rc about his sculpture "The Game Is Afoot" (a model for a proposed life-size monument to Holmes and Watson). You also can see him with an older sculpture at <www.tinyurl.com/y9nnzhun>.
18045. Conan Doyle's *WHY WE MUST FIGHT AN UNENDING WAR* is a book that doesn't exist, except on p. 37 of Stephen Baxter's *THE MASSACRE OF MANKIND* (New York: Crown, 2017; 453 pp., \$27.00). In Baxter's sequel to H. G Wells' *THE WAR OF THE WORLDS*, set in 1920, the Martians are back, and in Michael Dirda's *Washington Post* review of the book <www.tinyurl.com/y9e7594v>, he mentions Conan Doyle having written "a jingoist book" praising General Marvin, who managed to knock out one of the Martians' original fighting machines.

September 2017 #3

18046. "I hate reformers," Dorothy Parker once wrote, "They raise my blood pressure." And she hated the movie censors: "They insist that Sherlock Holmes is made to say, 'Quick, Watson, the crochet needle!'" That's just part of a poem ("Reformers: A Hymn of Hate") she wrote for *NONSENSEORSHIP*, an anthology published in 1922 and recently discovered by Ross Davies. Good luck finding a copy of the first edition: as this paragraph was written, only one copy was advertised on-line, for \$350.00. But if you only want to read the poem, the book has been digitized, and you'll find it at <www.tinyurl.com/y96wwqv7>.
18047. The Research Society for Victorian Periodicals <www.rs4vp.org> has issued a call for papers for a special issue of *Victorian Periodicals Review* devoted to *The Strand Magazine*; they're seeking original essays on a wide variety of topics, with abstracts due by Dec. 1.
18048. Ehsan Ehsani presides over the on-line magazine "Mystery Tribune" and offers an interesting list of "six top apps for the ultimate Sherlock Holmes fan" <www.tinyurl.com/y7hufqgx>.
18049. Sharks are mentioned in two of the stories ("The Sign of the Four" and "The Valley of Fear"), and in a third story if you want to include Count Negretto Sylvius ("The Mazarin Stone"); eight sharks are shown on an attractive mini-sheet issued by the U.S. Postal Service earlier this year.
18050. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London offers a wide variety of Sherlockian merchandise at its web-site <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/shop>, and has discounted the price of *TO KEEP THE MEMORY GREEN*, the tribute to Richard Lancelyn Green edited by Steven Rothman and Nicholas Utechin in 2007. *A SINGULAR COUNTRYSIDE* is the Society's just-published handbook for its expedition to Norfolk this year, and their Christmas card for 2017 is a handsomely-colored of Sidney Paget's wintry artwork for "The Abbey Grange".

September 2017 #4

18051. "If you want to do a cop's job, but you're not a cop, what are your options?" Anthony Lane asked in a review of (non-Sherlockian) films in *The New Yorker* (Sept. 11); he began his answer by noting that "Sherlock Holmes called himself a 'consulting detective,' on the strength of which he was repeatedly invited by members of the police force to demonstrate that they were dithering fools."
18052. I don't recall anyone reporting the really big news from Comic-Con in San Diego in 2016: Mark Gatiss announced that there will not be a fifth season of "Sherlock". You can watch the "Sherlock" panel at YouTube, and that's exactly what he said, adding that there will be a sixth season.

18053. RSI (radiotelevisione svizzera) broadcast some colorful coverage of the Sherlockians who toured Switzerland and Italy in August and September (January 17 #5): the coverage starts at 6:48 <www.tinyurl.com/ybzbv4uz>.
18054. The "Pop Sherlock" exhibition in the TD Gallery at the Toronto Public Library continues through Oct. 22, <www.tinyurl.com/grnc2q5>; it celebrates Sherlock Holmes as the "ultimate pop culture icon" with "an eclectic array" of items from the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection.
18055. Belanger Books (in association with Arkham House Publishing) has launched a Kickstarter campaign for David Marcum's THE PAPERS OF SOLAR PONS, a collection of new stories featuring Solar Pons, the delightful homage to Sherlock Holmes created by August Derleth; Vincent Starrett once called Solar Pons a "clever impersonator, with a twinkle in his eye." Kickstarter has more information about the book at <www.tinyurl.com/ybaywlu6>.
18056. Big Chief Studios is now at work on figures of Sherlock and John from "The Abominable Bride", but they're also offering a 30% discount on their "221B Baker Street Door Diorama" <www.tinyurl.com/y7dxmjpp>, ideal for displaying their upcoming 1:6 figures of Sherlock and John, or their current versions.
18057. The Royal Mail has issued a set of eight stamps honoring Ladybird Books for the long series of books that helped generations of children learn how to read. None of the stamps show the Sherlockian titles published by Ladybird, but there were some: THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (1982) and BASIL, THE GREAT MOUSE DETECTIVE (1987).
18058. "Quote Investigator: Dedicated to Tracing Quotations" is a useful web-site maintained by Garson O'Toole <www.quoteinvestigator.com>; a few years ago (May 13 #5) the web-site had imaginative Sherlockian artwork, but now there also are some interesting hits if you search for [sherlock holmes].
18059. Maria Konnikova has written MASTERMIND: HOW TO THINK LIKE SHERLOCK HOLMES (2013) and THE CONFIDENCE GAME: WHY WE FALL FOR IT...EVERY TIME (2016), and her next book will explore the balance of luck and skill in our daily lives (using No-Limit Texas Hold 'Em as a metaphor for life); she has spent more than a year playing professional poker, and worked her way up to the World Series of Poker, and you can read all about it in the blog at her interesting web-site <www.mariakonnikova.com>. She also has ten interesting podcasts about con artists at The Grift www.thegriftpodcast.com>.

September 2017 #5

18060. Sherry Thomas' new A CONSPIRACY IN BELGRAVIA (New York: Berkley Books, 2017; 317 pp., \$15.00) is a sequel to A STUDY IN SCARLET WOMEN (August 16 #1); she's an established writer of historical romances, and the series features Charlotte Holmes, who does her detecting pretending to be "Sherlock Holmes" and finds both mystery and romance in an imaginative tale that offers nice surprises, and interesting characters. The author's web-site is at <www.sherrythomas.com>.
18061. Alexander Orlov has noted that the German film "Sherlock Holmes: Die graue Dame" (1937) with Herman Speelmans as Jimmy Ward/Sherlock Holmes is available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/yb756v4f>. It's all in German, of course, and one can only hope that some day there will be English subtitles.
18062. Treasure is where you find it: builders renovating the home of a late cinema owner in Penarth (Wales) discovered 66 film posters that been used as carpet underlay after being displayed in local theaters from 1936 to 1940. One of them was a 12-sheet poster for "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (1939) estimated at £600-£1,000 <www.tinyurl.com/y6vr6w72>; it was sold for £13,000 (apparently because it is a variant so rare that it's not recorded at Google Images. It was the second-most expensive poster in the auction; first place went to a 12-sheet poster for "Stage Coach (1939), which sold for £31,000. Ben Rogers Jones (the auctioneer) was quoted in the Antiques Trade Gazette as saying that the Texas-based buyer of the poster "told us that there is quite a good market in the U.S. for posters that suggest the British stiff upper lip."
18063. If you've wondered about Sherlock's fancy chair at 221B Baker Street in the BBC television series, a story in the Financial Times (sorry: there's a pay-wall) explains that it's a Le Corbusier 1959 Grand Confort LC3. The chair was designed by the Swiss-French architect in 1928, and you can buy the 1959 model from the Conran Shop <www.conranshop.co.uk> for £4,728 or find modern versions in other shops and on-line at lower prices. There's also a love-seat available, in case you want a mind palace built for two.
18064. "Asian-American Actresses Describe Struggle of Being Typecast as Sherlock Holmes" is the headline on an amusing story in The Onion, kindly forwarded by Dana Richards <www.tinyurl.com/ycc4xs0v>. The Onion, self-described as "America's Finest News Source, was founded in 1988 long before the phrase "fake news" became so popular.
18065. The show runners of "Sherlock" (and the actors) continue to tantalize fans with confusing answers to questions about a continuation of the series, and Radio Times, noting that Jodie Whittaker has been cast as the next Doctor Who, asked Benedict Cumberbatch whether he thought there might be a female Sherlock. "Why not," Cumberbatch replied, "I don't care." And he offered a suggestion: "Sherlockina, it's coming to you soon."
18066. Jennie Paton has noted a video devoted to "Litigation and Literature in the N.Y. Courts: Shaw, Shakespeare, and Sherlock" <www.tinyurl.com/yd9e9ndn>; the interesting program was presented by the Historical Society of the N.Y. Courts on February 17, 2016, with the Hon. Albert M. Rosenblatt (the society's president) presiding, and with readings by Paxton Whitehead.

September 2017 #6

18067. Anyone who wants to follow in the footsteps of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle can pay a visit to Rochester Square in London, where the inscription on the foundation stone of the Rochester Square Spiritual Temple notes that it was laid by Sir Arthur in 1926 (October 90 #5). But you need to visit soon: the Spiritualists' National Union, which owns the building, proposes to demolish the temple, to make way for flats and a basement gallery, according to a story in the Hampstead & Highgate Express on Sept. 9 that includes an image of the foundation stone <www.tinyurl.com/y8vc8zld>.
18068. Bill Barnes has reported from Australia that Sherlock Holmes, a six-year-old chestnut gelding, had his second race there on Sept. 23; he started at \$18 and finished fourth in a field of thirteen, his best result since moving to Australia from his native Ireland.
18069. Conan Doyle lived briefly in Plymouth (in Devon) in 1882, when early in his medical career he joined the practice of George Turnavine Budd (there's a fictionalized account of his time in Plymouth in THE STARK MUNRO LETTERS, published in 1895); the house where they lived now has a blue plaque, unveiled at a ceremony this month <www.tinyurl.com/y7y7xaf7>.
18070. Pam Verrey has reported "Yukoko no Moriarty" (an on-line manga by Takeuchi Ryousuke and Miyoshi Hikaru) at <www.tinyurl.com/y82n2426>; that's "Moriarty the Patriot" and it's in English, exploring his motivation in becoming the greatest criminal Britain has ever seen.
18071. "Sherlocko the Monk" (the Gus Mager comic strip with 430 episodes in newspapers from 1910 to 1925) is now completely available on-line at the Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia <www.tinyurl.com/ycqxhc39>; our thanks to Howard Ostrom for reporting the new archive. It should be noted that Groucho Marx said in THE GROUCHO PHILE: AN ILLUSTRATED LIFE (1976) said that he took his name from a character in Mager's comic strip.

18072. Acorn <www.acornonline.com> offers a nice variety of Sherlockiana, including a Mystery Lover T-shirt (\$19.95) and sweatshirt (\$29.95) with a colorful (mustached) Sherlockian caricature.
18073. An intriguing development in the bookstore business is Amazon's decision to sell books in bricks-and-mortar stores: their ninth and tenth stores opened in Bellevue, Wash., and San Jose, Calif., in August, and Bill Seil has forwarded a story in the Seattle Times <www.tinyurl.com/y8pkhebg> that offers a look at what customers can (and cannot) expect. Amazon stores stock only books that have received high ratings from Amazon reviewers, have room for about 3,700 titles, and are small enough to fit into city neighborhoods.
18074. I've noted in past issues that members of The Baker Street Irregulars have acted in films, and we can add Michael J. Quigley, who has appeared as an extra in two films. The rest of the list: Elmer Davis, H. C. Potter, and Evan Wilson (as themselves); Curtis Armstrong, Paul Singleton, and Richard Shull (as actors); Al Gregory, Jerry Margolin, John Pforr, Donald Pollock, Mary Ellen Rich, Philip Shreffler, and Bill Ward (as extras), and Jean Upton (as voices). If you'd like to include children of members of the BSI, add Peter Ashman's daughter Jenny (as an actor). Additions to the list are of course welcome.
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September 2017 #7

18075. THE MX BOOK OF NEW SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES: ELIMINATE THE IMPOSSIBLE (London: MX Publishing, 2017) is a welcome addition to the series of anthologies edited by David Marcum for those who believe that short stories are the best way to revisit Holmes and Watson; there are two volumes (459/566 pp., \$44.95 each), with 48 stories (and poems and scripts) by old hands and new who have responded to the editor's request for "apparently supernatural investigations, but with rational solutions," and they are nicely done indeed. MX's web-sites are at <www.mxpublishing.com> and <www.mxpublishing.co.uk>.
18076. Also from MX: Dan Andriacco's QUEEN CITY CORPSE (2017; 233 pp., \$14.95) is the latest in his series about Jeff Cody and Sebastian McCabe, who are in Cincinnati for a mystery convention and encounter mystery and murder, and a surprising solution; it's a lively story, and Andriacco maintains an (often-Sherlockian) blog at <www.bakerstreetbeat.blogspot.com>. Wendy Heyman-Marsaw's MEMOIRS FROM MRS. HUDSON'S KITCHEN (2017; 119 pp., \$11.95) offers a collection of columns from Canadian Holmes, expanded and edited by JoAnm and Mark Alberstat; it's a nice cookbook, with commentary on life in Victorian times in London and the English countryside. Rob Nunn's THE CRIMINAL MASTERMIND OF BAKER STREET (2017; 336 pp., \$18.95) answers the question "what if Sherlock Holmes had turned to crime instead of detection?" by retelling the Canonical cases from a new viewpoint; his "Interesting Though Elementary" blog is at <www.tinyurl.com/yd5hw4hn>.
18077. More from MX: Arthur Hall's THE DEMON OF THE DUSK (2017; 204 pp., \$12.95); Holmes and Watson are in Warwickshire, investigating a curse, a ghost, and a series of vicious murders. And Hall's THE ONE HUNDRED PER CENT SOCIETY (2017; 141 pp., \$10.95) pits Holmes and Watson against another vicious murderer, in a complicated and bizarre mystery. Mark Mower's THE BAKER STREET CASE-FILES (2017; 173 pp., \$14.95) is a collection of short stories, some new and most reprinted from MX BOOK anthologies. John Sutton's IN UNHALLOWED REST (2017; 137 pp., \$10.95) has Holmes and Watson in Suffolk in pursuit of vampires. And Richard K. Tobin's CANON OF THE NON-SACRED WRITINGS (2017; 120 pp., \$9.95) is a collection of five new stories told in non-Watsonian style. John Sutton's IN UNHALLOWED REST (2017; 137 pp., \$10.95) has Holmes and Watson in Suffolk in pursuit of vampires. Janina Woods' MYCROFT HOLMES AND THE ADVENTURE OF THE DESERT WIND (2017; 303 pp., \$16.95) sends Mycroft, his fellow Secret Service agent Victoria Trevor, and Dr. Watson in pursuit of the villains who have kidnapped Sherlock Holmes, in a case that involves supernatural forces.
18078. Hugh Hefner died on Sept. 27. When he founded Playboy magazine in 1953 he launched an empire that affected both the publishing world and a sexual revolution that reflected, and was reflected by, his own life-style. Those who bought the first issue of Playboy to see the photograph of a nude Marilyn Monroe were surprised to find that the lead fiction in the issue was an excerpt from "The Sign of the Four". "A Scandal in Bohemia" and "The Copper Beeches" followed in the next two issues, and Playboy continued with a variety of Sherlockiana, including delightful cartoons by Gahan Wilson and Nicholas Meyer's "The West End Horror", and Laura Lyons was Playmate of the Month in the Feb. 1976 issue. None of this was accidental: Hugh Hefner was an enthusiast, and once explained that his trademark pipe smoking was inspired by Holmes.
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September 2017 #8

18079. If you would like to have breaking news about Sherlockian theatrics, Howard Ostrom offers just that (and a great deal more) at his <www.twitter.com/HowardOstrom>. Note his link at the left to his alphabetic index of actors who have performed as Sherlock Holmes (more than 3,500 at the moment, and the list is growing).
18080. F. Andrew Leslie's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is running at the Port Tobacco Playhouse in La Plata, Md., through Oct. 8 <www.ptplayers.com>.
18081. Ken Ludwig's comedy "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is running at A Local Barn in Durango, Colo., through Oct. 14 <www.merelyplayers.us>; and at the Oregon Cabaret Theater in Ashland, Ore., through Nov. 5; their web-site's at <www.oregoncabaret.com>. And it's due at the Live Theatre Workshop in Tucson, Ariz., Oct. 5-Nov. 11 <www.livetheatreworkshop.org>; and at the Jacklin Arts and Cultural Center in Post Falls, Idaho, Oct. 12 through 15 <www.cdsummertheatre.com>. Also at the Royal Off-the-Square Theatre in Brownstown, Ind., Oct. 13-21 <www.jcct.org>; the Fringe Club in Hong Kong, Oct. 18-26 <www.hkfringeclub.com>; and Murry's Dinner Playhouse in Little Rock, Ark., Oct. 31-Nov. 25 <www.murrysdp.com>.
18082. "The Hound of the Baskervilles: A Sherlock Holmes Adventure" (a new "hiking play" written by Lauren LaCasse) is being performed by Arts in the Open at the Chautauqua Picnic Shelter in Boulder, Colo., through Oct. 29; web-site at <www.chautauqua.com>.
18083. Ken Ludwig's "Postmortem" (an earlier version of "The Game's Afoot") will be performed at the Mundelein High School in Mundelein, Ill., Oct. 6-8; the web-site's at <www.kirkplayers.org>.
18084. Christophe Delort's dramatization of "Sherlock Holmes et la mystère de la vallée de Boscombe" will be performed at the Théâtre du Gymnase Marie-Bell in Paris, Oct. 12-Jan. 27 <www.billetreduc.com/194998/evt.htm>.
18085. Tim Kelly's dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed at the Xenia Area Community Theatre in Xenia, Ohio, Oct. 27-Nov. 5 <www.xeniaact.org>.
18086. Ken Ludwig's play "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" is scheduled at the Ivoryton Playhouse in Ivoryton, Conn., Nov. 1-19; the web-site is at <www.ivorytonplayhouse.org>. And at Cheriton Village Hall in Cheriton (near Alresford), Hants., Nov. 15-18 <www.thecheritonplayers.org.uk>; and at the Ajax Community Theatre in Ajax, Ont., Nov. 16-26; their web-site is at <www.ajaxcommunitytheatre.com>. Also at the Triple Locks Theater in Coshocton, Ohio, Dec. 1-16 <www.footlightplayers.com>; and at the AFD Theatre in Arlington, Mass., Dec. 8-17 <www.afdtheatre.org>.
18087. "Sherlock Holmes: The Baker Street Irregulars" (written by Eric Coble and based on the graphic novels by Tony Lee and Dan Boulton), has been scheduled at the Alaska Fine Arts Academy in Eagle River, Alas., from Nov. 10 to 18 <www.akfinearts.org>.
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October 2017 #1

18088. Transformative Works and Cultures is an international on-line journal that publishes articles about popular media, fan communities, and transformative works; v. 23 (2017) <www.tinyurl.com/y9hkz4ml> is titled "Sherlock Holmes, Fandom, Sherlockiana and the Great Game" and was edited by Betsy Rosenblatt and Roberta Pearson. There's cover artwork by Laurie Fraser Manifold, and an excellent mix of material by and about Sherlockians, and it's all available to read on-line or download without charge.
18089. Alexis Barquin notes a two-minute British Pathé clip of Eille Norwood putting on a disguise in "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" at the Princes Theatre in London (1923) <www.tinyurl.com/y8xnf9h7>; this seems to be the earliest known film/video from a Sherlockian play.
18090. Kazuo Ishiguro has been awarded the 2017 Nobel Prize in Literature. He is best known for his novels THE REMAINS OF THE DAY, NEVER LET ME GO, and THE BURIED GIANT, and Sara Danius, the permanent secretary of the Swedish Academy, said that "If you mix Jane Austen and Franz Kafka then you have Kazuo Ishiguro in a nutshell, but you have to add a little bit of Marcel Proust into the mix." In an interview published in the N.Y. Times Sunday Book Review in 2015 <www.tinyurl.com/y7ux8nlm>, Ishiguro said that he discovered the Sherlock Holmes stories as a young boy in the local library, and that "I not only read obsessively about Holmes and Watson, I started to behave like them. I'd go to school and say things like: 'Pray, be seated' or 'That is most singular.' People at the time just put this down to my being Japanese." Mattias Boström has posted about Ishiguro at Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.tinyurl.com/y9mbuzd8>.
18091. Local conservationists are campaigning against a developer's plans to demolish the Lyndhurst Park Hotel in Lyndhurst, Hants., and build flats and affordable homes on the site. The campaigners are citing evidence that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle helped design the 1912 redevelopment of the building as a hotel; local historian Brice Stratford reports that he has discovered Conan Doyle's design sketches in the Richard Lancelyn Green archive in Portsmouth, and he has written a detailed and illustrated report that's available on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/y97zljpc>. The Victorian Society is supporting the campaign <www.tinyurl.com/yb5yvzve>, and their web-site has a link for those who wish to comments on the developer's planning application.
18092. A SINGULAR COUNTRYSIDE, edited by Nicholas Utechin, David Jones, and Heather Owen (London: Sherlock Holmes Society of London; 2017, 40 pp., £7.50), is the handbook for the Society's expedition to Norfolk; the Society's fortunate to have so many Canonical locales to visit on its expeditions, and to have so much scholarship available from its members. It's available at the Society's web-site <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk>.
18093. This may not qualify as Sherlockian theater, but: "it's ecdysiastical, my dear Watson." "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Scarlet Buttcheek" is a new, fully-scripted striptease that stars Nasty Canasta (Sherlock Holmes) and Sapphire Jones (Dr. Watson), for one night only, at the Bell House in Brooklyn on Nov. 3 <www.thebellhousesny.com>. "When you have eliminated the clothing, whatever remains, however improbable, must be naked."

October 2017 #2

18094. The Serpentine Muse continues to offer news from, about, and by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes, and the contents of the fall issue include Evelyn Herzog's "The Second Case of the Speckled Band" (originally published in Albertinum, spring 1966, when the ASH were founded at Albertus Magnus College in New Haven); the Muse is published quarterly and costs \$15.00 a year from Evelyn A. Herzog (301 Warren Avenue #203, Baltimore, MD 21230), and a copy of the summer issue costs \$5.00 postpaid.
18095. Don Hobbs, assisting the search for information about deceased members of The Baker Street Irregulars, is still seeking exact death dates for Irving M. Fenton, Robert G. Parker, and Frank F. Reilly. Nothing was found in The Baker Street Journal, the Social Security Death Index, and www.legacy.com; if any anyone knew, or has personal information about, any of the missing three, please get in touch with Don <221b@verizon.net>.
18096. There's always something new to be discovered, such as "Gli aristocratici e Sherlock Holmes" (published in Il Corriere del Ragazzi, Mar. 1975); it's an Italian comic strip that was written by Alfredo Castelli and drawn by Ferdinando Tacconi, and it's available on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/ybssps5z>.
18097. Copies of THE SHERLOCK HOLMES HEXALOGY have been shipped by the Thornwillow Press; it's a collection of Conan Doyle's six favorite stories, introduced by Randall Stock, letterpress-printed and hand-bound, and it's available in different bindings, ranging from paper (\$85) to half-leather (\$575), and a few individual stories still are available in even fancier bindings. More information at <www.thornwillow.com/sherlock-holmes-hexalogy-1275>.
18098. The Marco Navos Studio offers a colorful collection of paper dolls showing 12 characters from the Canon (plus Conan Doyle) <www.tinyurl.com/y93jvxe3>; they are available in two sizes. The company also offers a variety of miniature figurines <www.tinyurl.com/y9vlvmch>, Sherlockian and others.
18099. Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny has published aerial footage of a luxurious hidden mansion called Villa Sellgren, located on an island near the border with Finland, and allegedly used by Vladimir Putin as a holiday retreat <www.tinyurl.com/y6vtwr5d>. The [London] Sun had a colorfully-illustrated story about the mansion <www.tinyurl.com/yb8kjp4o>, which has a Sherlockian connection, as the site of filming for an episode of the series that starred Vasilij LivaNovember and Vitali Solomin.
18100. Flicker Alley promoted its restored (and most complete) Blu-ray edition of "The Lost World" (1925) with its first animated video contest, encouraging fans to submit short animated videos inspired by the company's titles; the winner was Shane Fleming, whose "The Tyrant Lizard" can be seen at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/yalhb587>.
18101. H. H. Holmes is definitely dead. That was the alias used by Herman Webster Mudgett, who murdered a series of young women in the World's Fair Hotel in Chicago, and by Anthony Boucher, who was an author, critic, and early member of The Baker Street Irregulars (June 17 #1). The History Channel series "American Ripper" pursued a rumor that Mudgett escaped from prison and execution and ended with the exhumation of Mudgett's grave; forensic tests determined that the body was indeed Mudgett's.

October 2017 #3

18102. Alexander Orlov has noted an interesting on-line archive: the National Center for Biotechnology Information, which has 16 data-bases with citations for ["sherlock holmes"] and 13 for ["conan doyle"] <www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov>. Anyone interested in Sherlockian and Doylean medicine will find much of interest: just one of the data-bases, PubMed Central <www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc> yields 623 hits for ["sherlock holmes"] and 461 for ["conan doyle"].
18103. "The most beautiful diamond in the world" is Christie's description of the 163.41-carat diamond that will go to auction in London on Nov. 14; it was cut from a 404-carat rough diamond found in Angola last year, and you can read all about it at <www.tinyurl.com/yb4g7yjl>. There's nothing Sherlockian about the diamond, but it's certainly more spectacular than the Mazarin Stone (a 77-carat yellow diamond that's part of the Iranian crown jewels, and was never owned by Cardinal Mazarin).

18104. If you would like to know more about Mazarin, and the diamonds that actually were in his collection, you can consult the catalog for Christie's auction of "magnificent jewels" <www.tinyurl.com/ycwzntl8>; the auction will include the "Grand Mazarin" (a light-pink 19.07-carat brilliant-cut diamond) that's so magnificent that it's listed as "estimate on request."
18105. Breaking news: the Russians used Sherlock Holmes to try to interfere with the U.S. election. It was a CNN Exclusive this month, illustrated with an image of Vasilii LivaNovember and Vitali Solomin <www.tinyurl.com/yavs6mjr>.
18106. It was H. R. F. Keating, in SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE MAN AND HIS WORLD (1979), who explained that the modern Belgian masters whose pictures entirely absorbed Sherlock Holmes (in THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES) were the members of the XX Group. James Ensor was one of them, and Christie's has on-line an interesting "5 minutes with... A book of poems illustrated by James Ensor" <www.tinyurl.com/y984kka8>.
18107. Greg Ruby has reported at The Fourth Garrideb web-site that a portrait of Arthur Conan Doyle appears on a new Scottish £10 note, and offers colorful images and a detailed description <www.tinyurl.com/ybp8jbhk>. It's a fantasy note created by Gabris Matej, and Greg includes a link to Matej's online shop, in case you'd like to buy one of the notes (\$8.90 postpaid).
18108. Steampunk, first mentioned in this newsletter in 1996, is a modern Victorian science-fiction genre generally set in alternative universes, but there is real science in its history. Brandy Schillace explores that history in her CLOCKWORK FUTURES (New York: Pegasus, 2017; 300 pp., \$28.95); the subtitle is "the science of steampunk and the reinvention of the modern world" and (of course) she has a chapter on "The Science of Sherlock".
18109. The University of Chicago Press has announced the Great Chicago Book Sale, and one of the books is Conan Doyle's 'DANGEROUS WORK': DIARY OF AN ARCTIC ADVENTURE (July 12 #4); if you don't have this excellent book already, here is a chance to get it at a discount: \$13.00 for the cloth edition (instead of \$35.00) and \$69.00 for the limited, numbered, and cloth slip-cased edition (instead of \$289.00). Go to <www.bit.ly/UCPSale>, search for [dangerous work] and use the keycode AD1647 to get the discount.

October 2017 #4

18110. Bert Wolder spotted an interesting item scheduled for auction at Sotheby's in London on Sept. 26 in The Vivien Leigh Collection: a photograph of David Niven, with a deerstalker (and bow and arrow) jumping into a swimming pool; They were close friends, and she was godmother to his oldest son. Estimated at £300-£500, it sold for £4,000, and you still may be able to see the photograph at <www.tinyurl.com/yd42jma9>.
18111. The Folio Society and House of Illustration have announced the 2018 Book Illustration Competition to illustrate THE SELECTED ADVENTURES AND MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES; details at <www.tinyurl.com/yb5ss7ez>. The winner will receive a £5,000 commission to illustrate the book and design the binding, and the deadline for entries in the competition is Jan. 17. The selected long-list will be available at the House of Illustration web-site from Feb. 1, and members of the public will be able to vote for their favorite entry; the winner, however, will be chosen by a panel of six judges.
18112. Breaking news: the Russians used Sherlock Holmes to try to interfere with the U.S. election. Okay: it was fake news (as you might have concluded if you observed the mention of "Sherlock Go"); someone had fun with the hoax, presumably inspired by the real CNN story about how the Russians used the game Pokémon Go to meddle in the election <www.tinyurl.com/y8vux3at>.
18113. And (speaking of Pokémon), the company's game "Detective Pikachu" has the title character in Sherlockian costume (February 16 #2), and a live-action film is reported to be scheduled to begin shooting in London next year. You can see a nine-minute trailer for the game at <www.tinyurl.com/y9y5bk2v>.
18114. The British Film Institute has launched a new Filmography data-base covering more than 100 years of feature films, starting in 1911, with details on more than 10,000 films and more than 250,000 cast and crew. Details available at <www.bfi.org.uk/archive-collections/bfi-filmography>, and there are answers to all sorts of questions, such as: who are the most featured characters in British feature films? Sherlock Holmes ranks third (24 films); James Bond and Queen Victoria are tied for first (25 films), and Miss Moneypenny ranks fourth (17 films). Old Mother Riley and the Prince of Wales are tied for seventh (13 films). And who was Old Mother Riley? Look her up at Wikipedia (I had to).
18115. Steve Duke died on Sept. 21. A co-founder of The Sherlock Holmes Society of Victoria (aka The Elementary Victorians), he produced occasional cryptic messages he called "The Dark Rumours of Moriarty"; his article on "ACD in Melbourne" appeared in the 2012 issue of Beaten's Christmas Annual, and for many years he had great fun out there down under.
18116. Dennis Pearce was the runner-up in the "detective" category in the BulwerLytton Fiction Contest in 2010: "As Holmes, who had a nose for danger, quietly fingered the bloody knife and eyed the various body parts strewn along the dark, deserted highway, he placed his ear to the ground and, with his heart in his throat, silently mouthed to his companion, 'Arm yourself, Watson, there is an evil hand afoot ahead.'" This has been in this newsletter before, but incorrectly, and the full version is better. The motto of the contest is "Where www means 'Wretched Writers Welcome'" and their web-site is at <www.bulwer-lytton.com>.

October 2017 #5

18117. EVERY CLUE COUNTS: A CHILDREN'S SHERLOCK HOLMES STORY (2017; 210 pp., \$9.99 at Amazon and elsewhere) was written and published by the 5th-grade class of Downes Elementary School in Newark, Del., and it is nicely done indeed; the 5th-graders know their audience, and obviously have had great fun creating an interesting book.
18118. Terry Downes died on Oct. 6. A British middle-weight boxing champion who was nicknamed the Paddington Express, he became wealthy outside the ring by investing in legal betting shops, and occasionally acted in films, including "A Study in Terror" (1965), in which he played Chunky.
18119. The next 221B Con will be held in Atlanta, Apr. 13-15, 2018; it's promoted as "a fan con for all things Sherlock Holmes" and (by all accounts) it is never boring <www.221bcon.com>.
18120. The Napoleon of Crime now has a grave marker. Jerry Klinger, in an article in the San Diego Jewish World (Oct. 8) <www.tinyurl.com/y9lmxvm6>, reports that he has installed a grave marker at Highgate Cemetery in honor of Adam Worth (the master criminal who was known as the Napoleon of Crime well before Prof. Moriarty).
18121. An addition to the list of members of The Baker Street Irregulars who have acted in films (September 17 #6): Sonia Fetherson (as an extra). And to the list of children of members of the BSI: James Utechin (as an actor).
18122. Joe Ide's IQ won an Anthony award (for best first novel) at Bouchercon this month. His protagonist is Isaiah Quintabe, "a street-smart Sherlock" (according to one reviewer) who lives in Long Beach, Calif., and the book has many Canonical echoes. Lenny Picker interviewed Ide for Publishers Weekly last year <www.tinyurl.com/ydhmsope>.
18123. Bouchercon was held in Toronto, and the schedule included a nice Sherlockian panel moderated by Angela Misri; there also were opportunities to visit the "Pop Sherlock!" exhibition and the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library. Congratulations to Peggy Perdue on her promotion; she now is senior department head of the special collections department.

18124. The next Bouchercons will be in Saint Petersburg ("Crime in the Sunshine") Sept. 13-16, 2018; in Dallas ("Denim, Diamonds and Death") on Oct. 31-Nov. 4, 2019; and in Sacramento ("Where Murder is a Capitol Crime"), Oct. 15-18, 2020. Bouchercon is the largest gathering of mystery authors and readers, and there's (almost) always a Sherlockian panel.
18125. David Marcum, author of the upcoming THE PAPERS OF SOLAR PONS (September 17 #4), blogs at "A Seventeen Step Problem...." and has a nicely illustrated post about August Derleth and Solar Pons <www.tinyurl.com/yczklxq>.
18126. Donald A. Yates ("The Greek Interpreter") died on Oct. 17. He was a professor of Romance Languages at Michigan State University, where he resurrected The Greek Interpreters, and was an expert on the writings of Jorge Luis Borges. Don contributed to our literature with scholarship, poetry, and pastiche, and was the founding chair of The John H. Watson Society; he received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1972.

October 2017 #6

18127. Reedsy (which describes itself as "a full ecosystem for authors and publishing professionals") has celebrated the 125th anniversary of the publication of THE ADVENTURE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES by asking a dozen professional book designers to create new book covers for each of the stories in the collection. The designs are thoroughly attractive, and you can see them in full color at <www.tinyurl.com/ybzwvgw3>. Alas: there are no plans (at the moment) to publish books with the colorful covers.
18128. Arthur Conan Doyle, J. M. Barrie, and P. G. Wodehouse were members of the Authors XI Cricket Club, founded in 1892 and dissolved in 1912. The club was revived in 2012 and has an active schedule, a page at Facebook, and a web-site <www.authorscricketclub.com>.
18129. Anatoly Mikhailovich Eliseev has created some colorful and striking illustrations for Sherlock Holmes stories, apparently not published, but Howard Ostrom notes that you can see them on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/yajeztnu>.
18130. Harry Rountree's original artwork for one of his illustrations in "The Lost World" in The Strand Magazine was offered at Heritage Auctions this month, and you can see at their web-site <www.tinyurl.com/ydgbhzoc> how spectacular the artwork in inkwash and gouache is, compared to what readers saw in the Strand; it sold for \$5,500 (including the buyer's premium)
18131. "Sherlock Holmes in the 22nd Century" (1999-2001), a British animated television series that ran for two seasons on CITV and Fox Kids, still has its fans, including Patrick Morris, who posted The Arcanist web-site on Oct. 6 <www.tinyurl.com/y9rnyhnb> about "how a forgotten cartoon predicted the future." And he makes some interesting points.
18132. Just in time for holiday hinting (or shopping), Randall Stock's annual informative nominations for the best Sherlock Holmes books/DVDs of the year will be on-line soon at <www.bestofsherlock.com/sherlock-gifts.htm>.
18133. Mattias Boström didn't have room for all of his research in the 571 pages of his FROM HOLMES TO SHERLOCK (April 17 #4), and he's now posting all sorts of additional material at his Facebook page, which is well worth visiting <www.facebook.com/fromholmestosherslock>.
18134. Roy Dotrice died on Oct. 16. He had a long career as an actor, noted for appearing as John Aubrey on stage in the one-man show "Brief Lives" (which opened in 1967 and ran for 1,700 performances), and as Hallyne the Pyromancer in two episodes of the television series "Game of Thrones" in 2012. He also played Douglas Stone in the BBC-2 dramatization of Conan Doyle's "The Case of Lady Sannox" (1968), Simon Carne in "The Duchess of Wilshire's Diamonds" in the ITV television series "The Rivals of Sherlock Holmes" (1971), and Conan Doyle in the television film "Young Harry Houdini" (1987).
18135. The fall meeting of The Sons of the Copper Beeches in Philadelphia was enjoyed by all, including the toastmaster, who for the first time in the history of the society was able to call the meeting to order by saying "ladies and gentlemen" (all of the six traditional toasts were given by ladies, and all the ladies on hand, having attended their first meeting, are on their way to becoming full members of the Sons.

October 2017 #7

18136. The traditional forecast for the Sherlockian birthday festivities in New York in January is considerably shorter than usual, because details are not yet available. But they will be, on-line early in November, at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com/bsiweekend.html>. The long weekend will begin on Wednesday, Jan. 10 with the ASH Wednesday dinner, and end on Sunday, Jan. 14 with the ASH brunch, and the schedule may or may not include some surprises.
18137. Paste magazine has reported <www.tinyurl.com/y7bw5l2y> that next year Dark Horse will publish a graphic-novel adaptation of Neil Gaiman's pastiche "A Study in Emerald"; visit the web-site to see the cover artwork.
18138. Conan Doyle sailed from Sydney to Auckland in 1920 on the SS Maheno while on his Spiritualist tour of Australia and New Zealand; in 1935 it was sold for scrap, caught in a cyclone, and beached on Fraser Island, off the coast of Queensland. It's still there, and Bill Barnes has reported that Google Maps has panoramic views of the wreck today <www.tinyurl.com/yd5wls57>.
18139. Pattie Tierney's "Mystery Jewelry and Gifts" www.pattietierney.etsy.com offers imaginative items, Sherlockian and otherwise, including a new "Sherlock Noir" charm bracelet.
18140. Ted Bergman ("The Honourable Philip Green") died on Oct. 22. He was one of the founders of The Solitary Cyclists of Sweden, and an energetic member of The Baskerville Hall Club of Sweden. Ted was a dedicated Sherlockian, an expert bibliographer, and proud of his miniature recreation of 221B Baker Street, and he was awarded his Investiture by The Baker Street Irregulars in 1978.
18141. Judge Richard A. Posner retired in September after more than three decades on the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago; you can read the Chicago Tribune's story at <www.tinyurl.com/y7g47vrj>, and Adam Liptak's "Exit Interview with Richard Posner, Judicial Provocateur" in the N.Y. Times at <www.tinyurl.com/y79aln54>. Posner wrote the Court of Appeals decision in Leslie S. Klinger v. Conan Doyle Estate, Ltd., in 2014, ruling that copyright protects only characters and story elements unique to the ten stories still under copyright, and awarded Les more than \$30,000 to cover his legal fees; you can read the decisions at <www.free-sherlock.com>. Posner also reviewed THE NEW ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES for The New Republic in 2004 and offered a decidedly unfavorable opinion of the scholarship and pseudo-scholarship detailed in Les' annotations.
18142. Bill Barnes has reported from Australia that Sherlock Holmes, a six-year-old chestnut gelding (September 17 #6), is continuing to race in Australia: he was the favorite in a field of 12 on Oct. 11, but finished fourth, and came in fourth again in a race on Oct. 18. His lifetime earnings are AU\$42,296.
18143. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists (also known as The Friends of Sherlock Holmes) met to honor the world's first forensic geologist with drinks and dinner at Elephant & Castle Pub and Restaurant in Seattle on Oct. 25, during the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America, welcomed by members of The Sound of the Baskervilles. Our next meetings will be on May 23 in Salt Lake City and on Nov. 7 in Indianapolis.

October 2017 #8

18144. Robert Guillaume died on Oct. 24. He earned a Tony nomination in a production of "Guys and Dolls" in 1977, and went on to win an Emmy for best supporting actor as the butler Benson DuBois in the television series "Soap"; he then won a second Emmy as best actor in the spinoff "Benson" and in an episode of the second series he was seen briefly in Sherlockian costume impersonating a Scotland Yard inspector.
18145. Denny Dobry has kindly reported a 3-minute Sherlockian segment in the History Channel's series "Pawn Stars": in the episode "Chum's Risky Business" (Cot. 23, 2017), Chuck Kovacic (founder of The Baker Street Builders) sold Rick Harrison a gasogene.
18146. Theatrics: "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (a new play by Thomas Moore) is running at the King's Arms in Salford, Manchester, through Nov. 25; their web-site's at <www.thehoundofthebaskervilles.co.uk>.
18147. Christophe Delort's dramatization of "Sherlock Holmes et la mystère de la vallée de Boscombe" is running at the Théâtre du Gymnase Marie-Bell in Paris through Jan. 27 <www.billetreduc.com/194998/evt.htm>; there's a trailer trailer at <www.vimeo.com/233013768>.
18148. Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" is due at the Lion's Club in Key Largo, Fla., Nov. 1-11 <www.thekeyplayers.org>; and at the Frank Venables Theatre in Oliver, B.C., Nov. 2-4; their web-site is at <www.venablestheatre.ca>. It's also at the Otter Valley Playhouse in Tillsonburg, Ont., Nov. 2-12; <www.theatreitillsonburg.com>; and at the nTelos Theatre in Staunton, Va., Nov. 3-12 <www.shenanarts.org>.
18149. Katie Forgette's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily" will be performed at the Reuben Cordova Theatre in Beverly Hills, Calif., Nov. 16-Dec. 17 <www.theatre40.org>; and the Ottawa Little Theatre in Ottawa, Ont., May 2-19 <www.ottawalittletheatre.com>.
18150. "Sherlock Holmes and the Christmas Goose" (by Duke Ernsberger and V. Cate) will be performed at the Greenville Little Theatre in Greenville, S.C., on Dec. 7-17 <www.greenvillelittletheatre.org>.
18151. Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" will be performed in the script-in-hand play-reading series at the Westport Country Playhouse in Westport, Conn., on Dec. 11 <www.westportplayhouse.org>.
18152. Ken Ludwig's comedy "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" will be performed at the Ashton Community Center in Ashton, Iowa, Nov. 2-5; web-site at <www.offoffboadwayinc.com>. And at the Manoa Valley Theatre in Honolulu, Hawaii, Jan. 11-28, 2018 <www.manoavalleytheatre.com>; then at the Long Wharf in New Haven, Conn., Feb. 28-Mar. 25, 2018 <www.longwharf.org>.
18153. David MacGregor's new play "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Elusive Ear" is due at the Purple Rose Theatre in Chelsea, Mich., Mar. 29-May 6, 2018 <www.purplerosetheatre.org>.

November 2017 #1

18154. Sherlock Holmes' 164th birthday will be celebrated on Friday, Jan. 12, with the traditional festivities in New York. The (very) long weekend runs from Wednesday through Sunday, and information about registering for events and making hotel reservations is available on-line at the Baker Street Irregulars' web-site <www.bakerstreetjournal.com/bsiweekend.html>; space is limited at some events, so don't delay registering. There's more information at Scott Monty's excellent web-site <www.bsiweekend.com>; Scott also has a "Here Are Your #BSIWeekend Tips" at <www.ihose.co/bsi2017tips>.
18155. The Dr. John H. Watson Fund offers financial assistance to all Sherlockians (membership in the BSI is not required) who might otherwise not be able to participate in the weekend's festivities. A carefully pseudonymous John H. Watson presides over the fund and welcomes contributions, which can be made by check payable to John H. Watson and sent (without return address on the envelope) to Dr. Watson, care of The Baker Street Irregulars, at 7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278; your letters are forwarded unopened, and Dr. Watson will acknowledge your generosity. Requests for assistance should also be mailed (quickly) to Dr. Watson at the same address. The Watson Fund benefits from the auction at the Saturday reception during the birthday festivities; if you would like to see what a truly spectacular auction looks like, watch the video at <www.tinyurl.com/ybh7xtlz>.
18156. "The Sherlock Holmes Collection of Daniel Posnansky" will be at auction at Profiles in History on Dec. 19 <www.tinyurl.com/y9gtlru3>, and the catalog offers a splendid look at what a truly dedicated collector can achieve; the web-site offers Glen Miranker's delightful tribute to Dan, and you can (and should) download the Catalog PDF, which is fully illustrated.
18157. Another addition to the list of members of The Baker Street Irregulars who have acted in films (September 17 #6
18158. and October 17 #5): Michael W. McClure. And his children (Michael W. McClure II, Jennifer McClure, Christine McClure, and Elizabeth McClure) as extras.
18159. Fans of the musical "Baker Street" (1964) will enjoy Stephen Bowie's story in Broadway World, Oct. 31 <www.tinyurl.com/y9bntawt> about the N.Y. Public Library's acquisition of the scripts of Jerome Coopersmith; there's a long interview with Coopersmith about the musical in the story, with some interesting background on how the musical was created and staged.
18160. Some of Conan Doyle's correspondence was written and signed by secretaries, and the secretaries put their initials after the signature; an example of this went to auction at Bubb Kuyper in the Netherlands on Nov. 22, estimated at €150-€250 <www.tinyurl.com/y7rm9d8h>. It sold for €200.
18161. Mary Cameron Shore's collection of Sherlockiana was donated to the University of North Carolina in 1978, and items from the collection were exhibited there in 1980 (January 80 #1). Its existence is not well-known, but the collection is interesting indeed, and Mattias Boström has reported Christy Edina Richards' comprehensive assessment of the collection, submitted for her M.S. degree in Library Science in 2003 <www.tinyurl.com/yae7ovhw>.

November 2017 #2

18162. Willmer A. Hoerr's "The Case of the Archetypical Agent" (published in The Baker Street Journal in Mar. 1968) discussed Ignatius Paul Pollaky, widely known as "Paddington Pollaky" (and mentioned in Gilbert and Sullivan's "Patience"). Pollaky was a private detective active in London well before Sherlock Holmes, and Hoerr concluded that "because he was very close-mouthed and lacked a literary friend, we shall probably never know just what his exploits were." Bryan Kesselman's 'PADDINGTON' POLLAKY: PRIVATE DETECTIVE (Stroud: History Press, 2015; 239 pp., \$19.95) corrects that oversight; sub-titled "the mysterious life and times of the real Sherlock Holmes," the book is a full-scale biography of Pollaky, who was no Holmes, but nevertheless a colorful character indeed.
18163. More kidvid: Lenny Picker's daughter has reported a (brief) appearance of a wax figure of Sherlock Holmes in the "Headhunters" episode of the Disney Channel's animated series "Gravity Falls" <www.tinyurl.com/ycd2r8kl>.
18164. Nancy Friday died on Nov. 5. Famous as the author of MY SECRET GARDEN (a survey of women's sexual fantasies that was published in 1973 and sold more than two million copies), she went on to write FORBIDDEN FLOWERS: MORE WOMEN'S SEXUAL FANTASIES (1975) in which she said that "Another fantasy is one where I seduce Basil Rathbone as Sherlock Holmes at 22B [sic] Baker Street. In it, I am his twenty-year-old niece. Dr. Watson (Nigel Bruce) is amazed his aloof pal Holmes finally fell for someone."

18165. There's a Sherlock Holmes Walking Tour of Edinburgh, led by Toby Virgo (in Sherlockian costume); you can also book a private tour, and there's a colorful web-site at <www.realsherlockholmes.com>.
18166. John Hillerman died on Nov. 9. He had a long career as an actor on stage and screen and television, and is best known for his role as Higgins in the long-running television series "Magnum, P.I."; he also played Dr. Watson in the television film "Hands of a Murderer" on CBS-TV in 1990.
18167. Howard Ostrom has discovered a spectacular one-of-a-kind portrait doll that the Russian artist Natalia Zatova created of Borislav Brondokov as Inspector Lestrade in the Russian television series that starred Vasiliy LivaNovember as Sherlock Holmes. You can see the doll in full color at her web-site at <www.natalydolls.com/lestrade.php#>, and more of her dolls are on display at her web-site. Inspector Lestrade is in a private collection and not for sale, but she accepts commissions (costing 200,000 rubles and up, depending on the complexity of the costume).
18168. There's now an official trailer for "Sherlock Gnomes" (the animated movie featuring the world's greatest ornamental detective), scheduled for release on Mar. 23 <www.tinyurl.com/ybnvawee>.
18169. Further to the report (September 03 #2) on Britain's endangered bitterns (it was in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" that Stapleton suggested that "I should not be surprised to learn that what we have heard is the cry of the last of the bitterns"), a story in The Guardian (Nov. 8) www.tinyurl.com/ymdalksx (kindly noted by Phil Attwell) reports that there now is a record high of bitterns in Britain: the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds recently counted 164 bitterns at 71 wetlands sites in Britain.

November 2017 #3

18170. Who knew? The Langham Hotel, site of the fateful dinner where Arthur Conan Doyle and Oscar Wilde were commissioned to write stories for Lippincott's Monthly Magazine, is haunted, according to a report in the South China Morning Post <www.tinyurl.com/y8lyfyj6>, and one of them is the Langham (which of course also is mentioned in three of the Canonical stories). A Google search for [Langham hotel room 333] yields some interesting reports (and videos).
18171. Brian Pugh spotted an interesting painting at auction at Bonhams in London on Nov. 21, estimated at £1,000-£1,500: the painting, by Edward George Handel Lucas, shows Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's writing shed and grave at Crowborough in August 1930 <www.tinyurl.com/y7oq5okt>; it sold for £1,750.
18172. Dudley Simpson died on Nov. 4. He learned to play the piano in his childhood in Australia and went on to become an accomplished conductor in Australia and Britain; he then moved into composing for television, including "Doctor Who" and is credited for the incidental music in that series' Victorian (and almost Sherlockian) episode "The Talons of Weng-Chiang" (1977).
18173. Sherlock Holmes has been wrapped. Again. Charity Hands On London wrapped the statue of Sherlock Holmes outside the Baker Street underground station in a bright red coat on Nov. 5, as part of a campaign asking people to donate their old coats, which go to those in need <www.wrapuplondon.org.uk>; there's a brief glimpse of the Sherlock Holmes statue in a "Wrap Up London" video at www.tinyurl.com/y7wrnfvw
18174. Vicki Delany's BODY ON BAKER STREET (New York: Crooked Lane, 2017; 297 pp., \$26.99) is the second in her pleasantly-cozy "Sherlock Holmes bookshop mystery" series that stars Gemma Doyle (the proprietor of the Sherlock Holmes Bookshop) and her friend Jayne Wilson (the proprietor of the next-door Mrs. Hudson's Tea Room) investigating the murder (in the bookshop) of an author of Sherlockian pastiches. The next title in the series will be THE CAT OF THE BASKERVILLES.
18175. The oldest surviving Sherlockian television broadcast is "The Adventure of the Speckled Band" (broadcast by NBC-TV in 1949); Holmes; you can watch it at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/ydabnb3w> and see Alan Napier as Holmes, years before he became famous as Alfred the butler in the long-running "Batman" series in the 1960s. "The Adventure of the Three Garridebs" was broadcast by NBC on its experimental station in New York in 1937; with Louis Hector as Holmes, and it would be nice indeed if someone discovers a recording of the show.
18176. Sherlock Holmes needs to move. Again. The Edinburgh City Council is considering remodelling Picardy Place, and is asking for suggestions from the public about a new site for the statue of Sherlock Holmes erected in 1991 as a memorial to Arthur Conan Doyle <www.tinyurl.com/y865v36c>.
18177. Massimo Polidaro's "Notes on a Strange World" column in November /December issue of the Skeptical Inquirer is devoted to "The Conspiracy of Fairies" and the possibility, suggested by Fiona Maher in the August issue of Fortean Times, that the Cottingley photographs actually were faked by Elsie Wright's father Arthur.

November 2017 #4

18178. Michael Ross, who some years ago reported the PLAYMOBIL figurine of Sherlock Holmes (May 94 #2) has now reported Richard Unglik's SHERLOCK HOLMES ET LE CHIEN DES BASKERVILLES (Bruxelles: Casterman, 2013; 96 pp., €18.50 at the publisher's web-site) <tinyurl.com/y9jnluhg>; une interprétation playmobilesque du roman de Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. The book's also available in Spanish as EL PERRO DE LOS BASKERVILLE (2015) and in English as THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, 2016).
18179. The second title in Elizabeth Eulberg's "Shelby Holmes" series is THE GREAT SHELBY HOLMES MEETS HER MATCH (New York: Bloomsbury, 2017; 230 pp., \$16.99) and it is an excellent sequel to THE GREAT SHELBY HOLMES (June 17 #2). The series is written for young readers and is nicely Sherlockian, and the new story's told well. The author's web-site is at <www.elizabeteulberg.com>.
18180. THE LOST PRINCESS OF OZ was the eleventh of Frank L. Baum's books about Oz, and the autumn issue of The Baum Bugle (the quarterly journal of the International Wizard of Oz Club) has Scott Cummings' discussion of some of the early reviews of the book, offering a nice example or two of how one hears of Sherlock everywhere: the Chicago Post (Dec. 7, 1913) noted that "There are few characters in fiction that one could wish to go on forever--Sherlock Holmes is one," adding that "certainly the inhabitants of Oz are among that few elect," and the Louisville Courier Journal (Dec. 13, 1917) reviewer said that, "it is the wonderful wizard, who like Sherlock Holmes, never made a mistake, who finds Ozma in a most surprising situation." The Club's colorful web-site is at <www.ozclub.org>.
18181. Keith Barron died on Nov. 15. A British actor, he appeared in many television series, and he was best known for his role as David Pearce in "Duty Free" in the 1980s. Barron also played Rob Ferguson in Granada's "The Last Vampyre" (1993).
18182. It's often said, by people who believe that "The Blue Carbuncle" could not have involved a garnet, that there are no blue garnets. That certainly was true when Sherlock Holmes solved that mystery, but no longer: in 1998 there was a discovery of a blue garnet in the Bekily mines in Madagascar. But it is only sometimes blue: it's a color-change garnet, a mixture of pyrope and spessartine that's grayish or greenish blue in daylight, changing to purple in incandescent light, and brilliant blue in LED light.
18183. "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Early LSD Guru" was the headline on a story on Oct. 27 <www.tinyurl.com/ybk2p3vb> at the Reason Foundation's Hit & Run blog about the late Gerald Heard, described as a mystic whose syncretic spiritual path eventually led him to mescaline and LSD." You can read more about at a web-site <www.geraldheard.com>, including the books that he wrote (as H. F. Heard) about Mr. Mycroft. The "Hit & Run" blog includes a link to Boris Karloff's "The Sting of Death" (1955), which was adapted from Heard's A TASTE FOR HONEY.

18184. Laurie R. King's web-site <www.laurierking.com> now has a new and helpful chronology of her books and stories about Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes; click on [Books] and then on [Russell and Holmes] to read what she has to say about what her fans call the Kanon, and scroll down to find the "Internal chronology" for the series.

November 2017 #5

18185. Sherlock Holmes said (in "The Speckled Band") that "Palmer and Pritchard were among the heads of their profession." Stephen Bates' *THE POISONER: LIFE AND CRIMES OF VICTORIAN ENGLAND'S MOST NOTORIOUS DOCTOR* (New York: Overlook Press, 2014; 342 pp., \$17.95) is a detailed biography of William Palmer; Bates notes that Holmes was flattering to Palmer, "since he lost his nerve and was never at the head of his profession, even as a poisoner."
18186. Rosemary Herbert's interview with Jeremy Brett, published in *The Armchair Detective* (fall 1985) has been excerpted as "Jeremy Brett: The Real Sherlock Holmes" in the "Murder & Mayhem" blog, and it's a nice reminder of the Granada series <www.tinyurl.com/y8dz8vbe>.
18187. Martin Arbagi reports that registration is now open for the "Holmes, Doyle, & Friends" gathering on Mar. 9-10 in Dayton, Ohio; details at the web-site of The Agra Treasurers <www.agratreasurers.net/holmes-doyle-friends.html>.
18188. *THE USUAL SANTAS*, edited by Peter Lovesey (New York: Soho Crime, 2017; 400 pp., \$19.95) is subtitled "a Collection of Soho Crime Christmas Capers" and is a nicely seasonal anthology of stories by interesting authors, including Cara Black's "Cabaret aux Assassins" about Irene Adler's daughter Neige and Irene's exploits in Paris).
18189. David Small died on July 21. He had a long career in England and Australia as an actor, director, and radio presenter, and played Conan Doyle in Australia in Cernath Fox's "The Real Sherlock Holmes" in 2004 and 2005.
18190. "Fake News" is the title of an exhibition at the National Science and Media Museum in Bradford, W. Yorks. <www.scienceandmediamuseum.org.uk>, running through Jan. 28; the Bradford Telegraph & Argus noted (Nov. 16) that "Fake News" is nothing new, and that the exhibits range from the existence of bat creatures living on the Moon in 1835 to modern-day politics (both British and American), and the historic material on display includes the Cottingley Fairies hoax <www.tinyurl.com/ybgktedew>.
18191. Plan well ahead: the Wessex Press' "From Gillette to Brett V" conference is scheduled for Oct. 5-7 in Bloomington, Ind. <www.wessexpress.com>.
18192. Ross K. Foad (who maintains the web-site "No Place Like Holmes") has begun a new web-series "The History of Spirituality" (adapted from Conan Doyle's *THE HISTORY OF SPIRITUALISM*); the first episode ("The Story of Swedenborg") is available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/ybfo8xtg>, with more episodes to follow.
18193. Aaron Cowan was in the news in Britain in October: he was jailed for five years after admitting six charges of fraud, five of them while posing as a police officer. He used the persona of Insp. Greg Lestrade at mobile phone shops and bookmakers across Kent, purporting to investigate stolen iPhones and fake bank notes, and was reported to the police when a business manager became suspicious of the name. At his trial he claimed he was the victim of a vicious gang who made him pose as an Inspector Lestrade, but was the judge declared him the most "unconvincing witness he had ever heard, with crocodile tears, a self-pitying confidence trickster."
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November 2017 #6

18194. Theatrical news: Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" will be performed at the Waco Civic Theatre in Waco, Tex., Dec. 1-10 <www.wacocivictheatre.org>; and at the Theatre Baton Rouge in Baton Rouge, La., Jan. 19-Feb. 4 <www.theatrebr.org>; and at the Clear Space Theatre in Rehoboth Beach, Del., Jan. 26-Feb. 11; their web-site's at <www.clearspacetheatre.org>. The play's also due at the Springhouse Theatre in Smyrna, Tenn., Apr. 13-29 <www.springhousetheater.com>; at Greensburg Civic Theatre in Greensburg, Pa., May 4-6 <gcttheatre.org>; at Shea's 710 Theatre in Buffalo, N.Y. May 10-13 <www.sheas.org>.
18195. Jeffrey Hatcher's "Holmes and Watson" is running at the Milwaukee Repertory Theater in Milwaukee, Wis., through Dec. 17 <www.milwaukeerep.com>. Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" is running at the Ross Valley Players in Ross, Calif., through Dec. 10; their web-site's at <www.rossvalleyplayers.com>. It's also due at the Love Street Playhouse in Woodland, Wash., Dec. 1-17 <www.lovestreetplayhouse.com>. Also at the Glendale Center Theatre in Glendale, Calif., Oct. 11-Nov. 17, 2018 <www.glendalecentertheatre.com>.
18196. Steven Canny and John Nicholson's comedy "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is to be performed at the Jermyn Street Theatre in London, Dec. 6 through Jan. 13 <www.jermynstreettheatre.co.uk>.
18197. Admirers of Charles Dickens know that his last novel *THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD* was left unfinished when Dickens died in 1870, and that a minor industry sprang up as people offered their solutions to the mystery. One of those people was T. P. James of Brattleboro, Vt., author of *PART SECOND OF THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD BY THE SPIRIT-PEN OF CHARLES DICKENS THROUGH A MEDIUM*, published in 1873. The Rutland Herald had a long story about James on Nov. 26 <www.tinyurl.com/yalfya95>, noting that Conan Doyle, in the December 1927 issue of *The Bookman*, discussed the book and concluded that it read like "Dickens gone flat." But there's bit more to the story, not reported in the Rutland Herald: when Conan Doyle reprinted the article in *THE EDGE OF THE UNKNOWN* in 1930, he added an account of his later conversation with Dickens about the book. Conan Doyle asked Dickens, "was that American who finished *EDWIN DROOD* inspired?" And Dickens answered, "Not by me." The conversation, needless to say, was through a medium, at a sitting with Florizel von Reuter and his mother; Dickens had more to say about the book, of course, and *THE EDGE OF THE UNKNOWN* is well worth pursuing (Conan Doyle also discusses Harry Houdini, and ghosts, and much more); the full text is not available on-line, but reprints are available at reasonable prices at eBay and Amazon and elsewhere.
18198. You can see Nils Nordberg and the late Ted Bergman as they were fifty years ago, in a television quiz show that had Norwegian and Swedish experts competing for 10,000 kroner (rather than \$64,000); the program is available at the Norwegian NRK web-site <www.tinyurl.com/y743cqyz>. A tip of the hat to Howard Ostrom, who spotted the video.
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December 2017 #1

18199. There's still time to plan for (at least some of) the Sherlockian birthday festivities in New York, but: alas, the reception at the Yale Club on Saturday is sold out, so: no additional reservations are available, by mail or e-mail or at the door. Go to www.bakerstreetjournal.com/bsiweekend.html for information on other events. Scott Monty has an excellent web-site at <www.bsiweekend.com>, and weekend tips at <www.ihose.co/bsi2017tips>.
18200. Congratulations to Helen Dorey, who was included in the Queen's New Year's honours list; Helen was appointed MBE (Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) for her services to national heritage, and will receive her award at Buckingham Palace on Feb. 8.
18201. The conference of The Reichenbach Irregulars ("Reichenbach and Beyond: The Final Problem Revisited") held in Switzerland last year was followed by an excursion to Florence (since that's where Holmes traveled after the battle at the Reichenbach), and you can read colorful accounts of what went on at <www.221b.ch/Past_Events_Beyond_e.html>. And there will be another chance to enjoy a Sherlockian visit to Switzerland: another
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conference is planned for spring/early summer 2019 in the Bernese Oberland, celebrating the society's 30th anniversary, followed by an excursion to the Splügen Pass (where Baron von Gruner murdered his wife).

18202. The Sherlock Holmes Collection of Daniel Posnansky went to auction on Dec. 19 at Profiles in History, and the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog has a delightful podcast by Scott Monty and Burt Wolder about Dan and his collection <www.tinyurl.com/yba35wfs>. The fully-illustrated auction catalog is available on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/y9gtlru3>. There were some real treasures, as well as some great bargains, at the auction, and Sherlockian collectors bidding on the floor and by phone and Internet.
18203. For the Sake of the Trust: Denny Dobry is continuing to sell Sherlockiana at eBay for the benefit of the Baker Street Irregulars Trust (his seller ID is wiggins221b); starting on Dec. 31 he will be offering a complete set (42 titles) of the late John Ruyle's hand-printed (and amusing) Sherlock Loams parodies.
18204. CBS has not announced a date for the start of the sixth season of "Elementary" (likely early next year), but the network has commissioned eight more episodes, bringing the count to 21 (previous seasons had 24 episodes). According to the Hollywood Reporter <www.tinyurl.com/ycpl43eq>, "Elementary" is CBS' lowest-performing returning scripted series, averaging a 1.2 rating among adults 18-49, and 7.7 million viewers last season; lucrative syndication and international appeal have kept the series in production.
18205. The Stepping Stones School has issued "An Invitation to Undershaw" for anyone who wants to attend their celebration of Arthur Conan Doyle, whose former home now is part of the school. "Enjoy a tour of Undershaw," they suggest, "visit our exhibition at the local museum, enjoy a round of golf on the course he played, hear from experts about his life, retrace his local walks, and enjoy a performance of 'The Hound of the Baskervilles'." Their web-site's at <www.tinyurl.com/ya2h67zb>; details will be available soon.

December 2017 #2

18206. An interesting Conan Doyle letter went to auction on Dec. 8, at Lawrences Auctioneers in Britain <www.tinyurl.com/yc9xvnsx>; it is well worth your attention: written to Miss Ruby Paulson in 1893, it offers a splendid demonstration of his sense of humor, as well as a hint at what the readers of The Strand Magazine would discover in the December issue. Estimated at £700-£900, the letter sold for £7,400 (not including the buyer's premium and value-added tax); you can read Scott Monty's discussion of the letter at <www.tinyurl.com/ycbzk9c>.
18207. One of the added features on the Blu-ray version of "The Lost World" (1925) is images of the sheet music that accompanied the film (with words by Harry B. Smith and music by Rudolf Friml); Flicker Alley kindly has made images available <www.tinyurl.com/y9ha79mt>, and happily will sell you the Blu-ray for \$34.95 <www.tinyurl.com/ycy4wd5s>.
18208. Robert A. Moss ("The Case of Fairdale Hobbs") died on Nov. 27. Bob was a professor of chemistry at Rutgers University, and wrote several books and more than 400 scientific articles, including a discussion of Holmes' knowledge of chemistry. He also was a member of The Scandalous Bohemians and The Red-Headed League of Jersey, and received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1980.
18209. Howard Ostrom reports an imaginative and attractive "interactive annotated" Russian edition of THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES from Labyrinth; there is a nice video about the book at <www.tinyurl.com/y8uhzyzb>.
18210. "The most beautiful diamond in the world" was sold at auction at Christie's in November (October 17 #3), for CHF 33,500,000 (including the buyer's premium) [that's about \$34,194,141]; not bad for a 163.41-carat diamond. The "Grand Mazarin" light-pink 19.07-carat brilliant-cut diamond sold for a mere CHF 14,375,000 [that's about \$14,671,362].
18211. Daedalus Books offers serious discounts, such as the miniature replica of HOW WATSON LEARNED THE TRICK (September 14 #3), published at \$25.00 and now discounted to \$3.98 <www.tinyurl.com/ycroq3sf>; the story was handwritten by Conan Doyle in 1922 in the miniature book now found in the Queen's Dolls' House Library at Windsor Castle.
18212. Reported: Hans Zimmer has a new album "Live in Prague" (available in DVD/ Blu-ray/2CD/4LP formats) recorded during this year's world-wide tour with a band, orchestra, and choir; there are 15 tracks from his film scores, one of them "Discombobulate" from "Sherlock Holmes" (the 2009 Robert Downey Jr. film).
18213. "Asian-American Actresses Describe Struggle of Constantly Being Typecast as Sherlock Holmes" is the title of an amusing video spotted by Jennie Paton; it was posted by The Onion to YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/y854f79n>.
18214. The Crew of the Barque Lone Star, in Dallas, is preparing to celebrate its 50th anniversary, and members of the society have created A GRIMM HOLMES, an anthology of imaginative fairy-tale pastiches; it's a 265-page e-book, nicely available without charge at <www.tinyurl.com/y9oqdroc>, offering 11 pastiches and the fairy tales on which they're based.

December 2017 #3

18215. Donald B. Izban's SELECTED RHYMING CANONICAL TOASTS presents a nice tour of the alphabet, with 49 poetic toasts, all inspired by the Canon or by eminent Sherlockians. The 81-page book was illustrated by Edward Letwewko and published this year by George A. Vanderburgh; \$16.00 postpaid, and you can ask George <gav@markdalecable.com> for information on how you can order and pay for it.
18216. Tania Henzell has designed a new Sherlock Holmes Tartan that's available in a wide variety of clothing and other merchandise from Tattimole in Edinburgh <www.tinyurl.com/ybu9xx9c>. She's the step-great-great-granddaughter of Arthur Conan Doyle (and the great-granddaughter of Dame Jean's husband Lord Geoffrey Bromet).
18217. The October/November issue of the electronic journal Ripperologist offers detailed reviews of Sinclair McKay's THE MILE END MURDER: THE CASE THAT CONAN DOYLE COULDN'T SOLVE and Christopher Sandford's THE MAN WHO WOULD BE SHERLOCK: THE REAL LIFE ADVENTURES OF ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE, and much more about Jack the Ripper; you should contact editor Eduardo Zinna at <editorez@yahoo.co.uk> for information on how you can subscribe.
18218. Barry Hapner ("Inspector Forrester") died on Nov. 13. He was an educator, and for a time owned and operated a pipe shop in St. Louis, where he sponsored pipe-smoking contests with Sherlockian themes. Barry was a member of The Noble Bachelors, and a founding member of The Jefferson Hopes, and he received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1983.
18219. Jack Goldstein and Jimmy Russell's 101 AMAZING FACTS ABOUT SHERLOCK HOLMES (Andrew UK, 2013) is available as a Kindle e-book, and as an audiobook, at Amazon and elsewhere. And Jack Goldstein and Isabella Reese's 101 AMAZING FACTS ABOUT ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE (2014), available as a Kindle e-book. Both from Andrews UK, and while they may not be of real interest for knowledgeable fans, they could be fun for beginners. Amazon's "look inside" feature gives you a chance to sample these and many other books.
18220. Marisa Babjak's "Femmes Fatales" <www.femmesfatalesgifts.com> offers a wide variety of mystery-related merchandise; use the Search button at upper left to find Sherlockiana, and you can get a 20% discount if you mention the magic word [scuttlebutt].

18221. Collectors of Sherlockian games may have "Cluedo? The Great Detective Game" (1949), which had a caricature of Holmes and a bloodhound on the cover but was otherwise non-Sherlockian. There's now a new edition of the board game tied to the BBC's "Sherlock" series, available in the U.S. and the U.K. (at about \$50.00 and up), and there appear to be two variants, with or without the "U" on the cover in red.
18222. Robert Serman, the president of the Haslemere Society, has retired after 21 years of service to the society; founded as the Haslemere Commons and Footpath Preservation Society in 1884, the society's present goal is to "protect and enhance" the town, and it was involved in the campaign to restore Undershaw as the Stepping Stones School.
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December 2017 #4

18223. John Nieminski's THE HOUNDS OF THE BASKERVILLE (SIC): A HISTORY OF CHICAGO'S SENIOR SHERLOCKIAN SCION SOCIETY 1943-1983 offered a delightful look at what the world of scion societies was like in the early days, and at how much fun the early Sherlockians had. Donald J. Terras has expanded the history and brought it up to date in a second edition; the 130-page book's available (\$40.00 postpaid) from Don (2535 Sheridan Road, Evanston, IL 60201).
18224. There's a Kickstarter campaign to fund "The Death Defying" (a four-episode comic book starring Houdini and Conan Doyle), and you can view a colorful sample at <www.tinyurl.com/y75glahr>.
18225. There were, in olden times, all sorts of Sherlockian tobaccos and smoking accessories, for the delight of the many Sherlockians who smoked; there are far fewer Sherlockians who smoke now, but it's likely that there are some who vape, and while it seems to have taken a while, there now is a Sherlock Ohms e-liquid that comes in three flavors (Bohemian Scandal, Yellow Face, and Noble Bachelor) available from a company in England that claims it is "serious about juice" <www.sherlockohms.biz>. You can find a number of reviews at YouTube, including this one <www.tinyurl.com/yanfgvtb>.
18226. The modern Strand Magazine is an interesting successor to the original, and has issued a colorful calendar for 2018 <www.tinyurl.com/y9md42sp>. I've seen only one other Sherlockian calendar for 2018: Sherlock (tied in to the BBC series), available at Amazon and elsewhere.
18227. Harold Billings died on Nov. 29. He spent fifty years at the University of Texas' libraries, rising from cataloguer to Director of General Libraries, and was the winner of the Morley-Montgomery Award for best contribution to The Baker Street Journal in 2006, for his article on "The Materia Medica of Sherlock Holmes".
18228. Anthony Harvey died on Nov. 23. He was a highly regarded director, winning a Directors Guild of America award for "The Lion in Winter" (1968); he also directed the George C. Scott film "They Might Be Giants" (1971). A place to stay when you're in or near Highland, Ill.: The Tibbett's House <www.thetibbettshouse.com>, the "bed, breakfast, and books" establishment that boasts a 221B Baker Street room; there was an article about the establishment, and its owners, in the RiverBender <www.tinyurl.com/y76d8g4h> on Dec. 11.
18229. Norman Wilkinson, an artist and a patient of Arthur Conan Doyle when he was in practice in Southsea, was recommended by Conan Doyle to Jerome K. Jerome (the editor of the Idler and To-Day: A Weekly Magazine) and produced illustrations for those magazines and for the Illustrated London News, going on to become a celebrated maritime painter. James Taylor's DAZZLE: DISGUISE AND DISRUPTION IN WAR AND ART (Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 2016; 128 pp., \$36.00) is the colorfully illustrated story of Wilkinson's invention of a camouflage scheme for ships during World War One that was intended to confuse the submarine officers who needed to know a target's location and course before firing torpedoes; it was an ingenious creation, echoed today in modern art and clothing.
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December 2017 #5

18230. The BBC reported on Dec. 13 <www.tinyurl.com/yb9vovl8> that the New Forest National Park Authority has rejected a proposal to demolish the Lyndhurst Park Hotel (October 17 #1). The campaign to protect the hotel cited evidence that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle helped design the redevelopment of the building as a hotel in 1912, and NPA planners said the Conan Doyle link "raised its heritage value." The planners also said that there was "no guarantee the development would help cater for local needs." There is a video at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/y7asjd8z> that shows the sad condition of the hotel earlier this year.
18231. Bob Byrne's web-site at <www.solarpons.com> offers his "Solar Pons Gazette" and his "Baker Street Essays", and now "The Brownstone of Nero Wolfe" (for fans of Bob's number-one detective), all nicely done.
18232. Reported: discussion of Conan Doyle and the Cottingley Fairy Hoax in Kevin Young's BUNK: THE RISE OF HOAXES, HUMBUG, PLAGIARISTS, PHONIES, POST-FACTS, AND FAKE NEWS (Graywolf, 2017; 560 pp., \$30.00); favorably reviewed by Michael Dirda in the Washington Post <www.tinyurl.com/y74renq2>.
18233. Baker Street Burgers has just opened in Rockford, Ill.; the restaurant gets its name from owners Randy and Betsy Baker, and from the address of Sherlock Holmes, and it has a page at Facebook.
18234. Jennie Paton has reported that "Sherlock Gnomes" (due in theaters on Mar. 23) already has action toys available to Burger King; there's a commercial at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/yadshjyf>. You can collect Holmes and Watson and four others, and they're also available at eBay.
18235. Reported: Andreas Jacke's MIND GAMES: ÜBER LITERARISCHE, PSYCHOANALYTISCHE UND GENDERTHEORETISCHE SENDEINHALTE BY A. C. DOYLE UND DER BBC-SERIE SHERLOCK (Wiesbaden: Springer, 2017; 228 pp., €24.99. All in German, but there is a video in English in English at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/yavc3jhb>.
18236. It's an old question, asked in this newsletter in 1981: what was the first in-flight movie? The answer, noted by Patrick Robertson (MOVIE FACTS AND FEATS, 1980, p. 219), is "The Lost World"; the film was shown during an Imperial Airways flight from London to the Continent in April 1925. There's much more about the event on the Internet now, needless to say; Alexis Barquin has an excellent entry on "The Lost World Above the World" at The Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia <www.tinyurl.com/y7loorlb>.
18237. But (as so often is the case) there's more to the story: the first film to be shown in-flight appears to have been "Howdy Chicago!" (screened aloft in 1921 during Chicago's Pageant of Progress); you can read about that at the Smithsonian's Air & Space Magazine web-site <www.tinyurl.com/y7w4yeev>.
18238. Reported: Juli Berwald's SPINELESS: THE SCIENCE OF JELLYFISH AND THE ART OF GROWING A BACKBONE (New York: Riverhead, 2017; 352 pp., \$27.00); "a thoroughly delightful and entertaining new book," according to Brian Castner's review at WAMU-FM on Nov. 7 <www.tinyurl.com/yd8dxstc>; you can listen to Ari Shapiro's interview with her at <www.tinyurl.com/y7835763>. The book has a passing mention of "The Lion's Mane" as perhaps the greatest testimony to the celebrity of jellyfish.
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December 2017 #6

18239. Howard Ostrom has reported that Riga (in Latvia) will hold its seventh annual celebration of the birthday of Sherlock Holmes on Jan. 6, with a new mini-museum that honors the two most popular actors who have played Holmes (Vasilij LivaNovember and Benedict Cumberbatch), a costume
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- parade, and many other events. There's a page at Facebook [Sherlock holmes birthday riga], a web-site <www.holmes.lv> (in Latvian, Russian, and English), and a City Council press release <www.tinyurl.com/ych8617x> (in Latvian and Russian); Google Translate can be of assistance. It's not surprising that the city honors Sherlock Holmes: Riga's Jauniela Street doubled for Baker Street in the LivaNovember television series.
18240. There's a persistent (although unconfirmed) story that in 1925, when Conan Doyle traveled to Paris to preside over the International Spiritualist Congress, he also went to Lyon to visit Edmond Locard's forensic laboratory, which included a display of photographs of criminals. Conan Doyle looked at one of them and said "That's Jules, my old chauffeur." And Locard replied that the photograph showed the notorious criminal Jules Bonnot. It is true that Bonnot did work as a chauffeur in London for a few months in 1910, and then returned to France to lead the notorious Bonnot Gang. There is much more about Bonnot in John Merriman's interesting BALLAD OF THE ANARCHIST BANDITS (New York: Nation Books, 2017; 326 pp., \$28.00).
18241. Reported: WATSON & HOLMES: DIARIOS DEL 221B, a Spanish board game designed by Jesús Torres Castro for Ludanova and issued in 2015; there's a video (in Spanish) at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/yakevzbz>. There appears to be a version in English (WATSON & HOLMES: FROM THE DIARIES OF 221B) from Asmodee in 2016.
18242. "221b in 360" is the title of the impressive photographic tour of the full-scale recreation of the sitting-room in Chuck Kovacic's home in Los Angeles <www.221bbakerstreetla.com>.
18243. The Hollywood Reporter has noted <www.tinyurl.com/yaafnosp> that HBO Asia, celebrating its 25th anniversary, has partnered with Hulu Japan to produce "Miss Sherlock" (its first Japanese-language drama); it will be an eight-part one-hour series that will air next April, and there's a trailer online at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/y89ljd8p>.
18244. Out of Print <www.outofprintclothing.com> offers a wide variety of literary clothing in various genres, including Sherlock Holmes T-shirts and socks.
18245. The China Daily reported (Dec. 19) on Amazon China's ranking of the best-selling books in China this year: the most popular paid e-books on Kindle were THE THREE-BODY trilogy (by science-fiction writer Liu Cixin), MIRACLES OF THE NAMIYA GENERAL STORE (by Keigo Higashina), and THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES <www.tinyurl.com/y8mdfco9>.
18246. David Marcum's THE PAPERS OF SOLAR PONS (Manchester: Belanger Books, 2017; 249 pp., \$29.95) is a welcome collection of new stories that feature Solar Pons (the delightful homage to Sherlock Holmes created by August Derleth). The opening story has an artful premise: Solar Pons and Dr. Parker are in pursuit of a culprit who has stolen the late Dr. Watson's tin box from a vault at Cox & Co., and the collection is a fine tribute to Solar Pons.

December 2017 #7

18247. The Petaluma Radio Players <www.petalumaradioplayers> have produced three "Misadventures of Sherlock Holmes" from scripts by Vince Staddon. The first show ("The Obliging Cadaver") is available in two parts in the podcasts at their web-site, and the others will be soon. They did three more shows as "Holmes for the Holidays" in December, and they'll up at the web-site eventually.
18248. John Walton's THE LEGENDARY DETECTIVE: THE PRIVATE EYE IN FACT AND FICTION (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2015; 232 pp., \$25.00) focuses much more on fact than fiction, with an interesting examination of the history of the profession, including the Pinkertons and with more attention paid to William J. Burns and his agency. Burns and Pinkerton were bitter rivals, and Burns went on to serve as J. Edgar Hoover's predecessor as Director of the Justice Department's Bureau of Investigation, and then became enmeshed in the Teapot Dome Scandal.
18249. Sherlockians will recall that a Pinkerton agent, James McParland, was the inspiration for Birdy Edwards in "The Valley of Fear" (which is mentioned in Walton's book). Burns visited Conan Doyle at Windlesham in 1913 and was at the pier to welcome Conan Doyle and his family to New York in 1914. It should be noted that the Pinkerton and Burns agencies are now both part of the international company Securitas AB.
18250. New and decorative: Espionage Cosmetics <www.espionagecosmetics.com> offers "nerd makeup" that includes "Baker Street" glow-in-the-dark nail wraps (22 nail wraps and a mini nail file for \$11.00).
18251. Sony Pictures has announced Nov. 9, 2018, as the release date for their new film "Holmes & Watson" (the comedy starring Will Ferrell as Holmes and John C. Reilly as Watson); the cast also includes Ralph Fiennes, Rebecca Hall, Hugh Laurie, and Kelly Macdonald. Even farther ahead (and of course quite likely to change) is the release of the live-action film "Detective Pikachu" (starring Ryan Reynolds) on May 10, 2019.
18252. How many actors have played the role of Sherlock Holmes? More than 3,700. That is the current count in Howard Ostrom's "A-Z List of Sherlock Holmes Performers" <www.nph.co.uk/a-z-index.html>, and of course the count will continue to increase with new productions, and new discoveries of old productions. Howard has compiled many other interesting data-bases, which can be found at <www.nphl.co.uk/original-essays.html>.
18253. The Deutsche-Sherlock-Holmes-Gesellschaft holds a convention in Germany every two years, and next year's SherloCON will be in Saarbrücken on May 11-13 <www.sherlocon.info>.
18254. Proceedings of the Pondicherry Lodge is the semi-annual electronic newsletter edited by Jayantika Ganguly for The Sherlock Holmes Society of India; the current issue (with 148 colorful pages) includes David Marcum's "Sherlock Holmes and John Atkinson Grimshaw: The Perfect Holmesian Book Covers" (examining the atmospheric artwork used on many Sherlockian book covers).
18255. Howard Ostrom's "Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson Tour Spain, or Two Knights-Errant to the Rescue" (discussing the many aspects of Sherlockiana found in Spain), and much more <www.tinyurl.com/ycqjbf7d>.

December 2017 #8

18256. Plan well ahead: Denny Dobry has for many years welcomed those who want to visit his splendid recreation of the sitting-room at 221B Baker Street in Reading, Pa. <www.facebook.com/221binReading>, and he will be holding an open house on May 20, 2018; one of the nicest things about his sitting-room is that it's hands-on, and full of interesting artifacts. You can contact him <dendobry@ptd.net> for more information about the event, and to enquire about alternative dates.
18257. I don't recall that anyone has ever created Sherlockian poker chips before, but Nick Thorn has launched a Kickstarter campaign for a set of three buttons for the dealer, big blind, and small blind, with images of Moriarty, Holmes, and Watson <www.tinyurl.com/ya4xo6wr>.
18258. "'Detective Conan' will be on hiatus for the foreseeable future so that I can recover from illness and rest up," Gosho Aoyama announced this month. The comic features a genius teenage detective who shrinks into a young boy after being forced to ingest an experimental toxin, takes on the alias Conan Edogawa (in tribute to Conan Doyle) and continues to solve mysteries. The comic has been running weekly in a Japanese magazine since 1984 and has been translated into more than two dozen languages (the English version is titled "Case Closed") and has been adapted into an animated series that began in 1996, feature films, video games, and live-action specials.

18259. Theatrics: the British Comedy Company will perform Peter Wear's parody of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" at the St. Michael and All Angels Church in Chiswick, London, Jan. 5 <www.britishcomedycompany.co.uk>.
18260. Hive and Tall Tales will present "Sherlock--A Play" at the Junction Theatre in Dubai (in the United Arab Emirates), Jan. 18-20 (apparently a new play) <www.thejunctiondubai.com>. If you go to Dubai, you can also pay a visit to the Sherlock Holmes English Pub at the Arabian Courtyard Hotel and Spa <www.sherlockholmespub.net>.
18261. Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is scheduled at Theatre Baton Rouge in Baton Rouge, La., Jan. 19-Feb. 4 <www.theatrebr.com>. Also at the 710 Theatre in Buffalo, N.Y., May 10-13 <www.sheas.org>; and at the Pride Art Center in Phoenix, Ariz., on May 11-12 <www.mptheatreco.com>; and at the Little Theatre of Walla Walla in Walla Walla, Wash., June 1-17 <www.ltw.org>; and the Bard to Broadway Theatre in Qualicum Beach, B.C., July 3-Aug. 19 <www.b2btheatre.com>; and the Timber Lake Playhouse in Mount Carroll, Ill., July 19-26 <www.timberlakeplayhouse.org>. And the Taproot Theatre in Seattle, Wash., Sept. 12-Oct. 13 <www.taproottheatre.org>.
18262. Christopher M. Walsh's "Miss Holmes" will be performed at the Greater Boston Stage Company in Stoneham, Mass., Apr. 5-22, and their web-site is at <www.greaterbostonstage.org>. And at the Peninsula Players Theater in Fish Creek, Wis., July 4-22 <www.peninsulaplayers.com>, and at the Crede Repertory Theatre in Creede, Colo., July 27-Sept. 15 <www.creederep.org> [it's totally coincidental, but Creede features in the first episode of the new Netflix western series "Godless"].

January 2018 #1

18263. Sherlockians (and Holmesians) gathered in New York to celebrate the Great Detective's 164th birthday during the long weekend from Jan. 10 to Jan. 14. The festivities began with the traditional ASH Wednesday dinner sponsored by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes at Annie Moore's, and continued with the Christopher Morley Walk led by Jim Cox and Dore Nash on Thursday morning (followed by the usual lunch at McSorley's).
18264. The Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Speaker on Thursday evening was Martin Edwards, the award-winning mystery author and commentator on mysteries, and The Babes of Baker Street's "Daintiest Scream on the Moor Charity Ball" featured the unveiling of a "Cake Boss" cake in the shape of a bust of Sherlock Holmes (to be featured on an upcoming episode of the TV series. Friday's William Gillette Luncheon included a performance by the Friends of Bogie's at Baker Street, plus Al Gregory's presentation of the annual January WHIMSEY Award (named in memory of his wife January Stauber), which honors the most whimsical piece in The Serpentine Muse last year, to M.E. Rich. And Otto Penzler's traditional open house at the Mysterious Bookshop provided the usual opportunities to browse and buy.
18265. The Irregulars and their guests gathered for the BSI annual dinner at the Yale Club, where Roy Pilot proposed the traditional preprandial first toast to Patricia Izbán as The Woman. The annual-dinner agenda included toasts, rituals, and papers, and Mike Whelan (the BSI's "Wiggins") presented this year's Birthday Honours (Irregular Shillings and Investitures) to Shannon Carlisle ("Beacons of the Future!"), Dean Clark ("Watson's Journal"), Denny Dobry ("A Single Large Airy Sitting-Room"), Jeffrey Hatcher ("The Five Orange Pips"), Maria Fleischhack ("Rache"), Anastasia Klimchynskaya ("The Old Russian Woman"), Rebecca Romney ("That Gap on That Second Shelf"), Candace Lewis ("A Little Art Jargon"), Nick Martorelli ("Seventeen Steps"), and Al Shaw ("Sir Hugo Baskerville"). Mike also made a Two-Shilling Award to John Linsenmeyer.
18266. An enthusiastic crowd attended this year's Gaslight Gala at the Social Bar & Grill, and some of the more fervent (or perhaps hard core) Sherlockians gathered after the dinners at O'Lunney's Irish Pub to honor long-standing traditions such as staying until at least 2:21.
18267. On Saturday morning Covent Garden West (the dealers room at the Roosevelt Hotel) welcomed sellers and buyers, and authors and editors delighted to inscribe or sign their books. The Beacon Society held its annual meeting, and the Junior Bloodstain of The Clients of Adrian Mulliner featured a performance of "The Bayswater Boarding House" (adapted by dramatized by Bill Hyder from a parody written by Heaton Hill).
18268. The BSI's afternoon reception at the Yale Club offered entertainment, conversation, wining, and dining, and Susan Bailey was honored as the winner of the Morley-Montgomery Award (a check and an attractive certificate) for the best contribution to The Baker Street Journal in 2017. And the John H. Watson Fund's raffle prize was (jewelry from "Charles Augustus Milverton") created by Maggie Schpak, and the auction attracted enthusiastic bidders.

January 2018 #2

18269. The main Saturday-evening event was the annual "Very Irregular Lost in New York with a Bunch of Sherlockians" dinner at O'Lunney's Times Square Pub (arranged by Chrys Kegley and The Curious Collectors of Baker Street) and on Sunday morning a goodly crowd gathered at the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes' brunch at the Long Room.
18270. A final note for those who want to plan ahead: The Baker Street Irregulars' next annual dinner will be held on Jan. 11, 2019.
18271. I've not reported on everything, I hasten to add; you'll find more detailed reports on the goings-on in the spring issue of The Baker Street Journal. The BSJ appears quarterly, and subscriptions (four issues plus the Christmas Annual) cost \$41.95 (to the U.S.) or \$55.00 (elsewhere); you can pay by check sent to the BSJ (Box 583, Zionsville, IN 46077), or by credit card or PayPal at the BSJ web-site at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>, which has interesting features such as articles from recent issues of the BSJ, some of the papers written by winners of the Morley-Montgomery Awards, and information on the BSI's other publications and activities.
18272. "Far from Baker Street, Ardent Holmes Fans Celebrate His Birthday" was the headline on Corey Kilgannon's story about the birthday festivities in the N.Y. Times on Jan. 15; the story ran on-line a day earlier as "It's Elementary: Sherlockians Take Manhattan" <www.tinyurl.com/yamqwwa3>. Kilgannon, with John McDonough and Malachy McCourt, host "Talk Back--New York, We and Thee Edition" (a two-hour weekly series broadcast by WBAI-FM), and on Jan. 17 they discussed the celebration and interviewed Lyndsay Faye; the program is available on-line at <www.wbai.org/program.php?program=186>, and the 23-minute segment begins at 01:00.
18273. There also is Scott Monty's well-illustrated account of some of the events at "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" <www.tinyurl.com/y9nlqo9n>; remarkable for having been posted, as Scott notes, by someone who missed his first BSI annual dinner since 1995.
18274. Al Gregory <gaslightandfog@verizon.net> offers (via e-mail) his 2017 edition of "The ABC of the BSI" (an alphabetical listing of Investitures, with recipients, from "Abbey Grange" to "Young Stamford") and "The Florin Society" (couples in which both spouses have received Irregular Shillings).
18275. TRENCHES: THE WAR SERVICE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, the latest volume in the Baker Street Irregulars Manuscript Series (2017; 274 pp., \$39.95), is edited by Robert Katz and Andrew Solberg, offers a facsimile of the fourteen surviving pages of the manuscript of "His Last Bow", an annotated transcript, interesting commentary on the manuscript, the story, and the world in which Sherlock Holmes lived when he was involved in the case. More information about the book, including the table of contents and one of the essays, can be found at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>.
18276. Also from the BSI is MOBILE HOLMES: TRANSPORTATION IN THE SHERLOCKIAN CANON (2017; 270 pp., \$21.95), edited by Walter Jaffee; it's a delightful anthology of essays, from traveling on foot (Catherine Cooke's "What Do You Say to a Ramble Through London?") to traveling aloft (Chuck Winge's "Sherlock Holmes and Aeroplanes").

January 2018 #3

18277. Jim French died on Dec. 21. He had a long career in radio, as a DJ and an on-air personality, going on to write and produce nearly 500 original shows (including "The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes") for his Imagination Theater. Details on his broadcasts are available at <www.old-time.com/otrlogs2>; see "Jim French Shows", "The Classic Adventures of Sherlock Holmes", and "The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes").
18278. "221b in 360" (an impressive photographic slide-show tour of the full-scale recreation of the sitting-room Chuck Kovacic has created in his home in Los Angeles) <www.221bbakerstreetla.com>, was reported last month, and Alexander Orlov has now noted a truly spectacular 3D interactive tour that's also engineered for those who use virtual reality <www.tinyurl.com/y8hrzt7t>.
18279. The sixth issue of the resurrected Saturday Review of Literature was published this month, edited by George Fletcher, Jon Lellenberg, Don Pollock, and Phil Shreffler, and with articles that include Phillip G. Bergem's discussion of "221B: What and Where?", Peter Calamai's "Conan Doyle's Neologisms: A Debate", and much more. The issue costs \$5.00 postpaid from Donald Pollock (521 College Avenue, Niagara Falls, NY 14305).
18280. Paramount has collaborated with Variety: The Children's Charity to create a new pin featuring Sherlock Gnomes for its current Gold Heart Campaign; the pins will be available at movie theaters in return for a \$3.00 donation, and there's a list of participating theaters at <www.usvariety.org/gold-hearts>.
18281. Randall Stock has kindly forwarded a report from The Bookseller (Jan. 4) on plans by John Murray to celebrate the publisher's 250th anniversary with a new book DEAR MR. MURRAY: LETTERS TO A GENTLEMEN PUBLISHER, due in October. One of the letters, from Adrian Conan Doyle, discusses challenging Harold Nicolson to a duel for insulting Adrian's father; it is likely that Adrian was angry about Nicolson's review of John Dickson Carr's biography THE LIFE OF SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE in the Daily Telegraph and Morning Post (Feb. 4, 1949). "It is an irksome task," Nicolson wrote, "to write the biography of a man whose children are loyal and alive. It is not easy to depict with sincerity the career of someone whose fame was wholly out of proportion to his intrinsic merits." Nicolson's review has much more to say about Conan Doyle, and Adrian would not have been pleased by any of it.
18282. The next "Sherlocked USA" convention will be held in Los Angeles on May 25-27; it is organized in association with Hartswood Films (the company that produces the BBC series "Sherlock") <www.sherlockedusa.com>, and many series stars attend the Sherlocked conventions. Tickets cost from \$145 (standard) to \$2995 (VIP Package).
18283. The Baker Street Journal's Christmas Annual for 2017 was written by Sonia Fetherston and Julie McKuras, who tell grand stories about "Helene Yuhasova: The Poetess Laureate of the Baker Street Irregulars"; the Christmas Annuals are available only as part of subscriptions to the BSJ, but they can be found at eBay. You can also hear an excellent podcast about "Helene Yuhasova: Woman of Mystery" at Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.tinyurl.com/ya5frbbo>, where they share some of those stories.
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January 2018 #4

18284. "Mystery as Pub Named after Sherlock Holmes writer Sir Arthur Conan Doyle is magically rebranded the 'JK Rowling'" read the headline in the Daily Mail on Jan. 1 <www.tinyurl.com/y77g56cz>. Nicholson Pubs (the owner of the establishment in Edinburgh) declined comment on the change, but the Daily Mail suggested that the renaming was an elaborate stunt for Hogmanay (that's the Scottish celebration of the New Year). The Edinburgh Evening News <www.tinyurl.com/y8xndd77> had more information: the change is merely temporary, and is tied to Message from the Skies, a visual art installation that was designed to showcase streets and buildings that have inspired some of the city's finest authors, and included an app that allowed residents and visitors to explore the city while they read a story written by Val McDermid. The event ended on Jan. 25.
18285. The Unemployed Philosophers Guild <www.philosophersguild.com> continues to offer imaginative Sherlockiana, including an attractive Sherlock Holmes Mug that comes with instructions <www.tinyurl.com/ycmrqspr>.
18286. One of the more imaginative celebrations of the holiday season is "The Bloo Sparkly" (The Blue Carbuncle, as Told by Animated GIF), created by someone nommed "whorl" and posted at Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog in 2011 <www.tinyurl.com/ydd2oks3> and again in 2017.
18287. Samantha Wolov notes Elvis Costello's "Dr. Watson, I Presume" (released in 2010 on his album "National Ransom"), which may or may not be Sherlockian; you can sample the song (and read the lyrics) at www.tinyurl.com/y8h9vuy7 and decide for yourselves.
18288. "I hear of Sherlock everywhere," including on the label of Whodunnit? Popcorn (Specially Blended for Mystery Lovers), available from Acorn <www.acornonline.com/XB3412.html> (\$14.95 for 30 oz.). "The sound of crunchy popcorn adds to the suspense!" they explain. Acorn also offers a Star Wars Popcorn Maker and Rogue One Darth Vader Lightsaber Handheld Immersion Blenders for fans of that other series.
18289. The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes have issued a CD that contains a complete run of The Serpentine Muse from April 1975 through winter 2015; it's indexed and text-searchable, and costs \$15.00 postpaid <www.ash-nyc.com>.
18290. Roger Heyworth has designed SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE CARD GAME for Gibson and Sons Ltd.; there was a first edition in 1991, a second edition in 2014, and (apparently) a third edition (in a black box) in 2017, available at Amazon in the U.K. and the U.S.
18291. Paul Annett died on Dec. 11. He was writer, producer, and director in film and television; his directing credits include work on series that include "Poldark" (1975-1976) and "EastEnders" (1998-2009), and three of the early stories in Granada's "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes": "A Scandal in Bohemia" and "The Solitary Cyclist" (1984), and "The Copper Beeches" (1985).
18292. When in Dallas: Daniel J. Darrouzet will appear in an "author talk" about his STORIES FROM THE TIN BOX: UNTOLD ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (2015) at 6:30 pm on Feb. 8 at the Preston Royal Branch Library in Dallas; directions at <www.tinyurl.com/y88cfj3>.
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January 2018 #5

18293. More and more Sherlockian societies are taking advantage of digitization to create on-line archives of their newsletters and other publications. The Sherlock Holmes Klubben i Danmark is the latest to do this, and all issues of their "Sherlockiana" from 1956 through 2016 are available at their website <www.sherlockholmesklubben.dk>; there's a link at the top of their opening page.
18294. The February issue of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine continues a long annual tradition of honoring Sherlock Holmes' birthday, with Sherlockian artwork on the cover, an amusing pastiche by Terence Faherty, a nice homage to Sherlockians by John Morgan Wilson, and reviews by Steve Steinbock of new Sherlockian books.
18295. "Pop star Rita Ora was channeling detective Sherlock Holmes when she wore a bizarre Burberry shorts combo to the BBC Radio 1 Teen Awards in October. The only mystery to solve is why anyone let her leave the house like this." She provided one of the "worst fashion frights" in 2017, according to the Daily Mail (Dec. 29. You can see all of their picks at <www.tinyurl.com/y9t6ep8c>.
18296. The Sherlockian Calendar, maintained by Ron Fish and Sue and Ben Vizoskie, is at <www.sherlockiancalendar.com>; it's a helpful list of upcoming Sherlockian events, for anyone who would like to know what's happening when and where, and it offers an interesting look at how many society
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events are being held hither and yon. You should contact Ron at <ronf404@aol.com> to have a meeting or conference listed. The calendar also is available on Twitter as @SianCalendar.

18297. Terence Marsh died on Jan. 9. He began his film career as a draughtsman at Pinewood Studios, and went on to become a highly-regarded art director and production designer who won Oscars as art director on "Dr. Zhivago" (1968) and "Oliver!" (1968); his many credits included his work as production designer on Gene Wilder's "The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes' Smarter Brother" (1975).
18298. Congratulations to Jessie Amaolo on her promotion to curator of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library; her formal title is services specialist for the collection, and she succeeds Peggy Perdue, who has been promoted to senior department head of the special collections department.
18299. Leslie S. Klinger's BAKER STREET REVERIES: SHERLOCKIAN WRITINGS 2006-2016 (Indianapolis: Gasogene Books, 2018; 228 pp., \$23.95), a sequel to his BAKER STREET RAMBLES (2008), reprints his more recent essays, including his checklist, unfortunately (or perhaps fortunately) not illustrated) of Sherlockian pornography. Gasogene is at <www.wessexpress.com>.
18300. Gasogene has also published 70 YEARS BY GAS LAMP, edited by Mary Ann Bradley, Louise Haskett, and Melanie Hoffman (2018; 245 pp., \$21.95); it's the latest (sixth) casebook from The Illustrious Clients of Indianapolis, offering a wide variety of writings by its members and guest speakers. And Dan Andriacco's imaginative and well-written pastiche HOUSE OF THE DOOMED (2018; 117 pp., \$19.95).
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January 2018 #6

18301. The Long Beach Shakespeare Company continued their annual celebration of Sherlock Holmes' birthday last month offering an Old Time Radio adaptation of "Sherlock Holmes and the Scandal in Bohemia" dramatized by Ken Knight and featuring Joe LoCicero as Holmes; you'll be able to listen to a podcast of the show at <www.lbshakespeare.org/audio.php> in late February.
18302. CBS has announced that the sixth season of "Elementary" (starring Jonny Lee Miller and Lucy Liu) will premiere on Apr. 30; there will be 21 episodes in the season, which thus will run through the summer (some of us remember the long-ago age when series ran from fall through spring, and summer when one watched re-runs). If you want to know what Sherlock Holmes has on his book shelves (in "Elementary"), Gabby Barone has reported a list posted at Goodreads <www.tinyurl.com/ycfb8xur>.
18303. Some important news from the birthday festivities: a print of the 1929 German silent film "Der Hund von Baskerville" (directed by Richard Oswald and with Carlyle Blackwood as Holmes), discovered in Poland and now restored by the San Francisco Silent Film Festival, will have its world premiere at the Festival on June 2 <www.tinyurl.com/y6w6cy4a>. The Festival's blog also is interesting: one of the items there is Kyle Westphal's "The Un-Lost World: A Conversation with Serge Bromberg of Lobster Films" about the latest restoration of "The Lost World" (1925) <www.tinyurl.com/yc7h5kvb>.
18304. The Mystery Writers of America have announced the nominees for this year's Edgar awards, and they include Mattias Boström's FROM HOLMES TO SHERLOCK: THE STORY OF THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO CREATED AN ICON, and Michael Sims' ARTHUR AND SHERLOCK: CONAN DOYLE AND THE CREATION OF HOLMES (best critical/biographical), and Brad Ricca's MRS. SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE TRUE STORY OF NEW YORK'S GREATEST FEMALE DETECTIVE AND THE 1917 MISSING GIRL CASE THAT CAPTIVATED A NATION (best fact crime) [not really Sherlockian]; the winners will be announced at the MWA Gala Banquet in New York on Apr. 26.
18305. Canterbury Classics offers a long series of "Word Cloud Classics" reprints in attractive "flexibound" bindings, one of the titles being THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (2012; \$14.99), available at Amazon and elsewhere.
18306. Ken Ludwig, the author of the Sherlockian plays "Postmortem", "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" and "Baskerville: Sherlock Holmes Mystery" has a new (and non-Sherlockian) play: a dramatization of "Murder on the Orient Express". "It's glamorous, it's romantic, and just the title itself is magic," he has explained, adding that "It is a bigger play than I usually write for the stage, but I've been able to cut the number of suspects down." The play had its premiere at the McCarter Theatre in Princeton, N.J., last year, and is due at the Hartford Stage in Hartford, Conn., in February; the play has a web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/y9dz2kw9>, and one can be sure it will be produced elsewhere.
18307. Nick Utechin still is pursuing his search for the plates that were used to produce Helan Halbach's 1974 edition of Gillette's play "Sherlock Holmes" (September 13 #5) (and in the 2016 Christmas Annual of The Baker Street Journal) and would greatly appreciate hearing from anyone who has not already been in contact with him <highfieldfarmhouse@gmail.com>.
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January 2018 #7

18308. DEATH AT THE DIOGENES CLUB, by Anna Elliott and Charles Veley (Wilton Press, 2017; 355 pp., \$13.98), the sixth title in their "Sherlock Holmes and Lucy James" series, has Lucy (Sherlock Holmes' daughter) and Holmes in pursuit of a vicious killer in a novel that offers both thrills and romance, together with some interesting characters. The series has a web-site at <www.sherlockandlucy.com>.
18309. Material from the Daniel Posnansky Collection already is turning up at eBay from people who bought large lots at the auction, among them Lewis Durbin, whose shop is at lewidurbi0.
18310. THE HISTORY OF THE LIMITED EDITIONS CLUB, by Carol Porter Grossman (Newcastle: Oak Knoll Press, 2017; 268 pp., \$125.00), is a splendid book, printed and bound in the high-quality tradition of the Club, offering the story of George Macy, and the many delightful books the Club produced for its subscribers; there are three pages about the Club's spectacular edition of THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES and how much work was involved earning George Macy a well-deserved Investiture in The Baker Street Irregulars. There's more information about the book, with colorful images, at <www.oakknoll.com>.
18311. BAKER STREET ELEMENTARY: A SCANDAL IN CASSEROLE is the latest in the series of amusing comic books created by Joe Fay, Steve Mason, and Rusty Mason; it is available (along with their BAKER STREET ELEMENTARY comic strips) at The Crew of the Barque Lone Star's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/j29mukf>.
18312. Peter Wyngarde died on Jan. 15. He began his acting career with the Nottingham Repertory Company, and went on to a long career on stage, screen, and television; he played Baron Gruner with Peter Cushing in "The Illustrious Client" (1965), and Langdale Pike with Jeremy Brett in Granada's "The Three Gables" (1984). According to the obituary in the Guardian (Jan. 23) <www.tinyurl.com/yctcmdfw>, he had enough clout in 1965 that the producers of "The Illustrious Client" acceded to his agent's stipulation that on foreign prints he was credited alongside the leads in the opening titles, and was paid considerably more than Douglas Wilmer and Nigel Stock.
18313. David Harnois continues to add to his dramatized readings of the Canon, and he now offers "The Blue Carbuncle" and six other stories at his "I Am Lost Without My Boswell" web-site <www.iamlostwithoutmyboswell.com>, where you can listen to or download the readings, which are nicely done.
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18314. HAMPSHIRE THROUGH WRITERS' EYES (London: Eland, 2017; 373 pp., £12.99) is edited by Alastair Langlands and offers an interesting anthology of commentary about the county by writers who range from Austen to Wodehouse; Conan Doyle is included, of course: he lived in Southsea when he created Sherlock Holmes, and wrote about the county in the Canon, and in THE WHITE COMPANY and MICAH CLARKE. Eland has been described as offering "guidebooks for the enquiring mind," and their web-site <www.travelbooks.co.uk> shows how wide their coverage of the world is.
18315. The Beacon Society offers annual January Stauber grants of up to \$500 to fund development of programs that introduce young people to Sherlock Holmes in the U.S. and Canada; the deadline for grant applications is May 1, and details are available at the society's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/h7acxds>.
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January 2018 #8

18316. Fraser McAlpine has noted at Anglophenia some Sherlockian allusions in the "Doctor Who" episode "The Angels Take Manhattan" (broadcast on BBC One on Sept. 29, 2012): the first chapter in Melody Malone's pulp novel is titled "The Dying Detective", and the TARDIS lands in China in the year 221 BC; it is not a surprise that the script was written by Steven Moffat.
18317. "Sherlock Holmes is retired and in a foul mood. It's 1922, and Dr. Watson's granddaughter, Dot, has been trying to edit the old detective's long-awaited memoirs." That's the premise of the latest play by Craig Sodaro, just published by the Pioneer Drama Service <www.pioneerdrama.com> (\$7.00). Pioneer specializes in plays for schools and other organizations.
18318. The International Sherlock Holmes Exhibition is heading back to the United States, and will open at the Liberty Science Center in Jersey City, N.J., on Nov. 3, running through May 27, 2019; their web-site's at <www.isc.org>, and while there's nothing about the exhibition up yet, stay tuned.
18319. Will Thomas' ANATOMY OF EVIL (New York: Minotaur, 2015; 336 pp., \$25.99) is the seventh in his series that features private enquiry agent Cyrus Barker (an homage to Holmes' rival in "The Retired Colourman") and his assistant Thomas Llewelyn, who in this novel have been enlisted to aid Scotland Yard in pursuit of Jack the Ripper, and are (eventually) successful at the end of a story that's told well and with imagination.
18320. Theatrics: Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" is running at the Barnstable Comedy Club in Barnstable, Mass., through Feb. 4 <www.barnstablecomedyclub.org>.
18321. Dennis Rosa's "Sherlock Holmes and the Curse of the Sign of the Four" is on at the Providence Playhouse in Scranton, Pa., through Feb. 4; web-site at <www.actorscircle.com>.
18322. Jeremy Paul's "The Secret of Sherlock Holmes" is on at the Brumder Mansion in Milwaukee, Wis., through Feb. 10 <www.milwaukeeemansion.com>. Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is on at the Great American Melodrama & Vaudeville in Oceano, Calif., through Mar. 4; web-site at <www.greatamericanmelodrama.com>.
18323. R. Hamilton Wright's "Sherlock Holmes and the American Problem" is due at the Whidby Island Center for the Arts in Langley, Wash., Feb. 9-24; their web-site's at <www.wicaonline.org>.
18324. Max Gee's "Sherlock Holmes and the Speckled Band" is due at the Genesian Theatre in Sydney, N.S.W., Apr. 7-May 12 <www.genesiantheatre.com.au>.
18325. Madeleine George's "The (Curious Case of the) Watson Intelligence" has been scheduled at the Silver Spring Stage in Silver Spring, Md., on Apr. 13-May 5 <www.sstage.org>.
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February 2018 #1

18326. Malice Domestic has announced the nominees for this year's Agatha awards, which include Mattias Boström's FROM HOLMES TO SHERLOCK (best nonfiction). The winners will be announced at Malice in Bethesda on Apr. 29.
18327. Sorry about that: in the last issue (January 18 #7) I noted that material from the Daniel Posnansky Collection already is turning up at eBay from people who bought large lots at the auction, among them Lewis Durbin, whose shop actually is at lewidurbi0.
18328. "Worzel Gummidge" was a well-received British children's television series broadcast by ITV (1979-1981) that was continued in New Zealand as "Worzel Gummidge Down Under" (1987-1989). The series starred Jon Pertwee, and Howard Ostrom has discovered "Elementary My Dear Worthy" from the second series at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/ybrkb378>. It's interesting to see Jon Pertwee as someone other than Doctor Who; Una Stubbs starred in the series as Aunt Sally, but doesn't appear in the Sherlockian episode.
18329. Chris Redmond created <www.sherlockian.net> in 1994, and it's now managed by Michigan State University's WIDE Research Center; the web-site has been revised, and it's well worth visiting and exploring as a valuable resource for the ever-growing population of Internet-savvy Sherlockians.
18330. J. M. W. Turner's iconic 1804 painting of the Reichenbach Falls seen twice in the BBC's "Sherlock" television series, at the end of the second season, and in the recent Christmas special, can be viewed on-line in full color at <www.tinyurl.com/hptv8q5>. If you like to know more about Turner and his work, Christie's has two excellent articles (one with an instructive video) on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/ydngxh4> and <www.tinyurl.com/y7syojua>.
18331. Mike Vagnetti has reported a new stamp issued by the Solomon Islands, in a set of four stamps that honor the 300th anniversary of the Grand Lodge of England (founded in 1717, it was the first Masonic Grand Lodge); the stamp shows both Conan Doyle and Holmes, and the others stamps show Ernest Shackleton, Winston Churchill, and Rudyard Kipling. Mike also reports that the American Topical Association has a checklist of Conan Doyle/Sherlock Holmes stamps, available only to members, with 63 entries. You can see the Solomon Island stamps in full color at Steve Trussel's excellent web-site "The Philatelic Sherlock Holmes" <www.trussel.com/detfic/sholmes.htm>. And Mike <mjvagnetti@gmail.com> would be happy to hear from anyone who has Sherlockian items (stamps and poster stamps) to offer.
18332. BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH READS SHERLOCK HOLMES' REDISCOVERED RAILWAY MYSTERIES is a two-CD set from BBC Worldwide (2015, £11.78), offering four pastiches written by John Taylor.
18333. "Yuukoku no Moriarty" ["Moriarty the Patriot"] is a Japanese manga written by Ryounosuke Takeuchi and drawn by Hikaru Mihoshi, reimagining the Canon "with Moriarty as the protagonist and exploring his motivation in becoming the greatest criminal Britain has ever seen." It has not been published as a book in English, but 16 episodes are available in English on-line at the Manga Rock web-site <www.mangarock.com/manga/mrs/serie-100056011>.
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February 2018 #2

18334. The Bookseller has reported that "Sherlock Holmes: The Definitive Collection" (read by Stephen Fry) was Audible's best selling title in 2017; the set spent four month at the top of the Audible chart and was in the top 20 for 11 months since it was released in February 2016. If you don't have it yet, it is available at <www.audible.com> for \$85.26 (or free as a join-now premium).
18335. In the last issue of this newsletter (January 18 #4) I wrote about someone who was nommed "whorl" (based on a belief that aliases used on the Internet are "noms" as in "noms de plume"). A query from a reader (actually, my sharpeyed proof-reader) led to some on-line research that
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revealed that my belief was unfounded, and then to a query to people who are far more Internet-savvy. Thanks to Lyndsay Faye, I can now report that an Internet alias is called a "pseud" (as in "pseudonym").

18336. Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog offers two interesting items: one of them "Holmes & Watson 1916-2016" (an imaginative montage of film and television clips set to the song 'Something Good (Will Come from That)'" <www.tinyurl.com/y8uyqgmng> and the other an interview with Ross Davies about "Boxes from Royalty" <www.tinyurl.com/y9y52p94>.
18337. I've reported before (August 16 #2) on APOPO <www.apopo.org>, a company that trains giant African pouched rats to detect unexploded landmines in countries in Africa and Asia (the rats don't weigh enough to set off the mines, which can then be disarmed); the rats can also be trained to detect tuberculosis in mucous samples, and now they are in pursuit of smugglers who are shipping endangered pangolins from Africa to Asia, as noted in a recent report in the Washington Post <www.tinyurl.com/y724dwol>. Needless to say, APOPO welcomes donations from people who want to adopt giant rats.
18338. Has anyone seen the new play "The Play That Goes Wrong" (2012) in London or New York or elsewhere? The Tampa Bay Observer, reporting that the play is due there in October, describes it as "a carefully chaotic comedy that has tickled audiences with farcical disaster visited upon the erstwhile production of a Sherlock Holmes-style mystery."
18339. Mort Walker died on Jan. 27. A legendary comic strip writer, he was best known for creating "Beetle Bailey" in 1950 and "Hi and Lois" in 1954, and drew "Beetle Bailey" for 68 years, making him the longest-running artist in comic-strip history. His colorful web-site is at <www.mortwalker.com>, and this strip was published on Jan. 7, 2008:

February 2018 #3

18340. The Strand Magazine (the modern version edited by Andrew Gulli) continues to publish quarterly <www.strandmag.com>, and its online blog includes interesting posts such as Daniel E. Lambert's "Sherlock Holmes in Verse" and Bonnie MacBird's "The Risk of 'The Reveal': Tampering with or Augmenting the Legend of Sherlock Holmes".
18341. Leslie Katz continues to make his Sherlockian scholarship available at the Social Science Research Network; his latest article is "Each Picture Told a Story: Photography in the Sherlock Holmes Adventures" and you can read or download it (and his other articles) at <www.ssrn.com/author=1164057>.
18342. The Holmes Financial Solutions web-site features a silhouette of Sherlock Holmes in the logo, and the company was in the news recently when it was fined £300,000 by the British government for making 8.8 million nuisance robo-calls in 2015 and 2016 <www.tinyurl.com/y8c4o35v>. The company's solicitors are at work on an appeal. If you're bothered by robo-calls in the U.S., there is a solution: <www.nomorobo.com>. The company won a challenge set by the Federal Trade Commission, and its service is available without charge for landlines (if your service provider's compatible) and for a modest monthly fee for cell phones. The N.Y. Times ran an interesting article last year <www.tinyurl.com/m4v8mkv> on how you can reduce the number of robo-calls you receive.
18343. Les Klinger has an interesting web-site, which offers a helpful list of errata in all three volumes of THE NEW ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES, with a link at the end that allows you to download a PDF that shows which errata have been corrected in various editions <www.tinyurl.com/ycztyf48>.
18344. I've long described this newsletter as six or more pages of whatever gossip I find appropriate, much of it quite trivial, but most of it Sherlockian or Doylean, and anyone who wants to run a word-search on two large files with all of the text since March 1985 can now do just that, thanks to Steve Mason, who updates the compilation and makes it available for download from the Crew of the Barque Lone Star's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/ybxh2y2m>.
18345. John Mahoney died on Feb. 4. He had a long acting career on stage, screen, and television, and was best known as Frasier Crane's father Martin Crane on the NBC-TV sitcom "Frasier"; he wore Sherlockian costume in the "Halloween" episode broadcast in 1993.
18346. There have been occasional reviews of the new animated film "Batman: Gotham by Gaslight" that have mentioned its Sherlockian echoes. According to Den of Geek! <www.tinyurl.com/ydeuvmjs>, there is good reason: Jim Krieg, who adapted the film, said in an interview that he grew up as a Holmes fan and "didn't want to leave any Sherlockian stone unturned," citing "A Study in Terror" (1965) as a favorite Sherlock Holmes vs. Jack the Ripper film, and executive producer Bruce Timm said that he watched "Gilligan's Island" all the time as a kid, and recalled the episode that had the Professor as Sherlock Holmes and the Skipper as Dr. Watson. If you've not seen that episode of "Gilligan's Island" series it's "Up at Bat" (1966), and there's a Sherlockian clip at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/y8lp7qkc>, from the dream sequence that features Inspector Sherlock and Colonel Watney).

February 2018 #4

18347. Janet Hutchings, the editor of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine, presides over a blog ("Something Is Going to Happen") that offers interesting contributions about "suspense, short stories, and the mystery-fiction scene," such as an interesting post last year on "The Last of the Kingdom of Romance: 90 Years Since the Publication of The Case-Book of Sherlock Holmes" by R. T. Raichev <www.tinyurl.com/y9qoe374> and a "Report from Baker Street" by Steve Steinbock <www.tinyurl.com/y9bppzeh> about the 2016 annual dinner of the Baker Street Irregulars.
18348. John Morris died on Jan. 25. He began his musical career as a concert pianist ("I didn't like practicing," he once admitted) and went on to composing and arranging for Broadway shows, and then for films, and his credits included the orchestration for "The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes' Smarter Brother" (1975).
18349. "Rugger, Romance, and Sherlock Holmes!" is the title of an illustrated talk delivered by Roger Johnson this month during the Portsmouth Bookfest last month; if you're wondering how those three topics were combined in the same talk, it was subtitled "You Should Go to Blackheath First" and Roger suggests that "the importance of Blackheath in the life of Arthur Conan Doyle and in the career of Sherlock Holmes should not be overlooked."
18350. Lakin & Marley Rare Books in Mill Valley, Calif., are offering the original Universal Studios script archives for the Rathbone/Bruce series, most heavily annotated; go to <www.tinyurl.com/y86rhapq> for detailed descriptions and commentary.
18351. Further to the item (December 17 #3) on Tania Henzell's new Sherlock Holmes Tartan: the tartan will have an official launch party at the Physicians Hall in Edinburgh on Mar. 22; details at <www.tinyurl.com/yawvtmrx>. Karen Ellery notes that you can inspect the official registration for the tartan at <www.tinyurl.com/y7twgdsq>. Lee Crow reports that there is an older Holmes tartan (from 1830); you can search the Register's web-site to find tartans for Watson and Moriarty and (likely) other Canonical characters.
18352. For anyone who misses "Sherlock": "The Sherlock You Didn't See: Scenes—and Entire Episodes--That Never Aired" was the headline on a story at Digital Spy <www.tinyurl.com/yd99rmmh>.

18353. The winter issue of The Magic Door (the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library newsletter) celebrates the 150th anniversary of Canada as a nation, and offers Donny Zaldin's article "Arthur Conan Doyle and Canada: 1914 and One Hundred Years Hence" along with news from and about the Library and the Collection. Copies of the newsletter are available from Clifford S. Goldfarb, 22 Markdale Avenue, Toronto, ON M6C, 1T1, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>, and you can join the Friends at <www.acdfriends.org>.
18354. "The Adventures of Sherlock Hound" was a delightful Japanese animated television series broadcast in 1984-1985, with 26 episodes (the first six directed by Hayao Miyazaki). Holmes is a red fox, Watson a Scottish terrier, and Moriarty a gray wolf, and it's nice indeed that all 26 episodes now are available at YouTube; search for [sherlock hound].
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February 2018 #5

18355. George MacDonald Fraser noted in his introduction to a new edition of THE WHITE COMPANY and SIR NIGEL (February 00 #7) that John Ford was said to have had THE WHITE COMPANY in his sights at the end of his career, with John Wayne and Alec Guinness in mind. According to Wikipedia, the two novels were among Wayne's favorite books.
18356. A GIFT OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: CHRISTMAS 1914: EDITION: THE VALLEY OF FEAR is a reproduction of what Ross E. Davies suggests might have been the true first book edition of the story (as he explained at this year's annual dinner of The Baker Street Irregulars). His book offers the text that was published in the Associated Sunday Magazines in newspapers in the U.S., which differs from the text that appeared in The Strand Magazine and then in books in the U.S., Canada, and the U.K. in 1915. Ross has supplied a perceptive introduction, and he has kindly made an electronic edition of his book available on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/y83d3gvd>.
18357. It should be noted that the book is only one of the many items available at <www.rossdavies.org>; click on "Maps and misc." and "Sherlockian toasts" to find links to interesting Sherlockian (and non-Sherlockian) material. You can also click on "Green Bag" and then on "Almanac & Reader" to be able to read the 2012 edition (which honored Rex Stout and Nero Wolfe); the 2015, 2016, and 2017 editions were thoroughly Sherlockian and Doylean.
18358. DOUBLE TROUBLE IN BUGLAND, by William Kotzwinkle (Boston: David R. Godwin, 2016; 244 pp., \$14.95) is a colorful sequel to his TROUBLE IN BUGLAND (June 83 #2), again illustrated by Joe Servello, and offering further adventures of Inspector Mantis and his companion Dr. Hopper.
18359. Holmes and Watson appear to be taking over the MCU . . . that's the Marvel Cinematic Universe, which was launched with "Iron Man" in 2008 with Robert Downey Jr. as Tony Stark, and included "Doctor Strange" in 2016 with Benedict Cumberbatch as Stephen Strange, and now there's "Black Panther" with Martin Freeman as Everett K. Ross (kindly reported by Samantha Wolov).
18360. Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/y76whnjf> has much to offer, including a new web-only column "Stranger Than Fiction" by Dean Jobb; his February column ("We Hear of Sherlock Everywhere") calls attention to four recent Sherlockian and Doylean titles.
18361. Congratulations to Maggie Schpak, who received the 2018 Distinguished Service Award from the Costume Designers Guild. Maggie handcrafts the colorful raffle prizes for the Dr. John H. Watson Fund at each year's birthday festivities in New York, and at her Metal Arts Studio in Los Angeles makes items for major films and television series <www.tinyurl.com/y8m7zwze>; you can see her in the photo gallery at the web-site.
18362. Reported by Howard Ostrom: Ernie Kovacs and Hans Conried in deerstalkers in "Private Eye, Private Eye" (an episode of "The U.S. Steel Hour" broadcast by CBS-TV on Mar. 8, 1961); the spoof of detective stories is included as a bonus disk with the first 1,000 copies of "Ernie Kovacs: Take a Good Look: The Definitive Collection" (available from Shout! Factory for \$64.97). One hopes that the episode will be available eventually at YouTube; but in the meantime you can see them with Edie Adams at <www.youtube.com/y842v4cq>.
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February 2018 #6

18363. IN THE SHADOW OF AGATHA CHRISTIE: CLASSIC CRIME FICTION BY FORGOTTEN FEMALE WRITERS: 1850-1917, edited by Leslie S. Klinger (New York: Pegasus Crime, 2018; 356 pp., \$26.95) was reviewed in Publishers Weekly as a "stellar" anthology and a "must-have volume for classic crime fans," and includes Carolyn Wells' "The Adventure of the Clothes-Line" (a 1915 burlesque that features Sherlock Holmes as the president of the Society of Infallible Detectives) and Baroness Orczy's "The Regent's Park Murder" (about the baffling murder of a man who had won at cards, published in 1901, two years before "The Empty House").
18364. Paul D. Herbert ("Mr. Leverton, of Pinkerton's") died on Feb. 16. He was excellent high-school history teacher, an energetic and wide-ranging collector, the founder of the Tankerville Club of Cincinnati and its only official secretary, and a delightful Sherlockian who was awarded his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1977 and their Two-Shilling Award in 2004; he also for twenty years was the BSI's Dr. Watson, presiding over the Dr. John H. Watson Fund, which offers financial assistance to Sherlockians who might otherwise not be able to participate in the birthday festivities in New York.
18365. THE SECRET OF THE COTTINGLEY FAIRIES, by F. R. Maher (Charleston: CreateSpace, 2017; 96 pp., \$20.53), offers a speculative explanation for the famous hoax. The author also presides over the annual Legendary Llangollen Faery Festival in Wales <www.northwalesfaeryfestival.com>.
18366. Further to the report (October 17 #4) on the competition set by the Folio Society and House of Illustration for artwork for THE SELECTED ADVENTURES AND MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, there were 450 entries and 24 finalists. Samples of the finalists' imaginative submissions were published in full color at the web-site of the Guardian on Feb. 5 <www.tinyurl.com/ydgobmfz>, and the winners were chosen by a panel of six judges that included Helen Dorey as their Sherlockian expert. The \$5,000 commission to illustrate the book and design the binding was won by Max Löffler <www.tinyurl.com/y7r8d93k>.
18367. Bill Crider died on Feb. 18. He was an author, a critic, a columnist, and a reviewer, all in the mystery field; Janet Hutchings, the editor of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine, described him as a superfan and a perfect fit for the magazine's Blog Bytes department. His stories included three Sherlockian pastiches, and his web-site <www.billcrider.com> nicely shows how wide his interests were.
18368. "Blossom Detective Holmes" (an animated mini-series that's seeking funding at Kickstarter) features two teen-age girls: Skylar Holmes and Jamie Watson; details (and video) at <www.tinyurl.com/ya46os5a>.
18369. IMAGINATION THEATRE'S SHERLOCK HOLMES, edited by David Marcum (London: MX Publishing, 2017; 388 pp., \$34.95), is a collection of 15 scripts from "The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (the long-running radio series produced by the late Jim French from 1998 to 2017). The scripts for the pastiches were written by Jim French and other authors, and provide a welcome opportunity for those who enjoy radio drama to see what goes into creating entertaining programs. The MX web-sites are at <www.mxpublishing.com> and <www.mxpublishing.co.uk>.
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February 2018 #7

18370. Theatrical news: Ken Ludwig's comedy "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is running at the Warehouse Living Arts Center in Corsicana, Texas, through Mar. 3 <www.warehouselivingartscenter.com>. And it's due at the Fallon House Theatre in Columbia, Calif., Aug. 31-Sept. 30 <www.sierrarep.org>.
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18371. Jeffrey Hatcher's "Holmes and Watson" is running at the Kinetic Theatre in Pittsburgh, Pa., through Mar. 4 <www.kinetictheatre.org>. It's also scheduled at the Norris Center in Naples, Fla., Mar. 21-Apr. 20, 2019; web-site at <www.gulfshoreplayhouse.org>.
18372. Steven Canny and John Nicholson's comedy "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is running at the Wells Theatre in Norfolk, Va., through Mar. 11; web-site at <www.vastage.org>.
18373. Simon Williams' "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is on at The Mill in Sonning Theatre in Sonning Eye, Oxon., until Mar. 17 <www.millatsonning.com>.
18374. C. P. Stancich's "Sherlock Holmes and the Spinners of Blackmead" is being performed at Theatre Suburbia in Houston, Tex., through Mar. 24; web-site at <www.theatresuburbia.org>.
18375. The East Lynne Theater Company's will be touring Craig Wichman's radio-theater production of "Sherlock Holmes' Adventure of the Speckled Band" will tour in New Jersey in March <www.tinyurl.com/ya6busq8>.
18376. Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" is scheduled at the Town Theatre in Columbia, S.C., Mar. 2-18 <www.towntheatre.com>.
18377. C. P. Stancich's new play "Oscar Dove: Letters to Sherlock" will premiere at the Mary Miller Theatre in Lafayette, Colo., Mar. 2-24; their web-site's at <www.tclstage.org>.
18378. Vince Staddon's "The Misadventures of Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at Baker Street West in Jackson, Calif., Mar. 2-31 <www.bakerstreetwest.com>.
18379. Peter Birch's new "The Sign of the Four" will be performed at the Garrick Theatre in Altrincham, Manchester, Mar. 5-10 <www.altrinchamgarrick.co.uk>.
18380. Broadway RDF will perform "Murder in the Casbah" (1945) in their "Old Time Radio Hour" at the Swedish Crown Restaurant in Lindsborg, Kans., Mar. 8 and 10 <www.broadwayrfd.org>.
18381. John Nassivera's "The Penultimate Problem of Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at the East Cleveland Theater in East Cleveland, Ohio, Mar. 23-Apr. 8 <www.eastclevelandtheater.org>.
18382. "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (by R. Hamilton Wright and David Pichette) is scheduled at the Shaw Festival Theatre in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont., on Aug. 1-Oct. 27 <www.shawfest.com>.

March 2018 #1

18383. "If we could have ordered nature to construct a spot for us, it could not have hit upon anything more perfect," Conan Doyle wrote after visiting the site of Undershaw, and the Stepping Stones School has invited everyone to a celebration of his life and times on May 25-27; you can sit in the study in which he brought Sherlock Holmes back to life, and enjoy a variety of activities. Details are available at <www.tinyurl.com/ya2h67zb>.
18384. Greg Darak has reported a nice discovery in Abel Green's THE SPICE OF VARIETY (published by Henry Holt in 1952); it's an anthology of articles that appeared in Variety, and one of them is drama critic Ashton Steven's "Night Letter Biographies"; he had asked actors to write autobiographies "confined to dimensions of a Western Union night letter, which at that time ran to 50 words before the extras began to count up." The first (with slightly more than 50 words) was written by William Gillette: AT AGE OF 18 COULD READ AND WRITE. AND HAD GRADUATED FROM EVERY CIRCUS THAT CAME TO TOWN. DID NOT RUN AWAY AND GO ON THE STAGE BECAUSE THERE WAS NOTHING TO RUN AWAY FROM. EVERYBODY HELPED ME TO LEAVE - AND THAT HAS BEEN GOING ON EVER SINCE. IT IS NOW 1930 AND I DO NOT FEEL VERY WELL - WILLIAM GILLETTE.
18385. You can see Benedict Cumberbatch perform "I'm a Little Teapot" at the Nerd Reactor web-site <www.tinyurl.com/y7tw34ok>. You can also see his audition for Smaug in "The Hobbit" at <www.tinyurl.com/mftxbvq>, and then how he was filmed as Smaug at <www.tinyurl.com/ydhmyvr8>.
18386. Jim Webb kindly reported on Nick Allen's article in the Daily Telegraph on Mar. 15 <www.tinyurl.com/y98uwjpu> on comments by Vasily Nebenzya, Russia's permanent representative to the United Nations, on the nerve gas poisoning of Sergei and Yulia Skripal in England; Nebenzya compared the intelligence of Sherlock Holmes with that of Inspector Lestrade, and suggested that "we could all benefit from having a Sherlock Holmes with us today," adding that "the collective Inspector Lestrades today are high-level members of the UK government who are coming up with egregious, superficial, and unsupported accusations." This may be the first official mention of Sherlock Holmes at the United Nations, and you can watch Nebenzya's speech (with English subtitles) at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=94I54nQnaCl> at [14:38 minutes].
18387. Bakerstreet Coffee, a Sherlock Holmes-themed cafe that will offer a fireplace, bookcases, and cozy furniture, is scheduled to open in mid-April in Livingston, Mont. "I love Sherlock Holmes," co-owner Cassandra Weisgerber told the Livingston Enterprise, "and I obviously love themes."
18388. Roger Johnson launched The Sherlock Holmes Society of London's newsletter The District Messenger, on Dec. 1, 1982, reporting the latest Sherlockian and Doylean news from the U.K. and elsewhere; Jean Upton is the editor now, and the newsletter is now at 373 issues, all available at the web-site of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London <www.tinyurl.com/yd5et39e>. There's always much of interest, including (in the February issue) news from Paul Carley of his "Sherlock Holmes in Phonetic Transcription" (phonetic may or may not count as a language that Don Hobbs will add to his bibliography of translations "The Galactic Sherlock Holmes"); the project has begun with "A Scandal in Bohemia" <www.phoneticsherlock.blogspot.co.uk>.

March 2018 #2

18389. Rachel McMillan's THE BACHELOR GIRL'S GUIDE TO MURDER (Eugene: Harvest House, 2016; 222 pp., \$9.99) is set in Toronto in 1910 and features Merinda Herringford and Jem Watts, two young women who would like to become detectives in the tradition of Holmes and Watson; the series includes two more novels, A LESSON IN LOVE AND MURDER (2016) and THE WHITE FEATHER MURDERS (2017), and there are two e-book novellas and a (free) e-story available at Amazon.
18390. The manuscript of "The Dancing Men" will be up for bids on Apr. 18 at Heritage Auctions in Dallas <www.tinyurl.com/ycreu8gc> (877-437-4824), with an opening bid of \$250,000. Randall Stock has an excellent illustrated discussion of the manuscript, including its history, at his "Best of Sherlock" web-site <www.bestofsherlock.com/mss/dancing-men-2018.htm>.
18391. "Sherlock Holmes contre Conan Doyle" is the title of a French documentary broadcast by France 5 on Feb. 18; the program included interviews with Roger Johnson, Anthony Horowitz, Vincent Delay, Pierre Bayard, and others, and it's available in English ("Sherlock Holmes Against Conan Doyle") at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/yb8gnqkf>.
18392. Peter Miles died on Feb. 26. He began his acting career on stage and went on to perform with the Royal Shakespeare Company, and then moved on to supporting roles in television, including three appearances in "Doctor Who"; he also played Sam Brewer in "Shoscombe Old Place" and Williamson in "The Solitary Cyclist" in Peter Cushing's BBC-1 television series (1968) and Sir William Gull in Brian Clemens' play "Holmes and the Ripper" (1988).

18393. Evy Herzog spotted a Sumikko Gurashi Inspector Takage at a Barnes & Noble store (\$19.95) <www.tinyurl.com/y8avqfdg>; it's a 6-inch-high plush toy, and available at other web-sites as a Sumikko Gurashi Detective Dinosaur. It seems that Sumikko Gurashi Tokage is the son of the Loch Ness Monster, and an addition to the series of toys launched by the Japanese company San-X in 2012.
18394. There have been past discussions of actors who have played both Holmes and Watson, and Moriarty, and Conan Doyle, and it turns out that there are actors who have played both Holmes and Lestrade; Howard Ostrom has discovered that Peter Bromilow toured the streets of Toronto dressed as Sherlock Holmes to publicize the try-out there of the musical "Baker Street" in 1965 (he also played Lestrade in Charles Marowitz's "Sherlock's Last Case" in Los Angeles in 1984).
18395. Roger Johnson reports that Roger Llewellyn also has played Holmes and Lestrade, and Howard notes that John Colicos has played Holmes, Lestrade, and Moriarty, and that Tim Pigott-Smith has played Holmes, Lestrade, and Watson. Any others to add to the list?
18396. Jeff Falkingham's MURDER IN MINNESOTA! (Murrieta: AuthorCentrix, 2018; 259 pp., \$10.99) offers reprints of his earlier SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE CAPER (2007) and SHERLOCK HOLMES IN SEARCH OF THE SOURCE (2009); Holmes is in Browns Valley in 1886 to solve a series of murders, and in St. Paul in 1896 to solve another mystery (both stories involve a lot of local history); the author's web-site is at <www.cccaper.com>.
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March 2018 #3

18397. John Nicholson, who collaborated with Steve Canny to dramatize "The Hound of the Baskervilles" as a three-man comedy for Peepolykus in 2007, went on to parody "Dracula: The Bloody Truth" as a four-man comedy for Le Navet Bete last year; it's not Sherlockian, but there are some interesting (and amusing) trailers available at YouTube. There is a web-site for the play at <www.lenavetbete.com/shows/dracula>.
18398. Lewis Neisner died on Mar. 1. He worked in retail as an officer of the national chain Neisner Bros., and then as a professor retailing and marketing at universities in New York and Maryland, and was the founder of the Sherlockian society Rochester Row in Rochester, N.Y.
18399. The Redbeard Brewing Co. makes "small batches of big beers" and has a craft brewery and taproom in Staunton, Va., where you can imbibe their 221B Baker Brown Ale <www.tinyurl.com/y9xxlym2>.
18400. Further to items about Grace Humiston, a lawyer-turned-investigator in 1917 who was known as "Mrs. Sherlock Holmes" (September 11 #4 and October 17 #7), she will be featured in this season of the NBC-TV series "Timeless" (as reported by Brian Truitt in USA Today on Mar. 7).
18402. They're off and running: The Baker Street Irregulars' triennial running of The Silver Blaze at Saratoga Race Course in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., is set for Aug. 11. Lou Lewis <llewis@lewisgreer.com> is the contact, if you want to enroll on their mailing list.
18403. Alexander Orlov has noted a Dr. Watson Restaurant in Moscow; the web-site's at <www.drwatson-restaurant.ru> (where they advertise "traditional English cuisine" and "British-loved beers").
18404. Chris Redmond will deliver this year's Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture on Apr. 21 at the Toronto Reference Library, speaking on "Sherlock Holmes and the Holy Grail" <www.acdfriends.org>; admission is free, and the public is welcome to attend.
18405. Alexa, according to Wikipedia, is an "intelligent personal assistant" developed by Amazon for use in its Amazon Echo. If you have Alexa, you can play "Baker Street Experience" (an interactive audio Sherlock Holmes adventure developed by Schell Games); their web-site www.tinyurl.com/ycoagvm4 includes a link to a review that allows everyone to sample the game.
18406. The Grillparzer Club of the Hoboken Free State will hold this year's Christopher Morley Birthday Lunch in Hoboken, N.J., on Apr. 29; more information is available from Terry Hunt <18goldini95@gmail.com>.
18407. The Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Centre in Edinburgh, home of the Edinburgh Association of Spiritualists, has interesting events scheduled in August: Ann Treherne will talk about "Arthur Conan Doyle: Spiritualist", Bob Stek about "The Strange Friendship of Arthur Conan Doyle and Harry Houdini", and Peter Barratt about his great-grandmother "Alice Hawkins: Suffragette"; details at <www.tinyurl.com/y7ow13dj>. The Centre's an interesting venue for Peter Barratt's lecture, considering Conan Doyle's negative comments about suffragettes.
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March 2018 #4

18408. SYFY Wire reported on Mar. 12 <www.tinyurl.com/yc7ekeyj> that Stephen King and Bev Vincent have edited FLIGHT OR FRIGHT (due in September from Cemetery Dance Books); the book's an anthology of flight-based horror stories (including Conan Doyle's "The Horror of the Heights"), and it will be published in three formats: a standard hardcover (\$29.95), a slip-cased numbered edition (\$85.00), and a leather-bound limited edition signed by King (\$1500.00) that's already sold out.
18409. Further to the item (August 17 #6) about plans to film Stephen King's pastiche "The Doctor's Case" in western Canada, the completed film premiered at the College of New Caledonia's "Cinema CNC Film Festival" on Mar. 9. There is an excellent trailer for the film at <www.thedoctorscasemovie.com>.
18410. Karen Kruse Anderson ("Emilia Lucca") died on Mar. 18. Karen was a teenager in Washington, D.C., in 1949, when she found three fellow-enthusiasts and founded The Red Circle in 1950. After moving to California she met and married Poul Anderson and went on to write delightful science-fiction and fantasy, both with her husband and on her own. She was noted as the first person to use the term "filk music" in print (1955), and was the author of the first published "scifaiku" (1962). Karen also wrote a draft version of "Hatty, or St. Simon's Bride (A Filbert and Sullivan Chamber Operetta)" for performance in 1994; the work was completed as "A Filk Opera" and presented by the "Doyle a la Carte Opera Company" in 1995 (with Karen performing as Sherlock Holmes). She received her Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 2000.
18411. The Christopher Morley Knothole Association reports in the February issue of their newsletter on a workshop reading last year of a new musical comedy "I'll Take It" based on Morley's book PARNASSUS ON WHEELS; book and lyrics by Eli Pasic, music by Henry Krieger, and there was a story about the event in Broadway World Off-Broadway <www.tinyurl.com/ya6v3gwl>.
18412. "Holmes in the Heartland" is the title of the conference planned for Aug. 10-11 by The Parallel Case of St. Louis; details on the gathering will be found at <www.tinyurl.com/yd5elmpj>.
18413. Sherlock Holmes' parents' home is on the market for £950,000. The six-bedroom house, called Trewalter Fawr, is located in the Vale of Glamorgan and was featured in the episode "His Last Vow" in the BBC's "Sherlock" series; details (with images) at <www.tinyurl.com/y9pyk7k5>.
18414. "People love the monster but do not always honor the book," Scott Van Wynsberghe wrote in the National Post on Mar. 9, in a long article about FRANKENSTEIN <www.tinyurl.com/yabl4pb5>, kindly reported by Cliff Goldfarb; one might believe that the quote might apply also to Sherlock Holmes.
18415. A collection of 21 letters from Dorothy L. Sayers to various correspondents is up for bids at RR Auction on Apr. 11; in 1937 she wrote to Walter Klinefelter: "I am afraid I am not really very learned in the higher criticism of Sherlock Holmes, but the man who can, I am sure, give you the

information...would be Mr. H. W. Bell...who wrote 'Sherlock Holmes & Dr. Watson,' and who is engaged on an elaborate and careful research into Conan Doyle's sources." <www.tinyurl.com/y99aj72v>.

March 2018 #5

18416. There may someday be an annotated edition of Conan Doyle's 1896 novel RODNEY STONE about the early days of bare-knuckle boxing, but in the meantime you can read about the real boxer John Jackson, who appears in the novel, at Wikipedia; he is buried at Brompton Cemetery in London, as reported by Alexander Orlov, and the Wikipedia entry has an image of Jackson's elaborate funerary monument.
18417. Brooks Arthur Wachtel's LADY SHERLOCK: CIRCLE OF THE SMILING DEAD (Colorado Springs: WordFire, 2016; 232 pp., \$15.99) is set in 1906 and features Lady Natasha Dorrington ("an emancipated and brilliant detective") in a battle with a pagan cult that wants to launch a world-wide war; Mycroft Holmes is involved on behalf of the government, with Sherlock Holmes making a brief appearance.
18418. "You don't know Sherlock Holmes yet: the story begins in Portsmouth" is the title of an exhibition that will open at the Portsmouth City Museum on May 22, offering an exploration of the time Conan Doyle spent in the city and how it shaped Sherlock Holmes.
18419. Further to the item (February 18 #4) on Tania Henzell's new Sherlock Holmes Tartan: according to a story in the Daily Telegraph (Mar. 25), Richard Pooley, director of the Conan Doyle Estate, has said that the Estate is working on getting stars of the upcoming comedy "Holmes and Watson" to wear the tartan on the red carpet when the film opens in November. Pooley has more to say about the tartan at the Estate's web-site <www.conandoyleestate.com> (see "Weaving Family and Holmes Together").
18420. "Family Guy: V Is for Mystery" (broadcast on Fox on Mar. 25) had Stewie and Brian as Holmes and Watson in London in 1896; it's available (for a while) at <www.tinyurl.com/y96md2nc> and <www.tinyurl.com/y7vmc375>.
18421. Henry Mance suggested in the Financial Times on Mar. 23 that the decision by Cynthia Nixon (Miranda in "Sex and the City") to run for governor of New York might inspire other actors: "Arthur Conan Doyle's fictional detective is all-knowing, able to infer people's characters from tiny details about their appearances and social habits. But when actor Benedict Cumberbatch sees that Facebook can do exactly the same thing, he realizes the error of his ways and becomes a pro-privacy Liberal Democrat candidate."
18422. "Sherlock Gnomes" (the animated sequel to "Gnomeo and Juliet") will delight people who look for easter eggs in films, and it will interesting to see if someone puts up a web-site devoted to them. They're not only Sherlockian (watch for a tip of the hat to Ray Harryhausen), but there are plenty that will please the faithful: to start you off, the shop called Curly Fu's is a substitute for the Lucky Cat shop in the BBC's "Sherlock" series, and Curly Fu is the Chinese nickname for Benedict Cumberbatch's Sherlock Holmes.
18423. An art group calling itself the Philoraptors has released a video showing the face of Russian president Vladimir Putin being projected onto the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office on Mar. 18 (the day he was re-elected after a landslide victory) with the words "Miss Me?" in an apparent reference to the BBC's "Sherlock" series <www.tinyurl.com/y7h4e5hn>. A Foreign Office spokeswoman denied that the event happened.
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March 2018 #6

18424. Ken Ludwig's comedy "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is being performed at Scripps Ranch Theatre in San Diego, Calif., through Apr. 9 <www.scrippsranchtheatre.org>. The play also is scheduled at the Coaster Theatre Playhouse in Cannon Beach, Ore., June 22 to Sept. 2 <www.coastertheatre.com>.
18425. Jeffrey Hatcher's "Holmes and Watson" is running at the Maverick Theatre in Fullerton, Calif., through Apr. 22 <www.mavericktheatre.com>.
18426. Craig Sodaro's "The Secret Case of Sherlock Holmes" has been scheduled by the English Speaking Society of the Université Bretagne Sud at the Paquebot in Lorient, France on Apr. 3 <www.tinyurl.com/y9q8xjst>.
18427. Callum Hale's parody "The Adventure of Isaac Saddlesore and the Witches of Drenn" will be performed at the Hen & Chicks Theatre in London on Apr. 8-9 <www.tinyurl.com/yaodd82b>.
18428. Tim Kelly's adaptation of Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at the Northwest Cabarrus High School in Concord, N.C., Apr. 13-14; web-site at <www.riseandshineplayers.com>.
18429. "No Sh*t Sherlock!" (a program of four one-act plays that will include Tim Kelly's "The Last of Sherlock Holmes") will be performed at the Northminster Community Hall in San Diego, Calif., Apr. 13-21 <www.clairmontactone.org>.
18430. Tommy Kelley's new play "Sherlock Holmes and the Crime of the Century" is scheduled at the Central School Project in Bisbee, Ariz., Apr. 20-29; their Facebook page is at <www.tinyurl.com/yavnkag9>.
18431. "A Scandal in Nova Alba" (a new one-act play by Orlando Pearson) is scheduled at the cornerHOUSE Community Arts Centre in Surbiton, London, Apr. 24-28 <www.thech.org>; "a mix of Bard and Baker Street".
18432. "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Curtain" (a new play by Simon Reade) will debut at the Theatre Royal in Bath, Apr. 25-May 5, and then go on tour in Britain; the tour schedule is on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/y9gkkaj9>.
18433. The Baker Street Players will present Beth Barnard's new play "A Study in Sherlock: The Bitter Nemesis" at Baker Street West in Jackson, Calif., on Apr. 28 and May 5 <www.bakerstreetwest.com>; her "A Study in Sherlock: "You Sea But You Do Not Observe" is scheduled for Sept. 8 and 15.
18434. Madeleine George's "The (Curious Case of the) Watson Intelligence" will be performed at the Reno Little Theater in Reno, Nev., on May 4-20; web-site at <renolittletheater.org>.
18435. Steven Canny and John Nicholson's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed at the Stepping Stone School at Undershaw (Conan Doyle's former home) on May 25-26 <www.tinyurl.com/y7e5fpyk>.
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April 2018 #1

18436. The manuscript of "The Dancing Men" offered at Heritage Auctions in Dallas on Apr. 18 (March 18 #2) sold for \$312,500 (the opening bid of \$250,000 plus the buyer's premium); Randall Stock has provided an excellent illustrated discussion of the manuscript, including its history, at his "Best of Sherlock" web-site <www.bestofsherlock.com/mss/dancing-men-2018.htm>. There's also an interesting post about the manuscript, and the Baker Street Irregulars' manuscript-series volume DANCING TO DEATH (January 17 #2), at his "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.tinyurl.com/yahwxcj9>. DANCING TO DEATH is still available for purchase at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>. And it is a pleasure to report that the manuscript now is part of the collection of Glen A. Miranker.
18437. Further to the item about the pterosaur "Arthurdactylus conan-doylei" and the tetrapod "Irritator challengeri" (described by David M. Martill and his co-authors from the Lower Cretaceous formations of Brazil (February 96 #1), both fossils are included in a database at <www.dinosaurpictures.org>; billed as the world's largest dinosaur database, it also offers a link to an interactive globe of ancient earth that allows you to see how the Earth's surface has changed from the Ediacarian Period (600 million years ago) to the present.
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18438. "Moffat and Gatiss Confirm New Sherlock Series" was the headline on James C. O'Leary's post to Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/y9xctukv> earlier this month; the new series is scheduled to air on CBS-TV in the network's next season.
18439. Further to the item (March 18 #1) on Vasily Nebenzya's speech at the United Nations, the Daily Telegraph has (alas) a pay-wall for archived articles, and YouTube presents moving targets: try <www.tinyurl.com/yaoumnuu>; the Sherlockian segment starts at 14:05 minutes.
18440. It should be noted that in a later speech Nebenzya read from "Alice in Wonderland" ("sentence first and verdict afterwards") in discussing the nerve-gas poisoning of Sergei and Yulia Skirpal in England. Alexander Orlov has noted that Nebenzya's father was deputy chairman of the USSR Committee for Publishing, and chairman of the Council for Children's Literature.
18441. And the saga continues: Karen Peirce, the U.K. ambassador to the U.N., responded to a request from Russia that its scientists be allowed to investigate the poisoning by saying that permitting them to join "an investigation when they are the most likely perpetrators of the crime ... would be like Scotland Yard inviting in Professor Moriarty."
18442. When you're in India: Sherlock's Pub is now open in Chennai [formerly known as Madras, with a video spotted by Jennie Paton <www.tinyurl.com/y97jgwem>.
18443. Jean Upton reports in the latest issue of the District Messenger (the newsletter of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London) that the National Portrait Gallery's portrait of Conan Doyle, by Henry Gates, is on display again (in room 31) and appears to have been cleaned and restored. Current and past issues of the newsletter are archived at <www.tinyurl.com/yd5et39e>.
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April 2018 #2

18444. Laurie R. King's ISLAND OF THE MAD (New York: Bantam, 2018; 306 pp., \$28.00) has Mary Russell (and her husband Sherlock Holmes) first in England and then in Venice, in 1925, when Americans (including Elsa Maxwell and Cole Porter) are enjoying themselves, and Mussolini's Black Shirts are on the rise; the mystery's imaginative, the politics compelling, and Venice, as always, is intriguing.
18445. The Public Safety Center in Edmond, Okla., displays a bronze sculpture of Sherlock Holmes, created by artist Jane DeDecker and dedicated on Oct. 29, 2015. Images of the sculpture can be seen at <www.tinyurl.com/y8dx4lvm>.
18446. "Dark Places, Wicked Companions, and Strange Experiences" is the title of The Norwegian Explorers' next conference in Minneapolis, scheduled for Aug. 9-11, 2019, at the Graduate Hotel (the new name of the Commons Hotel), and there will be an evening reception on Apr. 8; you can enroll on their mailing list by contacting Julie McKuras <mike9750@aol.com>.
18447. How many of Sherlock Holmes' books have you read? Not the Sherlock Holmes in the Canon, but rather the Sherlock Holmes played by Jonny Lee Miller in "Elementary". Listopia (a feature of Goodreads) has a list of 27 books in Holmes' brownstone, and if you can identify more you're welcome to add to the list <www.tinyurl.com/ycfb8xur>.
18448. Here a Baskerville, there a Baskerville, everywhere a Baskerville: further to the item (October 95 #1) on Crowsley Park House in Henley-on-Thames, owned by the Baskerville family, one of whose members, Sir Henry Baskerville, was High Sheriff of Oxfordshire in 1847: it's one of the many house alleged to have inspired the Sherlock Holmes story, and it has stone gatepost statues of "hell hounds" with spears through their mouths; you can see one of the hounds in a story in the Henley Standard <www.tinyurl.com/y9muagr5>, with mention of the Baskerville Arms, a pub in nearby Lower Shiplake (not to be confused with The Baskerville Arms in Hay-on-Wye, near Clyro in Wales).
18449. Further to the item (March 18 #4) on the Dorothy L. Sayers letter to Walter Klinefelter in which she recommended he contact H. W. Bell for information about the higher criticism of Sherlock Holmes, it was one of 21 letters in the lot at RR Auction that had an opening bid of \$300 and sold for \$4,500 (plus 22.5% buyer's premium).
18450. A reminder of the days when there were smoking and non-smoking sections in restaurant: a (briefly) Sherlockian commercial in favor of proposition 10 in California, on "The David Letterman Show" on Oct. 24, 1980, spotted by Greg Ruby <www.tinyurl.com/ya9crje8> (at 28:24 minutes).
18451. Andrew Ive has noted an interesting possibility for the origin of Sherlock Holmes' names: Conan Doyle married Louise Hawkins in 1885 in Lonsdale, near St. Mary's Church in Ingleton, where the Rev. Thomas Dod Sherlock had been vicar, and where a nearby area was called the Holmes. The church in Ingleton has launched a campaign to raise money for repairs, and there are plans to have a statue of Sherlock Holmes placed in the grounds once the building work has been completed, and contributions will be most welcome; there is more information at <www.ingleton.co.uk/sherlock_holmes.asp>, and you can reach Andrew Ive at <andyive69@gmail.com>.
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April 2018 #3

18452. The Brigadier Gerard is now shut and empty. That's the pub in York, which was originally a private house, then the Gasworks Social Club, and in 1984 expanded as The Brigadier Gerard; it was named not in honor of the hero of Conan Doyle's stories, but rather for a famous race horse. York Mix reported on Mar. 28, that the pub suddenly closed, with no explanation from the brewery that managed it. racing fans are aware that the horse was named for Conan Doyle's swashbuckling hero, and it is worth noting that there is another pub called The Brigadier Gerard, in Eastleigh.
18453. Pokémon's new Nintendo game "Detective Pikachu" has been released, and the company has kindly made a comic book "Detective Pikachu: Episode 0--Eevee's Case" available as a free Kindle download at <www.amazon.com>.
18454. Adolph Treidler's atmospherically-Sherlockian ink-and-brush painting of a hansom cab and its driver is available from Taraba Illustration Art for \$350 (plus \$50 domestic shipping); the image size is 8 x 10 in.). Treidler (1886-1961) was well-known for his magazine covers, posters, and illustrations for advertising; first come, first served, and you can contact Fred Taraba by e-mail <fred@tarabainustrationart.com> to purchase the artwork. Fred advertises a wide variety of attractive original artwork at his web-site, including an illustration by Robert Fawcett for a non-Sherlockian story by Noel Langley (Fawcett also illustrated Sherlockian pastiches written by Arthur Whitaker, and by Adrian Conan Doyle and John Dickson Carr).
18455. "Secret Agent Selection: WW2" is the title of a five-episode weekly television series launched by BBC Two on Apr. 9, about the beginning of the Special Operations Executive, whose members were known as the Baker Street Irregulars (because their original offices in 1940 were in Baker Street); the series may (or may not) air in other countries, eventually.
18456. Further to the report (December 17 #8) that his long-running "Detective Conan" manga series would be on hiatus while he recovered from illness, Gosho Aoyama announced that the comic would return to stores in April. The manga features a genius teenage detective who shrank into a young boy after being forced to ingest an experimental toxin and takes on the alias Conan Edogawa (in tribute to Conan Doyle) and continues to solve mysteries. The series has been translated into more than two dozen languages (the English version is titled "Case Closed") and has been adapted into an animated series, feature films, video games, and live-action specials.
18457. SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE VANISHING MAN is a new comic-book series due from Dynamite Entertainment in May, written by Leah Moore and John Reppion, with cover artist John Cassaday and interior artist Julius Ohta. Dan Wickline had a preview at Bleeding Cool on Mar. 29 <www.tinyurl.com/ycmbczxo>.
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18458. "We Are The Mighty" describes itself as a "military media brand run by veterans, military family members, and civilians to bring relevant, engaging entertainment to the military community," and they recently posted a video of a taste test of a British field ration from the Second Boer War, something Arthur Conan Doyle might have eaten in South Africa almost 120 years ago <www.tinyurl.com/y745s83c>.

April 2018 #4

18459. Carol Nelson Douglas reports that Midnight Louis, P.I., who's featured in a 28-book alphabetical mystery series, will return in October in ABSINTHE WITHOUT LEAVE; the book will also have a cameo appearance by Irene Adler (the heroine of an eight-book series about the only woman who outwitted Sherlock Holmes). There is more information about Carol, and her books, at her web-site <www.carolnelsondouglas.com>.
18460. Further to the item (July 15 #2) on "Sherlock Holmes' Fictional Baker Street Home in London Subject to Ownership Mystery" about just who owns the block of property at 215-237 Baker Street, which includes the site of the former Abbey National, where mail addressed to Sherlock Holmes was for many years answered by Holmes' secretary: it's still a mystery, although it seems to be tied to Kazakh oligarch Nurali Aliyev, according to a report at Microsoft's MSN web-site <www.tinyurl.com/y82jxwoe>, kindly noted by Oscar Ross.
18461. BBC Radio 4 has a Friday-night comedy podcast that includes "The News Quiz" (a satiric look at the week's news) and uses a nicely Sherlockian image at its web-site; there have been no reports (so far) of anything Sherlockian on the podcast, but you can listen on-line at www.tinyurl.com/ya9hqmk>.
18462. The on-line A.V. Club (which bills itself as "pop culture obsessives writing for the pop culture") has some interesting "Watch This" reviews of older Sherlockian films <www.avclub.com>; search for [sherlock holmes].
18463. Alexander Orlov has reported an interesting web-site: the Cover Art Archive <www.tinyurl.com/yd86mzyj>; it's a joint project between the Internet Archive and MusicBrainz, and has images of (at the moment) more than 800,000 album covers, and an excellent search engine that works for titles and artists and types of music.
18464. Sherlock Holmes "looked in at Mecca" during the Great Hiatus, he told Watson (in "The Empty House"). Undoubtedly Mecca looked much the same then as it did in 1885, when it was photographed by Al-Sayyid Abd Al-Ghaffar; fifteen of his photographs will be offered at Sotheby's in London on May 15, and you can see an article about them at <www.tinyurl.com/y9w2cb4t>.
18465. "The Real Sherlock of Baker Street" was the headline on a Londonist report <www.tinyurl.com/y8oh42yb> on a City of Westminster plaque on York Terrace East, a five minute walk from Baker Street; it honors Dame Sheila Sherlock, a professor of medicine and a world authority on the liver and its diseases (she published hundreds of papers in scientific journals, and in 1951 was made the youngest female Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians). She was appointed a Dame in 1978, and then a Fellow of the Royal Society.
18466. Julian D. Corrington wrote about "Baker Street Weather" in The Saint Detective Magazine (Nov. 1957), but he was best known for his pioneering work in amateur microscopy and for founding the American Society of Amateur Microscopists in 1939. He also wrote about Sherlock Holmes and his use of the microscope in Nature Magazine (Oct. 1953) and in books published by Bausch & Lomb (1934) and McGraw-Hill (1957); Burt Wolder has discovered an interesting article by John Gustav Delly in Modern Microscopy (Aug. 14, 2013) on Corrington, his career, and his microscopes <www.tinyurl.com/ybdgwyho>.
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April 2018 #5

18467. Roger Llewellyn died on Apr. 17. He had a long theatrical career that included appearances as Inspector Lestrade (with Ron Moody as Sherlock Holmes) in Leslie Bricusse's "Sherlock Holmes: The Musical" (1988) and Sherlock Holmes in Christopher Martin's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1997). Roger also played Holmes (and many others parts) in David Stuart Davies' one-man shows "Sherlock Holmes: The Last Act!" (1999) and "Sherlock Holmes: The Death and Life" (2008) in world-wide tours. Excerpts from "Sherlock Holmes: The Last Act!" are available at YouTube, and audio recordings of both one-man shows from Big Finish <www.bigfinish.com>.
18468. The International Sherlock Holmes Exhibition will be at the Houston Museum of Natural Science through Sept. 30 <www.tinyurl.com/ya7r7rlw>, and then on display at the Liberty Science Center in Jersey City, N.J., Nov. 3 through May 27, 2019 <www.lsc.org>; it's a splendid exhibition, well worth a visit.
18469. Reported: MYCROFT AND SHERLOCK, by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Anna Waterhouse, is due from Titan Books in October; a sequel to their MYCROFT HOLMES (June 15 #2), it's set in 1872, when the brothers unintentionally investigating the same mystery as they pursue the reason behind the growing opium trade. There's a third book in the series scheduled for 2019.
18470. Mystery Scene, edited by Kate Stine <www.mysteryscenemag.com>, frequently offers Sherlockian content: issue 153 (winter 2018) has Michael Mallory's report on "The Remarkable Lives of Anthony Boucher" (he was an avid Sherlockian and an early member of The Baker Street Irregulars), Cathy Pickens' article about "Writers Turned Sleuths" (Arthur Conan Doyle and Erle Stanley Gardner), and reviews of Sherlockian books.
18471. "Sherlock Gnomes" had an opening weekend gross of \$10.6 million, according to the Box Office Mojo web-site, far behind the \$25.4-million opening weekend gross of "Gnomeo and Juliet" in 2011. As of Apr. 26, the film's total worldwide gross was \$58.6 million; the web-site estimates the film's production budget at \$59 million (the industry rule of thumb is that the studio gets half of the gross receipts). It should be noted that it isn't the only gnomish film you can see this year: there also is "Gnome Alone" (which premiered in Europe in 2017 but hasn't yet been released in the U.S.), with an official trailer available at YouTube www.tinyurl.com/ycycpnvf
18472. Vicki Delany's THE CAT OF THE BASKERVILLES (New York: Crooked Lane, 2018; 291 pp., \$26.99) is the third in her series of "Sherlock Holmes Bookshop" mysteries that star Gemma Doyle (the proprietor of the Sherlock bookshop) and her friend Jayne Wilson (the proprietor of the next-door Mrs. Hudson's Tea Room), this time investigating the death of an actor scheduled to perform as Holmes in a local presentation of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (and there are twists and turns, and a bit of romance, in the story). And there's a fourth book in the series coming up: "A Scandal in Scarlet".
18473. And there's late-breaking news: Mattias Boström won the Agatha Award (for best nonfiction) for his FROM HOLMES TO SHERLOCK (April 17 #4); the award was announced at the Malice Domestic awards dinner in Bethesda on Apr. 28, and Mattias was there to accept the traditional appropriately-decorated ceramic teapot and deliver an artful and gracious acceptance speech. You can see him with his award at his Facebook page <www.tinyurl.com/ya6y945x>.
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April 2018 #6

18474. Benedict Cumberbatch and Jonny Lee Miller alternated as Frankenstein and the Creature in the National Theatre's production of "Frankenstein" in 2011, and the show was recorded and will be screened again in theaters in October. It was the first time they played the same character (they went on to perform as Sherlock Holmes on television), and it's well worth seeing the play twice, so that you can decide which actor is better in which role.
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18475. Michael Kuhn's "Sherlock Holmes und die Schnecken von Eastwick" [Schnecken are snails] is being performed at the Boulevardtheater in Dresden through May 12 <www.boulevardtheater.de>.
18476. "The Sherlock Project" (a new "immersive theatrical experience") is being presented by the PaperHouse Theatre at the FROCK Shop in Charlotte, N.C., through May 12 <www.paperhousetheatre.com>.
18477. Steven Canny and John Nicholson's comedy "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is being done at the Waldon Arts Center in Fayetteville, Ark., through May 27 <www.theatre2.org>.
18478. Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" is due at the Stagehouse Theatre in El Cajon, Calif., May 10-19 <www.tinyurl.com/yab57n4b>.
18479. Tim Kelly's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed at the Stafford Gatehouse Theatre in Stafford, May 15-19 <www.staffordplayers.co.uk>.
18480. Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is due at Chevalier College in Burradoo, N.S.W., May 23-26 <www.tinyurl.com/yao2azs7>.
18481. Ken Ludwig's "Postmortem" (an earlier version of "The Game's Afoot") will be performed at the Theatre in the Round in Minneapolis, Minn., June 1-24 <www.theatreintheround.org>.
18482. "Sherlock Holmes" (a new "comedy musical") will be performed at the Sörby Rundloge in Mjölby, Sweden, June 2-17 <www.soffteater.se>.
18483. Tal Aviezer's new play "Sherlock Holmes: The Musgrave Ritual" will be performed at the Barton-Pell Mansion Museum in Pelham Bay Park, N.Y., June 2-10 <www.bartowpellmuseummansion.org>.
18484. The Chapterhouse Theatre Company will continue touring its "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" on tour in England this summer, June 14 through Aug. 30 <www.chapterhouse.org>.
18485. The East Haddam Stage Company, based at Gillette Castle in Connecticut, has held auditions for this year's season, which will include an adaptation of "The Professor" (William Gillette's first comedy) July 7-Aug. 12, an original one-man presentation of "Yukitaka Osaki, William Gillette's Gentleman Valet" in September, and Ara Barlieb's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Christmas Goose" for the holidays.

May 2018 #1

18486. "Dark Deeds in the Canon" is the title of the next Reichenbach Irregulars' conference in Switzerland, scheduled for May 31-June 4, 2019; their focus will be on Professor James Moriarty and Baron Adelbert Gruner. Details are available at their web-site <www.221b.ch>.
18487. "Elementary" has been renewed for a seventh season. Its ratings continue to decline (it's the least-watched of all of the CBS-TV dramas, according to a story in the Wall Street Journal), but it's profitable nevertheless, thanks to revenue from overseas, syndication, and a deal with Hulu.
18488. Sorry about that: the correct version of last month's newsletter report is: "Dark Places, Wicked Companions, and Strange Experiences" is the title of The Norwegian Explorers' next conference in Minneapolis, scheduled for Aug. 9-11, 2019, at the Graduate Hotel (the new name of the Commons Hotel), and there will be an evening reception on Aug. 8; you can enroll on their mailing list by contacting Julie McKuras <mike9750@aol.com>.
18489. Watson's Tin Box is hosting this year's "Scintillation of Scions" on June 8-9, at the Sheraton Baltimore-Washington Airport. It is an entertaining gathering of both local and far-flung Sherlockians, and registration is now open <www.scintillation.org>.
18490. "Sherlock Gnomes" was released in Great Britain and Ireland on May 11, and Odeon Cinemas promoted the opening with an offer to give every child "the chance to grow their very own mini garden with our flowering seed paper!" <www.tinyurl.com/yd4rjl69>. The children, of course, will need to provide their own garden gnomes.
18491. And there's more promotion in Great Britain: Hovis has launched a "221b Bakery Street" campaign <www.tinyurl.com/y6guxacnz> www.tinyurl.com/y8atl66j that promotes their "Best of Both" bread loaves; prizes range from a family adventure in London to Sherlock Gnomes toast stamps.
18492. The Sub-Librarians Scion of the Baker Street Irregulars will gather on June 24 in New Orleans, during the annual meeting of the American Library Association; Monica Schmidt will be their guest speaker (on "You Have Been on eBay, I Perceive: The Pathology of Sherlockian Collecting"), and more information is available from Marsha Pollak <mpollak@icloud.com>.
18493. Etchings by James Ensor, a member of the XX Group, the "modern Belgian masters" whose pictures "entirely absorbed" Sherlock Holmes (in "The Hound of the Baskervilles") were at auction this month at Christie's, and there's an interesting article about him at their web-site <www.tinyurl.com/yd6mlr28>.
18494. Congratulations to Russell Merritt, who has received the Denver Silent Film Festival's David Shepard Career Achievement Award. Russell is a member of the board of the San Francisco Silent Film Festival, an adjunct professor in the Department of Film & Media at the University of California Berkeley, and a leader in the restoration of two important silent films: William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" (1916) and Carlyle Blackwell's "Der Hund von Baskerville" (1929).

May 2018 #2

18495. MYSTERY MOST GEOGRAPHICAL (Cabin John: Wildside Press, 2018; 349 pp., \$35.00) is the 13th Malice Domestic anthology, offering nice assortment of short stories and a foreword by Nancy Pickard (who received the Lifetime Achievement award at this year's Malice); one of the stories is Michael Robertson's "The Barrister's Clerk" an imaginative addition to his "Baker Street Letters" series about the London barristers who have their offices at Sherlock Holmes' address and are tasked with answering his mail. Wildside's web-site is at <www.wildsidepress.com>.
18496. Also from Wildside: Christopher Redmond's ABOUT BEING A SHERLOCKIAN (2017; 250 pp., \$14.99) is a sequel of sorts to his ABOUT SIXTY (December 16 #5): Chris has edited an anthology of sixty essays "celebrating the Sherlockian community" and in his introduction he explains just how easy (or difficult) it can be to define just what a Sherlockian is; the essays are by a delightful mix of authors, old hands and newcomers, who describe with great enthusiasm the many paths they followed in becoming Sherlockians.
18497. "He made the country down in Illinois," Lucy Ferrier said (in "A Study in Scarlet"); our postal service has issued a stamp honoring the 200th anniversary of statehood for Illinois.
18498. Karen Murdock has noted Matthew Walther's "The Man Who Knew Everything" in The Week (Apr. 25) <www.theweek.com/articles/763465>; it is a review of Rebecca Tope's new SABINE BARING-GOULD: THE MAN WHO TOLD A THOUSAND STORIES. The many things he wrote about included the folktales of Dartmoor, and he's a very important character in Laurie R. King's THE MOOR (1998), in which he's visited by Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes. Baring-Gould's grandson (William S. Baring-Gould), when he wrote his biography of Sherlock Holmes, used details from his grandfather's life in describing Holmes' early years. Sabine Baring-Gould lived at Lewtrenchard, near Dartmoor; his house now is a luxury hotel <www.lewtrenchard.co.uk> and you can visit his grave at the nearby Lewtrenchard Cemetery.

18499. Alexander Orlov has reported a new adaptation of a Canonical story in which Holmes and Watson do not appear; an 18-minute video ("Violet") is available at Vimeo <www.vimeo.com/22871372>. There's also a Russian video "Seldon" <www.tinyurl.com/n4narya>, and the Indian film "Bees Saal Bad" inspired by "The Hound of the Baskervilles" <www.tinyurl.com/y894fae7>.
18500. They're off and running: The Baker Street Irregulars' triennial running of The Silver Blaze Race Course in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., is set for Aug. 11. More information about the two-day excursion is available online at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com/silverblaze2018.html>.
18501. SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE LOST RADIO SCRIPTS (Little Falls: Purview Press, 2017; 396 pp., \$25.98), edited by Ian Dickerson, offers twelve scripts written by Denis Green and Leslie Charteris [as Bruce Taylor] from the Rathbone/Bruce 1944 radio series "The New Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (all of them from programs for which audio recordings are not known to exist); Dickerson discovered the scripts in Charteris' papers, and it's nice to have a chance to revisit the radio series. You can listen to Scott Monty and Burt Wolder's interview with Dickerson at their "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" archive <www.tinyurl.com/y82pbko9>.
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May 2018 #3

18502. Martin Edwards' THE STORY OF CLASSIC CRIME IN 100 BOOKS (London: British Library, 2017; 353 pp., £25.00) (Scottsdale: Poisoned Pen Press, \$26.95) is a delightful companion to the "British Library Crime Classics" series that offers reprints of excellent novels and short stories; some of the anthologies include stories by Conan Doyle, and this book explores the history of crime fiction in novels published in the first half of the twentieth century (one of them, of course, is "The Hound of the Baskervilles"). The book also is available in a trade-paperback edition to match the crime-classics series. And Edwards, recently asked what he would have added as the 101st title, confessed that there already are 102 novels in his book.
18503. Cub Scouting, part of the Scouting Program of the Boy Scouts of America, offers Cubs belt loops (instead of merit badges), and Kate Karlson has reported an interesting Code of the Wolf elective adventure loop. They're available for \$1.49 at your neighborhood Scout Shop, and on-line at <www.scoutshop.org>; search for [619939]. And yes, in February the Boy Scouts of America announced their new name: Scouts BSA, recognizing the decision to admit young women as full-fledged Scouts. The Cub Scouts program already admits girls; now older girls will be able to join Scouts BSA and have an opportunity to advance to become Eagle Scouts. One hopes that eventually the Scouts BSA will offer a Sherlockian merit badge.
18504. Mattias Boström, who last month won the Agatha Award (best nonfiction) for FROM HOLMES TO SHERLOCK at Malice Domestic, has been nominated for an Anthony Award (best critical/non-fiction book) at Bouchercon; winners will be announced at Bouchercon in St. Petersburg, Fla., on Sept. 8. Mattias also has received Der blaue Karfunkel from the Deutsche Sherlock-Holmes-Gesellschaft at SherloCON in Saarbrücken, and the Tony & Freda Howlett Literary Award from the Sherlock Holmes Society of London.
18505. THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: ILLUSTRATED AND ENHANCED BY N. R. REEKIE (2017) offers an imaginative approach to the Canon: there are more than 300 illustrations, including his own Rapidograph technical-pen artwork, and the 352-page book is available at eBay for £24.99 <www.tinyurl.com/y79ollmr>.
18506. The International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes, now at the Houston Museum of Natural Science <www.hmns.org>, has some added material. According to the Houston Chronicle <www.tinyurl.com/y7k2vs47>, the exhibits now include the curved pipe Robert Downey Jr. smoked and the pocket watch worn by Jude Law, the pink suitcase from Benedict Cumberbatch's "A Study in Pink", and a costume worn by Lucy Liu.
18507. Conan Doyle wrote about the bare-knuckle boxer John Jackson, who appears in RODNEY STONE (March 18 #5), and there are other boxers in Conan Doyle's writings; one of them is William Abednego Thompson, known as Bendigo, who was honored in Conan Doyle's poem "Bendy's Sermon". According to the Nottingham Post <www.tinyurl.com/y86yydo>, a fund-raising campaign is underway to pay for a statue of Bendigo, who is buried in Nottingham. Alan Dance and David Field's novel BENDIGO: THE RIGHT FIST OF GOD (2016) is based on the life of "the most famous son of Nottingham since Robin Hood first ventured from the leafy glades of Sherwood Forest to taunt the Sheriff."
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May 2018 #4

18508. Maria Konnikova, author of MASTERMIND: HOW TO THINK LIKE SHERLOCK HOLMES (2013), and then THE CONFIDENCE GAME: WHY WE FALL FOR IT...EVERY TIME (2016), began playing poker in late 2016 while working on a new book THE BIGGEST BLUFF, but she's earning so much in poker tournaments that the book likely won't be published until next year, according to a report in the N.Y. Post on May 3 <www.tinyurl.com/ya9m9wqn>; Maria's web-site is at <www.mariakonnikova.com>.
18509. "A Strange Change Toy Featuring The Lost World" was made and sold by Mattel in the late 1960s, likely inspired by the film that starred Claude Rains as Professor Challenger (1960). There's a Wikipedia entry for the "Strange Change Machine" that describes the toy in detail: it offered pressed "shape memory" plastic figures of prehistoric animals, an "Expansion Chamber" with a heating element, and a "Compressor" (Wikipedia provides links to web-sites that have images and more information); it cost only \$1.50 in those good old days and seems to have been discontinued quickly because the toy was so dangerous to children who played with it. You can find it at eBay (for a lot more than \$1.50) and play with it now (carefully, of course).
18510. The seventh running of the No Frills Silver Blaze will take place on Aug. 18 at Monmouth Park in Oceanport, N.J., and it's truly no frills: entrance fee \$5.00 (or \$3.00 for seniors), and bring your own food and drinks. The event is arranged by The Turf Builders of Baker Street, and more information is available from Peter McIntyre <pslpete@optonline.net>.
18511. The Japanese eight-episode series "Miss Sherlock" (produced by HBO Asia and Hulu Japan) (December 17 #6) began its run on Apr. 27, and the series has a web-site at <www.hboasia.com/HBO/en-ph/shows/miss-sherlock>. You can watch the series (with English subtitles) at <www.dailymotion.com>.
18512. Raymond C. Murray died on Apr. 8. He was a leader in the field of forensic geology (the use of soil and mineral evidence in law enforcement) and wrote two of the field's standard textbooks, FORENSIC GEOLOGY (1975 and 1992) and EVIDENCE FROM THE EARTH: FORENSIC GEOLOGY AND CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION (2004 and 2011), with due credit to Sherlock Holmes for his geological expertise; you can learn more about Ray's work at <www.forensicgeology.net>.
18513. C. J. Carter-Stephenson's "Back of the Bookshelf" is a monthly podcast offering his narration of classic short fiction, and it was launched with Conan Doyle's "The Disintegration Machine" available in both video and audio <www.carter-stephenson.co.uk/botb.html>.
18514. Congratulations to Andrew Jay Peck, who began his legal career in 1978 and was appointed U.S. magistrate judge for the Southern District of New York in 1995; he retired from the bench in February and has joined the law firm DLA Piper as a senior counsel, and you can read about his career in an American Bar Association article at <www.tinyurl.com/yck3l98q> (there's also a podcast interview). Andy was the winner of the Morley-Montgomery Award for the best article in The Baker Street Journal in 1972, joined the Baker Street Irregulars in 1973 (as "Inspector Baynes, Surrey Constabulary"), and plans to continue his pursuit of Sherlock Holmes (and the N.Y. Yankees).
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May 2018 #5

18515. Ashley Polasek has edited A PLUM ASSIGNMENT: DISCOURSE ON P. G. WODEHOUSE AND HIS WORLD (Winch and Clutterbuck, 2018), the discourse being by Curtis Armstrong and Elliott Milstein; the book isn't Sherlockian but you can listen to the three of them talk about Wodehouse, and his enthusiasm for Conan Doyle and Holmes, with Scott Monty and Burt Wolder in a podcast at "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" <www.tinyurl.com/yau22ldl>.
18516. There's a race horse named Sherlock Holmes, and the [Melbourne] Herald Sun had a picture of him <www.tinyurl.com/y7gn68v8> winning a race at Flemington; the chestnut gelding, born in Ireland, is doing well in Australia, and you can see video of him winning the race at <www.tinyurl.com/y82nl5og>.
18517. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists (also known as The Friends of Sherlock Holmes) met to honor the world's first forensic geologist with drinks and dinner at Carnegie's, in the Peery Hotel, in Salt Lake City on May 23, during the annual meeting of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, welcomed by members of The PsiKeys of Sherlock and The Avenging Angels. Our next meetings will be on Nov. 7 in Indianapolis, and on May 22, 2019, in San Antonio.
18518. There is a definitely-firm and reliable rumor that there's a third Robert Downey Jr. "Sherlock Holmes" film in the works. According to the Hollywood Reporter (May 7), Warner Bros. and Village Roadshow Pictures have announced that "Sherlock Holmes 3" will open in theaters Christmas Day in 2020. All that's needed now is a script and a director and a start of production.
18519. Further to the item about Grace Humiston, a lawyer-turned-investigator in 1917 who was known as "Mrs. Sherlock Holmes" and was featured in a recent episode of the NBC-TV series "Timeless" (March 18 #3), Rachel Kaufman wrote about the episode at the Smithsonian blog <www.tinyurl.com/y9pys2oa>.
18520. Sundance TV plans an eight-episode international drama series based on Umberto Eco's THE NAME OF THE ROSE, starring John Turturro as the Franciscan monk William of Baskerville, Damian Hardung as Adso of Melk, and Rupert Everett as inquisitor Bernard Gui; the book, set in Italy in 1327, nevertheless was nicely Sherlockian.
18521. It's a bit late for this year, but in plenty of time for next year: Sherlock Holmes Day is celebrated on May 22. It's an event established in 2013 by the forum and games site Gaia Online, and there's much more information available on-line at <www.daysoftheyear.com/days/sherlock-holmes-day>.
18522. Steven Moffat and Mark Gatiss and Benedict Cumberbatch celebrated Sherlock Holmes Day on-line with video and audio teasers for their "Sherlock" series at the BBC America web-site <www.tinyurl.com/y92csyc3>.
18523. Margalit Fox's CONAN DOYLE FOR THE DEFENSE (New York: Random House, 2018; 352 pp., \$27.00) has the subtitle "the true story of a sensational British murder, a quest for justice, and the world's most famous detective writer," and it's a carefully-researched and well-written account of the Oscar Slater case; the author has discovered new and interesting information about the case, and she offers a convincing explanation of why the police and the government were so determined to convict an innocent man.

May 2018 #6

18524. English Heritage has announced that Peter Cushing will be honored with a blue plaque at his childhood home in Croydon; the announcement was made on May 4 (Star Wars Day) and the plaque will be unveiled in July. Roger Johnson has noted that May 4 also is Reichenbach Day (when Holmes and Moriarty fought to the death in Switzerland); Cushing was Sherlock Holmes in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1959), a BBC television series (1968), and "The Masks of Death" (1984). He also played Conan Doyle in a television film "The Great Houdinis" (1976).
18525. For those who may be wondering why May 4 is Star Wars Day (May 18 #1): the celebration was created by fans of the series, who happily say "May the 4th be with you." The announcement was made on Star Wars Day in recognition of Cushing's memorable performance at the Grand Moff Tarkin in the first "Star Wars" film in 1977.
18526. Reported: Leslie S. Klinger's IN THE SHADOW OF AGATHA CHRISTIE (New York: Pegasus, 2018; 356 pp., \$25.95) is subtitled "classic crime fiction by forgotten female writers: 1850-1917" and offers 16 stories that include Carolyn Wells' 1915 Sherlockian burlesque "The Adventure of the Clothes-Line".
18527. Fans of Scooby-Doo will welcome the news that "Scooby-Doo and Guess Who?" is being developed for a 2019 launch on Boomerang's digital-streaming service; episodes of the animated series will feature characters such as Batman, the Flash, Wonder Woman, and Sherlock Holmes.
18528. When in Middlesbrough (in North Yorkshire): the Orange Pip Market, a monthly artisan food market is on Baker Street <www.orangepipmarket.com>; it was founded in 2014 and named for the Sherlock Holmes story. You can also stop in at the local pub The Twisted Lip <www.thetwistedlip.co.uk>.
18529. Nancy Springer's THE CASE OF THE GYPSY GOOD-BYE (New York: Philomel, 2010; 176 pp., \$14.99) is the sixth and last in her pleasant series about Enola Holmes, the 14-year-old younger sister of Mycroft and Sherlock; she's hiding from them in London and solving mysteries on her own. All of the books are available in trade paperbacks from Puffin (\$6.99), and the series has been in the news because Legendary Entertainment has signed the British actor-model Millie Bobby Brown to star in and produce feature films based on the series. There's more information about Enola Holmes, and Nancy Springer, at the author's web-site <www.nancyspringer.com>, and about Millie Bobby Brown at Wikipedia and elsewhere on the Internet.
18530. Overwatch, a team-based multiplayer first-person shooter video game developed and published by Blizzard Entertainment <www.playoverwatch.com/en-us>, allows players to purchase "skins" that change the outfit or color scheme of the players' heroes, and one of the anniversary skins offers McCree the opportunity to dress in a Sherlockian costume that also fits support hero Ana; you can see Ana wearing the skin, and explore Overwatch, at the DBLTAP web-site <www.tinyurl.com/ydbeqats>.
18531. BRAIN GAMES is a series of puzzle books, and their SHERLOCK HOLMES PUZZLES (Morton Grove: Publications International, 2017; 198 pp. \$12.98) has more than "100 cerebral challenges inspired by the world's greatest detective" (standard puzzles, with many tied to the Canon).

May 2018 #7

18532. Patricia Morison died on May 20. She had a long career both as a singer (she starred in "Kiss Me Kate" on Broadway in 1948 and then in "The King and I" on Broadway and on tour) and as an actor (in films and on television) and is best-known to Sherlockians as the evil Mrs. Hilda Courtney in Basil Rathbone's "Dressed to Kill" (1946).
18533. The new block-buster film "Avengers: Infinity War" stars Robert Downey Jr. (Iron Man) and Benedict Cumberbatch (Doctor Strange), who have both played Sherlock Holmes, but there are no allusions to that in the movie. According to Comic Book Resources <www.tinyurl.com/y97dbj44>, directors Joe and Anthony Russo believed that jokes about the character connection would have been "too obvious."
18534. The East Haddam Stage Company, which is based at Gillette Castle in Connecticut, will be on tour with its radio drama "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Speckled Band" in the fall <www.ehsc.org>.

18535. Stephen Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" is due at the Morris-Jumel Mansion in New York, N.Y., June 8-24 <www.morrisjumel.org>.
18536. Ray Crew's new play "Sherlock Holmes and the Avenging Angels" is scheduled at the Elementary Theatre in Cape May, N.J., June 21-Sept. 29, during the Sherlock & Shakespeare Festival <www.capemaymac.org>.
18537. Jeffrey Hatcher's "Holmes and Watson" is due at the Alley Theatre in Houston, Tex., June 22-July 22 <www.alleytheatre.org>; at the Indiana Repertory Theatre in Indianapolis, Ind., Sept. 25-Oct. 21 <www.irtlive.com>; and at the North Coast Repertory Theatre in Solana Beach, Calif., Oct. 17-Nov. 11 <www.northcoastrep.org>.
18538. "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (a new dramatization by Tim Churchill and Catherine O'Reilly) is scheduled at the Stoke Repertory Theatre in Stokeon-Trent, Staffs., July 31-Aug. 4 <www.stokerep.info>.
18539. The Ghostwriters' "Adventures of the Improvised Sherlock Holmes" is scheduled at La Belle Angèle in Edinburgh, Aug. 2-26 <www.improvsherlock.com>.
18540. Richard Lavin's new play "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Impaled Whaler" is due at Tudor House in Lake Arrowhead, Calif., Aug. 10-25; web-site at <www.tudorhouseentertainment.villas>.
18541. Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is scheduled at the Krevsky Center in Harrisburg, Pa., Sept. 7-16 <www.theatreharrisburg.com>.
18542. Charles Marowitz's "Sherlock's Last Case" is due at the Huntington Avenue Theatre in Boston, Mass., Sept. 28-Oct. 28 <www.huntingtontheatre.org>.
18543. "Sherlock Holmes and the West End Horror" (dramatized from Nicholas Meyer's novel by Anthony and Marcia Milgrom Dodge) will be performed at the Little Lake Theatre in Canonsburg, Pa., Oct. 11-27 <www.littlelake.org>.

June 2018 #1

18544. The mid-year letter from Mike Whelan ("Wiggins" of the Baker Street Irregulars) included the news that the BSI Archive, formerly at the Houghton Library at Harvard University, is being transferred to the Lilly Library at Indiana University in Bloomington, Ind.; the Lilly Library already has an impressive Sherlockian and Doylean collection, and now also houses the archive of the Mystery Writers of America.
18545. There also was news of the next BSI conference, set for 2020, will have as its theme "Sherlock Holmes and the British Empire" (details to be announced later), Next year's birthday festivities in New York will be held on Jan. 9-13, and the Distinguished Speaker Lecture on Jan. 10 will feature director and playwright Ken Ludwig, author of "Postmortem", "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays", and "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery".
18546. Russian war correspondent Arkady Babchenko, who fled Russia for Ukraine in 2017, turned up at a press conference in Kiev last month, one day after he had been reported killed; he explained that the announcement that his wife had found his body after he had been shot several times at the entrance to his apartment in Kiev was intended to help Ukraine's security services foil a real plot against his life. All this is of possible interest to readers of this newsletter because Anton Geraschenko, a member of Ukraine's parliament, then said that "Sherlock Holmes successfully used the method of staging his own death for the effective investigation on complex and intricate crimes, no matter how painful it was for his family and Dr. Watson."
18547. Benoit Guilielmo has launched an on-line collection of Sherlockian articles from the 1930s (many of them reprinted for the first time), accompanied by some modern commentary on what he calls the Golden Age of Sherlockian scholarship (1927-1934), at <www.earlysherlockiana.blogspot.fr>. It's nicely done, and an opportunity to see what the Sherlockian world once was like.
18548. The manuscript of "The Story of Spedegue's Dropper" will be at auction at Sotheby's in London on July 10, estimated at £10,000-£15,000. There is a nice entry about the manuscript at Randall Stock's "Best of Sherlock" web-site at <www.bestofsherlock.com/mss/spedegues-dropper-2018.htm>.
18549. Howard Ostrom has found another example of the wonders of digitization: the Nov. 1906 supplement to the Urban Films catalog, with a three-page synopsis of Vitagraph's "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (1905); it's on-line at <www.lukemckernan.com/2018/02/15/the-world-in-1906> [pages 61-63]. Leslie S. Klinger wrote about the film in The Baker Street Journal, June 1998.
18550. Sherlock Bones Lost 'N Hound Dog Recovery has a Facebook page but no web-site: they're "a local group of animal lovers dedicated to reuniting owners with their lost furries" in and around Buffalo, N.Y.
18551. "Hooray for Meghan Markle, a Very Modern Adventuress" was the headline on a story by Julie Burchill in the Spectator on Apr. 28, reported by Evy Herzog (who presides over The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes). The word "adventuress" is rarely encountered today, other than in the Canon and at Sherlockian gatherings; you can read the article at <www.tinyurl.com/yd7d9ot4>.

June 2018 #2

18552. Erik Ofgang's GILLETTE CASTLE: A HISTORY (Charleston: History Press, 2017; 139 pp., \$21.99) is a nicely readable and attractively illustrated guide to William Gillette's home in Hadlyme, Conn., with discussion of Conan Doyle, Sherlock Holmes, and Gillette himself, but the main focus is on the Castle and its history.
18553. A "Sherlock Holmes" electric locomotive was used on the Metropolitan Line in London from the early 1920s until it was withdrawn from service in 1962, but now there's a new one, christened at a naming ceremony at the Quanton Road Station on Apr. 29, and video of the ceremony is available at YouTube; search for [quanton sherlock holmes].
18554. All that remains of the first locomotive are the nameplates, which are fortunately preserved in Sherlockian collections, but a battery-powered scale model (in 7¼-inch gauge, which means it will run on rails 7¼ inches apart) was at auction at Dreweatts in England in 2013, with an estimate of £1,000-£1,500. It sold for £2,728 (including the buyer's premium). Of course there is a 7¼-inch Gauge Society, with a web-site <www.sevenandaquarter.org> for those who enjoy riding on (rather than in) these attractive trains, and you can do exactly that in Great Britain, Europe, and North America, as noted in the Club Directory at the web-site.
18555. The winners of this year's Audie Awards (from the Audio Publishers Association) included Stephen Fry's recording of the Sherlock Holmes stories (for excellence in production); the recording is available from Audio Studios at <www.audible.com>.
18556. THE CROWN JEWEL MYSTERY, by Anna Elliott and Charles Veley (Wilton Press, 2017; 109 pp., \$5.98), a prequel to their "Sherlock Holmes and Lucy James" series, brings Lucy to London for the first time, hoping to determine the identity of her mysterious benefactor and winding up on the scene of a bank robbery; the novella is both imaginative and fast-paced, and the series has a web-site at <www.sherlockandlucy.com>.
18557. Earlier novels in the series include REMEMBER, REMEMBER (2017; 346 pp.) and THE JUBILEE PROBLEM (2017; 407 pp.) (each \$12.99); Lucy discovers who her mysterious father and mother are, and is involved in investigating two interesting mysteries, as well as some romance.

18558. The restored version of "Der Hund von Baskerville" (1929) received a warm reception at the San Francisco Silent Film Festival this month, and there are reports that a commercial DVD will be available sooner rather than later; in the meantime, Danill Dubshin has reported, you can watch clips from the film uploaded by Rob Byrne to Vimeo: go to <www.vimeo.com> and search for [der hund von baskerville] to see how splendid the restoration is.
18559. "Sherlock: The Game Is Now" <www.sherlockgame.com> is billed as "the only official Sherlock Holmes Escape Game, a 90-minute immersive experience for teams of 4-6 people," and it will open in London on Oct. 23 and run through Feb. 24, with tickets costing £54 per person. It's organized by Time Run and "Sherlock" creators Steve Moffat and Mark Gatiss, and you can see some of Time Run's other escape games at <www.time-run.com>.
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June 2018 #3

18560. Martyn Sutton is the proprietor of Uncle Jeremy's Household, a gift shop in Ingleton <www.unclejeremy.com> that celebrates the connections of Sherlock Holmes to the Yorkshire Dales; he believes that the name of Sherlock Holmes was inspired by Conan Doyle's visits to the region (he married his first wife Louise Hawkins there in 1885, the same year his short story "Uncle Jeremy's Household" was published). One of their Sherlock Holmes Teddy Bears will be the prize in the "This is Ingleton" competition in July at <www.facebook.com/VisitIngleton>; the contest is open to anyone, anywhere, who answers a simple question to qualify for the end-of-the-month drawing.
18561. The Royal Mail has issued a set of eight stamps honoring the 50th anniversary of the BBC's long-running television series "Dad's Army" that was broadcast from 1968 to 1977. Two of the stamps show Arthur Lowe as Capt. George Mainwaring and John Le Mesurier as Sgt. Arthur Wilson; if the actors look familiar, it's because Arthur Lowe played Dr. William Watson in "The Strange Case of the End of Civilization as We Know It" (1977), while John Le Mesurier was Eduardo Lucas in "The Second Stain" in the Alan Wheatley television series (1951), Barrymore in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1959), and Lord Redcliff in "The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes' Smarter Brother" (1975).
18562. Rob Nunn has been posting to his "Interesting Though Elementary" blog since June 2017 <www.interestingthoughelementary.blogspot.com>. It's imaginative as well as interesting, with a mix of essays and interviews.
18563. Bill Peschel's "223B Casebook Series" continues, offering his survey of the many parodies and pastiches published in newspapers, magazines, and books, reprinted with footnotes and brief accounts of what Conan Doyle was doing each year. The latest volumes are SHERLOCK HOLMES: GREAT WAR PARODIES AND PASTICHES I: 1910-1914 (Hershey: Peschel Press, 2017; 365 pp.) and SHERLOCK HOLMES: JAZZ AGE PARODIES AND PASTICHES I: 1920-1924 (2018; 352 pp.) (each \$15.99), and both volumes include one of his own pastiches, in which Mark Twain reports on his encounters with Sherlock and Mycroft Holmes. Bill's web-site is at <www.peschelpress.com>.
18564. It's likely far too late for souvenir-hunting, but Del Taco kindly offered free Sherlock Holmes lunch bags with the purchase of any Kid Loco Meal (a kid's quesadilla, fries, drink and a treat); their web-site allows you to find your nearest Del Taco <www.tinyurl.com/y873mnmne>.
18565. The latest catalog from the BBC Shop has as always a page of Sherlockiana, including a Sherlock Holmes Pewter Pocket Watch, just the thing for those who, like Holmes, don't wear a wristwatch <www.tinyurl.com/y9p7td5b>.
18566. Ray Betzner continues to find new and interesting material for his "Studies in Starrett" blog <www.vincentstarrett.com>, which now includes entries on "Where are the missing pages of Starrett's autobiography?" and a new translation of his classic sonnet "221B"; the new translation, handsomely printed and bound, is available the Atelier Typographique de la Cité in Switzerland for CHF40.00 <www.ateliertypo.tictail.com/product/221b>.
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June 2018 #4

18567. "With Landmark UK Embassy Planned for East London, China Rides the River of History Full Circle" was the headline on a story in the South China Morning Post on June 05 <www.tinyurl.com/y98b82hs> about a new Chinese embassy that will be on the site of the old Royal Mint. The article noted that the East End was home to London's first Chinatown, and that the area's opium dens were legendary: "It was in one such establishment in Limehouse that Sherlock Holmes found Dr. Watson" in "The Man with the Twisted Lip". The Royal Mint moved to Wales in 1975, and (yes indeed) the South China Morning Post was quite careless about who found whom in the Bar of Gold.
18568. Jennie Paton found a video demonstration <www.tinyurl.com/yadndn8p> of how easy it is to use the Mr. Sherlock lock-picking tool set, which comes with a full set of lock picks and a transparent padlock that helps you see what you're doing.
18569. YOUNG PUFFIN'S WONDERFULLY GRAND MYSTERY is a delightful children's carousel-bound pop-up book created by Yekaterina Komarovskaya and Mike Ficara: Young Puffins wears Sherlockian costume while investigating a mystery that unfolds (literally) as one turns the pages to read a story that's both imaginative and amusing. It was a successful Kickstarter project and now is available to everyone (\$31.00); just go to <www.youngpuffin.com> to see a demonstration of how the books works. Young Puffin himself also is available as a plushie (\$20.00), along with other merchandise.
18570. RiffTrax offers a download of the colorized version of "Sherlock Holmes and the Woman in Green" (1945) with commentary by Mystery Science Theater 3000 stars Bridget Nelson and Mary Jo Pehl (\$9.99) at <www.rifftrax.com>; needless to say, they don't take the movie seriously.
18571. Holmes Fest is now an annual event in Portsmouth: this year's celebration began on June 27 and runs through July 14, with a wide variety of goings-on <www.lifeisamazing.co.uk/holmesfest>.
18572. They're off and running at Laurel Park in Maryland, where Greg Ruby has arranged for The Silver Blaze (Southern Division) on July 22. You can read all about it at the Facebook page for the event, and there's more information available from Greg at <greg@fourthgarrideb.com>.
18573. Royal Books is offering an early treatment of the script for "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" (1929) for \$4,500 <www.tinyurl.com/y9shlpb4>; written by F. Hugh Herbert, it differs substantially from the finished film, and does not contain the now-classic statement "Elementary, my dear Watson" (spoken by Clive Brook in the film when it was released). It was the first talking Sherlock Holmes film, and the first known instance of Holmes actually saying the line (William Gillette often is credited as the first, but the line does not appear in any known script of his play, and no one has reported a contemporary newspaper or magazine that mentions Gillette saying it).
18574. "Anything Goes--on ISLAND OF THE MAD" is an amusing book trailer promoting the latest volume in Laurie R. King's series about Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes (April 18 #2) <www.tinyurl.com/ydxlcqwb>. That's not Cole Porter singing, but Michael Meketa III does well with his cover of the song.
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June 2018 #5

18575. "To review the books, monographs, films, and other, more ad-hoc projects inspired by Holmes today is not to note a revival of interest, but simply to let down a bucket into a bottomless well." That's according to Christopher Sandford in HOUDINI AND CONAN DOYLE (London: Duckworth Overlook, 2011; 282 pp.).
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18576. Excerpts from Jeffrey Hatcher's imaginative play were read during the Baker Street Irregulars' "The Mind and Art of Sherlock Holmes" conference in 2016 in Chautauqua, and the play premiered in 2017 in Tucson, Ariz., and has had other productions since then; the script has now been published by the Dramatists Play Service (\$9.00) <www.tinyurl.com/yaxbwm7y>, and you can read a sample at their web-site.
18577. It would have pleased the late Herman Beerman and other members of the Sir James Saunders Society: "Had Sherlock Holmes Gone into Medicine, He'd Have Been a Dermatologist" is the headline on Phil Whitaker's article in the New Statesman on Mar. 4 <www.tinyurl.com/y94b8vcc>.
18578. Records by Mail <www.recordsbymail.com>, launched in 1974, now has an 8000-square-foot warehouse with more than 2 million vinyl LPs and 45s; searching for [sherlock holmes] turns up a few interesting items, and of course there is a lot more material for anyone interested in old records.
18579. Cynthia Ward's THE ADVENTURE OF THE INCOGNITA COUNTESS (Seattle: Aqueduct, 2017; 110 pp., \$12.00), is part of a "conversation pieces" series of feminist science fiction; Lucy Harker is Dracula's dhampir daughter and a British intelligence agent who encounters dangerous foes on board the Titanic; the book's Sherlockian only for occasional mentions of Mycroft as head of Britain's secret service.
18580. Karen Murdock noted a letter to the editor in the Chicago Tribune on June 3 about "bringing the cane back into style" that mentioned that "you can even learn single-stick cane-fighting (like Sherlock Holmes) at the Forteza Fitness, a local gymnasium." Forteza Fitness also is the home of the Bartitsu Club of Chicago <www.bartitsuclubofchicago.com>.
18581. "Comedy Playhouse" was a long-running British 30-minute television series broadcast by BBC-1 from 1961 to 1975; many episodes graduated to their own series, but among those that didn't was "Elementary, My Dear Watson" (1973) with John Cleese as Sherlock Holmes and Willie Rushton as Dr. Watson. As with so much long-lost television, a YouTube user has come to the rescue: you can watch the program at <www.tinyurl.com/ycgb59ux>.
18582. Leslie Katz continues to make his Sherlockian scholarship available at the Social Science Research Network; his latest article is "The Game Is a Hand: Traditional Tabletop Games in the Sherlock Holmes Adventures" and you can read or download all of his articles) at <www.ssrn.com/author=1164057>.
18583. Mattias Boström, whose FROM HOLMES TO SHERLOCK has already been nominated for an Anthony Award (best critical/non-fiction book) at Bouchercon; also has been nominated for a Macavity Award (best mystery-related nonfiction) from Mystery Readers International; the winners of both awards will be announced at Bouchercon in St. Petersburg, Fla., on Sept. 8.

June 2018 #6

18584. The second issue of The Newspapers (it's an "Irregular Journal of Sherlockiana" that Greg Ruby edits for The Sherlockians of Baltimore) has been published, with 136 pp. of toasts, poems, articles, and much more, many by members of the SOB's www.tinyurl.com/SOB2018Newspapers (\$20.00). It focuses on material from Baltimore newspapers, and about Baltimore, but Greg casts his net widely to include Evelyn Herzog's account of the history of the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes, plus Ross E. Davies' investigation of the history of the first Sherlock Holmes game (the Parker Brothers card game that was launched in 1904).
18585. Further to the earlier report (August 14 #2) about the Mars 2020 Rover and its Scanning Habitable Environments with Raman and Luminescence for Organics and Chemicals, Jeff Dow notes that the National Aeronautics and Space Administration has a new and colorful web-site about SHERLOC and its Wide Angle Topographic Sensor for Operations and eNginering (yes, that's WATSON) at <www.tinyurl.com/ybvkgoqj>.
18586. "Save the date," says Susan Diamond: the 59th annual running of the Silver Blaze in Chicago will be on Oct. 20 at the Hawthorne Race Course. You can enroll on her mailing list at <szdiamond@comcast.net>.
18587. Another early Sherlockian film has turned up at YouTube, reported by Jennie Paton. "Sherlock Holmes i Bondefangerklør" (1910) features Otto Lagoni as Holmes, and is one of the Danish silent films made by Nordisk (and the only one known to have survived) <www.tinyurl.com/ybocm6w8>; the title is "Sherock Holmes in the Claws of the Confidence Men" in English.
18588. Wikipedia has a web-page for "Hat" <www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/hat> with illustrated entries for hats that range from the Ascot cap to the Zuchetto; one of the hats is the Deerstalker, with a mention of Sherlock Holmes.
18589. Claire O'Dell's A STUDY IN HONOR (New York: Harper Voyager, 2018; 294 pp., \$15.99) reimagines Holmes and Watson in a feminist thriller set in a near-future Washington during the next Civil War; the protagonists are Dr. Janet Watson and covert agent Sara Holmes, both black LGBTQ+ women, engaged in a battle against both villainy and bureaucracy.
18590. Greg Ruby discovered two amusing television commercials from 1970 and 1971 for Esso Home Comfort; available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/y7lpcnut> and <www.tinyurl.com/ycgyecbh>.
18591. EL GOS DEL BASKERVILLES is Catalan translation published by Vicens-Vives in Barcelona in 2013, with striking artwork by Bulgarian artist Iliana Ghuselev; you can view the artwork at his web-site <www.tinyurl.com/y7d2mbxs>, and order the book from the publisher or (possibly) at www.abebooks.com>. Some of the original artwork is available from the artist.
18592. In case you've wondered about how important Sherlock Holmes truly is, Sidney Paget's original watercolor of "Fishing Boats on the Shoreline" sold at auction this month for £160 <www.tinyurl.com/y7r2rqag>. In 2004 his original pen and ink and wash drawing of "The death of Sherlock Holmes" was sold at auction for \$220,000. Randall Stock has a nice (and nicely illustrated) census of Sidney Paget paintings at <www.tinyurl.com/y8hd6fxo>.

June 2018 #7

18593. "Revision, My Dear Watson" (episode 146 on the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog) <www.tinyurl.com/y9765sbh> offers Nick Martorelli, interviewed by Scott Monty and Burt Wolder; Nick suggests that Irene Adler was the Boba Fett of the Sherlock Holmes stories (and explains this for those who are fans of "Star Wars" and those who aren't), and has much more to say about the four long stories in the Canon. Scott and Burt have started providing a transcript of each of the podcasts; a few of them are available now, and they're asking for assistance in keeping the worthy project going.
18594. Deadline Hollywood reports that the release date for "Holmes & Watson" (the new comedy that stars Will Ferrell as Holmes and John C. Reilly as Watson) has been postponed once more: it's now scheduled for Dec. 21.
18595. The Mount Nelson in Capetown is one of six "hotels with pasts as amazing as the amenities," Cator Sparks blogged on May 4 <www.tinyurl.com/yddwul3j>, noting that the Prince of Wales and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle both stayed at the hotel in 1925. According to Brian Pugh's A CHRONOLOGY OF THE LIFE OF SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE (2012), Conan Doyle stayed at The Mount Nelson twice (in 1900 and 1928). There's no mention of Conan Doyle in Spark's entry for the Mena House in Egypt, but Conan Doyle did stay there, in 1895.
18596. David Marcum has edited SHERLOCK HOLMES: BEFORE BAKER STREET for Belanger Books (2017, 356 pp., \$19.95); it's an anthology of stories from the years before Holmes met Watson and moved into quarters at 221B. The publisher's web-site is at www.belangerbooks.com>.

18597. David also continues to edit his series of annual anthologies of pastiches for MX Publishing, with two new volumes added this year: THE MX BOOK OF NEW SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES: PART IX and PART X (406 pp. for 1875-1895 and 386 pp. for 1896-1919, \$44.95 each); they are excellent anthologies, and offer poems and radio scripts, as well as traditional pastiches, written by authors old hands and newcomers, and good writers as well. The MX web-sites are at <www.mxpublishing.com> and <www.mxpublishing.co.uk>.
18598. Also from MX: Carl Heifetz's SHERLOCK HOLMES THROUGH THE MICROSCOPE (2018; 214 pp., \$14.95) is a collection of essays that reflect his expertise as a microbiologist and examine scientific aspects of the Canon; most have been published in journals with limited circulation, and it's nice to see them now more widely available. David Ruffle's WATSON: MY LIFE (2018; 148 pp., \$12.95) takes a new approach to the Canon, offering Dr. Watson's reminiscences about his life, loves, and career, and his association with Sherlock Holmes, as recorded in 1936.
18599. And there's more from MX: Richard T. Ryan's THE DRUID OF DEATH (2018; 217 pp., \$28.95) has Holmes and Watson and Lestrade investigating a series of bizarre murders at Druid sites in England; his previous pastiches were THE VATICAN CAMEOS (2016) and THE STONE OF DESTINY (2017), and his new book includes a chapter from his upcoming THE MERCHANT OF MENACE. Michael Druce's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE ROSWELL INCIDENT (2018; 211 pp., \$14.95) has Holmes and Watson alive and well in the 1940s and 1950s, involved with British and American and Russian intelligence and counter-intelligence in a plot that may or may not involve aliens and flying saucers.
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June 2018 #8

18600. Last year the French company Black Box Boutique released a limited Blu-ray+DVD "Ultimate Collector's Edition" of the 1984 Japanese animated "Sherlock Hound" television series, in Japanese with French subtitles <www.blackbonesboutique.com/sherlockholmes.htm>, with a 200-page book of artwork. It cost €59.00, and is no longer available from the company, but completists may want to pursue it from other sources.
18601. Steven Canny and John Nicholson's comedy "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is being performed at the English Theatre in Frankfurt, Germany, through July 8 <www.english-theatre.de>, and then tours to the Deutsches Theater in Munich, Germany, July 17-21 <www.deutsches-theater.de>.
18602. "A Scandal in Bohemia, Part One" (a radio play) is due at the Edge Theater in Chicago on July 22 <www.idlemuse.org>.
18603. Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is scheduled at the Clove Creek Dinner Theater in Fishkill, N.Y., Aug. 2-19; their web-site's at <www.clovecreekdinnertheater.com>. Also at the Magenta Theatre in Vancouver, Wash., Sept. 7-22 <www.magentatheatre.com>; and at the Duluth Playhouse in Duluth, Minn., Oct. 4-14 <www.duluthplayhouse.org>; The Illyria Theatre Company will tour Oliver Grey's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" in Britain, Aug. 3-Sept. 7 <www.illyria.co.uk>.
18604. Katie Forgette's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily" is due at the Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, Aug. 9-26 www.chambertheatre.com.
18605. Timothy Evers' new play "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" is due at the Chelsea Market Theatre in Houston, Oct. 3-21 <www.classicaltheatre.org>.
18606. "Legenda jménem Holmes" [A Legend Named Holmes] (a "cult musical" by Ondrej G. Brzobohaty) will premiere at the Musical Theater Karlín in Prague, Oct. 12-21 <www.vstupenky.ticket-art.cz>.
18607. C. P. Stancich's "Sherlock Holmes and the Masters of Crime" is scheduled at the Camino Real Playhouse in San Juan Capistrano, Calif., on Oct. 19-Nov. 4 <www.caminoplayhouse.org>.
18608. The East Lynne Theater Company will perform Craig Wichman's radio-style adaptation of "Sherlock Holmes' Adventure of the Speckled Band" at the First Presbyterian Church in Cape May, N.J., Oct. 26-Nov. 2, and Mar. 15-17, 2019 <www.eastlynnetheater.org>.
18609. Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" has been scheduled by the St. Marys Community Players at the Town Hall Theatre in St. Marys, Ont., Nov. 1-11 <www.stmaryscommunityplayers.org>.
18610. John Longenbaugh's "Sherlock Holmes & the Case of the Christmas Carol" will be performed at the Rosebud Theatre in Rosebud, Alta, from Nov. 2 to Dec. 23 <www.rosebudtheatre.com>.
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July 2018 #1

18611. The new Baker Street Irregulars web-site is now live, and it's well worth exploring <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com>; there are links to information about the BSI, The Baker Street Journal, the BSI Press, the BSI Trust, and BSI Events, and there's even video encouraging people to subscribe to (and contribute to) the BSI <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/bsj-why-subscribe>. Scott Monty has an interesting blog about the BSI's history on the Internet at <www.tinyurl.com/ybj82f5n>.
18612. Harlan Ellison died on June 28. He was a prolific and sometimes controversial author of science-fiction and fantasy whose work included short stories, novels, comics books, films, and television. In a 1987 lecture he explained that those in search of success must read and re-read only one essential book: the collected Sherlock Holmes stories. It's well worth reading his short story "He Who Grew Up Reading Sherlock Holmes" (dedicated to Ray Bradbury), published in the Subterranean Press magazine (summer 2014) and available on-line at the press's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/yc9zpp2o>.
18613. Further to the item (May 18 #5) about the race horse named Sherlock Holmes, racing in Australia, there's also Sherlock, winner of the Kodlipet Plate at Mysore, India, on June 27 <www.tinyurl.com/ybqgj8v4>.
18614. 221B Capital <www.221bcapital.com> describes itself as an "equity fund running long/short with a low net exposure." Jillian McIntyre, chief investment officer and portfolio manager, told TheStreet on May 3 that short sellers ought to be tasked with sniffing out fraud in any market, and that the firm is named after Sherlock Holmes' address <www.tinyurl.com/ybvjb8kv>.
18615. Big Chief Studios offers a wide range of (expensive) figures of Holmes and Watson and Moriarty (from the "Sherlock" television series); their web-site is at <www.bigchiefstudios.co.uk/e-mailer/sherlock-special-offers>.
18616. Allen Osborne has started work on compiling a data-base that will indicate which of the many Sherlockian societies have Investitures, and what the Investiture process involves, and he would appreciate hearing from anyone who has information to offer <ibish1854@mail.com>.
18617. Herb Moskowitz has written an interesting and nicely illustrated monograph on William Gillette's film "Sherlock Holmes" (1916); it's a 4.33-MB file, available by e-mail from Herb at <herbphilly@aol.com>.
18618. Google Books offers access to their Ngram Viewer, which charts the frequencies of any set of comma-delimited search strings using a yearly count of occurrences in sources printed between 1500 and 2008; there are more than 5 million books in their data base. You can see how it works at their web-site <www.books.google.com/ngrams>, where, as reported by Mark Alberstat, their default sample search offers an interesting choice of names.
18619. "To gnome is to love me" might be the slogan for Garden Fun, which offers a 14" Sherlock Gnomes (\$59.99) <www.gardenfun.com> that will be just as happy in your home as in your garden. Alas: the company doesn't offer an accompanying Watson Gnome. Sammi Mankini Gnome, however, is available (\$39.99).
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July 2018 #2

18620. A Hollywood Reporter story <www.tinyurl.com/y7q9429q> about the new "Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom" discussed earlier dinosaur films, including "The Lost World" (1925), and mentioned "King Kong" (1933), noting that the paper had reported that Radio Pictures and the Los Angeles police department were trying to find two men who had worked as extras on the "Kong" set but had not shown up for their pay checks. "Studio and cops are not worried about the pay checks, but about a machine gun that disappeared."
18621. Henry T. Folsom ("The Golden Pince-Nez") died on May 8. He graduated from Yale University, was president of the Folsom Arms Company, attended Berkeley Divinity School, and in 1957 was ordained, serving as rector of Episcopal churches in New Jersey, Connecticut, and New Hampshire. Intrigued by Canonical chronology, Hank published THROUGH THE YEARS AT BAKER STREET in 1962 and became a Baker Street Irregular in 1965. He won the Morley-Montgomery Award for the best paper in The Baker Street Journal in 1965 (appropriately titled "My Knowledge of the Bible Is a Trifle Rusty..."), received the BSI's Two-Shilling Award in 1986, and for many years presided over The Cornish Horrors in Connecticut.
18622. A story in the Sunday Times (Jan. 17, 2016) began "It has been home to the Doctor Who actor Tom Baker and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, but the East Sussex town of Crowborough is about to welcome its most glamorous resident yet," and went on to describe Highwell House, and its new owner Cate Blanchett; you can see a photograph of the house at <www.tinyurl.com/y9ydzjad>. That led to a lot of publicity, from people who didn't read the Sunday Times all that carefully, saying that Conan Doyle actually lived in the house; as Abraham Lincoln once said, "if it's on the Internet it must be true."
18623. When in Spain: you can visit La Pipa <www.pipaclub.eu>. "This clandestine after-hours jazz club is located in a third-story flat in Barcelona's gothic quarter. The Sherlock Holmes themed watering hole is reached by ringing the correct buzzer and is open well into the early hours, making it perfect for post-club debriefs."
18624. Further to the report (December 17 #5) that the New Forest National Park Authority had rejected a proposal to demolish the Lyndhurst Park Hotel (the campaign to protect the hotel had cited evidence that Conan Doyle had helped design the redevelopment of the building as a hotel in 1912), the Southern Daily Echo reported on July 3 that the developers had filed an appeal, hoping that a government-appointed planning inspector would allow the proposed development <www.tinyurl.com/yb8gdzvv>.
18625. Javier Olivares' striking artwork for EL PERRO DO LOS BASKERVILLE (2011) is on display at his web-site <www.javierolivares.blogspot.com> [click on 2011 and scroll down].
18626. "Hounds of the Bakersfield" is a song originally written by Bill Kirchen as a tribute to Merle Haggard, and Kirchen now plays, tours, and records with a group of the same name. Guitar Player Magazine has said that he's a "titan of the Telecaster," and a Google search for [hounds of the bakersfield] will turn up links to some of his tracks, including "When the Cowboy Sings" (in which he mentions Sherlock Holmes).

July 2018 #3

18627. "Holmes, Sweet Holmes" (a 1968 episode of a Canadian 30-minute television series called "Telescope") presented "a visit with Adrian Conan Doyle" at the Château de Lucens, and it's now nicely available in three parts at YouTube; The first part is at <www.tinyurl.com/hllmqpj>, and links to the other two are at the right. There's a lot of Adrian, and a brief view of him driving his Ferrari 250 SWB. Sotheby's recently had an interesting article <www.tinyurl.com/yd8b8k2l> about a Ferrari 250 GTO that is coming up for auction in August, with an estimate of more than \$45 million. Charles Foley, who lived for a time at the Château, notes that the SWB [short wheel base] wasn't as beautiful as the GTO, but nevertheless was fast enough, with a top speed of 168 mph; Adrian sold his Ferrari in 1967 and bought a Lamborghini Miura, the first mid-engined supercar.
18628. How many actors have played the role of Sherlock Holmes? Almost 4,000, according to the count in the latest version of Howard Ostrom's "A-Z List of Sherlock Holmes Performers" <www.nplh.co.uk/a-z-index.html>, which includes more than 8,000 images of the actors; the index also is available directly from Howard <howardostrom@gmail.com>, and he has compiled many other interesting data-bases, available at <www.nplh.co.uk/original-essays.html>.
18629. Miklós Rózsa, a musician best known for his film scores, is credited with almost a hundred films; tracks from ten of them recorded by the Nuremberg Symphony Orchestra (with Elmer Bernstein conducting) were released in 1987 on a CD ("Miklós Rózsa: Classic Film Music"). The CD has been reissued by Jay Records (\$12.99) <www.jayrecords.com/recording/miklos-rozsa>, and one of the CD tracks is the "English Waltz" from "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970).
18630. The colorful cover photograph of the spring 2018 issue of The Baker Street Journal shows an interesting bust of Sherlock Holmes, apparently created by M. G. Stead, who is cited in De Waal's THE UNIVERSAL SHERLOCK HOLMES for "a poor likeness of the Literary Agent" [C17602] described as a ceramic figure edition from Finesse Studios in Cornwall, and dated 1987. There's an image of the cover of the BSJ at <www.tinyurl.com/y9t3pev4>; does anyone have any information about M. G. Stead, or the busts of Holmes or Conan Doyle?
18631. Jennie Paton notes that "Shivering Sherlocks" (1948) is available at Vimeo <www.tinyurl.com/ycg82c4t>; it's a "Three Stooges" comedy, not Sherlockian except for the title. However there are two films that do have the Three Stooges in Sherlockian costume: "Horses' Collars" (1935) and "We Want Our Mummy" (1939); all three films are available at YouTube.
18632. Ronald B. De Waal ("Lomax, the Sub-Librarian") died on July 3. His career as a humanities librarian and associate professor at Colorado State University led him to consider creating a bibliography, and, inspired by William S. Baring-Gould's article about The Baker Street Irregulars in Esquire in 1966, he chose "Sherlock Holmes" as his subject, launching a project that resulted in three volumes of a massive record of anything and everything related to the Great Detective: THE WORLD BIBLIOGRAPHY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES AND DR. WATSON (1974), celebrated at a "Sherlock Lives!" conference at CSU in 1975, THE INTERNATIONAL SHERLOCK HOLMES (1980), and THE UNIVERSAL SHERLOCK HOLMES (1994). He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1969, and the BSI's Two-Shilling Award in 1984.

July 2018 #4

18633. William Hobbs died on July 10. Born in Britain, he grew up in Australia, where he took up fencing and almost made the country's fencing squad for the Olympics in Melbourne; he also tried acting in repertory theater, and went on to a decades-long career as a fight director and stuntman. He was credited as fight arranger on Gene Wilder's "The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes' Smarter Brother" (1975), and (according to his obituary in the Hollywood Reporter) once said that Wilder was his most promising actor pupil.
18634. Jack Benny had a long career on radio, and was heard as Sherlock Holmes on "The Chevrolet Show" on June 2, 1933 in the second of two episodes of "Who Killed Mr. X?"; you can listen to the show at <www.tinyurl.com/y9tpv7zs>.
18635. Designed by Geeks <www.designedbygeeks.com> offers a variety of Sherlockian SVGs and other merchandise (including an imaginative "Mind Palace Mug"); in case you're wondering about what an SVG is, it's an abbreviation for Scalable Vector Graphics, an image format that's used with computerized sewing machines, electronic cutters, and standard computer printers (their other merchandise doesn't require technology more advanced than credit cards).

18636. Greg Ruby reports that The Numismatic Friends of Sherlock Holmes will hold a dinner meeting during the World's Fair of Money in Philadelphia on Aug. 15, and local (and visiting) Sherlockians are welcome; details are available from Greg <221b@fourthgarrideb.com>, and reservations are requested by Aug. 13.
18637. Sam Hearn's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE DISAPPEARING DIAMOND (New York: Scholastic, 2018; 176 pp., \$12.99) is written for young readers (ages 8-12) and attractively illustrated by the author; young John Watson arrives at Baker Street Academy in London as a new student and finds new friends, including Sherlock Holmes, Mrs. Hudson, and a hound named Baskerville, and of course there's a mystery to be solved. SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE BAKER STREET CURSE will be the next in the series.
18638. Sherlock Holmes and Sigmund Freud worked together in Nicholas Meyer's THE SEVEN-PER-CENT SOLUTION (1974), and now Netflix has announced that it will make its first Austrian drama series "Freud" with the young neurologist in pursuit of a serial killer in Vienna, assisted by a medium named Fleur Salomé and a police detective named Kiss. The series will be made in German, but will be streamed in other countries, presumably dubbed or subtitled.
18639. The seventh season of the CBS-TV series "Elementary" officially began production on July 11, but there's no word so far of how many episodes there will be, or when the season will premiere.
18640. Joel Senter died on July 23. Joel and his wife Carolyn maintained Classic Specialties since the 1980s, selling (and sometimes publishing) a wide variety of Sherlockiana from their web-site, and in 2005 they launched their Sherlockian E-Times, a delightful electronic newsletter. Joel was an enthusiast in the world of old-time radio, and a stalwart member of the Tankerville Club of Cincinnati; in 2000 he was interviewed by Jim Hawkins for the web-site of the Nashville Scholars of the Three Pipe Problem, and it's on-line at <www.nashvillescholars.net/cjsenterbio.html>.
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July 2018 #5

18641. The N.Y. Book Review has an interesting podcast, and a recent program ("True Crime Starring the Creator of Sherlock Holmes") presented Margalit Fox talking about her new book CONAN DOYLE FOR THE DEFENSE (May 18 #5) <www.tinyurl.com/yalmtwkd>. An earlier podcast ("From Brooklyn to the Gulag") included Michael Sims discussing his biography ARTHUR AND SHERLOCK: CONAN DOYLE AND THE CREATION OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (March 17 #5) <www.tinyurl.com/y984ku48>.
18642. Kim Newman's PROFESSOR MORIARTY: THE HOUND OF THE D'URBERVILLES (December 11 #2) has been optioned for television by Playground Entertainment, Lenny Picker reports. According to Deadline Hollywood (July 23), Newman announced that the book is in development as a long-form (mini-series) TV project; Playground has produced series that include "Wolf Hall" (2015), "Howards End" (2017), and "Little Women" (2017). Newman's book offers seven stories told by Col. Moran about his association with Prof. Moriarty.
18643. Cliff Goldfarb has kindly reported Gray Basnight's article "A Brief History of Cryptography in Crime Fiction" <www.tinyurl.com/ybp3f34m>; it's an interesting discussion of "Biblical codes, Holmesian ciphers, and Poe's Encryptions." The article appeared on Crime Reads <www.crimereads.com>, an intriguing web-site that has many other posts of interest; you can search for [sherlock] and [conan doyle] to see much more.
18644. Alexander Orlov has noted a "Detective Sherlock Holmes: Hidden Object Game" from CrispApp <www.tinyurl.com/y9q4oqsu>, available (free) at the Microsoft store; you can download and play it in Russian and English. The artwork on the opening screen is Sherlockian; there may be more Sherlockian content to be discovered by those who are willing to play through it all. There are other Sherlock Holmes games available at the Microsoft store, as well as 40 apps; search for [sherlock holmes].
18645. Swinhay House (the home of Charles Augustus Magnussen in the finale of the third series of "Sherlock"), will be open to the public for the first time ever, for just one day, on Sept. 16 <www.tinyurl.com/yd7yrmve>. The home of Sir David McMurtry, who has made the house available as part of Heritage Open Days this year, is in North Nibley in Gloucestershire.
18646. John B. Koelle ("The Sussex Vampire") died on Apr. 25. Jack graduated from Swarthmore College and served in the U.S. Air Force; he retired in 1958 and worked as an electric engineer for many years. He enjoyed classical music, and diving and underwater photography, and was warm and welcoming to Sherlockians, Jack received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1965, and its Two-Shilling Award in 1986. He was a long-time member of the Sons of the Copper Beeches, serving as the society's Head Mastiff from 1971 to 1984, and always was glad to report that the Sons were alive and drinking in Philadelphia.
18647. Angela Misri's NO MATTER HOW IMPROBABLE (Fierce Ink, 2016; 243 pp., \$16.99) is the third in a series about the adventures of Portia Adams, who has discovered that she's the granddaughter of both Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson, and that her mysterious guardian and advisor is Irene Adler; Portia is pursuing her own career as a consulting detective in London. The author's web-site is at <www.aportiaadamsadventure.com>.
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July 2018 #6

18648. Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is being performed at the Powerhouse in New Canaan, Conn., through Aug. 11 <www.tpsc.org>, the Peninsula Theatre in Woy Woy, N.S.W., until Aug. 12 <www.woywoylt.com>, and at the Kalamazoo Civic Theatre in Kalamazoo, Mich., through Aug. 20 <www.kazoocivic.com>. The play also is due at the Fallon House Theatre in Columbia, Calif., Aug. 31-Sept. 30 <www.sierrarep.org>; at the Bay Area Harbour Playhouse in Dickinson, Tex., Oct. 12 through Nov. 4 <www.harbourtheatre.com>; and the Seacoast Repertory Theatre in Portsmouth, N.H., Oct. 18-28 <www.seacoastrep.org>.
18649. Victoria Hudson-Muir's new "The Dark Discovery of Sherlock Holmes" is being performed at the Bell Homestead National Historic Site, in Brantford, Ont., through Aug. 11 <www.branttheatre.com>.
18650. "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (by R. Hamilton Wright and David Pichette) is being performed at the Anacortes Community Theatre in Anacortes, Wash., through Aug. 18 <www.acttheatre.com>.
18651. Robert Brock's marionette production "The Death & Life of Sherlock Holmes" is running at Lancaster Marionette Theatre in Lancaster, Pa., through Nov. 17 <www.lancastermarionette.org>.
18652. "The Empty Glass: Sherlock Holmes Comes to Dover" will be performed at the Biggs Museum of American Art in Dover, Del., on Aug. 18; the web-site's at <www.tinyurl.com/y7hyf434>.
18653. David Elendune's new play "Sherlock Holmes and the Curse of Moriarty!" will be performed at the Langham Court Theatre in Victoria, B.C., Aug. 23-Sept. 1, during the Victoria Fringe <www.tinyurl.com/y7yk2fnf>.
18654. The Blackeyed Theatre will be touring Nick Lane's new dramatization "Sherlock Holmes: The Sign of Four" in Britain, Sept. 10-Apr. 6; the schedule is at <www.blackeyedtheatre.co.uk>.
18655. Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" is scheduled at the Lancaster Playhouse in White Stone, Va., Sept. 14-29; their web-site's at <www.lancasterplayers.org>.
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18656. Jeffrey Hatcher's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club" is due at the Long Beach Playhouse in Long Beach, Calif., Sept. 22-Oct. 20 <www.lbplayhouse.org>.
18657. "Sherlock Holmes: The Baker Street Irregulars" (written by Eric Coble and based on the graphic novels by Tony Lee and Dan Boulton), has been scheduled at the Valley Center Stage in North Bend, Wash., Oct. 12-27; web-site at <www.valleycenterstage.org>.
18658. "Das Sherlock Musical" is a German/British production that will premiere at the Urania Theater in Cologne on Nov. 7 <www.thesherlockmusical.com>, and then tour in Germany and Britain.
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August 2018 #1

18659. A hitherto unrecorded page from the manuscript of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" has turned up, from Chapter XIII, where Holmes is giving instructions to Sir Henry. It's in the hands of a private owner, and is for sale; details are available at item H37 in Randall Stock's census at his "Best of Sherlock" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/y9c5evqa>.
18660. Conan Doyle's Colt .38 semi-automatic pistol will be offered at auction on Sept. 20 at Holts Auctioneers in the U.K., estimated at £4,000-£6,000. It has an interesting provenance: first owned by Conan Doyle's brother Innes, it likely came to Conan Doyle from Innes' widow Clara, and was one of two pistols placed in his London solicitors' safe deposit box in 1921, when the Firearms Act first became law, and apparently forgo ten after he died. Details will be found at <www.tinyurl.com/y9o9kkoy>.
18661. Bob Terry, who has been collecting Sherlockiana and Doyleana for decades, is selling some of his treasures at Heritage Auctions on Sept. 13, including a complete run of the Sherlock Holmes stories in single issues of The Strand Magazine, a delightful copy of Lippincott's Monthly Magazine (with "The Sign of the Four"), and much more; go to <www.ha.com> and search for "bob terry" (in quotes).
18662. "The Great American Read" is an eight-part series launched by PBS-TV in May <www.tinyurl.com/yd6or5l3>, based on their list of America's 100 best-loved novels; viewers will be able to vote on their favorites (the grand finale is to air in October); THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES did not make the list, but Mark Haddon's THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME did.
18663. Howard Ostrom has noted an interesting article at the culturebox web-site <www.tinyurl.com/ycrcyq4p> about an exhibition at the Cheverny chateau in Loir-et-Cher in France, where you can see full-size figures of Scooby-Doo, Hercule Poirot, John Steed, Colombo, and Sherlock Holmes, all created with Legos; the article's in French, with a colorful image showing Holmes.
18664. Planning ahead: the Sherlockian birthday festivities in New York will be on Jan. 9-13, with The Baker Street Irregulars' annual dinner on Jan. 11; the annual dinner of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London will be on Jan. 19.
18665. "Harrods is celebrating rarity in all its guises via a curated list of Rare Finds," the store announced this month, one of the rare finds being an Arthur Conan Doyle Goyard Trunk <www.tinyurl.com/y7e875u4>, one of only seven ever made (one of which has been lost); two of the trunks are owned by Goyard, and one of those was exhibited in New York two years ago (November 16 #5). This one, from a private collection, seems to have been sold (the price was £96,000); no one seems to know which of the seven trunks was the one that was commissioned by Conan Doyle.
18666. Phillip Bergem has updated his two extensive checklists of Sherlockian and Doylean films and television programs, annotated for date, country, actors who played Holmes and Watson (or Conan Doyle), production company, and alternate titles; they're available by e-mail from Phil <pgbergem@gmail.com>, and at Willis Frick's "Sherlocktron" <www.sherlocktron.com>.
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August 2018 #2

18667. "I'll play Sherlock Holmes the detective," George Robey sang in the second verse of "Bang Went the Chance of a Lifetime" (which he wrote with Sax Rohmer in 1908); Robey was known as one of the greatest music-hall performers, and Rohmer certainly is best known as the creator of Dr. Fu Manchu. Howard Ostrom has reported that you can hear Robey perform the song at <www.tinyurl.com/y7mfvtpz>; it will be helpful if you also have a print-out of the lyrics, available at <www.tinyurl.com/yaw2jy7c>. Robey earlier played Sherlock Holmes in a revue at the Tivoli in London in 1902.
18668. For the completists: there was a British movie tie-in edition of Mitch Cullin's A SLIGHT TRICK OF THE MIND (April 05 #6) published by Canongate in 2015 as MR. HOLMES, with a movie-poster cover showing Ian McKellan as the Great Detective (£7.99).
18669. THE GRAND GAME: A CELEBRATION OF SHERLOCKIAN SCHOLARSHIP: VOLUME ONE: 1902- 1959, edited by Laurie R. King and Leslie S. Klinger, published in 2011 and long out-of-print, has been reissued the Baker Street Irregulars Press as a trade paperback <www.tinyurl.com/yavarpbp>. The late Bernard Davies once wrote, "How wonderful to discover that, even if you are slightly mad, you are not alone," and the book demonstrates well just how interesting it can be to play the Grand Game (the web-site offers a look at the table of contents). Recommended.
18670. Jim Hawkins has launched a Facebook page for the friends of the late John Bennett Shaw; it's intended to be an on-line gathering place where friends can share memories and tell stories about him <www.tinyurl.com/y9bzq38x>.
18671. Philip K. Jones died on June 13. He worked for many years in information technology, and when he retired he devoted his attention to a comprehensive data base of Sherlockian pastiches, parodies, and related fiction, winding up with more than 11,000 entries; it is far more than merely a list of authors and titles: an excellent (some might say frightening) demonstration of how popular Sherlock Holmes is. An earlier version (with 9,531 entries) is available on-line at <www.ash-tree.bc.ca/Sherlock.htm>, along with his 2012 paper "The Untold Tales--Analyzed".
18672. Dermot McEvoy's article on "How Two Literary Legends Tried to Save Sir Roger Casement from the Gallows" <www.tinyurl.com/yb8o48h3> is an interesting exploration of the unsuccessful efforts of George Bernard Shaw and Arthur Conan Doyle to win a reprieve for Casement.
18673. The Postal Service has issued a stamp honoring Scooby-Doo, who first appeared in a Hanna-Barbera television series on CBS-TV in 1969 and still is going strong, on stage and screen as well as on television. Greg Ruby posted a colorfully-illustrated discussion of "Sherlock Holmes and Scooby-Doo" at the Fourth Garrideb web-site in 2016 <www.tinyurl.com/y9fsnxv9>.
18674. Further to the item on the Google Books Ngram Viewer (July 18 #1) Scott Monty sent a reminder that Cory Howell reported in detail on "Sherlock Holmes vs. Tarzan--by the Numbers" at the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" web-site in 2016 <www.tinyurl.com/ybjtzd6>.
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August 2018 #3

18675. The 2018 Irene Adler Prize has been awarded to Lynette Curtis for her essay "Letters to Las Vegas". The prize is a \$1,000 scholarship for a woman pursuing a degree in journalism, creative writing, or literature, established by Lucas Aykroyd, an award-winning public speaker and writer in Vancouver, B.C.; it is indeed named for the heroine of "A Scandal in Bohemia", and you can learn more about the prize, and read the winning essay at <www.lucasaykroyd.com/scholarships>.
18676. Sheldon Comics is an on-line strip created by Dave Kellett, and you can see his colorful (and amusing) "Anatomy of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle" at his web-site <www.sheldoncomics.com/archive/180730.html>; kindly noted by Alexander Orlov.
18677. From 1978 to 1991 the U.S. Postal Service issued a series of stamps honoring the "Performing Arts" designed by Jim Sharpe; four of the stamps showed Will Rogers, W. C. Fields, Douglas Fairbanks, and the three Barrymores, all of whom had Sherlockian or Doylean connections. Sharpe's
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artwork for two of the (other) stamp designs, mounted with copies of the stamps in the series, is available from Taraba Illustration Art for a modest \$275 shipping extra) and you can request an image from <fred@tarabaillustrationart.com>.

18678. In 1979 the late Norman Schatell proposed that William Gillette be included in the series. As you can see at <www.tinyurl.com/ya5zrhux>, many of the stamps in the series showed the artists in performance, and a stamp honoring Gillette surely would have showed him as Sherlock Holmes, which would have been the only U.S. postage showing commemorating the Great Detective. Evy Herzog has reported an amusing and colorful "Sherlock Bones and Doctor Pupson" T-shirt designed by Mike Tanoory and available (\$25.00) from John Wye's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/y8bmjot2>; Bones is a chihuahua, and Pupson is a French bulldog.
18679. "Arthur Conan Doyle was a doctor himself before becoming a writer. Talked about the lessons you learn as a doctor: discipline, confidence, and being able to be decisive. And all of that is indispensable. The last thing I got from him is a very deep understanding of science and also an appreciation of empirical evidence." Charles Krauthammer in "Charles Krauthammer: His Words" (a one-hour tribute on Fox News on June 22). You can watch the program at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=C8w50oISck8>.
18680. Steve Mason has issued a call for nominations for the Beacon Award, given annually by The Beacon Society to someone who has "made a significant contribution to exposing young people to the stories of Sherlock Holmes." The deadline for nominations is Nov. 15, and details are available at the society's web-site <www.beaconsociety.com>.
18681. Penn & Teller are among the best magicians performing today, and they have a great television series ("Penn & Teller: Fool Us" on The CW); you can see Shawn Farquhar fool them for the second time with a Sherlockian magic trick at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=E64Z1jRn4E> (with thanks to Howard Ostrom for his report). Colin McLeod, who's often described as the Sherlock Holmes of mentalism also appeared on the show (but did not fool Penn & Teller); you can see him perform at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=OnMPnNav_WE>.

August 2018 #4

18682. "The Daintiest Scream on the Moor Charity Ball" was one of many events during the birthday festivities in New York last January, and you can read (almost) all about it in Maria Fleishhack's report in the spring issue of The Baker Street Journal; one of the highlights was the appearance of the Sherlock Holmes Cake created for the television reality series "Cake Boss", and there's video at <www.tinyurl.com/y739ullg>. There also is the Baker Street Babes' podcast, where they talk about the ball and the cake and other things <www.tinyurl.com/yabudnnt>.
18683. Nero Wolfe was not the only son of Sherlock Holmes, according to Yuichi Hirayama, who has written THE REMINISCENCES OF KOGORO AKECHI, a biography of the detective created by Edogawa Rampo in 1925; Akechi was a brilliant but eccentric detective who consulted with the police and was a master of disguise and an expert at judo, and relied on a group of young boys to gather information.
18684. MYCROFT AND SHERLOCK is the second in the series written by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Anna Waterhouse, due from Titan Books in October; Bill Seil reports that there's publicity, a Sherlockian photograph of Abdul-Jabbar, and an extract from the book at <www.tinyurl.com/y7n3ddf>.
18685. Paramount's "Sherlock Gnomes" has a lifetime gross of more than \$89 million worldwide (according to the Box Office Mojo web-site), far behind "Gnomeo and Juliet" (more than \$193 million worldwide). The numbers don't include revenue from television, DVDs, and tie-in merchandise, which of course can be significant. And there's lots of tie-in merchandise, including a 141- page movie novelization by Mary Tillworth that seems to have been based on an early version of the script, and A. E. Dingee's SHERLOCK GNOMES ON THE CASE, which comes with a handy decoder (\$5.99) (both from Simon Spotlight).
18686. The fifth season of "The Flash" will debut on the CW channel on Oct. 9 with Tom Cavanagh as a new character Sherloque Wells; Nick Venable suggested on Cinema Blend <www.tinyurl.com/yagnoxao> that the character may be a nod to Sherlock Holmes, or perhaps Sherlock Hemlock.
18687. John Allen's SHADOW WOMAN: THE CREATOR OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Long Beach: Allen & Allen Semiotics, 2017; 302 pp., \$19.95) suggests that much of Conan Doyle's literary work was not in fact written by him, and that most of the Canon was written by Louise Conan Doyle and Jean Conan Doyle; Allen offers evidence from stylometric analysis, the Canon's literary allusions, and a detailed examination of the manuscript of "A Scandal in Bohemia", and does not neglect Conan Doyle's non-Sherlockian work. Allen's research involved scholarship by Sherlockians, and others, and he displays an ability to discover allusions, make connections and draw conclusions that rivals what Sam Rosenberg achieved in NAKED IS THE BEST DISGUISE more than 40 years ago.
18688. He also has written BRIMSTONE (Long Beach: Allen & Allen Semiotics, 2018; 223 pp., \$9.99); it's billed as the first in a series of Louise Conan Doyle mysteries, but features Louise Hawkins and is set in 1879 (well before she met her future husband). The book's well plotted and well written, and has interesting supporting characters; careful readers will note foreshadowing of the Canon. The author has a "Louise Conan Doyle Cyclopeda" web-site at <www.louiseconandoyle.com>, where he has been blogging since June 2017.

August 2018 #5

18689. Joanna Blalock stars in A STUDY IN TREASON (New York: Minotaur, 2018; 299 pp., \$26.99), the second in Leonard Goldberg's series about the daughter of Sherlock Holmes, who once again is working with Dr. John H. Watson and his son Dr. John H. Watson Jr. in 1914, searching for a missing document and encountering a vicious killer (Joanne has learned much from her father). The author has a web-site at <www.leonardgoldberg.com>. Sorry about that: the correct URL for Jim Hawkins' interview with the late Joel Senter (July 18 #4) is <www.nashvillescholars.net/jcsenterbio.html>.
18690. Much has been written about Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's encounters with Harry Houdini, and while Conan Doyle is mentioned only in passing in Derek Tait's THE GREAT HOUDINI: HIS BRITISH TOURS (Barnsley: Pen & Sword History, 2017; 296 pp., \$39.95), the book offers a carefully-researched and enjoyable look at Houdini's appearances in Britain, where he performed in vaudeville theaters at the top of bills that included many other entertainers (audiences definitely got their money's worth in those long-ago days).
18691. "How It Should Have Ended" is a 15-minute animated web-series streamed by Starz Digital Media; their 3-minute alternate ending for "Sherlock Holmes: Game of Shadows" premiered on Feb. 16, 2012, and it's available on-line at <www.howitshouldhaveended.com/?s=sherlock>, in case you don't want to wait until the third Robert Downey Jr. film arrives in theaters.
18692. The "Baker Street Sonata" will be a performance by the Mother Lode Friends of Music at Baker Street West in Jackson, Calif., on Nov. 10 and 11; more information at <www.bakerstreetwest.com>.
18693. "The John Batchelor Show" was launched on WABC-AM in New York in 2001, and is still going strong, and there's a web-site www.johnbatchelorshow.com where you can listen to his podcasts, including a two-part interview with Michael Dirda (uploaded on Aug. 12) about Conan Doyle, and Holmes, and The Baker Irregulars.
18694. Alexander Orlov has reported that there's a "Baker Street" residential complex in the Dzerzhinsky district of Volgograd. There's a web-site (with an amusing video) at <www.bs34.ru/kompleks/o-komplekse>, and more information to be found at <www.bs34.ru/kompleks/novosti/novosti-17-09-

2014-07>; it's all in Russian, and (as always) Google Translate can be helpful. Buildings in the complex are named Sherlock, Watson, Big Ben, and Hudson House.

18695. Edward C. Rochette died on Jan. 18. He was a professional numismatist, as a cartoonist and editor and then an executive with the American Numismatic Association. Ed also was an energetic Sherlockian, and a member of three Sherlockian societies in Colorado, and for many years he presided over the mail-order company Sherlock, Stock & Barrel.
18696. Michael A. Ventrella and Jonathan Mabery have edited *BAKER STREET IRREGULARS: THE GAME IS AFOOT* (New York: Diversion Books, 2018; 257 pp., \$15.99); it's a sequel to their *BAKER STREET IRREGULARS: THIRTEEN AUTHORS WITH NEW TAKES ON SHERLOCK HOLMES* (February 17 #5) and offers thirteen more versions of Holmes (among them a home security system, a rabbi, a female librarian in ancient Egypt, and Santa Claus).
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August 2018 #6

18697. Further to the earlier report (January 18 #7) that items from the Daniel Posnansky Collection are turning up at eBay from people who bought large lots at the auction, Lewis Durbin (lewidurbi0) is offering a nicely bound volume of Chambers's Journal (1879) for \$649.50; "The Mystery of Sasassa Valley" (Conan Doyle's first published story) appeared in the magazine on Sept. 6, 1879 <www.tinyurl.com/y96jg25z> (when the author was only 20 years old).
18698. The No Frills Silver Blaze was run at Monmouth Park in Oceanport, N.J. on Aug. 18, arranged by The Turf Builders of Baker Street, and Kate Karlson suggests that the winner had the most appropriate name in any runnings of The Silver Blaze anywhere, ever <www.tinyurl.com/y869pblr>. Sherlockians (and others) who were wise enough to bet on the winner made a bit of money: the payout was \$4.80/\$2.60/\$2.20.
18699. At least it's not a musical: "King Kong Alive on Broadway" will open this fall, using animatronics and puppetry in a 21st-century reimagining of the story of "a 2,000-pound, 20-foot high gorilla and the woman who risks everything to help him" <www.kingkongbroadway.com>. Nor is it Sherlockian, apparently, but nevertheless the mind boggles.
18700. Further to the report (May 17 #4) about Sherlockian.Net having found a new home at Michigan State University, there has been a formal (and nicely illustrated) announcement on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/y87cvakj>.
18701. Les Moskowitz has noted a story in the Philadelphia Inquirer that reports that the historic Carbon County Jail in Jim Thorpe, Penn., is for sale; the asking price is \$749,000 <www.tinyurl.com/yd8naz4v>. Sherlockians visited the jail in 2004 during the first of the Baker Street Irregulars' weekend excursions (it's where the Mollie Maguires were hanged), and if you buy it you also acquire the gallows and a ghost. Les also reports that there's an interesting podcast about the Mollies at <www.tinyurl.com/yb8g2xpd>.
18702. "Professor Quiz" (radio's first quiz show) launched on CBS on May 9, 1936, and "Uncle Jim's Question Bee" was the second, premiering on NBC on Sept. 26, 1936; both programs had the same sponsor, the company that in 1930 had begun a long running series that starred William Gillette, Richard Gordon, and Louis Hector, all of whom played Sherlock Holmes. That series ended on May 26, 1935; it's likely that G. Washington Coffee decided in 1935 that a quiz show would be more popular with listeners than Sherlock Holmes. So (spoiler alert): the appropriately-named winner of the No Frills Silver Blaze at Monmouth Park was named (in case you didn't bother to click on the link) Faster N Blazes.
18703. The summer issue of The Baker Street Journal at hand, with scholarship and news and artwork, some of the artwork being a nice reminder of the humor of the late Norman Schatell. Editor Steve Rothman reports on Les Klinger's recent (and successful) battle with the Conan Doyle Estate Limited over its application for a trademark on Sherlock Holmes for use in books, short stories, and magazines in the field of detective fiction; there's still time to purchase a subscription for this year's five issues of the BSJ, available at <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com>.
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August 2018 #7

18704. Derrick Belanger's *SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE ADVENTURE OF THE PRIMAL MAN* (Manchester: Belanger Books, 2016; 167 pp., \$9.95) involves Holmes and Watson, and Holmes' cousin Prof. Ellington Dynamo (who is a dead ringer for Prof. George Edward Challenger) investigating a possible yeti, bought to London from Tibet in a block of ice; there's also an account of the first case Holmes solved, as a young student. The publisher's web-site is at <www.belangerbooks.com>.
18705. Also from Belanger: David Marcum's *HOLMES AWAY FROM HOME: ADVENTURES FROM THE GREAT HIATUS, VOLUME ONE (1891-1892) and VOLUME TWO (1893-1894)* (2016; 279/305 pp., \$19.95 each) are collections of pastiches recounting Holmes' adventures between "The Final Problem" and "The Empty House" (he had many adventures, in many countries).
18706. Barry S Brown's *MRS. HUDSON'S OLYMPIC TRIUMPH* (London: MX Publishing, 2017; 245 pp., \$16.95 the fifth in his "Mrs. Hudson of Baker Street" series, and he continues his amusing approach to the Canon: Mrs. Hudson does the real detecting, with assistance from Holmes and Watson, this time in a case that takes them all to Greece for the 1896 Olympics (in which Holmes competes), and of course they solve a mystery on behalf of Her Majesty's government. The author's web-site is at <www.barrysbrown.com> and MX Publishing sells all of its books at <www.sherlockholmesbooks.com>.
18707. Also from MX: Marcia Wilson's *THE PEACEFUL NIGHT POISONINGS*, 2017; 270 pp., \$14.95) is the second title in her "Test of the Professionals" series; the first was *THE ADVENTURE OF THE FLYING BLUE PIGEON*, with *LEAP YEAR* being the third). The books focus on the professionals (Lestrade, Gregson, and Bradstreet), and their work with Holmes and Watson, and the well-written story offers an interesting look at a world as seen by the Scotland Yarders.
18708. More from MX: Thos. Kent Miller's *SHERLOCK HOLMES ON THE ROOF OF THE WORLD* was a 75-page booklet published in 1991 (October 91 #4); revised and expanded, it was published in three volumes in 2017 as *HOLMES BEHIND THE VEIL: SHERLOCK HOLMES ON THE ROOF OF THE WORLD* (116 pp., \$9.95); *THE GREAT DETECTIVE AT THE CRUCIBLE OF LIFE* (414 pp., \$18.95), and *THE SUSSEX BEEKEEPER AT THE DAWN OF TIME* (387 pp., \$18.95). Miller focuses on books written by H. Rider Haggard and the characters he created (chiefly Leo Vincey about Tibet, and Alan Quatermain about East and West Africa), with many more from books written by Rudyard Kipling and Jules Verne and others, as well as from both legend and history, past and present.
18709. Still more from MX: Allan Mitchell's *SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE GHOST OF GLASTONBURY* (2017; 330 pp., \$16.95) has Holmes and Watson in Somerset, a region that Holmes knew well as a youth, with a mystery that involves a detailed ancient history of the area. John Sutton's *UPON A NATION'S HONOUR* (2018; 204 pp., \$16.95) has Holmes and Watson working hard to foil Germany's sinister plot to steal a top-secret weapon from the new HMS Dreadnaught (the weapon would provide Germany with a fearsome advantage in the coming World War).
18710. "Holmes and Watson" (starring Will Ferrell and John C. Reilly) is scheduled to open wide in theaters on Dec. 21, and there's an amusing poster, spotted by Herb Moskowitz, at <www.tinyurl.com/y7x7jbs3>.
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August 2018 #8

18711. Jeffrey Hatcher's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club" is running at the Maplewood Barn Community Theatre in Columbia, Mo., until Sept. 9 <www.maplewoodbarn.com>. It will also be performed at the Long Beach Playhouse in Long Beach, Calif., Sept. 22-Oct. 20 <www.lbplayhouse.org>.
18712. Ray Crew's "Sherlock Holmes and the Avenging Angels" (not a dramatization of "A Study in Scarlet") is on at the Elementary Theater in Cape May, N.J., through Sept. 29 <www.centerforcommunityarts.org>.
18713. Robert Brock's two-act puppet play "The Death and Life of Sherlock Holmes" is running at the Lancaster Puppet Theatre in Lancaster, Pa., through Nov. 17 <www.lmtyapsody.com>.
18714. Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is due at the Century Church Theatre in Hillsburgh, Ont., Sept. 7-16 <www.tinyurl.com/ybbcm6c>; it also will be performed at the Riverbank Theatre in Marine City, Mich., Sept. 7-30 <www.riverbanktheatre.com>.
18715. John Goodrum's dramatization of "The Nightmare Room" will be performed at the Pomegranate Theatre in Chesterfield, Derbyshire, Sept. 13-15; web-site at <www.chesterfieldtheatres.co.uk>.
18716. Christopher Cutting's "The Accidental Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" is due at the Lansdown Hall & Gallery in Stroud, Gloucestershire, Sept. 14-16; and at the Bread and Roses Theatre in Clapham, London, Oct. 6-7; the web-site's at <www.tobaccoteatheatrecompany.co.uk>.
18717. Hellan Salfas' "Sherlock Holmes i el Destripador" is scheduled (in Catalan) at the Teatre Apolo in Barcelona, Sept. 21-Oct. 7 <www.teatreapolo.com>.
18718. John de Lancie and Nat Segaloff's dramatization of "The Lost World" will be performed at the Winnepesaukee Playhouse in Meredith, N.H., Sept. 28-29, as part of a "Radio Drama Double Feature" <www.winnepesaukeeplayhouse.org>. Dennis Rosa's "Sherlock Holmes and the Curse of the Sign of the Four" will be performed at the Crescent Theatre in Birmingham, West Midlands, Oct. 4-6 <www.crescenttheatre.co.uk>.
18719. "The Improvised Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" is scheduled by the Synergy Theater at the Leshner Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek, Calif., Oct. 18-21 <www.lesherartsceter.com>.
18720. Andy Suess' "Sherlock Holmes und der Diebstahl der Quadriga" (a radio play performed by actors and puppets) will be performed at Das Weite Theater in Berlin, Oct. 12 and 13 <www.das-weite-theater.de>.
18721. Thomas Moore's dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is due at the Lowry in Salford on Oct. 28, and at the Drayton Arms Theatre in London on Dec. 11-Jan. 12, 2019 <www.thehoundofthebaskervilles.co.uk>.

September 2018 #1

18722. Apologies for being a bit late with this issue, my excuse being a trip to the land of the "dubhgall" (which translates to "dark foreigner"). That's Ireland, and the presence of the name in the historical records of the 8th and 9th centuries, when the Vikings arrived in Ireland, suggests that the descendants of that dark foreigner are those known today as Doyle (one recalls, of course, that there's a photograph of Conan Doyle in costume as a Viking).
18723. Arthur Conan Doyle's visit to Berlin in 1890 to investigate Robert Koch's widely hailed cure for tuberculosis is briefly discussed in biographies of Conan Doyle (he concluded that Koch's treatment was not, in fact, a cure, and published an article explaining why). Thomas Goetz's THE REMEDY: ROBERT KOCH, ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE, AND THE QUEST TO CURE TUBERCULOSIS (New York: Gotham Books, 2014; 298 pp., \$27.00) offers a detailed account of how great a scourge the disease was at the time, and informative biographies of the two doctors.
18724. The McClelland Tobacco Company has closed, after 40 years of selling pipe tobaccos from high grade leaf and strip tobacco that's no longer available; "we might have limped along with lesser leaf," the owners said, "but nobody would have been happy with the resulting products, and we would have been ashamed of them." Larry Wagner wrote about the company's history in an article in Tobacconist in May <www.tinyurl.com/y9dt3aya>, but doesn't mention their "221B Series" that featured Black Shag, Arcadia, and Honeydew, prized by Sherlockian pipe-smokers (and others who were happy to collect the handsome tins).
18725. Alexander Orlov has noted a Sherlock Holmes Pub in Kharkov, in the Ukraine (without a web-site, but it's reviewed at TripAdvisor on-line). The fact that there are so many Sherlock Holmes Pubs around the world demonstrates his popularity.
18726. The late Raymond Smullyan, author of THE CHESS MYSTERIES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1979) and many other books, has been credited as having created "the hardest logic puzzle ever." If you would like to try your hand at it, you can find it at Wikipedia <www.tinyurl.com/prux6yo>. But (spoiler alert): don't scroll down too far, because Wikipedia also gives the solution (which you may find as difficult as the puzzle).
18727. "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" was a two-hour special broadcast by CBS-TV on Jan. 10, 1987, starring Michael Pennington (Sherlock Holmes) and Margaret Colin (Jane Watson); Jennie Paton has found it conveniently available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/y8wcm94k>.
18728. Many will have seen at least one performance of Matthew Lang's one-act play "Sherlock's Last Case" or Charles Marowitz's two-act play "Sherlock's Last Case" (which was Marowitz's expanded version of the play he wrote as Matthew Lang). There's some interesting discussion of the play in his BURNT BRIDGES (London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1990); the sub-title of the book is "a souvenir of the swinging sixties and beyond," and he tells grand stories about his early theatrical career in London and elsewhere.

September 2018 #2

18729. It's always fun to realize that my local library is housed in three buildings on Capitol Hill. The Library of Congress has all sorts of resources, including a well-staffed reference desk, where for more than 30 years you could find Thomas Mann, who knew just where all the bodies were buried. Tom is now retired, and has found time to write DOC AT THE REFERENCE DESK (Washington: Alexandrina Press, 2017; 77 pp., \$7.00), a collection of "small stories in a large library" that gives one an idea of some of the strange things that can happen at a reference desk. Non-Sherlockian (but obviously written by a Sherlockian), and great fun for anyone who likes real libraries.
18730. The Royal Mail has issued a set of eight stamps honoring the 200th anniversary of the Old Vic in London, and three of the stamps show actors who have had six Sherlockian roles (none of them at the Old Vic): Sir Ralph Richardson and Sir John Gielgud, Sir Laurence Olivier, and Dame Judi Dench. Try your hand at naming the six roles without looking them up (answers will be on the next page).
18731. Craig Sodaro is a prolific playwright for younger performers, and Pioneer Drama Service <www.pioneerdrama.com> has published many of his plays (and plays by other authors); you can search at their web-site for [sherlock holmes] and (for one additional play) [conan doyle].
18732. You can see a poster for "Detective Chimp and the Case of the Missing Mustache" (a film that exists only as a poster) in the trailer for "Teen Titans Go! to the Movies" (2018), and likely in the film itself. There's a brief glimpse of the poster (at 26 seconds) in the trailer <www.tinyurl.com/y8z428kj>.

18733. "If you could attenuate to every strand of quivering data, the future would be entirely calculable," is attributed to Sherlock Holmes in an article by Max Loh in Seeking Alpha on Aug. 20 <www.tinyurl.com/y9aspmol>. So: where and when did Sherlock Holmes say that? Not in the Canon, so don't bother searching there.
18734. Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine, which for many years has published Sherlockiana in its February issue, nicely timed to coincide with the birthday festivities in New York, has a web-site <www.tinyurl.com/yaemcfc> that's well worth exploring. There's audio and video from the symposium at Columbia University in 2016 that celebrated the 75th anniversary of EQMM, Arthur Vidro's web-only account of the history of the magazine's first issue, Dean Jobb's "Stranger Than Fiction" report on "We Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" (Feb. 2018), and much more.
18735. George Mann's THE IMMORALITY ENGINE (New York: Tor/Tom Doherty, 2011; 347 pp., \$33.87) is the third in his series about Sir Maurice Newbury and Victoria Hobbes; the first was THE AFFINITY BRIDGE (2009), the second THE OSIRIS RITUAL (2010), and the fourth THE EXECUTIONER'S HEART (2013). The series, set in a steampunk Victorian London, with interesting characters, is not Sherlockian, but nicely done. Mann has written some good Sherlockian pastiches, and has a web-site at <www.george-mann.com>.
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September 2018 #3

18736. About those four actors: Richardson and Gielgud played Holmes and Watson in "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" on BBC Radio (1954); Olivier was Prof. Moriarty in "The Seven-Per-Cent Solution" (1976); Dench was Sally in "A Study in Terror" (1965), and was heard as Mrs. Hudson in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" on BBC Radio (1998), and Gielgud played Lord Salisbury in "Murder by Decree" (1979).
18737. Why did Rex Stout decide that Nero Wolfe would live on West 35th Street in New York? John J. McAleer, who wrote a delightful and definitive biography of Stout, reported in 1979 that Stout explained that West 35th Street was where William Gillette's Holmes "received his first acclaim" at the Garrick Theatre.
18738. CLASSIC AMERICAN CRIME FICTION OF THE 1920S (New York: Pegasus Crime, 2018; 1,152 pp., \$39.95), annotated by Leslie S. Klinger and with a Foreword by Otto Penzler, is an interesting addition to the wide variety of literature that Les has annotated; the book contains five novels by Earl Derr Biggers, S. S. Van Dine, Ellery Queen, Dashiell Hammett, and W. R. Burnett, from a decade in which American crime writing was reborn (and a decade that is far enough in the past that annotations are helpful indeed). Four of the authors likely will be familiar; Burnett wrote LITTLE CAESAR, today best known as the source of the 1931 movie that starred Edward G. Robinson, and it's a treat to see what Rico was like on the printed page.
18739. The U.S. Postal Service has issued a colorful set of four postage stamps showing dragons, one of them being a green dragon and thus Sherlockian; dragons are mentioned in three of the Sherlock Holmes stories, but only one of them is green.
18740. "If you could attenuate to every strand of quivering data, the future would be entirely calculable," was said by Sherlock Holmes in "The Six Thatchers" (an episode in the BBC's "Sherlock" series), and easily found, as it turns out, with a Google search. This is not the first time Holmes has been quoted in print from an unidentified non-Canonical source, and it's likely to happen more and more often.
18741. Karen Murdock spotted Robert Douglas-Fairhurst's interesting review in the Guardian on Aug. 16 <www.tinyurl.com/y7qrxp6g> of two books about mazes and labyrinths; he draws an interesting connection between "the scarlet thread of murder" in "A Study in Scarlet" and the ball of red thread that Ariadne gave to Theseus to help him find his way out of the Cretan labyrinth after he killed the Minotaur.
18742. The Baker Street Irregulars <www.tinyurl.com/yb57rklo> is one of the teams in the CSFBL [Computer Simulated Fantasy Football League]; you're welcome to click on the "How to Play" button to see how thing work in the League.
18743. Neil Simon died on Aug. 26. He wrote dozens of plays, more than 20 screenplays, and the scripts for five hit musicals, and was sometimes called the world's most popular playwright. Perhaps best-known for "The Odd Couple" (1965), he won the Pulitzer Prize for drama in 1991 for "Lost in Yonkers", and wrote the screenplay for "Murder By Death" (1976); one of the alternate endings for the film included an appearance by Holmes and Watson.
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September 2018 #4

18744. Collectors of Sherlockian comic books face a problem: the older comic books are more and more expensive each year. But if you want only to read them, there's a great web-site with digital scans and a handy search engine. For example: Hit Comics #29 (Sept. 1943) had Sherlock Holmes on the cover (and in the story "Barry Magician"); you can read the entire comic book, in full color, at <www.comicbookplus.com/?dclid=71548>.
18745. When in Edinburgh: consider The Real Sherlock Holmes Walking Tour of Edinburgh <www.realsherlockholmes.com>; tours can be three hours or a full day (and of course focuses on Conan Doyle rather than Holmes).
18746. Further to the report (February 18 #6) on the competition set by the Folio Society and House of Illustration for Sherlockian artwork, one of the finalists was Nataša Ilinčić, and her three illustrations can be seen at her web-site <www.natasilincic.com/book-illustration-2>, and prints are available at her shop at Society6 <www.tinyurl.com/yafa4s9v>.
18747. Karen Murdock has reported an article about "Miraculous Mushrooms" in the August issue of Remedies, and the Lion's Mane Mushroom, which is believed by some to be quite healthful and helpful. *Hericium erinaceus*, according to Wikipedia, has other names, including the bearded hedgehog mushroom and the satyr's beard, and is undergoing basic research for potential biological properties.
18748. Canadian skater Stephen Gogolev landed a quad Lutz en route winning a gold medal in a competition in Slovakia last month; he skated to music from the film "Sherlock Holmes" and wore imaginative costume, which you can see in a story in the Toronto Star <www.tinyurl.com/y7dslt>.
18749. What's the strangest location for a Sherlockian lecture? A leading candidate would be the Mountain View Mausoleum in Altadena, Calif., where Leslie S. Klinger will be the guest speaker on Oct. 11 at an event that will include (in addition to his lecture) a happy hour, a book signing, and a dessert reception; the story at Pasadena Now <www.tinyurl.com/ya9ct3mm> has a nice image of the mausoleum.
18750. About that postage stamp: the Green Dragon was the inn, kept by old Barnes, three miles off at Crendall (in "Shoscombe Old Place").
18751. Greg Ruby continues to post interesting commentary at "The Fourth Garrideb" <www.fourthgarrideb.com>; devoted to the "Numismatics of Sherlock Holmes", it covers much more than money: "The Decorated Captain Tommy Gregson of the NYPD" explains the medals and ribbons one sees when he wears his dress uniform on the television series "Elementary".
18752. Further to the report (August 18 #7) about the amusing poster for "Holmes and Watson" (the film that stars Will Ferrell and John C. Reilly and is due for release on Dec. 21), the poster is now extremely difficult to find on the Internet: Torrent Freak noted (Aug. 29) <www.tinyurl.com/yczqgv9> that Columbia Pictures sent DMCA notices to scrub any and all copies from the web (the DMCA is the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, enacted in 1998). Not every web-site received a DMCA notice; the Red Circle of Washington still displays the poster in its Calendar <www.redcircledc.org>.
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September 2018 #5

18753. The British Library has an interesting web-site, which offers articles such as Liza Picard's "Education in Victorian Britain" <www.tinyurl.com/yba2nyza> which includes a brief mention of board-schools (as in "The Naval Treaty"). And John Sutherland's "An Introduction to

Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats" <www.tinyurl.com/y9cztloq> which includes a mention that Eliot was a great lover of the Sherlock Holmes stories.

18754. Laurie R. King and Leslie S. Klinger have edited FOR THE SAKE OF THE GAME (New York: Pegasus, 2018; 284 pp., \$25.95), the fourth in their series of anthologies of "stories inspired by the Sherlock Holmes Canon." Sherlockians often use the word "pastiche" to describe just about any sort of Sherlockian story, including parodies (such as Robert L. Fish's "Schlock Homes" stories) and homages (August Derleth's "Solar Pons" stories), and it may be that yet another word is needed to describe what happens after Laurie and Les ask good writers to do something (or anything) Sherlockian; the results can be interesting and enjoyable indeed.
18755. Further to the item (March 18 #5) on Tania Henzell's new Sherlock Holmes Tartan: she has a web-site at <www.sherlockholmestartan.com> where you can see a wide variety of merchandise; she will also have a table in the Merchants Room during the Birthday Festivities in January.
18756. FLIGHT OR FRIGHT, an anthology of flight-based horror stories that was edited by Stephen King and Bev Vincent (March 18 #4), has been issued as an audiobook, with Simon Jones reading Conan Doyle's "The Horror of the Heights" (Simon and Schuster Audio, \$34.99); Jones played Sherlock Holmes on stage in the Gillette play in New York in 1998, and in the musical "Baker Street" in New York in 2001.
18757. "It's good if you want to go to the Sherlock Holmes Museum every single day of your life, and less-than-ideal for literally anything else," according to an article in VICE on Sept. 10 <www.tinyurl.com/y85rgfoc>: it's a small apartment with a fold-out bed, available for £1,894 a month.
18758. Jennie Paton spotted an imaginative and jazzy video that advertises Sherlock Handcraft Gin <www.vimeo.com/287490989>; there's a nice image of the label at <www.markspirits.com>. The method of production is "bathtub with premium grain alcohol," and the name was "inspired by the best hound of all time."
18759. The summer issue of The Magic Door (the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library newsletter) focuses on Conan Doyle in Africa, with articles by James Reese, Hartley Nathan, and Brenda Rossini along with news from and about the Library and the Collection. Copies are available from Clifford S. Goldfarb, 22 Markdale Avenue, Toronto, ON M6C, 1T1, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>, and you can easily join the Friends at <www.acdfriends.org>.
18760. Sorry about that: the amusing poster for "Holmes and Watson" (August 18 #7) is hard to find on the Internet, likely because the studio requested/demanded that it be taken down. If you would like to see it, go to the Red Circle of Washington's web-site <www.redcircledc.org>: it's in the Calendar at the right, at Dec. 21.

September 2018 #6

18761. Ray Betzner plans to devote his "Studies in Starrett" blog this fall to a detailed examination of the publishing history of THE PRIVATE LIFE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, a true classic in our literature, and he'd like to hear from anyone who has information about the history of Mike Murphy's plans to reprint the 1933 first edition, which resulted in a limited edition of unbound signatures from the Autolykus Press in 1979. Ray can be reached at <rlbetzner@mac.com> and you can read the first of his weekly installments at <www.bit.ly/2wTxQOB>.
18762. Copies of William R. Cochran's THE EMPTY PROBLEM AND THE FINAL HOUSE (2017) are still available for \$21.00 postpaid from Bill (614 South Terrace Drive, Carbondale, IL 62901); the 35-page pamphlet offers the results of his explorations of the two stories that bookend the battle at the Reichenbach.
18763. There's now an official trailer for the upcoming comedy "Holmes and Watson" (starring Will Ferrell and John C. Reilly) <www.tinyurl.com/y8kgh4at>; the film's due in theaters on Dec. 21.
18764. "Bejewelled: Badges, Brotherhood and Identity" is the title of an exhibition, open through Aug. 24, 2019, at the Library and Museum of Freemasonry in London. The exhibition's web-site is at <www.tinyurl.com/7zslb3j>, and there was an article in the Telegraph on Aug. 25 <www.tinyurl.com/yak9t69o> that said that the jewelry on display would include Conan Doyle's badge; it turns out that the reporter got it wrong: while the Museum does have Conan Doyle's jewelry, it won't be on display.
18765. Mattias Boström's FROM HOLMES TO SHERLOCK will have a Japanese edition from Sakhin-sha, translated by Yuichi Hirayama; his book's already available in Swedish (2013), Danish (2014), German (2015), Norwegian (2016), and English (2017).
18766. "The Hound of the Wasgijville!" is the title of a new 1,500-piece Sherlockian jigsaw puzzle that features detective Sheer-luck, available at Amazon (\$20.00) and elsewhere <www.tinyurl.com/y9yrhya>. There's also a new (and attractive) "Sherlock Holmes" 1,000-piece puzzle available from ThinkGeek (\$14.99) <www.tinyurl.com/y8xuezx5>.
18767. John P. Crotty ("Dr. James Mortimer") died on Aug. 12. He worked for many years as a radiologist in St. Louis, and was a colleague of Dr. Gray Chandler Briggs, from whom John acquired the treasure trove of original Frederic Dorr Steele artwork that Briggs had received from the artist. John was an energetic member of the Sherlockian society in St. Louis, and received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1972.
18768. Those who enjoy the CBS-TV series "Elementary" will welcome the news that the two-part finale does not end the series. The seventh season is now in production, picking up a year later, and show-runner Rob Doherty has told a TV Line interviewer that "Sherlock, Joan, Gregson, and Bell form this very non-traditional family unit, and as the seventh season begins there's going to be a family crisis." Jonny Lee Miller and Lucy Liu now firmly hold the second-place record for having played Holmes and Watson in the most performances in the most shows (Rathbone and Bruce still lead, counting all their films and radio programs).

September 2018 #7

18769. S. C. Roberts' HOLMES AND WATSON: A MISCELLANY, first published in 1953, was a landmark in Sherlockian scholarship, offering a collection of his writings, including a play and a pastiche, and his comments on the Sherlock Holmes Exhibition at Abbey House in 1951, demonstrating well just how much fun there is in taking a serious look at the Canon. Roberts was an excellent writer, and the first president of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London, and his book has now been reissued by the British Library (160 pp., £10.00/\$15.95), with an nicely insightful Introduction by Guy Marriott; it's grand to have Roberts' thoughts on the Canon available again.
18770. Conan Doyle's Colt .38 semi-automatic pistol, offered at auction on Sept. 20 in the U.K. (August 18 #1), sold for £4,000 <www.tinyurl.com/y9o9kkoy>.
18771. Further to the item (September 97 #1) about Abdul Hamid II, who was the last Sultan of the Ottoman Empire, the Daily Sabah had an interesting story on July 27 about the Sultan's passion for Sherlock Holmes, and his meeting with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle <www.tinyurl.com/yd57kftz>. Grey Ruby has an interesting post about the medals the Sultan awarded to Conan Doyle and his wife at the Fourth Garrideb web-site <www.tinyurl.com/y7f67nd4>.

18772. Evy Herzog reports that Fabienne Courouge and Hélène Colin, with some kinsprits, have founded "La Gazette du 221B" (a "webzine d'études et d'actualités sur l'univers de Sherlock Holmes"), all in French, with three issues so far; all available in the Archives at <www.gazette221b.com>, and they're a colorful demonstration of what can be done now on the Internet.
18773. "Sherlock Holmes brings The Rolling Clones" was the headline on a story in the Gulf Daily News <www.tinyurl.com/yc6hfx3n>; the Rolling Clones band is a tribute to the Rolling Stones, and the "Sherlock Holmes" turns out to be the Sherlock Holmes Pub in the Gulf Hotel in Bahrain.
18774. Further to the report (July 18 #2) on a proposal to demolish the Lyndhurst Park Hotel (the campaign to protect the hotel had cited evidence that Conan Doyle helped design the redevelopment of the building as a hotel in 1912), the National Park Authority has scheduled a five-day inquiry in January, at which the developer will continue its battle against local objections, according to a story in the Southern Daily Echo <www.tinyurl.com/y7t87ssw>.
18775. Conan Doyle and hockey? We know he was an athlete, but we don't know if he played hockey, although there is a connection: a letter he wrote (well, it actually was written and signed for him by his secretary) from Undershaw to Miss Williams, saying, "I am sorry to say that I have so much heavy work to hand at present that I fear I am quite unable to be of any use to the Hindhead Hockey Club." There seems to be nothing on the Internet about a Hindhead Hockey Club, but there is a Haslemere Hockey Club that was founded in 1946, with eight teams for men, five for ladies, and ten squads in a junior section. And their sport, of course, is field hockey. The letter was at auction this month at Duke's in Dorchester, estimated at £200-£300; it sold for £180 <www.tinyurl.com/ybgulfff>. You can identify letters written and signed by Conan Doyle's secretaries by the symbols written underneath the signatures; this is something to look for if you have any doubts about the handwriting.

September 2018 #8

18776. And there's no shortage of Sherlockian (and Doylean and Watsonian) theater coming up: Madeleine George's "The (Curious Case of the) Watson Intelligence" is on at the Dragon Theatre in Redwood City, Calif., though Oct. 7 <www.dragonproductions.net>.
18777. Timothy N. Evers' "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" ("The Greek Interpreter" and "Charles Augustus Milverton") will be performed at the Classical Theatre Company in Houston, Tex., Oct. 3-21 <www.classicaltheatre.org>.
18778. "The Twilight of the Gods" (a new "comedic thriller" written by Wes Driver and Gregg Greene) is due at the Williamson County Performing Arts Center at Academy Park in Franklin, Tenn., Oct. 4-14 <www.blackbirdtheater.com>; the play offers "Mark Twain, Edgar Allan Poe, Annie Oakley, Arthur Conan Doyle, and a number of other 19th century luminaries...locked in a battle of wits and ideologies, while a killer in their midst turns their dream for a modern Utopia into a Gothic nightmare."
18779. Patrick Derksen's "A Lighter Shade of Noir" (a parody whose characters include Shirley Holmes and Dr. Watson) is coming up at the Aledo High School in Weatherford, Tex., Oct. 4-7; the Aledo Players have a Facebook page.
18780. Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" is scheduled at the Garvin Theatre in Santa Barbara, Calif., Oct. 10-27; their web-site is at <www.theatregroupsbcc.com>. It's also due at the Jewel Box Theatre in Oklahoma City, Okla., from Nov. 19 to Dec. 5 <www.jewelboxtheatre.org>.
18781. "Spontaneous Sherlock" (improvised by the Spontaneous Players) is performed at Monkey Barrel Comedy in Edinburgh <www.thespontaneousplayers.com>, next on Oct. 11 and 25, and Nov. 8 and 22. Their first performance was in Feb. 2015, and they have since appeared at the Edinburgh Fringe and on tour in the U.K.
18782. Steven Canny and John Nicholson's comedy "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is scheduled at the Barn Theatre in Cirencester, Glos., from Oct. 24 to Nov. 24 <www.barntheatre.org.uk>.
18783. Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" will be performed at the Cape Fear Playhouse in Wilmington, N.C., Oct. 25-Nov. 11; web-site at <www.bigdawgproductions.org>.
18784. "Baker Street Irregulars" (by Flip Kobler and Cindy Marcus) is planned by the Owasso Community Theatre in Owasso, Okla., Nov. 1-3; their web-site's at <www.octok.org>.
18785. John Alvarez's new "Sherlock Holmes & the Case of a Siren's Call" will be performed during the Sherlock Holmes Weekend in Cape May, N.J., on Nov. 2-4 <www.capemaymac.org>.
18786. William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" is scheduled at the W. D. Powell Theatre at Union University in Jackson, Tenn., Nov. 8-13 <www.uu.edu/theatre>.

October 2018 #1

18787. Modern technology has made it possible to abbreviate the traditional forecast for the birthday festivities in New York in January; detailed information will be available at <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/bsi-event-dates>.
18788. The (very) long weekend will begin on Wednesday, Jan. 9, and end on Sunday, Jan. 13, and the schedule may or may not include some surprises; space is limited at some events, so don't delay registering. There will be more information at Scott Monty's excellent web-site <www.bsiweekend.com>, and his "Here Are Your #BSIWeekend Tips" will be at <www.ihose.co/bsi2019tips> in December .
18789. Copies of two of the sepia gelatin prints of the Cottingley Fairies went to auction this month at Dominic Winter Auctioneers in Cirencester, estimated at £700-£1,000 each, and went for £15,000 (Frances Griffiths with the fairies) and £5,400 (Elsie Wright with the gnome) <www.tinyurl.com/y7edj26u>.
18790. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London's 2018 Christmas Card features a period photograph of The Royal Exchange <www.tinyurl.com/yde36bvd> (\$20.00 for a packet of ten). The Society's home-page has much of interest, including (under Publications) a link to an archive of all of the issues of The District Messenger, the newsletter launched by Roger Johnson as a "Grapevine Service" in 1982 and now (edited by Jean Upton) after 379 issues continues to offer the same mix of information and gossip in the U.K. (and elsewhere)
18791. that this newsletter does for the U.S. (and elsewhere).
18792. It's nice to know that treasures do turn up: a previously unrecorded copy of Beeton's Christmas Annual for 1887 is advertised by Peter L. Stern, for \$75,000; it has been added to Randall Stock's annotated checklist and census at <www.bestofsherlock.com/beetons-christmas-annual.htm>, where you'll also find a link to the AbeBooks entry.
18793. MC Black has noted the web-site of the Haslemere Society, which has placed a blue plaque at Undershaw (Conan Doyle's former home); their web-site's at <www.haslemeresociety.org/undershaw.html>, with a link to the booklet that the society issued when the plaque was unveiled in 2016.
18794. Samantha Wolov has reported an En Voyage Perfumes eau de parfum called "The 7% Solution" (suitable for men or women), described at the company's web-site as happy, relaxing, stimulating, and clarifying (and with a mention of Sherlock Holmes at their web-site) <www.tinyurl.com/y73uzs7u> (\$60.00 for an ounce, or \$50.00 for half an ounce).

18795. Peter Melonas has been creating interesting Sherlockian (and other) artwork since the 1980s, and his offers at eBay include six Sherlockian prints, one of them a (and colorful) tribute to "The Dancing Men" (\$20.00) that you can see at <www.tinyurl.com/y7ovwujc>.
18796. Bill Seil discovered an intriguing Literary Hub blog by Emily Temple on "A Century of Reading: The 10 Books That Defined the 1900s". THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES is one of the ten, and Temple noted that the book revived the Sherlock Holmes series, asking "was this an early precursor of Twitter fans bringing back every show on the planet?" <www.tinyurl.com/yc7ohr6u>.
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October 2018 #2

18797. THE ADVENTURES OF TWO BRITISH GENTLEMEN IN GERMANY/DIE ABENTEUER ZWEIER BRITISCHER GENTLEMEN IN DEUTSCHLAND, edited by Nicole Glücklich, and published by the Deutsche Sherlock-Holmes-Gesellschaft (286 pp. in English and 298 pp. in German), is a welcome companion to their earlier book about Switzerland (July 17 #1); the new book discusses the visits to Germany by Conan Doyle, the Great War, Sherlockian societies in Germany (including a detailed discussion of a society apparently founded in 1902), and Sherlock Holmes on stage, screen, radio, and television in Germany, all carefully and colorfully illustrated. Available for \$42.00 (€36.00) postpaid from the society via PayPal <info@sherlock-holmes-gesellschaft.de>.
18798. Birmingham is the youngest city in Europe, with nearly 40% of its population aged under 25, according to the "Student City Guide" published in The Sunday Times on Sept. 23. The Guide also notes that the city has made its mark as the birthplace of HP Sauce and Black Sabbath, "not to mention Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who bought a violin on Sherlock Street while he was a medical student." No author stated for the Guide, so there's no one to ask for evidence that Conan Doyle ever played the violin. And yes, he was born in Edinburgh.
18799. Howard Ostrom's SHERLOCK HOLMES ON SCREENS 1929-1939 is the first volume of his Sherlock Holmes Cyclopedia (Saint-Sauvier: Mycroft's Brother Editions, 2018; 88 pp., €30.00) <www.mycrofts.net>; it's a delightful exploration of the first decade of Sherlockian talking films, major and minor, from "The Ghost Talks" (1929) to "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (1939). Howard has spread his net widely, and includes actors in Sherlockian costume, and the entries are accompanied by contemporary reviews, photographs, posters, and commentary; those who have access to the Internet can (and surely will) find many of the major (and minor) films at YouTube or Vimeo. Copies (inscribed on request) are available for delivery in the U.S. for \$35.00 postpaid, from Howard (5748 SW 60th Place, Ocala, FL 34474).
18800. James Mustich's 1,000 BOOKS TO READ BEFORE YOU DIE (from Workman, 2018) was warmly reviewed by Michael Dirda in the Washington Post, and it is reported that one of the 1,000 books is THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES ("it would be hard to name another modern literary character who has achieved such international celebrity").
18801. MYCROFT AND SHERLOCK, by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Anna Waterhouse (New York: Titan Books, 2018; 355 pp., \$25.99) is set in 1872, two years after their MYCROFT HOLMES (June 15 #2); the brothers are unintentionally investigating the same mystery, and don't share information until the end of their case. The book's a thriller as well as a mystery, with interesting major and minor characters, and it offers an intriguing look at Victorian London.
18802. Further to the previous report (June 18 #3) on "Sherlock: The Game Is Now" <www.sherlockgame.com> (billed as "the only official Sherlock Holmes Escape Game, a 90-minute immersive experience for teams of 4-6 people"), it's sold out through the end of the year, but tickets are now being made available through the end of May 2019. The game is organized by Time Run and "Sherlock" creators Steve Moffat and Mark Gatiss, and tickets for the 90-minute experience cost £54 per person. If you don't have your own group, there's a Facebook page for those who want to form teams.
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October 2018 #3

18803. Terry Hunt has reported on a discovery in Christopher Morley's memorandum book for 1935 (in the Morley collection at the Harry Ransom Center in Austin, Texas): a list of "names for cottage" that he was considering for the one-room cabin that he used as a studio: Ex Libris, The Knothole, The Molehill, The Dachshunds, Satisfaction Piece, The Workhouse, Poison Ivy, Socony Cottage, and The Nerts. Those who've made a pilgrimage to Roslyn, Long Island, know that the name he chose is The Knothole (which also is the name of the newsletter of The Christopher Morley Knothole Association <www.christophermorley.org>).
18804. Samantha Wolov has reported <www.bookmarksreviews.com>, handy for those who want to see what reviewers have said about new books from major publishers; you can also search to see how older books (and authors) have been rated.
18805. Reported: the Folio Society's THE SELECTED ADVENTURES AND MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (February 18 #6) has been published (\$45.95), and you can read all about it at <www.tinyurl.com/y85vw9br>; Helen Dorey was on the panel of six judges that chose the illustrator (Max Löffler), and there's an introduction by Michael Dirda.
18806. Nils Clausson's ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE'S ART OF FICTION: A REVALUATION (Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars, 2018; 384 pp., £67.99) opens with a suggestion that "the fact that Conan Doyle is almost universally regarded as a popular writer has meant that his fiction, like most popular fiction, has been studied not as literature but as a manifestation of popular culture." Clausson offers an academic "close reading" that is intended to reveal the "neglected artistry" in Conan Doyle's fiction a decidedly different view of Conan Doyle's Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian writings. The publisher offers a 40% discount if you purchase from their web-site by Nov. 15; use the special code ACD40 at their web-site <www.cambridgescholars.com>.
18807. Cinema Scandinavia reported on Oct. 17 <www.tinyurl.com/y7luok7w> that the television series "Sherlock North" (in development by Snapper Films in Finland) has been picked up by Viaplay for international distribution; Holmes travels to Scandinavia after the battle at the Reichenbach and "finds himself solving crimes in Finnish Lapland."
18808. "The Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia" at <www.arthur-conan-doyle.com> is a spectacular web-site, maintained by Alexis Barquin in France. It has more than 5,000 pages, and is devoted to all aspects of the life and career of Conan Doyle. You can see the depth of the research with a text search for [les andelys]. It's a town in Normandy that is mentioned several times in Conan Doyle's fiction, and Alexis explains that two of Conan Doyle's sisters went to school there, and Conan Doyle visited the town, and there's a video of a 1959 television interview with the woman whose home he stayed in (the interview was filmed in her garden).
18809. The opening of "Holmes & Watson" (with Will Ferrell and John C. Reilly) has been delayed until Dec. 25, which will please those who want something to do after opening their Christmas presents; no reason was given, but likely it was competition (five other films were scheduled for Dec. 21). The official name for the film now has an ampersand (and no reason was given for that, either).
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October 2018 #4

18810. Bill Mason's A HOLMES BY ANY OTHER NAME (Rockville: Wildside, 2018; 195 pp., \$12.99) offers the results of his exploration of variations of the Great Detective's name that he found in parodies, films, comic books, and many other sources, from 1891 to the present; 578 names, from Airlock
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- Holmes to Zoolock Holmes, annotated and indexed, and there are shorter lists for Watson and Moriarty (it's amusing to see the fun people have had with the name of Holmes, Watson, and Moriarty). The publisher's web-site is at <www.wildsidepress.com>.
18811. Also from Wildside: SHERLOCK HOLMES IS LIKE, edited by Christopher Redmond (2018; 275 pp., \$14.99), offers what he describes as "sixty comparisons for an incomparable character," with essays by sixty Sherlockians whose suggestions range from traditional and expected to weird and wonderful (the latter including Lucy van Pelt, proposed by Steve Mason).
18812. The airport in Tottori in Japan has been renamed the Tottori Sand Dunes Conan Airport, according to a story in the Japan Times (July 28). The name of the airport honors the province's impressive sand dunes, and the manga and anime character created by Tottori native Gosho Aoyama; the comic has been running in a weekly magazine since 1994 and features a young detective named in honor of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (the English version of the manga is called "Case Closed"). You can see Detective Conan at the airport in an image at <www.tinyurl.com/y8rysgel>.
18813. Jennie Paton spotted "Back of the Bookshelf" (a monthly podcast of classic short stories narrated by C. J. Carter-Stephenson); the first story is Conan Doyle's "The Disintegration Machine" <www.vimeo.com/293785106>.
18814. Brian W. Pugh continues to revise his A CHRONOLOGY OF THE LIFE OF SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE (March 14 #7); the fourth edition (London: MX Publishing, 2018; 444 pp., \$34.95) is a grand resource for information about the life and work of Conan Doyle. The chronology starts in 1755 (with the birth of James Doyle) and ends in 1998 (the memorial service for Dame Jean), and one of the truly useful aspects of the chronology is the citation of sources, so that one can sort through conflicts (and learn that in some cases, Conan Doyle himself was not the most reliable source). There's also information about aspects of his life and works, and maps and photographs, and a careful and useful index compiled by Geraldine Beare. Recommended. MX's books are available at <www.sherlockholmesbooks.com>.
18815. Also from MX: Daniel D. Victor's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE SHADOWS OF ST. PETERSBURG (2018; 182 pp., \$12.95) offers an interesting intersection of the Canon with CRIME AND PUNISHMENT; Holmes and Watson are in pursuit of a killer who seems to be recreating the murders in Dostoyevsky's book. Elizabeth Crowens' SILENT MERIDIAN (2016; 350 pp. \$16.95) is a complicated time-shifting novel that involves Conan Doyle, Wells, Houdini, Freud, Jung, and a Japanese shogun in a set of parallel and sometimes supernatural universes. W. P. Lawler's TREACHERY IN TORQUAY (2018; 317 pp., \$16.95) is set on the south coast of England in 1905, with Holmes and Watson investigating a series of brutal murders and aiding a client in protecting his family from dire peril. TALES FROM THE STRANGER'S ROOM, VOLUME 3, edited by David Ruffle (2017; 207 pp., \$16.95), is an interesting anthology of pastiches, poetry, vignettes, and quizzes.

October 2018 #5

18816. The International Sherlock Holmes Exhibition will open at the Liberty Science Center in Jersey City, N.J., on Nov. 3, running through May 27, 2019, and their web-site's at <www.lsc.org>. It's a spectacular exhibition, and it has been welcomed with enthusiasm everywhere it has been in the U.S. and overseas; there are no future venues scheduled for the exhibition, and it's nice indeed (for travelers from afar) that it will
18817. be open during the Sherlockian birthday festivities in January.
18818. Congratulations to Russell Merritt, who received the David Shepard Career Achievement Award at the Denver Silent Film Festival; Russell was instrumental in the rescue and restoration of both "Sherlock Holmes" (1916) and "Der Hund von Baskerville" (1929).
18819. Canadian Holmes, published quarterly by The Bootmakers of Toronto, always is interesting; the fall 2018 issue includes Peter Calamai's "Seeking the Conan Doyle 'Estate' in Portugal" (detailing the results of his investigation triggered by a report that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle once had an estate in Sintra) (he didn't, but there was one), and much more in the 40-page issue; subscriptions to the quarterly cost \$30.00 (US or CA) a year, by mail to the Bootmakers at 2045 Lakeshore Boulevard West #3303, Etobicoke, ON MV8 2Z6, Canada; or at their web-site <www.torontobootmakers.com>.
18820. Martin Edwards will deliver next year's Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture on Apr. 6 at the Toronto Reference Library (Edwards is president of the Detection Club and chair of the Crime Writers' Association, and his topic will be "In Sherlock's Footsteps"); admission is free, and the public is welcome to attend <www.acdfriends.org>.
18821. The Japanese eight-episode series "Miss Sherlock" (produced by HBO Asia and Hulu Japan) (May 18 #4) is now available on HBO Go in the U.S., and it is well worth watching; it stars Y-ko Takeuchi as Sherlock, and Shihori Kanjiya as her friend Wato-san, and is full of Canonical echoes.
18822. It's sometimes tempting to suggest that everything has a Sherlockian connection. "King Kong" does, at least to the author of the Sherlock Holmes stories: Willis H. O'Brien, who created the stop-motion special effects for "The Lost World" (1925), did the same for "King Kong" (1933), and the late Forry Ackerman owned a pair of models of pterodactyls, one from each film. If you'd like to see what modern technology can do, there's a trailer for the musical "King Kong" (now in previews on Broadway) that shows their 20-foot version of the "gentle giant" <www.youtube.com/watch?v=y8YJwRUTK7Y>. See also the N.Y. Times <www.tinyurl.com/yb9losty>.
18823. EconoTimes reported on Oct. 23 that the CBS-TV series "Elementary" has celebrated production of its 150th episode <www.tinyurl.com/y7fywz4e>, and has links to images of the event at the Twitter account of writer and producer Jeffrey Paul King, who has worked on every episode.
18824. Bradley Harper's A KNIFE IN THE FOG (Amherst: Seventh Street Books, 2018; 288 pp., \$15.95) has Arthur Conan Doyle and Joseph Bell in pursuit of Jack the Ripper, accompanied by Margaret Harkness (who also was a real person, quite familiar with the appalling conditions faced by the poor in London); Conan Doyle is an excellent detective, and the story's nicely told.

October 2018 #6

18825. And theatrical news: C. P. Stanchich's "Sherlock Holmes and the Doom of Devilsmoor" is on at the Gillette Community Theatre in Gillette, Wyo., through Nov. 3 <www.gillettecommunitytheatre.weebly.com>.
18826. Tim Kelly's dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is being performed at the Bay Area Harbour Playhouse in Dickinson, Tex., through Nov. 4 <www.harbourtheater.com>.
18827. Jeffery Hatcher's "Sherlock Holmes and the Ice Palace Murders" is running at the Clear Creek Community Theatre in Nassau Bay, Tex., through Nov. 4 <www.clearcreekcommunitytheatre.com>.
18828. Katie Forgette's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily" is on at the Little Theatre in American Falls, Idaho, through Nov. 5; Facebook page at <www.tinyurl.com/y9p2a2ud>. It's also due at the Wade James Theatre in Edmonds, Wash., June 14-30; web-site at <www.edmondsdriftwoodplayers.org>.
18829. Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is being performed at the Monon Depot Theatre in Lafayette, Ind., through Nov. 10; the web-site's at <www.lafayetteticivc.org>. It also will be performed at the Andria Theatre in Alexandria, Minn., Jan. 11-20, 2019 <www.andriatheatre.org>; and the Des Moines Community Playhouse in Des Moines, Iowa, Jan. 25-Feb. 10, 2019 <www.dmplyhouse.com>.
18830. Brian Guehring's "Sherlock Holmes and the First Baker Street Irregular" is due at the Lansing Hannah Community Center in East Lansing, Mich., Nov. 2-11 <www.allfusexpress.org>.

18831. William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" is due at Harriton High School in Bryn Mawr, Pa., Nov. 14-17 <www.harritontheater.com>.
18832. "Sherlock Holmes and the Missing Holly" is due at the Prairie Pines Playhouse in Maize, Kans., Nov. 16-Dec. 23 <www.prairiepinesplayhouse.com>.
18833. The Rain or Shine Theatre Company will perform their new comedy "Sherlock Holmes and the Curious Case of Dr. Jekyll & Miss Hyde" at the Bradwell Village Hall in Bradwell, Oxon., on Nov. 17, and then take the show on tour in the U.K. <www.rainorshire.co.uk>.
18834. John Nassivera's "The Penultimate Problem of Sherlock Holmes" is due at The Gladstone in Ottawa, Ont., Nov. 23-Dec. 1 <www.thegladstone.ca>.
18835. The Tehachapi Community Theater will perform John Longenbaugh's "Sherlock Holmes & the Case of the Christmas Carol" at TCT Second Space In Tehachapi, Calif., Nov. 23-Dec. 9 <www.tinyurl.com/y9nt4zyn>.
18836. Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" is due at the Hanover Tavern in Hanover, Va., Nov. 30-Jan. 6 <www.virginiarep.org>. And at the Stage III Community Theatre in Casper, Wyo., Dec. 7-23; web-site at <www.stageiii theatre.org>.
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November 2018 #1

18837. Modern technology has made it possible to abbreviate the traditional forecast for the birthday festivities in New York in January; details available at <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/2018/11/20/the-2019-bsi-weekend>. Space is limited at some events, so don't delay registering.
18838. The Dr. John H. Watson Fund offers financial assistance to all Sherlockians (membership in the BSI is not required) who might otherwise not be able to participate in the weekend's festivities. A carefully pseudonymous John H. Watson presides over the fund and welcomes contributions, which can be made by check payable to John H. Watson and sent (without return address on the envelope) to Dr. Watson, care of The Baker Street Irregulars, at 7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278; your letters are forwarded unopened, and Dr. Watson will acknowledge your generosity.
18839. Just in time for holiday hinting (or shopping), Randall Stock's annual informative nominations for the best Sherlock Holmes books/DVDs of the year is on-line at <www.bestofsherlock.com/sherlock-gifts.htm#newgifts>; he also has recommendations of older Sherlockiana.
18840. Those who fondly remember the days when one could listen to "Bob and Ray" on the radio in the 1950s will welcome Jennie Paton's discovery that one of their "Sherlock Sage" segments (with Bob Elliott as Sherlock Sage and Ray Goulding as Dr. Clyde) is available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/y8xjss8w>; and yes, YouTube does audio as well as video.
18841. Thomas D. Utecht ("Arthur Charpentier") died on Nov. 9. He worked in marketing communications for Macy's and then for the U.S. Navy, and discovered the Sherlockian world at a John Bennett Shaw workshop in 1984. Thom was a founder of the Montague Street Lodgers and a stalwart member of the Three Garridebs, and (like Holmes) was an inveterate pipe-smoker; he was an enthusiastic attendee at Autumn in Baker Street, and received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1984.
18842. The next 221B Con will be held in Atlanta on Apr. 5-7; registration is now open at <www.221bcon.com>, where you'll also find information on guests and performers and much more (it's bill as a "fan con for all things Sherlock Holmes"). Bob Stek's enthusiastic report on the 2014 event will be found on the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog at <www.tinyurl.com/y8y3muv5>.
18843. A passing mention of George Charles Haité, reported by Karen Murdock from a newspaper in New Zealand, led to an interesting discovery: Haité was a designer, painter, illustrator and writer who illustrated an article on "The History of the Strand" in the first (Jan. 1891) issue of The Strand Magazine and (far more important to Sherlockians) created the iconic image that graced the cover of the magazine for decades; it also appeared on the covers of the first British editions of THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES and THE MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES. There is an excellent entry about him at Wikipedia; his original artwork was on display at the "Sherlock Holmes: The Man Who Never Lived and Will Never Die" exhibition in London in 2014-2015, and is reproduced in the catalog of the exhibition (Quarterly Press) and in Alex Werner's book about the exhibition (Ebury).
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November 2018 #2

18844. The PM was dressed up as Sherlock Holmes for Halloween, according to a Huffington Post story <www.tinyurl.com/yaaxldar>, and was accompanied by his wife, costumed as a zombie bride. Add another name to the list of Sherlockian politicians: Justin Trudeau, the prime minister of Canada; there's a photograph of him as Sherlock Holmes in the article. And there was a report on Yahoo Canada Style that some Canadians were wondering what exactly might have been in Trudeau's pipe, two weeks after marijuana was legalized in Canada.
18845. Further to the report (September 18 #4) on Canadian skater Stephen Gololev performing in an imaginative costume to music from the film "Sherlock Holmes" in a competition in Slovakia, Jennie Paton has found video of him competing at the Minto Summer Skate in Canada <www.tinyurl.com/ya9bsrhl>.
18846. Edward J. Van Liere was a prolific contributor to Sherlockian literature in the 1950s and 1960s, and a co-founder of The Scion of the Four in Morgantown, W. Va., and a new book provides much more about his life and career. William A. Neal's QUIET ADVOCATE (Morgantown: West Virginia University Libraries, 2017; 264 pp., \$14.95) focuses on Van Liere's many contributions medical education in the state (where during the depression he was successful in establishing a four-year medical school). His Sherlockian writings were collected in A DOCTOR ENJOYS SHERLOCK HOLMES (1959), and he was a contributor to Michael Harrison's anthology BEYOND BAKER STREET (1976); Neal's biography has a fine chapter devoted to Van Liere as a Sherlockian.
18847. For those who are into Sherlockian games, MMORPG notes that Wizard101 has released a "Great Detective" bundle starring Sherlock Bones and Dr. Rolf; details (and images) are at <www.tinyurl.com/y83gnxds> and (with video) at <www.tinyurl.com/y7zo7r26>.
18848. "Can you solve the secret werewolf riddle?" is the riddle-of-the-month at TED-Ed, discovered and reported by Samantha Wolov; there's Sherlockian artwork, but otherwise it's not Sherlockian <www.tinyurl.com/yd4eg444>.
18849. "I sent down to Stanford's for the Ordnance map," Sherlock Holmes said to Watson (in "The Hound of the Baskervilles"). The iconic London bookshop, which was established by Edwin Stanford in 1853, is moving to a new location (just round the corner in Covent Garden); the Stanfords web-site has a section on the shop's history at <www.stanfords.co.uk/our-history>. If you don't recognize the name, that's because it's mis-spelled Stamford in many editions of the Canon.
18850. Publicity for the "Holmes & Watson" film is gearing up: Kelly Blau kindly reported that the N.Y. Times published an interview with Will Ferrell and John C. Reilly on Nov. 4 <www.tinyurl.com/y9am3fam>, including their explanation of how they chose who would play Holmes and who would play Watson.
18851. "A box of Watson's memorabilia of Sherlock Holmes has been stolen from his club in Piccadilly," is the premise of the first in the Sherlock geocache series set in London <www.tinyurl.com/y97oylfe>, reported by Jennie Paton. Geocaching is the modern version of a Victorian outdoor recreational activity called letterboxing, participants now use GPS technology, and there's an excellent article about geocaching at Wikipedia.
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November 2018 #3

18852. Nicholas Utechin's THE COMPLETE PAGET PORTFOLIO (Indianapolis: Gasogene Books, 2108; 274 pp., \$46.95) is a delightful tribute to Sidney Paget, offering high-quality reproductions of all his Sherlockian illustrations from The Strand Magazine, and (for the first time) an opportunity to see 22
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- (that's almost all) pieces of the original artwork known to have survived shown (in full color) side-by-side with the illustrations published in the magazine; the book also includes full-color portraits of Sherlock Holmes that weren't published in the Strand. Highly recommended. The publisher's web-site is at <www.gasogenebooks.com>, and you can listen to an interesting interview with Nick at <www.ihose.co/ihose156>.
18853. Gasogene also has published Terence Faherty's THE TRUE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE ANNOTATED EDITION (2018; 153 pp., \$19.95); it's a collection of his amusing "earlier drafts" of the stories, some of them reprinted from the annual Sherlockian issues of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine, and others new, and all great fun. Faherty's Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian bibliography can be found at his web-site <www.terencefaherty.com>.
18854. The long wait for Pokémon's "Detective Pikachu" film is scheduled for release on May 11; it's based on the company's Nintendo game, and there's an amusing 3-minute official trailer at <www.tinyurl.com/ybszcx68>.
18855. Stan Lee died on Nov. 12. He was a legend in the world of comic books, and famous for creating a new world of super-heroes for Marvel Comics. In 2008 he told an interviewer that "There have been millions of detective stories over the years. Many of them are forgettable. Somehow Sherlock Holmes has endured, mainly because no one could write a detective story as brilliantly as Conan Doyle and nobody could come up with a character as interesting and flawed as Sherlock Holmes." And two years later he explained that "I know what I loved about Conan Doyle's work was he made his characters so real. I mean not only me, but the people that read Sherlock Holmes felt that they knew him." The "Marvel Preview" series (billed as "Stan Lee Presents") had a two-part "The Hound of the Baskervilles" in 1976, and he had author credit for "Spidey Super Stories: Sherlock Spidey" in The Electric Company in 1977.
18856. The Strand Magazine (the modern version that's edited by Andrew Gulli) continues to offer a wide variety of Sherlockian merchandise at its web-site, including an attractive and artistic wall calendar for next year (\$24.95); the URL is <www.strandmag.com/product/sherlockholmes-calendar-2019>.
18857. "Live from the Red Carpet" is the title of the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" report on this year's "From Gillette to Brett" conference in Bloomington, Ind., on Oct. 5-7 <www.tinyurl.com/y9lyjjh5>. There were 150 people on hand for the festivities, and you can hear all about it at the podcast.
18858. "I know perfectly well how unneptile you are about aunts," the late Ronald Knox wrote in his Miles Bredon novel DOUBLE CROSS PURPOSES (1937), Stu Nelan has noted (on p. 155 in his copy of the Dover edition), and he wonders just what "unneptile" means. Google is of no assistance, and it's possible that Knox, who enjoyed word-play, invented the word. Has anyone seen the word used anywhere else?

November 2018 #4

18859. "American Is Killed by Bow and Arrow on Remote Indian Island" was the headline on the N.Y. Times article (Nov. 21) about the death of John Allen Chau, who attempted to go ashore on North Sentinel (one of the Andaman Islands) apparently in hopes of converting the tribesmen to Christianity. The Indian government has banned all access to the islands, and the seven fishermen who brought Chau to the island have been arrested and charged with culpable homicide not amounting to murder; the government also has announced that although charges have been filed against "unknown persons" for killing Chau, it is virtually impossible to prosecute members of the protected tribes, or to recover his body.
18860. Thanks to YouTube, admirers of the Brigadier Gerard can see him in action in "The Fighting Eagle" (1927) <www.tinyurl.com/ybx8ap8t>, and in "How the Brigadier Won His Medal" (1954) <www.tinyurl.com/y74nymv3>.
18861. There's additional news for admirers of the Brigadier: the British Library has acquired the manuscripts for five of the first eight stories, and Randall Stock has a detailed report on the manuscripts, and their history, at his "Best of Sherlock" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/y8gmfu08>. The survival of the manuscripts was reported more than two years ago (March 16 #1), and it is nice indeed that they will now be readily available to scholars.
18862. Melvin Ragin ("Wah Wah Watson") died on Oct. 24. A guitarist and session musician, he was famous for his skills with the wah-wah pedal and in 1976 recorded an LP album "Elementary" that showed him on the cover with deerstalker and calabash; you can see the cover and listen to an extended release version of the album at <www.tinyurl.com/y8cgxfau>.
18863. Flicker Alley (the company that distributed the restored versions of William Gillette's 1916 "Sherlock Holmes" and Wallace Beery's 1925 "The Lost World") also offers "Douglas Fairbanks: A Modern Musketeer" (a 5-DVD set of digitally remastered versions of 11 films that include his 1916 "The Mystery of the Leaping Fish") (with Fairbanks as Coke Enneyday in Sherlockian costume) and a 22-page booklet with an essay about Fairbanks and his films by Jeffrey Vance and Tony Maietta (\$69.95) <www.flickeralley.com>. The set offers a grand opportunity to see some of Fairbanks' classic films (as well as one of the truly weird Sherlockian films).
18865. The BoardRoom is a speakeasy (they're coming back into fashion, even though liquor's legal now) in Los Angeles <www.patinagroup.com/the-boardroom>, and Karen Murdoch spotted a story in the Los Angeles Times that noted that the cocktails are named after famous authors, including a "gin-forward Sir Arthur Conan Doyle" (the recipe is Plymouth gin, Dolin Blanc, Braulio, orange bitters, and lemon peel). For those not versed in cocktails: Dolin Blanc's a vermouth, Braulio's a liqueur, and gin-forward appears to be a gin that's not flavor-added and thus tastes like juniper berries).
18866. "Cats on the Page" is an exhibition at the British Library, that will run from Nov. 27 to Mar. 17 <www.tinyurl.com/y7cjcivo>; you will have a chance to "renew your acquaintance with familiar favorites including Mog, Winnie and Wilbur, and T. S. Eliot's Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats (the last of which includes "Macavity: The Mystery Cat" and "Gus: The Theatre Cat", both of interest to Sherlockians).

November 2018 #5

18867. "Everyone needs a mother who keeps them grounded," according to Benedict Cumberbatch, who told GQ that he bounded home, full of excitement, after being told that he would be the next Sherlock Holmes, but he was soon put in his place. "The first thing my mother said when I mentioned I'd got the part was: 'You don't have the right nose.'" Noted by Karen Murdoch in Patrick Kidd's "The Times Diary" in The Times on Nov. 2.
18868. Juris Jurjevics died on Nov. 7. He had a long career in the publishing industry, and in 1986 was one of the founders of the Soho Press, to publish "books that deserve to be published, but that the bigger houses can't afford to do." His obituary in the N.Y. Times noted that earlier, as editor in chief for E. P. Dutton, he "scooped up a manuscript that had crossed his desk on a hunch that readers would clamor for a Sherlock Holmes revival." The novel was Nicholas Meyer's THE SEVEN-PER-CENT SOLUTION (1974).
18869. Hospitality & Catering News reported on Oct. 13 <www.tinyurl.com/yakcegyz> that Adrian Martin, newly appointed Master Cook at Simpson's-in-the-Strand (an establishment mentioned in the Canon), has delved into its archives to create a spectacular new Bill of Fare. And it's spectacular indeed.
18870. Basil Rathbone with two Hounds of the Baskervilles? Not quite, but there's an amusing signed photograph of Rathbone coming to auction at Written Word Autographs on Dec. 15 <www.tinyurl.com/y8kg4wnk>.

18871. Further to the item (April 16 #4) on the metal plates apparently created in 1940 to celebrate Macmillan's publication of Vincent Starrett's 221B: STUDIES IN SHERLOCK HOLMES, Greg Ruby has continued his research on "Sherlock Holmes and the American Bank Note Mystery" and posted his latest findings at the Fourth Garrideb web-site <www.tinyurl.com/ycvqvpy7>.
18872. Greg also notes <www.tinyurl.com/y7a7hdfm> the appointment of Hugh Laurie as CBE (that's Companion of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) for services to drama in the 2018 New Year Honours List. Laurie read "The Hound of the Baskervilles" on BBC Radio 2 (in 2002) and played the Holmes-inspired House in the long-running Fox television series, and will be seen as Mycroft in the film "Holmes & Watson" due in theaters in December .
18873. Peter Brace died on Oct. 29. He began his long acting career in 1947, and went on to being a stuntman and stunt coordinator, with more than a hundred credits; he played the hangman in the 1990 television film "Hands of a Murderer" (also known as "Sherlock Holmes and the Prince of Crime").
18874. Karen Murdock has noted an article in the Irish Times (Nov. 10) about how craft breweries are becoming creative with artwork on their cans. Yellowbelly Beer in Wexford offers an "It's Elementary" India Pale Ale that has Sherlockian artwork <www.yellowbellybeer.ie/beer-type/its-elementary>.
18875. Visitors to Edinburgh might want to stay at the Sherlock Apartments at 14 Picardy Place; the three serviced apartments are named for Doyle, Watson, and Moriarty, with nicely modern furnishings (according to on-line images). You can see the Doyle Residence at <www.tinyurl.com/y7wklvrh>, the Moriarty Residence at <www.tinyurl.com/y8xp8y7a>, and all three with a Google search (Conan Doyle, it should be noted, was born at 11 Picardy Place).

November 2018 #6

18876. George A. Cooper died on Nov. 16. He began his acting career on stage in Britain in the 1940s and then moved to television, performing for almost 50 years. He was Mr. Fawcett in "The Croxley Master" in the BBC series "The Stories of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle" (1967), Inspector Gregson in "A Study in Scarlet" and "The Greek Interpreter" in Peter Cushing's "Sherlock Holmes" series (1968), and Inspector Beedel in "The Missing Witness Sensation" in "The Rivals of Sherlock Holmes" (1971).
18877. Theatrics: John Longenbaugh's "Sherlock Holmes & the Case of the Christmas Carol" is being performed at the Company OnStage in Houston, Texas, through Dec. 22 <www.companionstage.org>.
18878. Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" on at the Runway Theatre in Grapevine, Texas, through Dec. 17 <www.runwaytheatre.com>; and at the Richardson Theatre Centre in Richardson, Texas, through Dec. 23 <www.richardsontheatrecentre.net>. It's also scheduled at the Performing Arts Center in Tarpon Springs, Fla., Dec. 8-16 <www.tarponarts.org>.
18879. Tim Kelly's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed at the Salterton Playhouse in Salterton, Devon, Dec. 3-8 <www.saltertondrama.co.uk>.
18880. Tim Kelly's adaptation of Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at the Colonnade Theatre in Ringgold, Ga., Dec. 6-8 <www.colonnadecenter.org>.
18881. Jeffrey Hatcher's "Holmes and Watson" will be performed at Theatre Lawrence in Lawrence, Kans., Jan. 18-27 <www.wp.theatrelawrence.com>. Also at Stage West in Fort Worth, Texas, May 30-June 20 <www.sagewest.org>.
18882. "Sherlock Holmes: Das Musical" (Holmes and Watson investigate their first case) will premiere (in German) at the First Stage Theater in Hamburg Jan. 20, 2019 <www.sherlockholmes-musical.de>; it's billed as "ein rasantes Musical über Liebe, Tod und Leidenschaft".
18883. Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" will be performed at the Black Box Theatre in LaGrange, Ga., Jan. 24-Feb. 2 <www.lsparts.org>; at the Hill Country Community Theatre in Cottonwood Shore, Tex., Feb. 14-Mar. 3 <www.thehct.org>; at the Studio Theatre in the Hong Kong Cultural Centre, Mar. 29-Apr. 7 <www.tinyurl.com/ybcw83r6>; at the Falcon Theatre in Newport, Ky., May 3-18 <www.falcontheatre.net>; and at the Bellevue Little Theatre in Bellevue, Neb., May 3-19 <www.bellevuelittletheatre.weebly.com>. Also at the Lowe Auditorium in Upper Ferntree Gully, Vic., Aug. 8-31; web-site at <www.1812theatre.com.au>.
18884. Steven Canny and John Nicholson's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed at the Regis Centre in Bognor Regis, West Sussex, Feb. 7-9, 2019 <www.regiscentre.co.uk>.
18885. "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Missing Music" (performed by the Nashville Symphony) is scheduled at the Schermerhorn Symphony Center in Nashville, Tenn., Feb. 9 <www.tinyurl.com/yc75uvxe>.

December 2018 #1

18886. There is still time to reserve for many of the events during the birthday festivities in New York (although the Saturday cocktail reception has sold out, and no tickets will be available at the door); details are available at <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/2018/11/20/the-2019-bsi-weekend>.
18887. Flicker Alley has announced that its deluxe Blu-ray/DVD dual-format edition of "Der Hund von Baskerville" (1929) will be released on Feb. 5, and there is a pre-order sale price of \$29.95 <www.tinyurl.com/y9qh6zjs>; this is the last Sherlockian silent film, directed by Richard Oswald, and the bonus materials will include Oswald's earlier "Der Hund von Baskerville" (1914), as well as original commentary on the story and on the restoration, and an illustrated booklet with an essay by film historian Russell Merritt.
18888. "There's a fundamental principle of law that derives from Sherlock Holmes, which is the dog that didn't bark," Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito said during an argument on Nov. 26; the case involved jurisdiction on Native American land in Oklahoma, and you can read the details in an article in The Economist (Nov. 28) <www.tinyurl.com/ya8qyrkv>.
18889. "The Vampire of the Lyceum" (a short-story pastiche written by Charles Veley and Anna Elliott) is available (free) as text and read by Simon Prebble at their web-site <www.sherlockandlucy.com/the-vampire-of-the-lyceum>.
18890. Big Chief Studios reports that production has been completed on their licensed figures showing Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman in costume from "The Abominable Bride" are now on their way from China and should be available for Christmas shopping <www.tinyurl.com/ycgvdqaf>.
18891. Thomas Mann's A CHRISTMAS CAROL AT 221B (League of Extraordinary Gentlemen, 2018; 21 pp., \$5.50 at Amazon) is a nicely seasonal (and Dickensian) pastiche.
18892. Oscar Ross observed the Sherlockian artwork on the cover of the Dec. 2018 issue of Philosophy Now <www.philosophynow.org>; the issue's cover story is Tim Weldon's "The Forgiving Reason: The Secret of Sherlock Holmes' Success" (which explores the links between Holmes and Blaise Pascal) and there's also Carol Nicholson's "Ockham's Rose" (in which she discusses Umberto Eco's THE NAME OF THE ROSE). Both articles can be read at the web-site.

18893. Howard Ostrom has now identified more than 4,300 actors who have appeared as Sherlock Holmes on stage, screen, radio, television, the Internet, and elsewhere. His SHERLOCK HOLMES ON SCREENS 1929-1939 (the first volume of his Sherlock Holmes Cyclopedica) appeared earlier this year (October 18 #2), and you can hear him discuss the project in the latest "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" podcast <www.tinyurl.com/ybslndo3>.
18894. The Canon has many mentions of fog, and today's readers might not know just what a "London particular" really was like. The MiceTimes of Asia had an interesting illustrated article on Dec. 8 about the "great smog" that enveloped London for four days in December 1952, when 12,000 people died and more than 100,000 were injured <www.tinyurl.com/ybxcqcg>.
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December 2018 #2

18895. Responding to the query about "unneptile" (Nov. 18 #3), Steve Rothman suggests a bit of word-play on "neptis" (in Latin). It should be noted that "neptis" can mean "niece" as well as "grand-daughter" and that a nephew is "nepote" or "nepos" (giving us the word "nepotism"). Stu Nelan reports that Miles Bredon is speaking to his wife Angela, about her aunt, so Angela would be the niece (and "unneptile" would be a coinage by Ronald Knox for "not niece-ish").
18896. SHERLOCK and SHERLOCK DELUXE are memory games designed by Reinhard Staube, first issued in 2009 for ages 5 to adult. SHERLOCK (\$10.00) has 49 cards, and SHERLOCK DELUXE (\$15.00) has 60 cards and a small Sherlockian figurine. The games are made by PlayRoom Entertainment for Ultra-PRO Entertainment, and are available at Amazon and elsewhere.
18897. All sorts of things turn up on YouTube. Howard Ostrom has noted two videos produced by the Columbia University Libraries Preservation Committee: "Murder in the Stacks" (1987) and "Shedding Light on the Case" (1990), with David Chapman (Sherlock Holmes) showing David Bowman (Dr. Watson) the proper techniques of preservation. You can search for the videos by their titles at <www.youtube.com>.
18898. Two pieces of artwork showing Snoopy in Sherlockian costume from the television program "It's a Mystery, Charlie Brown" (1974) were offered at Heritage Auctions on Dec. 9: a production cel <www.tinyurl.com/y9fwzwl> sold for \$1,800 (including the 20% buyer's premium), and a graphite animation drawing <www.tinyurl.com/yd2o2bqd> sold for \$780 (ditto). Both were signed by Bill Melendez, who produced the program and provided voices for Snoopy and Woodstock.
18899. Denis Norden died on Sept. 19. Famous (sometimes notorious) for his often-ribald sense of humor, he had a long career on British radio and television and was a successful screenwriter as well; he wrote the screenplay for "The Best House in London" (1969), an X-rated film (because it was that sort of house) remarkable for a very short scene that included uncredited performances by Peter Jeffrey as Holmes and Thorley Walters as Watson.
18900. Michael Robertson's A BAKER STREET WEDDING (New York: Minotaur, 2018; 291 pp., \$26.99) is the sixth in his series about Reggie and Nigel Heath, who have their offices in the building at 221B Baker Street, and a lease that requires them to answer Sherlock Holmes' mail; Reggie's marriage to Laura Rankin puts them both in unexpected and dire peril, and they are rescued by Reggie's law clerk Lois and a thoroughly intriguing character who has made a minor appearance in a previous book but now comes into his own (no spoiler here, but Sherlockians won't be fooled for very long).
18901. "Do not destroy the Strand," was the plea from Nancy Bass Wyden, owned of the Strand Bookstore, which has been a destination for visitors to New York since it opened in 1927. "18 miles of books" is the slogan of the store, and those miles include a separate section for rare books located on an upper floor. The city wants to declare the bookshop's building an official city landmark, but the owner believes that landmarking would result in the death of the business. You can read all about it in an article in the N.Y. Times (Dec. 3) <www.tinyurl.com/y8x6x2nk>, kindly note by Samantha Wolov.
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December 2018 #3

18902. Ron Fish's Sherlockian Calendar www.sherlockiancalendar.com is a helpful list of upcoming Sherlockian events, for anyone who would like to know what is happening when and where, and it offers an interesting look at how many society events are being held hither and yon. You should contact Ron <ronf404@aol.com> if you would like to have a meeting or conference listed.
18903. It's not all that often that The New Yorker offers an image of Sherlock Holmes on its cover (in fact, this the first time ever): the Dec. 24 "Power Issue" has Barry Blitt's "Elementary" tribute to the ongoing investigation by special counsel Robert Mueller; you can see the cover in full color (and with Blitt's preliminary sketch) at <www.tinyurl.com/ycesvesb5>.
18904. Vicki Delany's A SCANDAL IN SCARLET (New York: Crooked Lane, 2018; 293 pp., \$26.99) is the fourth in her series of "Sherlock Holmes Bookshop" mysteries that star Gemma Doyle (proprietor of the Sherlock bookshop) and her friend Jayne Wilson (who manages the next-door Mrs. Hudson's Tea Room). The pastiche begins with a mysterious fire at the local house museum, and needless to say there are murders and a complicated plot. The author has more than one series going, and her web-site's at <www.vickidelany.com>.
18905. "A four of gin hot" is Scott Monty's Canonical introduction to his "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" post about Sherlock & Sons Gin; it's a new brand of small-batch products from Distillers of Surrey, founded by Simon Sherlock. Read all about it at <www.tinyurl.com/y95wyp6d>.
18906. Barbara S. Koelle died on Nov. 28. She married her husband Jack in 1948, and for decades shared his many interests; she also was a gourmet cook, an avid reader, and a keen collector of children's book, and was a long-time member of the International Wizard of Oz Club, serving as a member of its board of directors, its president, and editor of its magazine The Baum Bugle. She was honored by The Baker Street Irregulars as The Woman in 1982.
18907. The January-February issue of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine continues a long annual tradition of honoring Sherlock Holmes' birthday, with Sherlockian artwork by Nataša Illinčić on the cover, an amusing pastiche by Terence Faherty, a new story about the Amlingmeyer brothers by Steve Hockensmith, a pastiche by Keith Hann (with artwork by Jason C. Eckhardt), a Sherlockian cartoon by Scott Masear, and reviews by Steve Steinbock of new Sherlockian books.
18908. A bit more about T. S. Eliot's OLD POSSUM'S BOOK OF PRACTICAL CATS: there is a registered charity called Old Possum's Practical Trust, established by Valerie Eliot in 1990 <www.old-possums-practical-trust.org.uk>.
18909. Japanese animator Hayao Miyazaki's long and distinguished career includes his work on the 1984 Japanese-Italian television series "Meitantei Homuzu" ["Famous Detective Holmes"], widely available in English as "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes"; Miyazaki directed the first six episodes, and they're great fun. Jenne Paton reports an interesting video by Stevem at YouTube about "Miyazaki's Forgotten Gem" <www.tinyurl.com/yc6bwhpk>.
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December 2018 #4

18910. From manga to the stage: the Anime News Network reports (Dec. 21) that Ryōsuke Takeuchi and Hikaru Miyoshi's "Yūkoku no Moriarty" ["Moriarty the Patriot"] manga has inspired a stage musical that will be performed in Tokyo and Osaka in May <www.tinyurl.com/y9ts25js>; the manga
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- debuted in 2016 and stars James Moriarty, an orphan who is adopted into the Moriarty family. The musical will star Shōgo Suzuki (William James Moriarty) and Ryō Hirano (Sherlock Holmes). There's a brief trailer for the musical at <www.tinyurl.com/ybulsm4>.
18911. Further to the report (October 18 #3) that THE SELECTED ADVENTURES AND MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES has now been published by the Folio Society, there was a post on Dec. 5 at the Flavorwire web-site <www.tinyurl.com/yazqzhyy> that offers a look at some of the artwork, and at Michael Dirda's introduction.
18912. Tim Dedopoulos' THE SHERLOCK HOLMES PUZZLE CARD CHALLENGE (Carlton, 2018; \$14.95) is a colorful box of 60 decorative cards with logical puzzles that are only marginally Sherlockian.
18913. John Wulp died on Nov. 27. He was a playwright, producer, director, visual artist, designer, and educator, and in 1979 was nominated for a Tony Award as scenic designer for "The Crucifer of Blood" (which starred Paxton Whitehead and Glenn Close).
18914. The International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes debuted in Columbus, Ohio, in 2014, and after touring in the United States and in other countries, now is at the Library Science Center in Jersey City, N.J. through May 27, and well worth a visit. There are spectacular Sherlockian and Doylean items on display, and a murder mystery (written by Dan Stashower) to solve, and you can listen to Scott Monty and Burt Wolder's interview with exhibition creators Amy Noble Seitz and Geoffrey Curley at the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" podcast at <www.tinyurl.com/y7bn6cjj>.
18915. Gyles Brandreth, author of seven murder mysteries that feature Arthur Conan Doyle and Oscar Wilde, has written a new short story that them at a festive party at Buckingham Palace; the story was published, with colorful illustrations, in the Mail on Sunday on Dec. 23 <www.tinyurl.com/yddea86y>.
18916. "Sherlock Holmes, John Watson, and a Christmas Gift of Friendship" is the title of Colin Fleming's warm holiday tribute, accompanied by some striking artwork, in the Daily Beast on Dec. 22 <www.tinyurl.com/y8rhozbo>.
18917. The copyright clock continues to tick: at the end of this year "The Creeping Man" (published in 1923) will enter the public domain. Only the final nine Sherlock Holmes stories will be protected by copyright, and the last of them will enter the public domain at the end of 2022.
18918. Further to the report (September 18 #7) on a proposal to demolish the Lyndhurst Park Hotel (the campaign to protect the hotel had cited evidence that Conan Doyle helped design the redevelopment of the building as a hotel in 1912), the BBC reported on Dec. 21 <www.tinyurl.com/y9jrdk9w> that the developer has withdrawn its appeal against the National Park Authority's decision to reject the proposal to demolish the hotel. The NPA said it would seek to recover its costs of preparing for a public hearing scheduled in January.

December 2018 #5

18919. The two volumes of THE MX BOOK OF NEW SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES: SOME UNTOLD CASES, edited by David Marcum, are the latest additions to his excellent series of anthologies, and they will be welcomed by those who believe that traditional short stories are the best way to visit Holmes and Watson again (London: MX Publishing, 2018; 405/415 pp., \$44.95 each); there are new short stories, poems, and a radio script, all offering imaginative accounts of cases only mentioned in the Canon. MX's books are available at <www.sherlockholmesbooks.com>.
18920. Also from MX: Tim Symonds' A MOST DIABOLICAL PLOT (2018; 156 pp., \$12.95) is a collection of six pastiches reprinted from volumes of David Marcum's THE MX BOOK OF NEW SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES; his other Sherlockian work can be found at his web-site <www.tim-symonds.co.uk>.
18921. Tom Bidwell, whose television adaptation of Richard Adams' "Watership Down" debuted on BBC One this month, has told the BBC Writersroom that his next project will be a Netflix series titled "The Irregulars" that will focus on a group of street urchins whose crime-solving success a drug-addict Holmes takes credit for; the interview's at <www.tinyurl.com/ydxgppqh>.
18922. Too late for this year, but in plenty of time for next year: Stephanie Urban has found amusing artwork by David Price on a "Sherlock Holmes Christmas" card from Allport Editions <www.allport.com/products/1873>.
18923. The Chautauqua Institution, founded in 1874, offers a wide variety of summer educational programs, and Bob Coghill and Christopher Redmond discussed Sherlock Holmes and Arthur Conan Doyle at Chautauqua's Hall of Philosophy on Aug. 23, 2000; Jennie Paton has kindly reported a 35-minute video of the discussion at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=6psB3rmNoBE>.
18924. The Beacon Society works to provide teachers, librarians, children's museums, and children's theaters with resources "to bring the magic of Sherlock Holmes to life," and their web-site <www.beaconsociety.com> is well worth exploring. Click on "additional resources" and then on "beacon booklist" to see an interesting list of recommended books for younger Sherlockians to enjoy and use for research purposes.
18925. Deadline Hollywood reported on Dec. 17 <www.tinyurl.com/yaccj5fo> that the CBS-TV series "Elementary" will end its run after the seventh season, due to air in 2019. Created by Rob Doherty, the series stars Jonny Lee Miller as Holmes and Lucy Liu as Watson, and at the end of the seventh season will have set a record of 154 episodes for a Sherlockian television series; only Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce have played Holmes and Watson more often and for more hours, screen and on the radio.
18926. The District Messenger is the newsletter of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, now edited by Jean Upton and as always interesting and informative, has reported in its latest (382nd) issue on some news from the U.S.: Ceylan Yeginsu, on the N.Y. Times' ReaderCenter on Twitter, recently asked readers about their experiences with petty crime in London; according to Jean, "one person reported that a red-headed man hired him to copy out the Encyclopedia Britannica, but it turned out to be a scam." The newsletter (and much more) is available at <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk>.

December 2018 #6

18927. The play's the thing (as Shakespeare wrote): Bart Lovins' "The Novel Adventures of Sherlock Holmes: A Study in Scarlet" is a new production of a dramatization performed at Expanded Arts in New York in 1998, now being produced again at the Hardin County Schools Performing Arts Center in Elizabethtown, Ky., Jan. 17-27 <www.thepac.net>.
18928. Kevin O'Brien's "Sherlock Holmes and the Temple of Doom" will be performed by Upstage Productions <www.upstageproductions.com> at the Carterville Community Center in Carterville, Ill., on Jan. 18; the dinner theater mystery is billed as "Sherlock Holmes, Nancy Drew, Lt. Columbo, and the Scooby Doo Gang are on a wild and dangerous treasure hunt, but so is the amazing archeologist Louisiana Jones." The company has another play titled "No Schick, Sherlock" (Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson come through many a close shave as they investigate "The Case of the Slashing Razor").
18929. Jami-Leigh Bartschi's musical "My Dear Watson" is due at the Edge Theater in Chicago, Ill. Feb. 5-23 <www.cmtf.org>.
18930. Nick Scovell's "Sherlock Holmes: The Hound of the Baskervilles" is due at Ferneham Hall in Fareham, Hants., Feb. 20-24 <www.fernehamhall.co.uk>.
18931. "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of Dying to Say I Do" is a new play scheduled at the Diamond Theatre in Ligonier, Pa., Mar. 1-3 <www.diamondtheatre.com>.

18932. Jeffrey Hatcher's "Holmes and Watson" will be performed at the Commonwealth Theatre in Lanesboro, Minn., Apr. 5-July 6 <www.commonwealththeatre.org>.
18933. Rick Robinson's "Sherlock Holmes and the Sign of the Four" is scheduled at the Oregon Cabaret Theater in Ashland, Ore., Apr. 11-May 26; web-site is at <www.theoregoncabaret.com>.
18934. K. C. Brown's "Sherlock's Veiled Secret" will be performed at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre in Rockville, Md., May 3-12 <www.rft-online.org>.
18935. Margaret Raether's new play "Sherlock Holmes & the Precarious Position" is scheduled at the Cheek Theater at Rockford University in Rockford, Ill., on May 9-26 <www.artistsensemble.org>. "Whistling in the Dark" (her dramatization of "The Speckled Band"), performed in 2017, was broadcast by Northern Public Radio on July 15, 2017; podcast at <www.tinyurl.com/yctj3aou>.
18936. Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is due at the Warner Theatre in Torrington, Conn., Mar. 23-31 <www.warnertheatre.org>. Also at the Ashland University Studio Theatre in Ashland, Ohio, Apr. 5-7; web-site at <www.ashland.edu>. And at the Firehouse Theater in Alliance, Ohio, May 10-19 <www.carnationcityplayers.com>.
18937. Michael Mitnick's new play "Mysterious Circumstances" will premiere at the Geffen Playhouse in Los Angeles, July 11-14 <www.geffenplayhouse.org> (the play is inspired by David Grann's article in the New Yorker about the death of Richard Lancelyn Green).

January 2019 #1

18938. Sherlockians (and Holmesians) gathered in New York to celebrate the Great Detective's 165th birthday during the long weekend from Jan. 9 to 13; the (very) long weekend was filled with events, both formal and informal, and detailed reports on most of them will be available soon at the web-site of The Baker Street Irregulars <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com>. But in the meantime, here are few brief paragraphs to tide you over:
18939. The BSI's Distinguished Speaker on Thursday evening was Ken Ludwig, award-winning author of three Sherlockian (and many more non-Sherlockian) plays; he reported that he has just completed work on his newest play "Moriarty" (in the five-actor format of "Baskerville") and hopes it will be produced in the near future.
18940. The Irregulars and their guests gathered for the BSI annual dinner at the Yale Club, where Evelyn Herzog proposed the traditional preprandial first toast to Nelda Richards as The Woman. This was followed by the presentation of a Festschrift to a thoroughly-surprised member of the BSI who was celebrating the 60th anniversary of his Investiture; immodestly, the editor of this newsletter says "let me recommend this book," which is available (80 pp., \$19.95) from the BSI at <www.tinyurl.com/yb5z9frc>.
18941. The annual dinner's agenda included the usual toasts, rituals, and papers, and Mike Whelan (the "Wiggins" of the BSI) presented Birthday Honours (Irregular Shillings and Investitures) to Alexander Katz ("Sarasate"), John Knud-Hansen ("This Lascar Scoundrel"), Brigitte Latella ("Holmes's Alpenstock"), Michele Lopez ("Attenta, Pericolo"), Ira B. Matetsky ("The Final Problem"), Terry McCammon ("Young Stamford"), Mike McSwiggin ("A Seven Percent Solution"), Greg D. Ruby ("Bulldog Pin with Ruby Eyes"), and Monica Schmidt ("Julia Stoner").
18942. Mike Whelan then announced that Mike Kean had been appointed to the office of "Commissionaire" to serve one year, and the end of which he will become the BSI's new "Wiggins". Mike Kean will be only the sixth person to lead the BSI since it was founded by Christopher Morley in 1934.
18943. The Baker Street Irregulars also have published a second title in the Professions Series that was launched with Nerve and Knowledge in 2015. The new book is Canon Law: Lawyers, Law, and the Sherlockian Canon, edited by William A. Walsh and Donny Zaldin (2018; 206 pp., \$39.95), and it offers a wide-ranging look at many of the legal (and illegal) aspects of the world of Sherlock Holmes, including a transcript of what might have happened if he were to have been tried for some of his infringements of the law.
18944. The latest title in the BSI's Manuscript Series is Deadly Harpoon, edited by Glen Miranker (2018; 168 pp., \$39.95), which offers a facsimile of the manuscript of "Black Peter", an annotated transcript, and interesting commentary on the manuscript, the story, and the world in which the Great Detective lived when he was involved in the case. It is of course thoroughly appropriate that the volume has been edited by the fortunate owner of the manuscript. More information about both books, including the tables of contents, can be found at <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com>.

January 2019 #2

18945. It should be noted that there is much more to see at the BSI's web-site <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com>, such as information about The Baker Street Journal, which now appears five times a year (there are four quarterly issues and a Christmas Annual that's available only to subscribers). The 2018 Christmas Annual reported on the colorful history of the Sherlock Holmes Exhibitions in London in 1951 and then in New York in 1952, and the 2019 Christmas Annual will be a tribute to the late William S. Baring-Gould.
18946. And, for those who want to plan ahead, the Sherlock Holmes Society of London will hold its annual dinner on Jan. 11, 2020, in London, and the BSI will hold their annual dinner on Jan. 17, 2020, in New York.
18947. With regard to Canon Law, those who recall that William Shakespeare wrote (in Henry VI), "the first thing we do, let's kill all the lawyers," should also remember that those words were spoken by Dick the Butcher, who was in rebellion against the king, and that the rebels then managed only to kill a county clerk.
18948. Al Gregory <gaslightandfog@verizon.net> kindly offers (via email) his new edition of "The ABC of the BSI" (an alphabetical listing of Investitures, with recipients, from "Abbey Grange" to "Young Stamford") and "The Florin Society" (couples in which both spouses are Investitured Irregulars).
18949. Gasogene Books has published Sherlock Holmes and Conan Doyle in the Newspapers, Volume 4, January-June 1894, edited and annotated by Mattias Boström, Mark Alberstat, Leah Guinn, and Matt Laffey (2019; 202 pp., \$34.95); there are more editors now, quite understandable considering the wealth of material about Holmes and Conan Doyle in the ever-expanding data-bases of digitized newspapers and magazines <www.gasogenebooks.com>.
18950. Those who have bought Nicholas Utechin's splendid The Complete Paget Portfolio (November 18 #3), still available from Gasogene and still highly recommended, will be interested in a recent message from Nick: some of his text did not make it into the final version of the book, and he will be happy to send the text by email so that you can print it out and insert it into your copy; you can reach Nick at <highfieldfarmhouse@gmail.com>.
18951. More news from the birthday festivities: Nicholas Meyer announced the discovery of another missing manuscript: The Adventure of the Peculiar Protocols, which will be published later this year (the 45th anniversary of the publication of his The Seven-Per-Cent Solution).
18952. The Crew of the Barque Lone Star, in Dallas, has published a sequel to its A Grimm Sherlock Holmes (December 17 #2). A Grimmer Sherlock Holmes, edited by Steve Mason, is the society's second anthology of fairy-tale pastiches; it is a 179-page e-book, offering pastiches and the fairy tales on which they are based, nicely available without charge at <www.tinyurl.com/y9oqdroc>.
18953. "Literary Figures Who Can't Commit" in the N.Y. Times Book Review on Jan. 20 offered graphic artist Ali Fitzgerald's illustrations of Captain Ahab, Edward Rochester, Mary Poppins, the White Rabbit, and Sherlock Holmes; you can see them all at <www.tinyurl.com/y97b8lgp>.

January 2019 #3

18954. Plan ahead: the latest issue of The Bowling Green (the newsletter of The Grillparzer Club of the Hoboken Free State) announces an excursion to Oxford in May 2021, commemorating Christopher Morley's first year as a Rhodes Scholar at the University. Details will be available (eventually) from Terry Hunt <18goldini95@gmail.com>.
18955. The UCLA Film and Television Archive has announced a collaborative worldwide search for missing or deteriorating Sherlockian films that will lead to the films' restoration, and the project is being coordinated by Barbara Roisman Cooper, who is a member of The Baker Street Irregulars as well as the Archive's board; if you would like further information or to join the volunteer committee that's working on the project, you can contact Barbara at <peninc1@aol.com>. UCLA has the second-largest moving-image archive in the United States (after the Library of Congress), and has worked on Sherlockian films in the past: restoring from nitrate originals and preserving the classic Basil Rathbone/Nigel Bruce films, with funding from UCLA, Warner Bros., and Hugh Hefner.
18956. Barbara S. Koelle died on Nov. 28. She married Jack Koelle in 1948, and like her husband was an avid book collector, enthusiastic about children's books and especially the world of the Wizard of Oz. Barbara was a member of the board of directors of the International Wizard of Oz Club and she served as its president and as editor of its magazine The Baum Bugle. She was honored by The Baker Street Irregulars as The Woman in 1982.
18957. Plan ahead: the Left Coast Sherlockian Symposium, which is scheduled for Oct. 12-13 in Portland, Ore., promises "a weekend of scholarship and camaraderie" in the image of the Scintillation of Scions, 221B Con, and other Sherlockian conferences. Planning is underway, registration is open, and there's more information at their web-site at <www.leftcoastsherlock.com>.
18958. The Golden Raspberry Awards (for failure in cinematic achievement), also known as the Razzies, were created in 1981, and traditionally are awarded the day before the Oscars. This year's nominations have been announced, and "Holmes & Watson" has been nominated in six of the nine categories: worst picture; worst actor (Will Ferrell); worst supporting actor (John C. Reilly); worst screen combo (Ferrell and Reilly); worst remake, rip-off, or sequel; and worst director (Etan Cohen). There's plenty of competition for each award, and the winners will be announced on Feb. 23.
18959. For those who came in late, "Holmes & Watson" has won negative (sometimes scathing) reviews from critics, audiences, and Sherlockians, and (so far), according to the Box Office Mojo web-site, has grossed less than its estimated production budget of \$42 million. It has been reported that Netflix turned down the film, and that it likely will be available on DVD in March for those who want to find fault with it, or to enjoy watching Hugh Laurie overact as Mycroft.
18960. The National (based in the United Arab Emirates) ran an article on Jan. 8 <www.tinyurl.com/yaop68m2> about "How Do Film Studios React When They Know They've Made a Dud?" (there have been many other films that foundered; it is interesting that some major newspapers, including the Washington Post, never bothered to review the film).
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January 2019 #4

18961. Netflix has announced plans for a new live-action Sherlockian Television series called "The Irregulars" (to be produced by the Canadian company Muse Entertainment); Tom Bidwell, who will be writing the series, has said, "what if Sherlock Holmes was a drug addict and a delinquent and the kids solve the whole case whilst he takes credit?" Bidwell's adaptation of "Watership Down" aired on BBC One last month, and he talked about that (and about "The Irregulars") in a BBC Writersroom interview on Dec. 18 <www.tinyurl.com/ydxgqqwh>. Muse produced four Sherlockian television films that starred Matt Frewer as Holmes: "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (2000), "The Sign of Four" (2001), "Royal Scandal" (2001), and The Case of the Whitechapel Vampire" (2002).
18962. The television series will be based on four graphic novels written by Tony Lee and illustrated by Dan Boulton that were published Franklin Watts in 2011; their graphic novels already have been dramatized by Eric Coble as a two-act play "Sherlock Holmes: The Baker Street Irregulars" that premiered in Milwaukee, Wis., in 2014; it has had regional productions elsewhere and the script is available from Dramatic Publishing.
18963. David L. Hammer ("Major-General Stoner") died on Dec. 27. He had a long career as a lawyer, and was launched as a Sherlockian author in 1983 with the publication of his splendid The Game Is Afoot: A Travel Guide to the England of Sherlock Holmes, the first of a long series of books about his world-wide travels in the footsteps of Holmes. He was the founder of the Gasogene Press, and presided over an interesting Sherlockian workshop in Dubuque. Scott Monty has a warm tribute to David at "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" <www.tinyurl.com/ya92lg7w>, with a link to Gael Stahl's interview with Dave for the Nashville Scholars of the Three Pipe Problem. He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1986.
18964. One of the interesting things about modern technology is that the Internet makes it possible to find productions of Sherlockian plays just about anywhere. Howard Ostrom notes Ken Ludwig's "Sherlok Holms dhe Langoi i Baskervillëve" at the Metropol Theater in Tirana, Albania, Dec. 13, 2018-Feb. 3, 2019 <www.tinyurl.com/y92nmucv>.
18965. The Norwegian Explorers' Christmas Annual for 2018 has "War and Peace" as its theme, with contributions that include pastiches, essay, and artwork, all related to appropriate aspects of the Canon; the 60-page booklet, edited by Ray Riethmeier and Phillip Bergem, can be ordered from Phillip (at 3829 172nd Avenue NW, Andover, MN 55304), and the cost is \$10.00 postpaid (checks payable to the Norwegian Explorers, please). Anyone outside the U.S. should contact Phillip <pgerman@gmail.com> to ask about the postpaid cost.
18966. Peter Calamai ("The Leeds Mercury") died on Jan. 22. A distinguished Canadian journalist, Peter was awarded membership in the Order of Canada in 2014, honoring his achievements as a science journalist and his contributions to the cause of literacy. He drew upon his expertise in journalism for many of his contributions to Canonical scholarship, and received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 2005, and was the winner of the BSI's Morley-Montgomery Award for the best article published in The Baker Street Journal in 2012.
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January 2019 #5

18967. The Mystery Writers of America have announced the nominees for this year's Edgar awards, and they include Bradley Harper's A Knife in the Fog (for best first novel by an American author) and Leslie S. Klinger's Classic American Crime Fiction of the 1920s (for best critical/biographical). The winners will be announced at the MWA Gala Banquet in New York on Apr. 25.
18968. The Deutsche Sherlock-Holmes-Gesellschaft and the Austrian town of Feldkirch will celebrate Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's 160th birthday with an excursion to Feldkirch on May 23-26 (Conan Doyle studied at the Jesuit College of Stella Matutina from 1875 to 1876). More information on the event is available at <www.dshg.de/dshg-jahresreise-2019>, all in German (as the conference will be).
18969. The Fourth Garrideb will hold its "Numismatic Friends of Sherlock Holmes Dinner" in Pittsburgh, Pa., on Mar. 29, during the American Numismatic Association's National Money Show; there's more information about the event at <www.tinyurl.com/y9nhndby>.
18970. Russell Baker died on Jan. 21. He was a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist who worked most of his career for the N.Y. Times, as a reporter and as a columnist. He also succeeded Alistair Cooke as host of "Masterpiece Theatre" on PBS, introducing programs from 1993 to 2004; none of the programs were Sherlockian, but he often found reason to mention (and praise) Holmes and Conan Doyle.
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18971. The British Royal Mint has announced that it will issue a 50p coin honoring Sherlock Holmes this year, and the coin already is available for purchase in an annual set that includes all of this year's coins, in various metals; details on the coin, the sets, and an illustration, will be found at the Fourth Garrideb web-site <www.tinyurl.com/yc89akeo>. Of course the Royal Mint hopes that collectors (and speculators) will pursue the expensive annual sets, but it will be worthwhile waiting: Greg has learned that individual coins will be available later this year at more modest prices. It is unlikely, however, that the coins will turn up in pocket change.
18972. The Beacon Society offers annual January Stauber grants of up to \$600 to fund development of programs that introduce young people to Sherlock Holmes in the U.S. and Canada; the deadline for grant applications is May 1, and details are available at the society's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/h7acxds>.
18973. Windsor Davies died on Jan. 17. Born in Wales, he began his acting career on stage in 1961 and went on to work in film and television and as a voice actor in commercials. He played Inspector Illingworth in a dramatization of Max Pemberton's "The Ripening Rubies" (1971), with Bernard Sutton as Robert Lang, in the ITV television series "The Rivals of Sherlock Holmes".
18974. The Chicago Philharmonic has an interesting afternoon program coming up on Mar. 24, at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie: "Silent Sherlock" will offer Buster Keaton's "Sherlock Jr.," (1924), Koko the Clown's "Fadeaway" (1926), and Felix the Cat's "SureLocked Holmes" (1928) (the first and third films being Sherlockian), with live orchestral accompaniment <www.chicagophilharmonic.org/silent-sherlock>.
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January 2019 #6

18975. Theatrics: Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" on at Cheney Hall in Manchester, Conn., through Feb. 17 <www.cheneyhall.org>. It also is due at the Granite Theatre in Westerly, R.I., Mar. 22-Apr. 7 <www.granitetheatre.com>.
18976. Richard Lavin's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Impaled Whaler" will be performed at the Tudor House in Lake Arrowhead, Calif., Feb. 15-23 <www.tudorhouseentertainment.villas>.
18977. David Stuart Davies' new play "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Reckoning" will debut at the Assembly Roxy in Edinburgh, Feb. 25-Mar. 2; there's more information at <www.tinyurl.com/y8dlfb4>.
18978. Mike Grogan's "Life After Sherlock" (billed as "a tale of blackmail, murder, suicide, deceit, and treasure, all in two acts") is touring in Britain with performances scheduled at the Alton Assembly Rooms in Alton on May 25, the Hanger Farm Arts Centre in Southampton on May 31, the Capitol Theatre in Horsham on June 7, and the Petersfield Festival Hall in Petersfield on June 15. Devil's Drum Productions seems to be the producer, but doesn't have a working web-site; a Google search will help. Mike Grogan can be seen at <<https://twitter.com/mikegroganmusic>>.
18979. If you haven't heard already, postage prices have gone up again: a firstclass letter now costs 55¢ (up from 50¢), so subscriptions to this newsletter will cost more, for those few remaining subscribers willing to pay for the privilege of opening envelopes rather reading the newsletter online (or printing it themselves). The second ounce of a first-class letter now costs 15¢ (down from 21¢), and delivery outside the U.S. does not cost more (yet).
18980. Finally: if you have noticed slight differences between this month's issue and past issues, that's because this month's issue was created on my newer computer, a change required by the hospitalization of my older MS-DOS computer, and the need to find an exorcist, a resurrectionist, and a wizard to bring me firmly into the 21st century. If you did not notice any differences, that is because I was easily able to find someone who combines all three skills, and has been able to show me how to use Microsoft Word instead of Volkswriter 3, and to write my newsletter on my newer Windows 10 computer. The font is slightly different (TrueType's Courier New isn't quite the same as dot-matrix Courier), but I'm delighted that I still can pretend that I'm using a typewriter (as I did when I started writing paragraphs to John Bennett Shaw in the now-distant 1970s). Some day you might see things such as proportional spacing and dingbats, but the world (this one, at least) is not quite prepared for that.
18981. A few things, including some very recent paragraphing, have vanished, but I expect to catch up sooner rather than later. My Wizard has told me that there's a way to run my older software on my newer computer, so it's possible (but not likely) that this slightly-more-modern look may vanish. If there's anything I've forgotten to remember, please let me know.
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February 2019 #1

18982. The Baker Street Irregulars Press and the BSI Trust will hold a book fair on Apr. 27 at the Chatham-Summit Quaker Friends Meeting House in Chatham, N.J., from noon to 4:00 pm, offering books from the various BSI Press series, and used books and other Sherlockiana that have been donated to the Trust. More information is available from Denny Dobry <dendobry@ptd.net>; the nearest train station is NJ Transit's Chatham Station on the Morristown Line, from Penn Station in New York, and Denny will be happy to ar- range shuttle transportation from the Chatham Station on request.
18983. If you can't make it to New Jersey, or just can't wait, you can send your want-list to Denny; the BSI Trust inventory includes a wide range of Sherlockian and Doylean material, offered at reasonable prices. Proceeds will be used to maintain the BSI Archives at the Lilly Library at the University of Indiana.
18984. Heritage Auctions is offering the Otto Penzler Collection of Mystery Fiction, beginning with Part One on Mar. 6 in New York; there are some spendid items in the auction, and their web-site includes a short video showing his magnificent library <www.tinyurl.com/y26mknss>.
18985. If you have been thinking about subscribing to the Baker Street Journal, now's the time to decide to do so, before the spring issue goes to press at the end of March. Subscribers will receive all five issues, including the Christmas Annual, which will be a tribute both to the late William S. Baring-Gould and to his The Annotated Sherlock Holmes. Strike while the iron's hot: go to <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com> to subscribe (and find much else of interest).
18986. Many Sherlockians have seen and enjoyed the International Sherlock Holmes Exhibition, and there's still time to see it at the Liberty Science Center in Jersey City, N.J., where it will run through May 27 <www.lsc.org>. The exhibition was created by the Exhibits Development Group, and Ross Davies notes that there's an impressive web-site <www.tinyurl.com/y9b7yq83> where you can see how the company promotes the exhibition to museums that might want to put it on display.
18987. Greg Ruby discusses "Holmes & Watson in the Great War" (emphasizing Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce's military medals) in the Numismatist (Feb. 2019) <www.onlinedigitalpublishing.com/publication/?i=562102&vr=html5&p=50>.
18988. Pokémon's "Detective Pikachu" film is scheduled for release on May 10, but Warner Bros. is so enthusiastic about the film that work has started on a sequel, according to the Hollywood Reporter (Jan. 25); you can see Pikachu in Sherlockian costume in a trailer at <www.tinyurl.com/ybszcx68>.
18989. You can now register for the "Dark Places, Wicked Companions, and Strange Experiences" conference on Aug. 8-11 in Minneapolis; this is the triennial conference sponsored by the Norwegian Explorers, the University of Minnesota, and the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections. For more information (and a registration form), visit <www.norwegianexplorers.org>.
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February 2019 #2

18990. Dame June Whitfield died on Dec. 28. She began her acting career on stage in 1944 and went on to work in films and on radio and television; she was best known for her appearance in the television series "Absolutely Fabulous", and played Mrs. Hudson and other female parts in Roy Hudd's "The Newly Discovered Casebook of Sherlock Holmes" on BBC Radio 2 in 1999. She was appointed OBE in 1985, CBE in 1998, and then Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 2017, for services to drama and entertainment.
18991. John Linsenmeyer has relayed Michael Quigley's report on the Jezail Bullet, an interesting cocktail with a nicely Canonical name and a Sherlockian history Lyndsay Faye commissioned her husband Gabriel Lehner (who does this sort of thing professionally) to create a specialty cocktail for the Baker Street Babes' "Daintiest Bee Under Your Bonnet Ball" at The Players during the birthday festivities in 2015. Laurie Fraser Manifold provided attractive artwork, and the cocktail is reported to have met with universal approval; you can find a readable, downloadable, and printable version of artwork and recipe at the Red Circle's web-site <www.redcircledc.org>.
18992. "One Book/One Community" is an annual program sponsored by the East Baton Rouge Parish Library, and this year they have chosen The Hound of the Baskervilles. The program includes an exhibition titled "Who's Your Holmes?" at Louisiana State University's Hill Memorial Library through May 31; the material on display is drawn from the LSU Libraries' Russell A. Mann Sherlock Holmes Research Collection. More information about the program and the exhibition is available at <www.tinyurl.com/ycg4tmnn>, and there's an inventory of the collection at <www.tinyurl.com/y9a2zfv>.
18993. Registration is now open for the "Holmes, Doyle, & Friends" gathering on Mar. 29-30 in Dayton, Ohio; details will be found at the web-site of the Agra Treasurers <www.agratreasurers.net/holmes--doyle---friends.html>.
18994. Stephen Fry's recording "Sherlock Holmes: The Definitive Collection" has been uploaded to YouTube in 17 parts, and may still be available for download at <www.youtube.com/channel/UC4pYq9_yvIV8vfZzwFY8Nw>. This will be of interest to people in the U.S., where the version offered by Audible is not complete because of copyright restrictions. The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes is in parts 16 and 17.
18995. "It's Elemental, My Dear Watson," according to an advertisement spotted by Joe Coppola <www.tinyurl.com/you8qlw2>; the advertisement is by a company called SparkFun, which explains that its "gator:bit v.2.0 is an all-in-one carrier board for your micro:bit that provides you with a fully functioning development and prototype platform."
18996. Joanna Blalock stars in The Disappearance of Alistair Ainsworth (New York: Minotaur, 2019; 306 pp., \$26.99), the third in Leonard Goldberg's series about the daughter of Sherlock Holmes, who once again is working with Dr. John H. Watson and his son Dr. John H. Watson Jr.; her father taught her well, and she now (in 1915) she is trying to prevent disaster at the hands of German spies. It's all nicely done, and the author has a web-site at <www.leonardgoldberg.com>.

February 2019 #3

18997. There are many who benefit from Boolean algebra but know little if anything about the man who invented the logic that is used by Google for its searches, and who is credited with having invented the ones and zeros on which modern computers rely. The 200th anniversary of his birth was honored with a Google Doodle <www.tinyurl.com/y8d2lavc>, and New Light on George Boole, by Desmond MacHale and Yvonne Cohen (Cork: Atrium, 2018; 476 pp., €19.95), offers a detailed account of Boole's life and work, ending with a full chapter on "Sherlock Holmes, James Moriarty, and George Boole." The authors believe that it was Boole who was at least in part the inspiration for Moriarty, and they make a persuasive although sometimes circumstantial case.
18998. Lynda Arco is offering a wide variety of Sherlockian and Doylean books at eBay; her seller ID is lyar_73 (you can use the advanced search function to find her items).
18999. Don Hobbs continues to update his "The Galactic Sherlock Holmes"; the January edition has now with 109 foreign languages (and 9 versions of English in non-Roman alphabets such as Braille and Pitman Shorthand), showing covers in color and with bibliographic details for more than 7,200 entries; a thumb drive costs \$15.00 postpaid (to the U.S.) or \$20.00 (elsewhere) from Don (2100 Elm Creek Lane, Flower Mound, TX 75028).
19000. When in Monschau: Karen Murdock has found on-line images of an imaginative metal statue of Sherlock Holmes located in Germany; the artist and history are unknown, but you can see the statue at <www.tinyurl.com/ybkdkjqk>.
19001. Sunny Evans has mentioned Gregory Dowling's essay on "G. K. Chesterton's Father Brown Stories: The Debt to Sherlock Holmes", which is available as a free download at <www.academia.edu>, a web-site that offers free access to more than 22 million research papers (including 300 "sherlock holmes" in the title).
19002. Malice Domestic has announced the nominees for this year's Agatha awards, which include Margalit Fox's Conan Doyle for the Defense (best non-fiction). The winners will be announced at Malice in Bethesda on May 4.
19003. William Morgan Sheppard died on Jan. 6. He began his acting career with the Royal Shakespeare Company in 1858, performed on screen and television, and voiced characters in video games. He played Jim Craig in the Royal Shakespeare Company's tour of Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" in Washington and New York in 1975, and appeared in two episodes of the Geoffrey Whitehead television series in 1979 (as the Man in the Morgue in "The Case of Harry Crocker" and as Mischkin in "Four Minus Four Is One").
19004. "Writers, new writers in particular, worry about giving the reader enough detail," Geri Schear wrote in an essay noted in a weekly e-mailing from MX Publishing <www.rycardus.wordpress.com/2019/01/16/the-final-frontier>; she has written three pastiches about Sherlock Holmes and Lady Beatrice for MX and contributed short stories to MX anthologies, and her advice should be heeded by anyone wanting to write a good pastiche (or a non-pastiche, for that matter).

February 2019 #4

19005. Thaddeus Holt Jr. died on Dec. 29. A lawyer, he also served as deputy undersecretary of the Army and as secretary to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and was a dedicated military historian and wrote The Deceivers: Allied Military Deception in the Second World War (2004). Thad's essay on "The Hornblower Saga" in the N.Y. Times Book Review (May 18, 1975) opened with a quote from Christopher Morley and was as much about Holmes as about Hornblower, and his article "You Have Been in Afghanistan, I Perceive" in MHQ: The Quarterly Journal of Military History (winter 1994) offered evidence that the fatal battle of Maiwand provided Conan Doyle with the names of both Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson.
19006. Sherlockians and Holmesians have their Canon (and fans of Laurie R. King's "Mary Russell" stories have their Kanon), and Thomas Ling had a long essay in Radio Times (Feb. 5) <www.tinyurl.com/yd5wtzwx> about the canon created by fans of Doctor Who, with discussion of the Watsonian and Doylean Perspectives, and the similar approaches that the Whovians take regarding the contradictions and complications in their "Whoniverse".

19007. Laurie R. King's *The Art of Detection* (November 05 #6) is a delightful cross-over combining the worlds of Kate Martinelli and Mary Russell, and it includes a short story written by Sherlock Holmes that Laurie now offers as a free download: "The Marriage of Billy Birdsong" will be available until Mar. 11 at <www.tinyurl.com/y2nloy4m>.
19008. Albert Finney died on Feb. 8. The British actor began his career on stage and appeared in his first film in 1956, achieving international stardom in the title role in "Tom Jones" (1963); he appeared in many other films and was nominated for five Oscars (and was sometimes called the greatest actor never to have won an Oscar), and had an uncredited cameo as a "man in the audience at opera" in "The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes' Smarter Brother" (1975).
19009. Sidney and Walter Paget contributed illustrations to the Canon (and Walter is said to have been the model when his brother Sidney first drew Holmes), but there is another artist in the Paget family; Greg Ruby has three items at his Fourth Garrideb web-site on coins and medals that were designed by Walter Paget's son Thomas Paget. Just go to <www.fourthgarrideb.com> and search for [paget].
19010. Betty Ballantine died on Feb. 12. She and her late husband Ian Ballantine founded Bantam Books and the Ballantine Books, and helped invent the modern paperback. They published Sherlockian titles, of course, and were responsible for one of a delightful publishing hoax: Jean Shepherd, who had a night-time radio show in New York City, once asked his listeners to go to bookstores and ask for Frederick R. Ewing's *I Libertine*; neither the book nor the author existed, but the book made some best-seller lists, at a time when the lists were based on orders as well as sales, greatly frustrating booksellers. When the Ballantines heard about the hoax they asked science-fiction author Theodore Sturgeon to write the book as Ewing; Sturgeon did, and the Ballantines published it in 1956, with cover artwork by Frank Kelly Freas that shows a pub sign for the Fish & Staff; the sign has images of a sturgeon and shepherd's staff.

February 2019 #5

19011. Charles Finch's *The Vanishing Man* (New York: Minotaur, 2019; 269 pp., \$26.99), set in 1853, is a prequel to the long-running series about Charles Lenox, an amateur detective in pre-Sherlockian London (the series takes him into the 1870s), offering an intriguing view of the London, and England, into which Holmes was born; the story's well-told, with interesting characters and a good sense of time and place.
19012. "Sherlock Holmes 3" (that's the only title announced so far for the third Robert Downey Jr. film) has an official release date of Dec. 25, 2020, according to Warner Bros. There's reported to be script, and one can assume that at some point they'll start production. Or not.
19013. Further to an earlier mention of the CW television series "The Flash" (August 18 #4), the continuing character Harrison "Sherloque" Wells (played by Tom Cavanagh) is a distinct homage to Sherlock Holmes; in a recent episode he mentioned his former partner Watsune, who had an affair with Sherloque's fourth wife, and in the next episode we learned that she was Renee Adler (played by Kimberly Williams-Paisley).
19014. Jennie Paton spotted an attractive plaster sculpture of Sherlock Holmes on eBay <www.tinyurl.com/y9ttxzxc>, offered by Sam Safieh at BargainSales365 in England (£29.99); they also offer a plaster sculpture of the exterior of 221 Baker Street (£110.00) <www.tinyurl.com/yaocmp6u>.
19015. "Talk About Sherlock" is a new monthly audio blog by Mattias Bostrom; in the first episode ("The Walking Out Mystery") he discusses the impact of the Will Ferrell/John C. Reilly film "Holmes & Watson" and wonders whether the reported "mass walkouts" actually occurred. In the second episode ("The Micah Clarke Effect") he discusses the importance of Conan Doyle's historical fiction. You can listen to both of the episodes of his blog at <www.talkaboutsherlock.libsyn.com>.
19016. Josh Sorokach's discussion of the documentary "Game Changers" in the on-line newsletter Decider (Feb. 4) included a report that there was a Sherlockian inspiration for the game show "Jeopardy" in a conversation between Merv Griffin and his wife Julann; details at <www.tinyurl.com/ycc29xdh>.
19017. Ray Betzner has been blogging for some time at "Studies in Starrett" about Starrett's *The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes*, and you can read Ray's final(17th) chapter at <www.tinyurl.com/yydqwpfh>, with links to the earlier chapters; there's much to be said about this landmark in the Sherlockian literature, and Ray says it well.
19018. *The Adventure of the Creeping Man* (Winchester University Press, 2017; 132 pp., £35.00 postpaid in the U.K./£50.00 postpaid elsewhere) is a facsimile edition of the manuscript, accompanied by an introduction and an annotated transcript by Neil McCaw, and a facsimile of the story as published in *The Strand Magazine*; McCaw offers an excellent discussion of the story, and of the changes that Conan Doyle made as he wrote it. Of particular note is the book's epigraph: "Read at once if convenient—if inconvenient, read all the same," a delightful paraphrase of the Canon. The book can be ordered at <www.visitportsmouth.co.uk/conandoyle/thecreepingman>.

February 2019 #6

19019. "Cromer is a very 1902 kind of place," the Guardian reported on Feb. 22. "One half expects to see a non-ironic mutton-chop or a waxed moustache in the queue at Morrisons, or Arthur Conan Doyle (awfully keen on Cromer) filling up his Prius at the petrol station." You can read all about it at <www.tinyurl.com/y3o2ogj9>. It was at the Royal Links Hotel in Cromer in 1901 that Conan Doyle and Fletcher Robinson gave birth to the Hound of the Baskervilles; a photograph of the hotel that was taken two years earlier can be seen at <www.tinyurl.com/yxh7splv>.
19020. It's nice to see old television commercials turn up at YouTube: Jennie Paton has reported a 30-second commercial for the American Gas Association and the Lennox Gas Furnace that aired in 1990, starring Patrick Horgan as Holmes and Sandy Marshall as Watson <www.youtube.com/watch?v=wY3g47rID_w>.
19021. There are of course very few people who own a copy of Beeton's *Christmas Annual for 1887*, and if you're not one of those very few you may want to purchase the new facsimile published by Matt Wingett; it's nicely done and available from <www.lifeisamazing.co.uk> for £15.00, offering you a chance to read the two original drawing room plays that accompanied the first appearance of "A Study in Scarlet" (and the advertisements that provide an interesting look at what life was like in 1887).
19022. Also available from the same publisher is Wingett's *Portsmouth: A Literary and Pictorial Tour* (2018; 93 pp, £12.50); it's a carefully-researched and nicely-illustrated history of the city's varied literary associations, including (needless to say) Arthur Conan Doyle, who was only one of the many authors who lived in or wrote about Portsmouth. And Conan Doyle and the *Mysterious World of Light 1887-1920* (2016; 320 pp., £12.99), in which Wingett reprints (and comments on) articles by and about Conan Doyle that appeared in *Light* and other magazine and newspapers, and offers a detailed look at the development of Conan Doyle's religious approach to Spiritualism.
19023. "The Next Leader of the World's Oldest Sherlock Holmes Society Loves Mysteries—and the Great Game" is the headline on an article in the *Monterey County Weekly* (Feb. 21) <www.tinyurl.com/y6tld37z>, the next "benevolent dictator" of *The Baker Street Irregulars*.

19024. Samuel Feinberg ("The Prince of Colonna") died on Feb. 13. He had a long career in broadcasting in Philadelphia and New York, and was a member of the Broadcast Pioneers of Philadelphia. Sam was a devoted member of the Sons of the Copper Beeches, contributed articles to the Baker Street Journal and More Leaves from the Copper Beeches, and received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1977.
19025. The Golden Raspberry Awards (for failure in cinematic achievement), also known as the Razzies, were created in 1981, and traditionally are awarded the day before the Oscars. This year's winners have been announced, and "Holmes & Watson" won in four categories: worst picture; worst supporting actor (John C. Reilly); worst remake, rip-off, or sequel; and worst direc-tor (Etan Cohen). The film was nominated in two other categories (worst actor and worst screen combo). Details at <www.tinyurl.com/y3feqrjp>.
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February 2019 #7

19026. The Grillparzer Club of the Hoboken Free State has announced a Raffle for a brick fragment from Christopher Morley's house in Roslyn Estates on Long Island, offering admirers of Morley a rare opportunity to own an artifact from his home, which was torn down in 2011. Tickets cost \$5.00 each, and proceeds from the raffle will go to the Christopher Morley grave decoration fund; the drawing will be held at the society's annual dinner in Hoboken on Apr. 28, and tickets can be purchased via <hobokenfreestate@mbcable.com>.
19027. "Holmes & Watson" (with Will Ferrell and John C. Reilly) will be released on Apr. 9 in a Blu-ray/DVD set (\$34.99) and DVD only (\$30.99); the added features will include 20 deleted scenes <www.tinyurl.com/y3zzbaod>.
19028. Will Thomas' Hell Bay (New York: Minotaur, 2016; 290 pp., \$25.99) contin-ues his series featuring private enquiry agent Cyrus Barker (an homage to Holmes' rival in "The Retired Colourman") and his assistant Thomas Llewelyn, taking them to one of the Scilly Isles and a desperate battle to solve a series of brutal murders. Old Scores (2017; 294 pp., \$25.99), the next in the series, opens with Barker arrested for the murder of a Japanese ambassador, and reveals a lot about Barker's interesting life before he arrived in London; the characters and mysteries are nicely done, and Thomas has a web-site at <www.willthomasauthor.com>.
19029. Jennie Paton spotted Walmart's advertisement for an inexpensive Sherlock Holmes costume kit <www.tinyurl.com/y644wpm3>; for \$3.99 it's likely only patterns, but they also offer a variety of Sherlockian costumes.
19030. The New Yorker, on-line as well as in print, offers "Daily Shouts: Humor, Satire, and Funny Observations" that included (on Jan. 9) Ellen Rosen and Colin Stokes' illustrated "Clues That You Are the Unorthodox Detective in a Murder Mystery"; go to <www.tinyurl.com/y9h5nx92> to see their take on Sherlock Holmes.
19031. "How Sherlock Changed the World" (a two-hour program broadcast in the U.K. and the U.S. in 2013) is now available at YouTube, Jennie Paton reports, at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=BPYBxfvIUUU>.
19032. The Royal Mint's new 50p coin honoring Sherlock Holmes so far is available (still) only in annual sets, but you can see some imaginative artwork that promotes the coin, and an item about its designer Stephen Raw, on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/y7xajv2s>.
19033. "'Clue House' in Peterborough Inspired Parker Brothers" is the headline on a story in the Monadnock Ledger-Transcript (Feb. 18), noted by Karen Murdock <www.tinyurl.com/yxgfevc9>; according to the article, the house, in New Hampshire, was owned by George and Grace Parker of the Parker Brothers family when the game Clue was invented, and the game echoes the layout of the house. The citation for the game in Ron De Waal's The Universal Sherlock Holmes reports that in 1949 (when the game was first issued) it was called Clue, The Great New Sherlock Holmes Game! But (and there's often a but) according to Wikipedia, the British game Cluedo was licensed to Parker Brothers and issued in the U.S. as Clue.
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February 2019 #8

19034. "Spy's Skeleton Found in British Home" was the headline on an article in the N.Y. Times (June 27, 1974); it's a spectacular story, well worth reading <www.tinyurl.com/yxbvwlfj>, not really Sherlockian except that Holmes certainly would have nodded and said, "Well, that's Scotland Yard for you." It seems, from an Internet search, that the mystery's still unsolved.
19035. Deb E. Tenney's The Adventure of Black Peter: Hawaiian Style (El Cerrito: Glencannon Press, 2017; 16 pp., \$20.00) is an imaginative addition to the universe of Canonical translations, presented in Hawaiian pidgin, complete with footnotes and an explanation of how Hawaiian pidgin is pronounced.
19036. I hear of Sherlock everywhere: Jennie Paton spotted an amusing advertisement created by Saatchi & Saatchi in the United Arab Emirates for Head & Shoulders shampoo <www.tinyurl.com/y8nxfwf4>.
19037. The "Seattle Squeeze" is what the locals call the closing of the Alaskan Way Viaduct that recently was closed, affecting 90,000 cars full of commuters and other drivers. Bill Seil has kindly forwarded an amusing (and Sherlockian) editorial cartoon by David Horsey from the Seattle Times (on Jan. 30) <www.tinyurl.com/ycartyxz>, and you can click on the "simply disappeared" link for more context
19038. Theatrics: Christopher M. Walsh's "Miss Holmes" will be performed at the Coolidge Theatre in Wellsboro, Pa., Mar. 15-23 <www.tinyurl.com/yxkvvr9b>.
19039. Holmes and Watson are characters in the musical "Take Me Away" to be performed at the Hunterdon Hills Playhouse in Hampton, N.J., Mar. 20-Apr. 30 <www.hhplayhouse.com>.
19040. Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is scheduled at the Cantey V. Sutton Theatre in Raleigh, N.C., Apr. 12-28; their web-site's at <www.raleighlittlethetre.org>. Also at the Theater Barn in New Lebanon, N.Y., June 21-30 <www.theaterbarn.org>; at Cumston Hall in Monmouth, Maine, July 11-Aug. 15 <www.theateratmonmouth.org>. It's also due at the Pepsi-Cola Theatre for the Performing Arts in Mitchell, S.D., on Oct. 4-13 <www.mitchellact.org>.
19041. Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" will be performed at the Greenville Theatre in Greenville, S.C., on Oct. 25-Nov. 10 <www.greenvilleonline.org>.
19042. Jeffrey Hatcher's "Holmes and Watson" is due at the Park Square Theatre in St. Paul, Minn., June 12-July 26, 2020 <www.parkquaretheatre.org>.
19043. Dan Blackley's new play "Sherlock Holmes: Here There Be Dragons" will be performed at the Camino Real Playhouse in San Juan Capistrano, Calif., on Oct. 18-Nov. 3 <www.caminorealplayhouse.org>; "in 1880s London, there are gruesome killings in Whitechapel."
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March 2019 #1

19044. Maiwand is in the news again, many years after the battle in which Watson was wounded in 1880: according to the Sunday Times (Feb. 24), the Ministry of Defence has reported to the Pentagon that the battlefield was looted by American soldiers who were deployed there in 2009, and that personal possessions and military items that had been buried with victims of the battle were sent to America and sold to collectors. Any soldier who took the material "may have broken international law," an MoD official said.
19045. Peter C. Davidson's dramatization of Conan Doyle's "The Disintegration MaMachine" (brought up to date) is a 17-minute film that debuted at the University of Utah in 2017; it can be seen at <www.tinyurl.com/yc3sbbdj>.
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19046. It wasn't that long ago that people diagnosed Sherlock Holmes as displaying Asperger's syndrome, which now is considered part of the autism spectrum; Alan Rettig has found an interesting mention of Sherlock Holmes in a discussion of "autism chic" in an article by Robert Hughes in *Northwestern Magazine* <www.tinyurl.com/y589z3hl>.
19047. There seem to be Sherlockians who collect anything and everything, but are there any who collect Sherlockian knives? Alexander Orlov has reported an artistic Sherlockian knife made by Alexander Aredakov, you can see images of his knife at <www.vk.com/id167856065>.
19048. A reminder about the book fair due at the Chatham-Summit Meeting House in Chatham, N.J., from noon to 4:00 pm on Apr. 27, when publications of the Baker Street Irregulars Press and Sherlockian material donated to the BSI Trust will be offered for sale; details available from Denny Dobry, who's also happy to help fill want lists from those who can't get to the event <dendobry@ptd.net>.
19049. Jennie Paton has found "The Shackles of Sherlock Holmes" available at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=DVNHZXP9w>; broadcast by ITV3 in 2007, the documentary features David Burke (who played Watson in the Granada series) and commentary by Owen Dudley Edwards, David Stuart Davies, Andrew Lycett, Jon Lellenberg, and Gyles Brandreth.
19050. The latest "Sherlock" is a light-weight fingerprint scanner that's marketed by Integrated Biometrics <www.integratedbiometrics.com>; they also offer a Mini Watson.
19051. The web-site HN Entertainment has "learned from a source" that "Sherlock Holmes 3" (the next in the Robert Downey Jr. franchise) will take place in the Old West, especially San Francisco <www.tinyurl.com/y5Kclu4>; one can assume that this is the first possibly unreliable rumor about the film.
19052. Playbill Vault <www.playbill.com/vault> bills itself as the largest Broadway database on-line, and it's well worth a look by anyone interested in Sherlockian and Doylean theater; there are images of programs as well as articles. The Internet Broadway Data Base <www.ibdb.com> is another fine resource for information about performances and casts and credits.

March 2019 #2

19053. Alexander Orlov has reported Mikhail Molyukov's *Biology with Sherlock Holmes* (Moscow: ACT, 2019; 242 pp., R239); it's all in Russian, with a detailed discussion of "how animals and plants helped the famous detective Sherlock Holmes unravel dozens of crimes!" The publisher's web-site is at <www.labirint.ru/books/674416>.
19054. Frank Cho (the award-winning artist who created the comic strip "Liberty Meadows") contributed the elegant Sherlockian artwork on the cover of the program for this year's annual dinner of The Baker Street Irregulars, you can see the artwork at <www.tinyurl.com/yvzpxas>.
19055. "Scooby-Doo and Guess Who?" is an animated television series scheduled to premiere on the Boomerang streaming service and app this year. The gang will solve mysteries while meeting celebrities, including Sherlock Holmes.
19056. Fun Cases is a British company that offers a wide range of merchandise (Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian), including an imaginative case for a cell phone (£7.99) <www.funcases.com>.
19057. André Previn died on Feb. 28. He was a consummate musician, as a pianist, composer, and conductor; he won eleven Grammys and four Oscars, received a knighthood in 1996, and was one of the Kennedy Center Honorees in 1998. His connection with Sherlock Holmes is through Sarasate (Holmes said at the end of "The Red-Headed League" that "Sarasate plays at the St. James's Hall this afternoon"): Previn conducted the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra for a 1979 recording of Sarasate's "Zigeunerweisen" with Itzhak Perlman on the violin, and you can listen to the recording at <www.tinyurl.com/y5jstbqb>.
19058. "Catholic Royal Opens New Centre for Christian Renewal at Stonyhurst College" was the headline on a story in the *Catholic Universe* (Feb. 27); the Catholic royal was Lord Nicholas Windsor, great-grandson of King George V, and the article <www.tinyurl.com/y273zf8s> is interesting for its mention of Conan Doyle having carved his name on a desk at the school, very close to the engraving of a contemporary called Moriarty; the desk is one of the historical artifacts that went on display at the school in 2002, according to the *Lancashire Telegraph* <www.tinyurl.com/yylflmwy>, and you can see an image of the desk at <www.tinyurl.com/y2qtq68>.
19059. Martin Edwards will deliver this year's Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture at 2:00 pm on Apr. 6 at the Toronto Reference Library, speaking on "In the Footsteps of Sherlock Holmes" <www.acdfriends.org>; admission is free, and the public is welcome to attend.
19060. Carol Channing died on Jan. 15. The award-winning actress made her stage debut in 1941 and went on to stardom in leading roles in "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes" (1949) and "Hello Dolly" (1964). Jean Upton noted in the *District Messenger* that Channing also played Mehitabel the cat (with Eddie Bracken as Archy the cockroach) in the Broadway musical "archy & mehitabel" in 1954 (based on the writings of Don Marquis, who was a close friend of Christopher Morley and an early member of The Baker Street Irregulars; she also voiced Mehitabel in the animated film "Shinbone Alley" in 1970).

March 2019 #3

19061. Carolyn Senter has established the R. Joel Senter Sr. Prize in honor of her late husband (they published the Sherlockian *E-Times* for many years). The prize will reward young people from grades four through twelve for excellence in writing and critical thinking, based on an essay about one of the Sherlock Holmes stories; the reward will be administered by the Beacon Society <www.beaconsociety.com>, and you're invited to contribute at their web-site (please mark your contribution for the Senter Prize).
19062. Arthur Thomas Walker died on Feb. 9. He was a cornerstone member of the Florida Bibliophile Society, and an avid collector of both Sherlock Holmes and Ernest Stratemeyer material. His collection eventually will be available; contact Maureen E. Mulvihill <maureenemulvihill@gmail.com> for more information.
19063. Jaimee Leigh's handcrafted "Well-Read Birdhouses" are sold at the Barrow Bookstore in Concord, Mass. Each one "aims to summarize the essence of a book or story," and of course she has not neglected Sherlock Holmes; his birdhouse can be seen at <www.barrowbookstore.com/literarygifts.html>.
19064. Big Chief Studios offers a wide range of authorized (and expensive) figures and dioramas from the "Sherlock" television series, and they're now having a clearance sale <www.tinyurl.com/y62cjco6> on some of their merchandise.
19065. The release of "Sherlock Holmes 3" (the next film in the franchise starring Robert Downey Jr. and Jude Law), previously scheduled for Christmas in 2020, has been postponed to the end of 2021 (according to a story in the *Hollywood Reporter*, which noted that the first film has grossed \$524 million world-wide, and the second film \$545.4 million).
19066. The Occupants of the Empty House have published their monthly *Camden House Journal* ever since the society was established in 1977, and they finally have gone electronic, offering PDFs via e-mail. If you'd like to see news and scholarship from the Occupants, send an e-mail message to Bill Cochran <www.murraytheorderly.com>.

19067. Further to the item (September 18 #1) about the origin of the name Doyle, there is a web-site <www.irishcentral.com> that offers information about Irish family names, with a short video that explains that the Dubhghaill (dark strangers) were the darker-haired Danish Vikings (rather than the lighter-haired Norwegian Vikings).
19068. Frederic H. Mende ("Lord Holdhurst") died on Mar. 15. An expert musician, he played with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and after moving to Charlotte, N.C., he taught music in the public schools and played first trumpet with the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra. A life-long student of military history, he identified a military surgeon who might have been the inspiration for Dr. Watson and he was an energetic member of his local Sherlockian society, the Saxe-Coburg Squares of Mecklenburg County. Fred received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1982.
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March 2019 #4

19069. James Mustich's *1,000 Books to Read Before You Die* (New York: Workman, 2018; 948 pp., \$35.00) is a delightful exploration of both Literature and literature, full of insightful commentary, and plenty of surprises. Conan Doyle's *The Complete Sherlock Holmes* is included ("it would be hard to name another modern literary character who has achieved such international celebrity"), and so are Christopher Morley's *Parnassus on Wheels* and *The Haunted Bookshop* (described as "two charming novels that celebrate the company of books").
19070. Some Sherlockian societies are exclusive, some not so much, and a few are totally inclusive, including Doyle's *Rotary Coffin*, founded by Paul Thomas Miller (with the motto "All Holmes Is Good Holmes"). The society's so inclusive that you're invited to print your own membership card at its web-site <www.sites.google.com/site/doylesrotarycoffin>. The society's purpose is "wholeheartedly and contrarily enjoying stupid Holmesiana regardless of how canonical others consider it to be," and its goal is "resisting the urge to be a Sherlock Snob and instead embracing every last daft bit of Holmes available."
19071. Australia has issued a stamp honoring the 150th anniversary of the discovery of the "Welcome Stranger" in the Bulldog Gully goldfields in 1869; it is still the largest alluvial gold nugget ever found, and it yielded 71kg of gold, worth (then) £9,583 or (now) about AU\$4 million. The second largest, the *Welcome Nugget*, found in Ballarat in 1859, yielded 69kg of gold (Ballarat is mentioned in "The Sign of the Four" and in "The Boscombe Valley Mystery"). They melted nuggets down in those days; the world's largest surviving nugget is the "Pepita Canaã" found in Brazil in 1983 with 52.33kg of gold, now on display in the Museu de Valores do Banco Central in Brasilia (the source nugget was larger, but split into pieces while being removed from the ground).
19072. Karen Murdock spotted the "Sherlock Personality Quiz" at the WETA web-site <www.weta.org/tv/program/sherlock/quiz>, where fans of the Benedict Cumberbatch series can find their match.
19073. The battle over the Lyndhurst Park Hotel continues. The developer withdrew its appeal against the National Park Authority's decision to reject a proposal to demolish the hotel (the campaign to protect the hotel included evidence that Conan Doyle helped design the redevelopment of the building as a hotel in 1912) (December 18 #4), but the *Southern Daily Echo* reported on Mar. 5 <www.tinyurl.com/y57jpw6> that PegasusLife plans to submit fresh proposals to replace the hotel with apartments and holiday homes.
19074. Ross E. Davies has edited (and published) the *Baker Street Almanac: An Annual Capsule of a Timeless Past & Future 2019*, which he imaginatively describes as "a formidable scrap-book of 2018, including treasures created or uncovered then, with a few other odds and ends tossed in, and a glance ahead at 2019." It's that and more, in 301 pages, with a wide variety of articles written by Sherlockians from all corners of the globe, and it is available both ink-on-paper (for \$30.00) and as a free 659-MB download at <www.greenbag.org>.
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March 2019 #5

19075. The fall 2018 issue of *The Magic Door* (that's the newsletter of the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) includes a report by Dayna Nuhn on letters Conan Doyle wrote to the publisher Grant Richards (purchased at the auction of Daniel Posnansky's collection), and other news from and about the Library and the Collection; copies are available on request from Clifford S. Goldfarb, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street, Toronto M4W 2G8, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.
19076. Barbara Rusch's one-act play "The Crossing" was performed at the Toronto Reference Library in 2011, during the "A Study in Scandal" conference; it has been expanded into a three-act play "The Crossing, or Three Authors in Search of a Character" that has been published for members of the Friends (the three authors being Oscar Wilde, Edgar Allan Poe, and Harry Houdini, with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle involved). There are a limited number of copies available to people who decide to join the Friends now; their web-site <www.acdfriends.org> is credit card and PayPal friendly, and you can send a check (in US or Canadian dollars) to Cliff Goldfarb (addresses above). The minimum donation of \$35.00 brings you three issues of their newsletter and a copy of the play. You can also purchase just the play, for \$20.00 postpaid, from Donny Zaldin; contact him at <donaldzaldin@rogers.com>.
19077. BBC Radio 4 broadcast a series of twelve 30-minute programs in a "Sherlock Holmes" series in 1978, with Barry Foster as Holmes and David Buck as Watson, and Jennie Paton reports that many of them are available on-line at YouTube; search for [barry foster sherlock].
19078. George Morfogen died on Mar. 8. He began his Broadway career as a stage manager in 1962, and went to appear on stage, screen, and television. He was perhaps best known for playing Bob Rebadow on the HBO series "Oz", and performed as Professor Moriarty (with Frank Langella as Holmes) in William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" on stage in 1977, and again for a production broadcast by HBO in 1981.
19079. Jennie Paton has found a new (and imaginative) Sherlockian artist: Domino Erdmann, a young woman in Germany who spent six months creating something that has to be seen to be believed <www.tinyurl.com/y5sjmhe8>.
19080. Michael Halm's *Sherlock Holmes and the Mad Doctor* (Hierogamous Enterprises, 2015; 109 pp. \$8.00) has Holmes and Watson in pursuit of a doctor who has invented a time machine; they travel into a great number of pasts and futures described by other authors of pastiches.
19081. Mystery-writer Peter Lovesey has long been interested in the Olympics, and some years ago helped identify the two men who assisted Dorando Pietro at the end of the Olympic marathon in 1908; they actually were Clerk of the Course Jack Andrew and Chief Medical Officer Michael Bulger, rather than (as some still maintain) Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (March 02 #4). Lovesey also has written Sherlockian pastiches, none of which are in the latest collection of his short stories published by Crippen & Landru, *The Crime of Miss Oyster Brown and Other Stories*, but his fans will welcome the opportunity to enjoy the book <www.crippenlandru.com>.
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March 2019 #6

19082. Karen Murdock has noted a story in the *San Jose Mercury News* (Mar. 11) about Tesla's decision to close half of its stores. The car company's CEO Elon Musk said in a memo to company employees that some of the stores that have been closed so far had not passed "the Sherlock Holmes test," adding that "most of the stores are in such difficult or obscure locations, only Sherlock Holmes could find them!"
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19083. "Numismatists do not fear change" is the motto of the Fourth Garrideb web-site maintained by Greg Ruby, who recently discussed the souvenir he prepared for last January's birthday festivities in New York; explaining how and why Sherlock Crater on the Moon can be seen on a U.S. one-dollar coin issued in 1976 <www.tinyurl.com/y65894po>.
19084. An attention-getting opening paragraph for a book, as noted by Kate Stine in Mystery Scene's monthly on-line newsletter: "On the third day of their honeymoon, infamous environmental activist Stewie Woods and his new bride, Annabel Bellotti, were spiking trees in the forest when a cow exploded and blew them up. Until then, their marriage had been happy." In *Savage Run*, by C. J. Box (2003).
19085. Sherlockians who have 3D printers may want to purchase (for \$15) a program that prints a bust of Benedict Cumberbatch as Sherlock Holmes, reported by Jennie Paton; it's available from CGTrader <www.tinyurl.com/y4rauesw>, and there's a matching bust of Martin Freeman as Dr. Watson.
19086. It's not at all surprising that anyone who knew the late John Bennett Shaw has stories to tell about him, and if you would like to read some of those stories you can find them at <www.johnbennettshaw.com>, a delightful web-site just launched by Jim Hawkins, who has done a fine job of collecting and illustrating tributes to John.
19087. The late Bill Rabe was a thoroughly imaginative publicist, and many of the traditions he started are still observed, one of them the annual snowman burning that welcomes the arrival of spring at Lake Superior State University; Bill's son John has kindly forwarded the press release for the event <www.lssu.edu/snowman-burning>. Note the link to another of his inspired creations, the Unicorn Hunters. He also was an enthusiastic Sherlockian, and the two editions of his *Sherlockian Who's Who and What's What* in 1961 and 1962 offer a wonderful look at what our world was like in those distant days.
19088. Marjorie Weinman Sharmat died on Mar. 12. She launched her career as an author of books for young readers in 1967, and wrote or co-wrote more than 130 books, including a long series of books that featured young detective Nate the Great, who often appeared in Sherlockian costume in illustrations by Marc Simont; the series debuted in 1972 and eventually sold more than 15 million copies, according to her publisher.
19089. Rob Nunn and Dan Andriacco have created an e-mail exchange for Sherlockian societies, so that they can share news and announcements; if you would like to publicize your society's activities, and hear about what other societies are doing, contact Rob at <parallelcastl@gmail.com>.

March 2019 #7

19090. Theodora Goss' *European Travel for the Monstrous Gentlewoman* (New York: Saga, 2018; 708 pp. \$26.99) is the second book in her trilogy about "the extraordinary adventures of the Athena Club"; it's a sequel to *The Strange Case of the Alchemist's Daughter* (July 17 #6), and the monstrous gentlewomen are inspired by books written by Stevenson, Hawthorne, Wells, Shelley, Stoker, and Rider Haggard. This time Holmes and Watson are only mentioned, but the cliffhanger ending of the book promises that they'll be more involved in the third book, *The Sinister Mystery of the Mesmerizing Girl*. The author's web-site <www.theodoragoss.com>. offers an interesting look at this and other series.
19091. The Hounds of the Internet continue to cycle through the Canon at a rate of one story per week, and Alexander Braun posts colorful "Case Inquiries" for each story. Willis Frick reposts them at Sherlocktron, and you can examine them at <www.sherlocktron.com/inquiries.html>. Willis also offers Ralph Edwards' "Canon Queeries" <www.sherlocktron.com/queries.html> (Ralph didn't do Queeries for three of the long stories).
19092. *Ghost Stories: Classic Tales of Horror and Suspense*, edited by Lisa Morton and Leslie S. Klinger (New York: Pegasus, 2019; 272 pp., \$25.95) has nothing by Conan Doyle (although he's mentioned in the introduction), but it's a treat for anyone who enjoys the genre.
19093. Basil Rathbone's former home in Henley-on-Thames in Oxfordshire was burned down this month in a fire that experts believe "was started deliberately as an unlawful act," the Daily Mail reported <www.tinyurl.com/y4h7jdsp> on Mar. 20; according to the paper, the current owner is a Russian oligarch who lives abroad, and the property has been the subject of numerous planning applications, including a proposal to build 47 homes on the six-acre site. All of the applications have been turned down.
19094. Bill Seil has forwarded a story in *Publishers Weekly* (Mar. 11) about plans to publish Mark Twain's *Literary Resources: A Reconstruction of His Library and Reading* <www.tinyurl.com/y3o9c4l8>. According to Alan Gribben, he began the project in 1969, and the resulting three volumes will include an annotated bibliography of all the books Twain cited in interviews and in his writings, and the 3,500 titles he owned in his personal library. Perhaps someone will someday do that for Conan Doyle.
19095. "Let us consider the claims of Whitaker's Almanack," said Sherlock Holmes (in "The Velley of Fear"). The almanack (that's the British spelling) is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year, and is still being published; Neil Clark offered a nice tribute to Whitaker's in the Daily Express (Mar. 11) <www.tinyurl.com/yyq3my3p>.
19096. Further to the report that Great Scotland Yard had been sold for £370 million and would be converted to "mixed-use residential development" (December 14 #6), Nick Utechin notes a report in *The Times* on Mar. 23 that it soon will be the Great Scotland Yard Hotel. The newspaper's web-site is (alas) protected by a pay-wall, but there's a similar story in the *Hindustan Times* <www.tinyurl.com/yyaqb3zc>. Now owned by an Indian billionaire, the hotel will open later this year, and it will be both fancy and expensive.

March 2019 #8

19097. *The New Adventures of Solar Pons*, edited by David Marcum (Manchester: Belanger Books, 2018; 423 pp., \$29.95), offers twenty "tales of the Sherlock Holmes of Praed Street," all written by authors who wanted to extend the Pontine Canon that was launched by August Derleth in 1929, when he created Solar Pons as an homage to Sherlock Holmes; the anthology has been authorized by Derleth's estate, and the new stories follow nicely in the path set by Derleth.
19098. Lynne Stephens has reported "Discovering Literature" (an on-line resource launched by the British Library in 2014); the (well-illustrated) articles include John Sutherland's "Sherlock Holmes, the World's Most Famous Literary Detective" <www.tinyurl.com/yylzjh8t> and Greg Buzwell's "An Introduction to The Hound of the Baskervilles" <www.tinyurl.com/yxsd64ff>.
19099. "Sherlock's Other Brother by a Southern Mother" is being performed at the Black Fedora Comedy Mystery Theatre in Charleston, S.C., through Aug. 29 ("it was the Holmes family secret") <www.tinyurl.com/yyyberxr>.
19100. "Sherlock Holmes Cirque-o-Rama: The Murder Under the Big Topless" will be performed at the Minnsky Theatre in Minneapolis, Minn., on Apr. 18-20; an adult comedy ("join our award-winning Wicked Wenches"), and their web-site is at <www.minniskystheatre.tix.com>.
19101. Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is scheduled at the Gungahlin Theater in Gungahlin, Australia, Apr. 19-27; the theater's web-site's at <www.stagecenta.com>.
19102. "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Missing Maestro" is due at the Performance Hall at Hochstein in Rochester, N.Y., on Apr. 28 (it's presented by the Rochester Symphony Orchestra in their OrKIDStra series); the web-site is at <www.rpo.org>.

19103. "The Game Is Afoot!" (an improvised Sherlock Holmes mystery) will be performed at the Factory Theatre in Marrickville, N.S.W., Australia, May 4-5, during the Sydney Comedy Festival <www.sydneycomedyfest.com.au>; it's advertised as "like 'Holmes & Watson' but funny").
19104. Michael Mitnick's new play "Mysterious Circumstances" will premiere at the Geffen Playhouse in Los Angeles, June 11-July 14 <www.geffenplayhouse.org> (the play is inspired by David Grann's article in the New Yorker about the death of Richard Lancelyn Green).
19105. Christopher M. Walsh's "Miss Holmes" is due at the Otto M. Budig Theater in Cincinnati, Ohio., July 17-Aug. 4 <www.cincyshakes.com>.
19106. January Yates Vogt and Mark Friedman's musical "Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of the Crown Jewel" is scheduled at the Tabard Theatre in San Jose, Calif., Sep. 13-Oct. 6 <www.tabardtheatre.org>.
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April 2019 #1

19107. Save the dates: The Baker Street Irregulars will hold a BSI Archive Conference on Nov. 8-10 at the Lilly Library in Bloomington, Ind., the new home of the BSI Archive. Ross Davies and Glen Miranker have assembled an outstanding list of speakers from the worlds of collecting, book-selling, and publishing, and registration information will be available later this year for anyone who wishes to attend the festivities.
19108. There's now web-site information about Michael Mitnick's new play "Mysterious Circumstances" (due at the Geffen Playhouse in Los Angeles, June 11-July 14 <www.geffenplayhouse.org/mysterious-circumstances>; the play's inspired by David Grann's article in the New Yorker about the death of Richard Lancelyn Green.
19109. A Juno Knitting Pattern Download for a "Conan Doyle Vest" is available for \$6.00 from Interweave <www.interweave.com/store/conan-doyle-vest-in-juno>. It's a cabled vest accented by a wide collar and with big shoulders, and it's not at all clear what the connection to Sir Arthur might be.
19110. Greg Ruby reports that "they're off and running," at Laurel Race Course in Laurel, Md., on June 9. Registration for this year's Silver Blaze (Southern Division) is now open, at <www.fourthgarrideb.com/silver-blaze>.
19111. The latest news about the gene-editing technology CRISPR is the invention of the Specific High sensitivity Enzymatic Reporter unLOCKing device (yes, it's called SHERLOCK) by Sherlock Biosciences; you can read all about it in Ellie Kincaid's article in Forbes (Mar. 21) <www.tinyurl.com/y67adjyp>.
19112. "Desert Island Discs" has been broadcast by the BBC since 1942: each week distinguished guests are asked to choose eight pieces of music they'd take if they were castaways on a desert island, and Martin Freeman was the program's guest on Apr. 5, when he talked about his life and career, and (of course) playing Dr. Watson in the BBC's "Sherlock" series. You can hear the program at <www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0003rlf>.
19113. Chess players will enjoy Jennie Paton's discovery of an interesting analysis at YouTube of the chess match between Holmes and Moriarty in "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows" (2011) <www.youtube.com/watch?v=CLSDVbXRrek>.
19114. Margalit Fox's CONAN DOYLE FOR THE DEFENSE (May 18 #5) has been optioned by Gold Circle Films, according to the Hollywood Reporter (Mar. 21); the book offers an up-to-date report on Conan Doyle's defense of Oscar Slater, so we may get to see Conan Doyle on the big screen.
19115. Variety reported on Feb. 28 <www.tinyurl.com/yypwvz5> that a new eight-episode television series based on Umberto Eco's The Name of the Rose was due for release on RAI on Italy in March; it will debut on SundanceTV in the U.S. on May 1, and on the BBC in Britain later in the year. The series stars John Turturro as William of Baskerville, Damien Hardung as Adso of Melk, and Rupert Everett as inquisitor Bernard Gui; the book is set in Italy in 1327, but nevertheless was nicely Sherlockian.
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April 2019 #2

19116. Laird R. Blackwell's Frederic Dannay, Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine, and the Art of the Detective Story (Jefferson: McFarland, 2019; 226 pp., \$45.00) is a splendid tribute to a magazine that has contributed so much to keeping a genre alive and well, and to its editor; there's a chapter on "The Fine Arts of Parody, Pastiche, and Spoof" that includes many of the Sherlockian contributors (and discussion of Conan Doyle in "The Old Masters Resuscitated"). The publisher's web-site is at <www.mcfarlandbooks.com>.
19117. Shane Rimmer died on Mar. 29. He began his acting career in television in 1957, and is credited as a supporting actor in a long list of television series and films; he also wrote scripts and was a voice actor, and played Lysander Stark with Michael Pennington in "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" (1987) and Jefferson Hope on BBC Radio 4 in "A Study in Scarlet" (1989).
19118. "Kabukicho Sherlock" (a new anime due on television in Japan in October) is set in modern-day Kabukicho in Shinjuku, Tokyo, and "follows the comedic, mysterious, and dramatic adventures of a ragtag band of detectives as they live together in a tenement above Mrs. Hudson's bar in the red-light district and attempt to solve an unusual string of killings." You can see some of the artwork at <www.tinyurl.com/y4wwtb6v>.
19119. One hears of Sherlock everywhere, Karen Murdock spotted a letter, written by David Doyle and published in the Irish Times (Mar. 30): "We appear to be heading for a Sherlock Holmes Brexit. Once you eliminate the impossible Brexits, whatever remains, no matter how improbable, must be the true Brexit."
19120. And according to an editorial in The Times on Mar. 31, "we have reached the point in which, to paraphrase Arthur Conan Doyle, once you have eliminated the sensible, you are left with a series of unpalatable choices."
19121. Vincent Starrett and Arthur Conan Doyle shared many literary interests in addition to Sherlock Holmes; one of them was pirates. Conan Doyle wrote four delightful stories about the terrible and terrifying Captain Sharkey (all of them now available online) and Ray Betzner has written an excellent article about "Pirates, Desert Islands, and Mermaids" at his "Studies in Starrett" blog <www.tinyurl.com/y4cubbdw>.
19122. There seems to be no end to puzzle books that feature Sherlock Holmes, but Ian Stewart's Professor Stewart's Casebook of Mathematical Mysteries (New York: Basic Books, 2014; 320 pp., \$16.99) offers "mathematical curios and conundrums" that feature Hemlock Soames and Dr. John Watsup; real mathematics are involved, and the solutions are far from trivial.
19123. Georgiana Cavendish, 5th Duchess of Devonshire, gave her name to the style of hat worn by Mary Sutherland (in "A Case of Identity"), and her portrait by Gainsborough was stolen by Adam Worth (who was described as the Napol on of crime long before that title was given to the evil Prof. Moriarty). You can see the portrait, and learn much more about the Duchess, in an interesting article by Amanda Foreman <www.tinyurl.com/yy8phllk>.
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April 2019 #3

19124. It's a remote connection between Sherlock Holmes and an American president, and one can only wish that there were a photograph of President John F. Kennedy with "a big Sherlock-Holmes style magnifying glass," but there's a reference to this in Don Moser's article on "The Time of the Angel" in American Heritage (Oct. 1977), reported by Alexander Orlov in the on-line library of the Central Intelligence Agency. The "Angel" was the nickname of the U-2, and the article is about the Cuban missile crisis. You can read the text of the article at the American Heritage web-site <www.americanheritage.com/time-angel>, and find a scan of the actual article (with illustrations) at <www.tinyurl.com/y2oxehl3>.
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19125. Ralph Hall and Mike McSwiggin are helping Barbara Herbert sell Paul Herbert's collection; he cast his net widely, and had interesting Sherlockiana as well as books, and if you have a want-list you're welcome to get in touch with Ralph at <bugmanhall@aol.com>.
19126. "How did Sherlock hire Watson?" Using Google, according to an amusing advertisement <www.vimeo.com/328543356> spotted by Jennie Paton.
19127. "Comedy Playhouse" was a 30-minutes series broadcast by BBC-1; on Jan. 18, 1973, the program included a skit titled "Elementary, My Dear Watson" with John Cleese as Holmes and William Rushton as Watson, and Jennie Paton has found the skit at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=FpjtufGwhI>.
19128. Gyles Brandreth's Oscar Wilde and the Return of Jack the Ripper (New York: Pegasus, 2019; 356 pp., \$25.95), is the seventh of his series of mysteries featuring Oscar Wilde and Arthur Conan Doyle; published in Britain in 2017 as Jack the Ripper: Case Closed, the novel's set in 1894 and presents an imaginative, well-written, and colorful solution to the identity of Jack the Ripper.
19129. The 1979 Russian television series that starred Vasiliy LivaNovember and Vitaliy Solomin was filmed in Riga, and Alexander Orlov reports that the city began formal celebrations of Sherlock Holmes' birthday in 2012; there's a nice assortment of photographs at <www.tinyurl.com/yxf76hqa>, and video at <www.tinyurl.com/y3geu5mn>.
19130. The Haven, in Jamaica Plain, Mass., proudly offers "Scottish food, drink, and great banter," and their menu includes a Sherlock Holmes cocktail made with Lapsang Souchong tea, scotch, honey liqueur, and lemon (in case you would like to try one at home) <www.thehavenjp.com>.
19131. Ross E. Davies' excellent article about "The Bimetallic Question in The Valley of Fear" (published in the summer 2018 issue of The Sherlock Holmes Journal) now is available on-line at the web-site of the Fourth Garrideb <www.tinyurl.com/y47mdmev>.
19132. Kazuhito Kato died on Apr. 11. He used the pen name Monkey Punch as the creator of the popular "Lupin III" manga series that was adapted for television, films, musicals, and video games. Lupin III was the grandson of Arsène Lupin, and Sherlock Holmes III was one of the supporting characters in the television episode "The Great Detectives Take to the Sky" (1978).

April 2019 #4

19133. Uttiyo Bhattacharya's Ba'az of the Bengal Lancers (New Delhi: Juggernaut, 2019; 353 pp., INR-350) begins in 1857, the year of the Indian Mutiny (which will be familiar to anyone who has read "The Sign of the Four") and a stolen treasure, and the book is the story of a modern-day search for that treasure; Conan Doyle's story is one of the inspirations for the book (Captain Morstan, Major Sholto, and Jonathan Small make appearances, but aren't quite Conan Doyle's characters), and the story's nicely told. There's also an e-book version available for INR-80 at the publisher's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/y3yvoew>.
19134. CBS-TV has announced that the final season of "Elementary" will begin airing on May 23.
19135. Harold Wayne Billings died on Nov. 29, 2017. Born in Texas in 1931, he was for twenty-five years the director of general libraries at the University of Texas in Austin, and was the winner of the Morley-Montgomery Award for the best article published in The Baker Street Journal in 2006 ("The Materia Medica of Sherlock Holmes").
19136. Bill Amos' three-act play Sherlock Holmes and the Scarlet Avenger was published by Amazon's CreateSpace in 2015 (71 pp., \$10.50) and performed at the Performance Works Factory Theatre in Nuremburg, Pa., this year (it's an interesting dramatization of "A Study in Scarlet").
19137. Arthur Conan Doyle lived and worked in Plymouth in 1882, in practice with George Turnavine Budd, before moving on to Southsea; Plymouth boasts not only a commemorative blue plaque at 1 Durnford Street, but also a series of quotations from his writings that have been set in stone in the sidewalks of the street <www.tinyurl.com/y4jmu3cn>.
19138. Slot machines have come a long way since the days of the one-armed bandit: Tom Horn Gaming has just released "Sherlock: A Scandal in Bohemia" and you can visit www.tinyurl.com/y3antw5b to learn more about the game (and watch a trailer); thanks to Alexander Orlov for reporting this new development.
19139. The Mystery Writers of America have announced the winners of this year's Edgar awards, and they include Leslie S. Klinger's Classic American Crime Fiction of the 1920s (for best critical/biographical); the book was edited by Les, with a Foreword by Otto Penzler (Sept 18 #3).
19140. Jennie Paton found a nice tribute to the late Roger Llewellyn, who was interviewed and recorded by Steve and Pat Tanenbaum after a performance of "Sherlock Holmes – The Last Act!" <www.tinyurl.com/y4vcsrte>.
19141. When in New Zealand: "Cut! Costume and the Cinema" (an exhibition at the Waikato Museum in Hamilton though July 21) features 43 outfits from 25 films (including Robert Downey Jr.'s suit from "Sherlock Holmes"); their web-site's at <www.tinyurl.com/y3vh8pvu>. The exhibition is mounted by EDG <www.tinyurl.com/y3tsmy4q>, and will appear next at the Reading Public Museum in Reading, Pa., Sept. 21-Jan. 5. EDG also is responsible for the International Sherlock Holmes Exhibition that's now at the Liberty Science Center in Jersey City, N.J., through May 27 <www.lsc.org>.

April 2019 #5

19142. Greg Ruby has reported that The Numismatic Friends of Sherlock Holmes will hold a dinner meeting during the World's Fair of Money in Rosemont, Ill., on Aug. 15; all Sherlockians in the Chicago area will be welcome at the festivities, and details are available at the web-site of The Fourth Garrideb <www.tinyurl.com/y3a9djfc>.
19143. Lucy Liu's star will be installed on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on May 1, at Hollywood and Vine, next to the star of Anna May Wong. Lucy Liu plays Joan Watson in the "Elementary" television series, and Anna May Wong was Mrs. Pyke in Reginald Owens' "A Study in Scarlet" (1933), a few years after she was burlesqued in the British marionette film "Herlock Sholmes in Be-a-Live Crook, or Anna Went Wrong" (1930). You can see if your favorite actor has a star using the search engine at <www.walkoffame.com>.
19144. Bill Peschel blogs on behalf of his Peschel Press, and on Apr. 24 posted an amusing discussion of a "chaste salute" <www.tinyurl.com/y38apdsq>.
19145. Susan B. Diamond ("The Great Mogul") died on Apr. 25. She was a member of the Beacon Society since it was founded in 2003, serving on its board of directors and as chair of its grants committee, and for many years helped organize the STUD-Watsonian Weekends and runnings of the Silver Blaze in Chicago. Susan also was an editor of The Serpentine Muse and for a time presided over the Prince Albert League (a society for consorts of members of the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes). Susan received her Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1998.
19146. Jennie Paton discovered the Global Gourmet Games, sponsored by the Milkin Institute; they were Sherlockian this year, in Los Angeles on Apr. 27; you can see Michael Milkin (as Sherlock Holmes) explaining the game's rules at their web-site <www.globalgourmetgames.org>.
19147. It's always nice to see the work of artists who have illustrated Sherlockian and Doylean stories, and Fred Taraba (at Taraba Illustration Art) is offering (non-Sherlockian and non-Doylean) original artwork by Arthur I. Keller and Joseph Clement Coll, first come, first served; his e-mail address is <fredappraisals@gmail.com>.

19148. Another (more noted) artist who had Doylean credentials was N. C. Wyeth, who provided illustrations for *The Last Galley* (1911) and *The White Company* (1922); four of his originals will be offered at Heritage Auctions on May 4, including an illustration for *The Boy's King Arthur* (1917) with a reserve of \$500,000 <www.tinyurl.com/y5yfbtv>.
19149. A nice result of the recent five-week government shut-down that curtailed all but essential agency activities was a reprieve for the troubled Scanning Habitable Environments with Raman and Luminescence for Organics and Chemicals instrument scheduled for the Mars rover due to land on the planet next year. The shut-down gave NASA time to plan minor modifications to SHERLOC (yes, that's the instrument's acronym) and avoid cancelling SHERLOC to mitigate continuing cost overruns on the mission, according to an announcement <www.tinyurl.com/y2fdpqfh> noted by Bill Anselm in *Space News* (Mar. 31). See the earlier report (April 14 #2) for more about SHERLOC.
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April 2019 #6

19150. Is anyone watching the CBS All Access web-series "Star Trek: Discovery"? A discussion of the episode "Such Sweet Sorrow" (broadcast on Apr. 11) reported that when Amanda referred to Sarek as "impossible," he replied "I will accept improbable," with a reminder to viewers that that Spock quoted the Canonical axiom, attributing it to "an ancestor of mine" in the 1991 film "Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country".
19151. *Theatrics: Brian Clemens' "Holmes and the Ripper"* is running at the Caxton Little Theatre in Grimsby through May 4 <www.caxtontheatre.com>. And (as "Sherlock Holmes and the Ripper Murders") at the Genesian Theatre in Sydney, N.S.W., until June 15 <www.genesiantheatre.com>.
19152. Jeffrey Hatcher's "Holmes and Watson" is running at the B Street Theatre in Sacramento, Calif., through May 26 <www.bstreettheatre.org>.
19153. Todd Wallinger's "The Enchanted Bookshop" is scheduled at the DCP Theatre in Telford, Pa., May 3-12 <www.dcptheatre.com>.
19154. C.P. Stancich's "Sherlock Holmes and the Spinsters of Blackmead" will be performed at the Dunedin Community Center in Dunedin, Fla., May 3-11; web-site at <www.dunidenshowcasetheater.net>.
19155. Ondrej G. Brzobohaty's "Legenda jménem Holmes" [A Legend Named Holmes] is scheduled at Musical Theater Karlín in Prague, May 8-Sept. 29; their web-site's at <www.hdk.cz/en/repertoire/57-holmes-the-legend>.
19156. "Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of the Crown Jewel" (a musical written by Janet Yates Vogt and Mark Friedman) will be performed at the Coast Capital Playhouse in White Rock, B.C., on May 11 <www.whiterockplayers.ca>.
19157. Roger Utting's new play "The Trial of Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at the Milestone Centre in Caversham, Berks., May 16-18; their web-site's at <www.cavparktheatre.org.uk>.
19158. Tal Avizer's "Sherlock Holmes: The Adventure of the Dancing Men" is due at the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum in the Bronx, N.Y., June 1-9; web-site's at <www.bartowpellmansionmuseum.org>.
19159. Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" will be performed at the Very Little Theatre in Eugene, Ore., June 7-22; web-site at <www.thevlt.com>; and at the Vault Theater in Hillsboro, Ore., Dec. 5-23 <www.bag&baggage.org>.
19160. Conan Doyle's "The Speckled Band" will be performed at the Charity Randall Theater in Pittsburgh, Pa., June 13-30 <www.tinyurl.com/y2dgvwsb>.
19161. Katie Forgette's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily" will be performed at the Bristol Valley Theater in Naples, N.Y., July 25 to Aug. 4 <www.bvtnaples.org>.
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May 2019 #1

19162. The Royal Mint has now made their 50p Sherlock Holmes coin available, in cupro-nickel in a presentation folder (£10.00) and in various other metals at higher prices. Greg Ruby offers helpful information at his Fourth Garrideb web-site <www.tinyurl.com/yy7q9a7d>. The Royal Mint also has confirmed that the coin will go into circulation, but hasn't said when; so at some point you'll be able to get the coin for 50p.
19163. Denny Dobry reports that the Baker Street Irregulars' book fair attracted a nice crowd of people interested in Sherlockiana that had been donated to the BSI Trust to be sold in support of the BSI Archives. Denny welcomes your want lists, and has sales lists available for all those in pursuit of reasonably-priced additions to their collections <dendobry@pdt.net>.
19164. The spring issue of the *Serpentine Muse*, published quarterly by the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes, has an interesting history of the Muse, which was launched in 1975 and is still going strong, plus other news about the society. Subscriptions cost \$20.00 a year from Evelyn A. Herzog (301 Warren Avenue #203, Baltimore, MD 21230), and a copy of the spring issue is available for \$5.00 postpaid.
19165. Conan Doyle's short story "A Shadow Before" was published in the *Windsor Magazine* (Dec. 1898) and then in *The Green Flag and Other Stories* (1900); the 14-page manuscript will be offered at auction at Christie's in New York on June 12, estimated at \$8,000-\$10,000. Randall Stock has an informative page on the manuscript (and its history) at his "Best of Sherlock" web-site <www.bestofsherlock.com/mss/shadow-before-2019.htm>.
19166. According to an article about cricket by Pathikrit Sen Gupta at FirstPost (Apr. 12) <www.tinyurl.com/y39f2ntx>, on Apr. 11, 1913, militant suffragettes set fire to the pavilion at the Tunbridge Wells Cricket Club, and Conan Doyle, who was a keen cricket enthusiast, reacted indignantly at a meeting of the National League for Opposing Women's Suffrage, calling the arsonists "female hooligans" and comparing their attack to "blowing up a blind man and his dog." No one is certain why the club was targeted, but it's said that some time prior to the attack a Kent official had commented: "It is not true that women are banned from the pavilion. Who do you think makes the teas?"
19167. Tim Conway died on May 14. He was a delightful comic actor, and won four Emmy awards while starring for more than a decade on the television series "The Carol Burnett Show". He also played Sherlock Holmes in a skit on the "Tim Conway Show" (1981).
19168. The television series "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's The Lost World" ran for three seasons (1999-2002) and ended with a "to be continued" cliffhanger for the next season, but New Line Television ran into financial difficulties and there was no fourth season. If you would like to know what was planned for the fourth season, Rich Heldenfels recently made available at <www.reeves-stevens.com/TLWSUMMARY1.pdf> the writers' detailed discussion of what they had in mind.
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May 2019 #2

19169. William S. Major's delightful *Elementary Art: 100 Years Sherlock Holmes* (Hawthorne: Silver Screen Collectibles, 2017; 167 pp., \$24.99) offers full-color reproductions of posters, lobby cards, and programs, in English and other languages, for a wide range of Sherlockian films and plays, and Sherlockian artwork used in advertising for non-Sherlockian films; it's nicely done, and the publisher's interesting web-site is at <www.silverscreencollectibles.com>.
19170. Fodor's Travel' "How to Vacation at One of the Oldest Places on Earth" at <www.tinyurl.com/y2fpxhh5> discusses Mount Roraima, which is considered to be an inspiration for Conan Doyle's *The Lost World*; but: Fodor's also suggests that "given the current unrest in Venezuela, hold off on any travel plans until the situation in the country has stabilized."
19171. There's more information about Michael Mitnick's new play "Mysterious Circumstances" (which is due at the Geffen Playhouse in Los Angeles June 11-July 14 <www.geffenplayhouse.org/mysterious-circumstances>; the play's inspired by David Grann's article in the *New Yorker* about the death
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of Richard Lancelyn Green, and the cast will feature Alan Tudyk (Richard Lancelyn Green and Sherlock Holmes) Hugo Armstrong (The American and others), Austin Durant (Conan Doyle and others), Leo Marks (Smith and others), Ramiz Monsef (Watson and others), and Helen Sadler (Touie and others).

19172. Randall Stock continues to update various pages at his “Best of Sherlock” web-site; his helpful discussion of facsimile editions of Beeton’s Christmas Annual for 1887 is at <www.bestofsherlock.com/ref/rfbeat.htm>.
19173. The ornate Arthur Conan Doyle bookplate that his son Adrian placed in the books in the library at the Chateau de Lucens in Switzerland is fairly well known, and sometimes believed by the unwary to have been used by Sir Arthur. His son Denis, it seems, had his own bookplate, and a batch of them was offered at Chiswick Auctions in London on May 30, with an opening bid of £50 <www.tinyurl.com/y53y93c8>. Is anyone aware of the existence a book that was owned by Denis, and has the bookplate?
19174. Charles Veley and Anna Elliott have written eight pastiches about Sherlock Holmes and his daughter Lucy James <www.sherlockandlucy.com>, and you can download The Crown Jewel Mystery free at their web-site; you can also sample the audiobooks, nicely read by Simon Prebble and Wendy Tremont King.
19175. The Official Sherlock Puzzle Book, by Chris Maslanka and Steve Tribe (San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2018; 259 pp., \$17.95), first published by BBC Books in 2017 as a tie-in to the “Sherlock” series, presents more than 165 challenging puzzles featuring characters from the Canon.
19176. Howard Ostrom reported on “Sherlok” (a musical group in Montpellier whose songs are written and composed by Katia Plachez, Alain Cahuac, and Christophe Dubois. You can view two of their (non-Sherlockian) music videos at <www.tinyurl.com/y47pqa36> and <www.tinyurl.com/yyp54x2c>. And there’s an interview with Katia Plachez on France 3 TV at <www.tinyurl.com/y5rxkqel>.

May 2019 #3

19177. Andrew Glazzard’s *The Case of Sherlock Holmes* (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2018; 252 pp., £75.00) discusses the “secrets and lies in Conan Doyle’s detective fiction,” using a scholarly close reading to explore seven themes (finance, class, family, sex, race, war, and secrecy) he found in the Canon, placing the stories in historical context and drawing intriguing inferences such as the possibility that the Hon. Ronald Adair actually was Colonel Moran’s willing accomplice.
19178. Turn your computer into a typewriter! With a Querkywriter keyboard! More information is available at <www.querkywriter.com>.
19179. Martin Fido died on Apr. 2. He was a professor, teaching writing at Boston University, and an author who wrote about true crime in *Murder Guide to London* (1986) and went on to become an expert in the crimes and world of Jack the Ripper. He also wrote *The World of Sherlock Holmes: The Great Detective and His Era* (March 99 #1), which was updated for a second edition as *Sherlock: The Facts and Fiction Behind the World’s Greatest Detective* (March 16 #3).
19180. N. C. Wyeth’s original artwork for an illustration for *The Boy’s King Arthur* (April 19 #5) <www.tinyurl.com/y5yfbtv1> sold for \$615,000 (including the buyer’s premium).
19181. Arwel Jones, the production designer for the BBC’s “Sherlock” television series, had advice in the *Hollywood Reporter* on May 22 for those who would like to find and use five signature wallpapers that were used in the series, at 221B Baker Street and elsewhere <www.tinyurl.com/y5q7s7am>.
19182. The Royal Mail has issued a set of stamps honoring the bicentenary of the birth of Queen Victoria; one of them shows a portrait of the “certain gracious lady” (as Watson wrote in “The Bruce-Partington Plans”) painted by Heinrich von Angeli in 1890. There’s more information about the stamps (and a new £5 coin) at <www.tinyurl.com/y2rmth44>.
19183. This year’s San Diego Comic-Con, to be held in San Diego, Calif., July 18-21, will include the Great SherlockDCC Scavenger Hunt, sponsored by the Baker Street Babes <www.sherlockedccparty.tumblr.com>. More than 130,000 people are expected at the convention, which includes a multitude of fandoms.
19184. Rob Nunn has announced a new professional Sherlockian society, the Priory Teacher’s Association, for current and past educators; you can contact him at <www.robentanunn@gmail.com> or at 13 West Pickett’s Crossing, Edwardsville, IL 62025.
19185. Millie Bobby Brown told the *World of Entertainment News Network* this month that she plans to start filming this summer on a feature film based on the series of books written by Nancy Springer about Enola Holmes, the younger sister of Mycroft and Sherlock (May 18 #6); she’s the producer as well as the star, and you can see her now in the Netflix series “*Stanger Things*” and (this summer) in the film “*Godzilla: King of the Monsters*”.

May 2019 #4

19186. The seventh and final season of “*Elementary*” has begun on CBS-TV, to the delight of the series’ fans. No spoilers here, but *Entertainment Tonight Online* had an interesting interview with Rob Doherty on May 23 <www.tinyurl.com/y6yq8xxw>. Doherty is the creator and showrunner of the series, and has some nice stories to tell, including an explanation (well, just one spoiler) of why Joan Watson has gone blonde.
19187. Garrison Keillor’s “*The Writer’s Almanac*” was launched in 1993 and syndicated by Minnesota Public Radio until 2017. It is now a podcast, and he paid tribute to Conan Doyle on his birthday <www.tinyurl.com/y3lrmaxd>.
19188. *The Affair of the Mysterious Letter*, by Alexis Hall (New York: Ace, 2019; 338 pp., \$16.00), is a delightful fantasy that features a consulting sorceress named Shaharazad Haas and her sometimes-bewildered housemate Capt. John Wyndham; the initials are not just a coincidence: they live at 221B Martyrs Walk and the novel has many allusions to the Canon.
19189. One sees Sherlockian icons everywhere: Jim Toomey’s “*Sherman’s Lagoon*” is a widely syndicated comic strip that began a weekday thread on May 18 featuring the brainy fish Ernest detecting in a deerstalker. *Comics Kingdom* has a paywall that requires that you pay to see all but the most recent dates (unless you sign up for a free trial), or you can wait until the annual collection for 2019 is published in 2021.
19190. Jennie Paton found an imaginative Sherlockian wall mural advertised at the Society6 web-site <www.tinyurl.com/yykrdsox>. And for those whose walls are covered with bookshelves, Society6 offers a wide range of other Sherlockiana.
19191. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists (also known as The Friends of Sherlock Holmes) met to honor the world’s first forensic geologist with drinks and dinner at the Spaghetti Warehouse in San Antonio on May 22 during the annual meeting of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, made welcome by The Strange Old Book Collectors and other Texans. We were glad to toast Conan Doyle on his 160th birthday, and we will meet next in Phoenix on Sept. 25, and in Houston on June 10, 2020.
19192. Denise Varner called our attention to Toni Dwiggin’s series (now with five titles) of mysteries starring forensic geologists Cassie Oldfield and Walter Shaws; the author’s web-site’s at <www.tonidwiggin.com>. Two other authors of forensic-geology mysteries are Sarah Andrews, whose detective is Em Hansen <www.sarahandrews.net> and Susan Cummins Miller, whose series features Frankie McFarlane <www.susancumminsmiller.com>.

19193. And Sherlock Holmes was indeed a forensic geologist, as noted by the late Raymond C. Murray in his textbook *Evidence from the Earth: Forensic Geology and Criminal Investigation* (2011), and by John McPhee in his *Annals of the Former World* (1998). McPhee also has an essay about “The Gravel Page” in his collection *Irons in the Fire* (1997); the title of the essay is an allusion to Sherlock Holmes’ mention of “the gravel page” (in “The Hound of the Baskervilles”).

May 2019 #5

19194. Edinburgh Live honored Conan Doyle’s birthday on May 22 with a story about the letter he wrote in 1882 when he submitted his story “An Actor’s Duel” to Blackwood’s Edinburgh Magazine; it was the second story he submitted to the magazine, which rejected both of them. The letter is owned by the National Library of Scotland, and you can read the article online at <www.tinyurl.com/yxkm6gzn>.
19195. Jennie Paton has spotted a YouTube video that shows Toni Zee happily opening a package containing a doll in Sherlockian costume <www.tinyurl.com/y4pdfabr>. The doll is made by a Korean company called Pullip and is a character named Isul (dressed as the “Detective of the Future”). It cost \$154.00 when it was issued six years ago <www.tinyurl.com/yy3ht9ew>, and the sad news for eager collectors is that it is now out of stock. Of course there’s an after-market: you can search for [isul i-924] at eBay and find that the doll is available from sellers in Japan from \$527.99 to \$689.00.
19196. *70 Years by Gas Lamp: The Illustrious Clients’ Sixth Casebook*, edited by Mary Ann Bradley, Louise Haskett, and Melanie Hoffman (Indianapolis: Gasogene Books, 2018; 257 pp., \$21.95), celebrates the 70th anniversary of the society’s first casebook <www.wessexpress.com/html/70years.html>.
19197. The Japan Sherlock Holmes Club has launched a new web-site (“The Writings about the Writings in Japan”) that offers abstracts (in English) of monographs that have been published in their annual journal *The World of Sherlock Holmes* <www.holmesjapan.jp/english/writings.index.html>. The journal was launched in 1978, and abstracts now are available for issues from 2002 to 2010, offering an excellent look at the sort of scholarship written by Sherlockians in Japan.
19198. Margaret H. Laing honored Conan Doyle’s birthday with an amusing post to the Chicago Tribune’s “Chicago Now” blog on “Birthday Time in the Imaginary Writers’ Room” <www.tinyurl.com/y2ghke8s>; you can search her archive to find earlier posts about Conan Doyle, and Holmes.
19199. Victor R. Lahti died on May 15. Vic was a petroleum geologist, worked and lived in Texas and Oklahoma, and was an enthusiastic member of the Practical, But Limited, Geologists. He also presided for many years over the Afghanistan Perceivers of Tulsa, and edited their newsletter the *Afghanistan Perceivers Dispatch*.
19200. “Sherlock ist zurück und will bleiben,” the *Jungfrau Zeitung* announced on May 1, in a story about what’s new at the Sherlock Holmes Museum; it’s all in German <www.jungfrauzeitung.ch/artikel/173263>, with pictures in full color, and Google Translate will be of assistance to those who need help in reading the story in English. And “Der Glücksfall fürs Haslital” was the headline on a story on May 4 <www.jungfrauzeitung.ch/artikel/173428> with more news and more pictures. For the benefit of those who aren’t up to speed with Schweizerdeutsch, the headlines on the stories translate as “Sherlock is Back and Wants to Remain” and “The Stroke of Luck for Haslital” (that’s the area where Meiringen is located).
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May 2019 #6

19201. Nick Utechin kindly forwarded a BBC News video from the opening of the Sherlock Holmes Exhibition in London in 1951. And you have a chance to see Arthur Wontner rather older than when he played Holmes on screen in the 1930s <www.tinyurl.com/yy4mb54q>. Howard Ostrom has identified the man who impersonated Holmes: Michael Weight, who presided over the Exhibition’s reconstruction of the sitting-room at 221b.
19202. Theatrical news: Craig Sodaro’s “The Secret Case of Sherlock Holmes” will be performed at the Innisfail Middle School in Innisfail, Alta., June 5-7 <www.innisfailmiddle.ca>.
19203. Conan Doyle’s “The Speckled Band” will be performed at the Charity Randall Theater in Pittsburgh, Pa., June 13-30 <www.tinyurl.com/y2dgvwsb>.
19204. Kenneth Brown and John D. Huston’s “2 Sherlock Holmes Adventures” will be performed at the Arts Court Theatre in Ottawa, Ont., June 14-22, during the Ottawa Fringe <www.tinyurl.com/y22omxuy>.
19205. Greg Freeman and Ken McClymont’s “Sherlock Holmes and the Invisible Thing” (first produced in 2016 and now revised and restaged by Freeman) will be performed at the Rudolf Steiner Theatre in London, from July 17 to Aug. 18 www.thesherlockplay.co.uk
19206. Thomas Moore’s “The Hound of the Baskervilles” is touring in Britain and will be performed during the Ventnor Fringe at the Magpie in Ventnor, Isle of Wight, July 24-27 <www.thehoundofthebaskervilles.co.uk>; the two-actor play features Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Jane Watson.
19207. Douglas Maxwell’s new dramatization of “The Hound of the Baskervilles” is scheduled at the Northern Stage in Newcastle upon Tyne, Sept. 11-23; web-site at <www.northernstage.co.uk>.
19208. Brian Guehring’s “Sherlock Holmes and the 1st Baker Street Irregular” will be performed at the Parkview Physicians Group ArtsLab in Fort Wayne, Ind., Sept. 20-29 <www.tinyurl.com/yydfrvh9>.
19209. Charles Marowitz’s “Sherlock’s Last Case” will be performed at the All an Act Theatre in Erie, Pa., Sept. 27-Oct. 20 <www.allanact.net>; and at the First Folio Theatre in Oakbrook, Ill., Oct. 2-Nov. 3 <www.firstfolio.org>.
19210. Ken Ludwig’s “Baskerville” will be produced at the McAninch Arts Center in Glen Ellyn, Ill., Sept. 5-Oct. 6 <www.atthemac.org>; at the Derby Dinner Playhouse in Clarksville, Ind., Oct. 2-Nov. 10 <www.derbydinner.com>; and at the Cumberland County Theatre in Crossville, Tenn., Oct. 11 to Nov. 7 <www.ccplayhouse.com>.
19211. R. Hamilton Wright’s new play “Sherlock Holmes and the Raven’s Curse” will be performed at the Vertigo Theatre in Calgary, Alta., from Nov. 9 to Dec. 8 www.vertigotheatre.com
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June 2019 #1

19212. If you would like to receive news from the Baker Street Irregulars about events and books and such, you can sign up for occasional messages at the BSI web-site <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/bsi-news-via-email>; that will also put you on the mailing list for the announcement of registration for the BSI’s Archive Conference on Nov. 8-10 at the Lilly Library in Bloomington, Ind., the new home of the BSI Archive. The conference is open to everyone; Ross Davies and Glen Miranker have assembled a splendid list of speakers from the worlds of collecting, bookselling, and publishing, and you’ll have a chance to see other interesting collections at the Lilly.
19213. Nick Utechin was watching the BBC Two “Newnight” program on May 29, and heard British Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind, discussing Brexit, say: “You know, it is Sherlock Holmes who once said, when you rule out everything else, whatever’s left, however disagreeable, may be the only question of how you get there.”
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19214. July 17 is World Emoji Day <www.worldemojiday.com>. There seems to be no Sherlock Holmes emoji, nor even a Detective emoji, but they do have a Foot (for those who believe the game is afoot). Has anyone campaigned to have a Sherlock Holmes emoji created?
19215. The Boomerang streaming service has launched a new 13-episode weekly animated series “Scooby Doo and Guess Who?” and the official trailer has She lock Holmes (voiced by Ian James Corlett) as one of the celebrities the gang encounters. The series also will air on the Cartoon network starting in July. Here’s the trailer: <www.tinyurl.com/y6s2xr82>.
19216. Conan Doyle’s 14-page manuscript for his short story “A Shadow Before” at auction at Christie’s in New York this month (May 19 #1) was estimated at \$8,000-\$10,000 and sold for \$13,750 (including the buyer’s premium). The same sale included an autograph letter from Edgar Allan Poe, estimated at \$20,000-\$30,000 (sold for \$52,500), and Poe’s pocket watch, estimated at \$80,000-\$120,000 (sold for \$250,000). Randall Stock offers an informative page on “A Shadow Before” (and its history) at his “Best of Sherlock” web-site <www.bestofsherlock.com/mss/shadow-before-2019.htm>.
19217. Randall also offers information about a page from the manuscript of “The Hound of the Baskervilles” that’s up for auction at Profiles in History on July 11 <www.bestofsherlock.com/mss/hound-baskervilles-h31-2019.htm> estimated at \$120,000-\$150,000 (it was advertised by Pepper & Stern in 1994 at \$22,500).
19218. The Grillparzer Club of the Hoboken Free State held their annual Christopher Morley Birthday Luncheon in Hoboken on Apr. 28, when Terry Hunt unveiled some delightful newsreel footage showing Morley and Cleon Throckmorton hosting the first Hoboken Free State Dachshund Contest, which was held in 1929.
19219. <<https://mirc.sc.edu/islandora/object/usc%3A28804>>; Morley is at the left in the opening segment. Terry found the footage in the Fox-Movietone News archive in the Moving Image Research Collection at the University of South Carolina; it’s a grand resource indeed.

June 2019 #2

19220. Claus von Bülow died on May 15. Convicted of attempted murder of his wife Sunny in 1982, he was acquitted in a second trial in 1985 with the assistance of his new love interest Andrea Reynolds (who was mentioned in passing in some of his obituaries); the wife of Sheldon Reynolds, who had produced two Sherlock Holmes television series in 1954 and 1981, Andrea for a time controlled the Conan Doyle copyrights, which she once described as “like owning an oil well.” Jeremy Irons starred as von Bülow in the film “Reversal of Fortune” (1990), with Christine Baransky as Andrea.
19221. Samantha Wolov spotted Dustin Hoffman in Sherlockian costume, on the cover of the DVD case for “Madigan’s Millions”; it’s an Italian comedy (“Un dollar per 7 vigliacchi”), released in Italy in 1968 and then in the U.S. in 1969). Hoffman plays Jason Fister, a bumbling U.S. Treasury agent who is sent to Italy to find money taken there from the U.S. by a deported gangster. There’s nothing Sherlockian in or about the film itself (it’s available at YouTube and elsewhere).
19222. Proceedings of the Pondicherry Lodge is the semi-annual electronic newsletter edited by Jayantika Ganguly for the Sherlock Holmes Society of India <www.sherlockholmessociety.in>, now in its seventh year, and the current issue (with 100 colorful pages) offers Sherlockian news from India, and a nice mix of scholarship and pastiche; all issues of the Proceedings can be found at the society’s web-site.
19223. Howard Ostrom and Thierry Saint-Joanis’ SHERLOCK HOLMES ON SCREENS 1940-1959 is the second volume of their Sherlock Holmes Cyclopedia (Saint-Sauvier: Mycroft’s Brother Editions, 2019; 168 pp., €30.00), and it’s a grand extension of their research into films and television <www.mycrofts.net>; the entries feature contemporary reviews, posters, press books, and photographs, and include actors seen in Sherlockian costume only in advertising, with some interesting surprises. Copies (inscribed on request) are available for delivery in the U.S. for \$35.00 postpaid, from Howard (5748 SW 60th Place, Ocala, FL 34474).
19224. “The Great Detective Sherlock Holmes: The Greatest Jail Breaker” is a new animated film that’s due for release in Hong Kong on Aug. 1; it’s based on a five-book series written by Lia Ho and illustrated by Yu Yuen Wong that is available in English as e-books at Amazon and elsewhere (\$4.99 each), and there’s more information about the film at <www.tinyurl.com/29ycvz>.
19225. “Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson: A Medical Detective Story” is an exhibition that opened this month at the Military Medical Museum in St. Petersburg, Alexander Orlov reports; details at <www.tinyurl.com/yxntuodz> (all in Russian, but Google Translate will be of assistance).
19226. “Queen Victoria, Smiling and in Sunglasses, Found Anew on Film” reads the headline on a story in the N.Y. Times on May 30 <www.tinyurl.com/y6qxxyfts> (kindly reported by Al Rosenblatt); don’t neglect the article’s link to a longer MoMA video. The Smithsonian also reported on the find at its web-site <www.tinyurl.com/y4dmcmam>.

June 2019 #3

19227. Brian W. Pugh is the winner of this year’s Tony and Freda Howlett Literary Award (recognizing the outstanding contribution to the literature of Sherlock Holmes) from the Sherlock Holmes Society of London for his revised and expanded fourth edition of A Chronology of the Life of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (October 18 #4). It’s a grand resource for information about the life and work of Conan Doyle, and it’s available from <www.sherlockholmesbooks.com>.
19228. Lucy Liu’s Joan Watson is “the best-dressed detective on TV,” according to Emma Foster, who interviewed Rebecca Hoffher (the costume designer for the “Elementary” series) for Vulture on May 31 <www.tinyurl.com/yxocuxdq>.
19229. The new television mini-series “The Name of the Rose” likely led at least some of its viewers to wonder about the significance of the rose. Umberto Eco, the book’s author, offered his explanation in a letter that went to auction this month. He wrote to Philip Sterling, a New York bibliophile, that, “As for the title, the rose is so overwhelmed with symbolic meanings that everyone can fill it up with every possible interpretation. As a matter of fact I was thinking of the last line of my book: ‘the rose of yore remains only through its name and we hold only bare names.’ It seemed to me that such a line was a good epitome for a book dominated by ‘nominalistic’ feelings and based upon other books.”
19230. Jennie Paton spotted a neat demonstration of what one can do with CGI now <www.youtube.com/watch?v=EM78NyfeODM> (someone had fun with “Sherlock”).
19231. The German musical “Sherlock Holmes--Next Generation” now offers its music on an MP3 album (£9.99) <www.tinyurl.com/y5tf3nyt>. The musical premiered last January in Hamburg, and there’s more information at The Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia <www.tinyurl.com/yxetpwt8>.
19232. The Langham Hotel, site of the fateful dinner where Arthur Conan Doyle and Oscar Wilde were asked to write stories for Lippincott’s Monthly Magazine, also is mentioned in three of the Canonical stories; it’s one of the many properties owned by The Langham Hotels & Resorts, and the company has unveiled a new logo and brand campaign <www.tinyurl.com/y5vanah9> inspired by “the brand’s distinctively British heritage,” explaining that the Langham was known as Europe’s first grand hotel when it was opened in 1865 by the Prince of Wales.

19233. Further to the previous report (October 18 #2) on “Sherlock: The Game Is Now” (billed as “the only official Sherlock Holmes Escape Game”), it is still going strong and now includes a private cocktail club that’s called “The Mind Palace” <www.thegameisnow.com/mind-palace> and offers private screenings and pop-up Sherlockian events.
19234. “London Detective Mysteria” is an otome visual novel that appeared on the PlayStation Portable in 2013 (otome is a Japanese story-based visual game that’s targeted toward women); you can see video about the first episode “Meeting Sherlock Holmes & Watson” at <www.tinyurl.com/y2xxy78n>. There now is a physical copy of the game available from Limited Run Editions for the PlayStation Vita <www.limitedrungames.com>.
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June 2019 #4

19235. Douglas G. Greene’s JOHN DICKSON CARR: THE MAN WHO EXPLAINED MIRACLES (April 95 #7), long out of print, is now available as an e-book from Crippen & Landru (\$8.99) <www.tinyurl.com/yy9cy2oo>. It’s a splendid biography about a man who was a mastery of the “impossible mystery” genre, wrote an excellent biography of Conan Doyle, adaptations of “The Lost World” and “The Speckled Band” for BBC Radio, amusing Sherlockian parody-playlets performed at the annual dinners of the Mystery Writers of America, and (with Adrian Conan Doyle) a series of pastiches. Carr also from time to time disposed of all his personal papers, presenting problems for any biographer, but Greene persevered, and the results are well worth reading.
19236. Philip Purser-Hallard’s Sherlock Holmes: The Vanishing Man (New York: Titan, 2019; 279 pp., \$14.95) involves Holmes and Watson with an intricate locked-room mystery, a rich London business man, and murder.
19237. If you don’t already have enough Sherlockian neckties, there’s a new design offered in four colors by Edutxwstore (\$17.52), spotted by Jennie Paton <www.tinyurl.com/y5lltv8m>.
19238. AcornTV <www.acorn.tv> is a subscription streaming service that has added the first season of the ITV series “The Rivals of Sherlock Holmes” (1971) to its schedule, with fine actors in good stories.
19239. Sleep tight with Sherlock Gnomes: Jennie Paton spotted a colorful Sherlock Gnomes Bedding Set (\$70.99) <www.tinyurl.com/y3ykgys4>.
19240. Ray Betzner launched his “Studies in Starrett” blog five years ago, pursuing all aspects of Vincent Starrett, and reminisces about it in an interview with Scott Monty and Burt Wolder at <www.tinyurl.com/y5wh7zpy>.
19241. “Seeing a murder on television . . . can help work off one’s antagonisms. And if you haven’t any antagonisms, the commercials will give you some.” Alfred Hitchcock, quoted by Kate Stine in her on-line Mystery Scene newsletter <www.mysteryscenemag.com>.
19242. Further to the item (May 19 #2) on Denis Conan Doyle’s bookplate, it was used: Doug Wrigglesworth reports that he has it in his copy of the George Newnes first British edition of The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (1892).
19243. Mick Finlay’s The Murder Pit (Toronto: MIRA, 2019; 426 pp., \$15.99) continues the adventures of William Arrowood, who calls himself an “emotional agent” rather than the “detective agent” Holmes (Arrowood has rather harsh things to say about how Holmes has, or hasn’t, managed to solve some of his cases); the story is set in a working-class world that’s far from the setting of the Canon, with interesting characters and a good mystery. The author’s web-site is at <www.mickfinlay.com>, with a blog that offers posts such as “the bloody origins of the modern bowler hat.”
19244. It’s neither Sherlockian nor Doylean, but: “if you remember tape recorders and cassettes” <www.tinyurl.com/y6g4bdof>, Bas Bleu suggests, advertising something that will surely puzzle younger generations who don’t.
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June 2019 #5

19245. Robert Dobson’s The Library of the Lost: In Search of Forgotten Authors (2015) is a delightful collection of articles and essays by a writer who was interested in the weird and the wonderful, and it includes his “Sherlock Holmes: The Last Mystery” (reprinted from Antiquarian Book Monthly Review, Feb. 1988). The first edition cost \$60.00, but it’s now out of print; fortunately there are less expensive reprints available at <www.abebooks.com>, and the magazine’s offered by Oak Knoll Books <www.oakknoll.com> for \$5.00.
19246. “Q.E.D.: Murder on the Bluebell Line” was a British program broadcast by BBC-1 in 1987, based on Charles Blinderman’s The Piltdown Inquest (1986). The program has Holmes and Watson on the Bluebell Line to Piltdown, and on the way they “review the evidence and the ‘criminal records’ of the people involved.” Hugh Fraser played Sherlock Holmes, and Ronald Fraser was Watson, and Jennie Paton has found it at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/yyfdwjcd>.
19247. NBC San Diego reported on July 10 from Comic Con San Diego that “Sherlock” show-runner Steven Moffatt revealed that he actually already had crafted a Sherlock Holmes/Doctor Who crossover: in his youth he cast his sister to play both characters in a home movie (“I made it years ago,” he said, “I’m over it.”)
19248. Another quote from Moffat: four years ago he told Entertainment Weekly he thought fan fiction is “creative and exciting,” and that while there is a tendency to disparage it, “I don’t agree . . . I refuse to mock it—because I’m a man who writes Sherlock Holmes fan fiction for a living.”
19249. Richard A. Lupoff’s The Universal Holmes (Vancleave: Ramble House, 2007; 148 pp., \$30.00 cloth/\$18.00 paper) is a collection of his pastiches, including an amusing recipe for Giant Rat of Sumatra Stew. It is still in print from the publisher <www.ramblehouse.com>, along with other Sherlockian books by Lupoff, John Kendrick Bangs, Derhham Groves, and Gary Lovisi.
19250. Variety reported on June 9 <www.tinyurl.com/y4yqohan> on plans for a new French animated series “The Baker Street Four” based on six French comic books written by Jean-Blaise Dijan and Olivier Legrand and illustrated by David Etien; the comic books also are available in English, and they feature ragamuffins Billy, Charlie, and Tom, and their cat Watson, who all assist Sherlock Holmes.
19251. Gretchen McCulloch suggested in Wired (June 11) that “Fans Are Better Than Tech at Organizing Information Online” <www.tinyurl.com/y4nu862w>; the article is about Archive of Our Own (AO3), a fan-fiction archive that offers almost five million fan-works and uses “tag wranglers” to help users find things in the archive, and explains how the system works for Sherlockian fan-fiction.
19252. Sherlock Holmes: The Case of the Undead Client, by M. J. Downing (Louisville: Burns and Lea, 2018; 264 pp., \$10.99), involves Holmes and Watson in a murder mystery featuring horrific experiments, voodoo, and zombies, and a new solution to the identification of Jack the Ripper. The author’s web-site is at <www.downingplace.com>.
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June 2019 #6

19253. Further to the item (March 14 #6) about the sale of the former Cedars Spiritualist Church in Ipswich, where Conan Doyle attended seances in the 1920s, the building was purchased by a developer for £500,000 and was converted into two spacious four-story town houses that are now being offered for £1.25 million to £1.35 million, according to a nicely-illustrated article in the Ipswich Star <www.tinyurl.com/y6cmjs4e>.
19254. Hugh Ashton’s The Darlington Substitution (published by Inkbeans in 2012) now is available from J-Views Publishing (222 pp., \$9.99); it’s a new version of one of the unrecorded cases. The author’s web-site has links to all of his pastiches <www.hughashtonbooks.com>.
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19255. *The Rivals of Sherlock Holmes: The Greatest Detective Stories, 1837-1914*, edited by Graeme Davis (New York: Pegasus Crime, 2019; 379 pp., \$25.95), ranges from William Evans Burton to Ernest Bramah, offering a chance to read authors who preceded Holmes, or were published in the years he was absent from *The Strand Magazine*, or competed head to head after Holmes returned.
19256. Also from Pegasus: Kaitie Welsh's *The Unquiet Heart* (2019, 281 pp., \$25.95) features Sarah Gilchrist, a young woman who is studying medicine in Edinburgh in 1893, mentored by Dr. Gregory Merchiston, who (with Conan Doyle) studied under Dr. Joseph Bell (and doesn't like to be reminded of it); the story includes murders, and romance, and a good look at society (high and Low) in those days. Her web-site is at <www.katiewelsh.wordpress.com>.
19257. The Park Plaza Sherlock Holmes Hotel on Baker Street has been renovated, and now is the boutique Holmes Hotel London on Chiltern Street (only the entrance has been moved); details at <www.tinyurl.com/y2ohbodu>.
19258. Gene Wolfe died on Apr. 14. As an industrial engineer with Procter & Gamble he helped create the frying process used for Pringles stackable potato chips, and he then turned to writing and became an award-winning author of science-fiction and fantasy; his short story "The Rubber Bend" (a pastiche of both Nero Wolfe and Sherlock Holmes) was published in *Universe Science Fiction* (May 1974) and collected in *Storeys from the Old Hotel* (1988).
19259. Further to the item (March 19 #7) about plans to convert Great Scotland Yard into a hotel, Hospitality reported on June 11 <www.tinyurl.com/y32johx8> that the Great Scotland Yard Hotel will be a luxury hotel in Hyatt's Unbound Collection, and will open in late summer. The report offers details and images that show just how luxurious the hotel will be.
19260. Another addition to Hyatt's Unbound Collection is the Hôtel du Louvre in Paris, opened in 1855 as Paris' first grand hotel. It is mentioned in the Canon ("The Bruce-Partington Plans"), and you can see how grand it is now at its web-site <www.tinyurl.com/ydew5bxg> (standard room rate is €490.00).
19261. Stephen Thorne died on May 26. He had a long acting career, beginning on stage in the 1950s, but his magnificent voice made him a natural for radio (usually for the BBC); he recorded more than 350 books, and played Inspector Lestrade in the Clive Merrison's BBC Radio series.

June 2019 #7

19262. If you are, or know someone who is, a woman book collector in the United States, aged 30 or under, the Honey & Wax Book Collecting Prize is worth investigating <www.honeyandwaxbooks.com/prize.php>. The deadline for the 2019 prize is past, but there's plenty of time to apply for 2020. Honey & Wax is an interesting book-selling partnership between Heather O'Donnell and Rebecca Romney; they have an attractive web-site where they offer some fascinating books.
19263. "The Long-Lasting Fascination with Sherlock Holmes: It's Elementary" was the headline on Michael Dirda's "Book World" review in the *Washington Post* (June 20) <www.tinyurl.com/yxwleq39>, with mentions of Sherlockian societies as well a review of recent books.
19264. The question of where Sherlock Holmes went to college has been argued for decades, Oxford and Cambridge being the obvious (but not the only) candidates. Nicholas Utechin, who has long championed Oxford, discusses what he calls *The Controversy* in an excellent 40-page pamphlet that features on its back cover the colorful artwork that Frederic Dorr Steele drew for "The Three Students" (but Collier's didn't publish); £10.00, and details are available from Nick at <highfieldfarmhouse@gmail.com>. Nick insists that he merely presents what everyone has written on the subject, and lets his readers decide who's correct.
19265. Jennie Paton has found some programs from the 30-minute "Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson" series (1980) at YouTube; this was the series produced by Sheldon Reynolds with Geoffrey Whitehead as Holmes and Donald Pickering as Watson. Search YouTube for [geoffrey whitehead].
19266. More news about the Royal Mint's new 50p Sherlock Holmes coin: you're invited to strike your own Sherlock Holmes coin at the Royal Mint; details at Greg Ruby's "Fourth Garrideb" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/yxr4gf2p>. All you need to do is visit the Royal Mint, now located in Pontyclun in South Wales, pay £13.00 to take their tour, and £6.90 more for the coin (one per customer).
19267. Viv Croot's *Biographic Sherlock* (Lewes: Ammonite, 2018; 96 pp., \$14.95) is an imaginative use of infographics (graphic visual representations of information) to presents facts about Holmes, his world, and his cases; it's part of a series, and you can see what they're all about at the publisher's web-site at <www.ammonitepress.com>. Infographics are as old as 1626 (according to Wikipedia); everyone has seen them, and they're useful indeed. The Wikipedia entry is well worth exploring.
19268. KCAL-TV (Los Angeles) reported on June 22 that the latest case of measles in the city had been tracked to one known person who exposed other people at the Geffen Playhouse on June 7. "Hopefully, they disinfected the theater," said Marsha Niles, who had come to enjoy Sherlock Holmes. "We'll hope for the best." She had come to enjoy Michel Mitnick's new play "Mysterious Circumstances" (which is inspired by David Grann's article in the *New Yorker* about the death of Richard Lancelyn Green). The play has been favorably reviewed in the local press, but no reviews are at hand yet from any local Sherlockians.

June 2019 #8

19269. Woodlark is a band, founded in 2012, that plays "an eclectic mixture of power metal, epic metal, prog rock, and ballads," and their latest album "The Ascension" includes a track called "Sherlock Holmes" that you can listen to at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/yyft2dwd>. It was spotted by Jennie Paton, who notes that they kindly provide the lyrics for the song.
19270. Mark Kilmurray's new play "Murder on the Wireless: The Solitary Cyclist" is being performed at the Ensemble Theatre in Kirribilli, N.S.W., through July 13 <www.ensemble.com.au>.
19271. Jeffrey Hatcher's "Holmes and Watson" is running at the Alley Theatre in Houston, Tex., through July 22 <www.alleytheatre.org>. It's also due at the Austin Playhouse in Austin, Texas, Sept. 6-29 <www.austinplayhouse.com>.
19272. Jules Tasca's "An Evening with Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at the Limelight Theatre in Perth, W.A., July 4-13 <www.limelighttheatre.com.au>.
19273. Steven Canny and John Nicholson's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed at Upstairs at the Gatehouse in London, July 4-7; their web-site is at <www.upstairsatthegatehouse.com>. Also at Theatre Horizon in Norristown, Pa., Nov. 10 to Dec. 8 <www.theatrehorizon.org>.
19274. "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (newly dramatized by Marc Camoletti, Beverley Cross, and Francis Evans) is coming to the Spire Center for the Performing Arts in Plymouth, Mass., July 20-28 <www.americanatheatre.org>.
19275. "Adventures of the Improvised Sherlock Holmes" is scheduled during the Edinburgh Fringe at Just The Tonic at the Caves in Edinburgh, Aug. 1-11 (it is advertised as "No script, Sherlock!") <www.tinyurl.com/y2bparm8>.
19276. Scott McDowell's "Sherlock Holmes and the Curious Candy Murder" is due at the Overtime Theater in San Antonio, Tex., August 9-31; their web-site's at <www.tinyurl.com/yje4obdm>.

19277. "Watson: The Last Great Tale of the Legendary Sherlock Holmes" (by Jamie Robledo will be performed at the Little Theatre in New London, Minn., Aug. 1-11 <www.newlondonlittletheatre.com>.
19278. "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Fallen Soufflé" (by David MacGregor) is due at the Purple Rose Theatre in Chelsea, Mich., Sept. 19-Dec. 21 <www.purplerosetheatre.org>.
19279. Christopher M. Walsh's "Miss Holmes" is scheduled at the Rochester Repertory Theatre in Rochester, Minn., Oct. 4-20 <www.rochesterrep.org>.
19280. "Sherlock Holmes and the Hound of the Basketcases" (a British pantomime) will be performed at the Highbury Theatre Centre in Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, Nov. 26-30 <www.fromthetop.org.uk>.
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July 2019 #1

19281. An interesting autograph postcard was offered at Forum Auctions in London this month, estimated at £1,200-£1,800: Conan Doyle wrote from Windlesham (about 1920) that "It is a fact that Holmes has some traits of Dr. Bell of Edinburgh. To say that he is entirely based on him would be an exaggeration. My first book (I have written stories since 1878) was 'A Study in Scarlet', a Sherlock Holmes booklet published as Beeton's Annual in 1888."
19282. And yes, Conan Doyle likely didn't remember dates, all those years later: "The Mystery of Sasassa Valley" was published in Sept. 1879, and "A Study in Scarlet" in 1887. The bidders didn't care: the hammer price was £14,000 (add 30% for the buyer's premium). Randall Stock has an excellent discussion of the postcard at <www.tinyurl.com/yxqgo6ls>.
19283. Two Conan Doyle manuscripts went to auction at Christie's on July 10: an unpublished chapter from "The Land of Mist" was estimated at £3,000-£5,000 and sold for £13,750 (including the buyer's premium); and a poem "Shakespeare's Expostulation" was estimated at £1,000-£1,500 and sold for £2,125. Visit <www.bestofsherlock.com/mss/land-mist-2019.htm> to see Randall's detailed (and nicely illustrated) descriptions of the two items.
19284. Randall also offers information about a page from the manuscript of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" that went to auction at Profiles in History on July 11 <www.bestofsherlock.com/mss/hound-baskervilles-h31-2019.htm>; it was estimated at \$120,000-\$150,000 and did not sell.
19285. "A Tale of Two Villages" is the title of Richard Olken's report on the recent "Dark Deeds in the Canon" conference arranged by the Reichenbach Irregulars in Switzerland <www.tinyurl.com/y3rozxju>, offering everybody a chance to see what you missed; the local Sherlockians are planning another conference in two or three years.
19286. "Sherlock Holmes" is a 7-minute track on The Ascension, a new album from the power-metal band WOODLARK; it's nice that you can listen to the track at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=JUVEEYSSqU>.
19287. "Are you named after Conan the Barbarian?" an interviewer asked Conan Osborne, captain of the Jamaica National Rugby Sevens team. "My dad likes to think so," he replied, "but my mum claims it's a little more sophisticated as I'm named after Sir Arthur Conan Doyle." You can read the interview at <www.tinyurl.com/y5ye7nx7>.
19288. Bill Peschel launched his "223B Casebook Series" in 2014, offering the results of his survey of the many parodies and pastiches published in newspapers, magazines, and books while Conan Doyle lived, reprinting them with footnotes and brief accounts of what Conan Doyle was doing each year, and there are nine volumes, concluding with SHERLOCK HOLMES: JAZZ AGE PARODIES AND PASTICHES II: 1925-1930 (Hershey: Peschel Press, 2019; 341 pp.), and (selected from the first eight volumes) THE BEST SHERLOCK HOLMES PARODIES & PASTICHES: 1888-1930 (2019; 373 pp.) (each \$15.95). Bill's web-site is at <www.peschelpress.com>.
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July 2019 #2

19289. The Exhibits Development Group's "International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes" (now at the Liberty Science Center in Jersey City, N.J., through May 27) has no bookings beyond that, and the standard rental fee has been reduced to \$300,000 from \$450,000 (in case you know of a museum that might be a venue for the exhibition). Details on the exhibition are available at <www.tinyurl.com/y2aa7gwc>; museums should contact them at <info@exhibitsdevelopment.com>. It is well worth seeing (if you have not already seen it), and well worth a suggestion if you have a local museum that welcomes touring exhibitions.
19290. "The Magic Bookseller That Changed Everything" was the headline on a newspaper article about Cadabra Inc., kindly forwarded by Bill Seil. If you have never heard of the company, that's because its name was changed. You don't need to know anything about magic, or be a Sherlockian or Doylean, to have purchased something from the company <www.tinyurl.com/y2842d9j>.
19291. Kenneth Cameron, who featured Louisa Conan Doyle as a detective when she and her husband visited New York in 1894 in Winter at Death's Hotel (February 13 #2), has written a series of books about Denton, an American veteran of the Civil War and now an expatriate author living in turn of the century London, who finds himself investigating murders. They're not Sherlockian (except for passing mentions of Holmes), but they're written with excellent style and well-drawn characters. The first two in the series now are available as trade-paperback reprints: The Frightened Man (New York: Felony & Mayhem, 2018; 278 pp.) and The Bohemian Girl (2018, 344 pp.) (each \$14.95).
19292. Fans of "Sesame Street" have many reasons to admire the series, Sherlock Hemlock being only one of them. Greg Ruby found video of a tribute to the series during the Emmy Awards in 1982 <www.tinyurl.com/y3qwzzyk>; Sherlock Hemlock appears at 3:30-3:42 and at 5:06 in the 7-minute video.
19293. "There are a handful of names in the pantheon of Sherlockians that are legendary," Scott Monty writes at his "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog, "Morley. Bell. Smith. Starrett. Baring-Gould. And Shaw." Scott and Burt Wolder offer an interesting interview with Jim Hawkins, who maintains an excellent web-site devoted to John Bennett Shaw, and you can listen to his stories at <www.tinyurl.com/yxupjj3>.
19294. Jeeves and the King of Clubs (2018) is Ben Schott's "homage to P. G. Wodehouse" <www.tinyurl.com/y3qwzzyk>; it turns out that the Junior Ganymede Club (like the Diogenes Club is so many modern Sherlockian pastiches) is an arm of the British intelligence service.
19295. Arte Johnson died on July 3. He was actor on stage and television, and in 1968 joined the cast of "Rowan and Martin's Laugh-In" eventually winning an Emmy for his performances as a German soldier Wolfgang ("verrrrry interesting") and as the dirty old man Tyrone F. Horneigh. He also played Fabian Holme ("a master private detective who solves crimes with the aid of elaborate disguises") on "Call Holme" (broadcast by NBC-TV in 1972 as a 30-minute pilot for a projected series that never was produced; the pilot is available at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zvz88mRmY84>).
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July 2019 #3

19296. David Harnois continues to add to the list of dramatized readings of the Canon at his "I Am Lost Without My Boswell" web-site <www.iamlostwithoutmyboswell.com>, where you can listen to (or download) readings of the first nine stories, all nicely done. He also offers Alison Carter's remastered two-part audio recording of Jeremy Paul's play "The Secret of Sherlock Holmes" (which starred Jeremy Brett as Holmes and Edward Hardwicke as Watson) made by Lisa Woods and Linda Pritchard on Mar. 20, 1989.
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19297. Jennie Paton reported (but isn't going to purchase) a semi-permanent Holmes tattoo offered by inkbox <www.inkbox.com> at \$16.00. It would appear that "semi-permanent" means that it difficult to remove the tattoo, but there are ways to accelerate fading, explained at the web-site.
19298. "The Unseen World of Charles Altamont Doyle" is the title of an exhibition at the Huntington Art Gallery in San Marino, Calif., running through Sept. 23 <www.huntington.org/unseen-doyle>. The exhibition offers sixteen drawings from the Huntington's collection, displaying the fantastical water-colors painted by Conan Doyle's father.
19299. It's a generational thing: President Trump, asked about Democratic presidential candidate Pete Buttigieg, said that "Alfred E. Newman can't become president of the United States," and Buttigieg had to use Google to learn who MAD magazine's "What, me worry?" mascot was. Now MAD magazine has announced that it is ending its 67-year run of offering a satirical look at just about everything. Cartoonist Harvey Kurtzman edited the magazine in the 1950s, and as one of MAD's "usual gang of idiots" was responsible for Sherlock Holmes' first appearance in MAD, in a panel in the fourth issue, and as "Shermlock Shomes" in the seventh issue, both in 1953, and he has appeared many more times since then.
19300. The second part of the Otto Penzler Collection of Mystery Fiction will be offered at Heritage Auctions <www.ha.com> on September 5, in sale #6212; there's some nice Sherlockian and Doylean material among the treasures.
19301. The fourth issue of Shadows of the Gnomon (2019) offers a nice (and nicely illustrated) history of the Knights of the Gnomon; it's a 56-page booklet celebrating the 40th anniversary of the society, and is available by mail (\$13.00 postpaid) or as a PDF by e-mail, from amanuensis Marsha Pollak at <mpollak@icloud.com>.
19302. "Twelve-Object Pictures" (published in The Strand Magazine in Aug. 1912) showed the results of a challenge to "eminent black-and-white artists" to draw pictures incorporating a dozen objects chosen by the magazine; one of the objects was Sherlock Holmes, and you can see the drawings in the summer issue of Canadian Holmes (which is published quarterly by the Bootmakers of Toronto). The issue also offers Cliff Goldfarb's "The Brigadier in Switzerland: Travels with Arthur and Napoleon" (with Cliff's amusing pastiche of Gerard); Canadian Holmes is a quarterly that costs \$30.00 a year (US or CA) by mail to the Bootmakers, 2045 Lakeshore Boulevard West #3303, Etobicoke, ON M8V 2Z6, Canada, or at <www.torontobootmakers.com>.

July 2019 #4

19303. This year's Christmas card from the Sherlock Holmes Society of London is a colorful night image of Brixton's Electric Avenue in 1895. Electric Avenue, the first street market to be lit by electricity, is just off the Brixton Road, where Mrs. Oakshott was an egg and poultry supplier (in "The Blue Carbuncle"); details on ordering the cards will be available at the society's web-site <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk> later this year.
19304. Freddie Jones died on July 9. He began his acting career on stage in the early 1960s, and went on to a long list of roles in films and on television; he appeared as Chester Cragwitch in "Young Sherlock Holmes" (1985), Inspector Baynes in Granada's "Wisteria Lodge" (1988) and as the Pedlar in "The Last Vampyre" (1993). His son continues the Sherlockian tradition, Roger Johnson notes: Toby Jones played Culverton Smith in the BBC's "The Lying Detective" (2017).
19305. The Royal Mail has issued a set of eight stamps celebrating "the eclectic mix of annual customs and festivals that take place across the UK"; none of them seems to be Sherlockian, but they're well worth celebrating (and the designs are delightful): Burning the Clocks in Brighton, 'Obby 'Oss in Padstow, The World Gurning Championships in Egremont, Up Helly Aa in Lerwick, Cheese Rolling on Cooper's Hill in Brockworth, Halloween in Derry/ Londonderry, Horn Dance in Abbots Bromley, and Bog Snorkelling in Llanwrtyd Wells.
19306. "Heretic of the Week: Arthur Conan Doyle" was the attention-getting headline on a story in the Catholic Herald on June 20; you can read all about it at <www.tinyurl.com/y22mk2fq>; it's part of a continuing series.
19307. "Tell Me More" was a British 30-minute series broadcast by BBC-1; on July 9, 1977, the program had Nanette Newman's interviewing Sherlock Holmes Society of London president Lord Gore-Booth (as Sherlock Holmes) and Chris Bazlinton (as Sherlock Holmes' secretary); Nick Utechin spotted the 2-minute segment at <www.tinyurl.com/yxggobf7>.

July 2019 #5

19308. Dexter Fletcher has been reported in talks to direct the third film in the Robert Downey Jr. "Sherlock Holmes" franchise, according to the Hollywood Reporter (July 11). Guy Richie was the director of the first two films, which grossed \$524 million and \$545 million. Dec. 22, 2021, still is the scheduled release date for the third film. Fletcher most recently directed the Elton John film "Rocketman" (2019).
19309. John Kendrick Bangs was an American humorist whose books included A House-Boat on the Styx: Being Some Account of the Divers Doings of the Associated Shades (1895) and its sequel The Pursuit of the House-Boat: Being Some Further Account of the Divers Doings of the Associated Shades, Under the Leadership of Sherlock Holmes, Esq. (1897) in which the Associated Shades hire the world's greatest detective (at the time indeed deceased, according to Dr. Watson's literary agent) to assist them in recovering their hijacked house-boat. The novels have been reprinted as The Singular Problem of the Stygian House-Boat (Vancleave: Ramble House, 2007; 167 pp., \$30.00 cloth/\$14.00 paper) <www.ramblehouse.com>.
19310. Also from Ramble House: Richard A. Lupoff's The Compleat Ova Hamlet (2009; 250 pp. \$30.00/\$18.00) is a collection of parodies Lupoff wrote using the pseudonym Ova Hamlet, and with an amusing Introduction from skeptical UFO researcher Philip J. Klass. Watson's featured in a parody of Philip José Farmer in "God of the Naked Unicorn" (first published in Aug. 1976 in Fantastic Science Fiction & Fantasy Stories).
19311. And there's more: Gary Lovisi's The Secret Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (2007; 154 pp., \$30.00/\$18.00), More Secret Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (2011, 150 pp., also \$30.00/\$18.00) and The Secret Adventures of Sherlock Holmes; Book Three (2016, 136 pp. \$35.00/\$18.00), offer collections of his pastiches, both reprints and new stories; some of them are longer versions (as written) that he had to edit down before of space limitations imposed when they were first published.
19312. St. Hilda's College at Oxford University launched its "Crime Fiction Week-end" in 1994, and this year's weekend on Aug. 16-18 will include Nicholas Utechin speaking about Sherlock Holmes. The booking deadline is Aug. 5, and details can be found at <www.sthildas.ox.ac.uk/hildas-crime-2019>.
19313. The Strongman Classic will be held in the Royal Albert Hall in London on June 6, 2020, bringing "the world's oldest sport" back where it all began, in 1901, when the Hall's weight-lifting show was judged by strongman legend Eugen Sandow and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. The event is part of a tour by Giants Live <www.giants-live.com/theclassic>, and it will be filmed for broadcast by Channel 5 at Christmas in 2020.
19314. Bob Dorian died on June 15. He was an actor, a magician, and a musician, and in 1984 he went to work on the American Movie Classics channel, where he became famous as the genial and enthusiast host for AMC's film broadcasts. He was born Robert Paul Vierengel (Bob Dorian was his professional name as an actor) and as Bob Vierengel he played Sherlock Holmes on nine Sherlockian radio broadcasts produced by Chris Steinbrunner and presented by the Priory Scholars of Fordham on WFUV-FM.

July 2019 #6

19315. Laurie R. King happily reports that she has finished the first draft of the next Mary Russell mystery, which has the working title *Riviera Gold* and is tentatively scheduled for publication next June. Laurie has also reminded her readers that “all first drafts are crap,” and is waiting for comments from her editor.
19316. You may recall seeing that description of first drafts before. According to the Quote Investigator <www.quoteinvestigator.com/2015/09/20/draft>, it is Ernest Hemingway who’s credited for saying “the first draft of anything is ****.” Asterisked here to get this issue of my newsletter through the net nannies, but the Quote Investigator spells it out.
19317. Save the date: The Parallel Case of Saint Louis has scheduled their next “Holmes in the Heartland” conference for July 24-26, 2020. More information will be available soon.
19318. Undershaw is in the news again. Boris Johnson defeated Jeremy Hunt in the race to lead the Conservative party and become the next prime minister of Great Britain, but during the battle Surrey Live reported on June 26 that Hunt had lobbied on behalf of a businessman who later donated £10,000 to Hunt’s leadership campaign. Hunt, the member of Parliament for South West Surrey, had supported upgrading Conan Doyle’s former home from Grade II to Grade I during the long-running argument over redevelopment of Undershaw, but changed his mind and instead supported David Forbes-Nixon’s plans to make the house part of the Stepping Stones School, and the DFN Charitable Trust then donated £10,000 to Hunt’s campaign for the party leadership. A source “close to” Hunt told the paper that donations had no bearing on his decisions, while John Michael Gibson, one of the leaders of the campaign to upgrade protection of Undershaw, said that “It would appear with regard to Jeremy Hunt, to paraphrase George Orwell, all constituents are equal, but some are more equal than others.”
19319. There must be Sherlockians who have 3D printers, and there certainly are people who have 3D printers who print Sherlockiana, as Jennie Paton found on-line <www.yeggi.com/q/sherlock+homes>.
19320. Howard Ostrom has learned that plans are afoot for the next season of the BBC’s “Sherlock” and apparently it will be set quite a few years after the recent season ended. They have already tested makeup for members of the cast, including Benedict Cumberbatch (shown here).
19321. Well, not really, the image can be found, along with images of others in the cast, at a Facebook page <www.tinyurl.com/y59as4mb> created by Sherlock Shippers; scroll down to “+5” to see all of the images.
19322. “Elementary, my dear Watson,” is a world-famous phrase that is discussed in detail at the Quote Investigator web-site <www.tinyurl.com/yjee9zej>. What’s interesting is that “Elementary, my dear Watson” has been found in print (1901) before the first appearance of “Elementary, my dear Watson” (1909). But Sherlock Holmes is first known to have spoken the phrase in the film “The Return of Sherlock Holmes” (1929).

July 2019 #7

19323. Just in time for Christmas: the new film “Cats” is scheduled for release on Dec. 20, starring Judi Dench (Old Deuteronomy) and Taylor Swift (Bombalurina), and (far more important for Sherlockians) Idris Elba (Macavity: The Mystery Cat) and Ian McKellen (Gus: The Theatre Cat). The film based on the Andrew Lloyd Webber 1981 musical, which was based on T. S. Eliot’s poetic *Old Possum’s Book of Practical Cats* (1939). For those who are not familiar with the poems or the musical, Macavity is Eliot’s tribute to Moriarty. Eliot also included an amusing Canonical allusion in the poem about Gus, but it was omitted from the musical and is unlikely to be in the film. The official trailer for the film can be seen at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=gq50F-IDXDc>.
19324. Intrada <www.intrada.com> has issued a newly remastered 3-CD set with the music from the film “Young Sherlock Holmes” (1985), with some interesting added features (\$29.95).
19325. The Bimetallic Question (the Sherlockian society in Montréal) has issued a new lapel pin that celebrates their 40th anniversary (it matches their magnifying-glass logo <www.bimetallicquestion.org>; US\$10.00 postpaid from The Bimetallic Question, P.O. Box 232, Westmount Station, Westmount, Quebec H3Z 2T2, Canada. Checks or money orders preferred; cash can be sent at your own risk.
19326. One does hear of Sherlock everywhere: Nick Utechin has forwarded British comic Andy Zaltsman’s comment on the Cricket World Cup Final at Lord’s on July 14: “As Sherlock Holmes famously said, ‘When you have eliminated the logical, whatever remains, however inexplicable, must be the laws and regulations of cricket, and/or the last hour of the 2019 World Cup Final.’ If you want to read all about it, go to <www.bbc.com/sport/cricket/4007967>.
19327. Production has started in London on the new film “Enola Holmes” (based on the six-book series written by Nancy Springer (2006-2010) about the younger sister of Mycroft and Sherlock; Millie Bobby Brown stars as Enola, with Henry Cavill as Sherlock and Helena Bonham Carter as their mother. Cavill has played Superman in the DC Extended Universe franchise (2013-2017) and Napoleon Solo in “The Man from U.N.C.L.E.” (2015).
19328. “America Unearthed” (a one-hour series hosted by Scott Wolter and broadcast by the Travel channel): “The Ripper Unmasked” (June 18) was inspired by Daniel and Eugene Friedman’s *The Strange Case of Dr. Doyle* (April 15 #2); Wolter interviews the Friedmans, and reaches a highly circumstantial conclusion that Conan Doyle was Jack the Ripper. Watch for a repeat on the Travel channel and at the channel’s web-site.
19329. The Easton Press is reported to be planning to publish a new Sherlockian collection of the four long stories (possibly later this year), with five full-color illustrations by Dennis Lyall, whose original artwork (oil-on-linen-canvas) is available from the artist. Lyall has been an illustrator for decades, and has designed 43 stamps for the U.S. Postal Service; his web-site is at <www.lyallart.com>, and you can request information about the Sherlockian artwork (a frontispiece portrait of Conan Doyle, and one illustration for each story) from him at <lyallart@aol.com>.

July 2019 #8

19330. “Look Alive!” is the title of this year’s production by the Cambridge University Footlights Dramatic Club; the Footlights were founded in 1883, and launched the careers of Stephen Fry, Hugh Laurie, Emma Thompson, John Cleese, and many others. According to a review in the (Cambridge) *Varsity* (June 12) <www.varsity.co.uk/theatre/17675>, one of the sketches includes an “inquisitive Sherlock Holmes.” The Footlights will be on tour in the U.S. in September, in San Francisco, Sacramento, Los Angeles, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, New York, and Boston; dates and times are available at <www.tinyurl.com/yqqes2f3>.
19331. Steven Canny and John Nicholson’s “The Hound of the Baskervilles” is on at the Lake George Dinner Theatre in Lake George, N.Y. through Aug. 31; their web-site’s at <www.laketheatreproductions.com>. It also will be performed at the Delaware Theatre Company in Wilmington, Del., Sept. 11-29; web-site at <www.delawaretheatre.org>.
19332. “Sherlock and Cinders” (a musical by Tom Kirkham and Matthew Crossey) will be performed at Selby Abbey in Selby, Yorks., Aug. 5-9; their website’s at <www.selbyabbey.org.uk>.
19333. Steven Dietz’s “Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure” will be performed at the Historic Zodiac Playhouse in Florence, Ala., Aug. 9-18; their web-site is at <www.historiczodiacplayhouse.com>.

19334. Alexander Park's new play "Haslop & Holmes: Art of the Steal" will be performed at the Ti-Ahwaga Performing Arts Center in Owego, N.Y., Aug. 16-18 <www.tiahwaga.com>; Conan Watson Haslop and Irene Holmes vs. the famous thief Lupin.
19335. "Sherlock Holmes: The Strange Case of Alice Faulkner" will be performed as a staged reading at the CoRK Arts District in Jacksonville, Fla., Aug. 22-24 <www.tinyurl.com/yxb8r8dm>; it's the Mercury Theatre on the Air version from 1938.
19336. William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at the Angelo Civic Theater in San Angelo, Texas, Sept. 27-Oct. 6 <www.angelotheater.com>.
19337. Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is due at the Canyon Theatre in Newhall, Calif., Sept. 27-Nov. 3 <www.canyontheatre.org>. Also at the Little Theatre of Tuscarawas County in New Philadelphia, Ohio, Oct. 4-20 <www.thenewlittletheatreonline.org>; the Topeka Civic Theatre in Topeka, Kans., Jan. 17-Feb. 9, 2020; and the Matsqui Centennial Theatre in Abbotsford, B.C., May 15-23 <www.gallery7theatre.com>.
19338. Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" will be performed at the Art Center Theatre in Hernando, Fla., Nov. 1-17; web-site at <www.artcenterofcitruscounty.org>. Also at the Kirkwood Community Center in Kirkwood, Mo., Nov. 1-10 <www.ktg-onstage.org>; and at the Manoa Valley Theatre in Honolulu, Hawaii, May 14-31 <www.manoavalleytheatre.com>.
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August 2019 #1

19339. Registration is now open for the Baker Street Irregulars' BSI Archive Conference on Nov. 8-10 in Bloomington, Ind.; everyone is welcome to attend, and the formal announcement and registration information are available on-line at <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/tag/event>. The next BSI conference will be on "Sherlock Holmes and the British Empire" at the Bear Mountain Inn near West Point, N.Y., on July 17-19, 2020.
19340. Maggie Schpak has kindly hand-crafted spectacular Sherlockian jewelry for many years for the raffle that benefits the Dr. John H. Watson Fund during the birthday festivities in New York, has a day job designing prop jewelry for movie and television studios. Maggie keeps a very low public profile, but she will be making a rare appearance to speak about "Alien Adornment: 50 Years of Star Trek Jewelry" at an "Arts at the Armory" event in Somerville, Mass., near Boston, on Sept. 22 <www.startrek.artisansasylum.com>.
19341. When and where was the first computer-to-computer message sent? What was the message? Hint: it was not "Mr. Watson -- come here -- I want to see you."
19342. Lola Montez is on stage once again, in a one-woman entertainment written by Richard Byrne that premiered in Washington last month, with Mary Murphy as the notorious performer who has been suggested (by some Sherlockians, at any rate) as one of the possible inspirations for Irene Adler. Details on the play can be found at <www.richardbyrneplays.com/lola-montez>, and a review of the premiere is available at <www.tinyurl.com/y3t4x2lu>.
19343. "Gillette Castle Needs Your Help," was a recent post by Scott Monty at his "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.tinyurl.com/y3czco2z>.
19344. A Novel Journal: The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (San Diego: Canterbury Classics, 2015; 160 pp., \$10.94) is an imaginative concept, part of a series that offers a chance to "write between the lines of your favorite authors." The lines of the journal are what Conan Doyle wrote ("in teeny, tiny text").
19345. Tim Dedopulos' THE SHERLOCK HOLMES PUZZLE COLLECTION: THE LOST CASES (New York: Sterling/ Metro, 2015; 224 pp., \$11.23) presents "over 140 cerebral challenges," imaginative, logical, and attractively illustrated.
19346. "Do Detectives Think?" (1927), a two-reel film produced by Hal Roach, featured Stan Laurel as Ferdinand Finkleberry (the world's second worst detective) and Oliver Hardy as Sherlock Pinkham, (the worst); Jennie Paton found the film at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/y668cvm4>.
19347. Mattias Boström has noted that Susanne Buck's Mörder, Mode, Mitgiftjäger will be published by Jonas Verlag in October (216 pp., €20.00). It's all in German (according to the author, if the book were in English the title would be Fashion, Felons, Fortune-Hunters), and it's about high society in the 1920s; the fortune-hunters, it should be noted, included the "Marrying Mdivanis" (one of whom was Nina, who married Denis Conan Doyle).
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August 2019 #2

19348. "It isn't every day you run into someone who crashed an invitation-only event 45 years ago," Scott Monty suggests. "When you add to the mix that the event was all-male and the interloper was a female —well, now we have the beginning of a good story." The event was a meeting of a Sherlockian society, and it's a good story indeed; you can listen to an interview with the interloper at the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.tinyurl.com/yxgdvqu5>.
19349. When and where was the first computer-to-computer message sent? What was the message? Oct. 29, 1969, from a computer at UCLA to a computer at SRI. You'll find the rest of the story in an article about Leonard Kleinrock at <www.magazine.ucla.edu/depts/forward-thinker/making-magic>.
19350. Hal Prince died on July 31. He had a long career as a producer and director, beginning with "Pajama Game" in 1954, and continued with a long list of Broadway successes, including directing the musical "Baker Street" in 1964. He also purchased the rights to James Goldman's play "They Might Be Giants" and was the producer for its brief run in London in 1961; he then considered producing the play in New York (with George C. Scott and Colleen Dewhurst, and with Mike Nichols as the director), but decided that it couldn't be done properly. Prince kept the screen rights to the script, and when they were purchased by Universal for the 1971 film with Scott and Joanne Woodward, Prince recovered all of his losses from the London stage production ("probably the only time in my life that will happen," he wrote in his 1974 memoirs Contradictions: Notes on Twenty-Six Years in the Theatre).
19351. Howard Ostrom has reported that production is underway on "Sherlock Holmes in Russia" (a new television series that stars Maxim Matveev as Holmes); you can read all about it (in Russian) at <www.tinyurl.com/yy44lqyw>.
19352. "Sesame Street" will be the first television series to receive a Kennedy Center Honor; the series was broadcast by PBS-TV for many years, and now airs on HBO; the honors will be awarded on Dec. 8, and broadcast by CBS-TV on Dec. 15, and it's possible, though unlikely, that Sherlock Hemlock will be on hand for the festivities.
19353. Adam Nightingale's Masters of Crime: fiction's Finest Villains and Their Real-Life Inspirations (Stroud: History Press, 2011; 101 pp.) is out-of-print on paper, but available as an e-book (£6.99); the contents include a chapter about Conan Doyle and Moriarty and Wild and Worth, and another devoted to Hornung and Raffles and Tennington and Ives and Wilde.
19354. "Elementary" has now ended its seven-season run on CBS-TV, with Jonny Lee Miller as Holmes and Lucy Liu as Watson in 154 one-hour programs, setting a record for playing the roles together longer than anyone other than Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce, who appeared together in more films and radio programs, but for fewer hours, since their radio programs ran for only 30 minutes. No spoilers here, but TV Insider ran an interview with show-runner Rob Doherty on Aug. 15 <www.tinyurl.com/y56t7lmv> in which he gave his reasons for how he did (or didn't) wrap things up. There's another interesting interview with Doherty at TV Line <www.tinyurl.com/y3lv4x3r>.
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August 2019 #3

19355. The nominations for Mystery Readers International's Macavity Awards include Margalit Fox's Conan Doyle for the Defense and Leslie S. Klinger's Classic American Crime Fiction of the 1920s (for best nonfiction), and Laurie R. King's Island of the Mad (Sue Feder memorial award for best historical mystery). The winners will be announced at Bouchercon in Dallas on Oct. 21.
19356. The August issue of the Beacon Society offers the latest news of the society's awards, prizes, and on-going efforts to encourage introducing young people to the Sherlock Holmes stories. You can request a copy by e-mail from Steve Mason <mason.steve@epa.com>.
19357. David Stevens died on July 31. He joined the staff of Playboy magazine in 1966 as an assistant editor, and (according to one of his obituaries) said that he "never worked another day in his life." He retired from the magazine in 2004 as senior editor for modern living, and throughout his career there he was their resident Sherlockian, making sure that the Great Detective was mentioned often in the magazine.
19358. Jennie Paton spotted Russell Stutler's striking birds-eye view of 221 Baker Street under "strange maps" at Big Think's web-site; reported before (July 10 #6), but it's still worth a look <www.tinyurl.com/yxa8ezat>.
19359. "Barnes & Noble has been sliding toward oblivion for years," according to a recent article in the N.Y. Times <www.tinyurl.com/yye8mqrn>, kindly forwarded by Bill Seil. But rescue is at hand: the rescuer is Waterstones, a British company that owns a chain of successful bookstores in the U.K. and plans to return Barnes & Noble to profitability.
19360. Further to the report (March 19 #1) that "Sherlock Holmes 3" (the next film in the Robert Downey Jr. franchise) will take place in the Old West, the San Jose Mercury-News has explained why: the film has qualified for California's tax-credit production incentive, and will receive about \$21 million in state tax credits in return for spending close to \$107 million on below-the-line, middle-class production job wages and payments to in-state vendors in California.
19361. "'That's the trouble with this business,' said Sherlockian scholar Vincent Starrett deprecatingly, when I reminded him of this bit of bad taste, 'the wrong people get into it.'" That's from Norman Donaldson's essay "A Freeman Postscript" in The Mystery & Detection Annual (1972), reporting on his visit with Starrett in 1964, when they discussed R. Austin Freeman's work. books.
19362. And just what was "this bit of bad taste?" Donaldson wondered how closely it might be legitimate to carry a literary analysis. "Was I by any chance becoming guilty of the same deplorable excesses as some over-enthusiastic Sherlockians, who build too ponderous a superstructure of exegesis on too flimsy a foundation? Like the dentist who 'proved' that Holmes suffered from pyorrhea?" Donaldson was referring to Charles S. Goodman, whose essay on "The Dental Holmes" was published in 1944 Edgar W. Smith's anthology Profile by Gaslight.

August 2019 #4

19363. An interesting item was sold at auction this month at Dominic Winter Auctioneers at Cirencester: the original cover design for the May 1912 issue of The Strand Magazine, pen and ink on paper, initialed and dated, and advertising Conan Doyle's "The Lost World" (which was being serialized in the magazine) <www.tinyurl.com/y4n8zk5b>. Estimated at £100-£150, it sold for £1,450 (plus buyer's premium and VAT).
19364. Shane Rimmer died on Mar. 29. He began his entertainment career as a cabaret singer and went on to act on film and television, also working as a voice artist and script writer. He played Lysander Stark in the television "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" (1987) and Jefferson Hope in the BBC Radio 4 broadcast of "A Study in Scarlet" (1989).
19365. There's more news about Enola Holmes: Serena Blasco has adapted the first two of Nancy Springer's novels (The Case of the Missing Marquess and The Case of the Left-Handed Lady) as graphic novels for IDW Publishing (each 64 pp., \$14.99); the adaptations and artwork are excellent, and The Case of the Bizarre Bouquets is scheduled for next year, nicely timed for the release of the movie starring Millie Bobby Brown. There was a well-illustrated interview with the artist at the School Library Journal web-site on Oct. 11, 2018 <www.tinyurl.com/yyvw46ql>. Blasco's graphic novels for all six of Springer's books have been published in France by Jungle Editions.
19366. When in Oklahoma: Sherlock Homes Inc. in Henryetta proclaims "19 years of amazing prices for nice mobile homes!" and uses a Sherlockian silhouette in their advertising <www.tinyurl.com/yyykc6rm>, spotted by Jennie Paton.
19367. Steve Mason reports that the Crew of the Barque Lone Star plan to publish a new anthology of limericks based on Sherlock Holmes and the Canon. Submissions are welcome from anyone, the deadline is Aug. 31, and details are available from Steve at <mason.steve@epa.gov>.
19368. Bearded Sherlockians may wish to investigate the Sherlock products (beard balm, beard oil, and beard co-wash) offered by the Honest Ape Beard Co. <www.honestapebeardco.com>.
19369. "Sherlock Holmes & Digital Worlds" is the title of a study that will document the history of Sherlockian video games from around the world. Mimi Okabe, a member of the Bootmakers of Toronto, would like to hear from anyone who would like to contribute information that will be available in an on-line data-base; details at <www.tinyurl.com/yy2lxlow>.
19370. This month's conference in Minneapolis ("Dark Places, Wicked Companions, and Strange Experiences"), sponsored by the Norwegian Explorers, the University of Minnesota, and the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections, went extremely well, and was the occasion for the publication of The Best of Friends; it is a selection of essays and articles from past issues of the Friends' newsletter, edited by Ray Riethmeier, Julie McKuras, Richard Sveum, and Phillip Bergem, with additional comments by the authors of the essays and articles. The 224-page book costs \$28.00 postpaid, from Phil Bergem (3829 172nd Avenue NW, Andover, MN 55304) (checks should be payable to the Norwegian Explorers).

August 2019 #5

19371. Kelvin I. Jones, a prolific author of Sherlockian articles and books in the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s, is preparing to publish The Sherlock Holmes Ultimate Smoking Companion, an up-dated and expanded edition of his earlier book about Holmes' affair with tobacco, and is welcoming submissions from any Sherlockian (or Holmesian) of a new story that has references to smoking, or a new article about smoking Canonical smoking (of tobacco or anything else). His deadline is Sept. 30, and details are available from him at <myscroft.221@yahoo.com>.
19372. Richard M. Caplan ("Dr. Jackson") died on Aug. 20. He had a longer career teaching dermatology at the University of Iowa, also serving as associate dean for continuing medical education. Dick was a prolific contributor to both medical and Sherlockian literature, and was the founder of the Young Stamfords of Iowa City. He received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1989.
19373. Jennie Paton reports a wide variety of Sherlockian designs available from Spoonflower <www.spoonflower.com> as fabric and as wallpaper.
19374. Alexander Orlov has reported from Russia that Anna Rossonova, a young woman from Chelyabinsk, is hard at work on creating a "knitted detective story" that will feature Holmes and Watson; you can see her attractive work at <www.tinyurl.com/y2f5k9hl>.
19375. Dante Torrese has kindly forwarded a report from Coin World Weekly (Aug. 19) about a nice discovery at Ballarat, where prospectors still are prospecting, sometimes quite successfully: a 4.4-pound gold nugget was found recently by a retiree who searches gold fields as a spare-time hobby, and offers of more than \$160,000 have already been made for the "You Wouldn't Believe It" nugget.

19376. The Panama City News Herald posted a story and a 15-minute audio interview with Nancy Springer on Aug. 13 <www.tinyurl.com/y32g9t19>; the story noted that Springer posted a rhetorical question on her Facebook page about the casting of Henry Cavill as Holmes: "Hottest Sherlock ever?"
19377. THE SHERLOCK HOLMES CASE BOOK (London: Carlton/Sevenoaks, 2018; 224 pp., \$17.23) is a nicely-illustrated collection of ten solve-it-yourself mysteries (complete with solutions at the back of the book). The artwork is credited to Shutterstock <www.shutterstock.com>, a web-site that offers a wide range of attractive (and royalty-free) images, Sherlockian and otherwise.
19378. The Guardian reported on Aug. 19 that Greene King, a 220-year-old pub and beer company, is to be sold for £2.7 billion to the CKA Group, a massive conglomerate based in Hong Kong <www.tinyurl.com/y56un9b5>. Greene King was founded by Benjamin Greene, the great-grand-grandfather of author Graham Greene (who wrote an introduction for the Murray/Cape edition of *The Sign of Four* in 1974) and his brother Hugh Greene (who was director-general of the BBC and the editor of the "Rivals of Sherlock Holmes" series of books), and is of additional interest to Sherlockians because it owned The Sherlock Holmes pub in Northumberland Street.
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August 2019 #6

19379. The usual theatrical news: David MacGregor's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Fallen Soufflé" has been scheduled at the Purple Rose Theatre in Chelsea, Mich., Sept. 19-Dec. 21; web-site's at <www.purplerosetheatre.org>.
19380. Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is due at the Kress Theatre in Alexandria, La., Sept. 26 to Oct. 6 <www.cpptheatre.com>; and the SurfFlight Theatre in Beach Haven, N.J., Oct. 2-6 <www.surflight.org>.
19381. Also at the Clearfield Arts Studio Theatre in Clearfield, Pa., Oct. 10-19 <www.clearfieldarts.org>; at the Chickasaw Civic Theatre in Mobile, Ala., Oct. 11-20 <www.cctshows.com>; and at the Plaza Theatre in Wharton, Tex., Oct. 18-27 <www.whartonplazatheatre.org>.
19382. Terry McCabe's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is upcoming at the City Lit Theater in Chicago, Sep. 27-Nov. 10 <www.citylit.org>.
19383. The musical "Sherlock Holmes and the East Wind" is due at the Arizona Rose Theatre in Tucson, Ariz., Oct. 12-27 <www.arizonarosetheatre.com>.
19384. "Baker Street Irregulars" (by Flip Kobler and Cindy Marcus) will be performed at the Luther Preparatory School in Watertown, Wis., on Oct. 17-20 <www.lps.wels.net>.
19385. Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" will be performed at Stage 212 in La Salle, Ind., Nov. 8-17 <www.stage212.org>.
19386. "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Goose" (by Michael Menendian and John Weagly) will be performed at the Paola Community Center in Paola, Kan., Nov. 8-9 <www.cornerstoneperformingarts.com>.
19387. Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" will be performed at the Newport Theatre Arts Center in Newport Beach, Calif., Nov.15-Dec. 15 <www.ntaconline.com>.
19388. John Longenbaugh's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol" will be performed at the James J. Hill House in St. Paul, Minn., Dec. 6-20 <www.theatrex.org>.
19389. Madeleine George's "The (Curious Case of the) Watson Intelligence" will be performed at Studio 120 at the University of South Florida in Tampa, Jan. 9-26 <www.tamparep.org>.
19390. Jon Jory's "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (four one-act plays) will be performed at Caldwell Community College in Lenoir, N.C., on Feb. 13-15 <www.broyhillcenter.com>.
19391. It's not possible to forecast everything in a monthly newsletter; if you would like more frequent news of theatrical events, Howard Ostrom offers exactly that at Twitter <www.twitter.com/HowardOstrom>.
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September 2019 #1

19392. The UCLA Film and Television Archive's collaborative world-wide search for missing or deteriorating Sherlockian films (January 19 #3) now is formally underway, and details are available at Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/yy96y7fu>.
19393. Rebecca Romney will be the speaker at next year's Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture at 2:00 pm on Apr. 20 at the Toronto Reference Library (her topic will be "Using Sherlock Holmes to Expand What Book Collecting Can Be"); no charge for admission, the public is welcome to attend, and detailed information is available at <www.acdfriends.org/events.html>. There's also a save-the-date announcement for the Bootmakers of Toronto's next conference (on Sept. 24-26, 2021).
19394. Footprints of London <www.footprintsoflondon.com> offers a wide variety of walks in London, among them "Sherlock Holmes Goes East" on Oct. 7 and 31, and "Sherlock Holmes—The Return" on Oct. 3.
19395. Leonard Nimoy first played Sherlock Holmes in "The Interior Motive" (a 15-minute program produced by Kentucky Educational Television in 1975); it's now available at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=h_rKfRpQZEE> (kindly reported by Jennie Paton).
19396. Januaryis Gayer Robinson notes an interesting web-site with all seven seasons of "Elementary" <www.tinyurl.com/y39kbny2>. There's a search engine, in case you want to search for other series (they have the Jeremy Brett and Benedict Cumberbatch series, and many non-Sherlockian series).
19397. Admirers of Sherlock Hemlock will enjoy a YouTube connection to all eleven of the segments of his appearances on "Sesame Street" (spotted by Jennie Paton) <www.tinyurl.com/y2s45z48>.
19398. The film isn't Sherlockian, but it does feature Charlie McCarthy wearing a deerstalker: Ann Marlowe has reported "Two Boobs in a Balloon" (1935), a 10-minute short that's the first film in a collection available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/yx9654fu>.
19399. The Nashville Scholars of the Three Pipe Problem have found a nice way to use modern technology to publicize the society and to attract new members: a 9-minute video available at YouTube <www.yout.be/X9T294hDpDA>.
19400. Kelvin I. Jones has been pursuing Sherlockian scholarship since the 1960s, and his Sherlock Holmes' 'The Art of Detection' (Liskeard: Cunning Crime Books, 2019; 334 pp., £12.14) offers an interesting collection of ten of the many monographs written by Holmes. Those outside the U.K. can buy the book for \$16.50 (with free shipping) from the Book Depository, which continues to be a good source for in-print British books; their web-site is at <www.bookdepository.com>. Those are the trade paperbacks; Kelvin has a few copies of the hardback version, available from him without charge except for £6.00 postage <mycroft.221@yahoo.com> (you'll be able to pay via PayPal).
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September 2019 #2

19401. "Conan Doyle and London" is the title of a one-day symposium scheduled for Nov. 15 at the School of Advanced Study at the Institute of English Studies in London <www.tinyurl.com/y57xc3gq>. It's open to the public, and is the first event associated with The Edinburgh Edition of the Works of Arthur Conan Doyle, planned for publication by the University of Edinburgh Press.
19402. Frank A. Hoffmann ("Altamont") died on June 11. Frank had a long academic career teaching both folklore and cinema at Buffalo State College, where he founded An Irish Secret Society at Buffalo in 1976. He also worked for a time for the Kinsey Institute in Bloomington, Ind. (and in 1985
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- contributed an article to The Baker Street Journal on “The Victorian Sexual Subculture: Some Notes and a Speculation”), and was happy to bring his 16mm Sherlockian films to show at meeting of the Illustrious Clients. He received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1979.
19403. Sarah Obermuller-Bennett’s *A Study in Postcards* (London: Sherlock Holmes Society of London, 2019; 38 pp., £6.00/€13.00/\$14.00) provides a colorful look at “Sherlock Holmes in the Golden Age of the Picture Postcard” (which ended in 1918, when the cost of postage doubled, from a halfpenny to one penny); there was a wide variety of cards (advertising, theatrical, scenic, and the traditional miscellaneous), and it’s especially interesting to see the results of her research on cards that were accidentally Sherlockian, with connections discovered only with a magnifying glass. Available at the Society’s web-site <www.sherlock-holmes.org/uk>.
19404. One of the postcards shown in the book is a delightfully Sherlockian cat drawn by the prolific artist Louis Wain, who has an interesting entry at Wikipedia. Variety reported on July 23 <www.tinyurl.com/yxo23mx> on a new film that will star Benedict Cumberbatch as Wain; production is under way, and a Google search for [cumberbatch wain] will bring up first-look images of Cumberbatch as Wain.
19405. Félix J. Palma’s *The Map of Chaos* (New York: Atria, 2015; 574 pp., \$27.00) is the third volume in a trilogy that involves time travel, alternate universes, steampunk, and both real and imagined characters; Conan Doyle appears in this volume, along with H. G. Wells, in a battle to avoid the end of everything and everyone.
19406. Jennie Paton spotted what Hansa Toys calls an “adorable miniature Sherlock Holmes Mohair Bear in quality gift box with trademark deerstalker hat, magnifying glass, and pipe,” now available from Hanleys in London (£60.00) <www.tinyurl.com/yxq6tsok>; it’s 14cm tall, which may or may not count as miniature, but at least it’s cuddly.
19407. Richard Booth died on Aug. 20. He was widely regarded as the most colorful book dealer in Britain, and for that matter in the world, having invented Hay-on-Wye as a destination for collectors. He crowned himself as king of the town, with Richard the Bookheart as his title, and was said to have appointed a horse as prime minister, and his obituary in the Washington Post <www.tinyurl.com/y5hq8smr> is well worth reading.
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September 2019 #3

19408. Michael Sims’ *Frankenstein Dreams* (New York: Bloomsbury, 2017; 387 pp., \$22.00) offers “a connoisseur’s collection of Victorian science fiction” (and his selections include Conan Doyle’s “The Horror of the Heights”); it’s part of a series *Dracula’s Guest* (vampire stories), *The Dead Witness* (detective stories, with “The Science of Deduction”), and *The Phantom Coach* (ghost stories, with “The Captain of the Pole-Star”).
19409. Sims notes in his introduction to “The Horror of the Heights” that Harold Ross (co-founder and editor-in-chief of *The New Yorker*) had “whimsically instructed his writers to be specific in identifying allusions by reminding them that only two figures were known to everyone in Western culture at that time . . . Harry Houdini and Sherlock Holmes.” That’s from James Thurber’s “The Years with Ross” in the *Atlantic Monthly* (Dec. 1957): “He once said that only two names were familiar to every reader in the civilized world: Houdini and Sherlock Holmes.”
19410. The next “Holmes in the Heartland” conference in St. Louis, Mo. on July 24-26, 2020, will include Curtis Armstrong as the keynote speaker; registration will open in October, and more information is available from Rob Nunn at <robertanunn@gmail.com>.
19411. The U.S. Postal Service has a rule against issuing postage stamps showing people while they’re still alive, but other countries, including Britain, have no such rule (the monarch, after all, appears on all of Britain’s stamps). Now the Royal Mail has issued a set of twelve stamps honoring Elton John, who was executive producer and songwriter for the film “*Sherlock Gnomes*” (2018), and one of the stamps shows an album-cover portrait Elton John himself. You can see all of the stamps (and collectible products) at <www.royalmail.com/eltonjohn>. And yes, the U.S. has occasionally (and accidentally) broken its rule; you can ask your neighborhood philatelist about this.
19412. “A fastidiously clean scent, with a dash of pipe and cigarette tobacco,” is only part of the description of the Sherlock Holmes Perfume Oil sold by the Black Phoenix Alchemy Lab <www.tinyurl.com/y3jrul4h>. And there is more: “Faintly beneath, you catch the fragrance of a smear of greasepaint, a stray horsehair, and a whisper of Moroccan leather and rosin.”
19413. Paul Darrow died on June 3. He had a wide-ranging career acting in Britain, on stage, screen, radio, and television, plus voice work on computer games and audiobooks. Darrow played Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in “*Sherlock Holmes and the Missing Link*” on stage and on television in 1992.
19414. The television series “*Sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s The Lost World*” featured Peter McCauley as Challenger and an assortment of underdressed “babes of the lost world” that fans likely found far more interesting than the dinosaurs; it ran for three seasons (1999-2002), and was released on DVDs, and is available at no charge for those who subscribe to Amazon Prime. There’s also the Oct. 2000 issue of *Femmes Fatales Magazine*, available at eBay and Amazon, with a cover story on Jennifer O’Dell; the artwork on the DVD set and the magazine helps explain why the series ran for three seasons.
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September 2019 #4

19415. More news from Great Britain: Prime Minister Boris Johnson and his partner Carrie Symonds have adopted a Jack Russell puppy that was abandoned by a Welsh farmer and rescued by Friends of the Animals Wales. When asked earlier about the possibility that a dog might join the couple’s cat Larry, Johnson said merely that “There is a dog. The dog is like the giant rat of Sumatra, it is a creature for whom the world is not quite ready.” The puppy has been named Dilyn, and the BBC has posted video <www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-49548946> of his arrival at Johnson’s flat in Downing Street.
19416. Laurance Donnelly will deliver this year’s Richard Lancelyn Green lecture to the Sherlock Holmes Society of London at the National Liberal Club on Oct. 17, on “The Applications of Geology to Police and Law Enforcement”; details at <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/event/forensic-geology>.
19417. Jennie Paton has reported a new addition to the list of Sherlockian comic books: the Dec. 1955 issue of *Marmaduke Mouse*, published by Quality Comics; the issue (#56) shows Marmaduke in Sherlockian costume on the cover, but not inside the comic book, which has been scanned and is available on-line at the Comic Book Plus web-site <www.comicbookplus.com/?dlid=19305>.
19418. Claire O’Dell’s *The Hound of Justice* (New York: Harper Voyager, 2019; 326 pp., \$15.99) is a sequel to her *A Study in Honor* (June 18 #6); the protagonists are Dr. Jane Watson and covert agent Sara Holmes, both black LGBTQIA women, and in this book Watson is hard at work trying to find and assist Holmes in a battle against a dire threat to their country after the next Civil War.
19419. Just in time for Christmas: Jennie Paton spotted an imaginative cherry-red sweatshirt with an attractive Sherlockian wreath, offered from Australia by Fruugo (AU\$41.95) <www.tinyurl.com/y6bjya46>.
19420. For the gamers (in case there are any out there): J. Robert King’s “*Baker Street Irregulars*” <www.tinyurl.com/y25wuu4u> is a “setting chapter” for Lester Smith’s *D6xD6 RPG* <www.d6xd6.com>. An RPG could be a rocket-propelled grenade, but this one’s a role-playing game (apparently similar to “*Dungeons and Dragons*”).
19421. The 60th annual running of the Chicago Silver Blaze will be held on Oct. 12 at the Hawthorne Race Course. You can request a registration form for the event from Philip Cunningham (9412 South Springfield Avenue, Evergreen Park, IL 60805) <pjc121@comcast.net>.
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19422. Terrance Dicks died on Aug. 29. He was best known for his work as editor and writer on the BBC "Doctor Who" series beginning in 1986, and went on to write spin-off novels as well as plays, and children's books that included ten titles in his Baker Street Irregulars series (1978-1987). He novelized Doctor Who and the Talons of Weng-Chiang (the program and book were full of Canonical allusions), had a cameo appearance by Conan Doyle in Doctor Who: Revenge of the Judoon (2008), and was script editor for the Tom Baker television version of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1982).

September 2019 #5

19423. "Trafalgar Square Lions Could Give You Sepsis," the Daily Telegraph warned on Aug. 23, reporting that experts had swabbed 24 statues in 13 European cities and found huge levels of bacteria. The statue of Sherlock Holmes in Baker Street, where tourists often touch the statue's feet, was among those tested, and had "a large presence of staphylococcus," which can lead to infections that include sepsis, conjunctivitis, cystitis, and endocarditis."
19424. "A Life in Movies" is the title of an interesting section of the on-line Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia maintained by Alexis Barquin; you can see a delightful selection of home movies and newsreel footage of Conan Doyle and his family <www.tinyurl.com/y4e8o3uz>.
19425. It can be interesting when people with special knowledge write about Sherlockian films: David Salazar, editor-in-chief the web-site Opera Wire, has discussed the way that opera was used in the Robert Downey Jr. film "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows" (2011) <www.tinyurl.com/y5hy2fm7>.
19426. Neil Gaiman's Mr. Hero—The Newmatic Man is a comic-book series scripted by James Vance "based on a concept created by Neil Gaiman," and published by Tekno-Comics. Issue #10 (early Dec. 1995) is titled "The Hand of the Baskervilles" and shows Mr. Hero (the Ratiocinator) in Sherlockian costume. The 18-issue series is collected in two volumes published by Papercutz in 2016 and 2017; Ted Slampyak's artwork is striking, and it's an impressive series.
19427. Internet search engines occasionally turn up stories about young men and women having been named "Sherlock Holmes Athlete of the Week". The award was created in 2017, and is sponsored by the Sherlock Holmes Pubs in Edmonton, Alberta <www.thesherlockpubs.com/athlete-of-the-week>.
19428. The Dundee Courier reported on Aug. 22 that work has begun on a £100 million residential development on the site of the Sunnyside Royal Hospital near Montrose. The hospital building will be converted into 10 townhouses and 24 apartments, and there will be a total of 450 homes on the 64 acres of the hospital grounds. Founded in 1781 as the Montrose Lunatic Asylum, the hospital received its royal charter in 1810, and its patients included Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's father Charles Altamont Doyle.
19429. Big Chief Studios continues to advertise authorized (and expensive) figures and dioramas from the "Sherlock" television series, with special offers on "The Abominable Bride" material <www.tinyurl.com/y57lafbx>.
19430. The web-site "We Got This Covered" reported on Aug. 7 that "sources" have said that "The Great Mouse Detective" is among the live-action remakes being planned by Disney. "Details are still largely unknown," and the story has not been confirmed by anyone else.
19431. Steve Emecz reports that MX Publishing will live stream from Undershaw in Hindhead, Surrey, on Oct. 12 <www.tinyurl.com/y4d5lcqk>, presenting Orlando Pearson's short play "A Scandal in Nova Alba", a performance by deductionist Ben Cardall, author interviews, and a virtual tour of Undershaw.
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September 2019 #6

19432. It's always interesting to make accidental discoveries: Greg Darak found a copy of the Oct. 1900 issue of McClure's Magazine, with Conan Doyle's article "Some Lessons of the War" (about the Boer War), and observed that the issue also contained John Watson's article on "The Life of the Master". Alas, the article's author, the Rev. John Watson, D.D., had written about Jesus, rather than the Great Detective.
19433. And just in time for Halloween: Jennie Paton discovered an attractive costume available from La Casa Di in Italy <www.tinyurl.com/yoochnw>, priced at €47.99 (no charge for shipping). There's another one offered by Pink Queen in Houston <www.tinyurl.com/y5syscqy> at \$55.99.
19434. Duncan Lamont died on July 2. He began his musical career at the age of seven, but soon switched to the saxophone and became a prolific songwriter, composer, arranger, and bandleader; his obituaries credit him for "The Sherlock Holmes Suite" created in collaboration with Spike Milligan. Does anyone know anything about Lamont's "Sherlock Holmes Suite"? Alan Barnes used the same title for a different jazz album issued in 2003.
19435. David E. Fessenden's The Case of the Exploding Speakeasy (Raleigh: Lighthouse Publishing of the Carolinas, 2013; 159 pp., \$13.95) has Tom Watson, son of Dr. Watson, working with little success as a newspaper reporter in Philadelphia in the 1920s; his father, who has been taking care of an ageing Mycroft after Sherlock Holmes' death, also dies, and Mycroft turns up in Philadelphia, where he happily helps Tom solve a mystery triggered by the destruction of a mob-owned saloon.
19436. The campaign to raise money to repair St. Mary's Church in Ingleton, where the Rev. Thomas Dod Sherlock had been vicar, and where a nearby area was called the Holmes (April 18 #2) continues. Jennie Paton has reported an interesting 11-minute Crowdfunder video in which Chris Leeming explains the local connections to Conan Doyle (who married Louise Hawkins in a nearby church in 1885) <www.tinyurl.com/yxoaxdmx>.
19437. According to Gemma Sherlock (on Cheshire Live) <www.tinyurl.com/y5cvddde>, filming has started in Chester on the television series "The Irregulars" (December 18 #5); it will focus on a group of street urchins whose crime-solving success a drug-addict Holmes takes credit for. And yes, the reporter really is named Gemma Sherlock.
19438. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists (also known as The Friends of Sherlock Holmes) met to honor the world's first forensic geologist with drinks and dinner at Mi Amigos Phoenix, on Sept. 25, warmly welcomed to Arizona during the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America. We will meet next in Houston on June 10, and in Montréal on Oct. 28.
19439. The GSA's program included a presentation on an interesting use of forensic geology: Marjorie A. Chan's paper "Case of the Missing Marbles: Iron Oxide Concretions of Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument, Utah." Thousands of concretions (called "moqui marbles"), stolen by mineral collectors and dealers, were recovered by the feds, and the perpetrators were prosecuted <www.tinyurl.com/y69n835f>.
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September 2019 #7

19440. "Don't just book it, Thomas Cook it," was the advertising motto of the company that once was the largest travel agency in the world. Founded in 1841, but in recent years battered by the economics of Brexit and the growth of do-it-yourself booking, the company went into compulsory liquidation this month, leaving hundreds of thousands of vacationers stranded. There's a Canonical connection, of course: Watson consulted "the manager at Cook's local office" in Lausanne (in "Lady Frances Carfax").
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19441. The Fifth Annual International Sherlockian Summit (a meeting of the Sherlockian societies in the Pacific northwest) will be hosted by the Dogs in then Nighttime in Anacortes, Wash., on Nov. 2, Details are available from Sheila Holtgrieve <sheilaholtgrieve@gmail.com>.
19442. "The first time I went to London," Michael Hingston wrote in the Washington Post on Sept. 15, "I asked a friend who lived there for bookstore recommendations. 'Well,' he said, 'that depends. What kind?' I was too embarrassed to admit I didn't realize I had to specify." It's a delightful article, and you can read it at <www.tinyurl.com/y26eed6>.
19443. Jack Perkins died on Aug. 19. After a long career as a newscaster at NBC-TV, he joined A&E in 1991, when it focused on arts and entertainment before turning to reality television, and became best known as the host of their "Biography" series, narrating its program on "Sherlock Holmes: The Great Detective" (1995).
19444. "In the Company of Harold Prince: Broadway Producer, Director, Collaborator" is a new exhibition running at the N.Y. Public Library for the Performing Arts through Mar. 31 <www.tinyurl.com/y3dwsfax>. Hal Prince, who died on July 31, had a long career as a producer and director, beginning with "Pajama Game" in 1954, and continuing with a long list of Broadway successes, including directing the musical "Baker Street" in 1964 (August 19 #2).
19445. "Sherlock Holmes is dead. Or so it is assumed. The world knows the great detective went over the falls at Reichenbach with his nemesis Professor Moriarty. But as Holmes' body was never retrieved, a number of frauds, fakes, and charlatans have come forward since to lay claim to his identity, and it falls to Dr. Watson to disprove them. Then a telegram arrives informing Watson that three men, each claiming to be Holmes, have been committed to a remote asylum off the coast of Scotland. Now Watson must discover if one of the mad men is the real Sherlock Holmes." That's the premise of Jeffrey Hatcher's play "Holmes and Watson" (which I've now seen and enjoyed at a reasonably local theater); it is imaginative, and great fun, with suspense and a surprise ending, and recommended if it's produced at a theater near (or reasonably near) you.
19446. The Dramatists Play Service offers the script <www.tinyurl.com/y65djwh9> (\$10.00), but it would be a great mistake to read the script before seeing the play. The play has been produced elsewhere, and well-reviewed, and all of the reviews seen so far have kindly and carefully not revealed the surprise ending.

September 2019 #8

19447. Theatrics: Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is being performed (in English) at the Circle Theatre in Copenhagen through Oct. 12 <www.ctcircle.dk>. It's also due at the University Theatre in Greenville, S.C., Oct.10-13 <www.gvltech.edu>; and at the Town Theatre in Columbia, S.C., Jan. 17-Feb. 2 <www.towntheatre.com>.
19448. Madeleine George's "The (Curious Case of the) Watson Intelligence" is running at the Open Book Theatre in Trenton, Mich., through Oct. 12; website at <www.openbooktheatrecompany.net>.
19449. Mark Finbow's dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is due at the Seagull Rep Theatre in Lowestoft, Suffolk, Oct. 1-2, and will then go on tour in East Anglia <www.seagullrep.co.uk>.
19450. The Baker Street Readers will present "The Hound of the Baskervilles" at the Hooker-Dunham Theater in Brattleboro, Vt., Oct. 4-5; Facebook page at <www.facebook.com/bakerstreetreaders>.
19451. "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (written and performed by Rod Goodall and Steve Johnston) will be performed at the Mick Lally Theatre in Galway on Oct. 12 <www.druid.ie>; and at the Town Hall Theatre in Galway on Oct. 24-25 <www.tht.ie>.
19452. Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" is due at the Macon Little Theatre in Macon, Ga., Oct. 18 to 27 <www.maconlittletheatre.org>; and at the Rubber City Theatre in Akron, Ohio, from Oct. 25 to Nov. 10 <www.rubbercitytheatre.com>.
19453. Christopher M. Walsh's "Miss Holmes" has been planned at the Manistee High School Auditorium in Brethren, Mich., Oct. 18-27; more information can be found at <www.manisteecivicplayers.org>.
19454. Tim Kelly's adaptation of Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at the Niswonger Performing Arts Center in Van Wert, Ohio, Nov. 22 and 23 <www.vwhstheatre.weebly.com>.
19455. John Longenbaugh's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol" will be performed at the Harlequin Theatre in Olympia, Wash., Nov. 27-Dec. 31 <www.harlequinproductions.org>.
19456. "Tweedy Presents: The Missing Company of Sherlock Holmes" is scheduled at the Everyman Theatre in Cheltenham, Glos., Feb. 16-23; their website's at <www.everymantheatre.co.uk>.
19457. "Sherlock Holmes Returns" ("an immersive dinner theatre experience") is to be performed at the Hunterdon Hills Playhouse in Hampton, N.J., Mar. 10-Apr. 30 <www.hhplayhouse.com>.

October 2019 #1

19458. Sherlockians will gather in New York on Jan. 15-19 to celebrate Sherlock Holmes' 166th birthday, and the most efficient way to receive information about all the goings-on will be via the "News from the BSI" e-mail system, which will offer an opportunity to reserve for events as soon as reservations open; if you've not already signed up for the service, you can do so easily at <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/bsi-news-via-email>. Almost all of the events are open to everyone, and there's always much more going on than anyone with reasonable sense or stamina can deal with. There will be more information at Scott Monty's excellent web-site <www.bsiweekend.com>, and his helpful "Here Are Your #BSIWeekend Tips" will be found in December at <ihose.co/bsi2020tips>.
19459. In plenty of time for holiday hinting (or shopping), Randall Stock's annual informative nominations for the best Sherlock Holmes books/DVDs of the year are on-line at <www.bestofsherlock.com/sherlock-gifts.htm#newgifts>; there also are recommendations of older Sherlockiana.
19460. Steven Moffat and Mark Gatiss have not been on vacation. The first official trailer for their new "Dracula" series carries the warning "Guidance: Horror" <www.tinyurl.com/yy6ku49f>, and it's thoroughly appropriate. The trailer also notes that the new series is "from the makers of Sherlock."
19461. The Adventure of the Abbey Grange, published by the Sherlock Holmes Society of London and the Fondation Martin Bodmer in 2016, offers a full-color facsimile of the manuscript, with a preface by Vincent Delay and an excellent essay by Catherine Cooke that discusses both the history of the manuscript and the different versions of the text of the story, and it's still available from the Society (\$65.00) <www.tinyurl.com/y2ba8pmn> (and recommended to anyone who wants to see exactly what Conan Doyle wrote when he first put pen to paper).
19462. Also available from the Society is a second printing of Jessica Victoria Woolf's Through the Archives (\$25.00); first published in 2018; the book offers 75 pages, fully illustrated in color, showing the Society's history as portrayed in its archives <www.tinyurl.com/y6acl8eu>.
19463. "Storm Area 51: They Can't Stop All of Us" was a Facebook event that took place on Sept. 20 at the U.S. Air Force Nevada Test and Training Range for those hoping to search for extraterrestrial life; more than 2 million people reported "going" (and 1.5 million more were "interested"), and about 150 people actually showed up at the entrance to Area 51, with none succeeding in entering the site. Not really Sherlockian, but the "Storm Area 51"

event inspired a "Storm Loch Ness" event scheduled one day later for people who wanted to find the Loch Ness Monster; it would appear that no one took this seriously enough to show up the event, but publicity in the press often mentioned that "Nessie" already had been found, in 2016, when a Norwegian company using an underwater robot equipped with sonar imaging to explore the loch located the model used in the movie "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970) (April 16 #5); the model sank while the movie was being filmed, and still rests quietly on the bottom of the loch.

October 2019 #2

19464. The summer 2019 issue of *The Magic Door* (that's the newsletter of the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) includes an interesting article by Randall Stock about the "The Parish Magazine" (both the manuscript and the story), Robert S. Katz's discussion of *Round the Red Lamp*, and other reports from and about the Library and the Collection; copies are available on request from Clifford S. Goldfarb, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street, Toronto M4W 2G8, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.
19465. And Cliff, chairman of the Friends, suggests in a separate letter that it might be time for an active literary society devoted to Conan Doyle; you can read his letter on-line at < www.tinyurl.com/yyw9hn8b>.
19466. "Why No BU Student Wants to Be a Sherlock Holmes" was the headline on an article in the *Deccan Herald* (Sept. 19). Not Boston University, but rather Bangalore University, where not a single student signed up for a master's degree program in criminology. "We all love Sherlock Holmes," the story suggested, but no student "wants to be like him in real life."
19467. Howard Ostrom has noted an imaginative life-size bronze sculpture by Irena Sedlecká < www.tinyurl.com/y2sevea2> of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and the spirit of Sherlock Holmes, in the Garden of Heroes and Villains created by the late Felix Dennis in Dorsington, Stratford-upon-Avon, in Warwickshire; it's not easy to visit the Garden: see the story in the *Stratford Observer* earlier this year < www.tinyurl.com/y287nhsg>. The Garden will be open for at least a few days next year, according to the Eventbrite web-site < www.tinyurl.com/y228p3dg> (where you can sign up for notifications of additional open days).
19468. Jerry Margolin reports that "Under Your Sky" is a new album from The Sherlocks, a British indie/rock band from Sheffield that plays on tour (June 17 #6); their web-site's at < www.thesherlocksmusic.co.uk>.
19469. AM New York was launched by Newsday in 2003 as the first free daily newspaper in New York city, and of course they have a web-site, where you can read their story about the Mysterious Bookshop, which has been in business for more than 40 years < www.tinyurl.com/y5tfvekj>. Otto Penzler, its proprietor, proudly boasts that it is "the oldest and largest mystery bookstore in the world."
19470. You've likely seen Derren Brown (briefly) in "Sherlock: The Empty Hearse" and you can read about him in an "Annals of Show Business" article in the *New Yorker* (Oct. 7) < www.tinyurl.com/y4by6a4y>, and listen to a *New Yorker* podcast about him on Aug. 16 < www.tinyurl.com/y28fs2ek>.
19471. An article in the *Camden New Journal* (Sept. 18) is headlined "Lillie Plays the Field" < www.tinyurl.com/y56hdm6w> and is based on Neil Titley's now-out-of-print *The Oscar Wilde World of Gossip*; it tells some grand stories about Lillie Langtry, who is believed by many to have been at least one of the inspirations for Irene Adler. Titley tells more stories at his colorful web-site at < www.wildetheatre.co.uk>.

October 2019 #3

19472. *The Missing Mr. Moonstone* (Marlborough Court, 2019; 178 pp., \$14.99) is the first in Peter Tong's "Detective Ladies of Baker Street" series; Sherlock Holmes is reported to have died in Switzerland, and Mrs. Hudson and her Cockney maid-of-all-work Fanny-Annie Grubbins find themselves involved in "detectivising" in pursuit of a missing husband and his wife's missing jewelry. He has written a play "Mrs. H. of Baker Street" (2005) and two more novels in his "detective ladies" series, and has a web-site at < www.petertong.org>; his publisher's web-site is at < www.marlboroughcourt.org>.
19473. The next 221B Con will be held in Atlanta on Apr. 3-5. The annual event (billed as a "fan con for all things Sherlock Holmes") was first held in 2013, and more information is available at < www.221bcon.com>.
19474. If you would like to know more about the BSI Archives (which will be celebrated at a conference on Nov. 8-10), Glen Miranker and Ross Davies were interviewed by Scott Monty and Burt Wolder for their "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog; listen to the interview at < www.tinyurl.com/y35nq7mf>.
19475. Pan Macmillan has reissued eight of its volumes of Sherlock Holmes stories in its "Macmillan Collector's Library" with attractive new cover artwork < www.tinyurl.com/y4vxbjx4>.
19476. Gillette Castle is celebrating its 10th anniversary, and on Aug. 20 WTNH-TV (New Haven) aired a 15-minute interview with Friends of Gillette Castle president Wendy Vincent < www.tinyurl.com/y3yj8vy6> that included a video tour of the Castle.
19477. "Cleats" is a comic strip drawn by Bill Hinds, and Tina Rhea spotted this one on Oct. 7 (it's a repeat from 2008): The strip also was Sherlockian on Oct. 8 < www.tinyurl.com/y6pllzy9>.
19478. Karlan's Arms & Antiques is offering (on Nov. 4) a snub-nose .450 caliber revolver described as "a very nice example of a Webley Military and Police pistol as used by the famous Sherlock Holmes" < www.tinyurl.com/yyr926ny>. John Linsenmeyer, who knows about such things, says that the reference to Sherlock Holmes is not nonsensical: it's almost certainly the pocket pistol that the Canon mentions him carrying.

October 2019 #4

19479. There aren't many authors who have been writing stories about Sherlock Holmes longer than Conan Doyle did (the first of his stories was published in 1887, and the last one in 1927). Nicholas Meyer certainly is one of them: his *The Seven-Per-Cent Solution* appeared in 1974 (and was both a best-seller and the basis for a hit movie), and his latest is *The Adventure of the Peculiar Protocols* (New York: Minotaur, 2019; 238 pp., \$25.99). The story is set in 1905, when Holmes and Watson are sent on a mission to determine the origins of the Protocols of Zion, and there is plenty of adventure as well as mystery (it's all nicely done indeed). The author has an excellent web-site at < www.nicholas-meyer.com>; click on [press] to find an interesting interview with Lenny Picker in *Publishers Weekly* in August, and click on [events] to see the schedule for public appearances and signings (it's well worth hearing what he has to say).
19480. Dan Andriacco's *House of the Doomed: An Adventure of Sherlock Holmes* (Indianapolis: Gasogene Books, 2018; 115 pp., \$19.95) is an imaginative pastiche, set in 1901, when Holmes and Watson investigate a mystery in Surrey (in an area that had become quite popular with writers and artists); Conan Doyle was one of them (he moved to Haslemere in 1897, but doesn't appear in the story). Gasogene's web-site is at < www.gasogenebooks.com>, and Dan has his own at < www.bakerstreetbeat.blogspot.com>.
19481. The Japanese anime series "Kakukichō Sherlock" (April 19 #2) began airing on television in Japan on Oct. 11 (showing "the comedic, mysterious, and dramatic adventures of a ragtag band of detectives as they live together in a tenement above Mrs. Hudson's bar in the red-light district and at

attempt to solve an unusual string of killings”). You can watch the first episode with English subtitles at < www.dailymotion.com/video/x7mkjkm>, Jennie Paton reports.

19482. “Baker Street Elementary” is a long-running comic strip that’s crafted by Joe Fay, Steve Mason, and Rusty Mason, and is available at the web-site of the Crew of the Barque Lone Star < www.dfw-sherlock.org>, along with much else of possible interest, such as a compilation of the text of this newsletter since it went electronic in 1985 (to be found under Ephemera).
19483. There was a full-page advertisement on p. 18 in the Sept. 12, 1903, issue of Collier’s Magazine announcing “The Return of Sherlock Holmes”, with an attractive portrait of Conan Doyle: < www.tinyurl.com/yyzgd4k>. A copy of the page, matted and framed, sold for \$437.50 (including the buyer’s premium) on Oct. 18 at Potter & Potter Auctions. And now for an important question: the artwork was credited to J.G.S.; does anyone know who J.G.S. was?
19484. Homunculus Verlag < www.homunculus-verlag.de> has published three imaginative Sherlockian advent calendars, the first two only in German, and the third this year in English as well as German; they’re colorfully attractive and offer 24 solve-it-yourself mini-mysteries. €15.00 each from the publisher in Germany. This year’s English version also is available from MX Publishing for £12.99 < www.tinyurl.com/y2gq3x5h>, and for \$19.99 from The Strand Magazine < www.tinyurl.com/y6k8tn4b>.
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October 2019 #5

19485. The famous (perhaps infamous) “Sherlock Holmes tent joke” has been in circulation at least since 1998, and in 2002 won second place in a Laughlab experiment intended to determine the world’s funniest joke. I won’t publish it again (since I promised not to), but you can find it easily on the Internet. I will call attention to two amusing tributes to the joke in the “Baker Street Elementary” comic strip in 2015 < www.tinyurl.com/y5rj2zm8> and 2019 < www.tinyurl.com/y6loduw7>.
19486. “The Beekeeper’s Apprentice changed my life,” Laurie R. King has written, celebrating the 25th anniversary of the book by telling some nice stories about those long-ago days when the long-running (and continuing) saga of Mary Russell was launched < www.tinyurl.com/y4c5f7qw>.
19487. Anna Quayle died on Aug. 16. She began acting at the Edinburgh Fringe in 1956, and went on to a long career on stage, screen, and television, winning a Tony Award as best featured actress in a musical in “Stop the World —I Want to Get Off” in 1963, and playing Freda (Sigmund Freud’s maid) in “The Seven-Per-Cent Solution” (1976).
19488. When in Lebanon (Pennsylvania): the Red-Headed League Public House will be opening in November, on the top floor of the Lebanon Farmers Market. According to a post on their Facebook page < www.tinyurl.com/y58gq2ya>, the Sherlock Holmes story was inspired by a notorious murder committed by the Blue-Eyed Six in Lebanon in 1878.
19489. “Bruce Wayne once told me that if you eliminate the impossible, whatever remains—however improbable—must be the truth,” Adrian Chase said, in the “Starling City” episode of “Arrow” broadcast on The CW on Oct. 15. Adrian Chase is Earth-2’s Green Arrow, and “Arrow” is a sister series of the CW series “The Flash” (which featured Harrison “Sherloque” Wells in a recent season).
19490. Derham Groves’ Feng-Shui and Western Building Ceremonies (Singapore: Graham Brash, 1991; 114 pp.) offers an architect’s approach to the geomancy of places, and the architect is a Sherlockian, so there’s a case study of the feng-shui of 221B Baker Street; the book is out of print, but readily available at Amazon and AbeBooks.
19491. When in Naperville, Ill.: you can drive along Conan Doyle Road, in an area where the streets were named by someone who obviously enjoyed reading; see the Google map at < www.tinyurl.com/y3lrhq8f>.
19492. They’re not mentioned in the Canon, but just about anyone who has visited or lived in London since 1948 has ridden in one of the iconic black cabs. My London had an interesting story on Oct. 20 < www.tinyurl.com/y6tobkvs> that included some facts that might be new to you, such as: the taxis are allowed to have a maximum turning circle of only 25 feet because the entrance to the Savoy hotel has a small roundabout that can’t be navigated by vehicles with a wider turning circle. And the taxis are black because when the Austin FX3 was introduced in 1948, black was the standard color, and buyers had to pay extra for any other color, so fleet owners decided that black was best.
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October 2019 #6

19493. “Search the Sherlock Holmes Stories” is a useful feature included in the on-line Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia that’s maintained by Alexis Barquin, offering a search engine and the Oxford University Press version of the 62 stories < www.tinyurl.com/y3jcf5js>. Yes, that’s 62, because he considers the Apocryphal “The Field Bazaar” and “How Watson Learned the Trick” to be Sherlock Holmes stories.
19494. Scott Monty describes Vincent Starrett’s sonnet “221B” as an “iconic poem” for Sherlockians, and so it is; you can read what Scott has to say at his “I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere” blog < www.tinyurl.com/y48tx9x>, and follow links to the eleven chapters of Ray Betzner’s new (and delightful) monograph about the poem at his “Studies in Starrett” blog.
19495. William D. Goodrich (“Alexander Holder”) died on Oct. 20. He had a long career in banking in Chicago and was an energetic member of the Sherlockian societies there. Bill was one of the founders of Baker Street Miscellanea in 1975 and compiled two editions of his Good Old Index to the Canon in 1987 and 1994. He received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1977.
19496. “It’s summertime on the Riviera, where the Jazz Age is busily reinventing the holiday delights of warm days on golden sand and cool nights on terraces and dance floors,” Laurie R. King writes. The next Mary Russell novel, Riviera Gold, is set on the Côte d’Azur in 1925, when Russell and Sherlock Holmes encounter “hot sun and cool jazz, new friendships and old loyalties, childlike pleasures, and very grown-up sins.” Publication date is June 9. And it’s nice indeed when researching for a book means that travel is a business expense.
19497. “Gwyneth Paltrow Hired a Personal Book Curator” was the headline on an article in Town & Country on Aug. 20 < www.tinyurl.com/y45h6ove>. The personal book curator, Thatcher Wine of Juniper Books < www.juniperbooks.com>, also offers custom book jackets for sets of books that turn the books into an appropriate artistic image on your shelves, and there are two sets of the Canon.
19498. It’s possible that Holmes and Watson were aware of J. Hepworth & Son, gentlemen’s tailors, founded in Leeds in 1864; the firm, now called Next, is a chain of more than 500 stores that offer clothing and furnishings that include a wide and colorful variety of “Sherlock” chairs, sofas, and footstools < www.next.co.uk/homeware/sofas-chairs/sherlock>, kindly reported by Annie Utechin.
19499. Mycroft and Sherlock: The Empty Birdcage (New York: Titan, 2019; 128 pp., \$25.99) is the third in the series written by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Anna Waterhouse; it’s now 1873, and Mycroft, although he has resigned his post as secretary to the Secretary of State for War, has maintained his government contacts and finds them useful indeed when he meddles in international criminal affairs while he also tries to shepherd his annoying younger brother, who’s in pursuit of a different criminal. It’s nicely done, with style and substance.
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October 2019 #7

19500. "J. D. Salinger" is the title of an exhibition at the N.Y. Public Library, running until Jan. 19 < www.nypl.org/salinger>, and displaying his manuscripts, letters, photographs, books, and personal effects, including a bookcase from Salinger's bedroom filled with books from his personal library. According to a report in the N.Y. Times (Oct. 18), the authors whose books he wanted close at hand at the end of his life included Conan Doyle; the library kindly reports that the two-volume edition of *The Complete Sherlock Holmes* is on display in the bookcase.
19501. It was in Salinger's story "Hapworth 16, 1924" (published in the June 19, 1965, issue of *The New Yorker*) that seven-year-old Seymour Glass wrote to his family from summer camp that "my love for Sir Arthur Conan Doyle ... is an absolute certainty!" Roger Lathbury wrote in *New York* magazine on Apr. 4, 2010 < www.tinyurl.com/y2abnf4> about how he almost managed to publish the first edition of the story, Salinger's last book.
19502. Individual 7-cm figurines in the "Sherlockians" collection handcrafted in resin by Spanish artist Marco Navas are still available (€35.00 each), but the gallery designed to display them has sold out. Details and images can be found at < www.marconavas.com>.
19503. "In a series starting with *The Beekeeper's Apprentice*, young Mary Russell teams up with this British sleuth" was the answer worth \$400 in the category "Untrue Detective" on the television series "Jeopardy" on Oct. 2, according to Bill Mosteller. One contestant guessed "Morse" and the other two passed.
19504. Don Hobbs is expanding his Galactic Sherlock Holmes data-base of foreign translations (which now has almost 8,000 entries) to include appearances in magazines and newspapers, and would be glad to hear from anyone who has found something that's not already in the data-base; the latest version is available on request as a 222-MB WeTransfer file < 221b@verizon.net>.
19505. "Bunny Yeager was a model and a beauty queen before becoming a photographer herself," I noted some years ago (May 97 #2), in an item about her offer of collector's cards that included "Sherlock Holmes' Apprentice" (for those more than 18 years old). Howard Ostrom has discovered an interesting item at eBay < www.tinyurl.com/y2m2f732> open for bidding until Nov. 7.
19506. The "British Library Crime Classics" series of anthologies edited by Martin Edwards (June 16 #5) continues, with Edwards providing enthusiastic introductions and a careful selection of stories, and the latest, just out, is *Deep Waters: Mysteries on the Waves*, reported to include "The Gloria Scott" (U.S. editions are published by the Poisoned Pen Press).
19507. MC Black, of Detective Walks, will lead a walk "In the Footsteps of Sherlock Holmes" on the evening on Nov. 14, through Covent Garden and the West End; details are available from MC at < mcb@detectivewalks.co.uk>. This is one day before the symposium on "Conan Doyle and London" at the Institute of English Studies in London < www.tinyurl.com/y57xc3gq>; it's open to the public, and it is the first event associated with The Edinburgh Edition of the Works of Arthur Conan Doyle, planned for publication by the University of Edinburgh Press.

October 2019 #8

19508. Falling Stars Theatre < www.fallingstarstheatre.co.uk> advertise that they're "known for their immersive style of performance," and are touring Yorkshire with a play written by Geoff Parker, presented by A.R.S.E.S. (the Amateur Rural Society of Entertainment and Singers). The play is "an antimime for grownups!" and seems to have a different title for each performance ("Join Sherlock, Watson, and Woofer as they embark on a journey to deepest, darkest Yorkshire in search of a beast").
19509. David MacGregor's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Elusive Ear" is being performed at the 10th Street Stage in Toledo, Ohio, through Nov. 3 < www.toledorep.org>.
19510. Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is being performed at the Quogue Community Hall in Quogue, N.Y., through Nov. 10; web-site at < www.hamptontheatre.org>. And it's due at the Pima Community College Center for the Arts in Tucson, AZ, Nov. 7-17 < www.tinyurl.com/yy2gyv6s>.
19511. Jeffrey Hatcher's "Holmes and Watson" is running at the Carpenter Square Theatre in Oklahoma City, Okla., through Nov. 9 < www.carpentersquare.com>.
19512. Tim Kelly's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed at the Warren Arts Foundation in McMinnville, Tenn., Nov. 1-10; their web-site's at < www.warrenartstn.ticketleap.com>.
19513. Madeleine George's "The (Curious Case of the) Watson Intelligence" will be performed at the Gryphon Theatre in Laramie, Wyo., Nov. 7-16.; web-site at < www.gryphontheatre.org>.
19514. John Longenbaugh's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol" is scheduled at the P. W. Enns Centennial Concert Hall in Winkler, Manitoba, Nov. 7-10 < www.flatlandstheatre.com>.
19515. S. Waterman's "Sherlock Holmes and T'Was the Murder Before Christmas" (an interactive dinner murder mystery) will be produced at the Bristol Bar and Grill in Louisville, Ky., Nov. 16-Jan. 4 < www.tinyurl.com/y5c95gou>.
19516. "Sherlock Holmes and the Warlock of Whitechapel" (a new play by Pat Whymark and Julian Harries) will be on tour in East Anglia, Dec. 12-Jan. 19 < www.commongroundtc.co.uk>.
19517. The Ghostwriters' "Adventures of the Improvised Sherlock Holmes" is scheduled in the Gold Digger in Fringe Central in Perth, W.A., from Jan. 26 to February 3 < www.tinyurl.com/yyxrq9e>.
19518. Sandra Bass' new adaptation "Sherlock Holmes and the Death on Thor Bridge" will be performed at the Genesian Theatre in Sydney, N.S.W., Feb. 28-Apr. 4 < www.genesiantheatre.co.uk>.

November 2019 #1

19519. "Building an Archive: A Celebration of the Arrival of the BSI Archives at the Lilly Library" (the conference in Bloomington on Nov. 8-10) went very well, offering participants behind-the-scenes tours of the Lilly as well as an exhibition of treasures from the Archives. More than 90 people were on hand, and Scott Monty and Burt Wolder's "Live from the Lilly Library" is episode #180 of their "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" interviews; you can tune in to the proceedings at < ihose.co/ihose180>.
19520. Harrison and Linda Hunt's "Aboriginals" (New York: The Baker Street Irregulars, 2019; 252 pp., \$24.95) offers brief biographies and photographs of the many men (and women) who were "the earliest Baker Street Irregulars, 1934-1940," attending annual dinners or solving the crossword puzzle that was published in the *Saturday Review of Literature* in 1934; it's available from the BSI at < www.bakerstreetirregulars.com>. The BSI also is offering a deep discount on the few remaining copies of the Undershaw Limited Edition set at < www.tinyurl.com/t94d6pw>.
19521. And there's still time to subscribe to the Baker Street Journal for 2019 (\$41.95) and receive all five issues, including the BSI Christmas Annual, which will be about William S. Baring-Gould (who was the first to annotate the Canon) and will be available only to subscribers. But: the deadline for 2019 subscriptions is Dec. 6
19522. Type Punch Matrix, the rare book firm founded by Rebecca Romney and Brian Cassidy has issued its first catalog < www.tinyurl.com/y2xv2747>; it nicely begins with two items of "Victorian Fact and Fiction": the first book edition of *A Study in Scarlet* (illustrated by the author's father Charles

Altamont Doyle and published in 1888), and a second edition of a Police Manual (prepared by a Committee of Chief Constables of Scotland and published in 1894). The second book is “the real-life handbook for constables during the era of the romanticization of detective work in Scotland-born author Arthur Conan Doyle’s stories.”

19523. The Crew of the Barque Lone Star has published *The Canon: Five Lines at a Time*, an amusing collection of Sherlockian limericks submitted by members of the society and edited by Steve Mason; it’s available to one and all as a free download at < www.tinyurl.com/ybaqwa7y>.
19524. Registration is now open for the “Holmes in the Heartland” conference in St. Louis on July 24-26; details at < www.tinyurl.com/y7d5elmp>.
19525. Big Chief Studios has announced a “warehouse clearance everything must go” sale on its authorized (and expensive) figures, dioramas, and artwork from the “Sherlock” television series < www.tinyurl.com/y6t5z5z5>.
19526. Yahoo (which is owned by Verizon) has announced that it is shutting down Yahoo Groups on Dec. 14, and all Group contents will be deleted. The moderators of “Letters of Mary”, a Yahoo group for fans of Laurie R. King’s “Mary Russell” stories with more than 900 members, have found a new home for the group, at < lettersofmary@grops.io>. There’s no word as yet about any other Sherlockian or Doylean groups that used Yahoo.

November 2019 #2

19527. David M. Rush died on Oct. 28. He was a life-long Sherlockian and Doylean in Illinois, and as a guest columnist for the Decatur Herald & Review he made sure that his readers were often reminded of his enthusiasms. David also contributed to society newsletters and journals, and his article on “Holmes and the Opera Ghost” was reprinted from the Devon County Chronicle in an 1985 edition of Gaston Leroux’s *The Phantom of the Opera*.
19528. “Get clued in during downtime, the N.Y. Times suggests, in an advertisement for its crossword puzzles, spotted by Samantha Wolov. You can subscribe to the puzzles for \$39.95/year (which helps the paper avoid becoming what some have called “the failing N.Y. Times”).
19529. Bunny Yeager’s “Sherlock Holmes’ Apprentice” at auction at eBay (October 19 #7) < www.tinyurl.com/y2m2f732> sold for \$199.99, one assumes to someone who enjoys blondes wearing only a deerstalker.
19530. Richard K. Radek’s *The Problem of the Singular Stradivarius* (2014) and *The Tragedy of the Salopian Roses and Three Short Stories* (2019) are the first two volumes of his “The Sequestered Adventures of Sherlock Holmes” (184/ 271 pp., \$13.95/\$14.95); they’re traditional pastiches, involving Holmes and Watson with forged Strads and other mysteries in an around London.
19531. The snub-nose .450 caliber Webley Military and Police revolver offered at auction at Karlan’s Arms & Antiques on Nov. 4 (October 19 #4) sold for \$650, rather more than Sherlock Holmes would have paid for his.
19532. “Cartoonist Gahan Wilson Is Looking to Find His Way” was the headline on a story in *27 East* on Oct. 30 < www.tinyurl.com/y6rjuzyg> about Gahan Wilson, who has drawn some delightful Sherlockian cartoons over the years. Now 89 and suffering from dementia and other health issues, he is living in Arizona and is still drawing; some of his recent artwork is on-line at a GoFundMe page < www.gofundme.com/f/gahan-wilson-team-effort>.
19533. Nicholas Meyer is on tour promoting his new pastiche *The Adventure of the Peculiar Protocols*, and if you’ve missed seeing and hearing him, you can listen to Richard Wolinsky’s fine 45-minute interview with Nick on KPFA-FM on Oct. 24 < www.kpfa.org/episode/bookwaves-october-24-2019>, with discussion of the new book and much more.
19534. Derrick Belanger writes that Belanger Books is calling for submissions for its second young-adult Sherlock Holmes anthology (the first was *The Irregular Adventure of Sherlock Holmes*); guidelines are available from Derrick at < derrickbelanger@gmail.com>.
19535. “Your house can’t shave, but it can smell great!” according to the Chiseled Face Groomatorium, which advertises a handmade “Sherlock Scented Candle” that offers “a warm tobacco-based scent blended with toasted caramel, black pepper, moist dirt, and finished with a touch of leather, mandarin, honey, and rose” (\$15.99) and a wide variety of other Sherlock products at their web-site < www.chiseledface.com>.

November 2019 #3

19536. “It is rumored there is an element of Sherlock Holmes in the construction of the new SWISSPEAK resorts in Meiringen,” according to flier announcing the opening of a new apartment resort located just across the road from the Sherlock Holmes Museum. The apartment resort will open on Dec. 11 (“there are rumors that Sherlock Holmes will be mingling in the lobby”), and there’s a link at the end of their imaginative flier < www.tinyurl.com/s6rtijk> to more information about the Interhome resort.
19537. Jeremy Kemp died on July 19. He started acting on radio with the BBC in 1958, starred in the BBC television series “Z Cars” (1962), and went on to a long career that included roles such as Baron Karl von Leinsdorf in “The Seven-Per-Cent Solution” (1976) and Dr. Grimesby Roylott in Granada’s “The Speckled Band” (1984).
19538. Watson’s Tin Box is hosting the next “Scintillation of Scions” on June 12-14, 2020, at the Sheraton Baltimore-Washington Airport. It’s an entertaining gathering of local and far-flung Sherlockians and will include the annual running of The Silver Blaze (Southern Division) at Laurel Park Racetrack. Registration is now open <www.scintillation.org>.
19539. Denny Dobry has very kindly reported via Libri < www.vialibri.net>, a spectacular web-site managed by James A. Hinck, that provides a search engine that finds books and magazines advertised on a long list of on-line web-sites.
19540. The Strand Magazine’s colorful “Sherlock Holmes Calendar 2020” (\$24.95) is available at < www.tinyurl.com/woetvyj>. And Mark Alberstat’s “2020 Sherlockian Calendar” includes Canonical artwork (mostly by Sidney Paget) and information from the Baring-Gould chronology, and can be downloaded (without charge) at < www.tinyurl.com/ue2qmbd>.
19541. “Let us consider the claims of Whitaker’s Almanack,” Holmes suggested (in “The Valley of Fear”). The Bookseller reported on Nov. 19 that Bloomsbury Yearbooks, is offering to sell Whitaker’s assets (the current edition, the on-line edition, and backlist editions going back to 1869), describing the almanac as “an excellent investment opportunity for the buyer interested in preserving this historic publication and presenting definitive answers to questions in an era of ‘fake news.’” < www.tinyurl.com/skylo4k>.
19542. Howard Ostrom notes a story in the *Sunderland Echo* on Nov. 1 about the new range of clothing offered by Master Debonair < www.tinyurl.com/y5q5ovxq> in mix-and-match pairs for Holmes & Watson, Rathbone & Bruce, and Lestrade & Moriarty < www.tinyurl.com/y6x3p2sl>.
19543. Mark Jones and Paul M. Chapman have launched a new podcast called “Doings of Doyle” < www.doingsofdoyle.com> devoted to discussion of Conan Doyle’s non-Sherlockian writings; the first episode deals with *The Doings of Raffles Haw*. See also the entry on “The Ophthalmologist’s Tale” and its link to an article in *Eye News* (Oct. 1) that focuses on the Conan Doyle notebook held by the Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh that contains the manuscript of “The American’s Tale” and an unpublished poem.

November 2019 #4

19544. The life-size chocolate statue of Benedict Cumberbatch commissioned by UKTV (April 15 #3) now is available to all in a smaller version, Mental Floss reported (on Apr. 12) < www.tinyurl.com/weox3cy>. You can make a note to order one for Easter next year, from Chocolatician <

www.chocolatician.com> (£39.95 and up); 400 grams (about 14 oz.) of chocolate, and they come in three flavors: milk chocolate, dark chocolate, and white chocolate (with a 22-carat bow tie).

19545. Karen Murdock notes that the [London] Independent said “We’d be hard-pressed to say there’s anything entirely useful about these glasses shaped like the pipe Sherlock Holmes puffed on while solving his most difficult cases.” The stems are glass straws useful for those who prefer not to sip their wine, and the Wino Sippo Glasses are available from Firebox (\$18.99 for a set of two < www.tinyurl.com/y96cvv2x>. The paper suggests that “Christmas is about having a bit of fun, and these glasses are guaranteed to add to a general feeling of seasonal goodwill.” Firebox doesn’t mention Sherlock Holmes, but it does promise that “it’s almost impossible to knock one of these bad boys over.”
19546. No Word from Winifred (1986) is one of a long series of mysteries written by Amanda Cross (the pen name used by Carolyn G. Heilbrun), and it’s literate, witty, and entertaining, and full of Canonical allusions.
19547. “Tom Steyer’s Fortune Fuels Underdog 2020 Campaign” was the headline on an Associated Press story (Nov. 17) < www.tinyurl.com/v26uz9m>. The hopeful Democrat suggested that “this race is completely up in the air—seriously,” adding that “the game’s afoot.”
19548. The Devil’s Due, by Bonnie MacBird (London: Collins Crime Club, 2019; 369 pp., \$26.99), is her third pastiche, and it involves Holmes and Watson in a battle against villainous opponents, with a series of gruesome murders, and plenty of twists and turns. Her fourth pastiche (The Three Locks) is due next year, and it will be a prequel; Bonnie’s interesting web-site at <www.macbird.com> offers blogs and annotations on the series.
19549. The Look and Learn History Picture Library < www.lookandlearn.com> offers access to “one of the world’s largest and most unusual collections of historical pictures and vintage imagery,” and the artwork is interesting indeed; their search engine turns up 96 images for [sherlock holmes] and 172 images for [conan doyle].
19550. The Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh has awarded this year’s Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Medal, which recognizes the highest-placed graduate ChM (Master of Surgery) in clinical ophthalmology, to Hani Hasan, according to the Swindon Advertiser (Nov. 12) < www.tinyurl.com/u33kpmf>.
19551. Flickering Myth reported on Nov. 21 that Titan Comics has announced a new comic-book series “Adler” that has Irene Adler teaming up with a “League of Extraordinary Gentlemen” to take on Moriarty; the first issue is due on Feb. 5, and there’s a preview of the first issue (with lots of colorful artwork) at < www.tinyurl.com/w4qnc2>.

November 2019 #5

19552. There’s seemingly no end to Internet buzz about whether there will be a new season of the BBC’s “Sherlock” (it appears that it’s absolutely positively definitely certain that there may or may not be new season), but Howard Ostrom noted some interesting news in Radio Times (Nov. 18) < www.tinyurl.com/rnn3tuf>: now that work has been completed on their three-episode series “Dracula” (which is due this year on BBC One) Steven Moffat and Mark Gatiss told an interviewer that they would like to bring back another iconic detective: Columbo. “I did have a decent go at it,” Moffat said, “but the rights are really tied up.”
19553. Alan Barnes’ “The Sherlock Holmes Suite” was recorded and released in 2003 and is available as a 2-CD set at Amazon; he’s still performing, and received an enthusiastic review from Leon Nock in the on-line Jazz Journal on Nov. 19 < www.tinyurl.com/wgjpa88>.
19554. Karen Murdock has reported an item in the Daily Telegraph (Nov. 5) about a politician on “Team Farage”: candidate Sarah Wass (East Leeds) is a human resources expert who talked her way into university despite having no A-levels. The Brexit Party said she held “two world records” for taking part in the biggest ever elf gathering, and the biggest Sherlock Holmes dance-off. The Guinness World Records web-site does have an entry for the largest gathering of Santa’s elves < www.tinyurl.com/u7kdhk>, but no entry for a Sherlock Holmes dance-off.
19555. Ross Davies has reported a Kickstarter campaign for The Art of Frank Cho: A Twenty-Year Retrospective < www.tinyurl.com/u8mtubk>; if you run the video you can see him engaging in Sherlockian artistry. You can also scroll down to see his portrait of Holmes and Watson.
19556. Further to previous mentions of Big Chief Studios’ authorized (and expensive) figures from the “Sherlock” television series, they’re also offering fans of “Game of Thrones” a figure of Daenerys Targaryen: Mother of Dragons at a pre-order price of £1,499 < www.tinyurl.com/rxopv83>. Fans of the “Game of Thrones” series obviously are presumed to be more fanatical than fans of the “Sherlock” series. On the other hand, there have been no reports (yet) of a “Game of Thrones” escape room.
19557. When in Scotland: it’s remote connection, but Airth Castle was the ancestral home of the Baronets of Stenhouse; Nigel Bruce was the younger son of the 10th baronet, and thus didn’t inherit the title. On Nov. 13 the Airdrie & Coatbridge Advertiser published a letter to the editor from Cameron Stevenson, who suggested that if Nigel Bruce had been the older son, he might not have gone to Hollywood to become Rathbone’s Dr. Watson. Airth Castle now is a hotel < www.airthcastlehotel.com>, near Stirling about 40 miles from Edinburgh; there’s no mention of Nigel Bruce at their web-site.
19558. The Baker Street Quarter Partnership is the business improvement district (BID) for the Marylebone area of London, and they are celebrating Christmas this year with installations of Christmas lights. Baker Street will feature illuminated geese perched on columns to remind passersby of “The Blue Carbuncle”.

November 2019 #6

19559. It’s not possible to forecast all upcoming theater in a monthly newsletter; if you would like to have more frequent news, Howard Ostrom offers just that at Twitter < [www.twitter.com/HowardOstrom](https://twitter.com/HowardOstrom)>.
19560. Jeffrey Hatcher’s “Holmes and Watson” is running at the Art Square Theatre in Las Vegas, Nev., through Dec. 8 < www.theatre.vegas>.
19561. Ken Ludwig’s “The Game’s Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays” is on at the Murphys Creek Theatre in Murphys, Calif., through Dec. 15; web-site’s at < www.murphyscreektheatre.org>. It also is scheduled at the Tacoma Little Theatre in Tacoma, Wash., Dec. 6-29 < www.tacomalittletheatre.com>; and at the Theatre of Western Springs in Western Springs, Ill., May 28 to June 7 < www.theatreofwesternsprings.com>.
19562. “Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Goose” (by Michael Menendian and John Weagly) will be performed at the James Downing Theatre in Chicago, Ill., Dec. 6-15 < www.jamesdowningtheatre.com>; and at the Brumder Mansion in Milwaukee, Wis., Dec. 6-21 < www.milwaukeeemansion.com>.
19563. Susan I. Weinstein’s new play “ETHER: The Strange Afterlife of Harry Houdini and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle” is scheduled at IRT in New York, Dec. 19-22 < www.irttheater.org>.
19564. Michael Druce’s “Sherlock Holmes and the Portal of Time” is due at Rover Dramawerks in Plano, Tex., Jan. 9-Feb. 1 < www.roverdramawerks.com>.
19565. “Sherlock Holmes the Pantomime” will be performed at the Memorial Hall in Woodchurch, Kent, Jan. 17-25 < www.woodchurchplayers.com>.
19566. Ken Ludwig’s “Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery” will be performed at the Melon Patch Theatre in Leesburg, Fla., Jan. 24-Feb. 9; the web-site’s at < www.melonpatchplayers.org>.

19567. "Tweedie and the Missing Company of Sherlock Holmes" is scheduled on tour in the U.K., from Oxford (Jan. 25) to Cheltenham (Feb. 23); web-site's at < www.tweedyswebsite.com>.
19568. Christopher M. Walsh's "Miss Holmes" will be performed at the Waterville Opera House in Waterville, Maine, Jan. 31-Feb. 2 < www.operahouse.org>. it also has been scheduled at Greystone Hall in Akron, Ohio, Apr. 17 to May 3 < www.ohioshakespearefestival.com>.
19569. Jon Jory's "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" is scheduled at the Torchlight Theatre in Rocky View County, Alta., Mar. 12-14; their web-site's at < www.polariscentre.ca/torchlight>.
19570. The East Lynne Theater Company has scheduled Craig Wichman's radio-style adaptation of "The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle" at the First Presbyterian Church in Cape May, N.J., Mar. 13-14 < www.eastlynnetheater.org>.

December 2019 #1

19571. Jean Upton reports in the District Messenger that congratulations are in order for Jerome Coopersmith: on Nov. 12, aged 94, he became a Chevalier in the National Order of the French Legion of Honor, in recognition of his service to France in WW2 (Sherlock Holmes received the same honor for his tracking and arrest of Huret, the Boulevard assassin). Coopersmith wrote the book for the musical "Baker Street" (1964), and you can read about the ceremony, and his military career, in a story in the Long Island Herald on Nov. 21 <www.tinyurl.com/scar5v5>.
19572. The District Messenger, launched in 1982 as the "grapevine service" of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London, is an excellent monthly round-up of goings on in the Sherlockian and Doylean world in Britain and elsewhere; all back issues are archived at <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/newsletter>, and it's available by e-mail <district.messenger@yahoo.com>.
19573. The "Sherlock Holmes tent joke" (October 19 #5) keeps turning up in new forms, including Legos <www.newgrounds.com/portal/view/742717>, noted by Jennie Paton.
19574. Edward S. Smith Jr.'s The Floor Plans of Baker Street, first published in 1996, offers a survey of what was where at 221 Baker Street, on all of the floors, with plans and citations; a second printing of the 38-page booklet now is available at Amazon (\$15.00).
19575. The new movie "Knives Out" is a delightful blend of mystery and comedy and excellent acting, and it has some imaginative Canonical allusions.
19576. Proceedings of the Pondicherry Lodge is the semi-annual electronic newsletter edited by Jayantika Ganguly for the Sherlock Holmes Society of India <www.sherlockholmessocietyofindia.com>, now in its seventh year; the current issue (with 120 colorful pages) offers Sherlockian news from India, and a nice mix of scholarship and pastiche. All issues of the Proceedings can be found at the society's web-site.
19577. Further to last month's report that Yahoo is shutting down Yahoo Groups, Jim Hawkins notes that WelcomeHolmes ("a discussion group for fans of Arthur Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes"), formerly at Yahoo, now is hosted at <www.groups.io/g/welcomeholmes>.
19578. "Mostly Lost" is an annual conference at the Library of Congress' National Audio-Visual Conservation Center in Culpeper, Va. (William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" was screened there in 2015), and one of the features of the conference is screenings of unidentified films, in hopes that someone can help. Take a look at what the Nitrate Film Interest Group has posted on-line <www.flickr.com/photos/nfig/albums>. Nothing seems Sherlockian, but there's always possibility that something of interest will turn up.
19579. Jennie Paton found a jar of "It's Sedimentary, My Dear Cookie!" mix in an aisle at Trader Joe's; you may be able to find it at a local store, or buy it on-line <www.traderjoes.com/FearlessFlyer/Article/4578>. It was named by Jeannette Powers in a contest Trader Joe's ran in 2016 (July 16 #6).

December 2019 #2

19580. Gahan Wilson died on Nov. 21. Neil Gaiman once described him as "having a cockeyed, dangerously weird way of looking at the world," and Wilson told a reporter that "life is a grotesque thing, inexplicable, odd." As a cartoonist Wilson was a master of the macabre, and a frequent contributor to the New Yorker, the National Lampoon, and Playboy. His Playboy cartoons often were Sherlockian, beginning with a delightful four-page spread in the Dec. 1959 issue and continuing over the years. He also was the Distinguished Speaker at the Baker Street Irregulars' lecture in 2005.
19581. Don Hobbs continues to update "The Galactic Sherlock Holmes": he has found a translation into Sanskrit, bringing his count to 109 foreign languages (and 9 versions of English in non-Roman alphabets such as Braille and Pittman Shorthand). He shows covers in color and with bibliographic details for more than 8,200 entries; a thumb drive costs \$15.00 (postpaid) to the U.S. or \$20.00 (elsewhere) from Don (2100 Elm Creek Lane, Flower Mound, TX 75028).
19582. Joe Posnanski's The Life and Afterlife of Harry Houdini (New York: Avid Reader Press, 2019; 316 pp., \$28.00) is a delightful account of the author's pursuit of Houdini; aided by a legion of Houdini's fans (and some detractors), Posnanski offers a splendid exploration of why Houdini became (and still remains) a legend. Conan Doyle is mentioned in passing, but he wasn't really part of the story that Posnanski has told so well.
19583. The podcast "Doings of Doyle" <www.doingsofdoyle.com> (launched last month by Mark Jones and Paul Chapman) now includes discussion of Conan Doyle's short story "The Winning Shot" (1883) and a report on last month's "Conan Doyle in London" conference. Planning is now underway for a "Conan Doyle in Edinburgh" conference <www.edinburgh-conan-doyle.org/events> at Napier University on June 25-27, 2020; Owen Dudley Edwards and Nicholas Daly will be the keynote speakers.
19584. The Daily Sherlock Holmes, edited by Levi Stahl and Stacey Shintani (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2019; 195 pp., \$14.00) offers "a year of quotes from the case-book of the world's greatest detective" that provide an excellent demonstration of how fascinating the language of the Canon is. And there are some amusing surprises in store for readers.
19585. The Christmas Card Crime and Other Stories, edited by Martin Edwards (Naperville, Poisoned Pen Press, 2018; 224 pp., \$14.99) is part of the long-running series of "British Library Crime Classics"; none of the stories in this volume are Sherlockian or Doylean, but it includes a delightful story ("The Motive") by Ronald Knox, who in addition to being a fine author is credited with creating the "Grand Game" that Sherlockians still play.
19586. Colonel Sebastian Moran's Secret Gun Club will hold their quadrennial hunt for the mongoose named Moriarty on Feb. 29; the gala will feature the mongoose chase, bison burgers, cash bar, awards, and surprises, and more information is available from Donald Izban (1012 Rene Court, Park Ridge, IL 60068). The club has been meeting on Leap Day every Leap Year since 1996.

December 2019 #3

19587. René Auberjonois died on Dec. 8. He began his acting career on stage in 1962, appeared in his first film in 1964, went on to play Father John Mulcahy in "M.A.S.H." in 1970 and many other significant roles in films and on television. He played Sherlock Holmes in "The 1977 Milliken Breakfast Show" (a ten-act "industrial musical" performed at the Waldorf Astoria in New York) and read Mark Frost's pastiche The List of Seven for a Dove audiobook in 1993.
19588. Profiles in History's "Hollywood: A Collector's Ransom" auction this month included a "vintage original doll of William Gillette in his role as Sherlock Holmes, presented to Gillette by his costumer on the opening night of the play" in 1899, estimated at \$400-\$600; it sold for \$4,000. Previously owned by Dan Posnanski, it went for \$2,000 when his collection was sold in 2017.

19589. Further to last month's item about the Christmas lights that have been installed in Baker Street in London (featuring illuminated geese that will remind passersby of "The Blue Carbuncle"), the lights were designed by the Michael Grubb Studio, and are imaginative indeed.
19590. The National Science and Media Museum, in Bradford, Yorks., now owns all three of the cameras that were used to photograph the Cottingley fairies, according to a report in the Yorkshire Post (Dec. 16) <www.tinyurl.com/todj7n3>. The article includes an image of all three cameras, which appear thoroughly antique in modern times when everyone seems to have a smartphone; the museum also owns original prints of the photographs, and watercolor sketches of fairies drawn by Elsie Wright, one of the young woman who took the photographs that convinced Conan Doyle that the fairies were real.
19591. For those who were watching television in the 1960s (and remember "Beany and Cecil"), Greg Darak kindly reports an interview with Bob Clampett, the creator of the series, in Funny World (summer 1970); Clampett said that he was inspired by the prehistoric monsters in a silent movie when he created the dinosaur Cecil, and that Captain Hufflepuff, in beard and pith helmet, echoed a character in the film, which of course would have been "The Lost World" (1925). The series is available at YouTube, and "Beany Meets the Monstrous Monster" <www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ge5f2HSeFCc> is of particular interest: watch for Cecil as a detective, wearing a deerstalker.
19592. Greg also has posed an intriguing challenge: where in the Canon is Sherlock Holmes likened to Cleopatra?
19593. Garrison Keillor's "The Writer's Almanac" still is available on the Internet, and Bill Anselm noted a mention of Conan Doyle on Dec. 18, the date the Piltdown Man was presented to the Geological Society of London in 1912 <www.tinyurl.com/sh6ux9s>; the entry reports that "many scholars point the finger at Sir Arthur Conan Doyle as the perpetrator," but includes a link to the Encyclopaedia Britannica article on the Piltdown Man that offers a more careful and less sensational discussion of the hoax.

December 2019 #4

19594. Sky News noted on Dec. 18 <www.tinyurl.com/vd8na8q> the end of an era of British publishing: Pearson has decided to sell its remaining stake in Penguin Random House to Bertelsmann. Now none of the "big five" of English-language book publishing remain in British ownership (Macmillan is owned by another German publisher Holtzbrinck, John Murray (for many years the publisher of Conan Doyle's books) is now owned by the French company Hachette, HarperCollins is owned by News Corp in the U.S., and Simon & Schuster (once owned by Pearson) is owned by ViacomCBS).
19595. Where in the Canon is Sherlock Holmes likened to Cleopatra? In "The Empty House" it's Holmes himself who says, "I trust that age does not wither nor custom stale my infinite variety," echoing the description of Cleopatra in Shakespeare's "Antony and Cleopatra".
19596. Netflix has announced the lead actors in its new television series called "The Irregulars": Harry Lloyd-Hughes (Sherlock Holmes) and Royce Pierreson (Doctor Watson); Tom Bidwell, who is writing the series, has said "what if Sherlock Holmes was a drug addict and a delinquent and the kids solve the whole case whilst he takes credit?"
19597. And now for a mystery: the image shows Sophie Aldred as Ace, who was the companion to the Seventh Doctor (Sylvester McCoy) in the "Doctor Who" series from 1987 to 1989. Patrick J. DeCanio, who's both a Sherlockian and a Whovian wonders, about one of the patches that Ace is wearing on her jacket. Andrew Cartmel, the script editor of the series at the time, has said that it is related to the Baker Street Irregulars, and Charles Prepolec hopes that a reader of this newsletter might know more about the patch, which (as might be expected) has been reproduced is available for Whovians (and others) at Etsy for only \$9.00 <www.tinyurl.com/sglbgbf>.
19598. Too late for this year, but in plenty of time for 2020: Jim Suszynski reports two colorful Sherlockian Christmas cards offered by Allport Editions; there's a third card that's Sherlockian only if inspected closely. Go to <www.allport.com> and search for [sherlock].
19599. Van Ryder Games is running a Kickstarter campaign for Sherlock Holmes: Baker Street Irregulars, which is described by the company as "a cooperative graphic novel adventures game" <www.tinyurl.com/uk94yf7>; there appear to be many Sherlockian games available; is anyone keeping track of them? Or maintaining a web-site that describes and discusses them?
19600. Do you have quick nunchi? According to Euny Hong, author of The Power of Nunchi: The Korean Secret to Happiness and Success, noted by Yahoo! Lifestyle on Dec. 17 <www.tinyurl.com/txhsv4b>, picking up signals from your environment can make you a "nunchi ninja" like Steve Jobs, Tyrion Lannister, Oprah Winfrey, Reese Witherspoon, and Sherlock Holmes.

December 2019 #5

19601. The Red-Headed League Public House in Lebanon (Pennsylvania) (October 19 #5) is now open for business on the third floor of the Lebanon Farmers Market, the Lebanon Daily News reported on Dec. 13. The name of the restaurant pays tribute to the Sherlock Holmes story that was (according to owner Michael Kapp) inspired by a notorious murder committed by the Blue-Eyed Six in Lebanon in 1878 <www.tinyurl.com/trk74m9>.
19602. The first permanent granite statue honoring Sherlock Holmes erected in the Americas has now been unveiled in Chester, Ill., according to Michael W. McClure <www.baskervilleproductions.com/statue>; Mike was interviewed earlier this year by Scott Monty and Burt Wolder on the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.tinyurl.com/tu8l4py> discussing "Sherlock, Popeye, and More" (and yes, Popeye has a connection to Chester).
19603. Ashley Polasek has reported on plans for The Conan Doyle Review, devoted to peer-reviewed scholarship on Conan Doyle's life and work. The journal will begin accepting submissions in the summer of 2020, and the first volume will be published in the spring of 2021. A special limited-run preview issue will be on sale in Covent Garden West during the birthday festivities in New York. Scott Monty reported on the project at his "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.tinyurl.com/uzk3qq>, and more information is available from Ashley (the editor-in-chief) at <editor@acdreview.org>.
19604. Claudine Auger died on Dec. 18. She began her long career as an actor in France in 1958, went on to star as Domino in the James Bond film "Thunderball" in 1965, and played Isadora Klein in Granada's "The Three Gables" in 1994.
19605. An interesting letter will be at auction on Jan. 22 at Forum Auctions in London, estimated at £1,000-£1,500 <www.tinyurl.com/sew96fe>: P. G. Wodehouse wrote to Miss Terry Smith in 1933 that "I racked my brain for years for something that would make a series like the Sherlock Holmes stories, and could never get one," adding that he "suddenly found that I had written about a dozen stories round Jeeves and that there seemed to be no reason why the thing shouldn't go on forever."
19606. There's an on-going campaign to restore the Royal Court Theatre in Wigan (near Manchester) <www.royalcourttheatre.org.uk>. The 3,000-seat theater was open in 1886, and in 1903 Charlie Chaplin performed there as a teenager as Billy; that would have been with Charles Frohman's North Company on tour with William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" (with H. A. Saintsbury as Holmes and Fred Inwood as Watson).
19607. When in Bialystok (in Poland): you can pay a visit to the Sherlock Holmes Pub <www.facebook.com/sherlock.bialystok>.
19608. There seems to be an unlimited supply of Sherlockian action figures, and Jennie Paton has reported a new one, showing Benedict Cumberbatch as Sherlock Holmes, made by Pekkasland and available from AliExpress for \$13.64 <www.tinyurl.com/vkjg5gb>. Jennie also has noted a new set of

December 2019 #6

19609. Karl E. Meyer (“Fritz von Waldbaum”) died on Dec. 22. He had a distinguished career in journalism, as a foreign correspondent and editorial writer for the Washington Post, as an editor and television critic for the Saturday Review, and then as an editor for the N.Y. Times and the Foreign Policy Review. He wrote stories about the Sherlockian birthday festivities for the N.Y. Times in 1986 and 2000, and went on to a distinguished career as an author, making sure that his Tournament of Shadows: The Great Game and the Race for Empire in Central Asia (1999) included Dr. John H. Watson in the index. He received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1977.
19610. The conversion of Great Scotland Yard into a hotel (June 19 #6) is now complete, and the Great Scotland Yard Hotel is open for business. The Evening Standard had a nicely illustrated article about the new hotel on Dec. 9 <www.tinyurl.com/vbkt2yg>.
19611. Jennie Paton reports a new Sherlockian teddy bear that is made by Hermann Spielwaren in Germany and is available from various Internet sellers; it’s more imaginative than others of its ilk in that there appears to be tobacco in the pipe, which one supposes could be rigged so that there’s a bit of smoke.
19612. The January-February issue of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine continues a long annual tradition of celebrating Sherlock Holmes' birthday, with Sherlockian artwork by Erika Steiskal on the cover, a new and amusing pastiche by Terence Faherty, an Ellery Queen pastiche by Josh Pachter with a Sherlockian pun as a title, a Sherlockian cartoon by Scott Masear, and reviews by Steve Steinbock of new Sherlockian books.
19613. The Holmes Hotel London (formerly the Sherlock Holmes Hotel) has been reviewed on-line by Business Traveller <www.tinyurl.com/wgwhzl6>; the hotel has been refurbished and brought up to date, still with nicely Sherlockian décor.
19614. Correcting a typo (November 19 #1): registration is now open for the “Holmes in the Heartland” conference in St. Louis on July 24-26; more information is available at <www.tinyurl.com/yd5elpj>.
19615. Thanks to author Hank Philippi Ryan (who has written some fine, although non-Sherlockian) mysteries, here’s an iPhone secret: if you hold down the space bar, it acts like a mouse, and you can move to wherever you want to be in the message you’ve typed.
19616. Roger Johnson has discovered a nice treat for those who want something to drink while reading this newsletter: an Australian wine called Skuttlebutt sold by Stella Bella Wines <www.stellabella.com.au>. There’s a 2017 Cabernet and a 2019 Sauvignon Blanc Semillon advertised at the company’s web-site, and it appears that you don’t need to go to Australia to buy some: Little Peacock Importers <www.little-peacock.com> can tell you where it’s sold in the U.S.
19617. Jennie Paton has discovered a new audio production of “The Blue Carbuncle” from Redfield Arts Studio <www.redfieldartsaudio.com>, starring Mark Redfield as Sherlock Holmes, J. R. Lyston as Dr. Watson, and Carol Mason as Mrs. Hudson; it’s available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/sxcw6x>.
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December 2019 #7

19618. The three latest volumes of The MX Book of New Sherlock Holmes Stories: Whatever Remains, edited by David Marcum, continue his excellent series of anthologies, this time presenting a wealth of traditional pastiches, with Holmes facing “ghosts and mythological creatures, impossible circumstances, and curses, possessions, and prophecies,” in the stories, poetry, and radio scripts (London: MX Publishing, 2019; 383/419/ 380 pp., \$24.95 each); MX Publishing’s books are available at a discount at <www.sherlockholmesbooks.com>.
19619. Also: Sheldon Goldfarb’s Sherlockian Musings (2019, 299 pp., \$16.95), is an interesting collection of the “musings” he prepared for meetings of the Stormy Petrels of British Columbia, by way of suggesting ideas for discussion of the Canon; it is nicely done, and will be helpful to other Sherlockian societies. The author offers samples of some of the essays at his web-site <www.sheldongoldfarb.wordpress.com>.
19620. And: Richard T. Ryan’s The Merchant of Menace (2019; 232 pp., \$16.95) is his fourth pastiche, pitting Holmes against a master criminal who specializes in stealing precious objects, eventually meeting his match with the Great Detective at Blenheim Palace. Kim Krisco’s Irregular Lives: The Untold Story of Sherlock Holmes and the Baker Street Irregulars (2016; 356 pp., \$18.95) is set in 1919, when Holmes and Watson are invited to a mysterious exhibition of photographs that reconnect them with the young boys who helped them all those years ago, and they’re all engaged in solving in a new mystery. Marcia Wilson’s The Adventure of the Flying Blue Pigeon (2016; 274 pp., \$14.95), the first book in her “Test of the Professionals” series, is set in 1883 and offers an intriguing look at the world of Sherlock Holmes as seen by the Scotland Yarders (who include Lestrade, Gregson, and Bradstreet). And David Marcum’s Sherlock Holmes: Tangled Skeins (2015; 241 pp., \$14.95) offers five pastiches set in London and in Sussex.
19621. Karen Murdock has noted an imaginative coffee mug that’s marked “Property of Diogenes Club/Comfortable Chairs/Latest Periodicals” and is available at Amazon UK <www.tinyurl.com/w3dfmru> (£16.99).
19622. The Lost World is in the news again, mentioned often in articles about a successful attempt to climb the 2,000-foot high prow of Guyana’s Mount Roraima, credited by many as having inspired Conan Doyle when he wrote the story. Here’s what the Daily Mail had to say: <www.tinyurl.com/r3k6rk7>.
19623. The Sherlock Holmes Complete Puzzle Collection, with text and puzzles by Tim Dedopolus (London: Carlton Books, 2017; 400 pp., \$25.37), offers “over 200 devilishly difficult mysteries, inspired by the world’s greatest detective.” It’s a reprint combining his The Sherlock Holmes Puzzle Collection (February 15 #1) and The Sherlock Holmes Puzzle Collection: The Lost Cases (August 19 #1), nicely bound and with attractive artwork.
19624. The Cambridge Companion to Sherlock Holmes, edited by Janice M. Allan and Christopher Pittard (Cambridge University Press, 2019; 261 pp., \$19.99), is an anthology of excellent academic and readable essays that deal with a wide variety of aspects of the Canon, ending with Roberta Pearson’s up-to-date and interesting discussion of “Sherlockian Fandom”.
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December 2019 #8

19625. At auction at Ahlers & Ogletree in Atlanta on Jan. 11: a copy of the Al Hirschfeld limited-edition colored lithograph “The Game’s Afoot” (showing Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce as Holmes and Watson), estimated at \$800-\$1,200 <www.tinyurl.com/uwsjw2>. Note: It’s also still available from Margo Feiden Galleries <www.alhirschfeld.com> \$1,800.
19626. Steven Dietz’s “Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure” is scheduled at the 2nd Stage Theatre in Fresno, Calif., Jan. 3-Feb. 23 <www.gcplayers.com>.
19627. Ken Ludwig’s “Baskerville” will be performed at the New Bern Civic Theatre in New Bern, N.C., Jan. 10-19 <www.newberncivictheatre.org>. Also at the Von Braun Center Playhouse in Huntsville, Ala., Jan. 17-25; web-site’s at <www.theatrehsv.org>. Also at the Topeka Civic Theatre in Topeka, Kan., Jan. 17-Feb. 9 <www.topekacivictheatre.com>; and at the Stageworks Theatre in Houston, Texas, Jan. 17-Feb. 9 <www.stageworkshouston.org>.
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19628. Bart Lovins' "The Novel Adventures of Sherlock Holmes: The Sign of Four" will be performed at the Hardin County Schools Performing Arts Center in Elizabethtown, Ky., Jan. 16-26, 2020 <www.thepac.net>.
19629. Jeffrey Hatcher's "Holmes and Watson" is scheduled at the Burlington County Footlighters Theater in Cinnaminson, N.J., January 17-Feb. 1; web-site's at <www.bcfootlighters.com>.
19630. Christopher M. Walsh's "Miss Holmes" will be performed at the Waterville Opera House in Waterville, Maine, Jan. 24-Feb. 2 <www.operahouse.org>.
19631. Craig Wichman's radio-theater dramatization of "The Blue Carbuncle" will be performed at the First Presbyterian Church in Cape May, N.J., Mar. 13-14 and Oct. 30-Nov. 7 <www.eastlynnetheater.org>.
19632. "Watson: The Last Great Tale of the Legendary Sherlock Holmes" (by Jamie Robledo) will be performed at the Sheldon Vexter Theater in San Antonio, Texas, May 7-31 <www.vexter.org>.
19633. Christopher M. Walsh's "Miss Holmes Returns" is due at the Greater Boston Stage Company in Stoneham, Mass., June 4-28 <www.greaterbostonstage.org>.
19634. Craig Sodaro's "The Secret Case of Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at the Waukesha Civic Theatre in Waukesha, Wis., June 4-21; their web-site's at <www.waukeshacivictheatre.org>.
19635. R. Hamilton Wright's "Sherlock Holmes and the Raven's Curse" will be performed at the Shaw Festival Theatre in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont., June 21-October 18 <www.shawfest.com>.
19636. "Sherlock and Cinders" (a musical written by Tom Kirkham and Matthew Crossey) will be performed at the Carver Theatre in Stockport, Cheshire, July 3-4 <www.carvertheatre.co.uk>.

January 2020 #1

19637. Sherlockians (and Holmesians) gathered in New York to celebrate the Great Detective's 166th birthday during the long weekend from Jan. 15 to 19; the (very) long weekend was filled with events, both formal and informal, and detailed reports on many if not most of them will be available soon at the web-site of The Baker Street Irregulars <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com>. But in the meantime, here are few brief paragraphs to tide you over:
19638. The BSI's Distinguished Speaker on Thursday evening was Theodora Goss, an award-winning author of poetry, short stories, and novels in the fantasy genre (Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson are characters in three novels about the Athena Club). On Friday the Irregulars and their guests gathered for the BSI annual dinner at the Yale Club, where Emily Miranker proposed the traditional preprandial first toast to her mother, Cathy Miranker, as The Woman.
19639. The annual dinner's agenda included the usual toasts, rituals, and papers, and Mike Whelan (the "Wiggins" of the BSI) presented Birthday Honours (Irregular Shillings and Investitures) to Mary Alcaro ("Ivy Douglas"), Frank Cho ("The Duke of Balmoral"), Walt Colby ("Neil Gibson"), Carlina de la Cova ("The Anthropological Journal"), Nancy Holder ("Beryl Garcia"), Freda Howlett ("The British Government"), Ken Ludwig ("Jack Stapleton"), David Richards ("Colonel Warburton's Madness"), and Jim Webb ("The Curious Incident of Sherlock Holmes in Japan"). And Andy Fusco received the prestigious Two-Shilling Award.
19640. Mike Whelan ended the evening by handing over the gavel (and yes, there is a gavel) to Mike Kean, who as the new "Wiggins" then appointed Mike Whelan to the office of "Wiggins Emeritus". Mike Whelan has been head of the BSI for 23 years, and Mike Kean is only the sixth person to lead the BSI since it was founded by Christopher Morley in 1934.
19641. Barbara Herbert reports that some of Paul's film posters and lobby cards will be available at Heritage Auctions on Mar. 21, including a poster and two lobby cards for Clive Brook's "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" (1929) and a poster for Basil Rathbone's "The Scarlet Claw" (1944). See them all at <www.tinyurl.com/r9jmyez>.
19642. The next BSI annual dinner will be on Jan. 8, and the next Sherlock Holmes Society of London annual dinner presumably will be on Jan. 16.
19643. Registration is not yet open for the next Baker Street Irregulars' conference on "Sherlock Holmes and the British Empire" at the Bear Mountain Inn near West Point, N.Y., on July 17-19, 2020, but the best way to learn when registration does open is to sign up for free news from the BSI by e-mail at <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/bsi-news-via-email>.
19644. There are web-sites that monitor copyright's public domain. "The Sussex Vampire" and Conan Doyle's Memories and Adventures, which were published in The Strand Magazine in 1924, and Buster Keaton's film "Sherlock, Jr." (1924) are now in the public domain, as are "The Three Garridebs" and "The Illustrious Client" (published in Collier's in 1924).

January 2020 #2

19645. VITA Digital Productions <www.myvitadvds.com> offers a series of Virtual Walks, Virtual Jogs, Virtual Bike Rides, and Virtual Cruises designed for use while exercising on treadmills, Nordic Tracks, indoor bikes, and other exercise equipment, and one of them is 60-minute Sherlock Holmes Virtual Walk (\$14.99 DVD/\$6.99 download) that takes you on a tour of sixteen filming locations used in the BBC's "Sherlock" series. There's no voice-over, but there's a "Footsteps" feature that pays closer attention to some of the filming locations. You can sample the Sherlock DVD at <www.sherlockwalk.com>.
19646. It's not Sherlockian (so far) but: Willy Werby notes the existence of a personal computer ring that will play music, check your e-mail, give you alerts, and allow you to browse or chat with others. Who said that the future lies ahead? Seems to be here already.
19647. When in Austria: you can pay a visit to Conan Doyle Gasse [Alley] in Feldkirch, where he studied at the Stella Matutina in 1875 (and first became an author. He edited and published the hand-written Feldkirchian Gazette (copies of two issues survive, owned by the British Library), and Marcus Geisser reports that last year the Deutsche Sherlock Holmes Gesellschaft joined the town in celebrating Conan Doyle's 160th birthday, unveiling a street sign. There's a report (with video) of the ceremony available on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/r5jmfe8>; it's all in German, but Google Translate will help you read the report.
19648. The Journal of Popular Culture's web-site has a paywall, so you might want to see if your local library has a subscription: Mattias Boström reports that the Dec. 2019 issue includes Mary Katherine Evan's interesting article "'The Name Is Sherlock Holmes, and the Address Is 221B Baker Street': Virtual Reality, Fan Communities, and Tourism".
19649. Robert E. Thomalen ("The Three Garridebs") died on Dec. 5. He was an energetic member of the Three Garridebs of Westchester County, and beginning in 1982 he presided over many "Autumn in Baker Street" (and one "Springtime in Baker Street") conferences, which he explained combined "scholarship with friendship, emotion with reason, and explication with participation". In 1987 Bob was appointed "Cartwright" of the Baker Street Irregulars and he was awarded the BSI's Queen Victoria Medal when he retired in 1996; he received his Investiture in 1983, and the Two-Shilling Award in 1988. He was interviewed by Scott Monty and Burt Wolder for their "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog in 2007; you can

listen to both parts of the interview at <www.tinyurl.com/v5lwpuu> and <www.tinyurl.com/vbjkf2c>. You can also read some nice tributes to Bob, sent by friends to Scott Monty's blog, at <www.tinyurl.com/rq9enud>.

19650. The Royal Mail has announced that a new set of stamps honoring "Sherlock" will be issued on Aug. 18. No details available at the moment.

19651. I've reported before (February 18 #2) on APOPO <www.apopo.org>, an organization that trains giant African pouched rats to detect unexploded landmines in countries in Africa and Asia (the rats don't weigh enough to set off the mines, which can then be disarmed); the rats can also be trained to detect tuberculosis in mucous samples, and now they are in pursuit of smugglers who traffic in endangered species. Needless to say, APOPO welcomes donations from anyone who wants to adopt a giant rat.

January 2020 #3

19652. "Cats" (Universal's film version of the 1981 Andrew Lloyd Webber musical that was adapted from T. S. Eliot's book *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats*) has been in the works at least since 1990, and there's much to enjoy: Idris Elba is suitably malevolent as Macavity, and Ian McKellen is excellent as Gus the Theatre Cat (although the film, like the musical, omits the Canonical allusion in Eliot's poem). Savaged by the critics, the film's likely gone from theaters by the time you read this, but it's well worth watching on television or a DVD.

19653. Now you can snuggle up with Holmes and Watson: Sidney Paget artwork is available in full color on a pillow case offered at CafePress <www.tinyurl.com/ql5d8u7>.

19654. There's also a full "The Game Is Afoot" Langshan sheet set available from Roostery <www.tinyurl.com/wpayd3q> for sizes twin to king.

19655. Lee Mendelson died on Dec. 25. He was a television producer, and in 1965 he persuaded Charles Schulz to write the animated special "A Charlie Brown Christmas", and went on to produce a long series of specials that included "It's a Mystery, Charlie Brown" (1974), in which Woodstock's nest mysteriously disappears and Snoopy, in Sherlockian costume, plays detective in order to find it.

19656. Gary Lovisi has been in business as Gryphon Books <www.gryphonbooks.com> for many years, offering a wide variety of Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian material, and he has an interesting YouTube channel where you can view his visit to the Merchants Room (also known as Covent Garden West) during the birthday festivities <www.tinyurl.com/r7sd2bm> and an interview with collector and dealer Bob Hess <www.tinyurl.com/sz38bfr>.

19657. The third issue of *The Newspapers* (it's an "Irregular Journal of Sherlockiana" edited by Greg Ruby for the Sherlockians of Baltimore) has been published, with 183 pp. of articles, toasts, and much more, many by members of the SOBs (\$23.00 postpaid). The focus is on material from Baltimore's newspapers, and about Baltimore, but Greg has cast his net widely, and includes William A. Walsh's report on "Harrison Schmitt: Bringing Holmes to the Moon" and Ira Brad Matetsky's article about "Rex Stout at the BSI Dinners". Available at <www.tinyurl.com/y4fe2zv> and from Greg D. Ruby, 2400 Boston Street #102, Baltimore, MD 21224.

19658. Greg also has published a detailed and colorful exploration of *The Numismatic Edgar Allan Poe* (160 pp., \$50.00 cloth/\$25.00 paper postpaid), discussing Conan Doyle's admiration for Poe in the introduction, reprinting Arthur S. Chapman's 1905 pastiche "The Unmasking of Sherlock Holmes", and including a nicely Sherlockian touch in Jeff Decker's back-cover artwork <www.tinyurl.com/rxswmq7>.

19659. Many Sherlockians have seen and enjoyed the International Sherlock Holmes Exhibition, which was briefly on hiatus and now is open at the South Carolina State Museum in Columbia, S.C., through Apr. 19 <www.scmuseum.org>.

19660. The exhibition was created by the Exhibits Development Group, and there's an impressive web-site <www.tinyurl.com/y9b7yq83> where the company promotes the exhibition to museums that might want to put it on display. And you can plan ahead: the exhibition's due at the Minnesota Historical Center in St. Paul, Minn., Oct. 1, 2021, through Mar. 21, 2022.

January 2020 #4

19661. It's getting more and more difficult to find places where one can smoke cigars and cigarettes, but there still are cigar and cigarette cards being made (as trading cards): the Acheron Mint is offering a set of seventeen "Sherlock Holmes Moriarty Conan Doyle Irene Adler Lost World" trading cards at eBay (\$14.95); sixteen characters cards plus one card randomly selected from nine other cards. You can see them all at <www.tinyurl.com/txfl3qg>.

19662. Alexander Orlov has reported his discovery at the Polish web-site *Culture* a fascinating article by Igor Belov that translates as "Elementary Watson: The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes in Poland" <www.tinyurl.com/wj3hpom>; he offers a details discussion of Poland in the Canon and of Polish Sherlockiana. It's all in Russian, but Google Translate will be of assistance.

19663. "Everything you've heard is true" was the slogan used to advertise Sherlock 2 for Apple's Mac OS 9 operating system. Named in honor of Sherlock Holmes, Sherlock was a file and web search tool that was officially retired and removed from Mac's operating systems when OS X 10.5 was released in 2007. But you can still buy the poster from *The Missing Bite* <www.tinyurl.com/sxor3lf> for \$29.95. And there's more to the story: according to Wikipedia, advocates of Watson, made by Karelia Software, claimed that Apple copied their product without permission, compensation, or attribution in producing Sherlock 3. The phenomenon of Apple releasing a feature that supplants or obviates third-party software is so well known that being "Sherlocked" has become an accepted term used within the Mac and IOS developer community.

19664. For the true fans of the BBC's "Sherlock" series: SamsXStitch offers colorful 18-count cross-stitch patterns showing Benedict Cumberbatch as Sherlock Holmes and Martin Freeman as Dr. Watson (\$3.99 each) at their shop at Etsy <www.etsy.com/shop/SamsXStitch>.

19665. Vicki Delany's *There's a Murder Afoot* (New York: Crooked Lane, 2020; 329 pp., \$26.99) is the fifth in her series of "Sherlock Holmes Bookshop" mysteries that star Gemma Doyle (proprietor of the Sherlock Holmes bookshop on Cape Cod) and her friend Jayne Wilson (who manages the next-door Mrs. Hudson's Tea Room). The pastiche brings Gemma and Jane and their friends to London for a Sherlock Holmes conference, where they encounter a murder and other goings-on. The author has more than one series going, and her web-site's at <www.vickidelany.com>.

19666. Terry Jones died on Jan. 21. He was a charter member of the Monty Python comedy team, and he had a long career as an actor and director, and as an author, and once said that his "big hero" was Buster Keaton, "because he made comedy look beautiful."

19667. There were many new books available in the Merchants Room on Saturday during the birthday festivities, but (for various reasons) there hasn't been sufficient time to read and review them. Three new titles from the Baker Street Irregulars Press are listed at <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com>; you can click on [bsi books]. The Wessex Press has *The Annotated White Company* and the fifth volume of *Sherlock Holmes and Conan Doyle in the Newspapers*; they're at <www.wessexpress.com>. Stay tuned.

January 2020 #5

19668. Ralph Earle II ("Joyce Cummings") died on Jan. 13. He practiced law in Philadelphia and was a member of the Sons of the Copper Beeches, and began a new career in government in 1968, when he was appointed a Pentagon aide for international security affairs; he went on to serve President Carter as chief negotiator for the second round of the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks, with the rank of ambassador. He briefly led the Arms Control

- and Disarmament Agency, returning as its deputy director in 1994, and retired in 1999. He received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1968.
19669. Jennie Paton has spotted a Sherlock Holmes perfume (the fragrance features tobacco, smoke, leather, woody notes, moss, and citrus) created by Ali Habibi and available in Tehran <www.ayliperfumes.com/product/sherlock-holmes> (possibly only in Iran)
19670. "221b Baker Street: The Board Game Classic" (the most recent version of the board game designed by Jim Moriarty and first issued by Antler Productions in 1975) now has a Deluxe Edition, available from the John N. Hansen Company, offering 200 cases (including 20 new ones); the company boasts that more than 3 million copies have been sold worldwide. It's advertised for \$38.49 (at Target), and at higher prices elsewhere, and it may be the oldest Sherlockian board game still in production.
19671. Sherlockians are indebted to Twentieth Century-Fox, the movie studio that gave us Basil Rathbone's landmark "The Hound of the Baskervilles" in 1939, and it's a bit sad to learn there will be no more films from the studio, at least under that name; it was bought last year by the Walt Disney Studios, and according to Variety (Jan. 17), "the mouse has officially killed the fox." The new name will be 20th Century Studios for the company (Variety quoted "an insider" as saying, "I think the Fox name means Murdoch, and that is toxic.")
19672. Dean Jobb's "Stranger Than Fiction" is one of the on-line features of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine; it appears monthly, and his January blog at <www.tinyurl.com/yxx8upzs> is the first of a two-part essay "Finding Sherlock" (the second part will appear in February); the EQMM web-site is well worth exploring.
19673. "Dracula" (the three-episode television series created by Mark Gatiss and Steven Moffat) premiered on BBC One on Jan. 1, and on Netflix on Jan. 4, and fans in Britain were quick to observe a nod to "Sherlock" in the first episode, when Sister Agatha tells Jonathan Harker that "I have a detective acquaintance in London." According to a report in Radio Times (Jan. 1), after a screening of the episode, Moffat said that "I thought no one would get that," and Gatiss joked, "Really, it's Sexton Blake. We're just messing with you." Radio Times also noted <www.tinyurl.com/78sdrbp> that they had explained previously how their "Dracula" was inspired by their work on "Sherlock".
19674. If you're old enough to remember "Pac Man" you're surely aware that computer games today are not as primitive as they once were. "Sherlock Holmes Game Evolution 1984-2019" is an interesting 14-minute video noted by Jennie Paton that shows just how much more realistic computer games are now <www.youtube.com/watch?v=OnWRDAhEgQU>.

January 2020 #6

19675. Jim Lehrer died on Jan. 23. A lifelong journalist, first on newspapers and then on public television, he covered the Watergate hearings, presided over a dozen presidential debates, and helped to create a long-running one-hour news broadcast. In Mar. 1990 (when he was associate editor of the "MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour") he wrote an instructive one-page essay for the Smithsonian magazine on the pleasures of collecting (describing himself as a world-class collector of bus depot signs and other memorabilia), and he offered a suggestion that many Sherlockians will agree with: collectors are not odd, he said, "we are merely possessed with a need to collect certain things that some people might consider odd."
19676. Peter Melonas is a creative designer and illustrator who has been offering Sherlockiana at least since the 1980s; you can see his latest merchandise at <www.society6.com/fancifullart>.
19677. Hugh Ashton's Some Cases of Mr. Sherlock Holmes Occurring in the Year 1894 (Lichfeld: j-views. 2018; 161 pp., \$8.99) offers six pastiches revealing what happened in some of the unrecorded cases; it's the latest in a long list of collections of his pastiches <www.hughashonbooks.com>.
19678. James Gunn's appreciative and amusing tribute to "Asimov at 100" appeared in the Jan. 3 issue of Science <www.tinyurl.com/smcqjap>, mentioning Isaac Asimov's membership in the Baker Street Irregulars.
19679. Further to the item (December 19 #5) about the Red-Headed League Public House in Lebanon (Pennsylvania), and owner Michael Kapp's belief that the name of the restaurant pays tribute to the story that was inspired by a notorious murder committed by the Blue-Eyed Six in Lebanon in 1878, Gary Ludwig's 36-page pamphlet The Blue Eyed Six: A Historical Narrative (Lebanon: Hodge Podge Press, 2004; \$13.95) offers a detailed account of the gang's crime and punishment. There's more about the book, and the author, at the web-site <www.hodgepodgeusa.com>.
19680. When in Chile: Willis Frick reports the Café Sherlock in Puerto Montt; no web-site, but they do have a page at Facebook [sherlock puerto montt].
19681. "The Game Is Never Over" is convention planned to celebrate "10 years of Sherlock" (that's the BBC series) scheduled for Nov. 19-22 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Phoenixville, Pa. <www.thegameisneverover.com>.
19682. 2020 will be a "Year of Mystery" in Bennington, Vt., planned by two local libraries and the Baker Street Breakfast Club, and of course the schedule includes Sherlockian events. You can see a video in which Sally Sugarman talks about the Sherlockian aspects at <www.vimeo.com/38715504>.
19683. Steve Mason has been creating sets of puzzles (crossword, criss cross, and word search) for each of the stories, and is now making them available at the web-site of the Beacon Society <www.beaconsociety.com>; click on [the crossword puzzles of sherlock holmes]. They will be of interest to young readers, the target audience of the society, and perhaps to their elders.
19684. Steve also posts a continuing series of amusing "Baker Street Elementary" comic strips (co-authored with his son Rusty and Joe Fay) at the web-site of the Crew of the Barque Lone Star. Annual compilations since 2005, and three comic books, can be read (and downloaded) at the society's web-site <www.dfw-sherlock.org>; click on [ephemera--general stuff].

January 2020 #7

19685. It was H. R. F. Keating, in Sherlock Holmes: The Man and His World (1979), who explained that the "modern Belgian masters" whose pictures entirely absorbed Sherlock Holmes (noted in "The Hound of the Baskervilles") were the members of the XX Group. James Ensor was one of them, and Christie's offers an interesting (and colorfully illustrated) guide to Ensor and his work online at <www.tinyurl.com/s3s54dt>.
19686. The Literary Gift Company <www.theliterarygiftcompany.com> offers attractive Hound of the Baskervilles bracelets, and Holmes & Watson earrings and cufflinks, hand-crafted from "rescued" copies of the Canon.
19687. Paul Reffell died on Jan. 3. He was member of the Petaluma Radio Players for many years, and was excellent as Dr. Watson in five episodes of Vince Staddon's amusing "The Misadventures of Sherlock Holmes"; you can hear him as Watson at <www.petalumaradioplayers.com>; click on podcast].
19688. Max Allan Collins' The History of Mystery (Collectors Press, 2001) offers a 196-page colorful tour of detective stories and film noir, as shown in cover art for pulp magazines, books, DVD jackets, and film posters; Sherlock Holmes is included early on, but the emphasis is on later work whose artwork featured comely ladies undressed or in peril, or both. It's out of print, but readily available at eBay and elsewhere.
19689. Bradley Harper's Queen's Gambit (Jersey City: Seventh Street Books, 2019; 282 pp., \$15.95) is the second in his series about Margaret Harkness, who is again involved with Arthur Conan Doyle and Joseph Bella and is working to foil a plot against Queen Victoria; as with A Knife in the Fog (October 18 #5), the story's nicely told, and the characters well drawn. The author's colorful Fantastic Fiction page is at <www.fantasticfiction.com>.

19690. Al Gregory <gaslightandfog@verizon.net> kindly offers (via e-mail) his new edition of "The ABC of the BSI" (an alphabetical listing of Investitures, with recipients, from "Abbey Grange" to "Young Stamford") and "The Florin Society" (couples in which both spouses are Investitured Irregulars).
19691. Karen Murdock notes a report in Scotland on Sunday (Jan. 25) that Dr. Joseph Bell's former Georgian townhouse at 22 St. Andrew Square in Edinburgh has just opened as a hotel; Conan Doyle, while a medical student, worked as a clerk for Bell, and paid tribute to him as an inspiration for Sherlock Holmes. The paper's reviewer gave high marks to the hotel's restaurant/bistro, and there's more information at the Malmaison Hotel's web-site at <www.malmaison.com/locations/edinburgh-city>.
19692. The Holmes Hotel London (formerly the Sherlock Holmes Hotel) has been reviewed on-line by the Handbook <www.tinyurl.com/uh4zwbu>; the review includes a challenge from the hotel: solve "the barber shop mystery."
19693. Further to the report (October 19 #2) about the imaginative life-size bronze sculpture by Irena Sedlecká <www.tinyurl.com/y2sevea2> of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and the spirit of Sherlock Holmes in the Garden of Heroes and Villains created by the late Felix Dennis in Dorsington, Stratford-upon-Avon, in Warwickshire, the garden will be open to the public the evening of June 25; details at <www.tinyurl.com/sarp8pj>.
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January 2020 #8

19694. In her latest "News & Nonsense" newsletter, Laurie R. King describes the annual dinner of the Baker Street Irregulars as "a room full of tux-clad men and sequin-bedecked women, raising their glasses and singing silly-ditties" such as "We Never Mention Aunt Clara", and provides a link to White Ghost Shivers singing the song at the Saxon Pub in Austin, Texas, on Apr. 21, 2012 <www.tinyurl.com/s3fpod2>. According to Wikipedia, White Ghost Shivers is an "eclectic American band" that was declared to be "Best None of the Above" at the Austin Music Awards in 2005 and 2007.
19695. Laurie also notes that Mrs. Hudson's given name is Clara (as revealed in an earlier "Mary Russell" novel, adding that "of course, we all know how much trouble she got into, back in her youth." A search for the title of the song at YouTube will bring up some interesting renditions in addition to the White Ghost Shivers recording.
19696. Donald Tosh died on Dec. 3. He had a long career with the BBC, helping to develop their series "Coronation Street" and working as a story editor on "Doctor Who"; he also dramatized "Shoscombe Old Place" (1968) for the series that starred Peter Cushing.
19697. Spotted by Dan Stashower: Nigel J. Hayler's imaginative Read+Doodle Book 1 (Lancaster: Pocket Doodle Reads, 2018; 52 pp., \$12.80); "A Case of Identity" is one of four stories in the book, all with text, doodling hints, and pages to color <www.doodlereads.com>.
19698. Jennie Paton spotted an attractive and imaginative teaser for a new French graphic novel "Dans la tête de Sherlock Holmes" <www.vimeo.com/387129370>; the first of two volumes will be published in May, and you can order from the Ankama Shop <www.ankama-shop.com>.
19699. And some theater news: Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is being produced at the Strauss Theatre Center in Monroe, La., through Feb. 8 <www.strausstc.com>. It's also due at the Longwood University Theatre in Farmville, Va., Apr. 15-19 <www.tinyurl.com/wjhkym7>.
19700. Jules Tasca's "An Evening with Sherlock Holmes" is on at the Mesquite Community Theatre in Mesquite, Nev., through Feb. 15 <www.mctnv.com>.
19701. Tom Hitchcock's "Sherlock Holmes and the Seven Wooden Figurines" will be performed at the Manifest Theatre in Manningtree, Essex, Feb. 27-29; web-site's at <www.manifesttheatre.co.uk>.
19702. "Sherlock Holmes the Musical" will be performed by the Spring-Time Experimental Theatre (in Cantonese) at the Tuen Mun Town Hall in Hong Kong, Mar. 27-28 <www.springtime.com.hk>.
19703. Steven Canny and John Nicholson's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed at Steeltown Coffee & Tea in Pittsburg, Calif., Aug. 14-23 <www.pittsburgcalifornia.com>.
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February 2020 #1

19704. Last year's Baker Street Irregulars Press and the BSI Trust Book Fair was a rousing success; this year's event will be expanded to include an Open House at Denny Dobry's home in Reading, Pa., where you will be able to see his delightful recreation of the sitting-room at 221B Baker Street. Mark your calendar for May 17, from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm, when you'll be able to do more than just see the sitting-room: visitors will be welcome to enter the room for hands-on inspection of its contents. The book fair will offer thousands of books and other Sherlockiana, at rock-bottom prices. Lunch will be available, and Denny's home is at 5003 Stony Run Drive in Reading (100 miles from Manhattan, 80 miles from Baltimore, and 40 miles from Philadelphia, and he suggests that you start planning your car pool). Additional information is available from Denny at <dendobry@ptd.net>. There's a nice image of Denny's sitting-room at <www.tinyurl.com/rkojoza>.
19705. The Worst Man in London (New York: Baker Street Irregulars, 2019; 186 pp., \$39.95), edited by Daniel Stashower and Constantine Rossakis, is the latest volume in the BSI's manuscript series, and it's a grand way to get as close as one can to the writing of "The Adventure of Charles Augustus Milverton"; there's a facsimile and a transcript of the manuscript, and scholarly essays by Randall Stock (on the manuscript and its history), Carla Coupe (on the illustrators of the story), Russell Merritt (on television adaptation), Jonathan McCafferty (on the villainous Charles Augustus Howell), and many others. It's recommended, and available from the publisher at <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com>.
19706. And there's more: the latest in the professional series is Education Never Ends: Educators, Education, and the Sherlockian Canon (2019; 210 pp., \$39.95), edited by Marino C. Alvarez and Timothy S. Greer, with an excellent and wide-ranging assortment of scholarly articles.
19707. Also from the BSI: Upon the Turf: Horse Racing and the Sherlockian Canon, edited by Candace J. Lewis, Ira Brad Matetsky, and Roger Downey (2019; 203 pp., \$25.95), discusses horses, horse racing, gambling, and related topics such as horses named from Conan Doyle's stories. By nice coincidence, the current audio interview at Scott Monty and Burt Wolder's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog is devoted to the book <www.tinyurl.com/rw3n8yg>
19708. "A Mountaineer Named Sherlock" is the title of the inaugural West Virginia University Symposium on Sherlock Holmes, on Mar. 20-21 Morgantown, W.Va.; the registration deadline is Mar. 10 <www.tinyurl.com/rnootvg>.
19709. You can "tour the International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes at the South Carolina State Museum" in Columbia, S.C., in a colorful video spotted by Jennie Paton at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=XvclRWPXT4>; the exhibition runs through Apr. 19 <www.scmuseum.org> (January 20 #3).
19710. Bob Loomis' Houdini's Final Incredible Secret (CreateSpace, 2016; 323 pp., \$13.00) is subtitled "how Houdini mystified Sherlock Holmes creator," and the author has devoted an entire book to his research on the "slate test" that Houdini performed for Conan Doyle when he visited Houdini's home in New York in the 1920s; you can decide for yourself whether Loomis actually has solved the mystery.
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February 2020 #2

19711. Ashley D. Polasek's imaginative Being Sherlock: A Sherlockian's Stroll Through the Sherlock Holmes Stories (Guilford: Lyons Press, 2019; 430 pp., \$26.95), offers ten short stories and "The Hound of the Baskervilles", each with entertaining and insightful introductions that explain her choices and provide insights for readers old and new; it is a grand and up-to-date approach to the Canon.
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19712. Freda Howlett (“The British Government”) died on Feb. 15, aged 101. She was the last of the founders of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, was one of its most enthusiastic members, and was its president from 2003 to 2009. Freda received her Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 2020
19713. Just the thing for Sherlockian pipe-smokers (if there are any left in this “thanks for not smoking” era): the “Vape Pipe Battery Sherlock Style” (if looks just like a regular pipe “so you can smoke discreetly without anyone being the wiser!”) advertised by This Is Why I’m Broke for (\$19.99) <www.tinyurl.com/vptaegh>.
19714. Conan Doyle called the novel “the best thing I have ever done,” and it has never been out of print since it was published in 1891. Now you can read *The Annotated White Company* and see for yourself how good he was at writing historical novels; it’s annotated and introduced by Doug Elliott and Roy Pilot, with a foreword by Nicholas Meyer (who, like John Ford, wanted to make a film based on the novel), and black-and-white illustrations by George Willis Bardwell (from the second American edition) and color illustrations by N. C. Wyeth (from a later American edition). There also are 14 appendices that offer more information about the author, his notebooks and manuscript, and life in the 14th century; it’s nicely done indeed, and recommended (Indianapolis: Wessex Press, 2020, 410 pp., \$48.95). The publisher’s web-site is at <www.wessexpress.com>.
19715. Also from the Wessex Press: *The Sherlock Holmes Review: Anthology Volume One 1986-1987* (Indianapolis: Gasogene Books, 2020; 131 pp., \$27.95) is a welcome reprint of Steven T. Doyle’s journal, published at a time when almost anything Sherlockian had a limited circulation; if you weren’t a subscriber, here’s an opportunity to read contributions from Jeremy Brett and Peter Cushing, and Sherlockians who included Stafford Davis, Jack Tracy, Al Rodin, Jack Key, Don Yates, Roger Johnson, and of course Steve himself.
19716. And there’s *Sherlock Holmes and Conan Doyle in the Newspapers, Volume 5, July-September 1894*, edited and annotated by Mattias Boström, Mark Alberstat, and Leah Guinn (2020; 204 pp., \$36.95); the first volume in the series from Gasogene Books covered 1881-1892, the next three volumes covered six months each, and now it’s three months, which show just how much more reporting there was in the press about his books, travel plans, and play “A Story of Waterloo”.
19717. Finally, *The Milvertonians of Hampstead: Forgotten Writings from the Worst Men in London*, introduced, collated, and edited by Nicholas Utechin (2020; 130 pp., \$18.95), is the story of the first scion society of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, and it’s a grand story indeed, painstakingly researched delightfully told, and reprinting for the first time the excruciatingly rare publications of the society.

February 2020 #3

19718. Andrew Lycett’s *Conan Doyle’s Wide World: Sherlock Holmes and Beyond* (London: Tauris Parke, 2020; 327 pp., £20.00) is a delightful presentation of Conan Doyle’s expertise as a travel writer; Lycett, author of an impressive biography of Conan Doyle (September 07 #6), offers an excellent selection from his fiction (Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian), articles, and essays, all nicely showing how well Conan Doyle was able to give his readers a proper sense of place. An American edition is due in April.
19719. Mystery writer Duffy Brown may well own the world’s largest Sherlockian teddy bear: her “Sherlock” is seven feet tall and she wrote about him in February in an “At the Scene” blog of Mystery Scene magazine <www.tinyurl.com/rlnskk3>.
19720. Kirk Douglas died on Feb. 5. He began his acting career on Broadway in 1941 and soon moved to films, appearing in more than 80 movies, with a starring role in “Spartacus” (1960). He received the American Film Institute’s Lifetime Achievement Award in 1991, and an honorary Oscar in 1996. Like many famous American actors, Douglas appeared in television commercials that were seen only outside the United States; you can see him in Sherlockian costume, advertising Maxim coffee in Japan, at Greg Ruby’s “Fourth Garrideb” web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/vbkd7sx>.
19721. The Conan Doyle Review, due in the spring of 2021, is described as “an interdisciplinary journal for scholarship on the life, works, creative afterlives, and cultural legacies of Arthur Conan Doyle,” and it will be edited by Ashley D. Polasek, Kate Bromley, and Mary M. Alcaro; a Special Is-sue 1, available during the birthday festivities, offered 16 pages devoted to Ken Ludwig and his Sherlockian plays (including his upcoming “Moriarty”), and the Review itself should be interesting indeed.
19722. Sorry about that: Donald Tosh, who died on Dec. 3 (January 20 #8) helped develop the television series “Coronation Street” for Granada; it was, and still is, broadcast by ITV. The series debuted in 1960, and will be celebrating its 60th anniversary this year.
19723. Registration is now open for the seventh “Holmes, Doyle, & Friends” gathering on Mar. 27-28 in Englewood, Ohio; details are available at the web-site of the Agra Treasurers <www.agratreasurers.net>.
19724. Orson Bean died on Feb. 7. He had a long career as a magician, stand-up comedian, and actor, on stage, screen, and television (where he became a fixture on game shows); he played Colonel Sebastian Moran/Sir Charles/Dr. Grimsby Roylott/Professor Moriarty in Susan L. Seder’s play “The Death and Life of Sherlock Holmes” in Lancaster, Pa., in 1988.
19725. A letter written by Conan Doyle in 1901 was found under the floorboards in one of the rooms in the Sherlock Art Hotel in Riga, Latvia, according to a story reported by Karen Murdock in the Daily Mail (Feb. 8). The boutique hotel’s web-site tells more at <www.sherlock.lv/en/our-legendeng>, but you need not rush to make a reservation: Alexander Orlov queried the hotel and was told that there is no letter, and that the story was just an invention intended to generate publicity.

February 2020 #4

19726. *A Plum Assignment: Discourses on P. G. Wodehouse and His World* (Bensonberg: Winch and Clutterbuck, 2018; 183 pp., \$16.95), by Curtis Armstrong and Elliott Milstein, is a collection of their papers and toasts presented at Wodehouse conventions and published in Wodehouse journals, edited by Ashley D. Polasek; there are occasional allusions to Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes, and the book provides an interesting look at a Wodehousean world that can be as strange as that of Sherlockians. If you would like to see what all the fuss is about, Denny Dobry has a sales-list of Wodehouse’s books that are being sold at quite reasonable prices by way of benefiting the Baker Street Irregulars Trust <dendobry@ptd.net>.
19727. Reported: *Measure of Malice: Scientific Detection Stories*, edited by Martin Edwards (Naperville, Poisoned Pen Press, 2018; 336 pp., \$14.99) is the latest in the long-running series of “British Library Crime Classics” and it includes “The Boscombe Valley Mystery”.
19728. Randall Stock has noted an article in *Fine Books & Collections* (Feb. 12) <www.tinyurl.com/tb2cubf> about an exhibition at the Old Bodleian Library in Oxford through Mar. 15: “From Studio to Selfie” displays photographs of authors, including one of Conan Doyle disguised as Professor Challenger. The photograph (which was the frontispiece in the 1912 first edition of *The Lost World*) is in a case displaying “Masks, disguises, and riddles” (in a bound volume of *The Strand Magazine*), which you can see at <www.tinyurl.com/uakqcrh> (at the right, in the sixth image).
19729. AbeBooks is far more than a web-site used by book dealers and collectors: there’s also a podcast called “Behind the Bookshelves”; on Feb. 20 there was a 22-minute interview (“Sherlockians”) with Richard Davies interviewing Denny Dobry about the Beacon Society and the worlds of Sherlock Holmes and the Sherlockians <www.tinyurl.com/u6knws3>.

19730. Noel Murphy's interesting column in the Geelong Advertiser on Feb. 10 mentioned local architect/lecturer Derham Groves (first Australian member of the Baker Street Irregulars) and another "Geelong bloke," George Morrison, who "had a New Guinea native's spearhead surgically removed from his arse" by Scottish surgeon Joseph Bell, who was credited by Conan Doyle as having been the inspiration for Sherlock Holmes.
19731. According to Wikipedia, George Ernest "Chinese" Morrison had a thoroughly interesting and colorful life <www.tinyurl.com/r66hxtp>; the story of the spearhead is different at Wikipedia, both for its location and the name of the surgeon who removed it. And just to complicate things, Derham reports that Cyril Pearl, in Morrison of Peking (1967) says that "Chiene, assisted by Bell, and with sixteen other surgeons watching," operated on Morrison.
19732. The list of members of the Baker Street Irregulars who have acted in films and on television can now be expanded to include music videos: there's now a video that promotes Pokey LaFarge's album "Rock Bottom Rhapsody" (due in April), and you can read all about it, and see the video, in an article in Rolling Stone (Jan. 22) <www.tinyurl.com/uylfoxj>. The video was shot in Randsburg, Calif., home of Jennie C. Paton, who reports that she appears in the video about a dozen times (and dares you to find her).
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February 2020 #5

19733. Further to the report (September 19 #7) about the exhibition "In the Company of Harold Prince" (at the N.Y. Public Library for the Performing Arts through Mar. 31 <www.tinyurl.com/y3dwsfax>, Greg Darak reports that there's an interactive screen that allows you to scroll through the prompt-book and the script of the musical "Baker Street" (which Prince directed). There also are multiple photographs from the show, illustrating almost every page of the script, and a television commercial (possibly the first television commercial for a Broadway musical).
19734. Alexander Orlov notes that the National Library of Scotland offers on-line access to digitized material <www.digital.nls.uk>. A search for [sherlock holmes] or [conan doyle] turns up interesting material, including theater programs and post office directories.
19735. Welcome to the Year of the Giant Rat (or, according to the U.S. Postal Service, the Year of the Rat, which started on Jan. 25 (that's the Chinese Lunar New Year).
19736. Karen Murdock noted a story in the Washington Examiner (Feb. 6) on the appointment of Dame Karen Pierce as the next British ambassador to Washington. She has been Britain's permanent representative to the United Nations, where she battled head-to-head with Russian ambassador Vasily Nebenzya in an exchange about the nerve-agent attack in Britain. Nebenzya said that Russia should be involved in the investigation, and she replied that "allowing Russian scientists into an investigation when they are the most likely perpetrators of the crime in Salisbury would be like Scotland Yard inviting in Professor Moriarty."
19737. Jennie Paton has noted The Literary Tea Company, which offers a wide range of Sherlockian teas, caddies, and infusers <www.tinyurl.com/rj8kpkn>; they offer merchandise honoring other authors and characters, in case you have non-Sherlockian friends.
19738. Will Thomas' Blood Is Blood (New York: Minotaur, 2018; 320 pp., \$27.00) is the tenth in his series featuring private enquiry agent Cyrus Barker (an homage to Holmes' rival in "The Retired Colourman") and his assistant Thomas Llewelyn; it has an explosive beginning and a challenging mystery, and the characters, who include Barker's long-lost brother, are nicely done. The author has a web-site at <www.willthomasauthor.com>.
19739. Titan Comics is continuing its series of manga adaptations of the BBC television series "Sherlock" (with artwork by Jay); "A Scandal in Belgravia" is due in July, and you can see the cover and samples of the interior art-work at Amazon <www.tinyurl.com/rnrdrtn>.
19740. For the ladies: Howard Ostrom has noted Miss Patina, who offers a Holmes trench coat <www.misspatina.com/product/holmes-trench-coat-tall> and other items in two Sherlock Holmes Inspired Collections; search for [holmes].
19741. The Swedish Film Institute <www.filmarkivet.se> has a nice web-site (click on the British flag for text in English); search for [sherlock holmes] to see an amusing television commercial from 1960, and on [conan doyle] for film of him arriving in Stockholm in 1929.
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February 2020 #6

19742. There's yet another Sherlock Holmes pub, but it's not open to just anyone: according to a report in the East Anglian Daily Times on Feb. 7, spotted by Karen Murdock, the pub's at Glastonbury Court, a care home in Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk, that provides quality dementia care for older people; there's a web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/wlmax9g>.
19743. And now for some theatrical news: Ed. Lange's "Sherlock's Secret Life" is due in Southampton, N.Y., on Mar. 6-22 <www.sc-arts.org>.
19744. Emily Pruna's "Hark! How the Bells" will be performed during the Sherlock Holmes Weekends in Cape May, N.J., on Mar. 13-15, Oct. 30-Nov. 1, and Nov. 6-8 <www.capemaymac.org/sherlock-holmes-weekend>. The East Lynn Theatre Company will perform Craig Wichman's radio play "Sherlock Holmes' Adventure of the Speckled Band" during each weekend.
19745. Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" will be performed at the Way Off Broadway Dinner Theatre in Frederick, Md., Mar. 13-April 25 <www.wayoffbroadway.com>.
19746. Tim Kelly's adaptation of Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at the Schwartz Center for the Arts in Dover, Del., Mar. 14-15; tickets at <www.eventbrite.com/e/sherlock-holmes-play-tickets-92036540711>.
19747. Jon Jory's "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at Toccoa Falls College in Toccoa Falls, Ga., Mar. 27-29 <www.tinyurl.com/vqnxgvf>.
19748. Noveltease will perform a burlesque of "The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes" Mar. 27-28 in the Auditorium at U-Heights in Seattle, Wash., on Mar. 27-28 <www.novelteasetheater.org>.
19749. Brit Ward's new "Sherlock Holmes and the Sinister Trio" will be performed at the Totah Theatre in Farmington, N.M., Apr. 17-26; their Facebook page is at <www.facebook.com/TEAcommunitytheatre>.
19750. Stephen Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" will be presented by the Long Island Repertory Company in Saint James, N.Y., Apr. 18-May 3 <www.facebook.com/pg/longislandrep/posts>.
19751. Steven Canny and John Nicholson's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed at the East Riding Theatre in Beverley, Yorks., Apr. 23-May 16 <www.eastridingtheatre.co.uk>.
19752. Eric Coble's "Sherlock Holmes: The Baker Street Irregulars" is scheduled at the Cary Arts Center in Cary, N.C., May 15-17 <www.townofcary.org>.
19753. Jules Tasca's "An Evening with Sherlock Holmes" is also due at the Heisler Theater in Lake Arrowhead, Calif., May 21-24 <www.heislertheater.com>.
19754. Hamilton Wright's "Sherlock Holmes and the Raven's Curse" is scheduled at People's Light in Malvern, Pa., Aug. 4-29, 2021 <www.peopleslight.org>.
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March 2020 #1

19755. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's web-site is recommended as the best source for helpful and reliable information about COVID-19 and what to do about the current pandemic, and for what we do and don't (yet) know about the novel coronavirus <www.tinyurl.com/sx5yfuv>.
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The CDC also tells you why they use the term COVID-19. If you scroll down, at the lower left there's a way to subscribe to e-mail updates. It's not the CDC's advice, but: "keep washing your hands, and family and friends."

19756. Of course, it's nice indeed that reading is a grand way to deal with self-quarantine. Bookshops in the DMV (that's the local abbreviation for DC/MD/VA) are helping <www.tinyurl.com/wd8poss>, and Mental Floss reported on Mar. 16 <www.tinyurl.com/uwccm5d> on one bookshop's imaginative response to the situation. Bill Seil has forwarded an interesting report from Penguin Books about "how Britain's independent bookshops are rallying to help readers during the coronavirus crisis" <www.tinyurl.com/vbvkujg>.
19757. Herewith a reminder that the very best way to receive news about the Baker Irregulars' events and publications is to sign up for free e-mail messages from the BSI at <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/bsi-news-via-email>. For information about other Sherlockian events, the Sherlockian Calendar maintained by Ron Fish and Ben and Sue Vizoskie <www.sherlockiancalendar.com> is a valuable resource; you can contact Ron <ronf404@aol.com> if you would like to have meeting or conference listed.
19758. The most recent news from the Baker Street Irregulars is that the "Sherlock Holmes and the British Empire" conference scheduled at the Bear Mountain Inn near West Point, N.Y., has been rescheduled to June 25-27, 2021; registration is expected to open by early April 2021. There's a revised web-site, with a colorful map <www.tinyurl.com/udu3vjx>.
19759. There are some Sherlockian events scheduled a few months ahead that have not been cancelled or postponed, one of them the Book Fair and Open House at Denny Dobry's home in Reading, Pa., on May 17 (February 20 #1). Additional information is available from Denny at <dendobry@ptd.net>.
19760. The *Baker Street Almanac 2020*, modestly described by editor Ross E. Davies as "an annual capsule of a timeless past and future," is now available on-line (without charge) at <www.tinyurl.com/rufssb3>, and in print (\$30.00 postpaid from The Green Bag, 6600 Barnaby Street NW, Washington, DC 20015) with more than 360 pages of news and gossip about some of the interesting events in the Sherlockian and Holmesian world in 2019, "The Cardboard Box" (presented with "extravagant Canonical annotation"), and a wide variety of scholarship and pseudo-scholarship. Ross promises some "amusing extras" in the print edition, perhaps for the benefit of those who prefer to turn pages, rather than scroll.
19761. Dean Clark has reported an interesting article on "Arthur Conan Doyle and the Adventure of the Boer War" posted on-line at History Today on Feb. 12 <www.tinyurl.com/vw8o22b> and notable for an attractive illustration by H. M. Paget; Henry Marriott Paget was Sidney Paget's brother.

March 2020 #2

19762. Alexander Orlov has reported seeing Vladimir Putin as Sherlock Holmes, and Dmitri Peskov as Dr. Watson, unraveling the case of journalist Ivan GoluNovember in an animated (and amusing) "news report" in Russian on the German television channel Deutsche Welle. Pesko is press secretary for Russian president Putin, and the video is available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/s68be3o>.
19763. "Meet Maggie Schpak" is the title of an informative and interesting post to Greg Ruby's "The Fourth Garrideb" blog <www.tinyurl.com/ty56jfi>; Maggie is investitured in the Baker Street Irregulars is "The Soup Plate Medal" and has had a long career as a designer of medals and other artifacts for films and television, and for Sherlockian societies (and the Dr. John H. Watson Fund's raffle during the birthday festivities in New York each January).
19764. Will Thomas' *Lethal Pursuit* (New York: Minotaur, 2019; 308 pp., \$27.99) is the eleventh in his series starring private enquiry agent Cyrus Barker (an homage to Holmes' rival in "The Retired Colourman") and his assistant (now partner) Thomas Llewelyn, who also now is married but still hard at work; there is an intriguing mystery that involves secret societies as well as domestic and foreign intrigue, and as in earlier books in the series, the characters, both principal and supporting are interesting. The author has a web-site at <www.willthomasauthor.com>.
19765. German illustrator Romy Blümel's artwork was used by The New Yorker last November for a flash sale of subscriptions to the magazine, promising a free tote bag to new subscribers. Alas, the Sherlockian dachshund was used only in the advertisement, and did not appear on the free tote bag.
19766. James Lipton died on Mar. 1. After a long career in show business, he was invited to join the board of directors of the Actos Studio workshop, and in 1994 created the "Inside the Actors Studio" television series for Bravo. He also wrote *An Exaltation of Larks* (1968), an exploration of "the venereal game" (which is not quite what you may be imagining at the moment); it's a delightful exploration of collective nouns, and he quotes at length from Conan Doyle's *Sir Nigel* in which young Nigel demonstrates his knowledge of such things as a cete of badgers and a skulk of foxes. The book has been revised and expanded, most recently in 1991, to include new coinages, and it's great fun indeed.
19767. "A Billion-Dollar Scandal Turns the 'King of Manuscripts' into the 'Madoff of France'" was the headline in the N.Y. Times (Feb. 21) about a literary Ponzi scheme perpetrated by Gérard Lhéritié, who bought rare manuscripts and letters, had them appraised, and sold shares in them, and promised to buy the shares back in five years for at least 40 percent over the original price. The appraisals were greatly inflated, and the company refused to buy back the shares; Lhéritié was arrested and is now free on \$2.1 million in bail, and the French government has begun to auction off the company's assets. The story is on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/w3uh42m>.

March 2020 #3

19768. Dean Clark notes that the only copy of the unpublished memoirs of Nigel Bruce is held by his daughter Pauline Page, who was interviewed some years ago by Nicholas Utechin, who published extracts in the winter 1999 issue of the Sherlock Holmes Journal. For those who don't have access to that issue of the SHJ, Dean reports that Stuart Fanning has posted (with permission) some of the extracts at the Scarlet Street Forums on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/sy8cvm>.
19769. There are at least a few people who claim to read the N.Y. Times primarily because its obituaries are so interesting and well-written; if you'd like to see just how much fun the obituaries can be, here's what Neil Genzlinger had to say about the late Peregrine Pollen <www.tinyurl.com/r2aszlk>.
19770. "May God blast anyone who writes a biography of me," J. M. Barrie wrote, according to Piers Dudgeon, whose *Neverland: J. M. Barrie, the Du Mauriers, and the Dark Side of Peter Pan* (2009) is a dark and grim examination of the lives of the author and his friends, and he quotes D. H. Lawrence, who wrote in a letter that "Barrie has a fatal touch for those he loves. They die." Conan Doyle is mentioned briefly, and the book still is available in a reprint edition.
19771. Potter & Potter Auctions in Chicago will be offering "fine books and manuscripts" on Apr. 18 <www.tinyurl.com/yx4y7j9l>, with interesting Sherlockian and Doylean material; search for both [sherlock] and [doyle]. It appears to be someone's collection (some of the books are inscribed to John Nieminski and Nathan L. Bengis).
19772. There was a nice (and nicely illustrated) article in France Today (Mar. 10) <www.tinyurl.com/u93pr7p> about French criminologist Alphonse Bertillon, whom Sherlock Holmes admired: "he expressed his enthusiastic admiration of the French savant," Watson said (in "The Naval Treaty").
19773. "Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of Who Owns 221b Baker Street" headlined a story in The Telegraph (Mar. 14) that led with a misleading photograph of the Sherlock Holmes Museum at 239 Baker Street; the photograph was misleading because the story is about the block of property at 215-237 Baker Street, which includes the site of the former Abbey National, where mail addressed to Sherlock Holmes was for many years

answered by Holmes' secretary. The block of offices and flats at 215-237 is owned by "a string of anonymous holding companies" tied to Kazakh oligarch Nurali Aliyev, and the government's National Crime Agency is investigating property in London that might have been bought with the proceeds of organized crime.

19774. It's interesting to see that it's not only The Telegraph that is confused about where Sherlock Holmes lived: if you ask Google Maps to show you 221b Baker Street, you're shown an image and the location of the Museum.
19775. *Deadly Anniversaries*, edited by Marcia Muller and Bill Pronzini (New York: Hanover Square, 2020; 396 pp., \$26.99) celebrates the 75th anniversary of the Mystery Writers of America; it's an anthology of new stories by members of MWA, each involving some sort of anniversary, including Laurie R. King's "Ten Years On" (a nice addition to her Mary Russell stories).
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March 2020 #4

19776. "Elementary, my dear Watson." One often hears or reads that Sherlock Holmes never said that iconic sentence, but of course it would be better to say that he never said that in the Canon (if one is going to play the Grand Game properly). The earliest recorded instance of Holmes actually saying that is in the film "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" (1929), which isn't all that surprising since it's the first film in which Holmes actually speaks. There has been quite a bit of research into other people saying that, or something like that, and you can read all about it at the Quote Investigator web-site <www.tinyurl.com/tkm6pqu>.
19777. One hears of Sherlock everywhere: "While other detectives need their Mind Palaces to solve their crimes, the infamous 'Sherlock Homi' needs only a cup of tea and two eggs every morning! Come catch him in action with his partner, Dr. Jamshed Wadia in this funny yet adventurous play" at the Tata Theatre in Mumbai on Mar. 21.
19778. Cenarth Fox's *Sherlock Holmes: Playing the Game* (Melbourne: Fox's Plays, 2020; 184 pp., \$12.99) is a delightfully imaginative pastiche: Holmes is preparing to retire to Sussex, and is informed by Mrs. Hudson that she has written her memoirs, in which she corrects the many mistakes he has made, and the many errors in Watson's stories; hoping to find a publisher, she takes her manuscript to Conan Doyle, who sends her to Greenhough Smith at the Strand magazine, and it is grand see two alternate universes collide. It's readily available at Amazon, and recommended.
19779. Fox also has written two two-act plays "The Real Sherlock Holmes" (2005) and "Nursing Holmes" (2009), and a two-act musical comedy "Sherlock, Stock and Barrel" (2007); you can read preview scripts of all three plays at his web-site <www.foxplays.com>. His own web-site's at <www.cenfoxbooks.com>.
19780. Mark Jones and Paul Chapman are continuing their interesting discussions of the writings of Conan Doyle (focusing on his non-Sherlockian work) at their "Doings of Doyle" podcast <www.doingsofdoyle.com>; their latest post considers two Apocryphal stories ("The Man with the Watches" and "The Lost Special").
19781. Roy Hudd died on Mar. 15. He launched his career as a comedian on stage in 1957 and went on to perform in pantomimes and music hall, and on radio and television, and was awarded an OBE in 2004. He played Sherlock Holmes in 1999 in the BBC Radio 2 series "The Newly Discovered Casebook of Sherlock Holmes", John Gedgrave in Granada's "The Dying Detective" (1994) and James Phillimore in "The Singular Inheritance of Miss Gloria Wilson on BBC Radio 4 (2002).
19782. Leonard Goldberg's *The Art of Deception* (New York: Minotaur Books, 2020; 320 pp., \$26.99), is the fourth in his series that stars Sherlock Holmes' daughter Joanna Blalock, who learned much from her father and is working with Dr. John H. Watson and his son Dr. John H. Watson Jr. to capture an apparent madman who is defacing valuable paintings in galleries and private collections in London in 1916. It turns out that there's method to the vandal's madness, and more than one mystery for the team to resolve; the author's web-site is at <www.leonardgoldberg.com>.
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March 2020 #5

19783. The Belfast Custom House is for sale, according to an article in the Belfast Telegraph on Mar. 9, kindly forwarded by Oscar Ross, who reports that the building is one of two candidates for the location of the post office in Belfast where James Browner mailed his gruesome packet (in "The Cardboard Box"); the Queen's Square post office was housed in the west wing of the building at the time the case occurred. You can see images of the Custom House on-line <www.tinyurl.com/vlw6h1>; the estate agents say POA [price on application], which may or may not mean "if you have to ask, you can't afford it."
19784. Here a plaque, there a plaque . . . Roger Johnson found the Open Plaques web-site <www.openplaques.org>, with information about 47,627 commemorative plaques that have been installed world-wide; the listing's not complete, but a search for [sherlock holmes] and [conan doyle] reveals a nice assortment, hither, thither, and yon.
19785. Catherine Cooke has received notice that the "Conan Doyle in Edinburgh" conference at Napier University on June 25-27 (December 19 #2) has been post-poned, and that dates for a rescheduled conference later in the year will be posted as soon as possible at <www.edinburgh-conan-doyle.org/events>.
19786. The Old Court Radio Theatre Company collaborated with the Sherlock Holmes Society of London to make splendid recordings of ten stories from the Canon, two Apocryphal tales, the Gillette play, and two pastiches, and they are available on-line so that you can listen to them free at the Society's web-site <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/category/podcasts>.
19787. Sam Siciliano's new *The Venerable Tiger* (New York: Titan, 2020; 317 pp., \$14.95) is the latest in his series of accounts of the adventures of Sherlock Holmes and his cousin Dr. Henry Vernier; the story inspired by "The Speckled Band" (but with some interesting twists and turns). Siciliano's web-site is at <www.samsiciliano.net>.
19788. Samantha Wolov notes that Holmes and Watson are featured prominently (and unexpectedly), along with Wilkie Collins, Hunter S. Thompson, Dorothy Parker, Collette, Ernest Hemingway, and Samuel Taylor Coleridge, in Paul Bassett Davies' *Dead Writers in Rehab* (2017).
19789. Walter Satterthwait died on Feb. 23. He was a prolific writer of mystery novels and short stories, and his novel *Escapade* (1995) was a locked-room murder mystery set in an English country house in 1921 and with Harry Houdini and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle on hand.
19790. "Sherlockian Wisdom for a Pandemic" is an amusing challenge posted in the Inner Circle at the Red Circle's web-site <www.redcircledc.org>; everyone is welcome to participate.
19791. "Sherlock Holmes est installé dans l'Allier!" is an interesting two-minute video (all in French) on YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/v5qxngp> about Thierry Saint-Joanis, president of the Société Sherlock Holmes de France. The Société has its own YouTube channel at <www.tinyurl.com/txd8gxs> with many more videos, including the imaginative "See EU Later" comment on Brexit.
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March 2020 #6

19792. Book collectors soon (or eventually) discover how interesting provenance can be; it's the history of a copy of a book, from owner to owner, and of course there's much more to it than merely saying "from the collection of ...," as shown in Ray Betzner's post to his "Studies in Starrett blog" <www.vincentstarrett.com/blog/2020/2/1>.
19793. Type Punch Matrix, the rare book firm founded by Rebecca Romney and Brian Cassidy has issued a new catalog <www.tinyurl.com/ubnjtug>; there's nothing directly Sherlockian, but a copy of Sugiyama Toujiro's *A Japanese Argument for Women's Suffrage* (1887) is accompanied by an intriguing illustration that shows Japanese women dressed in contemporary Victorian fashion copied from British books and magazines (the Meiji Restoration began in 1868). Open the catalog in Adobe (there's a link at the right) and go to page 58 to see how up-to-date some Japanese women were in the year that "A Study in Scarlet" was published in Beeton's Christmas Annual.
19794. It can be interesting to see what turns up Pinterest: go to <www.pinterest.com> and search for [sherlock holmes cocktail] to find a heavy aluminum sign (£4.99) offering a recipe for "The Reichenbach Fall" (1 oz London dry gin, 2 oz dry sherry, 1 splash Stirrings' blood orange bitters, and 3 oz lemonade); pour ingredients into a shaker and shake gently to create the froth of the Reichenbach Falls when poured into a tall glass filled with ice. Stirrings makes a wide variety of mixes and seems to be owned by the Sazerac Company, which got its start in the 19th century in the Sazerac Coffee House in New Orleans.
19795. This isn't the best time to travel, but in the meantime the Hotel Sherlock Holmes in Meiringen has a nice video advertisement that you can watch at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=rk70dqfludg>.
19796. "There's a Place Where Lost Things Go" was a recent episode on "Legacies" (a series streamed on the CW) that aired on Mar. 12, and included a dream sequence that had Alexis Denisof (Professor Vardemus) as Sherlock Holmes and Quincy Fouse (Milton Greasley) as Dr. Watson. As with many series on the CW, it can be difficult to understand just what's going on unless you've watched earlier episodes (or have a cheat sheet), but you may be able to see an excerpt from the dream sequence at <www.tinyurl.com/sjntg56>.
19797. Kabukichō Syarokku [Kabukicho Sherlock] is an imaginative 30-minute Japanese animated series that's available on Amazon Prime; it's set in Tokyo's most famous red-light district, and features Katsuyuki Konishi (Sherlock Holmes) and Kuichi Nakamura (John Watson), and there's an entry at Wikipedia that gives you a good idea of what's going on.
19798. The Golden Raspberry Awards (for failure in cinematic achievement), also known as the Razzies, have been announced, and this year "Cats" won in six categories: worst picture, worst supporting actor (James Corben), best actress (Rebel Wilson), worst director, worst screenplay, and worst screen combo (for "any two half-feline/ half-human hairballs"). Idris Elba, who played Macavity: The Mystery Cat) was not nominated in any category. Details at <www.razzies.com/razz-newz.html>.

March 2020 #7

19799. Ernest Dudley, Eille Norwood's son-in-law, was interviewed by David Stuart Davies at the Sherlock Holmes Society of London's film evening in 1998, and it's available, Jennie Paton notes, at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=xIH-g4UL5mo>. Norwood played Sherlock Holmes in 45 films in the early 1920s, and then in the play "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" (1923), which was revised by Dudley and performed in 1953.
19800. Jennie also has discovered "Movie Magic & Mysteries: The Making of Sherlock Jr." <www.youtube.com/watch?v=0YR81Zp07A>, a 23-minute documentary (produced by the Kino International Corp. in 2010) about how Buster Keaton made his now-classic 1924 silent film.
19801. Nils Clausson, author of *Arthur Conan Doyle's Art of Fiction* (October 18 #3), reports that he has been commissioned by Cambridge Scholars Publishing to edit an anthology of essays on Conan Doyle's life and complete works (not just the Sherlock Holmes stories). The formal call for contributions is available on request <nils.clausson@uregina.ca>; please put "Reexamining ACD" in the subject line.
19802. Reported: *The Big Book of Reel Murders: Stories That Inspired Great Crime Films*, edited by Otto Penzler (Viking, 2019), includes two tales from the Canon ("The Five Orange Pips" and "The Six Napoleons").
19803. L.A. Theatre Works has launched an imaginative program to assist students who are working on-line: "Setting the Stage for Learning" is a package of audio recordings of plays that allows teachers to enhance distance learning <www.latw.org/setting-stage-learning>; one of the plays is "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (dramatized by David Pichette and R. Hamilton Wright and performed by LATW in 2014). Their commercial CD set for the play included a live audience talk-back with Leslie S. Klinger, and it's available for purchase at <www.latw.org/title/hound-baskervilles> if you're not an educator.
19804. Adam Hochschild's *King Leopold's Ghost: A Story of Greed, Terror, and Heroism in Colonial Africa*, first published in 1998, now has a second edition (New York: Mariner, 2020; 380 pp., \$16.99), and it's a grand book indeed; the sub-title is thoroughly appropriate. Conan Doyle joined the campaign against Leopold, writing *The Crime of the Congo* (1909) and many letters to the press, but E. D. Morel and Roger Casement are the real heroes in the battle to end Leopold's infamous conduct in West Africa.
19805. Steve Mason reports that the Beacon Society has established an Annual Re-Certification Exam for the Fortescue Scholarship Honours Program, by way of encouraging "increased familiarity with the Canon and the Sherlockian world." The questions are not overly difficult, he promises, and there is no charge to participate. Details at <www.tinyurl.com/rmo52dy>.
19806. The Strand Bookstore in New York, which boasts 18 miles of bookshelves, is opening a second store, on the Upper West Side, on Columbus Avenue between 81st and 82nd Streets, near the American Museum of Natural History; there is no word yet on how many more miles of bookshelves there will be at the new location <www.tinyurl.com/srlo88q>.

March 2020 #8

19807. There's an attractive edition of *A Study in Scarlet* (New York: Balzer + Bray, 2014; 277 pp, \$17.99) with many illustrations (in color and in black and white) by Gris Grimly, who has been described as a "modern master of gothic romanticism," and is just that; he has illustrated many other books, including *Frankenstein* and Neil Gaiman's *The Dangerous Alphabet*, and he has a web-site at <www.madcreator.com>.
19808. Radio Times has reported <www.tinyurl.com/tk5fn6s> that Audible has kindly made hundreds of its titles available for streaming without charge during the coronavirus crisis; one of them being "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" read by Simon Prebble.
19809. James Macaluso Jr., who has illustrated more than a dozen of the Sherlock Holmes stories using Lego minifigures and bricks, also has created a similar *A Sherlock Holmes Alphabet* (London: MX Publishing, 2018; 68 pp., \$12.95); it's in full color, dedicated to Edward Gorey and typeset in Zombified, and imaginatively Sherlockian. MX Publishing's books are available at a discount at <www.sherlockholmesbooks.com>.
19810. The Nitrate Film Interest Group has an interesting web-site for those who want to help identify bits and pieces of films <www.tinyurl.com/vjmw3zy>; there (alas) many films that survive today only as fragments.

19811. You don't happen to have a Raphael or a first folio Shakespeare without knowing it?" asked Sherlock Holmes (in "The Three Gables"). There are only five complete copies of the First Folio in private hands, according to Christie's, and here's your chance to own the sixth, which will be at auction at Christie's in New York on Apr. 24, estimated at \$4 million to \$6 million. Read all about it at <www.tinyurl.com/rwt2lla>.
19812. Theatrics: the CDC having advised against large gatherings, it is likely that there won't be any theatrical performances in the near future; I've not heard that any of the following have been postponed or canceled, but it would be wise, to be sure, to check with theaters.
19813. Katie Forgette's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily" will be performed at the Historic Casino Hall in La Grange, Tex., May 1-3; Facebook page at <www.facebook.com/Fayettecountrycommunitytheatre>.
19814. Craig Sodaro's "Young Sherlock" will be performed at Playhouse 38 in Geneva, Ill., May 22-31 <www.tinyurl.com/qwjsv2k>. And his "The Secret Case of Sherlock Holmes" is due at the PIX Theatre in Lapeer, Mich., May 22-23 <www.centerfortheartslapeer.org>.
19815. Sad news for my print subscribers: printing costs have risen again, so the new prices per year are \$19.50 (U.S.) and \$26.50 (foreign); as always, you can read the newsletter on-line at <www.redcircledc.org/index.php?id=39>, in full color and with live links, and at no cost whatsoever, and my feelings won't be hurt if you decide not to renew your print subscriptions.

April 2020 #1

19816. "The Man from Beyond" (1922) is a silent film based on a story written by Harry Houdini, who plays Howard Hillary, a man who is frozen in Arctic ice in 1820 and is thawed and brought back to life a century later; at the end of the film Hillary gives the woman he loves (and believes to be the reincarnation of his lost sweetheart from a century earlier) a copy of Conan Doyle's *The New Revelation*. Conan Doyle praised the film in a letter that was published in a press book <www.tinyurl.com/r74bysg>, and you can see the film at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=WYnbe_2IZ8Q>.
19817. If you can't attend a performance, you can always read the script: Jeffry Hatcher's *Sherlock Holmes and the Ice Palace Murders* (based on the novel by Larry Millett) is available from the Dramatists Play Service (\$10.00) <www.dramatists.com>. And Jon Jory's *Holmes and Watson: The Game's Afoot* has just been published by Playscripts (\$9.99) <www.playscripts.com>; it's a collection of one-act dramatizations of four cases nicely suitable for school productions. Both companies also offer other Sherlockian plays.
19818. "Reichenbach Falls" (broadcast by BBC-4 in 2007) was adapted by John Mayor from Ian Rankin's 1996 "John Rebus" short story "The Acid Test"; Richard Wilson appears as Arthur Conan Doyle; Jennie Paton discovered the program on-line at <www.vimeo.com/400916730>.
19819. The winter 2019 issue of *The Sherlock Holmes Journal* is at hand, and nicely done as always; if you aren't a subscriber, their summary of the issue will show you what you're missing <www.tinyurl.cm/sbpquw3>.
19820. Laurie R. King's *Riviera Gold* (New York: Bantam, 2020; 368 pp, \$28.00) is a sequel to her *Island of the Mad* (April 18 #2); now Mary Russell (and eventually her husband Sherlock Holmes) are in Monte Carlo in Jazz Age 1925, once more involved with Mrs. Hudson, whose early life is revealed to have been even more provocative than we learned in *The Murder of Mary Russell* (March 16 #1). It's all great fun, with some imaginative twists and turns in this 16th novel in the Mary Russell series. Laurie has an interesting web-site, well worth exploring, at <www.laurierking.com>.
19821. You can still go to the theatre while you're staying home: the National Theatre has begun streaming past productions on its YouTube channel, and they have done some magnificent shows <www.tinyurl.com/ufxrhpc>. You may eventually get to see Benedict Cumberbatch in their "Hamlet".
19822. "Kate Middleton Shows Off Her Incredible Book Collection in Rare Picture Taken Inside Her Kensington Palace Home" was the headline on an article in Hello! (Mar. 29) <www.tinyurl.com/tn6sngv>, spotted by Sonia Fetherston. That's Princess Kate, of course, and the "incredible book collection" actually consists of copies of Penguin's Clothbound Classics (£11.00 each), with attractive covers designed by Coralie Bickford-Smith. According to the article, she has *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (2010, with an introduction and notes by Christopher Frayling); the series has 69 titles so far, including *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* (2018, with an introduction by Iain Pears and notes by Ed Glinert).

April 2020 #2

19823. *Classic Penguin: Cover to Cover*, edited by Paul Buckley (New York: Penguin, 2016; 288 pp., \$30.00) is a colorful tribute to the cover designs on many of the classics Penguin has published over the years, including the spectacular artwork created by Adam Simpson for the wrap-around cover of *Sherlock Holmes: The Novels* (2015); there's commentary by Simpson, and by Michael Dirda, who wrote the introduction for the book.
19824. There's still a nice market for rare film posters such as one owned by the late Paul D. Herbert, offered at Heritage Auctions on Mar. 21 (January 20 #1): Paul's one-sheet poster for Clive Brook's "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" (1929) sold for \$17,400 <www.tinyurl.com/toqg9qs>.
19825. Greg Wagland has recorded many of Conan Doyle's Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian stories, and made them available at YouTube; you can listen to him reading "The Brazilian Cat" at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=YOTtm2Lksm0>, and there are links to other stories.
19826. Neil Peter Jampolis died on Dec.15. He had a long career as a lighting, scenic, and costume designer for the stage, and was a professor emeritus at the UCLA School of Theater, Film, and Television; he won both a Drama Desk Award and the Tony for his lighting design for the American tour of the Royal Shakespeare Company's revival of Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes".
19827. The Royal Mail has honored the 250th anniversary of the birth of William Wordsworth with a set of stamps showing extracts from works by ten Romantic poets. One wonders whether Sherlock Holmes (before he pursued the case of the missing naval treaty) had read William Blake's "Auguries of Innocence".
19828. Michael W. McClure has edited and annotated *The Speckled Band* for first-time readers (Chester: Baskerville Productions, 2018; 72 pp., \$9.99) with illustrations by Tijana Tumbas; it's a nice introduction for young people to the story that Conan Doyle, in 1927, said was his favorite. The publisher's web-site's at <www.baskervilleproductions.com>.
19829. "Word on the Street" is a 30-minute series, produced by BBC Persian TV and the British Council, with Ashlie Walker, Stephen Walker, and Rob Lewis as presenters; "Murder Mystery" (2014) included a Sherlockian segment, with Wendy Hurrell interviewing Roger Johnson at the Sherlock Holmes Pub, and you can view it at <www.tinyurl.com/rqu6yrm>.
19830. Fans of the late Jim French's "Imagination Theater" will welcome the news that it has been revived by Larry Albert and John Patrick Lowrie (who performed in many of their Sherlock Holmes broadcasts), and their web-site at <www.harrynile.com> offers a long list of their Sherlockian (and non-Sherlockian) broadcasts, as well as a blog and other features such as links to the radio stations that are carrying their shows; they began recording new Sherlock Holmes programs (from scripts by M. J. Elliott) in 2019 (included at the end of their list of "further adventures"), and some of their older broadcasts are available at their YouTube channel.

April 2020 #3

19831. Crippen & Landru has told its customers that "Amazon has not replenished orders of our books. They've halted all warehouse replenishments of 'non-essential' items," adding that books were on that list (ironically, since Amazon started with books). Crippen & Landru has published, and still

- offers at www.crippenlandru.com, excellent books, among them Douglas G. Greene's impressive biography *John Dickson Carr: The Man Who Explained Miracles*, and gladly fills orders directly. You can read more about this in an article at Vox www.tinyurl.com/tu7r9k4.
19832. Scale75 is a Spanish company that makes attractive 75mm figurines, and one of their offers is a two-piece set of Holmes and Watson, priced at £123.96 www.tinyurl.com/yx2w4ytp (Holmes and Watson also are available separately); their U.S. web-site is at www.tinyurl.com/w2prjlw.
19833. Christie's auction on Apr. 24 has been postponed to June 12, in case you are considering bidding on that first folio Shakespeare (March 20 #8); you can read all about it at www.tinyurl.com/rwt2lla.
19834. Andrew Jack died on Mar. 31. Best known as a dialect coach, he also was an actor; his lengthy list of credits as dialect coach include "Sherlock Holmes" (2009) and "Sherlock Holmes: Game of Shadows" (2011), and you can see him working with Robert Downey Jr. at www.tinyurl.com/vac565p.
19835. "Cannabis-curious consumers in Canada who want to try marijuana drinks can now buy them at a dispensary or have them delivered to your door," according to the Green Entrepreneur (Apr. 2) www.tinyurl.com/srq3ysd. Tweed's "Bakerstreet and Ginger" is of them, named in honor of the street in which Sherlock Holmes lived, and another is "Houndstooth and Soda"; the active ingredient is THC, and Bakerstreet and Houndstooth are the names of two of their strains of cannabis.
19836. Christie's has a story on-line about "10 old masters that changed the art market" www.tinyurl.com/spk8oh4; one of them is Gainborough's portrait of Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire, shown in full color, with discussion of the "Napoleon of Crime" (Adam Worth).
19837. Jennie Paton discovered Paul Tumeys's article on "The Screwball Comics of Gus Mager: Hippos, Monks, and Sherlock Holmes" on-line at the Comics Journal www.tinurl.com/zfv555k; it's a nicely illustrated exploration of one of the earliest (and long-running) appearances of Sherlock Holmes in the comics.
19838. Some Sherlockian societies have been using Zoom to hold virtual meetings. The Washington Post ran a story on Apr. 4 www.tinyurl.com/rw27gyb about potential problems for those using Zoom; the story includes a link to "how to protect your Zoom calls"
19839. "Rodger Baskerville's Lonely Hound from Hell" is a two-act rock opera performed by the Willie Nelson Oratorio Society (aka Wanda and Jeffery Dow) in 1997 and first published the following year (September 98 #4), and it's now included in their RODGER BASKERVILLE'S LONELY HOUND FROM HELL AND OTHERS, along with scripts from parodies they performed for the Pleasant Places of Florida over the years; 179 pp., \$10.00, available at www.amazon.com.

April 2020 #4

19840. And now for something completely different: "What's the least understood institution in Washington?" was the question put to Washington journalist Bob Woodward. His response was, "Congress. No institution has changed so much in the 30 years I've been reporting. Partisan warfare there is now like World War I, with everyone in their trenches. It is now an institution at risk." That's from the July 2004 issue of Washingtonian magazine, more than 15 years ago.
19841. "A certain gracious lady" (the great-great-grand-daughter of the one that's mentioned in the Canon) gave a rare televised speech to the nation on Apr. 5 www.tinyurl.com/un49uka, and the image that ran with many of the articles showed her in a green dress that made her a sitting Chroma-Key that was irresistible to many Photoshoppers, one of whom created an image that Alan Rettig found in an abandoned tin dispatch-box.
19842. Honor Blackman died on Apr. 5. She was best known for playing Pussy Galore in the James Bond film "Goldfinger" (1964), but also appeared as Dr. Cathy Gale in the early days of the British television series "The Avengers"; the series eventually aired in the U.S. in 1991. You can see her briefly at www.youtube.com/watch?v=cN1aSA2Qoxs. The Sherlockian connection is rather minor, but in the episode "Don't Look Behind You" someone says to her, "That's Hound of the Baskervilles country." If you're a fan of the series, you'll enjoy exploring www.theavengers.tv.
19843. Robert Downey Jr. celebrated his 55th birthday on Apr. 4, tweeting a Sherlockian video message to his fans www.tinyurl.com/va72oh3.
19844. Ellen Byerrum has eleven titles in her "crime of fashion" series that features Lacey Smithsonian, who's a fashion reporter in Washington, D.C. when she isn't solving mysteries, and her latest book is *Sherlocktopus Holmes: Eight Arms of the Law* (Denver: Ellen Street Books, 2020; 34 pp., \$8.99). Sherlocktopus Holmes is assisted by Dr. Flotsam in an amusing children's book with attractive art by Jacqueline Berkman-Glatigny. Ellen's web-site is at www.ellenbyerrum.com.
19845. "Chronicle of a Pandemic Foretold" was the headline on Jug Suraiya's post to the Times of India's blog on Apr. 7; he noted that "perhaps one of the earliest fictional accounts of a global threat that) wipes out all forms of life is Arthur Conan Doyle's *The Poison Belt* (1913)." You can read the blog at www.tinyurl.com/wcvs2626f.
19846. "Sherlock Holmes Turns Engineer" is a delightful Fox Movietone news clip released in 1927 www.youtube.com/watch?v=xPws_KSmToo; it shows William Gillette and the steam engine he drove on the grounds of his home at what is now Gillette Castle in Hadlyme, Conn. There's a carefully-restored engine on display at the castle now www.tinyurl.com/u488ax2, but it's an electric engine rather than the steam engine shown in the film. Tyke Niver, who continues to impersonate Gillette at the castle (with his wife Teddie as Mrs. Gillette), reports that there were two engines: one electric, and the other steam (which is in storage until funds are available to restore it as well).

April 2020 #5

19847. Nick Utechin would like to hear from anyone who owns a copy of S. C. Roberts' eight-page pamphlet *A Note on the Watson Problem* (1929), published in an edition limited to 100 copies for his friends (it was an off-print of his review of Ronald Knox's *Studies in the Literature of Sherlock Holmes*). Nick wants to create a detailed census of surviving copies; you can contact him at highfieldfarmhouse@gmail.com.
19848. "The Bloggess writes stuff that actually is laugh-out-loud, but you know that really you shouldn't be laughing and probably you'll go to hell for laughing, so maybe you shouldn't read it. That would be safer and wiser." That's what Neil Gaiman had to say in his back-over blurb for Jenny Lawson's *Let's Pretend This Never Happened* (2012), and he's absolutely correct; highly recommended if you want to read something that's not at all Sherlockian, and Lawson's web-site www.thebloggess.com will let you see what you're in for if you read the book.
19849. The Open House and BSI Trust Book Fair scheduled for May 17 at Denny Dobry's home in Reading, Pa., has been postponed; if you'd like to be on the mailing list for an announcement of a new date, you can contact Denny at dendobry@ptd.net.
19850. Ira Wolff ("Douglas Maberley") died on Apr. 4. He worked in sales and direct marketing, and was an energetic collector in two areas: 19th and early 20th century photography, and mystery and detective fiction (including the first page of the manuscript of "The Sign of the Four" (he donated the latter collection to the University of California in San Diego in 1977). He received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1970.
19851. The "Scintillation of Scions" scheduled by Watson's Tin Box on June 12-14 at the Sheraton Baltimore-Washington Airport has, like so many Sherlockian events, been cancelled, but Karen Wilson and Greg Ruby have announced the substitute "Scintillation of Scions at Home" via the

Internet on June 13. Many if not most of the presenters are expected to participate, and free registration will open on May 18 at

www.scintillation.org.

19852. “Even Sherlock Holmes Author Takes No Chances with Coronavirus” was the headline on a story in the Times of Tunbridge Wells on Apr. 17 that included an image of the statue of Conan Doyle in Crowborough.
19853. “A Study in Scarlet” is seldom seen on stage, but Bart Lovins dramatized the story for a production in Elizabethtown, Ky., in Jan. 2019, it was done with imagination, on a revolving stage, with very few props, and it was impressive. His dramatization of “The Sign of Four” was performed in Jan. 2020, and there are links to videos of both shows at www.bartlovins.com/writing. The script for his “A Study in Scarlet” is available from Barnes and Noble (\$14.99).
19854. Paul Thomas Miller’s “Doyle’s Rotary Coffin” (March 19 #4), a society whose motto is “All Holmes Is Good Holmes,” has published *No Holmes Barred* (its first “scrapbook of Holmesiana”), which is available as a free download at the society’s web-site at www.sites.google.com/site/doylesrotarycoffin.
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April 2020 #6

19855. There’s nothing Sherlockian about Dark Sky’s weather reports, but it’s spectacular: you can set it for your location and be told things such as “possible light rain starting in 6 min., stopping 14 min. later,” which is far more specific than anything else available, and you can easily look out the window to see just how accurate it is. It’s on-line at www.darksky.net, and available at Apple’s app store (\$3.99).
19856. Mort Drucker died on Apr. 9. He was one of the stars in the “usual gang of idiots” who made Mad magazine one of the most successful magazines of the 1970s. He worked for DC comics in the 1940s and went on to a 55-year career at Mad. Stabur Graphics advertised his signed caricature of Sherlock Holmes in the March 1984 issue of The Baker Street Journal.
19857. “Sherlock Holmes in Russia” is a new Russian television mini-series, with Maxim Matveev as Holmes in St. Petersburg, following the trail of Jack the Ripper (who has fled to Russia). Alexander Orlov has reported a trailer for the series, on-line at www.start.ru/watch/sherlock-v-rossii. And if that link doesn’t work, try www.kinopoisk.ru/film/1272376/video/166497. START is a subscription streaming service, available world-wide; it costs \$7.99 a month in the U.S.
19858. Porter Press International is offering their remaining copies of Douglas Wilmer’s splendid autobiography *Stage Whispers* (April 09 #3) at £14.95, with 75% going to the World Health Organization’s COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund www.tinyurl.com/yat99q28.
19859. Matt Lubbers-Moore’s *Murder and Mayhem: An Annotated Bibliography of Gay and Queer Males in Mystery, 1909-2018* (Los Angeles: ReQueered Tales, 2020; 923 pp., \$39.95) is a detailed survey of the genre; the 3,061 entries include main-stream pastiches such as Gyles Brandreth’s series about Oscar Wilde as a detective and Russell A. Brown’s *Sherlock Holmes and the Mysterious Friend of Oscar Wilde*, Larry Townsend’s *The Sexual Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, Michael Hardwick’s novelization of the film “The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes”, many modern niche pastiches, and Conan Doyle’s *Round the Fire Stories*, which contained the short story “The Man with the Watches” (Lubbers-Moore discusses the story in some detail, and presents the text so that readers can judge the homosexual content for themselves).
19860. Roger Johnson notes in the Sherlock Holmes Society of London’s newsletter The District Messenger that the street artist Banksy has posted Instagram images of his latest artwork, showing (according to Roger) “clearly distant relatives of the Giant Rat of Sumatra” www.tinyurl.com/y9wh4a8d.
19861. The saga of the Lyndhurst Park Hotel continues. The New Milton Advertiser and Lymington Times reported on Jan. 10 that a section of the derelict hotel had begun to collapse www.tinyurl.com/ybsb8ja6, and on Feb. 26 that a new developer had pledged to revive the “original architectural glory” of the hotel as part of a plan to convert the property into 85 homes and five shops. A Hoburne Development representative explained that the project would bring back the entrance and battlement-style terraces designed by Conan Doyle in 1912 www.tinyurl.com/y9phrgp6.
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April 2020 #7

19862. “Even Sir Arthur Conan Doyle found contact lenses fascinating,” Valentina Lombardo wrote in *Advanced Science News* (Feb. 17) “to the point of deciding to have them used by his character, private detective Sherlock Holmes, in some of his disguises.” Not in the Canon, so presumably in one or more pastiches. Which ones?
19863. Kenneth C. Lanza (“His Last Bow”) died on Apr. 13. He was an enthusiastic admirer of Frank Sinatra, old-time radio, and of course Sherlock Holmes; he was a co-founder of Altamont’s Agents of Schenectady, and was awarded his Investiture in the Baker Street Irregulars in 1997.
19864. The *Baker Street Almanac 2020*, modestly described by editor Ross E. Davies as “an annual capsule of a timeless past and future,” previously published on-line (March 20 #1), now is available in a print edition (\$30.00 postpaid) with (as promised by Ross) some amusing extras. It is also imaginatively packaged, as you can see at www.greenbag.org/almanacs/BS/2020.html.
19865. Jason Lethcoe’s *No Place Like Holmes: The Future Door* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2011; 209 pp., \$9.99) is the second book about Griffin Sharpe, a young American living in London with his uncle Rupert Snodgrass, who lives at 221A Baker Street; it’s juvenile fiction, and nicely done, with adventures, time travel, and plenty of villains (including two Moriartys).
19866. VisitBritain (aka the British Tourist Authority) made headlines this month after posting an interactive map that highlighted British literature but included locations only for English writers. According to The Times (Apr. 16), the map displayed Sherlock Holmes as “the quintessential English detective,” even though there’s a statue of him in Edinburgh. VisitBritain quickly removed the map from its web-site, explaining that a VisitEngland “literary heroes” map published in 2018 had mistakenly been republished as British.
19867. Keiji Fujiwara died on Apr. 12. He began his career as a voice actor in Japanese film and television in 1968; his many credits include dubbing for Robert Downey Jr. in “Sherlock Holmes” (2009) and “Sherlock Holmes: Game of Shadows” (2011).
19868. Here’s your chance to see a member of the Baker Street Irregulars in action: Helen Dorey (“Helen Stoner”) is deputy director and inspectress at Sir John Soane’s Museum in London, and “Opening Up the Soane” is a three-episode report on their long-term restoration project; you can watch the series on-line at their web-site www.soane.org or at YouTube.
19869. In 1982 the television series “Fantasy Island” included a segment titled “Save Sherlock Holmes” in which Ron Ely played a department store detective in a fantasy that had him rescuing Sherlock Holmes from Prof. Moriarty. The cast included Peter Lawford as Sherlock Holmes, Donald O’Connor as Dr. Watson, Mel Ferrer as Moriarty, and Rita Jenrette (whose activities in Washington inspired the name of the group of political-satire performers “The Capitol Steps”) as Nurse Heavenly. Howard Ostrom has found the segment on-line at www.youtube.com/watch?v=h2RyY6F8oOQ.
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April 2020 #8

19870. "As you value your life and your reason, you should keep away from the dates," Paul Thomas Miller warns in the introduction to *Watson Does Not Lie: A Chronology of Sherlock Holmes and John H. Watson* (Cabin John: Wildside, 2019; 182 pp., \$14.99). Obviously he has ignored his own advice, as a new recruit to the stalwart band who have labored to make sense of Canonical dates, and his approach is to take what Watson has written as gospel, offering explanations for the many contradictions found in the Canon.
19871. "Britain's Ancient Tracks with Tony Robinson" is a British television series broadcast on Channel 4; their episode "Dartmoor" (2017) explored the story of the Hound of the Baskervilles, and Jennie Paton found it on-line at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=FgQETaP7U7g>.
19872. You'll soon be able to see Benedict Cumberbatch and Jonny Lee Miller play the same character (not Sherlock Holmes), thanks to the National Theatre, which is making recordings of past productions available on-line at YouTube each week, and you'll be able to see their "Frankenstein" the first week in May <www.tinyurl.com/yblepqbh>; it's a spectacular show, thanks to Danny Boyle (who also produced the recent Summer Olympics in London).
19873. Theatrics (some theaters are planning to be open this summer, and others are planning ahead): Tal Aviezer's "Sherlock Holmes: The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle" is scheduled at the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum in Pelham Bay Park, N.Y., June 6-14 <www.bartowpellmansionmuseum.org>.
19874. Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is scheduled at the Gorton Theatre in Gloucester, Mass., July 10-Aug. 2 <www.gloucesterstage.com>; at the Balzer Theater at Herren's in Atlanta, Ga., Dec. 2-27 <www.theateroutfit.org>; at the Merrimack Repertory Theatre in Lowell, Mass., Feb. 10-28, 2021; and at the Alley Theatre in Houston, Tex., Mar. 12 <www.alleytheatre.org>.
19875. Jeffrey Hatcher's "Holmes and Watson" will be performed at the Playhouse at White Lake in Whitehall, Mich., Aug. 20-22, during their Summer Theatre Festival <www.theplayhouseatwhitelake.org>.
19876. John Barry's "Sherlock's Excellent Adventure" is scheduled at the Phoenix Theatre in Ross-on-Wye, Herts., Sept. 9-12 <www.phoenix-theatre.org.uk>.
19877. Christopher M. Walsh's "Miss Holmes Returns" is due at the Lifeline Theatre in Chicago, Ill., Sept. 11-Nov. 1 <www.lifelinetheater.org>.
19878. Brian Guehring's "Sherlock Holmes and the First Baker Street Irregular" is scheduled by the Children's Theatre of Charleston in Charleston, W. Va., Oct. 1-4 <www.ctoc.org>.
19879. Robert Brock's marionette production "The Death & Life of Sherlock Holmes" is scheduled at the Lancaster Marionette Theatre in Lancaster, Pa., Oct. 31-Nov. 14 <www.lancastermarionette.org>.

May 2020 #1

19880. The 6sqft blog reported on April 24 <www.tinyurl.com/ycah5tum> on an interesting two-bedroom condominium at 106 Waverly Place near Washington Square in New York City, with 1,520 square feet, advertised at \$3 million. One of its features is a library with teak built-in shelves and a secret closet that you can access by pulling on a copy of *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*.
19881. *The Figure of the Detective: A Literary History and Analysis*, by Charles Brownson (Jefferson: McFarland, 2014; 210 pp., \$29.95) is an interesting academic discussion of the genre. Brownson's introduction to the detective story was reading, aged seven or eight, Walter R. Brooks' *Freddy the Detective*, and his book progresses from the preclassical detective to the metaphysical modern; there's a chapter about Sherlock Holmes, of course, with a section on "portrayals of Holmes as an index of social change" in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" and other stories in films and television.
19882. "Mad Movies with the L.A. Connection" was a 30-minute series that was produced in 1985; Jennie Paton discovered their version of "Sherlock Holmes and the Secret Weapon" on-line at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=BOV3fZLEs_0>.
19883. "Start the day at Speedy's Café, beneath the lodgings of Holmes and Watson," was the suggestion of the Londonist (Feb. 17). It's located at 187 North Gower Street, and has a Sherlockian menu; the article has some nice images <www.tinyurl.com/y79doj9c>, and one assumes that Speedy's will be open again eventually.
19884. Hans Meyer died on Apr. 3. He began his acting career in films in France in the 1960s, and went on to perform in television in the 1970s; he played Heberich/Veitch in Granada's "The Master Blackmailer" (1992).
19885. One hears of (well, sees) Sherlock everywhere: Mike Berdan has noted the Rolling Stones' "One World: Together at Home" split-screen video concert <www.youtube.com/watch?v=N7pZgQepXfA>; they performed "You Can't Always Get What You Want" from their homes on Apr. 18, and Keith Richards has on the table in front of him an indigo leather-bound copy of *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*. It's the Easton Press edition, published in 1981 in black leather, and later in indigo leather.
19886. When in New South Wales: the South China Morning Post ran a nicely illustrated story on Feb. 25 about the Hydro Majestic Blue Mountains Hotel, now "home to heritage luxury," noting that Conan Doyle stayed there during his visit to Australia in 1920.
19887. Those who attended the Sherlockian conference in Minneapolis last August may recall Steve Mason's challenge to identify the Canonical cases represented by an assortment of his imaginative Canonical needlepoint mats. He offered a similar challenge to members of the Beacon Society last month, with a deadline of Apr. 25, but you can see his mats in full color at the society's web-site <www.beaconsociety.com> [click on "the puzzles of sherlock holmes"].

May 2020 #2

19888. "So That's Why Mr. Darcy Swims Wearing Shirt and Trousers" was the headline on a story in The Sunday Times on Feb. 23, about the "no nudity" clause the National Trust includes in its contracts with film and television companies, "to avoid causing distress to visitors on a day out." They made an exception, however, for a scene shot at Cliveden in which Robert Downey Jr. was filmed tied to a bed wearing only a strategically-placed pillow in his "Sherlock Holmes" (2009). The company was required to isolate the room in the estate's hotel so that guests did not encounter the star in the "modesty pouch" he wore between takes.
19889. If you have access to Disney+, there's an excellent six-part series titled "Imagineering" about how Disney theme parks were and are created; it's not Sherlockian, but there's another program on the channel that is: "Waking Sleeping Beauty" (2009, an 86-minute documentary about the Disney Renaissance from 1984 to 1994 that revived Disney animation, with discussion of and clips from "The Great Mouse Detective" (1986). According to the documentary, it was Peter Schneider, then president of Walt Disney Feature Animation, who was responsible for changing the title of the film based on Eve Titus' *Basil of Baker Street* (Wikipedia and other sources say that it was Michael Eisner (CEO and chairman of the board of the company) who ordered the name of the film changed).
19890. And then there's "The Great Louse Detective" (an episode of the Fox television series "The Simpsons") that aired on Dec. 15, 2020; there's nothing Sherlockian about the episode other than the punning title.
19891. If you are running out of room in your library, an Atlas Obscura post on Apr. 24 (spotted by Bev Wolov) about "7 Spectacular Libraries You Can Explore from Your Living Room" <www.tinyurl.com/y84lucc6> will be of interest, with virtual-reality tours of some spectacular libraries.

19892. The West Liberty Public Library has an imaginative outreach program that includes videos of director Allie Paarsmith's daily readings from *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* <www.facebook.com/WLPublicLibrary>.
19893. Scottish Field reported on Jan. 15 that the latest release in Macallan's Archival Series of fine whiskies will honor the tale of the "luggy bonnet" told in one of Macallan's old advertisements <www.tinyurl.com/yay99pkj>. The luggy bonnet's a (non-Sherlockian) deerstalker, and you can see the advertisement (and read the amusing story) in the magazine. It was a limited issue, and there was a lottery; the winners paid £250 per bottle.
19894. "What do you know, pray, of Tapanuli fever?" Holmes asked Watson (in "The Dying Detective"). And "Catch a Glimpse of Tapanuli, the World's Newest Ape" was headline on Matthew Moore's story in The Times on Apr. 18 about the Tapanuli orangutan, featured in "Primates" (a three-part series from the BBC's Natural History Unit). *Pongo tapanuliensis* was identified as a distinct species in 2017, and is found only in a small area in the Batang Toru area of South Tapanuli in Sumatra, and according to Wikipedia it is the world's rarest great ape.
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May 2020 #3

19895. A few years back the Royal Mail issued a set of eight stamps honoring the 50th anniversary of the BBC's long-running tele- vision series "Dad's Army" (June 18 #3); the actors included Arthur Lowe as Capt. George Mainwaring and John Le Mesurier as Sgt. Arthur Wilson. They will soon be available <www.tinyurl.com/y8sy8qpt> as "bobble buddies" from Big Chief Studios. Lowe played Dr. William Watson in "The Strange Case of the End of Civilization as We Know It" (1977), and Le Mesurier was Eduardo Lucas in "The Second Stain" in the Alan Wheatley television series (1951), Barrymore in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1959), and Lord Redcliff in "The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes' Smarter Brother" (1975).
19896. Ian Whitcomb died on Apr. 19. He was an English entertainer, singer-songwriter, record producer, writer, broadcaster, and actor, and was photographed wearing a deerstalker on cover of the EP record "N-e-r-v-o-u-s!" released by Capital Records (1965). There's nothing Sherlockian about the song; You can listen to it (and read the transcribed lyrics) on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/yceohm8s>.
19897. Howard Ostrom has noted another Sherlockian connection for Ian Whitcomb: he narrated the audiobooks for some of the many Sherlockian pastiches that have been written by Pennie Mae Cartawick.
19898. Dynamite Entertainment has made the first issue of many of its comic-book series available on-line free <www.tinyurl.com/gqckfo3>, one of them being *The Trial of Sherlock Holmes* (2009), which was written by Leah Moore and John Reppion; only the first of the five issues is free, but of course you are welcome to purchase the other four. Dynamite has published many other Sherlockian series and graphic novels, in English and in French.
19899. The Scintillation of Scions has come up with an imaginative way to celebrate the now-canceled gathering in June, offering T-shirts and tote bags for sale <www.tinyurl.com/yaryc9p9>.
19900. Josh Lanyon is a prolific author of male/male romance fiction, including a "Holmes & Moriarity" series starring mystery author Christopher Holmes and former police officer J. X. Moriarity, with occasion allusions to Sherlock Holmes; the third title in the series is *The Boy with the Painful Tattoo* (Palmdale: JustJoshin, 2014; 236 pp., \$15.99. The author's web-site is at <www.joshlanyon.com>.
19901. The famous (perhaps infamous) "tent joke" has been making its rounds since 1998, and you can read it in this newsletter (December 01 #6), or (as noted by Jennie Paton) see it performed in Sinhalese at <www.tinyurl.com/y7gzia7g>.
19902. The manuscript of an unpublished chapter from "The Land of Mist" went to auction at Christie's last year (July 19 #1), estimated at £3,000-£5,000; it sold for £13,750 (including the buyer's premium). Now the manuscript of the story (as published) is on offer in a private sale, for £120,000. Visit <www.bestofsherlock.com/mss/land-mist-2020.htm> for Randall Stock's discussion, with links to Christie's description of the manuscript as well as Christie's books-and-manuscripts specialist Sophie Hopkins.
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May 2020 #4

19903. "Technique Critique" (an interesting web-site uploaded to YouTube by Wired) offers real experts recruited to offer commentary on films and television, and the episode on "Spies & Disguises" has Joanna Mendez, former CIA Chief of Disguise, discussing 30 scenes, one of them (on "furniture camouflage") <www.tinyurl.com/y8fc2yce> Sherlockian.
19904. Molly Guptill Manning's *When Books Went to War: The Stories That Helped Us Win World War II* (2014) is an interesting discussion of the Armed Services Editions, the 123 million paperbacks that were distributed free among the men fighting in every theater of the war. There were more than 1,300 titles in the series, including Christopher Morley's *Kitty Foyle* and two Nero Wolfe books by Rex Stout, but nothing by Arthur Conan Doyle. There was, however, one Sherlockian title that collectors might want to pursue: Bennett Cerf's *Try and Stop Me*, a collection of humorous anecdotes and stories that include two about Conan Doyle and Holmes.
19905. Kathy Manos Penn's *Bells, Tails & Murder* (Atlanta: Manos Penn & Ink, 2020; 246 pp. \$9.99) is the first of her "Dickens & Christie" mysteries; Dickens is a dog and Christie is a cat, owned by Leta Parker, who talks with them while they investigate crimes in the Cotswolds, where J. M. Barrie lived for a time in Stanway House (where Milne and Conan Doyle are said to have visited). It's Barrie who's at the heart of the mystery, and the author has a web-site at <www.kathymanospenn.com>.
19906. Yes, Virginia, there is a Sherlockian face mask, offered by TeePublic, but possibly temporarily out of stock <www.tinyurl.com/y8l7qd9c>.
19907. Howard Ostrom has reported that Tal Aveizer, whose Sherlockian plays are performed by the Red Monkey Theater Group, reads some of the Canon on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/yavbgxi9>.
19908. "La dernière enquête de Sherlock Holmes" ["Sherlock Holmes' Last Investigation"] is an imaginative and nicely-produced 15-minute Swiss film that was produced by Gaël Grobéty and issued on a DVD (with English sub-titles) and added features in 2010; you can watch a trailer and purchase the film (CHF 10) at <www.sherlockholmes-lefilm.ch>.
19909. There was a series of six Sherlock Holmes television programs broadcast in Germany in 1967 and 1968, with Erich Schellow (Sherlock Holmes) and Paul Edwin Roth (Dr. Watson), and Jennie Paton has discovered them all at YouTube <www.youtube.com/channel/UC4h-j2r_hZRreC8biOX9zyg>.
19910. Tom Fahres reports a treat for fans of Lewis Carroll, and Benedict Cumberbatch, who reads "Jabberwocky" at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q_Um3787fSY>
19911. "The Booksellers" is a delightful documentary about the N.Y. antiquarian book trade; you can read Ella Taylor's enthusiastic review of the film on National Public Radio at <www.tinyurl.com/y7aozj6c>. You can also stream the film (\$9.99 for three days rental) at various Internet web-sites, one of them being <www.theavalon.org>. It's not Sherlockian, but one of the dealers is Rebecca Romney ("That Gap on the Second Shelf" in the BSI); you can see what sort of books she offers at <www.typepunchmatrix.com>.
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May 2020 #5

19912. Mike Kean has reported a book offered by Burnside Rare Books that has nice Sherlockian provenance: the first American edition of Eric Ambler's *A Coffin for Dimitrios*, with a dust jacket and inscribed by Ambler at the Mystery Writers of America dinner in 1975 (when he won the Grand Master

- Award) to Norman Nolan (“Godfrey Norton” in the Baker Street Irregulars), from the collection of Otto Penzler (“The King of Bohemia” in the BSI); \$5,500 <www.tinyurl.com/ya4cqvh>. Another copy, inscribed to a non-Sherlockian, is advertised at AbeBooks for only \$4,500.
19913. Howard Ostrom continues to revise and expand his data-base of Sherlockian music “Under the Clock, Sherlock - Still Rockin’ After All These Years”; it’s a 249-page file, with images and links, and it’s available on request from Howard at <howardostrom@gmail.com>.
19914. “Though it pains me to admit it, I love my Kindle,” writes Maggie Topkis, who presides over the publisher Felony & Mayhem <www.tinyurl.com/yc2jkzg9> and is offering a 30% discount on e-books, including Michelle Birkby’s pastiche *All Roads Lead to Whitechapel*, while sales of print books are on hold.
19915. Gordon McAlpine’s *Holmes Entangled* (Amherst: Seventh Street Books, 2018; 189 pp., \$13.95) begins with the discovery (by J. L. Borges in Argentina) of a manuscript written by Holmes, and continues with his account of what happened when in 1928 he was consulted by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle; the tale is well told, with twists, turns, surprises, and humor. Recommended.
19916. Mark Jones and Paul Chapman are continuing their interesting discussions of the writings of Conan Doyle (focusing on his non-Sherlockian work) at their “Doings of Doyle” podcast <www.doingsofdoyle.com>; their latest post considers “The Case of Lady Sannox”. They’ve also devised “Cards Against Holmanity” (their amusing version of “Cards Against Humanity”), offered as a free download at <www.bit.ly/CAHumanity> and nicely done indeed.
19917. *Son of Sherlock*, by Amanda C. Raymond (Mesa: EpiphanyMill, 2017; 492 pp., \$14.95), is the story of what happens when 13-year-old Jonathan Eaton discovers that he is the son of Sherlock Holmes, then identifies his murdered mother, and soon is launched into a complicated and perilous campaign for justice, with battles against villains both high and low.
19918. Laurie R. King has been keeping busy while waiting for the launch of her now Mary Russell novel *Riviera Gold* (April 20 #1), and there’s much to see at her web-site <www.laurierking.com>, including background on the book in her “Mutterings” blog, plus a (free) download of a PDF of her short story “Mrs. Hudson’s First Case” illustrated by Mary Russell fans. Laurie also has an interesting YouTube channel <www.youtube.com/user/LaurieRKing>.
19919. Rachel McMillan’s *A Lesson in Love & Murder* (Eugene: Harvest House, 2018; 218 pp., \$12.99) is the second of three novels featuring Merinda Herringford and Jem Watts (two young women who would like to become detectives in the tradition of Holmes and Watson); they’re set in Toronto, and this one involves radical anarchists and a member of the Royal North-West Mounted Police in 1912. The author’s web-site is at <www.rachelmcmillan.net>.

May 2020 #6

19920. TV Tropes (which describes itself as “the all devouring pop-culture wiki”) defines a “noodle incident” as “something from the past that is sometimes referred to but never explained, with the implication that it’s just too ludicrous for words—or perhaps too offensive for depiction—and the reality that any explanation would fall short of audience expectations.” They’ve found noodle incidents in many categories, including “literature”, with a number of citations for Sherlock Holmes in the Canon and its many derivatives <www.tinyurl.com/y8gnzmbu>.
19921. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London web-site has an interesting new feature: the Sherlock Holmes Gazetteer <www.gazetteer.sherlock-holmes.org.uk> that will offer images of and commentary on places suggested as locations in the Canon. It’s not yet complete, but it’s well worth a look.
19922. It has long been known that Queen Mary’s Dolls’ House has in its library the bound manuscript for Conan Doyle’s pastiche “How Watson Learned the Trick” (written as his contribution to the library), but it turns out that there’s another Sherlockian item in the library, mentioned in an article in the Daily Mail (May 11) <www.tinyurl.com/yaub3mmu> about a posting about the library at the Royal Family’s Instagram account <www.tinyurl.com/ybo2zqc3>. The library also contains a miniature issue of The Strand Magazine with a Sherlockian article (presumably Fenn Sherie’s “Sherlock Holmes on the Film”, that was published in the July 1921 issue). The front and back covers can be seen at the Royal Collection’s web-site <www.tinyurl.com/y86z4pmd>, and it’s not known (yet) whether the miniature issue actually has the article. In any case, there’s now a unique variant of the magazine that completist collectors can only yearn for.
19923. When in Ooty (in India): you can stay at the Sherlock Hotel (when you can travel again, of course) <www.littleearth.in/sherlock/history.php>.
19924. Steve Doyle is hosting a new video podcast for the Baker Street Irregulars called the Fortnightly Dispatch: the first episode is his interview with Ray Betzner, discussing Vincent Starrett <www.youtu.be/5M8sWGzIIUc>, and he expects to post every other Monday at the Baker Street Journal’s page at Facebook and its channel at YouTube.
19925. Next year being the 70th anniversary of the Sherlock Holmes Exhibition in London, Catherine Cooke <ccooke@westminster.gov.uk> would greatly appreciate hearing from anyone who has items, with display labels, and other original material, that were part of the Exhibition. A few items are known to have survived in library collections, the Sherlock Holmes Pub, and private collections; if you have anything from the Exhibition, please get in touch with Catherine.
19926. “Sherlock Holmes Is the Marvel Universe’s Greatest Hero” is the headline on a story in Screen Rant on May 20 <www.tinyurl.com/y9n7uqkd> about the four-issue graphic-novel series *Deadpool Illustrated*, published by Marvel Entertainment in 2013 and kindly reported by Aziz Bin Adam. Screen Rant offers an explanation and some of the artwork.

May 2020 #7

19927. Further to the earlier report (April 17 #4) on the new SHERLOCK inexpensive diagnostic tool for detecting nucleic acids from disease-carrying microbes (developed from CRISPR), there was a report in the Washington Post on May 8 <www.tinyurl.com/ybemwpgu> that the Food and Drug Administration has approved the use of a CRISPR-engineered molecule to detect the genetic signature of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. CRISPR is an acronym for Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats, and SHERLOCK is an acronym for Specific High Sensitivity Enzymatic Reporter unLOCKing. Feng Zhang, a molecular biologist at MIT, was a co-inventor of CRISPR and a year ago a co-founder of Sherlock Biosciences, said that “we think this has a lot of potential” in the current pandemic.
19928. F. Bennett’s *The Secret Diary of Mycroft Holmes* (Manchester, Belanger Books, 2017; 193 p., \$12.95) is sub-titled “the thoughts and reminiscences of Sherlock Holmes’ Elder Brother, 1880-1888,” and it seems that Watson is not the only Canonical character who possesses an unexpected vein of pawky humor, on display in Mycroft’s account of his early career, his family, and his relations with his younger brother.
19929. In 1976 the John H. Jenkins Award for Bibliography honored Ronald B. De Waal for his ground-breaking work on *The World Bibliography of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson*, and for those who know little (or nothing) about Jenkins, there’s a new biography of the colorful Texas antiquarian book dealer, by Michael Vinson: *Bluffing Texas Style* (Norman: Univ. Of Oklahoma Press, 2020; 250 pp., \$45.00). It’s full of grand stories about Jenkins’

- “arsons, forgeries, and high-stakes poker capers,” as well as his timely and mysterious death, and there are passing mentions of three members of the Baker Street Irregulars (Stillman Drake, Christopher Morley, and Lew David Feldman).
19930. Paul Thomas Miller’s “Doyle’s Rotary Coffin” (March 19 #4), a society whose motto is “All Holmes Is Good Holmes,” has published *However Improbable* (a new “scrapbook of strange Holmesiana”), available as a (free) download at the society’s web-site <www.tinyurl.com/yb4rmqx6>; it’s their second book, and the contents are amusing and interesting, as well as strange.
19931. Geek Tyrant had an interesting interview (with video) on May 24 with VFX artists who worked on the visual effects in four films, one of which was “Sherlock Holmes: Game of Shadows” (2011) <www.tinyurl.com/y73hu7bl>.
19932. *Sheerluck Versus the Paranormal: Volume One* (London: MX Published, 2018; 90 pp., \$9.95) is the first of three graphic novels written by Dean Wilkinson and illustrated by Joseph Keen, offering an amusing account of what happens when Sheerluck and his sister Watson become involved (in this volume) with zombies, cursed paintings, slender man, and doppelgangers. MX’s books are available at a discount at <www.sherlockholmesbooks.com>.
19933. And: T. L. Garrison’s *The Twisted Blackmailer* (2016; 280 pp., \$14.95) is a fine pastiche for young adults: Sherlock Holmes and Joanna Watson are both teen-age girls who meet in high school and become partners, investigating cases that echo the Canon; the story’s nicely told, and the girls are both appropriate and believable.
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May 2020 #8

19934. Fred Willard died on May 15. A highly-regarded comic actor, he was well-known for his unscripted appearances in films and on television. He was seen in Sherlockian costume in the “Hostess to Murder” episode of “Just Shoot Me” (1999) and was more or less Sherlockian in “Best of Show” (2000) and “For Your Consideration” (2006); you can see him in action in Scott Monty’s tribute at his “I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere” blog at <www.tinyurl.com/y8qoendk>.
19935. Sorry about that: with regard to the item about Banksy and his image of a distant relative of the Giant Rat of Sumatra (April 20 #6), it’s Jean Upton who’s now the editor of *The District Messenger*, which still is distributed by Roger Johnson.
19936. Jean reports in the May issue of *The District Messenger* that Bert Coules has been working on a one-man stage show “Watson: The Final Problem” to be performed by Tim Marriott when theaters open again. In the meantime, you can watch a video trailer for the play and listen to a one-hour audio version at their web-site <www.smokescreenprods.com>.
19937. The “Holmes in the Heartland” conference that was scheduled in St. Louis on July 24-26 <www.tinyurl.com/yd5elmpj> has been postponed until summer 2021.
19938. The on-going pandemic means that there’s not much theater scheduled, but there are plans for at least a few productions. “Sherlock Holmes and the Curious Case of Miss Alice Faulkner” (an adaptation of Gillette’s “Sherlock Holmes”) will be performed at the Molino Community Center in Molino, Fla., July 31-Aug. 1 <www.tinyurl.com/y7p3nfad>.
19939. Tal Aviezer’s “Sherlock Holmes: The Adventure of the Copper Beeches” has been scheduled at the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum in Pelham Bay Park, N.Y., Aug. 14-23 <www.bartowpellmansionmuseum.org>.
19940. Mark Shanahan’s new “A Sherlock Carol” will be performed at a script-in-hand reading at the Westport Country Playhouse in Westport., Conn., Dec. 14 <www.westportplayhouse.com>.
19941. Ken Ludwig’s “Baskerville” will be performed at the Metropolis Performing Arts Centre in Arlington Heights, Ill., Jan. 28-Mar. 13; their web-site’s at <www.metropolisarts.com>. It’s also scheduled (in Swedish) at the Åbo Svenska Teater in Turku, Finland, in Jan. <www.abovenskatheater.fi>.
19942. Ken Ludwig’s new “Moriarty” will have its world premiere at the Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Apr. 17-May 16 <www.cincyplay.com>.
19943. Steven Canny and John Nicholson’s “The Hound of the Baskervilles” will be performed at the California Theatre in Pittsburg, Calif., in the summer of 2021 <www.pittsburgcommunitytheatre.org>.
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June 2020 #1

19944. Those who have been waiting patiently for full details on the Sherlockian birthday festivities in New York will be glad to hear that the reports now are available at <www.tinyurl.com/ybj4grub>. Steve Doyle’s video podcasts for the Baker Street Irregulars are continuing at YouTube; you can search for [fortnightly dispatch] to find interviews with Ray Betzner, Bob Katz, and others. If you would like to receive more of this sort of news from the BSI, you should sign up for occasional messages at the BSI’s web-site <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/bsi-news-via-email>.
19945. The manuscript of “The Land of Mist”, on offer in a private sale at Christie’s (May 20 #3), will be included in an on-line public auction that opens on July 9 and closes on July 30 <www.tinyurl.com/ybp7g8tw>. Randall Stock provides a discussion of the manuscript at his “Best of Sherlock” web-site <www.bestofsherlock.com/mss/land-mist-2020.htm>.
19946. Sherlockian collectors will be more interested in the offer of the manuscript of “The Greek Interpreter”, offered by Sotheby’s in an on-line auction that opens on July 6 and closes on July 21 <www.tinyurl.com/y76zrso> (the estimate is \$400,000-\$600,000). Randall’s description of this manuscript is at <www.tinyurl.com/y84j47g6>.
19947. “Drat! The Cat!” was a short-lived (11 previews and 8 performances) Broadway musical that came and went in 1965; the score included a song “Holmes and Watson” that was sung by Lesley Ann Warren and Elliott Gould. A publicity photograph recently offered at eBay <www.tinyurl.com/yac8ytr9> is a nice reminder of the show (I’m not aware of any Sherlockian who actually saw the musical).
19948. The South Carolina State Museum in Columbia, S.C. <www.scmuseum.org> has opened to the public, and the International Sherlock Holmes Exhibition is still there, extended into September. The exhibition’s due at the Minnesota Historical Center in St. Paul, Minn., from Oct. 1, 2021 to Mar. 21, 2022.
19949. The Mysterious Bookshop posts to its customers helpful reading lists compiled by authors, and here’s what Lyndsay Faye wrote when recommending *The Complete Sherlock Holmes*: “These books are the best 60 short stories and novels ever to happen, but it’s not ultimately about how they solve crime or embark on adventures. These tales are about the most beautiful literary friendship I’ve ever seen. They helped define who I am as a person, and that’s not an exaggeration. Some of my best connections, life decisions, clarifying moments, and wonderful challenges were about these characters helping me figure out who I am.”
19950. If you’ve watched any of the German television programs that starred Erich Schellow and Paul Edwin Roth in 1967 and 1968 (May 20 #4) and thought the dramatizations were familiar, there’s a reason: Bert Coules notes that the scripts were adapted from the BBC’s television series that starred Douglas Wilmer and Nigel Stock.
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June 2020 #2

19951. “Conan Doyle slept here” may not be heard and read as often as “George Washington slept here” when it comes to old houses and hotels, but Prince Hall in Princetown, Dartmoor, formerly a private home and now a hotel www.princehall.co.uk, says at its web-site that “it is thought that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle stayed at Prince Hall and was inspired by the surrounding countryside to write *The Hound of the Baskervilles*.”
19952. Alexander Orlov has discovered an imaginative caricature of Conan Doyle, published in *Caricatures by Tom Tit* (1913); “Tom Tit” was the pen name of Arthur Good (1853-1928), a French engineer, science educator, journalist, author, artist, and caricaturist. The book has been digitized and is available at the Internet Archive www.tinyurl.com/y8vwwcve.
19953. Proceedings of the Pondicherry Lodge, the semi-annual electronic newsletter edited by Jayantika Ganguly for the Sherlock Holmes Society of India, is now in its eighth year. The current issue (with 240 pages) offers colorfully illustrated scholarship, commentary, pastiches, the script of an audio play, and a quiz; all issues of the Proceedings can be found at the society web-site www.sherlockholmessocietyofindia.com.
19954. My Modern Met reported on June 8 about an imaginative Sherlockian DIY Book Nook Kit www.mymodernmet.com/hemisphere-design-book-nooks. It’s sold by Creative Design at Etsy www.tinyurl.com/yceojr9n (€74.32), and it will be a nice Christmas present for any do-it-yourselfers who have any room on their shelves.
19955. Further to the earlier reports on SHERLOC and WATSON (April 14 #2 and April 19 #5), the instruments are ready for their exploration of Mars. The mission is scheduled for launch between July 17 and Aug. 5, according to a report from Firstpost on May 29 www.tinyurl.com/y8v6j4o4. SHERLOC (an acronym for Scanning Habitable Environments with Raman and Luminescence for Organ-ics and Chemicals) is a spectrometer that will be working with WATSON (a camera that will take close-up pictures of rock textures). The National Aeronautics and Space Administration’s colorful press release on exploration of the Red Planet is on-line at www.tinyurl.com/yafo2xve, and there is more about SHERLOC at www.tinyurl.com/y95s4ln6. And WATSON (also an acronym) is NASA’s Wide Angle Topographic Sensor for Operations and eNginering.
19956. Almost Canonical: “Discard the impossible; then if *nothing* remains, some part of the ‘impossible’ must be possible.” Who said it?
19957. Basil Rathbone once was asked whether he preferred playing Sherlock Holmes in films or on the radio, and he explained that acting on radio is by far more fun, “because no one can see what you look like.” Perhaps the best example of this is the dramatization by Bert Coules of “A Scandal in Bohemia” for BBC Radio 4 in 1990, with Clive Merrison as Sherlock Holmes and Michael Williams as Dr. Watson. The King of Bohemia was played by Andrew Sachs (whom you may remember as Manuel, the Spanish Waiter in the television series “Fawlty Towers”). You can hear him as the King of Bohemia at www.youtube.com/watch?v=yI8Cs_2_3ko.

June 2020 #3

19958. A wide variety of audiobooks are available (without charge) on the Internet, at web-sites such as LibriVox, including Sherlockian and Doylean titles, and parodies and pastiches such as J. Kendrick Bangs’ *The Pursuit of the House-Boat* and Mark Twain’s *The Double-Barreled Detective Story* (you can search for author or title, so you need to know what you’re looking for) www.librivox.org.
19959. Graham Reid has died. He was a British actor who began his career in the early 1990s, performing as Graham Martin, and he played Sherlock Holmes in Tim Churchill’s dramatization of “The Hound of the Baskervilles” in 2018.
19960. Phoebe Judge reads classic mysteries, including “The Hound of the Baskervilles” at her “This Is Criminal” blog www.thisiscriminal.com/mystery.
19961. Don Hobbs continues to expand his “Galactic Sherlock Holmes” data-base of foreign translations (which now has almost 11,000 entries) and many full-color illustrations, and would be glad to hear from anyone who has found something that’s not already in the data-base; the latest version is now available on request and without charge (as a 430-MB file via WeTransfer) 221b@verizon.net.
19962. Spotted by Alexander Orlov: “Sherlock Holmes Is on the Case” is the title of an amusing animated video that was uploaded to YouTube by the American Dental Association on Oct. 16, 2019 www.youtube.com/watch?v=86u1Mip2b90.
19963. Ruth Berman kindly forwarded an almost-Canonical “Discard the impossible; then if *nothing* remains, some part of the ‘impossible’ must be possible.” Who said it? Sherlock Holmes’ cousin Dr. Horace Verner, in Anthony Boucher’s “The Anomaly of the Empty Man” (first published in *Fantasy & Science Fiction* (Apr. 1952).
19964. Further to the item (October 19 #2) about Felix Dennis’ “Garden of Heroes and Villains” in Dorsington, Howard Ostrom has reported a post about the garden www.tinyurl.com/y8wlp56v by someone who blogs as peribrown and has a number of interesting posts under the heading “Sherlockian Sojourns”; this one offers images of many of the garden’s life-size bronze sculptures, including Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and the spirit of Sherlock Holmes.
19965. BBC Radio Four Extra celebrated a Sherlock Holmes Weekend on June 13-14, and the good news is that the programs will be available at their web-site well into July; the programs are Peter Mackie’s “The Adventure of the Pimlico Poisoner” (1990) and Nicholas Utechin’s three-hour “The Game’s Afoot: Sherlock Holmes Special” with some delightful treasures from the BBC archives (2008), and links are available at the Sherlock Holmes Society of London’s web-site www.tinyurl.com/yclqkqpg.
19966. Ellery Queen’s *Mystery Magazine* has a long history of offering Sherlockian and Doylean content, and that’s also true of its web-site, where web-only content in “The Crime Scene” includes podcasts with readings of Sherlockian pastiches by Steve Steinbock and Terence Faherty, and Dean Jobb’s blog “Stranger Than Fiction” with a two-part discussion of “Finding Sherlock” www.elleryqueenmysterymagazine.com.

June 2020 #4

19967. Philip Purser-Hallard’s *Sherlock Holmes: The Spider’s Web* (New York: Titan, 2020; 261 pp., \$14.95) is an amusing cross-over pastiche in which Holmes and Watson investigate a complicated mystery in a London populated by characters created by Oscar Wilde; plot and dialogue are thoroughly appropriate. Lenny Picker’s interview with Purser-Hallard for *Publishers Weekly* (June 1) www.tinyurl.com/yarudl7k provides a nice behind-the-scenes look at how the book was written.
19968. There’s much more Sherlockian (and Doylean) material in *Publishers Weekly*, and the magazine has kindly made its current and archival content available without charge to all during the pandemic www.tinyurl.com/yd5sznre. The magazine was founded in 1872, and their first Conan Doyle item was a mention of his story “My Friend the Murderer” in 1883. A search turns up 2,906 hits for [conan doyle] and 3,354 for [sherlock holmes], which will keep researcher busy for a while.
19969. The late August Derleth, who created *Solar Pons* as a tribute to Sherlock Holmes, also was a great admirer of H. P. Lovecraft’s tales of supernatural horror and terror, and Derrick Belanger has edited *The Necronomicon of Solar Pons* (Manchester: Belanger Books, 2020; 429 pp., \$24.95) as a tribute to both of Derleth’s enthusiasms; it’s an anthology of a dozen cross-over pastiches, subtitled as “Lovecraftian Tales of the Sherlock Holmes of Praed Street,” and that’s just what they are.

19970. Derrick also has edited *The Pontine Dossier: Millennium Edition*, a revival of the journal published by the late Luther Norris, founder of the Praed Street Irregulars (2020; 85 pp., \$7.99), with eight new essays about Derleth and Pons. It should be noted that the August Derleth Society, founded in the late 1970s, continues to honor the author and his works; their web-site's at www.augustderleth.org.
19971. And there's more: *Sherlock Holmes Is Everywhere*, edited by David Marcum, Sonia Fetherston, and Derrick Belanger (2019; 302 pp., \$19.99), is an interesting anthology of essays written by long-time Sherlockians and newcomers about the many ways that they have found and enjoyed the world of Sherlock Holmes. *Sherlock Holmes: Adventures in the Realms of Edgar A Ian Poe*, edited by Brian and Derrick Belanger (2019; 369 pp., \$24.95), is an anthology of fourteen-crossover pastiches that bring Holmes and Watson into the many worlds of Poe.
19972. Further to the report (April 20 6) on "Sherlock Holmes in Russia" (the new Russian television mini-series due later this year) Variety published an interview on June 9 www.tinyurl.com/ybrhyzi3 with Nurbek Egen, director of the series (which now is called "Sherlock: The Russian Chronicles").
19973. Katy Perry, a singer, songwriter, and judge (on the ABC-TV television series "American Idol") has issued five albums, with a sixth on the way. She also has written some songs that have not been released; she recently said in an interview that her favorite unreleased song is "Sherlock Holmes" ("I always think that song needed a lyric change and a rerecord on all fronts and it would be great!"). She wrote the song with Glen Ballard, and their lyrics are available on the Internet www.tinyurl.com/ybwbwbnz.
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June 2020 #5

19974. Noted by Dana Richards: "My Blushes, Watson!" is the title of an amusing post by Dales James Nelson a few years ago at Sven Sellanraa's "Orthosphere" blog www.tinyurl.com/yab434ck. The subtitle is "Of Blood, Blushing, Whistling, & Holding Hands" and the post explores how different things could be in Canonical times.
19975. Aziz Bin Adam notes that Iconic VIP Tours offers a Sherlock Holmes Virtual Escape Room Adventure via Zoom www.tinyurl.com/y8nn4hps. There are other literary escape rooms for non-Sherlockians www.iconicviptours.com.
19976. The Rat and Raven is the name of new pub in Lexington, N.C., according to a report in the Lexington Dispatch (June 14) www.tinyurl.com/yabjl7fd; owners Charlie and Layne McCarn inspiration for the name of the pub "was an old Sherlock Holmes movie, where Holmes and Watson duck into a pub with that same name." So: which movie?
19977. Fans who enjoy playing the Sherlock Holmes computer games created by Frogwares will welcome their announcement (with a trailer) www.frogwares.com of a new "Sherlock Holmes: Chapter One" prequel due for release in 2021.
19978. Jennie Paton has discovered Adagio Teas, which advertises a wide range of imaginatively-named and variously-flavored blends of Sherlockian tea, at www.adagio.com/signature_blend.html?blend-90697.
19979. "Dear Holmes" (reviewed in the N.Y. Times Book Review on June 7) was created by Michael Silver at Letterjoy www.dearholmes.com and offers monthly mysteries-by-mail.
19980. Dennis J. O'Neil died on June 11. Best known for revitalizing Batman during his career at Marvel Comics, he was a legendary comic-book writer and editor (sometimes credited as Denny O'Neil); he also worked at DC Comics, where he brought Sherlock Holmes to the public in the 1970s and 1980s.
19981. The Left Coast Sherlockian Symposium, held last October in Portland, Ore., will be held on-line this year on Oct. 19, promising "a fun and educational day of talks, socializing, and friendship" in the image of A Scintillation of Scions. More information, including their list of speakers, will be found at their web-site at www.leftcoastsherlock.com.
19982. Ruth Berman has reported sad news from Minneapolis: Uncle Hugo's/Uncle Edgar's, the joint science-fiction/mystery bookstores owned by Don and Elizabeth Blyly, were set on fire during the recent demonstrations there, and burned to the ground. You can read their detailed report on the tragedy at their web-site www.unclehugo.com/prod/index.shtml.
19983. "Frederic Dorr Steele: Forgotten Master" is the title of a 9-minute video at a new GoFundMe web-site www.bit.ly/FDSteele for a campaign to raise money for a memorial to the artist whose work personified Sherlock Holmes for American readers. After his death in 1944 his ashes were interred in his family's plot in a cemetery in Menands, N.Y., but no stone marks his resting place. The campaign achieved quick success, but information (and the video) still can be found at the GoFundMe web-site.
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June 2020 #6

19984. Ray Wilcockson has made a delightful discovery in the pages of digitized Irish newspapers: Sherlock Holmes and Mycroft Holmes were recorded as passengers leaving Kingstown on the Royal Mail steamer on Sep. 27, 1897, and again on Sep. 27, 1899. He gave a detailed account of his research in his "Markings" blog on June 14 www.tinyurl.com/ybokhaa4, with images of the newspaper items.
19985. Hannah McInally was one of the finalists in the competition to illustrate the Folio Society's *The Selected Adventures and Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes* (2019), and her striking artwork for the cover and three of the stories is available at www.society6.com/abeyance on a wide variety of merchandise.
19986. "Meitantei Conan" [Detective Conan] was first a Japanese manga comic-book series created by Gyosho Aoyama, then developed into a long-running animated television series, and then animated films; Shinichi Kudo is a 17-year-old master detective who is turned by villains into a child, and assumes the name Conan Edogawa (in tribute to Arthur Conan Doyle) and pursues evil-doers. The English-language version is called "Case Closed" and there's a series of DVDs: "The Phantom of Baker Street" (released in Japan in 2002, and with subtitles in English in 2010) has Conan and his friends trapped in a virtual recreation of 19th-century London, pursuing Jack the Ripper; the cast of characters includes Mrs. Hudson, Irene Adler, Sebastian Moran, and James Moriarty, and Sherlock Holmes makes a brief appearance. The DVD is out-of-print, but you can find copies offered at eBay.
19987. Ann Treherne's *Arthur and Me* (2020; 264 pp., £8.99) tells the story of her discovery of the psychic world, her seances, and her communications with Conan Doyle, who helped her find the derelict building that's now the Arthur Conan Doyle Centre in Edinburgh www.arthurconandoylecentre.com; her book offers a detailed look at modern-day spiritualism.
19988. "Arthur Conan Doyle" is a new music video that was uploaded to YouTube by Alien Tango Entertainment on June 3 www.tinyurl.com/yctxsm23. It's performed by Alberto and Oso Peligro, and it's nice indeed that closed captions help one understand the lyrics.
19989. In which movie did Holmes and Watson "duck" into a pub called the Rat and Raven? It was "Sherlock Holmes Faces Death" (1943) (the pub sign in the movie actually reads "The Rat and the Raven").
19990. David Lambert's latest contribution to The Strand Magazine's blog is "The Razor-Potato Man" (analyzing Harlan Ellison's short story "He Who Grew Up Reading Sherlock Holmes") on May 23. Ellison's story was first published in 2014, and Lambert has some interesting commentary.
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19991. Deadline has reported (June 15) <www.tinyurl.com/y9yr4vae> that the team behind Netflix's "Astronomy Club" are moving onward and upward following the cancellation of their sketch comedy show and have partnered with "The Problem with Apu" producer Cowboy Bear Ninja on "Sherlock Homies" (a comedy series that they describe as "'Curb Your Enthusiasm' meets 'Reno 911' about Harlem's first all-black detective agency." It would seem that the only Sherlockian aspect of the series, if it ever gets made, is the title.

June 2020 #7

19992. One of the nice things about modern technology is that it is now so easy to attend distant meetings of Sherlockian societies, using Zoom or other programs. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London's first virtual meeting, open to Sherlockians world-wide, is set for July 21 at 7:30 pm BST, and you are invited to contact Jane Arnold-Forster <janeaf@btinternet.com> so that she can send you meeting details.
19993. The roster of Sherlockian societies holding virtual meetings continues to grow; the following list surely must be incomplete, and any additions will be welcome: the Bootmakers of Toronto, the Cesspudlians of London [Ontario], the Crew of the Barque *Lone Star* [Dallas], the Curious Collectors of Baker Street [Los Angeles], Dr. Watson's Neglected Patients [Denver], Five Miles from Anywhere, the Goose Club of the Alpha Inn [Vermont], the Harpooners of the Sea Unicorn [St. Charles MO], the Illustrious Clients of Indianapolis, the Japan Sherlock Holmes Club [Tokyo], the John Openshaw Society [Houston], the Knights of the Gnomon, the Notorious Canary Trainers [Madison WI], the Norwegian Explorers Study Group [Minneapolis], the Outpatients [Denver], the Parallel Case of St. Louis, the Priory Scholars of New York, the Red Circle of Washington, the Reichenbach Irregulars, the Sherlock Holmes Goose Club of the Upper Valley [Hanover NH], the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, the Sherlockians of Baltimore, the Six Napoleons of Baltimore, the Sound of the Baskervilles [Seattle], the Tankerville Club [Cincinnati], Theatre-Goers Homeward Bound, the Three Garridebs of Westchester County [NY], The Torists International [Chicago], and Watson's Tin Box [Ellicott City MD].
19994. The next annual 221B Con (a well-attended "fan con for all things Sherlock Holmes") will be held in Atlanta, Apr. 19-21 <www.221bcon.com>. Next year's Scintillation of Scions will be held in Linthicum, Md., Aug. 6-7. <www.scintillaton.org>.
19995. Inscribed first editions of Conan Doyle's books (Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian) are far from common. An inscribed copy of the first edition of *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* was offered by Lucius Books for £85,000 last month at Firsts (the London book fair held on-line this year during the pandemic); it's still available <www.tinyurl.com/ybpbwqnx>.
19996. Sarah LeFanu's *Something of Themselves* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020; 381 pp., \$29.95), is sub-titled "Kipling, Kingsley, Conan Doyle, and the Anglo-Boer War," and it's a well-written history of the war, focusing on three writers who were in South Africa in 1900; Mary Kingsley, far less well known than the other two writers, is just as interesting, and Lefanu offers a grand story, well told.
19997. Reported by Nicholas Utechin: a new Sherlock Holmes Magazine published in Britain <www.sherlockholmesmag.co.uk> and already out of print.
19998. "Sherlock Shomes!" (a delightful parody, written by Harvey Kurtzman and illustrated by Bill Elder) appeared in Mad magazine (Oct.-Nov. 1953). The original artwork (all eight pages) will be offered at Heritage Auctions in July <www.tinyurl.com/ycstlg3j>; it has attracted some serious bidders: as we go to press, the current high bid is \$10,500.
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June 2020 #8

19999. Joseph W. Svec III's *Sherlock Holmes and the Round Table Adventure* (London: MX Publishing, 2016; 169 pp., \$10.95) is the third book in his "missing authors" series; this time Alfred Lord Tennyson has gone missing, and Holmes and Watson encounter pixies, dragons, a unicorn, Merlin, Morgan le Faye, gnomes, the Lady of the Lake, Guinevere, and King Arthur before they are able to rescue the Poet Laureate. MX Publishing's books are available at a discount at <www.sherlockholmesbooks.com>.
20000. Also: Molly Carr's *A Study in Crimson* (2010; 322 pp., \$19.95), the second volume in the further adventures of Mrs. Watson and Mrs. St. Clair (they are the Watson-Fanshaw Detective Agency); Holmes and Watson are on hand, along with Moriarty and many others, and everyone is rather different from how they will be remembered by those who have read the Canon. James Moffett's *The Trials of Sherlock Holmes* (2017; 228 pp., \$14.95) sends Holmes and Watson in pursuit of criminals in eight cases that end with a confrontation with a vicious adversary.
20001. Plus: Balaji Narasimhan's *Sleight of Fate and Various Sherlock Holmes Puzzles* (2013; 107 pp., \$9.95) opens with a murderous challenge and continues with essays and pastiches set in India; it concludes with an exploration of Indian astrology used by Holmes to predict an eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 1944. L. F. E. Coombs' *Sherlock Holmes Plays the Game* (2014; 243 pp., \$16.96) is a collection of ten pastiches, many of which were brought to Holmes and Watson by Scotland Yard inspector Shershay. Phil Growick's *The Secret Journal of Dr. Watson* (2012; 285 pp., \$18.95) sends Holmes and Watson to Russia in 1918 to rescue the Tsar and his family; the top-secret mission results in dire events and a thoroughly complicated mystery.
20002. There's still Sherlockian theater being performed during the pandemic, but on-line: you can watch the Children's Theatre of Annapolis presentation of Tom Considine's amusing one-act play "The Duck of the Baskervilles" (featuring Shylock Casa and Portia Watsonia in "a quacking good case") at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=biFIS7XwQ2g>. The script is available as a PDF from <www.offthewallplays.com>.
20003. Planning ahead: "Sherlock Holmes and the Strange Case of Alice Faulkner" (an adaptation of the Gillette play) will be performed at the Molino Community Center in Molino, Fla., July 31-Aug. 1 <www.tinyurl.com/y7p3nfad>.
20004. "Sherlock and Cinders" (a new musical written by Tom Kirkham and Matthew Crossey), formerly scheduled on July 3-4 at the Carver Theatre in Stockport, Cheshire, has been postponed to Oct. 9-10 <www.carvertheatre.co.uk>.
20005. "Sherlock Holmes and the Blue Carbuncle" is due at the Helen Borgers Theatre in Long Beach, Calif., Nov. 20-Dec. 13 <www.lbshakespeare.org>.
20006. David MacGregor's new play "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Ghost Machine" will be performed at the Purple Rose Theatre in Chelsea, Mich., Mar. 25-Apr. 29, 2021 <www.purplerosetheatre.org>.
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July 2020 #1

20007. USA Today's "first look" story (June 24) about the new "Enola Holmes" film <www.tinyurl.com/yba5l6ml> was overtaken by the news that the Conan Doyle Estate Ltd. has filed a lawsuit against just about everyone who had anything to do with the film, alleging that the film infringes on the CDEL's copyright on the few remaining Canonical stories not yet in the public domain. You can read the 19-page complaint at <www.tinyurl.com/y7khds83>, and the CDEL's brief statement about the lawsuit is available on-line at <www.conandoyleestate.com/news/enola-holmes>.
20008. The complaint says that Conan Doyle, after his brother and son died in the First World War, felt that "it was no longer enough that the Holmes character was the most brilliant rational and analytical mind. Holmes needed be human. The character needed to develop human connection and empathy." Thus a Holmes that demonstrates friendship and emotion is an infringement on stories still protected by copyright, according to the CDEL.
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20009. The film, tentatively scheduled on Netflix in September, is based on six novels by Nancy Springer that were published from 2006 to 2010, and features Millie Bobby Brown as Enola Holmes, Henry Cavill as Sherlock Holmes, Sam Claflin as Mycroft Holmes, and Helena Bonham Carter as their mother.
20010. The lawsuit is similar to the one filed against the Ian McKellen film “Mr. Holmes” in 2015. That suit was settled out of court, and the DVD of the film and the Kindle edition of Mitch Cullin’s *A Slight Trick of the Mind* now have a statement acknowledging the CDEL’s permission to use material from Sherlock Holmes stories protected by copyright. Scott Monty has an interesting discussion of both lawsuits at www.tinyurl.com/y7gkqrkz, and a 2015 interview with Cullin at www.tinyurl.com/y88x64cq.
20011. Den of Geek quoted Nicholas Meyer on June 26 www.tinyurl.com/y9dk5enc as saying that while he did pay the Conan Doyle estate for permission to publish his first three pastiches (in 1974, 1976, and 1993) he didn’t for his *The Adventure of the Peculiar Protocols* (2019) and won’t be paying for his next pastiche *The Return of the Pharaoh* (due in 2021). The estate “has a long and complicated history” Meyer said, adding that “The estate has become various squabbling heirs—most of them having nothing to do with Doyle and still less interested in Holmes, except as a source of money to spend. They’ve used Holmes rights as a cash cow for their own pleasure.”
20012. The story continues: the defendants have “filed an appearance” in the case (which gives them time to prepare and file a formal response to the complaint by the CDEL), so there will be more to come in the next few weeks.
20013. “The hardcopy texts are surrounded by on-line material (screenplays, reviews, fansubs, scanlations, etc.)” That’s according to the abstract of Mary Wardle’s “From Baker Street to Tokyo and Back” (discovered by Jennie Paton) www.journals.openedition.org/palimpsests/3582; the academic paper deals with “(para)textual hybridity in translation” and offers a fine example of how new words are being coined. Google kindly defines “fansub” and “scanlation” for (I suspect) many if not most of us.

July 2020 #2

20014. Literary experts and academics fear the Sherlock Holmes statue in Edinburgh may be targeted by activists because of the many “crass racist descriptions” in the Canon, according to an article by Tim Stewart in The Times (July 6); he cited problematic language (in “The Sign of the Four” and “The Three Gables”) and noted that Conan Doyle is “said to have believed in British superiority and was a staunch supporter of the Empire.” Several statues linked to the slave trade have been damaged during Black Lives Matter demonstrations. The article does not mention the statue of Holmes in Baker Street, nor the statue of Conan Doyle in Crowborough.
20015. It’s not Sherlockian or Doylean, but: it’s not easy to choose a title for a short story that makes you want to read it. “Mary Poppins Didn’t Have Tattoos” for example; that’s a story by Stacy Woodson in the July/August issue of Ellery Queen’s Mystery Magazine.
20016. George J. McCormack (“Hosmer Angel”) died on Apr. 2. His early interest in Sherlock Holmes resulted in his being a co-founder of the Diogenes Club Brooklyn when he was a senior at Brooklyn Preparatory School, and he went on to graduate from Fordham University and Harvard Law School and then had a long and successful career as an attorney. He attended his first annual dinner of the Baker Street Irregulars in 1959, received his Investiture in 1961, and went on to set a record for continuous attendance at 60 BSI annual dinners.
20017. The Internet can be a spectacular resource for people who want to research (or merely read) older publications such as The Strand Magazine; the Hathi Trust offers links to digitizations of the first 68 volumes (through 1924) www.catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/000642318; later volumes have been digitized, but are not yet available due to copyright restrictions (the volumes for 1925 will be available at the end of this year).
20018. Jean Upton reports (in the June issue of The District Messenger) that the web-site of the London Transport Museum www.tinyurl.com/ybsnn75v offers a nice selection of Sherlockian images from the history of the underground and of the decorations at the Baker Street Station.
20019. Virtual meetings of Sherlockian societies do seem to ignore geography: the Reichenbach Irregulars of Switzerland will hold their second Zoom meeting on Sept. 3 at 7:00 pm BST (that’s British Summer Time): Michael Meer will talk about “The Other War Service of Sherlock Holmes: The Master Detective in World War I Prison Camps” and anyone interested joining should contact Marcus Geisser reichenbachirregulars@gmail.com.
20020. Michael McClure has created an imaginative new board game (“The Original Sherlock Holmes and His Baker Street Irregulars”), and there’s a detailed and nicely-illustrated report at Scott Monty’s “I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere” blog www.tinyurl.com/yy57ppzv; you may recognize some of the images on the character cards. The cost of the game is \$39.00 through the August (\$55.00 thereafter) www.baskervilleproductions.com/shbsi; production is underway, with shipping planned for November, conveniently in time for Christmas.

July 2020 #3

20021. Simon Barnes’ *Ten Million Aliens* (New York: Marble Arch Press, 2015; 480 pp., \$28.00) is a delightful book, offering “a journey through the entire animal kingdom” in short chapters that are devoted to the ten million (that’s his estimate) species known and yet to be identified on our planet, and the writers he mentions include Adams, Kipling, Disraeli, Joyce, Dahl, Verne, Dylan, and (of course) Conan Doyle (in the chapter on “Infernal agony of gelatinous zooplankton”). Recommended.
20022. “Police Sketches of Literary Characters Based on Their Book Descriptions” was an article on Mental Floss (Jan. 8, 2016) about illustrator Brian Joseph Davis’ use of the law enforcement composite sketch software FACES ID
20023. www.tinyurl.com/y7svwmhn; one of the characters is Sherlock Holmes (as described in “A Study in Scarlet”).
20024. Reported: “Cobble & Fog (Unmatched”) is a “highly asymmetrical card-driven miniature fighting game featuring heroes from myth and legend,” with four characters: Sherlock Holmes, Jekyll & Hyde, the Invisible Man, and Dracula; there are two different battlefields (Soho and Baskerville Manor), and there’s more information at www.restorationgames.com (\$40.00).
20025. There’s also “The Great Game” that Alexa will help you play on your Amazon Echo; it’s free, with an option to purchase bonus content, and you’ll find more information at Sherlockian.net www.tinyurl.com/ydayd5sq. Sherlockian.net was created by Chris Redmond in 1994 and now is maintained by WIDE Research at Michigan State University, and it’s well worth exploring.
20026. The web-site “Casebook: Jack the Ripper” www.casebook.org offers items of Sherlockian interest, such as a “Sherlock: From Adler to Amberley” podcast that is working its way through the 56 short stories; Karl Coppack is the host for one-hour interviews with authors and experts who include Les Klinger (“The Five Orange Pips”) and Bonnie MacBird (“The Speckled Band”).
20027. When you can travel again: Karen Murdock found a long and favorable review of the Holmes Hotel (formerly the Sherlock Holmes Hotel) in London at the Business Traveler web-site www.tinyurl.com/wgwhz16. They also had nice things to say earlier this year www.tinyurl.com/y8jboxek about the Great Scotland Yard Hotel; both reviews are well illustrated.
20028. Further to the item (April 20 #1) about the “incredible book collection” of Kate Middleton (aka the Duchess of Cambridge, wife of Prince William), Sonia Fetherston reports that Kate’s brother, James Middleton, has written an essay for the Daily Mail (June 28) www.tinyurl.com/yask95k4 about his new hobby: beekeeping. “On a warm summer’s day,” he explains, “there are few places on Earth I’d rather be than tending my bees.”

20029. Howard Ostrom has found a weird sub-set of ASMR audios at YouTube (ASMR is autonomous sensory meridian response, also known as “brain massage”). You can search for [asmr sherlock holmes] to find them; the longest one is at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=MJeNG1R7FzM> (four hours of ambient noise in the sitting-room at 221B Baker Street), and another one is Holmes and Watson’s 40-minute train ride to Dartmoor <www.youtube.com/watch?v=psOFdDRWseU>.

July 2020 #4

20030. Cory Howell has an interesting post (“Inspector Watson? An Alternate History Twist”) at Scott Monty’s “I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere” blog about a startling discovery at the Ill Bethisad Wiki at <www.tinyurl.com/ychdxtts>. The great detective in this alternative Canonical universe is an Inspector Watson who lives at 221A Quaker Street; many of his fans call themselves the Quaker Street Irregulars, and there’s much fun to be had in this imaginative world.
20031. It’s a nice reminder of the fun the late John Ruyle had with his Turlock Loams, who also lived in Quaker Street; John presided over two societies: The Quaker Street Irregulars and the Old Soldiers of Quaker Street, both parodies of Solar Pons societies created by the late Luther Norris as parodies of Sherlock Holmes societies. Anyone who tells you that the world of Sherlockian societies isn’t complicated shouldn’t be trusted.
20032. “Meiringen” (by ABBA SPARVA, featuring Brenda the Headless Mannequin) is a three-minute music video, based on an original idea by Brad Keefauver and uploaded to YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/yad14xmq> on June 20 by Paul Thomas Miller. Brad is the founder of the Reichenbach Falls Lemming Society, and Brad has a YouTube channel <www.youtube.com/watch?v=srtCEmPqoM> with many additional Sherlockian music videos.
20033. The Royal Mint has issued a commemorative £5 coin that honors music legend Elton John <www.tinyurl.com/y99c7jv9>; he was executive producer for the animated film “Sherlock Gnomes” (2018), and he wrote and performed some of the songs.
20034. Catching up: Catherine Cooke received the British Empire Medal “for services to libraries” in this year’s New Year’s Honours List. She presides over the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the Westminster Reference Library in London, a Member of Council of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, and Investiture as “The Book of Life” in the Baker Street Irregulars
20035. When in Ontario: you can spend a night in the Arthur Conan Doyle room at the Arlington Hotel in Paris (a bit more than an hour’s drive from Toronto); the hotel has 23 rooms, each themed for “some of our favourite authors and creative minds” <www.arlingtonhotel.ca>.
20036. Carl Reiner died on June 29. He had a long career as a comic, director, and actor, famous for his appearance with Mel Brooks in their “2,000-Year-Old-Man” skit, and for being (as Billy Crystal called him) “a nice genius”. You can see him in Sherlockian costume (as Chief Inspector House) in the “Who Killed Supersleuth?” episode of “Burke’s Law” (Dec. 16, 1964, on ABC-TV) at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=8zfmZUI8S7A>
20037. It should also be noted that Carl Reiner appears as a home craftsman in photographs in G. A. Mills’ *A Saw Screams at Midnight* (1956), which was sub-titled “the whodunit-yourself book” and contains a Sherlockian parody (“The Adventure of the Purloined Pants”); it’s possible, perhaps even probable, that Carl Reiner wrote the book using a pseudonym (no one has been able to track down Mr. Mills).
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July 2020 #5

20038. It’s always nice to see the results of combining two enthusiasms. Clifford Goldfarb does just that in his article “Winston Churchill and Arthur Conan Doyle—Finest of the Empire” in the summer issue of *Canadian Holmes* (which is published quarterly by the Bootmakers of Toronto). Cliff has carefully researched Churchill and Conan Doyle’s meetings and correspondence. *Canadian Holmes* costs \$30.00 a year (US or CA), and single issues cost \$12.00 <www.torontobootmakers.com>.
20039. When in Southsea: Sherlock’s Bar has opened in Clarendon Road, according to a story in the *Portsmouth News* <www.tinyurl.com/y8hph2sv>; “the venue has been themed around Sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s legendary detective character, decorated with memorabilia and a Sherlock décor,” and there’s a bit of video accompanying the story.
20040. MX Publishing has launched a Kickstarter campaign for Maureen Whittaker’s new biography of Jeremy Brett; details on the book and campaign, as well as an interview with the author, are available at Scott Monty’s “I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere” blog <www.tinyurl.com/y5flx9ge>.
20041. Julian Curry died on June 27. He began his acting career in television on the BBC, and went on to perform on stage and screen. Perhaps best known for playing Claude Erskine-Brown on “Rumpole of the Bailey”, he also appeared as Albert Shlessinger in “The Disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax” in the Granada series (1991), and as Sherlock Holmes in a commercial for OZ Kettle Descaler in the 1980s <www.youtube.com/watch?v=JHQ5YKbLTBs>.
20042. “Without Julian Wolff’s involvement, the Baker Street Irregulars might no longer exist,” and Sonia Fetherston tells us all about that in *Commissionaire: Julian Wolff and His Baker Street Irregulars* (New York: Baker Street Irregulars, 2020; 176 pp., \$21.95) <www.tinyurl.com/yb2gpxxq>.
20043. Steve Doyle’s video podcasts for the Baker Street Irregulars continue at YouTube; you can search for [fortnightly dispatch] to find interviews with Ray Betzner, Bob Katz, Carlina de la Cova, Les Klinger, and Denny Dobry.
20044. Januaryina Woods’ *Mycroft Holmes and the Edinburgh Affair* (London: MX Publishing, 2018; 386 pp., \$18.95), the second in her series about Mycroft, his fellow Secret Service agents, and Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson, is more of a thriller than a mystery, but there is plenty of action and villainy. Arthur Hall’s *The Secret Assassin* (2017; 92 pp., \$9.95) sends Holmes and Watson in pursuit of a mysterious killer in a case that begins in London and ends in rural Somerset. And Denis O. Smith’s *The Further Chronicles of Sherlock Holmes, Volumes One and Two* (2018; 412 pp., \$34.95) is a collection of a dozen new pastiches, some of which were successful cases, and some not. Tim Symonds’ *Sherlock Holmes and the Nine-Dragon Sigil* (2016; 358 pp., \$16.95) Holmes and Watson in Imperial China in 1906, involved in thwarting a civil war, in a tale that’s full of detail about Chinese life, politics, and history. Peter Bevelin’s *A Few Lessons from Sherlock Holmes* (2013; 81 pp., \$9.95) offers advice on improving one’s critical thinking, with quotes from the Canon, and from others who include Cuvier, Pasteur, Darwin and Bell. MX Publishing’s books can be purchased at a discount at <www.sherlockholmesbooks.com>.
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July 2020 #6

20045. Neil McCaw died on Mar. 23. A professor of Victorian literature and Culture at Winchester University, he put together a delightful TED-Ed lesson in 2015 on “Who IS Sherlock Holmes?” that’s still available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/zcmrobb>; he also contributed an insightful introduction and an annotated transcription of the story to the university’s 2017 facsimile edition of *The Adventure of the Creeping Man*, wrote a *Historical Dictionary of Sherlock Holmes* (2019), and was academic director of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection in Portsmouth.
20046. The eight pages of original artwork for *Mad* magazine’s “Shermlock Shomes!” (June 20 #7) did quite well at Heritage Auctions this month: \$72,000 (including the buyer’s premium).
20047. “He was entirely absorbed in the pictures of the modern Belgian masters,” Watson said of Holmes (in “The Hound of the Baskervilles”). According to H. R. F. Keating (*Sherlock Holmes: The Man and His World*, 1979, p. 90-91), the modern Belgian masters were the Groupe des Ving; one of its
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- founders was Théo Van Rysselberghe, whose painting “Barques de pêche-Méditerranée” went to auction at Christie’s in New York on July 10, estimated at \$7 million-\$10 million; it sold for \$9,128,000 (including the buyer’s premium) <www.tinyurl.com/y9fhx3s8>. You can read about the painting and the artist at <www.tinyurl.com/y7cgexey>.
20048. Lenny Picker reports some welcome news for fans of Gary Larson’s “The Far Side”: he’s back, and has a new web-site at <www.thefarside.com/newstuff>, where he says “I’ve got my coffee, I’ve got this cool gizmo, and I’ve got no deadlines, And—to borrow from Sherlock Holmes—the game is afoot.” His past work includes a cartoon about Buddy’s dreams of being the Parakeet of the Baskervilles (Dec. 5, 1986) (reprinted in his *Hound of the Far Side* in 1987), and it’s nice to know he hasn’t forgotten Sherlock Holmes.
20049. “Take a Look at Baker Street Bar Dr. Watson’s Cheeky Toilet Makeover” was the headline on a nicely-illustrated article in the Middlesbrough Gazette on July 9 <www.tinyurl.com/yb5y9jlu> that explained that “a large mural of Sherlock Holmes now looms over punters in the gents loos—and he’s got his magnifying glass out.” Middlesbrough (N. Yorks.) also has bars named “The Twisted Lip and Sherlock’s.
20050. “Strictly Professor Challenger” is a new one-man presentation written and performed by Jonathan Miller for Don’t Go Into the Cellar and MX Publishing, and it’s available on-line until the end of August at the MX web-site <www.tinyurl.com/y46u2r56>.
20051. Paul Thomas Miller has reported (sadly) the first coronavirus incident at a meeting of a Sherlockian society: “Now that easing is in place, 19th July 2020 was supposed to be the Shingle of Southsea’s first meeting since the COVID Lockdown. Unfortunately when our member turned up he refused to comply with society policy on wearing a face mask in The Sherloft. Things turned physical and the meeting had to be cancelled. Fortunately the entire incident was caught on camera and the Shingle of Southsea board will be considering whether to take further action based on the evidence caught in the video.” <www.youtube.com/watch?v=f179vEN9o-0>.

July 2020 #7

20052. The headline on the on-line version of Michael Dirda’s “Book World” in the Washington Post (July 16) reads “William Clark Russell’s ‘The Wreck of the Grosvenor’ Is a Transporting Nautical Adventure” (and the headline in print was “Sea Dogs Preyed Upon by Sea Wolves”) <www.tinyurl.com/78ccs7yc>; he begins by recalling that Watson was “deep in one of Clark Russell’s fine sea stories” (at the beginning of “The Five Orange Pips”). Dirda believes that the fine sea story was “The Wreck of the Grosvenor” and that “there’s enough action and suspense to satisfy anyone, even Dr. Watson, who knows a thing or two about adventure.”
20053. One of the many actors who have portrayed Sherlock Holmes celebrated his 85th birthday this month, and was congratulated by the president; the official announcement is at <www.tinyurl.com/y2aakdj6>.
20054. “Play Away” was a long-running 25-minute children’s series that was broadcast by BBC-2, and in 1984 an episode included an 11-minute segment (“The Murder of Lord Ronnie Eccleston Smythe”) featuring Floella Benjamin (Shirley Holmes) and Brian Cant (Wally Watson). The tape was thought to have been wiped by the BBC, but a videotape recorded by a fan has turned up at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/yyyhjh4>. A tip of the deerstalker for the discovery to Adrian Nebbitt.
20055. Roy and Maxine Reneker are seeking people, young and old, who would like to be charter members of a new Sherlockian society, open to everyone, in the Monterey region of California <mreneker@pacbell.net>.
20056. Greg Darak notes that the current issue of Little Shoppe of Horrors (“the journal of classic British horror films”) features “The Hound of the Baskervilles” (1959), and includes mentions of the BBC’s “Sherlock” in coverage of the new “Dracula” series <www.litleshoppeofhorrors.com/LSoH44.htm> (\$10.95 plus shipping).
20057. Nominees for the Macavity Awards (from Mystery Readers International) include Terence Faherty’s “The Cardboard Box” (best mystery short story) and Laird R. Blackwell’s *Frederic Dannay, Ellery Queen’s Mystery Magazine, and the Art of the Detective Short Story* (best mystery nonfiction/critical); the winners will be announced during the opening ceremonies of the Sacramento Virtual Bouchercon in October, and you can see all of the nominees at <www.mysteryreaders.org/mccavity-awards>.
20058. And yes indeed, this year’s Bouchercon, scheduled for Sacramento, will be virtual, on Oct. 16-17 <www.bouchercon2020.org>. Bouchercon will be held in New Orleans, Aug. 25-29, 2021; and in Minneapolis, Sept. 8-11, 2022.
20059. The manuscript of “The Greek Interpreter” was offered in an on-line auction at Sotheby’s this month, with an opening bid of \$300,000 (lowered to \$280,000 toward the end of the auction), but the manuscript did not sell. Sotheby’s asked Mark Gatiss to reflect on-line on “the adventures of the famous detective” <www.tinyurl.com/y8e5vj8b>; Gatiss not only was co-creator of “Sherlock” for the BBC, but he also played Mycroft Holmes (who appeared in the Canon for the first time in “The Greek Interpreter”). Randall Stock describes the manuscript at <www.tinyurl.com/y87e5n6y>.

July 2020 #8

20060. The summer issue of *The Magic Door* (published by the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) includes articles by Dana Richards (about Conan Doyle’s *Psychic Bookshop*), and by Charles Prepoiec (about “The Case of Lady Sannox”), and other reports from and about the Library and the Collection. Copies are available on request from Clifford S. Goldfarb, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street, Toronto M4W 2G8, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.
20061. “Sherlock Holmes Is Real” is an imaginative podcast launched by Toni Sutherland in 2017; now hosted by Talon King, with 28 episodes, it’s available at <www.sherlockholmesisreal.libsyn.com>.
20062. There was a virtual celebration of the 10th anniversary of the BBC “Sherlock” television series, in which Louis Moffat presided over a Q&A session with his parents, Steven Moffat and Sue Vertue, and Mark Gatiss; you can watch the proceedings at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=alJtully_QQ>. And Radio Times celebrated the anniversary with an edited version of an older interview with Steven Moffat on “how Conan Doyle inspired me” that you can read at <www.tinyurl.com/yyz8hdtq>.
20063. Benoit Guilielmo, an ardent Sherlockian in France, writes often about the Canon, in English as well as in French <www.tinyurl.com/y8xzd2e>, and his anthology of “Early Sherlockiana (1927-1934)” will be of special interest to anyone who wants to read early Writings about the Writings.
20064. Titan is continuing its series of manga graphic novels of the BBC’s “Sherlock” series (illustrated by Jay); the latest is “A Scandal in Belgravia: Part One” (\$12.99), and you can see samples at <www.tinyurl.com/y2mbfbzy>.
20065. The original *British Legion Album* <www.tinyurl.com/y9c5hjit> went to auction at Sotheby’s in London this month, estimated at £30,000-£50,000; the album was compiled to aid veterans of the First World War, and a facsimile was published in 1924. The album contains hundreds of inscriptions, signatures, and other entries from a wide range of public figures, including Conan Doyle, who contributed the closing sentences, in manuscript, of *The British Campaign in France and Flanders*; the album was not sold (no bidder matched the reserve).
20066. There’s not much theatrical news, in this time of the novel coronavirus, but the Central Piedmont Theatre, which had to cancel their production of Ken Ludwig’s “Baskerville” in July, have instead have gone virtual, and on June 27 streamed “Sherlock Holmes” <www.tinyurl.com/y7nt3x7r>.

20067. A new (and partially improvised) three-actor dramatization "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is being performed on the lawn at the Watermill Theatre in Newbury, Berks., through Aug. 8 <www.watermill.org.uk>.

20068. And the Pantaloons Theatre Company are on tour again in Britain, offering Mark Hayward's four-actor "Sherlock Holmes" <www.thepantaloons.co.uk>.

August 2020 #1

20069. Because of the pandemic, the Baker Street Irregulars are planning two virtual events in January, with the Distinguished Speaker Lecture on Thursday evening, Jan. 7, and the BSI Annual dinner on Friday, Jan. 8. Visit the BSI web-site <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/bsi-event-dates>, and sign up for "News from the BSI" to receive additional information about the birthday festivities when it's available.

20070. If you would like know more about the Baker Street Irregulars, and our new Wiggins, Michael H. Kean, he was interviewed by Scott Monty and Burt Wol- der for episode 198 of their "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog, on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/y698vb4b>.

20071. The lawsuit that was filed by the Conan Doyle Estate Ltd. over the upcoming Netflix television film based on Nancy Springer's "Enola Holmes" series of book (July 20 #1) will be contested: the film defendants (all those except Nancy Springer and her publishers) have filed a response, denying any infringement on copyrights and trademarks, demanding a jury trial, and asking the court to require the CDEL to reimburse the defendants for their costs.

20072. The defendants state in their response that the CDEL's "claims are barred, in whole or in part, by the equitable doctrine of unclean hands." That's nicely theological: according to Wikipedia, the doctrine can be traced as far back as the Fourth Lateran Council, which was held in 1215. There's much more to the response, of course, and the documents in the case conveniently are available on-line at www.free-sherlock.com

20073. Netflix has released an official teaser for the film, available on-line at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=XrChuCpgbTO>, and has announced that the film is to be released on Sept. 23.

20074. Elinor Gray, coordinator of the Left Coast Sherlockian Symposium, has announced that the Symposium will be a virtual event via Zoom this year, on Oct. 10, with a four-hour cocktail hour followed by presentations by Les Klinger, Bonnie MacBird, Angela Misri, Rob Nunn, and Mina Hoffman. You're invited to name your own ticket price; details about the symposium (and a link to registration) are at <www.leftcoastsherlock.com>.

20075. "Steven Moffat and Mark Gatiss Reveal Their Top Picks for Female Sherlock Holmes" was the headline on a story in Radio Times (July 27): Moffat also noted a potential problem with casting a woman as Watson (the story's on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/y28wkqtr>).

20076. Otto Penzler is both the proprietor of the Mysterious Bookshop in New York and a publisher, and Penzler Publishers is issuing a long series of American Classic Mysteries, reprinting some fine books, often with new introductions and afterwords <www.tinyurl.com/y9rdpkm4> (\$25.95 in cloth/\$15.95 in paper). Titles of interest to Sherlockians include Anthony Boucher's Rocket to the Morgue and H. F. Heard's A Taste for Honey (2019), and Anthony Boucher's The Case of the Baker Street Irregulars (2020). Vincent Starrett's The Great Hotel Murder (2020), with an introduction by Lyndsay Faye, isn't Sherlockian, but nevertheless a nice mystery.

August 2020 #2

20077. Edward D. Hoch's Hoch's Ladies (Cincinnati: Crippen & Landru, 2019; 288 pp., \$45.00 cloth/\$19.00 paper) has an introduction by Michael Dirda and includes Hoch's "A Parcel of Deerstalkers" (reprinted from Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine. Jan. 1995) <www.crippenlandru.com>.

20078. Jeffrey Marks now is the publisher at Crippen & Landru, which was founded by Douglas G. Greene (now the series editor), and they continue to publish grand collections of short stories by Ed Hoch and others, as well as long-out-of-print novels.

20079. "I'm a writer but then nobody's perfect" is a delightful epitaph, chosen by someone who was far more than a writer, and had Sherlockian credentials <www.flickr.com/photos/jrlogue/5199635955>. A tip of the deerstalker to Al Gregory for reporting this.

20080. The "Holmes in the Heartland" conference that was scheduled in St. Louis this summer has been rescheduled, and it will now take place on July 9-11, 2021 <www.tinyurl.com/yd5elmpj>.

20081. Cade Deverell has reported a new publisher of miniature books: Tony Firman Bookbinding <www.tonyfirmanbookbinding.com>; you can click on "Plum Park Press" and then on "Doyle" to see their edition of "The Five Orange Pips" (\$47.00 postpaid). Earlier editions of "A Scandal in Bohemia", "The Red-Headed League" and "The Blue Carbuncle" are out of print, but might be reprinted, and "The Copper Beeches" is planned for January; if you're inter-ested in any of these, contact Tony Firman at <tonyfirmanbooks@gmail.com>.

20082. Chris Redmond's "Sherlock Holmes, Socks, and Simpson" (his latest contribution to Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere") shows that there always is something new to be said about things mentioned only in passing in the Canon <www.tinyurl.com/y22nq27z>.

20083. John Sutherland's Curiosities of Literature (New York: Skyhorse, 2011; 289 pp., \$12.95), accurately sub-titled "a feast for book-lovers," presents a collection of short entries covering a wide variety of literary trivia and miscellanea; the section on "morbid curiosity" includes a brief discussion of "the Baskerville Effect" (can one actually be frightened to death?) and the fascinating story of the only person to have committed suicide in the London Library (the suicide's not Sherlockian, but the London Library is mentioned in the Canon).

20084. The manuscript of "The Land of Mist" (June 20 #1), at auction at Christie's in London, was sold July 30 for £47,500 (including the buyer's premium). Randall Stock offers a discussion of the manuscript at his "Best of Sherlock" web-site <www.bestofsherlock.com/mss/land-mist-2020.htm>.

20085. Remote Sensing in Action: The Curious Case of Sherlock Holmes and Albert Einstein, by Enders A. Robinson and Dean Clark (Tulsa: Society of Exploration Geophysicists, 2014; 374 pp., \$122.00), is an interesting example of "scientific fiction" combining a fictional narrative with real science; in this book Robinson (a geophysicist) and Clark (a Sherlockian as well as an editor) use Holmes and Watson to explain the impact of Einstein's theory of relativity on the science of remote sensing <www.library.seg.org>.

August 2020 #3

20086. Just in case you weren't watching television in 1959: there's no mention Sherlock Holmes in "Count the Man Down" (an unsold pilot broadcast by CBS-TV), but it features Nero Wolfe (who of course does have a Sherlockian connection) and Archie Goodwin (played by an actor who may surprise you); kindly reported by J. P. Van Gordon, it's available at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=9_AoebAAig4>.

20087. History Extra (the web-site of the BBC History Magazine) offers a 34-minute podcast in which Sarah LeFanu discussing her recent book Something of Themselves: Kipling, Kingsley, Conan Doyle, and the Anglo-Boer War (June 20 #7) <www.tinyurl.com/y4qe4cmu>.

20088. An addition to the list of actors who have played Conan Doyle: Michael Mc-Elhatton, in the British film "Agatha and the Truth of Murder" (2018), now available on Netflix. It's a 92-minute film, almost completely fictional, opening with Agatha Christie, who has encountered writer's block, discussing writing and golf with Conan Doyle; she then goes on to investigate a murder, and there are amusing mentions of Sherlock Holmes and Conan Doyle at 29 and 69 minutes.

20089. There's also Gavin McIver-Wright, who provided the voice of Conan Doyle, in "I Am Sir Arthur Conan Doyle" (an 11-minute segment of the animated series "Xavier Riddle and the Secret Museum" that aired on PBS Kids on Aug. 6 this year). There are lots of repeats on the channel, so you may still be able to watch it.
20090. If you would like to read "A Study in Scarlet" in Beeton's Christmas Annual, that's easy to do, since the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas has digitized its copy <www.tinyurl.com/yyfrpt69> (thanks to Jim Hawkins for noting this). There's one living Sherlockian, by the way, who read his very first Sherlock Holmes story in a copy of Beeton's Christmas Annual: Russell Merritt, at the Houghton Library at Harvard.
20091. "Peter Cushing: In His Own Words" is an hour-long video (well, audio with images) of an interview with Cushing, recorded in 1986, long believed to have been lost, recently rediscovered, and issued last year by Rabbit & Snail Films <www.tinyurl.com/yyomufpr>. Cushing discusses his career as an actor, with due attention paid to Sherlock Holmes; there's a trailer at the web-site, and another at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/y46x9yn5>.
20092. This year marks the 100th anniversary of the publication of *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*, Agatha Christie's first book, celebrated by Publishers Weekly (Aug. 3) with an article ("In the Study, with a Typewriter") by Liz Scheier, who notes that the Guinness World Records credits Agatha Christie as the best-selling fiction writer of all time, as well as the most translated (7,236 translations as of 2017).
20093. On the other hand: Don Hobbs has recorded 11,287 translations of Sherlock Holmes stories, with more to come, in his colorful bibliography. The latest version of "The Galactic Sherlock Holmes" is available on request and without charge (as a 430-MB file via WeTransfer) <221b@verizon.net>.

August 2020 #4

20094. Bryan Woolley's *Mythic Texas* (2000) is a delightful collection of stories about the weird and wonderful people the author has met and written about in the Dallas Morning News (and it's easy to discover such people in Texas); his "The Adventure of the Eccentric Sherlockians" tells about his encounter with Bill Beeson, Don Hobbs, and Jim Webb. The book's out of print, but readily available from on-line booksellers, and great fun.
20095. Rob Nunn's "Interesting Though Elementary" is one of many blogs available on the Internet <www.interestingthoughelementary.blogspot.com>; he offers "interesting interviews" with Jerry Margolin, Jacquelyn Morris, Mike McSwiggin, Laurie R. King, Steve Doyle, and many others.
20096. Further to the report (June 20 #4) on "Sherlock: The Russian Chronicles" (the new eight-part Russian television mini-series due later this year), there was a nicely illustrated interview with Nurbek Egen, director of the series, in *Drama Quarterly* (Aug. 20) <www.tinyurl.com/y45gmrzk>. And there is a trailer for the series at <www.tinyurl.com/yxnrdnn3>.
20097. The Bradford Telegraph & Argus published a nicely-illustrated story (Aug. 4) <www.tinyurl.com/y57ydxmx> on the Cottingley fairies material owned by the National Science and Media Museum; all three of the cameras are at the museum, along with Elsie Wright's drawings of fairies, made in 1983.
20098. Sherlockian collectors value the Feb. 1890 issue of Lippincott's Monthly Magazine (which contained the first appearance of "The Sign of the Four"); the story was commissioned by the magazine during a dinner at which Arthur Conan Doyle and Oscar Wilde were both asked to write something, and Wilde wrote "The Portrait of Dorian Grey" (which was published in the July 1890 issue). Steven Berkoff's splendid collection of Wilde material, offered at Sotheby's in London on Aug. 4, included both the British and American editions of the magazine <www.tinyurl.com/y4mg3pax>; the British edition (estimated at £1,500-£2,000) sold for £4,032 (including the buyer's premium) and the American edition (estimated at £1,000-£1,500) went unsold. It should be noted that a copy of the American edition with "The Sign of the Four" was sold at Heritage Auctions in 2018 for \$12,500.
20099. Another interesting lot in Sotheby's auction, from the collection of M. T. Johnson, included five Kodak glass lantern slides of the Cottingley fairies <www.tinyurl.com/yyzqzn6c>. Marjorie T. Johnson was the secretary of the Fairy Investigation Society, a "semi-secret occult group" founded in 1927. Estimated at £3,000-£5,000, the lot sold for £4,032.
20100. "How Paul McGuigan Crafted the Visual Language of Sherlock" was the title of an interesting interview (Den of Geek, Aug. 5) with the director of the first four episodes of the BBC series <www.tinyurl.com/y4yxjufb>.
20101. Reported: the SeaWolf Press <www.seawolfpress.com> offers print-on-demand editions of a long list of classic authors, including Conan Doyle; their books are not facsimiles: *A Study in Scarlet*, for example, was published in 2018, but states 1888 on the title page and has text based on an 1892 British edition, and cover art from Beeton's Christmas Annual for 1887.

August 2020 #5

20102. The Royal Mail has released its long-awaited stamps honoring both Sherlock Holmes and the 10th anniversary of the BBC television series, and offers a wide variety of collectibles: stamps, presentation packs, first day covers, prints, and (courtesy of the Royal Mint) silver medals <www.shop.royalmail.com/special-stamp-issues/sherlock>; the Royal Mail and the Royal Mint are corporations, and are far ahead of the U.S. Postal Service in catering to collectors. There also were plenty of authorized postmarks for the stamps <www.royalmail.com/postmarks>, in addition to the official first-day postmarks.
20103. There are six stamps with designs from the television series, each with a hidden message that can be seen with ultra-violet light, and four stamps in a miniature sheet commemorating stories from the Canon. The miniature sheet was designed by Lithuanian artist Karolis Strautniekas; you can see a selection of his other artwork at <www.strautniekas.com>.
20104. Eagle-eyed musicians were quick to report an error in one of the designs, explained at the Classic FM web-site <www.tinyurl.com/y5rs2ukx>. And yes, it's the Royal Mail's mistake, which isn't in the episode in the series.
20105. Not the sort of letter an author enjoys: "Probably the most hopeless kind of manuscript a publisher expects to receive from his favourite author is that of poetry for children." According to Barbara Richardson in *Book and Magazine Collector* (Dec. 1998), that is what an editor at Dutton wrote to A. A. Milne about *When We Were Very Young*. Of course Dutton did publish the book, which sold 10,000 copies in the first four weeks, not at all bad for 1924 (in Britain, Methuen's first printing of 5,140 copies sold out on the first day).
20106. Nicholas Basbanes was one of the panelists at the Baker Street Irregulars' conference at the Lilly Library last year, and he has now written the introduction for W. Bolingbroke Johnson's *The Widening Stain*, recently reprinted in Otto Penzler's series of American mystery classics; Otto's 54-minute interview with Nick at the launch party for the book is available at <www.tinyurl.com/yxmam5lw>.
20107. Karen Murdock reports that Stanfords offers a "Sherlock Holmes Map of London" showing London as it was in 1891 and keyed to locations in the four novels (£9.99) <www.tinyurl.com/y2ha3mus>. There is a different (and interesting) interactive Sherlockian map of the world (with descriptions in Spanish) on-line at <www.sherlockland.com>.
20108. Paul Thomas Miller's "Doyle's Rotary Coffin" (March 19 #4), a society whose motto is "All Holmes Is Good Holmes," has published *No Holmes Barred* (its first "scrapbook of Holmesiana"), which is available as a free download at the society's web-site at <www.sites.google.com/site/doylesrotarycoffin>.

20109. Greg Ruby reports that the Windsor Mint has issued a set of six “Sherlock Holmes Consulting Detective” gold-plated copper medals that have something new for those who collect this sort of thing: the designs each include a bit of manuscript from one of the stories; £149.50 for the set in a presentation folder <www.tinyurl.com/y6tbmjpx>.

August 2020 #6

20110. Roland-François Lack says his Cine-Tourist web-site is “about connections between maps and films” but there’s much more than that, and it’s well worth exploring <www.thecinetravel.net>; there isn’t a search engine, so: click on “London” and then on “Sherlock Holmes” for a quick tour of his many Sherlockian discoveries. A tip of the deerstalker to Steve Rothman for reporting this interesting web-site.
20111. Linda Hein reports that Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson are available for consultations at Baker Street West in Jackson, Calif.; bring your friends or family, and a problem, and if you don’t have a problem, one can easily be arranged. Facemasks and social distancing are required, and tea and refreshments will be available <www.bakerstreetwest.com>.
20112. One can still make good use of libraries while staying at home during the pandemic. The Toronto Reference Library has digitized 375 items in their Arthur Conan Doyle Collection: go to <www.tinyurl.com/yypgdpez> and click on “View digitized items” to have fun exploring. They also have created an imaginative virtual Sherlock Holmes Escape Room, which you’ll find on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/y69x9ghn>.
20113. A few years ago Dana Richards reported Doyle’s Delight, the highest peak in Belize, named in honor of “The Lost World” (June 17 #6). Now Geraldine Beare has noted Doyle’s Delight Street in Balmopan, the capital of Belize; the street’s only a few blocks long, but Google Maps shows you can dine at Bellavi’s Bistro, and there’s a nearby bed-and-breakfast to stay in.
20114. It’s nice to know that the Sesame Street Workshop has not abandoned Sherlock Hemlock, who appears often (although briefly) in the audience during “The Not-Too-Late Show with Elmo” (which launched on HBO Max on May 27). You can see him, Howard Ostrom reports, in the third row at the far right in a preview available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/yxvzxo9u>.
20115. Sonia Fetherston reports a wide variety of Sherlockian merchandise at the Redbubble web-site; there are more than 200 Sherlockian jigsaw puzzles in case you’re bored during the pandemic <www.tinyurl.com/y4hxwjxe>.
20116. Laurie R. King’s web-site <www.laurierking.com> always is interesting, and her blogs always entertaining; see “The Case of Laurie and the Monegasque Prince” (July 31) and “Feisty Old Ladies” (Aug. 12). She also reports in her occasional newsletter “News & Nonsense” that she is closing in on 200 pages in the first draft of her next Mary Russell novel Castle Shade.
20117. All of the seats at the new (and partially improvised) three-actor dramatization of “The Hound of the Baskervilles” (on the lawn at the Watermill Theatre in Newbury, Berks.) sold out in the first 24 hours, so the run has been extended through Sept. 6 <www.watermill.org.uk>.
20118. Christopher M. Walsh’s “Miss Holmes” is due at the Muskegon Civic Theatre in Muskegon, Mich., Feb. 12-27 <www.muskegoncivictheatre.com>.
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September 20 #1

20119. “Enola Holmes” debuted on Netflix on Sept. 23. The tomatometer at Rotten Tomatoes <www.rottentomatoes.com> had it at 89% favorable for top critics, and 90% favorable for all critics on Sept. 22, and the scores later in the month were 95% and 92%. No count is available for Sherlockian critics.
20120. If you would like to know more about Enola Holmes, now that you have seen the film, Scott Monty and Burt Wolder have an interesting interview with Nancy Springer (the author of the series of books about Enola) at their “I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere” web-site <www.tinyurl.com/y6c5kqel>. There are six books in the series, so more films are possible.
20121. Netflix publicized the film by installing statues of historical women across the U.K.; one of them was Enola Holmes, in Baker Street, next to the iconic statue of Sherlock Holmes. You can see images of all of the statues in the slide-show at <www.tinyurl.com/y5rpx8th>.
20122. There is nothing to report on the dueling lawsuits over the film (August 20 #1), which may or may not lead to a trial; the filings are on-line at <www.free-sherlock.com>.
20123. Earlier this year the Conan Doyle Estate Ltd. filed an application for a trademark for the words “Sherlock Holmes” in the category “entertainment services” <www.tinyurl.com/y5262ctg>; the application was published last month, and this month Les Klinger formally filed opposing the application (as he did in 2018 when the CDEL applied for a trademark in the category “printed matter” and then withdrew the application). The documents in the case also are available at <www.free-sherlock.com>.
20124. Jennie Paton has noted an animated video “Five Orange Seeds” (recorded by the Erkonauts (“think of a Prog version of Motorhead that sometimes leans towards Gojira, sometimes toward Mastodon, sometimes even New Model Army”) and inspired by the Sherlock Holmes story; you can see and hear the song at <www.theerkonauts.streamlink.to/fiveorangeseeds>.
20125. None of them are the Mazarin Stone, but you can see some very attractive yellow diamonds at <www.graff.com/house/2019/wonder-yellow-diamonds>; the actual “Mazarin” diamond, which never was owned by the Cardinal, is part of the Iranian crown jewels (see the Baker Street Journal, Sept. 1974, p. 141-145).
20126. “New Marker Designates Rhinebeck as the Violet Capital of the World” was the headline on a story <www.tinyurl.com/y2pfy5vy> that aired on WAMC-FM on Aug. 6; Rhinebeck will be remembered fondly by those who made the Beekman Arms their headquarters for the occasional Sherlockian dinners at the Culinary Institute of America. The story mentions Basil Rathbone in passing, and his play “The Captive”, which was closed by the vice squad in New York City in 1927; Rathbone and the rest of the cast were arrested, along with the lead actor and cast of another play, which received much more attention the next day. That lead actor was Mae West, who was appearing in her play “Sex”.
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September 20 #2

20127. The Beacon Society has called for nominations for its Susan B. Diamond Beacon Award, which recognizes a project that successfully introduces young people to the Sherlock Holmes stories. The deadline for nominations is Nov. 15, and more information about the award is available at the society’s web-site <www.tinyurl.com/yxval963>.
20128. And the 2021 R. Joel Senter Sr. Essay Contest, sponsored by Carolyn Senter and the Beacon Society, is now open for submissions from students between the 4th and 12 grades, in the U.S. and Canada. More information about the contest can be found at <www.tinyurl.com/y3e8c94u>.
20129. “You don’t happen to have a Raphael or a first folio Shakespeare without knowing it?” asked Sherlock Holmes (in “The Three Gables”). There are only five complete copies of the First Folio in private hands, according to Christie’s, and here’s your chance to own the sixth, which will be at auction at Christie’s in New York on Oct. 14, estimated at \$4 million to \$6 million. It’s the same copy scheduled at auction on Apr. 24, and June 12; both sales were cancelled due to the coronavirus. You can read all about the First Folio at <www.tinyurl.com/rwt2lla>.
20130. Marie Burrow reports an attractive and literate Sherlock Holmes 1000-piece jigsaw puzzle <www.tinyurl.com/y27ujgtvh> (\$24.99) made by Cobble Hill in Canada; just the thing for keeping busy while staying home.
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20131. There have been occasional Sherlockian allusions in the “Dennis the Menace” comic strip created by Hank Ketcham, and Dennis appears in Sherlockian costume in original artwork drawn by Ketcham on an envelope that also has stamps that were issued by the U.S. Postal Service in 1986 to honor T. S. Eliot (who created Macavity the Mystery Cat) and a Sherlockian cachet that was created for a stamp exposition held in Long Beach, Calif., in 1994. It’s quite likely that it was a Sherlockian who put everything together, and it’s nice that the envelope now is owned by a Sherlockian: Jerry Margolin.
20132. *Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Was Not*, edited by Christopher Sequeira (Melbourne: IFWG Publishing, 2019; 324 pp., \$17.99), is an anthology offering a dozen new pastiches that involve Holmes with doctors other than Watson, and in cases of “mind-bending multi-versal mayhem” full of fantasy, metaphysics, and the supernatural.
20133. William Gillette and his wife (aka Tyke and Teddie Niver) are once again to be seen at (although not yet in) Gillette Castle in Hadlyme, Conn., on Sunday afternoons <www.tinyurl.com/y4lkfvlx>.
20134. “Serial Flasher Who Wears ‘Sherlock Holmes Hat’ Sparks Hunt after Striking Three Times” was the headline on a story in the London Daily Star on Sept. 3, reporting that “a pervert is on the loose in a leafy Kent town wearing a rucksack, a deerstalker hat, and not much else” in Tunbridge Wells. According to the KentLive and KentOnline web-sites, he was seen three times in two days, and spokesman for the Kent Police said that “the three incidents are suspected to be linked”

September 20 #3

20135. Owen R. Minter’s *The Shrouded Sword* (Charlotte: Minter, 2019; 274 pp., \$12.99) is an entertaining middle-grade fantasy (for youngsters aged 8 to 12) that involves three children with magic, mystery, time travel, and legend; the story’s nicely told, with interesting Canonical allusions, and is billed as the first of a series. The author’s web-site and blog are at <www.owenminter.com>.
20136. More and more Sherlockian societies are holding virtual meetings, and Jennie Paton is collecting video, when it’s available, to archive for posterity how Sherlockians are keeping things going during the pandemic. If you have any special programming of this sort, you’re welcome to share it with Jennie <jpaton221@gmail.com>
20137. Video of the Red Circle of Washington’s two virtual meetings, it should be noted, are available at <www.redcircledc.org>; tune it to see performances by Laurie R. King and Nicholas Utechin.
20138. If you would like to Zoom in to virtual society meetings hither, thither, and yon, many of them are listed in Ron Fish’s “Sherlockian Calendar” at <www.sherlockiancalendar.com>; if your society’s meetings aren’t listed, you can send information to Ron at <ronf404@al.com>.
20139. From page to stage to video: “Yūkoku no Moriāti” [“Moriarty the Patriot”] is a Japanese manga (February 18 #1) that inspired a stage musical (December 18 #4) and now a video series that will premiere in Japan on Oct. 11, according to a story at the Anime Mojo (Sept. 3) <www.tinyurl.com/y343qzqx> that has a trailer for the series. Moriarty is an orphan who as a young man “seeks to remove the ills caused by England’s strict class system.”
20140. Christopher C. Courter has launched a Facebook group called “The Sherlock Holmes Exchange” (“a free and open place for everyone to sell, purchase, or trade all things related to the great detective or the Victorian era”) <www.facebook.com/groups/sherlockholmesexchange>; many people already have signed up for what appears to be a Sherlockian combination of Craigslist and Etsy.
20141. Cliff Goldfarb has kindly reported an article (“Scientific American vs. the Spiritualists”) in the magazine’s September issue, which celebrates its 175th anniversary <www.tinyurl.com/y4p3w6wa>; Katherine Harmon Courage notes that it was Conan Doyle who suggested to its publisher Orson Munn that instead of covering psychic work as an ongoing debate, the magazine ought to take an official stance on it, and that led to the famous contest that pitted Houdini against the medium Margery. It wasn’t until 1942 that the magazine announced that it was concluding the investigation, announcing that “it is, perhaps, too much to hope that it may ever be permanently settled.
20142. Publishers Weekly reported (August 31) on news from the Beijing International Book Fair: sales of children’s books went up 43% over last year, with the DK Natural History: The Ultimate Visual Guide to Everything on Earth the #1 title on the bestseller list; the top ten included a new 40-volume “Detective Sherlock Holmes” illustrated series for primary school students. There’s more information about the set at <www.tinyurl.com/y5ljqnti>.

September 20 #4

20143. Mary McNamara had an amusing and interesting column (“Sherlock Holmes and Mary Russell Are Getting Me Through COVID-19. They Can Help You Too”) in the Los Angeles Times on July 24. She interviewed Laurie R. King, and learned that her latest book was planned to be set in the Tower of London; read the column to find out why she changed her mind <www.tinyurl.com/y2c7czuv>.
20144. “Cyclist Rescued from Infamous Sherlock Holmes Bog on Dartmoor,” according to Devon Live (Sept. 14) <www.tinyurl.com/y2gzvzoz>; a Dartmoor search and rescue team assisted a 51-year-old cyclist who had become stuck in boggy ground in Fox Tor Mire (believed by many to have been the inspiration for the Grimpen Mire).
20145. Lyndsay Faye has nice things to say about Vincent Starrett and his novel in her introduction to his *The Great Hotel Murder*, recently reprinted by Penzler Publishrs (August 20 #1); you can read her introduction at the Crime Reads blog <www.tinyurl.com/y6su3tstl>.
20146. “An Indian Academic’s Lone Fight to Save the Great Andamanese,” according to the headline on an article in TRT World (Sept. 8) that provides an interesting look at Tonga’s world today <www.tinyurl.com/y4wmc5f5>.
20147. *Soot and Steel: Dark Tales of London*, edited by Ian Whates (Alconbury Wes-ton: NewCon Press, 2019; 260 pp., £12.99/\$15.99), is an imaginative anthology of stories, old and new, about the darker aspects of the city; one of the new stories is Paul Di Filippo’s “From the Casebook of Master Wiggins, Esq.” (a pastiche from the pen of one of the Irregulars).
20148. Also from NewCon is Simon Clark’s *Case of the Bedevilled Poet* (2017; 106 pp., £6.99/\$7.99), a fantasy novella set in London during the blitz, when poet Jack Crofton becomes involved with two elderly gentlemen who claim to be the Holmes and Watson who inspired Conan Doyle’s stories.
20149. “Try to contact the dead with true believer Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and debunk seances with his friend Harry Houdini” during an “Evening of Illumination” at the Midway Village Museum in Rockford, Ill., on Oct. 30; more information at <www.tinyurl.com/y2986ugy> (click on “Events”).
20150. Dame Diana Rigg died on Sept. 10. She began her acting career on stage in 1957, became a star as Emma Peel in the television series “The Avengers” (1961-1969), and went on to a long and storied career that included introductions for programs (including Jeremy Brett’s “Sherlock Holmes” series) for “Mystery” on PBS-TV from 1989-to 2003.
20151. Thursday Next, who first appeared in Jasper Fforde’s novel *The Eyre Affair* (2001), has been described as “a genre send-up hailed as an instant classic” and after starring in seven novels has her own Wikipedia entry. She is from Swindon (where Sherlock Holmes had lunch) and her uncle is Mycroft (quite possibly Holmes). *First Among Sequels* (August 07 #3) was great fun, and so is *The Well of Lost Plots* (2003), which also offers occasional mentions of Mycroft and other intriguing Canonical allusions. Fforde has an interesting web-site at <www.jasperfforde.com>.

September 20 #5

20152. Sherlock Holmes spin-offs continue to be popular in Japan: one of them is “IQ246: Karei Naru Jikenbo” [“IQ246: The Cases of a Royal Genius”]. The 10-episode one-hour series debuted on TBS on October 16, 2016: Sharaku Homoji is the eldest son of a distinguished family that has studied crime for generations, with the eldest son always having an IQ of 246; he is assisted by Soko Wato a detective assigned to escort him, and his personality and deductions owe much to the latest BBC series. DVD sets are available at YouTube and Amazon (with and without subtitles).
20153. There’s also a Chinese spin-off: “Shao nu da ren” [“Maiden Holmes”]; the series is set in the Qi kingdom in the 6th century, and you can watch the first episodes (with subtitles) at <www.tinyurl.com/y6lzhwhwa>. Thanks to Aziz Bin Adam for the report, and Jennie Paton for the link.
20154. Just in time for Halloween: they’re outdoors, so corn mazes seem to be in vogue, and there are Sherlockian corn mazes, one of them in Mt. Pleasant, Wis. <borzynskis.com/corn-maze>, and the other in Mt. Brydges, Ont. (near London, southwest of Toronto <www.tinyurl.com/yyde8b6j>).
20155. Larry Millett launched his series of pastiches about Sherlock Holmes and Shadwell Rafferty in St. Paul, Minn., in 1995; they were (and are) great fun, and nicely done, and still available from the University of Minnesota Press in trade paperbacks (\$14.95 each). The Magic Bullet is an interesting locked-room mystery in which Holmes provides assistance from London.
20156. Joe Ruby died on Aug. 26. He began his career in animation at Walt Disney Productions and in 1959 went to work for Hanna-Barbera as a writer; he and his long-time partner Ken Spears created the cowardly Great Dane “Scooby-Doo” (who sometimes is seen in Sherlockian costume) and many other series.
20157. Laurie R. King’s web-site <www.laurierking.com> has much of interest; you can click on “see all blog posts” and scroll down to find Twitter conversations between Laurie and Mary Russell, and between Mary and Les Klinger, as well as a bit of comment on Laurie’s virtual meeting with the British team that’s working on adapting Mary Russell for television.
20158. Reported: a new deck of “Sherlock Holmes” playing cards, with artwork in full color <www.tinyurl.com/y5tb8row>, available from Nicky Bird Designs in the U.K.; £6.00 (plus £6.00 postage to the U.S.) (postage per deck is less if you order more than one deck).
20159. Steve Doyle’s video podcasts for the Baker Street Irregulars continue at YouTube; you can search for [fortnightly dispatch] to find interviews with many Sherlockians, and Doyleans (his latest interview’s with Roy Pilot and Doug Elliott).
20160. I’ve long described this newsletter as “six or more pages of whatever gossip I find appropriate, much of it quite trivial, but most of it Sherlockian or Doylean.” If you would like to run a word-search on a large file with all of the text since March 1985 (that’s when I entered the computer age) can now do just that, thanks to Steve Mason, who updates his compilation each month and makes it available at the web-site of the Crew of the Barque Lone Star <www.tinyurl.com/ybxh2y2m>.
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20161. September 20 #6 Further to the earlier report (May 20 #7) on the new SHERLOCK inexpensive diagnostic tool for detecting nucleic acids from disease-carrying microbes (developed from CRISPR by Sherlock Biosciences), the Tata Group in India has used CRISPR to create a rapid-test kit for COVID-19 that they have named the FNCAS9 Editor Linked Uniform Detection Assay (FELUDA), honoring the Bengali private investigator created by Satyajit Ray, who was inspired by Sherlock Holmes (his mother used to read the stories to him in English).
20162. Original artwork by Sidney Paget is coming to auction in the U.K. on Oct. 9 <www.tinyurl.com/y52h4v3a>; it’s a non-Sherlockian pencil and watercolor painting of boats and a sailing ship on a stormy sea.
20163. John E. Pforr (“Police-Constable Cook”) died on Sept. 23. He served with distinction during his long career with the Secret Service, and was an enthusiastic Sherlockian: he was Gasogene XXV of the Six Napoleons of Baltimore, and a member of many other east-coast Sherlockian societies. John received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1996.
20164. Drive-in theaters are making a comeback during the pandemic. Jennie Paton has reported that there was a screening this month of Robert Downey Jr.’s “Sherlock Holmes” on an inflatable screen at a pop-up drive-in in Tasmania (by nice coincidence at the Baskerville Raceway).
20165. Reported: “The Adventures of John Watson” is a new computer game from ArmiGames for Android phones and tablets; the first adventure can be played without charge, and there are four more games you can play after a single in-app purchase (\$3.49/£2.99) <www.tinyurl.com/yyzsbzoc>. They expect to have a version for iPhones and iPads available by the end of November .
20166. Reported: Richard L. Kellogg’s Barry Baskerville’s Christmas Mystery (Airship 27) is the seventh in his series (illustrated by Gary Kato) about boy detective Barry Baskerville.
20167. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London has decided not to have their annual dinner in January, because of the novel coronavirus, but they are holding virtual meetings, and they have announced an attractive Christmas card for this year. Details at <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk>.
20168. Some theaters are opening: Ken Ludwig’s “The Game’s Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays” is due at the Foothills Playhouse in Easley, S.C., Oct. 2-18 <www.foothillisplayhouse.org>.
20169. Ken Ludwig’s “Baskerville” is scheduled at the Triad Stage in Greensboro, N.C., Nov. 15-Dec. 13 <www.triadstage.org>.
20170. Bilal Dardai’s new dramatization of Jamyang Norbu’s “The Mandala of Sherlock Holmes” will be performed at the Seattle Center in Seattle, Wash., on May 15-June 30, 2021 <www.book-it.org>.

October 20 #1

20171. Planning continues for the birthday festivities in January, and final details will be available in mid-November , at the Baker Street Irregulars’ web-site at <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/bsi-event-dates>. You can also sign up for more timely “news from the BSI” e-mail alerts.
20172. There’s more news about the lawsuit filed by the Conan Doyle Estate Ltd. over the Netflix television film “Enola Holmes” (August 20 #1): Penguin Random House (the publisher of Nancy Springer’s Enola Holmes books) has filed its own response challenging the CDEL, citing (among many other defenses) the doctrine of laches. You can read their filing on-line at <www.free-sherlock.com>.
20173. The Deadline web-site has reported that “Enola Holmes” was watched by an estimated 76 million households during the first 28 days it was available at Netflix.
20174. “Giant Rat Receives Award” could have been the headline on the article in the N.Y. Times on Sept 25 <www.tinyurl.com/y65cny5k>, but the actual headline on the story read “Rat That Sniffs Out Land Mines Received Award for Bravery.” I’ve reported before (January 20 #2) on APOPO <www.apopo.org>, an organization that trains giant African pouched rats to detect unexploded landmines in countries in Africa and Asia (the rats don’t weigh enough to set off the mines, which can then be disarmed); APOPO also trains rats to detect tuberculosis in mucous samples, and to help pursue smugglers who traffic in endangered species. The giant rat, named Mugawa, was honored for “lifesaving bravery and devotion to duty,” and (of course APOPO welcomes donations from anyone who wants to adopt a giant rat. You can see video of Mugawa at <www.pdsa.org.uk>.

20175. “During Sherlock Holmes’ long absence from Victorian era London when the world believe him to have perished at Reichenbach Falls, an unlikely duo takes up the crime-solving mantle: Barnaby Rudge and Irene Adler! Are they up to the task?” That is the premise of “The Adventures of Barnaby Rudge”, a 30-minute radio series broadcast during the Nutmeg Junction Radio Hour at WAPJ-FM in Torrington, Conn. The series launched in January, and the first two episodes, and additional information, are available at <www.josephquirk.wixsite.com/barnabyrudge>.
20176. Don Herron, who has been leading a Dashiell Hammett Tour in San Francisco since 1977, blogs at “Up and Down These Mean Streets” <www.donherron.com> and casts his net widely, occasionally discussing Sherlock Holmes, Arthur Conan Doyle, August Derleth, and Ted Schulz.
20177. “However Improbable” is a new biweekly podcast launched by Marisa Mercurio and Sarah Kolb that will tour the Canon, story by story; you can listen in at <www.howeverimprobablepodcast.com>.
20178. The rare complete copy of Shakespeare’s first folio was sold at auction at Christie’s (in New York) on Oct. 14 for \$9,978,000 (including the buyer’s premium), setting a new world auction record for any work of literature. It was in “The Three Gables” that Holmes asked Mrs. Maberley whether she might have a first folio Shakespeare without knowing it.
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October 20 #2

20179. Otto Penzler’s *Mysterious Obsession* (first published in 2019) has been reissued in a third printing (New York: Penzler Publishing, 2020; 163 pp., \$40.00); it’s the story of his magnificent collection of mystery and detection, and of his career as a collector and bookseller and publisher, and he has written about some of the treasures that were on the shelves of his magnificent library <www.tinyurl.com/y680bzqr>; he does mention Holmes and Conan Doyle, from time to time, and some of his Sherlockian friends, and his stories are great fun.
20180. John Shaw’s interesting comments on “The Casebook of Copyright” <www.tinyurl.com/y2yd5jn9> appeared as a guest blog at the IKPat web-site, accompanied by imaginative artwork of a “Cat Sherlock” (created by an artist who uses the nom “Pinkleon”).
20181. Ann Marlowe notes that the first series of “Star Trek” had an episode that might be considered Sherlockian: “Miri” (Oct. 27, 1966) had the Enterprise discovering a planet where all the adults have died in a devastating plague; the children, however, have survived, fearful, distrustful, and feral, and one of them is seen wearing a deerstalker. “Miri” is available on Netflix and Amazon Prime.
20182. Reported: “The Brazilian Cat” in *The Golden Age of British Short Stories 1890-1914*, edited by Philip Hensher (London: Penguin Classics, 2020; 640 pages, £25.00 in cloth).
20183. Susan Rice (“Beeswing”) died on Sept. 28. She worked as a teacher and as a travel agent, but her true vocation was as a Sherlockian; she was both a scholar and an author, and for decades presided over the William Gillette Luncheon in New York during the annual birthday festivities. She received her Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1991 (one of the first women to be given full membership in the BSI) and won the Morley-Montgomery Award for the best article in the Baker Street Journal in 1997. Susan received the BSI’s Two-Shilling Award in 2002.
20184. “This is a fan letter,” Susan Rice wrote to Ray Betzner (in 1992). They shared an intense interest in Vincent Starrett, and Ray’s splendid tribute to her is at his “Studies in Starrett” blog at <www.tinyurl.com/y5euyhu7>. Many more memories of Susan, with colorful images, will be found at Scott Monty’s “I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere” blog <www.tinyurl.com/y5kyu8rd>.
20185. Original artwork by Harry Rountree (a grisaille illustration for *The Lost World*) was sold at David Lay Auctions in Penzance on Sept. 17; estimated at £40-£60, it sold for £2,600 <www.tinyurl.com/y4v2ydw1>.
20186. Letters from Conan Doyle come to auction with some frequency, many of them actually written by Conan Doyle, but also some written by one of his secretaries; one of those secretaries was Alfred H. Wood, and one of the letters he wrote for Conan Doyle was at auction on Sept. 30 at University Archives <www.tinyurl.com/yxuw93u8>. Wood carefully added a tiny “W” to the signature to show that the letter was not written by Conan Doyle. The estimate was \$1,500-\$1,700, and it sold for \$2,400.
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October 20 #3

20187. Martin Erwig’s *ONCE UPON AN ALGORITHM* (Cambridge: MIT Press, 2017; 315 pp., \$29.95), subtitled “how stories explain computing,” deals not with computers, but rather with computer science (the study of systematic problem-solving), and used Hansel and Gretel, Sherlock Holmes, Indiana Jones, Harry Potter, and others to explain algorithms and languages encountered in computing; it’s not for the faint-hearted or the mathematically-challenged, but it’s interesting to discover how useful Sherlock Holmes can be to teachers and students.
20188. “Mycroft Poppins—Sherlockalifragilisticexpialidocious” (reported by Roger Johnson) <www.youtube.com/watch?v=mMjQmE8hRzc&t=24s> goes fast and furious (and is amusing).
20189. “Murder Is Her Hobby: Frances Glessner Lee and The Nutshell Studies of Unexplained Death” was a delightful exhibition at the Smithsonian’s Renwick Gallery in 2017-2018. Les Klinger has kindly forwarded an article in *Atlas Obscura* (Oct. 6, 2017) <www.tinyurl.com/yakykd87> with grand close-up images of her miniature rooms, one of which is Sherlockian.
20190. Sorry about that: the statues of Sherlock and Enola Holmes in London (September 20 #1) are not in Baker Street, but rather in the Marylebone Road, outside the entrance to the Baker Street underground station.
20191. Sherlock Biosciences is continuing its work on the new SHERLOCK diagnostic tool developed from CRISPR (May 20 #7), and has launched a 221b Foundation that will support racial and gender diversity in science, technology, engineering, and math; you can read the company’s Sept. 15 press release at <www.tinyurl.com/y6mj89mz>.
20192. Yūko Takeuchi died on Sept. 27. She began her acting career on television in Japan in 1996, and went on to award-winning performances on television and in films; she appeared in the title role in the popular eight-episode series “Miss Sherlock” on HBO Asia and Hulu Japan in 2018.
20193. The BBC reports that “pub giant Greene King” is cutting jobs after deciding that tighter lockdown restrictions mean some pubs will have to close, and that 79 sites will stay closed for the time being, with about a third of them expected to close permanently <www.tinyurl.com/y2nczrk2>. Greene King is the owner of The Sherlock Holmes in London; the pub’s still open, Roger Johnson has written, but only on weekends.
20194. <[www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Sherlock_Holmes_characters](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Sherlock_Holmes_characters)> is an interesting discovery at Wikipedia, reported by David Pinto. There aren’t all that many characters listed, but there’s a link to a separate list of “minor Sherlock Holmes characters” that’s also far from complete. Wikipedia allows users to edit entries, so the lists may lengthen.
20195. Scott Monty spotted an interesting story that ran on CNN Style (Sept. 25); it began “On a journey from Kenya to Hollywood, Kiran Shah has built one of the most impressive careers in blockbuster history. So why don’t you know more about him?” It’s well worth reading <www.tinyurl.com/y45sq7r7>, and there’s a Sherlockian connection not mentioned in the story. One of Kiran Shah’s many roles was Tonga in Granada’s “The Sign of Four” (1987).
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October 20 #4

20196. Kansas detectives investigating a report of unlawful relations between a staffer at the Sedgwick County Jail and a female inmate noted e-mail references to Sherlock Holmes and Inspector G. Lestrade in communications between the two, and quickly focused on deputy Timothy Baskerville, who has been criminally charged in the case; details will be found in a story in the Wichita Eagle (Oct. 2) <www.tinyurl.com/y348spoc>.
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20198. Tony Tanner died on Sept. 8. He was a British actor, writer, and director who also worked in the U.S. and was best known for directing “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat” on Broadway in 1982; he also played Sidney Prince in the Royal Shakespeare Company’s production of Gillette’s “Sherlock Holmes” in New York in 1975.
20199. “Arthur Conan Doyle and the Mutineers” was Dean Jobb’s “Stranger Than Fiction” column in the Sept.-Oct. 2020 issue of Ellery Queen’s Mystery Magazine; you can read the column on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/yygnedu7>.
20200. Quick quiz: who is this famous Sherlockian actor?
20201. Gerald Lynch’s *The Dying Detective* <www.tinyurl.com/y53v7jy6> {published this month} is a new (and non-Sherlockian) mystery with the same title as one of the Canonical stories; the same title was used by Leif G. W. Persson for a mystery published in Finland in 2010 and translated into English in 2017. Other authors have written non-Sherlockian books with Canonical titles. Can you think of any?
20202. Sherlock Holmes continues to turn up in commercials from time to time, and Jennie Paton has noted a 5-minute South Korean commercial for the LG Cord-Zero A9 stick vacuum <vimeo.com/465336598>.
20203. Paul French’s article on “Sherlock Holmes and the Curious Case of Several Million Chinese Fans” <chinachannel.org/2020/09/18/holmes> in the Los Angeles Review of Books (Sept. 18) is an interesting account of “how Holmes came to China.”
20204. The original artwork by Sidney Paget at auction in the U.K. on Oct. 9 (September 20 #6) <www.tinyurl.com/y52h4v3a> (a non-Sherlockian pencil and watercolor painting of boats and a sailing ship on a stormy sea) sold for £260.
20205. Marilyn MacGregor (“V.V. 341”) died on Sept. 16. She worked as an administrator in the sociology department at UC Berkeley, a consultant for the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, and as a teacher at UC Davis. Marilyn was a devoted Sherlockian (and Wodehousean), and served the Bodymaster of the Scowlers and Molly Maguires of San Francisco for 23 years; she also was one of the founders of the Clients of Adrian Mulliner. She received her Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1999.
20206. In plenty of time for holiday hinting (or shopping), Randall Stock’s annual informative nominations for the best Sherlock Holmes books/DVDs of the year will go on-line at <www.bestofsherlock.com/sherlock-gifts.htm>. There also are recommendations of older Sherlockiana, all with helpful explanations of his choices.

October 20 #5

20207. Frank Windsor died on Sept. 30. He began his acting career in British radio in the 1950s, went on to roles on stage, screen, and television, becoming best known as Sergeant John Watt (promoted over the years to Chief Superintendent) in the long-running television series “Z-Cars” and “Softly, Softly: Taskforce”. He also performed as Watson on tour in Britain in Brian Clemens’ “Holmes and the Ripper” (1988).
20208. Who was that famous Sherlockian actor? Jeremy Brett, in Etonian attire in 1949. Educated at Eton College, he claimed to have been an “academic disaster” (attributing his learning difficulties to dyslexia).
20209. The animated series “Yūkoku no Moriāti” [“Moriarty the Patriot”] (September 20 #3) is now being broadcast in Japan (Moriarty is an orphan who as a young man “seeks to remove the ills caused by England’s strict class system.”)
20210. Crunchyroll reported on Oct. 10 <www.tinyurl.com/y6mxzkfn> that there’s a Moriarty the Patriot Café now open in Ikebukuro (northwest of Tokyo). CBR (formerly the Comic Book Review) has an interesting on-line discussion of Sherlockian animations, from “Sherlock Hound” to “Moriarty the Patriot”, at <www.cbr.com/sherlock-holmes-moriarty-the-patriot-anime-history>. Two episodes with English subtitles are at <www.tinyurl.com/yy6sn437> and at <www.tinyurl.com/yxakk4tl>. Jennie Paton warns against downloading programs from sites such as Kissanime, where you are exposed to all sorts of malware and other dire consequences.
20211. The first volume of the manga of “Moriarty the Patriot” (written by Ryōsuke Takeuchi and illustrated by Hikaru Miyoshi) also been published as a book by VIZ Media <www.viz.com. (208 pp., \$9.99), and digitally (\$6.99). A preview of the first chapter is available free; the first volume’s nicely done indeed, and of course there are more to come.
20212. Was there a cat at 221B Baker Street? Ailurophiles certainly will welcome a discovery made by James Edward Holroyd, noted in the summer 1970 issue of the *Sherlock Holmes Journal*; now Roger Johnson has tracked down a full-color image of the cover artwork by R. Noel Pocock for the Nelson seven-penny 1920 reprint of *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*. Roger also has found more information about Pocock and his artwork in Steve Holland’s blog <www.tinyurl.com/y33plth6> (which also shows Pocock’s colorful illustrations for Wodehouse novels).
20213. Laurie R. King’s next Mary Russell novel, *Castle Shade*, due next June, has cover artwork <www.laurierking.com/books/castle-shade/overview>; Laurie is not sure that it’s Mary in disguise, but she kindly offers a plot summary by way of a teaser. She also is proud of *In League with Sherlock Holmes: Stories Inspired by the Sherlock Holmes Canon*, the latest in the series of anthologies she has edited with Leslie S. Klinger, due from Pegasus Books in December .
20214. The Baker Street Players at Baker Street West have launched a podcast, and you can listen to “The Legacy: A Golden Evening with Arthur Conan Doyle, Oscar Wilde, and Joseph M. Stoddard” at <www.bakerstreetwest.com>. Their next production will be “The Speckled Band” (due later this month).

October 20 #6

20215. “Sherlock: The Russian Chronicles” (the new Russian mini-series that stars Maxim Matveyev as Sherlock Holmes) launched on the START cable channel in Russia on Oct. 22. The first of the eight episodes opens in London, where Holmes encounters Jack the Ripper and pursues him to Russia. The production values and supporting characters are excellent; there’s lots of bloodshed and violence, and an interesting script. A trailer is available at <www.tinyurl.com/yxhrdnn3>, and there’s a teaser at <<https://f.io/dXL0tniK>>. The first episode, with subtitles in English, is available at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=uns48W10e9c>. They’ve also come up with an imaginative promotion <www.youtube.com/watch?v=A4-G6jhs-V4>, as reported by Alexander Orlov. No word yet on international distribution.
20216. Richard A. Lupoff died on Oct. 22. He began writing for and editing science-fiction fanzines in the 1960s and became an expert on Edgar Rice Burroughs and an established science-fiction author in the 1970s. Lupoff also wrote mysteries, including Sherlockian pastiches collected (with a recipe for Giant Rat of Sumatra Stew) in his *Universal Sherlock Holmes* (2007).
20217. Karen Kozenczuk’s article “Off the Beaten Path: The Bee’s Knees” on-line at *Journal & Topics* on Oct. 14 <www.tinyurl.com/y5w3g6ll> is an intriguing exploration of just what kind of bees Sherlock Holmes kept when he was in retirement in Sussex.

20218. Penang lawyers are mentioned twice in the Canon, and Rik Sheperd has noted an intriguing article <www.canequest.com/penang-lawyer> that explains just what a Penang lawyer was (and is, if you can find one) and include mention of *lex baculina* (which, if you don't understand Latin, is easily found on the Internet).
20219. The late Bill Rabe was an accomplished Sherlockian and the subject of many grand stories, most of them true, and he was proud of his work as the publicist for the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island. Bill and his wife Maryann are buried there (with a tombstone saying that "Life is a Grave Matter"). The film "Somewhere in Time" (1980) was filmed on the island, and his son John has launched an interesting podcast <www.callbackyesterday.com> celebrating the film's 40th anniversary.
20220. Donald Douglas died on Oct. 3. He began work as a film editor for Hanna-Barbara cartoons in the early 1960s, worked on many other series, was nominated for his first Emmy in 1984, and again in 1985 for editing "The Murder of Sherlock Holmes" (the pilot episode of Angela Lansbury's "Murder, She Wrote" series).
20221. Jennie Paton discovered "Tesla Wireless Radio" at YouTube, offering downloads of a long list of old Sherlockian radio programs and films, and lots more non-Sherlockian material <www.youtube.com/user/xtcg953>.
20222. The Curse of Sherlock Holmes: The Basil Rathbone Story, by David Clayton (Cheltenham; History Press, 2020; 190 pp. \$27.95) is an entertaining biography of the actor who personified Sherlock Holmes on film and radio for more than a decade. He had a colorful life, and a long career on stage, screen radio, and television, and still has a legion of fans.
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October 20 #7

20223. "Back about 1903 I was one of four schoolboys (in Baltimore)," Christopher Morley wrote (to Jerry Neal Williamson) in 1949, "who founded probably the very first secret Sherlockian society in America --- we called ourselves TSO-4." The letter went from Otto Penzler's collection to Heritage Auctions and sold on Oct. 16 at \$875.00 (including the buyer's premium). There is more to Morley's letter, and you can read the rest of it at <www.tinyurl.com/y4wjzzyff>.
20224. Tyke and Teddie Niver (aka William and Helen Gillette) starred in the East Haddam News on Oct. 15 <www.tinyurl.com/y4vmfp8v>.
20225. Another spin-off television series in Japan is "Sherlock: Untold Stories" (2019), with 11 one-hour episodes set in present-day Tokyo; Shishio Homare (a genius working as a freelance crime consultant) is assisted by Junichi Wakamiya (a psychiatrist who thinks Homare is ignorant and arrogant at the start, but becomes more comfortable with him). Some the programs can be seen (with subtitles in English) at <www.dailymotion.com/playlist/x6w95m>.
20226. Karen Kozenczuk's article "Off the Beaten Path: The Bee's Knees" on-line at Journal & Topics on Oct. 14 <www.tinyurl.com/y5w3g6ll> is an intriguing exploration of just what kind of bees Sherlock Holmes kept when he was in retirement in Sussex.
20227. The Disney Comics Randomness web-site noted (Feb. 24) that Peachtree PlayThings <www.tinyurl.com/y3kh9hzk> has started reprinting stories from old issues of Disney comics, apparently available only at Dollar Tree stores, where Jim Suszynski found Disney Mickey Mouse #3 (2019) offering all three parts of "The Mysterious Crystal Ball" (from Walt Disney Comics and Stories, 1954); Mickey is assisted by detective Shamrock Bones. Copies also are available at eBay.
20228. The statue of Enola Holmes (September 20 #1) no longer is situated in the Marylebone Road, but you still can visit it; Roger Johnson writes that Netflix has donated the statue to the Francis Holland School in Regent's Park. It is one of London's leading independent schools for girls, and you can see the statue at <www.tinyurl.com/y6mkjfg6>.
20229. John Dawson's "Conan Doyle/Sherlock Holmes Primary References in the Early Works of P. G. Wodehouse (through 1922)" <www.tinyurl.com/y6x6z4gm>, noted in the October issue of The Moor (published by the Baskerville Hall Club in Sweden) is a delightful demonstration of Wodehouse's enthusiasm for Conan Doyle and his work. It's only one of many Doylean and Sherlockian entries available at "Madame Eulalie's Rare Plums" <www.madameulalie.org>.
20230. Sherlockians have long made a visit to New York's iconic Strand Bookstore an important part of the January birthday festivities (wise Sherlockians, of course, visit the store when it's not full of other Sherlockians). The N.Y. Post reported on Oct. 23 <www.tinyurl.com/yxg4sdrq> that the Strand might have to close because of declining business during the pandemic; the response was so great, according to a story in Newsweek, that the store's web-site crashed <www.tinyurl.com/y3dl4vo8>. Fear not: the Strand's web-site is back <www.strandbooks.com>.
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October 20 #8

20231. And now for something completely different: Helder Guimarães is an astonishing magician. You can learn much about him at his web-site <www.thisishelder.com>, and you'll find additional video at YouTube. Dan Stashower and I have seen "The Present" (and will be seeing "The Future"). Like the late Ricky Jay, Helder is so skillful that even if you know what he's going to do, you can't see him doing it.
20232. More Than an Actor: The Story of Peter H., by W. Grey Champion (Page Publishing, 2018; 343 pp., \$17.38), offers a fictionalized biography of Peter Jeremy William Huggins, better known to Sherlockians as Jeremy Brett, from his birth in 1933 to his death in 1995; it's a warmly sympathetic account of family, friends, and fellow actors, as well as his career and medical and personal problems, based on contemporary sources but embellished with invented dialogue and situations.
20233. Steve Doyle's video podcasts (for the Baker Street Irregulars) continue at YouTube; search for [fortnightly dispatch] to see his interviews with Ashley Polasek and Bonnie MacBird.
20234. It's the sort of comic strip that future generations may not understand, but it certainly was appropriate in these times of COVID-19: Mike Peters' "Mother Goose & Grimm" (kindly forwarded by Kelly Blau) was nicely Sherlockian on Oct. 18.
20235. There's more (well, at least some) Sherlockian theater to forecast. Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is scheduled at the Fairfield Community Arts Center in Fairfield, Ohio, Nov. 13-22 <www.fairfieldfootlighters.org>.
20236. Joe LoCicero's new adaptation of "Sherlock Holmes and the Blue Carbuncle" will be fully staged and recorded by the Long Beach Shakespeare Company at the Helen Borgers Theatre in Long Beach, Calif., and available for viewing on-line from Nov. 26 to Dec. 31 <www.lbshakespeare.org>.
20237. Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" will be per-formed at the Belfry Theatre in Noblesville, Ind., from Nov. 27 to December 13 www.belfrytheatre.com
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November 20 #1

20238. It has been erroneously reported that the Baker Street Irregulars' Annual Dinner in 2021 has been cancelled. As was announced three months ago, the BSI will hold a virtual dinner meeting, and other activities, in January, instead of in-person events. The virtual dinner will feature all the usual toasts, presentations, music, and awards and honors. Planning already is underway for a live, in-person dinner in 2022. In the meantime, please wash your hands, and (like Holmes and Watson in "Charles Augustus Milverton") wear a mask.
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20239. There will be many other events held on-line during birthday festivities, among them the BSI's Distinguished Speaker Lecture, the William Gillette Luncheon, the Gaslight Gala, and the ASH Brunch, all are open to everyone. There's a link to register for the Lecture at <www.tinyurl.com/yvyn3wb>, with helpful hints on how to use Zoom, and there's information about other events at Scott Monty's <www.bsiweekend.com>.
20240. Both Sherlockians and Doylean are invited to attend the (virtual) inaugural meeting of the Literary Agents, a new society devoted to the study of the writings of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. The society is based at the interesting "Doings of Doyle" podcast created by Mark Jones and Paul Chapman [May 20 #5]; more information about the meeting, scheduled for 11:00 on Jan. 10, will be found at <www.tinyurl.com/y6qg77ga>.
20241. The Las Cruces Sun News reported on Oct. 26 <www.tinyurl.com/y4ufn5o3> on the continuing lawsuit over the Netflix film "Enola Holmes", noting that the judge in Santa Fe has ordered a status conference on Jan. 15 to discuss scheduling a settlement conference in the case. Attorney Ben Allison (representing the Conan Doyle Estate Ltd.) told the newspaper that the CDEL's U.S. licensing representative [Jon L. Lellenberg] lives in Santa Fe and their legal work has always been based there. The story notes that if the lawsuit isn't settled, the case might continue through the end of 2021 into 2022.
20242. The film defendants have filed a 19-page motion to dismiss that suit, saying that "this court should reject plaintiff's attempt to extort publishers, producers, and content creators who use the public domain character Sherlock Holmes," and asking that the lawsuit be dismissed with prejudice and that the defendants' attorneys be awarded money to cover their expenses; you can read their motion at <www.free-sherlock.com>. They also have applied for a transfer of the case to the Central District of California.
20243. Ken Ludwig is a prolific playwright, and you can see just how prolific at his web-site <www.kenludwig.org>; his Sherlockian plays are "Postmortem", "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays", and "Baskerville", and it is well worth exploring his blog and his "thoughts on comedy".
20244. Holmes Reads Holmes: Reflections on the Real-Life Links Between the Jurist & the Detective, edited by Ross E. Davies and H. M. Hoeflich (Clark: Talbot, 2020; 84 pp., \$24.95), is an intriguing chapbook devoted to the connections between the two Holmeses; there are essays by Davies, Hoeflich, and Robert S. Katz, a seasonal reprint of "The Blue Carbuncle, and on the front cover a colorful image of original artwork by Sidney Paget. Available from the publisher at <www.tinyurl.com/y5fzdx23>.

November 20 #2

20245. "Sherlock Holmes on Screens" is a new and interesting web-site <www.sherlock-holmes-on-screens.com> that was created by Howard Ostrom, Thierry Saint-Joanis, and J. C. Mornard, who pursue all of the actors who have portrayed Sherlock Holmes on stage, screen, radio, television, and the Internet; they've made many interesting discoveries, and it's well worth exploring.
20246. "Quaesitum" was the word of the day at the Word Genius web-site on Oct. 27 <www.tinyurl.com/y48v37ul>, Mary Burke has noted, with an interesting use of the word in a sentence: "No matter how confounding the case, Sherlock Holmes always finds the quaesitum." That's not from the Canon, of course, but what would the source be?
20247. Samantha Wolov found Angie Rozelaar's Bookish Cats Board Book, published this year by Mudpuppy; it's a "pawsitively purrfect collection of literary classics" that includes a cat in Sherlockian costume representing Arthur Clawnan Doyle and "The Catventures of Sherlick Holmes. Do a Google search for [bookish cats] to find the image on a reusable shopping bag, magnets, and a 500-piece jigsaw puzzle, as well as the board book.
20248. Sean Connery died on Oct. 31. He was an iconic actor, best known for his many films as James Bond, winner of many awards, and knighted in 2000 for services to film drama. He also played Jack Kehoe in "The Molly Maguires" (1970) and William of Baskerville in "The Name of the Rose" (1986). And in "Diamonds Are Forever" (1971) Norman Burton (Felix Leiter) said, "The diamonds are in the body, but where?" to which Sean Connery (James Bond) answered, "Alimentary Dr. Leiter."
20249. Aziz Bin Adam has noted Mike Deakin, an imaginative craft designer who offers a do-it-yourself kit <www.mikedeakinart.com/tag/sherlock-holmes> for £4.50, along with a link to an instructive YouTube video showing how you can make his "The Greatest Detective Ephemera Digi Kit"; there's lots more non-Sherlockian material to see at his web-site and YouTube channel.
20250. "I'm in Love with Jeremy Brett" is an amusing music video created by Poi Dog Pondering for their 2011 mini-album "Audio Love Letter"; watch it at <www.tinyurl.com/yy86vj21>, kindly reported by Dino Argyropoulos. If you can't make out the lyrics, read them at <www.tinyurl.com/yy8lwky5>.
20251. What's the source for the quote "No matter how confounding the case, Sherlock Holmes always finds the quaesitum" posted on-line at the World Genius web-site? Well, I asked them, and was told that the sentence was invented to show the usage of the featured word in a sentence.
20252. It's a blurb worth mentioning: "Reading Meyer's The Seven-Per-Cent Solution made me decide to become a writer. Reading his latest simply made me a delighted and satisfied reader." -Michael Chabon. Meyer's latest is his excellent The Adventure of the Peculiar Protocols (October 19 #4), now out as a trade paperback (from Minotaur Books, \$16.99); Chabon wrote the intriguing The Final Solution: A Story of Detection (2004) and Maps and Legends: Reading and Writing Along the Borderlands (2008), and won a Pulitzer Prize for The Amazing Adventures of Cavalier & Clay (2003).

November 20 #3

20253. Jennie Paton has spotted an advertisement for Sherlock Holmes Perfectly Logical Whiskey <www.tinyurl.com/y6h7k2h3>; it's a blended Scotch whiskey (80 proof), and the attractive label proclaims that "the only mystery left unsolved is why it tastes so good." But there is another mystery: the Scotch is widely advertised on the Internet, but is either sold out or unavailable, and all one can do is sign up for a waiting list. One web-site quotes a price: \$24.99 for 750 ml, which suggests that it's not of the highest quality.
20254. Josh Pachter's series of Ellery Queen pastiches with Sherlockian puns as titles continues with "The Adventure of the Black-and-Blue Carbuncle" in the Nov.-Dec. issue of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine. Don't ignore the closing sentence in the story.
20255. James Randi died on Oct. 20. A magician who performed as the Amazing Randi, he followed the path blazed by Harry Houdini in exposing fake mediums and psychic, eventually (and successfully) offering \$1 million to anyone who could prove him wrong. His book Flim-Flam!: Psychics, ESP, Unicorns, and Other Delusions (1982) included a chapter on Conan Doyle and "Fairies at the Foot of the Garden".
20256. Jennie Paton has reported the Sherlock Holmes Hospitality Group, which now has three Sherlock Holmes pubs in and near Edmonton in Alberta; details at their web-site <www.sherlockshospitality.com>.
20257. Dave Hawkes died in October. He was a lecturer in mental health nursing at Anglia Ruskin University, and an enthusiastic member of the Chelmsford Theatre Workshop in Essex. He performed as Dr. Watson in "The Great Detective: The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (written by Roger Johnson for the CTW in 2001) and in audio plays recorded by the Old Court Radio Theatre Company (some available at <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/podcasts>), and as Holmes in Tim Kelly's dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (2015).
20258. Reported: Mike Resnick's pastiche "The Adventure of the Pearly Gates" (reprinted from his Sherlock Holmes in Orbit, 1995) is included in his collection First Person Peculiar (Wordfire, 2014).

20259. Bouchercon was held on-line rather than in San Francisco this year, and as so often there was a Sherlockian panel (“What Would Sherlock Do?”), with Les Klinger as moderator, and Laurie King, Bonnie MacBird, Liese Sherwood-Fabre, and Elizabeth Crowens as panelists, discussing how Holmes and other classic sleuths managed without modern forensic tools at their disposal; you can tune in at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=MVsgxSeH3rA>. The next Bouchercons will be held (everyone hopes) in New Orleans, Aug. 25-29, 2021; and in Minneapolis, Sept. 8-11, 2022.
20260. There’s more video from Bouchercon, recorded by Linda Hein at Baker Street West (with Brad Loffswold as Holmes and Joe Svec as Watson), used to open the conference <www.tinyurl.com/y3xqs2dg>, and (with Sidney Cohen as Conan Doyle) to open the Anthony Awards Ceremony <www.tinyurl.com/y26bbjzl>. It is nice that Bouchercon has made all of its sessions available at YouTube.
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November 20 #4

20261. Angela Misri’s *The Detective and the Spy* (Toronto: Cormorant, 2020; 234 pp., \$22.95) is the fourth in her series about Portia Adams, the granddaughter of both Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson, pursuing her own career as a consulting detective in London in 1935; she has been injured in an explosion, deaf and unable to speak clearly, and nevertheless involved in a struggle against both the British secret service and a devious villain. Angela’s web-site <www.angelamisri.com> offers information about her books and a video interview from her recent book-launch.
20262. What nine-letter word in the English language still is a word when eight letters are removed, one by one? Thanks to Willy Werby for this challenge (by way of making it a Sherlockian challenge, the nine-letter word appears eleven times in the Canon).
20263. Steve Doyle’s video podcasts (for the Baker Street Irregulars) continue at YouTube; search for [fortnightly dispatch] to see his interviews with Dana Cameron and Russell Merritt.
20264. New York’s Roosevelt Hotel will close after nearly 100 years, CNN Travel reported on Oct. 11 <www.tinyurl.com/yylb5zhv>. Named in honor of President Theodore Roosevelt, the hotel opened in 1924 and was the site of Guy Lombardo’s first broadcast of “Auld Lang Syne” from the hotel’s Grill on New Year’s Eve in 1929; more recently it has been the site of many of the Sherlockian birthday festivities each January. A spokesman for the hotel, now owned by Pakistan International Airlines, cited the coronavirus pandemic and the resulting drop in business for the decision to close.
20265. “How Suffragette Pavilion Fire Outraged Tunbridge Wells...and Conan Doyle” was the headline on a story in *The Guardian* <www.tinyurl.com/y4husayu> on Nov. 10; it was in 1913 that Conan Doyle made the nine-mile trip from his home in Windlesham to say that votes for women would be “not only against the constitution but the very laws of nature.”
20266. Soumitra Chatterjee died on Nov. 15. He acted in his first Bengali film in 1959 and went to star in more than 300 movies. Famed for his work with director Satyajit Ray, who wrote a series of novels about Feluda, a modern detective who used Sherlockian methods and, directed films such as “Sonya Kella” [“The Golden Fortress”] (1974) and “Joi Baba Felunath” [“The Elephant God”] (1979), in which Chatterjee appeared as Feluda.
20267. The “Conan Doyle in Edinburgh” conference that was held at Napier University on Sept. 24-25 went very well, according to reports from many who attended, and it’s nice indeed that the keynote address and the six panels were recorded and are available at <www.tinyurl.com/y2nqnrrpq>, along with news of the “Edinburgh Edition of the Works of Arthur Conan Doyle” (an on-going project with Douglas Kerr as general editor).
20268. There aren’t that many Sherlockian celebrations of Thanksgiving in editorial cartoons, but Pat Bagley provided a nice one 2011 with his “Who Killed Tom Turkeyday?” <www.pinterest.com/pin/326722147936507436>, which ran in 2011. Bagley has worked for the paper since 1979; you can see his current contributions at the paper’s web-site <www.sltrib.com/opinion/bagley>.
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November 20 #5

20269. Geoffrey Palmer died on Nov. 5. Perhaps best known here for his performance as Lionel Hardcastle in the BBC’s television series “As Time Goes By” (1992-2005), he had a long and varied career on stage, screen, radio, television, and recordings. He was Sherlock Holmes on stage in Hugh Leonard’s “The Mask of Moriarty” in Leicester (1987), and William Parnes (an actor who performed as Sherlock Holmes) in episodes of “Two Pipe Problems” broadcast by BBC Radio 4 in 2013.
20270. Bev Wolov reports “The World of Sherlock Holmes: A Jigsaw Puzzle by Doug John Miller (1,000 pieces, with a fold-out Sherlockian poster) (\$18.99); available from *The Strand Magazine* <www.tinyurl.com/y6l6g4yz> (attractive and challenging). The poster is a key to the design of the puzzle, with text by Nick Utechin that explains the surprises that Miller has tucked away in his artwork.
20271. The Friends of Gillette Castle State Park are continuing to post interesting videos at their web-site, the latest being about the relationship between Gillette and his neighbor Mark Twain <www.tinyurl.com/yxu8xffk>. It isn’t Sherlockian, but it offers a chance to hear Gillette’s impersonation of Twain in a reading from “The Jumping Frog of Calaveras County”.
20272. *A Case of Agony: Tales Inspired by the Agony Columns of the Victorian Period*, edited by Steve Mason, is the latest annual collection of pastiches and scholarly articles published by the Crew of the Barque Lone Star; it’s downloadable (free) at their web-site <www.tinyurl.com/y2wc8szk>.
20273. What nine-letter word in the English language still is a word when eight letters are removed, one by one? If you’ve given up on solving the challenge, you’ll find the answer at <www.tinyurl.com/yb42grkg>.
20274. Burt Wolder has reported that an attractive black granite stone honoring Frederic Dorr Steele has been installed in the Steele/King family plot at the Albany Rural Cemetery in Menands, N.Y. <www.tinyurl.com/ybylysus>. A ceremony is in the planning stages for next spring, and there’s an informative interview with Andrew Malec and Linda and Terry Hunt about Steele at the “I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere” blog <www.tinyurl.com/y3wov4yp>.
20275. John Sessions died on Nov. 2. He had a long career on British television as an actor, comedian, and impressionist, also performing on stage, radio, and the screen, and he had an interesting mix of Sherlockian and Doylean credits: Prof. Rutherford in one episode of “Murder Rooms” (2001), Joseph Bell in the television film “Reichenbach Falls” (2007), Kenny Prince in an episode (“The Great Game”) of “Sherlock” (2010), Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in an episode of “Mr. Selfridge” (2013), and Mycroft Holmes in Ian McKellen’s “Mr. Holmes” (2015).
20276. Jonny Marx’s *Sherlock Bones and the Addition & Subtraction Adventure* (New York: Sterling, 2018; 32 pp., \$9.95) is an attractively illustrated book for children ages 7+, with Sherlock Bones and Doctor Catson using arithmetic to foil Professor Moriratty. There’s also a *Sherlock Holmes and the Times Table Adventure*, and both books are available in Spanish and French as well as English.
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November 20 #6

20277. Ira J. Fistell’s *The Hidden Holmes: A Sherlock Holmes Compani on* (Portland: Inkwater, 2020; 315 pp., \$17.95) is subtitled as “a serious rereading of the stories and novels by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle with analyses and commentary,” and it’s an exploration of the Canon as an “adventure in literature,” with discussion, story by story, of structure, allegory, and inspiration.
20278. Ross Davies continues to collect Sherlockian toasts, making them available at <www.rossdavies.org/toasts>, and of course he welcomes additional contributions. There’s much more of interest at his web-site, including the links to [Green Bag] and [Maps and miscellany].
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20279. Cliff Goldfarb has kindly forwarded an article that appeared in the Toronto Globe and Mail on Nov. 20, noting the importance of that date to every Sherlockian and Doylean <www.tinyurl.com/y34unp3w>.
20280. "It was a well used Rudge-Whitworth, splashed as from a considerable journey," Watson wrote (in "The Valley of Fear"); Leslie Katz has reported an amusing filmed advertisement for the Rudge-Whitworth, at 39:37 minutes in some old silent films available at <www.tinyurl.com/y3xvttt5>.
20281. The Generic Radio Workshop <www.genericradio.com> offers free downloads of a wide variety of radio scripts, including seven for Sherlock Holmes shows from 1939 to 1955, and one for the Mercury Theatre on the Air in 1938.
20282. Ken Spears died on Nov. 6. He began his career with Hanna-Barbera in the late 1950s, and with Joe Ruby, who died on Aug. 26, created the cowardly Great Dane "Scooby-Doo" (who sometimes is seen in Sherlockian costume) and many other series such as "The Flintstones" and "Josie and the Pussycats".
20283. The Beacon Society has launched a new quarterly for younger Sherlockians, and the first issue of Sherlock's Spotlight Gazette is available at their web-site <www.beaconsociety.com/sherlocks-spotlight-gazette.html> and by e-mail; younger Sherlockians are welcome to contribute artwork and other material to the Gazette.
20284. One hears of Conan Doyle everywhere: he's a wide receiver on the Burseson Elks varsity football team; he's class of 2022 in the Burseson, Texas High School, and you can watch him in action at <www.youtube.com/y4snyamg>.
20285. "Nicholas Meyer Discusses Sherlock Holmes, Antisemitism, and Raoul Wallenberg" was the headline on an interesting interview in the Holocaust Reader (Nov. 18) <www.tinyurl.com/y6k5axpm>, in which he talked about The Adventure of the Peculiar Protocols, and much more.
20286. January Morris died on Nov. 20. She was James Morris for the first 45 years of her life, and in 1953 was the only journalist with the British expedition to the summit of Mt. Everest; she then became a noted travel writer and historian before changing her sex and name, and continuing her career as an author. Her "Pax Britannica" trilogy (Heaven's Command, Pax Britannica, and Farewell the Trumpets: An Imperial Retreat) are a delightful account of the Victorian era, and the rise and fall of the British Empire.

November 20 #7

20287. Mark your calendars for Feb. 18, when, if all goes well, SHERLOC and WATSON will land at Jezero Crater on Mars; they are on board the Perseverance Rover, which was launched on July 30, and the landing will be broadcast live from the Space Flight Operations Center at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif. SHERLOC and WATSON are acronymed instruments [June 20 #2] that contribute to the exploration of the Red Planet.
20288. Noted by Les Klinger: a warm and enthusiastic appreciation of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" at the CrimeReads web-site <www.tinyurl.com/yxkat36k> by James Lovegrove, who has written many Sherlockian pastiches, both short stories and novels, and has a fine web-site at <www.jameslovegrove.com>.
20289. Why is Nov. 20 an important date to every Sherlockian and Doylean? Philip King's story in the Toronto Globe and Mail, for those who do not have access to a computer, is headlined "Conan Doyle Sells Copyright to the First Sherlock Holmes Story". That's the date in 1886 when he wrote a letter to accept the offer of £25 for "A Study in Scarlet".
20290. Some readers of this newsletter may be old enough to remember the Comics Code Authority, and some younger collectors may wonder about the emblem seen on some older comic books. The Comics Code Authority was adopted in 1954 as a "code of ethics and standards" for the comic-book industry, revised in 1971, and then abandoned in 2011. The revision allowed vampires, ghouls, and werewolves, if "handled in the classic tradition such as Frankenstein, Dracula, and other high calibre literary works written by Edgar Allan Poe, Saki, Conan Doyle, and other respected authors whose works are read in schools around the world."
20291. The Sherlock Holmes Museum (which claims it's at 221b Baker Street in London) <www.sherlock-holmes.co.uk> has announced that it's now temporarily closed due to government guidelines during the second pandemic shut-down. So, alas, is the Sherlock Holmes Pub in Northumberland Street.
20292. Reported (just published): The Big Book of Espionage, edited by Otto Penzler (New York: Vintage Crime/Black Lizard, 2020; 832 pp., \$26.00); billed as "the most complete compendium of double agents, dead drops, and duplicitous deeds ever collected," it includes "The Naval Treaty".
20293. "When Worlds Collide: Holmes and 'Somewhere in Time'" is the title of an interesting 46-minute interview with Les Klinger by John Rabe on his "Call Back Yesterday" blog (for fans of the movie "Somewhere in Time"); you can tune in at <www.tinyurl.com/y6q8u8oz>.
20294. Nev March's Murder in Old Bombay (New York: Minotaur Books, 2020; 400 pp., \$26.99) is set in colonial India in 1892, when James Agnihotri, an admirer of the Sherlock Holmes stories as well as a recently discharged captain in the British army, finds himself investigating two mysterious deaths. The local color and supporting characters are nicely done, and the novel (then titled The Rajabai Tower Mystery) won an award from the Mystery Writers of American in 2019 for the best unpublished first crime novel.

November 20 #8

20295. The Internet continues to offer hopeful comments about Robert Downey Jr.'s third Sherlock Holmes film, which (of course) is not yet in production, and about a possible Sherlock Holmes franchise in the Marvel Universe. Interviewed at the Fast Company Innovation Festival last month, the actor said, "At this point, we really feel that there is not a mystery-verse built out anywhere, and Conan Doyle is the definitive voice in that arena, I think, to this day," adding that "To me, why do a third movie if you're not going to be able to spin off into some real gems of diversity and other times and elements?". You can read more from the interview at <www.tinyurl.com/y3nt658e>.
20296. Sherlock Hemlock is alive and well: Jennie Paton reports that he is seen in the audience in "The Not-Too-Late-Show with Elmo" (a weekly series that debuted on HBO Max on May 27). Sherlock Hemlock first appeared on "Sesame Street" in the 1970s <www.muppet.fandom.com/wiki/Sherlock_Hemlock>.
20297. It has been a while since the last mention of "The Great Ace Attorney" (an addition to the Japanese Nintendo 3DS series from Capcom), a new game set in the Meiji period, and with Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson, in the cast of characters (May 17 #6). A sequel has been released in Japan, but the games have not been available in the U.S.; Nintendo Life reported on Nov. 26 <www.tinyurl.com/y3ax349r> on possible reasons, and the possibility of a release in the U.S. soon; you can watch a trailer at the Nintendo Life web-site.
20298. Most Sherlockians know at least something about the complicated relationship between Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Harry Houdini, who challenged his audiences to hold their breath while he was submerged in water during his escapes. Alenka Artnik recently set a record by free-diving (without any breathing apparatus) to 114 meters (374 feet) <www.tinyurl.com/yxuls4s9>. She was able to hold her breath for 3 minutes and 41 seconds.

20299. M. J. Downing's *Sherlock Holmes: The Werewolves of Edinburgh* (Louisville: Burns & Lea, 2020; 297 pp., \$10.99) is the sequel to his *Sherlock Holmes: The Case of the Undead Client* (June 19 #5); this time Watson is in pursuit of Holmes, and finds himself in dire peril while battling werewolves and magic and occult forces. The author's web-site <www.mjdowningsplace.com> offers a look at what he calls the "Downing-verse".
20300. Theatrics: Mark Shanahan's "A Sherlock Carol" will be performed live via Zoom on Dec. 10 and then streamed live on demand, Dec. 11-14, by the Florida Repertory Theatre <www.floridarep.ticketspice.com/a-sherlock-carol>.
20301. Don't Go into the Cellar will stream their live performance of "Holmes for Christmas" (their version of "The Blue Carbuncle") on Facebook on Dec. 27 at 9:00 pm BST (that's 4:00 pm EST) <www.facebook.com/cellartheatre>. The British company has presented Sherlockian (and non-Sherlockian) plays on tour in the past (their motto is "Victorian theatre with bite"), and their web-site's at <www.dontgotothecellar.com>.
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December 20 #1

20302. There's something else to add to your schedule for the birthday festivities in January: more than 200 items from Paul D. Herbert's collection of Sherlockiana and Doyleana will be offered in an on-line no-reserve auction at Everything But the House in Cincinnati, Jan. 6 through Jan. 10. All of the items will go on-line and be open for bidding at 2:00 am on Jan. 6 and the auction will close with automated bidding beginning at 8:00 pm on Jan. 10. The web-site's at <www.ebth.com> and the code for Paul's collection is 20CIN051.
20303. Some of the items are interesting indeed, including an attractive sculpture of Holmes and Watson by Richard Masloski; a copy of the first American edition of *His Last Bow* inscribed by Conan Doyle to Houdini (accompanied by a photograph of Conan Doyle presenting the book to Houdini); the Collier's Once a Week Library edition of "The Sign of Four" (the pirated edition published in 1891, and the first separate American edition of the story); and a lithographed poster advertising the appearance of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" in *The Strand Magazine*.
20304. There's more news about the lawsuit filed by the Conan Doyle Estate Ltd. over the Netflix television film "Enola Holmes" (August 20 #1): Les Klinger has reported that the case has been completely resolved, on mutually satisfactory terms, adding that "I think that Legendary Films is very, very satisfied with the outcome (and so we should be)." Les also reports that he and Laurie King have settled with the CDEL regarding the CDEL trademark applications in the categories of books and films, which the CDEL withdrew without prejudice.
20305. Aaron Moss' reported on the end of the "Enola Holmes" lawsuit at the Copyright Lately web-site on Dec. 20 <www.tinyurl.com/y89ho89d>, posting the text of the "stipulation to dismiss with prejudice."
20306. One of the nicest things about the pandemic is that Zoom has provided access to so many distant events; one of them was this year's Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture, presented by the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library. This year's speaker was Rebecca Romney, a knowledgeable rare-book dealer, and her topic was "Sherlockian Collecting: A Tour of Clever, Creative, and Weird Pursuits" (her informal description of collectors, and collections, is "eccentricity made material"). And, thanks to modern technology, her lecture was recorded and has been made available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/yytrr59m>. Recommended.
20307. *The Lost World* (Cambremer: SP Books, 2020; \$200.00 postpaid) offers a facsimile of the manuscript (owned by the Berg Collection at the N.Y. Public Library), with 21 illustrations by the French artist Géo Dupuis (reprinted from the French translation of the story in *Je sais tout* in 1913-1914) and a five-page foreword by Jon Lellenberg <www.tinyurl.com/yxu6hpph>. It is grand to be able to see Conan Doyle's changes, corrections, and deletions, and a pity that there is neither a transcript of the manuscript, nor any accompanying scholarship, that have accompanied publication of facsimiles by others of manuscripts of his Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian stories.
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December 20 #2

20308. *In League with Sherlock Holmes* (New York: Pegasus Crime, 2020; 368 pp., \$25.95), the latest in the series of anthologies edited by Laurie R. King and Leslie S. Klinger, offering "stories inspired by the Sherlock Holmes Canon." They continue their search for contributions from friends who (almost always) have not previously done anything Sherlockian, and most of the stories are intriguing homages, rather than pastiches.
20309. Barbara G. Peters opened the Poisoned Pen Bookstore in Scottsdale, Ariz., in 1989; there's now the Poisoned Pen Press, and the Poisoned Pen Podcast, on which Barbara hosted Laurie King and Les Klinger to discuss *In League with Sherlock Holmes* <www.youtube.com/watch?v=Et0rSEapeU>.
20310. The BBC had great fun with its modern version of Sherlock Holmes, and Netflix is planning a January premiere for its new series "Lupin", according to *Ars Technica* (Dec. 3) <www.tinyurl.com/yyrk6nqh> (the story includes an action-packed trailer). The series is inspired by Maurice Leblanc's stories about the gentleman-thief Arsène Lupin, who in one of Leblanc's tales encounters Sherlock Holmes (in the French original); in the English translation, it's Herlock Sholmes).
20311. "The Daintiest Scream on the Moor Charity Ball" held during the birthday festivities in New York in 2018 featured the unveiling of a made-to-order Sherlock Holmes Cake for the Baker Street Babes and their hangers-on, and at long last a recording of the event aired on the Discovery Family channel as "Elementary My Dear Buddy" in the 30-minute series "Cake Boss" on Dec. 3.
20312. One often encounters references to the dog that didn't bark, more and more without mention of Sherlock Holmes or the story that has the dog that did nothing in the night-time (which shows that the reference now is part of our cultural literacy), but now there is a book, reported by Tom Cynkin: it was written by Martin Fackler and published this year in Japan, with a title translated in English as "The Dogs That Didn't Bark: Media Control in Abe's Japan" <www.tinyurl.com/y625nt7g>.
20313. There's a Sherlockian calendar for 2021 available from Andrew F. Gulli's *The Strand Magazine* <www.tinyurl.com/y2ov4mfm>, and much more Sherlockiana in their 221B Baker Street Collection <www.tinyurl.com/y5phqxbg>.
20314. It has been a while since the last mention of the excellent Camden House web-site <www.ignisart.com/camdenhouse/main.htm>, which offers a nice assortment of Canonical resources, including the Pinotheca Holmesiana with all the illustrations of all the first appearances of the Sherlock Holmes stories.
20315. The Norwegian Explorers' Christmas Annual for 2020 has "Games Are Afoot" as its theme, with contributions that include pastiches, essays, puzzles, and artwork, all related to appropriate aspects of the Canon; the 96-page booklet, edited by Ray Riethmeier and Phillip Bergem, can be ordered from Phillip (at 3829 172nd Avenue NW, Andover, MN 55304). The cost is \$10.00 postpaid (checks payable to the Norwegian Explorers, please, or sent via PayPal to <norwegianexplorers@gmail.com>).
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December 20 #3

20316. Karen Murdoch reports a nice quote from Lisa Scottoline's essay "Literary Slut" in her collection *My Nest Isn't Empty, It Just Has More Closet Space* (2011) about when, as a young girl, she first went into a library: "Of course once inside I had no idea how to choose a book and was way too scared to ask anyone. But there were some books that had a picture of a man in profile on the spine, and the man had a big nose like my Uncle Rocky. And me. . . Anyway, because of his nose the man on the spine felt like family, so his were the books I checked out and read like a fiend. Like our girl
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crush Nancy Drew. Only later did I find out that the man wasn't Uncle Rocky but some guy named Sherlock Holmes. Who isn't even Italian. Bottom line, that's why I am a mystery writer today."

20317. Further to the discussion of letters signed by Conan Doyle's secretaries (October 20 #2), an autograph album offered at auction Dawson's in Maidenhead this month contained two Conan Doyle letters <www.tinyurl.com/y6g5j8nb>. The letter at the left actually was written by his secretary Charles Terry (note the ornate T beneath the signature); Terry also wrote and signed the "My dear Robinson" letter held by the Berg Collection at the N.Y. Public Library as part of its "Hound of the Baskervilles" material. The album, estimated at £2,000-£3,000, was sold for £2,290.
20318. Greg Darak has reported that the Russian "Sherlock Holmes" television series (with Igor Petrenko as Holmes and Andrei Panin as Watson) (2013) now is available (with subtitles in English) in a commercial set of two DVDs (\$14.99) <www.tinyurl.com/y3smghnb>. The series was not well received in Russia (where many people prefer the old Livanov/Solomin series), but it has some nice surprises.
20319. The Jeremy Brett Sherlock Holmes podcast ("devoted to revisiting and honoring the world's greatest portrayal of the world's greatest detective") <www.sherlockpodcast.com>, created by Gus and Luke Holwerda in Jan. 2019, offers an interesting monthly mix of discussion and interviews.
20320. 221B Baker Street is on its way to Mars, according to Brian Day's article at the Pasadena Now web-site on Dec. 8 <www.tinyurl.com/y5bhdk8e>; the address is inscribed on a piece of spacesuit visor that SHERLOC will use as a calibration target; it will also serve as a geocaching target for Earthbound tourists to track. SHERLOCK is an acronymed instrument that will be used when the Perseverance Rover explores the Red Planet (November 20 #7).
20321. There was a nice item at auction at Bonhams in New York this month: "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Surgical Scissors" <www.tinyurl.com/y39zcc3p>, estimated at \$4,000-\$6,000. Dame Jean Conan Doyle gave the scissors to Julian Wolff, who presented them to Norman S. Nolan when he graduated from medical school. The item went unsold when bidding didn't reach the reserve.
20322. Jeremy Musson's article "The Houses of Sherlock Holmes: How Arthur Conan Doyle's Architectural Savvy Shaped Literature's Greatest Sleuth" (in the Nov. 28 issue of Country Life) has splendid artwork by Matthew Rice, and it's conveniently available on-line <www.tinyurl.com/y2cfkh6g>. You may need to sign up for their (free) newsletter to have access to the article (but you can unsubscribe at any time).

December 20 #4

20323. The fall issue of The Magic Door (published by the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library) includes articles by Ray Betzner (about Vincent Starrett in Toronto), and Mark Jones (about The Tales of Captain Sharkey) and other reports from and about the Library and the Collection. You can request a copy of the newsletter from Cliff Goldfarb, Toronto Public Library, 789 Yonge Street, Toronto M4W 2G8, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.
20324. Sally Sugarman ("The Three Gables") died on Dec. 9. She was a teacher and a writer, presided over the Baker Street Breakfast Club for more than 30 years, and was the sparking plug for two excellent conferences at Bennington College ("Victorian Sleuth to Modern Hero: The Mysterious Journey of Sherlock Holmes" in 1994, and "Sherlock Holmes: The Man and His Worlds" in 2010). Sally received her Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 2010.
20325. The Japanese animated series "Moriarty the Patriot" (October 20 #5) already is streaming on the pay channel Funimation <www.funimation.com> in the U.S. First a manga, and then a stage musical, the series presents Moriarty as an orphan who as a young man "seeks to remove the ills caused by England's strict class system"; there was a detailed discussion of the series (with spoilers at the CBR web-site on Dec. 5 <www.tinyurl.com/y3vqw3vq>.
20326. "Arthur Conan Doyle Lived Here 1881 to 1882" according to a plaque on the building at 15 Lonsdale Terrace in Edinburgh, where an elegant five-bedroom top-floor flat is available for offers over £680,000 (the Edinburgh News reported on Dec. 13) <www.tinyurl.com/y67grhhu>.
20327. Samantha Wolov has reported the web-site of Anglia Dolls Houses, where Tim and Angela Hartnell show images of some of the bespoke dolls houses they have created <www.angliadollshouses.co.uk>. Scroll down at the web-site to see their version of 221B Baker Street. Someone has had some fun owning and decorating all those rooms.
20328. "I've always been captivated by the Cottingley fairy photographs and have harboured a secret ambition to give them a modern-day reworking!" British artist and fashion photographer John Rankin Waddell says, explaining the photograph at auction at Dreweatts in Newbury on Jan. 21, with an estimate of £2,000-£3,000 <www.tinyurl.com/y7fd42c3>. His photograph of Kate Moss in the same auction has a much higher estimate <www.tinyurl.com/ybm4x2yg>.
20329. Mediaweek reported (Dec. 11) that Netflix has announced its most popular programing in 2020 <www.tinyurl.com/y3bqdnln>; "Enola Holmes" was first in drama (film), which suggests that a sequel might be under consideration.
20330. If you're old enough, you may remember people living in trailers. Eventually people started living in mobile homes. And now people live in manufactured homes (the Department of Housing and Urban Development regulates this sort of thing, decreed that after June 15, 1976, factory-built homes would be called manufactured homes. Anyone in Colorado Springs is welcome to buy one from Sherlock Holmes <www.sherlockholmesllc.com>, reported by Karen Murdock; the company has an imaginative graphic at its web-site.

December 20 #5

20331. John le Carré died on Dec. 12. He worked for both Britain's Security Service (MI5) and Secret Intelligence Service (MI6) and was a highly regarded author of espionage novels; he mentioned Sherlock Holmes from time to time in his books. Bill Crow, a character in The Honourable Schoolboy, was based on Richard Hughes (who founded the Baritsu Chapter of the BSI in Tokyo in 1948); he said the book was "another piece of lampoonery, but if I sue he might tell the truth about me, just as Ian Fleming threatened to do if I moaned too much about Dikko Henderson." In a letter scheduled at RR Auction in Boston on Jan. 13 (reported by Randall Stock) <www.tinyurl.com/ycfumy53>, le Carré noted that while at school he enjoyed "all of Conan Doyle."
20332. "Fandom Conspiracy Theories Are Just as Dangerous as Others" was the headline on Jessica Mason's article published on The Mary Sue web-site on Nov. 30 <www.tinyurl.com/y4zplgfl>, and one of the conspiracy theories she mentions ("Johnlock") is about the relationship ("ship") between Holmes and Watson: "Fandom conspiracy theories pop up every few years, and they are almost always about ships," she wrote, adding that fans who subscribed to the Johnlock Conspiracy (the false idea that the BBC's 'Sherlock' series was filled with secret, intentional clues, from the music to the props and more) believed that there was a secret episode that would "make the ship canon."
20333. There is a wealth of resources on the Internet, one of them the Internet Archive <www.archive.org>, which has much to brag about: "In 2020 we grew from 40 million to 65 million public-media items, including texts, images, videos, and audio files. Right now we're storing over 70 petabytes of data (equivalent to the contents of 186 million filing cabinets) and serve more than 1.5 million visitors daily. The Wayback Machine has grown

rapidly, too; right now there are 475 billion web pages archived inside it, and we are capturing another 750 million pages every single day!" Take a look to see how much fun one can have browsing there.

20334. The fall issue of the BSI Trust's newsletter For the Sake of the Trust is available on-line at the Trust's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/yd6a5fjk> along with all prior issues. The BSI Trust is the repository of the collective memory of the Baker Street Irregulars, and supports the BSI Archive at the Lilly Library at Indiana University. The web-site provides easy access to material in the Archive.
20335. The Crusader's Curse, by Stuart Douglas (New York: Titan Books, 2020; 284 pp., \$14.95), is the latest in the publisher's long-running series of "The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes"; in this pastiche Holmes and Watson find themselves marooned in a blizzard in a manor house in Yorkshire, faced with missing treasure, murder, and a possible ghost.
20336. "Gland Larceny: When Testicle Thefts Took Chicago by Storm" was the headline on a story in MedPage Today (Dec. 9) <www.tinyurl.com/yycshgb3> about events in the Windy City just before "The Creeping Man" was written. The article also quotes from an editorial in the Journal of the American Medical Association on July 8, 1922, on "Rejuvenation by Testicular Transplantation and Occlusion of the Seminal Ducts".

December 20 #6

20337. Barbara Windsor died on Dec. 10. She began her acting career at the age of 13 in pantomime in Britain, and was best known for her roles in the "Carry On" films and the "EastEnders" television series; she played Annie Chapman in "A Study in Terror" (1965). In 2016 she was appointed Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire (DBE) for services to charity and entertainment.
20338. One hears of Conan Doyle everywhere: he came in first in the Riviere D'arc Chase in Pau on Dec. 15, winning €17,610 <www.tinyurl.com/y8lkzd8w>; Conan Doyle is a French eight-year-old gelding (yes, a horse), and was a winner in his only other race this year <www.tinyurl.com/y7kcpwox>.
20339. The Crew of the Barque Lone Star offer a "Hound of the Baskervilles" calendar for 2021 decorated with images of Sidney Paget's illustration; it's available (free) as a PDF from Steve Mason <mason.steve8080@gmail.com>.
20340. Otto Penzler has launched a new series at YouTube, showing off recent arrivals at the Mysterious Bookshop, talking about authors, collecting, and collectibles; the 13-minute first episode is about S. S. Van Dine, creator of Philo Vance <www.tinyurl.com/ycep2kpm>. The second is about Sue Grafton (creator of Kinsey Millhone) <www.tinyurl.com/y85aztzm>.
20341. Sherlockians are not the only ones who enjoy using old maps for research, but not everyone who uses old (and new) maps is aware of "trap streets", discussed by Martin Fone in an interesting article at Country Life's web-site on Dec. 5 <www.tinyurl.com/yyku3ksz>.
20342. Leslie Katz continues to make his Sherlockian scholarship available at the Social Science Research Network; you can read or download all of his (now) 33 articles at <www.tinyurl.com/y34yzpar>.
20343. Jeff Falkingham's Murder in Minnesota! (March 18 #2) has been reissued in a new edition (Eden Prairie: Frontier Fantasies, 2020; 287 pp., \$10.99) with more artwork and illustrations, offering reprints of his earlier Sherlock Holmes and the County Courthouse Caper (2007) and his Sherlock Holmes in Search of the Source (2009); Holmes is in Browns Valley in 1886 to solve a series of murders, and in St. Paul in 1896 to solve another mystery (both stories involve quite a bit of local history); the author's web-site is at <www.cccaper.com>.
20344. Jennie Paton has noted video of an attractive Sherlockian dog created by Emma Krikunova <www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Pk-o10_Sfs>; there's more information about it at her web-site <www.tinyurl.com/yxud8pgs>. Alas, it is one of kind, and already sold.
20345. Vicki Delany's A Curious Incident (New York: Crooked Lane, 2021; 293 pp., \$26.99) is the fifth in her series "Sherlock Holmes Bookshop" mysteries, starring Gemma Doyle (proprietor of the bookshop) in an adventure that begins with a hunt for a missing cat and ends with a solution to a murder; Gemma insists to all and sundry that she's not a consulting detective, but no one, quite correctly, believes her. The author's web-site has information on all of her books <www.vickidelany.com>.

December 20 #7

20346. "Cate Blanchett Alters Plans to Sussex Home Due to Bat Colony," according to the headline on a story in the Brighton Argus <www.tinyurl.com/y7r87xsb> (Dec. 16). Blanchett bought Highwell House in Crowborough some years ago (January 16 #4 and July 18 #2) and was planning to demolish a cottage and shed on the grounds, but recently found roosts of common pipistrelle bats and brown long-eared bats, both protected species, and a license from Natural England will be needed before work can proceed. Press reports continue to state that Tom Baker and Conan Doyle lived in the house; while it's true that Tom Baker did, Sir Arthur lived nearby at Windlesham.
20347. Simon Bailey's Sherlock Holmes: Color in Classics (San Diego: Canterbury Classics, 2016; 144 pp., \$14.99) is an imaginative and attractive approach to some of the Sherlock Holmes stories; it's one of a series that includes Alice in Wonderland and Grimms' Fairy Tales Fairy Tales.
20348. "In pop culture, at least, solving mysteries has always led investigators to sail close to the wind," according to an article published on-line at Lexology on Dec. 15 <www.tinyurl.com/ybn4tyrp>. "A friend and fellow investigator pointed out recently that in one outing Sherlock Holmes stages an accident, lies to witness, is outed as a cocaine addict, daubs himself in fake blood, and tries to steal blackmail material. Modern consulting detectives are more scrupulous, if less likely to be serialized."
20349. Forecast, Dan Stashower notes, from DC Comics in February: DC's Greatest Detective Stories Ever Told (\$19.99). Sherlock Holmes and Batman are on the cover, and reprints of "key adventures" include "The Doomsday Book" from Detective Comics #572 (1987).
20350. Reported: a reprint of Neil Gaiman's short-story pastiche "A Study in Emerald" (2003) in The Neil Gaiman Reader: Selected Fiction (William Morrow, \$40.00); a collection of 47 short stories and excerpts from 5 novels.
20351. The Martian Menace, by Eric Brown (New York: Titan Books, 2020; 345 pp., \$9.95), another title in the "Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes," is a science-fiction pastiche; the Martians have returned, almost twenty years after their first (and unsuccessful) invasion, and sharing their advanced technology and bringing prosperity, but (of course) there are problems in store, and a major conflict; Holmes and Watson travel to Mars, and back, and help restore peace to Earth.
20352. Reported: Sara Paretsky's Love & Other Crimes (New York: William Morrow, 2020; 448 pp., \$17.99) is a collection that includes her Sherlock Holmes/ Miss Butterworth pastiche "The Curious Affair of the Italian Art Dealer" (reprinted from the 2014 anthology In the Company of Sherlock Holmes).
20353. The Fortescue Scholarship Honours Program, administered by the Beacon Society on behalf of the Watsonians, now has 120 Sherlockians who have completed all three of its examinations, and this year has issued a Re-Certification Exam for those who would like to continue their pursuit of Canonical Scholarship. The first three Examinations still are available; Steve Mason <mason.stev8080@gmail.com> will be happy to send more information.

December 20 #8

20354. Vincent Starrett's *The Great Hotel Murder* (New York: Penzler Publishers, 2020; 210 pp., \$15.95) isn't Sherlockian (well, a character does say "Cross my heart, my dear Holmes!"), but it's a wonderful reminder of what mystery novels were like in the 1930s (and it has a fine introduction by Lyndsay Faye).
20355. The Royal Mail will issue a set of 10 stamps on Jan. 14 celebrating the 70th anniversary of Great Britain's National Parks; four Parks, in Dartmoor, were created in 1951. The stamps also include the New Forest (2005) and the South Downs (2010), all mentioned in the Canon (each of them in more than one case, for those who want to attempt to list them all).
20356. Mark Alberstat's "2021 Sherlockian Calendar" offers artwork from the Canon (mostly by Sidney Paget) and information from the Baring-Gould chronology, and can be downloaded (without charge) at <www.tinyurl.com/ya9667zx>.
20357. Orlando Pearson's *The Redacted Sherlock Holmes, Volume V* (London: MX Publishing, 2018, 138 pp., \$14.95) is another in his series of collections of pastiches, a mix of "what came after" extensions of Canonical cases, other cases that bring Holmes and Watson forward to the 1930s and 1940s, and some religious meditations. MX Publishing's books are available at a discount at <www.sherlockholmesbooks.com>.
20358. Mr. and Mrs. William Gillette celebrated the Christmas holidays at their home in Connecticut; you can see them at <www.tinyurl.com/y98y7klm>.
20359. The Netflix eight-episode series "The Irregulars" (January 19 #4) is now described by the Internet Movie Data Base as in production, with broadcast expected in 2021; it has been vaguely described as featuring the Canonical Street urchins working for Dr. Watson to save London from supernatural elements. The cast includes Henry Lloyd-Hughes as Holmes and Royce Pierreson as Watson, but since they're not listed in the cast at the IMDB, they may not be seen in many if not most episodes.
20360. And there's some theatrical news: Bart Lovins' "The Novel Stage Adventures of Sherlock Holmes: The Hound of the Baskervilles" has been scheduled at the Hardin County Schools Performing Arts Center in Elizabethtown, Ky., on Jan. 23-31 <www.thepac.net>; it will then be streamed on demand.
20361. Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" will be performed and streamed at the Metropolis Performing Arts Centre in Arlington Heights, Ill., on January 29-31, and streamed on-demand, Feb. 1-14 <www.metropolisart.com>; it's also scheduled at the Fort Walton Beach Civic Auditorium in Fort Walton Beach, Fla., Mar. 12-21 <www.stagecraftersfwb.com>.

January 21 #1

20362. Sherlockians (and Holmesians) did not gather in New York to celebrate the Great Detective's 167th birthday this year, but the somewhat shorter long weekend offered plenty of events, thanks to Zoom and other modern technology. Detailed reports will be available soon at the web-site of The Baker Street Irregulars <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com>, but here are few brief paragraphs to tide you over:
20363. The BSI's Distinguished Speaker on Thursday was Andrew Lycett, the author of two fine books about Conan Doyle; his topic was "Conan Doyle's Questing World" (and close to 400 people were able to attend the virtual lecture); the event also included the announcement by Steve Rothman, editor of the Baker Street Journal, of the winner of the Morley-Montgomery Award for the best article the BSI last year: Jessica Schilling (for her "Just His Type: An Analysis of the Découpé Warning in The Hound of the Baskervilles").
20364. Irregulars and guests gathered on Friday for the BSI's annual dinner, with Andrew Joffe offering the traditional first toast to Nina Singleton as The Woman, and the program continued with the usual toasts, rituals, and papers; this year the toast to Mrs. Hudson was delivered by the lady herself, splendidly impersonated by Denny Dobry from his recreation of the sitting-room at 221B Baker Street. Mike Kean (the "Wiggins" of the BSI) presented the Birthday Honours (Irregular Shillings and Investitures) to Dan Andriacco (St. Saviour's Near King's Cross), Deborah Clark (Mrs. Cecil Forrester), Carla Coupe (London Bridge), Ann Margaret Lewis (The Polyphonic Motets of Lassus), Steve Mason (The Fortescue Scholarship), Ashley Polasek (Singlestick), Svend Ranild (A "Copenhagen" Label), Ray Riethmeier (Morrison, Morrison, and Dodd), Alan Rettig (The Red Lamp), and Tracy Revels (A Black Sequin-Covered Dinner-Dress). After which the BSI's prestigious Two-Shilling Award was presented to Ralph Hall and Jim Saunders.
20365. Three new titles are available from the Baker Street Irregulars Press: *The Staunton Tragedy* is the latest in the Manuscript Series (193 pp., \$39.95); edited by Michael F. Whelan; it has a facsimile of the manuscript of "The Missing Three-Quarter", with an annotated transcription and scholarly commentary (as always, the series offers readers an opportunity to be close to the moment when one of the stories was written). *Corporals, Colonels, and Commissionaires*, edited by Michael J. Quigley and Marsha Pollak (241 pp., \$39.95), is the next book in the Professions Series, offering a fine assortment scholarship on the many military aspects of the Canon. And "A Quiet Air of Mastery", edited by Leslie S. Klinger (130 pp., \$25.95), is a collection of warm tributes to Michael F. Whelan, written by many of his friends in appreciation of his 23 years as the "Wiggins" of the BSI. All three can be ordered at <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/the-bSI-press>.
20366. The BSI's conference on "Sherlock Holmes and the British Empire" has again been postponed, in view of the prediction that less than half of the population will have received an initial coronavirus vaccination by June. The new date for the conference at the Bear Mountain Inn, N.Y. is July 29-31, 2022. Next year's birthday festivities will cluster around the BSI's next annual dinner on Jan. 14, 2022.

January 21 #2

20367. "Doyle's Rotary Coffin" (a society whose motto is "All Holmes Is Good Holmes") has published its third book: Robert Perret and Paul Thomas Miller's "Sherlock Holmes" Is an Anagram of "Snarky Clock" and 327 Other Holmesian Facts, and it is a delightful contribution to the literature, from the dedication right through to the end; all three of the society's books are available in print, and as free downloads from the society's web-site at <www.sites.google.com/site/doylesrotarycoffin>.
20368. The Reichenbach Irregulars of Switzerland have announced a Zoom meeting on Feb. 25 with a reading by Johanna Rieke, author of six pastiches, from the first of the pastiches to be available in English: *Sherlock Holmes and the Cornwall Affair*; the event will end with a conversation and a Q&A session. If you would like to Zoom in to the meeting, more information is available from the society at <reichenbachirregulars@gmail.com>.
20369. Alexander Orlov has reported a very early appearance of Sherlock Holmes on a phonograph record, issued by Pathé Records in Russia; it's the "Sherlock Holmes Polonaise" (as recorded by Oscar Filippovich Knaub with the Pathé Orchestra, circa 1911-1917). You can listen to the recording at a Russian web-site <www.tinyurl.com/y9ne6pgr>, if you want to, and see an image of the record label at <www.tinyurl.com/y8sjex4f>. For those who have not danced a polonaise, it has been described as "a stately Polish processional dance, performed by couples who walk around the dance hall."
20370. What city, mentioned in the Canon, had more than a million inhabitants when Conan Doyle visited it, but no longer exists?
20371. The Jan.-Feb. issue of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine offers its annual tribute to Sherlock Holmes: Olga Popover's Sherlockian cover artwork; Terence Faherty's parody of "The Gloria Scott"; Steve Steinbock's reviews of Sherlockian books and television; Dean Jobb's "Stranger Than Fiction" column; Josh Pachter's Ellery Queen pastiche "The Five Orange Pipes"; editor Janet Hutchings' "Happy Birthday, Sherlock Holmes!"; Mike

- Anderson's pastiche "The Shadow of the New"; Ruth Berman's poetic "Watson's Plane"; and Steve Hockensmith's Amlingmeyer Brothers story "Curious Incidents". There is additional non-Sherlockian content in the issue, of course, including a newly-discovered story by Cornell Woolrich.
20372. William Link died on Dec. 27. Best known for his work creating and writing for television series such as "The Fugitive", "Mannix", "Colombo", and "Murder, She Wrote", he was named a Grand Master of the Mystery Writers of America in 2018; his many credits included "The Murder of Sherlock Holmes" (1984), the pilot episode of "Murder, She Wrote".
20373. Craig Stephen Copland's *The Adventure of the Notable Bachelorette* (Washington: Conservative Growth, 2015; 101 pp., \$9.95) is an amusing parody/ pastiche inspired by "The Noble Bachelor"; it's part of a long series, and the author has information about all of them (and offers free samples) at his web-site at <www.sherlockholmesmystery.com>. More recent titles are available only as Kindle e-books, among them *The Adventure of the Engineer's Mom* (2018; 124 pp., \$3.99).
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January 21 #3

20374. "Sherlock's Daughter" is another television series that might actually be produced. According a story at the Deadline web- site (Jan. 12) <www.tinyurl.com/y66bzss3>, Starlings Television has greenlighted the series, in which a young American woman, after the mysterious murder of her mother, travels to London to track down her biological father, the legendary Sherlock Holmes, who isn't the mythological figure she has come to expect.
20375. What city, mentioned in the Canon, had more than a million inhabitants when Conan Doyle visited it, but no longer exists? That challenge was issued in 1998, but the answer's still: Brooklyn (mentioned in "The Red Circle"), a city when he was there during his lecture tour in 1894, was annexed into the city of New York in 1896 and now is merely a borough.
20376. Tania Henzell is celebrating Sherlock Holmes' birthday (and her Sherlock Holmes Tartan) by offering a 10% discount on the deerstalker (also on the hip flask). The discount code-word is IRREGULAR10, and her web-site at <www.sherlockholmestartan.com> has many other items in the Sherlock Holmes Tartan.
20377. "Woolens became such a status symbol that Arthur Conan Doyle clad his fictional sleuth Sherlock Holmes in a tweed deerstalker hat in 1893," according to an article in the National Geographic Traveler Magazine (Jan. 14) <www.tinyurl.com/y2ebfjfo>. Dedicated Sherlockians will be quick to tell you that it was Sidney Paget, rather than Conan Doyle, who put Holmes in a deerstalker, but: did Sherlock Holmes, in the Canon, ever wear tweed?
20378. The Public Domain Review recently posted an article about what may be the earliest "rogues' gallery" made available to the public: Samuel G. Szabo's *Rogues: A Study of Characters*, a photographic album published in 1857; the Pinkertons' collection of mug shots was circulated in 1855, but only among law enforcement agents <www.tinyurl.com/yxmmmwld>.
20379. Edward C. McManus celebrated the holidays in verse with an amusing "Sherlockian Christmas Carol" posted to the blog of the Strand Magazine on Jan. 8 <www.tinyurl.com/y5nzzx22>.
20380. Further to the announcement of the publication of a facsimile of the manuscript of "The Lost World" (December 20 #1), Randall Stock's "Best of Sherlock" web-site <www.bestofsherlock.com/mss/lost-world-2020.htm> now has a review of the facsimile, as well as interesting details about the manuscript and the story.
20381. Howard Ostrom and Ray Wilcockson have compiled a (now) 310-page data-base entitled "Under the Clock, Sherlock—Still Rockin' After All These Years" that discusses (often with colorful illustrations) a wide variety of Sherlockian music, in various formats, from 1893 to the present. It's available on request from Howard at <howardostrom@gmail.com>, and is a delightful demonstration of the many ways in which Sherlock Holmes has become a part of our cultural literacy.
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January 21 #4

20382. Carter Dickson's *The Plague Court Murders* (1934) featured Sir Henry Merrivale, who is a member of the Diogenes Club and explains how and why he received the nickname of Mycroft. Carter Dickson is a pseudonym used by John Dickson Carr, and his novel is the latest in Otto Penzler's series of American Mystery Classics, with an introduction by Michael Dirda (416 pp., \$25.95).
20383. Karen Murdock has reported some interesting numbers in an article in Business Insider (Jan. 20): Netflix has listed its ten most-watched original movies, and "Enola Holmes" ranked 7th, with 76 million views ("Extraction" came in first, with 99 million views). The article also notes that Netflix counts a view if an account watches at least two minutes of a movie, so it isn't clear how Netflix views would translate into box-office dollars if the films had been shown in theaters.
20384. It's marginally Sherlockian, but Alexander Orlov spotted an advertisement <www.tinyurl.com/y2fy34hq> for Sadler's Peaky Blinder spirits with an image of what seems to be a detective. Sadler's, originally a brewery that was founded in Birmingham's "Black Country" in 1900, has expanded its offerings, and their Peaky Blinder label celebrates the violent urban street gang that flourished there <www.tinyurl.com/y2p97gqf>. There's also a television series, and you can look them up at Wikipedia. You needn't worry about what the advertisement says: it's in Latvian, and a dire warning about the dangers of alcohol.
20385. Did Sherlock Holmes, in the Canon, ever wear tweed? Yes, in "A Scandal in Bohemia": "With a nod he vanished into the bedroom, whence he emerged in five minutes tweed-suited and respectable, as of old."
20386. Andy Fusco has noted a nice essay ("The Mystery Is Holmes: Why We Return to Conan Doyle's Stories Over and Over Again") posted by Timothy Miller at the CrimeReads blog on Jan. 21 <www.tinyurl.com/y3edtyv9>. There's also:
20387. Timothy Miller's new pastiche *The Strange Case of Eliza Doolittle* (Hoboken: Seventh Street, 2021; 249 pp., \$15.95) is an imaginative mix of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, George Bernard Shaw, and Robert Louis Stevenson in a nicely-written story that offers some dramatic surprises.
20388. The Parallel Case of St. Louis recently discussed "The Six Napoleons" at a meeting of their society, and someone reported a different and decidedly unusual bust of Napoleon <www.tinyurl.com/y5jhponj>.
20389. J.P. Van Gordon has discovered a four-hour "ambience video" for Sherlock Holmes' Parlour at 221B Baker Street <www.youtube.com/watch?v=MJeNG1R7FzM> (ambience videos offer "pleasant, soothing background images & sound for relaxation, study, play, or work"). A YouTube search for [ambience/asmr sherlock] will bring up many others.
20390. Al Gregory <gaslightandfog@verizon.net> kindly offers (via e-mail) his new edition of "The ABC of the BSI" (an alphabetical listing of Investitures, with recipients, from "Abbey Grange" to "Young Stamford") and "The Florin Society" (couples in which both spouses are Investitured Irregulars).
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January 21 #5

20391. John Dickson Carr's *The Island of Coffins and Other Mysteries* from the Casebook of Cabin B-13 (Cincinnati: Crippen & Landru, 2020; 329 pp., \$47.00 cloth/\$22.00 paper) is a collection of his scripts, published for the first time, from the 1948-1949 CBS radio series. Tony Medawar and James

- Keirans noted in *The Armchair Detective* (fall 1991) that “Death in the Desert” echoes Conan Doyle’s *The Tragedy of the Korosko*, and that the murder methods used in “Till Death Do His Part” and “The Sleep of Death” were echoed in the 1953 Collier’s pastiches “The Adventure of the Sealed Room” and “The Adventure of the Gold Hunter”. The publisher’s web-site is at <www.crippenlandru.com>. Carr was a master of the locked-room mystery, and his scripts provide a chance to see how much fun radio drama could be in (what some like to say) the good old days.
20392. Ron Fish renews his offer to add meetings of Sherlockian societies to his *Sherlockian Calendar*, including gatherings held via Zoom or other technology; you can see his format at <www.sherlockiancalendar.com>, and send him information about up-coming meetings at <ronf404@aol.com>.
20393. One of the nice things about buying a mixed lot of books at an auction (as I did at the Paul Herbert auction) is finding something unexpected, such as Bob Brumfield’s *Brumfield* (1980), a collection of columns he wrote for the *Cincinnati Enquirer* that includes one Sherlockian column. The opening is well worth quoting: “Baker Street seemed darker than I remembered it. This was due, primarily, to the energy crisis in England, with a resultant cutback in the use of electric lights; and, to some measure, I suppose, to the fact that I’d never been on Baker Street before.
20394. Robert Lloyd Parry’s “Nunkie Films” YouTube channel offers a long list of excellent readings of authors who include M. R James, H. G. Wells, Arthur Machen, Edgar Allan Poe, H. P. Lovecraft, W. W. Jacobs, and Arthur Conan Doyle (five Sherlockian and two non-Sherlockian stories); the channel is at <www.youtube.com/c/NunkieFilms/videos>.
20395. If you’re concerned (and many are) about delays in receiving your copies of the *Baker Street Journal*, BJSJ publisher Steve Doyle has a YouTube explanation <www.youtube.com/watch?v=YnX5N37Xdc0&feature=youtu.be> about how the pandemic has affected mail delivery.
20396. Tedd Long’s *Forgotten Visitors: Northwest Ohio’s Notable Guests* (Toledo: Univ. of Toledo Press, 2020; 197 pp., \$24.95) tells stories of a variety of visitors, from explorers Zebulon Pike and William Clark in 1794 to musician Neil Young in 2004, with a chapter devoted to Arthur Conan Doyle, who visited in 1894, 1922, and 1923.
20397. Christopher Morley’s poem “Graduate Student” (it’s one of his many “Translations from the Chinese”) was published in the *Saturday Review of Literature* (Nov. 5, 1938) and reprinted in *The Middle Kingdom* (1944): The loveliest pupil I ever had / Was my little Samoyed soubrette / Who used to cry, after every lecture, / “When does the drinking begin?” / And declared that Bosanquet’s *Essentials of Logic* / Was more fun than Sherlock Holmes. You can find Bosanquet’s book (first published in 1895) on-line at the Internet Archive <www.archive.org/details/theessentialsof100bosauoft>.

January 21 #6

20398. It’s possible to feel grateful that postal mail gets through at all during the pandemic (not mentioned in the USPS unofficial motto “Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds”). But: on Jan. 21 my mail delivery included a Christmas card mailed from Barcelona on Dec. 7, and another that was mailed from Buffalo on Dec. 16. So much for the old excuse “my check is in the mail.”
20399. Scott Hilburn’s amusing “Argyle Sweater” comic strip was nicely Sherlockian on Jan. 22 <www.gocomics.com/theargylesweater/2021/01/22>, kindly reported by John Bergquist.
20400. The Mystery Writers of America have announced the nominees for this year’s Edgar Awards, and one of them is Nev March’s *Murder in Old Bombay* (November 20 #7) for best first novel by an American author (last year the novel won an MWA award for the best unpublished first crime novel). The winners of the Edgars will be announced on Apr. 29.
20401. Dick Van Dyke will receive a Kennedy Center Honor this year (you will be able to watch the festivities on CBS-TV on June 6). He started his acting career more than 70 years ago (he’s now 95 years old), and likely is best known for his “The Dick Van Dyke Show” television series. He went on to play Dr. Mark Sloan in the “Diagnosis Murder” television series; the episode “In Defense of Murder” (1997) was inspired by “A Scandal in Bohemia” and the Sherlock Holmes story is credited in the dialogue.
20402. There’s still news of some live theater: Neill Hartley’s will perform his one-man show “Sherlock Holmes and the Speckled Band” at the Historic Village at Allaire in Wall Township, N.J., on Feb. 13 and 20; their web-site’s at <www.allairevillage.org>.
20403. William Gillette’s “Sherlock Holmes” (adapted for the digital stage by Rachel Kohler) will be performed at the Majestic Theatre in Corvallis, Ore., on Feb. 13 <www.majestic.org> and uploaded to Facebook and Vimeo.
20404. John Nicholson and Steven Canny’s “The Hound of the Baskervilles” will be performed (and streamed) at the Mad Cow Theatre in Orlando, Fla., Mar. 15 <www.madcowtheatre.com>.
20405. Ken Ludwig’s “Baskerville” is scheduled at the Ziegfeld Theater in Ogden, Utah, Mar. 26-Apr. 10 <www.zigarts.com>; the announcement of auditions is an interesting summary of precautions some theaters are taking: “Safety: we will be taking every security measure possible throughout this process. No person will be allowed to attend our first in-person rehearsal without providing proof of receiving a negative test result for covid-19 within a week of Feb. 20. Masks will be required for all rehearsals. We will have enhanced sanitization of rehearsal and performance spaces to provide extra safety. For performances, actors will be masked off stage and possibly on stage in some scenarios.”

February 21 #1

20406. The 2020 Christmas Annual of *The Baker Street Journal* celebrated the 100th anniversary of the publication of Vincent Starrett’s classic pastiche “The Adventure of the Unique Hamlet”, and Ray Betzner has written about the Annual, and the pastiche, at his *Studies in Starrett* blog; you can read all about it at <www.tinyurl.com/y4aog2a2>.
20407. A correction: the Mystery Writers of America have announced their nominees for this year’s Edgar Awards; Nev March’s *Murder in Old Bombay* (November 20 #7) for best first novel by an American author (last year the novel won an MWA award for the best unpublished first crime novel), and James W. Ziskin’s “The Twenty-Five Year Engagement” in *In League with Sherlock Holmes* (December 20 #2) for best short story. The winners of the Edgars will be announced on Apr. 29.
20408. Angela Misri, whose *The Detective and the Spy* (November 20 #4) was the fourth in her series about Portia Adams, granddaughter of both Holmes and Watson, was interviewed by Shelagh Rogers on the CBC on Jan. 22; you can listen to the 17-minute interview from a link at <www.tinyurl.com/y6z5fso4>.
20409. Warren Randall (“Harold Stackhurst”) died on Jan. 26. He worked in administration at Stony Brook University on Long Island, and joined the *Three Garridebs* in 1987 and in 1988 he volunteered to edit the society’s newsletter *Prescott’s Press*, serving in that post for more than a quarter of a century. Warren was an enthusiastic member of most of the Sherlockian societies in New York and New Jersey, writing songs and skits for performances at their meetings, and was an expert punster. He received his Investiture from the *Baker Street Irregulars* in 2007.

20410. "Under the Clock, Sherlock--Still Rockin' After All These Years" (the now-317-page data-base on Sherlockian music compiled by Howard Ostrom and Ray Wilcockson) (May 20 #5) now is readily available, with all the images and links, at Willis Frick's "Sherlocktron" <www.sherlocktron.com>; there's a link at the top of the column at the left.
20411. The second issue of the Beacon Society's "Sherlock's Spotlight" (described as "a quarterly gazette for young Sherlockians everywhere") is now available for (and for sharing with) youngsters who might enjoy an introduction to the Canonical world. Anyone who wants to be on their mailing list can contact Steve Mason <mason.steve8080@gmail.com>.
20412. The Beacon Society offers annual January Stauber grants of up to \$750 to fund development of programs that introduce young people to Sherlock Holmes in the U.S. and Canada; the deadline for grant applications is May 1, and details are available at the society's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/h7acxds>.
20413. Jennie Paton found an interesting article at the We Are the Mighty blog on Apr. 2, 2018 <www.wearethemighty.com/articles/army-crime-lab-mickey-mouse> about Mickey Mouse appearing in Sherlockian costume in the official logo of the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Laboratory. The logo also is on-line at the lab's web-site <www.cid.army.mil/dfsc-usacil.html#sec3>.
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February 21 #2

20414. The Mystery of the Parsee Lawyer: Arthur Conan Doyle, George Edalji, and the Case of the Foreigner in the English Village (London: Bloomsbury, 2021; 320 pp., £20.00) is written by Shrabani Basu, an Indian author who tells the reader about George's father Shapurji Edalji, the complicated battle over George Edalji's guilt or innocence, and the deaths of George Edalji and all of his family, with due attention to the prejudice at the time against Indians in Britain. The book's available in India, the U.K., and Australia; no plans for a U.S. edition.
20415. Wolfgang Schramm's The Apocryphal Cases of Sherlock Holmes (Bloomington: Xlibris, 2010; 78 pp., \$10.00) has Sherlock Holmes and Dr. James Watson investigating the shroud of Turin, the Loch Ness monster, and the Tunguska explosion.
20416. Karen Murdock has reported an exhibition ("The Great Fog and Other London Pictures") at the Paul Mahder Gallery in Healdsburg, Calif., of paintings by Lawrence Gipe that offer a colorful idea of what London looked like in the past <www.paulmahdergallery.com/current-exhibit>.
20417. Is "Enola Holmes" the most evil movie ever made? Yes indeed, according to Cy Kellett on the Catholic Answers Live podcast on Jan. 4 (there's a transcript, in case you don't want to listen to the entire 30-minute podcast) <www.tinyurl.com/yl2jzssz>. Reported by Jennie Paton, who does find truly weird things on-line.
20418. When in Happisburgh: you can visit the Hill House Hotel and see the blue plaque installed there in 2006 by the Eastern Daily Press and the Norwich School of Art & Design (it says that Conan Doyle, during a visit to the hotel, was inspired to write "The Dancing Men"). The hotel now is the Happisburgh Hill House Inn <www.hillhouseinn.co.uk>, which offers a pub, dining room, coffee shop & carvery, and bed & breakfast, as well as a beer garden and the Dancing Men Brewery (plus a silhouette of Holmes at the web-site).
20419. Alison Flood's story in the Guardian (Feb. 4) was headlined "'I Think I've Written More Sherlock Holmes Than Even Conan Doyle': The Ongoing Fight to Reimagine Sherlock Holmes" <www.tinyurl.com/4qqtfakv>; it's a good look at current and recently-past pastichery. The author who says he has written more Holmes than Conan Doyle, in case you don't want to read the article, is James Lovegrove.
20420. Christopher Plummer died on Feb. 5. He began his acting career in Canada on stage and radio, performing in both French and English, and went on to a career that lasted almost 70 years. He played Sherlock Holmes on television in "Silver Blaze" (1977) and then on screen in "Murder by Decree" (1979), and is one of the very few actors to have played both Holmes and an actor who played Holmes, the latter on stage in "Barrimore" (1998). It has been reported that Jeremy Brett suggested that Plummer tour as Holmes in Jeremy Paul's play "The Secret of Sherlock Holmes". Plummer's autobiography In Spite of Myself: A Memoir (2008) is well worth reading, and you can watch "Silver Blaze" at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=8l7hs0tRCCo> where there also are clips from "Murder by Decree")
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20421. February 21 #3 The saga of the Lyndhurst Park Hotel continues. The Southern Daily Echo reported on Feb. 4 <www.tinyurl.com/2xluefjx> that the Hoburne Group is seeking permission to demolish most of the derelict hotel, which closed in 2014; the company wants to build 79 apartments and three commercial units on the site, and plans to retain the hotel's historic façade (the entrance and battlement-style terraces reportedly were designed by Conan Doyle in 1912).
20422. Needless to say, there is opposition: "Residents Give Mixed Response to Lyndhurst Park Hotel Plans as Verderers Slam Proposals' Effect on Forest" was the headline on an article in the local Advertiser & Times on Feb. 24 <www.tinyurl.com/kt3w9fby>. Official Verderer Lord Manners said that the verderers "do not usually comment on planning applications," but are making an exception in this case. In case you are wondering, verderers are forestry officials who deal with common land in former royal hunting areas that are the property of the Crown; the office dates from the Middle Ages, and the New Forest is of interest to them.
20423. Entertainment Weekly reported on Feb. 22 <tinyurl.com/da2dpu2z> that the new Netflix series "The Irregulars" will debut on Mar. 26. According to showrunner Tom Bidwell, "Sherlock Holmes is in the story, it's his world, but he's not the central focus. He plays a big part of it, don't get me wrong, but it's about the kids and their journeys." The Irregulars, now a slightly older group of teens "are the only ones who can stop an impending dark magical threat from destroying London." There will be eight episodes and there's a teaser video at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=1APF6a4m74k>.
20424. The fall/winter issue of The Magic Door (published by the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library) includes articles by Doug Elliott (about annotating Conan Doyle's The White Company) and Hartley R. Nathan (about Conan Doyle's The Firm of Girdlestone), and other reports from and about the Library and the Collection. You can ask for a copy of the newsletter from Cliff Goldfarb, Toronto Public Library, 789 Yonge Street, Toronto M4W 2G8, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.
20425. The 2019 Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture was presented at the Library by Martin Edwards (In Sherlock's Footsteps: The Connection Between Sherlock Holmes and the Detection Club") and his paper has now been published for members of The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection; a limited number of copies are available to people who join the Friends now. Their web-site at <www.acdfriends.org> has PayPal and credit-card capability, or you can contact Cliff Goldfarb (addresses above); the minimum donation of \$35.00 brings you three issues of their newsletter and a copy of the 2020 Memorial Lecture. Edwards' presentation included a nice quote from Ronald Knox, who once wrote "A Study in Scarlet appeared in 1887, and since that date other things have been published, but it is only the detective stories that mattered."
20426. Steve Emezc continues to host on-line Sherlockian events for MX Publishing and offers links to videos of past events <www.tinyurl.com/2p3aw6wp>; you can explore the web-site to find information on their more than 400 titles and links to a long list of Sherlockian blogs.
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February 21 #4

20427. Michael Cox died on Jan. 29. He began his television career as a director of episodes of Granada's television series "Coronation Street" in 1965 and went on to a long career as director and producer. He was executive producer for "Young Sherlock: The Mystery of the Manor House" (1982) and producer (from its beginning in 1984) of Granada's "Sherlock Holmes" series, in which he can be seen (uncredited) as the zoo cleaner in "The Creeping Man" (1991). His excellent *A Study in Celluloid: A Producer's Account of Jeremy Brett as Sherlock Holmes* (2000), reprinted by the Wessex Press <www.wessexpress.com/html/studyincelluloid.html>, offers a fascinating history of the series, and Scott Monty's warm tribute to Cox is on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/3je82yaw>.
20428. Alexis Barquin has reported a truly unusual example of Sherlock Holmes in advertising, in a 2018 video from Prostate Cancer Canada (Sherlock is at the left) <www.tinyurl.com/1okjyfs6>.
20429. There were virtual birthday festivities from the Sherlock Holmes Society of London last month, and their annual dinner on Jan. 16 included a Zoom performance of Bonnie MacBird's dramatization of "The Blue Carbuncle", now on-line at the Society's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/1cob324u>.
20430. One finds all sorts of interesting things at Wikipedia, including an entry for "Sherlock Holmes fandom" (created in 2015). There also are entries for "The Baker Street Irregulars" and "The Baker Street Journal".
20431. The success of the Netflix film "Enola Holmes" seems to have drawn renewed attention to the books about her: Bill Seil notes that Publishers Weekly has reported that Nancy Springer has a new publisher (St. Martin's Press/ Wednesday Books) for two more books in the series; the first, *Enola Holmes and the Black Barouche*, is due in August.
20432. Ioan Baicu offers an interesting list of Romanian material for Sherlockians and Doyleans: movie posters and translations of Sherlockian and Doylean books <www.romanian-movie-collectibles.eu/sherlock-holmes.html>.
20433. Larry Flynt died on Feb. 10. Once called "the Horatio Alger of the sexual revolution" by the N.Y. Times, he launched *Hustler* as an explicit version of magazines such as *Playboy* and *Penthouse*, and revealed in the controversy that ensued. He published "The Affair of the Disappearing Dildo" (by John Hegenberger aka Dr. John H. Twatson) Nov. 1975 (noted by Ron De Waal as "a sure candidate for the most obscene parody"), as well as (at least) three Sherlockian cartoons over the years,
20434. The *Wrap* reported (Feb. 22) <www.tinyurl.com/bh3febmc>, that Guy Ritchie, who directed the first two films in the Sherlock Holmes that starred Robert Downey Jr., will write and direct a film about the Baker Street Irregulars. Not the Sherlockians, but rather the Special Operations Executive; the film ("Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare") is based on the book by Damien Lewis that is subtitled "how Churchill's secret warriors set Europe ablaze and gave birth to modern black ops." The SOE had its headquarters in Baker Street, and they were called (by those few who knew about them) the Baker Street Irregulars).

February 21 #5

20435. "Dame Judi Dench and Benedict Cumberbatch as you've never seen them before" is Howard Ostrom's description of an amusing video at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=ka47YeUj6eg> that takes you behind the scenes for a promotion recorded for Red Nose Day (which will on Mar. 19 in Britain). For adults only, perhaps, but they had fun.
20436. Cédric Asna's imaginative *Sherlock Holmes: The Beginning* (Van Ryder Games, 2020; \$22.99) is the first of a series of five "graphic novel adventures" that allow the reader to try to solve a mystery along with Sherlock Holmes (and it's not easy) <www.vanrydergames.com>.
20437. Christopher Redmond's *Lives Beyond Baker Street: A Biographical Dictionary of Sherlock Holmes's Contemporaries* (London: MX Publishing, 2016; 299 pp., \$18.95) offers a grand tour of the real and not-so-real people who are and who aren't mentioned in the Canon, with more than 400 brief (but informative) entries for people who range from George Wombwell and Sir Moses Montefiore to Mary Pickford and Marjorie Kay. MX Publishing's many books are available at a discount at <www.sherlockholmesbooks.com>.
20438. Also from MX: Nicko Vaughan's *The Adventure of the Wordy Companion* (2018; 171 pp., \$12.95) provides "an A-Z guide to Sherlockian phraseology" (from "a priori" to "Zeppelin"), helpful to the young (and perhaps no so young) reader.
20439. SHERLOC and WATSON are now on Mars. The Perseverance Rover, launched last year on July 30, landed safely on Feb. 18. They are resting quietly while the National Aeronautics and Space Administration tests the Ingenuity helicopter before activating the instruments on the rover. SHERLOC and WATSON are acronymed instruments (June 20 #2) that contribute to the exploration of the Red Planet.
20440. Ron Weighell died on Dec. 24. He wrote fiction in the supernatural, fantasy, and horror genres, as well as *Sherlock Holmes and the Shadow of the Wolf* (1992) and a collection of pastiches *The Irregular Casebook of Sherlock Holmes* (2000).
20441. *The Book of Extraordinary New Sherlock Holmes Stories*, edited by Maxim Jakubowski (Coral Gables: Mango, 2020; 281 pp., \$18.95), is an anthology offering 15 pastiches, some straightforward, some supernatural and psychological. And Breck England's *The Tarleton Murders: Sherlock Holmes in America* (2017; 247 pp., \$18.95) is set in pre-Watson 1878, in a story told by Rev. Simon Peter Grosjean, S.J., who was at school with Holmes at Stonyhurst, and brings Holmes a mystery that takes them to Rome (where they meet the Pope) and America (where they meet characters later found in the Canon and in other writers' fiction, as well as Gen. William T. Sherman and many other historical figures).
20442. Also from Mango: *The Book of Extraordinary Amateur Sleuth and Private Eye Stories*, edited by Maxim Jakubowski (2019; 267 pp., \$19.95) is an anthology of new and interesting (although non-Sherlockian) stories, with a nice reward for those who look at a table of contents to decide what story to read first: Mary Harris' "The Chocolate Underpants Caper".

February 21 #6

20443. Darlene A. Cypser's *The Consulting Detective Trilogy Part II: On Stage* (Morrison: Foolscape & Quill, 2017; 282 pp., \$12.99) continues her entertaining account of Sherlock Holmes' early life; he's no longer at Cambridge, after an explosive laboratory accident, and back in London becomes an actor with the Sassanof company, touring in England and then in the United States, hard at work honing his skills as a detective.
20444. If you bought the 50p Sherlock Holmes coin the Royal Mint issued in 2019 thinking it would be a good investment, there were only 8,602,000 of the coins minted <www.tinyurl.com/33v6g9n>.
20445. Margaret Maron died on Feb. 23. She was a prolific mystery author, and a Grand Master of the Mystery Writers of America. From her *Corpus Christmas* (1989): "People used to kill for 'noble' reasons—for revenge or honor or to usurp a throne. Today, everyone lets it 'all hang out' ... "You can't build a believable mystery around simple scandal for its own sake anymore. Can you imagine trying to write *A Scandal in Bohemia* today? Instead of hiring Sherlock Holmes to retrieve that picture of himself with Irene Adler, the king would probably be trying to peddle the negatives to *The National Enquirer*." ... "And would probably be turned down because both parties in the picture were fully clothed."
20446. Jennie Paton has reported some intriguing Displates offered by the English Society <www.displate.com/zereroom/the-english-society>; a Displate is a magnet-mounted metal poster "designed to capture your unique passions."

20447. The French television series “Lupin” (available on Netflix) stars Omay Sy as Assane Diop, a present-day gentleman thief who is inspired by Maurice Leblanc’s Arsène Lupin; it’s well done indeed, although so far Sherlockian only for brief glimpses in one episode of a book-cover poster for Arsène Lupin contre Sherlock Holmes. There has been quite a bit of Internet buzz about whether there will be a Sherlockian cross-over in the series, and it turns out that there well might be: George Kay, one of the creators of the series, told Radio Times (Feb. 6) that he’s “really interested” in exploring the idea <www.tinyurl.com/4xexmpf7>. Stay tuned for the second season to see what develops.
20448. The Purple Rose Theatre is partnering with the Chelsea District Library to present a reading of David MacGregor’s “Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Ghost Machine” on-line on Mar. 6. There’s no charge to attend, and you can register at <www.tinyurl.com/4ta4avjv>.
20449. Jacklyn Fazio’s new “Sherlock Holmes: Making the Grade” is scheduled during the next Sherlock Holmes Weekend in Cape May, N.J. on Mar. 19-21, and it will be repeated on Oct. 29-Nov. 7 <www.tinyurl.com/28273yxd>.
20450. Craig Wichman’s dramatization of “The Blue Carbuncle” will be performed at the Cape May Presbyterian Church in Cape May, N.J., from Oct. 29 to Nov. 6 www.eastlynntheater.org.

March 21 #1

20451. Benedict Cumberbatch designed a statue of Paddington Bear in Sherlockian costume, one of 50 statues on display in London to promote the film when it was released in 2014 (November 14 #3), and it sold at a charity auction for £17,000 (January 15 #4). There’s an interesting interview with David Field, who sculpted the statues, at a Hungarian web-site for Sherlockian; it’s in English, at <www.tinyurl.com/mpaavhc4>.
20452. It has been said that Sherlockian chronology is the most abstract and confusing and contradictory aspect of the grand game that Sherlockians enjoy playing, and now there’s a Sherlockian Chronologist Guild, founded by Brad Keefauver, who edits and publishes their electronic newsletter Timeline. If you would like to join the Guild, or merely see an issue of their newsletter, you can contact Brad at <bkeefauver@gmail.com>.
20453. It’s always interesting to see people quoting Sherlock Holmes from outside the Canon, as in a PsychTests press release (Feb. 27) noted by Karen Murdock <www.tinyurl.com/j9ar3pub>: “No one epitomizes the cool use of logic like Sherlock Holmes, who sliced through ignorance and ambiguity with his sharp, precise intellect. ‘Sentiment,’ he once remarked, ‘is a chemical defect found on the losing side.’” Where and when did Sherlock Holmes say that?
20454. If you enjoyed the first episodes of “Lupin” on Netflix (February 21 #6), you will welcome the rest of the first season, due this summer; here’s a brief teaser <www.youtube.com/watch?v=OWawfOjLZI>.
20455. Jeff Falkingham’s Focusing the Lens on Doyle and Holmes (Monee: Frontier Fantasies, 2021; 78 pp., \$6.99) offers 13 chapters that include his personal essays, scholarly studies, limericks, and book and film reviews, all nicely illustrated; his web-site is at <www.cccaper.com>.
20456. “When times are tough, we turn to detective fiction,” according to Stephen Armstrong in The Sunday Times on Mar. 7 (in a review of the new television series “Unforgotten”). “Arthur Conan Doyle’s first Sherlock Holmes story was published during the long depression of 1873-96,” he added. “Raymond Chandler’s hardboiled ‘tec sprang from the 1930s slump. In 2020, as the pandemic ravaged us all, detective fiction offered resolution and even a sense of justice being done.” There was indeed a Long Depression in Western Europe and North America, according to Wikipedia (in the United Kingdom it was called the Great Depression of British Agriculture). I don’t recall any Sherlockian scholarship that addresses the economic situation when the early stories were written and published.
20457. Leonard Goldberg’s new The Abduction of Pretty Penny (New York: Minotaur Books, 2021; 340 pp., \$26.99), is the fifth in his series that stars Sherlock Holmes’ daughter Joanna Blalock, who learned much from her father and is working with Dr. John H. Watson and his son Dr. John H. Watson Jr. to rescue a young actress who has gone missing; they quickly find that she is a captive of Jack the Ripper, who has reappeared 28 years after his reign of terror in Whitechapel and soon threatens Joanna herself. The author’s web-site is at <www.leonardgoldberg.com>.

March 21 #2

20458. Radric Delantic Davis (known professionally as Gucci Mane) is an American rapper with a long list of studio albums and mix-tapes, and an interesting entry at Wikipedia. The Music Ally web-site reported on Mar. 4 <www.tinyurl.com/3jzk785y> that a group called MSCHF has created Project Gucciberg with a deep-faked version of Gucci Mane’s voice deployed to read classic works of literature, including “The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes” <www.projectgucciberg.mschfmag.com>. Here’s your chance to hear a rapper’s “A Scandal in Bohemia”.
20459. Trevor Peacock died on March. 8. He had a long career on British television beginning in 1961, appeared also on stage, and wrote for musicals; he was best known for his role as Jim Trott in the series “The Vicar of Dibley” on the BBC (1994-2015), he also played Sidney Prince in the Royal Shakespeare Company’s revival of William Gillette’s “Sherlock Holmes” in 1974 in London, Washington, and New York.
20460. A tip of the deerstalker to Roger Johnson who has reported the interesting RadioEchoes web-site <www.radioechoes.com>, which offers access to 99,842 episodes, of which there are 574 hits for [sherlock] in the comedy and detective genres, some of which have not previously been available (such as five of the eight episodes of the “Sherlock Holmes” series adapted by Michael Hardwick and broadcast by the BBC Light Programme in 1962, starring Carleton Hobbs and Norman Shelley).
20461. So: where and when did Sherlock Holmes say, “Sentiment is a chemical defect found on the losing side”? Paige Bigelow was quick to answer: in “A Scandal in Belgravia” (2012) <www.youtube.com/watch?v=utwenXbh9hA>.
20462. Nicola Pagett died on Mar. 3. She launched her acting career at the age of 8 in a school play, and went on to a long career on stage and then in television; her break-out role was Elizabeth Bellamy in “Upstairs, Downstairs” (1971-1973), and she played Countess Nadja in “Anonymous Letters” in the series “The Rivals of Sherlock Holmes” (1973).
20463. Gender and the Modern Sherlock Holmes: Essays on Film and Television Adap-tions Since 2009, edited by Nadine Farghaly (Jefferson: McFarland & Co., 2015; 252 pp., \$29.95), is a collection of discussions by (mostly) academic writers about the sexuality of, and the relations between, characters in Robert Downey Jr. “Sherlock Holmes” films and the “Sherlock” and “Elementary” television series. It can be interesting examining footnotes and citations such books, and making discoveries.
20464. Ariane Devere’s list of interests includes barbershop singing, Formula One Grand Prix, and (most importantly for readers of this newsletter) Sherlock Holmes, and devoted fans of the BBC’s “Sherlock” series will welcome her transcripts of every episode <www.arianedevere.livejournal.com>. They are in fact more than transcripts, since they include her commentaries of what is happening as well as on what is being said.
20465. Herewith a reminder that the International Sherlock Holmes Exhibition will be open at the Minnesota Historical Center in St. Paul, Minn., from Oct. 1 through Mar. 21, 2022 <www.mnhs.org>. The exhibition, created by the Exhibits Development Group, has been on tour since 2013, and there’s an impressive web-site <www.tinyurl.com/y9b7yq83> where EDG promotes the exhibition to museums that might want to put it on display.

March 21 #3

20466. The saga of the Lyndhurst Park Hotel continues. The local Advertiser & Times reported (Mar. 4) <www.tinyurl.com/p2eam9cv> that the Parish Council has recommended approval of the redevelopment, despite the plan calling for only eight affordable homes even though the New Forest National Park Authority's policy calls for 50 affordable homes on the site. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle is said to have designed the entrance of the hotel and its battlement-style terraces in 1912, and the Daily Telegraph reported on Mar. 20 <www.tinyurl.com/p3a4482e> on a new discovery by local historian Brice Stratford in Portsmouth's Arthur Conan Doyle Collection of a sketch showing that his design for the front façade "was based on the spiritual view of the journey of the soul."
20467. Ronald Pickup died on Feb. 24. He began his acting career on stage with the National Theatre Company in 1964 (earning praise from Laurence Olivier), and went on to a longer career that included films, radio, and television. He played Barrymore in Granada's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1988), Sherlock Holmes in "The Singular Case of Sherlock H. and Sigmund F." on BBC Radio 3 (1988), the Narrator in BBC-1's Merrison/Williams "The Valley of Fear" on BBC-1 (1997), and Sir John Starr in "Murder Rooms: The White Knight Stratagem" (2001).
20468. Here's a somewhat unusual hansom cab, at auction in Switzerland this month: a German wind-up sheet-metal toy, color lithographed and hand-lacquered, made ca. 1910/20, and there's more information available at <www.tinyurl.com/ydkrr5mv>. It was estimated at 900-1800 CHF [Swiss francs], and sold for 1100 CHF [or about \$1175].
20469. The 38th (2020) issue of Beaten's Christmas Annual has been published by The Sound of the Baskervilles of Seattle; it has 77 pages of scholarship (including an interesting article by Daniel Polvere about George Macy, who presided over the Limited Editions Club when it issued its landmark edition of the Canon), quizzes, theatric, artwork, and reports on the society and its members. The annual costs \$13.00 postpaid (or \$20.00 outside the U.S.); checks (in U.S. dollars, please) payable to The Sound of the Baskervilles can be sent to Terri Haugen, 6710 51st Street Court West, University Place, WA 98467.
20470. Something new for fans of "Doctor Who": Mark Gatiss revealed in an interview in Radio Times (Mar. 14) <www.tinyurl.com/2zry963s> that he briefly considered having Conan Doyle appear in "The Crimson Horror" (2013). "The original pitch was going to have Conan Doyle in it," he said, but the idea didn't make it past the plotting stage. "There certainly wasn't a first draft with Doyle," Gatiss recalled, "but he does deserve his own story, so maybe some day."
20471. The Three Locks, by Bonnie MacBird (London: Collins Crime Club, 2021; 412 pp., \$26.99), is the fourth in her series of pastiches, and a prequel, set in 1887 and involving Holmes and Watson with stage magicians in London and with students and dons at Cambridge; it's nicely done, and a welcome addition to the series. The story is told with style and surprises, and there is a personal mystery for Watson. Her web-site <www.macbird.com> has interesting and colorful annotations for all of the books in the series.

March 21 #4

20472. Richard T. Ryan's The Vatican Cameos (London: MX Publishing, 2016; 319 pp., \$16.95) alternates between the early 16th century, when Pope Alexander VI commissions Michelangelo to create the cameos, and the early 20th century, when Pope Leo XIII needs assistance from Holmes and Watson in recovering the cameos after they're stolen from the Vatican and the papacy is threatened. MX Publishing's books are available at a discount at <www.sherlockholmesbooks.com>.
20473. The Scotsman reported on Mar. 13 <www.tinyurl.com/yzsryxur> on an on-line exhibition ("Photographing Fairies") at the Stills center for photography in Edinburgh <www.stills.org/exhibitions/photographing-fairies>; it's colorful and interesting, and there's a 50-page exhibition book available for download.
20474. Adler was a five-issue comic-book mini-series written by Lavie Tidhar and drawn by Paul McCafferty, and it's now available as a graphic novel (London: Titan Comics, 2021; 128 pp., \$16.95); "it's time to meet the League of Extraordinary Gentlewomen" is the premise, in a story set in London in 1902, when Irene is involved with a host of heroines and villains (Canonical and otherwise) in a battle to save London. There also is a colorful gallery of the mini-series covers, and a gallery of the artist's designs for many of the characters.
20475. Umberto Eco's best-selling novel The Name of the Rose (1980) was a medieval mystery that featured William of Baskerville as its detective, while confusing many readers with passages in Latin, including its last sentence (Stat rosa pristina nomine, nomina nuda tenemus). Lion Heart Autographs offers a letter from Eco in which he explains the meaning of the sentence <www.tinyurl.com/3vcas7r7>.
20476. This month all residents of England and Wales were legally obliged to complete a census form for the Office of National Statistics, or face a fine of up to £1,000, according to a story in the magazine Country Life (Mar. 6) <www.tinyurl.com/2bmajhum> that explains, among other things, when the first British census was held. Has anyone ever checked the 1890s census records to see who lived at 221B Baker Street, wherever it might have been at the time?
20477. The "Holmes in the Heartland" scheduled in St. Louis on July 9-11 has been cancelled. It's the latest casualty of the pandemic, according to an announcement from The Parallel Case of St. Louis, and they hope to be able to hold the conference safely, sooner rather than later.
20478. Accidental discoveries can be great fun; Anders Wiggström recently held a lottery for members of the Baskerville Hall Club (in Sweden), offering a copy of Patrick Kincaid's The Continuity Girl (London: Unbound, 2018; 268 pp.), described by the publisher <www.unbound.com> as "a comic love story in which the discovery of a long-lost version of a cult movie sheds light on a 45-year-old love affair between a Hollywood filmmaker and a real-life Loch Ness monster hunter." The movie, of course, is "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970), and the story alternates between Scotland in 1969 and London and Scotland in 2013 and 2014, and it's a pleasure to read.

March 21 #5

20479. The Lima Symphony Orchestra began streaming a performance of "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Missing Maestro" on Mar. 20, with Andrew Crust as the conductor and Enrico Lopez-Yañez as Sherlock Holmes; there's a teaser at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=MbG2uynt564>, and you can watch the performance at <www.limasymphony.com>.
20480. Dr. John H. Watson's Last Chronicles, by C. Alfred Lewis, Sr. (Charleston: CreateSpace, 2010; 81 pp., \$5.95), is an account of events at the end of the partnership of Holmes and Watson, and the results of Holmes' experiments with bees in his retreat on the Sussex Downs.
20481. John Hillman describes his "Travels Through Time" podcast as "a mixture of serious history and a playful parlour game," and you can hear Peter Moore interview Shrabani Basu, author of The Mystery of the Parsee Lawyer: Arthur Conan Doyle, George Edalji, and the Case of the Foreigner in the English Village (February 21 #2) at <www.tinyurl.com/pn2fs96>.
20482. Laurie R. King's next Mary Russell novel, Castle Shade (October 20 #5), is due in June, and you'll find an amusing promotional video, and more news about Laurie, at <www.tinyurl.com/wfuuxe6p>.

20483. "Tell Me More" was a 30-minute television series broadcast by BBC-1, and on July 9, 1977, the program included a 6-minute segment with Nanette Newman interviewing Lord Gore-Booth (the president of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London) and Chris Bazinton (Sherlock Holmes' secretary at Abbey National) <www.archive.org/details/twitter-1148630309434482690>; thanks to Jennie Paton for finding the clip on-line.
20484. On Nov. 13, 1968, Sir Paul (as he was then) was the castaway on BBC Radio 4's "Desert Island Discs"; he briefly discussed his participation in the Society's first tour of Switzerland, and you can listen to a 12-minute extract from the program at <www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p009y1j7>.
20485. The Bavarian poet and painter Carl Spitzweg (1808-1885) is perhaps best known for "Der Bücherwurm" [The Bookworm]. It is an image that resonates with book collectors, and Anders Wiggström (of the Baskerville Hall Club in Sweden) has found (and kindly forwarded) this amusingly-edited version on the Internet.
20486. Buckingham Palace announced on Mar. 1 that "The Duke of Edinburgh was to-day transferred from King Edward VII's Hospital to St. Bartholomew's Hospital where doctors will continue to treat him for an infection, as well as undertake testing and observation for a pre-existing heart condition." He underwent a successful heart procedure on Mar. 3, returned to King Edward VII's Hospital for rest and recuperation, and then left the hospital on Mar. 16 to return to Windsor Castle.
20487. Prince Philip, now 99 years old, was initially admitted to hospital as a precautionary measure after feeling unwell. Barts, founded in 1123, is the oldest hospital in Britain still providing medical services on its original site; it is well known to Sherlockians, of course, as the location of the first meeting of Holmes and Watson.
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March 21 #6

20488. Robert Downey Jr. had a spectacular fight scene in "Sherlock Holmes" (2009), and there is a detailed and interesting analysis of the fight by a British doctor named Ed Hope that is available at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=hmltHCrXkIQ>. Bob Katz (also a doctor, and one who knows whereof he speaks when it comes matters medical), says that the analysis is "very well done and comprehensive."
20489. Frank Mills died on Feb. 11. He began acting on television in Britain in 1958, and was perhaps best known for his starring role in the ITV series "Coronation Street". He also played Commissioner Peterson in Granada's "The Blue Carbuncle" (1984).
20490. Cliff Goldfarb has kindly forwarded a Mar. 17 article about Sherlock's Hats in Jerusalem <www.tinyurl.com/rw63cfz7>; it's an emporium that happily offers deerstalkers and many other styles of headgear. You can explore the shop in 3D at <www.sherlockshats.com>, and look for the picture of Sherlock Holmes.
20491. Country Life published an interesting article ("Who Created the Your Country Needs YOU Poster") on Mar. 13, and you can read the article on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/23nze82p>. The poster is one of most iconic images of World War One, and the artist was Alfred Leete, who was best known, perhaps, for his work for Punch, but he also was a prolific illustrator in The Strand Magazine from 1912 to 1932, including, in Oct. 1915, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's article "An Outing in War-Time".
20492. "An Outing in War-Time" seems not to have been reprinted, so it is only in the Strand (and now here) that one can see his portrait of Conan Doyle, sitting in a railway-carriage with a wounded veteran. It is interesting to consider how much the illustration echoes the now-iconic Sidney Paget illustration that shows Watson and Holmes on their way by rail to Exeter to investigate the disappearance of Silver Blaze.
20493. The Internet is a great source for Sherlockian cartoons that may not turn up in your daily newspaper, such as "The Flying McCoys" (which was Sherlockian on Mar. 6) <www.gocomics.com/theflyingmccoys/2021/03/06>; kindly reported by John Bergquist.
20494. In case you were worried about the bats at Highwell House (December 20 #7), the home of Cate Blanchett in Crowborough, the Tatler reported on Jan. 12 that that the Wealdon district council has granted permission to demolish the cottage on the grounds, provided that a "bat mitigation strategy" is implemented <www.tinyurl.com/y44x8r7z>. Press reports continue to say that Tom Baker and Conan Doyle lived at Highwell house; it's true that Tom Baker did, but Sir Arthur lived nearby at Windlesham.
20495. Ken Ludwig has written three Sherlockian plays ("Postmortem", "The Game's Afoot", and "Baskerville") and many others, and there's a lot about them all at his web-site <www.kenludwig.com>; click on the menu (the three horizontal bars at upper right) and then on [media] and [thoughts on comedy].
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March 21 #7

20496. Sherlock Holmes, The Missing Years: Japan, by Vasudev Murthy (Scottsdale: Poisoned Pen, 2015; 270 pp., \$24.95), is an account of some of Holmes' adventures (with Watson) during the Great Hiatus, on their travels from London to Tokyo, via Alexandria, Bombay, Calcutta, Angkor Wat, Saigon, Nagasaki, and Kyoto, all the while attempting to foil Professor Moriarty's evil plans.
20497. Otto Penzler plans to celebrate the publication of The Three Locks with an on-line conversation with Bonnie MacBird and Dan Stashower, on Apr. 13 at 6:00 pm DST. Details will be available at the Mysterious Bookshop's web-site <www.mysteriousbookshop.com/pages/events>.
20498. How to Instantly Size-Up Strangers Like Sherlock Holmes, by Mark A. Williams, Sr. (South Richmond Hill: Real Deal, 2014; 384 pp., \$26.79) offers a detailed examination of the many ways in which Holmes observed, drew inferences, and reached conclusions, and explains how you too can try to do the same.
20499. The Baker Street Players at Baker Street West have added a dramatization of "The Speckled Band" to their podcasts, and you're welcome to listen in at <bakerstreetwest.com/test-page-2>.
20500. Sherlockiana, the newsletter of the Sherlock Holmes Klubben I Danmark, now in its 66th year and edited by Svend Ranild, has in its first issue of 2021 some delightful artwork by Michael Skov Lambeck, thoroughly appropriate for these lockdown days, which will end sooner rather than later as more and more of us are being vaccinated.
20501. "A crew of misfits investigates a series of supernatural crimes in Victorian London for Dr. Watson and his shadowy associate, Sherlock Holmes," is the premise of the new eight-episode series "The Irregulars" (launched on Netflix on Mar. 26). No spoilers here, in case you haven't watched it yet (or are refusing to watch it), although the Internet is full of buzz about the series (as was the case with Netflix' earlier series "Enola Holmes").
20502. There have been some interesting articles about the series, including one in Radio Times (Mar. 26) <www.tinyurl.com/5b8k92vk>. It would appear that there's a lot of binge-watching in Britain: Radio Times also provided (on Mar. 26) an explanation of the ending of the series, with a firm warning about spoilers <www.tinyurl.com/mfhwhv9s>.
20503. If you've not seen the 1929 silent "Der Hund von Baskerville" that starred Carlyle Blackwell as Sherlock Holmes, the first 12 minutes are available on-line at <www.vimeo.com/529650729>
20504. "An Evening with Jeremy Brett's Sherlock Holmes" is the title of an interesting two-hour presentation arranged by Steve Emez for MX Publishing on Mar. 27 <www.youtube.com/watch?v=6h1rFslLs34>, featuring the premiere of a performance by Jonathan Goodwin, a reading from Maureen Whittaker's Jeremy Brett Is Sherlock Holmes, and a panel of admirers.
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March 21 #8

20505. Elizabeth Crowens' *A Pocketful of Lodestones* (New York: Atomic Alchemist, 2019; 314 pp., \$20.00), a sequel to her *Silent Meridian* in her *The Time Traveler Professor* series (October 18 #4), is a complicated time-shifting novel that involves a set of parallel (and sometimes supernatural) universes; Conan Doyle is one of the characters. The author's web-site is at <www.elizabethcrowens.com>.
20506. Catherine Cooke reports that the City of Westminster Libraries & Archives will present "A Sherlock Holmes Adventure" via Microsoft Teams on May 20, to celebrate Bonnie MacBird's *The Three Locks* <www.tinyurl.com/xr78y3hz>.
20507. The Spanish artist Marco Navas offered a "Sherlockians" collection with 12 7-cm figurines some years ago (November 14 #5), hand-crafted in resin and hand-painted, and there's now a new "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" collection that begins with a graphic scene from "The Hound of the Baskervilles" <www.marconavas.com/Sherlock%20Holmes.html>. The web-site is in Spanish, and in English at <www.marconavas.com/EESherlock%20Holmes.html>.
20508. "It was a very good year." 1887 is, of course, important as the year in which the first Sherlock Holmes story appeared, but it also marked Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee, which was celebrated by the Royal Mint with a rarely-issued £5 golden sovereign. The Royal Mint now does more than provide Great Britain with its coinage; it's now a state-owned limited company that also deals in old coins, including the Golden Jubilee £5 sovereign (the first £5 sovereign ever minted), which they are advertising for a mere £3,950 <www.tinyurl.com/2mjncs4u>. There also was a Golden Jubilee £2 sovereign, available for only £1,720.
20509. Christopher Walsh's "Miss Holmes" will be performed at Colorado Mesa University in Grand Junction, Colo., Apr. 8-11, with audio of the production streamed on Apr. 14-22 <www.tinyurl.com/ya84htwa>.
20510. Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" (scheduled at the Longwood University Theatre in Farmville, Va., last year but postponed due to the coronavirus) will be produced and streamed on Apr. 14-18 <www.blogs.longwood.edu/theatre>. And it is scheduled at the Windhover Center for the Performing Arts in Rockport, Mass., July 2-25 <www.windhover.org>.
20511. Cardinal Stage is presenting a walkabout radio-play series featuring two original Sherlock Holmes mysteries set in Bloomington, Ind. "Sherlock in Btown" will be presented in April, according to an article in the *Indiana Daily Student* (Mar. 3) <www.tinyurl.com/y6kv5k2x>. The two plays are Liam Castellan's "Predisposed to Violins" (beginning Apr. 15) and Bruce Walsh's "John Watson, PhD" (Apr. 23); more information will be found at their web-site <www.cardinalstage.com/mainstage/walkabout-radio-plays>. If you're not able to walk the route, Cardinal will be providing a visual companion featuring photos of the walk, allowing you to enjoy the self-guided option from home.

April 21 #1

20512. A public service announcement: now that vaccines have become widely available, and more and more people are being vaccinated, it is possible that (at least) some people have not been fully advised on how important it can be to safeguard your vaccination records, because if they are lost it may not be possible to replace them. So: you should photograph or scan your card and store the image on your smart phone and other devices. You also should make copies of your card, for your wallet and for your files, and keep the original safe with your important papers, to tide you over until official vaccine passports are available for those who want to travel to other countries, or even within the United States. And do deliver a copy of the record to your primary care physician.
20513. "Her letters to the flighty soldier are, without a doubt, among the great literary monuments that women of talent have, with relative frequency, erected to total good-for-nothings." That's from the chapter on "Julie de Lespinasse" (subtitled "The Amorous Mistress") in Javier Marías' *Written Lives* (New York: New Directions, 2007; 200 pp., \$14.95). There also are chapters on many other writers (including "Arthur Conan Doyle and Women"), in a book that Michael Dirda correctly called "an immensely enjoyable collection of vignettes."
20514. The Chinese animated film "The Great Detective Sherlock Holmes: The Jail-Breaker" (2019) has been dubbed in English (and with sub-titles) and released on an 84-minute DVD as "Sherlock Holmes and the Great Escape" from Shout Factory (\$19.98); all of the characters are animals, and it's nicely done; you can see previews at YouTube.
20515. *The Adventure of the Oakshott Trunk*, by C. Alfred Lewis, Sr. (Charleston: CreateSpace, 2010; 50 pp., \$6.95), is a revised second edition of a story about Holmes and Watson's success in rescuing a young client while thwarting an evil villain.
20516. Les Enfants Terribles, a theatre company that was founded in 2001, created "The Game's Afoot" for Madame Tussaud's in London a few years ago, and now offers "The Case of the Hung Parliament" as an "immersive on-line experience" <www.sherlockimmersive.com> (described by one Sherlockian as "utterly delightful" but "not for purists").
20517. Howard Ostrom discovered "Dave Gorman's Terms & Conditions Apply" channel on the Internet, with an episode on "Guessing Weird Acronyms" that you can watch at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=hqoNZnMs-fk>. Two of the acronyms are HOLMES, one them the Home Office Large Major Enquires System, and the other Hunting cOol Low Mass Extrasolar planetS (which does seem to be a cheat).
20518. "As a small kid in South Africa in the late 60s and 70s, I didn't see anything unusual about being called Sherlock Holmes. He wasn't a well-known character there at that time." That's from an interview in *Metro UK* (Apr. 1) <www.tinyurl.com/kwmb2vj5> with a present-day Sherlock Holmes (who was named after his father, whose mother had a sense of humor).

April 21 #2

20519. *The Case of the Displaced Detective: The Arrival*, by Stephanie Osborn (Kingsport: Twilight Times, 2011; 326 pp., \$19.95), is the first in a science fiction/mystery series in which Holmes has survived his battle with Moriarty at the Reichenbach having been transported to an alternate universe thanks to Project Tesseract, a government project supervised by Skye Chadwick, who becomes both his protector and his assistant. The author's web-site is at <www.stephanie-osborn.com>.
20520. Britain is celebrating the 150th anniversary of the opening of the Royal Albert Hall in London, and there was a well-illustrated report on its history published by the BBC News on Mar. 29 <www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-56428543>. The Royal Mint also is celebrating the event with a £5 coin; details on the coin are at <www.tinyurl.com/53ns63sn>.
20521. It should be noted that Conan Doyle appeared at least twice in the Royal Albert Hall, the first time in 1901, when he was one of the judges at the world's first body-building contest, orchestrated by the strong man Eugene Sandow, and the second time in 1929, when he spoke during an Armistice Day spiritualist assembly. He may (or may not) have appeared a third time in 1930, during a spiritual memorial service in which a clairvoyant tried to contact him before an audience of 10,000 people; his widow, Lady Jean Conan Doyle, said that the event was "cheering and encouraging."
20522. Steve Doyle's video podcasts (for the Baker Street Irregulars) continue at YouTube; search for [fortnightly dispatch] to watch interviews with David Stuart Davies, Rebecca Romney, and Roger Johnson.

20523. Many Sherlockians have seen and enjoyed the International Sherlock Holmes Exhibition, which will be at the Science Museum of Oklahoma, May 1-Sept. 6 <www.sciencemuseumok.org>. Created by the Exhibits Development Group, the exhibition has an impressive web-site <www.tinyurl.com/y9b7yq83> where the company promotes the exhibition to museums that might consider putting it on display. The exhibition is scheduled next at the Frost Science Center in Miami, Fla., May 14-Sept. 5, 2022 (the appearance at the Minnesota Historical Center in St. Paul, Minn., has been postponed).
20524. Christopher Redmond's A Sherlockian History of England, a new 28-page monograph that traces the country's history from prehistoric times into the Victorian era as echoed in the Canon; it is nicely done, and conveniently available as a free PDF file from Chris at <redmond2@execulink.com>; ink-on-paper copies are available for US\$5.00 or CA\$6.00 (postpaid) via PayPal or Interac.
20525. Sherlock Holmes y la Conspiración de Barcelona written by Sergio Colomino and illustrated in full color by Jordi Palomé (Barcelona: Norma Editorial, 2012; 152 pp., \$19.65) is an attractive example of graphic novels in other languages; it's set in 1893, during the Great Hiatus, with Holmes in dire peril in Barcelona. It's available from Amazon in Spanish and in Catalan, and the publisher's web-site is at <www.normaeditorial.com>. Also available from Amazon is their Sherlock Holmes y el Legado de Moriarty (2016), and Colomino's Sherlock Holmes de Hayao Miyazaki (2020), both in Spanish.

April 21 #3

20526. Ridley Pearson's Lock and Key: The Initiation (New York: HarperCollins, 2016; 419 pp., \$17.99) is the first volume in his trilogy about twelve-year-old Moria Moriarty. She's at school at Baskerville Academy, near Boston, where her older brother James is the roommate of Sherlock Holmes, and the series, written for young adults (age 8+) presents a well-told origin story for the boys who wind up arch enemies. The other two books in the series are The Downward Spiral (2017) and The Final Step (2018); the author has a web-site <www.ridleypearson.com>, where you can download a free prequel short story The Gadwell Incident.
20527. John Christopher's The London of Sherlock Holmes (Stroud: Amberley, 2012; 96 pp., £11.99) offers a tour of Canonical locations, with an attractive variety of period photographs and illustrations; the publisher's web-site is at <www.amberley-books.com>.
20528. Learn French with Sherlock Holmes and Learn Spanish with Sherlock Holmes (Dublin: Diglot, 2020) offer an intriguing approach to learning languages; each book has the text of "A Study in Scarlet" and "The Hound of the Baskervilles" in English, and page by page introduces more and more words in the foreign language, helping the reader understand context and meaning, without the need to focus on translation and grammar. Both of the books are available at Amazon (\$15.20 each), and you can use the "look inside" feature to see how the system works. Diglot's web-site at <www.diglot.ie> offers a look at all their languages and authors, and they're on Instagram @diglotsocial, for those who want to know what's new with the company.
20529. Sandra de Helen's The Hounding (McCorkle Ink, 2013; 168 pp., \$14.57) features Shirley Combs (who would like to be the world's greatest detective) and Dr. Mary Watson in a murder mystery set in modern-day Portland. The sequel, The Illustrious Client (2013), has them investigating a series of murders, in the midst of which Mary finds romance (although not with Shirley). The author's web-site <www.sandradehelen.com> includes a video interview about the first book.
20530. Olivia Rutigliano suggests that "Once you eliminate the least compelling Sherlock Holmes performances, whatever remains, no matter how improbable, must be the best" in her article "The 100 Best, Worst, and Strangest Sherlock Holmes Portrayals of All-Time, Ranked" posted to the CrimeReads blog on Apr. 8 <www.crimereads.com/100-sherlock-holmes-ranked>, kindly reported by Les Klinger. One can agree or disagree with her choices, and comments, but it is interesting to consider how many (or few) people there are who actually have seen all 100 of the portrayals.
20531. "Both in the books and on screen, Sherlock is shown to be fond of his tea, and so we infused vodka with Earl Grey tea. He's also found with a glass of wine, and we made a beetroot and wine reduction, making it look a little like blood for all the murder mysteries he's solved. Add to it a hint of rose for his unrequited hostility toward women, and a little fresh lime to balance it all. The very English gherkin pickles are added to it. We serve it with Sherlock's iconic magnifying glass." That's the recipe for "Sherlock in a Pickle" a cocktail reported (with an image) by Bill Seil in the Asian Age <www.tinyurl.com/39bfv9ch>.

April 21 #4

20532. Printer's Error, by J. P. Romney and Rebecca Romney (New York: Harper, 2017; 353 pp., \$26.00), is subtitled "irreverent stories from book history," and it's a delightful excursion into the world of books and those who create them. It is not really Sherlockian (although Arthur Conan Doyle and Christopher Morley are quoted), but it is full of great stories, and Rebecca (who is "That Gap on the Second Shelf" in the Baker Street Irregulars) presides over Type Punch Matrix, with an on-line catalog <www.typepunchmatrix.com> that does not neglect the Canon in its offerings of interesting and rare books.
20533. J. K. Van Dover's The Detective and the Artist: Painters, Poets, and Writers in Crime Fiction, 1840s-1970s (Jefferson, McFarland & Co., 2019; 188 pp., \$55.00) explores artists in the detective genre, as detectives, villains, and victims, from Poe's Dupin through the hard-boiled detectives, with (of course) detailed discussion of the Sherlock Holmes stories.
20534. Christopher Redmond wonders, "Can you name two literary works that never mention Sherlock Holmes but are coveted by Sherlockian collectors everywhere?" in his article in the spring issue of Canadian Holmes (published quarterly by the Bootmakers of Toronto). The literary works are "Food for Poser" and "The Four Leaved Shamrock" (two drawing-room plays that accompanied "A Study in Scarlet" in Beeton's Christmas Annual for 1887); Chris has some interesting commentary about the plays and their authors. Canadian Holmes costs \$30.00 a year (US or CA), and single issues cost \$12.00 <www.torontobootmakers.com>.
20535. Nikki Stafford's Investigating Sherlock: The Unofficial Guide (October 15 #4) was an insightful companion to the first three seasons of the series, with discussions of its history, analysis, and commentary on each episode. She hasn't updated the book, but her blog <www.nikkistafford.blogspot.com> has her commentary on "The Abominable Bride" and many other television series.
20536. The Washington Post ran a "March Madness" poll to determine the greatest fictional detective <www.tinyurl.com/9d29c9y3>, with 32 bracketed choices; the winner was Armand Gamache, with Sherlock Holmes in second place. The poll still is up and running, so you can still vote (and see how many of the detectives you actually recognize). It has been suggested that fans of Louise Penny's books carried out an organized campaign in favor of her detective.
20537. Quartet Records has released a "50th Anniversary Special Edition" CD for "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (€21.95) <www.tinyurl.com/54ykk6y8>; it's a remastered version of their 2013 CD, with additional material that includes a bonus track of "Gabrielle" (omitted from the 2013 version).

20538. "Spring Cleaning the Old-Fashioned Way" is the title of an article posted on-line by English Heritage on Mar. 19 <www.tinyurl.com/bx82cxa5>, with a link to an instructive video, offering a look at some of things that Mrs. Hudson did (or perhaps tried to do) when it came to clean-up time. There also is Lucy Lethbridge's *Mind Your Manors: Tried-and-True British Household Cleaning Tips* (2016), noted with commentary in Maria Cramer's article in the N.Y. Times on Mar. 21 <www.tinyurl.com/9sbcedyf>.

April 21 #5

20539. "Meitantei Conan" [Detective Conan] was first a Japanese manga comic-book series created by Gyosho Aoyama, developed into a long-running animated television series, and then animated films; Shinichi Kudo is a 17-year-old master detective who has been turned by villains into a child, and assumes the name Conan Edogawa (in tribute to Arthur Conan Doyle) and pursues evil-doers. The character is still popular. The Japan Times reported on Apr. 14 <www.tinyurl.com/5zzm4aw> that a train station in central Japan has (briefly) been renamed "Meitantei Conan" to celebrate this month's release of a new film "Detective Conan: The Scarlet Bullet".
20540. SHERLOC and WATSON are alive and well on Mars, as you will see if you go to <www.apod.nasa.gov/apod/astropix.html> and click on the Calendar link at the bottom of the page, and then on the image for Apr. 3.
20541. "There's a genre of Sherlock Holmes story that starts brilliantly," Steven Moffat said, Radio Times reported (July 20, 2020), "and obviously someone comes to the door and suggests to Sir Arthur that maybe a game of cricket is in the offing, and he just dashes an ending rather quickly. Five Orange Pips and the Engineer's Thumb both fall foul of that. But they've got great beginnings!" <www.tinyurl.com/7kwpfpv2>.
20542. Will Thomas' *Dance with Death* (New York: Minotaur, 2021; 307 pp., \$27.99) is the latest in his excellent series that features private enquiry agent Cyrus Barker (an homage to Holmes' rival in "The Retired Colourman") and his assistant Thomas Llewelyn; it's now 1893, and they're involved in combatting an attempt to assassinate the future czar of Russian, who is visiting London for a royal wedding; strong characters are the mark of a good series, and as usual, the plot is interesting and the story well told.
20543. Stefan Bechtel and Laurence Roy Stains' *Through a Glass Darkly* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 2017; 303 pp., \$26.99) reports in detail on "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and the quest to solve the greatest mystery of all"; the authors note that they "are not true believers," adding "but it's fair to say we don't not believe," and address both sides of the lengthy argument over Spiritualism.
20544. "Tobacco for the cigars was sourced from as far as Cuba and was fermented in fruits, jaggery, and honey, giving them their unique taste," according the News Minute (Feb. 18) <www.tinyurl.com/pxzkr7st>, in a story about the Trichinopoly cigar. It appears that cigars made in Trichinopoly are still available for purchase in India <www.tinyurl.com/5f7dr9dm>, although perhaps not with the same flavor as the cigar smoked by Jefferson Hope (in "A Study in Scarlet").
20545. Matt Wingett's *The Mysteries of Portsmouth* (Portsmouth: Life Is Amazing, 2019; 107 pp., £10.00) includes his acknowledgement that "while many stories in this book are explicable, many appear not to be," and among those stories is his brief account about "Conan Doyle and the Paranormal". Matt earlier published an excellent facsimile of Beeton's *Christmas Annual for 1887, Conan Doyle and the Mysterious World of Light 1887-1920*, and *Portsmouth: A Literary and Pictorial Tour*, (February 19 #6), and all his books are available at <www.lifeisamazing.co.uk>.
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April 21 #6

20546. Paul T. Gilbert's *Sherlock Holmes and the Unholy Trinity* (London: Robert Hall, 205; 222 pp., £19.99) is his version of two of the unrecorded cases ("The Death of Cardinal Tosca" and "The Coptic Patriarchs"), and it takes Holmes and Watson to Italy and Egypt in a battle against a mysterious and malignant enemy. The author's Facebook page is at <www.facebook.com/paul.gilbert.589100>.
20547. Diana Bacco explained "Why we should thank Sherlock Holmes for the invention of forensic geology" in a post on Apr. 22 to the Ripley's Believe It or Not! web-site <www.tinyurl.com/48hfjnke>.
20548. Bill Peschel's *The Casebook of Twain and Holmes* (Herschel: Peschel Press, 2018; 233 pp., \$17.95) offers seven stories "as dictated by Samuel Clemens" in which Twain encounters Sherlock Holmes and other Canonical characters, most reprinted from his "223B Casebook Series" and all nicely cap-turing Twain's style and self-deprecating humor. Bill has a web-site at <www.peschelpress.com>.
20549. Alexander Orlov reports something new for Sherlockian gardeners: seeds for Sherlock Holmes sweet peppers <www.tinyurl.com/2nhparmb>; the web-site describes them as "incredibly productive" and "zoned for Siberia."
20550. Jon L. Lellenberg ("Rodger Prescott") died on Apr. 24. He had a long career as a strategist for the Defense Department, serving as the director of the Policy and Strategy Office of the Special Operations & Counterterrorism Bureau when he retired in 2006. Jon found the Sherlockian world as a member of the Red Circle of in the early 1970s, became the American representative for Dame Jean Conan Doyle after she was able to gain control of her father's American copyrights, and wrote and edited volumes for the Baker Street Irregulars archival history series and about Conan Doyle and his writings. He received his Investiture from the BSI in 1974, and the BSI's Two-Shilling Award in 1988.
20551. It's nice that theaters continue to open (with appropriate wear-your-mask precautions, while more and more of us are being vaccinated for COVID-19). Susan Zeder's "The Death and Life of Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at the Royal Theatre in Versailles, Mo., May 6-9 <www.theroyaltheatre.com>.
20552. Katie Forgette's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily" will be performed at the Historic Casino Hall in La Grange, Tex., May 14-16; Facebook page at <www.facebook.com/Fayettecountycommunitytheatre>.
20553. Amy Frey's new "Sherlock Holmes: A Scandal in Bohemia" will be performed at the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum in Pelham Bay Park, N.Y., on June 14-13 <www.bartowpellmansionmuseum.org>.
20554. Leslie Bricusse's musical "The Revenge of Sherlock Holmes" is scheduled in a Spiegel-tent tour in Britain that's due to begin in Leicester in August <www.morphicgraffiti.co.uk>.
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May 21 #1

20555. D. Martin Dakin's *A Sherlock Holmes Commentary* (1972) was widely hailed as an important contribution to the Higher Criticism; he discussed all of the Canon, plus two apocryphal tales, noting many of the scholars who had preceded him. Now Bruce Harris, in his *Anticipations in D. Martin Dakin's A Sherlock Holmes Commentary*, recently published by George A. Vanderburgh, digs deeper into the older scholarship, in an era when modern technology has made older publications so much more easily available, and has found more earlier commentary on the points that interested Dakin. The 87-page book is available from Harris <marxman@comcast.net> (\$19.00 postpaid).
20556. Russian writer and director Aleksandr Bubnov's credits include many artistic and amusing animations, two of them being "Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson: The Murder of Lord Waterbrook" (2006) and "Sherlock Holmes and the Little Chimney Sweeps" (2012), both now available at YouTube, with English subtitles, at <www.tinyurl.com/ev9v3puj> and <www.tinyurl.com/2y95dhna>, kindly reported by Jennie Paton.
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20557. *Sherlock Holmes from Screen to Stage*, by Benjamin Poore (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2017; 258 pp., \$119.99), is a well-written and entertaining examination of the impact of stage, screen, and television on the continuing popularity of Sherlock Holmes, and it offers much more than its subtitle (“post-millennial adaptations in British theatre”) suggests; there’s discussion of William Gillette’s play as well as many other American versions of Holmes, and more importantly, the author has seen or read the many productions, and has not merely relied on reviews.
20558. There were 28 issues of *Moody Street Irregulars* (A Jack Kerouac Newsletter) published from 1978 to 1992, and according to the entry at Wikipedia “the title of the publication derives from the Baker Street Irregulars, a group of street urchins often employed by Sherlock Holmes.” No one seems to have reported a mention of Holmes in the newsletter.
20559. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London is celebrating its 70th anniversary this year, and Nicholas Utechin tells some grand stories about its history in an interview at the I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere web-site; listen in at <www.tinyurl.com/8mcw2b5j>.
20560. The spring issue of *Sherlock’s Spotlight Gazette* (the Beacon Society’s outreach to younger Sherlockians) and a Sherlockian thread in John Hambrook’s amusing comic strip “The Brilliant Mind of Edison Lee” are now available from Steve Mason <mason.steve8080@gmail.com>; he’ll be glad to add you to their mailing list.
20561. Christine Estima had an interesting article in the *Hamilton Spectator* (May 1) <www.tinyurl.com/2tt6mvhz> about the illustrated guidebooks published by Ward, Lock & Co. in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, mentioning in passing a Great Postcard competition in 1907 that was judged by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, with £6,666 in prizes. Thanks to Google, one finds the “Raphael Tuck and Sons Competitive Prize Exhibition of Postcard Home Decorations and Tours, Together with Postcard Originals” in London in the summer of 1907; it was an imaginative promotional effort, and the catalogue’s on-line at <www.catalogues.tuckdb.org/sets/5993>. Conan Doyle was on the board of directors of the company, and yes indeed, it was Ward, Lock & Co. who published Beeton’s *Christmas Annual* in 1887.

May 21 #2

20562. “In a bookless household, I had managed to acquire some sort of taste for books, largely because of a master at one of my early schools who read aloud to us beautifully from Conan Doyle and G. K. Chesterton.” John le Carré, quoted in the *Sunday Times* on May 2, from his new introduction to the 60th-anniversary of his first novel *Call for the Dead*, published by Penguin Classics this month.
20563. The spring issue of the Baker Street Irregulars Trust’s electronic newsletter *For the Sake of the Trust* has been uploaded to the Trust’s web-site <www.bsitrust.org>, where you’ll also find information about the Trust’s Oct. 2 webinar lecture by Roberta Pearson (professor of film and television studies in the School of Cultures, Languages, and Area Studies at the University of Nottingham).
20564. *The Paranormal World of Sherlock Holmes*, edited by Timothy Green Beckley (New Brunswick, Global Communications, 2010; 292 pp, \$21.95) is subtitled “Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, First Ghostbuster and Psychic Sleuth” and offers commentary on Conan Doyle and on the Cottingley Fairies; most of the book consists of reprints from Conan Doyle’s writings about Spiritualism, including the complete text of *The Edge of the Unknown*.
20565. The Reichenbach Irregulars will launch their new *Sherlock Holmes, Arthur Conan Doyle, and Switzerland: Serious and Less Serious Musings!* at a conference via Zoom on June 15; details on the conference and on the book will be found (in German and English) at their web-site <www.221b.ch>.
20566. Netflix has cancelled plans for a second season of the series “The Irregulars”, even though the series ranked in the channel’s top ten programs in April. This certainly will not please Read & Co. Classics, who have just published *The Irregulars: A Complete Collection of the Baker Street Irregular Stories* (290 pp., \$14.99), with “A Study in Scarlet”, “The Sign of the Four”, and “The Crooked Man”, as a tie-in to the series.
20567. It is nice to be reminded that the Baker Street Irregulars, who have appeared in countless pastiches, are mentioned in only three of the stories in the Canon.
20568. Scott Monty and Burt Wolder are continuing their long series of interviews at their “I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere” blog <www.ihearofsherlock.com>; their latest episodes offer Bill Peschel (#214), Nicholas Utechin (#215), and a tribute to Jon Lellenberg (#216).
20569. Karen Murdock reported that Garrison Keillor honored Christopher Morley’s birthday in “The Writer’s Almanac” on May 5: “Morley said, ‘You can blow up a man with gunpowder in half a second, while it may take twenty years to blow him up with a book. But the gunpowder destroys itself along with its victim, while a book can keep on exploding for centuries.’”
20570. Ron Fish’s “Sherlockian Calendar” <www.sherlockiancalendar.com> continues to be a go-to destination for anyone who wants to see what Sherlockian societies are doing, and thanks to Zoom there certainly has been a lot going on during the pandemic. The Illustrious Clients of Indianapolis happily celebrated the beginning of the end of the pandemic by holding a “hybrid” meeting on Apr. 24, in person for locals and via Zoom for those more distant, and a recording of the event, the first of its kind for a Sherlockian society meeting, is available at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=if9ISjliQtE>.

May 21 #3

20571. *This August and Scholarly Body: The Society at 70*, edited by Nicholas Utechin, is a delightful and colorful 116-page celebration of the 70th anniversary of the founding of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, presenting its history; an account of its publications, meetings, and excursions; and the story behind the Sherlock Holmes Exhibition during the Festival of Britain in 1951. It’s available (£11.00) from the Society’s on-line shop at <www.tinyurl.com/sd6kx8>.
20572. The National Archives in the U.K. have an interesting web-site, as well as a weekly newsletter <www.tinyurl.com/4cuw5df2>, noted by Howard Ostrom.
20573. Paul Thomas Miller, not content with presiding over Doyle’s Rotary Coffin, has created an electronic Chapter and Verse edition of the Canon, by way of making it easy to cite specific sentences in the stories. It’s available as a free download at <www.chapterandverseholmes.co.uk>. The Appendix will be especially useful to some Sherlockians and Holmesians.
20574. *ALT.SHERLOCK.HOLMES* (Oxford: Abaddon Books, 2016; 416 pp., \$9.99) offers novellas by Jamie Wyman, Gini Koch, and Glen Mehn, each of them with their own and thoroughly non-Canonical versions of Sherlock Holmes, set in the worlds of a 1930s carnival, the drug-culture 1960s in New York, and today in Hollywood.
20575. Admirers of Will Thomas’ series about private enquiry agents Barker and Llewelyn (April 21 #5) will enjoy Vick Mickunas’ May 8 interview with Will on WYSO-FM <www.tinyurl.com/yv9fvwue>.
20576. Patricia Raybon’s *All That Is Secret* (Carol Stream: Tyndale House, 2021; 374 pp., \$25.99) is set in 1925, when Annalee Spain, a young Black theology professor in Chicago travels to Denver to investigate her father’s murder; she is a devotee of Sherlock Holmes, and each chapter begins with a quote from the Canon, and it’s an interesting mystery but not a pastiche.

20577. Steve Doyle's video podcasts (for the Baker Street Irregulars) continue at YouTube; search for [fortnightly dispatch] to watch interviews with Jayantika Ganguly, Bert Coules, and others.
20578. Robert J. Harris' *A Study in Crimson: Sherlock Holmes 1942* (New York: Pegasus Crime, 2021; 306 pp., \$25.95) is inspired by the Universal series of films that brought Holmes and Watson into the 1940s, and presents them in war-time Britain in pursuit of Crimson Jack, a serial killer whose crimes echo those of Jack the Ripper; Holmes and Watson don't echo Rathbone and Bruce, but one can see this as one of their films. The author has a web-site at <www.harris-authors.com>.
20579. You can see Sherlock Holmes in action (in Spanish) in a video spotted by Jennie Paton at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=B-QY2cXxRKI>.
20580. And here's Herbert Pattee as Sherlock Moans in a short silent film held at Southern Methodist University <www.youtube.com/watch?v=ll7R2TWXa8w>. But it doesn't seem to match any of Pattee's films listed in the Internet Movie Data Base. The shimmy was popular enough to have had its own song, "I Wish I Could Shimmy Like My Sister Kate" (written by Armand J. Piron and published in 1922), and if you would like to try the dance out for yourself, here's how <www.youtube.com/watch?v=-iMwrNuXikA>.

May 21 #4

20581. The Beacon Society has created an impressive web-site devoted to Sherlockian societies, full of information and advice, on-line at <www.beaconsociety.com/sherlockian-societies.html>; it includes an interactive map that allows you to find geographical societies in the U.S. and in other countries (just zero in on wherever you are, or plan to be) with contact information and web-site URLs. If your society is not listed you can contact Mike McSwiggin <mikemcswiggin@gmail.com> and he'll be glad to add you to the map.
20582. There's welcome news for all who enjoyed the first episodes of the Netflix series "Lupin" (March 21 #1): the rest of the first season will be available on June 11. The trailer is at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=kl6x279y8GI>, and the web-site for the series is at <www.netflix.com/title/80994082>.
20583. Norman Lloyd died on May 11. He had a long career on stage and screen and in television. His Sherlockian connection is by association: according to his obituary in the Hollywood Reporter, his first big break came in 1932, when while attending New York University, he was offered an apprenticeship at Eve Le Gallienne's Civic Repertory Theatre. Seeking advice, he knocked unannounced at the Broadway stage door of Nigel Bruce, who was then in the three-act play "Springtime for Henry".
20584. Bruce played the same part (the jealous husband) when the play was filmed in 1934. Alas: the film seems not to be available on-line or on DVD, but you can see what Nigel Bruce looked like in 1934 in a lobby card that may still be available at eBay <www.tinyurl.com/3f6z4bd3>.
20585. "The game is afoot again as Millie Bobby Brown and Henry Cavill have reunited for a sequel to "Enola Holmes", the female-centric Sherlock Holmes hit from Legendary Entertainment and Netflix," according to the Hollywood Reporter (May 12); they're far more reliable than the click-bait rumor on the Internet.
20586. Palgrave Macmillan's Crime Files series includes Clare Clarke's *Late Victorian Crime Fiction in the Shadows of Sherlock* (New York: 2014; 221 pp., \$199.99), an interesting exploration of the genre in the 1890s and 1900s (which has been called "the first golden age of detective fiction"), in a discussion that ranges from Robert Louis Stevenson to Guy Boothby; there's a chapter on "The Sherlock Holmes Stories and Work", and among many other contributions to the literature she traces the phrase "detective fiction" to its first appearance in print, in the *Saturday Review* (Dec. 4, 1886) a year before the publication of "A Study in Scarlet" in Beeton's Christmas Annual.
20587. Brianna Benji's *Shirley Jane and the Mystery of the Golden Monkey* (2014) is the first of five booklets for children aged 8-10; Shirley Jane Holmes is the great-great-granddaughter of Sherlock Holmes, who solve mysteries with her friends Janice Dickinson and Joshua Edgar Poe.
20588. *Raise Your Glass to Sherlock Holmes*, by Phil Angelo (Flesherton: Battered Silicon Dispatch Box, 2020; 159 pp., \$15.00), is a pleasant collection of 75 toasts that were delivered at meetings of the South Downers, for each of the 60 stories and some of the major characters, enhanced by attractive woodcuts by George and Betty Wells, plus John Brousch's heraldic coats of arms for the stories. \$19.83 postpaid from the author (740 South Greenwood Avenue, Kankakee, IL 60901) <philangelo@comcast.net>.

May 21 #5

20589. The publishing world ain't what it used to be: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt has been purchased by HarperCollins, which brings the number of major publishers down to five. To see just how big HarperCollins is now, go to <www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HarperCollins> and scroll down to Imprints. Penguin Random House is planning to buy Simon & Schuster, which will take the number of major publishers down to four.
20590. Chicago artist Scott Gustafson has painted three impressive portraits of Sherlock Holmes, offering the original artwork as well as prints of each portrait <www.scottgustafson.com>.
20591. Lincoln Peirce's "Big Nate" comic strip featured a Sherlockian sequence on May 17-22; its on-line at <www.gocomics.com/bignate/2021/05/17>.
20592. Reported: H. F. Heard's pastiche "The Enchanted Garden" (featuring Mr. Mycroft) in *Golden Age Detective Stories*, edited by Otto Penzler for his *American Mystery Classics* anthology (2021; 312 pp., \$25.95).
20593. Elizabeth Crowens' *A War in Too Many Worlds* (New York: Atomic Alchemist, 2021; 293 pp., \$20.00), is the third in her "The Time Traveler Professor" series (March 21 #8); it's a complicated time-shifting novel that involves a set of parallel (and sometimes supernatural) universes; Conan Doyle is involved, along with H. G. Wells and Harry Houdini (and there are echoes of "The Lost World" and "The Island of Dr. Moreau"). The author's web-site at <www.elizabethcrowens.com> has more information on the series.
20594. A nice quote, from the May issue of *Timeline*: "The beauty of Sherlockian scholarship, however, is that any one person may be right." *Timeline* is the official newsletter published by the Sherlockian Chronologist Guild, and the quotation is from William R. Cochran's *Thinking Outside the Tin-Dispatch Box* (2011). If you would like to join the Guild, or merely see an issue of their newsletter, contact Brad at <bkeefauver@gmail.com>.
20595. *The Sensible Necktie and Other Stories of Sherlock Holmes* by Peter K. Andersson (London: MX Publishing, 2015; 204 pp., \$14.95), offers nine traditional (and nicely plotted) pastiches. Susan Knight's *Mrs. Hudson Investigates* (2019; 218 pp., \$14.95) offers seven stories that feature Holmes and Watson's landlady as the detective, and doing quite well with her own cases. Molly Carr's *Sherlock in the Springtime* (2012; 130 pp., \$9.95) is a pleasant miscellany of notes and comments (as well as a short pastiche). A. S. Croyle's *The Case of the Swan in the Fog* (2017; 163 pp., \$14.95) is the third in her "Before Watson" series; Dr. Poppy Stanford is again solving mysteries with Sherlock Holmes (while avoiding romantic entanglement with each other). All MX books are available at <www.sherlockholmes.com>. and MX has a "younger, sassy sibling at <www.orangepipbooks.com>.
20596. Laurie R. King's *Castle Shade* (New York: Bantam, 2021; 360 pp., \$28.00) is the latest in her long series of novels about Mary Russell and her husband Sherlock Holmes, who (after their adventures in Riviera Gold) find themselves in Roumania; their client is Queen Marie, and since her Castle Bran is in Transylvania there's much talk of vampires and other creatures that go bump in the night. Laurie has much to say about the suspenseful story at her interesting web-site <www.laurierking.com>; just click on [blogs] to read her "Mutterings" and on [events] for information on upcoming signings, and don't neglect her YouTube channel <www.tinyurl.com/neh4hzac>.

May 21 #6

20597. One of the most unusual Sherlockian musical performances ever is "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (composed by Jon Deak for Richard Hartshorne); it's a dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" for double bass and six voices (all provided by Hartshorne), and it premiered in Maine in 1985. Hartshorne has performed the piece hither and yon since then, and you will be able to see (and hear) him in action in a video reported by Jennie Paton at <vimeo.com/552244434>.
20598. Alexander Orlov has reported an imaginative do-it-yourself version of the Hound of the Baskervilles <www.youtube.com/watch?v=HlelKyKuvPg>.
20599. The Conan Doyle Collection in Portsmouth is holding a series of four lectures via Zoom in honor of the late Neil McCaw, their academic director; details are available at their web-site <www.tinyurl.com/v424xtfw>.
20600. Mike McClure, who presides over Stimson & Co. (a professional society for Sherlockian funeral directors), is seeking photographs of the final resting places of notable Sherlockians from around the world, accompanied by a brief biography; visit <www.baskervilleproductions.com/sherlockianplots> to see how it works, and provide assistance to Mike.
20601. The latest issue of the newsletter of the Friends of Gillette Castle State Park reports that the Castle (in Hadlyme, Conn.) opened to the public on May 29. The Friends' web-site is at <www.gilletteastlefriends.org>.
20602. Murder at the Royal Observatory, by Anna Elliott and Charley Veley (Witon, 154 pp., \$9.00), is the 27th volume in their "Sherlock Holmes and Lucy James" series; Lucy and her father, and her husband Dr. John H. Watson Jr., and his father) investigate a mysterious death at the Royal Observatory in 1900 that may be evidence of a real Martian invasion. The series web-site is at <www.sherlockandlucy.com>, and all of the books and stories can be bought at <www.amazon.com/gp/product/B0753CS4DJ>.
20603. Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot" is running at the Arts Theatre Cronulla in Cronulla, N.S.W., through June 12 <www.artstheatrechronulla.com.au>.
20604. A partially-improvised three-actor dramatization "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is being performed in the gardens at the Watermill Theatre in Newbury, Berks., through June 19 <www.watermill.org.uk>.
20605. Craig Sodaro's "Young Sherlock" will be performed at the Ames City Auditorium in Ames, Iowa, June 18-27 <www.storytheatercompany.org>.
20606. The East Haddam Stage Company is celebrating its return to live theater with performances at Gillette Castle State Park in East Haddam, Conn., of a radio script of "A Scandal in Bohemia" on weekends, July 3 through Aug. 8 <www.ehsco.org>.
20607. Steven Canny and John Nicholson's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed at the Octagon Theatre in Bolton, Lancs., from July 5 to Aug. 7 <www.octagonbolton.co.uk>.

June 21 #1

20608. Mark your calendar for Aug. 21, when Denny Dobry will be holding an open house from 10:00 am onward at his home in Reading, Pa., where visitors can enter and play in his splendid recreation of the sitting-room, and browse the shelves in his book fair, where he will be selling Sherlockiana that has been donated to the Baker Street Irregulars Trust (prices will be modest indeed) and publications of the BSI Press. It is well worth a visit, and directions are available from Denny at <dendobry@ptd.net>. There are some enticing images at <www.bsitrust.org/2021/06/book-fair-2021.html>.
20609. Steve Doyle's video podcasts (for the Baker Street Irregulars) continue at YouTube; search for [fortnightly dispatch] to watch interviews with Sean Wright, Monica Schmidt, and others.
20610. "Omnibus" (for those too young to remember black-and-white television) was a 90-minute series produced by the Ford Foundation and broadcast weekly by ABC-TV. On Dec. 9, 1956, the program included a 40-minute segment titled "The Fine Art of Murder" that featured a murder solved in different ways by some detective-story writers and their heroes, and you can see Dennis Hoey as Conan Doyle in a 9-minute clip spotted by Jennie Paton at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=fAH27x79zDc>; you also get to see Rex Stout, and yes) Dennis Hoey also played Inspector Lestrade in the Universal series.
20611. An imaginative "Sherlock Holmes Pixie Door" is available from Blue Toucan Studios <www.tinyurl.com/j4shankc>.
20612. Peterson of Dublin began making and selling pipes in the 1870s, and their pipes have long been popular with Sherlockians (even though there are far fewer Sherlockian pipe-smokers now). Sean Wright has kindly reported the recent blog by Mark Irwin <www.tinyurl.com/3npmjdfc> about their Rathbone (XL20) that honors the pipes that Rathbone smoked in his Sherlock Holmes films. Smokers (and collectors) will find the Rathbone pipe, in various finishes, at <www.peterson.ie/search/?term=Rathbone>.
20613. Jennie Paton spotted the Forgotten Library <www.forgottenlibrary.com> and their offers of amusing literary merchandise. Search for [sherlock], and pay close attention to their bookshelf layout humour bookmark.
20614. Otto Penzler is continuing his "Otto Penzler Presents" series at YouTube, talking about authors, collecting, and collectibles at YouTube; a recent video was about Rex Stout, and of course Otto describes the debt that Nero Wolfe owes to Sherlock Holmes <www.youtube.com/watch?v=kKOAx0NytKc>.
20615. When in Novgorod: there's now a Mycroft pub, noted on Facebook by Alexander Sedov <tinyurl.com/2yuewt5y>. The Russians are enjoying their interesting "Everything Sherlock Holmes" Facebook page.
20616. Nice news for film fans: the British Film Institute's National Archive has announced that Iron Mountain Entertainment Services will fund a full restoration of all of the 1920s films that starred Eille Norwood as Sherlock Holmes. This year is the 100th anniversary of the release of the first of his films, and the project is expected to be completed by 2023, the 100th anniversary of the last of his films. Only a few of the films can be seen at YouTube (search for "eille norwood"), and it will be grand to be able to see all of them (that's 45 two-reelers and two features).

June 21 #2

20617. Paula Berinstein's Amanda Lester and the Purple Rainbow Puzzle (Agoura Hills: The Writing Show, 2015; 386 pp., \$14.99) is the third in a young-adult series that now runs to ten titles; Amanda Lester, a descendant of Inspector Lestrade, is sent to a mysterious British school for descendants of famous detectives, where she encounters a real mystery and an assortment of villains, as well as some fantasy and science fiction (and with amusing touches) <www.amandalester.net>.
20618. Jennie Paton spotted video of "The Musgrave Treasure" on-line; this is an alternate title for Georges Tréville's "The Musgrave Ritual" (1912), and you can watch it at <www.dailymotion.com/video/x81a4rd>.
20619. Sherlockian fans of "Doctor Who" will recall "The Talons of Weng-Chiang" (broadcast by BBC-1 in 1977), starring Tom Baker as the Fourth Doctor. Big Chief Studios is taking pre-orders for its Fourth Doctor Mini Bobble <www.tinyurl.com/9au6rz64>; £9.99, due in November .
20620. Proceedings of the Pondicherry Lodge, the semi-annual electronic newsletter edited by Jayantika Ganguly for the Sherlock Holmes Society of India, is now in its ninth year, and it's one of the better Shelockian society publications. The current issue (with 204 colorful pages) offers scholarship,

pastiches, and commentary, including Howard Ostrom's discussion of Father Brown and many other priests, vicars, and rabbis who had talents for detection, and David Marcum's detailed report on "prolific pasticheurs." All of the issues of the Proceedings are available at the society's web-site at <www.sherlockholmessocietyofindia.com>.

20621. "West of Kashmir: A Sherlock Holmes Adventure" is a film that was planned by Jim Danforth in the 1990s, but never made, except for a brief preview clip that you can watch at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=dJfPSvF7dVo>; thanks to Doug Chapman for reporting the clip. And to Howard Ostrom for identifying Mark Clifton as Holmes and Gordan Roberts as Dr. John Watson.
20622. Young Sherlock: Night Break, by Andrew Lane (London: Macmillan, 2015; 295 pp., £12.99), is the eighth and last book in his imaginative series; Sherlock leaves Oxford after his mother's death and his father's disappearance in India, and continues to combat bizarre crimes and criminals; the books are nicely written, and will interest young adults. There is a web-site for the series at <www.youngsherlock.com>.
20623. One of the four stories in "Tales from the Darkside: The Movie" (1990) was Michael McDowell's dramatization of Conan Doyle's "Lot No.249"; Julianne Moore played Susan and on May 28 told an amusing behind-the-scenes story on "The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon" (on NBC-TV). There's a clip available at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ok2bWabNeTg>.
20624. Mark Jones and Paul Chapman continue their interesting discussions of the writings of Conan Doyle (focusing on his non-Sherlockian work) on-line at their "Doings of Doyle" podcast <www.doingsofdoyle.com>; their latest post considers "The Terror of Blue John Gap" and they also have an interesting consideration of the Captain Sharkey stories (in case you're a fan of pirates), and a comprehensive report on the "Conan Doyle in Edinburgh" conference that was held at Napier University last September.

June 21 #3

20625. "Typewriters might not be the first thing that comes to mind when watching 'The Lost World'" leads off Heritage Auctions' description of an unusual "Corona in the Lost World" tie-in poster issued in 1925, coming up in their sale #7243 on July 24-25, estimated at \$1,500-\$3,000 <www.tinyurl.com/2my245an>. And yes, Edward Malone did indeed have a Corona with him as part of his essential gear in the film.
20626. It's not Sherlockian, but if you've ever wondered about how they came up with the two-letter abbreviations for the names of all the states, here's an explanation <www.youtube.com/watch?v=dLECCmKnrys>.
20627. Nye & Company offered an interesting item at auction on June 2: 23 of the 24 volumes of the Crowborough Edition, apparently bound in leather, lacking (of course) the first volume (which was signed by Conan Doyle), with an opening bid of \$100 and an estimate of \$200-\$300. It's possible that it was one of the few presentation sets, but one cannot tell without knowing the number that appeared on the signed limitation page in the missing first volume <www.tinyurl.com/274n67w3>. Presumably the first volume was sold earlier, by someone who valued only Conan Doyle's signature. The 23 volumes sold for only \$250. Complete sets with all 24 volumes are advertised by used-book dealers now for \$5,000 or more.
20628. Magda Jozsa's Sherlock Holmes in the 21st Century (CreateSpace, 2000; 314 pp., \$13.99); offers three stories that involve time travel, clones of Mycroft and Moriarty, and the children of Holmes and Watson; she has written many other pastiches, and her web-site's at <www.read4life.com>.
20629. Tor.com is an on-line magazine launched in 2008, and one of its features is a "Reading the Weird" department in which Anne M. Pillsworth and Ruthanna Emrys recently discussed "The Horror of the Heights" in some detail <www.tinyurl.com/4mhhybkt>; there's also a link to their thoughts on Neil Gaiman's "A Study in Emerald", and the web-site has a search engine useful if you want to search for [sherlock holmes] or [conan doyle] or anyone or anything else.
20630. John Murray founded his publishing house in London in 1768, and the company went on to become (and still is) the publisher of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's books; this month they announced a new imprint, to be called Baskerville, for new crime and thriller authors.
20631. The Washington Post Book Club held an on-line "March Madness" bracket contest to "Pick the Best Fictional Detective" contest from Mar. 25 to Apr. 5 and can still see how it worked at <www.tinyurl.com/u9rmzppy>. Your vote won't count now, alas; Sherlock Holmes came in second, well behind Armand Gamache. One might uncharitably assume that fans of Louise Penny's books launched an energetic turn-out-the-vote campaign (so far no one seems to have demanded a Cyber Ninjas recount).
20632. Hamilton House in Winnipeg, described as "one of the most historically and culturally important site in North America," is up for sale, at CA\$410,000 (according to an article in the Winnipeg Free Press on May 25); what makes it so important is that it was the home of Thomas Glendenning Hamilton, a noted spiritualist who arranged for a séance that Conan Doyle attended in 1923, when he was visiting Winnipeg. You can read about the séance in an article by Michael W. Homer <www.tinyurl.com/39rucjsn>, and the realtor is Emma Alfons <www.tinyurl.com/ykz4pakj>.

June 21 #4

20633. Roger Johnson has reported news from the Deadline web-site (on June 10) <www.tinyurl.com/ww8bfupd>: New Republic Pictures has optioned Adam Roche's podcast "The Secret History of Hollywood". The pod-cast included "The Game Is Afoot" (about Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce, and their long friendship); there were three episodes, broadcast in 2018, and audio is available at Amazon <www.tinyurl.com/3h4p7a8p>.
20634. The Baker Street Almanac 2021, edited by Ross E. Davies, Jayantika Ganguly, Ira Brad Matetsky, and Monica Schmidt, is now available in print for \$30.00 postpaid <www.greenbag.org/almanacs/BS/2021.html> or from The Green Bag, 6600 Barnaby Street NW, Washington, DC 20015), with a copiously-annotated edition of "The Priory School" (and much more about the Sherlockian world), as well as some "amusing extras" that are not included in the on-line edition. All four issues of the Almanac are available on-line (free) as PDFs at <www.greenbag.org/almanacs/BS/bsa.html>.
20635. "Dear Holmes" is a monthly mysteries-by-mail subscription package created by Michael Silver <www.dearholmes.com> (June 20 #5); none of my readers has reported on it, but David John Moratta praised it enthusiastically in an article in Forbes (June 10) <www.tinyurl.com/h5hpzmv7>.
20636. Reported: H. F. Heard's pastiche "The Enchanted Garden" (featuring Mr. Mycroft) in Golden Age Detective Stories, edited by Otto Penzler for his American Mystery Classics anthology (2021; 312 pp., \$25.99).
20637. John Gaspard's The Greyhound of the Baskervilles (Albert's Bridge Books, 2019; 218 pp., \$19.99) is an amusing revision of the Canonical tale, told by Sherlock Holmes' greyhound Septimus. As with many books today, it also is available less expensively as a trade paperback, as well as via Kindle and Audible; the publisher's web-site is at <www.albertsbridgebooks.com>.
20638. The British Library's HistFest series included (in May) a panel discussion of "The Real World of Arthur Conan Doyle" with BBC broadcast Matthew Sweet and authors Shrabani Basu and Clare Clarke. You can watch them at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=HkFTZRRTEuQ>.
20639. More news for film fans, but this time it's good news and bad news. The good news is that the Museum of Modern Art has restored its print of Clive Brook's "Sherlock Holmes" (1932), reported by Russell Merritt in a post to "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" <www.tinyurl.com/n5nv99hj>. The bad news is that the film was available on-line for only one month and only to members of the Museum, and (Russell notes) "the Walt Disney Company controls distribution rights, and getting them to release the film is likely to be an uphill battle."

20640. Marvin Kaye died on May 13. He was an editor and anthologist, mainly science fiction, fantasy, horror, and mystery, and also was a playwright and an author of novels and short stories. Kaye wrote two amusing pastiches, *The Incredible Umbrella* (1979) and *The Amorous Umbrella* (1981), as well as short stories that were collected in *The Confidential Casebook of Sherlock Holmes* (1998); he also edited *The Game Is Afoot: Parodies, Pastiches, and Ponderings of Sherlock Holmes* (1994) and *The Resurrected Holmes* (1996).

June 21 #5

20641. *Villains, Victims, and Violets*, edited by Resa Haile and Tamara Bower (Irvine: BrownWalker Press, 2019; 316 pp., \$39.95), is an interesting anthology published by the Studious Scarletts, a society for women who write Sherlockiana; it is subtitled "Agency and Feminism in the Original Sherlock Holmes Canon," and the articles offer a new look at the ability of the women in the stories to act independently and to make their own decisions (that's "agency" in this context) in the man's world of the Sherlockian era.
20642. Margaret H. Laing has fun with her imaginative blog about "The Imaginary Writers' Room" for the Chicago Tribune <www.tinyurl.com/ytyfkm97>; you can search her archive to find earlier posts about Conan Doyle, and Holmes.
20643. Charmouth, a small coastal village in Dorset near Lyme Regis, has a long history and an active local history society, which has published a colorful 8-page pamphlet "Discover Charmouth Old Village" that offers information about the many famous people who have lived and visited there. One of them was Arthur Conan Doyle, who in 1894 visited a local haunted house (which no longer survives). The pamphlet is available as a PDF from the society <www.freshford.com/Charmouth%20Trail%20and%20Map.html> Conan Doyle is on page 7).
20644. Mark your calendar for June 18 next year (and every year): it's International Picnic Day, according to a post by Shikha Goyal at the Jagan Josh web-site <www.tinyurl.com/3kuxnddz>. The post quotes Conan Doyle: "Picnics are very dear to those who are in the first stage of the tender passion." The quote is from the short story "Our Derby Sweepstakes" (first published in *London Society*, May 1882); the text is conveniently available at the Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia web-site <www.tinyurl.com/3uvbrw>.
20645. Alexis Barquin presides over the Encyclopedia, which is comprehensive indeed, and well worth exploring. As an example, there's a detailed examination of the 62 Sherlock Holmes stories written by Conan Doyle (yes, 62) <www.tinyurl.com/vaxct9ut>, with text, artwork, commentary, and much more.
20646. The Queen's Birthday Honours List for 2021 included a knighthood for Jonathan Pryce for services to drama and charity (he played Holmes in the 2007 television film "Sherlock Holmes and the Baker Street Irregulars"), and an appointment as OBE (Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) David Forbes-Nixon for services to children and adults with special educational needs and disabilities (he created the DFN Charitable Foundation to fund the purchase of Undershaw, where Conan Doyle once lived, and converting it into the Stepping Stones School for children with learning difficulties).
20647. What does it mean to be a "Holmesian?" asks Stephen R. McAllister in his four-page Foreword to *The Black Book of Justice Holmes*, edited by Michael H. Hoeflich and Ross E. Davies (Clark: Talbot Publishing, 2021; 497 pp., \$195.00). And nowhere in the Foreword does he mention Sherlock Holmes; he and his fellow Holmesians are devout admirers of Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes. The *Black Book* is Holmes' list of the books he read throughout his life, now reprinted both in facsimile and with a transcription. Holmes was an enthusiastic reader, and his notes include Exploits of Gerard and Study in Scarlet &c. &c. It's nice to know that Holmes read Holmes. And frustrating not to know more about the &c. &c.
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June 21 #6

20648. *Serendipitous Adventures with Britannia: Personalities, Politics, and Culture in Britain*, edited by Wm. Roger Louis (London: I. B. Tauris, 2019; 366 pp., \$50.00), is an anthology of thoroughly interesting lectures delivered at the British Studies seminar at the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas in Austin, including one by David L. Leal on "Arthur Conan Doyle and Spiritualism". Leal's exploration of the Center's splendid Conan Doyle collection yielded some intriguing discoveries, including a statement by Conan Doyle that "his own writing was worse when he used a typewriter rather than a pen.
20649. "Herr Skopf shook his head; then he scratched it. He was baffled. He had never heard of Sherlock Holmes or he would have lost no time in invoking the aid of that celebrated sleuth, for here was a real mystery." One does indeed hear of Sherlock everywhere, this time in Edgar Rice Burroughs' *The Son of Tarzan*, serialized in *All-Story Weekly* (1915-1916) and published as a novel by A. C. McClurg (1917). Kindly reported by Don Miguel, who notes that it's available at <www.gutenberg.org/files/90/90-h/90-h.htm#chap04>.
20650. "Gomorra" (2014) is a four-season Italian television series that aired in the U.S. on SundanceTV in 2016; the series is a fictionalized account of today's crime syndicate in Naples <www.tinyurl.com/2yfundtv>. The title of the series is a pun on the syndicate's real name, the Camorra, which is well known to those who are aware that the manuscript of "The Red Circle" states "Camorra" (when the story was published the name was changed, and is "Carbonari"). The series is now streaming on HBO Max (in case you subscribe to the service, or want an excuse to) <www.tinyurl.com/t84r7reb>, and you can watch a trailer at the web-site. There are subtitles in English, of course; when the series aired in Italy it was subtitled in Italian, because the dialogue is in the Neapolitan dialect rather than in proper Italian. Fair warning: the series is not for the faint-hearted.
20651. MousePlanet (which describes itself as an "independent consumer guide to Disney travel and vacations") offers a blog on "Where Is the Love for This Disney Animation?"; on June 16 Jim Korkis had nice comments about *Ratigan* and "Basil of Baker Street" <www.tinyurl.com/yc34zd3r>.
20652. The French television series "Lupin" that's available on Netflix (February 21 #6) offers more Sherlockian allusions: in the eighth episode Assane Diop steals into his son Raoul's bedroom and leaves him a copy of *Arsène Lupin contre Sherlock Holmes*, and in the ninth episode Raoul is seen reading the book. Diop is a present-day gentleman thief inspired by Maurice Leblanc's *Arsène Lupin* (it's an excellent series). Omar Sy plays Assane, and Lauren Collins had an interesting profile of him in the June 21 issue of *The New Yorker* <www.tinyurl.com/4h6fwwyy>.
20653. Sherlock Holmes loves drinking at the Sherlock Holmes pub, according to an article in the *Daily Mail* (June 15) <www.tinyurl.com/x58fdj28>.
20654. Amir Joy's *The Chronicles of the Obscure Detective* (2021; 174 pp., \$9.99) stars Williams Joy, an "ambitious and obscure detective" who comes to modern-day London to follow in Sherlock Holmes' footsteps and manages to rent Holmes' rooms at 221B; the ink-on-paper version is mostly printed in white on black pages, but the less expensive and more readable e-book is black-on-white. The author, born in Romania and now an Egyptian national boxing champion, has a web-site at <www.amirjoy.net>.
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June 21 #7

20655. *Sherlock Holmes, Arthur Conan Doyle, and Switzerland: Serious and Less Serious Musings!*, edited by Marcus Geisser, Guy Marriott, and Michael A. Meer (Meiringen: Reichenbach Irregulars, 2021; 108 pp., €21.99) is the society's first book, offering papers delivered at the conferences held in Switzerland since the society was founded in 1989; it is all nicely done, and you can visit <www.tinyurl.com/4epcnrsx> to see a sample from the
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- book. There are various ways to order the book, on paper and as an e-book, depending on where you are; the society will be happy to explain it all <reichenbachirregulars@gmail.com>. The book will be celebrated at a “Routes to the Reichenbach” virtual event with the Red Circle of Washington, via Zoom on July 10; details and a registration button are available at <www.redcircledc.org>.
20656. Robert Quackenbush died on May 17. He began his literary career as an illustrator of children’s books, and then began writing as well. His creations included Sherlock Chick (who hatched from an egg holding a magnifying glass), and Detective Mole (who wore a trench coat and a houndstooth deerstalker.
20657. Up for bids at Heritage Auctions in Dallas on October 20: a single page from the manuscript of “The Hound of the Baskervilles” (from the Karpeles Manuscript Museum) <www.tinyurl.com/m9um7m9d>; the page is item H31 in Randall Stock’s “Best of Sherlock” census of pages from the story’s manuscript, at <www.bestofsherlock.com/baskervilles-manuscript.htm#h31>.
20658. The spring issue of *The Magic Door* (published by the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library) offers Joanne Alberstat’s “A Diamond Cut Three Ways” (about “The Crown Diamond” and “The Mazarin Stone” and Eille Norwood), and reports from and about the Library and the Collection, which will mark its 50th anniversary this year with a celebration, possibly virtual, on Sept. 24-26. The celebration will include the 2021 Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture on Sept. 25, with Jeffrey Hatcher speaking on “Arthur Conan Doyle as Playwright”; there’s no charge for the lecture, which will be a Zoom event, with registration opening on Aug. 23 <www.acdfriends.org>. A copy of the newsletter is available on request from Cliff Goldfarb, Toronto Public Library, 789 Yonge Street, Toronto M4W 2G8, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.
20659. Laurie R. King continues to post about Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes, and Castle Shade, at her “Mutterings” blog at <www.laurierking.com/blog>; and you can listen to Laurie and Les Klinger talk about the book at Nancie Clare’s “Speaking of Mysteries” podcast <www.tinyurl.com/3cd3b3ee>; search the blog for [sherlock] to find other Sherlockian conversations.
20660. If you don’t already have *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* with illustrations by Sophia Martineck (December 14 #6), it is now available discounted to \$5.98 from Daedalus Books <www.daedalusbooks.com>; you can sample her imaginative artwork at <www.martineck.com/e/projekt.php?number=170>. Daedalus is an excellent resource for discounted books.
20661. Is there anyone out there who is a devotee of electronic Sherlock Holmes games? Is there an archive somewhere of reviews of the games? Jennie Paton has noted a 9-minute video “Evolution of Sherlock Holmes Games 2002-2021” at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=IB-Zawdjhsw> that shows just how much the computer graphics have changed (for the better) over the years.
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June 21 #8

20662. David MacGregor has written three plays produced by the Purple Rose Theatre in Chelsea, Mich., from 2018 to 2021, and he has turned the plays into short stories that have been collected in *Sherlock in Love: The Holmes-Adler Mysteries* (London: Orange Pip Books, 2021: 429 pp., \$34.95); they star Holmes, Watson, and Irene Adler (who in fact did not die after she encountered Holmes in “A Scandal in Bohemia” and instead has moved in with him at 221B Baker Street). To avoid shocking his readers, Watson has Irene posing as Mrs. Hudson, and their investigations involve them with Vincent Van Gogh, Oscar Wilde, Auguste Escoffier, Nikola Tesla, Thomas Edison, and Moriarty’s evil daughter; the stories are told with humor and style, and are also available as separate volumes (\$14.95 each). Orange Pip is an imprint of MX Publishing <www.mxpublishing.com>.
20663. Also from MX: David MacGregor’s *Sherlock Holmes: The Hero with a Thousand Faces* is a carefully-researched and thoroughly-readable two-volume examination of the evolution of Sherlock Holmes, his readers, and the world of Sherlockians and Doyleans, with a particular emphasis (as one might expect from a playwright) on how Holmes has been portrayed on stage, screen, radio, television, video games, and the Internet. The first volume (2021; 338 pp., \$28.95) covers the years from 1887 to 1937, and the second volume (2021; 344 pp., \$28.95) brings everything up to date into 2021; MacGregor concludes by noting aptly that now “Sherlock Holmes isn’t merely a popular character in the genre of detective fiction. Sherlock Holmes is a genre in and of itself.”
20664. Some theater news: Pat Mullen’s “Kid Sherlock” is being performed at the Lilly Theatre in the Children’s Museum in Indianapolis, Ind., through Aug. 1 <www.childrensmuseum.org/visit/calendar/event/31>.
20665. Steven Canny and John Nicholson’s “The Hound of the Baskervilles” is due at the Mad Cow Theatre in Orland, Fla., July 9-18 <www.madcowtheatre.com>; and at the Mount Gretna Playhouse in Mount Gretna, Pa., Aug. 5 to Aug. 8 <www.gretnatheatre.org>.
20666. R. Hamilton Wright’s “Sherlock Holmes and the Raven’s Curse” is scheduled at the Shaw Festival Theatre in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont., July 23-Oct. 10 <www.shawfest.com>.
20667. “Spontaneous Sherlock” (improvised by the Spontaneous Players) is due at the Harbour Arts Centre in Irvine, Scotland, Nov. 14 <www.thehac.co.uk>.
20668. Ken Ludwig’s “Baskerville” is scheduled at the Mercury Theatre in Colchester, July 30-Aug. 22 <www.mercurytheatre.co.uk>; and the Harlequins Coach House Theatre in Sandusky, Ohio, in October <www.harlequinstheatre.org>.
20669. Mark Shanahan’s “A Sherlock Carol” is scheduled by Fat Goose Productions in Cold Springs, N.Y., Nov. 22-Jan. 2, 2022.
20670. Katie Forgette’s “Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily” will be produced at the Ross Valley Players Barn Theater in Ross, Calif., Jan. 21-Feb. 20, 2022.
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July 21 #1

20671. Paul Thomas Miller has announced the first Doyle’s Rotary Coffin Treasure Hunt <www.tinyurl.com/fke34nc6>; it’s open to everyone, and you have until Blue Carbuncle Day (Dec. 27), when the Treasure Hunt ends. Paul has noted that “it will be presided over by the psychic ghost of Silver Blaze, the famous undead murder horse, so cheating is a very bad idea.”
20672. Richard Brown explores “The Place of William Clark Russell in the Sherlock Holmes Canon” and Mark Alberstat discusses “ACD and the Olympics of 1912-1916” in the summer issue of *Canadian Holmes*, which is published quarterly by the Bootmakers of Toronto, and also offers news of Sherlockian goings-on in Canada. Subscriptions cost \$30.00 a year (US or CA); single issues cost \$12.50 <www.torontobootmakers.com>.
20673. Nicholas Utechin’s *From Abbey to Wiles* (London: Sherlock Holmes Society of London, 2021; 30 pp., £7.00) is what he calls the “third incarnation” of the book published in 2016, offering a splendid (and full-color) examination of the work of the seven artists who illustrated the dust jackets for the John Murray editions of the Canon, revised to include new information. Nick believes (well, hopes) that he has now covered everything. You can purchase the new edition at <www.tinyurl.com/bsrv7wwb> (that’s the shop of the Society, where you’ll find a nice variety of interesting Sherlockian scholarship).
20674. There will be a fifth season of “The Crown” on Netflix, covering the royal family in the early 1990s. Jonny Lee Miller has signed on to play Prime Minister John Major, and Jonathan Pryce (another actor who has performed as Holmes) will appear as Prince Philip.
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20675. Frederic Dorr Steele's original artwork showing "The Slaving Hound" was offered at Quinn's Auction Galleries in Falls Church, Va., on July 8, estimated at \$800-\$1200. Described as unpublished, it was loaned by Edgar W. Smith to the Sherlock Holmes Exhibition at Abbey House in London (1951) and at the Plaza Art Galleries in New York (1952). After Smith died his collection was bought by Carl Anderson, and after Anderson died his collection was purchased by Lew David Feldman, who published the artwork on the cover of his catalog *Sherlock Holmes and Sherlockiana: 76 Items* (1975). The artwork sold on July 8 for \$6,500 (plus buyer's premium) to Jerry Margolin; Randall Stock has a detailed discussion of the artwork at <www.tinyurl.com/phnwj64h>.

20676. Storytel, a Swedish audiobook streaming subscription service that competes with Audible and is now available in 25 countries (not including the U.S., U.K., or Canada) has been licensed by the Conan Doyle Estate Ltd. to create new Sherlock Holmes stories to be scripted by a team of writers under the creative lead of Anthony Horowitz, who said "This is going to be Sherlock Holmes from a very different perspective, staying true to the spirit of the books-which I have always loved—but expanding the narrative and the vision of Conan Doyle in all sorts of unexpected ways." Their press release (June 28) <www.tinyurl.com/54ktw8kc> has more information.

July 21 #2

20677. Roy V. Hunt: A Retrospective, edited by David and Daniel Ritter (First Fandom Experience, 2021; 144 pp., \$45.00), is a delightful tribute to a legendary fan, artist, and illustrator; he was one of the organizers of the third World Science Fiction Convention in Denver in 1941, and in 2016 at the 74th WorldCon was inducted into the Posthumous Hall of Fame. He also was a dedicated Sherlockian, one of the founders of the Council of Four in Denver (which in 1960 published the landmark anthology *The Science-Fictional Sherlock Holmes*), and the principal illustrator of books and journals published by Luther Norris' Pontine Press. The retrospective includes many of his Sherlockian illustrations, and is available at the publisher's web-site <www.firstfandomexperience.org>.

20678. High fashion: Jennie Paton spotted Simona Lampe's autumn/winter "Sherlock-ology" collection on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/k4pp8umk>; scroll down and click on "part II" to see the rest of the collection.

20679. Alexander Orlov has reported a connection between Sherlock Holmes and the Russian city of Archangel. It is really a connection between Conan Doyle and Archangel, but that's close enough. You can start at 16 minutes into a Russian news broadcast on June 15 <www.youtube.com/watch?v=9jpp9btEfv4> (it's possible to get closed captions in not very good English). Then you can go to <www.vk.com/wall11955238_11914> to read Evgeny Tenetov's article (in Russian) about the Northern Maritime Museum in Archangel having what's left of the Peterhead whaler Eclipse; Google Translate will help you read the article in English. The Eclipse was the sister ship of the Hope, on which Conan Doyle sailed to the Arctic in 1880; in his diary, published as 'Dangerous Work' (2012), he records having visited the Eclipse more than once in 1880.

20680. The Arthur Conan Doyle Collection's celebration of its 50th anniversary at the Toronto Public Library (June 21 #7) will be entirely virtual, on Sept. 25; stay tuned for details.

20681. *The Arts of Beauty; or, Secrets of a Lady's Toilet. With Hints to Gentlemen on the Art of Fascinating* is the title of a book published in New York in 1858 that might be of interest to those who believe that the author was an inspiration when Conan Doyle created Irene Adler. The author? Madame Lola Montez, Countess of Landsfeld. A copy of the book was offered at the Swann Auction Galleries in New York on July 15, estimated at \$300-\$500; it sold for \$688 (including buyer's premium) <www.tinyurl.com/yc7ymuk9>.

20682. The book is dedicated (in an era when dedications in books were not brief) "To all men and women of every land, who are not afraid of themselves, who trust so much in their own souls that they dare to stand up in the might of their own individuality, to meet the tidal current of the world," and if you would like merely to read (rather than own) the first edition, and see what Madame Lopez had to say, you can, thanks to Google Books, do so at <www.tinyurl.com/utzzzsw>.

20683. Sherlock Holmes died on Sept. 29, 2020, in Vestavia, Ala., at the age of 93, according to an obituary in the Carbondale Southern Illinoisan, a celebration of Life Service was held on July 10 <www.tinyurl.com/xsnnt9y9>.

July 21 #3

20684. Ichthys Theatre Productions in Brantford, Ont., has been producing some of the old Sherlock Holmes radio programs and up-loading the recordings to their channel at YouTube; four shows are available, and a fifth show is due on Sept. 10.

20685. Denis Zilber has created an imaginative portrait of Holmes and Watson, in full color, and a thumbnail won't do it justice, so you'll need to go online to see it properly <www.tinyurl.com/vwfx94eu>; \$21.99 as a print, and \$95.99 on canvas. You can (and you should) see more of his artwork at his web-site <www.deniszilber.com>.

20686. Sightseeing in style in London: a private three-hour "Sherlock" location tour by black taxi from Get Your Guide <www.tinyurl.com/kavth3jb>, with a professional guide, driver and transportation, and hotel pick-up, for only \$247.72 per person; kindly reported by Jennie Paton.

20687. The July issue of *Timeline* (the Sherlockian Chronologist Guild's official newsletter) gives detailed attention to their proposed Supreme Chronology Court. If you would like to join the Guild, serve on the Court, or merely see an issue of their newsletter, that's easy enough to achieve: just contact Brad Keefauver at <bkeefauver@gmail.com>.

20688. For anyone who remembers the film "Sin City" (2005) here's an interesting trailer that someone put together in 2011, kindly noted by Samantha Wolov <www.jezebel.com/walt-disney-presents-sin-city-5851797>; the film was not Sherlockian, but the trailer is.

20689. Steve Doyle's video podcasts (for the Baker Street Irregulars) continue at YouTube; search for [fortnightly dispatch] to watch interviews with Ross Davies and others (including a tribute to John Bennett Shaw).

20690. What is the world's oldest coin still in production today? According to the Royal Mint, it is the sovereign, first struck more than 500 years ago <www.tinyurl.com/mdrvuy6u>. Mentioned often in the Canon, the sovereign is a £1 coin (that's 20 shillings, for those who aren't decimalized).

20691. "Sherlock Holmes Under the Magnifying Glass: The Game's Afoot!" is one of the many programs scheduled by the Smithsonian Associates, and since its programs still are presented on Zoom, you don't need to be in Panic on the Potomac to take advantage of them. This one is due on Oct. 8, at 6:30 pm (Eastern Time), and it will feature Dan Stashower discussing the Great Detective, and Scott Sedar reading from some of Conan Doyle's works; details are available at <www.tinyurl.com/zmbeh8yr>. Dan and Scott team up often for the Smithsonian Associates, and they're always entertaining.

20692. "Like Matthiessen, he is a kind of Watson figure, sidekick throughout his adventure to a savvier character." According to Kathryn Schulz, in an article about Sylvain Tesson and Peter Matthiessen in the July 12 issue of *The New Yorker* <www.tinyurl.com/976sn9e5>. It's a nice example of cultural literacy: Schulz assumes her readers will know who Watson is, without any mention of Holmes.

July 21 #4

20693. Fans of Michael Bond's "Paddington Bear" surely will flock to the British Library to see their new exhibition "Paddington: The Story of a Bear" (open until Oct. 31) <www.tinyurl.com/64kajz5x>. The exhibition may or may not have something Sherlockian, but Paddington used Sherlockian methods, and dialogue, in "Paddington Turns Detective" in *More About Paddington* (1959) and *Paddington on Stage* (1977). There's a video trailer for the exhibition at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=wqK_2uc7xR0>.
20694. The National Archives in London proclaim that "the great and undetectable detective—the clue is in our collection," and they do indeed have a lot to offer <www.tinyurl.com/ch5s7ezw>, including an imaginative on-line jigsaw puzzle. Kindly reported by Nick Utechin.
20695. Bill Amend's comic strip "FoxTrot" began a detective-agency thread on-line on June 23, and it quickly turned Sherlockian <www.tinyurl.com/nebfzmv>; thanks to Stan Hill for reporting on it. If you recall seeing the thread before, that's because it's repeated from June 2000 ("FoxTrot" now runs in papers only on Sundays).
20696. Brad Keefauver's interesting "The Seventeen Steps: Discussion Questions for Investigating Mr. Sherlock Holmes" covers each of the Canonical stories <www.theseventeenstepsto221b.blogspot.com> and will be useful to any Sherlockian society (or for that matter any Sherlockian) in an era when it occurs to many that no new insights to be found in the Canon. Alexander Braun (aka Murray the Orderly) posts discussions of the stories each week to the Hounds of the Internet, and they are readily available at Sherlocktron <www.sherlocktron.com/inquiries.html>, along with the Canon Queeries from the late Ralph Edwards <www.sherlocktron.com/queries.html>. You will find a great deal more of interest at Sherlockton, thanks to Willis Frick, who presides over the web-site.
20697. The Great Sherlock Holmes Puzzle Book, by Gareth Moore (London: Arcturus, 2021; 256 pp., £7.99), is a collection of puzzles and riddles described as "enigmas to puzzle even the greatest detective of all." And here's an ex-ample: what is special about the number 8,549,176,320?
20698. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration does far more than sending missions to the Moon and to Mars. The NASA Earth Observatory's "image of the day" for July 13 showed "Venezuela's Flat-Topped Mountains" (with a mention of Conan Doyle's *The Lost World*, and the movie "Up") and discussed the geography and geology of the area <www.tinyurl.com/2dzseytn>.
20699. There are at least some (who's counting?) who enjoy both Sherlock Holmes and Minions, and will be proud to wear a "Consulting Minion" shirt offered by TeePublic <www.tinyurl.com/3dewzjyp> with long or short sleeves; stickers, mugs, and masks also are available.
20700. The newsletter of the Public Domain Review recently called attention to an article about the Sanger Circus Collection that was published on July 9 at JSTOR <www.tinyurl.com/44t8vpzd>; those who have read "The Veiled Lodger" will recall the mention of Sanger. The nicely illustrated article offers a photograph of "Ellen Sanger, lion tamer and wife of George Sanger."

July 21 #5

20701. What's the second-most valuable Sherlockian periodical? The most valuable would be Beeton's Christmas Annual for 1887, in which "A Study in Scarlet" was published. Next in line would be the first issue of *Playboy*, with an excerpt from "The Sign of the Four" (as well as the iconic calendar photograph of Marilyn Monroe); a copy of that issue, signed by Hugh Hefner, was offered at Heritage Auctions on July 16, and sold for \$48,750 (including buyer's premium) <www.tinyurl.com/ybdc6cjf>.
20702. Alexander Orlov has noted the Finaketto House of Chess in Baku (in Azerbaijan) <www.trend.az/life/sports/3447998.html#>, decorated with a mural that shows Holmes and Watson playing chess.
20703. Michael K. Vaughan is a prolific uploader to YouTube, talking about books, and so far he has done *The Lost World* (on the Sunday Penguin) and *A Study in Scarlet* and *The Sign of Four* (in *Sherlock Saturday*); they're excellent introductions for those who haven't read the books.
20704. Ken Ludwig has a monthly on-line Comedy Play Club that in August will celebrate his play "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" with a discussion on Aug. 11, and all sorts of fun and games <www.tinyurl.com/2nfvfsujy>.
20705. "The Astonishing Adventures of Houdini's Favorite Detective" was the headline on Karen Lee's story at the Fishwrap blog on July 20. Houdini's favorite detective was not Sherlock Holmes, of course, but rather Rose Mackenberg, and you can read all about her at <www.tinyurl.com/xyrf4yef>. A tip of the deerstalker to Alan Rettig, for reporting the article.
20706. What is special about the number 8,549,176,320? It's the only number that contains all ten digits in alphabetical order.
20707. Fans of Benedict Cumberbatch who haven't already seen him in "Hamlet" and in "Frankenstein" (in which he and Jonny Lee Miller played both roles on alternate nights), and other fine actors in excellent plays, may wish to subscribe to National Theatre at Home <www.tinyurl.com/38n9rf5f>. Their plays have been streamed to theaters around the world, but you now have a chance to see them at home.
20708. Tom Fahres has noted that on July 12 Bill Griffith's "Zippy" comic strip had Zippy the Pinhead visiting Gillette Castle <www.tinyurl.com/4yxu2wum>.
20709. The "Corona in the Lost World" tie-in poster issued in 1925 and offered at Heritage Auctions this month (June 21 #3) was bought for \$1,200 (including the buyer's premium). And yes, Edward Malone did have a Corona typewriter with him as part of his essential gear in the film.
20710. William F. Nolan died on July 15. A prolific author and screenwriter, as well as an artist and actor, he befriended Ray Bradbury and found his way into the world of science fiction. His short story "Sungrab" (first published in the anthology *After the Fall* in 1980), featured Mars-based private eye Sam Space, who was aided by computers named Holmes and Watson in pursuit of a new manifestation of the Baskerville curse; it was reprinted in his collection *Down the Long Night* in 2000.

July 21 #6

20711. Just in case you want a nice present for someone special, the new Montblanc "writer's edition" tribute to Conan Doyle will do very nicely. There's a nice video <www.tinyurl.com/46kzdjf4> that features Dan Stashower and others talking about Conan Doyle and the new pens. Forbes has a fine article about the pens <www.tinyurl.com/tprtdz73>; there are four different pens, priced from only \$1,150 up to \$4,600, with accessories also available <www.tinyurl.com/dnph2ydyj>. And despite its fancy French name, the company has always been German (Wikipedia has a nice entry for Montblanc).
20712. It's not easy, by the way, to find out just how limited Montblanc's limited editions are. One Internet source says that, "the piston-filled fountain pen is limited to 9,800 pieces; the ballpoint pen to 10,300; the capless rollerball is limited to 8,600 pieces."
20713. "The Adventure of the Pimlico Poisoner" was a 90-minute drama written by Peter Mackie and broadcast by BBC Radio 4 in 1990, with William Chubb as Sherlock Holmes and Crawford Logan as Dr. Watson; Jennie Paton notes that it's now available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/pwwnvtsc>.
20714. Yet another Sherlock Holmes cocktail, posted by Oliver Walkey at the Glass of Bubbly blog <www.glassofbubbly.com/sherlock-holmes-cocktail>; the explanation is perhaps more imaginative than the recipe. Sherlock Holmes is not recorded in the Canon as having imbibed a cocktail, although of course he could have: the Oxford English Dictionary cites the word as used in the *Daily Telegraph* (Aug. 23, 1864).

20715. Theatrics: Daniel Foley's "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" will be produced (during the Edinburgh Festival Fringe) at the Gilded Ballroom Teviot, Aug. 5 to 29 <www.tinyurl.com/dybjxdeb>.
20716. Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is scheduled at the Tarpon Springs Performing Art Center in Tarpon Springs, Sept. 11-19 <www.tarponarts.org>; at the Balzer Theater in Atlanta, Ga., Nov. 17-Dec. 19 <www.theatricaloutfit.org>.
20717. Ed. Lange's "Sherlock's Secret Life" will be produced at the Southampton Cultural Center in Southampton, Long Island, N.Y., from Sept. 17 to Oct. 10 <www.scc-arts.org>.
20718. Steven Canny and John Nicholson's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is due at Theatr Clwyd in Mold, Wales, Sept. 21-25 <www.theatrclwyd.com>; and at the York Theatre Royal in York, Oct. 19-23 (on tour from the Octagon Theatre in Bolton) <www.yorktheatreroyal.co.uk>; and at the Weymouth Pavilion in Weymouth, Dorset, Oct. 21-23 <www.weymouthpavilion.com>.
Denis Green and Anthony Boucher's "A Scandal in Bohemia" will be streamed by the Resident Ensemble Players at the University of Delaware, Sept. 29-Oct. 17 <www.rep.udel.edu/presentations/a-scandal-in-bohemia>.
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August 21 #1

20719. Nancy Springer's Enola Holmes and the Black Barouche (New York: Wednesday Books, 2021; 261 pp., \$17.99) is the seventh book in her series about Enola, written after the successful release of "Enola Holmes" on Netflix; the story's set after the events in Millie Bobby Brown's film, and Enola and Sherlock are struggling to find an evil earl's missing wife. The story is lively and well-written, and the author's web-site <www.nancyspringer.com> offers information about all of her books, but not the eighth title in the "Enola Holmes" series; Springer has said that she had written eight books, with only six of them published; the success of the movie persuaded her to take the remaining two off the shelf, or out of the drawer.
20720. The Unemployed Philosophers Guild <www.philosophersguild.com> continues to offer "thoughtful gifts for thinking people," honoring all sorts of authors and characters, and there are seven items to be found if one searches for [sherlock], including an imaginative little booklet of "Holmes Sticky Notes" (\$7.95).
20721. William Gillette entertained Sherlock Holmes at Gillette Castle last month (Tyke and Teddie Niver, impersonating the Gillettes, welcomed John Sherwood, who often has portrayed Holmes), and there's a video: "William Gillette: The Man Meets His Legend" <www.youtube.com/watch?v=MxAcSUCkgHs>.
20722. The BSI Trust's webinar lecture by Roberta Pearson (professor of film and television studies in the School of Cultures, Languages, and Area Studies at the University of Nottingham) will be held on Oct. 2; registration opened on Aug. 28 <www.bsitrust.org/2021/08/register-2021-lecture.html> (the lecture will be free via Zoom, but space may be limited, so registration early is encouraged).
20723. Sherlock Hounds Detection Canines <www.sherlockhoundsdetectioncanines.com> "provides an effective, proactive program that deters the potential existence of drugs, alcohol, and gunpowder in schools, businesses, and private homes" in and around Berthoud, Colo.
20724. Constantine Argyropo notes that Scott Hilburn's "The Argyle Sweater" comic strip was nicely Sherlockian on Aug. 4 <www.tinyurl.com/vtsw8cv9>.
20725. The "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog has reached episode 221, and by nice coincidence its subject is the Baker Street Journal; Scott Monty and Burt Wolder interviewed BSI editor Steve Rothman about the BSI's history, and much more <www.tinyurl.com/k2wzmsd3>. Episode 221B (they call it episode 222) is devoted to this newsletter, and other things.
20726. Jennie Paton has noted an interesting unisex blemish-busting acne system on offer from various Internet shops; search for [no zit sherlock].
20727. Isabella Goodman has won the 2021 Irene Adler Prize: a \$1,000 scholarship for a woman pursuing a degree in journalism, creative writing, or literature <www.tinyurl.com/2kykxaz2>. Founded in 2017, the prize is named in honor of the heroine in "A Scandal in Bohemia".
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August 21 #2

20728. Sheila Mitchell's H.R.F. Keating: A Life of Crime (Olney: Level Best Books, 2020; 264 pp., \$15.95), is an excellent biography of the award-winning author who created Indian Inspector Ganesh Ghoté and wrote insightful books about crime fiction (including Sherlock Holmes: The Man and His World in 1979); Sheila Mitchell was his wife, and has many grand stories to tell about her husband's life and career, and his interest in Holmes and Conan Doyle (p. 137-139) (also discussed in the introduction by Len Deighton and the appendix by Martin Edwards). There's more about the book, and about Keating, at <www.hrfkeating.com>.
20729. The Beacon Society is continuing to publish its quarterly newsletter for younger Sherlockians, and the latest issue of Sherlock's Spotlight can be found at their web-site <www.beaconsociety.com>; they also have published a collection ("Peanuts by Schulz") that offers a set of the comic strip's Snoopy cartoons with Sherlockian content, available on request from Steve Mason <mason.steve8080@gmail.com>.
20730. The Royal Mail has issued a set of ten stamps honoring "some of the ground-breaking inventions that defined the ground-breaking inventions that defined the industrial and electric revolutions," one of them celebrating the incandescent light bulb patented by Joseph Wilson Swan in 1800 (there was mention of "a thousand candle-power Swan and Edison right here in front of the hall door" in "The Hound of the Baskervilles"). Swan and Edison sued each other for patent infringement, and after Swan won in a British court they merged into the Edison and Swan United Electric Light Company in 1883.
20731. "The only Sherlockian picture & stage newspaper in the world" is how Howard Ostrom describes the new "Sherlock Holmes on Screens" (£4.00 for four pages); there's a promotional video at <www.tinyurl.com/dkx57ttz>, and additional information at <www.sherlock-holmes-on-screens.com> (scroll down to the Store).
20732. We hear of Sherlock everywhere, including a 1992 television commercial for Huggies, spotted by Jennie Paton <www.youtube.com/watch?v=giN0hfho3GU>.
20733. Una Stubbs died on Aug. 12. In the 1950s she appeared in advertisements as the "Rountree's Chocolate Girl" and began her acting career as a dancer in the chorus at the London Palladium, and went on to a long career on the stage and in films and television, where she was delightful as Mrs. Hudson in every episode of the BBC's "Sherlock" series.
20734. Steve Doyle's video podcasts (for the Baker Street Irregulars) continue at YouTube; search for [fortnightly dispatch] to find interviews with Charles Prepolec, Scott Monty and Burt Wolder, and others.
20735. The Spanish artist Marco Navas offered a "Sherlockians" collection with 12 7-cm figurines some years ago (November 14 #5), hand-crafted in resin and hand-painted, and their "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" collection now includes a graphic scene from "The Final Problem"; their web-site's in Spanish and English at <www.marconavas.com/EEsherlock%20Holmes.html>.
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August 21 #3

20736. Cale Atkinson has written and illustrated *Simon and Chester: Super Detectives!* (New York: Tundra, 2021; 64 pp., \$12.99), a delightfully Sherlockian story for children aged 6-9. Simon is a professional ghost, and the book is a Junior Library Guild Gold Standard Selection; the story's nicely and humorously told. The author's web-site is at <www.cale.ca>.
20737. W.P. "Bill" Lawler died on July 19. He was an avid golfer, musician (he played the piano, guitar, and bluegrass banjo), and author; his books included two pastiches: *Mystery at St. Andrews* (2013) and *Treachery in Torquay* (2018).
20738. "Holmes & Yoyo" was a 30-minute series broadcast by ABC-TV in 1976-1977, with Richard B. Shull (as Detective Alexander Holmes) and John Shuck (as his partner Gregory Yoyonovich, who is a good-natured but naïve android); Shull was a member of the Baker Street Irregulars (as "An Actor and a Rare One"), but the series otherwise is not Sherlockian. According to Wikipedia, it was considered one of the worst television series ever made, and you can now decide for yourself: Jennie Paton reports that some of the 13 episodes are available at YouTube.
20739. As usual, the Internet is full of rumor when it comes to the third Robert Downey Jr. "Sherlock Holmes" film and the next season of the BBC's "Sherlock" series, but there's real news about the second "Enola Holmes" film: the City Council of Hull (in East Yorkshire) has warned residents in the center of the city that scenes will be filmed there on Oct. 5-6.
20740. Bert Coules has written "Watson: The Final Problem" as a one-man show for Tim Marriott; it's far more than the title suggests, and thoroughly imaginative, as might be expected from the creator of BBC Radio 4's broadcasts for the entire Canon. It's now on tour (August 21 #8); a video trailer and a 59-minute full audio recording are at <www.smokescreenprods.com/watson>.
20741. Rob Byrne discussed the restoration of "Der Hund von Baskerville" (1929), with Carlyle Blackwell as Sherlock Holmes, in an interview in the Goethe Pop Up Seattle film series "German Cinema Now!" <www.vimeo.com/585518261>.
20742. The August issue of the newsletter of the Gillette Castle State Park, on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/pxfee543>, turns its "museum spotlight" on Gillette and Conan Doyle, offering images of some of the interesting material in the Castle's collection.
20743. Cost-of-living never seems to decrease. First it was my printer, and now it's the Postal Service: domestic mail is going up to 58¢ (from 55¢) and international to \$1.30 (from \$1.20) per ounce, so next month subscription prices will increase as well. Oh, for the days when my monthly mailings cost only \$6.00 a year. Do keep in mind that I won't be a bit offended if you decide to switch to reading the newsletter on-line (in full color and with live links); my circulation department does wonder occasionally why there are people who have computers and access to the Internet, but still are willing to receive paper pages in the mail.

August 21 #4

20744. In case you don't know what to do with all the pandemic spare time on your hands, the National Archives at Kew offers free access (during the pandemic) to their digitized archives. One of the more interesting digitized items is the World War I medal record for Sherlock Holmes, a gunner in the Royal Field Artillery who was awarded both a 1914-15 Star and a Victory Medal.
20745. "Jubilation in Skibbereen" was the headline on a story in the Irish Times <www.tinyurl.com/ytpbx2se>. The town's certainly not the same as it was when Sherlock Holmes gave serious trouble to the constabulary there (as in "His Last Bow"). Two members of the Skibbereen Rowing Club won gold med-als in the double sculls event at the Olympics last month (kindly reported by Oscar Ross).
20746. Reported: The Best Mystery Stories of the Year 2021, edited by Lee Child (New York: Mysterier Press, 2021; 451 pp., \$25.95); contents include David Marcum's "The Adventure of the Home Office Baby" (reprinted from the Strand Magazine).
20747. Bud Plant opened his first comic-book store in 1968, and now presides over Bud's Art Books <www.budsartbooks.com>, kindly reported by Tom Mann. You can search for [sherlock holmes] to find some unusual items.
20748. Richard Levangie's *Secrets of the Hotel Maisonneuve* (Lunenburg: Trap Door, 2020; 213 pp., \$10.95) features a thirteen-year-old boy in Montreal, very much a teen-ager, who finds himself involved in solving a mystery that is full of Sherlockian echoes; the story is told with warmth and humor, and the book's a fine young-adult novel. You can sample the first chapter at the publisher's web-site <www.nevermorepress.ca/books>.
20749. When in Stillwater, Minn. (near the Twin Cities) (they're Minneapolis and St. Paul), you can stay for a night or two in the Arthur Conan Doyle Grand Suite at the Rivertown Inn <www.rivertowninn.com/arthur-conan-doyle>.
20750. Derham Groves has reported a designboom article from 2015 that will resonate with anyone who has read "The Engineer's Thumb" and would like to see a modern homage to the story <www.tinyurl.com/uh9jxcr2>. Justin Poulson is a Canadian artist, and his handcrafted artwork "blurs the lines between photography, sculpture, and CGI." Images of some of his work can be seen at <www.justinpoulson.com>. He reports that he has never read the story, and, alas, he has no remaining items from 2015.
20751. Anatoliy Rudakov died on Aug. 1. He was an Honored Artist of the Russian Federation, and played Lestrade's assistant Tracy in the 2013 Russian television "Sherlock Holmes" series that starred Igor Petrenko as Holmes.
20752. "Bored on Board Onboard" (Aug. 15) is an episode of the 60-minute series "DC's Legends of Tomorrow" (broadcast by the CW), and for a while at least you can watch it at the series web-site <www.tinyurl.com/yh93f866> and see Jess Macallan (as Ava Sharpe, the twelfth genetically-engineered Advanced Variant Automation clone that Rip Hunter recruited) in Sherlockian costume as the Eccentric Detective while the Legends play a murder-mystery game.

August 21 #5

20753. "Während eines harmlosen Spaziergangs wird einer jungen Frau ihre Halskette gestohlen. Sie wendet sich hilfeschend an den berühmten Detektiv Sherlock Holmes. Dieser kann den Dieb mit Hilfe seines Hundes fassen." That's the description of a two-minute German silent film recently discovered by Jennie Paton <www.vimeo.com/585461066>. Sorry: no additional information about the film is available, except that it might have been made in the 1920s.
20754. If you've not yet had a chance to see the excellent 1979 Russian television series that starred Vitaliy LivaNovember as Holmes and Vasili Solomin as Watson, Jennie Paton found all of the episodes on-line (with English sub-titles) at <www.youtube.com/channel/UCLihzBm1Vfur1vKdWkKXOQ>.
20755. "The mysterious Edinburgh secret society with a temple to the supernatural" was the headline on a post to the Edinburgh Live web-site on Aug. 16 <www.tinyurl.com/2wwaa645>. The secret society is the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn, and the article lists Conan Doyle as one of its members. The Wikipedia entry for the society lists him as one of the "known or alleged" members, but Andrew Lycett, in *The Man Who Created Sherlock Holmes* (2007), explains that while Conan Doyle knew members, and was invited to join, he declined, "claiming he was too busy to study to become an initiate."
20756. "Step inside a world of mystery, suspense, and intrigue...this box pulls you into a Sherlock-inspired mood. Feel the soft wood and marble of Watson's writing desk under your fingertips and enjoy a cup of tea blended with a hint of spice, just as Irene Adler prefers it." That's the premise of the Arise Box <www.thearisebox.com> (\$55.00); there's a video trailer available at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=614W7VkyMq4>.

20757. Worton Hall Studios in Isleworth (a London suburb) now is a fine-arts com-plex, but it once was one of Britain's major film studios. The first film made there was "A Study in Scarlet" (1914), and there's more about Worton Hall in My London (Aug. 17) <www.tinyurl.com/fe68vabr>.
20758. Tim Major's pastiche *The Back to Front Murder* (New York: Titan, 2021; 252 pp., \$14.95) is billed as "a fiendish plot," and so it is, beginning with a young woman, a writer of mysteries who finds that someone has been murdered following a scenario she has written but not published, and comes to Holmes for help; there are plenty of complications, twists, and turns.
20759. Fred Taraba, a specialist dealer in original artwork by American illustrators <www.tarabailustrationart.com>, has a delightful story that surely will resonate with any specialist collector: Shortly after he began working at Illustration House in 1991, they had a customer who wanted pictures with gas masks. So when a piece showing an attractive young woman holding a gas mask came in, he was over the Moon with excitement. At the time offering something to a client meant either mailing physical photo or having them come in, so called the customer and said, 'We have a gas mask picture you might want to see next time you're in town.' A couple of days later he was there looking at it. After a pause he said politely, 'Well, she's not actually wearing the gas mask, is she? It's not for me.'"

August 21 #6

20760. According to an item in the *Rome News-Tribune* (in Georgia, not Italy) on Aug. 19 <www.tinyurl.com/4z34apst>, local Sherlock Holmes fan Tim Naddy has received permission to renovate the façade of a building in the city's historic district so that it will appear similar to 221B Baker Street; the building will house his Hound Taint data-analysis business, and the offices of Baker Street Scientific.
20761. Reported: "The Terror of Blue John Gap" is reprinted in Richard Fallon's anthology *Creatures of Another Age* (Vallancourt, 2021), one of an assortment of books about mythical and fictional creatures reviewed by Michael Dirda in the *Washington Post* (Aug. 18) <www.tinyurl.com/cwja3emv>.
20762. Commentary in the press about what's happening in Afghanistan often mentions "A Study in Scarlet", as with David Von Drehle's column in the *Washington Post* (Aug. 20) <www.tinyurl.com/42n535vj>; Scott Monty, in his on-line newsletter "Timeless & Timely", also reminded his readers of the opening of "A Study in Pink" <www.timelesstimely.com/p/present-tense>.
20763. The Building Design web-site reported on Aug. 19 that St. Bart's Grade I-listed north wing and gatehouse are to be restored and opened up to more visitors; it's certainly an impressive part of the hospital, and one wonders whether Holmes and Watson ever saw it <www.tinyurl.com/k75hf53c>.
20764. *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine* is continuing to add to the podcasts available at its web-site <www.tinyurl.com/2dsfx23f>; there now are more than 140 podcasts, and some of them are nicely Sherlockian (see episodes 5, 49, 64, 122, 123, and 135). Dean Jobb's "Stranger Than Fiction" blog also is of interest, with four blogs about Holmes and one about Conan Doyle.
20765. Heritage Auctions now has images of the single page from the manuscript of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" that will be at auction on Oct. 20 (June 21 #7); the page is item H31 in Randall Stock's "Best of Sherlock" census at <www.bestofsherlock.com/mss/hound-baskervilles-h31-2021.htm>.
20766. Peter J. Crupe ("The Noble Bachelor") died on Aug. 14. Peter worked in forensic accounting and tax analysis, but his real passions were the N.Y. Yankees and Sherlock Holmes. He founded and presided over the Bay Ridge Irregulars and then the Montague Street Lodgers, and was an enthusiastic member of many other societies. He received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1994.
20767. Bouchercon 2021 in New Orleans was cancelled (well, postponed, as you will soon see), but you can plan ahead for Minneapolis, Sept. 8-10, 2022; San Diego, Aug. 30-Sept. 3, 2023; Nashville, Aug. 28-Sept. 1, 2024; and back in New Orleans, Sept. 3-7, 2025.
20768. *Observations by Gaslight: Stories from the World of Sherlock Holmes* (New York: Mysterious Press, 2021; 295 pp, \$25.95) is a collection of reminiscences by Irene Adler, Henry Wiggins, Geoffrey Lestrade, Stanley Hopkins, A. Davenport Lomax, and Martha Hudson, all thanks to Lyndsay Faye, who has had fun writing as each of the Canonical characters; it's all nicely done, with some interesting surprises.

August 21 #7

20769. James E. Starrs died on June 26. He edited *The Noiseless Ten or: The Bicycle in Literature* (1982), an anthology that offers "The Priory School" and two excerpts from Christopher Morley's writings, but was much better known for work that resulted in *A Voice for the Dead: A Forensic Investigator's Pursuit of the Truth in the Grave* (2005), a book that covers his exhumations and research into the cases of Alferd Packer, Jesse James, and others, and of course he mentions Sherlock Holmes.
20770. Jim Ballinger has entertained the Bootmakers of Toronto (and others) for many years, and Jennie Paton reports that Jim now has a "Sherlock Songs" channel at YouTube <www.youtube.com/channel/UCHevjXVMSY-uvIZ55e8mQqA>.
20771. There's still time to register for the Toronto Arthur Conan Doyle Collection's "Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture" on Sept. 25 (via Zoom and free) <www.acdfriends.org/events.html>; this year's guest speaker will be Jeffrey Hatcher (on "The Adventure of the Occasional Playwright: Conan Doyle Onstage"). Their web-site also offers a recording of last year's virtual lecture, by Rebecca Romney (on "Sherlockian Collecting").
20772. Paul Thomas Miller continues to preside over meetings of his society the Shingle of Southsea (which isn't difficult, since he's the only member) as well as the society's web-site <www.shingleofsouthsea.blogspot.com>, where you will find a series of Sherlockian "how to" videos, and much more.
20773. Up for auction at Holts Auctioneers in Wolferton on Sept. 20: a rare .450 single-shot sealing rifle made by Alex'r Henry, Edinburgh. Better-known for inventing the seven-groove rifling in the Martini-Henry rifle, which entered service with the British Army in 1871, Alexander Henry also made and sold sealing rifles; his first client, in 1870, was Capt. John Grey of the S.S. Hope, on which young Arthur Conan Doyle sailed in 1879. You can see his sketch ("Five Bulls at a hundred Yards") in his diary of the voyage, showing him at work with a sealing rifle on May 3, 1880. The diary was published in 2012 as *Dangerous Work*, and the sketch is on p. 86. Conan Doyle mentions Martini-Henry rifles in his books about the Great Boer War, and in non-Sherlockian stories. Sherlock Holmes (in "The Sign of the Four") says, "I would sooner face a Martini bullet, myself."
20774. *The Sherlock Holmes Children's Collection* (London: Sweet Cherry Publishing, 2019; \$45.99) is a boxed set of ten of the stories, adapted by Stephanie Baudet for readers aged 7 to 9 and illustrated by Arianna Bellucci; each book includes a QR code that links to an audio reading of the story. The publisher's web-site <www.sweetcherrypublishing.com> offers teaching resources, and two more boxed sets of ten stories were issued in 2020 and 2021; the 30 stories also are available as single volumes.
20775. *Derham Groves' Sherlock in the Seventies* (Chambersburg: Visible Spectrum, 2021; 206 pp., \$15.00) surveys "A wild decade of Sherlock Holmes films," discussing in great detail the nine major films that made the 1970s so interesting for Sherlockian, and of course attracted attention from the general public; he has interviewed casts and crews, dug deeply into reviews and general criticism, and studied the films carefully, and tells all of his stories well. Recommended.

August 21 #8

20776. "Dramarama" is a teen coming-out comedy that was screened at the British Film Institute's Flair: London LGBTQ+ Film Festival in March. It was released in selected theaters in this month, and available in virtual theaters. It also will be streamed on-line; details can be found at the film's web-

site <www.dramaramathemovie.com>, where you can watch a trailer and a “murder mystery” clip that features Nico Greet-ham (Oscar) as Sherlock Holmes.

20777. There is plenty of theater coming up: Ken Ludwig’s “Baskerville” will be performed at the Little Theatre of Virginia Beach in Virginia Beach, Va., Sept. 3-26 <www.ltvb.com>; also at the Reilly Arts Center in Ocala, Fla., Sept. 30-Oct. 2 <www.reillyartscenter.com>; and the Everest-Rohrer Chapel Fine Arts Center in Wishawaka, Ind., Nov. 4-6 <www.tinyurl.com/e8467a4s>.
20778. James Barry’s “Sherlock’s Excellent Adventure” is due at the Parish Hall in Bosbury, Herts., on Sept. 4 <www.ourstartheatrecompany.com>.
20779. The Octagon Theatre’s production of Steven Canny and John Nicholson’s “The Hound of the Baskervilles” will be touring in Britain from Sept. 16 into 2022 <www.tinyurl.com/tv5zm4e2>.
20780. Stuart Fortey’s “Holmes and Watson: The Farewell Tour” (“The Case of the Prime Minister, the Floozie, and the Lummock Rock Lighthouse”) will tour in Britain beginning on Sept. 17 <www.pyramusandthisbeproductions.com>.
20781. Bert Coules’ “Watson: The Final Problem” will be performed at Leconfield on Top in Petworth, West Sussex, on Sept. 22; and at the Rondo Theatre in Bath on Nov. 20 <www.tinyurl.com/57s38yfw>; see above (August 21 #x) for more about the show.
20782. Brian Guehring’s “Sherlock Holmes and the First Baker Street Irregular” is coming up at the Centennial Station Arts Center in High Point, N.C., Sept. 24-26 <www.hpct.net>; and at the South Arkansas Arts Center in El Dorado, Ark., Nov. 5-6 <www.saac-arts.org>.
20783. David MacGregor’s “Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Fallen Soufflé will be performed at the Toledo Repertoire Theatre, from Oct. 29 to Nov. 7 <www.toldeorep.org>.
20784. Charles Marowitz’s “Sherlock’s Last Case” will be performed at the Lohrey Theatre in Memphis, Tenn., Oct. 15-31 <www.theatrememphis.org>.
20785. Steven Canny and John Nicholson’s “The Hound of the Baskervilles” (on tour from the Octagon Theatre in Bolton) will be performed at the Richmond Theatre in Richmond, London, Nov. 2-6 <www.atgtickets.com>.
20786. Mark Shanahan’s “A Sherlock Carol” will be performed at New World Stages-Stage Three in New York, Nov. 11-Jan. 2 <www.asherlockcarol.com>.

September 21 #1

20787. Howard Ostrom reports that The Sherlocks are now offering decorative cans of their new IPA [that’s India Pale Ale] and glasses to drink it from, but the decorations are not Sherlockian <www.thesherlocksmusic.co.uk>; according to Wikipedia, The Sherlocks are a British alternative rock band, and their name was derived from an inside joke between the band mates. Howard says that he doesn’t know the exact joke, but has heard that it included the “No sh*t Sherlock” phrase.
20788. The Internet Archive <www.archive.org> is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. If you’ve never used it, there’s far more than the Wayback Machine (which now contains more than 600 billion web-pages); the web-site and its resources are well worth exploring.
20789. When in Tachikawa (a suburb of Tokyo): you can dine at the Sherlock Holmes Hamburger and Steak Restaurant, which was reviewed in Stars and Stripes on Aug. 26 <www.tinyurl.com/j3c29xc>.
20790. Television Business International reported (Aug. 26) that the Russian television series “Sherlock: The Russian Chronicles” has been bought by the French streaming service Salto, which will make it available as “Sherlock: Les Chroniques Russes” <www.tinyurl.com/4e4mrxre>.
20791. Bart Lovin’s imaginative dramatizations of “A Study in Scarlet” (2018) and “The Sign of the Four” (2019) at the Hardin County Schools Performing Arts Center in Elizabethtown, Ky., now are available streamed on demand through Jan. 31; details are available at <www.tinyurl.com/nnwp5d8z>.
20792. “Coins in Great Works of Literature” is the headline on recent post at the blog of the Royal Mint, and yes, of course the Canon is one of those great works. You’re welcome to try to guess which story they chose, before you read about it <www.tinyurl.com/dsdkzjc>.
20793. Jennie Paton has noted the RP World Model Store in Britain, which offers 90mm miniatures of Holmes and Watson, and 54mm miniatures of Holmes, Watson, and Moriarty <www.tinyurl.com/e5t4tprt>.
20794. “The pretty hidden gem of a town 62 minutes from London that has some of the ‘best views in England,’” is what the My London web-site recently had to say about Crowborough; there’s mention of the statue of Conan Doyle and an image of the Café Baskerville.
20795. Nicko Vaughan’s Far from Holmes (Canterbury: Telos, 2021; 262 pp., \$17.84) promises that it’s “an irreverent guide to all the Sherlock Holmes films you really don’t want to watch yourself,” and it certainly lives up to her promise; she explains that she made it her goal to watch every on-screen adaptation of Sherlock Holmes that she could get her hands on, films and television, and wound up dealing with more than 350 titles, from which she selected 15 to discuss in detail. One of the best things about her book is that she actually likes bad films, and she writes about them with verve and humor. Recommended.

September 21 #2

20796. Fans of American singer and songwriter Billie Eilish will know about her song “You Should See Me in a Crown”, which you can see at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ah0Ys50CqO8>; Howard Ostrom has reported an interesting video in which she explains how and why she wrote the song <www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y_gPCVSJRso> (and yes, it’s Sherlockian).
20797. Reported: The Big Book of Victorian Mysteries, edited by Otto Penzler (New York: Vintage Crime, 2021; 640 pp., \$27.00); 49 stories, among them “The Greek Interpreter” and “The Lost Special”.
20798. Stage Rights <www.stagerights.com> offers scripts for a variety of plays, among them Jaime Robledo’s “Watson: The Last Great Tale of the Legendary Sherlock Holmes”, “Watson and the Dark Art of Harry Houdini”, and “Watson: The Final War”; Peter Sham and Brad Carroll’s musical “Sherlock Holmes and the Great Royal Goose Chase!”; Mark Landon Smith’s “Sherlock Holmes Mystry School”, Jon Jory’s “Sherlock Holmes, Sleuth, Meets Father Brown, Detective”; and Jonathan Josephson’s dramatization of Conan Doyle’s “The New Catacomb”.
20799. Jim Hawkins’ 6-minute slide-show tribute to John Bennett Shaw is available at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=CeXEUQHZN2Y>; you’ll have a chance to see what some of today’s Sherlockians looked like when they were much younger. For more about John, tune in to episode 224 in the “I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere” podcasts <www.tinyurl.com/zauzar72>, about “The Shaw 100” (his list of the most important books for a Sherlockian library), and about how the list changed over the years. It’s Scott Monty and Burt Wolder’s interview with Tim Johnson, curator of the Sherlock Holmes Collections in Minnesota.
20800. “The Electrical Life of Louis Wain” (screened at the Telluride Film Festival and the Toronto International Film Festival this month) features Benedict Cumberbatch as the prolific artist, who has an interesting entry at Wikipedia. He was famous as “the man who drew cats,” one of which was his postcard rendition of a delightfully Sherlockian cat dressed as William Gillette dressed as Sherlock Holmes. British Pathé filmed Wain in 1921 <www.tinyurl.com/y2jpx667>; the new film is due in theaters on Oct. 22 and on Amazon Prime on Nov. 5.
20801. The official trailer for “The Electrical Life of Louis Wain” is available at YouTube >www.youtube.com/watch?v=xzDr_tbL-es&t=23a>.

20802. "The Stories of Sherlock Holmes" was a South African series broadcast by Springbok Radio (1979-1985), with Graham Armitage as Holmes and Kerry Jordan as Watson; Jennie Paton notes that six of the programs are available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/2ek3w4r6>.
20803. Nov. 15 is the deadline for nominations for this year's Susan Z. Diamond Beacon Award, an on-going effort by the Beacon Society to honor people who have made a significant contribution to exposing young people to the stories of Sherlock Holmes. Details on the award, and a nomination form, are available at <www.beaconsociety.com/the-beacon-award.html>.
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20804. September 21 #3 The Jazz Journal reported on Sept. 2 <www.tinyurl.com/xxs3cc7m> on Ben Crossland Quintet: Solway Stories Stories, a new album of songs written by the virtuoso bassist; one of the tracks is "The Devil's Porridge" (a phrase first used by Conan Doyle to describe the cordite manufactured as a shell propellant in a munitions factory on the banks of the Solway Firth. The album is Jazz Cat JCCD118 (\$15.71); you can listen to the track at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=cYeWQU2cCm4>.
20805. Erle Stanley Gardner's *The Case of the Borrowed Brunette* is the latest in Otto Penzler's series of American Mystery Classics (250 pp., \$15.59); the review in Publishers Weekly (Sept. 11) noted that book is a nice homage to "The Red-Headed League".
20806. Wikipedia offers an interesting list of "actors who have played Sherlock Holmes" <www.tinyurl.com/54mmrn2f>, but don't bother counting them. Howard Ostrom's data-base of actors who have played Holmes now has more than 7,400 entries (and more than 16,000 images).
20807. For those who fondly remember Sherlock Hemlock, there's a lot of information about him at Wikipedia <www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sherlock_Hemlock>, and lots more if you scroll down and follow the external link to the Muppet Wiki. For those who came in late, Sherlock Hemlock was a long-running character on the television series "Sesame Street" and brought the iconic image of Sherlock Holmes to a vast audience of young (and older) viewers.
20808. Mark Jones and Paul Chapman continue their interesting discussions of the writings of Conan Doyle (focusing on his non-Sherlockian work) on-line at their "Doings of Doyle" podcast <www.doingsofdoyle.com>; their latest post (episode 17) considers "Uncle Jeremy's Household" (1887).
20809. Peter Melonas is a creative designer and illustrator who has been creating Sherlockian (and non-Sherlockian) artwork in black-and-white and color for decades; you can see (and purchase) his work at <www.tinyurl.com/5ped5ej>.
20810. Simon Heffer's *The Age of Decadence: A History of Britain: 1880-1914* (New York: Pegasus, 2021; 897 pp., \$39.95) is a massive and thoroughly detailed examination of the world in which Conan Doyle, as well as Holmes and Watson, lived, and of which very little will be found in the Canon (although there's a chapter on "The Uses of Literacy" in which Heffer notes that Conan Doyle "turned out to be the perfect author for the new age.") Michael Dirda, in his review in the Washington Post (May 5), offers an interesting reason why people should read the book, suggesting that "history provides perspective on the present" <www.tinyurl.com/yh95avks>.
20811. If you've not visited Birlstone Manor (which is featured in "The Valley of Fear"), you're welcome at Groombridge Place, where you'll be able to explore and enjoy the grounds <www.groombridgeplace.com>. Conan Doyle visited Groombridge when he lived in Crowborough, and acknowledged that it was the inspiration for Birlstone. He also once drove home from Groombridge with its ghost in his car; you can read about that in his article "The Ghost of the Moat", published in the Daily Express in 1927 and collected in *The Edge of the Unknown* (1930).

September 21 #4

20812. Brian McCuskey's *How Sherlock Pulled the Trick: Spiritualism and the Pseudoscientific Method* (University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2021; 195 pp., \$34.95) offers an exploration of how Conan Doyle's long-standing belief in Spiritualism was reflected in the Sherlock Holmes stories, from their very beginning onward, as well as how his family, after he died, dealt with distractions such as mediums who delivered messages received from him, and with members of the Baker Street Irregulars and other Sherlockians, quoting Michael Saler's conclusion that Sherlockian belief may be ironic, but the faith is earnest; his principal thesis is that Holmes' reasoning is merely pseudoscientific, and he concludes with a discussion of how and why that sort of reasoning is found so widely today.
20813. Fans of Laurie R. King's novels about Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes are welcome to download (free) *The World of Castle Shade*, a 24-page anthology of fan fiction and fan art inspired by her latest novel and selected from submissions to a recent contest <www.tinyurl.com/a3nbk9yy>. There's also a new shop at <www.tinyurl.com/3ppdy57n> offering all sorts of merchandise displaying book covers and quotes and such.
20814. The times they are a-changin': "An Incredible Private Island for Sale in the Summer Isles at the Price of a Central London Parking Space" was the headline on a story by Thomas Kent at the Country Life web-site on Sept. 3 <www.tinyurl.com/j93wm55m>. Càrn Deas is an uninhabited island off the north-west coast of Scotland, on offer for £50,000; in the 1960s, when I lived in Iverna Gardens in Kensington, I just parked on the street, where there weren't even any parking meters.
20815. "When a doctor does go wrong he is the first of criminals. He has nerve and he has knowledge," Sherlock Holmes said (in "The Speckled Band"), adding, "Palmer and Pritchard were among the heads of their profession." The story was written in 1891, so Conan Doyle was not aware of another candidate, the subject of Dean Jobb's *The Case of the Murderous Dr. Cream: The Hunt for a Victorian Era Serial Killer* (Chapel Hill: Algonquin, 2021; 401 pp., \$27.95). Dr. Thomas Neill Cream poisoned women in Canada, the United States, and Britain, and was tried and convicted in London in October 1892 and executed in November 1892, too late for mention in the story about the evil Dr. Roylott. Jobb has done extremely well in researching and writing about Cream.
20816. Reported: *The New Yale Book of Quotations*, edited by Fred R. Shapiro (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2021; 1168 pp., \$50.00); revised and expanded from the 2006 edition (December 06 #1), with 39 quotations for Arthur Conan Doyle (all Sherlockian) as well as a very early source for "Quick, Watson, the needle."
20817. Peterson of Dublin, which boasts that it is the oldest continuously-operating briar pipe factory in the world, has an extensive range of Sherlock Holmes pipes; the company will celebrate Christmas this year by offering all 14 best-selling shapes in three different finishes, with copper (rather than silver) mounts. You can see (and buy, of course) them all at the Laudisi web-site <www.laudisi.com/petersonpipes.cfm/christmas-2021-6938>.

September 21 #5

20818. Big Finish continues to issue excellent Sherlockian audio, the latest of them being *Sherlock Holmes: The Seamstress of Peckham Rye*, dramatized by Jonathan Barnes, with Nicholas Briggs as Holmes and Richard Earl as Watson, on three CDs, with interviews with cast and crew (180 minutes, \$34.99); also available as a download (\$19.99), and you can listen to a sample from the story at their web-site <www.bigfinish.com>.
20819. "Sherlock Holmes in 221 Objects" from the Collection of Glen S. Miranker is the title of an exhibition scheduled at the Grolier Club in New York, from January 12 to Apr. 16, and to say that there will be some real treasures on display is an understatement; you can read about (and see) some of them at <www.sherlockin221objects.org>.
20820. Jennie Paton reports a web-site <www.viewcomiconline.com> that will please comic-book aficionados; search for [sherlock holmes] to see what's available.

20821. The “I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere” blog has reached episode 223, in which Scott Monty and Burt Wolder interview film scholar Russell Merritt about the British Film Institute’s plans to restore all of the 1920s films that starred Eille Norwood <www.tinyurl.com/556krefk>. As noted earlier (June 21 #1), only a few of the films can be seen at YouTube.
20822. An opulently-decorated Jezail flintlock weapon was offered at Auktionshaus am See in Konstanz on Sept. 11 <www.tinyurl.com/7hdvxn9z>, with an estimate of €380; it didn’t sell.
20823. Further to the report (August 21 #4) on The Best Mystery Stories of the Year 2021 (edited by Lee Child), the Mysterious Bookshop’s formal announcement of the book includes an opportunity to read Child’s interesting introduction <www.tinyurl.com/3ppdy57n>.
20824. Sherlock Holmes from A to Z, by C. V. Shea III (Boston: Three Trees, 2015; 500 pp., \$24.99) is an alphabetical compilation of the people, places, and other things mentioned in the Canon, with descriptions taken from the stories; the “look inside” feature at Amazon offers a look at the beginning pages.
20825. J. Randolph Cox (“The Conk-Singleton Forgery Case”) died on Sept. 14. He worked as a librarian at the St. Paul Public Library and then as a reference librarian at St. Olaf College for more than 30 years. He taught one of the first college courses in the U.S. on mystery and detective fiction, and became a dedicated collector of dime novels and an expert on Nick Carter. Randy was an enthusiastic member of the Norwegian Explorers, and for a while presided over his own Birdy Edwards Society (whose members enjoyed 19th-century detective literature). He received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1967.
20826. A Study in Lavender: Queering Sherlock Holmes, edited by Joseph R. G. DeMarco (Maple Shade: Lethe Press, 2011; 303 pp., \$20.00), is an anthology of ten pastiches featuring not only Holmes and Watson, but also other Canonical characters <www.lethepressbooks.com>.

September 21 #6

20827. Sherlock Holmes & the Ripper of Whitechapel, by M. K. Wiseman (Milwaukee: 2020; 213 pp., \$22.50), is Holmes’ own account of his pursuit of Jack the Ripper, a case that involved Watson not as partner and biographer, but rather as the leading suspect. Of course we know that Watson wasn’t the Ripper, but Holmes doesn’t, until he confronts the evil serial killer at the end of the book.
20828. Her newest pastiche is Sherlock Holmes & the Singular Affair (Milwaukee: 2021; 192 pp., \$22.50), also from the pen (well, typewriter) of Sherlock Holmes, written after he retired but set many years earlier, when he was still living in Montague Street, beginning his career as a detective and involved in a complicated case of impersonation and revenge. The author’s web-site is at <mkwisemanauthor.com>.
20829. Ann Marlowe notes that the Internet Archive <www.archive.org> offers lots of fun for those who enjoy old movies: a search for [sherlock holmes] and [movies] turns up (at press time) 1,259 hits (use the search engine with the black “go” button).
20830. Areté Editions has published a spectacular set of illustrated fine-press editions of Neil Gaiman’s pastiche “The Case of Death and Honey” and “The Creeping Man” (which inspired Gaiman’s tale); you can read about the company and their work at their web-site <www.arete-editions.com>, which also has information about and images of each of the editions.
20831. The Beacon Society has announced its 2022 R. Joel Senter Sr. Memorial Essay Contest for students in grades 4 through 12; the deadline for submissions is Feb. 1, and details on the contest (and its history) can be found at <www.tinyurl.com/xysv4mth>.
20832. Book Riot <www.bookriot.com> is a prolific podcast at which a search for [sherlock holmes] and [conan doyle] turns up many posts.
20833. Jennie Paton spotted “The Complete Sherlock Holmes Book Ornament” at the on-line shop of the N.Y. Public Library <www.tinyurl.com/457rmvua>. One does wonder about the propriety of a library destroying books to make ornaments.
20834. Nicholas Meyer’s The Return of the Pharaoh (New York: Minotaur, 2021; 262 pp., \$25.99) is the latest pastiche by an author who has been writing stories about Sherlock Holmes longer than Conan Doyle did. The story is set in 1910, when Watson takes his wife to Egypt, in hopes of curing her consumption, and encounters Holmes, in disguise and in pursuit of a missing nobleman; there’s much more to the case, of course, including dire peril, assistance from Howard Carter, and the discovery of an unknown tomb (no, not that one; Tutankhamun’s tomb was not discovered until 1922). Nick’s web-site is at <www.nicholas-meyer.com>.
20835. “Perry Mason Was America’s Sherlock” was the headline on an article in the September issue of the Spectator <www.tinyurl.com/bd2mfhhz>, at hand from Mark Johann; Chilton Williamson Jr. reminisces fondly about the detective who was almost as popular as Sherlock Holmes.

September 21 #7

20836. Reported: the Sherlock Holmes Society of London has published a second edition of Bernard Davies’ Holmes & Watson Country: Travels in Search of Solutions (September 08 #5); it’s a two-volume collection of spectacular scholarship and research. Details will be found at the Society’s web-site <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk>; click on [shop]. £22.00 to the U.K., and (alas) much more elsewhere, what with ever-increasing postal costs.
20837. There’s a long list of comic books (including many Sherlock Holmes titles) available in full color on-line at <www.read-comic.com>.
20838. The Sierra Blanca Brewing Company <www.sierrablancabrewery.com>, founded in Moriarty, N.M., 1996, offers a wide range of craft beers and sodas, including a “farm-to-bottle” Green Chili Cerveza, reported recently by Bill and Nancy Anselm; old hands will remember the town when it was less civilized than now, and the home of John Bennett Shaw’s society the Brothers Three of Moriarty.
20839. The Novel Bookstore <www.novelbookstore.co> (in Portland, Ore.) offers attractive bookwallets (\$33.00 in leather), and one of them is “The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes”.
20840. Robert Fyfe died on Sept. 22. He began his acting career in 1962 and went on to what may be a record: appearing as Howard Sibshaw in the BBC-TV series “The Last of the Summer Wine” in 230 episodes, from 1985 to 2010. He also played the Clerk at Woolwich Station in Granada’s “The Bruce-Partington Plans” (1988)
20841. The rare .450 single-shot sealing rifle (similar, perhaps, to the one used by Conan Doyle in the Arctic in 1879), at auction last month with an estimate of £1,200-£1,600 (August 21 #7), sold for £1,300.
20842. When in Blackpool (in Lancashire): you’ll soon be able to have a drink at Sherlock’s Bar <www.tinyurl.com/xbm63bd8>.
20843. “Sherlock Holmes and the Great Escape” (aka “The Great Detective Sherlock Holmes: The Greatest Jail-Breaker”), an entertaining Chinese animated film released in Hong Kong in 2019, will debut on HBO on Oct. 1.
20844. Dr. Doyle has done reasonably well at the track, Peter McIntyre reports. Racing, not betting <www.tinyurl.com/3tfydb3a>. Alas, he failed to rally and finished fifth in a race at Monmouth Park in New Jersey on Sept. 19. Details at <www.tinyurl.com/95snncbw>. There’s also a three-year-old bay gelding Arthur Conan Doyle, now racing in Britain, who has not performed at all well <www.tinyurl.com/3672w2z3>.
20845. Reported: Sherlockian costume and other allusions in The Crazy Convention Caper, written by Michael Anthony Steele and illustrated Dario Brizuela, in the “Batman and Scooby-Doo! Mysteries” series of books for children 8-11, just published by Stone Arch/Capstone. You can see the cover art and sample the text at Amazon.

September 21 #8

20846. Further to the item about *Herichium erinaceus*, aka the Lion's Mane Mushroom (September 18 #4), it's now available as an ingredient in Social Elixir, a non-alcohol plant-based alternative liquor that's sold by Three Spirit. "This dark, herbal elixir raises spirits, enhances connection and sets the mood. Full-bodied and bittersweet with a curious savory bite, its balancing effect keeps you blissful and tuned-in," the company says at its web-site at <<https://us.threespiritdrinks.com>>. The "botanical alchemy" costs \$39.99 for 16.9 fl. oz.
20847. Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is scheduled at the Performing Arts Center at Fort Gordon, Ga., Oct. 8-24 <www.tinyurl.com/3wchb4a4>; at the Tryon Little Theatre in Tryon, N.C., Nov. 11-21 <www.tltinfo.org>; and at Theatre Three in Port Jefferson, N.Y., Jan. 8-Feb. 5, 2022 <www.theatrethree.com>.
20848. Sean Coe's new "Hand Through the Veil" (featuring Conan Doyle and Houdini) will be performed at An die Musik Live in Baltimore, Md., Oct. 29-31; web-site at <www.andiemusiklive.com>.
20849. Tim Kelly's "The Adventure of the Speckled Band" is due at the Detour Theatre in Auckland, New Zealand, Nov. 18-Dec. 4 <www.detour.co.nz>.
20850. Jon Jory's "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (four one-act plays) will be performed at Walters State Community College in Morristown, Tenn., Nov. 18-21 <www.ws.edu/news/current/art-article.aspx?story=21858>.
20851. Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot" will be performed at the Kokomo Civic Theatre in Kokomo, Ind., Dec. 3-5 <www.kokomocivictheatre.org>.
20852. Kate Hamill's new "(The Extremely Thrilling & Occasionally Shocking Mis-Adventures of Mesdames) Holmes & Watson" will be performed at the Copaken Stage in Kansas City, Mo., Feb. 1-20, 2022 <www.kcrep.org>.
20853. Bill Van Horn's new "Sherlock Holmes: The Adventure of Speckled Band" is due at the Walnut Street Theatre in Philadelphia, from Feb. 22 to Mar. 27 <www.walnutstreettheatre.org> ("six talented actors playing over 30 quirky characters").
20854. R. Hamilton Wright's new "Sherlock Holmes and the Vanishing Thimble" has been scheduled at the Vertigo Theatre in Calgary, Alta., Mar. 5 to Apr. 3 <www.vertigotheatre.com>.
20855. Christopher M. Walsh's "Miss Holmes Returns" (the sequel to his 2016 play "Miss Holmes") is scheduled at the Greater Boston Stage Company in Stoneham, Mass., Apr. 21-May 8 <www.greaterbostonstage.org>.
20856. "The Remarkable Mister Holmes" (a new musical, with book by Omri Schein, lyrics by Schrein and David Ellenstein, and music by Daniel Lincoln) will be produced at the North Coast Repertory Theatre in Solana Beach, Calif., July 20-Aug. 14 <www.northcoastrep.org>.

October 21 #1

20857. Sherlockians will gather in New York on Jan. 12-16 to celebrate Sherlock Holmes' 168th birthday, and plans for almost all of the traditional events are afoot. There's a "Plans for BSI Weekend" page at the Baker Street Irregulars web-site <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com> that has information on BSI and non-BSI events; most of the events are open to everyone, and there always is much more going on than anyone with reasonable sense or stamina can deal with. There also will be information available in mid-November at Scott Monty's excellent web-site <www.bsiweekend.com>, and his helpful "Here Are Your #BSIWeekend Tips" will be found at <ihose.co/bsi2022tips>.
20858. In plenty of time for holiday hinting (or shopping), Randall Stock's annual informative nominations for the best Sherlock Holmes books/DVDs of the year goes on-line at <www.bestofsherlock.com/sherlock-gifts.htm> on Nov. 1; there also are recommendations of older Sherlockiana, all with helpful explanations of his choices.
20859. The summer issue of *The Magic Door* (published by the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library) has Douglas Kerr's article about "Conan Doyle's Desert Drama", Jessie Amaolo's discussion of "One-of-a-Kind Manuscripts from a One-of-a-Kind Collections", and reports from and about the Library and the Collection, which celebrates its 50th anniversary this year. A copy of the newsletter is available on request from Cliff Goldfarb, Toronto Public Library, 789 Yonge Street, Toronto M4W 2G8, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.
20860. The Extensión Universitaria in Vigo is holding an on-line course on "Jornadas de novela y crimen: Conan Doyle, el creador de Sherlock Holmes" from Nov. 3 to Dec. 1 <www.extension.uned.es/actividad/idactividad/25501>.
20861. The Red-Throated League have been performing for the Norwegian Explorers for years, presenting staged readings from the Edith Meiser radio scripts held in the Sherlock Holmes Collections in Minneapolis, and you can watch some of their programs at <www.tinyurl.com/2s2r4u5r>.
20862. The arguments over vaccinations and vaccination mandates continues, and it is interesting that Conan Doyle thought and wrote about the issue; thanks to the Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia, you can read what he had to say at <www.tinyurl.com/4syk62kc>.
20863. Illustrator Jonathan Barry wrote about "The Hound of the Baskervilles" for the Irish Times (Sept. 16) <www.tinyurl.com/79zbca87>, commenting on the story and including some of his own atmospheric artwork.
20864. It's not particularly Sherlockian, except that there are cross-over pastiches, but: Ron Charles noted in the Washington Post's on-line Book Club on Oct. 1 that "Steve Metze hoped to raise \$10,000 to publish a spell book inspired by the demonic works of H. P. Lovecraft. He reached that goal in 38 minutes." When the Kickstarter campaign ended, he had raised more than \$188,000, and Charles wrote that "I suspect Satanic intervention." There is more about it all at <www.tinyurl.com/peanz6ar> (you'll need to scroll down), and at Kickstarter <www.tinyurl.com/aaymkxuw>.

October 21 #2

20865. A. J. West's *The Spirit Engineer* (Richmond: Duckworth, 2021; 208 pp., £14.99) is a novel based on the true story of Kathleen Goligher, an Irish spiritualist medium who was championed by engineer William Jackson Crawford; the book begins in Belfast in 1914 and tells an atmospheric and chilling story involving both belief and deception. Crawford encounters Conan Doyle (and Houdini) while supporting Goligher, but they are only minor characters in a macabre story. It's historical fiction, and an American edition is due this month,
20866. The Bovestrians of Ragged Shaw is the most recently-formed Sherlockian society, which has two founding members, one of whom is Brad Keefeauver, who provided information about the brief history of the society last month at his Sherlock Peoria blog <www.tinyurl.com/3w44cr4k>.
20867. "Books, Bohemians, and Baker Street: A Study in Sherlock in Special Collections" is a new on-line exhibition at the web-site of the University of Delaware's library <www.exhibitions.lib.del.edu/sherlock>, kindly reported by Tom Horrocks. Browse the exhibition menu to see some real treasures, nicely presented.
20868. "The Owner of The Mysterious Bookshop Built His Dream House" was the headline on an article in the real estate section of the N.Y. Times on Oct. 3. Go to <nytimes.com> and search for [otto penzler] to read the story (there is a fine slide-show with the on-line version).
20869. One hears of Sherlock everywhere: you've likely read about the Pandora Papers (the treasure trove of leaked financial documents that show how some people have hidden assets in shell companies). According to bne IntelliNews <www.tinyurl.com/r5kh4j4f>, Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky's chief aide Serhly Shefir is an owner of a Belize company that paid £22.3 million for an apartment in Baker Street, not far from 221B, and another nearby two-bedroom flat across the street from the Sherlock Holmes Museum was bought for £2.2 million.

20870. Roberta Pearson's webinar lecture (on "The Adventure of the Mutable Detective") for the BSI Trust on Oct. 2 attracted an enthusiastic audience; if you weren't able to Zoom in, the lecture was recorded and will be available at the BSI Trust web-site <www.bsitrust.org> next year.
20871. "Many of you have asked what will happen to Becky and Flynn," according to Anna Elliott. Becky and Flynn were supporting characters in the long-running "Sherlock Holmes and Lucy James" series (written by Anna Elliott and Charles Veley), and now feature in Elliott's Guarded Ground (available on Kindle). It's set in 1915 during the First World War; Becky has become a surgeon, and Flynn now is a major in the British army. Sherlock Holmes is a supporting character this time, setting Becky and Flynn in pursuit of a dangerous German spy <www.sherlockandlucy.com>.
20872. The Sherlock Holmes Society's 2021 Christmas card celebrates the 70th anniversaries of both the Society and the Sherlock Holmes Exhibition at Abbey House in London; £6.00 for a packet of 10 cards (with envelopes), and you can order at the Society's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/55jkyrt8>.
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October 21 #3

20873. The late Paul Churchill was justifiably proud of his "evidence boxes" (one for each of the Canonical tales, and was fortunate in being able to track down so many souvenirs of each case (so fortunate that some people believe he was the greatest Sherlockian forger). Deborah Clark tells stories about Paul and his work in an interview at the "I Hear of Sherlock" blog, where you can also see some of the interesting things he found <www.patreon.com/posts/56803056>.
20874. "Joseph Caminada and His Colt Lightning Revolver: Manchester's Real-Life Sherlock Holmes" is the headline on a story in Guns-America Digest (Sept. 24) <www.tinyurl.com/e5ajkv8k>, at hand from John Linsenmeyer. Caminada has been mentioned here before (May 14 #6 and April 17 #2).
20875. Reported: "The Lion's Mane" reprinted in Guilty Creatures: A Menagerie of Mysteries, an anthology edited and introduced by Martin Edwards (London: British Library, 2021; 336 pp., £9.99). It's the latest in the "British Library Crime Classics" series; an American edition is due next year from the Poisoned Pen Press (\$14.99).
20876. The Internet Archive, which was founded in 1996, has come a long way in 25 years, and still is hard at work capturing everything on the Internet; you can see Brewster Kahle (one of its founders) then and now in a documentary video about "the first crawl" at <www.tinyurl.com/yxv66svy>.
20877. Readers who know all about electric guitars will know what a compressor is and does; Derham Groves has reported The Engineer's Thumb, which was invented by Merlin Blencowe <www.valvewizard.co.uk/engineersthumb2.html>.
20878. It's "the legal 7% solution," according to En Voyage Perfumes by Shelley Waddington <www.tinyurl.com/rbzbm8d8>, kindly reported by Samantha Wolov. There's neither cocaine nor morphine nor heroin in The 7% Solution eau de cologne, and there's an on-line review at <www.tinyurl.com/yj8c64r8>.
20879. Those who like to browse the Internet will be familiar with Google and the Google Doodle, which on Oct. 12 honored the Polish actor Helena Modrzejewska <www.tinyurl.com/4vz7x863>. Her Wikipedia entry notes that Joanna and Catharina Polatynska have suggested that she might have been the model for Irene Adler. The suggestion was in an article posted in 2000 to the Diogenes Club web-site <www.diogenes-club.com/irene.htm>.
20880. When in Málaga (on the Costa del Sol in Spain); you can visit La Casa de Sherlock Holmes <www.facebook.com/SherlockHolmesPubMalaga>, kindly noted by James Utechin. It's a pub, and there's another one, not far away, in Torremolino.
20881. Robert Richardson died on Aug. 31. He was a British journalist and crime writer, serving twice as head of the Crime Writers' Association; his The Book of the Dead (1989) was a pleasant murder mystery tied to a Sherlock Holmes story written in 1894 and published by Conan Doyle in an edition of only ten copies, all of which he presented to his godson as a christening present (the pastiche is included in the novel, and shows more imagination and style than many others in the genre).
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October 21 #4

20882. The Only One in the World, edited by Narrelle M. Harris (Bittern: Clan Destine, 2021; 257 pp., \$29.99), is an anthology of thirteen pastiches that reimagine Holmes and Watson in different time periods, cultures, and countries, from Viking Iceland to the distant future; the editor and many of the authors are Australian, and most are newcomers to the world of pastiches. Harris' web-site at <www.narrellemharris.com> offers information about this anthology and her other Sherlockian books, and there's a 49-minute video of her and Lucy Sussex (one of the authors) at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=4KspZU3qg08>.
20883. The Sherlock Holmes Is Real podcast's "a fictional docudrama about a supposed conspiracy to turn Sherlock Holmes from a historical figure to a fictional character over the last hundred years by person or persons unknown" (according to Talon King and Paul Thomas Miller); you can tune in to their conclusions at <www.sherlockholmesisreal.libsyn.com>. Miller also is responsible (or to blame) for the web-site Doyle's Rotary Coffin, definitely well worth exploring <www.tinyurl.com/y2xzezpz>.
20884. Jennie Paton has reported the entire "Sherlock Holmes in the 22nd Century" animated series at <www.youtube.com/c/TwoBobWatch/videos>, along with much more, including all episodes of "The Rivals of Sherlock Holmes".
20885. SHERLOC and WATSON are hard at work on Mars, making significant contributions to the study of the Red Planet <www.tinyurl.com/5xarkkwx>. As noted earlier (June 20 #2) their names are acronyms, and they are part of the instrumentation on Perseverance, the Martian rover.
20886. Garage sales can be interesting, especially when someone finds and buys a piece of the Moon <www.tinyurl.com/cpxcr2c2>. The lunar rock was from the Apollo 17 mission, and quite possibly was collected by geologist/astronaut Jack Schmitt, who was responsible for naming Sherlock Crater in honor of geologist/detective Sherlock Holmes.
20887. "The first humans to make up stories may just have saved us all. Or not. It's hard to know for sure," according to Lee Child. You can his interesting and insightful introduction to The Best Mystery Stories of the Year 2021 (August 21 4) at CrimeReads <www.tinyurl.com/24ckj6yn>.
20888. The ACD Society ("a community dedicated to studying and enjoying the works of Arthur Conan Doyle") has a web-site at <www.acdsociety.com>, where you can read its first two newsletters, learn more about the society, and even become a member.
20889. Philip R. Brogdon ("John Sanger") died on Sept. 30. Phil found the world of Sherlockians through the Red Circle of Washington in 1975, and was an enthusiastic member of the society through the 1980s and 1990s. He delivered one of the toasts at the annual dinner of the Baker Street Irregulars in 1986, spoke at Sherlockian conferences in 1986 and 1987, and received his Investiture from the BSI in 1988. His special interests were poetry and the theater (and his fine voice served him well in both), and his book Sherlock Holmes in Black was published in 1995.
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October 21 #5

20890. Would you like to go for a ride on the Sir Arthur Conan Doyle? Since 1999 the Brighton & Hove buses have been named in honor of people "who made a significant contribution to the area or had a strong connection during" during their lifetimes; pages for the buses and their history are at <<http://history.buses.co.uk/history/fleethist/675ad.htm>>.
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20891. The second issue of *The Pontine Dossier: Millennium Edition* has appeared; edited by Derrick Belanger, it's a revival of the journal published by the late Luther Norris, who founded the Praed Street Irregulars (Manchester: Belanger Books, 2021; 77 pp., \$7.99), with more new articles about Solar Pons, including David Marcum's detailed discussion of Basil Copper's controversial editing of the Pontine Canon, and his pastiches.
20892. "Sherlock Holmes Afternoon Tea Comes with an Antique Chest and a Cocktail in a Pipe," according My London (Oct. 11) <www.tinyurl.com/55npyt3j>. The boutique Holmes Hotel in Marylebone has revamped its tea, and the article includes a link to the menu; the meal costs only £42.00 (or £55.00 with a specialty drink).
20893. Books of Wonder/William Morrow issued an attractive edition of *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* in 1992, illustrated by Barry Moser. Moser's own signed copy, with five signed original watercolors, will be up for bids on Nov. 10 at Hindman Auctions in Chicago <www.tinyurl.com/sd8mavk>, estimated at \$4,000-\$6,000.
20894. H. F. Heard's delightful Mr. Mycroft pastiche *A Taste for Honey* (1941) has been filmed twice, first as "The Sting of Death" for television's "Elgin Hour" (1955), with Boris Karloff as Mr. Mycroft, and then as "The Deadly Bees" (1967), with no one as Mr. Mycroft, because he doesn't appear in the film (Robert Bloch wrote the screenplay, which was thoroughly revised by Anthony Marriott, who deleted Mr. Mycroft, and Bloch refused to watch what he called his "deformed offspring"). "The Deadly Bees" then was parodied on "Mystery Science Theater 3000" (1998), and you can watch all three at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=QChOFJHdQps>, <www.dailymotion.com/video/x21jjwh> and <www.club-mst3k.com/episodes/905-the-deadly-bees>.
20895. Further to the report (September 21 #2) about "The Stories of Sherlock Holmes" (the long-running South African series broadcast by Springbok Radio), with Graham Armitage as Holmes and Kerry Jordan as Watson, Lenny Picker notes that almost all of the shows are available at the Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia <www.tinyurl.com/4eutpvvf>.
20896. Reported: "The Greek Interpreter" and "The Lost Special" reprinted in *The Big Book of Victorian Mysteries*, edited by Otto Penzler (New York: Vintage/Black Lizard, 2021; 640 pp., \$26.00); each story with an introduction by the editor.
20897. When Otto Penzler's *Mysterious Obsession* (October 20 #2) was first published, he was interviewed by Gil Roth for the podcast *The Virtual Memories Show*; you can listen to Otto's stories about collecting and collectors, and his own collection and his decision to sell it, at <www.tinyurl.com/ud2jm8fs>. You can buy the book (in a fourth printing) at <www.tinyurl.com/yr63e9k3>.

October 21 #6

20898. Mantan Web has reported (in Japanese) on Oct. 18 on just how popular Goshō Aoyama's "Detective Conan" manga has been since the series was launched in 1994 <www.tinyurl.com/yz8jkc2h>: the 100th volume has just been published, bringing the total number of copies to more than 250 million. That's not all: the CBR web-site reported (in English) on Oct. 20 <www.tinyurl.com/2fsnj2v4> that the television animation that began in 1996 now has more than 1,000 episodes, and there are 24 animated films in the franchise. The CBR web-site explains who Detective Conan is.
20899. Viktor Yevgrafov died on Oct. 20. He was a Russian actor and a stuntman, and played a sinister Moriarty in two episodes of the series "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson" (1980, with Vasilii LivaNovember as Holmes and Vitali Solomin as Watson).
20900. Simon Chapman has written for *China Daily* (Oct. 10) about his expedition in search of the Lost World, attempting to follow in the footsteps of Col. Percy H. Fawcett through the Amazon jungle <www.tinyurl.com/dvbwppj>; his web-site at <www.simonsjungle.co.uk>, and a video about the expedition is available at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=ktOiu4okXMA>.
20901. Dr. Doyle (the three-year-old brown gelding) (September 21 #7) continues to disappoint bettors, according to Peter McIntyre, finishing seventh (inside, weakened) on Oct. 12 <www.tinyurl.com/5eeyknpr> at Parx Racing in Bensalem, Pa.
20902. The Eurocrypt Christopher Lee Collection is a new boxed set with five of his films <www.severin-films.com/shop/eurocrypt-christopher-lee> on Blu-ray and CD (\$105.00), with new audio commentary; one of the films is his "Sherlock Holmes and the Deadly Necklace" (1962). Alas: they there are no plans to issue to films separately.
20903. Cliff Goldfarb notes that there's an elaborate Sherlockian corn maze about an hour's drive from Montréal <www.vergerlabonte.com/labyrinthes?lang=en>. "You'll scour the streets of Victorian London of the 1880s in the company of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson," the folks at Verger Labonté promise.
20904. Reported by Jennie Paton: an imaginative "Real Hollow Book Music Box" (the book is *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*) offered by Suegnight for \$35.00 (discounted from \$70.00) <www.suegnight.shop>, with any tune you choose).
20905. Jennie also spotted just the thing for rush-hour drivers: a collection of 374 old-time-radio Sherlock Holmes programs on a thumb drive, offered by Rawhguide for \$13.00 (discounted from \$26.99) <www.tinyurl.com/erxs6p4w>.
20906. Gyles Brandreth, who has written seven pastiches that feature Oscar Wilde and Arthur Conan Doyle, also is chairman of the "Oldie of the Year" awards committee of *The Oldie* magazine <www.theoldie.co.uk>. The BBC reported on Oct. 20 <www.bbc.com/news/uk-58974656> that Queen Elizabeth, now 95 years old, has declined this year's award; her assistant private secretary wrote to him that "Her Majesty believes you are as old as you feel, as such The Queen does not believe she meets the relevant criteria to be able to accept, and hopes you will find a more worthy recipient."

October 21 #7

20907. It may be time for competition for the most-attention-getting title of a Sherlockian book. Certainly a serious contender in the contest would be Paul Thomas Miller's *Was Sherlock Holmes an Elephant?* (2021; 56 pp., \$5.57), which offers the results of his search for an answer to a question quite possibly asked for the first time by any Sherlockian (or non-Sherlockian, for that matter). His answer? Well, no spoilers here. It's a welcome contribution to the literature from the man who presides over Doyle's Rotary Coffin.
20908. The Russian television series "Sherlock: The Russian Chronicles" (available on the French streaming service Salto (September 21 #1) also is available via the Roku digital media player <www.tinyurl.com/vbf4ccu>.
20909. Tina Rhea reports the on-line store Spoonflower, which offers a wide variety of attractive Sherlockian designs <www.tinyurl.com/29dpesk9> on cloth and wallpaper.
20910. The film "The Lost City of Z" (2017), which did not do well at the box office (according to Box Office Mojo, the world-wide gross was less than \$20 million), is available on Amazon Prime, and a DVD can be found at eBay and elsewhere. Charlie Hunnam stars as Col. Percy H. Fawcett, who met Conan Doyle in 1910 and later claimed that he inspired "The Lost World"; Fawcett never returned from his last expedition into the Amazon jungle. The two men are discussed in Roy Pilot and Alvin Rodin's *The Annotated Lost World* (1996) and David Grann's *The Lost City of Z* (2009), but there's no mention of Conan Doyle in the film.
20911. Heritage Auctions <www.ha.com> will offer a complete set of single issues of *The Strand Magazine* with the 58 Sherlock Holmes stories first published in the magazine at their sale on Dec. 7-8; you can check their web-site on or after Nov. 18.

20912. Speculation continues about who owns the block of property at 215-237 Baker Street, which includes the site of the former Abbey National Building Society (later the Abbey National Bank), where mail addressed to Sherlock Holmes was for many years answered by Holmes' secretary. A non-governmental organization called Global Witness reported (July 15 #2) that the property is included in a portfolio of real estate in London that's owned by a company tied to Rakhat Aliyev, a former Kazakh secret police chief accused in the European Union of money laundering and murder. Max Magee has found a Global Witness story <www.tinyurl.com/eauzkeu4> that includes a link to a report that includes a map that shows the company also owns property behind 239 Baker Street, site of the Sherlock Holmes Museum, but not the museum itself. Abbey National was at what's now 219 Baker Street, which retains the old façade and tower.

20913. Marshall McLuhan, perhaps best known for proposing that "the medium is the message," wrote an article "Sherlock Holmes vs. the Bureaucrat" in *Explorations* (Oct. 1957). He also discussed Holmes (and Conan Doyle) in "From DaVinci to Holmes" in his first book *The Mechanical Bride: Folklore of Industrial Man* (1951). That discussion was reprinted in *Essential McLuhan* (1995), conveniently available at <www.1lib.us/book/979006/ede63b>.

October 21 #8

20914. C. T. Scott's article about "The Curious Incident of Sherlock Holmes's Real-Life Secretary" <www.tinyurl.com/96baau4d> was in the *Economist's* 1843 Magazine on Oct. 6 (with striking artwork by Noma Bar) features Chris Bazlinton, who (at the age of 27) signed on as Holmes' secretary at Abbey National; he still has (and treasures) many of the letters he received and answered on behalf of Holmes.

20915. Louis Robinson is an Atlanta-based songwriter who has a wide-ranging YouTube channel, where he has posted a video about "The One and Only Sherlock Holmes" <www.youtube.com/watch?v=PpT6iRKk3hA>.

20916. Carole Nelson Douglas died on Oct. 20. She started writing as a journalist and turned to fiction with the Gothic novel *Amberleigh* (1980). Carol went on to write more than 60 novels, and many short stories; her "Irene Adler" series included eight novels and six short stories. There's much more about her work at her web-site <www.carolenelsondouglas.com>.

20917. "Why do clocks go clockwise?" is an intriguing, although non-Sherlockian, question. The answer will be found in an article at the *Country Life* web-site <www.tinyurl.com/3s47w7yw>.

20918. "Sherlock Holmes Murder Suspect in Kentwood" is the headline on a story at HL Arledge's "Bayou Justice" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/y4fjh64d>. Kentwood a small town in Louisiana, perhaps best-known today as the birthplace of Britney Spears, but in 1915 it was the home of Claude "Sherlock" Holmes (you can read the article to learn more).

20919. *Theatrics*: Michael Menedian and John Weagley's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Goose" will be presented (as a 1940s radio play) at the Collaborative Theater Project in Medford, Ore., Nov. 5-14; web-site at <www.ctpmedford.org>.

20920. Amy Frey's "Sherlock Holmes: A Scandal in Bohemia" is due at the Lyndhurst Mansion in Tarrytown, N.Y., Nov. 12-Dec. 5 <www.showclix.com>.

20921. Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" will be performed at the Actors' NET of Bucks County in Morrisville, N.J., Dec. 3-19 <www.actorsnetbucks.org>.

20922. Brian Horne's new musical "Second to Sherlock" will be performed at the Columbus Performing Arts Center in Columbus, Ohio, Dec. 3-11; web-site at <www.columbusmakesart.com/event/41139-second-to-sherlock>.

20923. Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot" will be performed at the Watertown Players Theater in Watertown, Wis., Dec. 10-12 <www.watertownplayers.org>.

20924. "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Goose" (a radio play by Michael Menedian and John Weagley) will be performed at the Warren Civic Center in Warren, Mich., Dec. 17-19 <www.warrencivic.org>.

November 21 # 1

20925. Michael F. Whelan ("Vincent Spaulding") died on Oct. 25. Mike found the world of Sherlockians in the 1970s, and his business career took him all over the United States, enabling him to enjoy the fellowship of many Sherlockian societies as well as the Baker Street Irregulars, serving as the BSI's "Wiggins" from 1997 to 2020. He launched the continuing series of BSI conferences, greatly expanded the work of the BSI Press, and created the BSI Trust, which presides over the BSI Archives. He received his Investiture in 1974, the BSI's Two-Shilling Award in 1992, and a Golden Sovereign in 2017, marking his 20th year as head of the BSI. "A Quiet Air of Mastery" (the BSI's tribute volume to Mike) was published by the BSI Press in 2020 and is still available <www.tinyurl.com/463vad56>, and there's an excellent tribute to him, including a series of interviews, at the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.ihose.co/mikewhelan>.

20926. The Lonely Planet web-site <www.tinyurl.com/23nmxmwf> reports that tourists can now visit Roraima, the table-top mountain that many believe was the inspiration for "The Lost World". Scroll down to "Monte Roraima" for information about what they say is the "best hike for bragging rights" (53 miles round trip, 6 days, difficult).

20927. Gildart Jackson, who has narrated more than 400 audiobooks, now has a YouTube "Fireside Readings" channel, where you can watch (and hear) him read "The Hound of the Baskervilles" <www.tinyurl.com/4snbh2zi> and many other stories by other authors.

20928. *Tales the Devil Told Me*, by Jen Fawkes (Winston-Salem: Press 53, 2021; 178 pp., \$27.95), is a collection of short stories that offer imaginative new versions of the lives of a dozen classical villains, from Rumpelstiltskin to King Claudius to Mrs. Danvers to Medusa to Captain Hook, and of course including Prof. Moriarty.

20929. Jennie Paton has reported a Sherlockian allusion in the film "Inglourious Basterds" (2009): the scene in which Christoph Waltz (Hans Landa), interrogating a French farmer, smokes a calabash pipe. It was indeed a Sherlockian allusion, as Quentin Tarantino, the film's director, explained on "The Charlie Rose Show" on Aug. 21, 2019. You can watch an excerpt from the interview at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=dexvHVBGEs>; the entire program is available at <www.charlierose.com/videos/26959>.

20930. President Calvin Coolidge paid a visit to Mr. and Mrs. William Gillette at Gillette Castle on Oct. 10 <www.tinyurl.com/cwztpz9z>. Coolidge was impersonated by Tracy Messer, and the Gillettes by Tyke and Teddie Niver.

20931. "This Clock Uses Famous Book Quotes to Display the Time" was the headline on an article at Mental Floss (Oct. 27) <www.tinyurl.com/yk5yaw7k> about a new Author Clock created by Mechanical Design Labs. There's a different quote for every minute of the day, according to the article, and "a deep-cut Sherlock Holmes line chimes in at 10:36." There's no explanation why 10:36 is in some way Sherlockian, but if any reader finds out, you're welcome to tell us.

November 21 #2

20932. Brad Keefauver's *The Rise and Fall of an Eighties Sherlockian* (2021; 206 pp., \$10,00) is both a memoir and a history of the decade, and it's nicely done indeed, packed with good stories about major and minor figures in the Sherlockian world; there's no index, so you will need to buy the book (it's at Amazon) to see if you appear in one of his stories. His "Sherlock Peoria" blog <www.sherlockpeoria.blogspot.com> is interesting as well.
20933. "We like to think that Sherlock Holmes would approve of modern-day wrestling," Ross K. Foad and Howard Ostrom suggest in the introduction to their essay "Sherlock Holmes: Baker Street Brawler". You can read all about it at <www.nplh.co.uk/the-baker-street-brawler.html>.
20934. You can make a collector happy: Joe Eckrich <jeckrich@sbcglobal.net> needs the first issue (v. 1, n. 1) of the Sherlock Holmes Journal so that he can complete his run of the magazine.
20935. Ray Wilcockson continues to make interesting discoveries in the pages of digitized newspapers, and reports on them in his "Markings" blog; his latest <www.tinyurl.com/swnp66w> is about "Conan Doyle's Spooks Tour with The Rolling Stones (1920-22).
20936. Britain's National Archives has announced that the 1921 census of England and Wales will be made public on Jan. 6 <www.tinyurl.com/yy4zk4r9>, which is nice news genealogists, and people who just want to know who was where that year. The U.S. census is made public after only 75 years.
20937. Video of this year's Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture, by Jeffrey Hatcher (on "The Adventure of the Occasional Playwright: Conan Doyle on Stage") is available at the web-site of the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection <www.acdfriends.org/events.html>; he has interesting comments on Conan Doyle as a playwright. You can also watch last year's lecture by Rebecca Romney (on "Sherlockian Collecting: A Tour of Clever, Creative, and Weird Pursuits").
20938. "Otto Presents" is a weekly YouTube podcast from the Mysterious Bookshop in which Otto Penzler talks about authors, books, and collecting; in "Otto Presents Sherlock Holmes" he talked about Holmes, and the books written by Conan Doyle and others <www.youtube.com/watch?v=uOj2R8tDais>.
20939. Sherlock Holmes died on Sept. 29, 2020, in Vestavia, Ala. He and his twin sister Shirley were born on May 20, 1927, in Marion, Ill., and he went on to found Sherlock Holmes Mobile Homes. You can read his obituary on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/nbxdux2m>.
20940. The Word is a new library and exhibition space in South Shields (in northeastern England), and their current exhibition "Investigating Detectives at The Word" also is available on-line <<https://detectives.theworduk.org>>. Sherlock Holmes and Detective Pikachu are among the detectives celebrated, and the web-site's well worth exploring. An earlier exhibition "Shiver Me Timbers: Pirates on Page, Stage and Screen" still is available on-line and is nicely done indeed (with a mention of Conan Doyle's "Captain Sharkey").
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November 21 #3

20941. One does hear of Sherlock everywhere: it turns out that there is something Sherlockian about the new movie "Dune" (based on the classic SF novel by Frank Herbert). Stephen McKinley Henderson plays Hawat (a human computer called a Mentat), and explained in an interview in the Hollywood Reporter (October 22) <www.tinyurl.com/5a2nwhrf> that his life-long enthusiasm for Sherlock Holmes helped him play a Mentat.
20942. Atlas Obscura celebrated Halloween with a long article about "The Famous Fight Over the Turn-of-the-Century Trend of Spirit Photography" that's of interest for the photograph taken in 1931 of Conan Doyle, his wife Jean, and their son Denis <www.tinyurl.com/w4rtcb4n>. It's a spirit photograph, of course (Conan Doyle died in 1930).
20943. The Beacon Society is continuing to publish its quarterly newsletter for younger Sherlockians, and the latest issue of Sherlock's Spotlight can be found at their web-site <www.beaconsociety.com>; the contents include material both by and for younger followers of the Great Detective.
20944. Mark Levy ("Don Juan Murillo") died on Oct. 30, 2021. A patent attorney by profession, he also was a writer, an inventor, and an enthusiastic member of Dr. Watson's Neglected Patents in Denver. His first article in the Baker Street Journal appeared in 1971, and he went on to contribute often to our literature. He received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 2013.
20945. VioletandOberon offers a wide range of attractive Sherlockian merchandise; their web-site is at <www.violetandoberon.com>, and you can browse their collections at <www.tinyurl.com/4x9wsu5r>. There's also a colorful brochure available on request as a PDF <contact@violetandoberon.com>.
20946. A complete run of single issues of The Strand Magazine will all 58 of the Sherlock Holmes stories that appeared in the magazine will be offered in the Heritage Auctions sale on Dec. 9-10 <www.tinyurl.com/46dbf8hb>. It's not often that a complete run of single issues is available; the last time was in 2016. There will be some other nice Sherlockiana and Doyleana in the sale.
20947. Further to the report (September 21 #2) on American singer and songwriter Billie Eilish's explanation of how and why she wrote her song "You Should See Me in a Crown", the Geo News web-site reported on Nov. 10 that she responded to Instagram's "Ask me a question" feature with a Sherlockian answer when asked "Favorite fictional character?" <www.tinyurl.com/ztjr9urk>.
20948. Brimptsmead Estate, in the heart of Dartmoor National Park, for sale, offered at £4,950,000 <www.tinyurl.com/sfuxwawh>; according to the realtor's brochure, the building was leased from the then Prince of Wales in 1906, and the present owners were allowed to purchase the freehold from Prince Charles, but "His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales retains the right to fish on the river bank owned by The Brimptsmead Estate, with 24 hours' notice." Press reports say that Conan Doyle stayed at the house, but that's not stated in the brochure.
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November 21 #4

20949. "Sherlock Holmes in 221 Objects" from the Collection of Glen S. Miranker (curated by Glen and his wife Cathy), is an exhibition scheduled at the Grolier Club in New York from January 12 to Apr. 16; it will have some real treasures on display, and it will be well worth a visit; Glen was recently interviewed on the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.tinyurl.com/thhr4ztvb>. There's a web-site for the exhibition at <www.sherlockin221objects.org>; click on "Visit" for information about current regulations in New York City, and to make a reservation to see the exhibition.
20950. The exhibition catalogue, which will be published by the Grolier Club on Jan. 5, and is available now for pre-order at Amazon (168 pp., \$60.00); is spectacular, with splendid full-color illustrations as well as grand stories about the exhibits, and highly recommended.
20951. Readers who lament the lack of reviews of Sherlockian video games in this newsletter may enjoy the conclusions of a reviewer who posts to YouTube: <www.youtube.com/watch?v=NZcjQb2fE6M> (kindly noted by Jennie Paton); it's stated as Part One, so there may be a second installment eventually.
20952. It's not quite "The Six Napoleons", but a letter, signed by Napoleon six times, listing the rolls of gold napoleons he was given when he left Elba in 1815, was sent to auction at Lion Heart Autographs on Oct. 27, with an estimate of \$15,000-\$16,000 <www.tinyurl.com/rabe2zb4>. The letter sold for \$10,500.
20953. Lou Coty has commissioned an impressive and artistic image of the sitting-room at 221B Baker Street, available as a print and on pillows, blankets, mugs, and much more, at <www.gothicandlight.com>; a 10% discount is available if you use the magic word (SCUTTLEBUTT10) at check-out.
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20954. Steve Mason continues to add to his collection of autographs of actors who have portrayed Sherlock Holmes, and now has more than 700 autographs; you can see them all at <www.tinyurl.com/44mh9e8u>. And he asks that if you, or someone you know, has been Holmes on stage, screen, radio, television, or anywhere else, he's at <mason.steve8080@gmail.com> and would be happy to add to his collection.
20955. When in Bury St. Edmunds (in Suffolk): you can stop by Baskerville's Bar (formerly Moriarty's) <www.baskervilles.uk>; it's a vegan coffee shop with a "secret, hidden cocktail bar."
20956. James Thurber's *The Cases of Blue Ploermell* (Hershey: Peschel Press, 2021; 195 pp., \$18.95) offers (reprinted for the first time) all of the baker's dozen of the stories about the detective who was described by Ray Betzner in 1992 as a "cross-eyed" parody of Sherlock Holmes, accompanied by notes and essays by Bill Peschel. The stories fill only a quarter of the book, and Bill has provided a detailed discussion of Thurber's life and career, journalism in 1923 (when the parodies were published in the Columbus Dispatch), and much more about one of America's greatest humorists. Bill's web-site <www.peschelpress.com> has information about all of the volumes in his 223B Casebook Series, and his many other books.
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November 21 #5

20957. Alex Ovechkin, who is well known to everyone who roots for or against the Washington Capitals (and for those who don't, the Washington Capitals play in the National Hockey League), has appeared in Sherlockian costume in Russian television commercials that promote the PSB Bank; the Russian Machine Never Breaks web-site <www.tinyurl.com/rwespfxn> has kindly made the commercials available.
20958. The page from "The Hound of the Baskervilles" sold at Heritage Auctions on Nov. 6 for \$423,000 (including the buyer's premium); it's the second-highest auction price for any Canonical manuscript ("The Sign of the Four" was sold for \$519,500 in 1996); no complete short-story manuscript has brought more than this single page did. Offered at auction in 2016, estimated at \$100,000-\$150,000, the page went unsold; offered again in 2019, estimated at \$120,000-\$150,000, it went unsold once more. Randall Stock has a detailed history and description of the page in his "Best of Sherlock" census at <www.tinyurl.com/yu7jrhj>.
20959. It should be noted that the page from the manuscript wasn't the only expensive item at auction this month: Kenneth Griffin, chief executive officer of the multinational hedge fund Citadel, paid \$43.2 million for one of only two surviving first printings of the Constitution in private collections, setting a record for the most expensive book, manuscript, historical document, or printed text ever sold at auction. Smithsonian magazine <www.tinyurl.com/2p92np9x> had a nicely illustrated article about the sale at Sotheby's on Nov. 18.
20960. *The Return of Sherlock Holmes: Further Extraordinary Tales of the Famous Sleuth*, is edited by Maxim Jakubowski (Coral Gables: Mango, 2021; 321 pp., \$18.95); it's an anthology of traditional and non-traditional pastiches, some nicely faithful to the Canon, and some imaginatively not.
20961. "Attention all scalawags, layabouts, rapsallions, and full-grown street urchins of the Sherlockian, Holmesian, and Watsonian worlds!" according to Brad Keefauver, who has announced a non-annual non-dinner Zoom meeting of the Montague Street Incorrigibles at the Dangling Prussian on Jan. 14, for those who may wish to celebrate Sherlock Holmes' 168th birthday somewhere other than New York. Details are available at <www.tinyurl.com/4cb3xpek>.
20962. "The Baker Street Classics Sherlock Holmes" (Newbury: Baker Street Press, 2021) is a new uniform set of all of the nine Canonical books, with colorful dust-jacket artwork from the old John Murray Uniform Edition (£14.99 each).
20963. *Kuonyi Nxlia*, by John R. Morrison (Pittsburgh: Dorrance Publishing, 2021; 180 pp., \$23.00), is the biography of his grand-uncle Dr. William McCutchan Morrison, who served as an American missionary in the Congo from 1906 to 1918 and was sued for his criticism of the abuses of the natives by the Belgian administrators of the colony. In *The Crime of the Congo* (1909), Conan Doyle wrote that "At this moment two American citizens, Shepherd and that noble Virginian, Morrison, are about to be tried at Boma for telling the truth about the scoundrels. Morrison in the dock makes a finer Statue of Liberty than Bartholdi's in New York harbour."
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November 21 #6

20964. Neil Gaiman's *A Study in Emerald* (Milwaukie: Dark Horse, 2018; 88 pp., \$19.99) is an impressive graphic novel, with art and adaptation by Rafael Albuquerque, that's based on a short story written to combine the worlds of Sherlock Holmes and H. P. Lovecraft; the story won a Hugo Award in 2004, and the graphic novel is a careful (and colorful) presentation of Gaiman's story.
20965. Allan Devitt ("The Dancing Men") died on Oct. 17. He had a long career in management, at the University of Chicago and then at the American Management Association. Allan was an enthusiastic member of the Criterion Bar Association and other Sherlockian societies in Chicago, and of the Beacon Society, and with his wife Susan Z. Diamond presided over the running of the Silver Blaze in Chicago for many years. He received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 2009.
20966. *Under a Raven's Wing*, by Stephen Volk (Hornsea: PS Publishing, 2021; 384 pp., £25.00), is a collection of excellent pastiches, five reprinted and two new, set in the 1870s, when a young Sherlock Holmes, in Paris, meets C. Auguste Dupin, who is not at all what he seems to be. Volk pays tribute to Arthur Conan Doyle and Edgar Allan Poe, and is skillful at presenting stories that truly are "tales of mystery and imagination." His web-site's at <www.stephenvolk.net>.
20967. Upcoming theater: Debbie Phillips' new "A Study on Sherlock" is to be performed as "immersive theater" at the Parish House in Clifton, Yorks., Dec. 6-11 <www.tinyurl.com/yk8e8j7v>.
20968. Wayne R. Scott's "Sherlock Holmes: The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed at the LifeHouse Theater in Redlands, Calif., Jan. 15-30; web-site at <www.lifehousetheater.com>.
20969. Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is scheduled at the Abbotsford Arts Centre in Abbotsford, B.C., Mar. 11-19 <www.abbotsfordarts.abbyschools.ca>.
20970. "Spontaneous Sherlock" will be performed at the Sundial Theatre in Cirencester, Glos., Mar. 12 <www.sundial-theatre.co.uk>.
20971. Michael Futcher's new "The Mystery of the Valkyrie" (with Holmes, Watson, Adler, and Moriarty) is due at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre in Brisbane, Qld., Mar. 29-Apr. 2 <www.qpac.com.au>.
20972. Richard Lavin's new "Sherlock Holmes & the Star of Arabia" is scheduled at the Heisler Theater in Crestline, Calif., Apr. 15-May 1; their web-site's at <www.heislertheater.com>.
20973. "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Missing Maestro" is due at the Noorda Center for the Performing Arts in Orem, Utah, on Apr. 19, and then moves to the Maurice Abravanel Hall in Salt Lake City, on Apr. 23; the web-site is at <www.visitsaltlake.com>.
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December 21 #1

20974. If you're planning to be in New York for the birthday festivities (or anything else), Tom Cynkin has kindly reported that the NYC COVID SAFE app is widely accepted at venues requiring proof of vaccination. It's free, easy to use, and helpful, but it may not be accepted everywhere, so don't leave your vaccination cards at home. Information about access to Baker Street Irregulars events may change; check at <www.tinyurl.com/yckt4ecm> for the latest requirements, and you can stay truly up to date by signing up for free News from the BSI e-mail <www.tinyurl.com/2p8n2ptm>.
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20975. The Clients of Adrian Mulliner (for Sherlockian admirers of Wodehouse and Woodhousean admirers of Holmes) will hold their annual Junior Bloodstain via Zoom at 1:00 pm EST on Jan. 8, discussing Wodehouse's "The Split Infinitive". Contact Elaine Coppola <emcoppol@syr.edu> to request a copy of the story and a Zoom link.
20976. Scott Monty has updated his helpful "Here Are Your #BSIWeekend Tips" (recommended for anyone planning to be in New York for the birthday festivities <<http://ihose.co/bsi2022tips>>).
20977. Randall Stock has an excellent (and well-illustrated) report at his "Best of Sherlock" web-site on the "Sherlock Holmes in 221 Objects from the Collection of Glen S. Miranker" exhibition that opens at the Grolier Club in New York in January <www.tinyurl.com/bddzt>.
20978. Lyndsay Faye was interviewed by Scott Monty and Burt Wolder on the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.tinyurl.com/yx2u8na4>, talking about Observations by Gaslight (her new collection of pastiches), and about many other things.
20979. Leroy L. Panek died on Nov. 5. He worked for decades in the English Department at McDaniel College in Westminster, Md., and became interested in the detective novel in 1974. He was the author of eleven books and twice won Edgar Awards from the Mystery Writers of America, and helped create the Westminster Detective Library, which has as its mission to catalog and publish on-line all the short detective fiction published in the U.S. before 1891. He was the Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Speaker during the birthday festivities in 2006 (offering "Thoughts about the Beginning of the Detective Story in America").
20980. The Internet is alive with news/commentary/rumor about a fifth season of the BBC's "Sherlock" television series, and Karen Murdock has reported a three-minute trailer at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=IKR62ICxCK0>; it is one of many such trailers created by hopeful fans.
20981. HM Prison Dartmoor is well-known to Sherlockians, and will be familiar to all who have read "The Hound of the Baskervilles"; many people know that it was built to house French prisoners captured in the war with Napoleon, but not as many know that it also held American prisoners captured during the War of 1812 and not released until 1815 after some were killed in what was called (in the U.S.) the Dartmoor Massacre. A contemporary broadside about the event <www.tinyurl.com/ys23u6mt> was at auction this month, with a vivid description of what happened, estimated at \$2,000-\$3,000; it sold for \$4,250 (including the buyer's premium).

20982. December 21 #2

20983. Stephen Sondheim died on Nov. 26. He began his entertainment career as the lyricist for "West Side Story" (1957), and his many awards included a Tony for best musical for "A Funny Thing Happened to Me on the Way to the Forum" (the first Broadway show for which he wrote both words and music) in 1964, an Edgar from the Mystery Writers of America in 1974 for the film "The Last of Sheila", the Pulitzer Prize for drama in 1985, and an Oscar in 1991 (for best music and original song) for the film "Dick Tracy". He was a Kennedy Center honoree in 1993, and received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2019; and wrote the song "I Never Do Anything Twice" sung by Régine as the brothel madame in the film "The Seven-Per-Cent Solution" (1976) <www.youtube.com/watch?v=96MvzUWUDIY>.
20984. White House press secretary Jen Psaki was a guest on MSNBC-TV's "Morning Joe" on Dec. 3 <www.youtube.com/watch?v=5p6MOgvsct4>; at 5:21 you can hear her say "No you know what Sherlock?"
20985. Copyright on the Sherlock Holmes stories in the U.S. runs for 95 years after the date of publication, so only two of the stories will be protected in 2022 ("The Veiled Lodger" and "Shoscombe Old Place"), and they will enter the public domain in 2023.
20986. Michelle Birkby's All Roads Lead to Whitechapel (New York: Felony & Mayhem, 2019; 265 pp., \$26.00) is the new title for the American edition of her The House at Baker Street (2016); it's the first "Baker Street Inquiry" written by Mrs. Hudson, who with the assistance of Mary Watson, Billy, and Wiggins, pursues a case that wasn't (but should have been) of interest to Holmes. The story's well told, and the characters ring true.
20987. Her No One Notices the Boys (2021; 295 pp., \$26.00) is the title of the American edition of The Women of Baker Street (2019), and it's an excellent sequel, with Mrs. Hudson and Mary once again involved in a complicated mystery as they battle a fiendish criminal.
20988. Peter McIntyre reports that Dr. Doyle (the three-year-old brown gelding) came in 7th (20% lengths behind the winner) at Gulfstream Park on Dec. 8, continuing to disappoint bettors.
20989. Cliff Goldfarb has reported an interesting discussion of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" at the Lit Century podcast at <www.link.chtbl.com/42JG949S>; hosts Sandra Newman and Catherine Nichols and special guests discuss one book for each year of the 20th century.
20990. Steve Mason has announced the creation of a new Sherlockian society that surely will find many members in this Age of the Pandemic. More information about the Legion of Zoom will be found at <www.tinyurl.com/2p8zv245>.
20991. Stuart Palmer was a prolific author and screenwriter, as well as a member of the Baker Street Irregulars, and was best known for a series of inventive novels and short stories about his detective Hildegard Withers. Hildegard Withers: Final Riddles? (Cincinnati: Crippen & Landru, 2021; 235 pp., \$22.00) is a collection of reprints of some of the stories, two Sherlockian pastiches from 1944, and a warm tribute to Sherlock Holmes and Conan Doyle first published in the Baker Street Journal in 1948. Their web-site <www.crippenandlandru.com> is well worth exploring.

December 21 #3

20992. "Asia and Europe Feel the Pinch as Chinese Tourists Stay Home" was the headline on a story in the N.Y. Times (Dec. 6) spotted by Karen Murdock; Paul Lehame, supervisor of the Sherlock Holmes Museum in London, said about 1,000 people visited per day at its peak, and at least half of them were from China, but after the Museum reopened on May 17, it has attracted only 10 percent of its usual numbers. And about a third of the merchandise and souvenirs sold at the web-site of the Museum is being shipped to China.
20993. Carl L. Heifetz died on Nov. 19. He had a long career in infectious disease research and after his retirement founded Micro Doc, a microbiology consultant firm. He was an enthusiastic Sherlockian, and was an officer of the Pleasant Places of Florida for many years; he also wrote a collection of essays Sherlock Holmes Through the Microscope (2018) and two volumes of pastiches.
20994. The Agra Treasurers' annual "Holmes, Doyle, and Friends" conference will be held in person at the Airport Clarion Inn in Dayton, Ohio, on Mar. 11-12; more information is available at <www.agratreasurers.net>.
20995. The complete run of single issues of The Strand Magazine (with all 58 of the Sherlock Holmes stories that appeared in the magazine) offered at Heritage Auctions this month sold for \$45,000 (including the buyer's premium), and there were nice prices paid for other Sherlockian items in the auction <www.tinyurl.com/46dbf8hb>.
20996. Andrew Gulli's "The Strand Magazine" continues to publish colorful annual Sherlock Holmes calendars <www.tinyurl.com/2p8km7j3>, and there's a wide variety of Sherlockiana at its on-line shop <www.tinyurl.com/2p8cthc5>.

20997. *Holmes Picks a Winner*, by Anna Elliott and Charles Veley, is the latest in the “Sherlock Holmes and Lucy James” series (Wilton, 226 pp., available on Kindle for \$2.99); it’s the finale in a three-volume arc that has Holmes, Watson, Lucy, Jack, Becky, and Flynn thwarting a dire plot at Royal Ascot; there’s more about the series at <www.sherlockandlucy.com>.
20998. Patrick Horgan died on Oct. 6. He began his acting career on British television in 1954 and went on to perform also on stage and screen. He had many Sherlockian credits, appearing as Captain Gregg in the musical “Baker Street” (1965), as Sir Edward Leighton and then as Sherlock Holmes in the Royal Shakespeare Company revival of Gillette’s “Sherlock Holmes” (1974), as Sherlock Holmes in Conan Doyle’s “The Speckled Band” (1973 and 1990), as William Gillette in Ken Ludwig’s play “Dramatic License” (1983), and as Sherlock Holmes in a 30-second commercial on American television (1990). He also recorded an abridged version of “A Study in Scarlet” for a record (1977), and the entire Canon for the Library of Congress’ “Talking Books for the Blind” and his memoirs “The Deception of Sherlock Holmes” (available as audiobooks from Decklin’s Domain) <www.decklinsdomain.com>.
20999. The Jan.-Feb. issue of Ellery Queen’s Mystery Magazine offers its annual tribute to Sherlock Holmes: a Sherlockian cover; Steve Hockensmith’s Amlingmeyer Brothers story “Bad News”; Dean Jobb’s “Stranger Than Fiction” column with a tip of the hat to Conan Doyle; Steve Steinbock’s reviews of new Sherlockian books; Terrence Faherty’s parody of “The Musgrave Ritual”; editor Janet Hutchings’ “A 2022 Birthday Party for Sherlock Holmes?”; and Josh Pachter’s Ellery Queen pastiche “Their Last Bow”.

December 21 #4

21000. The national Aeronautics and Space Administration has reported <www.tinyurl.com/2p8j494s> that SHERLOC has discovered organic material on Mars. SHERLOC (an acronym for the Scanning Habitable Environments with Raman and Luminescence for Organics and Chemicals instrument on NASA’s Perseverance rover) found organics both inside a rock and in dust on other rocks; it won’t be until samples are returned to Earth that scientists will be able to determine whether the organic molecules have biological or non-biological origins.
21001. Laurie R. King is kindly celebrating the holiday by making a free download of the Mary Russell short story “Mary’s Christmas” available to her fans at <www.laurierking.com/books/mary-russells-war/overview>.
21002. Les Moskowitz died on Dec. 16. He was a consulting actuary and an energetic user of computers. Les also was a long-time member of the Six Napoleons, Watson’s Tin Box, the Red Circle, and other Sherlockian societies, and for many years presided over the Hounds of the Internet mailing list, where his messages were “scribbled by a drunken-looking groom, ill-kempt and side-whiskered, with an inflamed face and disreputable clothes.”
21003. John Alan Maxwell illustrated “The Speckled Band” in *The Golden Book* (Dec. 1930); some decidedly non-Sherlockian artwork inscribed to the mentalist Joseph Dunninger was at auction this month <www.tinyurl.com/2p8vt3wp>, estimated at \$300-\$600; it sold for \$180.
21004. Further to the report of a “Sherlock Holmes Afternoon Tea” at the Holmes Hotel in Marylebone (October 21 #5), My London has published an enthusiastic review of the festivities <www.tinyurl.com/2p8wmvjf>.
21005. Doug Reside, curator of the Billy Rose Theatre Division at the New York Public Library, has blogged about “Sherlock Holmes on Stage”; the NYPL has some real treasures in its collection <www.tinyurl.com/2p9dkt4f>.
21006. Reported: “The Captain of the Pole-Star” included in *The Valancourt Book of Victorian Christmas Ghost Stories*, edited by Tara Moore (Richmond: Valancourt Books, 2016; 292 pp., \$30.00).
21007. Last March the Internet Archive launched the Internet Archive Scholar, a data-base of millions of open-access papers <www.scholar.archive.org>. A search for [“sherlock holmes”] yields 9,510 hits (if you don’t use quotation marks you get 10,336 hits); there are 5,799 hits for [“conan doyle”].
21008. The Sherlock Holmes Club of Hungary offers a Sherlockian calendar for 2022 <www.sherlockian-sherlock.com/sherlock-holmes-calendar-2022.php>; the artwork’s by József Sváb, and it’s a free download.
21009. There was a time when Hollywood stars who declined to appear in television commercials in the U.S. were happy to do so on foreign television, knowing that American audience were unlikely to see them. That’s no longer true, thanks to the Internet, which also has made it possible to see some of the older commercials, such as the one that starred Kirk Douglas in Sherlockian costume, promoting Maxim Coffee in Japan in 1979. It’s readily available now, at <www.tinyurl.com/3vcdcxks>. Douglas made more (non-Sherlockian) commercials for Maxim, and Yuichi Hirayama has reported that you can see them at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=vt5zBdYa6ss>.

December 21 #5

21010. New generations of Sherlockians may not know that John Lennon (yes, that John Lennon) wrote a Sherlockian pastiche “The Singulare Experience of Miss Ann Duffield”; William Burton McCormick’s interesting essay about the pastiche was posted at the SleuthSayers blog on Nov. 17 <www.tinyurl.com/2p8jm94m>, kindly reported by Les Klinger.
21011. Former prosecutor Stephen Lee will deliver a webinar on “Sherlock Holmes and the Art of Evidence” on Jan. 12 at 12:00 pm CST for the Chicago Chapter of the Federal Bar Association; it’s free, and there’s a registration button at <www.fedbarchicago.org/event/sherlock-holmes-2022>. If there’s a conflict because of travel to the birthday festivities in New York, the webinar will be recorded and available on-line.
21012. Anne Rice died on Dec. 11. A prolific and best-selling author, she used both her own name and pseudonyms, and was best known for her “The Vampire Chronicles” series of novels. She dedicated her novel *The Mummy, or Ramses the Damned* (1989) “to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle for his great mummy stories ‘Lot No. 249’ and ‘The Ring of Thoth’”.
21013. “See Louis Wain’s Exuberant Cat Art at the Hospital Where He Spent His Later Years” is the headline on a story at the Smithsonian magazine website on Dec. 23. Wain was famous as “the man who drew cats,” one of which was his postcard rendition of a delightfully Sherlockian cat dressed as William Gillette dressed as Sherlock Holmes (September 21 #3). Benedict Cumberbatch stars as Wain in the new film “The Electrical Life of Louis Wain”, and the article includes a link to a virtual tour of the exhibition at the Bethlem Museum of the Mind.
21014. The Library of Congress Crime Classics series was launched in 2020, with the goal of reprinting “some of the finest American crime writing from the 1860s to the 1960s,” selected and annotated by Leslie S. Klinger, who was interviewed recently by Andrew F. Gulli for *The Strand Magazine*; you can read the interview at <www.tinyurl.com/3amh9kr7>.
21015. The “Sherlock Holmes and Lucy James” series (written by Anna Elliott and Charles Veley), includes short stories as well as novels, all available on Kindle, and four volumes of short stories now have been published as trade paperbacks <www.preview.mailerlite.com/i1u4r4/1848574774645626240/t6h4>.
21016. James Lovegrove’s *The Beast of the Stapletons* (New York: Titan, 2021; 404 pp., \$19.99) brings Holmes and Watson back to Baskerville Hall, five years after they rescued Sir Henry from the Hound, to solve another murder, and face the possibility that Stapleton still lives and plans revenge; there are plenty of suspects, twists, and turns.

21017. National Geographic celebrated this year's 70th anniversary of the creation of Dartmoor National Park with some spectacular photographs posted at their web-site on Dec. 23 <www.tinyurl.com/bdcs8x3z>.
21018. It's time to learn a new word: "retcon". According to Merriam-Webster, it was added to their dictionary in October and is a shortened form for "retroactive continuity" ("a literary device in which the form or content of a previously established narrative is changed"). Their on-line discussion of the new word is (appropriately) illustrated with Sherlockian artwork by Sidney Paget <www.tinyurl.com/yjt66hxx>, and the word was used in an opinion column in the Washington Post on Dec. 23 <www.tinyurl.com/2p82mccr>.
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December 21 #6

21019. Les Klinger has reported an interesting article about a "cottage industry" with echoes in "The Creeping Man" in the fall 2021 issue of *Hektoen International: A Journal of Medical Humanities*; it's available at the journal's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/4sjms555>. Searches for [conan doyle] and [sherlock holmes] will yield more articles in past issues of the journal.
21020. The Internet has been full of colorful season's greetings from Sherlockians and Sherlockian societies, and one of the best is from the Société Sherlock Holmes de France <www.youtube.com/watch?v=LgUnNK2GY-o>.
21021. Vladimir Tatosov died on Dec. 24. He began acting on stage in St. Petersburg and went on to a long career in Russian film and television, and was Baron Von Herling in the Livanov/Solomin television series "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson" (1987).
21022. Theatrics: "Sherlock Holmes and the Hooded Lance" (by Pat Whymark and Julian Harries) is touring in Britain through Jan. 13; more information will be found at <www.commongroundtc.co.uk>.
21023. Pat Whymark's new comedy "Sherlock Holmes Meets Count Dracula" is touring in Britain through Jan. 23 <www.commongroundtc.co.uk/xmas-show-2021-22>.
21024. Wayne R. Scott's "Sherlock Holmes and the Hound of the Baskervilles" has been scheduled at the LifeHouse Theater in Redlands, Calif., on Jan. 15-30 <www.lifehousetheater.com>.
21025. Bart Lovin's "The Novel Adventures of Sherlock Holmes: The Valley of Fear" will be performed at the Hardin County Schools Performing Arts Center in Elizabethtown, Ky., Jan. 28-31 <www.thepac.net>.
21026. Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" will be performed at the Elgin Art Showcase in Elgin, Ill., Jan. 28-Feb. 12 <www.elgin-theatre.org>; also at the Stage-CenterTheatre in Bryan, Texas, Aug. 4-20 <www.stagecenter.net>.
21027. Brit Ward's "Sherlock Holmes and the Sinister Trio" will be performed at the Connie Gotsch Little Theater at San Juan College in Farmington, N.M., Feb. 18-27 <www.theater-ensemble-arts.square.site>.
21028. Brian Guehring's "Sherlock Holmes and the First Baker Street Irregular" is due at Kernersville Elementary School in Kernersville, N.C., Feb. 25-Mar. 5 <www.kltheatre.com>.
21029. I've long described this newsletter as "six or more pages of whatever gossip I find appropriate, much of it quite trivial, but most of it Sherlockian or Doylean." If you would like to run a word-search on a large file with all of the text since March 1985 (that's when I entered the computer age) can now do just that, thanks to Steve Mason, who updates his compilation each month and makes it available at the web-site of the Crew of the Barque Lone Star <www.tinyurl.com/ybxh2y2m>.
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January 22 #1

21030. Sherlockians (and Holmesians) gathered in New York to celebrate the Great Detective's 168th birthday during the long weekend from Jan. 12 to 16; the (very) long weekend was filled with events, both formal and informal, and the events were well-attended despite the on-going pandemic, and the loss of the now-closed Roosevelt Hotel. Detailed reports on many if not most of the goings-on will be posted soon at the web-site of The Baker Street Irregulars <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com>. In the meantime, here are a few brief paragraphs to tide you over.
21031. Locals and early arrivals enjoyed the ASH Wednesday dinner, and on Thursday morning the ACD Society's Inaugural Doylean Awards Ceremony was held at the Mysterious Bookshop; their web-site <www.acdsociety.com> offers a link to video of the meeting.
21032. The BSI's Distinguished Speaker on Thursday evening was Prof. Mary Bendel-Simso, on "My dear Watson...the law is as dangerous to us as the criminals": Sherlock Holmes and the Official Police" (her paper will be published in the Baker Street Journal later this year).
21033. On Friday the Irregulars and their guests gathered for the BSI annual dinner at the Yale Club, where Julie McKuras proposed the traditional pre-prandial first toast to Jennifer Olson, as *The Woman*. The annual dinner's agenda included the usual toasts, rituals, and papers (Ray Betzner paid tribute to Vincent Starrett, and Ira Brad Matetsky celebrated Rex Stout). Russell Merritt received the annual Morley-Montgomery Award (a check and an attractive certificate) for the best contribution to The Baker Street Journal in 2021, and Mike Kean announced the BSI's Birthday Honours: Laurence Deloison ("Claridge's Hotel"), Jim Hawkins ("The Hans Sloane of My Age"), Heather Holloway ("Atlanta"), David Humphrey ("Chicago Central"), Tim Johnson ("Theophilus Johnson"), Mark Jones ("Peter Jones"), Tiffany Knight ("Knight's Place"), Crystal Noll ("Crystal Palace"), Rob Nunn ("Elementary"), Aaron Rubin ("The Amethyst Snuffbox"), Jonathan Tiemann ("The Bank of England"), Janice Weiner ("Scotland Yard"), Karen Wilson ("Bartholomew Wilson"), and Joanne Zahorsky-Reeves ("Toby"). And the BSI's prestigious Two-Shilling Award was bestowed on Marsha Pollak.
21034. On Saturday morning Covent Garden West offered the traditional opportunity for dealers to assist people who wanted to add to their collections, and the agenda of the Saturday luncheon and reception included the presentation of the new Susan Rice Mentorship Award that recognizes "commitment to mentoring Sherlockians as a means of keeping green the memory of Sherlock Holmes" to Peter E. Blau. The Dr. John H. Watson Fund's auction attracted enthusiastic bidders, and the raffle prize was a set of jewelry with a bee motif created by Maggie Schpak in memory of Susan Rice.
21035. The second annual meeting of the Literary Agents was held via Zoom on Sun-day morning; you are welcome to watch video of the proceedings at the "Doings of Doyle" page at Facebook <www.tinyurl.com/3ncb9h2w>. And for those who lasted that long, the last event of the birthday festivities was the Adventuresses' Brunch at The Long Room.
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January 22 #2

21036. The splendid "Sherlock Holmes in 221 Objects from the Collection of Glen S. Miranker" exhibition will be on display at the Grolier Club in New York through Apr. 16; it's a wonderful opportunity to see some spectacular Sherlockian and Doylean treasures, and you can watch video of the opening ceremonies, and see images of the exhibits, at the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/3y7pnkx3>. If you can't get to New York, you should visit the Grolier's web-site, where they have an on-line version of the exhibition <www.tinyurl.com/2p8mzssh>, and images of many more of the exhibits <www.tinyurl.com/2p85y5xy>. The catalog is available from the Grolier, and recommended.
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21037. More from the birthday festivities in New York: Gary Lovisi has uploaded a ten-minute video tour of Covent Garden West (aka the dealers room) to YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=FNYwSWe97vo>, and you are welcome to try to identify all those people behind all those masks.
21038. Two new titles have been published by the Baker Street Irregulars Press: *A Masterpiece of Villainy* is the new addition to the Manuscript Series (244 pp., \$39.95), edited by Ross E. Davies; it offers a facsimile of the manuscript of “The Norwood Builder”, with an annotated transcription and scholarly commentary on the manuscript and on various aspects of the story (it is grand that the Manuscript Series offers readers an opportunity to come close to the moment when the stories were written, and the commentary is delightful).
21039. *Referring to My Notes: Music and the Sherlockian Canon*, edited by Alexander Katz and Karen Wilson (173 pp., \$39.95), the next title in the BSI’s Professions Series, explores what Nicholas Meyer, in his foreword, calls “the possibilities suggested by Doyle when he so blithely made Holmes a violinist and an opera devotee,” and the scholarship extends to discussion of musicians who have been members of the BSI, and some of the Sherlockian musicals performed on stage. Both books (and many others) can be ordered at <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/the-bsi-press>.
21040. *The Sherlock Holmes Review: Anthology Volume Two 1988-1990* (Indianapolis: Gasogene Books, 2020; 131 pp., \$34.95) is a reprint of the second volume of Steven Doyle’s periodical, called by one critic “the last great Sherlockian journal” (it was full of scholarship in an era when there were far fewer readers than there are today). And the *Sherlock Holmes Review: 2021 Sherlockian Annual* (118 pp., \$24.95) is a welcome revival that is a fine demonstration of Steve’s continuing ability to find authors who have interesting things to say about many aspects of Sherlockiana. Both can be ordered at <www.gasogenebooks.com>.
21041. More from Gasogene: *The Finest Assorted Collection: Essays on Collecting Sherlock Holmes*, edited by Peter Eckrich and Rob Nunn (232 pp., \$26.95) an impressive gathering of essays written by people who pursue a wide variety of Sherlockiana and who have interesting things to say about it all. And Dan Andriacco’s *The Sword of Death* (105 pp., \$18.95), a nicely traditional pastiche that has Holmes and Watson investigating a case that involves a headless corpse and complicated family relationships; Dan’s web-site is at <www.bakerstreetbeat.blogspot.com>.

January 22 #3

21042. Joseph McBride’s *Billy Wilder: Dancing on the Edge* (New York: Columbia University, 2021; 658 pp., \$40.00) is a spectacular biography of an iconic film writer and director. McBride is a film historian and focuses in detail on how Wilder’s life and career are reflected in his many films, including “The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes” (1970). Readers of the book will want to watch Wilder’s films again, to see just how complex and revealing they were.
21043. Disney honored the 35th anniversary of “The Great Mouse Detective” with an attractive ornament, kindly reported by Tim Kline, that shows Basil of Baker Street ready to head out on an investigation <www.tinyurl.com/bdef2sfd>. \$24.99 from the Disney Shop; part of the “Disney Sketchbook Ornament Legacy Collection”, and it’s a limited release (but they don’t say just how limited the release is).
21044. The Smithsonian magazine’s web-site reported on Dec. 29 on the books that entered the public domain at the end of 2021 <www.tinyurl.com/ycxfk6fx>, and noted that all sound recordings made before 1924 now also are in the public domain. And for bibliophiles, there’s an older interview with Edward Brooke-Hitching <www.tinyurl.com/32bvp7w5> about his book *The Madman’s Library: The Strangest Books, Manuscripts, and Other Literary Curiosities from History* (2021).
21045. Potter & Potter Auctions will have some interesting (and often rare) Sherlockiana and Doyleana in an auction of fine books and manuscripts on Feb. 26 <www.auctions.potterauctions.com/mobile/catalog.aspx?auctionid=1127>.
21046. Rick Boyer died on Jan. 19, 2021. He studied creative writing under Kurt Vonnegut Jr., became a writer himself, and taught English at Western Carolina University until he retired in 2008. His first novel (*Billingsgate Shoal*) won an Edgar Award in 1983, and he went on to write a pastiche *The Giant Rat of Sumatra* (1976) and four short pastiches collected as *A Sherlockian Quartet* (1999).
21047. The Film Detective <www.thefilmdetective.com>, a classic film restoration and streaming company, celebrated Sherlock Holmes’ birthday on Jan. 6 with a 20-hour “Sherlock Holmes Marathon of Mystery”. There’s also a podcast at the web-site, with Carl Amari playing and discussing classic old-time radio programs.
21048. Fred Taraba (at Taraba Illustration Art) specializes in original artwork by American artists, and is offering Roy V. Hunt’s colorful rendition of Holmes, Watson, and a ghostly Hound of the Baskervilles for \$2,650 (plus shipping). Hunt was a dedicated Sherlockian, one of the founders of the Council of Four in Denver, and the principal illustrator of the books and journals published by Luther Norris’ Pontine Press. The artwork is from Luther’s collection; contact Fred <fred@tarabaillustrationart.com> if you are interested.
21049. Vanessa Redgrave, who starred as Lola Deveraux in “The Seven-Per-Cent Solution” (1976) has been awarded a DBE (Dame Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) for services to drama in Her Majesty’s New Year’s Honours List for 2022. Anthony Horowitz, author of *The House of Silk* (2011) and *Moriarty* (2014), received a CBE (Commander) for services to literature.

January 22 #4

21050. Nicely in time for the birthday festivities, the Yale Alumni Magazine celebrated Conan Doyle with an article by Betsy Golden Kellem about “The Man Who Believed Too Much” in its Jan.-Feb. issue, noting that in 1922 he lectured at Yale while touring the U.S. promoting Spiritualism <www.tinyurl.com/2p9cet24>. The article is accompanied by a fine portrait of Conan Doyle by Ricardo Martinez Ortega.
21051. Scott Monty and Burt Wolder ended 2021 at their “I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere” podcast with an excellent tribute to the late Mike Whelan by seven of his fellow Irregulars <www.ihose.com/ihose231>.
21052. Willy Werby died on Dec. 24. Well known to Sherlockians for her meticulous recreation of the sitting-room, first displayed at 1100 California Street, on the top of Nob Hill in San Francisco, and then on the top floor of the Holiday Inn on Union Square, Willy presided over what was for many years an attraction for the members of the Persian Slipper Club, visiting Sherlockians, and tourists.
21053. Ashley Polasek moderated an on-line session on “Arthur Conan Doyle’s Afterlives” <www.tinyurl.com/mry3rkxf> at the annual meeting of the Modern Language Association on Jan. 9.
21054. The autumn issue of *The Magic Door* (published by the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library) includes articles by Hartley R. Nathan and Charles L. Blanksteen (on “Arthur Conan Doyle: Stereotypes and Racism”) and Elizabeth Savage (“In Search of Conan Doyle: Messages from the Afterlife”), and other reports from and about the Library and the Collection; copies of the newsletter can be requested from Cliff Goldfarb, Toronto Public Library, 789 Yonge Street, Toronto M4W 2G8, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.
21055. Mrs. Hudson is alive and well, hard at work as the “agony aunt” for the British magazine *Country Life* <www.tinyurl.com/ycknr7ev>. But she’s not our Mrs. Hudson: the magazine was founded in 1897 by Edward Hudson.

21056. Who knew? There's an amusing connection between the British rock band The Who and the Canon, discovered by Adrian Nebbett and reported in a post to the Sherlock Holmes on Screens page at Facebook. Richard Barnes wrote all about it in *The Who: Maximum R&B* (1982), which the Internet Archive kindly offers free on-line <www.tinyurl.com/yckj4ken>.
21057. Reported: *Sherlock Holmes: Das Kochbuch*, by Silke Martin (Münster: Hölker Verlag, 2021; 128 pp., €24.00); in German, but reviewed in English in the Soledad Times on Dec. 30 <www.tinyurl.com/yckszww3>.
21058. Fans of the 2019 "Detective Pikachu" film will enjoy a new fan-film animation "Detective Pikachu: A Christmas Case" that was uploaded to YouTube on Dec. 25 <www.youtube.com/watch?v=krTu8-CI2DY>. The quality is thoroughly professional.
21059. Let me recommend this television series: "One Strange Rock" from National Geographic in 2018. It's now playing on Disney+ and available on DVD, and there's a trailer at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=XrC4vDcWmxk>. It's not Sherlockian, but it's a splendid explanation of the history of Earth, told by Will Smith, astronauts, and many others.

January 22 #5

21060. Betty White died on Dec. 31. She appeared on an experimental television broadcast in 1939 and went on to stardom in a wide range of series that included comedies, soap operas, and game shows. She made a public-service commercial broadcast in 1989 in which she encouraged viewers to read more, suggesting the Canon as a possibility ("solve a mystery with Sherlock Holmes"), and mentioned that as a young girl her favorite books were "Alice in Wonderland" and "Sherlock Holmes".
21061. Heritage Auctions has an interesting article on-line about "The Wonderful World of Disney Maquettes" <www.tinyurl.com/4zjm86cv>, and the Great Mouse Detective will be at auction on Feb. 4-7 <www.tinyurl.com/3hjeprc6>. For those who don't remember the 1986 film, that's Basil of Baker Street.
21062. There will be a performance of "Time Travel Tinies: Mystical Creatures" by story teller Dani at the National Archives in Kew (in Britain) on Feb. 25 <www.tinyurl.com/5n6dw4pe>; their web-site has an attractive Sherlockian mouse created by Cog Design (the mouse may or may not be one of the mystical creatures).
21063. The August Derleth Society <www.augustderleth.org> was founded in the late 1970s and continues to celebrate the many-faceted literary career of the creator of Solar Pons. Membership costs \$25.00 a year and includes their quarterly newsletter Sage of Sac Prairie; the latest issue offers a nicely illustrated article by Derrick Belanger on "Resurrecting Solar Pons" (with details on how the Pontine Canon was brought back into print, accompanied by a series of new pastiches by modern authors). The society's postal address is Box 481, Sauk City, WI 53583.
21064. Adrian Conan Doyle was an author and an artist, as well as a fierce advocate of his father's place in literary history. Seven of Adrian's paintings will be offered at Roseberys London in an auction on Feb. 15-16, and you can see them at <www.tinyurl.com/uef99d6a>.
21065. "Sherlock Holmes Consulting Detective" (a game issued by Sleuth Publications in 1981) now has an entry at Wikipedia; revised and expanded since 1981, the game now is available as four sets of ten cases each from SPACE Cowboys <www.tinyurl.com/2nyk8chw>. Their web-site offers much more information as well as a video and a free opportunity to pursue one of the cases; anyone who remembers the original game will be amazed at how far it has come over the years, how well it uses modern technology, and how long the game has lasted.
21066. "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (a new Japanese film) is scheduled for release on June 17; it's a sequel of sorts to the television series "Sherlock: Untold Stories" broadcast by Fuji TV in 2019, with Dean Fujioka as Shishio Homare, a freelance crime consultant. You can see the poster and watch a trailer at <www.tinyurl.com/2c4hexs6>.
21067. *Miss Moriarty, I Presume?*, by Sherry Thomas (New York: Berkley, 2021; 353 pp., \$16.00), is the sixth book in her "Lady Sherlock" series that stars Charlotte Holmes, who does her detecting while pretending to be the sister of the non-existent Sherlock Holmes, and encounters both mystery and romance while (now) in dire peril in a battle with Moriarty. The author's web-site is at <www.sherrythomas.com>.

January 22 #6

21068. The 1921 census of England and Wales is on-line and searchable at the National Archives <www.findmypast.co.uk/1921-census>; you need to pay to see results, but the Daily Mail published an article on Jan. 6 with images of the pages listing the people at Conan Doyle's home when the census was taken <www.tinyurl.com/43jv7cc>: the five members of the family, five servants, and three visitors: parapsychologist James Hew-at McKenzie, his wife Barbara, and the American medium Ada Besinnet.
21069. Philip Ball's *The Modern Myths: Adventures in the Machinery of the Modern Imagination* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2021; 426 pp., \$30.00) explores stories that have become myths because retellings of the stories have become *necessary*, from Robinson Crusoe to Batman, and (of course) including Sherlock Holmes. He suggests that Holmes is not quite what Conan Doyle intended, but rather is a "wish-fulfillment fantasy" that gives him mythic potency, and that the Sherlock Holmes myth "exists not because of but in spite of the advocacy of Sherlockians."
21070. The Beacon Society continues to administer the Fortescue Scholarship Honours Program, and more than 120 people have completed all three exams and have received their Doctorate in Sherlockiana. There also are annual Re-Certification exams for those who want to continue on, and there is more information about the Program at <www.tinyurl.com/5exr3zh2>.
21071. "Books, Bohemians, and Baker Street: A Study in Sherlock in Special Collections" is the title of a splendid on-line exhibition at the University of Delaware Library; many of the exhibits are from the collection of Mark Samuels Lasner. There are unique items such as a four-page typescript and an autograph manuscript page from the lecture Conan Doyle gave during his tour of the U.S. in 1894 (easily readable at the web-site), and the exhibition is well worth exploring <www.tinyurl.com/37rfz9m4>.
21072. The Banished Words List for 2022 has been posted on-line by Lake Superior State University <www.lssu.edu/traditions/banishedwords>, with due attention paid to Old Irregular Bill Rabe, who launched the list in 1976. You can scroll down at their web-site to read more about Bill, and some of his other imaginative creations. You can also read an interview with his son John, who has more grand stories about his father, at Scott Monty's "Timeless and Timely" blog at <www.tinyurl.com/2p8eh6km>.
21073. "Extant Exhibits: The Remains of 1951" is an excellent article by Nicholas Utechin, published in the Platinum Jubilee Supplement (winter 2021) of the Sherlock Holmes Journal, and available to everyone at the web-site of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London <www.tinyurl.com/32xywwer>; it's a well-illustrated account of his research into what has survived from the exhibition at Abbey House that led to the creation of the Society.
21074. It's a wrap! Filming on the next "Enola Holmes" film has been completed, and there's brief footage from the celebration <www.tinyurl.com/52cpp2t8>. No word yet on when the film will stream on Netflix.
21075. There seems to be no end to the list of buildings thought to be historic because of Conan Doyle: the attractive Torquay Pavilion, threatened by redevelopment plans has its supporters, because Conan Doyle once lectured there, according to Devon Live (Nov. 18)

www.tinyurl.com/2p95nks4>. It's also considered to be important because Agatha Christie accepted a proposal of marriage after a concert there in 1903.

January 22 #7

21076. The Sunday Times noted that "Britain's villages in all their diversity, prettiness and grittiness have survived and thrived over hundreds of years" in an article on "The 50 Best Villages in the UK" (Sept. 12), adding that all of them have "attractive houses, good connections, a decent school, and friendly neighbours who come together at the pub, shop and village hall." One of the villages is Minstead, where Sir Arthur and his wife Jean are buried; there are 600 or so residents and the average house price is £752,353.
21077. For those who enjoyed Ken Ludwig's delightful "The Game's Afoot; or Holmes for the Holidays" and would like to read the script, it was published by Samuel French in 2012 and is readily available at Amazon. It's grand to see what an accomplished playwright did with William Gillette and his fellow actors at Gillette Castle in 1936.
21078. Lyndsay Faye discussed the "10 Most Underrated Sherlock Holmes Stories" at the Publishers Weekly web-site on Jan. 10 www.tinyurl.com/2p8k44pk>, explaining why she likes them.
21079. The U.S. Mint's new "American Women Quarters Program" celebrates "the accomplishments and contributions made by women to the development and history of our country," and the five quarters to be issued the year will include one honoring Anna May Wong, the first Chinese-American film star in Hollywood www.tinyurl.com/34evmznd>. She played Mrs. Pyke in Reginald Owen's "A Study in Scarlet" (1933), and she also was in the title of "Herlock Sholmes in Be-a-Live Crook, or Anna Went Wrong" (1930), the British marionette burlesque of Clive Brook's film "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" (1929).
21080. John Murray's new imprint Baskerville (June 21 #4) has now launched, with an appropriate logo www.tinyurl.com/338rfydz>. The name of the imprint honors John Murray's long history as Conan Doyle's publisher; there's more about Baskerville and some of its new titles in an article in the Bookseller (Jan. 18) www.tinyurl.com/2p9xtzwf>.
21081. "Briony Lodge, Serpentine Avenue, St. John's Wood" is an address that resonates with admirers of Irene Adler. If you'd like to know more about the neighborhood, and its history (including it having been an "ideal place to keep a mistress"), there was an interesting article in Country Life (Jan. 18) www.tinyurl.com/yhjud7ss>.
21082. The Mystery Writers of America will honor Laurie R. King as a Grand Master at their awards ceremony in New York on Apr. 26; the award is regarded as the "pinnacle of achievement in mystery writing," and recognizes a body of work that is "both significant and of consistent high quality." The Mary Russell stories are only part of her long list of credits, and she is the fourth member of the Baker Street Irregulars to be named Grand Master (the others are Vincent Starrett, Rex Stout, and Fred Dannay).
21083. The New Yorker has its own YouTube channel, and one of the videos is "Drawing Life with George Booth" www.youtube.com/watch?v=AYlRXgnapj8>; Booth sold his first cartoon to the magazine in 1969, and is still at work for them. It's a warm tribute to a great cartoonist, kindly reported by Bob Coghill, who calls your attention to the bookshelf in the office of David Remnick, editor of the magazine (at 1:21 in the 23-minute video).

January 22 #8

21084. Timothy Miller's *The Strange Case of the Dutch Painter* (Jersey City: Seventh Street, 2022; 264 pp., \$17.95) opens with Sherlock Holmes (using the alias Vernet in Paris in 1890), investigating theft and forgery of great art, and soon the death of Vincent Van Gogh. Vernet is accompanied and assisted by a Dr. Lermolieff (who is not Dr. Watson using an alias); the story is imaginative, nicely told, and full of twists and turns.
21085. BBC Radio 4 has kindly made many of their Sherlock Holmes programs available at www.tinyurl.com/3kwyewyn>; many of them starring Carlton Hobbs, and others Clive Merrison.
21086. Al Gregory gaslightandfog@verizon.net> kindly offers (via e-mail) his new edition of "The ABC of the BSI" (an alphabetical listing of Investitures, with recipients, from "Abbey Grange" to "Young Stamford") and "The Florin Society" (couples in which both spouses are Investitured Irregulars).
21087. Theatrics: Ken Ludwig's "The Games' Afoot" is now running at the Elgin Art Showcase in Elgin, Ill., through Feb. 13 www.elgin-theatre.org>.
21088. Jeffrey Hatcher's "Holmes and Watson" is being performed at the Torrance Theatre Company in Torrance, Calif., through Feb. 13; their web-site's at www.torrancetheatrecompany.com>.
21089. Kate Hamill's "Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson—Apt. 2B" will be performed at Copaken Stage in Kansas City, Mo., Feb. 1-20 www.kcrep.org>.
21090. Bob Bryan's new "Sherlock Holmes: Raising the Dead" will be performed at the Ole Olsen Memorial Theatre, Feb. 3-13 www.tinyurl.com/2p9dkkp6>.
21091. Jon Jory's "A Sherlock Holmes Radio Mystery Show" is coming up at the Hormel Historic Home in Austin, Minn., on Feb. 4 www.tinyurl.com/4zxtaenu>.
21092. Neil Oldham's new "A Sherlock Holmes Pantomime" will be performed at St. Bernadette's Hall in Blackpool, Lancs., Feb. 16-19; their web-site's at www.stbparishplayers.wixsite.com/sbpplayers>.
21093. "Sherlock Returns" (by Peter Sham and Brad Carroll) will be performed at the Hunterdon Hills Playhouse in Hampton, N.J., Mar. 8-Apr. 9, 2022; web-site at www.hhplayhouse.com>.
21094. The improvised comedy "Spontaneous Sherlock" will tour in Britain beginning at the Sundial Theatre in Cirencester, Glos., on Mar. 12; the web-site for the Spontaneous Players is at www.tinyurl.com/67uwmsap>.
21095. David MacGregor's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Ghost Machine" will be performed at the Purple Rose Theatre in Chelsea, Mich., Apr. 14-Aug. 27 www.purplerosetheatre.org>.
21096. Lesley Ward's new play "Sherlock Holmes: A Study in Lipstick, Ketchup, and Blood" is coming up at the Pitlochry Festival Theatre in Pitlochry, Scotland, June 8-July 7 www.pitlochryfestivaltheatre.com>.

February 22 #1

21097. The Barts and The London Student Association (BLSA) have launched a petition campaign against the decision by the Queen Mary University of London to change the name of Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry to QMUL Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, noting that "St. Bartholomew's Hospital was founded in 1123, making it the oldest remaining hospital in the country. St. Bartholomew's Medical College was of course the school of Dr. John Watson." If you'd like to read and sign the petition there's a web-site at www.bartslondon.com/wearebl>. The Telegraph had a story about the campaign on Jan. 31 www.tinyurl.com/md695y3j>.
21098. "Sherlock Holmes and the Speckled Band" is one of a series of 1000-piece "classic mystery" jigsaw puzzles from Bepuzzled www.tinyurl.com/2p9ya5w7> (\$12.36 at Amazon); they come with a dire warning: "Beware! The puzzle is different from the box cover."

21099. "Fresh Air" (produced by WHYY-FM in Philadelphia) is one of the best pro-grams on National Public Radio, and Karen Murdock reports that on Jan. 19 Terry Gross interviewed Benedict Cumberbatch about his new film "The Power of the Dog" <www.tinyurl.com/4xu5e6xc>; there's nothing Sherlockian about the interview, but it's well done indeed.
21100. The web-site of the Conan Doyle Collection in Portsmouth is well worth exploring; go to <www.tinyurl.com/2n9urv2n> to view a photograph (from the 1890s) of "Conan Doyle the cricketer" accompanied by his wife Louisa, his sister Connie, and husband E. W. Hornung.
21101. The Beacon Society is continuing to publish its quarterly newsletter for younger Sherlockians, and the latest issue of Sherlock's Spotlight can be found at their web-site <www.beaconsociety.com>; the contents include material both by and for younger followers of the Great Detective.
21102. Stephen Chahn Lee's Sherlock Holmes and the Silent Contest (2022) is a 97-page monograph that offers his conclusions about "how Sherlock Holmes defeated Professor Moriarty and why Dr. John Watson lied." The approach to the Canon is interesting, and the book is available free from the author <stephenchahnlee@gmail.com>. You can also watch his lecture on "Sherlock Holmes and the Art of Evidence" at the Chicago Chapter of the Federal Bar Association at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=QQ6V0leExss>.
21103. Sonia Fetherston, who's gathering reminiscences about Thomas L. Stix (Wiggins of the Baker Street Irregulars), would appreciate hearing from anyone who would like to share first-person stories about Tom for a new book that will be published by the BSI Press <soniafetherston@comcast.net>.
21104. The Baker Street Irregulars are the oldest of the three American 20th-cen-tury literary societies with entries at Wikipedia, and the BSI entry is at <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Baker_Street_Irregulars>. It includes a list of 76 Irregulars who have their own entries at Wikipedia, and there likely are more who aren't yet on the list. In case you're wondering, the other two societies are the Norman Mailer Society and the Wolfe Pack.

February 22 #2

21105. Many books, films, and sound recordings entered the public domain at the end of 2021, and there was much publicity about it all. In an article at Mental Floss' web-site (Dec. 30), Jake Rossen suggested that if you would like to write a story teaming up Sherlock Holmes with Winnie the Pooh to help solve the murder of Bambi's mother, now you can <www.tinyurl.com/2p8bts7e>.
21106. "A Black Sherlock Holmes" (1918) was the first film made by the Ebony Film Corp., and it has been preserved, although in poor condition; you can view it at <www.vimeo.com/457274050>, and read Nikki Igbo's blog post (Feb. 2) <www.tinyurl.com/47x4v9m6> about this and other "race films" produced at a time when theaters were strictly segregated.
21107. The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes, adapted by Valerie Tripp, with illustrations by Carlo Molinari (New York: Starry Forest Books, 2020; 64 pp., \$7.99) is one of the titles in the "classic adventures" series of chapter books for young readers (ages 7-10); with three stories ("The Red-Headed League", "The Speckled Band", and "The Hound of the Baskervilles"). The colorful and attractive illustrations by Carlo Molinari, can be sampled at Amazon <www.tinyurl.com/2p94w4k9>.
21108. Barry Cryer died on Jan. 25. He was a writer, comedian, radio quiz panelist, and actor, performing on British radio and television for more than 60 years. He wrote Mrs. Hudson's Diaries: A View from the Landing at 221B (2012) and "Mrs. Hudson's Radio Show" for BBC Radio 4 (2018), and with his son Bob a play "Mrs. Hudson's Christmas Caper" (2014).
21109. Who was the first Sherlockian scholar? According to research by members of the Sherlockian Chronologist Guild, a new candidate is Helen Elizabeth Wilson, whose article "The Life of Sherlock Holmes" was published in the Oct. 1898 issue of the Cornell Magazine, as reported in the Dec. 2021 and Jan. 2022 issues of Timeline (the Guild's official newsletter), which are available by e-mail from Brad Keefauver <bkeefauver@gmail.com>. Vincent Wright has a detailed discussion of the discovery at his "Historical Sherlock" blog <www.tinyurl.com/yxnuejmj>. He also has posted a video at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=bks-LguCG7Q>, and was interviewed about his discovery by Scott Monty and Burt Wolder at the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.tinyurl.com/32dwhepm>.
21110. Kim Newman, author of Anno Dracula and The Hound of the D'Urbervilles, was the Baker Street Irregulars' distinguished speaker in 2013, and Jennie Paton has reported a YouTube video <www.youtube.com/watch?v=08E5fulS6Qc> in which he explains his enthusiasm for the film "Murder by Decree" (1979).
21111. "There will always be a war. That's the one thing one can always be sure of." –Irene Adler. That's not a quote from the Canon, of course, but instead from a teaser for Marvel's "Judgment Day" comic book due in stores this summer, and here's where it gets complicated: it already had been revealed that Destiny actually is Irene Adler, and Destiny has her own entry at Wikipedia <www.tinyurl.com/3cjbbxry>. You can see the teaser in an article at the CBR web-site <www.tinyurl.com/yckpamad>.

February 22 #3

21112. "A Study in Sherlock & His Creator: 50 Years of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection" is a new exhibition at the Toronto Public Library, running through Apr. 16 <www.tinyurl.com/5avnzvry>. The col-lection was opened to the public in 1971, and the web-site includes a virtual tour of the exhibition, with images of more than 40 items on display, a large-print exhibit booklet, a reading list, and a coloring book based on items in the collection. The collection has its own interesting web-site <www.tinyurl.com/fn3szwn7>, with a link to images of 428 items in its digitized archives, and curator Jessie Amaolo narrates a video tour of the exhibition at <www.youtube.com/watchv=2HgMZKq0e6k>.
21113. Greg Darak has reported that Cimmerian Records <www.cimmerianrecords.com> has released 2-CD sets with the complete soundtrack music of both of the Robert Downey Jr. films (\$24.95 each).
21114. Telegraph posts are mentioned in the Canon (in "Silver Blaze") and it is nice to know that there is a Telegraph Pole Appreciation Society in Britain. There was a nice article about the society in Country Life (Jan. 27) <www.tinyurl.com/4dzwsjx>. And of course the society has a web-site, at <www.telegraphpoleappreciationsociety.org>.
21115. There was lively bidding at Heritage Auctions for the Disney maquette of The Great Mouse Detective (January 22 #5) <www.tinyurl.com/3hjeprc6>, and it was bought for \$5,760 (including the buyer's premium).
21116. RadioEchoes <www.radioechoes.com>, noted by Roger Johnson provides a fascinating look at how much old-time radio is available on the Internet: the web-site lists 4,042 series with 110,078 episodes; for [sherlock holmes] they have 7 series with 587 episodes, and the numbers likely will be higher by the time you read this.
21117. The Baker Street Journal's 2021 Christmas Annual is devoted to "The Dean of British Sherlockians", and Nicholas Utechin, with assistance from Roger Johnson, and Guy Marriott, have done a grand job of celebrating "the life and works of S. C. Roberts," who in many ways laid the foundation for today's world of Sherlockian scholarship and pseudo-scholarship. It's part of the annual subscription to the BSJ (if you aren't a subscriber, search for someone who is, and borrow it). You can subscribe to the BSJ, and receive the 2022 Christmas Annual) at <www.tinyurl.com/5fvmdf86>.

21118. Sherlock Holmes was a winner on Feb. 5, at the Hipodromo Maroñas in Montevideo, and (reported by Jennie Paton) you can see him in action, with commentary in Spanish, at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=nRtLqi6q_vw>.
21119. Further to the discussion (March 14 #4) of the Indian film “Bees Saal Baad” [Twenty Years After] (1962), there was an interesting review at the Cinestaan web-site on Feb. 3 that offers a reminder of the film’s many echoes of “The Hound of the Baskervilles” and a link that allows you to watch the film at YouTube <www.cinestaan.com/articles/2022/feb/3/33143>. Alas, the film’s in Hindi, without subtitles in English. If you want to watch the film with subtitles in English, the Bollywood Entertainment DVD is available at eBay <www.tinyurl.com/msnuamsa>.

February 22 #4

21120. There has been wide-spread publicity for the “Sherlock Holmes in 221 Objects from the Collection of Glen S. Miranker” exhibition at the Grolier Club in New York in newspapers and magazines and at the Grolier’s channel at YouTube, and Steve Doyle has interviewed Glen for this year’s inaugural broadcast of the Fortnightly Dispatch; it’s available at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=RBGAH0G4jrl>.
21121. This year’s Fortnightly Dispatch continues with a interesting interview with Dan Stashower at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=aAYPAxeOUp>.
21122. Leonard Goldberg’s *The Blue Diamond* (New York: Minotaur Books, 2021; 320 pp., \$26.99), is the sixth title in his series that stars Sherlock Holmes’ daughter Joanna Blalock, who learned much from her father and is working with Dr. John H. Watson and his son (and her husband) Dr. John H. Watson Jr. in 1917 at recovering a stolen 2,828-carat flawless blue diamond; they soon discover that there’s far more at stake in a battle with thieves and spies. The author’s web-site is at <www.leonardgoldberg.com>.
21123. When in Bangkok: you can visit the 008 Bar in the Akyra Hotel and sample their eight cocktails that pay tribute to Sherlock Holmes; details can be found at <www.tinyurl.com/3ms6j38k>.
21124. David Karpeles died on Jan. 19. He was a teacher and then an investor in real estate, and in the late 1970s began collecting manuscripts, eventually founding the Karpeles Manuscript Library, housed in 16 museums across the United States <www.karpeles.com>. His collection included Conan Doyle letters as well as Sherlockian and other manuscripts; see Randall Stock’s “Best of Sherlock” for details when some of the material was sent to auction in 2016 <www.bestofsherlock.com/mss/bonhams-2016-manuscripts.htm>.
21125. Samantha Wolov has spotted an attractive machine-woven Bull-dog Tapestry Panel (\$8.98) that’s advertised from Poland at Etsy <www.tinyurl.com/y62pj63a>. It’s handsome indeed, and was quickly and safely delivered.
21126. “Don Matteo” (a popular and long-running Italian television series broadcast by Rai 1) is available in the U.S. with sub-titles in English) on the MHz Choice streaming service, which has many foreign mystery series, according to Pattie Tierney. Don Matteo (who is played by Terence Hill) is a Catholic parish priest skilled at solving crimes. In the first episode he opens his suitcase at his new parish and takes out his childhood keepsakes, one of which is a drawing he made of Sherlock Holmes, by way of demonstrating his passion and inspiration as a detective.
21127. The Norwegian Explorers’ Christmas Annual for 2021 has “Science and Medicine” as its theme, with contributions that relate to appropriate aspects of the Canon; the 106-page booklet, edited by Ray Riethmeier and Phillip Bergem, can be ordered from Phillip at 3829 172nd Avenue NW, Andover, MN 55304. \$10.00 postpaid; checks made payable to the Norwegian Explorers, please, or sent via PayPal to <norexpay@gmail.com>. Back issues for some earlier years still are available.

February 22 #5

21128. Larry Millett’s *Rafferty’s Last Case* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2022; 375 pp., \$25.95), the ninth and last in the entertaining series of mysteries he began in 1995, featuring Sherlock Holmes and Shadwell Rafferty in St. Paul, is set in 1928 and begins opens with the brutal murder of Rafferty; Holmes and Watson are in pursuit of the murderer, sorting through five prime suspects in a case that also involves blackmail and corrupt politicians.
21129. Seven paintings by Adrian Conan Doyle were at auction this month in London (January 22 #5), all estimated at £400-£600; one sold for £550, four sold for £280 each, and two didn’t sell. You can view images of all the paintings at <www.tinyurl.com/3nzdybjb>.
21130. Timothy Miller, who has written two imaginative pastiches, has an interesting web-site <www.thestrangecasesofsherlock.com>, at which he posted on Feb. 14 an amusing account of “scion society hazing.”
21131. Beryl Vertue died on Feb. 12. She began her career in entertainment as a secretary at Associated London Scripts, went on to become a business manager and an important television producer. In 1979 she founded Hartswood Films, the company that created many hit series, and was executive producer of “Sherlock” for the BBC. She was appointed an OBE in 2000 and an CBE in 2016, and Benedict Cumberbatch called her “Sherlock’s godmother.”
21132. Raymond Keene’s “Norwegian Clue” at TheArticle web-site (Feb. 12) will be of interest to chess enthusiasts <www.thearticle.com/norwegian-clue>, and it has a link to Bill Wall’s extensive list of references to chess in Conan Doyle’s Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian stories, in Sherlockian articles and stories by others, and in Sherlockian films and television.
21133. Many Sherlockians have seen and enjoyed the International Sherlock Holmes Exhibition, which will be at the Frost Science Center in Miami, Fla., May 14-Sept. 5 <www.frostscience.org/exhibition/sherlock-holmes>. Created by the Exhibits Development Group, the exhibition has an impressive web-site <www.tinyurl.com/4sv5jdj3> where the company promotes the exhibition to museums that might consider putting it on display.
21134. Karen Murdock, who is writing a book about figures of speech in the Canon, will be speaking about “Beyond Similes and Metaphors: Fun with Figures of Speech” via Zoom on Mar. 23 <www.tinyurl.com/2p848fna>.
21135. For those who like to find Sherlockian connections to everything, there’s an article at The Conversation (Jan. 28) <www.tinyurl.com/5n8ynptf> that manages to mention the Canon in discussion of the new game Wordle.
21136. Netflix has released a three-minute trailer showing what its viewers can expect in 2022 <www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZTI6T5M8Fj0&t=4s>, and there’s a brief look (at 1:02) at “Enola Holmes 2”. There isn’t a release date yet, but here’s a synopsis: “Now a detective-for-hire like her infamous brother, Enola Holmes takes on her first official case to find a missing girl, as the sparks of a dangerous conspiracy ignite a mystery that requires the help of friends—and Sherlock himself—to unravel.”

February 22 #6

21137. “The BBC confirmed rumours Sherlock Holmes is next to be portrayed as a ‘non-nonsense, trans northerner,’ according to Romeo Coates in The Critic (Feb. 2022), “with ‘Baker Street’ now in Bolton. As excitement mounts over casting, we’re assured by a Beeb source: ‘It’s more true to life than anything Conan Doyle wrote.’” There is more such news at <www.thecritic.co.uk/issues/february-2022/go-west-young-man>.
21138. Lucky Duck Games <www.luckyduckgames.com> has announced plans for a “Sherlock: Case Connection” table-top game based on the BBC’s “Sherlock” series
21139. <www.tinyurl.com/45an5zxv> and <www.tinyurl.com/38sywctf>.

21140. "Sherlock Holmes on Screens" (an interesting web-site maintained by Howard Ostrom, Thierry Saint-Joanis, and Jean-Claude Mornard) offers easy access to Sherlockian video (including a commercial that shows Holmes and Watson in diapers) <www.sherlock-holmes-on-screens.com>. There's also an interesting interview with Howard Ostrom at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/mrxas37k>.
21141. Sherlockians can now have their cake and eat it too. Jennie Paton reports that there's now a "Sherlock" cake-topper image <www.tinyurl.com/4dw662rj> available for \$11.99. You'll also need an edible printer that uses edible ink and edible paper, and they're available as well.
21142. The Brick Show web-site reported (Feb. 14) <www.brickshow.com/2022/02-15> that a LEGO Ideas member has qualified for the company's First 2022 review stage with a spectacular Sherlockian display. LEGO certainly has come a long way since the days of simple rectangular bricks: Brandon Daniel has noted three complete rooms from 221B available from Pantasy (\$89.00); the web-site even has video <www.tinyurl.com/2p86mrum>.
21143. Patricia Srigley's *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes' Cat* (Montreal: WigglesWorth, 2021; 211 pp., \$9.99) begins with Holmes adopting a stray cat, who helps tell irreverent and sometimes slapstick stories about their adventures and cases; the author's web-site is at <www.srigleyarts.com>.
21144. Plan well ahead: "Lone Star Holmes: A Look at Sherlock Holmes Past, Present and Future" is the title of the conference set for May 26-27, 2023, at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. To enroll on their mailing list, just send a message to Don Hobbs <221b@verizon.net>; the festivities also will celebrate the formal opening of Don's massive collection of foreign translations of the Canon, which he has donated to SMU.
21145. You can listen to Ross Davies and Ira Matetsky interviewed by Scott Monty and Burt Wolder at the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog about the latest addition to the Baker Street Irregulars' manuscript series ("The Norwood Builder") at <www.tinyurl.com/mrxxwye4>.
21146. Christian Klaver's *Sherlock Holmes & Count Dracula* (New York, Titan, 2021; 425 pp., \$19.99) begins with Holmes being asked by Dracula for help finding his kidnapped wife Mina, and there are vampires as well as plenty of action in this greatly expanded version of three short stories that were published earlier as "The Supernatural Case Files of Sherlock Holmes" (February 15 #3). The author's web-site is at <www.christianklaver.com>.
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February 22 #7

21147. In 2010 the Baker Street Irregulars sold twenty unfinished aluminum replicas of the Sherlockian switch plate that was rescued from Edgar W. Smith's cottage at 221B Baker Street in Morristown (and is now held in the BSI Archives) <www.tinyurl.com/2xpyujy5>. Bruce Harris <marxman@comcast.net> is compiling a census of the replicas, and would appreciate hearing from anyone who has one.
21148. "The Center for the Book in the Library of Congress invites people of all ages to discover the fascinating people, places, and events that await you whenever you read" at Read.gov, and the web-site offers digitized images of books, including a pirated edition of "the book that started it all" (*A Study in Scarlet*) <www.read.gov/books/sherlock_holmes.html>.
21149. "Reacher is the new Sherlock Holmes," Howard Ostrom suggests, in a recent post to his "Sherlock on Screens" blog at <www.tinyurl.com/ym83f683>, with video from the new series that's running on Amazon Prime.
21150. If you've not seen the catalog for the Sherlock Holmes Exhibition at Abbey House in London in 1951, it has been scanned and made available on-line at <www.wellcomecollection.org/works/yugh4nzt/items?canvas=1>; thanks to Jennie Paton for reporting this.
21151. Emma Hughes discussed "the nine greatest cats in literature" in an article for *Country Life* in 2018 <www.tinyurl.com/mrxxwye4>. Sherlockians will be glad to see that Macavity leads the list.
21152. Johanna Draper Carlson has launched a new "Sherlock Holmes in Comics" web-site at <www.comicsworthreading.com/sherlock-holmes-in-comics>, covering comics, graphic novels, and manga; it's colorful web-site, with much worth exploring.
21153. Benedict Cumberbatch was honored by the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce on Feb. 28 as the 2,714th star on the Walk of Fame. You can read their press release at <www.tinyurl.com/yckp86ew>.
21154. There's a new Sherlock, noted by Andrew Jay Peck: "Merlin IS is powered by Sherlock, the world's first AI-driven digital document bloodhound and the backbone of Merlin's Search 2.0 platform," according to the press release <www.tinyurl.com/4xmpfrse>.
21155. Planning continues for "Jubilee@221B" (the conference celebrating the 50th anniversaries of the opening of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library, and the founding of the Bootmakers of Toronto) to be held at the Library on Sept. 23-25. To enroll on the mailing list, you can send an e-mail request to <jubilee_registration@acdfriends.org>.
21156. Don Hobbs continues to expand his "Galactic Sherlock Holmes" data-base of foreign translations of the Canon (which now has about 14,000 entries in 112 different languages, and many full-color illustrations), and would be glad to hear from anyone who has found something not already in the data-base; the latest version is available on request and without charge as a large WeTransfer file <221b@verizon.net>.
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February 22 #8

21157. Just the thing for dinosaur fans: original artwork by Harry Rountree for "The Lost World" (ink wash and gouache on board) will be offered at Heritage Auctions on Apr. 15 <www.tinyurl.com/34w97sv6> estimated at \$3,000-\$5,000; it's fascinating to see just how much better the original artwork was than what readers of the story in the *Strand Magazine* saw. That's also true, of course, for Sidney Paget's original artwork for the Sherlock Holmes stories.
21158. *The Three Winter Terrors* (New York: Titan, 2021; 407 pp., \$19.99) is James Lovegrove's latest pastiche; Holmes and Watson investigate three grotesque murders, in 1899, 1890, and 1894, all of them involving the same family, and all with a touch of the macabre. Lovegrove has information about all of his Sherlockian pastiches at his web-site <www.jameslovegrove.com>.
21159. Theater news: John Nicholson and Steven Canny's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is being produced at Steeltown Coffee & Tea in Pittsburg, Calif., through Mar. 6 <www.pittsburgcommunitytheatre.org>. It's also due at the Ilkley Playhouse in Ilkley, W. Yorks., on Mar. 3-12; their web-site is at <www.ilkleyplayhouse.co.uk>.
21160. Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is running at the Port Angeles Community Theatre in Port Angeles, Wash., through Mar. 14 <pacommunityplayers.org>; and at the Åbo Svenska Teater in Turku, Finland, through Apr. 23; their web-site is at <abosvenskateater.fi>. It's also due at the Little Theatre of Fall River in Fall River, Mass., Mar. 17-27 <www.littletheatre.net>, and it will be produced at Baker Street West in Jackson, Calif., Apr. 1-May 14 <www.bakerstreetwest.com>.
21161. Jules Tasca's "An Evening with Sherlock Holmes" (with three one-act plays) is being performed at Theatre Suburbia in Houston, Texas, through Mar. 26 <www.web.theatresuburbia.org>.
21162. Daniel Foley's "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" is running at Upstairs at the Gatehouse in London, Mar. 1-6 <www.upstairsatthegatehouse.com>.
21163. The Théâtre Sans Frontières will tour "Sherlock Holmes: The Speckled Band" in Britain, beginning at the Queen's Hall Arts Centre in Hexham, Northum., on Mar. 8 <www.tsf.org.uk>.
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21164. Eric Coble's "Sherlock Holmes: The Baker Street Irregulars" will be produced at Silverdale Baptist Academy in Chattanooga, Tenn., on Mar. 10-11 <www.silverdaleba.org>.
21165. The Northern Opera Group has announced it will begin work in April in the U.K. on Lliam Paterson's opera based on "The Sign of Four"; there's more information at <www.northernoperagroup.co.uk/sherlockholmes>.
21166. Tim Kelly's adaptation of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" has been scheduled by the 3rd Act Theatre Company in Oklahoma City, Okla., Apr. 8-23 <www.3rdacttheatreco.com>.

March 22 #1

21167. The Baker Street Irregulars will celebrate Sherlock Holmes's 168th birthday at their annual dinner in New York on Jan. 6, 2023, which of course is his actual birthday. Planning is under way for the Distinguished Speaker Lecture on Jan. 5, and the Reception on Jan. 7. If you're not already receiving news and updates from the BSI, you can enroll on their e-mail list at <www.tinyurl.com/2p8n2ptm>.
21168. There was active (and serious) bidding at Potter & Potter Auctions on Feb. 26 for some interesting (and often rare) Sherlockiana and Doyleana. You can see the catalog at <www.tinyurl.com/y3ffy3jf> and the results of the auction at <www.tinyurl.com/yc2kw4d6>.
21169. Simon Guerrier's *The Great War* (New York: Titan, 2021; 293 pp., \$14.95) is the latest title in Titan's long-running series of "The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes". Set in 1917 at a British field hospital, it features Augusta Watson, a VAD (Volunteer Aid Detachment) who assists nurses in the hospital and is assigned to help Sherlock Holmes an investigation of what turns out to be a complicated conspiracy; the book is more of a thriller than a mystery, but nevertheless nicely done.
21170. Lyndsay Faye wrote about "Pastiche, Fan Fiction, and the Sincerest Form of Flattery" at the CrimeReads blog on Feb. 28 <www.tinyurl.com/mryxsbdj> and lamented that when her first book *Dust and Shadow* was published she wasn't able "to hire a plane with an advertising banner reading DID YOU KNOW THE SHERLOCK HOLMES ADVENTURES ARE THE AWESOMEST THINGS TO HAPPEN SINCE SUPERNOVAS?"
21171. "Sherlock the Musical" (written by Stefan van de Graaff and Denning Burton), performed in Canada in 2017, has been filmed from a new production, with a studio cast recording uploaded to YouTube on Mar. 25; their channel's at <www.youtube.com/channel/UCGl07-c0UNr_mn6CTc6R1Bg>, and a full filmed production will be uploaded on Apr. 26.
21172. Karen Ellery, who presides over the Tea Brokers of Mincing Lane, would appreciate hearing about any published articles, essays, and pastiches that focus on Sherlock Holmes and tea <teabrokersmincinglane@gmail.com>.
21173. Edwin Van der Flaes ("Victor Trevor") died in February. Born in Belgium, he emigrated to Canada in his teens and was an early member of the Bootmakers of Toronto, serving twice as the society's Meyers (president); Ed also was involved for many years as a leader in Scouts Canada, and enjoyed traveling, by car whenever possible, to meetings of other Sherlockian societies. He received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1984.
21174. The campaign continues against the decision by the Queen Mary University of London to rename Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry as the QMUL Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry (February 22 #1), and the "We Are BL" students have posted an update <www.tinyurl.com/2p88bhkf>; some of the newspaper articles can be read at <www.barts-london.com/weareblresponses>.

March 22 #2

21175. William Brittain was a prolific author of short stories that appeared in Ellery Queen's *Mystery Magazine* and Alfred Hitchcock's *Mystery Magazine*, and it's grand to see many of them back in print, thanks to Crippen & Landru, in *The Man Who Read Mysteries* (2018; 212 pp., \$29.00 cloth or \$19.00 paper) and *The Man Who Solved Mysteries* (2022; 316 pp., \$32.00/\$22.00); Sherlockians will especially enjoy "The Man Who Read Sir Arthur Conan Doyle" and "Mr. Strang, Armchair Detective" (in the first volume). Crippen & Landru (Jeffrey Marks and Douglas G. Greene) continue to bring "lost classic" mystery short stories back into print, and their web-site <www.crippenlandru.com> has much to offer.
21176. Fans of the BBC's "Sherlock" television series will recall Watson meeting Irene Adler in a scene filmed in the derelict (and atmospheric) Battersea Power Station, which no longer is as derelict as it was then; you can read about its history, and see what it's like now, in an article at the *Country Life* web-site on Mar. 1 <www.tinyurl.com/ymsdzyzn>.
21177. Yuichi Hirayama has noted an interesting use of the Canon: helping Japanese learn English grammar using "The Blue Carbuncle"; details available at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=vaEVyu_H5Mo&t=8s>.
21178. Benedict Cumberbatch was honored by the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce on Feb. 28 as the 2,714th star on the Walk of Fame (February 22 #7), with only a brief mention of "Sherlock" during the ceremony. You can watch the festivities at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=lfkjN4_4NiE>.
21179. Those who attended the Arthur Conan Doyle Society's inaugural Doylean Honors awards ceremony at the Mysterious Bookshop during the birthday festivities in January received an attractive and amusing limited-edition Sherlock Holmes bobblehead statuette; Ross Davies has annotated the bobblehead (and there is much to explain) at <www.tinyurl.com/22e4eda3>.
21180. Tania Henzell (who is the step-great-great-granddaughter of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle) has a new video in which she explains the design of her Sherlock Holmes tartan <www.youtube.com/watch?v=-1gLIffcc6A>; her web-site is at <www.sherlockholmestartan.com>.
21181. Potter & Potter Auctions continues to offer interesting (and rare) Sherlockian and Doylean books, as well some Derleth titles, at a sale upcoming on Apr. 26 <www.auctions.potterauctions.com/Catalog.aspx?auctionid=1131>.
21182. The Grillparzer Club of the Hoboken Free State has announced that its annual Christopher Morley Birthday Lunch will be held in Philadelphia this year, on Mar. 7. Linda and Terry Hunt <hobokenfreestate@gmail.com> will be happy to provide more information.
21183. Craig Rice's *Eight Faces at Three* (1939) has been reprinted in Otto Penzler's "American Mystery Classics" series <www.tinyurl.com/md78fnkv>; the book's not Sherlockian, but Lisa Lutz's introduction ("Rediscovering the Gin-Soaked Screwball Mysteries of Craig Rice") is available at the Crime Reads web-site <www.tinyurl.com/2xua2zae> and offers a grand description of the author and the book.

March 22 #3

21184. John Keston died on Feb. 18. Born in London, he started his stage career as a singer, moved on to acting, and played Sir Edward Leighton when the Royal Shakespeare Company brought its revival of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" to the U.S. in 1974. His obituary in the *Telegraph* (Mar. 7) noted that he decided to stay in the U.S., teaching both voice and classical singing, and continued to perform on stage, eventually becoming an ardent and record-breaking runner.
21185. The Grolier Club's channel at Vimeo <www.tinyurl.com/bde62x42> offers recorded recordings about the exhibitions, including "Sherlock Holmes in 221 Objects from the Glen S. Miranker" exhibition. There's another lecture by Glen at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eb96PIH8rHg>.
21186. There has been considerable publicity about the discovery of the *Endurance* (10,000 feet below the surface of the Weddell Sea in the Antarctic); this was the ship that Sir Ernest Shackleton used in his attempt to reach the South Pole in 1915. As reported earlier (April 16 #1), a photograph of

- his cabin showed the books he took with him on the expedition, and one of them was E. W. Hornung's RAFFLES, which Hornung dedicated to his brother-in-law Conan Doyle. You can see the photograph, and a list of all the books, at <www.bbc.com/news/magazine-35633374>. The site was declared a historical monument in the 1959 Antarctic Treaty, so the book (or what's left of it) will remain there undisturbed.
21187. The N.Y. Post noted (Mar. 11) a Wikipedia-style (crowd-sourced) web-site called Book Trigger Warnings <www.booktriggerwarnings.com> at which people can enter warnings about books with content that might be dangerously offensive. More than 6,000 books have been flagged, including some of the Sherlock Holmes stories <www.tinyurl.com/2p9c39hr>. A Study in Scarlet is the most dangerous, with warnings for: blood, drug addiction, forced marriage, homophobia, kidnapping, murder, persecution (Mormons), poison, rac-ism, and stalking.
21188. "A Celebration of Sherlock Holmes" is the theme of this year's DePaul Pop Culture Conference <www.tinyurl.com/5n6ntm73> at DePaul University in Chicago on May 7, featuring Arwel Wyn Jones (production designer for "Sherlock") Tom Ue (editor of Fan Phenomena: Sherlock Holmes), and Ashley Pola-sek (author of Being Sherlock).
21189. Gary Lovisi's A Sherlock Holmes Notebook (Eureka: Stark House, 2022; 198 pp., \$15.95) offers a wide-ranging collection of reprints of his many articles and essays about Sherlockiana (and Doyleana); there's a warm tribute to John Bennett Shaw, discussions of plays and films, and much more. Gary has been collecting, and writing about collecting, for decades, and his YouTube channel <www.tinyurl.com/2p84d4du> shows just how varied his interests are.
21190. Ron Fish continues to publicize meetings of Sherlockian societies via his Sherlockian Calendar, including gatherings held via Zoom or other technology; it's a great way to find out what's happening, where and when. You can see his format at <www.sherlockiancalendar.com>, and send information about upcoming meetings to him at <ronf404@aol.com>.

March 22 #4

21191. The Times reported (Mar. 14) that the government of Kazakhstan has arrested Kairat Satybaldy, nephew of the country's former president Nursultan Nazarbayev, who ruled the country for three decades; Satybaldy has been charged with abuse of power and embezzlement of funds. Nazarbayev's daughter Dariga Nazarbayeva, and her son Nurali Aliyev, were named two years ago (March 20 #3) as owners of Park View Residence at 215-229 Baker Street <www.parkviewresidence.co.uk>, the building that retains the façade of Abbey House, where Abbey National for many years provided a secretary to answer mail addressed to Sherlock Holmes at 221B.
21192. Steve Doyle's Fortnightly Dispatch continues with an interesting interview with Mike Kean (the BSI's Wiggins) <www.youtube.com/watch?v=erU_4hAW_Gs>. His next guest was Mark Gagen (Steve's co-conspirator at the Wessex Press and the BSI Press) <www.youtube.com/watch?v=RKzB5KVJcrl>.
21193. His clients—Colonel Ross, whose racehorse flees,
Or Violet Hunter, seen at Baker Street,
Who crops her locks of hair—would all agree,
This haughty, hawk-eyed Brit's a bit offbeat.
21194. Observed by Karen Murdock in The New Yorker (Dec. 27, 2021) in a puzzle "In the Doggerel House" by Andy Kravis and Liz Maynes Aminzade, who ask, "Can you identify the literary work or series that each poem is about, and find the character whose name is hidden within?" You'll have no trouble identifying the literary work or series, but can you find the character?
21195. The Original Theatre Company/Octagon Theatre Bolton touring production of John Nicholson and Steven Canny's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" has been recorded and will be streamed on-line from Apr. 14 to July 31; early-bird tickets are available at <www.tinyurl.com/44e6wruj>.
21196. Irish historian Turtle Bunbury has a new podcast "Turtle Bunbury's Global Irish" that recounts the stories of people who left Ireland to make their mark around the world; Lola Montez (thought by some to have been the inspiration for Irene Adler) will be featured on Apr. 11, and Arthur Conan Doyle on Apr. 18 <www.tinyurl.com/2p9ff7t9>.
21197. The Baz <www.tinyurl.com/3cwb4rh2> is a Basil Rathbone blog, noted by Jennie Paton, where you will find Marcia Jessen's interesting discussion of the German versions of the Universal Films (which of course were not released in Germany during WW2).
21198. Baker Street West, in Jackson, Calif., continues to offer podcasts, dramatic readings, and much more <www.bakerstreetwest.com>; it's one floor up from the Hein & Co., used-book store, and they recently received some nice (and colorfully illustrated) publicity, with mention of their recreation of the sitting-room, at the Time Out web-site <www.tinyurl.com/ynvens2>.
21199. The Festival de cine Fantástico de Canarias [Canary Islands Fantastic Film Festival] presented an honorary award in 2021 to Nicholas Rowe (who played Sherlock Holmes in two films); Jennie Paton notes video of the award presentation and the interview with Rowe <www.vimeo.com/688824999>.

March 22 #5

21200. Sherlock Holmes continues to be popular in Japanese manga and anime, and one of the weirdest incarnations surely is Oshiri Tantei [The Butt Detective]; the latest film features the master criminal Shiriarty <www.tinyurl.com/3xbdwmrb>. You can also watch the trailer for an earlier film <www.youtube.com/watch?v=047VMJIBZxQ>, kindly reported by Jennie Paton (you can set the subtitles for English).
21201. Did you find the character in that little poem on the previous page? He's in "crops her locks".
21202. Gary Lovisi's Sherlock Holmes in Oz (Cabin John: Wildside Press, 2022; 141 pp., \$12.99) brings Holmes and Watson to Oz, pursuing the Red Poppy Menace and endeavoring to rescue Dorothy Gale (the great-niece of Watson's wife); they encounter L. Frank Baum, and many of the characters he created.
21203. How they got their start: Rob Lowe, an American actor, director, producer, and podcaster, made his acting debut at the age of 15, according to Wikipedia, but he first appeared on stage at the age of 12, as Billy in Thomas Hinton's "Sherlock Holmes: A New Adventure" at Wright State University in Fairborn, Ohio. You can read all about it in the Dayton Daily News, Mar. 17 <www.tinyurl.com/2s3e7ne4>.
21204. Yes, Nicholas Rowe did play Sherlock Holmes in two films, in "Young Sherlock Holmes" (1985) and thirty years later in "Mr. Holmes" (2015) in the black-and-white film Ian McKellen sees in a theater.
21205. The Legion of Zoom, a Sherlockian society that was founded late last year to reflect the Age of the Pandemic <www.tinyurl.com/2p8zv245>, continues to attract members; Edith Pouden, Rick Krisciunas, and Steve Mason (some of the ringleaders) were interviewed recently by Scott Monty and Burt Wolder on "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" <www.tinyurl.com/3tye8fhz>. Don't confuse the society with the other one <www.tinyurl.com/9dvv94zc>. Or the one in Kansas City <www.tinyurl.com/2btbkcwd>.

21206. For those who (mistakenly) believe that the Blue Carbuncle was a blue diamond: the De Beers Cullinan Blue (15.10 carats, step-cut) will be offered at auction at Sotheby's in Hong Kong on April 27; read about it, and watch a video, at <www.tinyurl.com/3aruc6m5>. Town & Country had an interesting article about blue diamonds (Feb. 16) <www.tinyurl.com/2p83d3nn>.
21207. The "Sherlock Holmes" electric locomotive, which ran on the Metropolitan Line in London for many years and was restored to service four years ago (June 18 #2), will be running on the North Norfolk Railway this summer, according to Rail Advent (Mar. 16) <www.tinyurl.com/38buudr2>; the story includes an amusing image showing how the locomotive arrived in Norfolk.
21208. Paulette Greene died on Dec. 6. She was a mail-order used-book dealer in Rockville Center, N.Y., in the 1980s, and her catalogs were helpful indeed to Sherlockian collectors; she also published Sherlockian books by Trevor H. Hall and Madeleine B. Stern, and interesting Sherlockian artwork by her son Sam. At the end of the 1980s she announced that she was retiring, and moved to Boca Raton, Fla., but continued to be active as a dealer.
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March 22 #6

21209. The 39th issue of Beaten's Christmas Annual has been published by The Sound of the Baskervilles of Seattle, with 73 pages of articles, quizzes, recipes, pastiches, and reports on the society and its members. It costs \$14.00 postpaid (\$25.00 outside the U.S.); checks (in U.S. dollars, please) payable to The Sound of the Baskervilles can be sent to Terri Haugen, 6710 51st Street Court West, University Place, WA 98467.
21210. Rob Nunn has issued a call for contributions to his upcoming The Monstrum Opus of Sherlock Holmes: A Compendium of Horrors Dr. Watson Dared Not Tell (not pastiches, but rather "scholarship that plants its tongue firmly in check"); the deadline is July 31, and there's more information at his Interesting Though Elementary blog <www.tinyurl.com/3h9v7v6r>.
21211. The Sherlockian Chronologist Convention for this year has been canceled, Ira Matetsky has announced, because "They couldn't agree on the date."
21212. One page from the manuscript of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be up for bids at Heritage Auctions on June 4 <www.tinyurl.com/2hw5dts6>. It's page H37 in Randall Stock's census, and there's more information about it at his "Best of Sherlock" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/5n7bahk8>.
21213. Nicholas Meyer will be the keynote speaker at "Jubilee@221B" (the conference that will celebrate the 50th anniversaries of the opening of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library and the founding of the Bootmakers of Toronto) to be held at the Toronto Reference Library on Sept. 23-25. To enroll on the mailing list, send an e-mail request to <jubilee_registration@acdfriends.org>.
21214. Priscilla Ridgway died on Feb. 23. She was executive director of the Mystery Writers of America for many years, went on to work at the New England Society of N.Y.; she enjoyed theater, opera, and concerts in New York, and a good friend of many in the Sherlockian world.
21215. Paddington Station, which opened only a few days after Sherlock Holmes was born, is mentioned in five of the Canonical stories, and Country Life had a nice article on-line (Mar. 21) <www.tinyurl.com/2tzedhj> about the history of this London landmark.
21216. Fans of the 1940s Universal films about Sherlock Holmes will remember Rondo Hatton, who played the Hoxton Creeper in "The Pearl of Death" (1944). The Rondo Hatton Classic Horror Awards, which were launched in 2002 at a fan-based web-site and recently reported by Ann Marlowe, can be explored at <www.rondoaward.com>.
21217. Broadway World reported on Feb. 9 <www.tinyurl.com/yk2p9fv> that the American Lyric Theater has launched an Aria Access Project, "a free hub of downloadable contemporary aria sheet music" intended for singers who are asked to audition at 21st-century aria. One of the operas is "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Fallen Giant" (by Evan Meier and E. M. Lewis), first performed at the National Opera Center in New York in 2015. Three soprano arias from the opera are available (with sheet music and lyrics) for download at <www.altnyc.org/aap-soprano>.
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March 22 #7

21218. The imaginative life-size bronze sculpture by Irena Sedlecká that shows Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and the spirit of Sherlock Holmes <www.tinyurl.com/y2sevea2>, on display in the Garden of Heroes and Villains created by the late Felix Dennis in Dorsington, Stratford-upon-Avon, in Warwickshire, is not easy to see, but the Garden will be open to the public during an evening fund-raiser (with food and drink available) on July 21 <www.tinyurl.com/2fpcahze>.
21219. Don Hobbs has reported an interesting discovery in Yr Herald Cymraeg [The Welsh Herald] <www.newsppers.library.wales/view/3781337/19>: a Sherlockian advertisement for Mackintosh's Toffee, published in 1910 (the toffee still is available in British shops).
21220. Rob Nunn's The Common-Place Book 2021 (33 pp., \$5.99) offers 13 of the essays, stories, and toasts he has written since he attended his first society meeting in 2015, among them "A Study in Steadfast" (with an intriguing look at "A Study in Scarlet" by one of its minor characters).
21221. Life's 96-page special issue offering "the story behind the world's great-est detective" (with Basil Rathbone on the cover), which first appeared in 2016, has been reissued (with very minor differences that will be of in-terest only to the completist) and is back on newsstands, and available at Amazon and elsewhere.
21222. Game-playing Sherlockians may not be aware that Frogwares, the developer of many computer games (their latest is Sherlock Holmes: Chapter One) is headquartered in Ukraine. The company's CEO Wael Amr is featured in a recent interview spotted at the IGN web-site <www.tinyurl.com/2p8emjn7> by Jennie Paton.
21223. Original (non-Sherlockian) artwork by Sidney Paget is coming to auction in the U.K. on Apr. 6, estimated at £50-£80 <www.tinyurl.com/4ppuyxsc>; it's a watercolor of "a landscape with sailing boats on a lake with mountains beyond and a figure on a path."
21224. 9GAG, according to Wikipedia, is a web-site based in Hong Kong that allows users to upload user-generated content. Jennie Paton has noted an amusing "Dead British Actors" video <www.tinyurl.com/ybcf9jy7> that's something of a deep fake: it's really a segment from the British BBC-2 television series "That Mitchell and Webb Look". The skit actually aired on Sept. 21, 2006, and starred David Mitchell and Robert Webb.
21225. Le fantôme de l'oiseau lune (Paris: Editions l'Âge d'Or, 2013) is a graphic novel written by Yves Varende and illustrated by René Follet, with cover art that's striking indeed <www.tinyurl.com/2p83ev5h>.
21226. CGI (Computer Generated Imagery) has been used for quite a while now, but it's nice to know that the first CGI character in a film was the dancing knight from a stained-glass window in "Young Sherlock Holmes" (1985); the GeekTyrant web-site <www.tinyurl.com/2p8txfk> recently made available a fan-created video showing how much improved the technology is now, and the video includes (at 18:45) an homage to the 1985 film.
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March 22 #8

21227. Theater news: John Nicholson and Steven Canny's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is being performed at the Little Theatre in Hertford, Herts., through Apr. 2 <www.cops.org.uk>.
21228. Susan Lumenello's "The Sherlock Problem" is on at the Cape Cod Theatre in West Harwich, Mass., through Apr. 3 <www.capecodtheatrecompany.org>; it's a new comedy featuring Conan Doyle, Holmes, and Watson.
21229. Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is running at the Runway Theatre in Grapevine, Texas, through Apr. 10 <www.runwaytheatre.com>. It's coming up at Baker Street West in Jackson, Calif., Apr. 1-May 14 <www.bakerstreetwest.com>.
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21230. Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical "Cats" (with Macavity: The Mystery Cat) is on tour in the U.S. through June 26 <www.ustour.catsthemusical.com>.
21231. Richard Lloyd's "Sherlock Holmes and the Sons of Anubis" will be performed at the Coulsdon Community Centre in Coulsdon, Surrey, Apr. 2-9; web-site at <www.twcoulsdon.org.uk>.
21232. Liam Paterson's new opera "The Sign of Four" will have a special preview performance (scenes from the opera and a discussion with the audience) at the East Riding Theatre in Beverley, Yorks., on Apr. 9; their web-site at <www.northernoperagroup.co.uk>.
21233. Jeff Ames' "The Hit-or-Miss Adventures of Watson and Holmes" will be performed at the Wallenstein Theater at Big Bend Community College in Moses Lake, Wash., Apr. 9 <www.tinyurl.com/mrx6jprz>.
21234. Jonathan Goodwin will perform his new "Sherlock Holmes: The Poet and His Muse" on-line on Apr. 30 <www.tinyurl.com/htmaapd5>.
21235. Craig Wichman's "The Blue Carbuncle" will be performed by the East Lynne Theater Company in Cape May, N.J., May 14-15 <www.eastlynnetheater.org>.
21236. Bert Coules' "Watson: The Final Problem" will be performed during the Edinburgh Festival Fringe at the Assembly Rooms in Edinburgh, on Aug. 3-10 <www.assemblyfestival.com/whats-on/all-shows/watson-the-final-problem>.
21237. Michael Mitnick's "Mysterious Circumstances" (which was inspired by David Grann's 2004 article in the New Yorker about the death of Richard Lancelyn Green) is scheduled at the Road Less Traveled Theater in Buffalo, N.Y., on Sept. 15-Oct. 16 <www.roadlesstraveledproductions.org>.
21238. Gael Stahlhuth's "The Norwood Builder" will be performed by the East Lynne Theater Company in Cape May, N.J., Oct. 21-22 <www.eastlynnetheater.org>.
21239. Ken Ludwig's "Moriarty: A New Sherlock Holmes Mystery" will premiere at the Cleveland Playhouse's Allen Theatre in Cleveland, Apr. 29-May 21, 2023 <www.clevelandplayhouse.com>.

April 22 # 1

21240. Breaking news about the Baker Street Irregulars' conference on "Sherlock Holmes and the British Empire" at the Bear Mountain Inn, N.Y., on July 29-31: registration will open to the general public on May 17. See the announcement about the conference at <www.tinyurl.com/2py9xsvs>.
21241. "They're creatures of our creation, like Sherlock Holmes is" might not be an expected answer to the question "What is math?" But there is indeed a relationship, according to Dan Falk's interesting article at the Smithsonian magazine web-site (Sept. 23, 2020) <www.tinyurl.com/3d2yu2bj>, noted by John Marlowe.
21242. Are you woke? Are you from Woking? Residents of the city (mentioned in "The Naval Treaty") are reported to be "caught in the glare of a cultural confrontation," according to a piece by Stephen Rand in The Article (Apr. 1) <www.tinyurl.com/245pwp46>.
21243. Reported: Hugh Corbett's Hymn to Murder (Headline, 2021) is set on Dartmoor in 1312, and according to Ben Witherington at Patheos (Mar. 27), involves wild beasts and a taverner named Baskerville.
21244. Sherlockians are well aware that "A Study in Scarlet" was first appeared in Beeton's Christmas Annual for 1887; the annual was named for Isabella Beeton, but it was her husband Samuel who published it, capitalizing on the fame of his late wife, who was renowned for her Book of Household Management, first published in 1861. Conan Doyle titled a chapter in his A Duet: With an Occasional Chorus (1898) "Concerning Mrs. Beeton", and involves his newly-wed couple in an amusing discussion of the book. Lytton Strachey planned to write a biography of Mrs. Beeton, but didn't; Kathryn Hughes' The Short Life and Long Times of Mrs. Beeton: The First Domestic Goddess was published in 2006, and she's scheduled to speak at the British Library on May 18 in a panel discussion of "The Culinary Worlds of Eliza Acton and Mrs. Beeton" <www.tinyurl.com/2p8eept4> (the cost is £13.00 live or streamed).
21245. Kathryn Hughes also has written The Victorian Governess (1993) and Victorians Undone: Tales of the Flesh in the Age of Decorum (2017), and she is now writing a book about the late Victorians' obsession with cats. Andrew Lycett wrote a sprightly review of her Victorian Undone for History Today <www.historytoday.com/reviews/stripping-down-buttoned>.
21246. It has been open since at least 2005: there's a Sherlock Holmes English Lounge in the Arabian Courtyard Hotel in Dubai, and now Jennie Paton has reported a visual tour at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=TN-ljkOXLFE>.
21247. Further to the preview of "A Celebration of Sherlock Holmes" at the DePaul Pop Culture Conference scheduled at DePaul University in Chicago on May 7 (March 22 #3), Paul Booth, who developed the conference, was interviewed recently by Scott Monty and Burt Wolder at their "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.tinyurl.com/bdsu6jvb>.

April 22 #2

21248. John T. Lescroart began his writing career with Son of Holmes (1986) and Rasputin's Revenge (1987). They're about Auguste Lupa, and are more Neronian than Sherlockian. If you would like to know more about his long and successful career since then, there's an interesting interview with him published in the March-April issue of Sactown Magazine <www.sactownmag.com/life-of-crime-john-lescroart>.
21249. Something new: cli-fi (fiction literature that deals with the effects of climate change on human society). A brief Sherlockian cli-fi was one of the winners in a recent competition set by the British magazine The Spectator <www.tinyurl.com/f8vfuxss>.
21250. Jennie Paton spotted an unusual (to say the least) Sherlock in Brazil; you can see him at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=29Q07qN-cKM>.
21251. Lyndon N. Smith's Star Trek Nation (Sedgemoor, 2021; 179 pp., \$32.95) offers "an Englishman's view of America." It's very much a memoir, written by someone who believes that the "Star Trek" television series has much to say about America, and its relationship with Britain, and that the Sherlock Holmes stories can be just as helpful to Americans who want to understand Britain. Smith's explanation of it all is nicely entertaining.
21252. The Atlantic Coast Theatre for Youth will be touring their new "Sherlock Holmes & the Opera Mystery" on tour from Sept. 2022 to Aug. 2024; it's for grades K-8, and their web-site <www.tinyurl.com/3dry4s75> has a five-minute video preview.
21253. The Royal Mail has issued a set of stamps showing migratory birds, one of them a Stone-curlew, described as "an odd-looking 'goggle-eyed plover'" (curlews are mentioned in two stories: "The Priory School" and "The Hound of the Baskervilles").
21254. June Brown died on Apr. 3. She began acting on stage with the Old Vic in 1948, and was best known as Dot Cotton in the "Eastenders" television series, in which she appeared for more than 30 years. According to her obituary in the Guardian, she never cared about propriety, claiming that when she appeared in "Calendar Girls" in the West End at the age of 82, she was the only one in the cast who stripped completely naked for the photo call.
21255. She also played Anne Chapman in "Murder by Decree" (1979).
21256. Are you woke? Are you from Woking? Be skeptical about anything published on Apr. 1.
21257. Forecast: Sarah Penner's THE LONDON SÉANCE CLUB, due in 2023, is reported in The Bookseller (Apr. 1) <www.tinyurl.com/5cmzd6eh> to be set in London, in 1872, and "inspired by a real gentlemen's-only séance club founded by Charles Dickens and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle." The Ghost Club,

founded in 1862, is still going strong, but while Dickens and Conan Doyle were members, they weren't among its founders. Nor were they even members at the same time: Dickens died in 1870, when Conan Doyle was only eleven years old.

April 22 #3

21258. It's reasonably official, since it was reported by both *Variety* and the *Hollywood Reporter* (Apr. 5): Warner Bros. hopes to expand its "Sherlock Holmes" film universe into television, and is working with HBO Max to develop two new series, with Robert Downey Jr. on board as executive producer. The new series likely would be a substitute for the long-delayed third RDJ film, which was originally scheduled for release in December 2020, but is not yet in production.
21259. The largest autograph album ever compiled by a single collector, with sig-natures of more than 60,000 notables <www.tinyurl.com/2p9dmwke>, is up for sale for \$250,000. The history of the collection is fascinating indeed, even though (according to the dealer) Conan Doyle is not in the album.
21260. She wasn't a Sherlockian, but Lillian Virginia Mountweazel, well known to some (but not all) of those are interested in copyright, is worthy of attention; you can read about her at <www.tinyurl.com/cemjfumk>. Lady Mondegreen is better known to people interested in strange but useful words; you can read about her at <www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mondegreen>.
21261. *Old Marvel, the Scientific Detective* (Dark Lantern Tales, 2021; 229 pp., \$19.95) is an intriguing reprint of a serial, discovered by Joe Rainone, that appeared in *Saturday Night* (a weekly "story paper" published in Philadelphia) in 1884, three years before Conan Doyle's scientific detective. The book also has a reprint of "A Study in Scarlet" as serialized in *The Illustrated Home Guest* in 1894, and an introduction by Rainone detailing the coincidences between the two stories. It's all nicely edited by Mark Williams, who presides over *Dark Lantern* <www.darklantern.wordpress.com>.
21262. Glen and Cathy Miranker were interviewed in a CBS Sunday News segment on Apr. 10 on the "Sherlock Holmes in 221 Objects" exhibition at the Grolier Club <www.youtube.com/watch?v=f-555u43x68>.
21263. "Mystery novels offer a more nuanced perspective in which perfumes are one intriguing tool in the box of dark communication strategies," Megan Volpert suggests in her new book *Perfume (Object Lessons)* (Bloomsbury Academic, 2022). Sherlock Holmes is among the detectives she discusses, and you can read what she has to say about him in an excerpt from the book at the Literary Hub web-site (Apr. 8) <www.tinyurl.com/2ez7jnn3>
21264. There have been many mentions of Cameron Hollyer in this newsletter over the years, and the annual Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture in Toronto is named in his honor; if you would like to know more about him, and his many contributions to the Sherlockian world, Chris Redmond's fine tribute will be found at "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" <www.tinyurl.com/2p837awa>.
21265. Further to the report (October 21 #8) on C. T. Scott's article about "The Curious Incident of Sherlock Holmes's Real-Life Secretary" in the *Economist's* 1843 Magazine <www.tinyurl.com/96baau4d> about Chris Bazlinton, who at the age of 27 signed on as Holmes' secretary at Abbey National: Aurra Studios has announced that "Sherlock Holmes's Secret Secretary" now is in development for television <www.tinyurl.com/4afm96ts>. Needless to say, a secret secretary makes for a better television title than real-life secretary.
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April 22 #4

21266. Richard Hughes, mentioned often in this newsletter, was noted for having had characters modeled after him in books written by Ian Fleming and John Le Carré. Hughes' copy of Ian Fleming's *You Only Live Twice*, inscribed by "To Dikko-san from Fleming-san. With all affection." was offered in an on-line auction at Christie's this month, estimated at \$35,000-\$50,000 <www.tinyurl.com/zr9hncjj>; it didn't sell.
21267. Just the thing for dinosaur fans: original artwork by Harry Rountree for "The Lost World" (ink wash and gouache on board) was sold at Heritage Auctions this month for \$8,125 (including the buyer's premium); at auction in 2017 it sold for \$5,500. It's fascinating to see just how much better the original artwork is than what readers of the story in the *Strand Magazine* saw <www.tinyurl.com/34w97sv6>.
21268. This year's Virtual Jack Benny convention included "Jack Benny Meets Sherlock Holmes" (written by Brad Strickland and performed by the Atlanta Radio Theatre Company); you can watch (and listen to) the 23-minute show at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=JtQ1SbgUwKo>. The ARTC <www.artc.org>, founded in 1984, offers an interesting catalog of "adventure in sound," including "Sherlock Holmes and the Crime of the Century".
21269. The (real) "Jack Benny Show" had quite a few Sherlockian segments, including "Sherlock Holmes and King Kong" in the program that aired on May 26, 1933, starring Jack as Sherlock Holmes; Jennie Paton found it on-line at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=kJyZGVHgU8>.
21270. The February issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota has Julie McKuras' report on this newsletter (since there's a compete run in the collection), her "50 Years Ago" tribute to Hank Potter, and other news from and about the collections; copies of the newsletter are available from Timothy Johnson, 15-G Elmer L. Anderson Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455 <johns976@umn.com>.
21271. Ronald Levisky discusses "A Holmesian Homage—The Chronicles of Addington Peace" and Jerry Margolin explains how "The Slaving Hound Is Brought to Heel" in the spring issue of *Canadian Holmes*, which is published quarterly by the Bootmakers of Toronto, and also offers news of Sherlockian goings-on in Canada. Subscriptions cost \$30.00 a year (US or CA); single issues cost \$12.00 <www.torontobootmakers.com>.
21272. The Knockhatch Adventure Park in Hailsham (Sussex) has a Sherlock Holmes Experience <www.tinyurl.com/yurfjxya>; Richard Doyle (grand-nephew of Sir Arthur) presided over the opening this month. There's also a trailer at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=LIRBdfrYUS4>. The Parks also offers a Lost World Playbarn <www.tinyurl.com/yrhk8898>.
21273. *Nev March's Peril at the Exposition* (New York: Minotaur Books, 2022, 352 pp., \$27.99), the sequel to her award-winning *Murder in Old Bombay* (2020), has Captain Jim Agnihotri, now married to Diana Framji, in Chicago in 1893 investigating a threat to the Columbian Exposition; Jim has disappeared, and Diana must find him, in a story that's a thriller with some Sherlockian sleuthing involved.
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April 22 #5

21274. Further to the items (September 14 #7 and December 14 #5 and May 16 #6) about a new Sherlock Holmes play, written by Rachel Wagsaff and Duncan Abel, and produced by Antonio R. Marion, forecast for Broadway in 2017, Deadline has reported (Apr. 12) <www.tinyurl.com/yjescyzh> that the play is (still) under development, "with an eye toward the West End and Broadway." Stay tuned.
21275. Lykkelig Påskekrim! Turns out that Norwegians have an interesting way of celebrating Easter <www.lifeinnorway.net/easter-crime>.
21276. If you didn't buy a bottle of Macallan's Archival Series of fine whiskies honoring the "luggy bonnet" for £250 two years ago (May 20 #2), you should have: one bottle was at auction at Sotheby's in Hong Kong this month, estimated at 8,000-12,000 HKD <www.tinyurl.com/bkb6cjfz>; it sold for 22,500 HKD (that's \$2,868), with shipping extra.
21277. Who was the first Sherlockian scholar? Not, as it turns out, Helen Elizabeth Wilson, whose article "The Life of Sherlock Holmes" was published in the Oct. 1898 issue of the *Cornell Magazine* (February 22 #2). The spring issue of *The Baker Street Journal* reprints William Aspenwall Bradley's "Sherlock Holmes and His Literary Prototype" (first published in the Dec. 1896 issue of the *Columbia Literary Monthly*), accompanied by an article
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about Bradley by Daniel L. and Eugene B. Friedman, who discovered the 1896 scholarship. You can subscribe to the BSI

<www.bakerstreetirregulars.com> and receive the spring issue as part of this year's subscription.

21278. Why does Sherlock Holmes like Mexican restaurants? Jennie Paton found the answer at YouTube <www.youtube.com/shorts/l1TgXNw8Ntc>.

21279. More than 300 people attended the 221B Con in Atlanta on Apr. 8-10, and a good time seems to have been had by all. There were many panels, and you can see their list at <www.221bcon.com/panels>. The most detailed report from a Sherlockian about what went on is by Brad Keefauver; check his blog archive for April at <www.sherlockpeoria.blogspot.com>. You can also hear a 37-minute audio report <www.tinyurl.com/2p932jyn> at the Watsonian Weekly web-site.

21280. Steve Doyle's Fortnightly Dispatch continues; his latest interviews have been with Mark Jones and Ira Matetsky <www.tinyurl.com/mr45zbhu>.

21281. In case you've never seen one: a very nice copy of the 1925 A. L. Burt Co. photoplay reprint edition of *The Lost World*, with dust-jacket art from the film <www.tinyurl.com/5fmutuax>, sold at Heritage Auctions on Apr. 10 for \$660 (including the buyer's premium).

21282. For those who are aware that William Gillette smoked a curved wooden pipe, rather than a calabash, when he performed as "Sherlock Holmes" (no one has ever come up with a photograph or contemporary artwork that shows him with a calabash): a "Sherlock Holmes limited edition calabash rusticated estate smoking pipe" (presumably a briar) <www.tinyurl.com/5d7x3w27> was at auction this month, estimated at \$50-\$150; it sold for \$150.

April 22 #6

21283. Mark F. McPherson's *An Irregular Life: Being the Adventures and Memoirs of a Fortunate Sherlockian* (London: MX Publishing, 2022; 539 pp., \$39.99) is the second (and greatly expanded) edition of his memoirs, and it's a great read, offering a chance to share his travels and quests (for Camelot, Atlantis, Jack the Ripper, James Bond, Emma Peel, and the Loch Ness Monster, among others); his meetings with interesting Sherlockians (including his mentor Bill Rabe) and non-Sherlockians; as well as his appearances in his own one-man show "An Evening with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle". Memoirs, of course, are much more fun than autobiographies.

21284. "Sherlock Holmes in 221 Objects from the Collection of Glen S. Miranker" at the Grolier Club in New York opened on Jan. 12 and closed on Apr. 16, and had 5,500 visits, more than any other exhibition in at least the last ten years, and would have had more if attendance had not been restricted during the pandemic. The exhibition next will be at the Lilly Library in Bloomington, Ind., August 1-Dec. 15; details will be found at Glen's web-site at <www.sherlockin221objects.org>.

21285. The Generic Radio Workshop <www.genericradio.com> offers free downloads of a wide variety of old-time radio scripts, including ten from the Rathbone, Conway, and Gielgud series <www.genericradio.com/series/sherlockholmes>, and the Mercury Theater broadcast of Orson Welles' version of the Gillette play <www.genericradio.com/show/8VCGXSKAOS>.

21286. "Experience the mystery in VR" seems to be something new in the Sherlockian world. Les Enfants Terribles have created "The Case of the Hung Parliament" as a "live immersive production" that was adapted for an on-line audience on Zoom <www.vrisc.com/projects/sherlock-holmes-vr>. There's additional information at <www.sherlockholmesvr.com>, and even more about it at <www.sherlockimmersive.com>. The review in the Evening Standard (Feb. 25, 2021) was far from enthusiastic <www.tinyurl.com/4p24znp6>.

21287. For fans of "The Lost World": the National Geographic's one-hour program "Explorer: The Last Tepui" began streaming on Disney+ on Apr. 22; you can watch the trailer at <www.tinyurl.com/y8sc37jr>. It's the story of an expedition to Wei-Assipu, also known as Little Roraima or Roramita (many believe that near-by Roraima was the inspiration for Conan Doyle's story).

21288. Walt and Roger Reed's *The Illustrator in America 1880-1980: A Century of Illustration* (New York: Society of Illustrators, 1984) offers a detailed and well-illustrated discussion of American artists. The entry for Joseph Clement Coll ("perhaps America's greatest virtuoso in the use of pen and ink") includes artwork for "Sir Nigel" and "The Lost World", and the entry for Frederic Door Steele ("best remembered for his portrayal of Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes") shows a cover from Collier's.

21289. "A wise man once said, if you've eliminated the possible and the probable, then the impossible must be true! Sherlock Holmes, I think: 1899." According to Peter Parker (aka Spider-man), in the May 1973 issue of *Marvel Team-Up*, noted by Paul Thomas Miller in the April issue of the Sherlockian Chronologist Guild's newsletter *Timeline*, conveniently available by e-mail from Brad Keefauver <bkeefauver@gmail.com>.

April 22 #7

21290. Rathbone and Bruce in 1959? They both signed a contract with NBC-TV on July 23, 1959, giving permission to use a photograph of them in a "reunion plug" <www.tinyurl.com/2kx4szmd>; the contract was at auction on Apr. 27, estimated at \$1,500-\$2,500; the photograph was not included, and there was no information on what the program was, or whether it aired. The lot was withdrawn, and for a good reason: Nigel Bruce died in 1953.

21291. Terry Hunt's presentation at the Bryant Library in Roslyn, N.Y., on May 12 about Christopher Morley's connections with Sherlock Holmes will be available on-line <www.tinyurl.com/5xhw3xxe>; Morley's "Knothole" is preserved in Roslyn, where he lived and wrote for many years.

21292. Terry also has created a new Sherlockian society, the League of Kilted Canonicals, for Sherlockians who wear kilts; more information is available from him at <sherlockstuff113@gmail.com>.

21293. Theater news: Brian Guehring's "Sherlock Holmes and the 1st Baker Street Irregular" will be performed at the James McCabe Theatre in Valrico, Fla., May 6-21 <www.thevillageplayersvalrico.com>.

21294. Allan Martin's "Sherlock Holmes and the Hound of the Basketballs" (a puppet show billed as "appropriate for mature audiences, not children") will be performed at the Old Town Hall in Altamonte, Ont., May 12-15; web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/4hhzyes4>.

21295. John Nicholson and Steven Canny's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed at the Keighley Playhouse in Keighley, West Yorks., on May 2-7 <www.keighleyplayhouse.co.uk>; also at the Daneside Theatre in Congleton, Cheshire, from June 14 to June 18 <www.congletonplayers.com>.

21296. The Lantern Light Theatre Company will perform "Miss Sherlock Holmes" (a triple bill of one-act plays) on tour in Britain in June and July; their schedule is at <www.tinyurl.com/yc23w4kw>.

21297. Jeffrey Hatcher's "Holmes and Watson" will be performed at the Park Square Theatre in St. Paul, Minn., July 12-Aug. 21 <www.parksquaretheatre.org>.

21298. A new adaptation of "The Poison Belt" is due at the Jermyn Street Theatre in London, July 21-30 <www.jermynstreettheatre.co.uk>.

21299. Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" will be performed at the Great Plains Theatre in Abilene, Kans., Sept. 9-25 <www.greatplains theatre.com>.

21300. "Spontaneous Sherlock" will be performed at the Glee Club in Nottingham on Oct. 24 <www.thespontaneousplayers.com>.

21301. Katie Forgette's "Sherlock Holmes and Case of the Jersey Lily" is due at the Alley Theatre in Houston, Apr. 14-May 7, 2023 <www.alleytheatre.org>.

May 22 #1

21302. The Baker Street Irregulars Trust and the Lilly Library are now accepting applications for research fellowships for 2023. The fellowships “support research on various aspects of Sherlockian studies that require consultation of the BSI Archive.” The applications deadline is Sept. 15, and more information is available at www.tinyurl.com/yw8nttvd
21303. This year’s BSI Trust annual webinar lecture will be given by Ray Betzner on Sept. 17 on “‘221B’: The Story of a Sherlockian Sonnet”; Ray is a fervent admirer of, and an expert on, the sonnet’s author, Vincent Starrett <www.tinyurl.com/59krarua>. Ray’s blog about Starrett has great stories about him and his books, and the latest story, about an unusual copy of one Starrett’s non-Sherlockian books, is at <www.tinyurl.com/57bn88b2>.
21304. More news about the Baker Street Irregulars’ conference (“Sherlock Holmes and the British Empire”) scheduled at the Bear Mountain Inn, N.Y., on July 29-31: there will be a huckster’s room, with limited space for tables, and anyone interested should contact Ralph Hall <bugmanhall@aol.com>. The announcement for the conference is at <www.tinyurl.com/56zskuus>.
21305. The Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia, maintained by Alexis Barquin, is well worth exploring; one of the many features he offers is digital text of all of Conan Doyle’s fiction <www.arthur-conan-doyle.com/search-fictions> (213 short stories, 24 novels, and 16 plays), with a search engine. “Sherlock the Musical” (written by Stefan van de Graaff and Denning Burton) has been performed and recorded, and can now be seen (without charge) at their web-site <www.sherlockmusical.com>.
21306. As the era of virtual meetings by Sherlockian societies eases to an end, Jennie Paton would like to capture for posterity an archive of recordings, and would appreciate hearing from societies who would like to have their meetings preserved <jpaton221@gmail.com>.
21307. The 2020 Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture was given at the Toronto Public Library by Rebecca Romney (“Sherlockian Collecting: A Tour of Clever, Creative, and Weird Pursuits”) and her paper has now been published for members of The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection; a limited number of copies are available to people who join the Friends now; their web-site at <www.acdfriends.org> has PayPal and credit-card capability, or you can contact Cliff Goldfarb (789 Yonge Street, Toronto, ON M4W 2G8, Canada). A minimum donation of \$35.00 brings you three issues of their newsletter and a copy of the 2021 Memorial Lecture. Rebecca has some grand stories about collectors and collections.
21308. The spring issue of the Friends’ newsletter The Magic Door offers Hartley R. Nathan’s article on “Arthur Conan Doyle and the C.P.R. Securities”, an account by Jessie Amaolo of the Library’s exhibition “A Study in Sherlock & His Creator”, and much more. You can request a copy of the newsletter from Cliff Goldfarb (address above) <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.

May 22 #2

21309. The Bangalore Detectives Club, by Harini Nagendra (New York: Pegasus Crime, 2022), is set in southern India in 1921, when Kaveri Murthy, a young doctor’s wife, turns detective; she’s an admirer of Sherlock Holmes, and the novel, while not really Sherlockian, is full of flavor in a story about Indians, rather than the British, at a time when Mahatma Gandhi was just beginning his campaign against colonial rule.
21310. The Beacon Society continues to publish its “quarterly gazette for younger Sherlockians everywhere,” and the spring issue of Sherlock’s Spotlight is available at their web-site <www.beaconsociety.com>; the contents include material both by and for younger followers of the Great Detective.
21311. Serena Blasco’s Enola Holmes: The Graphic Novels: Book One (Kansas City: Andrews McMeel, 2022; 192 pp., \$14.99) is a reprint of her imaginative and colorful adaptations of the first three of Nancy Springer’s novels about the younger sister of Sherlock and Mycroft, nicely timed for the soon-to-be-released second season of the Netflix series. There was a well-illustrated interview with the artist at the School Library Journal web-site in 2018 <www.tinyurl.com/yyvw46ql>.
21312. Bart Lovins’ dramatizations of “The Novel Adventures of Sherlock Holmes” (the four long stories) for performance at the Hardin County Schools Performing Arts Center in Elizabethtown, Ky., are imaginatively staged, and available streamed on-line (\$5.00 each) at <www.tinyurl.com/2p8e4rbp>.
21313. The late Marvin Kaye edited the Sherlock Holmes Mystery Magazine since it was launched in 2008, and its new editor is Carla Kaessinger Coupe, whose first issue offers the traditional interesting mix of Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian fiction and commentary. \$12.00 (\$39.99 for four issues) from the Wildside Press <www.wildsidepress.com> (7945 MacArthur Boulevard #215, Bethesda, MD 20818), and you can explore their web-site for more of their Sherlockiana.
21314. When in Tyler (Texas): the Rosevine Inn Bed & Breakfast is place to stay for visiting Sherlockians <www.tinyurl.com/yc2n63v8>.
21315. The Reichenbach Irregulars, having celebrated the 30th anniversary of the Reichenplaque (the commemorative plaque that was unveiled at the Falls on May 2, 1992), are hard at work planning for their next conference (“Musings on the Amusements in the Canon”) which will be held in Leukerbad on June 1-4, 2023. More information about the conference (and the society) will be found at their web-site <www.221b.ch>.
21316. Reported: “Sherlock Holmes: The Peter Cushing Interview” on a new DVD from Kaleidoscope Facilities (£24.99) <www.tinyurl.com/4hkxrn5v>.
21317. “Evaline and Mina didn't mean to get into the family business” is the hook for Colleen Gleason's The Clockwork Scarab (2013), the first of five books in her series about Evaline Holmes (the niece of Sherlock) and Mina Stoker (the sister of Bram), and their adventures in a steampunk Victorian London. There’s a free download of the book at <www.cgbks.com/Scarab>, and more about the series at <www.colleengleason.com>.

May 22 #3

21318. Edinburgh policeman James McLevy’s Curiosities of Crime in Edinburgh and The Sliding Scale of Life were published in 1861, and although there’s no record of Arthur Conan Doyle ever having read the books, it’s intriguing to think of him encountering and enjoying them during his student days in Edinburgh; first editions of both books are available from Type Punch Matrix <www.typepunchmatrix.com> (\$3,000).
21319. Steve Doyle’s Fortnightly Dispatch continues; his latest interviews have been with Tamar Zeffren <www.youtube.com/watch?v=n6L8oJyA4sU> and Marsha Pollak <www.youtube.com/watch?v=8uY6IntrLw>.
21320. Rachele Zylberberg died on May 1. Better known as Régine, she founded a basement nightclub in Paris in 1957 (later claiming that it was the first discothèque) and went on to create a \$500-million world-wide empire of 23 clubs. She also was an actress and a singer, and led a thoroughly colorful life, and you can hear her sing “I Never Do Anything Twice” (written by Stephen Sondheim) as the Madame in the film “The Seven-Per-Cent Solution” (1976). You can listen to the song at <www.tinyurl.com/23etp5vp>, and to an interesting podcast discussion of the song (noted by Max Magee) at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=SbO18U1kNVc>.
21321. Howard Ostrom has reported an interesting one-hour video-biography of Benedict Cumberbatch at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=tydks9RpJ2k>.
21322. Patrick Horgan’s The Detection of Sherlock Holmes is a “slightly fantastic autobiographic tale” written by an actor who played Sherlock Holmes often, and William Gillette once, in the world premiere of Ken Ludwig’s “Dramatic License” (which is still performed as “Postmortem”). Never published as a book, it’s available as an audio-book, recorded in 1998 by Horgan himself, from Decklin’s Domain <www.decklinsdomain.com> (\$5.00 as a download, \$9.95 on CD or \$12.45 on a thumb drive); it’s imaginative, and nicely done, and recommended. Decklin also offers nine

downloads of Horgan reading the entire Canon, three more of Conan Doyle's non-Sherlockian stories, and many stories by other authors; you can sample them, and discover just how wonderful Horgan was.

21323. "Sherlock Holmes and the Children of London" is a new musical graphic novel produced by the Baskerville Files <www.thebaskervillefiles.com>; you can listen to their music at their web-site and at <www.tinyurl.com/yh723y3w>.
21324. The Internet Archive Software Collection, said to be "the largest vintage and historical software library in the world, providing instant access to millions of programs, CD-ROM images, documents, and multi-media," has much to offer <www.archive.org/details/software?sin=TEXT>. If you run a search for [sherlock holmes] you get 182 hits for metadata, and 103 hits for text contents. There's much of interest to Sherlockian gamers.
21325. Max Magee notes that the Internet Archive also offers a treasure trove of Sherlockian radio broadcasts, including 74 BBC programs that were written by Bert Coules, with Clive Merrison as Sherlock Holmes; you can listen to them all at <www.tinyurl.com/3b4k8d9j>. You can also search for [sherlock holmes audio] and find enough keep you happy for hours on end.

May 22 #4

21326. "Sherlock Holmes in Comics" is a new "guide to Sherlock Holmes in comic books, graphic novels, and manga" created by Johanna Draper Carlson, who was interviewed by Scott Monty and Burt Wolder for "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" <www.tinyurl.com/3pvdwdv9>, where you'll find much more, including the tale of "the gorgeous typeface that drove men mad and sparked a 100-year mystery." You can explore Johanna's colorful database at <www.comicsworthreading.com/sherlock-holmes-in-comics>.
21327. Forrest T. Athey ("The Hammerford Will Case") died on Apr. 2. He worked in finance, accounting, and corporate taxation, was the author of a pastiche published in the Baker Street Journal in 1969, and received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1978.
21328. Howard Ostrom launched his "Who's on First, It's Not So Elementary: First Sherlocks by Country" data-base with 50 counties, and he now has 97 countries; you can see the latest 186-page, fully illustrated, version at Ross Foad's "No Place Like Holmes" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/mr25sxbm>. There also is a Google Drive version at <www.tinyurl.com/2p89xxew>.
21329. Roger Johnson has kindly noted a documentary about Craig's Court in London <www.youtube.com/watch?v=6gwjMWFxd3g>; it's described as "London's forgotten square," and has a Sherlockian connection (if you're impatient, just skip ahead to 8:05).
21330. Reichenbachite is a hydrous copper phosphate, a polymorph of pseudomalachite, first reported in 1977, named for the locality where it was found, and the name was formally approved by the International Mineralogical Association in 1984. Unfortunately for Sherlockians, the locality is a different Reichenbach, near Frankfurt am Main in Germany. Reichenbachite has been found elsewhere: this nice specimen, from the Congo, was spotted at a rock and mineral show by Michael Pollak.
21331. Terry Hunt gave a PowerPoint presentation at the Bryant Library in Roslyn on May 12 about "Christopher Morley's Influence on the Sherlockian World" (and he'll be happy to do it via Zoom for Sherlockian societies); you can contact him at <18goldini95@gmail.com>.
21332. The Conan Doyle Collection in Portsmouth, with funding from the Arts Council England, presented a series of on-line lectures this month, in honor of the late Neil McCaw, with talks by Michael Comben (on "Conan Doyle as A. C. Smith: Football and Portsmouth"), Antonija Primorac (on "In Search of Sherlock Holmes's Doubles: Translation and Early Pastiche"), and Anne Chapman (on "Arthur Conan Doyle in the Idler Magazine"); the lectures may be available on-line (stay tuned). Information about the Collection's ongoing project "The Detectives" is conveniently available at their web-site <www.visitportsmouth.co.uk/conan-doyle/our-work>.
21333. The De Beers Cullinan Blue diamond (March 22 #5) was sold at auction in Hong Kong on Apr. 27 for \$57.5 million (including the buyer's premium). Weighing 15.10 carats, it's the largest blue diamond ever sold at auction (the Hope Diamond, never at auction, weighs 45.52 carats).

May 22 #5

21334. The ACD Society has launched a new project: an annotated version of the manuscript of "The Terror of Blue John Gap"; it's an on-going project, edited by Margie Deck and Nancy Holder, with commentary by Paul Chapman, Derek Belanger, Mattias Böstrom, Charles Prepolec, and Bob Coghill, with more to come <www.acdsociety.com/bjg/a/bjga.html>. You can also go to <www.acdsociety.com> for more information about the society's other activities.
21335. Here's your chance to own a Stradivarius (although you'll need to pay much more than Sherlock Holmes did for his): the Smithsonian magazine web-site reported (May 9) <www.tinyurl.com/mtzyje9e> that the Tarisio auction house will offer one on June 9, estimated at about \$20 million (which would make it the world's most expensive violin).
21336. It was the Les and Laurie Show at the Mystery Writers of America's awards dinner in New York on Apr. 28: Les Klinger presented Laurie R. King with the MWA's prestigious Grand Master Award, and you can watch the presentation at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=-KvddnMIFt0>. Ingenuity, the little helicopter that has been flying nicely on Mars since 2021, when the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's rover Perseverance landed, is nearing the end of its useful life, according to an article in the Washington Post (May 15) <www.tinyurl.com/2m6kevne>. SHERLOC and WATSON <www.tinyurl.com/mswem6ev>, however, are still at work.
21337. Jim Hawkins is hoping to identify the first Sherlockian society lapel pin. Ron De Waal has Hugo's Companions' "221B Lapel Pin" (1966), and the Scowrers and Molly Maguires' "Membership Lapel Pin" (1971). Does anyone know of other candidates? Contact Jim at <seniorhawk@gmail.com>.
21338. "Hitler the ranting detective" <www.youtube.com/watch?v=SrUiKl4LDbs> is a new video spotted by Jennie Paton. See for yourself: "Hitler proves how easy Sherlock Holmes' mysteries are by solving them!"
21339. The Florida Bibliophile Society held an on-line meeting on Apr. 19, with Ray Betzner as guest speaker; his topic was "Vincent Starrett and Sherlock Holmes" and you can tune in at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=zNM8DAGyCIA>. Ray notes that his presentation starts at 9:30.
21340. Douglas Wadle's Einstein's Violin: The Love Affair Between Science, Music, and History's Most Creative Thinkers (Bloomington: Archway, 2022; 215 pp., \$33.95) is aptly subtitled: the author does a deep dive into the relationship between music and genius, acknowledging how important music has been to Albert Einstein, Sherlock Holmes, and many others who "relied on music to access the innate creativity of the brain."
21341. Overton Audios has produced two interesting albums of Sherlock Holmes pastiches "The Game Is On" and "Family Values" (with Connor Chadwick as Sherlock Holmes and Daniel J. Patton as Doctor John Watson), available free at their YouTube channel <www.tinyurl.com/3sfak72h> (scroll down to find the Sherlock Holmes audios).

May 22 #6

21342. Conan Doyle wrote (in his Preface to His Last Bow) that Sherlock Holmes "lived in a small farm upon the Downs five miles from Eastbourne." But we don't know whether he ever stayed at the Grand Hotel in Eastbourne, which opened in 1875 and is the only five-star hotel on the British coastline, according to an article at the Sussex Life website <www.tinyurl.com/2xne2dnj>. The article also says that the Grand was "beloved by illustrious

guests such as Winston Churchill and author Arthur Conan Doyle,” and the hotel web-site www.grandeastbourne.com/our-history does mention him (and shows just how grand a hotel it is).

21343. Steve Mason has created an imaginative and colorful Sherlockian Periodical Table, available on request <mason.steve8080@gmail.com>.
21344. Ray Wilcockson continues to make interesting discoveries in the pages of digitized newspapers, and reports on them in his “Markings” blog, such as “Sherlock Holmes and the Crippen Musical” www.tinyurl.com/2p9stkk8 William Shatner celebrated Arthur Conan Doyle’s birthday in song on May 22 <www.youtube.com/watch?v=jundQrVHXyY>.
21345. D. H. Friston is well known to Sherlockians as the illustrator of “A Study in Scarlet” in Beeton’s Christmas Annual for 1887; you can see his cover illustration for the Jan. 28, 1882, issue of The Penny Illustrated Paper at <www.tinyurl.com/348zc8hj>.
21346. Theater news: Richard James’ “The Death of Sherlock Holmes” will be performed at the Conquest Theatre in Bromyard, Herts., on June 17; website at <www.conquest-theatre.co.uk>.
21347. “Sherlock Holmes Not According to Doyle” (four radio plays dramatized by Catherine Behrens) will be performed by the Edge Ensemble Theatre Company at the Keene Public Library in Keene, N.H.; Mark Twain’s “Sherlock Holmes Goes West” and August Derleth’s “The Adventure of the Late Mr. Faversham” on July 21 and July 23; and Derrick Belanger’s “Yes, Virginia, There Is a Sherlock Holmes” and Vincent Starrett’s “The Unique Hamlet” on July 22 and July 24. Free admission, and all part of “Sherlock Week” sponsored by the Monadnock Sherlockians (the local Sherlockian society).
21348. “Holmes/Poirot” (a new play by Jeffrey Hatcher and Steve Hendrickson) will be performed at the Park Square Theatre in St. Paul, Minn., July 19-Aug. 20, 2023; it’s based on Agatha Christie’s “Murder on the Links” and brings “two of the greatest detectives of all time” on stage to solve a crime.
21349. The Crime and Comedy Theatre Company will perform Martin Parsons’ radioplay dramatization of “The Hound of the Baskervilles” on tour in Britain, Oct. 28-Nov. 20 <www.crimeandcomedytheatrecompany.co.uk/dates>.
21350. Ken Ludwig’s “Baskerville” has been scheduled at the Everyman Theatre in Baltimore, Md., Dec. 6-Jan. 1 <www.everymantheatre.org>.

June 22 #1

21351. Many Sherlockians have seen and enjoyed the International Sherlock Holmes Exhibition, which is at the Frost Science Center in Miami, Fla., through Sept. 5 <www.frostscience.org/exhibition/sherlock-holmes>. It will next be at the Minnesota History Center in St Paul, Minn., from Oct. 20 through Apr. 6 <www.mnhs.org/historycenter>. Created by the Exhibits Development Group, the exhibition has an impressive web-site <www.tinyurl.com/4sv5jdj3> where the company promotes the exhibition to museums that might consider putting it on display.
21352. Sherlock Holmes and the Strange Death of Brigadier-General Delves, by Tim Symonds (London: MX Publishing, 2022; 168 pp., \$12.95), brings Holmes and Watson to the Bailiwick of Guernsey to rescue a war-time comrade of Watson from conviction on a charge of murder; there is much about Guernsey (where the author grew up), and the ill-fated British campaign in Afghanistan.
21353. A nice copy of Vincent Starrett’s The Unique Hamlet (a Walter L. Hill variant) was at auction in Canada last month <www.tinyurl.com/yp7ak8s6>, estimated at CA\$1,500-CA\$3,000; it didn’t sell.
21354. Kay Wheeler had a nice remembrance of Basil Rathbone in the Portland Press Herald (May 26) <www.tinyurl.com/45kdr69z>.
21355. Wanda Dow, formerly in Florida and now in New Mexico, has launched a colorful newsletter (“Papers on the Sundial”); it’s available on request via e-mail from Wanda at <hal0tot@verizon.net>.
21356. Playing with Fire: The Weird Tales of Arthur Conan Doyle, edited and introduced by Mike Ashley (London: British Library, 2021; 286 pp. £11.31), is an excellent addition to the British Library Hardback Classics series; in his Introduction, Ashley discusses Conan Doyle’s fascination with the strange and supernatural, and the collection opens with a reprint of his autobiographical essay “Stranger Than Fiction” (first published in 1915) and continues with a fine selection of his non-Sherlockian stories.
21357. Richard L. Kellogg’s Barry Baskerville’s Fishing Adventure (Fort Collins: Airship 27, 2022; 40 pp., \$11.99), with attractive artwork by Gary Kato, is the eighth in his young-readers series about a boy detective.
21358. Users of the Internet who aren’t aware of Cunningham’s Law might well be interested in how it works <www.tinyurl.com/3sh3f8r5>. Or doesn’t.
21359. Baker Street West (in Jackson, Calif.) has emerged from the pandemic with a wide range of dramatic and other events, and their web-site’s well worth exploring <www.bakerstreetwest.com>.
21360. Stephen Browning’s On the Trail of Sherlock Holmes (Barnsley: Pen & Sword History, 2022; 141 pp., \$34.95) offers seven guided walks through London, for both armchair and on-the-ground Sherlockians, plus information about areas outside London and about Conan Doyle; it’s up-to-date, and interesting, with commentary about what’s seen on the walks.

June 22 #2

21361. Sherlock Holmes with googly eyes <www.tinyurl.com/2u8a8euh> is something new for the Great Detective. Slate’s web-site used the image with their story about the new movie “Everything Everywhere All at Once” (Howard Ostrom notes that the web-site has enhanced a stock image showing “a mature man dressed as Sherlock Holmes”).
21362. Thomas Bruce Wheeler’s The Mapped London of Sherlock Holmes (2018) links to an interactive “Map of Sherlock Holmes’ London” available free on-line <www.sherlockslondon.com>; it’s a splendid demonstration of the application of modern technology to the London of the Canon. It’s handy indeed for people who are walking in Canonical London, and Tom has reported that since his book was published an average of 266 people a day have visited the web-site.
21363. Disney’s Twentieth Century Studios is at work on a new film of “The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen”, according to the Hollywood Reporter (May 17) <www.tinyurl.com/yxwdunrf>. The comic-book series, launched in 1999, included Holmes and Watson as characters, and had the League organized by an off-stage Mycroft, and the first film (2003), had Richard Roxburgh as Moriarty. The new film is to be aired on Hulu.
21364. The Royal Mint does much more than merely issue British coins: they also offer souvenirs, and rare coins such as a set of 1887 gold sovereigns honoring Queen Victoria’s golden jubilee (£6,430) <www.tinyurl.com/3xkmrzm8>.
21365. The “John Bennett Shaw” web-site <www.johnbennettshaw.com> maintained by Jim Hawkins continues to expand: a text search for [here’s a video] will take you to a report on his recent visit with Saul Cohen, who was a founding member of the Brothers Three of Moriarty.
21366. “The Case of the Hung Parliament” (a “live immersive production” created by Les Enfants Terribles) (April 22 #6) is now being performed on-line by the Shanghai Grand Theater, according to a report in China Daily (June 24) <www.tinyurl.com/pjme6zhc>.
21367. Reported: Conan Doyle’s non-Sherlockian “Playing with Fire” is included in Brendan Connell’s anthology The Zinzolin Book of Occult Fiction (Snuggly Books, 2022; 334 pp., \$22.00).

21368. A bloodhound named Trumpet won best in show at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show this month, which might not seem Sherlockian. But the report on “Today” on NBC-TV on June 23 <[tinyurl.com/ms4jms3](https://www.tinyurl.com/ms4jms3)> included an appropriate and amusing clip from the Fred Willard movie “Best in Show” (2000)
21369. Ray Wilcockson enjoys research in digitized newspapers, and has discovered that Sherlock and Mycroft Holmes were in Dublin in 1897, and again in 1899 <www.altamarkings.blogspot.com/2020>. A nice opportunity for pasticheurs.
21370. “How to Catch a Cheater Using Math” is the title of a video noted by Jennie Paton <www.tinyurl.com/3955ujmk> that has a Sherlockian blob explaining frequency hypothesis testing (Dana Richards, who’s an expert at this sort of thing, says it’s a remarkably clear explanation).
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June 22 #3

21371. The single page from the manuscript of “The Hound of the Baskervilles” went unsold at Heritage Auctions on June 4 when the reserve wasn’t met. It was available for purchase for \$125,000 for a few days from Heritage Auctions, but is no longer offered. The web-site’s at <www.tinyurl.com/4yfk6rj6>. A different single page from the manuscript sold last year for \$423,000 (including the buyer’s premium) (November 21 #5). Obviously the underbidder in that auction wasn’t interested in the page offered this year.
21372. “Why would someone wake up and claim they’re Napoleon? The answer: something of a fixed idea.” Which of course reminds one of the *idée fixe* mentioned in “The Six Napoleons”. Victoria Shepherd will be lecturing about “A History of Delusions” on-line for National Archives on July 13, and you can read all about it at <www.tinyurl.com/963yw93n>. There’s also Laure Murat’s book *The Man Who Thought He Was Napoleon: Toward a Political History of Madness* (2014), for those who might want to pursue this particular delusion. And Daniel Freeman’s BBC Radio 4 lecture on “Napoleon and ‘Delusions of Grandeur’” is at <www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0007lh6>
21373. “Musings on Amusements in the Canon” is the title of the next conference scheduled by the Reichenbach Irregulars in Leukerbad, Switzerland, on June 1-4, 2023 <www.221b.ch/Events_e.html> and visitors from far and near are welcome to attend (and have in the past, reporting having a grand time).
21374. Richard Gordon played Sherlock Holmes (with Leigh Lovell as Watson) on radio in 1930-1933) and in the film “The Radio Murder Mystery” (1933), and (with Harry West as Watson) on radio in 1936. Now Ray Wilcockson has discovered that Gordon also played Holmes on stage; you can read all about it in Ray’s “Markings” blog <www.tinyurl.com/t4a6x8sc>.
21375. Cole Porter’s classic musical “Anything Goes” (1934) has a rather tenuous Sherlockian connection, and a production at the Barbican in London in 2021 was filmed. You can watch it on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/ycktz6sj>; it’s all great fun, and the Sherlockian scene starts at 65 minutes.
21376. An article in the Indian Express (June 6) <www.tinyurl.com/yahcd6m2> includes an image of the Sappers War Memorial in Bengaluru, and there is a Canonical connection: the 1st Bangalore Pioneers (mentioned in “The Empty House”) are thought to have been the 1st Madras Pioneers, a regiment that was raised by the British in 1780; it was disbanded in 1933 and absorbed into the Madras Sappers.
21377. “Dr. Watson and Sherlock Holmes are tracking a criminal mastermind in the present-day United States. Watson lists out the states the mastermind has visited in alphabetical order. They are: Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, and South Carolina. Watson stares at the list, but he can’t make out any sort of pattern. But Holmes’ eyes light up. ‘Why, it’s elementary, my dear Watson!’” That’s a problem posed by Eric Snyder at the Riddler Express at Zach Wissner-Gross’ “FiveThirtyEight” web-site <www.tinyurl.com/ybthfnar>. So: what’s the pattern?
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June 22 #4

21378. Philip Purser-Hallard’s *Sherlock Holmes: Masters of Lies* (New York: Titan, 2022; 257 pp., \$15.95) is a complicated and entertaining pastiche, set in London in 1898, that pits Sherlock and Mycroft Holmes, Dr. Watson, and Stanley Hopkins against a clever mastermind who is skilled at forgery, impersonation, and murder.
21379. Further to the report (April 22 #4) on the Sherlock Holmes Experience at the Knockhatch Adventure Park in Sussex, there’s now a walk-through video at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=U4SatfMwbHE>.
21380. So: what is the pattern in the Riddler Express puzzle (June 22 #3)? It’s elementary.
21381. Howard Ostrom’s “The A-Z of Sherlock Holmes Performers” data-base now has more than 8,000 people who have appeared as Sherlock Holmes, or in Sherlockian costume <www.nplh.co.uk/a-z-index.html>.
21382. Japanese interest in Sherlock Holmes continues: there’s now a translation of Roger Johnson and Jean Upton’s *The Sherlock Holmes Miscellany* (November 12 #5), translated and edited by Masamichi Higurashi; you can see the colorful cover at <www.tinyurl.com/ywkf75bk>.
21383. Mr. Doyle’s *Class Presents A Study in Scarlet* is a delightful graphic novel published by the Conan Doyle Collection in Portsmouth in 2020 (70 pp., £10.00) <www.visitportsmouth.co.uk/conan-doyle/shop>; adapted by Matthew Hardy for ages 7-11, it’s an imaginative presentation of the story, with attractive art by Russell Mark Olson.
21384. The Genesee Country Village & Museum in Mumfords, N.Y., “the largest living history museum in New York state,” will help you “step into the history, mystery, and culinary delights” of Sherlock Holmes on Aug. 6-7; their web-site’s at <www.gcv.org/events/a-novel-weekend>.
21385. There are more and more Sherlockian tattoos to be seen, thanks to the Internet <www.tinyurl.com/yc2ujv42>, and some of them are both imaginative and artistic.
21386. Max Magee has noted the “Raffles Redux” web-site <www.rafflesredux.com>, where Sarah Morrissey and Genevieve L. Morrissey offer annotated versions of E. W. Hornung’s “Raffles” stories, and his play “A Visit from Raffles” (1909), in which H. A. Saintsbury played the title role, making him one of the very few actors who have played both Raffles and Sherlock Holmes.
21387. Treefort Media has produced a ten-episode audio mini-series “Moriarty: The Devil’s Game” that will be available at Audible on July 7; you can listen to a sample at <www.audible.com/pd/Moriarty-Podcast/BOB2DZBVRR>.
21388. Steve Doyle’s *Fortnightly Dispatch* continues; his latest interviews have been with Henry Boote <www.youtube.com/watch?v=xK6KI813AiM> and with Evelyn Herzog <www.youtube.com/watch?v=LeQGdELP1A>. Steve himself was featured in print in an interview in his hometown *Zionsville Current* on June 13 <www.tinyurl.com/k6jb3ptb>.
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June 22 #5

21389. Reported: “The Lion’s Mane” reprinted in *Guilty Creatures: A Menagerie of Mysteries*, edited by Martin Edwards (Scottsdale: Poisoned Pen, 2022; 308 pp., \$14.54); the American edition of the British Library’s anthology of mysteries in which animals play an important role. Amazon’s “look inside” feature offers a chance to read the introduction, in which Edwards discusses Conan Doyle, and Heard’s *A Taste for Honey*.
21390. “Tribute to Sherlock Holmes on the Occasion of His Hundredth Birthday” was a 30-minute program broadcast by the BBC Home Service on Jan. 8, 1954, and it included Dennis Arundell (as Lord Peter Wimsey), recalling how he had once met Sherlock Holmes, in a segment written by Dorothy L.
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Sayers. The program has not survived, but her script was published in Sayers on Holmes (2001), and Allyn Gibson has found it at the “One Other Gaudy Night” blog <www.tinyurl.com/46s82jbh>.

21391. Jennie Paton found a nice video tour (“Barcelona’s Best Kept Secret”) of the Biblioteca Pública Arús, which houses Joan Proubasta’s extensive collection of Sherlockiana and Doyleana <www.youtube.com/watch?v=YfUR13xGOQQ> (the tour of his collection starts at 9:49).
21392. An attractive oil-on-canvas painting by Walter Paget showing King Henry V at Agincourt was at auction this month <www.tinyurl.com/m78ssbsj>, with an estimate of \$5,500-\$8,250. Walter Paget (Sidney Paget’s younger brother) illustrated “The Dying Detective”, and this painting might well be considered Sherlockian since (according to Shakespeare) Henry V proclaimed “the game’s afoot” long before Sherlock Holmes did. The painting didn’t sell, presumably because bidding didn’t reach the reserve set by whoever bought the painting for \$5,000 earlier this year.
21393. “Evaline and Mina didn’t mean to get into the family business” is the hook for Colleen Gleason’s series about Evaline Holmes (the niece of Sherlock) and Mina Stoker (the sister of Bram), set in a steampunk Victorian London. The Carnelian Crow (Avid, 2017; 256 pp., \$19.99) and The Zeppelin Deception (Avid, 2019; 290 pp., \$23.95) are the last of a five-book series of young-adult novels aimed at teen-age girls, and the stories offer romance, villainy, and lots of energy and excitement. The author’s web-site is at <www.stokerandholmes.com>.
21394. The Mini-Tonga Scion Society may be inactive, but people still are having fun creating Sherlockian miniatures: Samantha Wolov has noted Jamie Robertson’s post to Instagram <www.tinyurl.com/4svnnkxw>.
21395. The manuscript of “The Greek Interpreter” (owned by the late David Karp les) will be offered at Heritage Auctions on July 16 with an opening bid of \$100,000, with no reserve <www.tinyurl.com/3e5a7sfk>. Randall Stock’s detailed page about the manuscript is at <www.tinyurl.com/yc79d8j8>.
21396. There also will be some nice Sherlockiana and Doyleana in Heritage’s sale 6253 (July 27-28) <www.tinyurl.com/2p93r9mf>, including Collier’s Once a Week Library (1891, the first American edition of “The Sign of the Four”) and the three-volume set of Dreamland and Ghostland (1887, with five non-Sherlockian stories, Conan Doyle’s first appearance in a book in Britain).
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June 22 #6

21397. A copy of a later edition of The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes, signed and inscribed by Conan Doyle to Lady Sackville, will be at auction on July 6 <www.tinyurl.com/nbe5y8d4>, estimated at €400-€500. Victoria Sackville-West, a colorful lady <www.tinyurl.com/55ft64w>, isn’t as well-known now as her daughter Vita Sackville West.
21398. “You don’t happen to have a Raphael or a first folio Shakespeare without knowing it?” asked Sherlock Holmes (in “The Three Gables”). A copy of the First Folio will be at auction at Sotheby’s on July 21. Read all about it at <www.tinyurl.com/5xp59nwd>.
21399. Who knew? Sherlock was in Ballarat. Well, it was Jim Sherlock, and the Ballarat is in California, noted by Jennie Paton. It’s a ghost town now, and according to Wikipedia <www.tinyurl.com/yhfdnwz2> it has one permanent resident. There’s much more about Ballarat, and about some of its colorful residents, at <www.desertusa.com/desert-california/ballarath.html>.
21400. Theater news: Ken Ludwig’s “Baskerville” is due at the Burgfestspiele in Jagsthausen, Germany, July 1-Aug. 25 <www.burgfestspiele-jagsthausen.de>, and at the Lamb’s Player Theatre in Coronado, Calif., on Oct. 1-Nov. 20 <www.lambplayer.org>.
21401. The Our Star Theatre Company began touring James Barry’s “Sherlock’s Excellent Adventure” in Britain on July 1 <www.ourstartheatrecompany.com>.
21402. Eric Coble’s “Sherlock Holmes: The Baker Street Irregulars” will be performed at the Riverlea Theatre in Hamilton, New Zealand, July 2-16; website at <www.riverleatheatre.com>.
21403. Todd Wallinger’s “The Enchanted Bookshop” will be performed at the Royal Off-the-Square Theater in Brownstown, Ind., July 15-23 <www.jcct.org>.
21404. The Gotham Radio Theatre will perform “Sherlock Holmes: Redheads and Bohemians (a dramatization of the two stories) at the Bedford Playhouse in Bedford, N.Y., on July 16 <www.bedfordplayhouse.org>.
21405. Nick Lane’s new “Sherlock Holmes: The Valley of Fear” will be touring in Britain beginning at the Wilde Theatre in Bracknell, Berks., on Sept. 14 <www.blackeyedtheatre.co.uk>.
21406. “Watson: The Last Great Tale of the Legendary Sherlock Holmes” (by Jaime Robledo) has been scheduled at the CVIC Hall in Minden, Nev., Oct. 14-23 <www.carsonvalleycommunitytheatre.org>.
21407. Stephen Dietz’s “Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure” is due at the Portland Stage in Portland, Maine, Oct. 26-Nov. 13 <www.portlandstage.org>.
21408. Nick Scovell’s “Sherlock Holmes: The Final Problem” will be performed at the TPS Studio in Petersfield, Hants., Nov. 2-5 <www.thestudiotps.com>.
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July 22 #1

21409. “Sherlock Holmes Authors Raise \$100,000 for Undershaw” was the headline on a press release (June 30) <www.einpresswire.com/article/575368182> about the generosity of authors who have contributed their royalties from the MX Publishing’s *Book of New Sherlock Holmes Stories* series to support the DFN Foundation’s school for children with learning disabilities that now uses the first home that Conan Doyle built in Surrey. The series was launched in 2015 by editor David Marcum and now has 33 volumes of traditional Sherlock Holmes stories by more than 200 authors; there’s detailed information about the series at <www.tinyurl.com/2p9axp9j>, and the school’s web-site is at <www.undershaw.education>.
21410. Registration’s now open for “Jubilee @221B” in Toronto, Sept. 23-26. More information about the conference, sponsored by the Bootmakers of Toronto and the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library, will be found at <www.acdfriends.org/jubilee221b.html>.
21411. Les Klinger and Bert Coules were interviewed by Jon Rees and Karl Coppack on July 16 on their “Sherlock: From Adler to Amberley” blog available at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=wc7v7V5IZtQ>, and had interesting things to say about the Canon, and what people have done with or to it (their interview starts at 23:00). You’re also welcome to visit their web-sites at <www.lesliesklinger.com> and <www.bertcoules.co.uk>.
21412. Sherlock Holmes isn’t all that well known, it would appear: a collection of twenty DVDs with “TV Classics” <www.ebay.com/p/6471353> was issued in 2003, and the classic heroes whose portraits were on the cases did not include Sherlock Holmes.
21413. Jennie Paton has found “The Private Eyes” (1980) at Dailymotion; it’s a comedy that starred Don Knotts as Inspector Winship and Tim Conway as Dr. Tart in Canonical costume <www.dailymotion.com/playlist/x733x1>, but without the scene reported in the original release in which Conway wore Sherlockian costume when Dr. Tart impersonated Inspector Winship.

21414. The spring issue of the Baker Street Irregulars Trust's electronic newsletter For the Sake of the Trust, now edited by Ray Betzner, has been uploaded to the Trust's web-site <www.bsitrust.org>; there's an article by Bob Coghill about his adventures with the carboard box(es), and other news about the Trust's activities, and you're more than welcome to explore the Trust's web-site.
21415. "The Literary Lounge is an exclusive speakeasy-style pop-up event inspired by Sherlock Holmes. Complete with cigar+port pairings, signature cocktails —including a CBD-infused drink, a limited bites menu, and views of beautiful Kansas Avenue from the private third-floor balcony. It's elemental, my dear. Bring your most cunning and clever friends for an evening of literary libations and fun." That's the promotion for an occasional event at the Cyrus Hotel in Topeka <www.tinyurl.com/4868tb2t>; there's more about the hotel at <www.cyrushotel.com> (in case you want to spend a night there reading "The Three Garridebs").

July 22 #2

21416. The June issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota offers Tim Johnson's long interview with Larry Millett about the past and future history of his series of novels about Sherlock Holmes and Shadwell Rafferty, and Musings by Julie McKuras in which she announces her retirement after 23 years of editing the newsletter. Copies are available from Tim Johnson (Elmer L. Anderson Library #15-G, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455).
21417. June L. Kinnee ("Miss Hatty Doran") died on May 25, 2022. She was a long-time member of the Trained Cormorants of Los Angeles County and one of the founders of the Curious Collectors of Baker Street, and for many years an enthusiastic ticket-seller for the Watson Fund raffle. June received her Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1999.
21418. "The Adventure of the Trying Detective" is the latest "Baker Street Elementary" comic book from Joe Fay and Rusty and Steve Mason. You can find all of their comic books (and their comic strip) at the Crew of the Barque *Lone Star* web-site <www.dfw-sherlock.org/baker-street-elementary.html>.
21419. *Sherlock Holmes and the Fiends of New York City* is the latest in the series of excellent audio recording by Big Finish; Nicholas Briggs stars as Sherlock Holmes, with Richard Earl as Watson and a strong supporting cast, in an interesting story written by Jonathan Barnes; 180 minutes on three CDs (\$30.25 CD+download or \$19.99 download only), and you can listen to a sample at their web-site <www.bigfinish.com>, where you'll find many other recordings available.
21420. Roraima (the Venezuelan tepui considered by many to be the inspiration for "The Lost World") seems to be getting crowded: there's another documentary film ("House of the Gods") <www.vimff.org/film/house-of-the-gods> that has not yet made it to television, but you can watch a trailer for the film at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=VKhEpe8Rzww>.
21421. Something new in Sherlockian artwork: "The Case of the Dueling Sherlocks" and "Sherlock Holmes at the Tower of London" are two performance-art photographs offered by Robert Kawika Sheer <www.spiritshadows.net>; you can search for [sherlock] to find them easily.
21422. Erika Kobayashi reminisces about "On Growing Up in a Household of Sherlock Translators" in a nice article at Crime Reads <www.tinyurl.com/2p88wmdu>. Her father was the late Tsukasa Kobayashi and her mother is Akane Higashiyama; they were co-founders of the Japan Sherlock Holmes Club, and Akane is its president.
21423. John Wesley Anderson's *Sherlock Holmes in Little London: 1896 The Missing Year* (Colorado Springs: Circle Star, 2020; 303 pp., \$29.95) has Holmes and Watson, commissioned by the Queen herself, in hot pursuit of counterfeiters in a case that involves travel around the world, and keeps them busy for an entire year. "Little London" is Colorado Springs (the author is a Colorado historian), and they spend much of the year in the American west. The author's web-site is at <www.jwander.com>.

July 22 #3

21424. "The Masks of Death" (1984) was a British television film that was broadcast in 1984, with Peter Cushing as Holmes and John Mills as Watson, and some fine supporting actors (including Anne Baxter, Ray Milland, and Gordon Baxter); it was issued on a VHS cassette, but apparently never on DVD, and it is nice indeed that Jennie Paton has found it available at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=TfD5se40-Qk>.
21425. It's a thoroughly tenuous connection, unless there's really a connection between Sherlock Holmes and Nero Wolfe, but there's the pilot for a "Nero Wolfe" television series, made for CBS-TV 1959, that never was broadcast, reported by Lenny Picker <www.youtube.com/watch?v=9AoebAAig4>: "Count the Man Down" starred Kurt Kaznar as Nero and William Shatner as Archie, many years before Shatner played Stapleton in Stewart Granger's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1972).
21426. "A Small Study of Ink Marks" is a new Sherlockian society founded by Monica Schmidt; their motto is "Have Sherlockian ink (tattoos)? Join us!" If you qualify, contact Monica at 1640 Deborah Drive NE, Solon, IA 52333, or <sweeper887@gmail.com>.
21427. "Sherlock's Mystery" (reported by Jennie Paton at YouTube) is impressive <www.youtube.com/watch?v=vWqlaaYuOXo>.
21428. Dan Stashower's next book will be *American Demon: Eliot Ness and the Hunt for America's Jack the Ripper*, due from Minotaur in September; Dan assures his fellow Sherlockians that Sherlock Holmes is mentioned in the book, and you can read Lenny Picker's interview with Dan in Publishers Weekly (July 1) <www.tinyurl.com/hvbwxyzus>.
21429. *My Scientific Methods*, edited by Dana Richards (New York: Baker Street Irregulars, 2022; 244 pp., \$39.95), the next title in the BSI's Professions Series, explores "science in the Sherlockian Canon" and includes scholarship about most of the sciences that appear in the stories, and about Conan Doyle himself as a scientist, concluding with Ashley Polasek's essay "Techno-Rebel: A Case for Steampunk Holmes". The book can be ordered at <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/tag/books>.
21430. Harvey Dinnerstein died on June 21. He was a noted artist and educator, best known for his sketches of the Montgomery Bus Boycott in 1956 and the trials that followed. He also provided illustrations for *Tales of Sherlock Holmes*, a collection published by Macmillan in 1963; you can see one of his illustrations for the book at <www.weheartit.com/entry/316527741>.
21431. There have been many bush fires reported in Australia, including one near Sherlock Station in Western Australia. Sherlock Station has an entry at Wikipedia <www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sherlock_Station>, without information on who named it, and why. But there's a Sherlock River not far from the Station. The river was named on July 11, 1861 by the surveyor and explorer Frank Gregory while on expedition in the area (according to Wikipedia), too early to be Canonical; Gregory's report is available on-line <www.gutenberg.org/files/10461/10461-h/10461-h.htm>, but he says only that he named the river Sherlock and doesn't say why.

July 22 #4

21432. The Smithsonian Magazine has reported that the oldest footage of New Orleans has been found (in Amsterdam), with a two-minute view of an 1898 Mardi Gras parade <www.tinyurl.com/ys2j2caz>. There's nothing known of what happened to "Samson of New Orleans" (mentioned in "A Study in Scarlet", but if he still was there in 1898, here's what he might have seen <www.youtube.com/watch?v=65DpZ_OnByE>.

21433. If you've been using Google Images <www.images.google.com> to find images on the Internet, you might also consider TinEye <www.tinyeye.com>, noted by Brandon Daniel; TinEye is an archive of (as of June 2022) 54.3 billion images, and uses Application Programming Interfaces to help you with all sorts of things, including image verification.
21434. And there's more about Sherlock in Western Australia: there's also a Sherlock Bay, named after the river, and the Sherlock Bay Project, which is a nickel-copper-cobalt deposit waiting for development as an open-pit mine <www.miningdataonline.com/property/262/Sherlock-Bay-Project.aspx>.
21435. Bill Barnes notes that there also is a Sherlock in South Australia ("two or three buildings at most, situated on a highway." It apparently was officially named in 1907, with "no research so far on the relevance of the name" <www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sherlock,_South_Australia>.
21436. Alexis Soloski's article "The Shape-Shifting Sherlock Holmes, Now Playing the Villain" in the N.Y. Times (July 6) <www.tinyurl.com/ya6kmp55> was inspired by the new 10-episode "Moriarty: The Devil's Game" (now available on Audible). Soloski quotes Leslie Klinger, Nicholas Meyer, Ashley Polasek, as well as Charles Kindinger, who wrote the audio drama. If you're blocked by the paper's pay-wall, the article was reprinted in the Indian Express (July 7) <www.tinyurl.com/yz7yff7e>.
21437. Scripts for two of David MacGregor's comedies ("The Adventure of the Elusive Ear" and "The Adventure of the Fallen Soufflé") have been published by TRW Plays <www.trwplays.com/david-macgregor> (\$12.95 each for print and \$9.00 for digital). His third comedy ("Sherlock Holmes and the Ghost Machine") is due later this year, and he has fun with Holmes and Watson and Irene Adler (who has moved into 221B Baker Street and is pretending to be Mrs. Hudson for the sake of propriety).
21438. Roger Angell died on May 20. He began contributing to The New Yorker in 1944, became its fiction editor in 1956, and had a legendary career over decades at the magazine, writing about baseball and anything else that interested him. His "Turtletaub and the Foul Distemper" (May 30, 1970) had many Sherlockian references (including an evil air pilot named Col. Sebastian Moran).
21439. "I Always Feel Like Somebody's Watching Me: The World of Sherlock Holmes Statues" is the title of Howard Ostrom's newly-revised and expanded (and well-illustrated) essay about more than 50 statues of Sherlock Holmes; you can read (and download) the essay at <www.tinyurl.com/2p8dc6vy>. And his essay on "Holmes Was a Dummy" (about Sherlock Holmes puppetry) is available at <www.tinyurl.com/z7ji4az6>.

July 22 #5

21440. It was the geologist/astronaut Jack Schmidt who named Sherlock Crater on the Moon in recognition of Sherlock Holmes as a geologist, but the mission didn't include a visit to the crater. But there's now the Artemis Project, and plans to send astronauts to the Moon again in 2025, recently discussed in GEO ExPro <www.tinyurl.com/mr2m3dee>. One can only hope that at long last they'll be able to visit Sherlock Crater.
21441. The copy of a later edition of *The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes*, signed and inscribed by Conan Doyle to Lady Sackville-West, at auction on July 6 with an estimate of €400-€500 (June 22 #6), sold for €4,423 (including the buyer's premium).
21442. Reported: a new (and revised) edition of David Stuart Davies' *Bending the Willow: Jeremy Brett as Sherlock Holmes* due on Sept. 1 from TV Brain but available for pre-order now (£22.99) <www.tvbrain.info/shop>; first published in 1996 (March 97 #2).
21443. If you want a copy of the first printing of the splendid catalog for the "Sherlock Holmes in 221 Objects from the Collection of Glen S. Miranker" exhibition at the Grolier Club in New York, there may be few copies still available at the Mysterious Bookshop (\$60.00) <www.tinyurl.com/bdfzrfpk>. The exhibition next will be at the Lilly Library in Bloomington, Ind., August 1-Dec. 15, and there will be a second printing available there (\$80.00). The exhibition's excellent web-site's at <www.sherlockin221objects.org>.
21444. "Albatross" (2011) is an interesting British coming-of-age film that stars Jessica Brown Findlay as Emilia, who introduces herself as a descendant of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, and wants to be a writer; the film has quite a few Doylean (and some Sherlockian) touches.
21445. "The Fires of Fate" (1923) is one of many lost silent films; it was dramatized from Conan Doyle's "The Tragedy of the Korosko" and released in the U.S. as "The Desert Sheik" (1924), and a colorful lithograph-on-linen poster for the film was sold at Heritage Auctions on July 15 for \$2,160 (including the buyer's premium) <www.tinyurl.com/mtj6uf9j>. It's interesting to consider the title change: one might suspect that the distributor hoped that people would think they were going to see Rudolph Valentino in "The Sheik" (1921).
21446. Scott Monty and Burt Wolder had a nice interview with Paul Eckrich and Rob Nunn, the editors of *The Finest Assorted Collection: Essays on Collecting Sherlock Holmes* (January 22 #2), discussing collectors and their collections, at the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.tinyurl.com/bden49yp>.
21447. Late-breaking news: Rebecca Romney is helping Curtis Armstrong deaccession his Sherlockian collection: about 25 boxes of material collected over more than 40 years, with more than one thousand items. Her rare-book company, Type Punch Matrix, is creating a special mailing list for Sherlockians who would like to have first crack at the material; if you'd like to be on her mailing list, you can contact her at <info@typepunchmatrix.com>.

July 22 #6

21448. The manuscript of "The Greek Interpreter" (owned by the late David Karpeles) was sold at Heritage Auctions on July 16, for \$350,000 (including the buyer's premium), almost setting a new record for a manuscript of a Sherlock Holmes short story ("The Sussex Vampire" sold for \$399,500 in 2004). The new owner is Glen Miranker, who now owns more Sherlockian manuscripts than any living collector. Randall Stock's manuscripts web-site <www.tinyurl.com/yc79d8j8> has more information. Auction results are often interesting: a single page from "The Hound of the Baskervilles" sold for \$423,000 last year (November 21 #5).
21449. Steve Doyle's *Fortnightly Dispatch* continues; his latest interview is with Robert Veld <www.youtube.com/watch?v=8q2860rdYCU>.
21450. The August Derleth Society <www.augustderleth.org> was founded in the late 1970s and continues to celebrate the many-faceted literary career of the creator of Solar Pons. Membership costs \$25.00 a year and includes their quarterly newsletter *Sage of Sac Prairie*; the latest issue offers a nicely illustrated article by Derrick Belanger on "The Science Fiction of August Derleth" (some of which was Pontine). The society's postal address is Box 481, Sauk City, WI 53583, and their web-site's at <www.augustderleth.org>.
21451. An oil-on-canvas painting by Sidney Paget of a "Highland River Landscape" was at auction this month <www.tinyurl.com/543vbb3u>, estimated at £500-£700; bidding didn't reach the reserve, and the painting wasn't sold.
21452. Theater news: Neill Hartley will perform his one-man show "Sherlock Holmes & the Speckled Band" at Pennypacker Mills in Schwencksville, Pa., on Aug. 20 <www.montcopa.org/928/Pennypacker-Mills>.
21453. "Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of Riverfall Way" has been scheduled by the Elite Arts Company at the Bullard Creek Auditorium in Midland, Mich., on Aug. 20 <www.tinyurl.com/2vxxksxb>.

21454. Stephen Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" will be performed at the Blue Moon Theatre in Woodstown, N.J., Sept. 16-25; their web-site's at <www.thebluemoontheatre.com>
21455. K. C. Brown's "Sherlock's Veiled Secret" is due at the Bernie Legge Theatre in New Westminster, B.C., Oct. 6-22 <www.vagabondplayers.ca>.
21456. David MacGregor's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Ghost Machine" will be performed at the Toledo Repertoire Theatre, Oct. 21-39; web-site at <www.toledorep.org>.
21457. John Nicholson and Steven Canny's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed at the Carver Theatre in Stockport, Cheshire, Nov. 11-19; their web-site's at <www.tinyurl.com/46pbywp2>.
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August 22 #1

21458. This year's Baker Street Irregulars Trust annual webinar lecture will be given by Ray Betzner on Sept. 17 on "The Story of a Sherlockian Sonnet"; Ray's a fervent admirer of, and an expert on, the sonnet's author, Vincent Starrett <www.bsitrust.org/2022/08/register-2022-lecture.html>. The lecture will be free via Zoom, but space may be limited, and early registration is recommended.
21459. The BSI conference on "Sherlock Holmes and the British Empire" at the Bear Mountain Inn went very well and was great fun. The conference proceedings will be published by the BSI, but if you weren't there, and would like to see what you missed, there's a short report, with nice photographs, at the BSI web-site <www.tinyurl.com/f3xrvnm4>. There's also a link to Burt Wolder's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" report (with some interviews) on what went on.
21460. Some of the old hands who were at the conference recalled the years when Bob Thomalen's "Autumn in Baker Street" was held at the Bear Mountain Inn, which then was far less fancy than it is now. But even then it was nicer than what the state of New York originally planned to build at the site: Sing Sing Prison.
21461. If you are going to be at Bouchercon in Minneapolis: Dick Sveum will moderate a Sherlock Holmes morning panel on Sept. 10, with Dana Cameron, Laurie R. King, Leslie S. Klinger, and Liese Sherwood-Fabre.
21462. According to Variety <www.tinyurl.com/yjvtp3>, Millie Bobby Brown will receive \$10 million for her appearance in "Enola Holmes 2", and according to People/Entertainment Weekly <www.tinyurl.com/2cz2us9u>, the film will debut on Netflix on Nov. 4 (the story has some images from the film).
21463. Peter McIntyre has reported that Dr. Doyle (a bay gelding) finished first at Monmouth Park, N.J., on July 31; he was the favorite and the payout was \$7.20/\$4.80/\$2.60.
21464. The ACD Society has published a "terrifying update" on its continuing on-line annotated version of the manuscript of "The Terror of Blue John Gap", edited by Margie Deck and Nancy Holder <www.acdsociety.com>. It's a fine example of what on-line scholarship has to offer to anyone with access to the Internet.
21465. It should be noted that Margie Deck does far more than perform as half of the ACD Society's "terror team"; her interesting "Dotings on Doyle" blog ("Reading & Writing with Arthur Conan Doyle & Sherlock Holmes") is on-line at <www.margiedeck.blogspot.com>.
21466. Steve Doyle's Fortnightly Dispatch ended its current season with his interview with Ray Betzner and Steve Rothman, and a discussion of Alexander Woollcott, his relationship with and membership in the Baker Street Irregulars <www.youtube.com/watch?v=v50i6TTY19A>. Steve's next season will begin after a summer break.
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August 22 #2

21467. Emiel Van Wezel has reported Amanda Williams' interesting web-site <www.buzzaboutbees.net> devoted to "the wonderful world of bees," and a post about "Sherlock Holmes and Bees: Arthur Conan Doyle and the Retirement of His Famous Detective" that offers some interesting Sherlockian and Doylean clippings from various Australian newspapers, at <www.tinyurl.com/muc7w7wf>.
21468. The Beacon Society continues to publish its "quarterly gazette for younger Sherlockians everywhere," and the summer issue of Sherlock's Spotlight is available at their web-site <www.beaconsociety.com>; the contents include material both by and for younger followers of the Great Detective.
21469. Snoopy appears in Sherlockian costume in two production cels from "It's a Mystery, Charlie Brown" (1974) up for bids at Heritage Auctions on Sept. 23-25 <www.tinyurl.com/35rbyrj8?>.
21470. Maggie Fox died on Mar. 21. She acted on film and television in Britain, but was best known for her many performances with her LipService partner Sue Ryding in parodies such as "Move Over Moriarty" (1996), in which she played Sherlock Holmes on tour for years in Britain and at least once in the U.S.
21471. "I'm sitting low in a Watsonian basket, bolted securely to the side of Simon's burnished-red Royal Enfield Interceptor 650 motorcycle," Anna Hartley wrote in an article in the travel section of the Washington Post (August. 21) <www.tinyurl.com/mr2f5wu8>. One often sees the word Sherlockian, but the word Watsonian not so much; it's in the Oxford English Dictionary (and first noted as used by E. C. Bentley in *Those Days* (1940).
21472. On the other hand (thanks to Roger Johnson, who knows more about what is going on in Britain): T. F. Watson, a Birmingham builder, patented a design for a folding sidecar, and Watsonian Squire still offers a wide variety of sidecars <www.watsonian-squire.com>.
21473. "Drool over the personal bookplates of 18 famous writers" was the headline on Emily Temple's post <www.tinyurl.com/yc3uvnwd> to the Literary Hub web-site on July 19; one of the famous writers is Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, but the bookplate isn't his. The bookplate displays the ornate family coat of arms obtained by Adrian Conan Doyle from the Dublin Herald; Adrian placed in all of the books in his father's library when Adrian moved into the Château de Lucens.
21474. So Far Down Queer Street is a new on-line journal that focuses on "Aspects of Sherlock Holmes Canon and Adaptations Not Usually Covered" and its web-site's at <www.downqueerstreet.com>; click on the menu (at upper right) to find a link to the first issue.
21475. The Hudson Valley Scientists will celebrate their Fiftieth Anniversary on Sept. 18, with cocktails and dinner at the Vassar College Alumnae House in Poughkeepsie, N.Y. (with some of its founding members on hand for the festivities). Additional information is available from Lou Lewis (510 Haight Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603) <llewis@lewisgreer.com>.
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August 22 #3

21476. Adrienne Mayor's *Flying Snakes & Griffin Claws* (Princeton University Press, 2022; 430 pp, \$18.95) is a wide-ranging and entertaining exploration of "classical myths, historical oddities, and scientific curiosities" that includes a chapter on "Sea Monsters and Mer-People of the Mediterranean" (and mention of Conan Doyle's account of having seen what he believed to be a young plesiosaur off the coast of the Greek island Aegina in 1928).
21477. June Thomson died on July 26. She was a featured speaker at the Sherlock Holmes Society of London's annual dinner in 2008, and a prolific author, credited with 24 novels, six collections of imaginative Sherlockian pastiches, and a fine biography of Sherlock Holmes.
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21478. Just the thing for Sherlockian geologists: a statue of a Tyrannosaurus rex in Sherlockian costume is one of the latest additions to Howard Ostrom's well-illustrated essay on "The World of Sherlock Holmes Statues", which is available at <www.tinyurl.com/2p8dc6vy>. If you want to see the statue, it's in Norwich (where Abe Slaney was condemned to death, as noted in "The Dancing Men").
21479. Anyone who owns a copy of *The Sherlock Holmes Hexalogy*, which was letter-press printed and hand-bound at the Thornwillow Press (October 17 #2), will be aware of the fine work they do. You can see what else they have done (and are still doing) by exploring their web-site <www.thornwillow.com>. Copies of the Hexalogy still are available.
21480. It has been said that Sherlockian chronology is the most abstract and confusing and contradictory aspect of the grand game that Sherlockians enjoy playing, and there's plenty of evidence for that in the electronic newsletter of the Sherlockian Chronologist Guild, founded by Brad Keefauver in 2021. Bruce Harris, is one of its members, and he believes that the best thing about Canonical chronology is that there are no right or wrong answers, but in his new *It's Not Always 1895: A Sherlockian Chronology* (124 pp., \$9.95 at Amazon) he offers his own dates for all sixty stories and an excellent look at what can be done with and to the Canon.
21481. Jennie Paton has discovered an advertisement for Sherlock Home (A House of Conundrums) in San Antonio, Tex. <www.tinyurl.com/ymhxxz63>; the Airbnb is described as "a unique immersive overnight experience" in a house designed as an entire evening of game-play for 2-5 guests. "Become Sherlock Holmes surrounded by a Victorian/steampunk setting filled with escape-room-like puzzles and conundrums to solve while you stay."
21482. Hank Ketcham's "Dennis the Menace" comic strip was nicely Sherlockian on July 17 <www.comicskingdom.com/dennis-the-menace>.
21483. There was active bidding for the Sherlockiana and Doyleana in the Heritage Auctions sale 6253 last month (June 22 #5); a copy of Collier's *Once a Week Library* (1891, the first American edition of "The Sign of the Four") sold for \$13,570 (including the buyer's premium), and the three-volume set of *Dreamland and Ghostland* (1887, with five of Conan Doyle's non-Sherlockian stories, his first appearance in a book in Britain) went for \$2,250.

August 22 #4

21484. Emma McGill has won the 2022 Irene Adler Prize: a \$1,000 scholarship for a woman pursuing a degree in journalism, creative writing, or literature. Established in 2017 by Lucas Aykroyd, an award-winning writer and public speaker in Vancouver, B.C.; it is indeed named for the heroine of "A Scandal in Bohemia". You can learn more about the prize, and read the winning essay, at <www.lucasaykroyd.com/scholarships>.
21485. Peter Bowles died on Mar. 17. He had a long career on stage, screen, and television, with starring roles in the BBC series "Rumpole of the Bailey" (1978), "To the Manor Born" (1979), and "The Irish R.M." (1983). He also played Harvey Deacon in a BBC dramatization of Conan Doyle's "Playing with Fire" (1967) and Joseph Harrison in the BBC's "The Naval Treaty" (1968).
21486. "I hear of Sherlock everywhere." This one (noted by Jennie Paton) is in Chester, Conn., and available for only \$32,900 <www.tinyurl.com/3fh66jj4>.
21487. The ten-episode audio mini-series "Moriarty: The Devil's Game" (June 22 #4) is featured at the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog, where Scott Monty and Burt Wolder interviewed Charles Kindinger, who wrote the script. He first encountered Sherlock Holmes watching "Wishbone" and went on to read all the stories and enjoy creating the mini-series.
21488. Russian artist Margaryta Yermolayeva (now living in the U.S.) creates colorful canvas prints that include a "Sherlock Holmes" scene inspired by the Russian "Baskerville Dog" television program she watched while growing up <www.tinyurl.com/54scytwx>.
21489. Publishers Weekly has reported that HarperCollins has bought, "in a six-figure preempt," Ali Standish's *The Improbable Tales of Baskerville Hall*; it's a three-book middle-grade series in which "a young Arthur Conan Doyle is selected to attend Baskerville Hall, a school for the extraordinarily gifted." The first book is due in fall 2023.
21490. "The Store for All Sorts: Half Price Books Turns 50" is the headline on a grand story in *D Magazine* (July 15) <www.tinyurl.com/yc3mywk2> (forwarded by Bill Seil) about why the store (in Dallas, Tex.) has survived so long (now with more than 120 stores in 19 states); they also sell books on-line <www.hpb.com>.
21491. What do you call a squirrel that solves crimes? Jennie Paton has reported a video: <www.youtube.com/watch?v=WzB2YVNU9e0>.
21492. The "Sherlock Holmes Weekend" in Cape May, N.J., this fall will feature a new play "Send in the Clowns" (Oct. 14-16 and 21-23) and performances of Gayle Stahlhuth's "Sherlock Holmes' Adventure of the Norwood Builder" by the Cape May Players (Oct. 21-22) <www.tinyurl.com/28ex38fa>.
21493. Reported: Martin Edwards' new anthology *Murder by the Book: Mysteries for Bibliophiles* (Poisoned Pen, \$14.99) includes a reprint of S. C. Roberts' classic pastiche "The Strange Case of the Megatherium Thefts". It's also available at Audible, read by Ben Onwukwe; you can sample the recording at their web-site <www.tinyurl.com/36kha84c>.

August 22 #5

21494. When in Barbados: you can visit the Chase Vault in the cemetery of Christ Church Parish, which Conan Doyle believed was haunted. The vault is empty now, and open to any visitors brave enough to step inside, according to a story <www.tinyurl.com/3ja2r8t4> in the *Daily Mirror* (Aug. 8). You can read what Conan Doyle had to say about the vault in his article "The Law of the Ghost" (1919), reprinted in *The Edge of the Unknown* (1930).
21495. Conan Doyle Walk in Swindon is in the news (again). Five years ago, when John Blick lived there, he was charged with three counts of assault (August 17 #4). Now the *Swindon Advertiser* <www.tinyurl.com/5xsehczj> has reported that James Dean Webdell, also a resident of Conan Doyle Walk, has been charged with brandishing a taser in a brawl in a local pub.
21496. There was much more to the Festival of Britain in 1951 than the Sherlock Holmes Exhibition at Abbey House (some of the items on display there still can be seen at The Sherlock Holmes pub in Northumberland Street); there is a colorful commemoration of the Festival at the National Archives web-site <www.tinyurl.com/c5pffptc>.
21497. David Warner died on July 24. His began acting on stage in 1962, and went on to play Hamlet with the Royal Shakespeare Company, and then had a long career in film, radio, and television, including a performance as Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in the TV movie "Houdini" (1998).
21498. Henye Meyer's *Detective by Design* (Brooklyn: Menucha Publishers, 2022; 245 pp., \$28.49) offers an answer to the question "what if Sherlock Holmes had been a Jewish woman?" The book is an homage rather than a pastiche: Mrs. Rosa Adler is the detective, in Victorian London, and is adept at observation and deduction.
21499. Jem Belcher will be found in Rodney Stone ("Say 'sir' when you speak to a genelman," said Belcher, and with a sudden tilt of the table he sent Berks flying almost into my uncle's arms.) and he's mentioned in "The Forbidden Subject" in *Three of Them*. A new film "Prizefighter: The Life of Jim Belcher" (2022) has an official trailer <www.youtube.com/watch?v=Viv3fOgxaes> and was reviewed at *Boxing Social* on July 24 <www.tinyurl.com/2p8dem6d>; it's now streaming on Amazon Prime.
21500. The BBC is celebrating its centenary this year with an interesting web-site that features 100 important objects <www.tinyurl.com/8wrkad3x> that include the "iconic Belstaff Milford coat worn by Benedict Cumberbatch on the BBC's "Sherlock" series.

21501. Ken Greenwald died on May 14. A dedicated enthusiast old-time radio, he was the mastermind behind a company he called 221 "A" Baker Street Associates; in the 1980s and 1990s he produced a long series of audiocassettes with Sherlock Holmes radio programs he rescued from original transcription disks. He also adapted some of the Rathbone/Bruce scripts as short stories in *The Lost Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* (1989). You can listen to a warm tribute to Ken by John Tefeller (with two non-Sherlockian shows) at his "The Good Old Days of Radio Show" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/54tan9t7>.

August 22 #6

21502. Curtis Armstrong has announced a call for nominations for the 2023 Susan Rice Mentorship Award, which is given each year to "one outstanding Sherlockian mentor who, like the late Susan Rice, is committed to bringing aspiring Sherlockians into the cause, and encouraging them to find ways to keep green the memory of Sherlock Holmes." Neither the mentor nor the mentee need to be a member of the Baker Street Irregulars, and the winner will be announced during the birthday festivities in New York in January 2023. Information about the criteria and history of the award can be found at <www.tinyurl.com/susanriceaward>. Nominations, with a brief explanation of how they honor Susan's spirit of mentorship, should be sent by Oct. 30 to <susanricementorshipaward@gmail.com>.
21503. Jennie Paton has found "Der Hund von Baskerville" (1937) on-line at You-Tube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=kVh9KBpernQ>. The film that starred Bruno Güttner as Holmes and Fritz Odemar as Watson, and a copy of the film was found by Allied troops in Adolph Hitler's private film library at Berchtesgaden (Edgar W. Smith reported this in the Apr. 1948 issue of the Baker Street Journal). Alas: there are no subtitles, so you'll need some German to understand everything.
21504. Candidates for "favorite first lines" can be interesting indeed, and great fun. Janet Rudolph (edited of *Mystery Scene*) suggests "There's a time and place for erect nipples, but the back of a Seattle police car definitely isn't it." That's the opening of Jennifer Hillier's *Things We Do in the Dark* (Minotaur Books, July 2022).
21505. Something new in Sherlockian scholarship: Anna Brindisi-Behrens' article "A Study in Speech: The Use of Lisps in the Sherlock Holmes Canon and Beyond" will be found in the summer issue of *Canadian Holmes*, which is published quarterly by the Bootmakers of Toronto, always with news of Sherlockian goings-on in Canada. \$30.00 a year (US or CA); single issues cost \$12.00 <www.torontobootmakers.com>. The issue also includes Ross Davies' discussion of "A Well-Armed, Whistful Colonel" [that's not a typo].
21506. Simon Trelawney's *Sherlock Holmes and the Ciphred List* (Cambridge: Breese Books, 2022; 339 pp., \$15.50) opens with Holmes agreeing to assist a lady who explains that she has accidentally killed a man who was blackmailing her, and quickly becoming involved in a battle against German spies; Watson is far more adventurous in this pastiche than in the Canon, but of course all's well at the end.
21507. "There have been numerous allusions over the years of Clive Reston's rather infamous family tree. His father, though never referenced by name, is British secret agent, James Bond. His great-uncle is London's most notorious detective, Sherlock Holmes. Due to licensing rights, Marvel Comics has never directly stated that either of these literary figures are related to Clive Reston, but the various implications leave little doubt as to their true identities." Yes, that would make Mycroft Holmes the father of James Bond and the grandfather of Clive Reston, who is a character in the Marvel comic-book series "Master of Kung Fu"; you can read all about this genealogy at the PageLagi web-site <www.tinyurl.com/yp9cc2zf> reported by Jennie Paton.
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August 22 #7

21508. The Long Beach Shakespeare Company continues to offer excellent live radio productions, and has kindly made some of their older recordings available at no charge <www.tinyurl.com/2p9xjr48>. You can listen to their versions of "A Scandal in Bohemia", "The Final Problem", and "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (and many other non-Sherlockian shows).
21509. In case you don't already have the two-volume *The Complete Sherlock Holmes* (1953) signed by Conan Doyle, there's a copy at auction at PBA Galleries in San Francisco <www.tinyurl.com/38smpbjd> on Sept. 9, with an estimate of \$10,000-\$15,00 and an opening bid of \$5,000.
21510. Paul Spiring reports that Baskerville Hall is up for sale, with an asking price of £650,000 <www.tinyurl.com/yzywjdnj>. Alas: it's not the actual Baskerville Hall, but rather the home of B. Fletcher Robinson's coachman Harry Baskerville, whose name Conan Doyle borrowed for the story, and it's not where Harry Baskerville was living when the story was written.
21511. Agatha Christie: *Marple: Twelve New Mysteries* (New York: William Morrow, 2022; 370 pp., \$28.99) is an anthology of stories featuring Miss Marple, not written by Christie but rather by a dozen authors whose work will be enjoyed by admirers of Jane Marple. Val McDermid and others do very well in the world of Miss Marple, in St. Mary Mead and elsewhere (including New York and a cruise ship on its way to Hong Kong).
21512. Howard Ostrom reports a new addition to the list of people who have played both Holmes and Moriarty (sort of): Vincent Price, whose Ratigan in "The Great Mouse Detective" (1986) was modeled on the evil professor, is seen in Sherlockian costume in "Elvira Meets Vincent Price #5" in the *Dynamite Comics* mini-series <www.tinyurl.com/yphfm6bm>.
21513. Josephine Tewson died on Aug. 18. She had a long career on stage and in television in Britain, perhaps best known for her supporting role as the neighbor in "Keeping Up Appearances". She had supporting roles in "Elementary My Dear Watson" on Comedy Playhouse (1973), "The Strange Case of the End of Civilisation as We Know It" (1977), and "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1978).
21514. Travis McDade's article "The Inside Story of the \$8 Million Heist from the Carnegie Library" ran in *Smithsonian* magazine in Sept. 2020; it recently appeared again at their web-site <www.tinyurl.com/ypa3cmdz>, and is well worth reading by anyone interested in the world of rare books, even if it doesn't mention Holmes or Conan Doyle.
21515. Conan Doyle is not forgotten in Edinburgh: there's the statue of Sherlock Holmes, not far from the Conan Doyle Pub near Picardy Place, where Conan Doyle was born, and the Dunedin School now in Liberton Bank House, where he lived as a child, and the Conan Doyle Medical Center just next door at 4 Nether Liberton Lane <www.portobello-conandoylesurgery.co.uk>. According to the *Edinburgh Evening News* (Aug. 2) <www.tinyurl.com/38yej628>, Dr. A. Comiskey and Partners at the Conan Doyle Center were ranked second in a Scottish government health and care survey.
21516. August 22 #8 *Exploits and Adventures of Brigadier Gerard*, with a fine introduction by George MacDonald Fraser (New York Review Books, 2001; 417 pp., \$18.95), collects all of the short stories about the Brigadier, and offers a chance to see just how good a story-teller Conan Doyle was (Fraser suggests that Conan Doyle "was touched with genius," and does a grand job of explaining why).
21517. The Sewing Crow-Bees <www.sewingcrowbees.org> aren't a Sherlockian society, but they are based in Crowborough (where Conan Doyle lived at Windlesham), and they work hard at supporting local and national charities.
21518. Our postage rates have gone up again: 60¢ for the first ounce and 24¢ each for additional ounces within the U.S., and \$1.40 for the first ounce outside the U.S. It cost me 3¢ when I wrote my first letter, and I remember the complaints when the rate rose to 4¢ in 1958.
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21519. Theatrics: Peter Colley's new play "The Real Sherlock Holmes" is running at the Lighthouse Theatre in Port Dover, Ont., through Sept. 3, and then will be at the Colborne Theatre in Colborne, Ont. Sept. 7-18' web-site at <www.lighthousetheatre.com/event/the-real-sherlock>.
21520. Christopher M. Walsh's "Miss Holmes Returns" is on at the Lifeline Theatre in Chicago, Ill., through Oct.16 <www.lifelinetheatre.com>.
21521. Paul Gosling's new "The Casebook of Dr. Watson (A Sherlock Holmes Parody)" will be produced at the Sue Townsend Theatre in Leicester, Leics., Sept. 8-9 <www.tinyurl.com/5ee8kjp>.
21522. Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is due at the White Rock Players' Club in White Rock, B.C., Sept. 29-Oct. 16 <www.whiterockplayers.ca>; at the Westchester Playhouse in Los Angeles, Calif., Mar. 17-Apr. 8, 2023 <www.kentwoodplayers.org>; and at the freeFall Theatre in St. Petersburg, Fla., Mar. 23-Apr. 23; web-site at <www.freefalltheatre.com>.
21523. Owen Thomas' "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" (with Nigel Miles-Thomas as Holmes) has completed its run at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, and is set for an extensive tour: at the Shangri-La Chang Mai (Thailand), Sept. 30-31; at the Continental Hotel in Saigon (Viet Nam), Oct. 7-8; at the Sukhothai hotel in Bangkok (Thailand), Oct. 21-23; and at the Marriott Hotel in Phuket (Thailand), Oct. 27-29.
21524. Eric Coble's "The Baker Street Irregulars" is due at the Trinity Preparatory School in Winter Park, Fla., Oct. 7-8 <www.cfcarts.com/sherlock>.
21525. Richard James' "Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery at Mallen Hall" is to be performed at the Ritchie Memorial Hall in Eastleigh, Hants., on Oct. 27-29 <www.chameleontheatre.co.uk>.

September 22 #1

21526. The *Baker Street Almanac 2022*, edited by Ross E. Davies, Jayantika Ganguly, Ira Brad Matetsky, and Monica Schmidt, is now available in print for \$30.00 postpaid <www.greenbag.org/almanacs/BS/2022.html> or from The Green Bag, 6600 Barnaby Street NW, Washington, DC 20015), with a copiously-annotated edition of "The Abbey Grange" (and much more about the Sherlockian world); it's modestly described as an "annual capsule of a timeless past and future," and this year offers 372 pages of thoroughly enjoyable reading. Almanacs for previous years are available on-line (free) as PDFs at <www.greenbag.org/almanacs/BS/bsa.html>.
21527. "London Plaques to People Who Never Existed" is the headline on a recent post at the Londonist web-site <www.tinyurl.com/bdfvh79f> that begins with "A Pair of Sherlocks, Smithfield and Piccadilly" and shows the plaques inside Barts, installed in 1953, and the Criterion (now Granaio), installed in 1981.
21528. Howard Ostrom's newly revised "A-Z List of Sherlock Holmes Performers" has been posted at <www.nplh.co.uk/a-z-index.html>; it now has 8,250 entries (and 17,000 images) from stage, screen, radio, television, fashion, advertising, cosplay, music, fandom, and the Internet. "You must see this to believe it," according to Howard, and he's right. He also asks you to let him know about anyone he has missed <howardostrom@gmail.com>.
21529. Reported: *Long Memories and Other Writings*, by Peter Cannon (Hippocampus, 2022) includes a reprint of his novella *Pulptime: Being a Singular Adventure of Sherlock Holmes, H. P. Lovecraft, and the Kalem Club as If Narrated by Frank Belknap Long, Jr.* (1984).
21530. "...of all characters in recent literature, as a matter of personal preference, I would choose to have been the creator of Sherlock Holmes." From a letter written by E. Phillips Oppenheim in 1927, with a long paragraph explaining the major reasons for his choice, offered by the Mysterious Bookshop in August for \$100.00. The letter was published in the Strand Magazine (Dec. 1927) in a symposium on "The Great Characters of Fiction: Which Should I Most Like to Have Created?"
21531. Conan Doyle's response to that question was, "I think Colonel Newcome, as the ideal English gentleman, would have my vote." The late Ted Schulz reported this back in 1983, and if you're wondering who Colonel Newcome was, Marsha Pollak quickly identified him as the principal character in William Makepeace Thackeray's *The Newcomes* (1853). If you would like to know more about the colonel, the book's readily available on-line (and free) at Project Gutenberg.
21532. "This Map Lets You Plug in Your Address to See How It's Changed Over the Past 750 Million Years" is the headline on a story at the Smithsonian web-site about a new interactive map that's a grand demonstration of how modern technology has made geology so interesting; Sherlockians are welcome to see how London (well, the location of London) has changed over millions of years, or you can track your own home town <www.tinyurl.com/mrywj4wx>.

September 22 #2

21533. "The Jewel in the Canon" is the next expedition planned by the Sherlock Holmes Society of London for Mar. 11-Apr. 2: a three-week trip to India, tailored for the Society and described as the "tour of a lifetime." You'll find the details, and an opportunity to register for more information about the tour, at <www.tinyurl.com/yrca5dsw>.
21534. Nicholas Utechin ("The Ancient British Barrow") died on Aug. 17. He was a senior producer at BBC Radio 4, a dedicated Sherlockian scholar, a champion of Oxford in what he called "the controversy" over where Holmes was at college, the editor of the Sherlock Holmes Journal for thirty years, an honorary member of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, and an energetic contributor to the writings about the writings on both sides of the Atlantic. The Baker Street Irregulars awarded his Investiture to Nick in 1975. If you want to see him in action, you can watch his (virtual) presentation about "British Beginnings" at a 2020 meeting of the Red Circle of Washington <www.youtube.com/watch?v=pPCoQU-VfRs>.
21535. "Was This Letter Written by Sherlock Holmes?" was the headline on a story in Atlas Obscura (Sept. 15) <www.tinyurl.com/2p8zjyn8>; there's more at the Lilly Library now than Glen Miranker's exhibition "Sherlock Holmes in 221 Objects" <www.sherlockin221objects.org>.
21536. The late W. T. Rabe is still remembered fondly: Bill Castanier tells some nice stories about Bill (and quotes his epitaph) in the Lansing City Pulse (Jan. 12) <www.tinyurl.com/4y36mvm>.
21537. David Corbett's "The Murderer's Paradox" was published in the anthology *In League with Sherlock Holmes* (2020), and he had some interesting things to say about writing the pastiche, in his post to the Writer Unboxed blog on Dec. 11, 2020 <www.tinyurl.com/ae256n4z>. He quotes James N. Frey imaginative "Ten Rules of Writing" and you can read what Frey said about them at his web-site <www.jamesnfrey.com/articles/tenrules.html>.
21538. Time for a trivia question, courtesy of Howard Ostrom: name the only known father and son who both played Sherlock Holmes.
21539. "You don't happen to have a Raphael or a first folio Shakespeare without knowing it?" asked Sherlock Holmes (in "The Three Gables"). A copy of the First Folio offered at Sotheby's on July 21 sold for \$2,470,000 (including the buyer's premium) <www.tinyurl.com/mvaj5774>.
21540. Mary Burke has forwarded the Babylon Bee's recent report from Dr. Sherlock Bones <www.tinyurl.com/mpds2cen>; the Babylon Bee's motto is "Fake news you can trust."
21541. The Conan Doyle Collection lecture series in Portsmouth earlier this year (May 22 #4) included David Gigauri's lecture (via Zoom) about "Conan Doyle and the Magnificent Mdivani". There were five Mdivani children, sometimes called "the marrying Mdivanis" (the boys were known as "the

million dollar studs"). One of Nina's husbands was Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's son Denis, and in 1975 she was honored by the Baker Street Irregulars as *The Woman*. You can watch Gigauri's lecture on-line at <www.vimeo.com/714028872>.

September 22 #3

21542. "The Princess's explorations in the field of English literature are of greater interest and perhaps of greater significance," Wilson Harris wrote in his article "The Education of a Queen" in the *Atlantic Monthly* (Dec. 1943). The princess was 17-year-old Elizabeth (now Elizabeth II), and Harris noted that "in lighter moments she turns to Conan Doyle (I hope *The White Company* as well as *Sherlock Holmes*)." The entire article is available on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/2t94zjd4>.
21543. Name the only father and son who both played Sherlock Holmes. Ian Richardson played Holmes on television in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" and "The Sign of Four" (1993), and Miles (his son) played Holmes on stage in "Sherlock Holmes: The Adventure at Sir Arthur Sullivan's" (1994).
21544. "Now that Wayne had broken through, he was keen to expand his big-screen horizons. When asked by Olive Carey, the wife of Western actor Harry Carey, what he'd like to do next, he said he'd like to play Edward the Black Prince in an adaptation of Arthur Conan Doyle's Hundred Years' War adventure, 'The White Company.'" That's according to Jeremy Smith, who posted to Slash Film (Aug. 30), "Without a Bit of Blunt Advice, John Wayne Might Have Left Westerns Behind." <www.tinyurl.com/2p8ddtpy>. That would have been an adaptation by John Ford; read the post to see what Olive Carey's blunt advice was.
21545. The Cohen Media Group <www.cohenmedia.net> offers a variety of high-quality 4K restorations of old films, including Buster Keaton's "Sherlock Jr." (1924); there's also his "Battling Butler" (1926), a non-Sherlockian film in which he's seen wearing a deerstalker, and you can see trailers for all of their films at their web-site.
21546. Arthur Liebman ("Vamberry, the Wine Merchant") died on Aug. 18. He taught graduate-level courses in Mystery, Detective, and Gothic Fiction at Hofstra University and the State University of New York at Stony Brook, performed a popular one-man show "An Evening with Sherlock Holmes". He also organized "Sherlock Holmes Mystery Cruises" for the Holland-America Line, and wrote *The Biographical Sherlock Holmes: An Anthology/Handbook* (1984). He received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1985.
21547. An oil-on-academy-board painting of "Cascade Inferieure du Reichenbach" by the Swiss landscape artist Alexandre Calame (1810-1864) was available at Thomaston Place Auction Galleries on Aug. 27, with an estimate of \$8,000- \$12,000; bidding didn't meet the reserve, and the painting didn't sell.
21548. Nancy Springer's *Enola Holmes and the Elegant Escapade* (New York: Wednesday Books, 2022; 232 pp, \$18.95), the eighth in her series about the sister of Sherlock Holmes, has Enola now living independently in London and working as a scientific perditioner, working hard to rescue a young girl from a brutish and evil father. Springer has won four Edgar Awards from the Mystery Writers of America, two of them for earlier books in the series, and it's nice see Enola back in action again. And there's no need to worry about spoilers: the new "Enola Holmes 2" film, coming up on Netflix on Nov. 4, has an entirely different plot. There's a trailer for the new film at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=KKNmYoPxx0>.
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September 22 #4

21549. *Two Parts Sugar, One Part Murder*, by Valerie Burns (New York: Kensington, 2022; 266 pp., \$16.95) is an interesting example of how Sherlock Holmes has become part of the cultural literacy; it's not a pastiche, but rather a sprightly murder mystery featuring Maddy Montgomery, a social-media devotee who inherits a small-town Michigan bakery from a great-aunt who may or may not have been murdered, and who has read Sherlock Holmes and is assisted by local residents she calls her Baker Street Irregulars.
21550. The Hotel Rosenblau <www.rosenblau.ch> is a refuge for those who want to get away from modern digital distractions: "The common rooms offer reading materials, games, and plenty of room for discussions. TV, radio, and Internet connections are not available. The hotel has limited reception for mobile phones." It's also possible that Sherlock Holmes stayed there after his battle with Moriarty at the Reichenbach.
21551. It's not the Mazarin Stone (a 77-carat yellow diamond never owned by the Cardinal), but the spectacular Williamson Pink Star will be at auction at Sotheby's in Hong Kong on October 5 <www.tinyurl.com/vrhms2e5>. If you'd like to know more about that 77-carat yellow diamond, see the article "In Memoriam: Muzaffar ad-Din" in the Baker Street Journal (Sept. 1974).
21552. "I keep a bull pup," Watson said (in "A Study n Scarlet"), and Sherlockian scholars have spilled a great deal of ink over the years trying to explain just what that bull pup was and what happened to it. James C. O'Leary has written about this for Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.tinyurl.com/yerabyan> and concludes with an interesting answer to the question.
21553. Johanna Draper Carlson's "Sherlock Holmes in Comics" web-site covers comics, graphic novels, and manga (February 22 #7), and she recently posted a 45- minute colorful video tour <www.tinyurl.com/34ezr3b8> of what she does and how her web-site works.
21554. Richard A. Wein ("Silver Blaze") died on Sept. 9. He worked as a tax manager for a CPA firm and was a dedicated Sherlockian. He was a member of the Three Garridebs for forty years, and active in many other societies. Richard co-hosted several runnings of The Silver Blaze at Belmont Park in the 1980s, acted in Sherlockian skits, and enjoyed wearing a shoulder sash on which he displayed his collection of Sherlockian pins. He received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1986.
21555. Those who still use fountain pens and real ink will find that De Atramentis <www.de-atrumentis.com/en> offers a wide variety of inks, including a Sherlock Holmes ink. Jennie Paton found an in-depth review of their Sherlock Holmes ink at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=7MJjxYZ95QY>.
21556. Bill Seil has forwarded a Publishers Weekly report that the British publisher Angry Robot Books has launched a new crime-fiction imprint, Datura Books <www.publishersweekly.com/pw/newsbrief/index.html?record=3899>; it's an intriguing choice of a name <www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Datura> that may be familiar to Agatha Christie fans <www.tinyurl.com/24u3fx93>.
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September 22 #5

21557. Her Royal Highness Queen Elizabeth II died on Sept. 8 at Balmoral. Her son, now King Charles III, performed as Sir Cumberbund Overspill in 1969 in "The Hound of the Overspills" (a short skit included in an annual revue produced by the Dryden Society of Trinity College, Cambridge University). Alas, there is no photograph of him in the role, but the script for the skit was published by Bill Rabe in the *Commonplace Book*, June 1969.
21558. Daniel Craig's "Knives Out" (2019) was a delightful blend of mystery and comedy and excellent acting, with a few imaginative Canonical allusions, and "Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery" will debut on Netflix on Dec. 23. You can read a spoiler-free review at <www.tinyurl.com/57t6xsdb>.
21559. "Timeshift: How to Be Sherlock Holmes: The Many Faces of a Master Detective" is a delightful television program that was broadcast by the BBC in 2014, and Jennie Paton has reported that it's now available at YouTube at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=YPsB2u_UeDg>.
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21560. Bonnie MacBird's *What Child Is This?* (New York: Collins Crime Club, 2022; 225 pp., \$26.99), the fifth in her series of novels about Holmes and Watson, offers her readers a "Sherlock Holmes Christmas Adventure" that finds them involved in two cases, dark rather than festive, with attractive artwork by Frank Cho, and a chance to see Holmes in a mellower seasonal mood than in the familiar Canon.
21561. SHERLOC is alive and well and working hard on Mars, and you can read about it at the Debrief web-site (Sept 15) <www.tinyurl.com/3hx5type>. There's even a nice Canonical quote (and they didn't believe they needed to tell their readers who said it).
21562. Lloyd Fradkin presides over Lloyd's Beware the Blog: A Motion Picture and Television History Blog, and Sean Wright has noted a post about Jay Ward and Alex Anderson <www.tinyurl.com/muhzr4n>; in 1947 they created Hamhock Jones, who fights his arch enemy, a Siamese twin; the problem is: one twin is good and the other the evil mastermind, but which is which? The post includes some of the artwork for the never-produced television animation. Some of their other creations did get made: Crusader Rabbit and Dudley Do-Right. You can also see a few minutes of Hamhock Jones, thanks to Burt Wolder, who found some footage at Vimeo <www.vimeo.com/155887788>.
21563. Reported by Badre Bally: a new Blu-ray edition of "Sherlock Hound" (the delightful 1984 Japanese television series), remastered, with English subtitles and some added features, due at the end of November from Discotek <www.rightstufanime.com/Sherlock-Hound-Blu-ray>. Scott Monty's discussion of the series can be read on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/mr2vyzvu>.
21564. Igor Maslennikov died on Sept. 17. He began his long career with Leningrad Television, then moved to Lenfilms, became a director, and won plaudits for the highly-successful Russian television series "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson" (1979-1986). His memoirs *Beykerstrit na Petrogradskoy* [*Baker Street in St. Petersburg*] were published in 2007, but have not yet been translated into English.

September 22 #6

21565. William Meikle's *Inspector Lestrade: The Black Temple and Other Stories* (Central Point: Weird House, 2022; 243 pp., \$45.00) is a collection of twelve stories that involve the Inspector in a series of supernatural cases, with atmospheric illustrations by M. Wayne Miller; Lestrade is competent and conscientious.
21566. J. R. Campbell's *Improbable Remains: The Bizarre and Unconventional Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* (2022; 288 pp., \$45.00) is a similar collection of eleven stories (six reprints and five new) featuring Holmes and Watson in well-told tales in the horror genre. Both books are limited editions, hard-bound and signed, and the publisher is at <www.weirdhousepress.com>; click on [our books] to see all their "Sherlock Holmes Adventures". Campbell was interviewed recently at the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.tinyurl.com/3kf2bn6x>.
21567. It can be interesting to read book reviews written by an expert (such as a review of *Moby Dick* written by a cetologist, or *The Lost World* by a paleontologist): Rene Schweitzer has recently reviewed three mysteries at the Trains web-site, one of them being Barry Roberts' *Sherlock Holmes and the Railway Maniac* (1994) <<https://tinyurl.com/yk2hxzv6>>.
21568. One of the many animation characters to appear in Sherlockian costume was Roquefort ("the big cheese detective"), in "The Aristocats" (1970); a production cel from the film <www.tinyurl.com/yjw5czma> brought \$129 (including the buyer's premium) at Heritage Auctions on Sept. 21.
21569. The Marco Navas Studio has honored "A Study in Scarlet" with a new set of 1/32 figurines, hand-crafted in resin and hand-painted, showing the first meeting of Holmes and Watson <tinyurl.com/td828xyt>. This is the latest in their Sherlock Holmes Collection <tinyurl.com/4t92zvj2>; some of their earlier figurines are still available.
21570. If you only watched the first Robert Downey Jr. "Sherlock Holmes" film in theaters or on television, you missed the featurettes that were included on the DVD. You can watch them now, in a YouTube compilation spotted by Jennie Paton at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=7pA2TCDYxcY>, and perhaps see yourself, if you were at the birthday festivities in New York in 2009: the last featurette offers a few minutes of footage from some of the weekend events.
21571. There's all sorts of interesting Sherlockian music to be found on the Internet, and Jennie Paton turned up the acapella group MayTree's version of the "Sherlock" theme music <www.youtube.com/watch?v=li_XYcNeBa4>. If you would like to see what else they can do, they have their own YouTube channel at <www.youtube.com/channel/UC3mY2SKYhPjqlmtBBXsR6_Q>.
21572. The impressive International Sherlock Holmes Exhibition opens at the Minnesota History Center in St Paul on Oct. 20 <www.mnhs.org/historycenter>, and the Norwegian Explorers and the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota will host a mini-conference on "The Timeless Sherlock Holmes" on Oct. 22 with some distinguished visiting and local speakers <www.tinyurl.com/29kxnum9>.

September 22 #7

21573. David Warner's *Over My Dead Body* (Fremantle: Fremantle Press, 2022; 258 pp., \$19.95), a thriller as well as a mystery, features Georgette Watson (his great-great-granddaughter), a cryogenicist who freelances for the New York police department and finds that her ancestor preserved Holmes' frozen body after the battle at the Reichenbach. So she thaws him out, and they quickly are involved in pursuing a vicious serial killer. The story's well told, with interesting supporting characters and some nice twists and turns.
21574. The two-page manuscript for Conan Doyle's "The Argument from Necromancy" will be offered at Potter & Potter Auctions on Oct. 20, with an estimate of \$6,000-\$8,000 <www.tinyurl.com/bde8tsve>.
21575. Olivia Rutigliano's series of "Little Essays on Sherlock Holmes" appears at the CrimeReads web-site, began with a close reading of what she called "one of the strangest Holmes stories" <www.tinyurl.com/bdfbe7zp> (that's "The Engineer's Thumb"), and continues with "The Boscombe Valley Mystery" <www.tinyurl.com/2sc6cumd>.
21576. Paul Forster's one-man show "Conjuring the Dead" (about a séance that Houdini and Conan Doyle attended in Harrogate, N. Yorks.) premiered in July during the Durham Fringe Festival, and it will be presented at the Crown Hotel in Harrogate, on Oct. 28-30 <www.tinyurl.com/mv5euy5d>. There's an audio interview with Forster at <www.tinyurl.com/33h2k63r>.
21577. Sherlockian's who enjoy maps will welcome Leslie Katz's new essay "'A Map Is Not the Territory': Sherlock Holmes' Use of Maps"; it's available on-line at <www.papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=4217901>.
21578. The Mini-Tonga Scion Society may be inactive, but people still are having fun creating Sherlockian miniatures: Jennie Paton has noted Betty Stein's miniature diorama at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=x4eAtCvDtDk>.
21579. Peter Brooks' *Seduced by Story: The Use and Abuse of Narrative* (New York: New York Review Books, 2022; 173 pp., \$17.95) is a scholarly sequel to his *Reading for the Plot: Design and Intention in Narrative* (1984); he begins with a quote from "Game of Thrones" television series ("There's nothing in the world more powerful than a good story. Nothing can stop it. No enemy can defeat it.") and cites the Canon as one of many examples of the power of narrative. He also explains how narrative can be (and is) used to deceive readers and listeners, and warns of the dangers involved in what he calls the storification of reality.

21580. Kenneth W. Starr died on Sept. 13. He was an American lawyer and judge, best known for the *Communication from Kenneth W. Starr, Independent Counsel, Transmitting a Referral to the United States House of Representatives Filed in Conformity with the Requirements of Title 28, United States Code, Section 595(c)*; the Starr Report led to the impeachment of President Clinton, and it stated (on p. 158) that “Ms. Lewinsky testified that that she gave the President a number of additional gifts,” and that “these included a Sherlock Holmes game sometime after Christmas 1996.”

September 22 #8

21581. Theatrics: Ken Ludwig’s “Baskerville” is running at the BeeKay
21582. Theater in Tehachapi, Calif, through Oct. 8 <tctonstage.com>. It also has been scheduled at the Everyman Theatre in Baltimore, Md., Dec. 6-Jan. 1 <www.everymantheatre.org>.
21583. Brian Guehring’s “Sherlock Holmes and the First Baker Street Irregular” is on at the Charleston Heights Arts Center in Las Vegas, Nev., through Oct. 9 <www.rainbowcompnay.org>.
21584. Jeffrey Hatcher’s “Holmes and Watson” is being performed at the Long Beach Play-house in Long Beach, Calif., though October 22 <www.lbplayhouse.org>.
21585. Kate Hamill’s “Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson—Apt. 2B” is on at the Synchronicity Theatre in Atlanta, Ga., through Oct. 23 <www.synchrotheatre.org>. It is also scheduled at the Grace Gamm Theatre in Boulder, Colo., Feb. 2-25 <www.betc.org>.
21586. Rick Robinson’s “Sherlock Holmes and the Final Problem” is running at the Oregon Cabaret Theatre in Ashland, Ore., through Nov. 6; their web-site’s at <www.oregoncabaret.com>.
21587. Tim Kelly’s “Sherlock Holmes and the Hound of the Baskervilles” is due at Encore! in Southern Plains, N.C., Oct. 21-30 <www.encorecenter.net>.
21588. Stephen Dietz’s “Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure” will be performed at the Topeka Civic Theatre in Topeka, Kans., Oct. 21-Nov. 5; their web-site’s at <www.topekacivictheatre.com>.
21589. Steven Canny and John Nicholson’s “The Hound of the Baskervilles” will be performed at the Victoria Hall Theatre in Harlow, Essex, Nov. 3-5; their web-site’s at <www.harlowtheatrecompany.org.uk>.
21590. Mark Shanahan’s “A Sherlock Carol” is scheduled at the Marylebone Theatre in London, Nov. 18-Jan. 7 <www.marylebonetheatre.com>; that’s conveniently a tenth of a mile from 221B Baker Street.
21591. Ken Ludwig’s “The Game’s Afoot” will be performed at the Buck Creek Playhouse in Indianapolis, Ind., Dec. 2-18 <www.buckcreekplayers.com>.
21592. Craig Sodaro’s “Young Sherlock” will be performed at the Opelika Theatre Company in Opelika, Ala., Jan. 20-21 <www.opelikatheatrecompany.com>.
21593. “Sherlock Holmes and the Music Hall Mystery” is scheduled by the Rain or Shine Theatre Company at the Theatre on the Steps in Bridgnorth, Shrops., Feb. 3-4, and then on tour <www.rainorshine.co.uk>.
21594. Michael Druce’s “Sherlock Holmes and the Portal of Time” is scheduled at the Richey Suncoast Theatre in New Port Richey, Fla., Feb. 3-5; web-site at <www.richeysuncoasttheatre.com>.
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October 22 #1

21595. Sherlockians will gather in New York on Jan. 4-8 to honor Sherlock Holmes’ 169th birthday, and planning for almost all of the traditional events is afoot. There’s a “Plans for BSI Weekend” page at the Baker Street Irregulars web-site <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com> that has information on BSI and non-BSI events; most of the events are open to everyone, and there always is much more going on than anyone with reasonable sense or stamina is able to deal with. There also will be information available in mid-November at Scott Monty’s excellent web-site <www.bsiweekend.com>; his helpful “Here Are Your #BSIWeekend Tips” will be found at <ihose.co/bsi2023tips> in December. It’s also a good idea to sign up for News from the BSI to hear about Weekend news and when public registration opens for the festivities <www.tinyurl.com/yc5tsz27>.
21596. In plenty of time for holiday hinting (or shopping), Randall Stock’s annual informative nominations for the best Sherlock Holmes books/DVDs of the year goes on-line at <www.bestofsherlock.com/sherlock-gifts.htm> on Nov. 1; there also are recommendations of older Sherlockiana, all with helpful explanations of his choices.
21597. On location with Buster Keaton: John Bengtson (“the great detective of silent film locations,” according to the N.Y. Times) has an interesting YouTube channel where he takes you on a tour of locations for Buster Keaton’s “Sherlock Jr.” (1924) <www.youtube.com/watch?v=tDQdOmnB_Gw&t=76s>. Kindly reported by Jennie Paton.
21598. For all of the fans of professional hockey: Alex Ovechkin, left winger and captain of Washington Capitals, likes to dress in costume for Russian television commercials, and Jennie Paton has spotted him in Sherlockian costume at the RMNB [Russian Machine Never Breaks] web-site in a commercial for Russia’s PSB bank <www.tinyurl.com/43b8bx6k>.
21599. Barbara Peters and Patrick Millikin welcomed Les Klinger to the Poisoned Pen Bookstore in Scottsdale, Ariz., on Oct. 6 for a discussion of his *The New Annotated Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (just published by the Mysterious Press), and much more, and you can watch the goings-on at their YouTube channel <www.youtube.com/watch?v=WVENiQKyUxo>.
21600. Tim Johnson has reported a new 26-minute film from the Mayo Clinic (“Finding Substance X: The Team That Created Cortisone”) that features Dr. Philip S. Hench, who shared a Nobel Prize for the results of his research, and with his wife Mary put together the magnificent collection that’s a cornerstone of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota <www.tinyurl.com/3pusytk6>.
21601. “Holmes and Yoyo” was a 1976 television series that was Sherlockian only for starring Richard Shull (a member of the Baker Street Irregulars) as Det. Sgt. Alexander Holmes, who is partnered with Det. Sgt. Gregory “Yoyo” Yoyonovich, who turns out to be an android. All these years later, Paul Thomas Miller offers a video of “Holmesian Yo-Yo Tricks” (recently noted by Jennie Paton).
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October 22 #2

21602. There were some interesting Sherlockiana and Doyleana offered at a sale of rare books and manuscripts in New York on Oct. 6, including four non-Sherlockian manuscripts; Randall Stock has posted detailed information (and images) at his “The Best of Sherlock Holmes” web-site <www.tinyurl.com/xifyma2s>. The highlight of the sale, for Sherlockians, certainly, was the rare inscribed copy of the first Spencer Blackett edition of *The Sign of Four* (1890); the estimate was \$20,000-\$30,000 and it sold for \$201,600 (including the buyer’s premium).
21603. The spectacular Williamson Pink Star <www.tinyurl.com/vrhms2e5> did very well at Sotheby’s in Hong Kong on Oct. 5; the 11.15-carat diamond sold for \$57,736,078 (including the buyer’s premium) and set a new record for price per carat for any diamond or gemstone. It’s also the second most valuable jewel or gemstone ever sold at auction.
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21604. In case you don't know about the most valuable jewel or gemstone ever sold at auction, it's the 59.60-carat Pink Star that was sold at Sotheby's in 2017 for \$71.2 million <www.tinyurl.com/3vpj922y>; it weighed 132.50 carats uncut when it was mined by De Beers in 1999, and took two years to cut and polish.
21605. Plan ahead: The Legion of Zoom will hold its second annual virtual conference (exploring "The Sitting Zoom at 221b Baker Street") at 2:00 pm (eastern) on Feb. 19, 2023; more information, and a registration button, can be found at <www.tinyurl.com/ycpru7mt>.
21606. "Greetings, old friends," is a phrase that will please fans of "Star Trek: The Next Generation". It's a lovely preview of things to come, in a teaser <www.youtube.com/watch?v=w02V1cSVj-w> for the ten-episode third season of "Star Trek: Picard" that will be streamed on Paramount+ beginning Feb. 16.
21607. Spoiler alert: those fateful words are spoken by Daniel Davis, who's back as Moriarty, who was featured in two episodes of the original series: "Elementary, Dear Data" (1988) and "Ship in a Bottle" (1993). If you want to know (much) more about the series, and the episodes, Wikipedia has a helpful entry <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Star_Trek:_The_Next_Generation>.
21608. Steve Mason wonders why this (non-Sherlockian) sentence is unusual: "Denis, Nell, Edna, Leon, Nedra, Anita, Rolf, Nora, Alice, Carol, Leo, Jane, Reed, Dena, Dale, Basil, Rae, Penny, Lana, Dave, Denny, Lena, Ida, Bernadette, Ben, Ray, Lila, Nina, Jo, Ira, Mara, Sara, Mario, Jan, Ina, Lily, Arne, Bette, Dan, Reba, Diane, Lynn, Ed, Eva, Dana, Lynne, Pearl, Isabel, Ada, Ned, Dee, Rena, Joel, Lora, Cecil, Aaron, Flora, Tina, Arden, Noel, and Ellen sinned."
21609. Robert J. Harris' *The Devil's Blaze: Sherlock Holmes 1943* (New York: Pegasus Crime, 2022; 276 pp., \$26.00) is his second pastiche inspired by the Universal series of films that brought Holmes and Watson into the 1940s; they're in war-time Britain, investigating a series of grotesque murders, pursuing Professor Moriarty and hard at work preventing a German victory, The author's web-site is at <www.harris-authors.com>.

October 22 #3

21610. Steve Mason wonders why this (non-Sherlockian) sentence is unusual (October 22 #2): it's a palindrome, provided by Steve in the October issue of The Bilge Pump, the monthly newsletter of the Crew of the Barque *Lone Star* (the Sherlockian society in Dallas/Fort Worth); the issue is conveniently available at their web-site <www.dfw-sherlock.org>. Actually, you can read all the issues of their newsletter, which was launched in June 2013, since they're archived at the web-site, along with much more of interest. There are (so far) a few other societies that archive their newsletters on-line; it's a wonderful way to make Sherlockian scholarship available to everyone.
21611. At last! Jennie Paton has discovered that The Russian television series "Sherlock: The Russian Chronicles" (with Maxim Matveev as Holmes) (Apr. 20 #6) will soon be available on DVDs. That's the good news. The bad news is that the DVDs will be in European PAL format, in Russian with subtitles only in French <www.tinyurl.com/3rk4c6nu>. Sherlock Holmes is in St. Petersburg, following the trail of Jack the Ripper (who has fled to Russia), and you can see a trailer at <www.start.ru/watch/sherlok-v-rossii>.
21612. Japan Today had a colorful report on Oct. 4 <www.tinyurl.com/5n8e3frj> on the new Sherlock Holmes Exhibition at the British Antique Museum in Kamakura; the museum's web-site's at <www.bam-kamakura.com>.
21613. The Blackeyed Theatre's tour of Nick Lane's new play "Sherlock Holmes: The Valley of Fear" began in Britain on Sept. 14, but you won't need to travel to Britain to see it: it's being streamed on-line through Jan. 22, and is well worth watching <www.tinyurl.com/mry6sxz5>.
21614. Daniel Stashower's *American Demon: Eliot Ness and the Hunt for America's Jack the Ripper* (New York: Minotaur, 2022; 342 pp., \$29.99) is his latest non-fiction book, about the man who helped bring down Al Capone in Chicago and then found himself in Cleveland, attempting to solve a series of brutal murders; there are passing mentions of Sherlock Holmes (Dan knows this is important in persuading Sherlockians to read his books), and the book's great fun.
21615. Why would you want to read a book? Jennie Paton found an amusing commentary on that question, on-line at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=F2GERJ38Zvk>.
21616. "Musings on Amusements in the Canon" is the title of the next conference scheduled by the Reichenbach Irregulars in Leukerbad, Switzerland, on June 1-4, 2023 <www.tinyurl.com/25zphw74>; planning for the conference continues, and visitors from far and near are welcome to participate in the festivities.
21617. The Christopher Morley Knothole Association is hosting an illustrated lecture on one of his favorite topics: the Long Island Railroad. David Morrison will talk about steam trains, and the LIRR from its inception to the time when Morley rode the rails from the 1930s to the 1950s, at the Bryant Library in Roslyn, N.Y., on Nov. 3, at 6:30 pm. The meeting is free, and open to the public; more information about the event, and the Knothole Association, is available from Peter Cohn <apacohn@aol.com>.

October 22 #4

21618. *Nights of Plague*, by Orhan Pamuk (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2022; 683 pp., \$34.00), published in Turkey last year and now available in an English translation, is a novel disguised as a history of the fictional island of Mingheria, ruled by the Abdul Hamid II, Sultan of the Ottoman Empire; in 1901 the island is beset by virulent bubonic plague that ravishes the Christian Greeks and Muslim Turks who live there. The Sultan, in the novel and in fact an admirer of the Sherlock Holmes stories, sends an epidemiologist to the island, instructed to use Sherlockian deduction to solve a murder. Pamuk also notes that when Conan Doyle visited Turkey in 1907, he received the Order of the Mecidiye from Abdul Hamid, who was deposed in 1909. Not in the novel but widely reported: Hamid, on his last night as Sultan listened to a courtier read a translation of a Sherlock Holmes story in an issue of The Strand Magazine. Nick Hilden's interview with Pamuk, about the book and much more, was published in the Washington Post (Book World) on Oct. 16 <www.tinyurl.com/45hmkssdk>.
21619. There's a fine slide show of treasures in the cases at the splendid exhibition of "Sherlock Holmes in 221 Objects from the Collection of Glen S. Miranker" (at the Lilly Library in Bloomington, Ind., through Dec. 16) at the exhibition web-site <www.sherlockin221objects.org/the-lilly-library>.
21620. *Canonical Cameos*, by the late Donald A. Redmond, is a collection of entertaining poems he wrote in 1976, now published for the first time in a 16-page pamphlet that was a souvenir prepared by his son Christopher Redmond for the recent "Jubilee@221B" conference in Toronto; copies are available from Chris for \$5.00 postpaid via PayPal at <redmond2@execulink.com>.
21621. There was a nice article by Steve Marsh about the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota at the Mpls.St.Paul magazine web-site on Oct. 16 <www.tinyurl.com/mr2efnj5>. Tim Johnson, librarian and curator of the collections, explained that "we still have archiving to do. I call it job security."
21622. The Deadline web-site noted on Oct. 3 <www.tinyurl.com/4vbtvxz> that work has begun on a new mystery series for CBS-TV. Craig Sweeney, who worked on the "Elementary" series for five years, most of them as executive producer, will write the new series, which features Dr. Watson, back in practice a year after the death of Holmes at the hands of Moriarty. The new series isn't even "in development" yet, so don't hold your breath.

21623. The web-site also reported on Oct. 6 <www.tinyurl.com/3b6nn4xy> on plans for a different Sherlockian project (“The Improbable Tales of Baskerville Hall”), which will consist of a three-book children’s series written by Ali Standish and published by HarperCollins, and a television series produced by Imagine Kids+Family.
21624. Don Hobbs has added language #113 to his data-base of translations of the Canon, thanks to Marsha Pollak who found a Khmer translation at the International Book Center in Phnom Penh in 2018 (Khmer is the official and national language of Cambodia). Don’s massive (and colorfully-illustrated) data-base (which he calls “The Galactic Sherlock Holmes”) is available on-line at <www.dfw-sherlock.org/galactic-sherlock-holmes.html>.

October 22 #5

21625. “Boss of Sherlock Holmes Museum Continues ‘Bitter’ High Court Battle with His Little Brother Who Is Refusing to Move out of £1 million House Which Has Been His Home for 25 Years” was the headline on an article in the Daily Mail (on Oct. 17) <www.tinyurl.com/dkkr9hn3> about the seemingly perpetual lawyering among John Aidiniantz and members of his family, who have “racked up more than £2.5 million in costs and court orders” in a decade-long battle over profits from the Sherlock Holmes Museum at 221B Baker Street.
21626. Angela Lansbury died on Oct. 11. She had a long and distinguished career acting on screen and stage and television, and became a household name as Jessica Fletcher on “Murder, She Wrote” which ran for 12 seasons on CBS-TV from 1984 to 1996. The pilot episode for the series (“The Murder of Sherlock Holmes”) is discussed in detail at <www.vimeo.com/115878284>.
21627. The Dramatic Publishing Co. <www.dramaticpublishing.com> offers a wide variety of scripts (16 in all) for regional and school productions of Sherlock Holmes plays.
21628. Daniel Monaghan (who stars in the title role in Treefort Media’s ten-episode audio mini-series “Moriarty: The Devil’s Game”) gave an interesting interview to the Sydney Morning Herald <www.tinyurl.com/3stmn52k> on Oct. 19, talking about the mini-series and much more. You can sample the mini-series <www.audible.com/pd/Moriarty-Podcast/B0B2DZBVRR>; Phil LaMarr stars as Sherlock Holmes.
21629. Owen Thomas’ “The Return of Sherlock Holmes” (with Nigel Miles-Thomas as Holmes and Daniel Foley as Watson) continues its tour in Asia, and there’s a nice review of the show at Ben’s Theater in Jomtien, Thailand, published in the Pattaya Mail on Oct. 19 <www.tinyurl.com/ya2akckb>.
21630. Original production cels from the classic animated film “Deduce, You Say!” (1956) aren’t easy to find. Teresa Rettig reports that one is available from the Chuck Jones Gallery for \$5,950 <www.tinyurl.com/ydsfn5r8>. They weren’t nearly as expensive in 2009, when one sold for \$3,585 at Heritage Auctions <www.tinyurl.com/ymspzkxs>. Of course you can settle for limited edition cels that are made for collectors and cost much less.
21631. “A Doctor, a Deduction, and Death Averted” is an interesting essay on “how doctor and writer Simon Stephenson’s love for Sherlock Holmes helped him save his mother’s life”, published at the CrimeReads web-site on Oct. 19 <www.crimereads.com/a-doctor-a-deduction-and-a-death-averted>. Stephenson explains that he was born in the same hospital as Sherlock Holmes, and has a good story to tell.
21632. When in Whitstable (in Kent): you can visit the Whitstable Community Museum and Gallery, to see its exhibition honoring the late Peter Cushing, who lived there for 35 years <www.whitstablemuseum.org/exhibit/peter-cushing>. Howard Ostrom has found a video tour of the exhibition, when it opened in 2013 <www.youtube.com/watch?v=vEtpEfts8k>; the exhibits include costumes he wore as Sherlock Holmes (Cushing played Holmes many times on screen and on television, and Conan Doyle once on television).

October 22 #6

21633. “A Sherlockian Semiquincentennial” is the title of the 250th episode of “I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere” audio show that was launched in 2007 by Scott Monty and Burt Wolder; it’s still going strong, and offers a search engine and a complete archive of 15 years of discussions and interviews that are well worth investigating.
21634. And yes indeed, semiquincentennial is a real word, not recognized by the Word spell-checker but nevertheless in dictionaries. You can also celebrate sestercentennials and quarter millenniums, and you can expect to see all of those words on July 4, 2026, the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence of the 13 colonies that became the United States of America.
21635. Leslie Katz has written many papers on Canonical topics, and all of them are conveniently available at <www.ssrn.com/author=1164057>; his latest is “Thrills and Chills and Postage and Wills: A Look at a Few Aspects of ‘The Five Orange Pips’”.
21636. Andy Lane who has written eight novels in his “Young Sherlock” series and two in his “Lost World” series, and many more in non-Sherlockian and non-Doylean genres, was interviewed at length recently at the Time Scales web-site <www.youtube.com/watch?v=xcmJ_WmNtA>, kindly reported by Jennie Paton.
21637. Ken Ludwig’s “Baskerville” will be performed at the State Theater in Olympia, Wash., Jan. 27-Feb. 11; web-site at <www.harlequinproductions.org>. Also at Cheney Hall in Manchester, Conn., Feb. 3-19 <www.cheneyhall.org>; and the Amelia Community Theatre in Fernandina Beach, Fla., June 9 to 24 <www.ameliacommunitytheatre.org>; and the Totem Pole Playhouse in Fayetteville, Pa., June 16-July 2 <www.totempoleplayhouse.org>.
21638. “William Gillette’s Legacy Shines a Bit Brighter at Farmington Cemetery” was the headline on a story <www.tinyurl.com/49mhv35y> in the Middletown Press (Oct. 11) about the restoration of the headstones at the graves of William and Helen Gillette, with a photograph that includes the Gillettes (impersonated by Tyke and Teddie Niver).
21639. Theatrics: Tad Aviezer’s “Sherlock Holmes: The Adventure of the Red-Headed League” is scheduled at the Lyndhurst Mansion in Tarrytown, N.Y., Nov. 4-Dec. 4 <www.lyndhurst.org>.
21640. Katie Forgette’s “Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily” will be performed at the Genesian Theatre in Sydney, N.S.W., Nov. 4 through Dec. 10 <www.genesiantheatre.com/au>.
21641. Jon Jory’s “The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes” will be performed at Mount Vernon Nazarene University in Mount Vernon, Ohio, Nov. 10-12; web-site at <www.mvnu.edu/events/fall-play-22?date=2022-11-10>.

November 22 #1

21642. You can see “What Edinburgh’s Picardy Place Will Look Like When ‘20 Years of Roadworks’ End Next Year” in a story posted at the Edinburgh Live web-site on Oct. 28 <www.tinyurl.com/yc55cn89>. At long last locals and tourists will be able to see the statue of Sherlock Holmes that was unveiled there in 1991, honoring Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who was born at 11 Picardy Place in 1859. The story says that it’s a statue of Conan Doyle, but that mistake likely will be corrected by the time you get to the web-site.
21643. Edward Gorey was a talented author and artist, famous for his macabre non-Sherlockian and Sherlockian work; you’ve seen some of his artwork at the beginning of “Masterpiece” mysteries on PBS-TV, and you can read about him (and see a fine slide show of his house, which you can still visit in Yarmouth Port, Mass.) at <www.tinyurl.com/2p9cd8x3>.

21644. Some readers of this newsletter are old enough to remember the “Mystery!” era of PBS-TV, not only the wonderful opening animation based on the art of Edward Gorey, but also Vincent Price presiding over each program. You can time-travel back, or see for the first time, his 1985 introduction to Granada’s “A Scandal in Bohemia” at <www.tinyurl.com/2yfryu76>, thanks to Bill Young’s post on Oct. 31 to the “Tellyspotting” blog at the web-site of KERA-TV (Dallas/Fort Worth).
21645. “Sherlock Proved Too Good for His Rivals at Ashburton and Scored a Fighting Win” <www.facebook.com/watch/?v=439691821630285>, as reported by Jennie Paton.
21646. You can have your cake and not want to eat it: Jennie Paton has reported the CakeDecor web-site <www.cakdecor.com>; search for [sherlock holmes] to find two pages of attractive edibles. And there are many more attractive ideas at <www.hotcore.info/babki/sherlock-birthday-cake.htm>.
21647. The Washington Post had a nice report (Oct. 31) <www.tinyurl.com/29d9j7rm> about the first time Anne Rice’s Vampire Lestat Fan Club held its annual ball without its namesake, who died last year (December 21 #5). It was grand New Orleans celebration that included a costume party, all in honor of the author who dedicated her novel *The Mummy, or Ramses the Damned* (1989) “to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle for his great mummy stories ‘Lot No. 249’ and ‘The Ring of Thoth’”.
21648. “Sherlock Holmes: Silenced Night” is being presented by the WhoDunnit Murder Mystery Theater at the Bristol Bar & Grille in Louisville, Ky., with 4 performances in December and one in January <www.tinyurl.com/m9ex37dp>.
21649. “Slylock Fox & Comics for Kids” is a comic strip launched by Bob Weber Jr. on Mar. 29, 1987, and it’s still going strong <www.slylockfox.com>. Seen in nearly 400 newspapers with a combined readership of more than 30 million, the strip has its own Facebook page <www.facebook.com/SlylockFox>, and Slylock is a fine example of how Sherlockian costume is used to identify a detective.

November 22 #2

21650. Rupert Holmes (whose real name is David Goldstein, “a man who loves to drink Rupert Knickerbocker beer and is an avid fan of ace sleuth “Sherlock Holmes, according to the Dallas Times Herald on June 3, 1986), wrote the music and script for the musical “The Mystery of Edwin Drood”, and the play “Solitary Confinement” and the occasionally Sherlockian television series “Remember WENN”, and now lives in Cold Spring, N.Y., in a home that’s “a Valentine to Victoriana and to Baker Street’s most famous resident,” according to a nicely-illustrated story in the N.Y. Times (Oct. 25) <www.tinyurl.com/2a7k66te>.
21651. Cliff Goldfarb has reported that two of the talks at the Jubilee@221B conference in Toronto are available on-line: Nicholas Meyer’s keynote presentation (“The Philosophy of Composition”) at <www.tinyurl.com/9bkf3a22> and Douglas Kerr’s Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture (“Editing Conan Doyle”) at <www.tinyurl.com/59fch9d6>. The YouTube channel of the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection <www.tinyurl.com/47s28rar> has video from previous years, and you’ll find information about the Friends and their publications at <www.acdfriends.org>.
21652. Bonnie MacBird was interviewed at the on-line London Writers’ Salon this month, talking about her latest Sherlockian pastiche *What Child Is This?* and much more, and you can listen to it all at <www.tinyurl.com/4sv8ccw2>. She also was interviewed by Scott Monty and Burt Wolder for the “I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere” blog this month <www.tinyurl.com/2p95nraj>.
21653. It has taken a while, but the U.S. Mint has started shipping the new Anna May Wong quarter (January 22 #7) <www.tinyurl.com/2p94m498>. She played Mrs. Pyke in Reginald Owen’s “A Study in Scarlet” (1933), and she also appeared in the title of “Herlock Sholmes in Be-a-Live Crook, or Anna Went Wrong” (1930), the British marionette burlesque of Clive Brook’s film “The Return of Sherlock Holmes” (1929).
21654. Evy Harzog has reported on Macado’s, a restaurant chain that has many locations from Virginia south to North Carolina <www.macados.net>, as well as a menu with a wide variety of sandwiches named in honor of famous people, including Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson.
21655. George Booth died on Nov. 1. He was a stellar cartoonist who began drawing single-panel cartoons and occasional covers for *The New Yorker* in the late 1960s, became its oldest active contributor, and never retired. You can see his one Sherlockian cartoon (Jan. 9, 1971, p. 34) in the on-line archive of *The New Yorker* (you need to be a subscriber or know someone who is), and reprinted in his *Think Good Thoughts About a Pussycat* (1975).
21656. “Enola Holmes 2” had limited release in theaters, and now is streaming on Netflix. Presumably you’ve all seen it, or are planning to, or are planning not to see it, but there’s a sting at the end, after the start of the closing credits, that suggests we might see a third film in the franchise. The Box Office Mojo web-site has no information about the film (possibly because it had only a limited theater release), but it scored well at the Rotten Tomatoes web-site, with a rating of 94% (reviews) and 78% (audience score); the first film was rated 91% and 70%.

November 22 #3

21657. A story about spiritualism posted at the Mental Floss web-site (on Oct. 27) <www.mentalfloss.com/posts/vintage-seance-video> featured video of a British Movietone newsreel that was filmed at a séance held by Mrs. Meurig Morris, with Lady Jean Conan Doyle and her son Denis Conan Doyle as witnesses to the performance. There’s much more about Mrs. Morris (and Lady Doyle) in a post to the Kilburn and West Hampstead blog on June 22, 2020 <www.tinyurl.com/25zmy2ec>.
21658. “How Well Do You Know Sherlock’s London?” J. D. Biersdorfer asked in the N.Y. Times’ on-line weekly Book Review Quiz Bowl on Nov. 4; the Quiz Bowl is a weekly interactive feature with five multiple-choice questions, and a chance to explore more information about the locations and the literature <www.tinyurl.com/ywukk9rc>.
21659. Bignell Wood, the country home that Conan Doyle bought as a birthday present for his wife Jean in 1924, is for sale <www.tinyurl.com/2f73mewf>; the asking price is £2,950,000. Read all about it at the realtor’s web-site, which includes a downloadable and colorful brochure.
21660. “All Mortal Greatness Is But Disease” is the title of the exhibition now open at the Scottish Maritime Museum in Irvine <www.tinyurl.com/2p876k97> through Feb. 19; the museum’s web-site has a content warning: “This exhibition features images and content of animal cruelty, blood and gore, including hunting, killing, and cutting whales.” An article about the exhibition at the Yahoo Sport web-site (Nov. 6) <www.tinyurl.com/3rbkjhuh> opened with a discussion of Conan Doyle’s voyage on the Peterhead whaler *Hope* in 1880.
21661. A bit more about “Enola Holmes 2”: it isn’t based on any of Nancy Springer’s books, but there’s some actual history involved. Sarah Chapman was a real person, and you can read about her, and what she accomplished, in her entry at Wikipedia, and see how her story inspired Jack Thorne’s screenplay for the film.
21662. The summer issue of *The Magic Door* (published by the friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library) offers an article by Lauryn E. Collins (on “Popular Publishing and Gothic Sensation”, Clifford Goldfarb’s account of the early history of this newsletter, news from the

Library and the Collection, and much more. Copies of the newsletter are available from Cliff Goldfarb, Toronto Public Library, 789 Yonge Street, Toronto M4W 2G8, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.

21663. My Dear Watson, by L. A. Fields (Maple Shade: Lethe Press, 2013; 276 pp., \$18.00), is an account of the relationship between Holmes and Watson, case by case, told by Watson's second wife in 1919; the relationship was homosexual, and the story's nicely told, romantically rather than erotically. Mrs. Watson returns, along with Holmes and Watson, in Fields' Mrs. Watson: Untold Stories (2021; 184 pp., \$15.00), in diary entries written from 1921 to 1939, with considerable discussion of the many literary, political, and royal historical figures who were homosexuals. The publisher's web-site is at <www.lethepressbooks.com>.

November 22 #4

21664. A "wooden-framed slate filled with an apparent spirit communication channeled by Laura Pruden" <www.tinyurl.com/2sw8cvjk> was sold last month from the late Ken Klosterman's magic collection, and it brought \$1,800 (including the buyer's premium). Conan Doyle considered her "one of the greatest mediums of the world," and you can watch a video tour of Klosterman's collection at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=SupYJ1anYnE>.
21665. Naomi Fry posted a warm tribute to "The Muppet Show" at The New Yorker's web-site on Apr. 17, 2021 <www.tinyurl.com/yy8a544e>. The series ran on PBS-TV (1976-1981), and is now available on Disney+, and its target audience included adults as well as children; Baskerville the Hound appeared in the series, along with other Sherlockian characters. There's an interesting Muppet web-site at <www.muppetcentral.com>.
21666. Joanne Alberstat writes about "The Poisonous Atmosphere of the Sherlockian Canon" and Mark Jones and Robert S. Katz discuss "Canonical Cholecistitis" in the fall issue of Canadian Holmes, which is published quarterly by the Bootmakers of Toronto, and also offers reports on Sherlockian goings-on in Canada. A subscription costs \$40.00 a year (US or CA); single issues cost \$12.00 postpaid <www.torontobootmakers.com>.
21667. Something new for numismatists (and other collectors): a Sherlock Holmes "Typefaces" 1oz silver 5\$ coin will be issued by (well, for) the Cook Islands early next year; the coin will be minted by Gold and Silver Bullion Canada, and is offered by them for CA\$165.95 <www.tinyurl.com/3v9ns59d>; their web-site has colorful images and video, and you're welcome to pre-order now. The mintage will be 1,887 pieces (someone obviously knew the importance of that number). The Cook Islands actually use the New Zealand dollar, but various companies seem to have been minting collectable coins for them for years.
21668. It's not Sherlockian, but if you've never read Charlotte Perkins Gilman's short story "The Yellow Wallpaper" (1892), it's available at Project Gutenberg <www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/1952>. After you've read the story, you can read a Public Domain Review article about a truly unusual and extremely rare (for good reason) book: R. C. Kedzie's Shadows from the Walls of Death (1874) <www.publicdomainreview.org/collection/kedzie-shadows>.
21669. "It was twenty-five to eight as we passed Big Ben, and eight struck as we tore down the Brixton Road, Watson wrote (in "Lady Francis Carfax"). The Great Bell, weighing more than 15 tons, has been silent since 2017, except for special occasions, while the Westminster tower and clock were undergoing repair, returned to service on Remembrance Sunday (Nov. 13). You can hear Big Ben perform at <www.tinyurl.com/45yfamkh>.
21670. The September issue of the quarterly newsletter published by The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota, which is now edited by Phillip Bergem, has Jim Hawkins' "Reminiscences of John Bennett Shaw", Gary Thaden's tribute to Nate the Great, and more news from and about the Collections; copies of the newsletter can be requested from Timothy Johnson, #15-G Elmer L. Andersen Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455 <johns976@umn.com>.

November 22 #5

21671. Britain's current financial problems threaten "painful cuts" at Dartmoor National Park, and may require closure of the Visitors Centre in Princetown, according to a report posted on BBC News (Nov. 9) <www.tinyurl.com/22k9sxjc>. The Dartmoor National Park Authority will need to find savings of £898,000 in the next three years, and there may be more cuts to its budget; the Authority is considering a proposal to close the Visitors Centre, which now has 80,000 visitors a year. A final decision on the proposal will be made early next year. The Visitors Centre, which was the Duchy Hotel in years past <www.tinyurl.com/5cpdtttd>, says that the hotel was "once home to Conan Doyle as he wrote the Hound of the Baskervilles."
21672. The two-page manuscript for Conan Doyle's "The Argument from Necromancy" offered at Potter & Potter Auctions on Oct. 20 with an estimate of \$6,000-\$8,000 <www.tinyurl.com/bde8tsve> did not sell. But a nice dust-jacketed copy of the first American edition of The Vital Message was sold, for \$150 (including the buyer's premium) <www.tinyurl.com/yc792c3f>.
21673. The Beacon Society continues to publish its "quarterly gazette for younger Sherlockians everywhere," and the autumn issue of Sherlock's Spotlight is available at their web-site <www.beaconsociety.com>; the contents include material both by and for younger followers of the Great Detective.
21674. If you've not yet ordered a Sherlockian calendar for 2023, here's a link to one offered by the Strand Magazine <www.tinyurl.com/4x3rc5ud>.
21675. Heritage Auctions will have a "The Art of All Things Disney Animation Art Signature Auction on Dec. 9-12 <www.tinyurl.com/2uyjt5xn>, offering a wide variety of production cels and animations drawings showing Basil of Baker Street and other characters from "The Great Mouse Detective" (1986).
21676. This is an era of gender-blind casting, and we have seen Holmes and Watson played by women on stage and television. But not, apparently, on film or radio.
21677. The Beacon Society has announced its 2023 R. Joel Senter Sr. Memorial Essay Contest for students in grades 4 through 12; the deadline for submissions is Mar. 1, and details on the contest (and its history) can be found at <www.beaconsociety.com/joel-senter-essay-contest.html>.
21678. Helena Bonham Carter has been confirmed as the next president of the 181-year-old London Library <www.tinyurl.com/2c2e4naw>. We know that Dr. Watson visited the London Library (in "The Illustrious Client"), and it will be interesting to see whether Eudoria Holmes, played by Bonham Carter in the first two "Enola Holmes" films, visits the London Library in the next film.
21679. Robin Parkinson died on May 7. He made his stage debut in England in 1957 and appeared in his first film in 1959; his many credits included appearing as a shipping clerk in Douglas Wilmer's "The Man with a Twisted Lip" (1965), and as Albert Neale in "Murder on a Midsummer's Eve" in Geoffrey Whitehead's "Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson" (1979).

November 22 #6

21680. Type Punch Matrix, the rare book firm founded by Rebecca Romney and Brian Cassidy <www.typepunchmatrix.com> continues to publish interesting catalogues and offer interesting books; search their web-site for [conan doyle], [sherlock holmes], [sherlockiana], and [vincent starrett] to see some of the nice items on their shelves, and take a look at Print Catalogue Four and its descriptions of two spectacular items no longer available: "Lestrade Before Lestrade" and "A Legendary Sherlockian Rarity with Excellent Provenance".
21681. Bill Seil has reported that a host of comic-strip artists celebrated what would have the 100th birthday of Charles M. Schulz on Nov. 26, and you can see what they did at <www.schulzmuseum.org/tribute> (there's a mention of Sherlock Holmes in Stephan Pastis' "Pearls Before Swine").

21682. The Case of the Disappearing Beaune, by J. Lawrence Matthews (Naples: East Dean Press, 2022; 92 pp., \$6.99) is “a Sherlock Holmes Christmas Mystery” reprinted from a recent anthology edited by David Marcum, and an imaginative pastiche nicely timed for the season.
21683. Theatrical news: Ken Ludwig’s “Baskerville” is being performed at the Amdram Theatre in Whanganui, New Zealand, through Dec. 4; their web-site’s at <www.amdramwhanganui.co.nz>. It’s also at the English Theatre in Vienna, Austria, through Dec. 27 <www.englishtheatre.at>. And it’s scheduled at the Holly Springs Cultural Center in Holly Springs, N.C., on Feb. 9-11 <www.hollyspringsnc.us/323/Cultural-Center>; and at the Fuquay-Varina Arts Center in Fuquay-Varina, N.C., Feb. 16-18 <www.tinyurl.com/4kj4ypbj>.
21684. “Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Goose” (by Michael Menendian and John Weagly) will be performed at the Maureen Stapleton Theatre at the Hudson Valley Community College in Troy, N.Y., Dec. 2-4; the web-site is at <www.tinyurl.com/22w89tkx>. Also at the Black Mountain Center for the Arts in Black Mountain, N.C., Dec. 9-18 <www.blackmountainarts.org>.
21685. Ken Ludwig’s “The Game’s Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays” is due at the Tower Fine Arts Center in Brockport, N.Y., Dec. 2-10; their web-site’s at <www.brockportarts.universitytickets.com>. Also at the Farmington Players Barn in Farmington Hills, Mich., Dec. 2-17 <www.farmingtonplayers.org>.
21686. The Baker Street Players have scheduled “Sherlock Holmes and the Night Before Christmas” (two radio plays) at Baker Street West in Jackson, Calif., Dec. 2-11 <www.bakerstreetwest.com>.
21687. Brenda Rossini’s dramatization of “The Adventure of the Engineer’s Thumb” will be performed by the CriBar Thespians at the Centuries & Sleuths Bookstore in Forest Park, Ill., on Mar. 18 <agrrtig@aol.com>.
21688. Jeffrey Hatcher’s “Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club” will be performed at the Paris Community Theatre in Paris, Texas, Mar. 24-Apr. 2 <www.pctonstage.com>.

December 22 #1

21689. If you’ve seen the Sherlock Holmes in 221 Objects catalog that accompanies the exhibition of material from Glen Miranker’s collection, you will know what excellent work Hemlock Printers does. The company won nine trophies (including “best in show” for the catalog) and many honorable mentions at the Canadian Printers Awards this month. Details are available Hemlock’s blog at <www.tinyurl.com/y6nk55ha>.
21690. The exhibition’s run at the Lilly Library in Bloomington, Ind., ended on Dec. 16, but it soon will be on view at the Elmer L. Anderson Library at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, Feb. 13-May 5.
21691. The documentary “House of the Gods” (July 22 #2) is now available at Amazon Prime UK <www.tinyurl.com/yjr7urmv>. It’s the story of an expedition to Roraima (the Venezuelan tepui considered by many to have been the inspiration for “The Lost World”) <www.tinyurl.com/4axattse>.
21692. The Crew of the Barque Lone Star has now published six anthologies of pastiches written by members of the society from 2017 to 2022; they’re available as PDF files at the society’s web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/5n75p87t>, and (for those who would like to have actual books on their shelves) they now are available at Barnes & Noble <www.tinyurl.com/32ncure4>, priced at cost (the Crew receives no proceeds from the sales).
21693. The Beacon Society’s web-site offers “A Comprehensive Look at the Stories of the Sherlock Holmes Canon <www.tinyurl.com/mctx56ae>; it’s useful as a teaching/learning tool for anyone and everyone, newcomers and old hands, with text, artwork, readings of the stories by Patrick Horgan, questions, discussions, and much more.
21694. Deadline reported on Nov. 28 <www.tinyurl.com/3bsw9x9w> on planning for a “The Boy Sherlock” television series based on the first book in the young-adult series written by Shane Peacock <www.shanepeacock.ca>; the six-book series began with Eye of the Crow (2007).
21695. The six-episode series “Magpie Murders” (adapted by Anthony Horowitz from his novel) is well worth watching; it was broadcast on Britbox in the U.K. last February and on PBS-TV in the U.S. in October, and has many Sherlockian allusions in the plot and in the dialogue. Horowitz also frequently mentions Holmes and Conan Doyle in his post-episode comments, and you can enjoy looking for cryptic messages in the closing credits (watch for the red letters).
21696. Agatha Christie’s play “The Mousetrap” isn’t Sherlockian, but it holds the record for the longest-running play in history: 70 years, with more than 28,000 performances for more than 10 million audience members, and according to the Smithsonian web-site <www.tinyurl.com/mrymykwu> there are plans for a production on Broadway in 2023. The play will continue its run at the St. Martin’s Theatre in London, of course, but the mantelpiece clock, the only surviving piece of the original set, will be loaned from the London production for the Broadway run <www.mousetrapbroadway.com>.

December 22 #2

21697. Every ten years the British magazine Sight and Sound conducts a poll to name the greatest films of all time, and this year 1,639 critics, programmers, curators, archivists, and academics submitted their top-ten ballots. Alan Rettig has noted that Buster Keaton’s “Sherlock Jr.” (1924) was tied for #54, and you can see all of the results of the poll at <www.bfi.org.uk/sight-and-sound/greatest-films-all-time>.
21698. “Attention for Andaman” was the headline on a story at the GEO ExPro web-site on Nov. 29 <www.tinyurl.com/bdh8xr7v>, detailing increased interest in possible petroleum resources offshore from the Andaman Islands; an earlier article at the Lowy Institute web-site <www.tinyurl.com/yxc8whe9> explains additional reasons for increasing interest in the Andamans.
21699. The Norwegian Explorers have just published Ruth Berman’s “Sherlock Holmes in Oz” and Others: The Sherlockian Writings of Ruth Berman; the 110-page book is available for \$11.00 postpaid from Phillip Bergem (3829 172nd Avenue SW, Andover, MN 55304), checks payable to Norwegian Explorers, please; or via PayPal, with payment to <norexpay@gmail.com>.
21700. Nick Fisher died on Nov. 17. He was an accomplished writer for stage, radio, and television in Britain; his “Sherlock Holmes and the Hound of the Baskervilles” was produced at the Salisbury Playhouse in 1991.
21701. The new “30th anniversary edition” of Kim Newman’s Anno Dracula (London: Titan Books, 2022; 519 pp., £17.99/\$24.95) is signed by the author, with a new Introduction by Neil Gaiman and a new novella “Anno Dracula 1902: The Chances of Anything Coming from Mars” (a reprint from the Reminiscences of Col. Sebastian Moran). The book launched a splendid series of alternate-universe novels and stories with a multitude of Sherlockian (and non-Sherlockian) cross-overs. Newman was the distinguished speaker at the Baker Street Irregulars’ birthday festivities in 2013, and he has a web-site at <www.johnnyalucard.com>.
21702. The Mini-Tonga Scion Society has been inactive for many years, but there still are Sherlockians who collect or make miniatures. Jennie Paton notes an attractive (and expensive) 1/12-scale Sherlock Holmes Writing Desk on offer at eBay <www.tinyurl.com/5n8pbcws>.
21703. Randall Stock has reported that the 27-page manuscript for Conan Doyle’s short story “The Bully of Brocas Court” is advertised by a dealer in Austria for €75,000 <www.inlibris.com/item/bn60378>; it’s also available at AbeBooks for \$81,088.68. According to Randall Stock’s page on the manuscript

<www.tinyurl.com/2p868vrn> it was sold for \$23,940 (including the buyer's premium) at Christie's in New York on Oct. 6; it's likely that the dealer will be prepared to bargain.

21704. Sean Wright has noted that "The Perfect Crime" (an episode in the "Alfred Hitchcock Presents" television series that aired in 1957) is conveniently available on-line <www.dailymotion.com/video/x54o1iv>; the program stars Vincent Prince, who always is well worth watching, and there's mention of a great detective in London, and a delightfully Sherlockian introduction by Alfred Hitchcock.

December 22 #3

21705. Greg Bear died on Nov. 19. He began his professional writing career as a teen-ager in 1967, and in 1970 was a co-founder of San Diego Comic-Con (there were 300 attendees at the first Con, and more than 135,000 at this year's gathering); he went on to write more than 50 science-fiction and fantasy books, including *Dinosaur Summer* (1998), a delightful alternate history: Conan Doyle's "The Lost World" was a factual account of the Challenger expedition, but in 1947 nobody cares about dinosaurs, the last dinosaur circus in America is closing and the National Geographic funds an expedition to return the surviving dinosaurs to Venezuela (Willis O'Brien and Ray Harryhausen come along for the fun and games, and of course the expedition is stranded on the plateau).
21706. London isn't the only city with a pub called The Sherlock Holmes. There's also one in Bordeaux (France) <www.sherlockholmespub.fr>. And another in Melbourne (Australia) <www.thesherlockholmes.com.au>. And two more in Edmonton (Canada) <www.thesherlockpubs.ca>.
21707. Jennie Paton has reported something new in the wide range of Sherlockian collectibles: a Sherlock Holmes Door Skateboard Deck (\$81.99) available at <www.koelcase.com/products/sherlock-holmes-door-skateboard-decks>; in case you're not a skateboarder, a skateboard deck is the wooden platform where riders place their feet, and to which other parts are attached. And are there any Sherlockian skateboarders?
21708. Dark Regions Press has announced plans to publish Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of a Dozen Favourites in two limited editions: the Detective Edition (\$635.00) and the Library Edition (\$215.00) will feature both fine binding and attractive artwork; details at <www.darkregions.com/sherlock>.
21709. Peter Lovesey's *Reader, I Buried Them, and Other Stories* (New York: Soho Crime, 2022; 372 pp., \$27.95) honors the award-winning author of an extensive list of novels and short stories; the collection includes the imaginative and nicely Sherlockian poem "A Monologue for Mystery Lovers" (first published in the Feb. 1999 issue of Ellery Queen's *Mystery Magazine*), and more than a dozen excellent short stories (three of them new).
21710. Spotted by Samantha Wolov in Anthony Marra's novel *Mercury Pictures Presents* (Hogarth, 2022): "Sherlock Holmes is the Galileo of the left-handed human heart, trading the telescope for a magnifying glass to discern the order within the nearer darkness.
21711. Ross Davies reports that the 2023 Baker Street Almanac will be available early next year. The Almanac ("a modest capsule of a timeless past & future") is far more than a mere almanac, as you can see at its web-site at <www.greenbag.org/almanacs/BS/html>, where you can download free copies of the 2018-2021 almanac, purchase the 2022 almanac, and pre-order the 2023 almanac.
21712. Jennie Paton has noted Greg Wagland's reading of Bret Hart's parody "The Stolen Cigar Case" <www.youtube.com/watch?v=irvfnrWkleo> at Magpie Audio's YouTube channel, where you'll find much more of interest: readings of the Canon, pastiches, and many of Conan Doyle's non-Sherlockian stories.

December 22 #4

21713. For those not absolutely up to date in this computer age, AI is the abbreviation for Artificial Intelligence, and OpenAI is a company that has created a program called ChatGPT (GPT is an abbreviation for Generative Pre-trained Transformer), and there's a lot more about that in its Wikipedia entry <www.tinyurl.com/yjp9px2e>. Megan McArdle's Washington Post column (Dec. 9) <www.tinyurl.com/5cyusxa> was interesting, but not as interesting as what seems to be the first use of ChatGPT by Sherlockians: Mattias Boström and Jim Ballinger offer "Sherlock Holmes and Hedgehog Watson" at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=b1shLHI-v4U>. It's easy to try out ChatGPT for yourself at <www.openai.com/blog/chatgpt>.
21714. Do you own your books, or do your books own you? That's a question for just about everyone who has more than one bookshelf, and Karen Heller had an excellent article in the Washington Post (Dec. 19) that provides help for those pursuing an answer <www.tinyurl.com/yc5j8zu2>.
21715. The Stradivarius that was offered at auction in June (May 22 #5) sold for \$15.34 million, making it the world's second most expensive violin; Sherlock Holmes paid 55 shillings for his. Antonio Stradivari was described as "the ultimate craftsman" in an interesting article in the *Smithsonian* magazine (Nov./Dec. 2022) <www.tinyurl.com/2mf4udkk>.
21716. Feel free to wish a Happy New Year to The Complete Sherlock Holmes. As of Jan. 1, 2023, all of the Sherlock Holmes stories now are in the public domain in the U.S. (where copyright protection ran for 95 years from the end of the year they were first published).
21717. Fans of MSFK3 [Mystery Science Theater 3000] may not be familiar with the similar RiffTrax series, also created by and for the people who don't take films seriously <www.rifftrax.com>; Matthew Elliott has noted that "Sherlock Holmes and the Deadly Necklace" (1962) is one of six Sherlock Holmes films you can purchase and download.
21718. This year is the 100th anniversary of the classic silent film "Nosferatu" (inspired by Bram Stoker's *Dracula*); on-line celebrations have included an amusing Sherlockian video <www.youtube.com/watch?v=uk2Yx9izr3s> created by Nick Hilligoss and kindly reported by Howard Ostrom.
21719. "Letters from Watson" <www.lettersfromwatson.substack.com> is an on-line project (noted by Nea Dodson) that will launch in January and will involve e-mail versions of all the short stories; you can click on [some preliminary notes] and scroll down for information about the project's lapel pin and how to order it.
21720. It was 50 years ago this month that geologist/astronaut Jack Schmitt was the first (and still the only) scientist to set foot on the Moon, and the December issue of the AAPG Explorer has a colorful illustrated article on "Apollo to Artemis: An Epic of 50 Years" <www.tinyurl.com/4ywzr8xv>. He also named Sherlock Crater in honor of Sherlock Holmes as a geologist, and had the longest-distance Sherlockian conversation ever, with Joe Allen at CAPCOM in Houston. There is a bit more about this in the March 1973 issue of the Baker Street Journal.

December 22 #5

21721. Fake news is nothing new: there was plenty of it in the 18th century: <www.tinyurl.com/m7kssbwf>. And yes, there has been Sherlockian fake news: Scott Monty was the perpetrator, at the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog back in 2007 <www.tinyurl.com/yerb2fn4>. Quite a few people never bothered to click on the "Background info" link at the end of the piece, and the story quickly caught attention and circulation on the Internet <www.tinyurl.com/2p8zed4u>.
21722. The Daily Mail reported on Dec. 19 on the will of Beryl Vertue, who died earlier this year (February 22 #5); Benedict Cumberbatch called her "Sherlock's godmother," and her bequests show that she had a wonderful sense of humor
21723. <www.tinyurl.com/42jtnpvc>.
21724. Sherlock Holmes was an easy winner <www.youtube.com/watch?v=921D02qrxBQ> at Más Hipica (in Montevideo, Uruguay).

21725. The Marco Navas Studio has released its second set of “A Study in Scarlet” 1/32-scale figurines (hand-crafted in resin and hand-painted) showing another scene from the story <www.tinyurl.com/3zan9bmx>.
21726. It’s time for another trivia question: can you name three actors who have played both Sherlock Holmes and James Bond?
21727. Many figure skaters have used a Sherlock Holmes theme, but now there’s one who does something different: Tomoki Hiwatashi, who has gone to the dark side (so to speak) <www.tinyurl.com/y5vaw5df>. Jennie Paton has found him in action at YouTube, dancing to “Romani Holiday” (from “Sherlock Holmes: Game of Shadows”) <www.youtube.com/watch?v=RuhzD19ksUQ>.
21728. Michael Harrison was a knowledgeable and entertaining writer, well known for his many books about the world of Sherlock Holmes, but he wrote about many other things, including what he called “the golden age of whoredom” in *Fanfare of Strumpets* (1971). The book does have a passing mention of Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes, but has much more to say about women such as Cora Pearl (whose entry at Wikipedia you’re welcome to consult); an interesting letter from her (to a gentleman she did not know but who obviously wanted to know her) will be at auction on Jan. 12, with an estimate of €500-€600 <www.tinyurl.com/2kje4xt3>
21729. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London’s excursion to India (September 22 #2) has been postponed. Information still is available at the Society’s web-site <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/to-india-with-sherlock-holmes>; stay tuned for an announcement of new dates for “The Jewel in the Canon”.
21730. “Arsène Lupin contre Herlock Sholmes” was a four-act play written by Victor Darlay and Henri de Gorsse, based on the novel by Maurice Leblanc; it was first produced in Paris in 1910, and is now available as *Arsène Lupin vs. Sherlock Holmes: The Stage Play* (Encino: Black Coat Press, 2005; 248 pp., \$20.95) adapted into English by Frank J. Morlock. It’s grand to see what French theater was like all those years ago, and great fun to see Lupin and Holmes (and Holmes’ son Frederick) in action. There’s also a new Sherlockian playlet by Morlock as an afterword.

December 22 #6

21731. Were you able to name three actors who have played both Sherlock Holmes and James Bond? They are Roger Moore, David Niven, and Armand Kautzky. Armand Kautzky? He’s a well-regarded Hungarian actor who played Sherlock Holmes in “The Curious Case of Sherlock Holmes and the Orphan of Europe” on Hungarian radio in 2021, and dubbed Bond’s voice in Pierce Brosnan’s films. Adrien Fray reports that he has agreed to be the new president of the Sherlock Holmes Club of Hungary. He also dubbed Ralph Fiennes’ Professor Moriarty in “Holmes and Watson” (2018).
21732. David Stuart Davies was interviewed recently about “Resurrecting Sherlock Holmes” and much more on the Dark Fantastic Network audio channel at You-Tube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=NDXN8KXYUIY>.
21733. You can add one more name to the list of actors who have played both Sherlock and Mycroft Holmes. The BBC has recorded Neil Brand’s 90-minute dramatization of “The Hound of the Baskervilles” (with Mark Gatiss as Holmes and Sanjeev Bhaskar as Watson) for broadcast on BBC Radio 3 beginning Jan. 22; the performance also was filmed for future broadcast on BBC Four.
21734. The Blackeyed Theatre’s tour of Nick Lane’s “The Valley of Fear” in Britain has been extended into 2023 <www.tinyurl.com/yphkntay>; the play also is being streamed on-line through Jan. 22 <www.tinyurl.com/mry6sxz5>, and is well worth watching.
21735. A parody murder-mystery dinner-theater production of “The Big Dog of the Baskerton” is due at the Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn, N.J., Jan. 13-29 <www.papermill.org/purchase-tickets>.
21736. Kate Hamill’s “Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson” will be performed at the U.S. Bank Main Stage in Portland, Ore., Jan. 14-Feb. 12 <www.pcs.org>. It also will be performed at the B Street Theatre in Sacramento, Calif., Mar. 8-Apr. 16 <www.bstreettheatre.org>.
21737. Ken Ludwig’s “Baskerville” will be performed at Cheney Hall in Manchester, Conn., Feb. 3-19 <www.cheneyhall.org>, and at the Theatre in a Garden in Fish Creek, Mich., Sept. 6-Oct. 15 <www.peninsulaplayers.com>.
21738. Richard James’ “Sherlock Holmes and Mystery at Mallen Hall” will be performed at St. Peter’s Church Hall in Netherton, West Midlands, Mar. 16-19 <www.dudleylittletheatre.org>.
21739. “Sherlock Holmes: The Strange Case of Miss Alice Faulkner” has been scheduled by the Long Beach Shakespeare Company (as a radio play) at the Helen Borgers Theatre in Long Beach, Calif., Mar. 24-Apr. 2; their web-site’s at <www.lbshakespeare.org>.
21740. Rick Robinson’s “Sherlock Holmes and the Final Problem” will be performed at the Great American Melodrama Theatre in Oceano, Calif., Mar. 31-May 21 <www.americanmelodrama.com>.

January 23 # 1

21741. Sherlockians (and Holmesians) gathered in New York to celebrate the Great Detective’s 169th birthday during the (very) long weekend from Jan. 4 to 8; reports on many if not most of the goings-on posted soon at the Baker Street Irregulars’ web-site <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/tag/reports>. In the meantime, here are a few brief paragraphs to tide you over.
21742. Locals and early arrivals enjoyed the ASH Wednesday dinner, and on Thursday morning the ACD Society’s Doylean Awards Ceremony and a running of Wessex Cup were held at the Mysterious Bookshop; the society’s web-site is at <www.acdsociety.com>. The BSI’s Distinguished Speaker that evening was Dr. Lakshmi Krishnan, who suggested that the medical practice of diagnosis cannot be understood without examining its linkage with detective fiction; her paper will be published in the Baker Street Journal, and her book *The Doctor and the Detective* will be published this year.
21743. On Friday the well-attended William Gillette Memorial Luncheon featured a performance of William Gillette’s curtain-raiser “The Painful Predicament of Sherlock Holmes”, and the presentation of the annual Susan Rice Mentorship Award (recognizing “commitment to mentoring Sherlockians as a means of keeping green the memory of Sherlock Holmes”) to Evelyn Herzog.
21744. Then Irregulars and guests gathered for dinner at the Yale Club, where Lou Lewis offered the first toast to Joan Blankenstein as The Woman. The dinner agenda included the usual toasts, and rituals, and spectacular presentations by Betsy Rosenblatt and Dan Stashower. The annual Morley-Montgomery Award went posthumously to Nicholas Utechin, and Mike Kean announced that Steve Rothman was retiring after a record 23 years as the editor of the Baker Street Journal; the new editor of the BSJ is Dan Andriacco, and Steve will be the editor emeritus.
21745. The BSI’s new Birthday Honours were awarded to Cindy Brown (“Sam Brown”), Elaine Coppola (“Syracuse”), Erika Dowell (“A First Folio Shakespeare”), Takahiko Endo (“James Armitage”), David Harnois (“James Boswell”), Palle Schantz Lauridsen (“The Royal Family of Scandinavia”), Dore Nash (“The Three Garridebs”), James O’Leary (“James, the Son of the Grimpen Postmas-ter”), Roberta Pearson (“Nottingham”), Lee Shackelford (“Woodman’s Lee”), and John Sherwood (“The Imperial Theatre”). And the BSI’s prestigious Two-Shilling Award was bestowed on Greg Ruby.
21746. On Saturday morning Covent Garden West offered the traditional opportunity for dealers to help people who wanted to add to their collections, and at the Saturday luncheon and reception the Dr. John H. Watson Fund’s auction attracted enthusiastic bidders; the raffle prize was an etched glass salver with matching glasses and coasters, created by Danna Mancini.

21747. The second annual meeting of the Literary Agents was held via Zoom on Sun-day morning; you are welcome to watch video of the proceedings at the "Doings of Doyle" page at Facebook <www.tinyurl.com/3ncb9h2w>. And for those who lasted that long, the last event of the birthday festivities was the Adventuresses' Brunch on Sunday.

January 23 #2

21748. There's more about the festivities at Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.tinyurl.com/5284d3rf>. Scott and Burt Wolder also discuss the goings-on at <www.tinyurl.com/bp7386rm>. And you can plan ahead: the next annual dinner will be on Jan. 12, 2024, celebrating Sherlock Holmes' 170th birthday and the 90th (granite) anniversary of the founding of the BSI. Anyone who would like to have information about future events (and much more) is welcome to sign up for "News from the BSI" at <www.tinyurl.com/yc5tsz27>.
21749. The Baker Street Irregulars Press has published two new titles: The Haven Horror is the newest addition to the Manuscript Series (211 pp., \$39.95); edited by Phillip Bergem, it offers a facsimile of the manuscript of "The Retired Colourman", with an annotated transcription and scholarly commentary on the manuscript and on various aspects of the story (the Manuscript Series continues to offer readers an opportunity to come close to the moment when the stories were written, and the commentary is delightful).
21750. Stimulating Medicine, edited by Robert S. Katz and Andrew L. Solberg (225 pp., \$39.95), is subtitled "More Nerve and Knowledge: Doctors, Medicine, and the Sherlockian Canon"; it's the next title in the BSI's Professions Series, and a second volume, so to speak, accompanying their first title in the series, and the anthology continues to explore the many medical aspects of the Canon. Both of the new titles (and many others) can be ordered at <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/tag/books>.
21751. Don't delay: Neil Brand's dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" with Mark Gatiss as Sherlock Holmes (Dec 22 #6) will be available at the BBC Radio 3 web-site <www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m001h56s> only until Feb. 20 (and it's nicely done indeed).
21752. As noted in last month's issue, all of the Sherlock Holmes stories now are in the public domain. You can visit Scott Monty and Burt Wolder's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.tinyurl.com/2s4ck3s4> to listen to them interview Les Klinger, Betsy Rosenblatt, and Ashley Polasek about the significance of the end of Canonical copyright protection.
21753. Radio Times reported on Jan. 19 <www.tinyurl.com/257fh4ks> on the new Audible radio drama "The Baker Street Four" (based on the graphic-novel series Les Quatre de Baker Street), with Peterson Joseph as Sherlock Holmes and Bill Nighy as the Baker Street Irregulars' faithful cat Watson. You can listen to a sample from the recording at <www.tinyurl.com/mr3nnkrb>.
21754. Al Gregory <gaslightandfog@verizon.net> kindly offers (via e-mail) his new edition of "The ABC of the BSI" (an alphabetical listing of Investitures, with recipients, from "Abbey Grange" to "Young Stamford") and "The Florin Society" (couples in which both spouses are Investitured Irregulars).
21755. Further to the discussion of ChatGPT (Dec 22 #4), Dave Taylor, who has an interesting technology blog at <www.askdavetaylor.com>, asks his readers, "If you read every book Arthur Conan Doyle ever wrote and remembered every single sentence, do you think you could write new Sherlock Holmes stories in his style?" <www.tinyurl.com/2yuu4dbw>. And provides some intriguing insight for people who pursue pastiches.
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January 23 #3

21756. The script for David MacGregor's comedy "The Adventure of the Ghost Machine" is now available from TRW Plays (\$12.95 print/ \$9.00 digital) <www.trwplays.com/david-macgregor>; MacGregor has great fun with Holmes, Watson, and Irene Adler (who has moved into 221B Baker Street and is pretending to be Mrs. Hudson for the sake of propriety). This time they're involved with Nikola Tesla and Thomas Alva Edison, and (again) the villainous daughter of Prof. Moriarty.
21757. Reginald Goodman's The Willesden Harpooning: A Holmes Before Watson Novel (2022; 224 pp., \$7.81) offers a look at Holmes when he was trying to find his vocation as a consulting detective, finding he had a lot to learn before he could establish himself; he solves one mystery easily, and then is confronted with another that is far more difficult.
21758. "Why write a Victorian mystery?" is the question answered by Will Thomas, author of the series of novels about Cyrus Barker and Thomas Llewelyn in a post at Criminal Element (Jan. 3) <www.tinyurl.com/3rzfuvck>; Heart of the Nile, the latest in the long series, is due from Minotaur in the spring.
21759. The fall issue of the Baker Street Irregulars Trust's electronic newsletter For the Sake of the Trust has been uploaded to the Trust's web-site at <www.bsitrust.org>. with news about the Trust's activities. You're more than welcome to explore the Trust's web-site to read past issues.
21760. "Don't judge a book by its cover," someone once said. Karen Murdock has noted a new digital edition of A Study in Scarlet offered at Amazon <www.tinyurl.com/v69zdx5> for only \$3.00. One does wonder: Alice Charpentier? Lucy Ferrier?
21761. I've long described this newsletter as "six or more pages of whatever gossip I find appropriate, much of it quite trivial, but most of it Sherlockian or Doylean." If you would like to run a word-search on a large file with all of the text since March 1985 (that's when I entered the computer age) you can now do that easily, thanks to Steve Mason, who provides an updated compilation each month and makes it available to one and all at the Beacon Society's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/ys63328a>.
21762. The Jan.-Feb. issue of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine offers its annual tribute to Sherlock Holmes: a Sherlockian cover; Elizabeth Elwood's mystery involving a Sherlockian theater production; Steve Steinbock's reviews of some Sherlockian (and other) books, Dean Jobb's "Stranger Than Fiction" column about a mystery that intrigued Conan Doyle; John Shen Yen Nee and S. J. Rozan's pastiche "The Killing of Henry Davenport"; an editorial happy birthday from Janet Hutchins; Terence Faherty's parody of "The Reigate Squires"; and an Amlingmeyer Brothers story "Can the Cat Catch the Rat?" by Steve Hockensmith.
21763. What do Frankenstein, Sherlock Holmes, Dracula, Tarzan, the Count of Monte Cristo, and Pinocchio have in common? They are primordial literary myths, according to the novelist Gabriel García Márquez, quoted in an article in the Wall Street Journal (Dec. 27), noted by Karen Murdock. Can you name the authors who created all of those primordial literary myths?
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January 23 #4

21764. When in Norway: you can stay at the Union Hotel in Øye, where you can "step inside a world treasuring the olden times, when traveling meant introspective discovery, long days of reading and hiking adventures in tweed" <www.unionoye.no>. The hotel boasts that Conan Doyle was one of many celebrities who stayed there, and "fell in love with our country right here, within these walls." It's certainly picturesque, but easy to get to only if you're on a ship cruising in the Hjørundfjord.
21765. Jules Tasca's play "An Evening with Sherlock Holmes" was first performed in 2014 and has had many local productions since then; the script's available from Dramatic Publishing (\$10.95) <www.dramaticpublishing.com>. The evening consists of one-act dramatizations of two Canonical stories ("The Noble Bachelor" and "Charles Augustus Milverton") and his new one-act play "The Disappearance of Adam" (which is nicely imaginative and far more than a mere pastiche). The publisher offers many other Sherlockian plays.
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21766. Ron Fish continues to publicize meetings of Sherlockian societies via his Sherlockian Calendar, including gatherings held via Zoom or other technology; it's a great way to find out what's happening, where and when. You can see his format at <www.sherlockiancalendar.com>, and send information about upcoming meetings to him at <ronf404@aol.com>.
21767. For those who like word-search puzzles: Brain Games: Sherlock Holmes Word Search (Morton Grove: Publications International, 2018; 192 pp. \$12.98).
21768. The lists of Sherlockian societies that I used to maintain on my old computer are now sadly out of date, but there's still an easy way to for you to find Sherlockian societies and their contacts: Mike McSwiggin prepares annual listings of contact information for "Sherlockian Groups and Societies" for publication in the Baker Street Almanac, and the 2021 listing is available on-line at <www.greenbag.org/almanacs/BS/bsa.html> (it's a large file, so be patient while it downloads); the 2022 listing should be available soon. Mike also presides over a handy-dandy interactive map of geographical Sherlockian societies at the web-site of the Beacon Society, at <www.beaconsociety.com/sherlockian-societies.html>.
21769. "Pulp Friction" is how Heritage Auctions described what they called "one of the sauciest (and spiciest!) troves of pulp magazines ever assembled" <www.tinyurl.com/55zsrpa8>; there may not be any Sherlockian pulps in the upcoming auctions, but do take a look at some of the covers.
21770. The Beacon Society continues to administer the Fortescue Scholarship Honours Program, and more than 120 people have completed all three exams and have received their Doctorate in Sherlockiana. There also are annual Re-Certification exams for those who want to continue on, and there is more information about the Program at <www.tinyurl.com/4s6jtn35>.
21771. The December issue of the Beacon Society's Not-So-Quarterly Newsletter now is available at the society's web-site <www.beaconsociety.com>, with the latest news from and about the society and its efforts to offer "teachers, librarians, children's museums, and children's theaters with local resources to bring the magic of Sherlock Holmes to life."

January 23 #5

21772. J. Allen St. John was an author, artist, and illustrator, perhaps best known for his illustration of Edgar Rice Burroughs' novels, but he also created a spectacular image of Holmes and Watson for the Chicago Sunday Tribune's Magazine of Books (Feb. 13, 1949) to accompany Vincent Starrett's review of John Dickson Carr's *The Life of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle* <www.pinterest.com/pin/338332990729622515>. Lauren Stump at Shasta/Phoenix offers some of his (non-Sherlockian) original artwork at <www.shastaphoenixart.com/availableartwork>, and Stephen D. Korshak's *The Paintings of J. Allen St. John: Grand Master of Fantasy*.
21773. St. John earlier illustrated "A Scandal in Bohemia" for the anthology *With All My Love* (1945); that artwork can be found on the cover of *Baker Street Miscellanea* (autumn 1982) and in an article in the winter 1982 issue.
21774. *Regulation & Imagination: Legal & Literary Perspectives on Fox-Hunting* is the thoroughly misleading title of a delightful book edited by Ross E. Davies (Washington: Green Bag Press, 2021; 131 pp., \$65.00). It's actually an exploration of Conan Doyle's "The King of the Foxes" and offers a full-color reprint of the first publication of the story in *The Windsor Magazine*, a facsimile of the manuscript with a transcription and annotations, and essays about the history of the manuscript, illustrators, fox-hunting, and much more, by Doylean scholars and enthusiasts; do not neglect the illustrations on the front and back of the dust jacket, explained in detail on the jacket flaps. The publisher's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/3v8ahmyw> has links to two of the essays, and information on how to order the book.
21775. The next 221B Con (A Fan Con for All Things Sherlock Holmes) will be held in Atlanta, Ga., on Apr. 14-16 <www.221bcon.com>, and you are welcome to apply to be on one or more of their panels <www.221bcon.com/panels>.
21776. It would be nice indeed if the U.S. Postal Service were to issue a stamp to honor the new book about "The King of the Foxes", but in fact it's only a nice coincidence that a new 40¢ stamp shows a red fox. That's the rate for bulk mail (pre-sorted circulars, newsletters, and catalogs), and the stamps available in rolls of 3,000 and 10,000; it will be difficult to find them in post offices, but the Postal Service is well aware that there still are some people who collect stamps, and you can purchase 20-stamp sheets at the USPS web-site <www.tinyurl.com/36puatuf>.
21777. "Tide: For Detectives with Sensitive Skin" is a new television commercial <www.youtube.com/watch?v=nxPyxgh9xgA> reported by Jerry Margolin and found on-line by Jennie Paton.
21778. Further to the recommendation of Anthony Horowitz's "Magpie Murders" television series (Dec 22 #1), the book from which he adapted the series also is nicely done; the solutions to the murders are the same, but it's interesting to see what Horowitz did when he adapted the book for television.
21779. Jerry Margolin has reported a nicely Sherlockian (and affordable) collectible available in Oregon <www.oregonlottery.org/scratch-its/cash-hunt>; the question for collectors is: do you keep it in mint condition?

January 23 #6

21780. The Norwegian Explorers' Christmas Annual for 2022 takes "International Holmes" as its theme, with a nice mix of essays, articles, pastiches, poetry, and a puzzle; only a few copies of the 107-page booklet, edited by Ray Riethmeier and Phillip Bergem, are available (\$11.00 postpaid); ask Phillip <pgbergem@gmail.com> if you're in time to order, and he'll tell you how to pay. Back issues for some earlier years, and conference books, also are available.
21781. Gillette Castle is currently closed for tours, and work is underway on renovating the castle's terrace; tours will resume on May 27. In the meantime, Susan Dahlinger reports, there's a virtual tour available on-line at the Gillette Castle State Park web-site <www.tinyurl.com/yc38p73j>. The web-site of the Friends of Gillette Castle State Park also is well worth exploring <www.gillettecastlefriends.org>.
21782. The Parallel Case of St. Louis has announced their "Holmes in the Heartland" conference on July 28-30; more information is available at their web-site <www.parallelcasestl.wixsite.com/home/holmes-in-the-heartland>.
21783. The fall issue of *The Magic Door* (published by the friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library) offers full reports on the Jubilee@221B conference, news from the Library and the Collection, and much more. You can request a copy of the newsletter from Cliff Goldfarb (Toronto Public Library, 789 Yonge Street, Toronto M4W 2G8, Canada) <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.
21784. Maurice Breslow's *Full Circle: Sherlock Holmes's Greatest Challenge Ever* (Altona: Friesen Press, 2022; 115 pp., \$14.99) presents Holmes with a dire problem: Conan Doyle has decided to dispose of Holmes at the Reichenbach. Their worlds collide, and overlap, and the novella provides an intriguing solution.
21785. *Sherlock Holmes and Conan Doyle in the Newspapers, Volume 6, October 1894*, edited and annotated by Mattias Boström and Mark Alberstat (Indianapolis: Gasogene Books, 2023; 258 pp., \$38.95), continues the series launched in 2015; the first volume covered ten years, and this one reprints only some of the articles published in the month that saw Conan Doyle on his highly-publicized tour in the United States.

21786. Also from Gasogene: You Know My Methods, Watson, edited by Andy and Shelly Gage (Indianapolis: Illustrious Clients, 2023; 113 pp., \$19.99) is the society's third case-notes, offering a fine mix of articles, toasts, poetry, drama, and explorations of the history of the Clients. The Sherlock Holmes Review: 2022 Sherlockian Annual (78 pp., \$24.95) has a wide variety of new articles and reminiscences, Canonical and Sherlockian interesting (Steve Doyle has an especially nice story in the Collectors' Corner.) And while it's not new, Christopher Redmond's A Quick Succession of Subjects (2016; 276 pp., \$19.95), a collection of lectures and speeches from 1978 to 2015, includes "Advice from Professor Moriarty on the Presentation of Sherlockian Papers" (which will be of interest and value to anyone who is considering speechifying about Sherlock Holmes). Gasogene's books can be ordered at <www.gasogenebooks.com>.

January 23 #7

21787. Do you think copyright protection in the U.S. is complicated? Canada has just changed its regulations to provide protection for 70 (rather than 50) years from the death of the author. Fear not: Conan Doyle's works went into public domain in Canada in 1980, and even if the new regulations were retroaction, his protection would have ended in 2000. The CBC explained it all on Jan. 7 <www.tinyurl.com/mr2z5cp>.
21788. The December issue of the quarterly newsletter published by The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota, offers de-tailed reports on the International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes (at the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul through Apr. 2) and the mini-conference held last October), celebrations of A. A. Milne and D. Martin Dakin, and news from and about the collections; copies of the newsletter can be requested from Timothy Johnson, #15-G Elmer L. Andersen Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455 <johns976@umn.com>. Planning's underway for a full-scale conference in Minneapolis in 2024.
21789. Linda Bailey's Arthur Who Wrote Sherlock (Tundra Book Group, 2022; 56 pp., \$18.99) is written for children aged 5-9 years, and it's a delightful introduction to the life and work of Conan Doyle, enhanced by Isabelle Follath's colorful artwork.
21790. A recent article in The Times reported on "the 22 poshest villages in the UK," and one of them was Forest Row, which was described as "a beacon of progressiveness" and "a posh hippy enclave sloshing with private wealth." Obviously it has changed since Holmes and Watson stayed at the Brambletye Hotel in Forest Row (in "Black Peter").
21791. Howard Ostrom's "Silent Doyle: Non-Sherlockian Conan Doyle and the Silent Film Era" <www.nplh.co.uk/silentdoyle.html> is an informative and nicely-illustrated discussion of the subject; it is unfortunate that most of the films are not known to have survived.
21792. It is getting harder and harder to find open-stack libraries, in which it is possible to browse the shelves, but one of the best and largest is the Mui Ho Fine Arts Library at Cornell University <www.tinyurl.com/55npb48y>.
21793. Piers Haggard died on Jan. 11. He began his theatrical career in Britain in 1960 as an assistant director at the Royal Court, then moved to film and television, and was awarded an OBE in the New Year Honours in 2016; he directed the "Madame Sara" episode of the ITV series "The Rivals of Sherlock Holmes" (1971).
21794. The Baker Street Irregulars in Oxfordshire: they were the Special Operations Executive (SOE), who called themselves the Baker Street Irregulars because during WW2 their headquarters were at 64 Baker Street. They were also called "the Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare" and sometimes it was said that SOE stood for "Stately 'omes of England" after the many country homes and estates they used during the war. One of those stately homes was still used by the intelligence services until the 1970s, when it was sold and carefully restored; it's now on the market again (at £6,000,000), and you can read all about it at <www.tinyurl.com/djvaz7vc>.
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January 23 #8

21795. Will Thomas' Fierce Poison (New York: Minotaur, 2022; 294 pp., \$27.99) is the next in his grand series that stars private enquiry agents Cyrus Barker (an homage to Holmes' rival in "The Retired Colourman") and (now) partner Thomas Llewelyn; it's 1893, and the story puts them and their friends in dire peril at the hands of a mysterious poisoner. The tale's well told, and the supporting characters are as interesting as the stars; the book is an excellent addition to the series.
21796. The last Sherlock Holmes stories aren't the only things to enter the public domain this year. Here's something you may not have thought was protected by copyright: <www.tinyurl.com/sxtbbfmr>.
21797. "The only thing needed to be a Sherlockian is a curious mind and the free edition of The Complete Sherlock Holmes – Nick Martorelli, interviewed by Robb Nunn on his "Interesting Though Elementary" blog, which continues to offer a fine mix of essays and interviews <www.tinyurl.com/5ym74vsk>.
21798. Theatrical news: Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is running at the Reno Little Theater in Reno, Nev., through Feb. 12 <www.renolittletheater.org>. It's also due at the Theatre Off The Square in Weatherford, Tex., on Feb. 3-19 <www.theatreoffthesquare.org>; and at the Olathe West Theatre in Olathe, Kan., Mar. 3-4 <www.owtheatre.com>.
21799. The new musical "Sherlock Holmes and the Poisonwood" will be performed at the Other Palace in London, Feb. 2-4 <www.theturbinetheatre.com>.
21800. Joshua L. Peugh's new musical "My Dear Watson" was performed at The Grandel in St. Louis, Mo., Jan. 27-28, and it will be streamed on-line, Feb. 3-5 <www.kranzbergartsfoundation.org/the-grandel>.
21801. The Red Throated League (of the Norwegian Explorers) will perform "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Missing Heiress" at the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul, Minn., on Feb. 4 <www.mnhs.org/event/9630>.
21802. Lesley Hart will discuss her "Sherlock Holmes: A Study in Lipstick, Ketchup and Blood" (with excerpts performed by Deirdre Davis) at the Pitlochry Festival Theatre in Pitlochry, Perthshire, on Feb. 12 (it's her adaptation of "A Study in Scarlet") <www.pitlochryfestivaltheatre.com>.
21803. Samuel Safa's "Sherlock Holmes: l'Aventure Musicale" will be performed at the 13eme Art theater in Paris, Feb. 18-Mar. 4 <www.tinyurl.com/2s4dwcdx>.
21804. Jeffrey Hatcher's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club" will be performed at the Lakeland Cultural Arts Center in Littleton, N.C., Mar. 24-Apr. 1 <www.lakelandcac.org>.
21805. "Baker Street Irregulars" (by Flip Kobler and Cindy Marcus) is to be performed at the Kettering Children's Theatre in Kettering, Ohio, from Mar. 24 to Apr. 2 <www.playkettering.org>.
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February 23 #1

21806. The splendid exhibition of "Sherlock Holmes in 221 Objects" from the collection of Glen Miranker opened with suitable fanfare at the Elmer L. Anderson Library at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis on Feb. 13, and it will be on display until May 5. Special events are scheduled for Mar. 16 and Apr. 20, and you can watch Tim Johnson interviewing Glen about the exhibition at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=jprpshwYQrg>.
21807. There's still time to visit Moscow to see the State Museum of the History of Russian Literature's exhibition "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes in Russia" <www.tinyurl.com/4n8yy2nm>, which closes on Mar. 26. There's more information about the exhibition at
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<www.goslitmuz.ru/poster/16438>. And if you can't get to Moscow, Howard Ostrom has noted that there is a nice video tour at <www.tinyurl.com/bdmmhax>.

21808. If you'd like to know more about the life and work of the late Nick Utechin, you can listen to his interview at the Baker Street Irregulars Trust oral-history project at their web-site <www.tinyurl.com/3whrpk2>.
21809. Bookforum, launched in 1994 as a literary supplement to Artforum magazine and considered by some as "the cool-kid sibling of older publication like the N.Y. Review of Books," has ceased publication. There still is an on-line archive, where you can read articles such as Audrey Woolen's "Neither Fairy nor Foul" about the Cottingley photographs in the June/July/August issue <www.tinyurl.com/394frz56>.
21810. The Massachusetts Department of Transportation reported (on Jan. 20) the twelve winners of their "name a snowplow" competition; they included "The Blizzard of Oz", "Luke Snowwalker", and "Sherlock Snowmes". See them all at <www.tinyurl.com/y9h973dv>.
21811. "A Study in Sherlock" is the title of an auction due on Apr. 20 at Potter & Potter <www.potterauctions.com>; it's "the first sale from Robert Hess' collection of Sherlock Holmes and Conan Doyle" including original illustration art, first editions, signed photos, letters, movie posters, items from the Jeremy Brett Estate, an original street sign from Baker Street, and much more.
21812. "Boss of Sherlock Holmes Museum Wins Fight to Evict Brother from £1m Home in 10-Year Feud" was the headline on a story in the Daily Mirror (Feb. 1) <www.tinyurl.com/bdfwjbm>. John Aidiniantz, who now controls the Sherlock Holmes Museum in London, has won the latest lawsuit in a decade-long feud that has involved more than 100 court appearance and resulted in more than £2.5 million in costs and court orders in a legal war that started as a battle over profits from the Museum, which continues to claim that it's at 221B Baker Street.
21813. John Cleese starred as Sherlock Holmes (with William Rushton as Dr. Watson) in "Elementary, My Dear Watson" (a 30-minute program in the BBC-1's "Comedy Playhouse", broadcast in 1973); you can watch their antics on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/2v5n565m> (kindly reported by Jennie Paton).

February 23 #2

21814. Demolition has begun at the Lyndhurst Park Hotel, a local paper reported on Nov. 24, 2022 <www.tinyurl.com/3xx7cfts>. Conan Doyle is said to have designed both the entrance of the hotel and its battlement-style terraces in 1912, and the Daily Telegraph noted on Mar. 20, 2021, that a local historian had found a sketch that showed that Sir Arthur's design for the front façade "was based on the spiritual view of the journey of the soul."
21815. Why should presidents and former presidents and vice presidents be the only ones to have fun? Now you all can join the the club.
21816. "When Katherine Mansfield died everybody said, 'We have lost a writer of exquisite short stories,' and so we did. We have still, fortunately, other writers not less good, and one thinks of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and his 'Sherlock Holmes,' or, again, of Mr. Perceval Gibbon and of Mr. Stacy Aumonier, whose extraordinary lightness of touch gives readability to everything he writes." A quote from the chapter on "Short Stories of Quality" in James Milne's A London Book Window (1924), kindly reported by Mattias Boström; the book's on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/ez8w6hjc>. And one wonders; has anyone actually read a short story written by more than one of those four authors?
21817. The winter 2022/2023 issue of Canadian Holmes is a special issue honoring the late Peter Calamai, reprinting eight of his delightful contributions to our pseudo-scholarship. A subscription costs \$40.00 a year (US or CA); single issues cost \$12.00 postpaid <www.torontobootmakers.com>.
21818. Bob Coghill on vacation in New Zealand, found the Holmes Café in Waitara <www.facebook.com/SHolmes-Coffee-More-309768106026323>; it was closed at the time, so he didn't get to sample the food and drinks.
21819. Five Miles to Anywhere is a Sherlockian society that holds monthly on-line discussions, and makes recordings of their meetings available at Derrick Belanger's YouTube, where you can see both their interesting speakers, and how much fun they have <www.youtube.com/channel/UC0msAhK3Awcs5cpXOj4zJ4A>. The society also has a Facebook page, but doesn't yet have a theme song; they might want to adopt <www.youtube.com/watch?v=vaD_B_C2Rwl>.
21820. Howard Ostrom has reported S. V. Mukhin's interesting Conan Doyle web-site <www.conan-doyle.narod.ru>; it's in Russian (Google Translate can be quite helpful), and is an excellent example of what people are doing to make Conan Doyle and Holmes available in other languages.
21821. Moriarty has returned: Daniel Davis, who played Moriarty in two episodes of "Star Trek: The Next Generation" will be seen in the role again in the third season of "Picard" (which began streaming on Paramount+ beginning on Feb. 16); Robert Ryan reported on the new season of the series on the Inverse web-site (Jan. 25) <www.tinyurl.com/mwby8hj6>.

February 23 #3

21822. The portable Goyard writing desk designed for Conan Doyle (Aug 18 #1) has been advertised yet again, discounted to \$106,720 (plus shipping from Hong Kong) <www.tinyurl.com/59zd5sae>. It's not the desk actually owned by Conan Doyle, but rather one of the additional six made by Goyard; Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog offers a detailed and illustrated report on the desk <www.tinyurl.com/ywnn6yc4>.
21823. KD Sherrinford's Song for Someone (Extasy Books, 2022; 369 pp., \$13.25) is the first in her "Sherlock Holmes and Irene Adler" series; it's a romantic novel, with young Charlotte Saporì reading diaries kept by her mother and father and discovering that she's the daughter of Irene Adler and Sherlock Holmes, and learning about the complicated history of their relationship. The story continues in Christmas at the Saporìs (2022; 82 pp., \$7.00) with Mycroft on hand to complicate things. Sherrinford has a Facebook page at <www.tinyurl.com/mr2d9scf>, and you can read more about the author and her two books at <www.tinyurl.com/35hpeyhw>.
21824. "The Great MLB Jersey Caper" was the headline on a story at the Sports Illustrated web-site on Feb. 27 <www.tinyurl.com/yc73bhjd>, kindly forwarded by Ross Davies. According to the colorful and detailed re-Port, "Baseball had somehow stumbled into a locked-room mystery, more Agatha Christie than Christy Mathewson, more Sherlock Holmes than Homer Bailey," and it's a grand mystery indeed, not just because the missing jerseys cost \$250 each.
21825. Due on CBS-TV (perhaps): "Shortly after the death of his friend and partner Sherlock Holmes at the hands of Moriarty, Dr. John Watson resumes his medical career as the head of a clinic dedicated to treating rare genetic disorders, only to uncover a startling secret that puts him in the cross-hairs of Moriarty once again." CBS has opened a writers room for a series proposed by Craig Sweeney, who worked on the network's "Elementary" series for five years, most of them as executive producer, and targeted for the 2024-2025 season. Opening a writers room means that the network wants to see scripts before approving a pilot.
21826. "September, 1925. Russell and Holmes cross Europe to the village outside Paris where his son, Damian Adler, has settled to paint. But Damian has fled, and while Holmes goes after him, Russell begins to look into the secrets of Holmes' own past, beginning with an intriguing lantern with figures that seem to dance." If you want to know more, you'll need to read Laurie R. King's next novel The Lantern's Dance, due early next year.
21827. Memories and Adventures, edited by Douglas Kerr (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2022; 342 pp., £150.00/\$230.00), is the first volume in The Edinburgh Edition of the Works of Arthur Conan Doyle, which will offer the text of the books; detailed introductions; comparisons of the manuscripts (if available), first serial appearances, and first editions; explanatory notes; and (for Memories and Adventures) occasional corrections

of errors made by Conan Doyle in remembering his life and work. It's a grand project indeed, and Memories and Adventures is a splendid start. The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes is due next, to be followed by Round the Red Lamp.

February 23 #4

21828. The imaginative life-size bronze sculpture by Irena Sedlecká that shows Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and the spirit of Sherlock Holmes <www.tinyurl.com/y2sevea2>, on display in the Garden of Heroes and Villains created by the late Felix Dennis in Dorsington, Stratford-upon-Avon, in Warwickshire, is not easy to see, but the Garden will be open to the public during a guided walk on Aug. 2 <www.tinyurl.com/yd7tjmph>.
21829. Jennie Paton reports an update to the video "Evolution of Sherlock Holmes Games" which now covers 2002-2023 <www.youtube.com/watch?v=IUnD5sYGJTM>.
21830. Mark Godburn advertised (it has been sold) a "rare Victorian book, in its dust jacket, a book that reportedly introduced the first non-white detective in Victorian fiction." The book is Headon Hill's *The Divinations of Kala Persad* (Ward, Lock & Bowden, 1895), a first edition, in a dust jacket, with advertising on the jacket flaps that includes *A Study in Scarlet* (possibly the earliest surviving reference to the book on a dust jacket). Does anyone know of an earlier dust jacket with Canonical advertising?
21831. Mark buys, sells, and collects and researches early dust jackets, and is the author of *Nineteenth-Century Dust-Jackets* (2016) (still available from the Oak Knoll Press <www.oakknoll.com>. He'd be glad to hear from anyone who shares his enthusiasm, at <markrgodburn@gmail.com>.
21832. The late Jim French's "Imagination Theatre" radio series "The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" began 25 years ago, and is still on the air. Larry Albert has played Dr. Watson on every program, and you can hear recent shows at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/2p88z22j>. You can also purchase MP3 downloads of the "Further Adventures" (and all of the Canonical stories as "The Classic Adventures") at <www.tinyurl.com/28a8tfj6>. M. J. Elliott has been writing scripts for about 20 years, and has done the entire Canon, as well as many other stories.
21833. "Brian and Charles" (2002) is a splendid and amusing film about Brian (a lonely inventor) and Charles (his robot); Charles appears in Sherlockian costume in about ten minutes of the film, Howard Ostrom reports, and you get a very brief glimpse of him in the trailer <www.youtube.com/4hzvcmxz>. It's available on Amazon Prime and on Blu-ray in the U.S., and on DVD only in the U.K.
21834. "Workplace Return Should Be Elementary, My Dear Prime Minister" read the headline on Matthew Lau's column in the [Toronto] Financial Post on Feb. 22 <www.tinyurl.com/w5vbf39n>, kindly reported by Cliff Goldfarb. And the column's nicely Sherlockian.
21835. Graeme Malcolm died on Jan. 10. Born in Scotland, he moved to the U.S. in his early twenties and began recording for the American Federation for the Blind's talking-books program; he went on to record 168 audiobooks, and to act on stage and in television and films. Malcolm also was an understudy for Frank Langella as Sherlock Holmes in a 1987 production of Charles Marowitz's play "Sherlock's Last Case", and his recordings include the anthology *Sherlock Holmes in America* and two Canonical stories (all of them now available from Audible, where you can hear samples at <www.audible.com>.
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February 23 #5

21836. Joe Coppola reports that amateur radio operators holding extra-class licenses can ask the Federal Communications Commission for vanity call signs, and he has just been authorized to use K1BSI. K3BSI may still be available from the FCC. If you would like to join the Sherlock Holmes Wireless Society (for licensed amateur radio operators), you can contact Ron Fish at <ronf404@aol.com>.
21837. Max Alvarez has noted an interesting web-site <www.movie-locations.com>, where searches for [sherlock holmes] and [conan doyle] turn up some hits.
21838. Bibliotopus continues to offer important and (unusual) material at their web-site, and their current offers include a complete run of single issues of the Strand Magazine with all 58 stories published in the magazine (for \$85,000) <www.tinyurl.com/2cwbwwys>. They recently offered the manuscript of "His Last Bow" (for \$200,000) <www.tinyurl.com/236uh9wp>, and while it sold quickly, they've kept the description up at the web-site. Mark Hime, who founded the company in the mid-1970s, still presides over the catalog descriptions ("blame no one else," he says), and it's well worth reading what he writes, about his offers, his philosophy, and more.
21839. "The Terror of Blue John Gap" continues to entertain geologists who admire Conan Doyle's fiction, because it includes both an interesting mineral and a monster that turns out to be a Pleistocene cave bear. Dana Martin Batory and William A. S. Sarjeant suggested in 1994 that the Terror was not, in fact, a cave bear, but rather a great scimitar cat, and it's nice that the Royal Mail issued a set of stamps in 2006 honoring Ice Age Animals that included both a cave bear and a sabre-tooth cat.
21840. Marian Misterns and JD Singh have announced that they are going to retire, and will soon be closing the Sleuth of Baker Street in Toronto after 40 years of service to readers all over the world from one of the last remaining mystery-specialist bookstores; you can read the latest (and last) issue of their newsletter Merchant of Menace on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/mryjtv8e>.
21841. *Southsea Stories and Beyond*, edited by Matt Wingett (Portsmouth: Life Is Amazing, 2022; 447 pp., £25.00 hardback/£15.00 paperback), offers a preface by Andrew Lycett and reprints of all the short stories not included in collections during Conan Doyle's lifetime; it has two additional stories ("The Haunted Grange of Goresthorpe" and "The Blood-Stone Tragedy") that are not in *Uncollected Stories* (edited by John Michael Gibson and Richard Lancelyn Green in 1982), and Wingett's added commentary discusses the many echoes of Southsea and Portsmouth found in the stories. The best price is available at the publisher's web-site at <www.lifeisamazing.co.uk>.
21842. There's an amusing story about Wingett's book: because of the deep rivalry between the Portsmouth (blue) and Southsea (red) football teams, some of the shopkeepers in Portsmouth said their customers refused to purchase the book in its red dust jacket, so he made up a small supply in blue jackets, and you're welcome to order either or both.
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February 23 #6

21843. The Perseverance rover entered its extended-mission phase on Mars on Jan. 7. Designed to last one Martian year (687 Earth days), the rover reached that milestone on Jan. 6, and is still exploring Jezero Crater. SHERLOC also is continuing to perform well; it has its own entry at Wikipedia (with a mention of WATSON) <www.tinyurl.com/5f6xnrwx> and <www.tinyurl.com/2p9xteja>
21844. "Sherlock Holmes was the first fictional sleuth to use a magnifying glass" (according to a recent post to the Mental Floss web-site from Jake Rossen and Kat Long) <www.tinyurl.com/42v6vjfx>. That might even be true. Can anyone cite an earlier magnifying glass used by a fictional sleuth?
21845. Mark Jones and Paul M. Chapman ("unrepentant Doyleans and Sherlockians") continue their interesting on-line discussions of Conan Doyle's writings, at their "Doings of Doyle" podcast <www.doingsofdoyle.com>; their latest posts are an interview with Martin Edwards (about "Conan Doyle and Crime Fiction") and an examination of "The Final Problem".
21846. Sherlock and Holmes were adopted by the South African Association for Marine Biological Research, according to the Independent On-Line <www.tinyurl.com/2fdf7vze>. Sherlock and Holmes are African penguins (yes indeed, there are African penguins <www.tinyurl.com/2ez83uhf>.
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21847. The Lord Chamberlain's Office is where the script for Conan Doyle's play "The Crown Diamond" was discovered (he eventually turned it into the short story "The Mazarin Stone"); British plays no longer are required to be licensed by the Lord Chamberlain, and the British Library now has all of the new plays performed in Britain from 1824 to 1968 as submitted to the Lord Chamberlain. They're now available to researchers, and you can read more about it at <www.tinyurl.com/yc8dcfdk>.
21848. Sherlock has been granted a patent by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. That's Sherlock Biosciences, and the company says that it's now the leader in CRISPR-based diagnostics. CRISPR and SHERLOCK are acronyms (May 20 #4), and the company's press release is at <www.tinyurl.com/n86zb2dk>. An article in GEN Edge (Feb. 22) may or may not be helpful in explaining all of this.
21849. Frank Emerson's Sherlock Holmes and the Unmasking of the Whitechapel Horror (London: MX Publishing, 2023; 166 pp., \$12.95) has Holmes and Watson pursuing the Ripper, assisted by Chief Inspector Abberline, and after 15 years they track the Ripper down and bring him to justice and the gallows.
21850. The Baker Street Journal's 2022 Christmas Annual offers a grand survey, by Julie McKuras and Sonia Fetherston, of "Women on the Periphery of the BSI, 1940-1960"; four of them are on display in full color on the cover: Edith Meiser, Lillian de la Torre, and Sylvia Porter (top to bottom at the left, and Coe Glade at the right). The Annual is part of the annual subscription to the BSJ (if you aren't a subscriber, you should search for someone who is, and borrow it). You're welcome to subscribe to the BSJ, and receive the 2023 Christmas Annual, at <www.tinyurl.com/5fvmdf86>.
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February 23 #7

21851. "After getting a taste for blood, Winnie-the-Pooh and Piglet set off to find a new source for food. It's not long before their bloody rampage begins." That's the premise of the new film "Winnie the Pooh: Blood and Honey" that was quick to take advantage of the end of copyright protection for A. A. Milne's iconic characters. A detailed report on the film in Variety (Feb. 7) <www.tinyurl.com/2ayn2z4h> notes that at one point a horror Sherlock Holmes film was considered, but that seems to have been shelved: the company's next project is described as "Jurassic Park" meets "Bambi".
21852. An excellent way to add good books to your library while saving money is patronize discounters who specialize in publishers' remainders: Daedalus Books <www.daedalusbooks.com> is one of them: a recent search for [sherlock holmes] turned up Andrew Lycett's Conan Doyle's Wide World: Sherlock Holmes and Beyond (\$9.98) and Mike Ashley's Adventures in the Strand: Arthur Conan Doyle & The Strand Magazine (\$5.98), among others.
21853. William Crick has launched a new on-line "Sherlock Holmes Forum" available at <www.sherlockholmesforum.org>, and welcomes one and all.
21854. I hear of Sherlock everywhere: Howard Ostrom found an image of the F-86E Sabre flown by Maj. James Robinson Risner with the 366th Squadron in Korea in Jan. 1953, with artwork that shows Bugs Bunny looking for a discharge. He retired as a Brigadier General after serving in three wars, and his entry at Wikipedia is well worth reading.
21855. One of the (few) nice things about the pandemic is the opportunity to attend meetings of distant Sherlockian societies via the Internet and YouTube: some societies have posted their virtual meetings on YouTube channels. One of those societies is the Sydney Passengers (posting from Australia) <www.youtube.com/@sydneypassengers3476>. The Red Circle of Washington also has a YouTube channel <www.tinyurl.com/nhfveysp>; other societies are welcome to let me know about their meeting videos.
21856. Alexander Orlov has noted that there is a Moriarty Hotel in Krasnodar (in southern Russia). And a Sherlock Holmes Hostel. So it's more expensive for admirers of the Professor.
21857. The August Derleth Society was founded in the late 1970s and continues to celebrate the many-faceted literary career of the creator of Solar Pons. Membership costs \$25.00 a year and includes four issues of their newsletter Sage of Sac Prairie; the latest issue offers Derrick Belanger's article about the first annual Luther Norris PSI Dinner, held during the January birthday festivities in New York, to honor the founder of the Praed Street Irregulars. You can find Derrick at <www.belangerbooks.com>, and the August Derleth Society at <www.augustderleth.org>. Luther founded the PSI in 1966, edited and published the Pontine Dossier, and held delightful annual dinners in Los Angeles (attended by some people who are willing and able to tell stories about those festivities).
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February 23 #8

21858. Paul Thomas Miller's "Doyle's Rotary Coffin" (a society whose motto is "All Holmes Is Good Holmes") has a thoroughly amusing Sherlockian web-site <www.sites.google.com/site/doylsrotarycoffin>. Take a look at the article about his "Holmes Parody, Pastiche, and Drama Adaptation Tolerance Increaser Game"
21859. "Baker Street Elementary" is a long-running on-line comic strip created by Joe Faye, Rusty Mason, and Steve Mason, now in its ninth year, and all of their amusing strips (and their six comic books) are available at the web-site of the Crew of the Barque Lone Star <www.tinyurl.com/ms76ytj8>.
21860. "Emmerdale Star Dominic Brunt Thought He Saw a Cottingley Fairy" was the headline on a Yahoo! News story (Jan. 30) <www.tinyurl.com/mr3t3n5e>. The actor lived at Cottingley Beck in Bradford, where Elsie Wright and Frances Griffiths took five photographs of what appeared to be real fairies. According to Brunt, when he lived at the Cottingley Fairies house, he looked out a window and thought he saw a fairy, and "my heart stopped. But when I looked closer it was a dragonfly!"
21861. Larry Millett's The Disappearance of Sherlock Holmes, published in 2002, was the fifth in his series of pastiches about Sherlock Holmes in Minnesota; he was interviewed on WYSO-FM that year <www.tinyurl.com/y5pttskp>.
21862. And now for some theatrical news: Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" will be per-formed at the Mantorville Opera House in Mantorville, Minn., Mar. 17-Apr. 2 <www.mantorvilletheatrecompany.com>; also at the Thousand Islands Playhouse in Gananoque, Ont., June 2-24 <www.1000islandsplayhouse.com>; the John Goodman Amphitheatre at Missouri State University in Springfield, Mo., on July 7-14 <www.tenttheatre.missouristate.edu>; and at the Milam Community Theater in Cameron, Tex., July 22-30 <www.milamcommunitytheater.com> and the Cedar Street Playhouse in Rolla, Mo., July 27-Aug. 6 (that web-site's at <www.ozarkactorstheatre.org>).
21863. David Stuart Davies' "Sherlock Holmes: The Last Act" will be performed at The White Bear Theatre in London, Mar. 21-25 <www.whitebeartheatre.co.uk> by Nigel Miles-Thomas; it's then due at the Hollywood Fringe Festival in June. The two-act one-man play was written by Davies for Roger Llewellyn, who toured the play in many countries after it debuted in 1999; he died in 2019, and the play has now been revived by Miles-Thomas.
21864. Jon Jory's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is due at the Way Off Broadway Theatre in Prattville, Ala., Apr.13-30 <www.facebook.com/prattvillewobt>.
21865. "The Hound of the Bursquervilles" (billed as "a burlesque mystery") will be produced at the Clocktower Cabaret in Denver, Colo., May 4-25; web-site at <www.ci.ovationtix.com/35628/production/1144613>.
21866. Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" is due at the Foothills Playhouse in Easley, S.C., Oct. 27-Nov. 5 <www.easleychamber.net>.
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March 23 #1

21867. There's still a lot of interest in movie posters: the Ricky Jay Collection offered at Potter & Potter Auctions on Feb. 25 included a rare (and colorful) one-sheet poster <www.tinyurl.com/5bmt5dyb> for the 1923 two-reel and long-lost silent film "Is Conan Doyle Right?" (an expose of fraudulent mediums); it sold for \$9,600 (including the buyer's premium).
21868. The British dealer Brought to Book is offering the bound first volume of The Strand Magazine in a dust jacket (£15,000); the first volume contains a non-Sherlockian story by Conan Doyle ("The Voice of Science"), but it's the dust jacket that's truly rare <www.tinyurl.com/2p8yeu34>; early volume of the magazine in dust jackets have been reported, but here's an opportunity to see what one looks like.
21869. Russell Merritt ("The Trepoff Murder") died on Mar. 3. He was a film historian and scholar who taught for many years in the Film Studies and Media Department at the University of California in Berkeley, and was the last person alive who read his first Sherlock Holmes story ("A Study in Scarlet") in a copy of Beeton's Christmas Annual for 1887. You can learn much more about his life and career by listening to his interview for the Baker Street Irregulars Oral History Program at <www.tinyurl.com/59x5tydd>. He received his Investiture from the BSI in 1960.
21870. If you'd like to see how much fun Russell had as a film historian, watch his talk about "How Movies Coped When the Wrong People Went to See Them" <www.nirateville.com/viewtopic.php?f=1&p=273753>. You might also want to watch his interview on Steve Doyle's podcast The Fortnightly Dispatch, at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=kWZTc8Nyxss>.
21871. Leonard Goldberg's *The Wayward Prince* (New York: Minotaur Books, 2023; 336 pp., \$28.00), the seventh title in his series that stars Sherlock Holmes' daughter Joanna Blalock, who learned much from her father and is working with Dr. John H. Watson and his son (and her husband) Dr. John H. Watson Jr., is set during the Great War, and they are tasked with finding a royal prince who has vanished in the midst of London and may have been kidnapped by the Germans. The author's web-site is at <www.leonardgoldberg.com>.
21872. The Deadline web-site has reported (Mar. 3) <www.tinyurl.com/2cz5th2w> on plans for a sequel to the film "Pokémon: Detective Pikachu" (2019). Pokémon was created in 1996, and more than 440 million video games have been sold, and a 25-season animated series is licensed in 177 countries. The first film, with a budget of \$150 million, grossed \$433 million worldwide, so it's likely that the sequel will be produced.
21873. Derrick Belanger has reported that the Praed Street Irregulars will hold a Zoom meeting on June 3; the PSI, founded many years ago by Luther Norris for admirers of August Derleth's writings about Solar Pons, is of course an homage to the Baker Street Irregulars, in the same way Pons was an homage to Holmes. If you'd like to attend the meeting, just send a message to Derrick at <derrick@belangerbooks.com>; you can also ask to join his Solar Pons e-mail list.
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March 23 #2

21874. Will Thomas' *Heart of the Nile* (New York: Minotaur, 2022; 320 pp., \$27.99) is the latest in the fine series that stars private enquiry agents Cyrus Barker (an homage to Holmes' rival in "The Retired Colourman") and (now) partner Thomas Llewelyn; the mystery begins in the British Museum in 1893, with the murder of a volunteer researcher who has found a treasure in what may be Cleopatra's mummy. It's an excellent addition to the series, which offers interesting problems and strong characters, and while it's not really Sherlockian, it's all great fun.
21875. "Two Pipe Problems" was a delightful British radio series broadcast by BBC Radio 4, that starred Richard Briers as William Parnes/Sherlock Holmes and Stanley Baxter as Sandy Boyle/Dr. Watson. "Feisty thespians William and Stanley, the self-styled Holmes and Watson of their retirement community, galvanize the other inmates of The Old Beeches, home for terminally resting members of the entertainment community, as they leave no commode unconquered in their quest to solve their own 'two pipe problems.'" Howard Ostrom has reported two episodes ("Marriage at The Old Beeches" and "Have You Come Far?") on-line at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=agie8ZsCVsk> (they first aired on Apr. 27 and 28, 2009).
21876. An interesting Sherlockian book was offered at auction at PBS Galleries this month: Basil Rathbone's copy of the Trilogy Dinner first edition of *Profile by Gaslight*, edited by Edgar W. Smith (1944); it was estimated at \$500-\$800, and it sold for \$600 (\$750 including the buyer's premium).
21877. *Sherlock Holmes: Das letzte Problem* (2022) was an impressive graphic novel for younger readers, illustrated by Hans Binder, who also adapted the story into German for publication in Switzerland, and it is now available in English as *Sherlock Holmes: The Final Problem* (New York: NorthSouth Books, 2023; 56 pp., \$18.95) <www.northsouth.com>.
21878. The Beacon Society (created in 2003 to support teaching Sherlock Holmes to young people) has published a new issue of its "not-so-quarterly newsletter" <www.tinyurl.com/nhepfkcf> (scroll down to "Society Newsletter") with reports on current activities.
21879. Ian Jarvis' *Cat Flap* (London: MX Publishing, 2016; 335 pp., \$18.95) features Bernard Quist, a modern-day consulting detective, and a variety of names (for characters and places) taken from the Canon; otherwise it's not Sherlockian, and it's more a thriller than a mystery, with many twists and turns and evil villains.
21880. One of the many nice things that make the N.Y. Times a great newspaper is their "Overlooked" feature ("a series of obituaries about remarkable people whose deaths, beginning in 1851 went unreported in The Times"), and on Mar. 13 they had a delightful remembrance for Dilys Winn, who died in 2016 <www.tinyurl.com/2njr69xn> (in case you can get through their pay-wall).
21881. In 1972 she opened Murder Ink, the world's first bookshop devoted solely to mystery fiction, in New York went on to edit *Murder Ink: A Mystery Lover's Companion*, which won an Edgar from the Mystery Writers of America in 1978. She appeared on the television series "To Tell the Truth" in 1972, and you can see the program on YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/jqi7spy>.
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March 23 #3

21882. Sherry Thomas' *A Tempest at Sea* (New York: Berkley, 2023; 249 pp., \$17.00), the seventh in her "Lady Sherlock" series about the exploits of Charlotte Holmes, no longer pretending to be the sister of the non-existent Sherlock Holmes but now in hiding after faking her death in order to escape from Prof. Moriarty; she's now carefully disguised as an elderly lady, at sea on her way to Gibraltar, hoping to recover a document stolen by German spies, and forced to solve two murders while avoiding Moriarty's minions. The author's web-site (offering a sample from the book) is at <www.sherrythomas.com>.
21883. Burney Mattinson died on Feb. 27. He worked as an animator, producer, director, and story artist for Walt Disney Animation Studios for 70 years, and was the longest-serving employee in the company's history. His many credits included "The Great Mouse Detective" (1986), on which he worked as writer, producer, and director.
21884. The Royal Mail has issued a sheet of ten stamps showing of the most popular flowers grown in gardens across the U.K. (they're also the first stamps to feature the silhouette of HM King Charles III); two of them are Canonical: the iris in one story ("Silver Blaze") and the rose in three ("The Engineer's Thumb", "The Naval Treaty", and "The Hound of the Baskervilles") (four, if you include the rose-water in "The Sign of the Four").
21885. There's no longer a legal right to wild camp on Dartmoor, the last place in England and Wales where people had the right to "freely sleep beneath the stars," the National Geographic reported (Mar. 14) <www.tinyurl.com/yc588zyw>. Wild camping is "pitching your tent away from all

infrastructure, carrying all of your equipment, and leaving no trace,” essentially what Sherlock Holmes did in “The Hound of the Baskervilles” (except that he didn’t have a tent). The High Court has ruled in a legal challenge brought by a hedge-fund manager who is Dartmoor’s sixth-largest land-owner that “open-air recreation” includes riding horses and hiking, but not camping. The Dartmoor National Park authority already has spent £100,000 fighting the court case, and is considering an appeal that might cost that much more again.

21886. Ray Betzner’s latest exploration in his “Studies in Starrett” blog is an examination of “Rathbone, Eliot, and Woodworth (But Not in That Order)”, inspired by his pursuit of the Brothers of the Book; it’s a grand example of the strange things one can turn up when research is involved. Read all about it at <www.tinyurl.com/mr424spe>.
21887. The Sherlockian Chronologist Guild provides a safe haven for those devoted to determining the dates of Sherlock Holmes’ cases; Bruce Harris is one of the Guild’s most active members, and in his new *The Duration Debate* (2023; 120 pp., \$9.95 at Amazon) he has turned his attention to how long it took Holmes to solve each of the sixty Canonical cases, reviewing and commenting on the conclusions of nine earlier chronologists, and occasionally revising his previous datings. If you’d like to know more about the Guild, their web-site’s at <www.bkeefauver5.wixsite.com/sherlockchronoguild>.
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March 23 #4

21888. There’s a wide variety of Sherlockian playing cards available now, including a deck issued by Laurence King in the U.K. last year, with artwork by Doug John Miller and a booklet written by Nicholas Utechin (£12.99); details at <www.tinyurl.com/mdt8xdy5>. It’s also available in the U.S. (\$14.99) from PBS <www.shop.pbs.org/WE5242.html>, among other sources; kindly reported by John Garcia.
21889. If you have not heard Stephen Fry reading the Sherlock Holmes stories at Audible, Jennie Paton has reported finding some recordings on-line at YouTube <www.youtube.com/@professorjamesmoriarty1887/videos>, along with some of the programs in the BBC Radio 4 series that starred Clive Merrison and Michael Williams.
21890. The latest issue (#31) of the Sherlock Holmes Mystery Magazine offers the usual nice selection of Sherlockian articles and non-Sherlockian fiction, and Kim Newman’s continuing “Screen of the Crime” reviews of some of the more unusual Sherlockian film and television available on YouTube, as well as striking cover art by Estevan; \$13.00 (or \$39.99 for four issues) from the Wildside Press <www.wildsidepress.com>.
21891. The Bilge Pump, the newsletter edited by Steve Mason for the Crew of the Barque *Lone Star*, recently offered Denny Dobry’s delightful contribution “You Might Be a Sherlockian If ...” in the March issue, which you can read on-line at <www.dfw-sherlock.org/the-bilge-pump-newsletter.html>.
21892. Thomas Wixon, having lost his library to Hurricane Katrina, has decided to focus on something more portable: bookplates. He is trying to assemble a complete set of Vincent Starrett’s bookplates, and you’re welcome to contact him <twixon@gmail.com> to see what he has, in case you have a duplicate of a bookplate he doesn’t.
21893. The “Sherlock Holmes Weekend” in Cape May, N.J., will feature a new play “Send in the Clowns” at the La Mer Beachfront Resort on Apr. 14-16. The next weekend will include “The Other Consulting Detective” on Nov. 3-5 and 10-12 <www.tinyurl.com/yckscvuu>.
21894. Steve Doyle’s “The Fortnightly Dispatch” has returned for its fourth season, with a program about the public Sherlock Holmes collections in North America, interviewing Erika Dowell (the Lilly Library), Tim Johnson (the University of Minnesota), and Jessie Amaolo (the Toronto Public Library); it’s all on-line at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=EG_b4dpg3sE>.
21895. The Baker Street Journal’s 2023 Christmas Annual will be a tribute to John Bennett Shaw. The Annual is included in subscriptions to the BSJ, and not available otherwise; you can read all about (and subscribe to) the BSJ at <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/the-baker-street-journal>.
21896. There has been next to no publicity in English for “Mademoiselle Holmes” (and not much in French); it’s a French television mini-series going into production for broadcast on TF1, with six 52-minute episodes. The stars of the series are Lola Dewaere as Charlie Holmes (descended from Sherlock Holmes) and Tom Villa as her Watson.
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Mar 23 #5

21897. The catalog for “A Study in Scarlet: The Curious Collection of Robert Hess” at auction Potter & Potter on Apr. 20, is now on-line at their web-site <www.potteructions.com> as a full-color PDF. The 281 lots are only the first part of his collection, which is spectacular. The items also are on-line at Invaluable <www.tinyurl.com/bdcvf84a>, and it is grand to be able to explore his original illustration art, first editions, signed photos, letters, movie posters, items from the Jeremy Brett Estate, an original street sign from Baker Street, and much more. And of course to have a chance to bid on things.
21898. Fans of the late MSFK3 [Mystery Science Theater 3000] will enjoy the work of Bridget Nelson and Mary Jo Pohl at RiffTrax <www.rifftrax.com>; the latest Sherlockian film they have parodied is “The Scarlet Claw” (1944).
21899. The splendid exhibition of “Sherlock Holmes in 221 Objects” from the collection of Glen Miranker, on display at the Elmer L. Anderson Library at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, closes on May 5, when it will return to Glen’s shelves in San Francisco. You can watch and (listen to) Glen interviewed by Richard Sveum at <www.tinyurl.com/2htx83pa>.
21900. “Holmes, Miss Marple, and Poe follows Brendan Holmes, Margaret Marple, and August Poe, who have formed the most in-demand private investigating firm in present-day New York City. They make a formidable team with differing approaches to crime-solving,” the Deadline web-site noted on Mar. 21, “and each claims to be distantly related to three of the greatest mystery writers of all time—Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Agatha Christie, and Edgar Allan Poe. But who are they really?” <www.tinyurl.com/y4a9fb29>. Best-selling author James Patterson has signed a first-look deal with Skydance Television that includes a possible television series based on a soon-to-be published book (that’s not yet forecast at Amazon).
21901. Heritage Auctions is offering some original artwork by James Allen St. John on Apr. 25 <www.tinyurl.com/mtemcm29>, stating that it shows Holmes and Watson, and that it was published as an illustration in the Baker Street Irregulars edition of *The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle* (1948). That’s not correct: it wasn’t, and it’s unlikely that it shows Holmes and Watson. But does anyone know whether, and when and where, it actually was published?
21902. “Trichy cigars were once a Churchill favourite. Now, it’s choked by taxes in a room of 3,” according to the Indian web-site ThePrint, posted on Mar. 22 <www.tinyurl.com/5n8h2heu>, with mention of Sherlock Holmes. There is more about Trichinopoly cigars, and the Canon, at a different Indian web-site <www.beyonder.travel/india/trichinopoly-cigar-india>.
21903. A. J. Low’s *Sherlock Sam and the Missing Heirloom in Katong*, published in Singapore in 2012, was the first in a long series about Singapore’s greatest kid detective, assisted by a robot Watson (Mar 13 #2), with a blog at <www.sherlocksam.wordpress.com>. There’s now “Sherlock Sam: The Musical!” (with script by Jo Tan and score by Elaine Chan), due at the Capitol Theatre in Singapore on May 11-20 <www.tinyurl.com/bdh2yjpw>.
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March 23 #6

21904. Does anyone have a copy of a single issue of The Strand Magazine with covers printed on white (rather than light blue) paper, and with BRITISH EDITION and the price and date in the box at lower left? Please advise.
21905. Theatrical news: David MacGregor's "The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes and the Elusive Ear" will be performed at the New Plymouth Repertory Theatre in New Plymouth, New Zealand, Mar. 28-Apr. 8 <www.repertorynp.co.nz>.
21906. Todd Wallinger's "The Enchanted Bookshop" will be performed at the Southwest Missouri State University Fine Arts Theatre in Marshal, Mo., Apr. 1-2 <www.tinyurl.com/ya28ww5x>.
21907. "Sherlock's Veiled Secret" (by K. C. Brown and Arne Zaslove) will be performed at the Abilene Community Theatre in Abilene, Tex., Apr. 7-16; web-site at <www.onthestage.tickets/abilene-community-theatre>.
21908. R Hamilton Wright's "Sherlock Holmes and the American Problem" will be performed at Baker Street West in Jackson, Calif., May 5-28; web-site at <www.bakerstreetwest.com>.
21909. "Sherlock Holmes Showcase" (Tal Aviezer's dramatizations of "The Dancing Men" and "The Dying Detective") will be performed at the Elmwood Playhouse in Nyack, N.Y., on July 16 <www.elmwoodplayhouse.com>.
21910. Kate Hamill's "Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson--Apt. 2B" is scheduled at the Dorset Playhouse in Dorset, Vt., Aug. 11-26 <www.dorsettheatrefestival.org>.
21911. Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is due at the Cape Cod Center for the Arts in Dennis, Mass., Aug. 30-Sept. 9 <www.capeplayhouse.com>; and at the Omaha Community Playhouse in Omaha, Neb., Mar. 8-38 <www.omahaplayhouse.com>.
21912. Mark Shanahan's "A Sherlock Carol" will be performed at the Historic Arcade Theatre in Fort Myers, Fla., Nov. 28-Dec. 17 <www.floridarep.org>.
21913. This newsletter doesn't make the comics pages all that often, but here's Bassett's "Red and Rover" (Mar. 24) <www.tinyurl.com/2f7mwa43>

April 23 #1

21914. "The Pepsodent Show Starring Bob Hope" (broadcast by NBC) was one of the most listened-to series during World War II, and Howard Ostrom has found on-line <www.youtube.com/watch?v=aiZ_LMtEfyY> the program that was broadcast on Jan. 28, 1941, when Hope played straight man to guest star Basil Rathbone, who can be heard in a (non-Sherlockian) skit at 7:50.
21915. Jennie Paton has reported an interesting video in which Anthony Horowitz explains that he was inspired to be a mystery writer by reading a collection of the Sherlock Holmes stories, and then goes on to discuss "The Art of the Murder Mystery Twist" <www.tinyurl.com/sry3a3sk>.
21916. Steve Doyle's new season of "The Fortnightly Dispatch" continues with his interview with Terence Faherty, discussing the Sherlockian films of Basil Rathbone; it's on-line at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dm0GB99iudE>.
21917. Save the date: the next major event in Minneapolis will be a conference on July 26-28, 2024, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota. If you would like to enroll on their mailing list, contact Dick Sveum <sveumr@gmail.com>.
21918. Geri Schear's Sherlock Holmes and the Other Woman (London: MX Publishing, 2015; 325 pp., \$16.95) is her second pastiche told by Sherlock Holmes, who with his wife Beatrice (a god-daughter of Her Majesty) becomes involved in a desperate (and complicated) battle against a malevolent enemy in 1898. Return to Reichenbach (2016; 330 pp., \$16.95), the next in the series, has Holmes and Watson and Beatrice pitted against a mysterious villain who may have supernatural powers, in a dire and bitter contest that brings Holmes back to the scene of his battle with Moriarty. The author has a web-site at <www.rycardus.wordpress.com>.
21919. When in Chicago: you can visit the Claudia restaurant, named by chef Trevor Teich in honor of his mother, and work your way through the bar menu, which offers seven fancy (and expensive) cocktails that he has named for Sherlock Holmes stories <www.claudiarestaurant.com/menu-1>. Claudia's one of seven restaurants named for women that were reviewed by Nicole Schnitzler in the Chicago Tribune (Mar. 28) <www.inyurl.com/mreurd>.
21920. "Have you ever heard a conch shell trumpet, Queen Victoria's voice, or the call of the bare-faced go-away-bird?" That's the question posed at British Library's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/yckwry9w>, to introduce people to their new "Sounds" web-site, where you can listen to "Conan Doyle Speaking" (the recording made in London by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle for His Master's Voice on May 14, 1930) <www.tinyurl.com/2p9zbhf2>.
21921. Randall Stock came in first with an identification of the artwork by James Allen St. John at Heritage Auctions on Apr. 25 <www.tinyurl.com/mtemcm29> (Mar 23 #5): it's from the anthology Favorite Mystery Stories, edited by Marjorie Barrows (Chicago: Spencer Press, 1953), which included "The Blue Carbuncle" and "The Red-Headed League", both illustrated by St. John. It is cited by Ron De Waal in The Universal Sherlock Holmes.

April 23 #2

21922. The Oxford University Press has announced its new nine-volume Oxford World's Classics edition of the Sherlock Holmes stories with a video webinar with four of the editors <www.tinyurl.com/ykkyvfjah>. The first four volumes (A Study in Scarlet, The Hound of the Baskervilles, The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes, and The Return of Sherlock Holmes) are due for release in May. This will be a new edition, rather than a reprint of The Oxford Sherlock Holmes (1993.)
21923. "Sherlock Holmes: The Awakened" is the latest video game from Frogwares, with a trailer at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=J18lzTVgmn4>. Gamers will find plenty of reviews on the Internet, by people who play such games. It has been described as a blend of Conan Doyle and Lovecraft, and there's more information at the Frogwares web-site <www.frogwares.com>.
21924. Bill Amend's Encyclopedias Brown and White (from Andrews McMeel, 2001) offers a collection of his "Foxtrot" comic strips, with Jason Fox in colorful Sherlockian costume on the cover, and as an investigator in amusing sequence. It's out of print, of course. but copies are available on-line. Other Sherlockian strips will be found Amend's May the Force Be with Us, Please (1994) and his Take Us to Your Mall (1995).
21925. Reported: Jonathan Payne's Citizen Orlov (CamCat, 2023) is set in an unnamed Central European kingdom at the end of WWI (according to the review in Publishers Weekly, Apr. 24), and "the blend of action and picaresque buffoonery flatteringly calls Conan Doyle's Brigadier Gerard tales to mind." It is nice indeed to see that one of Conan Doyle's other delightful characters is not forgotten.
21926. A more recent Sherlockian comic strip was Lincoln Peirce's "Big Nate" on Apr. 9 <www.gocomics.com/bignate/2023/04/09>.
21927. And Charles Schultz's "Peanuts" (now in reruns) was Sherlockian on Apr. 13 <www.peanuts.com>; it's a reprint from Apr. 15, 1976.
21928. Mark your calendar for Sept. 23, when Denny Dobry will be holding an open house at his home in Reading, Pa., where visitors can enter (and play in) his splendid recreation of the sitting-room, and browse the shelves in his book fair, where he will be selling Sherlockiana that has been donated to the Baker Street Irregulars Trust (prices will be modest indeed) and publications of the BSI Press. It is well worth a visit, and directions are available from Denny at <dendobry@ptd.net>. You can see colorful images at <www.bsitrust.org/2021/06/book-fair-2021.html> from his similar event in 2021.

21929. John Kelly wrote in his Washington Post column on Oct. 28, 2004, that “As we narrow down all the don’ts, as Sherlock Holmes said, ‘We’re left with the answer.’” <www.tinyurl.com/mraafeuz>. So: where and when did Sherlock Holmes say that? Not in the Canon, but possibly in a pastiche or play or film; does anyone recognize the quote?

April 23 #3

21930. The PeepingMoon web-site <www.tinyurl.com/2p84nk45> reported on plans for a Bollywood adaptation of the BBC “Sherlock” television series, “contextualized for Indian culture and milieu” and set in present-day Kolkata and Bihar, starring Kay Kay Menon as Holmes and Ranvi Shorey as Watson; the series has been greenlit by BBC Studios (the principal commercial subsidiary of the BBC) and was scheduled to go into production on Apr. 3. Jennie Paton found a television news report (in Bengali) about the series at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=VDT536mrDU>.
21931. The question (Feb 23 #2) was whether anyone has read stories by more than one of four authors (Katherine Mansfield, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Perceval Gibbon, and Stacy Aumonier). Yes, Otto Penzler notes, he has read stories by them all, because he was reading stories that might be included in one of his many anthologies. “They weren’t bad,” he reports.
21932. Howard Ostrom recently revised his essay on “The World of Sherlock Holmes Statues” to include a status of Holmes made from twigs, discovered by Alison Corbett in a “Story Stroll” in Rozelle Park in Ayr, Scotland. You can read his illustrated essay at <www.nph.co.uk/sherlock-statues.html>.
21933. “The Carlton Club will find me,” Sir James Damery said (in “The Illustrious Client”); you can read about the nearby Reform Club in a nicely illustrated article at the Country Life web-site <www.tinyurl.com/24k5cywm>.
21934. David Timson, a British actor credited with more than a thousand programs for BBC Radio Drama, has recorded the entire Canon for Naxos Audiobooks, was featured in a recent BlogCritics interview that includes video from one of his recording sessions <www.tinyurl.com/4rr94pyb>.
21935. For the completist: there’s yet another fancy gift edition of the Canon: The Complete Sherlock Holmes Collection (London: Welbeck Publishing Group, 2022, 1095 pp., \$34.95), with an introduction by Ryan Callander (for The Sherlock Holmes Museum) and illustrations by Patrick Knowles, available in the U.S. apparently only from Barnes & Noble <www.tinyurl.com/4a2pee7d>.
21936. The introduction gives some interesting (to say the least) history of 221B Baker Street, noting that it “stands today exactly as Sherlock Holmes left it in 1904,” and that “it is due to tremendous fortune and the fortitude of hard-working people that this building has been preserved as a monument to both a cultural giant and a way of life from days gone by.” And 221B operated as a lodging house “even after the first incarnation of The Sherlock Holmes Museum opened in the late 1930s” and then “the landlady would show the study and the adjacent bedroom as the Museum, while tenants still lived upstairs.”
21937. Actually, it was on June 4, 1989, that Martin Bailey reported in the Observer that John Aidiniantz had asked the Westminster City Council to reallocate the address to the house at 239 Baker Street, where he wanted to set up a “Sherlock Holmes Centre”. He had earlier advertised in Country Life: “Investor/sleeping partner required with £2.5 million. World famous London landmark for sale. May suit titled person with cultural and historical interests.”
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April 23 #4

21938. Jeremy Brett made his television debut as Sherlock Holmes in “A Scandal in Bohemia” on Apr. 24, 1984, not all that long after he appeared as Ernest Finley in the “Ace’s Valet” segment of an episode of “The Love Boat” that aired on Feb. 25, 1984. Jennie Paton has found brief footage from the segment at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=M3oBdA7pJQ>; you can watch the entire episode at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=DQf4FolcQf0>.
21939. There were many interesting items offered in the auction of Bob Hess’ collection (“A Study in Sherlock”) at Potter & Potter Auctions in Chicago on Apr. 20, including a note written by Conan Doyle on his calling card; estimated at \$600-\$800, it sold for \$1,100 (plus a 20% buyer’s premium and sales tax). There was spirited bidding by dealers and collectors, and you can explore the catalog at <www.potterauctions.com>; the prices realized should be posted soon.
21940. This year’s annual meeting of the American Library Association (in Chicago) will include a gathering of the Sub-Librarians Scion on the afternoon of Sunday, June 25 <www.tinyurl.com/2w3jpuuc>. Information about the venue will be available from Beth Gallego <bethgallego@gmail.com>.
21941. The spring issue of Canadian Holmes (the journal of the Bootmakers of Toronto) offers a previously unpublished article about cocaine (“A pathological and morbid process”) written by the late Donald A. Redmond and recently discovered in his files, Brian Clark’s in-depth discussion of fishing in the Canon, and much more. A subscription costs \$40.00 a year (US/CA), and single issues cost \$12.00 postpaid <www.torontobootmakers.com>.
21942. Anne Perry died on Apr. 10. She was an accomplished author of mysteries, (with book sales of 26 million copies worldwide), winner of an Edgar from the Mystery Writers of America in 2000, and guest of honor at Bouchercon in 2013 and 2020. She contributed short stories to many Sherlockian anthologies, and an Afterword to a 2001 Signet edition of The Hound of the Baskervilles.
21943. The next Black Mountain Bluegrass Picking Weekend at Baskerville Hall will be held on June 23-25 <www.tinyurl.com/4tar8pex>. Baskerville Hall is in Powys, Wales, but their claim is that Conan Doyle was a frequent visitor, a friend of the family, and at their request moved the story to Devon to prevent the Hall being overrun with tourists.
21944. The latest “Buzz from Laurie R. King” <www.tinyurl.com/yksmhspt> reports that the first draft of The Lantern’s Dance (the next Mary Russell novel) is now in the hands of her editor, and offers a brief sample as a teaser.
21945. Heather MacKenzie’s interesting article on “Breaking the ‘Beautiful’ Mold” in the April issue of The Whaling News (the monthly on-line journal of the Harpooners of the Sea Unicorn) <www.whalingnews.wordpress.com> cites Hadar Aviram’s article on “Dainty Hands: Perceptions of Women and Crime in Sherlock Holmes Stories” in the Hastings Journal on Gender and the Law (summer 2011), also conveniently available on-line at the web-site of the journal <<https://repository.uchastings.edu/hwlj/vol22/iss2/1>>. MacKenzie focuses on Mary Morstan, but Aviram casts her net more widely.
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April 23 #5

21946. Christopher Sandford’s The Man Who Would Be Sherlock Holmes: The Real-Life Adventures of Arthur Conan Doyle (London: History Press, 2017) (New York: Thomas Dunne/St. Martin’s, 2018) is not (as the author explains) a biography of Conan Doyle, or Holmes, but rather an attempt to show how similar, and sometimes different, they were, and it’s a nicely readable examination of Conan Doyle’s work and career.
21947. Sherlock Holmes visited Windsor Castle to receive an emerald tie-pin from “a certain gracious lady” (in “The Bruce-Partington Plans”), and here’s a nicely-illustrated article about Windsor Castle as it is now at the Country Life web-site <www.tinyurl.com/yc7uen59>.
21948. Ira J. Fistell died on Sept. 26, 2022. In 1969 he was one of the founders of the Amateur Mendicant Society of Madison, Wis. (now known as the Notorious Canary Trainers). He contributed to their newsletter (the Notorious Canary-Trainers Manual), wrote The Hidden Holmes: A Sherlock Holmes Companion (Nov 20 #6), and had a long career in radio (after he moved to Los Angeles he participated in a reading of the entire Canon on KTPK-FM on Dec. 25-30, 1980).
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21949. Ken Ludwig tells some stories about his new play “Moriarty” (due for its world premiere in Cleveland on May 5) in a video interview at YouTube at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=MgPDPUxiLqU&t=21s>. There’s more about some of his other plays at <www.tinyurl.com/4sch5xjh>.
21950. Baker Street West (based in Jackson, Calif.) has its own YouTube channel, and has launched an “And So It Begins” video series intended to encourage people to read the Canon (beginning with “The Red Circle”).
21951. I’ve long described this newsletter as “six or more pages of whatever gossip I find appropriate, much of it quite trivial, but most of it Sherlockian or Doylean.” If you would like to run a word-search on a large file with all of the text since March 1985 (that’s when I entered the computer age), you can now do that, thanks to Steve Mason, who updates his compilation each month and has moved it to the web-site of the Beacon Society at <www.beaconsociety.com/scuttlebutt-from-the-spermacetti-press.html>.
21952. The U.S. Postal Service, which increased the cost of mailing letters last January, now proposes to increase the cost again, in July. A first-class letter will cost 66¢ for the first ounce within the U.S. and \$1.50 for the first ounce outside the U.S. Subscriptions to this newsletter will cost more, and likely will cost even more next year.
21953. Almost all former subscribers have enjoyed being able to access PDFs, with artwork in full color, and live links, without charge, but there still are a few who have been willing to pay for subscriptions, possibly because it is hard to remember to go to a web-site at the beginning of each month and read the new issue, or even print it out (which, after all, is less expensive than paying for printed issues received in the mail). So there will now be a Google Group for the newsletter, which will provide everyone with a link to the PDF each month; if you would like to be in the Google Group, just let me know by e-mail <blau7103@comcast.net>.

April 23 #6

21954. Reported: The Haycraft-Queen & Queen’s Quorum Catalogue, just published by Otto Penzler’s Mysterious Bookshop, offering More than 200 books, mostly first editions, from the definitive crime-fiction lists compiled by Howard Haycraft and Ellery Queen, with 14 pages of color photographs; \$10.00 (refundable with purchase from the catalogue). And of course the Canon is included, with first editions of The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes, The Hound of the Baskervilles, The Return of Sherlock Holmes, The Valley of Fear, and (in dust jackets) His Last Bow and The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes.
21955. Jennie Paton has found an impressive video promoting three-bedroom flats on Sherlock Mews at 98 Baker Street in London <www.vimeo.com/816819497>.
21956. Theatrical news: Ken Ludwig’s “The Game’s Afoot: Holmes for the Holidays” is being performed at the Act Two Theatre in St. Peters, Mo., through May 7 <www.acttwotheatre.com>; it’s also scheduled at the Lyric Stage Company in Boston, Mass., Nov. 10-Dec. 17 <www.lyricstage.com>.
21957. The Alley Theatre has added a week to its run of Katie Forgetting’s “Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily” in Houston, Texas, and the show will now close on May 14 <www.alleytheatre.org>.
21958. Bert Coules’ “Watson: The Final Problem” is now touring in Britain (and on Cunard’s RMS Queen Mary 2 in July) <www.smokescreenprods.com>.
21959. Bob Sturgess’ “The Curious Case of the Cow in the Spotlight” will be performed at the Milestone Center in Reading, Berks., May 18-20; web-site at <www.cavparktheatre.org.uk>. “Pantomime can be murder, as the Crouch End Ladies Thespian Society find out when their panto cow is shot dead shortly before the show is due to start.”
21960. David Stuart Davies’ “Sherlock Holmes: The Last Act” will be performed by Nigel Miles-Thomas at the Hollywood Fringe Festival in Hollywood, Calif., June 15-24 <www.hollywoodfringe.org/projects/9759>.
21961. Alex Dawson’s radio drama “The Hound of the Baskervilles” is scheduled at the White Rock Elementary School in Oak Ridge, N.J., on June 16; web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/3by3dr8a>.
21962. Tim Kelly’s “The Hound of the Baskervilles” is due at the Community Centre in Churchdown, Gloucs., June 21-23 <www.churchdownplayers.com>.
21963. Madeleine George’s “The (Curious Case of the Watson) Intelligence” will be performed at the Inspired Acting Company in Walled Lake, Mich., on Apr. 5-21, 2024 <www.inspiredacting.org>; also at the Road Less Traveled Theater in Buffalo, N.Y., Apr. 18-May 19 <www.roadlesstraveled.com>.
21964. Jeffrey Hatcher’s “Holmes and Watson” is scheduled at the Laguna Playhouse in Laguna Beach, Calif., May 29-June 16 <www.lagunaplayhouse.com>.

May 23 #1

21965. The Baker Street Almanac 2023, edited by Ross E. Davies, Jayantika Ganguly, Ira Brad Matetsky, and Monica Schmidt, and modestly described as “an annual capsule of a timeless past and future,” is now available in print for \$30.00 postpaid (\$50.00 postpaid outside the U.S.); you can order from the web-site at <www.greenbag.org/almanacs/BS/2023.html> or from The Green Bag (6600 Barnaby Street NW, Washington, DC 20015). The 364 pages include a copiously-annotated edition of “The Stockbroker’s Clerk” (and much more “in the form of a formidable scrap-book of 2022, including treasures created or uncovered then, with a few other odds and ends tossed in”).
21966. Among those treasures is Davies’ definitive report on HOWW (as Jay Finlay Christ might have abbreviated Conan Doyle’s apocryphal “How Watson Learned the Trick”). Almanacs for previous years are available (free) as PDFs at <www.greenbag.org/almanacs/BS/bsa.html>.
21967. There’s even more about HOWW at <www.tinyurl.com/ykxmj3d9>, where you’ll find his “Where Watson Learned the Trick”. It’s a Green Bag Single-Sheet Classic that maps where events in the story “take place, and where was Sherlock Holmes going to meet his dentist. This map explains. Maybe.”
21968. Ray Betzner, who does cast his net widely, discussed “Sherlock Holmes, Solar Pons, & the Coronation of King Charles III” recently in his “Studies in Starrett” blog <www.tinyurl.com/3cfj7duf>. There is indeed a connection (quite remote) to Vincent Starrett (read the blog to find out what it is).
21969. Laurence Pernet is a talented Swiss artist who won the Sherlock Holmes Society of London’s contest for their 2020 Christmas card; you can see that artwork (“One winter’s night”) and much more of her work at her web-site <www.lpernet-portfolio.ch>. When she was a student (of graphic design and then information science) she was able to work on the Conan Doyle Archives at the Bibliothèque cantonale et universitaire in Lausanne and prepared a new inventory of the Archives <www.tinyurl.com/5n7dnxyf> (it was a “dream job,” she says).
21970. The Conan Doyle Archives were bequeathed by Adrian to the Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Foundation, and deposited at the Bibliothèque in 1975. They include the manuscript of “Shoscombe Old Place” and are a treasure trove of correspondence, photographs, scrapbooks, and other interesting material that will be useful to anyone writing about the Conan Doyle family.
21971. Laurence Pernet has shown how important the Archives can be, in an article (“Mourning for Holmes: More Than a Myth”) in the spring issue of The Baker Street Journal, in which she has reported finding a likely source for the often-repeated (and often-doubted) story about how (after publication of “The Final Problem”), gentlemen of the City were seen wearing black arm-bands in honor of the deceased detective. The spring issue

May 23 #2

21972. Fans of “Star Trek: The Next Generation” will recall the series’ two Sherlockian episodes: “Elementary, Dear Data” (1988) and “Ship in a Bottle” (1993), in which Daniel Davis played Moriarty. Now Moriarty has returned, in “The Bounty” (season three, episode six of “Star Trek: Picard”) now streaming on Paramount+. For anyone who came in late, Wikipedia <www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Star_Trek:_Picard> offers a detailed discussion of the series; the third season is available only on Paramount+ (you can subscribe or rent or purchase programs). Davis is delightful as Moriarty, both 35 years ago and today, and you can watch a recent interview with him at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=tUSmk08u4I4>.
21973. Further to the report on a miniature version of The Hound of the Baskervilles from MiniaturbuchVerlag Leipzig (Mar 11 #1), the company offers all sixty of the Sherlock Holmes stories <www.minibook.de>.
21974. “On the edge of a jutting pinnacle,” Conan Doyle wrote (in “A Study in Scarlet”), “three or four hundred feet above him, there stood a creature somewhat resembling a sheep in appearance, but armed with a pair of gigantic horns.” And “the big-horn—for so it is called—was acting, probably, as a guardian over a flock which were invisible to the hunter.” The U.S. Postal Service has issued a new sheet of 20 stamps to honor the 50th anniversary of the Endangered Species Act, and one of them shows a desert bighorn sheep. The images come from thousands in Joel Sartore’s “National Geographic Photo Ark” (a project intended to document every species in “human care” in all of the world’s zoos, aquariums, and wildlife sanctuaries) <www.nationalgeographic.org/projects/photo-ark>. The Photo Ark now has images of more than 13,000 species, out of an estimated 20,000 species.
21975. Michael Capuzzo’s The Murder Room: The Heirs of Sherlock Holmes Gather to Solve the World’s Most Perplexing Cold Cases was reviewed some years ago (Aug 2010 #7); the book was about the Vidocq Society and forensic psychologist and profiler Richard Walter, described by Scotland Yard (according to Capuzzo) as “the living Sherlock Holmes.” Now a story in New York magazine (Apr. 10) <www.tinyurl.com/yck2yba> has offered a detailed report on “The Case of the Fake Sherlock” that notes that Walter was “hailed as a genius,” but in reality was a fraud, and asks, “How did he get away with it for so long?”
21976. “Tide: For Detectives with Sensitive Skin” is a new and amusing 30-second television commercial <www.youtube.com/watch?v=nxPyxgh9xgA>, reported by Tim Kline.
21977. “Sherlock Holmes Uses Chinese TikTok (Douyin) to Attract New Generation of Chinese Readers” was the headline on a press release from the Phoenix Publishing Group on Apr. 17 <www.tinyurl.com/36rnrjtk>. Detective Sherlock Holmes, a new children’s book from their Yilin Press imprint, sold 10,000 copies in the first three days, thanks to a short video by an on-line influencer, and 300,000 copies in three months last year. 85% of all Chinese books are now sold on-line, according to the press release, and book sales via social media have risen by 800% over the last six years.
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May 23 #3

21978. It has been decades since Nathan L. Bengis suggested (in the Oct. 1957 issue of the Baker Street Journal) that the tie-pin Holmes received from “a certain gracious lady” (in “The Bruce-Partington Plans”) was not actually an emerald, but rather his birthstone: a (green) garnet. Bengis also suggested that Watson did not realize that there were gem-quality green garnets, and that Holmes was given a uvarovite tie-pin. There are other green garnets, including tsavorite, discovered recently in Tanzania, and the Smithsonian recently added one to its collection of gems <www.tinyurl.com/ydnabpj2>. The “Lion of Merelani” is a spectacular 116-carat stone, cut with 177 facets, roughly the size of a quarter. There’s was more more about the gem in an article in the Washington Post (Apr. 20) <www.tinyurl.com/2ffv5w8v>.
21979. Steve Doyle has two new interviews in his on-line “Fortnightly Dispatch” videos, one with Derrick and Brian Belanger, the prolific Sherlockian publishers responsible for Belanger Books <www.tinyurl.com/yc28f2n4>; and the second with Dan Andriacco, the new editor of the Baker Street Journal, who discusses what he brings to his new job, and some of things the job entails, as well as what he planning for the BSJ <www.tinyurl.com/bdzb5x6m>. You can also search YouTube for [fortnightly dispatch] and find his channel, and watch many of his earlier interviews.
21980. “Den sorte Hætte” [“The Black Hood”], produced by the Nordisk Films Kompagni in Denmark, released in 1911, and (as “The Conspirators”) later that year in Britain and the U.S., starring Lauritz Olsen as Sherlock Holmes. Jennie Paton has found a 7-minute excerpt from the film on-line at Daily Motion <www.dailymotion.com/video/x8kdllhg>.
21981. The spring issue of the Baker Street Irregulars Trust’s electronic newsletter for the Sake of the Trust has been uploaded to the Trust’s web-site at <www.bsitrust.org>. with news of the Trust’s oral-history project and its new intern Tamara Shu, and an announcement that the next annual (on-line) lecture will be given by Steve Rothman on Sept. 9. You’re more than welcome to explore the Trust’s web-site and read past issues.
21982. “Netflix will end its DVD Service, 5.2 Billion Discs Later” was the headline on an article in the N.Y. Times (Apr. 19) <www.tinyurl.com/3msjac8f>; the company shipped its first DVD in 1998, and by 2010 had some 20 million subscribers, but viewers have moved to cable and streaming services, and Netflix will ship its last DVDs at the end of September. Commercial DVDs also have been affected: no DVDs have been released for the “Enola Holmes” films, or the series “The Irregulars” and the third season of “Star Trek: Picard” (all still available on cable and streaming services).
21983. The April issue of the quarterly newsletter from The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota, offers Phil Bergem’s discussion of Conan Doyle’s travels in the U.S. and Canada 100 years ago, John Bergquist’s tribute to Michael and Mollie Hardwick 50 years ago, and much about the exhibition of “Sherlock Holmes in 221 Objects from the Collection of Glen S. Miranker”; copies of the newsletter can be requested from Timothy Johnson, #15-G Elmer L. Andersen Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455 <johns976@umn.com>.
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May 23 #4

21984. Jack A. French died on Apr. 18. He had a long career as a special agent in the Federal Bureau of Investigation. He also was an accomplished actor, with credits on film and in television, and had a long-time interest in old-time radio. Jack was an enthusiastic Sherlockian, a member of the Red Circle of Washington, and acted in production of William Gillette’s “The Painful Predicament of Sherlock Holmes” at Bouchercon in 1980.
21985. The original artwork by J. Allen St. John, offered at Heritage Auctions on Apr. 25, described as showing Holmes and Watson and published in the Baker Street Irregulars’ edition of The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle (1948), was estimated at \$3,000-\$5,000, and sold for \$2,750 (including the buyer’s premium) <www.tinyurl.com/mtemcm29>. It actually shows Henry Baker (“a tall man in a Scotch bonnet”) and Dr. Watson at the entrance to the house in Baker Street, and (as Randall Stock noted) was published in the anthology Favorite Mystery Stories, edited by Marjorie Barrows (Chicago: Spencer Press, 1953). Frank Middlemass wasn’t all that tall in Granada’s program <www.youtube.com/watch?v=DBJ05EPno6k>, but he did have what he called his Scottish bonnet.
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21986. Barrows' Favorite Mystery Stories also has a bit of Sherlockian artwork on the endpapers, inspired by St. John's illustration of Henry Baker and Dr. Watson.
21987. Kim Newman was the Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Speaker during the birthday festivities in 2013, and has enjoyed exploring the world of Sherlock Holmes in *Anno Dracula* and *The Hound of the D'Urbervilles*. His *The Man from the Diogenes Club* (from MonkeyBrain in 2005 and reprinted by Titan in 2017) is a collection of stories featuring Richard Jeperson, who in the 1970s was the Most Valued Member of the club ("the least publicized of Britain's law enforcement and intelligence agencies"). There are occasional mentions of Mycroft Holmes in the science fiction/fantasy/supernatural stories.
21988. The Beacon Society continues to publish its "quarterly gazette for younger Sherlockians everywhere," and the spring issue of Sherlock's Spotlight is available at their web-site <www.beaconsociety.com> (check the menu at the left); the contents include material both by and for younger followers of the Great Detective, and the gazette is intended to provide younger Sherlockians with information and entertainment.
21989. Sherlockian wine enthusiasts may want to pursue the Enos Sherlock Holmes Blend Gran Reserva from Brazil, with a colorful label, spotted by Jennie Paton. R\$190 (that's \$37.63) in Brazil <www.tinyurl.com/5f24jpc5>.
21990. Otto Penzler's continuing series of reprints of excellent American Mystery Classics includes Anthony Boucher's *Rocket to the Morgue* (2019) (\$25.95) with an introduction by F. Paul Wilson, who helpfully identifies (almost) all the Golden Age of Science Fiction writers who appear in the book with different names; thanks to the convenient "Look Inside" feature at Amazon, you can read the introduction on-line. The book also contains many thinly-veiled Canonical and Conanical references, and is great fun to read.

May 23 #5

21991. Sherlock Holmes watches have been offered over the years, but now you can buy a "Limited Edition Hand Assembled Conan Doyle Astute Automatic Rose Black" men's wristwatch from Gamages of London (for only £720) <www.tinyurl.com/4684kx43>. There doesn't seem to be anything Doylean about the watch other than the copywriter's description, but copy-writing is an art form, as Dorothy L. Sayers believed; she is credited for creating the slogan "It pays to advertise" and you can read what she had to say about copywriting at <www.tinyurl.com/2p8swevh>.
21992. The Projection Booth <www.projectionboothpodcast.com> was founded in 2011, and recently featured four episodes (#262-265) co-hosted by David MacGregor and devoted to Sherlockian films. Well worth a look (or listen).
21993. Charles Napier Hemy's oil-on-canvas painting of "The Riverside, Limehouse" <www.tinyurl.com/2u5n7as7> was at auction at Bonhams in London on Apr. 26 (estimated at £20,000-£30,000). It was painted in 1914, and doesn't show houses in Upper Swandam Lane as seen from the river (because there was and is no Upper Swandam Lane in London), but it offers a nice view of what the neighborhood looked like not long after the time "The Man with the Twisted Lip".
21994. Otto Penzler and his Mysterious Bookshop were profiled in a recent interview at the RingSideReport web-site <www.ringsidereport.com/?p=119398>.
21995. Brad Keefauver's *Holmes in an Hour or Two* (2022; 178 pp., \$8.95) lives up nicely to its subtitle "A Sherlock Holmes Fan's First Sherlockian Chronology, or Create Your Own Timeline of Sherlock Holmes's Life in the Shortest Time Possible." It's an expert introduction to Sherlockian chronology, a past-time that has bedeviled scholars since 1898, explaining how it works, and offering readers a chance to make their own choices.
21996. Jim Westergard's *Oddballs* (subtitled "The Remarkable True Stories of Forty Unique, Strange, Peculiar, Extraordinary & Generally Odd People, Told in Prose and Wood Engravings") was published in a limited edition of 30 copies by Heavenly Monkey in 2011, and reprinted by Porcupine's Quill in 2015 (104 pp., \$18.95). Conan Doyle is one of the oddballs, and Westergard's wood-engraving portrait of him can be seen in an on-line offer of the limited edition (\$2,500) <www.tinyurl.com/mt6hxume>.
21997. It was well worth the drive to Cleveland to see the opening night of Ken Ludwig's new play "Moriarty". Like "Baskerville", it's performed by five actors, one playing Holmes, another as Watson, and three more as everyone else (including Moriarty, Von Ormstein, Mycroft Holmes, Mrs. Barabas, Hilda Kleb, Daisy, Irene Adler, Mrs. Hudson, and Cartwright). The script is faithful both to the Canon and to William Gillette's play, and at the same time thoroughly original. No spoilers here, except to say that Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson join Irene Adler in confronting the evil Moriarty, and that there are twists and turns and surprises, right up to the finale. "Let me recommend this play," as someone almost once said; you should urge your local theaters to perform "Moriarty" (Concord Theatricals handles all of Ken Ludwig's plays) <www.concord.com>. You can also see a new trailer for the play at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=ssELZ9EtJi4>.

May 23 #6

21998. "One Woman's Plot to Watch 201 Agatha Christie Movies Without Murdering the Director, Screenwriter, Cast, or Her Husband" is the amusing (and apt) sub-title of Teresa Peschel's *Agatha Christie, She Watched* (Hershey: Peschel Press, 2023; 427 pp., \$19.95); the book includes world-wide film and television, from 1929 to 2022, copiously illustrated, and discussed in detail, with humor and insight and frequent mentions of Sherlockian and Doylean allusions in the films and television series. Her husband (Bill) had edited eight volumes in the "223B Casebook Series" of anthologies of pastiches and parodies published from 1888 to 1930, as well as other books of Sherlockian interest <www.peschelpress.com>.
21999. Note: Peschel Press books are self-published via Amazon, and the cost of printing will increase on June 20, so now's the time to purchase any and all of their books.
22000. Rupert Holmes' *Murder Your Employer* (New York: Avid Reader, 2023; 388 pp., \$28.00) includes a passing mention of Sherlock Holmes (as is the case with so many books nowadays), but it's also a delightful account of the goings-on at the McMasters Conservatory for the Applied Arts (which all focus on the fine art of murder). Rupert Holmes (the pen name of "a man who loves to drink Rupert Knickerbocker beer and is an avid fan of ace sleuth Sherlock Holmes," according to an article in the Dallas Times Herald on June 3, 1986) has won two Edgars from the Mystery Writers of America, and has a colorful web-site at <www.rupertholmes.com>.
22001. The Roosevelt Hotel in New York, site of many events during birthday festivities in January, has been closed for the last three years, and is now open again, but not for the general public. The city is using 850 of the rooms in the hotel to house migrants who are seeking asylum in the U.S.
22002. There's an image of Sherlock Drone in a story in the Lincolnshire World on May 10 (<www.tinyurl.cm/mm5sbpp5>), one of four drones used by the county police, named by students at Ingoldmells Academy, a local primary school. Sherlock Drone will be keeping an eye out for criminals in and near Skegness.
22003. Jonny Lee Miller (who starred as Sherlock Holmes in the television series "Elementary") has told his followers on Instagram that he has now completed his "Firefighter I" five-month training course at the Suffolk County Fire Academy in New York <www.tinyurl.com/28ffacn5>, and is on his way to being qualified as a volunteer firefighter; all that he needs to do now is complete the somewhat longer "Firefighter II" training course.

22004. Penguin Random House has begun its promotion of Laurie R. King's next Mary Russell novel *The Lantern's Dance*, due in February. You read all about it at <www.tinyurl.com/ntwap5np>.
22005. Howard Ostrom keeps an eye out for various animals in Sherlockian costume, and has reported a new addition to his menagerie: an anteater, used by a pest-control company <www.elementarypestmanagement.com>. And (for children) on the cover of and in Doug Cushman's *Aunt Eater's Mystery Halloween* (1998), out of print but readily available on-line.
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May 23 #7

22006. There's more Sherlock Holmes due on Audible: the entire Canon, with Clive Merrison and Michael Williams as Holmes and Watson broadcast by BBC Radio from 1989 to 1995. The collection will include an interview with Adrian Conan Doyle about his father, and behind-the-scenes commentary by the series' head writer Bert Coules, and will be released on Sept. 7. Audible is Amazon's audiobook subscription service.
22007. Elementary Pest Management (May 23 #6) isn't the only (or the first) such company to use a Sherlockian image. Ralph Hall (whose investiture in the Baker Street Irregulars is "Smack! Smack! Smack!") presides over a company established in 1985 <www.wisebuyingmall.com/bugdetectors> and has Sherlock Holmes displayed on his car.
22008. Conan Doyle died on May 10. In Davenport, Iowa. His parents were Donald and Jane Doyle, and he is survived by his wife Lori and their children Leanna, Justine, and Keegan <www.tinyurl.com/252y5rr7>.
22009. "Khitrovka: The Sign of the Four" is a new Russian film, reported by Alex-ander Orlov <www.tinyurl.com/2x9jkur3>. It's set in Moscow in 1902, and is inspired by (rather than an adaptation of) the Sherlock Holmes story, and the URL provides access to details and four trailers. Alexis Barquin has more images (and information about the film) at the Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia web-site <www.tinyurl.com/mtmjyub6>.
22010. Jennie Paton spotted ten of the BBC Radio broadcasts with Carleton Hobbs and Norman Shelley as Holmes and Watson, almost all of them with nice introductions by Nicholas Utechin, at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=mDnOCUMvnFU>.
22011. Mike Befeler's *Old Detectives Home* (Farmington: Encircle, 2022; 270 pp., \$6.99) is an amusing look at a retirement home for aging detectives. The staff (mystery authors who include Dash Hammett, Rexie Stout, Dot Sayers, and Art Doyle) and residents (including Tommy and Tuppence Beresford, Auguste Dupin, Hercule Poirot, and Sherlock Holmes) are trying to solve the murder of critic Ed Wilson, and the novel has both plethora of clues and a great deal of broad humor. Befeler's web-site is at <www.mikebefelr.com>.
22012. Mary Stojak's *Sissy Holmes and the Case of the Dead Hypnotist* (London: Orange Pip Books, 2022; 261 pp., \$14.95) may well offer a truly new version of Sherlock Holmes in the ever-expanding world of pastiches, homages, and parodies; Sissy Holmes consults a hypnotist in hopes of giving up smoking, and after the hypnotist is murdered during the session, finds that she is now the host of a reincarnated Holmes. Needless to say, they're successful in solving the crime. The author blogs at <www.mysteriesinc.org>.
22013. William Seil notes that on May 16 Bill Griffith's "Zippy" comic strip had a nice Sherlockian allusion <www.comicskingdom.com/zippy-the-pinhead>.
22014. *Closer Presents: The Mysterious World of Sherlock Holmes* (a 96-page one-issue magazine published by American Media in 2019) (\$5.99 at Amazon) has no credit to an editor or authors, but it's packed with colorful illustrations of Holmes, his world, and his appearances in various media.
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May 23 #8

22015. Paul B. Kane's *Nailbiters: Tales of Crime & Psychological Terror* (Kent: Black Shuck Books, 2017; 256 pp., \$15.65) is a collection of his short stories; one of them is a Sherlockian pastiche ("The Greatest Mystery") reprinted from the anthology *Gaslight Arcanum* (2011). "Psychological terror" describes all of the stories, which aren't for the faint-hearted. The author's web-site is at <www.plkane.com/bio.htm>, and the publisher is at <www.blackshuckbooks.co.uk>.
22016. *The Monstrum Opus of Sherlock Holmes: A Compendium of Horrors Dr. Watson Dared Not Tell*, edited by Nathaniel Barker-Harris, Brad Keefauver, and Rob Nunn (2022; 131 pp., \$8.95), lives up to its subtitle: it's an anthology of essays by Sherlockians, old hands and new, who have fun shining bright light into some of the darker corners of the Canon.
22017. Theatrical news: James Barry's "Sherlock's Excellent Adventure" continues in Britain <www.ourstartheatrecompany.com>. There's a two-minute teaser at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/mryja2sz>.
22018. Alex Dawson's radio drama "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is scheduled at the White Rock Elementary School in Oak Ridge, N.J., on June 16; web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/3by3dr8a>.
22019. The Carnegie Players of Rennsalaer's "Sherlock Holmes" (their dramatization of "The Red-Headed League" and "The Musgrave Ritual" in Rennsalaer, Ind., June 16-24 www.thecarnegieplayers.org).
22020. Seven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" will be performed at the Gladys G. Davis Theatre in Morgantown, W.Va., June 23-July 1; web-site at <www.wvucca.universitytickets.com>.
22021. Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is running at the Western Reserve Playhouse in Bath, Ohio, through June 10 <www.thewrp.org>. It's also scheduled at the Barn Theatre in Augusta, Mich., July 18-30 <www.barntheatreschool.org>.
22022. Kate Hamill's "Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson—Apt. 2b" has been scheduled at the University Theatre at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, July 27-Sept. 24 <www.theatre.wisc.edu>.
22023. The musical "The Whimsical World of Sherlock Holmes" (by Marney and Anthony Makridakis) will be performed at the Wylie Acting Group in Wylie, Tex., Aug. 4-6 <www.tinyurl.com/yc4eawhr>; there's video at the web-site of an earlier performance.
22024. "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (by Steven Canny and John Nicholson) will be performed at the Sheringham Little Theatre in Sheringham, Norfolk, Aug. 15-19 <www.sheringhamlittletheatre.com>.
22025. Jeffrey Hatcher's "Holmes & Watson" will be performed at the Waldron Auditorium in Bloomington, Ind., Sept. 7-24 <www.seeconstrallation.org>.
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June 23 #1

22026. There doesn't appear to be a society for Sherlockian origami enthusiasts, and it's possible that there aren't enough Sherlockian origami enthusiasts to form a society, but: there is Sherlock Holmes origami, and detailed instructions can be found (in Spanish) in *El libro de las máscaras de papel plegado* (Madrid: Alianza Editorial, 1997). It's nice that a scan of the book is available at the Internet Archive <www.tinyurl.com/2s44pswr>, and even nicer that you can see a full-color image of the completed origami at <www.tinyurl.com/4p69uh8a>. It's also hard to believe that it was folded from a single piece of paper, but that's what modern origami is like. The book also is available at Amazon.
22027. The theme of this year's "Summer of Sherlock" celebration in Portsmouth is "Worldwide Doyle 2023" <www.tinyurl.com/mwjyij6mb>, with on-line lectures by Ross Davies and Mark Jones, Michael Gunton, Bryan Woods, and Christopher Pittard (June 28-July 4). The annual event honors the city's Conan Doyle Collection, which includes the collection of the late Richard Lancelyn Green.
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22028. Visit Scott Monty and Burt Wolder's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.tinyurl.com/2s4cp3aj> to listen to their interview with Dan Andriacco, the new editor of the Baker Street Journal. And if you'd like to know more about Ken Ludwig's new play "Moriarty" (which had its world premiere in Cleveland last month), you can listen to Scott and Burt interview Ken and Ashley Polasek at <www.tinyurl.com/52urz6er>.
22029. Reported: *The Parasite and Other Tales of Terror*, edited by Eric J. Guignard and Leslie S. Klinger for the Horror Writers Association (Naperville: Poisoned Pen Press, 2021; 240 pp., \$14.99); nine (non-Sherlockian) stories by Conan Doyle, with an introduction by Daniel Stashower.
22030. Paxton Whitehead died on June 16. He started acting in Britain in 1956, joined the Royal Shakespeare Company in 1958, and went on to a long career on stage, screen and television. He played Sherlock Holmes in "The Crucifer of Blood" in 1978 and 1979, and in "The Mask of Moriarty" in 1994 and 1997, and there's much more about him in Scott Monty's fine tribute at his "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.ihose.co/paxtonwhitehead>.
22031. The spring issue of *The Magic Door* (published by the friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library) has Douglas Kerr's article about Conan Doyle and actor Lewis Waller, Cliff Goldfarb's report on variant scripts for Irwin Allen's film "The Lost World" (with information on who was considered for major roles), and much more. You can request a copy of the newsletter from Cliff Goldfarb (Toronto Public Library, 789 Yonge Street, Toronto M4W 2G8, Canada) <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.
22032. Brad Keefauver describes his *Radix Pedis Diaboliday: A John H. Watson Reverie* (2019; 93 pp., \$4.99) as a "decided horrible book," but in fact it's Watson's account of what happened when (as he notes in "The Devil" Foot") his brain and imagination "were beyond all control," and it's an imaginative exploration of a Watsonian hallucination.

June 23 #2

22033. The Rosenbach Museum & Library in Philadelphia has announced a "Sherlock Monday" weekly series of 90-minute virtual programs covering 27 of the stories (from "A Study in Scarlet" to "The Empty House") beginning Sept. 18 and featuring senior manager of public programs Edward G. Pettit and a rotating group of co-hosts. You can watch the series live, or view the videos at the Rosenbach's YouTube channel. More information is available at <www.rosenbach.org/events/sherlock-Mondays>.
22034. 221B Tactical <www.22btactical.com> "brings entirely new product ideas to the tactical gear and apparel marketplace," and while they give credit to Sherlock Holmes for the name, they don't explain what use he made of tactical gear. Kindly reported by Ann Marlowe.
22035. "I think 'Where the Pavement Ends' is the best book of short tales by any debutant since Kipling's 'Play Tales'" is the quote from Sir Arthur Conan Doyle on the back flap of the dust jacket of John Russell's *Far Wandering Men* (W. W. Norton, 1929). Russell's *Where the Pavement Ends* was published in London in 1919, so Conan Doyle must have written that after 1919. When and where?
22036. If you occasionally forget that a PDF of a new issue of this newsletter is available on-line, you're welcome to join the Google Group for monthly reminders; just let me know by e-mail <blau7103@comcast.net>.
22037. One hears of the lion's mane everywhere; Australia has issued a new set of stamps that show "Jellyfish: Underwater Wonders" (one of them the Lion's Mane). At least 1,000 jellyfish species of jellyfish drift on the currents around Australia, according to Australia Post.
22038. And more about the Lion's Mane: "This Jellyfish Less Dangerous Than Sherlock Holmes Would Have You Believe" was the headline on a story that ran in the *Montréal Gazette* (June 16) <www.tinyurl.com/5n6tmhtc>, reported by Branda Rossini. Dr. Joe Schwarcz also discusses the Lion's Mane mushroom (and there's some video).
22039. Steven Rothman will deliver this year's Baker Street Trust on-line lecture on Sept. 9 <www.bsitrust.org/2023/04/save-date-2023-lecture.html>. And the Trust is now accepting applications for Sherlockian research projects; two fellowships will be awarded, each with a stipend of up to \$2,500, and the deadline is Sept. 15 <www.bsitrust.org/2022/05/fellowships.html>. You're welcome to subscribe to "News from the BSI" at <www.tinyurl.com/tuc7vtk2>.
22040. Terry Hunt has reported an interesting souvenir from the prohibition-era theater scene in Hoboken, where Christopher Morley produced plays in what he called the Hoboken Free State: one of the passports that were issued by Morley and his fellow producer Cleon Throckmorton. It's Brooks Atkinson's passport, which he purchased for \$10.00, in the collection at the Hoboken Historical Museum <www.tinyurl.com/4n362kra>. Atkinson used it, and wrote notes and cocktail recipes on the back pages, and Burt Wolder has kindly transcribed the recipes, which are available at <www.tinyurl.com/hd4nexz5> (Burt recommends the Journalist).

June 23 #3

22041. The DeGolyer Library at Southern Methodist University in Dallas has an exhibition of highlights from Don Hobbs' collection of foreign translations of the Canon <www.tinyurl.com/yxesy8vr>, and there was a preview of the exhibition at the beginning of the "Lone Star Holmes" conference on May 26-27 <www.dfw-sherlock.org/2023-lone-star-holmes.html>. The library's exhibition celebrating the Donald J. Hobbs Collection will run through Sept. 15.
22042. One of the highlights of the conference was the unveiling of *The Crew of the Barque Lone Star: The Facts, Legend, and Lore of the Society's Beginnings and 50-Year Legacy*, edited by Cindy Brown and Steve Mason. The 148-page book is a splendid demonstration of what a Sherlockian society can do to preserve its history, and it's available from Barnes & Noble for \$7.76 <www.tinyurl.com/3ppdj7eb>; you can also download a PDF of the book without charge at the Crew's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/2238arsh>. And there's video history of the society at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=ctsUyUMHykw>.
22043. Tim Collins' *Sherlock Bones and the Case of the Crown Jewels* (London: Buster Books, 2022; 192 pp., \$9.99) was the first in his series of books for children (7-9 years old) featuring "the greatest detective the world has ever known" and "his trusty sidekick Jane Catson," with illustrations by John Bigwood and games and puzzles as well as mysteries. There are three books in the series so far, with a fourth due later this year, and there is more about Sherlock Bones at <www.tinyurl.com/5n7b76er>.
22044. More than 40 of the short stories have been dramatized in Tamil, and you can listen to them at <www.mirchi.in/podcast/thriller/sunday-suspense>.
22045. The Capitol Film Arts Alliance in Sacramento recently held a film competition in which eight teams were given the same one-page dialogue script and asked to interpret the dialogue into a one- to ten-minute film; one of the teams used Baker Street West and the Baker Street Players, and their film won two awards: one for best film (judges' choice) and the other for best film (audience's choice). You can see their "Sherlock Holmes and the Headless Bishop" at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=qaRiQzdYWgo>.
22046. "The Sherlock is on the lookout for its new Watson—by that we mean Assist-ant Manager, of course!" Greene King, who own The Sherlock Holmes pub in Northumberland Street in London, are advertising the job, and there's more information at <www.tinyurl.com/bdz83cps>.
22047. Jennie Paton spotted a new 30-second Sherlockian television commercial for the 2023 Toyota Tacoma at <www.ispot.tv/ad/1sgH/toyota-sherlock-t2>.

22048. Katie Spalding's *Edison's Ghosts: The Untold Weirdness of History's Greatest Geniuses* (New York: Little, Brown, 2023; 342 pp., \$29.00) is an irreverent and entertaining exploration of the quirks and foibles of geniuses; the table of contents begins with "The Mathematical Cult Leader Pythagoras, and His Incredibly Stupid Death", ends with "NASA Forgets about Women, Toilets, and the Metric System" (and she includes "Arthur Conan Doyle Gets Pranked So Hard He Claims Fairies Exist"). The chapter on Conan Doyle is available on-line at [CrimeReads <www.tinyurl.com/y9cp4y6s>](http://CrimeReads.com/ConanDoyleGetsPrankedSoHardHeClaimsFairiesExist).

June 23 #4

22049. Denny Dobry's open house and book fair in Reading, Pa., will be held on Sept. 30 (rather than Sept. 23). Visitors to his home will be able to enter (and play in) his delightful recreation of the sitting-room, and browse the shelves in his book fair, where Denny will be selling all sorts of Sherlockiana and Doyleana that people have donated to the Baker Street Irregulars Trust (prices will be modest indeed), and publications of the BSI Press; it's well worth a visit; directions are available from Denny at dendobry@ptd.net. There are colorful images from his similar event in 2021 at www.bsitrust.org/2021/06/book-fair-2021.html.
22050. The late Russell Merritt's family will host a celebration of his life, on July 9 in Berkeley, Calif., and the event will be live-streamed for those who can't attend in person; the celebration will start at 1:30 pm (eastern time) and you can register at www.tinyurl.com/2nb2pemb.
22051. Sir Sydney Smith was a renowned forensic scientist and pathologist whose career included almost a dozen years working in Cairo; and in his memoirs *Mostly Murder* (1959) he discusses many of the cases he worked on there (as well as devoting a chapter to "Dr. Bell and Sherlock Holmes"). It has taken many years, but his book has finally been translated into Arabic, and there was a long review of the book (in English) in the *Al-Ahram Weekly* on June 1 www.tinyurl.com/4b6dd73v.
22052. Ardent fans of Laurel & Hardy may be interested in a new Blu-ray release of "Laurel & Hardy: Year One: The Newly Restored 1927 Silents" that's due soon from Flicker Alley www.tinyurl.com/34escdma. It will include their "Do Detectives Think?" (which features Oliver Hardy as Sherlock Pinkham).
22053. If you'd like to see Sherlock Holmes' last will and testament, discovered by Nathan L. Bengis and published in 1951, just visit Scott Monty and Burt Wolder's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog www.tinyurl.com/msj3thbh.
22054. The Oxford University Press ELT [English Language Teaching] has a YouTube channel www.youtube.com/@OUPELTGlobal/videos, where you'll find a five-part reading of "The Dying Detective" (intended to help young readers enjoy learning to read English).
22055. When in India: you can visit 221B Baker's Street, a detective-themed café in Kolkata, featured in the local Telegraph www.tinyurl.com/memmb279 on May 9.
22056. Wanda Dow notes that video of David Stuart Davies' play "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Reckoning" (performed in Edinburgh in 2019 with Michael Daviot as Holmes and Mark Kydd as Watson) has been posted to YouTube; watch it at www.youtube.com/watch?v=f064ZW-TMJY.
22057. The winner of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London's annual Tony & Freda Howlett Literary Award (for the best work on Sherlock Holmes by a member published in the previous year) was announced at the Society's annual general meeting on May 18: the catalogue for the exhibition "Sherlock Holmes in 221 Objects: From the Collection of Glen S. Miranker" (2022), which is highly recommended and still available from Amazon and other booksellers.
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June 23 #5

22058. "Sherlock Holmes Movie Seeking Extras in Texas Hill Country" was the headline on an article in the San Antonio Express-News on-line (May 25) with the full story behind their paywall. The movie is "Sherlock Holmes: Mare of the Night" (listed at the Internet Movie Data Base as in pre-production), will star Les Best (Sherlock Holmes), Layton Wheeler (Young Sherlock Holmes), and Jonathan C. Rich (John Watson). The film web-site (with videos) is at www.sherlockholmesmareofthenight.com.
22059. Julian Symons' *Bloody Murder* (1972), subtitled "From the Detective Story to the Crime Novel: A History", was a grand survey of the genre, and now Martin Edwards' *The Life of Crime: Detecting the History of Mysteries and Their Creators* (London: Crime Club, 2022; 736 pp., \$32.99) offers an updated, broader, and more personal survey of writers and the stories they have written. He has a chapter on "The Great Detective: Sherlock Holmes" (of course), and is kinder to Conan Doyle and Holmes than Symons was.
22060. Nancy Springer's *Enola Holmes and the Elegant Escapade* (Wednesday Books, 2022) won an Agatha Award (Best Children's/YA Mystery) at this year's Malice Domestic conference.
22061. The winners of Edgar Awards from the Mystery Writers of America included Martin Edwards' *The Life of Crime: Detecting the History of Mysteries and Their Creators* (for best critical/biographical) and the first episode of Anthony Horowitz's television series "Magpie Murders" (for best television episode/teleplay).
22062. "We are very rich in orchids on the moor," said Beryl Stapleton (in "The Hound of the Baskervilles"). You can still find wild orchids in Britain, according to an article in *Country Life* www.tinyurl.com/u827svby on May 27; Dartmoor isn't mentioned as one of the locales, but you can still see them there www.tinyurl.com/ycxvepm9.
22063. The article does mention the New Forest; Conan Doyle bought Bignell Wood, near Minstead in the New Forest, as a birthday present for his second wife Jean, and they used it as a rural retreat. That was after Watson yearned for the glades of the New Forest in "The Cardboard Box" (and "The Resident Patient").
22064. "AI Is About to Turn Book Publishing Upside-Down" was the headline on Thad McIlroy's article in *Publishers Weekly* (June 2) www.tinyurl.com/mpaajy3x (he believes that "the latest generation of AI is a game changer," adding that "every function in trade book publishing today can be automated with the help of generative AI," and that "the trade book publishing industry as we know it will soon be obsolete"). Of course reviewers will continue to be important (at least, that is, until AI learns how to write reviews as well as books).
22065. Nominees for Anthony Awards from Bouchercon 2023 include Harini Nagnra's *The Bangalore Detectives Club* (best first novel), Nancy Springer's *Enola Holmes and the Elegant Escapade* (best children's/young adult), Dan Stashower's *American Demon* and Martin Edwards' *The Life of Crime* (best critical /nonfiction); winners will be announced in San Diego in September.
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June 23 #6

22066. The Pakistani newspaper Dawn had an interesting essay on June 11 www.dawn.com/news/print/1758991, about "Agony Columns and Victorian Fiction", reporting on the exhibition on "News and Novel Sensations" at the McGill Library. The exhibition is no longer open, there is a 51-minute video at www.youtube.com/watch?v=D7fPJpuhfgo&t=3s and an interesting web-site www.libraryponders.github.io/index.html that offers (among other things) access to Vibecheck, which allow would-be pastichists to input their text and see just how close they are to "Victorian vibe".
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22067. “I saw it on the Internet, so it must be true!” Famous last words, to be sure, and it’s certainly correct when it comes to the continuing flood of “news” about the next Benedict Cumberbatch series, the next Robert Downey Jr. film, and much more. But here’s something so hilarious that it’s worth watching: an announcement of a new film, due in theaters on Oct. 15, 2024:
22068. “Sherlock Holmes vs. Frankenstein” <www.youtube.com/watch?v=yml8XL6qFAU>. Kindly reported by Jennie Paton, who commented, “What???!?”
22069. Rich Ryan reports plans for something new: a 2024 Sherlock Holmes page-a-day calendar offering “the illustrated wit and wisdom of the Great Detective” and expected to retail at \$24.95. There’s more information at the Kickstarter campaign web-site <www.tinyurl.com/2yzpumz2>.
22070. “21st-Century Editors Should Keep Their Hands Off 20th-Century Books” was the headline on a Washington Post editorial <www.tinyurl.com/56a4a6c4> on June 14, about publishers changing the text in books by Roald Dahl, Agatha Christie, Ian Fleming, and Ursula K. Le Guin to remove language that might be considered offensive today. Conan Doyle appears to have avoided this sort of “retouching” . . . at least so far.
22071. It has been many years since Robby the Robot made it into this newsletter (Sep 77 #4). Robby first appeared in the film “Forbidden Planet” (1956), and had small parts in many films and television shows after that. One of them would have been the television series “Holmes and Walston” that never was broadcast. But a pilot was made in 1975, in which Robby had been programmed with 3,000 volumes of Sherlock Holmes by an eccentric inventor and believed he was Holmes; the pilot seems not to have survived, but you can see a few minutes of behind-the-scenes footage, with Robby in Sherlockian costume, at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=WQc72qGifel>.
22072. Bill Seil reports that the WuMo comic strip was nicely Sherlockian on June 10 <www.gocomics.com/wumo/2023/06/10>. And Mother Goose & Grimm on June 11 <www.gocomics.com/mother-geese-and-grimm/2023/06/11>.
22073. It has been many years since David M. Martill, studying fossils from the Lower Cretaceous formations of Brazil, named the tetrapod *Irritator challengeri* (Feb 96 #1). The fossil’s name derives from the irritation that Martill and his fellow authors felt when they found that the snout of the fossil had been artificially elongated by the professional fossil-hunter who had found and sold the skull, and their desire to honor Prof. George Edward Challenger, of the Lost World. Paleontologists still are studying *Irritator*, and there’s a new article on “A Predatory Dinosaur from Brazil and Its Surprising Anatomy” <www.tinyurl.com/48vpdke4>.

June 23 #7

22074. “An evening of miracles followed.” George Bernard Shaw wrote to Hayden Church, in “an amusing account of faking a séance,” according a cataloguer at Bonhams in London. Shaw went on to say, “After that experience I could not discuss the subject with Oliver Lodge grieving for his lost son, nor with the infatuated author of Sherlock Holmes.” The letter is one of many in an archive of correspondence that went to auction on June 21. Church was a prolific journalist who interviewed Conan Doyle (“Life After Death” in The Strand Magazine, Mar. 1919), and John Barrymore (“The Youth of Sherlock Holmes” in the Strand, Apr. 1922).
22075. Stephen Gaspar’s *Holmes of Baker Street* (2023; 256 pp., \$12.99) is a collection of eight traditional pastiches, most of them accounts of unreported cases, plus two stories (one of them involving Holmes) about Inspector Henry Barclay, of the Northwest Mounted Police. The author’s web-site at <www.stephengaspar.blogspot.com> offers more information about his books.
22076. The Theatre-Goers, Homeward Bound, after a one-year hiatus, are resuming their monthly on-line screenings of Sherlockian films, usually on the last Saturday of each month, co-hosted with the Legion of Zoom. Contact Steve Mason <stevemason880@gmail.com> to join their mailing list.
22077. “Emsworth the Crimean V.C.” (mentioned in “The Blanched Soldier”) was one of the earliest to be honored with the Victoria Cross. You might be able to purchase one of the prestigious medals (for £400,000, according to Wikipedia), or you can settle for a replica (for only £15) from the National Archives <www.tinyurl.com/23vm9fku>; a miniature replica also is available (for £5).
22078. Peter McIntyre reports a new horse for racing fans to follow: Sherlock’s Jewel <www.tinyurl.com/yc7zuu29>, who’s doing well at the races.
22079. Canterbury Classics has a series of “classic pop-up tales” that includes *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (2023, \$24.99), adapted by Claire Bampton, with artwork by Anthony Williams and pop-ups by David Hawcock; it’s colorful, imaginative, and nicely done. If you’re going to order from Amazon, search for [classic pop-ups].
22080. Daedalus Books <www.daedalusbooks.com>, one of the more energetic on-line sources for remainder books, has many interesting offers: just search the web-site for [sherlock holmes].
22081. Laurie R. King writes that she’s “having such a good time with the rewrite of *The Lantern’s Dance*, tweaking scenes, weaving in a great fun subplot, making the settings and characters come alive.” If you’d like to know a bit more about the next Mary Russell mystery, due in February, here’s the publisher’s description <www.tinyurl.com/37axc985>.
22082. “I think Harry Potter was always destined to become like Sherlock Holmes,” Daniel Radcliffe said recently, adding that “it’ll get passed on.” Now in his early 30s and a father, Radcliffe also said that he won’t be performing cameo roles in new Harry Potter films and television series. There’s more at Yahoo News! on June 15 <www.tinyurl.com/bdhnheew>.

June 23 #8

22083. Burt Wolder has noted Rich Warren’s interesting blog “A Road of Intangible Inclinations: The Chicago Booktrade 1886-1974”, which recently (June 15) offered a piece titled “Ben Abramson Speaks About the BSI” <www.tinyurl.com/4759uh96>, with a link to a 1954 radio broadcast that included an interview with Ben, who presided over the Argus Bookshop and was the first publisher of the Baker Street Journal. And at the end you’ll find links to three more entries about Ben.
22084. Night Legion is an Australian “power metal” band whose new album “Fight or Fall” includes “The Hounds of Baskerville”; there’s a review (with a link to the lyric video) at <www.knac.com/article.asp?ArticleID=45538>, and the band’s web-site is at <www.nightlegion.net>.
22085. Vincent Starrett’s *The Unique Hamlet* is thought by many to be the iconic Sherlockian pastiche. The first edition’s rare indeed, but Tage la Cour’s copy (inscribed and signed by Starrett, advertised by a British dealer for £4,000 <www.tinyurl.com/59vkms32>, quickly sold. Randall Stock’s revised census of the first edition is available at <www.tinyurl.com/3ncfteht>.
22086. Theatrics: “The Hound of the Baskervilles” (by Andrew and David Hobbs) is touring in England through Sept. 10 <www.tinyurl.com/2p8p25ex>.
22087. “The Hound of the Baskervilles” (by Tim Churchill and Catherine O’Reilly) will be performed at the Players Theatre in Nantwich, Cheshire, July 18-22 <www.facebook.com/shavingtondramagroup>.
22088. Ken Ludwig’s “Baskerville” will be performed at the Milam Community Theater in Cameron, Tex., July 29-Aug. 6 <www.milamcommunitytheater.com>. It also is scheduled at the Marion Art Center in Marion, Mass., on Aug. 4-20 <www.marionaartcenter.org>.

- at the Hanover Tavern in Hanover, Va., on Dec. 15-Jan. 21 <www.va-rep.org>; and at the Kanata Theatre in Kanata, Ont., on May 15-25 <www.kanatatheatre.ca>.
22089. “The Death of Sherlock Holmes” (radio-style) is due at the Cape May Presbyterian Church in Cape May, N.J., Nov. 3-11 <www.eastlynnetheater.org>.
22090. Ken Ludwig’s “The Game’s Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays” will be performed at the City Lights Theater in San Jose, Calif., on Nov. 16-Dec. 17 <www.cltc.org>; and at the BlackBox Theater in Midland, Pa., on Dec. 1-10 <www.lincolnparkarts.org>.
22091. Mark Shanahan’s “A Sherlock Carol” is scheduled at the Marylebone Theatre in London, Nov. 24-Jan. 7 <www.marylebonetheatre.com>.
22092. Kate Hamill’s “Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson—Apt. 2B” is due to be performed at the Playhouse on Park in West Hartford, Conn., from Jan. 24 through Feb. 18, 2024 <www.playhouseonpark.org>.
22093. Tony Padilla’s “Sherlock Holmes Confidential” will have its world premiere at the Palm Springs Cultural Center in Palm Springs, Calif., on Apr. 12-21 <www.desertensembletheatre.org>.
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July 23 #1

22094. Fans of the Internet Archive may not be aware of its Open Library, an on-line equivalent of a bricks-and-mortar library that allows you to read or borrow books using “controlled digital lending” <www.openlibrary.org>. A judge recently ruled against the Internet Archive in a copyright-infringement lawsuit brought by publishers, but legal arguments continue. Search the Open Library web-site for [sherlock holmes] and [conan doyle] to see what’s (still) available to read or borrow. You can read about the lawsuit at Wikipedia <www.tinyurl.com/yaj9ydzf>.
22095. Glen Miranker’s enthusiastic collecting is not limited to Sherlock Holmes and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. He also collects Enigma machines, and was interviewed by Jay Jadot about obsessions; Max Magee reports that the inter-view was published on-line on Oct. 6, 2021 <www.tinyurl.com/mubn3v87>.
22096. “What is important is reading the books you like,” Vincent Starrett said, adding, “I don’t believe there are any hundred best books, or even 1,000 best books. There might be 5,000 best books—I don’t know.” According to June Provines, in her Chicago Tribune column “Front Views and Profiles” on Oct. 14, 1940.
22097. Laurence Pernet, who was able to work on the Conan Doyle Archives at the Bibliothèque cantonale et universitaire in Lausanne (May 23 #1), has now prepared a spectacular web-site titled “An Alpine Walk: Arthur Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes in Switzerland” that offers (in French and English) a wonderful look at some of the material in the Archives, including images and video <www.fondation-sir-acd-expo.ch/en/home>. Highly recommended.
22098. M. J. Downing’s *Sherlock Holmes: The Ghosts of Savannah* (Louisville: Burns & Lea, 2023; 282 pp., \$11.99) is the third in his series about Dr. Watson in pursuit of revenants, vampires, and Moriarty’s occult army, defending the world against malevolent forces (with some echoes of “The Five Orange Pips”). The author’s web-site <www.mjdowningsplace.com> offers an interesting look at what he calls the “Downing-verse”, and a short story “Sherlock Holmes and the Curious Case of the Vicarage Ghost” which you can find by searching for [vicarage].
22099. M. K. Wiseman’s *Sherlock Holmes & the Silver Cord* (2023; 206 pp., \$22.50) is Holmes’ own account of a case he encountered six months after his return from the Great Hiatus, still suffering mental trauma from the events in Switzerland; there are mysterious deaths, confusing clues, worshippers of the occult, and questions of justice, good, and evil. The author has a web-site at <mkwisemanauthor.com>.
22100. Michael Jackson’s 14-minute music video “Thriller” (1982), available on-line at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=sOnqjKJMaA>, includes wolf howls in the sound effects; according to an article at the Showbiz Cheatsheet on May 25 <www.tinyurl.com/bdd82a3y>, the recording engineer, inspired by a film of “The Hound of the Baskervilles”, wanted his Great Dane to provide howls, but the dog “didn’t want to be in show business,” and Michael Jackson himself was responsible for the howls.
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July 23 #2

22101. It was in December 1972 that Harrison (Jack) Schmitt traveled to the Moon in Apollo 17, becoming the first (and so far the only) geologist to have visited there. In April he welcomed an American Association of Petroleum Geologists field trip to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration’s Space Center in Houston and talked about NASA’s new Artemis “Return to the Moon” mission <www.nasa.gov/specials/artemis>.
22102. Bouchercon (the long-running and always-interesting annual conference for mystery fans) <www.bouchercon.com> is due in San Diego (Murder at the Marina) Aug. 30-Sept. 3, 2023; Nashville (Murder and Mayhem in Music City) Aug. 28-Sept. 4, 2024; New Orleans (Blood on the Bayou) Sept. 3-7, 2025; and Calgary (Cross-Border Crimes) Oct. 21-25, 2026.
22103. Fans of the late Ogden Nash enjoyed his poetry, which was often Sherlockian, and he included a nice mention of Holmes in “Each June I Make a Promise Sober”, which appeared in the N.Y. Times Book Review (June 7, 1953), and was reprinted in the Baker Street Journal (Oct. 1953), but never was published in any collection of his poetry. Karen Murdock annotated version of the poem, published in the Passengers’ Log in 2005, is available on request from Karen <murdock1212@gmail.com>.
22104. “I have lived happily at Horsham,” said John Openshaw (in “The Five Orange Pips”). A story about present-day Horsham at the Great British Life web-site (June 13) <www.tinyurl.com/3aumf3ye> says “Jam-Packed with culture and history, it’s no wonder that this pretty market town constantly tops the list of best places to live in the country, let alone the county.”
22105. The June issue of the Beacon Society’s Not-So-Quarterly Newsletter now is available at the society’s web-site <www.beaconsociety.com>, with the latest news from the society and its efforts to offer “teachers, librarians, children’s museums, and children’s theaters with local resources to bring the magic of Sherlock Holmes to life.”
22106. “I seem to have all Niagara whizzing and bussing in my ears,” Jim Browner said (in “The Cardboard Box”). The Postal Service has issued a sheet of Waterfalls stamps, one of them showing Niagara Falls, photographed by John Cancalosi.
22107. Julian Doyle’s *The Jericho Manuscript* (2023; 254 pp., \$13.17), reviewed in the Daily Express as “Sherlock Holmes meets the Da Vinci Code,” follows the path blazed by Dan Brown. The author uses Holmes and Watson’s investigation of a murder and a stolen manuscript to present his own conclusions about the truth behind the inconsistencies and contradictions in the long-accepted biblical accounts of the life and death of Jesus of Nazareth. In many ways it’s similar to Edmund Aubrey’s pastiche *Sherlock Holmes in Dallas* (1980), but Holmes is in early Edwardian times.
22108. The Sherlockian Chronologist Guild discusses two of the Canonical stories each month in their newsletter Timeline, which reached issue #30 in June. Now they’re going to it again, taking into account new discoveries as well as newly-discovered older scholarship. Brad Keefauver presides over the Guild, and their mailing list <bkeefauver@gmail.com>.
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July 23 #3

22109. Reported: *Golden Age Bibliomysteries*, edited by Otto Penzler (2023; 480 pp., \$27.95) offers “fourteen tales of bibliophilic transgression from the Golden Age of the mystery genre”, including Vincent Starrett’s classic Sherlockian pastiche “The Unique Hamlet” (Otto introduces each of the stories).
22110. Sherlock Holmes keeps up with current events, as in a cartoon that accompanied an essay “The Wagner March on Moscow Offers Another Russian Enigma” in GIS Reports on June 24 <www.gisreportsonline.com/r/wagner-coup>. The artist is the Polish satirical cartoonist Jurek Wasiukiewicz.
22111. According to the Kirkus Review, Stephen Gallagher “has been called a horror writer, a fantasy writer, a writer for big screens and smaller ones, a writer who considerable talent has enabled him to slip in and out of genres precisely as if those tidy little boxes didn’t exist.” His television credits include the script for an episode in the “Murder Rooms: The Dark Beginnings of Sherlock Holmes” series (2000), and his *The Governess* (London: Brooligan Press, 2021; 39 pp., \$5.09) is an imaginative ghost story, told by Edward Malone and involving Professor Challenger. The author has a web-site at <www.stephengallagher.com>, and the story was reprinted in *Comparative Anatomy: The Best of Stephen Gallagher* (Burton: Subterranean, 2022; 568 pp., \$45.00)
22112. The schedule for Bouchercon in San Diego (“Murder at the Marina), includes a panel on “The Game’s Afoot: Sherlock Holmes and His Influence on Mysteries” with Les Klinger, Jeri Westerson, Laurie King, Liese Sherwood-Fabre, and Mary Stojak at 9:00 am on Sept. 1 <www.bouchercon2023.com>.
22113. “Arthur Conan Doyle and the Adventure of the Gaiola Malediction” (by Ross Davies and Mark Jones), the first of the four “Worldwide Doyle” lectures during the Portsmouth Libraries’ “Summer of Sherlock” honoring the city’s Conan Doyle Collection (Jun 23 #1) is now on-line (and well worth watching) at <www.tinyurl.com/yc6uz67b>. ETA: Mark kindly has made all four of the lectures available at <www.bit.ly/worldwidedoyle>, and all of them are interesting.
22114. If you’re wondering about “estimated time of arrival” in the previous paragraph, in this modern age and on the Internet, ETA also means “edited to add.” Times change, and so do abbreviations.
22115. Chris Werby, son of the late Willy and Don Werby, is offering for sale the contents of the spectacular rooms that Willy created for S. Holmes, Esq., in San Francisco, and for the Grosvenor Hotel in Orlando; there are lots of images at <www.holmesroom.com>.
22116. Four pages (all that are known to have survived) of the manuscript of “The Crooked Man” were sold at auction at Sotheby’s in New York on July 20 for \$95,250 (including the buyer’s premium). Randall Stock has posted a report on the manuscript (as well as the sale) at his “Best of Sherlock” web-site <www.bestofsherlock.com/mss/crooked-man-2023.htm>. An interesting aspect of the manuscript is the emendations (some by the author, and some perhaps by an editor), all visible in the images.

July 23 #4

22117. Glen Dakin’s *Sherlock Holmes’ Little Book of Wisdom* (New York: Hero Collector, 2021; 109 pp., \$14.95) is sub-titled “How to Deduce What on Earth Is Going On”; Dakin (who calls himself a “writer and cartoonist”) has great fun explaining how “to deduce the best way to solve the crimes of modern life.” His web-site at <www.glenndakin.com> offers a nice sample of his art and humor.
22118. It isn’t easy to come up with a title for a story that makes a reader feel that it has to be read. Peter Turnbull’s “The Extremely Pleasant and Most Helpful Lady with Three Ears” certainly qualifies, and you can read it in the July-August issue of Ellery Queen’s Mystery Magazine.
22119. The June issue of the quarterly newsletter published by The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota, offers Andrew Malec’s nicely illustrated report on the Chicago publisher Max Stein’s use of Frederic Dorr Steele’s artwork on the covers of piracies of Conan Doyle (and other authors), plus celebrations of the Terry/Rose play “The Return of Sherlock Holmes” (1923) and George W. Locke’s anthology of parodies *At the Mountain of Murkiness* (1973), and news from and about the collections; copies of the newsletter can be requested from Timothy Johnson (#15-G Elmer L. Andersen Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <johns976@umn.com>.
22120. Mark Jones and Paul M. Chapman continue to add to the interviews at their “Doings of Doyle” podcast <www.doingsofdoyle.com>, the most recent featuring Jonathan Cranfield, who has edited *The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes* for the *Edinburgh Edition of the Works of Arthur Conan Doyle*.
22121. SP Books, who have just published a facsimile of the manuscript of Truman Capote’s *In Cold Blood* <www.spbooks.com/14-manuscripts>, also still offer a similar volume for *The Lost World* (Dec 20 #1) for \$200.00 postpaid.
22122. Alan Arkin died on June 29. He began his award-winning acting career on film in 1957, and went on to star on stage and television, winning awards in all three media. He also played Sigmund Freud in “The Seven-Per-Cent Solution” (1976).
22123. “Sherlock Holmes Playing Cards” from Laurence King/Orion Publishing come in an attractive box with a deck of cards and a booklet written by Nicholas Utechin and illustrated by Doug John Miller (whose artwork also can be seen on the cards); £12.99 in the U.K. <www.tinyurl.com/ymzr746v>. \$11.29 in the U.S. <www.tinyurl.com/3x534ht2>.
22124. James J. Patterson’s *Junk Shop Window* (Bethesda: Alan Squire Publishing, 2023; 168 pp. \$19.95) is a collection of essays on “myth, life, and literature,” and they demonstrate just how grand, and how much fun, a personal essay can be. “Literature” includes Herman Melville, Henry Miller, William Wordsworth, and Arthur Conan Doyle (Sherlock Holmes is aptly quoted in an account of a trip to the Wordsworth Trust Museum), and there’s also an amusing story about Patterson’s adventures while recording some of the Canon for radio in the 1970s.

July 23 #5

22125. “I think it’s like Harry Potter was always, I think, destined to become like Sherlock Holmes,” Daniel Radcliffe said. “The people who saw Basil Rathbone play Sherlock Holmes then were like, No one could ever do this! They’re gonna, though; it’ll get passed on to somebody.” Interviewed on “The Actor’s Side with Pete Hammond”; there’s video on-line at the Deadline web-site <www.tinyurl.com/3n8tew3z>, at 17:50, in case you don’t want to watch the entire interview.
22126. We hear of Sherlock Snoopy everywhere, thanks to Jennie Paton, who found him decorating crocs <www.tinyurl.com/4sxf76wk>.
22127. Orson Welles shot footage for a film “Too Much Johnson” (based on William Gillette’s play) in 1938, but the film never was completed. Some footage did survive (Sep 14 #2) and is available at the National Film Preservation Foundation’s web-site <www.tinyurl.com/494rdesj>, where there are two different version (links at “click here”). You can also watch the film, with music by Ben Model, at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=6dkC8vG4x54> (a tip of the hat to Doug Chapman for reporting the link).
22128. Reported: *The Best Mystery Stories of the Year*, edited by Amor Towles (New York: Mysterious Press, 2023; 500 pp., \$28.95); the contents include Derrick Belanger’s “The Adventure of the Misquoted Macbeth”, reprinted from the anthology *A Detective’s Life: Sherlock Holmes*, edited by Martin Rosenstock (Titan, 2022).
22129. Ali Standish’s *The Improbable Tales of Baskerville Hall* (New York: HarperCollins, 2023; 336 pp., \$18.99), is an imaginative fantasy, for children ages 8-12; a chance encounter in Edinburgh brings young Arthur Conan Doyle to study at a school for gifted children where the faculty includes George

Edward Challenger and the Brigadier Gerard, and Arthur's fellow students include Irene Eagle and Jimmy Moriarty. There's dire peril, humor, mystery, and a resolution that promises a sequel.

22130. You might not be able to stay at Bignell Wood (the house that Conan Doyle bought as a birthday present for his wife Jean), but you can stay at Little Bignell (a cottage on the grounds of Bignell Wood), which is listed at Airbnb <www.tinyurl.com/3889kzsn> as a "romantic getaway for two" in the New Forest.
22131. An exhibition on "Max Beerbohm: The Price of Celebrity" will be on view at the N.Y. Public Library from Oct. 20 to Feb. 4 <www.tinyurl.com/2vu5sw6b>; it will be co-curated by Mark Samuels Lasner, who has for many years collected and researched the British literary figures of the last half of the nineteenth century, and by Margaret D. Stetz, a profess at the University of Delaware. The exhibition will include the original artwork for Beerbohm's caricature of Conan Doyle.
22132. The late Charlie Watts was a collector as well as an inspired drummer (for the Rolling Stones); an auction at Christie's in London on Sept. 28 will include a first edition of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* signed by Conan Doyle with the comment "I perambulated Dartmoor before I wrote this book" <www.tinyurl.com/ysr7hcxi>.
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July 23 #6

22133. Adrian Nebbitt has noted an episode of "The Buick Berle Show" (Jan. 12, 1954); Milton Berle's guests were Mickey Spillane, Dagmar, and Basil Rathbone <www.tinyurl.com/mvfyderb>. Rathbone appears in Sherlockian costume at 41:50. No one will know if you watch the entire program to see why Dagmar was so famous all those years ago.
22134. "British Authors Adverse" was the headline on a story in the Chicago Inter-Ocean (Aug. 25, 1906), quoted by Rachel Lang in a post to the blog at the Theodore Roosevelt Center's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/ye9jhpfd>. "Sir Conan Doyle fears the reform would mean the end of the English language. He said: 'Reformed spelling might become universal, but it would cease to be the English language'" Any idea when and where Conan Doyle said that?
22135. Steve Doyle's new season of "The Fortnightly Dispatch" continues with his interview with Mike McSwiggin, associate editor of the Baker Street Journal, discussing collecting, chronology, and much more; it's available on-line at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=z4UEN1EC4UE>.
22136. It was while standing at the Criterion Bar that Watson encountered young Stamford (in "A Study in Scarlet"), and went on to a meeting with Sherlock Holmes. The Criterion has changed hands many times since then, and now is an Indian restaurant: the Masala Zone Piccadilly offers a thoroughly exotic décor <www.tinyurl.com/3uyucz2j> and menu. There's no word (so far) of the commemorative plaque noting the Sherlockian history of the restaurant.
22137. Caroline Crampton presides over the Shedunnit podcast and YouTube channel, and recently interviewed Teresa Peschel about her recent *Agatha Christie, She Watched* (May 23 #4) <www.youtube.com/watch?v=6gT_i5uHTug>.
22138. Jon L. Breen's *What About Murder? (1981-1991): A Guide to Books About Mystery and Detective Fiction* (Metuchen: Scarecrow Press, 1993) offers a detailed examination of 564 books published in that decade, including histories, reference books, technical manuals, collected essays and reviews, anthologies, and much more, with insightful commentary that often includes identification of authors' errors. It's out of print, but readily available, as is his earlier *What About Murder?* (1981), which had only 239 entries; the two volumes demonstrate well the explosion of critical interest in the genre that began in the 1980s.
22139. A bit of theatrical news: William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes: The Case of Alice Faulkner" is being performed at Colorado ACTS in Wheat Ridge, Colo., through Aug. 13; their web-site's at <www.wheatridgetheatre.com>.
22140. Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" will be performed at the Barnstormer Theatre in Tamworth, N.H., Aug. 24-Sept. 2 <www.barnstormertheatre.org>.
22141. "Sherlock Holmes & the Mystery of the Crown Jewel" (by Janet Yates Vogt and Mark Friedman) has been scheduled at the Main Street Theater in Houston, Tex, Apr. 21-May 11, 2024 <www.mainstreettheater.com>.
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August 23 #1

22142. Holmes and Watson could have seen dinosaurs in London, and they're still there. After the Crystal Palace Exhibition closed in 1851, the building was taken down and rebuilt in Sydenham, and the newly-formed Crystal Palace Company commissioned the creation of fifteen life-sized models of extinct animals. The models are still there, protected by a Grade I listing, and you can see images of some of them in an article posted recently to the Artlyst web-site <www.tinyurl.com/4uxt4e2z>.
22143. From this newsletter in 1998: "Elementary, my dear Watson" was indeed said by Sherlock Holmes in one of A. Conan Doyle's stories. It really was. In which story?
22144. Nea Dodson has reported an intriguing Sherlockian video set to Kristin Andreassen's song "Crayola Doesn't Make a Color for Your Eyes", available at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=w1BtrxEg7xc>. Click on [educated in yellow] to see some similar videos.
22145. The next 221B Con (A Fan Con for All Things Sherlock Holmes) will be held in Atlanta, Ga., on Apr. 12-14 <www.221bcon.com>; there's no schedule yet, but you can consult their 2023 schedule to find out what sort of things go on at the convention.
22146. Raymond A. de Groat ("Harroway") died on July 25. He was a teacher and a life-long dedicated liberal activist, and for many years as enthusiastic member of the Scowrsers and Mollie Maguires of San Francisco. He served as their secretary in the 1970s and 1980s, and received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1972.
22147. Something for fans of William Gillette (spotted by Jennie Paton): the New York Public Library has digitized their hand-corrected typescript of the second act of his "Sherlock Holmes" <www.tinyurl.com/3sarukpn>. It's in the William Hooker Gillette Papers in the Berg Collection.
22148. Two-and-a-half minute commercials? Apparently. Ann Marlowe has reported this one <www.youtube.com/watch?v=GnUo0CiatNI>, with a mention of Sherlock at 1:41, presumably 1958-1960, when Westinghouse sponsored "The Westinghouse Desilu Playhouse".
22149. Laurie R. King reports that *The Lantern's Dance* (the new Mary Russell nov-el) has now "gone into production," and explains just what that means at her web-site <www.laurierking.com>; there also are some interesting posts about the new books at her blog "Mutterings" <www.laurierking.com/blog>.
22150. Michael Jackson's 14-minute music video "Thriller" (1982), available on-line at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=sOngikJTMAA>, includes wolf howls in the sound effects; according to an article at the Showbiz Cheatsheet on May 25 <www.tinyurl.com/bdd82a3y>, the recording engineer, inspired by a film of "The Hound of the Baskervilles", wanted his Great Dane to provide howls, but the dog "didn't want to be in show business," and Michael Jackson himself was responsible for the howls.
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August 23 #2

22151. Shannon Mann is the winner of the 2023 Irene Adler Prize: a \$1,000 scholarship for a woman pursuing a degree in journalism, creative writing, or literature. The prize was established in 2017 by Lucas Aykroyd, an award-winning writer and public speaker in Vancouver, B.C., and it is indeed named in honor of the heroine of "A Scandal in Bohemia". You can learn more about the prize, and read the winning essay, at www.lucasaykroyd.com/scholarships, and there's a story in Yahoo! Finance (July 25) www.tinyurl.com/4fe632dn.
22152. Yes, Sherlock Holmes really did say "Elementary, my dear Watson" in one of A. Conan Doyle's stories, and you can credit (or blame) Jim Vogelsang for the discovery. The story is "The Adventure of the Red Widow" -- by Adrian Conan Doyle.
22153. Elizabeth Crowens reports that she has signed a three-book deal with Level Best Books for her new "Hollywood Mysteries" series set in the 1940s. Her sleuth is Babs Norman, and *The Hounds of the Hollywood Baskervilles*, due next spring, with feature Basil Rathbone.
22154. Don Hobbs has added language #114 (Tagalog) to his data-base of translations of the Canon. Don's massive (and colorfully-illustrated) "Galactic Sherlock Holmes" (with 18,361 entries) is conveniently available on-line at www.dfw-sherlock-org/galactic-sherlock-holmes.html.
22155. Kitchen at Holmes (a restaurant at 108 Baker Street) received a rave review in the Travel Magazine www.thetravelmagazine.net/kitchen-at-holmes on July 31. They offer breakfast a la carte, and "festive feast" menus at £55 and £65 www.kitchenatholmes.co.uk/restaurant.
22156. The Queen's South Africa medal, with three clasps (for Cape Colony, Orange Free State, and Transvaal), that was awarded to Private W. Milton for his service with the Langman Field Hospital during the Boer War, went to auction at Noonan May-fair in London on July 26, and sold for £550 (plus 24% buyer's premium) www.tinyurl.com/2294ykc2. Surgeon A. Conan Doyle received the same medal (with the same three clasps), but unfortunately it is not known to have survived. The Official Medal Roll for the Langman Hospital was published in an article in the Journal of the Orders and Medals Research Society (autumn 1979) www.tinyurl.com/4e54n4yr.
22157. The never-ending Sherlock Holmes Museum saga continues: earlier this year (Feb 23 #1) John Aidiniantz, who founded the museum, served a sentence in jail, and now controls the museum again, won a suit against his brother. Now Honoria Cartlidge, who was fired from her £120,00-a-year job as senior manager, has been (partially) successful in a suit against the museum. She didn't win the £500,000 bonus she says she was promised, but the judge ruled that museum directors (including Cartlidge's ex-girlfriend) dismissed Cartlidge unfairly, and that she was entitled to unlawful deduction of holiday pay. You can read all about in an article in the Daily Mail (July 27) www.tinyurl.com/3yrmkmy.

August 23 #3

22158. Nineteenth-Century Gender Studies is an on-line journal that is "committed to publishing insightful and innovative scholarship on gender studies and nineteenth-century British literature, art, and culture." The summer 2023 issue (reported by Ross Davies, who keeps an eye out for matters legal) contains Rebecca Nesvet's "Walking Aslant: Irene Adler Visits the Inner Temple" www.tinyurl.com/2p8c6srb. Authors have written about Holmes and Conan Doyle in past issues.
22159. Thierry Saint-Joanis is offering summer sales discounts (available until Sept. 23) on four "Sherlock Holmes on Screens" publications; details are available at www.tinyurl.com/537bbkwp.
22160. Jerome Coopersmith died on July 21. He launched his theatrical career in 1947, writing script for television series, and his many later credits included writing the book for the musical "Baker Street" (1964), for which he received a Tony Award nomination. He also wrote a script for "The Other Side" (a one-act play about Conan Doyle and Houdini), performed during "Autumn in Baker Street" in 2007, and during the Sherlock Holmes birthday festivities in New York in 2008.
22161. And Inga Swenson died on July 28. She launched her acting career on stage in 1949, and went on to many appearances on stage, screen, and television. Best known for her performance as Gretchen Kraus in the television series "Benson" (1979-1986), she also starred in (and won a Tony nomination) as Irene Adler in the musical "Baker Street" (1964), and was an honored guest at the Baker Street Irregulars' annual dinner in 2005.
22162. Scott Monty has a warm tribute to them both at his "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" web-site www.tinyurl.com/mrx6kaw2.
22163. Howard Ostrom has reported a 1970 episode of the British series "It's Tommy Cooper" now available on-line at www.dailymotion.com/video/x8md4cu.
22164. An 11-minute skit "Great Performances of our Time" (at 12:54) stars British comedian Tommy Cooper as Holmes and Patrick Cargill as Watson. Howard notes that one of Cooper's stand-up lines (from a stage show) was, "I say, Watson, this is a most serious case. The window is broken on both sides."
22165. All those who own a copy of *The Sherlock Holmes Hexalogy*, which was letterpress printed and hand-bound at the Thornwill Press (Dec. 17 #2), will be aware of the fine work that they do. It's still available, along with many other titles, including their latest, Wodehouse's *Leave It to Jeeves*, at their web-site www.thornwillow.com.
22166. Andrew Norman's *The Real Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: The Creator of Sherlock Holmes* (Yorkshire: White Owl, 2023; 224 pp., \$34.95) is a biography written by an author who studied medicine, became a writer, and has had access to and quotes from medical records and case notes of Conan Doyle's father Charles Altamont Doyle, who had been diagnosed as suffering from epilepsy and alcoholism. Norman believes that Conan Doyle's father suffered from a schizo-affective disorder, which includes symptoms of both schizophrenia and bipolar disorder and may have been inherited by Conan Doyle, explaining his conversion in later life to Spiritualism.

August 23 #4

22167. "Together, we make up Unit 221B, named after Sherlock Holmes as recommended along the way by a UK law enforcement friend of mine when I was trying to figure out what to name the company. He said, 'That is what you and your crew do: you are the Sherlock Holmes of cyber-space.'" That's from Lance James, CEP of Unit 221B, explaining the origin of his company, which offers "products and services to companies seeking discreet, best-in-class, and advanced cybersecurity operations and training." Their web-site's at www.unit221b.com.
22168. Bignell Wood, the country home that Conan Doyle bought as a birthday present for his wife Jean in 1924, advertised for £2,950,000 last year (Nov 22 #3) www.tinyurl.com/uv9nxb5y, is now "under offer" (which means there's a buyer, but no contact has been signed).
22169. Ben Abramson presided over the Argus Book Shop, in Chicago and New York, published the 13 issues of the Old Series of the Baker Street Journal from 1946 to 1949, and was an early member of The Baker Street Irregulars, and a very good friend of Vincent Starrett; you can hear him (and others) talk about all of that in episode 269 of Scott Monty and Burt Wolder's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog at www.tinyurl.com/3dukc3m4.
22170. A reading list for fans of the "Elementary" television series (spotted by Jennie Paton): someone has compiled a list of all the books that are visible in Sherlock's brownstone home www.tinyurl.com/2h8yuku9.

22171. Amaranthine Books has an interesting video about its limited letter-press editions of *Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of a Dozen Favourites* (Dec 22 #3) at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=1k9ejSiT1o>. You can click on [shop] at their web-site <www.amaranthinebooks.com> for more information about their books; they plan to ship the Sherlock Holmes editions in September.
22172. Sherlockian fan-fiction can be helpful, according to an article on-line at the Huffington Post (July 3, 2020) <www.tinyurl.com/mus7vdkc>.
22173. "The creator of Sherlock Holmes acknowledges that he is a bad penman" was the caption on an image of Conan Doyle autograph in Bernard Nessey's article "A Sheaf of Autographs" in the Apr. 1905 issue of the Royal Magazine, discovered by Ross Davies, who has reported on it in the August issue of A Common Newsletter, published by the ACD Society. You can read the article on-line, thanks to the Hathi Trust <www.tinyurl.com/4mdb87nj> (just go to pages 485-487), and you can learn more about the ACD Society at its web-site <www.acdsociety.com> (four of the images along the top of the opening page are live links to some of the society's goings-on).
22174. A. Wallis Myers' article about "Smoke, Smokes & Smokers" in the Sept. 1902 issue of the magazine includes a photograph of William Gillette as Sherlock Holmes, with a caption "Sherlock Holmes without a pipe could hardly be imagined." Myers reports that smoking on stage "is by no means as simple as it might appear," adding that Gillette "used always to employ very light tobacco which would burn for hours without losing its capacity for supplying smoke."
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August 23 #5

22175. By Common Consent (a blog that was "started by a group of Mormons to provide a thoughtful, enjoyable, and reasonable place to post and discuss Mormon topics," has (as might be expected) discussion of "A Study in Scarlet". A recent post by Michael Austin had an intriguing title: "Sherlock Holmes and the Giant Rat of Sumatra: A Study in the Impossibility of a Closed Canon" <www.tinyurl.com/mr2tunzc>, and a link to an earlier post by Ivan Wolfe on "Sherlock Holmes, 'Mormons', and Canon" <www.tinyurl.com/yfzsythk>. It's interesting that "Star Wars" fandom also has trouble agreeing on just what their canon is, and that Disney tried and failed to control the definition <www.starwars.fandom.com/wiki/Canon>.
22176. Ray Betzner's "Studies in Starrett" blog has some delightful discoveries, such as <www.vincentstarrett.com/blog/2023/1/17/mord-i-folio>, about his success, at long last, of acquiring a Swedish translation of "The Unique Hamlet" published in 1960 with attractive illustrations, now available for everyone to see.
22177. Otto Penzler has announced creation of a new Penzler Publishers imprint: Crime Ink <www.penzlerpublishers.com/announcing-crime-ink> will launch in the spring of 2024; their first title will be *The Serial Killer's Apprentice* (by Katherine Ramsland and Tracy Ullman).
22178. "The stout gentleman with the wig ought to be a Reynolds," Sherlock Holmes said (in "The Hound of the Baskervilles"). Country Life magazine recently offered a nicely-illustrated discussion of the life and work of Sir Joshua Reynolds <www.tinyurl.com/mrxz4vwi>.
22179. "The Play That Goes Wrong" recently was produced at the Kennedy Center in Washington; it is billed as "a hilarious hybrid of Monty Python and Sherlock Holmes." There's nothing Sherlockian about the play, except that it is a murder mystery, but it's a delightful farce and highly recommended if there's a production anywhere near you.
22180. The book collection of the late Charlie Watts, at auction at Christie's in London on Sept. 28 (Jul 23 #5) <www.tinyurl.com/ysr7hcxj> also includes a nicely inscribed copy of the first American edition of *A Study in Scarlet* <www.tinyurl.com/ym5b9uku>.
22181. We are indebted to Petri Wine for sponsoring the Sherlock Holmes series on radio from 1943 to 1950. There was an unusual (and attractive) porcelain advertising sign from 1964 available at eBay <www.tinyurl.com/33rbh2yj>.
22182. "Sherlock Holmes and the Great Escape" was a Chinese animation (released in 2019 as "The Great Detective Sherlock Holmes: The Great Jail Breaker"); Jennie Paton has reported it on-line, dubbed in English, at Daily Motion <www.dailymotion.com/video/x8n6hab>.
22183. CAT PAWZZLES PRESENTS PURRLOCK HOLMES, edited by Tim Baker (New York: Topix Media, 2023; 96 pp., \$7.99) (\$3.50 at Amazon), has a pipe-smoking cat in Sherlockian costume on the cover and offers "puzzles, ciphers, and itty bitty mysteries for feline fanatics." Dr. Watson also appears, along with Irene Catler, and Meowriarty.
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August 23 #6

22184. The late Jack Ritchie, author of more than 350 short stories (and one novel) wrote a pastiche "A Case of Identity" (in the Jan. 1982 issue of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine) in which he identified Watson as Jack the Ripper; one of his specialties was hard-boiled noir for magazines such as Manhunt and Mantrap, and you can read some of the stories in that genre in *The Best of Manhunt 4: the Jack Ritchie Stories*, edited by Jeff Vorzimmer (Eureka: Stark House, 2922l; 221 pp., \$15.95).
22185. The fall issue of the Baker Street Irregulars Trust newsletter is now on-line at the Trust's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/mtv6wa8h>, with a colorful report on Denny Dobry's work supporting the Trust, and additional information about Steve Rothman's upcoming on-line Trust lecture on Sept. 9.
22186. When in southern Albania: there's a Sherlock's Irish Pub in Pogrdëc; the web-site's at <www.sherlock-iriish-pub.business.site> (reports by Jennie Paton).
22187. Have you ever played with a Magic 8 Ball? There's now an on-line version, at <www.magic-8ball.com>. There's a (remote) connection to Conan Doyle: the original Magic 8 Ball was invented by Alfred Carter; his mother Laura Pruden was a Cincinnati clairvoyant who specialized in slate-writing and was praised by Conan Doyle, who sat with her twice in the 1920s, and said that she "is certainly one of the great mediums of the world" (in *Our Second American Adventure*).
22188. Theatrical news: Craig Sodaro's "The Secret Case of Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at the Spotlight Playhouse in Berea, Ky., Sept. 1-3; web-site at <www.thespotlightplayhouse.com>.
22189. J. Hamilton Wright's "Sherlock Holmes and the American Problem" is scheduled at the Art Barn in Gaitherburg, Md., Sept. 16-Oct. 1; their web-site is at <www.tinyurl.com/yw8xnuz4>.
22190. Richard Tunley's "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at the Blackwood Miners' Institute in Blackwood, Wales, on Oct. 3, and then on tour <www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100079483407798>.
22191. Ken Ludwig's "Moriarty" is due at the Meadow Brook Theatre in Rochester, Mich., Oct. 4-29 <www.meadowbrooktheatre.com>.
22192. Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" will be performed at the Temple Theatre in Sanford, N.C., Oct. 12-29 <www.templeshows.com>.
22193. Matthew Ivan Bennett's "Sherlock Holmes and the Final Problem" is coming up at the Rose Wagner Performing Arts Center in Salt Lake City, Utah, on Oct. 27, for broadcast by KUER-FM <www.tinyurl.com/vjutufvn>.
22194. Jon Jory's "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" has been scheduled at the Theatre at Seneca Ridge Middle School in Sterling, Va., Nov. 10-19, 2023; the web-site's at <www.sterlingplaymakers.org>.
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September 23 #1

22195. Burt Solomon's *The Attempted Murder of Teddy Roosevelt* (New York: Forge, 2019; 302 pp., \$17.99) is entertaining historical fiction, with Secretary of State John Hay as the detective, trying to determine whether an accident in Pittsfield, Mass., in 1902 actually was an attempt to assassinate the president. It's Sherlockian only in that throughout the book John Hay enjoys reading from the just-published *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (reported by Jeff Bradley, who lives in Pittsfield) (as did I, in the distant past).
22196. There's no mention of plumber's rockets, but Britain's National Archives reported on toilet design <www.tinyurl.com/ya6p668n>; scroll down to see what was available in 1887.
22197. The new season of the French television series "Lupin" will launch on Netflix on Oct. 5. Omar Sy plays Assane Diop, a present-day gentleman thief inspired by Maurice Leblanc's Arsène Lupin; the series is well done indeed (although so far Sherlockian only for brief glimpses in one episode of a book-cover poster for *Arsène Lupin contre Sherlock Holmes*). The official trailer is available at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=cpLyzU0tk80>.
22198. All of the Arsène Lupin stories are still in print; there's a ten-volume collection <www.tinyurl.com/3mnf78dh>, and *The Best Stories of Arsène Lupin* <www.tinyurl.com/5n94b6xm> that Amazon describes as "based on the popular Netflix series!" (but of course it's the other way round).
22199. Jennie Paton spotted a YouTube video about a Sherlockian subscription box available from Cromwell and Taylor <www.youtube.com/watch?v=gSUTMOKw9Kg>; the company specializes in cross-stitch patterns, supplies, and much more, and the subscription box is one of four Sherlock Holmes items you can order at their web-site <www.tinyurl.com/3bkb4t2a>.
22200. The table of contents, and the editorial, in the summer 2023 issue of the Baker Street Journal are up at the BSJ web-site <www.tinyurl.com/3cmfvb7k> and there's still time to subscribe for 2023 and receive all five issues.
22201. *Sherlock Holmes and the Telegram from Hell* is the title of the next novel from Nicholas Meyer, Otto Penzler reports. It's based on the famous Zimmermann telegram, intercepted by British intelligence in 1917, which proposed an alliance between Germany and Mexico against the U.S. The book's due from the Mysterious Press in Aug. 2024.
22202. International Autograph Auctions Europe offers an interesting letter Conan Doyle wrote (probably in 1926), saying (in part) that "I was conscious at one time that Holmes was strained & for some years I only wrote one story a year. I can truly say I have never written to order or allowed the money side of it to influence me at all," and added that, "I have not felt him strained in this last series of six. Five of these are done, and I will not do the sixth if I have any reason to think there is a real declension. I have my ear on the ground <www.tinyurl.com/4rvt8yxt>. It is estimated at €6,000-€10,000.

September 23 #2

22203. Francis Feeney, who won fame in Hollywood, is being honored in his home town, Portland, Maine, where he was born in 1881, according to an article Karen Murdock discovered in the Aug. 10 issue of the Bangor Daily News <www.tinyurl.com/2e2a952h>. He moved to Hollywood as a young man, changed his name to Francis Ford, and acted in his first film in 1909; he directed his first film in 1912, and directed, and starred as Sherlock Holmes, in "A Study in Scarlet" (1914). He also had brought his kid brother John to Hollywood and cast him as Dr. Watson in the film; John Ford returned the favor by casting his brother as Dan Tobin (the old man with a beard) in "The Quiet Man" (1953).
22204. Sorry about that. If you had trouble accessing Bernard Nessey's article "A Sheaf of Autographs" in the Apr. 1905 issue of the Royal Magazine (Aug 23 #4), you should go to <www.tinyurl.com/4mdb87nj> and enter 592 in the 1/604 page-search box at the bottom.
22205. It's getting harder and harder for those who smoke to find places they can enjoy pipes and cigars and pipes, but some Sherlockian pipe-smokers will welcome news in the September issue of the Peterson Pipe Notes blog about the "pipe of the year" <www.tinyurl.com/4bnm5wtb>; it's part of Peterson's "Sherlock Holmes Series", and Peterson's own web-site <www.peterson.ie> is well worth exploring.
22206. I hope that somewhere there's a copy of the Garden City edition of *The Complete Sherlock Holmes* with this bookplate, and there's a story about why the book's not in my collection; I brought the book with me to New York in 1959, to Fordham University to play Sir Henry Baskerville in the Priory Scholars' recording of Chris Steinbrunner's adaptation of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" for broadcast by WFUV-FM. We rehearsed in the morning, and when we went out for lunch, I left the book behind in the studio; when we came back from lunch, the book had vanished, presumably taken by someone who wanted to read it, since it was no longer a mint, or even a very fine, copy. It had been a faithful companion, since the late 1940s, when I started reading the Baker Street Journal and of course needed a copy of the Canon. It would be wonderful to have the book again, and I would be happy to reward the finder with a newer and nicer copy of the Canon. The bookplates were sold in stores in the 1940s and 1950s, and are still available at Etsy <tinyurl.com/yvznsrwk>, in case you want to try to forge my signature and recreate that long-lost book. But keep in mind that the original will have my DNA on it.
22207. Ellen Fitzhugh died on July 16. She was an accomplished composer and lyricist, nominated for Tony and Emmy awards, and her credits included two songs performed by Vincent Price in the film "The Great Mouse Detective" (1986), in which she also voiced the Bar Maid.
22208. Copies of the Thornwillow Press letter-press printed and hand-bound edition of *The Sherlock Holmes Hexalogy* (Oct 17 #2) are still available from their web-site <www.thornwillow.com>. And you can read Zach Harney's recent interview with Thornwillow proprietor Luke Ives Pontiffell at the Collectible Book Vault web-site <www.tinyurl.com/ek7mxxkn>.

September 23 #3

22209. Hundreds of people gathered at Loch Ness at the end of August, hoping to find the Loch Ness Monster, but they were unsuccessful <www.tinyurl.com/mryk64x2>. It's nice to recall that some years ago (Apr 16 #5) a Norwegian company deployed an underwater robot equipped with sonar imaging to explore the loch, and located the model of Nessie made for the film "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970); the model sank during filming, and BBC News <www.tinyurl.com/zlrkugg> reported on the discovery. There is an additional Sherlockian connection with the monster: Shirley Dickensheet ("Ivy Douglas" in The Baker Street Irregulars), who was working for the Fireman's Fund when the model sank in 1969, noted that the company paid the claim for the loss (and received some nice publicity); anyone who might want to rescue the monster as a Sherlockian souvenir will need to have a discussion with the insurance company.
22210. "Tales from the Darkside: The Movie" (1990), which includes Conan Doyle's "Lot 249", will be reissued in a new 4K Blu-ray & DVD combo pack (\$35.99) on Nov. 28 <www.tinyurl.com/4vasciz2>.
22211. It would appear that the Library of Congress Copyright Office is digitizing copyright-deposit material that's in the public domain. Here's what they have made available for the William Gillette film "Sherlock Holmes": <www.tinyurl.com/5dxz5sy7>.
22212. The 27-page manuscript of "The Bully of Brocas Court" (with a copy of the story in the November 1921 issue of The Strand Magazine) was offered at RR Auction in Amherst, N.H., on Sept. 13 <www.tinyurl.com/4rcw6rtp>, with an estimate of \$50,000; the highest bid was \$36,574 (including buyer's premium), which didn't reach the reserve, so the manuscript was bought in.

22213. You can go to www.bestofsherlock.com/mss/bully-brocas-court-2023.htm to see Randall Stock's detailed report on the history of the manuscript.
22214. Reported to be coming up on BBC Two in November: "Sherlock: Lucy Worsley on Holmes vs. Doyle" (a three-part series); according to the Bradford Telegraph & Argus www.tinyurl.com/mv94jt7v and www.tinyurl.com/389ff85s, scenes for the third episode (which will include the Cottingley Fairies) have been filmed at Cottingley Beck. Her blog about "Why I Love Sherlock Holmes" is at www.lucyworsley.com/why-i-love-sherlock-holmes, and it's likely that the series will be broadcast on PBS-TV, which has aired many of her past historical programs.
22215. "The Adventure of the Ignoble Bachelor" is the latest Baker Street Elementary comic book from the hands of Joe Faye, Rusty Mason, and Steve Mason, available (as are all of their comic books) at www.tinyurl.com/3cmfvb7k.
22216. Bob Barker died on Aug. 26. He began his long career as a television game show host on "Truth or Consequences" in 1956, and presided over "The Price is Right" from 1975 to 2007; when he retired from the program he told reporters, "The question that I'm hearing most often is why did I choose to retire just now. In December I became 83 years old, and I want to retire while I'm still young." You can see him in action in "The Price Is Right" in 1984, in a segment titled "The Great Sherlock Solmes" (with Janice Pennington in Sherlockian costume) www.youtube.com/watch?v=0z3VafRzNo.

September 23 #4

22217. He's back! Sherlock Holmes has returned to Picardy Place in Edinburgh. The life-sized bronze sculpture by Gerald Ogilvie Laing, which was installed in 1991 in Picardy Place (where Conan Doyle was born in 1859), and then placed in storage during the redevelopment of its traffic-island site, has been refurbished and welcomed back by members of the local council, Tania Henzell (designer of the Conan Doyle tartan), and Barry Young (of the Sherlock Holmes Society of Scotland. You can read all about it in the Edinburgh Reporter (Sept. 13) www.tinyurl.com/yeym296r, and watch video at www.dailymotion.com/video/x8o1ptf. On Sept. 15 the Edinburgh Live web-site www.tinyurl.com/2u6vhfeh had more about Picardy Place and Conan Doyle. Robert Stek reported on "The Secret of Sherlock's Statue" on May 18, 2015, at Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog www.tinyurl.com/yu5wdtxu.
22218. The September issue of The Bilge Pump (the newsletter of the Crew of the Barque *Lone Star*), is available at www.tinyurl.com/42acdv7v, including a reprint of William A. Walsh's interesting article about "Harrison Schmitt: Bringing Holmes to the Moon".
22219. George F. Burrows ("Dr. Grimesby Roylott" in the BSI) appeared on the CBS-TV television series "To Tell the Truth" (July 5, 1965); you can watch the program at www.youtube.com/watch?v=MGzCe9PQGyg (if you don't feel like watching the entire show, his segment starts at 18:00). Kindly reported by Ann Marlowe.
22220. Arup K. Chatterjee's article about "Sherlock in India" in the Kolkata Telegraph (Aug. 30) www.tinyurl.com/3ft5c883 is his latest discussion of the Indian aspects of the Canon, and his web-site at www.arupkchatterjee.com includes links to seven other Sherlockian articles and paper.
22221. Bishop's Orchards in Guilford, Conn., have chosen a Sherlock Holmes theme for its three-acre corn maize this year www.tinyurl.com/mprcwkf4.
22222. Gayle Hunnicutt died on Aug. 31. Born in Texas, she acted in college and made her professional debut on television in 1966; she then moved to England and had a long career there, most notably (for us) as a stellar Irene Adler in Granada's "A Scandal in Bohemia" (1984).
22223. The Criterion Restaurant, where young Stamford helped Watson find someone to share rooms with (in "A Study in Scarlet"), has re-opened yet again: it now is an Indian restaurant: the Masala Zone Piccadilly Circus, which has a web-site at www.tinyurl.com/657tps7b; there was an enthusiastic review in the Guardian (Sept. 3) www.tinyurl.com/56krmj5s, but there's no word (yet) whether the commemorative plaque installed by the Inverness Capers has survived.
22224. Sharon Lynn's *Death Takes a Bath* (Level Best, 2022; 295 pp., \$16.96), set in historic Bath, features (according to one reviewer) "an intrepid heroine, a dishy policeman, and a rabbit." It also begins with an homage to "The Cardboard Box" and includes bits and pieces from other stories. The author's web-site is at www.sharonlwrites.com.

September 23 #5

22225. Watson reported (in "The Bruce-Partington Plans") that Holmes had undertaken a monograph "upon the Polyphonic Motets of Lassus." There are recordings of his polyphonic motets, but they're not often performed live; you can hear some of them sung by Chantry in Washington, D.C. on Feb. 25, 2024 www.chantrydc.org/concert-2. There's also an informative interview with Ann Margaret Lewis about Lassus and his music on the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog www.tinyurl.com/2h4scasp.
22226. As noted earlier (Jul 23 #5), *The Best Mystery Stories of the Year*, edited by Amor Towles (Mysterious Press, 2023); includes Derrick Belanger's "The Adventure of the Misquoted Macbeth"; it also features Towles' insightful and entertaining introduction "All Hail the Long-Suffering Cadaver", which you can read at www.tinyurl.com/47ez5bw7.
22227. The Beacon Society has announced its 2023 Nancy Springer Creative Writing Contest (honoring the author of the Enola Holmes series), with prizes for the best original Sherlock Holmes story written by a student in grades 7 through 12; details at www.tinyurl.com/y6v8ef3d.
22228. Hartswood Films, founded by the late Beryl Vertue in 1979, is the production company responsible for the "Sherlock" television series that starred Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman; it is now seeking a buyer or an investor to support its fast-growing operations, according to an article in The Times (Aug. 27). In the twelve months ending in March 2022, Hartswood reported sales of £51 million and a profit of close to £8 million, and paid out dividends of £3.2 million.
22229. There's a crime wave in Minstead: "Villagers who have been left terrorized by masked gangs have launched 'Operation Sherlock' to fight back against the crooks in honour of author Sir Arthur Conan Doyle who is buried at the local church," according to an article published in the Daily Express on Sept. 13 www.tinyurl.com/aywdxwd6 (with video of the burglars). The BBC News story (Sept. 20) www.bbc.com/news/articles/cy9wxk0wd79o shows the operation's Sherlockian poster
22230. The "Holmes in the Heartland: Arch Enemies" conference in St. Louis was a success, with more than 90 people on hand for the festivities; there is a nicely illustrated report on the goings-on at the web-site of the Parallel Case of St. Louis www.tinyurl.com/msuwjnks.
22231. Treefort Media's new audio mini-series "Moriarty: The Silent Game" will be available at Audible on Nov. 9; it follows last year's "Moriarty: The Devil's Game", starring Dominic Monaghan (Moriarty), Phil LaMarr (Holmes) and Curtis Armstrong (Gregson), and with Helen Mirren as Lady Milverton ("the worst woman in London"). The Hollywood Reporter published a preview (with a link to an audio trailer) on Aug. 30 www.tinyurl.com/2s43cwz5.
22232. Arturo Pérez-Reverte's *El Problema Final* (Alfaguara, 2023) is his latest Sherlockian novel, so far available only in Spanish, at Amazon US and UK. There certainly will be a translation into English, but in the meantime, here's a summary in Spanish and English www.tinyurl.com/6aeyt77.

September 23 #6

22233. This month's Whanganui Literary Festival (in New Zealand) included "Dear 26: The Art of the Letter", with 26 writers asked to create letters written by their choices of fictional characters, each starting with the same randomly assigned letter of the alphabet. You can read them here <www.dear26.com>, including the correspondence between Sam Spade and Sherlock Holmes.
22234. Would you like to be a Baron? There's a Barony for sale (it comes with a castle and a country house) <www.tinyurl.com/37fkpr3u>.
22235. It was in 1985 that Vincent Price first provided commentary for Granada's "Sherlock Holmes" television series on "Mystery" on PBS-TV. Jennie Paton reports that his prologues and epilogues for the first four programs can be seen at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=yc-9ZtHuAeo>.
22236. "What does it mean to be a fan?" Kira Deschler asked, posting to the Daily Dot web-site on Sept. 24 <www.tinyurl.com/yf477wz8>, and she suggests that a fandom "is a group of people who are similarly passionate about a piece of pop culture and create a community based on this shared interest."
22237. Theatrics: Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is running at the Kam and James Morris Theatre in Lakeway, Tex., through Oct. 15 <www.tex-arts.org>. It also has been scheduled at the Hillbarn Theatre in Foster City, Calif., Oct. 5-22 <www.hillbarntheatr.org>; at the Gem Theater in Mulberry, Fla., Oct. 27 - Nov. 5 <www.themissingpiecetheatre.org>; and at the Sagebrush Theatre in Kamloops, B.C., Jan. 25 to Feb. 23, 2024 <www.sagebrushtheatre.ca>.
22238. Linda Ramsay-Detherage's "Sherlock Holmes and the White City" will be performed at the Planet Ant Theatre in Hamtramck, Mich., Oct. 11-28; web-site at <www.planetant.com>.
22239. Brian Guehring's "Sherlock Holmes & the First Baker Street Irregular" will be performed at the American International School in Chennai [Madras], India, Oct. 12-13 <www.tinyurl.com/mrxhf2y2>.
22240. Peter Colley's "The Real Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at Beatniks at Conkey in Hammond, Ind., Oct. 13-22 <www.beatniksonconkey.com>.
22241. Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" is due at the Rise Church in Tigard, Ore., Nov. 3-19 <www.maskandmirror.com>; and at the Royal Off-the-Square Theatre in Brownstown, Ind., Dec. 1-9 <www.jcct.org>.
22242. Orson Welles' "Sherlock Holmes" is scheduled radio-style at the Tighthead Brewery in Mundelein, Ill., on Nov. 5 <www.kirkwoodplayers.org>.
22243. The Charlotte Symphony will perform "Sherlock Holmes and the Missing Maestro" at the Knight Theater in Charlotte, N.C., on Nov. 11; their web-site is at <www.tinyurl.com/m567xakf>.
22244. Without a Cue Productions will present "A Dickens of a Murder" at the Red Rum Theater in Philadelphia, Pa., Nov. 24-Dec. 30 <www.redrum.live>.

October 23 #1

22245. "Plans for the 2024 BSI Weekend" are available at the Baker Street Irregulars web-site <www.tinyurl.com/5xwau634>. Everyone who has subscribed to "News & Updates from the BSI via E-mail" has already received the message; if you've not subscribed, you can sign up at <www.tinyurl.com/36jhun6u>.
22246. In plenty of time for holiday hinting (or shopping), Randall Stock's annual informative nominations for the best Sherlock Holmes books/DVDs of the year goes on-line at <www.bestofsherlock.com/sherlock-gifts.htm> on Nov. 1; there also are recommendations of older Sherlockiana, all with helpful explanations of his choices.
22247. Laurie R. King is celebrating the 30th anniversary of her first Mary Russell novel *The Beekeeper's Apprentice*, and the publication of the latest novel *The Lantern's Dance* with a series of "Russell and Holmes" days to be held in Santa Cruz, Calif. (Feb. 17); Seattle, Wash. (Apr. 10); Bethesda, Md. (Apr. 25), and Nashville, Tenn. (Aug. 27), with the last three timed for Left Coast Crime, Malice Domestic, and Bouchercon. Details and registration links for the events will be found in Laurie's latest newsletter <www.tinyurl.com/ydjzdhzs>.
22248. The book collection of Rolling Stones drummer Charlie Watts, at Christie's in London on Sept. 28-29, set some records: a copy of the first edition of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* signed by Conan Doyle and inscribed "I perambulated Dartmoor before I wrote this book" sold for £214,200 [\$226,555] (including the buyer's premium), setting a record for a printed book from the Canon (a copy of *The Sign of Four* sold for \$201,600 in 2022); the most ever paid for a copy of Beeton's Christmas Annual for 1887 was \$156,000 at an auction in 2007.
22249. The copy of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* wasn't the most expensive book in the auction: a copy of *The Great Gatsby* signed by F. Scott Fitzgerald and inscribed to Harold Goldman (as "the original 'Gatsby' of this story") sold for £226,800.
22250. There were other Sherlockian books in the sale, including a presentation copy of the first American edition of *A Study in Scarlet* (1890), inscribed in 1891 "With A Conan Doyle's kindest recollections of pleasant partnership in travel" which sold for £32,760. You can view the catalogue of the sale at <www.tinyurl.com/mr29jkrb>.
22251. This year's Christmas card from the Sherlock Holmes Society of London features seasonally appropriate artwork by Mark Mázers. You can order them from the Society at <www.tinyurl.com/3wwdcv92>.
22252. The NewsByte web-site reported on Oct. 18 <www.tinyurl.com/wbk94ybb> that Netflix would start production in Switzerland this month on a new eight-episode series described as a blend of "Downton Abbey" and "The White Lotus". "Winter Palace" will tell the story of the birth of luxury winter tourism in 1899, and the cast will include Henry Pettigrew as Conan Doyle.

October 23 #2

22253. Andrew Lycett's *The Worlds of Sherlock Holmes* (London: Frances Lincoln, 2023; 207 pp., \$32.00) is an account of "the inspirations behind the world's greatest detective." Author of the excellent biography *Conan Doyle: The Man Who Created Sherlock Holmes* (2007) as well as the collection *Conan Doyle's Wide World* (2020), Lycett provides an impressive and colorfully-illustrated discussion of how Holmes was created, and why he continues to fascinate each new generation of readers. Scott Monty and Burt Wolder interviewed Lycett about the new book (and much more) at their "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.tinyurl.com/2945an94>.
22254. "Sherlock Holmes Could Teach Washington about Budgeting" was the headline on Peter Coy's lead opinion piece in the N.Y. Times on Oct. 2, according to Mike Berdan, who added, "Alas, there is not much Holmes in it, just his aphorism about eliminating the impossible." The headline appeared only in the print edition.
22255. The U.S. Postal Service has issued a booklet of stamps showing Winter Woodland Animals, with images of a [white-tailed] deer, a rabbit, an owl, and a fox. All of them are mentioned in the Canon. Four out of four isn't all that bad.
22256. "Things get green, slimy, and sticky with ghost photography," according to an article in the Manitoban (Sept. 28) about an exhibit <www.tinyurl.com/nwr24xwd> at the University of Manitoba. "The Undead Archive: 100 Years of Photographing Ghosts" is based on photographs taken by a Winnipeg doctor and nurse who were inspired by Conan Doyle's lecture on "Proofs of Immortality" in Winnipeg a hundred years ago.
22257. R. Hamilton Wright's two-act play "Sherlock Holmes and the American Problem" was first performed in 2016; the script, published by Samuel French in 2022, is one of many Sherlockian scripts available from Concord Theatricals <www.concordtheatricals.com>.

22258. “If you haven’t figured out that in every version of Sherlock Holmes ever made that sex for Sherlock is crime solving, then you’re not paying attention,” Stephen Moffat said, during an interview published in the Glasgow Guardian (Sept. 8) <www.tinyurl.com/yc7tt6fz>.
22259. Howard Ostrom’s “A-Z List of Sherlock Holmes Performers” now has more than 9,000 entries (with about 20,000 images); the list is available on-line at <www.nplh.co.uk/a-z-index.html>.
22260. *School of Hard Knox*, edited by Donna Andrews, Greg Herren, and Art Taylor (Cincinnati: Crippen and Landru, 2023; 200 pp., \$47.00 cloth/\$22.00 paper) is an anthology of new stories that break one (or more) of Ronald Knox’s ten commandments for crime fiction. Daniel Stashower’s “The Forlorn Penguin” is intriguingly Sherlockian, and Peter Lovesey, in his poetic “Knox Vomica” has great fun with just about every detective in the genre. The hardbound edition, which is signed and numbered, has a laid-in reprint of Knox’s delightful Sherlockian pastiche “The Adventure of the First Class Carriage”. The publisher’s web-site’s a <www.tinyurl.com/9367hac7>.
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October 23 #3

22261. RR Auction in Amherst, N.H., offered on Oct. 18 an interesting (and amusing) letter <www.tinyurl.com/dyz5tpsm> written by Conan Doyle from Southsea, presumably to Jessie Drummond, a member of a family he came to know while he was a studying medicine in Edinburgh. There are three other letters he wrote to her in Mark Samuels Lasner’s collection <www.tinyurl.com/yc27ket8>.
22262. You can order (well, pre-order) a nice new Rolls Royce, for only £330,000 <www.tinyurl.com/34macj6u>; it’s quite a car.
22263. Ann Kimbrough offers a new and imaginative approach to the Canon, presenting two stories as a series of text messages exchanged by Holmes, Watson, four teenagers, and other characters found in the Canon. *Sherlock & Watson Wired* (Everything Novels, 2022; 143 pp. \$13.99) is her adaptation of “The Devil’s Foot”, and *Sherlock & Watson Re-Wired* (179 pp., \$13.99) does the same for “The Bruce-Partington Plans”. It’s intriguing to find Holmes and Watson brought up to date on social media, and if want a sample of how it works, just text textsherlock to 888-391-1895.
22264. The Public Domain Review recently posted on-line an interesting discussion of “modern slang, cant, and vulgar words” that one might encounter in London in 1860 <www.tinyurl.com/yedj3uxf>.
22265. “The Four Oaks Mystery” featuring Jeremy Brett (Sherlock Holmes) and Edward Hardwicke (Dr. Watson) was one of four segments created for ITV’s 28-hour charity telethon that aired on July 16-17, 1992. It’s available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/nwr24xwd>, kindly reported by Jennie Paton. The other segments, all available at YouTube, featured Inspector Piet Van der Valk, Taggart, and Chief Detective Inspector Reginald Wexford; in case you want to see the solution to the mystery.
22266. The September issue of the quarterly newsletter published by the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota offers Gary Thaden’s discussion of a letter Conan Doyle wrote to Minneapolis in 1923, Philip Bergem’s report on August Derleth’s *The Chronicles of Solar Pons* (1973), news from and about the collections, and (most important) a multi-page tribute to Julie McKuras, who edited 92 issues of the newsletter before retiring from the editor’s chair. Copies of the newsletter can be requested from Timothy Johnson (#15-G Elmer L. Andersen Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <johns976@umn.com>.
22267. In case you want to live in a Dartmoor farmhouse, there’s one available, for only £1 million <www.tinyurl.com/4x2hpnhf>.
22268. David McCallum died on Sept. 25. He began his acting career in 1953 in a BBC television series, went on to appear on stage and screen, and starred as Ilya Kuryakin in the television series “The Man from U.N.C.L.E.” (1964-1968) and as the medical examiner “Ducky” Mallard in the television series “NCIS” (2003-2023); it was in a 2015 episode (“16 Years”) in that series that he revealed his participation in the Sherlock Consortium for Investigation, a secret society whose members solve cold cases.
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October 23 #4

22269. Howard Ostrom has added “Spooks!” (1953) to the list of films in which the Three Stooges are seen in Sherlockian costume, and it’s available at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y22AOPwxvZU>. The other films on the list are “Horses’ Collars” (1935), “We Want Our Mummy” (1939), and “Shivering Sherlocks” (1948). Warning: the Three Stooges are an acquired taste now, but they were featured in 190 short comedies made by the Columbia Pictures Corp. and were highly regarded, once upon a time.
22270. “New views of Peking with Vincent and Ray” (the latest entry in Ray Betzner’s “Studies in Starrett” blog) <www.tinyurl.com/2p9hybnm> is a splendid example of how much fun can be had from an accidental discovery (in this case, an archive of photographs from a trip to the Orient by Vincent Starrett and his wife in the 1930s).
22271. Vincent Price’s prologues and epilogues for three more programs in Granada’s “Sherlock Holmes” television series on “Mystery” on PBS-TV have been made available at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=EEl4tYUxul0>.
22272. Tim Major’s pastiche *Sherlock Holmes & the Twelve Thefts of Christmas* (New York: Titan, 2022; 275 pp., \$19.99) is an imaginative Christmas story that involves a cunning Christmas challenge set by Irene Adler upon Holmes, and cases brought to him by Norwegian explorer Fridtjof Nansen, and Edward and Lillie Langtry.
22273. The latest list (#6) from Type Punch Matrix of material from Curtis Armstrong’s collection is now on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/yckp293a>. Unsold material from earlier lists also is on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/mr4cx2u2>.
22274. The Wall Street Journal reported on Oct. 17 that Netflix is expanding its focus on games to include higher-end games that can be streamed from TVs or PCs, and that Netflix is discussing games based on “its Sherlock Holmes series.” It’s not at all clear what that series might be, other than the two Robert Downey Jr. films.
22275. Steve Trussel’s web-sites on detectives on stamps have long been valued by Sherlockian and Doylean philatelists, and it was sad indeed to learn from Max Magee that Steve died on June 26, 2020. His interests were varied, as you can see from his web-site <www.trussel.com>, and it’s nice to see that his web-site and many lists will be kept on-line (although not updated) so people will be able to see how much he accomplished.
22276. An Entertainment Memorabilia Live Auction in London on Nov. 9-12 will include five lots of interesting props that were used in Robert Downey Jr.’s “Sherlock Holmes” films <www.tinyurl.com/3832apu5>.
22277. Mark Gatiss is dramatizing Conan Doyle’s “Lot No. 249” for broadcast by BBC Two at Christmas, according to a story in the Hollywood Reporter (Oct. 19) <www.tinyurl.com/55h5dhck>. And a report at the Deadline web-site (Oct. 19) <www.tinyurl.com/4u3kv79f>, the program will star Kit Harrington (Abercrombie Smith) and Freddie Fox (Edward Bellingham). The story was featured on Mark Jones and Paul M. Chapman’s “Doings of Doyle” podcast on Aug. 27 <www.tinyurl.com/3pr3h8y4>.
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October 23 #5

22278. James Lovegrove’s *The Cthulhu Casebooks: Sherlock Holmes and*
22279. *the Highgate Horrors* (New York: Titan, 2023; 509 pp., \$22.95) is the fourth title in his *Cthulhu Casebooks* trilogy. And yes, it was a trilogy, until he found yet another Watson manuscript. The series is of course a tribute to H. P. Lovecraft, and the new book pits Holmes and Watson against the
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- Mi-go (the race of extraterrestrials created by Lovecraft in 1931) and offers radically new versions of some of the Canonical cases. Lovegrove has written other more-traditional pastiches, as well as non-Sherlockian fiction, and his web-site's at <www.jameslovegrove.com>.
22280. Historian and presenter Lucy Worsley will host a BBC Two series "Killing Sherlock: Lucy Worsley on the Case of Conan Doyle", according to the BBC media center (Oct. 20) <www.tinyurl.com/3e2nnwfn>. There will be three one-hour episodes, due in December on BBC Two and PBS-TV.
22281. Street art has a long history, and it includes real humor; street artist EFIX (François Xavier Donguy) has had some non-Sherlockian fun, kindly reported by Samantha Wolov <www.tinyurl.com/2p8ax248>.
22282. Ann Kimbrough has launched the Sherlocki-Anns (for Sherlockians named Ann or Anne); they honor Ann Adler (the younger sister of the much more famous Irene Adler) and meet three times a year via Zoom (anyone can be an honorary member <travelswithsherlock.com/sherlocki-anns>).
22283. Howard Ostrom has reported a new statue of Sherlock Holmes, at the British Antique Museum in Kamakura (Japan). It celebrates that one-year anniversary of the opening of the museum, which features a recreation of the sitting room at 221B Baker Street. The statue is the latest addition to Howard's comprehensive (and nicely illustrated) essay "The World of Sherlock Holmes Statues" <www.nplh.co.uk/sherlock-statues.html>.
22284. Haydn Gwynne died on Oct. 20. She began her acting career on stage in the U.K., and went on to appear in many roles on television and radio, including Miss Wenceslas in "The Great Game" (2010) in the "Sherlock" television series.
22285. Col. Heeza Liar starred in a lengthy series of short live-action animated films created by Vernon Stallings during the silent-film era. You can see him in a deerstalker in "Col. Heeza Liar, Detective" (1923) found by Howard Ostrom at <www.tinyurl.com/5n7pkz2d>.
22286. American Theatre magazine's Oct. 18 report on the 20 most-produced play-wrights of the 2023-24 season has three playwrights who have Sherlockian credits: Ken Ludwig (#2), Kate Hamill (#6), and Jeffrey Hatcher (#7); details at <www.tinyurl.com/yc8xwvpvu>.
22287. Kate Karlson notes a new exhibition coming up at the Groller Club in New York, Nov. 30 through Feb. 10, nicely timed for anyone who has spare time during the birthday festivities. "Whodunit? Key Books in Detective Fiction" <www.tinyurl.com/yansyj6j> will be on view in the Second Floor Gallery, and the Club's at 47 East 60th Street.

October 23 #6

22288. Many Sherlockians made a pilgrimage to Barts, where Dr. Watson first met Sherlock Holmes, but those who have visited St. Bartholomew's Hospital may not have visited St. Bartholomew-the-Great, the nearby church; the hospital and the church are celebrating their 900th anniversaries this year, and Country Life had a nicely-illustrated article about the church (Oct. 20) <www.tinyurl.com/yxj2p7bm>.
22289. "Der Mann, der Sherlock Holmes war" (1937) was one of the best Sherlockian films from Germany, readily available on-line; Jennie Paton has discovered a two-minute trailer for the film at <www.dailymotion.com/video/x8oxdgc>. The complete film (subtitled in English) is at <www.tinyurl.com/yvzyxvz>.
22290. Theatrics: Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is running at the Plowright Theatre in Scunthorpe, Lincs., through Nov. 4 <www.thehospitalplayers.co.uk>. It also is due at the Festival Stage during the Alabama Shakespeare Festival in Montgomery, Ala., on Apr. 15-May 12 <www.asf.net>; and at the Ron Maslin Playhouse in Kanata, Ont., May 15-25 <www.kanatatheatre.ca>.
22291. Orson Welles' "Sherlock Holmes" radio-style production at the Tighthead Brewery in Mundelein, Ill., will have an additional performance; it's now due on Nov. 5 and 12 <www.kirkwoodplayers.org>.
22292. Eric Coble's "Sherlock Holmes: The Baker Street Irregulars" will be performed at the Central Valley High School in Corvallis, Ore., on Nov. 10-18 <www.tinyurl.com/bdh4me7t>; and at the Bahadur Bhatla Theatre in Montréal, Q.C. Jan. 24-25 <www.tinyurl.com/brzhnf2s>.
22293. Mark Shanahan's "A Sherlock Carol" will be performed at the Spokane Civic Theatre in Spokane, Wash., Nov. 24-Dec. 17 <www.spokanecivictheatre.com>. Also at the Cypress Moon Studios in Sheffield, Ala., Dec. 7-10; web-site at <www.cypressmoonstudios.org>.
22294. Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" will be performed at the Bellingham Theatre Guild in Bellingham, Wash., Nov. 24-Dec. 10 <www.bellinghamtheatreguild.com>; and at the Olympic Theatre Arts Center in Sequim, Wash., on Dec. 1-17 <www.olympictheatrearts.org>.
22295. "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Goose (by Michael Menendian and John Weagly) will be performed at the Highview Arts Center in Louisville, Ky., Nov. 25-Dec. 3 <www.highviewartscenter.com>; it also is due at the Billie Limacher Bicentennial Park Theater in Joliet, Ill., Dec. 15-17 <www.thejolietsdramaguild.com>.
22296. "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Fallen Giant" (an opera by Evan Meier and E. M. Lewis) is scheduled at the Lincoln Studio Theater in Portland, Ore., Nov. 25-Dec. 3 <www.pdx.edu/music-theater/sherlock-holmes>; and at the State Theatre in Modesto, Calif., Jan. 13-20. <www.operamodesto.org>.
22297. "Sherlock Holmes & the Opera Mystery" will be performed at the King Center for the Performing Arts in Melbourne, Fla., on Feb. 8, 2024; the web-site is at <www.kingcenter.com/events/youth-theatre>.

November 23 #1

22298. The Priory Scholars have announced an additional event during the birthday festivities in New York: the return of the Gaslight Gala, on Friday, Jan. 12, from 6:00 to 10:00 pm; details at <www.gaslightgalanyc.wordpress.com>.
22299. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London's annual dinner (described as "The Mongoose Munch") will be held in the Members' Dining Room at the House of Commons on Jan. 20; there's more information (and an opportunity to book for the event) at <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/event/annual-dinner-2024>.
22300. Nancy Springer's *Enola Holmes and the Mark of the Mongoose* (New York: Wednesday Books, 2023; 296 pp, \$20.00) is the ninth in her series about Sherlock Holmes' sister. Enola, now on her own as a scientific perditioner, has to work hard and resourcefully to rescue Rudyard Kipling's good friend Wolcott Balestier. His sister Caroline Balestier also appears (people who know a bit about Kipling are aware that eventually he and Caroline marry, but that's not in the book).
22301. The Collider web-site reported on Nov. 7 <www.tinyurl.com/52aace9n> that Netflix chairman Scott Stuber has said in an interview that "we're working once again" on a screenplay for a third "Enola Holmes" film.
22302. "København's Sherlock Holmes" [Copenhagen's Sherlock Holmes] is a Danish silent film released in 1925. Only the title is Sherlockian, but Jennie Paton has reported the film at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=vnUJZwt-s74> (with Danish title intertitles).
22303. Mark Shanahan's two-act play "A Sherlock Carol" (an imaginative blend of Dickens and Conan Doyle) was originally produced off-Broadway in November 2021 and has had other productions since then; the script is now available from the Dramatists Play Service <www.dramatists.com> along with many other Sherlockian plays.
22304. Hopalong Basil stars as the detective in Arturo Pérez-Reverte's new novel *El Problema Final*, so far available only in Spanish, but Amazon gives you a hint of what it's all about <www.tinyurl.com/yf4vrj76>; Google Translate will be of assistance to those who aren't fluent in Spanish.

22305. "That's Hollywood" was a 1970s 30-minute series broadcast by WABC-TV (New York) and other stations; Jennie Paton has found their "The Amazing Sherlock Holmes" program at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=4aYNN79cwg>.
22306. The television series "Sherlock's Daughter", which was green-lit by Starlings Television in 2021 (Jan 21 #3), now has funding: C21 Media reported on Nov. 6 <www.tinyurl.com/4r2mbbh7> that the series (now titled "Sherlock & Daughter") has been bought by networks in Finland, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Iceland, and Australia, and production is expected to begin in February. "A young American woman, after the mysterious murder of her mother, travels to London to track down her biological father, the legendary Sherlock Holmes, who isn't the mythological figure she has come to expect."

November 23 #2

22307. The Beacon Society continues to publish its "quarterly gazette for younger Sherlockians everywhere," and the autumn issue of Sherlock's Spotlight is available at their web-site (check the menu at the left) <www.beaconsociety.com>; the contents include material both by and for younger followers of the Great Detective, and the gazette is intended to provide younger Sherlockians with information and entertainment.
22308. Robert Sharfman notes that while golf is mentioned only in passing in the Canon, it was quite important to those who enjoy "The Hound of the Baskervilles", and he plans to found a Sherlockian society for people who play (or are interested in) golf, with a possible event in the Midwest. He also suggests that non-golfers will be welcome as caddies, or as drivers of the beer cart. You can contact him at <robertsharfman@gmail.com>.
22309. Monica Schmidt spoke about "Dr. John H. Watson's Invisible War" this month at the University of Nebraska's Leon S. McGoogan Health Sciences Library <www.tinyurl.com/5anntmxn>; she notes that usually she speaks to Sherlockians who don't have clinical knowledge, but this time she was speaking to clinicians who don't have deep knowledge of the Canon.
22310. Sidney Paget's signed watercolor painting of Conway Castle was at auction at Tennants in England on Nov. 3 <www.tinyurl.com/n33r7w88>, estimated at £100-£150. It sold for £160.
22311. "Meitantei Conan" [Detective Conan] was first a Japanese manga comic-book series created by Gyosho Aoama, and then developed into a long-running animated television series, animated films, and much more; Shinichi Kudo is a 17-year-old master detective who is turned by villains into a child and assumes the name Conan Edogawa (in tribute to Arthur Conan Doyle and Edgar Allan Poe) and pursues evil-doers. The English-language version is called "Case Closed". The manga series has been serialized in Weekly Shonen Sunday since 1994 and has more than 270 million copies in print world-wide; the anime television series was launched in 1996 and now has more than a thousand episodes, plus two-dozen movies and video games, and much more, and Wikipedia <www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Case_Closed> has a long and informative entry. You can watch the television series at Crunchyroll and Apple TV+.
22312. The geese have returned to Baker Street! The illuminated geese first appeared four years ago (Nov 19 #6), and they are again celebrating Christmas by reminding passersby of "The Blue Carbuncle". You can see images of this year's installation at <www.tinyurl.com/38xw5mc8>.
22313. Some postal services are more imaginative than others: Australia Post encourages parents and children to participate in "Santa Mail" and promises that Santa will reply to the letters <www.tinyurl.com/5n8cad96>; according to Santa, "My friends at Australia Post delivered more than 170,000 letters to me last year." According to the United Nations, Australia's population is 26,439,111, and the United States' is 339,996,563; if the U.S. Postal Service had a similar program, there would have been more than 2 million letters for Santa to answer.

November 23 #3

22314. *Conan Doyle: Mystery and Adventure*, by Mark Jones (Handsworth Wood: Kaleidoscope, 2023; 384 pp., \$35.00) is a filmography of the 1967 BBC-2 television series that dramatized 13 of Conan Doyle's non-Sherlockian stories. The series was created and developed by John Hawkesworth (who years later did the same for Granada's "Sherlock Holmes" series), and it is sad indeed that only one of the programs is known to have survived: it's "The Mystery of Cader Ifan" [The Surgeon of Gaster Fell], locked away on Betacam tape in the vaults of the British Film Institute. Mark has done a spectacular job of researching and writing about the series, pursuing production notes, scripts, correspondence, and reviews, and you can order from Lulu <www.tinyurl.com/46v9dc9v>. You can also listen to Mark's presentation on "Conan Doyle and John Hawkesworth" to the Sydney Passengers (July 30, 2023) at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=EVj97B4xqXU>.
22315. It's possibly a first: a Sherlockian virtual-reality film from Dillmeadow Media <www.tinyurl.com/bdedfyhk>. "Mrs. Sherlock Holmes" is a 13-minute VR film that was presented at the Belfast Film Festival on Nov. 4-5.
22316. Masamichi Migurashi's new *Sherlock Holmes Bible: A 170-Year Story of the Eternal Detective* <www.tinyurl.com/nvw62h7a> (published by Hayakawa Shobo in Japanese in 2022) has won the Mystery Writers of Japan award for "the best critical and research work" (and this is the first time that a Sherlockian work has won an award from the MWJ since it was founded 76 years ago). Needless to say, Sherlockians outside of Japan will be waiting impatiently for a translation of Mitch's book.
22317. The Agra Treasurers' ninth "Holmes, Doyle, and Friends" conference will be held at the Airport Clarion Inn in Dayton, Ohio, on Mar. 22-23; their web-site's at <www.tinyurl.com/38xfepvf> (with links to programs for previous conferences).
22318. Bill D'Agostino's new one-act play "Teen Sherlock" has an amusing premise: "New kid Sherlock arrives at Baskerville High School just in time to solve the mystery of the missing hamster Conan. Can he and his new friend Jane Watson figure it out before it is too late? Cheetos, jokes, and misdirection are all involved in this fast-paced mystery." It's nicely done, and available for licensing. If you are interested, you can contact Bill at <williamdag@gmail.com>.
22319. The Rathbones, a rock 'n roll band founded in the early 1990s, named themselves in honor of Basil Rathbone, and this month they were inducted into the Iowa Rock 'n Roll Hall of Fame, as reported in the Des Moines Register (Nov. 14) <www.tinyurl.com/mr2sny2f>; they have a Facebook page (with some videos) at <www.facebook.com/p/The-Rathbones-100063586807820>.
22320. Quite a few of the old black-and-white films have been colorized and made available at YouTube and elsewhere by companies that pursue films not protected by copyright, and a colorized version of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" (1916) was (briefly) posted on-line this month before being taken down when the owner of the copyright complained. And yes, it's true that a film made in 1916 is in the public domain, but not the restoration released by Flicker Alley in 2019 (with new intertitles in English).
22321. November 23 #4 *The Weird Cat*, edited by Katherine Kerestman and S. T. Joshi (Cody: Word-Crafts, 2023; 340 pp., \$33.99), is an anthology of stories, essays, poems, and letters devoted (according to the editors) to the "beautiful, lovable, and enigmatic entities who straddle the world in which humans dwell and another beyond our ken." The contents include Conan Doyle's "The Brazilian Cat".
22322. One of Disney's production-used 8¼-inch maquettes of The Great Mouse Detective (aka Basil of Baker Street) will be offered at Heritage Auctions on Dec. 8 <www.tinyurl.com/y9r79sek>. A similar maquette sold last year for \$5,760 (including the buyer's premium (Feb 22 #3).

22323. “If Conan Doyle’s Sherlock Holmes tales describe a detective who, from a few stray facts, sees through baffling mysteries, his ‘Coming of the Fairies’ tells the story of a man who, with all the facts in the world, cannot see what is right before his face.” That’s according to Daniel Immerwahr, in his review of Walter J. Scheirer’s *A History of Fake Things on the Internet* (Stanford University Press, 2023) in the *New Yorker* (Nov. 20); you may be able to read the full review on-line at the magazine’s web-site at www.tinyurl.com/3hjpx23b.
22324. The autumn issue of *The Magic Door* (published by the friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library) has Douglas Kerr’s report on the new edition of Conan Doyle’s *Memories and Adventures* (which he edited for the Edinburgh University Press), A. J. Low’s article about the “Sherlock Sam” children’s mystery series, and much more. You can request a copy of the newsletter from Cliff Goldfarb (Toronto Public Library, 789 Yonge Street, Toronto M4W 2G8, Canada) cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca.
22325. Peter McIntyre reports that Dr. Doyle did very well at Laurel Park on Nov. 11, finishing first by 7 lengths. He has a record overall: you can see his statistics at www.tinyurl.com/46m2usck.
22326. John F. Baesch (“State and Merton County Railroad”) died on Nov. 14. He was a fervent railroad enthusiast and had a long career with Amtrak, and a fervent Sherlockian as an energetic member of many Sherlockian societies on the east coast. He also was a frequent contributor to our literature, and received his thoroughly apt investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1998.
22327. Fans of the 1979 Russian “Sherlock Holmes” television series might enjoy a Nov. 11 article about the battles between Vasily Livanov (Holmes) and series director Igor Maslennikov www.tinyurl.com/yeymuwve; there’s a convenient English translation at www.tinyurl.com/a747at5h.
22328. Video of Jennet Conant’s lecture on “The Irregulars: Baker Street Spies in Wartime Washington” at the Atlanta History Center in 2008 is now available at www.tinyurl.com/5ets3wae. The title of her book actually was *The Irregulars: Roald Dahl and the British Spy Ring in War-Time Washington*; Jon Lellenberg noted in 2008 that the spies in Washington were members of the British Security Coordinaton (BSC), and that it was the Special Operations Executive (SOE) that had its headquarters in offices in Baker Street.

November 23 #5

22329. Laurie R. King’s *The Lantern’s Dance* (New York: Bantam, 2024; 298 pp., \$28.99) is billed as “a novel of suspense featuring Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes,” but it’s much more than that. Russell and Holmes are in France, dealing with a dire threat against his son Damian Adler, and in the course of the story we learn far more about Holmes’ family history than is hinted at in the Canon. No spoilers here (and it’s difficult to say much more about the book without spoilers), but if you’d like to see Horace Vernet’s painting “The Artist and his Companions traveling in the Desert” (now in the Wallace Collection in London), an image is on-line www.tinyurl.com/4cka3xr4. Laurie also blogs about the book at her web-site www.laurierking.com.
22330. The latest issue (#32) of the *Sherlock Holmes Mystery Magazine* offers the usual nice selection of Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian articles, fiction, and artwork, among them “The Perplexing Problem of the Puzzling Proposition” (an examination by mathematician Brent Morris of the Canon’s mention of Euclid); the cost is \$13.00 (or \$39.99 for four issues) from the Wildside Press www.wildsidepress.com.
22331. Aziz bin Adam has kindly forwarded an article in the *Malaysian Star* (Nov. 4) www.tinyurl.com/y8pps55h about an eight-hour tour of Dartmoor led by Alex Braeme, great-grandson of Robert Duins Cooke, who was the local vicar in 1901; the tour includes the cemetery at Ashburton and the gravesite of Harry Baskerville, Fletcher Robinson’s coachman (whom Conan Doyle thanked for the use of his name when the book was written). There is more about Graeme and his tour in the autumn 2018 issue of *Dartmoor Magazine*, which is on-line at www.tinyurl.com/4bkpwpcs.
22332. Joss Ackland died on Nov. 19. He made his stage debut in 1945, appeared in his first film in 1949, debuted on television on in 1957, and went on to a long and successful acting career; when he retired from the stage in 2010, he was credited by the *Daily Express* with having been in more plays than any other living actor. He had many Sherlockian roles, and you can read about them, and much more, at Scott Monty’s “I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere” blog www.tinyurl.com/ymrhxhtr.
22333. So Far Down Queer Street, an on-line journal that focuses on “Aspects of the Sherlockian canon and adaptations that are not ordinarily discussed in scholarly work,” was launched last year (Aug 22 #2); they’re now up to the third issue, with the fourth scheduled for next year. Their web-site’s at www.downqueerstreet.com, with links to all three issues.
22334. KD Sherrinford’s *Meet Me in Milan* (Extasy Books, 2023; 105 pp., \$7.25) is the third in her “Sherlock Holmes and Irene Adler” series (Feb 23 #3); it is a romantic novel that starts with Holmes away in London and Adler needing to prove the innocence of her friend Renata, who has been accused of attempting to murder her husband Luigi. The game’s afoot, with plenty of deception and intrigue, and (after Holmes returns to Milan) a successful conclusion to the mystery. Sherrinford has a colorful Facebook page on-line at www.tinyurl.com/mr2d9scf, and you can read more about the author and her books at www.tinyurl.com/35hpeyhw.

November 23 #6

22335. Sherlock Holmes (Scott Shelby) and Dr. Watson (Jobeth Devera) will be among the many performers at the Great Dickens Christmas Fair & Victorian Holiday Party at the Cow Palace in Daly City, Calif., weekends through Dec. 17. Daly City is just south of San Francisco; the event’s web-site is at www.dickensfair.com, and you can see Holmes and Watson promoting the fair at www.tinyurl.com/yhdny2ur.
22336. Jennie Paton has reported the entire Russian “Sherlock Holmes” television series (2013) with Igor Petrenko as Holmes and Andrei Panin as Watson on-line at www.youtube.com/@BE4EPKuHO/videos. The series was not popular in Russia, where fans much preferred the 1979-1986 series with Vasily Livanov and Vitaliy Solomon. Try using the settings feature to auto-translate the subtitles into English.
22337. If you’ve not yet ordered a Sherlockian calendar for 2024, here’s a link to one offered by the *Strand Magazine* www.tinyurl.com/ysaxx3wx; you’re also welcome to explore their shop and blog.
22338. Sherlock Holmes continues to be popular with commercial publishers of novels for young adults: Publishers Weekly noted on Nov. 13 that Little, Brown has bought two YA novels from Clair M. Andrews. The first will be *A Beau-tiful and Terrible Murder*, set for winter 2025; Holmes and Adler “must work together to hunt down a murderer at Oxford who is killing classmates, one by one, in ways more gruesome than the next.”
22339. Theatrics: Ken Ludwig’s “Baskerville” is running at the Pavilion Theatre in Castle Hills, N.S.W., through Dec. 9 www.paviliontheatre.org.au. It will also be produced at the Doraville Civic Center in Doraville, Ga., on Feb. 23-Mar. 10 www.merelyplayerspresents.com.
22340. Ken Ludwig’s “The Game’s Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays” is being performed at the St. Croix Festival Theatre in St. Croix Falls, Wis., through Dec. 17 www.festivaltheatre.org; also at the Unity Theatre in Brenham, Tex., through Dec. 17 www.unitybrenham.org. It’s also due at the Dorset Playhouse in Dorset, Vt., Dec. 1-10 www.dorsetplayers.org; The Barn in Skippack, Pa., Dec. 1-16 www.playcrafters.org; the Lincoln Park Performing Arts Center in Midland, Pa., Dec. 1-17 www.lincolnparkarts.org; the Polo Town Hall in Polo, Ind., Dec. 1-9 www.polotheatre.org; and the Abbey Players in Abbeville, La., Dec. 8-17 www.abbeyplayers.com.

22341. John Longenbaugh's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol" will be performed at the Pasadena Little Theater in Pasadena, Tex., Dec. 1-17 <www.pasadenalittletheater.org>.
22342. Mark Shanahan's "A Sherlock Carol" will be produced at the Bay Area Stage in Vallejo, Calif., Dec. 1-17 <www.bayareastage.org>.
22343. "Sherlock Holmes and the Poison Wood" (a new rock musical with book, lyrics, and music by P. Burton Morgan and Ben Glasstone) is due at the Watermill Theatre in Newbury, Berks., Feb. 2-Mar. 16 <www.watermill.org.uk>; a short music video is on-line at <www.youtube.com/watch?v-KVKe6P1MtDI>.
22344. An addition to the birthday festivities in New York: Hal Glatzer's radio-style play "FlatFinders, 1881" at the Coffee House Club (47 Fifth Avenue at 12th Street), on Wednesday, Jan. 10. "How did Holmes and Watson, having just met, really find their flat in Baker Street? With the help of an estate agent, of course!" Admission at 3:00 pm is free, with no-host refreshments available, and the 30-minute play will start at 4:00 pm. Hal's web-site's at <www.halglatzer.com>.
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December 23 #1

22345. And for those who won't be in New York on Jan. 12, Brad Keefauver reports that The Dangling Prussian will be opening its virtual doors the evening of Jan. 12; details at <www.sherlockpeoria.blogspot.com> or from Brad by e-mail <bradkeefauver@comcast.net>.
22346. There was an interview with Guy Charles Owen, the manager of The Langham in London, at the Hotel Management web-site on Nov. 17; it is on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/49rnyyus>. He said that his favorite "signature suite" is the Tower Suite, spread over three different levels in one of the corner turrets, and with an homage to Conan Doyle, a "former guest of the hotel." He did dine there on Aug. 30, 1899 (when he was commissioned to write "The Sign of the Four"), and he mentioned the hotel in that story (and in two others in the Canon). There's more information about the Tower Suite at <www.tinyurl.com/2pzcknjk> (the going rate is £2,500 a night).
22347. *Doyle's World: Lost and Found*, by Daniel and Eugene Friedman (Garden City Park: Square One, 2023; 326 pp., \$29.95), is sub-titled "the unknown histories of Sherlock Holmes and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle," and it's much more than just another biography of Conan Doyle. Their discussion of the parallels between his life and his writings (both Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian) includes new information about the people he encountered, along with interesting conclusions about how they influenced him and his work. Their book also offers reprints of two short stories, published in 1898 in London Society and Belgravia, that they believe Conan Doyle wrote and submitted to the magazines using a pseudonym. The publisher's web-site is at <www.squareonepublishers.com>.
22348. The December issue of Le Petit Journal (published by Marco Navas Studio) features their colorful Sherlock Holmes 1/32 miniature figures and scenes. You can request a copy of the journal from <isabel@marconavas.com>; their web-site's at <www.marconavas.com>.
22349. "I have loved watching you. Actually I meant to bring up a performance of yours I particularly remember. When I was doing my National Service, before I had even dreamed of becoming an actor, I saw your marvellous performance as Holmes in 'Hound of the Baskerville [sic]' and I was so taken aback by the precision and perfectionism of that performance, that I clung to that impression a few years later when I became an actor, and used to spend hours rehearsing details on my own." Anthony Hopkins to Peter Cushing, in a letter available from Neal Pearson Rare Books (a London dealer) <www.tinyurl.com/2b9d7n3d>.
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December 23 #2

22350. The Parallelogram, the newsletter of the Parallel Case of St. Louis, found its way into print in 1991 and it's still being published (although now as a blog); Madeline Quiñones' recent article "A Great Heart, Revisited" is an excellent example of what happens when someone takes a thoughtful look at something in the Canon and starts thinking about whether it makes sense (and comes up with a new perspective). You can see for yourself what she wrote, at <www.tinyurl.com/ypasjkve>.
22351. The November issue of A Common Newsletter (bringing tidings from the ACD Society) notes that they have now reached page 6 of their annotated edition of "The Terror of Blue John Gap", which is conveniently available on-line at <www.acdsociety.com/bjg/a/bjga.html>.
22352. It's not Wisteria Lodge, but Ready Token House in the Cotswolds seems just the place for admirers of wisteria, according to a story in Country Life on Nov. 21 <www.tinyurl.com/3mxyt84x>.
22353. Mark Shanahan's play "A Sherlock Carol" seems to have more and more productions each year in the Christmas season, and Fergus Morgan has answered the question "why is theatre so obsessed with Dickens' festive tale?" in a long and interesting post to the web-site of The Stage on Nov. 30; you'll need to sign up (it's free) to read it at <www.tinyurl.com/bdfhyhdc>.
22354. Donald E. Curtis ("Jabez Wilson") died on Nov. 30. After eight years in the U.S. Air Force Security Service monitoring Communist China (for which he received a Badge of Honor from the Chinese government in Taiwan), Don went on to career in medical sales. He presided over the Illustrious Clients of Indianapolis for 25 years, and received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 2000.
22355. Vicki Delany's *The Sign of Four Spirits* (New York: Crooked Lane, 2024; 277 pp., \$29.99), the latest in her series of "Sherlock Holmes Bookshop" mysteries that star Gemma Doyle (proprietor of the Sherlock Holmes bookshop on Cape Cod) and her friend Jayne Wilson (who manages the next-door Mrs. Hudson's Tea Room). The new mystery involves Gemma and Jayne, and their friends, with a medium who's murdered during a séance, and it's a nice addition to her comfortable series. Delany has more than one series going, and her web-site's at <www.vickidelany.com>.
22356. Ray Betzner celebrated the holidays at his Studies in Starrett blog with a splendid post about Starrett's "The Escape of Alice: A Christmas Fantasy" (1919), which was a delightful example of his wit and sentiment and love of literature. The post also is a fine example of the results of careful research. You can read all about it at <www.tinyurl.com/52amr3t7>.
22357. The Hulu series "A Murder at the End of the World" (2023) stars Emma Corrin as amateur detective Darby Hart, who's described as "Gen-Z's Sherlock Holmes" (and that phrase has appeared in a lot of the reviews of the series). For those in older generations, Gen-Z are the youngsters (11 to 26 years old) who have grown up with social media and smartphones. And while the series isn't really Sherlockian, it's intelligent and interesting.
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December 23 #3

22358. Sherlock spyware makes the news from time to time. It's sold by a mysterious Israeli company called Candiru (which is named after an Amazon fish reported to parasitize the human urethra). The fish has an entry at Wikipedia <[www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Candiru_\(fish\),_and_so_does_the_company](http://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Candiru_(fish),_and_so_does_the_company)> <[www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Candiru_\(spyware_company\)](http://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Candiru_(spyware_company))>. According to a recent post at the web-site of The Register (Sept. 16), the software was developed by Insanet, a different mysterious Israeli company <www.theregister.com/2023/09/16/insanet_spyware>, and the spyware uses advertising malware to infect computers and phones.
22359. Mike Poteet has noted the web-site Storiarts ("where style meets literature") <www.storiarts.com>, where you'll find some imaginative Sherlockian items; just search for [sherlock].
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22360. It's a bit late to be celebrating Christmas (that's one of the problems an end-of-the-month newsletter faces), but James C. O'Leary's delightful pastiche "The Adventure of the Fur-Lined Hat" is both well worth reading and conveniently available at <www.tinyurl.com/3bbwevc4>.
22361. "Here a rat, there a rat, everywhere a giant rat," I suggested some years ago (Sep 09 #6). They continue to turn up in southeast Asia, most recently on Vangunu, one of the Solomon Islands, according to a Melbourne University press release (Nov. 21) <www.tinyurl.com/y5ufapes>. You can read all about *Uromys vika* in an article at the Ecology and Evolution web-site (Nov. 20) <www.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/ece3.10703>.
22362. An interview with Bill Cochran is the latest addition to the Baker Street Irregulars Trust's oral history project, now up at the Trust's web-site at <www.bsitrust.org>, along with articles and the Trust's newsletters.
22363. Don Hobbs describes his Sherlockian Theatrical Society as non-judgmental, "based on the belief that any play about Sherlock Holmes is worth attending." He attends a lot of plays, and you can read his reviews at the web-site of the Crew of the Barque *Lone Star* <www.tinyurl.com/yzbztv87>.
22364. *Sherlock Holmes and the Arcana of Madness* (Crystal Lake Publishing, 2023; 179 pp., \$17.99) is an anthology of stories by John Linwood Grant, Angela Yuriko Smith, and Naching T. Kassa, all involving Holmes and Watson with the supernatural, and all tied to the work of the artist Richard Dadd; the publisher's web-site's at <www.crystallakepub.com>.
22365. "Baker Street Elementary" is the long-running comic strip created by Joe Faye, Rusty Mason, and Steve Mason, and it has now entered its tenth year. All of the strips are available on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/5n89cupv>, and one of the best of them is #480
22366. The production-used 8¼-inch maquettes of The Great Mouse Detective (that's Basil of Baker Street) that was offered at Heritage Auctions on Dec. 8 was sold for \$4,920 including the buyer's premium <www.tinyurl.com/y922sspc>.
22367. A similar maquette sold last year for \$5,760 (including the premium) (Feb 22 #3). A pair of maquettes, of Dawson and Olivia, also was sold on Dec. 8 for \$3,900 (including the premium) <www.tinyurl.com/58wv9yyn>.

December 23 #4

22368. David A. Weiss ("Crosby, the Banker") died on Mar. 24, 2020. He was living in Baltimore and a member of the Six Napoleons when his "Celestial Pastiche" was published in the Baker Street Journal in 1948; he was persuaded to move to New York and become a professional writer, and he was awarded his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1958. Julie McKuras' warm tribute to him ran in the spring 2008 issue of the Baker Street Irregulars Trust newsletter <www.tinyurl.com/2p9akefw>.
22369. Watch Harry Charles and Sherlock win the Longines FEI Jumping World Cup in A Coruña (in Spain) at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ZPxOffL5Uc> (kindly noted by Jennie Paton).
22370. When in Baku (in Azerbaijan): miniature-books enthusiasts may wish to visit the world's largest museum of miniature books <www.minibooks.az>. An article at the Azernews web-site <www.azernews.az/culture/218848.html> on Dec. 13 notes that Conan Doyle is one of many authors in the collection.
22371. *Mystery, Murder, Madness, Mythos* is an anthology of "dark fantasy inspired by Lovecraft," not Sherlockian except for the intriguing cover artwork by Tomislav Tikulin; just out from PS Publishing <www.tinyurl.com/muza4fb4>.
22372. Ron Fish continues to publicize meetings of Sherlockian societies via his Sherlockian Calendar, including gatherings held via Zoom or other technology; it's a great way to find out what's happening, where and when. You can see his format at <www.sherlockiancalendar.com>, and send information about upcoming meetings to him at <ronf404@aol.com>.
22373. Those who were at the Saturday reception last January may recall the spirited Dr. John H. Watson Fund bidding for being able to name a character in Bonnie MacBird's next pastiche *The Serpent Under* (the winner also received a copy of her recent *What Child Is This?* that was signed and inscribed by Bonnie and her illustrator Frank Cho, who also provided original Sherlockian artwork on the endpapers). Bonnie and Frank wrote about their collaboration at the CrimeReads web-site (Dec. 21) <www.tinyurl.com/wkmkke5>.
22374. "Sherlock & Co." is an intriguing audio podcast that stars Harry Attwell (Sherlock Holmes) and Paul Waggott (Dr. John Watson) in Goalhanger's modern version of the Canon, and dozen adaptations of Canonical tales can be heard at <www.youtube.com/@SherlockPod>.
22375. "It's totally legal for Batman to punch the Great Gatsby and yet I'm still waiting," Susana Polo complained, in a post to the Polygon web-site (Dec. 13) <www.tinyurl.com/4ktvcy8b>, noting that Batman and the Great Gatsby, like Sherlock Holmes, are now in the public domain.
22376. Burt Wolter notes that the Chris Beetles Gallery in London offers at its web-site <www.chrisbeetles.com/exhibition/286/the-illustrators> a catalog of *The Illustrators: The British Art of Illustration 1831-2023*, which is available for sale (£20.00) or on-line (free), with an interesting section devoted to Conan Doyle's father Charles Altamont Doyle. The gallery also offers original artwork by Conan Doyle's father, and uncle Richard Doyle.

December 23 #5

22377. "Now it is clear that anyone working with rocket fuels is outstandingly mad. I don't mean garden-variety crazy or a merely raving lunatic. I mean a record-shattering exponent of far-out insanity." Isaac Asimov, in his forward to John D. Clark's *Ignition!: An Informal History of Liquid Rocket Fuel Propellants* (1972). Both of them were members of the Baker Street Irregulars, and you can read more of what Asimov had to say about liquid rocket fuels in a recent post to the Ricochet web-site (Dec. 7) <www.tinyurl.com/ysvhs9yw>.
22378. Laurie R. King is already thinking about 2025, and the next Mary Russell book, which will be about Mary's uncle Jake (who gave a throwing knife to a young Mary <www.laurierking.com/2023/12/russell-what>. The free download of *Mary's Christmas* (with artwork that wasn't in the 2014 print version) will be available until Jan. 6.
22379. *Horror Dogs: Man's Best Friend as Movie Monster*, by Brian Patrick Duggan (Jefferson: McFarland, 2023; 262 pp., \$49.95) is a delightful example of the results of careful research; it's a splendid filmography, written by someone who obviously loves both dogs and movies. The Hound of the Baskervilles was for decades the iconic horror dog (although some people now prefer Cujo), but there are many others (from 1904 to 2022); the book is entertaining and instructive, and recommended.
22380. Smithsonian Magazine <www.smithsonianmag.com> has published many Sherlockian and Doylean articles over the years, both in print and on-line. Just search for [sherlock holmes] and [conan doyle] to find all sorts of articles (including some that were on-line only).
22381. Christie's (in London) offered a copy of the first printing of the first British edition of *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, in a damaged second state of the dust jacket, on Dec. 13 <www.tinyurl.com/4ak98ne5>, with an estimate of £20,000-£30,000. It was sold for £23,940 (including the buyer's premium).
22382. Christie's also offered on Dec. 14 a list of the contents of Conan Doyle's psychic library kept by his secretary, Major A. H. Wood, with an estimate of £1,500-£2,500 <www.tinyurl.com/cpepxzhz>; it sold for £2,268 (including the premium).
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22384. In 1982 the television series “Fantasy Island” included a segment titled “Save Sherlock Holmes” in which Ron Ely played a department store detective in a fantasy that had him rescuing Sherlock Holmes from Prof. Moriarty. The cast included Peter Lawford as Sherlock Holmes, Donald O’Connor as Dr. Watson, Mel Ferrer as Moriarty, and Rita Jenrette (whose activities in Washington inspired the name of the group of political-satire performers “The Capitol Steps”) as Nurse Heavenly. Jennie Paton reports that the program is on-line at www.youtube.com/watchv=ObYAytZ1UCs (the URL noted in 2020 no longer works). Howard Ostrom adds that the YouTube channel also has the 1986 “Holmes Sweet Holmes” episode from the “Fame” series, and the 1991 “The Consulting Detective” episode from the “Father Dowling Mysteries” series. Just about everything seems to arrive on-line eventually.

December 23 #6

22385. “Mystery Sign on This San Francisco Home Is Last Remnant of a Dangerous Charlatan” was the headline on a story at the SFGATE web-site (Dec. 10) www.tinyurl.com/2fhw823f. The sign, on the house at 2151 Sacramento Street, says that “This house, built in 1881, was once occupied by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.” Conan Doyle came to the house in 1923 to visit Dr. Albert Abrams, but stayed only a few hours. As for the man who lived in the house, the article notes that “It’s impossible to count the number of lies Dr. Albert Abrams told while defrauding patients.”
22386. It’s not Sherlockian, but here’s a trivia question: who was the first actor to play Ian Fleming’s hero James Bond?
22387. “One of the Most Obscure Disney Characters Ever Is Terrorizing the Lorcana Meta,” was the headline on Eric Switzer’s post to The Gamer web-site (Nov. 29 www.tinyurl.com/5eww2auz). Disney Lorcana is described as an “immersive trading card game” that features Disney characters in original and re-imagined art styles, and the obscure character is Hiram Flaversham, a side character in “The Great Mouse Detective” (1986); there also are cards for Basil, Ratigan, and Fidget, and if you would like to know more about the game you’ll need to find someone who understands the gamer jargon in the article.
22388. One does hear of Sherlock everywhere, as in Siddhartha Mukherjee’s “Annals of Medicine: Sleeper Cells” in The New Yorker (Dec. 18); he certainly is familiar with the Canon, and ends his article with a ride to Baker Street. The article’s on-line at www.tinyurl.com/2hpf85x4.
22389. Peter McIntyre notes that Sherlock’s Jewel is performing well at various race tracks www.tinyurl.com/fu8p9t8d; you can watch Sherlock’s Jewel win a recent race at Tampa Downs at www.youtube.com/watch?v=t4cyva4CeDs.
22390. “You can put back anything but dust,” said Sherlock Holmes, “Dust is eloquent.” The quote is in an article at the web-site of Nautilus magazine (Dec. 11) www.tinyurl.com/4n48ymyh about the use of DNA and biochemical analysis of dust by modern forensic investigators. The article notes that the quote is from the BBC’s “Sherlock” television series.
22391. The Japan Times reported (Dec. 20) www.tinyurl.com/bdfut7fz on plans for an “Immersive Fort Tokyo” theme park to open in Tokyo on Mar. 4. One of the attractions will feature Sherlock Holmes.
22392. Reported: “Cushing Curiosities” is a six-disc Blu-ray boxed set honoring Peter Cushing, with 5 feature films, 6 BBC teleplays, a 200-page book, and more than 16 hours of special features (\$95.00), issued this year by Severin Films; two of the discs offer the six surviving episodes of his 1968 “Sherlock Holmes” (with commentary by Kim Newman, David Stuart Davies, and others) www.tinyurl.com/nhb3hvx8.
22393. The Baker Street Irregulars restaurant, at 1152 1st Avenue in New York (at 63rd Street), formerly the Baker Street Pub, says that it’s continuing the pub’s tradition, but it’s “just a little more irregular than you remember” www.irregularsnyc.com.
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December 23 #7

22394. Ryan O’Neal died on Dec. 8. He launched his acting career in television in 1960, went on to films and stage, and was perhaps best known for roles in “Love Story” (1970) and “Paper Moon” (1973). He also played Gregory Stark in “Zero Effect” (1998), which starred Bill Pullman as the world’s best private detective, who is utterly brilliant, a deductive genius, emotionally unstable, and uses disguises, and Ben Stiller as his steady, reliable aide who eventually leaves him for a wife.
22395. Who was the first actor to play James Bond? Barry Nelson, in a one-hour dramatization of Casino Royale for the “Climax!” television series broadcast by CBS-TV in 1954. Peter Lorre played Le Chiffre, and you can watch the program at www.youtube.com/watch?v=qGNMKT-6i4Y.
22396. The trivia question was inspired by Jacques Ernewein’s article on “Casino Royale: 007 et l’Alsace de la Guerre Froide” in the June 2023 issue of Le Carnet d’Écrou (the journal of Les Évadés de Dartmoor), which also has an interesting article by Leon Sterndale about “*Sherlock Holmes*, la pièce de William Gillette, son adaptation par Pierre Decourcelle”. If you’d like to subscribe, the editor is François Hoff francois.hoff@orange.fr.
22397. Karen Murdock notes that the Canadian one-hour documentary “The Real Sherlock Holmes” (2012) is available at YouTube www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Eo-Cp9u4ME, with a number of Sherlockians interviewed.
22398. The Oxford English Dictionary is on-line and updated quarterly, and they have provided counts of how many time authors are quoted. Conan Doyle’s count is 844, which puts him behind William Faulkner and ahead of Virginia Woolf. You can see the list at www.tinyurl.com/msk4zwwb.
22399. “Killing Sherlock: Lucy Worsley on the Case of Conan Doyle” (a three-episode mini-series broadcast by BBC Two beginning on Dec. 10) received great publicity in the British press, including a colorful article in the Daily Mail (Dec. 1) www.tinyurl.com/3vcsj3rw and a press release from the BBC (Dec. 4) www.tinyurl.com/yc3mkwr9. BBC Arts also presented viewers with a “Sherlock Holmes Quiz: What’s the Truth About Arthur Conan Doyle?” (Dec. 10) www.tinyurl.com/9smc5yyf. The series has not yet been scheduled by PBS-TV (stay tuned), but you may still be able to watch the programs, with a short musical overlay (presumably to establish copyright ownership), at her YouTube channel www.youtube.com/@Lucy_Worsley/videos.
22400. Video of all three of the BSI Trust Lectures (Roberta Pearson in 2021, Ray Betzner in 2022, and Steven Rothman in 2023) are now available at the BSI Trust web-site www.bsitrust.org/2023/12/bsi-trust-lectures.html.
22401. The Portsmouth News reported (Dec. 14) www.tinyurl.com/5vcnmkxd that the former city records office won’t be turned into a Sherlock Holmes museum; consultants have said that the site is too small and is in the wrong location, and estimated that it would cost £2 million to refurbish the building and £2.5 million to turn it into museum, but only £331,000 to demolish the building. The campaign for a new museum had been led by Stephen Fry, patron of the Sherlock Holmes Collections.
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December 23 #8

22402. Mark Gatiss’ dramatization of “Lot No. 249” aired on BBC Two on Dec. 24. You can read the BBC’s press release (Dec. 6) at www.tinyurl.com/3a895vpk, an interview with him in Radio Times (Dec 20) www.tinyurl.com/2vsr52yu, and another interview at the web-site of the British Film Institute (Dec. 21) www.tinyurl.com/3jp5r7su. Gatiss said that “there’s definite potential in the Professor Challenger stories,” and added that he and Steven Moffat “talked a lot about Challenger as a separate thing, because he’s a wonderful character—Doyle did that rare thing of getting another one!” Gatiss had fun with the story, and the program was widely and favorably reviewed in the British press and on-line. It’s unlikely it will air here, alas.
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22403. Theatrical news: Jon Jory's "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" is due at the James A. Garfield High School in Garrettsville, Ohio, Jan. 19-27; web-site at <www.curtainsuptheatre.com>.
22404. "Sherlock Holmes and the Whitechapel Fiend" (by Toby Hulse and Ross Smith) will have its world premiere at the Barn Theatre in Cirencester, Glos., on Jan. 26-Mar. 9 <www.barntheatre.org.uk>.
22405. Martin Parsons' dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" as a radio-play toured in Britain in 2022 and it will tour again. Mar. 5-May 5; <www.crimeandcomedytheatrecompany.co.uk>.
22406. Tal Aviezer's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Problem" is due at the Lyndhurst Mansion in Tarrytown, N.Y., Mar. 1-24 <www.lyndhurst.org>.
22407. Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is scheduled at the Adelaide Repertory Theatre in Adelaide, S.A., Mar. 21-Apr. 6 <www.adelaiderep.com>; at the Garfield Center for the Performing Arts at the Prince Theatre in Chestertown, Md., Apr. 19-May 5 <www.garfieldcenter.org>; and at the Kanata Theatre in Ottawa, Ont., May 15-25 <www.kanatatheatre.ca>.
22408. Kate Hamill's "Ms. Holmes and Ms. Watson" will be performed at the Vertigo Theatre in Calgary Alta., May 11-June 9 <www.vertigotheatre.com>.
22409. Jeffrey Hatcher's "Holmes and Watson" has been scheduled at the Don Bluth Front Row Theatre in Scottsdale, Ariz., Mar. 21-Apr. 27; their web-site's at <www.donbluthfrontrowtheatre.com>.
22410. Reginald Candy's new "Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of the Human Heart" will be performed at the Shaw Festival Theatre in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont., July 24-Oct. 13 <www.shawfest.com>.
22411. Rick Robinson's new "Sherlock Holmes and the Study in Scarlet" is due at the Oregon Cabaret Theatre in Ashland, Ore., Sept. 13-Nov. 3; web-site at <www.oregoncabaret.com>.
22412. Brian Guehring's "Sherlock Holmes & the First Baker Street Irregular" is scheduled at the Merc Playhouse in Twisp, Wash., Dec. 5-15; their web-site is at <www.mercplayhouse.org>.

January 24 # 01

22413. Sherlockians (and Holmesians) gathered in New York to celebrate the Great Detective's 170th birthday during the (very) long weekend from Jan. 10 to 14, and reports on many of the goings-on will be posted soon at the Baker Street Irregulars' web-site <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/tag/reports>. In the meantime, here are a few brief paragraphs to tide you over, and you can also listen to Scott Monty and Burt Wolder discuss the festivities at their "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog at <www.tinyurl.com/yv5a6w2m>. Scott's report on the weekend is at <www.tinyurl.com/y3wtfcv7>. Michael Dirda also reported on the birthday festivities in the Washington Post on Jan. 28 <www.tinyurl.com/y3r9m8nh>.
22414. Locals and early arrivals enjoyed the ASH Wednesday dinner, and on Thurs-day morning the ACD Society's Doylean Awards Ceremony and a running of the Wessex Cup were held at the Mysterious Bookshop; the society's web-site is at <www.acdsociety.com>. The BSI's Distinguished Speaker that evening was author Tess Gerritsen, who explained in detail why the worst thing a Victorian could do when ill was to go to a hospital; her entertaining paper will be published in the Baker Street Journal later this year.
22415. On Friday the William Gillette Memorial Luncheon featured performances of two skits: Ray Betzner's "Mrs. Hudson and the Return of Sherlock Holmes" (with Curtis Armstrong as Holmes, Ashley Polasek as Mrs. Hudson, and Ken Ludwig as the narrator and Sherlock's bust); and Andrew Joffe's "Quantum of Sherlock" (with Paul Singleton as Holmes, Sarah Montague as Mrs. Money Penny, Andrew Joffe as Q, and Lee Shackelford as Blofeld. And the Susan Rice Mentorship Award (recognizing "commitment to mentoring Sherlockians as a means of keeping green the memory of Sherlock Holmes") was presented to Francine Kitts.
22416. Irregulars and guests gathered for dinner at the Yale Club, where Mark Gagen offered the traditional first toast to Pamela Wampler as "The Woman". The dinner agenda included the usual toasts, and rituals, and spectacular presentations by Curtis Armstrong (about grade-B villains in the Canon), and Ray Betzner, Steve Doyle, and Steve Rothman (on Alexander Woollcott's qualifications as a member of the BSI). And Eric Scafe was announced as the winner of annual Morley-Montgomery Award (for the best contribution to the Baker Street Journal in 2023) was presented to Eric Scafe, for his article "Five Quarter-Centuries of Confusion over 'The Missing Three-Quarter'" in the spring 2023 issue. You can subscribe to the BSI (four issues and a Christmas Annual) at <www.tinyurl.com/3vxncdhd>.
22417. The BSI's new Birthday Honours were awarded to Rudy Altergott ("Old Patrick"), Derrick Belanger ("The Board Schools"), Thomas Brydges ("Waterloo Bridge"), Fabienne Courouge ("Henri Fournaye"), Daniel Friedman ("Sir Leslie Oakshott"), Chuck Kovacic ("Baker Street"), Stephen Chahn Lee ("Alec MacDonald"), Danna Mancini ("McMurdo"), Maxine Reneker ("The Whole Art of Detection"), Olivia Rutigliano ("Lady Alicia Whittington"), Jessica Schilling ("The Queen's Shilling"), George Schwartz ("The Alpha Inn"), Robert Sharfman ("Killer Evans"), and Liese Sherwood-Fabre ("Mrs. Farintosh"). And the BSI's prestigious Two-Shilling Award was bestowed on Otto Penzler.

January 24 #2

22418. Friday evening also saw the revival ("Out of the Abyss") of the Gaslight Gala, at Slattery's Midtown Pub, with cocktails, dinner, toasts, songs, a skit, a quiz, a raffle, and (of course) conversation. Planning for 2025 is under way.
22419. On Saturday morning Covent Garden West offered the usual opportunity for dealers to help those who wanted to add to their collections, and the Sat-urday luncheon and reception included the Dr. John H. Watson Fund's auction, which attracted enthusiastic bidders; the raffle prizes were a set of brass and leather coasters and etched glasses, and an attractive "Musgrave Ritual" shadow box, all hand-crafted by Danna Mancini. Finally, for those who lasted that long, the last event of the birthday festivities was the Adventuresses' Brunch on Sunday.
22420. You can plan ahead: the next annual dinner of the Baker Street Irregulars is scheduled for Jan. 17, 2025. You can also plan much farther ahead: the BSI's next special conference (similar to "Sherlock Holmes and the British Empire" at Bear Mountain in 2022) is scheduled for the summer of 2027. If you'd like to have information about future events (and much more) you are welcome to sign up for "News from the BSI" at <www.tinyurl.com/yc5tsz27>.
22421. One of the added features of the birthday festivities was a performance of Hal Glatzer's new one-act play "FlatFinders 1881" (a humorous exploration of Holmes and Watson's search for a flat they could share), at the Coffee House Club, and it's grand that it was recorded and available on-line at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=9_51MLXZHPU>.
22422. The Yale Club kindly displayed some of the history of the Baker Street Irregulars in glass cases in the Club's library: the BSI's official gavel, made from wood from 221B, presented to Edgar W. Smith by the Six Napoleons; remnants from the cloth used to make the BSI's first official neck-tie, made for and worn by Christopher Morley; inscribed books; photographs and minutes from early annual dinners, and much more.

22423. Another nice feature of the festivities was the opportunity to visit the N.Y. Public Library to view their exhibition “Max Beerbohm: The Price of Celebrity” and Beerbohm’s caricature of Conan Doyle. The exhibition has closed, but the caricature’s on-line at www.tinyurl.com/5xwv5jk.
22424. Coming to auction at Potter & Potter on Feb. 15: the second half of Robert Hess’ collection (including the only known copy of the first British edition of *The Lost World* in dust jacket, and Sidney Paget’s personal robe), and Roy Pilot’s library (including the manuscript of *Uncle Bernac*). Their web-site’s at www.tinyurl.com/2rnd6ds7.
22425. There are two interesting Paget items on offer at Chorley’s in Gloucester-shire on Feb. 6: an artist’s sketchbook that was owned by Henry Marriott Paget (1856-1936) www.tinyurl.com/vtxhx2uz, and another owned by Walter Stanley Paget (1862-1935) www.tinyurl.com/mpmr8br8, each with an estimate of £200-£300. Both men were brothers of Sidney Paget, and all three were artists (and illustrated stories by Conan Doyle).

January 24 #3

22426. Mark Gatiss’ dramatization of “Lot No. 249” aired on BBC Two on Dec. 24 and was streamed on the BBC’s iPlayer, for viewers in Britain. As with so many other things on the Internet, there are work-arounds, many of them involving copyright infringement, and (sure enough) that has happened with “Lot No. 249”, which is still available at the Dailymotion web-site www.dailymotion.com, which is owned by the French media company Vivendi. No spoilers here, for those who haven’t seen the show, but Gatiss had fun with the story, adding a new character (with some nice Canonical echoes), and providing a different ending. Conan Doyle’s story is of course readily available on-line, in case you’d like to read what inspired Mark Gatiss.
22427. Al Gregory gaslightandfog@verizon.net kindly offers (via e-mail) his new edition of “The ABC of the BSI” (an alphabetical listing of Investitures, with recipients, from “Abbey Grange” to “Young Stamford”) and “The Florin Society” (couples in which both spouses are Investitured Irregulars).
22428. Hal Glatzer’s *The Sign of Five* (2023; 283 pp., \$25.00) is a collection of five pastiches (reprinted from earlier anthologies) tied to his interests in Hawaii, Gilbert & Sullivan, and much more. His web-site, which is on-line at www.halglatzer.com, offers more information about his book, and about his play “Sherlock Holmes and the Volcano Horror” (along with a link to video of the play).
22429. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London is planning their next excursion, to India, Feb. 22-Mar. 9, 2025; details, as well as a link to a downloadable and colorful brochure, are at www.tinyurl.com/mhzn7u9, with a request for expressions of interest.
22430. Four pages (all that are known to have survived) of the manuscript of “The Crooked Man” were sold at auction at Sotheby’s in New York last year for \$95,250 (including the buyer’s premium) (Jul 23 #3), and the new owner has sent one of the four pages to auction at RR Auction in Amherst, N.H., on Feb. 22, with an estimate of \$40,000+ www.tinyurl.com/3mefsu8s. Randall Stock discusses the manuscript on-line at www.tinyurl.com/382c5925.
22431. RR Auction also is offering, on Feb. 14, a 34-page notebook in which Conan Doyle wrote about Spiritualism www.tinyurl.com/mtsjkja2, with an estimate of \$8,000+. The web-site has a detailed description of the contents, and images of the pages.
22432. The Brattleboro Reformer reported (Jan. 23) www.tinyurl.com/yvscd24 on the Landmark Trust USA’s “Snow Golf” skills competition to be held on Feb. 25. The Trust manages Naulakha, Rudyard Kipling’s home in Dummerston, Vt., where he is credited with inventing snow golf after being introduced to the game by Conan Doyle in 1894. You can stay at Naulakha for a night (or a week) www.landmarktrustusa.org/rudyard-kiplings-naulakha.
22433. “Lion’s Mane Mushrooms Make This Crab-Inspired Fried Rice Roar with Flavor” was the headline on Joe Yonan’s article in the Washington Post food section on Jan. 10; there was no mention of Sherlock Holmes, but you can read the article (and get the recipe) at www.tinyurl.com/2jxtp9.

January 24 #4

22434. “Find your fit as we explore the streets of London and the infamous 221B Baker Street” is the suggestion from Yes.Fit, a company that offers to make running (and walking and bicycling) interesting yes.fit/races/Sherlock. Alas, Sherlock no longer is available, but you might still be able to buy the reward merchandise.
22435. Greg Darak has noted a nicely Sherlockian book available from Blackwell’s Rare Books in Oxford www.tinyurl.com/yc5prmkj: a copy of the first edition of Christina Rossetti’s *The Prince’s Progress, and Other Poems* (1866) illustrated by Dante Gabriel Rossetti, who inscribed the book to Charles A. Howell, “from his affectionate friend.” (£7,500). According to the cataloguer, Charles Augustus Howell “was one of the most notorious figures of his day, thinly fictionalized and roundly vilified by Arthur Conan Doyle in his story ‘The Adventure of Charles Augustus Milverton’, where he was damned ‘the worst man in London.’” And so he was, and there’s much more said about Howell and Rossetti and others in the catalog.
22436. The new film “The Color Purple” got a lot of publicity for having the second-highest Christmas Day opening of all time (with \$18.15 million in box-office receipts. Robert Downey Jr.’s “Sherlock Holmes” (2009) holds the all-time record (\$24.6 million) www.tinyurl.com/mwbkeh2d.
22437. Sherlockians aren’t the only people who celebrate on Jan. 6, according to Country Life www.tinyurl.com/pz5rbkmc and www.tinyurl.com/mrx47htw.
22438. The manuscript of “The Bully of Brocas Court” is available from Antiquariat Inlibris in Vienna for €75.000 www.inlibris.com/item/bn60378. There is a detailed history of the ms. at Randall Stock’s “The Best of Sherlock Holmes” web-site www.bestofsherlock.com/mss/bully-brocas-court-2023.htm.
22439. Tom Smothers died on Dec. 26. He played the naïve half of the two Smothers Brothers and became a star when their off-beat television series was launched on CBS-TV in 1967. He appeared dressed as Sherlock Holmes in the “Mistaken Identity” episode of television series “Hotel” on Feb. 1, 1984, but (alas) the episode seems not to be available on the Internet.
22440. The Beacon Society continues to administer the Fortescue Scholarship Hon-ours Program, and more than 120 people have completed all three exams and have received a Doctorate in Sherlockiana. The 2024 Recertification Exam is available on request from Steve Mason mason.steve8080@gmail.com, and there’s more information about the program at www.tinyurl.com/2vt9saym.
22441. Robert Stek’s *An Ancestor of Mine ...* (2022) is a pleasant pastiche revealing that Star Trek’s Mr. Spock was the biological father of Sherlock and Mycroft Holmes; you can read it on-line at www.tinyurl.com/3w7vyh8j.
22442. Maryann B. Murray’s *Coda* (Ocean Park: CSan Communications, 2023; 302 pp., \$16.95) is set in Montpellier in 1894; Elizabeth Devereaux is in dire peril in a thriller that involves murder, missing documents, and a mysterious Norwegian named Sigerson, who will be familiar to those who remember what Sherlock Holmes was doing in 1894.

January 24 #5

22443. Robert Downey Jr. has won this year’s Golden Globe award for best supporting actor in a film for his role as Lewis Strauss in “Oppenheimer”. Downey has won other Golden Globe awards in the past, including best actor in a musical or comedy, for “Sherlock Holmes” (2009). Indeed, the film was considered to be a musical or comedy. Jeff Bridges won the award that year for best actor in a drama for “Crazy Heart”.

22444. A collection of treasures from Queen Mary's Dolls' House will be on display at Windsor Castle this year to celebrate the centenary of its creation <www.tinyurl.com/4j8btf9m>, and there will be an on-line lecture on Apr. 16 <www.tinyurl.com/3ufnxs7e> that may (or may not) mention or show Conan Doyle's manuscript for "How Watson Learned the Trick". Fine Books & Collections (Jan. 24) <www.tinyurl.com/474pr8cf> has a nicely illustrated article about the Doll's House's library.
22445. Jean Upton, the editor of the always-interesting District Messenger (the long-running monthly newsletter of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London), has an attractive business card that proclaims that she is a librocubicularist. If you're not familiar with the word, Merriam-Webster has a nice definition <www.tinyurl.com/25uynr33> that credits Christopher Morley (in *The Haunted Bookshop*) for inventing the word.
22446. The China Global Television Network reported on Jan. 4 on a new Sherlock Holmes-themed exhibition at the Hebei Museum in Shijiazhuang (in northern China <www.tinyurl.com/29hvfsrc> though Mar. 31. This isn't the International Sherlock Holmes Exhibition that has been seen in many museums and science centers since it opened in Columbus, Ohio, in 2014.
22447. According to Variety (Jan. 3) <www.tinyurl.com/44w2a63r> CBS-TV has given a straight-to-series order for "Watson" (expected to air during the 2024-2025 season). The series is set one year after Holmes' death at the Reichenbach, with Morris Chestnut as Watson, who had resumed his medical career as head of a clinic devoted to treating rare disorders, but "Watson's old life isn't done with him." Craig Sweeny created the series and will be the showrunner and executive producer; he was an executive producer and writer on the "Elementary" series that ran for seven seasons on CBS, and it's obvious that the network is hoping for another success.
22448. According to a story at Crunchyroll (Jan. 24) <www.tinyurl.com/yf7emtmd>, Sherlock Hound will celebrate his 40th anniversary this year. Two digitally remastered compilation films of the 1984 anime series that was directed by Hayao Miyazaki and Kiyosuke Mikuriya will be screened throughout Japan beginning on Mar. 22. "His name is Sherlock Hound. It's his business to know what other woofs don't know."
22449. Sherlocktron (Oct 87 #5) was launched by Willis G. Frick in the long-ago era of dial-up phone-line access to the Internet as an electronic bulletin board, and Willis has announced that "time and technology pass all of us by, and Sherlocktron has reached the end of its effective life and has retired to a small farm on the Sussex Downs to keep bees." Sherlocktron was older than the World Wide Web (which was invented in 1989 by Tim Berner-Lee, and opened to the public in 1991). *Ave atque vale* to Sherlocktron.
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January 24 #6

22451. The Norwegian Explorers' Christmas Annual for 2023 celebrates the 75th anniversary of the society, with a nice mix of articles, essays, pastiches, poetry, artwork, and a puzzle; only a few copies of the 112-page booklet, edited by Ray Riethmeier and Phillip Bergem, are available (\$12.00 postpaid); ask Phillip <pgbergem@gmail.com> if you're in time to order, and he'll tell you how to pay. Back issues for some earlier years, and conference books, also are available.
22452. Theatrical news: Rick Robinson's "Sherlock Holmes and the Final Problem" is running at the Theatre on the Ridge in Paradise, Calif., through Feb. 4 <www.totr.org>.
22453. Kate Hamill's "Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson--Apt. 2B" is scheduled at the Uptown Theatre in Mount Vernon, Iowa, Feb. 2-10 <www.mvlct.com>.
22454. Kyle Gallagher's "The Man in the Shadows: An Original Telling of Sherlock Holmes" will have its world premiere at the Halifax Playhouse in Halifax, W. Yorks., Feb. 5-9 <www.halifaxplayhouse.org.uk>.
22455. Zoe Drew-King's new play "We Can But Try" is scheduled at the Youth Initiative High School in Viroqua, Wis., Feb. 9-17 <www.yihs.net>.
22456. Nick Lane's "The Valley of Fear" will tour in Great Britain, Mar. 9-Apr. 20 <www.blackeyedtheatre.co.uk>.
22457. Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" will be performed at the Ocala Civic Theatre in Ocala, Fla., Mar. 21-Apr. 7 <www.ocalacivictheatre.com>. It's also due at the Huronia Players Community Theatre in Midland, Ont., on Apr. 26-May 11 <www.huroniaplayers.ca>.
22458. Christopher M. Walsh's "Miss Holmes" is due at the Parsons Stage at North-glenn Arts in Northglenn, Colo., Mar. 21-Apr. 7 <www.phamaly.org>. Also at the Fells Point Corner Theatre in Baltimore, Md., from Apr. 25 to May 19 <www.fpct.org>.
22459. David MacGregor's "The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes and the Fallen Soufflé" will be performed at the Sullivan Theater in Baton Rouge, La., Apr. 5-14 <www.sullivantheater.com>.
22460. Max Bush's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of Abbey Grange" and "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Capper Beeches" will be produced at the Patsy Miller Studio Theatre in St. Paul, Minn., Apr. 25-May 4; their web-site's at <www.tinyurl.com/mps28he7>.
22461. Brian Guehring's "Sherlock Holmes & the First Baker Street Irregular" will be performed at the Warrenton Cultural Center in Warrenton, Ga., May 10-12 <www.areachildrenstheatre.org>.
22462. Margaret Raether's "Sherlock Holmes & the Precarious Position" is due at coming up at the Taproot Theatre in Seattle, Wash., May 15-June 15; web-site at <www.taproottheatre.org>.
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February 24 # 01

22463. The Baker Street Irregulars Press has published two new titles: *Clutches of a Fiend* is the new addition to the Manuscript Series (179 pp., \$49.95); edited by Steven T. Doyle, it offers a facsimile of the manuscript of "The Illustrious Client", with an annotated transcription and scholarly commentary on the manuscript and on various aspects of the story (the Manuscript Series continues to offer readers an opportunity to come close to the moment when the stories were written, and the commentary is delightful).
22464. *Sherlock Holmes and the British Empire*, edited by Ross E. Davies (211 pp., \$29.95), offers the proceedings and papers of the BSI's conference at the Bear Mountain Inn in 2022, with colorful images of the performers, and all of their scholarship. Both of the new titles (and many others) can be ordered at <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/tag/books>.
22465. Further to the item about Queen Mary's Doll's House (Jan 14 #5): The Royal Family announced on Jan. 30 that Queen Camilla hosted a reception at Windsor Castle for authors, illustrators, and binders involved in creating a new Modern-Day Miniature Library collection that will be displayed along-side the Dolls' House <www.tinyurl.com/yvsxxuz2>. The 20 authors of the new miniature books include Anthony Horowitz (who has contributed "A Tiny Ghost Story"). The Queen has said that the Dolls' House's library (which has Conan Doyle's manuscript for "How Watson Learned the Trick") is "the most breath-taking space in the house." <www.bbc.com/news/uk-68139937>.
22466. The 34-page notebook in which Conan Doyle wrote about spiritualism, up for bids this month at RR Auction <www.tinyurl.com/y5a6znrj> (Jan 24 #3), estimated at \$8,000, sold for \$12,378 (including the buyer's premium).
22467. CBS' "Watson" (Jan 24 #5) isn't the only Sherlockian television series in the works: according to Variety (Feb. 15) <www.tinyurl.com/kavtm8px>, David Thewlis is due as Holmes in "Sherlock & Daughter" (Nov 23 #1) on the CW channel with Blu Hunt as his daughter Amelia and Dougray Scott as Moriarty.
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22468. Howard Ostrom's "A-Z List of Sherlock Holmes Performers" now has more than 9,2000 entries (with more than 20,000 images), covering stage, screen, radio, television, the Internet, and much more; the list's available on-line at www.nplh.co.uk/a-z-index.html.
22469. The Jeremy Brett Sherlock Holmes Podcast has announced Brettcon 2024: The 40th Anniversary Celebration www.tinyurl.com/mpw9zz3e, scheduled for May 25 in Guildford (Surrey). The podcast www.sherlockpodcast.com was created by Gus and Luke Holwerda in 2019, and they've now hosted more than 40 episodes that will be of interest to fans of the Granada series. Episode 41 is a delightful interview with now-94-year-old June Wyndham Davies, who produced the series and tells great stories about it; episode 40 provides a discussion of and a link to video of "The Adventure of the Abbey Treasure" (filmed by Jeremy Brett and Edward Hardwicke in 1988 for the Abbey National Bank). The podcast is well worth exploring, and there's a handsome video trailer for the convention
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February 24 #2

22470. An interesting look at the use of artificial intelligence to do research: www.tinyurl.com/2rweutv2. From Google Bard or some other AI program, and it's a grand example of how hilarious (and awful) the results can be. Alexander Orlov suggests that you try researching yourself to determine how good an AI program is.
22471. Ray Betzner's "Mrs. Hudson and the Return of Sherlock Holmes" (with Curtis Armstrong as Holmes, Ashley Polasek as Mrs. Hudson, and Ken Ludwig as the narrator and the bust), performed at the William Gillette Luncheon in New York on Jan. 12, is now on-line in the Inner Circle at the Red Circle of Washington's web-site www.redcircledc.org.
22472. The Beacon Society has announced its 2024 R. Joel Senter Sr. Memorial Essay Contest for students in grades 4 through 12; the deadline for submissions is Apr. 1, and details on the contest (and its history) can be found at www.beaconsociety.com/joel-senter-essay-contest.html.
22473. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London reports that there has been enough interest in their next excursion, to India, Feb. 22-Mar. 9, 2025 (Jan 24 #3) for them to proceed with planning; details, and a link to a downloadable and colorful brochure, are at www.tinyurl.com/44s9fks7, and there's still time to register interest at their web-site. A more detailed brochure will be available in March.
22474. Wanda Dow has found James Moriarty amongst the staff at Utica University www.utica.edu/people/james-moriarty. She also offers a chemistry quiz: what do you get when you combine tungsten, astatine, sulphur, oxygen, and nitrogen?
22475. The Southern Daily Echo has reported (Feb 19) tinyurl.com/y4629unh that most of the Lyndhurst Park Hotel has been demolished, and showed an image of the planned new development. Conan Doyle is said to have designed the entrance of the hotel and its battlement-style terraces in 1912; the Daily Telegraph said on Mar. 20, 2021, that a local historian had found a sketch that showed that his design for the front façade "was based on the spiritual view of the journey of the soul."
22476. If you don't remember Groucho Marx's "You Bet Your Life" series on NBC-TV, here's a nice excuse to watch it: the final question on Jan. 23, 1958, was Sherlockian www.youtube.com/watch?v=beTpo2KCSFw (kindly reported by Ann Marlowe).
22477. Rodger Garrick-Steele died on Dec. 10, 2020, receiving far less publicity when he died than when he was alive and accusing Conan Doyle of murdering Bertram Fletcher Robinson (and having an affair with Fletcher Robinson's wife); he worked hard, and unsuccessfully, to arrange for an exhumation of Fletcher Robinson, hoping to prove the murder, and he wrote *The House of the Baskervilles*, a book which was translated and published in Japan before it was published in Britain in 2005. If you would like to know more about him, you can run a word-search for his name in Steve Mason's compilation of the text of this newsletter from March 1985 onward; it's on-line at www.beaconsociety.com/scuttlebutt-from-the-spermacetti-press.html.
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February 24 #3

22478. The Salmagundi Club, in addition to hosting the Coffee House Club's presentation of Hal Glatzer's "FlatFinders 1881" during the birthday festivities in New York, also hosted the "6th International Figure Painting Competition", which included Sierk van Meeuwen's attractive "The Coffee Trader's Dilemma" which can be seen at the artist's web-site www.sierk.art. The inspiration for the painting was Derrick Belanger's pastiche, published in David Marcum's anthology *The MX Book of New Sherlock Holmes Stories, Part VI* (2017), and reprinted, together with van Meeuwen's artwork, in Phil Growick's anthology *The Art of Sherlock Holmes Global Edition 1* (2020).
22479. Further to the report (Dec 23 #7) on plans for an "Immersive Fort Tokyo" theme park to open in Tokyo on Mar. 4, there's much more about the theme park, and its Sherlockian features, at www.tinyurl.com/bdzk3bb8.
22480. "And here's my tao about happiness. If you want to be happy for an hour, smoke some grass. If you want to be happy for a month, fall in love. If you want to be happy forever, take up book collecting." Mark Hime, in the latest on-line catalog from Bibliotopus www.bibliotopus.com.
22481. Sorry about that: the International Sherlock Holmes Exhibition (Jan 24 #5) actually opened in Portland, Ore., on Oct. 10, 2013.
22482. The envelope in which the Sept. 1964 issue of the Baker Street Journal arrived also contained a copy of a 100-question Sherlockian quiz prepared by Elliot Kimball, recommended by Bob Schutz, as one of the most remarkable quizzes ever penned. Now the quiz is being reoffered as part of the Bea-con Society's Fortescue Scholarship exam program, and if you would like to see (or take) this remarkable quiz, it is available by e-mail from Steve Mason mason.steve8080@gmail.com.
22483. Art and Chip Sansom's "The Born Loser" comic strip was nicely Sherlockian on Jan. 20 www.gocomics.com/the-born-loser/2024/01/20; kindly reported by Les Klingner.
22484. A warning for people who buy things from Acorn www.acrononline.com: they have a 30-day policy for returns (not stated in their catalog or at their website); I ordered a present from Acorn for someone months ago, and last month learned it was damaged, and they refused to replace it. So if you do order anything from Acorn, don't delay checking for damage.
22485. Wanda Dow asked: what do you get when you combine tungsten, astatine, sulphur, oxygen, and nitrogen? The answer's elementary: W-At-S-O-N. You're welcome to subscribe to her monthly two-page on-line newsletter Papers on the Sundial; it's free, and she's at ha10tot@verizon.net.
22486. Fiona Maher, author of *The Secret of the Cottingley Fairies* (Feb 18 #6), has followed up the book with a play: "Sherlock Holmes & the Man Who Believed in Fairies" (which features Holmes, Watson, and Conan Doyle). The play is scheduled for the Edinburgh Festival Fringe later this year, and her Crowdfunder web-site www.tinyurl.com/2d8465r5 offers video of this month's script-in-hand performance this month.
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February 24 #4

22487. The Beacon Society continues to publish its "quarterly gazette for younger Sherlockians everywhere," and the winter issue of Sherlock's Spotlight is available at their web-site (check the menu at the left) www.beaconsociety.com; the contents include material both by and for younger followers of the Great Detective, and the gazette is intended to provide younger Sherlockians with information and entertainment.
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22488. The single page of the manuscript of "The Crooked Man" (Jan 24 #3) offered at RR Auction on Feb. 22 (with an estimate of \$40,000+), went unsold when bidding (\$32,120 including the buyer's premium) didn't reach the reserve. Randall Stock discusses the manuscript at www.tinyurl.com/382c5925.
22489. The Clients of Adrian Mulliner are planning a meeting on Sept. 26 during the upcoming annual meeting of the Wodehouse Society in Nashville, Tenn. More information is available from Elaine Coppola emcoppola@syr.edu or Curtis Armstrong isle14cj@gmail.com. The annual meetings of the Wodehouse Society can be (they claim) "binges on a scale calculated to stagger humanity" www.wodehouse.org/conventionsinfo.html. Adrian Mulliner will be found in Wodehouse's pastiche "From a Detective's Notebook", first published in Punch in 1959 and now on-line at www.tinyurl.com/3sfbhp96,
22490. *Canonical Cornerstones: Foundational Books of a Sherlockian Library*, edited by Peter Eckrich and Rob Nunn (Indianapolis: Gasogene, 2023; 125 pp., \$24.95), is a collection of essays by Sherlockians who explain in detail why the 17 books they recommend are both useful and enjoyable.
22491. And *The Sherlock Holmes Review: 2023 Sherlockian Annual* (Gasogene, 2024; 76 pp., \$26.95) celebrates 40 years of Granada's "Sherlock Holmes" series with articles and interviews, plus Ray Betzner's warm tribute to Old Irregular Charles E. Honce, and much more.
22492. Also: *Sherlock Holmes: Immortal Detective: Selected Writings of Donald A. Redmond, Volume 1* (Gasogene, 2024; 216 pp., \$28.95), edited by Christopher Redmond, is a welcome collection of his father's articles, notes, and essays, from 1964 to 1998, both published and unpublished, offering a welcome opportunity to see just how much fun can be had in the world of Sherlock Holmes. Gasogene's web-site's at www.wessexpress.com.
22493. When in Japan: you can visit the Sherlock Holmes Pub in Osaka. There's a brief video tour www.youtube.com/watch?v=NfaXYbjEwys, reported by Yuichi Hirayama.
22494. *Historical Dictionary of Sherlock Holmes*, by Neil McCaw (Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2019; 425 pp., \$116.99 cloth/\$50.00 paper), offers more than 1,000 entries on the life and times of Holmes and Conan Doyle, as well as a chronology and bibliography; McCaw, who died in 2020, was a professor of Victorian literature and culture at Winchester University, and the academic director of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection in Portsmouth, and wrote that his "idea in writing a historical dictionary on a collection of what are ostensibly fictional stories" has been to help readers "begin thinking about the stories from other perspectives," and he has done just that.
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February 24 #5

22495. The Public Domain Review web-site has published a splendid article about J. M. Barrie's *My Lady Nicotine*, in which he told his readers how wonderful it was to smoke the Arcadia mixture in his pipe. Barrie was a friend of Conan Doyle, and it's surely no accident that Sherlock Holmes mentions the Arcadia mixture (in "The Crooked Man") (Barrie's Arcadia mixture actually was Carrera's Craven mixture, and Carrera happily advertised that). The article (and the book) are conveniently available on-line at www.tinyurl.com/2h8ssnhf.
22496. It should be noted that Surbrug, in the U.S., marketed an Arcadia mixture, quoting Barrie on its tins and cans, quite likely without permission from Barrie. You can find their tins easily at eBay and elsewhere.
22497. It's unique, and advertised at £224,850, Country Life reported on Feb. 1: a Land Rover Range Rover that was owned (and used) by Queen Elizabeth II www.tinyurl.com/2jx3x6kk. The Duke of Edinburgh drove the car, accompanied by the Queen, in 2016 to greet President Obama and the First Lady when their helicopter Marine One landed on the grounds of Windsor Castle, and then drove them all back to the castle.
22498. Nancy Springer's *Enola Holmes and the Mark of the Mongoose* (Nov 23 #1) has been nominated for an Agatha (best children's young adult mystery novel); the winners will be announced at Malice Domestic 26 in Bethesda in April. The Internet's always full of rumor about plans for something near or far in the future, but there was a report at the Collider web-site on Nov. 7
22499. www.collider.com/enola-holmes-3-netflix that Scott Stuber, chairman of Netflix Films, said that "we're working once again on a screenplay" for a third "Enola Holmes" film.
22500. "Visit Toronto" offers a video tour of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library www.youtube.com/watch?v=XfV5_66sAEk.
22501. The February issue of The District Messenger, the newsletter of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, is the first issue edited by Holly Turner, who has succeeded Jean Upton. The District Messenger does for the Brits (and others) what this newsletter does for the Yanks (and others), and all its more-than-180 issues are archived on-line at the Society's web-site at
22502. www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/newsletter.
22503. The ACD Society had its annual meeting during the birthday festivities in New York, on Jan. 11 at the Mysterious Bookshop. Video of the presentation its honors by Ross Davies, and a running of this year's Wessex Cup, is on-line at www.youtube.com/watch?v=h4OPBtt6eZE.
22504. This month's auction at Potter & Potter of material from the collections of Bob Hess and Roy Pilot made many new owners happy indeed. The star lot in the auction was the manuscript of "Uncle Bernac" that sold for \$37,000 (plus buyer's premium); Randall Stock's detailed discussion of the manuscript in on-line at www.tinyurl.com/4wbj5pbu. Sidney Paget's dressing gown sold for \$3,400. The complete auction catalog (with prices realized) is at www.tinyurl.com/hj3szkzp.
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February 24 #6

22505. David Kahn died on Jan. 23. His deep interest in cryptology led him to write *The Codebreakers: The Story of Secret Writing* (1967); it was and is widely regarded as the best book ever written about codes and ciphers, and those who deal with them (one of them was Sherlock Holmes and the dancing men cipher). He was appointed scholar-in-residence at the National Security Agency in 1995, and he donated his collection of books and artifacts to the National Cryptological Museum of the NSA.
22506. Laurie R. King's new *The Lantern's Dance* (Nov 23 #5) has its own page at her website <https://laurierking.com/books/the-lanterns-dance>, where she offers a downloadable reading-group guide to the novel. Laurie is an expert at using the Internet to keep her fans interested in her books, and her web-site's well worth exploring.
22507. Laurie also contributed an interesting post about "Sherlock Holmes, That Enigma We Know So Well" to the CrimeReads blog on Feb. 14. She explains that "I write Holmes as a character, and it's startling how much I've had to make up."
22508. Neil Nyren offered an impressive look at Laurie R. King's "Mary Russell" series at Crime Reads on Feb. 8 www.tinyurl.com/3ntvmtpt. And there's still time to sign up for her "Russell & Holmes" days in April in Seattle, Bethesda, and Nashville www.laurierking.com/russell-holmes-days.
22509. The winter issue of the Sherlock Holmes Journal (published twice a year by the Sherlock Holmes Society of London) offers the late Russell Merritt's vocative and well-illustrated article "Seeing Paget in Colour", and much more. Information about subscription, and membership in the Society, will be found on-line at www.tinyurl.com/ysd85wax.
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22510. Illeana Douglas' *Connecticut in the Movies: From Dream Houses to Dark Suburbia* (Essex: Lyons Press, 2023; 340 pp., \$39.95) is a pleasant and well-illustrated tribute to films made in, or related to, the state, including William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" (1916), because his magnificent home Gillette Castle is in the state, and (although not Sherlockian) "Mr. Blandings Builds His Dream House" (1948), which was directed by H. C. Potter, a member of the Baker Street Irregulars.
22511. *Holmes, Marple & Poe*, co-authored by James Patterson and Brian Sitts (New York: Little, Brown, 2024; 341 pp., \$30.00), has three private detectives (Brendan Holmes, Margaret Marple, and Auguste Poe) solving crimes in modern-day New York; they're well aware of their namesakes, and their actual identities are an additional mystery.
22512. Terry Hunt's presentation about Christopher Morley at the Bryant Library in Roslyn, N.Y., on Mar.13 will be available on-line; you can register at the Library's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/57frrswa> (scroll down to "Christopher Morley Zoom Lecture"). Morley founded the Baker Street Irregulars, and his one-room writing studio, the Knothole, is preserved in the county park named in his honor near the Library. Terry, former senior curator of history and supervisor of historic sites for Nassau County, was responsible for the Knothole for many years.
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February 24 #7

22513. The Beacon Society continues to offer resources to help Sherlockian societies, and to help people find Sherlockian societies <www.tinyurl.com/2j486ym2>. Mike McSwiggin's interactive map of the active geographical societies is useful indeed, and their web-page now has my alphabetical list of all of the Sherlockian societies (well, all that I know of) that formerly was available at Sherlocktron, so that you can see the imaginative names that people have chosen for their societies. If you like numbers, there's a total of 987 societies on the list, including 477 active societies.
22514. Social media seems to be an interesting way to reach people who share your interests. Howard Ostrom reports close to 5,000 members (in at least 60 countries) at Facebook for his "Sherlock Holmes on Screens" (which covers stage, screen, radio, television, and the Internet); you can see (or follow) his posts at <www.tinyurl.com/47v7cufx>.
22515. Will Thomas' *Death and Glory* (New York: Minotaur, 2024; 292 pp., \$28.00) is the latest in the fine series that stars private enquiry agents Cyrus Barker (an homage to Holmes' rival in "The Retired Colourman") and Thomas Llewelyn (his faithful and long-suffering partner); the series now runs to 15 titles, and this time involves a plot by survivors of the Confederacy who hope to revive their lost cause and want possession of a warship that was bought from Britain in 1865 but never delivered. Thomas again offers nice plotting and interesting characters.
22516. "It's nice I've been chosen," Louis Hector said to Edith Meiser, after his successful audition for her "Sherlock Holmes" radio series (according to Bernes Robert in the Oakland Tribune, Apr. 7, 1935), "I used to play the role in England." Does anyone know when and where and in what play? According to Wikipedia, Hector emigrated to the U.S. in 1920.
22517. "The Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare" (directed by Guy Ritchie) will be released on Apr. 19; the trailer's on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/42fx89uy>. The film, based on Damien Lewis' book *The Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare: How Churchill's Secret Warriors Set Europe Ablaze and Gave Birth to Modern Black Ops* (Nov 16 #6) may (or may not) mention that members of the Special Operations Executive, which had its headquarters in Baker Street, called themselves the Baker Street Irregulars.
22518. "Gilded Newport Mysteries: Murder at the Breakers" is a new movie available on the Hallmark channel <www.tinyurl.com/ekbr9k96>. According to a review at the Film Fugitives web-site <www.tinyurl.com/2yewh4un> there are references to Conan Doyle in the film (and there are plot spoilers in the review).
22519. "Mountain creature--with 'massive' head and blue eyes--discovered as new species," read the headline on a report in the Miami Herald on Feb. 15 <www.tinyurl.com/ybabi7kn>. The "mountain creature" is a frog, about 1.3 inches long, and its species is *Caligophryne doylei* (Doyle's mist frog). Its Wikipedia entry <www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caligophryne> reports that it is found on a tepui on the border between Brazil and Venezuela and was named in 2023 in honor of Conan Doyle, author of *The Lost World*.
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February 24 #8

22520. Elizabeth Crowens' *Hounds of the Hollywood Baskervilles* (Olney: Level Best, 2024; 254 pp., \$16.95) features young and inexperienced private detective Babs Norman and her partner Guy Brandt, who have been hired by Basil Rathbone in 1940 to find his kidnapped dog (since the police just ask, "Sherlock Holmes has lost his dog?") There are other movie stars (and other kidnapped dogs), and of course villainy afoot, and the story's told with (sometimes slapstick) humor. The author will be at the Mysterious Bookshop in New York for a launch party on Apr. 4, and her web-site's at <www.elizabethcrowens.com>.
22521. Theatrical news: Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is scheduled at the Bates Masonic Lodge in Attleboro, Mass., Mar. 1-17 <www.tinyurl.com/sdk5zs2a>.
22522. Tim Kelly's adaptation of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" is scheduled at the O'Reilly Theatre in Dublin, Ireland, Mar. 7-8; their web-site is at <www.oreillytheatre.com>.
22523. Kent R. Brown's children's play "Dracula: A Comic Thriller Starring Shirley Holmes and Jennie Watson" will be performed at the Traveling Players Studio in Tyson's Corner, Va., Mar. 9-17 <www.tinyurl.com/h3a273h9>.
22524. "The Great Murder Mystery" is a dinner-theater presentation of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" scheduled at the Lost Estate in London, Mar. 12-May 24 <www.tinyurl.com/4hywm73a>.
22525. "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Missing Heiress" will be performed as an "old-fashioned radio-style play" in New Brunswick, Canada, Mar. 16-23 <www.tinyurl.com/3yx9dwe4>.
22526. Nick Lane's "Sherlock Holmes: The Sign of Four" is scheduled at the Robin Hood Theatre in Newark-on-Trent, Notts., Mar. 23-26 <www.rhtc.co.uk>.
22527. Kate Hamill's "Ms. Holmes and Ms. Watson—Apt. 2B is coming up at the Alvina Kraus Theatre in Bloomsburg, Pa., Mar. 28-Apr. 14 <www.bte.org>.
22528. Richard Levin's "Sherlock Holmes & the Star of Arabia" will be performed at Tudor House in Lake Arrowhead, Calif., Apr. 26-May 4; their web-site is at <www.heislertheater.com>.
22529. I've long described this newsletter as "six or more pages of whatever gossip I find appropriate, much of it quite trivial, but most of it Sherlockian or Doylean." If you would like to run a word-search on a large file with all of the text since March 1985 (which is when I entered the computer age), you can now do that, thanks to Steve Mason, who updates his compilation each month and kindly posts at the Beacon Society's web-site at <www.beaconsociety.com/scuttlebutt-from-the-spermacetti-press.html>. If you occasionally forget that the PDF of a new issue of this newsletter is available on-line, you're welcome to join the Google Group for monthly reminders; just let me know by e-mail.
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March 24 #1

22530. The winter issue of Canadian Holmes (the journal of the Bootmakers of Tor-onto) offers Donny Zaldin's article about the Agony Column (in Victorian culture and in the Canon), Mark Jones' discussion of Conan Doyle's short story "The Black Doctor", and much more. Subscriptions are included with membership, \$50.00 a year (print) or \$35.00 (PDF), and \$12.00 postpaid for a single issue <www.torontobootmakers.com/membership>.
22531. "Money back if not satisfied" was an offer made by Harper Brothers to its customers in 1929, and the Japanese publisher Hayakawa makes the same offer for its new translation of Tom Mead's *Death and the Conjuror*. You can read all about it at <www.tinyurl.com/2s426afz>.
22532. "The Case of Sherlock Holmes' Motorcycle" offers Brendan McAleer's amusing discussion of (and answer to) the question: "what kind of motorcycle did Sherlock Holmes ride?" You can read his article (and answer) at the Hagerty Media web-site <www.tinyurl.com/5epuncsd>.
22533. Jennie Paton has reported the discovery of some interesting footage from the long-lost Universal film "Sherlock Holmes Meets Dracula" (now available at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=ov0WnRzLrhQ>).
22534. Sasha Archibald's article in the Public Domain Review about P. H. Ditchfield's *Books Fatal to Their Authors* (1895) isn't Sherlockian, but it's a fascinating look at how dangerous being an author can be; you can read all about it at <www.tinyurl.com/5n77vupc>.
22535. *The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes*, edited by Jonathan Cranfield (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2023; 359 pp., £125.00), is the second volume in *The Edinburgh Edition of the Works of Arthur Conan Doyle*, and includes the text of the book, detailed introductions; comparisons of first serial appearances and first editions, the text of "The Cardboard Box" and a discussion of the story's history, and explanatory notes. Some may question the publisher's boast that it's "the first scholarly edition" of the book (if they are aware of *The Oxford Sherlock Holmes* and Leslie S. Klinger's *The Sherlock Holmes Reference Library* and *New Annotated Sherlock Holmes*), but Edinburgh's project will include much of Conan Doyle's non-Sherlockian work).
22536. The artist's sketchbooks owned by Henry Marriott Paget and Walter Stanley Paget (Sidney Paget's brothers), offered at Chorley's in Gloucestershire on Feb. 6 (Jan 24 #2) each estimated at £200-£300, were sold for £150 each <www.tinyurl.com/mz9mhvvyf>.
22537. The Daily Beast says that "Benny Hill, classic '80s video games, *Voltron*, and Sherlock Holmes are components of this zany gem," its review (Feb. 27) of the film "Hundreds of Beavers" <www.tinyurl.com/3zruvp55>. There is a trailer at the official web-site <www.hundredsofbeavers.com>, and you can see images of the Holmes and Watson beavers at the film's page at Facebook <www.tinyurl.com/52vzt53u>.

March 24 #2

22538. Sad news for those who have procrastinated about visiting Lew Trenchard, the home of Sabine Baring-Gould (Dec 88 #2 and May 18 #2). He wrote about the folk-tales of Dartmoor, including the spectral hounds, and his grandson William S. Baring-Gould's biography of Sherlock Holmes used details from his grandfather's life in describing Holmes' early years. Sabine Baring-Gould also was visited by Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes in Laurie R. King's novel *The Moor* (1998). Lew Trenchard, run as a luxury hotel and restaurant for the last twelve years, has now been closed due to "difficult trading conditions," and is expected to return to Baring-Gould family ownership. Oliver Mundy kindly forwarded one of the on-line reports <www.tinyurl.com/3v5dn57a>. One of the very best items on the restaurant menu (in 2004) was the Devonshire clotted cream ice cream.
22539. The Japanese eight-episode series "Miss Sherlock" (Oct 18 #5) is available on HBO Max, and it is well worth watching; it stars Yūko Takeuchi as Sherlock and Shihori Kanjiya as her friend Wato-san, and is full of Canonical echoes <www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Miss_Sherlock>.
22540. Bill Seil has reported that Harry Bliss' comic strip was nicely Sherlockian on Feb. 26 <www.gocomics.com/bliss/2024/02/26>.
22541. Country Life continues to publish interesting articles about stately homes in Britain, including one (on Jan. 28) on Madresfield Court (in Worcestershire) <www.tinyurl.com/yxzv8kyv>; a house that has been owned by the same family for more than 900 years.
22542. The first of the "obligatory Canonical toasts" listed in the Constitution and Buy-Laws of the Baker Street Irregulars is to The Woman, and episode #282 of the interviews by Scott Monty and Burt Wolder at their "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.tinyurl.com/bzce3t8b> is their discussion of "A History of The Woman" with Beverly Wolov, who was honored with that toast in 1997.
22543. "The Holmes You Never Knew: Black American Adaptations Then and Now" is a virtual lecture by Ann McClellan at the Public Library in Groton, Mass., on Apr. 23 (7:00-8:00 pm); she will discuss the Broadway musical "In Dahomey" (1902), the silent film "A Black Sherlock Holmes" (1918), jazz references, graphic novels, and modern fan fiction, and the registration link for the Zoom event is at <www.tinyurl.com/5n7uekbn>.
22544. There was a colorful report about The Langham in Upscale Living Magazine on Feb. 15 <www.upscalelivingmag.com/features/the-langham-hotel>; it's a lot fancier now than it was in 1889, when Conan Doyle dined there (and was commissioned to write "The Sign of the Four").
22545. Marvin Lachman died on Oct. 21. Marv was an outstanding scholar of crime and mystery fiction, and won an Edgar from the Mystery Writers of America for his work on *The Encyclopedia of Mystery and Detection* (1976). He also received their Raven Award (for significant contributions to the genre) in 1997, and his later books included *The Heirs of Anthony Boucher* (2005) and *The Villainous Stage* (2014). He was the fan guest of honor at Bouchercon in 1984, and was knowledgeable and helpful to a host of friends.

March 24 #3

22546. The Internet continues to offer a flood of rumors about, and comment on, the BBC's "Sherlock" television series, and occasionally older news turns up. "Sherlock creators reveal their choices for female Sherlock Holmes," was the announcement at the Digital Spy web-site on July 27, 2020 <www.tinyurl.com/2sfbttra>. Steven Moffat and Mark Gatiss had suggested Michelle Gomez, Phoebe Waller-Bridge, and Olivia Colman, and producer Sue Vertue proposed Jodie Comer (you can easily find their images and resumes on-line). But there were no suggestions for a female Watson; "You know what I get stuck on?" Moffat said, "Who is John Watson as a woman?" And yes, all seven seasons of "Elementary" had aired by then.
22547. Yes, that interesting footage from the long-lost Universal film "Sherlock Holmes Meets Dracula" (Mar 24 #2) might well have been posted on Apr. 1.
22548. The Kyodo News reported on Mar. 1 <www.tinyurl.com/3kntkn2v> that the "Immersive Fort Tokyo" theme park is now open; its web-site shows some of its Sherlockian atmosphere <www.immersivefort.com/en>. There's much more in a full-scale (and colorful) review posted to the Japan Wireless web-magazine on Mar. 7 <www.tinyurl.com/mww6tuzn>.
22549. Mark Johann <mkr9905@gmail.com> wonders if anyone knows anything about a plastic token, 1.25" in diameter, with interesting Sherlockian artwork. The M.A.T.C.A. was the Maryland Amusement Token Collectors Association, founded in 1979 (but apparently no longer active).
22550. Possibly something truly new for Sherlockians: Jennie Paton reports a video review <www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZO7f7XgHBpw> of Jorge Félix's *The Baker Street Canon* (2024), which can be found easily at Amazon (for Kindle only); the video was created by someone who used invideo AI, and it's quite possible that the book also is an AI product. There's another video from invideo AI at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=z6J0k2_I368>, but Jorge may be the first AI author of a Sherlockian book. There is a lot more about Amazon and AI at

www.tinyurl.com/2md975sk>. Note that in video AI should not be confused with Nvidia, which is a dominant supplier of artificial intelligence hardware and software.

22551. “The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar” is a new film, nominated for an Oscar (best live action short film), based on a short story by Roald Dahl, now available on Netflix, with some fine actors, and well done indeed. Samantha Wolov has noted that in an early scene in a hospital a doctor is seen sitting at a table holding a book that has a Sherlock Holmes silhouette on its cover (a nod, perhaps, to Benedict Cumberbatch, who’s one of the stars in the film. We’ll be seeing more Roald Dahl stories on Netflix: in Sept. 2021 Netflix bought the Roald Dahl Story Company for \$686 million.
22552. Sonia Fetherston has reported a tea available from the Republic of Tea in Larkspur, Calif. www.republicoftea.com/calm-focus/p/v20851>, that may be of interest to Sherlockians: it’s a green tea, with uplifting peppermint and lion’s mane mushroom extract, and a touch of bright lemon. She found it in her CostPlus World Market, so it might be in other local stores.

March 24 #4

22553. The winter issue of *The Magic Door* (published by the friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library) has Gareth A. Reeves’ article on “Examining Trace Fossils in ‘The Terror of Blue John Gap’”, David Sanders’ report on Dana Richards’ lecture on “Conan Doyle and The Fires of Fate”, and much more. You can request a copy of the newsletter from Cliff Goldfarb at the Toronto Public Library, 789 Yonge Street, Toronto, ON M4W 2G8, Canada cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca.
22554. Elizabeth Crowens, author of *Hounds of the Hollywood Baskervilles* (Feb 24 #8) will be happy to speak to Sherlockian societies via Zoom or in person. She lives in New York City, e-mail at greatyear111@gmail.com, and web-site at www.elizabethcrowens.com.
22555. You can watch Sherlock’s Jewel come from behind to finish second on Mar. 9 at Tampa Bay Downs www.youtube.com/watch?v=A7MQZxigEMc; video kindly reported by Jennie Paton.
22556. Philip Cunningham is compiling a census of Michael Murphy’s *Conferment by Needle*, a pamphlet issued in 1980 reprinting Vincent Starrett’s correspondence with T. S. Eliot about Eliot’s honorary membership in the Hounds of the Baskerville (sic); there were 230 copies, 1-221 numbered and nine unnumbered, some signed or inscribed by Murphy in black or green ink. Phil would like to hear from anyone who has a copy pic121@comcast.net.
22557. In case you weren’t watching the Oscars ceremony this month, Robert Downey Jr., who has played Sherlock Holmes in two films, won as best actor in a supporting role as (Lewis S. Strauss in “Oppenheimer”), and “The Wonderful World of Henry Sugar” (Mar 24 #3) won as best live-action short film.
22558. Japanese director Hayao Miyazaki won his second Oscar (for best animated feature film) for “The Boy and the Heron”. His first Oscar was for “Spirited Away” (2001), and he was the director of six early episodes of “The Adventures of Sherlock Hound” (1983).
22559. The manuscripts of four unpublished short stories by A. A. Milne, one of them an amusing Sherlock Holmes pastiche, have been published in the new *The Complete Short Stories of A. A. Milne* (Richmond: Farrago, 2024); 304 pp., £12.99/\$22.27). The stories were found by the agent of the Milne estate in his papers at the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas, and the new book has an introduction written by Gyles Brandreth, who imagines Milne in the next world, sitting on a heavenly cloud with two of his good friends and personal heroes, Conan Doyle and Barrie. If you’d like to see the manuscript of the Sherlock Holmes story, it sold at auction in 2018 www.tinyurl.com/4krck6 for \$900 (including the buyer’s premium).
22560. The new story (“Elementary, My Dear Vincent”) appears to have been written and sent in 1933 to Vincent Seligman), and it’s a nice addition to Milne’s Sherlockian credentials, which started with “The Rape of the Sherlock” in *Vanity Fair* (Oct. 15, 1903). The burlesque was his first published fiction; it’s not in the new book, but was reprinted in *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine* (Feb. 1974).

March 24 #5

22561. *A West Wind*, edited by Thomas A. Horrocks and Ray Betzner (New York: Baker Street Irregulars, 2024; 204 pp., \$39.95), is subtitled “How America and Americans Influenced the Sherlockian Canon,” and offers interesting essays that include Curtis Armstrong’s expert analysis of just how good an actor Sherlock Holmes was when he pretended to be an American, Burt Wolder’s well-illustrated examination of how Americans saw Holmes when the stories were first published, and many more. You can order the book from the BSI at www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/tag/books.
22562. Michael Culver died on Feb. 27. He began acting on stage in Britain, and went on to a career that lasted more than 50 years. Best known, perhaps, for his death scene (as Captain Needa) in “Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back” (1980), he also played Sir Reginald Musgrave in the Granada version of “The Musgrave Ritual” (1986).
22563. For everyone who fondly remembers Sherlock Hemlock: Jennie Paton has found a nice compilation of his many appearances on “Sesame Street” at YouTube www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLxVUNwZo_UyO02nZVQyDIPQDBrALPFI_C.
22564. “Remembering Gene Wilder” (a new 92-minute documentary now in limited re-lease in U.S. theaters) www.tinyurl.com/2m8kjiymp has had nice reviews; one hopes that it includes footage from “The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes’ Smarter Brother” (1975), a film which he wrote, directed, and starred in, and that it will soon be available on one of the cable channels.
22565. Petri Wine was heavily advertised in the good old days, and an unusual porcelain enamel garage sign was recently offered at eBay www.tinyurl.com/5ddj7wu7 by a dealer in Australia, for AU\$180.00 (plus shipping, of course). It would seem that Petri’s advertising was different down under than here (there is no date for the sign).
22566. UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization) has recognized Exeter as a City of Literature, and Exeter is celebrating the event with colorful murals at the city’s Great Western Railways station. The murals include scenes from books by famous authors, and the announcement by the Exeter City Council allows you to see one of the murals www.tinyurl.com/yc5e537k. There’s no mention of the Great Western in the Canon, but Holmes and Watson must have used it when they traveled to Exeter in two of their cases.
22567. Joel Cohen has reported a colorful slide-show on “Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Poisonous Plants” at the web-site of the Science History Institute in Philadelphia www.tinyurl.com/yckb3ust.
22568. The first volume of Tripwire’s graphic novel *Sherlock Holmes and the Empire Builders: The Gene Genie* www.tinyurl.com/4zk7an7p is now in print (96 pp., \$35.00), and the first few pages are available (free) on the Global Comix digital platform www.tinyurl.com/5n83r7sa. It’s an alternate-universe science fiction story, with striking artwork, and Oswald Mosely (leader of the British Union of Fascists) as the villain. Tripwire’s web-site’s at www.trpwire1001.bigcartel.com.

March 24 #6

22569. “Conan Doyle’s books are always so good,” the Prince of Wales (later King Edward VIII) wrote in 1911, thanking someone for sending him three charming books. The letter was offered at International Autograph Auctions Europe on Mar. 14 www.tinyurl.com/x58f5axv, with an estimate of

€200-€300, and it was bought for €320 (plus buyer's premium). One hopes, of course, that the fortunate buyer will eventually some day be able to identify those three charming books.

22570. It's always interesting when films and television are reviewed by real experts: Jennie Paton spotted the Thoroughbred Racing Commentary web-site's review of various versions of "Silver Blaze" on Feb. 25 (Granada came in first) <www.tinyurl.com/2b5h2v9z>.
22571. The 2023 Baker Street Almanac is now on-line and available without charge <www.greenbag.org/almanacs/BS/2023.html>; more than 364 pages, so it takes a while to download the PDF file, but it's well worth it. That means that the print version of the 2024 Almanac is almost ready; the URL also offers information on how to subscribe.
22572. Laurie R. King has begun work on her next novel, about Mary Russell's Uncle Jake (who gave her, and then taught her how to use, her first throwing knife. You can read the (possible) opening of the Prologue at her blog at <www.tinyurl.com/ymx4n6bh>.
22573. The Swann Galleries auction of material from the Steve Forbes Collection included a lot with nine manuscript pages from, and other material related to, the last chapter ("Singular Records of a Circle") of Conan Doyle's *The Edge of the Unknown* (1930), estimated at \$3,000-\$4,000; it sold for \$2,400 (plus the buyer's premium). Randall Stock's discussion of the manuscript is at <www.bestofsherlock.com/mss/edge-unknown-2024.htm>.
22574. There's continuing discussion of what can happen when characters enter the public domain, and what has happened with and to Winnie the Pooh. "Winnie the Pooh: Blood and Honey" (2023) was so successful that there's now a sequel <www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Winnie-the-Pooh:_Blood_and_Honey>.
22575. There are some people who still have 16mm projectors: a print of Christopher Plummer's television film "Silver Blaze" (1977) was sold this month at eBay for \$115 <www.tinyurl.com/yved86hw>.
22576. The two "Moriarty" series now available at Audible (Sep 23 #5) continue to be well-reviewed and there was an interesting interview with Phil LaMarr (who plays Sherlock Holmes) posted at the Bleeding Cool web-site (Nov. 16) <www.tinyurl.com/23zjv94>.
22578. Ross Davies has discovered an interesting (and expensive) letter from F. Scott Fitzgerald offered by a New York dealer <www.tinyurl.com/mvhwf8s> in which Fitzgerald mentions having written an "utterly imitative" Sherlock Holmes story. This may (or may not) have become his first appearance in print: "The Mystery of the Raymond Mortgage" (non-Sherlockian), which was published in a school magazine in 1909 (Mar 17 #6). Fred Dannay found the story and reprinted it in Ellery Queen's *Mystery Magazine* (Mar. 1960) and in *Ellery Queen's 15th Mystery Annual* (1960).

March 24 #7

22579. John Allen's *Stylometric Analysis of the Sherlock Holmes Canon* (Allen & Allen Semiotics, 2021; 57 pp., \$5.95) offers the basis behind his earlier *Shadow Woman: The Creator of Sherlock Holmes* and *Brimstone* (Mar 18 #4); Allen has used the function-word frequencies of Conan Doyle's stories and concluded this his first wife Louise wrote 27 of the Sherlock Holmes short stories and that his second wife Jean wrote 28 (with "The Empty House" being the only one written by Conan Doyle). Some of his non-Sherlockian stories also were written by Louise and Jean. Allen also has a Louise Conan Doyle Cyclopedia web-site, where he has been blogging since June 2017 <www.louiseconandoyle.com>.
22580. It may not be the better-known Guinness World Records, but on Feb. 16 the World Record Academy listed the world's largest Sherlock Holmes collection at the University of Minnesota <www.tinyurl.com/2pyn2x7c> (with some nice images of the collection).
22581. Christian Klaver's *Sherlock Holmes & Dorian Gray* (New York, Titan, 2024; 353 pp., \$25.99) is the third in his "classified dossier" series. There are vampires galore, including Dracula and Mina and (now) Watson, who with Holmes are confronted with vicious enemies that include H. G. Wells' Doctor Moreau. Dorian Gray is decidedly different from the character in Oscar Wilde's story, and the focus of Klaver's book is on Watson rather than Holmes. The author's web-site is at <www.christianklaver.com>.
22582. The March issue of the Beacon Society's Not-So-Quarterly Newsletter now is available at the society's web-site <www.beaconsociety.com>, with the latest news from the society and its efforts to offer "teachers, librarians, children's museums, and children's theaters with local resources to bring the magic of Sherlock Holmes to life."
22583. Further to the item (Jan 24 #5) about the celebration of the 40th anniversary of "The Adventures of Sherlock Hound", Jennie Paton discovered a nice post to the SoraNews24 web-site (Mar. 26) <www.tinyurl.com/4t7yttj7>, with an image of the poster for the new theatrical release (and a trailer for the older Blu-ray collection).
22584. Holly Turner has reported in the March issue of the District Messenger on an antique dealer's offer of a silver salver presented to Dr. Joseph Bell by the Glasgow Infirmary in April 1862 <www.tinyurl.com/727wja85>.
22585. The District Messenger, launched in 1982 as the "grapevine service" of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, is an excellent monthly round-up of goings on in the Sherlockian and Doylean world in Britain and elsewhere; current and back issues are available at <www.tinyurl.com/34u876mj>.
22586. Les Klinger has now edited 17 volumes in the Library of Congress' Crime Classics series; the latest is Richard Harding Davis' atmospheric *In the Fog* (1901). You can sample Les' introduction to the reprint at the Crime-Reads web-site <www.tinyurl.com/4bppwczu>. It's not really true that everything has a connection to Sherlock Holmes, but: the book's first edition had grand illustrations by Frederic Dorr Steele, and Davis mentored young Vincent Starrett at the beginning of his brief career as a war correspondent.

March 24 #8

22587. There's all sorts of theatrical news: Joe and Brad Dickenson's "Sherlock Holmes: The Melodrama" is on at the Pocket Sandwich Theatre in Carrollton, Tex., through May 11 <www.pocketsandwich.com>.
22588. James Barry's "Sherlock's Excellent Adventure" continues on tour in Britain through July 6 <www.ourstartheatrecompany.com/what-s-on>.
22589. Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" will be running at the Gateway Theatre in Richmond, B.C., Apr. 11-20 <www.gatewaytheatre.com>; presented in English with traditional and simplified Chinese subtitles (certainly understandable in a city that's said to have a population that's 74% ethnically Chinese). It also is scheduled at the Bell Tower Theater in Dubuque, Iowa, on Apr. 12-28 <www.belltowertheater.net>; and will be touring in England, on Apr. 20-27 <www.facebook.com/minttheatresociety>. It's next at the Greenbrier Valley Theatre in Lewisburg, W.Va., on May 10-18 <www.gvtheatre.org/baskerville>; and at the Ruth Humphreys Brown Theatre in Creede, Colo., May 25-Sept. 14 <www.creederep.org>.
22590. "Sherlock & Cinders" (by Tom Kirkham and Matthew Crosby) is scheduled at the Muse Theater in Jefferson City, Mo., Apr. 18-20; their web-site's at <www.itsybitsyboradway.com>.
22591. Teresa Pesce's "Sherlock" will have its world premiere at the Panida Theater in Sandpoint, Idaho, Apr. 19-27 <www.panida.org>.
22592. Max Bush's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of Abbey Grange" and "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Capper Beeches" will be produced at the Patsy Miller Studio Theatre in St. Paul, Minn., Apr. 25-May 4; their web-site's at <www.tinyurl.com/mps28he7>.

22593. Conan Doyle's "The Speckled Band" has been scheduled at the Placer Repertory Theater in Rocklin, Calif., May 3-4 <www.placerrep.org>.
22594. Ron Kelly Spurles' humorous "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Missing Heiress" will be performed radio-style (BBC in 1928) at the Sackville Legion in Sackville, NB, May 4 <www.tinyurl.com/ymamsrd2>.
22595. "Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of the Crown Jewel" (by Janet Yates Vogt and Mark Friedman) is to be performed at Wollondilly Anglican College in Tahmoor, N.S.W., May 7-9 <www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1178632?>.
22596. Bert Coules' "Watson: The Final Problem" is scheduled at the 59E59 Theaters in New York, May 22-June 9 <www.tinyurl.com/mrx9dzkc>; it's a one-man show starring Tim Marriott.
22597. "Sherlock and Watson: A Murder in the Garden" is a new comedy from Calf 2 Cow, launching a tour in Britain at the Maumbury Rings in Dorchester, Dorset, on June 7 <www.calf2cow.co.uk/sherlockandwatson>.
22598. Kate Hamill's "Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson--Apt. 2B" will be performed at the Robert Shackleton Playhouse in Cape May, N.J., July 17-Aug. 25; website at <www.capemaystage.org>.

April 24 #1

22599. According to Variety (Jan. 3) <www.tinyurl.com/44w2a63r> CBS-TV has given a straight-to-series order for "Watson" (expected to air during the 2024-2025 season). The series is set one year after Holmes' death at the Reichenbach, with Morris Chestnut as Watson, who had resumed his medical career as head of a clinic devoted to treating rare disorders, but "Watson's old life isn't done with him." Craig Sweeny created the series and will be the showrunner and executive producer; he was an executive producer and writer on the "Elementary" series that ran for seven seasons on CBS, and it's obvious that the network is hoping for another success.
22600. The latest (unconfirmed) film rumor is about plans for a new "Young Sherlock" movie based on Andrew Lane's Young Sherlock series of novels, in development at Motive Pictures, noted at the Covered Geekly web-site on Apr. 9 <www.tinyurl.com/fh4pmjzi>, and headed directly to the "don't hold your breath" file.
22601. Admirers of Professor Ratigan surely will enjoy the post by Eileen Gonzalez at the Popverse web-site on Mar. 28; she explains "why the Great Mouse Detective's Professor Ratigan is one of the great Disney villains of all time" <www.tinyurl.com/mrdht5p2>.
22602. When in Japan: you can visit the Sherlock Holmes Pub in Osaka. There's a brief video tour <www.youtube.com/watch?v=NfaXYbjEwys>, reported by Yuichi Hirayama.
22603. I've mentioned Neve Rendell's blog "The Great Baz" before (Jul 13 #2), and am happy to recommend it again, for the three-part post about who actually wrote Basil Rathbone's autobiography *In and Out of Character* (1962), kindly reported by Ann Marlowe <www.tinyurl.com/3j2xch8e>.
22604. Cliff Goldfarb, who likely isn't the only Sherlockian interested in genealogy, has reported Sherlock Cohn, who's really Ava Cohn, a photo genealogist whose web-site's at <www.sherlockcohn.com>.
22605. I don't generally report on Sherlockian statues and sculptures and miniatures, because there are so many of them now, but Jenny Paton has noted an unusual "Holmes and Watson" <www.youtube.com/watch?v=lhV86mLROK8>. Available in May for £69.00 <www.tinyurl.com/83hb5ezk>.
22606. Bill Seil has kindly reported an amusing interview with William Shatner in 2004 <www.youtube.com/watch?v=nuz0bivB3wc> in which he recalls acting with Basil Rathbone. "Billy Budd" was broadcast in 1955 in the (Canadian) CBC television series "Encounter", and the episode is conveniently available at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=0GQasQrSjWo>.
22607. William Samples died on Jan. 2. He began his acting career in a Canadian film in 1980, and went on to voice a long list of characters in television animations, including Chief Inspector Greyson in 26 episodes of "Sherlock Holmes in the 22nd Century" (1999-2001).

April 24 #2

22608. Brenda Rossini, in her *Oscar Slater: A Killer Exposed* (MX Publishing, 2023; 405 pp., \$36.95), offers a carefully researched discussion of the murder of Marion Gilchrist, the trial and conviction of Oscar Slater for her murder, and Conan Doyle's long (and successful) campaign to free Slater from prison. Rossini concludes that Slater actually was guilty of the crime, and explains in detail why she believes that others, including Conan Doyle, who wrote about the case and believed Slater innocent, were wrong.
22609. It isn't Sherlockian, but: Nicholas Meyer, the director of "Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan" (and the author of a grand series of Sherlockian pastiches) was featured in a symposium about the film arranged by the American Society of Music Arrangers and Composers on Feb. 27. It's interesting, and nicely available on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/4me36kry>. Kindly reported by Samantha Wolov.
22610. Richard L. Kellogg reports that *Barry Baskerville and the Stolen Car* (Air-ship 27), the ninth in his series of children's books, is now available at Amazon and elsewhere.
22611. Walter W. Jaffee ("The Retired Colourman") died on Mar. 8. He had a long career as an officer in the U.S. Merchant Marine, authored 18 books about ships and the sea, and edited *Mobile Holmes: Transportation in the Sherlockian Canon* in 2017 for the Baker Street Irregulars Press. He also was a long-time member of the Scowrers and Molly Maguires, and he received his Investiture from the BSI in 2009.
22612. Judge Dee and Lao Sheh met with Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson in London in 1924 in John Shen Yen Nee and SJ Rozan's "The Killing of Henry Davenport" in *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine* (Jan./Feb. 2023), and while their new *The Murder of Mr. Ma* (New York: Soho Crime, 2024; 300 pp., \$25.95) is not Sherlockian, it's inspired by the Canon and has Judge Dee and Lao Sheh again in London in 1924, investigating murders in the city's Chinese community. The novel's entertaining, and the Afterword "It Takes a (Chinese) Village" is available on-line at the EQMM blog "Something is Going to Happen" at <www.tinyurl.com/dytjwvtw>.
22613. Philip Cunningham's census of Michael Murphy's Conferment by Needle (Mar 24 #4) is well underway, and a preliminary version now is available from him by e-mail <pjc121@comcast.net>. If your copy is not yet listed in the census, you're welcome to come aboard; the pamphlet reprints Vincent Starrett's correspondence with T. S. Eliot about Eliot's honorary membership in the Hounds of the Baskerville (sic).
22614. *The Strange Case of the Pharaoh's Heart*, by Timothy Miller (Jersey City: Seventh Street, 2024; 288 pp., \$18.95), is set in 1923 and has Sir Sherlock (a firm believer in Spiritualism), Watson, and Mrs. Estelle Roberts (and her spirit guide Red Cloud), traveling from London to Egypt to investigate the deaths of Lord Carnarvon and others, and the disappearance of a valuable artifact from Tutankhamun's tomb. They encounter T. E. Lawrence and Howard Carter, and of course solve the mysteries. Miller has a web-page at <www.tinyurl.com/56a2wkcx>.

April 24 #3

22615. The Daily Mail reported (Mar.28) <www.tinyurl.com/5sv7vkje> that Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice have teamed up to write songs for a play which Rice's son Donald is producing. "Sherlock Holmes and the Twelve Days of Christmas" will feature Holmes investigating a serial killer who is dispatching his victims using methods suggested by the carol ("think partridges and milkmaids").

22616. The Cinemaholic web-site reported (Mar. 30) <www.tinyurl.com/3srd96fr> on CBS-TV's plans to begin shooting in Vancouver in June for their new series "Watson" (Jan 24 #5); Morris Chestnut will star as Watson, who has resumed his medical career as head of a clinic devoted to treating rare disorders, after Holmes' fatal battle at the Reichenbach.
22617. William H. Vande Water ("An Enlarged Photograph") died on Mar. 17. Bill enjoyed a wide range of interests, including the history of magic and (of course) Sherlock Holmes, contributing to our literature, and founding imaginative Sherlockian societies such as the Billy Club and A Case of Identifiers. He had a long career with CBS Television, and as the archivist of their film and tape library was well placed, when they decided to throw out a storage room of old videotapes, to rescue and preserve for posterity the 1957 "Odyssey" program devoted to the Baker Street Irregulars. He received his Investiture from the BSI in 1994.
22618. Christian Klaver's *Sherlock Holmes & Mr. Hyde* (New York, Titan, 2022; 344 pp., \$19.99) is the second in his "classified dossier" series. Watson has become a vampire, and he and Dracula and Mina join Holmes in pursuit of a villainous cult, encountering both Jekyll and Hyde and others who are not quite the same as in books written by Stoker and Stevenson and Wells. The author's web-site is at <www.christianklaver.com>.
22619. Linda Hein has reported that the Hein & Company bookstore has moved, and now is in Sutter Creek, Calif. Their first author event will be held on May 7 and will feature Elizabeth Crowens and her *Hounds of the Hollywood Baskervilles* (Feb 24 #8). Photographs of the new store are available at her Facebook page <www.facebook.com/UsedandRare>.
22620. The Torists International and the Watsonians will celebrate the 65th annual running of the Chicago Silver Blaze horse race on June 28, at the Hawthorne Race Course in Stickney, Ill. There's no charge for parking or for admission; if you register you'll receive a racing program, a commemorative pin, and a \$2 bill for your first bet (they don't know of any other Sherlockian event where you're paid to attend). For additional information, contact Jonathan Shimberg <www.toristintss@gmail.com>.
22621. The National Rifle Association's "Shooting Sports USA" web-site carried a report (Apr. 15) <www.tinyurl.com/243aftma> on the "Sherlock Holmes 1991" (described as "a one-of-a-kind pistol tribute to the legendary fictional detective") advertised by Cabot Guns. There's much more about the pistol at the company's web-site <www.cabotguns.com/sherlock>, and (sorry) it already has been sold, for \$229,000 (which includes a luxurious "immersive two-day Sherlock Holmes scavenger hunt in Paris). Rob Bianchin, founder of Cabot Guns and a fan of Sherlock Holmes, has created an attractive concept for a Cabot Custom.

April 24 #4

22622. *Round the Red Lamp: Being Facts and Fancies of Medical Life*, edited by Roger Luckhurst (Edinburgh University Press, 2023; 348 pp., £100), the third volume in The Edinburgh Edition of the Works of Arthur Conan Doyle, includes the text of the book, two stories that were added to the Crowborough Edition, detailed introductions, comparisons of first serial appearances and first editions, the text of two plays, essays and letters in the medical press, and explanatory notes. The next volume in the series will be *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, edited by Andrew Glazzard.
22623. The Edinburgh Edition will offer real scholarship on Conan Doyle's work, both Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian, and the books will be conveniently available for years to come, which will be truly important for anyone who wants access to what the editors have achieved.
22624. The April issue of the newsletter published by the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota has Phil Bergem's report on "The Klinger Archive", anniversary celebrations of "How Watson Learned the Trick" and *Naked Is the Best Disguise*, and new from and about the collections. Copies of the newsletter are available on request from Timothy Johnson (#15-G Elmer L. Andersen Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <johns976@umn.com>.
22625. Nicholas Shakespeare's *Ian Fleming: The Complete Man*, published last year in Britain, now has an American edition (New York: Harper, 2024; 820 pp., \$45.00); it's a fascinating biography of an author who quickly became secondary to the character he created (something not unfamiliar to admirers of Conan Doyle), and Doyleans will enjoy the mentions of Fleming's close friend Richard Hughes, who founded the Baskerville Chapter of the BSI in Japan after World War II, was a character in books by Fleming and John le Carré, and was simultaneously a spy for the British and the Soviets (using the code name Altamont for the Soviets).
22626. Vanessa Thorpe has reported in the Observer (Apr. 20) that Gareth Rubin is the latest author of a pastiche authorized by the Conan Doyle Estate Ltd. <www.tinyurl.com/msr6zxa2>. His *Holmes and Moriarty* is scheduled by Simon & Schuster UK in September, and Rubin also wrote about his book, in which Holmes and Moriarty will be forced to work together on a case, and they'll "compete, collaborate, stab each other in the back, and save one another from fatal peril" <www.tinyurl.com/kttmc7er>.
22627. The collection of the late Rodney P. Swantko (who died in 2022) will be at auction at Sotheby's in New York on June 26, and it will include some truly spectacular material, such as the manuscript of "The Sign of the Four" (estimated at \$800,000-\$1,200,000), the original Sidney Paget artwork for his illustration of the death of Sherlock Holmes at the Reichenbach, and a copy of the rare Starrett variant of his classic pastiche "The Unique Hamlet" <www.tinyurl.com/4tmm25x5>. Randall Stock has a detailed discussion of the manuscript of "The Sign of the Four" (the most valuable Conan Doyle item ever to be sold at auction, in 1996, for \$519,500 including the buyer's premium) at his always-informative "Best of Sherlock Holmes" web-site <www.bestofsherlock.com/mss/sign-of-four-2024.htm>.

April 24 #5

22628. Hartswood Films, founded by the late Beryl Vertue in 1979, is the production company responsible for the "Sherlock" television series that starred Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman; The Times reported last year (Sep 23 #5) that the company was seeking a buyer or an investor to support its fast-growing operations. The latest news, at the Deadline web-site (Apr. 17) is that ITV Studios is in the lead to invest in Hartswood <www.tinyurl.com/zy7a95p3>.
22629. Who knew? Dr. Watson once was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize. That was in 2014, when Madeleine George's "The (Curious Case of the) Watson Intelligence" was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize for drama. The play features one actor as computer repair technician Josh Watson, a humanized version of an artificial intelligence device named after IBM's earlier creation, Alexander Graham Bell's assistant Thomas Watson, and Sherlock Holmes' companion. The winner of the prize was Annie Baker's "The Flick", which the prize committee described as a "thoughtful drama with well-crafted characters that focuses on three employees of a Massachusetts art-house movie theatre, rendering lives rarely seen on screen."
22630. If you've wondered about buyer's premiums at auctions, Sotheby's has announced that on May 22 they will reduce their premium, to 20% on the first \$6 million (their current premium is 26%). It will be interesting to see whether Christie's and other auction house also reduce their buyer's premiums. If you're planning to bid higher on something, Sotheby's premium above \$6 million will be 10%.
22631. "This Here Is Your Life, Sherlock Holmes" (a 34-minute parody of the radio series "This Is Your Life"), commissioned by Sean Wright for performance at the June 1976 meeting of the Non-Canonical Calabashes, was written by Daws Butler and others, and Sean believes it was broadcast by Mike

- Hodel on his "Hour 25" program on KPFK-FM in 1976. You can hear the recording at Audible <www.tinyurl.com/2586epc6>, with Ben Wright as Sherlock Holmes.
22632. Reported: all 177 episodes of the television series "House" are now available on Hulu and Amazon Prime; the series ran for 8 seasons (2004-2012) on Fox and starred Hugh Laurie as Dr. Gregory House. Wikipedia offers a long entry on the series <www.tinyurl.com/ms4jt8er>, which had as its premise "if Sherlock Holmes were a medical doctor, he would be Gregory House," and discusses many (but not all) of the Sherlockian allusions in the series.
22633. William S. Dorn ("The Newgate Calendar") died on Apr. 18. He taught courses on Sherlock Holmes at the Univ. of Denver for more than 25 years, was a prolific publisher of Sherlockian calendars and other Sherlockiana from his Pencil Productions, created and sold the first Sherlock Holmes bobble-head, and was an enthusiastic member of Dr. Watson's Neglected Patients. Bill received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1999.
22634. The late Chris Steinbrunner, who happily believed he was a Watsonian rather than a Sherlockian, would be delighted to read Olivia Rutigliano's post to the Crime Reads blog (Apr. 12) <www.tinyurl.com/2ub7zb56> ranking "the 81 best, worst, and strangest Dr. Watson portrayals of all time." One may well wonder how many other people actually have seen them all.
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April 24 #6

22635. "Uniquely New York with Rachel Holt" (which airs on the CBS channel in New York) featured an interview with Otto Penzler at the Mysterious Book Shop <www.youtube.com/watch?v=KWhlVgFn1ag>. The shop's back wall still is totally Sherlockian.
22636. Another (older) rumor: the Collider web-site reported (Nov. 7, 2023) on an interview with Scott Stuber, head of Netflix Film, who said that Netflix is "working once again" on a screenplay for a third "Enola Holmes" film.
22637. Theatrical news: Craig Sodaro's "The Secret Case of Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at the Community Gathering Place in Humboldt, Sask., May 2-6 <www.facebook.com/humboldttheaterclub>.
22638. "Sherlock Holmes and the Great Royal Goose Chase" (by Peter Sham and Brad Carroll) is due at the Delta Presbyterian Church in Lansing, Mich., on May 10-18 <www.starlightdinnertheatre.com>.
22639. Kate Hamill's "Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson--Apt. 2B" will be performed at Osceola Arts in Kissimmee, Fla., May 30-June 15 <www.osceolaarts.org>.
22640. Ken Ludwig's new "Moriarty" is on the schedule at Theatre SilCo in Silverthorne, Colo., June 14-July 7 <www.thesilco.org>.
22641. Kyle Gallagher's "The Man in the Shadows" is due at the Salford Arts Theatre in Salford, Greater Manchester, July 22-23 <www.tinyurl.com/nzn44prf>.
22642. Oliver Gray's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be on tour in Britain again, July 27-Sept. 8 <www.illyria.co.uk>.
22643. More than 1300 shows have been announced for the Edinburgh Festival Fringe <www.edfringe.com>, three of them Sherlockian: the Ghostwriters' "Adventures of the Improvised Sherlock Holmes", Aug. 1-25; Nigel Miles-Thomas' one-man "Sherlock Holmes: The Last Act", Aug. 1-25; and Blue Orange Arts' one-man retelling of "The Hound of the Baskervilles", Aug. 2-24.
22644. Christopher M. Walsh's "Miss Holmes" will be performed at the TPS Center Theatre in Seattle, Wash., Aug. 2-25 <www.theatrepugetsound.org>.
22645. Christopher M. Walsh's "Miss Holmes Returns" will be performed at the Waterville Opera House in Waterville, Maine, Aug. 30-Sept. 8; their web-site is at <www.watervillecreates.org>.
22646. Liam Paterson's opera "Sherlock Holmes and The Sign of Four" will be performed at the Leeds School of Arts in Leeds, Yorks., Aug.-Sept.; web-site at <www.northernoperagroup.co.uk/leeds-opera-festival-2024>.
22647. Ken Ludwig's "Moriarty" will be performed at the Lyceum Theatre in Arrow Rock, Mo., Sept. 6-15 <www.lyceumtheatre.org>; and at the freeFall Theater in St. Petersburg, Fla., Nov. 8-Dec. 15 <www.freefalltheatre.com>.